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## CRUISE REPORT

## FRV "GOLDSEEKER"

17 February - 20 March, 1969

## NARRATIVE

"Goldseeker" left Aberdeen on 17 February and proceeded through the Caledonian and Crinan canals, arriving at Ardrishaig on 24 February. Work started near Tarbert on 27 February and continued until 20 March, when the cruise ended at Troon. Bad weather prevented work outside the Clyde, and on the Arran scallop grounds, but the rest of the programme was completed.

## TRAWLING

Fourteen half-hour hauls were made with the "Goldseeker" trawl with fine mesh cod-end. Pandalus bonnieri were present in most hauls, but were plentiful in 90 fathoms in Inchmarnock Water and in 45 to 70 fathoms off south-east Arran. In the latter region the best haul yielded 391 P. bonnieri mostly of carapace length 16 to 19mm. Their total weight was 1673gm, the volume being 3 litres. Over 200 shrimps were kept alive and sent back to the Laboratory. The catches also contained small gadoids and flatfish and a few larger cod and whiting. Nephrops were scarce everywhere.

## DREDGING

A total of 67 hauls, each of 15 minutes duration, was made using a 4 foot scallop dredge. The 7-ring age-group predominated in catches from Inverneil, Claonaig and Lady Isle but the 6-ring group were more abundant at Inchmarnock. Off the Ayrshire coast near Bennane Head catches were poor, and consisted largely of very young and very old scallops.

The percentages of scallops with seven or more growth rings from each area, with corresponding figures for 1968, were as follows:

	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>
Inverneil I.	88	47
Claonaig Bay	85	16
Inchmarnock	61	30
Lady Isle	76	47
Bennane Head	43	72

The predominant year group as found over the last few years has now reached the 7-ring stage, and this is reflected in the wide divergence between the two year's figures given above.

## HYDROGRAPHY &amp; PLANKTON

Surface temperatures and oblique plankton hauls (1m 26 mesh net) were made at four positions within the area covered by the cruise.

J Drinkwater  
8 August 1969