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CRUISE REPORT

F.R.V. "GOLDSEEKER"

8th August - 28th September 1967

Narrative

"Goldseeker" left Buckie at 1820 hours on the 8th August and proceeded to Shetland. Work was started on the 10th with creels being shot at West Voe, Burra and escallop dredging in Clift Sound. This routine was continued, covering voes and suitable dredging grounds on the west mainland, until the 18th August when fire in the engine-room put the vessel out of commission for nine days while repairs were carried out.

The survey continued on the west side of Shetland until 30th August when strengthening westerly winds made advisable a shift to the east side where work was continued.

Staff and crew changes were made on the 5th September at Lerwick. Further creel fishing and escallop dredging was undertaken on the east side until 13th September when "Goldseeker" again returned to work on the west of the island for the remainder of the cruise. On completion of the cruise, "Goldseeker" left Shetland for Fraserburgh, on the 27th September.

Results

(a) Creel Fishing

Lobster catches were generally disappointing. The best results by the local fleet were obtained in very shallow waters close to rocks, on grounds too shallow for "Goldseeker". Crabs were taken in fair numbers.

Scottish, Parlour and Leakey collapsible types of creel were used in a total of 1,152 creel hauls.

CRABS

<u>Type</u>	<u>Crab Nos.</u>	<u>Hauls</u>	<u>Catch per 100 creels</u>
Scots Creels	179	576	31.08
Parlour "	118	384	30.73
Leakey "	61	192	31.77

Crabs were most plentiful at Hildasay Island, West of Burra Island, Easter Score and the Bay of Sconsburgh, but the quality was poor, most of the crabs having recently cast.

(b) Dredging

Pecten maximus was encountered widely distributed in small numbers but the grounds were of limited area. Towing times were therefore limited. The best hauls, equal to 54, 18 and 14 escallops per half hour trawl were taken at North of Papa Island outside Scalloway, East of House Ness, Clift Sound and West of Burra Island respectively.

(c) Trawling

Two trawl hauls were made 5 miles west of Ketla Ness. The commonest species caught were haddock (223), common dab (108) and lemon sole (45).

Plankton

2 - 1 metre oblique (26 m) silk net hauls were made as detailed in the programme. Except for Calanus, crustaceous material was almost absent. The bulk of the samples was composed of Pleurobrachia pileus, Sagitta elegans, Salpa fusiformis and various medusae. Siphonophores were also abundant, Lensia conoidea, Muggiaea atlantica, Agalma, and in very small numbers the more uncommon Spaerionectas gracilis.

J.A. Sinclair
A. Dunthorn

23rd November, 1967