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CRUISE REPORT

F.R.V. 'CLUPEA'/F.R.V. 'MARA'

4th-22nd December, 1967

Because both vessels were stormbound in Buckie from 4th to 8th December the herring tagging programme in the North Minch was cancelled and it was arranged that 'Clupea' should carry out the Loch Eil survey while 'Mara' experimented on shooting and hauling the purse-seine with the help of the boss-boat.

F.R.V. 'Clupea'

'Clupea' left Buckie on Monday 11th December and arrived at Corpach on the morning of 13th December.

As Dr. Pearson of S.M.B.A., Millport, had to be in London on Thursday 14th December and would not, therefore, be able to complete his part of the work, Mr. R.G. Grierson was added to the scientific staff.

The survey of Lochs Linnhe and Eil was completed on Thursday and 'Clupea' arrived back in Buckie on 16th December.

During the following week she escorted 'Mara' on the one day that work was possible.

F.R.V. 'Mara'

Bad weather prevented 'Mara' from leaving harbour on 11th December and from shooting the net on 12th December after she had gone out. On 13th December the net was shot and hauled very clearly in a force 4-5 wind. The boss-boat was able, without difficulty, to tow 'Mara' clear of the net after picking up the tow very quickly. The net was shot on 14th December under similar wind conditions but the wind and swell started to increase after pursing was completed. Under these conditions it was apparent that the power block was working at the limit of its capacity. Hauling continued slowly but successfully until over three-quarters of the net was in, when the power block came loose from the boom and only the hydraulic pipes kept it from falling on deck or into the sea. The boom was lowered and the power block secured. The remainder of the net was hauled by hand. Even with the increased wind the boss-boat was able to keep 'Mara' off the net. The attachment of the power block to the boom was modified and strengthened over the week-end but because of bad weather it was possible to shoot the net on the 20th only. On that day, with a moderate wind against the tide, the net was shot and hauled with no difficulty.

R. B. Burns
G. McPherson
6th February, 1968.