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CRUISE REPORT

F.R.S. Clupea

30 OCTOBER - 29 NOVEMBER 1974

OBJECTIVE: To tag herring in the Minch.

After being rigged for purse seining 'Clupea' sailed from Buckie about Midnight on 31 October and proceeded to Stornoway where arrangements had been made for a relief motor mechanic to join the ship on 2 November. As a major part of the fishing fleet was operating on grounds between the Shiant Islands and Loch Maddy Bank, a sonar survey was carried out in this area on Monday 4 November. No herring traces were located during this search after which 'Clupea' was forced to return to Buckie for repairs to the main engine.

The work on the engine was completed in the evening of 13 November and engine running tests were carried out in the Moray Firth during the following morning. 'Clupea' sailed for the Minch in the evening of 14 November but stormy weather hindered the passage to the west coast. After anchoring for about 7 hours in Sinclair Bay 'Clupea' reached Stornoway on Saturday morning, 16 November.

The tagging work was begun on Monday 18 November on grounds between the Shiant Islands and Loch Maddy Bank and the work continued in this area until 27 November when the ship returned to the east coast and berthed in Buckie at 2200 hours on 28 November.

RESULTS

The shoals of herring were widely scattered and as a result a considerable amount of time was spent in searching for suitable traces to fish on.

Six hauls were made with the purse seine but catches were very poor. The best catch was about 2 units of herring. A total 1598 herring were tagged during the cruise. Of these, 1235 were tagged with Scottish Combination tags and 363 with internal tags.

I G Baxter
5 December 1974