

In Confidence: Not to be quoted without
reference to the laboratory

Cruise Report

FRS Clupea

8 February - 1 March 1973

Objective

To tag herring in the Minch.

Narrative

The scientific staff joined Clupea at Stornoway on Thursday 8 February. Sonar- and echo-searches were carried out over an area extending from Tiumpan Head to Crowlin Island. The purse seine was shot twice between Loch Ouirn and the Shiants and twice near Crowlin Island. During the first shot off Crowlin the net became entangled round the stem and stern of Clupea and was so badly damaged that it required $2\frac{1}{2}$ days mending. Strong winds prevented the operation of the purse-seine on several nights. The scientific staff left Clupea at Stornoway on Thursday 1 March.

Results

No herring were caught.

Traces were few and scattered although some of the traces located were of a good size. The traces found during the early evening were at depths too great for Clupea's shallow net and it was necessary to wait for the herring to rise. On one night the net was not shot because the herring never rose to a suitable depth.

George McPherson
Martin Walsh

20 March 1973