

**CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SCIENCE
LOWESTOFT LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK NR33 OHT
2004 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME**

PROGRAMME: RV CEFAS ENDEAVOUR: CRUISE 15 /04

STAFF:

Part 1

J Ellis (SIC)
S Flatman (2IC)
D Brown
G Burt
J Dann
J Pettigrew
M Easey
K Lees

Part 2

J Ellis (SIC)
S Flatman (2IC)
D Brown
G Burt
T Woods
T Boon
J Keable
N Lyman
W Meadows

DURATION: Part 1: 8–24 November; part 2: 25 November–09 December.

LOCATION: Irish Sea, Celtic Sea, western English Channel.

AIMS:

1. To carry out a trawl survey of the Irish Sea, Celtic Sea and western English Channel (ICES divisions VII a, e-j), as part of the west coast IBTS series and in support of the EU data regulations, to obtain information on:
 - (a) Distribution, size composition and relative abundance of fish, cephalopods, and benthic invertebrate
 - (b) Age-length distribution of selected species for ICES WG input and biological studies
 - (c) Biological parameters of selected species
2. To continue the testing of the modified GOV trawl with rockhopper groundgear on hard grounds off Cornwall and in St George's Channel
3. To continue the development and testing of electronic data capture equipment and the new Fishing Survey System
4. To collect sediment samples at trawl stations
5. To sample areas of VIIg-h with 2m and 3m-beam trawl to quantify epibenthos and fish
6. To record any interesting biological observations regarding rare and unusual fishes, and sightings of cetaceans.
7. To collect biological material for the following projects/courses:
 - (a) Whole individuals of selected fish species should be frozen for fish identification courses
 - (b) Whole individuals of scallops *Pecten maximus* should be frozen (D. Palmer, CEFAS)

- (c) Tissue samples from rays (Rajidae) should be preserved for molecular studies (M. Chevolot, University of Groningen / J.Ellis, CEFAS)
- (d) Tissue samples from spurdog *Squalus acanthias* should be preserved for molecular studies (J. Franks, University of Washington / J.Ellis, CEFAS)
- (e) Fecundity samples from hake *Merluccius merluccius* (P. Witthames, CEFAS)

RV CEFAS ENDEAVOUR will sail from Lowestoft on 08 November and proceed to the western English Channel fishing grounds to begin the trawl survey using the modified GOV with rockhopper groundgear. After completing the grid of stations for this gear, the standard GOV will be rigged and the remaining parts of the study area surveyed. The vessel will dock in Cork on 24 November and sail again on 25 November. Staff for part 2 will travel to Cork on 24 November and staff from part 1 will leave the vessel on the same day. The cruise is scheduled to end in Lowestoft on 09 December.

GEAR:

List distributed separately and marked to relevant individuals for action.

J Ellis
4 October 2004

INITIALLED RSM

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic list

Staff on Cruise

Devon SFC

Cornwall SFC

South Wales SFC

Isles of Scilly SFC

Wales & NW SFC