

CRUSTACEA

Belgium

(F. hedant)

Crangon crangon

In 1979 a study was started on the occurrence of the black-spot disease in brown shrimp off the Belgian coast. Different aspects are being considered, e.g. a quantitative analysis of the part of the population affected by this disease, the factors influencing the extent of its occurrence, the presence of different types of bacteria on the spots, the artificial propagation of the disease under controlled conditions, the impact on the shrimp population and its relative importance on the natural mortality of the population.

The study on predation-mortality of post-larval brown shrimp was focused on the importance of flatfishes (plaice, flounder and dab) as consumers of shrimps. The results of these investigations will be incorporated into the quantitative consumption-production-model of the shrimp-population in the Belgian coastal waters.

The monthly analyses of the shrimp stock and of the by-catch of experimental shrimp fishing were continued in 1979 in order to evaluate long-term interactions between the shrimp population and its predators (demersal fishes, demersal invertebrates and fisheries). Bi-monthly samplings of the shrimp larvae on an extended sampling-grid were started in January 1979.

Nephrops norvegicus

The commercial catches of Norway lobster were sampled in order to obtain data on the catch and population composition. A study on the influence of demersal predators (cod and whiting) on the population dynamics of Norway lobsters in the Central North Sea was started.

Canada

(G.P. Ennis)

Homarus americanus

Commercial catches were sampled in all Maritimes lobster areas to provide data on size frequency, egg condition, molt stage, catch/unit effort, and bycatch. A Maritimes-wide, voluntary license buy-back scheme is continuing. In the Gulf of St. Lawrence and eastern Nova Scotia, growth, size at maturity, fecundity, and mortality studies were conducted utilizing short-term sequential sampling and tag recapture methods. The 1978 assessments have been utilized in a variety of propo-