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1 SR 61

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CRUISE REPORTF.R.S. "SCOTIA"7th-21st February, 1961

"Scotia" was delayed by the completion of her refit and an outbreak of influenza on board and did not sail from Aberdeen until the afternoon of 7th February. She proceeded to the west coast but had to seek shelter in Broad Bay on the evening of the 8th because of bad weather. Contact was made with the Scottish drifters engaged in the exploratory voyage and it was learned that they had surveyed the Butt of Lewis - Flannan Isles area without success. The skippers were of the opinion that they were too early for that area. After consultation with Mr. Parrish it was decided that "Scotia" should go to the Shetland area and carry out a survey there, returning to the west coast later if time permitted. The drifters would remain on the west coast for the remainder of the week and follow on to the Shetland area on the following Monday (13th).

"Scotia" left Broad Bay in the morning and had to seek shelter in Dunnet Bay and in Pierowall Roads before reaching Shetland waters in the afternoon of 11th February. Thereafter the weather improved slightly and only three more days were lost through weather and replenishing water supplies before "Scotia" left Shetland waters in the evening of 18th February to return to Aberdeen. The Montrose Bay pollution stations and the Firth of Forth Nephrops survey were done before "Scotia" docked in Grangemouth on 21st February.

Results

The area surveyed is shown on the attached chart. In this chart the 'plume' traces are almost certainly echo-traces of adult herring and the 'ticks' may also be herring in smaller shoals. The 'layer traces' are probably not made by adult herring but by other organisms including small fish.

No dense concentration of herring were found and all the 'plume' traces seen were small ones. The Scottish drifters reported that they also had not found any good traces in the Shetland area. They shot their nets in different places round the islands but the catches were very small.

The Vinge trawl was shot on three occasions. Two of the trawls yielded no herring. In the Scalloway Deep the catch consisted of 59 baskets of mackerel, one-half basket of herring and one-half basket of white fish. The herring were mainly recovering spent autumn spawning fish with a modal length of 26-27 cm.

G. McPHERSON
27th March, 1961.

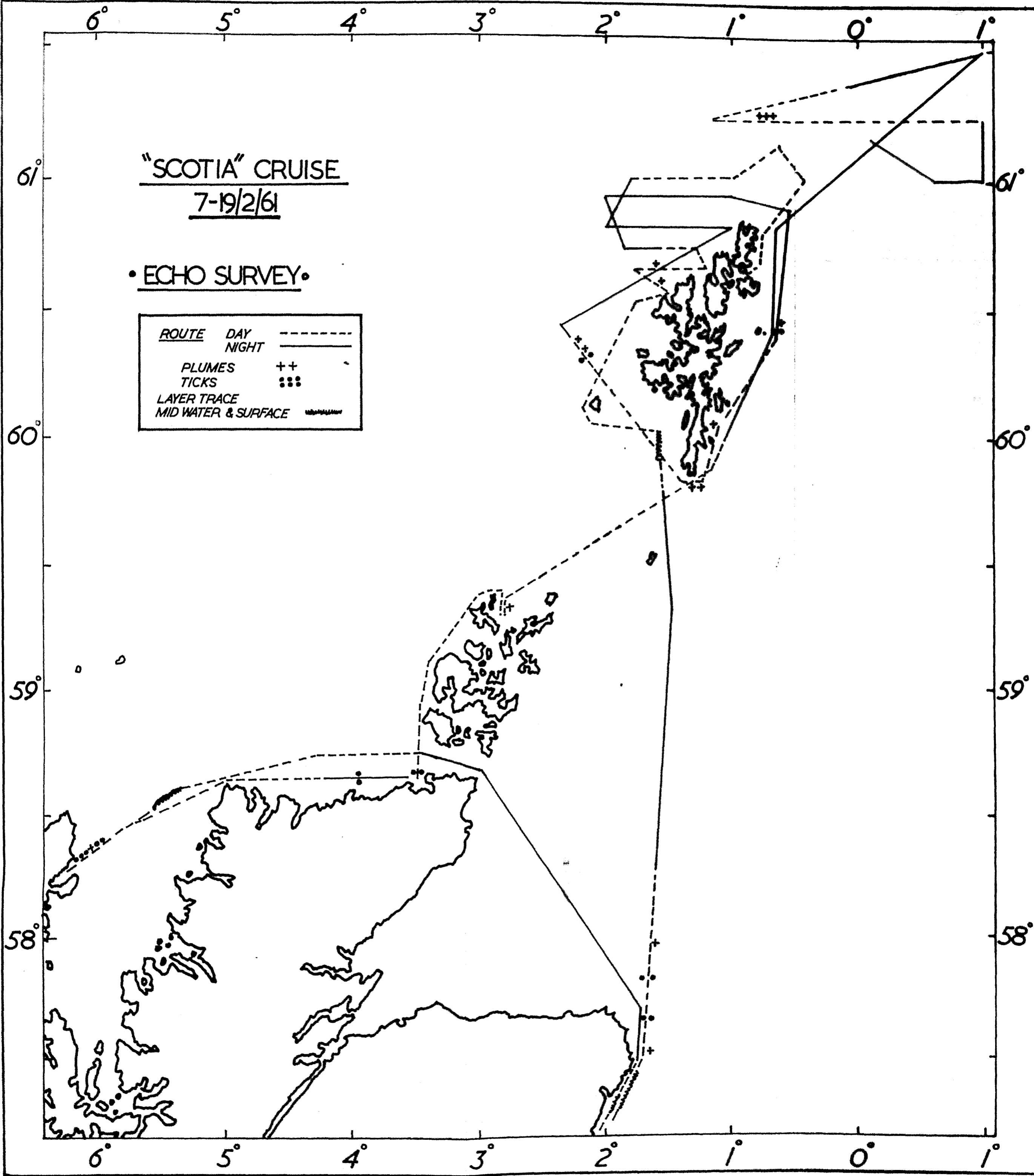
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"SCOTIA" CRUISE
7-19/2/61

• ECHO SURVEY •

<u>ROUTE</u>	DAY	-----
	NIGHT	—————
<u>PLUMES</u>		++
<u>TICKS</u>		⋮
<u>LAYER TRACE</u>		~~~~~
<u>MID WATER & SURFACE</u>		~~~~~