

## Appendix 2: Prior distributions and multinomial-dirichlet mixture

### Appendix 2.1

The following vague prior distributions were used in the model. Parameter descriptions associated with parameter symbols can be found in Table 1 of the main text:

Trap size selectivity parameters:

$$h_M^{max} \sim Uniform(0, 0.1)$$

$$h_M^A \sim Uniform(35, 60)$$

$$h_M^\sigma \sim Uniform(3, 10)$$

$$h_F^{max} \sim Uniform(0, 0.1)$$

$$h_F^k \sim Uniform(0.1, 1.5)$$

$$h_F^0 \sim Uniform(30, 100)$$

$$h_S^{max} \sim Uniform(0, 0.1)$$

$$h_S^k \sim Uniform(0.1, 1.5)$$

$$h_S^0 \sim Uniform(30, 100)$$

Natural mortality parameters:

$$\beta_\alpha \sim Uniform(0, 50)$$

$$\beta_\theta \sim Uniform(0, 150)$$

$$\alpha \sim Uniform(0, 10000)$$

Overwinter mortality parameters:

$$\alpha_{\alpha}^o \sim Uniform(0, 50)$$

$$\alpha_{\theta}^o \sim Uniform(0, 150)$$

Seasonal growth parameters:

$$\sigma^G \sim Uniform(0.01, 4)$$

Overdispersion observation process (see Appendix 2.2):

$$\rho \sim Beta(1, 1)$$

Initial population density and annual recruitment:

$$\mu^A \sim Uniform(3.25, 4.5)$$

$$\sigma^A \sim Uniform(0.1, 1)$$

$$\mu^R \sim Uniform(1, 25)$$

$$\sigma^R \sim Uniform(0.01, 20)$$

$$\mu^{\lambda} \sim Uniform(1, 1000000)$$

$$\sigma^{\lambda} \sim Uniform(0, 10000)$$

$$\lambda^A \sim Uniform(1, 1000000)$$

Since the model was estimated hierarchically, with the seasonal growth model was estimated first with the size-at-age data (D2), and the marginal posterior distributions from this first model were used in the second model with the time series data (D1) and mark-recapture data (D3). Informative priors used in the second model for parameters  $C$ ,  $k$ ,  $y[infty]$ ,  $\tau_y$ , and  $t_s$  can be found in Table A1.2 in Appendix 1.2.4.

## Appendix 2.2

The parameter  $\alpha_{t,j,i,y}^D$  described in the main text governs the mean and variance of the multinomial-dirichlet mixture distribution and generates the observed conditional probability of capture,  $p_{t,j,i,y}^C$ , across individual traps from the mean conditional probability of capture,  $\tilde{p}_{t,j,i,y}^C$ .

The parameter  $\alpha_{t,j,i,y}^D$  is linked to the sampled parameter,  $\rho$ :

$$\alpha_{t,j,i,y}^D = \tilde{p}_{t,j,i,y}^C \times p^D$$

$$p^D = \frac{1 - \rho}{\rho}$$