

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

CRUISE REPORT

FRV "CLUPEA"

26 October 1976 - 25 November 1976

OBJECTIVE:

To tag herring caught by purse seine in the Minch using Spaghetti and Scottish combination tags for comparison of their recovery rates.

NARRATIVE:

"Clupea" left Aberdeen on Tuesday evening 26 October bound for the Kyle of Lochalsh where the purse seine was taken aboard prior to fishing operations. During Thursday evening 28 October, the purse seine was shot twice on sonar traces off Tiumpán Head: 240 herring were tagged from the initial haul, but the second haul was blank. The ship sailed to Stornoway and bad weather prevented further operation until Tuesday of the following week.

A sonar search was carried out on Tuesday, 2 November from Hebbock Head area across to the Crowlin area where a suitable trace was located off Longa Island: however, it was impossible to shoot the net because the ring bar was faulty, and the ship sailed to an anchorage in Loch Ewe where the necessary repairs were effected. Sonar operation commenced the following day, and the net was shot on traces found east of Rona Island, but on hauling the net was found to be badly torn and "Clupea" steamed for Sushinish pier where the net was repaired. The vessel then sailed for the Crowlin area; traces were located off Longa Island and the net was shot and hauled successfully until the net was dried up when the majority of the catch escaped and only 60 herring were tagged. On the following day "Clupea" returned to Stornoway because the weather had deteriorated and the weather forecast was bad.

On Monday, 8 November, operations began in the Kebbock head area, but the weather was too bad for purse seining; the vessel steamed for the Crowlin area to find a more sheltered area to shoot the net but without success, eventually "Clupea" anchored in Loch Ewe. The following day traces were located in the Shiant Islands area, but the shoals were too active to permit the net to be shot. On Wednesday, 10 November, the net was shot on traces off the Shiant Islands and, although the wedge rope broke during hauling, there was a small haul of herring in the net from which 1770 fish were tagged before the vessel steamed for Stornoway for the commencement of the mid-trip break.

The Scientific Staff and crew rejoined the vessels on Tuesday, 16 November and operations commenced the following day, but the weather proved too rough and "Clupea" anchored in Broad Bay. When the weather improved the purse seine was shot on traces, 5 miles east of Tolsta, but the pursing wire became tangled in the sheaf: after the warp was cleared from the sheaf, the mate was taken ill, so the net was hauled in and the vessel steamed to Stornoway so that the mate could have medical attention. On the 19 November, a sonar search was carried out from the Chickens to south of the Shiant Islands, but no herring traces were found and the ship returned to Stornoway on Saturday morning.

"Clupea" left Stornoway on the 22 November and a search was carried out from Tiumpán Head to Glas light. Although traces were found, they were not herring traces. The area from Lóch Shell to Uist was surveyed the following day and traces were eventually found off the Shiant Islands: however, the net would not run out from the boat when shooting, and by the time the obstruction was cleared, the herring trace had disappeared. The sonar search was carried on and an area from the Shiant Islands across to Rhu Re was covered before the weather deteriorated and the vessel steamed for the Kyle of Lochalsh where the net was offloaded and "Clupea" sailed for Aberdeen arriving there on Thursday night, 25 November.

T Bruce  
15 December 1976

Seen in draft - G Geddes

P17/6

CRUISE PROGRAMME

F.R.S. "CLUPEA"

25 October - 26 November, 1976

STAFF:	T Bruce	SO (in charge)
	W S MacDonald	ASO
	I Irvine	ASO
	B Gibson	ASO
	A N Other	

OBJECTIVE

To carry out herring tagging in the Minch using herring caught by Purse Seine.

PROCEDURE

Tagging will be carried out using Scottish hydrostatic, spaghetti and internal tags. The mid-trip long weekend will be from 12th to 15th November.

J H STEELE  
30 September 1976