

debrary

RL/10

12GR80

IN CONFIDENCE

JB

FRV GOLDSEEKER

CRUISE 12/80

REPORT

28 October - 14 November 1980

Objectives

To observe fish behaviour in escape areas in the baiting and extension piece of the net.
To observe fish behaviour in relation to sand clouds created by diverters in advance of the otterboards.

Narrative

The scientific staff joined GOLDSEEKER on Tuesday 28 October at Buckie where the Remote Controlled Television Vehicle was prepared for observation work.

An attempt was made during the 29 and 30 to operate off Buckie but with northerly gales and a big swell it was impossible to shoot the vehicle from the stern of GOLDSEEKER. On Friday 31 the weather improved and a technique was developed allowing the trawl and vehicle to be worked over the stern of the vessel. GOLDSEEKER had to return to port at 1200 hours for a contractors visit in preparation for the refit.

On Monday 3 November work continued uninterrupted on the Bailins ground off Buckie where one continuous haul of $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours was achieved. Few fish were on these grounds and only 2 baskets were recovered from the codend, consisting of haddock, whiting and flatfish.

Tuesday 4 GOLDSEEKER again sailed to the same area where problems with steering the vehicle made it impossible to obtain observations. On recovery of the vehicle it was found that the chain drive was faulty and required replacement.

GOLDSEEKER sailed once more on Wednesday 3 November to the Bailins grounds where some observations were made of codling reacting to the gear but unfortunately a motor and one of the power cables to the vehicle malfunctioned requiring the vessel to return to port for replacements.

On Thursday and Friday 6 and 7 November attempts were made to work but the weather was unsuitable for operation.

The vehicle was offloaded from GOLDSEEKER on Friday and returned to Aberdeen.

The last week when diving using the TUVII was proposed the weather was again unsuitable and the team returned to Aberdeen early Thursday 13 November.

During this last week the opportunity was taken whilst in harbour to examine and test new communication equipment between the divers and surface supervisor. This worked very successfully and will be adopted in future.

Results

It was proved that it is now possible to operate both the divers TUVII and the RCV from GOLDSEEKER using a 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ rope from the warping barrel to allow observation of fish in the vicinity of the trawl. The RCV system appeared to be rather sluggish in steering with this size of rope but observations were made in certain areas of interest. The television recorder system and motor controllers used up all the space in the deck laboratory making it impossible to carry spares for the systems and this in fact proved to be a handicap requiring the vessel to return to port on two occasions.

Very few fish were seen on the grounds but on occasions whiting were seen in the mouth of the trawl and recordings were made of these fish escaping through the square, baitings and codend. These tapes are being analysed in detail.

Only a few observations of individual cod, squid and flats were seen in the mouth of the trawl before they fell back into the net.

Good video tapes were obtained of various parts of this 4 panel trawl (BT 124 R) on both fine sand and hard ground.

J. MAIN

9 December 1980

Seen in draft W SMITH