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FRV "Goldseeker"

Cruise 3/88 Part 2.

**REPORT**

8-12 March 1988

Personnel P J Copland SO (in charge)  
T V Taylor ASO

Objectives

- 1 To investigate the towing characteristics of a paravane towed body for use with dual and split beam transducers.
- 2 To investigate the slow speed characteristics of a dual frequency "shark" for use during trawling.

Narrative and Results

Due to delays caused by bad weather during passage from the east coast, "Goldseeker" was loaded at Kyle of Lochalsh on 8 March, a day later than originally programmed. Towing trials were conducted in Broadford Bay and Loch Duich. The paravane performed well using a standard survey towing cable (23 m). Strains of 0.5 tonnes and depths of 15 m at 8 knots were recorded. This compares with 0.2 tonnes and 7 m produced by the dual frequency survey sharks tested on this cruise last year. A pitch angle of  $\pm 1$  degree (nose up or down) was obtained by altering the tow point, weight of lead in the nose and the angle of the rear fins. (More extensive trials using longer tow lengths are planned for "Scotia" in the near future.)

Alterations to towing point and weight distribution were required to enable the dual frequency body to tow level at speeds around 3 knots. It should be feasible to use the same body for both 10 and 3 knot towing if a removable weighted tail panel is fitted.

"Goldseeker" finished the cruise in Kyle on the late afternoon of 11 March when all electronics were removed. The heavy equipment will be returned at the start of the next cruise. The scientific staff returned to Aberdeen on 12 March after some repair work to the Loch Duich field site.

P J Copland

17 March 1988

Seen in draft: A Mair