

# Recruitment

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# What is recruitment?

A more difficult question than you might imagine...

- When an organism “enters a” or “is available for” harvest
- When a young organism’s survival is density dependent

# Fish recruitment

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Adults                    ->              Eggs

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Eggs                    ->              Larvae

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Larvae                    ->              Juveniles

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Juveniles                    ->              Recruits

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Recruits                    ->              Adults

# MSY vs. Recruitment

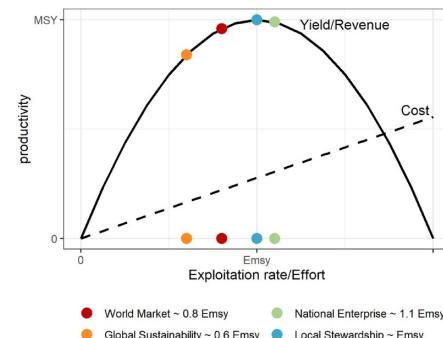
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MSY

Simple

Based on biomass

Assumes equilibrium

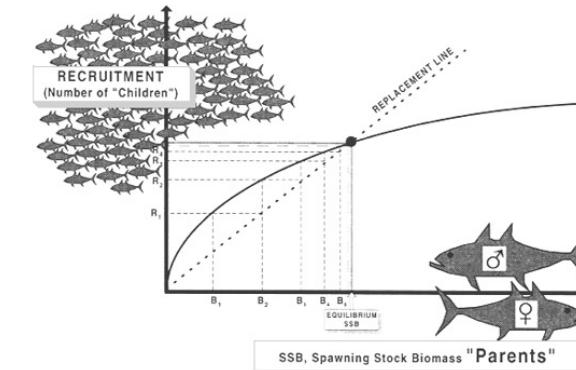


RECRUITMENT

More structured

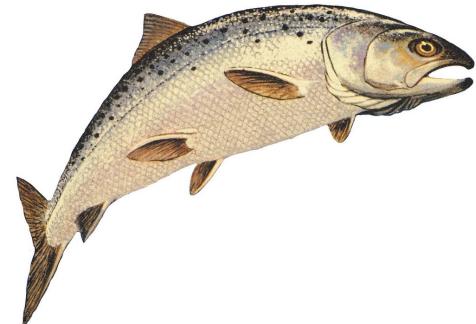
Numbers/biomass

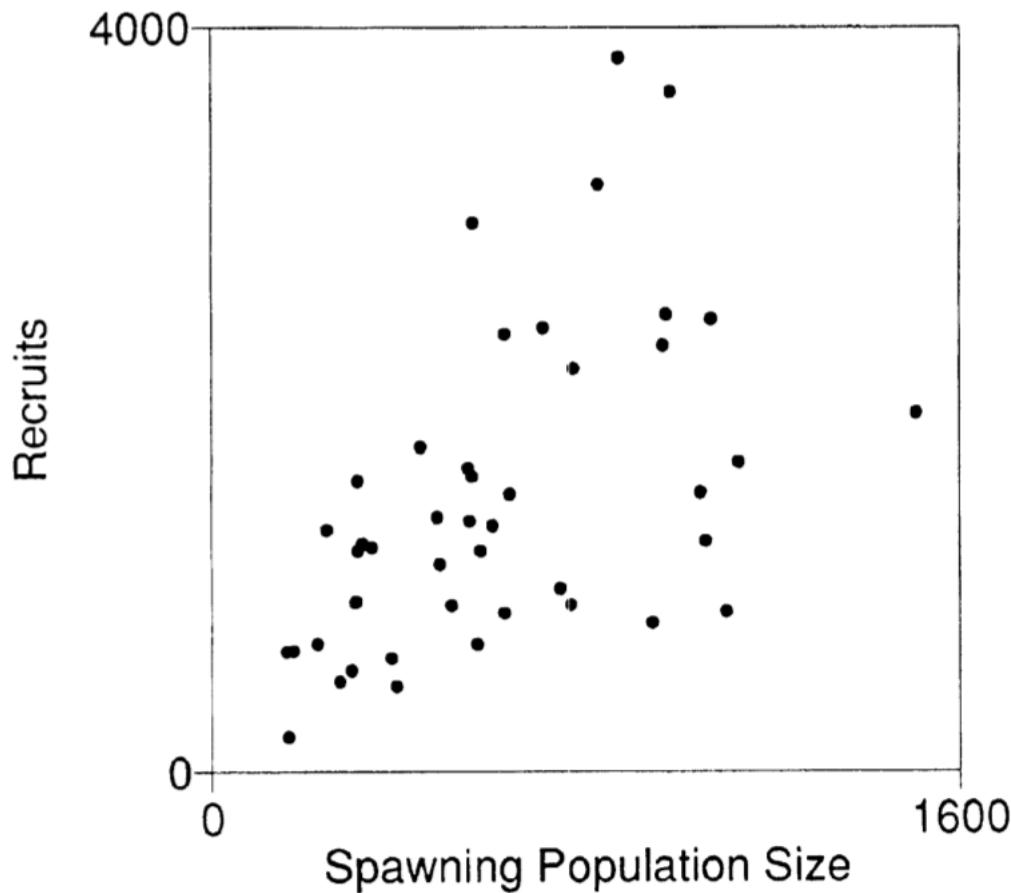
Dynamic and lagged





# SALMON

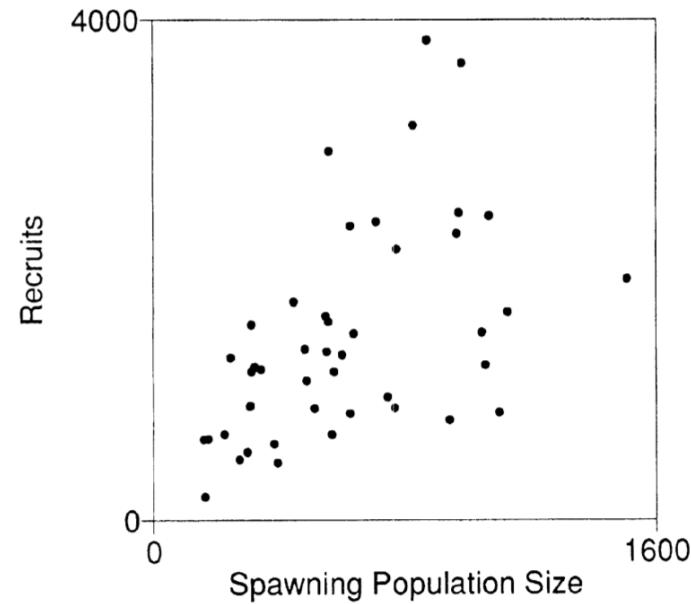




*Figure 7.1.* Stock-recruitment data for Skeena River sockeye salmon. Numbers in thousands. Data from Shepard and Withler (1958).

# What do you notice about these data?

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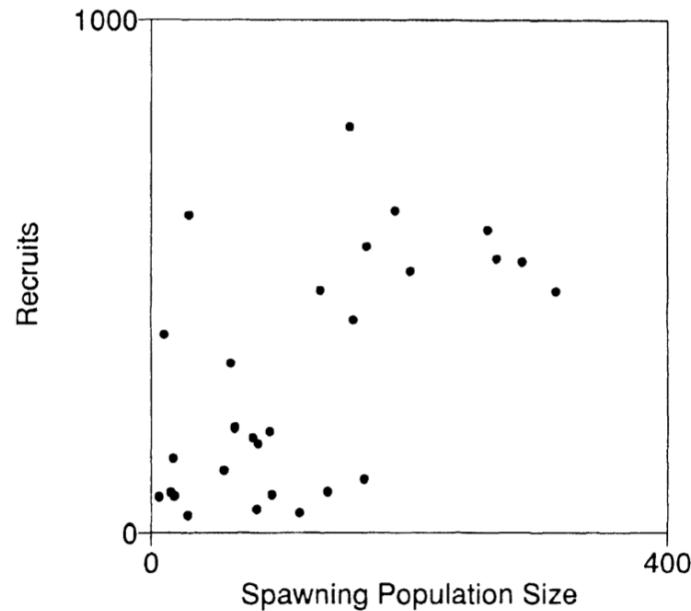
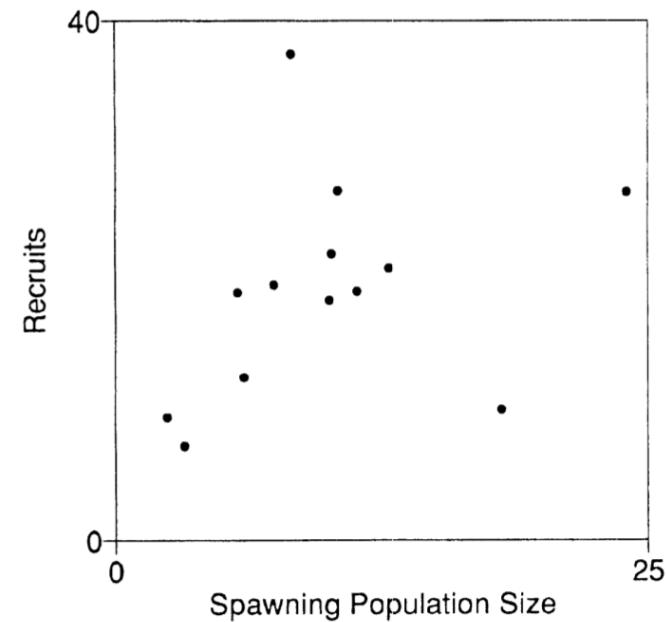


Figure 7.2. Stock-recruitment data for Icelandic summer spawning herring. Data from Jakobsen (1980).

# What do you notice about these data?

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*Figure 7.3.* Stock-recruitment data for Exmouth Gulf tiger prawns. Data from Penn and Caputi (1985).

# What do you notice about these data?

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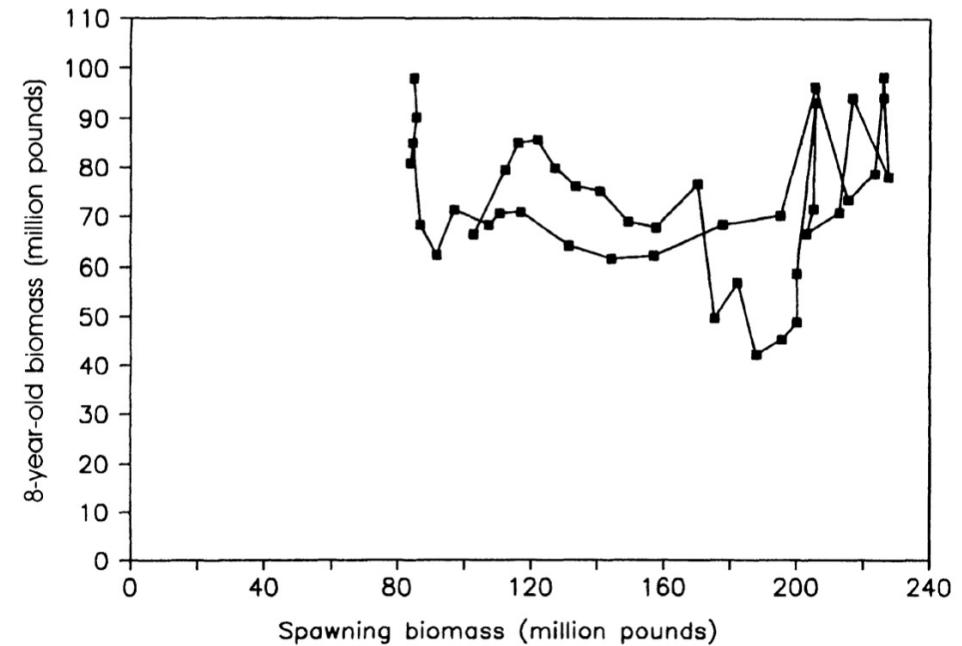
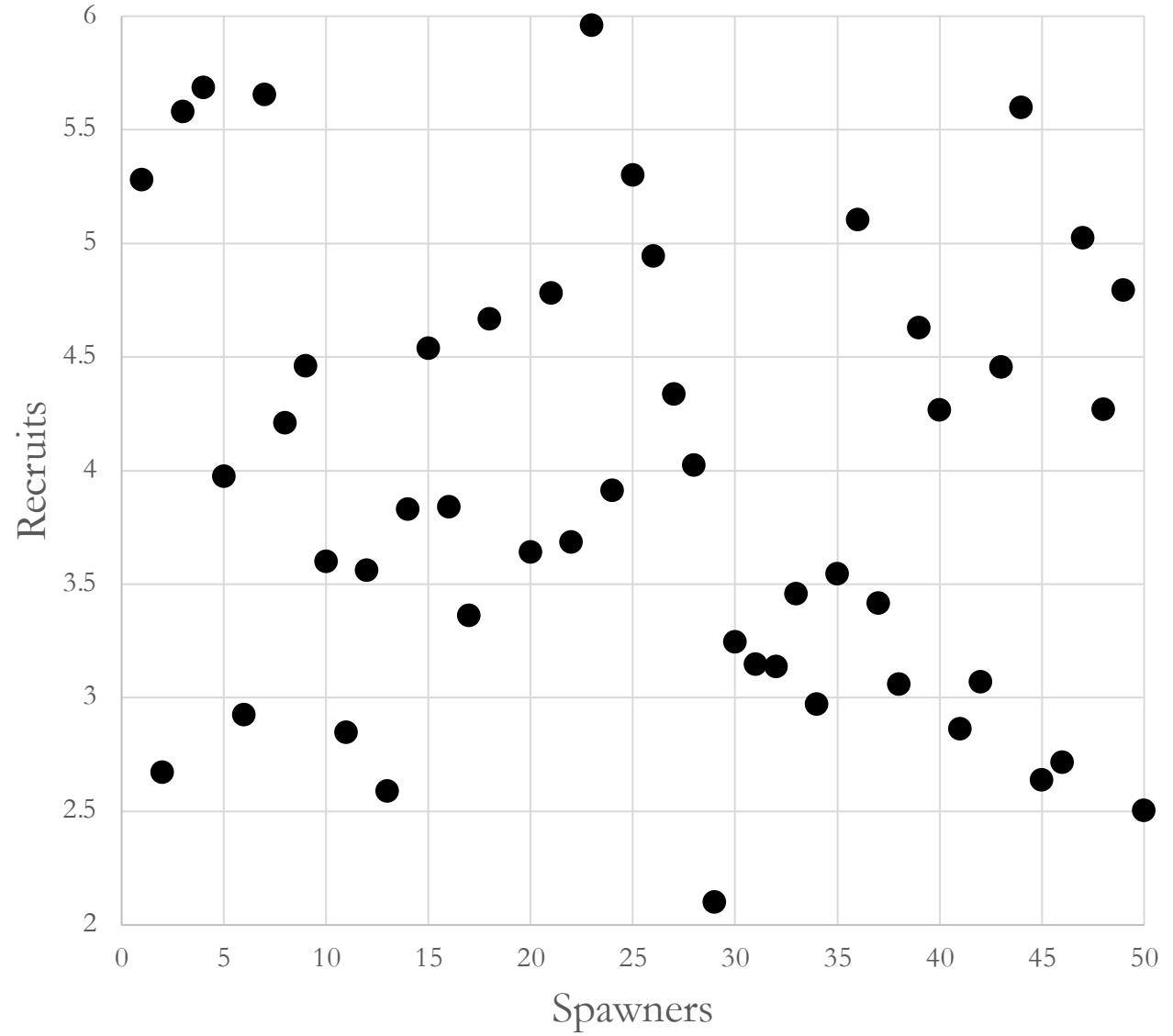
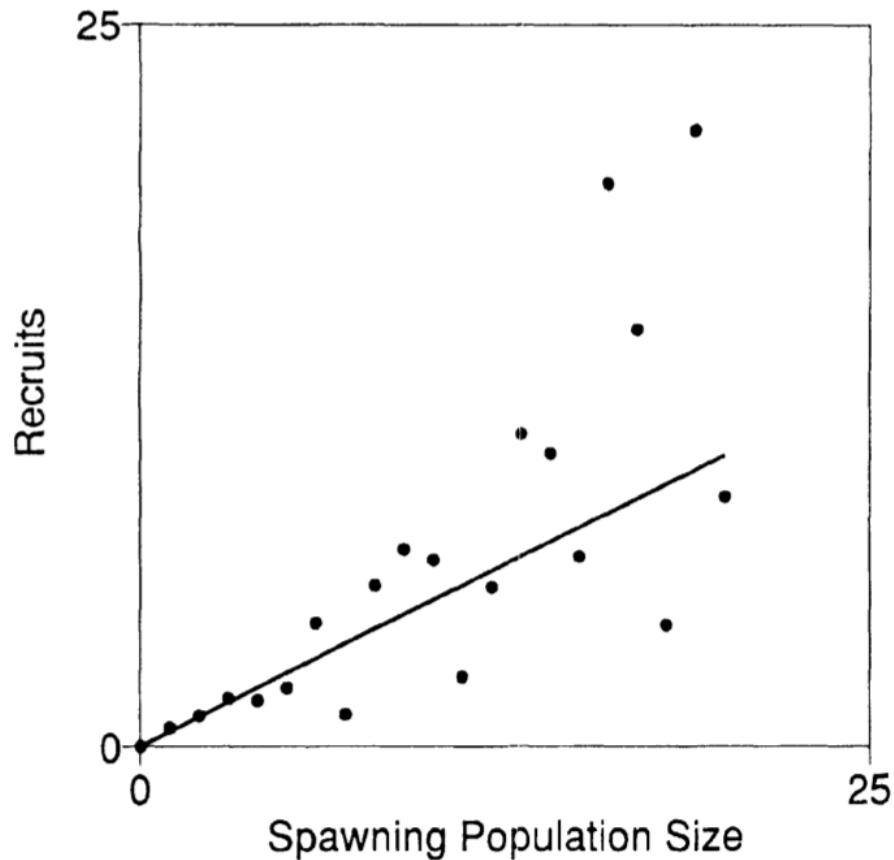


Figure 7.4. Stock-recruitment data for Pacific halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*). Data from International Pacific Halibut Commission.

The most  
common  
pattern...

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# Why do stock-recruit patterns emerge?

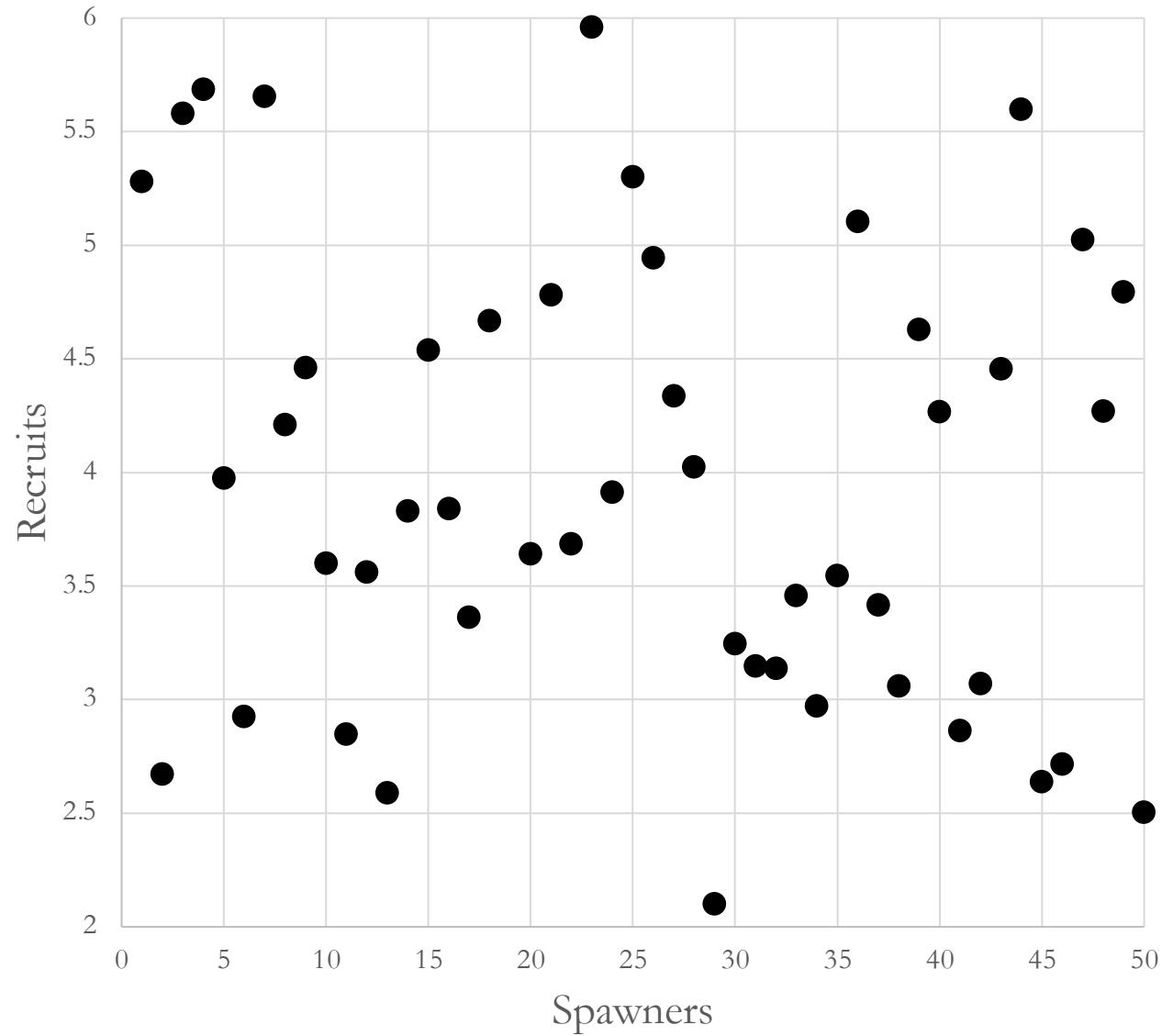
## Density-independent

- More reproductively active individuals means more young
  - Each young has a given survival probability
  - More young generally means more recruits
  - A reasonable assumption, to a point

*Figure 7.5.* Stock-recruitment average relationship and sample data points for density-independent survival.

What about this pattern?

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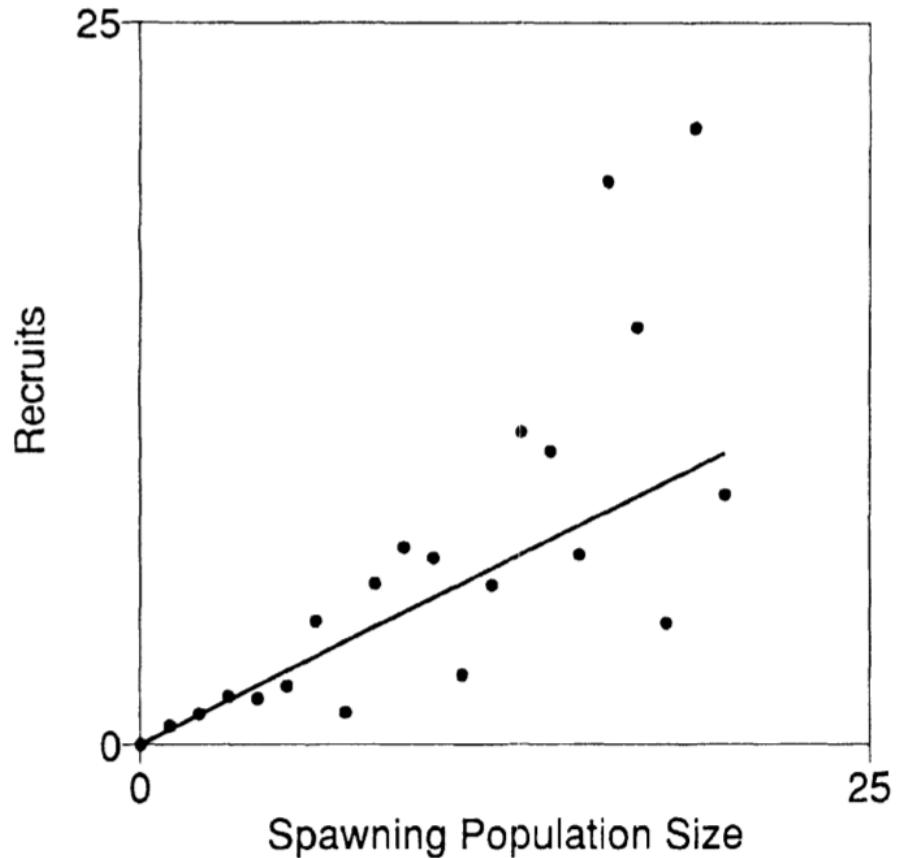


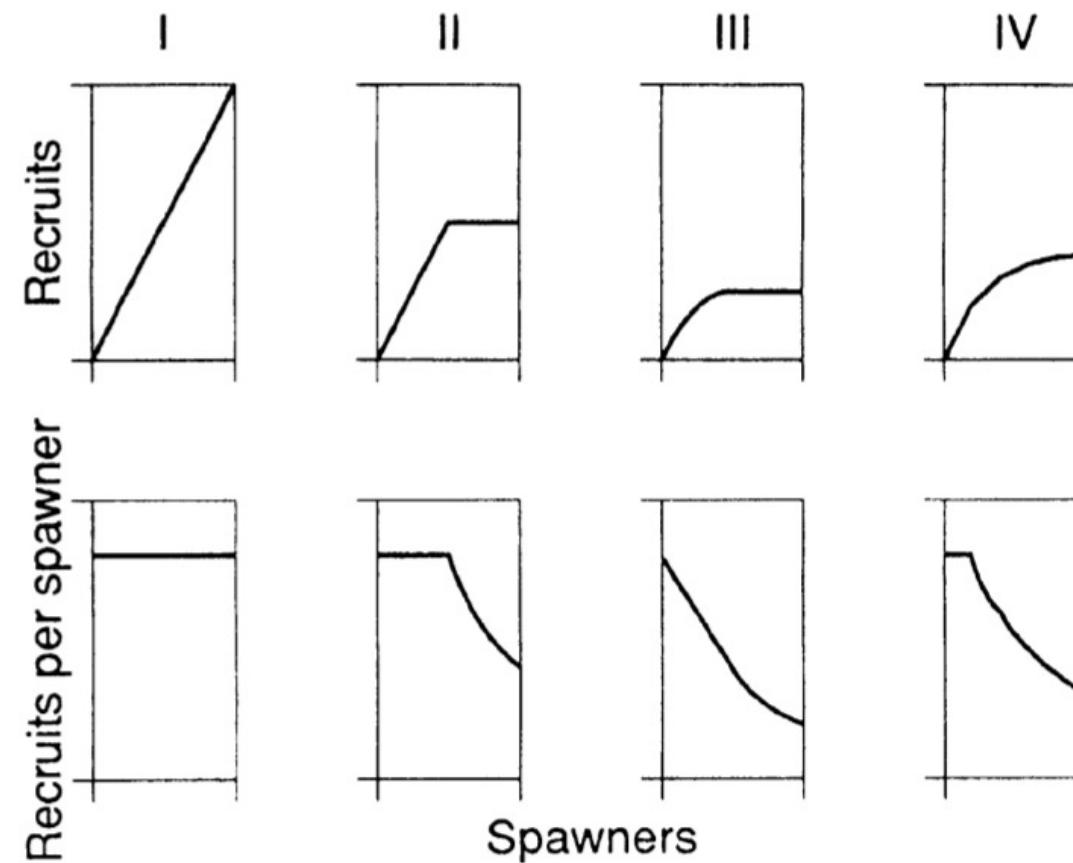
Figure 7.5. Stock-recruitment average relationship and sample data points for density-independent survival.

# Why do stock-recruit patterns emerge?

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## Density-dependent

- Limited resources affects adult survival and growth
- Compensation: reduction in recruits-per-spawner as the number of spawners increase
- Stock-recruitment relationship may become flat

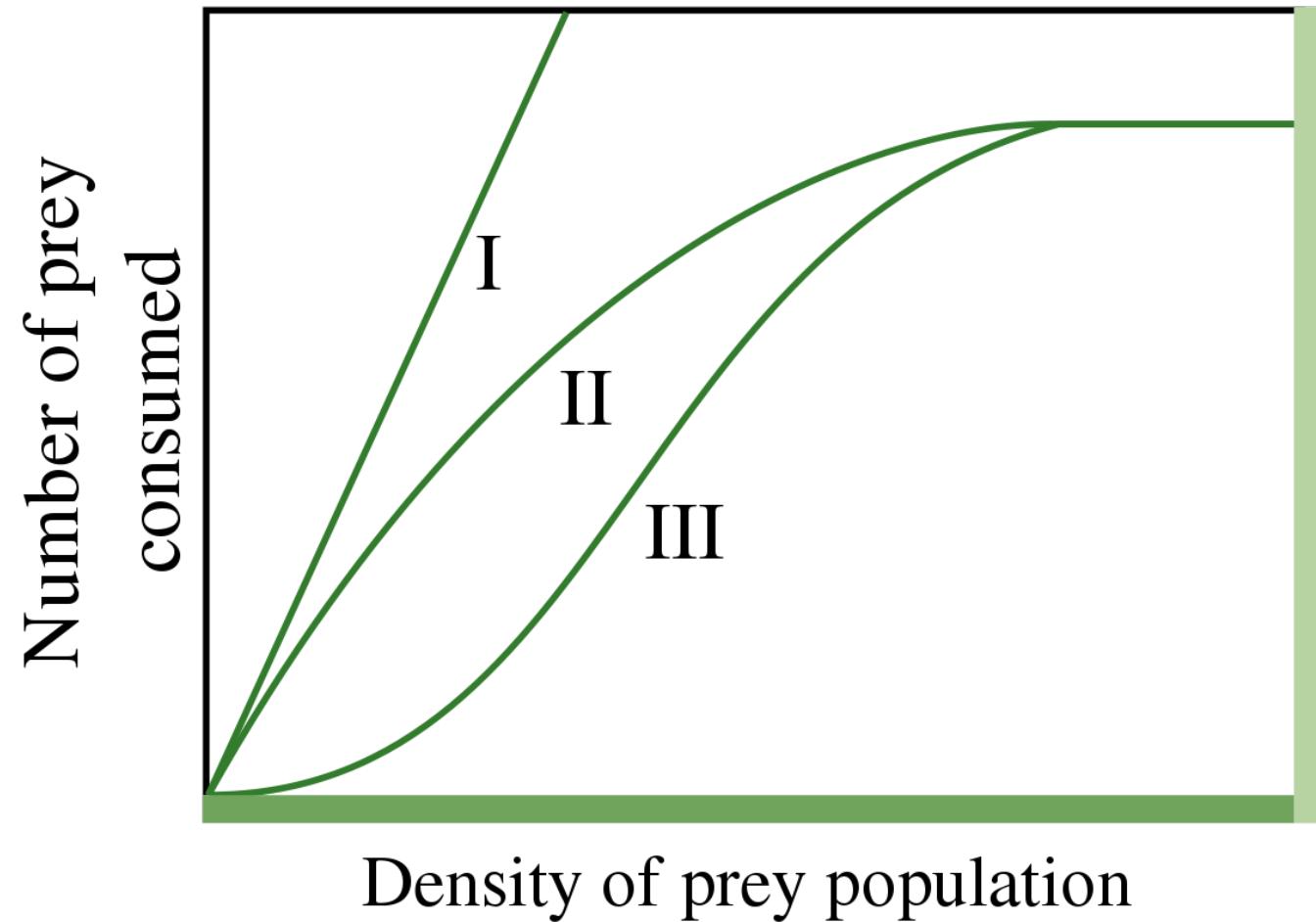


*Figure 7.6.* Stock-recruitment curves for alternative models of compensatory mortality.

## Overcompensation

Mortality increases as density increases

- Cannibalism or infection
- Increasing density of young induces “prey switching”
- Increasing density of young limits resources
- Very large stock sizes produce a smaller number of recruits



# Compensation vs. depensation

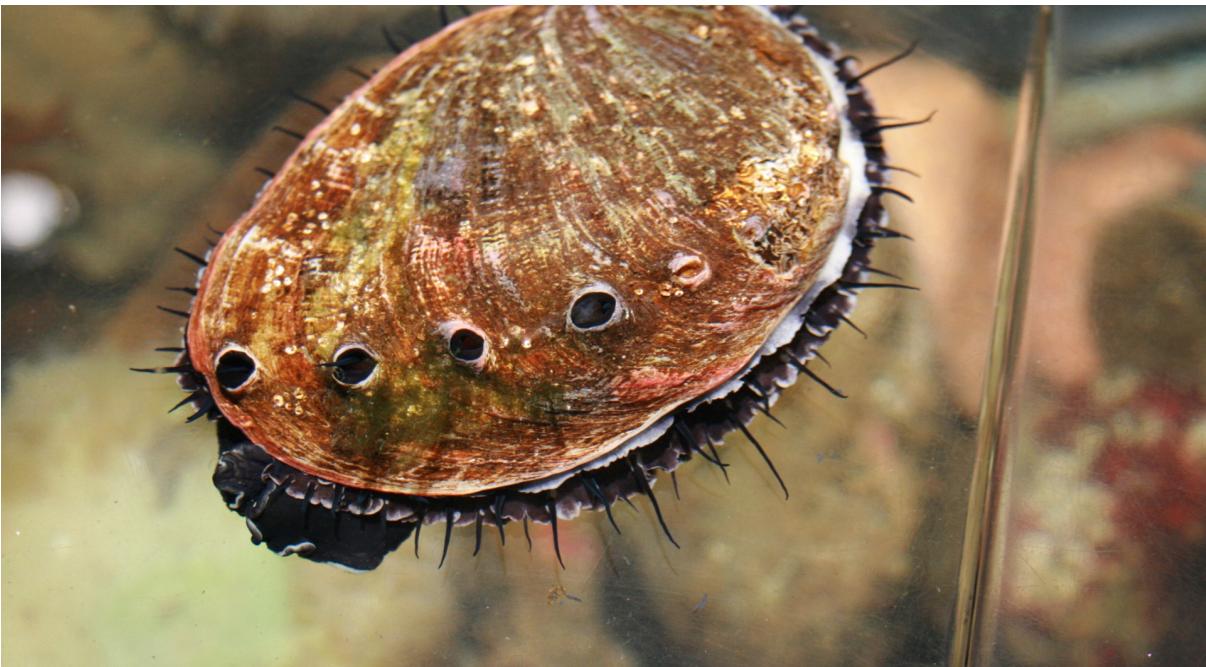
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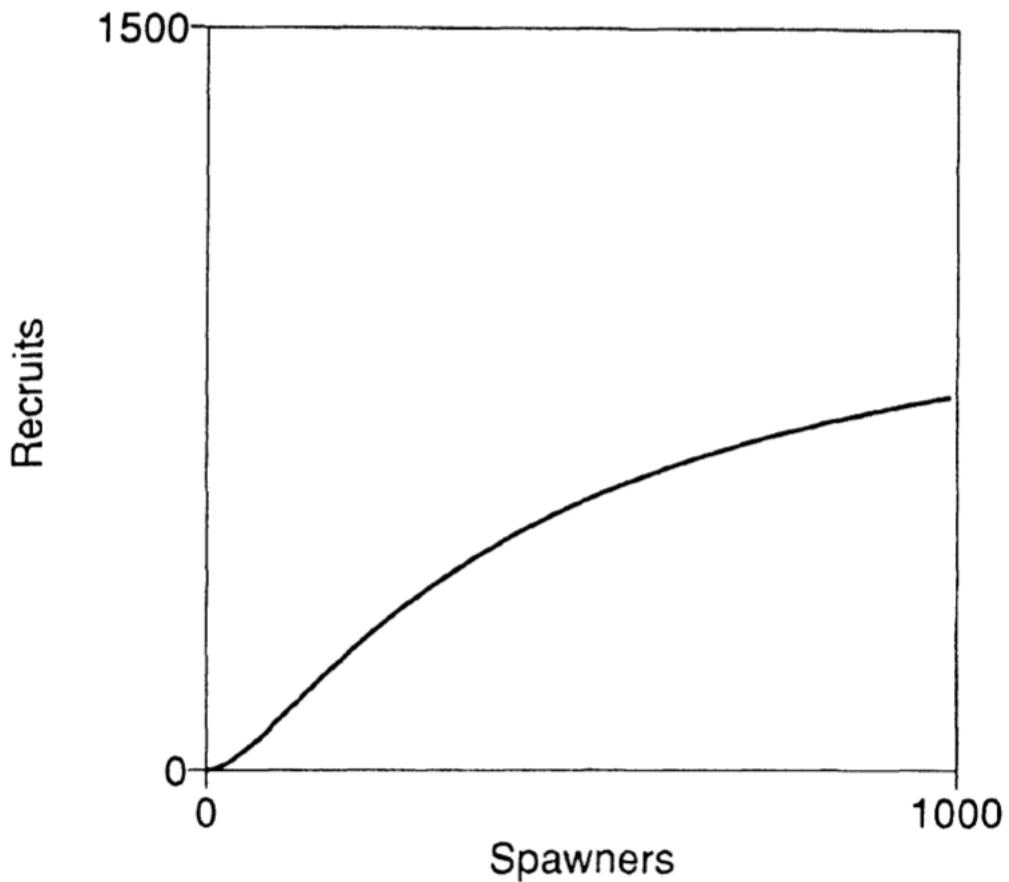
Compensation: decrease in recruits-per-spawner with an increase in spawning stock size

- Limiting resources
- Increasing predation on young

Depensation: increase in recruits-per-spawner with an increase in spawning stock size

- Constant predation
- Difficulty finding mates with low stock size (Allee effect)





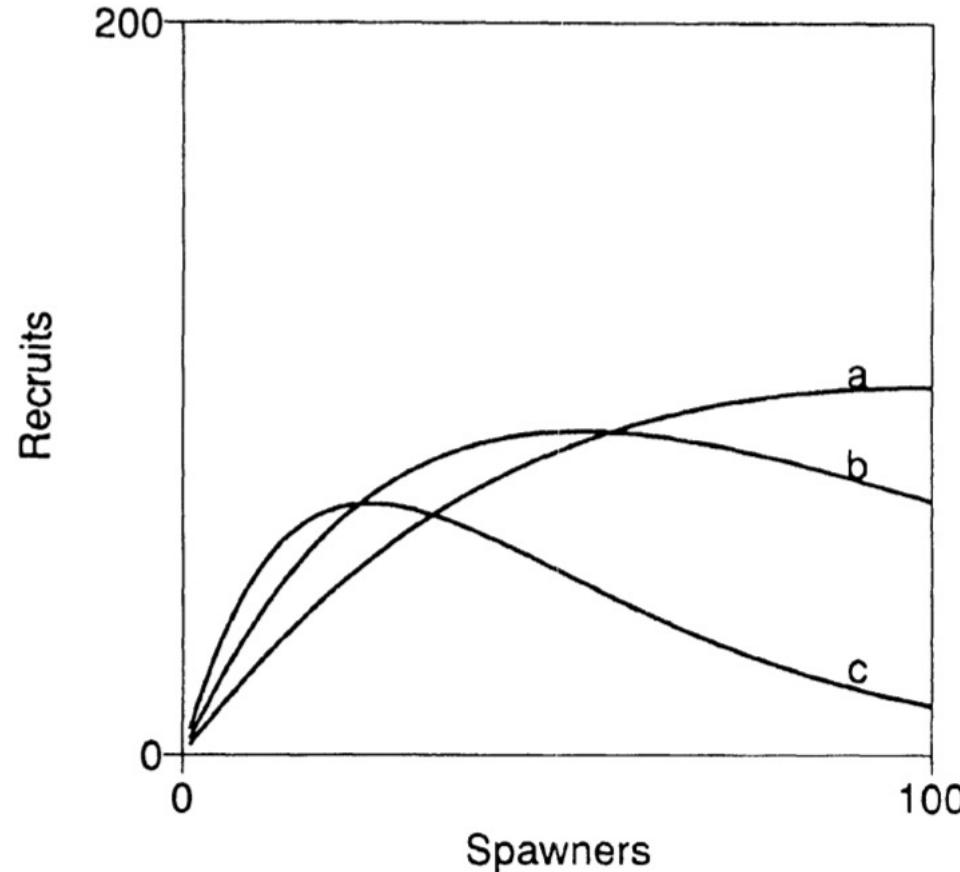
*Figure 7.7.* Stock-recruitment relationship with depensatory mortality.

# Spatial structure

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Spatially separated stocks

Some stocks are more or less productive



*Figure 7.8.* Stock-recruitment relationships for a stock that consists of spatially separated substocks when all substocks are present (a) and when less productive substocks have been eliminated by overexploitation (b and c).

# Measurements

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## STOCK SIZE

Number of females/individuals alive  
by age\*fecundity by age

Total biomass above maturation size

Abundance index in the year young  
were produced

## RECRUITMENT

Number of individuals alive at a given  
time after reproduction

For fish, usually occurs when fish are  
old enough to enter the fishery

# Models

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Range or distribution of recruits produced for a given range of spawners

Stock-recruitment curves WITH VARIANCE



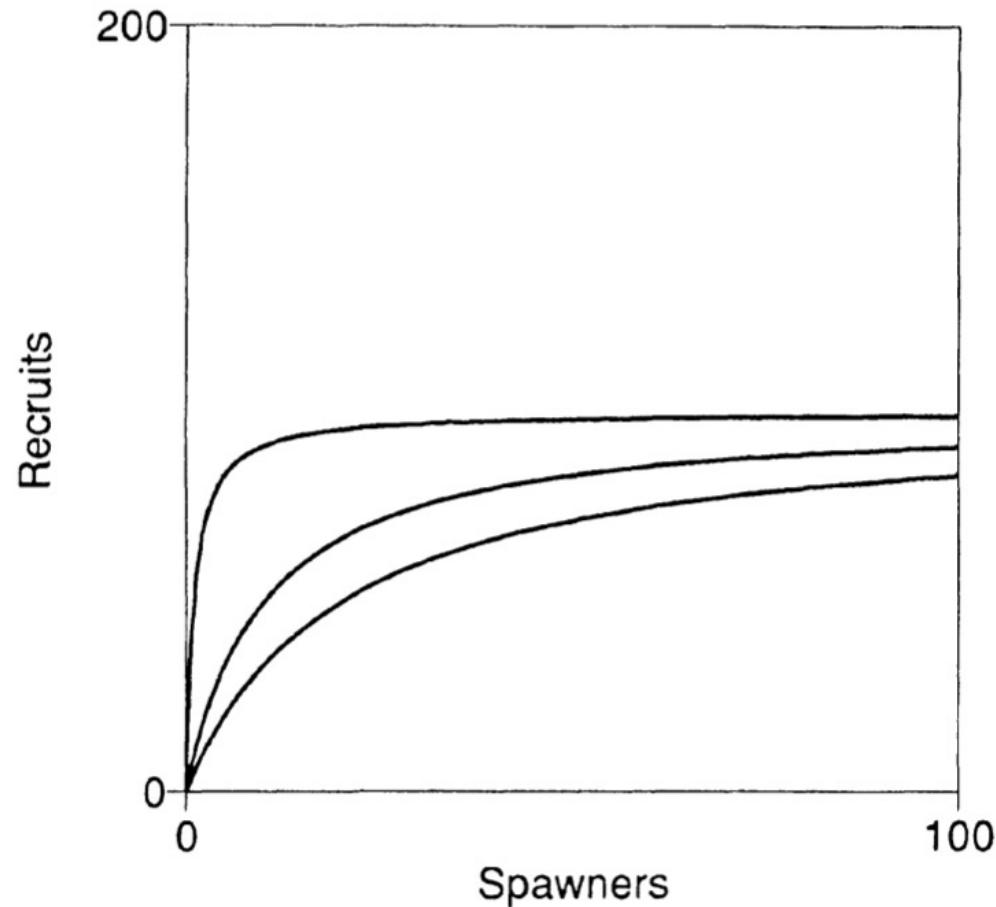
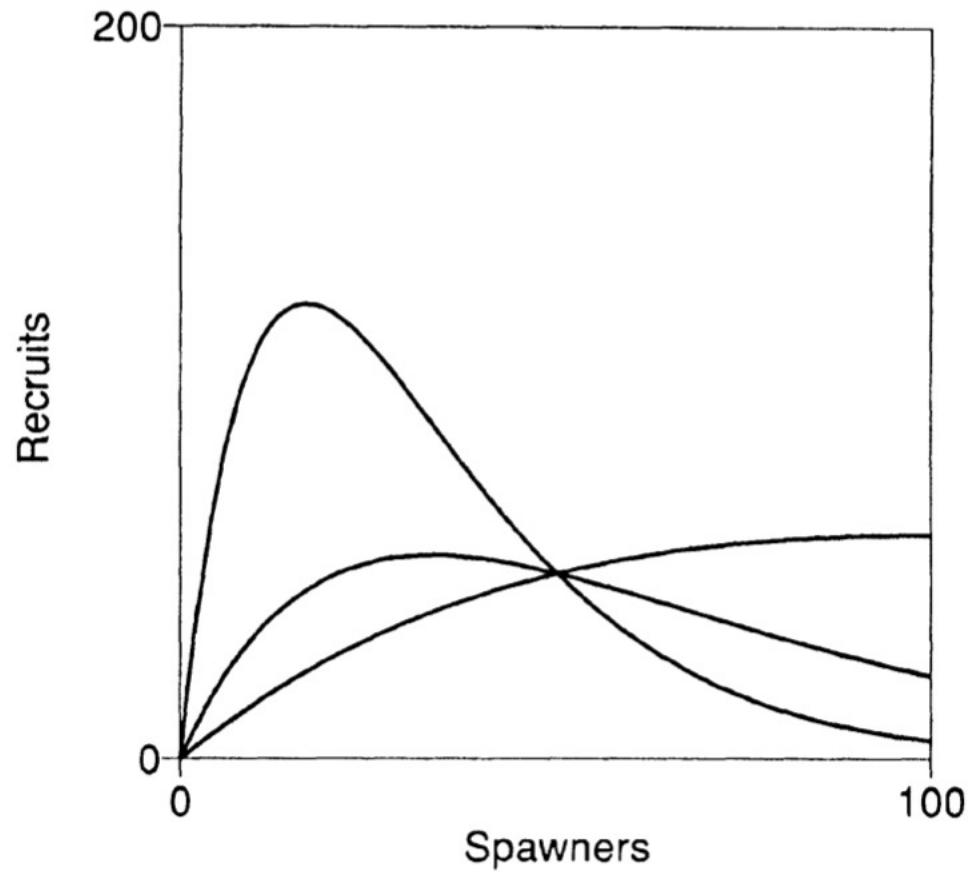


Figure 7.9. Beverton-Holt stock-recruitment curves.

## Beverton-Holt

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$$R = \frac{aS}{b + S}$$



Ricker

$$R = \alpha S e^{-bS}$$

Figure 7.10. Ricker curves with different  $\alpha$  values.

# Deriso

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$$c = -\infty \quad R = aS$$

$$c = -1 \quad R = aS/(1 + bS)$$

$$c = 0 \quad R = aSe^{-bS}$$

$$c = 1 \quad R = aS(1 - bS) \quad R = aS(1 - bcS)^{1/c}$$