

## CRUSTACEA

### Belgium

(F Redant)

#### Crangon crangon

Biannual sampling (in spring and autumn) of the brown shrimp stock and its predators off the Belgian coast was continued in 1984 to obtain a continuous set of estimates on egg production, recruitment, production and mortality.

The investigations on long term population dynamics of the shrimp stock and on competitive and predatory interactions with other epibenthic and demersal species were also continued. Within this framework a study on the food composition of Gobiid fishes was started. Preliminary results, referring to the early summer months, showed that only 5% of the Pomatoschistus minutus and 0% of the P. lozanoi stomachs contained shrimp remains.

Finally a re-evaluation of the evidence on the sex change and growth of the brown shrimp, complemented with histological investigations on male and female shrimps, was started.

#### 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 exploitation pattern of the Nephrops stock in the Central North Sea (Botney Gut - Silver Pit area).

A study on seasonal variations in landings, effort, CPUE, length composition and sex-ratio of the catches was started. Possible explanations of these variations, in relation to growth and reproductive cycle, are being investigated.