

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

REPORT OF NORTH EAST COAST DISCARD TRIP

VESSEL: F V OUR RACHEL

STAFF: D Thompson

DURATION: 25 - 29 January 1981

LOCATION: Rectangles D7 and E7

AIM:

To obtain information on the discard rates of commercial fishing vessels off the North East coast.

NARRATIVE:

OUR RACHEL left Scarborough at 0300 h 25 January and steamed to the fishing grounds south of Flamborough Head where trawling commenced at 0600 h. Eleven hauls were made within an area 3-6 miles south of Flamborough Head and 3-6 miles offshore, all within the southeast corner of Rectangle D7. At 0215 h 27 January fishing ceased and the vessel returned to Scarborough at 0500 h to land the catch. The vessel sailed again at 0615 h and returned to the same fishing ground. One haul was made before steaming to a point 12 miles east of Flamborough Head, within rectangle E7. Five hauls were made in this area until 1305 h 28 January when the vessel returned to the original fishing area. Two more hauls were made here until 2115 h when the vessel returned to Scarborough docking at 0030 h 29 January.

RESULTS:

Nineteen hauls were made during the cruise and at each one an estimate of the total amount of the catch rejected was made. A sample of two baskets of these rejected fish was taken and the species composition recorded. Length distributions were obtained for the codling, whiting and haddock present and otoliths from each centimetre size group of these species were taken. Otoliths were collected from 62 cod and 58 whiting from rectangle D7 and 57 cod, 54 whiting and 23 haddock from rectangle E7.

A total of 664 stones of fish were landed on the 27 and 29 January consisting mainly of cod, 530 stones and whiting 134 stones. Based on the landed catch the rejection rate for the total catch was 18% whilst for cod and whiting the rejection rates were 14% and 31% respectively.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

I would like to thank Roy Jenkinson, Skipper F V OUR RACHEL, and his crew for their hospitality and cooperation.

D Thompson
16 February 1981

Initialed: D J G

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic Discard List
R Jenkinson, FV OUR RACHEL
D Thompson