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PB

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10CR86

FRV "Clupea"

Cruise 10/86

REPORT

6-26 August 1986

Personnel

|               |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
| J H A Martin  | PSO                |
| E W Henderson | SSO (6-19 August)  |
| R Payne       | HSO                |
| A D McIntosh  | HSO (19-26 August) |
| G Slesser     | HSO                |
| R D Adams     | SO                 |

Objectives

- 1 The placement of 3 current meter moorings in the Northwest Shelf area.
- 2 A hydrographic survey of the Northwest Shelf with the deployment of drogues.
- 3 The working of the JONSIS line
- 4 To deploy caged queen scallops off Calbeck Head and do a sediment survey of Sullom Voe, and fish for queen scallops within Sullom Voe.

Narrative

"Clupea" sailed from Buckie on the evening tide of 6 August and the next day two moorings were laid off the northwest of Scotland. A third was laid on 10 August, having been picked up at Scrabster the previous day, and hydrographic survey continued before and after a half landing at Kirkwall.

With better working conditions to the North, a hydrographic survey was then carried out in Sullom Voe before a similar survey was worked west of Shetland before "Clupea" docked at Lerwick on 18 August. "Clupea" attempted to obtain queen scallops with a borrowed scallop dredge on 20 August with little success, however, queens were obtained that evening with help from a sub-aqua club and these were deployed the next day in cages moored 100-500 metres from the diffuser at Calbeck Ness. The dredge sites were fished for samples of queen scallops before "Clupea" headed south to work the Jonsis line. Parachute droguing was carried out west of Orkney on 24 August before leaving the area on the morning of 25 August to dock at Buckie later that day.

Only a few hours were lost because of adverse conditions during this generally successful cruise. All the objectives of the cruise were achieved.

## Results

The current meter analysis and the hydrographic survey are part of a long term analysis of the Fair Isle current. The current meter analysis showed that the axis of the Fair Isle current passes just north of Sule Skerry and that it responds to major meteorological events, for instance strong northerly winds can cause a temporary deflection of the current to the south.

The hydrographic survey revealed the presence of lower salinity water west of the Fair Isle area, blocking the passage of Atlantic water into the North Sea. From later data it was evident that this feature did not persist.

J H A Martin  
3 February 1987

Seen in draft: W Smith

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