



How old is our food?

Ecology of the ocean quahog (*Arctica islandica*) in western Norway



SCAN ME

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Background

The ocean quahog (*Arctica islandica*) is rising in popularity as food. These bivalves are among the worlds most longlived animals and can grow to be 500 years old. The population in western norwegian waters are understudied, and its important to increase our knowledge of the clam in order to implement proper management for their harvest

Study Aims

- Measure growth rate and age for the population in western Norway
- Figure out age the breeding range for the ocean qohag in western Norway
- Figure out if nemerteans have a parasitic effect on the ocean quahog

Methods

Divers collected clams from **northern** and **western** Norway for comparison

Arctica islandica eutanized with knife. Weight and size measured

The shells are sawed and put in epoxy. The epoxy gets cut in half and polished.

Prints are made of the epoxy with plastic and acid

Growth rings counted and measured with microscope

Locations of harvest

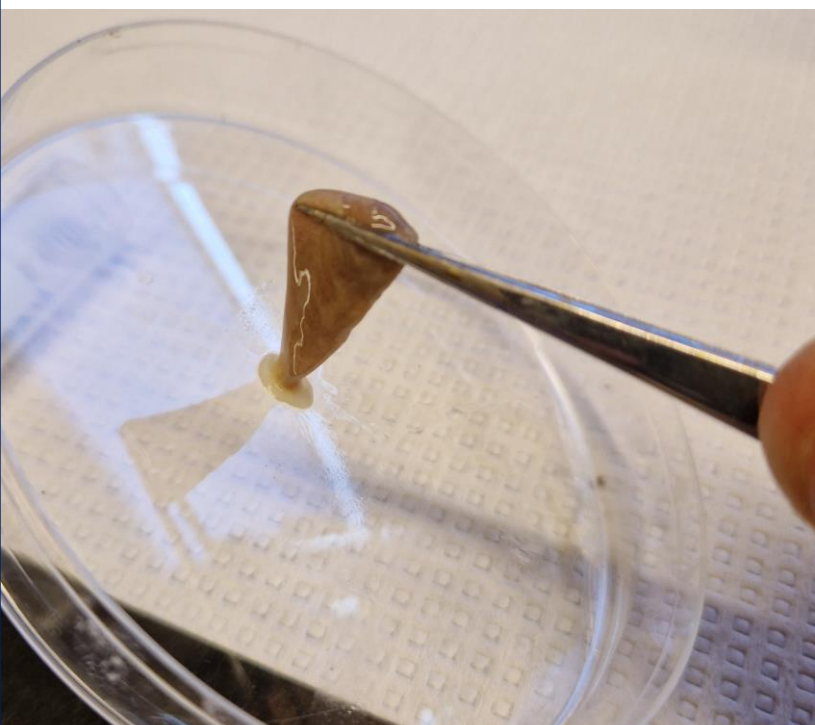


Ocean quahog (*Arctica islandica*)



Further study

The DNA of the nemertians will be sequencehed in order to differentiate between species



Nemertian



References:

Raouf W. Kilada, Steven E. Campana, Dale Roddick, Validated age, growth, and mortality estimates of the ocean quahog (*Arctica islandica*) in the western Atlantic, *ICES Journal of Marine Science*, Volume 64, Issue 1, January 2007, Pages 31–38, <https://doi.org/10.1093/icesims/fsl001s>