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reference to the Laboratory.

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CRUISE REPORT

F.R.V. "MARA"

3rd-16th December 1964

- Objectives: a) Testing new lowering cage for tagged fish
 b) Whiting tagging

Narrative and results

The scientific staff joined the ship on 3rd December at Fort William. After the gear had been loaded the ship proceeded to Oban. Bad weather kept her in port until 9th December when the conditions improved sufficiently to allow "Mara" to reach the Clyde by way of the Crinan Canal. During the next week the ship worked in the mouth of Loch Long and in Bute Channel, fishing with trawl, seine net and, on occasions, hand line. Owing to a combination of scarcity of fish in the areas worked, bad weather and unaccountable severe damage to gear only 11 whiting, 11 cod and 12 haddock were tagged. Trials with the new lowering cage were successful and showed that it has many advantages over the type previously used. The scientific staff left "Mara" at Rothesay on 16th December and returned to Aberdeen; the ship meanwhile proceeding to Buckie via the Pentland Firth.

John Hislop
21st January, 1965.