

R1/12

Not to be cited without prior reference to the Laboratory

FRV *Scotia*

Cruise 0991S Part 2

REPORT

11-23 September 1991

Personnel

A W Newton	SSO
M E Black (Mrs)	HSO
S E Thain (Miss)	ASO
M C Donald (Miss)	ASO
D J Tait	ASO
L Hastie	Visitor

Objective

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

Narrative

The scientists joined *Scotia* at Ullapool at 1430 on Wednesday 11 September and the vessel immediately proceeded to the Rockall Plateau. Fishing began at 1500 on Thursday 12 September. During the next nine days a comprehensive demersal survey was made of the entire Plateau but work was frequently interrupted by severe weather. An attempt was made to undertake squid work but the weather prevented *Scotia* from working known grounds close to the Rock and after damaging gear on other grounds this work was abandoned. *Scotia* left Rockall on Saturday 21 September and docked in Aberdeen at 1530 on Monday 23 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; 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 1990 year class appears to be stronger than those of the previous four years but it is still well below the 1984 year class which gave rise to a very productive commercial fishery at Rockall.

Work on the squid stock was hampered by the weather. A minimal number of squid were caught during the demersal survey and these specimens were brought back to Aberdeen for analysis by Aberdeen University.

A W Newton
9 October 1991

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
1989	23580	10799	3531	1889	268
1990	16388	10612	1231	388	307
1991	14458	16398	4431	683	315

