

R1/6

In Confidence-Not to be quoted without prior reference to the Laboratory

Cruise Report

FRV 'Clupea'

6CR83 Part I

Cruise 6/83 (Part I)

2-17 June 1983

Objectives

1. To investigate the performance of a trawl constructed from netting of maximum contrast designed to lead fish more quickly over the groundline.
2. To assess the mesh blocking effect of various small mesh codend covers.
3. To obtain videotape records of the mesh blocking caused by various standard codend attachments.

Narrative

Fishing gear and scientific equipment were loaded in Buckie on 2 June. The vessel was unable to sail until 4 June because of crew shortage. On 4 June she steamed north, making one fishing haul on the way and anchored overnight in Holland Bay, Stronsay. On 5 and 6 June the vessel worked off Copinsay, spending the night of 5 June in Kirkwall. On the evening of 6 June, 'Clupea' steamed to Pierowall, Westray. On 7 June, fishing was carried out in North Sound. During the last haul on that day the hydraulic system for the cable winch failed and the vessel steamed to Kirkwall for repairs.

Repair work was carried out on 8, 9 and 10 June but failed to produce a working system. The vessel was then directed by the Marine Superintendent to sail to Buckie for repairs and steamed overnight arriving on 11 June. Repairs were carried out on 11 June and the system was tested at sea on 12 June and found adequate. Later that day 'Clupea' steamed north and anchored overnight in Sinclair Bay.

On 13 June the Copinsay grounds were worked and the vessel anchored in Deer Sound. On 14 June, one haul was made on the same grounds but the clutch on the cable winch became inoperable. The vessel steamed to Kirkwall for repairs. These were completed on the afternoon of 15 June but gale force winds prevented the vessel from working at the Copinsay grounds. On 16 June, 3 hauls were made, starting at Copinsay and working south. The vessel steamed to Buckie and berthed on the morning of 17 June.

Results

A total of 14 trawl hauls was made with the Remote Controlled TV vehicle. The persistent problems with the cable winch limited the amount of work done.