

R1/12

Not to be cited without prior reference to the Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen

FRV *Scotia*

Cruise 0902S

**REPORT**

5-24 June 2002

**Personnel**

- I Tuck (In charge)
- J Kinnear
- C Shand
- A Weetman
- J Drewery
- B Ward
- C Lordan (BIM (5-12 June))

**Objectives**

- a) To obtain estimates of distribution and abundance of *Nephrops* in the Fladen Ground, Firth of Clyde, North Minch, South Minch and Stanton Banks using underwater television. If time permits the survey will also include stations in the Sound of Jura and Noup.
- b) To make use of the TV survey to estimate the densities of other shellfish species and benthic organisms and to record evidence of trawling activity.
- c) To collect samples of the sediment at each TV station.
- d) To carry out *Nephrops* trawling in each stratum throughout the survey areas for size and sex composition analysis and examination of biological features.
- e) To collect samples of *Nephrops* for comparison of reproductive condition and morphometrics in different areas.
- f) To collect samples of *Arctica islandica* for studies of shell chemistry and age.

**Estimated Days Per Project:** 20 days MF01tc

**Narrative**

*Scotia* sailed from Aberdeen midmorning on 5 June, with work commencing that evening at the Fladen Ground. The preliminary survey of fifty stations had been completed by the morning of 9 June, when the vessel sailed to the west coast, where stations to the south of the North Minch, and the west of the South Minch were surveyed, on route to the Clyde. Work commenced in the Clyde in the evening of 11 June, and Colm Lordan was put ashore on 12 June at Troon. The work in the Clyde (46 TV stations and three trawls) was completed on 13 June, when the vessel proceeded to the Sound of Jura, starting work in the early morning of 14 June. After completing 12 stations here, *Scotia* returned to the South Minch, completing stations to the south of Mull and Coll and Tiree, before steaming to the

Stanton Banks to carry out eight TV stations and one trawl. Following this the remaining South Minch stations (39 TV and three trawl) were completed, with the vessel leaving the area and heading for Stornoway in the early morning of 17 June. It was planned to have a half landing in Stornoway on 17 June, but as the vessel approached Stornoway, the wind increased dramatically, making the conditions unsuitable for entry into the harbour. We then dodged outside the harbour for the rest of the day, hoping for an improvement in the wind conditions. The conditions did not improve, and following similar forecasts for the following day, it was decided to proceed to Ullapool for a half landing on 18 June. *Scotia* left Ullapool on the morning of 19 June, and proceeded to work in the North Minch until early in the morning of 21 June, completing 39 TV stations and one trawl. *Scotia* then steamed back round to the Fladen ground, undertaking two preliminary TV runs on the edge of the crab grounds near the Papa Bank. An additional seven TV and four trawls were carried out on 22 June, working at the Fladen Ground, and on the soft mud areas south towards the Devils Hole. Work finished at the Devils Hole, with *Scotia* then Steaming into Aberdeen, arriving in the late afternoon.

Unloading took place the following day.

## **Results**

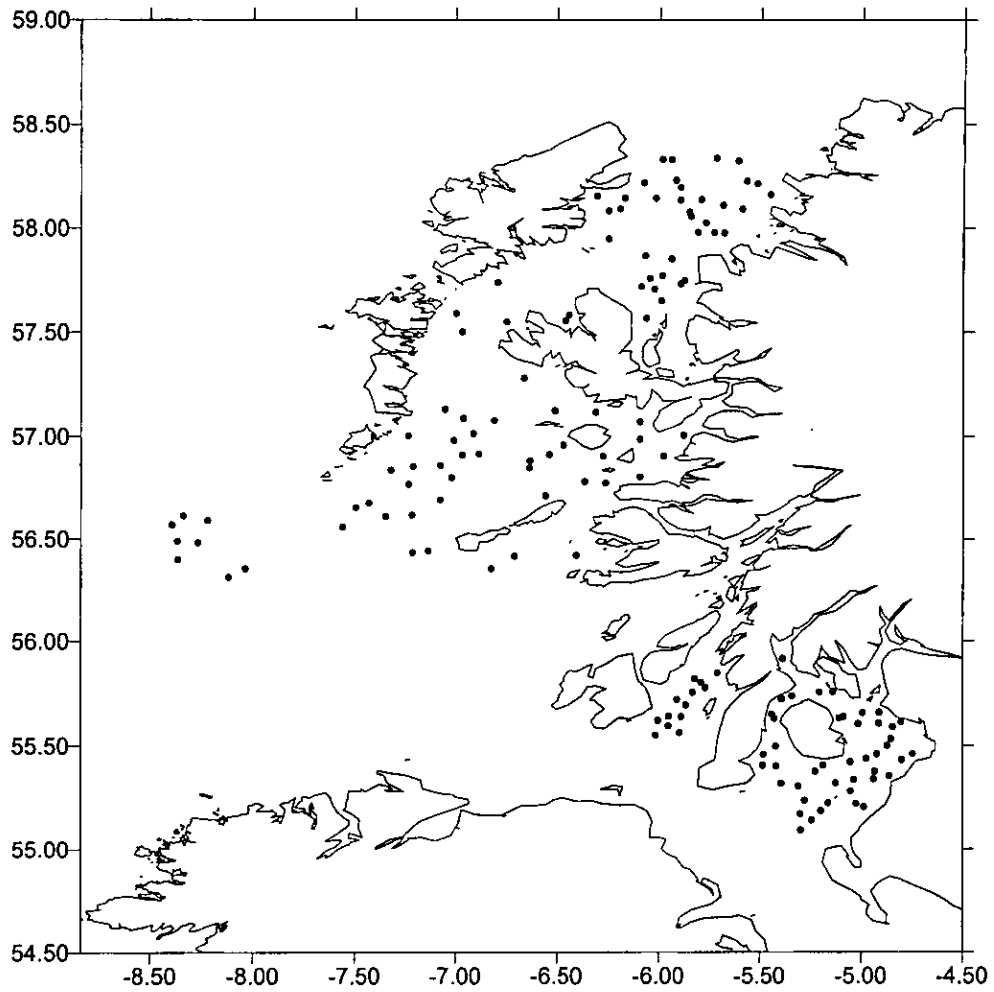
Station locations are shown in Figures.

Final analysis of the video tapes will be carried out within the laboratory.

J A Morrison  
26 August 2002

Seen in draft: Captain Peter Barratt, FRV *Scotia*

### Scotia Nephrops TV survey, West Coast



Fladen, TV Survey, 2002

