

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

**2006 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME**

**PROGRAMME: RV CEFAS ENDEAVOUR: CRUISE 3/06.**

**STAFF:**

S. Milligan (SIC)  
N. Taylor (2IC)  
M. Shaw  
M. Eade  
E. Lane  
N. Lyman  
3 DARDNI staff

**DURATION:** 28 January - 10 February 2006

**LOCATION:** Irish Sea

**AIMS:**

1. To conduct a plankton survey using a 76cm Gulf VII plankton sampler to determine the distribution and abundance of cod (*Gadus morhua*), haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*) and plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) eggs.
2. To remove fish eggs from fresh plankton samples at sea. To measure, stage and preserve these eggs in ethanol prior to species identification using a DNA technique on return to the laboratory.
3. To collect a surface nutrient sample at each of the sampling stations.
4. To collect surface chlorophyll samples every five sampling stations.
5. To collect supplementary sub-surface environmental data using a self-logging package carried on the Gulf VII plankton samplers.
6. To collect comparison ring net and PUP net samples for validation of the species selection characteristics of the PUP samplers.

**PLAN:**

RV Cefas Endeavour will sail from Falmouth on 28 January and proceed to the Irish Sea to complete a grid of plankton stations as part of a series of ichthyoplankton surveys to estimate the spawning stock biomass (SSB) of Irish Sea cod, haddock and plaice. The plankton grid (figure 1) will comprise approximately 100 stations in the Irish Sea between 53°N and 55°N. RV Cefas Endeavour will dock in Lowestoft on 10 February to enable gear to be offloaded and transported to Belfast for the following RV Corystes cruise. Ethanol and formalin preserved samples will be offloaded in Lowestoft and returned to the laboratory.

**GEAR:**

List distributed separately and marked to relevant individuals for attention.

Stephen Milligan  
Scientist In Charge  
6 January 2006

**INITIALLED:**

**DISTRIBUTION:**

Basic List +

Clive Fox

M. Armstrong

Pieter-Jan Schon (DARDNI, Belfast)

John Breslin (Marine Institute, Galway)

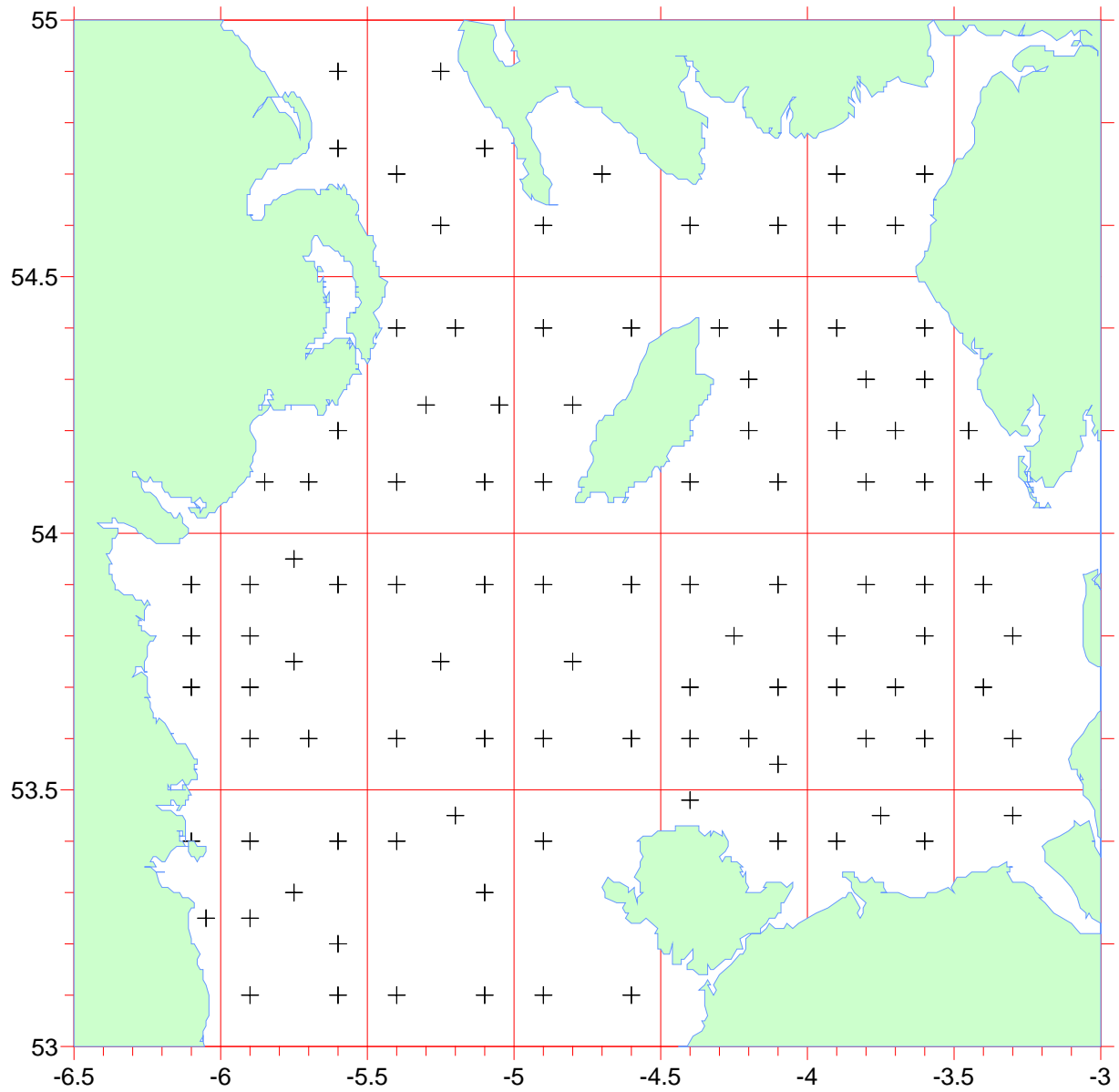
FCO (for Republic of Ireland)

Sea Fisheries Committees:

Cumbria

North Western and North Wales

South Wales



Proposed ISEPS plankton sampling grid  
112 stns