

R1/5

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CRUISE REPORT

F.R.S. "SCOTIA"

1st - 18th April 1962

"Scotia" sailed from Aberdeen on the morning of the 1st April. Consistently unfavourable weather throughout the passage to the Clyde delayed her arrival there until the evening of the 5th. Work began immediately on the stations in the North Channel and, apart from a period of about ten hours when it was necessary to shelter in the Solway Firth, continued uninterruptedly until the 10th. A call was then made at Campbeltown for water and stores. "Scotia" sailed again twenty-four hours later and, working continuously, completed the Clyde programme by the morning of the 16th. Messrs. Saville & Grierson left the ship in the Clyde and "Scotia" returned to Aberdeen, completing a line of four stations between Rathlin and Islay, and doing a trawl in the Moray Firth for live fish, en route.

Hydrography

Temperature and salinity samples were taken at surface and bottom at all stations, and at twenty-four stations also from intermediate depths. At all stations the temperature variation with depth was very small. Surface temperatures also varied little within the area sampled, lying between 6.2-6.9°C apart from a body of colder water with surface temperatures of 5.6°C located to the north of the Isle of Man.

Samples of surface water for culture work were taken on a line from S. Arran to Sanda and on the line from Rathlin to Islay.

Plankton

Samples were taken at all stations with an oblique tow-net and a more restricted sampling programme was carried out with standard and 1 metre tow-nets. Phytoplankton was rather sparse in the North Channel but dense concentrations were located within the Clyde estuary. Advantage was taken of these to obtain large samples of phytoplankton for Dr. Mowat. Zooplankton tended to be poor throughout the area sampled. In the North Channel *Calanus*, *Meganyctiphanes*, *S. elegans* and *Parsiphae silvado* were the dominant forms and with the exception of *Parsiphae* these organisms also bulked largely in the samples from the Clyde proper.

Herring larvae were extremely sparse. The largest concentration was located on Ballantrae Bank. Small numbers were taken at the mouth of L. Ryan and to the north of the Bank in a rather narrow band along the coast to as far north as Troon. None at all were observed to the south of Arran or in Kilbrennan Sound.

A cursory inspection of the samples did not detect any whiting larvae. There were in some of the samples fair numbers of eggs which from their size may have been whiting.

Trawling

Three trawl hauls were carried out to the south and east of Arran. Whiting and small hake were the dominant commercial species in all of them. Plaice were taken in fair numbers at one station west of Ayr. This haul also yielded the largest number of Nephrops, (36 per hour's trawling), and of herring. The cod caught were examined for worms but proved to be reasonably free of infection.

ALAN SAVILLE
14th May, 1962