

fitting square mesh panels

to improve bottom trawl selectivity on the Mediterranean continental shelf

TARGET SPECIES

striped red mullet

AREA, VESSEL

8 pairs of hauls were carried out in the Balearic Islands bottom trawl fishery on board the FV Nueva Joven Josefina (21 m, 150 HP) at depths between 50 – 80 m.

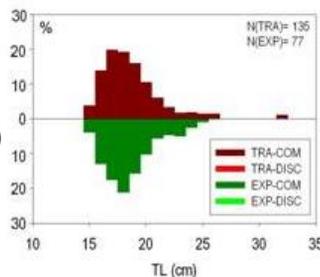


GEAR MODIFICATION

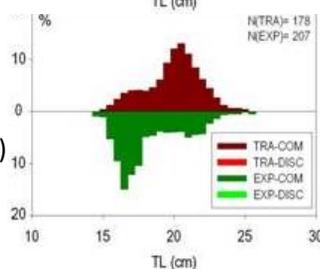
The traditional two-panel bottom trawl net which is fished with semi-pelagic Thyborøn type 15VFS doors, was fitted with a 68 m² panel of 54 mm knotless Dyneema square mesh netting (1.2 mm twine thickness) in the upper panel. The codend was made from 40 mm square mesh netting of 3 mm twine thickness



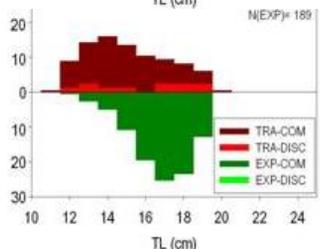
striped red mullet
(*Mullus surmuletus*)



horse mackerels
(*Trachurus trachurus*
and *T. mediterraneus*)



picarel
(*Spicara smaris*)



RESULTS

The trawl with square mesh in the upper panel caught less commercial and discarded species.

There was no difference in the length frequency distribution of target species, striped red mullet.

fuel consumption was reduced by up to 15%.

It was concluded that the incorporation of square mesh netting in the upper panels could be a plausible additional measure to improve the selectivity of the 40 mm square mesh codend currently in force.

FURTHER INFORMATION enric.massuti@ba.ieo.es; DISCATCH project (DG MARE Contract N° MARE/2012/24 Lot 2) Final Report: <http://en.med-ac.eu/progetti.php>

