

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

2006 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME: RV DARDNI CORYSTES: CRUISE 2/06

STAFF:

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Annie Brown
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DURATION: 19 February - 28 February 2006

LOCATION: Irish Sea

AIMS:

1. To conduct a plankton survey using a 76cm Gulf VII plankton sampler to determine the distribution and abundance of cod (*Gadus morhua*), haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*) and plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) eggs.
2. To remove fish eggs from fresh plankton samples at sea. To measure, stage and preserve these eggs in ethanol prior to species identification using a DNA technique on return to the laboratory.
3. To collect a surface nutrient sample at each of the sampling stations.
4. To collect surface chlorophyll samples every five sampling stations.
5. To collect supplementary sub-surface environmental data using a self-logging package carried on the Gulf VII plankton samplers.
6. To collect surface salinity samples at every third station for calibration of the CTDs
7. To collect surface phytoplankton sample at every third station for phytoplankton species identification.
8. To run trial transects using the Kiel Ichthyoplankton Video Camera system.
9. Optionally - To collect comparison ring net and PUP net samples for validation of the species selection characteristics of the PUP samplers.

PLAN:

CEFAS staff will travel to Belfast on 18th February. All gear will be shipped to Belfast by this date. RV Corystes will sail from Belfast on 19th February and proceed to the Irish Sea to complete a grid of plankton stations as part of a series of ichthyoplankton surveys to estimate the spawning stock biomass (SSB) of Irish Sea cod, haddock and plaice. The plankton grid (figure 1) will comprise approximately 112 stations in the Irish Sea between 53°N and 55°N.

RV Corystes will dock in Belfast on 28 February to enable gear and samples to be offloaded and transported to Dublin/Galway/Belfast for the following RV Celtic Voyager cruise. Ethanol and formalin preserved samples plus nutrients, chlorophyll and salinity bottles will be offloaded in Belfast and shipped to Lowestoft for analysis. CEFAS staff will return to Lowestoft on 1 March.

GEAR:

List distributed separately and marked to relevant individuals for attention.

Clive Fox
2 February 2006

INITIALLED:

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List +

Michael Armstrong (CEFAS)

Pieter-Jan Schon (DARDNI, Belfast)

John Breslin (Marine Institute, Galway)

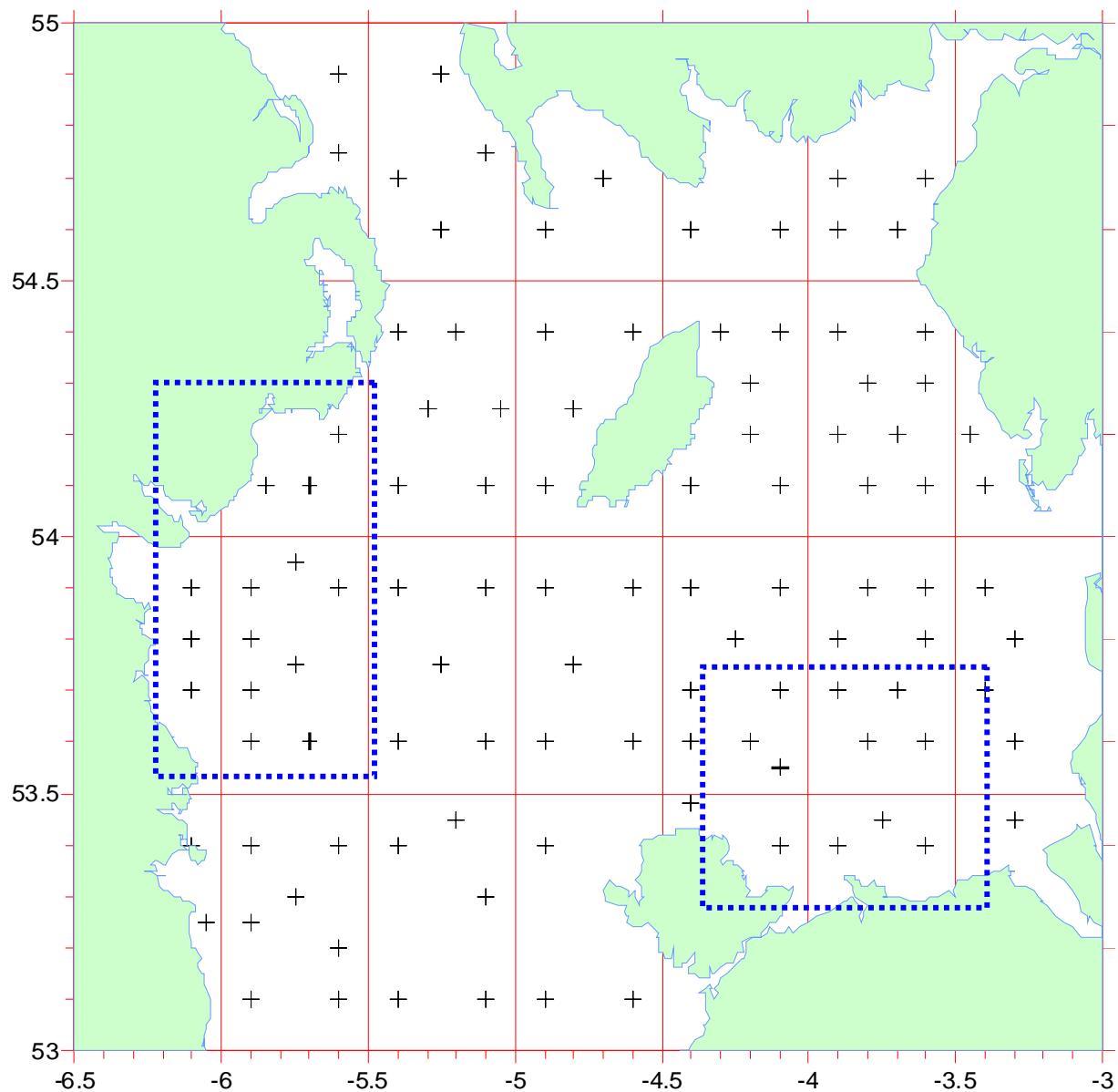
FCO (for Republic of Ireland)

Sea Fisheries Committees:

Cumbria

North Western and North Wales

South Wales



Proposed ISEPS plankton sampling grid
112 stns

**Proposed video ichthyoplankton camera test
areas**

