

CRUISE REPORT

F.R.S. "MARA"

20th November - 7th December 1962

"Mara" left Buckie early on the morning of November 20th, and proceeded through the Caledonian and Crinon canals to the Clyde, arriving in Troon at mid-day on November 24th. For the first week's tagging in the Clyde area, the ship was joined by Mr. C. Humphreys of Lowestoft, and comparisons were made between the Lowestoft and Aberdeen gradings for scale condition of whiting.

All the whiting tagged were caught by short hauls with the trawl, of between 10 and 15 minutes duration, giving bags of about two to four baskets. All the fish tagged were classified as in good or excellent scale condition, and were put back in the sea using the Lowestoft lowering cage. Tagging was carried out in three positions west of Lady Isle, off Mount Stewart and at the entrance to Loch Long. Attempts to catch whiting by hand line and rod-and-line were unsuccessful.

Work during the second week was restricted, as Mr. Gambell had to be landed at Rothesay for hospital treatment. The cruise ended at Greenock on December 7th, when a total of 544 whiting and 18 cod had been tagged.

RAY GAMBELL

24th December 1962