

R1/12

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FRV "Scotia"

Cruise 9/89

REPORT

9SR89

1-13 September 1989

Personnel

A W Newton	SSO
R Priestley	SSO
F G Howard	SSO
K A Coull	HSO
M A Bell (Ms)	SO
K J Peach	ASO
S Thain (Miss)	ASO
C Yau (Miss)	Visitor

Objective

To undertake a demersal trawling survey and to make further investigations on the squid stock at Rockall.

Narrative

"Scotia" was due to sail on Wednesday 30 August but problems in the engine room caused the cruise to be re-scheduled. Accordingly, "Scotia" sailed for Rockall on 1 September after engine trials in Aberdeen Bay. A quick passage was made to Rockall Bank and trawling with the 48' Aberdeen trawl commenced at 0800 on 3 September. During the next 5 days a mixture of trawling for haddock and squid was carried out over a large area of the Bank. During this time the weather became very settled and on 8 September conditions were ideal for deploying underwater cameras at various locations around Rockall itself. The haddock survey was completed on Sunday 10th and some final camera work was carried out before steaming for Aberdeen at midday on Monday. "Scotia" docked at Aberdeen at 0900 on Wednesday 13 September.

Results

Using the 48' Aberdeen trawl fitted with a 30 mm small mesh cover a total of 39 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. Table 1 shows the catch per 10 hours for the first 5 year classes of haddock for the most recent annual surveys to Rockall. A feature of this year's catches was the large number of 0-group haddock. An unusual aspect amongst the other species encountered was the large number of 0-group mackerel caught at various trawling stations on the bank.

Using a high headline, 4 panel, trawl 4 hauls were made for squid in close vicinity to Rockall itself and a large number of specimens were taken back to the Laboratory for further investigations. Advantage was taken of the favourable weather conditions to deploy underwater television and still cameras to survey the sea bed of known squid grounds. These areas were compared to locations more associated with haddock. The clarity of the water led to some very high quality photographic material and this is currently being catalogued.

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	693	11672	2917	8530	105
1988	8540	8170	5799	810	2107
1989	23580	10799	3531	1899	268

A. H. Newton

18 October 1989

Seen in draft: N. E. McInnes (Commanding Officer)

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