

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

1992 CHARTER VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: SCALLOP INSHORE SURVEY, CORNWALL (FV ROCKHOPPER)
(PROVISIONAL: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

STAFF: D W Palmer
J M Elson

DURATION: 8-12 December

LOCALITY: Falmouth Bay

AIMS:

1. To assess pre-recruit scallop abundance inshore between Dodman Point and the Lizard (for comparison with offshore data collected by RV CORYSTES in July).
2. To use an underwater still camera to investigate a patch of juvenile scallops located in 1991.
3. To obtain 1991/92 catch/effort data from FV ROCKHOPPER logbook.

NARRATIVE

Staff travelled to Cornwall by official vehicle on 8th December.

Gear was loaded aboard FV ROCKHOPPER at 0830h on 9th December and the vessel proceeded to the Manacles ground where 3 dredge tows were carried out over the slack water period.

The flood tide being against the fresh NE wind, the water became choppy and so the vessel moved to the Bizzies ground which had more shelter. Four tows were successfully carried out here.

On 10th December there was initially an easterly breeze causing some swell so the vessel proceeded to Veryan Bay where 4 tows were carried out inshore and as the weather eased a further 5 tows were completed further offshore and close to Gull Rock.

On 11th December, the wind being fresh from the west, the vessel returned to the Manacles ground. Four tows were carried out on the ground inside the manacles where very small scallops had been found in 1991. Two tows were completed to the NE of the manacles. Fixed gear made further work in this area difficult. Since the weather was too bad to work elsewhere the vessel returned to St Mawes at 1500h and gear was unloaded.

Staff returned to Lowestoft on 12th December.

RESULTS

Aim 1: The poor weather, high spring tides and the presence of static gear restricted the number of stations worked in the general survey. However, preliminary analysis suggests that catches were similar to 1991 on all grounds.

The ground west of the manacles, which in 1991 had yielded a catch of spat, was worked for 7 tows. Few scallops of that settlement were found and the presence of unusually large numbers of *Marthasterias* and of recently dead scallops might suggest heavy predation. 1992 spat were in evidence on this ground but not in the same numbers as the previous year.

Aim 2: Due to the delay of this survey the camera was not available being required aboard CORYSTES 14/92.

Aim 3: There was insufficient spare time to complete this aim.

Our thanks are due to Skipper Curtis and his crew for their cooperation and help during this survey.

D W Palmer
Fisheries Laboratory
Lowestoft
15 January 1993

INITIALLED: APS

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