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CRUISE REPORT  
F.R.S. "SCOTIA"

14th - 23rd June, 1961.

The cruise was restricted to the above dates because of a boiler failure on the vessel. Hence the programme had to be modified by the exclusion of stations west of Shetland and the two most northerly lines.

The remainder of the programme was worked as intended except that three trawls had to be omitted because of severe weather, which was unseasonably persistent throughout the cruise.

Hydrography Bottom temperature was about  $1\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$  above average throughout the area. Surface temperature was  $1\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  above average. Extensive productivity and chemical sampling was carried out for which the results are awaited.

Plankton Crustaceous plankton was abundant over the greater part of the area sampled; especially at the N.E. corner of the grid. Large, oily Calanus were the major constituent of most collections, Euphausiid furcilia were also very common. Spiratella retroversa was present in fair numbers in most hauls.

The stations on the western side of the grid were less rich in crustaceous material and the hauls contained more medusae - Leuckartiara spp. Laodicea and a few Cosmetira. The Siphonophore, Lensia conoidea was taken at G17d and D17a.

Sagitta elegans was present in moderate numbers in most hauls and was most abundant in the collections which contained the highest numbers of Calanus. Sagitta setosa was taken at only one position, viz. G15a.

Fishing Catches of white fish were in general very poor, and of herring negligible. In the N.E. part of the area a few large cod, ling and saithe gave bulk to the catch. The only good mixed haul was the last of the cruise, at the Dog Hole, S.E. of Aberdeen where all common species were abundant.

Other Echo traces were abnormally few. Culture samples were taken at each station on the first half of the cruise and submitted to a variety of treatments for Dr. Johnston. A number of special water samples and plankton samples were taken for Drs. Johnston and Mowat. The Firth of Forth nephrops survey was carried out at the end of the cruise under Mr. S.D.E. Devlin and samples of cod from this survey were examined.

R. E. CRAIG

7th July, 1961.

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