

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

2010 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME: RV CEFAS ENDEAVOUR: SURVEY 14/10

STAFF: I Holmes (SIC)
M Etherton (2IC)
S Walmsley
M Parker-Humphreys (1st half only)
L Readdy (2nd half only)
R Bush
J Pettigrew
J Silva
A Leocadio
C Mc Carron (Irish Observer – Marine Institute)

DURATION:

11 September – 4 October 2010

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 & bottom temperature/salinity data using CTD and Niskin Bottle.
5. To quantify epibenthos using 4m beam trawl by-catch.
6. Collect 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 - Cefas).
8. To collect fish samples in support of other Cefas projects and training courses.
9. To collect photographic images of brill and turbot gonads for the Workshop on Maturity Staging of brill and turbot in 2012.
10. To sample fishes and queen scallops for stable isotope analysis in support of food web studies (M1001) (S Jennings – Cefas)

PLAN:

RV Cefas Endeavour will sail from Lowestoft on 11th 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 RV Cefas Endeavour will complete a 'grid' of water sampling positions in the Severn Estuary.

RV Cefas Endeavour will dock in Lowestoft on the 4th October and unloading of equipment and samples will be carried out the same day. It is anticipated that a mid-survey break will occur around day 13 of the survey to allow for a changeover of staff and take on fresh supplies and water (location currently undetermined).

I D Holmes
2nd July 2010

INITIALLED: BH

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List +

I Holmes

M Etherton

S Walmsley

M Parker-Humphreys

L Readdy

R Bush

J Pettigrew

J Silva

A Leocadio

C Mc Carron (Marine Institute)

J Howard (P&O Marine)

Master Cefas Endeavour

B Harley

S Kupschus

P Connolly (Marine Institute, Galway)

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.

