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FRV "Scotia"

4SR85 MB

Cruise 4/85

REPORT

19 April - 9 May 1985

Personnel

J H A Martin	PSO
E W Henderson	SSO
N T Nicoll	HSO
R Payne	HSO
R D Adams	SO
P Balls	SO
G Slessor	SO

Objectives

- 1 To retrieve 2 current meter moorings in the Clyde and work associated hydrography.
- 2 To retrieve 4 current meters deployed around Rockall Bank and work associated hydrography.
- 3 To lay a current meter mooring off Foula, Shetland.
- 4 To work hydrographic sections in the Faroe-Shetland Channel.
- 5 To sample at 4 standard radio-caesium stations and one chemical monitoring station.
- 6 To work the Jonsis line.
- 7 As time permits to do hydrographic work west of Orkney and Shetland.

Narrative

"Scotia" was loaded at Greenock on 18 April and sailed on 19 April. The 2 current meter moorings in the Clyde were recovered and hydrography worked in association with these moorings. The ship then sailed for Rockall on the morning of 20 April; on passage 2 hydro chemical stations were worked in the Rockall Channel. Between 22 and 24 April the 4 current meter moorings around Rockall Bank were all recovered satisfactorily and hydrographic sections worked. A line of hydrography stations were then worked across the northern Rockall Channel and into the Faroe-Shetland Channel. Work was interrupted here first by a gale and then by a sick member of the crew who had to be landed at Scalloway. Instead of returning to the Faroe-Shetland Channel the ship proceeded to the Jonsis line which was worked on 28-29 April. "Scotia" proceeded to anchor on 30 April before entering Lerwick Harbour for the Half Landing. A current meter mooring was laid off Foula on 1 May and the work in the Faroe-Shetland Channel was then completed. A survey of the area west of Orkney and Shetland was worked between 3 and 8 May. During the cruise 4 standard radio-caesium stations and 1 chemical monitoring station were sampled. "Scotia" docked at Aberdeen on the morning of 9 May.

Results

The current meters in the Clyde showed an inflow of North Channel water adjacent to the Ayrshire coast that showed a response to wind forcing. The associated hydrography indicated a large intrusion of North Channel water into the Clyde Basin.

Chemical sampling in the Rockall Channel was used to compare analysis results in the 1960s with present standards. The results were satisfactory. The current meter results from Rockall were very good and are being used to complete a medium term record of this area.

Work in the Faroe-Shetland Channel showed an unusual distribution of high salinity water on the Faroese Shelf. Temperature conditions were normal for that time of year.

The survey west of Orkney and Shetland showed the formation of a number of boluses near North Rona, at the boundary between North Atlantic water and coastal water.

J H A Martin

6 November 1985

Seen in draft J Gillon





