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

1994 CHARTER VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: HASTINGS SHINGLE BANK SURVEY

STAFF:

Trip 1 C L Whiting
R S Millner) part-time
S I Rogers)

Trip 2 C L Whiting
K Ramsay) part-time
A Critoph)

Trip 3 C L Whiting
G J Howlett

DURATION:

3 March-5 May 1994

LOCATION:

Rye Bay-Eastbourne

AIM:

To compare catch rates of sole in fixed nets from different grounds in the Hastings Shingle Bank area.

NARRATIVE:

Three separate trips were carried out, using two vessels on each trip, during the period 3 March-5 May 1994 inclusive. FV ST RICHARD, RX60 and FV SANDRA, RX83 of Hastings were chartered to carry out the work.

Trip 1 3-8 March 1994

Staff travelled to Hastings on 2 March and returned to Lowestoft on 10 March. Up to 8 fleets of trammel nets were worked by each vessel for 6 days in a position between 4 and 5 miles off Hastings, inside the Shingle Bank dredging area.

Trip 2 31 March-9 April 1994

Staff travelled to Hastings on 29 March and returned to Lowestoft on 9 April. Up to 7 fleets of trammel nets were worked by each vessel for 6 days. FV SANDRA fished gear in a position 3-4 miles off Hastings, inside the Shingle Bank dredging area, while FV ST RICHARD fished between 1 and 2 miles off Pett, east of Hastings in Rye Bay.

Trip 3 30 April-5 May 1994

Staff travelled to Hastings on 29 April and returned to Lowestoft on 7 May. 6 fleets of trammel nets were worked by each vessel for 6 days. FV SANDRA fished gear in a position 3 miles off Hastings, inside the Shingle Bank dredging area and FV ST RICHARD fished gear 1½ miles off Pett, east of Hastings in Rye Bay.

RESULTS:

Both vessels worked gear for 18 days each. Trammel nets were hauled every day as weather allowed. All commercial species caught were measured and in addition soles were examined for sex and maturity stages noted. Observations on the feeding of sole were also made. Sea surface temperature was noted on all trips.

All these data are now in the process of being analysed.

GENERAL:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the skippers and crews of both charter vessels for all their help and cheerful cooperation, working in what at times were very arduous conditions in poor weather. I would also like to thank the many other Hastings fishermen for the information and advice they were able to supply.

C L Whiting
16 May 1994

INITIALLED:

G P A

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List +
C L Whiting
R S Millner
S I Rogers
K Ramsay
A Critoph
G J Howlett
The Secretary, Sussex Sea Fisheries Committee
Skipper G Coglan
Skipper P Joy