

RL/7

IMR67

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

Cruise Report

F.R.S. "Mara"

February 6th -- March 4th, 1967

Personnel: Mr. J. R. G. Hislop, SQ. February 9th - 28th
Mr. J. Main, E.O. February 13th - 22nd
Mr. W. S. Duncan, S.A. February 13th - 28th
Mr. R. Adams, S.A. February 9th - 13th

Objective: Whiting tagging in the Firth of Clyde

The Scientific staff joined Mara at Greenock on the night of February 9th. Work for the rest of the trip was carried out in a variety of localities between Troon and Loch Goil, the scientific staff leaving the ship at Rothesay on the morning of February 28th.

Seine netting produced only very light catches. This was largely because the very severe bad weather experienced for most of the trip forced the ship to work in the upper reaches of the Clyde, away from the centre of density of the fish.

Hand lining was carried out in Lochs Goil and Striven, the East Kyle of Bute, in Rothesay Bay and on Ascog Patch. Only in Loch Goil were whiting caught by this method, cod being the main species everywhere else. Unfortunately Loch Goil was closed during the latter part of the trip on account of exercises by the Royal Navy.

Artificial lights were only used on one occasion when they failed to produce an aggregation of fish.

The opportunity to tag fish underwater did not arise, unfortunately, but several underwater observations were made of the operation of a new subsurface release cage and of the behaviour of whiting and saithe as they were released from the cage at 30 feet. On another occasion two tagged cod were taken to the bottom (90 feet) and their behaviour was observed after release.

The numbers of fish tagged during the trip are as follows:

	<u>Whiting</u>	<u>Cod</u>	<u>Haddock</u>	Total
Seine Net	84	31	18	133
Hand Line	<u>12</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>60</u>
Total	<u>96</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>193</u>

John Hislop
21st March, 1967.