

R1/12

Not to be cited without prior reference to the Laboratory

FRV *Scotia*

Cruise 1091S Part 1

## REPORT

12-21 October 1991

### Personnel

M R Robertson	HSO
E Macdonald	SO
J Turriff	ASO
N T Nicoll	Visitor

### Objectives

1. To conduct a plankton survey off the Scottish north and west coasts (area VIa) as part of the ICES International Herring Larvae Surveys.
2. To collect surface temperature and salinity data over the survey area.
3. To collect live plankton samples.

### Narrative

*Scotia* left Aberdeen at 1100 on 12 October but had to return almost immediately because of problems with her propeller. The vessel finally sailed at 1630 for the first plankton station off the north coast of Scotland (see Fig. 1).

Sampling commenced at 0800 on 13 October and continued without interruption until the evening of 15 October when severe gales and an increasing sea state forced all work to halt. After remaining in the vicinity of the next sampling station for approximately 24 hours, *Scotia* sailed for shelter on the east coast of Lewis, arriving there at 1730 on 16 October.

Weather conditions did not improve sufficiently until early on the morning of 19 October when sampling recommenced at the stations west of the Outer Hebrides, although two stations and several calibration hauls were completed in the southern Minch during the period of bad weather.

By midday on 20 October all possible stations had been visited and *Scotia* proceeded to Aberdeen (calibrating flowmeters en route) where the ship docked at 0800 on 21 October.

## Results

All stations in the ICES core grid for area VIa were sampled.

A wide range of larval sizes was present in the plankton samples but densities were relatively low in comparison with previous surveys.

Surface temperature and salinity were recorded by thermosalinograph at 4 minute intervals throughout the duration of the cruise.

A total of four live samples were collected by metre net. These provided specimens for video and still photography.

M R Robertson  
13 November 1991

VIA(N) IHLS SURVEY GRID

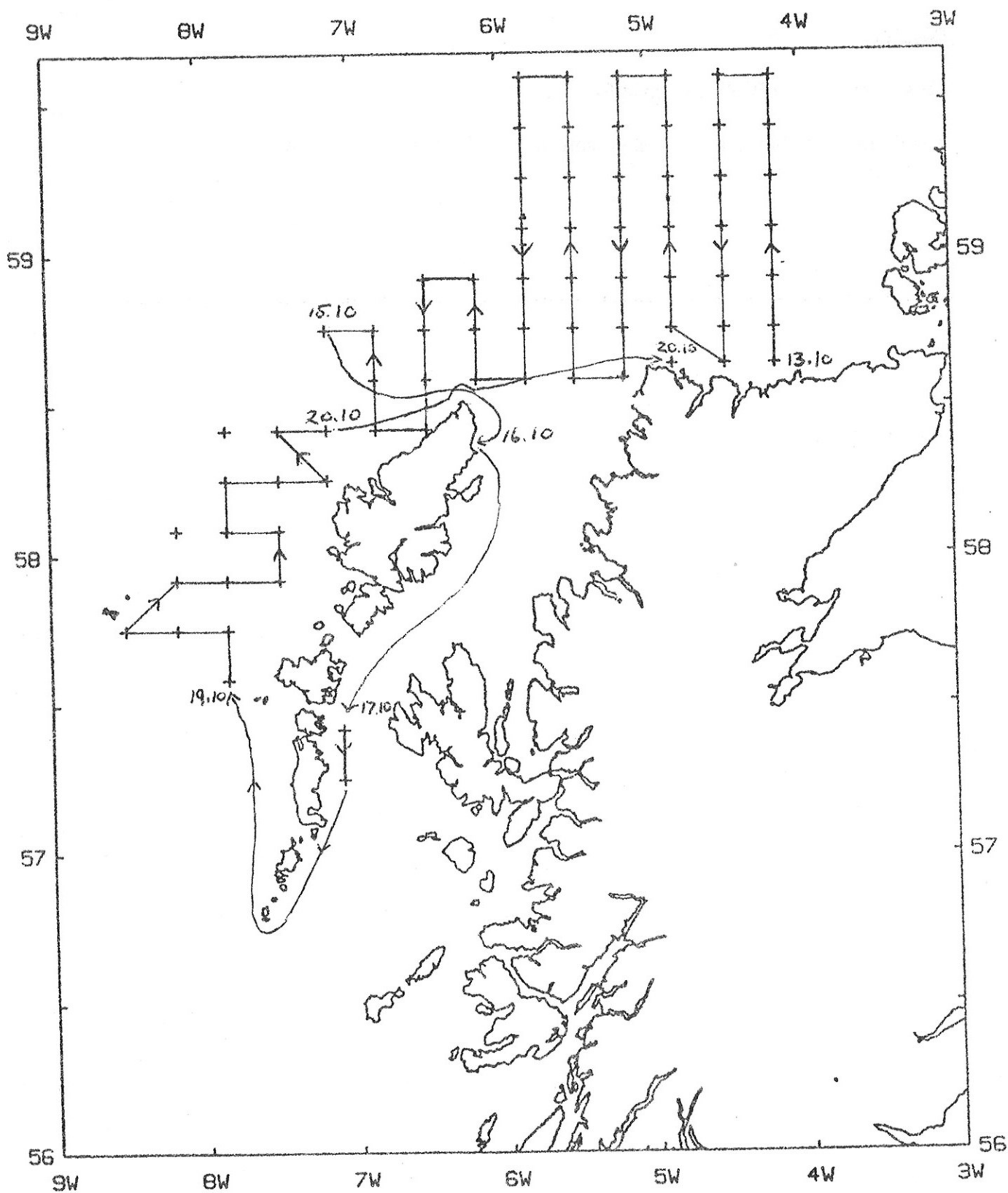


Fig. 1