

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

**2007 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME**

**PROGRAMME: RV CORYSTES: SURVEY 1/07**

**STAFF:**

G Course (SIC)  
A Tidd (2IC)  
S Warne  
J Smith  
T Maxwell  
A Little  
L Clancy

**DURATION:**

21st July – 4th August

**LOCALITY:**

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

**AIMS:**

1. To undertake a beam trawl survey in the southern North Sea and eastern Channel as part of an ICES co-ordinated research programme.
2. To obtain fisheries independent data on the distribution and abundance of commercial flatfish species.
3. To collect biological data, including maturity and weight at age, of commercial species.
4. To derive age compositions of commercial flatfish, whilst at sea, for use in stock assessment.
5. To carry out sampling to satisfy the requirements of the EU data regulations.
6. To identify the epibenthos by-catch taken in the 4-metre beam trawl and to quantify 12 species as agreed at the Beam Trawl Working Group.
7. To carry out detailed survey of sole distribution in selected areas of VIId and IVc.

**PLAN:**

CORYSTES will sail from Belfast on a suitable tide on 18<sup>th</sup> July. The vessel will dock in Portland on the morning tide of the day prior to sailing, 20<sup>th</sup> July, and depart on the morning tide of 21<sup>st</sup> July after the gear is loaded, checked and rigged. Sampling will commence in the

English sector of VIId. Sampling will continue eastwards, along the English coast, until about 25<sup>th</sup> July. The vessel will then proceed overnight to the western end of the French sector and survey eastwards. On completion of the VIId survey the North Sea stations will be worked in a northerly direction finishing off the Belgian coast on or around 3<sup>rd</sup> August. Once the survey is completed the vessel will proceed to Portland docking there on the morning of 4<sup>th</sup> August.

G Course  
28/06/2007

INITIALLED:  
BH

DISTRIBUTION:  
Basic list +  
Cruise staff  
Fishing Skipper Corystes  
W Demare, Belgium  
Frans v Beek, Netherlands  
Joel Vigneau, France  
Kent and Essex, Sussex, Southern SFCs  
DARD Northern Ireland