

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

**REPORT: RESOLUTE CRUISE 2/2001**

**STAFF:**

Dr C Fox (SIC)  
Mr P. Davison

**DURATION:** 23 - 26 April 2001

**LOCATION:** Eastern Irish Sea

**AIMS:**

1. To carry out a plankton survey in the eastern Irish Sea to estimate the location, magnitude and timing of plaice spawning (Project M0423).
2. To collect zooplankton samples for copepod biomass studies (Project M0423).

**NARRATIVE:**

Staff travelled to Fleetwood by road and embarked on 23 April. Sampling equipment including a towed transducer for receiving Scanmar signals, was installed and MFV Resolute sailed at 11:30. Sampling commenced off the Solway at 19:35 and continued without a break until 26 April at 17:30. The vessel then returned to port.

Weather conditions were fair to moderate throughout the survey and all stations on the sampling plan were completed.

**RESULTS:**

Aims 1 and 2. All 48 stations were successfully completed. At each station a main net (270 µm mesh) and a fine net (80 µm) sample were collected and preserved in 4% buffered formaldehyde for later laboratory analysis. In addition, a CTD profile was collected using an FSI mCTD at each station.

All equipment functioned satisfactorily except for failed bearings in one of the Valeport flowmeters. This unit was replaced on the next station.

C Fox  
30 April 2001

**INITIALLED:**

**DISTRIBUTION:**

Basic list +  
Staff on cruise  
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Sea Fisheries Committees: North Western and North Wales & Cumbria