

R1/10 In confidence: Not to be quoted
without reference to the Laboratory.

6GR68

7

CRUISE REPORT

F.R.V. "GOLDSEEKER"

18th June - 13th July, 1968

Narrative

"Goldseeker" left Fraserburgh on 18th June, and was joined by the scientific staff at Corpach on 20th June. She proceeded from there to the Outer Hebrides, and a programme of scallop dredging was undertaken between Barra and Loch Maddy.

While in this area the scientists visited some lobster storage tank installations at Grimsay, North Uist.

Trawling and plankton sampling was carried out at various stations in the Minch and Loch Linnhe.

Samples of bottom gravel were collected from Maxwell Bank and the Sound of Mull using a T.V. grab.

Results

Twenty-two, fifteen minute dredge hauls were made using a four foot dredge with a 12-toothed bar.

Catches were disappointing, and very few scallops were obtained - up to 9 per haul; the best hauls being in the vicinity of Loch Maddy.

Of the scallops caught 54% had 9 or more growth rings, the remainder were evenly distributed between the ages of 2-8.

Using the standard "Goldseeker" otter trawl with small mesh cover, several hauls of Pandalids were taken in the Minch. The best contained 250 Pandalus bonnierii weighing 690g. (1200 cc), in a half-hour haul.

The numbers of males and females were approximately equal, and the majority of both sexes were small in size. The mean carapace lengths were 14.8mm for the males, and 15.0mm for the females, none of which were berried. Abdominal bopyrid and gill parasites were fairly common on shrimps from this region.

Nephrops were taken in most hauls, the best catches being N.E. of Barra, where 112 were taken in $\frac{1}{2}$ hours. The mean carapace lengths were:

Males 39.0mm

Females 29.6mm

Small gadoids (Trisopterus esmarkii, T. minutus), and flatfish (Long rough dab and Witch) were fairly plentiful, but fish catches generally were rather poor.

F.G. Howard

17th September, 1968