



**Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute**  
Agriculture, Food and Environmental Science Division  
Fisheries and Aquatic Ecosystems Branch

**Cruise Report:** CO 0911B

**Vessel:** RV *Corystes*

**Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2011

**Area:** Irish Sea (north); ICES VIIa

**Survey Type:** Biological Oceanography

**Personnel:**

B Stewart	SSO	AFBI	12 – 15 Feb 2011
R Gilmore	HSO	AFBI	12 – 15 Feb 2011
C Smyth	SO	AFBI	12 – 15 Feb 2011

**Objectives:**

- i. To maintain an *insitu* monitoring programme in the Irish Sea.
- ii. To investigate the distribution of dissolved nutrients and phytoplankton in the water column over a standard transect of stations in the Irish Sea

<b><u>Circulation</u></b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b><u>Comments</u></b>   <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Signed Head of Branch</p>
<b>DCSO &amp; CSO</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Ship Managers</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Fisheries Division</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>ANIFPO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>NIFPO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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**Methods:**

- Stations were profiled using a Seabird SBE 32 water sampler and SBE 911 CTD
- Vertical zooplankton net hauls were taken using a 200 micron mesh bongo net with a 500mm diameter inlet.

**Cruise Narrative:**Monday 21 March 2011

The mooring service operation originally programmed as part of the CO 09 2011 Ground Fish Survey was rescheduled with the Corystes departing Belfast at 2200 hrs and sailing overnight to AFBI mooring site 38A

Tuesday 22 March 2011

The weather was dry and bright with a light westerly wind when work commenced with recovery of the instrument mooring to ship deck at 0815 hrs. Data from thermistors, CTD and water samplers were down loaded, samples were removed from the water sampler and following a detailed inspection of mooring components the instruments were reprogrammed and mooring components reassembled. The instrument mooring was then successfully redeployed at 1115 hrs in depth 92.1 metres on position  $53^{\circ} 46^{\prime} .885\text{N } 005^{\circ} 38^{\prime} .166\text{W}$ . Following deployment of the rosette water sampler and CTD the Corystes sailed to sample at Irish coastal stations 37, 36, 47D and Liverpool Bay transect stations LB08 and LB07 before sailing overnight into Liverpool Bay.

Wednesday 23 March 2011

The Corystes continued sampling the Liverpool Bay transect on station LB01 at 0700 hrs and completed the transect sampling on LB06 at 1200 hrs. Thereafter the ship sailed to dock in Belfast at 2045 hrs.

**Work Completed:**

Favourable weather conditions enabled a successful service of the AFBI mooring and unimpaired sampling along the standard Liverpool Bay transect of stations.

**Operational Apects of the Ship:**

During the cruise the A-frame, main trawl winches, both hydrographic winches and the ship's clean seawater supply were used. No problems were encountered with the ship's equipment or indeed ant of the scientific equipment. The hotel and catering service was of an acceptable standard and the working relationship between the scientists and the ship's crew was satisfactory. Prior to the ship departing Belfast a comprehensive and detailed safety briefing was delivered to the scientific crew.

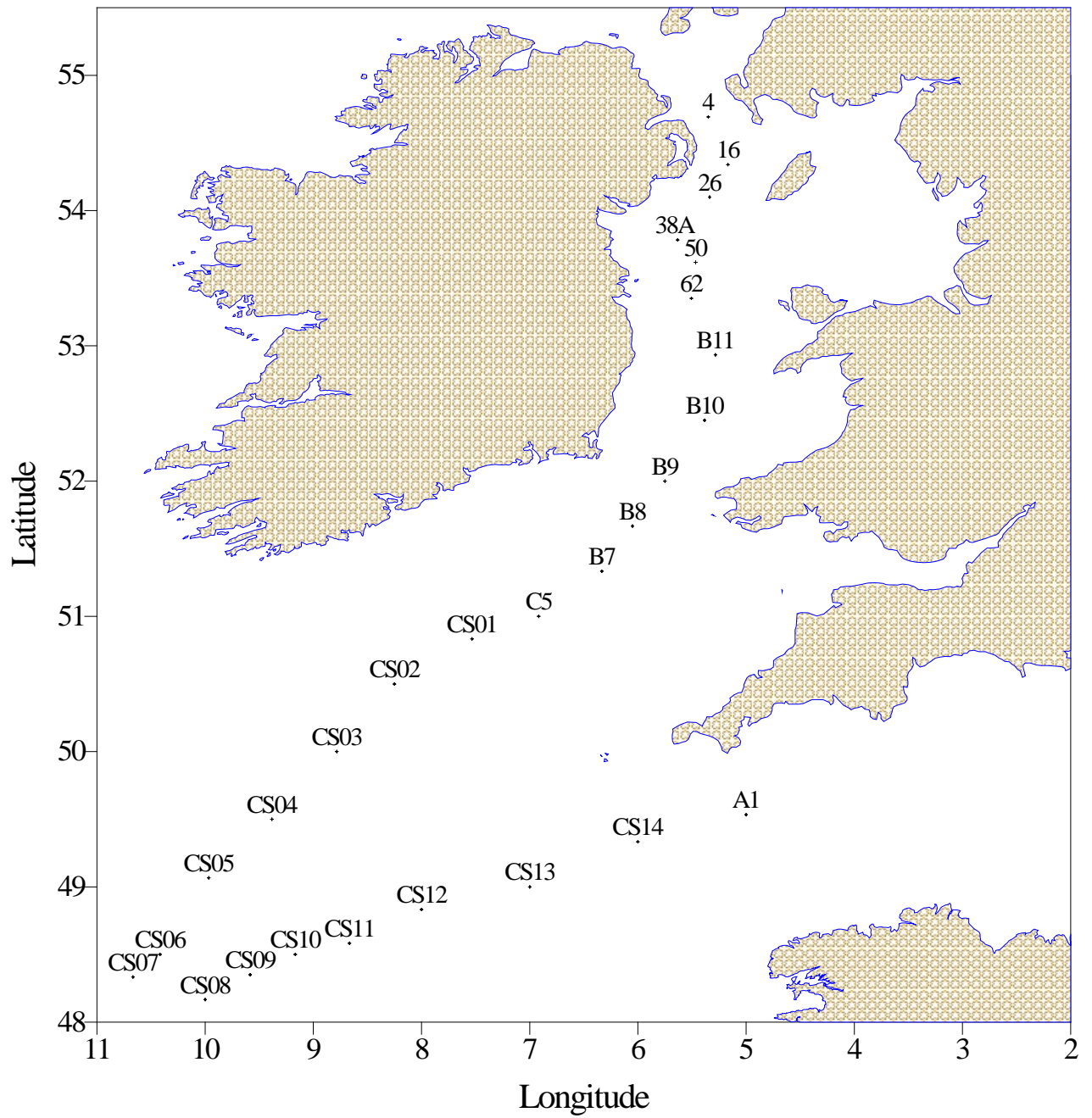
**Acknowledgements:**

I thank the deck crew of the RV Corystes for their co-operation and assistance during the mooring recovery and deployment operation. The ship's master, officers, engineers and catering staff are also thanked for their co-operation during this cruise.

Scientist in Charge

Date: 1 April 2011

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**Survey Transect CO 0911**