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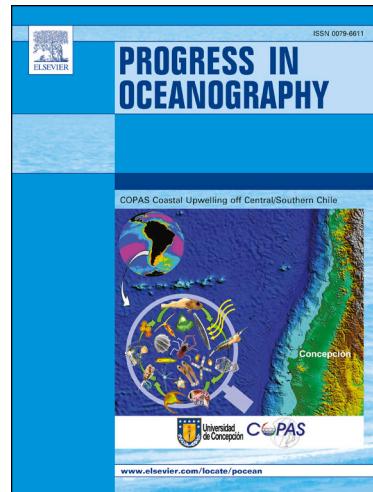
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Monitoring small pelagic fish in the Bay of Biscay ecosystem, using indicators from an integrated survey

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Keywords: Min/max autocorrelation factors; time correlation; survey-based indicators; Marine Strategy Framework Directive; ecosystem variability; Bay of Biscay; pelagic ecosystem

Highlights

- A method for selecting relevant ecosystem indicators is applied to PELGAS integrated survey
- River plume, bottom temperature, phyto & mesozooplankton selected as hydrobiology indicators
- Small pelagic fish species appear to have followed distinct trajectories over the last 15 years
- A marked decrease in mean weights of age 1&2 anchovy and sardine over the last 15 years is highlighted
- Low impact of fishing and no effect of climate forcing on pelagic ecosystem in spring are confirmed

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