

R1/12

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

FRV *Scotia*

Cruise 0999S

REPORT

1-4 June 1999

Personnel

A McVicar	In charge
D Bruno	
D Mennie	
L Mearns (Ms)	Visitor
R Bray	Visitor (BMNH)
M Spencer-Jones (Ms)	Visitor (BMNH)
P Olson	Visitor (BMNH)
T Bates (Ms)	Visitor (BMNH)
M Kervick (Ms)	Visitor (MLA)
P Ontergaard	Visitor (BMNH)

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).

Out turn days per project: 4 days BJB1.

Narrative/Results

Scotia sailed from Aberdeen on schedule at 1100 hours on 1 June 1999 and commenced trawling on the Bell Rock ex-sewage dump ground during that afternoon. Sampling was completed in that area and the ex-sewage dump site at St Abb's Head with six trawls by the early morning of 2 June and a further two from the vicinity of the Beatrice oil field late that day. A position south east of Fair Isle and on Dutch Bank were sampled on 3 June. *Scotia* docked in Aberdeen on the morning of 4 June. A total of 13 trawls were successfully completed.

A total of 5,433 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 (72) were examined for pseudobranch lesions. Haddock were sampled when present in catches and a total of 330 equal to or greater than 26 cm were examined for vertebral deformities.

A wide range of parasites from representatives of the fish species caught were collected by British Museum staff and students for 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 McVicar
11 June 1999

Seen in draft: D Hodge, Captain