

R1/12

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FRV SCOTIA

Cruise 0592S

REPORT

11-30 May 1992

Personnel

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Objective

To participate in a coordinated groundfish survey in the North Sea.

Narrative

*Scotia* sailed at 1200 on Monday 11 May and proceeded to work stations off the Aberdeenshire coast. Taking advantage of good weather *Scotia* worked a grid of stations in the southern half of the assigned survey area and completed nine days of fishing before docking at Sunderland on 20 May. *Scotia* sailed again the next day, completed three stations off Sunderland and then proceeded to stations in the northern sector. Again good weather prevailed and all assigned statistical rectangles were surveyed before docking at Leith on Saturday 30 May.

Results

A total of 73 one hour hauls were made using the GOV trawl. For the majority of the survey the ground gear consisted of the standard set of 152 mm rubber discs but the latter were replaced with 305 mm bobbins for the stations in the northern North Sea. Short (47 m) sweeps were used for all tows. Each haul was monitored for headline height, wingend and door spread using the Scanmar system.

This survey is the second in a new time series coordinated by ICES and Table 1 shows the pooled information from various nations that participate in the survey. Although these data are still preliminary there are indications that the 1991 year class for Norway pout is very strong and that the incoming year classes for both cod and haddock show an improvement on the 1990 year classes.

2,529 herring were examined to determine the level of *Ichthyophonus* spp. infection in the herring stocks in the North Sea. The data are currently being evaluated in the Laboratory.

A W Newton  
21 July 1992

TABLE 1

Preliminary indices of IBT spring survey in the North Sea\*

Survey year	Cod		Haddock		Whiting		Norway pout		Herring		Sprat		Mackerel	
	1	2+	1	2+	1	2+	1	2+	1	2+	1	2+	1	2+
1991	8.5	13.0	502	348	1298	696	2337	827	5490	1168	485	1434	11.0	82.4
1992	38.2	16.9	932	296	863	624	8207	1005	6763	837	2072	3517	0.5	10.5

1992 based on incomplete information - awaiting data from Norway

\*Age groupings based on pre-defined length delimiters

Track Chart for 'Scotia' 11 - 30 May 1992 0592S

