

R1/12

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FRV *Scotia*

Cruise 1295S

REPORT

29 August - 11 September 1995

Personnel

A W Newton	SSO (in charge)
J R G Hutcheon	SO
C G Davis	ASO
D J Tait	ASO
F Burns	CW
J Drewery	CW

Objective

To undertake a demersal survey on Rockall Plateau.

Out-turn cost per project: 14 days DAC1

Narrative

Scotia sailed from Aberdeen at 1130 hours on Tuesday 29 August and sailed directly to the fishing grounds at Rockall. Trawling began on Thursday 31 August and during the next nine days a comprehensive trawling survey was made over the entire Rockall and Empress of Britain Banks. On completion of the investigations *Scotia* returned to Aberdeen, docking at 0600 hours on Monday 12 September.

Results

Using the 48' Aberdeen trawl fitted with a 30 mm small mesh cover a total of 45 hauls were made over the whole area of the Rockall and Empress of Britain Banks. As usual the main species caught were haddock, blue whiting, *Sebastes viviparous* and *Helicolenus dactylopterus*. Table 1 shows a comparison of the year classes observed during this cruise with that of proceeding cruises in this region. Indications are that the 1995 year class is 17% less than the 1994 year class when surveyed in 1994. However, the one year olds show a 22% increase over similar figures in the proceeding year. Nevertheless this is the second year in succession when the one year old index has been significantly below the high indices of 1992 and 1993.

All catches of squid were deep frozen and returned to Aberdeen University for further analysis.

A W Newton
16 October 1995

Seen in Draft: Captain J Nichols

Table 1

Number of haddock per 10 hours fishing at Rockall

Year/Age	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1985	489	51,284	214	31	4,218	676	1	2	145
1986	3,577	17,309	62,196	85	139	2,568	225	0	52
1987	698	11,672	2,917	8,530	105	267	249	71	1
1988	8,640	8,170	5,799	810	2,107	5	2	91	17
1989	23,580	10,799	3,531	1,889	268	765	2	7	25
1990	16,388	10,612	1,231	388	307	39	140	2	5
1991	14,458	16,398	4,431	683	315	228	37	64	3
1992	20,336	44,912	14,631	3,150	647	127	200	4	35
1993	15,220	37,959	15,689	3,716	1,104	183	38	73	21
1994	23,474	13,287	11,399	4,314	969	203	30	12	4
1995	16,923	16,971	6,648	5,993	1,935	483	200	16	-

Trawling Stations at Rockall - September 1995

