

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

2014 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME: RV CEFAS ENDEAVOUR: SURVEY 18/14

STAFF:	Part One	Part Two
	I Holmes (SIC)	I Holmes (SIC)
	R Bush (2IC)	S Shaw (2IC)
	S Walmsley	S Walmsley
	S Shaw	T Gooding
	M Etherton	J Smith
	J Silva	O Williams
	M Soffker (7-13 Sept)	

DURATION: 7 September – 27 September 2014

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

AIMS:

1. To carry out a 4m beam-trawl survey of groundfish (Figure 1) to i) obtain fisheries independent data on the distribution and abundance of commercial flatfish species, and ii) derive age compositions of sole, plaice, cod and whiting for use in stock assessments.
2. To collect biological data including weight at age of sole, plaice and maturity and weight at age of lemon sole and other commercially important finfish species as part of CEFAS' requirements under the EU Data Collection Framework.
3. To determine the distribution and relative abundance of juvenile and adult sole and plaice.
4. To collect surface & bottom temperature/salinity data using CTD and Niskin Bottle.
5. To quantify epibenthos using 4m beam trawl by-catch.
6. Collect length/weight & maturity information using individual fish measurements, in support of the EU Data Collection Framework.
7. To collect surface sea-water samples for processing on return to Lowestoft for the analysis of tritium (AE001) (K Leonard - Cefas).
8. To collect fish samples in support of other Cefas and non-Cefas projects and training courses.
9. To collect water alkalinity and dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) and nutrient samples – (N Greenwood - Cefas)

PLAN:

RV Cefas Endeavour will sail from Lowestoft on the 7th September (on the evening tide - 2011hrs GMT) and will head directly to the first priority sampling 'grid' in the inner Bristol Channel (BCI). A member of the scientific complement will be put ashore by small work boat somewhere on the south Wales coast on or around 12th September. Upon completion of the BCI survey grid, RV Cefas Endeavour will then head north fishing stations en-route to the other priority sampling grids in the Irish Sea south and north sectors (ISS/ISN). Once completed, the remaining survey grids of Irish Sea West (ISW), St. Georges Channel (SGC) and Bristol Channel outer (BCO) will be fished. At an appropriate point on the survey, a set of surface seawater samples may be collected for tritium H-3 analysis in the Bristol Channel and Severn Estuary.

At the first and last fishing stations of each working day, a CTD profile and associated surface and bottom salinity samples will be collected. Each morning, total alkalinity, nutrients and DIC samples will also be collected.

It is anticipated that a mid-survey break will occur around day twelve of the survey (~19th September) with the location likely to be Douglas, IOM. This will allow for a changeover of scientific staff and vessel's officers and crew and for the vessel to take on fresh supplies and water. At the end of the survey, RV Cefas Endeavour will dock in Portland on the 27th September and unloading of equipment will be carried out the same day.

I D Holmes
24th June 2014

INITIALLED: R Bush

DISTRIBUTION:

Cefas survey staff
J Maitland (P&O Maritime Services)
Master Cefas Endeavour
R Bush
S Kupschus
P Connolly (Marine Institute, Galway)
P J Schon (AFBINI)
FCO (for Republic of Ireland)
Marine Management Organisation (MMO)
Welsh Government (WG)
Natural Resources Wales
Devon & Severn IFCA
Cornwall IFCA
Isles of Scilly IFCA
North Western IFCA

