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

CRUISE REPORT

FRV MARA

June 21 - July 17

Objective

To sample flatfish, especially pre-recruit plaice, in depths of less than 10 fathoms on the north and east coasts of Scotland and in the Moray Firth

Narrative

Mara left Buckie at 1030 hrs on 21 June. Work was not possible on 9 and 15 July because of adverse weather conditions and because of these delays no samples were obtained from Aberlady Bay. Otherwise the cruise proceeded as planned.

No samples were obtained from the north coast region because of extensive gear damage at all the stations worked. However, no difficulty was experienced in sampling the other areas.

Results

The mean numbers of plaice and common dabs caught per half hour haul in each of the areas from which samples were obtained are shown below together with data from the corresponding survey in 1970.

Region	No. of hauls	Mean no. of plaice per haul		Mean no. of dabs per haul	
		June 1971	June 1970	June 1971	June 1970
Sinclair Bay	7	181	-	6	-
Dornoch Firth	12	101	67	45	27
Burghead Bay	6	30	14	54	12
Spey Bay	8	98	118	79	138
Cullen Bay	3	67	-	185	-
Aberdour Bay	4	61	19	145	244
Aberdeen Bay	15	65	13	167	238
Montrose-Milton Ness	4	91	-	251	-
St Andrews Bay	12	396	154	452	127
Largo Bay	3	139	7	46	21

D W ARMSTRONG
26 July 1971