

**CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SCIENCE
LOWESTOFT LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK NR33 OHT
2002 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME**

REPORT: RV CIROLANA: CRUISE 7

STAFF:

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DURATION: 8th – 12th December 2002

LOCATION: English Channel and southern North Sea.

AIMS:

1. To continue the training of discard officers in support of Commission Regulation 1639/2001 in the following disciplines
 - a) Fish identification
 - b) Fish sampling
 - c) Otolithing techniques
 - d) The collection of biological parameters

NARRATIVE:

RV CIROLANA sailed from Falmouth at 0850h 8 December having been delayed for two days while major repairs to the stern ramp and steering gear were completed. This loss of time, coupled with the fact that the vessel did not sail from Cobh (Ireland), resulted in the intended aim of starting fishing operations in the Celtic Sea being dropped. Fishing operations commenced at 1121h 8 December in Start Bay, four stations being completed before CIROLANA steamed overnight for Lyme Bay. After observing some beam trawlers working in the area a position to work was identified and two tows undertaken. The catch rates being low for the aims of the cruise the vessel proceeded on an easterly course, searching for suitable fishing areas. No clear ground being observed Cirolana steamed overnight to Rye Bay where a further six tows were undertaken on 10 December. CIROLANA then made passage through the Dover Straits for the Brown Ridges area of the North Sea. When the vessel arrived in position the swell and wind meant that fishing was

not possible so CIROLANA dodged at station waiting for an improvement in conditions. At 1700h 11 December weather conditions in the area, coupled with the forecast, meant that any further fishing would not be possible. At this time the decision was taken to steam for Lowestoft where Cirolana docked at 1500h 12 December.

RESULTS

1. A total of 12 valid hauls were made with the PHHT, 4 stations for possible use on the Quarter 4 Groundfish Survey being identified. The fish catches on each station were used to fulfil the training requirements for Commission Regulation 1639/2001.
2. Samples of Cephalopods were collected at each station for further analysis at CEFAS (M. Dunn)

S. Warnes
12 December 2002

SEEN IN DRAFT

R. McCurry (Master)
A. Lincoln (Senior Fishing Mate)

INITIALLED:

Dr R.S. Millner

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic list
Staff on Cruise
Devon SFC
Cornwall SFC
South Wales SFC
Isles of Scilly SFC
Wales & NW SFC
Ireland (via FCO).