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THE FIRST RECORD OF *SARPA SALPA* (LINNAEUS, 1758) IN THE NORTH SEA WITH NOTES
ON RECENT CAPTURES OF *BOOPS BOOPS* (LINNAEUS, 1758) IN THE COASTAL WATERS
OF THE NETHERLANDS (PISCES, PERCIFORMES, SPARIDAE)

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ABSTRACT

The capture of a live specimen of *Sarpa salpa* (Linnaeus, 1758) is reported from the coastal waters of the Netherlands. Two specimens of *Boops boops* (Linnaeus, 1758) were recently caught in Dutch waters.

On the 21st of February, 1974, two Dutch trawlers from the fishing port of Urk, the UK 54 and 208, pair-trawling in the coastal waters of the Netherlands between Scheveningen and IJmuiden, approx. two miles off shore (52° 20' N 04° 30' E) caught alive a large specimen (fig. 1) of *Sarpa salpa* (Linnaeus, 1758) with a total length of 48 cm.

The specimen was deposited in the fish collection of the Institute of Taxonomic Zoology (Zoologisch Museum) in Amsterdam (ZMA 112.949) through the Netherlands Institute for Fishery Investiga-

tions (RIVO) in IJmuiden.

Although our specimen is the first occurrence of *Sarpa salpa* (French: la Saupe, Dutch: Gestreep-te Bokvis) in the North Sea, Jensen (1940: 199-200) described an earlier record, viz. a specimen of 19.5 cm total length (ZMUC-CN-12) caught in Danish waters in October, 1932 in the northern part of the Store Bælt, east of the island Samsø by Fr. Petersen (see also Wheeler, 1969: 346-347). A second, up to now unrecorded specimen from Danish waters with a total length of 38 cm (ZMUC-P. 50558) is also deposited in the Universitetets Zoologiske Museum in Copenhagen (E. Bertelsen, in lit. 17 March, 1976). This specimen was caught near Frederikshavn in the Kattegat on the 6th of November, 1973. Except for the two Danish records and our record from the Dutch coast (fig. 3),

Sarpa salpa is hitherto unknown from the North Sea, from English, Scottish and Irish waters, and from the Channel. We even are unable to trace records from the coast of northwestern France. The species is reported as rare in the Bay of Biscay (e.g. Quero, 1970, Gueguen et al., 1975), from where it becomes more common southwards to Morocco, Madeira, the Azores, and South Africa, including Natal (Tortonese, 1973: 413-414). The species is common in the Mediterranean and the Adriatic where it is generally found along rocky coasts to a depth of about 20 m feeding on algae and encrusting animals.

Before preservation our specimen showed the characteristic golden stripes along the silvery white sides. Also typical are the small mouth, the fleshy lips, and short pectoral fins. This record of *Sarpa salpa* is an addition to "The Catalogue of fish species of the Netherlands" (Nijssen & De Groot, 1974) and brings the total number of recorded fish species in the twelve miles zone along the coast of the Netherlands up to 181.

Two specimens of *Boops boops* (Linnaeus, 1758) were caught during 1974 in the coastal waters of the Netherlands. This species (English: Bogue; French: Le Bogue; Dutch: Bokvis) was hitherto considered extremely rare, only five specimens being known from Dutch coastal waters (Nijssen & De Groot, 1974: 191) since Weber (1913: lxxxiv) reported on the first specimen (ZMA 108.298) caught off Huisduinen on the 31st of May, 1912.

On the 10th of May, 1974, the fishing cutter TX (Texel) 32 caught a specimen (fig. 2) off Zandvoort (52° 20' N 03° 50' E) with a total length of 28.5 cm (ZMA 112.956). On the 16th of September, 1974, a Dutch trawler (SCH 64) from the fishing port of Scheveningen caught a 35 cm long specimen (ZMA 113.473) off Noordwijk (52° 15' N 04° 00' E). A third specimen - although not caught within

the twelve miles zone - was captured at 52° 50' N 03° 00' E by the fishing vessel KW 214 from the village of Katwijk on the 1st of July, 1974. This specimen (ZMA 113.472) has a total length of 35 cm.

Boops boops is a long, shallow bodied, grey-blue coloured species with four to five longitudinal yellowish stripes along the sides. The mouth is small and the eyes are large compared to other members of the family Sparidae occurring in eastern Atlantic waters. Characteristic are also the compressed and incisor-like teeth in a single row in each jaw (Wheeler, 1969: 352). The Bogue is common in the Mediterranean and adjacent Atlantic Ocean, where it occurs often in small shoals along rocky coasts, feeding on algae, sponges and crustaceans. In northern waters *Boops boops* is often - although not regularly - reported from isolated specimens in British, Irish and Scandinavian waters.

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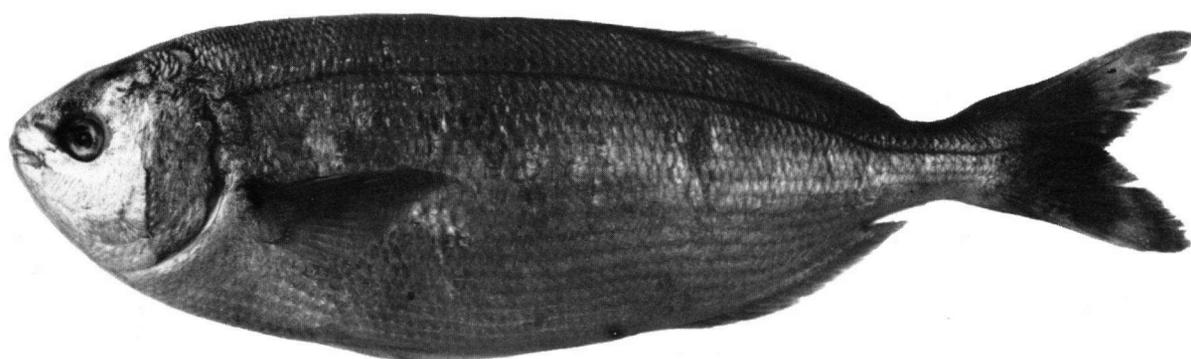


Fig. 1. *Sarpa salpa*, a specimen of 48 cm total length, caught alive in the coastal waters of the Netherlands (ZMA 112.949) on 21-II-1974. (Photo L.A. van der Laan, ZMA.)

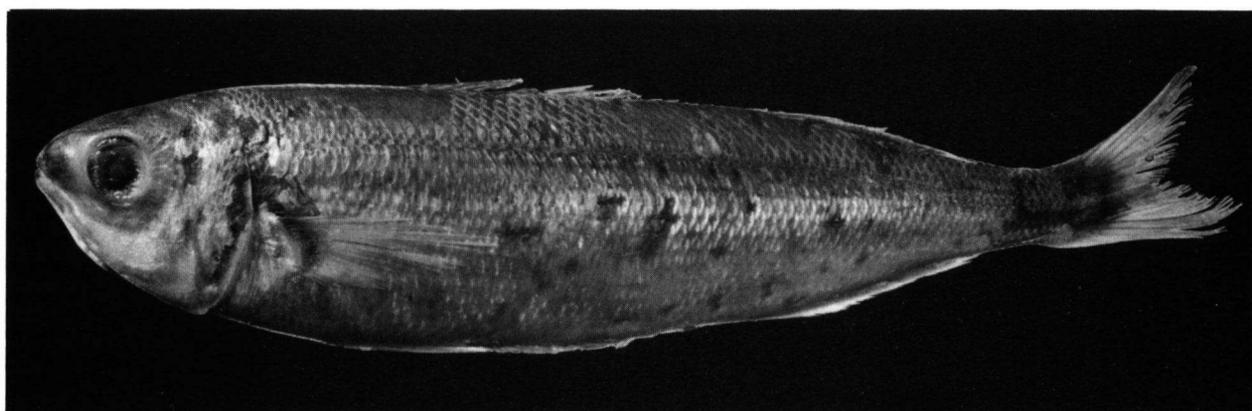


Fig. 2. *Boops boops*, one of the two specimens caught alive in the coastal waters of the Netherlands in 1974. This specimen with a total length of 28.5 cm, was captured on 10-V-1974 by the TX 32 (ZMA 112.956). (Photo L.A. van der Laan, ZMA.)

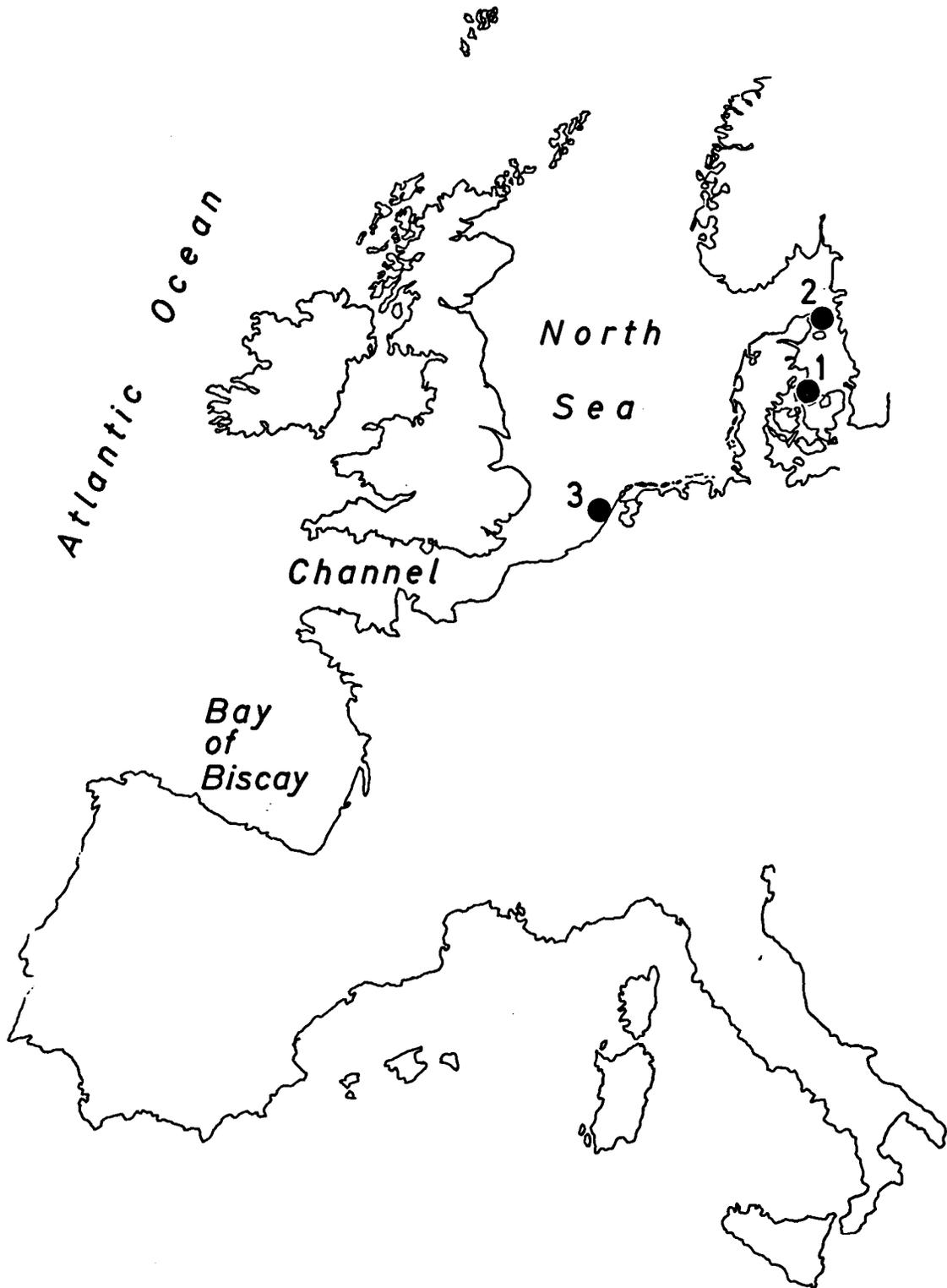


Fig. 3. Occurrence of *Sarpa salpa* in northern waters: 1 - Store Bælt, east of Samsø in 1932; 2 - Kattegat near Frederikshavn in 1973; 3 - North Sea near Scheveningen and IJmuiden in 1974.