

R1/12

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FRV *Scotia*

Cruise 1192S

REPORT

1-14 September 1992

Personnel

A W Newton	SSO
M E Medford (Mrs)	HSO
G I Henderson	SO
K J Peach	SO
D Herd (Miss)	AA

Objective

To undertake a demersal trawling survey on Rockall Plateau.

Narrative

Scotia sailed from Aberdeen at 1200 hours on Tuesday 1 September and proceeded to an area some 10 miles due east of Aberdeen in order to carry out gear trials using a Methot net and a newly installed winch. After successful completion of the trials Messrs Dunn and Barkess were returned to Aberdeen by small boat and *Scotia* proceeded to Rockall at 1900 hours. During the night mechanical problems in the engine room caused the vessel to divert to Ullapool to pick up essential spares. *Scotia* arrived at the north end of Rockall Bank at 1800 hours on Thursday 3 September. Trawling began immediately and proceeded, with two interruptions for bad weather, until Saturday 12 September when *Scotia* made passage for Aberdeen. The vessel docked at 0700 hours on Monday 14 September.

Results

Using the 48' Aberdeen trawl fitted with a 30 mm small mesh cover a total of 40 hauls were made over the whole area of the Rockall Bank within the 200 metre contour line. In addition a few hauls were made in deeper water at the southern end of the Bank. Whilst Blue Whiting and *Sebastes* spp were caught in nearly every haul the main species caught was haddock. Large specimens of this species were only obtained near, or to the north of the Rock itself. But smaller, and younger, specimens were encountered over the entire Bank. Table 1 shows a comparison of the "0" and "1" group haddock caught this year with the results from previous surveys. Whilst this year's results must be treated with caution at the moment (they are preliminary information based on pre-defined length parameters) all the indications are that the 1991 year class is on a par with the 1984 year class. The latter year class supported a successful commercial fishery at Rockall for a number of years.

A W Newton

23 November 1992

Table 1

Number of Haddock per 10 hours at Rockall

Survey Year	Age	
	0	1
1985	489	51,284
1986	3,577	17,309
1987	698	11,672
1988	8,640	8,170
1989	23,580	10,799
1990	16,388	10,612
1991	14,458	16,398
1992	20,962	53,504

Trawling Stations at Rockall - 'Scotia' Sept 1992

