



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



General Fisheries Commission
for the Mediterranean
Commission générale des pêches
pour la Méditerranée

GFCM pilot project on marine litter

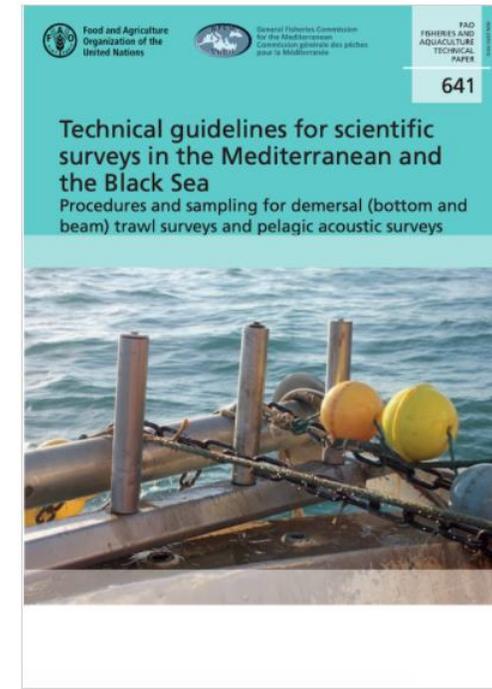
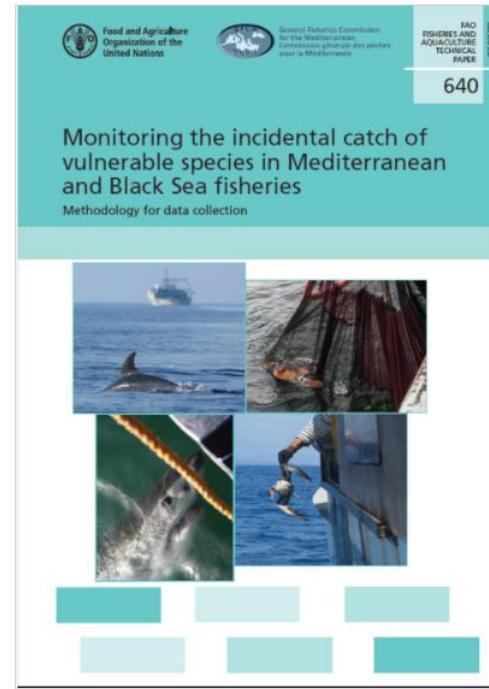
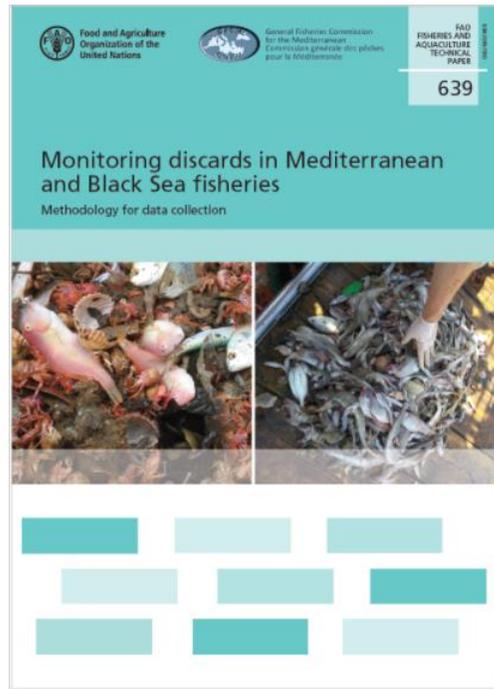
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Litter in the marine environment not only has negative environmental impacts, but can also have negative economic and social impacts on fisheries

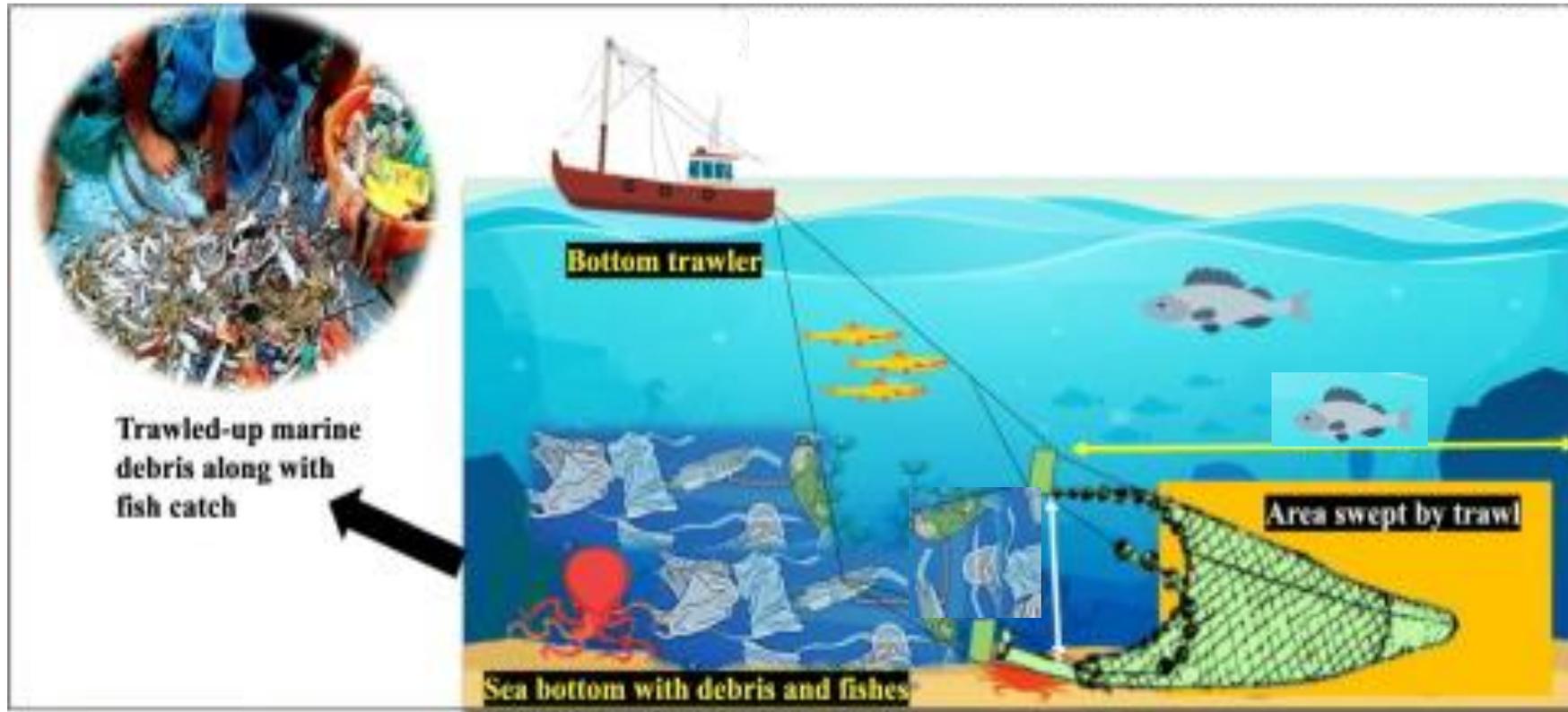


To date, data on marine litter have been inconsistent and geographically restricted to some areas in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, which explains why the understanding of these impacts is still limited. Harmonized research data for statistical purposes regarding the issue of marine litter in the whole region are still necessary; in this case as well, observer programmes can be a valuable source of information

Data requested till now....

Presence (%) of marine litter in the catch	
<i>Trawlers (tot)</i>	<i>GSA 18</i>
	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
Percentage (%) of marine litter in the catch (tot)	5%
Marine litter composition (%)	
<i>Items</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
Plastic	12%
Rubber	12%
Fishing gears	38%
Metal	15%
Glass	9%
Ceramic	2%
Cloth	1%
Wood processed	11%

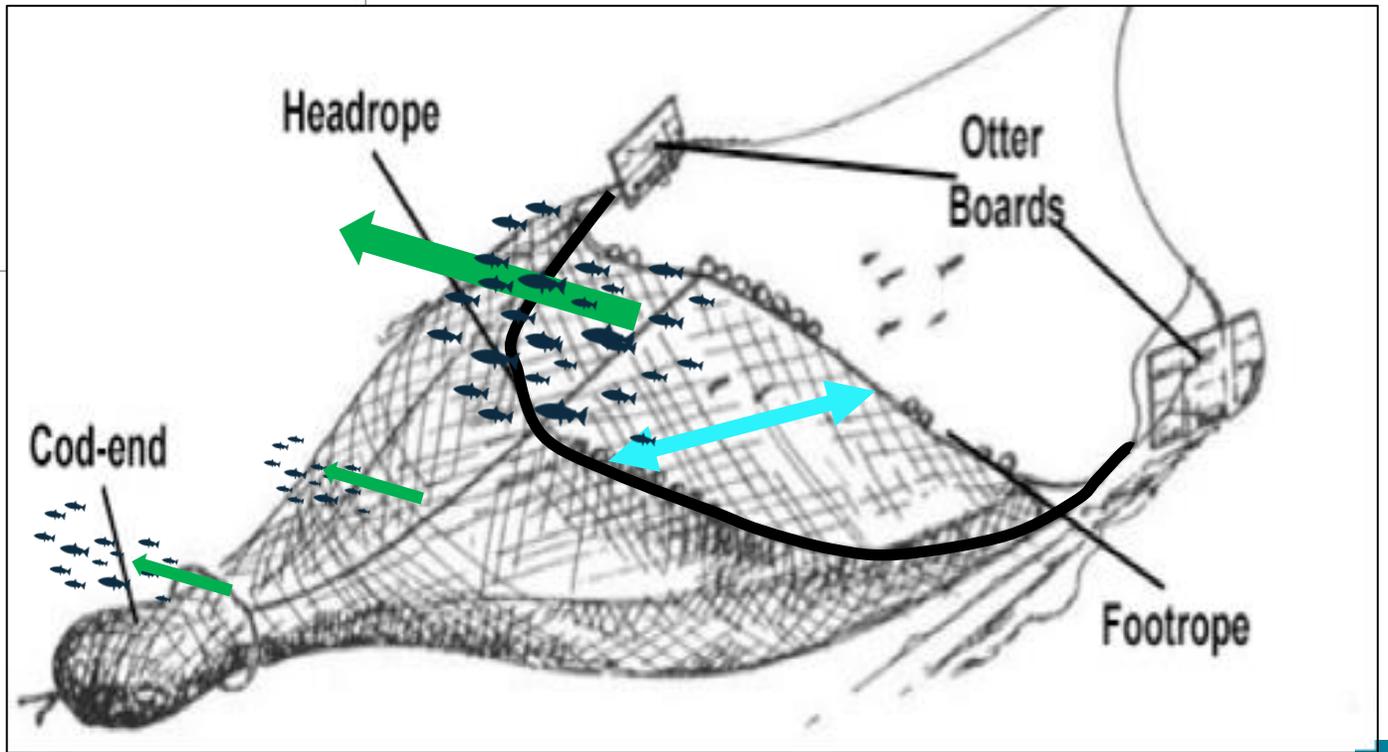
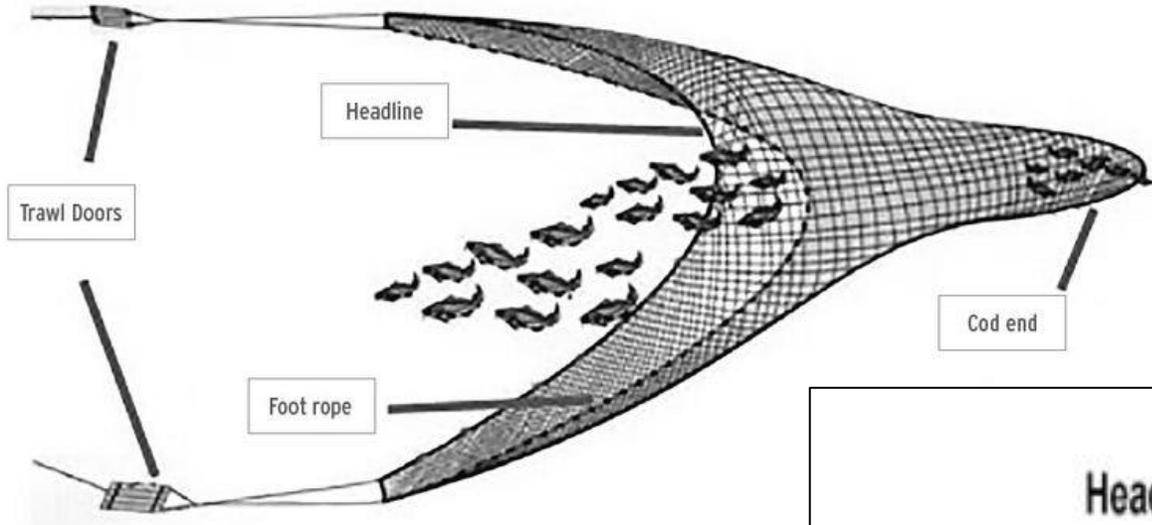




Using trawler to collect only marine litter from the seabed

In the framework of the GFCM Strategy, a pilot project, using experimental trawl net, to remove the litter from the seabed without impacting marine resources, is being conducted.



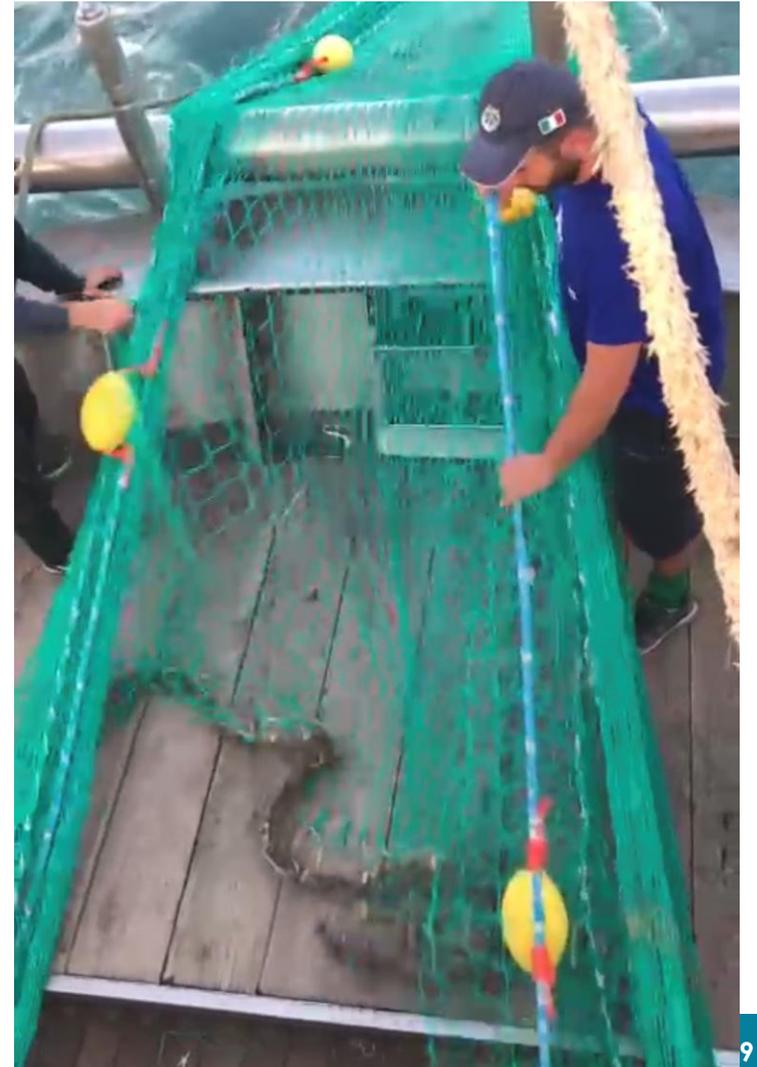




70 mm stretched
mesh size



trial tests are taking place in the Adriatic with a commercial fishing vessel (< 18 m). If the results are good, we will test the gear on larger vessels and then, we could also explore other areas with those experimental gears.



Preliminary testing phase



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Thank you for your attention

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