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CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE SCIENCE
LOWESTOFT LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK, ENGLAND

HB104

2000 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: RV ~~CORYSTES~~ CIROCANA CRUISE 1B/00

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DURATION: Left N.Shields 10.24 h 28 Jan.
Arrived Lowestoft 08.00 h 4 Feb.
All times are Greenwich Mean Time.

LOCALITY: North Sea (English NE Coast)

AIMS:

1. To conduct a TV survey of the English NE coast Nephrops grounds using a towed sledge and underwater TV camera to evaluate burrow density and estimate Nephrops biomass in the area 55°35' -54° 45' N and 1°30'-0° 40' W.

2. To backup the TV survey with a QTC survey to establish the ground types and compare with previous grab surveys.

NARRATIVE:

CIROLANA departed from N.Shields on 28 Jan. at 10.24 h and started work at the closest station. Work was stopped because of extreme weather for 21.3 hrs between 11.40 on the 29 Jan. and 08.58 on the 30 Jan and for 14.3 hrs between 19.36 on the 30 Jan. and 0954 on the 31 Jan. It was necessary to put one scientific staff ashore on 31 Jan. and a further 4.2 hrs was lost due to this. Despite stoppages a total of 99 TV stations was completed. QTC was activated between stations to provide a breakdown of the ground type over the whole of the survey area. Cirolana docked at Lowestoft at 08.00 on 4 Feb.

RESULTS:

1. A total of 99 tows with the sledge-mounted TV camera was made and all of the priority stations were sampled with further stations sampled in the areas of highest densities. In most cases visibility was very good and at those stations

where it was poor it was possible to sample again when good results were obtained. Preliminary Nephrops burrow counts were made at each TV station. All burrow counts, usually of 10 minutes duration, were recorded for further laboratory analysis. Preliminary results suggest that the highest densities of burrows are found in the areas where high catches of Nephrops are normally made.

2. QTC was run when steaming between stations so that the whole area of the survey was covered in the hope that this method of surveying the seabed can be used to help calculate the abundance of Nephrops.

CLIVE BROWN
(Scientist-in-Charge)
4 February 2000

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Basic list +
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