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INCONFIDENCE: NOT TO BE QUOTED WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE LABORATORY  
CRUISE REPORT

FRV "MARA"

4 - 23 February 1974

## OBJECTIVES:

To sample the eggs and larvae of plaice and other demersal species off the east coast of Scotland.

## NARRATIVE:

"Mara was delayed in completing her refit and work did not commence until 14 February when she sailed from Buckie to start sampling off Rattray Head. Sampling proceeded as far south as Fife Ness but SE gales forced "Mara" to seek shelter in the Moray Firth. Additional stations were worked in the southern part of the Moray Firth as far west as the Dornoch Firth. The cruise terminated at Buckie on 23 February.

## RESULTS:

One hundred and four stations were worked and the samples returned to the Laboratory. Preliminary analysis of the samples appears to confirm the results of the previous year, ie a large concentration of plaice eggs in an advanced state of development in the Dornoch Firth and a smaller concentration of less well developed plaice eggs in St Andrew's Bay.

A W Newton  
28/2/74