

CEFAS
FISHERIES LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK, ENGLAND

1998 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: CHARTER VESSEL NIMROD II. KY75

STAFF: C. G. BROWN
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DURATION: 2-16 DECEMBER 1998

LOCALITY: NE COAST

AIMS:

1. To conduct a twelve fishing days trawl survey of the NE coast *Nephrops* grounds using a 70mm mesh commercial *Nephrops* trawl with a 20mm mesh liner, in the area 55° 30' N - 54° 40' N and 1° 30' W - 0° 40' W.
2. To collect information on *Nephrops* length/weight and ovary condition.

NARRATIVE

Staff travelled to N. Shields on the 2nd December and commenced the survey on the 3rd December. Trips were made within the survey area on a daily basis from N. Shields. The twelve survey days were completed on the 14th December. The 45 stations sampled in 1996 were all trawled again this year. No time was lost for bad weather. Biological and commercial catch samples were collected on the 14th December for examination the next day. Staff returned to Lowestoft on the 16th December.

RESULTS

1. During 12 days at sea 45 stations were trawled. Catches ranged between 6 and 12,144 *Nephrops* per 30 minutes of trawling. The size range caught was between 10 and 60mm carapace length. Overall catches were 47% down on 1996.
2. Samples of *Nephrops* were examined for length/weight and ovary condition. Measured samples of commercial catches were also obtained.

CLIVE BROWN
3/2/99

INITIALLED: RCAB

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic list +
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