

R1/12

Not to be cited without prior reference to the Laboratory

FRV *Scotia*

Cruise 0692S

4-9 June 1992

REPORT

Personnel

A McVicar - SIC	PSO
K MacKenzie	PSO
D Bruno	SSO
A Donald (Miss)	ASO
G Begg	Student
R Bray	Visitor BM (Nat Hist)
M Spencer-Jones (Miss)	Visitor BM (Nat Hist)
A Soto (Miss)	Visitor BM (Nat Hist)
D Johnson	Visitor BM (Nat Hist)
J Hunt (Miss)	Visitor Lancaster University
A Rowand (Miss)	Student

Fishing Gear

BT 101 (48' Aberdeen trawl) with tickler chain and small mesh cod-end.

Objectives

1. To perform a check monitoring fish disease survey on sewage sludge disposal grounds off the Firth of Forth, adjacent and distal reference areas (east Orkney) and in areas in the vicinity of oil fields (Moray Firth and east Shetland basin).

Narrative/Results

Scotia sailed from Leith at 1600 on 4 June and commenced trawling on the St Abb's Head sewage dump ground during that evening. Samples were obtained from the adjacent reference site, the Bell Rock sewage dump site, its reference area and from the vicinity of the Beatrice oil field through 5-7 June. A position south east of Fair Isle and several positions in the East Shetland Basin were sampled on 7-8 June. *Scotia* docked in Aberdeen on the morning of 9 June. A total of 19 trawls were successfully completed.

A total of 5,624 common dab, *Limanda limanda*, were examined for disease by standardised ICES methods and a full data set for the recommended fish length groups achieved for the St Abb's Head and Bell Rock dump sites, their adjacent reference areas, a distal reference area (south east Fair Isle) and from the vicinity of the Beatrice oil field. All cod caught (256) were examined for pseudobranch lesions and haddock >26 cm (total 766) from each haul with that species were examined for vertebral deformities. A total of 246 herring were examined for Ichthyophonous infection, with samples being taken to complement a study on an earlier cruise (0592S). Whiting (544) were collected and examined for the occurrence of gill and eye parasites. Gall bladders of whiting, cod and haddock were collected and returned for further analysis of infection by collaborating workers. A wide range of parasites from representatives of the fish species caught were collected by British Museum staff for reference collections and interspecific genetic comparisons.

The main objectives of the sampling programme were successfully completed thanks to the excellent cooperation of the officers and crew of FRV *Scotia* and the generally good weather prevailing.

A H McVicar
22 July 1992

Seen in draft: C Brazier (Captain)

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