

R1/5

CRUISE REPORT

FRS CLUPEA

27 Aug - 2 Oct 1975

Objectives

1. To carry out larval surveys of the west and east coasts of Scotland.
2. To carry out hydrographic sampling along the JONSSIS line east of Orkney.

Narrative

'Clupea' sailed from Aberdeen on 27 Aug and proceeded to the west coast area to sample stations in the Minch. All stations on the west coast grid were completed by 3 Sept with the weekend of 30 Aug being spent in Stornoway. Sampling of the stations in the North Sea area began in Thurso Bay and continued around the Orkneys with the weekend of 6 Sept being spent in Buckie. The survey was recommenced on Tuesday 9 Sept, sailing having been delayed by bad weather. Stations in the southern part of the Moray Firth and off the Aberdeenshire coast were sampled before 'Clupea' returned to Buckie on Friday 12 Sept to have repairs carried out on the ship's compass. Repairs to the compass having been completed 'Clupea' sailed from Buckie on Monday 15 Sept and completed the remaining stations on the survey before docking in Kirkwall on Friday 19 Sept, where R Adams joined the ship. On Monday 22 Sept 'Clupea' left Kirkwall to survey the JONSSIS line but gale force winds, which persisted for the entire week, prevented any work at all being carried out that week. 'Clupea' spent the weekend of 27 Sept in Kirkwall sailing on Monday 29 Sept to continue the larval survey. Intermittent bad weather during the final week of the cruise again curtailed operations although stations in the Clythness and Duchanness areas were sampled.

Due to persistent bad weather especially during the latter half of the cruise the effective working time of the ship was reduced to approximately 3½ weeks in which time 230 stations were sampled.

Results

Although no detailed results are available it would appear that larvae were rather scarce over much of the area surveyed with the major concentrations being observed along the north coast of Scotland, from Cape Wrath to Thurso Bay. Lesser numbers of larvae were located along the north and east coasts of the Orkney Islands and on the traditional 'Buchan' spawning grounds off the Aberdeenshire coast.

D W McKay

Seen in draft by G Geddes.

ADDITIONAL NOTE

The effect of the bad weather during this cruise was greater than has been experienced on similar cruises in the past, because the sea keeping qualities of 'Clupea' have been much reduced following recent alterations to her ballasting