

R1/12

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

FRV *Scotia*

Cruise 1204S

## **REPORT**

25 August – 7 September

### **Personnel**

K J Peach (In charge)  
D Beare  
H Dobby  
E Jones  
O Goudie  
R Campbell  
A Weetman  
C Shand  
R Kuchta Student  
I Fiala Student  
T Blasdale JNCC  
L Sandeman Aberdeen University

**Out-turn days:** RV0409 (14 days)

### **Gear**

Deep water trawl (BT184)

### **Objectives**

1. To map the composition, distribution and abundance of shelf edge and slope species, including anglerfish and megrim.
2. To investigate the occurrence of *Nephrops* on the upper shelf slope using the TV sledge and drop frame systems.

### **Narrative**

*Scotia* sailed from Aberdeen at 1030 on Wednesday 25 August and made passage to the first trawling station at position 58.51°N 07.58°W. *Scotia* arrived on station at 0830 6 March and fishing commenced. The almost constant 2-3 metre swell during the first 3 nights of the survey curtailed TV sledge deployment.

On the evening of 28 August the trawl was hauled early, *Scotia* made passage in an easterly direction to meet a rescue helicopter. A member of scientific staff had been complaining of severe abdominal pains, after seeking medical advice the decision was taken to transport the casualty to hospital.

Fishing recommenced at 0500 on 29 August and continued daily. With a spell of more settled weather TV sledge deployment commenced on the evening of 30 August. Trawling continued with minor interruptions due to poor weather until 2000 on 3 September when the winch system (Hydraulic Pump Number 6) began to behave erratically during the last haul of the day. The following morning 4 September it became apparent that the trawl winch system was inoperable, consequently all fishing activity was abandoned. With two working days of the survey remaining the decision was taken to deploy the *Nephrops* TV sledge during the hours of daylight. Efforts were made to cover the grounds previously missed due to poor weather. On recovering the sledge during the penultimate tow the outer core of the umbilical was damaged, rendering the system unusable. The last tow was completed by 1400 on 5 September and the *Scotia* made passage for Aberdeen. During passage *Scotia* hove to for 4 hours to change the TV cable in readiness for the next survey. *Scotia* docked in Aberdeen at 0600 on 7 September.

### **Trawling Results**

A total of 26 valid and four foul hauls were completed (Fig. 1). All catches were worked up in accordance with standing instructions. Due to the winch failure four standard stations and six additional stations were not surveyed. Total weight caught per haul/depth is shown and compared to previous deep-water surveys in 2000 and 2002 (Table 1). Temperature at depth was recorded for all hauls >1,000 metres using a mini-log data storage sensor (Table 2). Additional weight/length information was collected from various species to augment the FRS weight/length database (Table 3). A total of 125 species were caught during the survey, a species list and total weight caught is shown (Table 4).

K J Peach  
17 September 2004

Seen in draft: Captain Peter Barrett, OIC *Scotia*

## Circulation List: Cruise Programmes and Reports

### SCOTIA VESSEL

Programmes - Mr J A Morrison for approval. Reports - Mr J A Morrison for approval.

Issue two copies of Record of Haul and Station Numbers pro-forma with Scientist-in-Charge's copy of *Scotia* and *Clupea* programmes.

Two xerox copies of track chart for reports to be sent to Dr L Rickards.

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### PROGRAMMES ONLY

#### Lab staff

~~Mr J T M Hunter~~  
~~Mr T Reid~~  
~~Mr P J Copland~~  
~~Mr J Dunn~~  
~~Mr A Beaton~~  
~~Mr G Howard~~  
~~Security~~

#### Non-lab staff

~~Island Cmdr Faroes (Faroes only)~~  
~~Flag Officer, Denmark (Danish part of N Sea only)~~  
~~Coastguard~~  
~~G Lees~~

### PROGRAMMES AND REPORTS

#### Lab staff

Mr J A Morrison  
Capt R Denholm  
Mr R S T Ferro ) Fish Man team  
Mr C Hall ) progs only  
Dr R M Stagg  
Dr C Moffat  
Mr M R Heath  
Mr A Macdonald  
D Lichtman (+ additional copy of track chart  
of reports only)  
Mrs E Morrison  
CO/OIC of Vessel (*Scotia*) (to be faxed)  
Library (2)  
File

#### Non-lab staff

~~Library, Danmarks Fisk (reports only)~~  
~~Mr J Mortensen (Faroes only)~~  
Mr A Souplet (Fishing Cruises only)  
~~Dr S Ehrich (Entering German Waters) (reports only)~~  
W J McCurdy, Belfast  
Technical Director, SFIA (J E Tumilty)  
Dr L Rickards  
Dr I Joint  
Director – Havfor Inst, Norway  
Dr S Ehrich  
Monsieur le Chef du dépt, Nantes  
Mr J C Brabant  
Mrs van Duyvenvoorde  
Dr J G Gordon  
G Kane  
R de Clerck  
Mr B Stewart  
Capt J Cannan (*Scotia* and *Clupea* only)  
Controller Coastal Ops - A Stewart  
Dr P Grieg-Smith  
Mr H C Boyar  
Dr R J A Atkinson  
Mr H i Jákupsstovu  
Mr C Bullimore (To be faxed: 01923 846392)

#### Laboratory Personnel on Vessel

\*K J Peach A Weetman  
D Beare C Shand  
H Dobby R Kuchta  
E Jones I Fiala  
O Goudie T Blasdale  
R Campbell L Sandemann

#### Fishery Officers at

Aberdeen  
Oban  
Mallaig  
Campbeltown  
Stornoway