

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

1981 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: PRINCE MADOG: Joint MAFF/UCNW Menai Bridge Laboratory Cruise
(PROVISIONAL: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

MAFF STAFF:

A Franklin
S M Rowlett

DURATION:

Left Menai Bridge 0900 h 7 September
Arrived Menai Bridge 1100 10 September

LOCALITY:

Liverpool Bay

MAFF AIMS:

1. To collect samples for sedimentological analyses from the area of the Liverpool Bay sludge dumping ground as part of the DAS programme.
2. To collect fish and benthos from the same area for chemical analysis.

UCNW AIMS:

1. To carry out a survey of benthos in the vicinity of the dumping ground.
2. To carry out a detailed benthos survey of the Great Burbo Bank area, Liverpool Bay.

NARRATIVE:

PRINCE MADOG sailed from Menai Bridge at 0900 h, 7 September. Sediment sampling, using a 0.1 m² grab, began at 1310 h and finished at 2010 h, 13 stations having been completed. About five grab samples were taken at each station, one was subsampled for sedimentological analysis and two were sieved to extract the benthos, the other samples being discarded.

Work began again at 0840 h, 8 September and by 1430 h a further 14 stations had been sampled, completing the 27 required for the DAS programme. Single grab samples were then collected from 32 stations in the Great Burbo Bank area as part of the UCNW survey, sampling finished at 2130 h. Although the Burbo Bank samples were not part of the MAFF programme, sediment samples were taken from each station for analysis at Burnham on Crouch.

On 9 September Agassiz and Otter trawls were used at two sites ('polluted' and 'control') to collect biota for chemical analysis at Burnham on Crouch. Unfortunately the net of the second otter trawl ('polluted site') was ripped and few fish were collected. However, a sample of Flustra was collected from this trawl for chemical analysis. Finally an anchor dredge was used to collect a large sediment sample which was sieved and the benthos identified on board ship. Work finished at 2100 h and the PRINCE MADOG anchored off Llandudno for the night. The ship docked at Menai Bridge at 1100 h on 10 September.

RESULTS:

All aims were completed although the second otter trawl was of poor quality.

S Rowlatt

9 October 1981

SEEN IN DRAFT: P C Wood

INITIALLED: HWH

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List +
A Franklin
S M Rowlatt