

RI/10
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FRV GOLDSEEKER

9GR89

Cruise 9/89

REPORT

24-28 July (Part 1)

29-30 July (Part 2)

1-8 August (Part 3)

Personnel

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| D J Basford | HSO (in charge) Parts 1 and 3 |
| P M MacLachlan | HSO (in charge) Part 2 |
| R B Mitchell | SSO Part 1 (living ashore) |
| D L Baird | SO Part 2 |
| S Heaney | ASO |
| R Kynoch | ASO Part 2 |

Objectives

Parts 1 and 3

1. To collect fish stomach samples from hourly tows to study the diurnal migrations of fish in an inshore (10 metres) and offshore (30 metres) site.
2. To supply as many live cod as possible to colleagues staying ashore who will attempt to correlate biochemical parameters with growth.

Part 2

1. To locate, clear and recover as many of the raft moorings as possible from Loch Thurnaig for future use.
2. To recover the "small bag frame" and to tow it to Mellon Charles (where it will be cleaned, dismantled and eventually transported to Aberdeen for storage).

Narrative

~~Goldseeker was loaded in Kyle of Lochalsh on 24 July and proceeded to Gairloch on 25th.~~
Trawling commenced along the south shore at 2000; of the five trawls attempted only two were successful. A second attempt to find a suitable inshore (10 m) and offshore (30 m) site commenced at 1900 on 26th but, with the officer-in-charge considering there to be no suitable 1 km site anywhere in Loch Gairloch, work was abandoned at 2200 hrs. On 27 July efforts were then

directed at finding one site consisting of three 1 km tows which could be sampled over 24 hrs to study the feeding and digestion rates of the fish. A suitable site was found and trawled hourly from 0900-1600 that day and on the 28th.

Mr Basford and Mr Mitchell left *Goldseeker* at 0700 on 29th at the end of the first part and the vessel sailed for Loch Thurnaig, arriving at 1100 hrs. The divers and scientists proceeded to locate, clear and mark the moorings ready for lifting using *Goldseeker's* trawl winches.

The first mooring lift was attempted at 1420 but, due to the excessive weight, the connecting strop parted and the lift was abandoned. *Goldseeker* steamed to Aultbea pier and tied up for the night.

On Sunday 30th work recommenced, and during the forenoon three moorings were successfully lifted, moved to shallow water and deposited in a safe and accessible position for future recovery. An attempt was made to lift the fourth mooring, but it proved to be too heavy for the winch, the pressure relief valve blowing as the weight came to bear. This mooring was abandoned. *Goldseeker* then recovered the "small bag frame" from Inner Thurnaig and towed it to Mellon Charles where it was moored ready for retrieval at a later date.

During this time the Laboratory photographer was present and took many shots of *Goldseeker* and divers at work.

At 1630 *Goldseeker* departed for Gairloch where D Basford rejoined the following day, 1 August. Hourly trawling was carried out from 1700-2400 on 1st and 2nd, 0100-0800 on the 4th and 5th, 0900-1600 on 6th and 0900-1200 on 7th. *Goldseeker* then returned to Kyle of Lochalsh and was offloaded, the trip ending on 8 August.

Results

A total of 66 trawls were attempted. Trisponders were used to measure the distance towed and SCANMAR was used to measure the swept area and headline height. A maximum of 50 stomachs per haul were collected from haddock, *Trisopterus minutus* and whiting; 50 dabs and all the plaice were injected with formalin and preserved whole. No stomachs have yet been analysed.

Live cod and *T. minutus* were collected and transferred to Poolewe for chemical analysis.

Thanks are extended to the crew of *Goldseeker* (particularly the cook) for their willing help on a cruise when the working hours had to be changed considerably to meet the needs of the work.

D J Basford
P M MacIachlan
17 August 1989

Seen in draft: D Findlay