

IN CONFIDENCE: NOT TO BE QUOTED WITHOUT
REFERENCE TO THE LABORATORY

R1/7

8
2MR70

CRUISE REPORT

FRV 'MARA'

30 March-11 April 1970

OBJECTIVES

To determine the distribution and relative abundance of the spawning products of plaice and cod in the western Moray Firth.

NARRATIVE

'Mara' left Buckie at 1030 hrs on 30 March. Nine plankton stations were worked during the day.

From 31 March until 9 April north-east winds of gale or near gale force made work impossible. On 10 April, the wind having moderated considerably, further sampling was attempted but this had to be abandoned due to an extremely heavy swell. The cruise was therefore terminated and 'Mara' returned to Buckie.

RESULTS

The nine samples obtained on 30 March have not yet been analysed in detail. However they contained considerable numbers of fish eggs and also larvae of plaice and several other species. Analyses will be made of the differences in stomach contents of the larvae.

D W ARMSTRONG
28 May 1970