{rokbox title=|Study area :: Image: Authors| thumb=|images/stories/ieo/imagenespublicaciones/centro-oceanografico-baleares-ieo-acoustic-evidences-beginning-anchovy-schooling-northern-alboran-sea-mediterranean-ventero-et-al-2021-thumb.jpg|}images/stories/ieo/imagenespublicaciones/centro-oceanografico-baleares-ieo-acoustic-evidences-beginning-anchovy-schooling-northern-alboran-sea-mediterranean-ventero-et-al-2021.jpg{/rokbox}

Ana Ventero, **Irene Marcos**, **Magdalena Iglesias**, 2021. **Acoustic evidences of the beginning of anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*) schooling in the Northern Alboran Sea (Mediterranean Sea).**
Fisheries Research. Volume 239, July 2021, 105950.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fishres.2021.105950

Abstract: During the MEDiterranean International Acoustic Survey (MEDIAS) carried out in 2016 and 2017 in the Northern Alboran Sea in July, a benthic scattering layer located mainly in Malaga Bay was acoustically detected at multiple frequencies and biologically identified using different sampling devices (plankton net and pelagic trawl). This layer mainly corresponded to an anchovy larvae aggregation ranged 2 and 40 mm standard length. Our results pointed out that anchovy larvae massively migrate from the surface to the bottom near the coast, until the 70 m isobath, forming large aggregations acoustically detected as a scattering benthic layer, in which small schools form and emerge. This work has highlighted the potential of acoustic surveys such as MEDIAS to generate anchovy recruitment success indicators complementary and simultaneously to the traditional ones (biomass of the reproductive stock) and their great utility as a fisheries management tool in areas such as the Alboran Sea where the fishing resource is scarce.

Keywords: *Engraulis encrasicolus*, Benthic scattering layer, Schooling, Northern Alboran Sea, Mediterranean Sea