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

CRUISE REPORT

FRV MARA

19 November - 1 December 1973

OBJECTIVES: To tag demersal fish in the Clyde estuary.

NARRATIVE: "Mara" left Buckie at 08.00 on Tuesday 20 November and proceeded through the Caledonian Canal to the west coast. Bad weather conditions around the Mull of Kintyre delayed arrival until midday on Friday 23 November. Three trawl hauls were made in Kilbrennan Sound on the Friday before proceeding to Troon.

On Monday 26 "Mara" worked in the Brodick Bay area to the east of Arran and five trawl hauls were made.

On the 27 and 28 November attempts were made to recover sampling gear belonging to Mr J Davis, by laboratory divers who had joined "Mara" in Troon. Three trawl hauls were also made in attempts to locate the gear. Fish caught in these hauls, in suitable condition, were tagged. Hand lines were also used, without success, during diving operations.

"Mara" steamed to Kilbrennan Sound during the evening of 28 November and anchored in this area overnight. Further attempts at handlining were made during the late evening, again without success.

Four trawl hauls were made in Kilbrennan Sound on Thursday 29 November before "Mara" returned to Troon.

The staff returned to Aberdeen on Friday 30 November.

A total of 284 fish were tagged of which 276 were saithe, the remainder being codling.

J Richards  
17 December 1973