

**CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE SCIENCE
LOWESTOFT LABORATORY, SUFFOLK, NR33 0HT**

2004/05 FISHERIES SCIENCE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

FARN DEEPS *NEPHROPS* SURVEY

STAFF: Andy Lawler (SIC)
Steve Lovewell (SIC)
Stewart Cutchey

DURATION: 9-13 November 2004

LOCALITY: Farn Deeps grounds, fishing from North Shields

- AIMS:**
1. To describe commercial catch rates of *Nephrops* in the vicinity of underwater camera tows carried out on the Farn Deeps grounds in October 2004 by CEFAS.
 2. To describe the size composition and mean size of *Nephrops* in the vicinity of underwater camera tows.
 3. To describe the catch rates of fish by-catch species taken during trawling for *Nephrops* in different areas of the Farn Deeps grounds.
 4. To describe the variation in commercial catch rates of *Nephrops* and by-catch species according to location, vessel and time of day.

PLAN: CEFAS staff will travel to North Shields by hired vehicle on 9 November. The survey will be undertaken using the vessels FV Kristenbourg and FV Star Divine fishing day trips over the five days 8-12 November 2004. A CEFAS SIC will be assigned to each vessel, and the third scientist will alternate between the two vessels. Prioritised lists of stations have been provided for each vessel. At each station, a 0.5 hour tow will be undertaken using unmodified commercial *Nephrops* trawl gear. Full and reduced sampling protocols have been provided for 2- or 1-scientist operation respectively.

Staff will return to Lowestoft on 13 November.

Dr Mike Bell
5 November 2004

DISTRIBUTION:

Notice Board	Steve Lovewell
Dr Julian Addison	Dave McCubbin
Dr Mike Armstrong	Dave Palmer
Stewart Cutchey	Dave Bevan (NFFO)
John Dann	Doug Beveridge (NFFO)
Dr Joe Horwood	Kevin Caffrey (skipper FV Kristenbourg)
Andy Lawler	Sean Robinson (skipper FV Star Divine)