

R1/12

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FRV *Scotia*

Cruise 9/90

9SR90

REPORT

29 August - 10 September 1990

Personnel

A W Newton	SSO
F G Howard	SSO
M E Black (Mrs)	HSO
J R Hutcheon	SO
D S Beveridge	SO
L Hastie	Visitor

Objective

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

Narrative

Scotia sailed from Aberdeen at 1200 on Wednesday 29 August and proceeded straight to Rockall Bank. The demersal trawl survey began on Friday 31 August, but because the outlook for the next day was almost ideal for squid work the squid net was rigged during the evening. During Saturday five hauls were made in the vicinity of Rockall itself. The demersal survey recommenced on the following day and continued, with some interruptions when the vessel had to dodge in severe NW gales, until Saturday 8 September. One final tow was made for squid beside the Rock and then *Scotia* proceeded to Aberdeen, docking at 0100 on Monday 10 September.

Results

Using the 48' Aberdeen trawl fitted with a 30 mm small mesh cover, a total of 38 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 five year classes of haddock for the most recent surveys at Rockall. The catch rates of haddock were fairly evenly spread over the survey area but, as in previous years, more young haddock were encountered to the south of the Rock than to the north.

Using a high headline, four panel trawl a total of six hauls were made for squid in close vicinity to Rockall itself. Disappointing results were obtained from the grounds on the north side of the Rock but adequate samples were obtained from a number of tows made in a narrow gully bounded by Helen's Reef and the Rock. The samples are being analysed by Aberdeen University.

A W Newton
10 October 1990

Seen in draft: N E McInnes

TABLE 1

Number of haddock per 10 hours at Rockall

Survey year	Age				
	0	1	2	3	4
1985	489	51,284	214	31	4,218
1986	3,577	17,309	62,196	85	139
1987	698	11,672	2,917	8,530	105
1988	8,640	8,170	5,799	810	2,107
1989	23,580	10,799	3,531	1,889	268
1990	16,388	10,612	1,231	388	307

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