

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

1992 CHARTER VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: FV SHAROWNA

STAFF:

R Millner  
C L Whiting

DURATION:

31 March-9 April 1992

LOCATION:

Brighton area

AIMS:

1. To study survival rates of discarded plaice.
2. To tag juvenile plaice to compare return rates of control and discarded fish.

NARRATIVE:

Strong southerly winds prevented any work on 31 March but on 1 April a 1 hour otter trawl haul was made to obtain discarded plaice for the survival experiment. The following day a commercial 2 hour haul was made to collect 100 discarded plaice between 21 and 29.5 cm and these were transferred to survival cages in Brighton Marina before returning to sea. A further 100 plaice in good condition to hold as control fish in the survival cages were then collected using short tows of up to a maximum of 30 minutes with the otter trawl. From 2-4 April discarded and control plaice were tagged and released off Brighton.

The fish in the survival cages in Brighton Marina were checked at regular intervals and any surviving fish tagged and returned to sea on completion of the experiment on 9 April.

RESULTS

1. A survival experiment was run using 50 discarded plaice from a 1 hour tow, 100 from a 2 hour tow and 100 control fish from <30 minute tows. The discarded fish developed severe bruising around the head and fins and the percentage survival after 8-9 days for each group is shown below:

	% survival
2 hr discards	37
1 hr discards	75
Controls	97

2. A total of 602 discards and 597 control plaice were tagged and released.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

I would like to thank the skipper and crew of the FV SHAROWNA for all their help and advice and the management of Brighton Marina for their cooperation in allowing us to use the facilities at the Marina for the survival experiment.

R Millner  
13 April 1992

**INITIALLED: GPA**

**DISTRIBUTION:**

Basic List +  
R Millner  
C Whiting  
Sussex Sea Fisheries Committee  
Harbour Manager, Brighton Marina  
Skipper P Watts