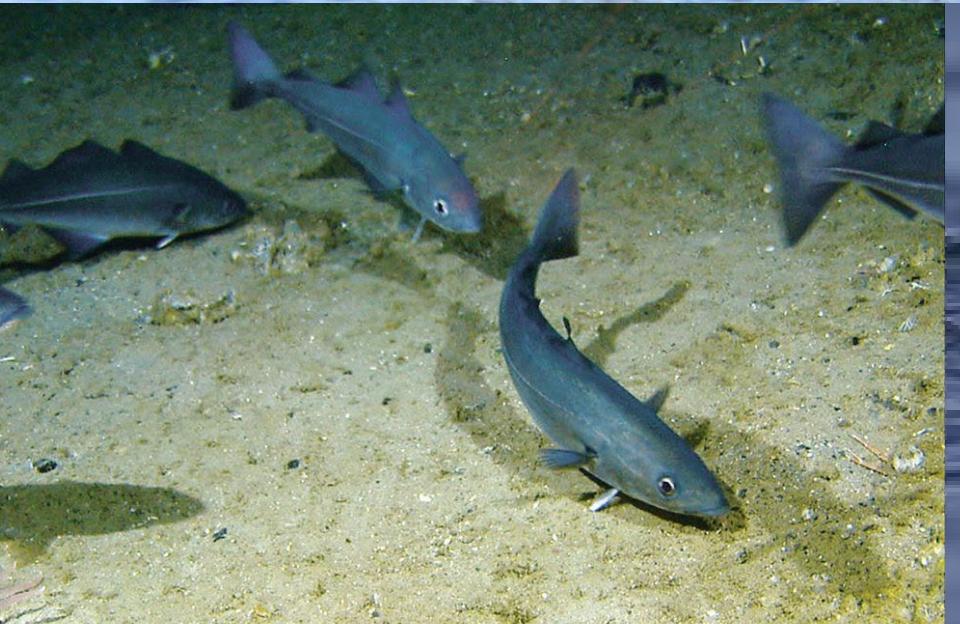
The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of a large school of small, silvery fish swimming in a dark, slightly cloudy water. The fish are oriented horizontally, creating a sense of movement and density.

# An end-to-end use of advanced acoustic surveys in spatial management of the lesser sandeel (*Ammodytes marinus*)

Espen Johnsen  
Institute of Marine Research  
Ecosystem Acoustic Research Group





# Life history

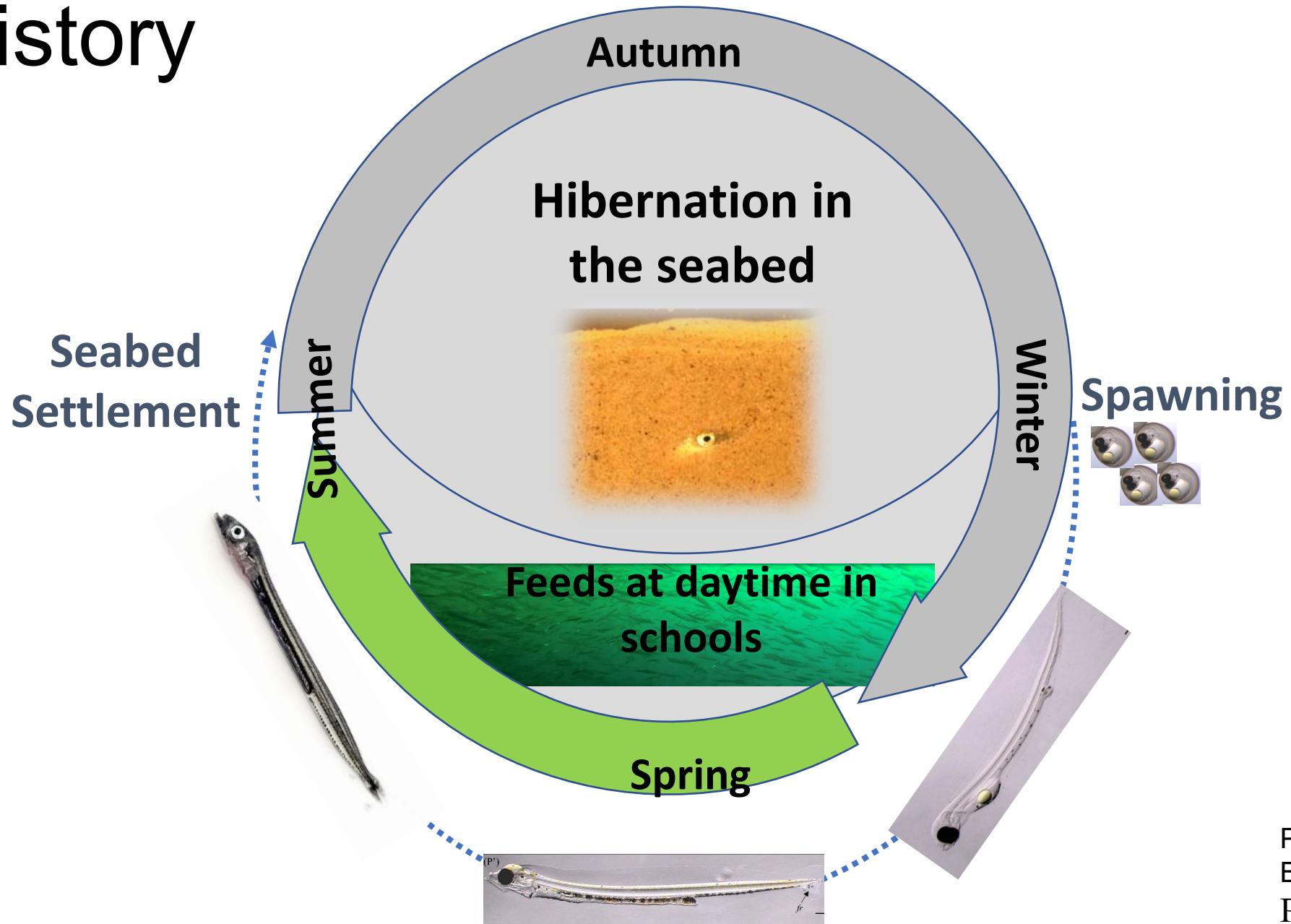
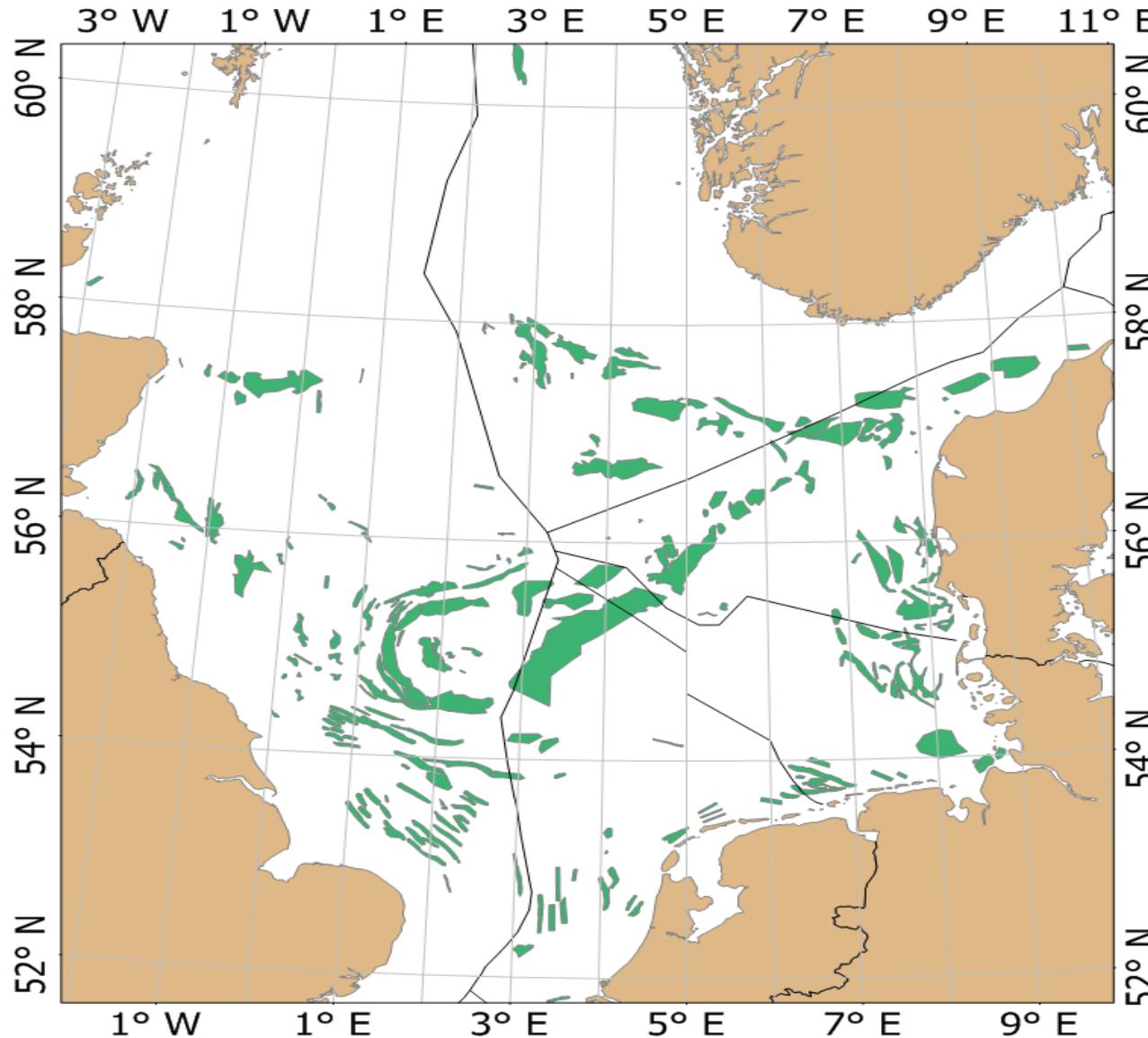


Photo:  
Behrens et al. 2007  
Perrichon et al. in prep

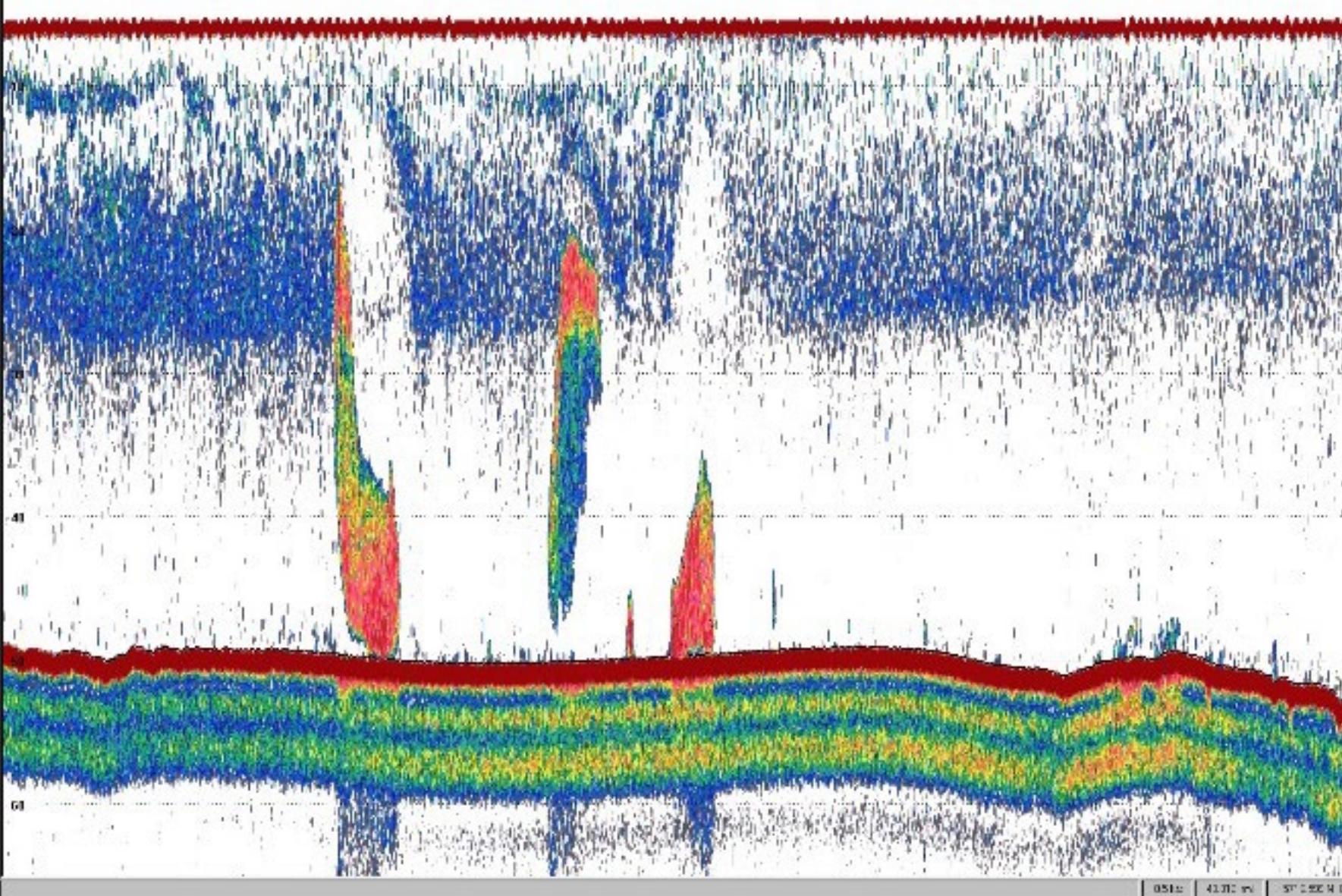


# Spatial distribution in the North Sea



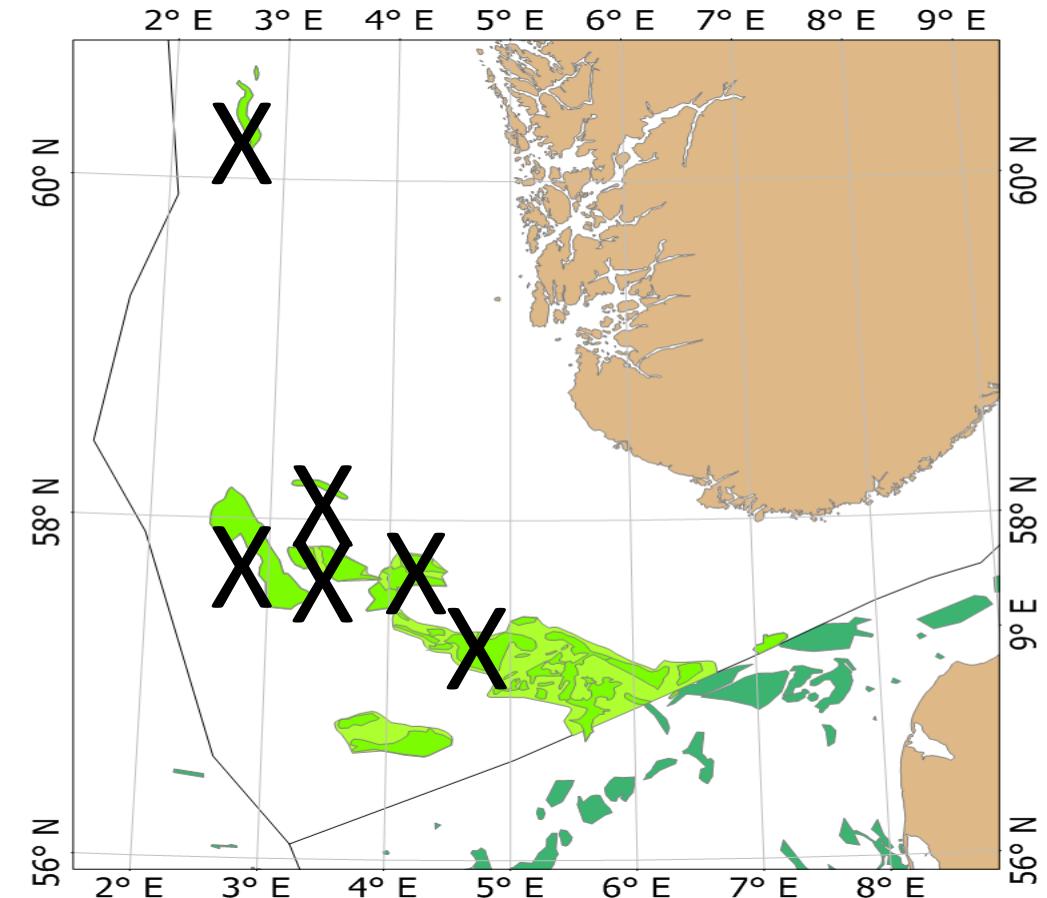
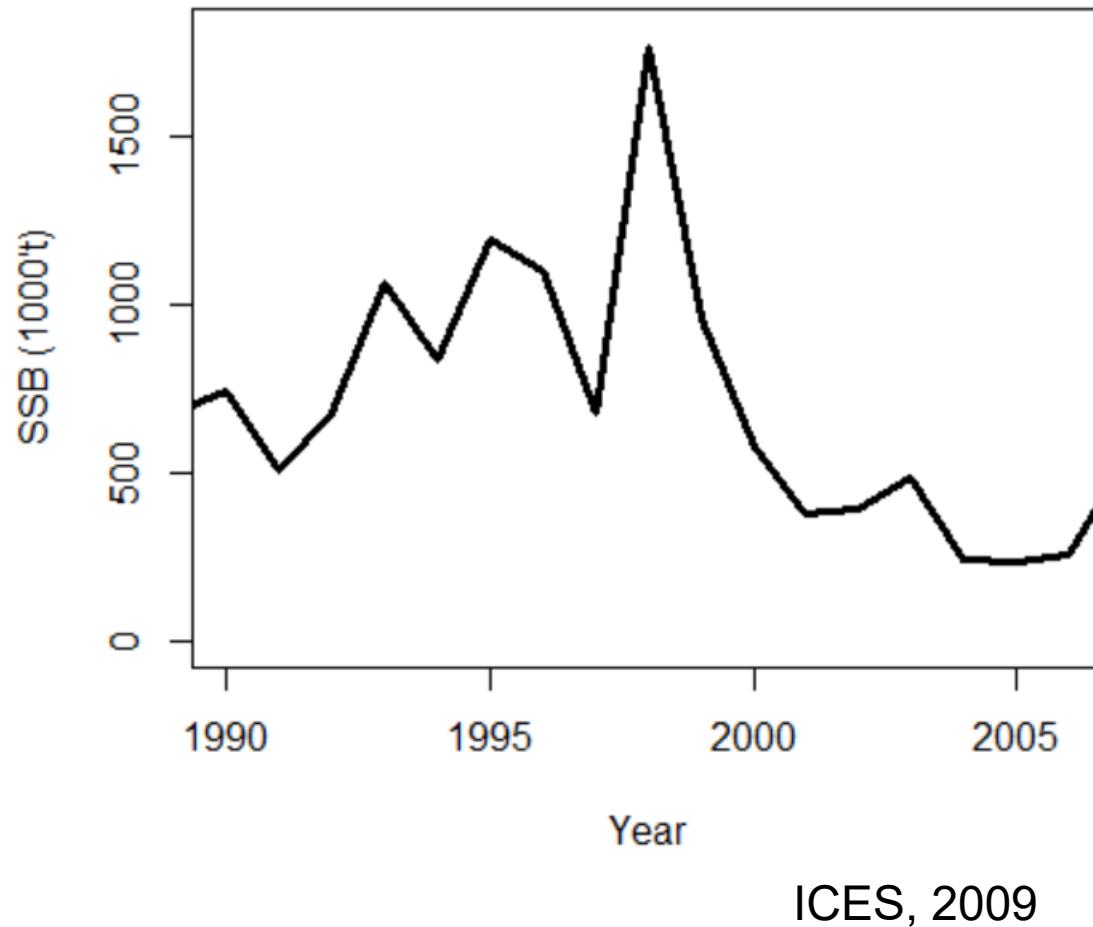
Jensen et al. 2011

# Pelagic sandeel schools



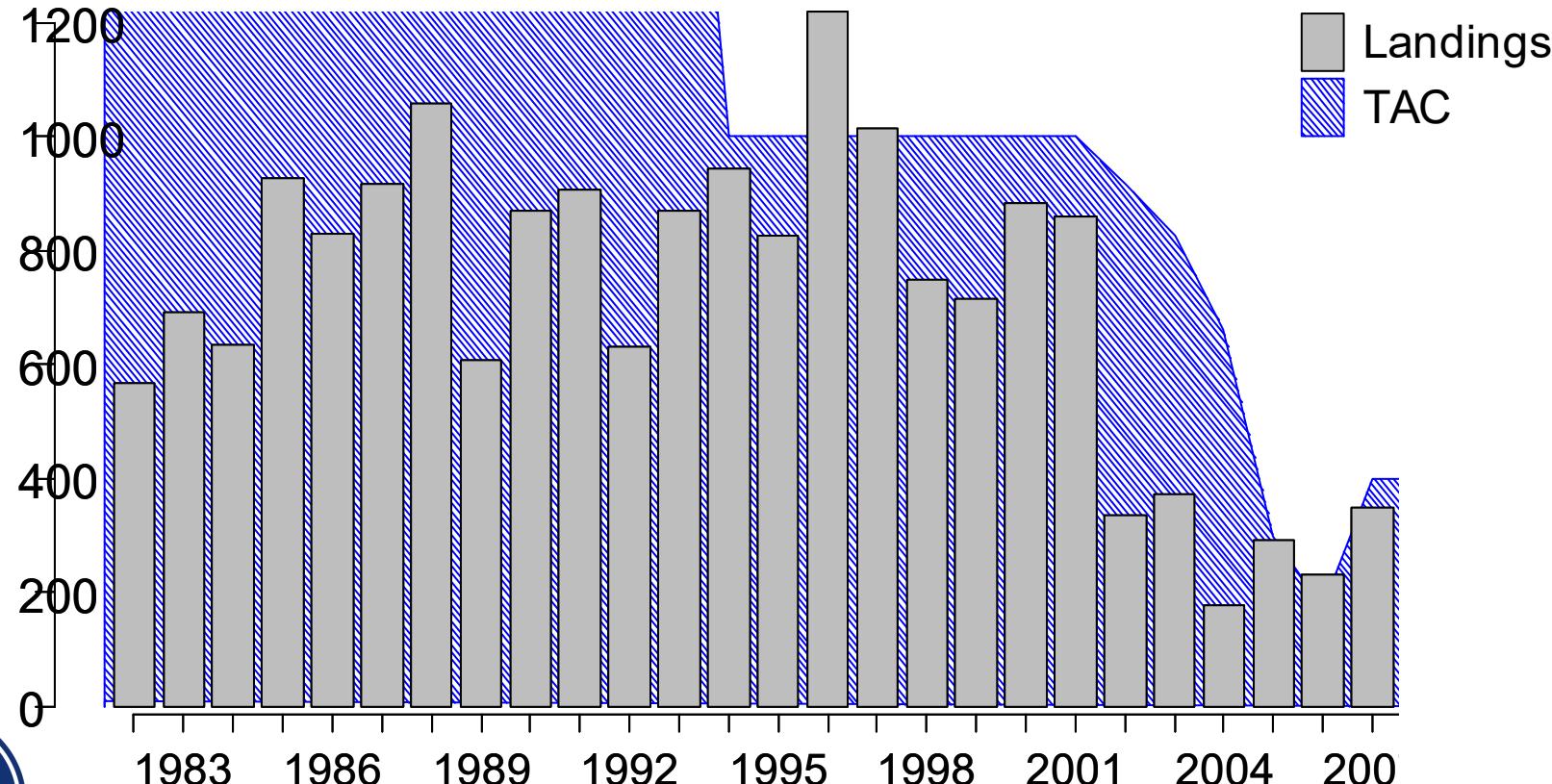
# Spatially structured collapse

*Fishing ground after fishing ground  
crash to commercial extinction*



# No spatial structuring in the ICES advice

1000' tonnes





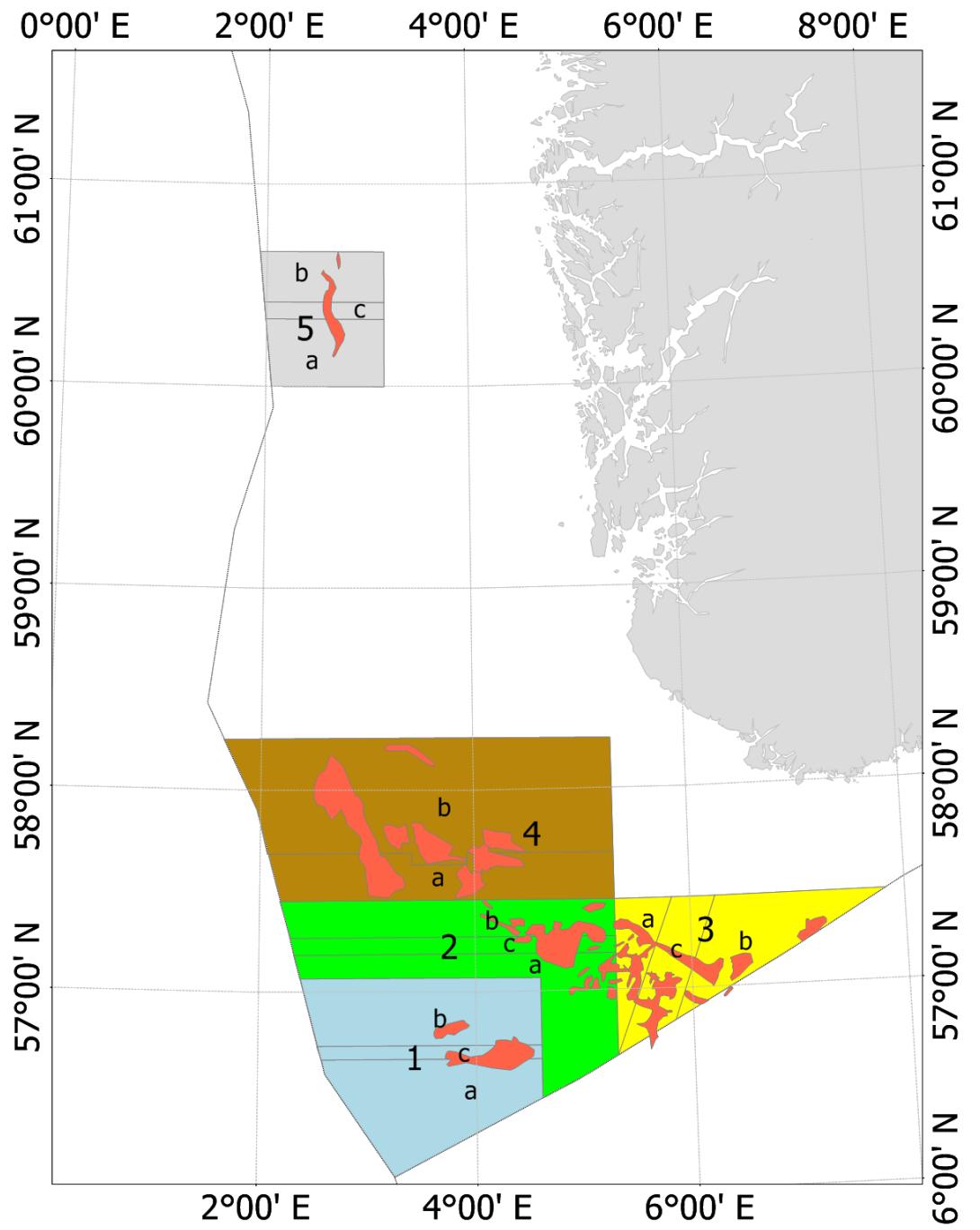


# Establish a sustainable national sandeel management plan

- Rebuild the spawning biomass of all historically important sandeel areas
- Keep the advice process open and predictable
- Make use of updated information



# Spatial structured management plan



Dredge survey  
Age0 index

Acoustic trawl survey  
Age1+ absolute estimate

Fishing season

1 Dec

15 Apr

23 June

Preliminary  
advice

1 Feb

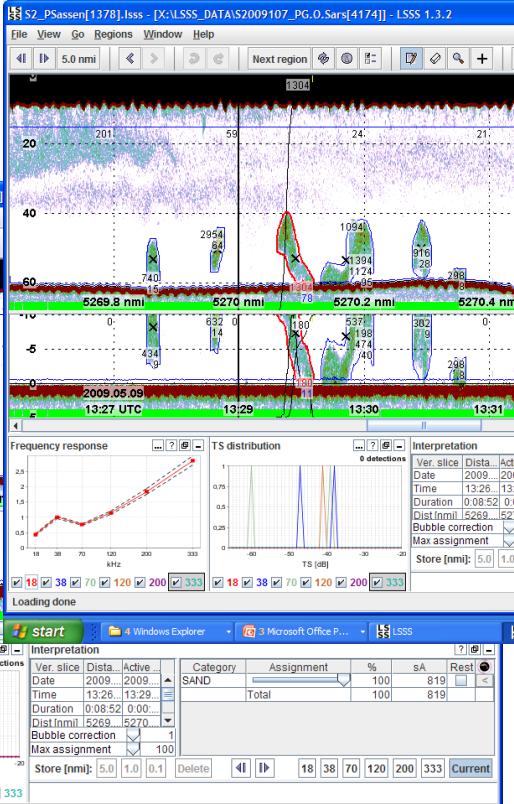
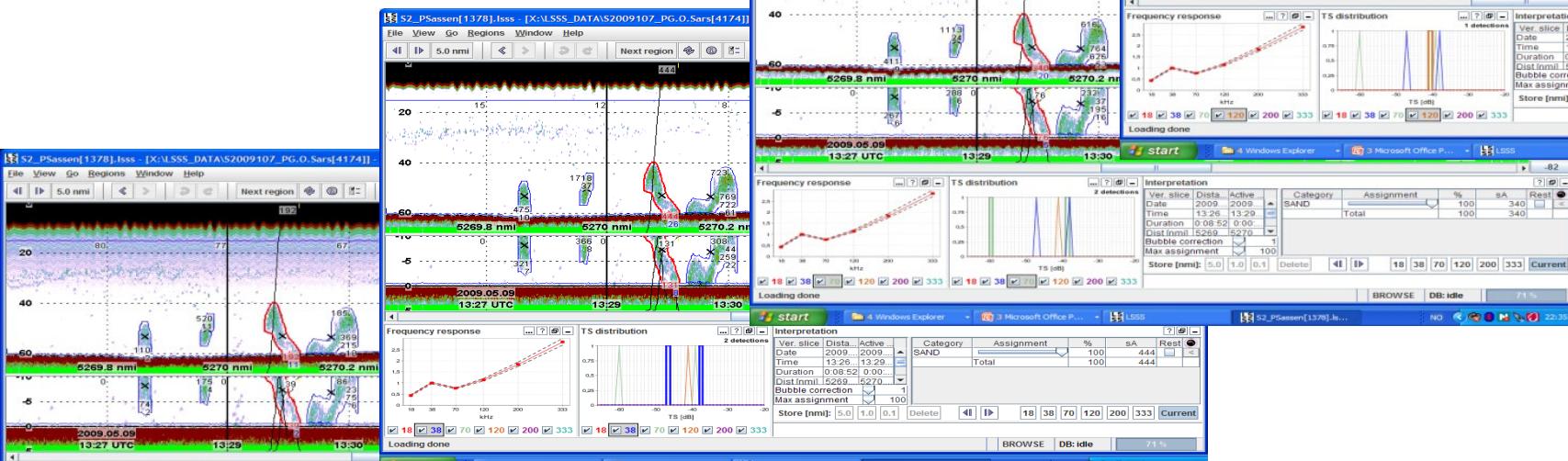
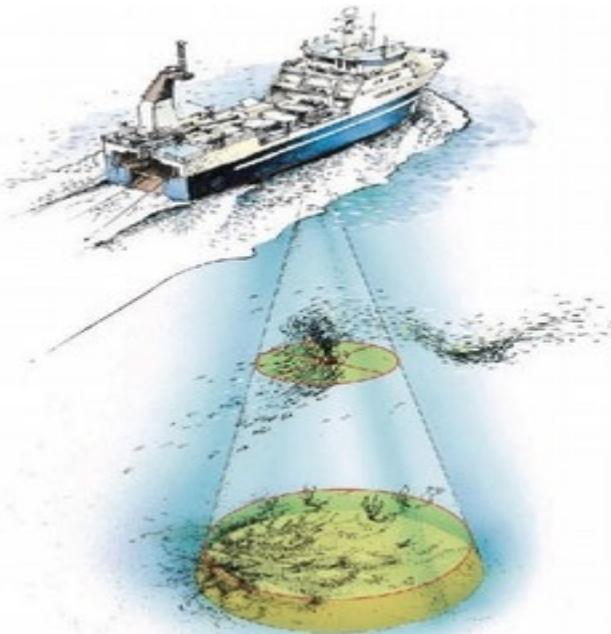
Final  
advice

15 May



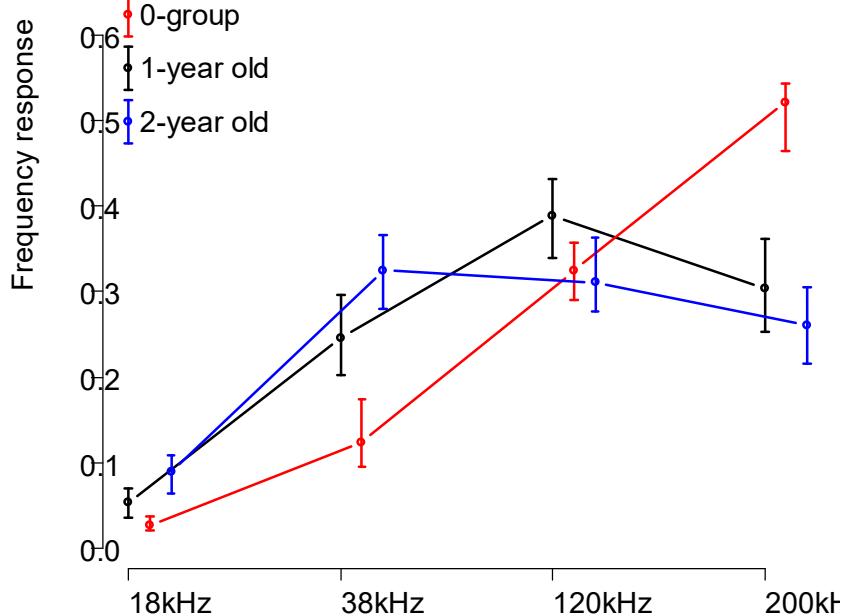
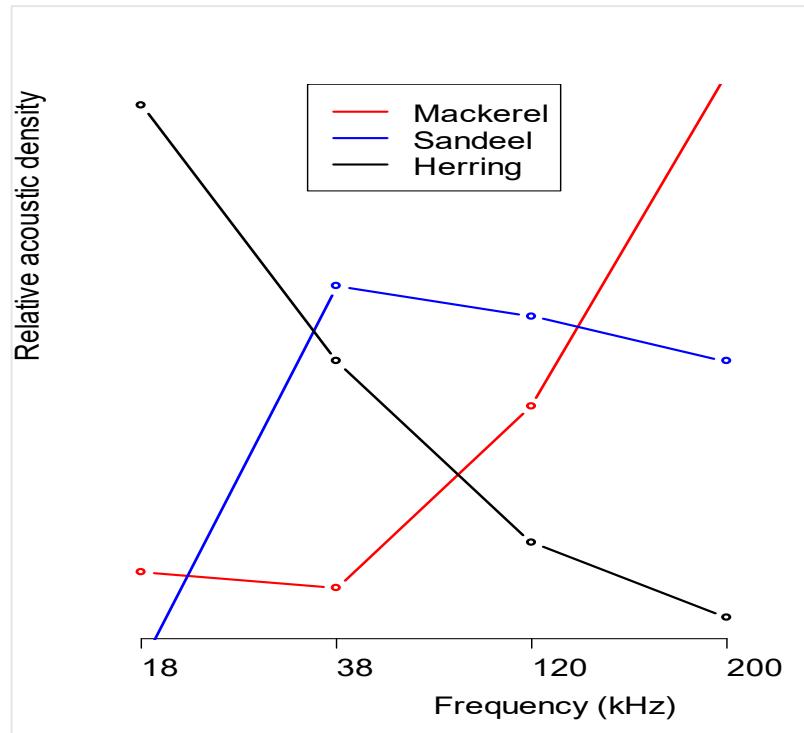
# Multi-frequency echo sounders

## – Identification of sandeel schools



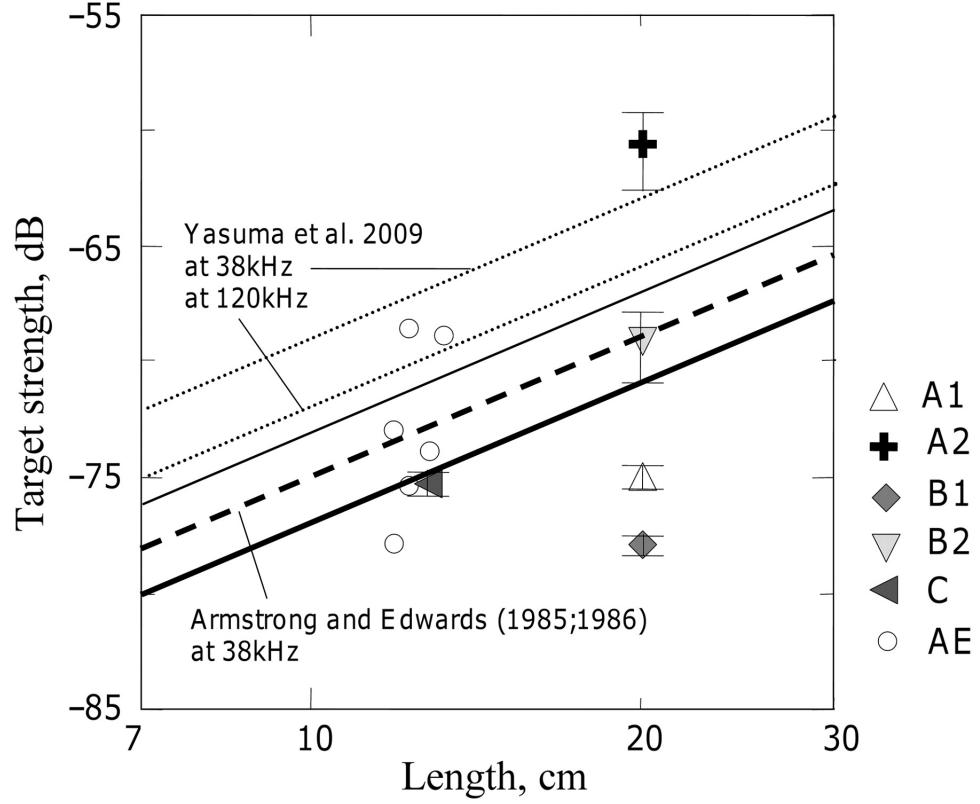
# Multi-frequency echo sounders

## – Identification of species schools

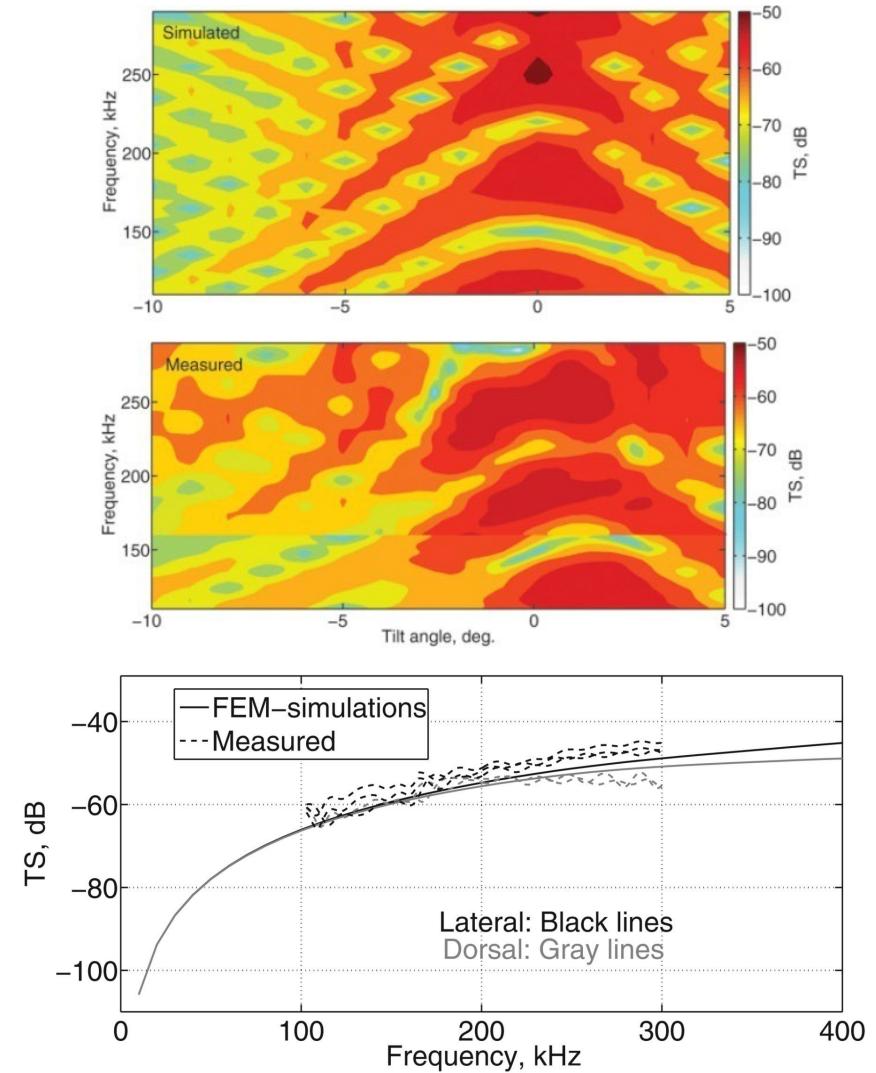


Johnsen, Espen, Ronald Pedersen, and Egil Ona. "Size-dependent frequency response of sandeel schools." *ICES Journal of Marine Science* 66.6 (2009): 1100-1105.

# Acoustic target strength

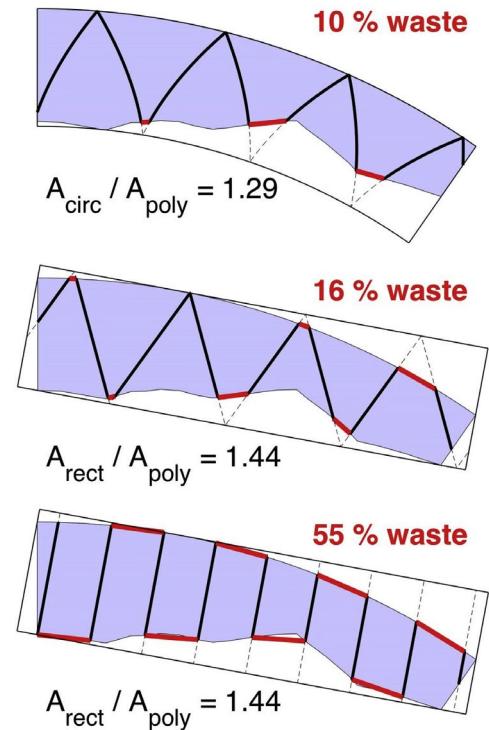


Rokas Kubilius, and Egil Ona ICES J. Mar. Sci. 2012;69:1099-1107

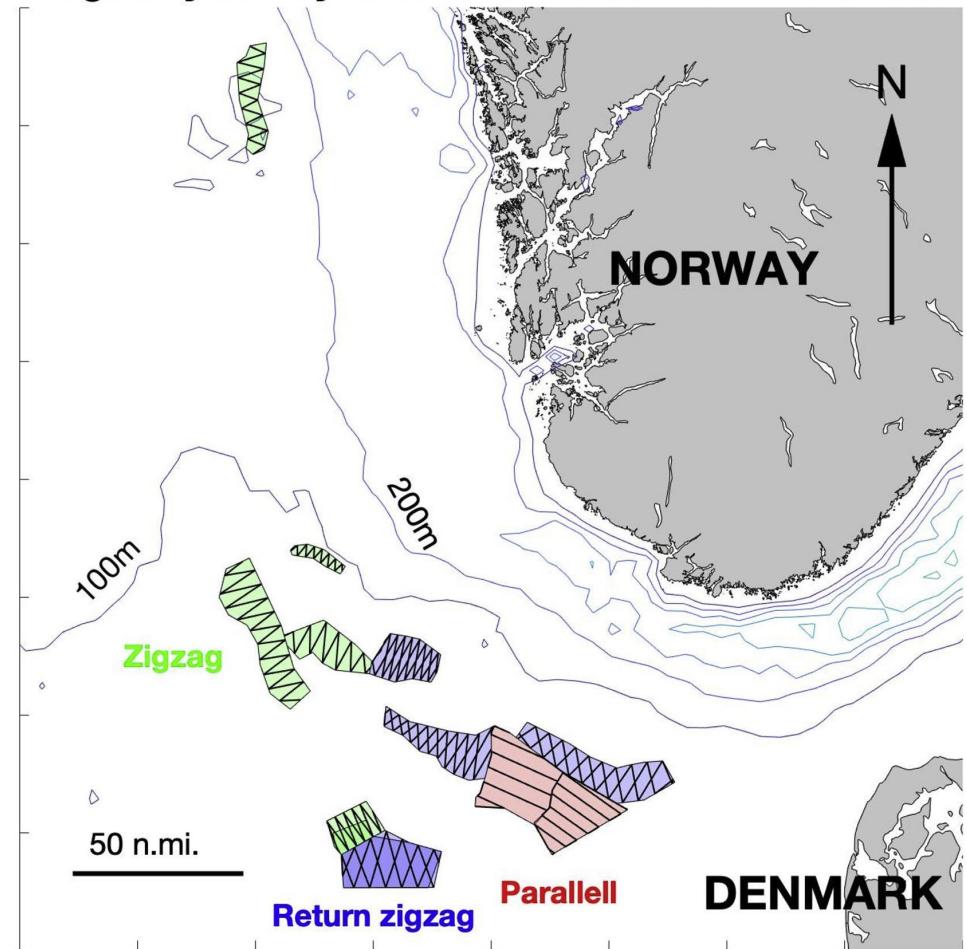


Tonje Nesse Forland et al. ICES J. Mar. Sci. 2014;71:1894-1903

# Stratification & Survey design

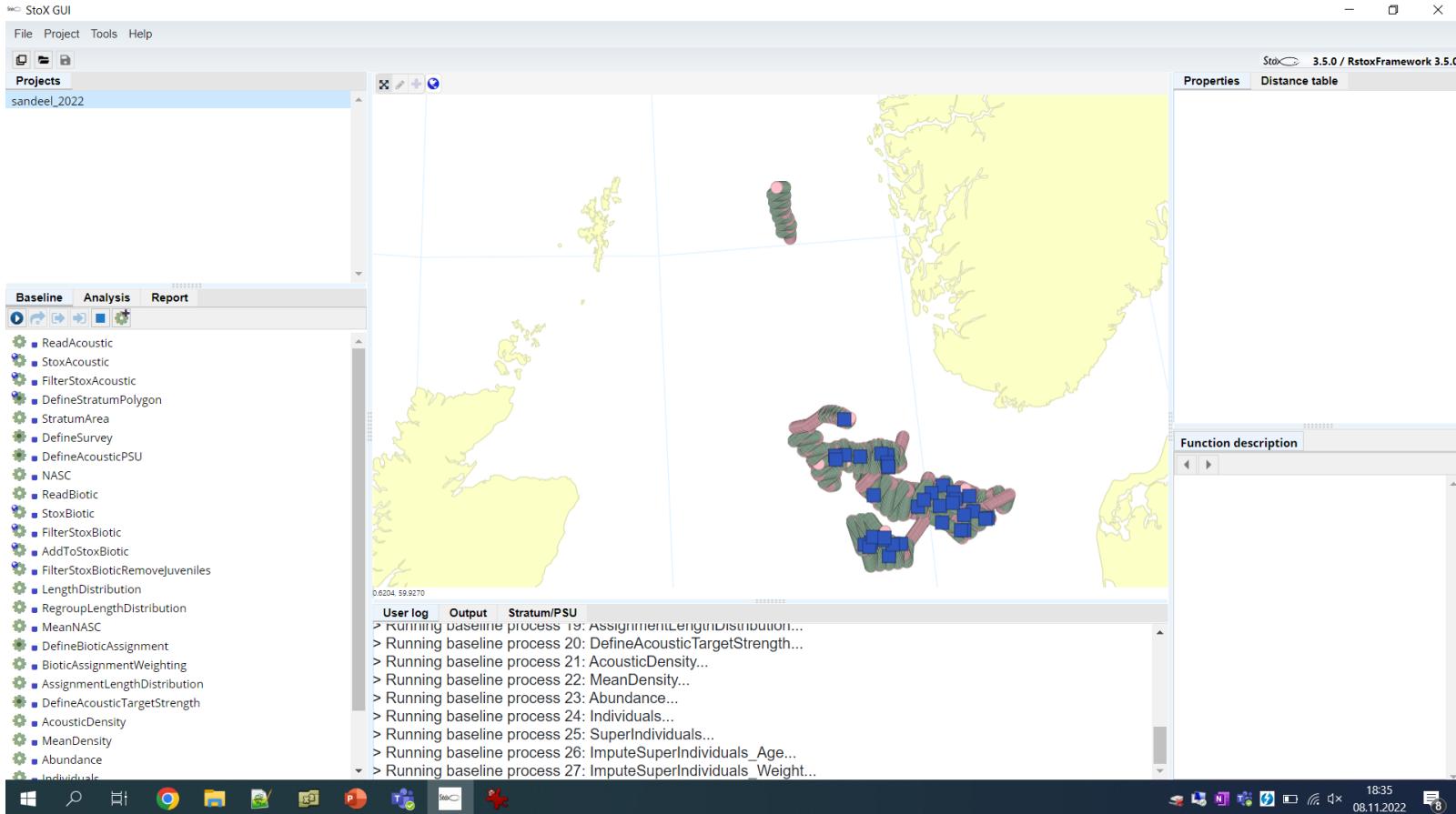


Regularly surveyed sandeel fields in the North Sea

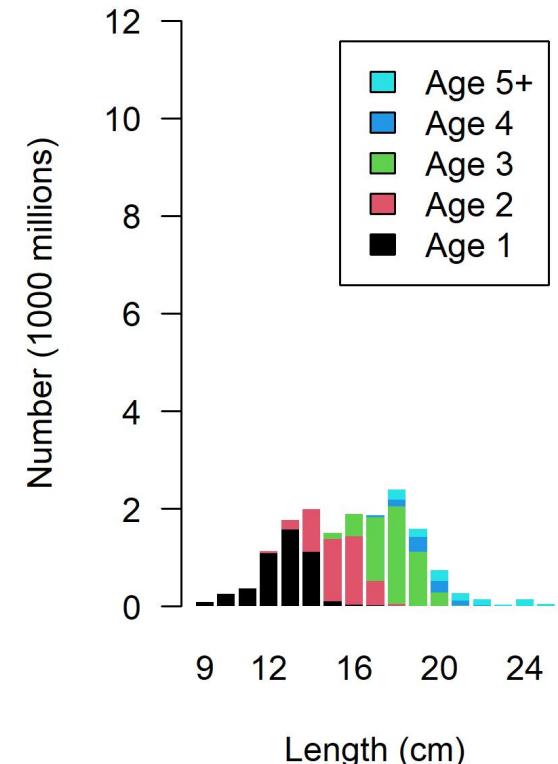


Harbitz, Alf. "A zigzag survey design for continuous transect sampling with guaranteed equal coverage probability." *Fisheries Research* 213 (2019): 151-159.

# Survey estimation

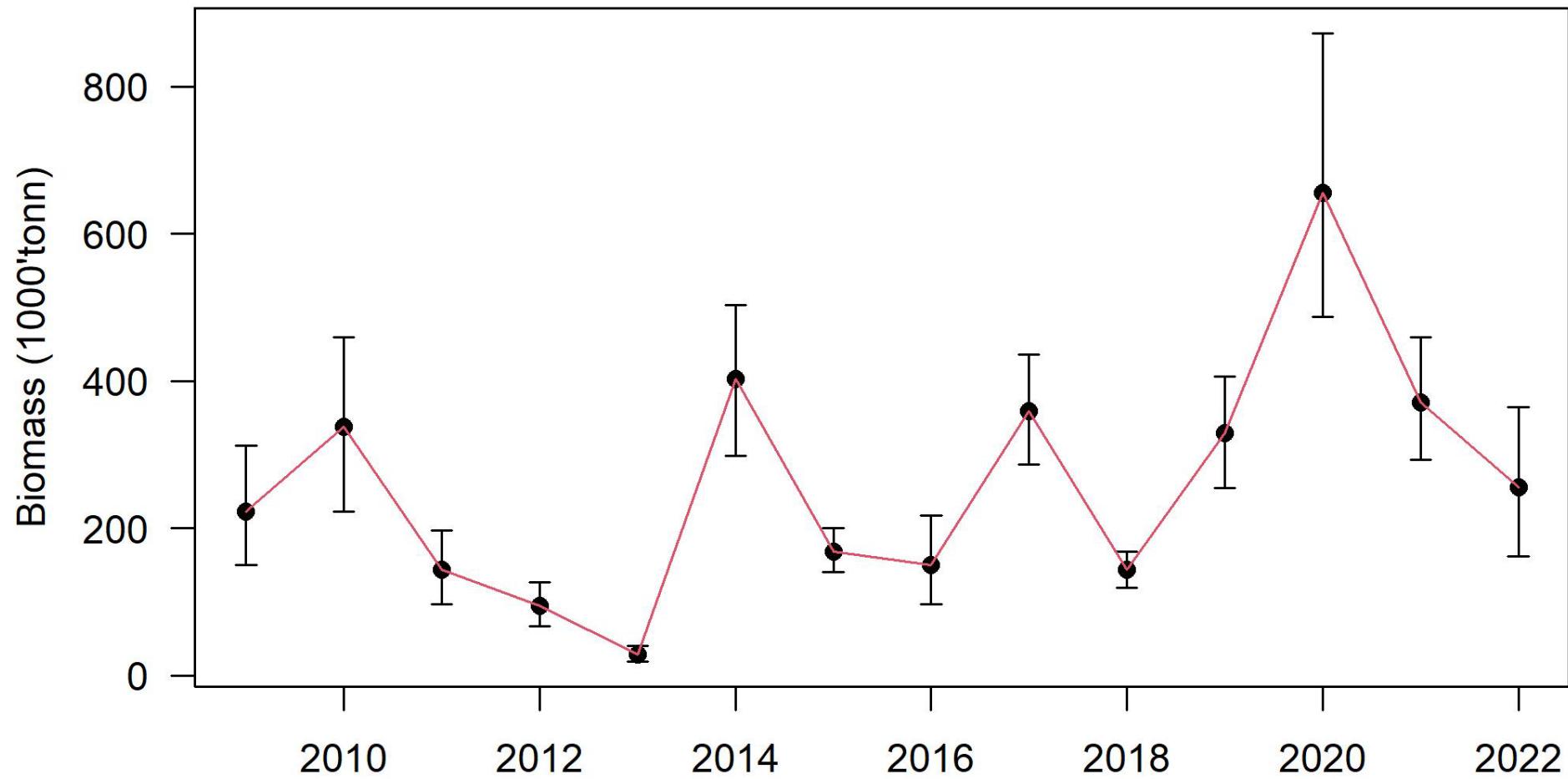


2022

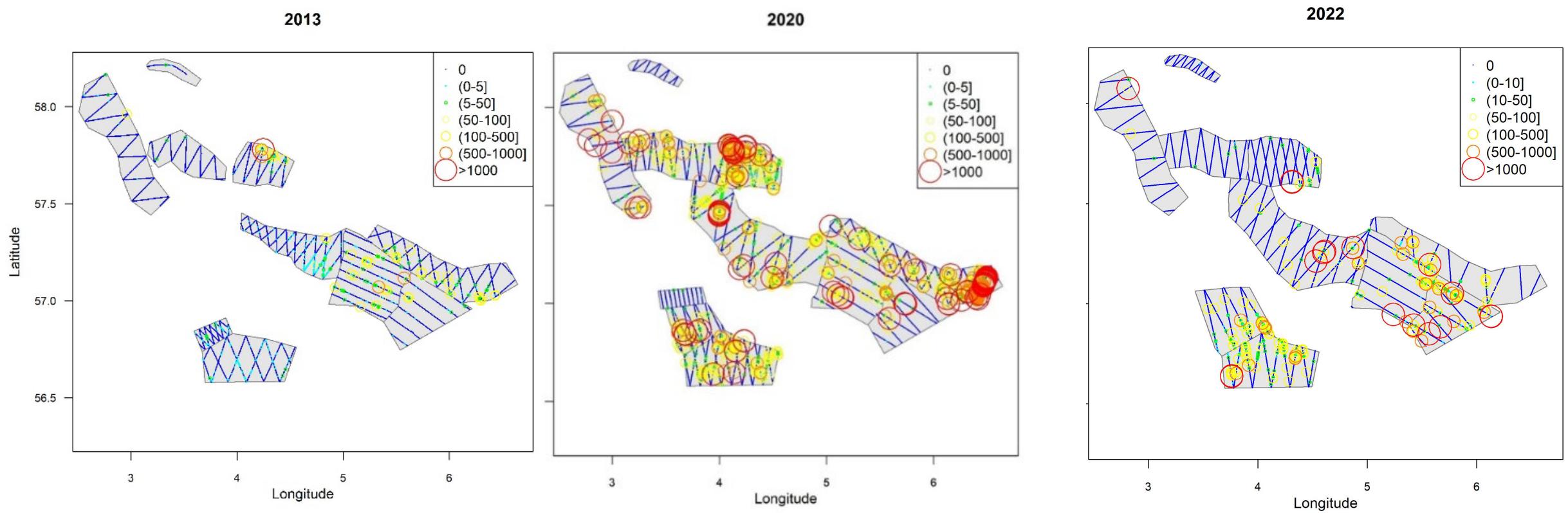


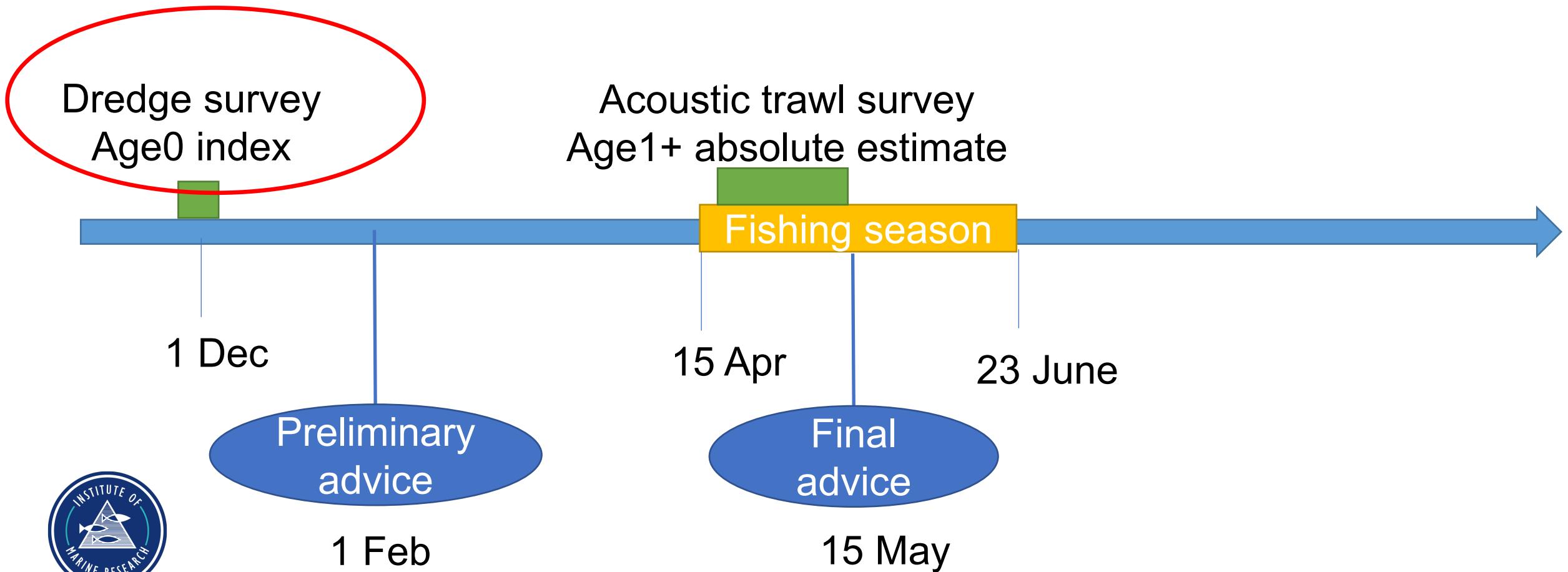
Johnsen, E., Totland, A., Skålevik, Å., Holmin, A. J., Dingsør, G. E., Fuglebakk, E., & Handegard, N. O. (2019). StoX: An open source software for marine survey analyses. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*, 10(9), 1523-1528.

# Estimate of biomass (Age1+)

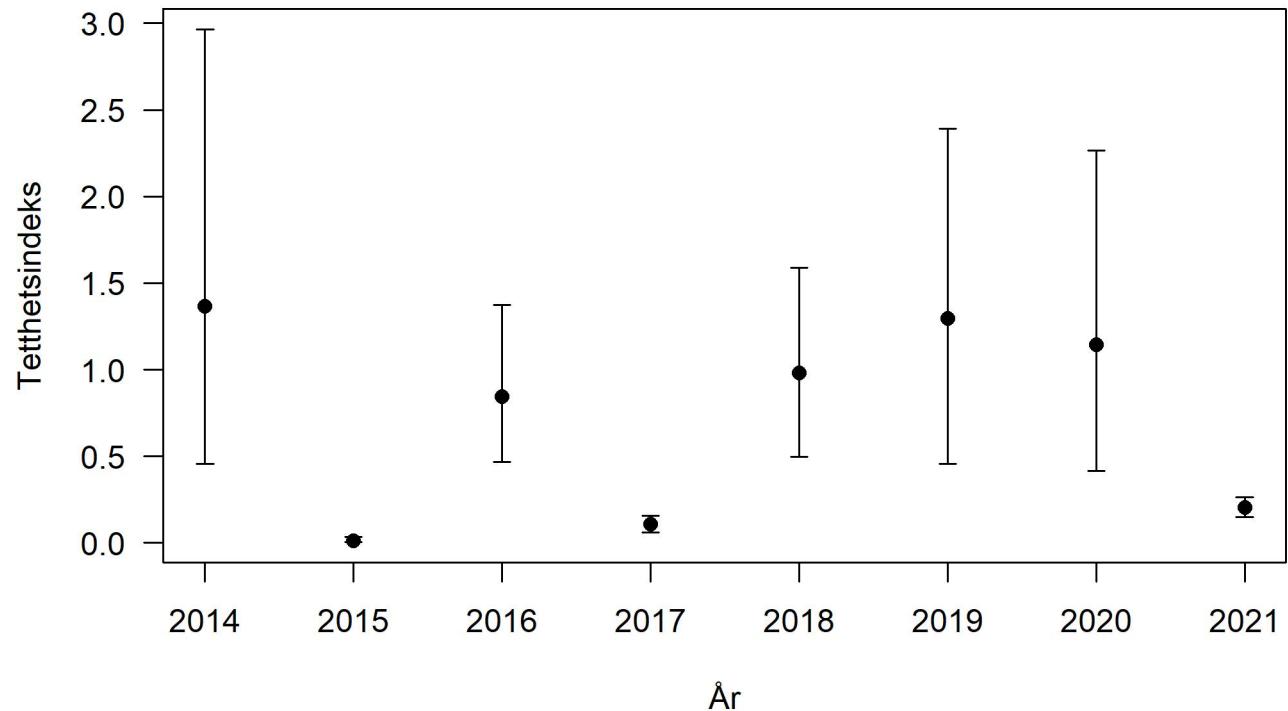


# Estimate of spatial distribution (Age1+)

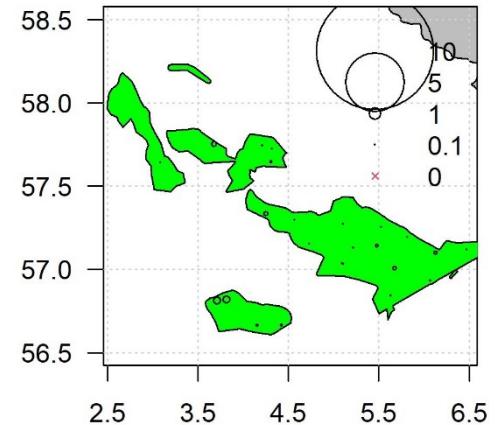




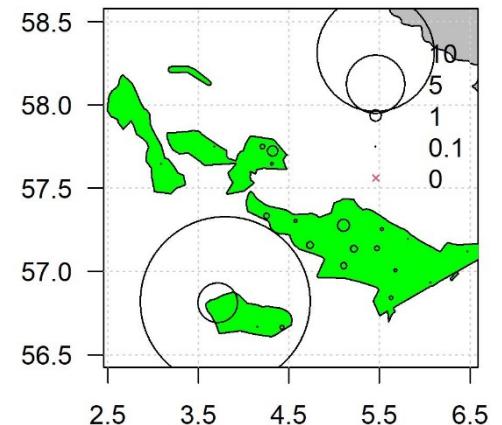
# Recruitment index



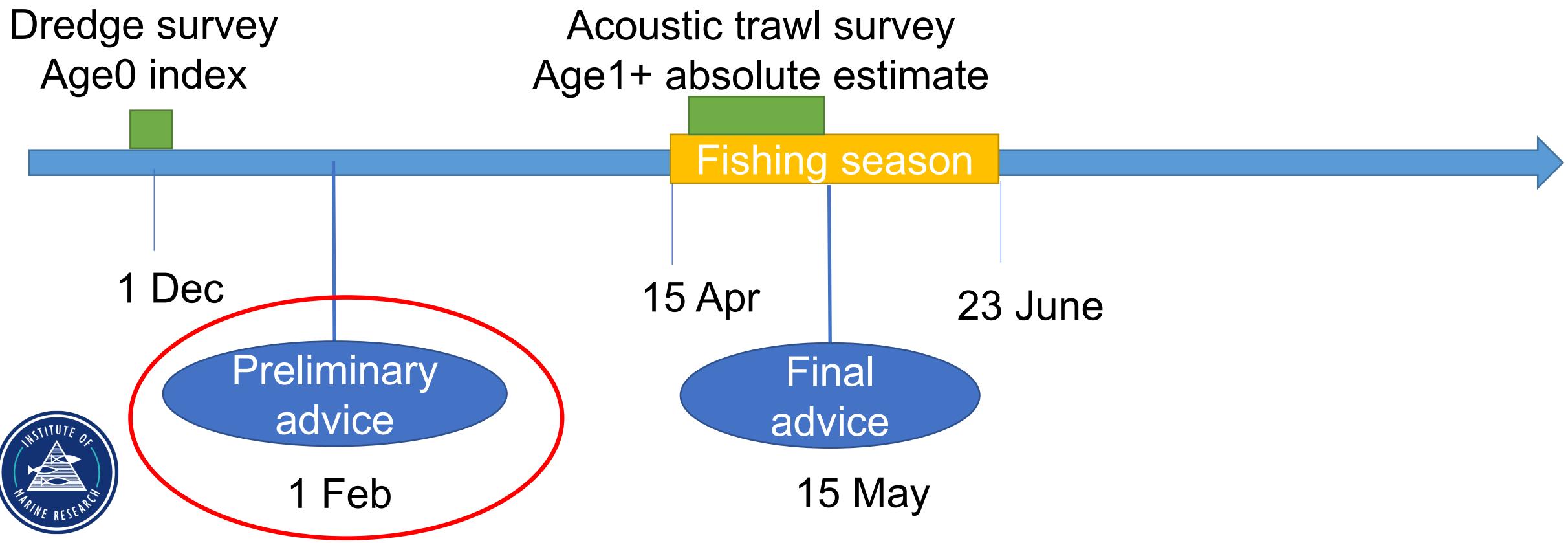
2021, Age = 0



2020, Age = 0

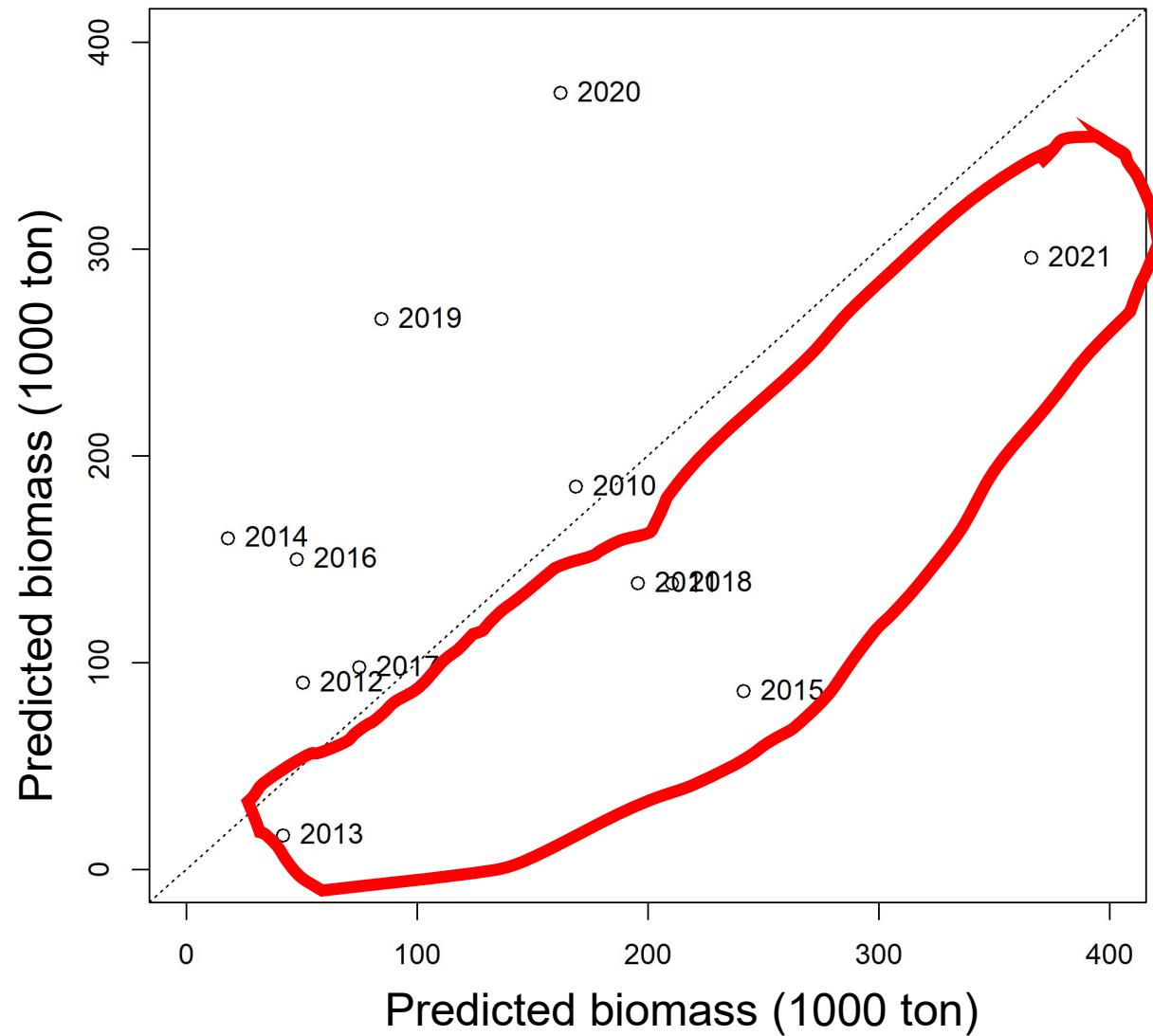


Johnsen, E., & Harbitz, A. (2013). Small-scale spatial structuring of burrowed sandeels and the catching properties of the dredge. *ICES Journal of Marine Science*, 70(2), 379-386.

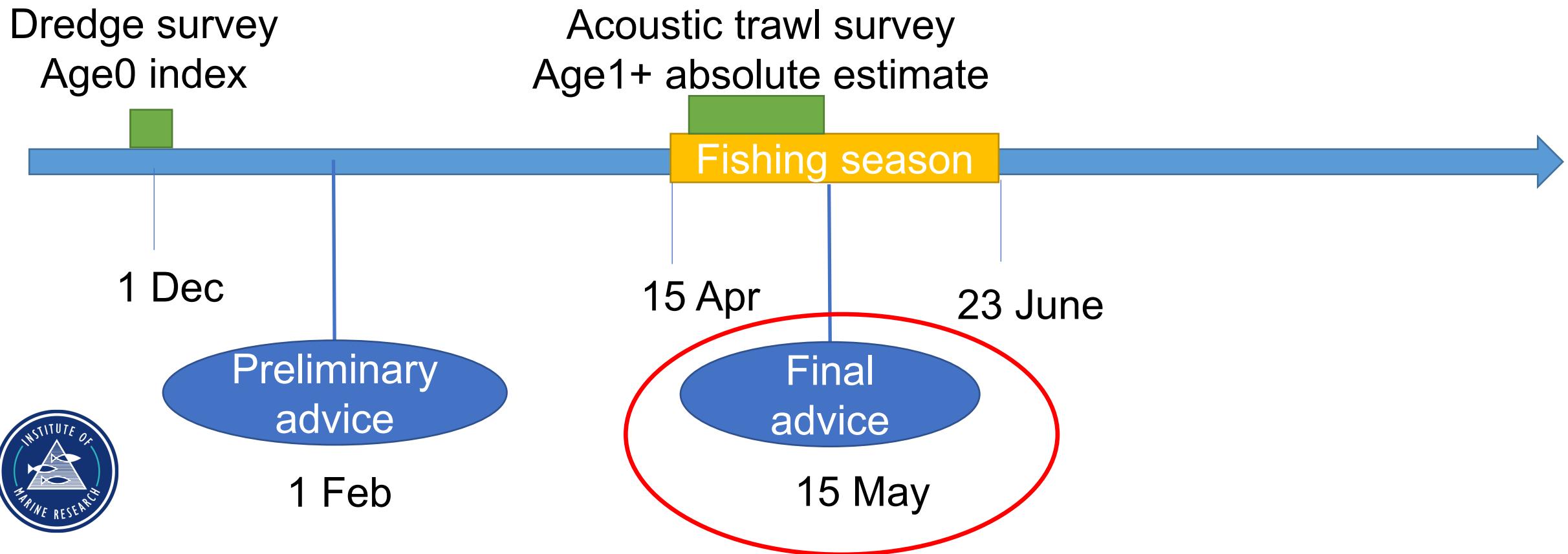


$$TAC_{2022} = \left( \left( B_{pred, Age2+} / (1 + \text{pred. error}) \right) + B_{pred, Age1} \right) \cdot harvest\ rate$$

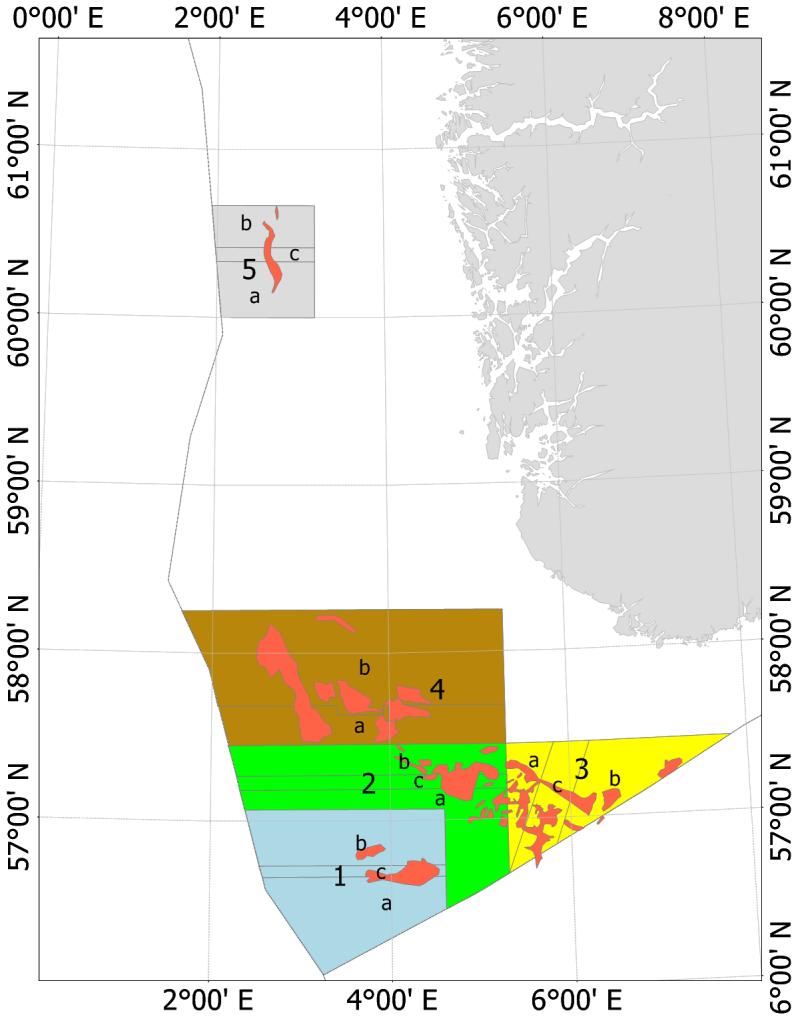
$$\text{pred. error}_y = \frac{(B_{pred,y, Age2+} - B_{est,y, Age2+})}{B_{est,y, Age2+}}$$



$$\text{TAC} = B_{40est,1+} \cdot \text{harvest rate}$$



# Advices

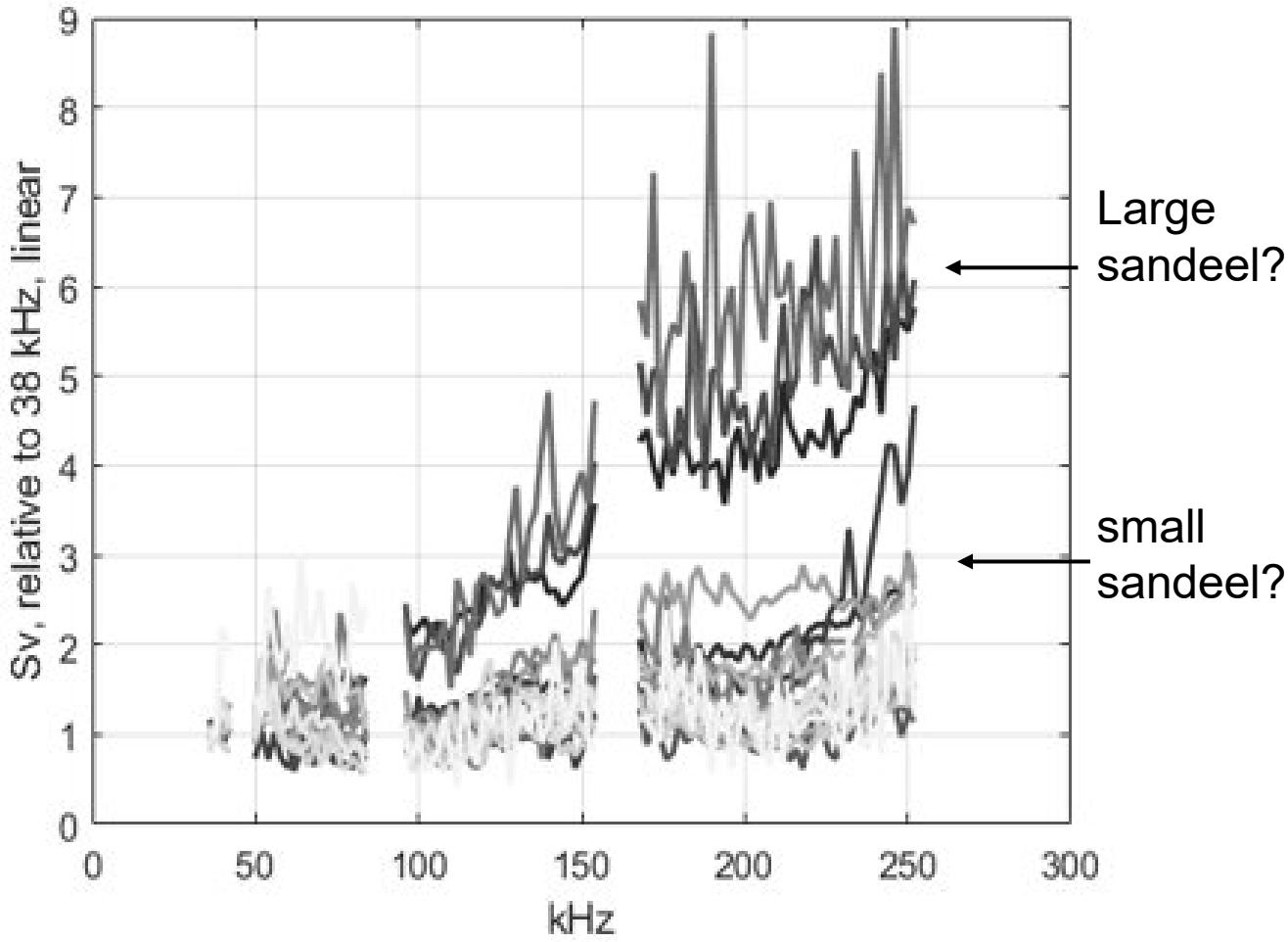


Year	Preliminary advice		Final advice	
	Tons	Open subareas	Tons	Open subareas
2010	20 000	1b, 2b, 3b	50 000	1b, 2b, 3b
2011	60 000	1a, 2a, 3a	90 000	1a, 2a, 3a
2012	40 000	1b, 2b, 3b	40 000	1b, 2b, 3b
2013	20 000	3a	20 000	3a
2014	15 000	3b, 3c	90 000	2a, 3b, 3c, 4b
2015	100 000	2b, 3b, 3a	100 000	1b, 2b, 3a, 3b, 4a
2016	40 000	1b, 2a, 3a, 3b	40 000	1b, 2a, 3a, 3b, 4a
2017	50 000	1b, 1c, 2b, 2c, 3c, 3b, 4a	120 000	1b, 1c, 2b, 2c, 3c, 3b, 4a
2018	70 000	1b, 1c, 2a, 2c, 3a, 3b, 4b	70 000	1b, 1c, 2a, 2c, 3a, 3b, 4b
2019	55 000	1b, 1c, 2b, 2c, 3b, 3c, 4a	125 000	1b, 1c, 2b, 2c, 3b, 3c, 4a
2020	70 000	1a, 1c, 2b, 2c, 3b, 3c, 4a	250 000	1a, 1c, 2b, 2c, 3b, 3c, 4a
2021	110 000	1b, 1c, 2a, 2c, 3a, 3c, 4b	145 000	1b, 1c, 2a, 2c, 3a, 3c, 4b
2022	60 000	1a, 1c, 2b, 2c, 3b, 3c, 4a	95 000	1a, 1c, 2b, 2c, 3b, 3c

# Future plans



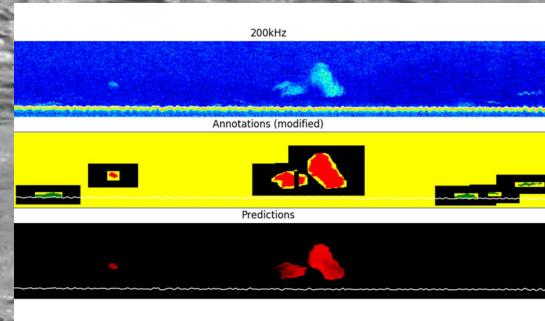
# Broadband acoustic for better acoustic identification



# Uncrewed surface vehicles



## Machine learning



Komiyama, 2021  
Brautaset et al., 2020

Thank you

