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TO THE LABORATORY

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CRUISE REPORT

FRS "CLUPEA"

28 AUGUST-7 OCTOBER 1972

OBJECTIVES

1. To carry out herring larval surveys off the east coast of Scotland.
2. To make hydrographic observations off the east coast of Scotland.

NARRATIVE

"Clupea" left Aberdeen on 28 August and began laying hydrographic moorings off Collieston. The last few moorings were laid on the 29 August before "Clupea" returned to Aberdeen to land scientific staff concerned with the buoy laying, and to allow repairs to be carried out to the radar. "Clupea" left Aberdeen at 11.00 on 30 August and headed north and east to sample the northern part of Grid I before returning to Aberdeen for the weekend.

During the second week of the cruise the first $1\frac{1}{2}$ days were spent tracking parachute drogues in the area of the current meters on Aberdeen Bank. Mr Dooley was landed at Peterhead on 6 September, after which "Clupea" commenced sampling Grid II of the herring larval survey, working stations east and then north before putting in to Kirkwall.

"Clupea" left Kirkwall on 11 September and continued with Grid II, completing all but 15 stations of the Grid before docking at Aberdeen for the weekend.

In the fourth week of the cruise, "Clupea" completed the first coverage of Grid II and started a second coverage of this Grid, completing most of the northern part during the remainder of the week before berthing in Kirkwall.

"Clupea" sailed from Kirkwall on 25 September to continue the second survey of Grid II. During this week the remaining stations in the northern part of the Grid were completed and a further 40 stations were worked in the southern part of the grid. During the course of this week, batteries were replaced on the five hydrographic buoys. "Clupea" docked in Aberdeen on 28 September.

The early part of the following week was spent recovering the hydrographic moorings. Although some difficulties were experienced in the recovery of two of the moorings, none of the hydrographic gear was lost. During the remainder of the week 20 stations were done to complete the third coverage of Grid II.

RESULTS

Although clupeoid larvae were observed over the whole area of the surveys, the major concentrations of small larvae appeared to be off the north and east coasts of Orkney.

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8 November 1972