

**DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS
CEFAS, LOWESTOFT LABORATORY, SUFFOLK, ENGLAND**

2003 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME: RV CEFAS ENDEAVOUR: CRUISE 02/03

STAFF:	JD Metcalfe (SIC)	A Nichols
	K Turner	E Hunter
	RJ Turner	D Righton
	J van der Kooij	S Mackinson
	C Stewart	W Meadows*

DURATION: 10 April - 24 April

LOCALITY: North Sea

AIMS:

1. To deploy the CEFAS acoustic telemetry buoy (ATB) on the cod feeding area at the western end of the Indefatigable Bank to monitor the presence/return of cod tagged with coded acoustic pingers in 2002.
2. To use acoustic & fishing survey methods to estimate the abundance and distribution of sandeels on sandeel fishing grounds on the western Dogger Bank.
3. To use fishing survey methods to estimate the abundance and distribution of predatory fish feeding on sandeels on the sandeel fishing grounds on the western Dogger Bank.
4. To use fishing survey methods (Bongo net) to estimate the abundance and distribution of plankton on the sandeel fishing grounds on the western Dogger Bank.
5. To use QTC and Hammond grab (HamCam) to describing sediment type in relation to sandeel distribution and abundance on the sandeel fishing grounds on the western Dogger Bank.
6. To carry out a ship-board experiment to determine gut evacuation rates of sandeels.
7. To evaluate new acoustic equipment (SH80, EM3000, EK60, ES600)*.
8. To test and appraise shipborne data logging and handling procedures*.
9. To evaluate and develop CEMAP survey software use*

(*These staff and aims are dependent on ENDEAVOUR being available for this cruise)

PLAN: (all times are British Summer Time)

ENDEAVOUR will sail on the evening tide (1603 h) on Thursday 10th April 2003 and proceed to the north western end of the Indefatigable Banks (the "Hurdy Gurdy" at 53° 36.2'N, 02° 10.6'E) in order to deploy the acoustic telemetry buoy (Aim 1). ENDEAVOUR will subsequently proceed to the south western end of the Dogger Bank (NW Riff) and commence acoustic survey for sandeels (Aims 2), fishing

surveys of sandeel predators (Aim 3) and plankton (Aim 4), and QTC survey of sediment type (Aim 5). Gut evacuation experiments (Aim 6) will take place as convenient. Evaluation and appraisal of the new systems on ENDEAVOUR (Aims 6-8) will take place as appropriate throughout the cruise.

JD Metcalfe
5th February 2003

INITIALLED: ECEP

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic list +

JD Metcalfe	D Righton	S Mackinson	A Nichols	RJ Turner
K Turner	W Meadows	RJ Turner	C Stewart	J van der Kooij
Clerk, Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee				