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

Cruise Report

FRV "Goldseeker"

5 - 22 April 1977

### Objectives

1. To compare selectivity of 70 and 50 mm mesh Nephrops trawls on grounds in the Firth of Forth.
2. To continue the Nephrops larval survey in the same area.
3. To record incidence of Nephrops in fish stomachs.

### Narrative

The crew and scientific staff joined "Goldseeker" at Edinburgh Docks on Tuesday April 5 after weekend leave and gear from the Laboratory was loaded.

Plankton sampling was started on 6 April but after two hauls the weather deteriorated and the vessel returned to port. Recurrence of the propellor shaft trouble was reported by the engineer. Several attempts to put the fault right proved unsuccessful and it was decided that "Goldseeker" should return to Buckie to be put on the slipway at Jones's yard.

The scientific staff left the vessel on Friday 15 April when she proceeded on passage to Buckie arriving on Saturday 16 April.

### Results

Owing to the engine difficulty only three trawl hauls and three plankton hauls were possible. The Nephrops catch was very poor and the fish catch consisted mainly of small Whiting and Dabs none of commercial size. The plankton samples were brought back to the Laboratory for examination.

J A Sinclair  
2 June 1977

Seen in draft - W B Reid