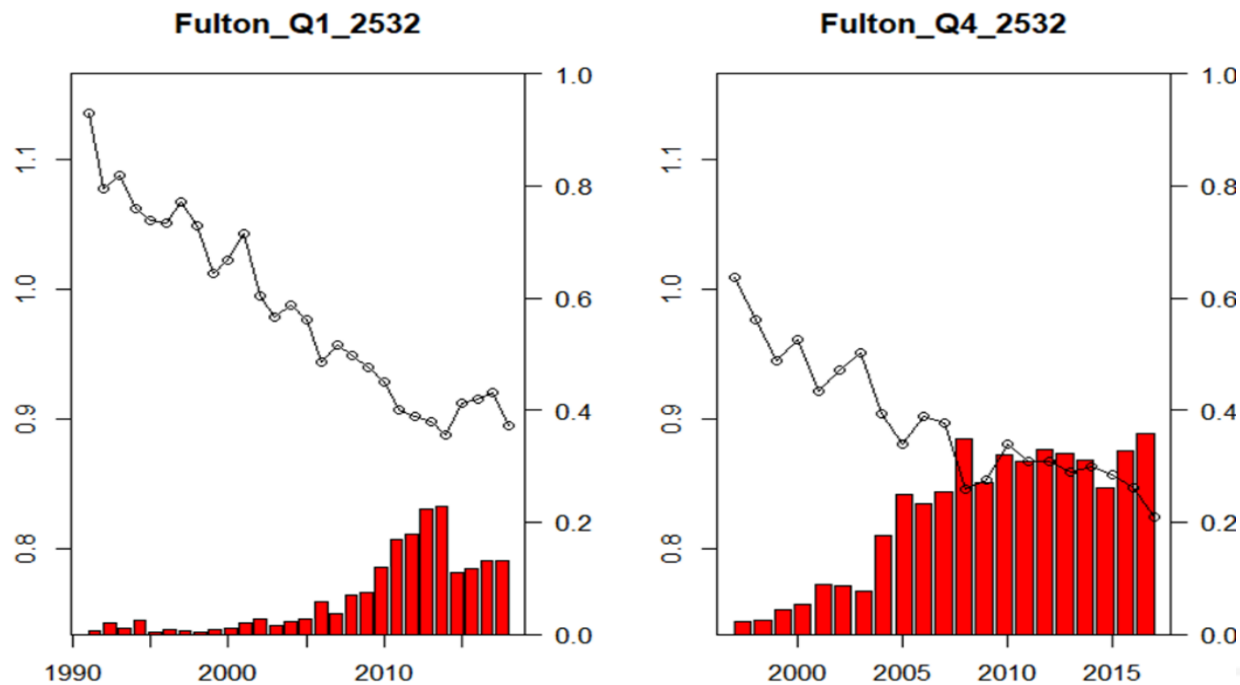


Sprat – spatial management

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Science for sustainable seas



Average condition of cod at 40–60 cm in length in Q1 and Q4 BITS survey in SD 25–32. The lines show mean values for Fulton K, the bars show the proportion of cod at Fulton K < 0.8.

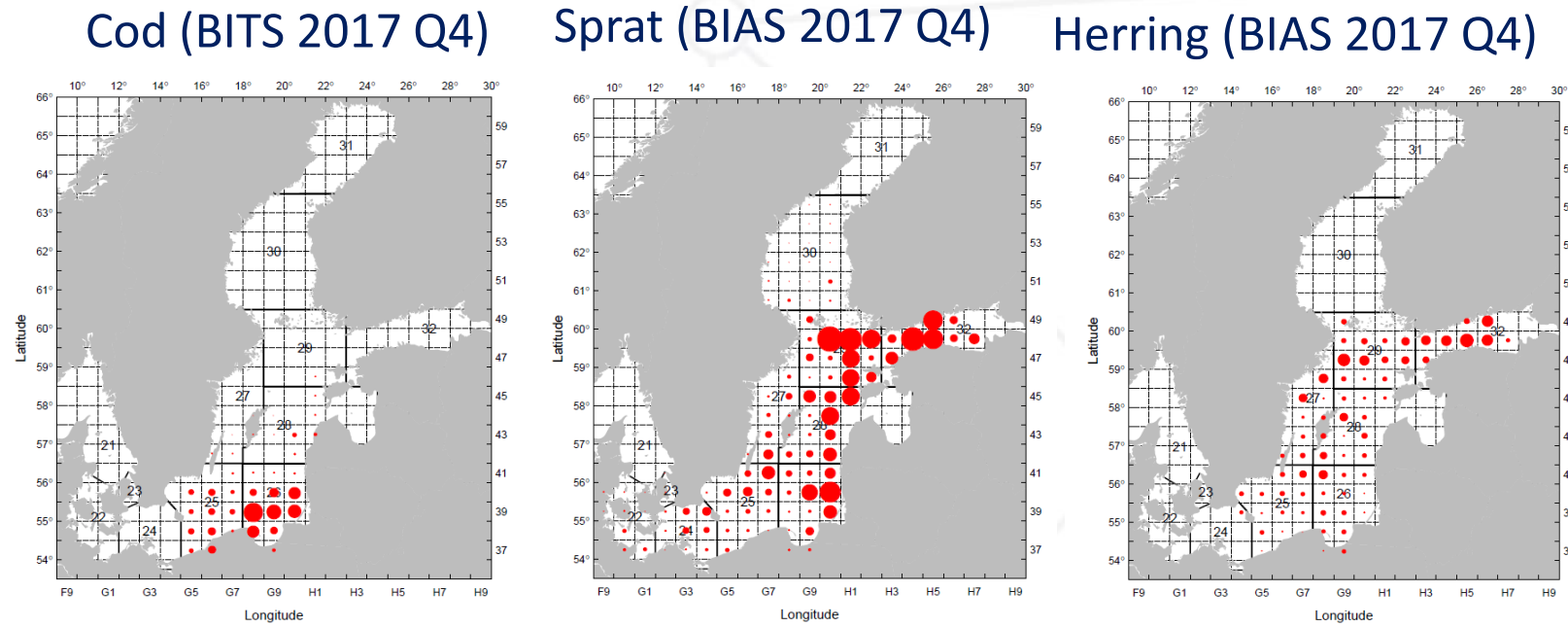
The L50 (50% percent mature and contributing to spawning) was around 35–40 cm in the early 1990s and has declined to around 20 cm since late 2000s

Sprat in subdivisions 22-32

ICES recommends that a spatial management plan is developed for the fisheries that catch sprat, with the aim to improve cod condition.

The abundance of cod in subdivisions 25–26 is high compared to other areas in the Baltic and the cod condition is considered to be limited by food availability. Sprat and herring are important food items for cod (especially sprat), but the present high biomass of the two prey stocks is mainly distributed outside the distribution area for cod.

The relative catch proportion of sprat in the main cod distribution area has since 2010 increased from 37% of the total catch to 53% in 2012–2017. Any increase in fishing pressure on sprat in the main cod distribution area may deteriorate the feeding condition for cod as prey availability decreases.



Thank you

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