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FRV "SCOTIA"

CRUISE 9/88

9SR88

REPORT

31 August-12 September 1988

Personnel

A W Newton	SSO
F G Howard	SSO
K A Coull	HSO
G I Henderson	SO
Miss S Thain	ASO
C G Davis	ASO
C M Skene	SS
J Joy	Visitor (SFI)

Objective

To undertake a demersal trawling survey and to make preliminary investigations of the squid stock on Rockall Bank.

Narrative

"Scotia" sailed from Aberdeen at 1500 hours on Wednesday 31 August. With the aid of an easterly wind a quick passage was made to Rockall and trawling began at 0900 on Friday 2 September. For the next three days trawling operations were hampered by bad weather but the situation improved significantly by Sunday night. The gear was changed to an experimental squid net and on Monday trawling was carried out in the close vicinity of Rockall itself. The demersal survey was resumed on Tuesday and continued until Friday 9 September. Further trawling for squid was carried out on Saturday, just prior to making passage to Aberdeen. "Scotia" docked at 0900 hours on Monday 13 September.

Results

- Using the 48' Aberdeen trawl fitted with a 30 mm small mesh cover a total of 40 hauls were directed towards the demersal survey. Trawl stations were worked over the entire bank and as in previous years the principal species encountered was haddock. Two year old haddock were caught evenly over the whole bank but the younger age groups showed an uneven distribution. One year olds tended to be caught south of the Rock whereas 0-group haddock were concentrated on the north end of the bank. Table 1 shows the catch per 10 hours for one to four year old fish for the last four annual surveys to Rockall.

2. The investigation into the squid stock was concentrated in an area close to Rockall itself and although only small numbers of squid were caught sufficient quantities were obtained to establish the squid "grounds". A number of samples were taken back to the Laboratory for further investigations.

Table 1 Number of Haddock per 10 hours at Rockall

Survey Year/Age	0	1	2	3	4
1985	489	51284	214	31	4218
1986	3577	17309	62196	85	139
1987	698	11672	2917	8530	105
1988	8640	8170	5799	810	2107

A W Newton

14 October 1988

Seen in Draft: N E McInnes, CO

