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CRUISE REPORT

F.R.V. "CLUPEA"

2nd November-1st December 1964.

Narrative

"Clupea" sailed from Buckie on 2nd November and proceeded to Oban via the Pentland Firth, hydrographic stations being carried out en route. The scallop survey began off Coll on the 5th; grounds were surveyed around Coll, Tiree, Colonsay, west of Jura, north of Islay and north-west of Mull. Weather conditions prevented the survey of grounds to the west of Mull and south of Jura and Islay.

Scientific staff changed over at Oban on 15th November; thereafter "Clupea" proceeded via the Crinan Canal, to the Clyde. Grounds were surveyed to the east of Kintyre and around Arran, the Kyles of Bute and, to a lesser extent owing to weather conditions, off the Ayrshire coast. The cruise finished at Ayr on 1st December.

Results

Coll, Tiree - Despite apparently favourable appearance on charts of the ground to the west of Coll and Tiree, it proved to be too rough for extensive scallop dredging. A few scallops were caught where dredging was possible.

Jura, west side - good catches and quite extensive ground available.

Colonsay - very good catches off north-east side, grounds extending from Scalasaig to Meall a Chuilbh.

Islay - north coast either very hard or firm clean sand; no scallops were taken here.

The Clyde survey covered the grounds worked by the local fleet. Escallops were obtained in most areas.

The mean age of the scallops caught in the various areas was: north-west Mull 7 years; Jura 9; Colonsay 9; west Clyde and Arran 6. The gonad condition in all areas was very similar, being mainly stages III and IV (recovering).

A summary of the individual hauls is given in the appendix.

C. DAVIDSON
J. A. SINCLAIR
21st December, 1964.