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F.V. LOUANDRIC , F.V. ALVIC

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

1984 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: ICES SOLE EGG SURVEY: CRUISE 1

STAFF: I L Davies
P A Large

DURATION: 2-5 April 1984

LOCALITY: Thames Estuary

AIMS:

This is the first of the 1984 ICES Sole Egg Surveys where commercial boats will be chartered to sample in less than 10 metre chart depth, to complement the over 10m stations being carried out by RV CLIONE.

NARRATIVE:

Staff travelled to Whitstable during the afternoon of 2 April and sailed on FV LOUANDRIC at 0430h next morning. Because of strong NW winds work was started in the Leigh Channel off Southend and as the weather improved we progressed down the estuary. The remaining Southern stations of the survey were completed on 4 April and the transfer to West Mersea was made by road later that day.

The remaining stations in the north of the Thames Estuary were successfully completed on 5 April from W Mersea aboard FV ALVIC before returning to Lowestoft.

RESULTS:

The 20" naked High Speed Tow Net was successfully deployed off both these vessels. No sole eggs were visible in the samples. Local fishermen reported that sole spawning had probably not started. Sea surface temperatures ranged from 5.7 to 6.6°C whereas it has usually exceeded 8.5°C in previous years.

I would like to express our thanks to the skippers and crews of LOUANDRIC and ALVIC for their help and cooperation during the cruise.

INITIALLED: DJG 30.4.84

I L Davies
11 April 1984

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