

Development of a novel NIRS method for estimating the age of tropical fish from otoliths

Brett Wedding, Carole Wright, Steve Grauf, Paul Exley, Andrew Forrest and Sue Poole

Introduction

translucent fast summer growth and opaque slow winter growth rings. Different fish species have otoliths of different shapes and sizes.

Conventional methods of fish age estimation are based on the examination and interpretation of these translucent or opaque growth rings in otoliths. Estimation of fish age by otolith increment analysis can be a time consuming, labour intensive and an expensive process.

Presently, no rapid, objective and widely applicable method exists to determine the age of fish. In this preliminary study the potential of Fourier Transform (FT) - near infrared spectroscopy (NIRS) was investigated as a tool to predict the age of