

In Confidence: Not to be quoted without reference to the laboratory

FRV 'Goldseeker'
Cruise 7/84

Report
19 July - 3 August 1984

Objectives

- 1) To measure the drag and headline height of gill nets set in a tideway.
- 2) To make video films of various types of gill net.
- 3) To take underwater photographs of codends to obtain detailed information on netting shape.

Narrative

'Goldseeker' left Corpach on 19 July and arrived in Gairloch on 20 July. Gear from the previous cruise was unloaded and gear and instrumentation for cruise 7/84 was loaded. The vessel worked in and around Gairloch each day during the cruise. The half-landing was on 26 July. Gear was unloaded and gear for the next cruise loaded on 2 August. 'Goldseeker' then sailed for Stornoway.

Results

- 1) Each day, 2 fleets of monofilament nets were shot and left overnight on the seabed with instruments attached. A current meter was also deployed to record the tidal flow near the bottom. Although various difficulties were encountered with the instruments, a series of records of headline height variation with tidal speed was obtained. These are being analysed in the laboratory.
- 2) Video recordings were made of a variety of types of bottom set net. The nets were shot in shallow water, the vessel anchored nearby and divers swam along the nets with a TV camera. The recordings will be used with existing material to compile a comprehensive film on set nets.
- 3) Two of the towing rings used in earlier experiments on codend drag were used to tow some of the test codends near the surface. The shapes of these codends at a range of speeds were recorded on video tape. This was done by towing an inflatable boat over the codend and holding the TV camera below the surface. Good weather conditions made this a straightforward exercise.

Peter A M Stewart
4 September 1984

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