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In confidence: Not to be quoted
without reference to the Laboratory.

CRUISE REPORT

F.R.V. "GOLDSEEKER"

28th May - 13th June 1968

Narrative

"Goldseeker", having been delayed by fog at Leith, sailed for Eyemouth on 31st May. Lobsters were obtained from local merchants at Eyemouth through the co-operation of the Fishery Officer. 1,000 lobsters were tagged and marked and released on the creel fishing grounds worked by the Burnmouth fleet.

Because of reports of deaths among sea birds and fishes off the Northumberland and Berwickshire coast, and paralytic shellfish poisoning amongst humans, attributed to dinoflagellates, a programme of seawater and plankton sampling was undertaken in co-operation with the Dove Laboratory at Cullercoats. Mr. J. Estcourt of the Dove Laboratory joined "Goldseeker" at 0900 hrs. 6th June for the day.

In accordance with the Cruise Programme Amendment dated 27th May 1968, "Goldseeker" returned to Aberdeen on the 7th June in preparation for trawling trials. During this period the boat was staffed by Mr. J. Sinclair, E.O., and Mr. A. Corrigan, E.O. The cruise ended at Aberdeen on the 13th June.

Lobster Tagging

1,000 locally-purchased lobsters were tagged by means of numbered copper discs attached to the base of the great claw and telson punched, according to a length code. They were released in batches of five, on suitable ground, at depths between 5 and 20 fm over the area south from Eyemouth to west of Holy Island.

Of the 1,000 handled, 8 were found to have been telson-punched last year. The table shows the increments of growth.

Carapace Length mm		Increase	
June 1967	June 1968	mm	%
80	86	6	7.5
93	100	7	7.5
97	105	8	8.2
117	125	8	6.8
123	129	6	4.9
	Mean	7	7.0
86	86	-	Probably
92	92	-	have not
130	130	-	yet cast.

Water Sampling for the Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen

Water samples were collected between 1230 4th June, and 0030 hrs 7th June.

Twenty-two surface samples were examined in a white pail for colour, opacity and smell.

Untreated samples at 0 metres were collected from a line of 12 equidistant stations between Holy Island and Eyemouth.

Twelve sedimentation samples, 6 at 0 metres and 6 at 10 metres, were collected at 6 stations between Holy Island and the Firth of Forth

Nothing abnormal was detected, either on board or subsequently in the Laboratory.

Water and Plankton Sampling for the Dove Laboratory, Cullercoats

Four stations between the Farne Islands and Holy Island were worked. Each comprised a water sample at 0 metres and a 10 minute plankton tow with an International Standard net just below the surface. Two stations were in relatively shallow water (10-15 fm) and two were further than two miles offshore (30-35 fm).

Trawling Trials

"Goldseeker" was rigged with the 70 mm trawl and variously 4ft and 5ft boards. Whilst spread was greater with the larger boards the catch did not differ markedly.

Allan Dunthorn

23rd August, 1968