

Analysis of stable Isotopes of sea bass scales

Analysis of stable isotopes helps to give insight into the migration connectivity and migration patterns of the species. This analysis (through temperature effects on primary productivity affecting isotope ratios at the base of the food chain) will be performed on the scales of adult sea bass to define:

1. Possible differences between bass from North, Central and South Wales.
2. Migration patterns and fidelity to feeding grounds by analyzing how consistent the stable isotope signal is between years.

Understanding the migration pattern, connectivity between areas and site fidelity is important for a spatial management approach to the fishery. The spatial-temporal protection of key areas for the species is a useful tool for stock recovery.



Figure: Scale envelopes.