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CRUISE REPORT

F.R.S. "CLUPEA"

18th-29th May, 1964

Objective: Routine trawl survey for 0 and 1 group herring in
the Moray Firth.

The trawl survey was begun on the morning of 18th May and completed
in the evening of 26th May.

The bulk of the herring were caught in the Upper Moray Firth at
stations 16 and 18 where catches of over 6,600 and 2,800 respectively
were obtained in a half-hour haul.

These fish ranged from 12-22 cm in length but the majority were
between 15 and 16 cm. Other catches of herring ranged from 1-131.
East of the Findhorn-Golspie line the catches of herring were composed
of fish between 19 and 24 cm in length.

Sprats were taken at a number of stations scattered throughout the
survey. The best catch was obtained at station 12 where 993 sprats were
obtained. Some of these fish which ranged between 13 and 15 cm in
length were about to spawn.

Among other species of fish taken during the survey haddock and
whiting were the most prominent. At station 17 eleven baskets of
haddock were taken. These fish ranged in length from 22-36 cm but the
majority were between 25 and 30 cm. The best catch of whiting was
taken at station 9, where about 8 baskets of young whiting mainly
between 23 and 24 cm were taken.

After the routine trawl survey had been completed unsuccessful
attempts were made to locate suitable concentrations of herring for
tagging experiments. The scientific staff disembarked at Buckie on
29th May and returned to Aberdeen.

I. G. BAXTER
R. A. WATT
9th June, 1964