

In Confidence - not to be quoted without prior reference to the Laboratory

FRV "Scotia"
Cruise 8/85

R1/12 MB

REPORT

August 9 - 29 1985

Personnel

A Robb	HSO	(in charge)
Mrs M Brown	SO	
G Henderson	ASO	
C Whitworth	ASO	
G Jones	ASO	
Miss G Guthrie	ASO	
D Basford	HSO)
M Robertson	SO) 9-19 Aug
Miss S Ilardia	(Visitor))

Objective: DEMERAL TRAWLING SURVEY IN THE NORTH SEA

Narrative

"Scotia" sailed at 1400 hours on the 9 August and work commenced at the stations off Aberdeen and progressed southwards. The ship diverted to Newcastle on the 12 August to land one of the ship's engineers. Trawling proceeded with little interruption, with benthos stations being carried out at the end of the trawling day. Forty four trawls were completed before the ship called at Lerwick on the 19 August for the half landing.

Work recommenced on the 20 August and a further 41 trawls were carried out before the ship docked in Aberdeen at 0700 hours on the 29 August.

Results

The entire survey area was covered with a total of 85 trawl hauls being made during the cruise. Catch rates varied between stations, ranging from 5-50 baskets per hour. Generally catches were greater than in previous years. Numbers at age of cod, haddock, whiting and saithe by market sampling area are given in the attached tables. Two year old fish formed the largest component of the cod catches which were generally higher than in 1984. For haddock in terms of numbers 0-2+ fish formed the bulk of the fish caught. The numbers of 1+ fish were generally less than in 1984 but the numbers of 2+ fish in the catches were considerably greater, especially in the Moray Firth, Buchan and Central areas. For whiting, catches were similar to 1984 although there was an increase in the number of 1+ fish taken in the Moray Firth and Buchan areas. In the case of saithe, catches were greatest in the Forties/Central areas.

Stomach sampling

A total of 4120 whiting and 1200 cod were examined and samples preserved.

Parasitology & Chemistry

Samples were deep frozen and returned to the Laboratory for further examination.

Benthos:

The benthos sampling was completed satisfactorily.

A P Robb

6 September 1985

Seen in Draft

D Beveridge

NUMBERS AT AGE (PER 10 HOURS)

TABLE 1 COD

AGE	SHETLAND		VIKING		MORAY FIRTH		BUCHAN		FORTIES		CENTRAL		HUMBER	
	1984	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985
0														
1	58	3	7		23		58	14	46	3	154	5	96	17
2	71	53	25	42		20	12	23	64	230	32	160	41	158
3	31	29	22	72			4	2	49	22	19	16	43	7
4	6	13	5	32			4	3	5	14	3	13	6	5
5	7	5	8	10			1	-	9	3	6	3	13	-
6	1	4	7	5			1	1	1	2	1	2		3
7		1	3	5						-	1	-		-
>8		1		2										

TABLE 2

HADDOCK

AGE	SHETLAND		VIKING		MORAY FIRTH		BUCHAN		FORTIES		CENTRAL		HUMBER	
	1984	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985
0	1537	1443	1377	1100	6090	1225	533	639	708	1587	126	189	24	357
1	2434	2102	2353	1283	9360	7447	6178	3986	2106	1377	4817	929	5033	358
2	740	1746	1063	1532	37	2543	435	4631	944	1721	882	4097	584	1620
3	446	161	862	332	2	70	206	208	259	300	284	294	397	30
4	75	151	163	215	2	10	92	71	57	65	28	59	9	25
5	159	31	135	52	10		16	-	64	8	36	7	131	3
6	58	54	10	15			1	99	9	8	3	5	1	3
7	30	21	22	8					1	1		-		
>8	11	16	3						3	1		-		

TABLE 3 WHITING

AGE	SHETLAND		VIKING		MORAY FIRTH		BUCHAN		FORTIES		CENTRAL		HUMBER	
	1984	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985
0	202	149	68	108	4195	1518	871	261	161	171	19	30	3	12
1	20	198	2	3	1805	6470	1143	5785	24	25	950	359	5490	1118
2	276	575	132	70	113	80	303	3996	77	229	289	465	1467	1145
3	109	359	30	63	7	37	301	163	56	103	99	120	261	400
4	158	16	60	20	2	10	178	314	44	28	56	34	50	25
5	139	62	228	17	5	3	221	117	69	8	20	7	64	13
6	36	27	38	15	2	3	83	99	14	10	4	2		5
7	8	6	5	8			4	3	5		6			7
≥8	4													

TABLE 4 SAITHE

AGE	SHETLAND		VIKING		MORAY FIRTH		BUCHAN		FORTIES		CENTRAL		HUMBER	
	1984	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985
0														
1						5	1	1					54	
2							13	149	99	2322	2	273	13	2
3	39	66	770	18			2	47	309	1095	4	352		
4	308	577	2128	390			-	1	199	43	2	2		
5	151	65	307	208			1	1	54	10				
6	34	24	45	57				-	23	11				
7	30	11	58	32					6	4			1	
8	4	16	2	20				2						
≥8	4	12		5				1	2	4				





