

CRUSTACEA

Belgium

(F Redant)

Crangon crangon

Biannual sampling of the shrimp stock and its predators off the Belgian coast was continued in 1983 in order to obtain a continuous set of data on egg production, natality, recruitment, production and mortality. The study of long-term population dynamics of the shrimp stock and competitive and predatory interactions with epibenthic and demersal species was also continued.

The regular samplings on other epibenthic organisms were continued to evaluate long-term changes in epibenthos species composition and in the abundance and biomass of dominant species. The epibenthic fauna was classified according to origin and abundance (dominant, abundant and rare autochthonous species, migrating allochthonous species and wandering species, some of which have an Atlantic origin).

Nephrops norvegicus

The sampling of commercial Norway lobster landings was continued in order to monitor possible long-term changes in the catch composition and the state of exploitation of the Nephrops stock in the Central North Sea.

A study on diurnal variations in cpue and length composition of the catches in the Belgian Nephrops fishery was started. This study included a detailed analysis of log-book data of several commercial Nephrops trawlers and length-frequency distributions of Nephrops in individual hauls. Peak cpues were observed just after dawn and just before dusk. Significant changes in the length composition of the Nephrops catches with the time of the day could not be demonstrated.