

In confidence: Not to be quoted without reference to the Laboratory.

CRUISE REPORT

F.R.V. "CLUPEA"

16 August - 3 September 1976

Objectives

1. Measurement of currents in the Firth of Forth area using moored current meters.
2. Environmental station work in the Firth of Forth.
3. Collection of water samples (including the surface microlayer collected from a small boat) and benthos for hydrocarbon analysis in the Firth of Forth and along the Forties line.
4. Environmental station work along the JONSIS line.

Narrative

"Clupea" left Aberdeen on the afternoon of 16 August and proceeded to the Firth of Forth area. After the current meter mooring programme had been completed on 17 August the ship spent the next two days carrying out environmental station work in the Firth of Forth. The ship then proceeded to Leith for the weekend break and to make staff changes. "Clupea" left Leith shortly after lunchtime on Monday, 23 August and proceeded to the upper part of the Forth - east of the bridges - to commence the hydrocarbon sampling programme. On completion of the Forth and Forties line hydrocarbon sampling the ship steamed north to the JONSIS line to commence the environmental station work. This work was completed in the early hours of Thursday morning and the ship returned to Aberdeen for the weekend break and staff changes. "Clupea" left Aberdeen on the afternoon of 30 August and proceeded to the Firth of Forth to carry out the second leg of the environmental station work. On 1 September two divers from the laboratory were picked up by small boat at Methil in order to carry out inspection and sampling of moored cages, containing queens and scallops, at several of the navigation buoys in the upper part of the Forth. On completion of this work the divers were returned to Methil. On 2 September all four current meter moorings were uplifted and the ship returned to Aberdeen, docking at 2230 hours on 2 September.

Results

The remarkably good weather encountered during this period meant that all objectives were successfully achieved well within the time allocated for each leg of the separate operations. In preparation for the forthcoming herring larval cruise trials were made of an acoustic transducer on the Dutch Gulf III during the passage to Aberdeen.

Current meter moorings: The magnetic tapes from the current meters have yet to be processed.

Hydrocarbon Sampling: Despite occasional patchy fog and a short spell of rough weather it was possible to launch and retrieve the small boat at all of the sampling positions along the Forties line.

Environmental Station work: All water, plankton and grab samples were successfully taken along the JONSIS line and in the Forth area.

G TOPPING

E HENDERSON

6 October 1976

Seen in draft - G Geddes