

CRUISE REPORTF.R.S. "SCOTIA"November 1952AIMS

To carry out hydrographical sections of Faroe-Shetland Channel, and to make a biological and hydrographical survey of the Faroe Plateau.

NARRATIVE

"Scotia" sailed from Aberdeen at 1300 hours on 2nd November and successfully completed 14 stations at the Dog Hole, Buchan Deeps and Smith Bank before adverse weather conditions necessitated a 12 hour delay in Sinclair Bay. From there "Scotia" proceeded to the Butt of Lewis and commenced work under favourable conditions. These did not continue for long however, and after the fourth station of the Butt-Faroe line, it became necessary to break off work and return to Broad Bay. Three days of continuous gales followed, after which work was resumed at station four, and the line completed as far as station nine. More bad weather prevented further work, and "Scotia" proceeded to Klaksvik for shelter and to pick up a permit for trawling in faroese waters.

The second week of the cruise passed uneventfully, and fine weather permitted "Scotia" to carry out the Faroe survey.

Having in mind the bad weather experienced during the first week of the trip, it was decided to allow adequate time for the completion of the Faroe-Flugga line of hydrographical stations. Accordingly, this line was commenced on 17th November and, experiencing fine weather, "Scotia" was in Lerwick on 19th November, having successfully completed the line.

The standard accumulated temperature stations were carried out on the return journey, and "Scotia" finally arrived in Aberdeen at 1600 hours on the 21st.

HYDROGRAPHY

There was very little vertical variation in temperature on the Faroe Plateau, and on the average, surface temperatures were only 0.02°C higher than those at the bottom. The highest temperatures were observed to the south of the islands, where the average was 8.18°C. Lower temperatures were observed to the north of the islands, and averaged 8.00°C in the N.E. region.

Along the line of stations from the Butt of Lewis to Faroe, there was a general decrease in surface temperature from 10.39°C at the southern end to 8.90°C at the north. Similarly, returning along the Faroe-Flugga line, surface temperatures increased from 8.00°C on Sando Bank to 9.48°C at Flugga.

PLANKTON

Plankton collections were, in general, not very dense. Phytoplankton organisms were moderately represented, and the zooplankton consisted principally of Calanus, Hyperiid amphipods, Euphausiids and species of Sagitta. Numbers of Aurelia were encountered from time to time and in area WW23b a particularly good haul of this species was taken in the trawl. No fish were present in this sample.

TRAWLING

Nineteen one hour hauls were taken around the islands. Catches were poor, and consisted almost exclusively of haddock, amongst which representatives of the 1951 and older broods averaged 49 per hour's fishing. The 1952 brood was quite well represented in these hauls, and averaged 51 per hour's fishing. This is comparable with the catches of the 1951 brood twelve months ago and may be classed as a good brood.

ECHO SOUNDER

No traces of special interest were recorded on the echo-sounder.

R. JONES

2nd December, 1952.

CIRCULATION:

Mr. W. Russell	Dr. G. Reay	Mr. J. H. Steele
Capt. C. H. Champness	Dr. H. Wood	Mr. J. A. Sinclair
Mr. M. Graham	Dr. J. B. Tait	Mr. R. Priestly
Dr. C. E. Lucas	Dr. J. H. Fraser	Circulation
Dr. J. N. Carruthers	Dr. A. Ritchie	Library
Dr. A. V. Tåning	Dr. B. B. Rae	Dr. Fridriksson
Dr. F. Devold	Capt. E. A. Bruce	Dr. Einarsson
Mr. F. S. Russell	Capt. G. B. McLaren	File
Mr. E. Ford	Mr. R. Jones	Spare 4.
Mr. K. M. Rae		