

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

**2014/15 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME**

**PROGRAMME: RV CEFAS ENDEAVOUR Survey 4/15**

**STAFF:**

<b>Part 1</b>	<b>Part 2</b>
Ian Holmes (SIC)	Sophy McCully (SIC)
Joanne Smith	Richard Ayers
Joana Silva	Paul Dolder
Gary Burt	Louise Cox
Rosslyn McIntyre	Sophie Lozach
Marc Whybrow	Marc Whybrow
Charlotte Jennings	Gary Thomas
James Pettigrew	Jon Ashworth
Cian Derbyshire (Irish Obs.)	Cian Derbyshire (Irish Obs.)

**DURATION:** Part 1 26<sup>th</sup> February to 10<sup>th</sup> March (Swansea to Falmouth)  
Part 2 11<sup>th</sup> February to 24<sup>th</sup> March (Falmouth to Falmouth)

**LOCATION:** Celtic Sea, South Western Approaches (ICES Division VII f,g,h), Western English Channel (ICES Divisions VIIe,h)

**PRIMARY AIMS:**

1. To carry out a beam trawl survey of the Celtic Sea, South Western Approaches and Western Channel. Deploying standardised 4m beam trawls (x2), ring nets, and water column profiler. Station selection will be based on a fully random stratified approach with the gears deployed at each station where appropriate.

Catches from the trawls will be processed to obtain information on:

- Distribution, size composition and relative abundance of fish, cephalopods, and benthic invertebrates.
- Age-length distribution of selected fish species.
- Biological parameters of selected species.

The data obtained from processing the trawl catches is collected in support of the EU Data Collection Framework (DCF) and will be submitted to ICES working groups and other biological studies.

2. To collect fisheries acoustic data at three operating frequencies (38, 120 & 200 kHz) and multibeam data continuously throughout the cruise.

## **SECONDARY AIMS**

3. Collect information on;
  - a. Distribution of macrobenthos
  - b. Distribution and classification of anthropogenic debris.
  - c. Distribution of fish in relation to their environment.
4. To collect full depth conductivity, temperature and depth profiles at each trawl station alongside surface and near-bottom water samples using a Niskin with ESM2 logger.
5. To continuously log sub-surface (3m) salinity, temperature, fluorometry and other environmental data using the 'Ferrybox'.
6. To record details of surface sightings of any marine mammals, sea turtles and large pelagic fish, and record observations on jellyfish aggregations
7. Collect water samples for caesium and tritium analysis under SLA22 (Trevor Baily to put on board prior to sailing from Lowestoft (Part 1 only).

## **Opportunistic Aims, these will be undertaken if survey progress and weather allow.**

8. To tag and release specimens of various commercially exploited skates (Rajidae) and other select elasmobranches.
9. Collect specimens of select species for genetic analysis and ID purposes as well as length weight measurements where still required.
10. Collect frozen specimens of Sepiolidae.
11. Collect histological specimens and photographs of gonad states for selected gadoid species for submission to WKMSGAD.

## **PLAN:**

It is anticipated that RV CEFAS Endeavour will sail from Swansea in the early hours of the 26th<sup>th</sup> of February; staff will travel to join the vessel 1 day prior to sailing. A mid survey staff exchange is planned at an as yet undecided location. Disembarkation will take place in a South West Port from where the next cruise will depart. Staff will return to Lowestoft by car.

## **GEAR:**

List distributed separately and marked to relevant individuals for action.

Ian Holmes (Sven Kupschus)  
Scientist In Charge  
17/02/2015

## **INITIALLED:**

Ian Holmes  
Stock Monitoring Survey Manager

## **DISTRIBUTION:**

S. Kupschus

Map of randomly selected stations for the 2015 sampling program (blue = intended; green = alternate stations)

