

R1/4

AMM

In Confidence - Not to be quoted without reference to the Laboratory

FRV "Explorer"

4ER83

Cruise 4/83

REPORT

28 April - 13 May 1983

Objectives

- 1 To deploy and recover at the end of the cruise seven current meters and sedimentation trap moorings in the vicinity of Beryl and Brent Production Platforms.
- 2 To collect samples of sediment material in the vicinity of these Production Platforms for hydrocarbon analysis.
- 3 To work the JONSIS line and other hydrographical sections in the North Sea.
- 4 To deploy caged queens at Sullom Voe.

Narrative

The "Explorer" left Aberdeen at 1900 on 28 April and proceeded to lay moorings and to collect sediment samples at the Production Platforms. An additional sediment trap mooring was laid at a "Flex" position. This work was completed by 1 May. The ship then proceeded to Yell Sound where queens were eventually caught in Sullom Voe itself and caged. Water samples were collected for hydrocarbon analysis and a benthic survey completed before the ship sailed for Lerwick to disembark Mr Peter Mackie and pick up equipment on 4 May. After a stay of four hours the "Explorer" sailed to commence the JONSIS line and the other hydrographic sections. With the exception of three stations cancelled due to adverse weather, this work was successfully completed by 6 May. The opportunity was taken on 7-8 May in a lull in the generally adverse weather situation to recover the moorings. Further bad weather prevented renewed hydrographic work and the ship proceeded to Sullom Voe to recover the caged queens. The "Explorer" docked in Aberdeen at 1900 on 12 May.

Results

- 1 One mooring had been interfered with and pallets removed with the result that the sedimentation sample was lost. This apart, all the moorings were safely recovered. No results are as yet available.
- 2 All sediment material required was obtained but awaits analysis.

No chlorophyll results are yet available but the nitrate values appear to be higher than expected in the western part of the northern North Sea.

The queens recovered were in excellent condition but some cages were unfortunately lost in the laying and recovery process.

seen in draft: W Findlay

J H A Martin

1 November 1983

