

R1/10

In Confidence: Not to be quoted without prior reference to the Laboratory

FRV "Goldseeker"
Cruise 9/81
REPORT
10-28 August 1981

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Objectives

1. To undertake fishing trials with two versions of "Goldseeker" Three Bridle Trawl (BT152, BT152A) using limited instrumentation to establish the main parameters.
2. To study the performance of both nets on the fishing grounds using the Laboratory RCTV system.

Narrative

Gear and instrumentation were loaded at Buckie on 10 August and the following morning "Goldseeker" proceeded to fishing grounds east of Wick where work continued until 12 August. On 13 August "Goldseeker" steamed through the Pentland Firth to Scrabster. Work continued off Sandside Bay on 14 and 17 August until adverse weather halted work on 18 August, when the opportunity was taken to load the RCTV system at Scrabster.

Bad weather prevented "Goldseeker" resuming work until 21 August when one haul with the RCTV system was made off Sandside but again deteriorating weather conditions forced the vessel to return to harbour.

"Goldseeker" steamed back through the Pentland Firth to the east coast grounds on 23 August and work continued in this area until 26 August when the RCTV system was unloaded at Wick. On 27 August "Goldseeker" steamed south and a final instrumented haul was made 7 miles north of Buckie before entering harbour that evening. The fishing gear was unloaded on 28 August while the instrumentation remained on board for the following cruise.

Results

A total of 17 hauls were made (7 instrumented hauls, 4 with the RCTV system) and some 6½ hours of underwater videotape recordings obtained of both gears on the fishing grounds.

Although fishing was generally poor owing to the scarcity of roundfish both versions of the gear worked well and on the east coast grounds small numbers of roundfish were observed swimming ahead of, turning back into and in some cases passing over the headline of the gear.

Herring were observed in and around the gear in both areas, but none were retained due to the large (80mm) whitefish minimum mesh size.

R D Galbraith
2 September 1981

Seen in draft: James A Calder - Relief O I C