

**DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS
CEFAS, LOWESTOFT LABORATORY, SUFFOLK, ENGLAND**

2003 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME: RV CORYSTES: CRUISE 06/03

STAFF:	JD Metcalfe (SIC)	S Hetherington
	C Burt	C Stewart
	O Heffernan	J Blanchard
	J van der Kooij	S Mackinson

DURATION: 1 - 17 June

LOCALITY: North Sea

AIMS:

1. To use acoustic & fishing survey methods to estimate the abundance and distribution of sandeels on sandeel fishing grounds on the western Dogger Bank.
2. To use fishing survey methods (Bongo net) to estimate the abundance and distribution of plankton on the sandeel fishing grounds on the western Dogger Bank.
3. To use fishing survey methods to estimate the abundance and distribution of predatory fish feeding on sandeels on the sandeel fishing grounds on the western Dogger Bank.
4. To carry out a shipboard experiment to determine gut evacuation rates of sandeels.

PLAN: (all times are British Summer Time)

CORYSTES will sail on the evening tide (23:29 h) on Sunday 1st June 2003 and proceed to the south western end of the Dogger Bank (NW Riff) and commence acoustic survey for sandeels (Aims 1), fishing survey of plankton (Aim 2) and sandeel predators (Aim 3) and QTC survey of sediment type (Aim 4). Gut evacuation experiments (Aim 5) will take place as convenient.

JD Metcalfe
2 May 2003

INITIALLED: ECEP

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic list +

JD Metcalfe	S Hetherington	C Burt	J van der Kooij
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Clerk, Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee