

**CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE
SCIENCE
LOWESTOFT LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK NR33 0HT**

2004 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME: RV CORYSTES: CRUISE 11/04

STAFF:

J Dann (SIC)

M Easey (2IC)

G Course

T Dinmore

S Warne

D Brown

K Sullivan

J Pettigrew

James Kennedy (Student)

DURATION:

26th July – 9th August

LOCALITY:

North Sea (IVc), English Channel (VIId).

AIMS:

To undertake a beam trawl survey in the southern North Sea and eastern Channel as part of an ICES co-ordinated research programme and in support of the EU Data Collection Regulation.

- (i) To obtain fisheries independent data on the distribution and abundance of commercial flatfish species.
- (ii) To collect biological data, including maturity and weight at age, of commercial species.
- (iii) To derive age compositions of commercial flatfish, whilst at sea, for use in stock assessment.
- (iv) To carry out sampling to satisfy the requirements of the EU data regulations.
- (v) To 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) To carry out detailed survey of sole distribution in selected areas of VIId and IVc.
- (vii) To collect live spider crabs for Cambridge University.

- (viii) To collect specimens of squat lobster for PhD student Queens University Belfast.
- (ix) To collect live plaice for tank experiments P Witthames.
- (x) To collect otoliths from "0" group flatfish for micro milling experiments.

PLAN:

CORYSTES will sail from Lowestoft on the afternoon tide of Monday 26th July and proceed to French waters where sampling will commence. 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 2nd August. The vessel will then proceed to the Thames where sampling at standard positions will continue until about the 6th August, after which a further 24-hour detailed survey will be carried out in the Thames Estuary. Sampling will continue at positions en route to Lowestoft where the vessel will dock on the afternoon tide of Monday 9th August.

J Dann
24th May 2004

INITIALLED:

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic list +
J Dann (SIC)
M Easey (2IC)
G Course
T Dinmore
S Warne
D Brown
K Sullivan
J Pettigrew
P Whitthames
Fishing skipper CORYSTES
W Vanhee, Belgium
Frans v Beek, Netherlands
Joel Vigneau, France
Kent and Essex, Sussex, Southern, Devon and Cornwall SFC