

CRUISE REPORT

F.R.V. "CLUPEA"

6th - 17th August, 1962.

1. The objective stated in the cruise programme was to carry out a herring trawling survey on new grounds east, north, and west of the Orkney Islands. Work during the first week was hampered by weather; however, 7 trawls were attempted. Three of these resulted in serious damage to gear, a trawl warp was parted and two vinge trawls were torn beyond the possibility of repairing them on board ship.

While white fish catches were good, only ten herring were obtained for racial analysis. As a result of this experience it was decided to abandon the trawling survey and investigate the population by drift nets. These were accordingly shipped and on the first night of the second week an adequate sample was obtained off the S.E. portion of the islands. On the morning of 14th August, during a herring larval haul with the Gulf III sampler, the ship's engines stopped. Investigation by the mechanics showed that a crack had developed in the cylinder head of the main engine, and large leaks of cooling water and oil were occurring. The engine was re-started for long enough to run the winch and recover the Gulf III; it was not possible however to run it for longer. Contact was made with F.C. "Longa" and a tow was arranged to Buckie where the vessel berthed late on the 15th August.

Thanks are due to Captain Stevenson and the ship's company of "Longa" for prompt action which involved that ship in almost 200 miles of unexpected steaming.

2. The curtailing of the cruise necessarily limited the larval and hydrographic work and only eight stations and Gulf III hauls were made. Temperatures lay between 10.2° and 11.2° at surface (at least 1° below normal) and stratification was almost negligible in the region surveyed, which lay within 20 miles of the islands to the east and north.

No herring larvae were observed in the preliminary assessment of the samples.

3. During the curtailed second week, Mr. J. H. Allen of the Royal College of Science and Technology was present as an observer.

4. Opportunity was taken to tune and make first trials of the Sea Scanar equipment. The results were encouraging and the equipment may prove quite effective for detecting herring in good weather. Much more experience of it is necessary however before a fair assessment can be made.

R. E. CRAIG  
31st August, 1962.