

R1/12

Not to be cited without prior reference to the Marine Laboratory Aberdeen

FRV *Scotia*

Cruise 0800S

## REPORT

26-29 May 2000

### Personnel

A McVicar	(In charge)
D Bruno	
J King (Ms)	
S Johnston (Ms)	
J Emslie (Ms)	
R Bray	Visitor (BMNH)
P Ostergaard (Ms)	Visitor (BMNH)
N Campbell	Student Aberdeen University
P Womersley	Student Aberdeen University
J Martin (Ms)	Student Aberdeen University
A Dove	Student Aberdeen University

### Fishing Gear

Monk trawl with small mesh codend.

### Objectives

To perform a check monitoring fish disease survey of sewage sludge disposal grounds off the Firth of Forth, a distant reference area (east of Orkney) and in areas in the vicinity of an oil field (Moray Firth).

**Out turn days per project:** 4 days AE11a

### Narrative/Results

*Scotia* sailed from Aberdeen on schedule at 1030 hours on 26 May and commenced trawling in the vicinity of the Beatrice oil platform during that afternoon and south east of Fair Isle on the morning of 27 May. Sampling was completed in the Bell Rock and St Abb's Head areas later that day and on 28 May. Additional stations were included south of Bell Rock and on Marr Bank before docking overnight 28-29 May. A total of 11 trawls were successfully completed.

A total of 8,434 common dab *Limanda limanda* were examined for disease by standardised ICES methods and a full data set for the recommended fish length groups achieved for most of the long term monitoring positions. All cod caught (27) were examined for pseudobranch lesions. Haddock were sampled when present in catches and a total of 224 equal to or greater than 26 cm were examined for vertebral deformities.

A wide range of parasites from representatives of the fish species caught were collected by British Museum staff and students for parasitological studies, national reference collections and interspecific genetic comparisons. MSc students from Aberdeen University accompanied the cruise for experience and were able to offer valuable help in many ways.

All the main objectives of the sampling programme were successfully achieved thanks to the excellent cooperation of the officers and crew of FRV *Scotia*.

A H McVicar  
2 June 2000

**Seen in draft:** R Walton, Captain of *Scotia*

0800S

