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to the Laboratory.

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CRUISE REPORT

F.R.S. "EXPLORER"

3rd-27th October 1967

"Explorer" sailed from Aberdeen at midnight on the 4th. Drift indicators and current markers were released at the appropriate positions south and north of Fair Isle, and on passage to Faroe opportunity was taken to pressure-test an instrument case to a depth of 500 m.

The routine trawling survey was begun on the afternoon of the 6th, and despite poor weather conditions, necessitating frequent changes of ground, trawling continued with only minor interruptions until the evening of the 14th. "Explorer" then proceeded to Torshavn, to pick up Mr. Jones, who joined the ship on 15th October.

"Explorer" sailed on 16th October to continue the trawling survey and to experiment with the detachable codends. Unfortunately, from then until the end of the cruise the weather deteriorated greatly and gale force winds persisted for much of the time, curtailing the work substantially. No attempts were therefore made to do the underwater camera work, and most of the available time was spent on devising a suitable technique for shooting and hauling the detachable cod-end equipment, which was achieved successfully.

During the second part of the cruise, "Explorer" made an overnight call at Traagesvaag to collect stomach samples that were lying there. At the end of the trip a call was made at Klakksvig and two disabled British seamen were taken on board for passage to Aberdeen, which was reached at 0900 hours on the 27th.

Trawling Survey

Good catches of haddock were taken at Stations 16, 34, 35 and 47, and at Stations 29, 32 and 46 substantial numbers of cod were present. At several stations on Faroe Bank good hauls of small haddock (10-16 cm range) were obtained.

Plankton

The dominant feature of the coastal water at Faroe, especially in the north and east, was undoubtedly the dense concentrations of Aurelia aurita. These were so numerous at some positions that they caused extensive damage to the trawl.

R. Jones
D. D. Seaton
6th November 1967