Age estimation of the plaice from eastern English Channel and southern North Sea

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Plaice is found in the North East Atlantic, from Greenland to Morocco, including White, Black and Mediterranean Seas.

This bentho-demersal fish lives from the coast to depth of 200 metres, essentially on sandy, gravelly, muddy substrata.

Plaice acquires its sexual maturity between 2 and 7 years old and its longevity is estimated at 50 years.

Preparation and observation technique:
Otolith is directly read (in toto) without any preliminary preparation. Its observation is realized under a microscope after immersing the whole on its convex side in an alcoholic solution.

Preparation and observation technique:
Otolith is embedded in resin, then cutted along its dorso-ventral axis in thin section, which is observed under a microscope to estimate the age.

At present, age estimation of the plaice is realized from thin sections instead of entire otoliths, which allow a stronger accuracy, especially in case of young plaices.

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