

"Trap" 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 'trap' collector protocol, due to the adoption of trap structure used for fisheries.

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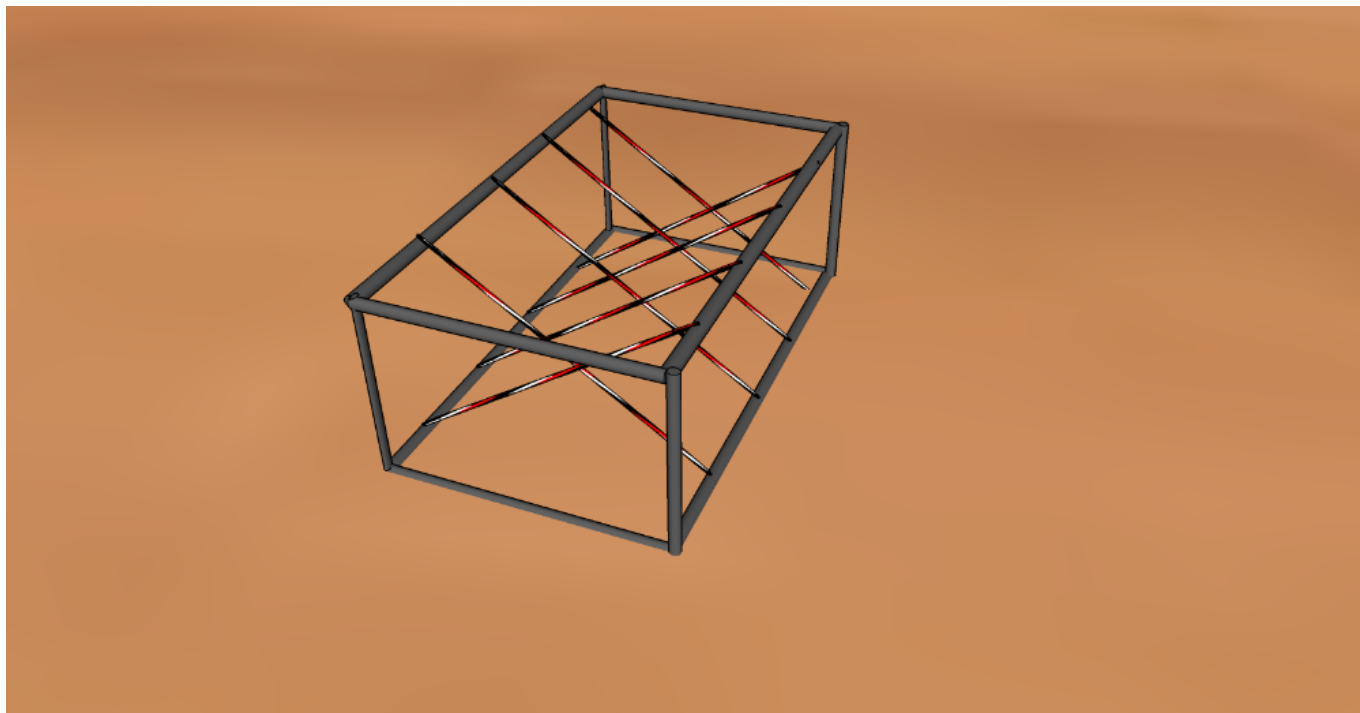
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Guidelines

The trap eggs collector consisted of a galvanized-iron frame (dimensions 80 x 50 x 30 cm) containing a 10 m long polyethylene floating rope (diameter 0.8 cm) wrapped around and acting as a substrate for cuttlefish deposition. This structure was similar to the traps commonly used by fishers, with the exception that this one was not hanged with a net so allowing the escapement of cuttlefish. A total of 111 collectors were deployed along the Marche region (Italy) in March, at the beginning of the spawning season, and kept at sea until July. During this period the collectors are regularly checked in order to evaluate the common cuttlefish eggs coverage.

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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.