Summer Placement Blog: Long days & lots of lobster

I completed my placement on a research vessel (RV Huntress - @HuntressHFIG) which conducts scientific surveys for the fishing industry on the Yorkshire coast. The boat is owned and operated by the Holderness Fishing Industry Group (HFIG) and is conducting research into the impact of offshore windfarms on the abundance and diversity of macro-crustacea.

My own project was to conduct a stock-assessment for the local industry, which meant I had to sample 9 locations at least once a week using pots (creels). The days were long, sometimes starting at 3am, but the offshore research experience was invaluable and the Huntress is crewed by a bunch of great scientists and fishermen. The scientists are PhD students at the University of Hull and I certainly learnt a lot from them about the fishing industry and sustainability. If anyone next year wants to build a career in sustainable management of UK fisheries (specifically static gear fisheries), this is a great opportunity to work with some really forward-thinking scientists and industry. There is also a willingness to expand the survey to study within the NTZ at Flamborough Head, which would require permission from North East IFCA.

I was fortunate with the weather, with July temp. reaching over 32 degrees (although August wasn’t as good)! There’s also lots of opportunities in the area to volunteer for the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Living Seas and the management team for the Flamborough Head European Marine Site. If hauling pots underneath offshore wind farms and white chalk cliffs sounds like something that interests you, get in contact!

Jack