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FISH COMMISSION OF OREGON

Cruise Report 66-3 - Preseason Albacore

Vessel: MV Sunrise, chartered fishing vessel.

Dates: July 1-12, 1966.

Itinerary: Departed Astoria on July 1 and proceeded along the cruise track shown in Figure 1. Engine failure on the evening of July 3, about 10 miles north of station 11, delayed the cruise four days while we were towed to Coos Bay and made repairs. Returned to sea on July 7 and reached station 11 early on July 8. The cruise terminated at Astoria on July 12. Stations 30-38 were omitted because of strong NW winds and the prior committing of the vessel to another cruise.

Purpose: 1. To study ocean environmental conditions relative to the occurrence of albacore tuna by making certain oceanographic observations for comparison with similar data taken in previous years, and to correlate these observations with the presence of albacore both during the cruise and later in the season.

2. To explore for albacore along the track by trolling, to tag any viable albacore caught, to collect liver samples for radio-analysis from fish not suitable for tagging, to make observations on the abundance of forage organisms, and to note and record other biological observations.

Procedures and Results: A total of 29 stations were occupied (Figure 1). Sub-surface temperatures were recorded with a 900-foot bathythermograph, a surface water sample was collected for salinity analysis, and the surface temperature was recorded at each station. Surface temperature ranged from 55.4 to 61.0 F. The salinity samples will be analyzed by the Oregon State University Department of Oceanography.

Albacore jigs were trolled along the entire track and caught 70 albacore of which 64 were tagged and released. Liver samples were taken from six damaged fish for radiology studies by OSU. The tuna were caught on July 8 along 127° 00' W. Long. and between 42° 55' and 42° 23' N. Lat. Petrels and shearwaters, commonly associated with albacore, were present between 127° and 126° W. Long. and were abundant in the area where the albacore were caught.

The water in the area of stations 1-12, 16-18, and 21-29 was suitable for occupation by albacore. It is possible that if we had not been delayed by engine failure we would not have caught any albacore.

