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FRV "Goldseeker"
Cruise 10/86

REPORT

8-23 July 1986

Personnel

J Mason PSO (in charge)
D J Bova ASO

Objectives

- 1 To study the settlement of scallops and queens in the Sound of Jura and the Clyde Sea areas.
- 2 To study the size and age composition of scallop and queen stocks in the same areas.
- To recover a current-meter mooring off Glenlussa.

Narrative

"Goldseeker" left Dunstaffnage at 1700 on 8 July for Oban, where loading took place on the morning of 9 July. "Goldseeker" sailed at 1130 and spent 6 days setting out strings of pectinid spat collectors and dredging in the Sound of Jura and adjacent waters. She then made a passage via the Crinan Canal to Tarbert, where the half landing was spent on 16 July. After a delay of one day owing to south-westerly gales, work resumed in the Clyde Sea area on 18 July and continued until 22 July, when "Goldseeker" berthed at Troon at 1600.

Mr R Payne spent 3 hours on board on the morning of 20 July when the current-meter mooring was recovered.

Results

- A total of 55 strings, each of 4 spat collectors, were set out, 27 of them at 6 places in the Sound of Jura and south of Islay and 28 at 6 places in the north and west of the Clyde Sea area. The collectors will be retrieved in October 1986.
- 2 Dredging was by means of a gang of 85 cm dredges, 2 of them commercial and one a sampling dredge. A total of 93 hauls, 5 of 30 minutes duration and the remainder of 15 minutes were made. The results (Table I) show that the best catches of scallops were obtained on the east coast of Jura and in Easdale Bay. The age compositions of the scallop catches are shown in Table II. There were signs of good recent recruitment both in the Clyde and outside it. Scallops with 3-5 growth rings predominated in Kilbrannan Sound, Lower Loch Fyne and Easdale Bay and on the west side of the Sound of Jura.

The growth ring on the scallops' shells were laid down very late this year, probably in May-June. The mean distance of the outermost growth ring from the edge of the shell of 3+ and 2+ scallops was only 3.4 mm and 4.7 mm respectively in July. In a normal year these would be expected to be about 7 and 9 mm respectively.

Examination of the scallop gonads suggested that scallops had spawned recently in lower Loch Fyne, but elsewhere most had full and half full gonads.

Queens were nowhere abundant. Moderate numbers, mostly of old (3-5 rings) animals were taken off Inchmarnock and off the east coast of Arran.

James Mason
11 August 1986

Seen in draft: A Cowie

Table I Catches of scallops (Pecten maximus)

Area	No of hours fishing	No of scallops caught	No of scallops per hour
Easdale Bay	1.25	52	41.6
East coast of Jura	6.25	337	53.9
South coast of Islay	4.50	142	31.6
West coast of Kintyre	1.00	26	26.0
Lower Loch Fyne	3.00	109	36.3
Kilbrannan Sound	6.50	150	23.1
East coast of Arran	2.00	55	27.5

Table II Age composition (percentage) of scallop catches

No of growth rings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	> 9
Area										
Easdale Bay		3.8	21.1	7.7	21.1	5.8	9.6	9.6	7.7	13.5
East coast of Jura		0.6	14.5	22.8	28.2	12.5	6.5	4.5	4.5	5.9
South coast of Islay			8.5	7.0	9.2	7.7	16.9	14.1	10.5	26.0
Lower Loch Fyne		0.9	19.2	22.0	13.8	9.2	3.7	5.5	8.2	17.4
Kilbrannan Sound	0.6	12.0	21.3	28.0	12.6	2.0	4.0	5.3	4.6	9.3
East coast of Arran		3.6	-	18.2	10.9	5.4	5.4	14.5	5.4	36.4