

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

2017 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME: RV CEFAS ENDEAVOUR: SURVEY 18/17

STAFF: Part One

S Shaw (SIC)
S Walmsley (2IC)
L Mann
G Eastley
D Brown
R Masefield
R Benedet
C Reeve
A Shine (Irish Observer)
K James (SWF)
M Huk
G Giljan (Southampton Uni)

Part Two

S Shaw (SIC)
S Walmsley (2IC)
L Mann
G Eastley
D Brown
S Roslyn
T Wilkinson
Z Radford
A Shine (Irish Observer)
A Sleath (SWF)
M Huk
G Giljan (Southampton Uni)

DURATION: 6 September – 26 September 2017

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 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 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 deploy water sampling instrumentation provided by Southampton University during the night (M Huk Cefas\Southampton University)

10. To deploy a wave rider at West Pembrokeshire site (D Pearce – Cefas)

PLAN:

RV Cefas Endeavour will sail from Lowestoft on the 6th September and will head directly to the first priority sampling 'grid' in the inner Bristol Channel (BCI). 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 the first and last fishing stations of each working day, a CTD profile and associated surface and bottom salinity samples will be collected.

It is anticipated that a mid-survey break (staff changeover) will occur on day twelve of the survey (17th 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 Swansea on the 26th September and unloading of equipment will be carried out the next day.

S M Shaw
29th July 2017

INITIALLED: IDH

DISTRIBUTION:

Cefas survey staff
Fisheries SICs/2ICs
Gary Burt (for TRIM)
J Maitland (P&O Maritime Services)
Master Cefas Endeavour
I Holmes
S Kupschus
P Connolly (Marine Institute, Galway)
P J Schon (AFBINI)
FCO (for Republic of Ireland)
Marine Management Organisation (MMO) – Conservation, Licencing and Derogations.
Welsh Government (WG)
Natural Resources Wales
Devon & Severn IFCA
Cornwall IFCA
Isles of Scilly IFCA
North Western IFCA

Figure 1 – Map of primary fishing positions.

