

R1/6

10CR82

In Confidence - not to be quoted without prior reference to the Laboratory

Cruise 10/82

FRV "Clupea"

Report

19 Oct - 4 Nov 1982

Objective: To tag mackerel in the North Minch

Narrative

"Clupea" left Buckie at 2300 on 19 October, arriving at Loch Eriboll at 1200 on 20 October. After sheltering overnight the next two days were spent searching for mackerel shoals from Loch Eriboll to Loch Broom. No mackerel were located and "Clupea" docked in Ullapool on 23 October.

On 25 October "Clupea" searched northwards to Loch Inchar, and southwards the following morning. No mackerel were caught. Owing to the worsening weather an anchorage was found in Eddrachillis Bay. While at anchor the Simrad echo sounder broke down. "Clupea" weighed anchor on 28 October and steamed southwards in very heavy weather to Annat Bay where a night anchorage was made. The following morning "Clupea" fished at the mouth of Loch Broom, docking in Ullapool on 30 October.

"Clupea" left Ullapool at 0930 on 1 November and, owing to continuing echo sounder problems, spent the remainder of the cruise fishing around the waste outlets of factory ships in Annat Bay, docking in Stornoway at 1530 on 3 November.

Results: A total of 548 mackerel were tagged, 99 with external tags and 449 internally. All except seven of these were tagged in Annat Bay. In addition, 217 mackerel were otolithed and 200 intestines collected for parasite analysis. Fish tagged ranged in size from 27 to 45 cm with a modal size of 35 cm which roughly coincides with data from commercial landings.

Paul Rankine  
11 Nov 1982

Seen in draft: G Geddes