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reference to the laboratory.

CRUISE REPORT

F.R.V. "MARA"

24th July-7th August 1959

Objectives

1. Echosounding survey of North Minch herring grounds.
2. Continuation of comparative fishing using trawls with different sized meshes in the forward parts.

Outward

"Mara" sailed from Aberdeen on Friday, 24th July, and proceeded to a position off Slains where lobster pots of various types were shot and hauled for the purpose of the operation being filmed. On completion, "Mara" called at Peterhead and landed personnel engaged in the film production.

Echosounding Surveys

Echosounding was carried out on Monday and Tuesday, 27th and 28th July, and on Monday and Tuesday, 3rd and 4th August, over the areas being fished by the very limited fleet which was operating from Stornoway. Track charts and traces were handed to the Fishery Office to be made available to the fishermen for inspection.

Comparative Fishing

A beat seven to eight miles off Arnish point gave fair catches of whiting but due to the size of fish encountered little information on mesh selection could be gained from these grounds. Four days uninterrupted work was carried out on this beat. A haul was made in Broad Bay for the purpose of sampling the plaice population. This yielded about 50 plaice which were otolithed in accordance with instructions.

Return

"Mara" left Stornoway on Thursday, 6th August, and docked at Aberdeen on 7th.

J. A. SINCLAIR.  
17th August, 1959.