

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

CRUISE REPORT

F.R.V. "Clupea"

1st - 23rd March, 1969.

Lofoten Sonar Training Course

Only a few hours before sailing time on 1st March it was reported that flash tests on "Clupea's" sump oil showed a high level of fuel oil contamination. In view of the distance to be travelled and the International co-operation involved in the Sonar Training Course at Svolveaer, Lofoten it was imperative that delays should be reduced to the minimum. The maximum effort of all concerned resulted in the vessel being able to sail from Buckie at 1130 on 3rd March, some 48 hours late. Bergen was reached on the evening of 4th March and the vessel sailed again on 5th March with 2 Pilots on board. Good progress was maintained whilst in the shelter of the Islands, but unfortunately severe gales outside the Islands delayed the vessel for a total of 48 hours. "Clupea" arrived in Svolveaer at 2300 hours on 9th March, a few hours after the other research vessels involved in the programme.

Commencing at 0900 hours on 10th March, four day surveys were carried out by "Clupea" with Trainees and Experts on board. A total of 33 visitors joined the ship for this work. "Clupea" completed the duties allocated and sailed at 1800 hours on 13th March, reaching Bergen on the 16th March. Extremely severe weather conditions in the whole of the North Sea delayed departure until the early hours of 22nd March. "Clupea" arrived at Buckie on the afternoon of 23rd March, one day late.

Detail

An Echosounding Survey was carried out from Buckie to Utsira and thereafter various tests completed before commencing the Sonar Training Course at Svolveaer. The Fish Echo Counter Surveys were extremely successful in demonstrating the Aberdeen Fish Counting Technique and arousing the interest of Experts and Trainees alike. Unfortunately the presence of a very large fishing fleet made it impossible to deploy the underwater cameras strategically. They were demonstrated fully and placed on the sea bed each night, but away from fish concentrations.

On the return journey, only limited echosounding was possible and time prevented a Fish Echo Counter Survey across the North Sea. A series of noise tests was carried out whilst in Bergen harbour.

Administration and General

At Svolveaer, in order to accommodate the maximum number of visitors, it was necessary to put Mr. Petrie and Mr. Shand ashore on two days. They visited all the other vessels involved and familiarised themselves with the equipment and techniques in use, as well as making the fullest contact with the staffs.

Mention must be made of the willing co-operation received from the Officers and Crew of "Clupea" during this unusual cruise. The Cook and Steward are to be commended on the high standard of messing, under difficult conditions. It was most encouraging to observe the cheerful acceptance of the additional work involved in catering for the pilots and the large number of visitors.

R. G. LAWRIE  
16th April, 1969