


# VISUAL MATURITY SCALE

## Sardine / *Sardina pilchardus*

| Picture   | Sex | Species            | First maturity size |
|---|-----|--------------------|---------------------|
|  | ♀   | Sardina pilchardus | 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

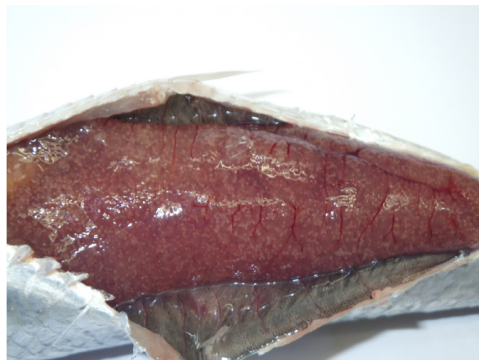


## D - REGRESSION/REGENERATION

BLOOD RESIDUE IN  
TISSUES

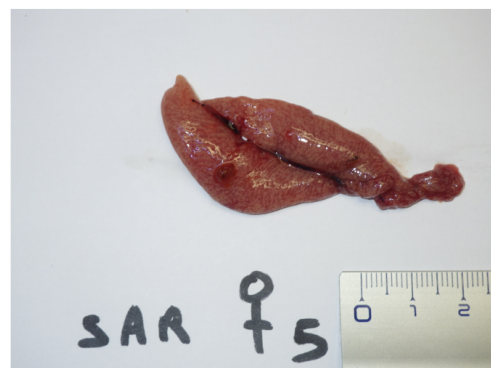
FEW HYDRATED EGGS  
STILL PRESENT

FLABBY AND RELAXED  
GONADS



## E - OMITTED SPAWNING

NOT DETERMINABLE BY  
THE EYE



## F - ABNORMAL

NECROSIS, SCLEROSIS  
OR INTERSEX

