"Longline" eggs collector for common cuttlefish

Fabio Grati,Martina Scanu,Luca Bolognini

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 'longline' collector protocol, due to their similarity to the longline adopted for fisheries.

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Guidelines

This linear-shaped structure was specifically designed to collect cuttlefish eggs inside longline mussel farms. The longline collector consisted of a 400 m (200 g/m) long lead rope with 250 collectors, represented by 50 cm segments of polyethylene floating rope (diameter 0.8 cm) having a float of 40 g at the free end. Two structures were positioned inside two mussel farms located at South of Ancona (Italy) concomitantly with the beginning of the spawning period of the cuttlefish.

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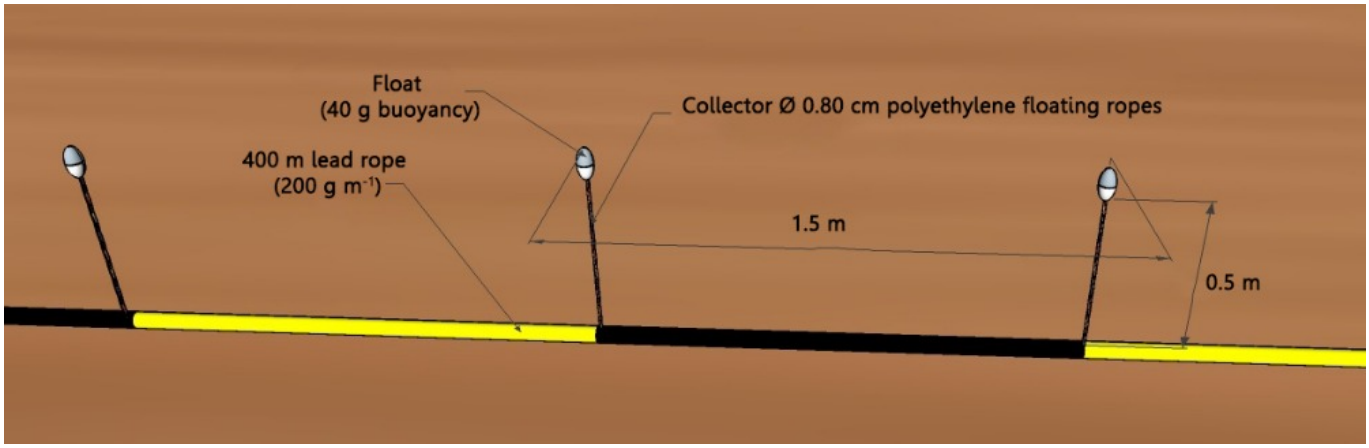

Before start

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.