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IN CONFIDENCE: Not to be quoted without
reference to the Laboratory.

CRUISE REPORT

F.R.S. "SCOTIA"

10 November-3 December, 1965

Objective: Roundfish tagging.

Narrative

"Scotia" left Aberdeen at 1430 on Sunday 14th November, having been delayed by crew shortages and bad weather. In view of the forecast of strong SE winds, "Scotia" made for the Moray Firth where fishing commenced 9 miles N x E of Buckie on the 15th. Strong to gale SE to NE winds forced the ship to anchorages in Burghead Bay and later in Cromarty Firth from the 16th to the 20th November; Mr. Raitt was put ashore at Invergordon on the 18th. With the wind becoming NW on the 21st, two days' fishing was possible 5 miles off Helmsdale and Berriedale, before "Scotia" put into Aberdeen on the 23rd for repairs to a damaged block in the after gallows, for stores and water and to pick up Mr. Walker.

On leaving Aberdeen on the 24th, "Scotia" steamed south to a position 17 miles east of St. Abbs Head but fishing was interrupted on the following day by gale force northerly winds. After anchoring overnight in Largo Bay, three days' work was completed, 3 to 5 miles off the Carr Lightship, in strong to gale force west to north-west winds. Faults in the steam pipes serving the steering gear and forward domestic supply meant a further interruption to fishing as "Scotia" had to put into Leith for repairs. Further gales delayed sailing until the 1st December when two hauls in St. Andrew's Bay for live plaice proved unsuccessful. Bad weather on the 2nd terminated the cruise and "Scotia" docked at Leith at 1930.

Results

The area covered was severely limited by the weather to the more sheltered coastal regions. A total of 917 fish were tagged of which 377 were cod, 461 were haddock and 79 were whiting. A summary of the numbers released in each area is given below.

	<u>Cod</u>	<u>Haddock</u>	<u>Whiting</u>
9 miles N x E Buckie	137	81	2
5 miles off Helmsdale and Berriedale	48	104	15
17 miles E St. Abb's Head	5	9	4
3-5 miles off the Carr Lightship	185	262	54
St. Andrew's Bay	2	5	4

Cod unsuitable for tagging were examined for the presence of nematodes in the flesh.

In addition, one chemical station was worked and one sample taken with the 1 m (26) oblique net.

D. J. Symonds
20th December, 1965.