

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (Northern Ireland)
Agriculture and Environmental Science Division

Cruise Report: LF 5104

Vessel: RV *Lough Foyle*

Date: 13th – 15th December 2004

Area: Irish Sea (north); ICES div. VIIa

Survey Type: Biological Oceanography & Mooring Service

Personnel:

B Stewart (SIC)	SSO	DARDNI
P McShane	ASO	DARDNI
S.J. Philips	TASO	DARDNI
J Hill	Student	QMUL

Objectives:

- i. To maintain a nutrient and remote monitoring programme at mooring stations 38A and 47D.
- ii. To assess temperature, salinity and nutrient distributions over depth at stations 38A and 47D.
- iii. To assess sediment, epifauna and *Nephrops* samples for isotopic and pigment content.

Cruise Narrative:

Monday 13 December 2004

In preparation for the cruise, all DARDNI scientific crew were onboard by 2000 hrs when mooring components and the automated sampler were prepared for deployment. Following a talk on ship's safety and a demonstration of personal life saving equipment, the RV Lough Foyle departed Belfast at 2100 hrs and sailed overnight in a strong southerly wind towards the mooring site at station 38A. Unfortunately the winds strengthened and the vessel sought shelter overnight in Bangor Bay.

Tuesday 14 December 2004

The vessel sat at anchor awaiting a decrease in wind speed. With no immediate improvement in the forecast the survey was abandoned at 2015 hrs. The vessel sailed to dock in Belfast at 2145 hrs

Wednesday 15 December 2004

Work for the day commenced at 0800hrs when instruments were reprogrammed. Following this scientific crew disembarked at 0930hrs.

Acknowledgements:

I am indebted to the deck crew of the RV Corystes for their co-operation and assistance during the mooring recovery and deployment operations. The ship's master, officers, engineers and catering staff are also thanked for their co-operation during these cruises.

B M STEWART

28 July 2005