

R1/6

3CR66

In confidence: Not to be quoted without
reference to the Laboratory.

CRUISE REPORT

F.R.S. "CLUPEA"

April 4th - 15th, 1966.

Objectives:

- 1) To carry out a routine trawl survey of 0 + 1 group herring in the Moray Firth.
- 2) To tag herring from ring net boats working in the upper reaches of the Firth.

On the 4th April, the "Clupea" made a passage from Buckie to Inverness. Five baskets of herring were obtained from a ringer in the Inverness Firth and a total of 231 fish were tagged, just off the mouth of the Caledonian Canal.

The ringers were forbidden to operate in the Inverness Firth on the 5th and after one unsuccessful shot in Culloden Bay moved to the Eastward and into the Cromarty Firth. The ring net boat "Integrity" supplied some 5 baskets of herring for tagging and 349 were released at Invergordon pier.

Since it seemed obvious that the herring had taken off and that the commercial fishery had come to an end, the routine survey was started on the 6th.

Herring were present at most of the stations throughout the survey - at Station 16, off Burghead, 60 baskets were caught. At Stations 14 and 17, in the Dornach Firth, the mean size of the herring was 11 cms compared to 20 cms at the other stations.

One day of the cruise was lost, due to weather, and on the last day an unsuccessful attempt was made to obtain live fish for Dr. Hemmings.

R. A. WATT
5th May, 1966.