EFH Project - Processed input datasets

Dataset name (CSV format):

Sandeel\_R\_all

Content description:

Dataset of fish catch and environmental variables for fish survey hauls undertaken in UK waters between 2010-2020, used as input data for EFH modelling of Refugia habitat for Lesser (Raitt's) sandeel, Ammodytes marinus.

Fish data only refer to Lesser sandeel individuals occurring in the catches (available for quarter Q4 only) from the annual Sandeel Dredge Survey undertaken by Marine Scotland in December at sandeel fishing grounds off the Firth of Forth and Turbot Bank (in Sandeel Area 4, East coast of Scotland, where the largest of the sandeel stocks in Scottish waters is and there is an active fishery for it).

The environmental variables associated with each survey event have been extracted from relevant environmental data layers.

Dataset structure:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Column Heading | Description | Variable type | Unit/categories (incl. NA where no data) | Source |
| Species\_EFH\_stage | Species, EFH function, and life stage the fish survey data refer to (= file name) | Categorical (nominal) | Category defined by combination of species (common name, e.g. Anglerfish), EFH function (R for refugia, N for nursery, s for spawning), and indicator life stage (including max body size cut-off for juveniles in nursery, life stage as early stage egg (EG1) or 'running' adult for spawning, all life stage/sizes for refugia) | - |
| Haul-ID | Index identifying survey haul, as a combination of survey name, date, latitude and longitude | Categorical (nominal) | Category defined by combination of survey name (e.g. SIAMISS, NS-IBTS), haul event (date, as number), haul locatiopn (latitude and longitude, as deg N and deg E WGS 1984, respectively) | - |
| ID1 | Entry number in original sandeel dredge dataset | Categorical (nominal) | - | Original survey dataset |
| Survey | Survey code | Categorical (nominal) | BTS; EVHOE, IE-IGFS, NS-IBTS, SCOROC, SCOWCGFS; MEGS (codes and explanations from ICES vocabularies - https://vocab.ices.dk/); East\_Coast (from sandeel dredge dataset) | Original survey dataset |
| Month | Haul event, Month; derived from Date | Numeric (discrete) | Month number (1-12) | Derived from original survey dataset |
| Year | Haul event, Year; derived from Date | Numeric (discrete) | Year | Derived from original survey dataset |
| Location | Haul location, Location name (sandeel dredge survey only) | Categorical (nominal) | [name of sandeel bank] | Original survey dataset |