

**CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE  
SCIENCE  
LOWESTOFT LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK NR33 OHT  
2005 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME**

**PROGRAMME: RV CORYSTES: CRUISE 1**

**STAFF:**

J Ellis (SIC)  
M Boon  
T Dinmore  
K Warr  
H Bates  
S Bolam  
M Curtis

**DURATION:** 29 June– 7 July

**LOCATION:** Bristol Channel, Celtic Sea

**AIM:** To carry out a benthic and trawl survey of sandy biotopes in the Bristol Channel and Celtic Sea, in support of project AE1148, to:

- a. Examine the distribution, size composition, abundance and diversity of fish, epibenthos, infauna and meiofauna on sandy biotopes;
- b. Evaluate catch variability and the degree of replicate sampling required to determine accurately indices that may be applied to benthic communities;
- c. Collect sedimentary and biological samples for further studies supporting the development of EcoQOs for benthic communities

RV CORYSTES will sail from Swansea on 29 June and proceed to Carmarthen Bay and the Outer Bristol Channel/Celtic Sea to commence sampling of sandy biotopes. Replicate tows using a variety of gears (corer, grab, Agassiz trawl, 2m beam trawl and 4m beam trawl) will be undertaken at the main stations, with grab and trawl samples also collected from stations 2nm and 6nm NW, NE, SW and SE of the main stations. RV CORYSTES will dock in Swansea on 7 July.

**GEAR:**

List distributed separately and marked to relevant individuals for action.

J Ellis  
26 May 2005

INITIALLED SIR

**DISTRIBUTION:**  
Basic list  
Staff on Cruise