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In Confidence: Not to be quoted without reference to the laboratory

FRV "Scotia"
Cruise 8/83REPORT

3 August - 23 August 1983

OBJECTIVE

Demersal trawling survey in the North Sea

NARRATIVE

"Scotia" sailed at 1430 hours on the 3 August and work commenced that day at the stations east of Aberdeen. The survey progressed satisfactorily. Until the morning of 11 August when a trawl warp broke resulting in the loss of one trawl door and the net. The ship returned to Aberdeen on the 12 August for the mid-trip break and to allow repairs on the trawl warps. Work recommenced on the 13 August and the rest of the survey was successfully completed before the ship returned to Aberdeen at 0800 hours on 22 August.

RESULTS

The entire survey area was completed with a total of 82 trawls being made during the cruise. Catch rates varied between stations and ranged from five baskets to forty-five baskets per hour. Catches per 10 hours fishing by research vessel sampling area are given in the table below:

Numbers per 10 hours fishing.

AREA	NO HAULS	COD	HADDOCK	WHITING	SAITHE	HERRING	N. POULT
SHETLAND "A"	10	291	8779	2524	167	729	17417
VIKING	6	65	8163	723	128	0	8097
FORTIES	14	195	6809	613	202	326	6518
BUCHAN "A"	6	70	8758	3070	496	6555	1417
BUCHAN "B"	6	30	5962	7565	16	3071	10578
CENTRAL "A"	22	147	3333	589	3	2635	1877
CENTRAL "B"	3	40	8726	650	13	0	300
HUMBER "A"	7	288	2474	2801	10	11071	5266
FIRTH OF FORTH	2	135	4265	10625	0	420	525
MORAY FIRTH	2	0	14370	9160	0	1450	120
ORKNEY	1	80	32200	10770	0	0	140

Cod were distributed throughout the survey area.

The highest catches were obtained in statis tital rectangle 47E9.

Haddock were also taken over the entire area sampled: The highest catches of 0⁺ haddock were found East of Aberdeen: around Fair Isle and east of Shetland. In these areas catches of '0'+ fish were greater than 1000 fish per hour. Whiting had a similar distribution to haddock with considerably less numbers of 0⁺ fish being caught.

The highest catches of herring were taken in the eastern part of the survey area. Samples of mackerel were deep frozen and returned to the laboratory.

seen in draft
W Findlay

A P Robb
9 September 1983

