

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

1980 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: MFV VENUS

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

STAFF

E Edwards

DURATION

Left Whitby 0230 h 15 April

Returned 1900 h 15 April

LOCALITY

North-east coast

AIMS

To obtain information on the discard rates of commercial fishing vessels off the north-east coast.

NARRATIVE

VENUS left Whitby at 0230 h 15 April and steamed north-east to commence trawling at 0400 h, 6 miles off Whitby. After making 5 tows in this area, each of 2-3 hours duration, the vessel returned to harbour and docked at 1900 h.

RESULTS

Quantities of fish retained and rejected from each haul were recorded. Length compositions of the main species rejected were obtained from every haul. Samples of otoliths were collected from rejected whiting, codling and haddock.

Main species retained were cod, followed by lemon soles, plaice, haddock and whiting. Discarded fish mainly consisted of small haddock and whiting.

Catch rates were poor: the landed catch being only 70 stone of fish. Discard rates were low and estimated as about 13 stones for the day's fishing (Table 1).

A sample of the landed catch of cod and whiting was measured on 15 April before being sold.

VENUS is a 52 ft motor trawler with a crew of four. The engine is a 230 Gardner. The equipment includes a Decca Navigator (Mk 12) track plotter, radar and a Kelvin Hughes MS44 sounder. The trawl net had a 75 fathom ground rope with 40 fathom sweeps. Cod-end had 75 mm mesh and a lifting bag.

E Edwards

25 April 1980

INITIALLED: AJL

DISTRIBUTION

Basic list
E Edwards
Mr B Large, Scarborough
Mr Nigel Corner, Whitby

Table 1 Catch, 15 April 1980, MFV VENUS, Whitby;
Skipper estimates (stones)

Haul no.	Total catch, all fish	Retained catch, all fish	Discards (stones)
1	32	29 cod lemons plaice dabs	5 whiting haddock dabs
2	25	20 whiting cod haddock lemons	5 whiting skate haddock
3	15	13 cod whiting haddock plaice	2 dabs lemons
4	7	6 cod whiting	1 whiting haddock
5	- net torn no catch		
TOTAL	79	68	13

ACTUAL LANDED WEIGHT = 70 stones.