

R1/12

IN CONFIDENCE - NOT TO BE QUOTED WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE LABORATORY

FRV SCOTIA

2SR82

CRUISE 2/82

REPORT

22 February - 11 March 1982

OBJECTIVE

Routine demersal trawling survey of grounds off the north and west coasts of Scotland.

NARRATIVE

The scientific staff joined 'Scotia' at Greenock at 1300 on February 22. The ship left Greenock at 1400 on February 23, with a Department of Trade Surveyor on board, to carry out post refit trials; a number of defects were found and it was not until 1700 on February 24 that 'Scotia' was able to begin operations. On February 25 four stations were worked, in the Firth of Clyde and off the north coast of Ireland, but on the following day a severe gale forced 'Scotia' to dodge southwest of Stanton Bank. During the period February 27-March 3 sixteen stations were worked, despite severe weather conditions, in the comparative shelter of the North and South Minches. Half a day was spent in rigging a new trawl to replace one that had been severely damaged. 'Scotia' called at Stornoway, for the mid-cruise break, at 0900 on March 4 and departed at 1020 on March 5, with the intention of working those stations lying to the west of the Hebrides. A severe gale postponed the start of operations until the following day, when four hauls were made near the Flannans. On March 6 the trawl was badly damaged and, as the wind had again increased to severe gale force, 'Scotia' sheltered in the lee of St Kilda whilst a new trawl was rigged. Work began again on March 7 but because of more damage to the gear only two hauls were made on that day, after which 'Scotia' moved to the area northeast of the Butt of Lewis where a further five stations were worked before she docked at Aberdeen at 2130 on March 10.

RESULTS

(a) Trawling results

Of a total of 34 hauls made during the survey, 31 were considered valid. The average catches per 10 hours fishing of the principal commercial species are given in Table 1 for each roundfish sampling area.

Cod, although taken in rather small numbers, were generally more abundant than in the 1981 survey. Highest catch rates of haddock and whiting were obtained in the Butt of Lewis and Outer Hebrides areas, whiting being also relatively abundant in the Firth of Clyde. In general, catch rates were lower than in 1981 and young fish (1981 year class) of both species were scarce.

Large numbers of herring were taken in two hauls only, one east of the Shiant Islands and the other north of the Flannans.

Catches of mackerel were very small, over the whole area.

A catch of 21 baskets of large, pre-spawning blue whiting was made in deep water (430m) west of the Flannans and a small number of spawning blue whiting were caught to the south of Stanton Bank.

(b) General

Samples of haddock and squid were frozen at sea and brought back to the laboratory for examination by the parasitology section.

Herring pyloric <sup>e</sup>caca were collected for the pelagic section.

The stomach contents of 138 Scyliorhinus caniculus were examined at sea. A wide range of prey groups were found but there was some indication that fish species made up the largest proportion of the diet of the larger individuals (<59cm).

Samples of mature gadoid eggs and pre-spawning ovaries of Norway pout were collected for Dr Hislop.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Thanks are due to the officers and crews of 'Scotia' for continuing to work cheerfully in weather conditions that were frequently atrocious.

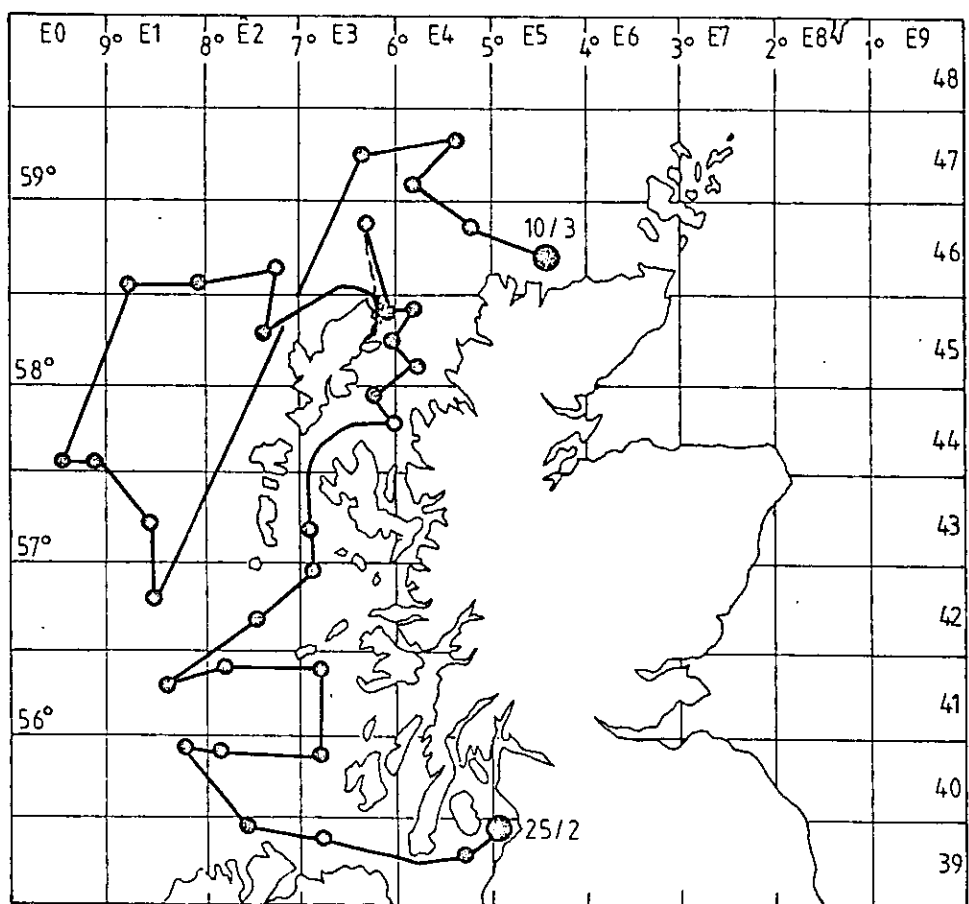
J.R.G. Hislop  
20 April 1982

Seen in draft: I.C. McLeod  
Commanding Officer

MEAN CATCH PER 10 HOURS FISHING BY SAMPLING AREA SCOTIA CRUISE 2/82

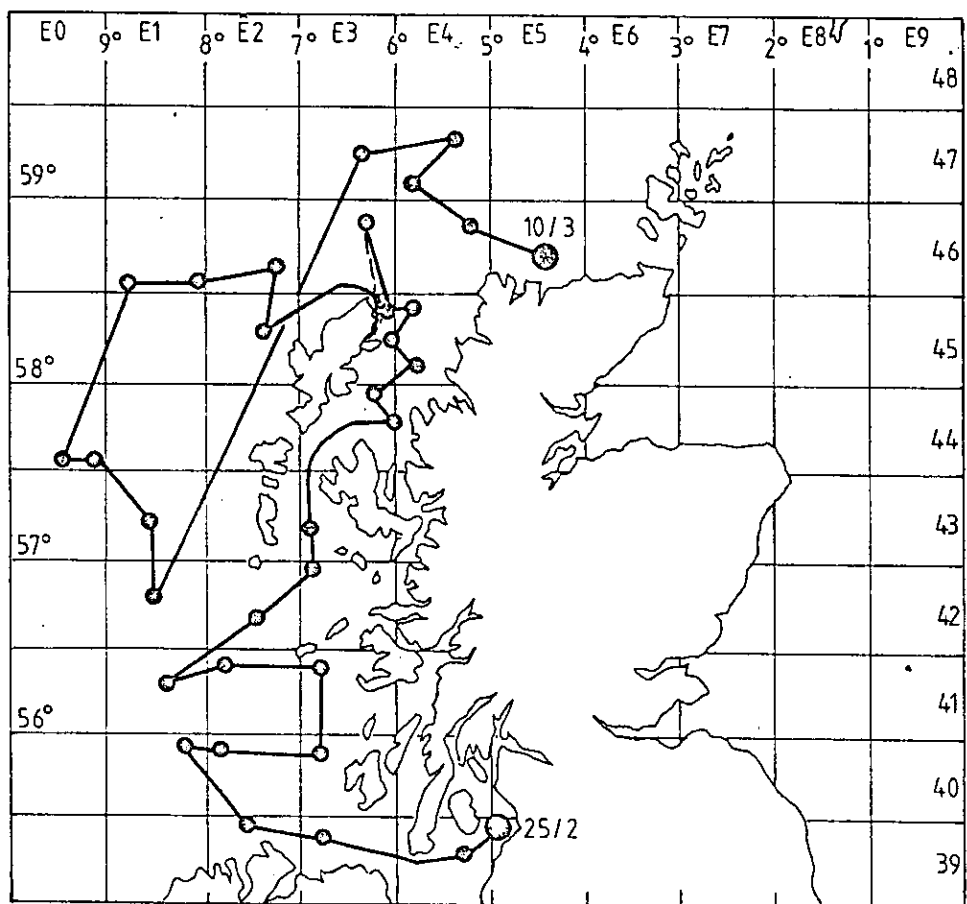
Area	Number of hauls	Cod			Haddock			Whiting			Herring			Mackerel Total
		<25cm	>25cm	Total	<25cm	>25cm	Total	<25cm	>25cm	Total	<25cm	>25cm	Total	
Solan	1	0	30	30	270	1830	2100	0	40	40	940	1190	2130	0
Butt of Lewis	5	0	136	136	14	6640	6654	0	6350	6350	2	496	498	0
Inner Hebrides	6	0	17	17	288	498	786	560	420	980	2365	52538	54903	5
South Minch	5	2	40	42	2	36	38	34	466	500	2	8	10	2
Firth of Clyde	2	10	105	115	0	5	5	1950	635	2585	1700	595	2295	0
South of lat 56°00'N	5	0	22	22	0	970	970	0	1740	1740	0	522	522	32
Outer Hebrides	7	0	94	94	6	5238	5244	0	2799	2799	0	13530	13530	36





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