

FISHING GEAR

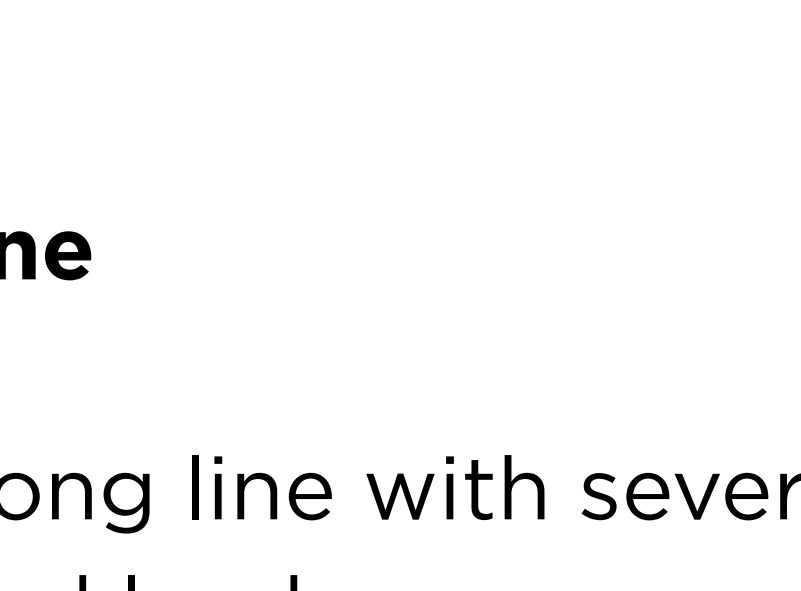
Traditional fishing gear got adapted to modern times

Many traditional fishing gears evolved throughout history and they got adapted to new times and materials, but nevertheless they barely changed their basic structure and the way they were handled.

Some of these techniques disappeared, as the *Cerco Real* (a huge surrounding net), and new ones were put in practice.

Line

It is one of the most primitive fishing methods but it is still in use. It consists of a line with a hanging piece of lead and a baited hook at the end. This method is used to fish pouting, ballan, wrasse, sea bass...



Longline

It is a long line with several attached leaders or gangions ending on baited hooks. There is evidence of its existence already in the Middle Ages. Longliners fish swordfish, black sea bream, port beagle, hake... and the traditional fleet fishes mainly conger.



Squid jigs, *Rañas* and *Cotelos*

Squid jigs are coloured lead-made weighs with several hooks on the top. They are used for fishing squids and cuttlefishes.

Cotelos and *Rañas* are octopus fishing gears. They are still used to fish octopus in the traditional way. They consist of a stick with a stone attached to it where a velvet swim crab is placed. The *Raña* has also iron hooks at the end.



Lobster pot

Lobster pots are small traps which are placed on the seabed. They have an opening so that fish and shellfish can get in attracted by the bait. They are used to fish velvet swim crabs, lobsters, octopus and shrimps.

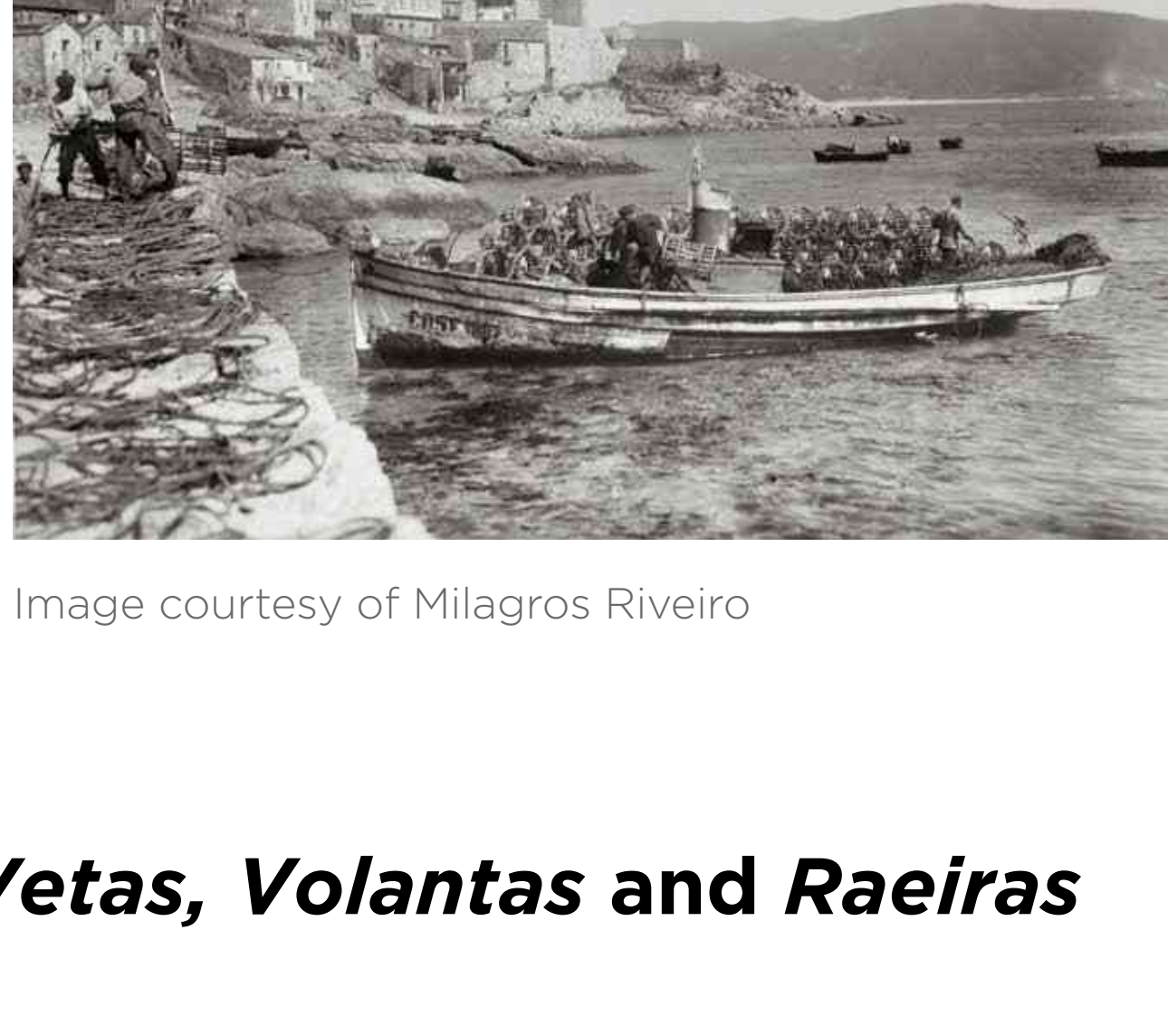


Image courtesy of Milagros Riveiro

Vetas, *Volantas* and *Raeiras*

They are gillnets of single netting wall. The *Volantas* are bottom set gillnets and they are used to fish pouting, mackerel... *Betas* are falling net walls and they are also used to fish ray, pollack, turbot, sole... And *Raeiras* or *Rascos* are used to fish ray, anglerfish, lobster, sole, spider crabs...



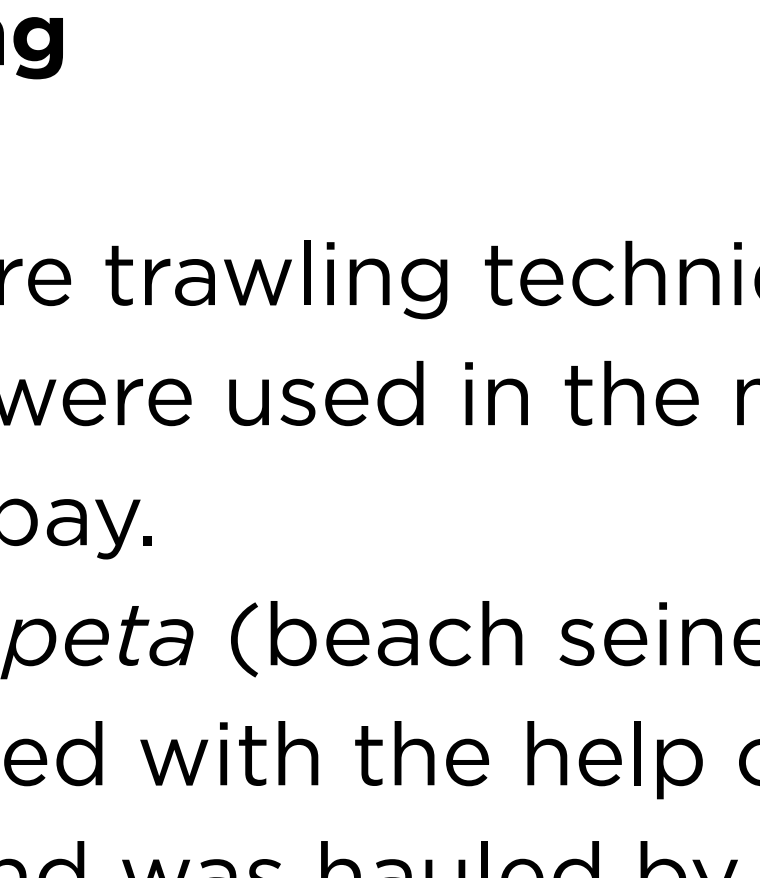
Trasmallos and *Miños*

They are trammel nets made of triple layer of netting. They are different because *Miños* are higher and mesh netting is larger. *Trasmallos* are used to fish pintos, maragotas, seabass, cuttlefish... and *Miños* are used to fish bigger species as ray, turbot...



Xeito

It is a sardine and pilchard fishing gear. It consists of a driftnet based on one layered gillnet which is only used nowadays in few ports as Rianxo for the fishing of sardines. In Galicia, there is historical evidence of the use of these gears, or *pezas*, as they are commonly named, since the 16th century

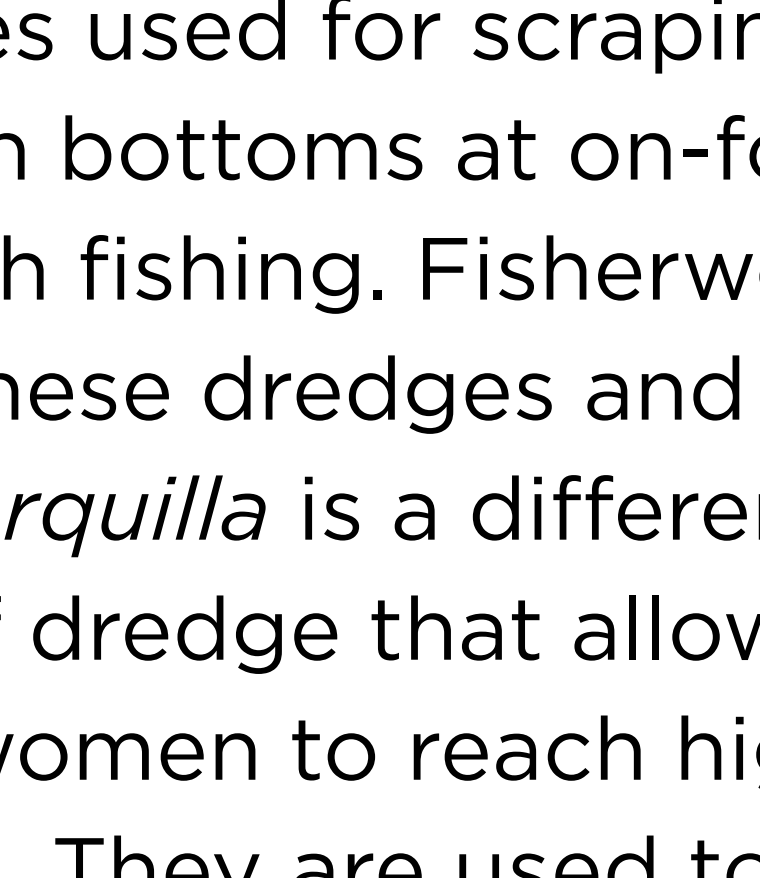


Rapeta and Boliche, traditional trawling

They are trawling techniques which were used in the middle of the bay.

The *Rapeta* (beach seine) was extended with the help of a boat and was hauled by hand from the beach. It was used to capture cuttlefishes, demersal species, shrimps,...

The *Boliche* (boat seine) was hauled from the boat and it is used to fish squids, pouting and mackerels.

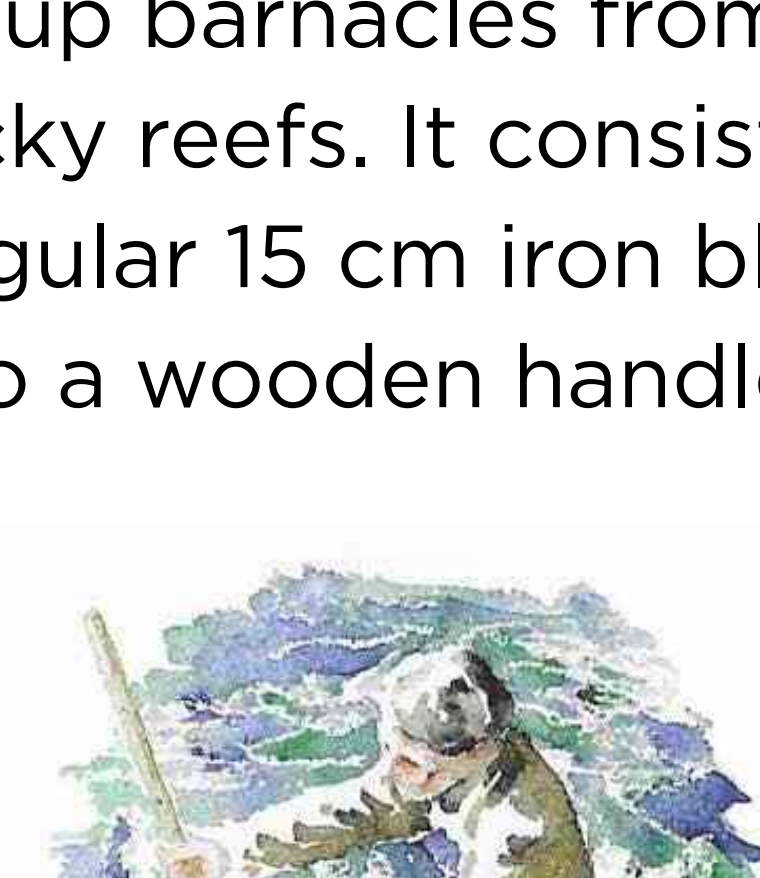


Rastro, Forquilla and Angazo

Angazos are dredges and hand dredges used for scraping smooth bottoms at on-foot shellfish fishing. Fisherwomen used these dredges and hoes.

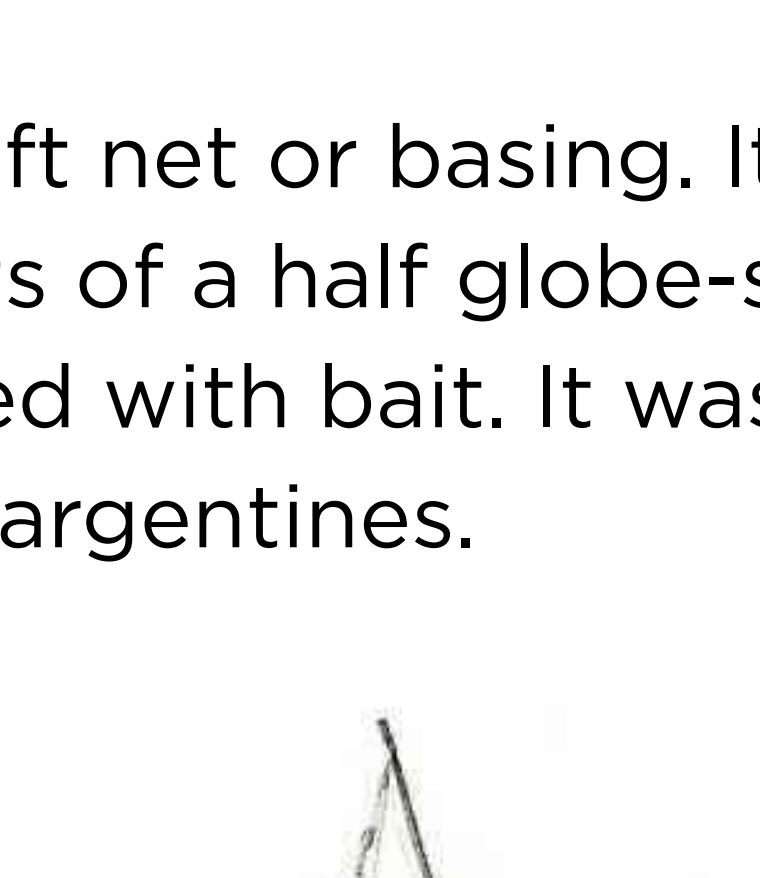
The *Forquilla* is a different kind of dredge that allows fisherwomen to reach higher depths. They are used to collect grooved carpet shell and cockle.

For on-boat shellfish fishing, fishermen use the *Rastro* or *Raño*, hand dredges used to collect clams, mature dosinia, warty venus...



Raspeta

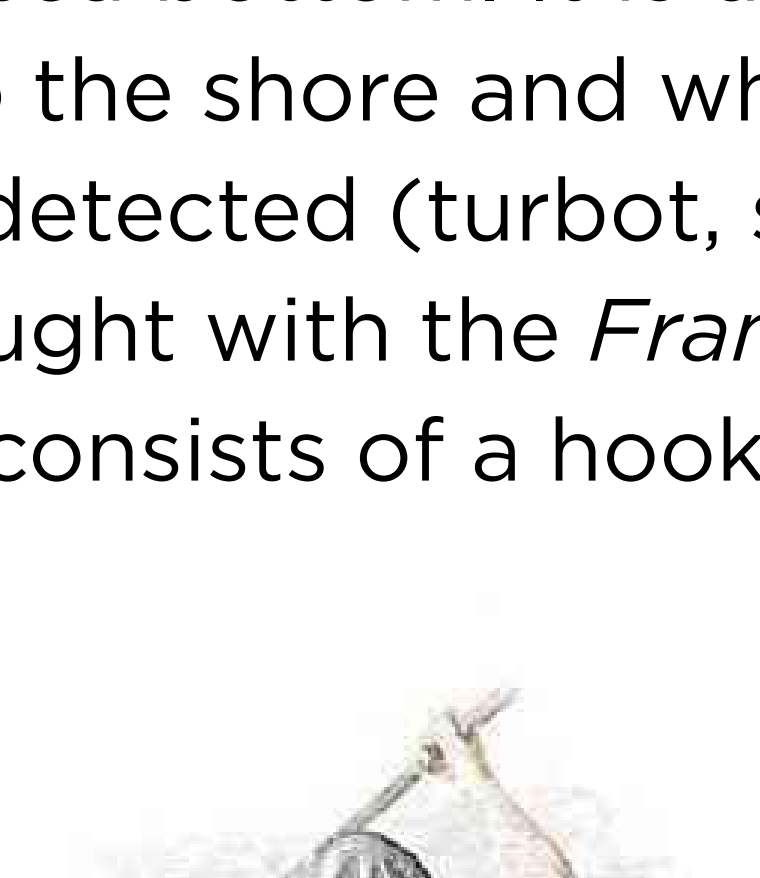
The *Raspeta* is a scraper used to pull up barnacles from the rocky reefs. It consists of rectangular 15 cm iron blade fixed to a wooden handle.



Other gears and techniques from our coast.

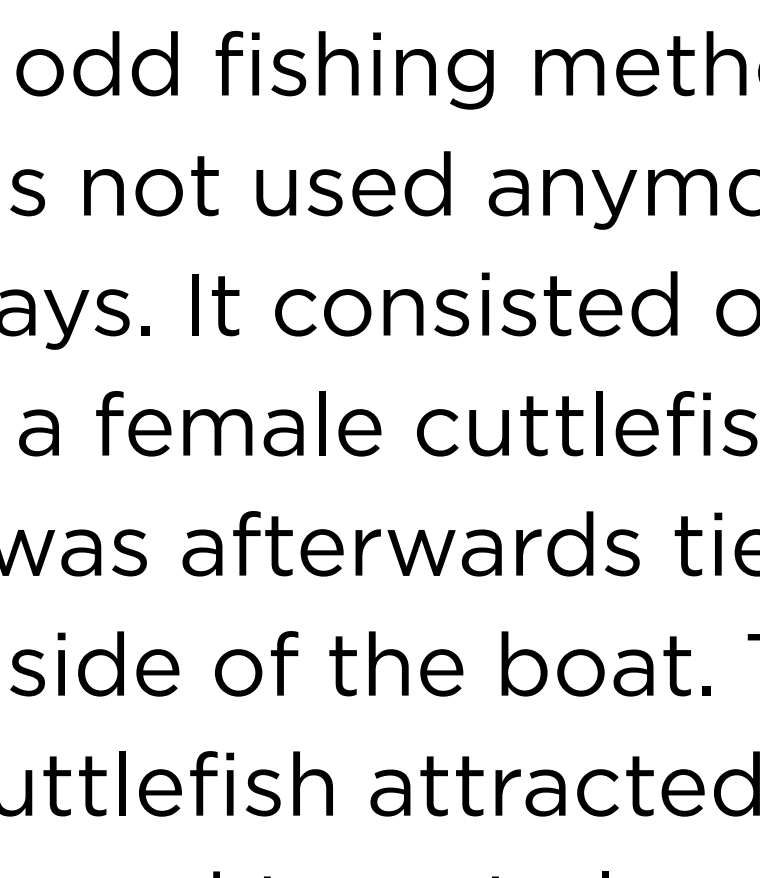
Medio-mundo

It is a lift net or basing. It consists of a half globe-shaped net used with bait. It was used to fish argentines.



Espello and Francada

The *Espello* (In Galician means "glass") is a wooden box with a glass that allows to have a view of the sea bottom. It is used near to the shore and when a fish is detected (turbot, sole...) it is caught with the *Francada*, which consists of a hook.



Femiera do Chopo (Cuttlefish female)

It is an odd fishing method which is not used anymore nowadays. It consisted of fishing a female cuttlefish which was afterwards tied alive to one side of the boat. The male cuttlefish attracted by the female used to get closer to the boat so that fishermen could catch them.

