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

1994 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: SURVEYOR

STAFF:

Part a:

D LIMPENNY (SIC)

I NAPIER

W MEADOWS

Part b:

D LIMPENNY (SIC)

A KENNY

DURATION:

Part a: 22-24 August 1994

Part b: 25-27 September 1994

(All times are in GMT)

AIMS:

1. To carry out a survey of aggregate extraction area 107 using Day Grab, Beam Trawl and Sidescan Sonar.

REPORT:

Part a:

Staff travelled to Kings Lynn on 21 August and loaded gear at Wisbech the following morning. Surveyor sailed at 0845 hrs and arrived on site at 1300 hrs. After several attempts at grabbing it was decided that conditions were too rough to continue the survey and Surveyor returned to Sutton Bridge that evening. The following morning staff rejoined the ship and sailed at 0715 hrs in improved weather conditions. The grab survey was started at 1100 hrs, and completed by 2030 hrs. The sidescan survey began immediately on completion of the grab survey. Sidescanning continued throughout the night, and the survey was completed by 1330 hrs on 24 September. Worsening weather conditions throughout the day meant that the Beam Trawling could not be carried out on completion of the sidescan survey. Therefore Surveyor returned to Sutton Bridge, docking at 1830 hrs. Gear was unloaded the following morning at Wisbech and staff returned home the same day.

Part b:

Staff travelled to Kings Lynn on 25 September, and loaded gear the following morning at Sutton Bridge. Surveyor sailed at 0815 hrs and arrived on site at 1200 hrs. During the day five stations were worked using a 2 m Beam Trawl and the bulk of the sample processing was carried out on board. On completion of the survey Surveyor sailed for Sutton Bridge, docking at 2030 hrs. Gear was unloaded the following morning at Sutton Bridge, and staff travelled home the same day.

RESULTS:

The survey of Area 107 was carried out as intended, with all aspects of the survey completed. The grab survey of the area indicated the presence of two major sediment types. The shallower north eastern part of the area was predominantly a clean sand. The deeper parts of the area were more gravelly, and in places muddier. Large amounts of clean gravel in the Beam Trawl samples collected from inside the extraction area suggested the presence of piles of freshly exposed gravel on the sea bed in the area most recently worked by the dredgers. A full report of the results will be available on completion of laboratory analysis of the samples.

D LIMPENNY
12 October 1994

INITIALLED:



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