

In Confidence - Not to be quoted without reference to the Laboratory

CRUISE REPORT

FRV "M A R A"

August 30-September 12, 1970

Objectives

- (1) To make a further comparison of the survival of fish tagged on the sea-bed with that of fish tagged at the surface in the normal way.
- (2) To make observations on the design of extension pieces to the net for reducing the fatigue factor in fish.

Narrative and Results

During the first week two days were lost due to bad weather but a number of hauls were made in Spey Bay and at the Bailings. Catches of roundfish were disappointing and consisted almost entirely of 0 group haddock and whiting which were too small to tag. Because of these poor results it was hoped to work in the vicinity of Wick during the second week but in the event strong south-easterly winds prevented a passage being made and work was restricted to the south shore of the Moray Firth where catches were again extremely small.

During the cruise three codling and one haddock were tagged, the haddock and one of the codling being tagged underwater. In addition, 116 plaice were tagged and released in Spey Bay. As catches were small, no attempt was made to carry out objective (2).

J HISLOP
7.1.71