

R1/12

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

FRV *Scotia*

Cruise 0697S Part II

REPORT

12 (pm) -15 May 1997

Personnel

A McVicar (SIC)	PSO
D Bruno	SSO
C Johnston (Ms)	ASO
Z Fletcher (Ms)	ASO
M Spencer-Jones (Ms)	Visitor (BMNH)
G Dimitrov	Visitor (BMNH)
M Wayland	Visitor (BMNH)
J Vazquez	Visitor (IOA Stirling University)
I. Dawson (Ms)	Visitor (Aberdeen University)
A Lacoste	Visitor (Aberdeen University)

Fishing Gear

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

Objectives

To perform a check monitoring fish disease survey of sewage sludge disposal grounds off the Firth of Forth, a distant reference area (east of Orkney) and in areas in the vicinity of an oil field (Moray Firth).

Out turn days per project: 4 days BJB1.

Narrative/Results

Scotia sailed from Aberdeen on schedule at 1100 hours on 12 May and commenced trawling on the Bell Rock sewage dump ground during that afternoon. Sampling was completed in that area and the sewage dump site at St Abb's Head with eight trawls by the morning of 13 May and a further two from the vicinity of the Beatrice oil field late that day. A position south east of Fair Isle and on Dutch Bank were sampled on 14 May. *Scotia* docked in Aberdeen on the morning of 15 May. A total of 14 trawls were successfully completed.

A total of 5999 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 most of the long term monitoring positions. All cod caught (167) were examined for pseudobranch

lesions. Haddock were present in all catches and a total of 709 >26 cm were examined for vertebral deformities.

A wide range of parasites from representatives of the fish species caught were collected by British Museum staff and students for parasitological studies, national reference collections and interspecific genetic comparisons.

All the main objectives of the sampling programme were successfully achieved thanks to the excellent cooperation of the officers and crew of FRV *Scotia*.

A H McVicar
22 May 1997

Seen in draft: J Nichols, Captain of *Scotia*

0697S (ii) CRUISE TRACK

