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CRUISE REPORT  
F.R.S. "SCOTIA"  
November 1st-22nd 1966

Personnel: J.R.G. Hislop  
D. Seaton  
H. Akhtar  
A. Robb  
V. Bainbridge (S.M.B.A.)

Objective: Routine survey of northern North Sea.

General: Bad weather delayed the sailing of "Scotia" from Aberdeen until 1600 hours on November 3rd. Work commenced that night, current markers being released at one station on the Turbot Bank and at three stations off Wick. Trawling began on November 4th. Two calls were made at Lerwick, one for shelter on November 5th and one to change first officers on November 8th. Work continued until November 12th, the vessel then putting into Stavanger for fuel and water. After a period of delay caused by bad weather, during which time Mr. Seaton was recalled to Aberdeen, work recommenced and continued uninterrupted until the evening of November 20th. "Scotia" docked at Aberdeen on November 21st.

Trawling: 25 trawl hauls were made. The most noteworthy catches from the point of view of quantity were one of 33 baskets of haddock in square F18a on November 9th and one of 56 baskets of Squalus acanthias on November 4th in square B17d. Small (0+) haddock and whiting were more abundant than in corresponding surveys during the last three years. The largest concentrations of 0+ whiting were found in the North Central and Moray Firth areas, 0+ haddock being evenly spread through these areas and the Orkney area. The northern area contained only small numbers of young haddock and whiting.

Samples of haddock guts were obtained for Mr. Jones and Mr. Campbell. Cod were examined for the presence of nematode worms in their flesh.

Eight live cod were brought back to Aberdeen for Mr. Hawkins.

Plankton, Hydrography, etc.: During the cruise, plankton and water samples were taken at 38 positions. At each station carbon and chlorophyll a samples were taken and the multi-depth plankton indicators were used by Mr. Bainbridge. Three zooplankton samples were obtained from squares B18d, J16c and D15a for pesticide residue analysis by the Pitlochry Laboratory.

Analysis of the plankton catches showed that east of Shetland and in the central part of the northern North Sea Calanus was still fairly abundant. Thysanoessa inermis was present in varying numbers over the whole area surveyed but was more abundant in the central area and towards the Norwegian coast. Both of these areas contained occasional patches of large Meganycitiphanes norvegica. To the east of Orkney and in the inner and outer Moray Firth, crustaceous plankton was particularly sparse due possibly to the widespread populations of Pleurobrachia pileus. Both Sagitta elegans and Spiratella retroversa were moderately abundant in the eastern part of the central North Sea and at E14b Sulocystis biloba was present in small numbers.

J.R.G. Hislop  
8th December, 1966.