

Paradise
Fisheries, LTD. Est: since 1990



SPONGING



FOR THE FISHERMAN



Paradise Fisheries is interested in purchasing sponges on an ongoing basis.

The species and the sizes we are interested in are as follows:

SPECIES	DIAMETER (INCHES)
Grass	3 - 7
Hard Head	2 - 5.5
Wool.....	4 - 8



For each species, The sponge will be graded according to size and quality.

Paradise fisheries would like to encourage fishermen to produce sponges on a sustainable basis by adopting the following practices:

CUTTING OF SPONGES

Sponges should be cut using a sharp knife leaving the base of the sponge intact.

This will enable the sponge to re-grow naturally within 12-18 months. The sponge can then be harvested again in 12 - 18 months.

The sponge harvested at that time will have a better commercial value than the larger ones.

The large size of the sponge does not give it quality. Actually older sponges are naturally deteriorating from the inside.

CLEANING OF SPONGES

Sponges must be properly cleaned to ensure a good quality and the best price.

The cleaning process is as follows:

1. The cut sponges are allowed to dry on land for about one week.(This kills all of the living tissue)
2. The dried sponges are placed back in the sea (usually in krawls) for about another week.
3. The sponges are then beaten with a piece of wood (2"x4" or 2" x 6") to break down the dead tissue and remove the trapped sand.
4. The sponges are then washed and taken back to land, placed on canvas and allowed to dry.

CLEANED SPONGES

Further details on the cleaned Grass, Hard Head and Wool Sponges are presented below.

GRASS SPONGE (*SPONGIA GRAMINEA*)

Advantage: Soft and comfortable sponge for bath

Problem: low durability, the tissues are not very strong

For a selection of first grade sponges. The idea is to enhance the fishing of good quality grass sponges. The waters of The Bahamas allow a fast growth of the sponge, permitting a fast recuperation of the sponges within a year or 18 month, provided that the sponges have been cut properly when harvested.

GRASS SPONGE cont'd...

The commercial value sponges range in sizes between 8 cm (about 3 inches) and 18cm (about 7 inches) for the best sellers. Above 18 cm in diameter the sponge loses its value, since it has to be cut and does not meet anymore the esthetical standards required for bath sponges.

The four best sizes of Grass sponges for commercial value



Extra Small Size : 1



Small size : 2



Medium Size : 3



Large Size : 4



HARD HEAD SPONGE

*(Spongia Barbara dura or
Spongia Agaracina dura)*

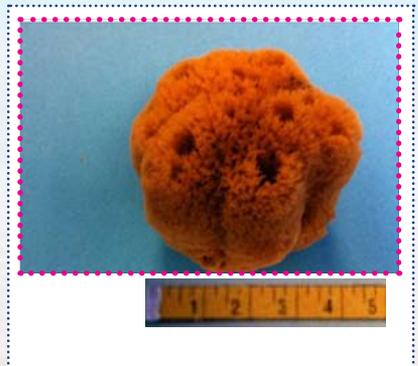
Advantages : *Strong, Fine
Quality Sponge*

Problem : *Hard*

*The commercial size of this
sponge ranges from
5cm (min : 2 inches) up to
14 cm (max : 5.5 inches)*



HARD HEAD SPONGE
Different sizes



WOOL SPONGE

(Hippospongia Lachne)

Advantages: Very strong, soft and resistant sponges mainly for industry

Problem: The price is high therefore the industry is thus buying synthetic sponges instead of naturals.

Since the industry is not buying, we will try to introduce this sponge in the world of bath (difficult though because for a high price, the Mediterranean wool sponge is preferred). The market does not want big sponges neither cut ones.



WOOL SPONGE



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