

R1/12

IN CONFIDENCE - NOT TO BE QUOTED WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE LABORATORY

FRV SCOTIA

8SR82

CRUISE 8/82

REPORT

4-24 August 1982

OBJECTIVE

North Sea demersal trawling survey.

NARRATIVE

'Scotia' sailed at 1530hrs on the 4 August and started work at the station off Aberdeen. The majority of the east coast stations were completed before collecting a member of the engineering staff at Berwick on the evening of the 7 August. Work, gradually progressed eastwards and fifty-two trawl hauls were completed before the ship docked at Kristiansand on the 16 August for the mid-cruise break. Trawling recommenced on the 18 August and the survey objective was successfully completed before the ship returned to Aberdeen at 1600hrs on the 23 August.

RESULTS

A total of 78 valid trawl hauls were made during the survey. Catch rates varied but the average was ca 12 baskets per hour. The principal species throughout the survey area were generally haddock and whiting, but catches of 30 baskets per hour of horse mackerel were taken in statistical rectangles 39F1 and F2. Cod were taken in small numbers, the highest catch being only 5 baskets per hour in 47E9. Saithe were taken mostly in the northern part of the survey, the largest numbers being taken in 49F1. Herring were present in most of the catches at the east-coast stations and in the Shetland area. However in general, ~~catches~~ ^{numbers} were small (less than 1 basket/hour); a catch of 7 baskets per hour was obtained in stat rect. 38FO. Small catches of juvenile blue whiting were taken in rectangles 51FO and F1.

All catches were treated according to standing instructions. In addition, most of the cod, haddock, whiting and saithe otoliths taken were aged at sea.

Stomach sampling : Stomachs were collected from cod, saithe and mackerel

Parasitology : Samples of haddock and common dab were deep frozen

Weight/Length : Samples of Long Rough dab and T minutus were deep frozen. A considerable number of observations were recorded at sea for haddock and whiting

Semi-Automatic measuring system: The reliability of the semi-automatic measuring board was successfully tested. Measurements of about 15,000 fish were recorded.

Ships Stabilised supply: Mr A Naha made observations through out the cruise and a separate report will be submitted.

Live fish: A number of spotted dogs were brought back for the Institute of Marine Biochemistry.

A Robb
27 August 1982

Seen in draft: J W Gillon





