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CRUISE REPORT

F.R.V. 'MARA'

1st-28th September, 1959.

Objective (1) To compare the overall selectivity of the Wing trawl and the otter trawl for white fish.

'Mara' sailed from Aberdeen at 0300 hrs on Tuesday 1st, and proceeded to Buchan Deeps where fishing was reported to be good.

The two trawls were fished from both the Port and Starboard sides and so that no change over would be necessary during fishing hours, a suitable Experimental Design was obtained from the Statistics section.

On arrival at the Deeps two hauls were made successfully with the Otter Trawl, but then, on its first drag, the Wing Trawl came fast and the rest of the day was spent repairing it. Work was resumed on Wednesday and carried on uninterrupted till the 8th when a day was allocated to the trial of the new underwater camera. On the 10th it was decided to try the Cruden Buoy area, as the fish seemed to be taking off at Buchan Deeps, but it was found after one days work, that, although catches were bigger, they consisted mostly of undersized whiting. This being so, work was resumed at Buchan Deeps where the variety and size were more suited for this experiment. The remainder of the trip went uninterrupted and 'Mara' docked at Aberdeen on the 18th.

A. CORRIGALL

15th December 1959

Objective (2) Loch Nevis Survey.

After completing the experimental trawling 'Mara' picked up equipment for the Loch survey at Aberdeen and proceeded via the Caledonian Canal to Mallaig as detailed in the cruise programme. The standard survey was successfully completed and the cruise terminated at Mallaig on 25th September.

A. D. McINTYRE

15th December 1959