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Cruise Report

FRV Explorer

11 - 26 June 1973

Objectives

To tag demersal fish on offshore grounds to the west of the Orkney and Shetland Islands.

Narrative

The start of the cruise was delayed for two days because of a shortage of crew. Explorer steamed to Shetland on the night of 13 June and work was carried out to the east of Shetland, off Balta Sound, on 14 June because adverse weather conditions prevented fishing to the west of the islands. On 15 June "Explorer" fished on grounds 15 miles north west of Ve Skerries and on 16 June work was carried out to the south-west of Foula. In both of these areas fishing was poor and few fish were tagged. Between 17 and 19 June fish were tagged on Dutch Bank and on 20 June Explorer went into Lerwick. The remainder of the cruise was spent in fishing on Nun and Solan Banks. Explorer returned to Aberdeen to land live fish on 24 June and then proceeded to Leith, arriving on 25 June.

Results

The numbers of each species of fish tagged in each area are shown in the table below.

Species	Haddock	Cod	Saithe	Whiting	Plaice	L. Sole	Dogfish
Area							
Balta Sound	5	5	5	-	-	-	-
Ve Skerries	95	30	8	-	8	-	-
Foula	90	20	1	3	-	41	19
Dutch Bank	853	188	-	54	-	25	-
Solan Bank	24	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nun Bank	954	13	-	-	-	29	-
Total	2022	256	14	57	8	95	19

D W Armstrong
24 July 1973