

AMBASSADE DE FRANCE
LONDRES

Le Ministre Conseiller

n° 981

The French Embassy presents its compliments to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Protocol Division, and has the honour to forward to it an application for an authorization for the maritime scientific research vessel "Thalassa" of IFREMER to operate in United Kingdom territorial waters (English Channel, 49°00'N to 51°00'N and 5°00'W to 2°00'E ; South of North Sea, 51°00'N to 56°30'N and 3°00'W to 9°00'E) from 13th January 2011 to 18th February 2011.

The aim of the research survey "IBTS 11" carried out in the English Channel and the South of North Sea is to record reliable data on the state of fish stocks. The fish spawning areas, the distribution of the winter planctonic community and of the benthic macro invertebrate communities are also under study.

No harmful substances and explosives will be used. No drilling will be carried out. Sampling will be made by trawling, pumping and by using a net. Observations will be performed by in situ measurements and by using a submarine camera and acoustic records.

The French Embassy avails itself of this opportunity to express to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office the assurance of its highest consideration./.

London, 22 September 2010.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Law of the Sea Section, Legal Advisers
K1.197 - Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2AH

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

Date : 30/05/2010

1 - GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1. Cruise name and/or number : IBTS/11 on the research vessel *Thalassa*

1.2. Sponsoring institution :

Name : Ifremer
Address : Siège social : Technopolis 40
155, rue Jean-Jacques Rousseau - 92138 Issy les Moulineaux - France
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

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

Name	Mr Ken Coull	Mr Brian Harley
Address	SOAFD Marine Laboratory P.O. Box 101 Victoria Road Aberdeen AB9 8DB	MAFF, Fisheries Laboratory Lowestoft Suffolk NR33 OHT
Phone	+44 1502 562244	+44 1224 295507
Fax	+44 1502513 865	+44 1224 295511

1.5. Submitting officer:

Name : Oliver Quedec
Address : Centre Ifremer de Brest - Secteur Programmation de la Flotte
B.P. 70 - 29280 Plouzané
Phone : 33 (0)2.98.22.44.53 Fax : 33(0)2.98.22.44.55
Email : Olivier.Quedec@ifremer.fr

2 - DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

2.1. Nature and objectives of the project :

The knowledge of the state of fish stocks is a necessary prerequisite to define management measures. Analyses made during the IBTS (International Bottom Trawl Survey) cruise are useful to elaborate the propositions by the ICES working groups (International Council for the Exploration of the Sea). Then, these propositions are examined by the European Union which defines management of fish stocks.

Thus, a real-time diagnosis on the targeted populations is obtain throught IBTS surveys. For that, working methods were defined by all countries involved in this programme : for example, the use of a standard bottom trawl and the sampling of all the areas by two different research ships. In order to determine indices of herring and sprat larvae (0 groups), each participating vessel operates with a MIK net during the night (Methot Isaac Kidd).

For 20 years, the southern part of the North sea has been allocated to the French Research Vessel ; but since 2007, the Eastern Channel has been integrated the whole sampled area. As interactions and circulation of stock between these two areas are important, Eastern Channel is often associated the North Sea for stock assessment. Herring for example which is exploited all the year in the North sea comes into the Channel during November and December for reproduction. More precise information on larvae indices will be obtain when this area is sampled.

In addition to the works done for the IBTS programm, an acoustic prospection in the Channel, a study on fish spawning areas, using the Continuous Underwater Fish Eggs Sampler device (CUFES), and a species-specific winter abundance and distribution of the winter planctonic community (phyto and zoo plancton) are done by the Research Ship Thalassa, and a monitoting study on the structure and distribution of the benthic macro invertebrates communities.

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 date relating to the project :

Publications and report are listed 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.
 - 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 : 6,10 m
 Gross tonnage : 2 803 UMS
 Propulsion : Diesel Electric
 Average operating cruising speed and survey speed : 11 knots
 Call sign : FNFP
 Method and capability of communication (including telex, frequencies) :
 - GSM : 33.6.07.32.44.87 (bridge) - 33.6.16.87.10.69 (captain)
 Fax : 33.6.20.18.50.20
 Inmarsat : Tel : 00.870.7.731.600.16 (bridge) - Fax : 00.870.7.831.600.57
 - Vsat : Tel : 33.2.98.22.48.05 (bridge) - Fax : 33.2.98.22.48.06
 - Telex Inmarsat C1 : 058x.4.227.297.10 - Telex Inmarsat C2 : 058x.4.227.297.11
 (Codes: East Atlantic: 0581 - West Atlantic: 0584 - Pacific : 0582 -
 Indian Ocean: 0581)
 email : TL.Commandant@thalassa.ifremer.fr
 Email Telex C1 : ThalassaC1@skyfile-c.com
 Email Telex C2 : ThalassaC2@skyfile-c.com
 Name of master :
 Number of crew : 25
 Number of scientists on board : 25

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 (Methot Isaac Kidd)
Temperature and salinity measurements	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 Underway Fish Eggs Sampler
Samples of zooplankton and phytoplankton	Vertical samples during the night with a net	A vertical net WP2
Acoustic records	With a sounder, acoustic data will be recorded during hauls and during transects	Sounder : ER 60 and Multibeam echosounder ME 70

Sub marine video	In the English Channel and southern part of the North sea a camera will be towed after hauls to determinate benthic fauna	Details on the device used are available at : http://www.ifremer.fr/ezprod/index.php/dyneco/moyens_outils/instrumentation_in_situ/laboratoire_benthos
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Scientific Equipment

Coastal state : United Kingdoms
Port call : No in United Kingdoms

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 ⁽¹⁾ : Yes Between 12-200 nm : Yes Beyond 200 nm : No
Towed instruments	No	Yes	No	Within 12 nm ⁽¹⁾ : Yes Between 12-200 nm : Yes Beyond 200 nm : No
Echo sounding	No	Yes	No	Within 12 nm ⁽¹⁾ : Yes Between 12-200 nm : Yes Beyond 200 nm : No
Samples with a larval net	No	Yes	No	Within 12 nm ⁽¹⁾ : Yes Between 12-200 nm : Yes Beyond 200 nm : No
Seabed photos	No	Yes	No	Within 12 nm ⁽¹⁾ : Yes Between 12-200 nm : Yes Beyond 200 nm : No

⁽¹⁾ Between 3 and 12 nm. No trawling stations or any other scientific work is planned within 3nm. The chart in section 5.2 of this document shows the positions of the stations scheduled during the survey

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°00/51°N and 5°W/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 2010, the same rectangles will be covered during the survey. In each square, one or 2 hauls will be made in the area south of 53° N.

The English Channel was partly covered since 2007 (Eastern part). In 2010, it is planned to work also in the Western part as it is shown on figure 2 (English Channel and North sea).

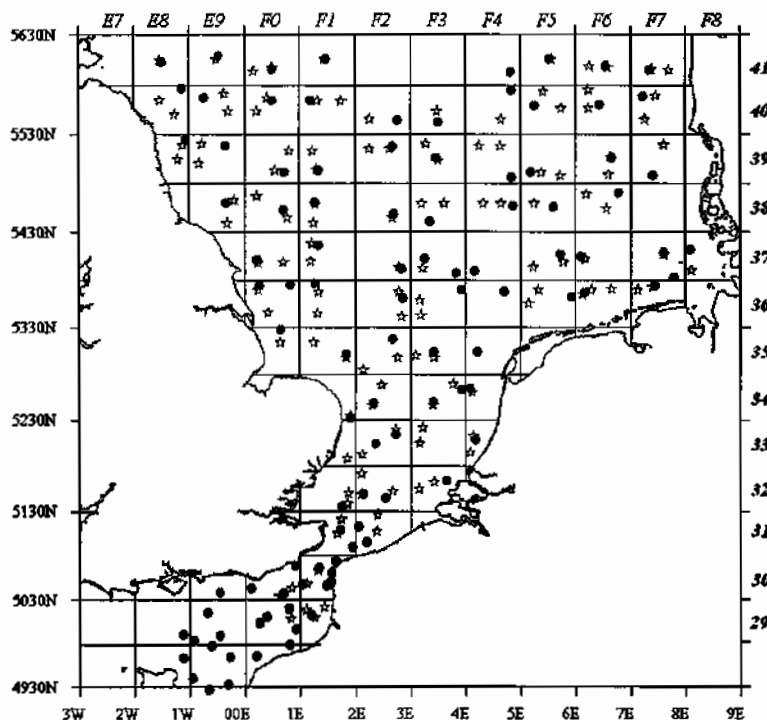


Figure 1 : Southern North sea and Eastern Channel.

Area covered during IBTS 2010. Trawl stations are indicated by blue points. The same area will be covered in 2011 and generally the same stations are trawled every years. Positions of larval net station (done by night) are indicated by the stars. Nevertheless, these positions are not fixed and these stations can be carried out in different places. In all cases, station will never be done within the 3 nautical miles

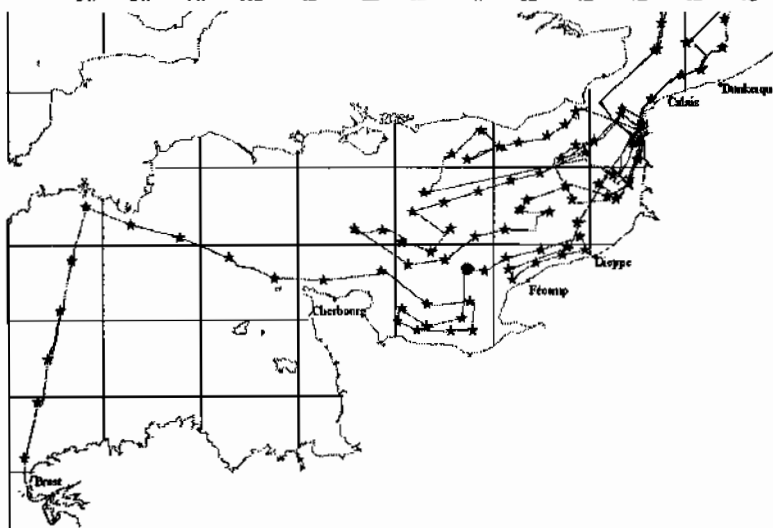


Figure 2 : Western Channel.

Positions of hydrological stations done in 2010.

In 2011, It is planned to cover the same area before sampling in the North Sea

6 - DATES

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

entry date : 13 January 2011

departure date : 18 February 2011

6.2 Indicate if multiple entry is expected :

Two weeks or more are necessary to do the work in this area. But it is impossible to planned exactly when the vessel will be in area. During this period more entries could be possible.

7 - PORTS CALLS

7.1. Dates and names of intended ports of call in United Kingdoms.

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 Kingdoms shall be enabled to participate or to be represented in the research project :

A research Vessel from United Kingdoms participates in this cruise and samples some area in the North sea during the same period than France.

The participation of United Kingdoms 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 throught the English Channel and to North Sea. The cruise will be divided in as followed :

1 part :

Start date : 13 January 2011 Brest (France)
End date : 1rst February 2011 IJmuiden (The Netherlands)
A short call is planned in Boulogne (France) the 25th of January

2 part :

Start date : 2nd February 2011 IJmuiden (The Netherlands)
End date : 14 February 2011 Boulogne sur mer (France)

9 - ACCESS TO DATA, SAMPLES AND RESEARCH RESULTS

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

9.2. Proposed means for access by United Kingdoms 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 programm and **United Kingdoms** participate.

List of the scientific team

The definitive scientific team is not yet known but will be composed of 18 to 20 scientists from IFREMER and students from university. Some people will participate only to a half of the survey (a call is planned in IJmuiden in The Netherlands).

At this time, names known are :

Yves Vérin - Ifremer Boulogne.

Didier Le Roy - Ifremer Boulogne.

Jean-Paul Delpech – Ifremer Boulogne

Elvire Antajan – Ifremer Boulogne

Youen Vermard – Ifremer Boulogne

ANNEX 1

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