It's all about the species…

Morphology and Physiology
Metabolism   Gill area
Vision   Disease
Brain   Abnormalities
Ecotoxicology   Swim mode

Genetics & Aquaculture
Electrophoresis
Heritability
Strains   Introductions

Trophic Ecology
Ecology   Predators
Food items   Diet composition
Food consumption   Ration

Population Dynamics
Growth/Mortality   L/W relations
Maximum sizes   Recruitment
L/L relations   Length frequency

Reproduction and Life History
Maturity   Spawning   Eggs
Larvae   Broodstock   Fry nursery
Larval dynamics   Larval speed

Distribution
Occurrence FAO areas
Country   Ecosystem

Fish as Food
Processing Ciguatera
FAO catches
Aquaculture
(production)

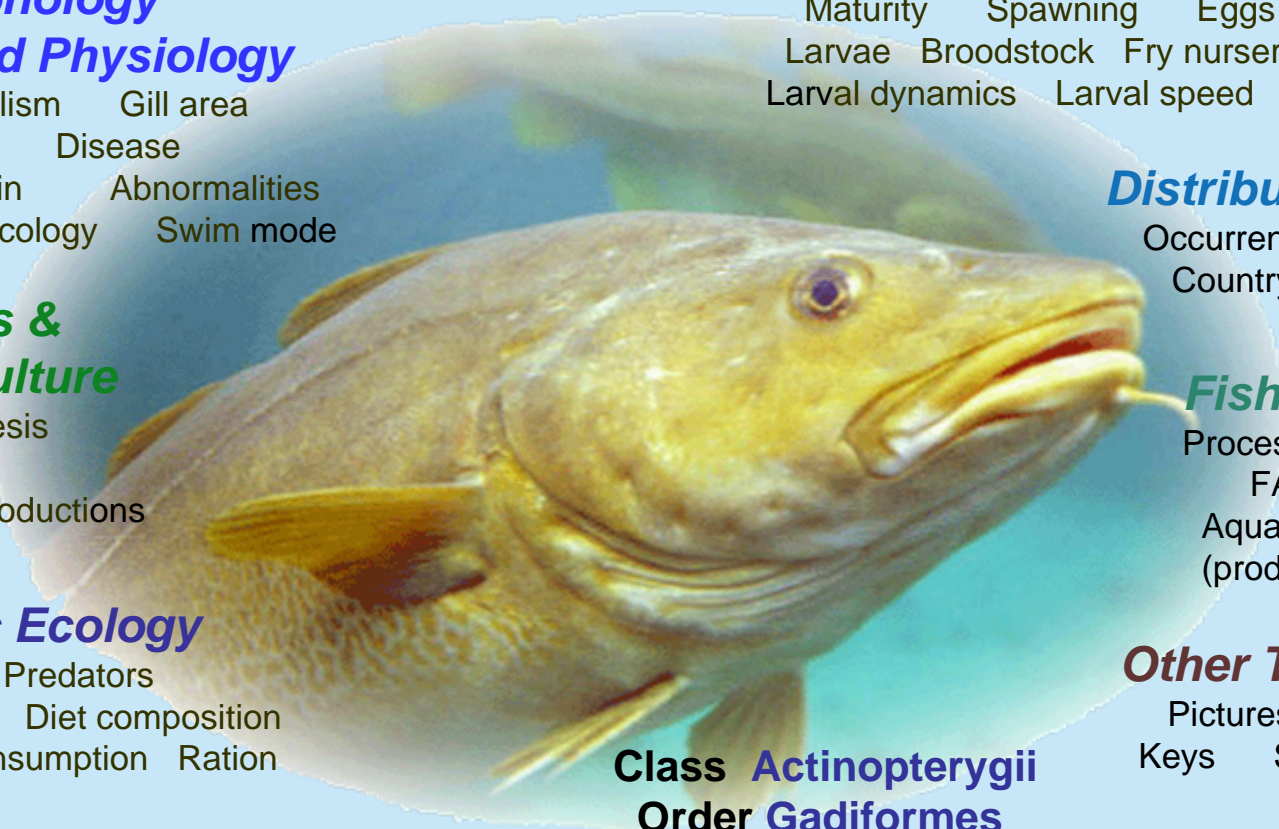## Other Tables
Pictures
Keys   Sounds

Class Actinopterygii
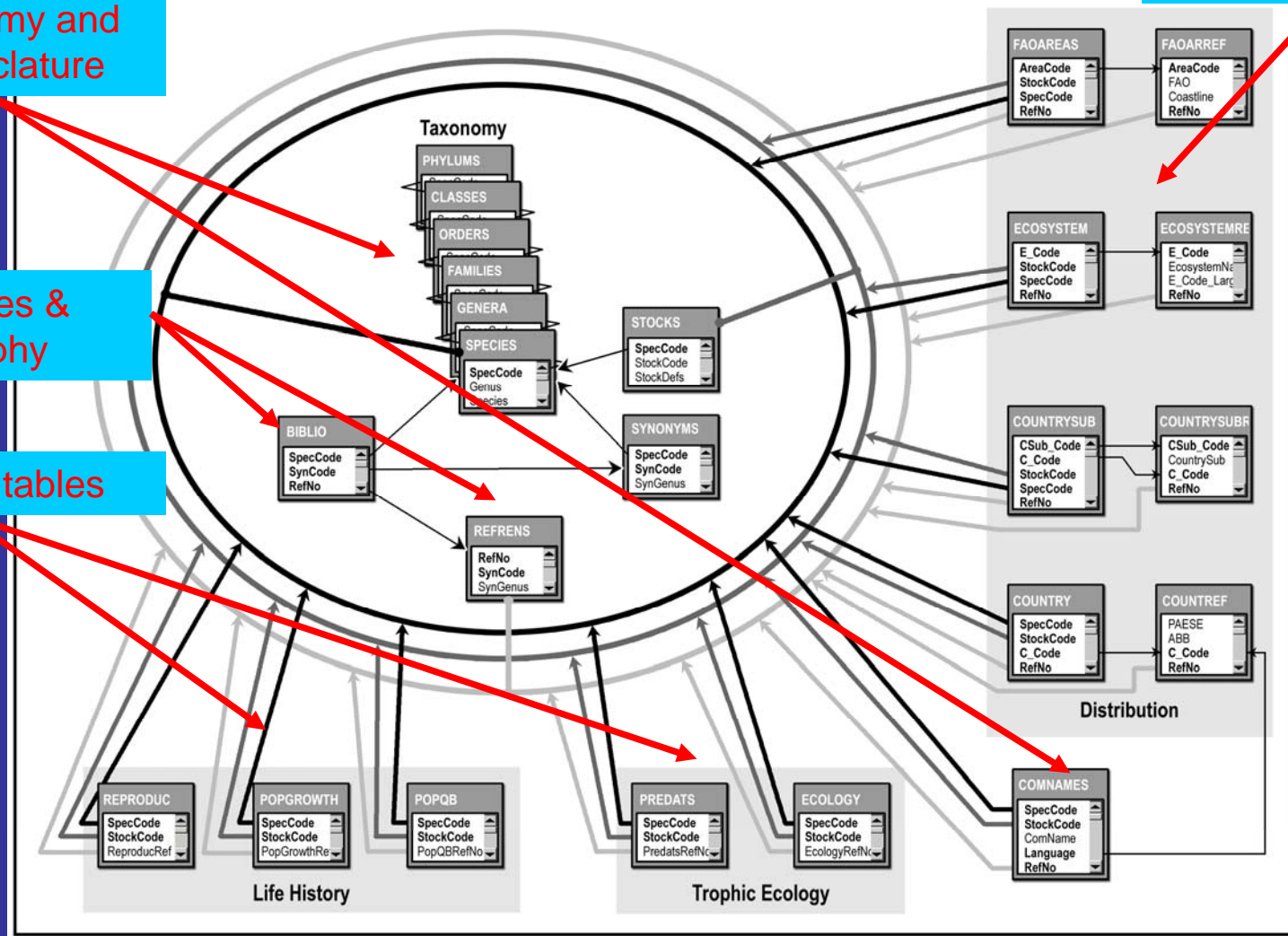**Order Gadiformes**
Family Gadidae
Species *Gadus morhua*
Common Name Atlantic cod

FishBase General Structure
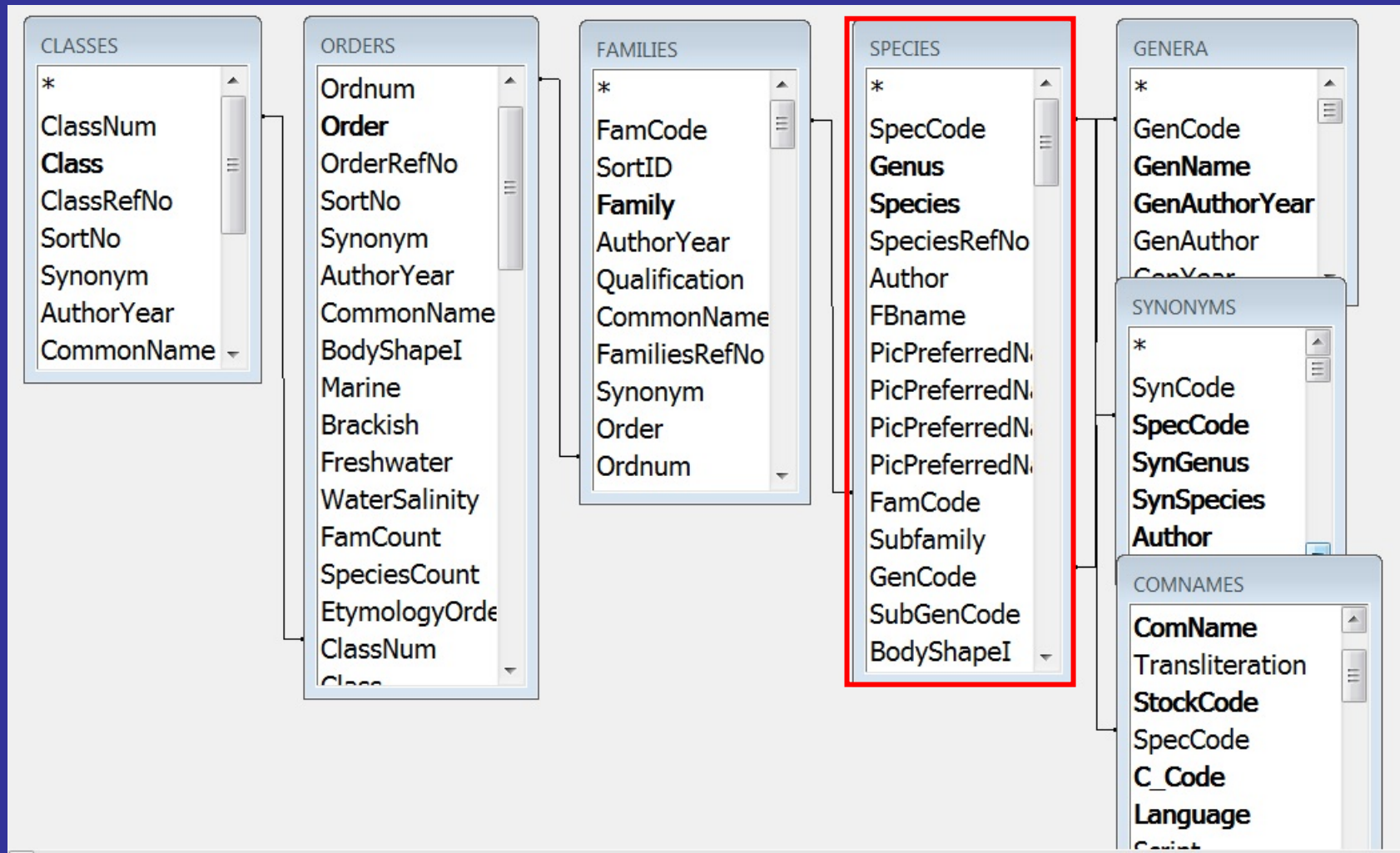

FishBase and SeaLifeBase Database Structure

Species, its Taxonomy and Nomenclature

Distribution tables

References & Bibliography

Biology tables

From Palomares, M.L.D. and N. Bailly. 2011. Organizing and disseminating marine biodiversity information: the FishBase and SeaLifeBase story. In Christensen, V., Maclean, J. (eds.), Ecosystem Approaches To Fisheries. A Global Perspective, p. 24-26. Cambridge University Press.
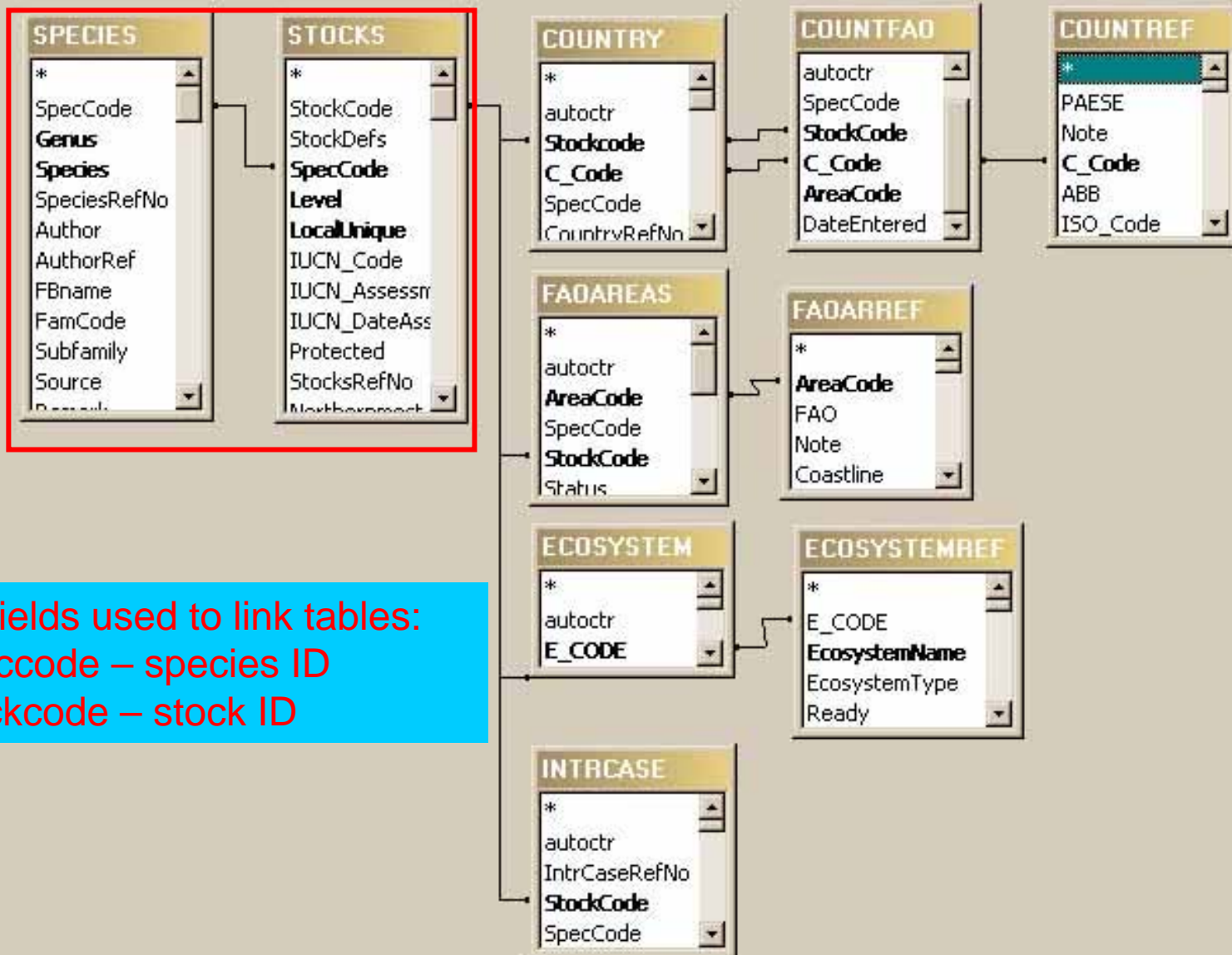
Species, its Taxonomy and Nomenclature

Note: Use synonyms where Valid=yes. These correspond to the current accepted name of the species.

Distribution Tables

SPECIES
```
*
SpecCode
Genus
Species
SpeciesRefNo
Author
AuthorRef
FBname
FamCode
Subfamily
Source
```

STOCKS
```
*
StockCode
StockDefs
SpecCode
Level
LocalUnique
IUCN_Code
IUCN_Assessm
IUCN_DateAss
Protected
StocksRefNo
Northernmost
```

COUNTRY
```
*
autoctr
Stockcode
C_Code
SpecCode
CountryRefNo
```

COUNTFAO
```
autoctr
SpecCode
StockCode
C_Code
AreaCode
DateEntered
```

COUNTREF
```
*
PAESE
Note
C_Code
ABB
ISO_Code
```

FAOAREAS
```
*
autoctr
AreaCode
SpecCode
StockCode
Status
```

FAOARREF
```
*
AreaCode
FAO
Note
Coastline
```

ECOSYSTEM
```
*
autoctr
E_CODE
```

ECOSYSTEMREF
```
*
E_CODE
EcosystemName
EcosystemType
Ready
```

INTRCASE
```
*
autoctr
IntrCaseRefNo
StockCode
SpecCode
```

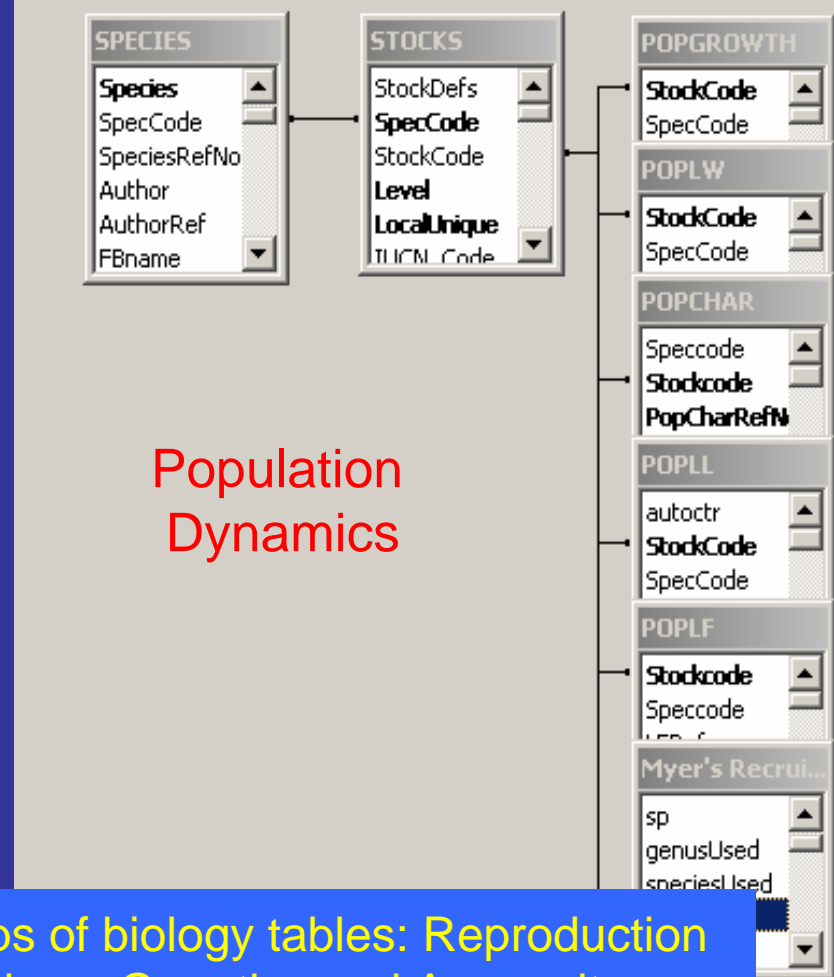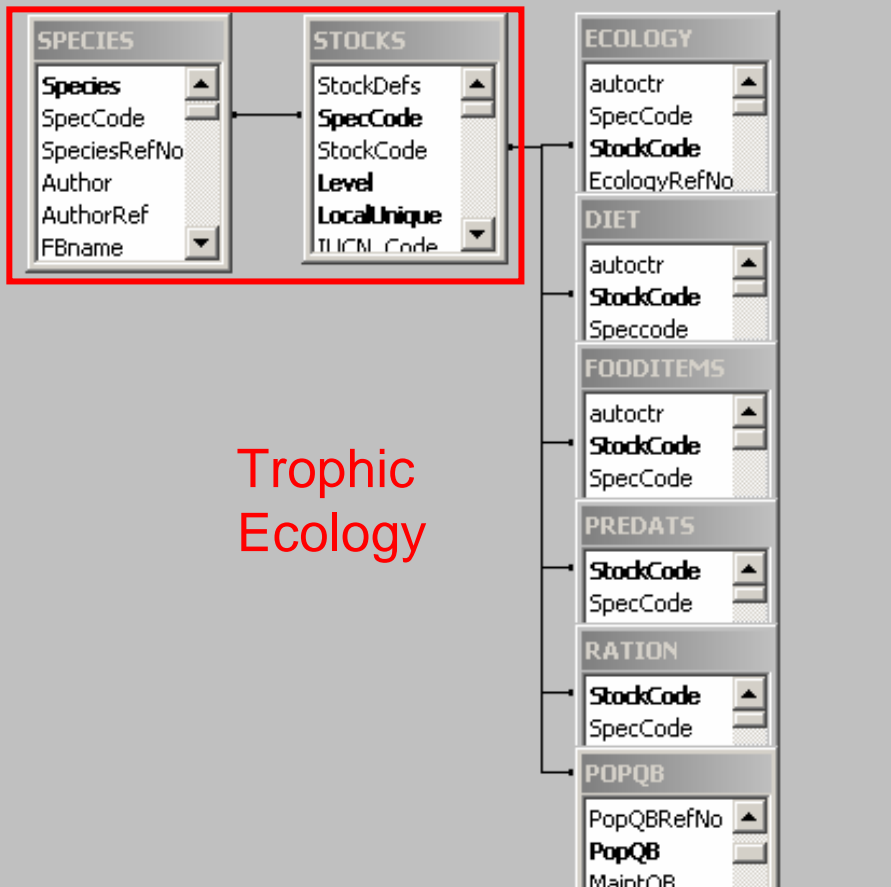Basic fields used to link tables:
a. Speccode – species ID
b. Stockcode – stock ID

Note: Areas with Status = Misidentification should not be assigned to a species .

What is the STOCKS table about?

- The STOCKS table is how the FishBase structure accommodates the unclear distinction between the following categories:

    - the distribution of a species or subspecies,
    - the definition of a strain (aquaculture) or
    - the definition of a stock (in fisheries, the exploited part of a population)

Biology Tables
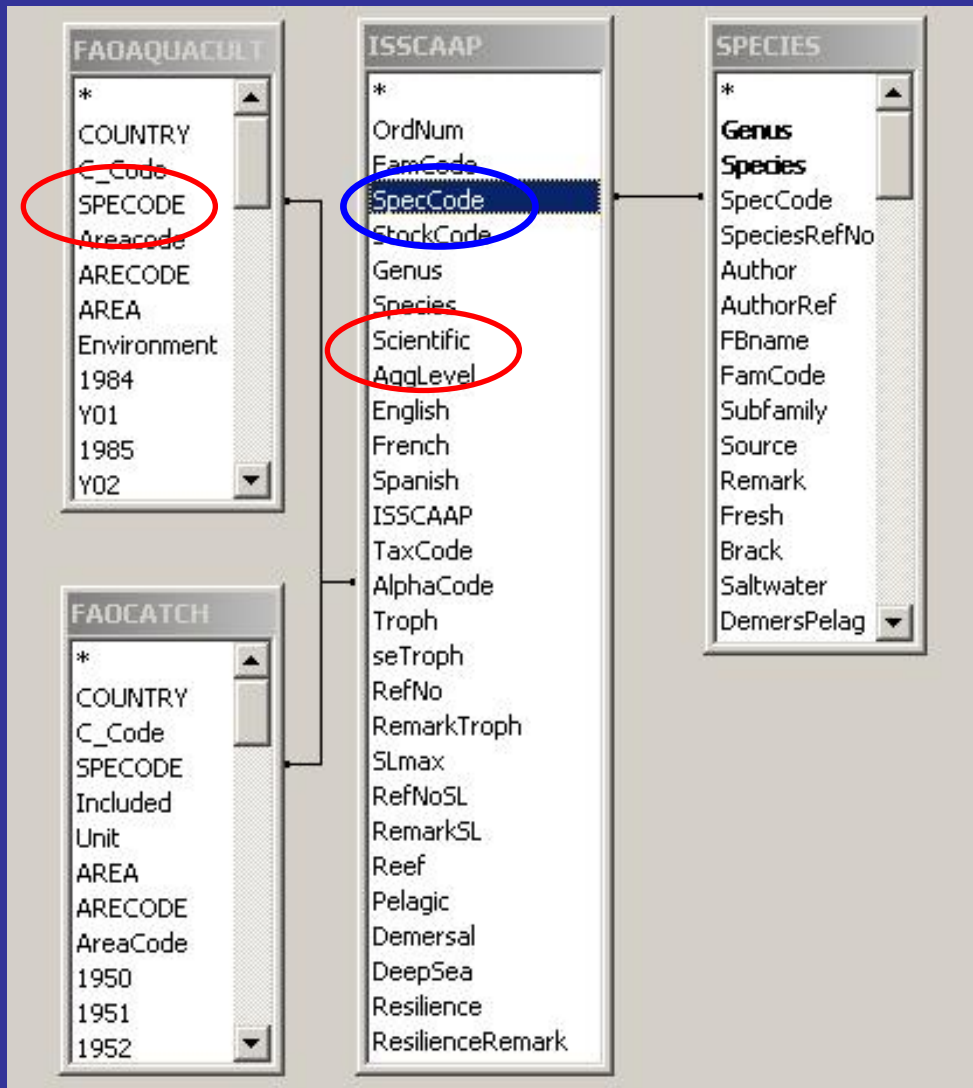

Trophic Ecology

Population Dynamics

Similar linking applies for the other groups of biology tables: Reproduction and Life History, Morphology and Physiology, Genetics and Aquaculture.

Note: Questionable or doubtful records in any biology table should be excluded.
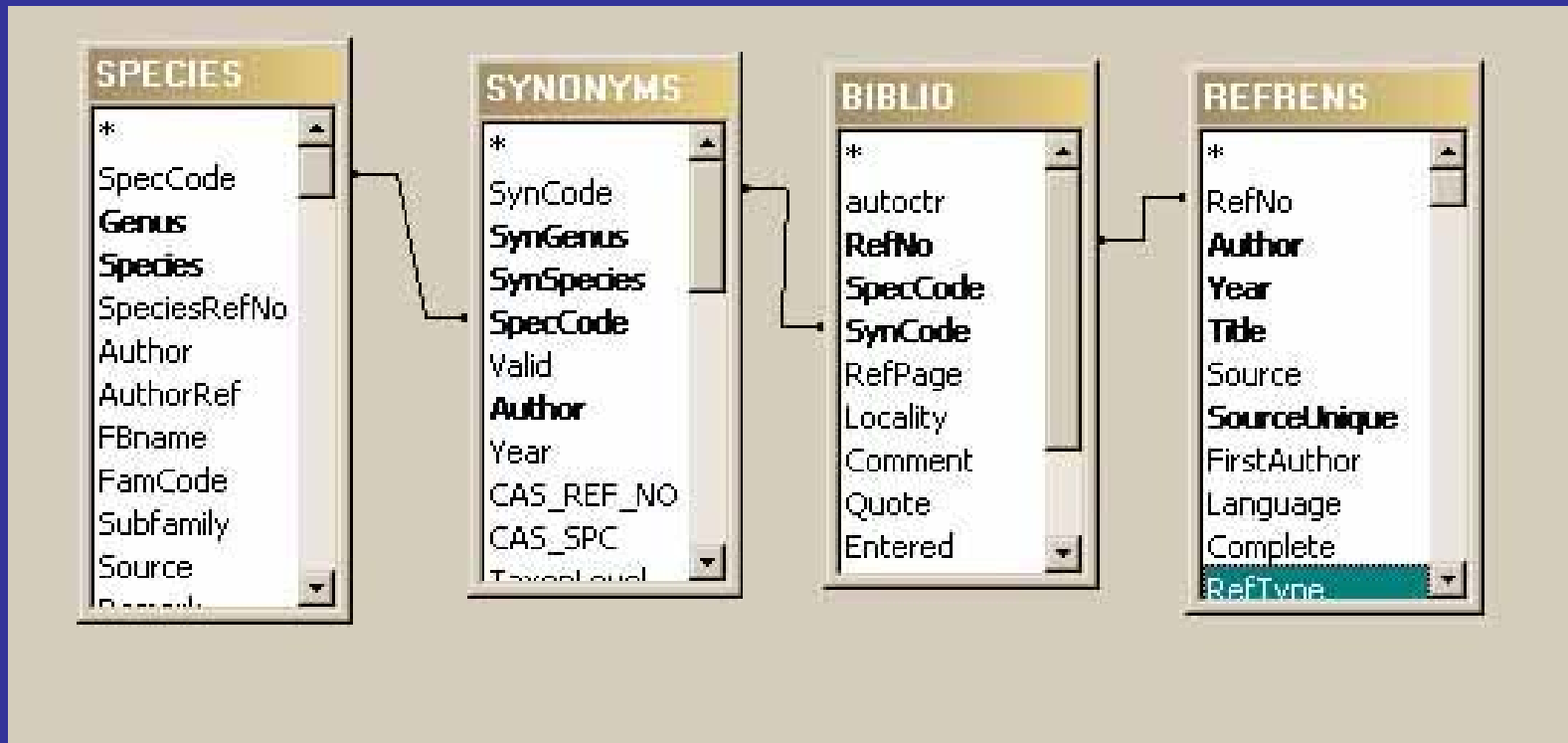
Incorporating Other Databases in FishBase

Data from another database that are hosted in FishBase are usually linked through corresponding species names, e.g. FAO Aquaculture Production and Catch data

Linking to external databases

	Field Name	Data Type	Description
	StockDefs	Memo	Distribution of species or subspecies, or definition of stock or strain.
⚿	SpecCode	Number	Code number for internal use.
	StockCode	AutoNumber	Code to identify a stock or strain; for internal use.
⚿	Level	Text	Level (species, subspecies, stock, strain) to which the data refer.
⚿	LocalUnique	Text	Short definition of a stock or strain, used as replacement of StockDefs, which is memo and
▶	GenBankID	Number	Integer number used to link to GenBank on the Internet.
	RfeID	Text	Two letter code used by the RFE Internet database.
	FIGIS_ID	Number	Integer used to link to FIGIS on the Internet.
	EcotoxID	Number	
	LifeMapper	Text	Life mapper species name.
	GMAD_ID	Number	Global Marine Aquarium Database species ID.
	IUCN_Code	Text	Two letter abbreviation of the status of threat according to IUCN Red List categories.
	IUCN_Assessment	Text	Assessment that led to the status-of-threat classification.
	IUCN_Assessor	Text	Name of person who assessed the status of threat for this species.
	IUCN_Personnel	Number	FishBase collaborator number, if available.
	IUCN_Text	Memo	Description of the information used to assign the status of threat.
	Protected	Yes/No	Is the species legally protected anywhere in its distributional range?
	StocksRefNo	Number	Main reference used for the information in this record.
	Northernmost	Number	Northernmost latitude of occurrence of a species/stock in degrees.

Information to link to an external database is incorporated in FishBase as an additional field where appropriate (e.g. ID's, species names).
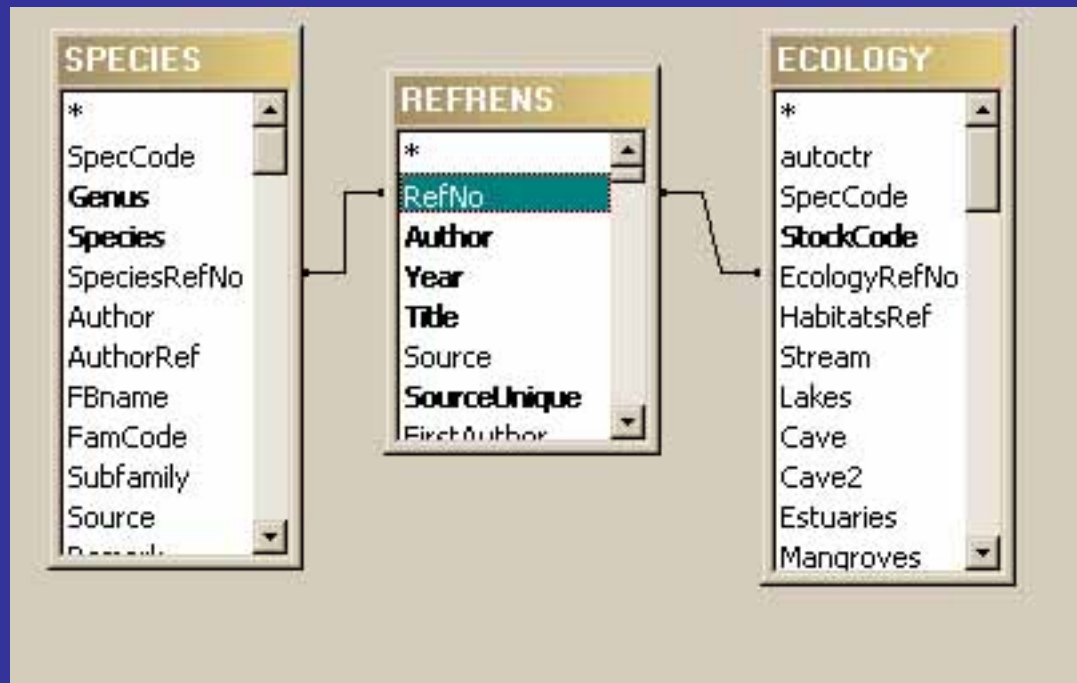
References and Bibliography

The REFRENS table contains the details of a reference. BIBLIO on the other hand records the reference(s) used by a species and its corresponding synonym used in said reference.

Linking the References tables to other tables, an example

References are recorded in the different tables as a numeric field corresponding to the Refno field in the REFRENS table. The field naming convention uses the suffix "Refno".

For meaningful and sound results of querying the database, it is paramount to understand the content and context of the tables and fields. Each table and its fields are described in the respective chapter of the FishBase book (http://www.fishbase.org/manual/english/contents.htm).