

R1/12

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

FRV *Scotia II*

Cruise 0698S

REPORT

10-19 April 1998

Personnel

K J Peach	SO (in charge)
R J Kynoch	SO (10-16 April)
J McWilliam	ASO
D J Tait	ASO
F N Burns	ASO
M J Burns	ASO
S J McKay	ASO (16-19 April)

Gear

GOV Trawl (BT137) with ground gear B and 20 mm cod-end.

Objectives

To carry out a comparative fishing exercise with new *Scotia*.

Project: 10 days LAB5

Narrative

Scotia II sailed from Aberdeen at 1100 hours on Friday 10 April and steamed north arriving at the fishing grounds at 0700 hours on Saturday 11 April. Fishing commenced at 0800 hours.

Generally the fishing operations were conducted between 0800 hours and 2000 hours to comply with new *Scotia* working practices. Initially fishing commenced at Auskerry and Copinsay but adverse weather conditions forced us to steam north to Scalloway Deepes. A total of eight hauls were completed at Shetland over the next two days. With improving weather conditions we were able to return to Copinsay and fished there until 1600 hours on 15 April when we proceeded to Scrabster to change personnel.

Once clear of Scrabster *Scotia II* proceeded in a westerly direction to the North Minch and work recommenced at 0800 hours on Thursday 16 April, four valid hauls were completed - the catches comprising mainly small fish. With improving weather conditions on the east coast *Scotia II* returned to Copinsay overnight and work began at 1000 hours on Friday 17 April. The survey was completed by 1930 hours on Saturday 18 April and the ship docked in Aberdeen at 0600 hours on Sunday 19 April.

Results

Despite some interruptions from bad weather, a total of 29 hauls were made with the GOV trawl. Scanmar sensors were deployed on the net to record door spread, wing spread, headline height and trawl speed. In addition depth meters were attached to the doors and tension meters to the trawl warps to measure gear drag. Catches ranged from 3 baskets to 176 baskets comprising mainly small herring, haddock and whiting.

A variety of fish samples were deep frozen and brought back to the Laboratory. These included squid and mixed fish for Aberdeen University, and 10 baskets of haddock for trials on the new *Scotia* fish handling system.

K J Peach
1 May 1998

Seen in draft: Captain P Ramsay

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FRV *Scotia*

Cruise 0698S

REPORT

10-19 April 1998

Personnel

K A Coull	SSO (in charge)
R D Galbraith	SSO (10-15 April)
N S Collie	PTO
C G Davis	SO
R J Kynoch	PTO (15-19 April)
M C Mathewson	ASO
I Penny	ASO

Objective

To carry out a comparative fishing exercise with old *Scotia*.

Out turn days per project: 10 days Lab5

Narrative

Scotia sailed from Aberdeen at mid-day on 10 April and proceeded to the fishing grounds east of Orkney. Work commenced the following morning with *Scotia II* and *Scotia* carrying out parallel tows, working in a northerly direction. With severe northerly gales preventing fishing on 12 April, both vessels headed for the relatively sheltered waters off the southwest of Shetland. Eight hauls were carried out in this region before the vessels returned to the area east of Orkney. Work continued in this area until the evening of 15 April when the vessels called into Scrabster Bay to carry out crew transfer and put ashore several samples of fertilised haddock eggs for forwarding to the Laboratory. With the possibility of weather restricting operations, the opportunity was taken to carry out four hauls in the North Minch area before the vessels again returned to the east side of Orkney. Problems with the autotrawl system on *Scotia* on the afternoon of 17 April resulted in gear damage to the net during one haul and also another haul having to be aborted on three occasions as the amount of warp shot was incorrect. Further hauls were carried out in the area east and southeast of Orkney before the vessels returned to Aberdeen on the morning of 19 April.

Results

From a total of 29 hauls, 25 were regarded as suitable for further analysis in relation to comparability. The weights (kg) caught by each vessel for the main species of interest are shown below. Further analysis will be carried out at a later date by the Population Studies Section.

	Haddock	Whiting	Norway Pout	Herring
<i>Scotia II</i> One hour tows	4,964	3,050	978	18,926
<i>Scotia</i> Half hour tows	2,565	1,809	497	5,847

During the survey it became clear that *Scotia II* was catching greater numbers of herring than *Scotia*. This may have been related to the fact that *Scotia II* fished slightly ahead of *Scotia* (for operational and safety reasons). Attempts to investigate this by altering the towing procedures were hampered because of difficulties encountered with the autotrawl system on *Scotia*. Insufficient hauls were completed to enable conclusions to be drawn at this stage.

K A Coull
21 April 1998

Seen in draft: J Nichols