**S4 Appendix. Case studies and species assemblages.**

For a sub-set of 6 LMEs (Scotian Shelf, Humboldt Current, North Sea, Gulf of Thailand, Kuroshio Current and Aleutian Islands), change in species assemblages were studied using partial indicators TCIR and ECIR cumulated progressively until TL=2.5/3.0/3.5/4.0/4.5, thus searching at which TLs changes in TCIR or ECIR occurred, and analyzing species parameters among the different trophic class. For each trophic class, the taxonomic groups parameters and catch abundance were analyzed along the indicators variations in order to relate variations in TCIR, ECIR and species responsible for such variations. For instance, if in one ecosystem the indicator TCIR (or ECIR) decreased in the trophic class 3.0-3.5, we looked for the species at corresponding trophic level with a high P/B ratio (or low P/Q ratio) and whose abundance in the catch increased. Thus, this analysis was using the progressively cumulated indicators along the trophic class, the species catch abundance per trophic class since 1950 and the species corresponding parameters.

There was a great variability in the trophic functioning of the six ecosystems used as case studies. Indicators computed for increasing ranges of TLs provided a more comprehensive understanding of changes that have occurred since 1950.



Fig. Time and efficiency cumulated indicators, computed between TL=2.0 and TL=b (for increasing b, from 2.5 to 4.5), in six LMEs selected as case studies. Left: relative TCIR to 1950; Right: relative ECIR to 1950

Scotian Shelf ecosystem (TCIR cluster 1, ECIR cluster 4) was characterized by a significant drop in the fisheries catch from more than 2.2 million of tons in the 60s to 300,000 tons in the recent period. The 70s were marked by the strong decrease in catch and by a large change in the species composition explaining the trends observed in both indicators, especially for trophic levels higher than 3.0. The biomass flow properties were no longer determined by the Gulf menhaden (TL=3.2)*, Sebastes* genus (TL=3.8), Winter flounder(TL=3.6)*,* Atlantic cod(TL=4.1)*, Merluccius* genus but rather by species with higher conversion efficiency and shorter residence time: Snow crab (TL=2.3), Atlantic rock crab (TL=2.6), Northern shrimp (TL=3.1), the American lobster (TL=3.7) and the Atlantic mackerel (TL=3.63). Such kind of change towards lower trophic levels and invertebrates clearly reflected a strong overfishing of predator fishes and an overall fishing down the food web process.

The Humboldt Current LME (TCIR cluster 3, ECIR cluster 2) demonstrated very different trends, in part due to the transition between small pelagic species. When the Peruvian Anchoveta (*Engraulis ringens*, TL=2.7) was abundant, the ECIR increased and the TCIR decreased since this species is two times more efficient than the South American Pilchard (*Sardinops sagax*, TL=2.8). The drop in ECIR concordant with the peak in TCIR during the 80s-90s was due to the abundance of pilchard. From the trophic class 3.0-3.5, the increasing presence of the Chilean Jack Mackerel (TL=3.3) induces a loss of trophic efficiency and longer time of transfers. Starting in the 2000s, an increase in ECIR and a decrease in TCIR were observed, due to the emergence of the Chilean silverside (TL=4.0), the Southern blue whiting (TL=3.8), the Jumbo flying squid (TL=4.1) and the Common dolphinfish (TL=4.4). Such an evolution thus reflected the environment-induced alternations between two small pelagics and the recent expansion of fisheries towards high trophic levels.

Concerning the North Sea (TCIR cluster 3, ECIR cluster 1), a significant decrease in the trophic efficiency indicator (by 30-40% since 1950) and a slight increase in TCIR were highlighted. The higher proportion of the European sprat (TL=3.0) might have induced longer times of transfer at rather low trophic levels. The clear replacement of the Atlantic herring (TL=3.4) by Sand eels (*Ammodytes*, TL=3.1) and Sand lances (*Ammodytidae*, TL=3.1) induced faster and less efficient transfers in the ecosystem. At higher trophic level the emergence of the Atlantic horse mackerel (TL=3.7) in the catch since the 80s-90s induced even less efficient and faster transfers Overexploitation of the Atlantic cod and other *Gadidae* reinforced these trends, because the remaining species are less efficient and generate faster transfers: the Atlantic bonito (TL=4.5) and the Blue whiting (TL=4.1).

For the tropical Gulf of Thailand ecosystem (TCIR cluster 2, ECIR cluster 2), the observed change is partly due to the development of the cnidarians fisheries (*Cnidaria*, TL=2.5), which induced a sudden increase in ECIR and decrease in TCIR in the early 70s. The decrease of the *Mugilidae* species was accompanied by a replacement by shrimps species and Sardinellas (TL=2.8), more efficient in trophic transfers, while tonguefishes induced slower transfers (*Cynoglossidae*, TL=3.2), just as Breams (*Nemipteridae*, TL=3.5). However, the increasing proportion of Jacks (*Carangidae*, TL=4.0) and Lizardfishes (*Synodontidae*, TL=4.3) induced another increase of ECIR and decrease in TCIR compared to the 50s when the King Mackerel was more abundant (TL=4.3). Overall, the various effects offset each other for the TCIR indicator, thus inducing almost no change in the time cumulated indicator between trophic levels 2 and 4, while in contrast trophic transfers appeared more efficient.

The Kuroshio Current (TCIR cluster 2, ECIR cluster 2) was driven by species in the trophic class 2.5-3.0 and the Pacific Sardine (*Sardinops sagax*, TL=2.8) leads the observed variations. The species was abundant mainly during the mid-70s to the 90s and explained the drop in ECIR at that period, since the Pacific Sandlance (TL=3.0) and Akaimi paste shrimp (TL=2.7) in the same class are more efficient. However, the residence time of the Sandlance is comparable to the sardine, explaining slighter and opposite variations on the TCIR.

In the Aleutian Islands (TCIR cluster 4, ECIR cluster 1), there was a progressive loss of trophic efficiency over the first decade, reflecting changes which jointly occurred at all trophic levels, but mainly driven by the development of fisheries at the beginning of the time-series. The indicators started to increase in the late 80s mainly due to a higher proportions of the Alaska Pollock (TL=3.6) and the Sockeye salmon (TL=3.5). The strong increase and difference between trophic class 2.5-3.0 and 3.0-3.5 for the TCIR was due to the group *Pleuronectidae* (TL=3.5) characterized by slow transfers, but the Pacific herring (TL=3.2) and the Yellowfin sole (TL=3.5) were enhancing the decrease after the 80s.

Table. Ratios of interest (P/B, P/Q) for the main species in 6 LMEs (Scotian Shelf, Humboldt Current, North Sea, Gulf of Thailand, Kuroshio Current and Aleutian Islands).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ecosystem** | **Trophic class** | **Scientific name** | **Common name** | **TL** | **P/B ratio** | **P/Q ratio** |
| **Scotian Shelf** | [2.0 ; 2.5[ | Placopecten magellanicusSpisula solidissimaMercenaria mercenariaChionoecetes opilio | Scallop shellAtlantic surf clamHard clamSnow crab | 2.02.02.02.3 | 1.791.791.791.88 | 0.190.190.190.11 |
| [2.5 ; 3.0[ | PandalusCancer irroratus | ShrimpsAtlantic rock crab | 2.62.6 | 3.331.88 | 0.210.22 |
| [3.0 ; 3.5[ | Brevoortia patronusClupea harengusPandalus borealis | Gulf menhadenAtlantic herringNorthern shrimp | 3.23.43.1 | 0.590.503.33 | 0.090.110.21 |
| [3.5 ; 4.0[ | SebastesRajidaeHomarus americanusMyoxocephalus | RedfishesStingraysAmerican lobsterGrubbies and sculpins | 3.83.83.73.7 | 0.210.261.030.32 | 0.030.040.140.02 |
| [4.0 ; 4.5 [ | MerlucciusIsurus oxyrinchusGadus morhua | HakeShortfin makoAtlantic cod | 4.34.54.1 | 0.260.300.30 | 0.090.210.15 |
| **Humboldt Current** | [2.0 ; 2.5[ | Clupea bentinckiAulacomya aterArgopecten purpuratusMugil cephalusEthmidium maculatum | Araucanian herringChilean ribbed musselPeruvian calico scallopFlathead grey mulletPacific menhaden | 2.02.02.02.12.1 | 0.613.101.790.493.06 | 0.030.280.190.030.03 |
| [2.5 ; 3.0[ | Engraulis ringensSardinops sagax | AnchovetaPacific sardine | 2.72.8 | 1.920.73 | 0.080.04 |
| [3.0 ; 3.5[ | Trachurus murphyiScomber japonicusMarine fishes not id. | Chilean jack mackerelChub mackerelMarine fishes | 3.33.43.3 | 0.250.550.42 | 0.060.090.07 |
| [3.5 ; 4.0[ | AnguilliformesMacruronus magellanicusOdontesthes regiaMicromesistius australis | Eels moraysPatagonian grenadierChilean silversideSouthern blue whiting | 3.93.94.03.8 | 0.240.350.820.51 | 0.030.080.180.10 |
| [4.0 ; 4.5 [ | MerlucciusMerluccius gayi gayiMerluccius australisSarda chiliensisDosidicus gigasCoryphaena hippurus | HakesSouth Pacific hakeSouthern hakeEastern Pacific bonitoJumbo flying squidCommon dolphinfish | 4.34.34.54.54.14.4 | 0.350.440.410.513.041.68 | 0.110.140.140.080.230.65 |
| **North Sea** | [2.0 ; 2.5[ | Cardium eduleMiscellaneous aquatic inv.Mytilus edulis | Common cockleAquatic inv.Blue mussel | 2.12.42.0 | 1.791.843.1 | 0.190.190.28 |
| [2.5 ; 3.0[ | Sprattus sprattusNephrops norvegicusCancer pagurus | European spratNorway lobsterEdible crab | 3.02.92.6 | 0.901.031.88 | 0.130.140.22 |
| [3.0 ; 3.5[ | Clupea harengusAmmodytesAmmodytidaeLimanda limandaPleuronectes platessa | Atlantic herringSand eelsSand lancesCommon dabEuropean plaice | 3.43.13.13.33.3 | 0.560.810.790.550.34 | 0.110.110.050.180.11 |
| [3.5 ; 4.0[ | Scomber scombrusGadidaeTrachurus trachurus | Atlantic mackerelCods, haddocksAtl. Horse mackerel | 3.63.83.7 | 0.540.430.32 | 0.110.070.07 |
| [4.0 ; 4.5 [ | Gadus morhuaMelanogrammus aeglefinusMerlangius merlangusPollachius virensSarda sardaMicromesistius poutassou | Atlantic codHaddockWhitingSaitheAtlantic bonitoBlue whiting | 4.14.04.44.34.54.1 | 0.410.390.510.280.750.31 | 0.230.160.170.130.130.09 |
| **Gulf of Thailand** | [2.0 ; 2.5[ | Perna viridisVeneridaeCnidaria | Green musselShellsCnidarians | 2.02.02.5 | 3.101.791.12 | 0.280.190.39 |
| [2.5 ; 3.0[ | MugilidaeSardinellaPenaeus | MulletsSardinellaShrimps | 2.52.82.7 | 0.901.703.33 | 0.050.050.21 |
| [3.0 ; 3.5[ | Rastrelliger kanagurtaLeiognathidaeEngraulidaeCynoglossidae | Indian mackerel[Slimys, slipmouths](http://www.fishbase.org/summary/FamilySummary.php?ID=318)AnchoviesTonguefishes | 3.23.23.33.3 | 1.821.872.340.70 | 0.090.060.050.03 |
| [3.5 ; 4.0[ | LoliginidaeLoligoDecapterus russelliNemipteridaeSciaenidaeSepiidae | Common pencil squidsCommon squidsIndian scadBreamsDrums or croakersCuttlefishes | 3.93.93.73.53.83.6 | 3.053.051.381.021.142.17 | 0.230.230.080.090.050.31 |
| [4.0 ; 4.5 [ | CarangidaeScomberomorus guttatusSynodontidae | Jacks and pompanosIndo-Pacific king mackerelLizardfishes | 4.14.34.3 | 1.520.491.18 | 0.050.050.12 |
| **Kuroshio Current** | [2.0 ; 2.5[ | BivalviaPectinidaeMiscellaneous marine mol.Mugil cephalus | ClamsScallopsMarine molluscsFlathead grey mullet | 2.22.02.32.1 | 1.791.791.840.55 | 0.190.190.190.02 |
| [2.5 ; 3.0[ | Sardinops sagaxAmmodytes personatusAcetes japonicus | Pacific sardinePacific sandlanceAkiami paste shrimp | 2.83.02.7 | 0.970.943.33 | 0.040.070.21 |
| [3.0 ; 3.5[ | PleuronectidaeMarine fishes not identifiedTrachurus japonicusEngraulis japonicusCrustacea | Righteye floundersMarine fishesJapanese jack mackerelJapanese anchovy | 3.53.33.43.13.2 | 0.320.350.641.672.84 | 0.020.050.080.060.21 |
| [3.5 ; 4.0[ | Colobis sairaOncorhynchusScomberTheragra chalcogramma | Pacific saurySalmons troutsChub mackerelsAlaska pollock | 3.73.93.73.6 | 0.890.820.920.49 | 0.100.070.060.09 |
| [4.0 ; 4.5 [ | CarangidaeGadus macrocephalusKatsuwonus pelamisTodarodes pacificusTrichiurus lepturus | Jacks pompanosPacific codSkipjack tunaJapanese flying squidLargehead hairtail | 4.14.24.44.34.4 | 0.910.401.013.040.57 | 0.050.110.090.230.09 |
| **Aleutian Islands** | [2.0 ; 2.5[ | Chionoecetes | Crabs | 2.3 | 1.88 | 0.22 |
| [2.5 ; 3.0[ | PandalidaeParalithodes camtschaticus | ShrimpsRed king crab | 2.72.8 | 3.331.88 | 0.210.22 |
| [3.0 ; 3.5[ | Marine fishes not identifiedPleuronectidaeLimanda asperaLepidopsetta bilineataClupea pallasii pallasii | Marine fishesRighteye floundersYellowfin soleRock solePacific herring | 3.33.53.53.23.2 | 0.170.100.320.100.49 | 0.080.060.180.130.20 |
| [3.5 ; 4.0[ | Theragra chalcogrammaPleuronectiformesOncorhynchus nerka | Alaska PollockFlatfishesSockeye salmon | 3.63.63.5 | 0.320.100.54 | 0.230.060.32 |
| [4.0 ; 4.5 [ | Oncorhynchus gorbuschaGadus macrocephalus | Pink salmonPacific cod | 4.54.2 | 0.540.20 | 0.320.24 |