

SUMMARY CRUISE REPORT.

F.R.S. "SCOTIA".

August - September, 1950.

(Faroe-Iceland Cruise).

The cruise lasted from 31st of August to the 25th of September, 1950, and included calls at Klakksvig and Reykjavik. The weather prevented work from stations 6 to 16 (between the Butt of Lewis and Faroe Bank), but thereafter almost all the work was completed without incident.

Trawling.

Successful hauls were made West of Sydero, off the South Coast of Iceland and in Faxa Bay, but it was not practicable to trawl on Lousy and Rosemary Banks as the warps were of insufficient length. Excellent hauls of large plaice, lemon sole and young halibut were taken in Faxa Bay and megrim and witch off the South Coast of Iceland. Haddock was scarce off the Butt and East of the Westmann Isles, but was otherwise well represented both in large and small mesh. Good hauls of large Sebastes were taken off the South Coast.

Drifting.

An attempt to use drift nets from the "SCOTIA" was unsuccessful. Six nets were shot, but were hauled with great difficulties as the ship has no steerage way at these slow speeds. No fish of any kind were caught.

Hydrography.

There was no evidence of Arctic water in the area. Surface temperatures dropped from 14°C at the Butt to 10° at Iceland and sub-surface temperatures were rarely below 9° at 100 metres except in areas of upwelling, and 6° at 500 metres. Deep temperatures were usually above 3°.

Between Faroe and Iceland oxygen concentrations were about 6 cc. of oxygen per litre and phosphates generally greater than 1 microgram atom of phosphate phosphorus per litre below 100 metres, and decreased to 0.4 microgram atoms at the surface. Along the coast, however, ranges were wider and more irregular.

Plankton.

Phytoplankton concentrations were found off the Butt, North West of Faroe, along the South Coast of Iceland, and in Faxa Bay. Rich crustacean plankton was not widely distributed and occurred chiefly off Aberdeen and the South Coast of Iceland. Zooplankton was very poor in Faxa Bay. Oceanic species were very abundant in the open sea areas and included dense quantities of Doliolletta gegenbauri, particularly between Iceland and the Hebrides south of 61° 30' N. Aglantha and Cerianthus were also abundant and some Salpa fusiformis were found West of Faroe and close to the Hebrides. Rich collections of bathypelagic species of copepods, chaetognaths, siphonophores and fish, etc., were/

were taken in deep water. Euphausiids, Euchaeta, etc., were scarcer than expected and Arctic species were also scarce even in deep water.

J. H. FRASER.

19th October, 1950.

CIRCULATION:

Mr. J. Russell	Mr. R.S. Vimpenny	Mr. K.M. Rae	Dr. R. Johnston.
Capt. C.H. Champness	M.P. Desbrosses	Dr. G. Reay	Mr. S.D.E. Devlin.
Mr. M. Graham	Dr. B. Havinga	" H. Wood	Mr. R.J. Grierson.
Dr. C.E. Lucas	" A.R. Molander	" J.B. Tait	Mr. J.C. Russell.
" J.N. Carruthers	" H. Thomsen	" J.H. Fraser	Spare 5.
" H. Blegvad	Prof. Gilis	" A. Ritchie	
" A.V. Taning	Mr. F.S. Russell	" B.B. Rae	
" F. Devold	" E. Ford	Capt. E.A. Bruce	