

# "Seagrass" eggs collector for common cuttlefish

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## Abstract

This protocol refers to a study having the aim to identify and test at field artificial structures suitable as collectors for common cuttlefish *Sepia officinalis* eggs in wild condition.

During the same study, three different protocols were tested and compared. This one refers to the named 'seagrass' collector protocol, due to their similarity to the natural seagrass meadow.

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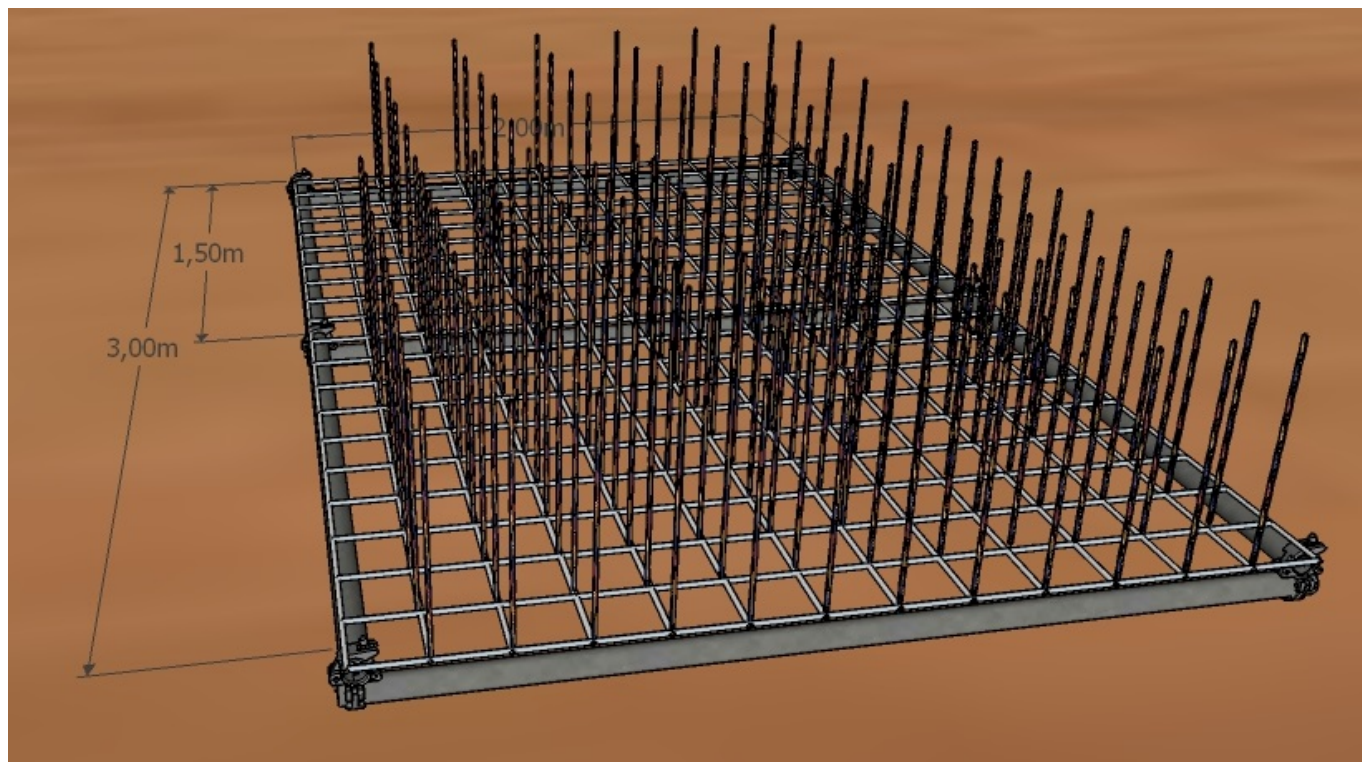
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## Guidelines

A total of 160 collectors were installed in the vertices of an electro-galvanized iron mesh having sheet size 2000 x 3000 cm, 15 x 15 cm mesh dimension and 0.6 cm diameter. The iron mesh was installed in a tubular galvanized frame of 4.83 cm diameter. A single eggs collector consist of 50 cm segments of polyethylene floating rope having a diameter of 0.8 cm. Each modulus has been installed on the seafloor at the beginning of the spawning period of the cuttlefish in a linear composition of 9 'seagrass' collectors. The modules have been tested in two central Adriatic Sea areas (Senigallia and Portonovo, Italy) where trawling is forbidden (by law and by a presence of anti-trawling structures). The structures were fixed on the seabed close to the artificial reefs modules in order to protect them from heavy storms.

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## **Before start**

An adequate vessel for transshipment/positioning and scuba divers are needed for a proper installation.

## **Protocol**

### ***Step 1.***

## **Warnings**

Safety on a vessel involves a wide range of activities and the use of important safety gear and equipment.

Scuba diving is a practice that can involve risks, so several precautions must be taken. Get trained and make sure that you're well supervised; take care of your equipment to avoid accidents.