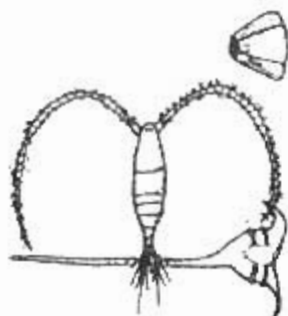
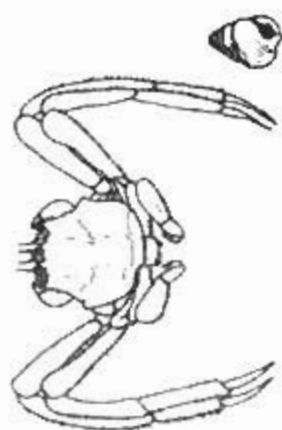


BIOLOGIA MARINA MEDITERRANEA



Vol. 9 - fasc. 2 - 2002

Lavori presentati al 7° CARAH

SANREMO, LIGURIA, ITALY

7-11 Ottobre 1999

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ARTIFICIAL REEF IN THE CANARIAN AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY: A DECADE OF DEVELOPMENT

Since 1989, several artificial reefs projects have been developed by the Canarian Government to improve artisanal fisheries in coastal waters of the canarian archipelago with a total spending of roughly 230 Mill. Ptas (about 1,4 Mill. Euros). The aim of this contribution is to review the present status of these artificial reefs in the canarian waters after a decade of the deployment of the first structures.

In the western coast of La Palma island, an artificial reef of 52 modules was constructed in 1990-91. In Gran Canaria island another artificial reef composed by 85 modules was constructed in 1991 in the southern coast. Later, in 1993, two artificial reef areas were built in the southeastern coast of Lanzarote island with 35 and 34 units respectively, and finally, during the last year a new artificial reef with 50 modules was laid down in the same island nearby to one of the previous reef area.

These artificial reefs were constructed with different types of concrete modules. In the reefs located in coastal waters of La Palma and Gran Canaria islands, modules with five different morphologies were used, with a weight between 5–to 1 MT. The modules used in the artificial reefs located in coastal waters of Lanzarote island belongs to two designs only, with a weight of 8,6-10 MT.

From the results obtained so far, most of the reef areas are working properly, with an increase in fish abundance and presence of new commercial species in the surrounding areas. It also becomes clear that other factors, such as modules design, choice of reef deployment area and interaction with social forces, may enhance the role of these artificial reef as management tools for coastal fisheries.