

<sup>1</sup> Status of California Scorpionfish (*Scorpaena guttata*) Off Southern California in 2017



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

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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)

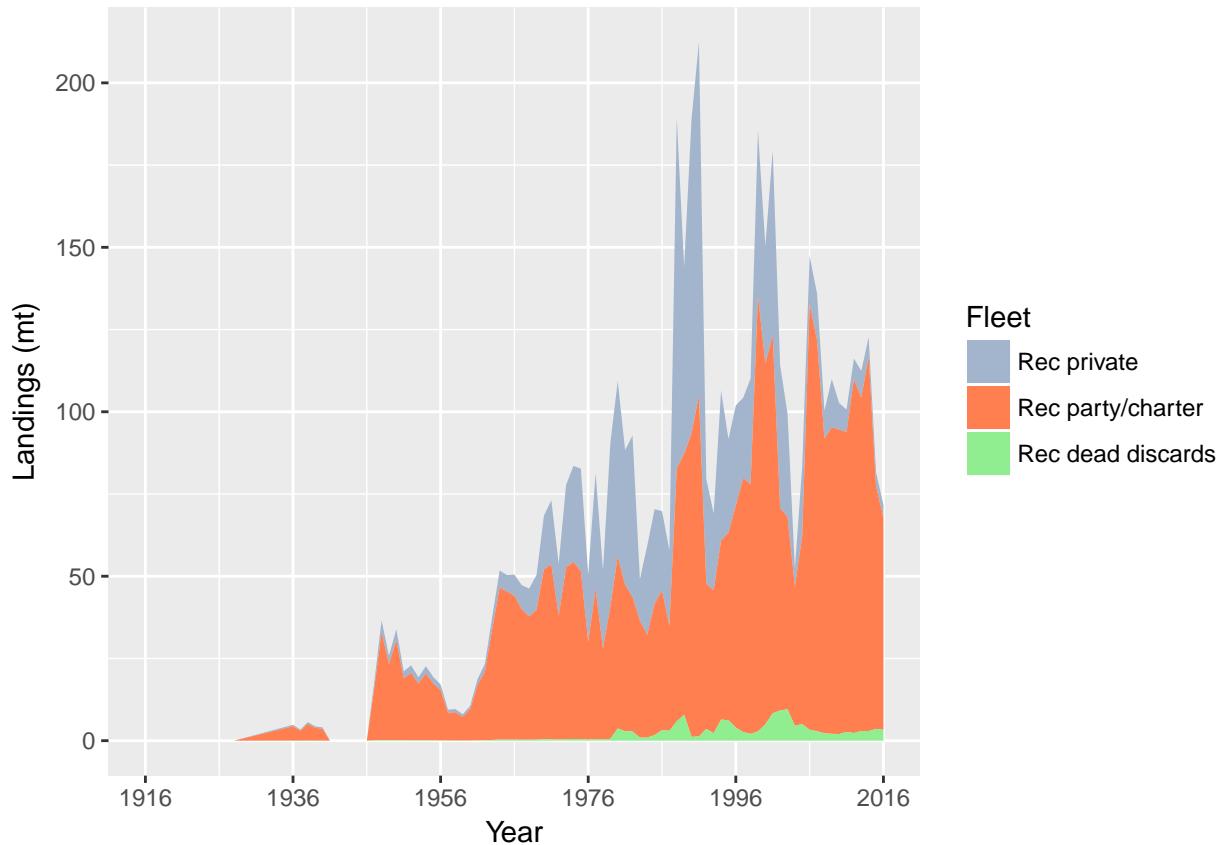


Figure a: California scorpionfish landings history for the recreational fleets. `fig:Exec_catch1`

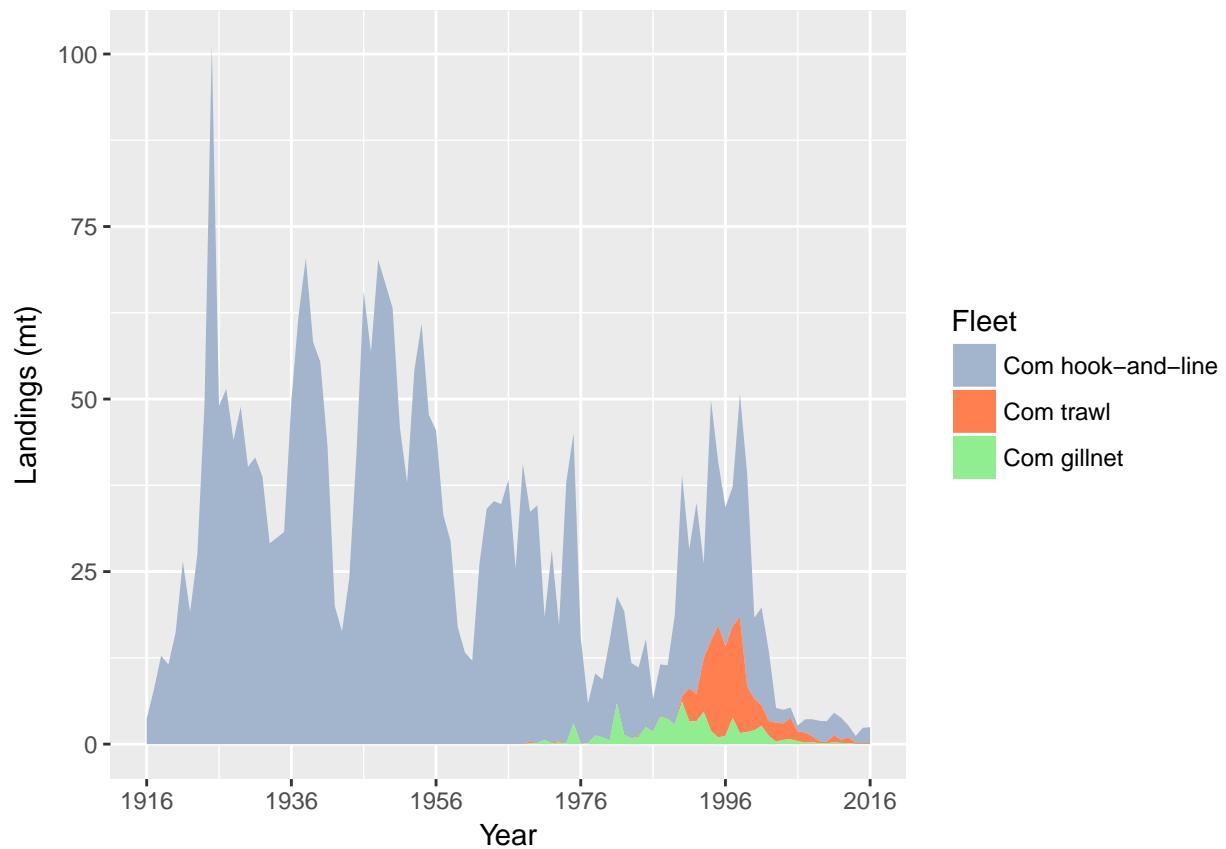


Figure b: Stacked line plot of California scorpionfish landings history for the commercial fleets. [fig:Exec\\_catch2](#)

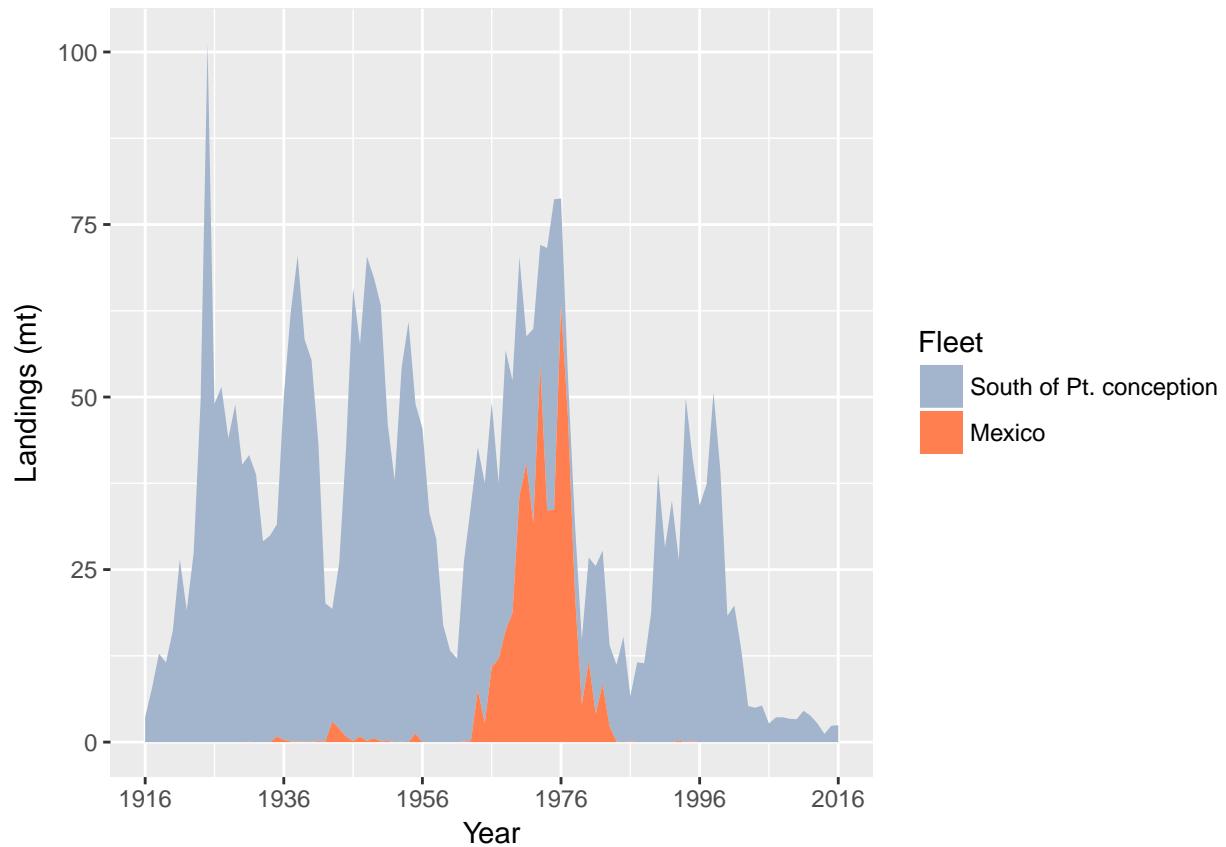


Figure c: Stacked line plot of California scorpionfish landings history by region, north of Pt. Conception, between Pt. Conception and the U.S.-Mexico border, and Mexican waters. [fig:Exec\\_catch3](#)

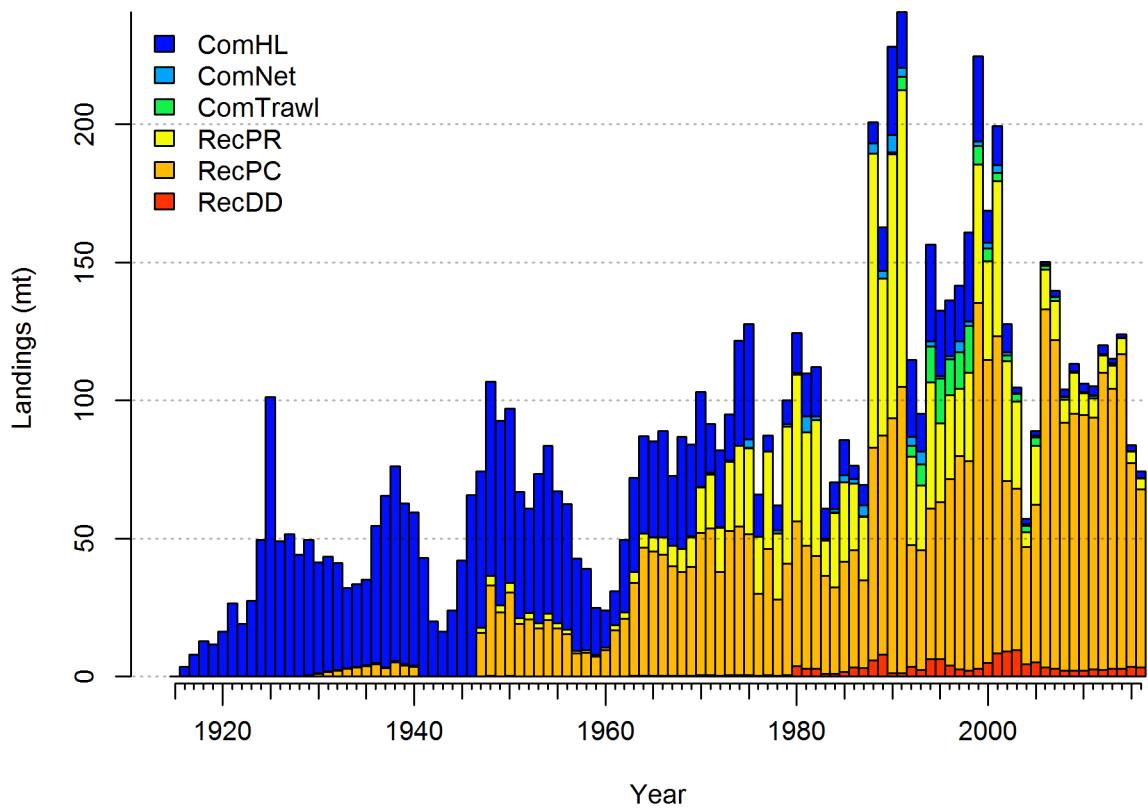


Figure d: Landings history of California scorpionfish in the base model. [fig:r4ss\\_catches](#)

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).

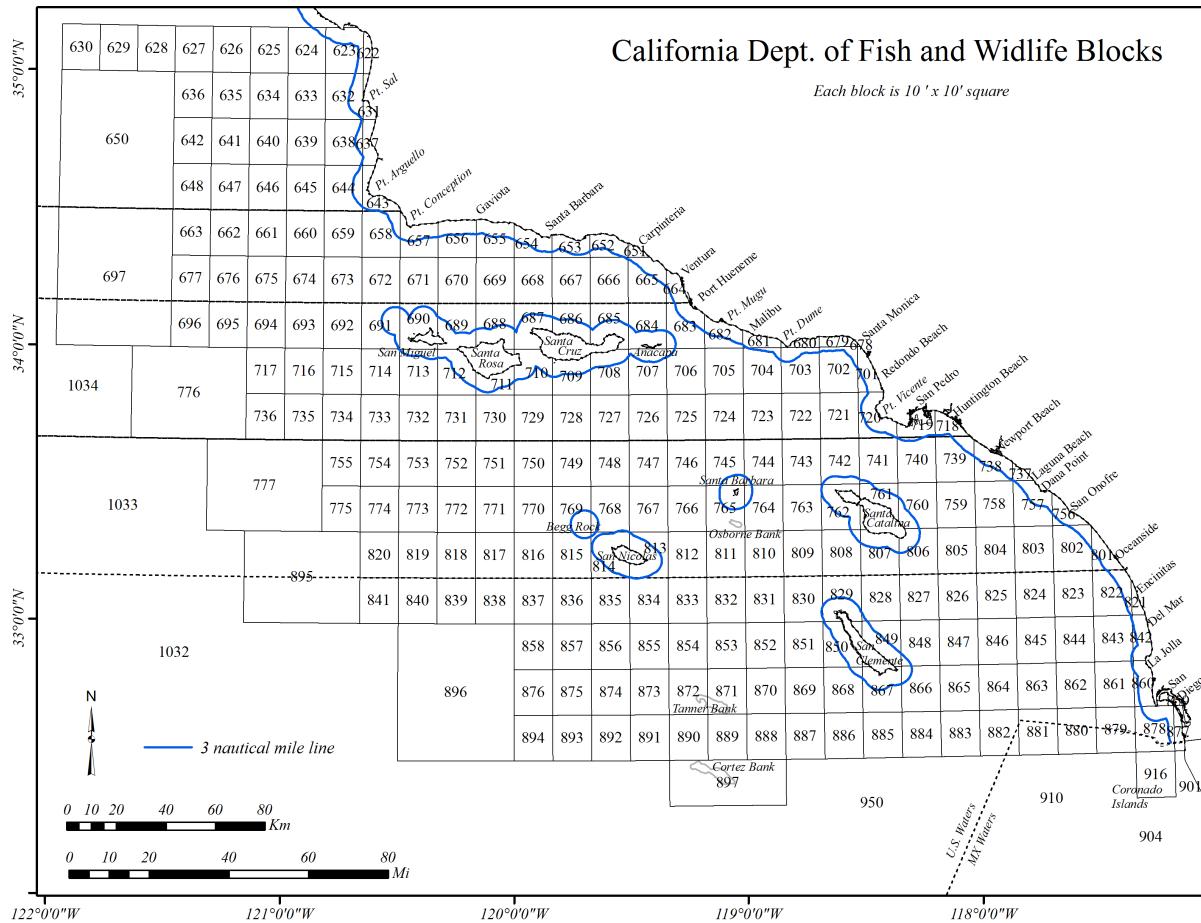


Figure e: Map depicting the boundaries for the base-case model. [fig:assess\\_region\\_map](#)

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)

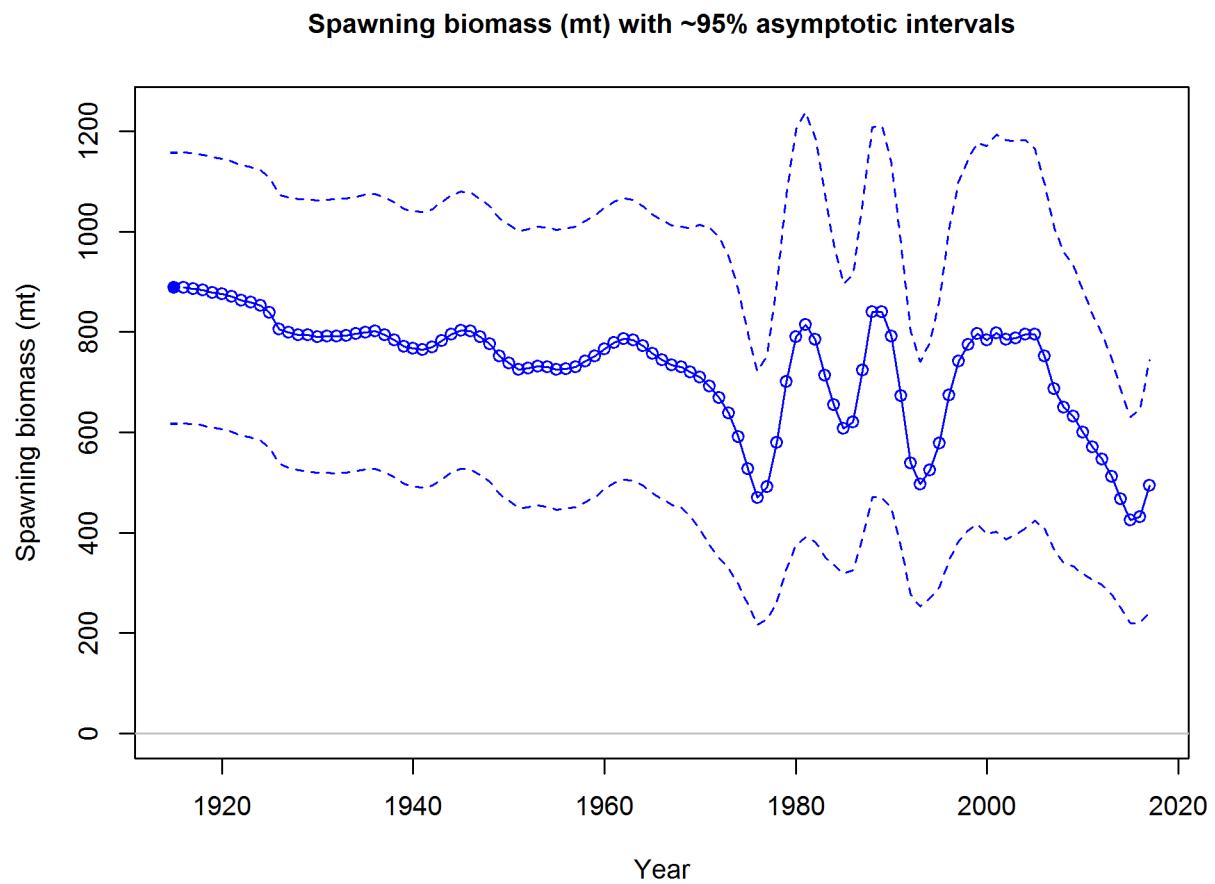


Figure f: Time series of spawning output trajectory (circles and line; median; light broken lines: 95% credibility intervals) for the base case assessment model. | [fig:Spawnbio\\_all](#)

### Spawning depletion with ~95% asymptotic intervals

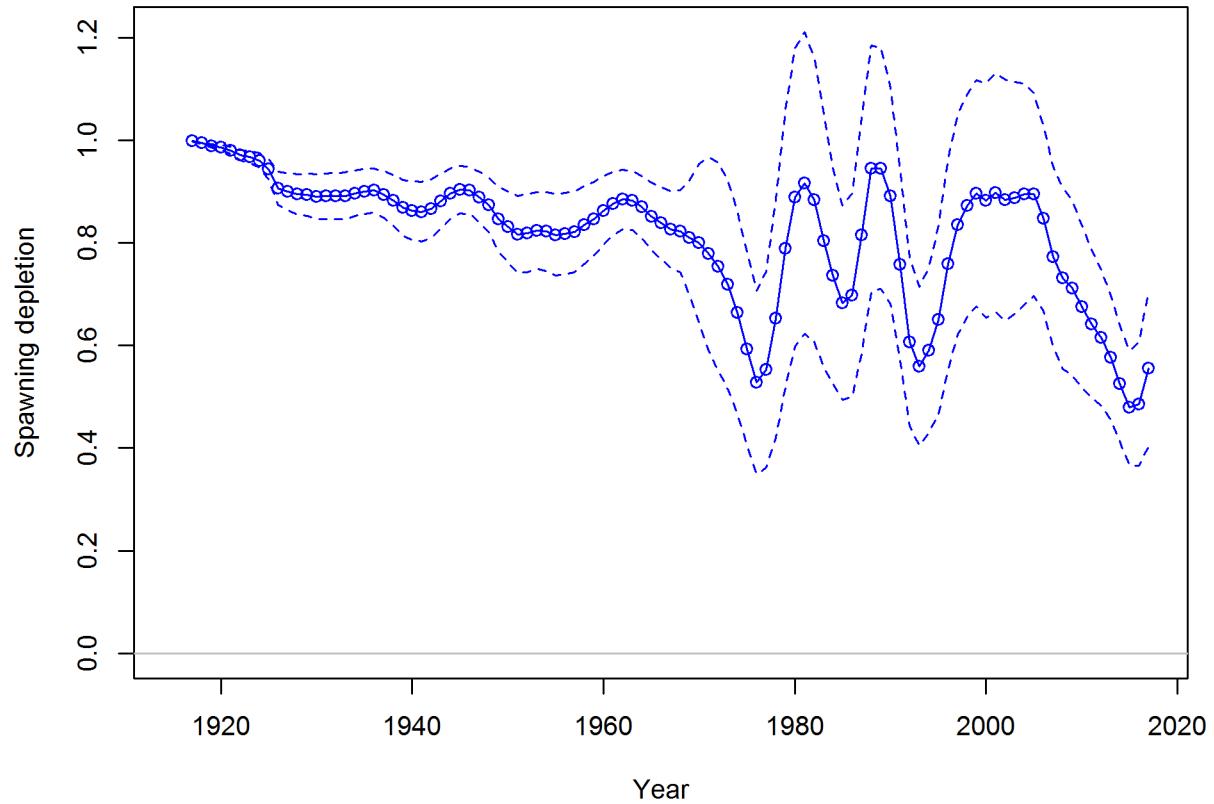


Figure g: Estimated relative depletion with approximate 95% asymptotic confidence intervals (dashed lines) for the base case assessment model. [fig:RelDeplete\\_all](#)

<sup>102</sup> **Recruitment**

recruitment

<sup>103</sup> Recruitment Figure: (Figure h)

<sup>104</sup> 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**

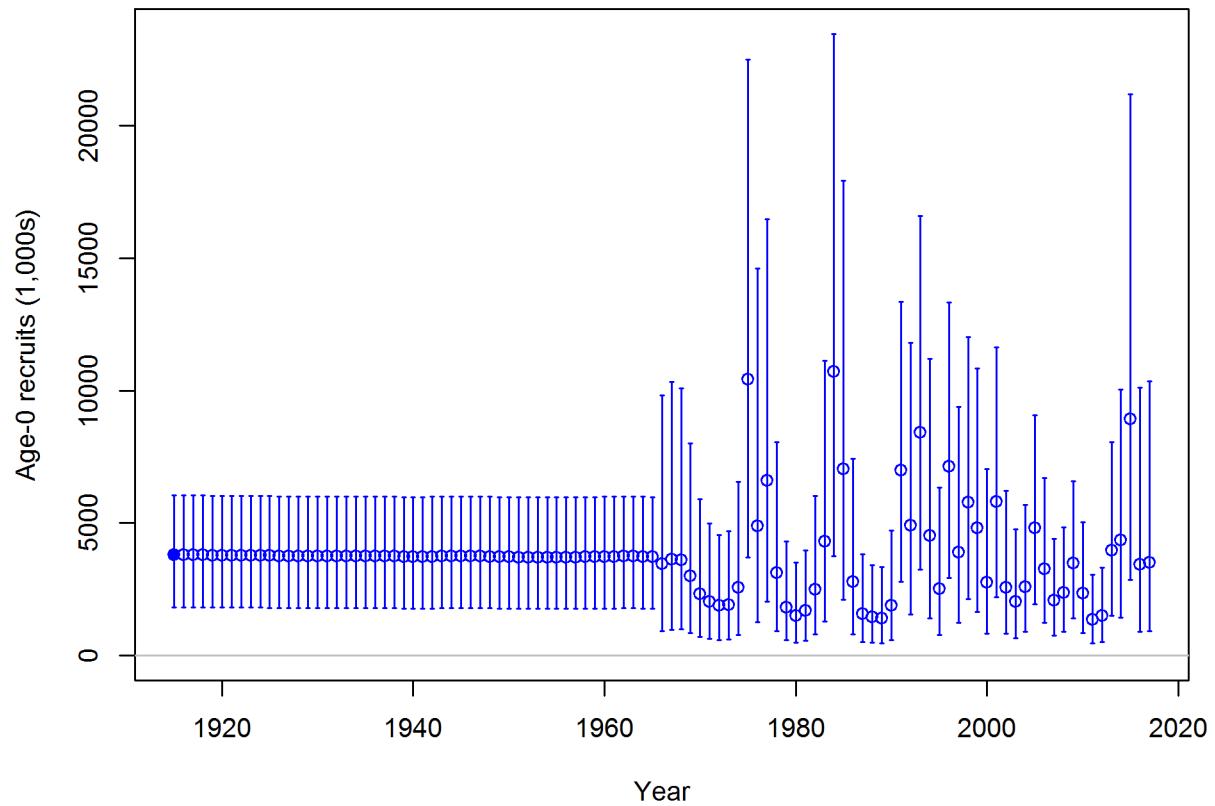


Figure h: Time series of estimated California scorpionfish recruitments for the base-case model with 95% confidence or credibility intervals. [fig:Recruits\\_all](#)

<sup>105</sup> **Exploitation status**

`exploitation-status`

<sup>106</sup> Exploitation Tables: Table [d](#) Exploitation Figure: Figure [i](#)).

<sup>107</sup> A summary of California scorpionfish exploitation histories for base model is provided as  
<sup>108</sup> 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)

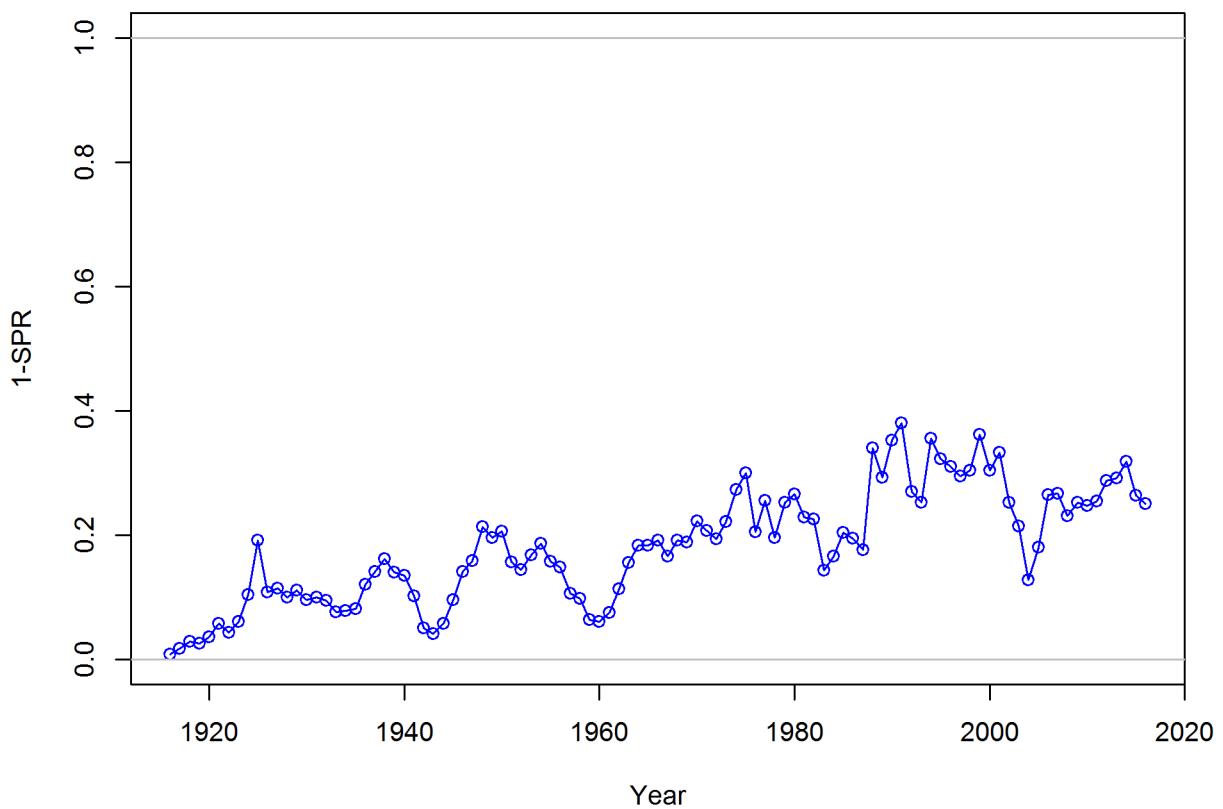


Figure i: Estimated spawning potential ratio (SPR) for the base-case model. One minus SPR is plotted so that higher exploitation rates occur on the upper portion of the y-axis. The management target is plotted as a red horizontal line and values above this reflect harvests in excess of the overfishing proxy based on the SPR<sub>50%</sub> 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)
<b>Reference points based on SB<sub>40%</sub></b>		
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)
<b>Reference points based on SPR proxy for MSY</b>		
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)
<b>Reference points based on estimated MSY values</b>		
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)

## <sup>121</sup> Management Performance

management-performance

### <sup>122</sup> Management performance table: Table f

Table f: Recent trend in total catch (mt) relative to the harvest specifications. Estimated total catch reflect the commercial and recreational removals. The OFL was terms the ABC prior to implementation of the FMP Amendment 23 in 2011. Likewise, the ACL was termed OY prior to 2011 and the ABC was redefined o reflect the uncertainty in estimating the OFL.

Year	OFL (mt; ABC prior to 2011)	ABC (mt)	ACL (mt; OY prior to 2011)	ACT	Estimated total catch (mt)
<b>2007</b>	219		175		-
<b>2008</b>	219		175		-
<b>2009</b>	175		175		-
<b>2010</b>	155		155		-
<b>2011</b>	141	135	135		-
<b>2012</b>	132	126	126		-
<b>2013</b>	126	120	120		-
<b>2014</b>	122	117	117		-
<b>2015</b>	119	114	114		-
<b>2016</b>	117	111	111		-
<b>2017</b>	289	264	150	110	-
<b>2018</b>	278	254	150	110	-

## <sup>123</sup> Unresolved Problems And Major Uncertainties

unresolved-problems-and-major-uncertainties

### <sup>124</sup> TBD after STAR panel

## <sup>125</sup> Decision Table

decision-table

### <sup>126</sup> OFL projection table: Table g

### <sup>127</sup> Decision table(s) Table h

### <sup>128</sup> Yield curve: Figure \ref{fig:Yield\_all}

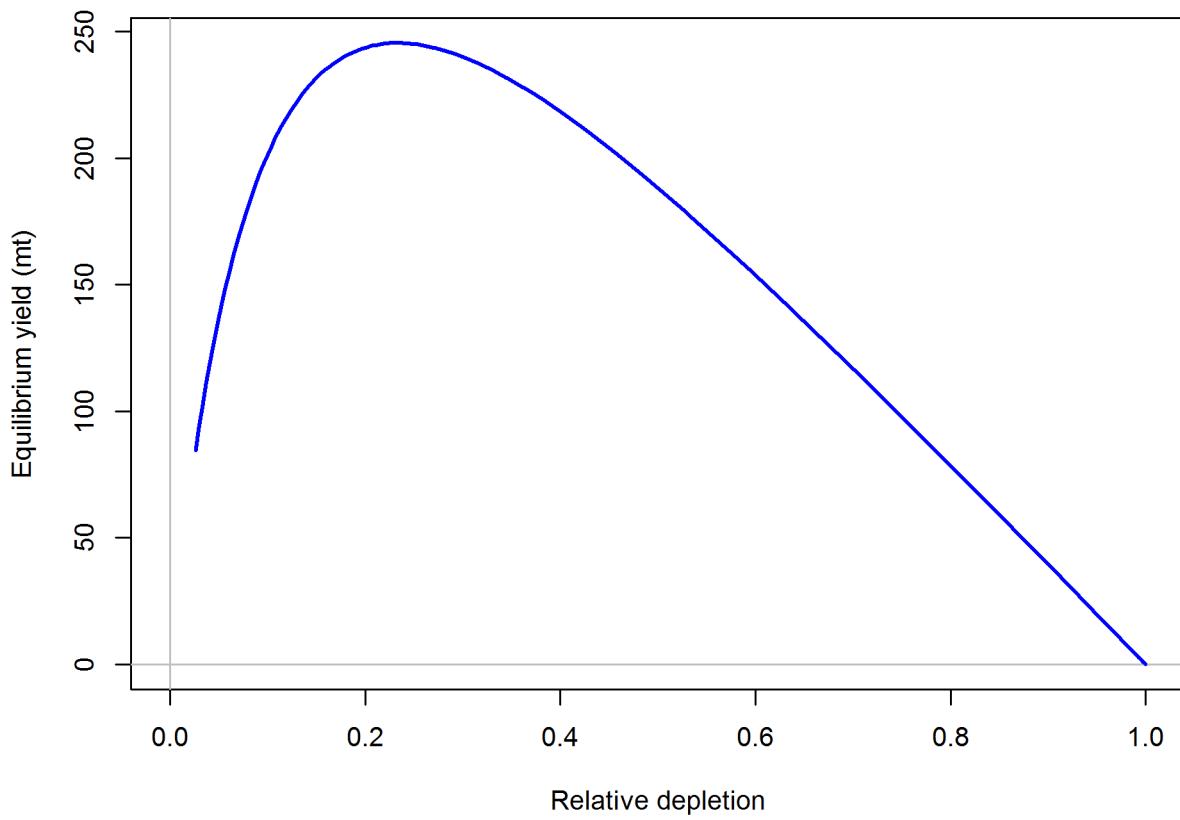


Figure j: Equilibrium yield curve for the base case model. Values are based on the 2016 fishery selectivity and with steepness fixed at... fig:Yield\_all

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

`tab:OFL_projection`

Year	OFL
2017	252.19

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 <sub>50%</sub> )	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)		

<sup>129</sup> **Research And Data Needs**

research-and-data-needs

<sup>130</sup> We recommend the following research be conducted before the next assessment:

<sup>131</sup>      1. List item No. 1 in the list

<sup>132</sup>      2. List item No. 2 in the list, etc.

<sub>133</sub> **1 Introduction**

introduction

<sub>134</sub> **1.1 Basic Information and Life History**

basic-information-and-life-history

<sub>135</sub> 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. <sub>136</sub> <sub>137</sub> California scorpionfish is a medium-bodied fish and like other species in the genus *Scorpaena*, <sub>138</sub> it produces a toxin in its dorsal, anal, and pectoral fin spines, which produces intense, painful <sub>139</sub> wounds (Love et al. 1987). Scorpionfish are very resistant to hooking mortality and have <sub>140</sub> shown survival under extreme conditions.

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

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

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

<sub>161</sub> **1.2 Early Life History**

early-life-history

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

<sup>167</sup> believed that spawning takes place just before, and perhaps after dawn, in the water column  
<sup>168</sup> (Love et al. 1987). The same study tagged California scorpionfish and suggests individuals  
<sup>169</sup> return to the same spawning site, but information is not available on non-spawning season  
<sup>170</sup> site fidelity.

<sup>171</sup> Little is known about California scorpionfish larvae. The CalCOFI survey observed 463  
<sup>172</sup> California scorpionfish larvae from 1977-2000, with the majority at station close to Oxnard  
<sup>173</sup> (east of the Channel Islands) (Moser et al. 2002). Higher densities of larvae have been  
<sup>174</sup> observed in the CalCOFI stations throughout Baja, peaking south of Punta Eugenia from  
<sup>175</sup> July to September. The hatching length is reported as 1.9-2.0 mm (Washington et al. 1984)  
<sup>176</sup> and transformation length of greater than 1.3 cm (Washington et al. 1984) less than 2.1 cm  
<sup>177</sup> (Moser 1996).

### <sup>178</sup> 1.3 Map

map

<sup>179</sup> A map showing the scope of the assessment and depicting boundaries for fisheries or data  
<sup>180</sup> collection strata is provided in Figure 1.

### <sup>181</sup> 1.4 Ecosystem Considerations

ecosystem-considerations-1

<sup>182</sup> In this assessment, ecosystem considerations were not explicitly included in the analysis.  
<sup>183</sup> This is primarily due to a lack of relevant data and results of analyses (conducted elsewhere)  
<sup>184</sup> that could contribute ecosystem-related quantitative information for the assessment.

### <sup>185</sup> 1.5 Fishery Information

fishery-information

<sup>186</sup> The hook-and-line fishery off California developed in the late 19th century (Love et al.  
<sup>187</sup> 2002).

<sup>188</sup> The rockfish trawl fishery was established in the early 1940s, when the United States became  
<sup>189</sup> involved in World War II and wartime shortage of red meat created an increased demand for  
<sup>190</sup> other sources of protein (Harry and Morgan 1961, Alverson et al. 1964).

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

198 fisheries. By 1949, Bureau of Marine Fisheries reported  
199 “[Scorpionfish] will even come to the surface to lights at night” and were also taken in round  
200 haul nets. At that time, scorpionfish were rarely targeted by fishermen except by a few  
201 specialists.

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

211 California scorpionfish is not a major target in the recreational fishery. They are most  
212 often taken by boat fishermen, but fairly large numbers are caught from piers, jettys, and  
213 rocky shorelines. The Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel (CPFV; also referred to as  
214 the recreational party/charter or PC mode) effort has remained relatively constant over  
215 a long period (1959-1998) (Dotson and Charter 2003). However, there appears to be a  
216 shift in effort towards less utilized species, such as California scorpionfish, over the past  
217 decade (Dotson and Charter 2003). Especially as catch limits for rockfish have become  
218 more restricted commercial passenger fishing vessels (CPFV) operators target California  
219 scorpionfish spawning aggregations during spring and summer (Love et al. 1987), and also  
220 target California scorpionfish in the winter when other fisheries are closed.

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

226 Aggregate mortality has been far below the Annual Catch Limits (ACL) established by the  
227 2005 stock assessment. The ACL projections from the 2005 assessment assumed that the  
228 entire ACL was being taken each year and as a result, the ACL for each subsequent year  
229 declined despite under-attainment in reality.

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

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

<sup>240</sup> The season restriction in the recreational fishery remained in place as a precautionary measure  
<sup>241</sup> until the full assessment is completed to better inform the current status of the stock, catch  
<sup>242</sup> limits and regulations given the perspective provided.

## <sup>243</sup> 1.6 Summary of Management History

[summary-of-management-history](#)

<sup>244</sup> Prior to the adoption of the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) in  
<sup>245</sup> 1982, California scorpionfish (*Scorpaena guttata*) was managed through a regulatory process  
<sup>246</sup> that included the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) along with either  
<sup>247</sup> the California State Legislature or the Fish and Game Commission (FGC) depending on  
<sup>248</sup> the sector (recreation or commercial) and fishery. With implementation of the Pacific Coast  
<sup>249</sup> Groundfish FMP, California scorpionfish came under the management authority of the Pacific  
<sup>250</sup> Fishery Management Council (PFMC), being incorporated, along with all genera and species  
<sup>251</sup> of the family Scorpidae, into a federal rockfish classification and managed as part of  
<sup>252</sup> “Remaining Rockfish” under the larger heading of “Other Rockfish” (PFMC (2002, 2004),  
<sup>253</sup> Tables 31-39).

<sup>254</sup> The ABCs provided by the PFMC’s Groundfish Management Team (GMT) in the 1980’s were  
<sup>255</sup> based on an analysis of commercial landings from the 1960’s and 1970’s. For this analysis,  
<sup>256</sup> most of the rockfishes were lumped into one large group. This analysis indicated that the  
<sup>257</sup> landings for rockfish in the Monterey-Conception area were at or near ABC levels (Pacific  
<sup>258</sup> Fishery Management Council 1993). To keep landings within these adopted harvest targets,  
<sup>259</sup> the Pacific Coast Groundfish FMP provided the Council with a variety of management tools  
<sup>260</sup> including area closures, season closures, gear restrictions, and, for the commercial sector,  
<sup>261</sup> cumulative limits (generally for two-month periods). With the implementation of a federal  
<sup>262</sup> groundfish restricted access program in 1994, allocations of total catch and cumulative limits  
<sup>263</sup> began to be specifically set for open access (including most of California’s commercial fisheries  
<sup>264</sup> that target California scorpionfish in Southern California) and limited entry fisheries (Figure  
<sup>265</sup> 3) (Pacific Fishery Management Council 2002, 2004). As a result, in the later 1990’s as  
<sup>266</sup> commercial landings decreased and recreational harvest became a greater proportion of the  
<sup>267</sup> available harvest.

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

<sup>279</sup> California scorpionfish was included within the Minor Rockfish South, Other Rockfish ABC  
<sup>280</sup> and managed under the south of 40°10' N. latitude nearshore rockfish OY and trip limits  
<sup>281</sup> (PFMC (2002), Table 29).

<sup>282</sup> Along with the above changes, in 2000 the southern area divided into two separate management  
<sup>283</sup> areas at Point Lopez, 36°00' N. latitude. This was followed in 2001 with the implementation  
<sup>284</sup> of the northern rockfish and lingcod management area between (40°10' N. latitude) and Point  
<sup>285</sup> Conception (34°27' N. latitude); and the southern rockfish and lingcod management area  
<sup>286</sup> between Point Conception and the U.S.- Mexico border. These were later revised starting  
<sup>287</sup> in 2004 with the northern rockfish and lingcod management area redefined as ocean waters  
<sup>288</sup> from the Oregon-California border (42°00' N. latitude) to 40°10' N. latitude, the central  
<sup>289</sup> rockfish and lingcod management area defined as ocean waters from 40°10' N. latitude to  
<sup>290</sup> Point Conception, and the southern rockfish and management area continuing to be defined  
<sup>291</sup> as ocean waters from Point Conception to the U.S.-Mexico border.

<sup>292</sup> Cowcod Conservation Areas (CCAs) also were established in 2001 to reduce fishing effort  
<sup>293</sup> in areas with high encounter rates of cowcod rockfish (PFMC (2002), Table 29). These  
<sup>294</sup> areas were closed to all recreational and commercial fishing for groundfish except for minor  
<sup>295</sup> nearshore rockfish1 (including California scorpionfish) within waters less than 20 fathoms.  
<sup>296</sup> The California Rockfish Conservation Area (CRCA) was defined as those ocean waters south  
<sup>297</sup> 40°10' N. latitude to the U.S.-Mexico border with different depth zones specified for the areas  
<sup>298</sup> north and south of Pt. Reyes (37°59.73' N. latitude).

<sup>299</sup> During the late 1990's and early 2000's, major changes also occurred in the way that California  
<sup>300</sup> managed its nearshore fishery. The Marine Life Management Act (MLMA), which was passed  
<sup>301</sup> in 1998 by the California Legislature and enacted in 1999, required that the FGC adopt  
<sup>302</sup> an FMP for nearshore finfish. It also gave authority to the FGC to regulate commercial  
<sup>303</sup> and recreational nearshore fisheries through FMPs and provided broad authority to adopt  
<sup>304</sup> regulations for the nearshore fishery during the time prior to adoption of the nearshore finfish  
<sup>305</sup> FMP. Within this legislation, the Legislature also included commercial size limits for nine  
<sup>306</sup> nearshore species including California scorpionfish (10-inch minimum size) and a requirement  
<sup>307</sup> that commercial fishermen landing these nine nearshore species possess a nearshore permit.

<sup>308</sup> Following adoption of the Nearshore FMP and accompanying regulations by the FGC in fall  
<sup>309</sup> of 2002, the FGC adopted regulations in November 2002 which established a set of marine  
<sup>310</sup> reserves around the Channel Islands in Southern California (which became effective April  
<sup>311</sup> 2003). The FGC also adopted a nearshore restricted access program in December 2002 (which  
<sup>312</sup> included the establishment of a Deeper Nearshore Permit) to be effective starting in the 2003  
<sup>313</sup> fishing year.

<sup>314</sup> Although the Nearshore FMP provided for the management of the nearshore rockfish and  
<sup>315</sup> California scorpionfish, management authority for these species continued to reside with  
<sup>316</sup> the Council. Even so, for the 2003 and subsequent fishery seasons, the State provided  
<sup>317</sup> recommendations to the Council specific to the nearshore species that followed the directives  
<sup>318</sup> set out in the Nearshore FMP. These recommendations, which the Council incorporated into

<sup>319</sup> the 2003 management specifications, included a recalculated OY for Minor Rockfish South  
<sup>320</sup> - Nearshore, division of the Minor Rockfish South - Nearshore into three groups (shallow  
<sup>321</sup> nearshore rockfish; deeper nearshore rockfish; and California scorpionfish), and specific harvest  
<sup>322</sup> targets and recreational and commercial allocations for each of these groups.

<sup>323</sup> Also, since the enactment of the MLMA, the Council and State in a coordinated effort  
<sup>324</sup> developed and adopted various management specifications to keep harvest within the harvest  
<sup>325</sup> targets, including seasonal and area closures (e.g. the CCAs; a closure of Cordell Banks  
<sup>326</sup> to specific fishing), depth restrictions, minimum size limits, and bag limits to regulate the  
<sup>327</sup> recreational fishery and license and permit regulations, finfish trap permits, gear restrictions,  
<sup>328</sup> seasonal and area closures (e.g. the RCAs and CCAs; a closure of Cordell Banks to specific  
<sup>329</sup> fishing), depth restrictions, trip limits, and minimum size imits to regulate the commercial  
<sup>330</sup> fishery.

## <sup>331</sup> 1.7 Management Performance

management-performance-1

<sup>332</sup> Management performance table: (Table [f](#))

<sup>333</sup> A summary of these values as well as other base case summary results can be found in Table  
<sup>334</sup> [i](#).

## <sup>335</sup> 1.8 Fisheries off Mexico

fisheries-off-mexico

<sup>336</sup> The California scorpionfish's range extends into to Abreojos, Baja California.

<sup>337</sup> The species is also found in the northern Gulf of California and Guadalupe Island. No formal  
<sup>338</sup> stock assessments have been conducted for California scorpionfish in Mexican waters.

# <sup>339</sup> 2 Assessment

assessment

## <sup>340</sup> 2.1 Data

data

<sup>341</sup> Data used in the California scorpionfish assessment are summarized in Figure [2](#).

<sup>342</sup> A description of each data source is below.

### <sup>343</sup> 2.1.1 Commercial Fishery Landings

commercial-fishery-landings

<sup>344</sup> Commercial catches of California scorpionfish (often landed as "sculpin") are available back  
<sup>345</sup> to 1916. Landings from 1916 to 1935 are presented in CDFG Fish Bulletin No. 49 and

<sup>346</sup> Bulletin No. 149 provides tabulated data from 1916 to 1968. Over 99% of the commercial  
<sup>347</sup> catches of California scorpionfish are from south of Pt. Conception.

<sup>348</sup> Whenever possible, catches from north of Pt. Conception and also caught in Mexico but  
<sup>349</sup> landed in the U.S. were excluded from the commercial catch histories.

<sup>350</sup> [California Explores the Ocean](#)(CEO) provides landings data taken from the CDFG Fish  
<sup>351</sup> Bulletins in electronic form, as well as electronic copies of all CDFG Fish Bulletins.

<sup>352</sup> Statewide annual landings are available for California scorpionfish from 1916 to 1925, and  
<sup>353</sup> are assumed to be taken by hook-and-line. Data by area and month are given in a series of  
<sup>354</sup> bulletins, each bulletin usually providing information for a single year. Data by region and  
<sup>355</sup> month is available for 1926 to 1986. The Santa Barbara region includes San Luis Obispo,  
<sup>356</sup> Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. Catches from this region were included in the catch  
<sup>357</sup> history and comprised less than 10 mt for the period from 1926-1968 (the period when data  
<sup>358</sup> at the regional scale are available).

<sup>359</sup> Catches from Mexico can be separated from the total catch starting in 1931, although the  
<sup>360</sup> CDFG Bulletins do not report catches originating from Mexican waters available for all years,  
<sup>361</sup> e.g., 1932-1934. It is assumed that before 1931 there was no catch taken from Mexican waters  
<sup>362</sup> landed in California.

<sup>363</sup> The [CALCOM](#) database was queried (March 7, 2017) for commercial landing estimates of  
<sup>364</sup> California scorpionfish in California, 1969-2016. Landings were stratified by year, quarter,  
<sup>365</sup> live/dead, market category, gear group, port complex, and source of species composition  
<sup>366</sup> data (actual port samples, borrowed samples, or assumed nominal market category). All  
<sup>367</sup> CALCOM California scorpionfish landing data are either actual port samples or the nominal  
<sup>368</sup> California scorpionfish market category. However, catches in CALCOM do not separate out  
<sup>369</sup> catches originating from Mexican waters and landed at U.S. ports.

<sup>370</sup> The Commercial Fisheries Information System (CFIS; maintained by CDFW) contains  
<sup>371</sup> California catch in pounds by gear and port for 1969 to 2016 (Figures). The CFIS data come  
<sup>372</sup> from landing receipts or “fish tickets” filled out by the markets or fish buyers as required by  
<sup>373</sup> the state for all commercial landings. The fish tickets include the CDFW block in which the  
<sup>374</sup> majority of the landings were caught.

<sup>375</sup> Landings with a block solely in Mexican waters (blocks >900) were removed from the catch  
<sup>376</sup> history. Landings with reported blocks 877-882 with area in both U.S. and Mexican waters  
<sup>377</sup> were retained in the catch histories. The commercial catch is dominated by the hook-and-line  
<sup>378</sup> fishery (89% of total catches).

<sup>379</sup> The catch by reported gear types: hook-and-line, fish pot, trawl, gill net, and other can be  
<sup>380</sup> found in Table 1. Catch taken by fish pot and other gears is added to the hook-and-line  
<sup>381</sup> catch in the stock assessment (30.6 mt from fish pot and 93.9 mt from other gears).

<sup>382</sup> In the assessment, catch for 1916 to 1968 is taken from the CDFG Fish Bulletins. Catch by  
<sup>383</sup> gear for 1969 to 2004 is taken from CFIS.

384 **2.1.2 Commercial Discards**

commercial-discards

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

392 **2.2 Commercial Fishery Length And Age Data**

commercial-fishery-length-and-age-data

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

399 The CDFW conducted a market study from 1990-2004 in southern California (Laughlin  
400 and Ugoretz 1998) to monitor and summarize local commercial catches. The ports sampled  
401 included San Diego, Santa Barbara/Ventura and Long Beach/San Pedro. Very few of the  
402 samples from Santa Barbara and San Diego (4 samples each from the hook-and-line and  
403 trawl fisheries Santa Barbara, and 1 sample from the hook-and-line fishery in San Diego)  
404 reported California scorpionfish, and are excluded from the length composition data.

405 Length composition for California scorpionfish are available from the Long Beach samples for  
406 the hook-and-line (Table 2), gillnet (Table 3), and trawl fisheries (Table 4). Length samples  
407 from both groundfish (otter) trawls and single-rigged shrimp trawls were available from the  
408 market study. The average size of fish from the otter trawls (26.5 cm) was smaller than from  
409 the shrimp trawl samples (28.1 cm). Over 70% of California scorpionfish catch from the  
410 trawl sector was landed from single-rigged shrimp trawls, which best represent the length  
411 composition of the trawl fleet (CALCOM).

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

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

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

416 **2.2.1 Sport Fishery Removals and Discards**

*sport-fishery-removals-and-discards*

417 Data used in reconstructing the retained catch and discarded mortality for California scor-  
418 pionfish in the California recreational fishery are from the Commercial Passenger Fishing  
419 Vessel (CPFV) Logbooks (1932-2017), the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistical Survey  
420 (MRFSS, 1980-2003) and the California Recreational Fishery Survey (CRFS, 2004-2017).  
421 Total catch was accounted for including retained catch as well as the estimate of fish dis-  
422 carded dead assuming a 7% discard mortality rate approved for use in management in the  
423 regulatory specifications for 2009-2010 (Pacific Fishery Management Council 2008). The  
424 MRFSS and CRFS data provide estimates of mortality for four fishing “modes” including  
425 the Party/Charter Boat, Private/Rental Boat, Man Made (piers and jetties etc.) and Beach  
426 and Bank modes.

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

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

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

452 For all other modes, the MRFSS (1980-2003) and CRFS (2004-2017) based estimates of  
453 retained catch and discard mortality were used. There was a lapse in MRFSS sampling from  
454 1990 through 1992, for which retained catch and discard mortality were estimated using the  
455 average of values three years before and three years after the lapse for all modes other than

456 the PC mode. For the PC mode, estimates of numbers of fish were available from logbook  
457 data and average weight from the three years before and after this period were applied to  
458 provide estimates for the PC mode.

459 Estimates of retained catch and discards were not available from the non-PC modes prior  
460 to 1980, thus the ratio of catch in the PC mode to the other modes for 1980 through 1985  
461 was used to provide an estimate of catch in the other modes in the years 1932-1979. In the  
462 case of the PR mode, a linear ramp in the ratio adjustment between PC and PR modes was  
463 applied between 1966 and 1979 from 0.55 in 1980 to 0.10 in 1965, reflecting the increase in  
464 the relative proportion of catch contributed by the PR mode with time as more individuals  
465 anglers purchased vessels, as recommended in the California Catch Reconstruction (Ralston  
466 et al. 2010), and the ratio of 0.10 was assumed for all years prior. The ratio of PC estimates  
467 to the MM and BB modes was assumed to constant and the average between 1980 and 1989  
468 was applied from 1932 to 1979. Catch estimates from CPFV logbooks were not available  
469 during the World War II era from 1941 until 1946 and catch was assumed to be zero for all  
470 modes during this period. Estimates for retained catch and discarded mortality for 1935 to  
471 1928 were estimated using a linear ramp from the value for 1928 to zero in 1936 for the PC  
472 mode and ratios PC compared to other modes were used to proxy estimates for other modes  
473 based on the resulting ramped values for the PC mode. The final time series of landings and  
474 discard mortality are in Table 5.

475 Biological samples from the recreational fleets are desired in the sections below.

#### 476 2.2.2 Fishery-dependent Data Sources

fishery-dependent-data-sources

##### 477 CRFS Private Boat Dockside Intercept Survey

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

493 The survey records the number of contributing anglers (number of anglers on the vessel for  
494 the private mode), but does not contain data on hours fished. For this index, angler-day  
495 was the assumed effort. The data were filtered to trips fishing with hook-and-line gear in  
496 southern California. Trips with a primary fishing area of Mexico were also removed. The  
497 CRFS dockside private boat records with these broad filters include 44,128 trips of which  
498 3,802 caught California scorpionfish (8.6%).

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

508 Coefficients from the Stephens-MacCall analysis (a binomial GLM) are positive for species  
509 which co-occur with California scorpionfish, and negative for species that are not caught with  
510 California scorpionfish (Figure 5). Potentially informative species for the Stephens-MacCall  
511 analysis were limited to species caught in at least one percent of all trips and caught in at  
512 least five years. Some of these never occurred with California scorpionfish (strong ‘counter-  
513 indicators’) and records with these species were removed from the data prior to estimation  
514 of the index. Strong counter-indicators for the CRFS private boat index included yellowfin  
515 tuna and dolphinfish.

516 A total of 8,590 trips were retained following the Stephens-MacCall filter, with 3,056 all  
517 positive California scorpionfish trips retained. The California scorpionfish recreational fishery  
518 in the southern management area was closed for eight months in 2004 and nine months in  
519 2005. The majority of records from 2004 and 2005 are from the period when the fishery  
520 was closed and were removed from the analysis (Figure 4). Records from months with the  
521 fishery was closed from 2006-2016 were also excluded from the index since this index relies  
522 on sampler-examined retained catch.

523 Catch per unit effort was modeled using a delta-GLM approach, where the catch occurrence  
524 (binomial) component was modeled using a logit link function and the positive catch compo-  
525 nent was modeled after log-transformation of the response variable, according to a normal  
526 distribution with an identity link function. The units for CPUE are fish landed/anglers. A  
527 gamma distribution for the positive catch component was also explored, but model selection  
528 favored the lognormal model. The raw CPUE of factors considered in the model by year are  
529 shown in Figure 6.

530 Model selection procedures selected the covariates *2-month wave* and *county* as important  
531 for both the catch occurrence and positive catch component models for all data sets, along  
532 with the categorical year factor used for the index of abundance (Table 7).

533 The Q-Q goodness of fit plot for the lognormal portion of the model shows a moderate fit to  
534 the data (Figure 7). final index indicates a decrease in relative abundance from 2006 to 2010,  
535 at which point the index is relatively flat (Figure 8).

536 Biological samples from trips retaining California scorpionfish were collected during the  
537 dockside surveys. Lengths of California scorpionfish from 1980-2016 for the private mode  
538 were provided by RecFIN by Edward Hibsch (PSMFC) on November 29, 2016. Length  
539 measurements from the private mode were provided directly from CDFW for the years  
540 2004-2016 Table 9. The number of trips is the number of unique ID\_CODEs from RecFIN for  
541 1980-2003. Starting in 2004 with the CRFS program, the number of unique trips sampled in  
542 the private boat mode was recorded. The recreational private fleet tends to select larger fish  
543 than the recreational party/charter fleet, which is one reason the private and party/charter  
544 fleets were maintained as two separate fleets in the base model. No length data for discarded  
545 fish from the recreational private mode fleet are available.

## 546 CRFS CPFV Logbook Index

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

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

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

571 Two different area factors were considered for the standardization, block and region.  
572 The 60 retained blocks were split into nearshore regions north and south of San Pedro and

573 the northern and southern islands, for four regions. Both a delta model and a negative  
574 binomial model were considered for index standardization. However, due to the large number  
575 of records, the traditional jackknife routine to estimate uncertainty was not possible.

576 California scorpionfish were present in 47% of all trips, and standardized with a negative  
577 binomial model. Factors considered were *year*, *month*, and *area* (either block or region). A  
578 model with blocks and was selected over a model with region by 39,180 AIC. The final model  
579 includes *year*, *month*, and *block* with a log link and effort as an offset (Table 11).

580 The standardized index shows a cyclic pattern, with period of higher CPUE (late 1980's to  
581 early 1990's and late 1990s) and has shown a general downward trend since 2008 (Figure 12).  
582 An interesting note is the similarity in standardized CPUE between the CPFV logbook index  
583 and the CPFV dockside index (not used in the stock assessment model) from 1992-1997 (for  
584 a Stephens-MacCall threshold of 0.1) (Figure 11).

## 585 MRFSS Party/Charter Boat Dockside Index

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

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

614 Data for dockside sampling of 6,295 commercial passenger fishing vessel (CPFV) trips south  
615 of Point Conception by the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistical Survey (MRFSS) were  
616 filtered using the Stephens-McCall method to identify trips with catch associated with  
617 California scorpionfish and the resulting trips analyzed in a delta-GLM including year and  
618 county to produce annual indices of abundance for the period 1980 through 1998 . To  
619 eliminate trips targeting species caught near the surface for all or part of the trip where  
620 California scorpionfish do not occur, prior applying the Stephens-MacCall filter, trips with  
621 catch of bluefin tuna, yellowfin tuna, dorado, Pacific bonito, skipjack, albacore, chinook  
622 salmon, coho salmon and bigeye tuna were removed. Trips with catch of yellowtail amberjack  
623 were also removed since effort on such trips can often be focused in the surface and mid-water  
624 where California scorpionfish do not occur. In addition, trips with aggregate effort less below  
625 and above 95% percentile (less than 2 and over 109.5 hours) were removed to exclude trips  
626 for which either too little effort was exerted to be informative or longer trips that may make  
627 an excessive contribution to the effort likely distributed over a number of targets only some  
628 of which may co-occur with California scorpionfish biasing low the resulting CPUE. Lastly,  
629 trips in Santa Barbara County were removed due the low number of positive samples for  
630 California scorpionfish since it resides in the northern extent of their range and this is a  
631 transition zone between biogeographic provinces in which the presence of more northerly  
632 distributed species could adversely affect the ability of the Stephens-MacCall filtering method  
633 to identify co-occurring species. Each of these filtering steps and the resulting number of  
634 trips remaining in the sampling frame are provided in Table 13.

635 Removal of the aforementioned trips resulted in a total of 3,968 trips to which the Stephens-  
636 MacCall filtering method was applied. Species that composed less than 5% of the catch  
637 were excluded from analysis to prevent these uncommon species from affecting correlations  
638 identified using the algorithm. Chub mackerel, Pacific mackerel and barracuda were removed  
639 as potential predictor species despite having weak positive correlations with California  
640 scorpionfish since they are predominantly pelagic and their co-occurrence is not expected to  
641 be predictive. As expected, positive indicators of California scorpionfish trips include several  
642 species of nearshore rockfish, California sheephead, California halibut, Pacific sanddabs and  
643 seabasses and counter-indicators include several species of deep-water rockfish (Figure 9).  
644 While the filter is useful in identifying co-occurring or non-occurring species assuming all  
645 effort was exerted in pursuit of a single target, the targeting of more than one target species  
646 can result in co-occurrence of species in the catch that do not truly co-occur in terms of  
647 habitat associations informative for an index of abundance, presenting a confounding influence  
648 in selecting trips using the methods employed. Thus the filtering is intended to remove those  
649 trips for which effort was targeted in deeper water than California scorpionfish commonly  
650 occur.

651 Two levels of filtering were applied using the Stephens-MacCall Filter. The Stephens-MacCall  
652 filtering method identified the probability of occurrence (in this case 0.27) at which the rate  
653 of false positives and false negatives for the presence of California scorpionfish were equal as  
654 a heuristic for selecting a threshold for trips in appropriate habitat to be included in analysis.  
655 The trips from this criteria for selection was compared to an alternative method including  
656 the false positive trips as well as all positive trips for California scorpionfish supported by

the assumption that if California scorpionfish were caught in such trips, they must constitute appropriate habitat justifying their inclusion. In addition, the false positives from a lower probability of occurrence (0.10) that was considered to reflect a less stringent threshold inclusive of more trips including a higher proportion of the false positive trips combined with the positive trips from the entire data set was evaluated for comparison.

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

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

The percentage of trips that caught California scorpionfish was 20.8% (828/3,968) prior to filtering with the Stephens-MacCall method, and 71.0% (828/1,167) with the filter set to 0.27 and 26.7% (828/3,099) with the filter set to 0.10, filtered data set. Residual-based model diagnostics for the positive component of the index suggest the data generally met the assumptions of the GLM (Figure 10). The resulting index is highly variable for both thresholds, with consistent peaks in 1984 and 1998 (Figure 11). Application of the 0.27 threshold holds the potential of biasing the resulting index values high by excluding false positive trips while including positive trips with equivalent probability of encountering California scorpionfish. The 0.1 threshold removes a high proportion of trips with shelf rockfish species indicative of effort exerted in deeper depths than are commonly occupied by California scorpionfish, while retaining false positive trips with equivalent probabilities of capture to true positives and thus was retained for further analysis.

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

The results of the models with each of the thresholds provided similar trends seen in Figure

698 Figure 11 along with the results from the CPFV logbook index. The trends differ from those  
699 resulting from the CPFV logbook index early in the time series, but both show an increase  
700 in the mid to late 1990s. The PC dockside index was excluded from further analysis in the  
701 model given that the CPFV logbook index represents the same sector of the fishery and  
702 presumably contains data from some of the same trips, utilizes data for many thousands  
703 more trips, and provides data from 1989 to 1992 omitted from the MRFSS data as a result  
704 of filtering out 1989 and a lapse of sampling from 1990-1992.

#### 705 *Party/Charter Dockside Length Measurements*

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

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

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

#### 728 **Onboard Observer Party/Charter Boat**

729 California implemented a statewide Onboard Observer Sampling Program in 1999, and began  
730 measuring discarded fish in 2003 (Monk et al. 2014). The goal of the Onboard Observer  
731 Sampling Program is to collect data including charter boat fishing locations, catch and  
732 discard of observed fish by species, and lengths of discarded fish. The program samples the  
733 commercial passenger fishing vessel (CPFV), i.e., charter boat or for-hire fleet and collects  
734 drift-specific information at each fishing stop on an observed trip.  
735 At each fishing stop recorded information includes start and end times, start and end location  
736 (latitude/longitude), start and end depth, number of observed anglers (a subset of the total  
737 anglers), and the catch (retained and discarded) by species of the observed anglers.

738 CDFW implemented a regulation of three hooks in 2000, which was reduced to (and remains  
739 at) two hooks in 2001. CDFW also implemented a 10 inch size limit for California scorpionfish  
740 in 2000. The length composition of retained in discarded California scorpionfish (both before  
741 and after the minimum size restriction). Prior to 2001, there were no depth restrictions for  
742 the southern California recreational fishery. Given these regulation changes, the data from  
743 1999 and 2000 are excluded from the index.

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

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

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

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

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

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

778 (Table 16. A total of 26,733 drifts for the analysis were retained. Of these, 5,507 encountered  
779 scorpionfish, with 3,249 discarding California scorpionfish and 3,867 retaining California  
780 scorpionfish.

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

#### 786 *Onboard Obsever Discarded Catch Index*

787 Covariates considered in the full model included *year*, *area* (5 levels), *month* (12 levels), and  
788 *20 m depth bins* (5 levels). All covariates were specified as categorical variables. A lognormal  
789 model for the positives was selected by AIC over a gamma model (delta-AIC of 482.28).  
790 Model selection for both the lognormal and binomial models retained all covariates (Table  
791 17). The Q-Q plot for the positive catch lognormal model looks reasonable (Figure 13). The  
792 final index shows a lower CPUE of the discards in 2001 and an increase from 2002-2005 when  
793 the California scorpionfish recreational fishery was restricted by depth or closed (Table 18  
794 and Figure 14). The relative CPUE of the discards decreases from 2006 to 2015.

#### 795 *Discarded Catch Length Composition*

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

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

#### 808 *Onboard Obsever Retained Catch Index*

809 The index of relative abundance using the retained-only catch from the onboard observer  
810 program is a separate survey fleet in the base model and has no lengths associated with it.  
811 Covariates considered in the full model included *year*, *area* (5 levels), *month* (12 levels), and  
812 *20 m depth bins* (5 levels). All covariates were specified as categorical variables. The final  
813 model includes A lognormal model was selected by AIC over a gamma model for the positives  
814 (delta-AIC of 534.9).Model selection for both the lognormal and binomial models retained all

815 covariates (Table 20). The Q-Q plot for the positive catch lognormal model looks reasonable  
816 (Figure 16). The final index shows a lower CPUE of the retained catch from 2002 and 2003  
817 (Table 21 and Figure 17). The relative CPUE of the retained catch shows a decline from  
818 2007-2015, and an increase in 2016.

819 **2.2.3 Fishery-Independent Data Sources**

fishery-independent-data-sources

820 **Sanitation Districts Trawl Survey**

821 Sanitation districts that discharge into coastal waters are required to conduct trawls to monitor  
822 the demersal fish community in the vicinity of the discharge sites part of their National  
823 Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, issued by the Environmental  
824 Protection Agency. All sanitation districts holding NPDES permits in southern California  
825 were contacted for trawl data. The two northernmost districts, Goleta and the City of  
826 Oxnard, provided data (via Aquatic Bioassay & Consulting Laboratories, Inc.), but California  
827 scorpionfish have not been encountered in either district's trawl surveys. The four other  
828 sanitation districts, Orange County, City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, and the City  
829 of San Diego all encounter California scorpionfish and provided trawl data.

830 A description of the data provided by each sanitation district is provided. In contrast to the  
831 inverse variance weighted index from the 2005 assessment, trawls from all sanitation districts  
832 were combined to develop a single index of abundance.

833 *Orange County* The Orange County Sanitation District provided trawl data from 1970-  
834 2015 (Jeff Armstrong, Orange County Sanitation District). The trawl net is a 7.6 m wide  
835 Marinovich, semi-balloon otter trawl (2.54 cm mesh) with a 0.64 cm mesh cod-end liner.  
836 Fixed stations are sampled either annually (summer) or semi-annually in the winter and  
837 summer, Quarters 1 and 3 (Jan-March and July-September). From 1970-1985 Quarter 2,  
838 trawl effort was based on a 10 minute tow time. As of 1985 Quarter 3, trawls were towed a  
839 distance of 450 m. Tow time was no available for approximately half of the tows from 1985  
840 Quarter 3 to 2016, and was imputed based on the mean tow time of the sampling station.

841 Eleven stations (T0-T6,T10-T13) sampled in at least 11 year and with California scorpionfish  
842 present in at least 5% of trawls were retained for the analysis (1,490 trawls). For hauls with  
843 fewer than 30 California scorpionfish, each fish was measured to the nearest mm (standard  
844 length). In hauls with more than 30 California scorpionfish, they were tallied by size class  
845 (nearest cm). Six hauls, all from station T3, caught more than 30 California scorpionfish.

846 *City of Los Angeles* The City of Los Angeles Sanitation District provided trawl data from  
847 1986-2016 (Craig Campbell, Lost Angeles City). The City of Los Angeles follows the same  
848 sampling protocols as the Southern California Bight Regional Monitoring Program trawl  
849 survey. Stations within Los Angeles Harbor were excluded from the dataset. Years with  
850 fewer than ten total hauls were removed from the analysis (1986, 1987, and 1992), as were

station sampled in fewer than 10 years. Ten stations (A1, A3, C1, C3, C6, C9A, D1T, Z2, Z3, Z4), total 921 hauls, were retained for the index of abundance.

Tow times were recorded starting in 1999, and assumed to be 10 minutes prior to 1999. Haul depth was missing for approximately half of the hauls, and was imputed as the mean depth of other hauls at that station. All California scorpionfish encountered were measured to the nearest cm (standard length).

*Los Angeles County* The Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County provided quarterly trawl data from 1972-2016 (Shelly Walther, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County) and follow the same sampling protocols as the Southern California Bight Regional Monitoring Program trawl survey Stations sampled in fewer than 10 years or at 305 m where California scorpionfish were never observed were removed from the analysis. Non-standard and special study trawls were also removed, e.g., night trawl study in 1987. Hauls were based on a 10 minute tow time and that is assumed as the effort for all hauls. Twelve stations (stations at 23m, 61m, and 137m for T0, T1, T4, T5), totaling 1,848 hauls were retained after initial filtering. All California scorpionfish encountered were measured to the nearest cm (standard length).

*City of San Diego* The City of San Diego Sanitation District conducts trawls for two permits (Point Loma Ocean Outfall and South Bay Ocean Outfall) and provided data from 1985-2015 (Ami Latker and Robin Gartman, City of San Diego Public Utilities Department).

Stations sampled in fewer than 15 years were filtered from the dataset. Fourteen stations from the Point Loma Ocean Outfall (SD1-SD14) and five stations from the South Bay Ocean Outfall were retained (SD17-21), totaling 1,180 hauls. A tow time of 10 minutes is assumed for all trawls. All California scorpionfish encountered were measured to the nearest cm (standard length).

#### Sanitation Districts Index Standardization

Trawls from all sanitation districts were combined to standardize the index of relative abundance. This is in contrast to the 2005 assessment that standardized each of the sanitation district indices independently and combined them using an inverse variance weighting approach (Maunder et al. 2005). One reason for this was that the 2005 base model going into the STAR panel was five sub-models for the southern California Bight. Taking into consideration that the 2017 base model is a one-area model, all of the sanitation districts follow the same sampling protocols and the sampling design is a fixed station approach, the decision was made to develop a single index. The index was standardized using a delta-GLM approach.

The data were filtered for each sanitation district independently. The filters applied are described in the sections above and summarized in Table 22. The covariates considered for the lognormal and binomial models were *year* (47 levels), *quarter* (4 levels), and *station* (52 levels). A lognormal model for the positives was select over a gamma model by a delta AIC of 619. AIC model select was used for both the lognormal and binomial models and all three covariates were selected for both (Table ??). The standardized index shows a large spike in

relative CPUE in 1981, bounces around within a range of 0.1 to 0.25 from 1989 to 2009, and then declines until 2013 (Figure 18). The last three years of the index show an increase in relative abundance. The final standardized index and log-standard error can be found in Table 24. We did explore standardizing the indices independently. However, this results in a loss of data, as some sanitation district had low sample sizes in some years. The general trend in relative CPUE is similar across sanitation districts.

#### Sanitation Districts Length Composition

Each district measures every fish encountered in their survey. Orange County Sanitation District was the only program sampling in 1970 and 1971 and encountered a small number of California scorpionfish in those years (Figure 20). Los Angeles County has has encountered pulses of large numbers of California scorpionfish in 2002, 2004 and 2005. Figure 21 shows the distribution of lengths for California scorpionfish by 25 m depth bins and Sanitation District. The median length of fish from the City of Los Angeles trawls is smaller than the other two districts. However, there are only 120 in that depth bin, compared to 1,372 fish in the 50-74 m depth bin for the City of Los Angeles (Table 25).

The length composition indicates a fairly consistent size range of fish encountered in the trawl surveys, with a handful of smaller fish in 2016 (Figure 22). Length measurements from all 5,525 hauls of the sanitation districts were combined across sanitation districts. The number of California scorpionfish was slowest during the first few years of the time series, and also declines starting in 2012 (Table 26).

#### NWFSC Trawl Survey Index

The Northwest Fishery Science Center has conducted combined shelf and slope trawl surveys (hereafter referred as NWFSC trawl survey) since 2003, based on a random-grid design from depths of 55 to 1280 meters. Additional details on this survey and design are available in the abundance and distribution reports by Keller et al. (2008). Spatial locations of raw catch rates (in log scale) are shown in Figure 24.

The proportions of positive catch haul and the raw catch rates of positive hauls by depth and latitude are shown in Figure 24 and Figure 25, respectively. These figures show that more scorpionfish were caught at shallow depth zones and in the southern latitude zones. Box plots of length summary data by depth and sex (Figure 27) and by latitude and sex (Figure 27) show no evidences of different spatial distributions (by depth and latitude) by length or by sex.

The numbers of total hauls and percentages of positive catch hauls by depth and latitude zones are presented in Tables 27 and 28, respectively. Summaries of raw catch data by year are listed in Table 29. Overall, catches of scorpionfish by the survey were very low with less than 1mt fish caught during the entire 14 years of the survey. Bubble plots of length frequency distribution by year and sex are presented in Figure 28.

Summaries of age data by year and sex are presented in Table 30. There were more males (n = 529) being aged than females (n = 340), presumably indicating that there are more males

than females in the populations. The table also shows that mean ages and mean lengths for both sexes decreased in recent years. Table 31 show five percentiles of fish aged by sex, indicating more older males in the population. All aged data from the survey were used as conditional age-at-length matrix in the assessment model. The mean age-at-length indicates males and females to have similar growth patterns until around age three, at which time, females are larger than males (Table 32).

Total biomass estimates from the survey were analyzed using the VAST program (Thorson and Barnett 2017). The Q-Q goodness of fit plot and time series of total biomass estimates are shown in Figures 29 and 30, respectively. The Q-Q plots shows generally good fits and the time series of biomass estimates indicates no significant trend with relatively large uncertainties from the survey. The final survey index and log standard error used in the assessment model are in Table 33.

#### CSUN/VRG Gillnet Survey Index

California State University Northridge with Vantuna Research Group (CSUN/VRG) conducted a gillnet survey from 1995-2008 (Daniel Pondela, VRG). Sites along the coast from Santa Barbara to Newport were consistently sampled for the time series, as well as Catalina Island. Gillnet sets from within Marina Del Rey and Catalina Harbor were removed from the analysis.

All gillnets were the same length with six-25' panels (150' in length). The standard sampling gillnet had 1“, 1.5”, 2 square mesh, with each mesh on two panels. Samples were excluded if they were collected using a net other than the standard sampling gear. Other data filters included remove months that were not consistently sampled (Table 34).

Five covariates were considered in the model standardization, *year* (14 levels), *month* (8 levels), *site* (8 levels indicating the sampling site location), *float* (2 levels indicate if floats were used on the gillnet), and *perp/para* (2 levels indicate if the net was set perpendicular or parallel to shore). A lognormal was select over a gamma model for the positive encounters by a delta AIC of 108.29. Covariates selected via AIC for both the lognormal binomial models included *year*, *site*, and *perp/para* (Table 35, Figure 31). The standardized index decreases from 1995-1998 and remains flat until through the early 2000's with three high years at the end of the time series (Figure 32).

The survey measured (standard length) every California scorpionfish encountered, totalling 1,130 fish. The majority of fish encountered were between 14 and 33 cm total length, with no strong trends or patterns in age classes during the time period (Figure ??)

#### Southern California Bight Regional Monitoring Project Trawl Survey

The southern California Coast Water Research Project SCCWRP consists of over 60 agencies in southern California that conduct monitoring of aquatic environments. One of the monitoring

966 programs in the Southern California Bight (SCB) is a trawl survey conducted every five years.  
967 The pilot year of the survey was 1994. Data from each of the survey years (1994, 1998, 2003,  
968 2008, and 2013) were provided by the SCCWRP (Shelly Moore).

969 In each of the five years of the study, sampling stations were chosen via a stratified random  
970 sampling design (Bight '98 Steering Committee 1998). All participating agencies follow the  
971 same protocols (net is towed 10 minutes at a speed of 1.0 m/sec) and use the same net  
972 (semiballoon otter trawl). All fish and invertebrates are identified, counted, batch-weighed,  
973 and measured (standard length to the nearest cm).

974 A series of data filters were applied to the dataset (Table ??). Only two scorpionfish were  
975 encountered in hauls deeper than 450 m. Ninety-five percent of the data were retained for  
976 hauls in shallower than 97 m, which was set as a filter. Stations in harbors (2/114 positive  
977 hauls), north of Ventura (6/190 positive hauls) and the islands (16/117 positive hauls) were  
978 excluded due to low encounters of California scorpionfish. The final dataset included 398  
979 hauls, 129 of which encountered California scorpionfish. The unit of effort for this survey is  
980 in kg per tow time (minutes).

981 Covariates considered for the delta-GLM model were *year* (5 levels), *area* (4 regions), and  
982 *month* (3 levels; July-September). Sampling stations were assigned to one of four regions, 1)  
983 Ventura to Long Beach, 2) Long Beach to Dana Point, 3) Dana Point to San Diego, and 4)  
984 San Diego to the U.S./Mexico Border. A lognormal model was selected over a gamma model  
985 for the positives by a delta AIC of 30. Depth (20-m depth bins) were considered, but none  
986 of the levels were significant in a full lognorml or binomial model and was not considered  
987 further. AIC selection for both the lognormal and binomial models selected all covariates  
988 for the final model (Table 38). The Q-Q plot used to evaluate the goodness-of-fit of the  
989 lognormal portion of the model is in Figures 33.

990 The standardized index of abundance indicates higher relative CPUE in 1994 and 2003, with  
991 the other three years lower (Figure 34). The fact that the survey is conducted every five years  
992 (4 years between the pilot and the 1998 survey), may preclude drawing any firm conclusions  
993 on trends in abundance from this data.

994 The survey measured a total of 427 fish, with the last two years of the survey (2008 and  
995 2013) only encountering 25 and 53 California scorpionfish, respectively.  
996 However, the smallest fish observed in this survey were in 2013 (Figure 35).

997 *Generating Station Impingement Surveys*

998 Data from the southern California generating station surveys were provided by Eric Miller  
999 (MBC Applied Environmental Sciences). The generating stations all draw in seawater  
1000 through an intake system for once-through cooling water. There are five generating stations  
1001 that conduct normal operation and heat treatment surveys with observations of California  
1002 scorpionfish: Scattergood Generating Station (SGS), El Segundo Generating Station (ESGS),  
1003 Redondo Beach Generating Station (RBGS), Huntington Beach Generating Station (HBGS),

1004 and San Onofre Generation Station (SONGS). Each generating station draws in water from  
1005 different depths and distances from shore: SGS draws from 500 m offshore at 6 m depth,  
1006 ESBS draws from 700 m offshore at 9.8 m depth, RBGS draws from 289 m offshore at 13.7 m  
1007 depth, HBGS draws from 500 m offshore at 5 m depth, and SONGS has two intake systems  
1008 960 m and 900 m offshore and at 9 m and 8 m depth, respectively (Miller et al. 2009).

1009 The two surveys conducted are normal operations surveys and heat treatment surveys. For  
1010 normal operations surveys, the intake screens are rotated and cleaned to start the survey. All  
1011 of the impinged fish are washed off the screen at this time and discarded. When the intake  
1012 screens stop running, the survey begins. The generating station then operates as normal for  
1013 24 hours, which includes operating and washing the screens as usual (typically every eight  
1014 hours). The screens are then operated and washed again after a second 24 hours has elapsed.  
1015 Any specimens washed off the screens during the 48 hour study period are retained. The total  
1016 sample is processed to identify, count, weigh, measure the fish and macroinvertebrates. There  
1017 is often no information on the water flow collected during the 48 hour period of the normal  
1018 operations survey. Most fish enter the generating station and swim in the sedimentation  
1019 basin until either getting exhausted or impinged. The SONGS generating station also has a  
1020 fish elevator that releases a fraction of the fish back to the ocean.

1021 At each generating station, cooling water, i.e., seawater, is pumped into the generating station  
1022 where it reaches a sedimentation basin. Water flow is uni-directional, and fish can reside  
1023 in this area, but not escape. During a heat treatment, water in the sedimentation basin is  
1024 heated to over 38 degrees Celsius, killing all fish and invertebrates, and impinging them on  
1025 the travelling screens.

1026 The screens are operated and washed off per normal operating procedures right up until the  
1027 heat treatment takes place. Therefore, only the fish remaining in the sedimentation basin  
1028 and those impinged since the last screen rotation are counted in the heat treatment survey.  
1029 The total flow between heat treatments has previously been used to standardize indices in  
1030 previous reports. However, this is not representative of the flow relating to fish impinged  
1031 during the heat treatment. The water flows vary widely among heat treatments, time of  
1032 year (higher in summer when energy demands increase), and generating stations. Therefore,  
1033 the generating station impingement surveys were not used to develop indices of abundance.  
1034 However, length composition data from the impingement surveys were used.

1035 The length composition data from the impingement show a higher proportion of smaller (<10  
1036 cm) fish since 2012 (Figure 37)

1037 *California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations (CalCOFI) Survey* UCSD Scripps  
1038 Institution of Oceanography, CDFG, and the National Marine Fisheries Service have carried  
1039 out a plankton survey on a regular basis since 1951 (Moser et al. n.d.). Prior to 1965,  
1040 *Scorpaena* samples were not speciated.

1041 California scorpionfish larvae encounters from CalCOFI surveys were provided by Noelle  
1042 Bowlin (NMFS SWFSC). Only 16 positive bongo tows in the core area (lines 77-93) encountered  
1043 California scorpionfish. The majority of the 335 positive bongo tows occurred in Mexico,

1044 south of Punta Eugenia Baja California and are likely a combination of California scorpionfish  
1045 and other *Scorpaena* species. The California scorpionfish egg masses are encountered in  
1046 the CalCOFI surveys, but because California scorpionfish is not a target species they are  
1047 entered in the database as “unidentified eggs” (William Watson, NMFS SWFSC). An index  
1048 of abundance was not developed for the CalCOFI data due to the small sample sizes.

1049 **2.2.4 Biological Parameters and Data**

biological-parameters-and-data

1050 Conversion factors California scorpionfish do not have a forked tail, therefore total length  
1051 and fork length are equal. Love et al. (1987) provide conversion factors between standard  
1052 length (SL) and total length (TL).  $TL = 1.21SL + 1.02$  and  $SL = 0.82TL - 0.69$ .

1053 Standard and total lengths of 163 California scorpionfish were available from a halibut trawl  
1054 survey in southern California (Steve Wertz, CDFW). The conversion from SL to TL from  
1055 these data was estimated at  $TL = 1.2225SL + 0.7773$ .

1056 The conversion originating from the halibut trawl data was used in this assessment due to  
1057 the fact that the original data from Love et al. (1987) are not available.

1058 The majority of available length composition data were measured to total length, except  
1059 for three of the sanitation district trawl surveys, the Southern California Bight Regional  
1060 Monitoring Program trawl survey, and the CSUN/VRG gillnet survey (gillnet survey).  
1061 Maunder et al. (2005) converted all data to standard length due to clumping of data when  
1062 length data are only available to the nearest centimeter. However, the same is true for the  
1063 conversion from TL to SL when data are available to the nearest centimeter. All length data  
1064 for this assessment are in TL. The Sanitation District of Orange county and the VRG gillnet  
1065 study measured SL to the nearest mm.

1066 To avoid missing length bins (specifically 18, 23, 29 cm) in the conversion from SL to TL,  
1067 0.5 was first subtracted from each SL and a random uniform number ( $U[0, 1]$ ) was added to  
1068 the SL measurement. All TL measurements were rounded to the nearest length centimeter  
1069 length bin. A comparison of the length distributions

1070 **Length And Age Compositions**

1071 Include: Sample size information for length and age composition data by area, year, gear,  
1072 market category, etc., including both the number of trips and fish sampled.

1073 Length compositions were provided from the following sources:

- 1074 • CDFW market category study (*commercial dead fish*, 1996-2003)
- 1075 • CALCOM (*commercial dead fish*, 2013-2016)
- 1076 • CDFW onboard observer (*recreational charter discards*, 2003-2016)
- 1077 • Ally onboard observer study (*recreational charter discards*, 1984-1989)

- California recreational sources combined (*recreational charter retained catch*)
  - CDFW and Ally onboard observer surveys (1984-1989)
  - Collins and Crooke onboard observer surveys (1975-1978)
  - MRFSS (1980-2003)
  - CRFS (2004-2014)
- California recreational sources combined (*private mode retained catch*)
  - MRFSS (1980-2003)
  - CRFS (2004-2016)
- Sanitation district trawl surveys (*research*, 1970-2016)
- CSUN/VRG gillnet survey (*research*, 1995-2008)
- Power plant impingement surveys (*research*, 1974-2016)
- Southern California Bight trawl survey (*research*, 1994, 1998, 2003, 2008, 2013)

The length composition of all fisheries aggregated across time by fleet is in Figure 38. Descriptions and details of the length composition data are in the above section for each fleet or survey.

*Recreational: California MRFSS And CRFS Length Composition Data* Individual fish lengths recorded by MRFSS (1980-2003) and CRFS (2004-2011) samplers were downloaded from the RecFIN website ([www.recfi.org](http://www.recfi.org)). CRFS data from 2012-2014 were obtained directly from CDFW.

*Commercial: PacFIN*

**Age Structures** Age data were provided from the NWFSC trawl survey from 2005-2016, and all of the otoliths collected from the survey were aged. Figures 39 and 40 provide examples of California scorpionfish otoliths from ... and ... The otoliths were read (including double-reads) by the Cooperative Ageing Project (CAP) in Newport, Oregon.

A total of 879 otoliths were read, and ranged from 0-29 years of age. Fewer than a 1% (8 fish) were aged 22 years or older, and only one age-0 fish was in the sample (Figure 41).

Sex-specific length-at-age was initially estimated external to the population dynamics models using the von Bertalanffy growth curve (Bertalanffy 1938),  $L_i = L_\infty e^{(-k[t-t_0])}$ , where  $L_i$  is the length (cm) at age  $i$ ,  $t$  is age in years,  $k$  is rate of increase in growth,  $t_0$  is the intercept, and  $L_\infty$  is the asymptotic length.

The external parameter estimates for females were  $L_\infty = 31.613$ ,  $k = 0.250$ ,  $t_0 = -2.280$ , and for males  $L_\infty = 27.374$ ,  $k = 0.233$ ,  $t_0 = -2.092$  (Figure 42).

**Aging Precision And Bias** Uncertainty in ageing error was estimated using a collection of 200 California scorpionfish otoliths with two age reads (43).

Age-composition data used in the model were all from the NWFSC trawl survey and were from otoliths reads aged by the Cooperative Ageing Project (CAP) in Newport, Oregon. All of the otolith reads were from Age Reader A, and double reads were read by Age Reader B.

1115 Ageing error was estimated using publicly available software (Thorson et al. 2012).  
1116 The software setting for bias and standard deviation were the same for both readers, unbiased  
1117 and curvilinear increase in standard deviation with age, respectively (Figure 44). Two fish  
1118 with estimated age greater than 21 (plus group age) were excluded from the ageing error  
1119 estimation. The resulting estimate indicated a standard deviation in age readings increasing  
1120 from 0.001 years to a standard deviation of 1.79 years at age 22.

## 1121 Weight-Length

1122 The weight-length relationship is based on the standard power function:  $W = \alpha(L^\beta)$  where  
1123  $W$  is individual weight (kg),  $L$  is length (cm), and  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are coefficients used as constants.

1124 Sex-specific weight-length relationships were estimated from the NWFSC trawl survey data.  
1125 Length and weight data were available for 340 females and 530 males. The estimated  
1126 parameters for females are  $\alpha = 1.553983e^{-05}$  and  $\beta = 3.057654$ , and for males  $\alpha = 1.9104e^{-05}$   
1127 and  $\beta = 2.980548$ . Love et al. (1987) found males to be heavier at a given length than  
1128 females, whereas the NWFSC data suggest the opposite (Figure 45).

1129 The original data from Love et al. (1987) are no longer available (Milton Love, personal  
1130 communication, UC Santa Barbara) to re-examine the trends. The weight-length relationships  
1131 estimated from the NWFSC survey are consistent with the sex-specific growth rates and are  
1132 used in the assessment model.

## 1133 Maturity And Fecundity

1134 No new information on maturity and fecundity for California scorpionfish are available since  
1135 the publication of the 2005 stock assessment. Few California scorpionfish are mature at age 1,  
1136 but over 50% are mature at age 2 and most are mature at age 3 (Love et al. 1987).

1137 Biological data from California scorpionfish collected from a bi-monthly California halibut  
1138 cross-shelf survey were provided by Steve Wertz at CDFW. The data includes length, sex,  
1139 body weight, and gonad weight from 156 fish, 23 of which were immature.

1140 The proportion mature at length from the survey does not give a good indication of the size  
1141 at maturity (Table ??). The gear used in the survey...

1142 The assessment model assumes

1143 **Natural Mortality** Hamel (2015) developed a method for combining meta-analytic ap-  
1144 proaches to relating the natural mortality rate  $M$  to other life-history parameters such as  
1145 longevity, size, growth rate and reproductive effort, to provide a prior on  $M$ . In that same  
1146 issue of ICESJMS, Then et al. (2015), provided an updated data set of estimates of  $M$  and

related life history parameters across a large number of fish species, from which to develop an  $M$  estimator for fish species in general. They concluded by recommending  $M$  estimates be based on maximum age alone, based on an updated Hoenig non-linear least squares (nls) estimator  $M = 4.899 * A_{max}^{-0.916}$ . The approach of basing  $M$  priors on maximum age alone was one that was already being used for west coast rockfish assessments. However, in fitting the alternative model forms relating  $-0.916M$  to  $A_{max}$ , Then et al. (2015) did not consistently apply their transformation. In particular, in real space, one would expect substantial heteroscedasticity in both the observation and process error associated with the observed relationship of  $M$  to  $A_{max}$ . Therefore, it would be reasonable to fit all models under a log transformation. This was not done. Reevaluating the data used in Then et al. (2015) by fitting the one-parameter  $A_{max}$  model under a log-log transformation (such that the slope is forced to be -1 in the transformed space (as in Hamel (2015)), the point estimate for  $M$  is:

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

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

## Sex ratios

The sex ratio from the aged California scorpionfish for this assessment were approximately 60% males and 40% females. These fish all came from the NWFSC trawl survey from 2005-2016.

### 2.2.5 Environmental Or Ecosystem Data Included In The Assessment

[environmental-or-ecosystem-data-included-in-the-assessment](#)

## 2.3 History Of Modeling Approaches Used For This Stock

[history-of-modeling-approaches-used-for-this-stock](#)

### 2.3.1 Previous Assessments

[previous-assessments](#)

### 2.3.2 2005 Assessment Recommendations

[assessment-recommendations](#)

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

### Recommendation 1: The sanitation surveys conducted to track the impact of sewage outfall provided a fishery independent index of abundance for

1173 scorpionfish. This data source should be more fully explored for other  
1174 near-shore species of recreational or commercial interest. Methods should  
1175 be developed to produce a more statistically rigorous index from the  
1176 separate surveys.

1177

1178 STAT response: Data from all sanitation districts in southern California were obtained  
1179 for this assessment. All of the data were pooled across surveys to develop one index of  
1180 abundance using the delta-GLM method

1181 **Recommendation 2: An age, growth and maturity study for scorpionfish is**  
1182 **needed. Although there has been previous research on scorpionfish age and**  
1183 **growth, the available information is not appropriate for stock assessment**  
1184 **modeling.**

1185

1186 STAT response: Age data are available from the NWFSC trawl survey from 2005-2016.  
1187 There have been no additional studies on growth or maturity for California scorpionfish  
1188 since the 2005 assessment.

1189 **Recommendation 3: Location information for the historic groundfish data of all**  
1190 **species is currently available, in hard copy form only, from the California**  
1191 **Department of Fish and Game. Putting this information into electronic**  
1192 **format would greatly improve the ability to assign catches of all species to**  
1193 **specific stocks on a trip-by-trip basis.**

1194

1195 STAT response: The location-specific catches referred to above have been key-punched  
1196 and are available in electronic form from the SWFSC, Santa Cruz.

1197 **Recommendation 4: The SS2 model should be modified to allow for projections**  
1198 **of user-specified recruitment at user defined values. It would be most**  
1199 **helpful if the default harvest policies were then recalculated automatically**  
1200 **for these user-specified recruitments.**

1201

1202 STAT response: The status of this within Stock Synthesis is unknown.

## 1203 2.4 Model Description

model-description

### 1204 2.4.1 Transition To The Current Stock Assessment

transition-to-the-current-stock-assessment

1205 Include: Complete description of any new modeling approaches

1206 Below, we describe the most important changes made since the last full assessment and  
1207 explain rationale for each change.:

- 1208 1. Change No. 1. *Rationale*: blah blah blah.  
1209 2. Change No. 2. *Rationale*: blah blah blah.  
1210 3. Change No. 3. *Rationale*: Continue list as needed.

1211 **2.4.2 Definition of Fleets and Areas**

definition-of-fleets-and-areas

1212 We generated data sources for each of the models. Fleets by model include:

1213 **Model Region 1 or remove this line if only one model**

1214 *Commercial*: The commercial fleets include...

1215 *Recreational*: The recreational fleets include...

1216 *Research*: Research derived-data include...

1217 **2.4.3 Summary of Data for Fleets and Areas**

summary-of-data-for-fleets-and-areas

1218 **2.4.4 Modeling Software**

modeling-software

1219 The STAT team used Stock Synthesis 3 version 3.30.0.4 by Dr. Richard Methot at the NWFSC.  
1220 This most recent version was used, since it included improvements and corrections to older  
1221 versions. The r4SS package (GitHub release number v1.27.0) was used to post-processing  
1222 output data from Stock Synthesis.

1223 **2.4.5 Data Weighting**

data-weighting

1224 Citation for Francis method (Francis 2011)  
1225 Citation for Ianelli-McAllister harmonic mean method (McAllister and Ianelli 1997)

1226 **2.4.6 Priors**

priors

1227 Citation for Hamel prior on natural mortality (Hamel 2015)

1228 **2.4.7 General Model Specifications**

general-model-specifications

1229 Model data, control, starter, and forecast files can be found in Appendices A-D.

1230 **2.4.8 Estimated And Fixed Parameters**

estimated-and-fixed-parameters

1231 A full list of all estimated and fixed parameters is provided in Tables.... Estimated and fixed  
1232 parameters tables currently read in from .csv file, EXAMPLE: Table ??

1233 **2.5 Model Selection and Evaluation**

model-selection-and-evaluation

1234 **2.5.1 Key Assumptions and Structural Choices**

key-assumptions-and-structural-choices

1235 Include: Evidence of search for balance between model realism and parsimony.

1236 Comparison of key model assumptions, include comparisons based on nested models (e.g.,  
1237 asymptotic vs. domed selectivities, constant vs. time-varying selectivities).

1238 **2.5.2 Alternate Models Considered**

alternate-models-considered

1239 Include: Summary of alternate model configurations that were tried but rejected.

1240 **2.5.3 Convergence**

convergence

1241 Include: Randomization run results or other evidence of search for global best estimates.

1242 Convergence testing through use of dispersed starting values often requires extreme values to  
1243 actually explore new areas of the multivariate likelihood surface. Jitter is a SS option that  
1244 generates random starting values from a normal distribution logically transformed into  
1245 each parameter's range (Methot 2015). Table 42 shows the results of running 100 jitters for  
1246 each pre-STAR base model....

1247 **2.6 Response To The Current STAR Panel Requests**

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

1248 **Request No. 1: Add after STAR panel.**

1249

1250       **Rationale:** Add after STAR panel.  
1251       **STAT Response:** Add after STAR panel.

1252   **Request No. 2: Add after STAR panel.**

1253  
1254       **Rationale:** Add after STAR panel.  
1255       **STAT Response:** Add after STAR panel.

1256   **Request No. 3: Add after STAR panel.**

1257  
1258       **Rationale:** Add after STAR panel.  
1259       **STAT Response:** Add after STAR panel.

1260   **Request No. 4: Example of a request that may have a list:**

1261  
1262       • **Item No. 1**  
1263       • **Item No. 2**  
1264       • **Item No. 3, etc.**

1265       **Rationale:** Add after STAR panel.  
1266       **STAT Response:** Continue requests as needed.

1267   **2.7 Model 1**

model-1

1268   **2.7.1 Model 1 Base Case Results**

model-1-base-case-results

1269   Table ??

1270   **2.7.2 Model 1 Uncertainty and Sensitivity Analyses**

model-1-uncertainty-and-sensitivity-analyses

1271   Table 43

1272 **2.7.3 Model 1 Retrospective Analysis**

model-1-retrospective-analysis

1273 **2.7.4 Model 1 Likelihood Profiles**

model-1-likelihood-profiles

1274 **2.7.5 Model 1 Harvest Control Rules (CPS only)**

model-1-harvest-control-rules-cps-only

1275 **2.7.6 Model 1 Reference Points (groundfish only)**

model-1-reference-points-groundfish-only

1276 Intro sentence or two....(Table 44).

1277 Equilibrium yield at the proxy  $F_{MSY}$  harvest rate corresponding to shows the full suite of  
1278 estimated reference points for the northern area model and Figure j shows the equilibrium  
1279 yield curve.

1280 **3 Harvest Projections and Decision Tables**

harvest-projections-and-decision-tables

1281 Table f

1282 **Model 1 Projections and Decision Table (groundfish only) (Table 45**

1283 Table h

1284 **Model 2 Projections and Decision Table (groundfish only)**

1285 **Model 3 Projections and Decision Table (groundfish only)**

1286 **4 Regional Management Considerations**

regional-management-considerations

- 1287 1. For stocks where current practice is to allocate harvests by management area, a  
1288 recommended method of allocating harvests based on the distribution of biomass should  
1289 be provided. The MT advisor should be consulted on the appropriate management  
1290 areas for each stock.
- 1291 2. Discuss whether a regional management approach makes sense for the species from a  
1292 biological perspective.
- 1293 3. If there are insufficient data to analyze a regional management approach, what are the  
1294 research and data needs to answer this question?

<sub>1295</sub> **5 Research Needs**

research-needs

- <sub>1296</sub> 1. Research need No. 1
- <sub>1297</sub> 2. Research need No. 2
- <sub>1298</sub> 3. Research need No. 3
- <sub>1299</sub> 4. etc.

<sub>1300</sub> **6 Acknowledgments**

acknowledgments

<sub>1301</sub> Include: STAR panel members and affiliations as well as names and affiliations of persons  
<sub>1302</sub> who contributed data, advice or information but were not part of the assessment team. Not  
<sub>1303</sub> required in draft assessment undergoing review. We thank Kevin Lee for the use of the cover  
<sub>1304</sub> photo for this document.

## 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	<b>8,590</b>

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	<b>5792.29</b>	<b>8000.45</b>	

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	tab:Fleet5_RecPC_CPFVlogbook_filter	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		<b>432,868</b>

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	<b>1854652</b>	

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 ( $\pm 2$ or $\pm 109.5$ ).	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	<b>3,099</b>

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	<b>2436.3</b>	
Year + Month + County	<b>3091.8</b>	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	<b>26,733</b>

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	<b>18318.92</b>	<b>8769.844</b>

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	<b>20453.43</b>	<b>10599.42</b>

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	<b>5,257</b>

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	<b>6130.94</b>	<b>6252.71</b>

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: sdfdsf

Year	Fish	Trips	Mean length (cm)	NA	NA	tab:Fleet7_lengthdepth
City of Los Angeles	120	0	1372	0	1492	
Los Angeles County	687	0	5879	450	7016	
Orange County	161	669	2157	48	3035	
City of San Diego	0	404	333	829	1566	

Table 26: sdf

Program	0-24 m	25-49 m	50-74m	100+ m	Total	NA	NA	tab:Fleet7_lengths
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1970	36	5	23.80					
1971	23	8	23.42					
1972	77	28	24.52					
1973	108	30	25.31					
1974	57	31	29.05					
1975	54	25	28.76					
1976	61	37	26.88					
1977	93	53	24.70					
1978	83	32	24.48					
1979	340	100	23.15					
1980	352	107	23.23					
1981	388	97	24.31					
1982	631	103	25.43					
1983	118	64	26.67					
1984	72	41	26.17					
1985	109	67	26.46					
1986	171	105	24.73					
1987	276	143	24.80					
1988	278	174	23.94					
1989	203	138	25.38					
1990	230	120	25.82					
1991	162	95	26.03					
1992	204	121	26.41					
1993	275	155	24.06					
1994	299	177	24.01					
1995	371	207	23.29					
1996	489	215	23.36					
1997	458	229	23.94					
1998	358	178	23.89					
1999	461	240	24.10					
2000	319	209	23.84					
2001	510	266	24.27					
2002	1552	203	23.81					
2003	376	206	24.80					
2004	801	199	25.25					
2005	1292	253	24.92					
2006	844	271	24.72					
2007	242	152	25.01					
2008	212	145	24.43					
2009	211	140	23.61					
2010	125	89	24.76					
2011	131	107	23.87					
2012	53	40	25.68					
2013	11	11	23.71					
2014	40	36	25.84					
2015	59	46	22.92					
2016	31	28	19.53					

Table 27: 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 28: 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 29: 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 30: 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	No. aged	Female		Male		
		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
<b>Sum</b>	<b>340</b>			<b>529</b>		

Table 31: 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
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

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Table 32: Mean age at length (cm) and number of fish aged by sex for California scorpionfish from the NWFSC trawl survey.

Age	Female		Male	
	Mean length	Fish	Mean length	Fish
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 33: 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 34: 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 35: 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	<b>2010.078</b>	<b>1004.1</b>

Table 36: 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 37: 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, north of Ventura and islands (few scorpionfish)	129	<b>398</b>

Table 38: 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	<b>486.55</b>	<b>337.87</b>

Table 39: 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 40: 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

Continued on next page

Table 40: 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_ftt_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 40: 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 40: 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 41: Summary of the biomass/abundance time series used in the stock assessment.

Fleet	Years	Name	Fishery ind.	Filtering	Method	<small>\#</small> <code>tab:Index_summary</code>
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 42: 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 44: 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 44: 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 44: 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 43: 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_Unfished_thousand_mt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TotBio_Unfished	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SmryBio_Unfished	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recr_Unfished_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 45: 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)	Depletion
2017	252.19	252.19	1604.93	493.51	0.56

# 8 Figures

figures

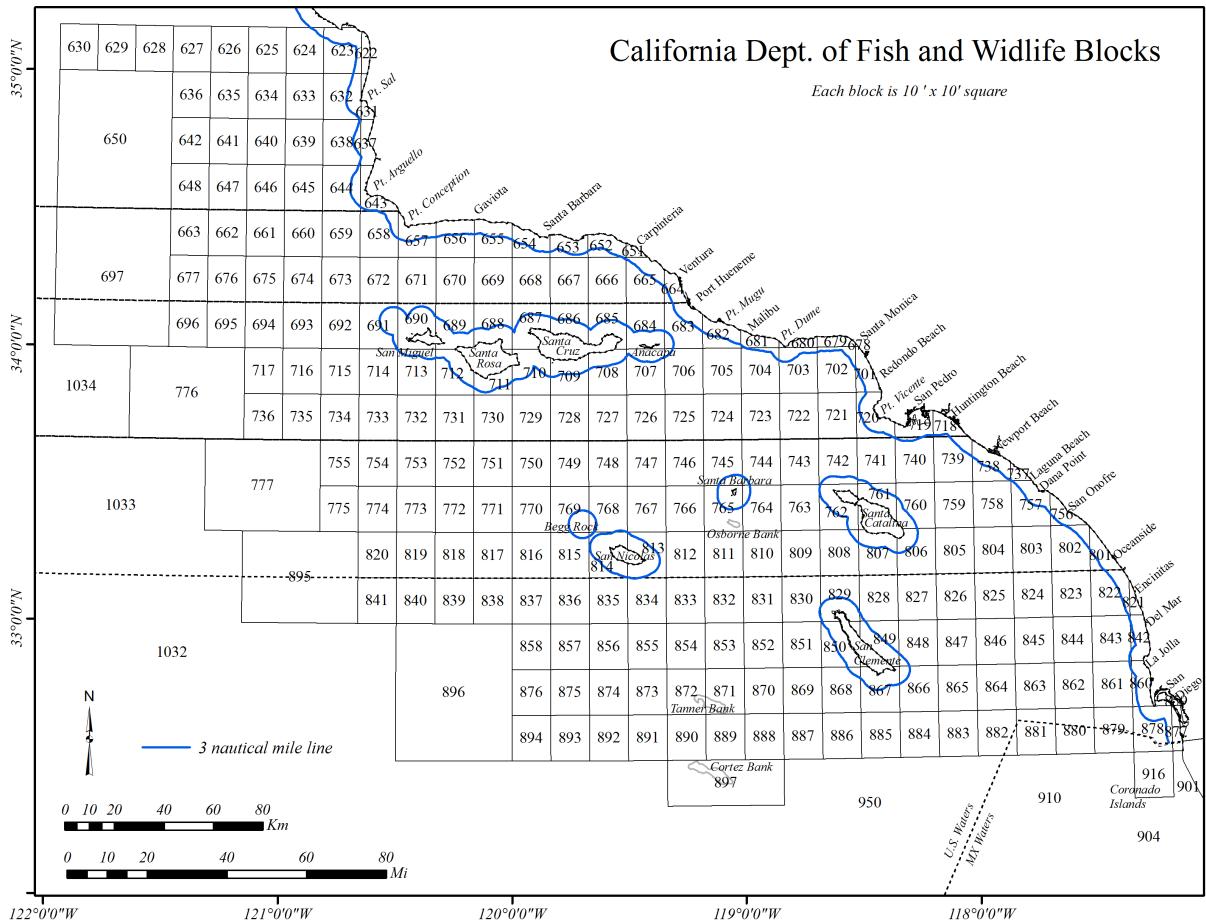


Figure 1: Map showing the state boundary lines for management of the recreational fishing fleets. CRFS Districts 1-6 in California are presented as well as the WDFW Recreational Management Areas in Washington. Florence, OR is shown as a potential location of model stratification.

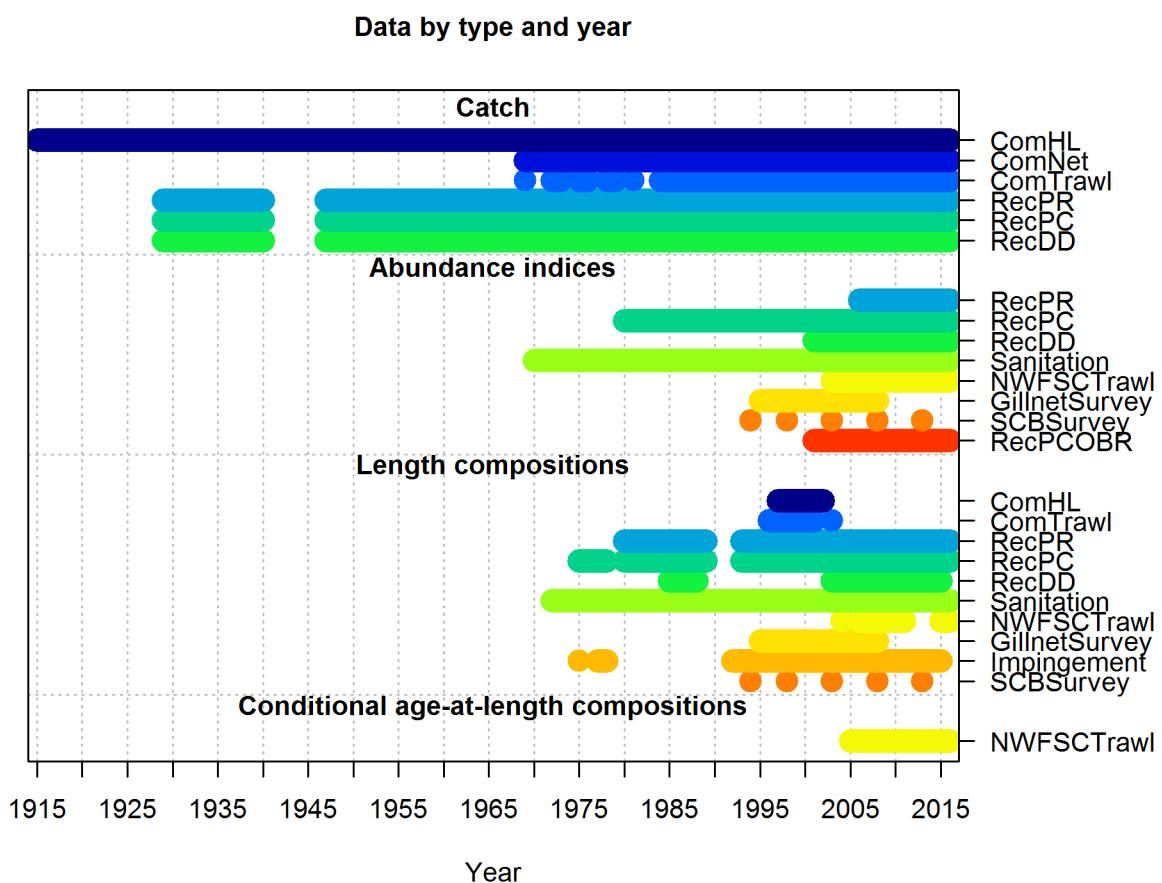


Figure 2: Summary of data sources used in the base model. fig:data\_plot

Year	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
1994						
1995						
1996						
1997						LE = 80,000 lb/ month; OA = 40,000 lb/ month
1998						
1999						
2000	CLOSED					
2001	CLOSED					
2002	CLOSED					
2003	800	CLOSED	800	800	CLOSED	CLOSED
2004	300	CLOSED	300	400	400	300
2005	300	CLOSED	300	400	400	300
2006	300	CLOSED	300	400	400	300
2007	600	CLOSED	600	800	800	600
2008	600	CLOSED	600	800	800	600
2009	600	CLOSED	600	1,200	1,200	1,200
2010	600	CLOSED	600	1,200	1,200	1,200
2011	600	CLOSED	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
2012	1,200	CLOSED	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
2013	1,200	CLOSED	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
2014	1,200	CLOSED	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
2015	1,200	CLOSED	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
2016	1,200	CLOSED	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
2017	1,500	CLOSED	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500

Figure 3: Commercial fishery regulations pertaining to limited entry (LE) and open access (OA) fisheries in southern California. Blocks with a numeric value indicate the bi-monthly trip limit for both LE and OA fisheries. <sup>fig:Com\_regs</sup>

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

Figure 4: 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

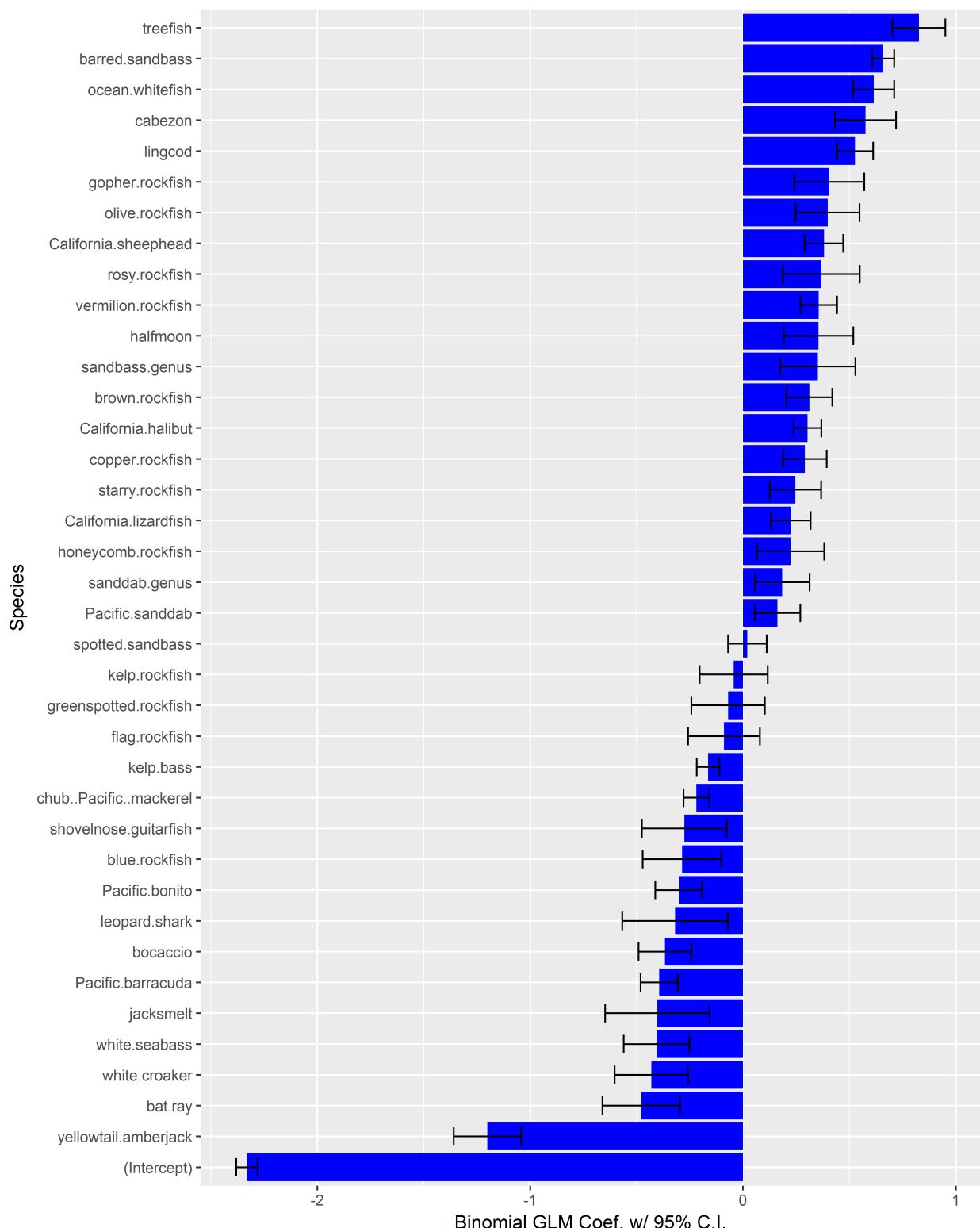


Figure 5: Species coefficients from the binomial GLM for presence/absence of California scorpionfish in the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) private mode dockside survey data set. Horizontal bars are 95% confidence intervals. fig:Fleet4\_RecPR\_dockside\_SM

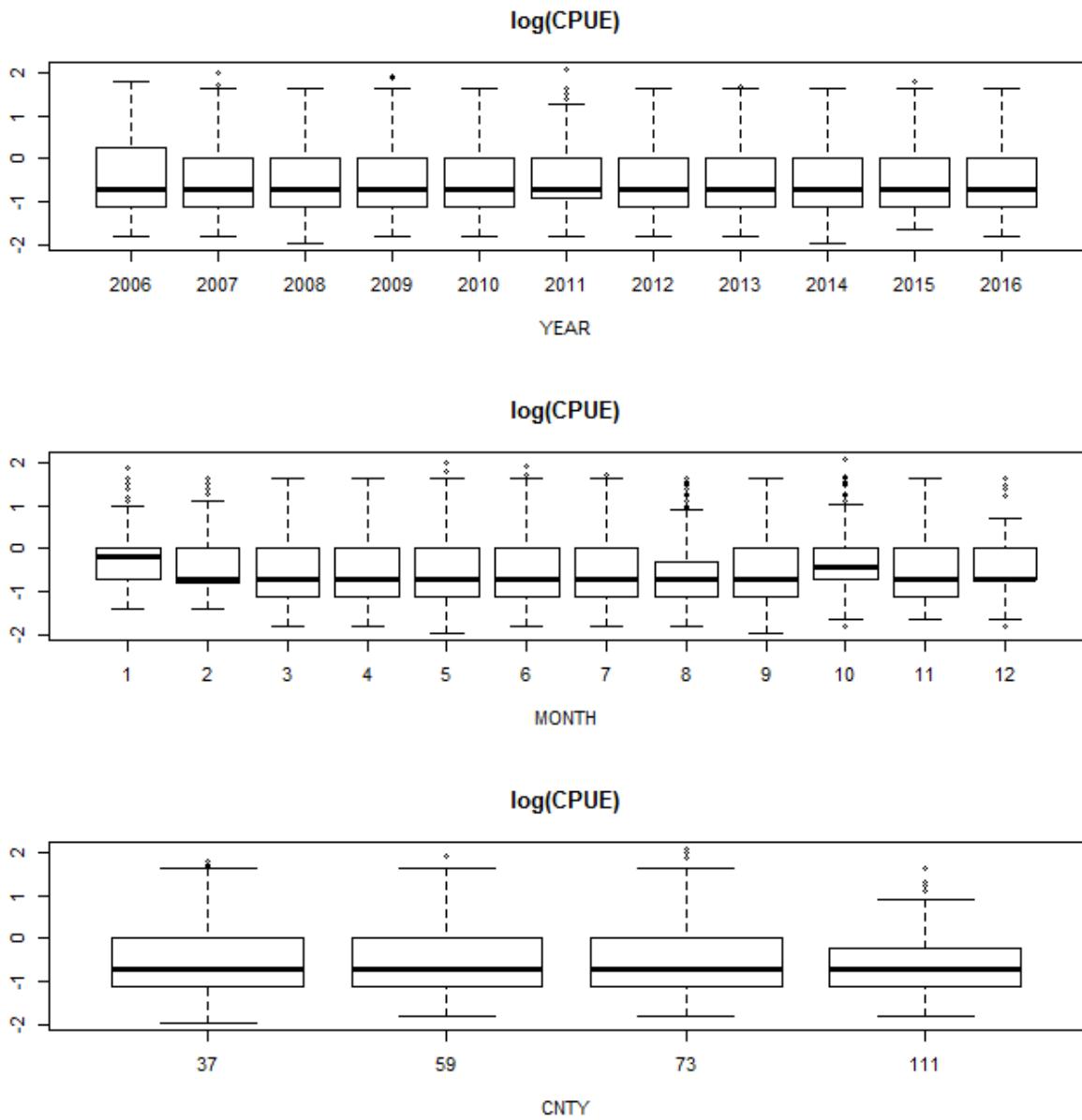


Figure 6: Boxplots of the raw log CPUE by year for each of the three factors considered in the deltaGLM model, county, month and year. [fig:Fleet4\\_RecPR\\_docksides\\_lograwCPUE](#)

### Normal Q-Q Plot

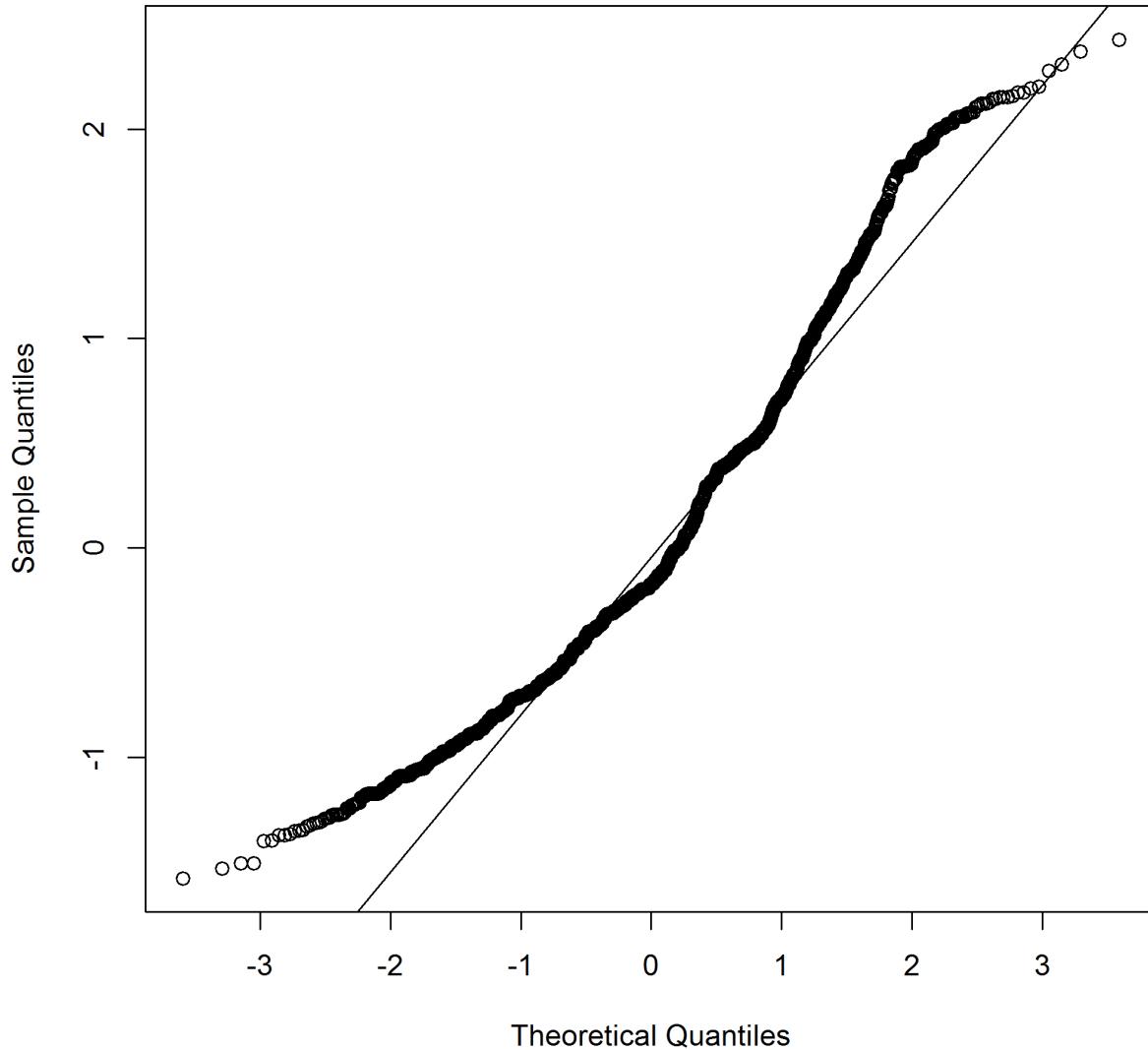


Figure 7: Q-Q plot used to evaluate the fit of the lognormal (positive encounters) of California scorpionfish from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) private mode dockside survey data set. fig:Fleet4\_RecPR\_dockside\_QQ

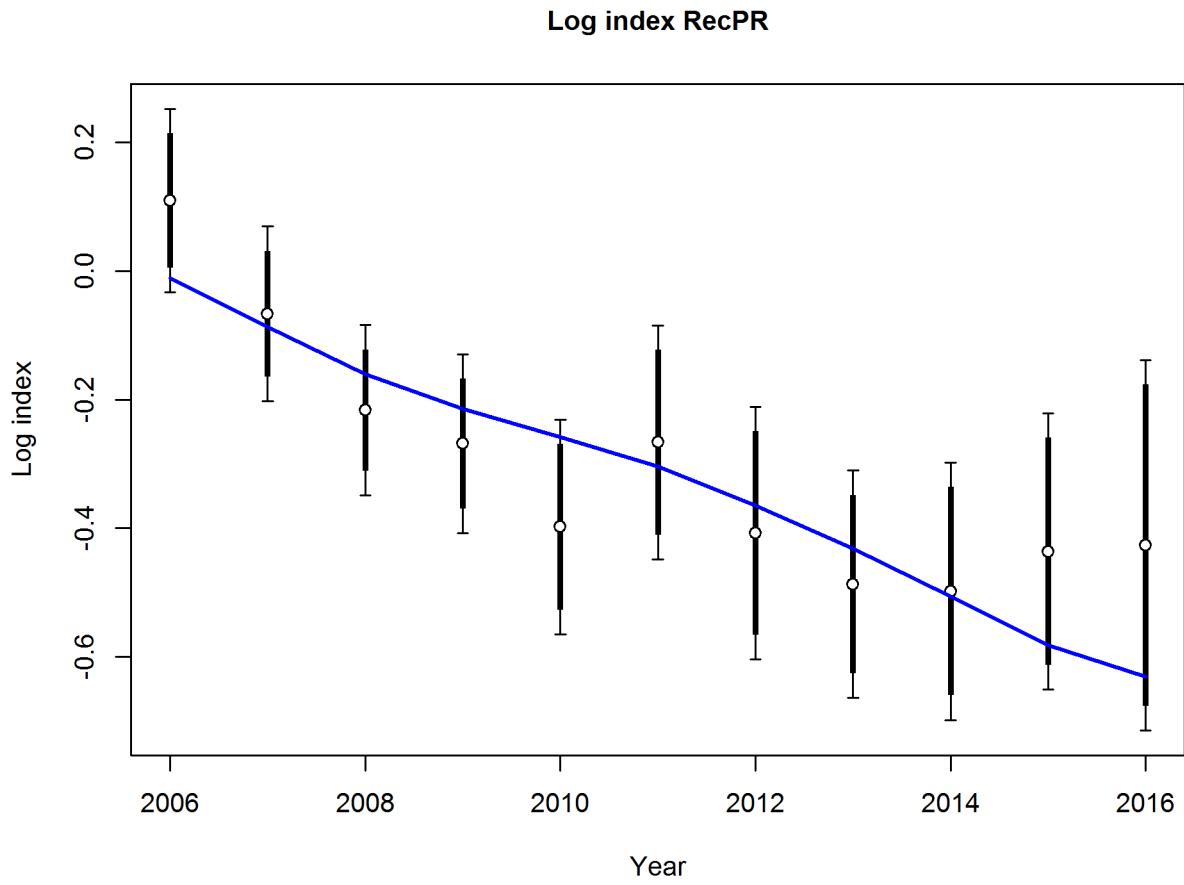


Figure 8: Fit to log index data on log scale for the recreational CPFV logbook retained catches. Lines indicate 95% uncertainty interval around index values. Thicker lines indicate input uncertainty before addition of estimated additional uncertainty parameter. fig:index5\_logcpuefit

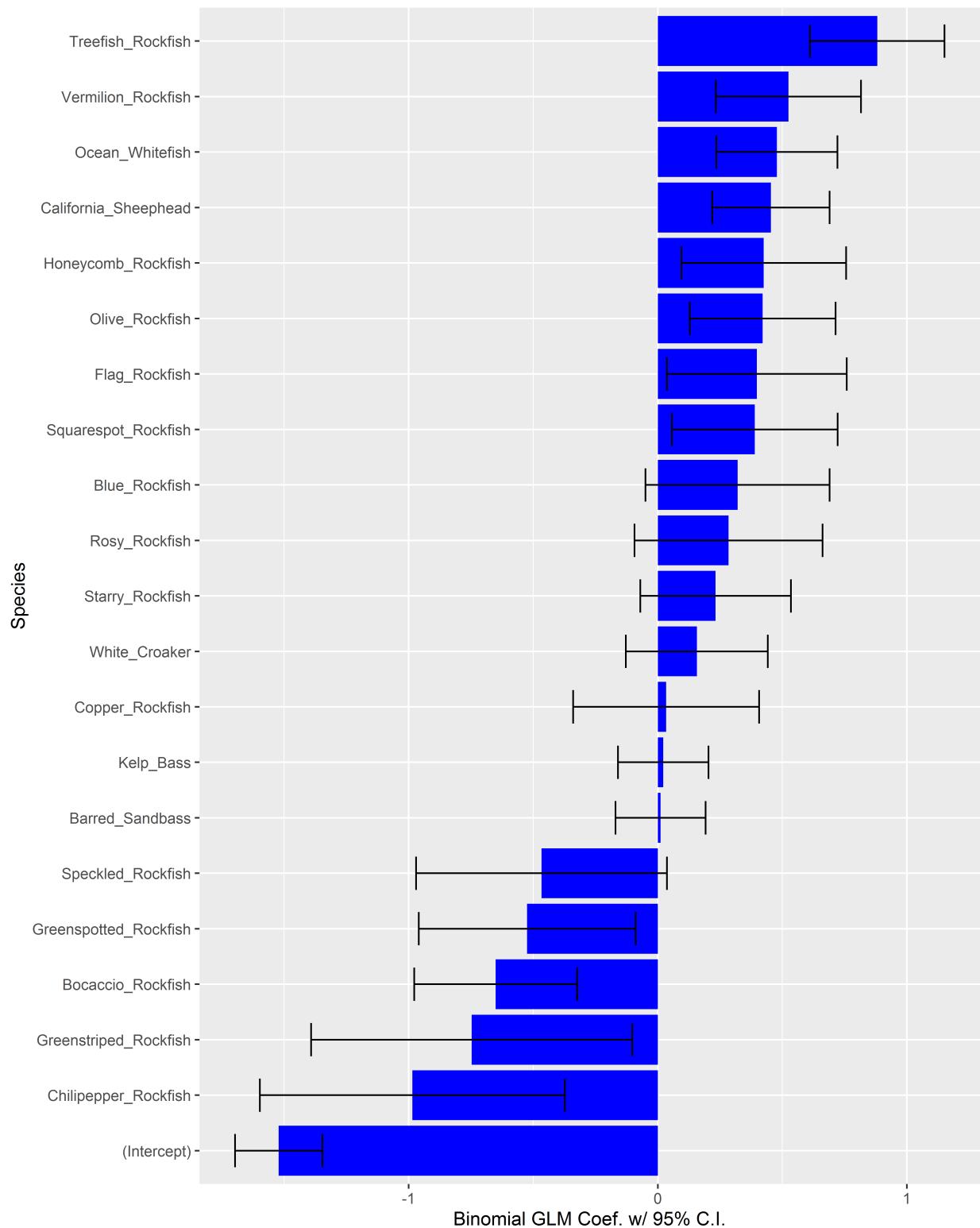


Figure 9: Species coefficients from the binomial GLM for presence/absence of California scorpionfish in the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) party/charter mode dockside survey data set. Horizontal bars are 95% confidence intervals. [fig:Fleet5\\_RecPC\\_dockside](#)

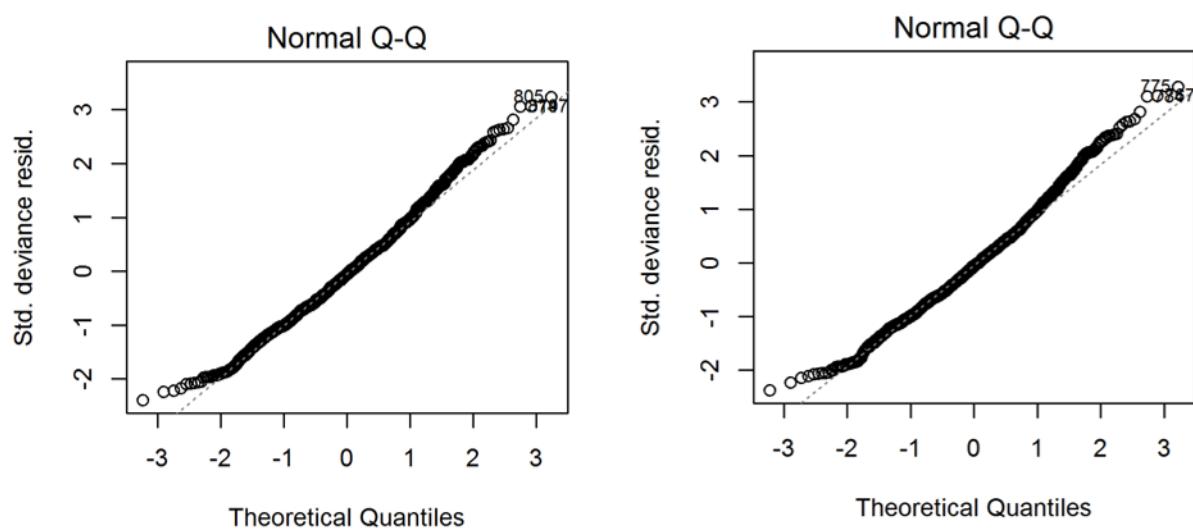


Figure 10: Q-Q plot used to validate the goodness of fit of the lognormal portion (positive catch) of the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) party/charter dockside survey, for thresholds of 0.27 (left) and 0.10 (right) from the Stephens-MacCall filter. fig:Fleet5\_RecPC\_

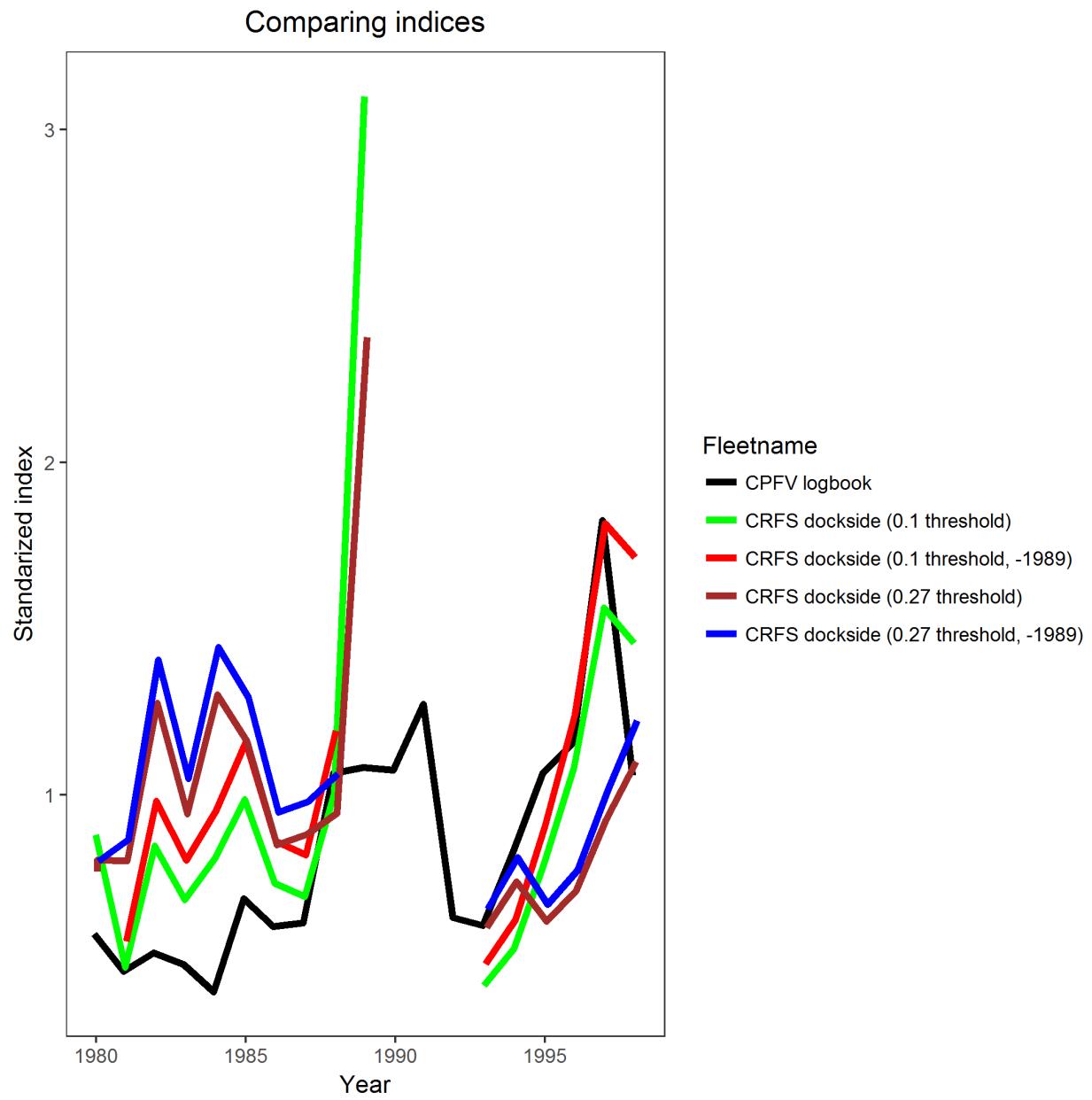


Figure 11: Comparison of standardized indices using two different threshold levels (0.27 and 0.1) from the Stephens-MacCall filtering, and including or excluding the year 1989.

### Log index RecPC

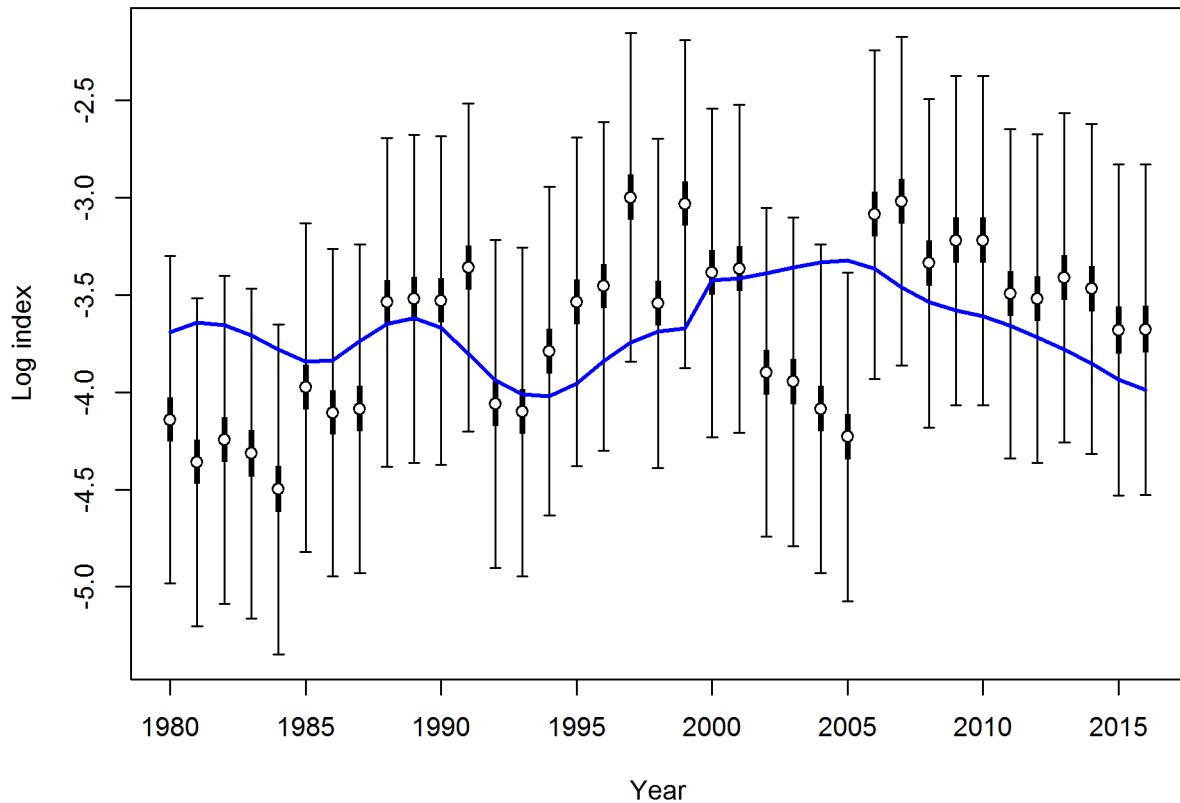


Figure 12: Fit to log index data on log scale for the recreational CPFV logbook retained catches. Lines indicate 95% uncertainty interval around index values. Thicker lines indicate input uncertainty before addition of estimated additional uncertainty parameter. fig:index5\_logcpuefit

### Normal Q-Q Plot

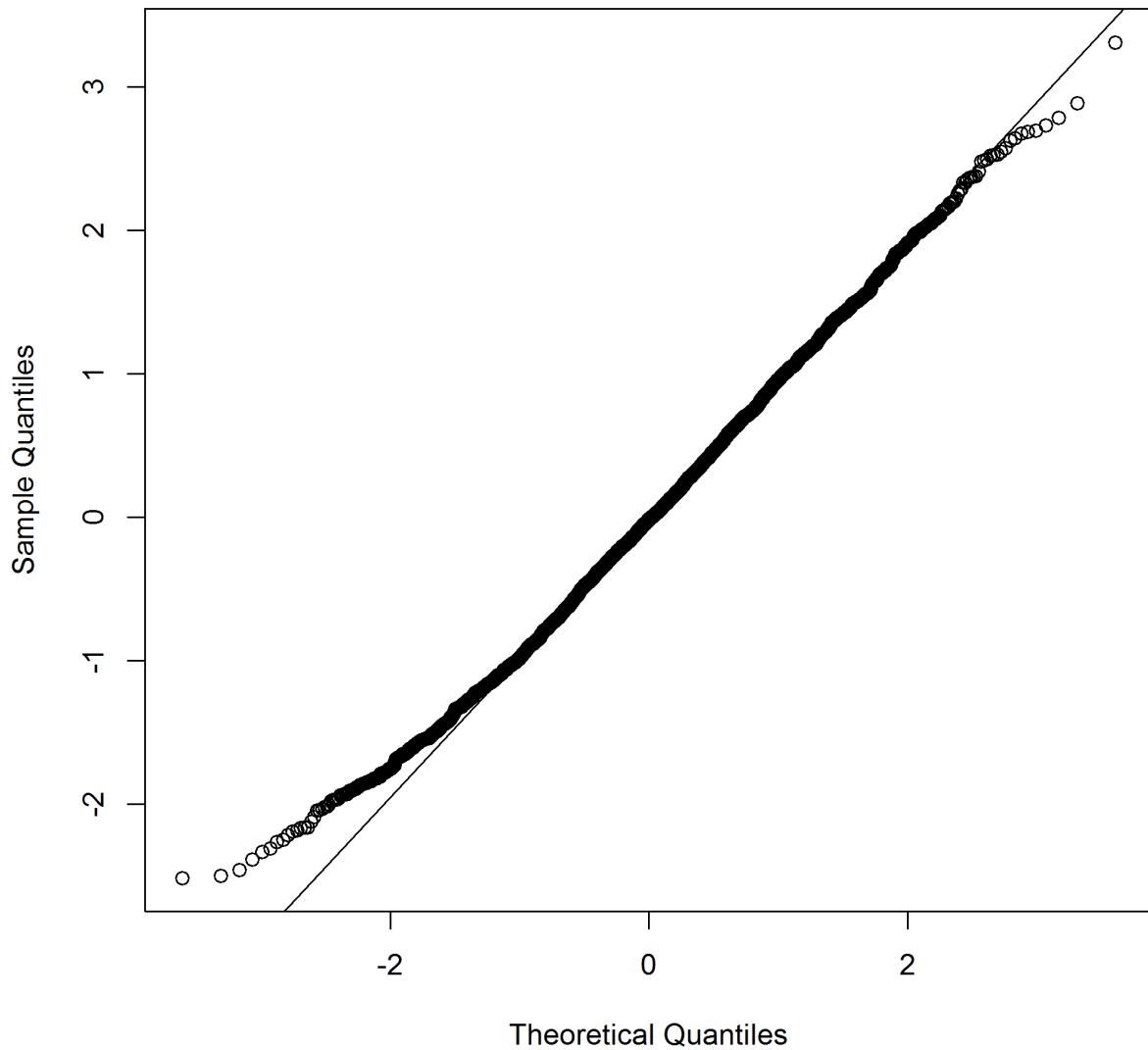


Figure 13: Q-Q plot used to validate the goodness of fit of the lognormal model for the CPFV onboard observer discarded only catch. [Fig:Fleet6\\_RecDD\\_QQ](#)

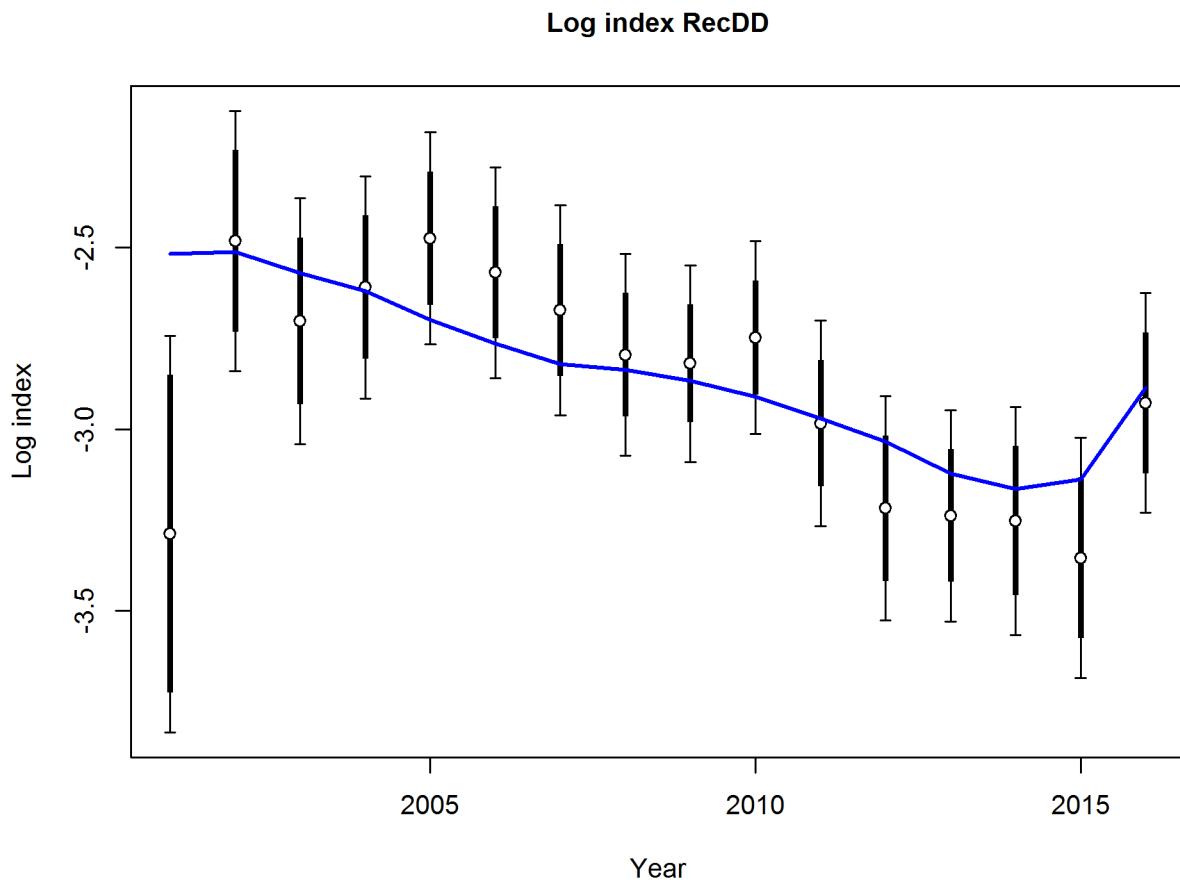


Figure 14: Fit to log index data on log scale for the recreational CPFV onboard observer discarded catch index. Lines indicate 95% uncertainty interval around index values. Thicker lines indicate input uncertainty before addition of estimated additional uncertainty parameter.  
`fig:Fleet6_index5_logcpuefit_RecDD`

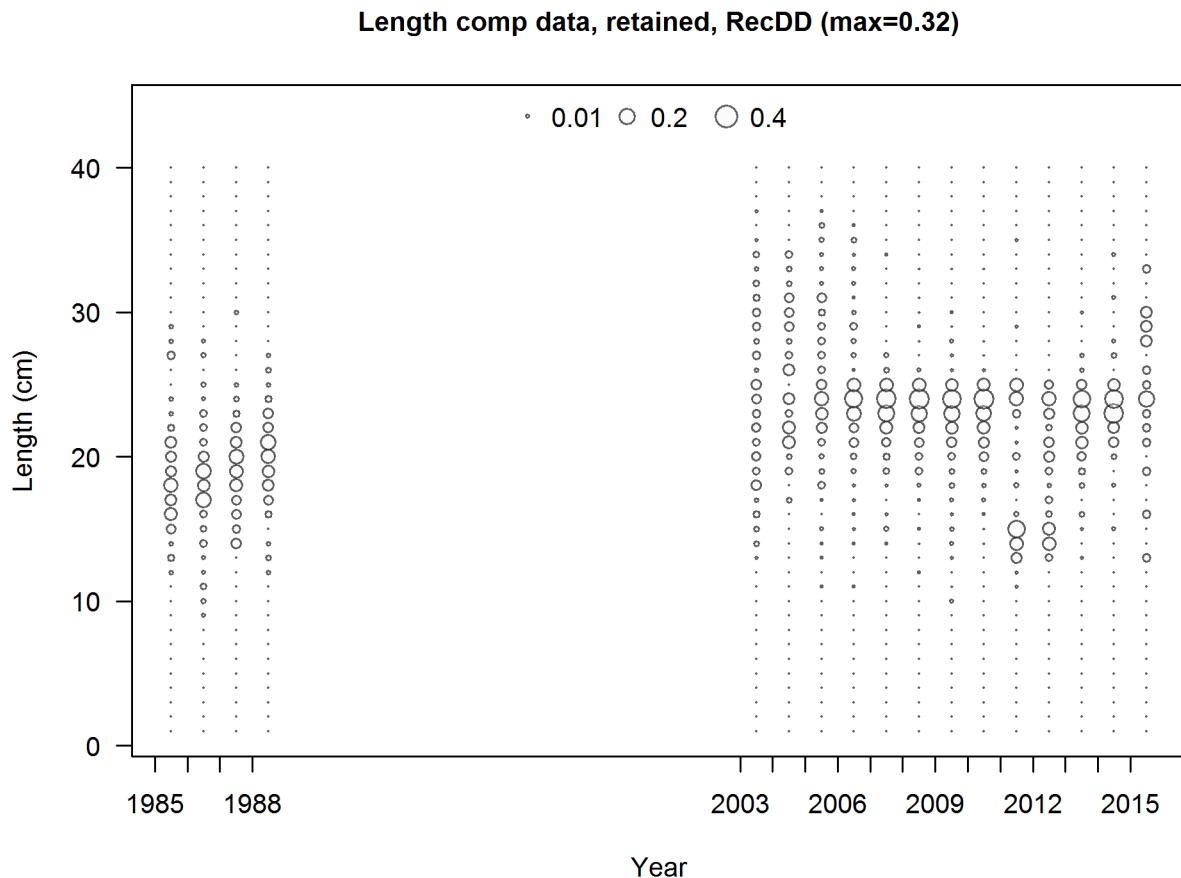


Figure 15: Length frequency distributions from the sanitation districts trawl surveys. `fig:Fleet6_comp`

### Normal Q-Q Plot

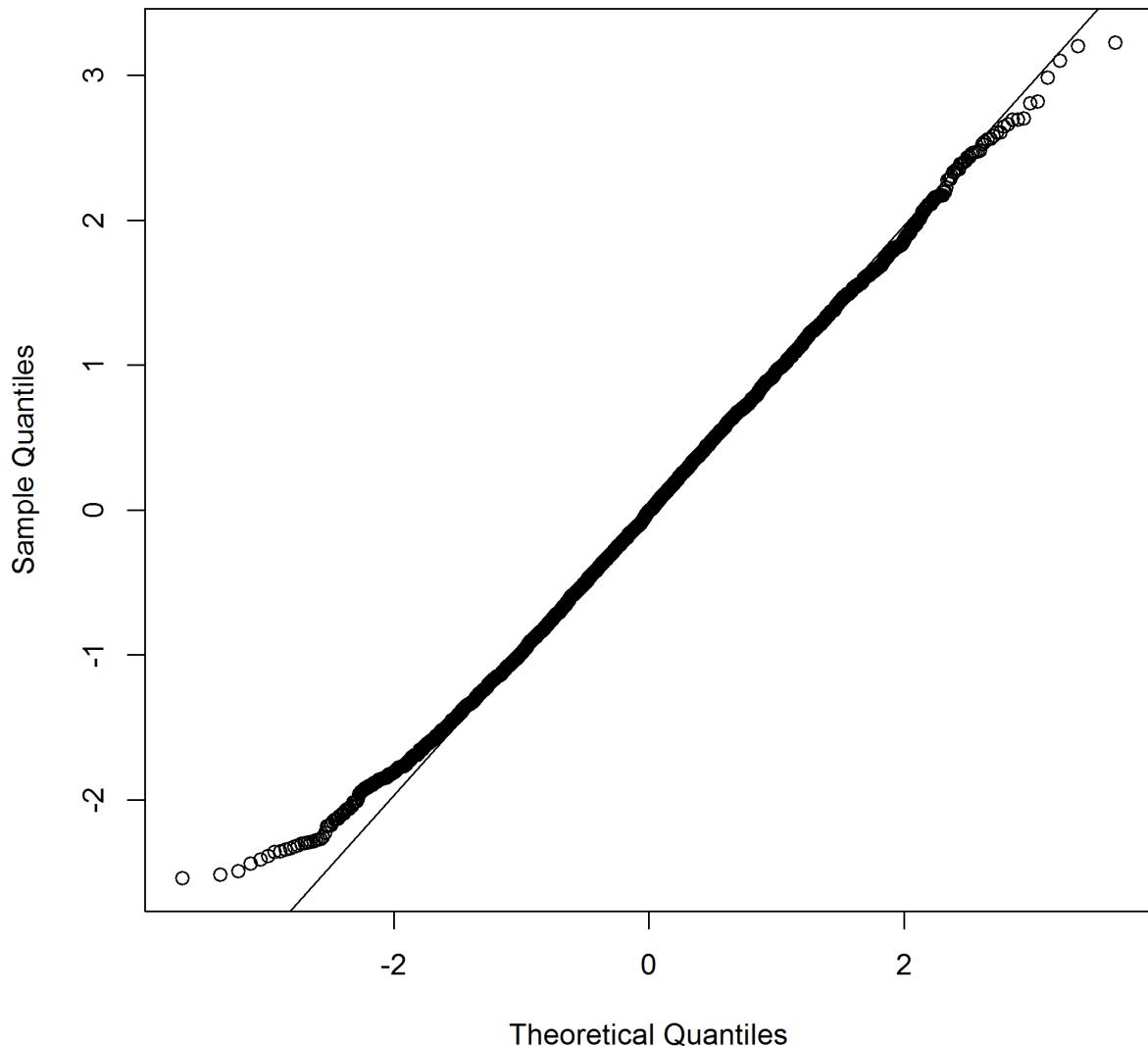


Figure 16: Q-Q plot used to validate the goodness of fit of the lognormal model for the CPFV onboard observer retained only catch. fig:Fleet12\_RecPCOB\_R\_QQ

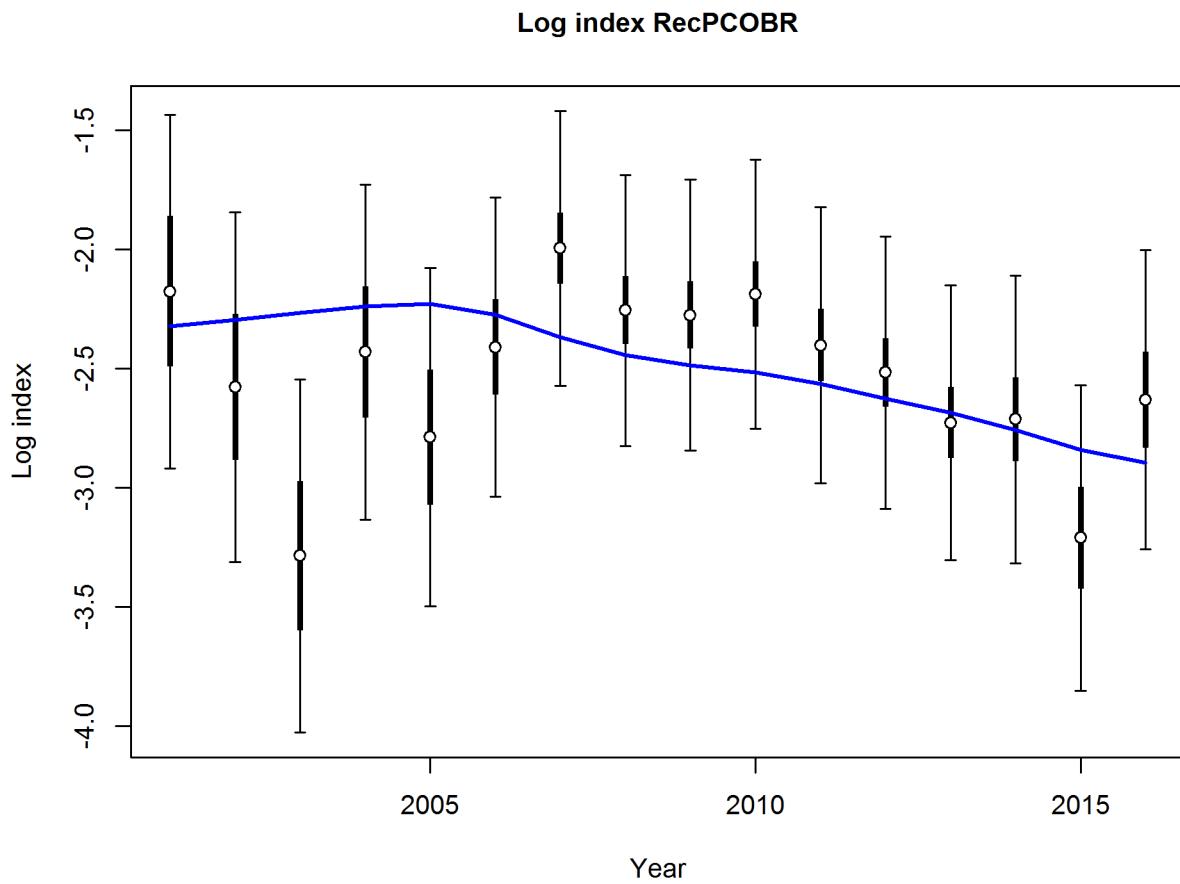


Figure 17: Fit to log index data on log scale for the recreational CPFV onboard observer retained catch index. Lines indicate 95% uncertainty interval around index values. Thicker lines indicate input uncertainty before addition of estimated additional uncertainty parameter.  
`fig:Fleet12_index5_logcpuefit_RecPCOBR`

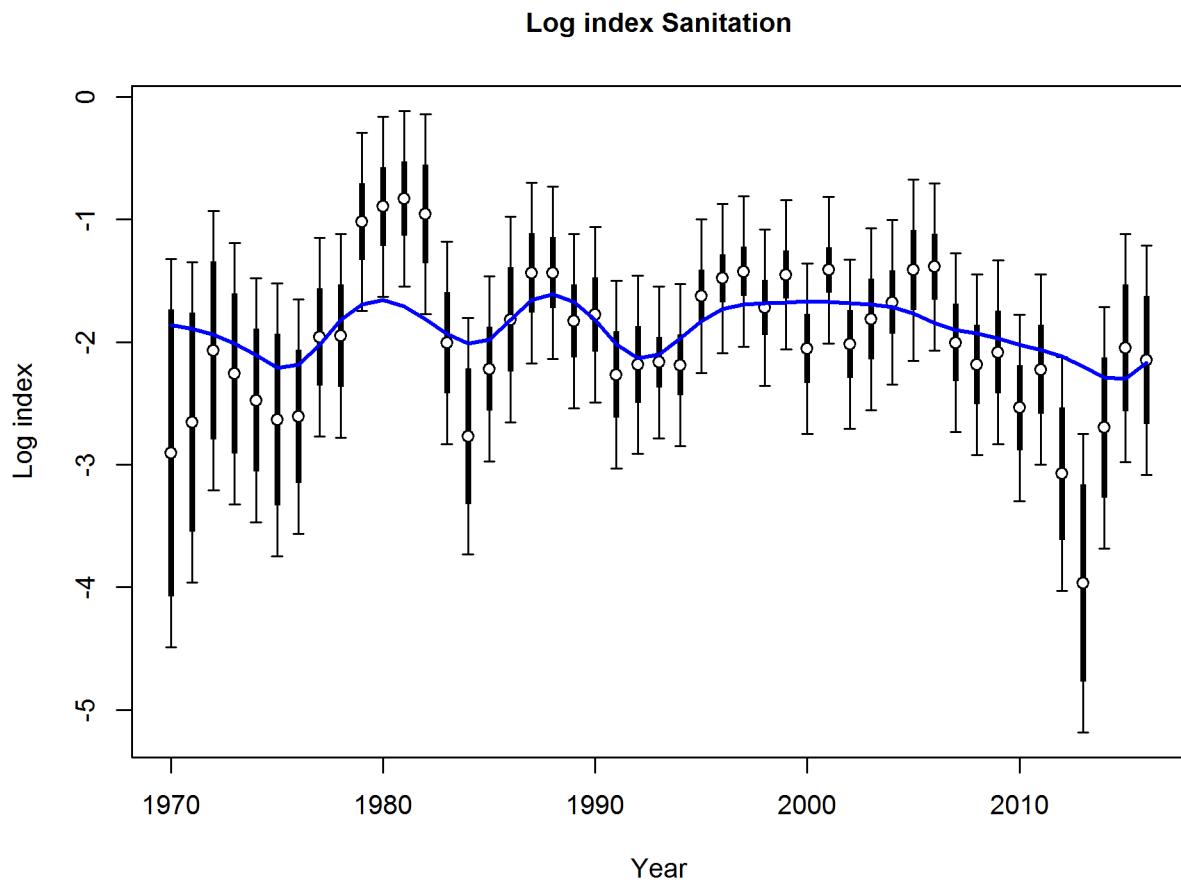


Figure 18: Fit to log index data on log scale for the recreational CPFV onboard observer discarded catch index. Lines indicate 95% uncertainty interval around index values. Thicker lines indicate input uncertainty before addition of estimated additional uncertainty parameter.  
`fig:index5_logcpuefit_Sanitation`

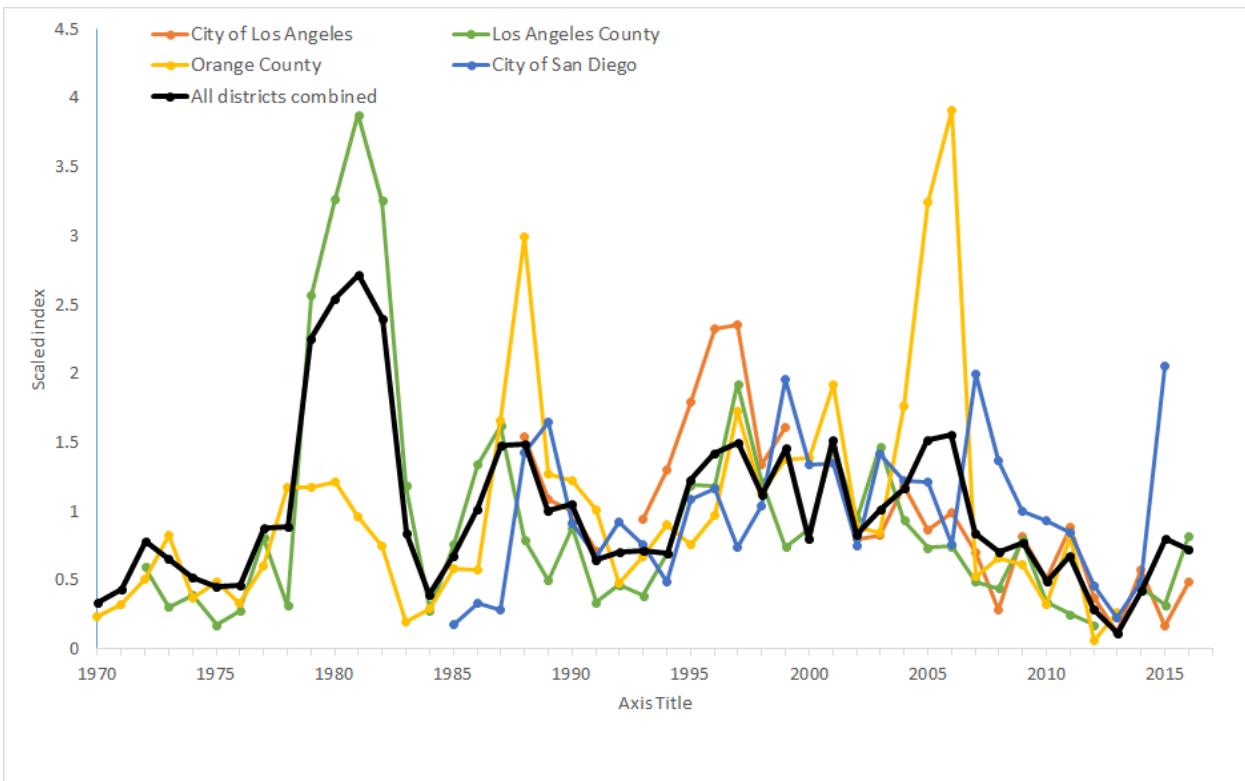


Figure 19: Comparison of standardized indices for each sanitation district independently and with data from all sanitation districts combined. [fig:Fleet7\\_Sanitation\\_indexcompare](#)

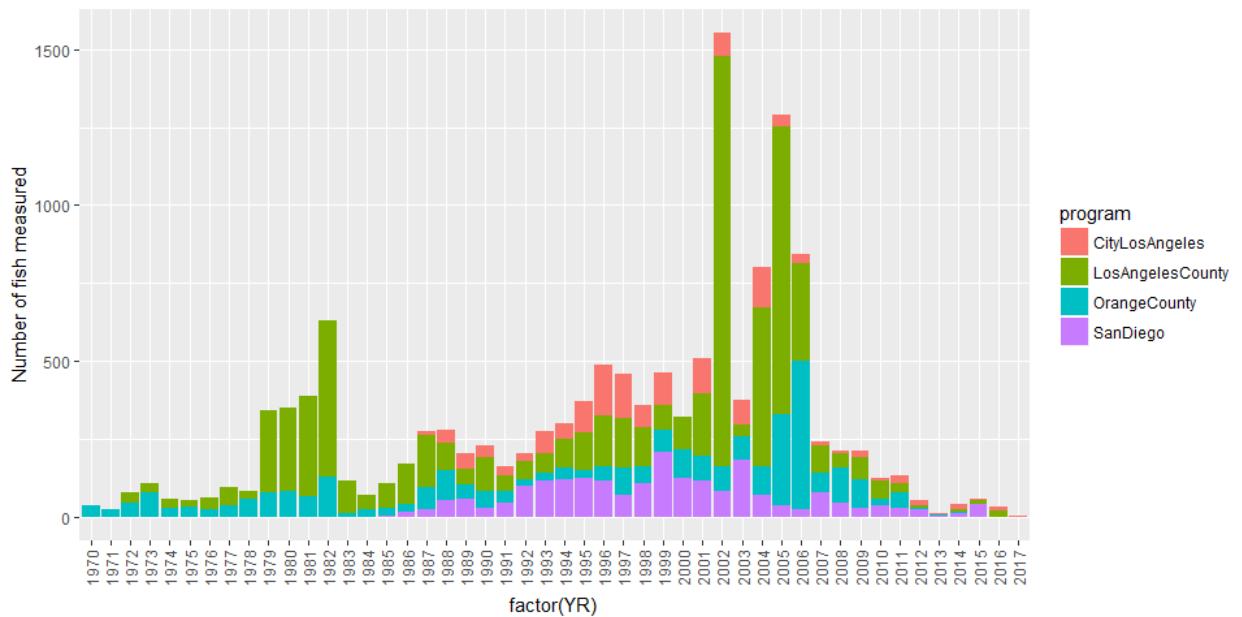


Figure 20: Sample sizes of measured California scorpionfish by sanitation district and year. [fig:Fleet7\\_Sa](#)

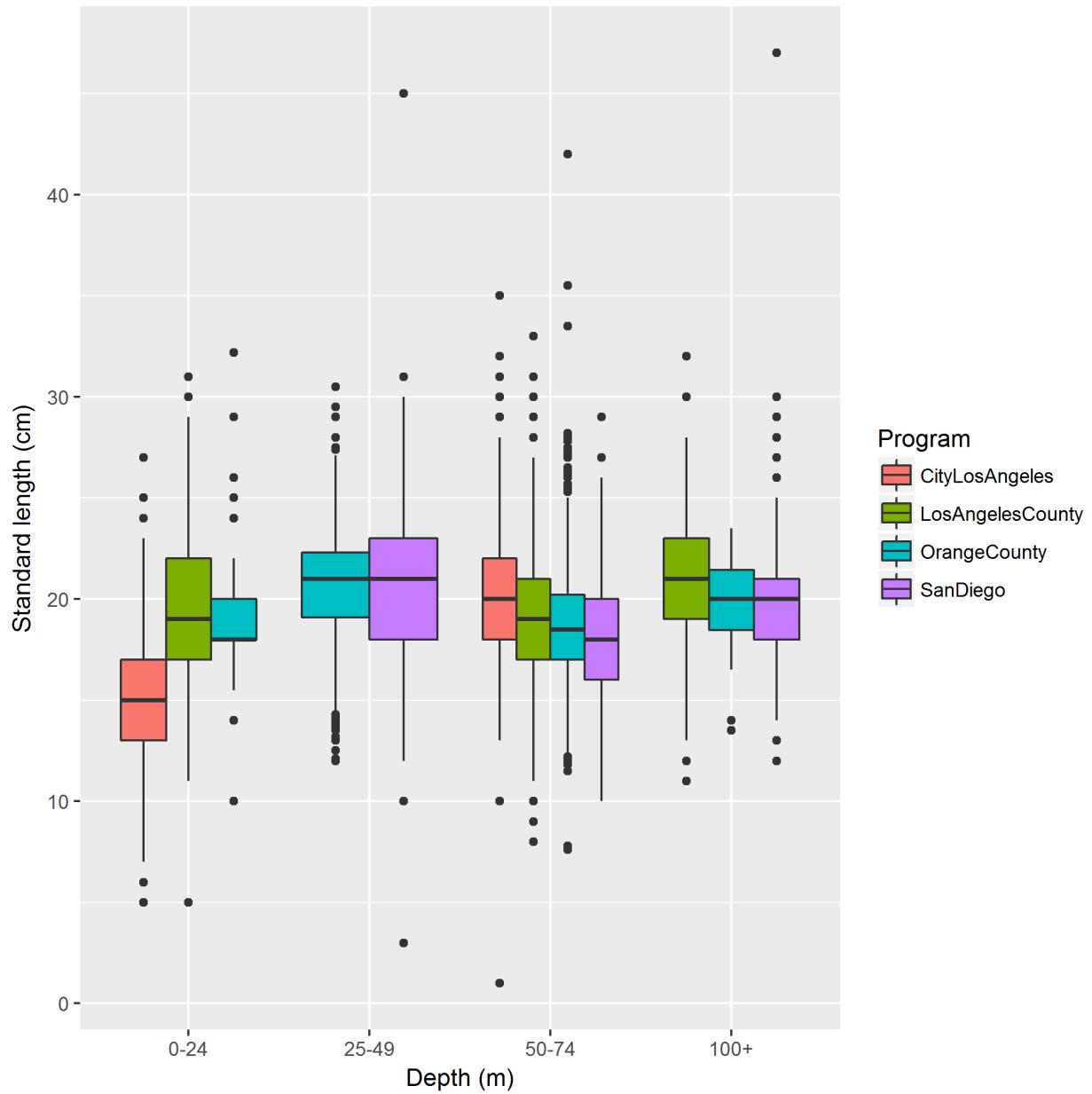


Figure 21: Boxplots of measured California scorpionfish from the sanitation district surveys by program and 25 m depth bins. [fig:Fleet7\\_Sanitation\\_Lengthboxplots](#)

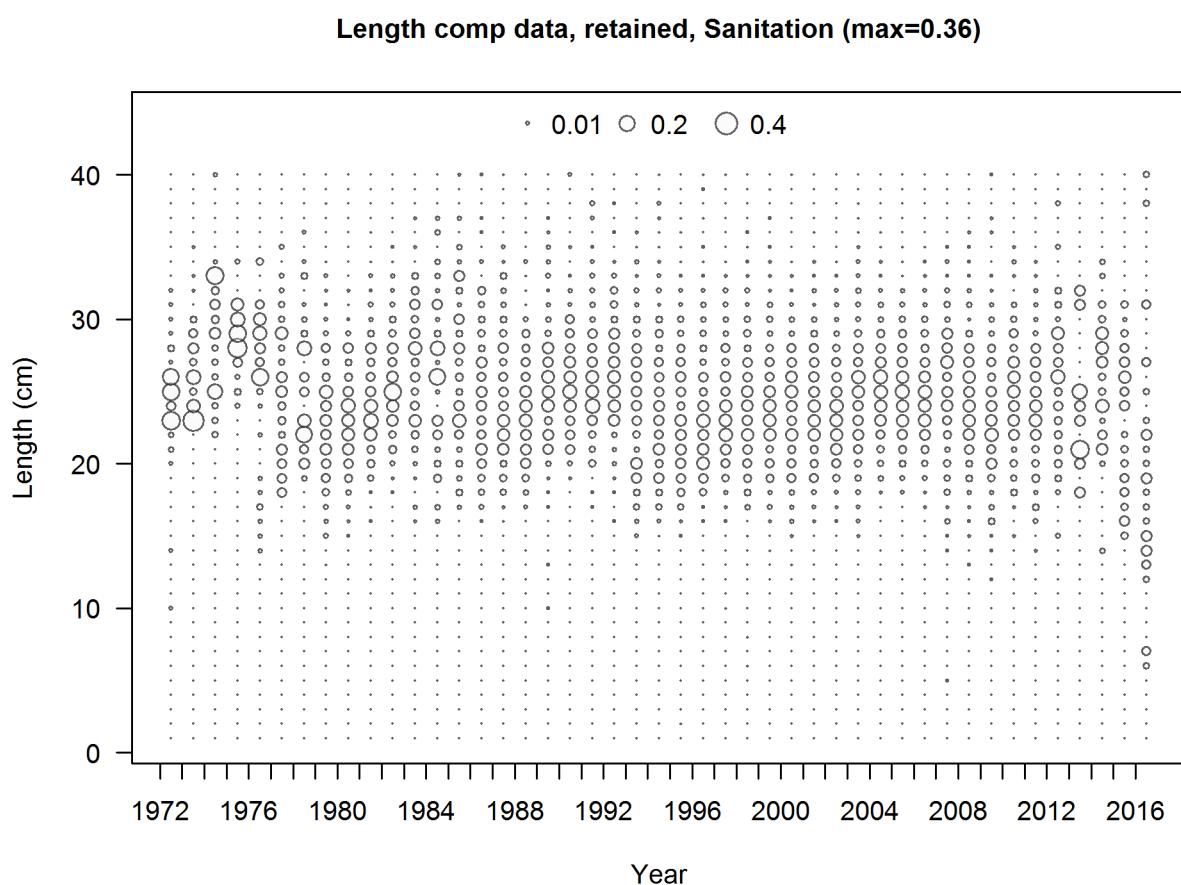


Figure 22: Length frequency distributions from the sanitation districts trawl surveys. `fig:Fleet7_comp`

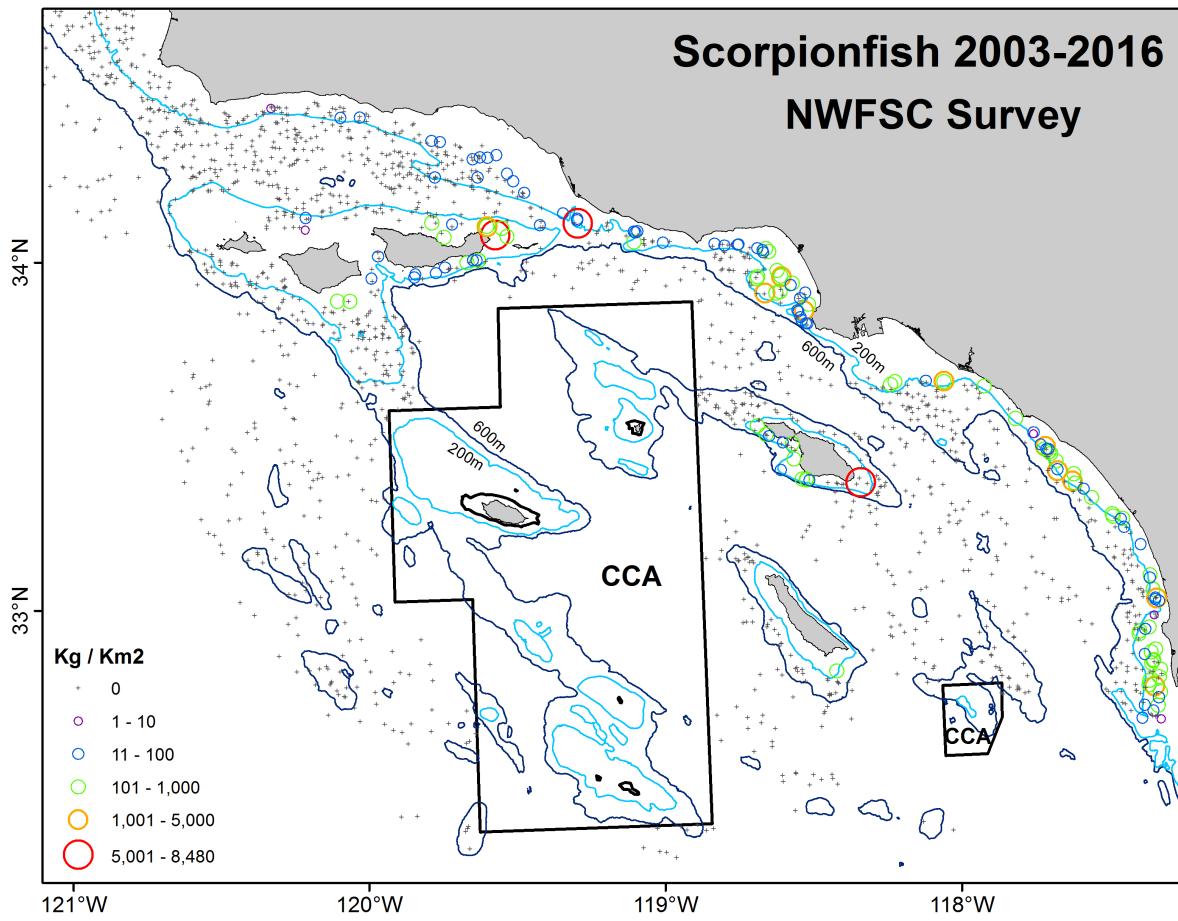


Figure 23: Spatial distribution of raw catch rates of Scorpionfish from NWFSC trawl survey between 2003 and 2016. Depth contour lines of 200m and 600m and the CAC areas are shown. Note that sizes and colors of circles represent catch rate in log scales (Credit of Rebecca Miller, SWFSC). [fig:Fleet8\\_NWFSCtrawl\\_map](#)

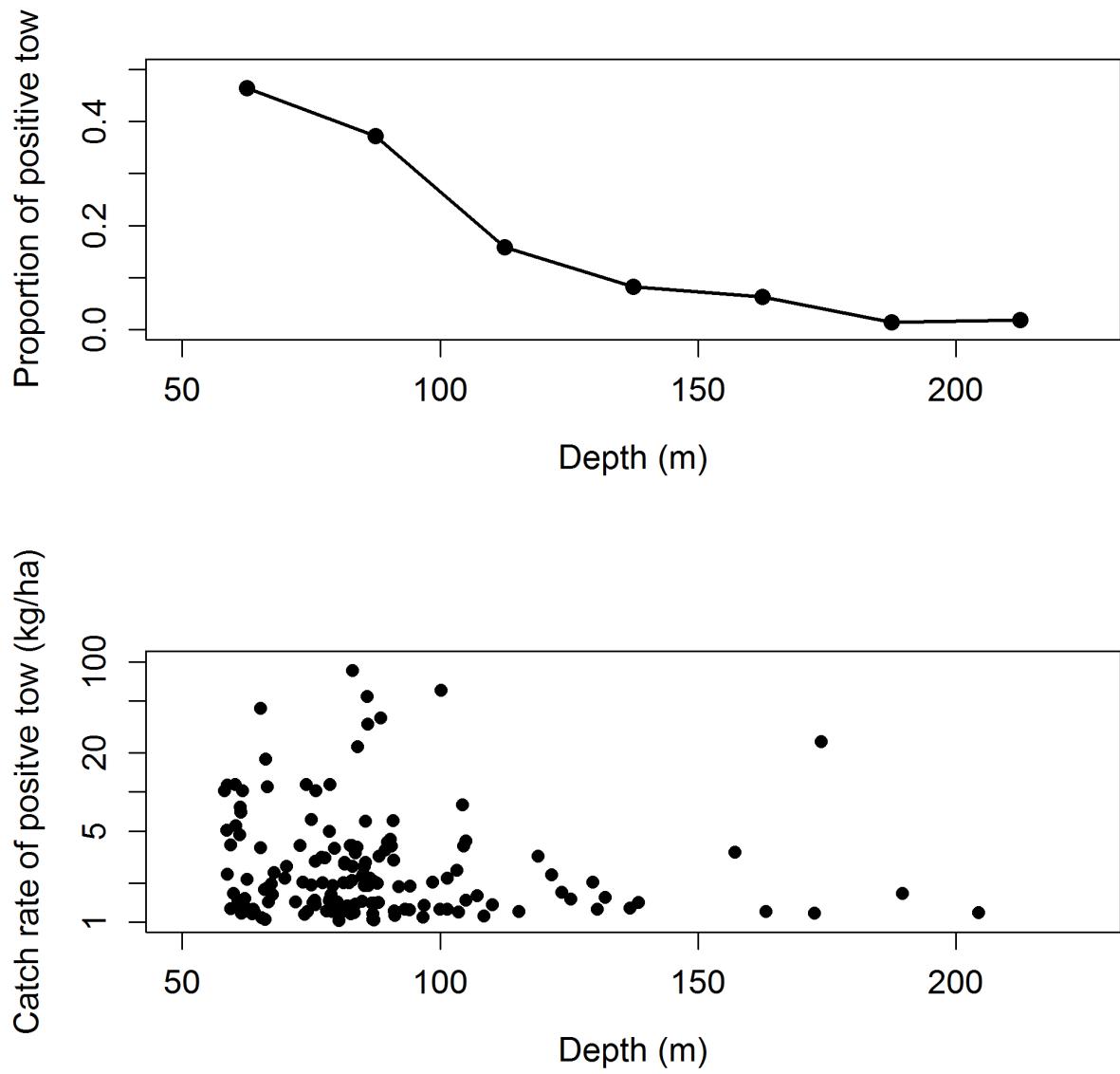


Figure 24: Plots of the proportion of positive tows (top panel) and the raw catch rates of positive tows (bottom panel) by depth zones (25 m interval) for NWFSC trawl survey. fig:Fleet8\_NWFSC

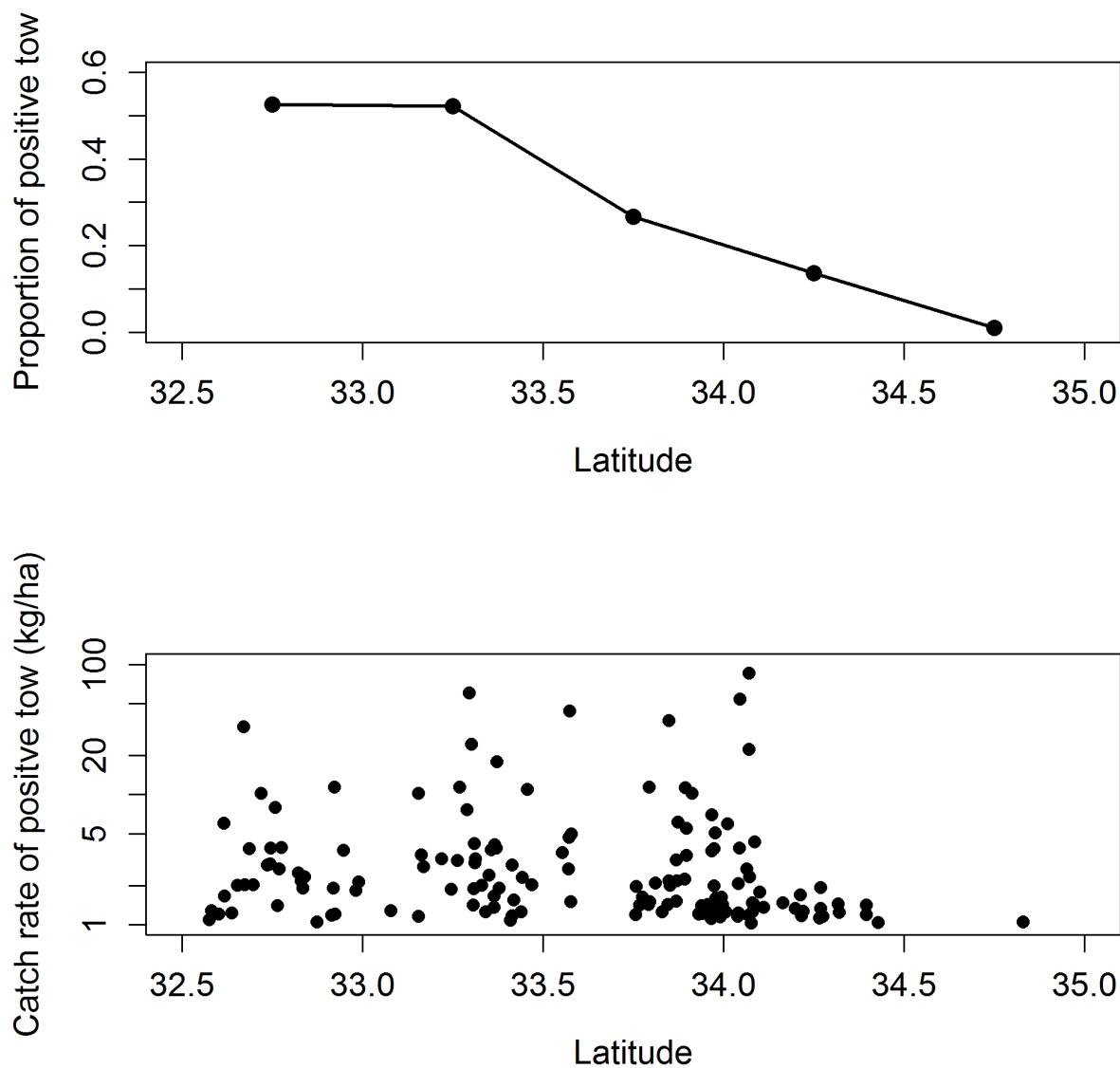


Figure 25: Plots of the proportion of positive tows (top panel) and the raw catch rates of positive tows (bottom panel) by latitude zones (0.5 degree interval) for NWFSC trawl survey.  
`fig:Fleet8_NWFSCtrawl_poslat`

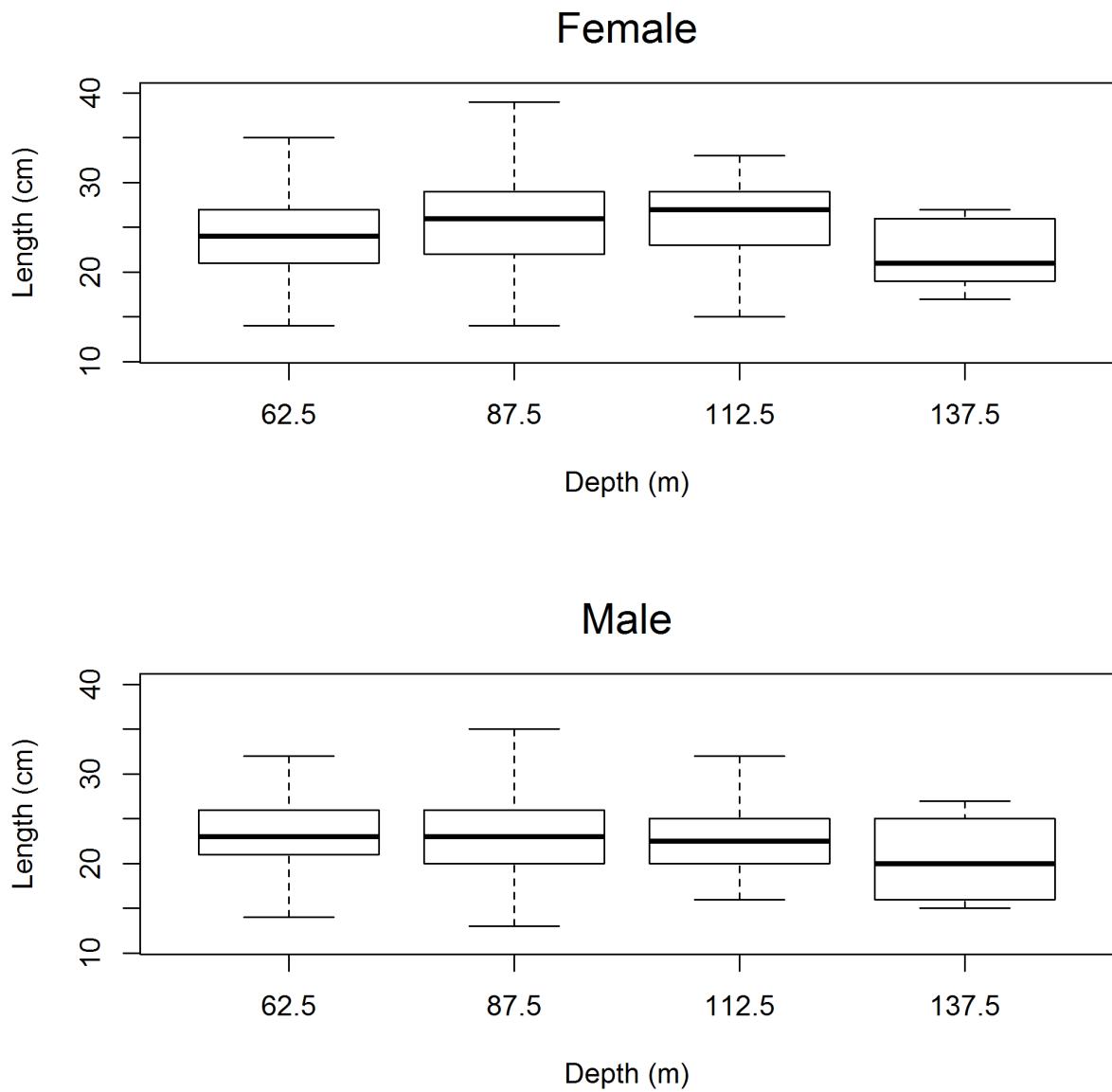


Figure 26: Comparison box plots of raw length data from NWFSC trawl survey by depth zone and sex.

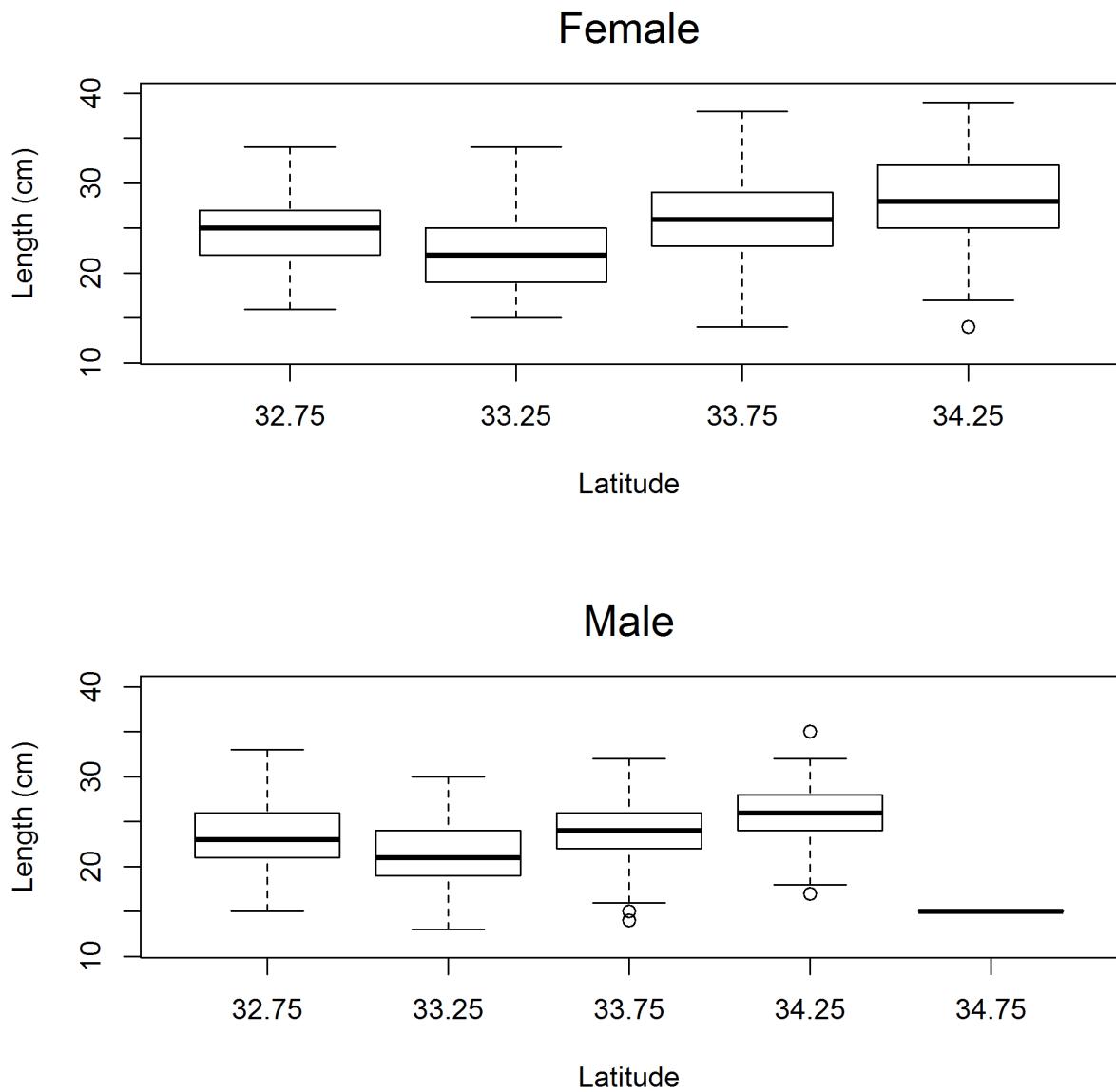


Figure 27: Comparison box plots of raw length data from NWFSC trawl survey by latitude zone and sex. fig:Fleet8\_NWFSCtrawl\_lengthlat

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

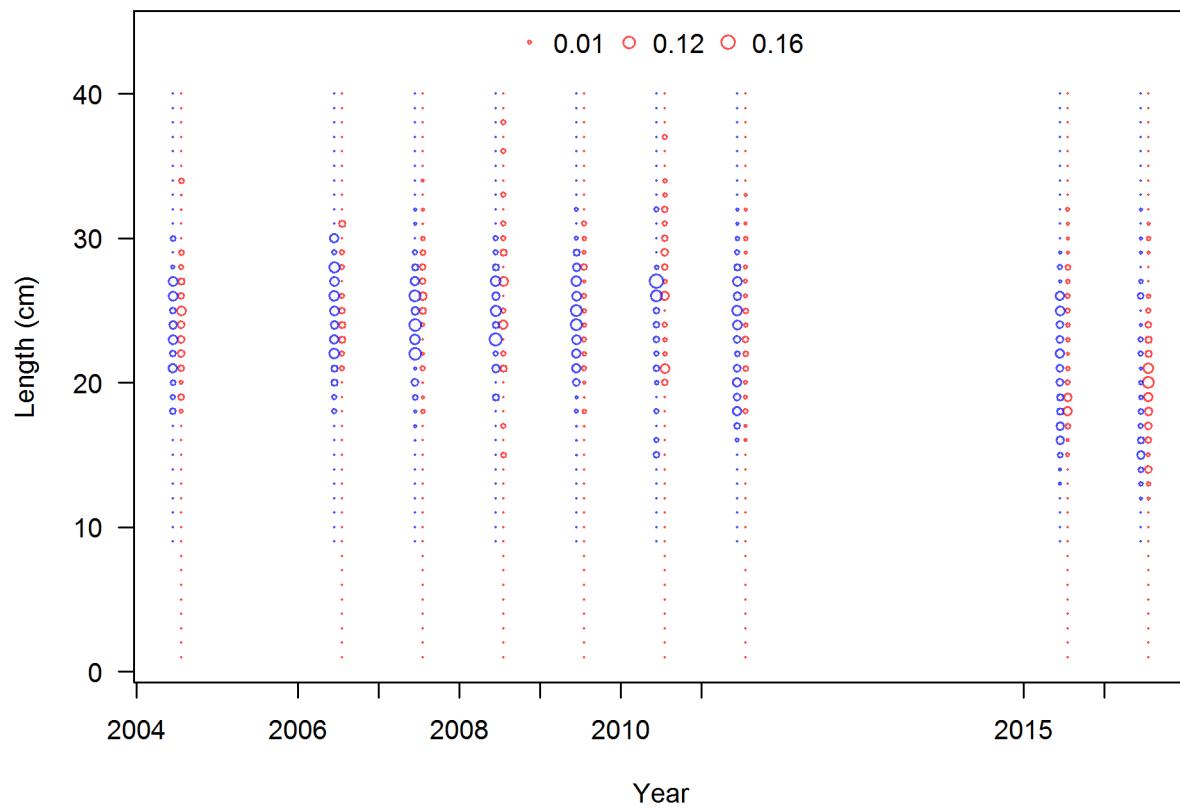


Figure 28: Length frequency distributions of females (red) and male (blue) from the NWFSC trawl survey between 2003 and 2016. | [fig:Fleet8\\_comp\\_1endat\\_bubflt8mkt0](#)

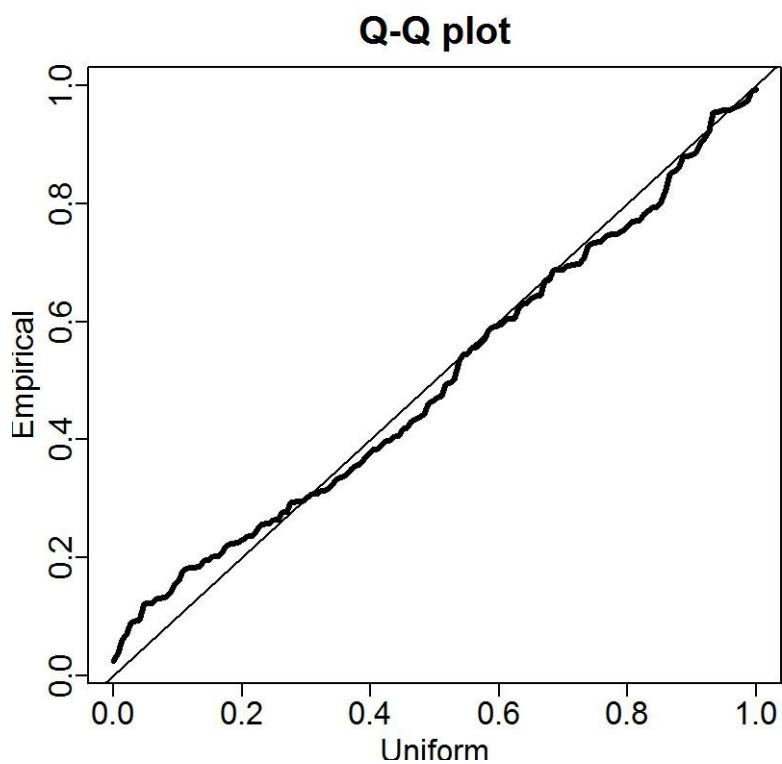


Figure 29: Q-Q plot used to validate the goodness of fit of the VAST analysis for the NWFSC trawl survey between 2003 and 2016. fig:Fleet8\_NWFSCtrawl\_QQ

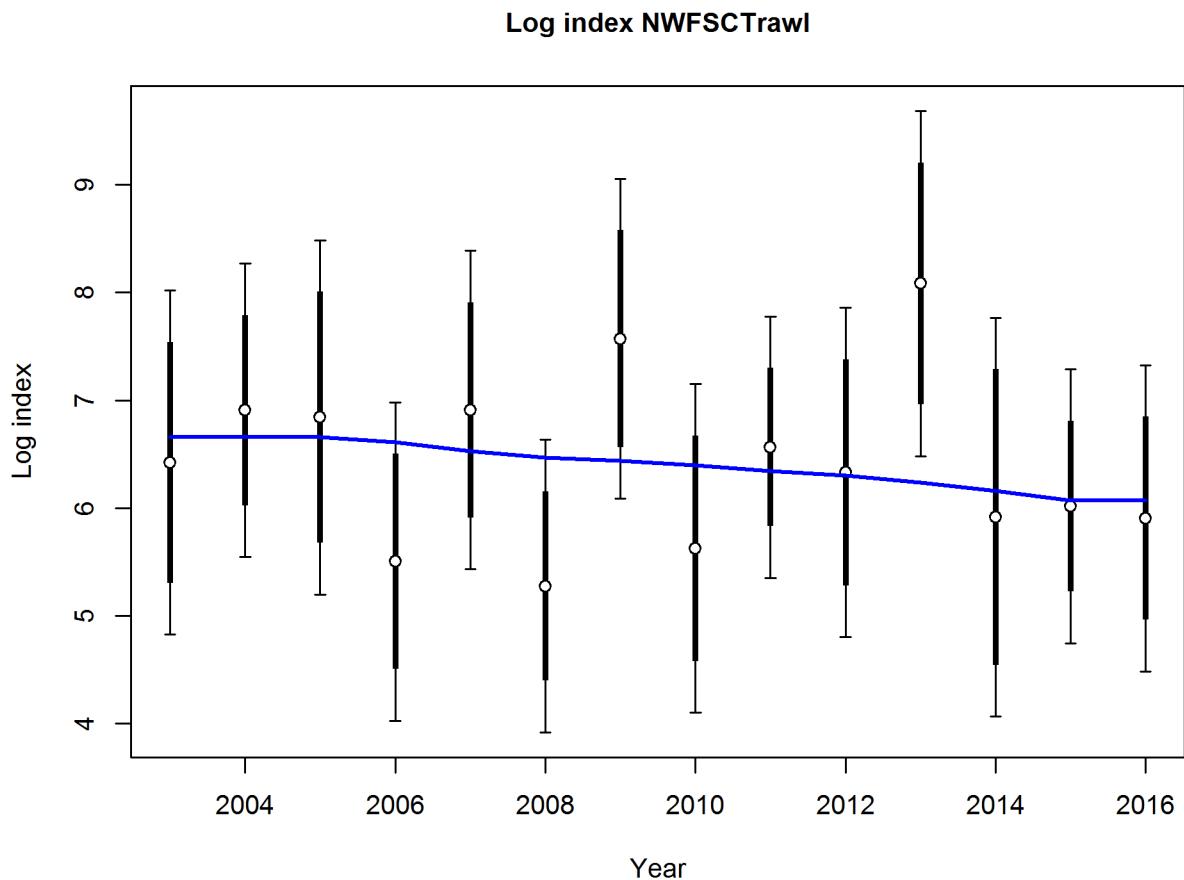


Figure 30: Fit to log index data on log scale for the NWFSC trawl survey from the VAST analysis from 2003-2016. Lines indicate 95% uncertainty interval around index values. Thicker lines indicate input uncertainty before addition of estimated additional uncertainty parameter.  
`fig:index5_logcpuefit_NWFSCtrawl`

### Normal Q-Q Plot

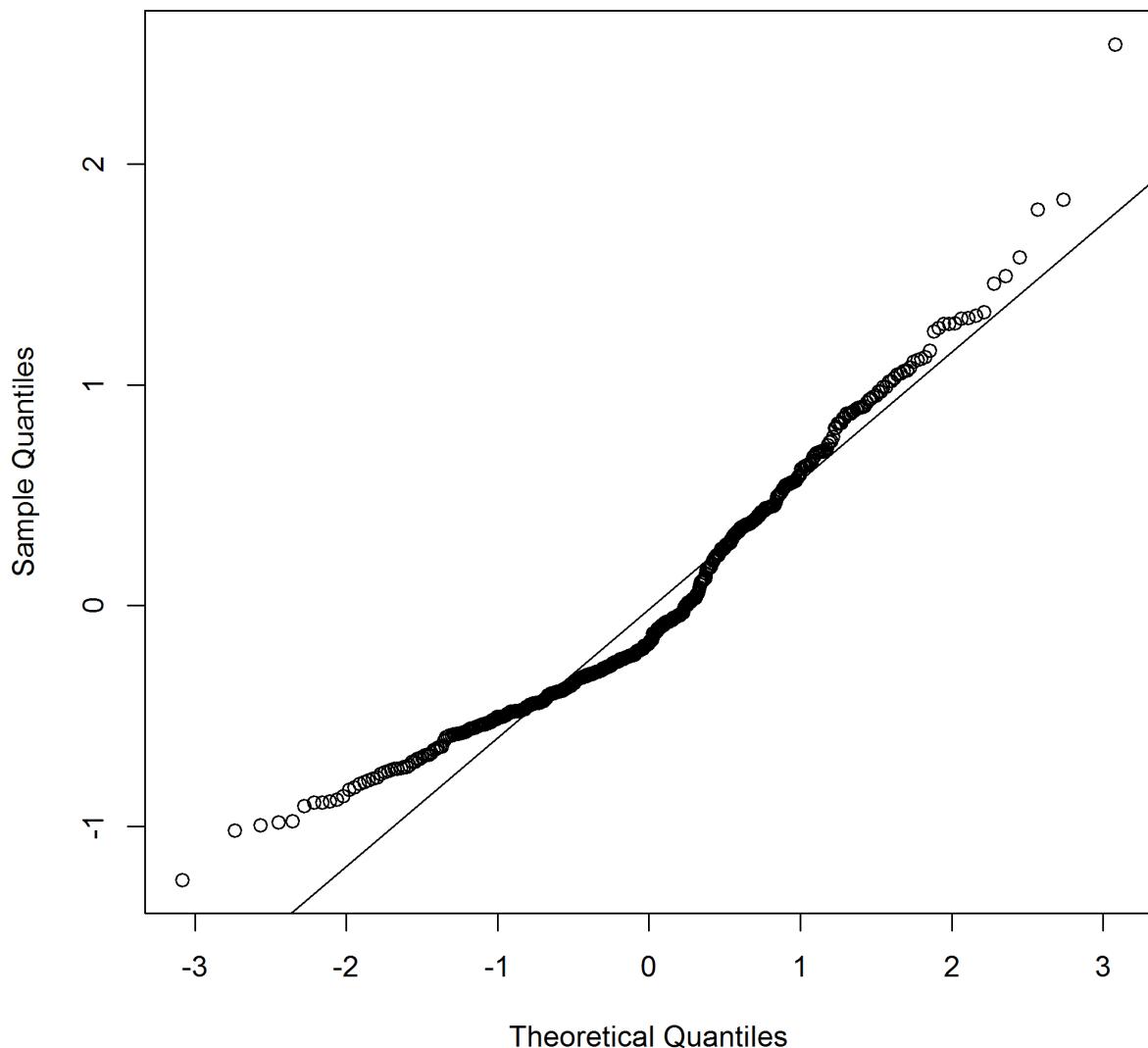


Figure 31: Q-Q plot used to validate the goodness of fit of the lognormal model for the CSUN/VRG gillnet survey from 1995-2008. [fig:Fleet9\\_GillnetSurvey\\_QQ](#)

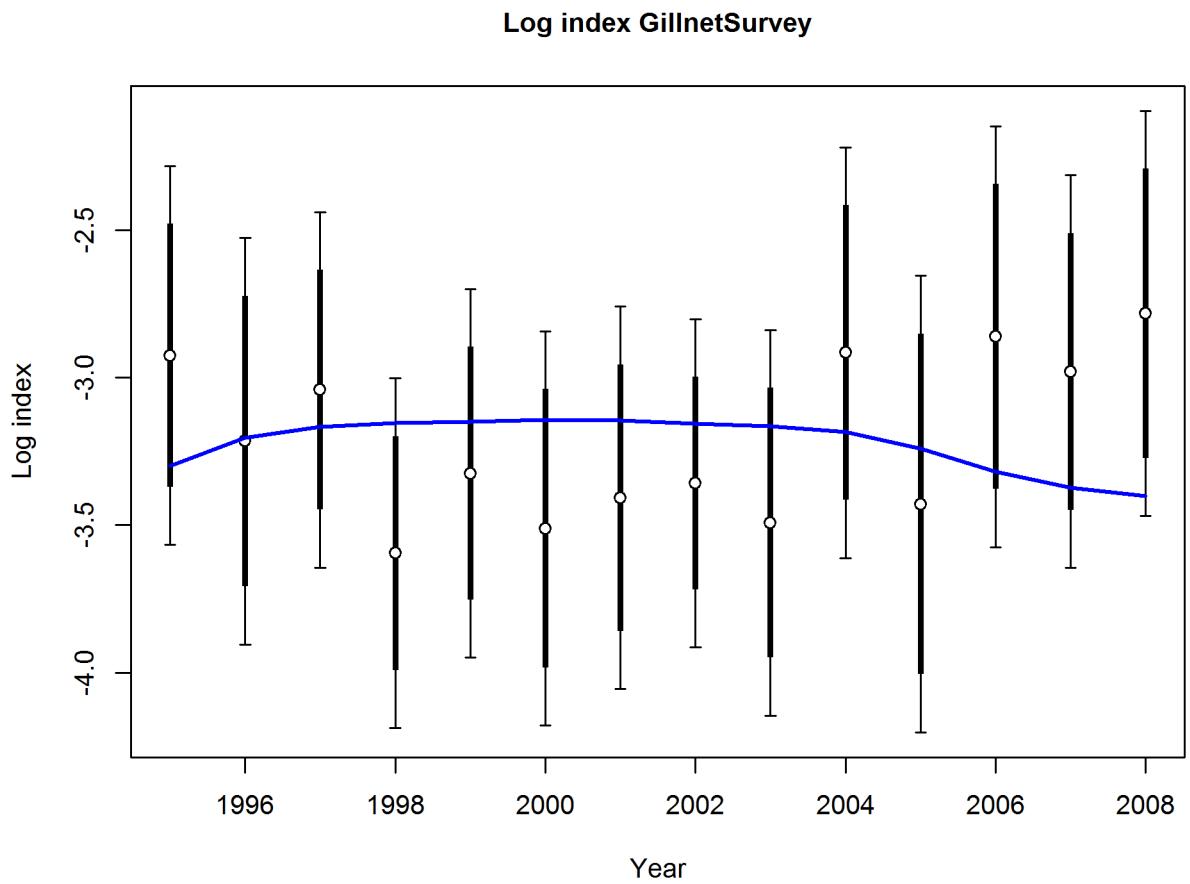


Figure 32: Fit to log index data on log scale for the recreational CSUN/VRG gillnet survey. Lines indicate 95% uncertainty interval around index values. Thicker lines indicate input uncertainty before addition of estimated additional uncertainty parameter. fig:index5\_logcpuefit\_Gillr

### Normal Q-Q Plot

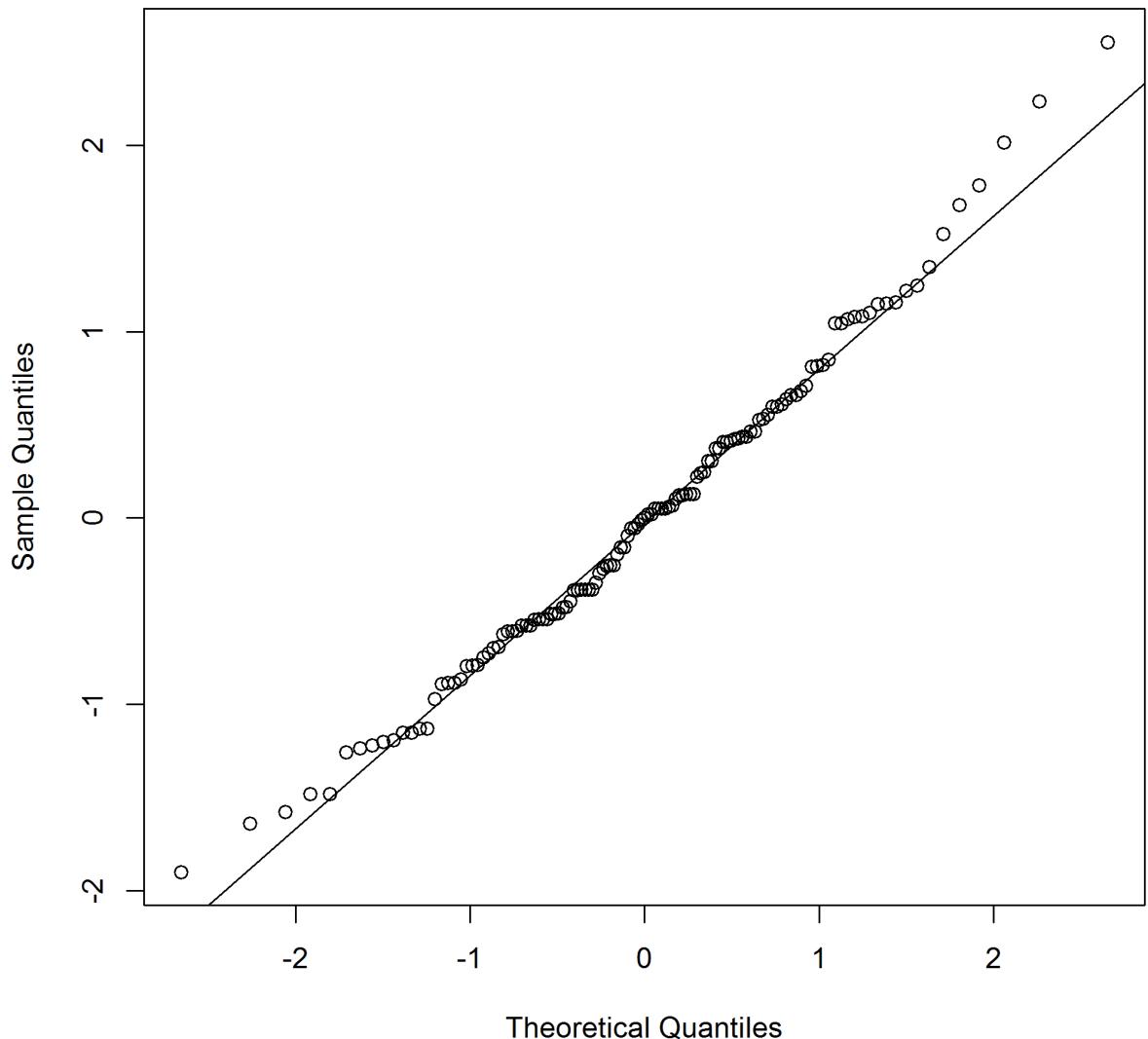


Figure 33: Q-Q plot used to validate the goodness of fit of the lognormal model for the Southern California Bight monitoring program trawl survey. [fig:Fleet11\\_SCBsurvey\\_QQ](#)

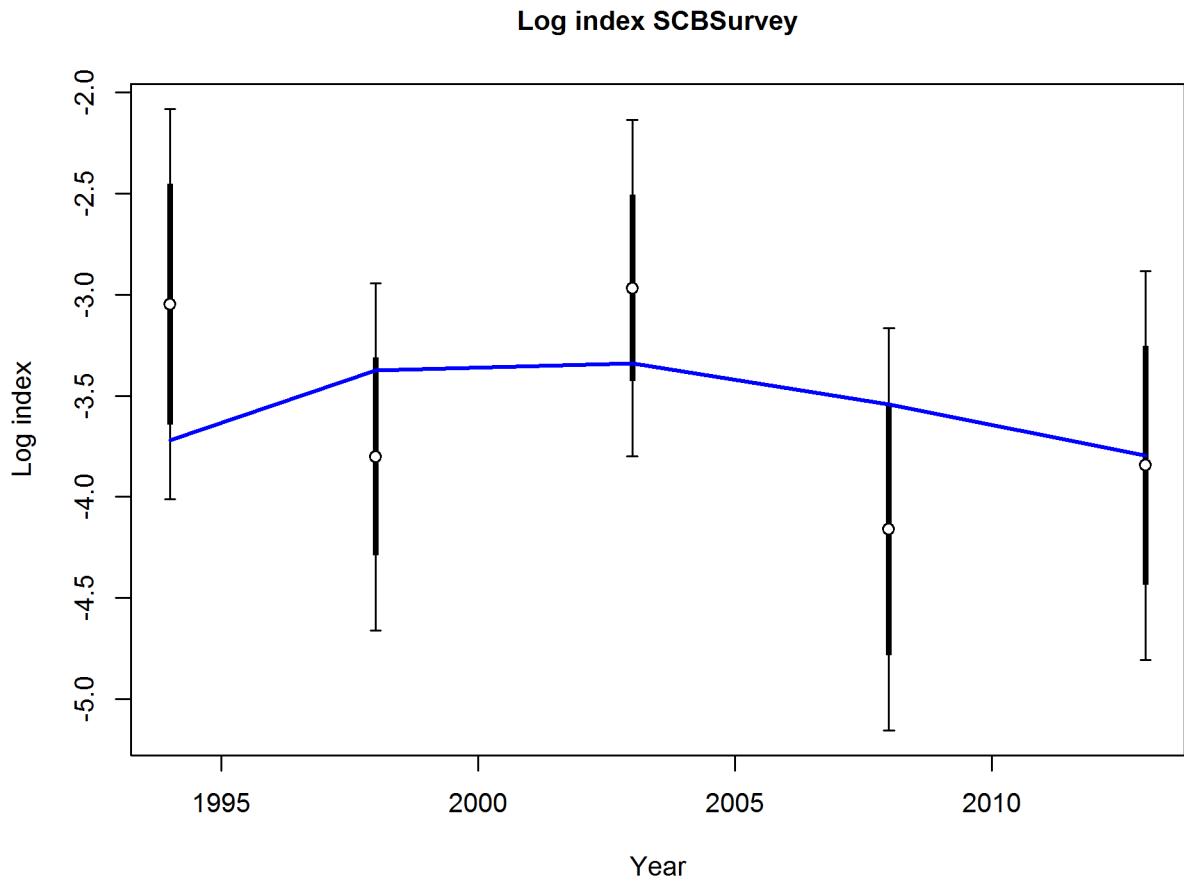


Figure 34: Fit to log index data on log scale for the recreational Southern California Bight trawl survey. Lines indicate 95% uncertainty interval around index values. Thicker lines indicate input uncertainty before addition of estimated additional uncertainty parameter. fig:index5\_log

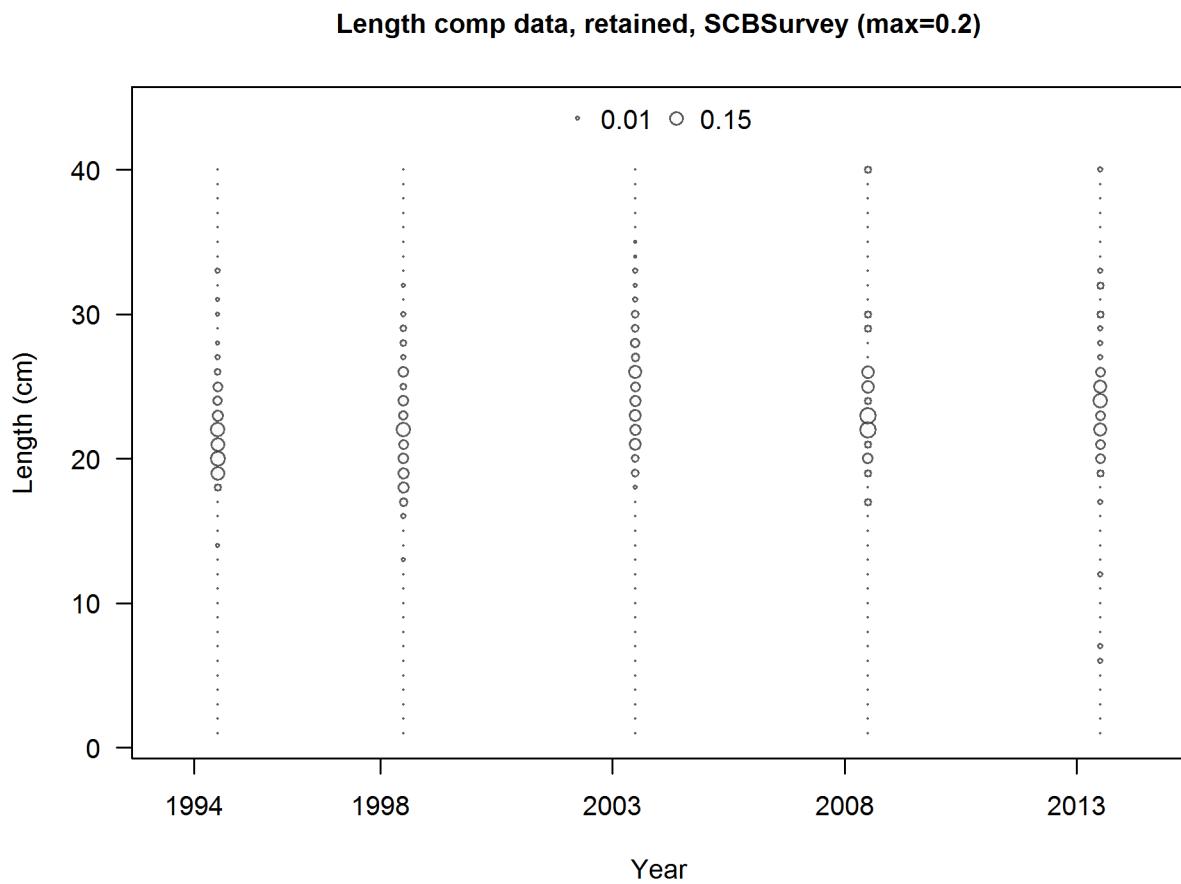


Figure 35: Length frequency distributions from the Southern California Bight regional monitoring program trawl surveys. | [fig:Fleet11\\_SCBSurvey\\_Lendat\\_bubflt11mkt2](#)

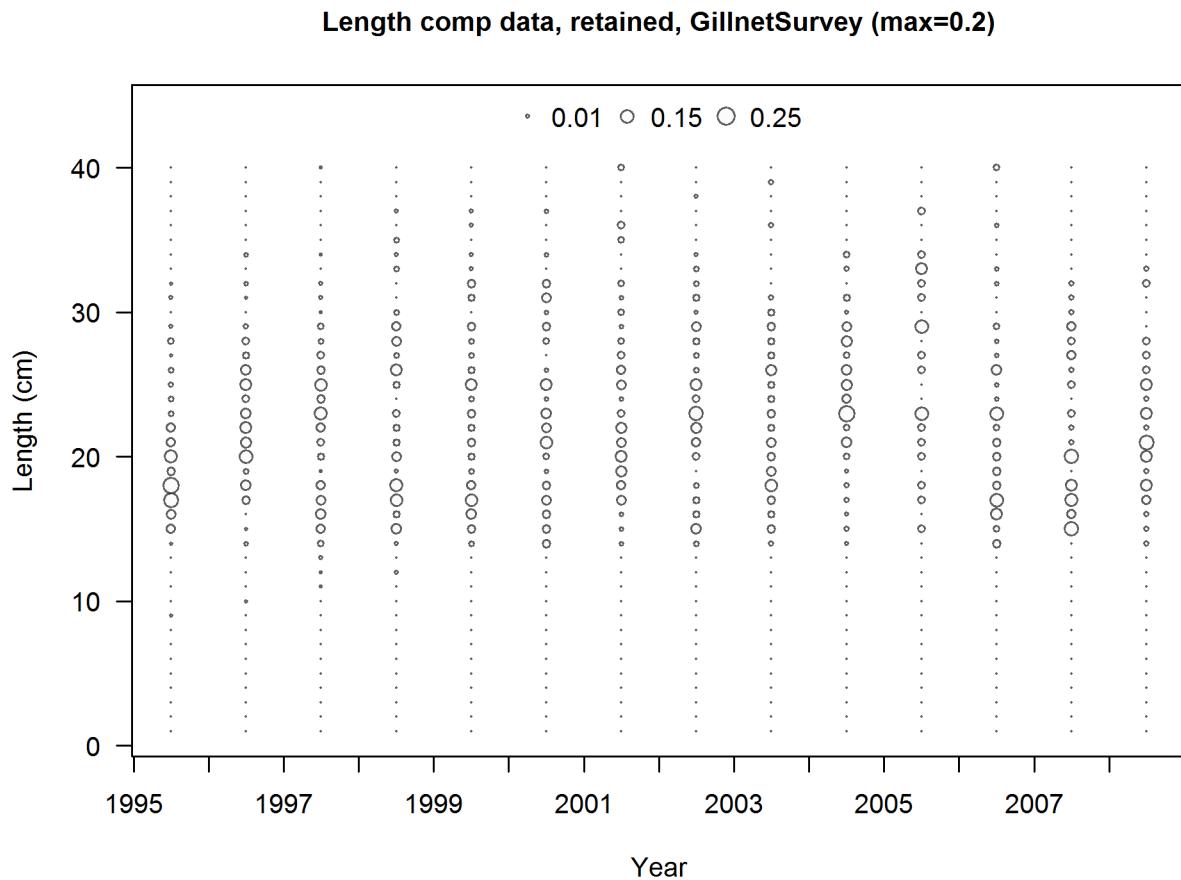


Figure 36: Length frequency distributions from the Impingement surveys. fig:Fleet9\_GillnetSu

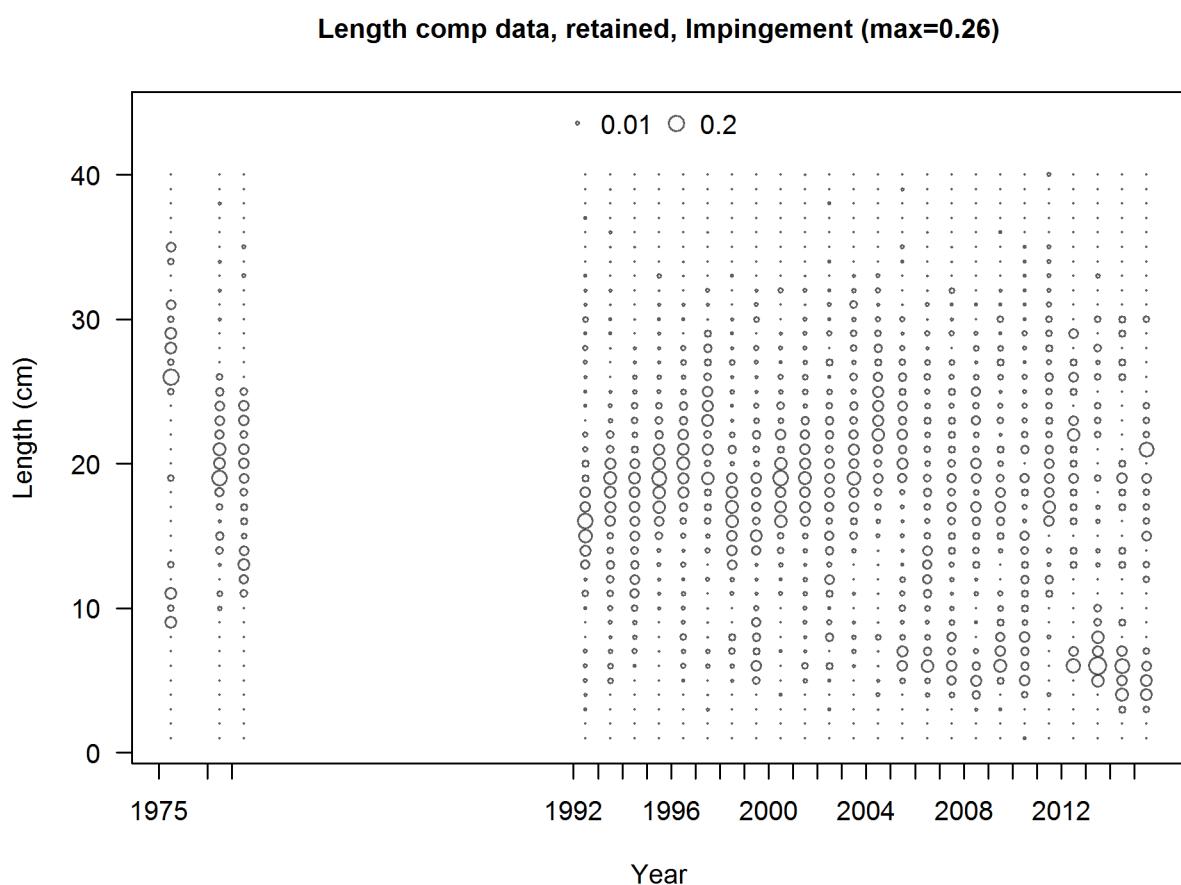


Figure 37: Length frequency distributions from the Impingement surveys. `fig:Fleet10_comp_len`

### Length comp data, aggregated across time by fleet

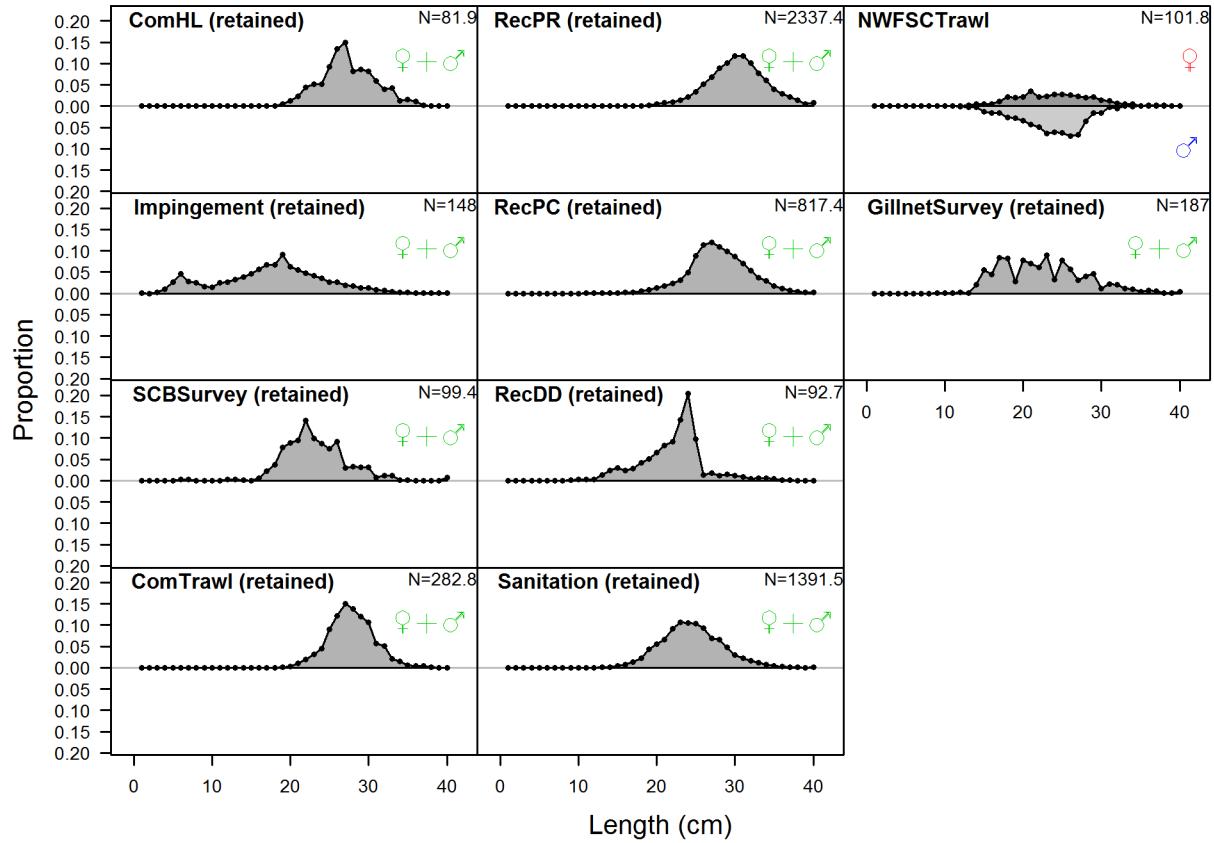


Figure 38: Length comp data, aggregated across time by fleet. Labels ‘retained’ and ‘discard’ indicate discarded or retained sampled for each fleet. Panels without this designation represent the whole catch. [fig:comp\\_lendat\\_aggregated\\_across\\_time](#)

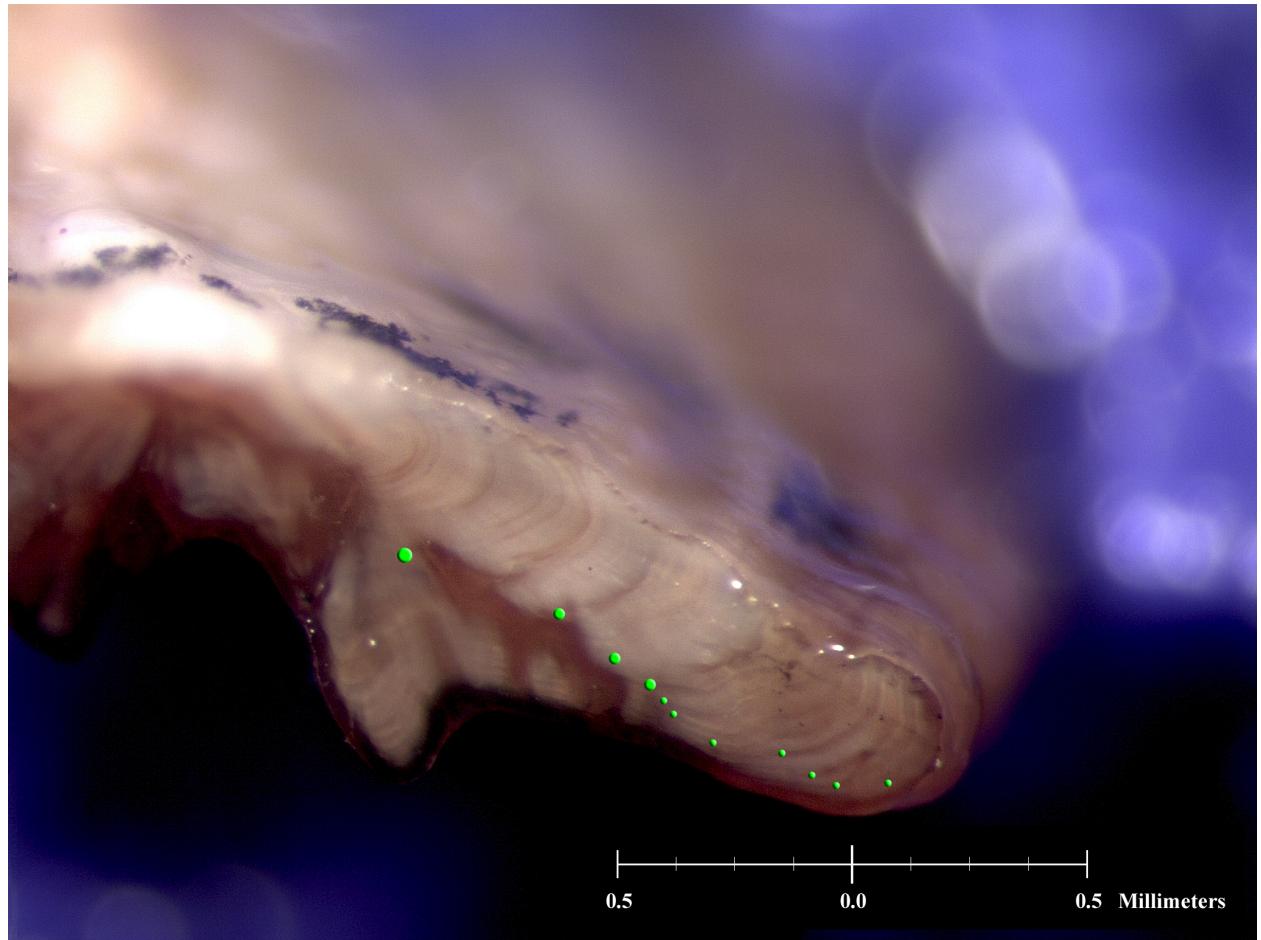


Figure 39: Cross-section of broken and burned California scorpionfish otolith showing. The green dots indicate the number of increments (photo courtesy Lance Sullivan, NWFSC). fig:otolith1

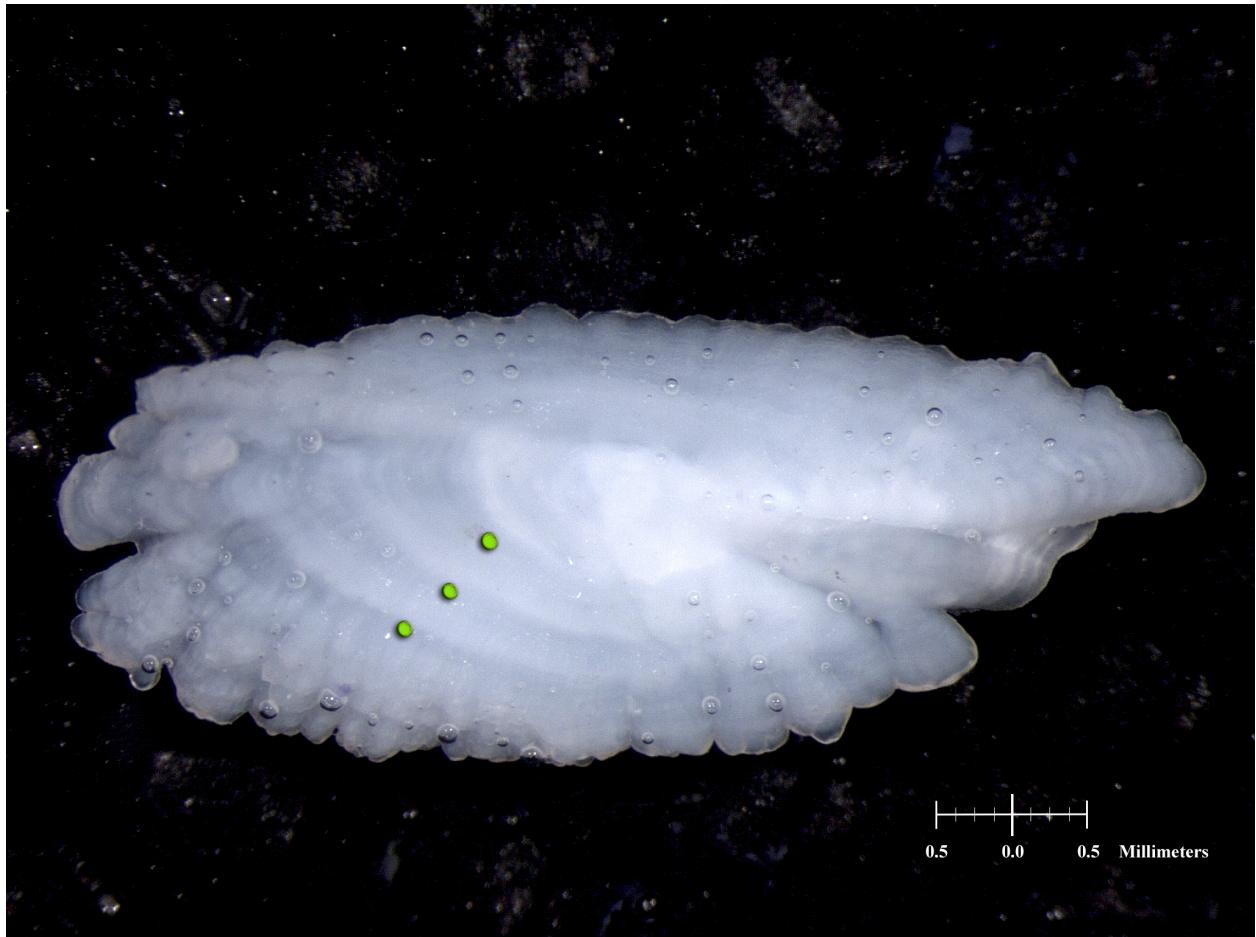


Figure 40: California scorpionfish otolith (photo courtesy Lance Sullivan, NWFSC). fig:otolith2

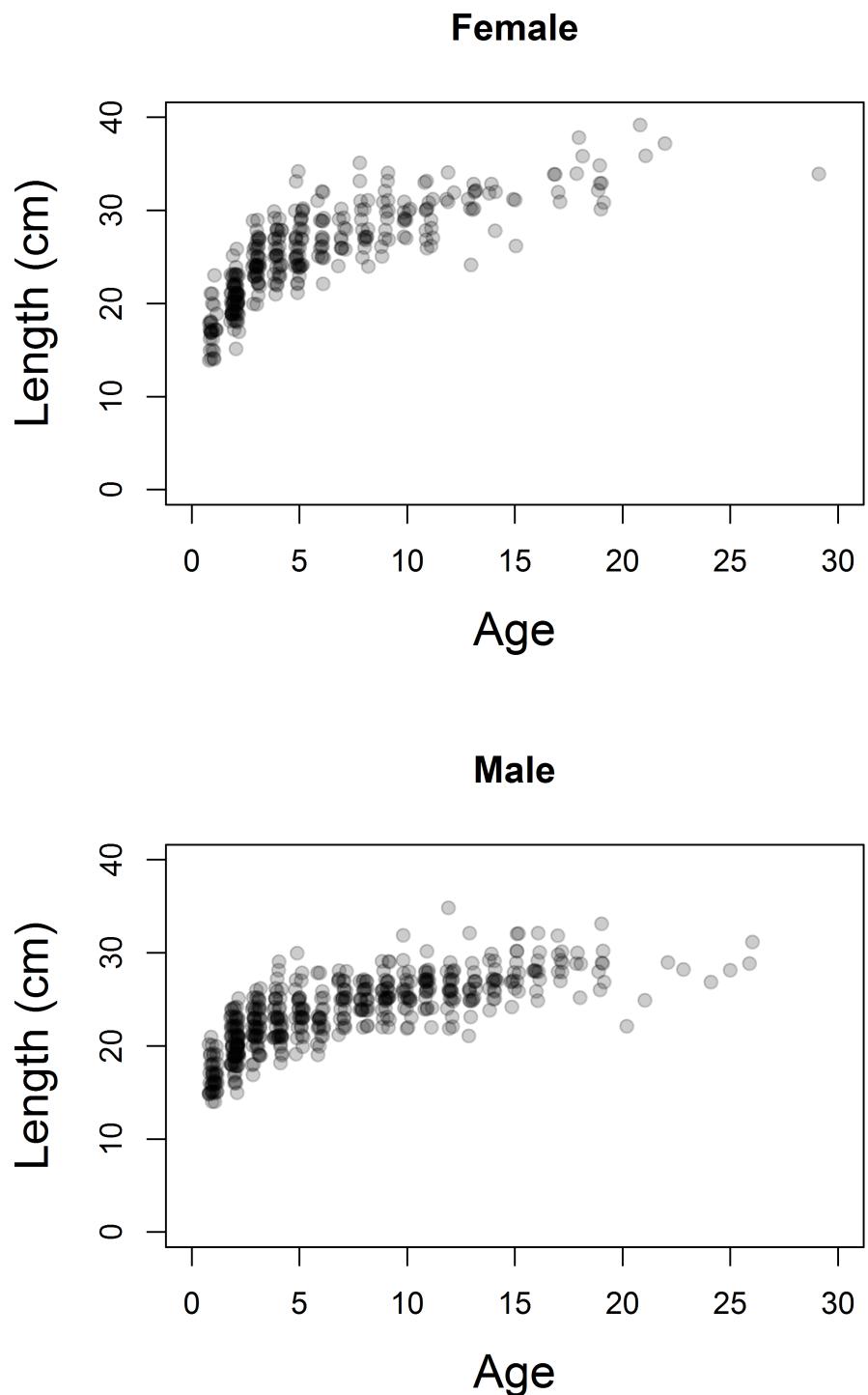
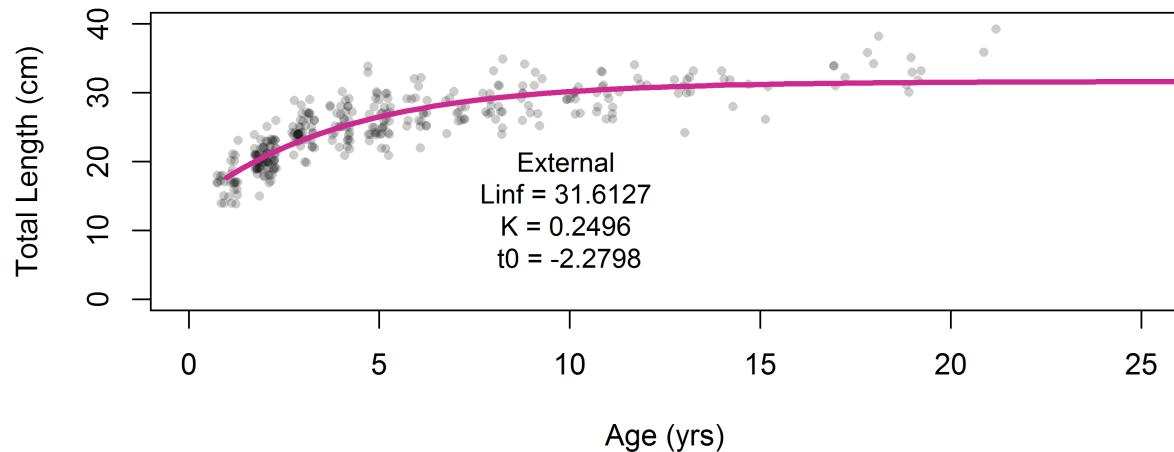


Figure 41: Length at age by sex for California scorpionfish collected from the NWFSC trawl survey. [fig:AgeLength](#)

### **Female**



### **Male**

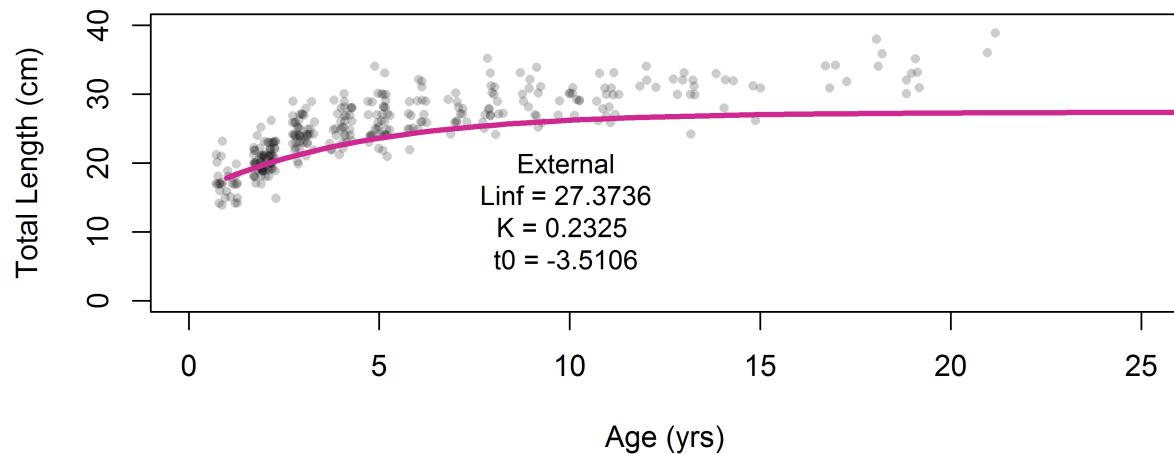
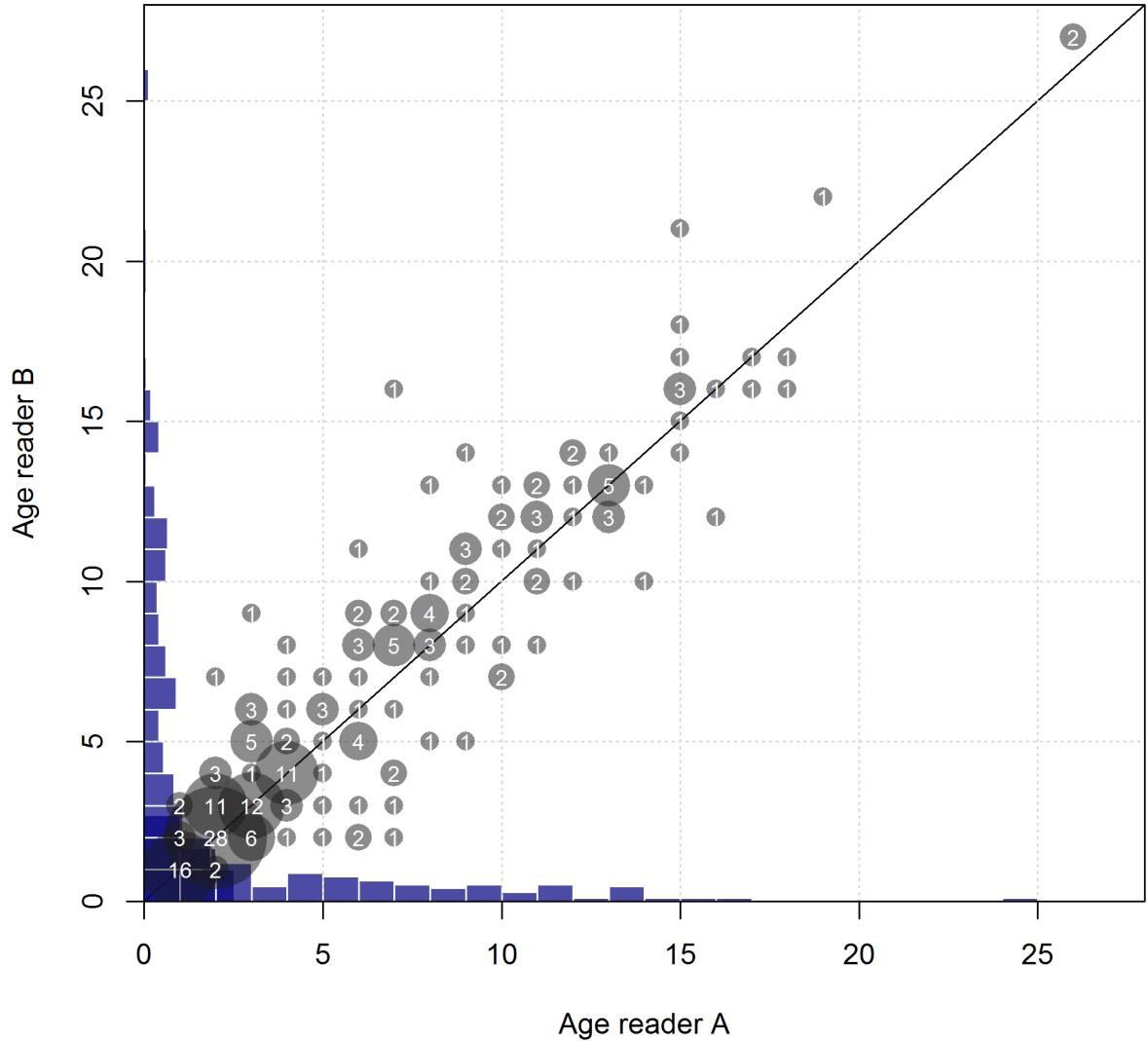


Figure 42: Fitted (external to SS) von Bertalanffy growth by sex for California scorpionfish collected from the NWFSC trawl survey. [fig:vonB\\_compare](#)



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

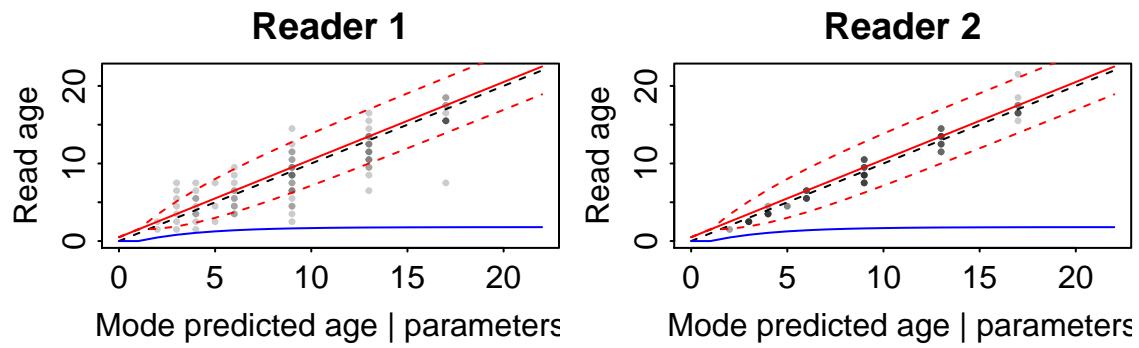


Figure 44: True versus predicted age for two current age readers at the NWFSC from the ageing error software with unbiased reads and curvilinear standard deviation for both readers.  
fig:Fleet8\_NWFSCtrawl\_ageerror2

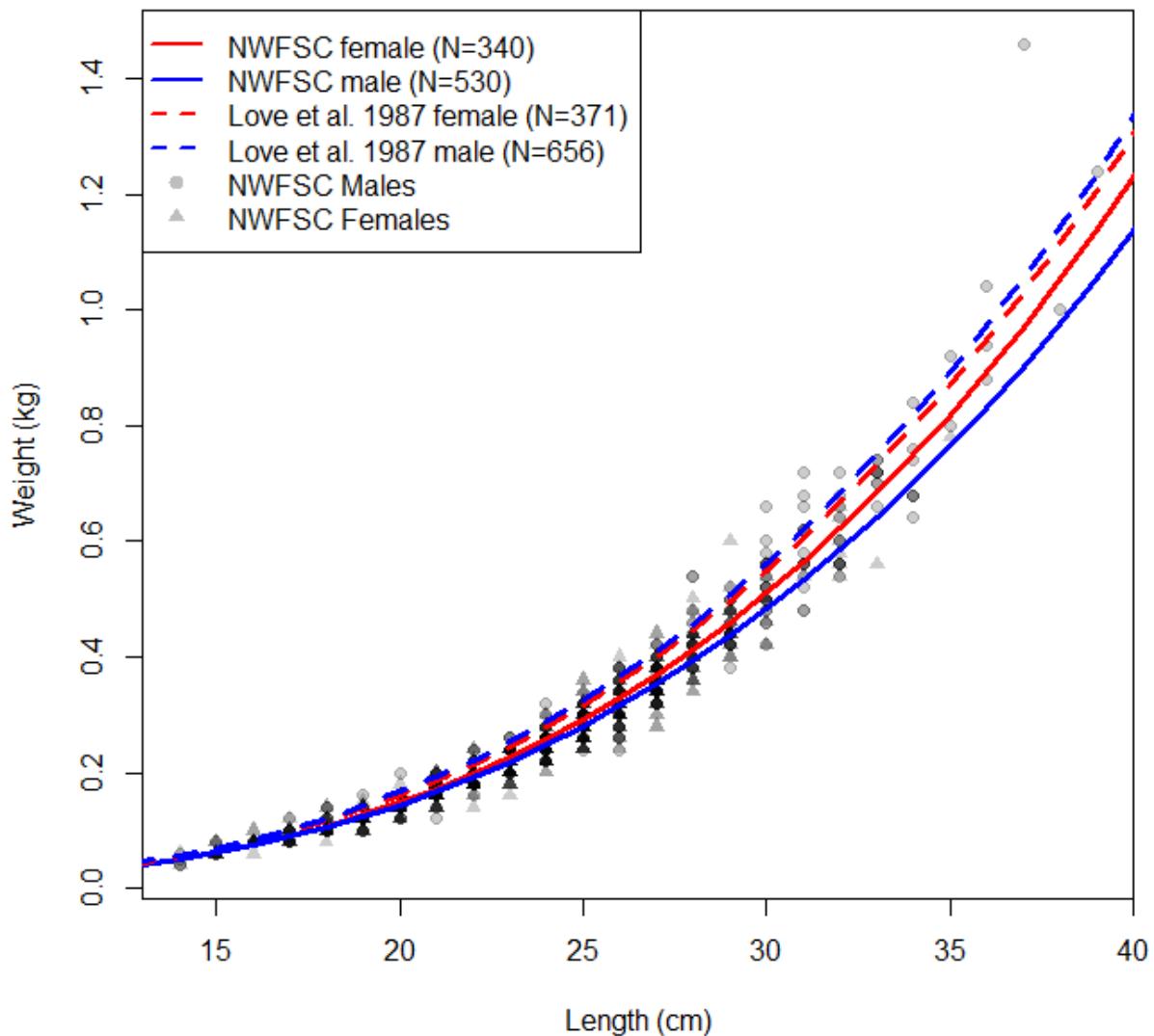


Figure 45: Comparison of the California scorpionfish weight-length curves from Love et al. (1987) and those estimated from the NWFSC trawl survey. [fig:Length\\_weight](#)

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