

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

1985 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT : F V SILVER STAR Cruise 2

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

STAFF:

C N Humphreys

D W Palmer

DURATION:

17-22 June

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 weight accurately all gutted plaice and sole 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.
6. To tag 2-group pre-recruit sole.
7. To collect live cod for holding at the Conwy Fisheries Experiment Station, prior to being transported live to Lowestoft for P Bromley.
8. To collect blood samples from a variety of species of fish for R J Turner's comparative protein studies,

NARRATIVE:

The staff travelled to Conwy by road on 16 June and commenced the survey on the following morning's tide. During the next 6 days favourable weather conditions allowed the survey to continue and work was completed on 22 June. The staff returned to Lowestoft by road on 23 June.

RESULTS:

1. All 24 groundfish survey hauls were successfully carried out.
2. Stratified otoliths samples were collected from commercial species. Totals were: plaice 411, whiting 149, cod 24, sole 116 and anglerfish 1.
3. All otolithed plaice and sole were gutted and weighed onshore where a stable base could provide reliably accurate data.
4. Mesh measurements were carried out on the trawl cod end after completion of the survey.

5. Samples of plaice, whiting, and flounder were collected and deep frozen for A Franklin.

6. A total of 92 2-Group sole were tagged mainly from stations in the 0-3ml belt where up to 40 taggable fish were caught during a 1 hour haul.

7. Approximately 40 live cod (15-33cms), for P J Bromley, were taken ashore to the Conwy Fisheries Experiment Station where holding facilities were made available, prior to their transportation to Lowestoft.

The majority of the fish came from depth ranges 6-10 fms the remainder coming from 10-20fms; mortalities during this holiday period were thought to have occurred mainly among fish taken from the greater depths. On 1 July the surviving 26 fish were successfully transported to Lowestoft. Provisional arrangements are being made to repeat this exercise during the next Silver Star cruise in October, when greater numbers of cod are expected to be present in the shallower waters of the survey area.

8. Serum was extracted and deep frozen from blood samples obtained from 3 yellow gurnards, 1 T.clavata 2 lesser spotted dogfish, 1 greater spotted dogfish, 1 starry smoothhound, 2 plaice and 1 brill, for R J Turner.

The scientific staff would like to express their gratitude to Skipper Craven and the crew of Silver Star for the consideration and assistance given throughout the cruise.

Thanks are also due to Mr B T Hepper and his staff at the Conwy Fisheries Experiment Station, for the excellent facilities and cooperation provided by them at very short notice.

C N Humphreys
3 July 1985

INITIALLED: D J G

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