

In Confidence: Not to be quoted without reference to the Laboratory.

CRUISE REPORT

F.R.S. "CLUPEA"

November 4-15, 1963

Objectives

1. Comparative fishing with a Vinge trawl, with and without large mesh wing extension, by day and by night.
2. Photography of fish behaviour in front of the trawl.
3. Selectivity of polypropylene codend.
4. To bring back live fish.

Owing to a number of factors little of the programme was carried out. Bad weather prevented the capture and transport of live fish into Aberdeen during the first week as planned. "Clupea" eventually sailed from Buckie at 10 a.m. on the 6th of November when it was discovered that part of the main engine exhaust pipe was cracked. "Clupea" returned to Buckie where repairs were done enabling work to begin on 11th November. Again the weather during the second week curtailed the programme, a total of only 7 hauls being possible.

Fishing was done initially, 5 miles north of Buckie where the local seine net boats were working. After a series of small catches in this area and further delays through bad weather, the position was changed to deeper water 13 miles north-west of Buckie, where better catches (mostly whiting) were experienced. During the second tow in this area the Vinge trawl came fast, suffering considerable damage, and one of the large mesh extensions was lost. "Clupea" returned to Buckie and docked at 17.30 hours on November 14.

Owing to bad weather the u/w camera was only used twice. Light readings were taken for each haul.

C. J. CHAPMAN  
22nd November, 1963