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

1987 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: FV SILVER STAR: CRUISE 1
(PROVISIONAL: Not to be cited without prior reference to the author)

STAFF:

- C N Humphreys
- P A Large

DURATION:

23 March-2 April

LOCATION:

North-east Irish Sea

AIMS:

1. To carry out a groundfish survey along the North Wales coast.
2. To collect samples of otoliths of commercial species.
3. To obtain accurate gutted weight data of all plaice and sole selected for otoliths samples.
4. To obtain mesh selection data.
- b 5. To obtain samples of ungutted fish for contaminant trend analysis work by A Franklin (Burnham).
- b 6. To collect blood samples from fish for comparative protein studies by R J Turner.
7. To collect broodstock sole for use at the Conwy Fisheries Experiment Station.

NARRATIVE:

The staff travelled to Conwy by road on 22 March and commenced the survey on the morning of 23 March, sailing on board Silver Star at 0400 hrs.

After completing 2 days work, a period of strong to storm force winds prevented the vessel from continuing the survey until the morning of 30 March. The final 4 days work was then completed without further interruption, and Silver Star completed the survey on 2 April, docking at 1400 hrs. The staff returned to Lowestoft the following day

RESULTS:

1. All 24 standard groundfish survey hauls were successfully carried out with only minor damage being sustained to the upper wing of the trawl at a position outside Conwy Bay.
2. Stratified samples of otoliths were collected from commercial species. Totals were; Plaice 373, whiting, 238, cod 162 and sole 70.
3. All plaice and sole otolith sampling was carried out ashore after docking to provide accurate gutted weights for use in stock assessments.

4. Cod-end mesh measurements of the Boris Goshawk trawl used throughout the survey were made after the final day's fishing.
5. Samples of flounder were collected and deep frozen from the Constable Bank, and Liverpool Bay areas, for A Franklin.
6. A total of 37 live sole, mainly pre-recruits, were collected for the Conwy Fisheries Experiment Station, gonad development in fish selected for otoliths samples suggests that a high proportion of the male fish should reach maturity during 1937.
7. Samples of blood were collected from 1 bass and 3 Bull Rout for comparative protein studies by R J Turner.

On behalf of the scientific staff I would like to express thanks to Skipper Craven and his two crew members for their continuing contribution to the success of these cruises.

C N Humphreys
8 April 1987

INITIALLED: D J G

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List +
North Western & North Wales Sea Fishery Committee
Skipper G Craven
Mr A Barr
Mr C N Humphreys
Mr P A Large
Mr J W Horwood
Mr M R Vince
Mr A Franklin
Mr R J Turner