

Bilateral Agreement between the DTU Aqua, Denmark and Swedish Agency for Marine and Water management (SwAM), Sweden, for the collection of length and age samples collected in the IBTS survey in accordance with EC Regulation 665/2008, laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) 199/2008, and its Commission Decision 2010/93/EC.

Agreement:

This agreement has been established to optimize and exchange the age reading expertise for species collected in the IBTS survey. Both Sweden and Denmark are involved in the survey which is conducted in IIIa twice a year. A list of species are collected during the survey according to the Manual for the International Bottom Trawl Surveys ICES CM 2000/D:07, but for some species only a small amount are caught and there is a need for collaboration and task sharing. No additional sampling costs are involved and costs for analysis will be covered in the National Sampling Programme for 2014-2016. Denmark and Sweden seeks for a balanced share of tasks and the species of interests are described below.

Description of sampling:

Age samples will be collected during the IBTS survey according to the manual (ICES CM 2000/D:07) Otoliths will be stored in paperbags and sent to the country in charge for age reading (see below).

Sampling Intensity:

Norway pout (*Trisopterus esmarki*) – Sweden sends the collected otoliths to Denmark for age reading. App 200-300 individuals per year.

Whiting (*Merlangius merlangius*) – Sweden sends the collected otoliths to Denmark for age reading. App 800-1 000 individuals per year.

Data responsibility:

Sweden is responsible for submitting the data to the relevant ICES Expert Groups, and to the EC under the requirements of its Data Collection Framework.

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