

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

1995 RESEARCH VESSEL PROGRAMME

REPORT: CHARTER VESSEL NIMROD II. KY75

STAFF: C G BROWN
G J HOWLETT

DURATION: 3-16 NOVEMBER 1995

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 North Shields on the 3rd November and commenced the survey on the 4th November. Trips were made within the survey area on a daily basis from North Shields. The twelve survey days were completed on the 15th November. The 44 stations sampled last year were all trawled again this year. Staff returned to Lowestoft on the 16th November.

RESULTS

1. During 12 days at sea the 44 stations set up during last year's survey were trawled. No gear damage was sustained. Catches of up to 9,072 *Nephrops* per 30 minutes were obtained in the area of greatest commercial fishing effort with the lowest catches of 33 *Nephrops* per 30 minutes in the eastern part of the survey area. The size range caught was between 13 and 61mm carapace length. Overall catches were 36% down on last year.
2. Deteriorating weather at the end of the trip did not allow collection of biometric data.

Clive Brown
30 November 1995

INITIALLED: C T M

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