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CRUISE REPORT

FRS "CLUPEA"

24 November - 19 December 1975

OBJECTIVE: To tag herring in the Minch

NARRATIVE:

"Clupea" sailed from Aberdeen at 14.30 on 25 November after being rigged for purse-seining. Strong winds delayed passage through the Pentland Firth and the ship reached Kyle, where the net was loaded, on the 27th. Bad weather prevented fishing that night, but conditions improved the following night and a sonar search was carried out between south Rona and the south Bank area. No traces were located, however.

The following week work was again hampered by bad weather but was possible on three out of five nights. The net was shot twice, once off Loch Maddy and once off Eilean Trodday light.

During the third week only one nights fishing was lost through bad weather and the net was shot on five occasions, once off Trodday light, and on the other occasions, at various locations on the west side of the Minch between Kebock Head and Eilean Glas light. The net was badly torn during one shot but was quickly repaired and little fishing time was lost.

During the last week work was carried out on Monday and Tuesday before the net was off-loaded onto the lab. lorry on Wednesday morning. The net was shot once on Tuesday night off south Rona light and was very badly damaged during this haul. "Clupea" docked in Aberdeen at 14.30 on Thursday 18 December.

RESULTS:

Over the period of the cruise herring traces were found to be very scarce and on several nights no traces at all were located.

Only one haul, off Kebock Head, was successful in taking enough herring for tagging purposes. 70 fish were tagged, 50 with external combination tags and 20 with internals. A sample of fish was analysed from this catch and had a modal size of 22 - 24 cms.

M Walsh
18 December 1975

Seen in draft - G Geddes