

R1/12

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5pt1SR91

FRV *Scotia*  
Cruise 5/91 part 1

## REPORT

29 April - 9 May 1991

### Personnel

A McIntosh	HSO	(in charge)
D Murison	SSO	
D Moore	SSO	
J Matthews	Visitor	
S Forsyth	ASO	3-9 May (joined off Aberdeen)
S Heaney	ASO	3-9 May (joined off Aberdeen)

### Objectives

1. To collect water, sediment and macrobenthos from seven North Sea Task Force stations.
2. To investigate the distribution of hydrocarbons and the population diversity of the macrobenthos in sediments in the vicinity of the Beryl oilfield and development areas to ascertain whether effects are localised or wide spread.

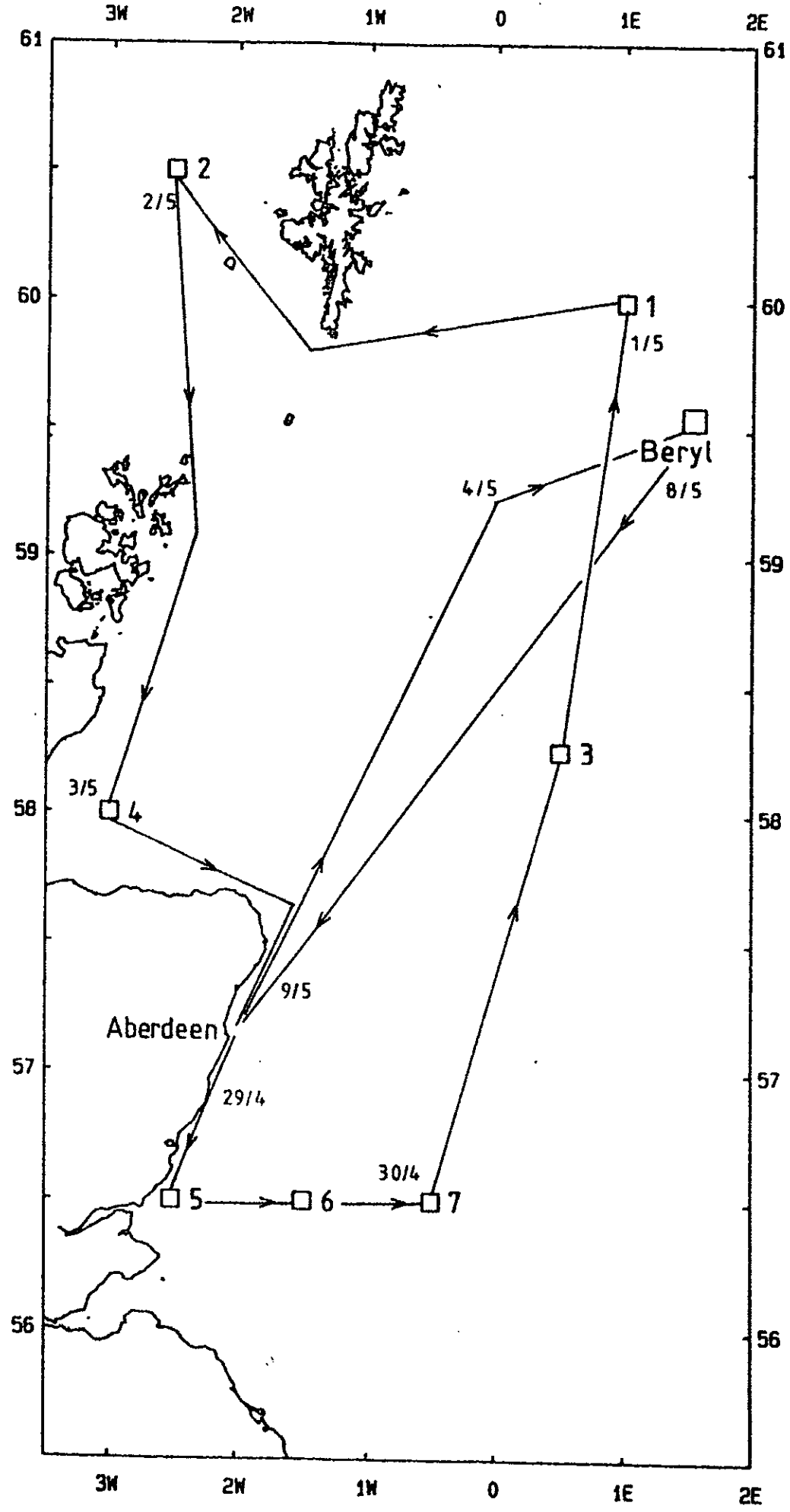
### Narrative

*Scotia* departed from Aberdeen at 1300 on 29 April and after the compass adjuster had been put ashore made passage for the first station off the Tay.

Over the next 96 hours a comprehensive sampling programme around the seven North Sea Task Force stations was undertaken, providing water and sediment for the oyster embryo bioassay (OEB), sediment for macrobenthic population studies, and sediment for trace metal and chlorinated hydrocarbon analysis.

On completion of this work, *Scotia* headed for Aberdeen Bay where two scientific staff were picked up by rubber boat and the vessel was underway again by 1330 on 3 May. Uninterrupted passage was then made to the Beryl field, via a JONSIS station where reference water was collected for OEB, and sampling by grab commenced at 0830 on 4 May. Twelve stations were completed by 2330 when sampling had to be abandoned due to worsening weather. *Scotia* then dodged for the next 18 hours until the weather had abated sufficiently for sampling to recommence at 1800 on 5 May. Over the next 72 hours, 36 stations were successfully sampled by grab and three beam trawls and four GOV trawls taken in the vicinity of the Beryl area. The sampling programme was terminated at 1630 on 8 May and passage made to Aberdeen where *Scotia* docked at 0900 on Thursday 9 May.

North Sea Task Force Stations  
and Beryl field



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