

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

## CRUISE REPORT

FRV "Goldseeker"

9 February - 13 March 1970

### Narrative

"Goldseeker" left Buckie on 9 February but was delayed by ice in the Caledonian Canal. Work started on 16 February in Loch Eil and Loch Linnhe. After 2 days work in the Sound of Jura, a passage was made through the Crinan Canal and work in the Clyde was started on 20 February. The return journey through the Crinan Canal was made on 9 March, and "Goldseeker" returned to Buckie on 13 March. Persistent westerly winds curtailed fishing on the east side of the Clyde, but most of the programme was completed.

### Dredging

Seventy-eight hauls, each of 15 minutes duration, were made with a 4 ft scallop dredge. Results were only fair in the Sound of Jura, but younger scallops were present in the catch, the 5-ring group being prominent. In the Clyde, the 6, 7 and 8-ring groups were commonest, the 6-ring group being particularly prominent at Lady Isle, the 7-ring at Inchmarnoch and the 8-ring at Whiting Bay.

The percentage of scallops with seven or more growth rings from each area, with corresponding figures for 1969, were as follows:

	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>
Inverneil	82	88
Claonaig Bay	76	85
Inchmarnoch	77	61
Lady Isle	51	76
Sound of Jura	64	No data

Two hauls with the beam trawl off Pirnmill yielded moderate numbers of queens, mostly 2-3 years old.

### Trawling

13 half-hour hauls were made using the "Goldseeker" trawl and fine mesh full cover. In Loch Eil there was a mixed catch with no species being abundant. A fair haul of Nephrops consisted mostly of males, with a mean carapace length of 51.7 mm. Elsewhere Nephrops were scarce. Catches in the Clyde consisted mostly of small gadoids and flatfish with a few large cod and saithe. Some Pandalus bonnierii were present in hauls in

Kilbrennan Sound. Most were males (mean carapace length 17.6 mm). The females (mean carapace length 19.1 mm) were mostly berried.

Plankton

Plankton hauls (1 m 26 mesh net) were taken in areas YY9b, YY10b and YY12b.

J DRINKWATER  
24 June 1970