

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

Cruise Report

FRV Goldseeker

20 May - 12 June 1975

### Objectives

1. To investigate the distribution abundance and biology of Pandalus borealis in the Farn Deeps.
2. To undertake mesh selectivity experiments using a 45mm mesh shrimp trawl and cod ends of 45mm, 35mm and 25mm.

### Narrative

Goldseeker sailed from Leith on 21 May and arrived in Blyth on 26 May.

A series of half hour hauls with each of the three cod ends was carried out at trawl stations off Blyth and North Shields.

Because of injury Mr F G Howard was replaced by Mr J A Sinclair half way through the cruise.

Goldseeker returned to Leith on the night of 11 May and the scientific staff and crew left on 12 May.

### Results

A total of 33 half hour hauls were made: six with the 35mm cod end alone, twelve with the 35mm cod end and small mesh whole cover, six with the 25mm cod end and small mesh whole cover and nine with the 45mm cod end and small mesh whole cover. Two hauls with the 35mm cod end were foul.

Mesh measurements of the individual cod ends showed the mean mesh size of each to be 48.1mm (45mm), 35.8mm(35mm) and 28.6mm (25mm).

Shrimp catches with the three cod ends were generally good.

The weight of pandalids caught per haul ranged from 0.9kg to 14.5kg. The total weight caught was 212kg.

The weights caught in each cod end were:

45mm cod end	:	35.8kg	Small mesh cover	:	28.6kg
35mm cod end	:	45.6kg	Small mesh cover	:	11.8kg
35mm cod end	:	50.0kg	No cover	:	
25mm cod end	:	37.5kg	Small mesh cover	:	3.6kg

The predominant species of shrimp caught was Pandalus borealis, further results of the shrimp catches are in the process of being analysed.

Catches of Nephrops were poor, a total of 127 individuals being taken. Of these 93 were male and 34 female, one of which was berried.

Fish catches were generally good, the predominant species caught were cod, haddock and whiting.

In the small mesh considerable numbers of Lumpenus, four-bearded rockling, long rough dab and Myxine were taken.

F G Howard  
J A Sinclair  
16 July 1975

Seen in draft - W Gatt.