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PB

FRV "Goldseeker"

Cruise 8/87

8GR87

REPORT

6-25 July 1987

Personnel

J Drinkwater SSO (in charge)
D Bova SO

Objectives

- 1 To study the size and age composition and gonad stages of scallop and queen stocks in selected areas of north west Scotland.
- 2 To investigate the settlement of scallops and queens in the same area.
- 3 To record surface and subsurface water temperature and salinity.

Narrative

Crew and scientists joined the vessel at Corpach on 6 July. On the following day "Goldseeker" proceeded to Easdale where an unsuccessful attempt was made to recover gear lost on the previous cruise. The vessel then steamed to Tobermory. Spat collectors were put out in the Sound of Mull on 8 July and dredging started in the Sound of Sleat on 9 July. Weather conditions were good and work continued without interruption apart from two half landings in Kyle and an early finish on 23 July for repairs to the gearbox.

The grounds fished were from Arisaig to Rhudha Reidh on the mainland and selected areas all round Skye, together with Scalpay, Raasay etc. Work finished on 24 July when the vessel returned to Kyle, and the crew left on 25 July.

Results

- 1 A total of 87 hauls were made using one standard and two sampling dredges on a towing bar and towing for 30 minutes. The results are summarised in Table I and the age composition of scallops caught is shown in Table II. The best catches were obtained off Tarskavaig, Skye, while numbers were particularly low in the Scalpay area. The stock on the mainland from Torridon northwards consisted mostly of old scallops. Young scallops, particularly those with four rings, were relatively common in most other areas, indicating good recent recruitment. Gonad stages are shown in Table III. A few were partially or fully spent (VI and VII). Some were just recovering (III) especially in the Sound of Arisaig, but the majority in all places were filling or full (IV to VI).

- 2 The strings of spat collectors remaining from the previous cruise were put out in the Sound of Mull, thus completing this part of the programme.
- 3 Because of mal-functioning of apparatus, this objective was abandoned.

J Drinkwater
14 August 1987

Seen in draft: A Mair

Table I Catches of Scallops

	Area	No of Hauls	Tot No of Scallops	Mean No per Haul
1	Sound of Arisaig	3	70	23.3
2	Sound of Sleat	12	215	17.9
3	Applecross, Crowlins etc	15	235	15.7
4	Torrison - R Reidh	10	290	29.0
5	Scalpay etc	10	96	9.6
6	Sound of Raasay	9	106	11.8
7	N Skye	7	100	14.3
8	L Snizort	7	169	24.1
9	W Skye (Pooltiel - Bracadale)	7	90	12.9
10	S Skye (Eynort - Tarskavaig)	7	322	46.0
TOTAL		87	1693	19.4

Table II Age Composition of Scallops (%)

Area	Number of rings								
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	>9
1 Sd of Arisaig	7	10	13	15	10	3	6	6	30
2 Sd of Sleat	2	7	10	10	9	4	8	3	47
3 Applecross etc	-	2	7	4	8	3	7	4	65
4 Torrison etc	1	4	9	7	7	1	7	4	60
5 Scalpay etc	1	1	16	11	4	5	9	4	49
6 Sd of Raasay	1	6	9	21	11	3	7	2	40
7 N Skye	-	11	19	15	5	8	8	3	31
8 L Snizort	1	8	14	10	15	1	13	4	34
9 W Skye	4	8	8	4	10	-	10	10	46
10 S Skye	3	13	18	9	13	1	10	6	27

Table III Gonad Stages of Scallops (%)

Area	Stage						
	II	III	IV	V	VI	VIIp	VII
1 Sound of Arisaig	3	37	36	14	9	1	-
2 Sound of Sleat	1	7	39	44	7	2	-
3 Applecross etc	-	16	22	28	18	11	5
4 Torridon etc	-	8	24	36	25	6	1
5 Scalpay etc	-	-	21	54	22	3	-
6 Sound of Raasay	-	7	30	49	8	5	1
7 N Skye	-	1	61	32	6	-	-
8 L Snizort	-	6	53	33	6	1	1
9 W Skye	-	7	31	41	21	-	-
10 S Skye	1	13	33	33	19	1	-