

CRUISE REPORT

FRS "CLUPEA"

10 March - 10 April 1975

Objectives

1. To carry out herring larval surveys on Ballantrae Bank and in the Lower Clyde area.
2. To collect water for herring rearing studies
3. To carry out a plaice egg and larval survey if time permits.

Narrative

Scientific staff joined 'Clupea' in Aberdeen on 10 March to make a passage to the Clyde. On passage the boss boat davits were damaged in heavy weather and 'Clupea' returned to Buckie to have repairs carried out. 'Clupea' left from Buckie on 13 March and arrived in the Clyde on 15 March.

The first survey of the Ballantrae Bank area was carried out on 17 March and the Lower Clyde area was surveyed during the 17 and 18 March. On neither survey were any significant quantities of larvae observed. Sampling was confined to Ballantrae Bank, which was as far as possible surveyed on a daily basis, thereafter until the crew's long weekend. Following the long weekend break 'Clupea' was unable to leave Greenock because of the blockade of the port by inshore fishermen. 'Clupea' left Greenock on 3 April following the lifting of the blockade and surveys of Ballantrae Bank and the Lower Clyde were carried out during the remaining part of the weekend. Gale force winds on the 7 and 8 April prevented any further larval sampling during the cruise.

RESULTS

Herring larvae were only observed in quantity on the survey immediately before, and after, the long weekend break. Although no definitive measure of larval production is yet available it would appear that the total larval production in 1975 was less than in 1974.

In all 5 lots of water were collected from both collection sites and returned to Aberdeen.

No sampling for plaice eggs and larvae was carried out due to lack of time.

David W McKay  
21 April 1975

Seen in draft by G Geddes, Captain of 'FRS Clupea'