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Confidential: Not to be quoted without
reference to the Laboratory.

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CRUISE REPORT

F.R.S. "CLUPEA"

26th November - 8th December, 1962

Objective:- To tag herring in the Clyde.

The scientific staff joined "Clupea" in Greenock on the afternoon of the 26th. The ship sailed immediately and began an echo-search for herring shoals. No echo-traces were observed in an extensive search of the area and no ring-net boats were fishing for herring in the Clyde. In view of this the prospects of doing any tagging on the Clyde seemed poor and it was decided to steam to the Minch and tag there.

"Clupea" reached the Barra grounds, where the majority of the South Minch fleet were working, in the evening of the 28th. Catches were poor on that night and a heavy swell made it impossible to go alongside those boats which were getting herring. On the night of the 29th catches were heavy with rings of up to 600 crans being made. Weather conditions again made approaching ring-net boats to transfer fish difficult but two lots of fish were obtained and over 1300 herring in good condition were tagged and released. On the following night a strong south-easterly wind made conditions unworkable on the Barra Grounds. "Clupea" steamed to Coll where four boats were searching for herring. No traces were observed and "Clupea" after several hours of fruitless searching sailed to Mallaig for the weekend.

Mr. McIntyre joined the ship on the 2nd bringing with him the Isaac-Kidd trawl. "Clupea" sailed in the morning of the 3rd to Loch Nevis to carry out the mud-sampling programme. After completing this the Isaac-Kidd trawl was shot to test the feasibility of operating it from "Clupea". In the conditions prevailing in Loch Nevis, i.e. virtually no wind or swell, it could be handled fairly easily but would probably be difficult and dangerous under less favourable weather conditions. One haul with the Isaac-Kidd in Loch Nevis caught several Pleurobrachia and one sprat but there appeared to be no suitable traces there to test its catching capacity. "Clupea" returned to Mallaig to land Mr. McIntyre then sailed to Loch Hourn where good mid-water traces could be expected. These were indeed obtained but on shooting the trawl for the first time a swivel broke and all the gear was lost.

For the remainder of that week a south-easterly gale was blowing making further tagging out of the question. The time was spent in Loch Hourn attempting to recover the Isaac-Kidd with grapnels but without success.

ALAN SAVILLE,

8th January, 1963.