

In Confidence: Not to be quoted with prior reference to the Laboratory

R1/10

FRV 'Goldseeker'

Cruise 2/83

2GR83

Report-

14.2.83 - 10.3.83

### Objectives

1. To re-examine the scallop and queen stocks in the area, studied in detail in 1978, off Cloanaig Bay.
2. To study the age and length composition of stocks in the Clyde area, with special attention being paid to the Ayrshire coast.
3. To study the age and length composition of scallop and queen stocks in the Scound of Jura.

### Narrative

'Goldseeker' departed from Buckie on Monday 14 February. She proceeded through the Caledonian and Crinan canals, arriving at Troon on 17 February. Dredging off the Ayrshire coast commenced on the following day and continued until 25 February, losing two days owing to mechanical trouble. 'Goldseeker' steamed to the West of Clyde on 26 February where dredging continued in the Cloanaig area and, after passing through the Crinan canal, the Sound of Jura. Dredging ceased on 7 March, whereupon 'Goldseeker' made for Buckie to be unloaded on 10 March.

### Results

Twelve 15 minute hauls were made in the area off Cloanaig Bay. Two 16 tooth sampling dredges (with 57 mm belly rings) were used on a towing bar for these hauls. Table I shows the age frequency of the scallops caught. The average number per haul was 17, with the best haul yielding 24.

Forty 15 minute hauls were made on known grounds off the Ayrshire coast using one 12 tooth dredge (with 83 mm belly rings) and one 16 tooth dredge (with 57 mm belly rings) on a towing bar. Seven hauls using this combination were completed between Cloanaig and Carradale on the West side of Clyde, with a further fifteen hauls accomplished in the Sound of Jura. Table II shows the age frequency of scallops caught in these areas. The numbers caught off the Ayrshire coast were low, with an average number of five per haul and a best of 26. The West side of Clyde and the Sound of Jura averaged 11 and 19 respectively with best catches of 16 and 78. The proportion of young scallops in the latter areas, along with the good catches, is an encouraging sign for future fishing in these areas.

T Howell  
29 March 1983

Seen in Draft  
W B Reid OIC 'Goldseeker'

Table I. Percentage age composition of scallops caught in Cloanaig Bay

No of growth rings

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	>9
Percentage	-	1	4	12	22	13	10	8	5	7	18

Table II Percentage age composition of scallops caught in different areas

No of growth rings

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	>9
Ayrshire coast	-	1	1	4	7	8	10	18	13	11	27
W side of Clyde	-	-	3	-	20	16	8	8	10	10	25
Sound of Jura	-	-	9	8	10	9	6	10	9	8	31