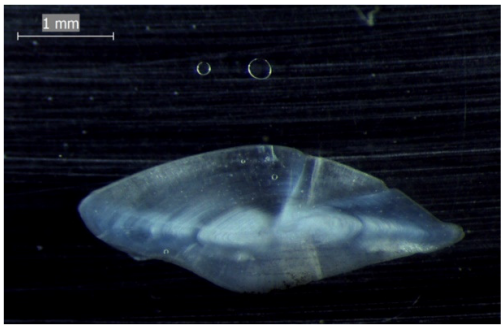
Interested in research and fisheries?

Honours Project: Call for expressions of interest

Growth and otolith development in juvenile stout whiting in eastern Australia

Whiting are among Australia's most important commercial fish species, accounting for over 2,000 tonnes of seafood production annually. The stout whiting, *Sillago robusta*, is one of the most-harvested fish species in offshore trawl fisheries of eastern Australia, yet uncertainties remain over juvenile development and the early growth rings formed in their otoliths.

Stout whiting were cultured at the National Marine Science Centre, Coffs Harbour, in late-2021 and the juveniles (n = 10) were sampled every month for one year. In collaboration with scientists from NSW-DPI Fisheries and SCU, this Honours project focuses on the microstructure of stout whiting otoliths. The study will examine the development of otoliths of the juveniles over time and analyse the effects of seasons, temperature and growth rate on the number and width of daily rings in the otoliths. Results from this project will directly benefit the management of east coast whiting populations.



The student should commence the project in Term 1, 2023, and will need to be based in Coffs Harbour. The project offers an opportunity to work with fishery scientists to gain valuable skills in fisheries biology techniques and new analysis methods that will be an asset for a future career in fisheries.

Interested students will need to have achieved a high GPA in their undergraduate studies and demonstrate a sound understanding of fish biology and intermediate statistical analyses.

To register your interest and gain further information, contact Assoc.-Prof. Steven Purcell, National Marine Science Centre, SCU. steven.purcell@scu.edu.au