The catchability of the European lobster (*Homarus gammarus*) and the edible crab (*Cancer pagurus*) around the island of Helgoland (North Sea, German Bight)

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**Commercial pot fishery** (1, 2)

At Helgoland waters, the population size of *H. gammarus* has declined dramatically since the 1960s, and commercial landings of lobsters have been fluctuating over the past decades at a low level of only a few hundred kg per year.

The main competitor of the lobster for food and shelter is the edible crab, *C. pagurus*.

**Monitoring 2010**

In 2010, lobsters and crabs were sampled with pots from February to November at three different stations.

The size of crabs increased while the percentage of females decreased with increasing water temperature. Berried crabs were not captured around Helgoland.

**References**