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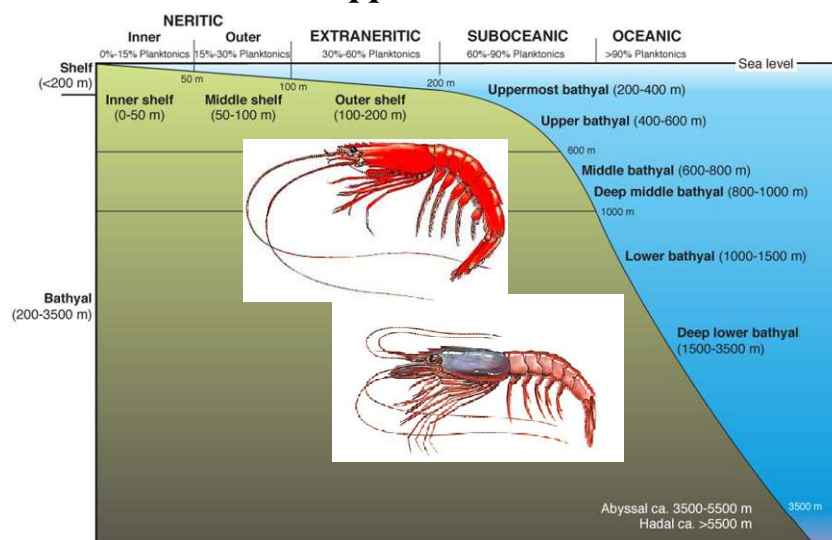


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SEMINARIO

“Overview of Mediterranean DEEP SEA FISHERIES”

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ABSTRACT

Mediterranean coastal states have a long history of fishing; deep-sea fishing (DSF) only began in the first decades of the last century, because of the development of new technology that made fisheries in deeper waters possible. Currently, two main activities can be identified: 1) uppermost bathyal ($\approx 200-600$ m) fishery targeting *Nephrops norvegicus* and *Parapenaeus longirostris* and 2) upper bathyal ($\approx 400-800$ m) fishery targeting *Aristaeomorpha foliacea* and *Aristeus antennatus* (deep-sea red shrimps). The DSF in the Mediterranean has a direct impact on the status of fisheries resources but also on sensitive habitats (white-coral, etc.) and discarded species. Moreover, the activity has indirect effects due to sediment resuspension increasing sedimentation, even at depths well beyond the ones trawled. Finally, it is well documented how DSF is also correlated with the presence of lost debris and litter in deep-sea habitats.

Focusing on the status of deep-sea red shrimps, AIS data of the years 2012-2014 of a sample of Sicilian vessels targeting *A. foliacea* and *A. antennatus* have been analyzed. The analysis evidenced an important percentage of fishing effort deployed in distant areas (especially Aegean Sea) targeting deep-sea red shrimps belonging probably to different stocks, as evidenced by a specific study (StockMed). However, no distinction is made in the reporting of catches fished in waters under national jurisdiction and in international waters. This has a deleterious effect on the understanding of the status of deep-sea red shrimps and their sustainable management, also in the light of the multiannual management plan foreseen by GFCM for these resources in the central and eastern Mediterranean. A work-plan for the provision of data useful for stock assessment and management utilizing a combination of VMS/AIS data and logbook information is proposed and discussed.

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