

**CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SCIENCE,
LOWESTOFT LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK NR33 0HT**

CRUISE REPORT: CHARTER PROGRAMME, PRINCE MADOG 5 / 2002

STAFF:

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DURATION: 30 April – 2 May 2002

LOCATION: eastern Irish Sea

AIMS:

Fifth in a series of 5 to,

1. Carry out a plankton survey in the Eastern Irish Sea to determine plaice egg spawning.
2. Collect zooplankton samples for copepod production and fish larval feeding studies.

NARRATIVE:

Staff travelled to Menai Bridge by road and embarked 29 April. RV Prince Madog sailed next morning at 0930 after sampling equipment had been installed. Sampling commenced at 1045 in rough seas. Coastal sites on the survey grid were sampled throughout the afternoon and into the early hours of 1 May when seas became moderate. The remaining offshore plankton stations were completed throughout the next 24 hours. RV Prince Madog docked at 1400 on 2 May.

RESULTS:

Aims 1 and 2. The full survey grid of 49 stations was completed successfully. The Gulf VII plankton sampler used was fitted with a 270µm mesh net and an auxiliary, fine mesh (64µm) 'pup' net was attached to the frame. Two plankton samples were collected on each sampling position and preserved for analysis at Lowestoft laboratory. Flowmeter readings were provided by self-logging readout units, and temperature and salinity profiles by an FSI self-logging mini-CTD. Most equipment functioned satisfactorily. One connecting cable from the external flowmeter to the logging unit failed during sampling. This was replaced.

N Bunn
28 May 2002

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