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CRUISE REPORT

FRS 'CLUPEA'

30 June-26 July 1969

OBJECTIVE: Herring tagging in the north-western North Sea from purse seine catches.

The fitting out of 'Clupea' for purse seining was completed early in the afternoon of Thursday, 3 July, when she sailed from Buckie for the Shetland herring fishing grounds.

During the passage north, weather conditions rapidly deteriorated and 'Clupea' was forced to seek shelter in Lerwick harbour from gale force winds in the morning of 4 July.

Stormy weather persisted during the next 2 days but on 7 July conditions began to improve and 'Clupea' sailed from Lerwick.

Although intensive echo-searches were made on grounds to the east and west of Shetland, few suitable fish traces were detected.

The purse seine was shot on 3 occasions between 7-11 July. Small catches of haddock were obtained but no herring were taken.

'Clupea' returned to Buckie on 11 July, as arranged, to make exchanges of scientific and ship's personnel. She sailed again at mid-day on 14 July for the Shetland grounds.

Because of bad weather, fog and a defect in the radar, the purse seine was shot only once during that week and no herring were caught. Sonar practice with targets was carried out in sheltered, inshore waters.

The weather improved and the radar was repaired over the week-end. 'Clupea' operated in the same area as the commercial purse-seiners, between Fetlar and Out Skerries. Several traces were found while searching but were lost when 'Clupea' approached to shooting position. The purse seine was shot twice during this period and 5 herring were caught and tagged.

'Clupea' surveyed the grounds off Orkney and Wick without finding traces before returning to Buckie on 25 July.

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14 OCTOBER 1969