

CIESM Congress Session : Deep sea ecology

Moderator : Carlos Jimenez, Environmental Research Center, Nicosia, Cyprus

Moderator's Synthesis

Discussion gravitated around invasive/destructive sampling and survey methods and the potential alternatives. Long-lived species in the deep-sea are the ones telling us not to use destructive methods. MEDITS Survey was intensively discussed although it is viewed as invasive and destructive. One strong supporting argument heard is that MEDITS cannot be replaced for the purposes of stock assessment. In addition, it takes place once a year while there are hundreds of commercial trawlers operating everywhere. The concept is wrong but it seems there is no easy way out of it.

A major open question is how we can achieve the same sampling success as MEDITS without being destructive. Alternatives suggested include opportunistic sampling by means of collaboration with military, industry and research institutions that already have ship-time (this seems terribly difficult due to cost-effective constraints). Another major concern is how to produce data on the pelagic system. One final concern concerns data generation which is faster than our capacity to process it.

