

Models for Quality Assurance Standards

What areas of activities and expertise match fish age estimation?

What is unique about fish age estimation?

- Incorporates variability between fish
- Requires interpretation of details
- Based on visual examination

What other activities match?

- Age estimation in Wildlife Sciences
- Age estimation in Forensic Sciences
- Photo interpretation – Landscape surveys

- Wine tasting!

What is required?

- Reliability
- Documentation of procedures
- Checking that procedures are followed
- Acceptance of techniques used

What do these models offer?

- Accept interpretive nature of ‘assay’
- Better fit to fish age estimation than analytical methods
- Emphasize documentation and training
- Emphasize community of experts

Sources

- AGFAD: Working party for forensic age determination
 - www.charite.de/rechtsmedizin/agfad/content.htm
- Research work on quality assurance in age estimation for forensic work
 - <http://nrg.ncl.ac.uk/research/>
- Quality assurance in Forensic Odontology
 - International Organisation for forensic odonto–stomatology
 - www.odont.uio.no/foreninger/iofos/quality/quality_assuarance.htm
- QA procedures for Photo Interpretation
 - <http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/risc>