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

FRV *Scotia*

Cruise 0908S

PROGRAMME

Dates

22-31 July 2008

Project Codes: MF01TA 10 days

Personnel

F Neat	(SIC)
F Burns	
J Drewery	
R Kynoch	
R Catarino	
H Drewery	
C Longmore	(visitor: PhD student, University College Dublin, Ireland)
B O'Hea	(vistitor: Marine Institute, Ireland)
A Macleod	(visitor: student)
E Barreto	(vistitor: MSc student, Aberdeen University)

Gear

- 2 x Jackson Rockhopper 184 trawls with titanium floats plus ground gear bags.
- 1 set Morgere ovalfoil 1700 Kg trawl doors.
- Net sensors; deepwater Scanmar trawl door spread sensors (2000 m), Scanmar wing spread sensors(1200 m), Scanmar headline height sensor (1200 m), speed sensor, bottom contact sensor and depth/temperature logger.

FRS Objectives

1. To undertake gear performance and instrumentation trials at 500, 1000, 1500 and 1800 m depths.
2. To undertake bagging trials to assess gear selectivity and sampling bias/catchability.
3. To source new trawl stations at 1500 and 1800 m depths in preparation for September survey.
4. To collect temperature at depth data using a data logger (from all tows).

5. To collect biological, otolith and genetic samples of fish and invertebrates (as required from all tows).

General

Scotia will fish the shelf slope to the north and west of Scotland. Trawling will be carried out at stations along discrete depth contours between the 500 and 1,800 m isobaths. The following schedule has been set under the WTD and the expectation that trawling will in hours of daylight, but it may be necessary to trawl at night if daylight fishing time is lost due to poor weather or other problems. From all tows the entire catch will be sorted, weighed and length-frequency data collected.

Objective 1 (instrumentation) will be undertaken in statistical square 46E1. 3 known tows at 500, 1000, 1500 m depths will be repeated 3 times for a duration of 1 hour bottom time to obtain gear performance and instrumentation data. Weather permitting 4 hauls per day should be possible therefore objective 1 will take ~ 2.5 days to complete. Scotia will then steam south to statistical square 42E0. Here a known tow at 1800 m will be repeated 3 times and a further 3 times with extra chain attached to the ground gear. Tows will be 1 hour each which weather permitting should allow completion within 2 days.

Objective 2 (bagging) will be undertaken in statistical square 45E0 meaning a steam back North. 2 1-hr hauls with bags and 2 1-hr control hauls without will be undertaken on a known tow at 1000 m depth. This should take ~ 1 day to complete.

Objective 3 (new station sourcing) will undertake exploratory fishing in statistical squares 46E2 (1500m), 44E0 (1800m), 46E1 (1800 m – if available). Tows will be 2 hour duration.

If time permits and objectives 1-3 have been successfully completed, trawl sampling of known tows at 600 and 900 m on Rosemary bank will be undertaken.

Scotia will return to Aberdeen on the morning of 31 July.

Normal contact will be maintained with the Laboratory.

J W Hepburn
30 June 2008