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

FRV "Clupea"
Cruise 8/84

8CP84 MB

Report
3-23 July 1984

Objective:

To study the behaviour of fish in relation to the GOV sampling trawl with particular attention to any escape areas within the trawl.

Narrative:

The scientific staff travelled to Ullapool by mini-bus then by steamer to join "Clupea" at Stornoway at 2100 hours on Tuesday 3 July. Next day the gear from the previous cruise was landed and the trawl gear and underwater vehicles were loaded and prepared for work on Thursday 5 July.

No time was lost due to bad weather and the ship worked in Broad Bay and off Tolsta Head for the major part of the cruise. "Clupea" anchored in Broad Bay at night on 2 occasions, the remainder of the time working daily from Stornoway.

The ships half landings were both at Stornoway on the 10 and 17 July.

On Friday 20 July at 1400 hours the "Clupea" proceeded for the Ballens fishing grounds in the Moray Firth where fishing continued until Sunday 22 July where the cruise was completed at 1800 hours when the ship returned to Buckie.

Water samples for Radio-Caesium Monitoring were collected at both Cape Wrath and off Buckie.

Results

The new TV cable was damaged after only one trawl haul when unfortunately the winch was not disengaged and, whilst warping in the net, the RCTV was lifted to the top of the "A-frame" gantry cutting some of the connectors in the cable. This cable was then removed and replaced by the old system of towing wire and clipped on TV and power cables. This method was used for the whole cruise without incident.

The clarity of the water was poor at the start of the cruise and only improved slightly during the 3 week period. All the important points of the study were achieved by divers in the TUV II and the use of the RCTV in deeper water.

A short video tape will be compiled showing all the major features of the BT 159 and BT 156 trawls, this will include fish behaviour, flow meter measurements and dye flows inside and outside the trawls.

Fishing was good for juvenile haddock and whiting and these were filmed in all sections of the GOV trawl including some excellent shots of over 100 baskets in the codend. Interesting TV films were made of dolphins swimming alongside the the codend and RCTV in 41 metres of water off Tolsta Head.

Detailed analyses of the results will be conducted at the laboratory in Aberdeen.

The scientific and trawl gear was off loaded on Monday morning 23 July and returned to Aberdeen.

J Main

As seen in draft
James A Caulder