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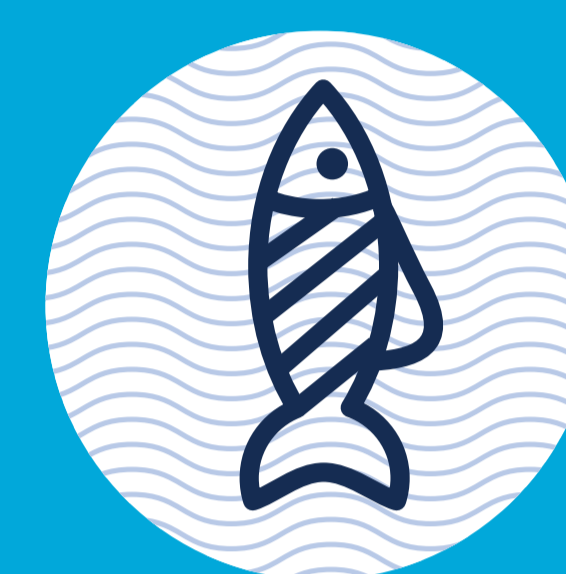
RESEARCH TRIALS TO IMPROVE THE SELECTIVITY OF OTTER TRAWLS

In fisheries, catching the size and type of fish you want to sell is a challenge. Fishermen are eager to improve the selectivity of their fishing gear to reduce unwanted catches of undersized Norway lobster (Nephrops). Interest in the trials was high because the benefits of reducing unwanted catches include reduced handling and sorting of unwanted catch onboard, more storage space available for targeted catch, and potentially reduced fuel consumption.

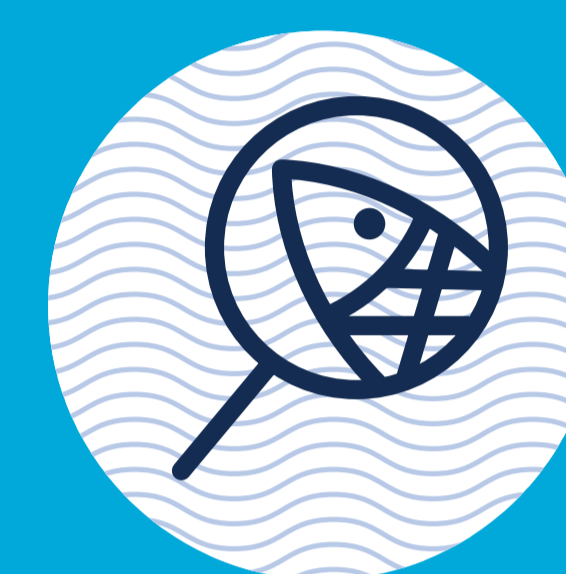
This project was managed by AGLIA (Association du Grand Littoral Atlantique). It involved the testing of two new selectivity devices: a square mesh cylinder in the cod end, and a sorting grid placed across the trawl extension. 32 different fishing vessels tested the effectiveness of the two devices on a voluntary basis.

More information here:

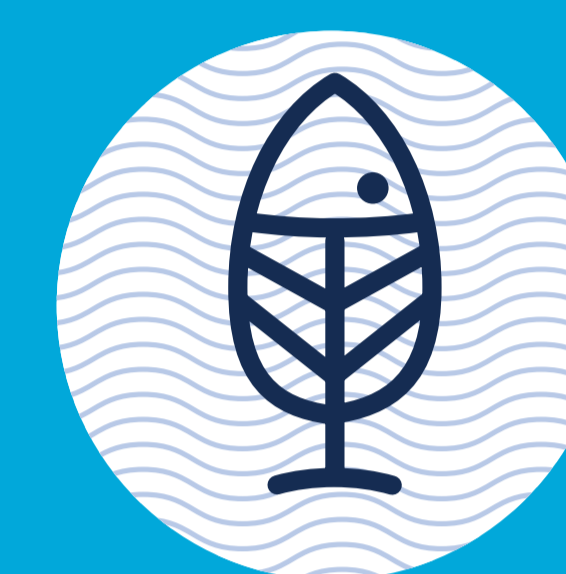
<http://www.aglia.org/projets/programme-selectivite-peche-durable>



fisheries



research



environment

ROCHEFORT, FRANCE



RESULTS (2010 - 2012):

- 20% reduction of unwanted catches of undersized Nephrops and hake with the square mesh cylinder in the cod end
- 27% (Nephrops) and 40% (hake) reduction of unwanted undersized catches with the sorting grid placed across the trawl extension
- No negative impact on the commercial catches targeted (Nephrops)
- Recognition by the French managing authority: formally authorised utilization as part of the licensing conditions



LESSONS LEARNED:

Modification to fishing practices in support of selectivity can be made without negative impacts on commercial catches, and can generate benefits for fishermen. Collaboration between scientists and fishermen can bring positive results and beneficial regulatory change. The involvement of professional fishermen in research can serve to increase their buy-in and adherence to resulting policy changes.



TOTAL OPERATION COST:

Total budget: 183 280 €
Union contribution: 36 656 €



CONTACT DETAILS:

AGLIA (Association du Grand Littoral Atlantique)
<http://www.aglia.org/contact>