

IN CONFIDENCE

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R1/10

## CRUISE REPORT

FRV "GOLDSEEKER"

26 August - 19 September 1969.

## NARRATIVE

"Goldseeker" left Buckie on 26 August and arrived at Kyle of Lochalsh on 28th. Work started on 29th and continued until 17 September, the vessel then returning to Buckie, where she arrived on 19 September.

Grounds around Skye and adjacent mainland areas were fished using creels and scallop dredges. Changeable weather conditions, though never severe enough to prevent working altogether, at times made it impossible to work in the most suitable places. In the more productive areas, creels set by commercial boats also limited the ground available.

Six fleets of 8 creels were shot daily. Half were Scottish type and half were Parlour type creels. Salt mackerel was used as bait. Dredging was undertaken on suitable grounds using a 4 ft scallop dredge with 12 teeth.

## RESULTS

Creeling: 34 lobsters were caught in 528 creel hauls. The catch per 100 creel hauls of marketable lobsters was 5.1 and of marketable crabs 57.6. The mean carapace length of marketable lobsters was 91.3mm and the mean carapace width of marketable crabs was 144.1mm.

The comparative catches of lobsters and crabs by Scottish and Parlour creels were:

			<u>Scottish</u>	<u>Parlour</u>
Lobsters	Undersized	No.	2	5
	Marketable	No.	14	13
		Mean Size	91.0mm	91.7mm
Crabs	Undersized	No.	162	137
	Marketable	No.	148	156
		Mean Size	141.2mm	146.8mm

The best area for lobsters was Loch Bracadale where 48 creel hauls yielded 11 marketable and 6 undersized lobsters. Crabs were plentiful off Scalpay, and in the mainland areas of Gairloch, Loch Carron and Loch Hourn. Of all crabs caught, 69% were females.

Scallop Dredging: In the limited time available, good concentrations of scallops were found only in Loch Snizort, an area being fished by commercial boats. Here 75% of the catch was over 9 years of age. In the Sound of Mull, (fished commercially until recently) the catch was poor, and only 38% were over 9 years of age.

In addition to the scallops caught by dredging, two were caught in creels. Also a total of 15 juveniles were brought up in weed attached to creels, and kept alive for later study.

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