

Kirkwall

R1/6

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

CRUISE REPORT

9CR76
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FRV CLUPEA

29 July - 12 August

OBJECTIVES:

1. To compare the efficiencies of various types of tags for herring caught by purse seine in the north Western North Sea.
2. To carry out an echo-integration survey around the Shetland Isles.

NARRATIVE:

FRV Clupea sailed from Aberdeen at 1500 hrs on Thursday 29th July and steamed for the Orkney grounds: weather conditions were such that the vessel was reduced to half speed most of the way, and finally reached Kirkwall harbour at 10.30 am on Friday 30th July. Mr McPherson returned to the laboratory.

The ship left Kirkwall harbour at 1730 hrs on Monday to commence an echo-search for herring in the vicinity of the Noup; but, as there was no fish traces and the prevailing weather conditions prohibited purse net operation it was decided to survey the Shetland grounds. An echo search was carried out on the east side of the Shetlands where the commercial purse-seiners were operating. Clupea's purse-seine was shot at 2300 hrs on Tuesday 3rd August 8 miles east of Fetlar where good traces appeared on the echo meter. Unfortunately the pursing wire jammed in the after sheaf of the gallows and the net became entangled in the propeller while the crew were attempting to clear it. A local seiner towed Clupea to Lerwick, eventually arriving in Lerwick harbour early on Thursday, 5th August. After a local diver had cleared the propeller, and trials were carried out to ensure that the vessel was undamaged, Clupea sailed for Scrabster. On arrival at Scrabster at 0625 on the 6th August, the purse-seine was off-loaded and the echo-integration equipment was installed before the vessel steamed for Kirkwall arriving there early on the 7th August.

Clupea left Kirkwall during the afternoon of Monday 9th August and commenced an echo-integration survey around the Shetlands. The planned survey could not be completed because of reduction of speed due to fog but a modified survey was carried out. Clupea arrived in Aberdeen at mid day on Thursday 12th August.

T Bruce
G McPherson
1 September 1976

Seen in draft - G Geddes