# trials with square and diamond mesh codends to increase escapees and reduce discards in the Mediterranean bottom trawl fishery

#### AIM

To compare the overall selectivity (gear and fisher) on the total hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) population entering the bottom trawl codend.

## TARGET SPECIES

Hake (Merluccius merluccius)

## AREA, VESSEL

The trial took place in the Southern Aegean Sea (Eastern Mediterranean) on board Takis-Mimis NX 411 (29m, 357 KW) NX 411 (29m, 357kW) during 2015.



DiscardLess



#### **GEAR TRIALS**

A comparison was made of the catching performance of trawl codends made of (i) 40 mm diamond mesh (40D) (ii) 40 mm square mesh(40S) and (iii) 50 mm diamond mesh (50D)

## RESULTS

40S square mesh showed a larger amount of escapees and a lower amount of discards compared to the diamond 40D & 50D. Similar selection behaviour by the fisher was defined for landings



