

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

1982 CHARTER CRUISE PROGRAMME

REPORT: LITTLE TEAL: CRUISE 1

STAFF:

M Pawson
G Pickett

DURATION:

8-10 September and 16-20 September

AIMS:

1. To tag bass
2. To obtain biological samples for electrophoretic stock separation studies.

NARRATIVE:

Staff travelled from Portsmouth (Gill Netting Dories: Cruise 3) to Gower on 8 September and started trawling for bass in Carmarthen Bay on the morning of 9 September. A reported recent scarcity of bass was borne out when only 6 were obtained from two-3 hour tows. On 10 September 'LITTLE TEAL' returned to Burry Port in worsening weather, and with the immediate prospects of catching sufficient fish poor, staff returned directly to Lowestoft.

A catch of 200 fish was made by the vessel on 15 September (when M.P. was collecting '0' and '1' group bass from Aberystwyth) and staff returned to Gower and re-commenced tagging bass on 16 September. Fishing was terminated by engine failure on 19 September and as severe weather had set in staff returned to Lowestoft on 20 September.

RESULTS:

A total of ten-3 hour tows with an otter trawl produced 188 bass of which 182 were tagged. The condition of most of these fish on capture was moderate/good but about a dozen, some of which had been recaptured in the trawl after release, were in poor condition. A further ten fish provided by a rod and line fisherman were tagged and released.

The length range of bass tagged was from 27-54 cm (total length) with modal sizes at 37 cm and 41 cm indicating fish of probably both the 1976 and 1975 year classes. One hundred and four fish were tagged with Floy tags and 88 with Mini-Howitt tags.

A rod and line catch of 68 bass was measured for comparison with the trawl-caught fish and a sample of 20 '0' and '1' group bass was collected for electrophoretic work.

G D Pickett
23 September 1982

INITIALLED: DJG

DISTRIBUTION: Basic list + M Pawson & G D Pickett