

y el de más diversidad el FBV con 12 especies. Las especies más importantes en cada sustrato fueron *Tethorchestia antillencis* con 67% en FDV, *Hyale pygmaea* con un 97% en FD, *Talorchestia margaritae* con 33% en FBV, *Ampelisca parapacifica* con 38% en FB y *Maera quadrimana* con 60% en CI.

Age and growth of the black scabbardfish *Aphanopus carbo* (Trichiuridae) off the Canary Islands

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In the frame of the INTERREG III B projects PESC PROF1-3, the age and growth of the black scabbardfish *Aphanopus carbo* Lowe, 1839 off the Canary Islands were determined. A total of 368 individuals caught at depths of 800-2300 m between June 2004 and October 2006 were analysed. Males ranged in size between 1035 and 1335 mm total length, and females between 995 and 1475 mm. A significant difference in the mean size was found between males (1171 mm) and females (1224 mm). Age was determined using whole otoliths, which showed clear growth rings. Two rings, one opaque and one translucent, were laid down each year on the otoliths. Age estimates ranged between 2 and 8 years old for males, and between 2 and 12 years old for females. Estimated von Bertalanffy growth parameters for males were: $L_{\infty}=1410\pm 39$ mm, $k=0.263\pm 0.05$ year⁻¹ and $t_0=-3.51\pm 0.75$ year, and for females: $L_{\infty}=1483\pm 22$ mm, $k=0.196\pm 0.02$ year⁻¹ and $t_0=-4.65\pm 0.53$ year. Significant differences in the von Bertalanffy growth parameters were observed between sexes.

Microbial plankton diversity in surface waters south of Pico island, Azores

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The main focus of this work is to determine spatial community diversity patterns in a region south of Pico island (Azores archipelago, NE Atlantic) and to relate these with local dynamics. This objective is mainly connected with projects DEECON and CIMBA that take place at the Department of Oceanography and Fisheries at the University of the Azores (DOP/UAç). DEECON main objectives are to unravel population connectivity for sustainable fisheries as part of the "Ecosystem Functioning and Biodiversity in the Deep Sea" (EuroDEEP) program, while CIMBA provides the implementation and development of a regional/national/international network for oceanographic (biological and physical) monitoring of the Azores archipelago. Surface water samples were collected during 2007 and 2008 projects oceanographic cruises. These samples were filtered and preserved onboard the R/V "Arquipélago". The main sampling effort was concentrated south of Pico island area (38.5°-37.8° N, 27.5°-29.0° W), a main "coastal" target region for DEECON. The microbial community diversity was assessed using a molecular phylogenetic approach based on partial 16S rDNA gene. The community pattern along horizontal transects was compared and its diversity related with local dynamics. This work is a contribution to the assessment of microbial communities around the Azores islands.