

R.12/5.

CRUISE REPORT

IMR 58

F.R.S. "MARA"

4th - 14th August, 1958

|           |                  |                   |
|-----------|------------------|-------------------|
| Personnel | Mr. W. Dickson   | 4th - 14th August |
|           | Mr. N. Nicoll    | 4th - 5th "       |
|           | Mr. S. E. Devlin | 6th - 14th "      |

- Objectives:
1. To try out the plankton sampling gear.
  2. To try out the trawling gear when worked (a) over the side and (b) over the stern
  3. To try out the arrangements made for seining.

General.

Monday the 4th was spent in Aberdeen making preparations for the trip. The plankton gear was tried out the following day and performed to satisfaction.

Before the trawling tests commenced a little difficulty was encountered in passing the sweep wire stoppers and shackles through the gallows' sheaves and winch guiding-on rollers. The necessity to make adjustments in these matters delayed the ship on Wednesday and it was not until Thursday that the trawling tests commenced. The towing capabilities of "Mara" are gratifying. Notes have been prepared on such defects as there are when side trawling. These are not of a serious nature and hardly require immediate attention. Handling a light trawl over the stern proved to be as simple as it was hoped it would be. A trawl with a heavy bosom was also shot over the stern, but the heaving of it aboard again was indeed less easy than when the same trawl was hauled over the side.

Monday the 11th was spent in making the final preparations for seine netting. The vessel and winch performed admirably but the choice of local fishing grounds near Aberdeen was less fortunate and much time was lost on "fasteners". Six coils of rope and part of a net were lost on Tuesday 12th but recovered the following day by using "creepers". Actually, these setbacks provided a very good test of the vessel's worth as a seiner, since they necessitated a lot of close manoeuvring. They also provided the opportunity to gain practice in the use of the track plotter for close work. The seining tests were not completed until the afternoon of 14th August, a day longer than had been anticipated. The whole series of trials was made in fine weather, which, although ideal for a running in trip, did not provide a severe test of the ship's capabilities.

W. DICKSON  
18th August, 1958