


VISUAL MATURITY SCALE

Sardine / *Sardina pilchardus*

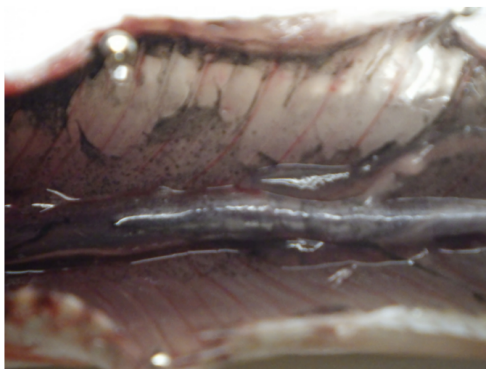
Picture	Sex	Species	First maturity size
	♀	<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	13 - 18 cm

A - IMMATURE

EMPTY GONADS,
WITHOUT EGGS

TRANSLUCID WITH
VARIABLE COLOURS

TUBULAR SHAPE



B - DEVELOPING

FILLING OPAQUE GONADS

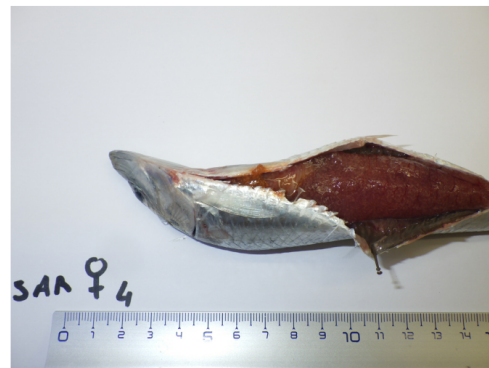
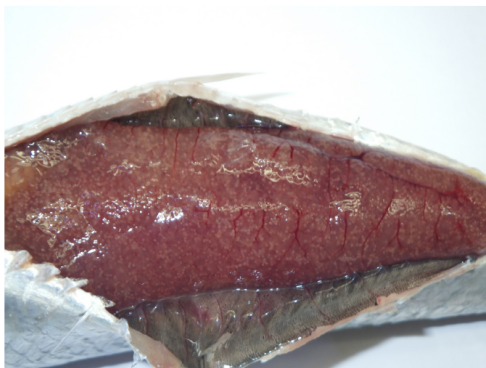
non-hydrated eggs
SOMETIMES visible



C - SPAWNING

AT LEAST 1 VISIBLE
HYDRATED EGG

More and more transparent

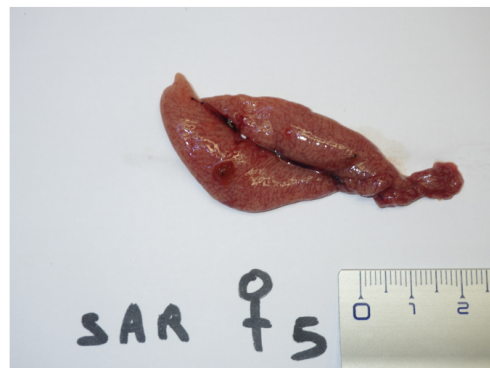


D - REGRESSION/REGENERATION

BLOOD RESIDUE IN
TISSUES

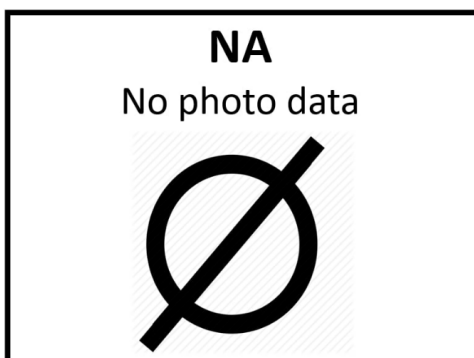
FEW HYDRATED EGGS
STILL PRESENT

FLABBY AND RELAXED
GONADS



E - OMITTED SPAWNING

NOT DETERMINABLE BY
THE EYE



F - ABNORMAL

NECROSIS, SCLEROSIS
OR INTERSEX

