

R1/6

In confidence: Not to be quoted without reference
to the Laboratory

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70865CRUISE REPORTF.R.S. "CLUPEA"

2nd - 21st August, 1965

Objectives

- (1) To carry out a 0+1 group herring trawling survey of the Moray Firth.
- (2) To estimate the effects of large-meshed outer covers on the mesh selectivity of the cod-end of a wing trawl.
- (3) To collect ripe herring for J.H.S. Blaxter of Aberdeen University.

Owing to bad weather conditions, the survey was not completed until the beginning of the 3rd week of the cruise: as a result there was little time left to carry out the 2nd part of the programme.

The trawl survey indicated that herring were sparse at the outer stations, but catches gradually increased towards the upper Firth: the herring were generally small, of average length 13-14 cm. Reasonable concentrations of sprats were found throughout the upper Firth.

Owing to the lack of haddock and whiting in the trawl catches throughout the survey, an accurate estimation of the effects of the large-meshed cover on the mesh-selectivity of the trawl cod-end could not be carried out. The only reasonable haul of suitable fish was at station 16.

The herring drift-nets were shot off Clythness on the 19th August. Although an echo-trace appeared on the sounder, the total catch was only ten herring: however there were sufficient ripe herring for Mr. Blaxter's requirements.

T. BRUCE
R.A. WATT

31st August, 1965