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CRUISE REPORT

F.R.V. "GOLDSEEKER"

29th May - 16th June, 1967

Narrative

"Goldseeker" proceeded to Oban where the scientific staff joined on 29th May. The early part of the trip was spent in the Sound of Jura, the Sound of Islay, and N.W. of Jura. During the remainder of the time, work was carried out off Mull and in Loch Linnhe. The cruise ended at Buckie on 16th June.

Results

Grounds were extensively surveyed by echo-sounder and trawling carried out on suitable bottom. Two hauls were made using a shrimp trawl which yielded 30 and 761 Pandalus bonnierii respectively. The Nephrops trawl was used for the remainder of the trawling, fair catches being obtained. A total of 2,520 male and 2,126 female Norway lobsters were examined. The mean size of males was 33.6 mm and females 27.8 mm (Carapace length); 1.13% of the females examined were berried. The Table shows the size distribution of Norway lobsters.

Nephrops norvegicus. Size distribution in 5 mm groups.

Carapace mm	11-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	Totals
♂		27	379	546	593	395	332	164	63	15	5	1	2520
♀	3	89	609	819	358	185	58	5					2126
%	+	2.5	21.3	29.4	20.5	12.5	8.4	3.6	1.4	0.3	0.1	+	

The by catch consisted largely of small whiting, of average length 20 cms. Skate were also present in small numbers. Fish were dealt with according to standing instructions.

Nephrops creels were shot in suitable areas, the best catch being made off Loch Caolisport which produced 65 Nephrops norvegicus for 30 creels.

Standard vertical and oblique silk net plankton hauls were carried out in areas detailed in the cruise programme. The samples were largely composed of Pleurobrachia pileus and an assortment of Medusae. Little crustaceous material was present, mainly copepods. Larval Nephrops occurred in small numbers at each station.

Phytoplankton samples were fairly rich.

J. A. SINCLAIR
20th September, 1967