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Size structure, community composition and biomass size spectra of mesopelagic fishes in the tropical Atlantic Ocean and the West-Saharan OMZ in 2015

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In 2015, 5 stations each were sampled in the tropical Atlantic and the West-Sahara OMZ for mesopelagic fauna. Community analysis revealed a close relationship between OMZ and tropical region, although some species increased in abundance in the OMZ (e.g. *Nannobranchium isaaci*, Myctophidae; *Malacosteus niger*, Malacosteidae). Length composition and size ranges revealed a smaller maximum size for OMZ specimens (except for *Myctophum affine*, Myctophidae) and a significant difference in size structure for 11 out of 14 tested species. A tenfold higher abundance of specimens in the size range 30-60 mm standard length appeared in the OMZ. It is concluded that observed differences in length structure are due to environmental changes and local productivity.

Position

Senior Scientist

Affiliation

Thuenen Inst of Sea Fisheries

Email Address

heino.fock@thuenen.de

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No

Primary author(s) : FOCK, Heino (Thuenen Inst of Sea Fisheries); CZUDAJ, Stephanie (Thuenen Insts of Sea Fisheries)

Presenter(s) : FOCK, Heino (Thuenen Inst of Sea Fisheries)

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