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S.16

CRUISE REPORT

3 SR 58

F.R.S. "SCOTIA"

23rd March - 17th April 1958

Narrative

"Scotia" sailed from Aberdeen at 1500 hours on the 23rd March but the weather was unsuitable so the ship went to anchor in Gamrie Bay. Strong easterly winds were still blowing the next day when the ship started steaming eastwards, and when severe gales were forecast the ship went for shelter to Stromness. These gales persisted for several days and "Scotia" was unable to begin work over the Norwegian Deeps until the morning of the 3rd April.

On the 9th "Scotia" went into Bergen for water, stores and medical attention to one of the seamen. During the ship's stay the scientific staff had several useful and pleasant meetings with members of the Bergen Fisheries Laboratory. Work was resumed on the 11th April but on the 14th high winds made conditions unsuitable. After dodging for a day, gales were still being forecast, and since the seaman required further medical attention, "Scotia" proceeded to Aberdeen, docking at 1300 hours on the 17th April.

Herring Distribution

Due to the delay in starting work, the sharp winter barrier between the Baltic outflow and the more saline North Sea water had broken down slightly. However there was still a boundary with a horizontal temperature gradient of about one degree centigrade per mile running generally north-south. The herring traces shown by the echosounder, and also the large numbers of fishing boats, were concentrated along this edge.

By the time a second survey was made, the mixing of the water masses was further advanced and there was no distinct separation between them. Corresponding to this, the herring traces showed a more diffuse distribution with a generally westward shift into the area of recent plankton production.

JOHN STEELE

18th April, 1958.