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## CRUISE REPORT

F.R.S. "SCOTIA"

22nd August-4th September, 1958.

General

"Scotia" sailed from Aberdeen at 1900 hours on the 22nd August. The cruise programme was completed in full with the exception of the repeat hauls on lines 57°00'N and 57°10'N. These stations could not be worked due to unfavourable weather. Trawling was carried out, in addition to the scheduled programme, in order to obtain whiting gall bladders and all cod were examined for nematode parasites within the flesh. At the end of the cruise "Scotia" docked at Aberdeen at 0600 hours on the 4th September.

Hydrography

Temperatures at depth of 10 metres varied between about 12°C in the north-west and around 15°C in the south-east. At 50 metres temperatures were about 9°C in the north-east and at their lowest in the south-east where 6.8°C was recorded.

Plankton

Plankton density and distribution was as expected at this season. Cyanea was abundant over the eastern and northern sections of the grid. Herring larvae were scarce, small numbers being found on and to the east of Montrose Bank whilst isolated but denser concentrations were collected on Turbot Bank and off Rattray Head.

Firth of Forth Survey

Norway lobsters were encountered in good concentrations in the Firth of Forth. Only one female out of 500 specimens was berried. It is possible that the spawning season this year is later than usual. The size distribution (carapace length in cms.) was as follows:-

Size group:	2.0-2.9	3.0-3.9	4.0-4.9	5.0-5.9	6.0-6.9
♂	22	300	421	174	19
♀	61	401	54	1	-

Of the total catch including small mesh only 2.7% were under 3½" overall length. 12.3% were under 4".

H. J. THOMAS  
23rd September, 1958.