

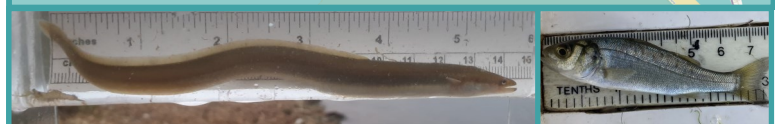
Purpose

Estuaries and sheltered coastal ecosystems provide a range of ecosystem services and are known for their high productivity and biodiversity. They offer suitable habitats for juvenile fish using the regions as nursery areas as well as species that live there full lifecycle in these areas.

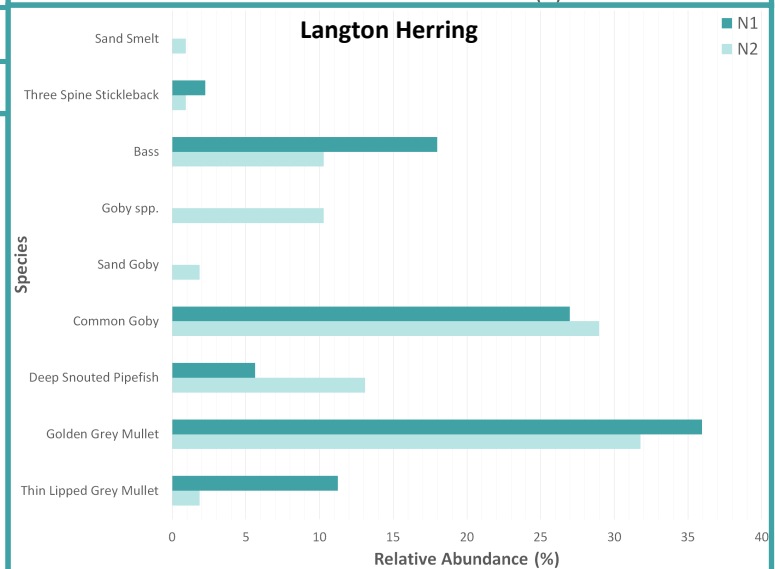
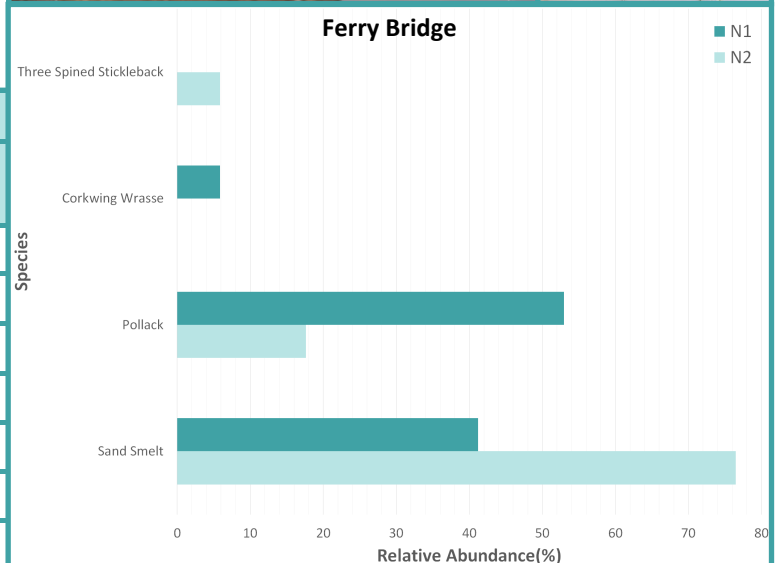
As part of the Southern IFCA's Fish Monitoring Programme, survey at a range of site are carried out in order to understand the use of these essential fish habitats by commercial and recreational fish species. As more data is collected over time, it will be used to understand changes in fish communities, ecosystem health and to mark key nursery areas within the district. This valuable work contributes to more effective and sustainable fisheries management.

Method

1. A 43 meter seine net was used to sample fish.
2. The net was shot in a wide arc adjacent to the shoreline from a shallow draft vessel provided by Yarmouth Harbour.
3. The net was hauled into the shore and all fish placed into buckets.
4. Fish were measured nose to tail and carefully returned to the sea as quickly as possible.
5. The net was shot and hauled twice at both Ferry Bridge and Langton Hive.



Species	Scientific Name	Mean Count	
		Ferry Bridge	Langton Hive
Sand Smelt	<i>Atherina presbyter</i>	10	1
Pollack spp.	<i>Pollachius spp.</i>	6	0
Corkwing Wrass	<i>Symphodus melops</i>	1	2
Three Spined Stickleback	<i>Gasterosteus aculeatus</i>	1	2
Thin Lipped Grey Mullet	<i>Chelon Ramada</i>	0	6
Golden Grey Mullet	<i>Chelon aurata</i>	0	33
Deep Snouted Pipefish	<i>Syngnathus typhle</i>	0	10
Goby spp.	<i>Pomatoschistus spp.</i>	0	34
Bass	<i>Dicentrarchus lobrax</i>	0	14



Results

- At Ferry Bridge, **Sand Smelt** was most abundant with a mean length of **88 mm** and mean relative abundance of **59%** across both nets. **Pollack** had a mean relative abundance of **35%** and mean length of **61 mm** across both nets.
- At Langton Hive, was **Golden Grey Mullet** was most abundant with a mean length of **82 mm** and mean relative abundance of **34%** across both nets.
- Some Gobys were unable to be identified to a species level however were most likely sand or common gobys. **Goby spp.** had a mean relative abundance of **34%** and mean length of **41 mm** across both nets.