

**CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SCIENCE  
LOWESTOFT LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK NR33 OHT  
2008 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME**

**PROGRAMME: RV CEFAS ENDEAVOUR: SURVEY 19**

STAFF:

J Ellis (SIC)  
A Tidd (2IC)  
G Burt  
R Bush  
S Shaw  
R Rodgers  
T Woods (Part 1 only)            G Course (Part 2 only)  
J Smith (Part 1 only)            D Brown (Part 2 only)

E Farrell (University College Dublin)  
C Murray (Irish Whale and Dolphin Group)  
K Nisbet (University of Liverpool)

DURATION: Part 1: 06–21 November; Part 2: 22 November–08 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), using the modified GOV trawl with rockhopper ground gear on hard grounds and standard IBTS GOV trawl on fine grounds, 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 invertebrates
  - (b) Age-length distribution of commercial fish species for ICES WG input and biological studies
  - (c) Biological parameters of selected species (including gonadosomatic index for cod 40–70 cm)
  - (d) Presence of litter
  - (e) Environmental parameters (including CTD profiles and sediment samples) at trawl stations
2. To take photographs of maturity stages of those fish species subject to biological sampling.
3. To undertake trawl sampling in the North Devon voluntary closed skate area north of Lundy
4. To undertake comparative trawl sampling with DARD (25–28 November)
5. To tag and release specimens of spurdog *Squalus acanthias*, smooth-hound *Mustelus* spp., tope *Galeorhinus galeus* and greater-spotted dogfish *Scyliorhinus stellaris*.
6. To collect fishery acoustics information (J van der Kooij)

7. To record details of surface sightings of any marine mammals, sea turtles and pelagic fish, and record observations on jellyfish aggregations
8. To sample the epibenthos with 2m beam trawl and collect samples of marine invertebrates for genetic studies (K Nisbet, University of Liverpool)
9. To collect tissue samples and extra biological information from smoothhounds *Mustelus* spp. (E Farrell, University College Dublin)
10. To collect tissue samples from skates (Rajidae), spurdog (*Squalus acanthias*) and cod (*Gadus morhua*) for genetic analyses
11. To collect the valves of scallop *Pecten maximus* (D. Palmer, Cefas)

RV CEFAS ENDEAVOUR will sail from Lowestoft on 06 November and proceed to the southern North Sea or eastern English Channel for a shakedown tow. CEFAS ENDEAVOUR will then steam to the western English Channel (modified GOV with rockhopper ground gear) or Celtic Sea (standard ground gear), depending on the weather. The vessel will dock in Cork on or about 21 November for a change of staff. After departing from Cork, RV CEFAS ENDEAVOUR will work northwards to meet up with *Corystes* to undertake comparative fishing on the survey grid (25–28 November) before completing the remainder of the grid. The cruise is scheduled to end in Lowestoft on 08 December.

GEAR:

List distributed separately and marked to relevant individuals for action.

J Ellis  
10 October 2008

INITIALLED      BH

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic list

Staff on Cruise

Devon SFC

South Wales SFC

N Wales & NW SFC

DARD(NI)

Cornwall SFC

Isles of Scilly SFC

Cumbria SFC