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CRUISE REPORT

R.R.V. "CLUPEA"

17th - 29th February 1964
(extended to 4th March)

Narative

Scientific gear was loaded at Buckie and "Clupea" sailed via the Caledonian and Crinan canals arriving at Ayr on midday 15th February.

Some work was possible on all days despite strong to gale E. to S.E. winds. The cruise was extended by three working days and the scientific staff handed over to their successors on the morning of 5th March at Cairnryan.

Personnel

The three scientists on board were joined by various members of the Cairnryan team and by J. Main on different days during the cruise.

Scientific Work

The hydrographic survey of the Ballantrae Bank grid was completed according to the station list on the 21st February along with a larval survey using one metre nets. This latter was repeated on the 26th February.

Live Fish Capture

Herring were taken from trammel nets shot as often as required during the first week and also from the trawl shot along the edge of the bank. In all, about 500 herring and some round fish were landed and blood samples from about 350 moribund fish were taken by Mr. Dalgarno.

Sea bed cameras for the photography of herring were used on all available occasions in the vicinity of the two trammel nets.

Underwater Observations

Mr. Hemmings and Mr. Main dived when the weather allowed at the end of the second week to observe a herring spawn patch. Some photographs and a short length of cine film were taken and some samples of the patch collected. The patch of spawn was at least 150 ft. across and was 5 - 6 eggs deep over most of the area investigated. The underlying bottom was of fine gravel which was rendered quite invisible due to the layer of spawn. A number of brittle stars were found all over the spawn patch but their concentration was much greater on the adjacent hard ground away from the spawn. The spawn collected on 28th February hatched on the 9th March and would seem to have been about five days old on collection.

Unfortunately owing to navigational problems the spawn patch was 'lost' during the final week. This prevented the detailed mapping of the patch which had been planned.

C. C. HEMMINGGS

7th April, 1964.