First V-notching experiment in the spiny lobster *Palinurus elephas*

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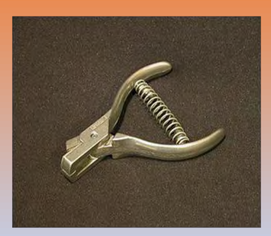
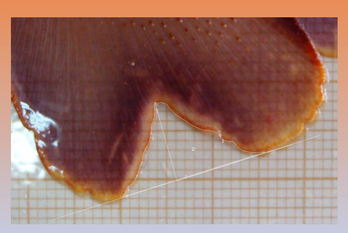
V-NOTCHING





Allows fishers to conserve breeding females by notching the tails of egg-bearing lobsters

Widely used in *Homarus* spp.

WHY V-NOTCH *Palinurus elephas*?

Important resource to Mediterranean coastal communities

Overfished throughout its range

Want to involve fishermen in MLS (90 mm CL) compliance

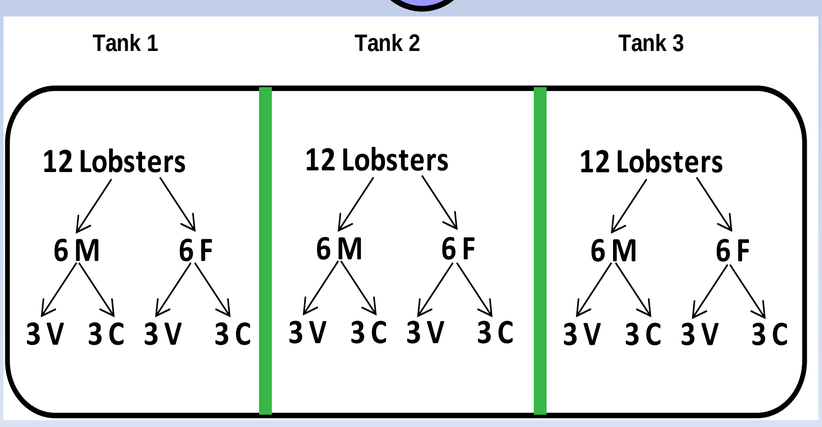
V-NOTCH SMALL ADULTS (75-85 mm CL)

18 month-long experiment
Up to 3 molts

EXPERIMENTAL V-NOTCH STUDY:

1. **EFFECT ON SURVIVAL**
2. **V-NOTCH RETENTION RATE**

1



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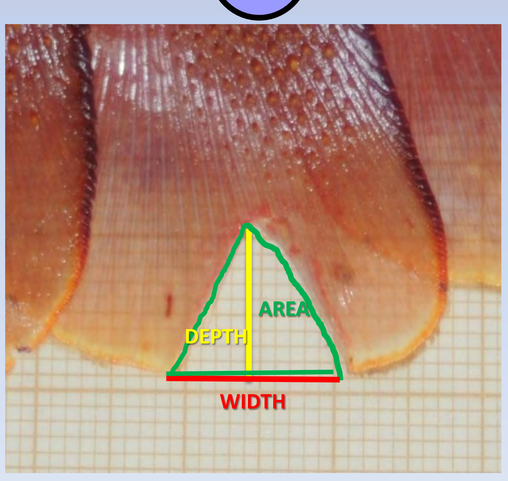
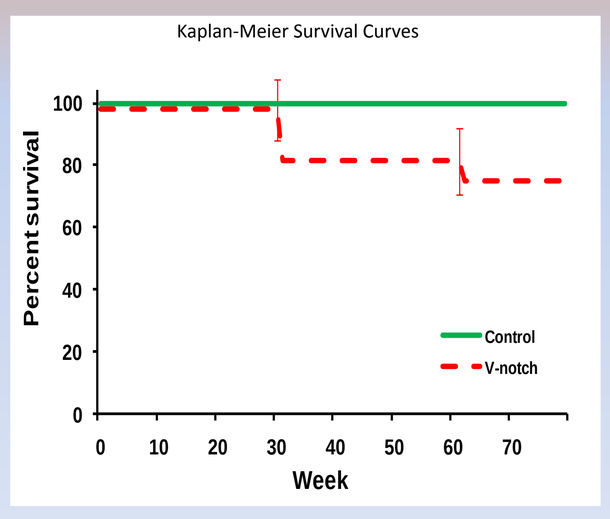
3



4

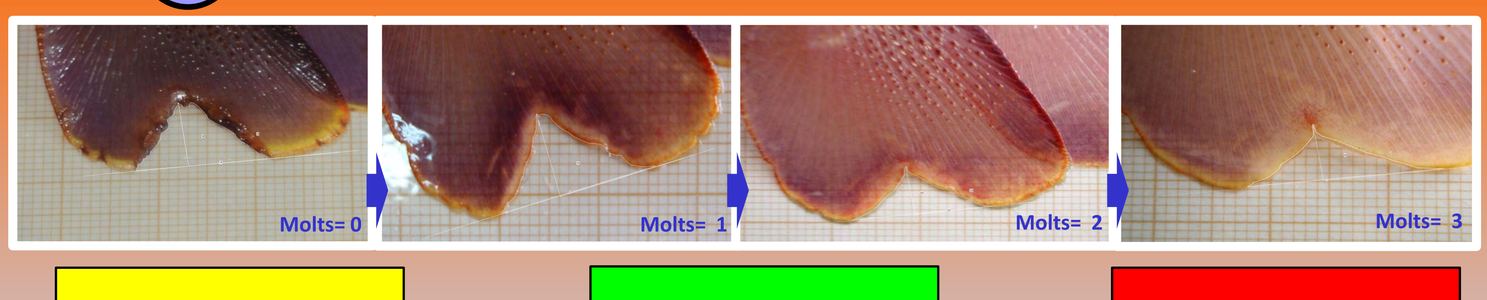
6 SURVIVAL

Survival probability significantly lower in V-notched lobsters: Likely artefact of captivity conditions (necrosis).

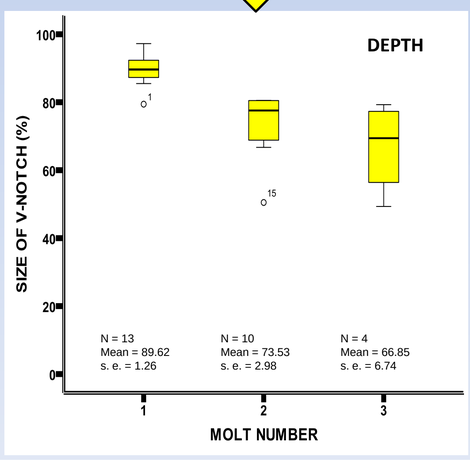


	χ^2	df	Sig.
Log Rank (Mantel-Cox)	4.706	1	0.030

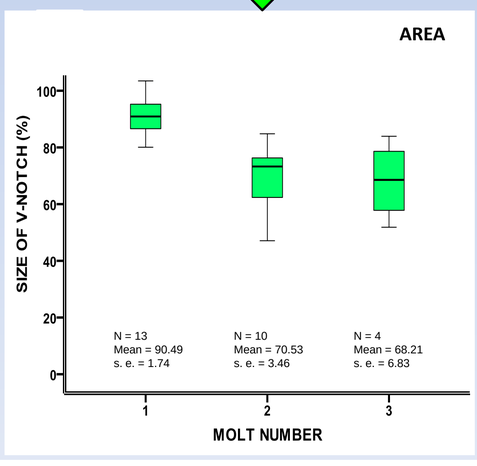
7 V-NOTCH RETENTION



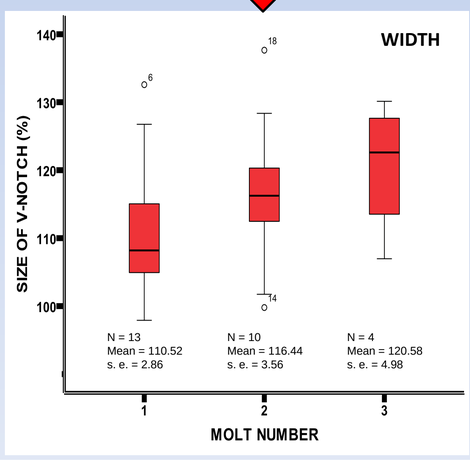
V-notch DEPTH
Growth rate declines with nº molts



V-notch AREA
Growth rate slows down after 1st molt



V-notch WIDTH
Increases with nº molts



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