


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

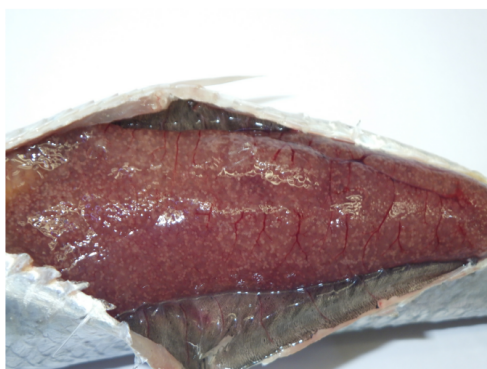
non-hydrated eggs
SOMETIMES visible



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

