

Mackerel feed different from cod in the high Arctic

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Figure 1. Mackerel caught by locals in Svalbard in the middle of September 2013.

- Atlantic mackerel was observed in Isfjorden, Svalbard for the first time in September 2013.
- Samples were obtained by hand line in Isfjorden, Svalbard 22-23 September 2013. At the same location and depth as mackerel cod was caught.
- The stomach content analyzes show that despite being fished at the same depth at the same location there was not a big overlap in the diet of mackerel and cod.

Conclusions:

- The occurrence of mackerel in Svalbard waters is a result of a continued warming of the ocean climate in the region.
- This follows a general trend of species extending their distributional range northwards in to the high Arctic.
- There is no or little overlap in the diet of Atlantic mackerel and cod in the high Arctic.

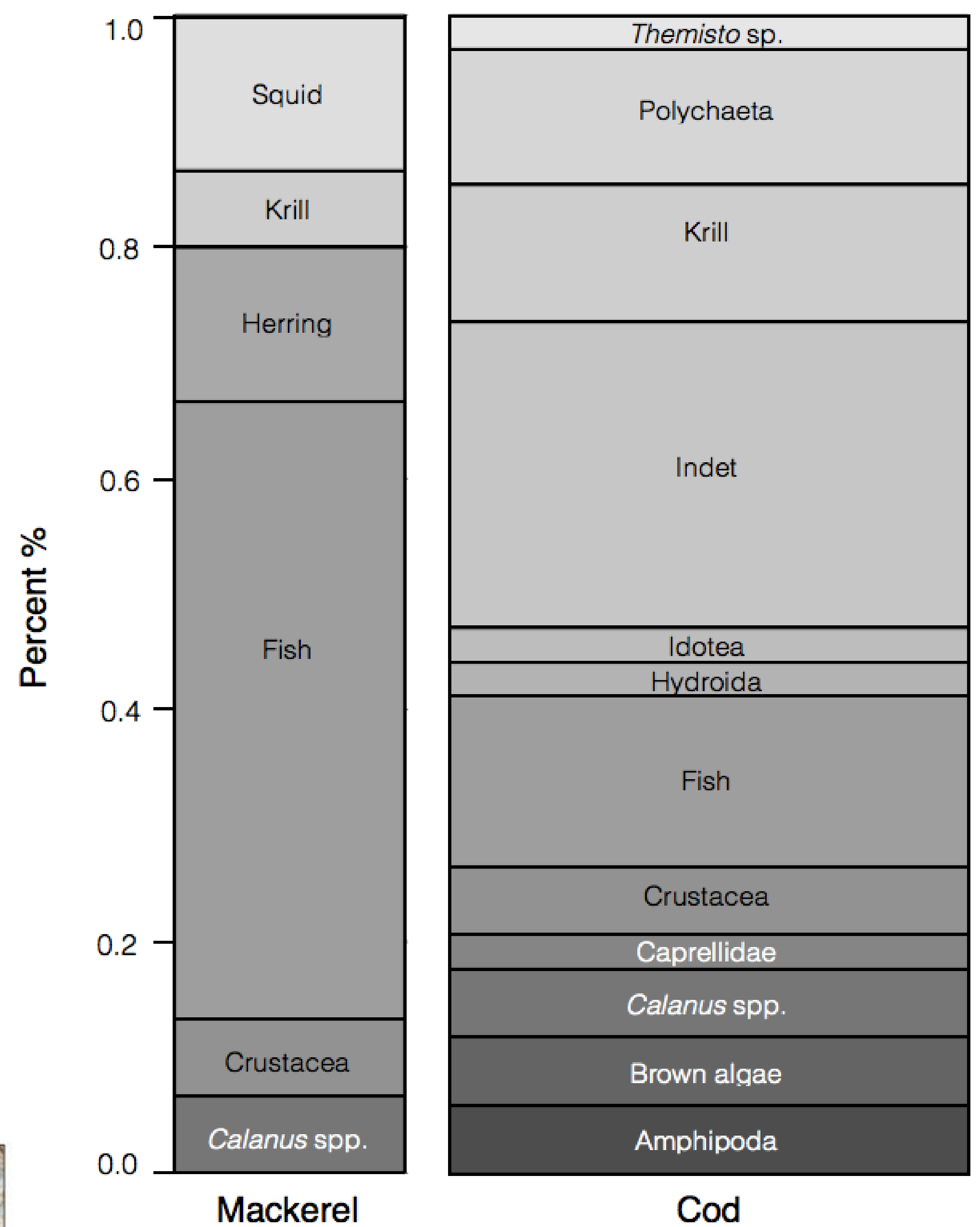


Figure 3. The diet of mackerel and cod obtained at the same depth and location in Isfjorden, Svalbard. Mackerel has a more diverse diet than cod, and are feeding from the pelagic realm, whereas cod is mainly feeding on benthic prey.

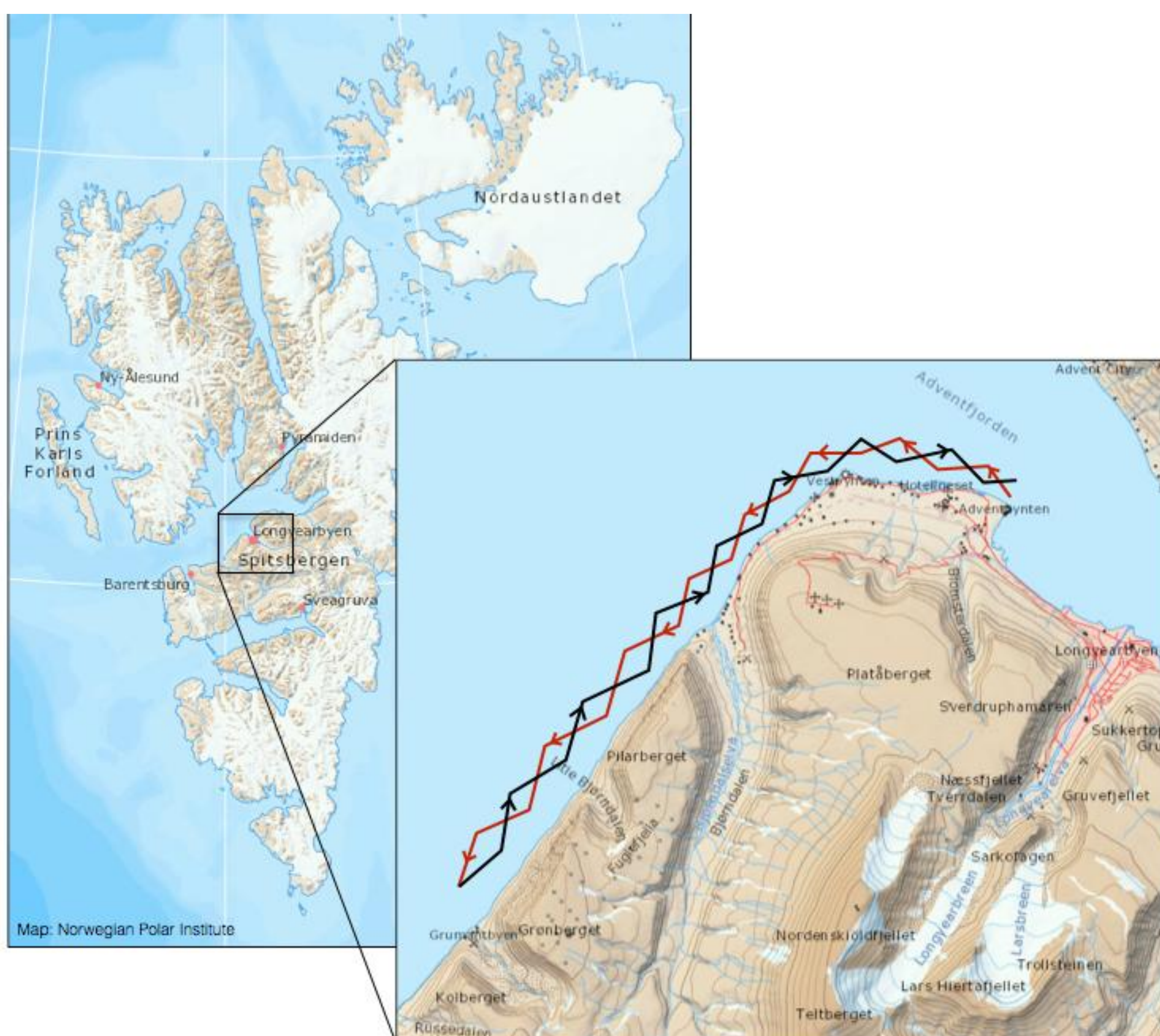


Figure 2. Showing where the mackerel and cod was caught in Isfjorden, Svalbard.



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