LOOKING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DRIVERS OF BLUE WHITING RECRUITMENT IN THE PORCUPINE BANK (NE ATLANTIC)

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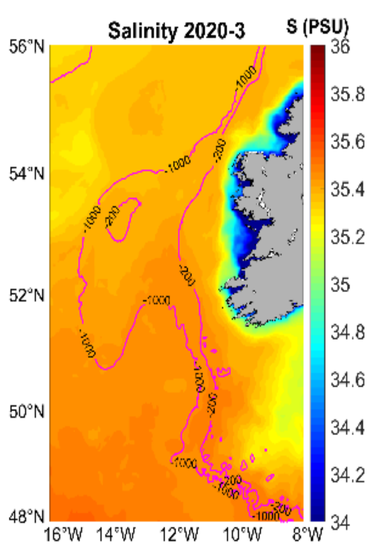
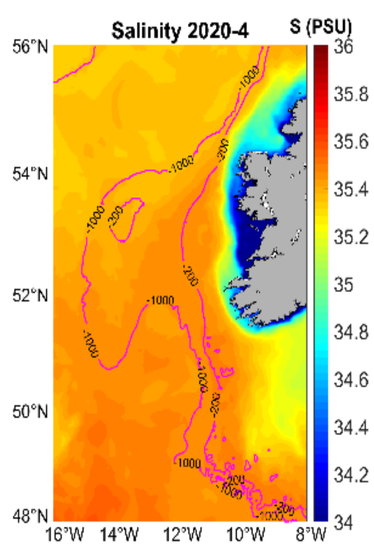
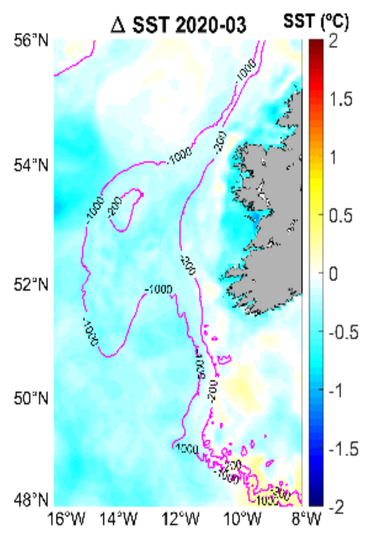
Blue Whiting-Spawning Season

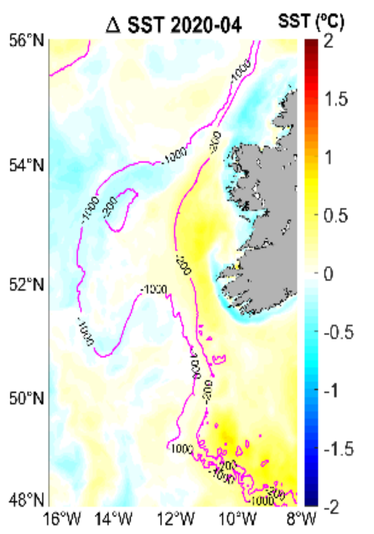
March 2020 April 2020



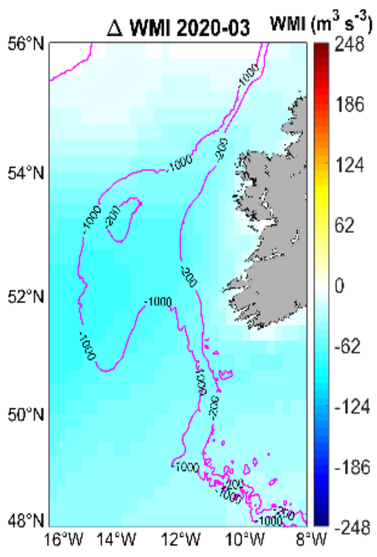


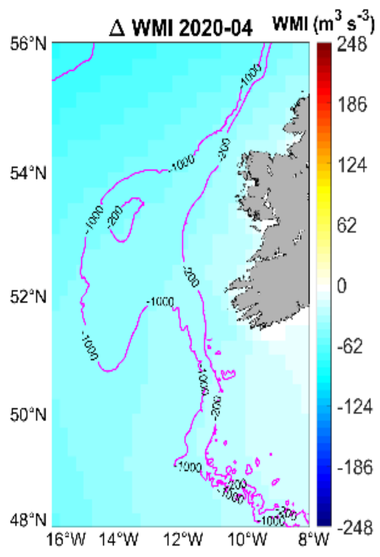
Salinity



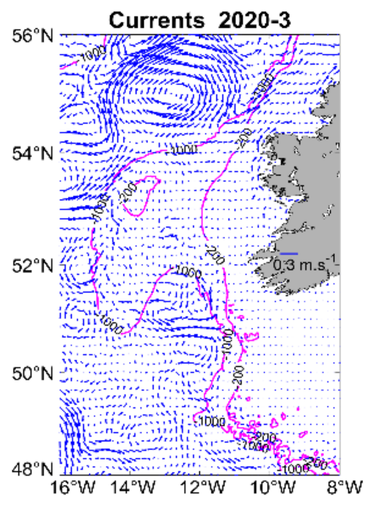


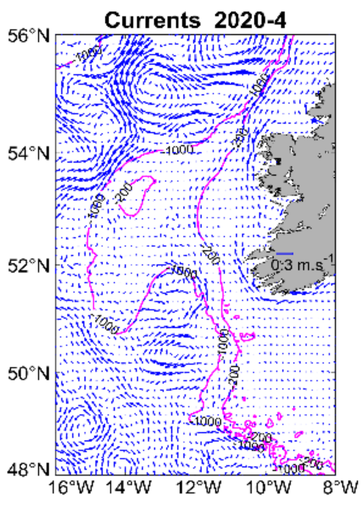
Temperature anomalies



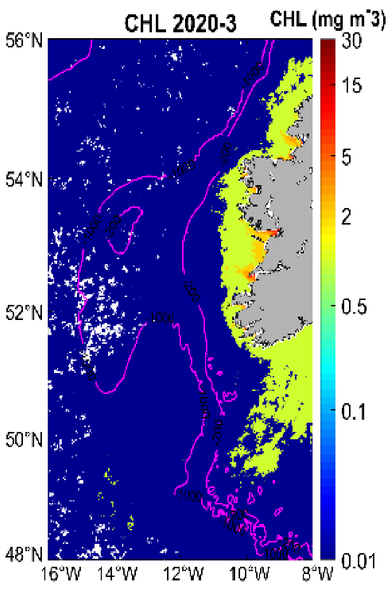


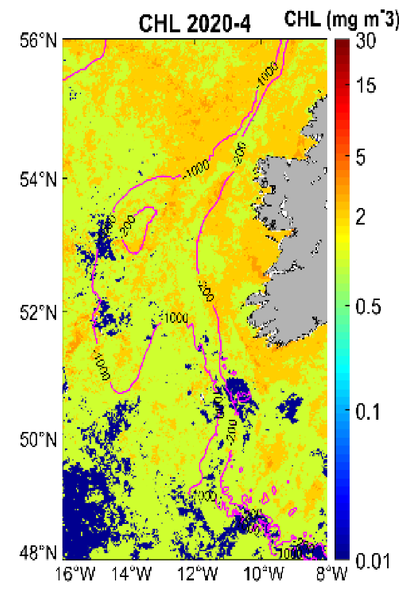
Wind Mixing Index (WMI) anomalies





Ocean currents

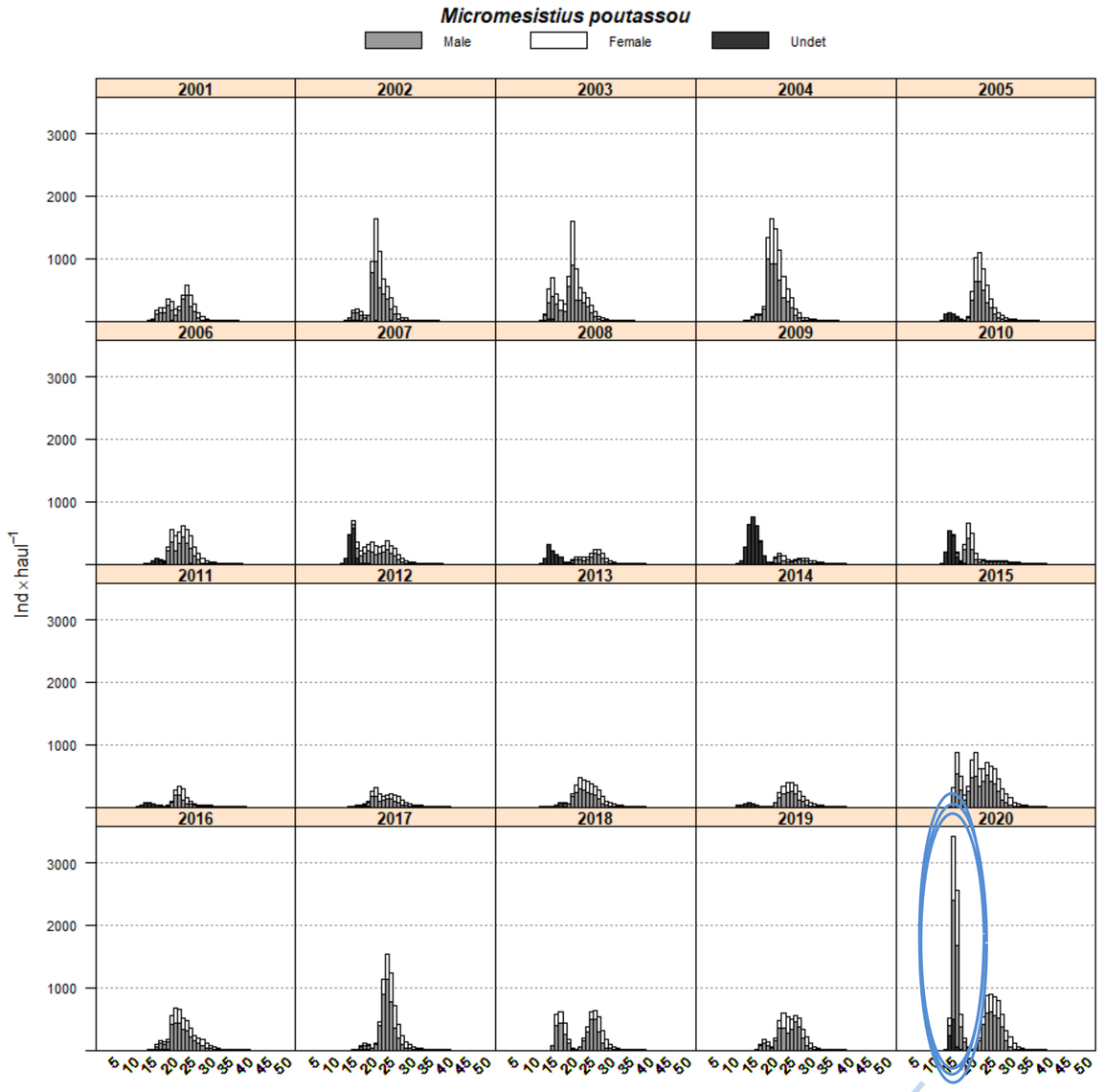




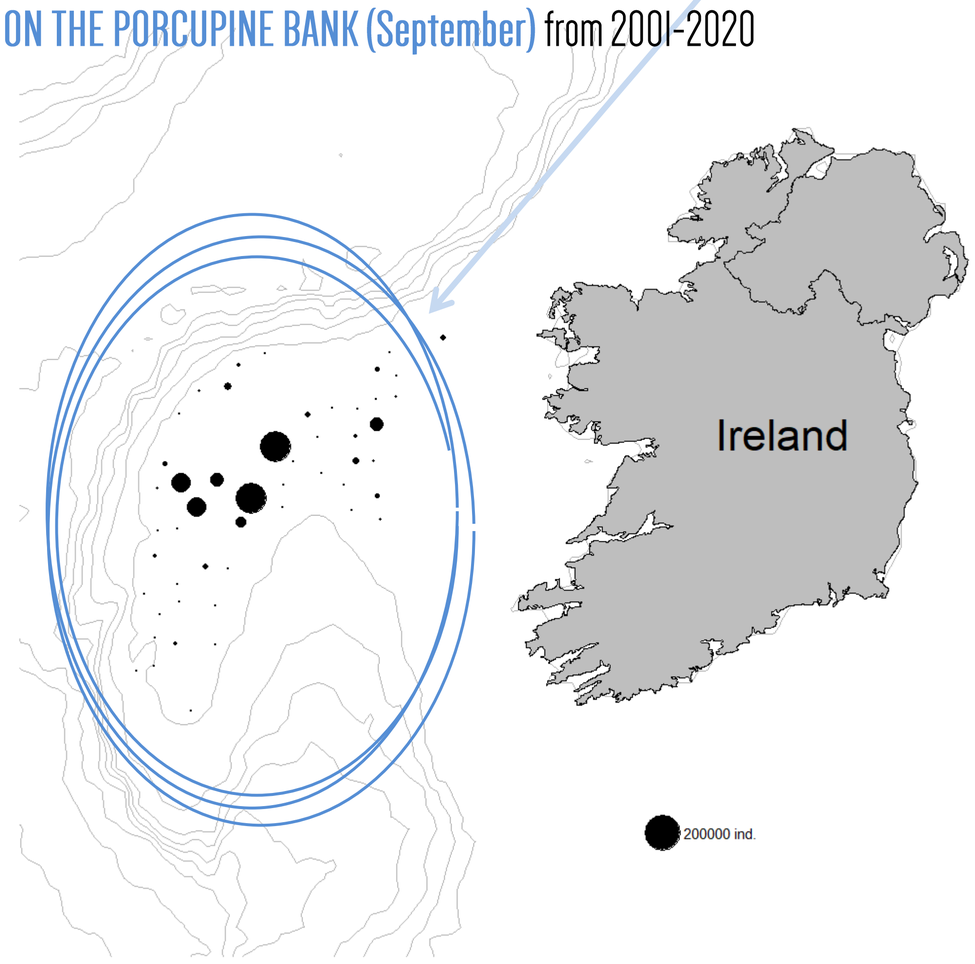
Chlorophyll concentration

Spanish Bottom Trawl Survey on the Porcupine Bank

September 2001-2020



In **2020**, the **highest abundance of year-class recruits** (total lenght < 20 cm) of *Micromesistius poutassou* was observed in the record of the SPANISH BOTTOM TRAWL SURVEY ON THE PORCUPINE BANK (September) from 2001-2020



In **2020**, during the BLUE WHITING-SPAWNING SEASON (March-April), the **calm wind situation** along with **weaker ocean currents** above the Porcupine Bank helped to accumulate **phytoplankton biomass**, thus promoting **secondary productivity**

The **optimal salinity** concentration, as well as **surface temperature** during this time, helped the buoyancy of eggs and larvae to the food-rich surface, thus improving the larval condition and enhanced the **survival rate**, which in turn resulted in the **largest recruitment** since 2001