

L. B. ...

R1/6 In Confidence - Not to be quoted without reference to the laboratory JA 15CR77

FRV CLUPEA
Cruise 15/77
REPORT

November 21 - December 16 1977

Objective

West of Scotland pre-recruit haddock and whiting survey.

Narrative

CLUPEA left Aberdeen on 23 November, bad weather having made it impossible to sail on the 21st or 22nd, and steamed to Scrabster. CLUPEA remained in Scrabster on 24th November, because of adverse weather conditions, then steamed to Ullapool on 25th, two trawl hauls being made en route.

Between 28th November and 2nd December CLUPEA worked in the South Minch and also in the vicinity of St Kilda. The weekend 3rd-4th December was spent in Campbeltown.

Adverse weather conditions prevented work on 5th December. Between 6th and 10th December, CLUPEA worked in the Clyde, the Minch and off the north coast of Scotland. The weekend 10th-11th December was spent in Buckie.

Between 12th and 15th December, CLUPEA worked in the Moray Firth and off the east coast of Scotland. Hauls were made for the capture of live O-group haddock on the 14th and 15th December. The ship was unloaded at Aberdeen on 16th December.

Results

Herring, squid and mackerel were not caught in large enough quantities to allow samples to be returned to the laboratory.

Live O-group haddock were returned to the laboratory at the end of the cruise as were samples of Nephrops for examination for the gut parasite Stichocotyle nephropis. Information was collected on dogfish as detailed in the programme.

The number of haddock caught per 10 hours' fishing is given in Table 1. Catches in all areas were relatively poor for all year classes.

TABLE 1 Number of haddock of each year class caught per 10 hours' fishing

Area	North Minch	Outer Hebrides	South Minch	South of 56° North
No of hauls	6	9	3	1
Year class				
1977	147	582	37	20
1976	15	4	-	10
1975	7	7	-	-
1974	321	424	17	-
1973	40	36	3	-
1972	5	-	3	-
1971	2	5	-	-
1970 and older	2	19	-	-

The numbers of whiting caught per 10 hours' fishing are given in Table 2. The 1977 year class was well represented in the North Minch, South Minch and Firth of Clyde areas and the 1976 year class was taken in above average numbers in the North Minch and Firth of Clyde. For all areas, with the exception of the South Minch, catches of the remaining year classes were below average.

TABLE 2 Number of whiting of each year class caught per 10 hours' fishing

Area	North Minch	Outer Hebrides	South Minch	South of 56°North	Firth of Clyde
No of hauls	6	9	3	1	2
Year class					
1977	1 572	79	477	170	588
1976	1 001	39	214	70	644
1975	141	23	316	40	12
1974	162	102	925	80	10
1973	2	5	205	-	-
1972 and older	5	11	179	10	-

Seen in draft: G Geddes

D W Armstrong
8 June 1978