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R.12/5

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CRUISE REPORT

F.R.V. "M A R A "

20th February - 10th March, 1961

Objective:- Whiting tagging in the Clyde.

Narrative

"Mara" left Aberdeen on February 20th, and was joined at Ayr by the scientific staff on the afternoon of the 24th. Whiting were very scarce in the Clyde during the whole period of the cruise, while strong winds made it necessary to confine operations to the more sheltered upper reaches. Submarine exercises in these areas prevented much useful work being done until the final week, when fishing was concentrated in Loch Long. A total of 110 whiting and 5 haddock was tagged, using two types of tag. These were a hydrostatic tag on a metal bridle, and a flag tag on a nylon bridle. The fish, all trawl caught, were of moderate or poor scale condition, but only actively swimming fish were marked.

The fish and Nephrops in most hauls were measured, a sample of whiting gall-bladders was collected, and some whiting ovaries were preserved. Notes were also made of the infection of G. esmarkii by Myxobolus aglefini, and of the incidence of the black spot parasite on the skin of whiting.

R. GAMBLE
17th March, 1961.