

**THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE
SCIENCE
LOWESTOFT LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK, NR33 0HT.
2005 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME**

PROGRAMME: RV CORYSTES: CRUISE 2/05

STAFF:

J Dann (SIC)

G Course (2IC)

S Warnes

T Dinmore

A Tidd

S Warne

J Pettigrew

A N Other (22nd - 24th July)

DURATION: 22nd July - 9th August

LOCALITY: North Sea (IVc), English Channel (VIIId).

AIMS:

To undertake a beam trawl survey in the southern North Sea and eastern Channel as part of an ICES co-ordinated research programme to:

- (i) obtain fisheries independent data on the distribution and abundance of commercial flatfish species.
- (ii) collect biological data, including maturity and weight at age, of commercial species.
- (iii) derive age compositions of commercial flatfish, whilst at sea, for use in stock assessment.
- (iv) carry out sampling to satisfy the requirements of the EU data regulations.
- (v) identify the epibenthos by-catch taken in the 4-metre beam trawl and to quantify 12 species as agreed at the International Beam trawl Study Group.
- (vi) carry out detailed survey of sole distribution in selected areas of VIIId and IVc.
- (vii) collect otoliths from "0" group flatfish for micro milling experiments.

(viii) carry out survey work for Dave Limpenny on contract C2282 EEC Habitat Mapping project.

PLAN:

CORYSTES will sail from Belfast on a suitable tide on Friday 22nd July. The SIC and AN Other from SIGs will set up and test the electronic equipment whilst on route to Weymouth where the remaining staff will embark. The vessel will dock in Weymouth on the morning tide of 24th July and depart on the evening tide after the fishing gear is loaded and rigged. After an overnight steam to French waters sampling will commence at first light the following day. Sampling in the Channel will continue westwards, along the French coast, after which the vessel will proceed to the English sector. Sampling will continue eastwards, along the English coast, until about 1st August. The vessel will then proceed overnight to the northern most stations in the Southern North Sea. The North Sea stations will be worked in a southerly direction finishing off the Belgian coast on or around 6th August. Once the main survey is completed the vessel will carry out a 2-day habitat mapping survey for Burnham working westwards along the Channel to dock in Weymouth on the afternoon tide of the 8th August. Staff will travel back to Lowestoft the following day.

J Dann
16th June 2005

INITIALLED: R Millner

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic list +
Staff on cruise

Fishing skipper CORYSTES
W Vanhee, Belgium
Frans v Beek, Netherlands
A Tetard, France
Kent and Essex, Sussex, Southern, Devon and Cornwall SFC
DARD Northern Ireland