Slipping through our hands. Population of the European Eel

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Citation for published version (APA):

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Curriculum Vitae

Willem Dekker was born on Saturday February 11, 1956 in Doorn (Utrecht), the Netherlands. Following elementary school in Driebergen and Almelo, he got his secondary education (Gymnasium B) at the Erasmus Lyceum in Almelo. Since 1974, he studied at Groningen University, and in 1983 he received his MSc in Animal Ecology (subsidiaries in Population Genetics and Fisheries Biology) with the qualification cum laude. A major part of his MSc training concerned the mathematical analysis of the multispecies models of the North Sea fisheries, and the statistical analysis of prey size preference of North Sea cod. This work took place at the Netherlands Institute for Fisheries Research RIVO in IJmuiden.

Since 1984, he has been permanently employed at RIVO in IJmuiden - initially as computer programmer, but soon as fisheries biologist, focusing on the inland eel fisheries. From 1989 onwards, he has been Head of the Inland Fisheries Department for some years. As time passed by, political priorities altered, necessitating shifts in his research portfolio: around 1990, research on the typical inland fisheries (outside Lake IJsselmeer) was discontinued and further staff reductions diluted the eel research completely. Finally, from 2000 to 2002, when he received a RIVO-specific part-time grant (Strategische Expertise Ontwikkeling, Strategic Development of Expertise), he decided to return to his initial research theme: the population dynamics of the eel. This grant has enabled (completion of) most of the research presented in this thesis.

Willem Dekker has been a member of the Eel Working Party of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Committee EIFAC, and of the Eel Working Group of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea ICES, both since 1985. He has participated in international research projects on eel, and initiated and coordinated the international project on glasseeel monitoring (Dekker (ed.) 2002), covering 19 countries in Europe and the Mediterranean area. He has chaired the ICES Working Group from 1988 to 1991, whereafter this Group was merged with the EIFAC Eel Working Party. Since 1997, he has hold the chair of this combined Working Group.
A. Paul Weber 1974: Tote Fische - denn sie wissen nicht, was sie tun!