

CEFAS FISHERIES LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK, ENGLAND

2002/2003 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME: RV CORYSTES: CRUISE 14/02

STAFF

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DURATION

20/10/02 – 21/10/02

LOCALITY

West Gabbard and Warp Anchorage

AIMS

1. To recover and re-deploy SmartBuoy moorings and guard buoys at the West Gabbard (52°00'N, 02°05'E) and The Warp and collect calibration samples at both sites (AE004).
2. To recover, service and re-deploy Directional Waverider at West Gabbard (C1740).
3. To recover ADCP frame at West Gabbard (C1740).

REPORT (all times are Greenwich Mean Time)

Corystes sailed on 20/10/02, two days earlier than planned, due to forecast bad weather for 22/10/02 and to give the best possible chance of recovering the Waverider that was adrift and tracking south-east across the Southern North Sea towards Belgium or Netherlands.

Sailed 06:30 and steamed to the West Gabbard where a surface water sample was collected for calibration of SmartBuoy instruments. The SmartBuoy, ADCP frame and the remains of the Waverider mooring were recovered successfully over slack water period. The SmartBuoy and replacement guard buoy were deployed and a further two water samples were collected.

Based on satellite data (emailed automatically to Corystes from CEFAS), we steamed towards the predicted location of Waverider buoy. Approaching the target area the ARGOS tracking device identified the buoy and we located it around dusk. It was successfully recovered at 51°42'N, 002°55'E (PA) and found to be undamaged and re-deployable after removing data and reconfiguring.

Steamed back to West Gabbard and successfully re-deployed the Waverider with a new mooring in 'fresh' conditions.

Steamed to the Warp overnight and recovered and re-deployed the SmartBuoy and guard buoy at slack water. Surface water samples were collected from prior recovery and post deployment.

Returning to Lowestoft, proceeded via the West Gabbard site to check positioning of Waverider and to collect further water sample. Docked at 21:00 on 21st October, with all aims completed successfully.

I would like to thank everyone onboard Corystes for their expertise and professionalism, especially as the trip had to be brought forward two days which, I know, caused inconvenience in many cases.

Dave Pearce  
(Scientist-in-Charge)  
21/10/02