

DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS.
2008 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME: *RV CEFAS ENDEAVOUR*
Cruise Programme: C END 11/08

STAFF

D Limpenny (SIC until 29th May)
W Meadows (SIC from 29th May)
K Vanstaen
S Ware
N Lyman
M Diesing
M Curtis
C Barrio-Frojan
M Whybrow
A Leslie (BGS)
N Golding (JNCC)
I Saunders (JNCC)

DURATION:

18th May – 31st May/3rd June (max)

NB. This cruise is scheduled to dock in Lowestoft on 31st May. However, we have agreed with our customer (JNCC) that they will provide funds to cover 3 days of bad weather contingency. Therefore, if we do experience bad weather which prevents us from working (during the Irish Sea and Solan Bank parts of the cruise only) then we may dock up to 3 days later than planned.

LOCALITY:

Mid-Irish Sea and Solan Bank

AIMS:

1. To conduct multidisciplinary (acoustic and sampling) surveys within a discrete area in the mid-Irish Sea (**53.4556N, 5.2292W**) and another north of Cape Wrath (**59.048N, 5.038W**). This work is in support of JNCC's requirement to designate SACs under the EU Annex I Habitats Directive.
2. To conduct 12hrs of SPI camera work at the Souter Point dredged material disposal site.

NB: We need to be able to conduct 24hr working (grabs, camera sledge, acoustics) whilst we are on site at the mid-Irish Sea and Solan Bank sites.

PLAN:

Mobbing of the vessel will take place during 18th and 19th May. Cefas staff (9 in total) will travel to Swansea on 18th May and stay on-board overnight. JNCC and BGS staff will travel to the vessel on 19th May, arriving by 13:00 hrs. Cefas Endeavour will sail from Swansea on the evening tide of Mon 19th May and head for the site in the central Irish Sea. Multidisciplinary survey work using acoustic (sidescan and multibeam), sampling (grab, corer and trawl) and photographic (camera sledge, SPI) will be conducted on a 24hr basis at the mid-Irish Sea site over 3 days. Endeavour will then head for the Solan Bank site and conduct similar surveys over 3 days. On or around the 29th May, a number of scientists will disembark via small boat from the vessel at a suitable port (possibly Stornaway or Kirkwall) to fly home. The vessel will then steam to a site off the Tyne (Souter Point) to conduct approximately 12hrs of work with the SPI camera. The vessel will dock in Lowestoft no later than 3rd June.

D Limpenny (Scientist-in-Charge)

16th May 2008