

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

2004 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME: RV CEFAS ENDEAVOUR: CRUISE 5/04.

STAFF:

Part 1

S. Milligan (SIC)
C. Fox (2 SIC)
P. Witthames
M. Eade
M. Godard
C. Burt
P. Welsby
J. Pettigrew
A. Nicholls

Part 2

S. Milligan (SIC)
I. Holmes (2 SIC)
P. Witthames
M. Eade
M. Godard
B. Roel
M. Etherton
M. Shaw
T. Locke

DURATION: Part 1: 24 April – 9 May. Part 2: 10 May - 21 May

LOCATION: Continental shelf of Celtic Sea and Northern Biscay

AIMS:

1. To conduct a plankton survey using a 53cm Gulf VII plankton sampler to determine the distribution and abundance of mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*) and horse mackerel (*Trachurus trachurus*) eggs in the western spawning area during sampling periods 4 and 5.
2. To sample adult mackerel and horse mackerel for the estimation of fecundity and atresia using pelagic and semi-pelagic trawls.
3. To take ovary, otolith and other biological samples from all mature hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) and cod (*Gadus morhua*). (P. Witthames).
4. To collect samples of crab larvae (*Cancer pagurus*) using the plankton sampler at selected positions in the English Channel for subsequent DNA analysis for stock discrimination. (D. Eaton).

PLAN:

RV CEFAS ENDEAVOUR will sail from Lowestoft on 24 April and proceed to northern Biscay to commence plankton sampling in the mackerel spawning area along latitude 48°15'N. Plankton sampling will be undertaken *en route*, in selected areas of the English Channel, to collect crab larvae for aim 4. A trial deployment of the FOTO trawl will be undertaken as soon as practicable to resolve any potential problems with handling this large mesh net. Once in the spawning area, sampling for adult mackerel and horse mackerel will be carried out in targeted areas and when suitable traces are located (Aim 2). A mid-cruise break will be taken either in

Cobh, Ireland, or Falmouth on or about the 9 May, to take on fresh water and exchange scientific staff.

GEAR:

List distributed separately and marked to relevant individuals for attention.

S. Milligan
Scientist In Charge
24 March 2004

INITIALLED:

R. Millner

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic List

Staff on cruise

Dr R Millner

D Eaton

FCO (for Republic of Ireland, and France,)