New species in the North Sea

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Introduction

In recent years a number of new fish and invertebrate species have been reported from the North Sea, both from research vessel surveys and from commercial catches. At the same time the abundance of some more southerly fish species has increased, and in the case of the striped red mullet (Mullus surmuletus) and sea bass (Dicentrarchus labrax), even a directed fishery has developed. Other species are now found in much higher numbers than some decades ago.

Vagrants and regular visitors

Vagrants are species that are only caught incidentally in the North Sea, usually in low numbers, breed in other areas, and do not establish resident populations. Many of the known vagrants in the North Sea are pelagic fish. Some species are observed more regularly, though not every year, and may not have self-sustaining North Sea populations.

North Sea species

Catches of a number of species that are known to occur and spawn in the North Sea have clearly increased over the last decades. Many of these are traditionally considered as southerly or Lusitanian species.

References

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