

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

1988 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV PRINCE MADOG: CRUISE 40
(PROVISIONAL: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

STAFF

H L Rees (SIC)
G Lees
P Hudson
D Limpenny
M Lambert
S Blake

DURATION

Left Menai Bridge 1030 h 19 September
Arrived Menai Bridge 1145 h 22 September

All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY

Irish Sea

AIMS

1. To sample the epifauna at dredged spoil disposal site Z with beam trawl.
2. To carry out underwater photographic surveys with the MAFF sledge at the sewage sludge dumpsite and at site Z.
3. To obtain sediment cores for vertical distribution of fauna, redox and contaminant distributions at site Z and in the Burbo Bight.
4. To examine core profiles for biogenic and physical sediment structures.

NARRATIVE

PRINCE MADOG sailed to Liverpool Bay on the morning of 19 September, where a series of 23 grab stations were worked as part of a grid survey of the benthos and sediments around the dredged spoil disposal site Z (deferred aim 2 of cruise 39). On the morning of 20 September, the MAFF towed underwater sledge was successfully deployed along transects within the sewage sludge dumpsite and at the dredged spoil dumpsite (site Z), respectively. Still and video images were obtained. Following this, a further 21 grab stations of the site Z grid were worked.

On the morning of 21 September, Tennant core samples were taken at the spoil ground and in the Burbo Bight, where down-core readings of redox potentials were made, and samples of benthos and sediments retained for later analysis. Additional cores were also sub-sampled for physical and biogenic structures. Subsequently, 3 stations in the vicinity of site Z were worked using a beam trawl, for analysis of the epifauna. A further 18 grab stations were then worked in order to complete the site Z grid.

A Tennant core station was worked in Red Wharf bay on the morning of 22 September, followed by a transect with the underwater sledge. Weather conditions were unsuitable for further planned sledge deployment in Liverpool Bay; PRINCE MADOG docked at Menai Bridge at 1145 h, 22 September.

RESULTS

1. All aims were successfully achieved.
2. Results will be available on completion of laboratory analysis of samples.

H L Rees
(Scientist-in-Charge)
26 September 1988

SEEN IN DRAFT: J-L Hugh (Master)

INITIALLED:

RJR

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