

KEYNOTE

Variation within populations of cod in the Newfoundland region

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Abstract: In fishes, spatial variability in life history traits is often assessed at the population level, with less attention directed at potential spatial variability within populations. Even less emphasis has been placed on understanding the impact that potential intrapopulation variability in life history traits might have on population productivity. In this presentation I examine variability in 3 populations of cod in the Newfoundland region. These populations inhabit large geographic areas with spatial heterogeneity in environmental conditions. In 2 of the populations fish undertake extensive migrations with fish from different areas within the population remaining separate, at least to some degree. These factors present the possibility for variation in growth and reproductive characteristics within each population. I found intrapopulation variation in most, but not all, of the traits that I examined. Finally, I show that failure to account for temporal and spatial variation can impact the perceived level of reproductive potential of a population.