

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

CRUISE REPORT

F.R.S. "GOLDSEEKER"

30th March - 27th April, 1967

Narrative

"Goldseeker" left Buckie on 30th March and sailed to the Clyde, where dredging was carried out on exploited scallop beds. Work started in Loch Fyne on 4th April, but was interrupted by an echometer fault which was rectified in Tarbert on the 5th. Work was continued until a second echometer fault developed. This was put right in Ayr on the 13th. Steering gear trouble developed on the 17th, and "Goldseeker" made for Campbeltown for adjustments. Bad weather prevented fishing on the 19th and 20th, but the wind moderated sufficiently for work at the Cock of Arran on the 21st. The radio transmitter broke down on the 22nd. "Goldseeker" then sailed back to Buckie, where she arrived on April 27th.

Results

Hauls were taken with a 4 ft. dredge. The proportion of older scallops was low on the west side of the Clyde, as found in the corresponding cruises in 1964-6. Hauls from Claonaig Bay and the Cock of Arran again contained very few older scallops. Hauls on the East side, however, again generally contained a higher proportion of older scallops.

The percentage of scallops with seven or more growth rings in each area, with the corresponding figures for 1966 where possible, were as follows:-

		<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>
East Clyde	Bernane Head	72	74
	Girvan	77	55
	Heads of Ayr	71	-
	Lady Isle	25	-
West Clyde	S.W. Arran	23	44
	Cock of Arran	5	12
	Claonaig Bay	16	33
	Inchmarnock	75	47
	Inverneil Island	33	38

Five ring scallops were predominant in catches at the Cock of Arran, Claonaig Bay and S.W. Arran.

The poor growth in 1963 was evident in samples from all areas. In most areas growth has since been normal, but off the Cock of Arran a large proportion of the scallops have continued to show very poor growth each year since 1963.

Queens (Chlamys opercularis) were abundant at Claonaig and the Cock of Arran.

J. Drinkwater,
14th July, 1967.