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CRUISE REPORT

F.R.S. "SCOTIA"

9th - 29th October, 1954.

Narrative

"Scotia" sailed from Aberdeen on the evening of the 9th to start work on the Butt of Lewis - Faroe Bank hydrographic line. During the passage to the Butt, however, the weather deteriorated and the ship had to shelter in Loch Erriboll until the 14th when nine stations of the line were worked before the wind became too strong and "Scotia" had to steam to Faroe. On the 18th work was begun on the Faroe-Flugga line but unluckily bad weather also prevented the completion of this line and after two attempts the ship was forced to run to Shetland before a westerly gale.

"Scotia" went to Lerwick on the 20th for water and on the 22nd started work on the North Sea grid. After 36 hours gales forced the ship to shelter in Gruting Voe. The next attempt ended in the same way with less than 18 hours of work achieved and the ship compelled to seek shelter in Pierowall. On the 28th there was no sign of the weather improving so "Scotia" made a passage to Aberdeen and docked on the morning of Friday 29th.

Throughout the cruise gale forecasts were nearly always in operation and the occasional periods of workable weather usually lasted less than 24 hours with the result that less than half the stations in the programme were actually worked.

Hydrography

In the Faroe-Shetland Channel surface temperatures ranged from 8.5 to 11.5°C and on the west side of the Wyville-Thomson Ridge negative temperatures were found at the bottom.

The autumn mixing in the North Sea was well advanced with complete overturn in the more coastal waters. In the centre of the northern North Sea where mixing was least there were still bottom temperatures as low as 7.0°C.

Plankton

On the Butt-Faroe Bank line salps (mainly Salpa fusiformis) and Galettia australis were present in many of the collections with good catches of bathypelagic species in the deep townet. On the Faroe-Flugga line catches were poor with the exception of a station in Z220 where very large hauls of Megarytiphanes norvegica were made.

Collections in the North Sea were generally poor in crustacea except for one station in E21c. The most common organisms were the same as those found in the Faroe-Shetland Channel, namely Galetta and salps.

General

The echosounder was run throughout the cruise but there were virtually no traces.

J. H. SIEGEL

3rd November, 1954.

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