CRUISE REPORT: CRUISE LF2095 DEMERSAL FISH SURVEY

VESSEL: R.V. Lough Foyle (DANI)

DATES: 25 September - 6 October 1995

AREA OF OPERATION: Irish Sea (North); ICES Division VIIa

TYPE OF SURVEY: Otter trawl

OBJECTIVES

- To obtain information on spatial patterns of abundance of different size- and age-classes of demersal fish in the northern Irish Sea;
- 2. To obtain indices of abundance for whiting, haddock, juvenile cod and plaice for use at ICES Working Groups;
- 3. To examine geographic patterns of infection of whiting and cod by external parasites;
- 4. To collect fish stomachs for DANI/PEML CASE studentship project;
- 5. To collect samples of squid for a project at Aberdeen University.
- 6. To collect samples of whiting, haddock and poorcod for genetics studies at the University College of Cork.

PERSONNEL

M.Armstrong	DANI (SIC)
M.Dickey-Collas	DANI
M. McAliskey	DANI
W.McCurdy	DANI
J.Peel	DANI
P.Newton	Port Erin Marine Lab
S. Hughes	University of Aberdeen

METHODS

A commercial Rockhopper trawl fitted with a 20 mm (stretched mesh) liner in the cod-end was towed over three nautical miles where possible at the stations shown in Figure 1. Gear and towing procedures were those employed on all previous DANI groundfish surveys.

The catch at each station was sorted to species using a multiple-stage sampling procedure, and length-frequencies were recorded for each species. Subsamples of cod, whiting, haddock and hake were taken for recording length, mass, sex, maturity stage and for removal of otoliths for ageing. Levels of infestation of the whiting and cod by external parasites were estimated. Samples for cruise objectives (4) to (6) were then taken.

For the purposes of analysis, the survey area was divided into seven strata defined by depth and substratum, as described in Table 1 and shown in Fig. 1.

CRUISE NARRATIVE

Sunday 24 September

Lough Foyle left Belfast Harbour at 22h.00 and proceeded overnight towards station 83. A comprehensive safety demonstration was given before departure by the Fishing Master.

Monday 25 September

Four trawls were completed (stations 83, 81, 101 and 17) in 28-32 mph SW winds. The vessel was anchored overnight in Dundrum Bay.

Tuesday 26 September

Trawl stations 100, 99, 46 and 97 were completed in 10-15 mph westerly winds. The vessel was anchored overnight in Dundrum Bay.

Wednesday 27 September

Stations 70, 88,208 and 71 were completed in strong westerly winds. The vessel was anchored overnight at Clogher Head.

Thursday 28 September

ve trawls were completed (stations 73, 216, 51, 96 and 50) in good conditions. The vessel was anchored at Skerries for the night.

Friday 29 September

Work was delayed during the morning because of an intermittent power failure from the generator. After this was repaired, three stations were completed (90, 56 and 94) before proceeding to Dublin for the mid-cruise break.

Saturday 30 September

Mid-cruise break in Dublin.

Sunday 1 October

The survey recommenced in strong SW winds. Stations 93, 92 and 79 were completed, after which the vessel was anchored off the north Anglesey coast.

Monday 2 October

ations 245, 246 and 249 were fished in 30 mph SW winds. The vessel was anchored in Ramsey Bay for the night.

Tuesday 3 October

Stations 258, 259, 250 and 242 were completed in slightly improved conditions (SW winds, 14 - 26 mph). The vessel then returned to Ramsey Bay to lie at anchor overnight.

Wednesday 4 October

Sea conditions off the NE coast of the Isle of Man were found to be too rough for fishing. The vessel returned to Ramsey Bay and lay at anchor for the rest of the day.

Thursday 5 October

Stations 64, 257 and 256 were completed in 20-30 mph SW winds. The vessel then proceeded to Belfast Lough to lie at anchor for the night.

Friday 6 October

Stations 35 and 86 were completed, after which the vessel returned to Belfast.

WOFK COMPLETED

35 valid hauls were completed (Fig. 1). The positions of the trawl stations are given in Table 2. Unfortunately, due to poor weather only one station was completed in stratum 7.

A total of 131 cod, 850 whiting, 304 haddock and 32 hake were analysed for length, mass and maturity stage. Otoliths were taken from each fish for ageing. Each cod and whiting sampled for age was inspected for external parasites. Fish stomachs were collected at each station and frozen for later analysis. Data on length, sex and maturity of squids were recorded, and material for growth studies at Aberdeen University was collected. Gill filaments from 100 whiting and 100 haddock were collected, together with a sample of 100 frozen poor cod, for DNA studies at the University College of Cork.

PRIKLIMINARY RESULTS

The overall catch-rates of selected species are given in Table 3. Catch rates of whiting and haddock above the minimum landing size at shown in Table 4. Length distributions of whiting in selected survey strata are shown in Figure 2.

Young whiting and haddock were most abundant in the coastal region between Dundrum Bay and Lambay Island, whereas larger whiting were more prevalent in the eastern Irish Sea and around the Isle of Man. Comparatively large catches of juvenile whiting were also made off the coast of Cumbria. The large jellyfish Rhizostoma was extremely abundant off the English coast, with catches of up to three tonnes being taken in a 1-hour tow. Young cod were most abundant off the southern Irish Coast and off the coasts of England and North Wales. Haddock of the 1994 year class continued to be very abundant in the western Irish Sea, particularly off Dundrum Bay and to the south of Dundalk Bay. As in previous surveys, haddock were mainly confined to the western Irish Sea although a catch was also taken at station 242 in the eastern Irish Sea.

Length compositions of whiting, cod and haddock averaged over survey strata are shown in Fig. 3. The strong 1994 year-class of haddock recorded in previous surveys dominated the catches of this species. Unfortunately, the 1995 year class of haddock appears to be weak. The 1995 year class of whiting appears to be of average strength compared to the catch-rates of juveniles in the 1991-1994 surveys. Catch-rates of cod of the 1995 year class in the western Irish Sea were considerably lower than recorded in September 1991, 1993 and 1994, although greater than recorded for the very weak 1992 year class in September 1992. Data collected during cruise LF2095 will be incorporated in the stock assessments of Irish Sea cod, whiting and haddock at the ICES Northern Shelf Working Group in June 1996.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Master and personnel of the Lough Foyle are thanked for their enthusiastic cooperation throughout the cruise. The Fishing Master is particularly acknowledged for ensuring efficient and consistent trawling operations. The scientific personnel are thanked for the very

thorough work completed under the poor conditions that prevailed during most of the cruise.

Signed:

Scientist - in charge: M.J. American date 13-10-95

Ships master: AMB lod 2 date 6, 1x, 95.

ASG-

ASG Division Head: S.D. Hung date 8.11.75

Table 1. Survey strata used for data analysis

Stratum	Region	Depth	Substratum		
1	Ards Peninsula- North Channel	< 100 m	Mixed		
2	Co. Down - Dublin	< 50 m	Sand and finer		
3	Co. Down - Dublin	50 - 100 m	Sand and finer		
4	IOM west coast	50 - 100 m	Sand and finer		
5	North IOM	< 50 m	Coarse sediments		
6	Solway Firth- Liverpool Bay	< 50 m	Sand and finer		
7	Anglesey - IOM	< 100 m	Coarse sediments		

Table 2 Details of trawls during cruise LF2095

		T	Shooting pos	ition	Hauling position		Mean	Distance	
Date	Station	Time shot	Latitude	Longitude	Latitude	Longitude	Depth (m)	towed (nm)	
)ate	3120011	Tille Silet							
		06h.36	54, 23.0	5, 18.0	54, 20.0	5, 17.2	81	3.0	
25 Sept.	83		54, 15.2	5,22.9	54, 12.3	5, 23.9	50	3.0	
	81	09h.15		5, 19.5	54, 05.0	5, 18.7	83	3.0	
	101	12h.26	54, 08.0		54, 05.7	5, 31.6	47	3.0	
	17	15h.35	54, 08.6	5, 31.3	154, 05.7	15, 51.0	i "		
				5 40 0	E4 00 2	5, 40.9	24	3.0	
26 Sept.	100	06ከ.38	54, 11.3	5, 40.8	54, 08.2		73	3.0	
	99	09h.54	54, 05.1	5, 03.5	54, 07.8	5, 00.8		3.0	
	46	12h.00	54, 09.7	4, 56.7	54, 12.6	4, 58.4	82	3.0	
	97	15h.05	54, 20.7	4, 55.7	54, 17.9	4, 54.1	76	3.0	
	1	· l	ľ] _		1	
27 Sept.	70	06h.35	54, 01.7	5, 45.6	53, 58.6	5, 44.8	40	3.0	
Er Oche.	88	08h.29	53, 59.1	5, 42.0	53, 57.1	5, 38.0	72	3.0	
	208	11h.09	53, 49.1	5, 44.8	53, 49.4	5, 49.9	59	3.0	
	4	13h.37	53, 54.2	5, 52.2	53, 55.0	5, 57.3	44	3.0	
	71	1311.57	JOO, 5-1.2	[,		1	1	1	
		00 03	53, 52.0	6, 06.0	53, 49.9	6, 02.4	26	3.0	
28 Sept.	73	06h.03		5, 15.8	53, 56.1	5, 12.0	85	3.0	
	216	10h.00	53, 54.1		53, 50.1	4, 58.3	75	3.0	
	51	12h.07	53, 53.5	5, 02.0		5, 05.2	71	3.0	
	96	14h.08	53, 52.2	5, 07.0	53, 49.1		77	3.0	
	50	16h.18	53, 46.5	5, 19.7	53, 43.2	5, 22.0	1 "	1 5.5	
				15 44 0	E2 26 0	5, 40.3	79	3.0	
29 Sept.	90	09h.46	53, 38.7	5, 44.2	53, 36.8		80	3.0	
	56	12h.00	53, 30.4	5, 42.6	53, 30.2	5, 37.5	66	3.0	
·	. 94	14h.09	53, 24.7	5, 45.9	53, 21.6	5, 46.1	80	0.0	
		1		1	l		۱ ۵۰	3.0	
1 Oct	93	09h.15	53, 28.9	5, 48.4	53, 31.8	5, 49.7	48	3.0	
	92	11h.40	53, 36.7	5, 52.2	53, 36.7	5, 57.3	42		
	79	13h.53	53, 42.4	5, 56.3	53, 43.0	6, 01.4	35	3.0	
1	1			1					
2 Oct.	245	06h.30	53, 29.8	4, 11.8	53, 31.3	4, 16.3	44	3.0	
iz Oct.	245	09h.30	53, 28.6	3, 49.4	53, 29.1	3, 44.4	31	3.0	
1	249	12h.46	53, 46.3	3, 41.3	53, 48.3	3, 44.6	34	3.0	
	248	1211.40	122, 12.0	-,	'	l		1	
		07h 06	54, 21.8	3, 57.5	54, 18.9	3, 56.7	35	3.0	
3 Oct.	258	07h.06		3, 43.2	54, 14.9	3, 42.1	34	3.0	
	259	09h.39	54, 17.8	3, 39.2	54, 05.3	3, 38.4	28	1.5	
]	250	12h.28	54, 06.8	1 '		4, 02.9	34	3.0	
ŀ	242	15h.34	54, 04.2	4, 02.3	54, 07.2	7, 02.3	1		
					64 07 0	2 42 2	24	3.0	
5 Oct.	64	06h.06	54, 34.8	3, 46.2	54, 37.2	3, 43.2	31	3.0	
	257	09h.00	54, 26.0	3, 46.3	54, 23.3	3, 44.5		3.0	
1	256	12h.42	54, 38.5	3, 55.0	54, 37.1	3, 59.4	33	3.0	
			,		1	J.	1	1 20	
6 Oct.	35	07h.05	54, 44.3	5, 36.4	54, 43.2		23	3.0	
lo Ocr	86	09h.35	54, 38.3		54, 35.6	5, 26.1	32	3.0	

Table 3	Catches	of selected	species	during cru	ise LF209	95 in kg p	er tow, by	survey str	atum.
				<u>:</u> 1					
STRATUM 1	Stn. 35	Stn. 86	Stn. 83		- ;	<u> </u>			
Cod	1.67	7.76		1	i	-	<u> </u>		
Whiting	555.00	177.50	63.00		;				
Hake	0.49		0.70		-	1	<u> </u>	i	
Haddock	10.50	1.25						<u> </u>	
Norway Pout	14.19	1.05	14.13						
Poor cod	29.82	4.48	6.00		į				
Herring	2.48	8.81	1.00					<u>i</u>	
Sprat	10.50	3.74	0.41						
Plaice		1.64							
Dab	0.97	0.67							
Anglerfish.	1.61	0.15			ï				
Gumards	4.85	4.10	0.01						
Less. sp. dogfish	11.83		1.94]
Nephrops	1.99		0.39]
Squid (Loligo)	6.88		0.18		·				
		ı	l						
STRATUM 2	Stn. 81	Stn. 100	Stn. 70	Stn. 71	Stn. 73	Stn. 79	Stn. 92]
Cod		6.79		1	0.07		2.91		
Whiting	97.90			143.10	214.75		530.80		
Hake	0.19		2.98						
Haddock	0.21		124.50	0.07		288.53	166.00		
Norway Pout	0.40		1 1 1 1 1 1			10.03	8.25		
Poor cod	1.65		1.51	0.91	0.06	6.73	7.27		
Herring	0.36	<u> </u>		0.99	4.24	44.64	4.59		
Sprat	7.61				70.20		0.23		
Plaice	0.37			2.08	2.64	28.25	63.67		
Dab	0.33			0.55	3.37	23.67	21.85		
Anglerfish	1.39				0.75	2.04	0.81		
Gumards	1.25				0.27	3.58	0.58		
Less. sp. dogfish	1	4.08		2.23	2.84	3.44	4.48		
Nephrops	40.36		0.41						
Squid (Loligo)	2.09						0.25		
040:0 (00:090)				1					
STRATUM 3	Stn. 101	Stn. 17	Stn. 88	Stn. 208	Stn. 75	Stn. 90	Stn. 56	Stn. 93	Stn. 94
Cod	2.78		0.63	0.17	- not	0.68	0.47	7.04	7.88
Whiting	36.90			1	fished -	165.90		402.50	117.80
Hake	0.54								
Haddock	0.06			<u> </u>		13.58	64.54	232.30	3.04
Norway Pout	11.20					10.87			172.20
Poor cod	2.51					0.95			31.30
Herring	39.20					1.03			
Sprat		79.10				1	0.05		0.05
Plaice	+	2.73				0.23			33.86
Dab	+	0.32						0.44	5.76
Anglerfish	1.69							1.51	5.50
Gumards	1.00	0.22			1	0.25	0.14		0.77
Less. sp. dogfish	,	7.23						29.45	6.31
			18.33			20.46	3.54	29.15	0.84
Manhmas	134111	JI	10.0) [U.OZ	ı B	20.70		1	
Nephrops Squid (Loligo)	13.00	1.59				20.40		0.08	

STRATUM 4	Stn. 97	Stn. 46	Stn. 99	Stn. 216	Stn. 51	Stn. 96	Stn. 50	Stn. 48	Stn. 103
Cod	9.37							— not fis	
Whiting	34.83								, icu
Hake	0.24		 		101.00	112.01	0.01		:
Hadclock	1.57		88.00		7.06	8.34			
Norway Pout	25.09	<u> </u>							<u></u> -
Poor cod	18.66				<u>. </u>		 		<u>i</u> t
Herring	0.44					0.01		<u> </u>	
Sprat	0.04		20.00	3.10		0.05		<u>. </u>	<u>. </u>
Plaice	0.04	0.41	0.56						
Dab	 		0.55						
Anglerfish	3.60	1.22			0.57	0.21		 -	
Gumards`	0.09		0.91		1.66	1.47	0.17		<u>!</u>
Less. sp. dogfish	1.47						0.56		<u> </u>
Nephrops	23.44					2.47		<u> </u>	
Squid (Loligo)	20.74	0.01		0.00		2.41	3.70	 	
odara (rongo)	-	0.01		. 0.00		<u> </u>	1	1	1
STRATUM 6	Stn. 256	 Stn. 64	Stn. 257	Stn. 258	Cim are	 645	 C4= 0#6	Stn. 249	! ! C \$=_ C \$C
						:			Stn. 246
Cod	0.21								
Whiting	387.20	70.00	173.90	833.00	162.40	19.43	243.00	82.43	83.3
Hake	2.00								
Haddock	0.23			0.37		37.28			
Norviay Pout	0.02			4.4.5	0.08				<u></u>
Poor cod	2.22	0.48			8.60	127.28			
Heming	0.63		7.45			······································	3.24	 	
Sprat	1.64	0.03	1	0.45			28.20		1
Plaice	22.44	32.18		30.76	L	8.12			
Dab	26.91	6.67	0.81	54.66		2.44	5.14	1.47	0.3
Anglerfish	0.72			2.99					
Gurnards	7.51	2.44		17.97		1	1		
Less. sp. dogfish	18.63	58.32		26.24	14.04	133.73		47.06	36.8
Nephrops			0.71				0.11		
Squid (Loligo)	ļ			0.44	0.03	19.67	0.02	2.84	5.1
	İ	į							!
STRATUM 7	Stn. 105	Stn. 77	Stn. 102	Stn. 76	Stn. 243	Stn. 245			
Cod			not fish	ed	·	16.59	·		
Whiting						16.84			
Hake									
Haditock									
Norway Pout			'						
Poor cod						12.26			
Herring									
Spreit	-	-					.		
Plaice							· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Dab				_		0.16	· · · · ·	<u> </u>	
Anglerfish								i	
Gumards						22.14			
Guillains								 	
	:	ļ				47 17		1	
Less. sp. dogfish						42.78	···		-
						42.10			

Table 4 Catches in kg per 3 nautical miles (approx 1 hour) towed, for fish below and at or above the minimum landing size of 27 cm (whiting) and 30 cm (haddock).

		WHIT	ING	HADD	OCK
STRATUM	STATION	below MLS	above MLS	below MLS	above MLS
1	35	549.0	6.0	10.1	0.4
	86	139.4	38.1	1.3	0.3
	83	51.3	11.7	0.0	0.0
2	81	96.4	1.5	0.2	0.0
1	100	94.7	22.4	637.5	34.8
İ	70	44.4	1.5	106.5	17.9
	71	142.9	0.2	0.1	0.0
1	73	214.3	0.4	0.0	0.0
1	79	476.2	6.3	122.2	166.3
7-7	92	529_	1.8	109.0	57.0
3	101	19.6	17.3	0.1	0.0
i	17	75.7	2.4	0.1	0.0
1	88	152.5	8.6	0.1	0.0
<u> </u>	208	299.3	5.9	0.3	0.3
	90	156.9	8.9	4.9	8.6
Į.	56	137.3	4	16.6	47.9
	93	395.8	6.6	102.9	129.4
1	94	115.4	2.4	1.6	1.5
4	97	13.7	21.1	0.1	1.5 0.0
1	46	83.7	25.1	0.0	13.7
•	99	259.4	99.5	74.3	3.9
	51	122.6	65.1	3.1	6.1
	96	69.5	43.4	2.2	0.4
	216	26.4	8.1	0.1	2.9
·	50	35.9	15.2	0.5	0.0
7	245	1.9	14.9	0.0	0.0
6	246	16.8	66.5	2.9	34.3
1	242	1.9	17.5	0.0	0.0
	249	36.3	46.2	0.0	0.0
I	250	394.2	91.8	0.4	0.0
<u> </u>	258	596.2	236.7	0.0	0.0
	259	131.1	31.4	0.0	. 0.0
T	257	141.5	32.4	0.0	0.0
	256	329.0	58.2	0.2	0.0
	64	40.0	30.0		22.4
Mean: Stra	nta 2 - 4	161.9	16.7	53.7	44.4

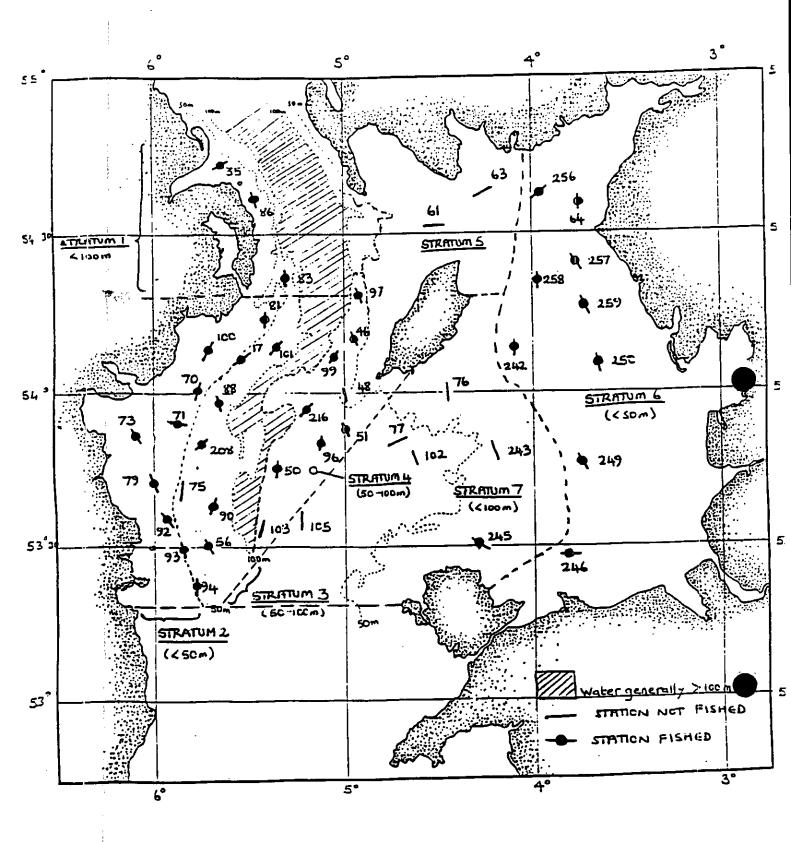


Fig. 1 Trawl stations completed during cruise LF2095.

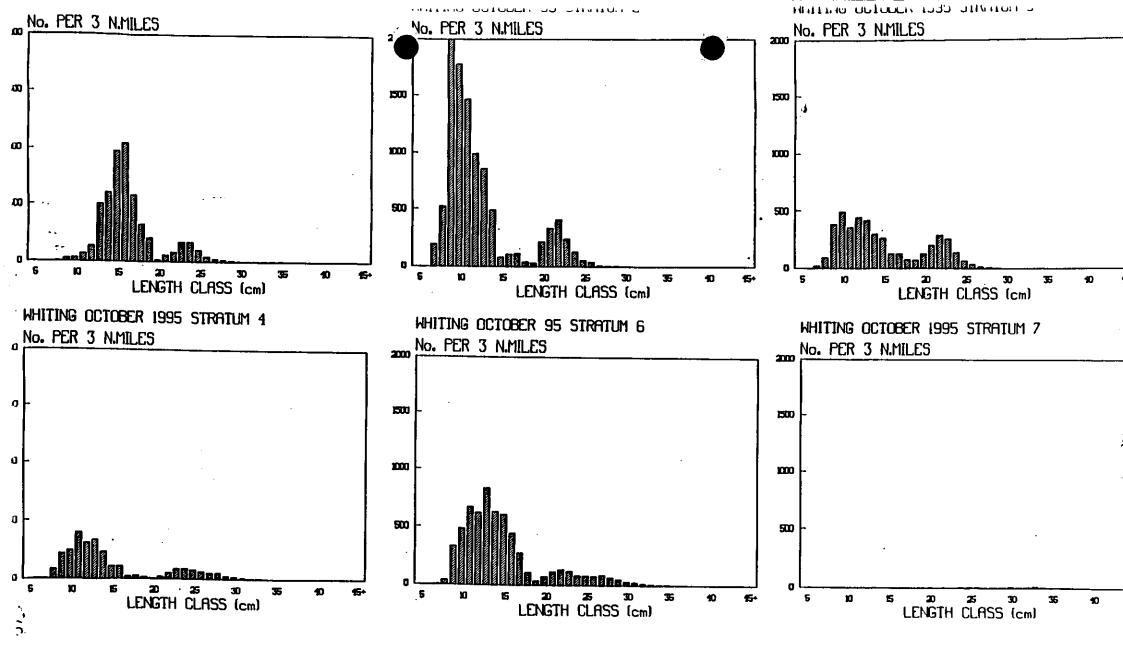
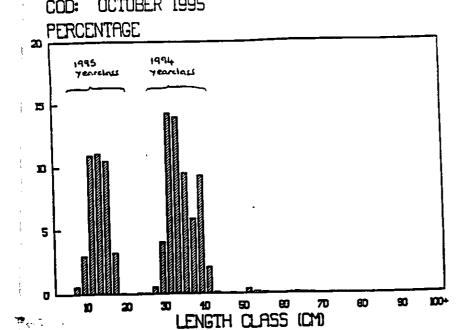
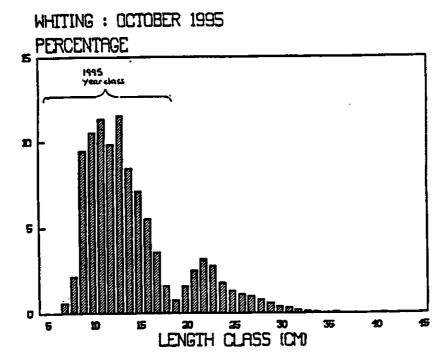


Fig. 2 Mean length frequencies of whiting for each survey stratum (numbers per 3 nautical miles towed)





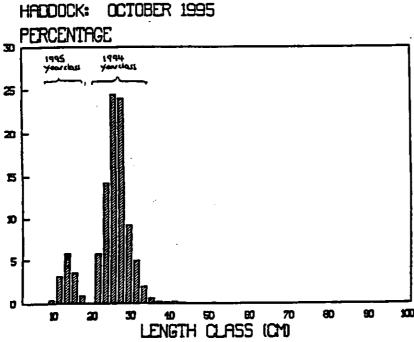


Fig. 3 Total, weighted mean length frequencies over all survey strata for whiting, cod and haddock caught during cruise LF2095 (percentages).