

¹ Status of California Scorpionfish (*Scorpaena guttata*) Off Southern California in 2017



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17 *guttata*) Off Southern California in 2017

18 **Contents**

19 Executive Summary	1
20 Stock	1
21 Catches	1
22 Data and Assessment	5
23 Stock Biomass	7
24 Recruitment	10
25 Exploitation status	12
26 Ecosystem Considerations	14
27 Reference Points	14
28 Management Performance	15
29 Unresolved Problems And Major Uncertainties	15
30 Decision Table	15
31 Research And Data Needs	19
32 1 Introduction	1
33 1.1 Basic Information and Life History	1
34 1.2 Early Life History	1
35 1.3 Map	2
36 1.4 Ecosystem Considerations	2
37 1.5 Fishery Information	2
38 1.6 Summary of Management History	4
39 1.7 Management Performance	6
40 1.8 Fisheries off Mexico	6

41	2 Assessment	6
42	2.1 Data	6
43	2.1.1 Commercial Fishery Landings	6
44	2.1.2 Commercial Discards	7
45	2.1.3 Fishery Length And Age Data	8
46	2.1.4 Sport Fishery Removals and Discards	8
47	2.1.5 Fishery-dependent Data Sources	10
48	2.1.6 Fishery-Independent Data Sources	19
49	2.1.7 Biological Parameters and Data	22
50	2.1.8 Environmental Or Ecosystem Data Included In The Assessment . . .	25
51	2.2 History Of Modeling Approaches Used For This Stock	25
52	2.2.1 Previous Assessments	25
53	2.2.2 2005 Assessment Recommendations	25
54	2.3 Model Description	26
55	2.3.1 Transition To The Current Stock Assessment	26
56	2.3.2 Definition of Fleets and Areas	26
57	2.3.3 Summary of Data for Fleets and Areas	27
58	2.3.4 Modeling Software	27
59	2.3.5 Data Weighting	27
60	2.3.6 Priors	27
61	2.3.7 General Model Specifications	27
62	2.3.8 Estimated And Fixed Parameters	27
63	2.4 Model Selection and Evaluation	27
64	2.4.1 Key Assumptions and Structural Choices	27
65	2.4.2 Alternate Models Considered	28
66	2.4.3 Convergence	28
67	2.5 Response To The Current STAR Panel Requests	28
68	2.6 Model 1	29
69	2.6.1 Model 1 Base Case Results	29
70	2.6.2 Model 1 Uncertainty and Sensitivity Analyses	29
71	2.6.3 Model 1 Retrospective Analysis	29
72	2.6.4 Model 1 Likelihood Profiles	29

73	2.6.5 Model 1 Harvest Control Rules (CPS only)	29
74	2.6.6 Model 1 Reference Points (groundfish only)	29
75	3 Harvest Projections and Decision Tables	29
76	4 Regional Management Considerations	30
77	5 Research Needs	30
78	6 Acknowledgments	30
79	7 Tables	31
80	8 Figures	68
81	References	

82 **Executive Summary**

executive-summary

83 **Stock**

stock

84 This assessment reports the status of the California scorpionfish (*Scorpaena guttata*) resource
85 in U.S. waters off the coast of the California, Oregon, and Washington using data through
86 2016. Etc...

87 **Catches**

catches

88 Catch figure(s) with fleets: (Figures a-c)

89 Catch table: (Table a)

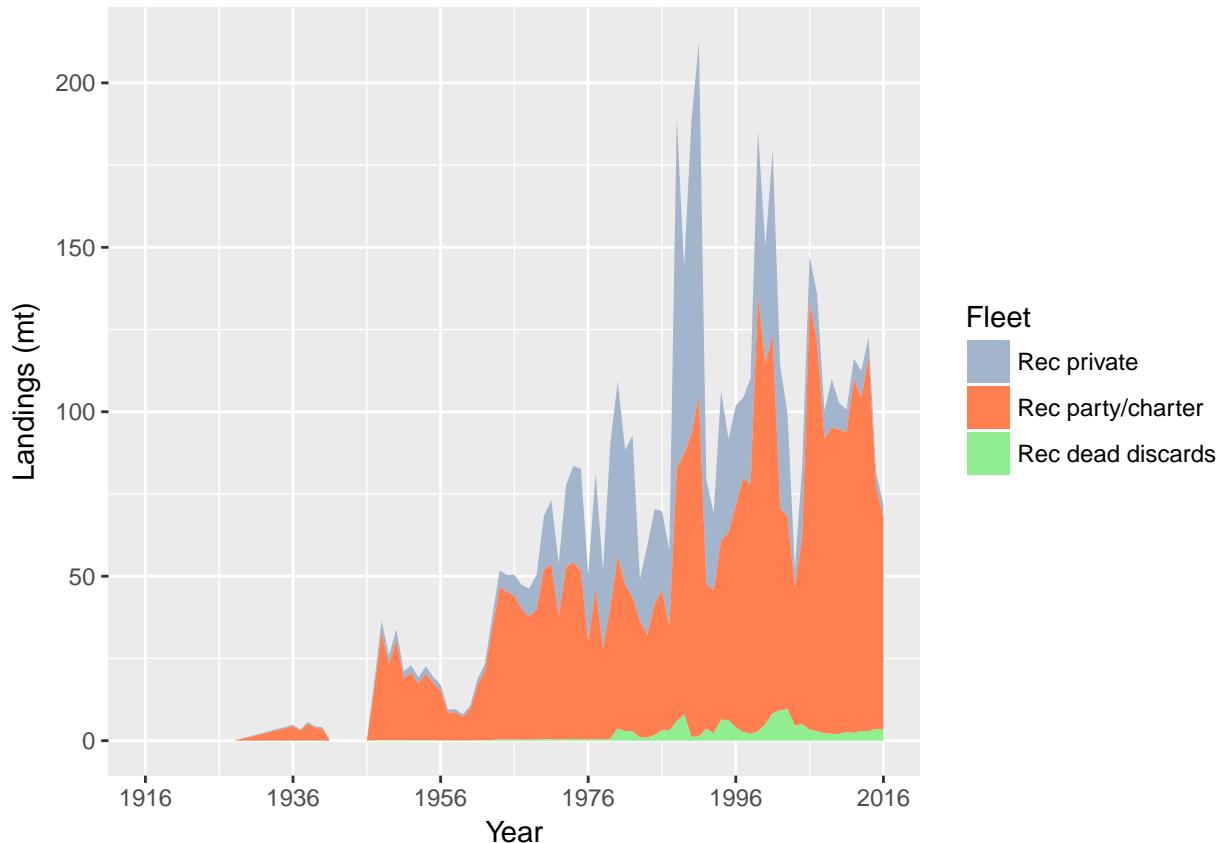


Figure a: California scorpionfish landings history for the recreational fleets. `fig:Exec_catch1`

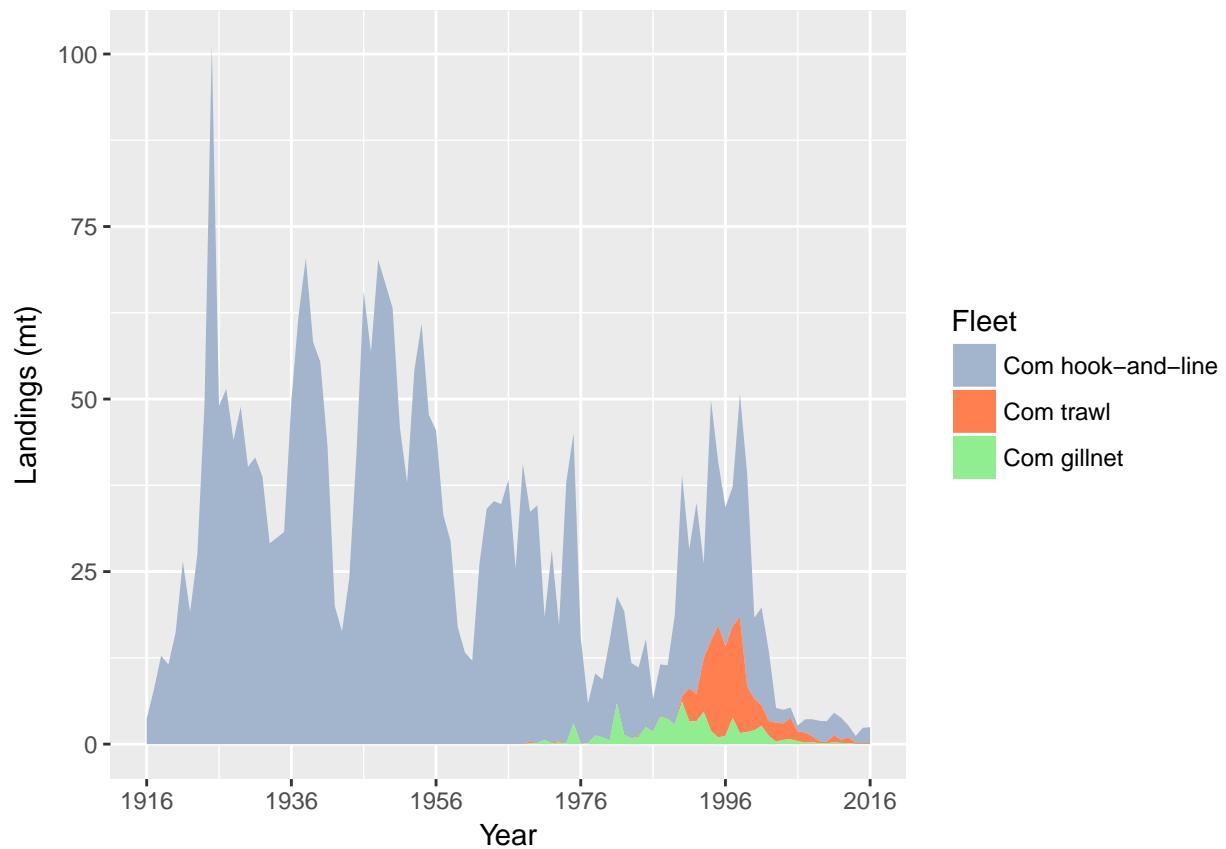


Figure b: Stacked line plot of California scorpionfish landings history for the commercial fleets. [fig:Exec_catch2](#)

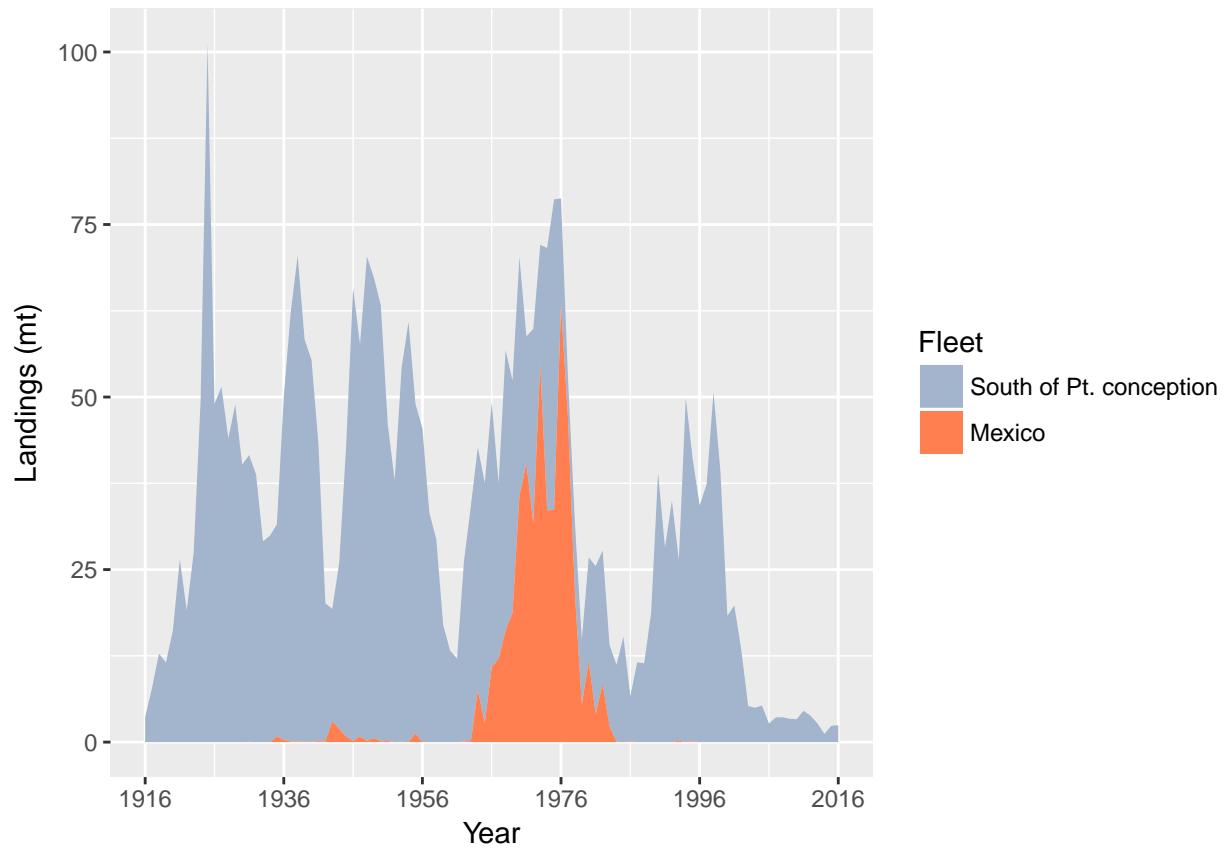


Figure c: Stacked line plot of California scorpionfish landings history by region, north of Pt. Conception, between Pt. Conception and the U.S.-Mexico border, and Mexican waters. [fig:Exec_catch3](#)

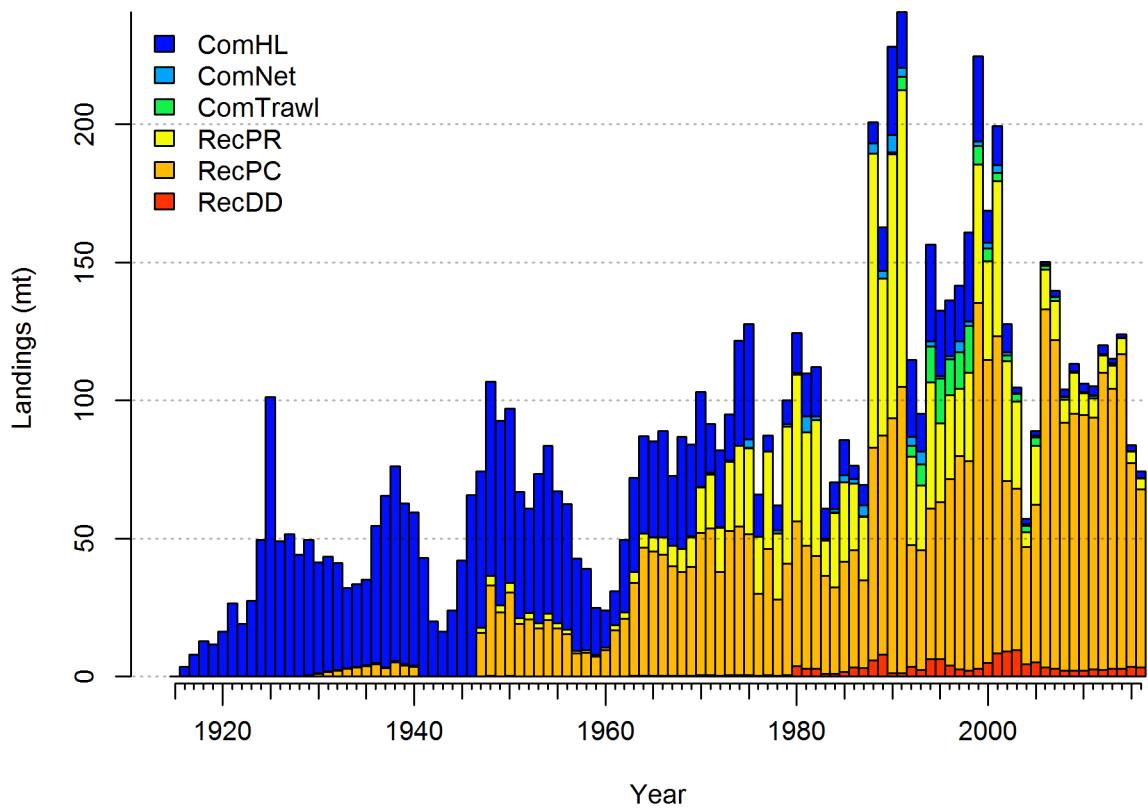


Figure d: Landings history of California scorpionfish in the base model. [fig:r4ss_catches](#)

Table a: Recent California scorpionfish landings (mt) by recreational (Rec.) and commercial (Com.) fleets.

Year	Rec.	Rec.	Rec. Dead	Com.	Com.	Com.	Total
	Private	Party/Charter	Discards	Hook-and-line	Trawl	Gillnet	
2007	14.24	118.87	2.89	1.90	1.48	0.21	139.58
2008	8.38	89.65	2.25	2.46	0.86	0.28	103.89
2009	14.68	93.16	2.09	2.97	0.27	0.13	113.31
2010	8.07	92.55	2.03	2.99	0.18	0.14	105.97
2011	6.84	91.18	2.66	3.24	1.05	0.24	105.21
2012	6.22	107.63	2.34	3.22	0.43	0.18	120.00
2013	8.18	101.31	2.94	1.73	0.83	0.14	115.14
2014	5.88	113.83	2.93	1.03	0.13	0.04	123.82
2015	4.15	73.78	3.59	2.21	0.13	0.03	83.89
2016	3.86	64.56	3.29	2.32	0.13	0.00	74.16

90 Data and Assessment

data-and-assessment

91 California scorpionfish was assessed in 2005 (Maunder et al. 2005) using Stock Synthesis
 92 II version 1.18. This assessment uses the newest version of Stock Synthesis (3.30.0.4). The
 93 model begins in 1916, and assumes the stock was at an unfished equilibrium that year.

94 Map of assessment region: (Figure e).

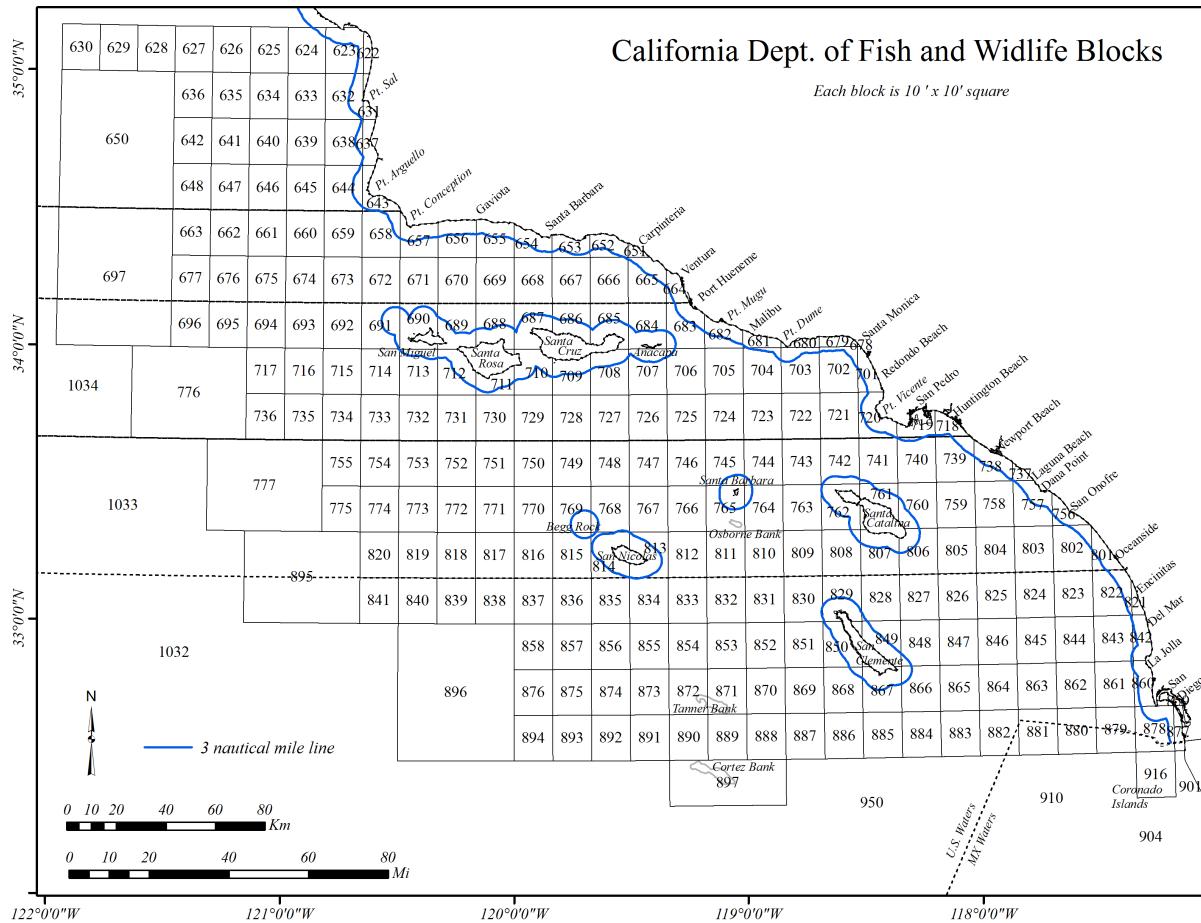


Figure e: Map depicting the boundaries for the base-case model. [fig:assess_region_map](#)

95 **Stock Biomass**

stock-biomass

- 96 Spawning output Figure: Figure [f](#)
 97 Spawning output Table(s): Table [b](#)
 98 Relative depletion Figure: Figure [g](#)

99 The estimated relative depletion level (spawning output relative to unfished spawning output)
 100 of the the base-case model in 2016 is 55.6% (~95% asymptotic interval: ± 40.5%-70.7%)
 101 (Figure [g](#)).

Table b: Recent trend in beginning of the year spawning output and depletion for the base model for California scorpionfish.

Year	Spawning Output (mt)	~ 95% confidence interval	Estimated depletion	~ 95% confidence interval
2008	649.288	(339.09-959.49)	0.731	(0.554-0.908)
2009	632.086	(332.7-931.47)	0.712	(0.542-0.881)
2010	599.904	(317.76-882.05)	0.676	(0.518-0.833)
2011	570.013	(305.72-834.31)	0.642	(0.498-0.786)
2012	546.582	(296.38-796.78)	0.616	(0.484-0.747)
2013	511.635	(276.25-747.02)	0.576	(0.454-0.698)
2014	467.039	(249.44-684.64)	0.526	(0.413-0.639)
2015	425.087	(219.81-630.37)	0.479	(0.367-0.59)
2016	431.582	(218.81-644.35)	0.486	(0.366-0.606)
2017	493.509	(242.88-744.14)	0.556	(0.405-0.707)

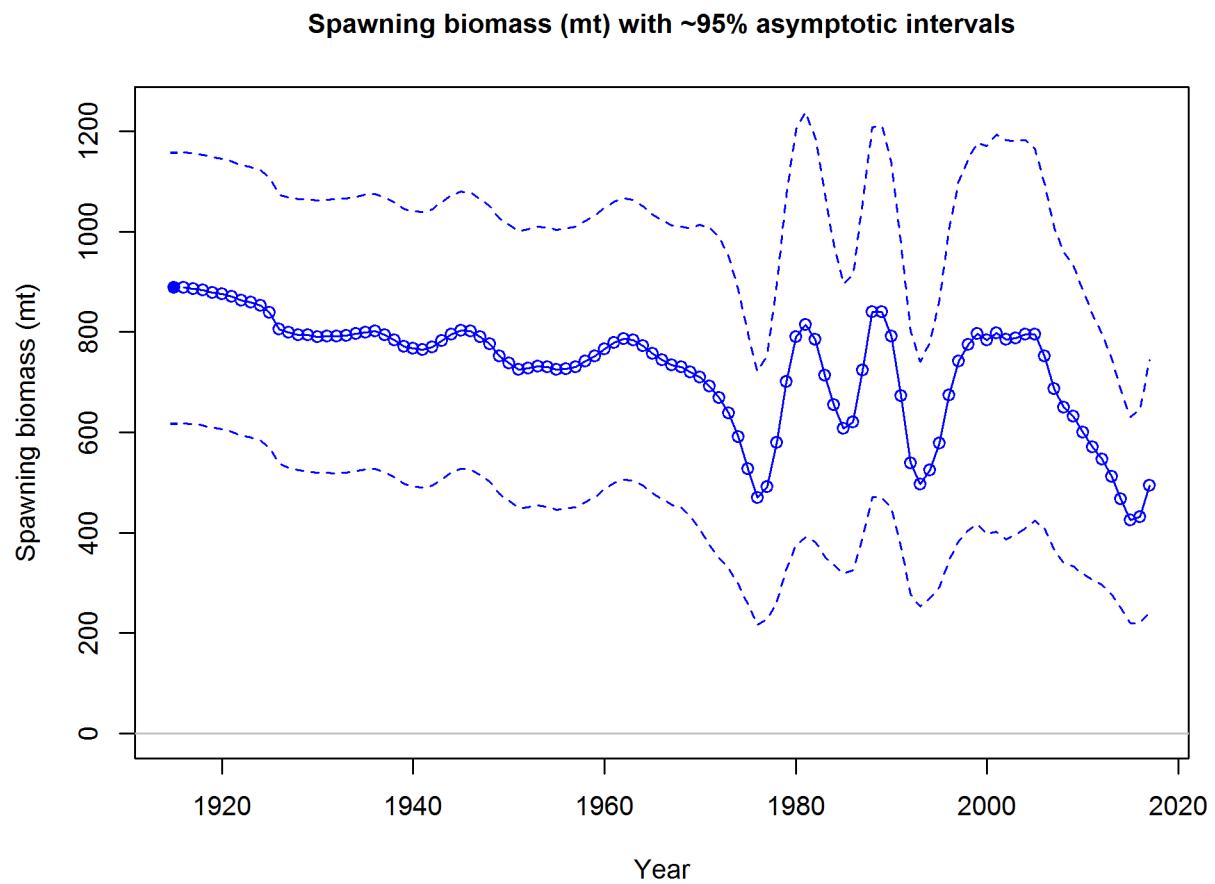


Figure f: Time series of spawning output trajectory (circles and line; median; light broken lines: 95% credibility intervals) for the base case assessment model. | [fig:Spawnbio_all](#)

Spawning depletion with ~95% asymptotic intervals

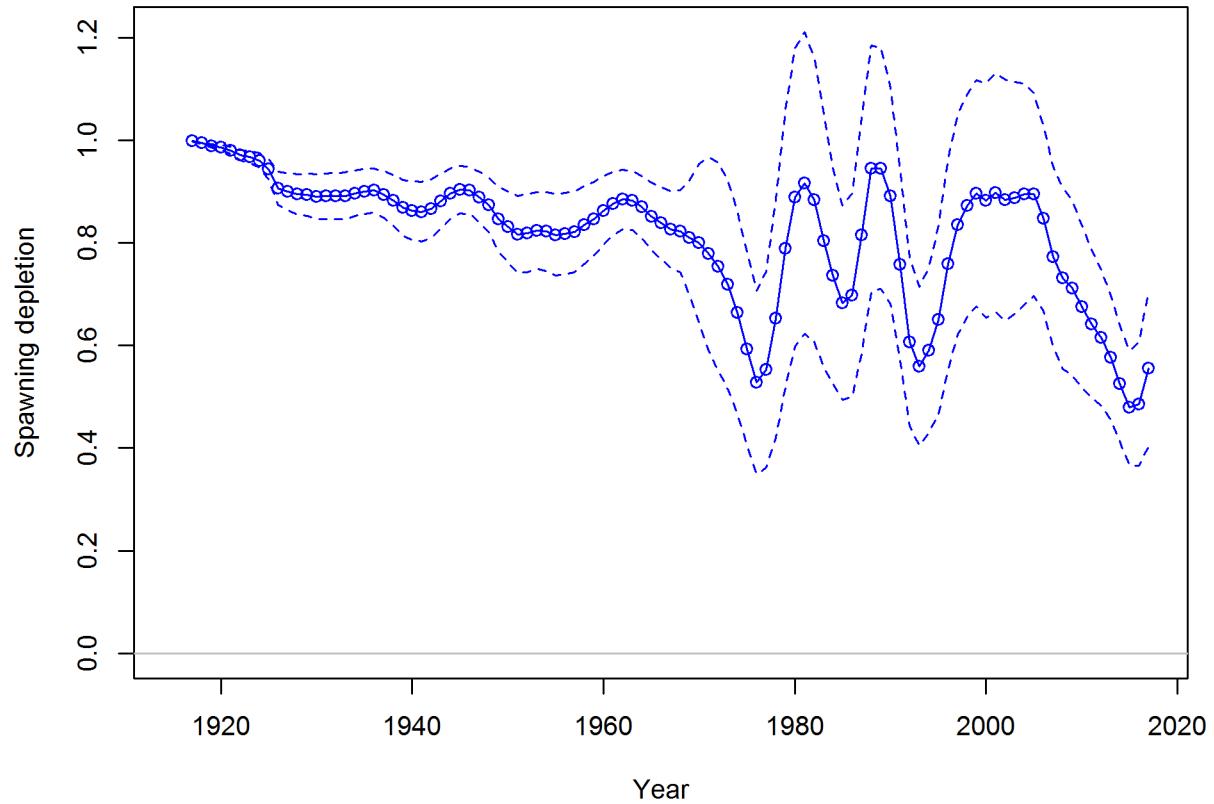


Figure g: Estimated relative depletion with approximate 95% asymptotic confidence intervals (dashed lines) for the base case assessment model. [fig:RelDeplete_all](#)

¹⁰² **Recruitment**

recruitment

¹⁰³ Recruitment Figure: (Figure h)

¹⁰⁴ Recruitment Tables: (Tables c)

Table c: Recent recruitment for the base model.

Year	Estimated Recruitment (1,000s)	~ 95% confidence interval
2008	2075.83	(890.89 - 4836.82)
2009	3042.65	(1409.75 - 6566.92)
2010	2050.82	(836.7 - 5026.71)
2011	1178.75	(455.92 - 3047.56)
2012	1296.70	(508.76 - 3304.96)
2013	3459.48	(1487.4 - 8046.27)
2014	3795.50	(1434.21 - 10044.44)
2015	7788.63	(2862.54 - 21191.93)
2016	2994.58	(886.82 - 10111.95)
2017	3064.95	(907.96 - 10346.18)

Age-0 recruits (1,000s) with ~95% asymptotic intervals

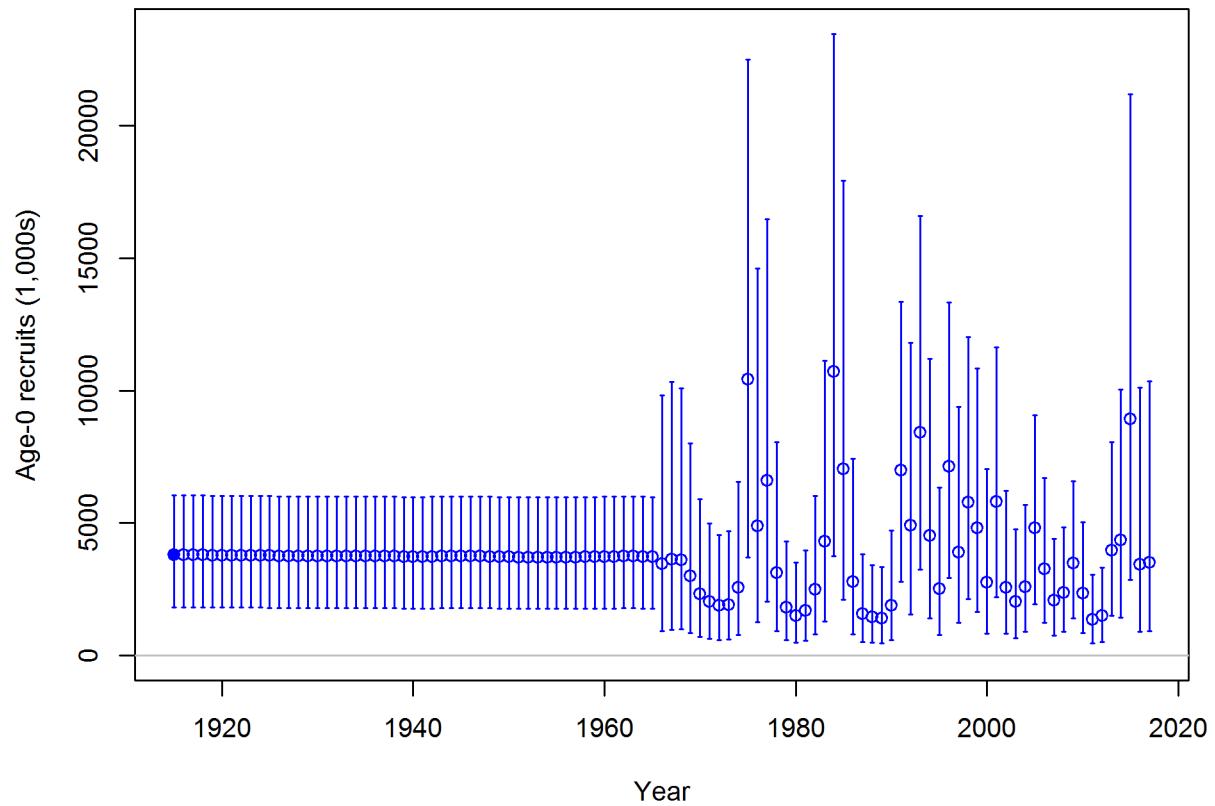


Figure h: Time series of estimated California scorpionfish recruitments for the base-case model with 95% confidence or credibility intervals. [fig:Recruits_all](#)

¹⁰⁵ **Exploitation status**

exploitation-status

¹⁰⁶ Exploitation Tables: Table d Exploitation Figure: Figure i).

¹⁰⁷ A summary of California scorpionfish exploitation histories for base model is provided as
¹⁰⁸ Figure .

Table d: Recent trend in spawning potential ratio and exploitation for California scorpionfish in the base model. Fishing intensity is (1-SPR) divided by 50% (the SPR target) and exploitation is F divided by F_{SPR}.

Year	Fishing intensity	~ 95% confidence interval	Exploitation rate	~ 95% confidence interval
2007	0.53	(0.29-0.78)	0.08	(0.04-0.11)
2008	0.46	(0.23-0.69)	0.06	(0.03-0.09)
2009	0.50	(0.26-0.75)	0.07	(0.04-0.1)
2010	0.49	(0.26-0.73)	0.07	(0.04-0.1)
2011	0.51	(0.27-0.75)	0.07	(0.04-0.1)
2012	0.57	(0.32-0.83)	0.08	(0.05-0.12)
2013	0.58	(0.32-0.84)	0.09	(0.05-0.13)
2014	0.64	(0.37-0.91)	0.10	(0.05-0.14)
2015	0.53	(0.28-0.78)	0.07	(0.03-0.1)
2016	0.50	(0.26-0.74)	0.05	(0.02-0.08)

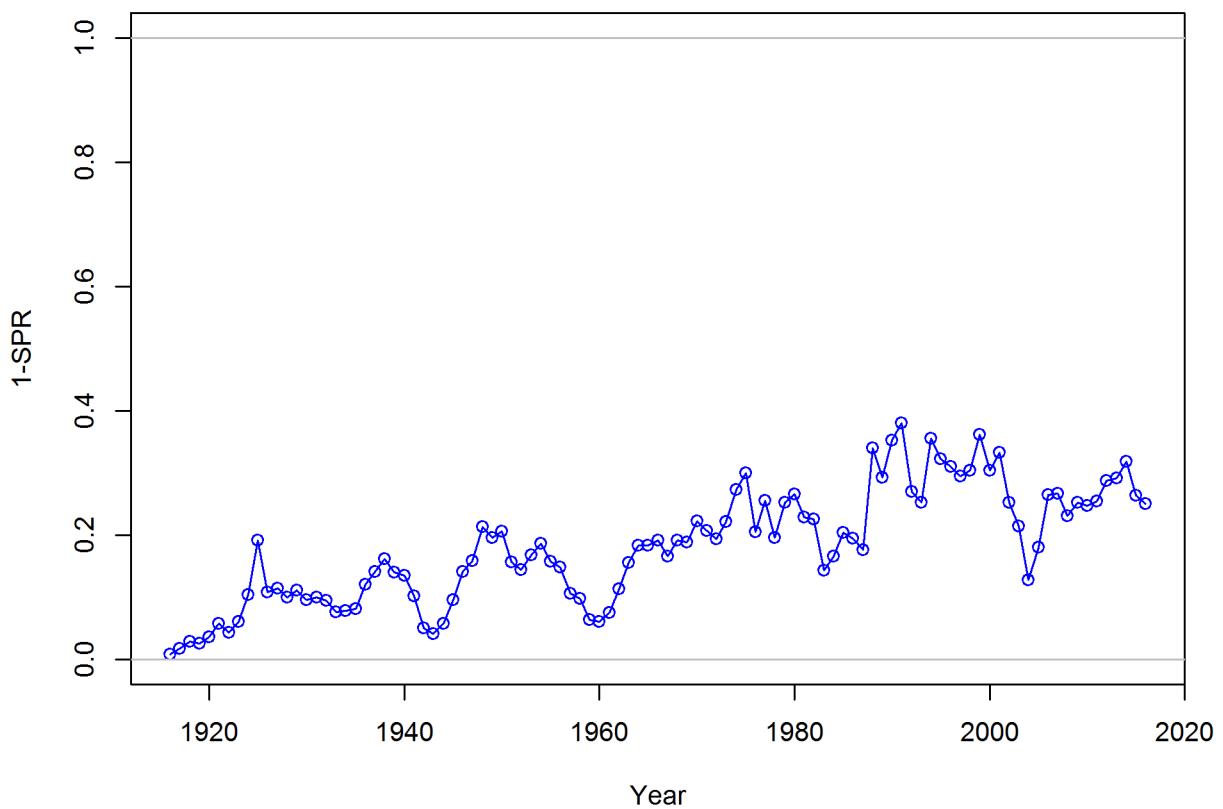


Figure i: Estimated spawning potential ratio (SPR) for the base-case model. One minus SPR is plotted so that higher exploitation rates occur on the upper portion of the y-axis. The management target is plotted as a red horizontal line and values above this reflect harvests in excess of the overfishing proxy based on the $\text{SPR}_{50\%}$ harvest rate. The last year in the time series is 2016. | [fig:SPR_all](#)

109 **Ecosystem Considerations**

ecosystem-considerations

110 In this assessment, ecosystem considerations were. . . .

111 **Reference Points**

reference-points

112 This stock assessment estimates that California scorpionfish in the base model are above the
113 biomass target, but above the minimum stock size threshold. Add sentence about spawning
114 output trend. The estimated relative depletion level for Model 1 in 2016 is 55.6% (~95%
115 asymptotic interval: ± 40.5%-70.7%, corresponding to an unfished spawning output of 493.509
116 mt (~95% asymptotic interval: 242.88-744.14 mt) of spawning output in the base model
117 (Table e). Unfished age 1+ biomass was estimated to be 2218.6 mt in the base case model.
118 The target spawning output based on the biomass target ($SB_{40\%}$) is 355.2 mt, which gives
119 a catch of 218.4 mt. Equilibrium yield at the proxy F_{MSY} harvest rate corresponding to
120 $SPR_{50\%}$ is 205.4 mt.

Table e: Summary of reference points and management quantities for the base case base model.

Quantity	Estimate	95% Confidence Interval
Unfished spawning output (mt)	888	(617.9-1158.1)
Unfished age 1+ biomass (mt)	2218.6	(1480.3-2956.8)
Unfished recruitment (R0, thousands)	3305.4	(1266.9-5343.9)
Spawning output(2016 mt)	431.6	(218.8-644.3)
Depletion (2016)	0.486	(0.3659-0.6062)
Reference points based on $SB_{40\%}$		
Proxy spawning output ($B_{40\%}$)	355.2	(247.1-463.3)
SPR resulting in $B_{40\%}$ ($SPR_{B40\%}$)	0.4589	(0.4589-0.4589)
Exploitation rate resulting in $B_{40\%}$	0.1933	(0.1602-0.2264)
Yield with $SPR_{B40\%}$ at $B_{40\%}$ (mt)	218.4	(116.2-320.6)
Reference points based on SPR proxy for MSY		
Spawning output	395.7	(275.3-516)
SPR_{proxy}	0.5	
Exploitation rate corresponding to SPR_{proxy}	0.1679	(0.1391-0.1968)
Yield with SPR_{proxy} at SB_{SPR} (mt)	205.4	(109.7-301.1)
Reference points based on estimated MSY values		
Spawning output at MSY (SB_{MSY})	207.2	(144.7-269.6)
SPR_{MSY}	0.3086	(0.2944-0.3228)
Exploitation rate at MSY	0.3238	(0.2645-0.3831)
MSY (mt)	245.5	(128.6-362.5)

¹²¹ **Management Performance**

management-performance

¹²² Management performance table: Table f

Table f: Recent trend in total catch and commercial landings (mt) relative to the management guidelines. Estimated total catch reflect the commercial landings plus the model estimated discarded biomass.

Year	OFL (mt; ABC prior to 2011)	ABC (mt)	ACL (mt; OY prior to 2011)	Estimated total catch (mt)
2007	-	-	175	-
2008	-	-	175	-
2009	-	-	175	-
2010	-	-	155	-
2011	-	-	135	-
2012	-	-	126	-
2013	-	-	120	-
2014	-	-	117	-
2015	119	114	114	-
2016	-	-	111	-
2017	-	-	150 (110)	-
2018	-	-	150 (110)	-

¹²³ **Unresolved Problems And Major Uncertainties**

unresolved-problems-and-major-uncertainties

¹²⁴ TBD after STAR panel

¹²⁵ **Decision Table**

decision-table

¹²⁶ OFL projection table: Table g

¹²⁷ Decision table(s) Table h

¹²⁸ Yield curve: Figure \ref{fig:Yield_all}

Table g: Projections of potential OFL (mt) for each model, using the base model forecast.

tab:OFL_projection

Year	OFL
2017	252.19

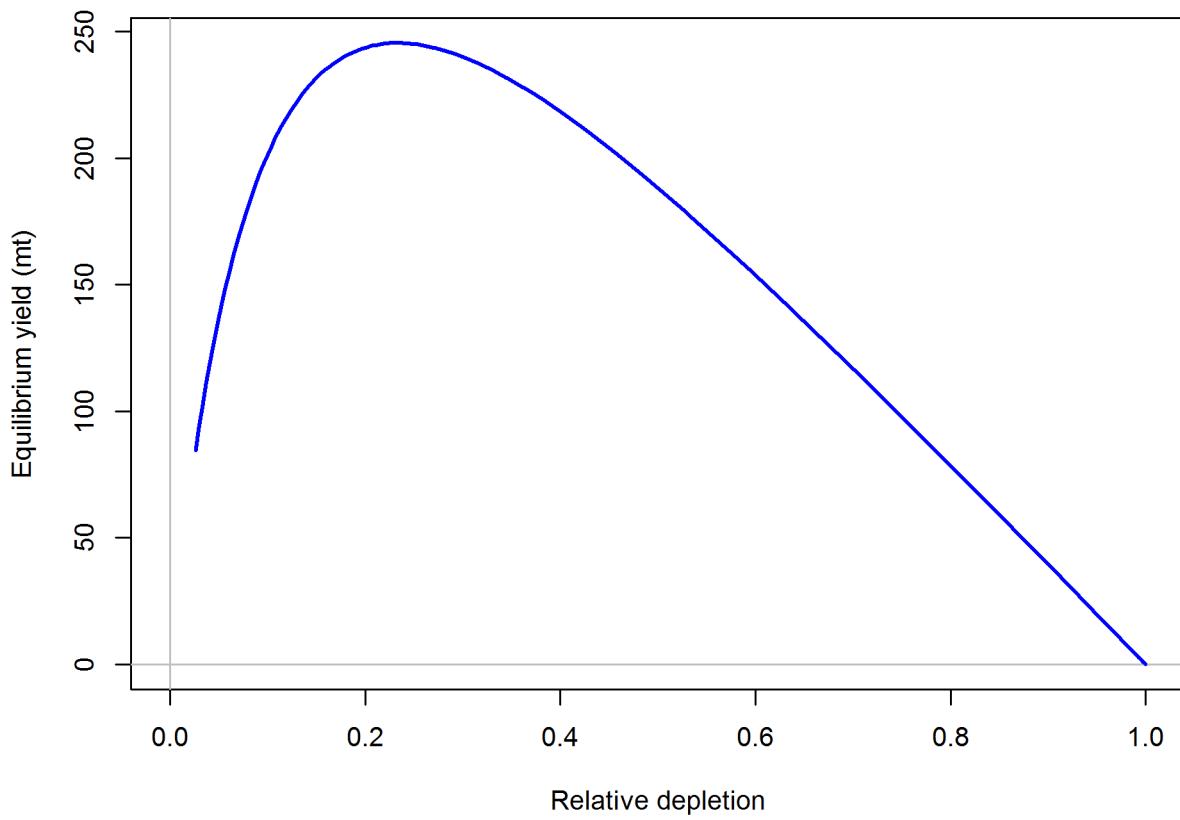


Figure j: Equilibrium yield curve for the base case model. Values are based on the 2016 fishery selectivity and with steepness fixed at... fig:Yield_all

Table h: Summary of 10-year projections beginning in 2018 for alternate states of nature based on an axis of uncertainty for the base model. Columns range over low, mid, and high states of nature, and rows range over different assumptions of catch levels. An entry of “-” indicates that the stock is driven to very low abundance under the particular scenario.

		States of nature					
		Low M 0.05		Base M 0.07		High M 0.09	
	Year	Catch	Spawning Output	Depletion	Spawning Output	Depletion	Spawning Output
40-10 Rule, Low M	2019	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2020	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2021	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2022	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2023	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2024	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2025	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2026	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2027	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2028	-	-	-	-	-	-
40-10 Rule	2019	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2020	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2021	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2022	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2023	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2024	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2025	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2026	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2027	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2028	-	-	-	-	-	-
40-10 Rule, High M	2019	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2020	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2021	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2022	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2023	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2024	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2025	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2026	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2027	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2028	-	-	-	-	-	-
Average Catch	2019	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2020	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2021	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2022	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2023	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2024	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2025	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2026	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2027	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2028	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table i: Base case results summary.

	Quantity	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Landings (mt)											
Total Est. Catch (mt)											
OFL (mt)											
ACL (mt)											
(1-SPR)(1-SPR _{50%})	0.46	0.50	0.49	0.51	0.57	0.58	0.64	0.53	0.50		
Exploitation rate	0.06	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.08	0.09	0.10	0.07	0.05		
Age 1+ biomass (mt)	1839.96	1739.47	1660.78	1593.86	1527.58	1438.13	1321.18	1257.36	1245.66		
Spawning Output	649.3	632.1	599.9	570.0	546.6	511.6	467.0	425.1	431.6		
95% CI	(339.09-959.49)	(332.7-331.47)	(317.76-882.05)	(305.72-834.31)	(296.38-796.78)	(276.25-747.02)	(249.44-684.64)	(219.81-630.37)	(218.81-644.35)	(242.88-744.14)	
Depletion	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	
95% CI	(0.554-0.908)	(0.542-0.881)	(0.518-0.833)	(0.498-0.786)	(0.484-0.747)	(0.454-0.698)	(0.413-0.639)	(0.367-0.59)	(0.366-0.606)	(0.405-0.707)	
Recruits	2075.83	3042.65	2050.82	1178.75	1296.70	3459.48	3795.50	7788.63	2994.58	3064.95	
95% CI	(890.89 - 4836.82)	(1409.75 - 6566.92)	(836.7 - 5026.71)	(455.92 - 3047.56)	(508.76 - 3304.96)	(1487.4 - 8046.27)	(1434.21 - 10044.44)	(2862.54 - 21191.93)	(886.82 - 10111.95)	(907.96 - 10346.18)	

¹²⁹ **Research And Data Needs**

research-and-data-needs

¹³⁰ We recommend the following research be conducted before the next assessment:

¹³¹ 1. List item No. 1 in the list

¹³² 2. List item No. 2 in the list, etc.

₁₃₃ **1 Introduction**

introduction

₁₃₄ **1.1 Basic Information and Life History**

basic-information-and-life-history

₁₃₅ California scorpionfish (*Scorpaena guttata*), also known locally as sculpin or spotted scorpionfish, originates from the Greek word for scorpionfishes and *guttata* is Latin for speckled. ₁₃₆ ₁₃₇ California scorpionfish is a medium-bodied fish and like other species in the genus *Scorpaena*, ₁₃₈ it produces a toxin in its dorsal, anal, and pectoral fin spines, which produces intense, painful ₁₃₉ wounds (Love et al. 1987). Scorpionfish are very resistant to hooking mortality and have ₁₄₀ shown survival under extreme conditions.

₁₄₁ Its range extends from central California (Santa Cruz) to the Gulf of California, although ₁₄₂ within U.S. waters they are most common in the Southern California Bight (Eschmeyer et al. ₁₄₃ 1983, Love et al. 1987). The species generally inhabits rocky reefs, caves and crevices, but in ₁₄₄ certain areas and seasons it aggregates over sandy or muddy substrate (Frey 1971, Love et ₁₄₅ al. 1987). California scorpionfish have been observed from the intertidal to 600 ft with a ₁₄₆ preferred depth range from 20-450 ft. Little is known about the aggregating behaviors of ₁₄₇ California scorpionfish. Marine Applied Research and Exploration (MARE) has observed ₁₄₈ California scorpionfish aggregations during the spawning season (June 2014) and also in ₁₄₉ the late fall (November 2012) from video transects in southern California. The November ₁₅₀ spawning aggregation was observed at a small rocky feature near La Jolla and the June ₁₅₁ aggregation was at a sandy area adjacent to the Farnsworth MPAs.

₁₅₂ Males and females show different growth rates, with females growing to a larger size than ₁₅₃ males, and the sexes exhibit different length-weight relationships (Love et al. 1987). Few ₁₅₄ California scorpionfish are mature at one year old (14 cm total length). Fifty-percent of fish ₁₅₅ mature at 17-18 cm (2 years old) and all by 22 cm (4 years old) (Love et al. 1987).

₁₅₆ California scorpionfish feed on a wide variety of mobile prey, including crabs, fishes (e.g., ₁₅₇ include northern anchovy, spotted cusk-eel), octopi, isopods and shrimp, (Taylor 1963, Quast ₁₅₈ 1968, Turner et al. 1969, Love et al. 1987). The species is nocturnal, but have been observed ₁₅₉ feeding during the day. Predation on scorpionfish is believed to be low, but one individual ₁₆₀ was found in the gut of a leopard shark (Love pers comm.).

₁₆₁ **1.2 Early Life History**

early-life-history

₁₆₂ California scorpionfish utilize the “explosive breeding assemblage” reproductive mode in ₁₆₃ which fish migrate to, and aggregate at traditional spawning sites for brief periods (Love ₁₆₄ et al. 1987). California scorpionfish migrate to deeper waters (120-360 ft) to spawn during ₁₆₅ May-August, with peak spawning occurring July. The species is oviparous, producing floating, ₁₆₆ gelatinous egg masses in which the eggs are embedded in a single layer (Orton 1955). and

¹⁶⁷ it is believed that spawning takes place just before, and perhaps after dawn, in the water
¹⁶⁸ column (Love et al. 1987). Tagging data suggest California scorpionfish return to the same
¹⁶⁹ spawning site, but information is not available on non-spawning season site fidelity.

¹⁷⁰ Little is known about California scorpionfish larvae. The CalCOFI survey observed 463
¹⁷¹ California scorpionfish larvae from 1977-2000, with the majority at station close to Oxnard
¹⁷² (east of the Channel Islands) (Moser et al. 2002). Higher densities of larvae have been
¹⁷³ observed in the CalCOFI stations throughout Baja, peaking south of Punta Eugenia from
¹⁷⁴ July to September. The hatching length is reported as 1.9-2.0 mm (Washington et al. 1984)
¹⁷⁵ and transformation length of greater than 1.3 cm (Washington et al. 1984) less than 2.1 cm
¹⁷⁶ (Moser 1996).

¹⁷⁷ 1.3 Map

map

¹⁷⁸ A map showing the scope of the assessment and depicting boundaries for fisheries or data
¹⁷⁹ collection strata is provided in Figure 1.

¹⁸⁰ 1.4 Ecosystem Considerations

ecosystem-considerations-1

¹⁸¹ In this assessment, ecosystem considerations were not explicitly included in the analysis.
¹⁸² This is primarily due to a lack of relevant data and results of analyses (conducted elsewhere)
¹⁸³ that could contribute ecosystem-related quantitative information for the assessment.

¹⁸⁴ 1.5 Fishery Information

fishery-information

¹⁸⁵ The hook-and-line fishery fishery off California developed in the late 19th century (Love et al.
¹⁸⁶ 2002).
¹⁸⁷ The rockfish trawl fishery was established in the early 1940s, when the United States became
¹⁸⁸ involved in World War II and wartime shortage of red meat created an increased demand for
¹⁸⁹ other sources of protein (Harry and Morgan 1961, Alverson et al. 1964).

¹⁹⁰ California scorpionfish comprise a minor part of the Californian sport and commercial fisheries
¹⁹¹ (Love et al. 1987). Historically, California scorpionfish were taken commercially by hook and
¹⁹² line and, occasionally, by round haul nets (Daugherty 1949). Scorpionfish were commonly
¹⁹³ caught around Santa Catalina Island during the late 19th Century with gillnets (Jordan
¹⁹⁴ 1887). The 1937 Bureau of Commercial Fisheries report noted that California scorpionfish
¹⁹⁵ had been a fairly important commercial species for a long time. The species was targeted by
¹⁹⁶ a few fishermen during the summer months, and was also taken as a bycatch in the rockfish
¹⁹⁷ fisheries. By 1949, Bureau of Marine Fisheries reported

¹⁹⁸ “[Scorpionfish] will even come to the surface to lights at night” and were also taken in round
¹⁹⁹ haul nets. At that time, scorpionfish were rarely targeted by fishermen except by a few
²⁰⁰ specialists.

²⁰¹ More recently, commercial bottom longlines have been used to target spawning aggregations
²⁰² offshore of Long Beach (Love et al. [1987](#)). Since the early 1990s, trawl catch has been
²⁰³ a substantial component of the commercial catch. Commercial landings have fluctuated
²⁰⁴ substantially over time, which could, in part, be due to changes in targeting and El Nio
²⁰⁵ events (Love et al. [1987](#)). A high proportion of the catch landed in California during the
²⁰⁶ 1960s and 1970s was taken from Mexican waters. In recent years, most of the catch has come
²⁰⁷ from around the Los Angeles region. In general, the majority of the commercial catch has
²⁰⁸ come from the Los Angeles region, except in the 1960s and 1970s when the majority of the
²⁰⁹ catch came from the San Diego region and Mexican waters.

²¹⁰ They are most often taken by boat fishermen, but fairly large numbers are caught from
²¹¹ piers, jettys, and rocky shorelines. The CPVF effort has remained relatively constant over
²¹² a long period (1959-1998) (Dotson and Charter [2003](#)). However, there appears to be a
²¹³ shift in effort towards less utilized species, such as California scorpionfish, over the past
²¹⁴ decade (Dotson and Charter [2003](#)). Especially as catch limits for rockfish have become
²¹⁵ more restricted commercial passenger fishing vessels (CPVF) operators target California
²¹⁶ scorpionfish spawning aggregations during spring and summer (Love et al. [1987](#)), and also
²¹⁷ target California scorpionfish in the winter when other fisheries are closed.

²¹⁸ California scorpionfish become a target species for day boats during the spawning months
²¹⁹ when spawning aggregations can be located. There are a small number of boats that specialize
²²⁰ in targeting these aggregations. The spawning aggregations occur in deeper waters, often
²²¹ times outside of the three nautical mile state jurisdiction. It is also unknown what fraction
²²² of the population aggregates during the spawning season, e.g., all mature fish.

²²³ Aggregate mortality has been far below the Annual Catch Limits (ACL) established by the
²²⁴ 2005 stock assessment. The ACL projections from the 2005 assessment assumed that the
²²⁵ entire ACL was being taken each year and as a result, the ACL for each subsequent year
²²⁶ declined despite under-attainment in reality.

²²⁷ In addition, in 2014, recreational catch was higher than expected. As a result, in 2014, the
²²⁸ combined recreational and commercial catch exceeded the OFL by 2mt (1%) resulting from
²²⁹ assumption that the ACL had been attained. Subsequently, action was taken to decrease the
²³⁰ recreational season by four months (September 1 - December 31). A catch only update of
²³¹ the stock was undertaken in 2015 (Wallace and Budrick [2015](#)) that imputed the actual catch
²³² values since the last assessment, resulting in significant increase in the OFL and ACL.

²³³ Retrospectively, the catch in 2014 was well below the OFL as well as the ACL that would
²³⁴ have been in place had the ACL values from the actual attainment been in place in 2014.
²³⁵ Thus the stock has not been subject to overfishing since the original assessment or been in
²³⁶ an overfished condition historically and is considered healthy.

²³⁷ The season restriction in the recreational fishery remained in place as a precautionary measure
²³⁸ until the full assessment is completed to better inform the current status of the stock, catch
²³⁹ limits and regulations given the perspective provided.

240 1.6 Summary of Management History

summary-of-management-history

241 Prior to the adoption of the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) in
242 1982, California scorpionfish (*Scorpaena guttata*) was managed through a regulatory process
243 that included the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) along with either
244 the California State Legislature or the Fish and Game Commission (FGC) depending on
245 the sector (recreation or commercial) and fishery. With implementation of the Pacific Coast
246 Groundfish FMP, California scorpionfish came under the management authority of the Pacific
247 Fishery Management Council (PFMC), being incorporated, along with all genera and species
248 of the family Scorpaenidae, into a federal rockfish classification and managed as part of
249 “Remaining Rockfish” under the larger heading of “Other Rockfish” (PFMC (2002, 2004),
250 Tables 31-39).

251 The ABCs provided by the PFMC’s Groundfish Management Team (GMT) in the 1980’s were
252 based on an analysis of commercial landings from the 1960’s and 1970’s. For this analysis,
253 most of the rockfishes were lumped into one large group. This analysis indicated that the
254 landings for rockfish in the Monterey-Conception area were at or near ABC levels (Pacific
255 Fishery Management Council 1993). To keep landings within these adopted harvest targets,
256 the Pacific Coast Groundfish FMP provided the Council with a variety of management tools
257 including area closures, season closures, gear restrictions, and, for the commercial sector,
258 cumulative limits (generally for two-month periods). With the implementation of a federal
259 groundfish restricted access program in 1994, allocations of total catch and cumulative limits
260 began to be specifically set for open access (including most of California’s commercial fisheries
261 that target California scorpionfish in Southern California) and limited entry fisheries (Pacific
262 Fishery Management Council 2002, 2004). As a result, in the later 1990’s as commercial
263 landings decreased and recreational harvest became a greater proportion of the available
264 harvest.

265 Beginning in 1997, California scorpionfish was managed as part of the *Sebastodes* complex-
266 south, Other Rockfish category. (*Sebastodes* complex-south included the Eureka, Monterey,
267 and Conception areas while *Sebastodes* complex-north included the Vancouver and Columbia
268 areas.) The PFMC’s rockfish management structure changed significantly in 2000 with the
269 replacement of the *Sebastodes* complex -north and -south areas with Minor Rockfish North
270 (now covering the Vancouver, Columbia, and Eureka areas) and Minor Rockfish South (now
271 Monterey and Conception areas only). The OY for these two groups (which continued to be
272 calculated as 0.50 of the ABC) was further divided (between north and south of 40°10' N.
273 latitude) into nearshore, shelf, and slope rockfish categories with allocations set for Limited
274 Entry and Open Access fisheries within each of these three categories (January 4, 2000, 65
275 FR 221; PFMC (2002), Tables 54-55). Because of its depth range and southern distribution,
276 California scorpionfish was included within the Minor Rockfish South, Other Rockfish ABC
277 and managed under the south of 40°10' N. latitude nearshore rockfish OY and trip limits
278 (PFMC (2002), Table 29).

279 Along with the above changes, in 2000 the southern area divided into two separate management
280 areas at Point Lopez, 36°00' N. latitude. This was followed in 2001 with the implementation

281 of the northern rockfish and lingcod management area between (40°10' N. latitude) and Point
282 Conception (34°27' N. latitude); and the southern rockfish and lingcod management area
283 between Point Conception and the U.S.- Mexico border. These were later revised starting
284 in 2004 with the northern rockfish and lingcod management area redefined as ocean waters
285 from the Oregon-California border (42°00' N. latitude) to 40°10' N. latitude, the central
286 rockfish and lingcod management area defined as ocean waters from 40°10' N. latitude to
287 Point Conception, and the southern rockfish and management area continuing to be defined
288 as ocean waters from Point Conception to the U.S.-Mexico border.

289 Cowcod Conservation Areas (CCAs) also were established in 2001 to reduce fishing effort for
290 cowcod rockfish (PFMC (2002), Table 29). These areas were closed to all recreational and
291 commercial fishing for groundfish except for minor nearshore rockfish1 (including California
292 scorpionfish) within waters less than 20 fathoms. In addition, Rockfish Conservation Areas
293 (RCAs) were established in 2003 to allow for the closure of specific area and depth ranges
294 along the West Coast for the purpose of reducing fishing effort for shelf and slope rockfish.
295 The California Rockfish Conservation Area (CRCA) was defined as those ocean waters south
296 40°10' N. latitude to the U.S.-Mexico border with different depth zones specified for the areas
297 north and south of Pt. Reyes (37°59.73' N. latitude).

298 During the late 1990's and early 2000's, major changes also occurred in the way that California
299 managed its nearshore fishery. The Marine Life Management Act (MLMA), which was passed
300 in 1998 by the California Legislature and enacted in 1999, required that the FGC adopt
301 an FMP for nearshore finfish. It also gave authority to the FGC to regulate commercial
302 and recreational nearshore fisheries through FMPs and provided broad authority to adopt
303 regulations for the nearshore fishery during the time prior to adoption of the nearshore finfish
304 FMP. Within this legislation, the Legislature also included commercial size limits for nine
305 nearshore species including California scorpionfish (10-inch minimum size) and a requirement
306 that commercial fishermen landing these nine nearshore species possess a nearshore permit.

307 Following adoption of the Nearshore FMP and accompanying regulations by the FGC in fall
308 of 2002, the FGC adopted regulations in November 2002 which established a set of marine
309 reserves around the Channel Islands in Southern California (which became effective April
310 2003) and adopted a nearshore restricted access program in December 2002 (which included
311 the establishment of a Deeper Nearshore Permit) to be effective starting in the 2003 fishing
312 year.

313 Although the Nearshore FMP provided for the management of the nearshore rockfish and
314 California scorpionfish, management authority for these species continued to reside with
315 the Council. Even so, for the 2003 and subsequent fishery seasons, the State provided
316 recommendations to the Council specific to the nearshore species that followed the directives
317 set out in the Nearshore FMP. These recommendations, which the Council incorporated into
318 the 2003 management specifications, included a recalculated OY for Minor Rockfish South
319 - Nearshore, division of the Minor Rockfish South - Nearshore into three groups (shallow
320 nearshore rockfish; deeper nearshore rockfish; and California scorpionfish), and specific harvest
321 targets and recreational and commercial allocations for each of these groups.

322 Also, since the enactment of the MLMA, the Council and State in a coordinated effort
323 developed and adopted various management specifications to keep harvest within the harvest
324 targets, including seasonal and area closures (e.g. the CCAs; a closure of Cordell Banks
325 to specific fishing), depth restrictions, minimum size limits, and bag limits to regulate the
326 recreational fishery and license and permit regulations, finfish trap permits, gear restrictions,
327 seasonal and area closures (e.g. the RCAs and CCAs; a closure of Cordell Banks to specific
328 fishing), depth restrictions, trip limits, and minimum size imits to regulate the commercial
329 fishery.

330 1.7 Management Performance

management-performance-1

331 Management performance table: (Table f)
332 A summary of these values as well as other base case summary results can be found in Table
333 i.

334 1.8 Fisheries off Mexico

fisheries-off-mexico

335 The California scorpionfish's range extends into to Abreojos, Baja California.
336 The species is also found in the northern Gulf of California and Guadalupe Island. No formal
337 stock assessments have been conducted for California scorpionfish in Mexican waters.

338 2 Assessment

assessment

339 2.1 Data

data

340 Data used in the California scorpionfish assessment are summarized in Figure 2.
341 A description of each data source is below.

342 2.1.1 Commercial Fishery Landings

commercial-fishery-landings

343 Commercial catches of California scorpionfish (often landed as "sculpin") are available back
344 to 1916. Landings from 1916 to 1935 are presented in CDFG Fish Bulletin No. 49 and
345 Bulletin No. 149 provides tabulated data from 1916 to 1968. Over 99% of the commercial
346 catches of California scorpionfish are from south of Pt. Conception.
347 Whenever possible, catches from north of Pt. Conception and also caught in Mexico but
348 landed in the U.S. were excluded from the commercial catch histories.

³⁴⁹ California Explores the Ocean(CEO) provides landings data taken from the CDFG Fish
³⁵⁰ Bulletins in electronic form, as well as electronic copies of all CDFG Fish Bulletins.

³⁵¹ Statewide annual landings are available for California scorpionfish from 1916 to 1925, and
³⁵² are assumed to be taken by hook-and-line. Data by area and month are given in a series of
³⁵³ bulletins, each bulletin usually providing information for a single year. Data by region and
³⁵⁴ month is available for 1926 to 1986. The Santa Barbara region includes San Luis Obispo,
³⁵⁵ Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. Catches from this region were included in the catch
³⁵⁶ history and comprised less than 10 mt for the period from 1926-1968 (the period when data
³⁵⁷ at the regional scale are available).

³⁵⁸ Catches from Mexico can be separated from the total catch starting in 1931, although the
³⁵⁹ CDFG Bulletins do not report catches originating from Mexican waters available for all years,
³⁶⁰ e.g., 1932-1934. It is assumed that before 1931 there was no catch taken from Mexican waters
³⁶¹ landed in California.

³⁶² The CALCOM database was queried (March 7, 2017) for commercial landing estimates of
³⁶³ California scorpionfish in California, 1969-2016. Landings were stratified by year, quarter,
³⁶⁴ live/dead, market category, gear group, port complex, and source of species composition
³⁶⁵ data (actual port samples, borrowed samples, or assumed nominal market category). All
³⁶⁶ CALCOM California scorpionfish landing data are either actual port samples or the nominal
³⁶⁷ California scorpionfish market category. However, catches in CALCOM do not separate out
³⁶⁸ catches originating from Mexican waters and landed at U.S. ports.

³⁶⁹ The Commercial Fisheries Information System (CFIS; maintained by CDFW) contains
³⁷⁰ California catch in pounds by gear and port for 1969 to 2016 (Figures). The CFIS data come
³⁷¹ from landing receipts or “fish tickets” filled out by the markets or fish buyers as required by
³⁷² the state for all commercial landings. The fish tickets include the CDFW block in which the
³⁷³ majority of the landings were caught.

³⁷⁴ Landings with a block solely in Mexican waters (blocks >900) were removed from the catch
³⁷⁵ history. Landings with reported blocks 877-882 with area in both U.S. and Mexican waters
³⁷⁶ were retained in the catch histories. The commercial catch is dominated by the hook-and-line
³⁷⁷ fishery (89% of total catches).

³⁷⁸ The catch by reported gear types: hook-and-line, fish pot, trawl, gill net, and other can be
³⁷⁹ found in Table 1. Catch taken by fish pot and other gears is added to the hook-and-line
³⁸⁰ catch in the stock assessment (30.6 mt from fish pot and 93.9 mt from other gears).

³⁸¹ In the assessment, catch for 1916 to 1968 is taken from the CDFG Fish Bulletins. Catch by
³⁸² gear for 1969 to 2004 is taken from CFIS.

³⁸³ 2.1.2 Commercial Discards

commercial-discards

³⁸⁴ Information on commercial discards from the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program
³⁸⁵ (WCGOP) are available starting in 2004. The commercial fishery for California scorpionfish

386 has been minimal since the early 2003 (averaging 3.5 mt per year). The available length
387 composition data from the observed discards is minimal, with 151 fish measured from 2004-
388 2015, and less than half a metric ton. Given the discard mortality of only 7%, and the small
389 total catches in the recent years, discards from the commercial fleet are not considered in the
390 assessment.

391 2.1.3 Fishery Length And Age Data

fishery-length-and-age-data

392 Biological data from commercial fisheries that caught California scorpionfish were extracted
393 from CalCOM on March 7, 2017. Samples from the hook and line fishery were available from
394 1999 (1 trip) and 2013-2015 (1 trip per year), and for 1999 (1 trip) and 2006 (2 trips) from
395 the trawl fishery. A total of 87 fish were measured and length compositions were based on
396 expanded catch-weighted landings. The samples from 1999 for both fisheries were replaced
397 by samples from the market category study described below.

398 The CDFW conducted a market study from 1990-2004 in southern California (Laughlin
399 and Ugoretz 1998) to monitor and summarize local commercial catches. The ports sampled
400 included San Diego, Santa Barbara/Ventura and Long Beach/San Pedro. Very few of the
401 samples from Santa Barbara and San Diego (4 samples each from the hook-and-line and
402 trawl fisheries Santa Barbara, and 1 sample from the hook-and-line fishery in San Diego)
403 reported California scorpionfish, and are excluded from the length composition data.
404 Length composition for California scorpionfish are available from the Long Beach samples for
405 the hook-and-line (Table 2), gillnet (Table 3), and trawl fisheries (Table 4). Length samples
406 from both groundfish (otter) trawls and single-rigged shrimp trawls were available from the
407 market study. The average size of fish from the otter trawls (26.5 cm) was smaller than from
408 the shrimp trawl samples (28.1 cm). Over 70% of California scorpionfish catch from the
409 trawl sector was landed from single-rigged shrimp trawls, which best represent the length
410 composition of the trawl fleet (CalCOM).

411 The input sample sizes were calculated via the Stewart Method (Ian Stewart, personal
412 communication, IPHC):

$$413 \text{ Input effN} = N_{\text{trips}} + 0.138 * N_{\text{fish}} \text{ if } N_{\text{fish}}/N_{\text{trips}} \text{ is } < 44$$

$$414 \text{ Input effN} = 7.06 * N_{\text{trips}} \text{ if } N_{\text{fish}}/N_{\text{trips}} \text{ is } \geq 44$$

415 2.1.4 Sport Fishery Removals and Discards

sport-fishery-removals-and-discards

416 Data used in reconstructing the retained catch and discarded mortality for California scor-
417 pionfish in the California recreational fishery are from the Commercial Passenger Fishing
418 Vessel (CPFV) Logbooks (1932-2017), the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistical Survey

419 (MRFSS, 1980-2003) and the California Recreational Fishery Survey (CRFS, 2004-2017).
420 Total catch was accounted for including retained catch as well as the estimate of fish dis-
421 carded dead assuming a 7% discard mortality rate approved for use in management in the
422 regulatory specifications for 2009-2010 (Pacific Fishery Management Council 2008). The
423 MRFSS and CRFS data provide estimates of mortality for four fishing “modes” including
424 the Party/Charter Boat, Private/Rental Boat, Man Made (piers and jetties etc.) and Beach
425 and Bank modes.

426 While estimates of mortality from the Party/Charter (PC) boat mode is available from the
427 MRFSS and CRFS surveys for the Party/Charter Boat mode for 1980-2017, estimates from
428 the CRFS data from 2011-2017 and data from CPFV Logbook for 1932-2010 were used to
429 represent catch from this mode. The Party/Charter Phone Survey was used to estimate
430 effort used in producing effort estimates for CRFS between 2004 and 2010, which was subject
431 to negative bias due to the low of participation in the survey south of Point Conception.
432 The Coastal County Household Telephone Survey was used to estimate fishing effort for
433 the MRFSS survey from 1980-2003 and were subject to potential positive avidity bias in
434 participation by those contacted by the survey. As a result, the CPFV logbooks were used
435 to provide the reported number of retained and discarded California scorpionfish used to
436 estimate mortality from 1932-2010.

437 This is consistent with the catch based update conducted in 2015 as well as the original
438 assessment, both of which used estimates of catch from logbooks to represent catch in the
439 PC mode with the exception of the years after 2011 when effort estimates used in CRFS
440 estimates were derived from logbooks.

441 An underreporting adjustment reflecting an average 20% of logs not being submitted was
442 applied to all estimates for the PC mode from 1932-2010. Annual average weights from this
443 mode for retained catch from the MRFSS or CRFS estimates for 1980-2010 and average
444 weight from 1980-1984 was applied to the preceding years. To estimate discard mortality
445 for the PC mode, the annual average weight determined from lengths collected sampling
446 onboard CPFVs by the CRFS survey for 2004-2010 were applied to the number of discards
447 from the CPFV logbooks and the average weight over this entire period were applied to the
448 preceding years for 1995-2003. For the period between 1980 and 1994, the MRFSS estimates
449 for discards were used to reflect discarding due to the paucity of data on the number of
450 discards from PC logbooks prior to 1995.

451 For all other modes, the MRFSS (1980-2003) and CRFS (2004-2017) based estimates of
452 retained catch and discard mortality were used. There was a lapse in MRFSS sampling
453 from 1990 through 1992, which for which retained catch and discard mortality was estimated
454 using the average of values three years before and three years after the lapse for all modes
455 other than the PC mode. For the PC mode, estimates of numbers of fish were available
456 from logbook data and average weight from the three years before and after this period were
457 applied to provide estimates for the PC mode.

458 Estimates of retained catch and discards were not available from the non-PC modes prior
459 to 1980, thus the ratio of catch in the PC mode to the other modes for 1980 through 1985

460 was used to provide an estimate of catch in the other modes in the years 1932-1979. In the
461 case of the PR mode, a linear ramp in the ratio adjustment between PC and PR modes was
462 applied between 1979 and 1966 from 0.55 in 1980 to 0.10 in 1965, reflecting the increase in
463 the relative proportion of catch contributed by the PR mode with time as more individuals
464 anglers purchased vessels, as recommended in the California Catch Reconstruction (Ralston
465 et al. 2010), and the ratio of 0.10 was assumed for all years prior. The ratio of PC estimates
466 to the MM and BB modes was assumed to constant and the average between 1980 and 1989
467 was applied from 1979 to 1932. Catch estimates from CPFV logbooks were not available
468 during the World War II era from 1941 until 1946 and catch was assumed to be zero for all
469 modes during this period. Estimates for retained catch and discarded mortality for 1935 to
470 1928 were estimated using a linear ramp from the value for 1936 to zero in 1928 for the PC
471 mode and ratios PC compared to other modes were used to proxy estimates for other modes
472 based on the resulting ramped values for the PC mode. The final time series of retained and
473 discarded landings is in Table 5.

474 Biological samples from the recreational fleets are described in the sections below.

475 2.1.5 Fishery-dependent Data Sources

`fishery-dependent-data-sources`

476 CRFS Private Boat Dockside Intercept Survey

477 The CDFW provided the CRFS private boat dockside sampling fisheries data from 2004
478 to 2016. The data went through several data quality checks to identify the best subset of
479 available data that are consistent over the time series and provide a representative relative
480 index of abundance once standardized. The dockside sampling of the private mode (PR mode
481 in RecFIN) consists of samples from a primary series of ports (PR1) where the majority
482 of fishing effort for this mode originates and a secondary series of ports with historically
483 low effort (PR2). Only PR1 samples were used for this index as the sampling forms for
484 the PR2 index have changed over time and the data could not reliably be collapsed to the
485 trip level. The dockside data consist of two types of data; Type 2 data contain records of
486 angler-reported catch, i.e., catch that was not observed by the sampler and Type 3 data
487 includes sampler-examined retained catch. Of the Type 2 reported catch for scorpionfish, less
488 than one percent were reported “thrown back dead” and five percent reported as retained
489 to eat. Given that the reported retained catch is a small fraction of the catch overall and
490 discard mortality of California scorpionfish is low, only the Type 3 examined catch are used
491 in the index.

492 The survey records the number of contributing anglers (number of anglers on the vessel for
493 the private mode), but does not contain data on hours fished. For this index, angler-day
494 was the assumed effort. The data were filtered to trips fishing with hook-and-line gear in
495 southern California. Trips with a primary fishing area of Mexico were also removed. The
496 CRFS dockside private boat records with these broad filters include 44,128 trips of which
497 3,802 caught California scorpionfish (8.6%).

498 The Stephens-MacCall approach was used to identify trips with a high probability of catching
499 California scorpionfish (Stephens and MacCall 2004). Prior to using the Stephens-MacCall
500 approach to select relevant trips a number of other filters were applied to the data to minimize
501 variability in CPUE estimates. Over the course of the time series only 45 trips from Santa
502 Barbara county encountered California scorpionfish, ranging from 0-10 trips a year. The
503 Stephens-MacCall approach was applied with and without trips from Santa Barbara and the
504 same species were identified as indicators and counter-indicators. For the final model prior to
505 Stephens-MacCall, trips from Santa Barbara were excluded, leaving 41,235 trips, and 3,747
506 of those caught California scorpionfish (Table 6).

507 Coefficients from the Stephens-MacCall analysis (a binomial GLM) are positive for species
508 which co-occur with California scorpionfish, and negative for species that are not caught with
509 California scorpionfish (Figure 4). Potentially informative species for the Stephens-MacCall
510 analysis were limited to species caught in at least one percent of all trips and caught in at
511 least five years. Some of these never occurred with California scorpionfish (strong ‘counter-
512 indicators’) and records with these species were removed from the data prior to estimation
513 of the index. Strong counter-indicators for the CRFS private boat index included yellowfin
514 tuna and dolphinfish.

515 A total of 8,590 trips were retained following the Stephens-MacCall filter, with 3,056 all
516 positive California scorpionfish trips retained. The California scorpionfish recreational fishery
517 in the southern management area was closed for eight months in 2004 and nine months in
518 2005. The majority of records from 2004 and 2005 are from the period when the fishery
519 was closed and were removed from the analysis (Figure 3). Records from months with the
520 fishery was closed from 2006-2016 were also excluded from the index since this index relies
521 on sampler-examined retained catch.

522 Catch per unit effort was modeled using a delta-GLM approach, where the catch occurrence
523 (binomial) component was modeled using a logit link function and the positive catch compo-
524 nent was modeled after log-transformation of the response variable, according to a normal
525 distribution with an identity link function. The units for CPUE are fish landed/anglers. A
526 gamma distribution for the positive catch component was also explored, but model selection
527 favored the lognormal model. The raw CPUE of factors considered in the model by year are
528 shown in Figure 5.

529 Model selection procedures selected the covariates *2-month wave* and *county* as important
530 for both the catch occurrence and positive catch component models for all data sets, along
531 with the categorical year factor used for the index of abundance (Table 7).
532 The Q-Q goodness of fit plot for the lognormal portion of the model shows a moderate fit to
533 the data (Figure 6). final index indicates a decrease in relative abundance from 2006 to 2010,
534 at which point the index is relatively flat (Figure 7).

535 Biological samples from trips retaining California scorpionfish were collected during the
536 dockside surveys. Lengths of California scorpionfish from 1980-2016 for the private mode
537 were provided by RecFIN by Edward Hibsch (PSMFC) on November 29, 2016. Length

538 measurements from the private mode were provided directly from CDFW for the years
539 2004-2016 Table 9. The number of trips is the number of unique ID_CODEs from RecFIN for
540 1980-2003. Starting in 2004 with the CRFS program, the number of unique trips sampled in
541 the private boat mode was recorded. The recreational private fleet tends to select larger fish
542 than the recreational party/charter fleet, which is one reason the private and party/charter
543 fleets were maintained as two separate fleets in the base model. No length data for discarded
544 fish from the recreational private mode fleet are available.

545 CRFS CPFV Logbook Index

546 CPFV operators have been required to submit written catch logs with daily trips records of
547 catches to CDFW since 1935. The logbook data from 1936-1979 are available as monthly
548 summaries, which do not contain the level of detail needed for an index of abundance. CDFW
549 provided the CPFV logbook data from 1980-2016 (Charlene Calac, CDFW). Logbook data
550 from 1980-2016 contain records for each trip, including the fishing date, port of landing,
551 vessel name and number, CDFG block area fished (Figure 1), angler effort, number of fish
552 kept and discarded by species. As of 1994, operators were required to report the number
553 of fish discarded and lost to seals. Prior to 1994, it is assumed that all reported fish were
554 retained. Details and additional information on the historical logbook database can be found
555 in Hill and Schneider (1999).

556 The number of anglers on board the vessel and the hours fished are included in the database
557 for all years. Only retained fish are included in the index of abundance the the unit of effort
558 is angler hours. A number of data filters were applied to the data to account for possible
559 mis-reporting, e.g., trips reporting retained California scorpionfish in top 1% of the data
560 (>325 fish). Trips fishing outside of California scorpionfish habitat (reported as targeting
561 pelagic species) or trips reporting a block with a minimum depth deeper than 140 m were
562 also filtered out.

563 Because California scorpionfish is not a primary target species, boats with fewer than 10
564 trips retaining California scorpionfish were removed from the analysis. Data were also filtered
565 to only include catches reported from blocks South of Pt. Conception and north of the U.S.-
566 Mexico border (Figure 1, and blocks with at least 100 trips retaining California scorpionfish
567 and a total of 500 trips. A full description of the data filters is in Table 10. A total of
568 432,868 trips were retained for the index of abundance, 202,937 of which caught California
569 scorpionfish.

570 Two different area factors were considered for the standardization, block and region.
571 The 60 retained blocks were split into nearshore regions north and south of San Pedro and
572 the northern and southern islands, for four regions. Both a delta model and a negative
573 binomial model were considered for index standardization. However, due to the large number
574 of records, the traditional jackknife routine to estimate uncertainty was not possible.

575 California scorpionfish were present in 47% of all trips, and standardized with a negative
576 binomial model. Factors considered were *year*, *month*, and *area* (either block or region). A
577 model with blocks and was selected over a model with region by 39,180 AIC. The final model

578 includes *year*, *month*, and *block* with a log link and effort as an offset (Table 11).
579 The standardized index shows a cyclic pattern, with period of higher CPUE (late 1980's to
580 early 1990's and late 1990s) and has shown a general downward trend since 2008 (Figure 11).
581 An interesting note is the similarity in standardized CPUE between the CPFV logbook index
582 and the CPFV dockside index (not used in the stock assessment model) from 1992-1997 (for
583 a Stephens-MacCall threshold of 0.1) (Figure 10).

584 MRFSS Party/Charter Boat Dockside Index

585 From 1980 to 2003 the MRFSS program sampled landings at dockside (called an “intercept”)
586 upon termination of recreational fishing trips. The program was temporarily suspended
587 from 1990-1992 due to lack of funding. For purposes of this assessment, the MRFSS time
588 series is truncated at 1998 due to overlap with an alternative index used to represent 1999
589 onward using onboard sampling data making analysis using the dockside data redundant
590 (see “Recreational Onboard Observer Surveys”). Only trips south of Point Conception were
591 included in the analysis as California scorpionfish are exceedingly uncommon in the catch to
592 the north. The California party and charter boat (a.k.a. “PC mode,” commercial passenger
593 fishing vessel, or CPFV) samples used in the present analysis provide catch and effort data
594 aggregated at the trip level. Each entry in the RecFIN Type 3 database corresponds to a
595 single fish examined by a sampler at a particular survey site. Since only a subset of the catch
596 may be sampled, each record also identifies the total number of that species possessed by
597 the group of anglers being interviewed. The number of anglers and the hours fished are also
598 recorded. Unfortunately the Type 3 data do not indicate which records belong to the same
599 boat trip. Because our aim is to obtain a measure of catch per unit effort (fish per angler
600 hour), it is necessary to separate the records into individual trips. For this reason trips must
601 be inferred from the RecFIN data. This is a lengthy process, and is outlined in Supplemental
602 Materials (“Identifying Trips in RecFIN”).

603 Since recreational fishing trips target a wide variety of species, standardization of the catch
604 rates requires selecting trips that are likely to have fished in habitats containing California
605 scorpionfish. The method of Stephens and MacCall (2004) was used to identify trips with a
606 high probability of catching California scorpionfish, based on the species composition of the
607 catch in a given trip. Prior to applying the Stephens-MacCall filter, we identified potentially
608 informative “predictor” species , i.e., those with sufficient sample sizes and temporal coverage
609 (at least 30 positive trips total, distributed across at least 10 years of the index) to inform
610 the binomial model. Coefficients from the Stephens-MacCall analysis (a binomial GLM) are
611 positive for species which co-occur with California scorpionfish, and negative for species that
612 are not caught with California scorpionfish.

613 Data for dockside sampling of 6,295 commercial passenger fishing vessel (CPFV) trips south
614 of Point Conception by the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistical Survey (MRFSS) were
615 filtered using the Stephens-McCall method to identify trips with catch associated with
616 California scorpionfish and the resulting trips analyzed in a delta-GLM including year and
617 county to produce annual indices of abundance for the period 1980 through 1998 . To
618 eliminate trips targeting species caught near the surface for all or part of the trip where

619 California scorpionfish do not occur, prior applying the Stephens-MacCall filter, trips with
620 catch of bluefin tuna, yellowfin tuna, dorado, Pacific bonito, skipjack, albacore, chinook
621 salmon, coho salmon and bigeye tuna were removed. Trips with catch of yellowtail amberjack
622 were also removed since effort on such trips can often be focused in the surface and midwater
623 where California scorpionfish do not occur. In addition, trips with aggregate effort less below
624 and above 95% percentile (less than 2 and over 109.5 hours) were removed to exclude trips
625 for which either too little effort was exerted to be informative or longer trips that may make
626 an excessive contribution to the effort likely distributed over a number of targets only some
627 of which may co-occur with California scorpionfish biasing low the resulting CPUE. Lastly,
628 trips in Santa Barbara County were removed due the low number of positive samples for
629 California scorpionfish since it resides in the northern extent of their range and this is a
630 transition zone between biogeographic provinces in which the presence of more northerly
631 distributed species could adversely affect the ability of the Stephens-MacCall filtering method
632 to identify co-occurring species. Each of these filtering steps and the resulting number of
633 trips remaining in the sampling frame are provided in Table 13.

634 Removal of the aforementioned trips resulted in a total of 3,968 trips to which the Stephens-
635 MacCall filtering method was applied. Species that composed less than 5% of the catch
636 were excluded from analysis to prevent these uncommon species from affecting correlations
637 identified using the algorithm. Chub mackerel, Pacific mackerel and barracuda were removed
638 as potential predictor species despite having weak positive correlations with California
639 scorpionfish since they are predominantly pelagic and their co-occurrence is not expected to
640 be predictive. As expected, positive indicators of California scorpionfish trips include several
641 species of nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, California halibut, Pacific sanddabs and
642 seabasses and counter-indicators include several species of deep-water rockfish (Figure 8).
643 While the filter is useful in identifying co-occurring or non-occurring species assuming all
644 effort was exerted in pursuit of a single target, the targeting of more than one target species
645 can result in co-occurrence of species in the catch that do not truly co-occur in terms of
646 habitat associations informative for an index of abundance, presenting a confounding influence
647 in selecting trips using the methods employed. Thus the filtering is intended to remove those
648 trips for which effort was targeted in deeper water than California scorpionfish commonly
649 occur.

650 Two levels of filtering were applied using the Stephens-MacCall Filter. The Stephens-MacCall
651 filtering method identified the probability of occurrence (in this case 0.27) at which the rate
652 of false positives and false negatives for the presence of California scorpionfish were equal as
653 a heuristic for selecting a threshold for trips in appropriate habitat to be included in analysis.
654 The trips from this criteria for selection was compared to an alternative method including
655 the false positive trips as well as all positive trips for California scorpionfish supported by
656 the assumption that if California scorpionfish were caught in such trips, they must constitute
657 appropriate habitat justifying their inclusion. In addition, the false positives from a lower
658 probability of occurrence (0.10) that was considered to reflect a less stringent threshold
659 inclusive of more trips including a higher proportion of the false positive trips combined with
660 the positive trips from the entire data set was evaluated for comparison.

661 Catch per angler hour (CPUE; number of fish per angler hour) was modelled using a delta
662 model (Lo et al. 1992, Stefnsson 1996). Model selection using Akaike Information Criterion
663 (AIC) and Bayesian Information Criteria (BIC) supported inclusion of year and region effects
664 in both the binomial and lognormal components of the index for both the model with false
665 positives from the 0.27 threshold and the 0.10 threshold. The addition of month effects (to
666 allow for seasonal changes in CPUE) did not improve model fit in the lognormal model, but
667 the full model including month, year and county was supported for the binomial model (Table
668 2). The difference in AIC values for the full model compared to the model with only year
669 and county was greater for the binomial model (201.5) favoring the full modal compared to
670 the small difference for the lognormal model favoring the model with only year and county
671 (8.3). As a result, the full model including year, county and month effects was selected for
672 further analysis.

673 The resulting index values for 1989 were anomalously high compared to other years.
674 In addition, the less stringent filter of 0.1 resulted in a higher index value than 0.27, which was
675 antithetical to the expectation that including trips with fewer positive trips would decrease
676 the CPUE. Further examination of the number of California scorpionfish per trip by year
677 showed a lower number of trips for this year than others and a lower proportion of low catch
678 trips explaining why exclusion of low catch trips through application of the 0.27 index reduced
679 the relative magnitude of the 1989 index value relative to other years. As a result of this
680 anomalous result and the low sample size, trips from 1989 were excluded from analysis.

681 The percentage of trips that caught California scorpionfish was 20.8% (828/3,968) prior to
682 filtering with the Stephens-MacCall method, and 71.0% (828/,1167) with the filter set to
683 0.27 and 26.7% (828/3,099) with the filter set to 0.10, filtered data set. Residual-based
684 model diagnostics for the positive component of the index suggest the data generally met the
685 assumptions of the GLM (Figure 9). The resulting index is highly variable for both thresholds,
686 with consistent peaks in 1984 and 1998 (Figure 10). Application of the 0.27 threshold holds
687 the potential of biasing the resulting index values high by excluding false positive trips while
688 including positive trips with equivalent probability of encountering California scorpionfish.
689 The 0.1 threshold removes a high proportion of trips with shelf rockfish species indicative of
690 effort exerted in deeper depths than are commonly occupied by California scorpionfish, while
691 retaining false positive trips with equivalent probabilities of capture to true positives and
692 thus was retained for further analysis.

693 The resulting jackknifed mean index values, standard error, coefficient of variation and
694 confidence intervals for the 0.1 threshold model, excluding 1989, with year, month and county
695 effects are provided in Table 14.

696 The results of the models with each of the thresholds provided similar trends seen in Figure
697 Figure 10 along with the results from the CPFV logbook index. The trends differ from those
698 resulting from the CPFV logbook index early in the time series, but both show an increase
699 in the mid to late 1990s. The PC dockside index was excluded from further analysis in the
700 model given that the CPFV logbook index represents the same sector of the fishery and
701 presumably contains data from the some of the same trips, utilizes data for many thousands
702 more trips, and provides data from 1989 to 1992 omitted from the MRFSS data as a result

703 of filtering out 1989 and a lapse of sampling from 1990-1992.

704 *Party/Charter Dockside Length Measurements*

705 The retained catch for the recreational party/charter mode has been measured during the
706 dockside interviews since 1980, and also by two different onboard observer programs in
707 southern California by Collins and Crooke (???) a combination of unpublished data and
708 a study by Ally et al. (1991) from 1984-1989 (Table 15). The length measurements from
709 Collins and Crooke (???) are assumed to all be from retained fish.

710 Length measurements for California scorpionfish from 1980-2016 were provided from RecFIN
711 by Edward Hibscher (PSMFC) on November 29, 2016. The number of trips from 1980-2003
712 is the number of trips with observer catch of California scorpionfish as outlined in the
713 Supplemental Material (“Identifying Trips in RecFIN”). However, the algorithm used to
714 determine the number of trips has not been applied to RecFIN data past 2003. The number
715 of trips for 2004 and 2005, was taken as the ratio of the number of interviews (ID_CODE) in
716 RecFIN to the number of known trips for years with complete data. The number of individual
717 ID_CODEs was reduced by 38% for 2004 and 2005, and gives reasonable sample sizes.
718 From 2004-2016 the number of trips from which the samples were taken is known.

719 From 1985-1987 Ally et al. (1991) conducted an onboard observer program in southern
720 California, and measured both retained and discarded fish. Additional unpublished years
721 (1984, 1988-1999) from this onboard observer sampling program were provided by CDFW
722 (Paulo Serpa). From 1984-1989, the onboard observer program measured 11,892 retained
723 California scorpionfish compared to the 1,981 measurements in RecFIN. It is almost certain,
724 but cannot be verified, that some of the lengths from the onboard observer program were
725 input in RecFIN. Therefore, the onboard observer measurements from 1984-1989 are used
726 instead of those from RecFIN for these years.

727 **Onboard Observer Party/Charter Boat**

728 California implemented a statewide Onboard Observer Sampling Program in 1999, and began
729 measuring discarded fish in 2003 (Monk et al. 2014). The goal of the Onboard Observer
730 Sampling Program is to collect data including charter boat fishing locations, catch and
731 discard of observed fish by species, and lengths of discarded fish. The program samples the
732 commercial passenger fishing vessel (CPFV), i.e., charter boat or for-hire fleet and collects
733 drift-specific information at each fishing stop on an observed trip.

734 At each fishing stop recorded information includes start and end times, start and end location
735 (latitude/longitude), start and end depth, number of observed anglers (a subset of the total
736 anglers), and the catch (retained and discarded) by species of the observed anglers.

737 CDFW implemented a regulation of three hooks in 2000, which was reduced to (and remains
738 at) two hooks in 2001. CDFW also implemented a 10 inch size limit for California scorpionfish
739 in 2000. The length composition of retained and discarded California scorpionfish (both before
740 and after the minimum size restriction). Prior to 2001, there were no depth restrictions for

⁷⁴¹ the southern California recreational fishery. Given these regulation changes, the data from
⁷⁴² 1999 and 2000 are excluded from the index.

⁷⁴³ From 2002 to 2005, the California scorpionfish fishery was closed from four to nine months of
⁷⁴⁴ the year. During these years, California scorpionfish were still encountered, but all discarded.
⁷⁴⁵ The onboard observer program provides the only available information on discards because
⁷⁴⁶ the sampler records both the retained and discarded catch at each fishing stop. The onboard
⁷⁴⁷ observer data are used to create two indices of abundance, one using only the discarded catch
⁷⁴⁸ and one using only the retained catch. The index of discarded catch is used as an index of
⁷⁴⁹ abundance for the recreational discard fleet, and the index derived from the retained catch is
⁷⁵⁰ treated a survey in the assessment model.

⁷⁵¹ The entire dataset was filtered as one, regardless of retained or discarded, due to the fact that
⁷⁵² discarding can occur for a number of reasons, e.g., angler preference, size limit, bag limit,
⁷⁵³ etc., and California scorpionfish are often retained and discarded on the same fishing drift.

⁷⁵⁴ Prior to any analyses, drifts with erroneous or missing data were removed from the data
⁷⁵⁵ considered for the California scorpionfish index. The locations of positive encounters (retained
⁷⁵⁶ + discarded) were mapped, using the drift starting locations. Regions of suitable habitat were
⁷⁵⁷ defined by creating detailed hulls (similar to an alpha hull) with a 0.01 decimal degree buffer
⁷⁵⁸ around a location or cluster of locations.

⁷⁵⁹ Any portion of a region that intersected with land was removed. Drifts that did not intersect
⁷⁶⁰ with one of these areas were considered structural zeroes, i.e., outside of the species habitat,
⁷⁶¹ and not used in analyses.

⁷⁶² Five areas were retained based on sample sizes, 1) nearshore area from the U.S./Mexico
⁷⁶³ border to Oceanside, 2) nearshore Oceanside to Newport Beach, 3) Newport Beach to Palos
⁷⁶⁴ Verdes, 4) Palos Verdes to Point Magu, and 4) drifts from Santa Cruz Island, Santa Barbara
⁷⁶⁵ and Anacapa Islands, Santa Catalina Island, and San Clemente Islands were combined.
⁷⁶⁶ Drifts encountering California scorpionfish north of Point Magu were rare (<5% positive
⁷⁶⁷ encounters).

⁷⁶⁸ Drift locations within the Cowcod Conservation Area (CCA) or in Mexican waters were also
⁷⁶⁹ filtered out of the dataset. The years 1999 and 2000 were removed from the index due to
⁷⁷⁰ changes in hook and gear regulations during those years. California adopted a 3-hook and
⁷⁷¹ 1-line regulation in 2000, which changed to 2-hooks and 1-line in 2001. California scorpionfish
⁷⁷² is not a common target species for the CPFV fleet, but if often a fallback species, for trips
⁷⁷³ targeting seabass or rockfish. California scorpionfish are targeted more often in January
⁷⁷⁴ and February when the rockfish/cabezon/greenling complex is closed. Boat identifiers were
⁷⁷⁵ availalbe for all trips in the onboard observer database. Approximately 1,000 drifts were
⁷⁷⁶ filtered out after accounting for boats that were identified as not encountering scorpionfish
⁷⁷⁷ (Table 16. A total of 26,733 drifts for the analysis were retained. Of these, 5,507 encountered
⁷⁷⁸ scorpionfish, with 3,249 discarding California scorpionfish and 3,867 retaining California
⁷⁷⁹ scorpionfish.

780 The drift-level effort cannot be parsed out between the retained and discarded catch. The
781 effort represents the total angler hours fished by the subset of observed anglers for a particular
782 drift, and is the same for both the discard-only and retained-only indices. Both of the indices
783 derived from this dataset were standardized using a delta modeling approach (Lo et al. 1992).

784 *Onboard Obsever Discarded Catch Index*

785 Covariates considered in the full model included *year*, *area* (5 levels), *month* (12 levels), and
786 *20 m depth bins* (5 levels). All covariates were specified as categorical variables. A lognormal
787 model for the positives was selected by AIC over a gamma model (delta-AIC of 482.28).
788 Model selection for both the lognormal and binomial models retained all covariates (Table
789 17). The Q-Q plot for the positive catch lognormal model looks reasonable (Figure 12). The
790 final index shows a lower CPUE of the discards in 2001 and an increase from 2002-2005 when
791 the California scorpionfish recreational fishery was restricted by depth or closed (Table 18
792 and Figure 13). The relative CPUE of the discards decreases from 2006 to 2015.

793 *Discarded Catch Length Composition*

794 As of 2003, Onboard Obsever program has taken length measurements for discarded fish.
795 The retained catch is measured during the dockside (angler intercept) surveys, and cannot
796 necessarily be matched to a trip with the discard lengths prior to 2012. Additional discarded
797 length measurements were available from both CDFW unpublished data (1984, 1988-1989)
798 and the Ally et al. (1991) onboard observer program from 1985-1987. The sample sizes of
799 measured discarded fish in the 1980s is small. The mean length of discarded fish is smaller
800 than for years when the length restriction was in place (Table 19).

801 The discard length composition reflects the California scorpionfish seasonal closures from
802 2002-2005. Anglers encountered and discarded fish greater than the size limit of 10 inches
803 during these years. When the fishery is open, anglers are most often only discarded California
804 scorpionfish that are smaller than the legal size. This also holds true for the lengh compoistion
805 of discarded California scorpionfish in the 1980s before there was a size limit.

806 *Onboard Obsever Retained Catch Index*

807 The index fo relative abundance using the retained-only catch from the onboard observer
808 program is a separate survey fleet in the base model and has no lenghts associated with it.
809 Covariates considered in the full model included *year*, *area* (5 levels), *month* (12 levels), and
810 *20 m depth bins* (5 levels). All covariates were specified as categorical variables. The final
811 model includes A lognormal model was selected by AIC over a gamma model for the positives
812 (delta-AIC of 534.9).Model selection for both the lognormal and binomial models retained all
813 covariates (Table 20). The Q-Q plot for the positive catch lognormal model looks reasonable
814 (Figure 15). The final index shows a lower CPUE of the retained catch from 2002 and 2003
815 (Table 21 and Figure 16). The relative CPUE of the retained catch shows a decline from
816 2007-2015, and an increase in 2016.

817 **2.1.6 Fishery-Independent Data Sources**

fishery-independent-data-sources

818 **Sanitation Districts Trawl Survey**

819 Sanitation districts in southern California are required to conduct trawls to monitor the
820 demersal fish community in the vicinity of the discharge sites part of their National Pollutant
821 Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. All sanitation districts in southern
822 California were contacted for trawl data series. The two northernmost districts, Goleta and
823 the City of Oxnard, provided data, but neither have observed California scorpionfish in their
824 trawl surveys. The four other sanitation districts, Orange County, City of Los Angeles, Los
825 Angeles County, and the City of San Diego all encounter California scorpionfish. Trawl data
826 from these four sanitation districts were provided.

827 Each sanitation district measures every fish encountered,

828 *Orange County* Orange County Sanitation District provided trawl data from 1970-2015 () and
829 the majority of sampling occurred in Quarter 1 and 3 (Jan-March and July-September). From
830 1970-1985 Quarter 2, sampling was based on a 10 minute tow time. As of 1985 Quarter 3
831 sampling was based upon a towed distance of 450m. Tow time was missing for approximately
832 half of the tows from 1985 Quarter 3 to 2016, and was imputed based on the mean tow
833 time of the sampling station. Two stations were removed that were frequently sampled, but
834 observed very few scorpionfish (. Eleven stations (T0-T6,T10-T13) with long time series and
835 1,490 tows were retained the analyses.

836 *City of Los Angeles (Hyperion)* The City of Los Angeles Sanitation District provided trawl
837 data from 1986-2016.

838 Years with fewer than ten samples were removed from the analysis (1986, 1987, and 1992).
839 Tow times were recorded starting in 1999, and assumed to be 10 minutes prior to 1999.
840 Stations sampled at least ten years were retained, which resulted in ten stations (A1, A3,
841 C1, C3, C6, C9A, D1T, Z2, Z3, Z4; 921 hauls) for the analysis. Haul depth was missing for
842 approximately half of the stations, and was imputed as the mean depth of of other tows at
843 that station.

844 *Los Angeles County (Palos Verdes)* The Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County provided
845 trawl data from 1972-2016 with quarterly sampling. Stations sampled in fewer than 10 years
846 or at 305m where California scorpionfish were never observed were removed from the analysis.
847 Non-standard and special study trawls were also removed, e.g., night trawl study in 1987.
848 Hauls were based on a 10 minute tow time. Twelve stations (stations at 23m, 61m, and 137m
849 for T0,T1,T4,T5) containing 1,848 tows were retained after initial filtering.

850 *City of San Diego* The City of San Diego Sanitation provided trawl data from 1985-2015.
851 Stations sampled in at least 15 years were retained for analysis, resulting in 14 stations
852 (SD1-SD14, SD17-21) and a total of 1,180 tows. A ten minute tow time is assumed for all
853 trawls.

854 fig:Fleet7_comp_lendat_bubflt10mkt2

855 NWFSC Trawl Survey Index

856 The Northwest Fishery Science Center has conducted combined shelf and slope trawl surveys
857 (hereafter referred as NWFSC trawl survey) since 2003, based on a random-grid design from
858 depths of 55 to 1280 meters. Additional details on this survey and design are available in the
859 abundance and distribution reports by Keller et al. (2008). Spatial locations of raw catch
860 rates (in log scale) are shown in Figure X1.

861 The proportions of positive catch haul and the raw catch rates of positive hauls by depth and
862 latitude are shown in Figure 21 and Figure 22, respectively. These figures show that more
863 scorpionfish were caught at shallow depth zones and in the southern latitude zones. Box
864 plots of length summary data by depth and sex (Figure 24) and by latitude and sex (Figure
865 24) show no evidences of different spatial distributions (by depth and latitude) by length or
866 by sex.

867 The numbers of total hauls and percentages of positive catch hauls by depth and latitude
868 zones are presented in Tables 25 and 26, respectively. Summaries of raw catch data by year
869 are listed in Table 27. Overall, catches of scorpionfish by the survey were very low with
870 less than 1mt fish caught during the entire 14 years of the survey. Bubble plots of length
871 frequency distribution by year and sex are presented in Figure 25.

872 Summaries of age data by year and sex are presented in Table 28. There were more males (n
873 = 529) being aged than females ($n = 340$), presumably indicating that there are more males
874 than females in the populations. The table also shows that mean ages and mean lengths
875 for both sexes decreased in recent years. Table 29 show five percentiles of fish aged by sex,
876 indicating more older males in the population. All aged data from the survey were used as
877 conditional age-at-length matrix in the assessment model. The mean age-at-length indicates
878 males and females to have similar growth patterns until around age three, at which time,
879 females are larger than males (Table 30).

880 Total biomass estimates from the survey were analyzed using the VAST program (Thorson
881 and Barnett 2017). The Q-Q goodness of fit plot and time series of total biomass estimates
882 are shown in Figures 26 and 27, respectively. The Q-Q plots shows generally good of fits
883 and the time series of biomass estimates indicates no significant trend with relatively large
884 uncertainties from the survey. The final survey index and log standard error used in the
885 assessment model are in Table 31.

886 CSUN/VRG Gillnet Survey Index

887 The CSUN/VRG gillnet survey was conducted from 1995-2008. Sites along the coast from
888 Santa Barbara to Newport were consistently sampled for the time series, as well as Catalina
889 Island. Gillnet sets from within Marina Del Rey and Catalina Harbor were removed from the
890 analysis.

891 Gillnets were All gillnets were the same length with six-25' panels (150' in length).
892 The majority of samples were collected using a net with 1", 1.5", 2" square mesh, each mesh
893 was on 2 panels.

894 Perp/para was whether or not the net was set perpendicular or parallel to shore.

895 Southern California Bight 2013 Regional Monitoring Project Trawl Survey Index

896 *Generating Station Impingement Surveys*

897 Data from the southern California generating station surveys were provided by Eric Miller
898 (MBC Applied Environmental Sciences). The generating stations all draw in seawater
899 through an intake system for once-through cooling water. There are five generating stations
900 that conduct normal operation and heat treatment surveys with observations of California
901 scorpionfish: Scattergood Generating Station (SGS), El Segundo Generation Station (ESGS),
902 Redondo Beach Generating Station (RBGS), Huntington Beach Generatig Station (HBGS),
903 and San Onofre Generatin Station (SONGS). Each generating station draws in water from
904 different depths and distances from shore: SGS draws from 500 m offshore at 6 m depth,
905 ESBs draws from 700 m offshore at 9.8 m depth, RBGS draws from 289 m offshore at 13.7 m
906 depth, HBGS draws from 500 m offshore at 5 m depth, and SONGS has two intake systems
907 960 m and 900 m offshore and at 9 m and 8m depth, respectively (Miller et al. [2009](#)).

908 The two surveys conducted are normal operations surveys and heat treatment surveys. For
909 normal operations surveys, the intake screens are rotated and cleaned to start the survey. All
910 of the impinged fish are washed off the screen at this time and discarded. when the intake
911 screens stop running, the survey begins. The generating station then operates as normal for
912 24 hours, which includes operating and washing the screens as usual (typically every eight
913 hours). The screens are then operated and washed again after a second 24 hours has elapsed.
914 Any specimens washed off the screens during the 48 hour study period are retained. The total
915 sample is processed to identify, count, weigh, measure the fish and macroinvertebrates. There
916 is often no information on the water flow collected during the 48 hour period of the normal
917 operations survey. Most fish enter the the generating station and swim in the sedimentation
918 basin until either getting exhausted or impinged. The SONGS generating station also has a
919 fish elevator that releases a fraction of the fish back to the ocean.

920 At each generating station, cooling water, i.e., seawater, is pumped into the generating station
921 where it reaches a sedimentation basin. Water flow is uni-directional, and fish can reside
922 in this area, but not escape. During a heat treatment, water in the sedimentation basin is
923 heated to over 38 degrees Celsius, killing all fish and invertebrates, and impinging them on
924 the travelling screens.

925 The screens are operated and washed off per normal operating procedures right up until the
926 heat treatment takes place. Therefore, only the fish remaining in the sedimentation basin
927 and those impinged since the last screen rotation are counted in the heat treatment survey.
928 The total flow between heat treatments has previously been used to standardize indices in

929 previous reports. However, this is not representative of the flow relating to fish impinged
930 during the heat treatment. The water flows vary widely among heat treatments, time of
931 year (higher in summer when energy demands increase), and generating stations. Therefore,
932 the generating station impingement surveys were not used to develop indices of abundance.
933 However, length composition data from the impingement surveys were used.

934 The length composition data from the impingement show a higher proportion of smaller (<10
935 cm) fish since 2012 (Figure 30)

936 *California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations (CalCOFI) Survey* UCSD Scripps
937 Institution of Oceanography, CDFG, and the National Marine Fisheries Service have carried
938 out a plankton survey on a regular basis since 1951 (Moser et al. 1993). Prior to 1965,
939 *Scorpaena* samples were not speciated.

940 California scorpionfish larvae encounters from CalCOFI surveys were provided by Noelle
941 Bowlin (NMFS SWFSC). Only 16 positive bongo tows in the core area (lines 77-93) of
942 California scorpionfish. The majority of the 335 positive bongo tows occurred in Mexico,
943 south of Punta Eugenia Baja California and are likely a combination of California scorpionfish
944 and other *Scorpaena* species. The California scorpionfish egg masses are encountered in
945 the CalCOFI surveys, but because California scorpionfish is not a target species they are
946 entered in the database as “unidentified eggs” (William Watson, NMFS SWFSC). An index
947 of abundance was not developed for the CalCOFI data due to the small sample sizes.

948 2.1.7 Biological Parameters and Data

biological-parameters-and-data

949 Conversion factors California scorpionfish do not have a forked tail, therefore total length
950 and fork length are equal. Love et al. (1987) provide conversion factors between standard
951 length (SL) and total length (TL). $TL = 1.21SL + 1.02$ and $SL = 0.82TL - 0.69$.

952 Standard and total lengths of 163 California scorpionfish were available from a halibut trawl
953 survey in southern California (Steve Wertz, CDFW). The conversion from SL to TL from
954 these data was estimated at $TL = 1.2225SL + 0.7773$.

955 The conversion originating from the halibut trawl data was used in this assessment due to
956 the fact that the original data from Love et al. (1987) are not available.

957 The majority of available length composition data were measured to total length, except
958 for three of the sanitation district trawl surveys, the Southern California Bight Regional
959 Monitoring Program trawl survey, and the CSUN/VRG gillnet survey (gillnet survey).
960 Maunder et al. (2005) converted all data to standard length due to clumping of data when
961 length data are only available to the nearest centimeter. However, the same is true for the
962 conversion from TL to SL when data are available to the nearest centimeter. All length data
963 for this assessment are in TL. The Sanitation District of Orange county and the VRG gillnet
964 study measured SL to the nearest mm.

965 To avoid missing length bins (specifically 18, 23, 29cm) in the conversion from SL to TL,
966 0.5 was first subtracted from each SL and a random uniform number ($U[0,1]$) was added to
967 the SL measurement. All TL measurements were rounded to the nearest length centimeter
968 length bin. A comparison of the length distributions

969 **Length And Age Compositions**

970 Include: Sample size information for length and age composition data by area, year, gear,
971 market category, etc., including both the number of trips and fish sampled.

972 Length compositions were provided from the following sources:

- 973 • CDFW market category study (*commercial dead fish*, 1996-2003)
- 974 • CALCOM (*commercial dead fish*, 2013-2016)
- 975 • CDFW onboard observer (*recreational charter discards*, 2003-2016)
- 976 • Ally onboard observer study (*recreational charter discards*, 1984-1989)
- 977 • California recreational sources combined (*recreational charter retained catch*)
 - 978 – CDFW and Ally onboard observer surveys (1984-1989)
 - 979 – Collins and Crooke onboard observer surveys (1975-1978)
 - 980 – MRFSS (1980-2003)
 - 981 – CRFS (2004-2014)
- 982 • California recreational sources combined (*private mode retained catch*)
 - 983 – MRFSS (1980-2003)
 - 984 – CRFS (2004-2016)
- 985 • Sanitation district trawl surveys (*research*, 1970-2016)
- 986 • CSUN/VRG gillnet survey (*research*, 1995-2008)
- 987 • Power plant impingement surveys (*research*, 1974-2016)
- 988 • Southern California Bight trawl survey (*research*, 1994, 1998, 2003, 2008, 2013)

989 The length composition of all fisheries aggregated across time by fleet is in Figure 31.
990 Descriptions and details of the length composition data are in the above section for each fleet
991 or survey.

992 *Recreational: California MRFSS And CRFS Length Composition Data* Individual fish lengths
993 recorded by MRFSS (1980-2003) and CRFS (2004-2011) samplers were downloaded from the
994 RecFIN website (www.recfin.org). CRFS data from 2012-2014 were obtained directly from
995 CDFW.

996 *Commercial: PacFIN*

997 **Age Structures** Age data were provided from the NWFSC trawl survey from 2005-2016.
998 All otoliths collected from the survey were aged

999 Length-at-age was initially estimated external to the population dynamics models using the
1000 von Bertalanffy growth curve (Bertalanffy 1938), $L_i = L_\infty e^{(-k[t-t_0])}$, where L_i is the length

1001 (cm) at age i , t is age in years, k is rate of increase in growth, t_0 is the intercept, and L_∞ is
1002 the asymptotic length.

1003 **Aging Precision And Bias** Uncertainty in ageing error was estimated using a collection
1004 of 200 California scorpionfish otoliths with two age reads (32).
1005 Age-composition data used in the model were all from the NWFSC trawl survey and were
1006 from otoliths reads aged by the Cooperative Ageing Project (CAP) in Newport, Oregon. All
1007 of the otolith reads were from Age Reader A, and double reads were read by Age Reader 2.
1008 Ageing error was estimated using publicly available software (Thorson et al. 2012).
1009 The software setting for bias and standard deviation were the same for both readers, unbiased
1010 and curvilinear increase in standard deviation with age, respectively (Figure 33). Two fish
1011 with estimated age greater than 21 (plus group age) were excluded from the ageing error
1012 estimation. The resulting estimate indicated a standard deviation in age readings increasing
1013 from 0.001 years to a standard deviation of 1.79 years at age 22.

1014 Weight-Length

1015 The weight-length relationship is based on the standard power function: $W = \alpha(L^\beta)$ where
1016 W is individual weight (kg), L is length (cm), and α and β are coefficients used as constants.

1017 Maturity And Fecundity

1018 **Natural Mortality** Hamel (2015) developed a method for combining meta-analytic ap-
1019 proaches to relating the natural mortality rate M to other life-history parameters such as
1020 longevity, size, growth rate and reproductive effort, to provide a prior on M . In that same
1021 issue of ICESJMS, Then et al. (2015), provided an updated data set of estimates of M and
1022 related life history parameters across a large number of fish species, from which to develop
1023 an M estimator for fish species in general. They concluded by recommending M estimates
1024 be based on maximum age alone, based on an updated Hoenig non-linear least squares
1025 (nls) estimator $M = 4.899 * A_{max}^{-.916}$. The approach of basing M priors on maximum age
1026 alone was one that was already being used for west coast rockfish assessments. However,
1027 in fitting the alternative model forms relating $-.916M$ to A_{max} , Then et al. (2015) did
1028 not consistently apply their transformation. In particular, in real space, one would expect
1029 substantial heteroscedasticity in both the observation and process error associated with the
1030 observed relationship of M to A_{max} . Therefore, it would be reasonable to fit all models under
1031 a log transformation. This was not done. Reevaluating the data used in Then et al. (2015) by
1032 fitting the one-parameter A_{max} model under a log-log transformation (such that the slope is
1033 forced to be -1 in the transformed space (as in Hamel (2015)), the point estimate for M is:

$$M = \frac{5.4}{A_{max}} \quad (1)$$

1034 The above is also the median of the prior. The prior is defined as a lognormal with mean
1035 $\ln \frac{5.4}{A_{max}}$ and SE = 0.4384343. Using a maximum age of 21 the point estimate and median of
1036 the prior is 0.2545, which is used as a prior for females in the assessment model.

1037 **Sex ratios**

1038 **2.1.8 Environmental Or Ecosystem Data Included In The Assessment**
[environmental-or-ecosystem-data-included-in-the-assessment](#)

1039 **2.2 History Of Modeling Approaches Used For This Stock**
[history-of-modeling-approaches-used-for-this-stock](#)

1040 **2.2.1 Previous Assessments**

[previous-assessments](#)

1041 **2.2.2 2005 Assessment Recommendations**

[assessment-recommendations](#)

1042 Include: Response to STAR panel recommendations from the most recent previous assessment.

1043 **Recommendation 1:** The sanitation surveys conducted to track the impact
1044 of sewage outfall provided a fishery independent index of abundance for
1045 scorpionfish. This data source should be more fully explored for other
1046 near-shore species of recreational or commercial interest. Methods should
1047 be developed to produce a more statistically rigorous index from the
1048 separate surveys.

1049
1050 STAT response: Data from all sanitation districts in southern California were obtained
1051 for this assessment. All of the data were pooled across surveys to develop one index of
1052 abundance using the delta-GLM method

1053 **Recommendation 2:** An age, growth and maturity study for scorpionfish is
1054 needed. Although there has been previous research on scorpionfish age and
1055 growth, the available information is not appropriate for stock assessment
1056 modeling.

1057
1058 STAT response: Age data are available from the NWFSC trawl survey from 2005-2016.
1059 THere have been no additional studies on growth or maturity for California scorpionfish
1060 since the 2005 assessment.

1061 **Recommendation 3:** Location information for the historic groundfish data of all
1062 species is currently available, in hard copy form only, from the California
1063 Department of Fish and Game. Putting this information into electronic

1064 format would greatly improve the ability to assign catches of all species to
1065 specific stocks on a trip-by-trip basis.

1066

1067 STAT response: The location-specific catches referred to above have been key-punched
1068 and are available in electronic form from the SWFSC, Santa Cruz.

1069 **Recommendation 4: The SS2 model should be modified to allow for projections**
1070 **of user-specified recruitment at user defined values. It would be most**
1071 **helpful if the default harvest policies were then recalculated automatically**
1072 **for these user-specified recruitments.**

1073

1074 STAT response: The status of this within Stock Synthesis is unknown.

1075 2.3 Model Description

model-description

1076 2.3.1 Transition To The Current Stock Assessment

transition-to-the-current-stock-assessment

1077 Include: Complete description of any new modeling approaches

1078 Below, we describe the most important changes made since the last full assessment and
1079 explain rationale for each change.:

1080 1. Change No. 1. *Rationale*: blah blah blah.

1081 2. Change No. 2. *Rationale*: blah blah blah.

1082 3. Change No. 3. *Rationale*: Continue list as needed.

1083 2.3.2 Definition of Fleets and Areas

definition-of-fleets-and-areas

1084 We generated data sources for each of the models. Fleets by model include:

1085 Model Region 1 or remove this line if only one model

1086 *Commercial*: The commercial fleets include...

1087 *Recreational*: The recreational fleets include...

1088 *Research*: Research derived-data include...

1089 **2.3.3 Summary of Data for Fleets and Areas**
summary-of-data-for-fleets-and-areas

1090 **2.3.4 Modeling Software**
modeling-software

1091 The STAT team used Stock Synthesis 3 version 3.30.0.4 by Dr. Richard Methot at the NWFSC.
1092 This most recent version was used, since it included improvements and corrections to older
1093 versions. The r4SS package (GitHub release number v1.27.0) was used to post-processing
1094 output data from Stock Synthesis.

1095 **2.3.5 Data Weighting**
data-weighting

1096 Citation for Francis method (Francis 2011)
1097 Citation for Ianelli-McAllister harmonic mean method (McAllister and Ianelli 1997)

1098 **2.3.6 Priors**
priors

1099 Citation for Hamel prior on natural mortality (Hamel 2015)

1100 **2.3.7 General Model Specifications**
general-model-specifications

1101 Model data, control, starter, and forecast files can be found in Appendices A-D.

1102 **2.3.8 Estimated And Fixed Parameters**
estimated-and-fixed-parameters

1103 A full list of all estimated and fixed parameters is provided in Tables. . . . Estimated and fixed
1104 parameters tables currently read in from .csv file, EXAMPLE: Table ??

1105 **2.4 Model Selection and Evaluation**
model-selection-and-evaluation

1106 **2.4.1 Key Assumptions and Structural Choices**
key-assumptions-and-structural-choices

1107 Include: Evidence of search for balance between model realism and parsimony.
1108 Comparison of key model assumptions, include comparisons based on nested models (e.g.,
1109 asymptotic vs. domed selectivities, constant vs. time-varying selectivities).

1110 **2.4.2 Alternate Models Considered**

alternate-models-considered

1111 Include: Summary of alternate model configurations that were tried but rejected.

1112 **2.4.3 Convergence**

convergence

1113 Include: Randomization run results or other evidence of search for global best estimates.

1114 Convergence testing through use of dispersed starting values often requires extreme values to
1115 actually explore new areas of the multivariate likelihood surface. Jitter is a SS option that
1116 generates random starting values from a normal distribution logically transformed into
1117 each parameter's range (Methot 2015). Table 40 shows the results of running 100 jitters for
1118 each pre-STAR base model....

1119 **2.5 Response To The Current STAR Panel Requests**

response-to-the-current-star-panel-requests

1120 **Request No. 1: Add after STAR panel.**

1121

Rationale: Add after STAR panel.

1123 **STAT Response:** Add after STAR panel.

1124 **Request No. 2: Add after STAR panel.**

1125

Rationale: Add after STAR panel.

1127 **STAT Response:** Add after STAR panel.

1128 **Request No. 3: Add after STAR panel.**

1129

Rationale: Add after STAR panel.

1131 **STAT Response:** Add after STAR panel.

1132 **Request No. 4: Example of a request that may have a list:**

1133

- 1134 • **Item No. 1**
- 1135 • **Item No. 2**
- 1136 • **Item No. 3, etc.**

1137 **Rationale:** Add after STAR panel.

1138 **STAT Response:** Continue requests as needed.

₁₁₃₉ **2.6 Model 1** model-1

₁₁₄₀ **2.6.1 Model 1 Base Case Results** model-1-base-case-results

₁₁₄₁ Table ??

₁₁₄₂ **2.6.2 Model 1 Uncertainty and Sensitivity Analyses** model-1-uncertainty-and-sensitivity-analyses

₁₁₄₃ Table 41

₁₁₄₄ **2.6.3 Model 1 Retrospective Analysis** model-1-retrospective-analysis

₁₁₄₅ **2.6.4 Model 1 Likelihood Profiles** model-1-likelihood-profiles

₁₁₄₆ **2.6.5 Model 1 Harvest Control Rules (CPS only)** model-1-harvest-control-rules-cps-only

₁₁₄₇ **2.6.6 Model 1 Reference Points (groundfish only)** model-1-reference-points-groundfish-only

₁₁₄₈ Intro sentence or two....(Table 42).

₁₁₄₉ Equilibrium yield at the proxy F_{MSY} harvest rate corresponding to $SPR_{50\%}$ is 205.4 mt.
₁₁₅₀ Table e shows the full suite of estimated reference points for the northern area model and
₁₁₅₁ Figure j shows the equilibrium yield curve.

₁₁₅₂ **3 Harvest Projections and Decision Tables** harvest-projections-and-decision-tables

₁₁₅₃ Table f

₁₁₅₄ **Model 1 Projections and Decision Table (groundfish only)** (Table 43

₁₁₅₅ Table h

₁₁₅₆ **Model 2 Projections and Decision Table (groundfish only)**

₁₁₅₇ **Model 3 Projections and Decision Table (groundfish only)**

1158 **4 Regional Management Considerations**

regional-management-considerations

- 1159 1. For stocks where current practice is to allocate harvests by management area, a
1160 recommended method of allocating harvests based on the distribution of biomass should
1161 be provided. The MT advisor should be consulted on the appropriate management
1162 areas for each stock.
- 1163 2. Discuss whether a regional management approach makes sense for the species from a
1164 biological perspective.
- 1165 3. If there are insufficient data to analyze a regional management approach, what are the
1166 research and data needs to answer this question?

1167 **5 Research Needs**

research-needs

- 1168 1. Research need No. 1
- 1169 2. Research need No. 2
- 1170 3. Research need No. 3
- 1171 4. etc.

1172 **6 Acknowledgments**

acknowledgments

- 1173 1174 1175 1176 Include: STAR panel members and affiliations as well as names and affiliations of persons
who contributed data, advice or information but were not part of the assessment team. Not
required in draft assessment undergoing review. We thank Kevin Lee for the use of the cover
photo for this document.

¹¹⁷⁷ **7 Tables**

tables

Table 1: Commercial removals (mt) from the commercial fisheries. Data sources are the CDFG Fishery Bulletins (availabl from California Explores the Ocean) and the California Fisheries Information System (CFIS)

Year	Hook-and-line	Trawl	Gillnet	Mexico	Total U.S. Removals	Source
1916	3.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.64	CDFG Bulletins
1917	7.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.90	CDFG Bulletins
1918	12.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.81	CDFG Bulletins
1919	11.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.54	CDFG Bulletins
1920	16.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.18	CDFG Bulletins
1921	26.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.48	CDFG Bulletins
1922	19.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.11	CDFG Bulletins
1923	27.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	27.43	CDFG Bulletins
1924	49.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	49.47	CDFG Bulletins
1925	101.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	101.20	CDFG Bulletins
1926	49.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	49.02	CDFG Bulletins
1927	51.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	51.46	CDFG Bulletins
1928	44.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	44.04	CDFG Bulletins
1929	48.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	48.90	CDFG Bulletins
1930	40.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.19	CDFG Bulletins
1931	41.54	0.00	0.00	0.05	41.54	CDFG Bulletins
1932	38.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	38.78	CDFG Bulletins
1933	29.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	29.10	CDFG Bulletins
1934	29.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	29.91	CDFG Bulletins
1935	30.76	0.00	0.00	0.79	30.76	CDFG Bulletins
1936	49.75	0.00	0.00	0.34	49.75	CDFG Bulletins
1937	62.19	0.00	0.00	0.09	62.19	CDFG Bulletins
1938	70.44	0.00	0.00	0.05	70.44	CDFG Bulletins
1939	58.29	0.00	0.00	0.06	58.29	CDFG Bulletins
1940	55.37	0.00	0.00	0.03	55.37	CDFG Bulletins
1941	43.07	0.00	0.00	0.14	43.07	CDFG Bulletins
1942	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	20.00	CDFG Bulletins
1943	16.32	0.00	0.00	2.98	16.32	CDFG Bulletins
1944	24.03	0.00	0.00	1.95	24.03	CDFG Bulletins
1945	42.13	0.00	0.00	0.81	42.13	CDFG Bulletins
1946	65.63	0.00	0.00	0.16	65.63	CDFG Bulletins
1947	56.79	0.00	0.00	0.84	56.79	CDFG Bulletins
1948	70.17	0.00	0.00	0.18	70.17	CDFG Bulletins
1949	66.72	0.00	0.00	0.58	66.72	CDFG Bulletins
1950	63.16	0.00	0.00	0.12	63.16	CDFG Bulletins
1951	45.85	0.00	0.00	0.16	45.85	CDFG Bulletins
1952	37.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.93	CDFG Bulletins

Table 1: Commercial removals (mt) from the commercial fisheries. Data sources are the CDFG Fishery Bulletins (available from California Explores the Ocean) and the California Fisheries Information System (CFIS)

Year	Hook-and-line	Trawl	Gillnet	Mexico	Total U.S. Removals	Source
1953	54.17	0.00	0.00	0.05	54.17	CDFG Bulletins
1954	60.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	60.92	CDFG Bulletins
1955	47.71	0.00	0.00	1.29	47.71	CDFG Bulletins
1956	45.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	45.47	CDFG Bulletins
1957	33.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	33.23	CDFG Bulletins
1958	29.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	29.43	CDFG Bulletins
1959	16.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.94	CDFG Bulletins
1960	13.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.25	CDFG Bulletins
1961	12.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.12	CDFG Bulletins
1962	26.18	0.00	0.00	0.11	26.18	CDFG Bulletins
1963	34.11	0.00	0.00	0.14	34.11	CDFG Bulletins
1964	35.19	0.00	0.00	7.55	35.19	CDFG Bulletins
1965	34.78	0.00	0.00	2.75	34.78	CDFG Bulletins
1966	38.31	0.00	0.00	10.90	38.31	CDFG Bulletins
1967	25.42	0.00	0.00	12.07	25.42	CDFG Bulletins
1968	40.60	0.00	0.00	16.18	40.60	CDFG Bulletins
1969	33.28	0.28	0.10	18.72	33.66	CFIS
1970	34.45	0.00	0.16	35.67	34.62	CFIS
1971	17.76	0.00	0.63	40.41	18.38	CFIS
1972	27.84	0.11	0.13	31.81	28.08	CFIS
1973	16.80	0.17	0.24	54.85	17.21	CFIS
1974	37.94	0.00	0.06	33.59	38.00	CFIS
1975	41.95	0.02	3.03	33.64	45.01	CFIS
1976	15.41	0.06	0.01	63.29	15.49	CFIS
1977	5.75	0.00	0.13	47.07	5.88	CFIS
1978	8.99	0.00	1.26	21.62	10.25	CFIS
1979	8.40	0.00	0.97	5.43	9.37	CFIS
1980	14.47	0.00	0.56	11.72	15.03	CFIS
1981	15.48	0.01	5.93	4.09	21.41	CFIS
1982	17.95	0.00	1.34	8.46	19.29	CFIS
1983	10.91	0.00	0.83	2.31	11.74	CFIS
1984	9.89	0.15	1.07	0.08	11.11	CFIS
1985	12.73	0.02	2.48	0.00	15.24	CFIS
1986	4.76	0.02	1.76	0.11	6.54	CFIS
1987	7.46	0.11	3.99	0.00	11.56	CFIS
1988	7.77	0.00	3.65	0.00	11.42	CFIS
1989	15.87	0.02	2.80	0.00	18.69	CFIS
1990	32.07	0.78	6.17	0.00	39.01	CFIS
1991	20.12	4.80	3.29	0.00	28.20	CFIS

Table 1: Commercial removals (mt) from the commercial fisheries. Data sources are the CDFG Fishery Bulletins (available from California Explores the Ocean) and the California Fisheries Information System (CFIS)

Year	Hook-and-line	Trawl	Gillnet	Mexico	Total U.S. Removals	Source
1992	27.71	3.94	3.33	0.00	34.98	CFIS
1993	13.72	7.76	4.66	0.22	26.14	CFIS
1994	34.85	13.08	1.92	0.00	49.86	CFIS
1995	23.69	16.20	0.98	0.13	40.87	CFIS
1996	20.17	12.97	1.19	0.00	34.33	CFIS
1997	20.22	13.28	3.82	0.00	37.31	CFIS
1998	32.34	16.80	1.59	0.00	50.72	CFIS
1999	30.88	6.56	1.78	0.00	39.22	CFIS
2000	11.74	4.57	2.00	0.00	18.30	CFIS
2001	14.18	2.98	2.64	0.00	19.80	CFIS
2002	10.09	2.16	1.18	0.00	13.43	CFIS
2003	2.13	2.75	0.35	0.00	5.24	CFIS
2004	2.00	2.36	0.62	0.00	4.98	CFIS
2005	1.47	3.12	0.70	0.00	5.29	CFIS
2006	0.86	1.38	0.44	0.00	2.68	CFIS
2007	1.90	1.48	0.21	0.00	3.59	CFIS
2008	2.46	0.86	0.28	0.00	3.61	CFIS
2009	2.97	0.27	0.13	0.00	3.38	CFIS
2010	2.99	0.18	0.14	0.00	3.32	CFIS
2011	3.24	1.05	0.24	0.00	4.54	CFIS
2012	3.22	0.43	0.18	0.00	3.82	CFIS
2013	1.73	0.83	0.14	0.00	2.70	CFIS
2014	1.03	0.13	0.04	0.00	1.19	CFIS
2015	2.21	0.13	0.03	0.00	2.37	CFIS
2016	2.32	0.13	0.00	0.00	2.45	CFIS

tab:CommCatches

Table 2: The annual number of California scorpionfish sampled from the the commercial hook-and-line fleet for lengths.

Year	Fish	Trips	Sample size	Mean length (cm)	tab:ComHL_lengthsample
1996	25	1	4.45	22.06	
1997	115	6	21.87	26.88	
1998	197	16	43.19	25.79	
1999	224	15	45.91	28.43	
2000	24	2	5.31	27.80	
2001	139	10	29.18	29.98	
2002	71	7	16.80	28.49	
2003	6	1	1.83	32.03	
2013	244	1	7.06	29.00	
2014	46	1	7.06	29.60	
2015	163	1	7.06	29.38	

Table 3: The annual number of California scorpionfish sampled from the the commercial gillnet fleet for lengths.

Year	Fish	Trips	Sample size	Mean length (cm)	tab:ComNet_lengthsample
1996	37	4	9.11	27.68	
1997	310	54	96.78	27.26	
1998	13	4	5.79	31.55	
1999	21	11	13.90	33.01	
2000	15	5	7.07	29.91	
2001	209	27	55.84	30.15	
2002	59	19	27.14	33.51	
2003	51	12	19.04	35.08	
2004	33	6	10.55	34.07	

Table 4: The annual number of California scorpionfish sampled from the the commercial trawl fleet for lengths.

Year	Fish	Trips	Sample size	Mean length (cm)	tab:ComTrawl_lengthsample
1996	69	9	18.52	26.31	
1997	42	6	11.80	26.06	
1998	111	12	27.32	26.86	
1999	399	49	104.06	28.85	
2000	82	6	17.32	27.65	
2001	208	21	49.70	28.44	
2003	84	14	25.59	29.63	
2004	22	1	4.04	28.35	
2006	33	2	6.55	28.00	

Table 5: Recreational removals (mt) from the party/charter and private vessels. Removals from man-made and beach/bank modes were included in the private mode removals. Dead discards include all modes. CDFW provided all data. Note: A discard mortality rate of 7to the dead discard removals.

Year	Private	Party/charter	Dead	Discard (all modes)	Total	Removals
1929	0.06	0.54		0.00		0.61
1930	0.12	1.08		0.01		1.21
1931	0.18	1.62		0.01		1.81
1932	0.24	2.16		0.01		2.42
1933	0.30	2.70		0.02		3.02
1934	0.36	3.24		0.02		3.63
1935	0.42	3.78		0.03		4.23
1936	0.48	4.33		0.03		4.84
1937	0.34	3.01		0.02		3.37
1938	0.56	5.06		0.04		5.66
1939	0.44	3.90		0.03		4.36
1940	0.40	3.61		0.02		4.04
1941	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
1942	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
1943	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
1944	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
1945	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
1946	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
1947	1.76	15.73		0.11		17.60
1948	3.65	32.67		0.23		36.55
1949	2.58	23.12		0.16		25.86
1950	3.38	30.29		0.21		33.89
1951	2.11	18.84		0.13		21.08
1952	2.29	20.48		0.14		22.91
1953	1.93	17.24		0.12		19.28
1954	2.26	20.27		0.14		22.67
1955	1.93	17.33		0.12		19.38
1956	1.70	15.26		0.11		17.07
1957	0.94	8.44		0.06		9.44
1958	0.96	8.60		0.06		9.62
1959	0.80	7.19		0.05		8.04
1960	1.06	9.47		0.07		10.59
1961	1.86	16.71		0.12		18.69
1962	2.33	20.87		0.14		23.34
1963	3.77	33.75		0.23		37.75
1964	5.16	46.25		0.32		51.73
1965	5.02	45.03		0.31		50.36
1966	6.44	43.74		0.31		50.48
1967	7.34	39.64		0.29		47.27

Table 5: Recreational removals (mt) from the party/charter and private vessels. Removals from man-made and beach/bank modes were included in the private mode removals. Dead discards include all modes. CDFW provided all data. Note: A discard mortality rate of 7to the dead discard removals.

Year	Private	Party/charter	Dead	Discard (all modes)	Total	Removals
1968	8.46	37.50		0.29		46.25
1969	10.62	39.47		0.32		50.41
1970	16.32	51.69		0.43		68.44
1971	19.46	53.19		0.46		73.10
1972	15.80	37.62		0.34		53.76
1973	25.01	52.28		0.49		77.78
1974	29.18	53.84		0.52		83.55
1975	31.19	51.01		0.52		82.72
1976	20.44	29.75		0.32		50.50
1977	35.19	45.69		0.51		81.39
1978	23.82	27.63		0.33		51.77
1979	49.76	40.23		0.58		90.57
1980	53.27	52.35		3.72		109.35
1981	41.08	44.42		2.85		88.36
1982	49.04	40.92		2.81		92.77
1983	12.65	35.56		0.93		49.14
1984	27.06	31.25		0.96		59.27
1985	28.77	39.93		1.71		70.41
1986	24.07	42.53		3.19		69.79
1987	23.05	31.78		3.02		57.85
1988	106.56	76.88		5.89		189.34
1989	56.79	79.32		7.90		144.00
1990	95.63	92.27		1.16		189.06
1991	107.40	103.63		1.30		212.34
1992	31.91	44.10		3.60		79.60
1993	23.31	43.49		2.26		69.07
1994	45.62	54.40		6.42		106.45
1995	28.44	57.03		6.21		91.68
1996	30.46	67.48		4.00		101.93
1997	24.39	77.23		2.62		104.24
1998	32.12	75.91		2.08		110.11
1999	50.11	132.50		2.83		185.43
2000	35.86	109.64		4.97		150.47
2001	56.20	114.90		8.33		179.43
2002	43.39	61.57		9.20		114.15
2003	31.49	58.46		9.56		99.52
2004	5.29	42.42		4.53		52.24
2005	21.34	57.15		5.04		83.53
2006	14.44	129.58		3.31		147.33

Table 5: Recreational removals (mt) from the party/charter and private vessels. Removals from man-made and beach/bank modes were included in the private mode removals. Dead discards include all modes. CDFW provided all data. Note: A discard mortality rate of 7to the dead discard removals.

Year	Private	Party/charter	Dead	Discard (all modes)	Total	Removals
2007	14.24	118.87		2.89		135.99
2008	8.38	89.65		2.25		100.28
2009	14.68	93.16		2.09		109.93
2010	8.07	92.55		2.03		102.65
2011	6.84	91.18		2.66		100.68
2012	6.22	107.63		2.34		116.18
2013	8.18	101.31		2.94		112.44
2014	5.88	113.83		2.93		122.63
2015	4.15	73.78		3.59		81.52
2016	3.86	64.56		3.29		71.71

Table 6: Recreational private mode dockside data sample sizes at each data filtering step. The bold value indicates the final sample size used for delta-GLM analysis.

tab:Fleet4_RecPR_dockside_filter			
Filter	Criteria	Sample size (no. positive trips)	Sample size (no. of trips)
Entire dataset			108,171
General data filters	CRFS-PR1 survey only, Southern California only (sub_reg = 1), Hook and line gear only (geara = 'H'), Ocean only (Area_X = 1 or 2)	3,802	43,956
Region	Remove trips from Santa Barbara	3,757	42,956
Year	Remove 2004-2005; fishery closed majority of year	3,094	33,770
Closed fishery	Remove remaining trips when fishery closed	3,056	32,236
Rare and co-occurring species	Remove trips with yellowfin tuna and dolphinfish and species present in $\geq 1\%$ of all trips and in at least 5 years of data	3,056	30,033
Stephens-MacCall	Retain all positive trips, plus "False Positives" (trips predicted to be in California scorpionfish habitat, but with no California scorpionfish retained)	3,056	8,590

Table 7: AIC values for each model in the recreational private mode dockside sample index.

Model	Binomial	Lognormal	tab:Fleet4_RecPR_dockside_aic
Year	6182.366	8103.204	
Year + County	5862.9	8003.9	
Year + Wave	6091	8092.2	
Year + County + Wave	5792.29	8000.45	

Table 8: The recreational private mode dockside sample index.

Year	Index	Log-scale SE	tab:Fleet4_RecPR_dockside_index
2006	1.1154	0.0533	
2007	0.9353	0.0500	
2008	0.8052	0.0481	
2009	0.7645	0.0516	
2010	0.6716	0.0657	
2011	0.7660	0.0734	
2012	0.6651	0.0807	
2013	0.6143	0.0708	
2014	0.6076	0.0826	
2015	0.6465	0.0901	
2016	0.6530	0.1275	

Table 9: The annual number of California scorpionfish sampled from the the recreational private mode fleet for lengths. Data from 1980-2003 were downloaded from RecFIN and from CDFW for 2004-2016. The number of trips is the number of unique ID Codes from 1980-2003 and the number of trips from 2004-2016.

Year	N.measured	N.trips	Mean.length
1980	132	68	26.57
1981	191	76	25.84
1982	199	90	27.43
1983	63	37	28.21
1984	81	44	28.21
1985	76	40	27.78
1986	34	22	27.03
1987	42	28	27.45
1988	177	65	25.63
1989	136	55	25.35
1993	112	62	28.05
1994	136	67	26.96
1995	102	55	25.79
1996	101	70	26.44
1997	90	55	26.93
1998	116	62	26.80
1999	312	138	27.32
2000	142	70	27.77
2001	96	52	27.70
2002	178	94	28.98
2003	148	82	27.82
2004	286	165	30.58
2005	297	171	31.13
2006	663	314	30.85
2007	412	253	31.47
2008	356	237	30.91
2009	471	280	30.84
2010	241	150	30.39
2011	244	131	30.55
2012	158	95	30.65
2013	226	144	30.72
2014	153	92	30.52
2015	106	68	31.27
2016	89	53	30.51

Table 10: Recreational CPFV logbook sample sizes at each data filtering step. The bold value indicates the final sample size used for delta-GLM analysis.

Filter	Criteria	Sample size (no. of trips)
All CA data	No filter	1,164,662
Gear	Remove trips reported as diving, mooching or trolling	959,740
Effort or missing data	Remove trips with missing effort or species information	930,233
Year	Remove 2017, remaining years 1980-2016	929,781
Region	Remove trips north of Pt. Conception and in Mexico	568,222
Fish encountered	Remove trips reporting number of retained fish greater than in the 99% quantile (>325 fish)	564,433
Target species	Remove trips targeting sharks, striped bass, sturgeon, tun, misc. bay, and potluck	558,872
Single-species trips	Filter trips reporting catches of only species and that one species in <100 trips	558,833
Offshore trips	Remove trips catching yellowtail, tunas, and dolphinfish that were not designated as offshore trips	475,492
Vessel	Remove trips by vessels that had fewer than 10 trips catching scorpionfish	466,023
Anglers	Remove trips with number of anglers < the 1% and > the 99% quantile (retain 5-75 anglers)	452,938
Depth	Remove trips in blocks with a minimum depth of >140m	443,929
Scorpionfish targets	Blocks with at least 100 scorpionfish trips	433,248
Sample size	Blocks with at least 500 trips	432,868

Table 11: AIC values for each model in the recreational CPFV logbook sample index.

Model	Negative Binomial	tab:Fleet5_RecPC_CPFVlogbook_aic
Year	1918470	
Year+ Month	1901592	
Year + Block	1872224	
Year+ Month + Block	1854652	

Table 12: The recreational CPFV logbook sample index.

Year	Index	Log-scale SE	NA	NA	tab:Fleet5_RecPC_CPFVlogbook_index
1980	0.0159	0.0579			
1981	0.0128	0.0580			
1982	0.0143	0.0583			
1983	0.0134	0.0610			
1984	0.0111	0.0605			
1985	0.0188	0.0588			
1986	0.0165	0.0579			
1987	0.0168	0.0593			
1988	0.0291	0.0584			
1989	0.0296	0.0581			
1990	0.0293	0.0585			
1991	0.0348	0.0579			
1992	0.0172	0.0587			
1993	0.0166	0.0590			
1994	0.0226	0.0588			
1995	0.0291	0.0587			
1996	0.0316	0.0583			
1997	0.0498	0.0592			
1998	0.0289	0.0595			
1999	0.0482	0.0583			
2000	0.0338	0.0587			
2001	0.0345	0.0586			
2002	0.0203	0.0588			
2003	0.0193	0.0593			
2004	0.0168	0.0595			
2005	0.0146	0.0592			
2006	0.0457	0.0592			
2007	0.0489	0.0589			
2008	0.0355	0.0593			
2009	0.0399	0.0595			
2010	0.0400	0.0597			
2011	0.0304	0.0593			
2012	0.0296	0.0591			
2013	0.0330	0.0592			
2014	0.0311	0.0602			
2015	0.0252	0.0622			
2016	0.0253	0.0615			

Table 13: Recreational CPFV dockside sample sizes at each data filtering step. The bold value indicates the final sample size used for delta-GLM analysis.

Filter	Criteria	tab:Fleet5_RecPC_dockside_filter
		Sample size (no. of trips)
All southern CA data	No filter	6295
Offshore trips	Remove trips with catch of yellowfin tuna, bluefin tuna, albacore, chinook salmon, coho salmon, bigeye tuna and skipjack	6180
Species	Remove trips with catch of Pacific bonito	4718
County	Remove trips from Santa Barbara County	4338
Effort	Remove trips with lower and upper 2.5% of angler hours (± 2 or ± 109.5).	4117
Second species filter	Remove trips with catch of yellowtail (<i>Seriola lalandi</i>); remove chub/Pacific mackerel and barracuda as predictors	3968
Stephens-MacCall	Retained all trips with California scorpionfish as well as trips identified as false negatives and probability of encounter of 0.10	3176
Year	Removed trips from 1989 due to anomalous results and low sample size	3,099

Table 14: AIC values for each model in the recreational CPFV logbook sample index, including all positive trips and false positive trips selected with a Stephens-MacCall filter threshold encounter probability of 0.1.

Model	Binomial	Lognormal	tab:Fleet5_RecPC_dockside_aic
Year	3516.2	2479.6	
Year + Month	3123.2	2488.7	
Year + County	3293.3	2436.3	
Year + Month + County	3091.8	2444.6	

Table 15: The annual number of retained California scorpionfish sampled from the the recreational party/charter mode fleet for lengths. Length measurements from 1980-1983 and 1993-2016 were downloaded from RecFIN. Length measurements from 1984-1989 were from an onboard observer program that measured both retained and discarded fish.

tab:Fleet5_lengthsample

Year	Fish	Trips	Mean length (cm)	Source
1975	935	150	26.84	Collins and Crooke (unpublished)
1976	941	174	27.61	Collins and Crooke (unpublished)
1977	1373	194	26.04	Collins and Crooke (unpublished)
1978	1729	242	26.12	Collins and Crooke (unpublished)
1980	212	45	26.79	MRFSS
1981	187	59	28.36	MRFSS
1982	277	91	27.10	MRFSS
1983	318	113	28.30	MRFSS
1984	472	99	29.18	CDFW (unpublished)
1985	1089	285	28.45	Ally et al. (1991)
1986	955	266	28.02	Ally et al. (1991)
1987	1500	241	26.89	Ally et al. (1991)
1988	3358	289	26.81	CDFW (unpublished)
1989	4518	326	26.30	CDFW (unpublished)
1993	233	62	28.63	MRFSS
1994	201	74	27.82	MRFSS
1995	196	50	27.72	MRFSS
1996	698	82	25.54	MRFSS
1997	373	49	25.09	MRFSS
1998	656	89	28.38	MRFSS
1999	2057	136	27.10	MRFSS
2000	875	87	28.73	MRFSS
2001	479	79	29.82	MRFSS
2002	816	102	29.12	MRFSS
2003	1026	99	28.79	MRFSS
2004	1497	174	28.45	CRFS
2005	1493	163	28.31	CRFS
2006	3054	193	28.58	CRFS
2007	4143	255	28.22	CRFS
2008	4971	328	28.08	CRFS
2009	4118	303	28.36	CRFS
2010	4773	291	28.10	CRFS
2011	2763	265	28.63	CRFS
2012	3440	75	28.47	CRFS
2013	3299	119	28.42	CRFS
2014	2564	82	28.12	CRFS
2015	1734	168	28.33	CRFS
2016	1922	151	28.50	CRFS

Table 16: Recreational onboard observer data sample sizes at each data filtering step. The bold value indicates the final sample size used for delta-GLM analysis. The same sample data were used for the discard-only index and the retained-only catch indices

Filter	Criteria	Sample size (no. positive drifts)	Sample size (no. of drifts)
Initial SQL filtering		6,475	59,192
Habitat filter	Remove drifts >1000 m of alpha hull buffer, remove "reefs" with <0 drifts or 5% positives, or in CCA	6,365	30,987
Exclude 1999 and 2000	Management changes (depth and gear restrictions)	5,986	29,577
Depth	Remove upper and lower 1% of data (retain 26-330ft)	5,921	29,002
Minutes Fished	Remove upper and lower 1% of data (retain 4 - 155 minutes)	5,780	28,460
Observed Anglers	Remove upper and lower 1% of data (retain 4 - 15 anglers)	5,679	27,946
Boats	Include boats encountering scorpionfish in at least 3 years; at least 30 drifts and 10 with scorpionfish	5,509	26,805
Second depth filter	Remove anything >100 m after looking at 20 m depth bins	5,507	26,733

Table 17: AIC values for each model in the The recreational CPFV onboard observer discard-only catch index.

Model	Binomial	Lognormal
Year	19619.56	9177.115
Year + Reef	18677.11	9177.115
Year + Depth	19374.02	8860.893
Year + Depth + Reef	18392.13	8778.47
Year + Month + Reef + Depth	18318.92	8769.844

Table 18: The recreational CPFV onboard observer discard-only catch sample index.

Year	Index	Log-scale SE
2001	0.0373	0.0373
2002	0.0836	0.0834
2003	0.0670	0.0670
2004	0.0736	0.0735
2005	0.0842	0.0840
2006	0.0766	0.0765
2007	0.0691	0.0690
2008	0.0611	0.0610
2009	0.0596	0.0596
2010	0.0640	0.0640
2011	0.0506	0.0506
2012	0.0400	0.0400
2013	0.0392	0.0392
2014	0.0387	0.0386
2015	0.0349	0.0349
2016	0.0535	0.0535

Table 19: The annual number of discarded California scorpionfish sampled from the the recreational party/charter mode fleet for lengths. Length measurements from 2003-2016 were provided by CDFW. Length measurements from 1984-1989 were from an onboard observer program that measured both retained and discarded fish.

`tab:Fleet6_lengthsample`

Year	N.measured	N.trips	Mean.length	Source
1984	6	5	20.50	CDFW unpublished
1985	55	34	18.87	Ally et al. (1991)
1986	88	30	18.26	Ally et al. (1991)
1987	72	34	19.07	Ally et al. (1991)
1988	70	32	20.03	CDFW unpublished
1989	11	11	22.55	CDFW unpublished
2003	121	41	23.90	Onboard Observer
2004	40	13	25.53	Onboard Observer
2005	161	31	25.12	Onboard Observer
2006	222	58	24.25	Onboard Observer
2007	207	32	22.95	Onboard Observer
2008	455	58	22.95	Onboard Observer
2009	396	75	22.48	Onboard Observer
2010	873	111	22.83	Onboard Observer
2011	103	32	18.82	Onboard Observer
2012	62	18	19.19	Onboard Observer
2013	124	31	22.44	Onboard Observer
2014	73	22	23.42	Onboard Observer
2015	19	10	24.63	Onboard Observer
2016	37	8	23.70	Onboard Observer

Table 20: AIC values for each model in the The recreational CPFV onboard observer retained-only catch index.

`tab:Fleet12_RecPC_onboard_aic`

Model	Binomial	Lognormal
Year	21826.47	11507.73
Year + Reef	21192.97	11325.43
Year + Depth	21265.79	10704.15
Year + Depth + Reef	20691.44	10619.25
Year + Month + Reef + Depth	20453.43	10599.42

Table 21: The recreational CPFV onboard observer retained-only catch sample index.

Year	Index	Log-scale SE
2001	0.1134	0.1611
2002	0.0759	0.1566
2003	0.0374	0.1600
2004	0.0880	0.1410
2005	0.0615	0.1444
2006	0.0898	0.1025
2007	0.1360	0.0760
2008	0.1048	0.0722
2009	0.1027	0.0723
2010	0.1121	0.0701
2011	0.0905	0.0775
2012	0.0807	0.0736
2013	0.0654	0.0763
2014	0.0663	0.0895
2015	0.0403	0.1088
2016	0.0720	0.1026

Table 22: The trawl sample sizes for each sanitation district at each data filtering step. The bold value indicates the final sample size used for delta-GLM analysis.

Filter	Criteria	City of LA	LA County	Orange County	City of San Diego	Total trawls
General	Erroneous and missing data, harbors or Mexican waters	1,496	2,321	1,671	1,180	6,668
District-specific filters	Stations sampled >29 years or <305 ft		1,848			
	Stations sampled >9 years	930			998	
	Stations sampled >13 years			1,558		
	Stations sampled >11 years					
Station	Stations encountering scorpionfish >4% of trawls	930	1,848	1,500	998	
Tow time and depth	Stations with tow times >4 minutes and <24 ft	921				
	Tow distance 100-599 m (target tow distance 400 m)			1,490		
Final data		921	1,848	1,490	998	5,257

Table 23: AIC values for each model in the sanitation districts trawl sample index.

Model	Binomial	Lognormal
Year	7330.73	6748.7
Year + Quarter	7179.5	6642.7
Year + Station	6321.6	6372.8
Year + Station + Quarter	6130.94	6252.71

Table 24: The sanitation districts trawl sample index.

tab:Fleet7_Sanitation_index

Year	Index	Log-scale SE
1970	0.0548	0.5975
1971	0.0703	0.4554
1972	0.1261	0.3709
1973	0.1047	0.3344
1974	0.0841	0.2973
1975	0.0719	0.3571
1976	0.0737	0.2780
1977	0.1408	0.2035
1978	0.1426	0.2135
1979	0.3617	0.1598
1980	0.4085	0.1645
1981	0.4360	0.1543
1982	0.3841	0.2056
1983	0.1343	0.2110
1984	0.0627	0.2817
1985	0.1087	0.1745
1986	0.1624	0.2172
1987	0.2377	0.1644
1988	0.2382	0.1471
1989	0.1605	0.1513
1990	0.1691	0.1551
1991	0.1037	0.1801
1992	0.1126	0.1595
1993	0.1147	0.1055
1994	0.1120	0.1267
1995	0.1970	0.1083
1996	0.2276	0.1006
1997	0.2407	0.1036
1998	0.1795	0.1148
1999	0.2343	0.1001
2000	0.1281	0.1439
2001	0.2433	0.0947
2002	0.1329	0.1411
2003	0.1632	0.1688
2004	0.1873	0.1320
2005	0.2435	0.1673
2006	0.2497	0.1368
2007	0.1347	0.1615
2008	0.1126	0.1643
2009	0.1246	0.1717
2010	0.0791	0.1772
2011	0.1081	0.1851
2012	0.0462	0.2760
2013	0.0190	0.4105
2014	0.0674	0.2917
2015	0.1290	0.2641
2016	0.1167	0.2660

Table 25: Summaries of catch statistics of California scorpionfish by depth zones from NWFSC trawl survey between 2003 and 2016.

Depth zone (m)	Total catch (kg)	Raw CPUE (kg/ha)	tab:Fleet8_NWFSCtrawl_catchdepth
62.50	304.80	1.71	
87.50	568.20	1.98	
112.50	34.10	0.22	
137.50	3.80	0.04	
162.50	46.90	0.41	
187.50	1.10	0.01	
212.50	0.40	0.00	

Table 26: Summaries of catch statistics of California scorpionfish by latitude zones from NWFSC trawl survey between 2003 and 2016.

Latitude zone	Total catch (kg)	Raw CPUE (kg/ha)	tab:Fleet8_NWFSCtrawl_catchlat
32.50	156.30	1.59	
33.00	274.90	2.60	
33.50	257.70	0.93	
34.00	270.10	0.73	
34.50	0.10	0.00	

Table 27: Summaries of haul statistics of California scorpionfish from NWFSC trawl survey between 2003 and 2016.

Year	No. hauls	No. positive hauls	Percent positive hauls	Total catch (kg)	Raw CPUE (kg/ha)
2003	33	9	27.30	28.20	0.51
2004	37	12	32.40	73.20	1.02
2005	37	8	21.60	58.50	0.90
2006	42	11	26.20	15.10	0.23
2007	50	12	24.00	81.30	1.03
2008	51	12	23.50	16.20	0.22
2009	58	10	17.20	217.50	2.60
2010	53	10	18.90	20.00	0.23
2011	51	16	31.40	64.00	0.93
2012	61	9	14.80	102.40	1.07
2013	25	8	32.00	182.70	4.85
2014	49	6	12.20	23.00	0.32
2015	50	14	28.00	52.50	0.59
2016	58	12	20.70	24.70	0.28

Table 28: Summary statistics of age data by year and sex from NWFSC trawl survey between 2005 and 2016. The last raw shows total numbers of fish aged by sex.

Year	Female			Male		
	No. aged	Mean age (year)	Mean length (cm)	No. aged	Mean age (year)	Mean length (cm)
2005	38	7.70	28.30	37	9.20	26.00
2006	12	5.50	25.60	33	8.60	24.40
2007	19	6.60	26.50	49	7.10	24.60
2008	19	5.70	25.80	30	8.00	24.50
2009	33	4.30	24.10	97	7.10	23.20
2010	20	8.50	27.60	22	8.90	24.80
2011	42	4.80	24.40	74	7.60	23.60
2012	30	9.60	28.60	36	9.30	25.00
2013	28	6.30	27.00	39	3.70	22.40
2014	32	5.70	24.40	41	6.00	22.20
2015	20	3.20	20.40	34	5.20	21.30
2016	47	2.70	21.10	37	4.90	20.60
Sum	340			529		

Table 29: Ages at five percentiles by sex from NWFSC trawl survey between 2005 and 2016, indicating more older males in the population.

Percentile	Female age at percentile	Male age at percentile	tab:Fleet8_NWFSCtrawl_agepercents
50.00	4.00	6.00	
90.00	12.00	14.20	
95.00	15.10	16.60	
97.50	19.00	19.00	
99.00	20.20	21.70	

Table 30: Mean age at length (cm) and number of fish aged by sex for California scorpionfish from the NWFSC trawl survey.

Age	Female		Male		tab:Fleet8_NWFSCtrawl_meanAatL	
	Mean	length	Fish	Mean	length	
1	17.21	29		16.80	46	
2	20.47	72		20.25	87	
3	24.40	45		22.06	54	
4	25.42	33		22.75	44	
5	26.32	38		23.72	32	
6	27.33	18		23.00	23	
7	27.17	12		24.92	26	
8	28.53	17		24.93	27	
9	29.46	13		25.48	31	
10	29.10	10		25.74	23	
11	29.21	14		26.32	25	
12	32.00	4		26.29	24	
13	30.44	9		26.06	17	
14	31.25	4		26.88	16	
15	29.33	3		28.07	14	
16				28.09	11	
17	32.75	4		29.13	8	
18	36.00	3		28.25	4	
19	32.33	6		28.86	7	
20				22.00	1	
21	37.50	2		25.00	1	

Table 31: The NWFSC trawl survey index.

Year	Index	Log-scale SE
2003	615.6453	0.5708
2004	1000.1240	0.4503
2005	936.2185	0.5943
2006	245.5559	0.5092
2007	1001.1330	0.5099
2008	195.6025	0.4484
2009	1940.3440	0.5137
2010	277.3953	0.5338
2011	710.0569	0.3744
2012	561.1833	0.5361
2013	3243.2760	0.5728
2014	370.3868	0.7000
2015	409.8495	0.4045
2016	366.7447	0.4809

Table 32: Recreational private mode dockside data sample sizes at each data filtering step. The bold value indicates the final sample size used for delta-GLM analysis.

Filter	Criteria	Sample size (no. positive trips)	Sample size (no. of trips)
Entire dataset		325	3,558
General data filters	Samples with no net failures	269	3,515
Net type	Samples using a net type 1", 1.5" and 2" mesh	269	2,815
Sites	Sites frequently sampled	266	2,170
Month	Months sampled consistently (April, June, August, October)	259	2,019

Table 33: AIC values for each model in the recreational private mode dockside sample index.

Model	Binomial	Lognormal
Year + month + site + perp_para + floats	1983.12	1008.62
Year + site + perp_para + floats	2000.281	1004.4
Year + month + perp_para + floats	2349.989	1264.8
Year + site + perp_para	2010.078	1004.1

Table 34: The recreational private mode dockside sample index.

Year	Index	Log-scale SE
1995	0.0537	0.0536
1996	0.0401	0.0401
1997	0.0478	0.0477
1998	0.0275	0.0275
1999	0.0360	0.0360
2000	0.0299	0.0299
2001	0.0331	0.0331
2002	0.0348	0.0348
2003	0.0304	0.0304
2004	0.0541	0.0541
2005	0.0324	0.0324
2006	0.0572	0.0572
2007	0.0508	0.0508
2008	0.0618	0.0618

Table 35: Recreational private mode dockside data sample sizes at each data filtering step. The bold value indicates the final sample size used for delta-GLM analysis.

Filter	Criteria	tab:Fleet11_SCBSurvey_filter	
		Sample size (no. positive trips)	Sample size (no. of trips)
All trawls	No filter	158	944
Depth	Trawls < 98 m (retains 95% of all data)	149	662
Region	Exclude trawls in harbors, south of Ventura and islands (few scorpionfish)	129	398

Table 36: AIC values for each model in the recreational private mode dockside sample index.

Model	Binomial	Lognormal
Year	494.73	339.56
Year + Region	490.24	343.16
Year + Month	493.02	336.68
Year + Month + Region	486.55	337.87

Table 37: The recreational private mode dockside sample index.

Year	Index	Log-scale SE	NA	NA
1994	0.0475	0.3042		
1998	0.0223	0.2499		
2003	0.0514	0.2356		
2008	0.0156	0.3187		
2013	0.0214	0.3021		

Table 38: List of parameters used in the base model, including estimated values and standard deviations (SD), bounds (minimum and maximum), estimation phase (negative values indicate not estimated), status (indicates if parameters are near bounds, and prior type information (mean, SD)).

No.	Parameter	Value	Phase	Bounds	Status	SD	Prior (Exp.Val, SD)
1	NatM_p_1_Fem_GP_1	0.298	2	(0.01, 1) (2, 30)	OK	0.030	Log_Norm (-1.3581, 0.438438)
2	Lat_Amin_Fem_GP_1	7.228	2	(30, 50)	OK	1.410	None
3	Lat_Amax_Fem_GP_1	33.194	2	(0.05, 0.5)	OK	1.295	None
4	VonBert_K_Fem_GP_1	0.247	2	(0.02, 0.5)	OK	0.053	None
5	CV_young_Fem_GP_1	0.328	3	(0.02, 0.75)	OK	0.036	None
6	CV_old_Fem_GP_1	0.104	3	(-3, 3)	OK	0.016	None
7	Wtlen_1_Fem	0.000	-3	(2, 4)	None	None	None
8	Wtlen_2_Fem	3.058	-3	(10, 30)	None	None	None
9	Mat50%_Fem	17.188	-3	(-3, 3)	None	None	None
10	Mat_slope_Fem	-0.466	-3	(-3, 3)	None	None	None
11	Eggs/kg_inter_Fem	1.000	-3	(-3, 3)	None	None	None
12	Eggs/kg_slope_wt_Fem	0.000	-3	(-3, 3)	OK	0.066	Normal (0, 99)
13	NatM_p_1_Mal_GP_1	-0.204	2	(-3, 3)	OK	0.190	None
14	Lat_Amin_Mal_GP_1	0.667	2	(-3, 3)	OK	0.043	None
15	Lat_Amax_Mal_GP_1	-0.180	2	(-3, 3)	OK	0.222	None
16	VonBert_K_Mal_GP_1	0.101	2	(-3, 3)	OK	0.279	None
17	CV_young_Mal_GP_1	-1.487	3	(-3, 3)	OK	0.188	None
18	CV_old_Mal_GP_1	0.085	3	(-3, 3)	OK	None	None
19	Wtlen_1_Mal	0.000	-5	(0, 1)	None	None	None
20	Wtlen_2_Mal	2.981	-5	(2, 4)	None	None	None
24	CohortGrowDev	1.000	-1	(1, 1)	None	None	None
25	FracFemale_GP_1	0.500	-4	(0.000001, 0.999999)	OK	0.315	None
26	SR_LN(R0)	8.103	1	(0, 31)	OK	0.718	Full_Beta (0.718, 0.158)
27	SR_BH_stEEP	0.600	-2	(0.21, 0.99)	None	None	None
28	SR_sigmar	0.000	-2	(0, 2)	None	None	None
29	SR_regime	0.000	-4	(-5, 5)	None	None	None

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Table 38: List of parameters used in the base model, including estimated values and standard deviations (SD), bounds (minimum and maximum), estimation phase (negative values indicate not estimated), status (indicates if parameters are near bounds, and prior type information (mean, SD)).

No.	Parameter	Value	Phase	Bounds	Status	SD	Prior (Exp.Val, SD)
30	SR.autocorr	0.000	-3	(0, 0.5)			None
84	InitF_seas_1_flt_1ComHL	0.000	-1	(0, 1)			Normal (0.01, 1000)
85	LnQ_base_RecPR(4)	-6.411	-1	(-15, 15)	OK	0.025	None
86	Q_extraSD_RecPR(4)	0.019	4	(0.001, 1)			None
87	LnQ_base_RecPC(5)	-10.929	-1	(-15, 15)			None
88	Q_extraSD_RecPC(5)	0.372	4	(0.001, 1)	OK	0.056	None
89	LnQ_base_RecDD(6)	-10.809	-1	(-15, 15)			None
90	Q_extraSD_RecDD(6)	0.055	4	(0.001, 1)	OK	0.045	None
91	LnQ_base_Sanitation(7)	-10.227	-1	(-15, 15)			None
92	Q_extraSD_Sanitation(7)	0.211	4	(0.001, 1)	OK	0.046	None
93	LnQ_base_NWFSC_Trawl(8)	-0.732	-1	(-15, 15)			None
94	Q_extraSD_NWFSC_Trawl(8)	0.244	4	(0.001, 1)	OK	0.144	None
95	LnQ_base_GillnetSurvey(9)	-11.700	-1	(-15, 15)			None
96	Q_extraSD_GillnetSurvey(9)	0.100	4	(0.001, 1)	OK	0.067	None
97	LnQ_base_SCBSurvey(11)	-10.682	-1	(-15, 15)			None
98	Q_extraSD_SCBSurvey(11)	0.188	4	(0.001, 1)	OK	0.151	None
99	LnQ_base_RecPCOBR(12)	-9.830	-1	(-15, 15)			None
100	Q_extraSD_RecPCOBR(12)	0.218	4	(0.001, 1)	OK	0.063	None
101	SizeSel_P1_ComHL(1)	32.676	4	(13, 44)	OK	2.046	None
102	SizeSel_P2_ComHL(1)	15.000	-3	(-10, 16)			None
103	SizeSel_P3_ComHL(1)	3.945	4	(-1, 10)	OK	0.358	None
104	SizeSel_P4_ComHL(1)	15.000	-3	(-1, 16)			None
105	SizeSel_P5_ComHL(1)	-16.478	5	(-25, -1)	OK	113.849	None
106	SizeSel_P6_ComHL(1)	10.000	-3	(-5, 11)			None
107	SizeSel_P1_ComNet(2)	1.000	-2	(1, 45)			None
108	SizeSel_P2_ComNet(2)	45.000	-3	(1, 45)			None
109	SizeSel_P1_ComTrawl(3)	1.000	-2	(1, 45)			None

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Table 38: List of parameters used in the base model, including estimated values and standard deviations (SD), bounds (minimum and maximum), estimation phase (negative values indicate not estimated), status (indicates if parameters are near bounds, and prior type information (mean, SD)).

No.	Parameter	Value	Phase	Bounds	Status	SD	Prior (Exp.Val, SD)
110	SizeSel_P2_ComTrawl(3)	45.000	-3	(1, 45)	OK	1.547	None
111	SizeSel_P1_RecPR(4)	39.065	4	(13, 44)	OK	1.547	None
112	SizeSel_P2_RecPR(4)	15.000	-3	(-10, 16)	OK	0.158	None
113	SizeSel_P3_RecPR(4)	4.242	4	(-1, 10)	OK	0.158	None
114	SizeSel_P4_RecPR(4)	15.000	-3	(-1, 16)	OK	0.158	None
115	SizeSel_P5_RecPR(4)	-8.383	5	(-25, -1)	OK	0.638	None
116	SizeSel_P6_RecPR(4)	10.000	-3	(-5, 11)	OK	0.638	None
117	SizeSel_P1_RecPC(5)	35.668	4	(13, 44)	OK	1.218	None
118	SizeSel_P2_RecPC(5)	15.000	-3	(-10, 16)	OK	1.218	None
119	SizeSel_P3_RecPC(5)	4.270	4	(-1, 10)	OK	0.164	None
120	SizeSel_P4_RecPC(5)	15.000	-3	(-1, 16)	OK	0.164	None
121	SizeSel_P5_RecPC(5)	-8.373	5	(-25, -1)	OK	1.683	None
122	SizeSel_P6_RecPC(5)	10.000	-3	(-5, 11)	OK	1.683	None
123	SizeSel_P1_RecDD(6)	24.543	4	(13, 44)	OK	0.094	None
124	SizeSel_P2_RecDD(6)	-11.346	3	(-15, 16)	OK	56.497	None
125	SizeSel_P3_RecDD(6)	2.606	4	(-1, 10)	OK	0.506	None
126	SizeSel_P4_RecDD(6)	-8.688	3	(-20, 5)	OK	77.743	None
127	SizeSel_P5_RecDD(6)	-2.188	5	(-25, 3)	OK	0.438	None
128	SizeSel_P6_RecDD(6)	-1.402	3	(-5, 11)	OK	0.486	None
129	SizeSel_P1_Sanitation(7)	26.615	4	(13, 44)	OK	0.848	None
130	SizeSel_P2_Sanitation(7)	15.000	-3	(-10, 16)	OK	0.848	None
131	SizeSel_P3_Sanitation(7)	3.730	4	(-1, 10)	OK	0.137	None
132	SizeSel_P4_Sanitation(7)	15.000	-3	(-1, 16)	OK	0.137	None
133	SizeSel_P5_Sanitation(7)	-5.316	4	(-25, 5)	OK	0.715	None
134	SizeSel_P6_Sanitation(7)	10.000	-3	(-5, 11)	OK	0.715	None
135	SizeSel_P1_NWFSCTrawl(8)	26.558	4	(13, 44)	OK	2.160	None
136	SizeSel_P2_NWFSCTrawl(8)	15.000	-3	(-10, 16)	OK	2.160	None

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Table 38: List of parameters used in the base model, including estimated values and standard deviations (SD), bounds (minimum and maximum), estimation phase (negative values indicate not estimated), status (indicates if parameters are near bounds, and prior type information (mean, SD)).

No.	Parameter	Value	Phase	Bounds	Status	SD	Prior (Exp.Val, SD)
137	SizeSel_P3_NWFSTrawl(8)	4.014	4	(-1, 10)	OK	0.417	None
138	SizeSel_P4_NWFSTrawl(8)	15.000	-3	(-1, 16)	None	None	None
139	SizeSel_P5_NWFSTrawl(8)	-13.435	4	(-25, 5)	OK	153.055	None
140	SizeSel_P6_NWFSTrawl(8)	10.000	-3	(-5, 11)	None	None	None
141	SizeSel_P1_GillnetSurvey(9)	1.000	-2	(1, 45)	None	None	None
142	SizeSel_P2_GillnetSurvey(9)	45.000	-3	(1, 45)	None	None	None
143	SizeSel_P1_SCBSurvey(11)	1.000	-2	(1, 45)	None	None	None
144	SizeSel_P2_SCBSurvey(11)	45.000	-3	(1, 45)	None	None	None
145	SizeSel_P1_RecPCOBR(12)	1.000	-2	(1, 45)	None	None	None
146	SizeSel_P2_RecPCOBR(12)	45.000	-3	(1, 45)	None	None	None
147	SizeSel_P1_ComHL(1)_BLK1rep1_1999	28.995	5	(13, 44)	OK	0.576	None
148	SizeSel_P3_ComHL(1)_BLK1rep1_1999	2.133	5	(-1, 10)	OK	0.253	None
149	SizeSel_P1_RecPR(4)_BLK2rep1_2000	35.437	5	(13, 44)	OK	0.557	None
150	SizeSel_P3_RecPR(4)_BLK2rep1_2000	3.344	5	(-1, 10)	OK	0.102	None
151	SizeSel_P1_RecPC(5)_BLK2rep1_2000	27.962	5	(13, 44)	OK	0.523	None
152	SizeSel_P3_RecPC(5)_BLK2rep1_2000	1.630	5	(-1, 10)	OK	0.316	None

tab-model-params

Table 39: Summary of the biomass/abundance time series used in the stock assessment.

Fleet	Years	Name	Fishery ind.	Filtering	Method	<small>tab:Index_summary</small>
4	2004-2016	Recreational PR dockside CPUE	No	trip, area, regulations, Stephens-MacCall	delta-GLM (bin-lognormal)	SSC
5	1980-2016	CPFV logbook CPUE	No	trip, gear, effort, species, depth, sample size	negative binomial	SSC
6	2002-2016	Onboard observer discard catch CPUE	No	habitat ,regulations, effort, boats	delta-GLM (bin-lognormal)	SSC
7	1970-2016	Sanitation district CPUE	Yes	sample size, depth, tow times	delta-GLM (bin-lognormal)	SSC
8	2003-2016	NWFSC trawl survey CPUE	Yes	depth, area	delta-GLM (bin-lognormal)	SSC
9	1995-2008	CSUN/VRG Gillnet survey CPUE	Yes	gear, site, month	delta-GLM (bin-lognormal)	SSC
11	1994; 1998; 2003; 2008; 2013	Southern California Bight trawl survey CPUE	Yes	depth, area	delta-GLM (bin-lognormal)	SSC
12	2002-2016	Onboard observer retained catch CPUE	No	habitat, regulations, effort, boats	delta-GLM (bin-lognormal)	SSC

Table 40: Results from 100 jitters from each of the three models.

Status	Model.1	Model.2	Model.3	tab:jitter
Returned to base case	-	-	-	
Found local minimum	-	-	-	
Found better solution	-	-	-	
Error in likelihood	-	-	-	
Total	100	100	100	

Table 42: Time-series of population estimates from the base-case model.

Yr	Total biomass (mt)	Spawning biomass (mt)	Depletion	Age-0 recruits	Total catch (mt)	Relative ex- ploitation rate	SPR
1916	2205	888	1.00	3305	4	0.00	0.99
1917	2190	886	1.00	3305	8	0.00	0.98
1918	2172	883	0.99	3304	13	0.01	0.97
1919	2176	879	0.99	3302	12	0.01	0.97
1920	2160	875	0.99	3301	16	0.01	0.96
1921	2124	871	0.98	3299	26	0.01	0.94
1922	2148	863	0.97	3296	19	0.01	0.96
1923	2119	859	0.97	3295	27	0.01	0.94
1924	2047	853	0.96	3292	49	0.02	0.90
1925	1898	838	0.94	3286	101	0.05	0.81
1926	2039	805	0.91	3272	49	0.02	0.89
1927	2029	799	0.90	3270	51	0.03	0.89
1928	2053	794	0.89	3268	44	0.02	0.90
1929	2034	794	0.89	3267	50	0.02	0.89
1930	2061	791	0.89	3266	41	0.02	0.90
1931	2054	791	0.89	3266	43	0.02	0.90
1932	2062	791	0.89	3266	41	0.02	0.90
1933	2094	792	0.89	3267	32	0.02	0.92
1934	2090	796	0.90	3269	34	0.02	0.92
1935	2085	799	0.90	3270	35	0.02	0.92
1936	2020	801	0.90	3271	55	0.03	0.88
1937	1983	794	0.89	3268	66	0.03	0.86
1938	1949	784	0.88	3263	76	0.04	0.84
1939	1987	771	0.87	3257	63	0.03	0.86
1940	1995	767	0.86	3255	59	0.03	0.87
1941	2049	764	0.86	3254	43	0.02	0.90
1942	2136	769	0.87	3256	20	0.01	0.95
1943	2151	783	0.88	3262	16	0.01	0.96
1944	2123	796	0.90	3268	24	0.01	0.94
1945	2060	803	0.90	3271	42	0.02	0.90
1946	1984	801	0.90	3271	66	0.03	0.86
1947	1957	789	0.89	3265	74	0.04	0.84
1948	1866	776	0.87	3259	107	0.05	0.79
1949	1894	752	0.85	3248	93	0.05	0.80
1950	1877	738	0.83	3241	97	0.05	0.79
1951	1962	725	0.82	3234	67	0.04	0.84
1952	1982	727	0.82	3235	61	0.03	0.86
1953	1942	732	0.82	3238	73	0.04	0.83
1954	1911	730	0.82	3237	84	0.04	0.81
1955	1960	724	0.82	3234	67	0.04	0.84

Table 42: Time-series of population estimates from the base-case model.

Yr	Total biomass (mt)	Spawning biomass (mt)	Depletion	Age-0 recruits	Total catch (mt)	Relative ex- ploitation rate	SPR
1956	1975	726	0.82	3235	63	0.03	0.85
1957	2044	730	0.82	3237	43	0.02	0.89
1958	2060	741	0.83	3242	39	0.02	0.90
1959	2115	752	0.85	3248	25	0.01	0.94
1960	2122	766	0.86	3255	24	0.01	0.94
1961	2098	779	0.88	3261	31	0.02	0.92
1962	2035	786	0.88	3264	50	0.02	0.89
1963	1966	784	0.88	3263	72	0.04	0.84
1964	1921	772	0.87	3257	87	0.04	0.82
1965	1921	757	0.85	3250	85	0.04	0.82
1966	1906	745	0.84	3011	89	0.05	0.81
1967	1951	734	0.83	3159	73	0.04	0.83
1968	1907	730	0.82	3142	87	0.05	0.81
1969	1913	719	0.81	2611	84	0.04	0.81
1970	1859	710	0.80	2026	103	0.06	0.78
1971	1888	691	0.78	1770	91	0.05	0.79
1972	1908	669	0.75	1634	82	0.05	0.81
1973	1866	639	0.72	1668	95	0.06	0.78
1974	1774	590	0.66	2234	122	0.08	0.73
1975	1726	527	0.59	9115	128	0.09	0.70
1976	1895	469	0.53	4264	66	0.05	0.80
1977	1817	491	0.55	5776	87	0.05	0.74
1978	1914	580	0.65	2712	62	0.03	0.80
1979	1827	701	0.79	1573	100	0.05	0.75
1980	1797	789	0.89	1311	124	0.06	0.73
1981	1857	814	0.92	1470	110	0.05	0.77
1982	1863	785	0.88	2173	112	0.06	0.77
1983	1993	714	0.80	3754	61	0.04	0.86
1984	1961	654	0.74	9362	70	0.04	0.83
1985	1896	607	0.68	6138	86	0.05	0.80
1986	1910	620	0.70	2417	76	0.04	0.81
1987	1942	724	0.82	1380	69	0.03	0.82
1988	1673	840	0.95	1263	201	0.09	0.66
1989	1744	840	0.95	1230	163	0.08	0.71
1990	1646	792	0.89	1644	228	0.12	0.65
1991	1598	672	0.76	6094	241	0.15	0.62
1992	1776	539	0.61	4277	115	0.08	0.73
1993	1807	497	0.56	7345	95	0.06	0.75
1994	1623	524	0.59	3943	156	0.09	0.64
1995	1681	578	0.65	2201	133	0.07	0.68

Table 42: Time-series of population estimates from the base-case model.

Yr	Total biomass (mt)	Spawning biomass (mt)	Depletion	Age-0 recruits	Total catch (mt)	Relative ex- ploitation rate	SPR
1996	1708	675	0.76	6236	136	0.07	0.69
1997	1733	742	0.84	3406	142	0.07	0.70
1998	1718	775	0.87	5046	161	0.07	0.70
1999	1625	797	0.90	4199	225	0.10	0.64
2000	1736	784	0.88	2408	169	0.08	0.70
2001	1689	798	0.90	5059	199	0.09	0.67
2002	1825	785	0.88	2236	128	0.06	0.75
2003	1880	788	0.89	1770	105	0.05	0.79
2004	2013	795	0.90	2263	57	0.03	0.87
2005	1935	795	0.89	4199	89	0.04	0.82
2006	1792	752	0.85	2856	150	0.08	0.73
2007	1789	687	0.77	1815	140	0.08	0.73
2008	1849	649	0.73	2076	104	0.06	0.77
2009	1817	632	0.71	3043	113	0.07	0.75
2010	1821	600	0.68	2051	106	0.07	0.75
2011	1808	570	0.64	1179	105	0.07	0.75
2012	1752	547	0.62	1297	120	0.08	0.71
2013	1745	512	0.58	3459	115	0.09	0.71
2014	1697	467	0.53	3796	124	0.10	0.68
2015	1787	425	0.48	7789	84	0.07	0.74
2016	1811	432	0.49	2995			

tab:Timeseries_mod1

Table 41: Sensitivity of the base model to dropping or down-weighting data sources and alternative assumptions about growth.

Label	Base (Francis weights)	Harmonic weights)	Drop index	Drop ages	Down- weight lengths	Free size	Free CV	External growth
TOTAL_like	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Catch_like	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Equil_catch_like	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Survey_like	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Length_comp_like	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age_comp_like	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Parm_priors_like	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SSB_Umfished_thousand_mt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TotBio_Umfished	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SmryBio_Umfished	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recr_Umfished_billions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SSB_Btgt_thousand_mt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SPR_Btgt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fstd_Btgt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TotYield_Btgt_thousand_mt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SSB_SPRtgt_thousand_mt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fstd_SPRtgt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TotYield_SPRtgt_thousand_mt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SSB_MSY_thousand_mt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SPR_MSY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fstd_MSY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TotYield_MSY_thousand_mt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RetYield_MSY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bratio_2015	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
F_2015	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SPRratio_2015	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recr_2015	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recr_Virgin_billions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
L_at_Amin_Fem_GP_1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
L_at_Amax_Fem_GP_1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
VonBert_K_Fem_GP_1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CV_young_Fem_GP_1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CV_old_Fem_GP_1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 43: Projection of potential OFL, spawning biomass, and depletion for the base case model.

Yr	OFL contribution (mt)	ACL landings (mt)	Age 5+ biomass (mt)	Spawning Biomass (mt)	<small>tab:Forecast_mod1</small>
2017	252.19	252.19	1604.93	493.51	0.56

8 Figures

figures

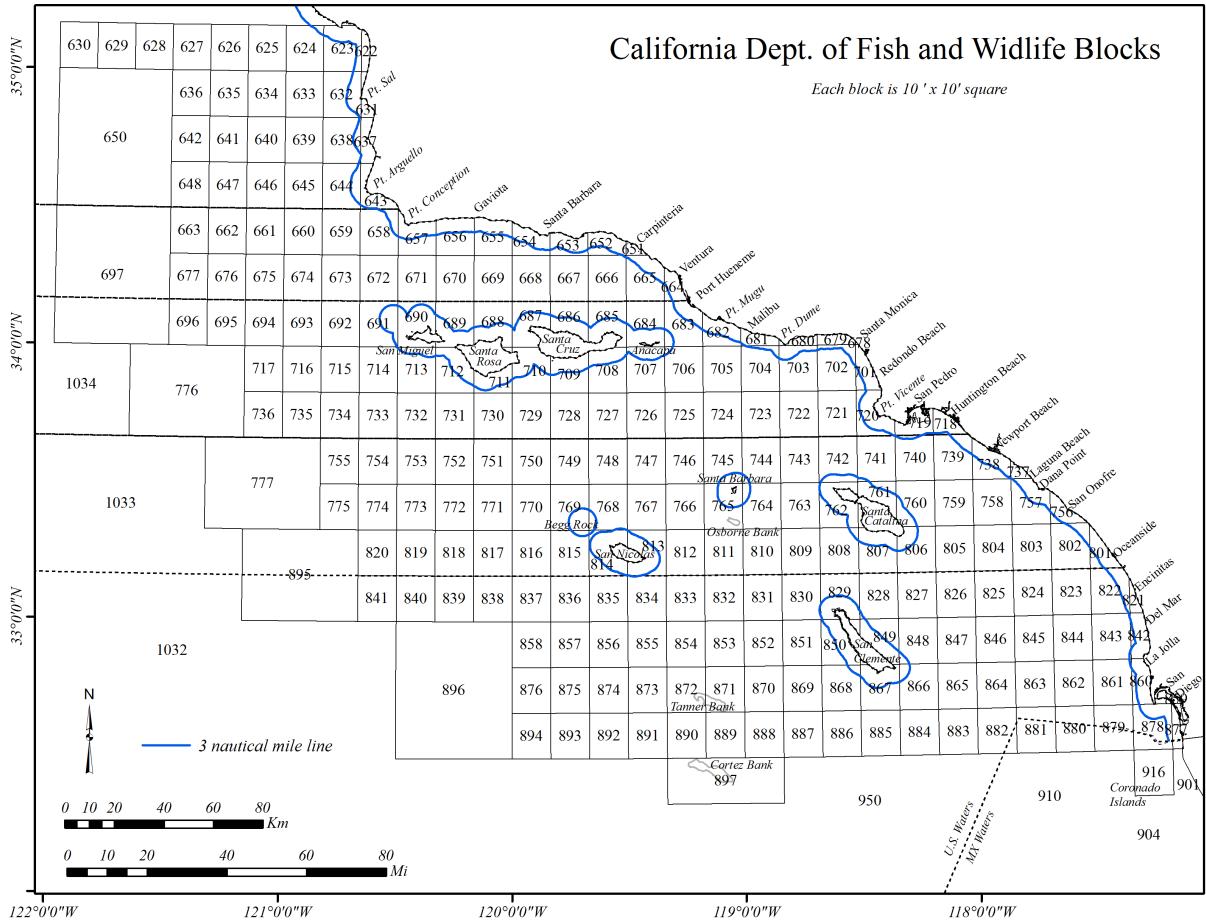


Figure 1: Map showing the state boundary lines for management of the recreational fishing fleets. CRFS Districts 1-6 in California are presented as well as the WDFW Recreational Management Areas in Washington. Florence, OR is shown as a potential location of model stratification.

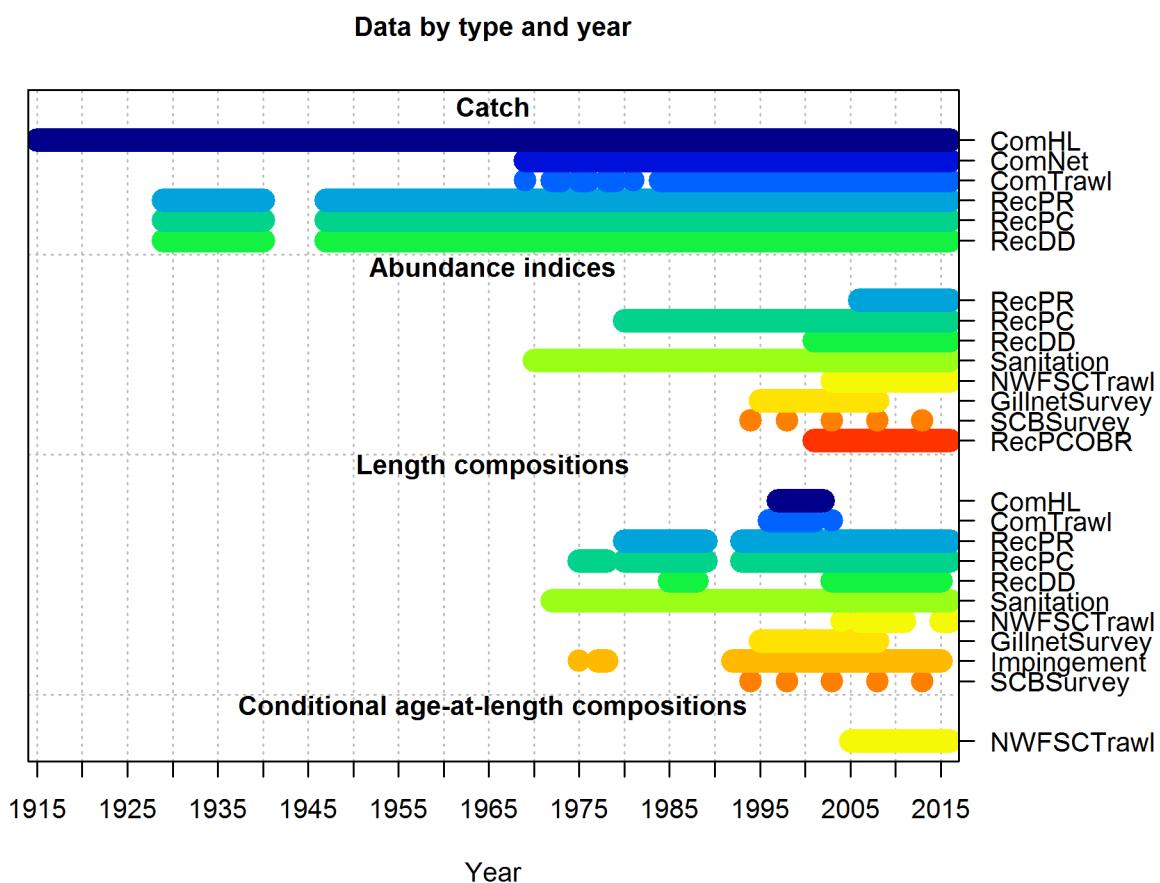


Figure 2: Summary of data sources used in the base model. fig:data_plot

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1999	open	open	open	open	open	open						
2000	open	open	open	open	open	open						
2001	20	20	open	open	open	open	open	open	open	open	20	20
2002			open	open	open	open	20	20	20	20		
2003	20	20					20	20	30	30	30	
2004			60	60							60	60
2005										30	60	60
2006			60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
2007	40	40	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
2008	40	40	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
2009	40	40	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
2010	40	40	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
2011	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
2012	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	50	50
2013	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
2014	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50*	
2015	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60				
2016	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60				

Figure 3: A summary of the monthly recreational regulations for California scorpionfish in southern California. cells with “open” indicate no depth restriction, black cells indicate the fishery is closed, and cells with a number indicate the depth restriction in fathoms, e.g., 20 = retained catch allowed in less than 20 fathoms. *Fishery closed on November 15, 2014. fig:recregs

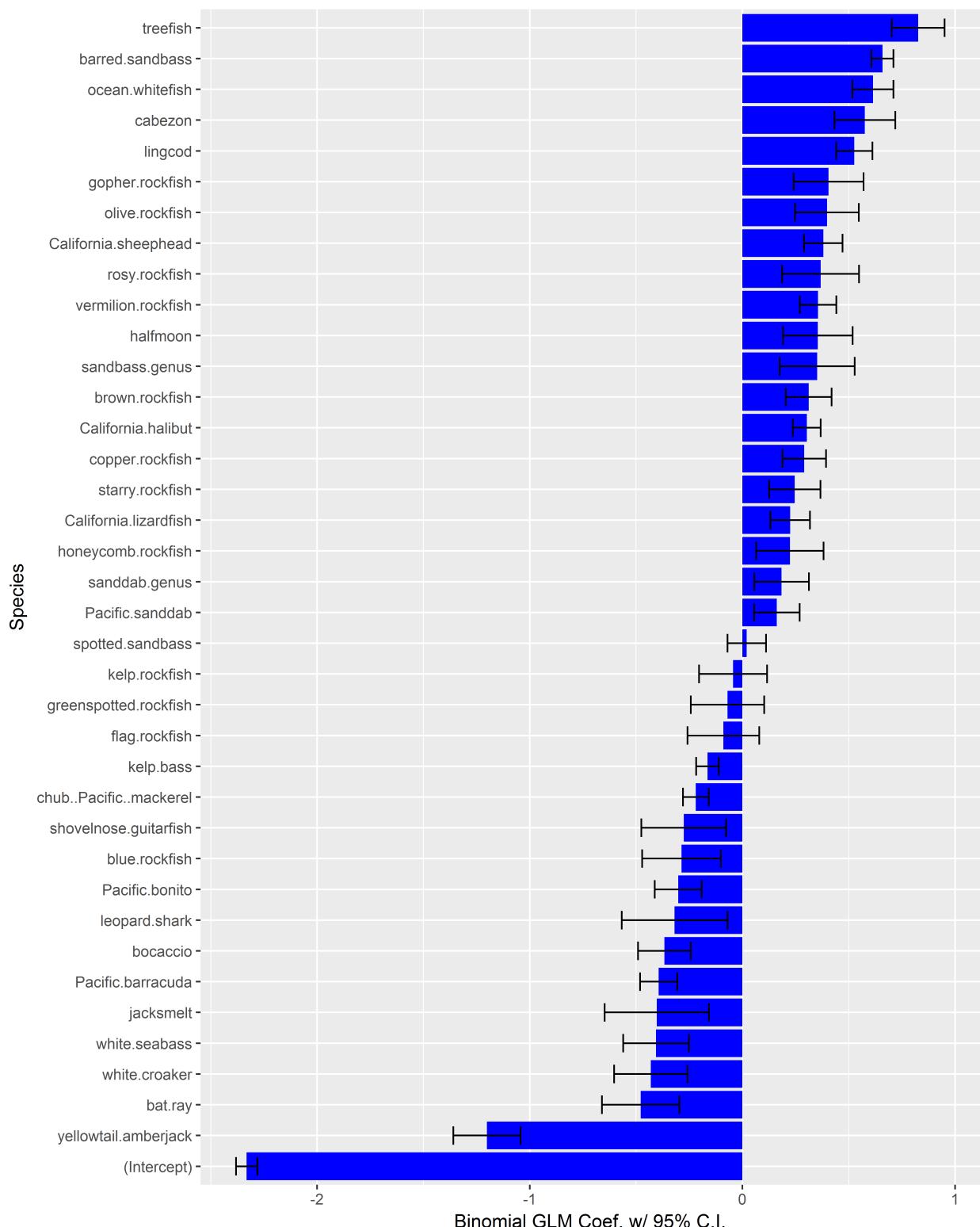


Figure 4: Species coefficients from the binomial GLM for presence/absence of California scorpionfish in the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) private mode dockside survey data set. Horizontal bars are 95% confidence intervals.

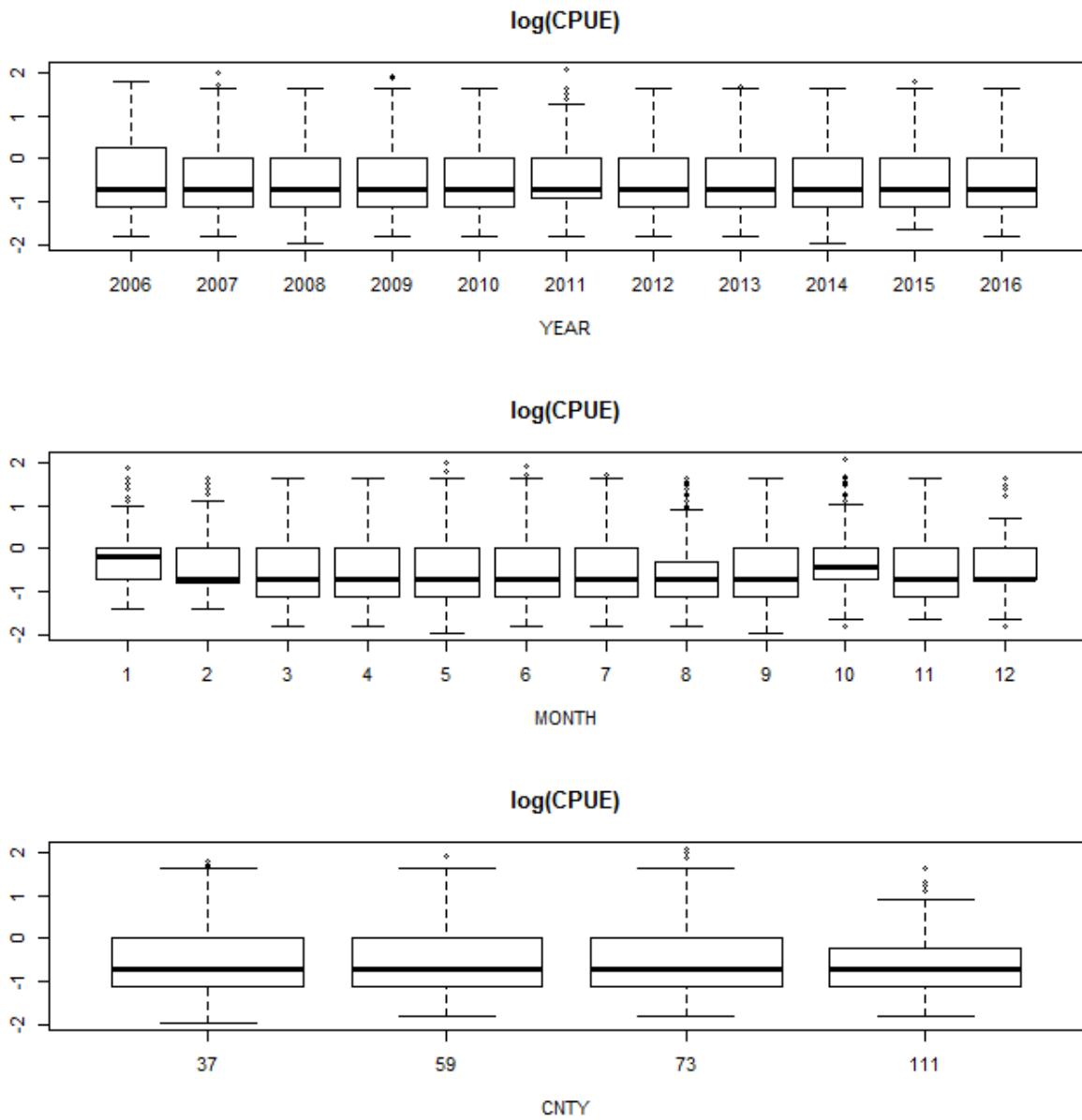


Figure 5: Boxplots of the raw log CPUE by year for each of the three factors considered in the deltaGLM model, county, month and year. [fig:Fleet4_RecPR_docksides_lograwCPUE](#)

Normal Q-Q Plot

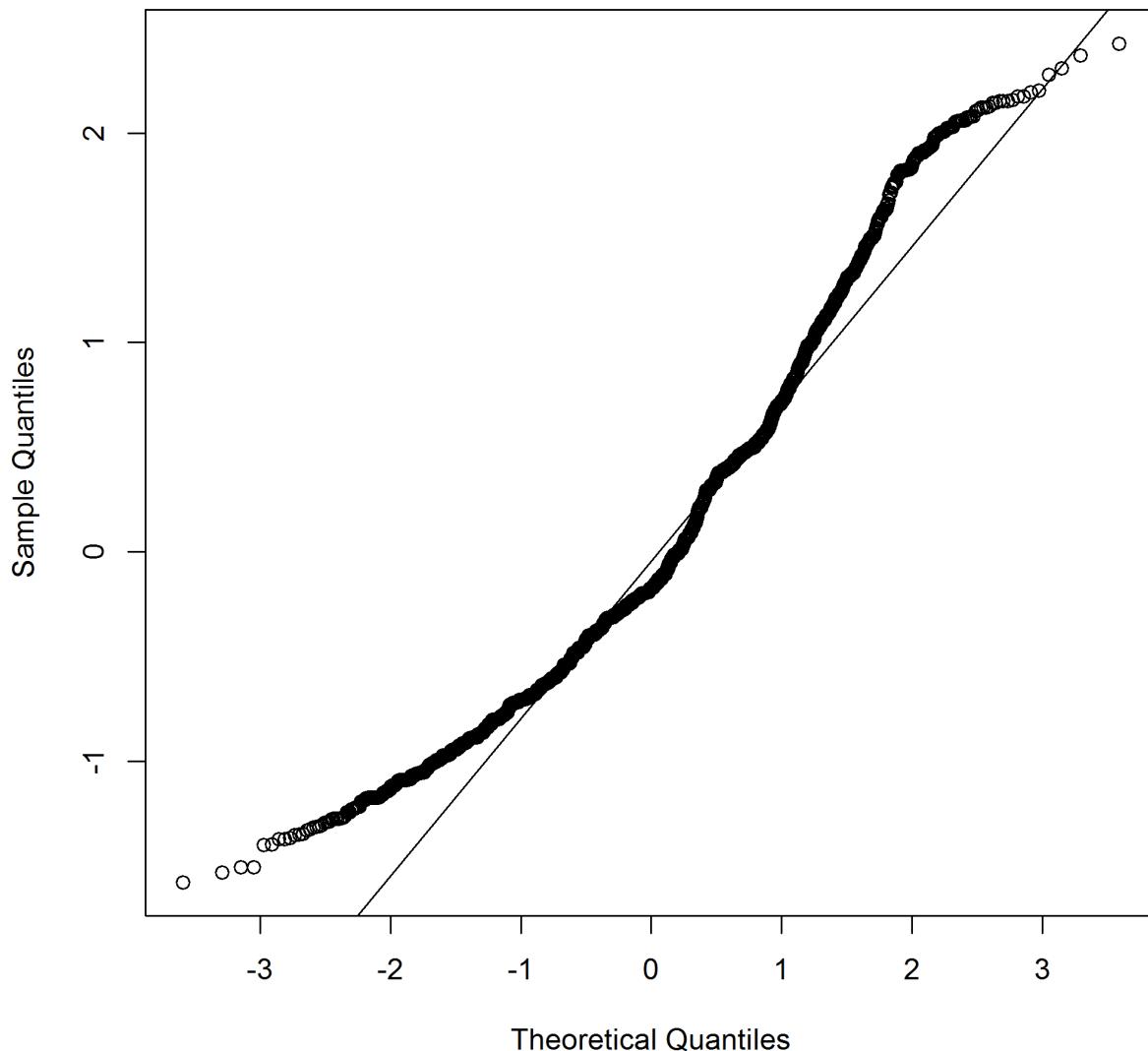


Figure 6: Q-Q plot used to evaluate the fit of the lognormal (positive encounters) of California scorpionfish from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) private mode dockside survey data set. fig:Fleet4_RecPR_dockside_QQ

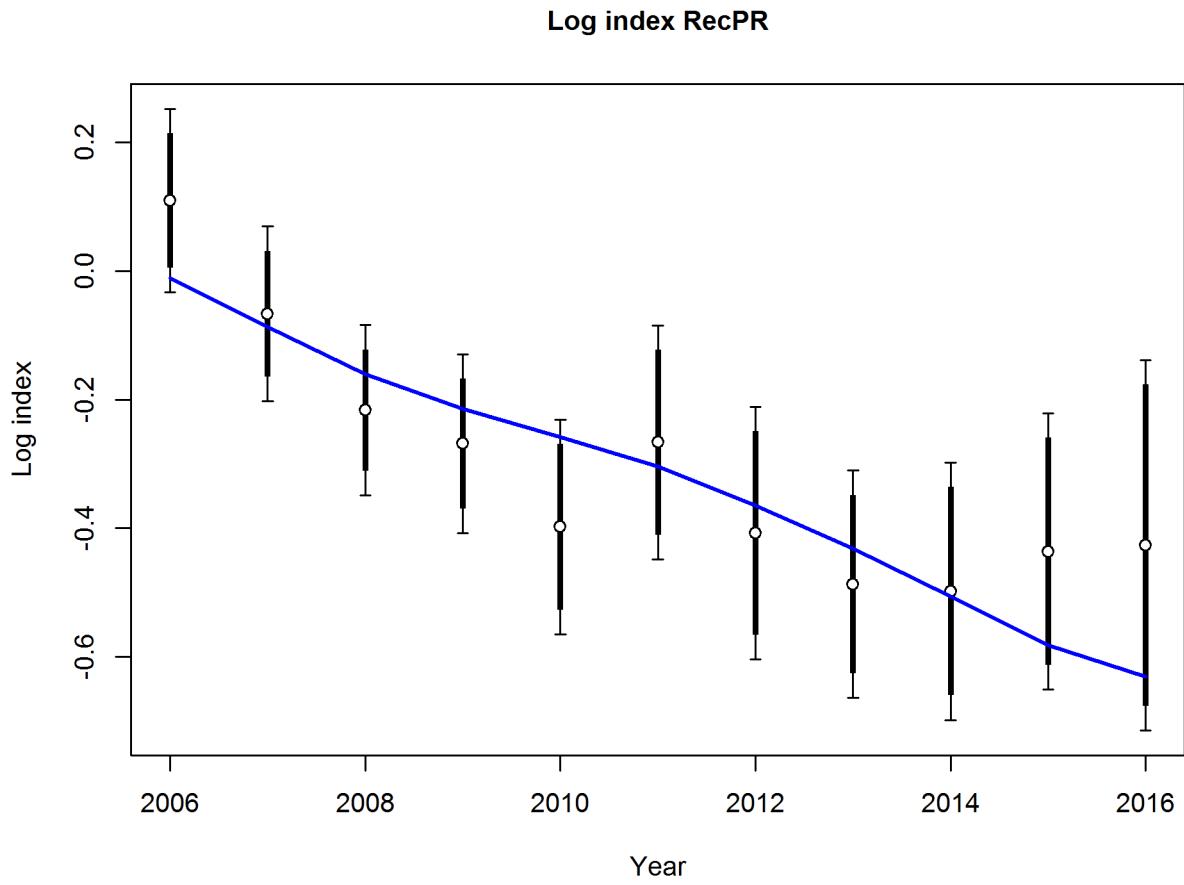


Figure 7: Fit to log index data on log scale for the recreational CPFV logbook retained catches. Lines indicate 95% uncertainty interval around index values. Thicker lines indicate input uncertainty before addition of estimated additional uncertainty parameter. fig:index5_logcpuefit

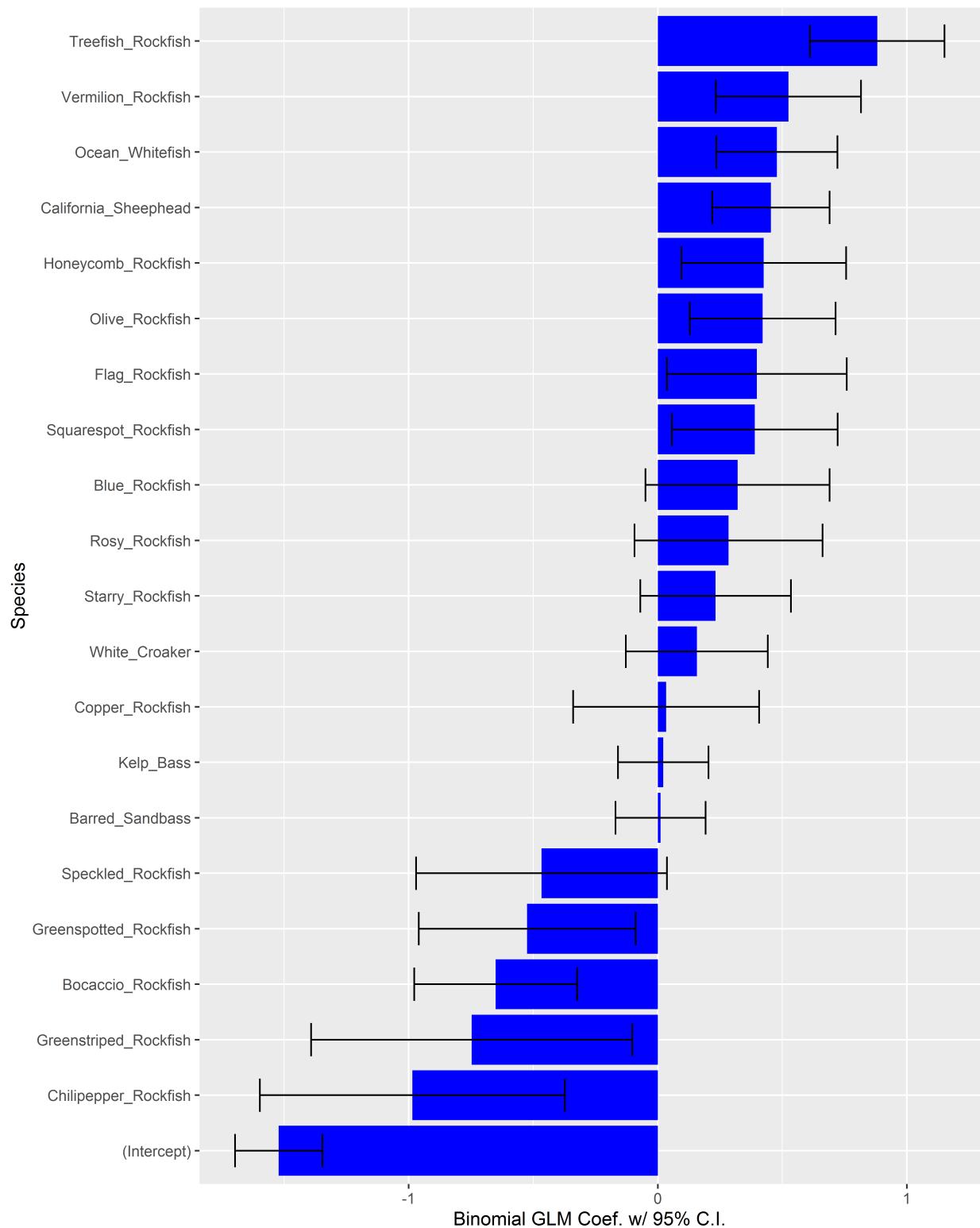


Figure 8: Species coefficients from the binomial GLM for presence/absence of California scorpionfish in the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) party/charter mode dockside survey data set. Horizontal bars are 95% confidence intervals. [fig:Fleet5_RecPC_dockside](#)

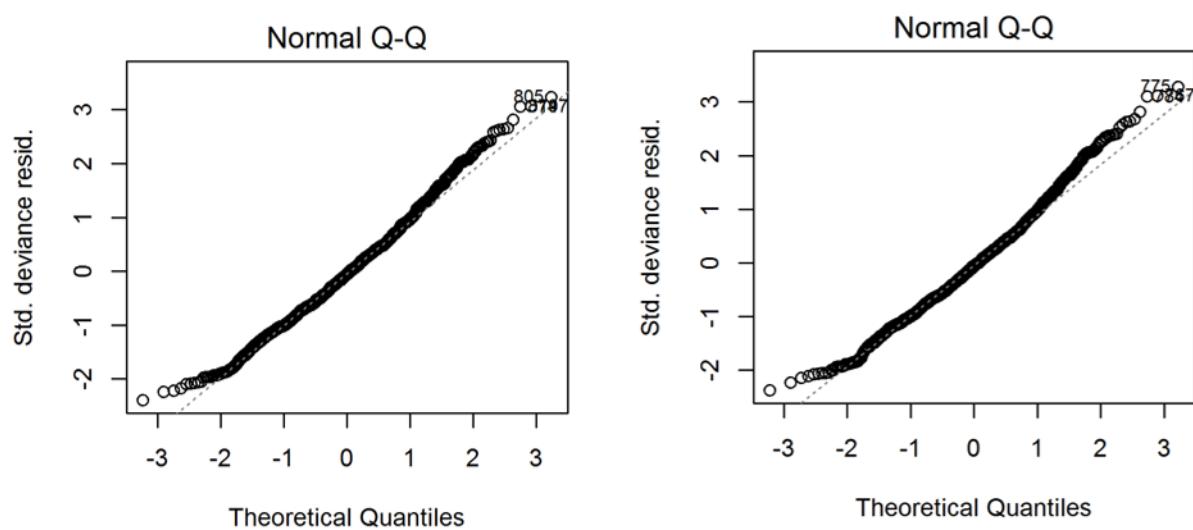


Figure 9: Q-Q plot used to validate the goodness of fit of the lognormal portion (positive catch) of the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) party/charter dockside survey, for thresholds of 0.27 (left) and 0.10 (right) from the Stephens-MacCall filter. fig:Fleet5_RecPC_

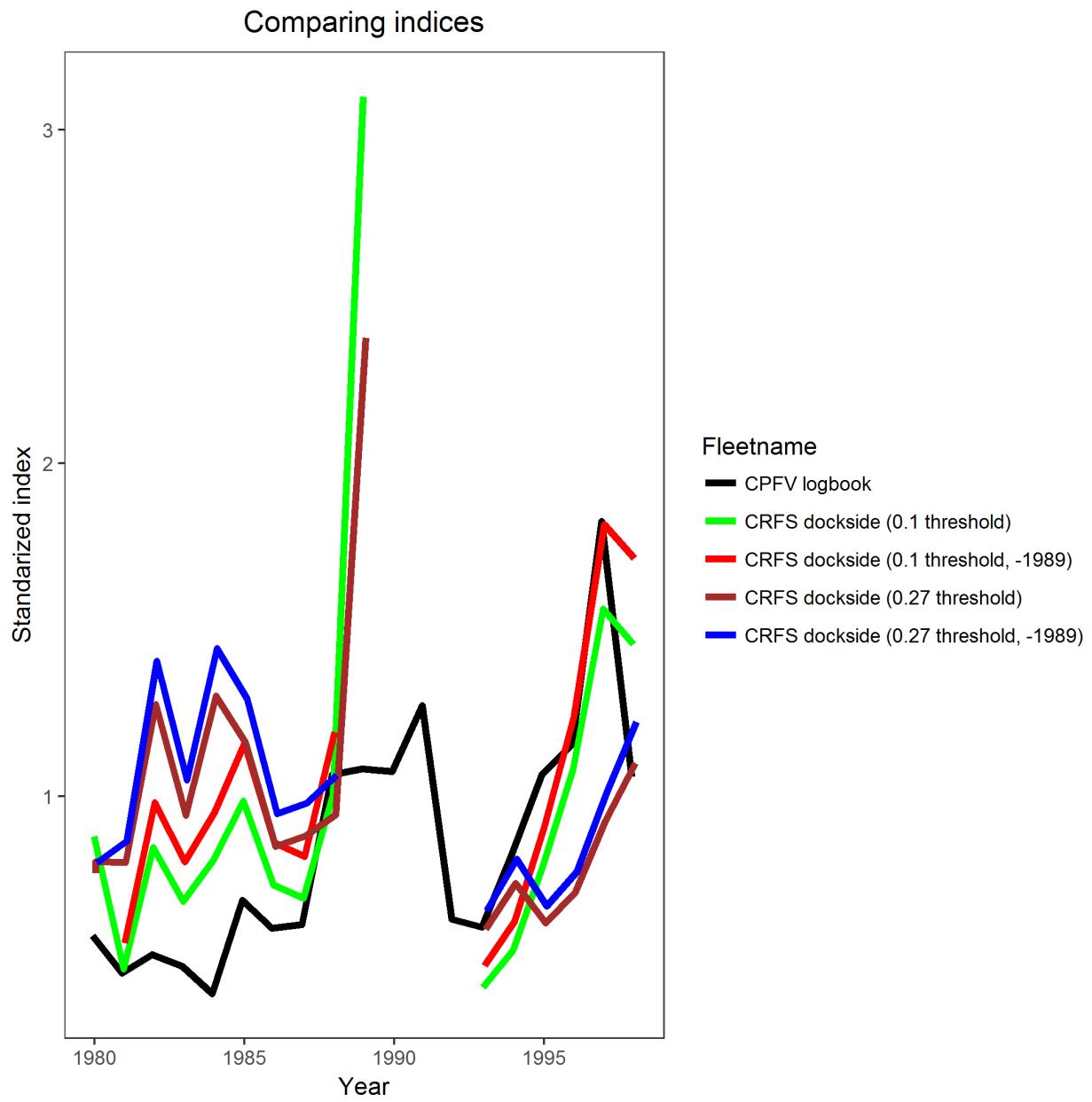


Figure 10: Comparison of standardized indices using two different threshold levels (0.27 and 0.1) from the Stephens-MacCall filtering, and including or excluding the year 1989.

Log index RecPC

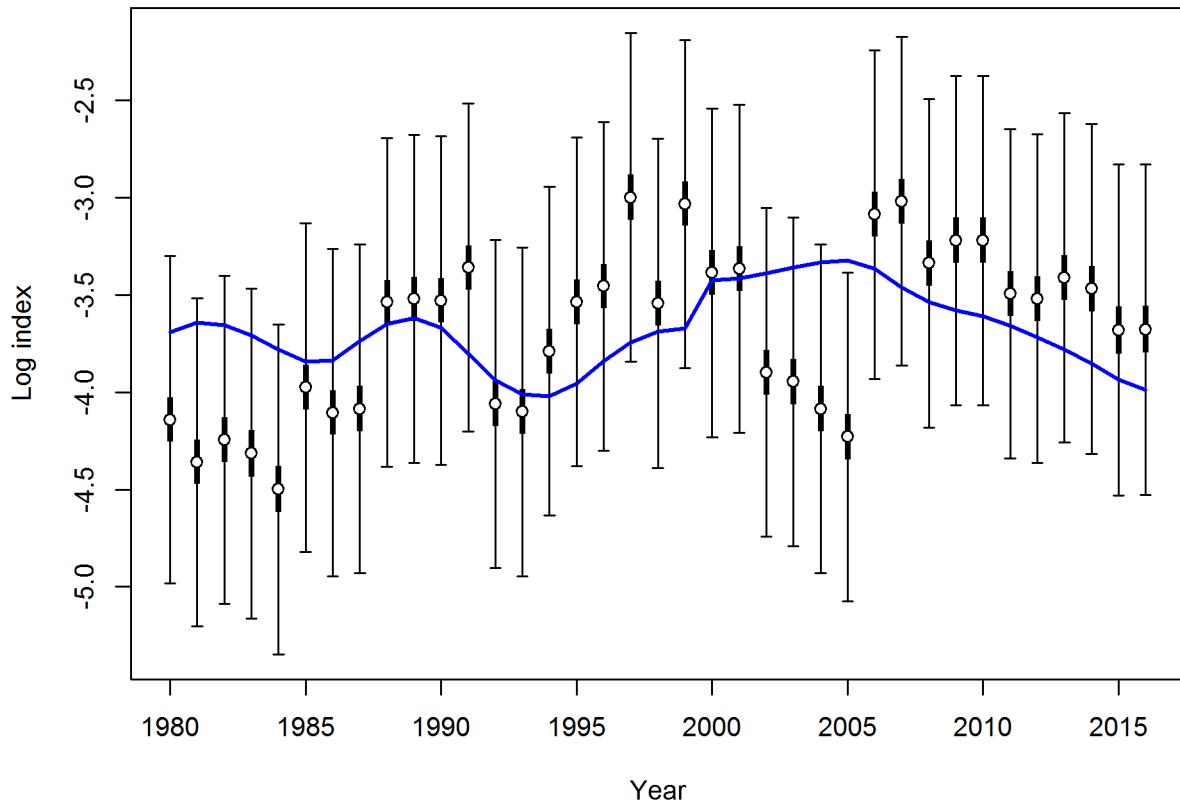


Figure 11: Fit to log index data on log scale for the recreational CPFV logbook retained catches. Lines indicate 95% uncertainty interval around index values. Thicker lines indicate input uncertainty before addition of estimated additional uncertainty parameter. fig:index5_logcpuefit

Normal Q-Q Plot

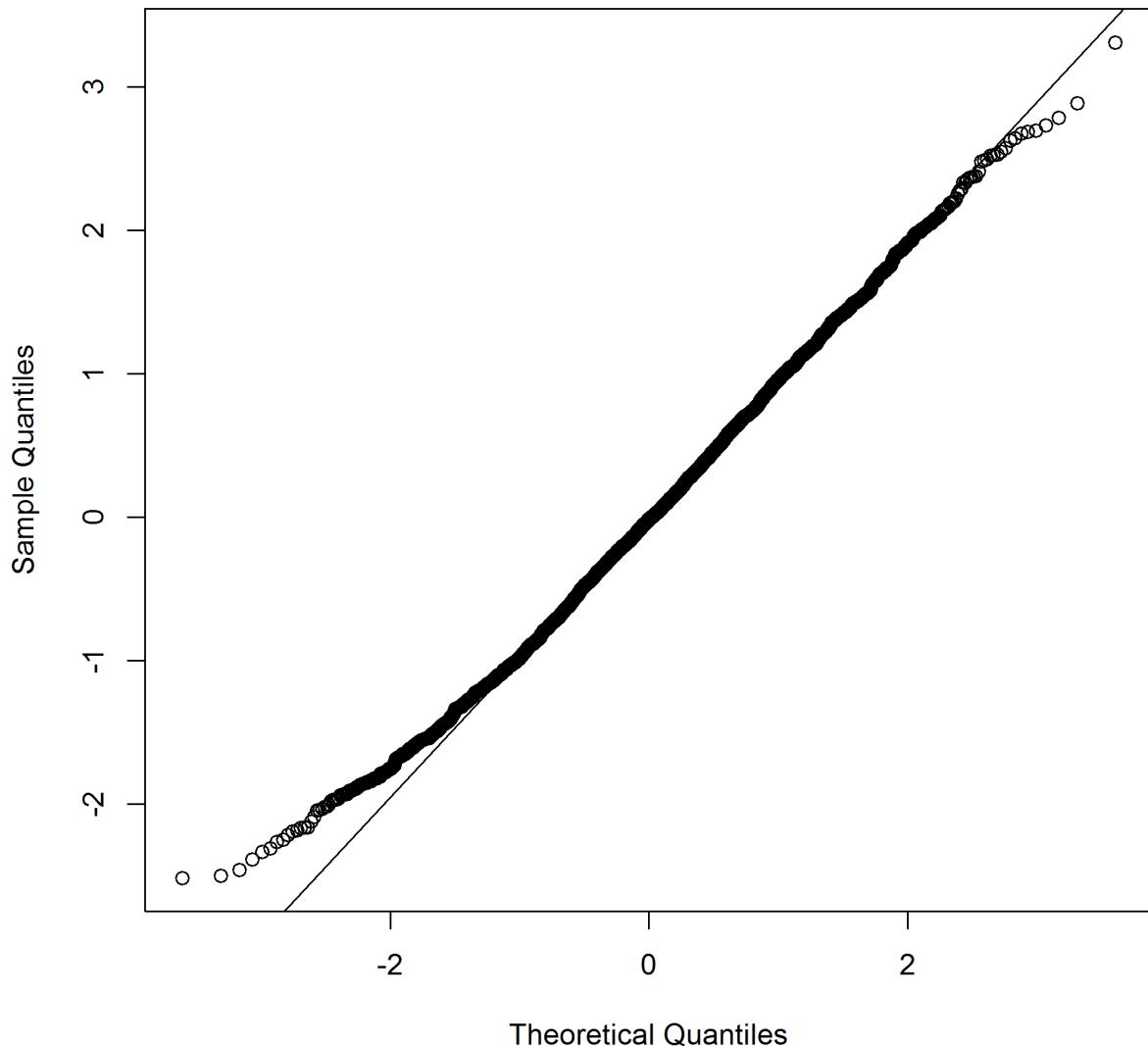


Figure 12: Q-Q plot used to validate the goodness of fit of the lognormal model for the CPFV onboard observer discarded only catch. [Fig:Fleet6_RecDD_QQ](#)

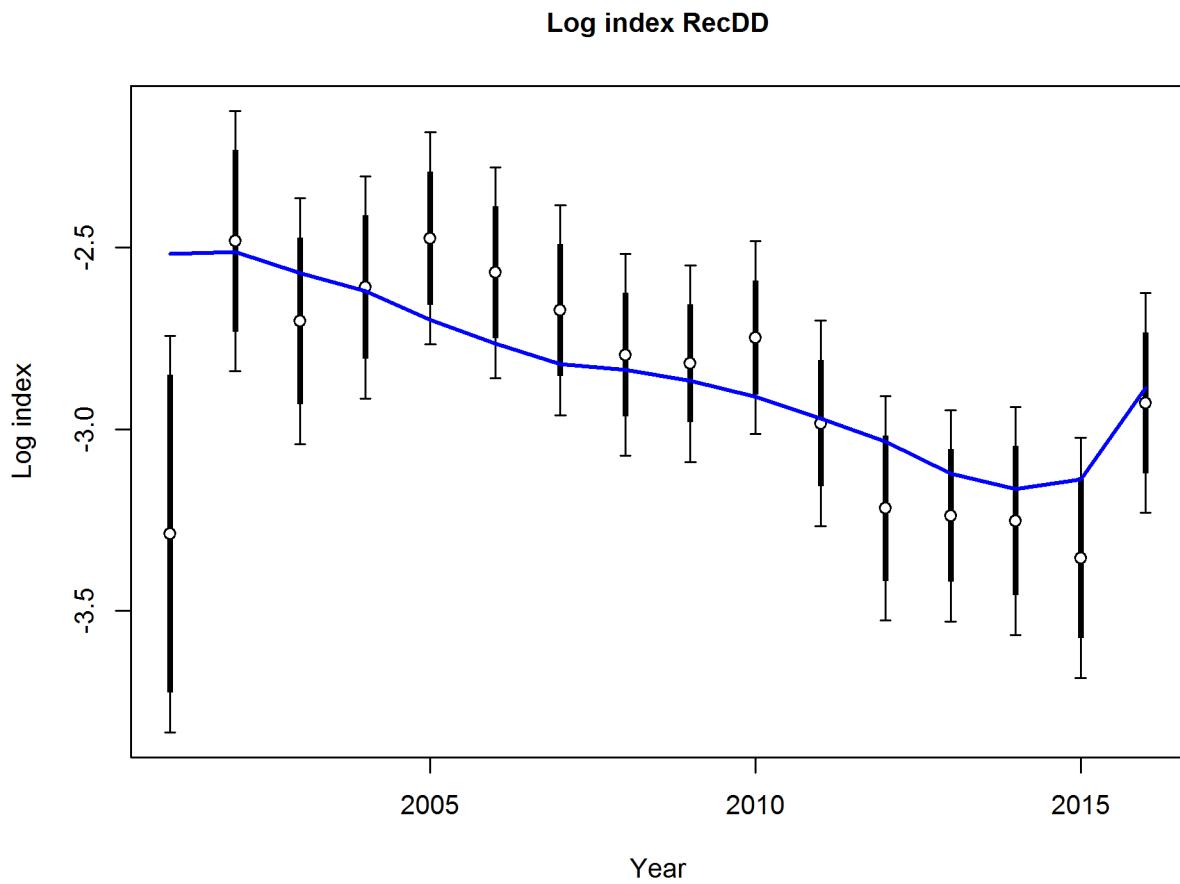


Figure 13: Fit to log index data on log scale for the recreational CPFV onboard observer discarded catch index. Lines indicate 95% uncertainty interval around index values. Thicker lines indicate input uncertainty before addition of estimated additional uncertainty parameter.
`fig:Fleet6_index5_logcpuefit_RecDD`

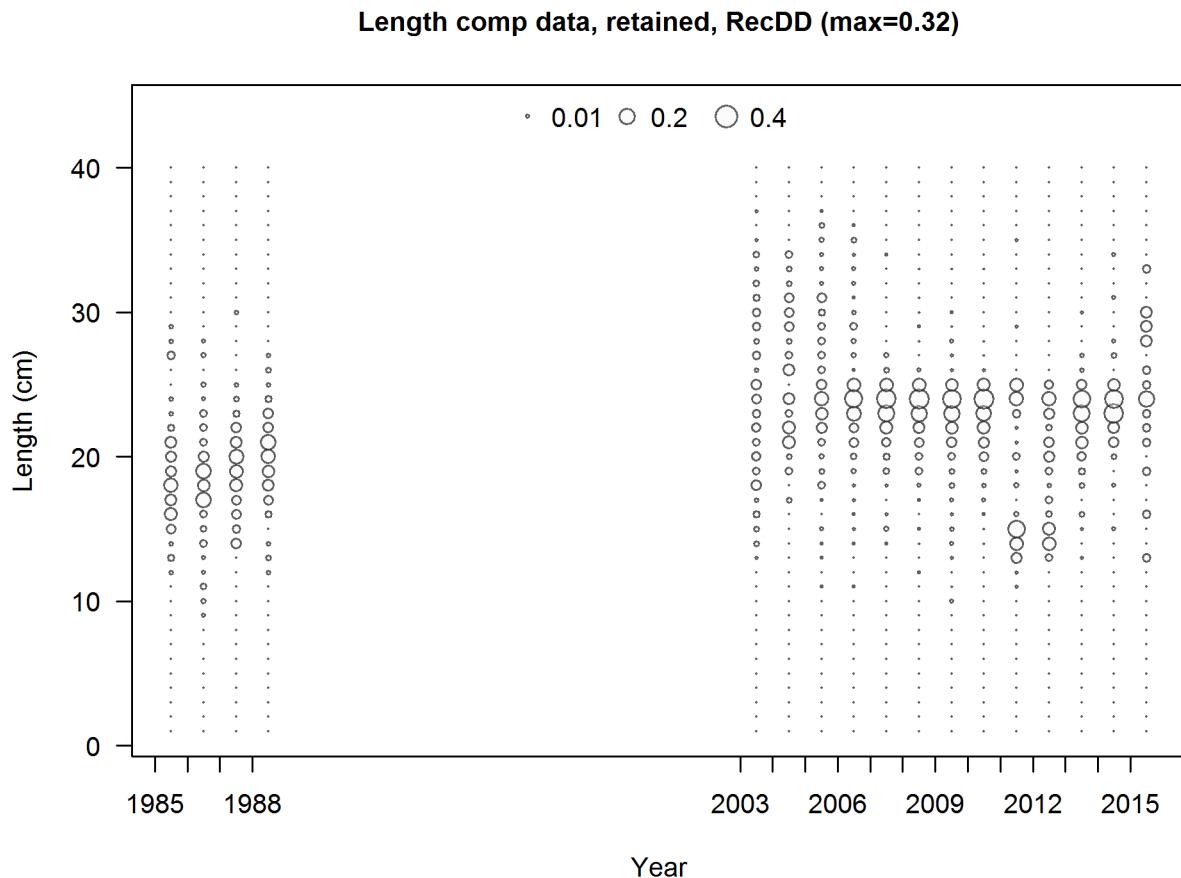


Figure 14: Length frequency distributions from the sanitation districts trawl surveys. `fig:Fleet6_comp`

Normal Q-Q Plot

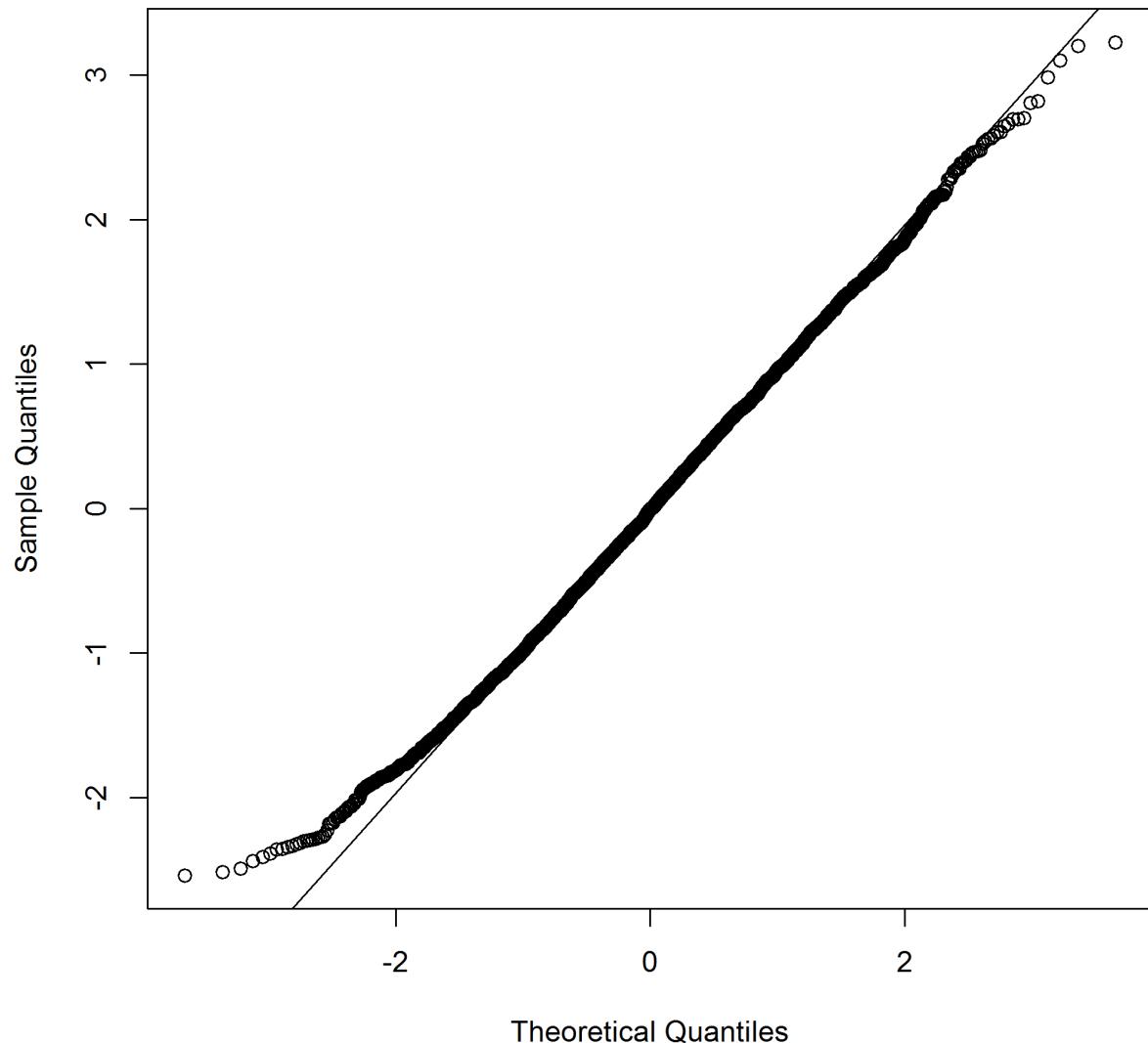


Figure 15: Q-Q plot used to validate the goodness of fit of the lognormal model for the CPFV onboard observer retained only catch. [fig:Fleet12_RecPCOB_R_QQ](#)

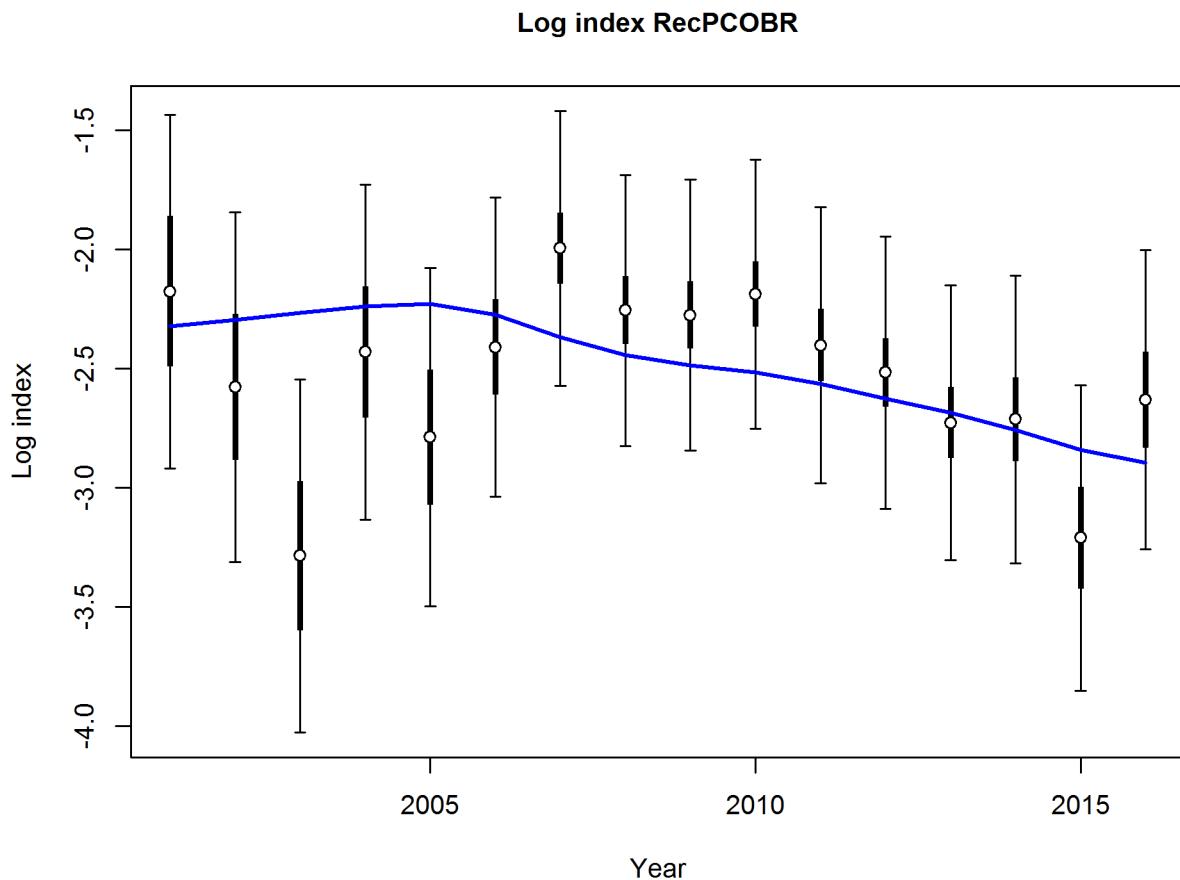


Figure 16: Fit to log index data on log scale for the recreational CPFV onboard observer retained catch index. Lines indicate 95% uncertainty interval around index values. Thicker lines indicate input uncertainty before addition of estimated additional uncertainty parameter.
`fig:Fleet12_index5_logcpuefit_RecPCOBR`

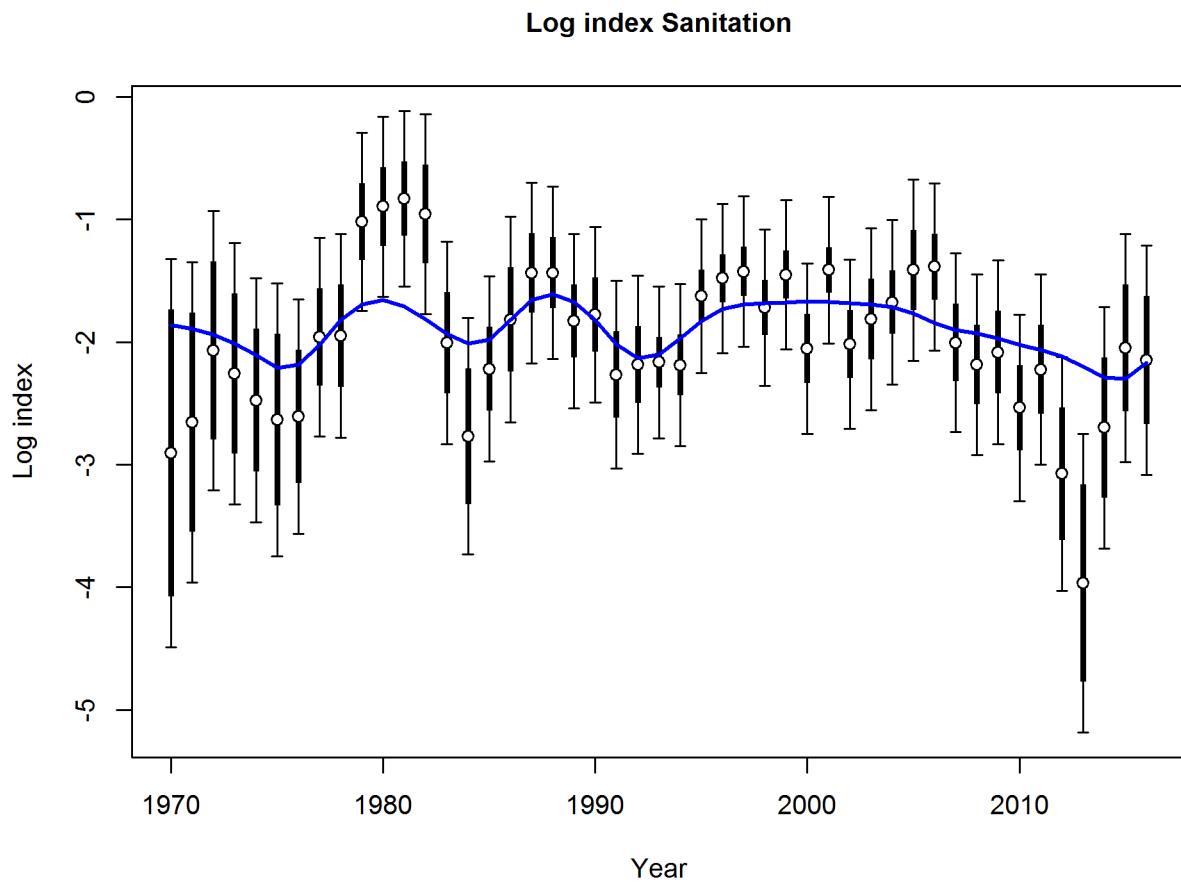


Figure 17: Fit to log index data on log scale for the recreational CPFV onboard observer discarded catch index. Lines indicate 95% uncertainty interval around index values. Thicker lines indicate input uncertainty before addition of estimated additional uncertainty parameter.
`fig:index5_logcpuefit_Sanitation`

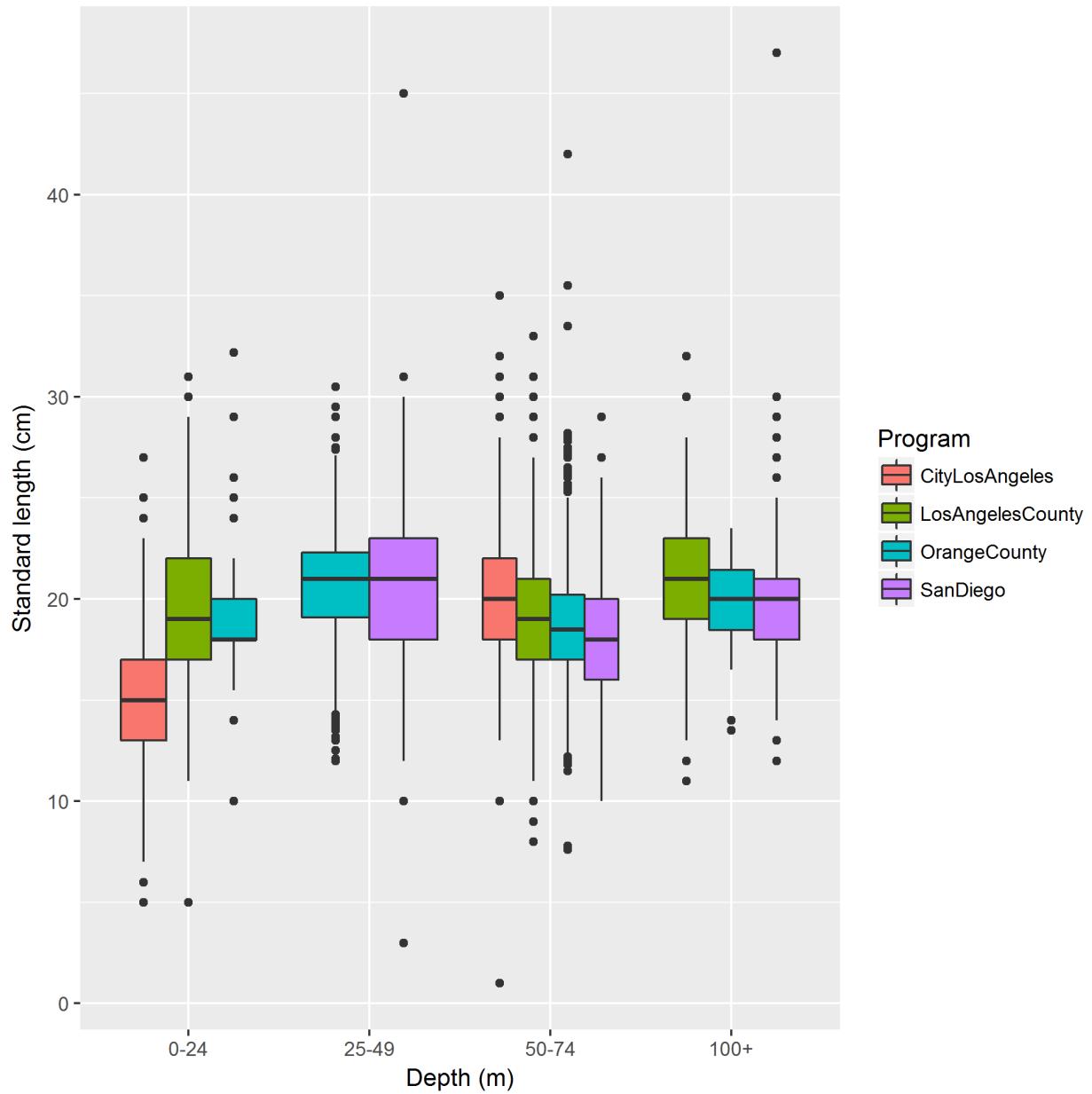


Figure 18: Boxplots of measured California scorpionfish from the sanitation district surveys by program and 25 m depth bins. [fig:Fleet7_Sanitation_Lengthboxplots](#)

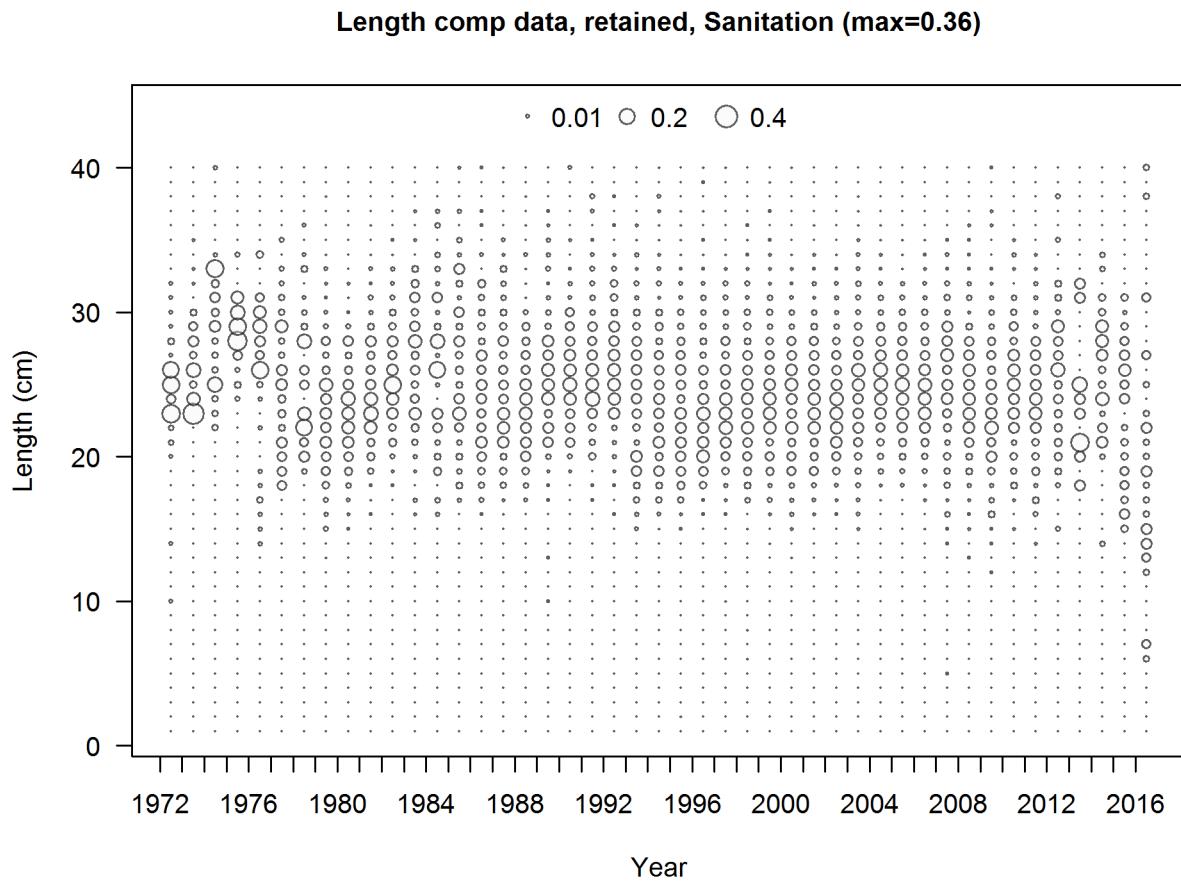


Figure 19: Length frequency distributions from the sanitation districts trawl surveys. `fig:Fleet7_comp`

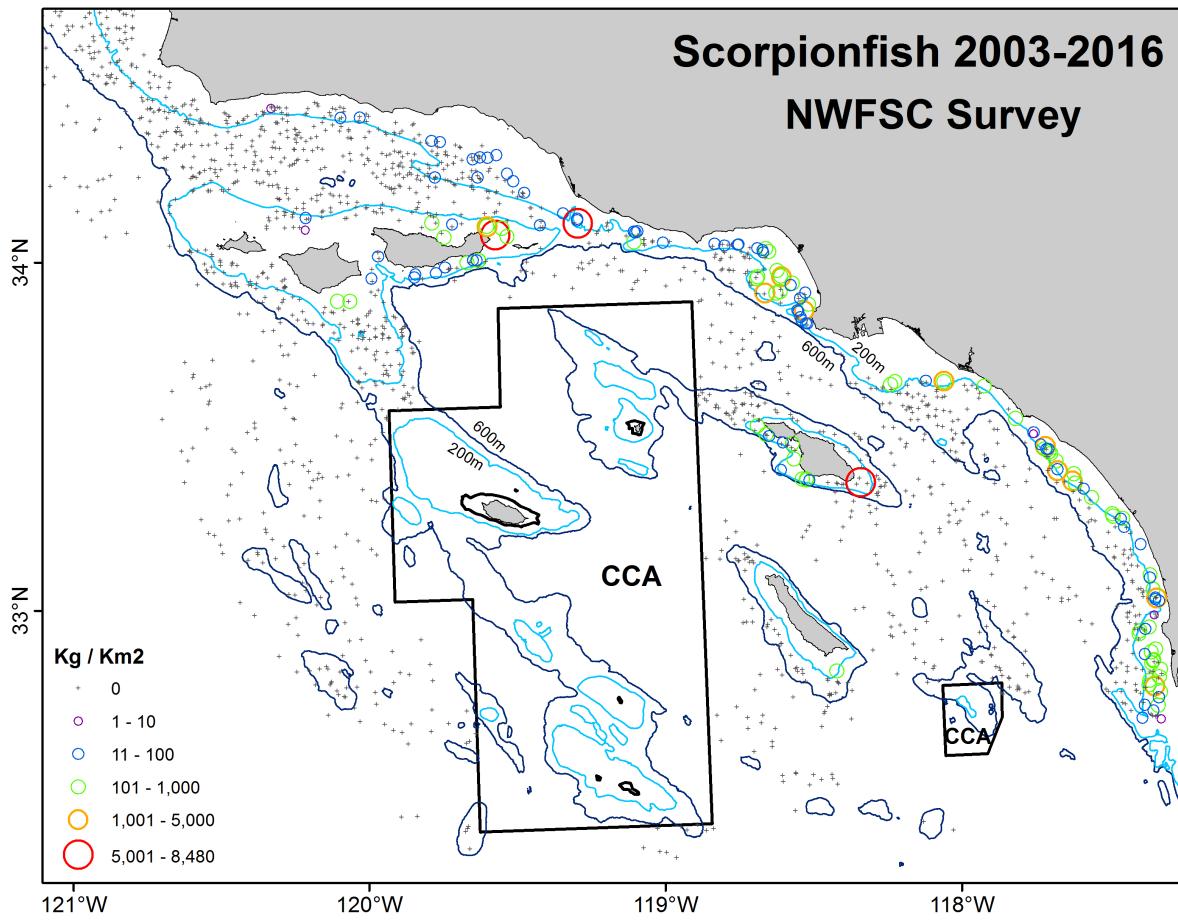


Figure 20: Spatial distribution of raw catch rates of Scorpionfish from NWFSC trawl survey between 2003 and 2016. Depth contour lines of 200m and 600m and the CAC areas are shown. Note that sizes and colors of circles represent catch rate in log scales (Credit of Rebecca Miller, SWFSC). [fig:Fleet8_NWFSCtrawl_map](#)

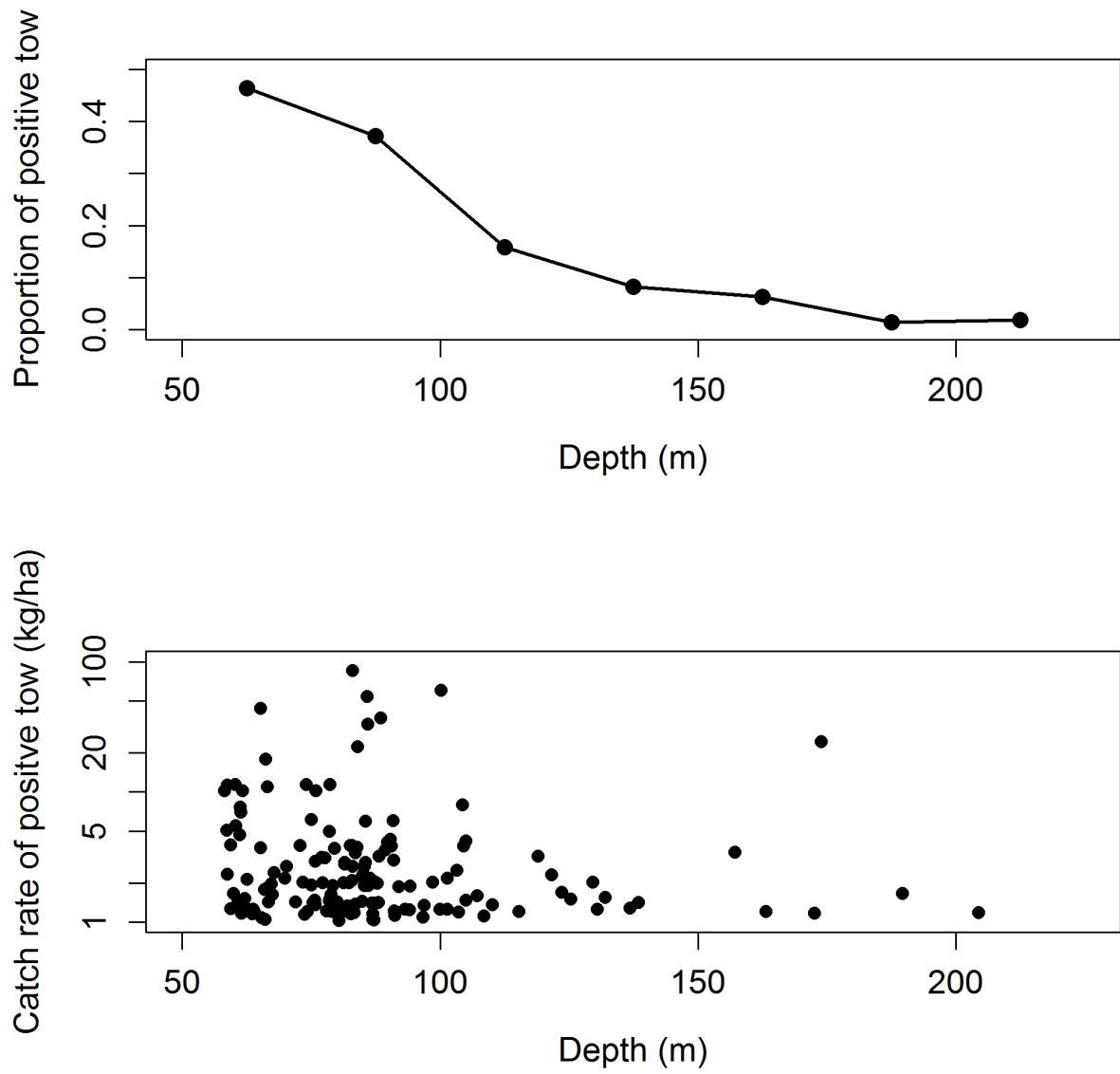


Figure 21: Plots of the proportion of positive tows (top panel) and the raw catch rates of positive tows (bottom panel) by depth zones (25 m interval) for NWFSC trawl survey. [fig:Fleet8_NWFSC](#)

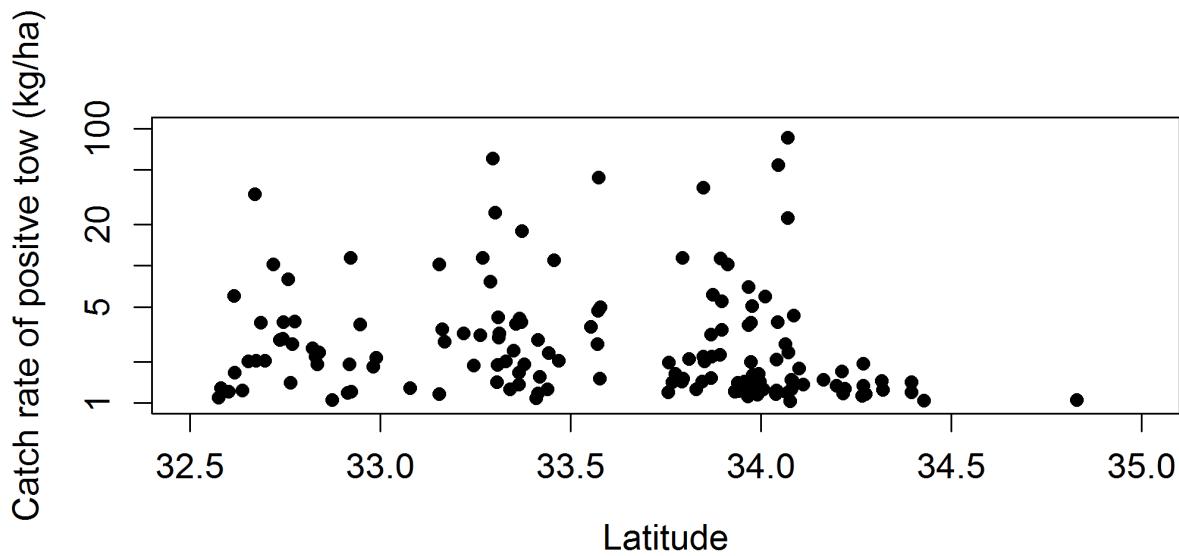
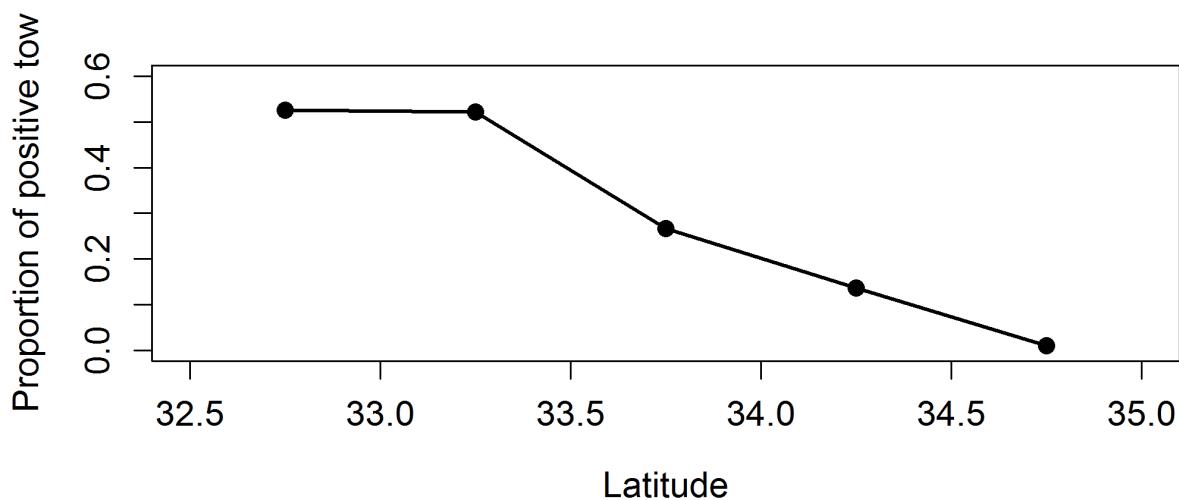


Figure 22: Plots of the proportion of positive tows (top panel) and the raw catch rates of positive tows (bottom panel) by latitude zones (0.5 degree interval) for NWFSC trawl survey.
fig:Fleet8_NWFSCtrawl_poslat

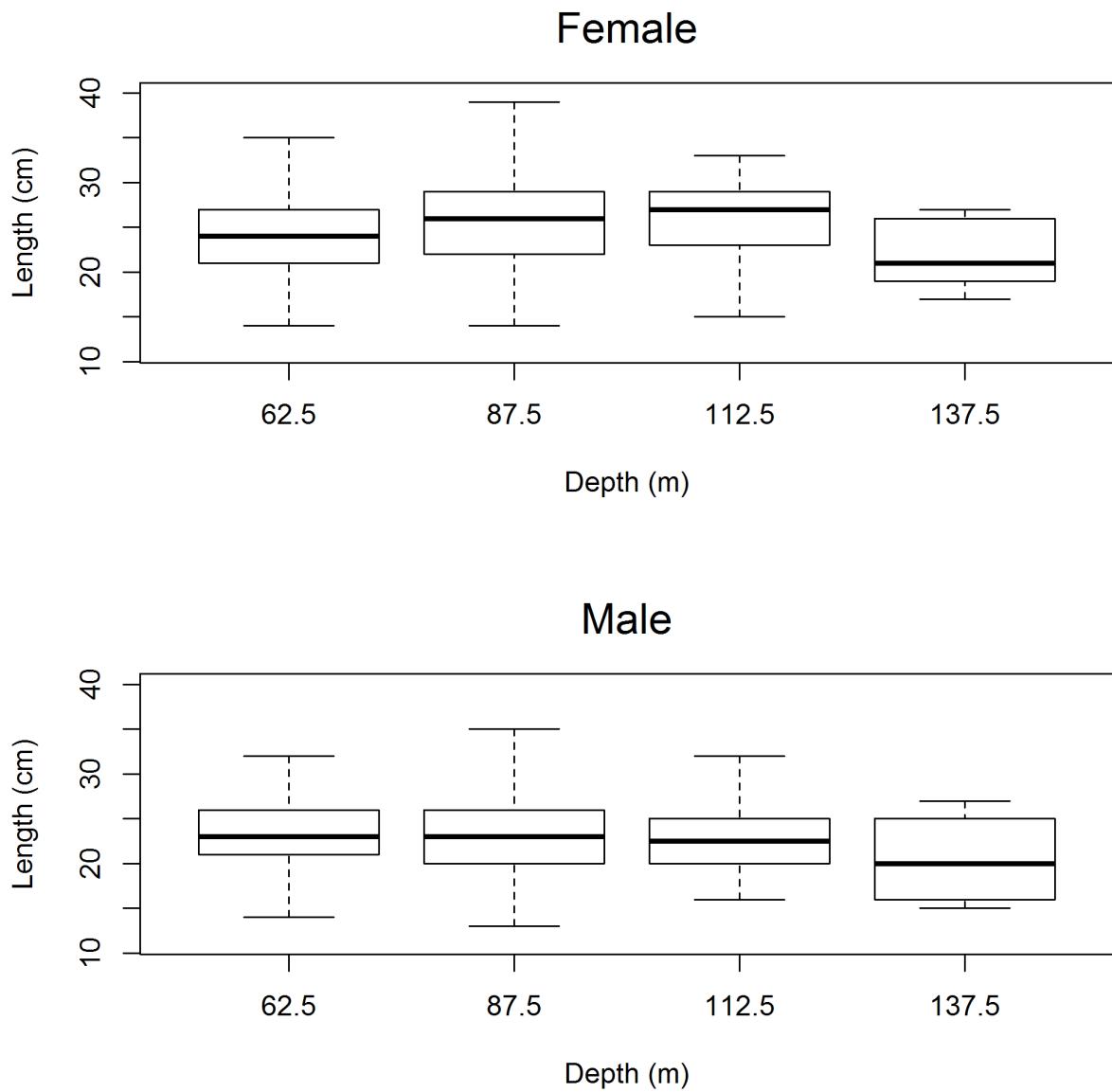


Figure 23: Comparison box plots of raw length data from NWFSC trawl survey by depth zone and sex. [fig:Fleet8_NWFSCtrawl_lengthdepth](#)

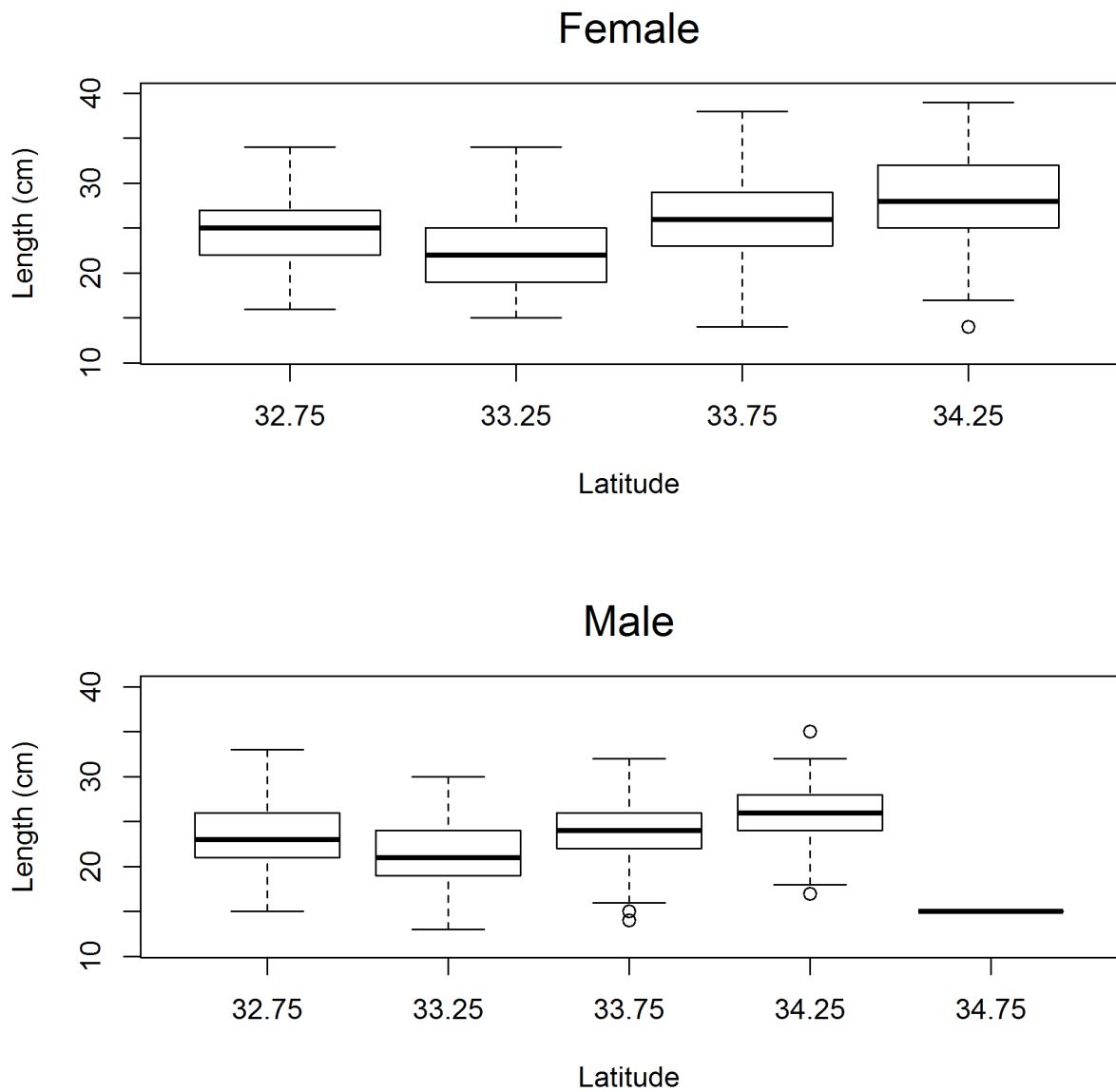


Figure 24: Comparison box plots of raw length data from NWFSC trawl survey by latitude zone and sex. fig:Fleet8_NWFSCtrawl_lengthlat

Length comp data, whole catch, NWFSC Trawl (max=0.15)

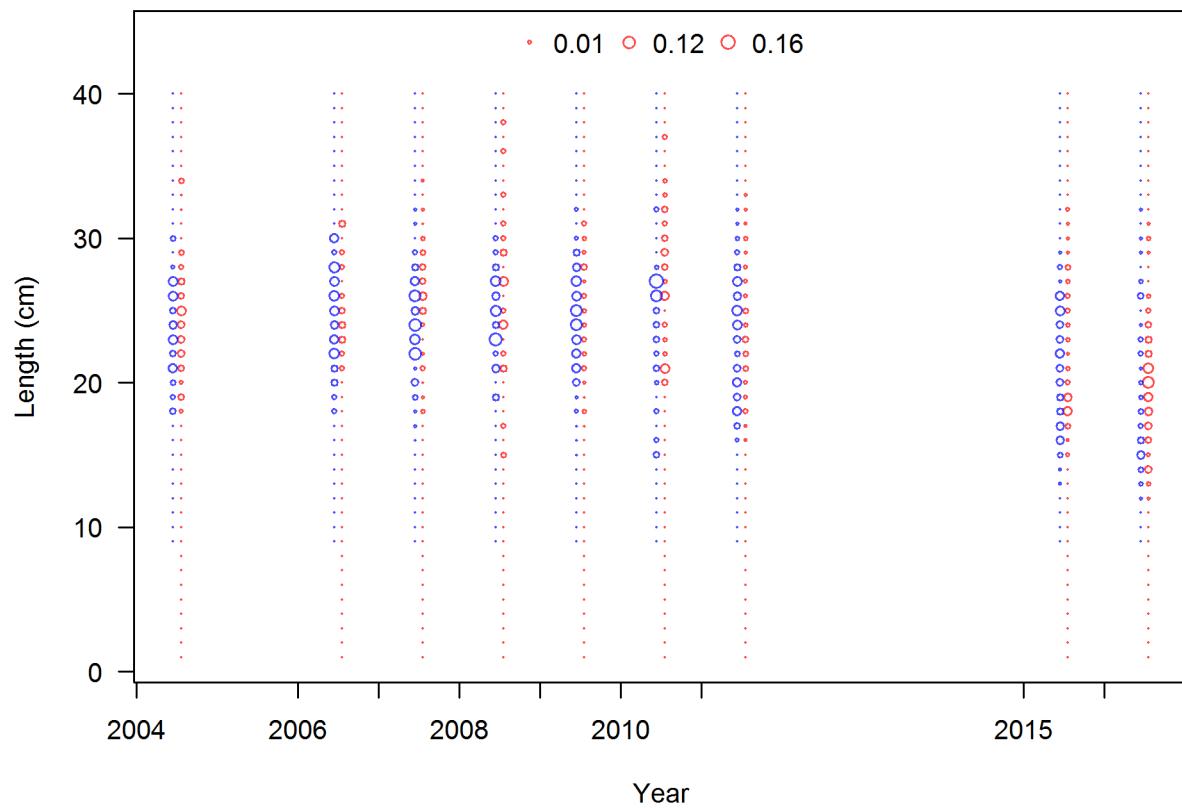


Figure 25: Length frequency distributions of females (red) and male (blue) from the NWFSC trawl survey between 2003 and 2016. | [fig:Fleet8_comp_1endat_bubflt8mkt0](#)

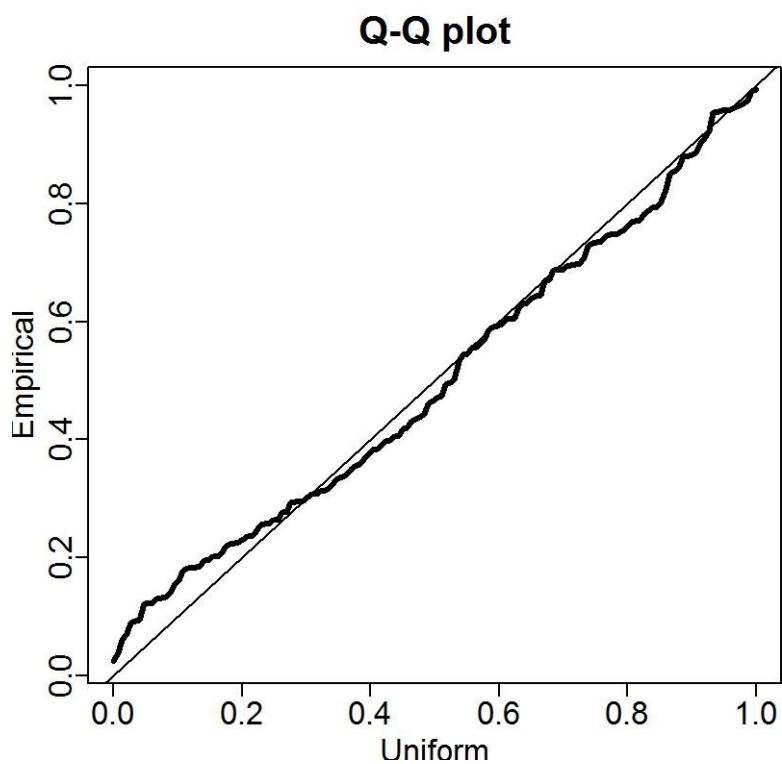


Figure 26: Q-Q plot used to validate the goodness of fit of the VAST analysis for the NWFSC trawl survey between 2003 and 2016. fig:Fleet8_NWFSCtrawl_QQ

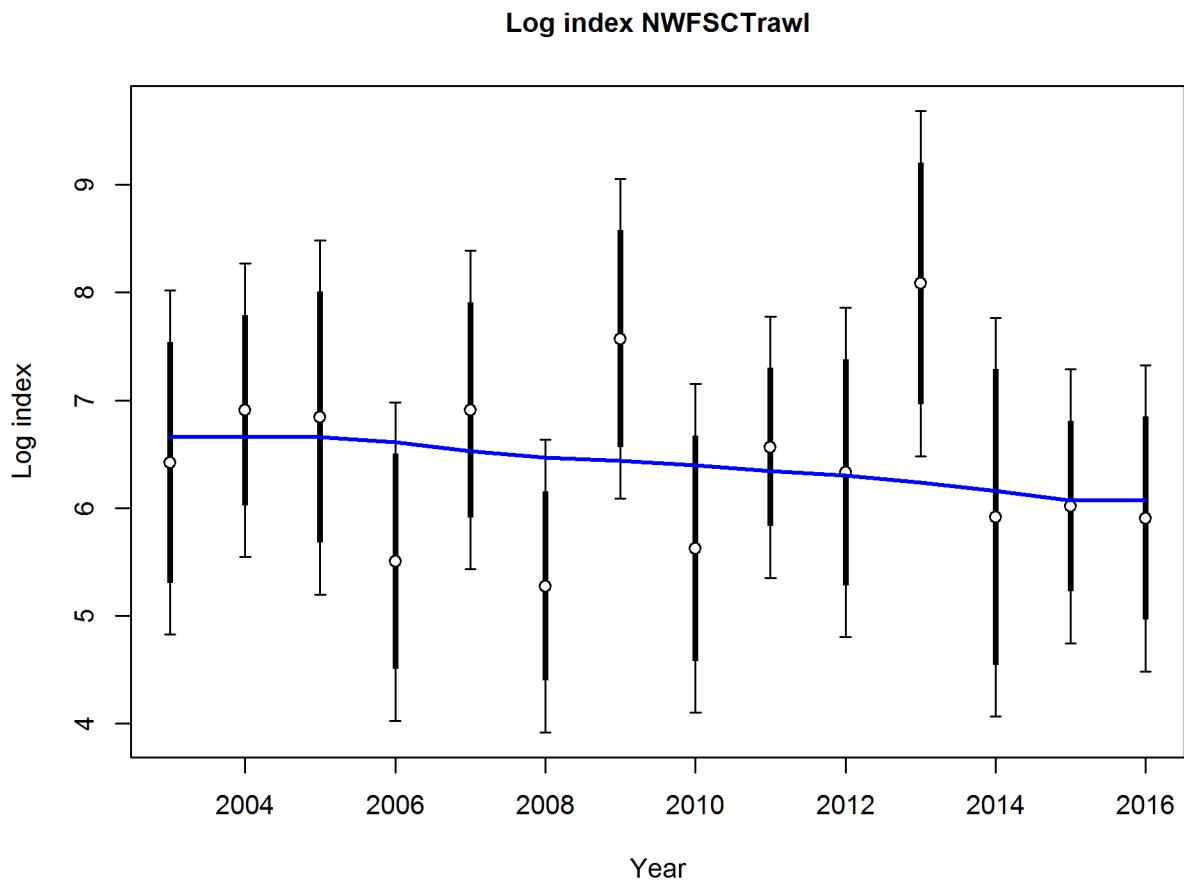


Figure 27: Fit to log index data on log scale for the NWFSC trawl survey from the VAST analysis from 2003-2016. Lines indicate 95% uncertainty interval around index values. Thicker lines indicate input uncertainty before addition of estimated additional uncertainty parameter.
`fig:index5_logcpuefit_NWFSCtrawl`

Log index GillnetSurvey

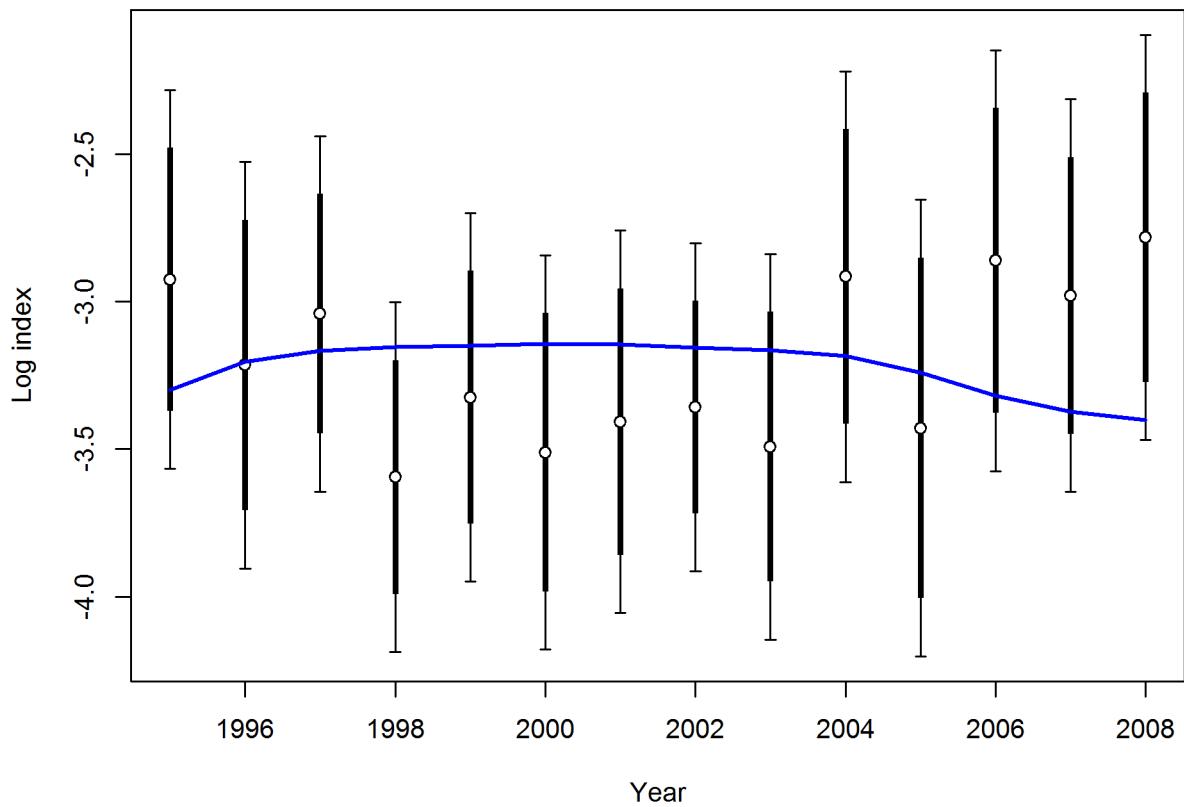


Figure 28: Fit to log index data on log scale for the recreational CSUN/VRG gillnet survey. Lines indicate 95% uncertainty interval around index values. Thicker lines indicate input uncertainty before addition of estimated additional uncertainty parameter. [fig:index5_logcpuefit_GillnetSurvey](#)

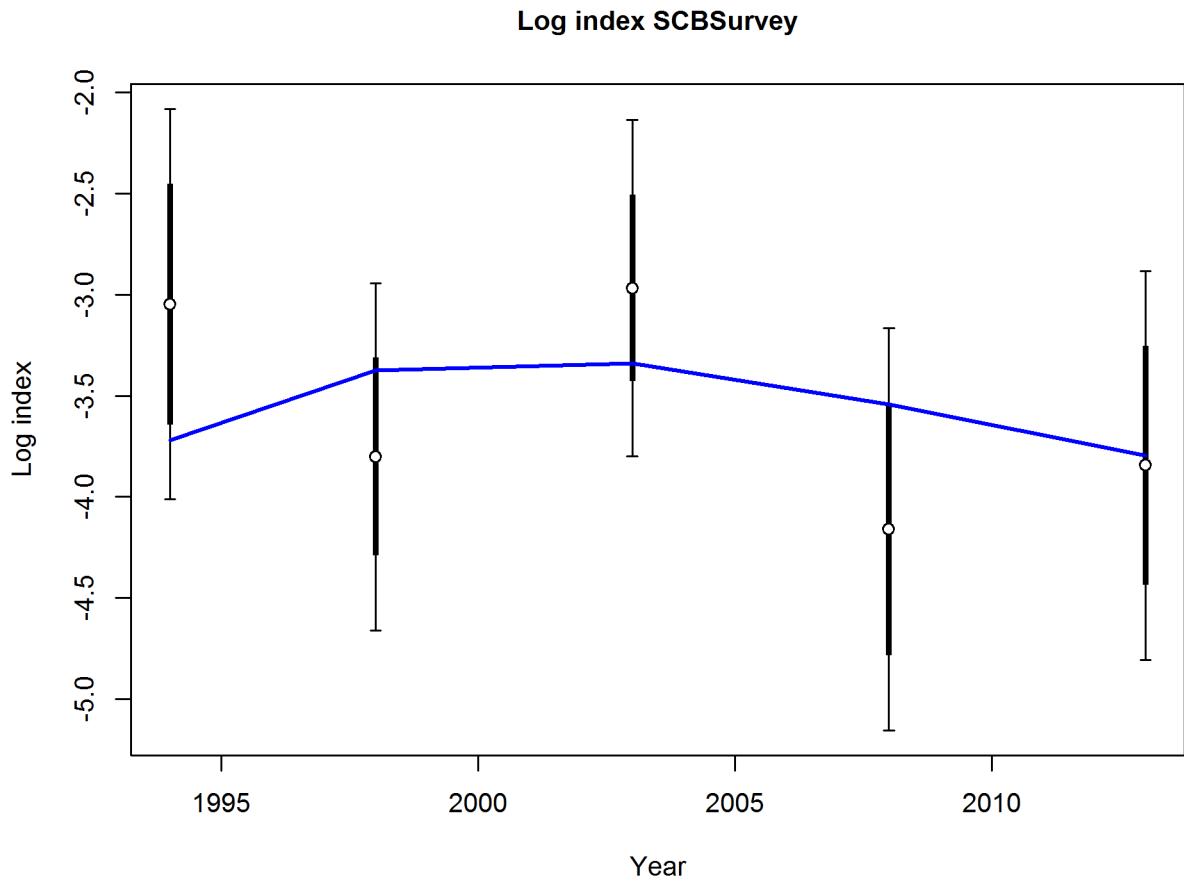


Figure 29: Fit to log index data on log scale for the recreational Southern California Bight trawl survey. Lines indicate 95% uncertainty interval around index values. Thicker lines indicate input uncertainty before addition of estimated additional uncertainty parameter. fig:index5_log

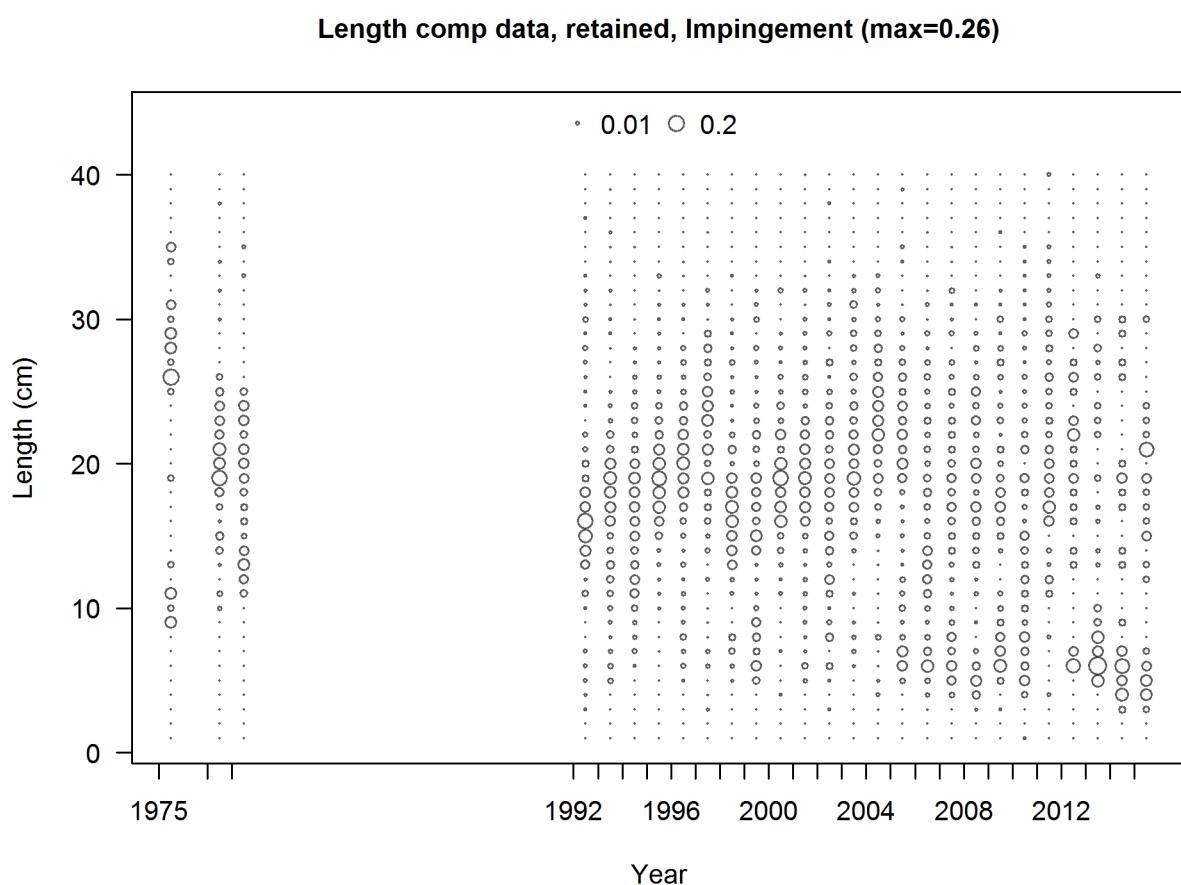


Figure 30: Length frequency distributions from the Impingement surveys. `fig:Fleet10_comp_len`

Length comp data, aggregated across time by fleet

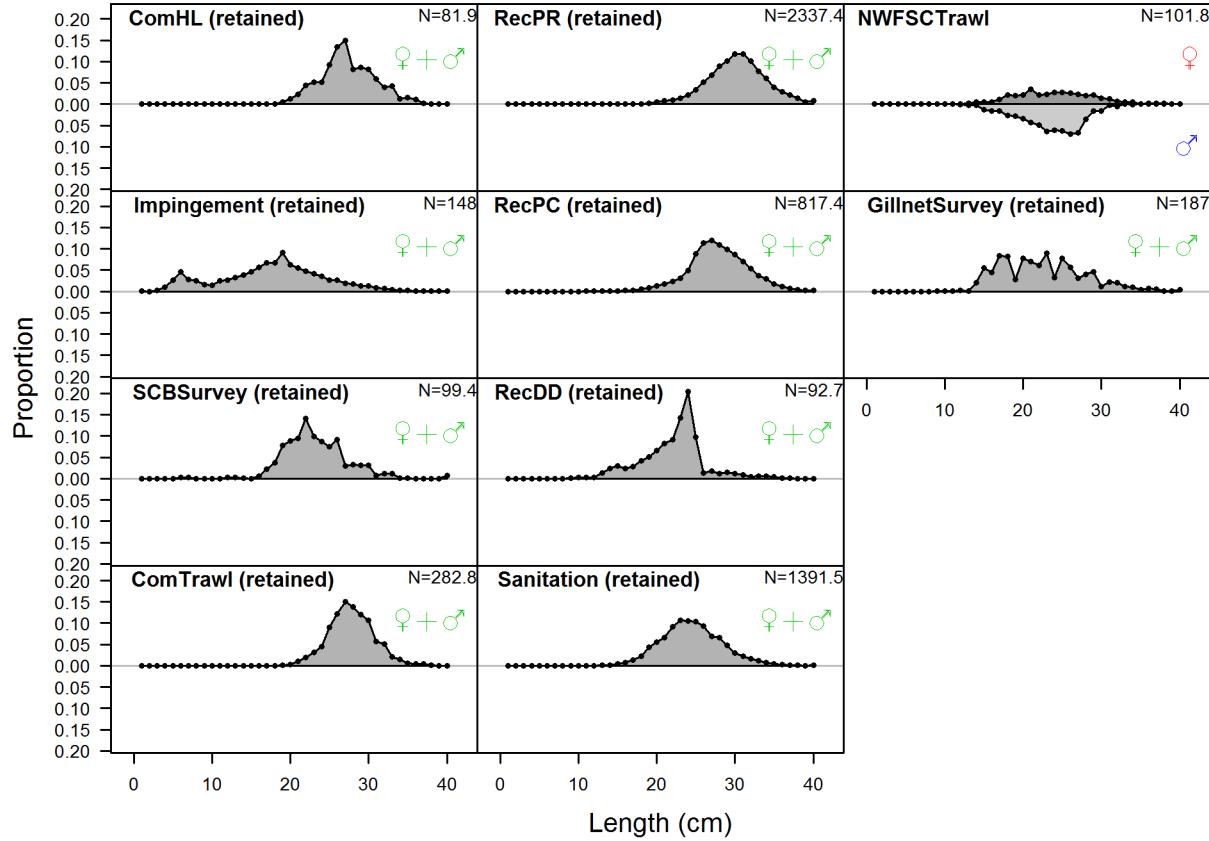


Figure 31: Length comp data, aggregated across time by fleet. Labels ‘retained’ and ‘discard’ indicate discarded or retained sampled for each fleet. Panels without this designation represent the whole catch. [fig:comp_lendat_aggregated_across_time](#)

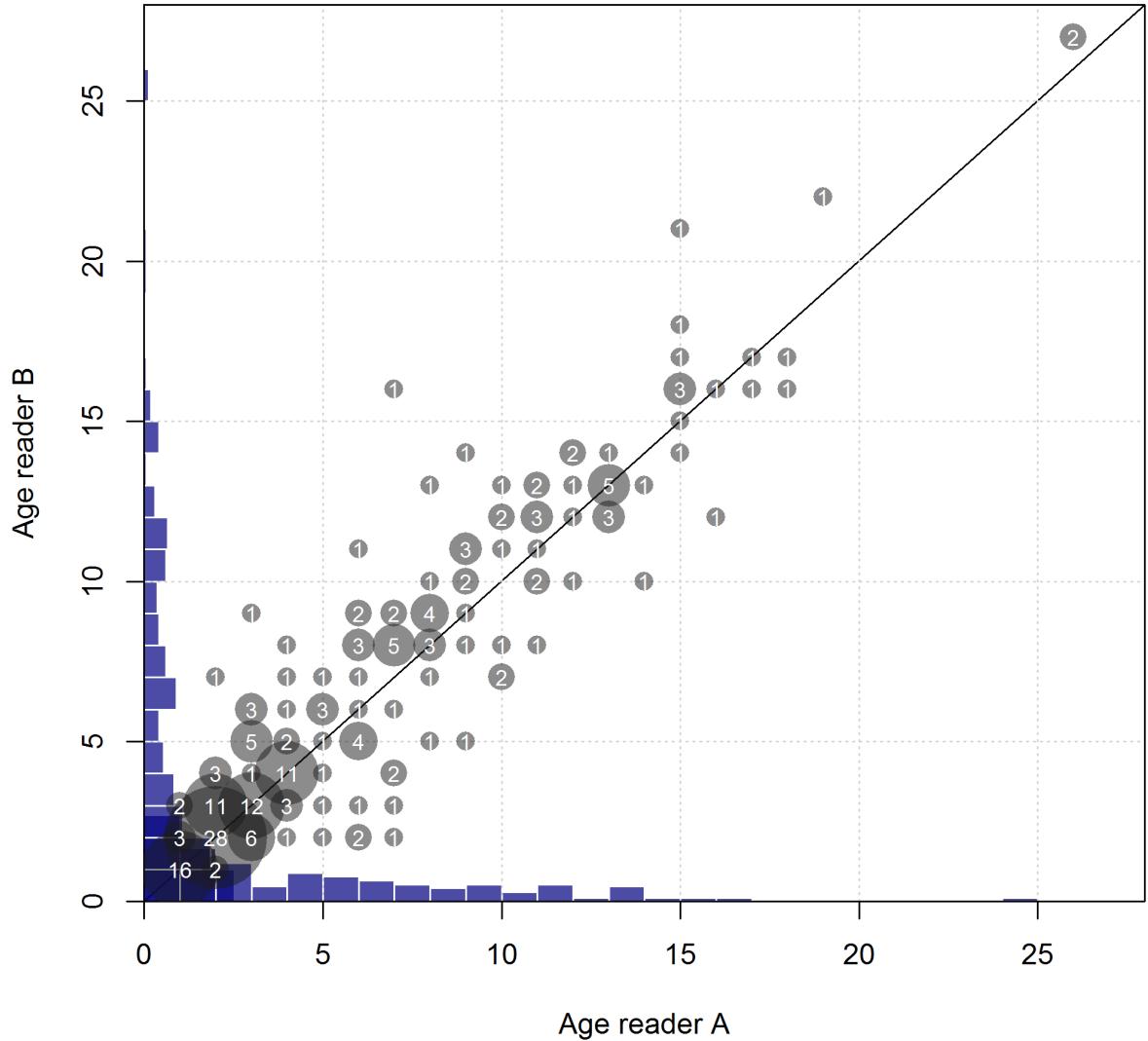


Figure 32: Aging precision between two current age readers at the NWFSC. [fig:Fleet8_NWFSCtra](#)

Reads(dot), Sd(blue), expected_read(red solid line),
and 95% CI for expected_read(red dotted line)

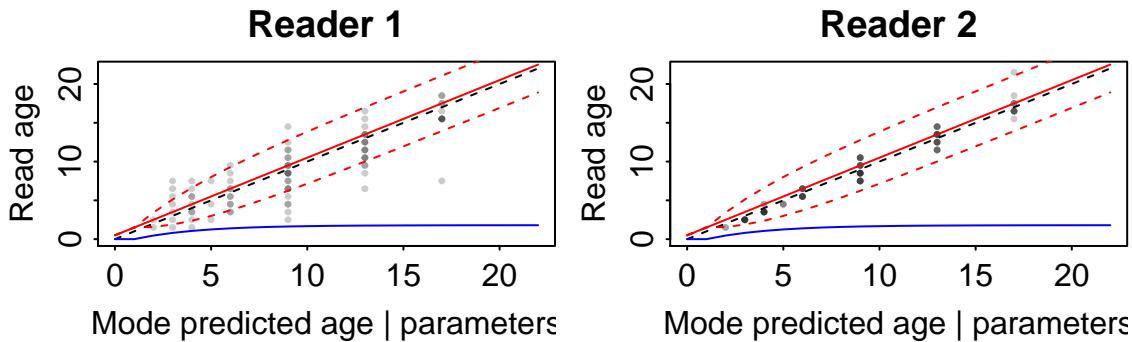


Figure 33: True versus predicted age for two current age readers at the NWFSC from the ageing error software with unbiased reads and curvilinear standard deviation for both readers.
fig:Fleet8_NWFSCtrawl_ageerror2

1179 References

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