

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

Cruise Report

FRV "Goldseeker"

7-31 March 1977

### Objectives

- Part I To conduct dredging and trawling trials following alterations to the deck layout.
- Part II
1. To carry out a trawling survey of Nephrops grounds in the Firth of Forth.
  2. To study the abundance and distribution of Nephrops larvae over the grounds.

### Narrative

The alterations to "Goldseeker" were completed by 15 March and fishing trials were conducted in the Moray Firth on 16 March. These had to be curtailed because the propeller shaft was overheating and this delayed the departure to the Firth of Forth until 23 March. The cruise ended at Leith on 31 March.

### Results

#### Part I

Trawling proved difficult since the absence of guiding-on gear resulted in bunching of warp on the drum. As a temporary remedy bollards were placed on the deck in order to allow use of the old guiding-on gear so that Part II of the cruise could proceed. New guiding-on gear will be provided later to allow the warp to be carried overhead from the winch to the gantry. The removal of a protruding part of the crane runway enabled dredge tests to be satisfactorily carried out.

#### Part II

out

A full plankton survey was carried/over Nephrops grounds to the West of May Island in the Firth of Forth. WP3 nets were towed at different depths. The samples of Nephrops larvae which were abundant at all depths throughout the area, were preserved for more detailed analysis in the laboratory.

There was insufficient time to carry out the trawling survey.

C J Chapman  
23 May 1977

Seen in draft W Reid