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**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
FISHERIES LABORATORY, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK, ENGLAND**

1994 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: CHARTER VESSEL NIMROD II. KY75

**STAFF: C.G.Brown
D.J.Brown**

DURATION: 11-25 November 1994

LOCALITY: NE Coast (N.Shields)

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 length/weight and ovary condition.

NARRATIVE:

Staff travelled to N. Shields on the 11th November and commenced the survey on the 12th November. Trips were made within the survey area on a daily basis from N.Shields. The twelve survey days were completed on the 23rd November without loss of time due to bad weather. The area of the survey was divided into five mile squares as sample units which were sampled by at least one 1/2 hour trawl haul where possible, with two hauls being made in the areas where most of the commercial Nephrops fishing fleet was working.

Length/weight and ovary condition data was collected on the 24th November and staff returned to Lowestoft on the 25th November.

RESULTS:

1. During 12 days at sea 44 stations were trawled using the charter vessel's clear tows. No gear damage was sustained. Catches of up to 12,580 Nephrops per 1/2 hour were obtained in the area of greatest commercial fishing effort with the lowest catches of 341 Nephrops per 1/2 hour in the SE part of the survey area. The size range caught was between 12 and 57mm carapace length.
2. A total of 450 Nephrops were examined for ovary condition and length/weight.

Clive Brown
12 December 1994

INITIALLED: J G Pope

DISTRIBUTION:

Basic list +
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