

R1/10

AMM

In Confidence: Not to be quoted without reference to the Laboratory 5GR80

FRV GOLDSEEKER

Cruise 5/80

REPORT

31 March - 25 April 1980

Objectives

- 1 To investigate the use of TV and still photography in scallop and queen population studies.
- 2 To study the nature of the bottom and the distribution of scallops and queens in Loch Creran.

Narrative

Because of crew shortage elsewhere in the Fleet, the start of the cruise was delayed until 7 April, when work started in Loch Creran. Weather conditions were good and apart from the boat's long weekend (10-15 April) work continued until 23 April. The vessel then entered the Caledonian Canal en route for Buckie.

Results

- 1 The sledge was used over a wide variety of grounds and it was confirmed that it is extremely efficient for obtaining information over a wide area in a short time. Unfortunately the still camera equipment had been damaged during an earlier cruise and was not available. Video tape recordings were made of each sledge run, for further study in the Laboratory. Still pictures were taken by a shore based diving team from Heriot-Watt University.
- 2 Most of the bottom of the middle basin of Loch Creran was found to consist of rather soft mud inhabited by sea pens and holothurians. The bays near the entrance to the loch showed evidence of a sandy bottom with scallops and queens. In the deeper water near the entrance there were patches of mixed ground with large boulders.

Seen in draft W Smith

J Drinkwater

7 May 1980