Outline of the joint Swedish and Danish fisheries research/fishing industry survey for cod in the Kattegat

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Introduction

Since 2003 the cod fishery in Kattegat has been restricted by steadily decreasing quotas due to low abundance of cod estimated from the cod assessment. ICES consider, however, the cod assessment in Kattegat uncertain due to the catch data quality and the analytic assessment has not been accepted by ACFM in recent years. The assessment has shown a discrepancy between the estimated fishing mortality and the reported landings and ICES assumed that the majority of the unallocated mortality was caused by discard, but other factors such as migration, non reported landings and reallocation of catches also could be part of the problem. Furthermore, the surveys conducted at present in the Kattegat area are not very suited for estimation of cod abundance mainly due to the low coverage and sampling intensity. The abundance estimate in the areas is hence rather uncertain and only shows trends in stock development, and the assessment of the cod stock would, without doubt, benefit significantly from a survey directly aimed at cod. The 5 August 2006 a tender was submitted by Swedish Board of Fisheries, Institute of Marine Research (IMR-SE) in response to the open call for tenders, Reference No FISH/2006/15 Studies and Pilot projects for carrying out the common fisheries policy, Lot No 3: "Evaluation of the pilot effort regime in Kattegat" from Directorate-General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs.

Both Swedish and Danish scientists and the fishermen's organisations aggress that the poor survey quality hampers the assessment of the cod stock in Kattegat and an expert group consisting of people from the fisherman's organisations and scientists has designed an improved survey. The initiative has been taken by the LOT 3 project group and was originally a strictly Swedish project. However, the involvement of Denmark has been considered as an improvement of the project and the survey has been designed in all details in agreement between fishers and scientists from both countries. The survey has been conducted since 2008 with a gap in 2012 and only Swedish vessels participating in 2013. The survey strata has been moderated slightly since 2013 to take into account the closed area very a separate strata has been placed.

The goal

The goal of the Kattegat cod survey is to estimate the abundance, biomass and distribution of cod and to establish a fisheries independent time series of catch and effort series. Furthermore, a recruitment index will be established. The results should be used, together with commercial catch and effort data to strengthen the scientific advice on the cod stock in Kattegat. The survey will also monitor the amount and distribution of cod within the proposed "closed area" in order to analyse the effect of the closure.

Restrictions

The 4 commercial trawlers participating in the survey conduct the survey without any restrictions in the vessels quota, days at sea regulation and with dispensation from all by-catch regulations.

Survey design

Survey area

The survey area is restricted to the Kattegat area covering from Skagen, to the Tistlarna lighthouse and in south by an south-eastwards line between Ellekilde Hage and Lerbjerg and south-westwards by a line between Gniben og Hassensør on Djursland. Further, the area is restricted by the 20 m depth contour line and the area is split in areas "North" and "South" (Fig. 1). However, in two fjords Laholmsbugten and Skældervigen fishing at stations shallower than 20 meter will take place and 1 or two stations will be placed in a small area in The Sound "Kilen".

Survey method and stratification

The survey is designed as a random stratified bottom trawl survey. The survey area is since 2013 stratified in four strata: a stratum with high cod density, a stratum with medium density and a stratum with low cod density based on information from the fishers a forth strata has been designate to make sure not stations are placed within the closed area. Each stratum is further subdivided in 5*5 nm squares. Most stations according to the area are allocated to the high density stratum. In the forthcoming years stations will be allocated to the different strata in order to minimize the variance of the estimation of the cod biomass. The survey design allows a post-stratification of the survey area if necessary without loosing comparability with previous surveys and hence to take changes in the main focus area into account if the stock distribution is changing between years or the stock is increasing or decreasing.

Station (tow) location

The survey is planed with in average 3.3 trawl hauls per day in 6 days for each of the 4 vessels i.e in total 80 trawl hauls. The hauls are allocated randomly to the 5*5 nm squares and each vessel is allocated 20 different squares. In the high and medium density strata several vessels are allowed to fish in the same square. In the low density stratum only one haul is allowed in each square. Furthermore the low density area is divided in a Southern and Northern area.

110	moers or station	b b j vebbel, biladalli	und ureu			
Ship	High density	Medium density	Low density	Low density	Closed	Total
			(South)	(North)	area	
Den ₁	6	5	7		2	20
Den ₂	6	5		7	2	20
Swe ₁	6	5	7		2	20
Swe ₂	6	5		7	2	20

Numbers of stations by vessel, stratum and area

Target species

The survey is directed to demersale species in Kattegat, but designed for cod. The catch of all species is, however, recorded and the survey results are also made available for the assessment of sole, plaice and Norwegian lobster.

Survey period

The survey will take place during the last week of November/ 1 week of December 2015. There is planned with 6 fishing days for each vessel. The survey period can, however, be extended in case

of bad weather or technical problems. Trawling is restricted to 15 min. before sunrise to 15 min. after sun set.

Vessels and Fishing gear

Vessels

The survey is conducted by four commercial chartered trawlers, two covering the northern and two the southern area, respectively. Two vessels are Swedish and the other two are Danish. The vessels have been appointed due to the similarity in engine power, length and applicability for scientific investigations.

DK-Vessel 1

Danish participant	1 (SG 25, Anni Holm)
Engine (KW):	
Tonnage (BRT):	48
Length (m):	17,5
Door type/size	
Owner	Gert Anker Pedersen

DK-Vessel 2

2 (FN261- Stjerne)				
220 kW				
20				
17				
John Jerup				

SW-Vessel 1

Swedish participant	1 (VG 37 – Ganler)	
Engine (KW):	373 kW	
Tonnage (BRT):	74	
Length (m):	17.94	
Door type/size		
Owner	Kjell Svahn	Comment [MARST1]: New ship ?
	•	

SW-Vessel 2

Swedish participant	2 (VG 104 – Tärnan)
Engine (KW):	272 kW

Tonnage (BRT):	68
Length (m):	15.73
Door type/size	
Owner	Börje Nilsson

Gear

The trawl is a commercial bottom trawl provided by the LOT 3 project.

Trawl (see annex): A Swedish TV-trawl 112 ft 24-464 13 pieces of 8'' balls and 16 pieces of 6'' balls. 4 thumps rubber discs at 10 cm Mesh size in cod end: 70 mm stretch mesh. Otter boards: 64''-66" "Thyborøn" Warp: 35 mm.

Mellem liner der benyttes må i 2015 varierer i længden mellem 54 og 154 meter. "Grimdelen" på 27 meter skal bi- beholdes hvilket gives en total længde på mellem 81 og 181 meter. Det er bare vigtigt at notere hvor lang en line der er benyttet.

The trawls are checked continuously during the survey.

Fishing operation

Within each square the skipper decides on the best way to fish at the location (e.g. exact position, tow direction). Such an approach has been used successfully in the north-eastern North Sea and the Skagerrak in comparable projects (Wieland et al. 2008).

Maximum 5 min of the total trawling time should be outside the allocated square. If the 5 minutes are exceeded the haul should be terminated. Trawl procedure:

Towing time: 60 min (towing time down to 20 min is accepted).

Towing speed: Between 2.7 kn. and 3.4 over the seabed, but speed should not vary within a station. Hauls start: when the trawl is considered going stable on the bottom, roughly 5-7 min after wires are connected.

Haul end: when hauling back starts.

Trawled distance: is estimated from the plotter.

Sampling of catch

There will be two technicians/scientists from DTU-Aqua (Danish vessels) or from SLU – Aqua (Swedish vessels), who will be responsible for processing the catch, on board each vessel. However, the crew should help the scientific staff whenever possible.

The catch will be processed in accordance with BITS standard operating procedures for trawl surveys. After each haul the catch is sorted by species and weighed to nearest 0.1 kg and the number of specimens recorded. All fish species are measured as total length (TL) to 1.0 cm below. Norwegian lobster is measured in mm.

Cod otoliths (2 per cm group) are sampled for age determination by each vessel in each of the two areas.

Additional scientific samples can be collected if requested (genetic, tagging, frozen samples, etc.).

Screening of data

All trawl data (position, wingspread, towing speed etc.) and catch and length frequency data on sole, cod, plaice and Norwegian lobster are screened for unrealistic figures before further estimations.

Data

Data are stored in a standard data base and can will, if the survey continues, be uploaded to the ICES DATRAS system.

Estimation of stock indices

CPUE CPUE is estimated as mean catch (kg or number) per hour (cod also number by age per hour).

Biomass and abundance

Hence no stations are deeper than 100 m, biomass and abundance is estimated for depths between 20 and 100 m. The survey area is stratified in density strata and the area between 20 and 100 m has been estimated. The total survey area is 19037.6 km^2 (Table 1).

Biomass and abundance estimates is based on the randomly selected stations and obtained by applying the swept area method:

Swept area= (estimated trawling speed *1.852)* wing spread * trawling time/60

using the recorded towing speed, wing spread and trawling time and taking the catchability coefficient as 1.0 and the stratum area as weighting factor (Cohran, 1977).

All catches are standardized to 1 km² swept prior to further calculations.

Reporting

The survey results are reported to WGBAFS as a working document. The document includes information about aerial distribution, CPUE, biomass, abundance and length frequencies on cod, sole, plaice and Norwegian lobster together with age distribution of cod.

References

Cochran, W.G. 1977. Sampling Techniques. Third edition. Wiley & Sons.

ICES. 2005. Report of the Workshop on Survey Design and Data Analysis (WKSAD). ICES CM 2005/ B:07, 174 pp.

Wieland, K. and Storr-Paulsen, M. 2006. Effect of tow duration on catch and size composition of Northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) and Greenland halibut (*Reinhardtius hippoglossoides*) in the West Greenland Bottom trawl survey. Fisheries Research 78: 276-285.

Wieland, K., E.M. Fenger Pedersen, H.J. Olesen & J.E. Beyer (2008): Survey results from a Danish collaborative biologist-fishermen project on spatially-explicit management methods (REX) for North Sea cod. Working document, ICES WGNSSK, 7.-13. May 2008.

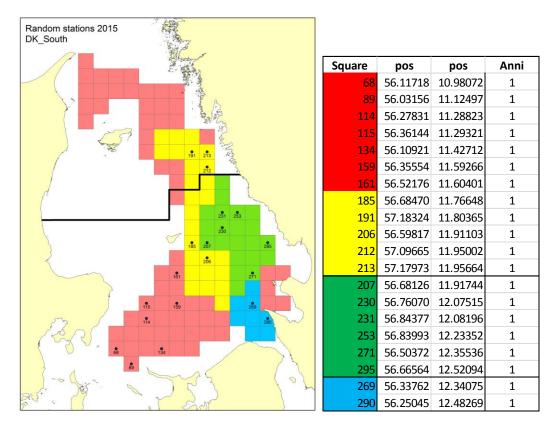


Fig. 1. Distribution of hauls by type and ICES squares. The black dots indicate stations from the southern Danish vessel Annie Holm.

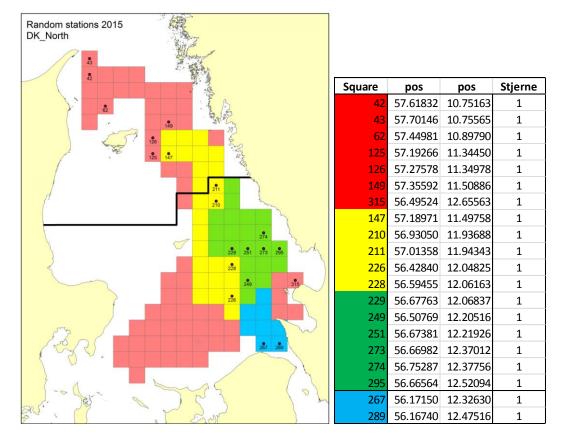


Fig. 2. Distribution of hauls by type and ICES squares. The black dots indicate stations from the northern Danish vessel "Stjerne".

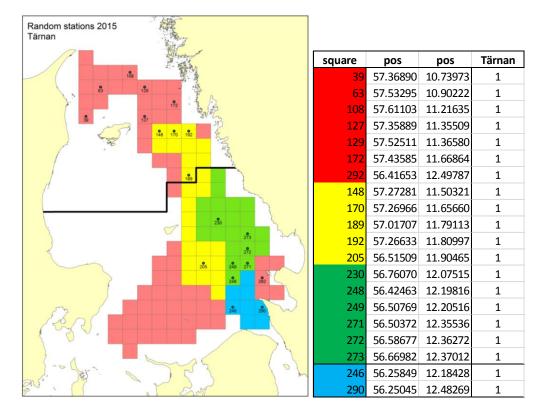


Fig. 3. Distribution of hauls by type and ICES squares. The black dots indicate stations from the northern Swedish vessel Tärnan.

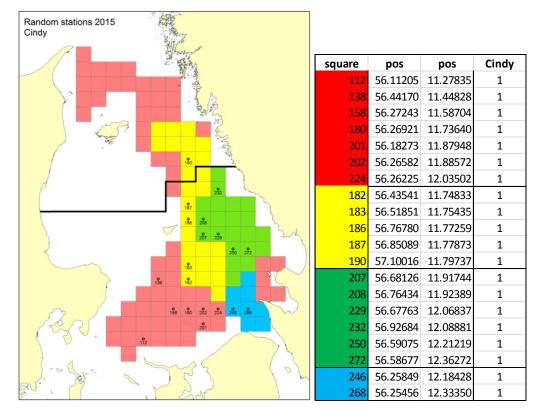


Fig. 4. Distribution of hauls by type and ICES squares. The black dots indicate stations from the southern Swedish vessel.

Table 1. Area (km²) 20-120 m depth by depth area.

High density	Medium density	Low	Closed area	All
	-	density		
21 squares	26 squares	65 squares	8 squares	120 squares
1800.8 km ²	2229.5 km ²	5573.8 km ²	686 km ²	10290 km ²

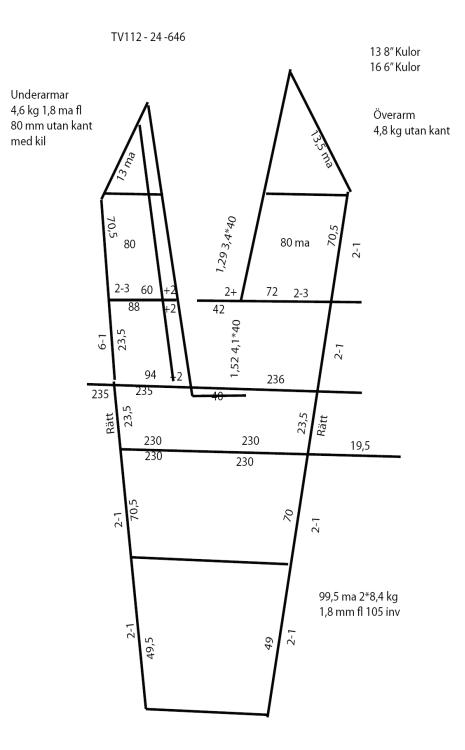
Square	pos	pos	Tärnan	Cindy	Stjerne	Anni
39	57.36890	10.73973	1			
40	57.45204	10.74367				
41	57.53518	10.74764				
42	57.61832	10.75163			1	
43	57.70146	10.75565			1	
62	57.44981	10.89790			1	
63	57.53295	10.90222	1			
64	57.61608	10.90656				
85	57.53052	11.05677				
86	57.61365	11.06147				
107	57.52791	11.21130				
108	57.61103	11.21635	1			
125	57.19266	11.34450			1	
126	57.27578	11.34978			1	
127	57.35889	11.35509	1			
128	57.44200	11.36043				
129	57.52511	11.36580	1			
146	57.10660	11.49198				
149	57.35592	11.50886			1	
150	57.43902	11.51455				
151	57.52212	11.52027				
166	56.93727	11.63291				
167	57.02037	11.63879				
168	57.10347	11.64469				
171	57.35276	11.66261				
172	57.43585	11.66864	1			
173	57.51894	11.67471				
214	57.26280	11.96330				
291	56.33349	12.49026				
292	56.41653	12.49787	1			
293	56.49957	12.50551				
313	56.32919	12.63972				
315	56.49524	12.65563			1	
68	56.11718	10.98072				1
69	56.20033	10.98501				
89	56.03156	11.12497				1
90	56.11470	11.12955				
91	56.19785	11.13415				
92	56.28098	11.13878				
112	56.11205	11.27835		1		
113	56.19518	11.28327				
114	56.27831	11.28823				1
115	56.36144	11.29321				1
134	56.10921	11.42712				1
135	56.19234	11.43237				
136	56.27546	11.43765				
137	56.35858	11.44295				
138	56.44170	11.44828		1		
139	56.52482	11.45364				
156	56.10620	11.57587				
157	56.18931	11.58144				
158	56.27243	11.58704		1		
159	56.35554	11.59266				1
160	56.43865	11.59832				
161	56.52176	11.60401				1
162	56.60486	11.60973				
178	56.10301	11.72459				
179	56.18611	11.73047				
180	56.26921	11.73640		1		
181	56.35231	11.74235				
201	56.18273	11.87948		1		
202	56.26582	11.88572		1		
203	56.34891	11.89200				
223	56.17917	12.02845				
224	56.26225	12.03502		1		

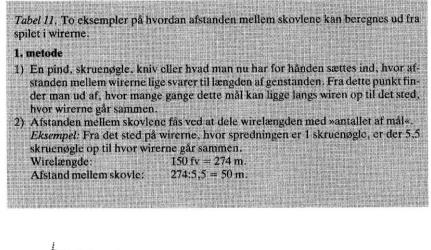
Table 2. All selected stations for the 2015 cod survey

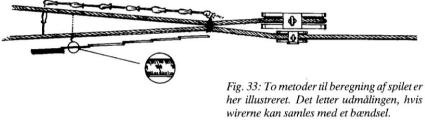
Square	pos	pos	Tärnan	Cindy	Stjerne	Anni
147	57.18971	11.49758			1	
148	57.27281	11.50321	1			
169	57.18657	11.65063				
170	57.26966	11.65660	1			
182	56.43541	11.74833		1		
183	56.51851	11.75435		1		
184	56.60161	11.76040				
185	56.68470	11.76648				1
186	56.76780	11.77259		1		
187	56.85089	11.77873		1		
188	56.93398	11.78491				
189	57.01707	11.79113	1			
190	57.10016	11.79737		1		
191	57.18324	11.80365				1
192	57.26633	11.80997	1			
204	56.43200	11.89831				
205	56.51509	11.90465	1			
206	56.59817	11.91103				1
210	56.93050	11.93688			1	_
211	57.01358	11.94343			1	
212	57.09665	11.95002				1
213	57.17973	11.95664				1
225	56.34533	12.04162				_
226	56.42840	12.04825			1	
227	56.51148	12.05492			-	
228	56.59455	12.06163			1	
207	56.68126	11.91744		1	-	1
208	56.76434	11.92389		1		
209	56.84742	11.93037		-		
229	56.67763	12.06837		1	1	
230	56.76070	12.07515	1	-	-	1
231	56.84377	12.08196	-			1
232	56.92684	12.08881		1		_
233	57.00990	12.09570		-		
248	56.42463	12.19816	1			
249	56.50769	12.20516	1		1	
250	56.59075	12.21219	-	1	-	
250	56.67381	12.21215		-	1	
252	56.75687	12.22637			-	
253	56.83993	12.23352				1
271	56.50372	12.35536	1			1
271	56.58677	12.36272	1	1		±
273	56.66982	12.37012	1	-	1	
273	56.75287	12.37756	-		1	
275	56.83591	12.38504			-	
294	56.58261	12.51320				
295	56.66564	12.52094			1	1
235	56.25849	12.18428	1	1	-	-
247	56.34156	12.19120	-	_		
247	56.17150	12.32630			1	
268	56.25456	12.33350		1	-	
269	56.33762	12.33550		-		1
209	56.42067	12.34073				Ŧ
270	56.16740	12.34803			1	
289	56.25045	12.47310	1		1	1
290	50.25045	12.48269	1			1

Station all	logatio								
			0		0		01-1-1-1	O	
Station Ce			Station	- 4	Center_y	center_x	Station	Center_y	center_x
		10.52753		51	56.53524	10.85190	101	57.02918	11.18159
		10.53082		52	56.61839	10.85597	102	57.11230	11.18647
		10.53412		53	56.70154	10.86006	103	57.19543	11.19138
		10.53744		54	56.78469	10.86418	104	57.27855	11.19632
		10.54078		55	56.86783	10.86831	105	57.36167	11.20129
		10.54413		56	56.95098	10.87247	106	57.44479	11.20628
		10.54751		57	57.03412	10.87665	107	57.52791	11.21130
		10.55090		58	57.11726	10.88086	108	57.61103	11.21635
		10.55431		59	57.20040	10.88508	109	57.69414	11.22142
		10.55773		60	57.28354	10.88933	110	55.94578	11.26857
		10.56118		61	57.36668	10.89360	111	56.02891	11.27345
		10.56464		62	57.44981	10.89790	112	56.11205	11.27835
		10.56813		63	57.53295	10.90222	113	56.19518	11.28327
		10.57163		64	57.61608	10.90656	114	56.27831	11.28823
		10.57515		65	57.69921	10.91093	115	56.36144	11.29321
		10.57869		66	55.95088	10.97222	116	56.44457	11.29821
		10.58225		67	56.03403	10.97646	117	56.52770	11.30325
		10.58583		68	56.11718	10.98072	118	56.61082	11.30831
		10.58943		69	56.20033	10.98501	119	56.69395	11.31339
		10.59304		70	56.28348	10.98931	120	56.77707	11.31851
20 57	.62038	10.59668		71	56.36662	10.99365	121	56.86019	11.32365
21 57	7.70352	10.60034		72	56.44977	10.99800	122	56.94331	11.32882
22 55	5.95527	10.67578		73	56.53291	11.00237	123	57.02643	11.33402
23 56	6.03843	10.67939		74	56.61605	11.00678	124	57.10955	11.33924
24 56	6.12160	10.68301		75	56.69919	11.01120	125	57.19266	11.34450
25 56	6.20476	10.68665		76	56.78233	11.01565	126	57.27578	11.34978
26 56	6.28792	10.69031		77	56.86547	11.02012	127	57.35889	11.35509
27 56	6.37108	10.69399		78	56.94861	11.02461	128	57.44200	11.36043
28 56	6.45424	10.69769		79	57.03174	11.02913	129	57.52511	11.36580
29 56	6.53740	10.70141		80	57.11488	11.03368	130	57.60822	11.37120
30 56	62055	10.70515		81	57.19801	11.03825	131	57.69132	11.37663
31 56	6.70371	10.70891		82	57.28114	11.04284	132	55.94296	11.41671
32 56	6.78686	10.71269		83	57.36427	11.04746	133	56.02609	11.42190
33 56	6.87001	10.71649		84	57.44740	11.05210	134	56.10921	11.42712
34 56	6.95316	10.72031		85	57.53052	11.05677	135	56.19234	11.43237
35 57	.03631	10.72415		86	57.61365	11.06147	136	56.27546	11.43765
36 57	.11946	10.72801		87	57.69677	11.06619	137	56.35858	11.44295
37 57	.20261	10.73190		88	55.94842	11.12041	138	56.44170	11.44828
38 57	.28575	10.73580		89	56.03156	11.12497	139	56.52482	11.45364
39 57	.36890	10.73973		90	56.11470	11.12955	140	56.60793	11.45903
40 57	.45204	10.74367		91	56.19785	11.13415	141	56.69105	11.46445
41 57	.53518	10.74764		92	56.28098	11.13878	142	56.77416	11.46990
42 57	.61832	10.75163		93	56.36412	11.14344	143	56.85727	11.47537
43 57	.70146	10.75565		94	56.44726	11.14812	144	56.94038	11.48088
44 55	5.95316	10.82401		95	56.53039	11.15282	145	57.02349	11.48642
		10.82793		96	56.61353	11.15755	146	57.10660	11.49198
		10.83188		97	56.69666	11.16231	147	57.18971	11.49758
		10.83584		98	56.77979	11.16709	148	57.27281	11.50321
		10.83982		99	56.86292	11.17190	149	57.35592	11.50886
		10.84383	1	00	56.94605	11.17673	150	57.43902	11.51455
		10.84786							

Station	Contor v	center_x	Station	Contor v	center_x	Station	Contor y	center_x	Station	Center_y	contor v
		11.52027		56.18273				12.21926		57.16382	
		11.52602		56.26582	11.88572	251		12.21920		57.24684	
		11.53180	202		11.89200	252		12.22057	302		12.58431
		11.56482	203	56.43200	11.89831	253		12.23552	303		12.59242
		11.57033	204	56.51509	11.90465	254		12.24071	304		12.60058
		11.57587	205		11.90403	255		12.24793	305		12.60879
		11.57587			11.91744	250		12.26250	300		12.61704
		11.58704	207	56.76434		257		12.26250	307		12.60069
		11.59266	209		11.93037	259		12.27723	309		12.60841
		11.59832	210		11.93688	260		12.28465	310		12.61618
		11.60401	211	57.01358	11.94343	261		12.29212	311		
		11.60973		57.09665	11.95002	262		12.29962	312		12.63183
		11.61548		57.17973	11.95664	263	57.67041		313		12.63972
		11.62126		57.26280	11.96330	264		12.30490	314		12.64766
		11.62707		57.34587	11.96999	265		12.31199	315		12.65563
		11.63291	216			266		12.31913	316		12.66365
		11.63879		57.51201	11.98349	267		12.32630	317		12.67171
		11.64469	218	57.59508	11.99029	268		12.33350	318		
		11.65063		57.67814		269		12.34075	319		12.68796
		11.65660	220	55.92991	12.00897	270		12.34803	320		12.69615
		11.66261	221	56.01300	12.01543	271		12.35536	321		12.70439
		11.66864		56.09608	12.02192	272		12.36272	322		12.71267
		11.67471	223	56.17917	12.02845	273		12.37012	323		12.72099
		11.68081	224		12.03502	274		12.37756	324		12.72936
175	57.68511	11.68695	225		12.04162	275	56.83591	12.38504	325		12.73778
		11.71290	226	56.42840	12.04825	276	56.91895	12.39256	326	57.40839	12.74624
		11.71873	227		12.05492	277		12.40013	327		12.75475
178	56.10301	11.72459	228	56.59455	12.06163	278	57.08504	12.40773	328	57.57440	12.76330
		11.73047	229	56.67763	12.06837	279	57.16807	12.41537	329		12.77190
180	56.26921	11.73640	230	56.76070	12.07515	280	57.25111	12.42306	330	55.90961	12.74852
		11.74235	231	56.84377		281		12.43079	331	55.99263	12.75656
		11.74833	232	56.92684	12.08881	282		12.43856	332		12.76464
183	56.51851	11.75435	233	57.00990	12.09570	283	57.50021	12.44637	333	56.15867	12.77277
184	56.60161	11.76040	234	57.09297	12.10263	284	57.58324	12.45423	334	56.24168	12.78094
185	56.68470	11.76648	235	57.17603	12.10959	285	57.66626	12.46212	335	56.32470	12.78915
186	56.76780	11.77259	236	57.25909	12.11659	286	55.91826	12.45281	336	56.40771	12.79741
187	56.85089	11.77873	237	57.34215	12.12363	287	56.00131	12.46022	337	56.49072	12.80571
188	56.93398	11.78491	238	57.42521	12.13071	288	56.08436	12.46767	338	56.57373	12.81405
189	57.01707	11.79113	239	57.50827	12.13782	289	56.16740	12.47516	339	56.65674	12.82244
190	57.10016	11.79737	240	57.59132	12.14498	290	56.25045	12.48269	340	56.73975	12.83088
191	57.18324	11.80365	241	57.67437	12.15217	291	56.33349	12.49026	341	56.82275	12.83936
192	57.26633	11.80997	242	55.92621	12.15695	292	56.41653	12.49787	342	56.90575	12.84788
193	57.34941	11.81632	243	56.00928	12.16373	293	56.49957	12.50551	343	56.98875	12.85645
194	57.43249	11.82270	244	56.09235	12.17054	294	56.58261	12.51320	344	57.07175	12.86507
195	57.51557	11.82912	245	56.17542	12.17739	295	56.66564	12.52094	345	57.15475	12.87374
196	57.59865	11.83557	246	56.25849	12.18428	296	56.74868	12.52871	346	57.23774	12.88245
197	57.68172	11.84206	247	56.34156	12.19120	297	56.83171	12.53652	347	57.32073	12.89121
198	55.93344	11.86095	248	56.42463	12.19816	298	56.91474	12.54438	348	57.40372	12.90001
199	56.01654	11.86709	249	56.50769	12.20516	299	56.99777	12.55228	349	57.48671	12.90887
200	56.09963	11.87327	250	56.59075	12.21219	300	57.08079	12.56022	350	57.56969	12.91777
									351	57.65268	12.92672







2. metode	
	ne 1 meter fra, hvor de går sammen.
	virelængden giver afstanden mellem skovlene.
Eksempel: Spredningen på 1	
Wirelængde:	150 fv = 274 m
Afstand mellem skovle:	$0.18 \times 274 = 49 \text{ m}$