

R.1/5

IN CONFIDENCE: Not to be quoted without
reference to the Laboratory

CRUISE REPORT

F.R.S. "SCOTIA"

May 23rd - June 10th 1963

Narrative

Scotia left Aberdeen on May 23rd, 1315 hrs, and proceeded North, in good weather, to begin work on the northern part of the survey area. Survey Station No. 46 (off Fair Isle) was occupied on May 24th, 0730 hrs. With continuing good weather, good progress was made, the ship working in turn on stations to the east and to the west of Orkneys and to the east of Shetlands. By June 2nd the northern part of the survey was completed and the ship called at Lerwick to take water and to pay the crew. Scotia remained in Lerwick between June 2nd, 1500 hrs. and June 4th, 1000 hrs.

Work was resumed on June 4th, 1830 hrs, in heavy swell, which, however, soon moderated. The following day, having steamed overnight, the ship began working on the south-eastern part of the survey area, gradually making her way westwards. By June 10th only the stations in the Moray Firth and those south of 57°30'N remained to be done. Owing to the ship's date for dry-docking in Leith, however, work had to terminate on June 10th, 0830 hrs. Course was set for Aberdeen, where Scotia docked on the same day at 1645 hrs.

Fishing

In all, 51 trawl hauls were made, all but the four northernmost hauls being of 1 hr duration. The northernmost hauls, where heavy catches of dogfish were expected, were cut down to 30 minutes. Fishing was light throughout the survey area, particularly in the south-eastern part, nearest to the coast of Denmark, where catches of $\frac{1}{2}$ basket or less per haul were prevalent.

The main feature of the catches was the predominance of small haddock and whiting, (about 20 cm long) which comprised between 50 and 80% of the bulk of fish caught. In the North up to 6 baskets of dogfish were taken per 30 minutes haul. Cod was scarce, being taken in greater numbers only at one station off Moray Firth; 121 cod were tagged. Gadus esmarkii was scarce and unevenly distributed, differences between consecutive hauls being quite pronounced. Herring was also scarce, the greatest quantity caught being 2 baskets, in the eastern part of the survey area.

Plankton and Productivity

Samples of plankton and chlorophyll were collected at 61 stations, as planned. The samples were brought back to the laboratory and are now being examined.

Hydrography and Chemistry

Temperature, salinity and chemistry samples were collected at 61 stations, as planned. The surface temperatures, presumably owing to the fine sunny weather experienced throughout the cruise, were observed to rise from around 8 - 9°C at the beginning of the cruise to around 12°C at the finish.

Z. KABATA

17th June 1963