

R1/10

In Confidence - Not to be quoted without prior reference to the Laboratory

FRV 'Goldseeker'

Cruise 11/82

11CR82

Report

20 September to 1 October

Objectives

To capture live mackerel for use in target strength measurements at the Loch Duich Field Station.

Narrative

'Goldseeker' arrived at Kyle at 08.30 on Friday 24 Oct after steaming from Buckie via the Caledonian Canal. Hand lining took place in the entrance to Kyle Rae with the following captures.

24/9	114	Mackerel transferred to keep pens
27/9	16	" " " "
28/9	6	" " " "
29/9	70	" " " "
30/9	140	" " " "
1/10	0	No fishing due to bad weather

The water launch "GIGHA" was used to tow the barge to and from the entrance to Loch Duich on the 24/9, unfortunately mechanical failures prevented the "GIGHA" from being used for the rest of the cruise. This resulted in a considerable amount of time being wasted because "Goldseeker" had to tow the fish barge to and from the field station. (A loss of approximately 3 hrs per day). Fishing Boat "SNARK" was hired to tow the barge from Kyle Rae on the 30/9 thus enabling the crews pay to be collected from the Bank in Kyle.

Conclusion

494 mackerel were successfully transferred to the keep pens with very low mortality rate, less than 5%. This total is lower than in 1981, mainly because of the extra time consumed in towing the barge. The smaller quantity of mackerel available has effectively limited the size range over which target strength measurements have been made.

J I Edwards  
18 Oct 1982

Seen in draft James A Calder Relief OIC