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FRV "Scotia"

2SR88

Cruise 2/88

Report

3-23 February 1988

Personnel

A W Newton	SSO
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Mrs M Black	HSO
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Objective

To take part in the ICES International Young Fish Survey in the North Sea.

Narrative

"Scotia" sailed from Aberdeen at 1430 hours on Tuesday 3 February and proceeded to fishing grounds off the Aberdeenshire coast. During the subsequent 36 hours severe damage was suffered to the fishing gear and "Scotia" was compelled to return to Aberdeen on Friday to pick up extra gear. "Scotia" sailed again the same morning, resumed work off the Scottish coast and gradually proceeded eastwards. During the next week scientific operations were limited by severe weather conditions. During one respite from the gales an intensive search was made for a drifting Argos buoy but prevailing conditions prevented a successful recovery. "Scotia" called at Stavanger on Monday 15 February, sailed on Tuesday and proceeded to work westwards. Again weather conditions were unfavourable until the sheltered waters of the Moray Firth were reached. During the last five days of the cruise a period of calmer weather allowed the vessel to complete a large part of the scientific programme. "Scotia" docked in Aberdeen at 0800 hours on Tuesday 23 February.

Results

A total of 55 one hour hauls were made using the GOV trawl. Initially the ground gear consisted of the standard set of rubber discs with 47 m sweeps. However, a lot of gear damage was sustained at the beginning of the cruise and in an effort to minimise further damage the rubber discs were replaced by 18" bobbins after six hauls. Each haul was monitored for headline height and wingend spread by using Scanmar units coupled to a microcomputer. Other parameters, such as speed over the ground and depth, were logged at the same time.

Table 1 shows the preliminary indices for the principal species sampled. Each index is based on the numbers of fish per hour caught below a length selected as a probable upper delimiter of 1+ fish. The indices from the previous three years are also shown for comparison. The preliminary data show that herring are continuing to show strong recruitment whilst haddock and Norway pout appear to be suffering from extremely low recruitment.

The Isaacs-Kidd midwater trawl was used on 41 occasions to sample pre-metamorphosis herring larvae during the hours of darkness.

Top and bottom temperatures, salinities, phosphates, nitrates and silicates were taken at every trawling station surveyed.

A W Newton  
28 April 1968

Seen in draft: N E McInnes  
23 February 1968

**Table 1****Preliminary Indices from IYFS 1988**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Herring &lt;20 cm</b>	<b>Cod &lt;25 cm</b>	<b>Haddock &lt;20 cm</b>	<b>Whiting &lt;20 cm</b>	<b>Norway pout &lt;15 cm</b>
1988	4592	4.4	116	512	267
1987	5717	8.8	885	669	3023
1986	3667	17.0	579	456	2043
1985	3416	0.9	229	341	2109

Track of Scotia 3 - 23 February 1988

