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In confidence: Not to be quoted
without reference to the Laboratory.

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Cruise Report

F.R.V. "Mara"

6th to 17th May, 1963.

"Mara" was joined by the Scientific Staff at Buckie on the 6th May and in the early afternoon sailed for the Bell Rock area.

Release of 300 Bottom Current Markers commenced at 0230 hrs on 7th at the 12 positions specified on the programme, and was completed by late afternoon when "Mara" proceeded to Dundee for shelter from gale force winds.

Trawling commenced on Thursday the 9th at the north end of Marr Bank where the catches of roundfish were small. Similarly seiners working in the Wee Bankie area reported poor results. Bad weather made conditions impossible for trawling again until Tuesday the 14th when fair catches were obtained at a position 10 miles off Scurdie Ness Light. The cruise continued uninterrupted until Friday 17th May when "Mara" proceeded to Aberdeen with samples of live fish for experimental work in the aquaria.

A total of 203 Cod 115 Haddock and 103 Whiting were released with flag tags on nylon threads and in addition 76 Cod were released with American "Spaghetti" tags, all fish being in very good condition.

J. Main

21st May, 1963.