



December 6, 1994

Mr. John Nelson
Chief of Marine Fisheries Division
New Hampshire Fish & Game Department
225 Main Street
Durham, NH 03824

Subject: Notification of Reduction in Screenwash Monitoring

Dear Mr. Nelson:

As you know, Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH) has been conducting a rather intensive screenwash monitoring program on generating Units 4, 5 and 6 at Schiller Station in Portsmouth, NH. This program is part of the corrective actions implemented by PSNH after becoming aware that a significant number of lobsters were being impinged. Additional actions taken by the company have included the dredging of approximately 800 sq. ft. of material from the Unit 4 intake and conducting lobster tagging studies to investigate re-impingement frequencies. Results from these programs are being sent to Mr. Bruce Smith, NH Fish and Game Department (NHFGD) on a regular basis.

The frequency of impingement has dropped off dramatically since the dredging was completed in early September (see Figure 1). Also, research has demonstrated that activity (feeding, movement, growth and catchability) decreases during winter months in response to lower water temperatures. PSNH is also concerned for the safety of personnel conducting the monitoring, due to the icing conditions that arise during the winter months. Therefore, PSNH is seeking NHFGD concurrence that reducing the frequency of monitoring is warranted until the incidence of impingement increases.

Currently, PSNH monitors the intake screens of Units 4, 5 and 6 during every wash (4 am, 10 am, 4 pm and 10 pm). Normandeau Associates Inc. (NAI) has been observing the monitoring once per week. PSNH believes that the monitoring program outlined below will continue to effectively monitor and quantify the impingement of lobsters on the station's intake screens:

- PSNH will continue monitoring Unit #4 intakes once per day, Monday through Friday. A preliminary review of the data (see Figure 2) indicates no association between peak impingement and time of day; therefore, PSNH proposes to conduct the monitoring during the 10 am screenwash.

- PSNH will continue monitoring the tide schedule and adjust Unit 4's screenwash procedures to avoid dropping lobsters onto the rocks during low tides. PSNH is currently pursuing design changes, that include a discharge sluice, allowing personnel to return lobsters directly into the river at all tides without intervention. Due to permitting requirements, PSNH does not anticipate beginning construction until late spring (1995).
- Impingement of lobsters at Units 5 & 6 has been minimal, if at all; therefore, monitoring of these units by PSNH personnel will be suspended.
- PSNH believes that NAI's participation in the monitoring has been valuable. We will continue to have them observe screenwashes on Units 4, 5 and 6 at an appropriate frequency.

Please feel free to call me at 634-2364 if there are any questions regarding these changes.

Sincerely,



Richard F. Dumore
Biologist

RFD/kmd
AIO

Attachments

cc: D. E. Gray
G. N. St. Laurent
D. R. Brown
M. R. Latour
A. G. Palmer

Daily Lobster Impingement Rate
5 Aug 94 - 30 Nov 94

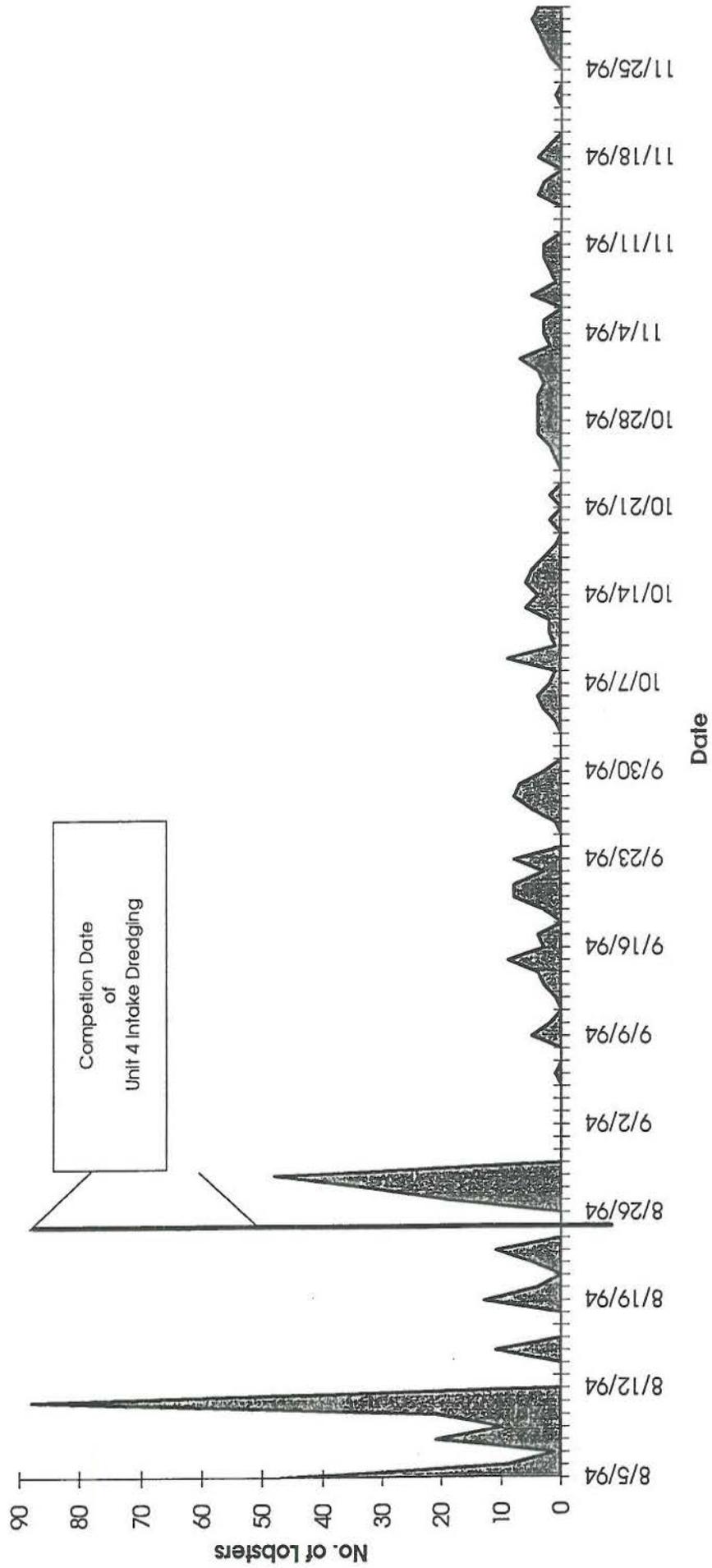


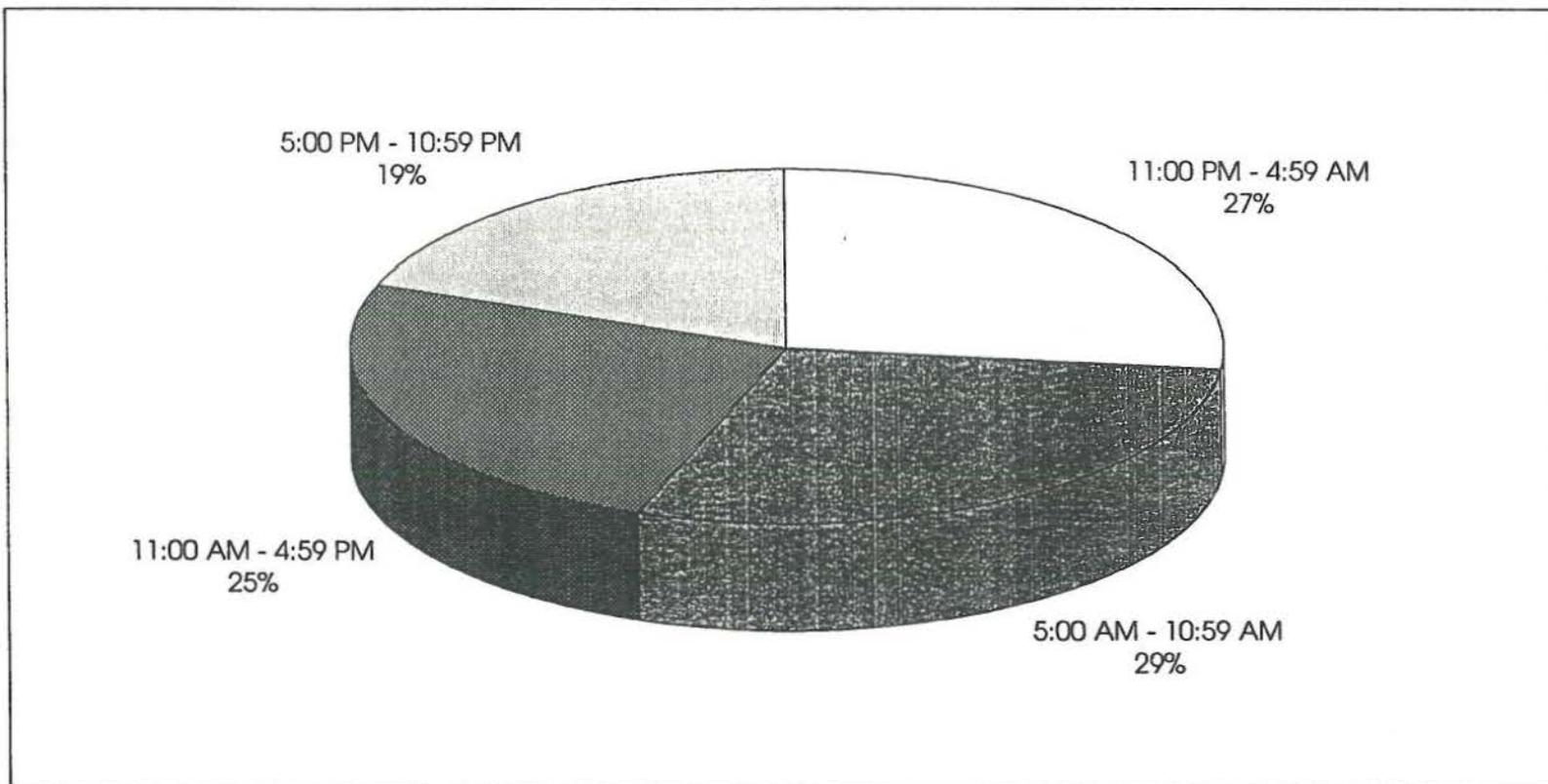
FIGURE 1

Total Number of Lobsters Impinged at Unit 4 Intake

vs.

Time of Day

Oct. 1 through Nov. 30, 1994



Time Period Sampled	Total Number of Lobsters Impinged	Screenwash Time (approximate)
11:00 PM - 4:59 AM	62	4:00 AM
5:00 AM - 10:59 AM	66	10:00 AM
11:00 AM - 4:59 PM	58	4:00 PM
5:00 PM - 10:59 PM	44	10:00 PM

FIGURE 2