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**MV "British Viking"**

**CHARTER CRUISE**

Report

2-8 September 1987

Personnel

J Morrison	SSO (in charge)
I Gibb	ASO
L Cargill	ASO
D Beveridge	ASO
J Hunter	PTO
N Collie	PTO

Objectives

To carry out a herring larval survey of the Buchan area.

Narrative

Scientific personnel travelled down to join "British Viking" at Leith on the morning of 2 September and after loading during the afternoon, the vessel left at 2000 the same evening. After leaving Leith, "British Viking" made for the southern end of the larval grid, beginning work there at 0120 on 3 September.

The plankton winch which had been hired for this cruise appeared to be operating at about 15 metres/minute instead of the required 40 metres/minute, and as the winch could not be speeded up, tows with the Dutch Gulf III tended to be very extended. Apart from this, larval sampling proceeded without interruption until approximately midnight on 4 September, when the pump driving the plankton winch stopped because the radiator unit on the motor burst. Eventually, the motor was restarted, but by this time the fan belt had also broken and sampling had to be terminated.

Arrangements were made to pick up new fan belts and radiator sealing fluid at Montrose the following day and in the interim the opportunity was taken to carry out efficiency tests with a variety of depressors. This work was terminated at 1100, however, when one of the depressors was lost owing to a break in the towing cable. Shortly thereafter, "British Viking" made for Montrose where the sealing fluid and the fan belts were taken out by the pilot boat at 1300.

Repairs to the winch motor having been completed, larval sampling was restarted at 1430 on 5 September. Sampling then continued until 0600 on 8 September when work was terminated in order to make for Fraserburgh at the end of the trip. "British Viking" entered Fraserburgh harbour at 1030, scientific personnel were changed for the next cruise and a new and more powerful motor unit for the plankton winch was put aboard.

## Results

Seventy double-oblique hauls were carried out with the Dutch Gulf III during this survey, with stations 41, 42, 43 and 52 containing over 1000 larvae per sample. The highest number of larvae was recorded at station 52 where over 4000 newly hatched larvae were counted in the sample.

J A Morrison  
1 October 1987

- = Stations sampled
- ★ = Stations sampled > 1000 larvae
- ★ (with border) = Stations sampled > 4000 larvae

