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Cruise Report

FRV Goldseeker

11GR 79  
CM

Cruise 11/79

29 October - 9 November 1979. (Parts I and II)

### Objectives

- Part I 1. To capture live Nephrops for tagging and growth studies in the Laboratory.
- Part II 1. Survey of Nephrops grounds in the Moray Firth to obtain information on early growth rates from length composition data
2. To capture live Nephrops for aquarium studies (carried over from Part I if required).

### Narrative

'Goldseeker' was based at Buckie for both parts of the cruise. Live Nephrops were captured by a 70 mm Nephrops trawl, and placed in light excluding bins containing sea/<sub>water</sub> immediately after being landed on deck.

The survey of Nephrops grounds was carried out using a 50 mm mesh Nephrops trawl in order to retain juvenile Nephrops. Four half-hour hauls were made. It was not necessary to continue with Objective (II). Poor weather conditions hampered work during both parts of the cruise. Part II was curtailed to enable 'Goldseeker' to steam to Aberdeen for the annual refit. The Scientific staff were changed at the end of Part I.

### Results

Part I: A total of 180 Nephrops in good condition were brought back to the laboratory.

Part II: Catches of Nephrops were variable, ranging from 2.5 kg off Buckie to 23 kg off Macduff per half hour trawl. The size distribution of the catch is tabulated below. White fish bycatch consisted primarily of haddock and whiting with some plaice.

Carapace length (mm)	10-4	15-9	20-4	25-9	30-4	35-9	40-4	Total	MCL
Males		25	67	122	68	15	3	300	27.3
Females	1	28	91	84	9	3	1	217	24.5
Female berried						1		1	
Total	1	53	158	206	77	18	4	517	26.1
%	0.2	10.3	30.6	39.8	14.9	3.5	0.8		

Seen in draft: W B Reid

F G Howard

J A M Kinnear

19 February 1980