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IN CONFIDENCE - NOT TO BE QUOTED WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE LABORATORY

FRV GOLDSEEKER

CRUISE 12/82

12GR82

REPORT:

6-29 October 1982

OBJECTIVES:

1. To investigate the spatfall and settlement of scallops and queens in a variety of sea lochs between the Sound of Mull and Ullapool.
2. To study the composition of scallop stocks in the same area.

NARRATIVE:

After loading in Kyle 'Goldseeker' proceeded north to Loch Ewe, where lifting of spat collectors was started on 7 October. The vessel then worked southwards. Gales were prevalent for much of the time, but mainly easterly, allowing work to continue. Towards the end of the cruise south-westerly gales prevented access to some collectors west of Mull and Ardnamurchan.

RESULTS:

1. Out of the 150 strings of collectors put out in July, 87 were retrieved, 56 could not be found and the search for 7 had to be abandoned because of bad weather. Settlement varied considerably from place to place. In some places it was negligible but in others it was dense. The maximum was south of Applecross where over 11,000 queens and 4,300 scallops were obtained in a single string of 4 collector bags. In most places settlement was heaviest at 2-5m from the bottom.
2. In the limited time available 8 dredge hauls were made in the Sound of Mull. A high proportion of the scallops caught were old. The gonad condition suggested that spawning had recently occurred.

J. MASON
J. DRINKWATER
10 January 1983

Seen in draft: James A Calder
Relief O.I.C.