

Deep-water fish stocks ICES advice 2008

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International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
Conseil International pour l'Exploration de la Mer

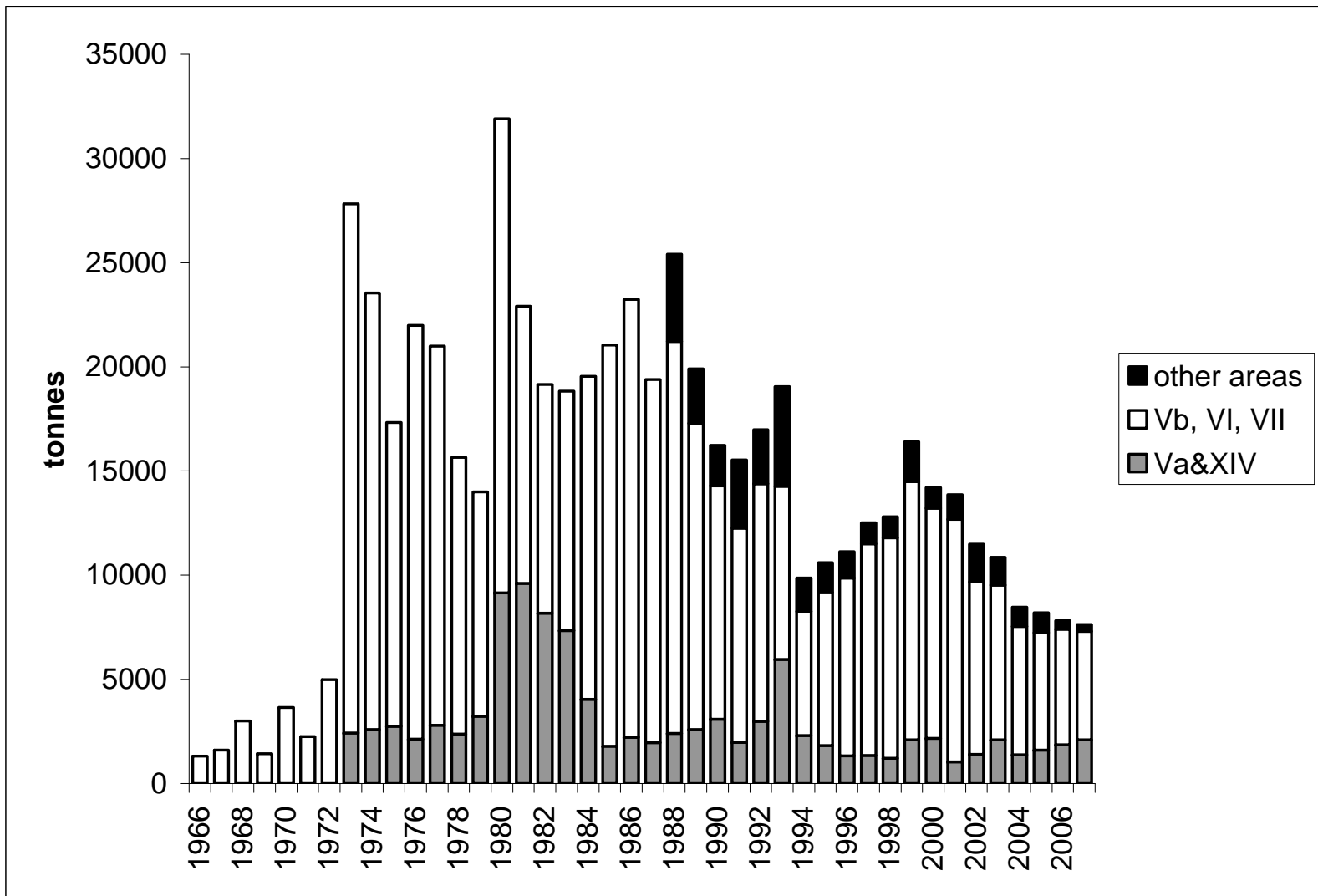
Blue Ling

Insufficient data to establish stocks

On the basis of geographical separation,
three management units are considered.

- Northern (Subareas Va and XIV);
- Southern (Subareas Vb, VI, and VII);
- Other areas (Subareas I, II, IIIa, IVa, VIII, IX, and XII).

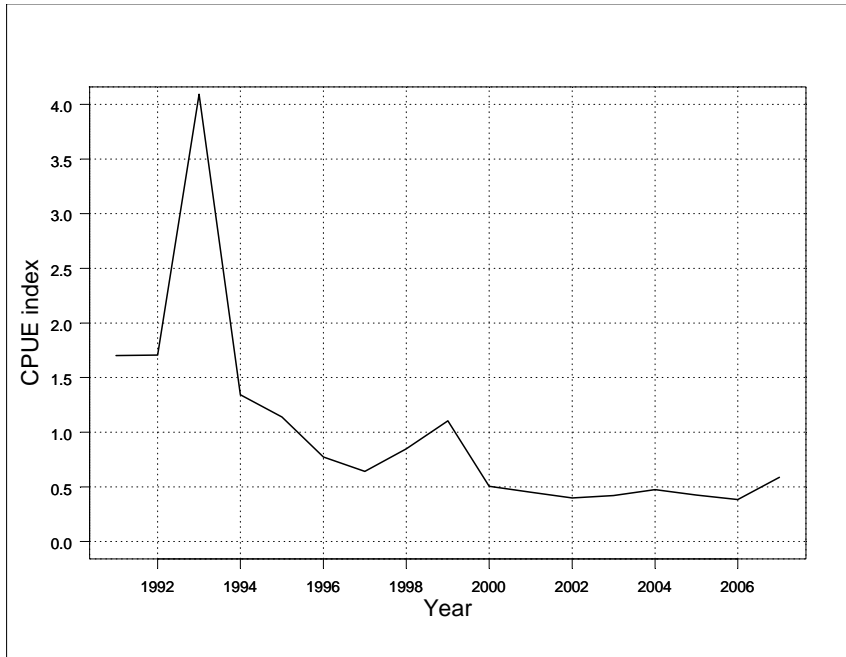




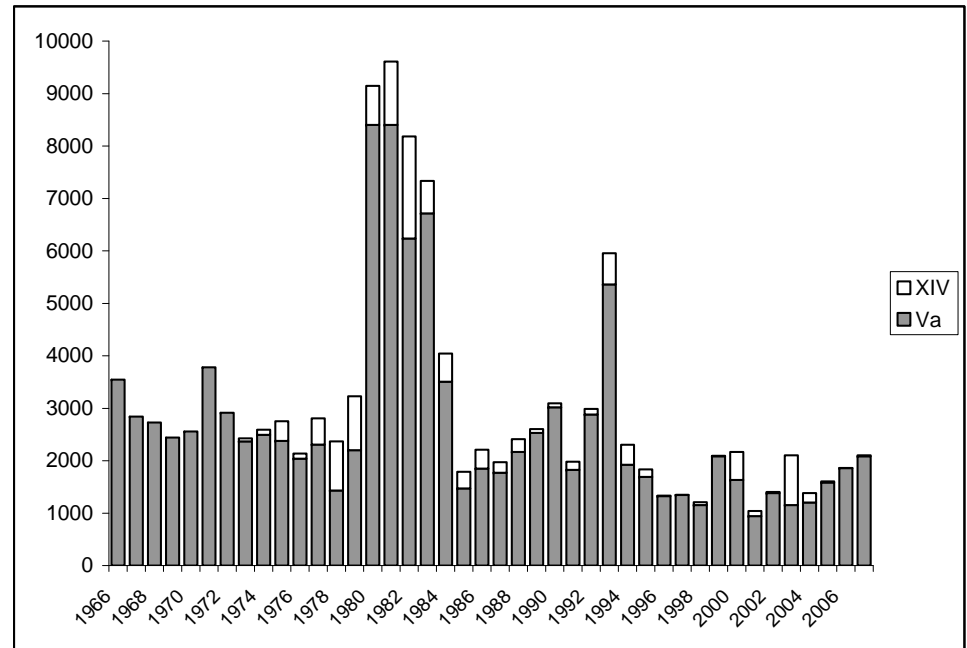
Blue ling landings by management unit. Source: ICES estimates. Note: no information for Areas Va and XIV prior to 1973 and no information on other areas prior to 1988.



Northern blue ling



cpue of blue ling from the Icelandic bottom trawl fishery based on logbooks 1991–2007. Tows where blue ling composed at least 10% of the total catch in each haul.



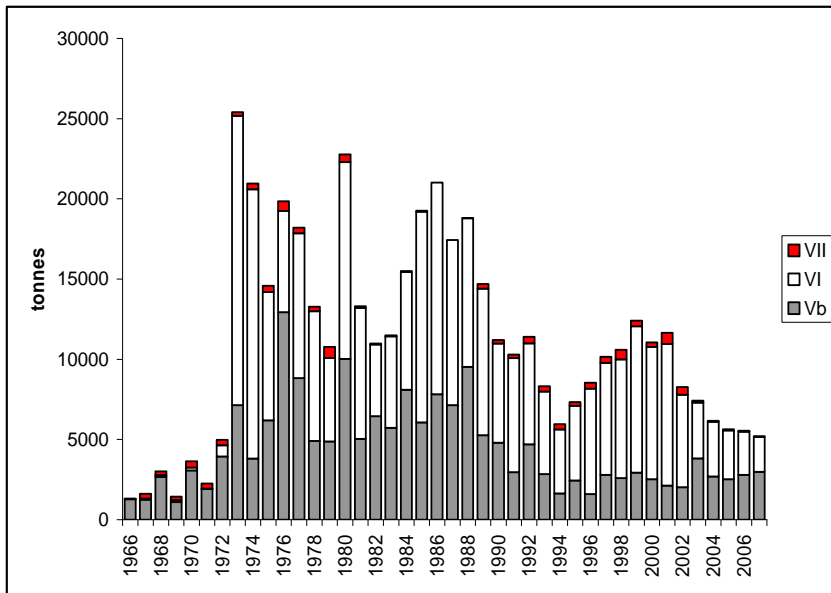
**Blue ling in Areas Va and XIV.
Estimated total landings.
Estimates for XIV prior to 1973 have not been compiled.**

ICES advice – northern area

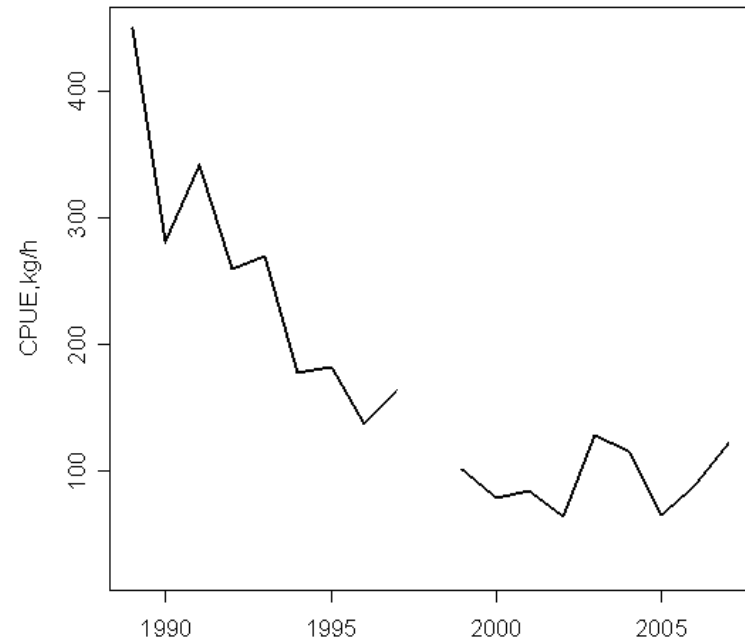
- Cpue of blue ling in Va and XIV has steadily declined from 1991 to 2000 and has remained at a low level since then
- There should be no directed fisheries for blue ling in Areas Va and XIV and measures should be implemented to minimize catches in mixed fisheries.
- Blue ling is susceptible to sequential depletion of spawning aggregations and closed areas to protect spawning aggregations should therefore be maintained and expanded where appropriate.



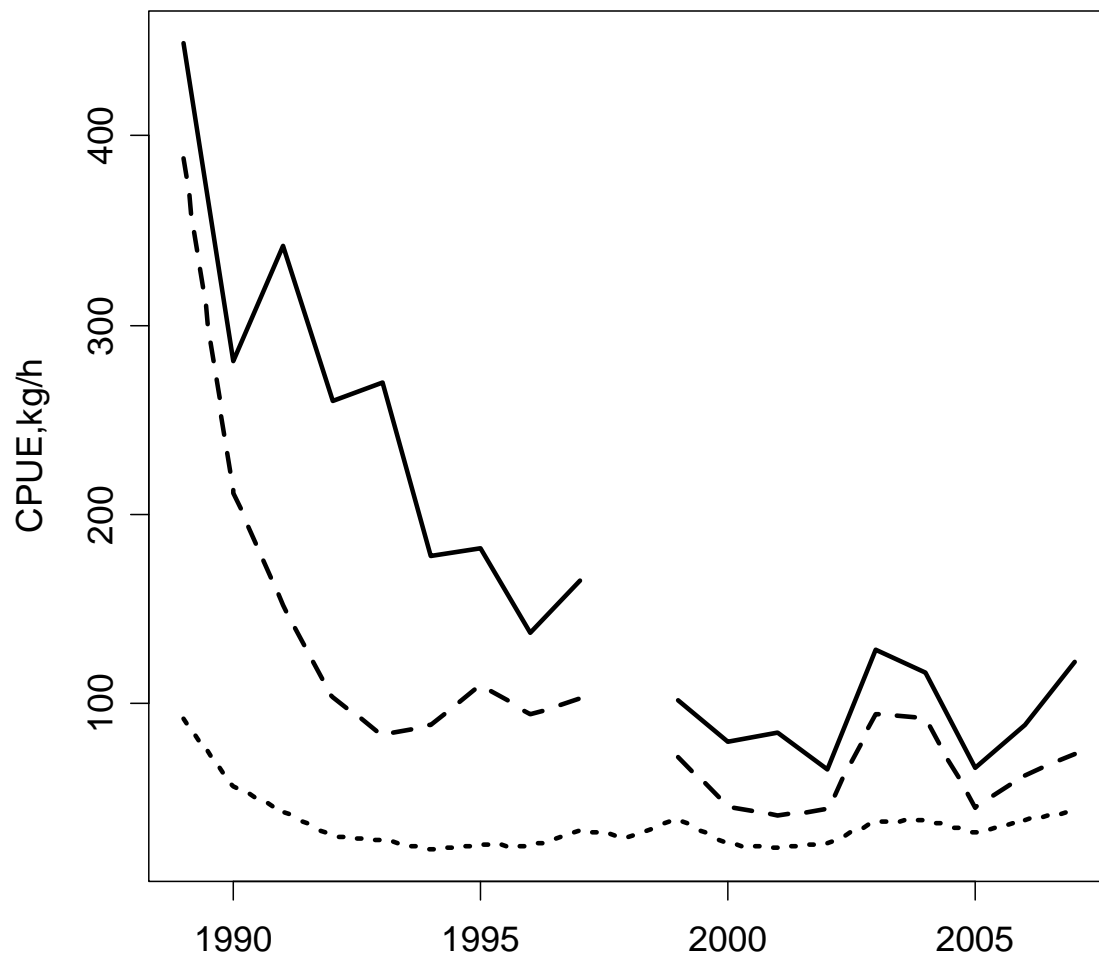
Southern Blue ling

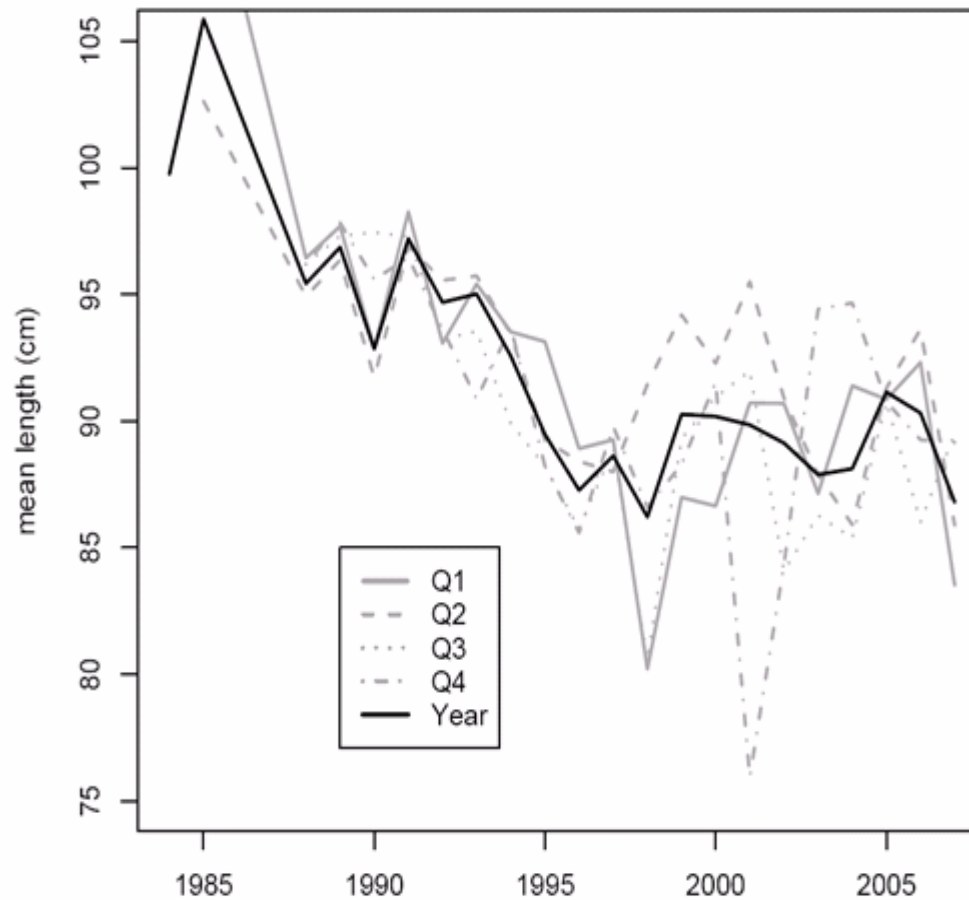


Blue ling in Subdivisions Vb, VI, and VII. Total international landings (tonnes).



Directed lpués for French reference fleet (landings for fishing trip where blue ling >10% of total landings) in Vb ad VI.



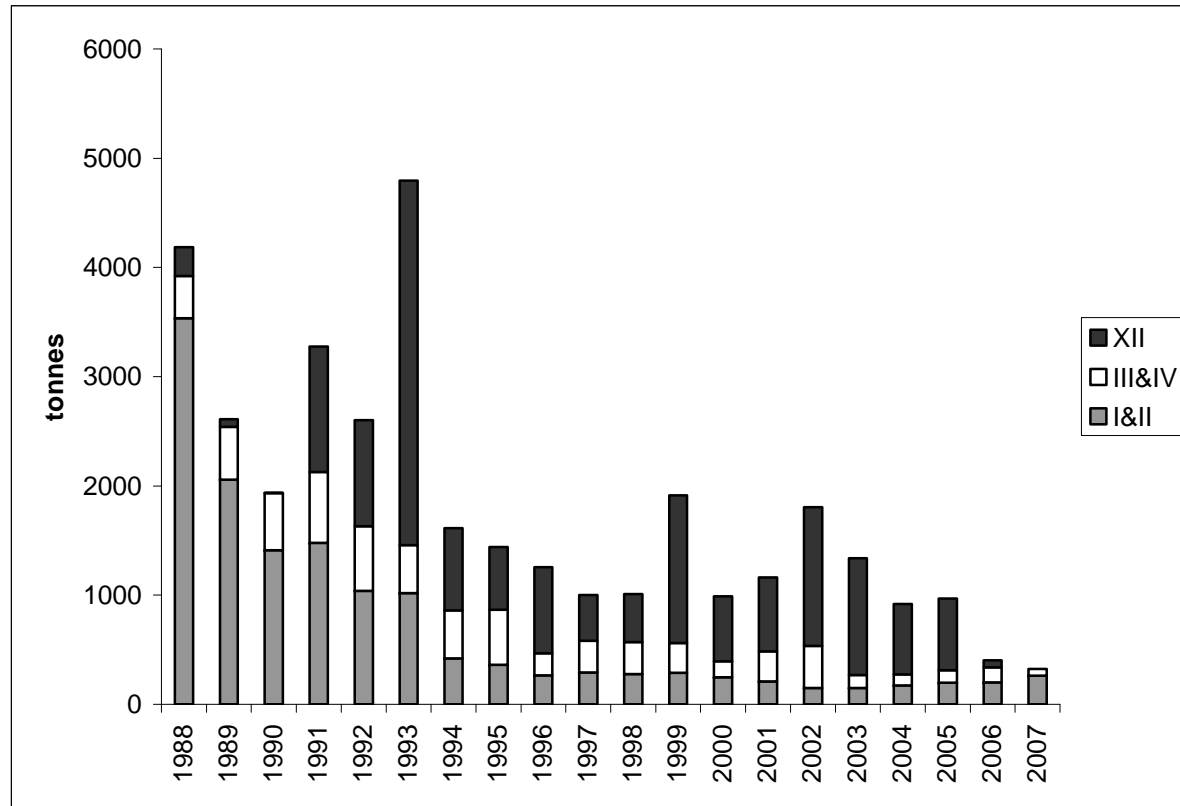


Blue ling. Mean length in French trawl landings in Subdivisions Vb, VI, and VII.

ICES advice – southern area

- Cpue information suggests that the abundance of blue ling remains at a low level
- There should be no directed fisheries for blue ling in Subdivisions Vb, VI, and VII and measures should be implemented to minimize bycatches in mixed fisheries.
- Blue ling is susceptible to sequential depletion of spawning aggregations and closed areas to protect spawning aggregations should therefore be maintained and expanded where appropriate.

Other areas



ICES advice – other areas

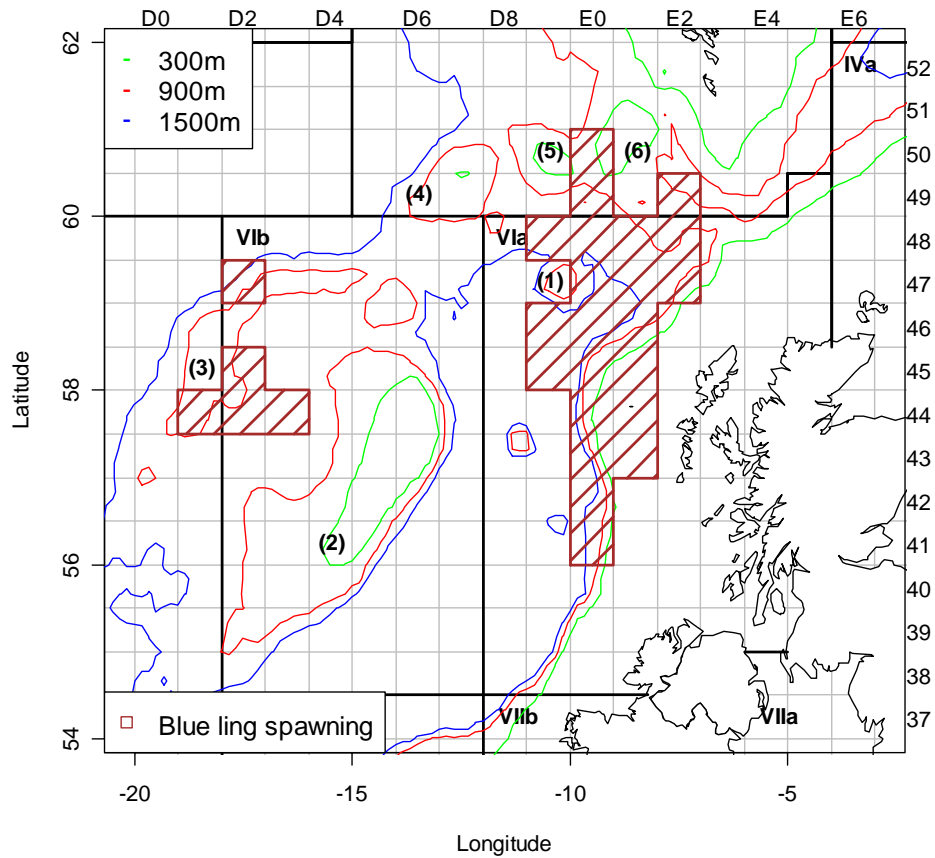
- Trends in landings suggest serious depletion, at least in Subareas IIa and IIb
- There should be no directed fisheries for blue ling and management measures should be implemented to minimize the bycatch of this species in mixed fisheries.
- Blue ling is susceptible to sequential depletion of spawning aggregations and closed areas to protect spawning aggregations should therefore be maintained and expanded where appropriate.

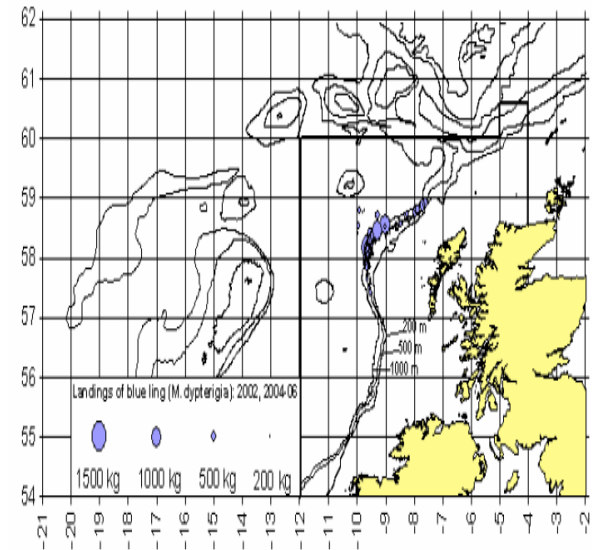
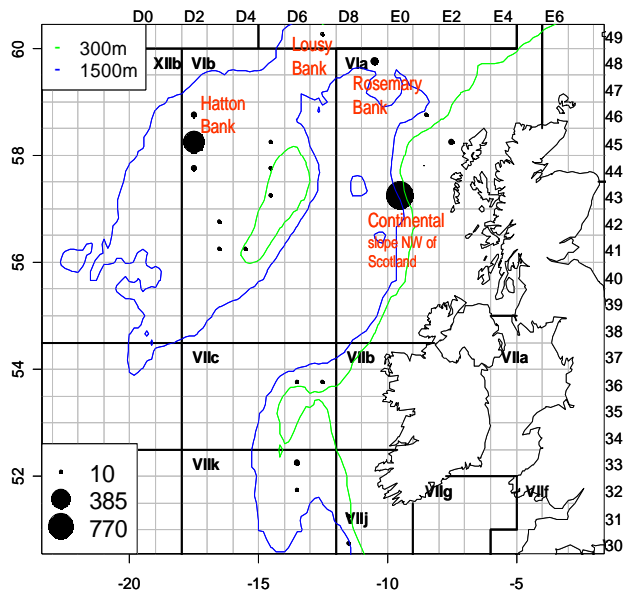
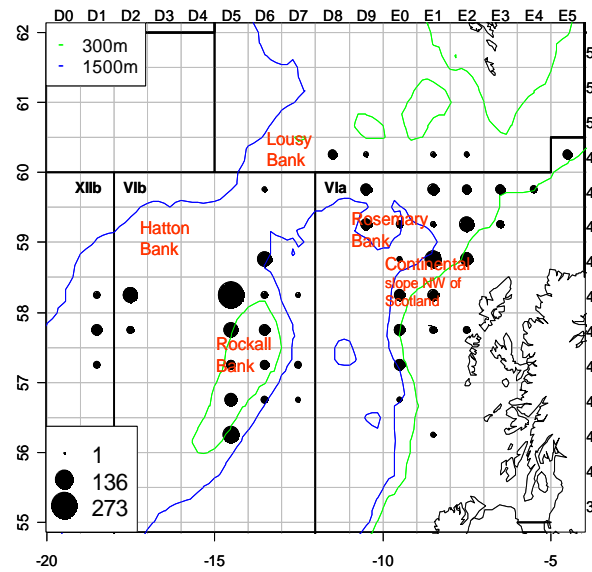
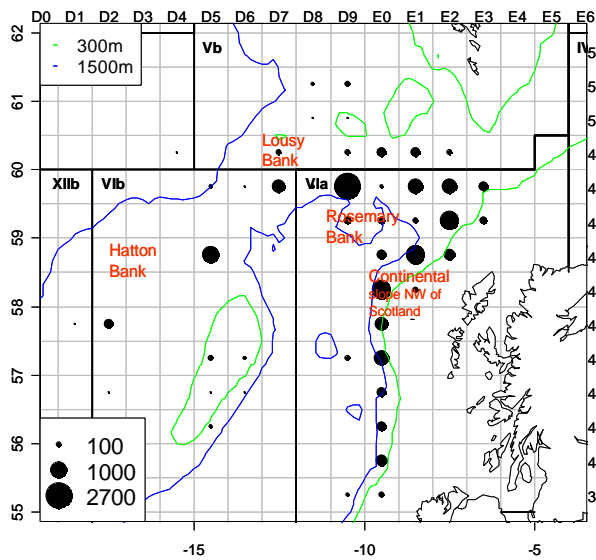
Blue ling spawning aggregations?

ICES was asked by NEAFC to deal with the following request:

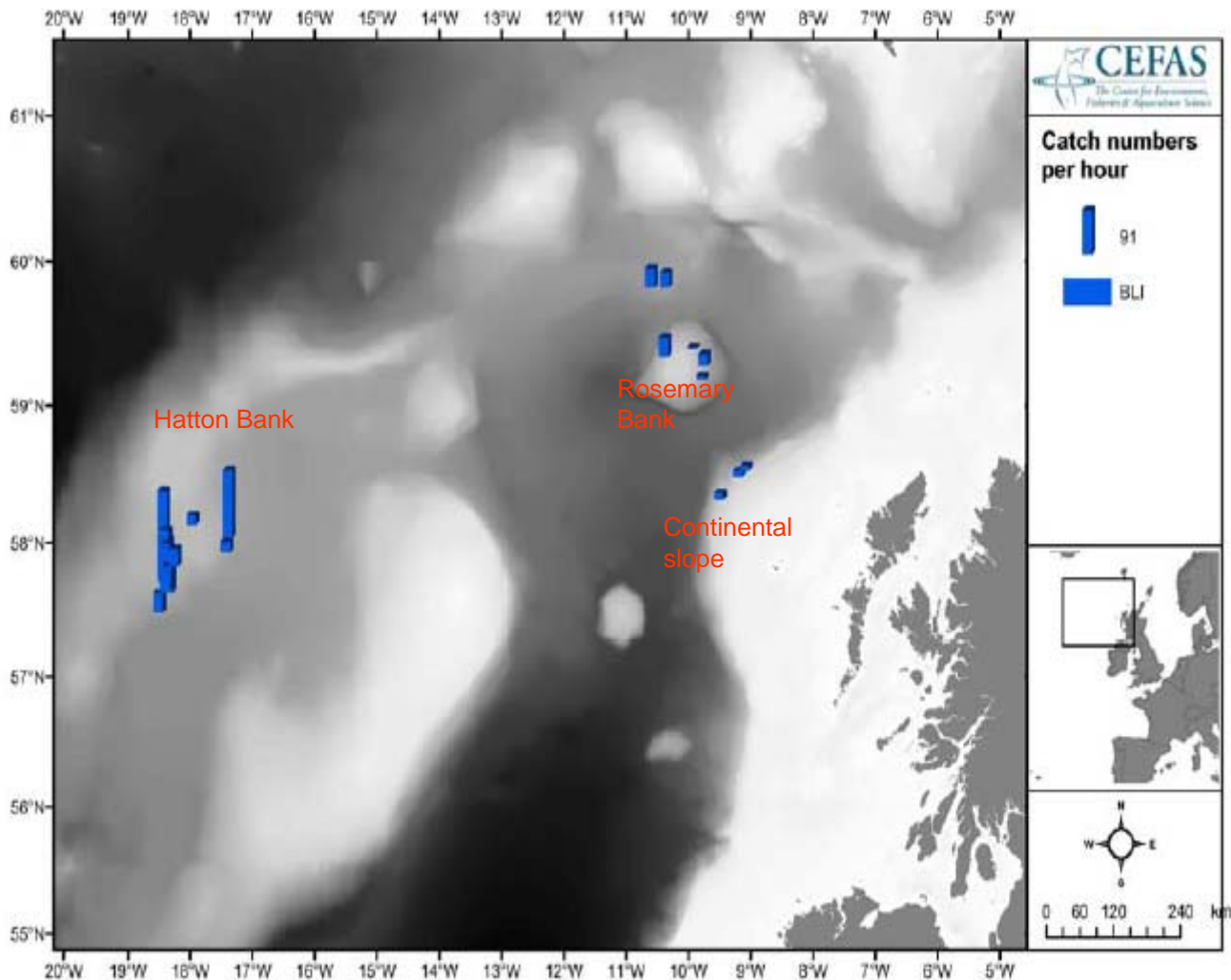
ICES is also asked to compile data on documented historical or present spawning/aggregation areas of blue ling in the NEAFC Convention area.

Poorfish questionnaire



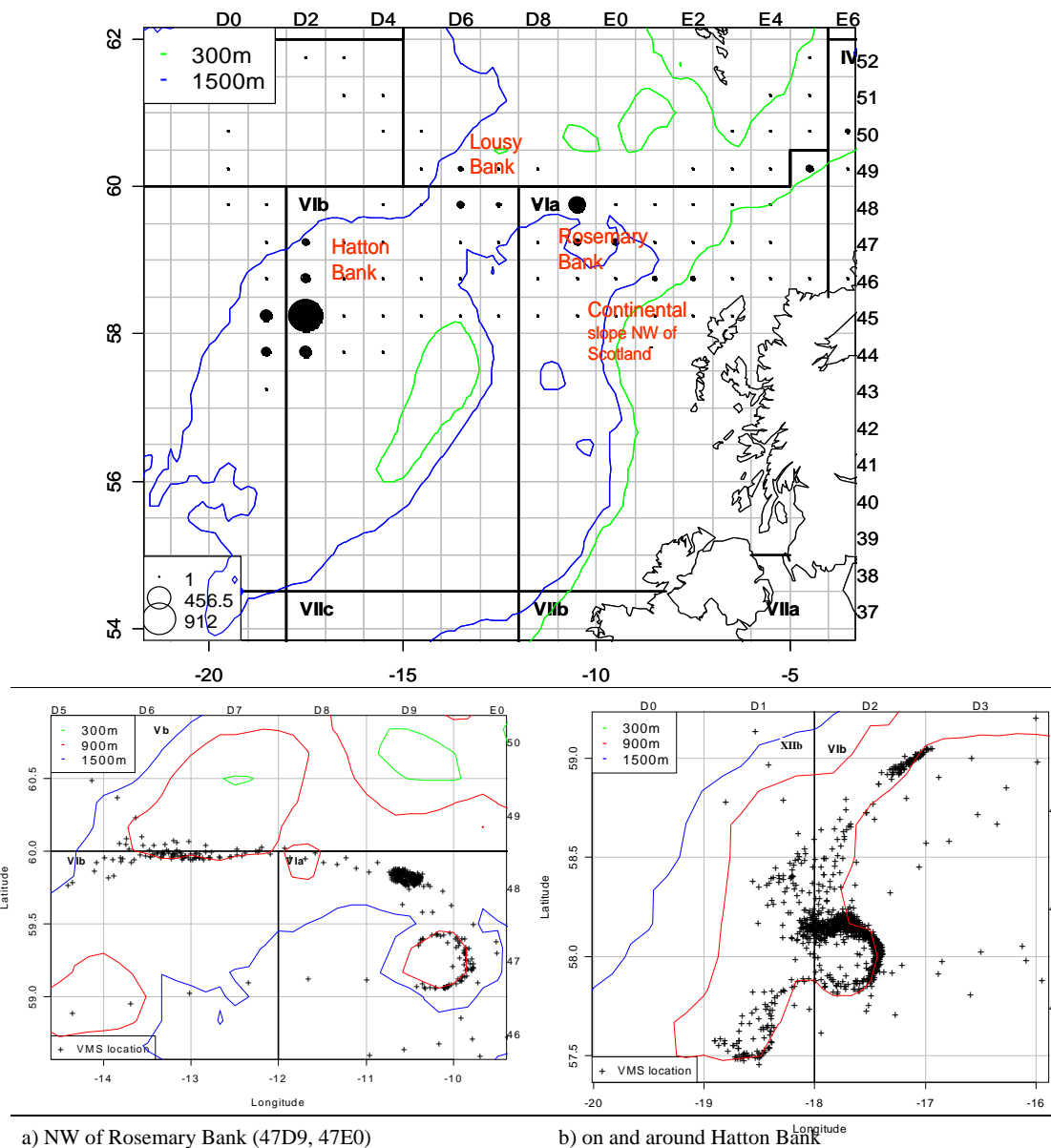


Catches on trips landing > 10t of blue ling during spawning season a) France, b) Scotland c) England and Wales, d) Spain

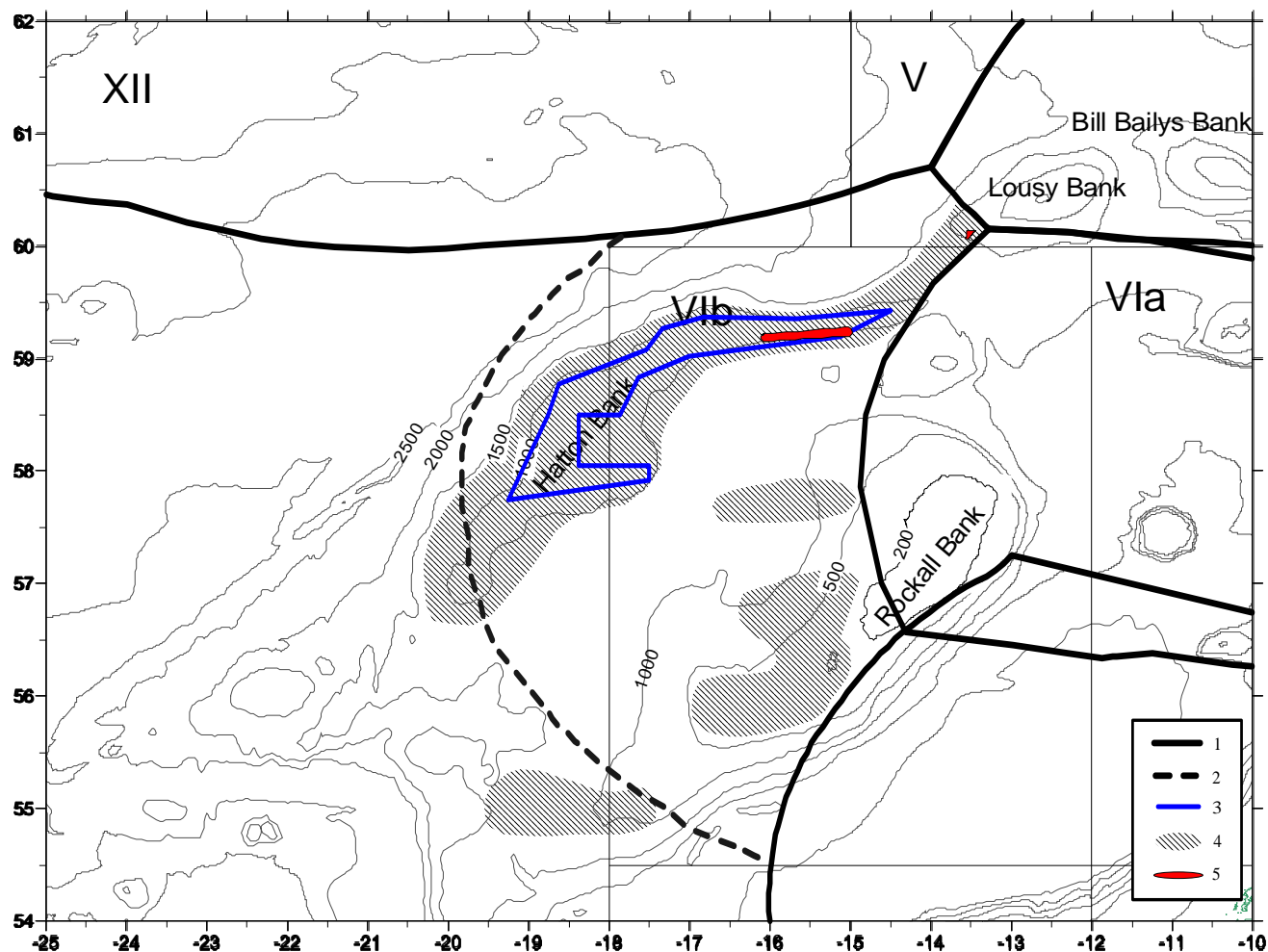


Catch numbers of blue ling per hour by station – DEFRA Fisheries Science Partnership survey 2004.

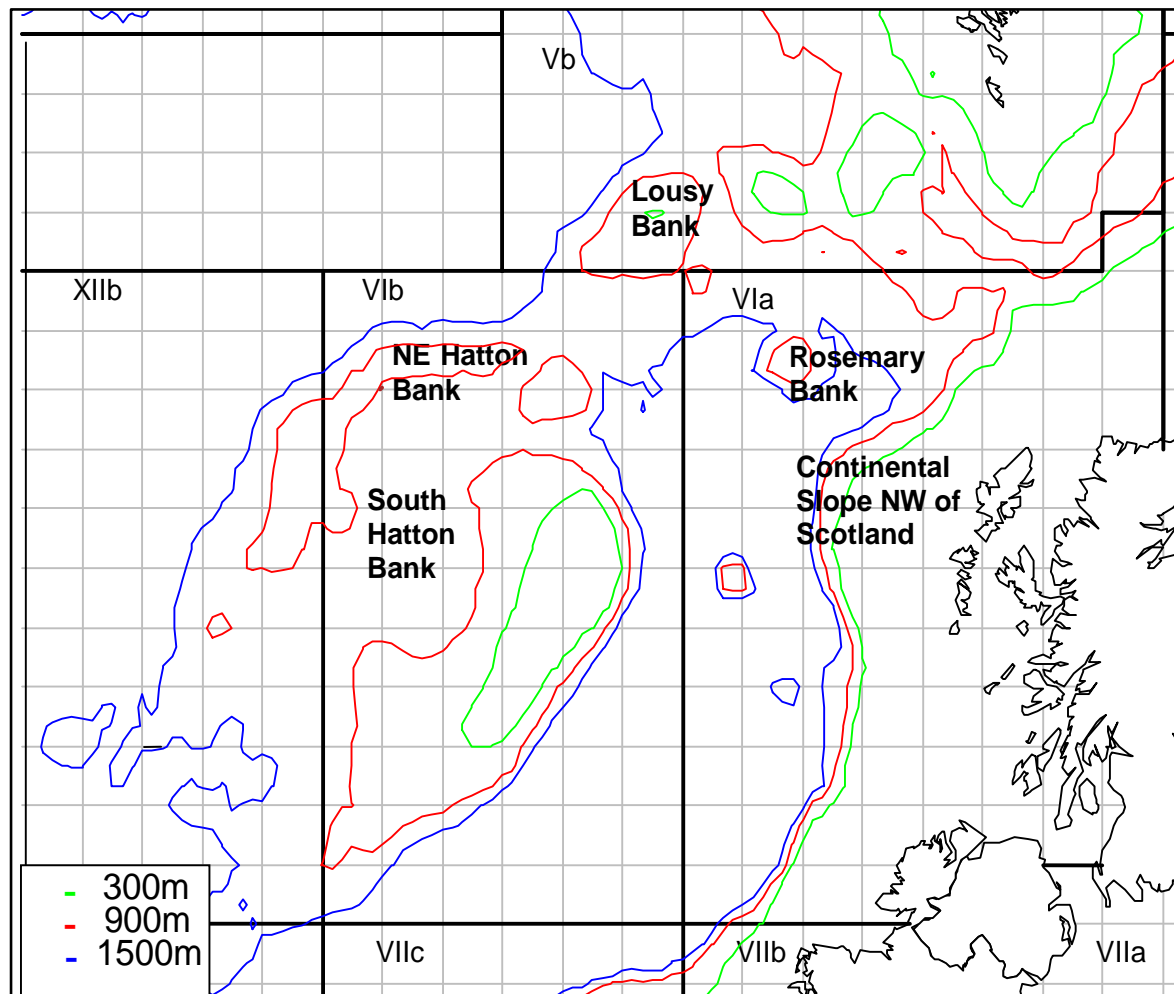




UK (England and Wales) trawlers VMS records for trips where landings of blue ling exceeded 10 t (2000–2001).



4 – area of the general distribution of blue ling according to the data from Russian investigations and fishery; 5 – spawning grounds of blue ling according to the data from Russian investigations and fishery.



Summary of spawning locations identified by ICES.