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Cruise Report

FRV "Goldseeker"

29 January - 22 February 1973

Objectives

- 1) To study the state of scallop and queen stocks in the Firth of Clyde.
- 2) To investigate stocks of Nephrops and Pandalus in the Clyde.
- 3) To search for small Nephrops.
- 4) To take daily surface temperature readings.

Narrative

"Goldseeker" left Buckie on 29 January and proceeded via the Caledonian and Crinan canals to the Clyde where work started on 2 February. Persistent strong westerly winds prevented trawling, and dredging had to be limited to coasts sheltered from the west. The cruise ended at Troon on 22 February.

Results

A total of 78 hauls were made, 57 hauls of 15 minutes duration were made with the standard 4 ft dredge. Results generally were fair, with an average of between 5 and 12 scallops per haul. The age composition (Table I) again indicates good recent recruitment. Young scallops were

Table I Percentage age composition of Clyde scallop catches
(4 ft 12 tooth commercial dredge)

	Number of rings										
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	>9
E. Arran	-	10	18	18	-	5	-	-	3	15	31
Cock of Arran	1	16	25	33	3	2	1	1	1	2	15
Ardlamont	-	2	15	13	-	6	-	-	2	2	60
Clunaig	2	14	20	20	2	-	-	2	2	3	35
Crossaig & Cour	-	6	11	24	14	1	1	3	8	1	31
Pluck Point	-	5	13	27	11	17	18	5	1	-	3

found in most places, including Clunaig and Cock of Arran, where results in recent years have been extremely poor. Fair numbers of queens (up to 500 per haul) were also caught at the Cock of Arran. Pluck Point (just south of Carradale) showed a wider range of age groups than elsewhere, and a remarkably small number of very old scallops. 14 hauls of 5 minutes with the 4 ft dredge with 16 teeth and fine mesh lining yielded an even higher proportion of scallops with 0 to 4 rings. 6 hauls of 15 minutes were made with the 8 ft beam trawl at Clunaig. The best haul yielded 764 queens, while the average was 283. The mean length of the queens was 47.7mm.

Water temperatures ranged from 6.5°C off Inchmarnock to 7.5°C off Carradale.

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8.6.73