

Variability in environmental factors affecting the recruitment of fish species in the North E ast A tlantic

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Incorporating extrinsic drivers into fisheries management IN E X FIS H









- Recruitment at age 0 or 1
- Spatially explicit drivers
- General additive modelling (GAM)
  - Model selection by AIC
- Comparing with SR-relationships
  - Ricker and Beverton & Holt



## Dataset used in the analysis

- Recruitment and SSB from ICES Stock assessments
- NAO winter index (CGD, Hurrell)
- North Sea:
  - Bottom temperature and salinity ECOSMO model (Schrum & Alekseeva, RECLAIM)
- ICES area VIa:
  - SST satellite images (ICOADS)
  - Plankton data from CPR (SAHFOS)



## **Recruitment hypotheses**





## **Species and areas**





## Data used in the analysis, plaice example





## Stock vs. Recruitment of plaice







Log(Recruitment)~ s(NAO\_1) +s(min\_temp\_spawning) + temp\_feeding (neg.)





# Comparison with SR-relationships for North Sea

plaice





# Results for North Sea Herring



Final model:

Recruitment ~ s(SSB) + s(salinity spawning area)





## Results for cod in area VIa



#### Final model:

Ln(Recruitment) ~ SSB (pos.) +*C. finmarchicus* (neg.) + s(SST in April)





# **Comparison with SR-relationships**

#### North Sea herring



#### Area VIa cod

	R <sup>2</sup>
Linear	0.36
Bev & Holt +drivers	0.38
GAM	0.40



## Discussion on the use of GAM

- GAM only useful for predictions within the boundaries of the data
- GAM will not obey by definition the assumptions of some SR-curves
  - The curve should pass through the origin.
  - The curve should not cross the zero-recruitment axis at nonzero stock size.
  - Recruitment must exceed parental stock over some part of the range of the stock values
  - Recruitment should vary smoothly with stock size.
- No Relationship with SSB
  - Stocks with a limited range of SSB



## Conclusions

GAM models could improve the prediction of recruitment

Incorporation of extrinsic drivers improves predictions

Spatially and temporally resolved data are necessary to find biological meaningful relationships



Next steps

- Validation of the models with new data
- Incorporation of the results into a population dynamics model
- Evaluate this model with various fishing scenarios and climate scenarios



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