MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
FISHERIES LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK NR33 0HT

1991 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: CHARTER VESSEL: LADY JAN

STAFF: D J Symonds
              B F M Harley

DURATION: 24-30 July

LOCATION: South Wales

AIM:

To determine the distribution and relative abundance of pre-recruit sole and plaice in the
Bristol Channel using a 3 m steel beam trawl.

NARRATIVE:

After several delays due to adverse fishing weather off south Wales, staff finally travelled to
Swansea by official vehicle on 24 July. The beam trawl was rigged the same evening but, by
the following morning, the net had been cut from the beam and removed. A new net was
rigged (and taken off each day on completion of fishing) and sampling commenced at
0755 hours on the 25th in Swansea Bay. Fishing continued on a daily basis for the next five
days although the area of work was restricted by the threat of fresh to strong SE to SW
winds. Consequently, only one day (27th), instead of the planned two, was spent fishing in
Carmarthen Bay. Staff returned to Lowestoft on 30 July.

RESULTS:

Fifty-five valid tows of 15 minutes' duration were completed in the area from Scarweather
Sands in the east to Amroth in the west. Catches were generally light and composed of a
relatively small number of species. Pre-recruit sole and plaice were encountered at most
stations but the catch rates were normally low. The largest numbers of sole per 15 minute
tow were taken off Neath (42) and Port Talbot (28) and, of plaice, off Neath (29), Oxwich
Bay (27) and Pembray (25).

Otoliths of 74 plaice and 79 soles were taken for pre-recruit and biological studies and to
augment the market sampling programme.

GENERAL:

The cooperation and hospitality of Skipper Bob Garner and his crew are sincerely
appreciated.

D J Symonds
2 August 1991

SEEN IN DRAFT: JWH

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic list +
D J Symonds
B F M Harley
M G Pawson
Skipper R Garner
South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee