

R1/7

IN CONFIDENCE NOT TO BE QUOTED WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE LABORATORY

1MR70

7

CRUISE REPORT

FRV "MARA"

16 February - 27 March 1970

OBJECTIVES

The aim of this cruise was to determine whether the common commercial practice of using double cod-ends (ie a large mesh (ca 100mm) Ulstron cod-end fitted outside a legal sized cod-end) with seine-nets affects the selectivity of the gear.

NARRATIVE

The 'Mara' worked in the Moray Firth throughout the period of this cruise. Fishing was carried out at a number of grounds in the Firth ranging from Burghead Bay in the west to Portsoy in the east and, while reasonably good catches of haddock, ranging in size from 15-30 cm were frequently obtained, fishing was very inconsistent throughout the period of the cruise. The unpredictability of catches necessitated frequent changes of ground and this together with several interruptions due to bad weather resulted in a total of only 52 valid hauls being accomplished. These are now being analysed in order to see whether there is any evidence of a difference in selectivity in seine-nets used with double and single cod-ends.

J A POPE
5.8.70