

R1/12

Not to be cited without prior reference to the Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen

FRV *Scotia*

Cruise 0199S

REPORT

16-22 January 1999

Loading: Aberdeen

Unloading: Aberdeen

Personnel

J M Pirie	B3 (in charge)
D C Moore	B3
C D Hall	B3
A D McIntosh	B2
L A Campbell	B1
N Collie	B1

Objective

1. To undertake water, sediment and biological sampling for the National Marine Monitoring Plan (NMMP).
2. To undertake sampling of *Nephrops* at Halibut Bank and Burra Haaf.

Out-turn days per project: AE 10 N: seven days.

Narrative

Loading was completed on 13 January and following completion of repairs *Scotia* sailed at 1400 hours on the 16th. On completion of tests in Aberdeen Bay passage was made south and following delay due to bad weather, sampling commenced at 0800 hours on the 17th at NMMP Tay/Forth position 16. Continuing severe weather conditions forced a break in sampling due to difficulty holding position in short wave length swell resulting in the station not being completed until 0730 hours on the 18th. Because of continuing bad weather Southern Trench was selected as an alternative site to Halibut Bank to obtain a control *Nephrops* sample and was occupied on the 18th. No sample was obtained. Following occupation of NMMP Moray Firth position 105 on the 18th passage was made to Burra Haaf where a *Nephrops* sample was successfully obtained on the 19th.

Bad weather conditions forced a slow passage to the Minches where in moderating weather conditions on the 20th NMMP position 85 was occupied and a control sample of *Nephrops* obtained. NMMP Moray Firth position 95 was occupied on the 21st and passage was made to Aberdeen docking at 0700 hours on the 22nd.

Results

Four of the five Scottish NMMP sites were occupied but because of loss of time due to the delay in sailing and prolonged bad weather none of the hydrographic lines were sampled. Pressure of time also meant that poor fishing returns of the target fish species for the Scottish NMMP biological effects monitoring (*PLAICE*) could not be addressed with sufficient fishing effort. As a result only one position (NMMP 95) yielded the full required fish sample numbers. At the stations occupied full water, sediment and benthos samples were obtained.

Samples as required of *Nephrops* were obtained at Burra Haaf and North Minches.

All samples were preserved and returned to Aberdeen for subsequent analysis.

J M Pirie
9 February 1999

Seen in draft: D Hodge (OIC *Scotia*)

Cruise 01995 Track Chart

