

**APPLICATION FOR CONSENT TO CONDUCT MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH  
IN AREAS UNDER NATIONAL JURISDICTION OF  
UNITED KINGDOM**

**Date : 21/07/2006**

**1 - GENERAL INFORMATION**

**1.1. Cruise name and/or number : IBTS/07**

**1.2. Sponsoring institution :**

Name : Ifremer  
Address : Siège social : Technopolis 40  
155, rue Jean-Jacques Rousseau  
92138 Issy les Moulineaux  
Phone : 33 (0)1.46.48.21.00 Fax : 33 (0)1.46.48.22.48  
Director : Jean-Yves Perrot

**1.3. Scientist in charge of the project :**

Name : Yves Verin  
Address : Ifremer - Centre de Boulogne  
150, quai Gambetta - BP 699  
62321 Boulogne s/mer - France  
Phone : 33 (0)3.21.99.56.00 Fax : 33 (0)3.21.99.56.01  
Email : [Yves.Verin@ifremer.fr](mailto:Yves.Verin@ifremer.fr)

**1.4. Scientist from United Kingdom involved in the planning of the project :**

Name :	<b>Mr Ken Coull</b>	<b>Mr Brian Harley Boon</b>
Address :	SOAFD Marine Laboratory P.O. Box 101 Victoria Road Aberdeen AB9 8DB	MAFF, Fisheries Laboratory Lowestoft Suffolk NR33 0HT
Phone :	+44 1502 562244	+44 1224 295507
Fax :	+44 1502 513 865	+44 1224 295511

**1.5. Submitting officer:**

Name : Jean-Xavier Castrec  
Address : Ifremer Centre de Brest  
B.P. 70 - 20280 Plouzané  
Phone : 33 (0)2.98.22.44.53 Fax : 33 (0)2.98.22.44.55  
Email : [jean.xavier.castrec@ifremer.fr](mailto:jean.xavier.castrec@ifremer.fr)

## 2 - DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

### 2.1. Nature and objectives of the project :

European Union has a Common Fisheries Policy in order to manage fisheries for the benefit of both fishing communities and consumers. In this context European Communities members has to collect data necessary for fisheries management and stocks assessment.

Seven countries bordering the North Sea contribute to the "International Bottom Trawl Survey" program which has been initiated in the 1970's : The Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom (England and Scotland) and France. This program is coordinated by the International Council for Exploration of the Sea (ICES) in Copenhagen.

The main objective is to obtain annual forecasts of recruitment of the various commercial fish species of the North Sea. These estimates are used by ICES Working groups to assess these various stocks, and to propose management measures for the following year. In addition, the data collected during these surveys concern biological and abundance analysis on main commercial fish species exploited by European countries in the North Sea. The results of these research works are published in international scientific papers and allow knowledge to progress in this field.

Working methods, during these surveys are standardised, in order to keep consistency in results. So, the trawl used (Grande Ouverture Verticale net) is the same on each research vessel. In the same way, fishing methods are also the same.

In order to determine abundance and distribution of late herring and sprat larvae, each vessel participating in the survey in February sample at night with a MIK net (Methot Isaac Kidd net). Working methods are standardized as well. Results are used by the herring working group to calculate an indices for the 0 group.

France has been participated to this program since 1976, and has been carried out a survey on the R/V Thalassa each year mainly in the southern part of the North Sea in February.

### 2.2. Relevant previous or future research cruises :

France participate to this cruise since 1976 during the first quarter of each year. Between 1992 and 1996, a survey was organized each quarter, and France participated at the survey of the third quarter.

### 2.3. Previously published research data relating to the project :

Publications and report are listed in Annex 1.

- After each survey, a descriptive report of the cruise is done,
- A large number of ICES International Working Groups use these data :
  - Working Group for Regional Ecosystem Description Working Group on Assessment of New MoU Species
  - Working Group on Fish Ecology
  - Working Group on Methods of Fish Stock Assessments
  - Working Group on Oceanic Hydrography
  - Study group on Stock Identity and Management Units of Whiting
  - Study Group on Risk Assessment and Management Advice
  - Study Group on Survey Trawl Standardisation
  - Study Group on the North Sea Benthos Project 2000
  - Regional Ecosystem Study Group for the North Sea
  - Report of the ICES/IOC Steering Group on GOOS (SGGOOS)
  - Planning Group on North Sea Pilot Project NORSEPP (PGNSP)
  - Planning Group on North Sea Cod and Plaice Egg Surveys in the North Sea
  - Herring Assessment Working Group for the area South of 62° N

- Working Group on the assessment of demersal stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak.
  - STECF Sub-group SGRST.
  - International Bottom Trawl Survey Working Group.
- When the results of all countries are collected by ICES in Copenhagen, an annual report is produced by the members of the International Bottom Trawl Survey Working Group.

### 3 - METHODS AND MEANS TO BE USED

#### 3.1. Particular of vessel

Name : *Thalassa*

Nationality : French

Owner : Ifremer

Operator : Genavir

Overall length : 74,5 m

Maximum draught : 5,8 m

Gross tonnage : 2 803 UMS

Propulsion : Diesel Electric

Maximum speed : 11 Knots

Call sign : FNFP

Method and capability of communication (including telex, frequencies) :

*Inmarsat B* : Tel : 00.870.3.227.297.21 - Fax : 00.870.3.227.297.30

*Inmarsat B2* : Tel : 00.870.3.227.297.50 - Fax : 00.870.3.227.297.60

*Itinéris* : 06.07.32.44.87 (standard auto) - 06.16.87.10.69 (captain)

*Telex Inmarsat C1* : 058x.4.227.297.10 - *Telex Inmarsat C2* : 058x.4.227.297.11

(Atlantic East : 0581 ; Atlantic West : 0584 ; Pacific : 0582 ; Ocean Indian: 0583)

email : [TL.Commandant@thalassa.ifremer.fr](mailto:TL.Commandant@thalassa.ifremer.fr)

Name of master : Cdt Michel Delbarre

Number of crew : 25

Number of scientists on board : 15 to 18

#### 3.2. Aircraft or other craft to be used in the project :

No

#### 3.3. Particulars of methods and scientific instruments :

Types of samples and data	Methods to be used	Instruments to be used
Samples of various fishes by bottom trawl (see chart)	Bottom trawl <with a double codend in 20 mm meshsize (stretched)	(GOV 36/47) with a double codent in 20 mm meshsize (stretched)
Samples of herring and sprat larvae in the Southern North Sea	Sampling during the night with a net for herring and sprat larvae	A net (MIK)
Samples of water each trawling for measuring temperature and salinity	Hydrology after each bottom trawl samples	CTD (Seabird SBE 19)
Samples of fish eggs to know eggs areas in the Southern North Sea	Sea water is pumped at 3 meters under water surface (internal pump) and filtered in order to sort fish eggs	Continuous Fish Eggs Sampler
Acoustic records	With a sounder, acoustic data will be recorded during hauls and during transects	Sounder : ER 60.

SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT

Coastal state : UK

Port call : No

List scientific work by function	Water column including sediment sampling of the seabed	Fisheries research within fishing limits	Research concerning the natural resources of the continental shelf or its physical characteristics	Distance from coast
Trawling	No	Yes	No	Within 12 nm : No Between 12-200 nm : Yes Beyond 200 nm : No
Towed instruments	No	Yes	No	Within 12 nm : No Between 12-200 nm : Yes Beyond 200 nm : No
Echo sounding	No	Yes	No	Within 12 nm : No Between 12-200 nm : Yes Beyond 200 nm : No
Samples with a larval net	No	Yes	No	Within 12 nm : No Between 12-200 nm : Yes Beyond 200 nm : No

3.4. Indicates whether harmful substances will be used :

No

3.5. Indicate whether drilling will be carried out :

No

3.6. Indicate whether explosives will be used :

No

**4 - INSTALLATIONS AND EQUIPMENTS**

**Details of installations and equipments (dates of laying, servicing, recovery, exact locations and depth)**

No installations

**5 - GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS**

**5.1. Indicate geographical areas in which the project is to be conducted (with reference in latitude and longitude) :**

English Channel – between 49°30/51°N and 00°/2° E  
South of North Sea - between 51°N/56°30N and 3°W/9°E

**5.2. Attach chart(s) at an appropriate scale showing the geographical areas of the intended work and, as far as practicable, the positions of intended stations, the tracks of survey lines, and the locations of installations and equipment :**

Each year, Thalassa samples the Southern part of the North Sea. (Figure 1). In 2007, the same rectangles will be covered during the survey. In each square, one haul will be made, but more hauls (2 or 3) will be done in the area south of 53° N.

In addition, hauls in the area located in the Eastern Channel (South of 55° N) will be also covered (Figure 2).

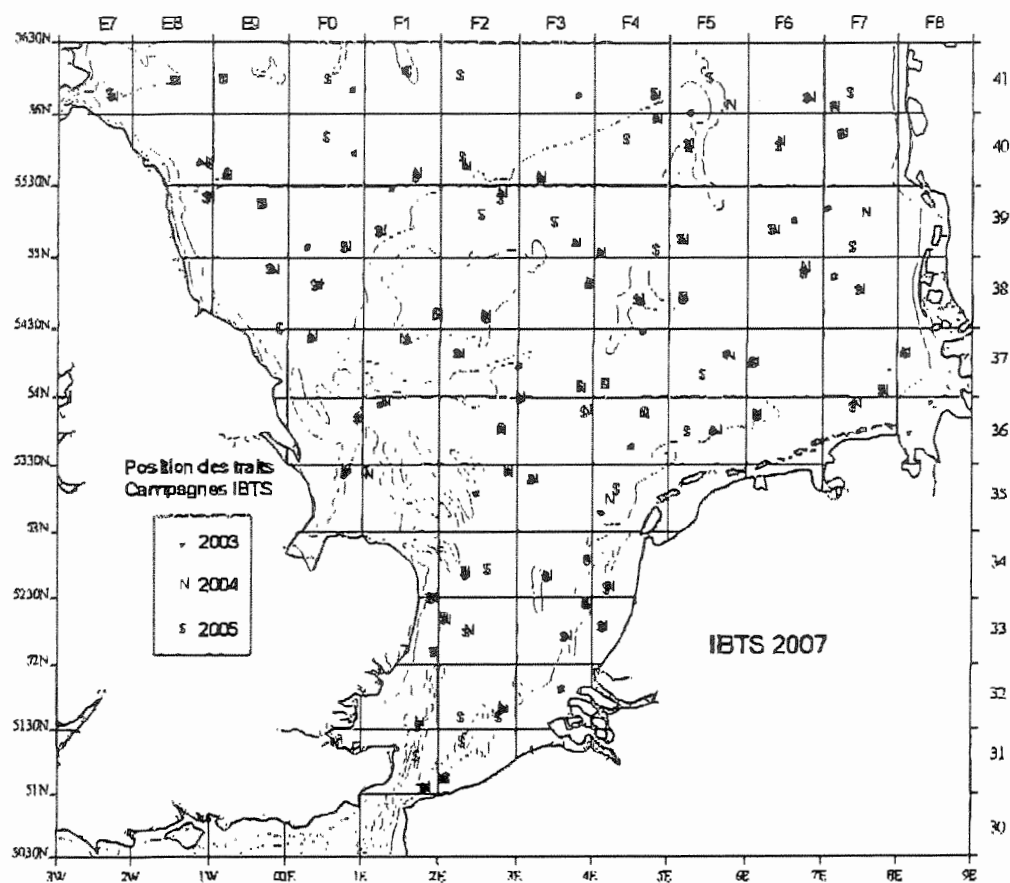


Figure 1 : Area covered during IBTS (trawls during the day and larval stations during the night). Trawl stations done in 2003, 2004 and 2005 are indicated on the map. Generally, the position is the same each year.



Figure 2 : Area (in grey) which will be covered at the beginning or at the end of the survey

**6 - DATES**

**6.1 Expected dates of first entry into and final departure from the research area of the research vessel :**

entry date : January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2004

departure date : February 21<sup>th</sup>, 2004

**6.2 Indicate if multiple entry is expected :**

More than two weeks are necessary to do the work in the U.K area. But it is impossible to planned exactly when the vessel will be in U.K. area. During all this period more entries could be possible.

**7 - PORTS CALLS**

**7.1. Dates and names of intended ports of call in United Kingdom .**

No call is planned in this country during the cruise

**7.2. Any special logistical requirements at ports of call :**

**7.3. Name/Address/Telephone of shipping agent (if available)**

**8 - PARTICIPATION**

**8.1. Extent of which United Kingdom will be enabled to participate or to be represented in the research project :**

The R/V CIROLANA and R/V SCOTIA from United Kingdom participate to this cruise and sample some area in the North sea during the same period than France.

The participation of UK people is possible on Thalassa, and exchange of scientist from countries which are involved in this program strongly recommended.

**8.2. Proposed dates and ports for embarkation/disembarkation :**

The IBTS is planned as follow :

The Thalassa will leave Brest the end of January and after acoustic calibration in French waters, will go to the English Channel and to North Sea. The cruise will be divided in two parts :



**1 part :**

**Start** date : January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Brest (France)  
**End** date : February 07<sup>th</sup>, 2007 IJmuiden (The Netherlands)

**2 part :**

**Start** date : February 08<sup>th</sup> 2007 IJmuiden (The Netherlands)  
**End** date : February 21<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Boulogne (France)

**9 - ACCESS TO DATA, SAMPLES AND RESEARCH RESULTS**

**9.1. Expected dates of submission to United Kingdom of preliminary reports which should include the expected dates of submission of the final results :**

**9.2. Proposed means for access by United Kingdom to data and samples :**

All data and reports are available to ICES (Copenhagen)

**9.3. Proposed means of making research internationally available :**

The IBTS is an International programme and United Kingdom participate.