Cruise report hydro acoustic survey for blue whiting (Micromesistius poutassou) with R.V. "Tridens", 17 March - 04 April 2008

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Summary

This is the report of the Dutch part of the international North East Atlantic hydro acoustic survey for blue whiting. The survey is coordinated by ICES and has been executed annually. Ireland, Russia, Iceland, Denmark, Faroe Islands and Norway also participate in the survey.

The purpose of the survey is to estimate the blue whiting stock of the North East Atlantic. The ICES uses this estimation is as a "tuning index" to assess the North East Atlantic blue whiting stock.

For this survey a Simrad 38kHz splitbeam transducer was used together with a Simrad EK60 echo sounder. The applied method was echo integration. By sailing transects over the survey area, the total acoustic cross-section can be calculated by surface area sampled. Trawling identified species composition of localized schools. The length composition of each species was determined. Blue whiting was examined on age and fecundity from which a split up stock structure was made. Blue whiting where found throughout the survey area associated with the continental shelf edge but showed a clear increase reaching the northern part of the Tridens survey area.

Although a loss of 24 hours due to bad weather and other circumstances the survey has been very successful in terms of acoustic milage, number of trawl hauls, acoustic data quality and communication.

Effective survey days: 15
Effective nautical miles surveyed: 1419
Successful trawl hauls: 19
Successful CTD downcasts: 17

Achievements:

- Pilot on implementation of ecosystem approach in this survey by focussing on deep sea fish species composition and distribution.
- Pilot on on-line live survey progression information.
- Survey was continuous and more flexible by having no intermediary cruise breaks.

Deviations:

• Max anticipated CTD downcast depth (1000m) was not achieved (832m).

A temporary altered CTD deployment method caused skipping of several downcasts due to bad weather.

1. Introduction

In spring 2008, five research vessels representing the Faroe Islands, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway and Russia surveyed the spawning grounds of blue whiting west of the British Isles. International co-operation allows for wider and more synoptic coverage of the stock and more rational utilisation of resources than uncoordinated national surveys. The survey was the fifth coordinated international blue whiting spawning stock survey since mid-1990s. The primary purpose of the survey was to obtain estimates of blue whiting stock abundance in the main spawning grounds using acoustic methods as well as to collect hydrographic information. Results of all the surveys are also presented in national reports (Fridtjof Nansen: Oganin et al. 2008; Celtic Explorer: O'Donnell et al. 2008; Gardar: Salthaug et al. 2008; M. Heinason: Jacobsen et al. 2008; Tridens: Ybema et al. 2008).

2. Assignment

Wageningen IMARES, Institute for Marine Resources & Ecosystem Studies participates in the international North East Atlantic hydro acoustic survey for blue whiting since 2004. The survey is part of the EU data collection framework. The aim of this survey is to provide an abundance estimate of the whole North East Atlantic blue whiting population as well as to determine the spatial distribution at this time of year. This estimate is used as a tuning index by ICES to determine the size of the population. In this report the results are presented of the survey west of Ireland, carried out by FRV "Tridens".

3. Materials and Methods

3.1 Scientific staff

IMARES staff

- 1. Sytse Ybema
- 2. Kees Bakker
- 3. Thomas Pasterkamp
- 4. Joe Freijser

Guest scientists

5. Eric Armstrong (Marine Lab, Scotland)6. Matthias Kloppmann (BFA, Germany)7. Dirk Tijssen (DTU-Aqua, Denmark)

3.2 Narrative

The temporal progression of the survey is shown in figure 3.3.

Week 27-28

Wednesday 13 March, The IMARES research vessel MS Tridens set sail to Cork from Scheveningen in a Gail with enough force to get us on the Dutch evening news. Early arrival in Cork harbour at 8 am due to improving weather conditions during the voyage. Tuesday 18 March At 6 am we sailed out of Cork harbour and set course for Bantry bay in Kerry. We arrived in Bantry bay around 13:30 where we calibrated our transducers. The first days we finished out first transects finding blue whiting on the continental slope. Friday 21 March Today was a day of rest, the waves are 20 ft + .We decided to steer off our easterly course to head into the wind for the night, North, as were 5 Dutch trawlers. We did some comparing fishing with 2 of them the day after. The weather was slightly improving so we continued our transects.

Week 29

Until now everything had gone according to plan, but with one trawl on Monday 24 March it didn't. One of the lines attached to weights that hold the bottom of the net in place had snapped. After being informed about the

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latest news concerning Dirk, the deck-crew member that got injured a few days ago, the captain decided to abandon course and set sail for Killybegs harbour in Donegal Bay, Ireland for a visit to the hospital. We set sail back on course Wednesday morning at eight am. We had been discussing for a while to do a deeper deep-sea trawl especially to improve our marine life census: have a plunge into the fascinating environment of Blue whiting. So on our way back to the fishing ground we made a deep sea trawl (~900m) which revealed many deep sea species which were photographed and taken for further analysis. On Saturday 29 March we performed an intercalibration with the Norwegian vessel 'Gardar'. Results were satisfactory. Sunday 30 March we had some troubles when we tried to set out the net for the third time in one day. The brake system that should slowly lower the net to the acquired fishing depth failed. About 400 meters of cable ran off the winch without control. It was descending so fast that smoke was coming off the pulley blocks. There was really nothing they could do but to leave the net hanging there overnight at a depth of 400 meters. When they managed to get the hauling system working again the rig was brought onboard, as it turned out the net was only twisted.

Week 30

Tuesday 1 April, last day of the survey, 20 hauls had been made and over 2000 nautical miles were surveyed. A national record! We sailed for Scotland through the Minch to avoid any more of this 25ft wave torment. In Loch Eriboll we performed a post calibration to make sure our equipment was still OK. Within a few hours we set sail for Scheveningen where we arrived at Thursday 3 April.

3.3 Survey design

The survey was carried out from 17 March to 1 April 2008, covering an area west of Ireland from latitude 51.45° to 58.15° North and from longitude 9° West to 16° West (Fig. 3.1). An adapted survey design was applied this time, based on recommendations made by PGNAPES in 2007. Tridens was to cover the core area assisted by Celtic Explorer and Fridtjof Nansen. Coordinated survey timing- was greatly improved this year as compared to previous years with the entire survey program being undertaken within 4 weeks, as compared to 6 weeks in 2007. Parallel transects along latitudinal lines were used with spacing between the lines set at 30 nm in areas with no interlaced transects where 60 nm were used in the rest of the area. Acoustic data from transects running north-south close to the shelf edge (that is parallel to the depth isolines) were excluded from the dataset.

As previous surveys show fish closely related to the shelf edge west of Porcupine Bank, west going transects in this area were clipped when no fish was observed for several hours. Since no fish was observed in areas with water depth below 250m, all transects were cut of at the 200m depth contour. CTD stations were planned in advance but extra stations were added and removed depending on the weather conditions. The actual surveyed cruise track and trawl positions are presented in figure 3.2.

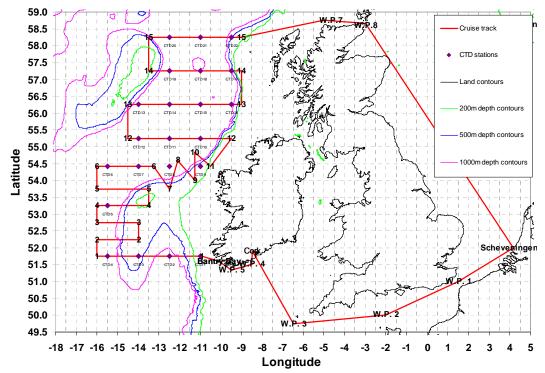


Figure 3.1. Planned cruise tracks and CTD stations. CTD stations are displayed as black dots.

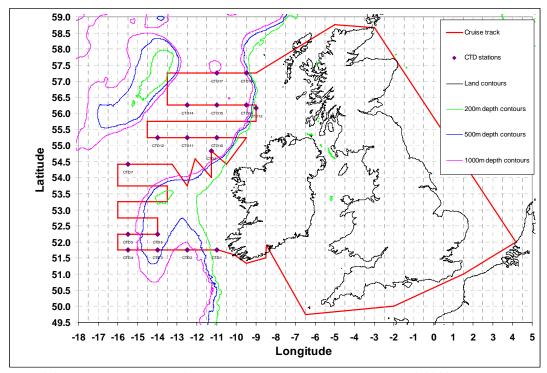
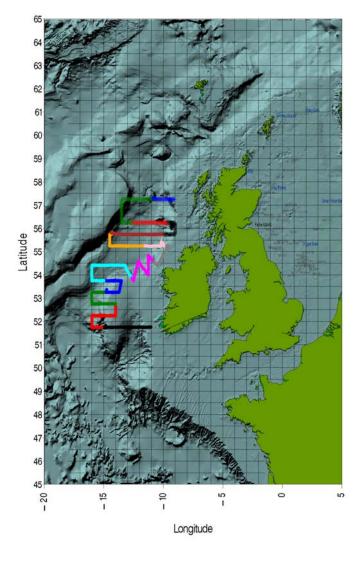


Figure 3.2. Executed cruise track, CTD stations and trawl hauls during the BWHTS 2008.



sasdate . ••• 19/03/08 ••• 20/03/08 ••• 21/03/08 ••• 22/03/08 ••• 23/03/08 ••• 24/03/08 ••• 25/0

Figure 3.3. Temporal progression of the survey, 17 March – 02 April 2008.

3.4 Acoustic calibrations

Both transducers were calibrated in the Bantry Bay, Ireland, according to standard IMARES procedures. using results from the first run as an input in the next run. Four calibrations were executed successfully although the weather conditions were bad. A post calibration in Loch Eriboll was successfully executed. The calibration results used in this survey are listed in appendix A.

| Frequency | Transducer | Results | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|---------|--|--|--|--|
| 38 kHz (2x) | Hull mounted | Good | | | | |
| 38 kHz (2x) | Towed body | Good | | | | |

3.5 Acoustic data collection

A Simrad 38 kHz split beam transducer was operated in a towed body (type "Shark") 6-7 m under the water surface. Acoustic data were collected with a Simrad EK60 scientific echo sounder. The data were logged with Sonardata Echoview software. The EK60 received the position data and vessel speed from the ship's GPS. A variable ping rate was used near the shelf edge avoiding false bottom echoes. The data were logged in 1 nautical mile intervals. A vessel speed of 11 knots was used on one engine without disturbing the acoustic image. The acoustic values (NASC's) from each log interval were only assigned to the category "blue whiting". All echoes were recorded with a threshold of -80dB up to a depth of 750 meters below the transducer.

Eric Armstrong, guest scientist from the Marine Lab in Aberdeen assisted in the use of Sonardata Echoview. The species detection algorithm created in 2007 was further developed. The aim of this exercise was to automated the subjective scrutiny method normally applied.

Acoustic signal check

Two methods were tested for monitoring the stability of all 4 segments of the transducer. If combined, the acoustic system can not just be monitored but also corrected for drop outs and weakening of the signal.

1. Echoview was used as a software monitor tool. An algorithm allows us to monitor the total acoustic energy closely and in real time.

A watchdog setup tested the hardware directly. This method allows us to keep track of signal behaviour of each of the 4 transducer segments.

3.6 Biological data collection

Acoustic recordings were verified by fishing with a 5600 mesh pelagic trawl with 20 mm meshes in the cod-end. Fishing was carried out when there was doubt about the species composition of recordings observed on the echo sounder and to obtain biological samples of blue whiting. In general, after it was decided to make a tow with a pelagic trawl, the vessel turned and fished back on its track line.

Fish samples were divided into species by weight. Length measurements were taken to the 1.0 cm below for all species. For blue whiting length representative samples were taken for sex, maturity, age (otolith extraction) and weight. Age readings were verified at the Norwegian Lab 'IMR'. In all cases, specimens of non-target species, were frozen and photographed for species determination in the lab.

Incorporating the 'Ecosystem approach': Focus on deep sea species

A deep-sea species photo guide has been created during the blue whiting surveys of 2007 and 2008. This photo guide will be available as a stand alone document to all PGNAPES and PGTIPS coordinated surveys. A word of caution is appropriate here: All the determinations have been done on board aided by available literature and equipment. All identifications are based on Muus and Nielsen (1999) and the three volume compilation by Whitihead et al. (1986). If in doubt also http://www.fishbase.org (FishBase 2008) was consulted. Most if not all of the identification are, therefore, correct. However, due to the catch methods some of the species were not in a state that they could be identified immediately, and discriminating features had to be taken from various individuals of a group of specimens of which we were confident to represent one species. It is, thus, possible that inconsistencies might occur. The user of the guide is encouraged not to view it as a final version but as a product in development and help to expand and improve the list of know species of the investigation area. The following references have been used:

- 1. Froese, R. and D. Pauly. Editors. 2008. FishBase. http://www.fishbase.org version (01/2008). World Wide Web electronic publication.
- 2. Muus, B.J. and J.G. Nielsen, 1999. Sea fish. Scandinavian Fishing Year Book, Hedehusene, Denmark. 340 p.
- 3. Whitehead, P.J.P., M.-L. Bauchot, J.-C. Hureau, J. Nielsen and E. Tortonese (eds.), 1986. Fishes of the North-eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. UNESCO, Paris. Vols. Hll: 1473 p. (FNAM)

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3.7 Hydrographical data collection

All vessels were able to take CTD stations to an average depth of 2000 meter or more, except Tridens who only took CTD stations up to 832 meters. Hydrographical data have been collected in 17 CTD stations, (Figure 3.2). The CTD device was not calibrated specifically for this cruise. In addition, some environmental variables were continuously measured by the ships own "Data acquisition system" (DAS). The continuous measuring sensors had not been calibrated and are therefore not used for further analysis. Due to insufficient national observations results are only made available in the international cruise report which can be found on the PGNAPES website.

3.8 Data analysis and online presentation

Acoustic – biological and hydrographic data were stored in the PGNAPES format for further analysis at this cruis' post meeting In Kaliningrad, Russia. Scrutinizing acoustic data was sometimes tricky since the algorithm produced some unexpected results. This his been corrected in the final algorithm version.

Based on last years results, semi automated data fusion was used to create a better overview of the survey progress and to be able to share data amongst research vessels (Fig 3.4). This data fusion projects includes not only collected data during the survey but also live environmental data, weather forecasts and other relevant information for this cruise. It has proven to be highly valuable to national and international survey design.

A ship's journal written by Joe Freijser, trainee "Coastal zone Management" of the "Van Hall Larenstein" college in the Netherlands was presented online.

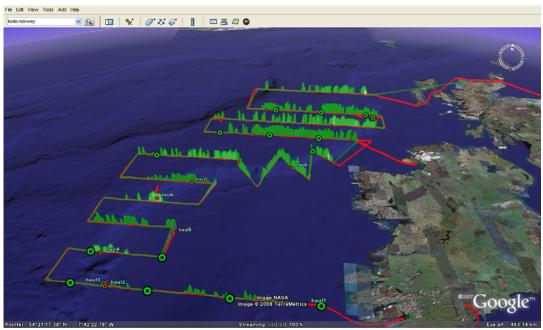


Figure 3.4 Overview of data fusion project using Google Earth, 05 March – 23 March 2008.

Further analysis of the international data has taken place in Kaliningrad, Russia, 23-25 April 2008 resulted in a combined survey report.

4. Results

4.1 Acoustics

Overall 1419 nautical miles were surveyed which is substantially more than the 839 miles in 2007. The main reason for this increase the relative good weather conditions and not having any mid-cruise breaks.

Detectability

Unlike in previous years, acoustic response of blue whiting was similar shaped in al areas. Some small and dense schools were found (Fig. 4.1 C) but the overall pattern was 'eal-like' (Fig. 4.1 A and B). A special blue whiting detection algorithm was created in Sonardata Echoview. It has been proven being capable of selecting identical schools which would have been selected manually. Overall, the strongest signals of blue whiting were observed at depths of 400-500m, sometimes extending to around 300m depth (or even shallower) on the slope areas (Fig. 4.1 C).

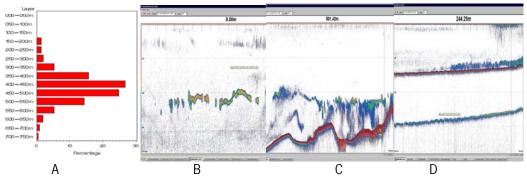


Figure 4.1. The overall vertical distribution of blue whiting having most recodings around 450m (A). Echograms showing examples of schools of blue whiting along the shelf edge at 250m depth (D), small dense schools detected at 500m depth (B and C).

Geographical distribution patterns

Like in all previous years, schools were found further off the slope area in the northern part of the survey area.

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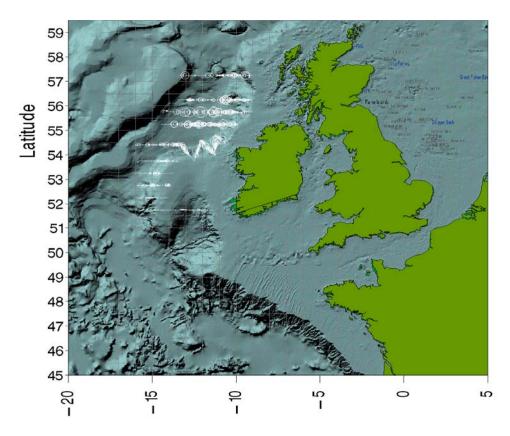


Figure 4.2. Post plot showing the distribution of **total blue whiting** NASC values (on a proportional square root scale relative to the largest value of 24651) obtained during the March 2008 North East Atlantic blue whiting hydro acoustic survey on FRV "Tridens".

4.2 Catch results

In all, 20 trawl hauls, 19 valid and containing blue whiting were conducted (Table 4.1). Most hauls were all strongly dominated by blue whiting as shown in table 4.2. One trawl was aimed at species composition in the water column just below the 'blue whiting zone'. Since no multisampler gear was used it was impossible to pinpoint the exact depth of blue whiting from that catch.

Table 4.1. Details of the trawl hauls taken during the March 2008 North East Atlantic hydro acoustic survey, FRV "Tridens".

| haul nr | sample id | validity | ICES | date | time (GMT) | position | haul duration (| depth | gear depth | wind direction (| wind force (| total sample weight (k |
|---------|-----------|----------|------|------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|-------|------------|------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| 1 | 5400101 | valid | 32D8 | 19/03/2008 | 02:40 | 51.45N-11.12W | 57 | 180 | 180 | 90 | 4 | 6055000 |
| 2 | 5400102 | valid | 32D5 | 19/03/2008 | 20:02 | 51.45N-14.49W | 45 | 520 | 520 | 90 | | |
| 3 | 5400103 | valid | 32D5 | 19/03/2008 | 21:21 | 51.47N-14.50W | 43 | 540 | 535 | 90 | 2 | 147000 |
| 4 | 5400104 | | 33D4 | 20/03/2008 | 11:42 | 52.14N-15.16W | 36 | 1180 | 500 | 293 | | 112000 |
| 5 | 5400105 | valid | 34D6 | 20/03/2008 | 21:30 | 52.40N-14.00W | 14 | 265 | 280 | 293 | 12 | 245000 |
| 6 | 5400106 | valid | 35D5 | 22/03/2008 | 07:56 | 53.20N-14.45W | 11 | 550 | 500 | 338 | 4 | 3272500 |
| 7 | 5400107 | | | 22/03/2008 | 19:37 | 53.45N-14.07W | 73 | 1000 | 510 | 315 | 4 | 420000 |
| 8 | 5400108 | | | 23/03/2008 | 19:30 | 54.22N-13.09W | 61 | 2900 | 450 | 338 | | 1732500 |
| 9 | 5400109 | | | 24/03/2008 | 10:03 | 54.17N-11.43W | 38 | | | | | 483000 |
| 10 | 5400110 | valid | | | 22:06 | 54.35N-10.50W | 58 | 500 | 420 | 338 | | 1365000 |
| 11 | 5400111 | | 39D9 | 25/03/2008 | 10:05 | 55.15N-10.05W | 67 | 500 | 450 | 293 | 1 | 2919000 |
| 12 | 5400112 | | | 26/03/2008 | 17:00 | 55.27N-10.03W | 44 | | | 293 | | |
| 13 | | | | | 05:40 | 55.14N-13.01W | 70 | | | | | |
| 14 | 5400114 | | | | 20:46 | 55.44N-10.40W | 35 | 2000 | 410 | | | 2135000 |
| 15 | 5400115 | | | 29/03/2008 | 12:30 | 56.05N-09.16W | 16 | 1000 | 500 | 225 | 10 | 665000 |
| 16 | 5400116 | | | 29/03/2008 | 18:41 | 56.14N-09.22W | 46 | 1500 | 500 | 359 | | |
| 17 | 5400119 | | | | 00:40 | 57.16N-10.34W | 45 | | | 225 | | 1942500 |
| 18 | 5400117 | valid | 41D7 | 30/03/2008 | 00:48 | 56.14N-12.49W | 50 | 2500 | 420 | 338 | 4 | 1417500 |
| 19 | 5400118 | valid | 42D6 | 31/03/2008 | 09:50 | 56.58N-13.27W | 40 | 490 | 430 | 158 | 11 | 1802500 |
| 20 | 5400120 | valid | 43E0 | 01/04/2008 | 09:30 | 57.15N-09.29W | 81 | 700 | 450 | 248 | 8 | 1225000 |

Table 4.2. Trawl catches during the March 2008 North East Atlantic hydro acoustic survey, FRV "Tridens" in kg. Scientific and English species names are listed in appendix B.

| Scientific and Engli | sn sp |)e(| cies | s na | | | liste | ea in a | appe | naix | В. | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|-----|------|----------|------|--------------|-------|----------|--|----------|--------|-------|--------|--------|----------|-------|----------|--------|--------|----------|
| Haul number | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| English name | | П | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | П | | | | 3254.0 | 407.0 | 1702.7 | 445.7 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Alfonsino | | П | 0.3 | | | | 0.7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Argyropelecus hemigymnus | | П | | | | | | | 0.0 | | 0.0 | | 0.0 | | 0.0 | | 0.0 | | | |
| Bean's sawtoothed eel | | П | | | | | | | | | | 1.6 | | | | | | | | |
| Benthosema glaciale | | П | | 1.0 | | | | 0.6 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Birdbeak dogfish | | П | | | | | | | | | | 7.1 | | | | | | | | |
| Black scabbardfish | | П | | | | | | | | | | 4.6 | | | | | | | | |
| Blackfish | | П | 3.3 | 21.8 | | 2.8 | 2.3 | 4.1 | 26.0 | 56.0 | 110.4 | 14.7 | 12.7 | | | 23.3 | 48.3 | | 66.2 | |
| Blue whiting | 9.2 | | 85.0 | 83.1 | 93.9 | 3254.0 | 407.0 | 1702.7 | 445.7 | 1293.0 | 2868.6 | 426.4 | 1057.1 | 2110.0 | 634.0 | 434.0 | 1402.0 | 1796.0 | 1866.0 | 1219.0 |
| Boarfish | 0.8 | П | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chauliodus | | П | | | | | | | | | | 0.9 | 0.0 | | | | 0.0 | | 0.0 | |
| Cubiceps gracilis | | П | | | | | | | 0.1 | | | | | | | | | | 0.10 | |
| Deal-fish | | П | 5.6 | 1.7 | | 12.2 | | 15.8 | 5.4 | 8.6 | 5.5 | 6.6 | 4.7 | 7.0 | | 4.8 | | | 8.5 | |
| Greater argentine | | П | 3.7 | 0.1 | | | | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 2.0 | 2.9 | | | | | | | 2.0 | |
| Greater forkbeard | | Н | 5.7 | <u> </u> | | | | J.0 | 3.0 | <u> </u> | | 7.0 | | | | | | | | |
| Grey gurnard | | Ħ | | | | | | | | | 2.6 | 0.5 | | | | | | 0.7 | | 8.0 |
| Hachetfish | | H | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | 0.5 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.0 | | 0.1 | | 0.0 | | | 0.0 |
| Hake | 19.1 | H | 19.6 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | 3.9 | 26.8 | 74.8 | 0.0 | | 1.9 | | 0.0 | 0.0 | | 0.1 |
| Horse mackerel | 5578.0 | Н | 10.0 | | 49.0 | 0.0 | | | | 0.3 | 20.0 | 2.9 | | | 0.2 | 0.3 | | | | |
| Howella sherborni | 0070.0 | Н | | | 40.0 | | | | | 0.0 | | 2.0 | | | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | | |
| Lampadena | | H | | 0.1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.0 | 0.0 | | 0.0 | |
| Lampanyctus crocodilus | | Н | | 0.1 | | | | | | | | | | 0.1 | | 2.5 | | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Long-finned squid | | H | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.1 | | 2.0 | | 0.0 | 0.5 | |
| Longtooth anglemouth | | Н | | | | | | 0.0 | | 0.9 | 0.0 | 0.3 | | 0.1 | | 0.3 | 0.2 | | 0.5 | |
| Mackerel | 453.0 | Н | 19.1 | | 59.7 | 1.3 | 5.1 | 3.2 | | 1.1 | 0.0 | 0.3 | | 0.1 | | 0.3 | 0.2 | | 0.3 | |
| Melanostomias biseriatus | 433.0 | Н | 19.1 | 0.0 | 33.1 | 1.3 | 3.1 | 3.2 | | 1.1 | | | | | | | | | 0.3 | |
| Myctophidae | | Н | | 0.0 | | 0.4 | | | | 0.6 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Myctophidae Myctophum punctatum | | Н | 0.0 | | | 0.4 | 0.0 | | | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | | 0.0 | | | | | |
| Nansenia oblita | | Н | 0.0 | | | | 0.0 | 0.1 | | | 0.0 | 0.6 | 0.2 | | 0.0 | | 0.1 | | | |
| Notolepis rissoi | | Н | 0.1 | | | | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | | 0.0 | | | | | 0.0 | | | |
| Notoscopelus kroeyeri | | H | 52.0 | 1.1 | | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 4.7 | | 0.0 | 1.1 | | 0.0 |
| Paralepididae spec1 | | Н | 0.1 | 1.1 | | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.9 | | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 4.7 | | | 1.1 | | 0.0 |
| Paralepis atlantica | | H | 0.1 | | | | 0.2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pearl side | | Н | | | | | 0.2 | | 0.0 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rav's bream | | Н | | - | | 1.0 | | | 0.0 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sagamichthys schnakenbecki | | H | | | | 1.0 | | | | | | 0.1 | 0.1 | | | | 0.4 | | | |
| Sagittal squid | - | Н | | - | | - | | - | | - | | 0.1 | 0.1 | | | | 0.4 | | | - |
| Saithe | - | Н | | — | | - | | - | | - | | 0.7 | | | | | - | | | 1 |
| | . | Н | | _ | | ! | | ! | - | 0.4 | | 0.7 | | | | | <u> </u> | - | | <u> </u> |
| Schnakenbeck's searsid | | Н | | - | - | - | | - | <u> </u> | 0.1 | | | | | | | 0.0 | - | | - |
| Scopelosaurus lepidus | - | Н | | _ | | - | _ | - | 0.0 | - | 0.5 | | | | | _ | 0.0 | | | - |
| Silver pomfret | . | Н | | — | | ļ | 0.0 | - | 0.9 | | 0.5 | 0.0 | | | | | . | | | |
| Silvery pout | | Н | 0.0 | _ | - | | 0.0 | - | | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | | | | - | | 0.0 | - |
| Slender snipe-eel | - | Н | | _ | | 0.0 | 0.1 | - | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.8 | | | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | | | - |
| Snaggletooth | - ^ - | Н | 0.0 | | 0.0 | 0.0 | | | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | <u> </u> | | | |
| Snake pipefish | 0.0 | H | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | <u> </u> | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | 0.0 | 0.0 | | <u> </u> | | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Southern shortfin squid | <u> </u> | Н | | _ | | <u> </u> | | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | 0.0 | | 0. | | <u> </u> | | | | | ļ |
| Stomias | | Н | | | | | | | | | 0.0 | | 0.1 | | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | | | |
| Sudis hyalina | ļ | Н | | | | ļ | | 0.1 | | ļ | | | | | | | | | | |
| Velvet belly | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.4 | | | | | | | | |

Length frequency distributions per haul of blue whiting caught are shown in figure 4.3.

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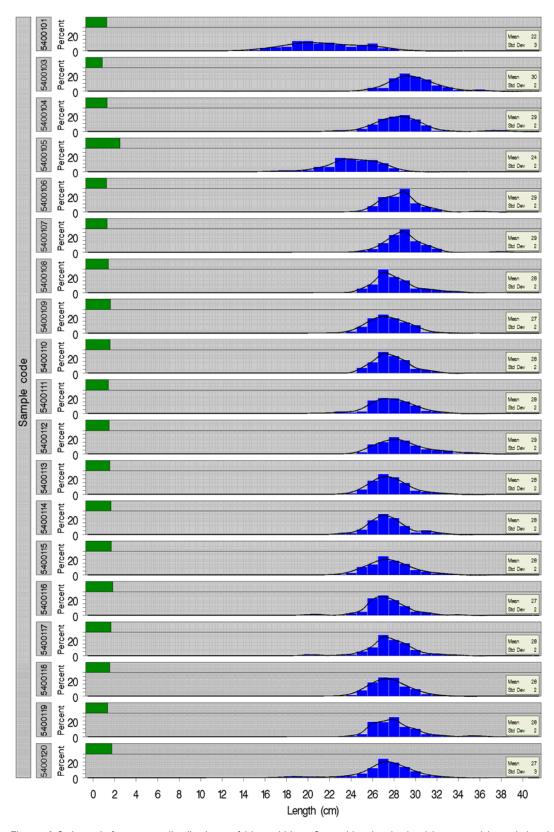


Figure 4.3. Length frequency distributions of blue whiting. Smoothing is obtained by normal kernel density estimates. The green bars indicate the relative amount of samples used.

In total 950 biological samples of blue whiting were collected and used for length, age and maturity keys. An age/maturity structure of these samples is shown below (Figure 4.4). Stock in the Tridens survey area is dominated by age classes 4 and 5 years (year classes 2004 and 2003).

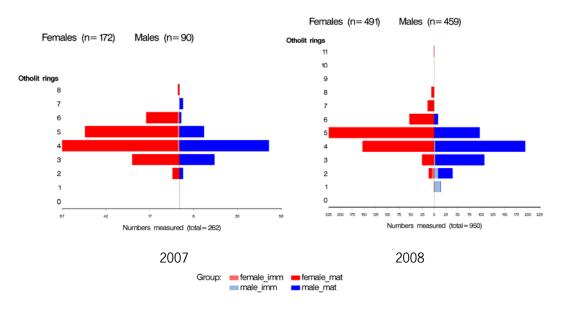


Figure 4.4 Age-maturity structure of collected biological samples of blue whiting by haul during the March 2007 and 2008 North East Atlantic hydro acoustic surveys, FRV "Tridens".

*Growth*Just for the record, the 2008 growth curve has been plotted here (Figure 4.5) to be able to compare it to the one obtained in 2007.

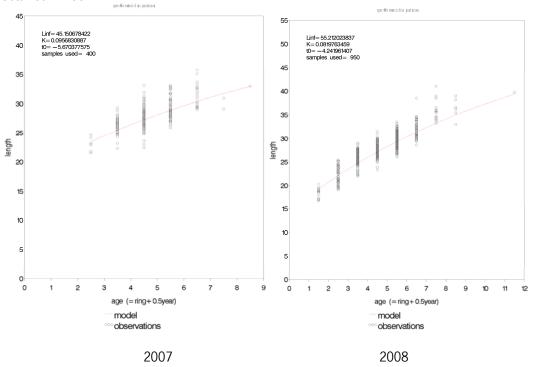


Figure 4.5 Von Bertalanffy growth curve of collected biological samples of blue whiting by haul during the March 2007 and 2008 North East Atlantic hydro acoustic surveys, FRV "Tridens".

Appendix A. Calibration results

| | Ech | no Sound | er Syste | em Calibra | tion | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | DAZTIL | | <u>.</u> | 40,000,0000 | | |
| Vessel: | R/V Tridens | | Date : | 18/03/2008 | | |
| Echo sounder : | ER60 PC | | Locality : | NL | | |
| | | TO | | | | |
| | | TS _{Sphere} : | -33.60 dB | | | |
| Type of Sphere: | CU-64 | (Corrected for | soundvelocity | o Depth(Sea floor) | 23 | m |
| | 0.1.0.11 | | | | | |
| ibration Version | 2.1.0.11 | | | | | |
| Comments: | | | | | | |
| Bantry bay TB cal | #2 | | | | | |
| Reference Targe | ** | | | | | |
| TS Reference range | , u | -33.60 dB | | Min. Distance | | 9.00 m |
| TS Deviation | | 3.0 dB | | Max. Distance | | 12.00 m |
| T | 10D C 111 | 20007 | | | | |
| Transducer: ES3 Frequency | Serial No. | 28887 38000 Hz | | Beamtype | | Split |
| Gain | | 24.93 dB | | Two Way Beam | Angle | -20.6 dB |
| Athw. Angle Sens | | 21.90 | | Along, Angle Ser | ns. | 21.90 |
| Athw. Beam Angle | | 6.81 deg | | Along, Beam Ang | | 6.88 deg |
| Athw. Offset Angle SaCorrection | e | 0.01 deg -0.66 dB | | Along, Offset Ar Depth | ngl | 0.02 deg 0.00 m |
| Sacorrection | | -0.00 GD | | Debili | | 0.00 111 |
| Transceiver: GP | T 38 kHz 00907 | | | | | |
| Pulse Duration | | 1.024 ms | | Sample Interval | ·-u- | 0.191 m |
| Power | | 2000 W | | Receiver Bandw | iath | 2.43 kHz |
| Sounder Type: | | | | | | |
| EK60 Version 2.1. | 1 | | | | | |
| TS Detection: | | | | | | |
| Min. Value | | -50.0 dB | | Min. Spacing | | 100 % |
| Max. Beam Comp. | | 6.0 dB | | Min. Echolength | | 80 % |
| Max. Phase Dev. | | 4.0 | | Max. Echolength | | 180 % |
| Environment: | | | | | | |
| Absorption Coeff. | | 9.9 dB/km | | Sound Velocity | | 1491.1 m/s |
| · | | | | , | | |
| Beam Model res | | 25 00 dB | | SaCorrection | | 0.07.40 |
| Transducer Gain Athw. Beam Angle | | 25.06 dB 7.01 deg | | Along, Beam An | = nle = | -0.67 dB 6.97 deg |
| Athw. Offset Angle | | -0.03 deg | | Along, Offset Ar | | -0.02 deg |
| Detector 1 | | | | | | |
| Data deviation from RMS = 0.13 dB | om beam mod | ei: | | | | |
| Max = 0.39 dB | No. = 369 Ath | w. = 3.3 deg Alo | ng = 3.6 deg | | | |
| Min = -0.47 dB N | No.= 214 Athv | v. = 0.4 deg Alor | ng = -4.7 deg | | | |
| Data deviation from | om nobmonist | model | | | | |
| RMS = 0.08 dB | om polynomia | . modeli | | + | | |
| Max = 0.30 dB | | | | | | |
| Min = -0.36 dB N | No. = 126 Athv | v. = 4.1 deg Alor | ng = 2.5 deg | | | |
| Comments : | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Wind Force: | kn. | Wind Direction | n: | degrees | | |
| Raw Data File: | D:\Acoustic dat | a\2008 BWHTS\C | alibration\bwht | s2008calD20080 | 318-T202341.raw | |
| | | | "- | | | |
| Calibration File: | H:\2008 BWHTS | (Calibration) | B 28887 #2 | | | |

Appendix B. Species names

Note: not all species caught have been able to put into the database system. Overall 69 species were found of which only 47 are listed here.

| | / are listed | | 0 : "" | le e i | In |
|---------------|--------------|---------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 3 letter code | NODC code | tsn | Scientific name | English name | Dutch name |
| | 005000004 | 470 | Autorous | Disabasah sadisa | 7t. |
| 100 | 8850020301 | | Aphanopus carbo | Black scabbardfish | Zwarte kousenbandvis |
| ARG | | | Argentina silus | Greater argentine | Grote zilversmelt |
| | | | Argyropelecus hemigymnus | | Kleine bijlvis |
| | 8759020107 | | Argyropelecus olfersi | Hachetfish | Bijlvis |
| | 8759030106 | | Astronesthes gemmifer | Snaggletooth | Astronesthes |
| | 8762140901 | 162680 | Benthosema glaciale | | IJslantaarnvis |
| | 8810050101 | 166155 | Beryx decadactylus | Alfonsino | Alfonsino |
| | 8835710102 | | Brama brama | Ray's bream | Braam |
| | 8811060301 | | Capros aper | Boarfish | Evervis |
| | 8851010301 | | Centrolophus niger | Blackfish | Zwarte vis |
| | 8759060100 | | Chauliodus | | Chauliodus spp. |
| | 8851020203 | | Cubiceps gracilis | | C. gracilis |
| | 8710011401 | 160742 | Deania calceus | Birdbeak dogfish | Spitssnuitdoornhaai |
| AZN | 8820022101 | 166591 | Entelurus aequoraeus | Snake pipefish | Adderzeenaald |
| | 8710010510 | 160670 | Etmopterus spinax | Velvet belly | Zwarte doornhaai |
| GGU | 8826020601 | 167044 | Eutrigla gurnardus | Grey gurnard | Grauwe poon |
| ZIK | 8791032101 | 164772 | Gadiculus argenteus | Silvery pout | Zilverkabeljauw |
| | 8759010403 | 162185 | Gonostoma elongatum | Longtooth anglemouth | Gonostoma |
| | 8835181301 | 168333 | Howella sherborni | | H. sherborni |
| | 5707150302 | 82523 | Illex coindeti | Southern shortfin squid | Zuidelijke kortvinpijlinktvis |
| | 8762141200 | | | | Lampvis |
| | | | Lampanyctus crocodilus | | L. crocodilus |
| LVUL | 5706010105 | 82375 | Loligo vulgaris | Long-finned squid | Langvinpijlinktvis |
| | 8759010501 | | Maurolicus muelleri | Pearl side | Zalmharing |
| | 8759040602 | | Melanostomias biseriatus | | M. biseriatus |
| HKE | | | Merluccius merluccius | Hake | Heek |
| WHB | 8791032201 | | Micromesistius poutassou | Blue whiting | Blauwe wijting |
| 2 | | | Myctophidae | 2.00 mming | Lantaarnvissen |
| | | | Myctophum punctatum | | Stippellantaarnvis |
| | 8756010104 | | Nansenia oblita | | N. oblita |
| | | | Nemichthys scolopaceus | Slender snipe-eel | Slanke snipaal |
| | 8762070201 | | Notolepis rissoi | Cicridor Crispo Cor | Risso's barracudina |
| | 8762140405 | | Notoscopelus kroeyeri | | Kroeyers lantaarnvis |
| | 8762070001 | | Paralepididae spec1 | | Paralepididae spec1 |
| | | | Paralepis atlantica | | Grote barracudina |
| | 8791031602 | | Phycis blennoides | Greater forkbeard | Gaffelkabeljauw |
| POK | 8791031002 | | Pollachius virens | Saithe | Zwarte koolvis |
| FOR | | | Pterycombus brama | Silver pomfret | Zilverbraam |
| | 8756040401 | 170297 | Sagamichthys schnakenbecki | Schnakenbeck's searsid | |
| MAC | | 172/11/ | Scomber scombrus | | Sagamichthys Makreel |
| IVIAC | | | Scopelosaurus lepidus | Mackerel | S. lepidus |
| | | | | Doon's courteethed and | |
| | | | Serrivomer beani | Bean's sawtoothed eel | S. beani |
| | 8759070200 | | | | Stomias |
| T040 | | | Sudis hyalina | 0 10 - 1 1 | S. hyalina |
| TSAG | 5707150102 | | Todarodes sagittatus | Sagittal squid | Rode pijlinktvis |
| DEA | | | Trachipterus arcticus | Deal-fish | Bandvis |
| HOM | 8835280103 | 168588 | Trachurus trachurus | Horse mackerel | Horsmakreel |

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Appendix C. Length frequency proportions of most abundant species

LF distribution for n>25 BWHTS 2008

