

Library

R1/7 In Confidence

AR  
6MR79

FRV 'Mara'  
Cruise 6/79  
REPORT  
02-06 July 1979

Objectives:

- a. A baseline survey of the Beatrice Oilfield.
- b. A survey of the dredging/reclamation disturbance near the Cromarty Firth.

Narrative:

'Mara' sailed from Buckie on the morning of Monday 02 July and proceeded to the area of the first control station. On completion, the ship moved to the Beatrice Field where sedimentation traps were laid 1 mile east and 1 mile south of the central rig. The second control station was then completed and 'Mara' proceeded to the vicinity of the Dornoch Firth for the night. No sedimentation traps were laid at the control stations as the risk of losing the gear was considered to be too great.

At 0600 hours on Tuesday 03 July, 'Mara' sailed for the Beatrice Field and a series of stations north, south, east and west of the rig were completed. Each station consisting of water, sediment/heterotroph samples and 1 Agassiz trawl haul.

Wednesday 04 and Thursday 05 July were spent in the vicinity of the Cromarty Firth, sampling from the areas of Nigg Pier, the discharge point and the region of operation of the dredger. Water and salinity samples plus current measurements were taken.

On Friday 06 July at 0300 hours, 'Mara' proceeded to the oilfield, recovered all the deployed sedimentation equipment then sailed for Buckie, where the vessel docked at 1000 hours.

M R Robertson  
23 August 1979

Seen in draft: James A Calder  
Relief O.I.C.