Workshop 2 on the identification of clupeoid larvae (WKIDCLUP2)

By WebEx, 1-2 September 2020

Executive summary

The Workshop 2 on the Identification of Clupeoid larvae (WKIDCLUP2) was scheduled to meet from 31 August to 4 September 2020 in Bremerhaven, Germany, to calibrate clupeoid larvae identification. Because of the Covid19 pandemic and associated travel and meeting restrictions, the workshop had to be postponed to 2021. However, and as an add on, in order to provide potential participants with urgently needed advice for clupeid larvae identification, a video conference was scheduled instead for 1 – 2 September 2020 with a shortened terms of reference list. This was also done in order to test this format for future workshops on ichthyoplankton identification. The meeting was chaired by Matthias Kloppmann, Germany. In total 27 persons representing 13 institutes from 11 countries participated in the video workshop .

The majority of the time at the workshop was spent identifying fish larvae. For this, prior to the workshop, the WebApp SmartDots was adapted to be utilized for ichthyoplankton identification based on images. The results from the identification trials were analysed in the traditional way using modified Excel tables built by Guus Eltink. Overall agreement in identifying clupeid and discriminating them from other, non-clupeid larvae among all participants was 81.7 %. Agreement for herring larvae was 86 %, for sprat 80 %, for sardine 86 % and for anchovy 71 %. Subsequent analysis of the myotome counts, which was also facilitated through the SmartDots WebApp, showed that particularly in those specimens that showed low agreement in correct identification, variation of counts was high.

The dates for the postponed workshop WKIDCLUP2 were agreed as 30 August – 3 September 2021.