#### **Climate and currents**



#### **Temperature in Kola section**





#### The main fish species in the Norwegian/ Barents Sea ecosystem

Norwegian Sea

 Herring
 Blue whiting
 Saithe
 Mackerel

- Barents Sea
   Cod
  - Cou
  - Capelin
  - Haddock
  - Saithe
  - Polar cod
  - Herring
  - Blue whiting?



#### Distribution and migration of the main stocks



- Cod
- Capelin
- Herring

- Haddock
- Saithe
- Polar cod
- Blue whiting



- Cod (torsk)
- Capelin
- Herring

- Haddock
- Saithe
- Polar cod
- Blue whiting



#### Biology cod (Gadus morhua)

#### • A predator (fish eater)

- At lengths above ~30 cm (3 years) fish is the main food item. Capelin, when present, is preferred
- Age and length at maturation: 6-8 years, 65-75 cm
- Maximum length: 150 cm
- Good recruitment has been observed in periods of high inflow of Atlantic water to the Barents Sea, but...



#### Cod, distribution and migrations





#### Cod, catch and stock history





- Cod
- Capelin (lodde)
- Herring

- Haddock
- Saithe
- Polar cod
- Blue whiting



#### Biology capelin (Mallotus villosus)

- A small, schooling, pelagic fish, specialised plankton feeder
- Age and length at maturation: 3-5 years, 13-15 cm
- Maximum length: 22-23 cm
- A functional "energy pump" transports energy produced by primary and secondary producers from north to south and up through the food chain
- Is semelparous: Spawn once and then die



#### **Capelin, distribution and migrations**





#### **Capelin, catch and stock history**





- Cod
- Capelin
- Herring (sild)

- Haddock
- Saithe
- Polar cod
- Blue whiting



#### **Biology herring** (Clupea harengus)

- A pelagic, schooling fish, specialised plankton feeder
- Age and length at maturity: 4-5 years, 30-32 cm
- Good recruitment occurs in periods of high inflow of Atlantic water to the Barents Sea, simultaneously with the cod, but...





#### Herring, distribution in the 1990s





#### Herring, catch and stock history





- Cod
- Capelin
- Herring

- Haddock (hyse)
- Saithe
- Polar cod
- Blue whiting



#### Biology haddock (Melanogrammus aeglefinus)

- A specialized benthic feeder
- Max size/age 110 cm, 19 kg, 20 years





## Haddock, distribution and migrations





#### Haddock, catch and stock history





- Cod
- Capelin
- Herring

- Haddock
- Saithe (sei)
- Polar cod
- Blue whiting



#### Saithe (Pollachius virens), biology

- Mainly pelagic, cod-like fish
- Are fish-eaters as adults
- Max size/age: 130 cm, 20 kg, 30 years





## Saithe, distribution and migration





#### Saithe, catch and stock history





- Cod
- Capelin
- Herring

- Haddock
- Saithe
- Polar cod (polartorsk)
- Blue whiting



#### Polar cod (Boreogadus saida), biology

- A semipelagic, schooling cod-like fish
- A true arctic species, capable of living in temperatures well below zero
- Feed on zooplankton
- Max size/age: 25cm, 100g, ~5 years





## Polar cod, distribution and migrations





#### Polar cod, catch and stock history





- Cod
- Capelin
- Herring

- Haddock
- Saithe
- Polar cod
- Blue whiting (kolmule)



# Blue whiting (*Micromesistius* poutassou), biology

- A deep pelagic fish in the cod family
- Feed on plankton, fish larvae etc.
- Max size/age: 50 cm, ½ kg, 10-20 years





Blue whiting, distribution and migrations





#### Blue whiting, catch and stock history





# **Barents Sea during the** last ~30 years



#### **Capelin recruitment**





#### **Cod consumption**

#### Consumption by NEA cod (1000 tonnes)





#### Cod growth



#### **Cod** cannibalism



#### **Precautionary reference points**



