

Ad-hoc on the Field Training Course on Otolith/Spines sectioning and Age reading
Piraeus, Greece, 19-23 July 2010

Tentative agenda and time table

1st day

Monday 19 July, 9:00-17:00 :

1. Introduction to the equipments used for the otolith/spines sectioning
2. Preparation of non transparent (black) resin blocks with embedded otoliths/spines
The blocks should be remained until dry for two days
3. Introduction to the use of Image Analysis System

1st coffee break: 11:00 am (15 min)

Lunch: 13:30 (half an hour)

2nd coffee break: 15:30 (15 min)

2nd day

Tuesday 20 July, 9:00-17:00

4. Introduction to the otolith use for age reading (otoliths structure, otolith preservation and observation, sectioning, true annuli/pseudo-annuli, annuli measurement)
5. Principles of age validation (length frequency, marginal increment)
6. Information on *Spicara smaris* biology
7. Otolith observation and annuli measurement by the use of Image Analysis System of *Spicara smaris* otoliths
8. Construction of marginal increments charts
9. Age assignment to age groups – age length key
10. Estimation of growth parameters

1st coffee break: 11:00 am (15 min)

Lunch: 13:30 (half an hour)

2nd coffee break: 15:30 (15 min)

3rd day

11. Sectioning the embedded blocks of otoliths/spines (done on the 1st day) for getting thin sections
12. Smoothing sections surfaces
13. Mounting the thin sections with transparent resin
The mounted sections should be kept until dry for one day

1st coffee break: 11:00 am (15 min)

Lunch: 13:30 (half an hour)

2nd coffee break: 15:30 (15 min)

4th day

14. Information of the *Mullus barbatus* biology
15. Otolith observation and annuli measurement by the use of Image Analysis System of *Mullus barbatus* otoliths
16. Construction of marginal increments charts
17. Age assignment to age groups – age length key
18. Estimation of growth parameters

1st coffee break: 11:00 am (15 min)

Lunch: 13:30 (half an hour)

2nd coffee break: 15:30 (15 min)

5th day

19. Observation of otoliths/spines sections
20. Annuli measurements in otolith/spines sections by the use of Image Analysis System

1st coffee break: 11:00 am (15 min)

Lunch: 13:30 (half an hour)

2nd coffee break: 15:30 (15 min)