

The **REX** project: a collaborative fishermen-scientist project on the geographical distribution of Atlantic cod in the north-eastern part of the central North Sea

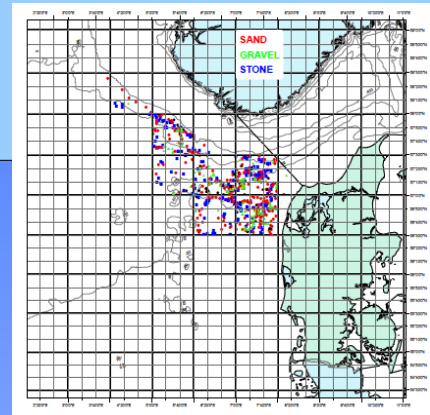
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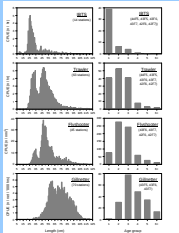


This collaborative fishermen-scientists project, which started in June 2006 and finished cruise number 10 in august 2009, explore the distribution of Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*) on different geographical scales in the north-eastern part of the central North Sea.

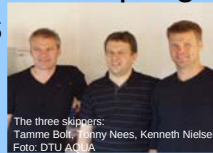
To cover different bottom habitats three types of commercial fishing vessels; a trawler, a gillnetter, a flyshooter and the Danish research vessel 'Dana' together with a few minor ships were used for data collection. Also the fishermen's knowledge about the habitats and the overall distribution of cod were implemented.



Survey results on cod abundance and size distribution were compared with the IBTS ICES CM 2009/L:03



Collaboration between the biologist and the fishermen were practised through out the project in e.g. survey design and sampling tasks and the project progress were evaluated during regular meetings.



Results and progress were published in a series of Danish newspaper articles and presented at meetings of the North Sea RAC and ICES working groups.

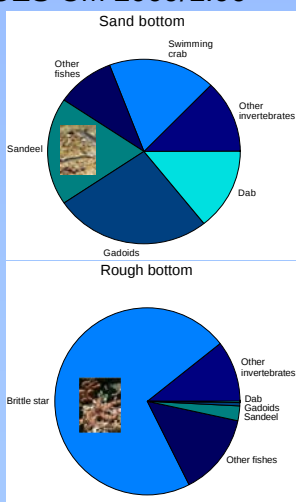


Funding was provided by the Danish Food Industry Agency (FERV) and EU (EFF).

Four sub projects were initiated to acquire a mechanistic understanding of the survey results

Feeding biology and small scale geographical distribution.

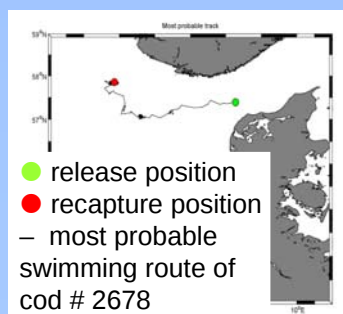
ICES CM 2009/L:06



Stomach content of Cod (length 50 – 60 cm)

Migration of Cod in and around the REX area.

In February 2008, 153 cod were marked with Data Storage Tags (DST). So far 27 tags have been returned, showing different migration behaviors.



Behavior of large Atlantic cod on ship wrecks and similar rough bottom structures.

ICES CM 2009/B:19



10 ship wrecks known to hold cod >70 cm were selected, to examine the time budget of cod at the wrecks by use of acoustic telemetry.

Estimating a catchability coefficient for a commercial fishing vessel.

ICES CM 2009/L:14



Sampling efficiency for a flyshooter was estimated by fishing the same area repeatedly (consecutive tows approximately two hours apart).

Thanks to all the fishermen and DTU AQUA staff involved in this project.