

R1/12

Not to be cited without prior reference to the Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen

FRV *SCOTIA*

Cruise 0697S Part I

REPORT

6-12 May 1997

Personnel

Alistair McIntosh	HSO	(in charge)
Colin Moffat	PSO	
Derek C Moore	SSO	
Pam Cruickshank	SO	
Craig Robinson	SO	
Nigel Brown	ASO	
Barbara Catalano	MSc Student, Visitor	
Paul Nelson	MSc Student, Visitor	

Fishing Gear

Granton 48' Trawl (BT 101) with monk gear and tickler chains; *Clupea* Prawn Trawl

Objective

1. *Braer* oil spill effects on hydrocarbon loadings in sediments.
2. *Braer* oil spill effects on histopathology in fish.
3. Sampling for *Nephrops* in the Burra Haaf area.
4. *Braer* oil spill effects on macrobenthos in the Burra Haaf area.

Cost per project: 7 days BIH1

Narrative

After loading all necessary sampling and scientific equipment, *Scotia* departed from Aberdeen at 1300 hours on 6 May and passage was made north to the first sampling area. A bottom trawl was taken at the Little Halibut Bank site and sediment sampled from the start, middle and end of the trawl positions. On completion, *Scotia* continued north to the start of the first sediment collection transect.

Sediment collection by Day grab commenced at 0330 hours on 7 May and continued until reaching the second trawl site, where two hauls were taken to obtain the number of fish samples required.

Impending worsening weather conditions precluded further sampling by grab and *Scotia* made passage north to the west of Shetland mainland, taking in two trawl sites on route, where, in the lee of the land, further trawling and sediment sampling was possible during 8 and 9 May. Trawling for *Nephrops* was carried out at previously sampled sites in the Burra Haaf area and provided sufficient material for hydrocarbon chemistry.

This part of the programme was completed by 0800 hours on 10 May when *Scotia* made passage for the north east area of Shetland where trawls were taken to provide sufficient samples from the Balta site. Passage was then made south and the previously interrupted sediment sampling programme was resumed at 2300 hours on 10 May and terminated at 1600 hours on 11 May when passage was made for Aberdeen where *Scotia* docked at 0700 hours on 12 May. All scientific equipment and the samples obtained were unloaded and returned to the MLA.

Results

All objectives of this cruise were completed with the exception of a number of sediment sampling sites at the east and west peripheries of the planned transects.

All fish, sediment and macrobenthos samples were collected and treated according to standard protocols and stored appropriately for subsequent analysis in the MLA and the results will be presented in due course.

A McIntosh
12 May 1997

Seen in draft: Captain John Nichols, Master

Cruise Track and Sampling Positions - 0697S

