Temporal trend of the fishing niche habitat of *Nephrops norvegicus* (L.) in the Northwestern Mediterranean Sea

Garcia, Jose A.; Navarro, Joan; Aguzzi, Jacopo; Company, Joan B.

1 Introduction

In this study, we aimed to model the fishing niche of the burrowing decapod *Nephrops norvegicus* (Norwegian lobster), an economical important and iconic resource in the Mediterranean Sea.

2 Method

We used a long temporal series of fishing data from 2005 to 2016 from the Northwestern Mediterranean Sea. For each year, we combined accurately spatial fishing information obtained from vessel monitoring system (VMS) with fish landings databases and environmental-related variables (depth and habitat type). Depth information was obtained from Department of Marine Geosciences at ICM (1). Habitat information contained here has been derived from data that is made available under the European Marine Observation Data Network (EMODnet) Seabed Habitats project (2).

3 Results

In overall for all years we found a yearly-consistency in the spatial fishing habitat model for *Nephrops norvegicus* in the Northwestern Mediterranean Sea.

4 Conclusions

In addition to the characterization of the fishing habitat of *Nephrops norvegicus*, our results indicated clearly signs of overfishing of this economically important resource in the NW Mediterranean Sea.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to the General Secretariat of Maritime Fisheries of the Government of Spain for the VMS data and to the Secretary of Fisheries of the Generalitat de Catalunya for daily catch data.

Bibliography