

Presentation of MAR-ECO Students

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Degree: Msc Marine & Fisheries Ecology

Working title of project: Age, growth Distribution, life history traits, and feeding ecology of the halosaurid, *Halosauropsis macrochir*, from the mid-Atlantic Ridge, North Atlantic Ocean.

Supervisors: Dr Nikki King, Ocean Lab, Aberdeen and Dr Odd Aksel Bergstad, Institute of Marine Research, Arendal, Norway

Summary of Project:

I will describe, for the first time, the biology and autecology of the halosaur, *Halosauropsis macrochir* (Günther 1878). This is one of the more common deepwater demersal fishes of the mid-Atlantic Ridge fish community, caught during the MAR-ECO cruise on RV G.O.Sars, July 2004. The study will be based on literature studies and original analyses of abundance and distribution patterns, life history traits (longevity, age structure, growth), and feeding ecology. This will be accomplished with analyses of length frequency patterns (geography, depth), descriptions of otoliths and otolith growth patterns, development and testing of age determination methodology, analyses of age distributions, longevity, growth and analysis of stomach contents (taxonomical composition, size ranges, ontogenetic changes). The results shall all be compared to previous findings.