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

CRUISE REPORT

FRV GOLDSEEKER

8-26 NOVEMBER 1971

Objectives

1. To investigate the distribution and abundance of shrimps off the north-east coast of Scotland from Pennan to Arbroath.
2. To search for scallops in the same area.
3. To take daily surface temperature readings.
4. To undertake a bottom survey in the coastal waters south of Aberdeen by means of underwater television.

Narrative

Sailing was delayed by bad weather, and "Goldseeker" remained at Buckie until 10 November. She then proceeded towards Aberdeen arriving there on 11 November. A limited programme of trawling was carried out off Peterhead and off Newburgh.

In Aberdeen, the fishing gear was unloaded and underwater television and video tape equipment taken on board. The remainder of the cruise was devoted to Objective 4.

Results

Trawling

Four half-hour hauls using the standard 70 mm Nephrops trawl were made off Peterhead. Fish were plentiful, and good catches were made. The results, showing species, numbers and main size ranges, are given in the following table.

Large mesh

Species	Lemon Sole	LRD	Whiting	Haddock	Cod	Cuckoo Ray
Nos	46	30	166	774	146	10
Size range cms	19-22:27-32	17-22	15-17:19-21	14-18:24-30	23-39	-

The small mesh catch consisted almost entirely of small haddock, whiting, Trisopterus esmarki, T minutus and argentines.

Five half-hour hauls using an 8 ft beam trawl were made off Newburgh, but catches were very poor, and only small numbers of both flat fish and Crangon crangon were taken.

Underwater Survey

The survey covered the coastal region between Greg Ness and Findon. Water clarity was very poor in the north but improved as the distance from Aberdeen increased. Areas in which sand predominated were ignored, and the survey concentrated on those areas in which a rock-boulder bottom occurred in depths of 10 fm and under.

Two such areas were found, one off Cove harbour, and the second just north of Findon. In both cases though, the rocks appeared to be covered by a layer of fine sediment, which on being examined was found to be a black gritty mud.

The marine life seen in these areas was sparse, and consisted of echinoids, asteroids, sea anemones and Alcyonium. No seaweed was seen.

F G Howard
15 December 1971