



Vlaams Instituut voor de Zee
Flanders Marine Institute

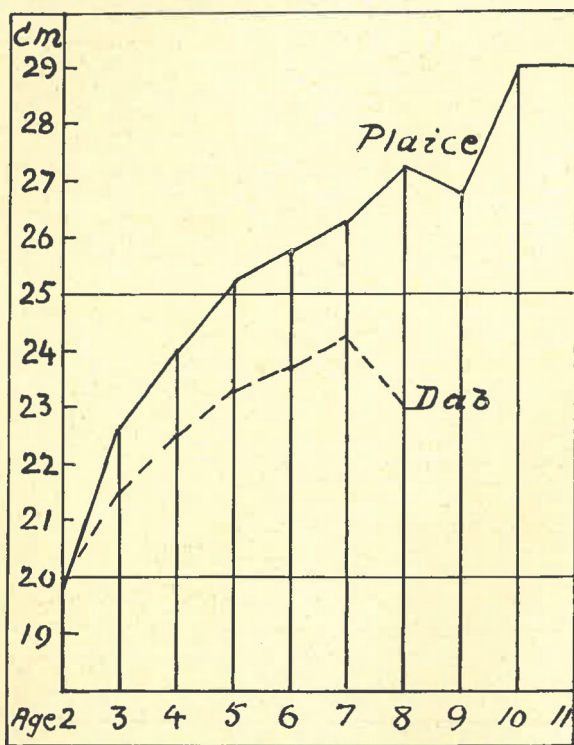
14.

Preliminary Observations on Variations of Relation between Age and Size of Pleuronectids in the Southern North Sea.

By

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Mean length in cm. of each age-group.

At the request of the President scientific workers in different countries undertook investigations on the title-subject for comparison with growth of these species in other waters.

Data on this subject are included in several papers by authors who have studied difference of growth in different regions. Numerous data also exist—printed or in manuscripts—in records or logs of Belgian, British, Dutch, French, German, and other laboratories, data that could be used when retabulated for the purpose, provided locality and date have been accurately recorded at the time of capture. Such records must be completed by further researches carried out according to the plan and the aim of this special investigation.

To learn initial difficulties to be expected as early as possible we have commenced this work. The material has been obtained from fishermen working in the Southern North Sea only; three skippers well known for their trustworthiness and capability of determining position at sea were selected and instructed to reserve a number of baskets from separate trawlings, not to be iced. In this way we have so far secured mainly plaice but also dab and flounder, from the Hinder Bank region. 1250 specimens have been measured and otolithed. This number is insufficient but the collection of material will be continued and the attached diagram must be considered a preliminary record only. Our past work reveals the necessity of treating separately fish caught in different localities and at different seasons.