

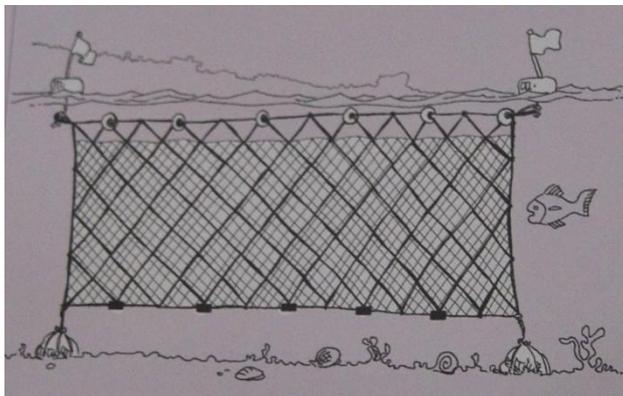
FISHING TECHNIQUES

In Menorca, the fishing profession is comprised of about 60 boats from three Fisherman's Associations, one in Maó, one in Fornells and one in Ciutadella. It is based on coastal fishery, where the fish arrives back in port on the same day it is caught, either to be sold or frozen and therefore, it is high quality fresh fish. Amongst these professionals in bringing produce from the sea to the island, there are three categories:

- 1) **Small-scale fishing:** This is the artisanal fishing using small boats and on which they tend to use reduced dimension fishing gear and, in general, are able to be more selective when fishing and have little impact on the seabed. This category includes the majority of the islands fishermen, who are mostly dedicated to fishing with trammel nets and longlines.

TRAMMEL LINES

This is the most common technique used by the fishermen in Menorca. The trammel line is a net, composed by three layers of netting overlapping each other and then mounted on a headrope. The exterior netting has the same dimension mesh on both sides while the interior net has a smaller dimension mesh. The fish enter the exterior layer netting and get entangled in the interior nets' mesh. Different types of trammel lines are used depending on what fish the fishermen are aiming to catch, for example squid trammel lines, spiny lobster trammel lines, goat-fish trammel lines and fish trammel lines. On the island, spiny lobster is the most common catch with this type of fishing due to its high value.

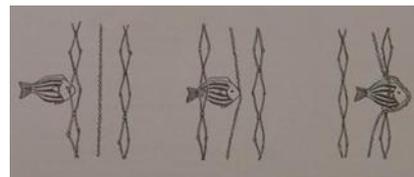


Author: Ramon

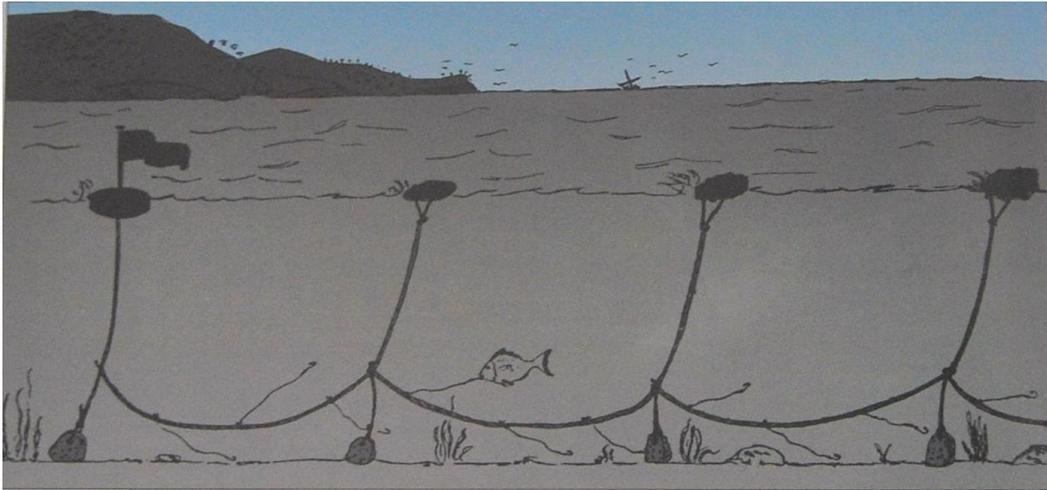
Author: G. Bonnin Fuster

TRAWL LINE OR LONG LINE

This type of fishing consists of a long piece of rope (main line) from which other, baited, thinner and shorter branch lines hang. It is a selective fishing technique as each bait can only catch one fish. The type of fish caught is dependent on the length of the branch line and the type of bait used.



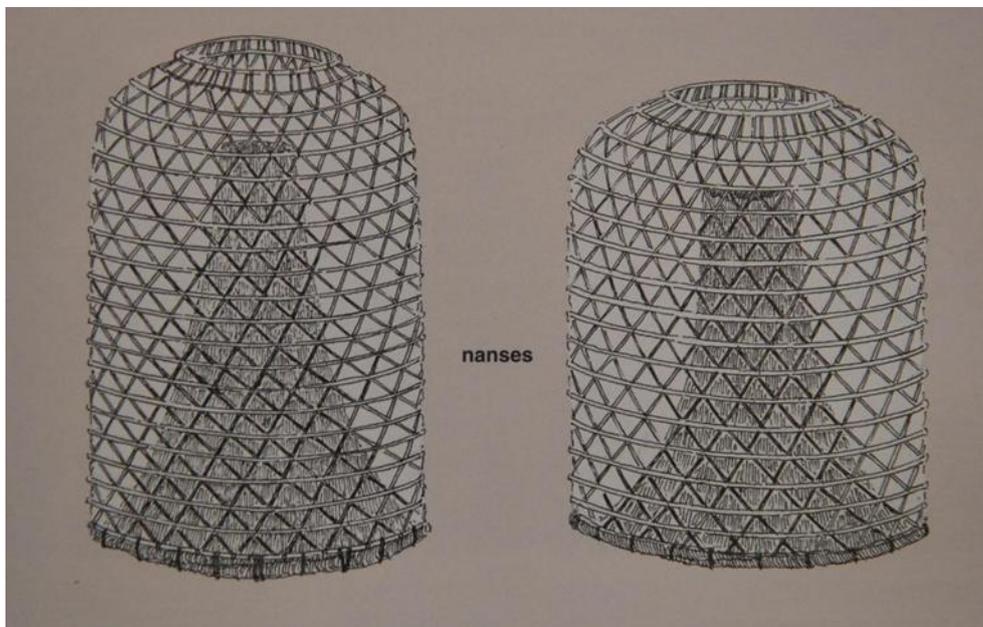
The "Palangrillo" is a smaller type of long line used to catch smaller fish types such as the *raor* (cleaver wrasse).



Author: P. Valeriano Pérez

FISH TRAP

A trap shaped implement made up of a main cone shaped body, with its inferior diameter covered by a conical piece. The fish or crustacean, attracted by the bait, enter via a funnel and are unable to get out. It is a very selective technique, as small fish are able to easily get back out. Fish traps were traditionally used on Menorca; however, this is no longer the case due to fishermen using more profitable methods.



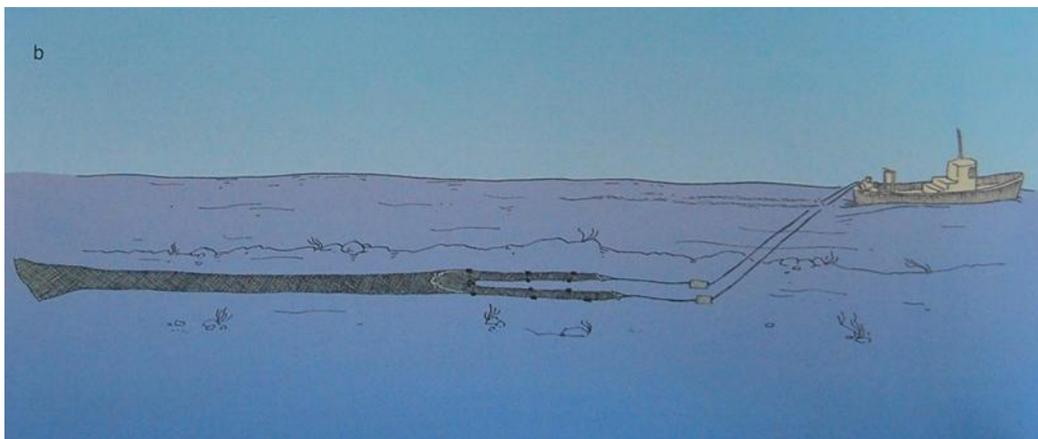
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Some of the fish types caught by the small-scale fishing boats are: squid, octopus, cuttlefish, langoustine, red lobster, white lobster, lesser-spotted dogfish, smooth-hound, ray, dusky grouper, Spanish bream, black seabream, red scorpionfish, amberjack, conger eel, common dentex, brown meagre, annular seabream, barracuda, John dory, wreck fish, green wrasse, sole, striped red mullet, forkbeard, eel, sharp-snout seabream, gilthead seabream, common Pandora, common seabream, leer fish, angler fish, white seabream, common two-banded

seabream, etc.

- 2) Trawling:** These are larger dimension boats than the artisanal ones. They fish by dragging a funnel shaped net along the seabed. The net is fixed in position using two large dimension doors and via which the net is held open. This technique is not very selective and generates much waste, meaning that species that are too small or lacking in commercial interest are often caught and then returned to the ocean, already dead. Our island currently has 7 fishing boats of this type.

Trawlers usually have two fisheries, one by the coast, on the continental platform, where they mostly catch fish, and another on the drop-off, in deeper waters, where shellfish can usually be found.



Author: G. Bonnín Fuster

Some of the common species caught by trawlers are squid, octopus, broadtail short-finned squid, cuttlefish, Norway lobster, prawn, white lobster, lesser-spotted dogfish, black mouth catshark, smooth-hound, spiny dog-fish, ray, weever, grey gurnard, Spanish bream, black seabream, red scorpionfish, conger eel, John dory, picarel, sole, European hake, blue whiting, red mullet, greater fork-beard, blackfish, common Pandora, spotted flounder, shortnose greeneye, angler fish, comber, blue mouth, horse mackerel, etc.

- 3) Shellfishers:** These are the professionals that are solely dedicated to fishing for shellfish, albeit via catching them or breeding them. There are few shellfish fishermen on the island. Some families have mussel harvests or mussel farming grounds, inside Maó harbour, and others recollect them from coastal areas using artisanal tools.

The species that tend to be caught are mussels, cockles, white oysters, snakelocks anemone, purple dry murex and limpets, amongst others.

(The images have been taken from the *Encyclopedia of Menorca*)