

**CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE
SCIENCE
LOWESTOFT LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK NR33 0HT**

2007 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME: RV CEFAS ENDEAVOUR: 5/07

STAFF:

M Parker-Humphreys (SIC)
S. Kupschus (2IC)
R. Millner
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G. Burt
R. Humphreys
J. Pettigrew
A. Harwood

DURATION: 17 March – 31 March.

LOCATION: Western Channel (ICES area VIII E)

AIMS:

1. To carry out a beam trawl survey of the Western Channel for stock assessment purposes using standardized 4m beam trawls in order to obtain information on:
 - a) Distribution, size composition and abundance of all fish species caught.
 - b) Age – length distribution of selected species.
 - c) Distribution of fish in relation to their environment.
 - d) Distribution of macrobenthos and anthropogenic debris.
 - e) Surface and bottom temperature and salinity data using CTD.
 - f) Length weight & maturity information using individual fish measurements, in support of the EU Data Regulation.
2. To collect acoustic data at two operating frequencies (38 kHz and 120 kHz) continuously throughout the cruise. An attempt will be made to use this data to determine habitats and the scale at which these vary.
3. To tag sole between 25 and 30cm in length from nursery grounds in order to determine the contribution of specific nursery areas to the UK fishery
4. To implant data storage tags in large adult sole captured on spawning grounds in order to determine seasonal patterns of migration.

PLAN:

Provisionally RV CEFAS Endeavour will sail from Swansea on the 17th of March, where staff will join the vessel after travelling down from Lowestoft by hire car. The survey will fish with two 4 m beam trawls, one fitted with a blinder the other without. The survey will aim to sample a minimum of 80 randomly chosen stations, to tag sole where they are found in high numbers, and to collect acoustics data on route. On completion of the work the ship will dock in Weymouth.

GEAR:

List distributed separately and marked to relevant individuals for action.

Matt Parker-Humphreys
8/1/07

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic list +
M Parker-Humphreys (SIC)
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