

Population structure of the European Sea bass in Atlantic Iberian coastal waters inferred from body morphometrics and otolith shape analysis

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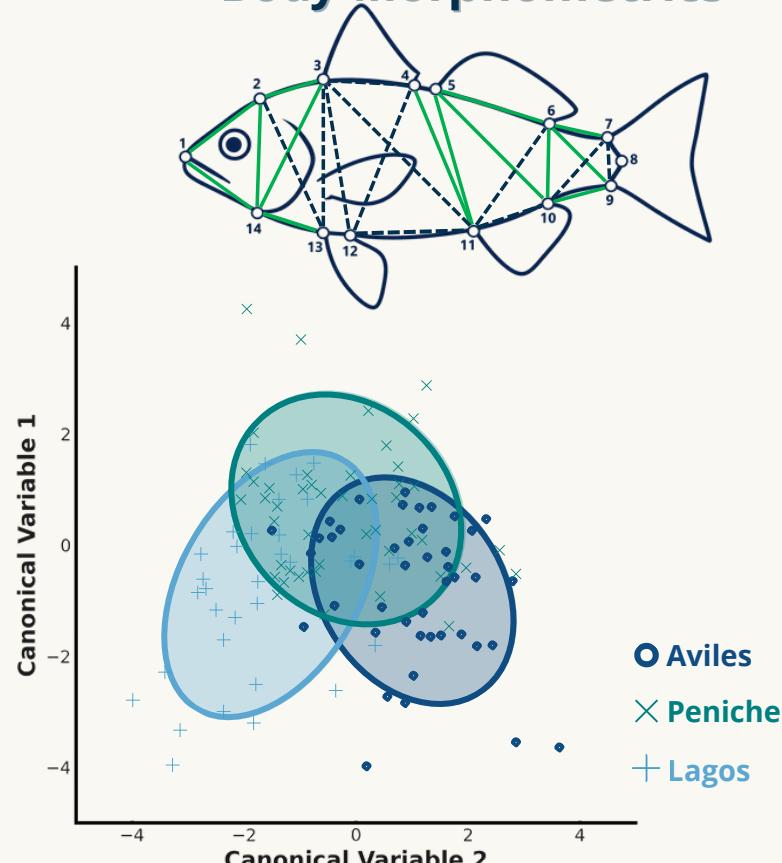
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Sea bass lacks fisheries management!

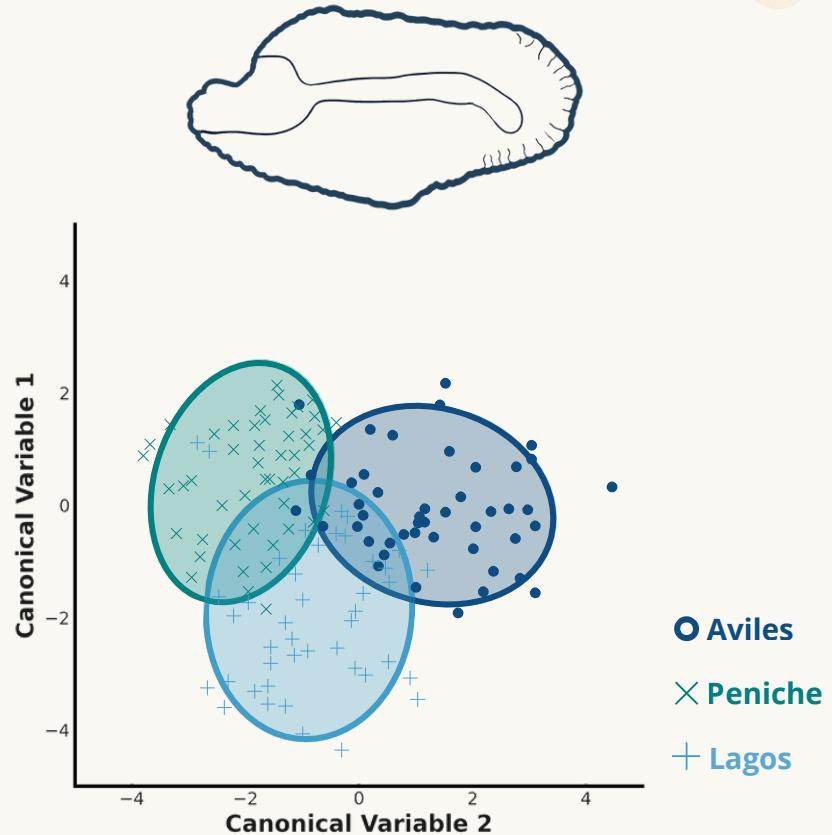
- Iberian Sea bass are considered data limited and risk overfishing.
- Stock delimitation is key for effective fisheries management.
- The analysis of **phenotypic traits** such as fish body morphometrics and otolith shape reflect habitat use, local adaptations and connectivity across different locations.

Body Morphometrics



The image above shows a scheme of a *sagitta* otolith of *D. labrax* with the contour highlighted in green. The graph below presents the LDFA plot, illustrating the distribution of fish from each location

Otolith Shape



The image above shows the 29 morphometric distances used for seabass, with the green lines indicating those that differed significantly across locations. The graph below presents the LDFA plot, illustrating the separation of fish from each location based on body morphometric results

Conclusion:

- Neither of the techniques was able to completely discriminate between fish from any of the locations.
- Sea bass in the Iberian Peninsula can be considered a **single stock** although not homogeneous, with Aviles showing a slight isolation.

