

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

1995 CHARTER VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: HASTINGS SHINGLE BANK SURVEY

STAFF:

Trip 1 M W Easey

Trip 2 R S Millner P/T
 G Saunders P/T

Trip 3 G J Howlett

DURATION: 7 March - 11 May 1995

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 7 March - 11 May inclusive. FV ST. RICHARD, RX60 and FV SANDRA, RX83 of Hastings were chartered to carry out the work.

Trip 1 7 - 13 March 1995

Staff travelled to Hastings on 6 March and returned to Lowestoft on 13 March. Up to 8 fleets of 4" trammel nets (1 fleet = 8 trammel nets) were worked by each vessel for 7 days; ST RICHARD in a position 2 ½ - 3 ½ miles off , east of Hastings and SANDRA 3 ½ - 4 miles off Hastings, inshore of the Shingle Bank dredging area.

Trip 2 6 - 11 April 1995

Staff travelled to Hastings on 5 April and returned to Lowestoft on 12 April. Up to 8 fleets of 4" trammel nets were worked for 6 days; ST RICHARD in positions 2 - 3 miles off Fairlight and Hastings and SANDRA 3½ - 4½ miles off Hastings inshore of the Shingle Bank dredging area.

Trip 3 5 - 11 May 1995

Staff travelled to Hastings on 4 May and returned to Lowestoft on 12 May. 5 fleets of 4" trammel nets were worked by both boats for 7 days in positions 3½ - 4 miles off Hastings inshore of the Shingle Bank dredging area.

RESULTS:

Both vessels worked gear for 20 days each. The trammel nets were hauled each day as weather allowed. All soles caught were measured and examined for sex and maturity stage. Observations on the feeding of sole were also made. Sea surface temperatures were noted on all trips. In addition all other commercial species caught were noted. At the end of each trip a full sample of sole was retained to complete length, weight, sex ratio, maturity stage and age studies. In addition to the above, up to 5 other local vessels provided information on catch rates of sole, effort and fishing positions during the survey periods.

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 co-operation. I would also like to thank the many other Hastings fishermen for the information and advice they were able to supply.

INITIALLED: J.G.P.

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List +
M W Easey
R S Millner
G Saunders
G J Howlett

Skippers: G Coglan
P Joy
Secretary, Sussex Sea Fisheries Committee