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RV FORTH RANGER

Charter Cruise 9217H

REPORT

12-17 October 1992

Personnel

F G Howard	SSO
E Macdonald	SO
Jane Lewis	Visitor

Objectives

1. To obtain sediment samples from net stations in the Firth of Forth and St Andrews Bay. The samples will be examined for dinoflagellate cysts.
2. To take integrated water samples for plankton analysis.

Narrative

The scientific staff joined *Forth Ranger* at Granton from where she sailed on 12 October. Sediment samples were taken by Craib corer and Day grab from a series of stations west of Inchkeith before the vessel steamed eastward to St Abb's Head. A series of transects were made across the Firth of Forth and St Andrews Bay, the vessel progressing westwards up the Firth. Sediment samples were taken with a Day grab.

Adverse weather conditions prevented some offshore stations from being sampled, and also some stations in the Aberlady Bay - Port Seton area. No water samples were taken as the vessel's hydrographic winch was unoperational. The cruise ended at Granton on 16 October.

Results

Sediment samples were taken from 45 stations in the Firth of Forth and St Andrews Bay areas. A brief examination of some samples on board the vessel revealed the presence of dinoflagellate cysts, although no cysts of *Alexandrium* spp. were identified at this time. The samples were taken for further examination at the University of Westminster and the Marine Laboratory.

F G Howard
1 February 1993