

**CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SCIENCE,
LOWESTOFT LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK NR33 0HT**

REPORT: RESOLUTE CRUISE 1/2001

STAFF:

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DURATION: 2 April - 5 April 2001

LOCATION: Eastern Irish Sea

AIMS:

1. To carry out a plankton survey in the eastern Irish Sea to estimate the location, magnitude and timing of plaice spawning (Project M0423).
2. To collect zooplankton samples for copepod biomass studies (Project M0423).

NARRATIVE:

Staff travelled to Fleetwood by road and embarked on 2 April. Sampling equipment including a towed transducer for receiving Scanmar signals, was installed and MFV Resolute sailed at 18:30. Because of unfavourable sea conditions, the vessel steamed to Anglesey to gain some lee. Sampling proceeded here at 05:20 on the 3 April and was completed at 16:10 on the 5 April. The vessel then returned to port in freshening winds.

Weather conditions were marginal throughout the survey, leading to slow progress between stations. Reduced time prevented the sampling of 12 stations, predominantly in the far northern part of the eastern Irish Sea.

RESULTS:

Aims 1 and 2. 37 of 49 stations were successfully completed. Continuing bad weather meant that six stations off the coast of Scotland and Cumbria were omitted. A further six in the southern part of the grid were also abandoned. At each station a main net (270 μ m mesh) and a fine net (80 μ m) sample were collected and preserved in 4% buffered formaldehyde for later laboratory analysis.

Net sampling equipment functioned satisfactorily but a failed power supply prevented downloading data from the FSI CTD at sea. When the instrument was repaired in the laboratory it was found that the unit had not been logging at sea. No salinity and temperature data were therefore available from this cruise.

N Bunn
9 April 2001

INITIALLED:

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic list +
Staff on cruise
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Sea Fisheries Committees: North Western and North Wales & Cumbria