

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
FISHERIES LABORATORY, CONWY, GWYNEDD, NORTH WALES

1989 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: MFV Guide Me "B"

STAFF: B R Howell
S M Baynes
T W Beard
A R Child

DURATION: 21-22 September 1989

LOCALITY: Irish Sea

AIMS:

1. To release about 300 hatchery-reared sole (13-20 cm length).
2. To catch, tag and release a similar number of wild sole of a similar size range.
3. To catch, tag and return to the Laboratory 100 wild sole for estimation of mortality rates.

NARRATIVE:

On 21 September the Guide Me "B" sailed from Rhos-on-Sea at 1330 h and fished the area 1-2 miles north of Rhos and east to Rhyl. Tows were restricted to 5 minutes duration using two 2 m beam trawls simultaneously. 1-gp sole were measured and tagged with mini-Petersen tags. Every fifth fish was retained in a deck tank for return to the Laboratory. The remainder were released alongside tagged hatchery-reared fish. The ship returned to Rhos-on-Sea at 0300 h.

Similar procedures were adopted on 22 September but fishing had to stop prematurely because of the imminence of a northerly gale. The ship returned to Rhos-on-Sea at 1900.

RESULTS:

Aim 1. A total of 341 tagged hatchery fish of standard length 13-21 cm (mean 16 cm) were released.

Aim 2. A total of 141 wild fish were caught, measured and tagged. Twenty-seven of these were transported to the Laboratory and the remainder released. Though bad weather prevented the attainment of the target figure, further fish were tagged in the same area during the following week (see separate report).

Aim 4. The mortality rate of tagged wild fish was high, only 37% survived for 5 weeks. Most (80%) of this mortality occurred within 2 days of capture.



B R Howell
24 November 1989

INITIALLED:



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S M Baynes
T W Beard
A R Child