

In Confidence: not to be quoted without prior reference to Laboratory

FRV "Goldseeker"

LD

Cruise 9/85

19 June - 9 July 1985

Report

Personnel

D I Fraser SO
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Objectives

1. To study the settlement of scallops and queens in the Sound of Jura (especially the east side of Islay) and West Clyde sea area.
2. To study the size and age composition of these pectinids in the same areas.

Narrative

Staff joined "Goldseeker" at Oban on June 22 on her arrival from Buckie and the vessel worked in the Sound of Jura next day. Spat Collectors were set along the Sound of Jura and West Islay coastlines. The vessel dredged for scallops in the vicinity of these positions then proceeded through the Crinan canal on June 27. Spat collectors were positioned in Loch Fyne, North Arran and Loch Striven, followed by dredging in the vicinity of the collector positions. The vessel returned through the canal on 1 July and the remaining collectors placed around Gigha Island and S W Islay where, previously, poor weather had prevented their positioning. Further dredge hauls were made at Gigha, Islay, Colonsay, Mull and the Sound of Mull.

Plankton hauls were made at selected positions during the cruise which ended at Corpach on July 9

Results

A total of 61 dredge and 7 plankton hauls were made and 84 collector strings set in 22 positions, in the Clyde, West of Kintyre and Sound of Mull areas.

From the 8, 15 and 35 dredge hauls made in the Sound of Mull, the Clyde and West of Kintyre respectively there was evidence of recent good recruitment. In the Clyde and West of Kintyre, over 50% of the scallops caught were from 1-4 years old, see Table 1. A high percentage of animals between 3 and 4 years old was found around Gigha Island which might indicate good prospective commercial fishing, whereas more than 80% of the scallops found in the Sound of Mull were of commercial size.

The gonad conditions of scallops studied in the 3 areas suggested that spawning had recently occurred. The plankton samples were taken to the Laboratory for examination.

D I Fraser

25 July 1985

Seen in Draft: A Mair

Table 1

% of Scallops caught at each age group

Growth Rings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	>9
Sound of Mull	1.5	3	6	11	13	12	13	9	7	24
West of Kintyre	1	6	21	23	13	8	4	5	2.5	15
Clyde	1	4.5	25	25	11	2	7	9	6	12

Table 2

Numbers of Scallops caught at each age group

Growth rings	Total No	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sound of Mull	193	3	7	12	21	25	23	25	17	14	46
West of Kintyre	311	3	18	66	72	41	26	13	16	8	48
Clyde	176	2	8	40	44	19	4	12	16	10	21