

R1/3

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Charter vessels *Shemaron* CN244 and *Coral Strand* CN267

Ref H03

CRUISE REPORT

19 February - 10 March 1990

Personnel

J A Morrison	SSO (in charge)
F Burns	ASO

Objectives

1. To tag spring spawning herring in the Clyde using Floy T tags.
2. To carry out biological sampling to establish the age and racial structure of the fish being tagged.

Narrative

Scientific staff joined the charter vessels on 19 February and operations commenced the same night in the area known as the "Loden" south of Campbeltown. Reasonable numbers of herring were caught in the ring net, but many were scaled because of the severity of the weather and the numbers tagged were rather low. This pattern of extreme weather, which also severely hampered commercial fishing activity over the whole west coast, continued with very little cessation throughout the charter. Herring were found to be widely distributed on the Kintyre shore, within the inner Clyde and on the east and south shores of Arran. The fishing operations overall were extremely successful, but the boats had to operate for much of the time where they could, rather than in the areas in which the spring spawners were most likely to be located. Plans to tag herring in the Ballantrae area had to be abandoned due to the weather, but spring spawning fish were tagged at Brown Head and at Whiting Bay to the southeast of Arran. Scientific staff and gear were put ashore on the morning of 10 March, at the end of the charter.

Results

During this charter the ring net was shot 31 times with some herring being caught in most hauls. In all, nearly 6,500 fish were tagged at 22 different locations, with approximately one third of all fish tagged being judged to be spring spawners (being in maturity stage 4-6). A further third of the tagged fish were in maturity stage 8, with many of them being well recovered but with a small proportion showing signs of having recently spawned. The other third were immature fish. Catches of adult fish were dominated by 4-ring fish.

Many of the herring had been feeding heavily on euphausiids, particularly those at the "Loden" and at the south end of Arran, with some individual fish stomachs containing over 40 large (3-4 cm) specimens.

Full details of the tag liberations are shown.

J A Morrison
28 August 1990

CLYDE HERRING TAGGING

Shemaron/Coral Strand February/March 1990

Tag nos			No tagged
CC81001-CC81055	55°25.58'N 05°32.12'W	19 February 1990	55
CC81056-CC81172	55°40.28'N 05°08.95'W	20 February 1990	117
CC81173-CC81200	55°49.03'N 04°57.01'W	23 February 1990	28
CC81201-CC82150	55°48.33'N 04°56.64'W	23 February 1990	950
CC82151-CC82778	55°38.92'N 05°28.17'W	24 February 1990	628
CC82779-CC82988	55°40.61'N 05°27.39'W	26 February 1990	210
CC82989-CC83300	55°39.46'N 05°26.45'W	27 February 1990	312
CC83301-CC83616	55°40.45'N 05°25.91'W	27 February 1990	316
CC83617-CC83877	55°28.98'N 05°04.81'W	28 February 1990	261
CC83878-CC84257	55°29.22'N 05°04.50'W	1 March 1990	380
CC84258-CC84376	55°27.10'N 05°19.83'W	1 March 1990	119
CC84377-CC84449	55°29.63'N 05°21.93'W	1 March 1990	73
CC84450-CC84527	55°28.05'N 05°20.61'W	2 March 1990	78
CC84528-CC84995	55°24.89'N 05°32.03'W	2 March 1990	468
CC84994-CC85050 CC85151-CC85364	55°38.80'N 05°08.15'W	5 March 1990	57 214
CC85051-CC85100 CC85365-CC85400	55°34.12'N 05°05.84'W	5 March 1990	50 36
CC85101-CC85139	55°50.89'N 04°59.17'W	6 March 1990	39
CC85140-CC85150 CC85401-CC87050	55°28.48'N 05°04.63'W	7 March 1990	11 1,650
CC87051-CC87138	55°34.18'N 05°05.85'W	7 March 1990	88
CC87139-CC87171	55°39.97'N 05°08.57'W	7 March 1990	33
CC87172-CC87494	55°27.15'N 05°19.88'W	9 March 1990	323
Total			6,496

SHEMARON / CORAL STRAND TAGGING CHARTER 19/2-10/3 1990

