

CRUISE REPORT

F.R.S. "SCOTIA"

13th February-3rd March 1963

Objective

Round-fish tagging in the Moray Firth (Smith Bank area), the North coast and the North Minch.

Narrative

"Scotia" sailed from Aberdeen on 16th February at 1730 hours, after a two day delay due to bad weather, and proceeded to Smith Bank. Round-fish were scarce on the bank, but reasonable catches for tagging were obtained in the vicinity. Scotia fished this area until 22nd February then went north to grounds off Holburn Head where two days were spent working.

On 25th, "Scotia" put in to Stromness for water and stores. Due to an epidemic of influenza aboard further working was delayed for two days. Work was resumed on the 28th off Holburn Head and continued there until 2nd March.

"Scotia" left the area on 2nd March as Captain Finlayson had to attend a conference in Edinburgh on the 4th. On the way south a plankton station was worked off Kinnaird Head and a trawl station off Cruden Scaurs to obtain fish for parasite study. "Scotia" docked in Aberdeen at 1730 hours on 3rd March.

ResultsTagging

Eight-hundred and fifty cod were tagged. Three different types of tag, 422 yellow "flag", 308 American "spaghetti" and 120 Scottish "hydrostatic" were used. 445 cod were released in the Moray Firth, 399 off the North coast and six off Cruden Scaurs.

Two-hundred and forty-five haddock were tagged, all with yellow "flag" tags. All were released in the Moray Firth except for eight off the North coast and five off Cruden Scaurs.

Hydrography

Two casts were made in the Moray Firth (temp. range 4.79°C-5.06°C), and two off the North coast (temp. range 5.48°C-5.80°C).

Plankton

Halosphaera viridis and Skeletonema were the principal constituents of the phytoplankton. In the oblique hauls in the Moray Firth, Plaice eggs and Thysanoessa inermis were the principal constituents, whilst off the North coast Sand-eel larvae and T. inermis predominated. Off Kinnaird Head, Sand-eel larvae, T. inermis and Oikopleura dioica dominated.

C. Davidson

11th March, 1963.