

Aran Grounds Underwater TV Surveys

In recent years there has been progress in understanding the fisheries biology of *Nephrops*. *Nephrops* directed underwater TV surveys have been successfully carried out annually on the Aran Grounds since 2002. The abundance estimates for the Aran Grounds has fluctuated in the surveys around 1 billion burrows with a mean density of around 1/m². The densities in Galway Bay are higher and on the Slyne Head ground are somewhat lower. The preliminary 2007 UWTV estimate shows an increase (~30%) in the Aran Ground burrow density from the lowest observed in 2006.

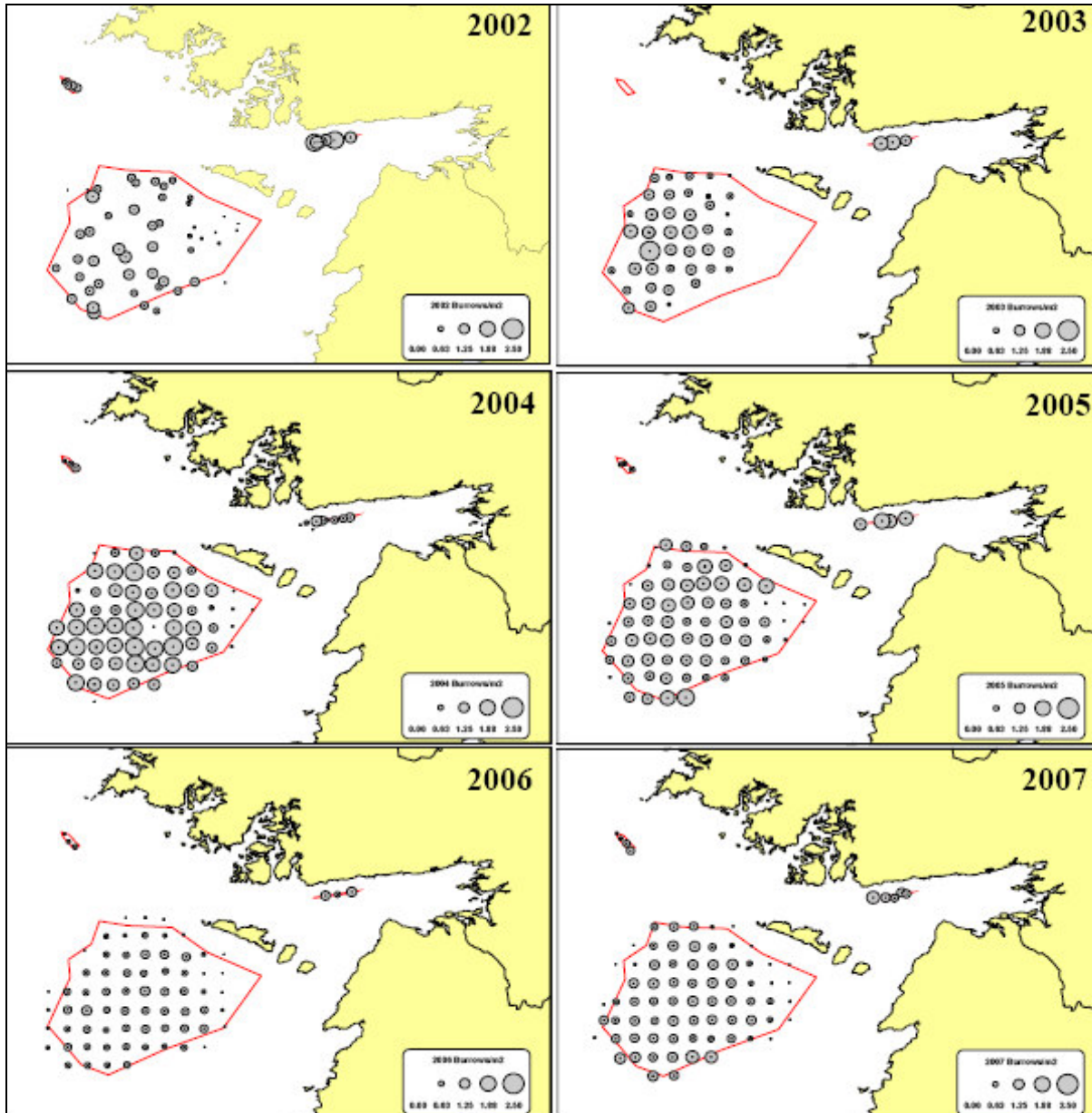


Figure 3. Maps of *Nephrops* UWTV survey abundance estimates for grounds in FU 17 from 2002-2007

Celtic Sea Underwater TV Surveys

Underwater TV surveys commenced in the Celtic Sea in 2006. In 2007 the second survey in the Celtic Sea was carried out. It is too early in the time series to analyse trends in *Nephrops* stocks in the Celtic Sea based on the UWTV surveys. .

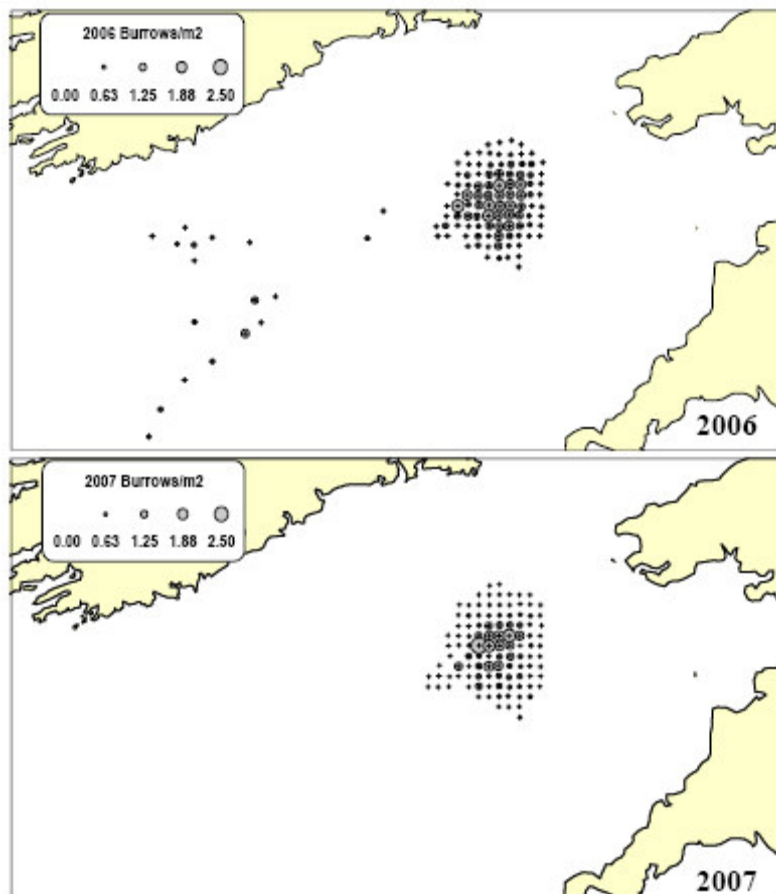


Figure 2. Maps of *Nephrops* UWTV survey abundance estimates for grounds in the Celtic Sea from 2006-2007

Irish Sea Underwater TV Surveys

The Marine Institute in co-operation with Northern Ireland scientists commenced an UWTV survey for *Nephrops* in the Irish Sea in 2003. The surveys indicates that the biomass and density has declined by around 40% since 2003 but is still relatively high compared to other *Nephrops* stocks. Other indicators such as size distributions and trawls surveys indicate rather stable trends over a long time.

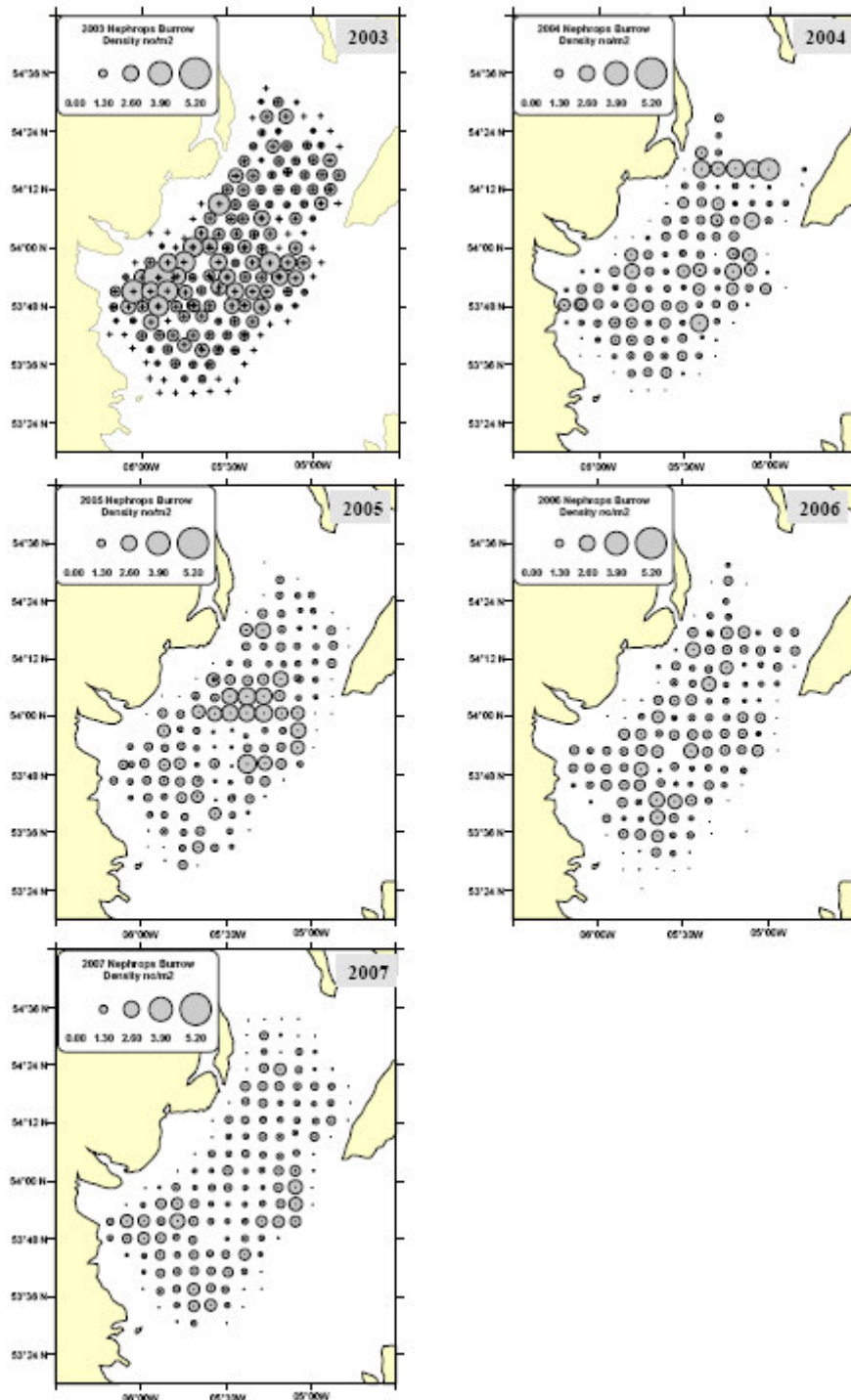


Figure 3. Maps of *Nephrops* UWTV survey abundance estimates for grounds in the Irish Sea from 2002-2007