

R1/10

AMM

In Confidence - Not to be quoted without reference to the Laboratory

8GR82

FRV "Goldseeker"

Cruise 8/82

REPORT

28 June - 23 July 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

The scientific staff joined "Goldseeker" on 29 June at Corpach and left the boat on 20 July. Weekends were spent at Oban and Mallaig. Weather was fair with little wind, and allowed the work to continue unhampered until its completion. "Goldseeker" then returned to Buckie via the Caledonian Canal.

### Results

"Humbug" collectors (plastic mesh bags containing mesh filling) were used for trapping settling scallop and queen spat and were placed over a wide area of the West Coast (Table 1), in an attempt to determine areas of good spatfall.

Strings-of collectors 2 m apart on weighted and buoyed vertical ropes were placed in bays near points and promontories, in eddies from the tide, where it is thought that spatfall is most likely to occur. An attempt was made to place them in sheltered positions since they will be left until October 1982. Decca readings and compass bearings were taken at each position. The strings were placed in 12-30 m water, where possible on a sand or sand/shell sea bed.

Very little time was available for scallop dredging during the cruise except for nine  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour hauls in the Sound of Mull and six  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour hauls around Eigg. The maximum number of scallops caught per haul was 48 SW of Eigg but only six in the Sound of Mull. Too few scallops were caught in the Sound of Mull to give a realistic age composition but a table is included for the Eigg area and shows the high proportion of older scallops (Table 2).

David I Fraser

Seen in draft W B Reid

10 August 1982

TABLE 1 Numbers and Positions of Collectors

Areas	Number of Collectors
Loch Linnhe	2
Firth of Lorne	4
Sound of Mull	16
North West Mull	7
Ardnamurchan Coast	9
Sound of Arisaig North to Mallaig	13
Sound of Sleat	3
Loch Nevis	4
Loch Hourn	4
Loch Alsh and Loch Duich	10
Sound of Raasay and Scalpay	16
Loch Carron	8
Applecross and Crowlin Islands	8
Loch Torridon	16
Gairloch	10
Loch Ewe	16
Burghead Bay	4
	150

TABLE 2 Bigg Scallops - Percentage Age Composition

Age	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Over 9
%	2	5	12	5	15	11	20	30