

FRV 'Explorer'

Cruise 10/82

8-28 Oct 1982

Report

Objective

A routine demersal fish survey in the Northern North Sea.

Narrative

'Explorer' sailed from Aberdeen on 8 October and proceeded to stations 120 miles East of Peterhead. Despite adverse weather conditions trawling was successively completed in the South-east corner of the survey area. Deteriorating weather caused 'Explorer' to steam to Shetland to work in the comparative calm to the West of the Islands. A temporary lull permitted 'Explorer' to work the grounds around Fair Isle before running to shelter in Dalesvoe. 'Explorer' docked at Lerwick on Monday 18 October where she was joined by Mr Newton. Due to the sudden recall of one of the catering staff the vessel was delayed in Lerwick until a replacement joined the ship on Thursday. 'Explorer' immediately proceeded to stations East of Shetland and worked SE and then SW into the Moray Firth. A severe gale caused the vessel to shelter in Aberdour Bay on Tuesday 26 October from where 'Explorer' proceeded to Aberdeen on Wednesday 27 October to off-load gear before finally docking in Leith on Thursday 28 October.

Results

Using an Aberdeen 48' trawl, a total of 34 one hour hauls were made in the survey area. Table 1 shows the average number of haddock, whiting, cod and Norway pout caught per hour in each of the sampling regions. In the case of haddock and whiting these figures are broken down further by age groupings (these groupings were selected by using arbitrary lengths).

During the cruise the total and gutted weights were obtained from 687 fish, mainly cod, haddock and whiting. Stomachs of mackerel and large cod were examined in accordance with the ICES stomach programme.

Thirty Scyliorhinus stellaris and 3 halibut were transported back alive to the Laboratory. In addition, 20 kgs of cod liver and a number of haddock were returned to the Laboratory for heavy metal and parasitological investigations respectively.

A W Newton
15 December 1982

Seen in draft: W Findlay

Table 1

Average Number Per Hour for Each Area

	Shetland	Buchan	M Firth	Central	Forties	Viking
Haddock						
0+	335	101	38	95	374	979
1+	288	148	50	79	251	388
>2+	211	109	110	357	200	168
Total	834	358	198	531	825	1535
Whiting						
0+	1	7	877	12	13	22
1+	4	35	298	8	3	2
>2+	588	730	310	42	261	136
Total	593	771	1486	61	277	160
Cod						
Total Nos	17	46	1	24	16	12
T. Esmarkii						
Total Nos	1784	600	296	175	1900	1734

