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## CRUISE REPORT

F.R.S. "SCOTIA"

29th November-21st December 1955

Objectives

Herring larvae survey in the north-western area of the North Sea; a limited hydrographic and chemistry programme with a series of trawls principally for haddock investigations.

Narrative

"Scotia" sailed from Aberdeen on November 29th and started work south-west of Orkney on the 30th. Only four stations were completed when work had to be broken off and shelter sought at Pierowall from a north-westerly gale. From then until the end of the cruise work proceeded intermittently between successive gales. Seventy-three stations and five trawl hauls were completed. While sheltering from the various gales the Magnetic Tape Recording Equipment was used for electrical interference investigations.

"Scotia" docked at Aberdeen on December 21st.

Hydrography

Uniformity of vertical distribution of temperature occurred almost throughout the survey, although surface cooling was noticeable at many stations. Surface temperatures ranged from 10.31°C west of Orkney to 7.49°C in the inner Moray Firth. Bottom temperatures ranged from 10.42°C north-west of Orkney to 6.47°C at 59°30'N 00°00' where the greatest vertical variation of 2°C was noted.

Plankton

Calanus and Sagitta occurred in practically every haul. Pleurobrachia pileus was also very common. Euphausiids and Siphonophores were also well represented. These animals made up the principal mass of the plankton hauls. Herring larvae were found in the Moray Firth and south-east of Orkney areas.

Trawling

Four trawls in the Fair Isle area produced good catches of whiting and haddock, which were treated as instructed. Unfortunately all the haddock were lost when the tanks, in which they were preserved, broke loose from their lashings during a gale whilst "Scotia" was steaming for shelter. An effort was made later to locate haddock in more sheltered areas of the Moray Firth but without success. The remaining trawling experiments were cancelled in an effort to meet the requirements of the herring larvae survey. An anchovy was caught at 59°00'N 2°00'W.

Echosounding

The echosounder was run as continuously as weather permitted but very few traces were recorded.

C. DAVIDSON.  
30th December, 1955.

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