

CONFIDENTIAL: Not to be quoted without reference to the Laboratory.

R.12/5.

3 MR 59

CRUISE REPORT

F.R.S. "M A R A"

23rd March-6th April, 1959.

The scientific staff joined "Mara" at Ayr on Sunday, 22nd March, and the following morning continued the comparison of nets with wings and square respectively of  $3\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  and 11 inch mesh.

A beat giving a good sample of Whiting (spawning) was found off Ardrossan and the first trawl was tracked on the Decca plotter. Three days of uninterrupted trawling were put in, but on the fourth day the first trawl came fast. All efforts to free the trawl - the  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inch mesh - failed and the complete trawl, i.e. boards, Dan Lenos, etc. was lost. This stopped work until replacement gear was obtained from Aberdeen.

The beat was moved slightly west to clear the fastener and no further trouble was met with on the ground. Unfortunately, the weather deteriorated and interrupted work during the second week. When fishing the catches remained good. Creeping for the lost gear was carried out at every opportunity but met with no success.

All biological requirements on the cruise were carried out.

"Mara" left the Clyde on 3rd April and docked at Aberdeen on the 6th.

C. DAVIDSON  
14th April, 1959.