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CRUISE REPORT

F.R.V. "GOLDSEEKER"

6th-20th December, 1967

Narrative

"Goldseeker" left Aberdeen on Wednesday, 6th December, arriving at Anstruther at 16.30 hours. Persistently fresh West to North-West winds confined operations to Central and Inner Firth of Forth grounds, where a total of 29 hauls, using a Nephrops trawl with small mesh cover, were carried out. While the vessel was in Leith, the refit specifications were checked over with members of the Marine Superintendent's staff and an inventory of equipment compiled. The cruise ended at Leith on 20th December.

Results

Fair catches of Nephrops were made in most areas; the best hauls were taken North of Fidra and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles South of Pittenweem. A total of 4,195 male and 1,061 female Norway lobsters were examined. The mean size (carapace length) of males was 37.13 mm and females 33.57; 1.32% of the females examined were berried. The table shows the size distribution of Norway lobsters.

Nephrops norvegicus Size distribution on 5 mm groups

Carapace mm	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	Totals
♂	2	126	638	1024	976	698	370	238	91	28	4	4,195
%	+	3.0	15.2	24.4	23.3	16.6	8.8	5.7	2.2	0.7	0.1	
♀	2	86	201	294	299	135	41	3				1,061
%	0.2	8.1	18.9	27.7	28.2	12.7	3.9	0.3	-	-	-	-
♂ and ♀	4	212	839	1318	1275	833	411	241	91	28	4	5,256
%	0.1	4.0	16.0	25.1	24.3	15.8	7.8	4.6	1.7	0.5	0.1	

The by-catch was made up largely of small whiting, of average length 17 cms. A few cod were caught, mainly in the 30 cm group; these were sampled for nematode infection, which was present in 18% of the fish examined.

J. A. SINCLAIR  
 21st February, 1968