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Cruise Report

FRV "Mara"

3-10 November 1977

Objectives

1. To conduct hydrobiological surveys in Sullom Voe.
2. To recover current meter mooring deployed in June off Sullom Church.

Narrative

The scientific personnel joined "Mara" at Sullom Voe at 2100 on 2 November. The current meter mooring deployed at Sullom church was recovered the following day. One of the current meters and the subsurface float had been cut adrift, but despite expensive searches of the coastline, hydrophone checks and grappling, this equipment remains lost.

Two hydrobiological surveys of the voe and an Agassiz trawl survey off Calbeck Ness were completed before "Mara" commenced her passage to Buckie on 7 November, via Lerwick where Dooley left the ship. The passage from Lerwick was a difficult one, because of very bad weather, and the ship eventually reached her home port at 2000 on 9 November.

Results

The basin at the head of the voe had recovered from the anoxic conditions observed during the summer and the hydro-chemical distribution in the voe was now vertically and laterally homogeneous.

The current meter which was recovered functioned well until 1115 on Sunday, 4 September when the current meter apparently suffered a violent knock. Apparently it was at this time when the missing current meter and float were cut adrift.

The Agassiz trawl, which was towed over the Calbeck Ness discharge area, yielded 200 queens in 15 minutes. 10% of these were selected for tainting studies by TRS.

H D Dooley
5 December 1977

Seen in draft :- W T Mair