

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

1995 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: SEPTEMBER YOUNG FISH SURVEY

STAFF:	Team 1	G J Howlett M W Easey	
	Team 2	T Watson R A Ayers	
	Team 3	C Brown B Rackham	
	Team 4	L Woolner P Stanton (part-time) T A Mead (part-time) T Woods (part-time)	

DURATION: 1 September-30 September 1995

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 1 September. FV AVON VALLEY of Lymington was used to complete the beam trawl survey in the area Selsey Bill to Swanage during the period 2-6 September. Staff moved to Hastings on 7 September and FV ST RICHARD was used to complete beam trawling in the area between Camber and St Leonards during 8-11 September. FV POLESTAR of Dungeness was used for beam trawling in the area east of Dungeness on 12, 16 and 17 September. Technical difficulties hindered work on 12 and 13 September but push net sites were completed on these days. The area between Shoreham and Newhaven was completed using FV TOBYROC of Brighton on 14 September. The area between Normans Bay and Eastbourne was completed using FV ANNA LOUISE on 15 September. Push net sites were sampled as convenient throughout the period 6-13 September and staff returned to Lowestoft on 18 September.
- Team 2** Staff travelled to Kent on 1 September. FV OUR SARAH JANE 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 6, 8, 12 and 13 September. Push net sites were

sampled as convenient throughout the period 5-11 September. Staff returned to 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 2-13 September. Push net sites were sampled as convenient during the period 1-15 September when staff returned to Lowestoft.
- Team 4 FV PROVIDER of Lowestoft was used to complete beam trawling in the area between Haisborough to Dunwich on 21, 22, 23, 29 and 30 September.

RESULTS:

1. On the East coast, 203 valid hauls using the standard 2m beam trawl and 17 push net sites using the standard 1½m push net were sampled. In the South coast 149 valid hauls and 9 push net sites were sampled. In addition 7 stations were sampled in the River Humber in co-operation with National Rivers Authority - Anglian Region.

All fish caught were identified and measured. Surface water salinity samples and sediment samples were collected, and observations of surface temperature, and the by-catch 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 all catch data have been input to the database. Provisional analysis of community structure and species diversity have been undertaken.
3. Samples of small fish were collected and preserved from all hauls in the River Humber for Dr Shoona Marshall of the University of Hull.

GENERAL:

We 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 co-operation.

S I Rogers
T A Mead
6 November 1995

INITIALLED: J G P

DISTRIBUTION:

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The Secretary

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