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In Confidence: not to be quoted without
reference to the Laboratory

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CRUISE REPORT

F.R.S. "Scotia"

14th - 20th December, 1963

Narrative: The ship sailed from Aberdeen on 14th December at 2300 hrs and steamed to a trawling position south of the Fladen ground. Trawling commenced at 0800 hrs on the 15th and was continued north across the Fladen ground in fair weather until 1100 hrs on the 17th when a gale and heavy seas forced the ship to dodge for 24 hours. In view of the continued bad weather and gale warnings a passage was made to Aberdeen on the 18th, the ship docking at 0100 hrs on the 19th. Owing to a technical defect which required examination, and the inadequate time remaining for work in the grounds, the trip was finally abandoned on the 20th, gales still persisting.

Trawling: Six trawl hauls were made across the Fladen ground from south to north and although it is difficult to compare this limited material with previous years large numbers of Trisopterus esmarkii were not encountered. Most of the hauls were characterized by the predominance of haddock and whiting at about the minimum landing size.

Other work: At one trawl position 2 baskets of Nephrops were caught and measured. A Gulf III plankton sample and surface and bottom temperature records and salinity samples were collected at each trawl position. One serial temperature and salinity record was made on the Fladen ground.

Some difficulty was experienced in working the new M.S.35 echo sounder as there appears to be no instruction manual on board. The sounder failed to register a proper time signal and the bottom echo was misplaced to one side on several occasions. No fish traces were noted.

D. F. S. RAITT

24th December, 1963.