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reference to the Laboratory.

CRUISE REPORT

FRV "Clupea"

29 September - 10 October 1969

Objective

1. To carry out a trawl survey of adolescent herring in the Moray Firth.
2. To tag sprats caught by trawl.

All stations of the trawl survey were completed by the 8 October. The remaining time was spent tagging sprats.

No sprats or herring were caught in the hauls made at the outer stations of the survey. The numbers of herring caught per half-hour haul varied from nil to 911. With the exception of about a hundred of 1-group herring taken at station 14, the herring catches consisted of 0-group fish in the size range 9-13 cm. The ratio of herring to sprats varied from equal numbers to one herring per hundred sprats. The largest catch of sprats was three baskets and the general size range was 7-14 cm.

Moderate hauls of haddock and whiting were made at some stations, and adolescent lemon soles were present in most of the hauls. Fair catches of nephrops were made at the two most easterly stations.

Sprat tagging commenced on the 9 October. Trawl hauls were made at position $57^{\circ}39\frac{1}{2}'N$ $03^{\circ}45'W$, in the area where the commercial sprat boats were operating, and where good traces appeared on the echo-meter. Good catches of sprats were taken initially, in half hour tows, but towing time was later reduced to 5 minutes in an attempt to prevent the sprats from being scaled. Small numbers of sprats and small herring were caught in a condition suitable for tagging and 120 sprats and 20 herring were tagged and liberated.

T BRUCE

22 October 1969