

R.12/5

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CRUISE REPORT

F.R.V. 'MARA'

1st August-25th August 1961.

The scientific staff joined 'Mara' at Buckie and the ship sailed for the Buchan Deeps at noon on Tuesday 1st August.

Catches could only be described as fair, although about 20 commercial vessels were fishing the area, showing it to be one of the best available. Working to an experimental design, fifty two hauls were made during the trip comparing her standard  $22\frac{1}{2}$  ft. otter trawl with one designed to take the main distortions out of the net.

Four days were lost due to bad weather; on three other days, when it was too stormy to work off shore, the experiment was carried on at Cruden Buoy, Benachie Ground and in Aberdeen Bay. At all three places, catches were very poor and each time a return was made to Buchan Deeps as soon as weather permitted.

No marked differences in catch were found on preliminary analysis, but a more detailed report will be prepared.

Several boxes of cod were returned to the laboratory during the trip to be examined for the presence of nematodes.

A. CORRIGALL.

4th September, 1961.