

R1/12

AMM

In Confidence - Not to be quoted without prior reference to the Laboratory

FRV "Scotia"

11SR81

Cruise 11/81 pt 2

REPORT

12-26 November 1981

Objectives

- 1 To recover the three current meter moorings presently deployed in the Moray Firth
- 2 To conduct a hydro-chemical survey in the Moray Firth and east of Orkney
- 3 To conduct a hydro-chemical and plankton survey of the Faroe-Shetland Channel, Wyville-Thomson Ridge and North Rockall Trough

Narrative

"Scotia" sailed on schedule at 1200 hours on 12 November towards the current meter mooring deployed at $58^{\circ}25'N$ $1^{\circ}37'W$. A combination of poor weather and sea conditions at this position and the loss of the surface marker buoy meant that recovery was not possible until 16 November. Meantime all the stations planned for the Moray Firth area were worked and the current meter mooring deployed off Clythness was recovered. CTD and water bottle sampling was undertaken in the Faroe-Shetland Channel and North Rockall Trough from 17-22 November, with intermittent interruption due to bad weather. Thereafter the ship proceeded to the Forties Field to conduct the benthic survey postponed from part 1 of the cruise. Extreme storm conditions at Forties prevented this work being undertaken however and forced the ship to shelter off Aberdeen. This led to a premature end to the cruise when "Scotia" berthed at Aberdeen at 2000 hours on 24 November.

Results

Apart from the loss of two surface marker buoys, the current meters and moorings performed well with 100% good data. The third mooring was recovered accidentally by a fishing vessel some three weeks prior to the cruise and this also gave 100% good data. Most of the planned station sampling objectives were completed, in particular useful data to check chemical analysis procedures were obtained.

Seen in draft: J W Gillon
Com Officer

H D Dooley

15 January 1982

