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IN CONFIDENCE: NOT TO BE QUOTED WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE LABORATORY
CRUISE REPORT

FRV "MARA"

5-28 FEBRUARY 1975

NARRATIVE:

There was a slight delay in the completion of "Mara's" annual refit and consequently the ship did not sail from Buckie until 11 February. Past experience suggested that the most productive area for tagging plaice would be in the region off Clythe Ness and so this area was surveyed to find the most suitable fishing ground; "Mara" remaining on the grounds overnight. Tagging was carried out until "Mara" returned to Buckie on 13 February in order to land Mr Edelston. The following day was spent carrying out plankton hauls using a high speed Icelandic sampler. During the second week, tagging continued on the grounds off Clythe Ness until the cruise was terminated due to a re-organisation of "Mara's" programme. The cruise finished at Buckie on 21 February.

Results

A total of 623 fish was tagged; of these 359 were plaice and the remaining 264 were lemon sole. All the plaice were sexed and examined for infection by Lymphocystis; less than 1% of the stock showed signs of this viral infection.

Plankton samples were returned to the Laboratory for analysis by Mr K Jones.

A W NEWTON
3 March 1975