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SUMMARY OF "SCOTIA" CRUISE REPORT

30th August - 30th September 1952

"SCOTIA" sailed from Aberdeen on 30th August with the intention of proceeding directly to Iceland before commencing work. After some delay through bad weather, the programme was started at Vester Horn in south-east Iceland and continued westwards to Reykjanes. "SCOTIA" arrived at Reykjavik on 9th September where fuel and water were taken on board. A resumption was made on 11th September but the failure of the boiler feed pump necessitated a return to Reykjavik. An attempt at repairs and the subsequent delivery of a new pump caused a delay of fourteen days. In view of the loss of time it was decided to discontinue the cruise. "SCOTIA" returned to Aberdeen on 30th September.

HYDROGRAPHY

Surface temperatures along the south coast of Iceland rose from a minimum of 7.38°C. at Vester Horn in the east to a maximum of 9.92°C. off Reykjanes in the west. The lowest bottom temperatures of just over 7°C. were recorded between the Westmann Isles and Reykjanes, in the area where the surface readings were highest. The highest bottom temperatures, with one exception at Portland, were obtained in Faxa Bay.

PLANKTON

On the whole, poor catches of plankton were obtained. Jellyfish, including *Cyanea* and *Aurelia*, were observed at a number of positions and *Aurelia* were numerous in Reykjavik harbour towards the end of our stay in that port.

Other organisms noted in small numbers included *Aglantha*, *Laodicea*, *Sagitta elegans*, *S. maxima*, *Calanus finmarchicus*, *Clione limacina*, *Limacina retroversa*, *Beroe*, *Euphausiids*, *Physophora* and young fish (probably *Ammodytes*).

TRAWLING

Successful trawling was experienced along the south coast. Catches were particularly heavy within territorial waters at Vester Horn, west of Portland and north of the Westmann Isles, where in each case haddocks were plentiful. Baby (1952 brood) haddock ranging from 9 to 14 cms. were obtained at five positions, the highest totals being 65 in an hour at Ingolfshofdi Huk and 34 in half-hour west of Reykjanes. The 1951 brood was well represented, mostly in the 20-30 cms. size group but the outstanding feature of the catches was the good numbers of large haddock of up to 73 cms. One good haul of codling was made west of Portland, and large whittings were present in fair numbers round the Westmann Isles and west of Reykjanes. Small whiting were very scarce, however, although a few of the 0 group were caught. Small numbers of good-sized plaice, lemon soles, witches and megrims were obtained together with a few young halibut. Norway haddock were taken in almost every haul with one exceptionally big catch of 244 fish in a half-hour's drag south of the Westmann Isles. These fish were mostly of two size groups - 20-25 cms. and 43-49 cms. A number of large herrings in a spent condition were taken off Ingolfshofdi Huk. Invertebrates were scarce in comparison with what is experienced on "EXPLORER" in home waters but this may be due to a difference in the fishing capacity of the two trawls.

GENERAL

Evidence of a deep scattering layer was obtained on the echosounder between the Faroes and Iceland. Traces indicating the presence of herring shoals were obtained in the sea eastwards of the Westmann Isles. The surface thermograph was used successfully during the cruise.

BENNET B. RAE.

16th October, 1952.

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