

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

2015 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME: RV CEFAS ENDEAVOUR: SURVEY 20/15

STAFF:	Part One	Part Two
	S Shaw (SIC)	S Shaw (SIC)
	I Holmes (2IC)	I Holmes (2IC)
	S Walmsley	S Walmsley
	T Gooding	T Gooding
	G Thomas	G Thomas
	D Brown	J Gillson
	R Hicks	O Williams

DURATION: 10 September – 30 September 2015

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 stock assessments.
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 tritium (AE001) (K Leonard - Cefas).
8. To collect fish samples in support of other Cefas and non-Cefas projects and training courses.
9. To collect water alkalinity and dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) and nutrient samples – (N Greenwood - Cefas)

PLAN:

RV Cefas Endeavour will sail from Lowestoft on the 10th September and will head directly to the first priority sampling 'grid' in the inner Bristol Channel (BCI). Upon completion of the BCI survey grid, 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.

At the first and last fishing stations of each working day, a CTD profile and associated surface and bottom salinity samples will be collected. Each morning, total alkalinity, nutrients and DIC samples will also be collected.

It is anticipated that a mid-survey break will occur around day twelve of the survey (~22nd September with the location likely to be Douglas, IOM. This will allow for a changeover of scientific staff and vessel's officers and crew and for the vessel to take on fresh supplies and water. At the end of the survey, RV Cefas Endeavour will dock in Portland on the 30th September and unloading of equipment will be carried out the same day.

S M Shaw
3rd June 2015

INITIALLED:

I Holmes

DISTRIBUTION:

Cefas survey staff
J Maitland (P&O Maritime Services)
Master Cefas Endeavour
I Holmes
S Kupschus
P Connolly (Marine Institute, Galway)
P J Schon (AFBINI)
FCO (for Republic of Ireland)
Marine Management Organisation (MMO)
Welsh Government (WG)
Natural Resources Wales
Devon & Severn IFCA
Cornwall IFCA
Isles of Scilly IFCA
North Western IFCA

Figure 1 – Map of primary fishing positions.

