Supplementary material 3: Whiting catches by grey seals for the stock assessment models including and omitting the 2001-2005 survey data

Figure S3.1 shows the consequences of omitting the survey data (2001-2005) in the estimation of whiting consumption by grey seals for the two stock assessments models (models A and B).

Figure S3.1: Estimated seal catches of whiting from the model A (solid line) and the model B (dashed line) when all the survey data is included (black) and omitting the survey data from 2001 to 2005 (red). The dots represent the observed consumption values in 1985 and 2002.

Whether or not all the survey data is considered does not change much the estimates in 1985 and 2002. However, the unrealistic spike in seal consumption in 2004-2005 is substantially reduced by omitting the survey data. This motivated the choice to omit survey data from 2001-2005 in the models for further analyses.