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IN CONFIDENCE: not to be quoted without prior reference to the Laboratory

FRV 'Scotia' Cruise 11/84

LD

REPORT

20 September - 5 October 1984

OBJECTIVES

- 1. To participate in the ICES coordinated herring larval surveys of the north western North Sea and Division VIa (N).
- 2. To carry out hydrographic and benthic sampling of the JONSIS line.
- 3. To collect water samples for radio caesium monitoring.
- 4. To collect herring larvae for biochemical studies.

NARRATIVE

Having left Aberdeen at 1500 on 20 September "Scotia" began herring larval sampling at station 1 (53 05 N 01 10 N) at 2000 and continued sampling in the Moray Firth and east of Orkney until 0530 on 23 September when benthic and hydrographic sampling of the JONSIS line was begun. Herring larval sampling recommenced at 0840 on 24 September. The first coverage of the north western North Sea area was completed at 0300 on 28 September. "Scotia" then proceeded to resample the area east of Orkney where larvae had been most abundant on the first survey. Sampling in Division VIa began at 0800 on 1 October and continued until 0430 on 4 October when "Scotia" set course for Aberdeen, docking at 2000 hours.

RESULTS

During the cruise 169 herring larval samples were obtained from the north western North Sea and 55 from Division VIa. Four samples of larvae were collected for biochemical analysis and a full set of benthic and hydrographic samples were taken on the JONSIS line. One sample of water for radio caesium analysis was collected from the Fair Isle station.

Preliminary sorting of all herring larval samples took place on board ship. This indicates that larvae were found in 2 main areas, the first to the east of the Orkneys the second from Cape Wrath east to the Orkneys. In that part of the north western North Sea which was surveyed for a second time larvae were generally less abundant. These preliminary data would suggest that in the Orkney - Shetland area herring larval abundance was comparable with that found during the same time period in 1983; but that, in the part of Division VIa, sampled abundance was higher than in the preceding year.

David W McKay 22 October 1984

Seen in draft: J W Gillan

Commanding Officer

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