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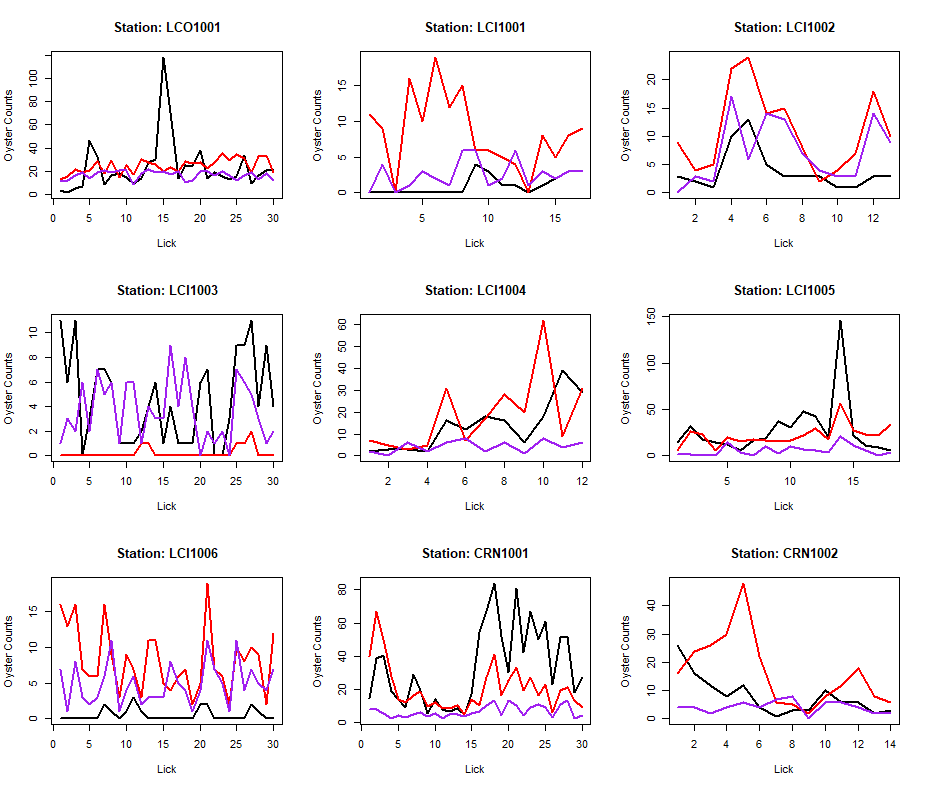
Analysis of the subtidal or “tong” data

*Background*

Subtidal oyster counts data were collected pre-season on August 25 and 26, 2021. These data were collected by 5 vessels driven by: George Stevens, Gerald Allen, Jeanine Beckman, Jerald Beckham, and Jordan Adam. Each of the 5 vessels visited anywhere from 3 to 6 stations for sampling, with an average of 4.2 (sd = 1.10) stations per vessel. In total 17 stations were visited over these 2 days, with each station visited by between 1 and 4 vessels, with the majority of sites visited by a single vessel. Stations include one Lone Cabbage offshore site (LCO1001), 6 Lone Cabbage inshore sites (LCI1001-LCI1006), 6 Corrigan’s Reef nearshore sites (CRN1001-1006), and 3 Corrigan’s Reef offshore sites (CRO1001-1003).

*Analysis*

For each station, we plotted the mean oyster count averaged across all vessels (if multiple vessels sampled the same station) per lick (Figure 1). Only 2 stations – LCO1001 and CRN1001 – were sampled by multiple vessels. The mean counts show that there are similar oyster counts across the licks surveyed within a station. Additionally, at the majority of the sites the lowest counts were for oysters of size class 3 (>3 inches), with the highest counts for either size class 1 (< 1 inch) or size class 2 (1-3 inches). The exception being sites LCI1001, LCI1001, and LCI1006 which had very few oysters in size class 1. Station LCI1003 is the only site with the fewest oysters in size class 2.



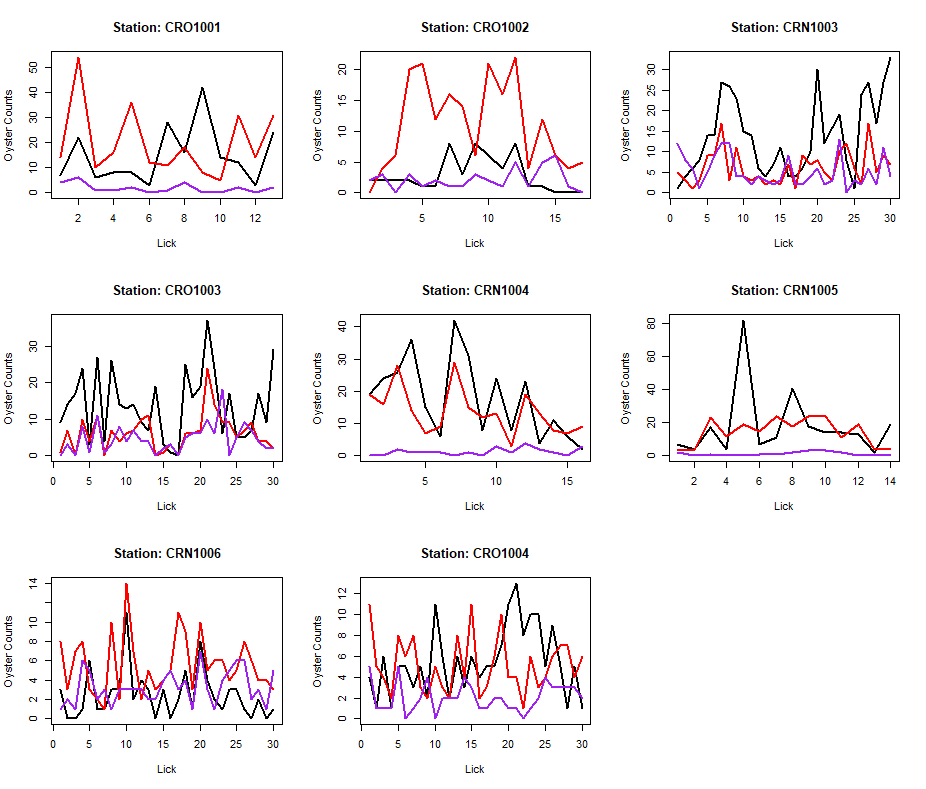
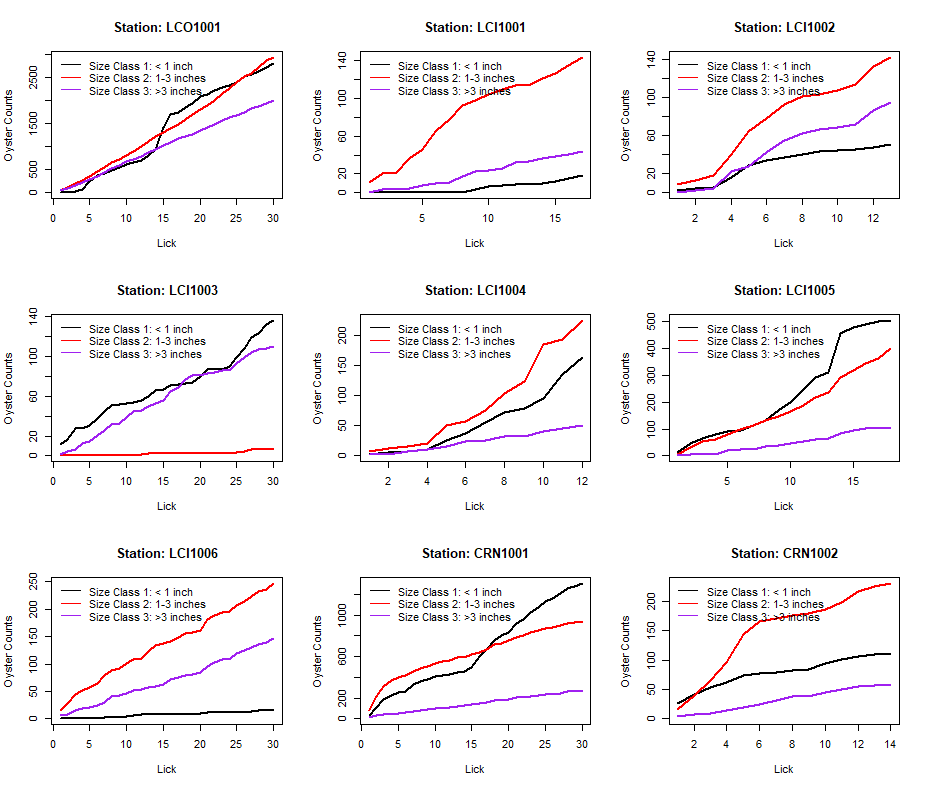


Figure : Mean number of oysters within each size class at each station per lick. Black lines correspond to oysters in size class 1 (< 1 inch), red lines correspond to oysters in size class 2 (1-3 inches), and purple lines correspond to oysters in size class 3 (> 3 inches).

We also plotted the cumulative counts per size class by lick for each station. If a station was visited by multiple vessels (LCO1001 and CRN1001) the counts were summed across all vessels for each lick. In 8 of the stations, the cumulative total oyster count was highest for size class 1 (< 1 inch) oysters. In 9 of the stations, oyster count was highest for size class 2 (1-3 inches) oysters. None of the stations had the highest oyster count for size class 3 (>3 inches) oysters.



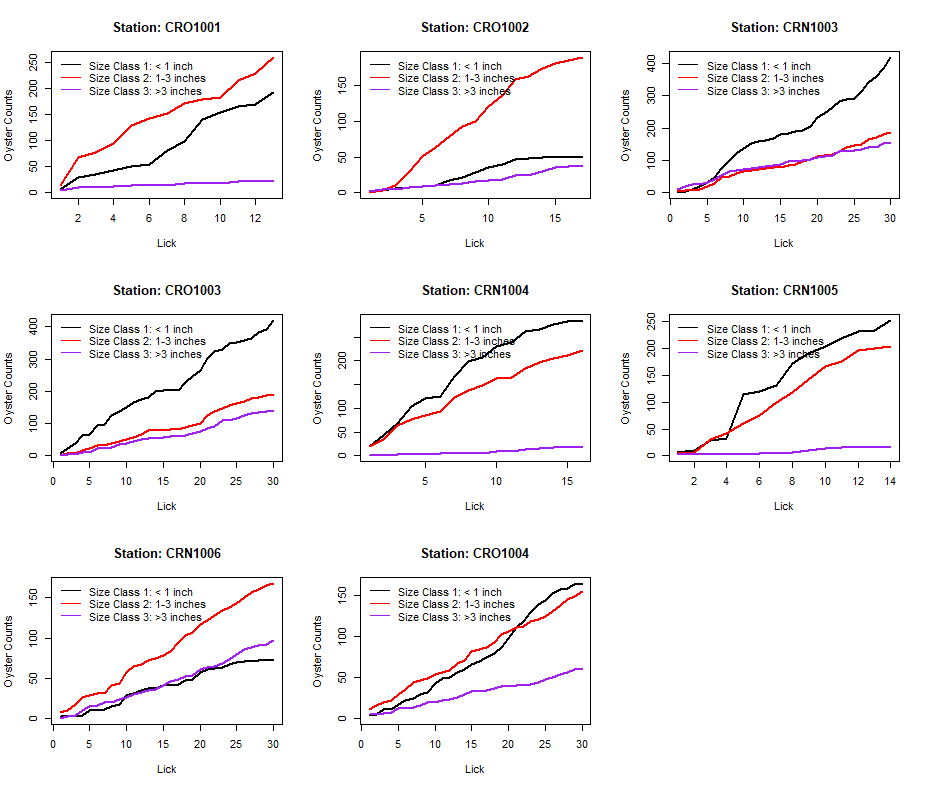


Figure : Cumulative oyster counts by oyster size class by station. Black lines correspond to oysters in size class 1 (< 1 inch), red lines correspond to oysters in size class 2 (1-3 inches), and purple lines correspond to oysters in size class 3 (> 3 inches).

*Discussion and Next-Steps*

This sampling should be conducted again post-season to compare counts between pre and post season to look for any difference in total counts or between size classes.