

R1/6

12CR69

7

## CRUISE REPORT

FRV "CLUPEA"

27 October - 19 November 1969

## OBJECTIVE:

Herring tagging in the Minch from purse-seine catches.

"Clupea" sailed from Buckie on 27 October and went to the west coast via the Caledonian Canal because of severe gales along the North coast. Strong to gale force west to south-west winds persisted till 10 November and operations had to be confined to the inshore waters on the western side of the Minch. The few herring traces seen were very small and the purse seine was shot three times only during this period. One haul was foul and in the others the catches consisted of small haddocks, small whittings, small dogfish and horse mackerel, but no herring. Many sprats were seen escaping through the meshes in one haul and in the other a trace, which could have been herring, was seen vanishing under the vessel during the early stages of pursing.

After 10 November the weather improved slightly and "Clupea" moved to the grounds off Hyskeir in the South Minch to contact the commercial purse-seiners working in that area. Good traces were found but the weather conditions were still too bad for "Clupea" to shoot her purse-seine or to lower her boss-boat and collect fish from the purse-seiners. Arrangements were made for scientists to join one of the purse-seiners in harbour and sail on her to tag herring. Between 12 and 14 November 483 herring were tagged in this way before the commercial vessels stopped for the week-end. "Clupea" carried out an unsuccessful echo-search before returning to Stornoway for the week end.

"Clupea" rejoined the commercial boats on the Hyskeir grounds on 17 November. The herring appeared to have taken off and none of the searching vessels reported good traces. Weather conditions worsened with severe westerly gale forecasts and "Clupea" returned to the East Coast via the Caledonian Canal. The scientific staff left the vessel at Corpach on 19 November and returned to Aberdeen by land.

G McPherson  
13.4.70