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CRUISE REPORT

F.R.V. "Goldseeker"

6th July - 3rd August, 1967.

Narrative

"Goldseeker" left Aberdeen on 6th July for Kirkwall which was reached next day at 21.00 hours. The firms of D. Meil & Son, Kirkwall, and R. Greig, Stromness, were unable to supply lobsters. The Orkney Fishermen's Society, Stromness, undertook to provide all the lobsters required for the experiment. Tagging was completed on 3rd August, after which "Goldseeker" sailed for Buckie.

Results

Lobster tagging

A total of 754 lobsters were released around the Islands having been tagged and tail punched according to size code. Yellow plastic tags (240) were used in the northern area and copper tags (514) in the southern part.

Lobster measuring

In all, 1,161 lobsters from commercial catches were sexed, measured and total weights taken; of these 401 were males, mean carapace length 104.3 mm and 760 females, mean carapace length 105.0 mm. 37% of the females were berried. The mean weight of the lobsters measured was 1.70 lbs.

Creel fishing

A comparison of the Scottish and parlour creels was made. Six fleets were fished each of 3 Scottish and 3 parlour types set up to a random pattern which was unchanged throughout the cruise. Bait was either fresh fish or salt mackerel. Each fleet was baited throughout with one type of bait. Of the total catch of 190 crabs 88% by number was caught by traps using fresh fish. The parlour type creels caught 58% of the total catch of crabs by number. The catch of lobsters was insufficient to afford a valid comparison.

Trawling

Three trawl hauls were made in North Sound, common dab and plaice being the commonest species. In two further hauls off Auskerry, the predominant species were haddock, common dab, whiting and gurnard.

G. DAVIDSON,

9th November, 1967