

Journal Name:	Journal of Biology and Nature
Manuscript Number:	Ms_JOBAN_12302
Title of the Manuscript:	Population Dynamics and Stock Status of the Round Sardinella (<i>Sardinella aurita</i>, Valenciennes, 1847) in the Coastal Waters of Côte d'Ivoire (West Africa).
Type of the Article	

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This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

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PART 1: Review Comments

Compulsory REVISION comments	Reviewer's comment	Author's Feedback (<i>Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here</i>)
Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. Why do you like (or dislike) this manuscript? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.	This manuscript is important for the scientific community as it provides critical data on the population dynamics of <i>Sardinella aurita</i>, a significant species in Côte d'Ivoire's coastal waters. The study's detailed analysis of growth, mortality, and recruitment patterns offers valuable insights for sustainable fishery management, addressing the pressing issue of overfishing. Additionally, the use of comprehensive statistical tools and models enhances the robustness of the findings, making it a valuable resource for future research and policy-making. I appreciate the manuscript's thorough methodology and its contribution to the field, despite some concerns about the variability in parameters and the need for more consistent sampling methods.	
Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)	yes	
Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.	yes	
Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?	yes	

<p>Please write a few sentences regarding the scientific correctness of this manuscript. Why do you think that this manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</p>	<p>This manuscript demonstrates scientific robustness and technical soundness through its meticulous methodology and use of established statistical tools, such as FiSAT II, for data analysis. The thorough collection of 2000 samples over a year and the detailed measurement of growth, mortality, and recruitment parameters ensure the reliability of the results. The application of well-known models, like the Von Bertalanffy growth model and Beverton and Holt yield per recruit model, further supports the scientific validity of the findings. Additionally, the comprehensive discussion section contextualizes the results within existing literature, highlighting the study's contributions and addressing potential discrepancies with other research.</p>	
<p>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.</p>	<p>yes</p>	

<p><u>Minor REVISION</u> comments</p> <p>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>	<p>good</p>	
<p><u>Optional/General</u> comments</p>	<p>The document outlines several disadvantages of the research on <i>Sardinella aurita</i> within Côte d'Ivoire's coastal waters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Higher Current Exploitation Rate: Despite being classified as underexploited, the current exploitation rate exceeds the sustainable rate (E0.5), which could lead to overfishing if not managed properly 【9:0†source】 . 2. Variability in Growth Parameters: The growth coefficient (K) and other parameters vary significantly between different studies, likely due to differences in sampling methods and fishing gears. This variability complicates the comparison and interpretation of results 【9:1†source】 . 3. Short Lifespan: <i>Sardinella aurita</i> has a fast growth rate and a short lifespan, which may make the population more vulnerable to overfishing and environmental changes 【9:1†source】 . 4. Impact of Fishing Pressure: Increased fishing pressure can reduce the average size of the fish, which in turn can affect the reproductive capacity and sustainability of the stock 【9:1†source】 . 5. Need for Sustainable Management Measures: The study highlights the need for measures to control the exploitation rate, including regulation of fishing effort and mesh size of fishing gears. Without these measures, the species could be at risk 【9:0†source】 【9:4†source】 . 6. Juvenile Recruitment: The recruitment of juveniles into the 	

	<p>stock occurs shortly after birth, which might not provide enough time for the population to mature and replenish adequately before being subjected to fishing pressure 【9:1†source】 .</p> <p>These points indicate that while the study provides valuable insights into the population dynamics of <i>Sardinella aurita</i>, there are significant challenges and risks that need to be addressed to ensure the sustainable management of this fishery.</p>	
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PART 2:

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment <i>(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	

Reviewer Details:

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