

diamond and square mesh codends to improve the selectivity of the Mediterranean bottom trawl fishery

TARGET SPECIES

striped red mullet; hake; Norway lobster; red shrimp

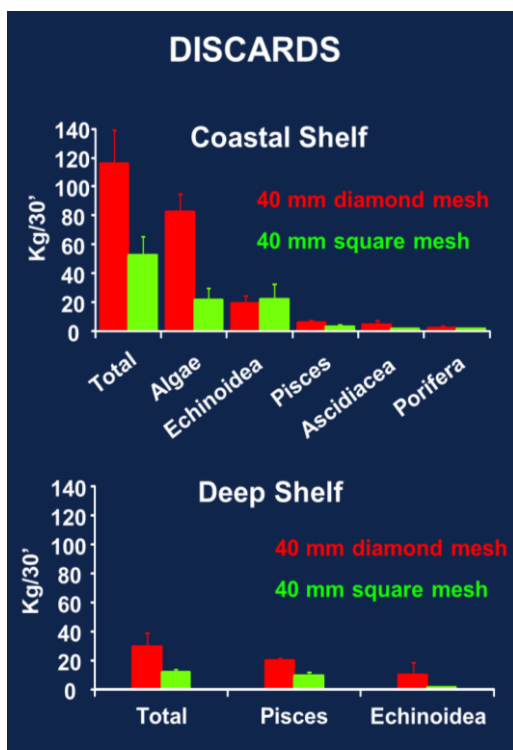
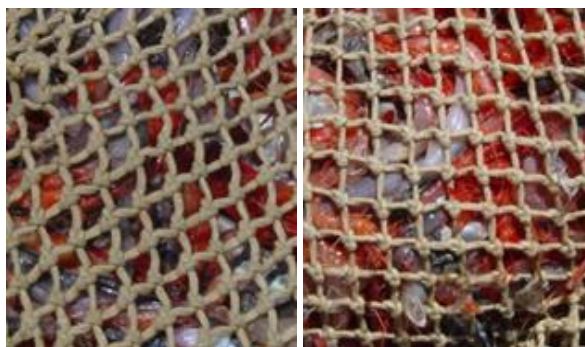
AREA, VESSEL

31 pairs of hauls were carried out at depths of between 50 and 800 m in the Balearic Islands multispecies bottom trawl fishery on board the F/V *Moralti Nou* (22 m)

GEAR MODIFICATION

The catching performance of codends made of

- (i) 40 mm diamond mesh and
- (ii) 40 mm square mesh were compared



RESULTS

There were no differences in the commercial landings and economic yields for the main target species, but picarel landings decreased by 80% in the 40 mm square mesh codend

There were large reductions in the discards of algae (70%) and fish (50%) on the coastal and deep shelf respectively, when using the 40 mm square mesh codend

With the exception of megrim, monkfish and skates, fewer smaller fish were caught in the 40 mm square mesh codend

FURTHER INFORMATION enric.massuti@ba.ieo.es; toni.quetglas@ba.ieo.es

Guijarro B. and E. Massuti.- 2006. Selectivity of diamond- and square-mesh codends in the deepwater crustacean trawl fishery off the Balearic Islands (western Mediterranean). ICES Journal of Marine Science, 62: 52-67.

