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Laboratory.

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CRUISE REPORT  
F.R.S. "SCOTIA"  
30th September - 22nd October, 1957.

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An outbreak of influenza amongst the crew delayed "SCOTIA'S" departure from Aberdeen until the evening of the 4th October. Thereafter work proceeded uneventfully, under ideal weather conditions, up to the 12th October, when a call was made at Leith for water and stores. By that time all but about twenty of the stations in the first coverage of the grid had been completed.

Getting a replacement for another 'flu victim delayed departure from Leith until the afternoon of the 14th. From then until the 21st October, when the vessel docked at Aberdeen, work was considerably hampered by adverse weather and only another fifty stations were completed.

Hydrography:

Temperatures and salinity samples were taken only at surface and bottom, except at a few selected stations. Temperatures varied very little with depth. Surface temperatures ranged from 11.9°C to 10.7°C, temperatures below 11°C being found only to the east of the prime meridian. Drift bottles were released at twelve stations and a group of 20 drift indicators at 57°30'N 1°00'W.

Plankton:

One of the results of the cruise was to demonstrate that the "Gulf III" sampler could be handled easily and quickly from "Scotia" by towing from the plankton davit, with the sampler housed between hauls in a cradle on the gunwale..

Over the area sampled the general level of plankton abundance was fairly high with *Calanus* and *Sagitta elegans* making up the bulk of the collections. *Limacina* was also a prominent constituent of the collections over the whole area except at those stations near the coast, where *Pleurobrachia* occurred in considerable abundance. *Cosmetira* was noted in one collection, at 56°40'N 1°50'W.

Herring larvae were taken in greatest abundance north of 57°N and West of 0°30'W but occurred in small numbers as far south as the survey extended with some evidence of a secondary centre of smaller larvae off the Firth of Forth.

General:

The echo sounder was run continuously whilst at sea without developing any defects. A few normal herring plumes were observed in the region of the Gutway, and to the east of Fife Ness small spots, probably attributable to adolescent clupeoids, extended over a considerable area.

ALAN SAVILLE

30th October, 1957.