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

1983 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: R V PRINCE MADOG Joint MAFF/UCNW Menai Bridge Laboratory Cruise

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

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DURATION:

Left Port Penrhyn 1300h 12 September
Arrived Menai Bridge 1000h 14 September

LOCALITY: Liverpool Bay

AIM:

To conduct an 'intensive' monitoring survey of the Liverpool Bay sewage sludge disposal ground by use of grabbing, coring, and trawling.

NARRATIVE:

PRINCE MADOG sailed at 1300h, 12 September and sediment sampling began at 1557h. As poor weather was forecast every effort was made to complete the main portion of the work, the grab sampling, as early as possible. Between 3 and 5 grab samples were collected from each of 32 stations, one for sediment physical and chemical analyses (MAFF), two for ecological analysis (UCNW) and up to two for the chemical analysis of benthos (MBA and MAFF). The grab sampling was completed at 1600h, 13 September.

During the grab sampling program a gravity corer was used at five stations, cores only being retrieved from the two muddiest of these. Anchor dredge samples were collected from two stations near the apex of the dumping ground and sieved for the identification and collection of benthic macrofauna (for chemical analysis at the MBA). This work was completed at 2000h, 13 September and the PRINCE MADOG anchored off Llandudno for the night.

On the morning of 14 September samples of Pectinaria and Abra were collected by grabbing from Redwharf Bay. These will be used for chemical analysis and comparison with similar samples from the Burbo Bight. In view of the deteriorating weather and forecast storms the PRINCE MADOG returned to Menai Bridge and docked at 1000h. Further sampling (coring and benthos collection) should be possible on a UCNW cruise later in the year and the trawling will be carried out on a later MAFF cruise (26-30 September, 1983).

RESULTS:

The grab survey was completed, the coring was partially successful but the trawling was abandoned.

S M Rowlett
29 September 1983

INITIALED: P C W H W H

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