

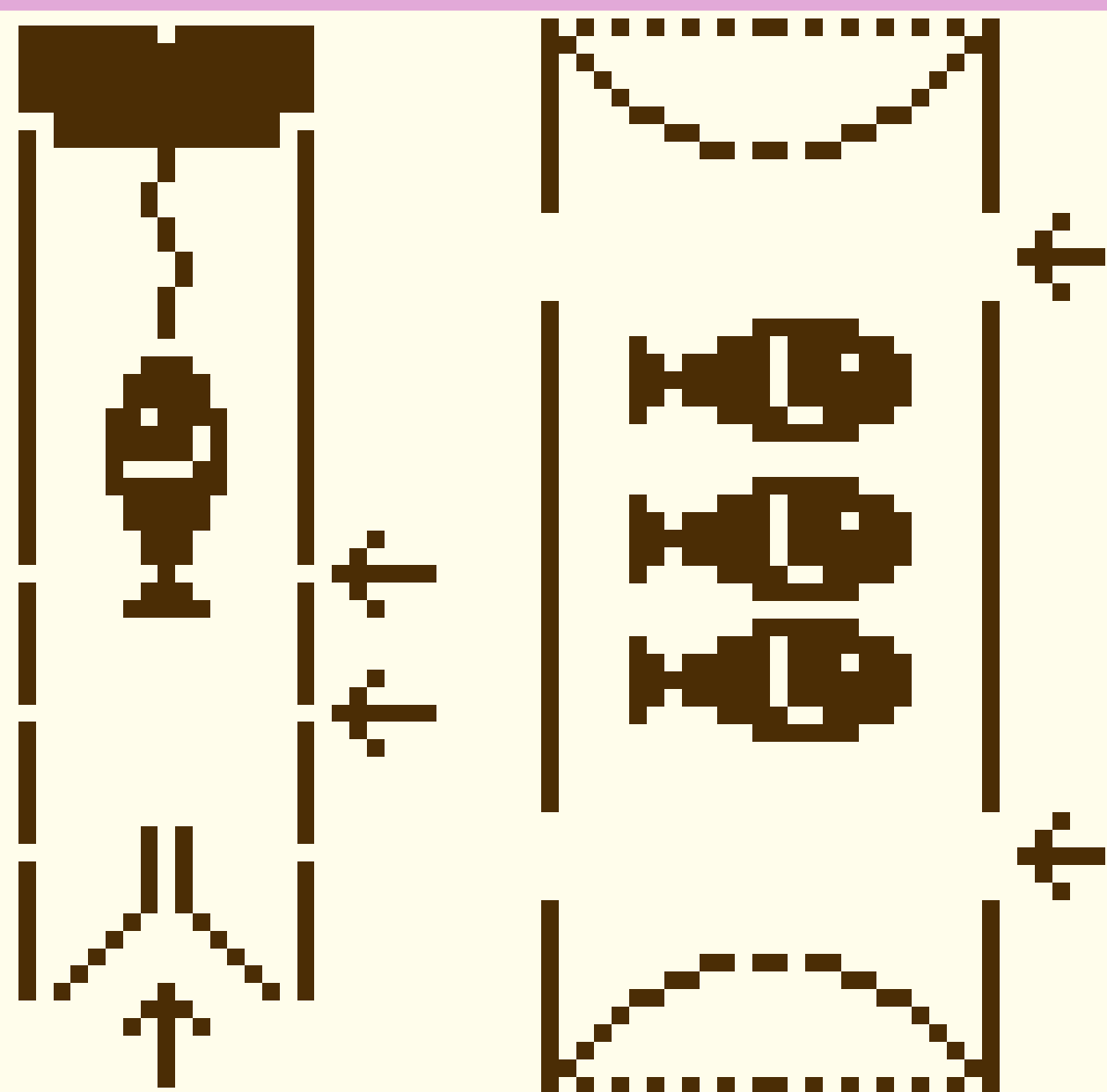


WHO STOLE MY BAIT?

INTRODUCTION

Hagfish (*Myxine glutinosa*) are small jawless fish that act as deepsea vultures, consuming all available organic matter. An old fishing-tale warns about leaving bait out for more than a few hours, as it most likely would be consumed by hagfish.

So the question stands, who stole my bait? And how fast?



METHOD

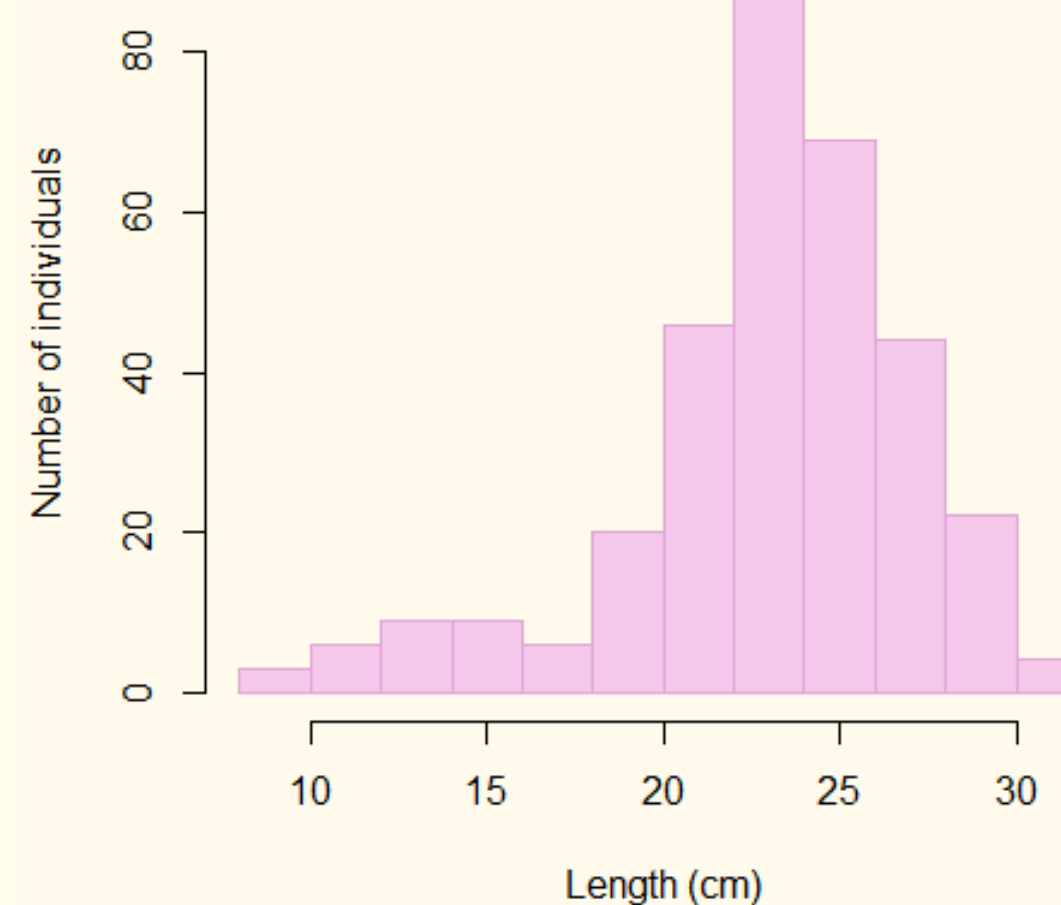
Two experiments were executed, one to check their general population size and location using three specialised traps (left), and the other to check how fast organic matter was consumed using crab-pots. Each experiment was carried out a total of four times in different locations throughout 'Raunefjorden'.

RESULTS

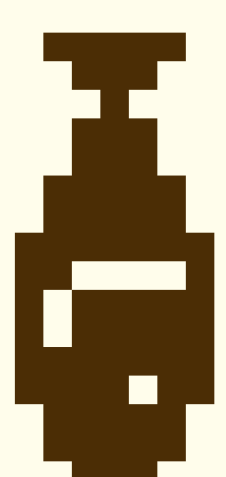
We learned that the hagfish are very location based, not only depth (~100meters), but also when it comes to the type of seafloor - where rocky bottoms were opted against - and they wouldn't leave their muddy habitat to swim up a clifface for food.

The consumption-rate was also way higher than expected. Where 1.5kg disappeared in 3h and not 48

Hagfish length distribution



DID YOU KNOW THAT HAGFISH LACK EYES? EXCEPT FROM SOME SIMPLE EYESPOTS, THEY HUNT USING THEIR KEEN SENCE OF SMELL AND INSTINCTS!



CONCLUSION

Hagfish are extremely effective consumers given their size, most likely amped up by their number. But they are also very location based, where they would only show up given the right environment; being a muddy seafloor, at ~100meters depth, preferably in a dip in the topography.

So who stole your bait? The hagfish did.

