

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

1991 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: PRINCE MADOG

STAFF:

Part a.	D Limpenny (SIC) R Rycroft A Kenny D Lovell		
Part b.	H Rees (SIC) D Limpenny M Lambert J Jones P Hudson P Somerfield)	PML
Part c.	D Limpenny H Rees M Lambert E I S Rees S Papadimitriou))	UCNW (SIC)
Part d.	D Limpenny E I S Rees S Papadimitriou M Richmond J Coppock))))	UCNW (SIC)

DURATION:

Part a.	2-6 September
Part b.	25-27 September
Part c.	30 Sept-2Oct
Part d.	7-9 October

All times are in GMT

AIMS:

1. To continue sampling of sediments for the JMG/NSTF baseline study of contaminants.
2. To collect samples of fish from Liverpool Bay for EQS compliance monitoring.

3. To conduct a routine monitoring survey of the sediments and benthos of the Liverpool Bay sewage sludge disposal site using a Day grab.
4. To conduct a survey of sediments around the dredged material disposal site Z for benthic macro- and meio-fauna and for various contaminants, using Day grab, Tennant and Craib cores, and 2-metre beam trawl.
5. To conduct a survey of the sediments and benthos at the Barrow dredged material disposal site.
6. To deploy the MAFF underwater sledge (TV) at sewage sludge and dredged material disposal sites in Liverpool Bay.

NARRATIVE: Part a. (27/91)

RV Prince Madog sailed from Menai Bridge at 1300 hrs on Monday 2nd September. Two trawling stations were worked during that afternoon and evening and samples of dab, plaice, cod and whiting were collected for EQS compliance monitoring (aim 2). The following morning six anchor dredge stations were worked as part of the joint MAFF/CEC regional assessment of gravel assemblages (Extra Aim). Work then commenced on the sampling of sediments for the JMG/NSTF baseline study of contaminants and continued for the remainder of the week (aim 1). RV Prince Madog docked at Menai Bridge at 1200 hrs on Friday 6th September.

NARRATIVE: Part b. (28/91)

No work was conducted on 23 or 24 September due to bad weather. Prince Madog sailed at 0900 hrs on 25 September *en route* for dredged material disposal site Z, collecting six anchor dredge samples (CEC/MAFF Gravel Project: additional aim) on the way. Nine stations were then worked along a transect for meiofauna samples using a Craib corer (PML/CSG Meiofauna Project: aim 4). On 26 September, the same nine stations were worked in parallel for samples of the macrofauna, and of sediments for particle size and trace contaminants (aim 4). The MAFF underwater sledge was then deployed at the disposal site, with good images of the distribution of dredgings at the sea bed being obtained (aim 6). Following further sampling at the disposal site by grab and core, three stations were worked for the epifauna using a 2-metre beam trawl (aim 4). On completion of sampling at the dredgings disposal site, macrofauna samples were obtained at the sewage sludge disposal site and off the Great Orme (MAFF regular benthos stations), *en route* for Menai Bridge. Prince Madog docked at 1430 on 27 September.

NARRATIVE: Part c (29/91)

RV Prince Madog sailed from Menai Bridge at 1145 hrs on Monday 30th September. Work began immediately on the collection of samples for the JMG/NSTF baseline study of contaminants (aim 1). Sampling was abandoned at 2100 hrs the same evening as strong winds forced Prince Madog to take shelter in Holyhead Harbour where she remained for the next 36 hrs. With gale force winds forecast for the remainder of the week Prince Madog took advantage of a brief lull and returned to Menai Bridge collecting samples from a routine benthos site in Red Wharf Bay on route before docking at 1400 hrs on the 2nd October.

NARRATIVE: Part d (30/91)

RV Prince Madog sailed from Menai Bridge at 1100 hrs on Monday 7th October and commenced work immediately on the routine monitoring survey of the Liverpool Bay sewage sludge disposal site (aim 3). This survey was completed by 2200 hrs the following day. Prince Madog then steamed west to recommence work on the JMG/NSTF baseline study of sediments (aim 1). Sampling continued until 0900 hrs the next morning when strong winds prevented further work. With a forecast of continuing bad weather Prince Madog returned to Menai Bridge and docked at 1830 hrs on 9th October.

RESULTS:

Due to bad weather Prince Madog was only able to work 11 out of a possible 19 days. Aims 2, 3, 4 and the dredgings component of aim 6 were successfully achieved. A series of anchor dredge stations was also worked as part of the joint MAFF/CEC regional assessment of gravel assemblages (additional aim). Thirty eight stations for the JMG/NSTF baseline study of contaminants were visited (aim 1). The remainder will be collected during Corystes 10b/91, and Corystes 12/91. The survey of the sediments and benthos at the Barrow dredged material disposal site (aim 5) will be achieved on Corystes 12/91.

Results will be available on completion of laboratory analysis of samples.

D LIMPENNY (SIC PART A)

H REES (SIC PART B)

INITIALLED: JEP

DISTRIBUTION

Basic List +

D Limpenny
H Rees
S Rowlatt
E I S Rees
R Rycroft
D Lovell
A Kenny
M Lambert
J Jones
P Hudson
P Somerfield