

Analysis of demersal fish assemblages on the Senegalese continental shelf considering changes and fishing impact over the last decades

D. Jouffre, J. Domalain, and A. Caverivière

Centre de Recherche Halieutique Méditerranéenne et Tropicale (IRD-IFREMER)
Rue Jean Monnet, B.P. 171, 34203, Sète Cédex, France

E-mail: jouffre@ird.fr

The assemblages of demersal fish and associated species (cephalopods, gasteropods and crustaceans) on the Senegalese continental shelf (West Africa) are analysed in order to characterize their structure, diversity and evolution during the last decades. The biological data come from historical series of scientific trawling surveys. The analytical process, as well as the interpretation of the results, are directed towards an evaluation of the ecosystems effects of fishing, in a zone which has undergone an increasing pressure of commercial exploitation for several decades. The adequacy of the data for such a purpose is also discussed.

Keywords: demersal communities; fish; fisheries impact; numerical analysis; West Africa; marine ecosystems.