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CRUISE REPORT

F.R.S. "MARA"

25th September - 13th October 1961

Narrative

"Mara" left Aberdeen at 14.00 hrs on the 25th September and made a passage to Fraserburgh, where she was based for the entire cruise. Comparative crab fishing and tagging commenced on the 26th and continued until the afternoon of the 13th October, when "Mara" returned to Aberdeen. Despite strong south-easterly and southerly winds it was always possible to find suitable working conditions somewhere in the area, and no delays were experienced.

Results

A total of 550 crabs was caught. Many of these were too small to be tagged, and in order to supplement them two boxes of crabs were purchased from local fishermen. 418 crabs were tagged, 380 of them by the suture method, and released on the fishing grounds between Rattray Head and Troup Head.

The relative efficacies of four baits were tested. Skate offal caught an average of 1.9 crabs, plaice 1.5 crabs, salted mackerel 0.9 crabs, and fish meal in perforated tins 0.5 crabs per creel hauled.

The catches of crabs in nos. per creel hauled with four different sizes of eyes were as follows:-

	Shuttered	Open
5½"	0.95	1.46
6½"	1.16	1.33

A number of plankton hauls were made and hydrographic samples taken at Kinnaird Head.

JAMES MASON
24th October, 1961.