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CRUISE REPORT

F.R.V. "C L U P E A"

5th-17th February, 1968

Objective

To carry out further fish capture experiments with a detachable cod-end.

Narrative

The experiments were conducted on grounds in the Moray Firth where satisfactory catches of fish were obtained. Although adverse weather conditions interrupted work on a number of occasions during the cruise, some work was possible on most days.

Procedure

Suitable grounds were located off Buckie. One yielded good catches of 0-group haddock and whiting, and the other of codling. Various ways of handling the detachable cod-end were tried, and a satisfactory method was established. Owing to the persistent bad weather and the non-arrival of a radio dhan for marking the position of the cod-end, it was not possible to raise fish to the surface slowly as planned. Instead, the cod-end was raised to the surface at normal hauling rates, and the effect on the fish of lifting them from the sea in the experimental cod-end, filled with water, as distinct from in the normal trawl cod-end, was investigated.

Results

The majority of fish caught were 0-group haddock and cod, along with smaller numbers of 0-group whiting, and on one occasion twelve small herring. In all hauls the condition of the fish in the experimental codend appeared to be superior to that of fish caught and handled in the conventional way. About 200, 0-group haddock and a smaller number of 0-group whiting were transported to the laboratory following capture. After fourteen days in the aquarium, more than 50% of these had survived and appeared in good, lively condition. Twelve small herring (about 12 cm in length), taken in one haul, were also transported to the laboratory and after fourteen days there were five survivors all apparently in good condition.

R. JONES
26th February, 1968