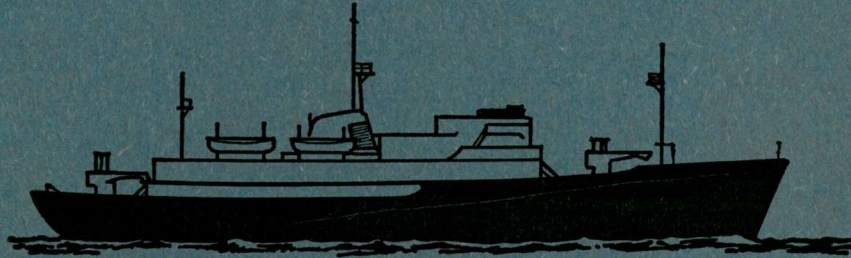


NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY
WORMLEY, GODALMING, SURREY



R. R. S. DISCOVERY
CRUISE 24 REPORT

SEPTEMBER 1968

GEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

N. I. O. CRUISE REPORT No. 24
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N.I.O. CRUISE REPORT SERIES: 24

OCTOBER 1968

R.R.S. DISCOVERY

Report on Cruise 24

Southampton to Aberdeen: 19 September 1968 to 30 September 1968

Personnel

Mr. M. Eatwell
Dr. M. T. Jones
Mr. N. H. Kenyon
Mr. N. Millard
Mr. D.G. Roberts
Mr. H.J. Tucker (Principal Scientist)

General

This cruise was organised at short notice following the mishap to the "G.L.O.R.I.A." Davits. The main scientific objects were:

- (1) To study sand patches on the Continental Shelf west of the British Isles and north of Scotland using the side-scan sonar in conjunction with the echo-sounder and grab sampler.
- (2) To make traverses of the Rockall Trough and Rockall Bank with a magnetometer.

Minor objects were to obtain Secchi disc measurements, calibrate two depth-telemetering pingers, and examine electrical interference on the ship.

Narrative

The weather was very unsettled during the whole period, with gale force winds for the first two days and during the 27 and 28 September. Though the ship did not experience gales during the rest of the period, there were gales nearby and this governed the programme to some extent: for example, it was decided to go through the Irish Sea rather than west of Ireland. The ship had to go to the Moray Firth to shelter from a force 11 wind on 28 September. This did not leave time to return to the main area of interest since the ship was due to berth at 9.0a.m. on the 30th, so the opportunity was taken to look at the sea-bed in the Moray Firth.

Thus, it was not possible to carry out all the side-scan sonar surveys which had been planned, but satisfactory magnetometer traverses of the Rockall Bank and Trough were obtained. No instruments were run on the nights of the 11th and 28th September. Otherwise the side scan sonar was successfully operated throughout the cruise when on the continental shelf and Rockall Bank, and continuous P.E.S. and magnetometer measurements were taken.

The minor objectives were successfully carried out.

