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

CRUISE REPORT

F.R.V. "MARA"

6th-22nd April, 1960

"Mara" left Aberdeen on the 6th April for Mallaig. There she was joined by Mr. McIntyre, Mr. Davidson and Mr. Murison, who carried out the Loch Nevis survey on the 9th and 10th, leaving the following day. The ship then made her way down to Ayr, being delayed by severe gales on the way, and finally arriving on the 15th.

With Mr. Gamble and Mr. Corrigan on board, work started in the Clyde on the 18th. The first two days were spent hand-line fishing for whiting around the south of Arran and in various parts of the upper Firth, including Loch Long and Loch Strivan. No fish were caught, however. A call was made on the laboratory at Millport on the 18th to try to get information on any whiting concentrations, and that night was spent at Ardrrossan, where the S.M.B.A. vessel "Calanus" was berthed. "Mara" returned to Ayr in the evening of the 19th, where seine-net skippers were questioned about grounds, and echo-traces obtained by the "Clupea" were studied.

Work was delayed on the morning of the 20th as a disabled seiner, the "Bluebell" (LH186), with a broken propeller shaft was towed back to Ayr. The seine-net with experimental warps was subsequently shot off the Heads of Ayr, but it came fast in the mud, snapping one of the warps. The net was finally recovered but so badly damaged as to be beyond repair. The ship returned to Ayr, where the opportunity was taken of visiting the Fishery Office, and studying the fish market lay-out.

"Mara" remained in Ayr on the 21st while the wheelhouse echo-sounder was repaired, and then on the final day three hauls were made off Turnberry, using a normal seine net. ha.

R. GAMBLE.
10th May, 1960.