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In confidence: Not to be quoted without reference to the laboratory

CRUISE REPORT

FRS EXPLORER

5-13 JANUARY 1973

Personnel and objectives as per programme.

Narrative

"Explorer" left Aberdeen at noon on 5 January only to return the following tide because of engine failure. The ship finally sailed at noon on 7 January and made for the Shetland area to undertake mooring trials. Hydrographic stations were then worked, along with further mooring trials between Faroe and Shetland until the 11 January. Echo soundings and pump samples for chemistry and salinity analysis were taken in the Fair Isle area during the passage back to Aberdeen where the ship docked on 12 January.

Results

Moorings

The development of single anchor moorings was successfully carried out. Unfortunately it was not possible to lay a mooring in deep water since the 4' subsurface sphere failed a free fall stress test, This resulted in the buoy being destroyed when it crashed at speed into the ship's hull.

Hydrography

Fifteen serial hydrographic stations were worked in the Faroe Shetland Channel area including the standard Nolso-Flugga section. The stations between Nolso and Flugga were worked at the same time by a Russian research vessel.

H D DOOLEY
18 January 1973