

Sampling scheme identifier: **Nephrops Survey Offshore Portugal (FU 28-29)- NepS**

MS: PRT
Region: North-East Atlantic
Sampling scheme identifier: NepS
Sampling scheme type: Research survey at sea
Observation type: SciObsAtSea
Time period of validity: 2025-2027, see Text Boxes 1A and 2.6.
Short description (max 100 words): The main aim of the NepS survey is to estimate the relative abundance of the target species, <i>Nephrops norvegicus</i> for use in the assessment and advice process, and additionally to study their geographical distribution in space and time and to collect data for the determination of biological parameters (sex-ratio, length-weight relationships, maturity). Survey will not be implemented in 2025-2027, see Text Boxes 1A and 2.6.
Description of the population
Population targeted: NA Population sampled: NA Stratification: NA
Sampling design and protocols There is a need to optimize research surveys at sea (in terms of the monitoring methods used, days at sea, number of fishing hauls and specialized human resources) whilst taking into account end user needs. Therefore, a shift will be made in this research survey, whilst aiming to meet end user needs. The NepS survey will not be implemented in 2025-2027, and two actions will be implemented: - An essay will be implemented to test the methodology of Underwater Television (UWTV) surveys, which is internationally agreed under ICES WGNPS for estimating the density of <i>Nephrops</i> burrows and distribution of <i>Nephrops</i>, aiming at its use as a routine monitoring method for FUs 28 and 29 in future WPs and at the use of the resulting data in <i>Nephrops</i> stock assessment. See Text Box 1A, namely: “Test study on UWTV Research survey at sea”. - An essay will be implemented in IBTS_Q4 to test the sampling of a 4th depth strata to provide data on geographical distribution in space and time as well as on biological parameters of species that were covered with the sampling design of NepS survey but not with the current design of the IBTS_Q4 survey. See Text Box 2.6, namely: “IBTS_Q4”.
Sampling design description: NA Is the sampling design compliant with the 4S principle?: NA Regional coordination: NA Link to sampling design documentation: NA Design follows international recommendations: NA Link to sampling protocol documentation: NA Protocol follows international recommendations: NA
Sampling implementation
Recording of refusal rate: NA Monitoring of sampling progress within the sampling year: NA
Data capture
Means of data capture: NA Data capture documentation: NA Quality checks documentation: NA

Data storage
National database: NA International database: NA Quality checks and data validation documentation: NA
Sample storage
Storage description: NA Sample analysis: NA
Data processing
Evaluation of data accuracy (bias and precision): NA Editing and imputation methods: NA Quality document associated to a dataset: NA Validation of the final dataset: NA