

R1/10

10GR85

In Confidence: not to be quoted without prior reference to the Laboratory

LD

FRV "Goldseeker"

Cruise 10/85

Report

17 July - 1 August

Personnel

R Priestley	SSO
C D Hall	HSO
R M Anderson	PTO III
P J Barkel	PTO IV

Objectives

1. To carry out development work on the Towed Underwater Vehicle and its associated instrumentation.
2. To calibrate the new towing rope for various speeds and tow lengths.

Narrative

"Goldseeker" arrived at Stornoway during the afternoon of 19 July and immediately took on board the ship's stores which had been brought over with the scientific gear. The ship remained in port all of the following day whilst the vehicle and scientific equipment were installed. Work at sea commenced on Sunday 21 July and continued uninterrupted until the afternoon of 29 July when strong North-Easterly winds made work impossible.

"Goldseeker" sailed the following morning but freshening winds forced a return to harbour later in the day. The equipment was then dismantled and loaded on to transport on 31 July.

Results

1. Whilst the development work was proceeding it was convenient to use a standard trawl as a target, the one chosen was the 16m Prawn Trawl (70mm) BT126. Eight one hour tapes were retained and still photographs taken. The water clarity was at times very good, and as fish were in evidence some excellent material was obtained. The tapes and still photographs will be passed on to the gear and behaviour sections for detailed examination.
2. For the duration of the cruise the underwater vehicle was towed on the new 21mm braided Polyester rope and the performance recorded over differing towing speeds, tow lengths, and with measured alterations in the vehicle buoyancy. This data will be compiled and published at a later date. The improved handling characteristics of this rope were immediately apparent, it was easy to coil on the deck, and it did not rotate under strain.

Seen in draft: George B Calder

R Priestley  
11 September 1985