

**CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SCIENCE  
LOWESTOFT LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK NR33 0HT**

**1998 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME**

**REPORT: SEPTEMBER YOUNG FISH SURVEY**

STAFF:      Team 1      M W Easey  
                              C Brown / S Milligan

                 Team 2      T Watson  
                              T A Mead

                 Team 3      B Rackham  
                              R Ayers  
                              T A Mead

                 Team 4      L Woolner  
                              J Dann  
                              G Catchpole

**DURATION:** 28 August - 23 September 1998

**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 28 August. FV AVON VALLEY of Lymington was used to complete the beam trawl survey in the area Selsey Bill to Swanage during the period 29 August - 2 September. A push net site was completed at Lee on Solent on 3 September and staff carried on to Hastings where FV ST RICHARD was used to complete beam trawling in the area between Camber and St Leonards during 4 - 6 September. Two push net sites were completed at Hastings and Winchelsea on 4 and 6 September respectively. A push net site at Newhaven Harbour was completed on the evening of the 7 September. A strong west to south west wind prevented any work on 7 and 8 September forcing staff to return home. Staff returned to Hastings on 12 September. A push net site at Shoreham was completed on 13 September. FV REBECCA R of Dungeness was used for beam trawling in the area east of Dungeness on 14 and 15 September. A strong south west wind prevented sea going from Brighton on 16 September but push nets were completed at Camber and Dymchurch. The beam trawl survey continued between Shoreham and Newhaven on 17 September using FV TOBYROC of Brighton and between Normans Bay and Eastbourne using FV ANNA LOUISE on 18 September. Staff returned to Hastings on 19 September completing a push net at Pevensey Bay en-route. The beam trawl survey was completed on 20 September using FV ST RICHARD from Hastings. Staff returned to Lowestoft on 21 September.

- Team 2 Staff travelled to Whitstable on 30 August completing push net sites at Frinton and Clacton en route. FV OUR SARAH JANE of Whitstable was used for beam trawling in the south Thames estuary and River Thames areas during 31 August - 2 September. On 3 September staff travelled to west Mersea after push netting at Margate and Beltinge. The north Thames estuary was sampled using FV FISHER LASSIE of West Mersea for beam trawling during 4 - 6 September. On 7 September push net sites at Warden, Barton's Point and Leigh Creek were completed after plans to fish had to be abandoned due to poor weather conditions. Staff returned to Lowestoft on 8 September. Staff travelled to west Mersea on 17 September and completed the last day with FV FISHER LASSIE on 18 September. Staff returned to Lowestoft on 19 September.
- Team 3 Staff travelled to Skegness on 11 September (after delays caused by poor weather conditions) completing the push net site at Wainfleet en-route. FV CHALLENGE of Wainfleet Haven was used to complete the beam trawl survey in the area Bridlington Bay to the north Norfolk coast and the Humber estuary on 12 September. Push net sites at Spurn Head and Mablethorpe were completed on 13 and 14 September. Fishing recommenced on 15 September and continued until 21 September. Push net sites were completed at Cleethorpes on 22 September and Branchester and Hunstanton on 23 September. Staff then returned to Lowestoft.
- Team 4 FV WENDY MARC of Lowestoft was used to complete beam trawling in the area between Haisborough and Dunwich on 30, 31 August and 2 - 4 September. On 15 September the push net site at Children's Corner, Lowestoft was sampled; attempts to push south of the Claremont Pier were abandoned due to adverse swell conditions. On 16 September sites at Gorleston and Claremont Pier were sampled. The survey was completed on 17 September with the sampling of two push net sites, CEFAS Laboratory, Lowestoft and Walberswick.

#### RESULTS:

1. On the East coast, 227 valid hauls using the standard 2m beam trawl and 19 push net sites using the standard 1 1/2m push net were sampled. On the South coast 153 valid hauls and 8 push net sites were sampled. In addition 8 stations were sampled in the River Humber in co-operation with the Environment Agency - Anglian Region.

All fish caught were identified and measured. Surface water salinity samples and sediment samples were collected and observations of surface temperature were recorded at all stations. Team 2 identified the presence / absence of benthos species in conjunction with work being carried out by Dr Ellis. An estimation of shrimp by-catch was collected at all stations to be used in the evaluation of shrimp data as a fisheries abundance index. 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.
3. Samples of small fish were collected and preserved from all hauls in the River Humber for Dr Mike Elliot 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.

T A Mead  
11 November 1998

INITIALLED: R M

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic list +

R Millner

S Rogers

J Casey

M Easey

C Brown

S Milligan

T Watson

T A Mead

B Rackham

R Ayers

L Woolner

J Dann

G Catchpole

The Secretary	North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee
"	Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee
"	Kent and Essex Sea Fisheries Committee
"	Sussex Sea Fisheries Committee
"	Southern Sea Fisheries Committee

M Elliot	University of Hull
H Gudmundsson	EA - Waterside House

Skippers	I Martin
	J Johnson
	P French
	J Martin
	P Richardson
	G Cogle
	G Doswell
	E Gillam
A Proctor	

A Radford - DI  
R Thomasson - DI  
N Wellum - DI

FLR 8825