

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

2015 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME: Cefas Endeavour: Survey 16/15

STAFF:

J Smith (SIC)
S Songer (2IC)
R Ayers
I Holmes
M Brown
P Gardiner
G Burt
C Jennings
Student x 2

DURATION:

18th July – 31st July 2015

LOCATION:

Eastern English Channel (VIIId), Southern North Sea (IVc)

PRIMARY AIMS:

1. To undertake a beam trawl survey in the southern North Sea and eastern Channel as part of an ICES co-ordinated research programme.
2. To obtain fisheries independent data on the distribution and abundance of commercial flatfish species.
3. To collect biological data, including maturity and weight at age of commercial species, to satisfy the requirements of the EU data regulations.
4. To identify the epibenthos by catch taken in the 4-metre beam trawl and to quantify 12 species as agreed at the Beam Trawl Working Group.

SECONDARY AIMS:

5. To carry out additional water sampling for nutrient analysis.

PLAN:

The scientific crew will join the Endeavour in Portland on the afternoon of the 17th of July, staying on board overnight. Endeavour will sail from Portland on the 18th of July after the gear is loaded, checked and rigged.

Shakedown tows will be carried out before the start of the survey to ensure all systems are working correctly. Once complete, sampling will begin in the English sector of VIId and continue eastwards, along the English coast (see appendix 1), until about the 22nd of July. Once the English sector is complete the vessel will proceed, overnight to the western end of the French sector and survey eastwards. On completion of the survey on or around the 28th of July, the North Sea stations will be worked in a northerly direction and if time allows stations off the Belgium coast will be fished. All stations will be fished using a warp ratio of 3.5:1 if practical. The additional tows, as indicated on the map, will be picked up during the course of the survey, time permitting.

On completion of the survey the vessel will dock in Lowestoft. This is expected to be on the 31st of July.

J Smith
19/5/2015

INITIALLED: I Holmes

DISTRIBUTION:

Survey participants
Cefas fisheries survey SICs/2ICs
J Maitland/B Salter (P&O Maritime Services)
Master/Fishing Skipper (Cefas Endeavour)
FCO (for Belgium, Netherlands & France)
W Demare, Belgium
Frans v Beek, Netherland
Joel Vigneau, France
Kent and Essex, Sussex, Southern and Eastern IFCA's

Appendix I Plot of stations in the 7d beam trawl survey

