



European
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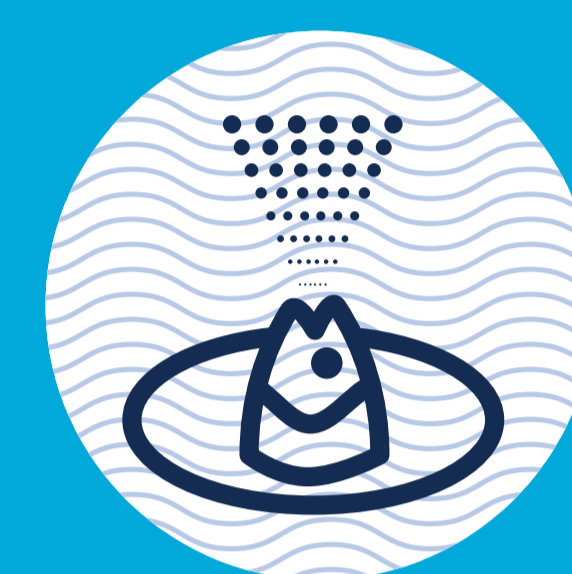
SUPPORTED BY THE EFF (European Fisheries Fund)

RESEARCH INTO FISH HARVESTING AND STUNNING METHODS IN AQUACULTURE

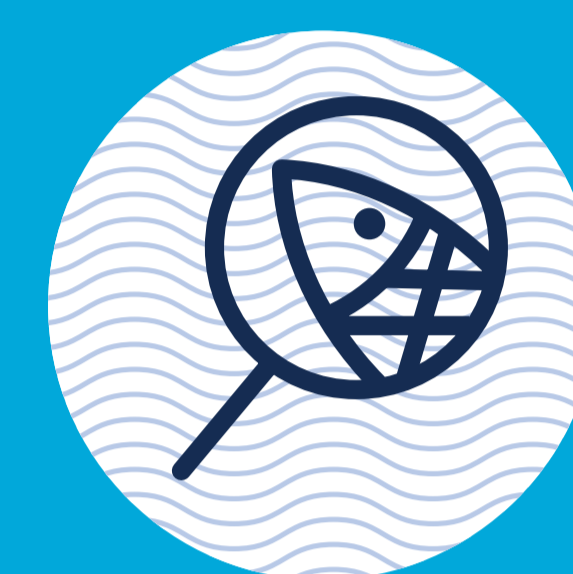
A new method was developed and piloted to test the harvesting, stunning and killing of Mediterranean species farmed in sea cages. The method consisted of a hydraulic pump to harvest the fish from the sea cage, a sorting device to guide undersized fish back to the cage for later harvesting, and an electric stunner to stun the fish before killing them in iced water.

The project tested prototype machinery and evaluated its impact on various biomechanical and hormonal indicators of stress of the fish, as well as on the quality of the final seafood products when the new harvesting method was used.

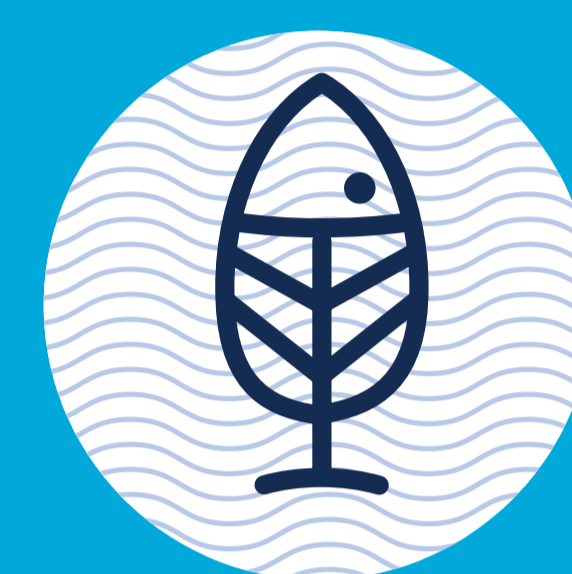
More information here: www.rethinkfishharvest.eu



aquaculture



research



environment

GIALTRA, EVIA ISLAND, GREECE



RESULTS (2014 - 2016):

- The electric stunner provided more than 95 % stunning efficiency in three different species (*Dicentrarchus labrax*, *Sparus aurata* and *Pagrus pagrus*)
- Harvesting capacity was 20,000 fish/hour using the new equipment
- The harvesting method allowed undersized fish to be excluded from the harvesting



LESSONS LEARNED:

It is possible to introduce alternative harvesting methods for marine portion size fish from sea cage farms. Different species present different stress responses to harvesting methods, and may require different handling methods.



TOTAL OPERATION COST:

Total budget: 173 340 €
union contribution: 104 004 €



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