

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

1981 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: FV SILVER STAR: CRUISE 1

(Provisional: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

STAFF:

L Woolner
P Davidson

DURATION:

14 March-3 April

LOCATION:

North-east Irish Sea

AIMS:

1. To survey between the Cumbria coast and the Isle of Man and along the North Wales coast to determine the distribution of fish in relation to depth and distance from the coast.
2. To collect stratified otolith samples from all commercial species.

NARRATIVE:

Staff travelled to Conwy on 13 March and work commenced at 0500 h 14 March on the groundfish survey off the Welsh coast and continued the following day. Strong southerly winds prevented any work on 15 March but a further day's work was completed the following day before the southerly gales set in again. The Conwy sector was completed on 20 March but the gales reappeared and persisted over the next eight days, preventing any further work. On 29 March the standard trawling stations in Liverpool Bay were completed and the following day SILVER STAR sailed to Douglas (I.O.M.), carrying out two trawls en route. The weather improved dramatically and the remaining 12 stations were completed over the period 31 March to 2 April, enabling the SILVER STAR to return to Conwy at 0900 h 3 April. Staff returned to Lowestoft and Burnham on 4 April.

I would like to thank the skipper and crew of SILVER STAR for their valuable help and active co-operation, which was greatly appreciated.

RESULTS:

1. 34 one hour trawl hauls were carried out covering the depth/belt strata between $3^{\circ}30'W$ and $4^{\circ}W$ off the N. Wales coast, in Liverpool Bay and those between the Manx 6 mile limit and the Cumbria 12 mile limit.
2. All commercial species were measured and otoliths taken from:

364 plaice	18 sole
194 whiting	8 lemon sole
179 cod	9 brill

The stomach contents of all otolithed fish were examined.

L Woolner

7-April 1981

INITIALLED: DJG

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List +

L Woolner

P Davidson

Lancs and Western Sea Fisheries Committee

Cumbrian Sea Fisheries Committee

Mr J Corlett (I.O.M.)

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Mr Rigg } Conwy Port Office

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