

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
FISHERIES LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK, ENGLAND

1991 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: GIRL IRENE

(PROVISIONAL: Not to be cited without prior reference to the author)

STAFF:

M R Vince
P A Large

DURATION:

5-11 June

LOCATION:

North East Irish Sea

AIMS:

1. To carry out a groundfish survey along the North Wales coast.
2. To collect samples of otoliths of commercial species.
3. To obtain samples of ungutted plaice, whiting and flounder for contaminant trend analysis work. (A Franklin, Burnham).

NARRATIVE:

The staff travelled to Conwy by road on 3 June. The following day the trawl was re-rigged aboard the charter vessel GIRL IRENE in readiness for an early start the next morning. Five days work had been completed by the evening of 9 June, albeit in marginal conditions at times. On Monday 10 June the spare trawl was rigged to replace the original net damaged on a fastener the previous day. The staff returned to Lowestoft on 12 June having completed 22 of the 24 stations.

RESULTS:

1. Two stations were abandoned due to deteriorating weather conditions; one in Liverpool Bay and one in Conwy Bay. Further, 2 to 5 hauls were void due to catch losses.
2. Stratified samples of otoliths were collected from the required commercial species. Totals were: Plaice 339, Sole 39, Cod 55, Whiting 123.
3. Samples of ungutted plaice, whiting and flounder were collected and frozen for A Franklin (Burnham-on-Crouch).
4. Samples of whiting were examined on board and taken ashore for stomach content analysis by a student at Bangor University.

The staff wish to thank the skipper and crew for their co-operation during the survey.

M R Vince
18 June 1991

SEEN IN DRAFT:

INITIALLED:
J W H

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P A Large
A Franklin (BoC)
Skipper Hughes (GIRL IRENE)
North Western and North Wales SFC