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

1987 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: COMMERCIAL TWIN BEAM TRAWLER ST ANDREW LT335  
(PROVISIONAL: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

STAFF: C L Whiting

DURATION: 22 March 1987-2 April 1987

LOCALITY: North Sea

AIM: To collect sole ovaries for fecundity studies.

NARRATIVE: Arrangements were made with the Colne Fishing Co Ltd via Mr John Balls to obtain a berth on board St Andrew, and the vessel left Lowestoft at 0800h 22 March 1987.

Fishing started at 2130h, 22 March in the area off Flamborough Head and worked slowly to an area 20-25 miles off the coast of Whitby/Robin Hoods Bay by the early hours of 27 March 1987.

ST ANDREW dodged in gale force SW winds until 0430h, 27 March 1987, when a temporary lull in the weather allowed fishing to start again. The vessel had to dodge again at 1700h approx in south-westerly then westerly winds of force 8-10.

Only one haul was possible on 28 March 1987 and ST ANDREW continued dodging in west-north-westerly winds force 8-9 until 1600h on 29 March 1987. Fishing then resumed and continued without interruption until 2 April 1987. Nets and beams were shipped and stowed inboard and course was set for Lowestoft at 0930h.

ST ANDREW docked in Lowestoft trawl dock at 2130h, 2 April 1987. All scientific gear and samples were offloaded and brought to the laboratory by 2230h.

RESULTS: ST ANDREW Fished a total of 73 hauls during the trip and eventually landed approximately 390 kit on Lowestoft market on 3 April 1987.

The composition of the catch was very similar in all hauls, with plaice being the major species caught. Other commercial species observed were sole, lemon sole, dab, monkfish, turbot, brill, cod, whiting, catfish, ling and a mixture of rays. Other fish included gurnards, pout whiting, dragonette and long rough dab.

Stage IV sole ovaries were collected from most hauls and the following table gives details of the fish sampled.

LENGTH GROUP (cm)	SPLIT OVARIES	WHOLE OVARIES	TOTALS
29-30	10		10
32-33	15	15	30
35-36	10		10
38-39	10		10
40-45	15	15	30
45+	4	1	5
TOTALS	64	31	95

Samples were first fixed in 4% formalin for between 24-36 hours and then transferred to 70% alcohol.

Photographs and slides of the fishing operations were taken throughout the trip.

GENERAL: I would like to thank the Colne Fishing Co Ltd and Mr John Balls for the opportunity to sail on the ST ANDREW, also skipper Tony Jenner and his crew for all their friendly help and cooperation.

C L Whiting  
14 April 1987

INITIALLED: D J G

DISTRIBUTION: Basic list+

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