

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

**2009 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME**

**PROGRAMME: RV ENDEAVOUR: SURVEY 11/09**

**STAFF:**

R Ayers (SIC)

S Songer (2IC)

M Brown

A Little

D Peach

M Sherlock

J Walton

2 Students, Exeter University (to be confirmed)

**DURATION:**

17<sup>th</sup> July – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009

**LOCALITY:**

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

**PRIMARY 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, to satisfy the requirements of the EU data regulations.
4. 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.

**SECONDARY AIMS:**

5. To record length/weight data for all fish species sampled, time permitting.

**PLAN:**

The scientific crew will travel to Portland on the 16<sup>th</sup> July joining the Endeavour in the afternoon and staying onboard that night. Endeavour will sail from Portland on the morning tide of 17<sup>th</sup> July after the gear is loaded, checked and rigged.

Shakedown tows will be carried out before the start of the survey to ensure all systems are working correctly. Once complete, sampling will commence in the English sector of VIId and continue eastwards, along the English coast (see appendix 1), until about 21 July. The vessel will then proceed, overnight to the western end of the French sector and survey eastwards. On completion of the VIId survey on or around 27 July, the North Sea stations will be worked in a northerly direction and if time permits stations off the Belgian coast will be fished. All stations will be fished using a warp ratio of 3.5/4:1 if practical. The additional tows, as indicated on the map, will be picked up during the course of the survey, time permitting.

Stations 1, 11, 16, 21, 49 and 69 (see annex 2) are in areas with compulsory pilotage for the Endeavour. We are currently looking in to the practicalities and cost of getting a pilot to allow us to fish these stations. If this proves to be impractical other solutions will be sought.

On completion of the survey the vessel will dock in Lowestoft. This is expected to be on the evening of July 31st.

S Songer  
11/05/2009

INITIALLED:

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic list +

Cruise staff

Fishing Skipper Cefas Endeavour

W Demare, Belgium

Frans v Beek, Netherlands

Joel Vigneau, France

Kent and Essex, Sussex, Southern and Eastern SFCs

DARD Northern Ireland