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In confidence: Not to be quoted without reference to the Laboratory.

## CRUISE REPORT

F.R.V. "GOLDSEEKER"

23rd September-17th October 1968

Narrative

"Goldseeker" left Buckie for Orkney on 23rd September, but bad weather delayed her arrival in Stromness until the evening of the 26th. Strong to gale force winds persisted for the greater part of the cruise, necessitating working in sheltered, less productive areas and some loss of time.

Escallop dredging, using a 4' dredge, 15 teeth on the bar, was carried out in the Deer Sound-Shapinsay Sound area. At the request of the Inspectorate, a series of hauls were made in Scapa Flow on the queen (Chlamys opercularis) grounds.

Lobster measuring was carried out at commercial premises in Stromness and Kirkwall.

Results

Creeling: 32 lobsters were caught in 464 creel hauls. The catch per 100 creel hauls of marketable lobsters was 6.3 and of marketable crabs 10.3. The mean carapace length of marketable lobsters was 99.6 mm and the carapace width of marketable crabs 135.4 mm.

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

			<u>Scottish</u>	<u>Parlour</u>
Lobsters	Undersized	No.	2	2
	Marketable	(No.	8	20
		(Mean size	101.4 mm	99 mm
Crabs	Undersized	No.	54	33
	Marketable	(No.	30	18
		(Mean size	130.3 mm	143.9 mm

Escallop dredging: Eighteen hauls of 10 minutes duration each were done in the Deer Sound-Shapinsay Sound area. Escallops were scarce though lots of loose valves were picked up. The mean age and size of scallop in this area was 7 years and length 138 mm. Thirteen dredge hauls each of 15 minutes duration were done in Scapa Flow, four in Weddell Sound and nine in the northern area of the Flow on the 'queen grounds'. The results of the last nine hauls are tabulated as follows:

Haul No.	Decca Position				Depth in fms.	Numbers	
	Shooting		Hauling			<u>Pecten</u> <u>maximus</u>	<u>Chlamys</u> <u>opercularis</u> (range size)
23	G36.3	P68.8	G35.7	P68.5	14	6	93 (56-103 mm)
24	G35.8	R17.7	G35.3	R18.6	15	6	44 (64-101 " )
25	R18.6	P68.5	R19.2	P69.3	17½	3	6 (65- 98 " )
26	R19.5	P69.5	R20.5	P71.4	22/25	13	50 (59- 99 " )
27	R20.3	P71.7	R19.0	P72.1	18	12	81 (66-102 " )
28	R18.3	P71.5	R17.7	P72.6	22	7	81 (71-100 " )
29	R17.6	P73.2	R17.3	P75.0	21	7	18 (80- 96 " )
30	R16.6	P74.3	R15.1	P73.4	25/19	12	3 -
31	R14.0	P71.0	-	-	15	15	0 -

A sample of 105 'queens' was measured, the mean length being 86 mm. The weight of 'queens' was estimated at 5 stones. The mean length of the Pecten maximus was 124.4 mm with a mean age of 8.5 years.

The surface water temperatures ranged from 10.93°C to 11.03°C with a mean of 11.0°C.

C. Davidson  
3rd December 1968