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CRUISE REPORT

FRV "GOLDSEEKER"

5-29 October 1970

OBJECTIVES.

1. To investigate the distribution and abundance of pink shrimps and Norway lobster stocks off the west coast of Scotland.
2. To undertake such a programme of scallop dredging as is compatible with the above.
3. To take plankton samples and surface temperature readings.

NARRATIVE

"Goldseeker" left Buckie on 7 October, proceeding through the Caledonian Canal to Gairloch, where the scientific staff joined her on the 8 October, and thence to Corpach. From there she sailed north to Kyle of Lochalsh. Trawling was prosecuted in the areas of Inner Sound, Sound of Raasay and Cuillin Sound.

On 16 October "Goldseeker" sailed to Oban for a crew changeover. Subsequent bad weather prevented further work from being carried out except in sheltered waters around Oban.

All trawling was done with a standard 70 mm Nephrops trawl with small mesh whole cover. Hauls were of $\frac{1}{2}$ hour duration. Scallop dredging was carried out using a standard 4 ft dredge at stations off Mull and off Lismore.

RESULTS

Trawling

Norway Lobster: A total of 463 males and 178 females, 42 of which were berried, were caught in twelve $\frac{1}{2}$ -hour hauls. The size ranges, sex composition, and mean carapace length for Norway Lobsters caught in different areas are given in the following tables.

Inner Sound etc

Carapace Length (mm)	15-9	20-4	25-9	30-4	35-9	40-4	45-9	50-4	55-9	60-4	65-9	70-4	Total	Mean Carapace Length
Total male	2	25	46	46	20	21	7	16	9	4	4	5	205	37.2
Total female	2	26	18	9	8								63	27.4
Berried			1	4	4								9	33.9

Loch Linnhe

Total male		10	19	27	49	27	7	3	1	1			144	36.1
Total female	1	17	17	16	24	13	1						89	32.7
Berried			4	7	12	8							31	36.6

Sleat Sound

Carapace Length (mm)	15-9	20-4	25-9	30-4	35-9	40-4	45-9	50-4	55-9	60-4	65-9	70-4	Total	Mean Carapace Length
Total male	1	6	18	24	27	17	11	4	5	1			114	37.3
Total female		4	6	11	3	2							26	30.5
Berried			1		1								2	33.5

Pandalus sp: Pandalids were very scarce in all areas. They were taken on in the Sound of Raasay, where a total of 36 Pandalus bonnierii were caught.

White Fish: Fish catches consisted mainly of whiting, haddock, small gadoids and dogfish.

Squid: One haul off Coll yielded a catch of 33 Loligo with an average length of 14.6 cm.

Dredging

Scallop dredging was confined to three areas: off NW Mull, the Sound of Mull, and SE of Lismore.

A total of 62 Pecten maximus were taken in seventeen 15-minute hauls.

The following table gives the catch composition for each area.

Area	% 6 year old and under	% 7-9 year old	% over 9 year old	Mean Length mm	Total Caught	Greatest Catch/15 min. haul
NW Mull	44%	11%	45%	125.1	27	10
Sound of Mull	26%	26%	48%	104.4	23	17
Lismore	33%	42%	25%	113.2	12	5

81% of all scallops caught were in the spent condition.

Plankton and Hydrography

Samples from all areas contained moderate numbers of Calanus finmarchicus and Sagitta elegans, and the sample from Sound of Sleat had moderate numbers of Spiratella retroversa.

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20 November 1970