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

1987 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: ST LEGER

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

STAFF:

S M Rowlatt
D Bucke
S Feist

DURATION:

21-22 January

LOCALITY:

Humber mouth to Silver Pits

AIMS:

1. To assess the incidence of disease among dab and plaice off the Humber Estuary.
2. To collect sediment and fish samples for PCB analysis.

NARRATIVE:

ST LEGER sailed from Grimsby at 0930 h on 21 January. Samples of dab were collected from four locations between the Humber and Outer Silver Pit; Sole Pit, Well Hole, W. Outer Silver Pit and North Dowsing. A station near the Humber mouth yielded insufficient fish for analysis. A further station was worked SSE of Flamborough Head by the St Leger's sister ship and although no assessment of fish diseases was possible, samples were taken for PCB analysis. St Leger docked at 2200h on 22 January.

RESULTS:

1523 dab were examined for disease. Incidences were:
Epidermal hyperplasia; 2.95%; Lymphocystis; 7.2% : Ulceration (combined early/late/healed); 8.5%. Detailed histological examination and chemical analysis of liver tissue will be carried out in the laboratory.

S Rowlatt
(SIC)
5 February 1987

INITIALLED: P C W
H W H

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