

R1/12

Not to be cited without prior reference to the Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen

FRV *Scotia*

Cruise 0495S

REPORT

10 - 16 March 1995

Ports

Loading: Aberdeen
Unloading: Aberdeen

Personnel

A McIntosh HSO (in Charge)
D C Moore SSO
C Robinson Visitor
C McRae (Miss) Visitor

Objectives

1. *Braer* oil spill effects on hydrocarbon loadings in sediments.
2. QSR sediment sampling - Minches/West of Hebrides

Estimated days per project

5 days BIH1; 2 days BGG1

Narrative

After all gear and equipment had been load and secured, *Scotia* departed from Aberdeen at 1030 hours on 10 March and made passage north to the first sampling site. As prevailing and expected weather conditions were going to preclude work in the outer Moray Firth and the south east Fair Isle area, passage was made for the Minch where better weather would allow sampling to proceed. Sediment sampling for benthos and total hydrocarbon loading commenced at 0500 hours on 11 March.

After three stations had been sampled, *Scotia* diverted to the mouth of Loch Ewe, where the sea rider was launched and picked up additional scientific equipment from Aird pier, Aultbea, before continuing sampling in the Minch. This work continued, completing nine stations by 0300 hours on 12 March, then *Scotia* made passage north to Shetland where sediment sampling recommenced at 0830 hours on 13 March.

Sediment sampling by grab was possible at most of the stations identified. The weather

conditions precluded working the stations closest to the mainland and also the use of the core sampler. The sampling was conducted near the limits of maintaining ship's position, the capability of the gear and safe working practices.

In order to test the feasibility of fishing by beam trawl from the top net drum winch, the gear was deployed at a suitable break in the sediment sampling programme. It was demonstrated that the gear could be deployed and recovered successfully.

This sampling programme was terminated at 1700 hours on 15 March, when *Scotia* made passage south to Aberdeen, docking at 0500 hours on 16 March. Gear and personnel were disembarked by 0930 hours.

Results

All samples taken were treated according to standard protocols. Analyses will be carried out in the Marine Laboratory and results presented in due course.

A McIntosh
28 March 1995

Seen in draft: P Ramsay, Master

SCOTIA 0495 - SAMPLING POSITIONS

