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## CRUISE REPORT

FRS "SCOTIA"

20 September-10 October 1970

## OBJECTIVE

Herring larval survey in the north-western North Sea.

## NARRATIVE

"Scotia" sailed from Aberdeen on 20 September, and the larval survey was begun off Fraserburgh about 2300 hours on the same evening. The work continued until the afternoon of 25 September, when shelter was sought off Fitfall Head, Shetland, from a S.E. gale. The survey was resumed on 27 September and was continued, with some interruptions due to unfavourable weather, until the morning of 1 October, when "Scotia" returned to Aberdeen to refuel and replenish water supplies. Stormy weather kept the ship in port until the afternoon of 3 October. "Scotia" then sailed from Aberdeen to resume the larval survey. During the remainder of the cruise weather conditions were poor and hindered the work. "Scotia" returned to Aberdeen at the end of the cruise and docked there about 2100 hours on 10 October.

## HERRING LARVAL SURVEY

During the first part of the cruise Grid I was worked. The area surveyed extended east and west of Orkney between longitudes 0° and 5° W and from north of Fair Isle to the Moray Firth. Most of this area was again surveyed during the second part of the cruise and in addition some stations were worked off the Aberdeenshire coast.

- As in September 1969, the main concentrations of herring larvae were located west of Orkney. Very few larvae were observed in the collections from the Moray Firth area. From a cursory examination of the collections taken on the first and second surveys, it appeared that the larvae west of Orkney were being transported in a north-easterly direction towards the Shetland Isles.

Salps (Salpa fusiformis) were widely distributed over most of the area surveyed but they appeared to be particularly abundant to the east and north-east of Fraserburgh.

Fifty Plankton Indicator hauls were made for the SMBA Laboratory, Edinburgh, at stations worked between 6pm and 6am.

The salinograph was run continuously throughout the cruise. Records of surface temperature and salinity are now being analysed.

I G BAXTER  
14 October 1970