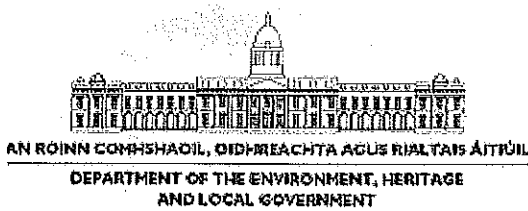


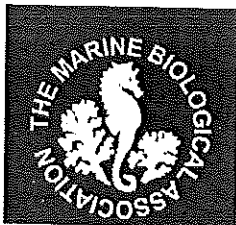
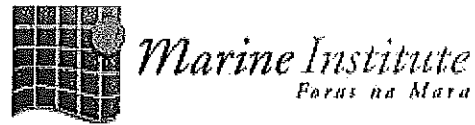
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Poster

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Demersal gillnet fishery impact on the blackmouth catshark population in the Evoikos Gulf, Greece

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Gill nets are extensively used in the deep waters of the Mediterranean Sea targeting hake, flatfish, and sometimes demersal sharks. In this study the impact of demersal gill net fishery on the blackmouth catshark (*Galeus melastomus*) was investigated in the North Evoikos Gulf, in Greece, and some characteristics of the stock are reported. Sampling operations were conducted on board fishing boats fishing at depths of 200 to 350 m during the spring and summer months in 2005 and 2006. In the area examined, blackmouth catshark was the only shark species strongly affected by the gill nets, being caught as by-catch and largely discarded. Most of the specimens sampled were mature and the size at first maturity was estimated. Sex ratio was almost 1:1 but females were found to be larger than males reaching a maximum TL of 55 cm.

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