

R1/10

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

FRV "Goldseeker"

Cruise 12/81

REPORT

12 October - 30 October 1981

Objectives

1. To obtain scallops for (a) Dredging mortality experiments.
(b) Tagging experiments.
(c) Enzyme studies.
(d) Age composition studies.
2. To obtain plankton samples to be examined for pectinid larvae.
3. To haul spat collectors placed in Loch Creran.

Narrative

"Goldseeker" left Corpach after loading and proceeded to Dunstaffnage, where the dredges were prepared for fishing. Dredging was carried out in the Sound of Mull, SW Kerrera, off Lismore Island, and in Loch Creran. Plankton hauls were taken in the Sound of Mull and SW Kerrera. "Goldseeker" left for the Caledonian Canal on the 27th but was delayed while repairs to the Canal were carried out. "Goldseeker" arrived in Buckie on the 31st October.

Results

A minimum of 50 scallops were taken for enzyme and age composition studies from SW Kerrera, Fishnish Point, and S of Calve Island. Two vertical plankton hauls were also taken from each of these areas. Other areas were dredged, mainly around Lismore, but insufficient numbers of scallops were caught to provide adequate samples. Two spat collectors were hauled in Loch Creran.

To achieve objectives 1(a) and 1(b), "Goldseeker" returned to Fishnish Point where the best catches had been obtained. Using standard and small mesh dredges 835 scallops were caught and tagged in four days' fishing. These were placed in Loch Creran by the shore based diving team. Initial mortalities, over a seven day period, were 40 scallops (4.8%). The age composition of the 835 scallops (Table 1), shows that recent recruitment to the fishable stock has been fair. The mean length was 115.9mm.

Table 1 Percentage age composition of scallops caught off Fishnish Point

Age	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	9
%age	0.4	4.3	9.2	12.3	8.9	11.3	10.9	13.3	9.1	20.4

T R W Howell
16 November 1981

Seen in draft: W B Reid - OIC FRV GOLDSEEKER