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

1988 CHARTER CRUISE PROGRAMME

REPORT: MIZPAH III : CRUISE 1

DURATION: 11-14 July

LOCALITY: Poole Harbour/Poole Bay

STAFF: G D Pickett  
B McGlashan  
M G Pawson (part-time)

AIMS:

1. To carry out a survey of pre-recruit bass using a high-headline trawl with a fine-mesh cod-end liner.
2. To tag bass over 35cm total length.
3. To carry out a biological examination of bass for maturity and growth studies.

NARRATIVE:

Staff arrived at Poole late on 10 July to meet the charter vessel and commenced fishing in the Swash Channel, outside Poole Harbour, on the morning of 11 July. A total of 45 trawl stations were worked over 4 days, mainly within Poole Harbour as weather conditions prevented work in Poole Bay. Staff (GDP and BM) returned to Lowestoft on 15 July.

RESULTS:

1. The high-headline trawl with cod-end liner caught only 26 pre-recruit bass in 31 hauls. All but one of these were 1+ gp (1987 year-class) and were caught in shallow water in the inner harbour near Lytchett Bay. In addition 4 adolescent/adult fish were caught just outside the harbour. Bass of the 1984-86 year classes were notably absent.

In order to obtain larger samples of the 1+ gp fish, a 5 fathom commercial sand-eel trawl with a micro-mesh cod-end was used in the area where the small bass had been located. This produced 125 1+gp bass (length range 10-18cm) in 14 hauls.

2. Bass of commercial size were scarce in the area at the time of the survey (confirmed by local fishermen) and only 4 fish (36-44cm total length) were tagged. It was also impossible to satisfy aim 3.

G D Pickett  
2 August 1988

INITIALLED : H W H

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