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IN CONFIDENCE: NOT TO BE QUOTED WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE LABORATORY

## CRUISE REPORT

FRV "CLUPEA"

March 30 - April 4, 1970

## PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

To experiment with towing speeds and with various canvas fittings in the extension piece of the trawl with a view to improving the condition of trawl caught fish by reducing the fatigue factor.

## NARRATIVE

Gear and personnel travelled to Buckie on March 30 where the gear was rigged ready for working. "Clupea" sailed on the evening tide and commenced an overnight passage to a fishing ground 60 miles ENE of Fraserburgh. Unfortunately a NE gale made it necessary for the ship to seek shelter at Peterhead where she was forced to remain until April 2. By then the wind had moved round to the NW and as it was still unsuitable for working the ground off Fraserburgh, the opportunity was taken of spending the last two days of the trip in Aberdeen Bay. The cruise terminated at 2115 hours on April 3 in Buckie.

## RESULTS

Good catches, mainly of haddock, were taken in Aberdeen Bay. Because of the short time available, no attempt was made to vary the towing speed. All hauls were made, at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  knots, in 35 fm, but with varying arrangements of canvas in the extension piece. A detachable codend was used but was raised to the surface at normal hauling rates on each occasion. With one arrangement of the canvas in the extension piece there was a noticeable improvement in the condition of the fish, compared to fish caught on previous trips. With this arrangement, which was used for the last two hauls, 55% of the haddock were suitable for tagging. From these hauls 116 haddock, 4 whiting, 4 cod and 3 plaice were tagged. About 50 haddock selected from the previous hauls were taken back alive to the aquarium.

R JONES

14.4.70