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9/21/78 OK

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RL/10

FRV "Goldseeker"

Cruise 9/78

Report

3-26 October 1978

Objectives

1. To compare quantity size and sex composition of Nephrops and fish by-catch taken by a Nephrops trawl using different codend mesh sizes.
2. To assess predation on Nephrops from examination of fish stomachs and to preserve any Nephrops for later analysis.

Narrative

On completion of the autumn maintenance period Goldseeker left Buckie on October 3 and proceeded to Granton arriving in the late evening of the following day where scientific staff joined the ship.

A programme of trawling using a 65 mm Nephrops trawl with nominal 61 and 78 mm Cod ends and small mesh cover was carried out on suitable grounds.

Work was handicapped by extremely poor weather conditions in the area throughout the period.

The cruise ended at Leith on October 26. Three part days fishing were lost due to bad weather conditions.

Results

Size and sex composition and mean carapace lengths of Nephrops caught are shown in the attached Tables. The by catch of fish was poor consisting mainly of Whiting, Long Rough Dabs and Common Dabs. Cod and Saithe were also present, being the only species of commercial size.

Cod and Saithe stomachs were examined for Nephrops remains. Of 54 cod stomachs 6 (11%) contained remains. No Nephrops were found in the stomachs of Saithe.

J A Sinclair  
12 March 1979

Seen in draft W B Reid o/c Goldseeker

## 61 m Cod end

Carapace length (mm)	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	Total
les No	217	873	1872	1959	631	257	54	34	8	4	5909
%	3.7	14.8	31.7	33.1	10.7	4.3	0.9	0.6	0.1	+	
ales No	175	677	1489	943	466	263	98	31	2	3	4147
%	4.2	16.3	35.9	22.7	11.2	6.3	2.4	0.7	+	+	

MEAN C/L MALES 29.67 mm FEMALES 26.69mm BERRIED 130 (3.13%)

## Small mesh cover

Carapace length (mm)	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	Total
les No	3	282	612	553	317	22	-	-	-	-	1789
%	0.1	15.8	34.2	30.9	17.7	1.2					-
ales No	1	311	588	422	124	17					1463
%	+	21.2	40.2	28.8	8.5	1.2	-	-	-	-	-

## 78 mm Cod end

Carapace length (mm)	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	Total
les No	68	258	812	1059	397	125	59	36	4	2	2820
%	2.4	9.4	28.8	37.5	14.1	4.4	2.1	1.1	0.1	+	
ales No	85	260	635	542	265	104	49	40	1	-	1981
%	4.3	13.1	32.0	27.3	13.4	5.2	2.5	2.0	+		

MEAN C/L MALES 31.09 mm FEMALES 30.50 mm BERRIED 37 (1.86%)

Small mesh Cover

Carapace length (mm)	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	Total
Males No	-	152	472	632	530	123	27	1	-	-	1937
%	-	7.8	24.4	32.6	27.3	6.3	1.4	+	-	-	
Females No	-	115	426	457	257	59	10	3	-	-	1327
%	-	8.6	32.1	34.4	19.4	4.4	0.7	0.2	-	-	

MEAN C/L MALES 27.14 mm FEMALES 26.29 mm BERRIED 10 (0.75%)