

# The biological basis for hypothesizing multiple stocks in South African sardine *Sardinops sagax* (cont....)

Carl van der Lingen

1. Distribution patterns
2. Reproduction (spawning habitats, seasonality, length-at-maturity)
3. Meristics (number of vertebrae and gill rakers) and morphometrics (body shape, otolith shape)
4. Parasites as biotags
5. Stock structure and recently agreed hypothesis

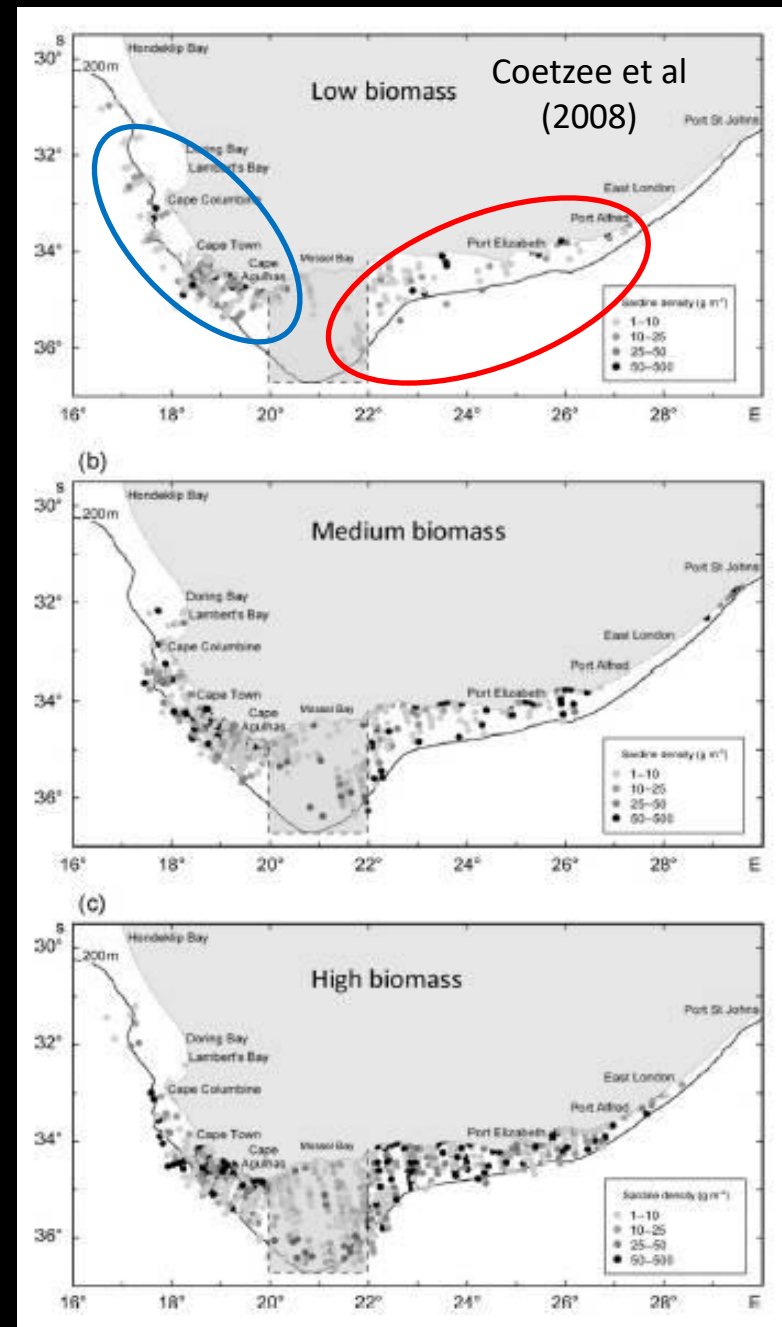


# Identifying multiple sardine stocks – Distribution patterns

Analyses of sardine distribution patterns at different biomass levels from acoustic surveys showed that at low and medium biomass sardine distribution is discontinuous, separated by the CAB

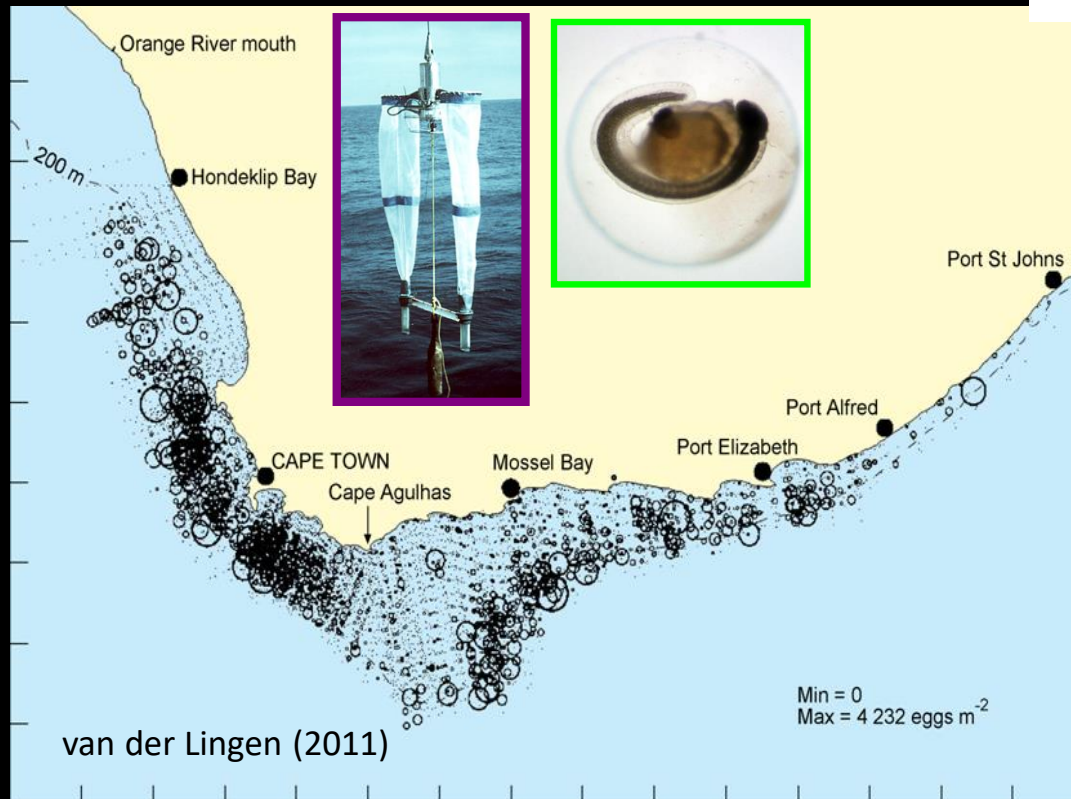
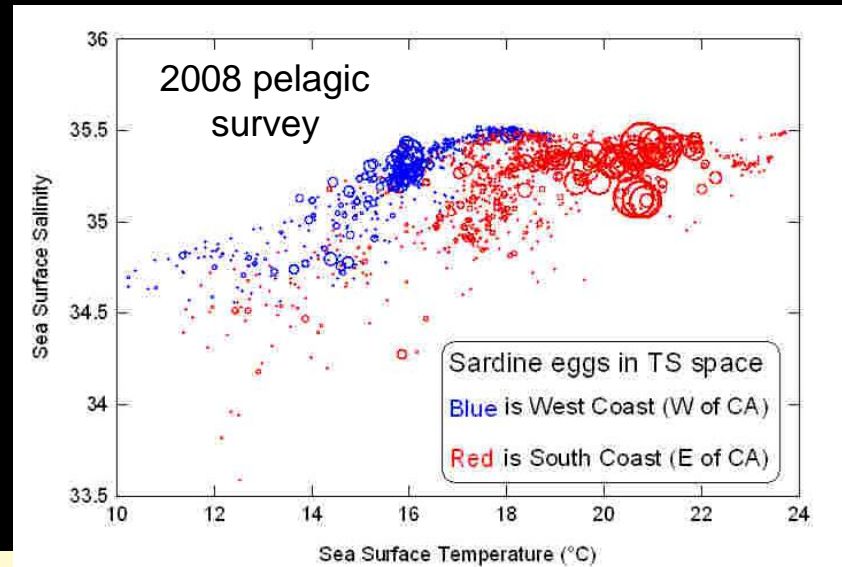
Given that sardine, as observed for other clupeids, retreat into “refugia” at low population size, this analysis suggested the possible existence of two stocks

‘Western’ and ‘Southern’ sub-stocks hypothesized



# Spawning habitats (i)

Sardine eggs collected during surveys (1986-2009; 7 809 samples) clearly show two discrete spawning areas on the **west** and **south** coast, separated by CAB



Different spawning areas have different environmental characteristics (e.g. temperature and salinity)

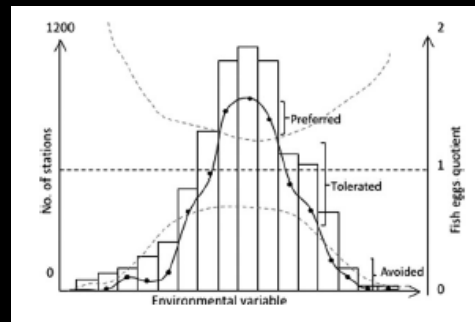
(Also spawning off KZN during winter sardine run)

# Spawning habitats (ii)

Substantial differences in SST of preferred spawning habitat (PSH; bootstrapped CIs for SPQ) for sardine off the **west** and **south** coast

PSH SST off the **west** coast 1.5-4°C lower than that of sardine off the **south** coast throughout the time series (1984-2009)

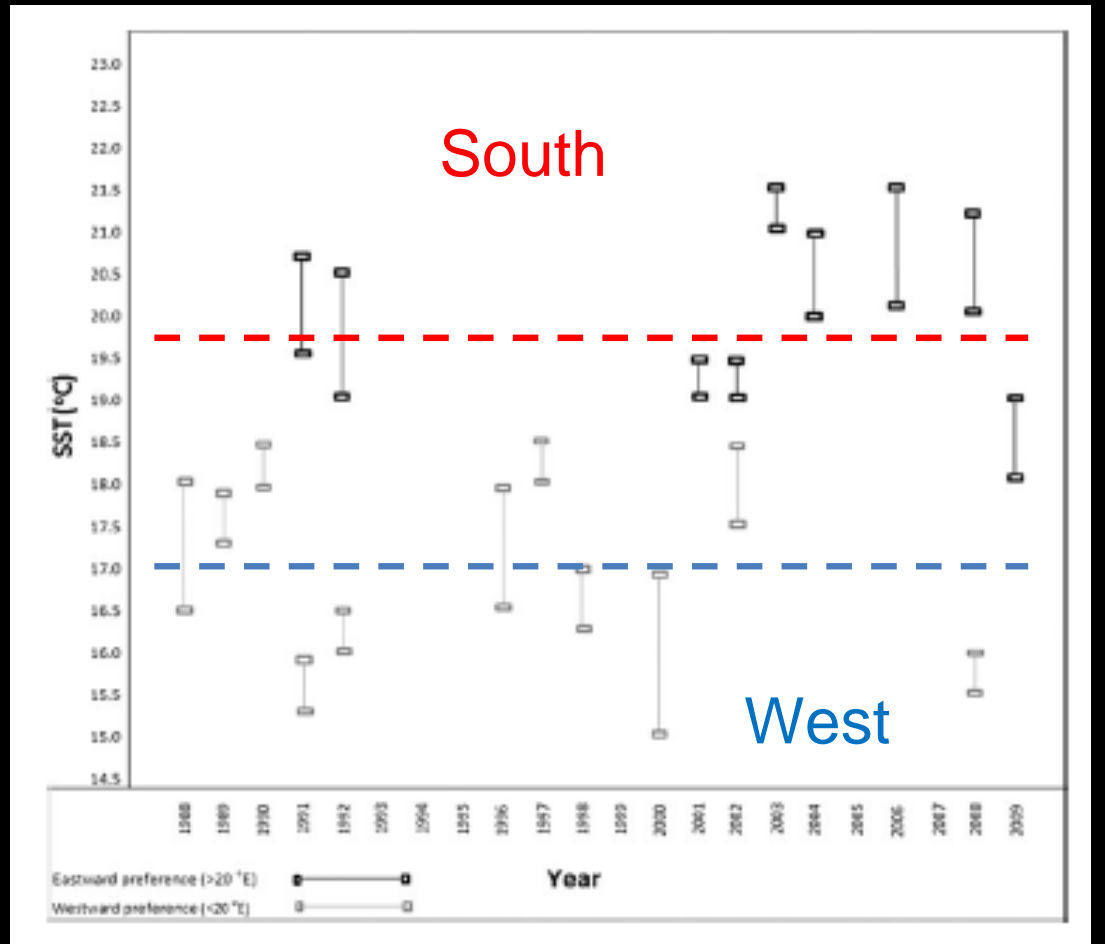
Spawning on **west** at  $\pm 17.0^\circ\text{C}$ ; on **south** at  $\pm 19.5^\circ$



**FISHERIES OCEANOGRAPHY**  
FISHERIES OCEANOGRAPHY *Fish. Oceanogr.* 24 (Suppl. 1): 1-14, 2015

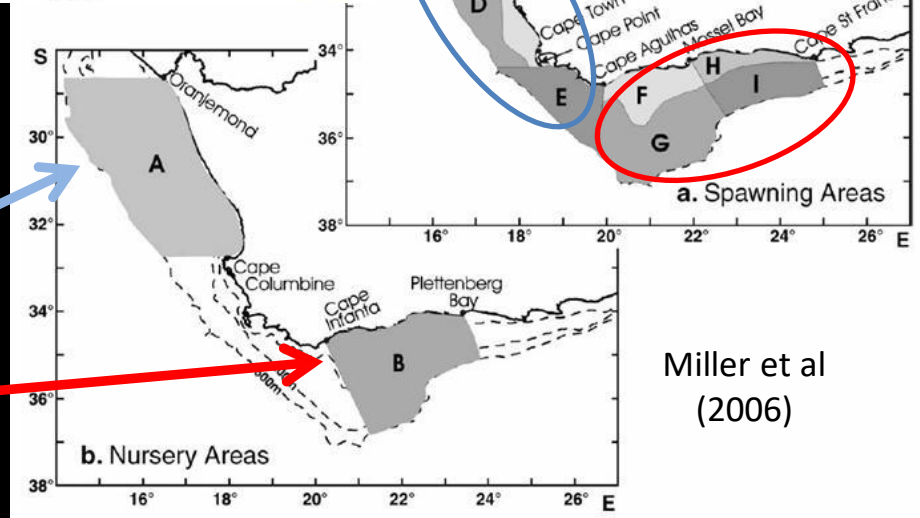
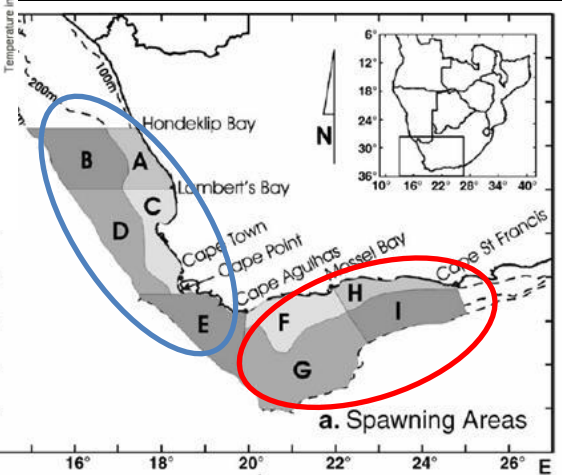
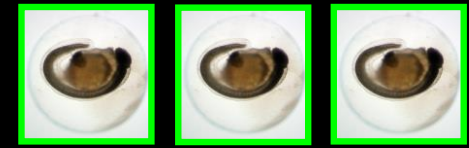
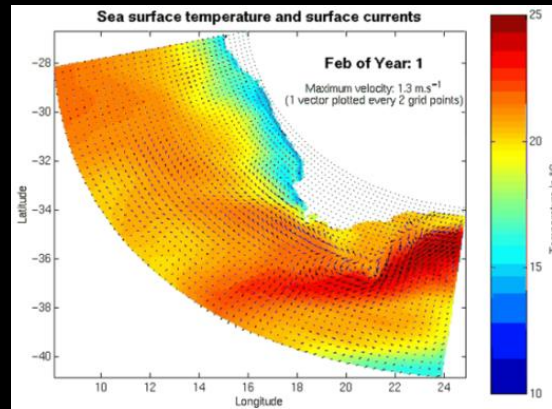
Have the spawning habitat preferences of anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*) and sardine (*Sardinops sagax*) in the southern Benguela changed in recent years?

NANDIPHA MHLONGO,<sup>1,\*</sup> DAWIT YEMANE,<sup>1,2</sup> MARC HENDRICKS<sup>2</sup> AND CARL D. VAN DER LINGEN<sup>1,2</sup> Key words: anchovy, preferred ranges, sardine, sea surface temperature, southern Benguela, spawning habitat

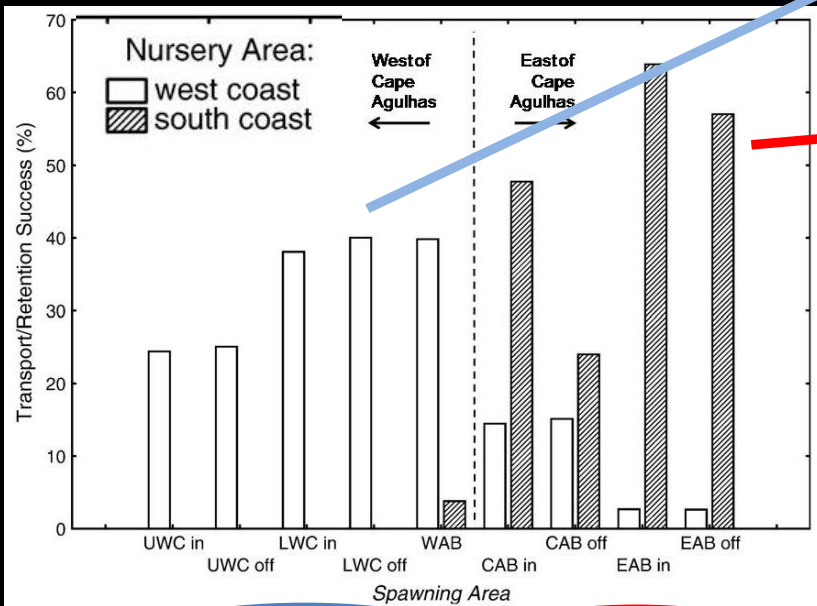


# Spawning habitats (iii)

Individual-based model of sardine life history strategies; vary spawning areas and track egg/larval transport to **west** and **south** coast recruitment areas



Miller et al (2006)



A B C D E F G H I

Results suggest 2 major sardine recruitment systems; spawn east of Cape Agulhas and recruit on **south** coast, or spawn west of Cape Agulhas and recruit on **west** coast

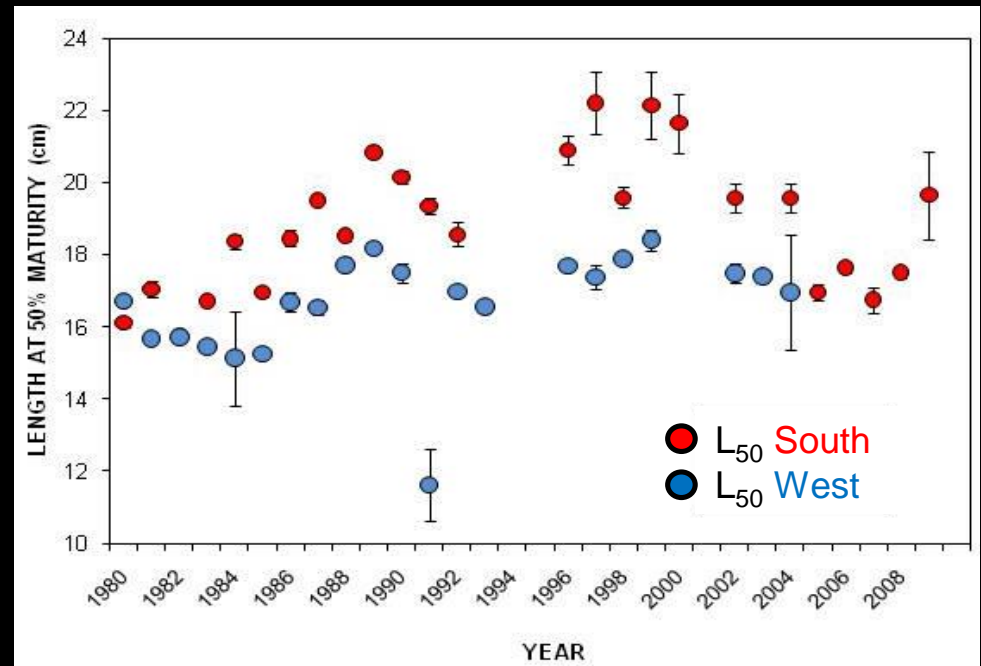
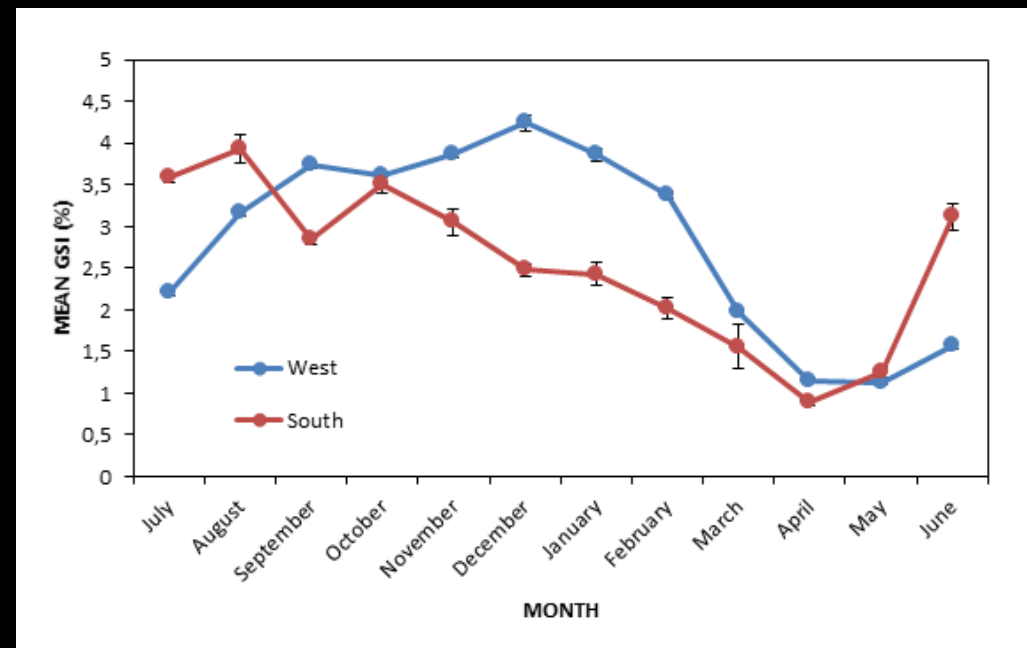
# Spawning seasonality and length at maturity

Monthly mean GSI (n = >36 000; 1995-2014)

**Western** GSI highest from Sep-Feb with peak in Dec; **southern** GSI highest from Jun-Nov with peak in Aug

$L_{50}$  maturity of females (n = 14 000; 1980-2009)

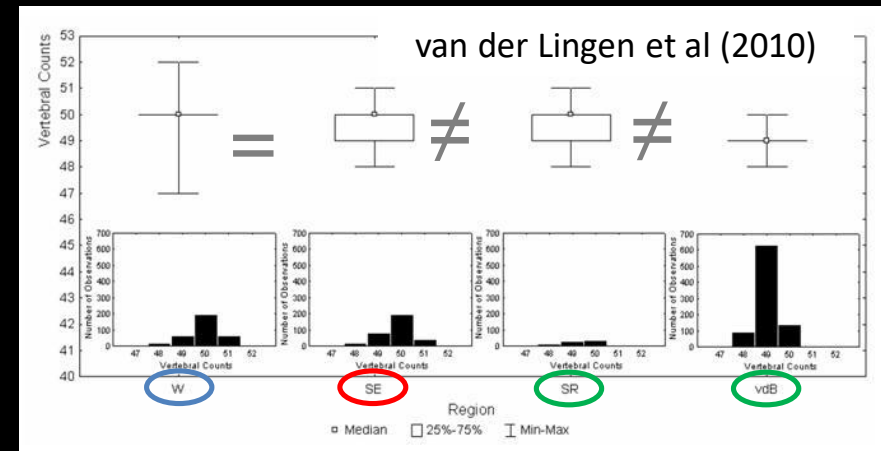
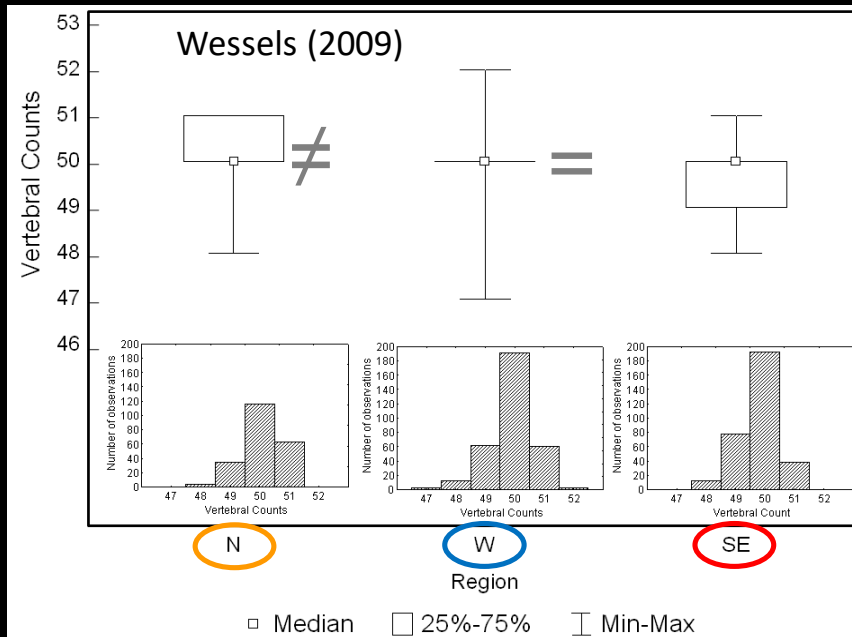
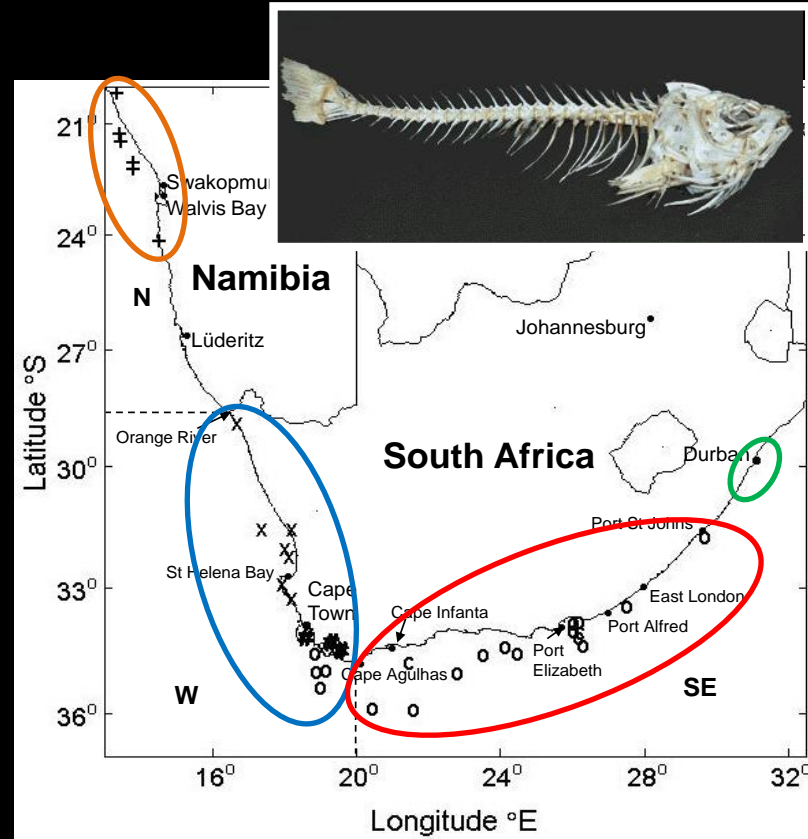
Fish from **west** consistently mature at a smaller size than those from **south**;  $L_{50}$  varies synchronously



# Meristics (i): # of vertebrae

Significant difference in mean number of vertebrae between regions; highest in **Namibian** sardine, lowest in **Eastern** sardine, no difference between **Western** and **Southern** sardine stocks

Temperature gradient (Jordan's rule)



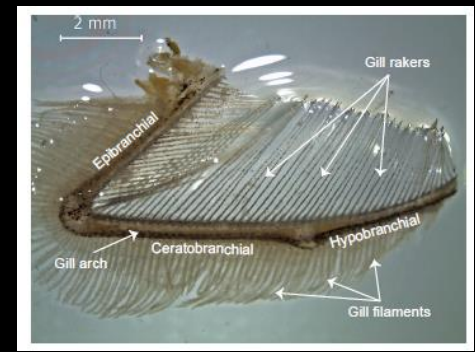
# Meristics (ii): # of gill rakers

Branchial baskets of 377 sardine from **Namibia** and **West, South** and **East** coast

Multivariate GLM used to assess regional differences and significant differences observed, although not always consistently across all fish size classes.

Small SC sardine had fewer gill rakers than small WC sardine, but differences disappeared in larger fish

Namibian and EC sardine coarser branchial baskets

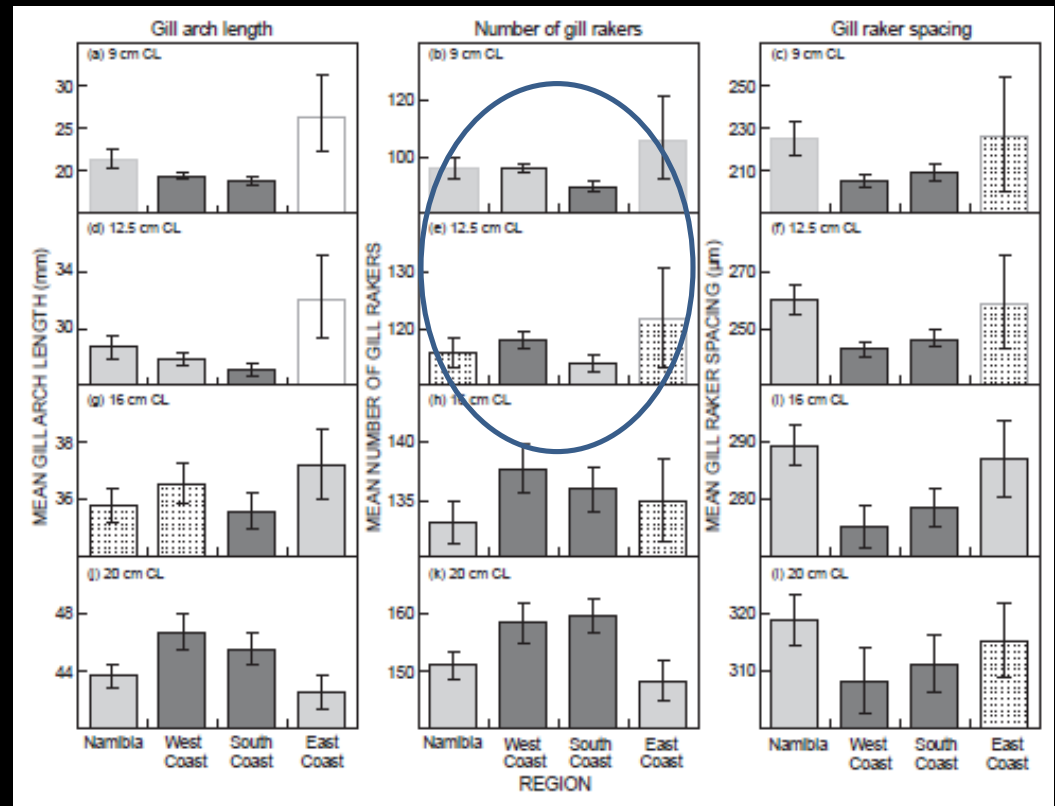


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http://dx.doi.org/10.2989/1814220X.2016.1204842

**Spatial variability in branchial basket meristics and morphology of southern African sardine *Sardinops sagax***

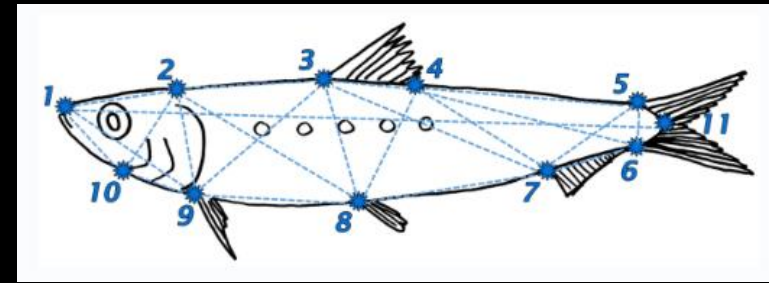
I Idris<sup>1\*</sup>, CL Moloney<sup>1</sup> and CD van der Lingen<sup>1,2\*</sup>





# Morphometrics (i): body shape

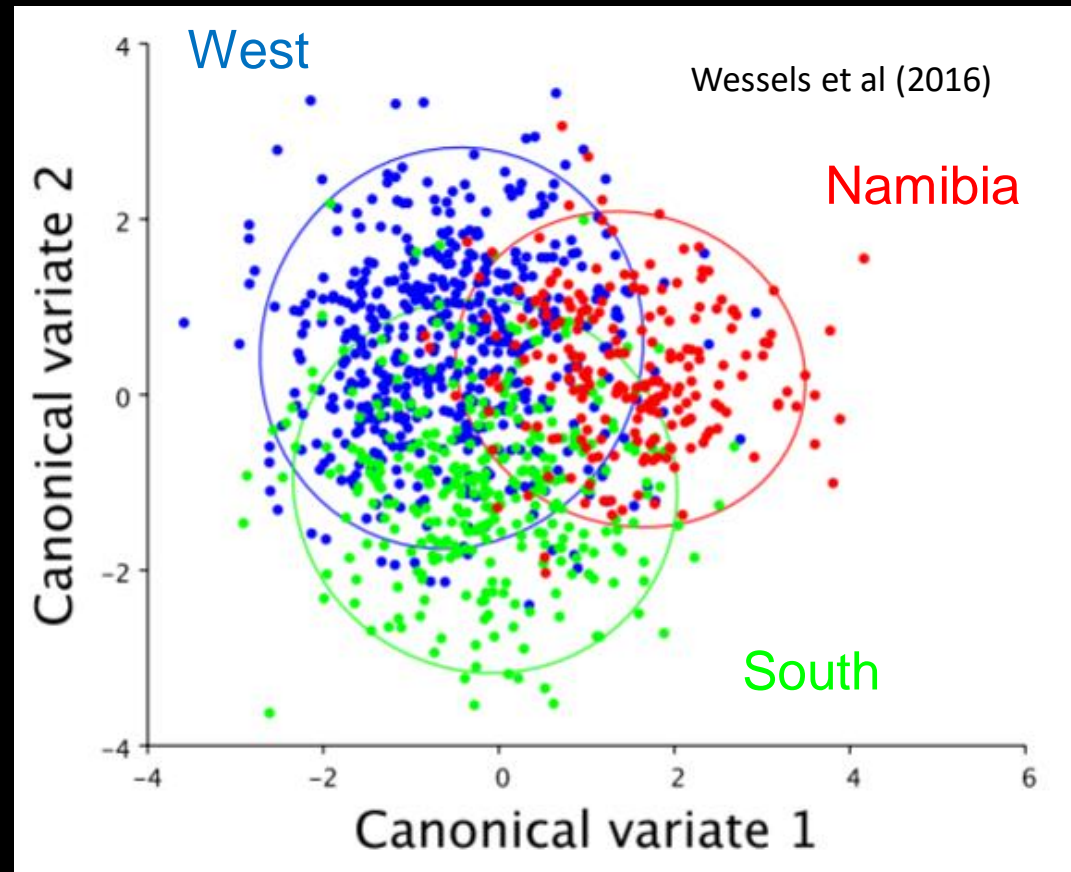
Body shape of sardine from **Namibia** and **West** and **South** coast quantified using 11 landmarks and box-truss network to collect 22 morphometric measurements



Differences in body shape assessed using geometric morphometrics with canonical variate analysis (CVA)

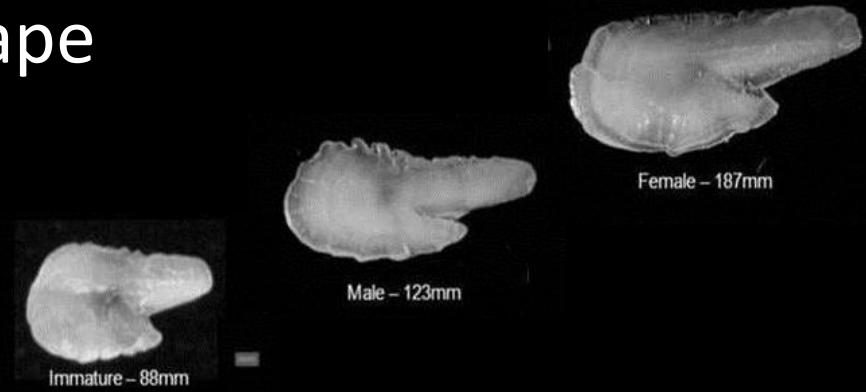
Significant difference in body shape between all regions

From thicker bodies and larger heads (Namibian) to thinner bodies and smaller heads (Southern)



# Morphometrics (ii): otolith shape

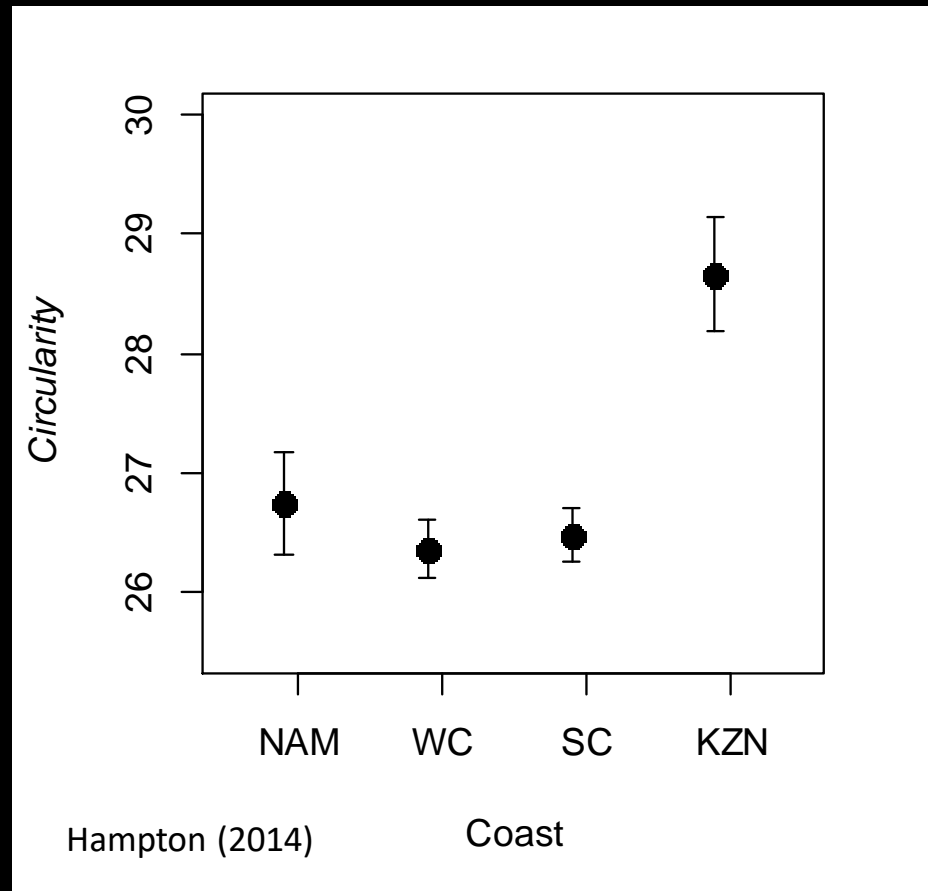
Otolith shape of sardine from Namibia and West, South and East coast quantified using circularity and form factor (regularity of the edge)



GLM to assess the effect of *Coast*, *Length*, *Sex* and *Season* (Circ  $r^2=0,42$  and FF  $r^2=0,44$ )

Strong *Length* effect; significant difference in otolith shape of fish from East coast (KZN), and *Season*

East coast otoliths less circular and rougher edge



# Parasites as bio-tags (i)

Parasite biotag approach applied to SA sardine



Assess parasite assemblage and identify biotag/s:

102 sardine from 7 sites around SA coast examined

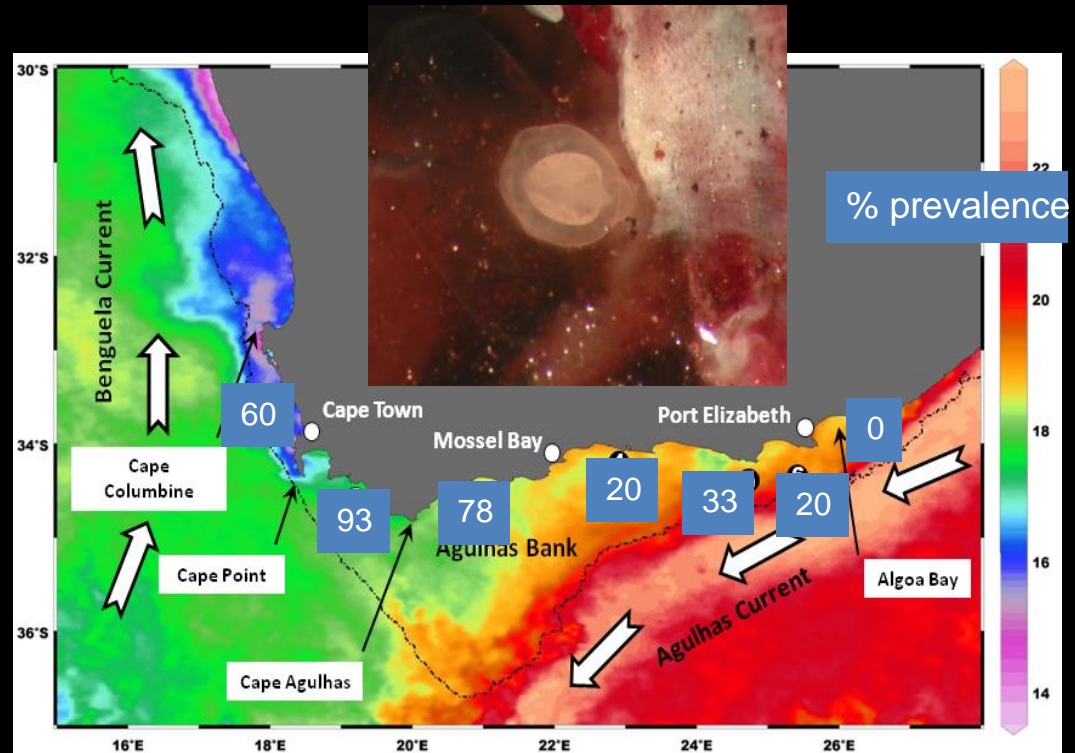
7 parasite taxa, 3 new host records

Digenean “tetracotyle” type metacercariae (TTM) found in sardine eyes showed greatest biotag potential (spatial variability in prevalence, endoparasite, other criteria)

Bull. Eur. Ass. Fish Pathol., 32(2) 2012, 41

Parasites of South African sardines, *Sardinops sagax*, and an assessment of their potential as biological tags

C. Reed<sup>1\*</sup>, K. MacKenzie<sup>2</sup> and C. D. van der Lingen<sup>3</sup>



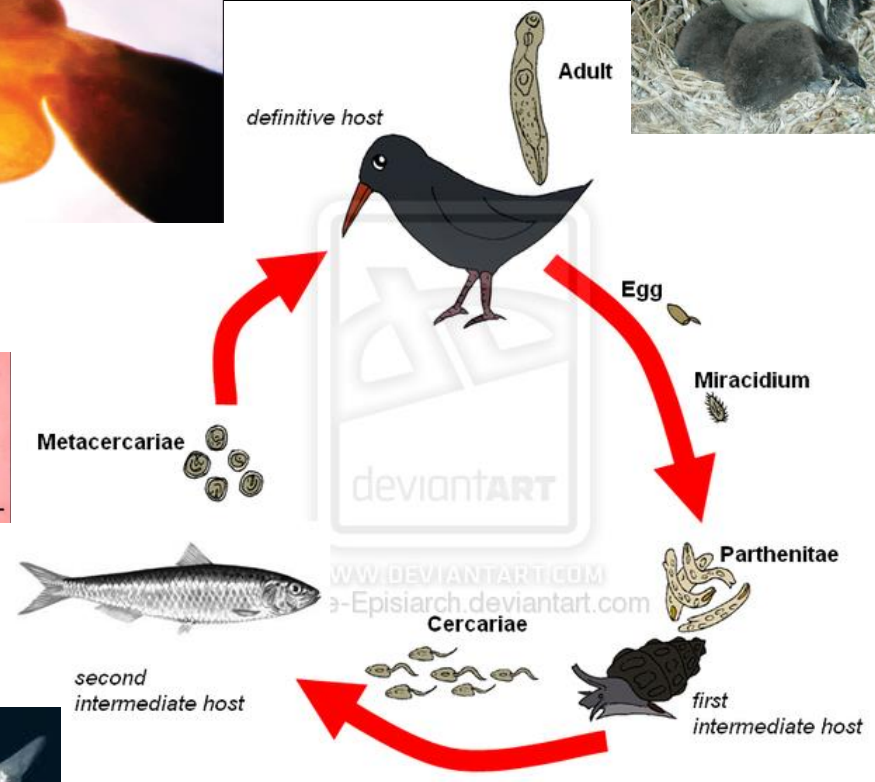
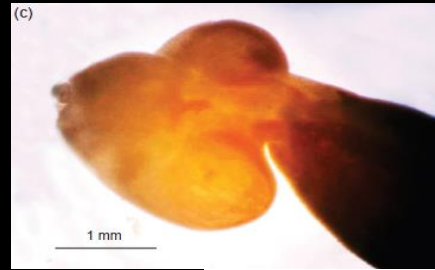
# Parasites as bio-tags (ii)

TTM considered to be *Cardiocephaloides physalis*

Life-cycle includes a gastropod 1<sup>st</sup> intermediate host, a fish (sardine) 2<sup>nd</sup> intermediate host and a seabird definitive host (no fish-to-fish transmission)

African penguin host to adult *C. physalis*

1<sup>st</sup> intermediate host unknown: hypothesized *Burnapaena papyracea*, abundant subtidal gastropod between Cape Agulhas and Lüderitz



# Parasites as bio-tags (iii)

1 318 sardine from commercial catch samples in 2011 and 2012 examined for TTM

GLMs used to assess effects of *Stock, Year, Season* and *CL* on 3 indices of infection

- Prevalence (pseudo- $r^2$  0.21): *log(CL), Stock, Year*
- Intensity (pseudo- $r^2$  0.29): *Stock, Season, Year*
- Abundance (pseudo- $r^2$  0.30): *Stock, log(CL), Year*

Supports hypothesis of western and southern stocks

Fisheries Research 164 (2015) 120–129

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

**Fisheries Research**

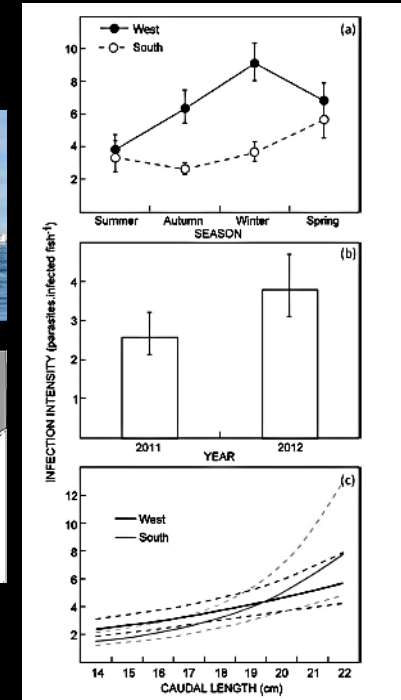
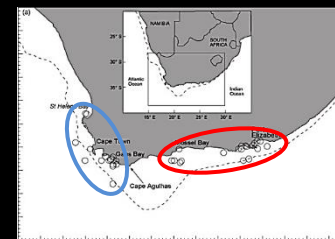
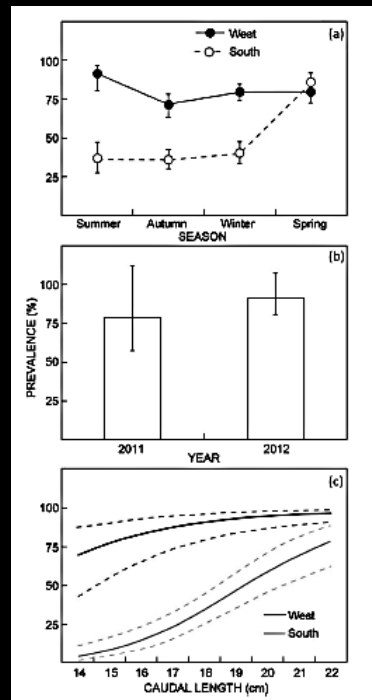
Journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/fishres](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/fishres)

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Stock discrimination of South African sardine (*Sardinops sagax*) using a digenean parasite biological tag

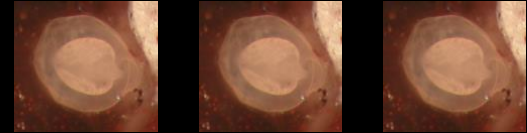
Laura F. Weston<sup>a,\*</sup>, Cecile C. Reed<sup>a</sup>, Marc Hendricks<sup>b</sup>, Henning Winker<sup>c,d</sup>, Carl D. van der Lingen<sup>b,e</sup>

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<sup>c</sup> South African National Biodiversity Institute, Kirstenbosch Research Centre, Claremont 7735, South Africa  
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# Parasites as bio-tags (iv)

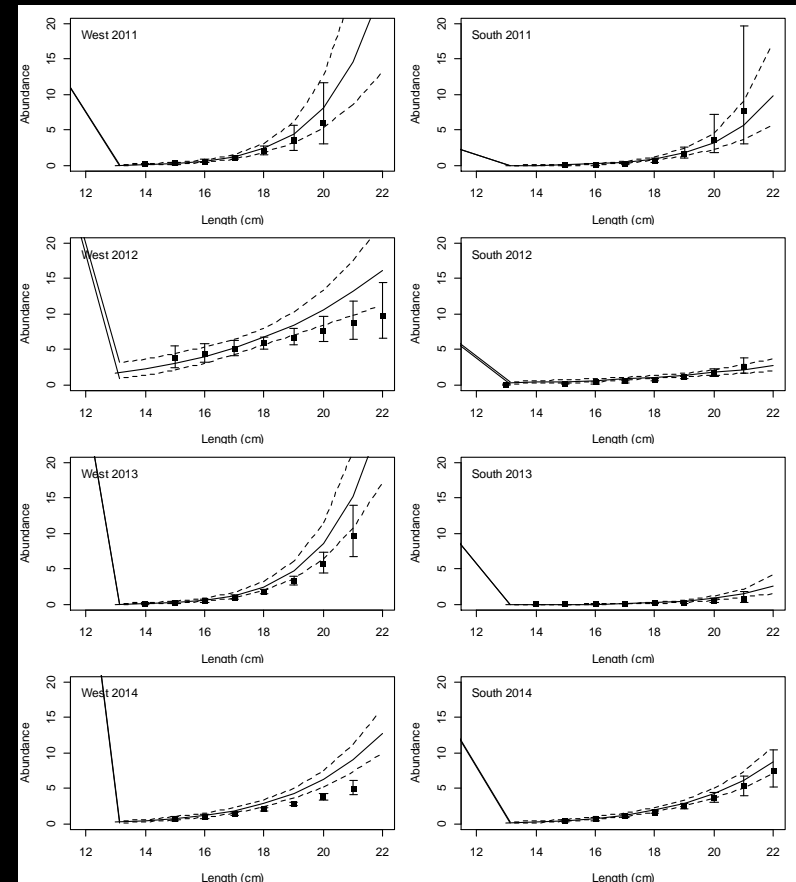
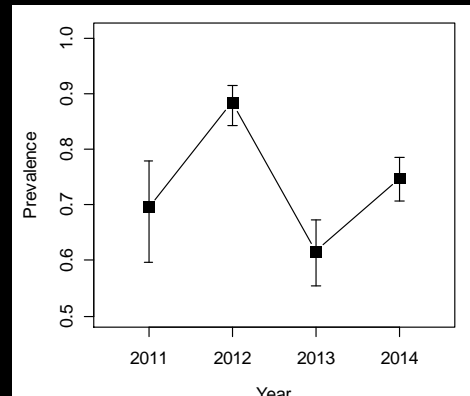
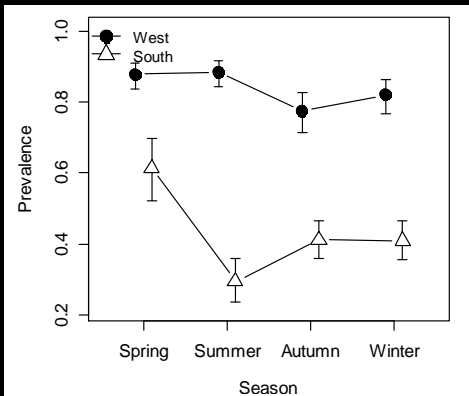
3 000 more sardine from commercial catches in 2013 and 2014 processed for TTM; GLM analyses



*Stock* most important for all 3 indices

Increasing infection with *CL* for both western and southern fish suggests W to S movement of larger fish (*i.e.* all ages)

Seasonal and inter-annual variation

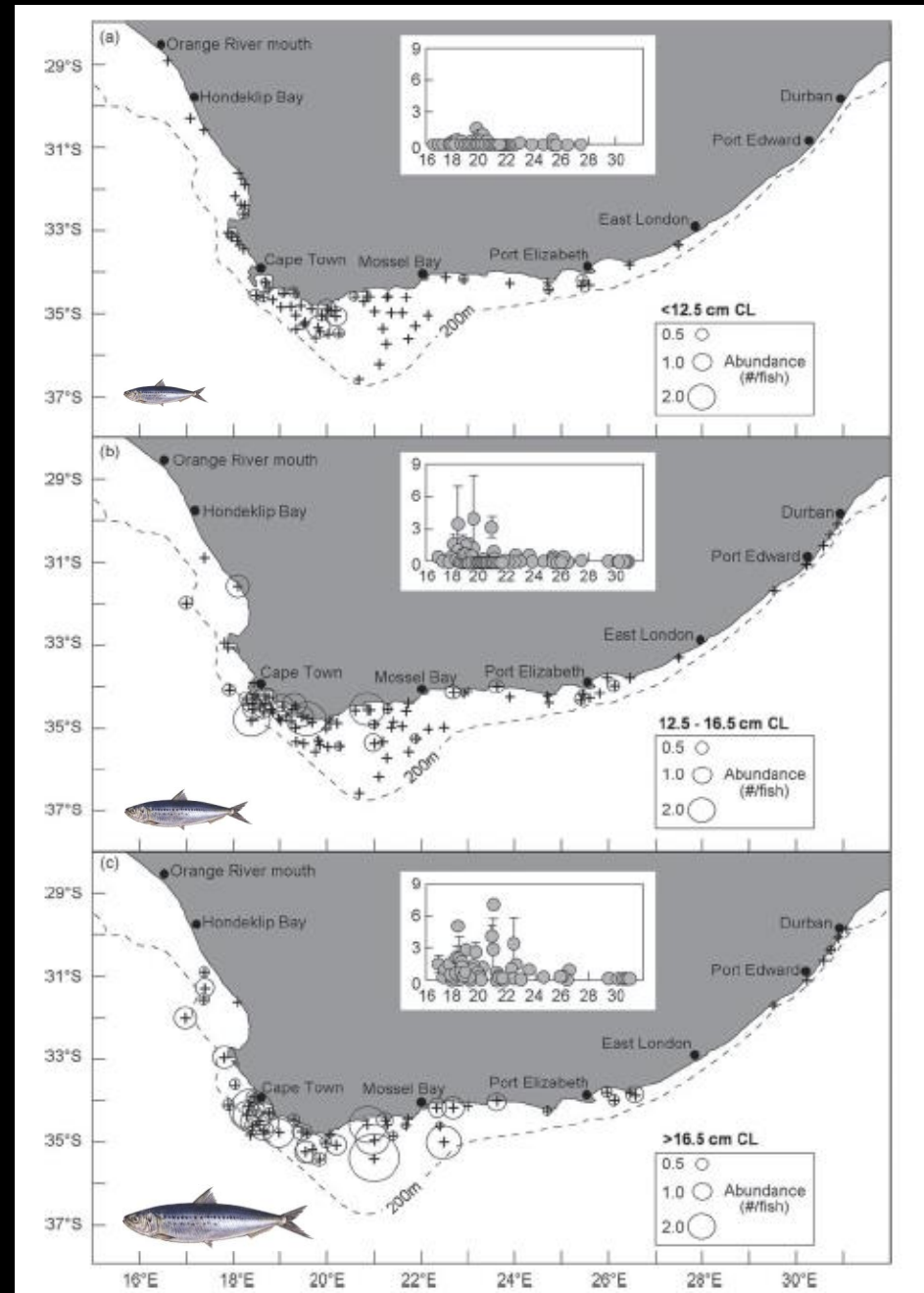


# Parasites as bio-tags (v)

Sardine from research surveys and beach-seine catches (KZN) of Namibian, W, S and E stocks, 2010-2015, examined

No infection in Namibian sardine (n=200). Mean TTM abundance off SA shows clear spatial pattern, declining from west to south and east (prevalence <3% off KZN)

Prevalence-at-length data from PBS used in assessments



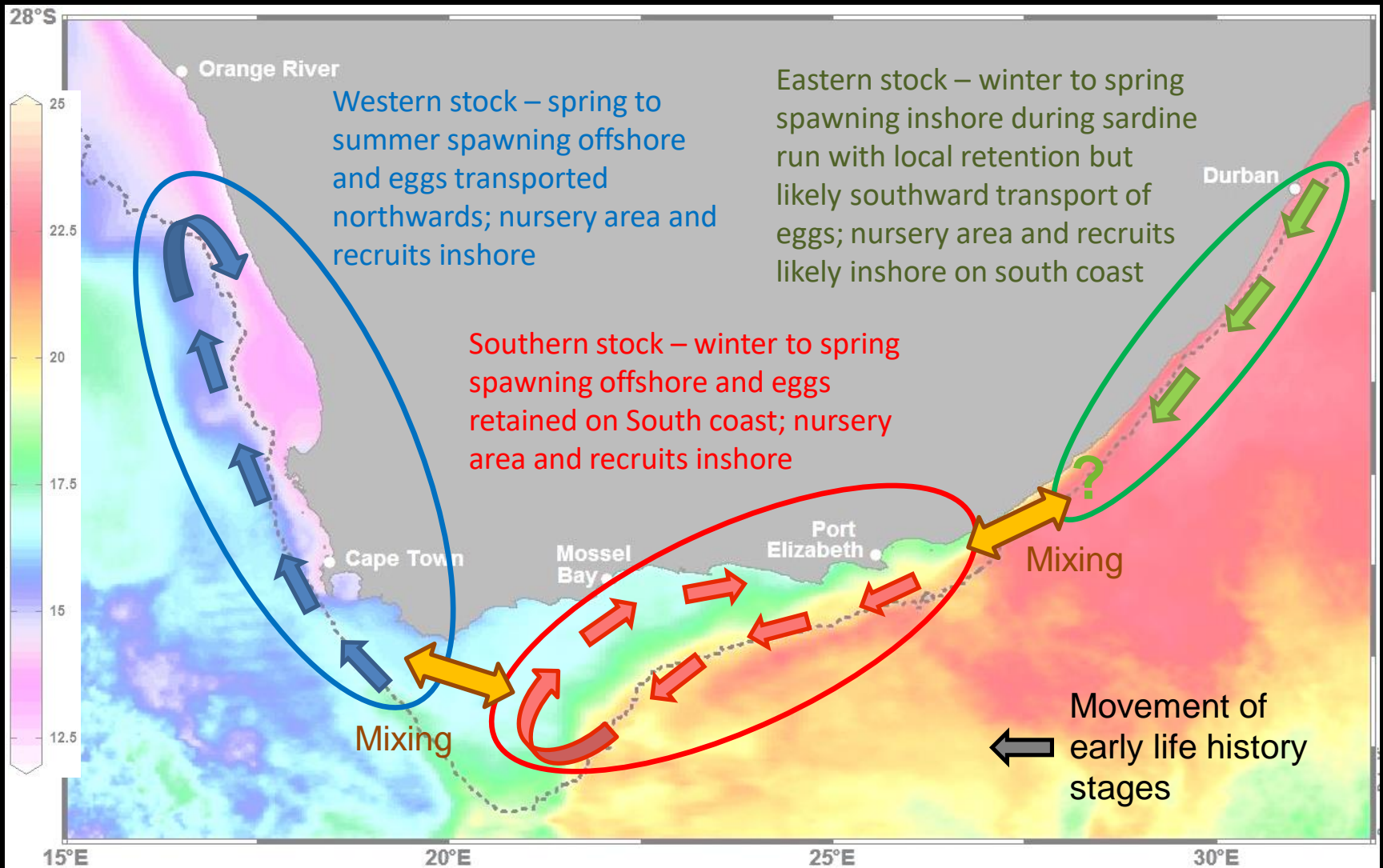
# Stock structure?

Significant spatial difference in several phenotypic characteristics; different life history strategies

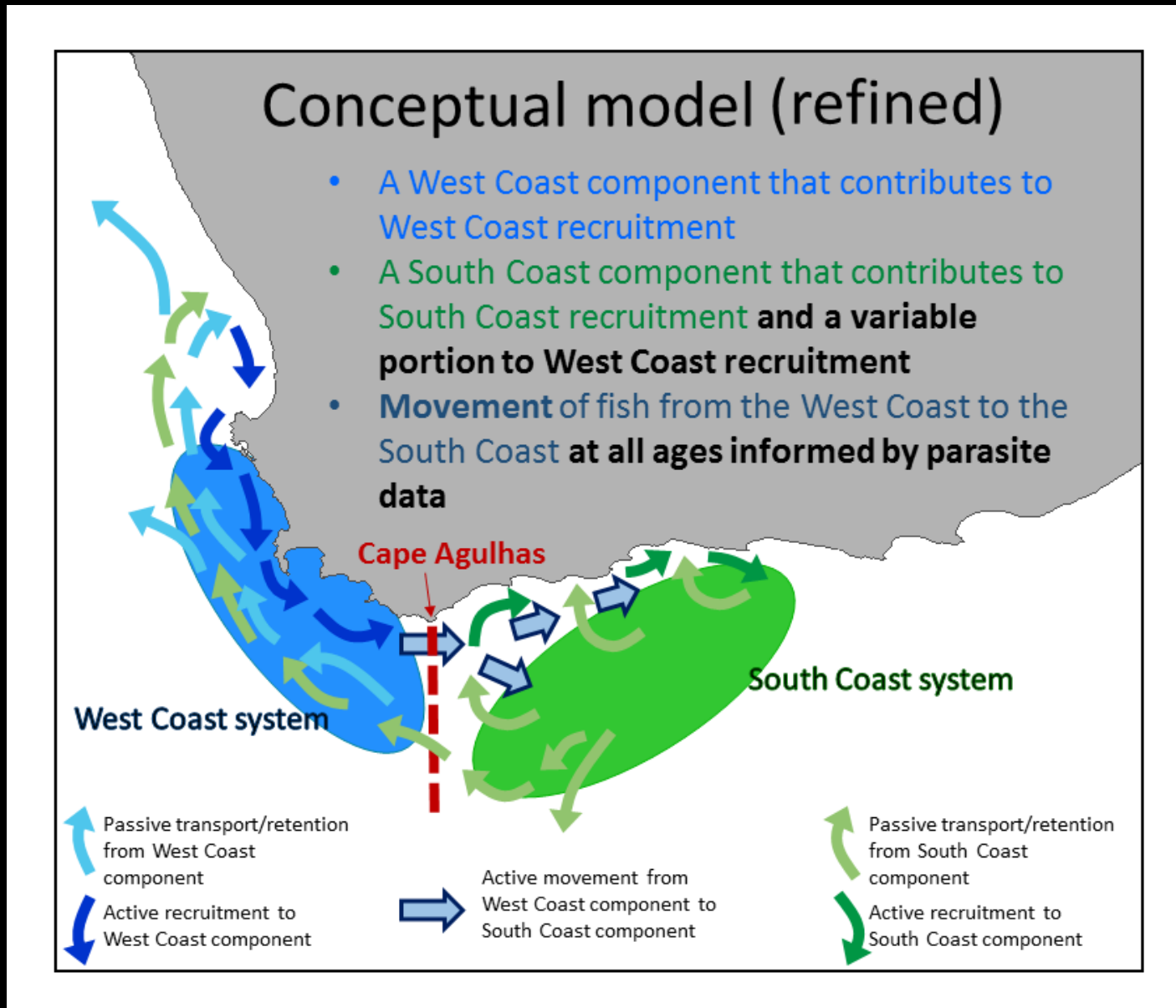
Characteristic	Different between sardine from west and south coasts? (east coast in brackets)
Spawning habitat/season	Yes (Yes)
# of vertebrae	No (Yes)
Body shape	Yes (Yes)
Gill arch length	Yes; not shown (Yes)
# of gill rakers	Yes for small but not large fish (Yes)
Length-at-maturity	Yes (Undetermined)
Length-at-age	No; but poor age data; not shown (Undetermined)
TTM parasite	Yes (Yes)
Otolith shape	No (Yes)
Genetics	No; not shown (No)



# Hypothesized stock-specific life histories (3 sub-stocks)

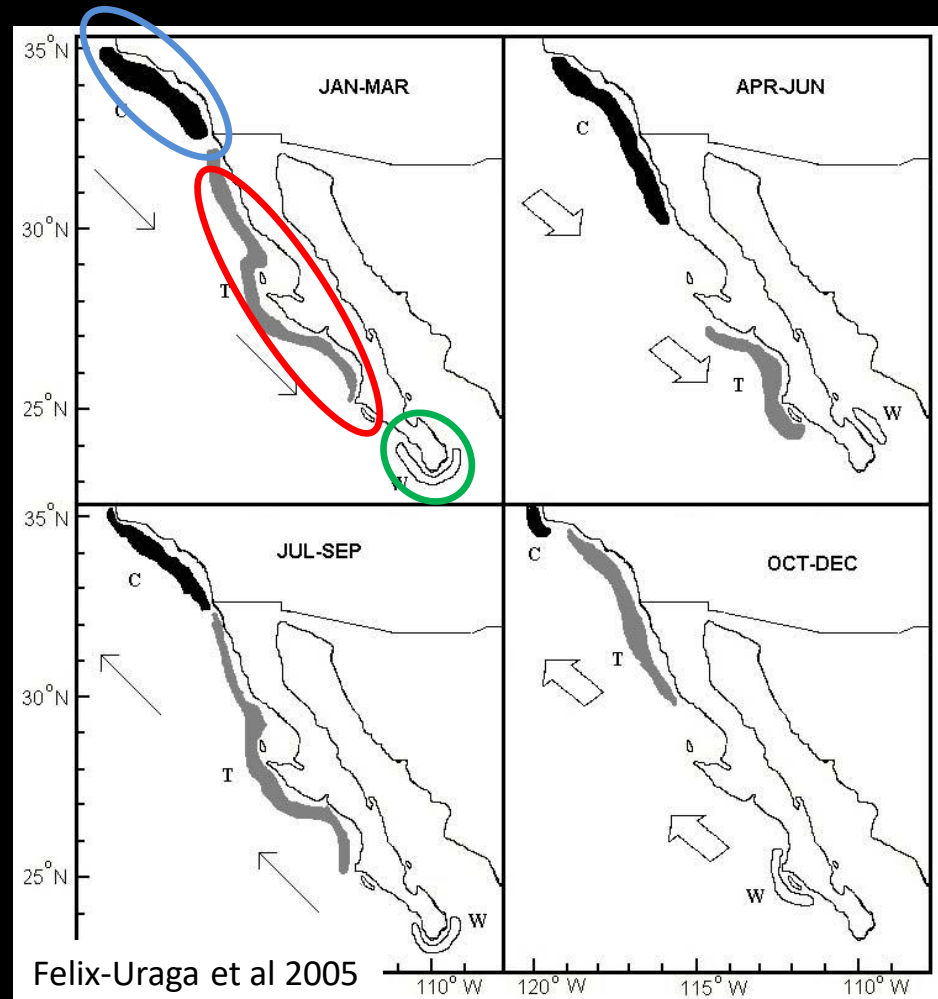


# Agreed hypothesis for W and S sub-stocks (components)



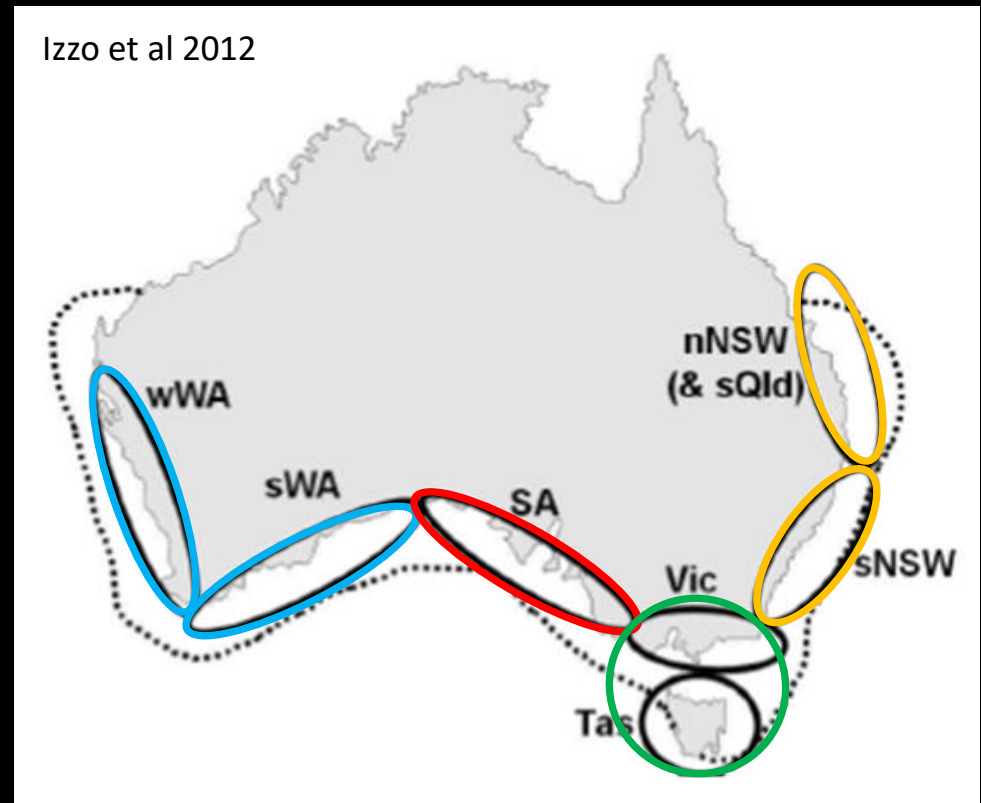
# Multiple sardine stocks elsewhere (i)

- Three Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*) stocks hypothesized off southern California and Baja California - identified by otolith shape and temperature-at-catch
- Cold (expands to Canada at high biomass), temperate and warm stocks; show seasonal movement patterns
- Model separately for stock assessment and management purposes



# Multiple sardine stocks elsewhere (ii)

- Three or four semi-independent regional groups, across seven regions, proposed for Australian sardine (*Sardinops sagax*)
- Identified by wide variety of approaches (tagging, genetics, morphology, meristics, otolith chemistry, parasites, commercial catch patterns, life history parameters)
- Explore options for finer scale spatial management

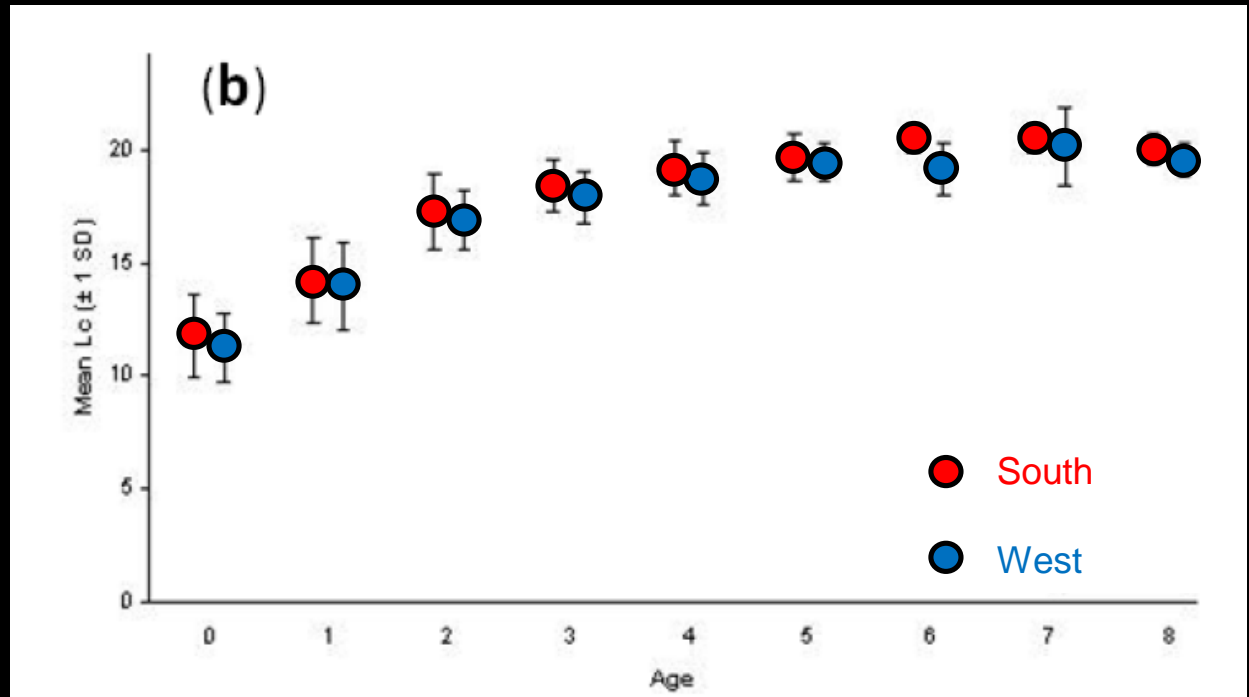


Additional things about SA sardine stock  
structure.....

(but not all of them)

# Length-at-age

- Length at age of sardine from research survey samples 1993, 1994, 1996, 2001-04, and 2006-07 (D. Durholtz, DAFF)
- No spatial difference in length-at-age, tendency for fish from the **west** to be slightly smaller than those from the same age group in the **south** (but sardine ageing data considered poor)



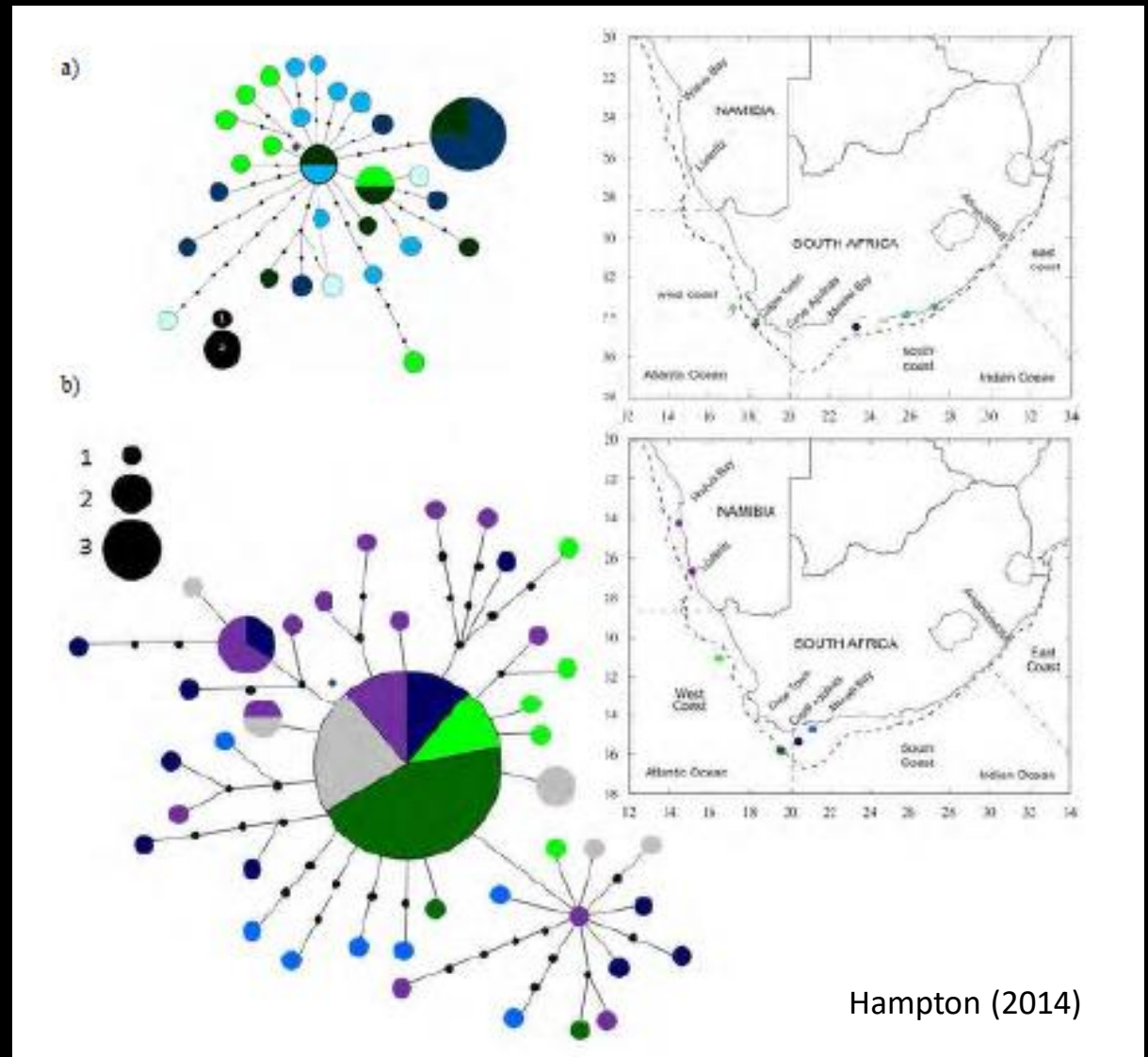
# Genetics

Analysis of mitochondrial DNA marker (ND2) shows a large number (52) of haplotypes for South African sardine

Analysis of 7 microsatellite loci

No spatial structuring or genotypically-differentiated stocks; sweepstake hypothesis supported

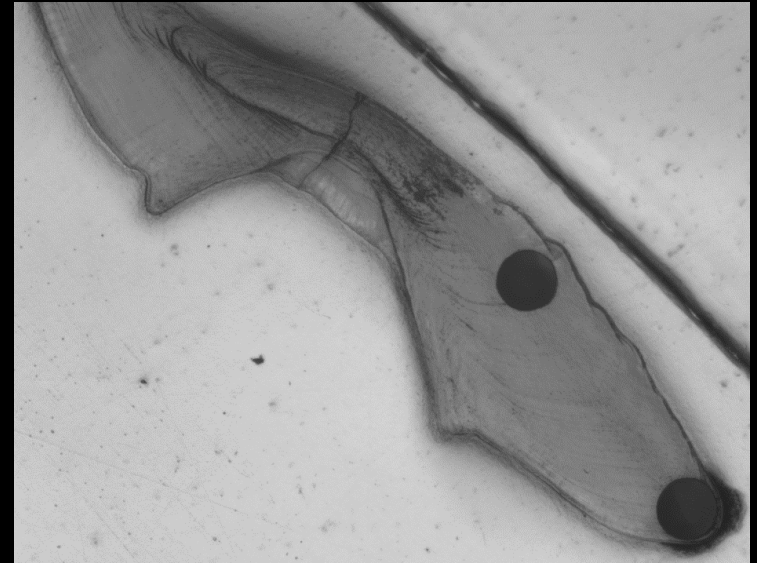
Genomics project....



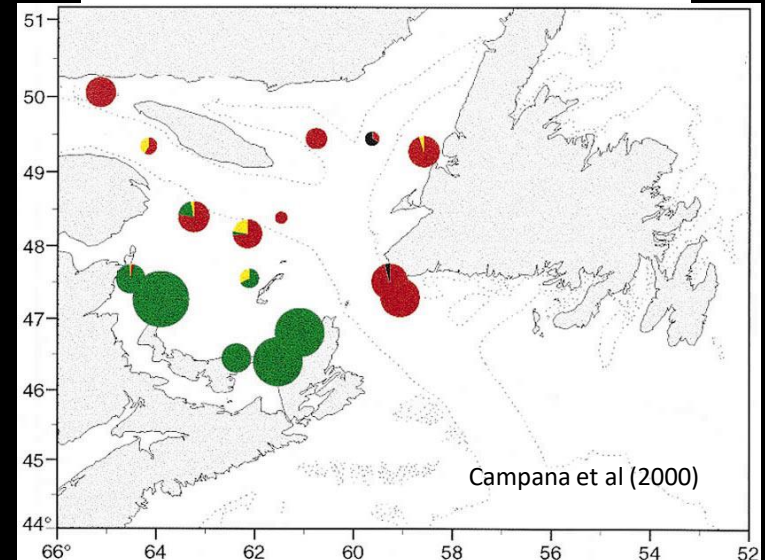
Hampton (2014)

# Otolith microchemistry (i)

- Otolith elemental composition reflects chemical composition of ambient seawater at the time of (incremental) deposition
- Spatial differences in otolith elemental composition used to examine stock structure, and fish movement patterns, elsewhere
- Otoliths laser-burnt at selected sites (edge = present conditions, core = conditions at early development) and chemical concentrations determined
- Spatial heterogeneity in OC a requirement for utility in SDS



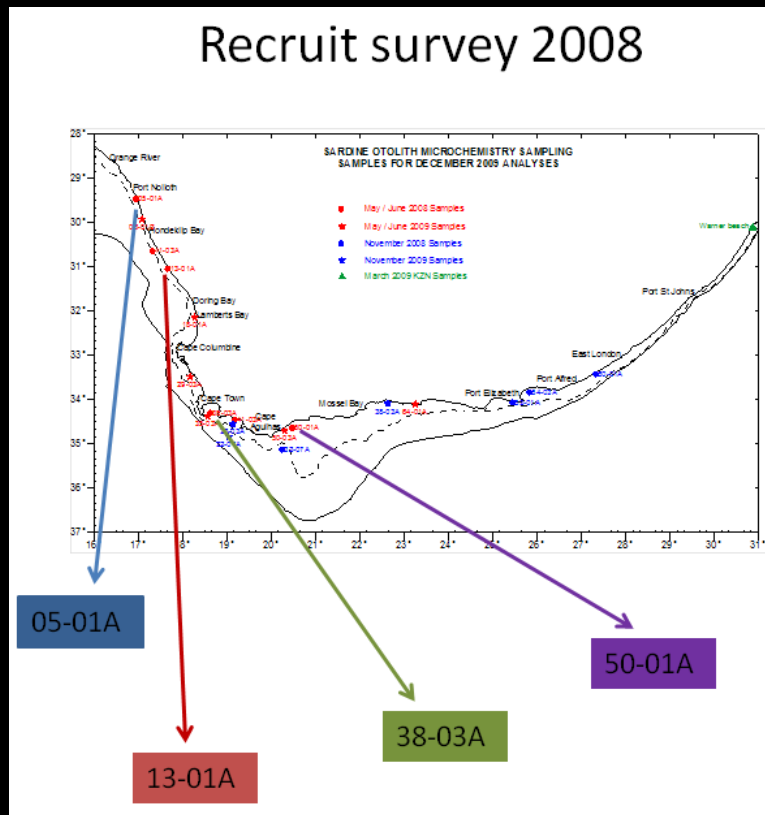
Stock composition of Gulf of St Lawrence cod



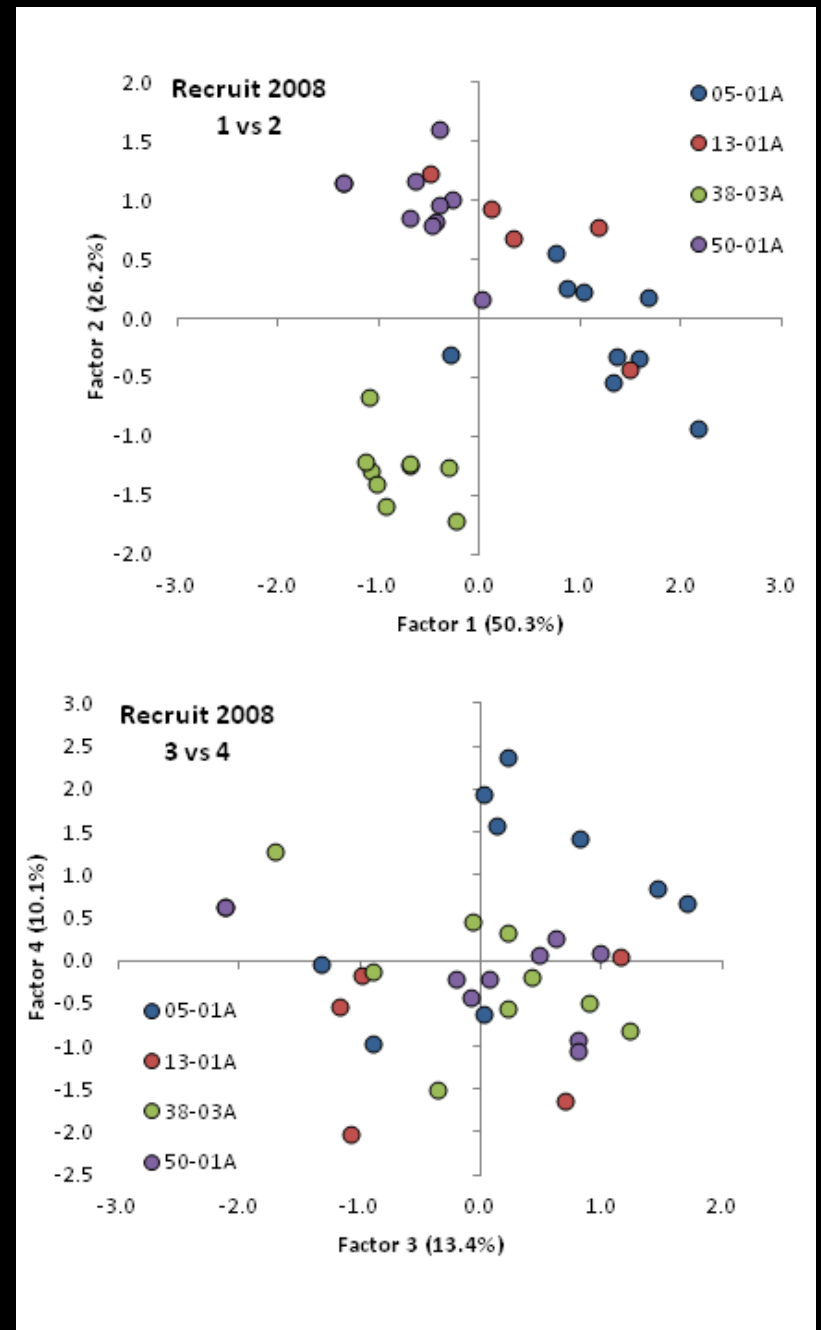


# Otolith microchemistry (ii)

- Otolith composition of juvenile sardine collected during 2008 measured (IRD's CHRONOS RU); PCA on B, Mg, Sr, Ba

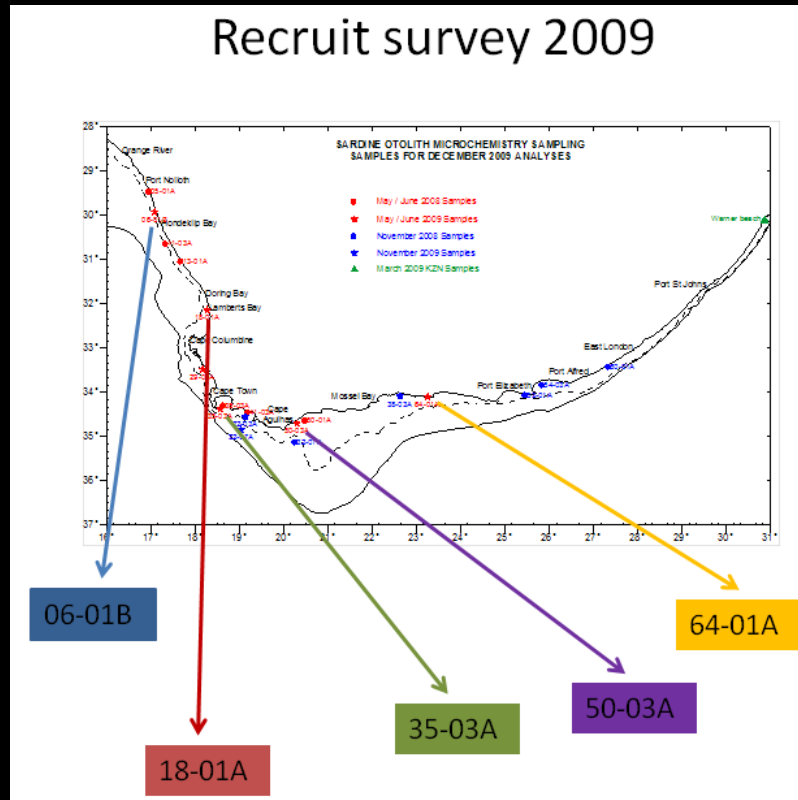


- Spatial effects apparent

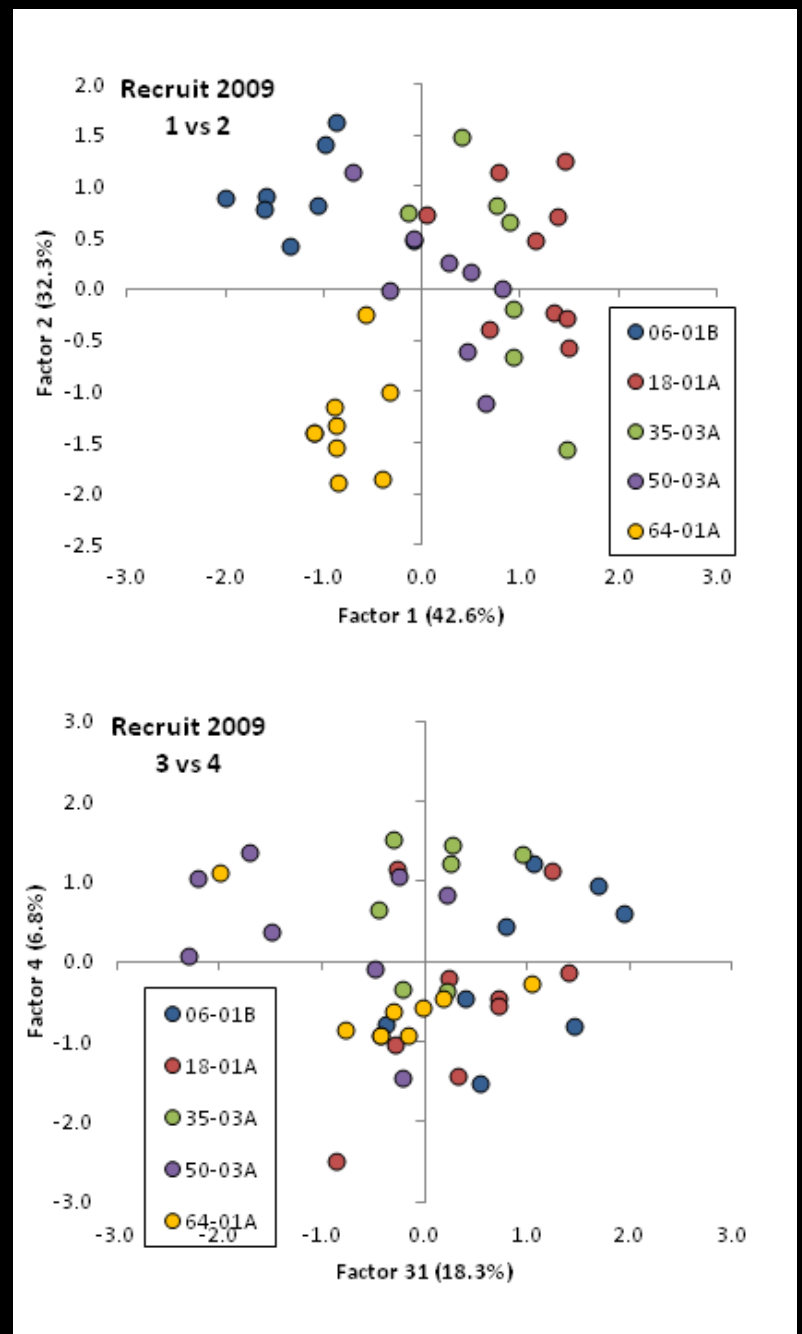


# Otolith microchemistry (iii)

- Otolith composition of juvenile sardine collected during 2009 measured

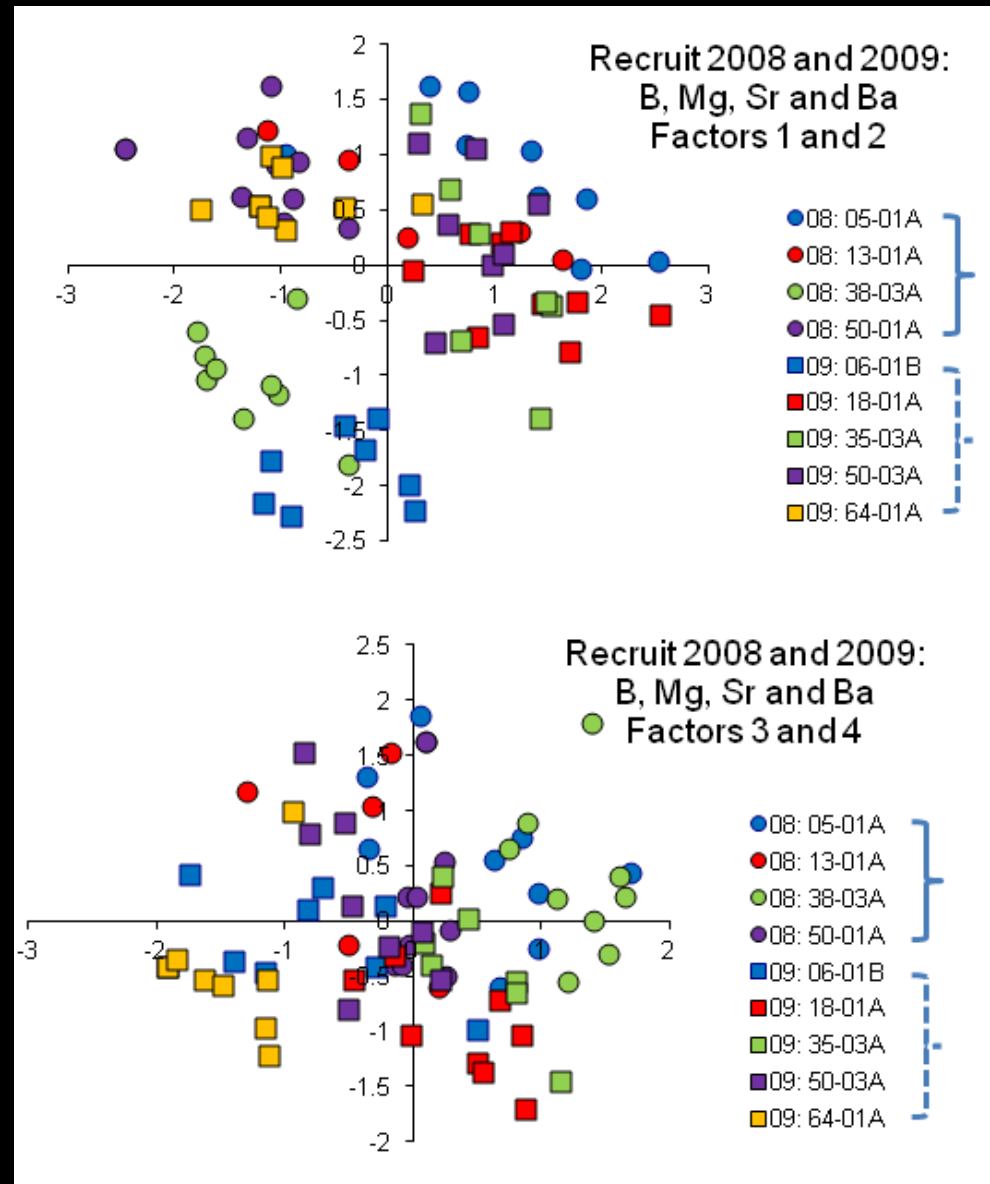


- Spatial effects apparent



# Otolith microchemistry (iv)

- Otolith composition of juvenile sardine collected in both years shows spatial variability (required if this is to be used for stock structure studies)
- But samples from nearby locations can be similar (red squares and circles on upper plot) or different (blue squares and circles on upper plot) in successive years
- More interannual than spatial variability?



# How might multiple stocks have come about?

- Estimated sardine habitat (shelf waters of 12-22°C) at Last Glacial Maximum (LGM; 18 000 BP) possibly divided into two regions (west and east) of proto-Cape Agulhas due to a more-southward extent of the continental shelf as a result of lower sea levels then

