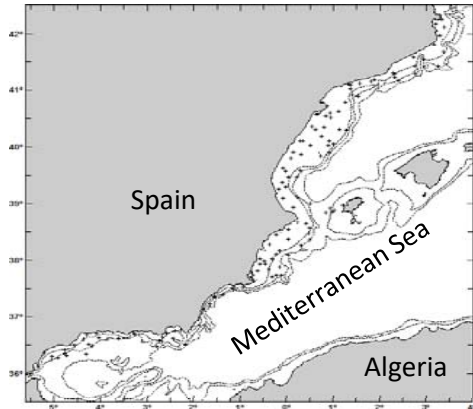


Are we missing a mesopelagic-demersal coupling?

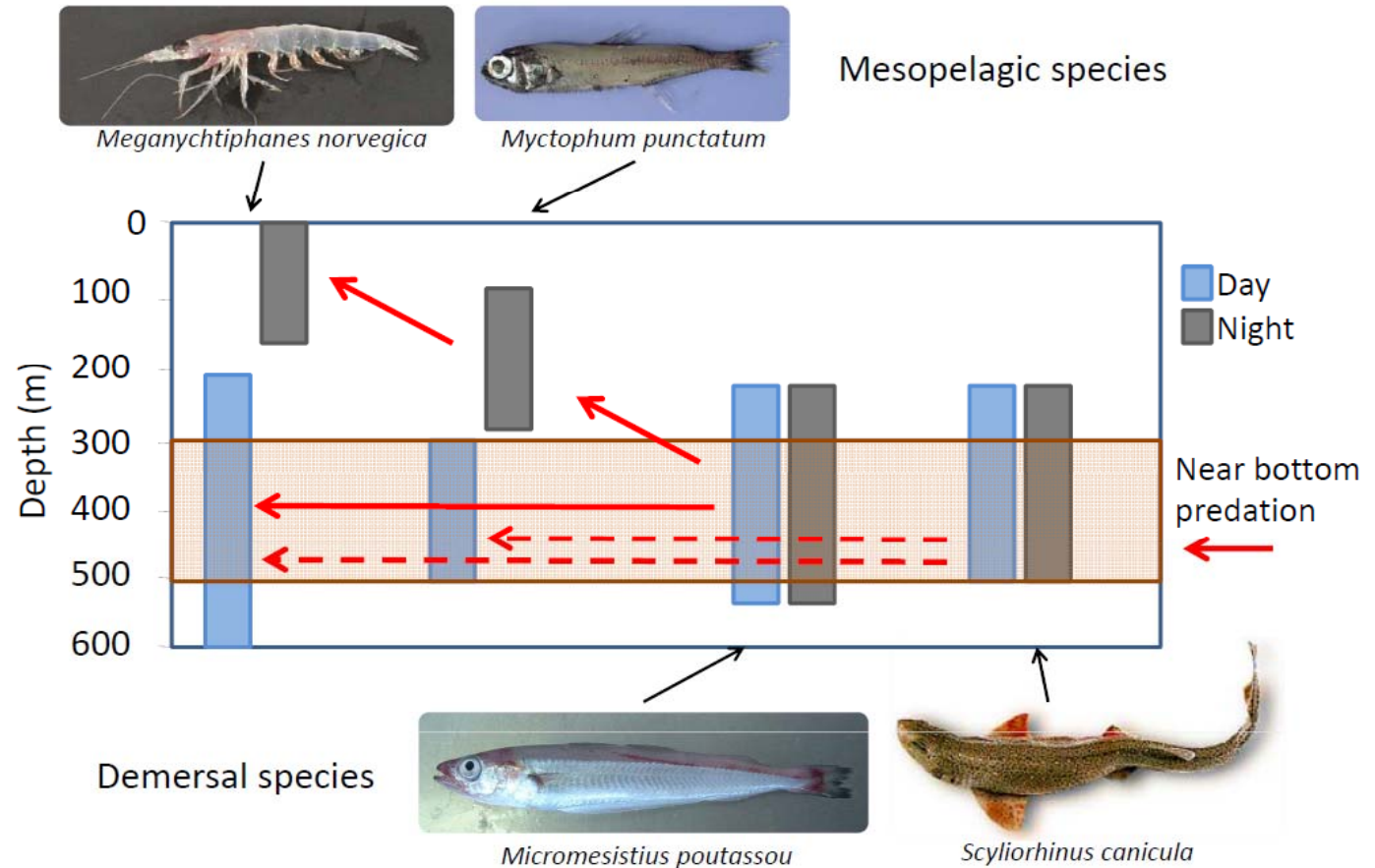
Lidia Yebra¹, Luis Gil de Sola¹, Joan Cartes². ¹CO Málaga, IEO, CSIC, Spain; ²ICM, CSIC, Spain. lidia.yebra@ieo.es

Spanish MEDITS bottom-trawl survey

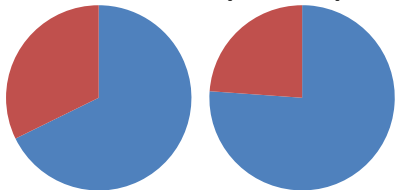


Sampling stations MEDITS cruises 1994-2012.
Gear: Bottom trawl net (GOC-73)
Cod end: 20 mm.

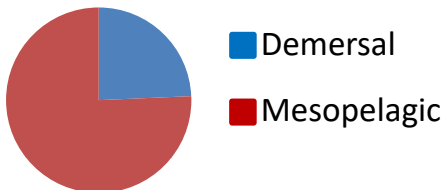
M. norvegica (euphausiid), *M. punctatum* (myctophid), *M. poutassou* (benthopelagic predator) and *S. canicula* (benthic scavenger) were regularly captured together on 300-500 bottom depths.



Fish Cephalopods



Crustaceans



Composition of demersal trawls captures by day.

- *M. norvegica* and *M. punctatum* are mesopelagic diel vertical migrants (DVM), found inhabiting over the sea floor by day.
- *M. poutassou* and *S. canicula* are demersal species, both are known to prey on *M. norvegica*.
- DVM are responsible for the active flux of carbon from epipelagic to mesopelagic waters, but their role at near bottom depths within the continental shelf and slope is far to be fully understood.
- Our data show that mesopelagic DVM could constitute an important carbon source for demersal species.