

**CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SCIENCE  
LOWESTOFT LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK NR33 0HT  
2007 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME**

**PROGRAMME: RV CEFAS ENDEAVOUR: SURVEY 20/07**

**STAFF:**

J Ellis (SIC)  
A Tidd (2IC)  
S Warnes (Part 1 only)  
G Burt  
R Bush  
S Shaw  
M Easey (Part 1 only)  
T Woods (Part 2 only)  
B Hatton (Part 2 only)  
W Mulligan  
J van der Kooij (part 1 only)

**DURATION:** Part 1: 07–22 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
  - (d) Environmental parameters (including CTD profiles and sediment samples) at trawl stations
2. To take photographs and preserve sections of gonadal tissue for microscopic validation of macroscopic maturity staging.
3. To tag and release specimens of spurdog *Squalus acanthias*, smooth-hound *Mustelus* spp., tope *Galeorhinus galeus* and greater-spotted dogfish *Scyliorhinus stellaris*.
4. To record details of surface sightings of any marine mammals, sea turtles and pelagic fish, and record observations on jellyfish aggregations
5. To sample the epibenthos in ICES divisions VIIIf-h with 2m beam trawl
6. To collect biological samples in support of research projects:
  - (a) Scallop *Pecten maximus* (to be frozen) (D. Palmer, Cefas)
  - (b) Berried edible crab *Cancer pagurus* (to be frozen) (D. Eaton, Cefas)

- (c) Tissue samples of smoothhounds *Mustelus* spp. and biological information on non-tagged fish (Edward Farrell, University College Dublin)
- (d) Alimentary tracts from a variety of fish species (Claire Dawson, VLA, Weybridge)

RV CEFAS ENDEAVOUR will sail from Lowestoft on 07 November and proceed to Southwold for a shakedown tow. CEFAS ENDEAVOUR will then steam to the western English Channel to begin the trawl survey using the modified GOV with rockhopper ground gear. This gear will be used around Cornwall, St George's Channel and central Irish Sea. After completing these stations, the standard GOV will be rigged and the remaining parts of the Irish Sea study area surveyed. The vessel will dock in Cork on or about 22 November for a change of staff. After departing from Cork, RV CEFAS ENDEAVOUR will complete stations in the Celtic Sea with the standard GOV, and complete any remaining hard ground stations in this area. The cruise is scheduled to end in Lowestoft on 08 December.

GEAR:

List distributed separately and marked to relevant individuals for action.

J Ellis  
26 September 2007

INITIALLED       RSM

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic list  
Staff on Cruise  
Devon SFC  
Cornwall SFC  
South Wales SFC  
Isles of Scilly SFC  
Wales & NW SFC  
Cumbria SFC