

## VISUAL MATURITY SCALE

### Herring / *Clupea clupea*

Picture	Sex	Species	First maturity size
	♀	<i>Clupea clupea</i>	15 - 20 cm

### A - IMMATURE

EMPTY GONADS,  
WITHOUT EGGS

Ovaries = 1/3 of the  
abdominal cavity

TUBULAR SHAPE



### B - DEVELOPING

Full and opaque  
non-hydrated eggs  
SOMETIMES visible

Ovaries = 2/3 of the  
abdominal cavity



### C - SPAWNING

AT LEAST 1 VISIBLE  
HYDRATED EGG

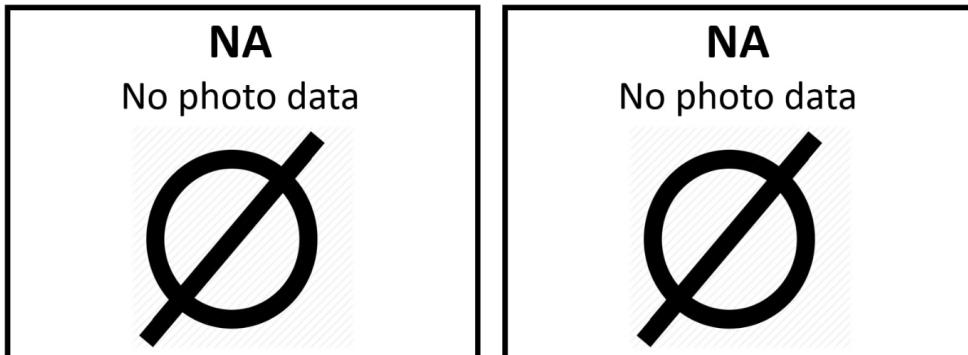


---

## D - REGRESSION/REGENERATION

FEW HYDRATED EGGS  
STILL PRESENT

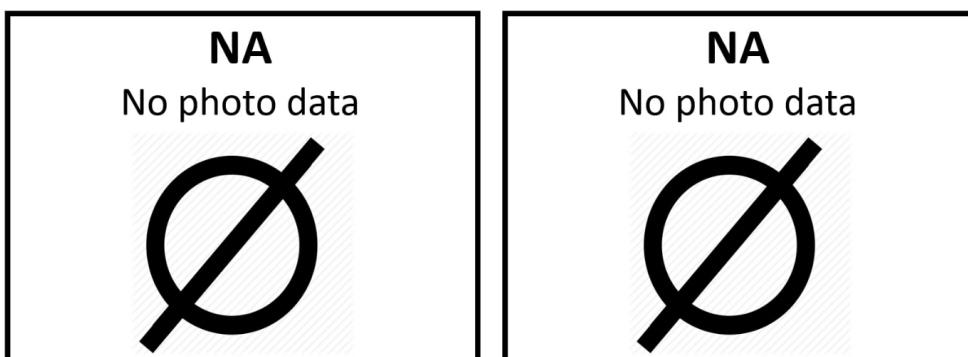
FLABBY AND RELAXED  
GONADS



---

## E - OMITTED SPAWNING

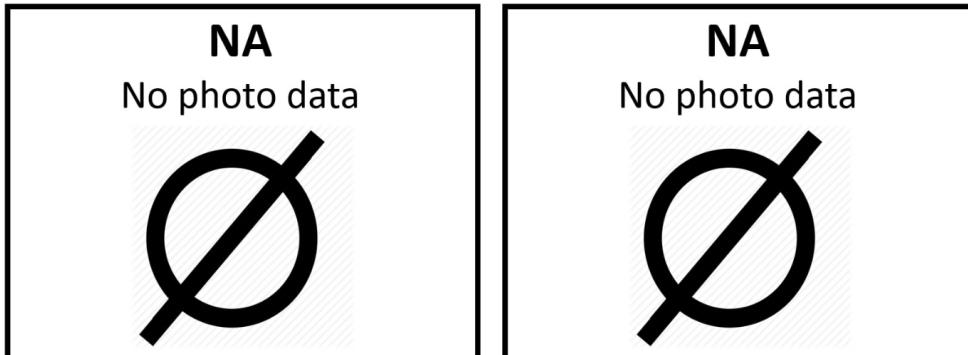
NOT DETERMINABLE BY  
THE EYE



---

## F - ABNORMAL

NECROSIS, SCLEROSIS  
OR INTERSEX



### References/Photos :

ICES (WKASMSF 2018 & WKMATCH 2012),  
IFREMER