

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

1989 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV PRINCE MADOG

STAFF:

part a. E I S Rees (SIC))
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DURATION:

part a. 18-22 September
part b. 25-29 September
part c. 2-4 October

LOCALITY:

parts a. and c.

1. To conduct a routine monitoring survey of the Liverpool Bay sewage sludge disposal site using grabbing.

part b.

1. To carry out a baseline survey of the Barrow dredgings disposal site using grabbing and beam trawling.
2. To survey sediments around the dredging disposal site Z for benthic fauna and various contaminants.
3. To survey the sediments in the Burbo Bight for various contaminants.

NARRATIVE:

Part a.

Staff travelled to Menai Bridge on 17 September but due to severe gales in the Irish Sea, Prince Madog was unable to sail until the morning of 21 September. Twenty grab stations were worked between 1200 hrs and 2100 hrs as part of the routine monitoring survey of the Liverpool Bay sewage sludge disposal site. Samples were taken for trace metals and PCB analysis by MAFF. Samples were also taken by UCNW staff for benthos and Coprostanol analysis for the North West Water Authority. A further six samples were taken the next day until persistent gale warnings forced Prince Madog to return to Menai Bridge at 1200 hrs on 22 September.

Part b.

Prince Madog sailed to Liverpool Bay on 25 September to continue the routine monitoring survey of the Liverpool Bay sewage sludge disposal site. Only one station was worked before strong winds put an end to work for the rest of the day. The grab survey recommenced at 0800 hrs on 26 September. Eighteen stations were worked up to 1600 hrs. The underwater television sledge was deployed at the southern edge of the sewage sludge disposal site and approximately 90 minutes of video footage was obtained. Prince Madog sailed overnight to the Barrow dredge spoil disposal site but strong winds the following morning prevented work before 1400hrs. Thirteen grab stations, and two rock dredge stations were worked by the evening of 27 September. Prince Madog sailed back to Liverpool Bay overnight and began work on 28 September by collecting 60 brown shrimp for chemical analysis. Eighteen grab stations were then worked in a transect across the Site 2 dredge spoil site. The underwater television sledge was also deployed at Site 2. Prince Madog docked at Menai Bridge on the evening of 28 September.

Part c.

Due to bad weather during the first two weeks, part of a third week was needed to complete the routine monitoring survey of the Liverpool Bay sewage sludge disposal site. Prince Madog sailed to Liverpool Bay on the evening of 2 October. Grabbing commenced the following morning and the survey was completed by 1900 hrs the same day. After recovering a moored buoy for UCNW the next morning, Prince Madog returned to Menai Bridge. MAFF scientists travelled back to Burnham the same day.

RESULTS:

Samples were not collected from the Burbo Bight (aim 3) due to time restrictions caused by bad weather. All other aims were successfully achieved. Extra samples were collected at the Liverpool Bay sewage sludge site for the analysis of various organic contaminants.

D Limpenny
17 October 1989

Seen in draft:

Initialled: JP

ISP

Distribution:

Basic List+
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