

IN CONFIDENCE Not to be quoted without
reference to the laboratory

CRUISE REPORT

FRS Clupea

27 August - 27 September 1973

Objectives

To carry out a herring larval and hydrographic survey off the north and east coasts of Scotland.

Narrative

'Clupea' left Aberdeen on 27 August and began a partial survey of the Buchan area. This was completed on 28 August and the first survey of the Shetland/Orkney area was begun. During this survey all stations to the east of Orkney north to Fair Isle were sampled but those to the west of Orkney had to be omitted because of bad weather. This survey was completed on 3 September and a complete survey of the Buchan area was begun. This survey was continued for the remainder of that week and was completed at the beginning of the following one. The second survey of the Shetland/Orkney area was begun on 11 September and continued for the rest of that week.

Scientific staff changed over in Kirkwall during the weekend of 15 September but replacement staff were unable to get to Kirkwall until Tuesday 18 September because of fog. The second survey of the Shetland/Orkney area was completed and a third partial survey was begun. During this survey the area round Orkney was again surveyed and part of the area in the outer Moray Firth was also done. Another partial survey of the Buchan area was done before 'Clupea' returned to Aberdeen on 27 September.

During the cruise faults occurred repeatedly in the electronic measuring blocks and some of the hydrographic work was delayed because the hydrographic block was completely non functional. Attempts to repair the plankton metering block during the weekend of 7 September were unsuccessful.

Results

Although the samples taken on the cruise have not yet been properly analysed, inspection of the samples as they were taken indicated that the main concentrations of small clupeoid larvae, presumably herring, were in the Orkney area. Numbers of larger larvae, probably sprats, were observed in the samples taken in the southern part of the Buchan area.

D W McKay
G McPherson
2 October 1973