

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

**2003 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME:**

PROGRAMME: RV CORYSTES 03/03

STAFF:

C Fox (SIC)  
N Bunn (CRP)  
P Davison  
M Shaw

C Burt  
M Eade  
K Sullivan  
Clive Satchell  
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DURATION:

17/02/2003 – 07/03/2003

LOCATION:

Irish Sea (VIIa)

AIMS:

1. To carry out plankton surveys in the Irish Sea to determine cod and plaice egg spawning. The identification of gadoid eggs (cod, haddock and whiting) will trial a newly developed genetic identification method.
2. To collect zooplankton samples in eastern Irish Sea for fish larval feeding and copepod production studies
3. To undertake calibration runs for the high-speed plankton sampler pup net system.
4. To collect comparative zooplankton samples using ring nets and the high-speed plankton sampler pup net system.

PLAN:

Staff will load equipment on Friday proceeding embarkation. Corystes will depart on the morning tide (09:00) of 17 February and proceed via the Channel to the Irish Sea.

A plankton grid covering area VIIa will be worked using Lowestoft Gulf VII high-speed samplers. Gadoid eggs will be sorted on board and preserved individually in ethanol. The remainder of each sample will be preserved using 4% buffered formaldehyde. Dependent upon weather additional tasks 3 or 4 will be undertaken prior to a mid cruise break.

Mid-cruise break will take place in either Douglas or Whitehaven dependent upon weather.

Following the mid-cruise break, the plankton grid will be re-worked and additional tasks 3 and 4 completed.

Corystes will return to Lowestoft to dock on 8 March.

A watch system will be worked whilst at sea (three scientific staff per watch).

C J Fox  
8 January 2003

**DISTRIBUTION:**

Basic List +

Steven Milligan

Dr R Nash (PEML)

Dr Mike Armstrong (DARD)

Dr Mike Kaiser (Menai Bridge)

Sea Fisheries Committee

North Wales