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# Burrowing behaviour of the Norway lobster, *Nephrops norvegicus* (L.) (Decapoda: Nephropidae)

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### Abstract

Burrowing behaviour of the Norway lobster, *Nephrops norvegicus*, was investigated to determine whether the reported diurnal fluctuations in catches were caused by differences in behaviour. Although females and small males under laboratory conditions constructed burrows basically similar to those reported in the sea, large males produced only shallow depressions, into which they retreated when not active. This may explain the increased proportion of large males during periods of low catches. Laboratory animals maintained at relatively high densities produced interconnected burrow systems with as many as 13 entrances and ventilation shafts. Some additional notes on the method of construction are included. *N. norvegicus* was found to be strongly territorial in the vicinity of its burrow.



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