

The hidden variation in the Icelandic cod stock: implications for sustainable management

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Abstract: Maintenance of diversity between and within stocks is one of the most critical goals of fisheries management and conservation. Evidence of surprisingly complex, and previously unimagined, diversity within our commercial fish stocks is rapidly emerging. Icelandic cod is no exception and in fact the results presented here today demonstrate the presence of extensive variation in a multitude of life history traits. In this talk I will review the main results on intra-stock diversity of the Icelandic cod stock, with a focus on stock structure and fisheries-induced evolution, in an attempt to evaluate where we stand today and identify where more information is needed in order to rebuild and sustain this valuable stock.