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FRV "Clupea"

Cruise 8/86

REPORT

25 June - 15 July 1986

Personnel

R Cook SSO G Henderson ASO K Peach ASO G Jones ASO

Objectives

1 To undertake an O-Group gadoid survey in the Northern North Sea

To obtain water samples for chemical analysis

3 To attempt to obtain live whiting and O-Group haddock for use in experiments in the Laboratory.

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Narrative

"Clupea" sailed from Buckie at 1530 hrs on 25 June 1986. Trawling commenced at 0700 hrs on 28 June and continued until 12 July with a total of 44 hauls being successfully completed. Half landings were at Kirkwall on 1 July, where a temperature/salinity bridge was uplifted, and at Lerwick on 9 July. "Clupea" was briefly delayed on 4 July in Lerwick to enable a crew member to be replaced. The final 2 days of the cruise were devoted to handlining for whiting. "Clupea" docked at Buckie on 14 July at 1700 hrs.

Results

All squares in the survey area were sampled at least once. Seventeen were sampled twice. Sampling stations are shown on the attached chart.

Cod and haddock were fairly evenly distributed over the sampling area but were more or less absent from the most northwesterly stations. Whiting were taken along a broad band running from south west to north east. Norway pout were concentrated in the south west with moderate catches in that area.

Catch rates of cod and haddock were higher than during the 1985 cruise but still lower than average. The catch rates in numbers/hr for the 4 main gadoids were:

Cod 60 Haddock 254 Whiting 141 Norway pout 1668

Length frequency distributions of the O-group gadoids were stored on floppy disk.

Water samples were taken for chemical analysis.

Approximately 50 live 0-group haddock were brought back to the laboratory for parasitological studies.

Attempts to obtain live whiting using handlines were not successful. Although good quantities were caught, these were taken at depths of ca 50 m and the fish did not survive the pressure change.

Frozen samples of 0-group gadoids, sandeels and sprat were brought back to the laboratory for calorific studies.

R M Cook 5 August 1986

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