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## CRUISE REPORT

F.R.S. "SCOTIA"

October 8th-29th 1961

Narrative

Unfavourable weather delayed "Scotia's" departure until 8th October, on which date the ship sailed at 1200 hrs. The last minute addition to the programme involved trawling off the east coast of Scotland, as a part of the international herring survey. Before beginning this part of the cruise, the usual Nephrops survey in the Firth of Forth was completed during 8th-9th October. The herring survey began on October 10th, but only three hauls had been made, when gale force winds forced the interruption of work. On October 11th at 1400 hrs, there being no signs of improvement in weather conditions, it was decided to return to Aberdeen. "Scotia" docked in Aberdeen harbour on 12th October at 0130 hrs.

The bad weather and repairs to the windlass kept the ship in the harbour until 14th October, when she sailed for German Bight at 1500 hrs. The first station in that area was occupied, in rapidly deteriorating weather, on 16th October at 1100 hrs. Only two stations had been completed when, at 1900 hrs, it became necessary to stop fishing. Waiting for better weather, "Scotia" rode out the gale till 18th October, 1300 hrs, when it was decided to seek shelter in Esbjerg. The ship docked in Esbjerg on 19th October, 1000 hrs, and remained there until 21st October, 1300 hrs.

The gales abated and fishing was resumed, only to be interrupted again by the renewed strong winds on October 22nd, 1500 hrs. With the prevailing southerly winds and no prospect of improvement in weather conditions, the decision was taken to proceed to the northern part of the area, with which this cruise was concerned, i.e. to the Skagerrak. After a stormy passage, "Scotia" dropped anchor in Jammer Bay (north coast of Denmark) on October 23rd, 1630 hrs.

The weather appeared somewhat better on the following morning and an attempt was made to fish in the Skagerrak. The second haul had to be cut short and the ship had to run back to Jammer Bay, reaching it at 2030 hrs.

"Scotia" left Jammer Bay on October 26th at 2400 hrs, in another attempt to resume fishing. By October 27th, 1100 hrs. weather conditions slightly improved and the trawl was shot, but during the haul the strong winds returned and further fishing proved impossible. Weather forecasts promised no early improvements and it was decided to return to Aberdeen. After an uneventful crossing, the ship docked in Aberdeen on October 29th, 0330 hrs.

Trawling

Due to the bad weather only three hauls were made during the herring survey and seven during the main part of the cruise. Herring was found in only one out of the three hauls and were few in numbers. The sample was brought back to the laboratory. During the remainder of the cruise catches were light and their composition usual for the area fished. Examination of 150 whiting gall-balders showed their infection with the myxosporidian Protozoa to be well within the pattern established by previous studies. Vertebral counts and notes of other meristic characters were taken on 260 whiting.

Other Work

Surface and bottom hydrographic and chemical samples were taken at all stations and plankton was collected at six localities. These samples are now being examined.

Z. KABATA

1st November 1961

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