

CRUISE REPORT

F.R.S. "SCOTIA"

July 1957

Narrative

"Scotia" sailed from Aberdeen at 0900 hours on Saturday, 6th July, and proceeded to the Buchan Deep, where she worked until the 17th July. On 18th and 19th July trawling was carried out on shallower ground closer inshore in order to take greater numbers of flatfish. This ground proved too rough and "Scotia" returned to Aberdeen on the 19th after severely damaging one trawl and losing another. During the following week "Scotia" worked in the Smith Bank area of the Moray Firth, returning to Aberdeen on 26th July in order that the second part of the programme (haddock and whiting tagging) could be carried out. Owing to shortage of crew, however, it was impossible to sail at the scheduled time and this part of the work had, unfortunately, to be abandoned.

On each working day throughout the cruise four hauls were made, one with no small mesh cover over the cod-end, one with a small mesh cover extending 2 ft beyond the cod-end, and two with a small mesh cover extending 6 ft beyond the cod-end. The cod-end used was of average mesh size 77 mm. The order of the hauls was randomized each day.

Results

Of the round-fish species caught only haddock and whiting were taken in sufficient numbers to enable accurate determination of mesh selection ogives. The selection characteristics of these and of the flatfish species caught are being studied.

Chemistry

A series of replicate phosphate and salinity samples were taken in order to assess the accuracy of the determination of phosphate and salt content of sea water.

J. A. POPE

11th September, 1957.