

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

FRV "GOLDSEEKER"  
Cruise 11/85

11GR85 MB

REPORT  
7-22 August 1985

Personnel

R D Galbraith HSO  
A MacDonald PTO III  
J T M Hunter PTO IV

Fishing Gear

560 Fish/Prawn trawl (BT 160)  
16 fm Prawn Trawl (BT 126)

Objectives

- 1 To measure the drag of the above 2 nets both with and without internal separating panels and additional codends.
- 2 To carry out engineering trials on both soft and firm bottom using a rockhopper groundrope on the dual purpose gear and a standard leaded grassrope on the prawn trawl.
- 3 To investigate the effect of increased door spread on prawn trawl configuration.

Narrative

Adverse weather conditions delayed the start of the instrumented trials until 11 August. "Goldseeker" then worked from Stornoway on a daily basis, dividing the work between a shallow water tow on firm sand off Tolsta Head and a deep water tow on soft mud off Loch Erisort. The half landing was taken in Stornoway on 15 August.

This work resumed on 16 August and continued until 20 August, when the weather again proved unsuitable. A further haul was made on 21 August and "Goldseeker" unloaded fishing gear and instrumentation in Stornoway that afternoon. Staff and equipment returned to Aberdeen on 22 August.

Results

A total of 13 fully instrumented hauls were made, 6 with dual purpose gear and 7 with prawn trawl combinations. Five of the hauls were carried out on firm sand and 8 on soft mud. On one of the latter hauls larger otterboards were used with the modified prawn trawl to investigate the effect of increased door spread.

R D Galbraith  
5 September

Seen in draft A Mair