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IN CONFIDENCE: NOT TO BE QUOTED WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE LABORATORY

CRUISE REPORT

FRV "EXPLORER"

2 - 23 November 1973

OBJECTIVES:

1. To tag demersal fish on offshore grounds in the northern North Sea.
2. To evaluate fish condition and various designs of live fish cod-ends.
3. To bring back live fish for the aquarium.

"Explorer" sailed from Aberdeen on 2.11.73. Gales drastically curtailed work throughout the cruise. Offshore tagging (Ling Bank) was possible on only 2 days the remainder of the time being spent sheltering or fishing relatively sheltered inshore grounds. "Explorer" put into Lerwick on 12-13 November during which time the Simrad echosounder was repaired. An injured deckhand was put ashore at Lerwick on 14 November and a sick stoker was landed at Kirkwall on 17 November.

Fishing in all areas worked was poor. The condition of Haddock and Whiting caught was poor due to the presence of large numbers of Squalus acanthias in most hauls.

Fish Tagged

AREA	NO. HAULS	COD	HADDOCK	SQUALUS	PLAICE	OTHERS
Ling Bank	10	14	38	490	15	12
Balta	4	105	-	-	4	1
Auskerry	5	-	296	191	128	37
Copinsay	5	3	-	874	20	-
Clytheness	1	-	-	-	-	-
Total	25	122	334	1555	167	50

Approximately 80 Haddock and Whiting were brought back for the aquarium.

J A GAULD  
29 November 1973