

**2006 CHARTER SURVEY PROGRAMME**

**PROGRAMME: INA K 2/2006**

**(PROVISIONAL:** not to be quoted without prior reference to the author)

**STAFF:**

M. Brown  
R. Mitchell  
J. Keable  
Environment Agency staff (part-time)

**DURATION:**

24<sup>th</sup> November – 29<sup>th</sup> November 2005

**LOCATION:**

Thames, Medway, Swale and Essex Estuaries

**AIMS:**

1. To carry a trawl survey for pre-recruit bass in the middle Thames estuary, Medway, Swale, Essex Blackwater, Crouch and Roach Estuaries over established grid stations.
2. To determine the relative abundance of bass and other species in the Thames and adjoining estuaries.
3. To obtain samples of flatfish for environmental monitoring programmes.

**PLAN:**

CEFAS staff will travel to Leigh-on Sea on the 23<sup>th</sup> November and will meet the charter vessel that day to load the survey gear. EA staff will join the vessel on the morning of 24<sup>th</sup> November and the survey will commence that day and continue for 6 days. It is intended to complete 35 tows using twin bass trawls fitted with shrimp-mesh cod-end liners. The survey will work from Leigh-on-Sea and Wallasea marina and the order of working in each area will be dependent on weather and local tidal conditions. Cefas staff will return to Lowestoft on 30<sup>th</sup> November.

M. J. Brown  
26 September 2005

**INITIALLED:**

**BH**

**DISTRIBUTION:**

Basic list +

S. Coates EA

S Colclough EA

R. Mitchell

J.Keable

S. Walmsley

Mr K Knapp, Skipper FV INA K

Mr J Stroud, Kent and Essex SFC

Mr J Wiggins, Kent and Essex SFC

Mr S Douglas, DEFRA Fisheries Office, Harwich.