

R1/12

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FRV *Scotia*

Cruise 0696S

**REPORT**

12-26 April 1996

**Personnel**

A W Newton	SSO
J R Hutcheon	SO
D S Beveridge	SO
P L Clark	ASO
M C Mathewson	ASO
J Drewery	CON

**Objective**

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

**Out-turn days per project:** 15 days DAC1

**Narrative**

*Scotia* sailed from Aberdeen at 1000 hours on Friday 14 April with the intention of commencing the survey at stations off the Aberdeenshire coast. Unfortunately gales forced the vessel to seek more sheltered waters near May Island where trawling began. The weather was more settled in the southern half of the survey area and *Scotia* was able to work her way across the North Sea towards the Danish coast. A mid trip call was made in Esbjerg during the period 19-20 April. Continuing good weather allowed *Scotia* to complete all assigned stations in the middle and southern North Sea before docking in Aberdeen at 0660 hours on Friday 26 April.

**Results**

A total of 49 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.

Bottom and surface temperatures and salinities were taken at every valid trawling station.

This survey is being conducted in two parts with the second part occurring between 11 and 16 May. Results from the two cruises will be combined and published in the report on the second cruise (0896S).

A W Newton  
3 May 1996

Seen in draft: Capt J Nichols

Track Chart of FRV 'Scotia' 12 - 26 April 1996

