

R1/12

Not to be cited without prior reference to the Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen

FRV *Scotia*

Cruise 1595S

REPORT

30 October - 19 November 1995

Half landing

Cork - 12 November 1995

Personnel

A P Robb	HSO (in charge)
W S McDonald	SO
I Gibb	SO
J McMillan	ASO
C Pollock	JNCC

Objectives

1. To carry out a trawl survey for 0+ and 1+ mackerel and horse mackerel.
2. To record temperature and salinity throughout the survey area.

Narrative

After a short delay due to mechanical problems *Scotia* sailed from Aberdeen at 1530 hours on 30 October and headed north toward the survey area. Fishing operations commenced the following day around the Butt of Lewis area and continued southwards unhampered by the weather until 5 November when gale force conditions enforced a stop to trawling operations. However, work recommenced the next day and although there were slight delays caused by mechanical breakdowns, good progress was made up to 11 November when the ship headed for Cork for the half landing, docking there on Sunday 12 November. All of the outer stations to the west of Scotland and those stations to the south of Ireland and Cornwall had been completed by this time.

The survey recommenced to the west of Ireland on 13 November and continued northwards until 15 November when a strong northeasterly gale interrupted fishing operations. On the afternoon of the 16th, conditions eased and *Scotia* gradually worked northwards. The last trawl was completed on 17 November and the ship then sailed for Aberdeen docking at 0100 hours on Sunday 19 November at the end of the cruise.

Out turn days per project; 21 days EBA1

Results

The cruise track and the stations worked are shown on the accompanying chart.

A total of 45 valid one hour and 12 valid half hour hauls were completed during the cruise. These were only accomplished due to reasonable weather conditions and the efforts of the scientific staff and the ship's crew. Out of the original programme of 60 trawling positions only one station to the west of Scotland and two on the North coast were not fished. Total catches varied from six baskets to 120 baskets. Mackerel were caught in 30 hauls distributed throughout the survey area. The largest catches (69,000 and 19,000 fish per hour) were taken in rectangles 37D9 and 38E0 respectively. Scad occurred in 48 hauls, with the highest numbers of juveniles being caught to the south of Ireland and around the Cornish coast. In these areas, as many as 17,000 fish were caught per hour. Data on the numbers at age remains to be worked up. Temperature and salinity values were monitored continuously throughout the survey area.

A Robb
6 December 1995

Seen in draft: J Nichols

Mackerel Recruit Survey 1995

