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5CR67

## CRUISE REPORT

F.R.S. 'CLUPEA'

19th June - 15th July 1967

- Objectives:
1. To investigate possible sites for roundfish behaviour studies.
  2. To provide diving training and practice with emphasis on deeper diving for qualified divers.
  3. To provide divers with training and practice in underwater photography.
  4. Underwater visibility and photometric studies.

Narrative

'Clupea' left Buckie at 0900 on the 19th June with four scientific staff on board and on the outward journey diving was carried out between Clytheness and Sarclet Head, and at various sites in Scapa Flow and Ronaldsay. The nights of 19th/20th and 20th/21st were spent in Wick and Stromness respectively. For the following fortnight work was carried out in the Kirkwall area, following which 'Clupea' returned to Buckie on 30th June. She returned to Kirkwall on 3rd July and spent another week working in this area until she left Kirkwall on 10th July, spending two nights in Stromness and one in Wick before returning to Buckie on 13th July. Diving on the return journey was carried out in Scapa Flow and at Ronaldsay, off Sarclet Head and on Smith Bank.

Procedure

All diving was carried out as normal from a rubber boat. A visibility range made of scaffolding was lowered in Kirkwall Bay on 22nd June and lifted again on 10th July, and visibility studies were made in the intervening period. The use of two rubber boats enabled a 'visibility group' to work directly from Kirkwall harbour and a 'general group' to work from 'Clupea' making more economic use of facilities and time.

ResultsObjective 1

Observations were made on six gadoid and several Labrid species, unfortunately this list did not include haddock which were not encountered in the inshore localities visited. One of the more interesting observations was the case where large numbers of fish would be seen at one spot and at another spot with an apparently identical type of bottom and a similar benthic fauna and flora, sometimes only a short distance away no fish were seen. A sufficient number of repeat dives were done in some areas to establish this, but closer and more detailed study is required to determine the reasons.

Objective 2

A large amount of diving experience was gained in a wide variety of conditions, including strong tides and depths down to 140 ft on Smith Bank. Most divers had some practice with the diver/surface telephone link and most had a night dive. A total of 145 dives was logged by 9 divers.