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Titie: BIOLOGY OF THE REX SOLE, GLYPTOCEPHALUS ZACHIRUS
LOCKINGTON, IN WATERS OFF OREGON
Abstract approved: $\frac{\text { Redacted for Privacy }}{\text { Howard F. Hórton }}$

Data are presented on the life history and population dynamics of rex sole (Glyptocephalus zachirus Lockington) collected from Oregon waters between September 1969 and October 1973. Length-weight relationships vary little between sexes or with time of year. Otolith annuli form primarily from January through May and were used for age determination. Age and length are highly correlated ( $r=0.9945$ for males and 0.9864 for females), with females growing faster and living longer than males. Estimates of total instantaneous mortality rate ( $Z$ ) appear less variable when calculated by the catch-curve method (mean $Z$ of 0.64 for males and 0.51 for females), than by the Jackson method. Age at $50 \%$ maturity occurs at 16 cm (about 3 years) for males and at 24 cm (about 5 years) for females. Spawning off northern oregon occurs from January through June, with a peak in March-April. Fecundity is correlated ( $r=0.9620$ ) With length of fish. There were 15 recaptures (0.59\%) from

2,537 fish tagged off northern Oregon during March and June 1970. Maximum movement of recaptured fish was only 53.9 km , but the low recovery precludes definite conclusions. Twenty loci were detected by starch-gel electrophoretic analysis using rex sole muscle tissue. Of these, three loci were polymorphic, but showed no discernible variation between collections from northern, central, and southern Oregon in April 1973.

Biology of the Rex Sole, Glyptocephalus zachirus Lockington, in Waters off Oregon by

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# BIOLOGY OF THE REX SOLE, GLYPTOCEPHALUS ZACHIRUS LOCKINGTON, IN WATERS OFF OREGON 

## INTRODUCTION

Rex sole, Glyptocephalus zachirus Lockington, is a slender, thin flatfish belonging to the family Pleuronectidae (Bailey, 1970), the right-eyed flounders. Of the three species of Glyptocephalus, it is the only one reported in the eastern Pacific Ocean (Pertseva-Ostroumova, 196l). Geographically distributed from southern California to the Bering Sea (Miller and Lea, 1972), it is found bathymetrically to $730 \mathrm{~m}(399 \mathrm{f})$ (Alverson et al., 1964). Rex sole is important in the commercial trawl fishery from Santa Barbara, California northward through the Queen Charlotte Islands in British Columbia (Appendix Table l). In 1972, rex sole was the fifth most important flatfish in weight (3.4 million pounds) in the domestic northeastern Pacific trawl food fishery. G. zachirus is also important in the domestic trawl fishery for animal food (Best, l96l; Niska, l969), although this fishery has declined in recent years. On the continental shelf off the northern three-fourths of the Oregon coast, rex sole was third in biomass (Demory and Robinson, 1973) and first in numbers of all flatfish caught with an $89 \mathrm{~mm}(3.5 \mathrm{in})$ mesh trawl.

My study was conducted to help fill the need for more information on the general biology and population dynamics
of this important flatfish. The broad objective was to develop knowledge of the biology of rex sole off the oregon coast which would enhance management of this species. Specific objectives were: (1) to determine if length-weight and age-length are related; (2) to estimate the total instantaneous mortality rate by two independent methods; (3) to determine if maturity and fecundity are related to length anca age, and to the spawning season; and (4) to determine if rex sole off oregon are composed of separate stocks// which undergo predictable movements.

There is little published information on the biology of rex sole. Villadolid (1927) and Frey (1971) reported briefly on the time of spawning, size and age at maturity, and food habits for specimens captured off California. Hart (1973) summarized the life history of rex sole off Canada, reporting that the paucity of information necessitates deductions made in doubt. An aging study was conducted on rex sole by Villadolid (1927) who used scales. Domenowske (1966) used otoliths, scales and interopercles for aging rex sole, and by comparing the age-length relationships, he concluded otoliths were the most readable structure. Vanderploeg (1973) conducted food habit studies on rex sole collected

[^0]off Oregon. Porter (1964) described the larvae of rex sole; and Naldron (1972) and Richardson (1973) reported on distribution and abundance of rex sole larvae. Tsuyuki et al. (1965) conducted a general starch gel electrophoresis study on the muscle proteins and hemoglobin of 50 species of north Pacific fish, and found that rex sole differed from 10 other pleuronectids tested.

Benthic distribution of rex sole was investigated by numerous workers (Alverson et al., 1964; Day and Pearcy, 1968; Demory, 1971; Alton, 1972; Demory and Robinson, 1973). Limited tagging studies (Manzer, 1952; Harry, 1956) were conducted to determine movements of rex sole, but no tagged fish were recaptured.

Several studies were conducted on the abnormalities and diseases of rex sole. Although rex sole are primarily dextral, a few sinistral specimens were found (Follet et al., 1960). E skin neoplasm disease was noted by Wellings et al. (1965).

## METHODS

Rex sole were collected by otter trawl off oregon from the Columbia River south to Cape Blanco at depths of 18.3200 m (10-109.4 i) during September 1969-1973. Most data were ohtained from rex sole captured incidentally to a study Of pink shrimp (Pandalus jordani) distribution during 19691970 (Lukas and Hosie, 1973). Rex sole were also obtained from commercial trawl landings at Astoria, Oregon in 1970 and 1973; at Charleston and Brookings, Oregon in 1973; and from research vessel catches during the $1971-1973$ Fish Commission of Oregon (FCO) groundfish surveys (Demory and Robinson, 1973; Demory, 1974). All specimens were frozen until time of examiration.

Most rex sole were sexed by examination of gonads, measured for total length (TL) to the nearest centimeter, and weighed to the nearest gram. For aging studies the left otolith was removed, stored in a $50: 50$ solution of glycerin and water, and read using reflected light on a dark background (rowies and Kennedy, 1967).

The length-weight relationship, by calendar quarters, of rex sole collected off central and northern Oregon in 1969-1972 was determined by the least squares method using the logarithmic form of the equation $W=a L^{b}$, where $W$ is weight (g), L is length (cm), and a and b are constants.

Estimates of the lineal growth of rex sole were obtained from the age-length relationship of fish collected off northern oregon in September-October 1969 and September 1971. A mean length (TL) at each age was determined from these data and expressed mathematically in terms of the von Bertalanffy growth equation (Ricker, 1958; Ketchen and Forrester, 1966).

To outain the calculated growth parameters, I used ages 1.5-10.5 years for males and 1.5-12.5 years for females.

Estimates of the instantaneous total mortality rate (Z) were made using age group data obtained from FCO groundfish cruises off northern Oregon in 1971 and 1973; and off central Oregon in 1972 (Appendix Table 2). Two methods, a catch curve (Ricker, 1958) and the Jackson (1939) technique, were used for the analyses.

To determine maturity stages, gonads were examined according to procedures described by Hagerman (1952), Scott (1954), and Powles (1965). Maturity stages recorded are definea in Appendix Table 3.

Fecundity was determined from 13 fish collected in February 1970 and measured to the nearest mm (TL). Both ovaries from each fish were removed and stored in $10 \%$ Formalin. Estimates of fecundity were obtained gravimetrically, fcllowing the metnod described by Harry (1959).

To obtain fish for tagging, short tows of about 15 min were made in March and June 1970 off northern Oregon near the mouth of the Columbia River. Any rex sole caught were held for $15-60 \mathrm{~min}$ in a tank containing running sea water. Fish in good condition were tagged and released. Petersendisc (vinyl) tags, 16 mm in diameter, were attached by a stainless steel pin inserted through the musculature about 1/2-in below the midbase of the dorsal fin. Fishermen were advised of the tagging program, and a $\$ 0.75$ reward was offered by the $F C O$ for each tagged rex sole returned.

Electrophoresis was used to investigate stock identification of rex sole. A preliminary electrophoretic examination was conducted using muscle tissue of 145 rex sole collected in April 1973 in three nearly equal samples off northern, central and southern Oregon. Tissue extraction and starch gel electrophoresis procedures followed the methods of Johnson et al. (1972). Tests were conducted for polymorphisms in muscle protein and the five enzyme systems: aspartate aminotransferase (AAT) A-I and A-II; lactic dehydrogenase (LDH); peptidase A-I and A-II; phosphoglucomutase (PGM) and tetrazolium oxidase (TO).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

## Length-Weight Relationships

Length and weight were closely correlated, with the derived coefficient of determination ( $r^{2}$ ) varying from 0.9902-0.9988 for males and 0.9872-0.9966 for females (Table 1, Appendix Table 4). Coefficients of determination varied little by season, possibiy because of the extended spawning period (Villadolid, 1927) in the first half of the year. Based on data in Table l, $I$ calculated mean weights at four representative lengths. For both sexes growth was greatest in the third quarter, average in the second quarter and slowest in the first and fourth quarters (Table 2). Figure l shows that among mature fish, about 30 cm and larger in length, the females appear to be slightly heavier than males of the same length. A total of 950 males and l,l2l females were included in the length-weight data analyzed.

## Age and Growth

Validity of the Aging Technique

Narrow, opaque or hyaline zones occur on the margin of rex sole otoliths. These zones mark the respective periods of rapid or slow growth. Examination of 265 otoliths from rex sole <27cm in length collected off northern Oregon from September 1969 through July 1970 revealed that hyaline

Table l. Data to describe the length-weight relationship (loglo Weight $=\log 10 a+b$ log Length) by quarterly period for male and female rex sole collected off central and northern Oregon, 1969-1972.1/

| Months and sex | Number of fish | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Constant } \\ & \log a \end{aligned}$ | $\underset{\mathrm{b}}{\text { Constant }}$ | Standard deviation | Correlation coefficient | Coefficient of determination |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| January-March |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 119 | -3.1447 | 3.5551 | 0.1437 | 0.9972 | 0.9944 |
| Female | 68 | -3.0978 | 3.5095 | 0.1587 | 0.9936 | 0.9872 |
| Both | 187 | -3.1248 | 3.5258 | 0.1539 | 0.9932 | 0.9864 |
| April-June |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 386 | -2.8398 | 3.3557 | 0.1501 | 0.9994 | 0.9988 |
| Female | 356 | -2.9398 | 3.4345 | 0.1488 | 0.9980 | 0.9960 |
| Both | 742 | -2.8903 | 3.3914 | 0.1567 | 0.9984 | 0.9968 |
| July-September |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 350 | -3.0884 | 3.5598 | 0.1461 | 0.9982 | 0.9964 |
| Female | 621 | -2.9886 | 3.5112 | 0.1661 | 0.9983 | 0.9966 |
| Both | 971 | -3.0631 | 3.5553 | 0.1788 | 0.9988 | 0.9976 |
| October-December |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 95 | -2.9823 | 3.4423 | 0.1269 | 0.9951 | 0.9902 |
| Female | 76 | -2.9795 | 3.4423 | 0.1599 | 0.9972 | 0.9944 |
| Both | 171 | -2.9500 | 3.4252 | 0.1562 | 0.9973 | 0.9946 |

1/ Regression analysis conducted on $11-36 \mathrm{~cm}$ males and ll-5l cm females.

Taile 2. Computed mean weight per quarter at selected lengths of male and female rex sole using regression formulas from Table 1.



Figure l. Length-weight relationship for male and female rex sole collected off central and northern Oregon, 1969--1972. Body weights obtained from an average of quarterly mean values.
edges were first observed in September (Figure 2). No hyaline edges were present the previous June or July. In the fall the percentage of otoliths with a hyaline zone on their edre began to increase. By January the majority of otoliths had a hydine zone on their edge. The percentage rapidly inoreased and peaked in March when 92.38 had hyaline zone margins. Conversely, opaque zones on edges were at their Dorest ir Maroh, gradually increasing until June or July wher all otoliths had opaque edges. The opaque margins then dowly decreased in occurrence.

From these observations I conclude that the hyaline margin is deposited on otoliths during each winter and spring for all sizes of rex sole. Thus, these ryaline zones are interpreted as annuli, indicating a years' growth between successive hyaline margins. These results are similar to those of Villadolid (1927) who found northern California rex sole formed a scale annulus in March through May.

Age-tength Relationship

After 3.5 years, females were consistently longer than Tajes at a given age and also attained an older age and longer length. Statistics for both males and females followed the von Bertalanffy growth curve, as a good fit was obtained for most age groups (Figure 3, Table 3).

The calculated length at infinity $\left(L_{\infty}\right)$ of 33.43 cm or males vas close to the computed mean value of 29.33 cm


Figure 2. Percent frequency of hyaline edges found on otoliths of 265 rex sole ( $<27 \mathrm{~cm} \mathrm{TL}$ ) collected off northern Oregon, September 1969-July 1970. Numbers in parentheses represent sample size.


Figure 3. Age-length relationship for male and female rex sole collected off northern Oregon, jeptemberOctober 1969 and September 1971.
abie 3. Computed meay lengt: at age and mean lergth at age estimatad by ron Bertalanffy growth equition for 45 unsexed, 189 male, and 212 female rex scle collected of: ahthern oregon in September-october 1969 ara September 1971.

| $\begin{gathered} \text { Age } \\ (\text { Years })^{1} \end{gathered}$ | Male |  |  | Eemale |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | No. | ```Computed mean length (cm)``` | ```Estimated3/ mean length (cm)``` | No. | computed mean length (cm) | Estimated ${ }^{3}$ mean length (cm) |
| 1.5 | 452 | 9.20 | 9.44 | 452 | 9.20 | 8.91 |
| 2.5 | 13 | 12.61 | 13.36 | 7 | 12.71 | 13.44 |
| 3.5 | 36 | 17.00 | 16.65 | 33 | 16.64 | 17.25 |
| 4.5 | 29 | 19.52 | 19.39 | 11 | 20.45 | 20.45 |
| 5.5 | 15 | 21.66 | 21.69 | 19 | 24.95 | 23.14 |
| 6.5 | 17 | 24.55 | 23.62 | 14 | 25.64 | 25.39 |
| 7.5 | 23 | 25.39 | 25.22 | 9 | 26.33 | 27.29 |
| 8.5 | 23 | 25.82 | 26.57 | 17 | 28.05 | 28.88 |
| 9.5 | 16 | 27.37 | 27.69 | 24 | 30.37 | 30.2 J |
| 10.5 | 10 | 28.90 | 28.63 | 28 | 31.03 | 31.34 |
| 11.5 | 6 | 29.33 | 29.42 | 20 | 33.35 | 32.28 |
| 12.5 | 1 | 27.00 | 30.07 | 14 | 32.45 | 33.07 |
| 13.5 |  |  |  | 4 | 33.75 | 33.73 |
| 14.5 |  |  |  | 2 | 33.50 | 34.29 |
| 15.5 |  |  |  | 6 | 37.00 | 34.76 |
| 16.5 |  |  |  | 1 | 47.00 |  |
| 17.5 |  |  |  | 0 | 0.00 |  |
| 18.5 |  |  |  | 3 | 47.30 |  |

1/ These fall caught fish were assumed to be about one-half way through the growing season, based upon otolith readings.
$2 /$ Sexes were not separated for age 1 fish ( 45 specimens).
3/ von Bertalanffy growth equations were based on $1-10$ year-old males ( $L_{\infty}=33.43 \mathrm{~cm}, \mathrm{~K}=$ $\left.0.1778, t_{0}=-0.8551 \mathrm{yr}\right)$, and $1-12$ year-old females ( $L_{\infty}=37.21 \mathrm{~cm}, \mathrm{~K}=0.1747, \mathrm{t}_{\mathrm{o}}=0.5667$ yr).
(Table 3). For females the $L_{\infty}$ of 37.21 cm fit observed data through age 15.5, but was far below the maximum computed mean TI of 47.30 cm . The apparent discrepancy does not invaidete the data because knight (1968) noted that $L_{\infty}$ is not the maximum obtainable length, but rather a mathematical tool needed in computations for the von Bertalanffy growth equation. This is exemplified by my collection of a 23 Yoarmole ( $=1$ year), 59 m female rex sole off northern Oregon in perruary 1970, which I consider as about the maximum lergth and age of rex sole. Hart (1973) reported a 24 pear-old rex sole was collected off British Columbia, but no length was given.

## Mortality Rate

Estimates of the total instantaneous mortality rate (Z) using the catch curve method varied from 0.53 to 0.70 for males and 0.44 to 0.55 for females (Table 4). In this analysis the natural logarithm of the numbers of males and ferales caught at each age group was applied to the age dasses chtaired (Figures 4 and 5). The total mortality rate was the best fitted slope on the right side of the catch curve, determined by linear regression using ages ranging maximaily from 6-16 yr:

Estimates of $Z$ using the Jackson method ranged from 0.43-0.61 for males and 0.20-0.52 for females (Table 4). In this method annual survival rate $(S)=\frac{N_{7}+N_{8}+\ldots+N_{r}}{N_{6}+\frac{N_{7}}{7}+\ldots+N_{r-1}}$


Figure 4. Catch curves of male rex sole collected off Oregon in September of 1971, 1972 and 1973.


Figure 5. Catch curves of female rex sole collected off Oregon in September of 1971, 1972 and 1973.

Table 4. Estimates of the total instantaneous mortality rate ( $Z$ ) of rex sole collected off northern oregon in september 1971 and 1973 and off central Oregon in September 1972.

| Year and Sex | Age of Maximum numbers | Ages <br> utijized | Catch curve estimates of 2 | Jackson method estimates of Z |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1971 |  |  |  |  |
| male | 8 | 8-16 | 0.70 | 0.43 |
| Femaje | 7 | 7-16 | 0.44 | 0.20 |
| 2972 |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 6 | 6-1.3 | 0.53 | 0.44 |
| Female | 6 | 6-16 | 0.55 | 0.31 |
| 1973 |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 7 | 7-1. 3 | 0.68 | 0.61 |
| Female | 7 | 7-14 | 0.54 | 0.52 |
| liean of all years $1 /$ |  |  |  |  |
| Male |  |  | 0.64 | 0.49 |
| Female |  |  | 0.51 | 0.34 |

1 Based on simple average of $Z$ 's for the three years.
and $N$ is the number of fish of age group $r$ caught. Annual mortality rate is $1-S$ and the corresponding instantaneous rate of total mortality is obtained from the expression $S=$ $e^{-2}$, where $e$ and $Z$ are derived from Ricker (1958, Appendix 2).

The catch-curve method probably gives more reliable estimates of $Z$ than those obtained using the Jackson method. In the Jackson method the larger samples of younger fish strongly affect the estimates, with the older age groups weighted less. Thus, the Jackson method substantially underestimates the mean $Z$ for the entire right limb of the Gatch curve.

Reproduction

Size at Maturity

Some males were mature at 13 cm while no females reached maturity until 19 cm (Figure 6). About $50 \%$ of the males were mature at 16 cm , and all were mature at 21 cm . For females, $50 \%$ were mature at 24 cm and $100 \%$ were mature at 30 cm . Lengths at $50 \%$ and $100 \%$ maturity correspond to about ages 3 and 5 for males and 5 and 9 for females ( $T a b l e 2$ ).

The only maturity data on rex sole available from other areas is that of Villadolid (1927). He found that both males and females off San Francisco, California, were fully mature at age 4 , which corresponded to about 21.8 cm for males and 22.8 cm for females. Possibly rex sole mature earlier in the southern portion of their range.
spawning

Duration of the spawning period was from January through June, with a peak in March-April (Figure 7). Although samples were not obtained during August and December, the percentage of fish in each reproductive phase gives a good indication of the spawning time.

The six-month spawning period $I$ found is longer than the January through April spawning reported by Villadolid (1927) for rex sole collected off central California in 1925 and 1926. Paul Reed (FCO, pers. comm.) found a


Figure 6. Size composition of immature and mature rex sole, by sex, collected off northern Oregon, September 1969-July 1970.


Figure 7. Annual cycle of reproduction in 496 (274 males and 222) females collected off northern Oregon, September 1969 -July 1970. The number in each monthly sample is shown in parentheses.
prolonged spawning from January through August for 3,189 rex sole collected off northern California in $1949-1954$ and 1962-1963. This suggests the duration of rex sole spawning varies by area and year.

Fecundity

Examination of 13 mature females ranging from 240-590 mm TL yielded fecundity estimates of $3,916-238,144$ ova respectively (Table 5). The numbers of ova generally increased with size of the female. In most fish the right ovary contained more ova than the left.

Table 5. Calculated fecundity of 13 rex sole collected off northern Oregon, February 1970.

|  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | ---: |
| length (cm) | Estimated no. of ovary | Right ovary | Both ovaries |
| 240 | 1,934 | 1,982 | 3,916 |
| 264 | 6,201 | 6,058 | 12,259 |
| 296 | 5,634 | 5,292 | 10,926 |
| 299 | 11,654 | 15,182 | 26,836 |
| 312 | 9,232 | 10,223 | 19,455 |
| 319 | 6,403 | 7,541 | 13,944 |
| 341 | 14,127 | 13,985 | 28,112 |
| 341 | 15,664 | 20,717 | 36,381 |
| 348 | 14,764 | 19,924 | 34,688 |
| 358 | 16,740 | 17,206 | 33,946 |
| 361 | 16,453 | 17,738 | 34,191 |
| 485 | 59,002 | 60,146 | 119,148 |
| 590 | 112,746 | 125,398 | 238,144 |

A linear regression fitted to the data gave a correlation coefficient of 0.9620 (Figure 8). The formula for the


Figure 8. Fecundity-length relationship for 13 rex sole collected off northern Oregon, February 1970.
regression line was $F=5.3797 \times 10^{-7} \mathrm{~L}^{4.22667}$, where F is fecundity expressed in number of ova and L is fish TL expressed in mm.

Stock Identification

Tagying Experiment

A total of 2,537 rex sole was tagged and released off the noxthern oregon coast in April and June 1970. There were 15 recaptures ( $0.59 \%$ recovery) by July 1974 , all from the June 1970 tagging (Table 6). Maximum movement was 53.9 km (29.1 n.mi.), and 788 days was the longest time at liberty. There was little depth change by recaptured fish, which were released in $42.1-153.6 \mathrm{~m}(23-84 \mathrm{f})$ and recovered by traw 2 s in 51.2-100.6 m (28-55 f).

These results suggest only limited movement by rex sole. However, tag returns were too few to justify definite conclusions. This low recovery is similar to reports of rex sole tagged off British Columbia (Manzer, 1952 [90 tagged]) and Oreçon (Harry, 1956 [19 tagged]) from which no fish were necovered.

The low returns possibly were caused by rex sole not surviving the tagging process. Manzer (1952) reported rex sole reacted badly to capture and tagging. Most tagged rex sole I released at the ocean surface did not immediately descend. Instead, unlike most other flatfish species, they curled into a semicircle and moved across the water surface

Table 6. Releese and wecorery data on 2,537 rex sole tagged off noxthera oregon, April and June 2975 .

|  | NO. tagged | NO. <br> recovered | Percent recovery | Distance traveled |  | Days at Liberty |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| April 1970 | 200 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| June 1970 | 2,337 | 15 | 0.64 | 1.5 | 0.8 | 4 |
|  |  |  |  | 17.1 | 9.2 | 4 |
|  |  |  |  | 0.0 | 0.0 | 5 |
|  |  |  |  | 3.7 | 2.0 | 18 |
|  |  |  |  | 23.0 | 12.4 | 40 |
|  |  |  |  | 14.1 | 7.6 | 189 |
|  |  |  |  | 2.2 | 1.2 | 240 |
|  |  |  |  | 8.0 | 4.3 | 278 |
|  |  |  |  | 14.3 | 7.7 | 279 |
|  |  |  |  | 0.9 | 0.5 | 294 |
|  |  |  |  | 38.9 | 21.0 | 346 |
|  |  |  |  | 53.9 | 29.1 | 364 |
|  |  |  |  | unknown |  | 374 |
|  |  |  |  | 3.9 | 2.1 | 450 |
|  |  |  |  | 52.3 | 28.2 | 788 |
| Totals | 2,537 | 15 | 0.59 |  |  |  |

in a skipping motion. This peculiar reaction might have caused a high initial tagging mortality.

Starch-Gel Electrophoretic Analysis

There were 20 loci detected from the muscle tissue of 145 rex sole, of which 13 were enzymes and 7 were muscle proteins (Table 7). Only three loci (15\%) were polymorphic.

The polymorphism was found in only three of the eight systems studied or examined. Aspartate aminotransferase ( $A A T$ ) staining occurred in two anodal regions ( $A-I$ and $A-I I$ ). The zone II was the only polymorphic region, having $A, B, C$, and D alleles (Figure 9, Table 8). The enzyme peptidase also had two anodal regions. Only zone II was polymorphic, with $A$ and $B$ alleles (Figure 10, Table 9). A third enzyme, phosphoglucomutase (PGM) was polymorphic, having only one locus which had $A^{1}, A$, and $B$ alleles (Figure ll, Table 10).

No discernible variation in the frequency or kinds of phenotypes found was observed between rex sole collections from off Astoria (northern), Charleston (central), or Brookings (southern) Oregon (Tables 8-10). These data are insufficient to warrant extended speculation. However, they suggest that geographic selection of rex sole off Oregon, if any, may not revolve around the genetic system included in the eight systems tested. It is important, therefore, that several other alternatives, such as testing additional genetic systems or possible use of helminth parasites as

Table 7. Results of electrophoretic tests of muscle tissue samples from 145 rex sole collected off Oregon, April 1973.

| Protein ${ }^{1 /}$ | No. of bands in starch gel | Proposed no. of loci | Proposed no. of alleles per loci | Type of alleles found | Phenotypic variation |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| AAT A-I | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | Monomorphic |
| AAT A-II | 4 | 4 | 4 | $A, B, C, D$ | Polymorphic |
| LDH | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | Monomorphic |
| Peptidase $A-I$ | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | Monomorphic |
| Peptidase A-II | 2 | 2 | 2 | A, B | Polymorphic |
| PGM | 3 | 3 | 1 | $A^{1}, A, B$ | Polymorphic |
| TO | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | Monomorphic |
| Muscle proteins ${ }^{\text {2/ }}$ | 7 | 7 | 1 | - | Monomorphic |

1/ AAT, aspartate aminotransferase; LDH, lactate dehydrogenase; PGM, phosphoglucumutase; TO, tetrazdium oxidase.

2/ Analysis of muscle proteins was non-specific, with 6 anodal (+) bands and l cathodal (-) band found.


Figure 9. Diagrammatic representation of aspartate aminotransferase (AAT) phenotypes in starch gel from 145 rex sole collected off Oregon, April 1973.

Table 8. Frequencies of aspartate aminotransferase (AAT) phenotypess in 145 rex sole collected off Astoria, Charleston, and Brookings, Oregon in April 1973.

| Port of landing | Sample <br> size | Date |  | AAT phenotypes |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Frequency of alleles |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | AA. | $A B$ | BB | BC | CC | CD | DD | A.D | AC | BD | A | B | C | D |
| Astoria | 52 | 5,9 | April | 3 | 18 | 9 | 12 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 0.28 | 0.47 | 0.23 | 0.02 |
| Charleston | 43 | 30 | April | 8 | 3 | 10 | 12 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 0.30 | 0.42 | 0.26 | 0.02 |
| Brookings | 50 | 8 | April | 6 | 10 | 11 | 9 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 2 | 0.31 | 0.43 | 0.24 | 0.02 |



Figure 10. Diagrammatic representation of peptidase phenotypes in starch gel from 137 rex sole collected off Oregon, April 1973.

Table 9. Frequencies of peptidase anodal zone II phenotypes in l37 rex sole collected off Astoria, Charleston, and Brookings, Oregon in April 1973.

| Port of landing | Sample sizel/ | Date |  | Peptidase phenotypes |  |  | Frequency of alleles |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | AA | $A B$ | BB | A | B |
| Astoria | 50 | 5,9 | April | 10 | 30 | 10 | 0.50 | 0.50 |
| Charleston | 43 |  | April | 10 | 17 | 16 | 0.43 | 0.57 |
| Brookings | 44 |  | April | 13 | 22 | 9 | 0.55 | 0.45 |

1/ An additional two rex sole from the Astoria sample and six fish from the Brookings sample did not develop distinct banding patterns and hence are not included.


Figure 11. Diagrammatic representation of phosphoglucomutase (PGM) phenotypes in starch gel from 145 rex sole collected off Oregon, April 1973.

Table 10. Frequencies of phosphoglucomutase (PGM) phenotypes in 145 rex sole collected off Astoria, Charleston, and Brookings, Oregon in April 1973.

| Port of landing | Sample size | Date |  | PGM phenotypes |  |  |  | Frequency of alleles |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | AA | AA | $A B$ | BB | $A^{1}$ | A | B |
| Astoria | 52 | 5,9 | April | 0 | 51 | 0 | 1 | 0.00 | 0.98 | 0.02 |
| Charleston | 43 |  | April | 0 | 42 | 1 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.99 | 0.01 |
| Brookings | 50 | 8 | April | 1 | 49 | 0 | 0 | 0.01 | 0.99 | 0.00 |

biological tags, be investigated for a more extensive evaluation of the population structure of rex sole off Oregon.

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APPENDICES

Appendix Table 1. Food fish landings of rex sole in thousands of pounds, by state and in British Columbia, 1924-1972.1/

| Year | United States of America |  |  | Canada | Total Landings |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | California ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | Oregon3/ | Washington 4 | British Columbia |  |
| 1924 | 121 |  |  |  | 121 |
| 1925 | 149 |  |  |  | 149 |
| 1926 | 457 |  |  |  | 457 |
| 1927 | 693 |  |  |  | 693 |
| 1928 | 767 |  |  |  | 767 |
| 1929 | 1,001 |  |  |  | 1,001 |
| 1930 | 954 |  |  |  | 954 |
| 1931. | 78.4 |  |  |  | 784 |
| 1932 | 534 |  |  |  | 534 |
| 1933 | 564 |  |  |  | 564 |
| 1934 | 715 |  |  |  | 715 |
| 1935 | 629 |  |  |  | 629 |
| 1936 | 515 |  |  |  | 515 |
| 1937 | 4.51 |  |  |  | 451 |
| 1938 | 509 |  |  |  | 509 |
| 1939 | 566 |  |  |  | 666 |
| 1940 | 593 |  |  |  | 593 |
| 1941 | 371 |  |  |  | 371 |
| 1942 | 384 | 14 |  |  | 398 |
| 1943 | 495 | 570 |  |  | 1.065 |
| 1944 | 406 | 117 |  |  | 523 |
| 1945 | 296 | 70 |  | 91 | 457 |
| 1946 | 448 | 49 |  | 159 | 656 |
| 1947 | 289 | 15 |  | 65 | 369 |
| 1948 | 891 | 131 |  | 119 | 1,141 |
| 1949 | 976 | 224 |  | 161 | 1,361 |
| 1950 | 1,064 | 253 |  | 235 | 1,552 |
| 1951 | 1,321 | 273 | 3 | 234 | 1,831 |
| 1952 | 1,185 | 324 | 18 | 180 | 1,707 |

Appendix Table l. (continued)

| Year | United States of America |  |  | Canada | Total Landings |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Californial | Oregon 3 | Washington ${ }^{\text {/ }}$ | British Columbia ${ }^{\text {a }}$ |  |
| 1953 | 1,019 | 400 | 6 | 89 | 2,514 |
| 1954 | 1,183 | 954 | 8 | 21 | 2,166 |
| 1955 | 1,095 | 766 | 27 | 130 | 2,018 |
| 1956 | 1,147 | 418 | 38 | 52 | 1,655 |
| 1957 | 1,234 | 565 | 7 | 40 | 1,846 |
| 1958 | 1,423 | 666 | 30 | 30 | 2,149 |
| 1959 | 1.443 | 864 | 19 | 9 | 2,335 |
| 1960 | 1,107 | 1,280 | 14 | 12 | 2,413 |
| 1961 | 1,209 | 988 | 22 | 27 | 2,246 |
| 1952 | 1,408 | 1,333 | 33 | 19 | 2,783 |
| 1963 | 1,565 | 1.033 | 46 | 9 | 2,653 |
| 1964 | 1,409 | 806 | 67 | 21 | 2,303 |
| 1965 | 1.491 | 985 | 107 | 19 | 2,602 |
| 1966 | 1,635 | 1,498 | 88 | 21 | 3,242 |
| 1967 | ]. 762 | 1,219 | 131 | 42 | 3.154 |
| 1968 | 1,929 | 1,075 | 19 | 19 | 3,042 |
| 1969 | 2:253 | 1,215 | 14 | 107 | 3.589 |
| 1970 | 1.743 | 1,074 | 27 | 372 | 3,216 |
| 1971 | 1.469 | 839 | 59 | 424 | 2.791 |
| 1972 | 1. 662 | 1,314 | 101 | 359 | 3.436 |

1/ Data obtaired from pers. comm. of Messrs. Tom Jow, California Department of Fish and Game; Janice Smith, Canada Department of the Environment; and Ward et al. (N.D., (N.D.).

21 California animal food landings not recorded separately from food fish until 1961.
3/ Oregon landings of rex sole not tabulated prior to 1942.
4/ Washingtion rex sole landings not reported prior to 1951.
5/ British Columbia rex sole landings not tabulated prior to 1945.

Appendix Table 2. Absolute numbers of rex sole per age group caught during groundfisi surveys off northern Oregon in 1971 and 1973 and central Oregon in 1972.

| Age (years) | No. males |  |  | No. females |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1971 | 1972 | 1973 | 1971 | 1972 | 1973 |
| 2 | 7 | 14 | 11 | 0 | 19 | 26 |
| 3 | 50 | 68 | 75 | 59 | 70 | 116 |
| 4 | 67 | 142 | 45 | 102 | 124 | 56 |
| 5 | 270 | 290 | 337 | 353 | 207 | 514 |
| 6 | 244 | 663 | 387 | 329 | 732 | 613 |
| 7 | 375 | 278 | 881 | 418 | 501 | 1217 |
| 8 | 380 | 412 | 432 | 400 | 560 | 570 |
| 9 | 215 | 274 | 382 | 366 | 465 | 596 |
| 10 | 320 | 45 | 106 | 582 | 108 | 201 |
| 11 | 67 | 123 | 42 | 138 | 283 | 94 |
| 12 | 76 | 24 | 72 | 247 | 32 | 219 |
| 13 | 5 | 14 | 11 | 69 | 57 | 30 |
| 14 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 50 | 10 | 26 |
| 15 | 5 | 7 | 0 | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| 16 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 9 |
| 17 |  |  |  | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 18 |  |  |  | 9 | 3 | 0 |
| 19 |  |  |  |  |  | 0 |
| 20 |  |  |  |  |  | 0 |
| 21 |  |  |  |  |  | 4 |
| Total | 2093 | 2358 | 2781 | 3149 | 3184 | 4291 |

Appendix Table 3. Description of reproductive phases of rex sole gonads used in this study.
I. Females - six stages

Immature: A. Ovaries very small ( $<40 \mathrm{~mm} \mathrm{TL}$ ), opaque in color and gelatinous. No eggs discernable to the naked eye.

Mature: B. Ripening. Ovaries enlarging, becoming reddish-orange colored and granular in consistency, full of developing eggs that can be recognized by direct observation.
C. Ripe. Ovaries full of mostly reddishorange colored granular eggs, although a few transparent ova are present. Ova can be extruded from the fish by using considerable pressure.
D. Spawning. Ovaries full of entirely translucent eggs which will run with slight pressure.
E. Spent. Ovaries flaccid, usually empty although occasionally a few eggs will remain. Ovarian membrane very transparent and sac-like.
F. Recovering. Ovaries becoming firm and reddish-orange colored. No ova detectit able to the naked eye.
II. Males - four stages

Immature: A. Testes very small (<3 mm TL), translucent in color and not extending into the abdominal cavity.

Mature: B. Ripening, Testes enlarged, extending posterioxly into abdominal cavity, light brown to cream colored, but retain sperm under pressure.
C. Ripe and/or spawning. Testes full and cream colored. Sperm will run under no or only slight pressure.
D. Spent-recovering. Testes shrunken and transparent or dark brown in color.

Appendix Table 4. Length frequency and mean weight (gm) per quarterly period of male and female rex
sole captured off central and northern oregon 1969-1972.

| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Total } \\ & \text { length } \\ & (\mathrm{cm}) \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | January-March |  |  |  | April-June |  |  |  | July-September |  |  |  | October-December |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Males |  | Females |  | Males |  | Females |  | Males |  | Females |  | Males |  | Females |  |
|  | No. | V | IVo. | W | No. | $\overline{1}$ | No. | . 7 | No. | $\overline{\mathrm{V}}$ | No. | 可 | No. | W | No. | W |
| 11 | 3 | 4.00 | 6 | 4.00 | 4 | 4.75 | 0 | 0.00 | 2 | 4.50 | 2 | 4.50 | 0 | 0.00 | 3 | 5.00 |
| 12 | 1 | 5.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 8 | 5.50 | 3 | 6.33 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 4 | 6.25 | 2 | 6.00 |
| 13 | 3 | 7.00 | 1 | 6.00 | 18 | 8.06 | 9 | 7.67 | 1 | 7.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 5 | 7.00 | 1 | 6.00 |
| 14 | 1 | 7.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 20 | 10.25 | 15 | 8.70 | 1 | 10.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 1 | 9.00 |
| 15 | 1 | 9.00 | 2 | 10.00 | 26 | 12.58 | 18 | 10.67 | 1 | 10.00 | 5 | 12.40 | 10 | 9.00 | 6 | 11.33 |
| 16 | 4 | 15.75 | 3 | 14.33 | 10 | 15.80 | 11 | 16.36 | 2 | 15.50 | 3 | 16.00 | 7 | 14.43 | 7 | 14.29 |
| 17 | 7 | 17.00 | 3 | 16.33 | 26 | 19.88 | 13 | 19.12 | 4 | 21.00 | 6 | 21.17 | 10 | 17.30 | 6 | 17.17 |
| 18 | 5 | 21.60 | 1 | 19.00 | 29 | 23.66 | 20 | 24.90 | 8 | 27.75 | 3 | 27.33 | 7 | 22.29 | 6 | 21.67 |
| 19 | 2 | 25.00 | 4 | 18.25 | 40 | 27.90 | 23 | 28.78 | 6 | 31.83 | 3 | 35.00 | 10 | 26.70 | 5 | 26.40 |
| 20 | 4 | 28.75 | 3 | 31.00 | 38 | 32.70 | 33 | 34.91 | 11 | 34.91 | 8 | 40.25 | 6 | 30.00 | 2 | 26.00 |
| 21 | 6 | 39.33 | 3 | 34.00 | 34 | 38.82 | 31 | 41.29 | 12 | 43.00 | 9 | 46.56 | 5 | 38.80 | 1 | 36.00 |
| 22 | 7 | 43.00 | 3 | 34.67 | 36 | 47.14 | 23 | 47.57 | 23 | 48.35 | 14 | 48.43 | 4 | 49.50 | 4 | 47.25 |
| 23 | 12 | 46.25 | 2 | 42.50 | 19 | 52.95 | 16 | 55.62 | 25 | 58.80 | 15 | 65.67 | 4 | 52.75 | 3 | 49.33 |
| 24 | 12 | 61.00 | 1 | 66.00 | 17 | 63.29 | 20 | 65.15 | 34 | 65.88 | 15 | 69.13 | 5 | 61.20 | 1 | 60.00 |
| 25 | 8 | 62.88 | 5 | 71.40 | 9 | 73.89 | 21 | 75.62 | 27 | 74.67 | 16 | 76.75 | 4 | 68.50 | 3 | 67.67 |
| 26 | 9 | 76.67 | 4 | 70.50 | 13 | 82.00 | 13 | 84.38 | 37 | 85.70 | 31 | 103.65 | 4 | 71.75 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 27 | 12 | 86.92 | 3 | 93.33 | 9 | 90.33 | 15 | 91.40 | 37 | 94.30 | 33 | 111.88 | 2 | 90.50 | 3 | 92.67 |
| 28 | 9 | 102.56 | 3 | 107.67 | 8 | 113.38 | 16 | 111.19 | 25 | 110.32 | 33 | 139.27 | 0 | 0.00 | 3 | 100.00 |
| 29 | 3 | 110.00 | 4 | 128.30 | 9 | 121.11 | 12 | 123.50 | 19 | 127.16 | 44 | 150.32 | 2 | 121.50 | 4 | 111.50 |
| 30 | 3 | 134.67 | 3 | 136.67 | 7 | 128.00 | 14 | 128.64 | 9 | 145.33 | 55 | 171.58 | 3 | 144.33 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 31 | 4 | 149.25 | 4 | 150.75 | 3 | 152.67 | 9 | 148.00 | 15 | 172.13 | 73 | 181.41 | 1 | 118.00 | 4 | 147.00 |
| 32 | 1 | 181.00 | 2 | 159.50 | 2 | 149.50 | 9 | 189.67 | 14 | 199.64 | 65 | 212.11 | 2 | 148.00 | 1 | 186.00 |
| 33 | 2 | 156.50 | 5 | 176.80 | 0 | 0.00 | 5 | 204.60 | 13 | 217.23 | 61 | 233.51 | 0 | 0.00 | 3 | 195.00 |
| 34 | 0 | 0.00 | 1 | 184.00 | 1 | 199.00 | 3 | 213.00 | 11 | 222.00 | 45 | 250.20 | 0 | 0.00 | 2 | 220.00 |
| 35 | 0 | 0.00 | 1 | 227.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 1 | 248.00 | 10 | 250.80 | 30 | 251.37 | 0 | 0.00 | 2 | 205.00 |
| 36 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 1 | 234.00 | 3 | 292.00 | 17 | 310.29 | 0 | 0.00 | 1 | 207.00 |
| 37 | 0 | 0.00 | 1 | 290.00 | 1 | 251.00 | 1 | 283.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 9 | 323.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 2 | 253.50 |
| 38 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 1 | 246.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 9 | 346.22 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 39 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 4 | 364.25 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 40 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 2 | 387.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 41 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 2 | 479.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 42 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 1 | 490.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 43 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 44 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 1 | 495.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 45 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 1 | 743.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 46 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 1 | 634.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 47 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 2 | 803.50 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 48 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 . | 0.00 | 2 | 838.50 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 49 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 50 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 51 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 1 | 1079.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Total | 119 |  | 68 |  | 386 |  | 356 |  | 350 |  | 621 |  | 95 |  | 76 |  |


[^0]:    $1 /$ The term stock is used here (modified from Ricker, 1972) to define the rex sole spawning in a particular marine location (or portion of it) at a particular season, which fish to a substantial degree do not interbreed with any group spawning in a different place, or in the same place at a different season.

