

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

1994 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT : SEPTEMBER YOUNG FISH SURVEY

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

STAFF:	Team 1	C L Whiting G J Howlet	
	Team 2	T Watson M Dunn (part time) L Woolner (part time) A Critoph (part time)	
	Team 3	M W Easey C Brown	
	Team 4	S I Rogers L Woolner	

DURATION: 31 August-28 September 1994

LOCATION: Flamborough Head - Swanage

AIM: To carry out an inshore beam trawl and push net survey of parts of the North Sea and English Channel coasts for juvenile flatfish year class size estimation and collect data on young demersal fish in relation to the environment.

NARRATIVE:

Team 1 Staff travelled to Burton on 31 August. FV AVON VALLEY of Lymington was used to complete the beam trawl survey in the area Selsey Bill to Swanage during the period 1-5 September. Staff moved to Hastings on 8 September and FV GRACE DARLING of Dungeness was used for beam trawling in the area east of Dungeness on 9 September. Poor weather prevented work on 10 and 11 September and staff returned to Lowestoft for these two days. The work from Dungeness was completed on 13 September. FV ST RICHARD of Hastings was used to complete beam trawling in the area between Camber and St Leonards during 15-18 September. The area between Normans Bay and Eastbourne was completed using FV ANNA LOUISE of Normans on 19 September. The beam trawl survey of the English Eastern Channel coast was completed by sampling the area between Shoreham and Newhaven using FV TOBYROC of Brighton on 20 September. Push net sites were sampled as convenient throughout the period 6-21 September and staff returned to Lowestoft on 22 September.

- Team 2 Staff travelled to Kent on 31 August. FV OUR SARAH JAYNE of Whitstable was used for beam trawling in the south Thames estuary and River Thames areas during 2-4 September. The north Thames estuary was sampled using FV GILL of West Mersea for beam trawling on 7, 12, 13 and 20 September. Push net sites were sampled as convenient throughout the period 1-14 September. Staff changes were made at Lowestoft during periods of bad weather.
- Team 3 Staff travelled to Skegness on 1 September. FV CHALLENGER of Wainfleet Haven was used to complete the beam trawl survey in the area Bridlington Bay to the north Norfolk coast during the period 3-13 September. Push net sites were sampled as convenient during the period 2-17 September when staff returned to Lowestoft.
- Team 4 FV JUNE ROSE of Lowestoft was used to complete beam trawling in the area between Haisborough to Dunwich on 13, 19, 27 and 28 September and all local push net sites were sampled as convenient in the period 6-23 September.

RESULTS:

1. 373 valid hauls using the standard 2m beam trawl and 38 push net sites using the standard 1½ m push net were sampled. In addition 10 valid beam trawl hauls were sampled in the River Humber in cooperation with National Rivers Authority - Anglian Region.

All fish caught were identified and measured. Surface salinity samples and sediment samples were collected, and observations of surface temperature, and the bycatch of benthos and shrimp were recorded at all stations. Observations of dissolved oxygen levels were made at all stations in the River Humber.

2. These data have now been processed and provisional results indicate that along the English east coast the 1994 year class of both sole and plaice are about average. Along the English Eastern Channel coast the 1994 year class of both sole and plaice are above average.
3. Samples of small fish were collected and preserved from all hauls in the River Humber for Shoona Marshall of the University of Hull.
4. Samples of young cuttlefish were collected and preserved and returned to the laboratory for further study by M Dunn.

GENERAL: I would like to take this opportunity to thank the skippers and crews of all the vessels taking part in the survey, for their friendly help, advice and cooperation.

CL Whiting
7 October 1994

INITIALLED: G P A

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic list+
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