

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

1986 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: FV SILVER STAR: CRUISE 2
(PROVISIONAL: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

STAFF

C N Humphreys
D W Palmer
I Laing (part time)

DURATION

16-23 June

LOCATION

North East Irish Sea

AIMS

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

NARRATIVE

The staff travelled to Conwy by road on 15 June, and commenced the survey on 16 June, Silver Star sailing on the morning tide at 0500 hrs.

During the next 4 days favourable weather conditions allowed work to proceed but on 20 and 21 June strong north easterly winds prevented the ship from putting to sea. The final 2 days work were completed on 22 and 23 June, Silver Star finally docking at 2200 hrs.

The staff returned to Lowestoft on 24 June after first completing sampling duties at Conwy.

RESULTS

1. All 24 groundfish survey hauls were successfully carried out no damage to the trawling gear was sustained.
2. Stratified otoliths samples were collected from commercial species
Totals were: plaice 590, whiting 204, sole 43, cod 18, and Anglerfish 1.
3. Otoliths sampling on plaice and sole was carried out ashore, after docking, where accurate weights of gutted fish could be obtained to provide "weight at age" data on Irish Sea stocks.
4. Cod end measurements of the Boris Goshawk trawl used during the survey, were made before the final days fishing.
5. Samples of plaice and whiting, for A Franklin, were collected and deep frozen from the West Constable Bank area at position 53°24.0'N 03°44.1'W.
6. Insufficient 2-group sole were caught to carry out the tagging exercise.
7. On 17 June the staff were joined by I Laing (Conwy Fisheries Experiment Station), to carry out artificial fertilisation of Callionymus reticulatus none of this species were caught in the 4 hauls made during the day, nor was any taken during the remainder of the cruise. A total of 64 Callionymus lyra was caught throughout the survey, these were deep frozen for more detailed examination at Lowestoft.
8. 36 live brood stock sole were delivered to the Conwy Fisheries Experiment Station, due to low catches these were necessarily smaller in size than had been originally requested, also delivered were 1 edible crab and 1 velvet crab.
9. Blood samples were obtained from 1 brill, 1 bull rout, 5 flounders and 3 sandeels, for comparative protein studies by R J Turner.

On behalf of the scientific staff, I would like to express our thanks to Skipper Craven and the crew of Silver Star, for the assistance and cooperation generously rendered, throughout the cruise.

C N Humphreys
2 July 1986

INITIALLED: DJG

DISTRIBUTION:

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Lancs and Western Sea Fisheries Committee
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Mr A Barr
Mr C N Humphreys
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Mr I Laing
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Mr M R Vince
Mr A Franklin
Mr J D Riley
Mr D J Symonds
Mr R J Turner