

Indexed
JR
R1/10

SM

Not to be cited without prior reference to the Laboratory

FRV 'Goldseeker'

CRUISE No. 8

8GP86

20 May - 9 June 1986

Personnel

J Drinkwater	SSO
D Bova	ASO
R Morgan	PSO (26 and 30 May)
R Payne	HSO (26-30 May)
R D Adams	SO (26-30 May)
S Greenstreet	SO (28-29 May)

Objectives

- 1) To study the settlement of scallops and queens in the Sound of Jura and Clyde Sea areas.
- 2) To study the size and age composition of scallops and queen stocks in the same areas.
- 3) To trawl for potential salmon smoltfish predators in Kilbrennan Sound.

Narrative

"Goldseeker" left Buckie on 20 May and after some delay caused by bad weather reached Campbeltown on 25 May. Work on objective 3 was carried out during the period 26-30 May. The scallop work was started on 31 May and continued until 7 June, the vessel passing through the Crinan Canal on 4 June to work the Jura and Islay area. On 8 June the vessel proceeded to Corpach.

Results

- 1) A total of 50 strings each of four spat collectors were put out in 11 positions: six places in the Clyde area from south of Claonaig to Kilfinan Bay and seven places in Jura and Islay from Loch Indaal to north Jura Sound. The collectors will be retrieved in October 1986.
- 2) A total of 37 dredge hauls were made using two standard and one sampling dredges (each 85 cms wide) and towing for 15 minutes. The results are summarised in Table I. The age composition of the scallop catches is shown in Table II. The scallops in lower Loch Fyne were mostly old but there were fair numbers with three to six rings in Kilbrennan Sound and north Arran. Queens were nowhere abundant, but moderate numbers were caught in Kilfinan Bay and at Ardlamont. The Islay scallops were also mostly old, but the east side of Jura showed good signs of recent recruitment with large numbers of scallops with two to six rings. Total numbers caught per haul were also much higher here than in other areas.
- 3) Fish samples were obtained by demersal trawl in the vicinity of the River Lussa and their stomach contents were examined.

From an initial examination it appears that dogfish (spur dog and lesser spotted dog) are by far the most abundant species of potential predators. Stomach analysis, however, appears to suggest that the lesser spotted dogs were feeding almost without exception on benthic material. At least half the spur dogs caught had empty stomachs, but those which contained food had fed predominantly on fish.

In connection with objective 3, the vessel laid an current meter mooring off the mouth of the Lussa River on 26 May, and carried out a survey of the adjacent area with a NBA CTD revealing details of temperature and salinity throughout the water column. Due to the non-availability of the local vessel chartered for the purpose, 'Goldseeker' assisted with the remainder of the hydrographic work, in addition to the trawling survey, from 28-30 May carrying out investigations into tidal and current movements using parachute drogues and two direct reading current meters.

Seen in Draft A Mair

J Drinkwater
1 July 1986

Table I Catches of scallops

Area	No of Hauls	Total No of Scallops	Mean No per Haul
Lower Loch Fyne	8	85	10.6
North Kilbrannan Head	9	106	11.8
Islay	14	188	13.4
Juray	6	202	33.7
Total	37	581	15.7

Table II % Composition of scallop catches

Area	No of rings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	>9
Lower Loch Fyne				6	8	5	6	4	15	5	51
North Kilbrannan Sound	1	1	13	20	7	11	1	6	1		39
Islay		1	4	5	11	9	10	11	5		44
Jura		5	12	20	14	15	4	4	2		24