

R1/12

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FRV "Scotia"

Cruise 7/88 Part 2

7pt2SR88

REPORT

23-26 July 1988

Personnel

D Seward	SSO (in charge)
L Massie (Mrs)	SSO
A Kelly	SSO
J Dunn	HSO
J McKie	HSO
R Payne	HSO
I Gibb	ASO
S Forsyth	ASO
P Simpson	ASO

Objectives

To undertake an environmental sampling programme in the vicinity of the Piper Alpha platform remains.

Narrative

Following exchange of equipment and personnel, "Scotia" left Aberdeen at 1030 on 23 July and proceeded directly to the control sampling station at 58°N 00°30'W. Samples of sea water, plankton and sea bed sediment were collected. The vessel then continued to the Piper Alpha area, and further samples of sea water, plankton and sea bed sediment were collected at stations between 0.5 and 10 nautical miles from the platform. Later on 24 July, a settlement trap rig was deployed one nautical mile to the north east of the platform. The vessel then proceeded to a control trawling area, 30 nautical miles to the north east of the platform. En route to the control trawling location, further samples of sea water, plankton and sea bed sediment were collected. A full sampling programme, consisting of collection of samples of sea water, plankton and sea bed sediment; deployment of a settlement trap rig; and a single one hour demersal trawl, was undertaken at the control trawling location, and the vessel then returned to the Piper Alpha area. On the morning of 25 July, the Piper Alpha sea water, plankton and sea bed sediment, sampling programme was continued, and a one hour demersal trawl was undertaken 1.5 nautical miles to the north east of the platform. By noon on 25 July, the weather had deteriorated, and it was necessary to terminate the sampling programme following completion of the one hour demersal trawl. "Scotia" left the sampling area to return to Aberdeen, docking at 0800 on 26 July.

Results

1. Sea water, plankton and sea bed sediment sampling was successfully completed at the control sampling station en route to Piper Alpha. It was not possible to collect a further sample series at the control sampling station during the return journey.
2. In the vicinity of Piper Alpha, sea water, plankton and sea bed sediment sampling was successfully completed at 15 of the proposed 16 sampling stations within 10 nautical miles of the platform.
3. Sea water, plankton and sea bed sediment sampling was successfully completed at sampling stations 20 and 30 nautical miles to the north east of Piper Alpha.

4. Settlement trap rigs were successfully deployed one and 30 nautical miles to the north east of Piper Alpha. These were later recovered by Marine Laboratory staff from the MV "Forth Explorer" provided by Occidental Petroleum (Caledonia) Ltd.

5. One hour demersal trawls were successfully completed at locations 1.5 and 30 nautical miles from Piper Alpha.

6. All the above samples were processed on board FRV "Scotia", preserved as appropriate, and returned to the Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen for analysis.

D Sward

5 April 1989