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FRV CLUPEA

Cruise 1/80

REPORT

11-27 February 1980

Objectives

- 1 To lift and relay moorings for the 1980 bag experiment.
- 2 To set up rafts and deploy bags and hardware.
- 3 To search for spring spawning herring in the Loch Ewe area.
- 4 To recover machinery from the field station at Little Loch Broom.

Narrative and Results

CLUPEA sailed at 16.30 hrs on Monday 11 February and arrived in Loch Ewe at 18.30 hrs on Tuesday when Mr S J Hay joined the ship.

The following morning, most of the scientific apparatus and hardware was off-loaded by small boats onto the two rafts in order to maximise working space. The vessel then proceeded, with the aid of divers, to lift the moorings of the main lab raft. The following day the rest of the main raft moorings were lifted and refurbished and at high tide the main raft was floated out and two of its four moorings laid.

On Friday the 15 February, the other two main raft moorings were relayed and the position of the raft in relation to the working site adjusted. Concurrently the wave breaker was refurbished and made ready for floating off at the next high tide. The vessel then proceeded to Ullapool for the weekend.

On Saturday the 16 February, fishing-gear, which could not be taken on board in Aberdeen due to a temporary weight restriction placed on the vessel, was loaded. Scientific staff then proceeded to Loch Ewe by car, and removed several large bottom chambers which would otherwise have hampered further raft mooring recovery by CLUPEA. This work was completed on Sunday 17 February, staff returning to Ullapool at nights.

On Monday morning CLUPEA proceeded to Loch Ewe and at high tide towed off the wave breaker one end of which was then shackled to the main raft. In preparation for lifting the diving raft moorings, a large tubular metal frame was recovered from the bottom and taken ashore. Recovery of the diving raft moorings then continued and after refurbishing were relayed with the diving raft in its new position. The other end of the wave breaker was then secured to the diving raft.

The following day CLUPEA proceeded to Aultbea and towed four flotation collars back to the site. These were then moored to the main raft. The rest of the

working day was spent recovering, refurbishing and relaying the outer bag moorings.

On Thursday 21 February the east and west bag moorings were resited and the flotation collars connected to them and the outer bag moorings. After some adjustments to the mooring arrangement, CLUPEA proceeded to the Melvaig bay area and two hauls of 1 hour duration using a 600 hp wing trawl were completed.

On Friday 22 February, after the deployment of the mud chambers and general duties connected with the bags, CLUPEA took the barge NARWHAL on board and proceeded to Little Loch Broom where the barge was anchored. The vessel then proceeded to Ullapool for the weekend.

Scientific staff again travelled by car to Loch Ewe and re-installed the power cable to the main lab raft and adjusted the main bag moorings. Adjustments to the bag flotation collars and inter bag moorings were carried out on Sunday, staff again returning to Ullapool at nights.

On Monday 25 February CLUPEA proceeded to Little Loch Broom to pick up a generator and compressor. The vessel then proceeded to Ullapool for off loading this equipment.

CLUPEA then returned to Loch Ewe with the barge NARWHAL.

That night drift nets were shot but on hauling, the following morning, yielded nothing. CLUPEA proceeded to the Melvaig bay area on Tuesday 26 February and three hauls of 1 hour duration using the 600 hp wing trawl were completed but yielded very few fish. Twenty four immature herring were frozen and brought back to the laboratory. On Wednesday 27 February the remainder of the scientific equipment, excluding the drift nets and trawl, was off loaded onto the rafts and some taken to Loch Ewe field station. Scientific staff left the ship at Firemore bay at 15.30 hrs on the 27th and the ship proceeded to Stornoway.

J Dunn

28 March 1980

Seen in draft

G Geddes OIC