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

1984 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: FV SILVER STAR: CRUISE 1

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

STAFF:

C N Humphreys
J M Elson

DURATION:

11-19 March

LOCATION:

North East Irish Sea

AIMS:

1. To carry out a groundfish survey along the N-Wales coast.
2. To collect samples of otoliths of commercial species.
3. To weigh accurately all gutted plaice selected for otoliths samples.
4. To obtain mesh selection data.
5. To obtain samples of ungutted fish for A Franklin (Burnham) for contaminant trend analysis.

NARRATIVE:

The staff travelled to Conwy by road on 10 March and commenced the survey on 11 March. North East winds prevented any work from being carried out during the following three days, after which moderating winds allowed work to recommence on 15 March. The survey was completed after a further uninterrupted five days work, and staff returned to Lowestoft on 20 March.

RESULTS:

1. The 24 groundfish survey hauls were all successfully completed.
2. Stratified otoliths samples were collected from commercial species. Totals were: plaice 280, whiting 156, cod 117, sole 56, brill 5 and L. piscatorius 4.
3. All otolithed plaice were gutted and weighed ashore, where a stable base provided reliably accurate data.
4. Mesh measurements were carried out during the last day of the cruise for use in obtaining mesh selection data.
5. Samples of plaice and whiting were obtained, and deep frozen for A Franklin (Burnham).

SCIENTIFIC STAFF

The scientific staff would like to express their thanks to Skipper Craven and the crew of Silver Star for the continuing consideration and assistance given during this cruise.

C N Humphreys
23 March 1984

INITIALED:- D J G

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