

SUMMARY CRUISE REPORT

F.R.S. "SCOTIA"

August - September 1953

Narrative

"SCOTIA" left Aberdeen at 1600 hours on 12th August and commenced work on the Butt-Faroe hydrographic line on the following day. The line was completed in good weather on 15th, and the ship put into Trangisvaag for water. The Nolso-Flugga line was started on 16th and the work was completed in just under thirty hours.

The second part of the programme, trawling and great lining west of Shetland, was commenced, but was interrupted on 20th by the necessity of landing a member of the crew at Stornoway. Fresh bait was obtained at Stornoway, and the ship resumed work on 22nd. The west coast survey was completed by 25th and "SCOTIA" docked in Belfast next day.

Fuel and stores were taken on and on 27th the ship left Belfast and headed for Rockall. A line of hydrography stations was worked across the deep water between Barra Head and Rockall Bank. Most of the trawling and great line work on the bank had been completed when on 1st September the weather became so bad that further work was impossible. The ship dodged through a series of gales until 3rd, when, in view of the bad forecasts and of the shortage of ship's water, it was decided to end the cruise.

The ship entered Aberdeen at midnight on 5th September.

Hydrography

Three major hydro lines were worked, Butt-Faroe, Nolso-Flugga, and Barra Head-Rockall, and full temperature and salinity observations were made at other stations specified in the cruise programme. Additional samples were taken on the Barra Head-Rockall line to determine the high and low oxygen areas. Drift bottles and drift envelopes were released in groups of five at twenty-four stations.

Plankton

Net hauls for plankton were made as follows - standard nets at 11 stations, Hensen nets at 18 stations, oblique townets at 13 stations, horizontal townets at 20 stations. The most noteworthy feature of the collections was the comparative paucity of crustaceous plankton, and the great abundance of medusae and salps.

Trawling

Eight one hour hauls were made with the otter trawl. Haddock was the most abundant fish in the catches, and good samples were obtained from Faroe, West Coast, and Rockall. Megrin was the only flatfish taken in quantity, and the stomachs of this species were preserved for analysis of the food.

Great Lining

Fourteen line stations were occupied, and altogether twenty-seven lines were shot, usually two lines at each station. Valuable experience in handling the gear was obtained, and it is probable that on future trips the employment of commercial line fishermen will not be essential.

The total catch consisted of 8 halibut, 102 ling, 60 dogfish, 4 sharks, 29 tusk, 48 skate and 8 cod. All the halibut were carefully examined for stages of Grillotia erinaceus, and samples from halibut and other fish were preserved for detailed study at the laboratory.

General

The echosounder was run whenever possible, and traces were kept.

A watch was kept for basking sharks, but none was observed.

A. D. McINTYRE.

16th September, 1953.

CIRCULATION

Captain C.H. Champness
Mr. M. Graham
Dr. J.N. Carruthers
Dr. A.V. Tåning
Dr. F. Devold
Mr. F.S. Russell
Mr. K.M. Rae

Dr. G. Reay
Captain G.B. McLaren
Mr. J. Jappy
Mr. J. Smith
Mr. R.G.R. Wall
Dr. J.B. Tait
Dr. J.H. Fraser

Dr. B.B. Rae
Mr. D.D. Seaton
Mr. D. MacInnes
Dr. A.F. Orr
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