Goals and Objectives

- Digitize (take photos) of American Plaice otoliths using a microscope camera.
- Photos were then uploaded to a American Plaice folder on a USB drive.
- If time allowed, cut additional whole otoliths with the provided special saw, and move onto cod (Gadus) otoliths.
- Data will be used to develop age/length curves for American Plaice in Maine.

Materials and Methods

- These American Plaice otoliths were collected by DMR employees off the coast of Maine in the Atlantic ocean.
- This project was focused on digitizing (taking photos) of American Plaice otoliths and adding them to the departments database so that their individual age can be estimated and age/length curves can be constructed.

Background

- An otolith is a structure that is located in the inner ear cavity of a fish.
- Serves as a balance organ but also hearing.
- Can be used to gain information about a fishes taxon, age and size. (Rodríguez Mendoza, R P., 2006).

- American Plaice (*Hippoglossoides platessoides*) are a right eye species of flounder.
- Found along the continental shelves from southern Labrador to Rhode Island (NOAA, 2017).
- Live on soft bottoms, feed on invertebrates and small fish (Fish Base).

Products

- Images of American plaice otoliths that will be used to age the fish.
- To age an otolith, count the dark annuli (winter growth).

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Literature Cited


For further information

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