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

CRUISE REPORT

FRV "CLUPEA"

1 - 25 August 1977

OBJECTIVES

1. To tag herring caught by purse seine in Shetland waters.
2. To assess the relative efficiency of Spaghetti and Flag tags.

NARRATIVE

The start of the cruise was delayed four days by the installation of equipment for purse seine operation. "Clupea" left Aberdeen harbour on the morning of 5 August and made a passage to Kirkwall which was the operational base throughout the cruise. A further day was lost when the ship had to steam to Kirkwall to effect repairs to a faulty generator.

An extensive sonar search for herring traces was carried out on the grounds over 60 fathom depth around Shetland and Fair Isle waters with little success. On 11 August the purse seine was shot 16 miles north-west of Flugga light on a very good trace which turned out to be Norway pout and the ship had to steam to Scalloway pier in order to clean out the enmeshed fish from the net. On 22 August the net was also shot on a reasonable trace north-west of the Noup, but the catch only yielded two herring which were unsuitable for tagging; the rest of the catch consisted of sprats. "Clupea" arrived in Aberdeen at the end of the cruise on the afternoon of 24 August.

During the cruise the purse seine was shot four times without attaining a catch of herring. Consequently, no tagging was accomplished.

T Bruce
29 September 1977

Seen in draft: G Geddes