Characterization of Bay of Biscay sound scattering layers using broadband acoustics, nets and video

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Context: Ecosystemic approach

 Raising consideration for an integrated evaluation of ecosystems

• Objective of the DCSMM (UE Marine Strategy Framework Directive)

• For the pelagic environment, a survey : PELGAS

Context : The PELGAS survey

- PELagic GAScogne
- Evaluation of the chemical and physical environment
- Evaluation of all the ecosystem (from plankton to apex predator)
- Use of acoustic tools to determinate the abundance of small pelagic species:
 - Anchovy
 - Sardine

— ...



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- Any variation of density will scattered the incident wave
- Possibility of detection of a broad variety of organism with the appropriate thresholds and frequencies



Scattering of marine organisms

3 broad categories of targets:

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Elastic Shell (ES) : mainly pteropods...
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• Gaz Bearing (GB) : fish (adult, juveniles or larvae), siphonophores...

=> Characterized by a gas inclusion, with an important density contrast with water



Models representations



¹²

Narrow Band (NB) acoustic



Wide Band (WB) acoustic



Sound Scattering Layers (SSLs)

- Layers of zooplanktonic and micronektonic organisms
- Observed in a great variety of ecosystems







Micronekton SSLs

- Layers of zooplanktonic and micronektonic organisms
- Observed in a great variety of ecosystems
 - Common and very dense in the Bay of Biscay
- Acoustic response dominate by GB organisms
- The « blue noise » of *Ballon et al* (2011)
- Generally bad relationship between acoustic scattering and biological sampling









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 - Which organisms dominate the Bay of Biscay SSLs?
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Acoustic and biological sampling on two contrasted zones in north Bay of Biscay



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Methods

Forward approach: Comparison between modeled backscattering (Sv(f)) derived of sampled organisms and measured backscattering averaged over the same area



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Biological sampling



Biological samples to acoustic model

- GB organisms
 - Swimbladdered fish
 - Siphonophores

- FL organisms
 - Copepods
 - Ratio L/w = 2.55



- Euphausiids
 - Ratio L/w = 5.5



 ES organisms
Limacina 24/10/2017



Acoustical sampling

Samplers		Transducer	Signal	Bandwidth (kHz)
		ES18-11	CW	18
		ES38B	CW	38
		ES70-7C	FM	47-90
		ES120-7C	FM	95-160
		ES200-7C	FM	180-240
		ES333-7C	FM	280-420
Samples processing		Spectral analysis: • Resolution in frequency: 0.5 kHz • Range resolution: 1 m Echo-integration		

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Forward approach: modeled Sv(f)



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- Organisms backscattering modeling
- *
- 216 1m
- ES organisms: Stanton dense fluid sphere high pass model (Stanton et al, 1998)

GB organisms: Modified Ye model (Ye, 1997)

FL organisms: DWBA model (Chu et al, 1993)

Forward approach: modeled Sv(f)



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- ES organisms: Stanton dense fluid sphere high pass model (*Stanton et al, 1998*)
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- Model uncertainty analysis
 - 1000 simulations with each parameter randomly drawn in distribution law based on literature value
 - Construction of confidence interval (90 %) based on these simulations

Forward approach: measured Sv(f)



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Continental shelf daytime surface layer

















Slope nighttime surface layers



Modeled Sv(f)



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Modeled Sv(f) compare to measured Sv(f)





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Zone 1



Zone 2



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SSLs dominant scatterers

- GB organisms
 - Dominate the SSLs at low frequencies
 - Hard to sample: mobile and fragile organisms



- Physonect siphonophores: potential major backscatterers of Biscay shelf SSLs in springtime
 - First evidence of their contribution to Bay of Biscay SSLs
 - Importance of imagery and video for their sampling
- Other organisms (Pteropods, euphausiids copepods)
 - Contribute to SSL backscattering at higher frequencies
 - Dramatic densities of pteropods







Further: large scale clustering

- Questions
 - Variability of SSLs backscattering spectrum in the Bay of Biscay
 - Dominance of Resonant layers?

Sampling strategy

- Echo-integration of good qualities opportunistic WB data acquired in side of PELGAS survey
- Principally night data

Methods

- Clustering (Kmean) on each area, extraction of clusters spectrum
- Comparison between clusters



Thank you for your attention!

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Classification approach



