

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

1980 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: MFV OCEAN VENTURE (Seiner)

(PROVISIONAL: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

STAFF

E Edwards

DURATION

Left Whitby 0430 h 16 April

Returned 1900 h 16 April

LOCALITY

North-east coast

AIMS

To obtain information on discard rates of commercial fishing vessels off the north-east coast.

NARRATIVE

OCEAN VENTURE left Whitby at 0430 h 16 April and steamed to seining grounds 10-12 miles off Redcar. The gear was shot at 0730 h with 12 coils aside and the whole procedure of shooting and hauling the seine took 90 minutes a shot. A total of five shots were made in an area 10-12 miles off Redcar but the catch for the day only totalled 64 stones. The skipper blamed the poor fishing on the very strong tides which reduced the efficiency of seine-net fishing. The vessel returned to Whitby at 1900 h on the same day.

RESULTS

Quantities of fish retained and rejected from each haul were recorded. Length compositions of the main species rejected were obtained from every haul. The main discard species were whiting, lemon sole and dab. Samples of otoliths were collected from rejected fish.

The retained catch consisted mainly of medium cod with flatfish (plaice, lemon sole and dabs). This totalled 64 stones: discards were estimated as 55 stones (Table 1).

A sample of the landed catch of cod, lemon soles and plaice was measured on Whitby fish market.

OCEAN VENTURE is a 52 ft motor seiner with a crew of five. The vessel is fitted with a 114 hp Gardner engine and a Becckes Coiler. Equipment includes a Decca Track Plotter, radar and Decca Mk 21 Navigator. The net used was a 20 fathom Boris seine worked with 12 coils of rope a side. Mesh size was 75-80 mm. No lifting bag was used.

E Edwards

25 April 1980

INITIALLED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION

Basic list  
E Edwards  
Mr B Large, Scarborough  
Mr Nigel Corner, Whitby

Table 1 Catch, 16 April 1980, MFV OCEAN VENTURE;  
Skipper's estimates (stones)

Haul no.	Total catch, all fish	Retained catch, all fish	Discards (stones)
1	20	15 cod plaice lemons	5 whiting lemons
2	25	10 cod whiting	15 whiting dabs
3	30	21 cod lemons haddock	9 whiting dabs
4	20	9 cod plaice lemons	11 dabs lemons
5	30	15 cod plaice lemons	15 dabs plaice gurnard
TOTAL	125	70	55

ACTUAL LANDED WEIGHT = 64 stones.