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CRUISE REPORT

FRV MARA

6 - 28 November 1975

Objectives

To carry out a survey of young plaice in the major nursery areas on the Scottish east coast.

Narrative

"Mara" left Buckie on 6 November, worked in Spey Bay and then proceeded to the Dornoch Firth where work was continued on 7 November. The ship returned to Buckie for the weekend. On 10 November "Mara" steamed to Peterhead and remained in port during the next day because of adverse weather conditions. On 12th, 13th and 14th November "Mara" worked in Aberdeen Bay. On 17 November "Mara" steamed from Aberdeen to St Andrew's Bay. Work was carried out in St Andrew's Bay on the 18th, in Montrose Bay on the 19 and in Aberdeen Bay on the 20th. The vessel went to Peterhead on the night of the 20th and steamed to Buckie on 21st. It was not possible to work on the 24th because the vessel was being inspected prior to refit by a team of engineers. Samples were taken in Sinclair Bay and the Dornoch Firth on the 25th and 26th respectively and further work was carried out on the 27th and 28th in the Dornoch Firth and Spey Bay. Adverse weather conditions presented work on the 28th when the scientific staff returned to Aberdeen.

Results

Catches consisted mostly of dabs and plaice. The number of hauls worked and the number of dabs and plaice caught in each area visited are shown in the table below.

<u>Area</u>	<u>No of <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> Hr Hauls</u>	<u>Common Dabs</u>	<u>Plaice</u>
Sinclair Bay	4	7	11
Dornoch Firth	10	381	317
Spey Bay	7	803	83
Aberdeen Bay	19	195	74
Montrose Bay	6	55	144
St Andrew's Bay	9	4677	106
TOTAL	55	6118	735

D W Armstrong  
19 December 1975

Seen in draft - W T Mair