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In Confidence -- Not to be quoted without reference to the Laboratory

FRV GOLDSEEKER  
Cruise 10/80  
REPORT  
1-25 Sept 1980

10GR80

Objectives

1. To use TV and still photography to study the nature of the sea bed and the distribution of scallops in Loch Creran.
2. To study the abundance and composition of scallops in the vicinity of Loch Creran by means of dredging.
3. To obtain scallops dredged under a variety of conditions for a mortality experiment which will be conducted in Loch Creran by an independent team of divers.
4. To search for scallop and queen spat on seaweed and bottom deposit obtained by dredging and by divers.

Narrative

After leaving Buckie on 1 Sept 'Goldseeker' proceeded to Oban and dredging operations started on 4 Sept. TV and photographic equipment was installed on 8 September and was used until 19 Sept. Dredging was continued until 24 Sept when the vessel sailed for Corpach. Weather conditions were mostly fairly good and caused little interruption to the work in Loch Creran.

Results

A total of 34 dredge hauls were made. Few scallops and queens were caught in Loch Creran. Concentrations of scallops were found around Kerrera and the Sound of Mull. Scallops with varying degrees of damage were recorded and used in the mortality experiment conducted by divers. Spat found on weed included several queens but only one scallop. The TV sledge was used in Loch Creran, and also in the Sound of Mull and around Kerrera. Video tape recordings were made and still pictures of scallops and queens and typical areas of bottoms were taken.

J Drinkwater  
9 Oct 1980

Seen in draft: D Findlay