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

1981 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: MFV SUSAN BIRD FD 357

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

STAFF:

G J Howlett

DURATION:

Left Newhaven 2100 h 11 January

Arrived Newhaven 1630 h 17 January

All times are Greenwich Mean Time

LOCALITY:

Southern Bight of the North Sea

AIMS:

To fish scallop dredges to sample deeply buried plaice in an area of newly spawned plaice eggs previously located by RV CIROLANA using High Speed Plankton sampler.

NARRATIVE:

SUSAN BIRD unfortunately fouled her propeller whilst steaming out of Newhaven. Unsuccessful attempts were made to free it before docking at 2200 h. Divers cleared the propeller the following morning and SUSAN BIRD sailed at 1100h proceeding to the Brown Ridges area of the North Sea. Radio contact was made with RV CIROLANA during the morning of 13 January and both vessels steamed to an area just south of the Brown Ridges. With a heavy swell force 7 NW winds and a forecast of further deterioration in the weather SUSAN BIRD then steamed for IJmuiden docking alongside RV CORELLA at 1730 h. Continuous NW gales delayed sailing until 0945 hrs on 16 January when SUSAN BIRD steamed back to the area previously worked by RV CIROLANA. Radio contact was again made with RV CIROLANA who gave two clear tow positions. The gear was shot only once in marginal conditions but with further deterioration and with severe westerly gales forecast SUSAN BIRD steamed for Newhaven at 1830 h.

RESULTS:

All plaice caught were sampled for length, sex, maturation stage, and age.

I should like to express my thanks to skipper K Schofield and his crew for their assistance and endeavours made under arduous conditions.

SEEN IN DRAFT:

B W Jones

G J HOWLETT

2 February 1981

INITIALLED:

D J Garrod

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G J Howlett (4 copies)