

CONFIDENTIAL: Not to be quoted without reference to the Laboratory.

S.15

2SR62

CRUISE REPORT

F.R.S. "SCOTIA"

8th-20th February, 1962.

Objective: Cod-tagging in the Moray Firth, Orkney and north coast waters.

Narrative:

Sailing was delayed from Aberdeen until 1430 hours 9th February. Continued adverse weather after departure precluded operations except on the north-west Moray Firth coast but even here work had to be abandoned and shelter sought in Dornoch Firth until the 12th when a severe westerly gale developed and necessitated change of anchorage. While heaving up, one of the two anchors was lost and, on head office's instructions, return to Aberdeen had to be made for replacement; this was not effected until the 16th. Severe gale conditions prevailed while awaiting delivery and did not moderate until the 17th, "Scotia" sailing again at 2230 hours on that date. With only 2-3 days remaining for completion of the programme the Orkney and north coast sections were necessarily dropped in favour of the more important Moray Firth where work was confined until 1300 hours 20th February when "Scotia" returned to Aberdeen.

Results:

Owing to the severe weather conditions and anchor trouble referred to, comparatively little work could be done; only thirteen hauls were made. Cod were extremely scarce on all the grounds tried (south shore, north-west coast from east of Dornoch Firth to Clytiness, and Smith Bank) and a total of only 35 fish was secured for tagging purposes. A further 11 cod, unsuitable for tagging, were used for blood samples for Denmark.

J. M. LAMONT
9th March, 1962.