

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

1989 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV SILVER STAR: CRUISE 1

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

STAFF:

S Flatman
B F M Harley (25 June-1 July)
M W Easey (2-3 July)

DURATION:

25 June-3 July

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 mesh selection data.
4. To obtain samples of ungutted plaice, whiting and flounder for contaminant trend analysis by A Franklin (Burnham).

NARRATIVE:

The staff travelled to Conwy by road on 24 June and commenced the survey on the morning tide of 25 June. Weather conditions prevented work on 27, 29 June and 1 July. A sudden change in the forecasted weather conditions on 28 June, during the first tow, forced SILVER STAR to seek shelter and prevented further fishing that day. The survey was completed on 3 July, and staff returned to Lowestoft on the following day.

RESULTS:

1. All stations in the Conwy and Red Wharf Bay sectors were successfully completed. Due to the loss of three tows on 28 June, only one of the Liverpool Bay stations was completed.
2. Stratified samples of otoliths were collected from the main commercial species. Totals were: 305 plaice, 28 sole, 6 cod, 98 whiting.
3. Codend mesh measurements were made during the cruise.
4. Samples of ungutted plaice, whiting and flounder were collected and frozen for A Franklin (Burnham-on-Crouch laboratory).

Thanks are due to skipper Glyn Craven and the crew of SILVER STAR for their co-operation and assistance throughout the cruise. Their efforts in helping to sort and process the catch are much appreciated.

S Flatman
6 July 1989

INITIALLED: JGS

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List+
North Western and North Wales Sea Fishery Committee
Skipper G Craven
Mr A Barr
Mr A Franklin
D Symonds
M R Vince
S Flatman
B F M Harley
M W Easey