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to the laboratory

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CRUISE REPORT

FRS EXPLORER

9 MAY-2 JUNE 1972

OBJECTIVES

1. To lay 6 current meter moorings east of Fair Isle and lift some at end of cruise.
2. To carry out hydrographic and plankton surveys in area of moorings.
3. To further test acoustic release system and deployment of single anchor moorings.
4. To work a hydrographic section between Fair Isle and Munken (Faroes) with current measurements at each station.
5. To lay two current meter moorings off the Scottish East Coast at the end of the cruise.
6. Ornithological studies.

NARRATIVE

All of the objectives bar number 5 were successfully completed mainly due to the very good weather that persisted throughout the cruise. The East Coast moorings were not laid because of some difficulty with instruments.

The ship was delayed in Aberdeen during the mid-trip break, longer than was planned because of engine trouble.

RESULTS

The frequent hydrographic surveys near Fair Isle revealed large time and spatial variations. The full significance of these variations cannot be established until after the current meter results are processed but parachute drogues demonstrated that the area of spatial variations was associated with a significant (15 cm/sec) southerly flowing current.

The current flow adjacent to the shelf edge was very weak, presumably due to persistent winds from the east and south but the maximum salinity of 35.45‰ in this area was higher than normal.

H D Dooley
8 June 1972