

R1/12

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FRV *Scotia*

12SR90

Cruise 12/90 pt 2

REPORT

5-20 November 1990

Personnel

A Robb	HSO (in charge)
J Gauld	HSO
M Bell (Ms)	SO
B Williams (Ms)	Visitor (National Museum of Wales)

Objective

Monkfish and megrim survey of the area from the west of Shetland to St Kilda.

Narrative

Scotia sailed at 1800 on 5 November and work commenced the following day around Foula. Good weather conditions allowed the ship to trawl without incident along the edge of the shelf from the west of Flugga to the north of St Kilda. Some trawling was also carried out in the North Minch. The ship returned to Aberdeen on 20 November, docking at 0800.

Results

The planned survey was completed successfully with minimal damage to the trawl gear. Thanks are due to Brian Morrison, skipper of the M/T *Endeavour*, for providing "detailed trawling" information without which the objective could not have been achieved. A total of 54 hauls ranging in duration from 1-4 hours were completed in depths ranging from 70-300 metres. Catch rates varied from 5-75 baskets. In excess of 1,000 monkfish and 2,000 megrim were caught over the survey area. Preliminary analysis of the monkfish data indicates that fish ≥ 60 cm were most abundant in depths greater than 200 metres whereas fish less than 20 cm were most common in depths less than 100 metres. Ripe males were identified from 40 cm upwards whereas ripe females only occurred at lengths greater than 100 cm. All fish caught were otolithed and their sex and maturity recorded.

Stomach sampling

Approximately 130 monkfish and 150 megrim stomachs were preserved.

Biological sampling

Samples of monkfish gonad were preserved. Monkfish and megrim were deep frozen and brought back to the Laboratory for further analysis.

A Robb
27 February 1991

Seen in draft: A McKenzie OIC

