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## CRUISE REPORT

F.R.V. "GOLDSEEKER"

6th - 29th August, 1968Narrative

During the week of gear trials (29th July - 2nd August) six hauls were made with the "Goldseeker" trawl, using large and small "V" boards, at varying warp lengths and speeds. Detailed analysis of this work is being undertaken by the Gear Section of the laboratory.

On the 5th August "Goldseeker" left Buckie, arriving at Corpach on the following evening where the scientific staff joined the vessel.

Creeling operations began on the 9th August. Recurring faults in the generator and trouble with the variable pitch mechanism seriously curtailed fishing operations. Creel fishing was undertaken in the Barra area, and off the island of Eigg. Seven trawl hauls were carried out in these areas, and seven dredge stations were worked in Lochs Nevis and Hourm. The cruise ended at Kyle on the 29th August.

ResultsCreeling:

352 creel hauls yielded 13 lobsters (10 males, 3 females) all of marketable size and all taken in the Parlour type creel, together with a total of 80 male and 250 female crabs. The condition of the crabs was only fair.

Dredging

7 hauls of 15 minutes in Loch Nevis and Loch Hourm yielded only 5 scallops. Large numbers of dead shells were encountered.

Trawling

A total of 478 Nephrops were caught, 376 males and 102 females of which 7 were berried. The fish catch consisted mainly of Witch, Megrim a few Skate and large numbers of small Whiting and T. minutus mostly taken in the small mesh cover, ranging in size 6-18 cms.

J.A. SINCLAIR

28th October, 1968