

R1/12

9SR84

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

FRV 'Scotia'
Cruise 9/84

Report

LD

3 August - 24 August 1984

Objective

● undertake a Demersal Trawling Survey in the North Sea

Narrative

"Scotia" sailed at 1900 hours on the 3 August and immediately commenced work at the stations east of Aberdeen. The southern part of the area, in total 46 stations, was completed before the ship docked in Egersund on the 13 August for the half landing.

Work recommenced on the 14 August and the northern stations were successfully completed before attempts were made to capture live whiting for Laboratory digestion experiments.

The ship docked in Aberdeen on the 22 August at 1700 hours.

Results

The entire survey area was covered, with a total of 84 trawl hauls being made during the cruise. Catch rates varied between stations, ranging from 3 to 45 baskets per hour. Overall, catch rates were less than in previous years. Numbers at age of cod, haddock, whiting and saithe by market sampling area are given below.

The cod catches were composed mainly of 1+ and 2+ fish with the greatest numbers occurring in the Central area and generally the numbers caught were less than in 1983. For haddock, the bulk of the catch, was composed of 0+ - 3+ fish. In all areas except the Moray Firth catches of 0+ fish were less than the previous year. However the catches of 1+ fish were greater than recorded previously. For whiting only the Humber area showed increased catches over 1983 but in the case of saithe most areas gave increased catches.

Stomach Sampling

A total of 3600 whiting and 900 saithe were examined and samples preserved for further examination.

Weight/length

A total of 976 cod and 740 saithe were weighed during the cruise.

Samples of haddock mackerel and catfish were deep frozen and returned to the Laboratory.

A P Robb
29 October 1984

Seen in draft: W Findlay
OIC

NUMBERS AT AGE (PER 10 HOUR)

TABLE 1 COD

Age	Shetland		Viking		Moray Firth		Buchan		Forties		Central		Humber	
	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984
0									2		5			
1	11	58	2	7		23	15	58	43	46	45	154	47	96
2	161	71	30	25			31	12	89	64	53	32	167	41
3	63	31	10	22			6	4	20	49	7	19	33	43
4	38	6	17	5			1	4	24	5	18	3	33	6
5	8	7	5	8			2	1	16	9	6	6	7	13
6	1	1	2	7			1	1	1	1	5	1	1	
7	3			3					1		3			
8										1				

TABLE 2 HADDOCK

Age	Shetland		Viking		Moray Firth		Buchan		Forties		Central		Humber	
	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984
0	3439	1537	2787	1377	3510	6090	1276	533	3236	708	1783	126	109	24
1	2208	2434	1757	2353	6100	9360	2708	6178	1549	2106	959	4817	920	5033
2	1268	740	1767	1063	1905	37	2469	435	1184	944	1123	882	1320	584
3	308	446	602	862	2090	2	276	206	342	259	229	284	51	397
4	452	75	1147	163	680	2	654	92	456	57	225	28	176	9
5	54	159	100	135	30	10	91	16	41	64	30	36	9	131
6	14	58	5	10	55		104	1	1	9	2	3		1
7	9	30		22						1				
8	12	11		3						3				

TABLE 3 WHITTING

Age	Shetland		Viking		Moray Firth		Buchan		Forties		Central		Humber	
	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984
0	168	202	190	68	4780	4195	34	871	90	161	81	19		3
1	15	20	8	2	2840	1805	1725	1143	31	24	107	950	674	5490
2	136	276	82	132	995	113	911	303	149	77	182	289	1614	1467
3	618	109	190	30	295	7	1164	301	111	56	130	99	124	261
4	1257	158	220	60	135	2	1516	178	181	44	132	56	174	50
5	238	139	25	228	90	5	239	221	49	69	39	20	189	64
6	69	36	8	38	25	2	47	83	1	14	4	4	9	
7	3	8		5				4	1	5	2	6	4	
8	20	4											13	

TABLE 4 SAITHE

Age	Shetland		Viking		Buchan		Forties		Central		Humber	
	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984
0					168	1	1		4		10	54
1					8	13	6	99		2	1	13
2	7	39	8	770		2	5	309		4		
3	11	308	18	2128				199		2		
4	33	151	38	307	2		41	199		2		
5	66	34	40	45	2	1	47	54				
6	22	30	7	58			42	23				
7	19	4	10	2	1		12	6				
8	9	4	7				48	2				

