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

1987 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

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

STAFF

C N Humphreys  
S Flatman

DURATION

19-24 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 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.
5. To obtain samples of ungutted plaice and whiting for contaminant trend analysis work by A Franklin (Burnham).

NARRATIVE

The staff travelled to Conwy by road on 18 June and commenced the survey on the morning of 19 June, sailing on board SILVER STAR at 0500 hrs. All 6 days work were successfully completed without interruption, and the vessel completed the survey on 24 June docking at 2200 hrs. The staff returned to Lowestoft on 25 June after first completing plaice sampling ashore.

RESULTS

1. All 24 standard groundfish survey hauls were successfully carried out with no damage being sustained to the trawl.
2. Stratified samples of otoliths were collected from commercial species. Totals were: Plaice 592, whiting 198, cod 116 and sole 60.
3. All plaice and sole otolith sampling was carried out ashore after docking, to provide accurate gutted weight data for use in stock assessments.
4. Cod-end mesh measurements of the Boris Goshawk trawl used throughout the survey, were made before the final days fishing.

5. On 20 June samples of plaice and whiting were collected, and deep frozen, from the Constable Bank area for A Franklin.

The scientific staff would like to thank Skipper Craven and the crew of SILVER STAR for the co-operation and assistance given in handling and sorting the catches throughout the cruise.

C N Humphreys  
30 June 1987

INITIALLED: DJG

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List+  
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Mr A Barr  
Mr C N Humphreys  
Mr S Flatman  
Mr J W Horwood  
Mr M R Vince  
Mr A Franklin