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CRUISE REPORT

FRV GOLDSEEKER

27 MARCH - 13 APRIL 1973

OBJECTIVES

1. To complete the scallop dredge selection experiments and scallop and queen stock studies undertaken in the Clyde on the previous cruise.
2. To study the state of scallop and queen stocks west of Kintyre.
3. To investigate stocks of Nephrops and Pandalus west of Kintyre and in Loch Linnhe.
4. To take daily surface temperature readings.

NARRATIVE

"Goldseeker" left Troon on 27 March and dredging operations were carried out in Kilbrennan Sound and Loch Fyne for the first week of the cruise. On 2 April the vessel proceeded via the Crinan Canal and started work in the Sound of Jura. Weather conditions prevented fishing on three days, and shortage of time resulted in objective (3) being abandoned. The cruise ended in Oban on 13 April.

RESULTS

1. No dredge selection experiments were undertaken as these had been completed on the previous cruise.

The Clyde stock studies were completed by means of 39 hauls with 4 ft dredges in the west Clyde area. Catches were generally good, up to 25 scallops per 5 minute haul in Kilbrennan Sound (Cour and Crossaig) and up to 19 in 15 minutes off Inverneil. The small mesh dredge with 15 teeth yielded a high proportion of 2-ring scallops in Kilbrennan Sound (Table 1), confirming the recent good settlement there. At Inverneil both small mesh and standard (12 tooth) dredges yielded a very high proportion of old scallops with more than nine rings. Queens were fairly plentiful.

2. Forty-four dredge hauls were made in the region west of Kintyre, but scallops were scarce except in three small areas. Off the McCormack Isles the small mesh gear again caught mostly young scallops. Catches up to 21 from scallops in a 15 minute haul were obtained here. Other grounds fished ranged/ the south coast of Islay and Gigha to Easdale Bay, but no other good concentrations were found.
3. Surface temperatures ranged from 6.3 to 7.7°C in the Sound of Jura.

TABLE 1

Percentage age composition of scallops caught by
4 ft 15 tooth dredge with 3/4 inch bar mesh lining

	Number of Rings										
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	over 9
Cour./Crossaig	4	2	34	10	4	2	2	6	2	2	32
Inverneil	3	1	2	2			3	1		1	87
McCormack Is	13	16	13	4	5	10	11	4	4		20