

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

**2016 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME**

**PROGRAMME: RV CEFAS ENDEAVOUR: SURVEY 20/16**

STAFF:	Part One	Part Two
	S Shaw (SIC)	S Shaw (SIC)
	S Walmsley (2IC)	S Walmsley (2IC)
	D Brown	D Brown
	G Thomas	G Thomas
	T Gooding	O Williams
	M Etherton	L Mann
	C Marshall	H Close
	M Huk	

DURATION: 10 September – 30 September 2016

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.

PLAN:

RV Cefas Endeavour will sail from Lowestoft on the 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

It is anticipated that a mid-survey break will occur around day twelve of the survey (~21<sup>st</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> September and unloading of equipment will be carried out the same day.

-S M Shaw  
24<sup>th</sup> June 2016

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) – Conservation, Licencing and Derogations.  
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.

