

R1/12

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FRV *Scotia*

Cruise 1103S

REPORT

24–27 July 2003

Ports

Personnel

D C Moore	(In charge)
P Hayes	
Jennie Smith	
Godfrey Howard	
Catherine Kite	
Sandy Downie	SHN
A N Other	SNH
Ricky Verrall	MEU
Iain Walker	MEU
Elaine Tooth	MEU

Sampling Gear

Day grab and sieve table; Tide gauge

Project Codes

AE11D

Objectives

1. To undertake an intensive swathe bathymetry and RoxAnn survey of specified areas of the cSAC in the Moray Firth and to collect sea-truth data to verify the Roxann data. At present the effort will be concentrated in the area of the Guillam Bank, but should time allow, a preliminary survey of the area around the Beatrice Oil installations will also be conducted.

Narrative

The vessel departed Aberdeen at 0600 hours on 24 July and passage was made to the Inner Moray Firth area. The tide gauge was deployed at about 1600 hours close to Guillam bank at a location identified in collaboration with the ship's officers.

A total of 52 survey lines were run over the Guillam Bank on a predetermined pattern, allowing sufficient clearance at the end of the lines for turning. This strategy was agreed with navigating officers before the survey commences. The EM950 swathe bathymetry system data was collected only once the ship was on the correct course and on the correct line. Occasional breaks in the survey pattern were required to allow download of computer data for analysis. At the end of the survey period the tide gauge was recovered and on examination was found to have functioned perfectly. In addition to the swathe bathymetry information Roxann seabed discrimination data were collected. A preliminary analysis of

these data was used to determine, in collaboration with SNH staff where grab samples for macrofauna were to be collected. A total of 28 samples were obtained from 14 stations.

Operations at Guillam Bank proceeded so well that time was available for further swathe bathymetry surveys close to the Beatrice oilfield (25 lines) to examine the proposed location of a wind farm and over the Southern Trench (10 lines), an area of seabed reaching down to a depth of more than 200m, but close inshore.

These operations were completed by 0210 hours on Sunday morning when the vessel returned to Aberdeen, docking at 1000 hours on the morning of 27 July 2003.

D C Moore
20 February 2004

Scotia 1103S
July 2003

