

disturbing fishing technique, but it is forbidden in the Azores region, where only bottom long-lines are used. Since 2007 four demersal fishing surveys took place on the Azores region: ARQDAÇO-27-P07, DEECON-28-V07, ARQDAÇO-29-P08 and DEECON-30-V08. These represented an opportunity to study the by-caught fauna from bottom-long line fisheries in islands slopes and offshore seamounts. Corals, hydrozoans, sponges and bryozoans form the bulk of the material sampled but the associated fauna is also important. A total of seventy-seven fishing sets were carried out between Corvo Island (39°39'N) and the Great Meteor complex (30°06'N) from 27 to 1990 m depth. During the four surveys 168 specimens of deep-water corals from 41 taxa were caught. Octocorals were the most representative group with 22 species, being the Plexauridae and the Primnoidae the most common families with 7 and 3 species respectively. These soft corals were followed by the stony corals Scleractinia represented by 9 species, black corals (Antipatharia) with 5 species and hydrocorals (Filifera), represented by 3 species. With this study we aim to make a preliminary evaluation of the impact of bottom-long line in the cold-water communities in the Azores region, throughout an extended depth range. This information will be used also to validate the data obtained from a previous land-base study on by-catch of commercial long-line fisheries.

---

Contact author: Íris Raquel Ferreira Sampaio da Costa, Departamento de Oceanografia e Pescas (DOP) Universidade dos Açores, 9901-862 Horta, Portugal [tel: +351 917917560, e-mail: irissampaio@uac.pt]

#### E51 - Poster

---

### Estimating the biomass and fishing potential of the shrimp *Plesionika edwardsii* (Brandt, 1851) off the Azores

*Eduardo Isidro, Mário Pinho, Octávio Melo, Ana Santos, José I. Santana, Ignácio J. Lozano and PESCPROF Consortium*

The shrimp *Plesionika edwardsii* has been considered a local potential fishing resource, but little was known about its distribution and abundance. Using data collected mainly in a couple of experimental fishing cruises, specifically designed for prospecting this resource and perform a depletion study around the Faial island, a first estimate of the biomass and fishing potential of the species was obtained. The results suggest that although the fishing yields are compatible with the development of a commercial fishery, the existing exploitable biomass is low and the resource highly sensitive to exploitation. So, the fishery targeting *P. edwardsii* should be cautiously developed in the Azores archipelago.

---

Contact author: Eduardo José L. F. Isidro, Departamento de Oceanografia e Pescas (DOP) Universidade dos Açores, 9901-862 Horta, Portugal [tel: +351 292 200 400, fax: +351 292 200 411, e-mail: eduardo@uac.pt]

#### E53 - Poster

---

### Molecular phylogeny of skates and rays – how close are coastal and deep-water species?

*Bárbara Serra-Pereira, Teresa Moura, Leonel Serrano Gordo and Ivone Figueiredo*

The Rajidae is one of the most diverse families within elasmobranchs, comprising more than 220 living species that occupy a large variety of habitats from shallow to deep water. Even the coastal species that are dependent of specific habitats near shore to complete their life cycles, make small migrations to waters below