

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

CRUISE REPORT

F.R.V. "Goldseeker"

18th March - 9th April, 1968.

Narrative

"Goldseeker" left Troon on 21st March having been delayed by weather. Continuing north-westerly gales restricted the work, and confined operations to Inner Sound and west coast lochs where trawling, dredging and creeling was carried out. Measuring of commercial lobster catches was possible at Oban during week-ends spent there.

The cruise ended at Oban on 8th April.

Trawling

The standard "Goldseeker" otter trawl with small mesh cover was used.

Fishing was generally poor, but Nephrops were present on most hauls, as were small numbers of Pandalus, samples of which were brought back to the Laboratory for examination.

Nephrops norvegicus. Length-Frequency (all hauls).

Carapace mm	20/ 24	25/ 29	30/ 34	35/ 39	40/ 44	45/ 49	50/ 54	55/ 59	60/ 64	65/ 69	Totals
♂	-	27	46	48	33	36	40	11	10	3	254
%	-	10.6	18.1	18.9	13.0	14.2	15.7	4.3	3.9	1.2	-
♀	2	12	32	17	5	1	-	-	-	-	69
%	2.9	17.4	46.4	24.6	7.3	1.4	-	-	-	-	-
♂ & ♀	2	39	78	65	38	37	40	11	10	3	323
%	0.6	12.1	24.1	20.1	11.8	11.4	12.4	3.4	3.1	0.9	-

The mean carapace length of males was 41.7 mm and females 32.8 mm. 5.8% of females examined were berried.

The fish-catch consisted mainly of small whiting and T. esmarkii, with a few skate and dogfish. Sprats were present in most hauls.

Creeling

Nephrops. Creels were shot in Loch Hourn, Loch Alsh and Loch Nevis; the haul in Loch Nevis yielded 28 Nephrops from 36 creels, 10 males and 18 females with mean carapace lengths of males 55.8 mm and females 47.8 mm. 4 females were berried.

Dredging

A total of 10 hauls were made using a 4 ft scallop dredge. The best results were obtained in Feochan Bay where 19 Pecten maximus were caught for a 15 minute haul.

J. SINCLAIR
5th June, 1968.