

R1/10

IN CONFIDENCE:

Not to be quoted without reference to the Lab.

11GR69

7

CRUISE REPORT

FRV "GOLDSEEKER"

25 November - 19 December 1969

NARRATIVE:

The cruise began at Ardrishaig on 25 November and ended at Oban on 16 December. "Goldseeker" then returned to Buckie via the Caledonian Canal arriving on the 19th. Trawling was undertaken in the Clyde, at selected stations between Stranraer in the south and Inveraray in the north, and in Loch Linnhe. A Nephrops (70 mm) trawl with 70 mm codend and small mesh whole cover was used for each haul. Hauls were of $\frac{1}{2}$ hour duration.

Plankton sampling and surface temperature recordings were made in each statistical rectangle covered by the cruise.

Live Nephrops were brought back to the aquarium.

RESULTS

Trawling:-Nephrops

Norway lobsters were taken in the majority of hauls, the best catches per half hour haul being obtained in Kilbrennan Sound (677 Nephrops), west of Ayr (625) and in Loch Linnhe (1065). In all a total of 3173 males and 1879 females were examined.

The mean carapace lengths and the total catch for individual areas are given in the following table.

Lower Clyde. Stat. sqs. YY9d, YY9b, ZZ9a

Carapace Length mm	15-9	20-4	25-9	30-4	35-9	40-4	45-9	50-4	55-9	60-4	65-9	Totals	Mean Carapace Length mm
Total ♂	16	160	305	313	195	93	27	4				1113	31.8
Total ♀	12	112	152	113	16	1						406	27.8
Berried ♀			2									2	26.5

Upper Clyde and Loch Fyne. YY10b, YY10d, YY11d

Total ♂	25	161	267	266	205	112	71	34	12	6	1	1160	33.3
Total ♀	40	171	256	209	67	12	1					756	28.3
Berried ♀		2	7	3	1							13	28.7

Loch Linnhe YY12d

Total ♂	1	48	359	368	89	24	4	3	3	1		900	30.9
Total ♀		63	444	190	15	4	1					717	28.7
Berried ♀			2	5	11	3	1					22	36.3

Pandalus:

Pandalids were present in most hauls, but were few in numbers, the largest catch consisting of 29 shrimps. P. bonnieri was the dominant species but P. propinquus represented about 17% of the catch.

The total numbers of P. bonnieri caught were:
males 101, females 93, of which 73 were berried.

The mean carapace lengths of those caught in the Clyde area were:

Stat. sq.	YY10b, Nov. '69		YY10b, Dec. '69		YY9b Dec. '69	
	Carapace length	No.	Carapace length	No.	Carapace length	No.
Total ♂	18.9 mm	31	18.5 mm	49	18.9 mm	16
Total ♀	18.2 mm	17	19.4 mm	43	18.9 mm	21
Berried ♀	18.8 mm	12	19.9 mm	34	19.0 mm	20

White Fish

Whiting, hake and saithe were the commonest species caught, but no fish was caught in very large numbers.

Plankton and Hydrography

The standing crop of zooplankton was quite high in the Clyde, but poor in Loch Linnhe and the Firth of Lorne.

The dominant species present were Calanus helgolandica and Sagitta elegans; these composed the bulk of the samples.

F G Howard
28.1.70