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3ER81

IN CONFIDENCE - Not to be quoted without reference to the Laboratory

FRV EXPLORER

Cruise 3/81

REPORT

29 April - 14 May 1981

Objective

To undertake full scale engineering trials with three versions of the GOV trawl (BT 137), namely coullene net with full lower wings, nylon net with full lower wings and nylon net with cutaway wings.

Narrative

EXPLORER sailed from Aberdeen at 1600 on 29 April and steamed north to Shetland waters. Adverse weather conditions and the necessity of having to put into Lerwick with a crew member who required medical attention meant that work did not start in the Balta area until the afternoon of 3 May. Engineering trials continued until 7 May when EXPLORER put into Lerwick for the mid cruise break.

On leaving Lerwick the following morning bad weather was again encountered and EXPLORER sought shelter in Basta Voe until 9 May when the trials were resumed off Balta. Work continued in this area until 12 May when EXPLORER steamed south overnight to the Moray Firth grounds. A further two instrumented hauls were made in the South Deeps on 13 May and EXPLORER entered Aberdeen at 0900 on 14 May.

Results

All three versions of the gear were used and a total of 18 hauls (17 fully instrumented) were made. The data obtained will be analysed to establish the main parameters of the three gears. No deep water work was possible owing to time lost due to bad weather.

R D GALBRAITH
22 May 1981

Seen in Draft J Ross Act CO