

R1/10

In confidence: Not to be quoted without reference to the laboratory AR 4GR79

FRV GOLDSEEKER

Cruise 4/79

REPORT

5-30 March 1979

Objectives:

1. To survey grounds in North Kilbrennan Sound using a sledge fitted with underwater TV and still cameras.
2. To study the age and length composition of scallop and queen stocks in the Clyde area and west of Kintyre.
3. To take water temperatures in the Moray Firth.

Narrative:

After delays caused by adverse weather conditions GOLDSEEKER arrived in Tarbert on 14 March and the TV equipment was installed. Tests were carried out in Loch Fyne on 15 and 16 March and the remainder of the equipment installed. The main survey was carried out from 19 to 22 March and dredging operations on 23 and 24. The vessel then returned to Buckie.

Results:

1. Video tape recordings were made during the TV survey. The 18 tapes are being analysed and compared with the 160 still colour photographs also obtained. The quality of the still photographs was such that live scallops and queens could readily be distinguished from empty shells. Much additional information about the nature of the bottom and other animals present was also obtained.
2. The percentage age composition of scallops caught in 10 hauls in North Kilbrennan Sound was as follows:-

Number of rings:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	99
% of catch:	6	16	8	11	17	18	7	6	2	9

Queens were plentiful north of Skipness Buoy in 15fm.

3. The water temperatures in the Moray Firth were taken during an earlier cruise.

J Drinkwater  
12 June 1979

Seen in draft: W B Reid