

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

2009 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME: RV CEFAS ENDEAVOUR: SURVEY 13/09

STAFF: I Holmes (SIC)
M Etherton (2IC)
S Walmsley
L Readdy
R Bush
J Ashworth
J Pettigrew
V Hobson (University of Swansea)

DURATION:

9 September – 2 October 2009

LOCATION:

Irish Sea (VIIa), Bristol Channel & Celtic Sea (VIIfg).

AIMS:

1. To carry out a 4m beam-trawl survey of groundfish (Figure 1) to i) obtain fisheries independent data on the distribution and abundance of commercial flatfish species, and ii) derive age compositions of sole, plaice, cod and whiting for use in the assessments of stock size.
2. To collect biological data including maturity and weight at age of sole, plaice, lemon sole and other commercially important finfish species as part of CEFAS' requirements under the EU Data Collection Framework.
3. To determine the distribution and relative abundance of juvenile and adult sole and plaice.
4. To collect surface and bottom temperature and salinity data using CTD rosette and Niskin Bottle.
5. To quantify epibenthos using 4m beam trawl by-catch.
6. Length weight & maturity information using individual fish measurements, in support of the EU Data Collection Framework.
7. To collect surface sea-water samples for processing on return to Lowestoft for the analysis of caesium and tritium (AE001) (C Smedley).
8. To collect fish samples in support of other CEFAS projects and training courses.
9. To collect photographic images of sole, plaice and dab gonads for the Workshop on Maturity Staging of Sole, Plaice, Dab and Flounder'.
10. To collect jellyfish distribution and associated individual measurements.

PLAN:

RV Cefas Endeavour will sail from Lowestoft on 9th September and will head directly to the first priority sampling 'grid' in the inner Bristol Channel (BCI). Upon completion, RV Cefas Endeavour will then head north fishing stations en-route to the other priority sampling grids in the Irish Sea south and north sectors (ISS/ISN). Once completed, the remaining survey grids of Irish Sea West (ISW), St. Georges Channel (SGC) and Bristol Channel outer (BCO) will be fished. It is hoped that as some point during the survey, the CORYSTES will complete a 'grid' of water sampling positions in the Severn Estuary.

RV Cefas Endeavour will dock in Swansea on the 2nd October. Unloading of equipment and samples will be carried out on the 2nd October and Cefas staff will depart for Lowestoft the same day.

I D Holmes
6 July 2009

INITIALLED:

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List +

I Holmes

M Etherton

S Walmsley

L Readdy

R Bush

J Ashworth

J Pettigrew

V Hobson (Univs. of Swansea)

S Flatman

B Harley

S Kupschus

P Connolly (DOM Dublin)

FCO (for Republic of Ireland)

Sea Fisheries Committees:

Cumbria North

North Western and North Wales

South Wales

Cornwall

Figure 1 – Map of primary fishing positions.

