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CRUISE REPORT

F.R.S. "SCOTIA"

28th October - 15th November 1957.

An epidemic of influenza among members of the crew delayed "Scotia's" arrival in Aberdeen (from Leith) till the 31st October 1957. In Aberdeen there was a further delay of two days in awaiting relief crew. "Scotia" put to sea on the 2nd November and remained at sea till the 9th November. Heavy seas and strong winds considerably hampered the work, and on three occasions the vessel hove-to for periods of 12 to 24 hours to await moderation in the weather. During these 8 days only 49 stations could be completed. "Scotia" docked at Aberdeen on the 9th November for change of personnel and to take on water and stores.

As a result of delay in getting a replacement for a stoker, work was not resumed until the 13th November. In favourable weather 23 more stations were completed before "Scotia" finally docked at Grangemouth on the 15th November 1957.

Hydrography

The 72 stations completed lay roughly between the prime meridian and the east coast of Scotland, and from 58°N to 56°N latitude. Temperatures in this area ranged from 9.02 to 9.68°C at the surface, and showed slight inversion of from 0.05 to 0.10°C with those for bottom water.

A batch of 20 drift indicators was released at D13c.

Plankton

Calanus was fairly dense over the whole area except in the coastal region off St. Andrews Bay. Euphausiids and Amphipods were very conspicuous in most of the samples. The Medusae, Aglantha and Pleurobrachia, were found in small numbers in many of the samples but in no definite pattern. Sagitta elegans, which was fairly common over the whole area was very numerous in the areas C14a, C12d and D13a. Clupeoid larvae occurred over the whole grid.

Echosounding

Records from the M.S.24J machine showed a very heavy scattering layer from 10 to 20 fms. depth over a large part of the area traversed, but particularly noticeable in the latitude off Buchan Ness. This type of trace was recorded both by daylight and at night. Clearly defined fish traces usually associated with Whiting were recorded in the coastal region near Aberdeen.

R. B. BURNS
30th December, 1957.