

RI/12

Not to be cited without prior reference to the Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen

FRV Scotia

Cruise 0996S

REPORT

20-24 May 1996

Personnel

A McVicar (SIC)	PSO
D Bruno	SSO
D Smail	SSO
C Johnston (Ms)	ASO
Z Fletcher (Ms)	ASO
R Bray	Visitor (BMNH)
D Johnston	Visitor (BMNH)
T Littlewood	Visitor (BMNH)
M Wayland	Visitor (BMNH)
J Vasquez	Visitor (Stirling University)

Fishing Gear

BT 101 (48' Aberdeen trawl) with tickler chain and small mesh cod-end.

Objectives

To perform a check monitoring fish disease survey of sewage sludge disposal grounds off the Firth of Forth, a distant reference area (east of Orkney) and in areas in the vicinity of an oil field (Moray Firth) and to perform a survey of rhabdovirus in cod, haddock and herring.

Out turn days per project: 5 days BJB1.

Narrative/Results

Scotia sailed from Aberdeen on schedule at 1130 hours on 20 May and commenced trawling on the Bell Rock sewage dump ground during that afternoon. Sampling was completed in that area and the sewage dump site at St Abb's Head with eight trawls by morning of 21 May and from the vicinity of the Beatrice oil field in the Moray Firth by early 22 May. A position south east of Fair Isle and south of Shetland were sampled later that day. Four positions west of Orkney and off Wick were sampled on 23 May. *Scotia* docked in Aberdeen on the morning of 24 May. A total of 18 trawls were successfully completed.

A total of 4,929 common dab *Limanda limanda* were examined for disease by standardised ICES methods and a full data set for the recommended fish length groups achieved for most of the long term monitoring positions. All cod caught were examined for pseudobranch

1

lesions and for evidence of skin ulcers. When present in catches, haddock >26 cm (total 824) from each position fished were examined for vertebral deformities.

All cod (78), 7,640 haddock, 1,845 herring and 545 sprat were examined for skin lesions with viral samples being taken when appropriate.

A wide range of parasites from representatives of the fish species caught were collected by British Museum staff and students of parasitological studies, national reference collections and interspecific genetic comparisons.

All the main objectives of the sampling programme were successfully achieved thanks to the excellent cooperation of the officers and crew of FRV *Scotia*.

A H McVicar
Chief Scientist
29 May 1996

Seen in draft: C Brazier (Captain)

0996S Cruise track

