

R1/12

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FRV *SCOTIA*

Cruise 1193S

REPORT

1-14 September 1993

### Personnel

A W Newton	SSO
M E Medford (Mrs)	HSO
G I Henderson	SO
K J Peach	SO
C G Davis	ASO
N Strachan	Visitor
B McGregor	Visitor
M Ashmore	Visitor

### Objective

To undertake a demersal survey of Rockall plateau.

### Narrative

*Scotia* sailed at 1000 hours on Wednesday 1 September and steamed directly to Rockall. Trawling commenced on Friday 3 September at a station to the north of Rockall itself and during the ensuing seven days work was conducted over the entire length and breadth of the Rockall plateau. A sudden NW gale prevented trawling for the majority of Saturday 11 September but the weather abated sufficiently to allow the survey to be completed by midday on Sunday. *Scotia* returned to Aberdeen at 0800 hours on Tuesday 14 September.

### Results

Using the 48' Aberdeen trawl fitted with a 30 mm small mesh cover a total of 46 hauls were made over the whole area of the Rockall and Empress of Britain Banks. As in previous years the main species caught was haddock but large numbers of blue whiting, grey gurnards and *Sebastes* spp were encountered in most of the hauls. Table 1 shows a comparison of the "0" and "1" group haddock caught this year with the results of previous surveys. The results indicate that in both 1991 and 1992 there was an above average recruitment to the existing stock and these year classes should make an impact on the commercial fishery for the next couple of years.

A W Newton  
15 November 1993

Seen in draft: P Ramsay

TABLE 1

Number of haddock per 10 hours at Rockall

Survey year	Age	
	0	1
1985	489	51284
1986	3577	17309
1987	698	11672
1988	8640	8170
1989	23580	10799
1990	16388	10612
1991	14458	16398
1992	20336	44912
1993	15220	37959

# Standard Stations at Rockall (GPS - Sept 1993)

