

Indexed  
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15GR86

FRV "Goldseeker"  
Cruise 15/86

REPORT

27 November - 17 December 1986

PERSONNEL

R D Galbraith	HSO
R J Kynoch	ASO
J T M Hunter	PTO
N S Collie	PTO

OBJECTIVES

- 1) To examine the influence of ground friction on the drag of several ground-ropes previously used with Chalut 28, 90/37, 10 (BT 159).
- 2) To carry out engineering trials on both soft and firm bottom using a dual purpose trawl (BT 160) with rockhopper foot rope.
- 3) To measure the drag of a prawn trawl (BT 126) fished with both standard leaded grassrope and rubber disc, rockhopper and bobbin foot ropes.

NARRATIVE

The trials commenced on 28 November and continued until 30 November with "Goldseeker" working in both the Spey Bay and South Deeps areas. Work was not possible on 1 December because of bad weather, but continued from 2 December until 4 December when the first half landing was taken in Buckie.

The trials resumed on 5 December and continued until 9 December when mechanical failure necessitated a return to harbour. "Goldseeker" remained in port undergoing repairs until the afternoon of 11 December when a further haul was made in the Bellings area.

Bad weather prevented the vessel sailing on 12 December and work resumed on 13 December until 15 December when bad weather again stopped the vessel leaving harbour. Two further hauls were made on 16 December with fishing gear and instrumentation being unloaded at Buckie on 17 December for return to Aberdeen.

RESULTS

A total of 20 fully instrumented hauls were made, 12 with the Chalut 28, 90/37, 10 groundgears, six with the dual purpose net and two with the prawn trawl rigged with standard leaded grassrope. Because of time lost due to bad

weather, engine repairs, etc no work was possible using the prawn trawl with any of the alternative footropes.

Both the new fishing activity recorder and otterboard angle of attack meter were tested but neither performed satisfactorily. Water samples for radio-caesium monitoring were taken off Buckie at the start and end of the cruise.

R D Galbraith  
6 January 1987

Seen in draft: A Mair