

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

**1994 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME**

**REPORT:** PRINCE MADOG

**STAFF:**

**Part a:** D LIMPENNY (SIC)  
M PENDLE  
S HULL  
M KIRBY

**Part b:** D LIMPENNY (SIC)  
M PENDLE  
S HULL  
M KIRBY

**DURATION:**

Part a: 5-9 September

Part b: 12-16 September  
(All times are in GMT)

**AIMS:**

1. To collect samples of fish from various NMP/EQS sites in the Irish Sea.
2. To conduct a routine monitoring survey of the sediments and benthos of the Liverpool Bay sewage sludge disposal site.
3. To collect sediment samples from a grid of stations within Liverpool Bay for evaluation of the McLaren sediment transport analysis technique.
4. To collect samples of sediment, water and fish from sites within the River Mersey and its approach channel.
5. To collect epibenthic samples from two sites in the Solway Firth using a 2M Beam Trawl.
6. To collect sediment and benthos samples from a transect of sites across dredged material disposal site Z.

**NARRATIVE:**

**Part a:**

Staff travelled to Menai Bridge on 4th September, and sailed at 09.00hrs the following morning. Grabbing commenced at the Liverpool Bay sewage sludge disposal site (Aim 2) at 12.00hrs the same day. This survey was completed by 16.00hrs. A start was then made on

the McLaren grid of stations in Liverpool Bay (Aim 3). The McLaren grid was completed by 14.00hrs the following day. Prince Madog then steamed to dredged material disposal site Z where a transect of stations was worked that afternoon and evening (Aim 6). Prince Madog then steamed towards Fleetwood, and anchored overnight. Mr Kirby was picked up from Fleetwood at 08.30hrs on the morning of 7th September. Water samples were collected at two sites in the Lune Deep (Extra Aim), followed by trawling at NMP 785 and NMP 795 (Aim 1). Prince Madog steamed south overnight and trawled at NMP 715 and at an EQS site off Rhyll the following morning (Aim 1). Samples of sediments and benthos were then collected at a routine reference site off the north Wales coast (Aim 2). On the basis of a poor forecast for the following 24hrs Prince Madog sailed for Menai Bridge where she docked at 15.30hrs on the 8th September.

#### **Part b:**

Due to a member of the crew needing to attend a medical appointment, Prince Madog did not sail until 17.00hrs on 12th September. Work commenced on a grid of stations in the north western part of the Irish sea (Extra Aim) at 02.00hrs on 13th September. A 2m Beam Trawl sample was also collected in the area as part of a regional epibenthic survey (Extra Aim). Work continued on the grid until 23.00hrs the same day when bad weather forced Prince Madog to head for shelter. Conditions in the Solway Firth were too rough to carry out the 2m Beam Trawling (Aim 5) so Prince Madog sailed for Menai Bridge, docking at 16.00hrs on 14th September. Gales the following morning, and a similar weather forecast for the next 48hrs meant that Prince Madog would not be able to sail for the remainder of the week. Therefore staff returned to Burnham on 15th September.

#### **RESULTS:**

Aims 1, 2, 3 and 6 were successfully completed, along with extra aims in the north western part of the Irish Sea and Lune Deep. Bad weather in the second week prevented the completion of Aim 5. A combination of bad weather and unsuitability of the vessel meant that no sampling could be carried out in the Mersey (Aim 4). This work will be carried out later in the year using a vessel more suited to the difficult conditions associated with this area.

D S Limpenny  
11 October 1994

INITIALLED:



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