

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

**2004 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME**

**PROGRAMME: RV CORYSTES: CRUISE 14/04**

**STAFF:**

Part A

I Holmes (SIC)  
M Boon (2IC)  
M Parker-Humphreys  
J Smith  
S Milligan  
R Scott  
M Brown  
J Kennedy (Liverpool Univ.)

Part B

M Boon (SIC)  
M Parker-Humphreys (2IC)  
J Smith  
G Course  
S Kupschus  
J Keable  
R Humphreys

**DURATION:**

8 September – 10 October 2004

**LOCATION:**

Irish Sea (VIIa), Bristol Channel & Celtic Sea (VIIfg), and Western English Channel (VIIe)

**AIMS:**

1. To carry out a 4m beam-trawl survey of groundfish to i) obtain fisheries independent data on the distribution and abundance of commercial flatfish species, and ii) derive age compositions of sole and plaice for use in the assessment of stock size.
2. To collect biological data including maturity and weight at age of sole, plaice, lemon sole and other commercially important finfish species.
3. To determine the distribution and relative abundance of juvenile and adult sole and plaice.
4. To quantify epibenthos using 4m beam trawl by-catch.
5. To collect surface sea-water samples for processing on return to Lowestoft for the analysis caesium and tritium. (AE001) (D McCubbin EFS).
6. To collect fecundity samples in support of plaice recruitment project (CO423).
7. To collect fish samples in support of other CEFAS projects and training courses.

**PLAN:**

CORYSTES will sail from Lowestoft on the early evening tide on 8<sup>th</sup> September and proceed to the start of the beam trawl survey grid in the Bristol Channel. On completion of the Bristol Channel and Celtic Sea stations, CORYSTES will proceed to the Irish Sea. A student involved in

fecundity sampling of plaice will be joining CORYSTES from an Isle of Man port. CORYSTES will then commence the Irish Sea survey grid. An exchange of scientific staff will take place in Dublin on the 24<sup>th</sup> September. On completion of the Irish Sea and Bristol Channel survey, CORYSTES will proceed to the Western English Channel to commence the VIIe survey grid. On completion of this survey, CORYSTES will return to Lowestoft.

I D Holmes  
19 July 2004

INITIALLED: TWB 21/7/04

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List +

I Holmes	R S Millner
M Boon	S Flatman
M Parker Humphreys	R Briggs (DARDNI, Belfast)
J Smith	P Connolly (DOM Dublin)
G Course	J Vigneau (IFREMER, Port-en-Bessin)
S Kupschus	FCO (for Republic of Ireland & France)
S Milligan	Sea Fisheries Committees:
R Scott	Cumbria North
M Brown	North Western and North Wales
J Keable	South Wales
R Humphreys	Devon
J Kennedy (Liverpool Univ.)	Cornwall