

(other ships)

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

1980 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: F V SILVER STAR: CRUISE 2

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

STAFF: P D Wallace
P E Davidson (Part 1)
C L Whiting (Part 2)

DURATION: 6 June - 26

LOCATION: North East Irish Sea

AIMS:

- 1 To carry out a groundfish survey along the N Wales coast and off the east coast of the Isle of Man.
- 2 To collect samples of otoliths and stomach contents of commercial species.
- 3 To tag and release plaice on the Gt Orme grounds.
- 4 To make observations of discard rates at sea.

NARRATIVE:

Staff travelled to Conwy on 6 June and work started at 0600 h the next day on the groundfish survey off the Welsh coast and in Liverpool Bay. The last haul was carried out during the evening of 11 June and the next day SILVER STAR sailed to Douglas (IOM). Four trawl hauls were carried out on 13 June and during the next day increasing NE winds forced the boat to run for shelter. Strong winds kept the vessel in port on 15 June but they moderated by the next day and the survey was completed over the next two days. SILVER STAR arrived back in Conwy at 0230 h 18 June. Mr Whiting arrived in Conwy for Part 2 of the cruise which consisted of tagging plaice in 5 ICES sub-rectangles around the Gt Orme grounds. Tagging started in Redwharf Bay on 19 June but westerly gales kept the boat in harbour on 20 and 21 June. However, the wind dropped by 23 June and the rest of the tagging was successfully carried out by 25 June. Staff returned to Lowestoft by road on 26 June.

I would like to thank the skipper and crew of SILVER STAR for their interest and enthusiastic cooperation throughout the cruise.

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 North Wales coast in Liverpool Bay and those between the Manx 6-mile zone and the Cumbrian 12-mile zone.
- 2 All commercial species were measured and otoliths taken from:

380 Plaice	59 Sole
239 Whiting	35 Cod

The stomach contents of all otolithed fish were examined and colour photographs were taken of the benthos at most of the trawling stations.

3 In the fifth of the series of plaice tagging experiments 1,192 plaice were released.

4 Note was made of the discard rates whilst using the Boris 420 trawl for catching plaice for tagging and Mr Gough from the Conwy laboratory sailed on the boat on 23 June to receive instruction on this aspect of the work.

P D Wallace
2 July 1980

INITIALLED: A J L

Basic List

P D Wallace
P E Davidson
C L Whiting
C Gough (Conwy)
Fisheries Office (Conwy)
Lancs and West S F C
Cumbria S F C
Mr J L H Corlett (IOM)
Dr D Groves (Menai Bridge)
Skipper G Craven
Mr A Barr