

CRUISE REPORT CR/14/89 LOUGH FOYLE CRUISE LF/14/89

DATES 21 - 26 May 1989

PERSONNEL

D. J. Agnew (HSO : SIC)

J. Peel (TASO)

B. Hart (ASO)

B. Wilkinson (TASO)

OBJECTIVES

1. To establish the distribution of hake in the North Channel and Northern Irish Sea in May.
2. To examine maturity stage and feeding behaviour of hake in North Channel.
3. To investigate distribution and abundance of the ghost shrimp Pasiphaea sivado.

NARRATIVE

Lough Foyle sailed at 23 00 on Sunday and trawling commenced north of Rathlin Island early Monday morning. A total of 10 tows were completed despite problems with the midwater net which necessitated a return to Belfast on Wednesday. During this time the scanmar trawl door monitors were dismantled to increase the trawl opening width. The ship returned to Belfast 18.00 Friday 26 May.

Results

A total of 172 Hake were caught using 3 hour tows at 10 stations. The majority of these were found in the area of tows 4 and 5, and many of the larger fish were close to breeding condition. Large numbers of Pasiphaea sivado were found in the North Channel region and this was the most dominant food item in Hake stomachs.

D J Agnew

UGH FOLLE

USE LF/14/89 TOW POSITIONS

