

CRUISE REPORTF.R.S. "SCOTIA".

8th - 16th September

and

22nd - 29th September

Personnel:

Mr. W. Dickson, S.S.O.  
 Mr. W. Smith, Sen. Asst. (Sci.)  
 Mr. J. Hendry, Asst. (Sci.)

Mr. W. Dickson, S.S.O.  
 Mr. P. Perkins, A.E.O.  
 Mr. T. Bruce, Asst. (Sci.)

Objectives:

1. Herring trawling
2. Herring tagging

Narrative:

An extension of the previous cruise and the consumption of fuel that it entailed made some alteration in programme necessary. It was decided that refuelling take place in the middle of the trip and that the scientific staff would disembark and re-embark at Leith. A bad weather forecast delayed the start of the trip for a further day. On the 10th of September "Scotia" joined a concentration of foreign herring trawlers in the Gut and remained in the region of 56°50'N 1°20'E until 14th September.

During this period the Swedish herring trawl and the old Icelandic trawl were used. About 500 herring were tagged. The Swedish Herring Trawl in particular is too light in construction for such a heavy ship and suffered repeated damage. On the return journey to Leith, Smith's grab was used to collect bottom samples, one being taken from the Devil's Hole in just over 100 fathoms of water. The better part of a day was also spent making measurements of net gape, speed, spread and warp load using "Scotia's" otter trawl rigged with V.D. gear. "Scotia" arrived at Leith on the afternoon of the 16th.

The scientific staff rejoined the vessel at Leith on the 22nd. A day was lost refuelling at Grangemouth and it was not until the evening of the 24th that the Gut was reached again. A new Icelandic Trawl of somewhat heavier construction than on the earlier part of the cruise was "bent on". In spite of steaming the length and breadth of the Gut neither concentrations of herring nor a single herring trawler engaged in fishing could be located. The weather deteriorated so that only four hauls were made and most of the time was spent dodging. On the 27th it was decided to spend no longer waiting for weather improvement but to run for the shelter of Aberdeen Bay and make use of the remaining time there. Measurements of net gape, warp load and spread of the new Icelandic trawl were made. After this a couple of hauls were made with the otter trawl and live haddock were brought in for the aquarium. "Scotia" docked in Aberdeen on the night of 28th/29th September.

W. DICKSON

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