

Results of sablefish (*Anoplopoma fimbria*) head measurement study, putting our noggins together.

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by

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CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	iv
RÉSUMÉ	v
1 Introduction	1
2 Methods	1
2.1 Sample collection and evaluation	1
2.2 Genetic test	1
2.3 Pilot Collection of Sablefish Heads	1
2.4 Model evaluation	2
3 Discussion	2
4 Results	3
5 Acknowledgments	3
6 Discussion	3
7 Acknowledgments	3

ABSTRACT

Kathryn x. Temple and Lacko, L.C. and B.C. 2020. Results of sablefish (*Anoplopoma fimbria*) head measurement study, putting our noggins together.. Can. Tech. Rep. Fish. Aquat. Sci. nnn: v + 3 p.

This document describes sampling activities and summarizes results

RÉSUMÉ

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1 Introduction

Stock indices are derived from commercial trap catch rates, trap survey catch rates, and estimates of trap vulnerable biomass determined from tag-recovery data.

The tag and release study has been conducted annually since 1991. Whole tagged fish are recovered mainly in the commercial fishery (trap, trawl, hook and line) and processed at the point of landing through the Dockside Monitoring Program (DMP) currently operated by Archipelago Marine Research (AMR). In order to eliminate whole fish samples, we assessed whether sablefish fork length and weight could be predicted from 6 different head dimension measurements. Simple linear regression models were calculated from 438 sablefish (240-1080 mm) collected on 2 biennial DFO Groundfish Synoptic Bottom Trawl surveys in 2016 and one salmon survey (details).

2 Methods

2.1 Sample collection and evaluation

Measurements of fork length (FL), round weight (RW), upper jaw length (UJ), eye diameter (ED), interorbital distance (ID), snout length (SL), post orbital to preoperculum distance (PP), and post orbital head length (PH) were obtained from 212 sablefish caught during the 2016 West Coast Vancouver Island (WCVI) survey [Williams et al. (2018) and 219 sablefish caught during the 2016 West Coast Haida Gwaii (WCHG) survey (Nottingham et al. 2018). Seven small sablefish were collected during the 2017 salmon survey. In addition, sagittal otoliths and operculum clips were collected. Fish sex and maturity were recorded at sea (Table ??).

The six cranial dimensions were considered as possible candidates for estimating fork length. Post orbital head lengths (PH) were abandoned after 130 fish due to measurement difficulties (Table ??). Each of the 6 head dimensions were measured by Mitutoyo absolute 500-??? digital calipers and ranked in terms of ease of use and repeatability. (Table ??).

Later, a pilot study was conducted on the feasibility of the commercial sector returning heads, rather than entire fish. In 2017, 360 heads were collected from J-cut sablefish on a trip to the Bowie Seamount. Each operculum was marked with either one knife cut (male) or two knife cuts (female) (Figure x) The first 99 heads of the pilot study were measured by 3 technicians for IO, SN, UJ and PP.

2.2 Genetic test

2.3 Pilot Collection of Sablefish Heads

Heads were received by DFO in good condition (intact and not deformed), segregated by set, for measuring and otolith extraction. Operculum cuts worked well to indicate sex

2.4 Model evaluation

3 Discussion

Routine biological sampling procedures have been modified so that commercial fisheries are now only returning heads, rather than entire fish

4 Results

The mean values of the predictor and response variables (Table ??).

Given the ease of measurement, we suggest that Interorbital distance be used to predict sablefish fork lengths and weights (Table ??).

We found evidence of relationships between upper jaw length and fork length ($p = 9.358 \times 10^{-278}$); eye diameter and fork length ($p = 5.34 \times 10^{-203}$); interorbital distance and fork length ($p = 5.539 \times 10^{-272}$); upper snout length and fork length ($p = 4.593 \times 10^{-292}$); postorbital to preoperculum length and fork length ($p = 2.024 \times 10^{-247}$); and postorbital head length and fork length ($p = 0$).

The estimated slope is 7.695 (SE 0.088) units of fork length per unit of upper jaw length; the estimated slope is 21.994 (SE 0.389) units of fork length per unit of eye diameter; the estimated slope is 11.622 (SE 0.138) units of fork length per unit of interorbital distance; the estimated slope is 11.182 (SE 0.118) units of fork length per unit of snout length; the estimated slope is 14.373 (SE 0.191) units of fork length per unit of postorbital to preoperculum length; and the estimated slope is 6.83 (SE 0.185) units of fork length per unit of postorbital head length.

5 Acknowledgments

We thank ...

6 Discussion

Interorbital head length (IO) proved to be a good predictor of fork length for sablefish.

7 Acknowledgments

We thank ...

Nottingham, M.K., Williams, D.C., Wyeth, M.R., and Olsen, N. 2018. Summary of the west coast haida gwaii synoptic bottom trawl survey, august 25 - september 26, 2016. Can. Manuscr. Rep. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 3151: viii: 51 p.

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