

R1/6

4
8CR74

In Confidence Not to be quoted without
reference to the laboratory

Cruise Report

FRS Clupea

17 July - 10 August 1974

OBJECTIVE: To tag herring in the Shetland area.

After loading the purse-seine "Clupea" left Aberdeen at 14.30 on 17 July and proceeded to the Shetland area, conducting a sonar search en route. An extensive sonar survey over the deeper water to the east of Shetland and Fair Isle revealed very few herring traces in the vicinity during the first week.

At the beginning of the second week work was considerably hampered by persistent strong westerly winds but 2 successful shots were made in the latter half of the week, one off Sumburgh and the other off the Noup.

On the first night of the third week the engineer and one of the scientists reported sick and Clupea immediately put into Lerwick, where the engineer was kept in hospital for observation. Sonar search in an area between Noss Head and Sumburgh again showed an extreme scarcity of traces in this vicinity. Good traces were reported by commercial pursers in the Fair Isle area but these proved to be predominantly of sprats. In the latter part of the week Clupea moved to west and north of the Shetlands where some traces had been reported. A shot was made north of Flugga before the sonar developed a fault on Friday night.

In the final week after an initial search of the east Shetland grounds had again revealed a scarcity of herring traces in this area the Clupea worked grounds to the north of Flugga where the net was shot before making the return passage to Aberdeen, docking there on the evening of Friday 9 August.

Results

During most of the period herring traces were very scarce over the Shetland area, especially on the east side grounds and this result was confirmed by commercial purse-seiners working there.

A total of 1,349 herring were tagged with internal or external tags off Sumburgh and another 1,384 off the Noup whilst 144 mackerel were tagged with externals, internals or spaghettis to the north of Flugga.

37 tows were made with a plankton indicator for IMER, Edinburgh.

M Walsh
28.8.74