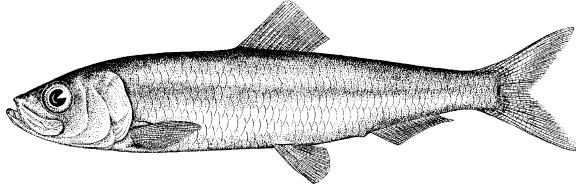


Pacific Herring preliminary data summary for Strait of Georgia 2023

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Pacific Herring (*Clupea pallasii*). Image credit: [Fisheries and Oceans Canada](#).

Disclaimer This report contains preliminary data collected for Pacific Herring in 2023 in the Strait of Georgia major stock assessment region (SAR). These data may differ from data used and presented in the final stock assessment.

1 Context

Pacific Herring (*Clupea pallasii*) in British Columbia are assessed as 5 major and 2 minor stock assessment regions (SARs), and data are collected and summarized on this scale (Table 1, Figure 1). The Pacific Herring data collection program includes fishery-dependent and -independent data from 1951 to 2023. This includes annual time series of commercial catch data, biological samples (providing information on proportion-at-age and weight-at-age), and spawn index data conducted using a combination of surface and SCUBA surveys. In some areas, industry- and/or First Nations-operated in-season soundings programs are also conducted, and this information is used by resource managers, First Nations, and stakeholders to locate fish and identify areas of high and

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low Pacific Herring biomass to plan harvesting activities. In-season acoustic soundings are not used by stock assessment to inform the estimation of spawning biomass.

The following is a description of data collected for Pacific Herring in 2023 in the Strait of Georgia major SAR (Figure 2). Data collected outside the SAR boundary are not included in this summary, and are not used for the purposes of stock assessment. Although we summarise data at the scale of the SAR for stock assessments, we summarise data at finer spatial scales in this report: Locations are nested within Sections, Sections are nested within Statistical Areas, and Statistical Areas are nested within SARs (Table 2). For the Strait of Georgia major SAR, we use another level of spatial aggregation which we refer to as a ‘Group’. Note that we refer to ‘year’ instead of ‘herring season’ in this report; therefore 2023 refers to the 2022/2023 Pacific Herring season.

2 Data collection programs

Biological samples were collected by the seine charter vessel *Denman Isle* for 27 days from February 20th to March 18th. Two additional industry test vessels collected biological samples from February 28th to March 15th. The primary purpose of the test charter vessel was to collect biological samples from main aggregations of herring in the SoG, as identified from soundings within the SAR boundary.

Herring spawn locations were primarily identified with fixed-wing overflights conducted by DFO Resource Management and Science staff. Fourteen flights were conducted this season, between February and March.

Four dive vessels operated in the SoG:

- The *Viking Spirit* surveyed 21 days from March 11th to March 31st,
- The *Ocean Cloud* surveyed 12 days from March 9th to March 20th,
- Divers with A-Tlegay Fisheries Society surveyed 1 day on March 7th, and
- DFO surveyed 1 day on March 29th.

The first two dive vessels and the seine charter vessel *Denman Isle* were funded by DFO, through a contract to the Herring Conservation Research Society. DFO mentored A-Tlegay Fisheries Society divers for the spawn survey protocol in 2017 and 2019; from 2020 to 2023, A-Tlegay divers surveyed spawn through a contract with DFO. Additional sampling and sounding efforts conducted through the Industry Test Program were contributed in-kind by the Herring Industry.

3 Catch and biological samples

In the 1950s and 1960s, the reduction fishery dominated Pacific Herring catch; starting in the 1970s, catch has been predominantly from roe seine and gillnet fisheries. The reduction fishery is different from current fisheries in several ways. First, the reduction

fishery caught Pacific Herring of all ages, whereas current fisheries target spawning (i.e., mature) fish. Thus, reduction fisheries included an unknown number of age-1 fish which are not typically caught in current fisheries. Second, the reduction fishery has some uncertainty regarding the quantity and location of catch; however catches have been resolved to SAR and Statistical Area using fish slips as best as possible. For the roe gillnet fishery, all Pacific Herring catch has been validated by a dockside monitoring program since 1998; the catch validation program started in 1999 for the roe seine fishery. Finally, the reduction fishery operated during the summer and winter months, whereas roe fisheries typically target spawning fish between February and April.

Landed commercial catch of Pacific Herring by year and fishery is shown in Table 3 and Figure 3. Total harvested spawn-on-kelp (SOK) in 2023 in the Strait of Georgia major SAR is shown in Table 4; we also calculate the estimated spawning biomass associated with SOK harvest. See the [draft spawn index technical report](#) for calculations to convert SOK harvest to spawning biomass.

In 2023, 103 Pacific Herring biological samples were collected and processed for the Strait of Georgia major SAR (Table 5, Table 6). The locations in which the biological samples were collected are presented in Figure 4. Biological samples collected using seine gear shows that there is considerable variability in fish weight by year and sample type (Figure 5). Included herein are biological summaries of observed proportion-, number-, weight-, and length-at-age (Figure 6, Table 7, and Figure 7, respectively). We also show the percent change in weight and length for age-3 and age-6 fish (Figure 8 & Figure 9, respectively). Biological summaries only include samples collected using seine nets (commercial and test) due to size-selectivity of other gear types such as gillnet. Only representative biological samples are included, where ‘representative’ indicates whether the Pacific Herring sample in the set accurately reflects the larger Pacific Herring school.

4 Spawn survey data

Pacific Herring spawn surveys were conducted at 40 individual locations in 2023 in the Strait of Georgia major SAR (Table 8, and Figure 10). A summary of spawn from the last decade (2013 to 2022) is shown in Figure 11. Figure 12 shows spawn start date by decade and Group. Spawn surveys are conducted to estimate the spawn length, width, number of egg layers, and substrate type, and these data are used to estimate the index of spawning biomass (i.e., the spawn index; Figure 13, Figure 14, Figure 15, Figure 16, Table 9, and Figure 17). See the [draft spawn index technical report](#) for calculations to convert SOK harvest to spawning biomass. The ‘spawn index’ is not scaled by the spawn survey scaling parameter, q . Therefore, these data do not represent model estimates of spawning biomass, and are considered the minimum observed spawning biomass derived from egg counts. The spawn index has two distinct periods defined by the dominant coastwide survey method: surface surveys (1951 to 1987), and dive surveys (1988 to 2023).

Some Pacific Herring Sections contribute more than others to the total spawn index, and the percentage contributed by Section varies yearly (Figure 16b, Figure 18). For example, in 2023, Section 143 contributed the most to the spawn index (35%). As with

Sections, some Groups contribute more than others to the total spawn index (Figure 16c, Figure 19). An animation shows the spawn index by spawn survey location from 1951 to 2023 (Figure 20).

5 General observations

General observations provide context to the data summary report. The following observations were reported by area DFO Resource Management staff and DFO Science staff:

- Late February and early March had strong winds which impacted the effectiveness of the assessment program.
- Spawn in the Strait of Georgia was observed along the East coast of Vancouver Island from Kitty Coleman south to Cape Lazo, on the South-East coast of Denman Island along Gravelly Bay and Boyle Point, around most of Hornby Island, and from Mapleguard to French Creek. South of French Creek there were smaller spawns at Schooner Cove, Nonooa Rock, and a late spawn in Kuleet Bay south of Dodd Narrows.
- Additional spawn was reported in Areas 12, 13, 17S, and 28. Spawn observations from Indian Arm (Area 28) have not yet been added to the record.
- Spawn was recorded in Port McNeil (first record at this location).
- The majority of spawning occurred between March 11th and 17th after multiple days of high winds and rough seas, delayed roughly a week from the previous year's spawn.
- The overall length of spawn (25.1 nautical miles) observed during the flight program was below average when compared with recent years.

6 Tables

Table 1. Pacific Herring stock assessment regions (SARs) in British Columbia.

Name	Code	Type
Haida Gwaii	HG	Major
Prince Rupert District	PRD	Major
Central Coast	CC	Major
Strait of Georgia	SoG	Major
West Coast of Vancouver Island	WCVI	Major
Area 27	A27	Minor
Area 2 West	A2W	Minor

Table 2. Statistical Areas, Sections, and Groups for Pacific Herring in the Strait of Georgia major stock assessment region (SAR). Legend: ‘14&17’ is Statistical Areas 14 and 17 (excluding Section 173); ‘ESoG’ is eastern Strait of Georgia; ‘Lazo’ is above Cape Lazo; and ‘SDodd’ is South of Dodd Narrows

Region	Statistical Area	Section	Group
Strait of Georgia	13	132	Lazo
Strait of Georgia	13	135	Lazo
Strait of Georgia	14	140	14&17
Strait of Georgia	14	141	Lazo
Strait of Georgia	14	142	14&17
Strait of Georgia	14	143	14&17
Strait of Georgia	15	150	ESoG
Strait of Georgia	15	151	ESoG
Strait of Georgia	15	152	ESoG
Strait of Georgia	16	160	ESoG
Strait of Georgia	16	161	ESoG
Strait of Georgia	16	162	ESoG
Strait of Georgia	16	163	ESoG
Strait of Georgia	16	164	ESoG
Strait of Georgia	16	165	ESoG
Strait of Georgia	17	170	14&17
Strait of Georgia	17	171	14&17
Strait of Georgia	17	172	14&17
Strait of Georgia	17	173	SDodd
Strait of Georgia	18	180	SDodd
Strait of Georgia	18	181	SDodd
Strait of Georgia	18	182	SDodd

<i>Table 2 continued</i>				
Region	Statistical Area	Section	Group	
Strait of Georgia	19	190	SDodd	
Strait of Georgia	19	191	SDodd	
Strait of Georgia	19	192	SDodd	
Strait of Georgia	19	193	SDodd	
Strait of Georgia	28	280	ESoG	
Strait of Georgia	29	291	ESoG	
Strait of Georgia	29	292	ESoG	

Table 3. Total landed commercial catch of Pacific Herring in metric tonnes (t) by gear type in 2023 in the Strait of Georgia major stock assessment region (SAR). Legend: ‘Other’ represents the reduction (1951 to 1970 only), the food and bait, as well as the special use fishery; ‘RoeSN’ represents the roe seine fishery; and ‘RoeGN’ represents the roe gillnet fishery. Data from the spawn-on-kelp (SOK) fishery are not included. Note: data may be withheld due to privacy concerns (WP).

Gear	Catch (t)
Other	1,444
RoeSN	2,105
RoeGN	2,453

Table 4. Total harvested Pacific Herring spawn-on-kelp (SOK) in pounds (lb), and the associated estimate of spawning biomass in metric tonnes (t) from 2013 to 2023 in the Strait of Georgia major stock assessment region (SAR). See the [draft spawn index technical report](#) for calculations to convert SOK harvest to spawning biomass. Note: data may be withheld due to privacy concerns (WP).

Year	Harvest (lb)	Spawning biomass (t)
2013	0	0
2014	0	0
2015	0	0
2016	0	0
2017	0	0
2018	0	0
2019	0	0
2020	0	0
2021	0	0
2022	0	0
2023	0	0

Table 5. Number of Pacific Herring biological samples processed from 2013 to 2023 in the Strait of Georgia major stock assessment region (SAR). Each sample is approximately 100 fish. Note: Nearshore samples are not used in stock assessments.

Year	Number of samples			
	Commercial	Test	Nearshore	Total
2013	97	25	0	122
2014	82	11	0	93
2015	120	38	0	158
2016	123	33	5	161
2017	121	27	0	148
2018	116	28	0	144
2019	125	35	0	160
2020	106	27	0	133
2021	89	25	0	114
2022	50	18	2	70
2023	73	21	9	103

Table 6. Number and type of Pacific Herring biological samples processed in 2023 in the Strait of Georgia major stock assessment region (SAR). Each sample is approximately 100 fish.

Type	Gear	Use	Number of samples
Commercial	Gillnet	Roe fishery	29
Commercial	Seine	Bait fishery	18
Commercial	Seine	Food fishery	9
Commercial	Seine	Roe fishery	17
Test	Other	Nearshore	9
Test	Seine	Test fishery	21

Table 7. Observed proportion-at-age for Pacific Herring from 2013 to 2023 in the Strait of Georgia major stock assessment region (SAR). The age-10 class is a ‘plus group’ which includes fish ages 10 and older.

Year	Proportion-at-age									
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
2013	0.124	0.304	0.299	0.230	0.018	0.023	0.002	0.000	0.000	
2014	0.046	0.480	0.181	0.153	0.117	0.010	0.010	0.001	0.000	
2015	0.103	0.374	0.362	0.088	0.046	0.023	0.002	0.001	0.000	
2016	0.153	0.267	0.334	0.178	0.040	0.016	0.009	0.001	0.001	
2017	0.100	0.304	0.267	0.215	0.089	0.018	0.006	0.002	0.000	
2018	0.077	0.418	0.247	0.144	0.082	0.026	0.004	0.002	0.000	
2019	0.238	0.349	0.222	0.110	0.051	0.023	0.006	0.001	0.000	
2020	0.124	0.529	0.208	0.081	0.035	0.016	0.004	0.002	0.000	
2021	0.052	0.372	0.391	0.124	0.041	0.013	0.005	0.001	0.001	
2022	0.240	0.282	0.238	0.176	0.048	0.010	0.004	0.001	0.001	
2023	0.106	0.390	0.227	0.161	0.097	0.013	0.005	0.000	0.000	

Table 8. Pacific Herring spawn survey locations, start date, and spawn index in metric tonnes (t) in 2023 in the Strait of Georgia major stock assessment region (SAR). The ‘spawn index’ is not scaled by the spawn survey scaling parameter, q . Missing spawn index values indicate incomplete surveys (NAs).

Statistical Area	Section	Location name	Start date	Spawn index (t)
14	141	Kitty Coleman Beach	March 20	4,286
14	141	Kye Bay	March 11	8,294
14	141	Little Rvr	March 11	2,668
14	142	Boyle Pt	March 22	86
14	142	Cape Lazo	March 19	5,623
14	142	Collishaw Pt	March 22	1,110
14	142	Downes Pt	March 24	456
14	142	Ford Cv	March 23	308
14	142	Gravelly Bay	March 22	377
14	142	Mapleguard Pt	March 15	8,385
14	142	Norman Pt	March 24	401
14	142	Shingle Spit	March 22	314
14	142	Tralee Pt	March 21	1,430
14	142	Whalebone Pt	March 22	389
14	142	Whaling Station Bay	March 21	2,170
14	142	Willemar Bluff	March 19	282
14	143	Big Qualicum Rvr	March 17	7,813
14	143	Bowser	March 14	6,154
14	143	Columbia Beach	March 25	1,662
14	143	French Cr	March 17	1,349
14	143	Little Qualicum Rvr	March 24	684
14	143	Parksville Bay	March 17	33
14	143	Qualicum Bay	March 17	3,040
14	143	Qualicum Beach	March 24	5,377
15	152	Cortes Bay	March 06	408
15	152	Myrtle Pt	March 16	324
15	152	Scuttle Bay	March 16	33
15	152	Sliammon Village	March 16	221
16	163	Pender Hrbr	January 28	NA
17	172	Nankivell Pt	March 17	370
17	172	Nanoose Bay Hd	March 17	67
17	172	Ranch Pt	March 17	677
17	172	Ruth Is	March 17	814
17	172	Schooner Cv	March 17	1,262
17	172	Southey Is	March 17	1,723
17	172	Wallis Pt	March 14	4,978
17	173	Coffin Pt (Is)	April 05	396
17	173	Kulleet Bay	April 05	547

Table 8 continued

Statistical Area	Section	Location name	Start date	Spawn index (t)
17	173	Link Is	March 01	NA
28	280	False Cr	January 25	NA

Table 9. Summary of Pacific Herring spawn survey data from 2013 to 2023 in the Strait of Georgia major stock assessment region (SAR). The spawn index has two distinct periods defined by the dominant coastwide survey method: surface surveys (1951 to 1987), and dive surveys (1988 to 2023). The ‘spawn index’ is not scaled by the spawn survey scaling parameter, q . Units: metres (m), and metric tonnes (t).

Year	Total length (m)	Mean width (m)	Mean number of egg layers	Spawn index (t)
2013	158,955	122	1.3	83,693
2014	137,090	146	1.3	120,468
2015	166,750	115	1.3	104,481
2016	118,300	157	1.2	129,502
2017	130,440	163	0.9	81,064
2018	87,745	169	1.4	91,939
2019	82,865	140	1.1	63,038
2020	154,345	133	1.4	116,151
2021	114,950	154	1.1	70,938
2022	78,995	169	1.4	86,114
2023	102,550	142	1.4	74,507

7 Figures

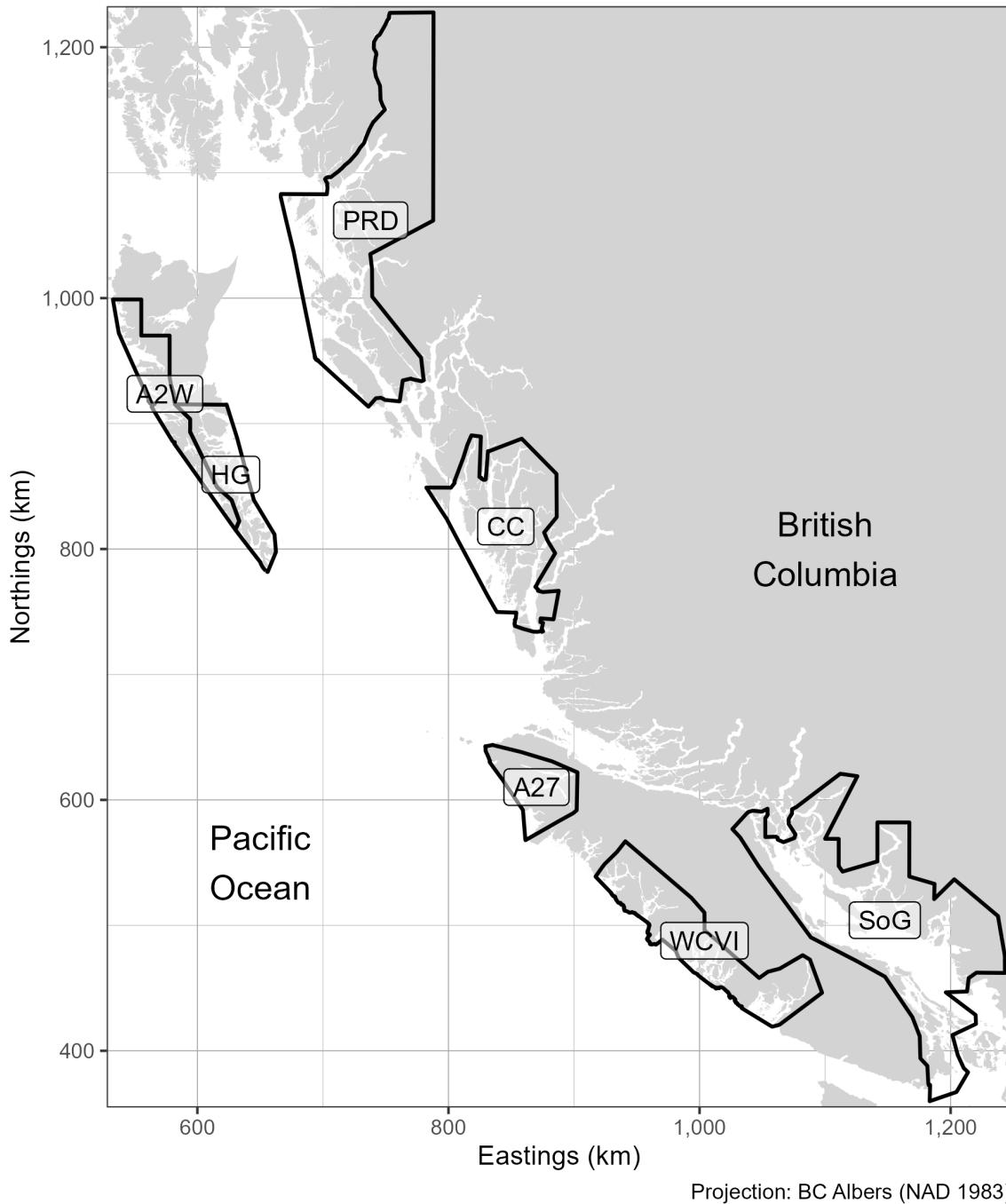


Figure 1. Boundaries for the Pacific Herring stock assessment regions (SARs) in British Columbia. There are 5 major SARs: Haida Gwaii (HG), Prince Rupert District (PRD), Central Coast (CC), Strait of Georgia (SoG), and West Coast of Vancouver Island (WCVI). There are 2 minor SARs: Area 27 (A27) and Area 2 West (A2W). Units: kilometres (km).

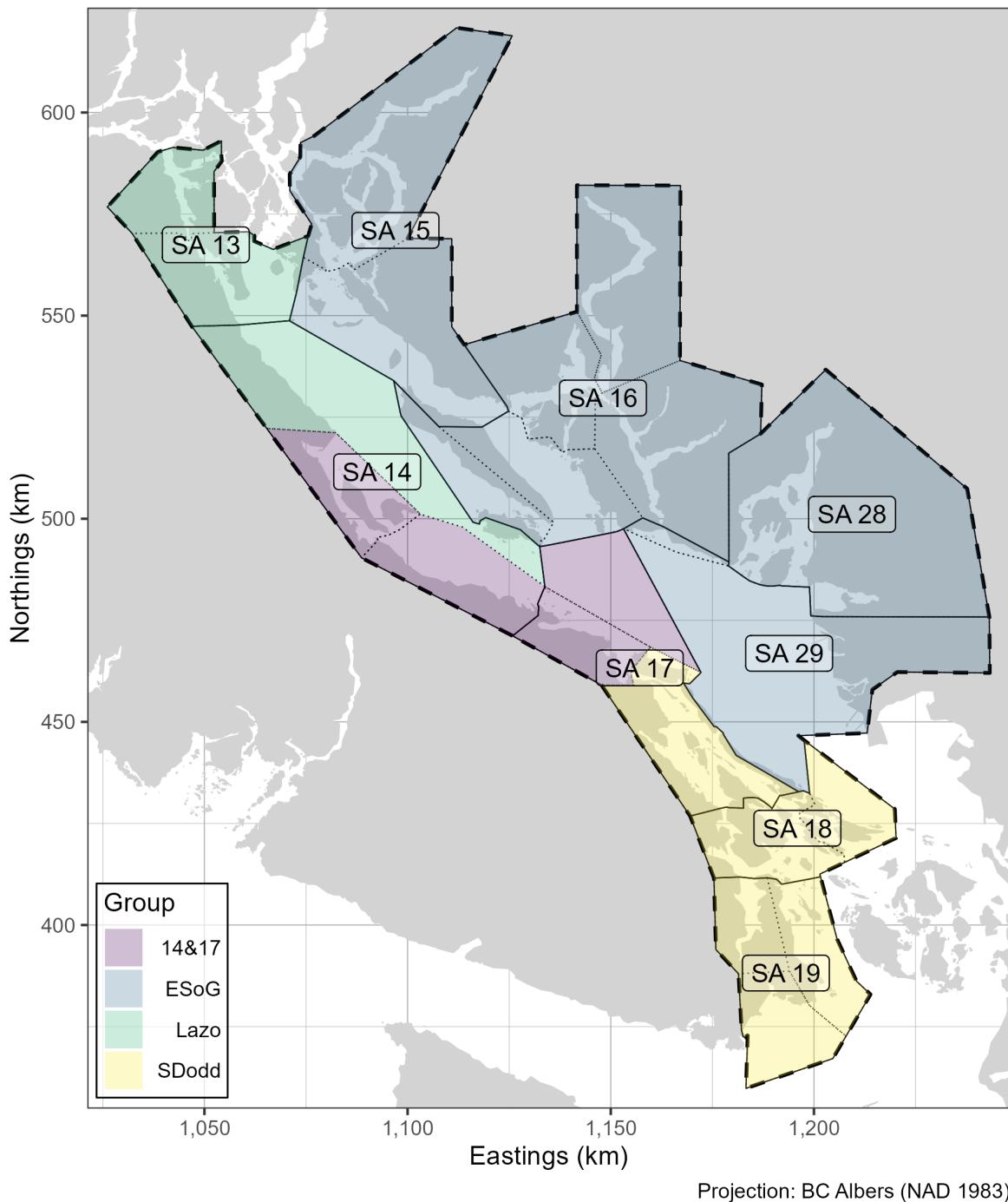


Figure 2. Boundaries for the Strait of Georgia major stock assessment region (SAR; thick dashed lines), associated Statistical Areas (SA; thin solid lines), and associated Sections (thin dotted lines). Units: kilometres (km). Legend: ‘14&17’ is Statistical Areas 14 and 17 (excluding Section 173); ‘ESoG’ is eastern Strait of Georgia; ‘Lazo’ is above Cape Lazo; and ‘SDodd’ is South of Dodd Narrows

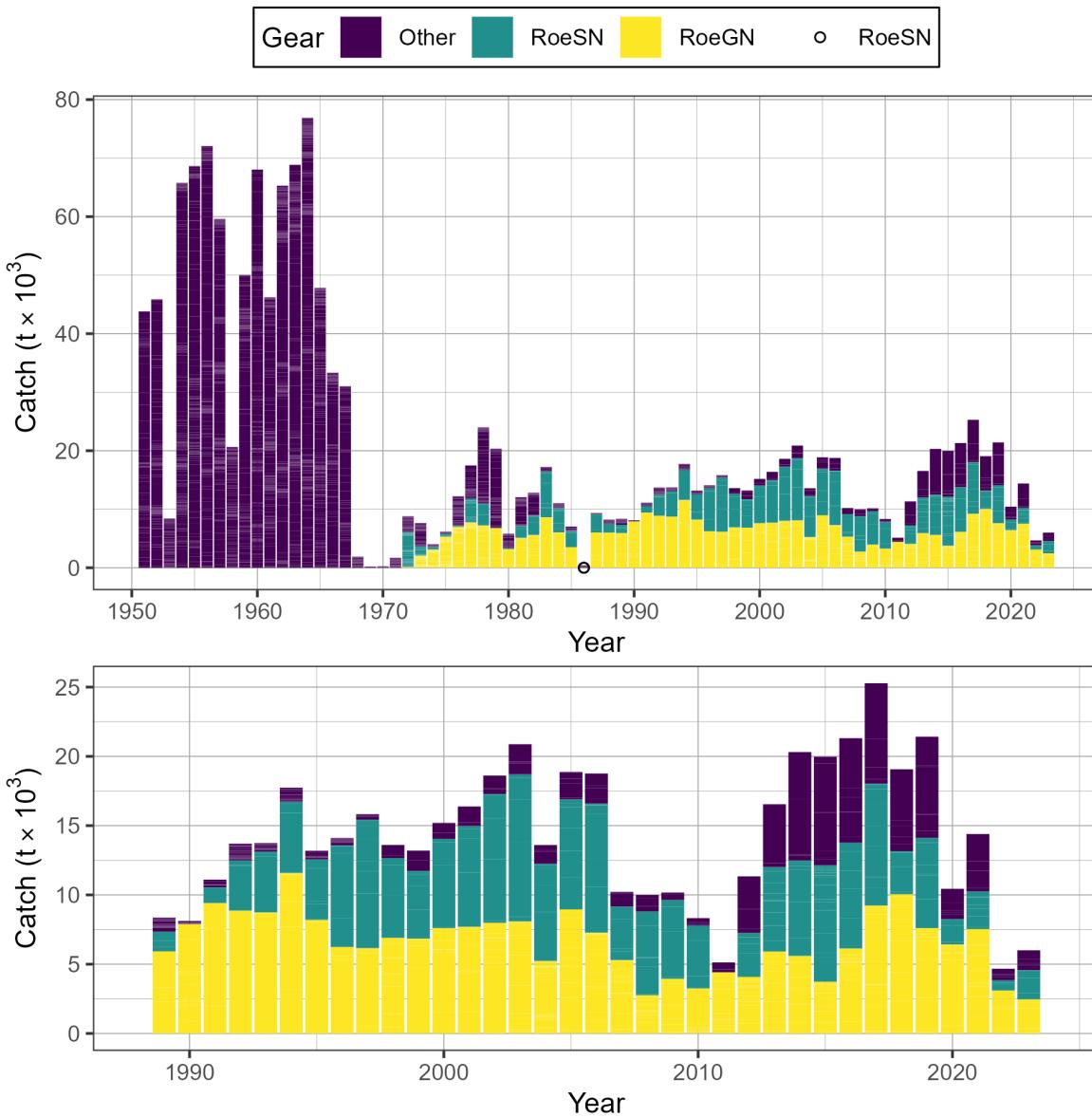


Figure 3. Time series of total landed catch in thousands of metric tonnes ($t \times 10^3$) of Pacific Herring by gear type from 1951 to 2023 in the Strait of Georgia major stock assessment region (SAR). Legend: ‘Other’ represents the reduction (1951 to 1970 only), the food and bait, as well as the special use fishery; ‘RoeSN’ represents the roe seine fishery; and ‘RoeGN’ represents the roe gillnet fishery. Data from the spawn-on-kelp (SOK) fishery are not included. Bottom panel shows catch since 1988 in more detail. Note: symbols indicate years in which catch by gear type (i.e., Other, RoeSN, RoeGN) is withheld due to privacy concerns.

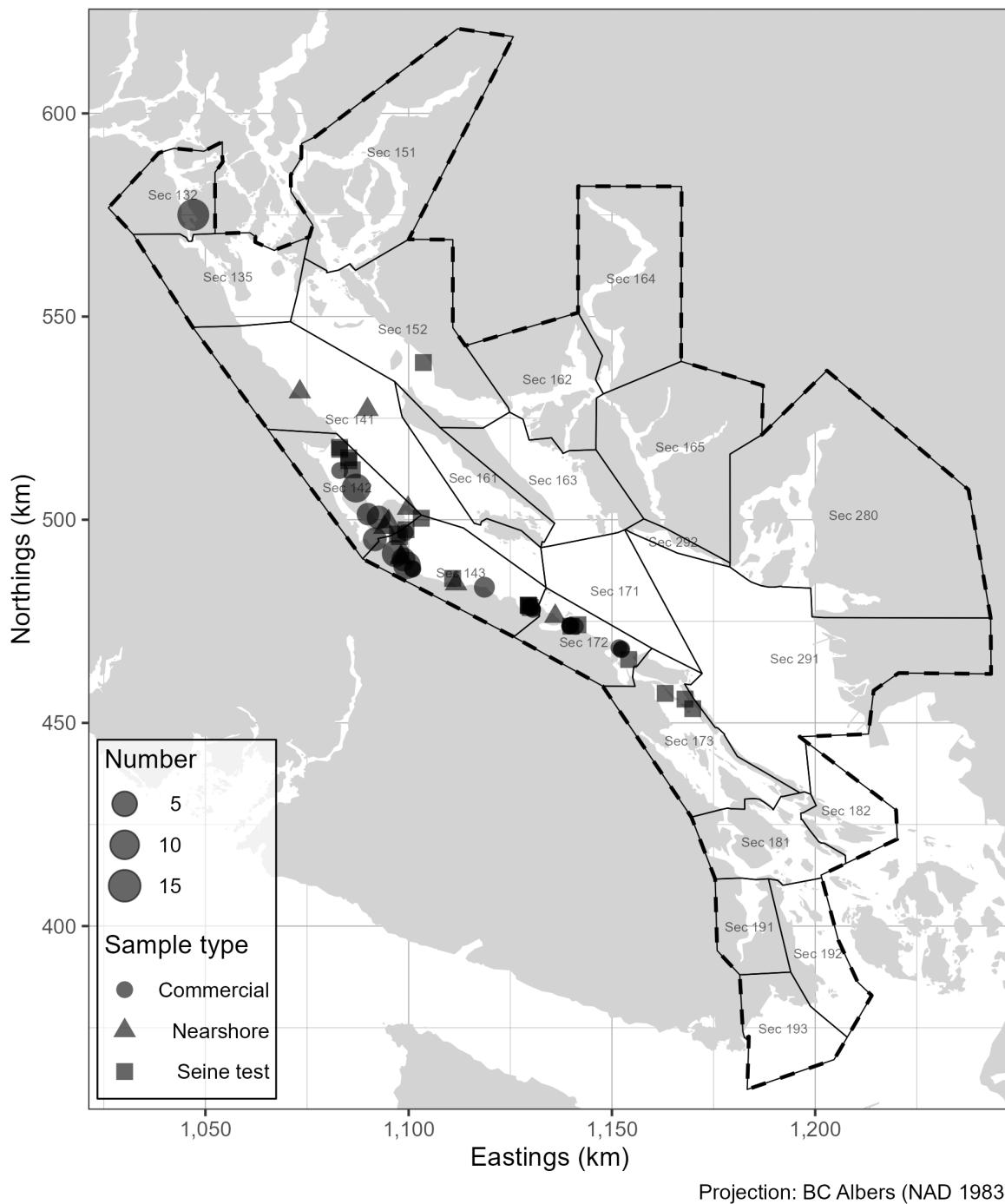


Figure 4. Location and type of Pacific Herring biological samples collected in 2023 in the Strait of Georgia major stock assessment region (SAR; thick dashed lines), and associated Sections (Sec; thin solid lines). Units: kilometres (km).

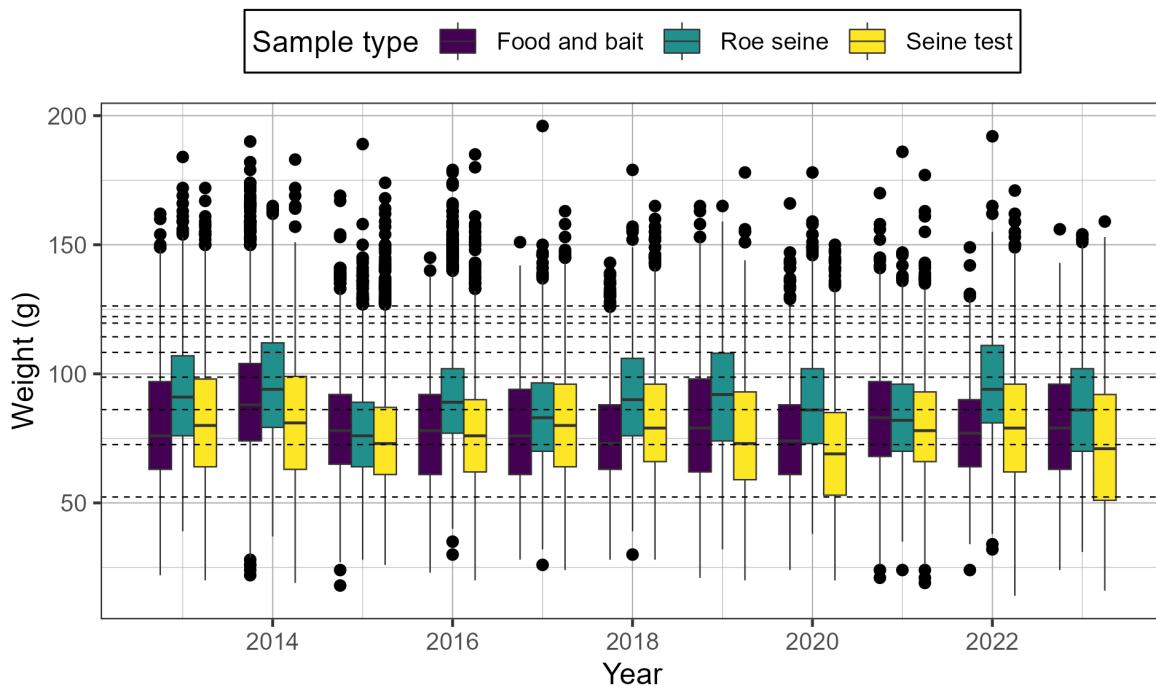


Figure 5. Time series of weight in grams (g) of Pacific Herring by sample type from 2013 to 2023 in the Strait of Georgia major stock assessment region (SAR) in Statistical Areas 14 and 17. The outer edges of the boxes indicate the 25th and 75th percentiles, and the middle lines indicate the 50th percentiles (i.e., medians). The whiskers extend to $1.5 \times \text{IQR}$, where IQR is the distance between the 25th and 75th percentiles, and dots indicate outliers. Horizontal dashed lines indicate the mean weight-at-age for age-2 (lowest line) to age-10 (incrementing higher from age-2) fish. Biological summaries only include samples collected using seine nets (commercial and test) due to size-selectivity of other gear types such as gillnet. The age-10 class is a ‘plus group’ which includes fish ages 10 and older.

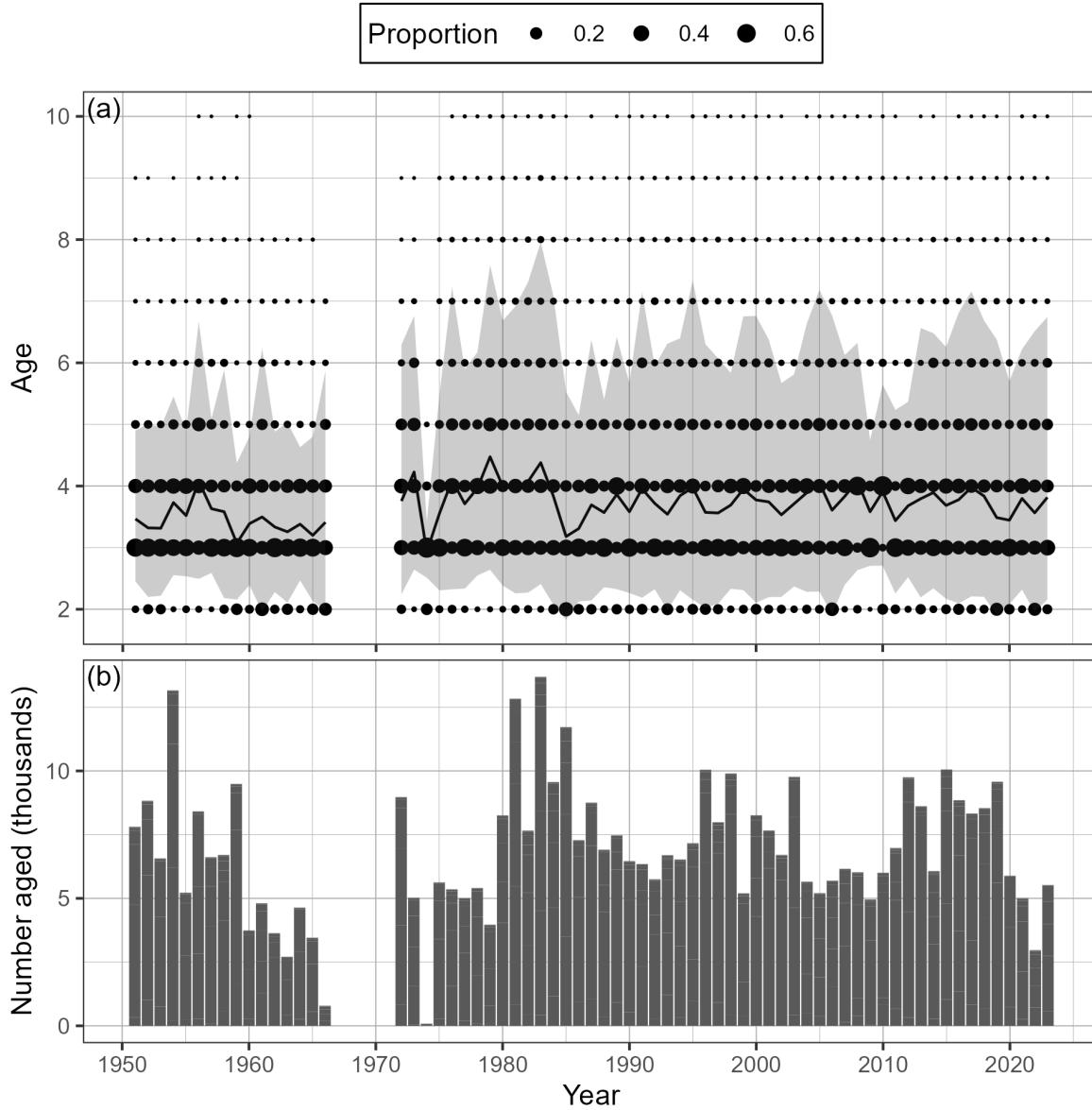


Figure 6. Time series of observed proportion-at-age (a) and number aged in thousands (b) of Pacific Herring from 1951 to 2023 in the Strait of Georgia major stock assessment region (SAR). The black line is the mean age, and the shaded area is the approximate 90% distribution. Biological summaries only include samples collected using seine nets (commercial and test) due to size-selectivity of other gear types such as gillnet. The age-10 class is a ‘plus group’ which includes fish ages 10 and older.

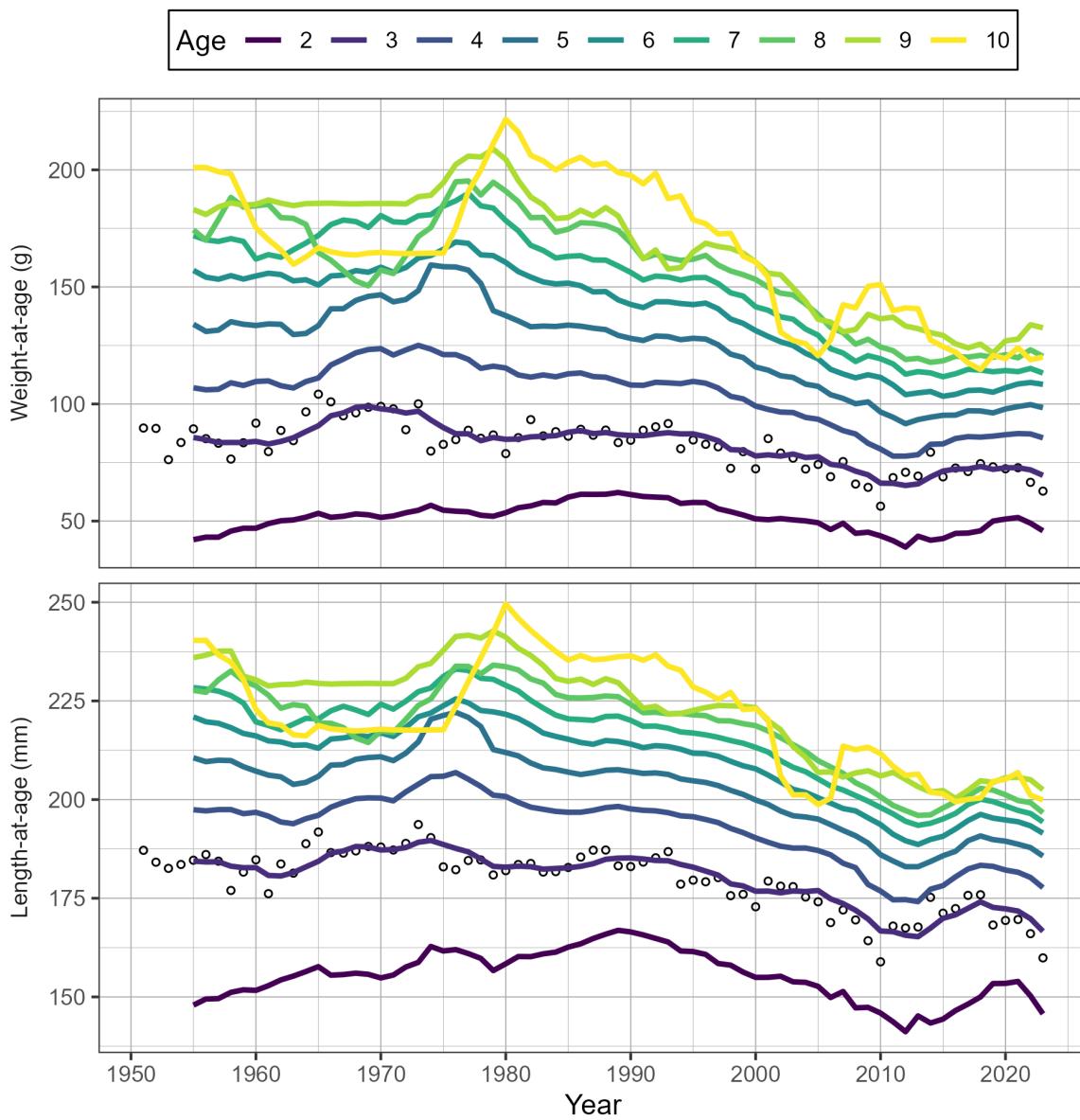


Figure 7. Time series of weight-at-age in grams (g) and length-at-age in milimetres (mm) for age-3 (circles) and 5-year running mean weight- and length-at-age (lines) for Pacific Herring from 1951 to 2023 in the Strait of Georgia major stock assessment region (SAR). Missing weight- and length-at-age values (i.e., years with no biological samples) are imputed using one of two methods: missing values at the beginning of the time series are imputed by extending the first non-missing value backwards; other missing values are imputed as the mean of the previous 5 years. Biological summaries only include samples collected using seine nets (commercial and test) due to size-selectivity of other gear types such as gillnet. The age-10 class is a ‘plus group’ which includes fish ages 10 and older.

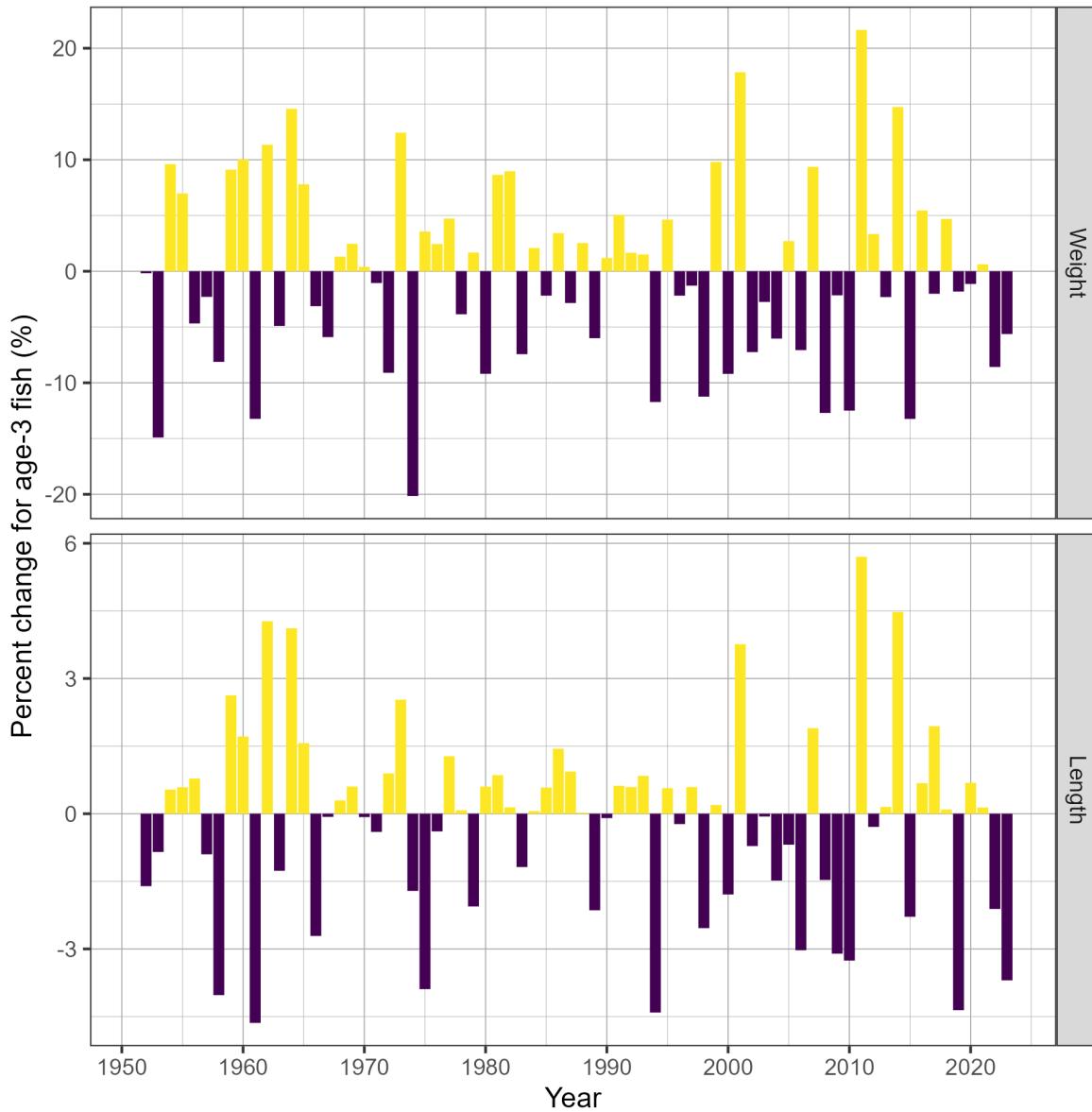


Figure 8. Time series of percent change (%) in weight and length for age-3 fish for Pacific Herring from 1951 to 2023 in the Strait of Georgia major stock assessment region (SAR). Percent change is $\delta_t = \frac{\alpha_t - \alpha_{t-1}}{\alpha_{t-1}}$ where α_t is the weight and length of age-3 fish, respectively, in year t . Biological summaries only include samples collected using seine nets (commercial and test) due to size-selectivity of other gear types such as gillnet.

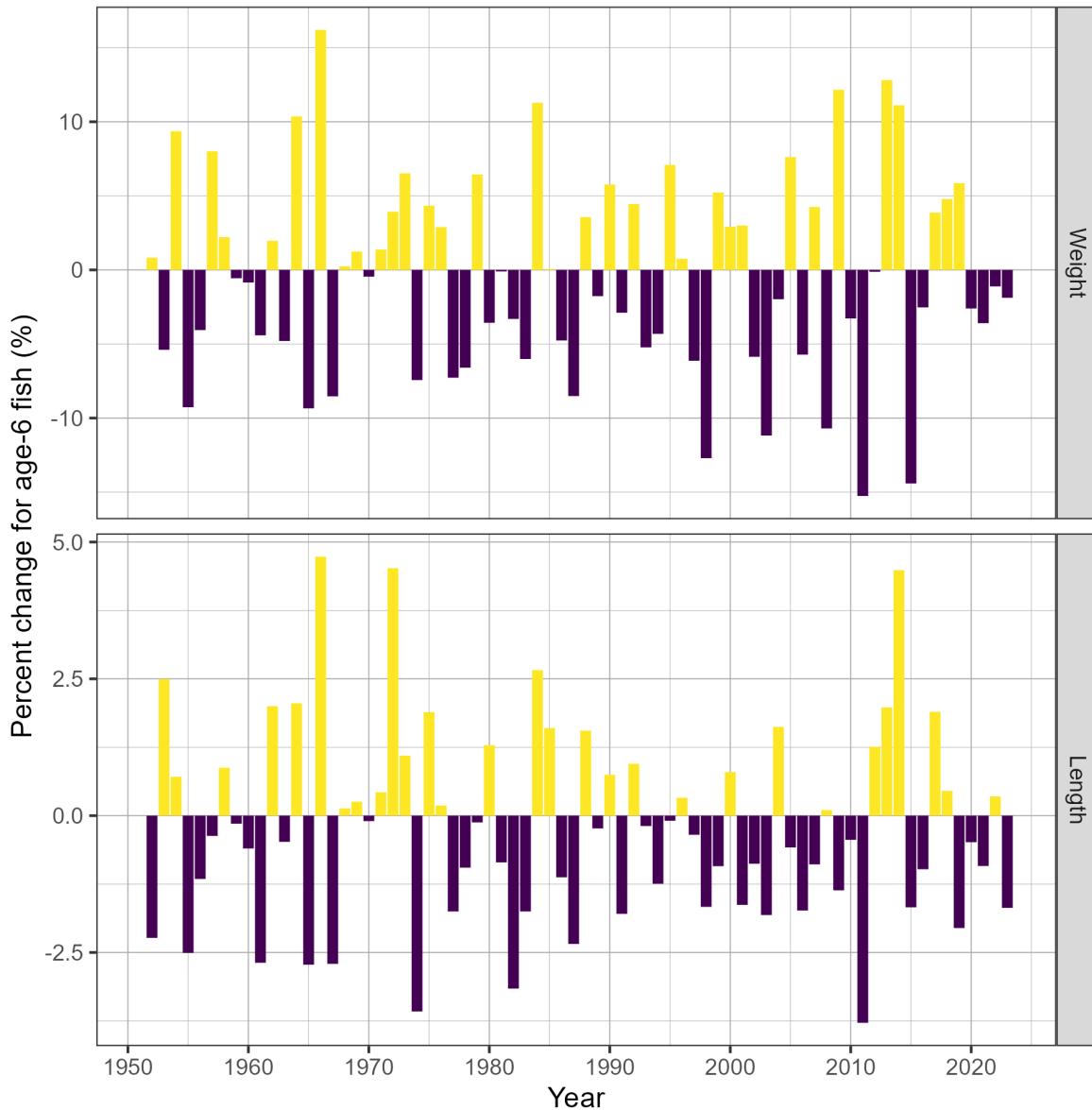


Figure 9. Time series of percent change (%) in weight and length for age-6 fish for Pacific Herring from 1951 to 2023 in the Strait of Georgia major stock assessment region (SAR). Percent change is $\delta_t = \frac{\alpha_t - \alpha_{t-1}}{\alpha_{t-1}}$ where α_t is the weight and length of age-6 fish, respectively, in year t . Biological summaries only include samples collected using seine nets (commercial and test) due to size-selectivity of other gear types such as gillnet.

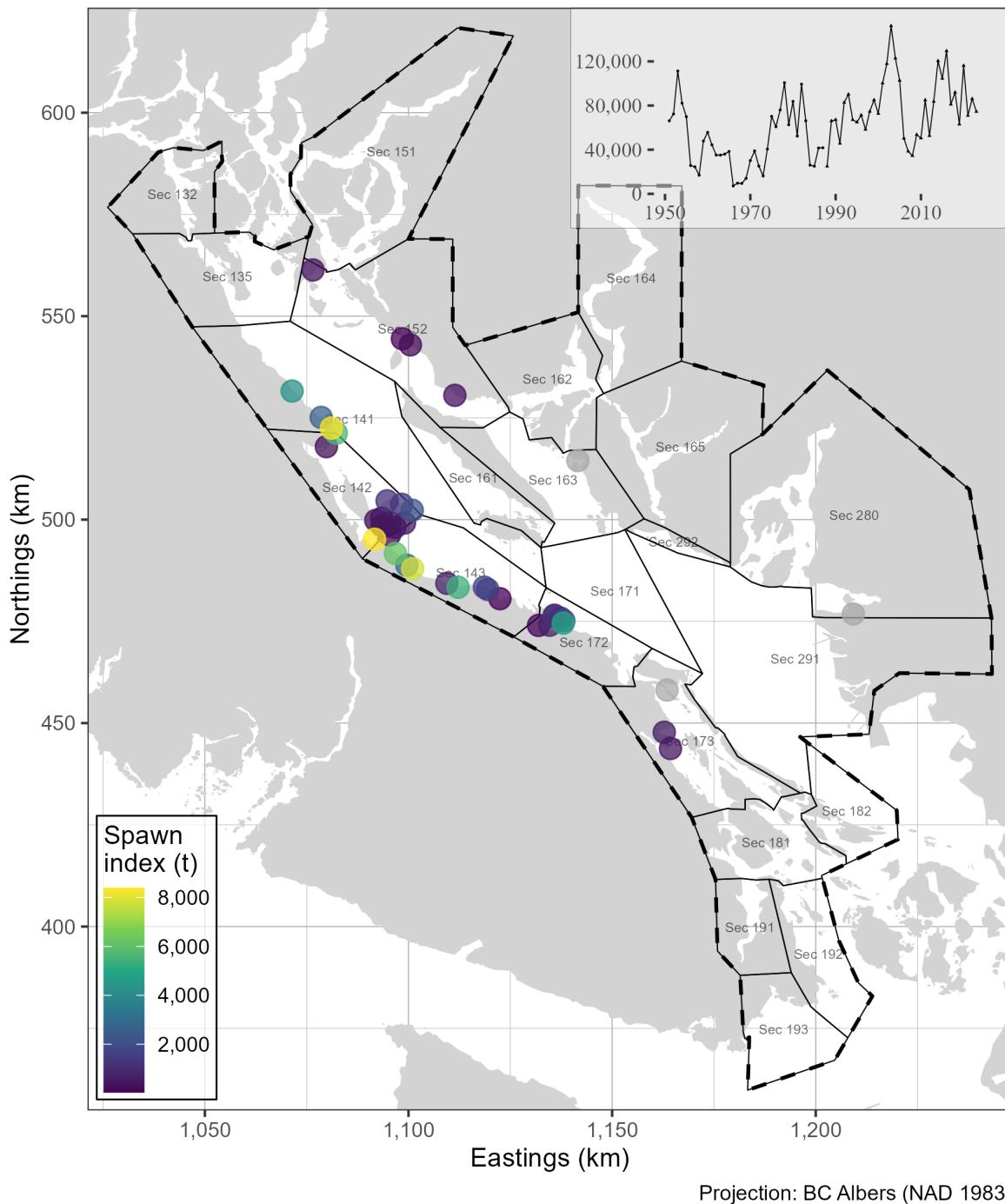


Figure 10. Pacific Herring spawn survey locations, and spawn index in metric tonnes (t) in 2023 in the Strait of Georgia major stock assessment region (SAR; thick dashed lines), and associated Sections (Sec; thin solid lines). The ‘spawn index’ is not scaled by the spawn survey scaling parameter, q . Missing spawn index values indicate incomplete surveys (grey circles). Inset tracks the total spawn index. Units: kilometres (km).

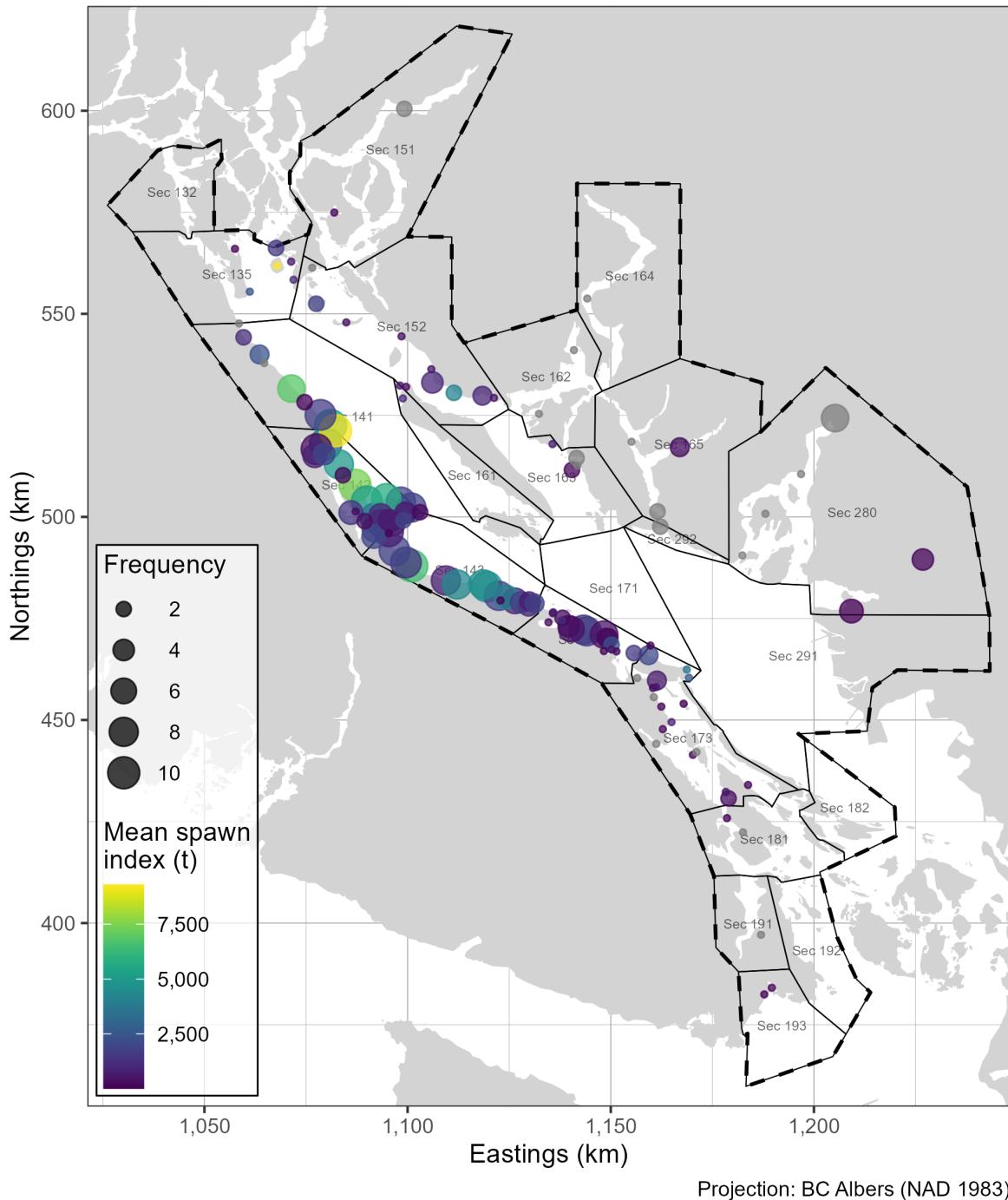


Figure 11. Pacific Herring spawn survey locations, mean spawn index in metric tonnes (t), and spawn frequency from 2013 to 2022 in the Strait of Georgia major stock assessment region (SAR; thick dashed lines), and associated Sections (Sec; thin solid lines). The ‘spawn index’ is not scaled by the spawn survey scaling parameter, q . Missing spawn index values indicate incomplete surveys (grey circles). Units: kilometres (km).

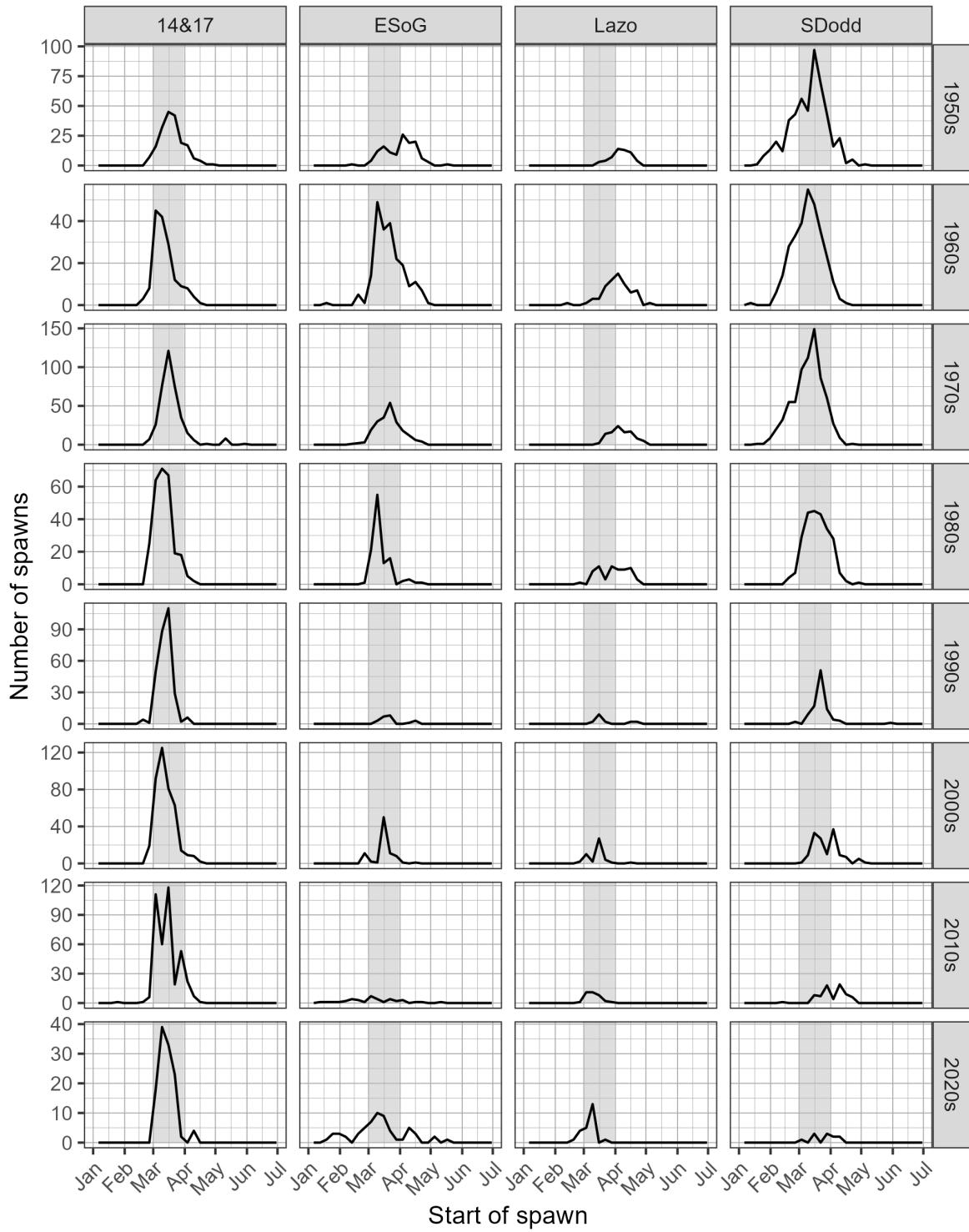


Figure 12. Pacific Herring spawn start date by decade and Group. Grey shaded regions indicate March 1st to 31st. Note that spawn size and intensity varies; therefore the number of spawns is not directly proportional to spawn extent or biomass. Legend: '14&17' is Statistical Areas 14 and 17 (excluding Section 173); 'ESoG' is eastern Strait of Georgia; 'Lazo' is above Cape Lazo; and 'SDodd' is South of Dodd Narrows

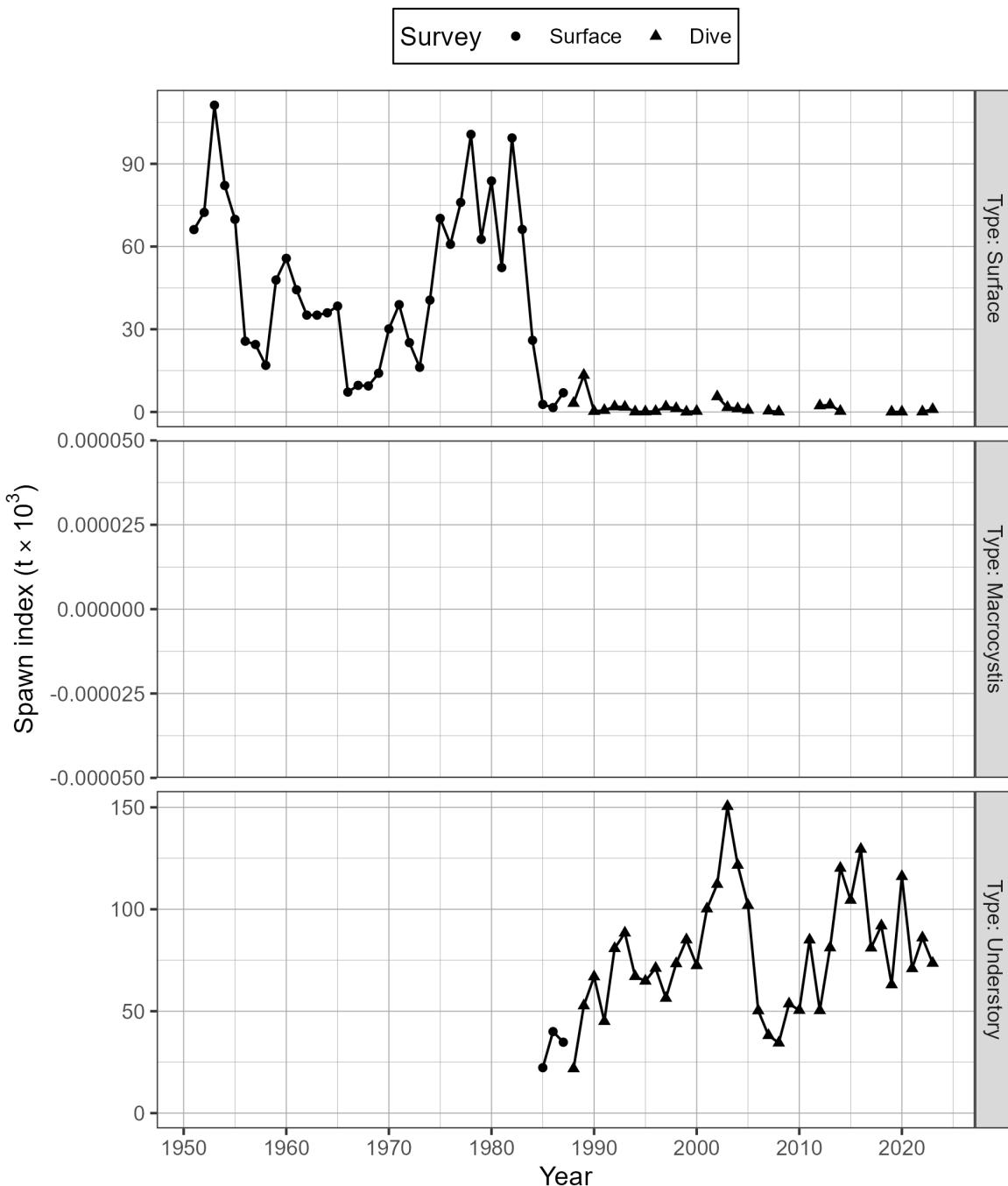


Figure 13. Time series of spawn index in thousands of metric tonnes ($t \times 10^3$) by type for Pacific Herring from 1951 to 2023 in the Strait of Georgia major stock assessment region (SAR). There are three types of spawn survey observations: observations of spawn taken from the surface usually at low tide, underwater observations of spawn on giant kelp, *Macrocystis* (*Macrocystis* spp.), and underwater observations of spawn on other types of algae and the substrate, which we refer to as ‘understory.’ The spawn index has two distinct periods defined by the dominant coastwide survey method: surface surveys (1951 to 1987), and dive surveys (1988 to 2023).

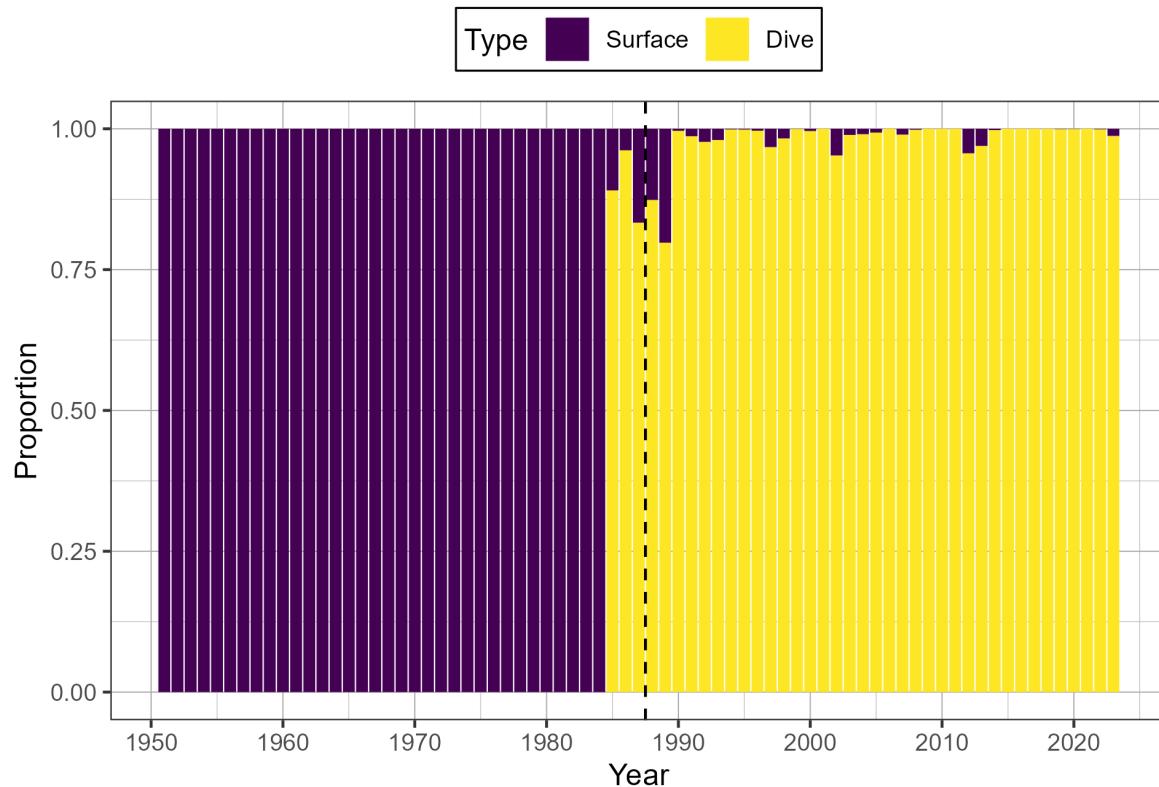


Figure 14. Time series of proportion of spawn index by surface and dive surveys for Pacific Herring from 1951 to 2023 in the Strait of Georgia major stock assessment region (SAR). The spawn index has two distinct periods defined by the dominant coastwide survey method: surface surveys (1951 to 1987), and dive surveys (1988 to 2023).

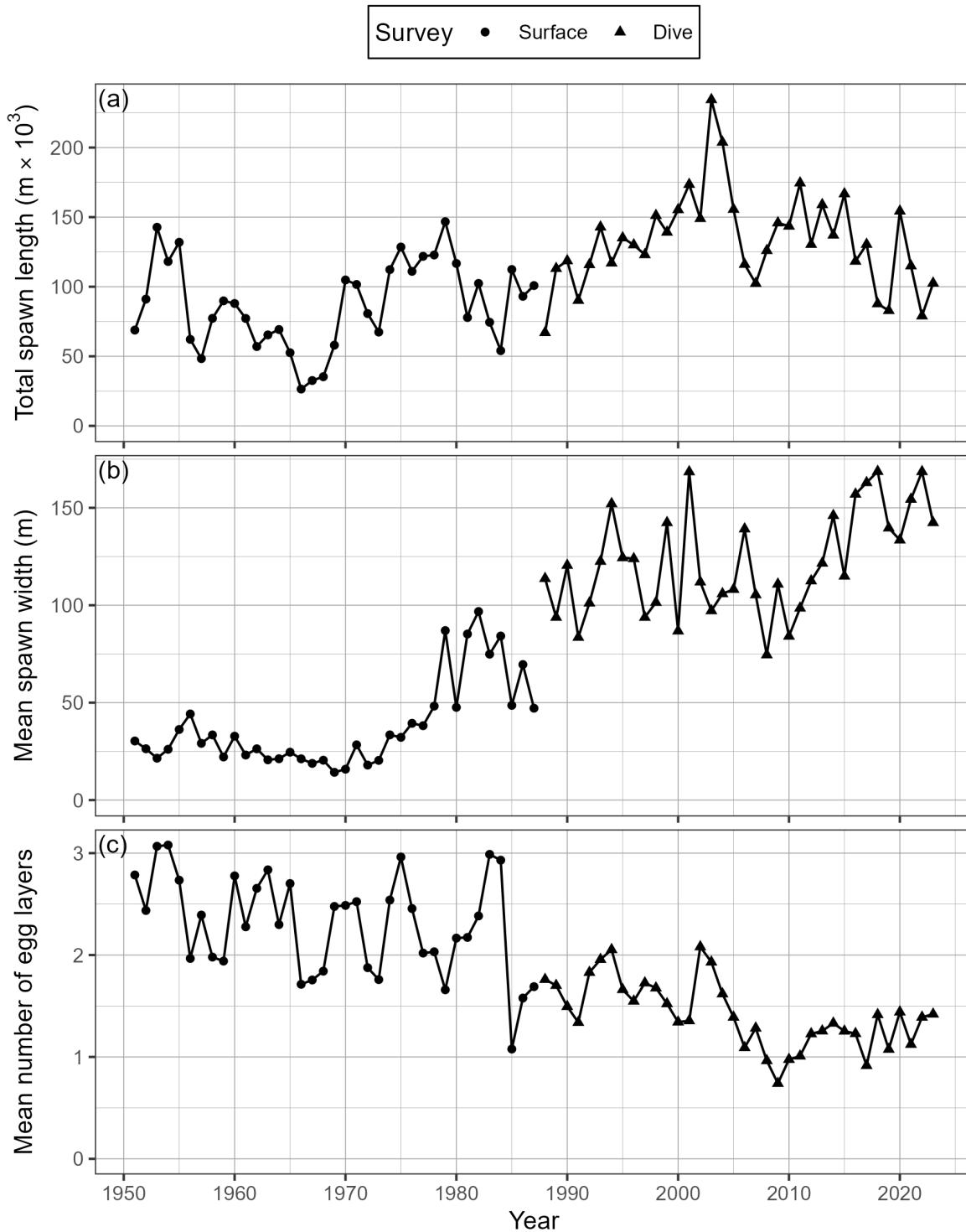


Figure 15. Time series of total spawn length in thousands of metres ($m \times 10^3$; panel a), mean spawn width in metres (b), and mean number of egg layers (c) for Pacific Herring from 1951 to 2023 in the Strait of Georgia major stock assessment region (SAR). The spawn index has two distinct periods defined by the dominant coastwide survey method: surface surveys (1951 to 1987), and dive surveys (1988 to 2023).

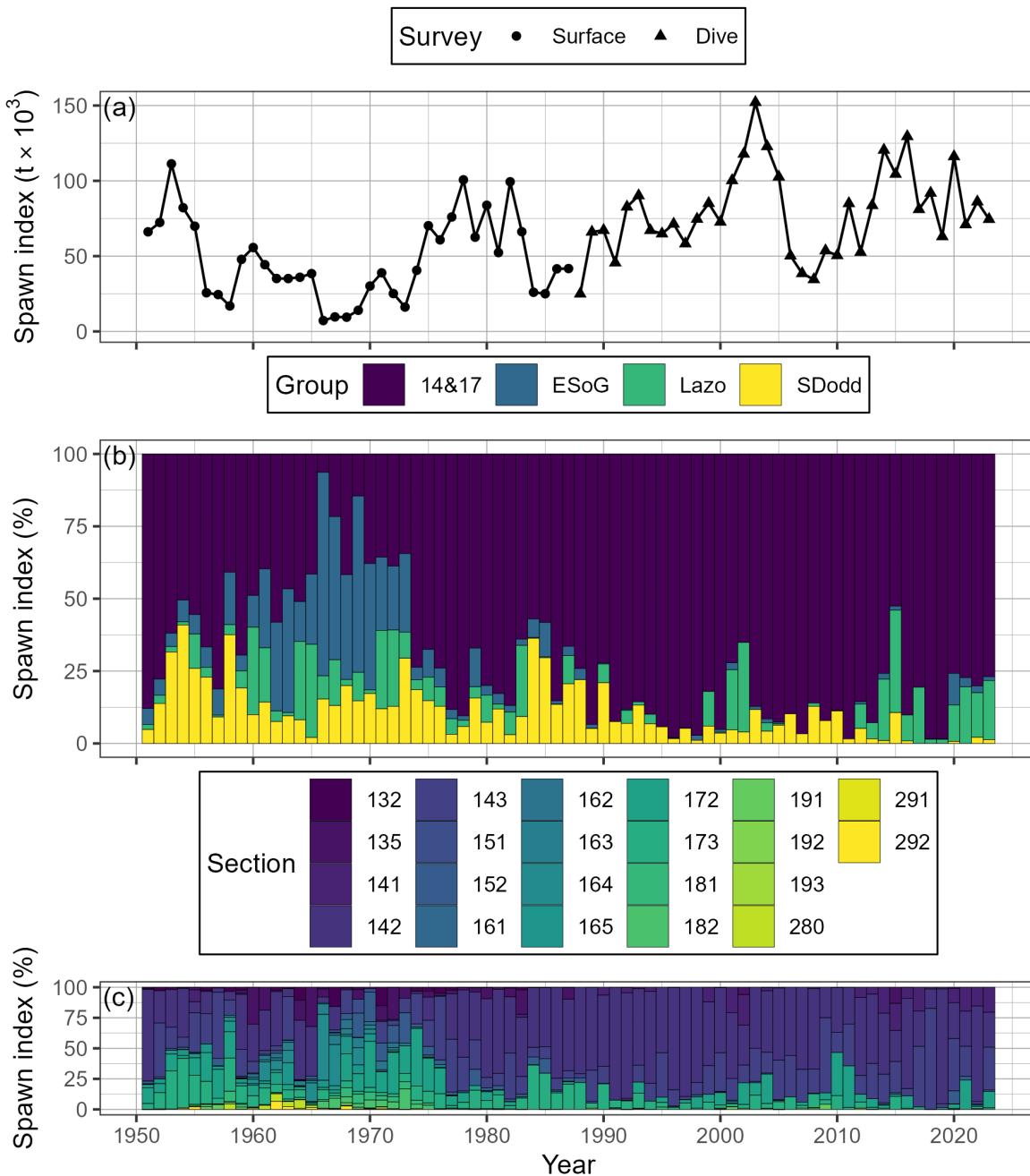


Figure 16. Time series of spawn index in thousands of metric tonnes ($t \times 10^3$) for Pacific Herring from 1951 to 2023 in the Strait of Georgia major stock assessment region (SAR; panel a), as well as percent contributed by Group, and Section (b, & c, respectively). The spawn index has two distinct periods defined by the dominant coastwide survey method: surface surveys (1951 to 1987), and dive surveys (1988 to 2023). Note that spawn surveys in the dive survey period (1988 to 2023) are a combination of surface and dive surveys (Figures 13 and 14). The ‘spawn index’ is not scaled by the spawn survey scaling parameter, q . Legend: ‘14&17’ is Statistical Areas 14 and 17 (excluding Section 173); ‘ESoG’ is eastern Strait of Georgia; ‘Lazo’ is above Cape Lazo; and ‘SDodd’ is South of Dodd Narrows

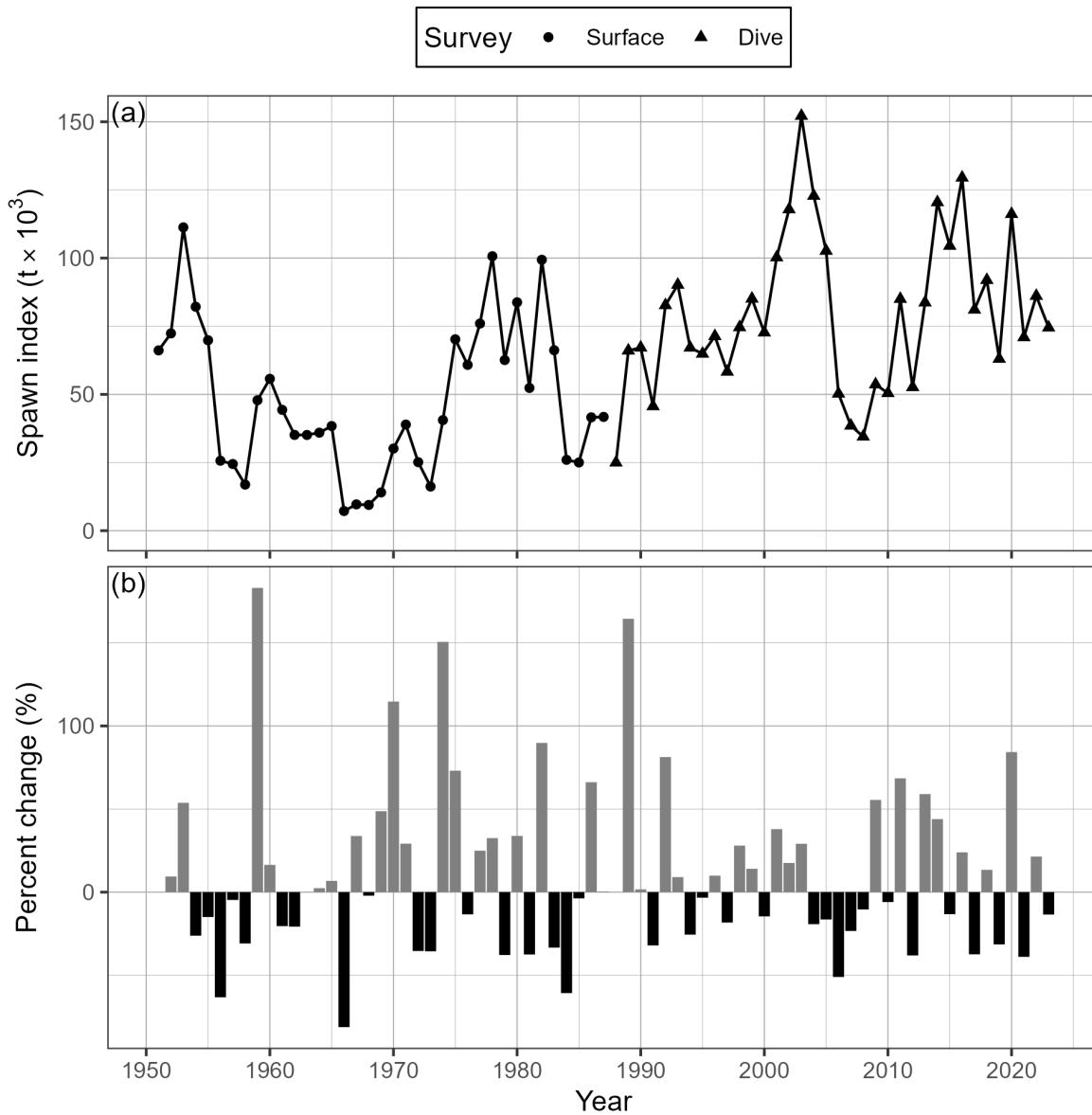


Figure 17. Time series of spawn index in thousands of metric tonnes ($t \times 10^3$) for Pacific Herring from 1951 to 2023 in the Strait of Georgia major stock assessment region (SAR; panel a), and percent change (b). Percent change is $\delta_t = \frac{\alpha_t - \alpha_{t-1}}{\alpha_{t-1}}$ where α_t is the spawn index in year t . The spawn index has two distinct periods defined by the dominant coastwide survey method: surface surveys (1951 to 1987), and dive surveys (1988 to 2023). The ‘spawn index’ is not scaled by the spawn survey scaling parameter, q . Note that spawn surveys in the dive survey period (1988 to 2023) are a combination of surface and dive surveys (Figures 13 and 14).

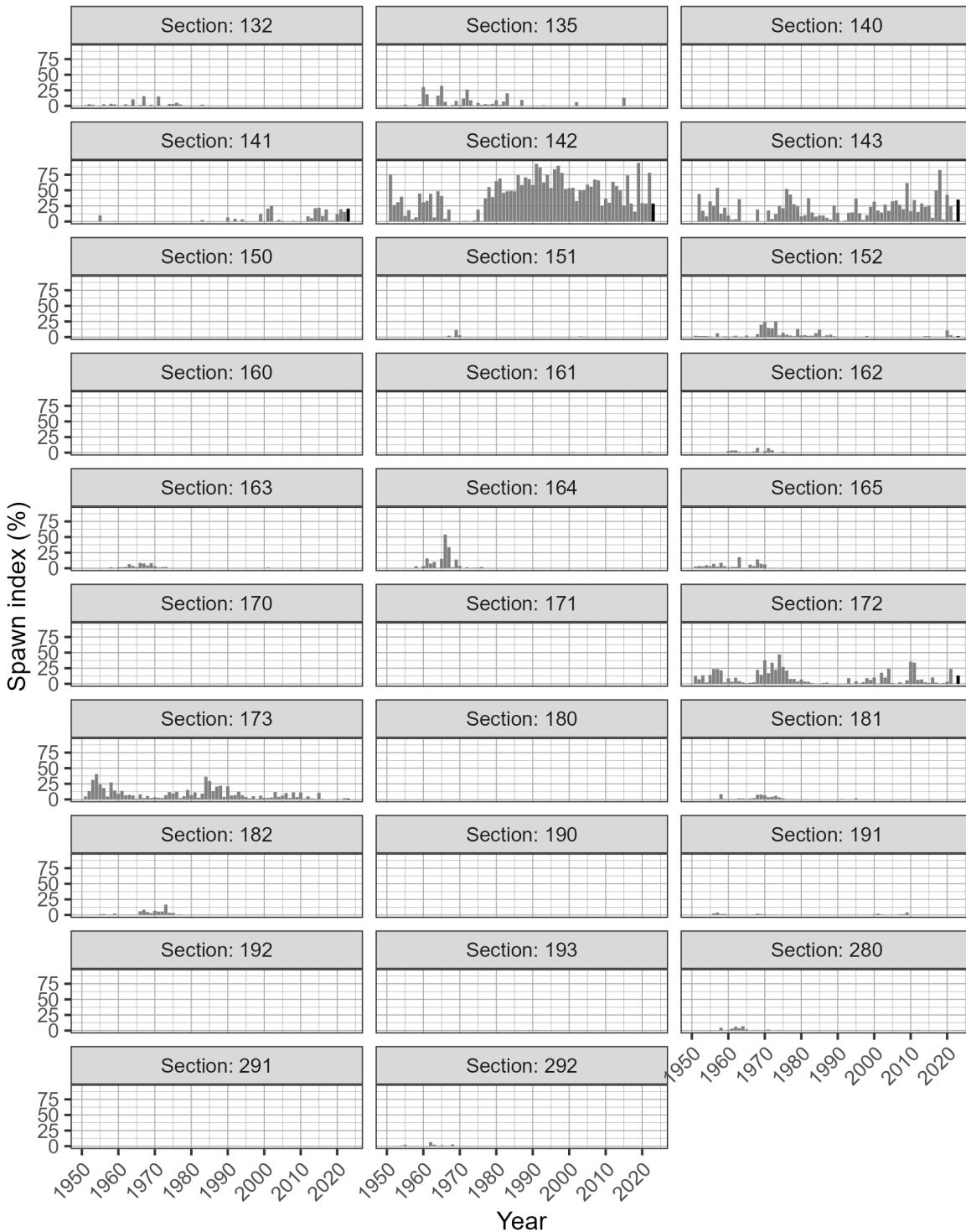


Figure 18. Time series of percent of spawn index by Section for Pacific Herring from 1951 to 2023 in the Strait of Georgia major stock assessment region (SAR). The year 2023 has a darker bar to facilitate interpretation. The spawn index has two distinct periods defined by the dominant coastwide survey method: surface surveys (1951 to 1987), and dive surveys (1988 to 2023). The ‘spawn index’ is not scaled by the spawn survey scaling parameter, q .

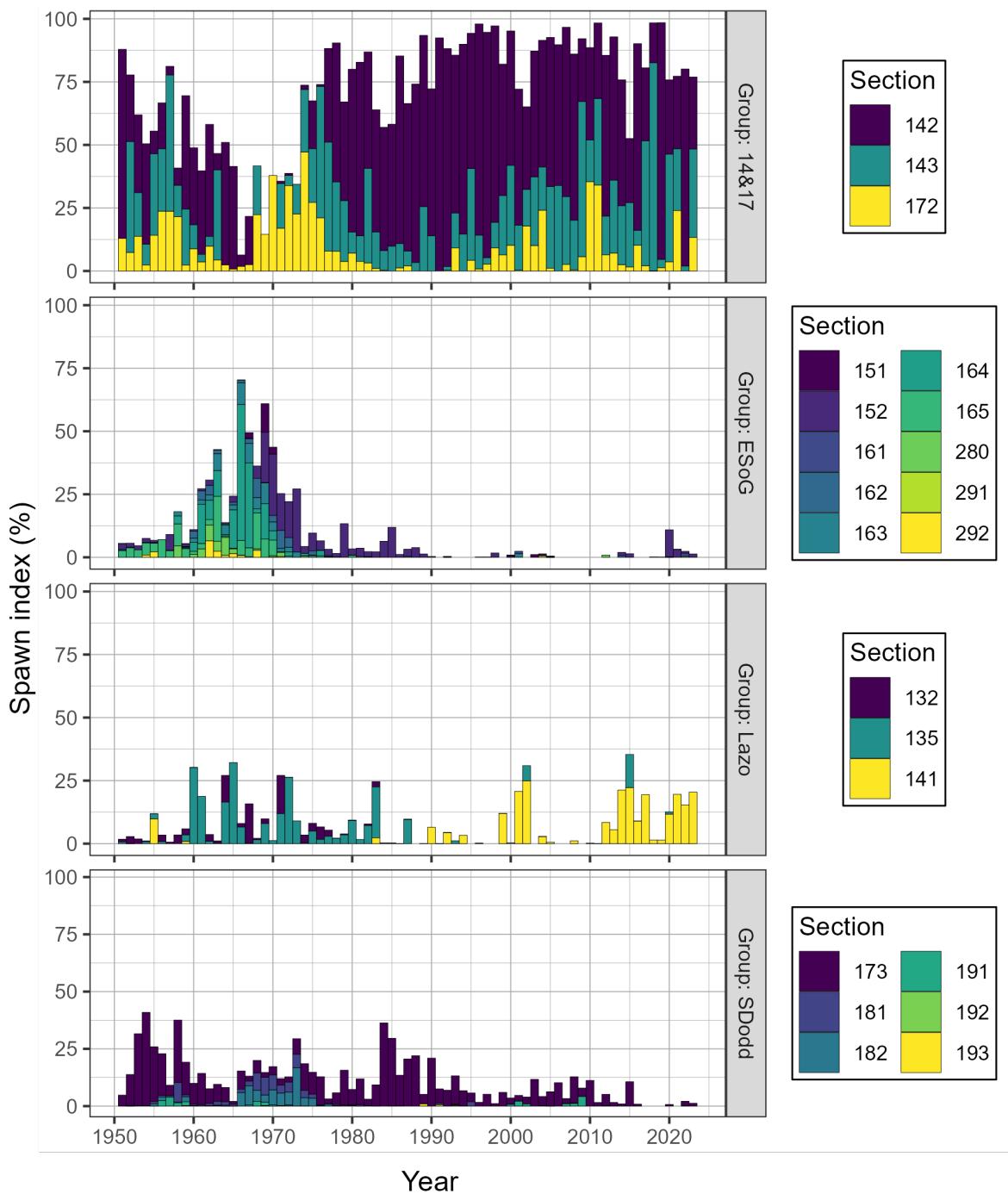


Figure 19. Time series of percent of spawn index by Group and Section for Pacific Herring from 1951 to 2023 in the Strait of Georgia major stock assessment region (SAR). The spawn index has two distinct periods defined by the dominant coastwide survey method: surface surveys (1951 to 1987), and dive surveys (1988 to 2023). The ‘spawn index’ is not scaled by the spawn survey scaling parameter, q . Legend: ‘14&17’ is Statistical Areas 14 and 17 (excluding Section 173); ‘ESoG’ is eastern Strait of Georgia; ‘Lazo’ is above Cape Lazo; and ‘SDodd’ is South of Dodd Narrows

Figure 20. Animation of Pacific Herring spawn index in metric tonnes (t) by Location from 1951 to 2023 in the Strait of Georgia major stock assessment region (SAR; thick dashed lines), and associated Sections (Sec; thin solid lines). The spawn index has two distinct periods defined by the dominant coastwide survey method: surface surveys (1951 to 1987), and dive surveys (1988 to 2023). The ‘spawn index’ is not scaled by the spawn survey scaling parameter, q . Missing spawn index values indicate incomplete surveys (grey circles). Inset tracks the total spawn index. Units: kilometres (km). View the animation: download the report, open with Adobe, enable Java, and click “play”.