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

1982 CHARTER CRUISE PROGRAMME

REPORT: PORTSMOUTH GILL NETTING DORIES: CRUISE 3
(PROVISIONAL: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

STAFF

T Benford
M Pearce
G Pickett (until 8 Sept)
M Pawson (6-8 Sept)

DURATION

4-14 September

LOCALITY

Solent

AIMS

1. To determine gill net mesh selectivity for bass.
2. To tag bass, comparison of returns for mini-Howitt vs Floy tags.

NARRATIVE

Staff travelled to Portsmouth on 4 September and commenced fishing the following morning. The chartered vessel "JOHN CLIFFORD" was used for Aim 2, towing a high lift trawl with a shrimp mesh cod-end liner. Consistent catches of bass were made until the 12 September, when work with fixed gill nets commenced to achieve Aim 1. Catches of bass with this method were very low and staff returned to Lowestoft on 14 September.

RESULTS

Aim 1 was not achieved, only 32 bass were caught from 4 overnight settings of the nets. Six of these were from Dory "POMPEY FLYER", the skipper of which let us measure them.

Aim 2, was satisfied. Eight hundred and sixty four bass were tagged, 340 with Floy tags, the rest with mini-Howitt tags, the majority being between 26-31 cm in length.

T E Benford
28 September 1982

INITIALLED: DJG

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List
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