

CRUISE REPORT

F.R.V. "MARA"

14th - 25th January 1963

Narrative

The scientific staff joined "Mara" on the 14th January 1963 at Fraserburgh where she was based throughout the cruise. Due to unfavourable weather conditions, she was unable to leave the slip until 15th January, and strong easterly winds prevented any sailing on the following day. Fishing commenced on the 17th January on rough ground $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles ENE of Troup Head, where good catches of codling were made, and continued until the 23rd with two days lost because of strong winds. Due to frequent damage to the gear on the rough grounds, fishing on the 24th was carried out 4 miles ENE of Troup Head, the catches here being smaller but consisting of larger fish. Strong winds made fishing impossible again on the 25th January and the scientific staff returned to Aberdeen.

Results

A total of 628 cod and codlings (275 with flag, 64 with hydrostatic tags, both on nylon thread, and 289 with American "spaghetti" tags) and 50 haddocks (all with flag tags on nylon thread) were released. All the fish were caught by trawl, the majority being in excellent condition. In addition 58 cod blood samples were taken and dispatched to Dr. K. Sick, Copenhagen.

D. J. SYMONDS
13th February, 1963