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In Confidence not to be quoted without prior reference to the Laboratory

FRV GOLDSSEEKER

Cruise 4/80

REPORT

25 March - 28 March

Objective

To obtain herring gonads for the Loch Ewe controlled ecosystem experiments

Narrative and Results

Goldseeker sailed from Troon at 0900 hrs on Wednesday 26 March and because of the strong South Westerly winds proceeded to the area off the Cock of Aran to trawl in relatively sheltered water. Wednesday night was spent in Tarbert and trawling recommenced on Thursday morning in the approaches to Loch Fyne. Goldseeker docked in Troon late in the afternoon of Thursday 27 March. By this time it was obvious that the persistent South Westerly winds and the scarcity of ripe herring would frustrate Goldseeker's best efforts to obtain mature herring gonads.

Fortunately it proved possible to transfer Goldseeker's scientific staff to FRV Explorer on Saturday 29 March together with Mr W Smith OIC Goldseeker and Mr G Calder who were standing in for Explorer's fishing mates who had to be landed in Campbelltown. On Sunday 30 March three trawls between Berman Head and the Iron Ledges at the South end of Aran provided sufficient herring gonad material for the Loch Ewe controlled ecosystem experiment.

D D Seaton
1 May 1980

Seen in draft: W Smith