

S.16

CRUISE REPORT

7SR58

F.R.S. "Scotia"

July 30th - August 16th 1958

- Objectives:
1. Haddock/Whiting Tagging in North Sea.
 2. A series of plankton hauls to be made with the Gulf III High Speed sampler in the Moray Firth area. At all plankton stations a standard net haul to be made; temperatures and salinities to be taken at standard depths.
 3. Four one hour trawls for *Nephrops norvegicus* to be made in the Firth of Forth.

General

"Scotia" sailed from Aberdeen at 2345 hours on the 30th July and completed objective 2 on 1st August.

Trawling started on the same day in the Smith Bank area, but catches were poor and fish for tagging scarce, especially whiting. These poor catches continued throughout the cruise. Several grounds were tried; the best results were obtained south of Copinsay on the east side of the Orkneys. A bad fastener here after a few days fishing necessitated a move to grounds which were less productive.

In all, "Scotia" did 61 trawls from which 400 fish were tagged, 390 haddock and 10 whiting. The four trawls in the Firth of Forth gave good results, 1112 *Nephrops* were sexed and measured.

During the cruise, "Scotia" put in to Stromness for a minor engine-room repair and to Aberdeen to collect gear. Two days were lost at Orkney by a strong on-shore wind which made it dangerous to shoot gear.

"Scotia" docked at Leith at 1430 hours on 16th August.

Echo-sounding

The echo-sounder was run continuously and some good traces observed. On several occasions when small fuzzy traces were seen near the bottom, a number of squid (*Loligo* species) appeared in the hauls.

C. DAVIDSON.
19th August, 1958.