

**DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS  
CEFAS, LOWESTOFT LABORATORY, SUFFOLK, ENGLAND**

2006 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME: RV CEFAS ENDEAVOUR: CRUISE 09/06

STAFF: D. Righton (SIC), J. van der Kooij (2IC), J. Blanchard, G. Engelhardt, K. Warr,  
C. Houghton

DURATION: 7<sup>th</sup> April – 16<sup>th</sup> April 2006

LOCALITY: North Sea

**AIMS:**

1. To use a 2m beam trawl to collect representative samples of benthic organisms on the sandeel fishing grounds on the North West Riff & The Hills.
2. To use fishing and acoustic survey methods to estimate the habitat occupancy of sandeels on the same grounds.
3. To use established survey methods to estimate the abundance and distribution of plankton on the sandeel fishing grounds on the North West Riff & The Hills.
4. To use the 'CEFAS dredge cam' to determine the correct warp: depth ratio for optimal fishing performance of the sandeel dredge.
5. To develop methods for collection and sampling of large gelatinous plankton/nekton.
6. To collect representative samples of sandeels for fatty acid analysis (FAA).

PLAN: (all times are Universal Time)

The cruise staff will join ENDEAVOUR at Lowestoft on the evening tide (1649hrs) on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2006 and proceed to The Hills (~54° 25' N, 1° 00' E) where surveying will commence. Surveying will take place over established grids on the Hills and the North West Riff. ENDEAVOUR will return to Lowestoft for the midday (1059hr) tide on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2006.

D A Righton

16<sup>th</sup> February 2006

Distribution list:

Basic list + scientific crew, Eastern Region and Northeastern Region Sea Fisheries District, Sea Fisheries Inspectorate.