

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

CRUISE REPORT

FRV GOLDSEEKER

4 - 27 May 1976

OBJECTIVES

- 1) To make observations on the distribution and abundance of Pandalus borealis in the Farn Deep.
- 2) To undertake a study of the behaviour of Pandalus with regard to their density on the ground and their reaction to predators.
- 3) To study the occurrence, feeding and behaviour of Myxine.

NARRATIVE

'Goldseeker' sailed from Leith to Blyth, where the scientific staff joined on 5 May.

A programme of trawling was carried out at set stations off Blyth during the periods 6 - 10 May and 24 - 25 May.

In the intervening period, 11 - 21 May, underwater television was used to survey part of the shrimp grounds. Video-tape recordings were made of shrimp and Myxine activity.

The scientific staff left the ship on 25 May and 'Goldseeker' proceeded to Leith for the long weekend.

RESULTS

a) Trawling:

A total of 17 half-hour hauls were made using a 45 mm shrimp trawl, 13 with a cod end of 20 mm stretched mesh, and four with a 30 mm cod end. A small mesh whole cover was used in all hauls.

Pandalus catches were generally poor, a total of 33 kg being caught; 10 kg in the 30 mm cod end and 23 kg in the 20 mm cod end. Very little of the catch went through into the cover.

Nephrops were very scarce, a total of 12 kg being taken

Catches of white fish were generally good. The predominant species caught was cod, which was plentiful, with much smaller amounts of haddock, whiting and lemon sole.

Large quantities of undersized whiting were also caught.

Live Myxine were brought back to the Laboratory.

b) Underwater Television

A Speiro underwater television, attached to a metal frame was lowered to the sea bed, and the boat allowed to drift across selected grounds.

Video-tape recordings were made during each run. Observations were made throughout the daylight hours, and also for the periods of dawn and dusk.

Pandalus and Myxine were both observed and recordings made of their activity.

F G Howard
14 June 1976

Seen in draft - James A Calder O/C