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IN CONFIDENCE: Not to be quoted without reference to the laboratory

CRUISE REPORT

FRS MARA

FIRTH OF FORTH HYDROBIOLOGICAL SURVEY 22 - 26 NOVEMBER 1976

Objectives

1. To collect water and plankton samples at the standard Firth of Forth sampling grid stations.
2. To measure temperature and salinity over a total cycle at two stations between lines A and B in approx. 30 m water.

Narrative

Bad weather prevented 'Mara' sailing from Buckie until 23 November. The ship arrived in the Firth of Forth at approx. 0200 hrs on 24 November and an attempt was made to commence survey work off Fife Ness. Although one station was completed weather conditions were poor and it was decided to seek more sheltered waters. Fifteen stations and six plankton hauls (lines C, B and A) were completed before 'Mara' tied up in Methil at 1700 hrs. Work started on 25 November on lines D and E. Deteriorating weather conditions prevented work at stations E6 and E7; E8 was however completed successfully. 'Mara' then sailed for Buckie, scientific personnel being landed at Aberdeen en route.

Results

Preliminary inspection of the results shows the influence of the high rainfall during October - November. Salinity values are in general lower than those obtained during the August - September survey and water from the inner stations contained a noticeably higher suspended load.

R J Shepherd
9 December 1976

Seen in draft

W T Mair