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FRV GOLDSEEKER
Cruise 8/79
REPORT
10 June - 2 August 1979

8GR79
JA

Objectives

1. To recapture Nephrops tagged last year in the Firth of Forth in order to measure annual growth increments.
2. To release a further batch of tagged Nephrops in the Forth.
3. To sample juvenile ('o' group) Nephrops and make observations on their distribution, abundance and behaviour.

Narrative

GOLDSEEKER left Buckie on 10 July and docked at Granton during the evening of 11 where scientific staff joined the ship. After discussions with a number of fishermen it was decided to ask them to carry out objective 1 in view of the large number of underwater obstructions in the tag release area. This enabled GOLDSEEKER to devote more time to the remaining objectives. The scientific programme was eventually completed on 31 July when scientific staff disembarked at Methil and GOLDSEEKER returned to Buckie.

Results

Tagging At the time of writing 60 Nephrops tagged in July 1978 have been returned to the Laboratory (7.8% of those tagged) and of these 17 had moulted, increasing in length from 3.1 - 6.9 mm in the case of males and 1.5 - 2.7 mm in females. The number of days between release and recapture of these animals varied from 29 - 496 days.

A further 1935 Nephrops were tagged using streamer tags and released in different parts of the Forth. These were caught in short (15 min) trawl hauls. At the time of writing 100 (5.2%) of these animals have been returned to the Laboratory of which 7 had moulted, increasing in length from 1.9 - 4.4 mm.

Plankton sampling 17 hauls were made with a WP3 plankton net. Nephrops larvae were abundant in most samples and a few 'o' group Nephrops were caught. Detailed analysis of the samples will be undertaken in the Laboratory.

C J CHAPMAN
22 February 1980

Seen in draft W B Reid
