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reference to the Laboratory.

## CRUISE REPORT

F.R.V. 'MARA'

April 17th - May 13th 1961

'Mara' sailed from Aberdeen for the Copinsay grounds on the 17th April. Unfortunately the weather deteriorated and the ship had to proceed to Kirkwall to shelter from a S.E. gale. After two days with no sign of an improvement an attempt was made to work in North Sound but the land did not give the expected shelter.

On the 25th two hauls were managed at Copinsay but these yielded no fish and it was decided to try Rackwick Bay to the west of the Pentland Firth, where it was hoped there would also be shelter from the persistent S.E. gales.

Catches were so poor here that after consultation with the Laboratory, a move was made to the Moray Firth; although fish were never plentiful, a fair amount of data for ~~three~~ of the cruise objectives was collected without further interruption. These comparisons were standard rig v. heavy sweeps; standard rig v. double sweeps and standard rig v. dan leno bobbin with spreading wires. All comparisons were made using the trouser trawl; no marked differences were found but the data will be examined in detail.

A. CORRIGALL.

4th September, 1961.