THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE SCIENCE, LOWESTOFT LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK, NR33 0HT.

## 2006 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME: RV CORYSTES: CRUISE 4/06

STAFF:

J Dann (SIC)

G Course (2IC)

S Warne

T Dinmore

J Smith

L Clancy (Until 3/08/06)

A Little (3/08/06-8/08/06)

J Pettigrew

**DURATION:** 

25th July - 8th August

LOCALITY:

North Sea (IVc), English Channel (VIId).

AIMS:

To undertake a beam trawl survey in the southern North Sea and eastern Channel as part of an ICES co-ordinated research programme.

- 1. To obtain fisheries independent data on the distribution and abundance of commercial flatfish species.
- 2. To collect biological data, including maturity and weight at age, of commercial species.
- 3. To derive age compositions of commercial flatfish, whilst at sea, for use in stock assessment.
- 4. To carry out sampling to satisfy the requirements of the EU data regulations.
- 5. To identify the epibenthos by-catch taken in the 4-metre beam trawl and to quantify 12 species as agreed at the International Beam trawl Study Group.
- 6. To carry out detailed survey of sole distribution in selected areas of VIId and IVc.

## PLAN:

CORYSTES will sail from Belfast on a suitable tide on 21st July. The vessel will dock in Weymouth on the morning tide of the day prior to sailing, 24<sup>th</sup> July, and depart on the morning tide of 25th after the gear is loaded, checked and rigged. Sampling will commence in the English sector of VIId. Sampling will continue eastwards, along the English coast, until about 28<sup>th</sup> July. The vessel will then proceed

overnight to the western end of the French sector and survey eastwards. On completion of the VIId survey the North Sea stations will be worked in a northerly direction finishing off the Belgian coast on or around 7th August. Once the main survey is completed the vessel will proceed to Weymouth docking there on the afternoon of 8<sup>th</sup> August. Staff will travel back to Lowestoft the following day.

J Dann 14<sup>th</sup> June 2006

## INITIALLED: RM

## DISTRIBUTION:

Basic list +

J Dann (SIC)

G Course

T Dinmore

S Warne

J Smith

J Pettigrew

L Clancy

A Little

Fishing skipper CORYSTES

W Vanhee, Belgium Frans v Beek, Netherlands

A Tetard, France

Kent and Essex, Sussex, Southern, Devon and Cornwall SFC

DARD Northern Ireland