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IN CONFIDENCE: Not to be quoted without reference
to the laboratory.

CRUISE REPORT

FRS CLUPEA

30 AUGUST-2 OCTOBER 1971

OBJECTIVES

1. To carry out a herring larval and hydrographic survey off the Scottish east coast.
2. To carry out preliminary tests with the Longhurst-Hardy plankton sampler.

NARRATIVE

Clupea left Aberdeen at 18.30 on 30 August and headed east and north to cover the northern part of Grid I. Operations were curtailed on the afternoon of 31 August and the morning of 1 September due to bad weather. When Clupea recommenced operations the inshore stations were done first to allow further moderation of the weather conditions before proceeding further offshore. Clupea docked at Buckie for the weekend at 20.15 on 2 September, having completed the stations in the Orkney and Moray Firth areas.

During most of the second week only day work was possible as a member of the crew had been put ashore on 7 September with suspected angina, and no replacement had been obtained. During that week however, Grid I was completed and 14 stations of Grid II were also done.

Clupea still operated short-handed during the third week but 24 hour working was made possible by one of the engineering staff assisting on one of the watches. By the end of the week the first survey of Grid II had been completed.

In the fourth week, Clupea commenced the second coverage of Grid II and 9 trial hauls were made with the Longhurst-Hardy plankton sampler. Bad weather curtailed Clupea's operations during this week and only half the Grid II stations were done plus an intensive 12-station grid in the Marr Bank area, where spawning herring had been caught in quantity two or three weeks earlier.

During the final week of the cruise the second survey of Grid II was completed and a second survey of the Marr Bank Grid was carried out. A third coverage of Grid II was begun but this was severely curtailed by bad weather.

RESULTS

Over the whole area there appeared to be a reasonable spread of clupeoid larvae but the species composition of these has not so far been ascertained. In the Marr Bank area some fairly good catches of very small larvae, almost certainly herring, were obtained on the first survey but numbers were considerably reduced on the second one.

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1 NOVEMBER 1971