



Presentation of a research project on a new trawl gear that does not damage the seabed.

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The bottom trawl fishery in the Mediterranean is suffering the consequences of his main weaknesses: the degradation of the seabed and a high consumption of fossil fuels which put this fishing model in an ecological and economic hard situation. One of the elements that generates more impact on the seabed is the pair of doors that open the network horizontally.

The project called “Nuevo sistema para la reducción del impacto de la pesca de arrastre en las costas españolas del Mediterráneo” (New system to reduce the trawl bottom fishery impacts on the Mediterranean Spanish costs) aims to develop an alternative trawl bottom fishery system based on the use of doors that do not contact with the seabed, and which does not modify anything from the rest of the fishing gear. This system will be combined with a 40 mm codend square mesh and 3 mm twine. The objectives to achieve are: (i) to reduce the physical impact of the trawling on the seabed, and therefore the negative effect on the exploited ecosystems, (ii) to lower fuel consumption of the vessel, thereby reducing the CO2 emissions on the atmosphere and increasing the relation cost-efficiency of the activity, (iii) to develop this technique of fishing with this kind of door and to check the viability of it in the case of the Balearic Islands fishery, (iv) and, to improve the selectivity of the fishery and the quality of the catch without a reduction in their economic develop.

The project, promoted by the Fishermen’s Association of Mahon (Spain), will be one year length and is funded by the Spanish Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs. The project is part of the vessel based in the port of Mahon “Nueva Joven Josefina”, the company SIMRAD Spain (world leader in fisheries research equipment), the Ministry of the Presidency of the Government of the Balearic Islands, through the General Direction of Fisheries, and the Balearic Centre of the Spanish Institute of Oceanography through the scientific staff of the Jaime Ferrer¹ Research Station. It is an important collaboration between the productive sector, the private sector and the regional and general Government authorities.

Source: Spanish Institute of Oceanography

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