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IN CONFIDENCE: NOT TO BE QUOTED WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE LABORATORY.

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CRUISE REPORT

FRV "GOLDSEEKER"

16 March - 10 April 1970

NARRATIVE:

"Goldseeker" was based at Buckie throughout the cruise; but the programme had to be severely curtailed due to prolonged gales.

Trawling, using "Goldseeker's" standard 70 mm Nephrops trawl with small mesh whole cover, was carried out at 7 stations to the north of Buckie.

Dredging, using a 4 ft standard scallop dredge, was restricted to two areas; one between Brora and Helmsdale, the second between Spey Bay and Portsoy.

RESULTS

Trawling:-

Nephrops were taken in most hauls although numbers were small. In all a total of 293 ♂ and 193 ♀ were examined.

The size ranges are given in the following table:-

Carapace length mm	15-9	20-4	25-9	30-4	35-9	40-4	45-9	Total	Mean carapace length mm
Total ♂	-	20	85	109	53	20	6	293	32.2
Total ♀	1	13	68	80	27	4	-	193	30.5
Berried ♀			1					1	25.5

Pandalus sp. were almost entirely absent, only 6 being taken in all hauls.

Fish

Haddock and plaice were the commonest fish taken, mainly within the size range 20-30 cm.

Small clupeids were also present, together with large numbers of small dabs, gadoids and sand eels.

DREDGING:

Brora to Helmsdale

P. maximus was found in an area SW of Helmsdale, 30 scallops being taken here in two fifteen minute hauls. 80% were over 7 years old, the average length being 124.5 mm.

Spey Bay to Portsoy

Only 8 scallops were taken in 15 hauls.

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