

R1/7

8  
7MR74

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

CRUISE REPORT

FRV "MARA"

1-19 JULY 1974

NARRATIVE:

"Mara" left Buckie at 1130 on 1 July and completed seven inshore stations - using the Dutch Gulf III, before docking at Peterhead at 1930 the same night. The following day "Mara" started on the outermost leg of the station grid, working southwards. The two outermost legs were completed overnight and all the Firth of Forth stations the following day, and "Mara" docked at Methil at 1700 on the 3 July. The following day all seven stations between Methil and Dundee were completed and "Mara" docked in Dundee at 1730. On 5 July "Mara" completed six stations before docking in Aberdeen for the weekend at 1315.

On 8 July "Mara" sailed from Aberdeen at 1330 and working overnight carried out 21 stations before docking at Fraserburgh at 1720 on 9 July. The following day "Mara" started working the northern half of the outermost leg and continued until 0500 on the morning of 11 July when very bad weather prevented sampling and "Mara" dodged until the weather moderated sufficiently to allow passage back to Fraserburgh, which was reached at 1400. On 12 July the weather was again bad and "Mara" was unable to work so the scientists returned to Aberdeen for the weekend.

"Mara" left Fraserburgh at 1100 on 15 July, but because of adverse weather conditions only completed four stations before making for Invergordon, docking there at 1800. On the following day "Mara" left at 0700 and completed one station off Tarbat Ness but then returned to the Cromarty Firth for shelter and was unable to complete any more stations that day. On 17 July "Mara" left Invergordon at 0700 and steamed northwards to Wick completing 12 stations en route and arriving there at 2000. "Mara" left Wick at 0700 the following morning and working overnight completed another 21 stations on the way back to Buckie which was finally reached at 1100 on 19 July.

Results

A total of 133 Dutch Gulf III stations were completed and the samples returned to the laboratory for analysis. In addition 20 samples were taken at night with a Hardy plankton indicator for IMER, Edinburgh.

J A MORRISON  
4 September 1974