

Age estimation of the haddock from the North Sea

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Ifremer

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Haddock
Melanogrammus aeglefinus

Haddock is found in the North East Atlantic, from Iceland and the northern part of Norway to the Bay of Biscay.

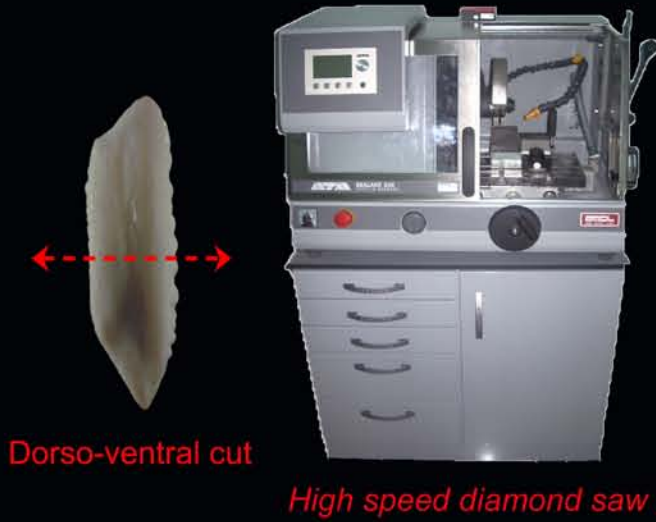
This benthic fish lives from 40 to 300 metres in depth and is especially abundant between 80 and 200 metres.

Haddock acquires its sexual maturity between 2 and 5 years old and its longevity is estimated at 14 years.



Concave and convex sides of the otolith

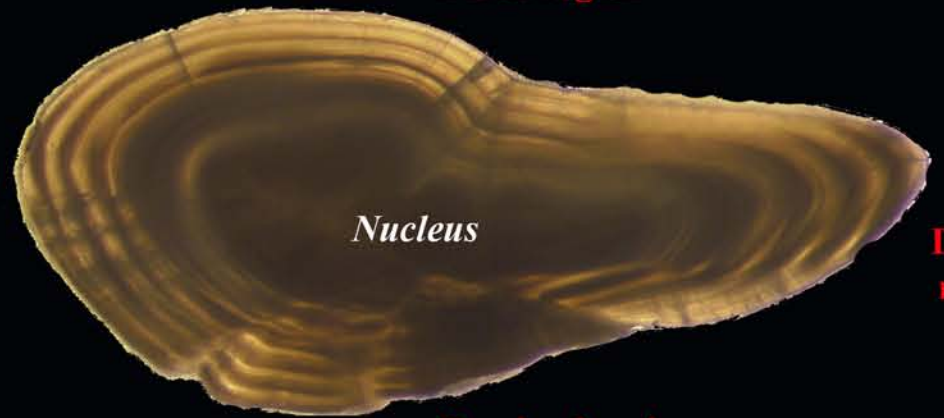
Reading thin otolith section



Dorso-ventral cut

High speed diamond saw

Ventral region



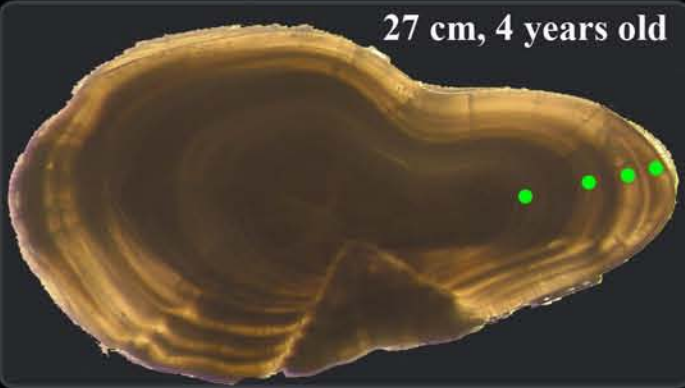
Distal region

Nucleus

Proximal region

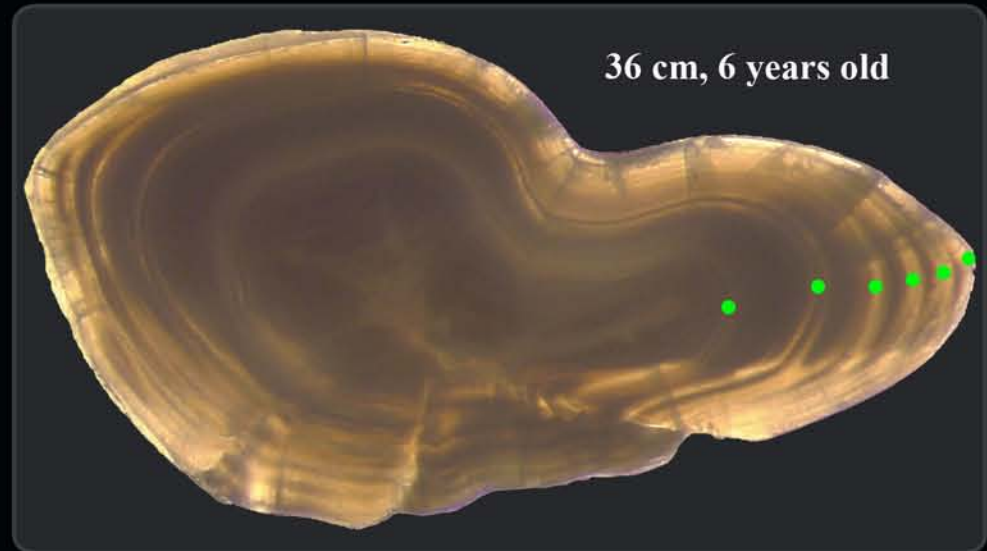
Dorsal region

27 cm, 4 years old

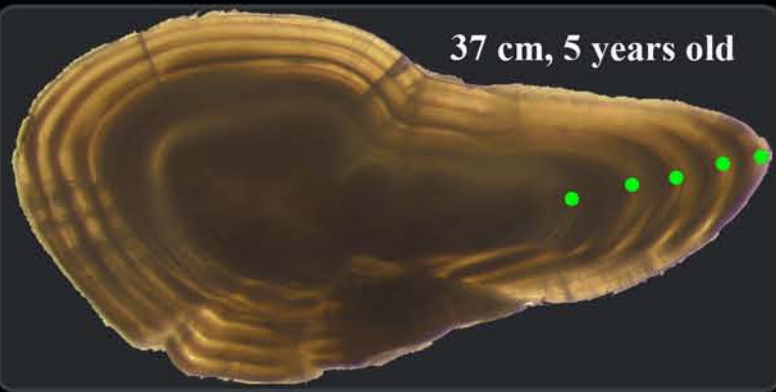


Age estimate is obtained after counting
• translucent increments

36 cm, 6 years old

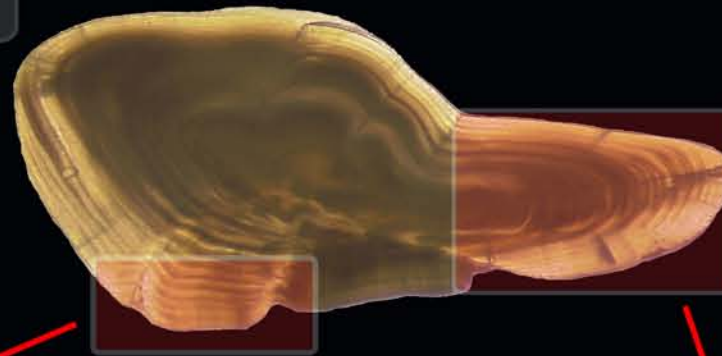


37 cm, 5 years old



All exhibited otoliths have been sampled during the first half of the year.

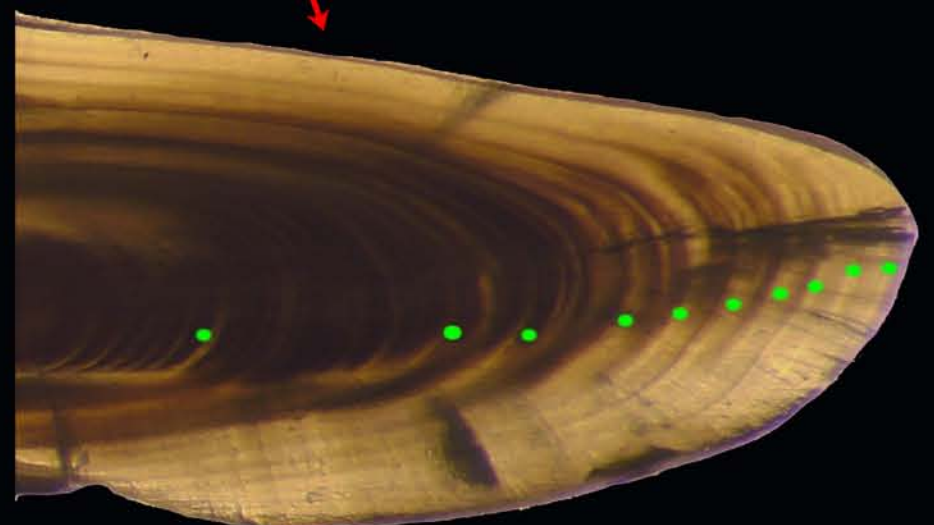
All observations have been realized under transmitted light.



Focus on preferential area may be necessary to estimate fish age, in case of large otoliths.

Zoom 2

Zoom 1



39 cm, 10 years old