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reference to the Laboratory.

CRUISE REPORT

FRS "Scotia"

11-24 December 1969

Objectives

- a. To tag plaice and lemon sole caught in an otter trawl fitted with a canvas codend in which the fish could be lifted out of the sea without being crushed.
- b. To conduct trials with a further modification to the detachable codend.

Narrative

"Scotia" left Aberdeen at 0200 hrs on 12 December and proceeded to the "Dog Hole" where trial hauls were made with both the canvas codend and with the modified detachable codend. Both gears appeared to work satisfactorily. "Scotia" returned to Aberdeen on 13 December and landed Mr Jones along with a number of live haddock and whiting caught during the first part of the cruise.

SE gales prevented sailing from Aberdeen until 1700 hrs on 15 December. "Scotia" then proceeded to the Firth of Forth where she lay at anchor until the morning of 16th when it had been intended to trawl for plaice in St Andrew's Bay. This was impossible because of renewed gale force winds from the SE, but as trawling was possible near the Bass Rock "Scotia" remained in this region until 19 December when conditions deteriorated to such an extent that she was forced to seek shelter in Aberlady Bay. A change in the directions and force of the wind allowed trawling to be carried out in St Andrew's Bay on 20 December. The 21 December was spent lying at anchor in Aberlady Bay.

"Scotia" steamed to Aberdeen on 22 December arriving at 0100 hrs on the 23rd.

Results

The grounds fished yielded moderate numbers of flatfish and also some cod, haddock and whiting in good enough condition for tagging. The numbers of each species tagged and the region in which they were released were as follows:

	St Andrew's Bay	Firth of Forth	Aberdeen Bay	Total
Plaice	67	3	7	77
Lemon Sole	-	6	29	35
Haddock	101	157	75	333
Cod	7	62	8	77
Whiting	-	19	-	19

Flatfish brought on board in the canvas codend were in good condition for tagging. Roundfish treated in this way suffered little scale damage except in the Firth of Forth where stones brought up in the codend inflicted considerable scale damage. Because of loss of time due to poor weather conditions it was not possible to make comparative hauls with a conventional trawl and codend.

D W ARMSTRONG
22 January 1970