Nephrops norvegicus Burrow Identification.

There are 4 signature features to a *Nephrops* Burrow.

1. Crescentiform entrance.
2. Sediment ejecta and radial scrapings around entrance. Claw or perieopod indents. ‘Drive-way’
3. Single to multiple entrances, focussing on an apparent ‘raised’ centrum or central area.
4. *Nephrops entering or leaving the burrow or just visible within the burrow.*
Counting Procedure.

- At least one burrow opening is usually distinctly crescentic in shape. Where the angle of view permits sight of the tunnel beyond this opening, the angle of descent is usually shallow.

- When counting a *Nephrops* burrow system look for groups of similar sized entrances radiating out from a centrum then look for the *Nephrops* signature features.

- A *Nephrops* burrow system may have one single burrow entrance or multiple entrances.

- Simple burrows are linear. More complex burrows are T-shaped with three openings and may be further elaborated.

- The relative size, and orientation to entrances that have passed or about to come into view will indicate whether they are linked or part of separate burrow systems.

- In the absence of *Nephrops* signatures dismiss:
  - vertical holes
  - flat holes with curved scapings, sediment piled in mounds

- Do not count inactive or filled in burrows.

- Burrows may have different morphologies on grounds that have different characteristics (sediment type, density of *Nephrops* and other burrowers, depth, area, etc.). UWTV footage from the Irish Sea (FU15) is very different to Aran grounds (FU17) footage so for a given ground get familiar with the morphology and other local characteristics.
Further reading and References:


  

  

  

  