

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

2008 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME: RV CORYSTES: SURVEY 3/08

STAFF:

S Walmsley (SIC)
I Holmes (2IC)
M Etherton
J Pettigrew
B Hatton
L Readdy
S Armstrong
D Duggan (Ireland)

DURATION:

16 September – 6 October 2008

LOCATION:

Irish Sea (VIIa), Bristol Channel & Celtic Sea (VIIfg).

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 as part of CEFAS' requirements under the EU data regulations.
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 of caesium and tritium (AE001) (C Smedley).
6. To collect fish samples in support of other CEFAS projects and training courses.
7. To collect histological samples and GSI information for roundfish maturity studies.

PLAN:

CEFAS staff will join CORYSTES in Belfast during the evening of the 15th September. Loading and setting up of all gear and associated equipment will take place on the morning of the 16th September and CORYSTES will then sail in the afternoon on the same day. CORYSTES will immediately head south, working offshore fishing stations en-route to the first major sampling 'grid' in the inner Bristol Channel (BCI). Upon completion, CORYSTES will then head north fishing stations en-route. The fishing survey will continue by working the Irish Sea south and

north sectors (ISS/ISN). At this point of the survey, CORYSTES may make a port call to take on fresh water/supplies as required – location appropriate to the remaining survey positions (Dublin may be the preferred location). CORYSTES will then continue to complete the Irish Sea West and St. Georges Channels fishing stations (ISW/SGC) before heading back into the Celtic Sea to complete a grid of fishing stations in the Bristol Channel outer sector (BCO). It is hoped that as some point during the survey, the CORYSTES will complete a ‘grid’ of water sampling positions in the Severn Estuary.

CORYSTES will dock in Swansea on the 6th October. Unloading of equipment and samples will be carried out on the 6th October and CEFAS staff will depart for Lowestoft later that day.

S A Walmsley
28 July 2008

INITIALLED: BFMH 28/7/08

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List +
S Walmsley
I Holmes
M Etherton
J Pettigrew
B Hatton
L Readdy
S Armstrong
D Duggan

S Flatman
B Harley
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A Toland (HEYN)
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Sea Fisheries Committees:
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