

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

**1993 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME**

**REPORT: CHARTER: RV WYRE STAR**

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

**STAFF:** M R Vince

**DURATION:** 1-8 February

**LOCALITY:** Wolf Rock area.

**AIMS:** To tag recruiting cod for distribution and migration studies.

**NARRATIVE:**

Staff travelled to Newlyn by road on 31 January. For the following five days the WYRE STAR made daily voyages to the area just north of Wolf Rock, where trawling and tagging took place. February 6 and 7 were not worked after a rope was taken in the propeller when leaving Newlyn on the 6 February. Deteriorating weather and the absence of cod resulted in a shortened day on 8 February and the termination of this charter. Staff returned to Lowestoft the following day.

**RESULTS:**

1. A total of 230 cod was tagged and released within 3 miles of Wolf Rock. The standard Howitt flag tag was used on all fish which ranged between 37 and 61 cms. Most of the tagged cod are believed to be the 1991 year class. A small number (14) of the 1990 year class were caught but were not tagged; these fish were in the range of 70-80cms and were mature.

2. A total of 19 cod was otolithed.

Fishing was poor and did not compare with the previous 1-2 weeks when very good hauls of small cod were being taken on these grounds by the WYRE STAR.

It had been hoped to continue this tagging work during March, but the cod failed to return to these grounds in any number.

Considerable help and information was provided by the skipper and his crew without whom this experiment would not have been completed.

M R Vince  
6 April 1993

**INITIALLED: JWH**

**DISTRIBUTION:**

**Basic List +**

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