

PA

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

1983 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: FV SILVER STAR: CRUISE 3

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

STAFF:

C N Humphreys
D B Bennett

DURATION:

15-25 October

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 sample stomach contents of a range of species for use with multi-species assessment models.
4. To accurately weigh all plaice selected for otolith samples.
5. To obtain samples of ungutted fish, for A Franklin (Burnham), for contaminant trend analysis.
6. To obtain mesh selection data.

NARRATIVE:

The Staff travelled to Conwy on 14 October, but were prevented from putting to sea by a succession of strong to gale force winds until 20 October. Work then proceeded without further interference for the following six days and was completed on 25 October, only one station being abandoned owing to a rapid deterioration in the weather conditions during the last day.

The staff returned to Lowestoft on 26 October.

RESULTS:

1. 23 of the 24 Stations were successfully completed, the one outstanding Station being in the Liverpool Bay sector.
2. Stratified otolith samples were collected from commercial species. Totals were Plaice 288, Whiting 186, Cod 43, Sole 69 and Anglerfish 3.
3. Stomach contents of all otolithed roundfish together with 88 R. clavata. 1 R. brachyura, 1 R. montagui, 101 Lesser Spotted Dogfish, 3 Brill and 3 Anglerfish were examined and noted.

4. All otolithed plaice were gutted and weighed, this was carried out in port, where the boat provided a stable base for the scales.
5. Samples of plaice, whiting and flounders were obtained, and deep frozen for A Franklin (Burnham).
6. Mesh measurements were carried out at the end of the cruise, for use in obtaining mesh selection data.

The scientific staff would like to record their thanks to Skipper Craven and the crew of Silver Star, for the very considerable cooperation and assistance given during this cruise.

C N Humphreys
7 November 1983

INITIALLED: DJG

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic list
Lancs and Western Sea Fisheries Committee

Skipper G Craven

Mr A Barr

Mr C N Humphreys

Dr D B Bennett

Mr M R Vince

Mr A Franklin