

1 The Combined Status of Gopher (*Sebastodes*
2 *carnatus*) and Black-and-Yellow Rockfishes
3 (*Sebastodes chrysomelas*) in U.S. Waters Off
4 California in 2019



7 Gopher rockfish (left) and black-and-yellow rockfish (right). Photos by Steve Lonhart.

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- ²² Fishery Management Council, Portland, OR. Available from
- ²³ <http://www.pcouncil.org/groundfish/stock-assessments/>

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25 *carnatus*) and Black-and-Yellow Rockfishes
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⁹⁶ **Executive Summary**

⁹⁷ **Stock**

⁹⁸ This assessment reports the status of the gopher and black-and-yellow rockfish
⁹⁹ complex (GBYR, *Sebastodes carnatus*/*Sebastodes chrysomelas*) resource as in U.S. waters off the
¹⁰⁰ coast of California south of Cape Mendocino (40°10' N. latitude) using data through 2018.
¹⁰¹ Both gopher and black-and-yellow rockfishes are most abundant north of Point Conception
¹⁰² (34°27' N. latitude) and are rare north of Point Arena (38°57' N. latitude). The range of
¹⁰³ gopher rockfish extends into Baja California, but the black-and-yellow rockfish are rare south
¹⁰⁴ of Point Conception.

¹⁰⁵ **Catches**

¹⁰⁶ Information on historical landings of GBYR are available back to 1916 (Table [a](#)). The
¹⁰⁷ recreational fleet began ramping up in the 1950s and has fluctuated over the the last 50 years
¹⁰⁸ (Figure [a](#)). The majority of gopher and black-and-yellow rockfish recreational landings are
¹⁰⁹ from north of Point Conception.

¹¹⁰ Commercial landings were small during the years of World War II, ranging between 4 to 28
¹¹¹ metric tons (mt) per year (Figure [b](#)). Commercial landings increased after World War II and
¹¹² show periods of cyclical catch for gopher and black-and-yellow rockfishes. The commercial
¹¹³ live fish fishery began in the early 1990s, with the first reported live landings in 1993. Since
¹¹⁴ then the commercial catch has been dominated by the live fish fishery, with minimal landings
¹¹⁵ of dead gopher or black-and-yellow rockfishes. Estimates of total mortality of commercial
¹¹⁶ discards was available starting in 2004, and were estimated prior to then. The catches
¹¹⁷ aggregated by fleets modeled in this assessment can be found in Figure [c](#).

¹¹⁸ Since 2000, annual total landings of catch and discards of GBYR have ranged between 70-169
¹¹⁹ mt, with landings (catch + discards) in 2018 totaling 92 mt.



Figure a: Catch history of GBYR for the recreational fleet.

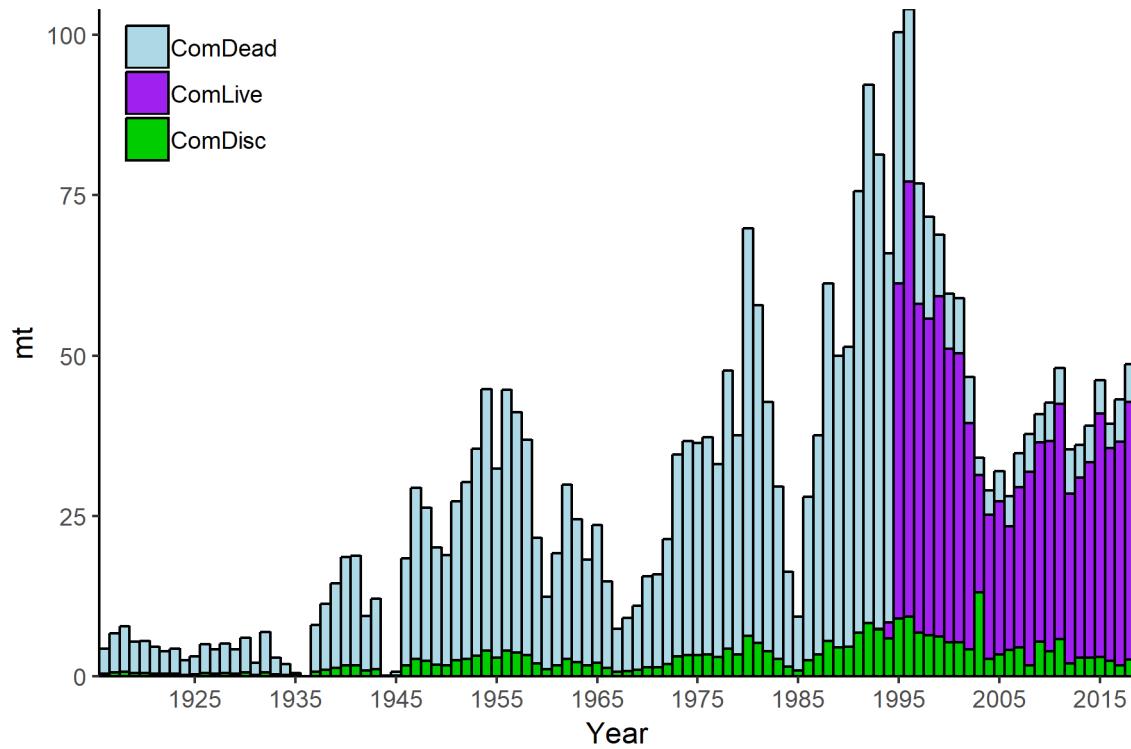


Figure b: Catch history of GBYR for the commercial fleet by dead and live landings, and discards. Catches in 1936 and 1946 were minimal.

Table a: Recent GBYR landings (mt) by fleet.

Year	Commercial Retained	Commercial Discard	Recreational North	Recreational South	Total
2009	35.62	5.38	65.64	4.30	110.93
2010	38.83	3.92	106.76	3.90	153.41
2011	42.39	5.72	76.16	10.24	134.52
2012	33.55	1.93	48.25	9.89	93.62
2013	33.45	2.85	38.43	8.86	83.59
2014	36.40	2.85	56.96	9.06	105.27
2015	43.25	2.93	58.09	5.00	109.27
2016	36.96	2.42	65.72	6.57	111.67
2017	42.04	1.65	49.36	11.15	104.19
2018	47.00	2.54	36.48	6.30	92.32

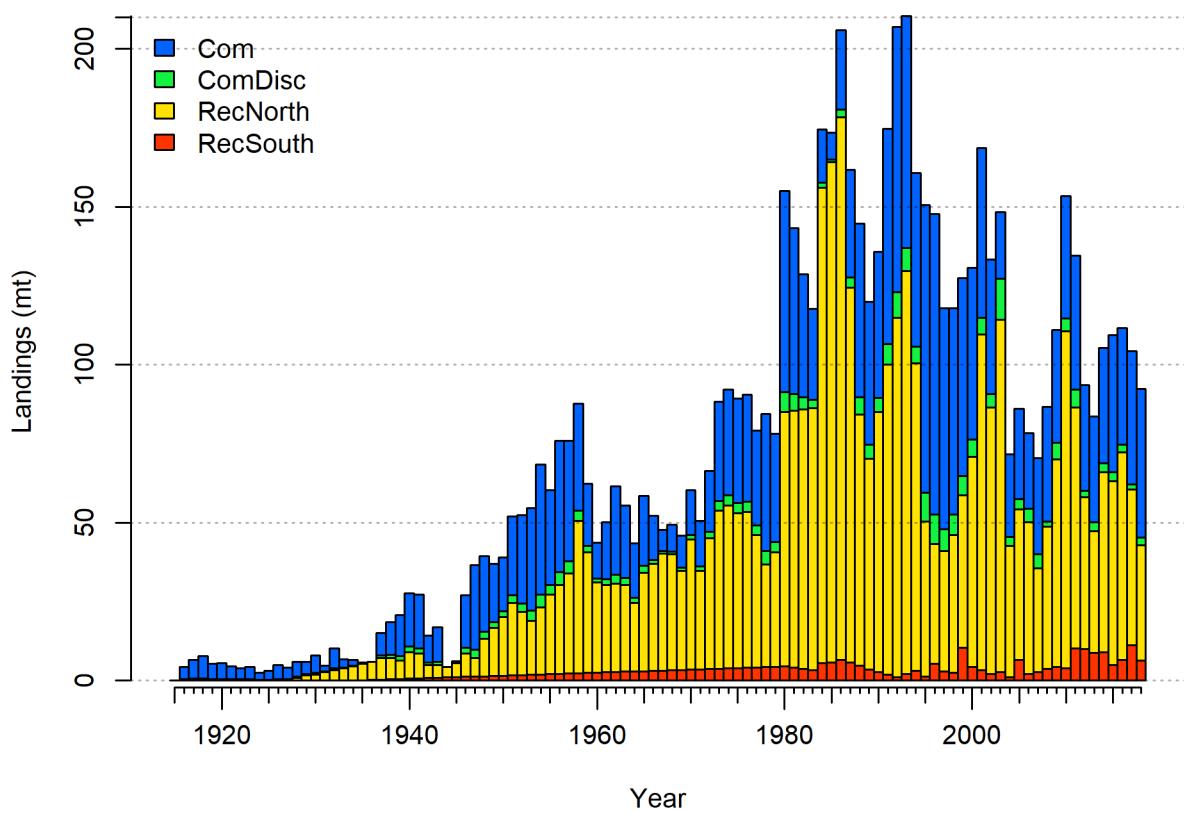


Figure c: Catch history of GBYR in the model.

¹²⁰ **Data and Assessment**

¹²¹ Gopher rockfish north of Point Conception ($34^{\circ}27'$ N. latitude) was first assessed as a full
¹²² stock assessment in 2005 (Key et al. 2005) using SS2 (version 1.19). The assessment was
¹²³ sensitive to the CPFV onboard observer index of abundance (referred to as Deb Wilson-
¹²⁴ Vandenberg's onboard observer index in this assessment). The final decision table was based
¹²⁵ around the emphasis given to a fishery-dependent index of abundance for the recreational
¹²⁶ fleet. The stock was found to be at 97% depletion.

¹²⁷ Gopher rockfish south of Point Conception was assessed as a data poor species in 2010 (Dick
¹²⁸ and MacCall 2010). A Depletion-Corrected Average Catch (DCAC) model was used due to
¹²⁹ time constraints. The mean yield from the DCAC distribution was 25.5 mt.

¹³⁰ This is the first full assessment to include data for black-and-yellow rockfish. Black-and-
¹³¹ yellow rockfish was assessed coastwide as a data poor species using Depletion-Based Stock
¹³² Reduction Analysis (DB-SRA) (Dick and MacCall 2010). The DB-SRA model assigned a
¹³³ 40% probability that the then recent (2008-2009) catch exceeded the 2010 OFL.

¹³⁴ This assessment covers the area from Cape Mendocino to the U.S./Mexico border (Figure
¹³⁵ d). The length composition data suggested that while the lengths of gopher and black-and-
¹³⁶ yellow rockfish were similar, fish encountered south of Point Conception were smaller. The
¹³⁷ similarity of the length distributions between species and among modes within a region were
¹³⁸ similar and justified one combined recreational fleet within each of the two regions (north
¹³⁹ and south of Point Conception).

¹⁴⁰ This stock assessment retains a single fleet for the commercial fishery, and also includes a
¹⁴¹ commercial discard fleet. Data on commercial discards were not available for and not in-
¹⁴² cluded in the 2005 assessment. The decision to retain one commercial fleet was made by
¹⁴³ examining the length distributions across species, fishing gears, and space, i.e., north and
¹⁴⁴ south of Point Conception. There is very little difference between the length composition
¹⁴⁵ of gopher and black-and-yellow rockfish landed in the commercial fleet north of Point Con-
¹⁴⁶ ception. Because Stock Synthesis is not set up to handle depth-dependent discard mortality
¹⁴⁷ rates and this model includes two species as a complex with differing depth-dependent dis-
¹⁴⁸ card mortality rates, the time series of commercial discards was incorporated as a separate
¹⁴⁹ fleet.

¹⁵⁰ A number of sources of uncertainty are addressed in this assessment. This assessment in-
¹⁵¹ cludes length data, estimated growth, an updated length-weight curve, an updated maturity
¹⁵² curve, a number of new indices, and new conditional length at age data.

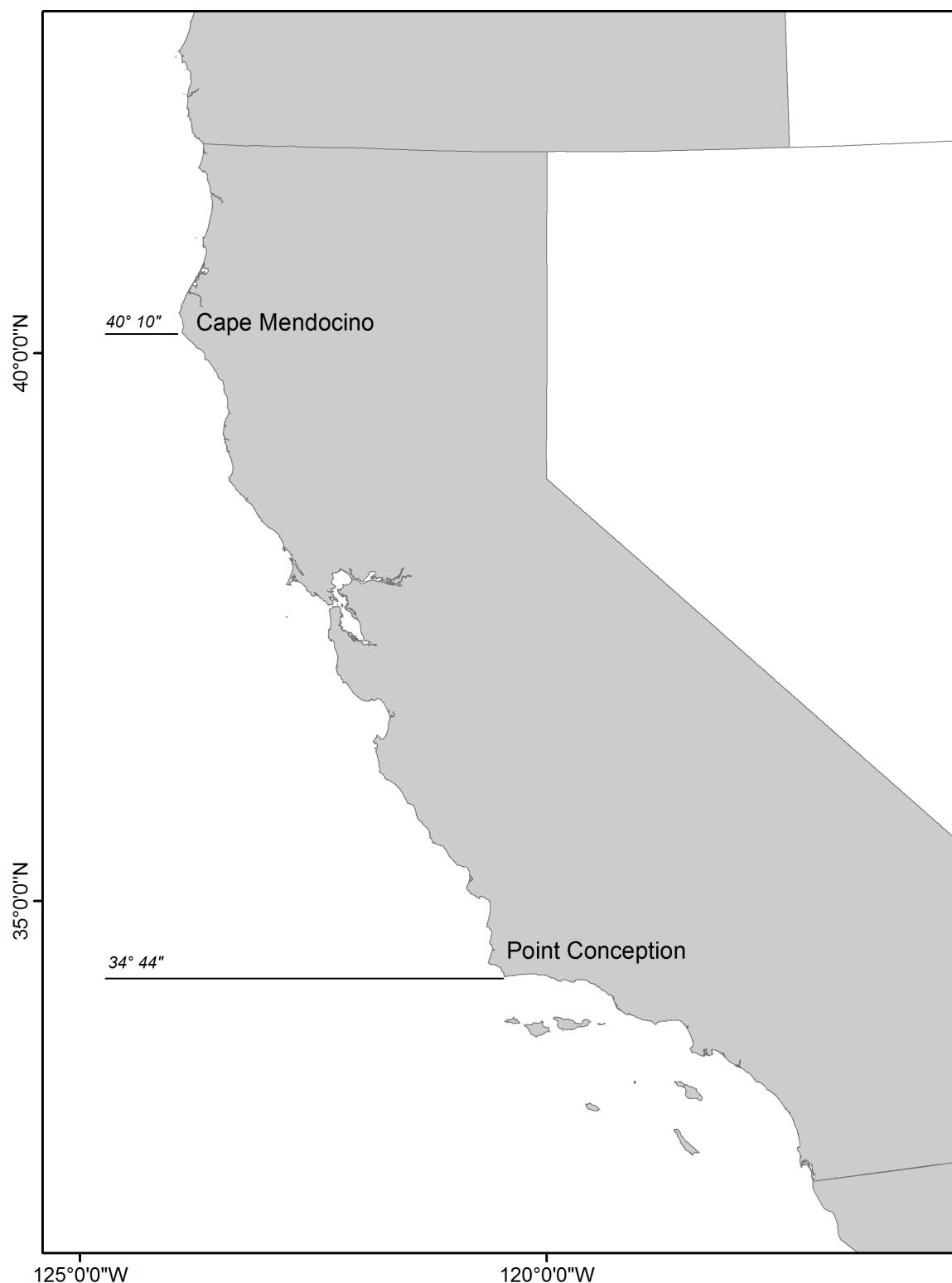


Figure d: Map depicting the core distribution of gopher and black-and-yellow rockfishes. The stock assessment is bounded at Cape Mendocino in the north to the U.S./Mexico border in the south.

¹⁵³ **Stock Biomass**

¹⁵⁴ The predicted spawning biomass from the base model generally showed a slight decline prior
¹⁵⁵ to 1962, when the early recruitment deviations were first estimated (Figure [e](#) and Table [b](#)).
¹⁵⁶ The stock declined from 1967 to 1995, followed by a period increase from 1996 to 2005. From
¹⁵⁷ 2005-2018 the stock has been in decline, although spawning biomass has been relatively level
¹⁵⁸ since 2017. The 2018 estimated spawning biomass relative to unfished equilibrium spawning
¹⁵⁹ biomass is above the target of 40% of unfished spawning biomass at 45.01 (95% asymptotic
¹⁶⁰ interval: 30.78-59.24) (Figure [f](#)). Approximate confidence intervals based on the asymptotic
¹⁶¹ variance estimates show that the uncertainty in the estimated spawning biomass is high.

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

Year	Spawning Output (million eggs)	~ 95% confidence interval	Estimated depletion	~ 95% confidence interval
2010	929	550 - 1308	65.36	47 - 83.72
2011	857	500 - 1213	60.28	43.17 - 77.39
2012	796	460 - 1132	56.00	40.01 - 71.99
2013	760	441 - 1079	53.47	38.48 - 68.47
2014	733	426 - 1039	51.55	37.35 - 65.76
2015	699	401 - 997	49.18	35.44 - 62.92
2016	671	376 - 965	47.18	33.59 - 60.77
2017	648	353 - 944	45.60	31.87 - 59.34
2018	640	337 - 942	45.01	30.78 - 59.24
2019	656	336 - 977	46.18	30.85 - 61.5

Spawning output with ~95% asymptotic intervals

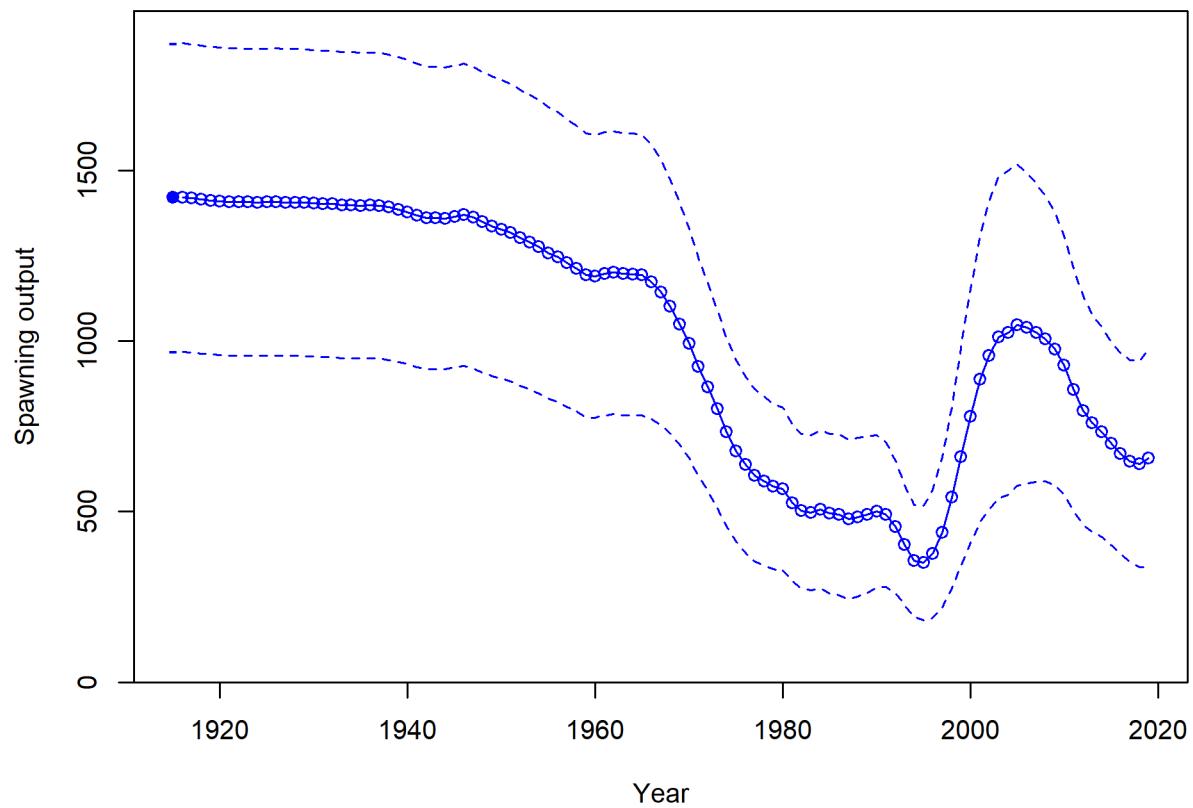


Figure e: Time series of spawning biomass trajectory (circles and line: median; light broken lines: 95% credibility intervals) for the base case assessment model.

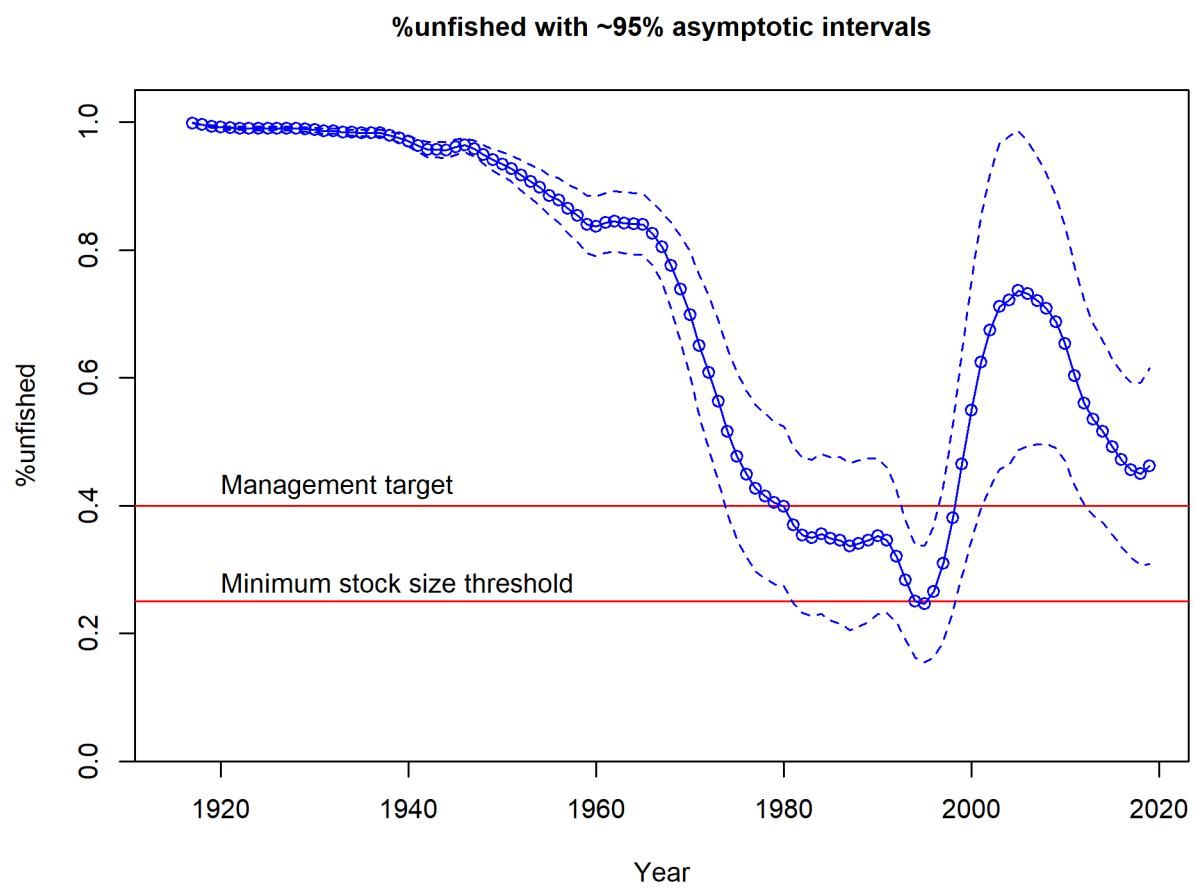


Figure f: Estimated percent depletion with approximate 95% asymptotic confidence intervals (dashed lines) for the base case assessment model.

¹⁶² **Recruitment**

¹⁶³ Recruitment deviations were estimated from 1979-2018 (Figure [g](#) and Table [c](#)). There are
¹⁶⁴ estimates of strong recruitment in the late 1990s, and also from 2014-2016, which peaked in
¹⁶⁵ 2015.

Table c: Recent recruitment for the GBYR assessment.

Year	Estimated Recruitment (1,000s)	~ 95% confidence interval
2010	4096	1467 - 11441
2011	3460	1197 - 10005
2012	3465	1168 - 10282
2013	4497	1524 - 13264
2014	7879	2709 - 22910
2015	11760	4041 - 34227
2016	8732	2924 - 26076
2017	5727	1826 - 17959
2018	4333	1339 - 14024
2019	4624	1396 - 15319

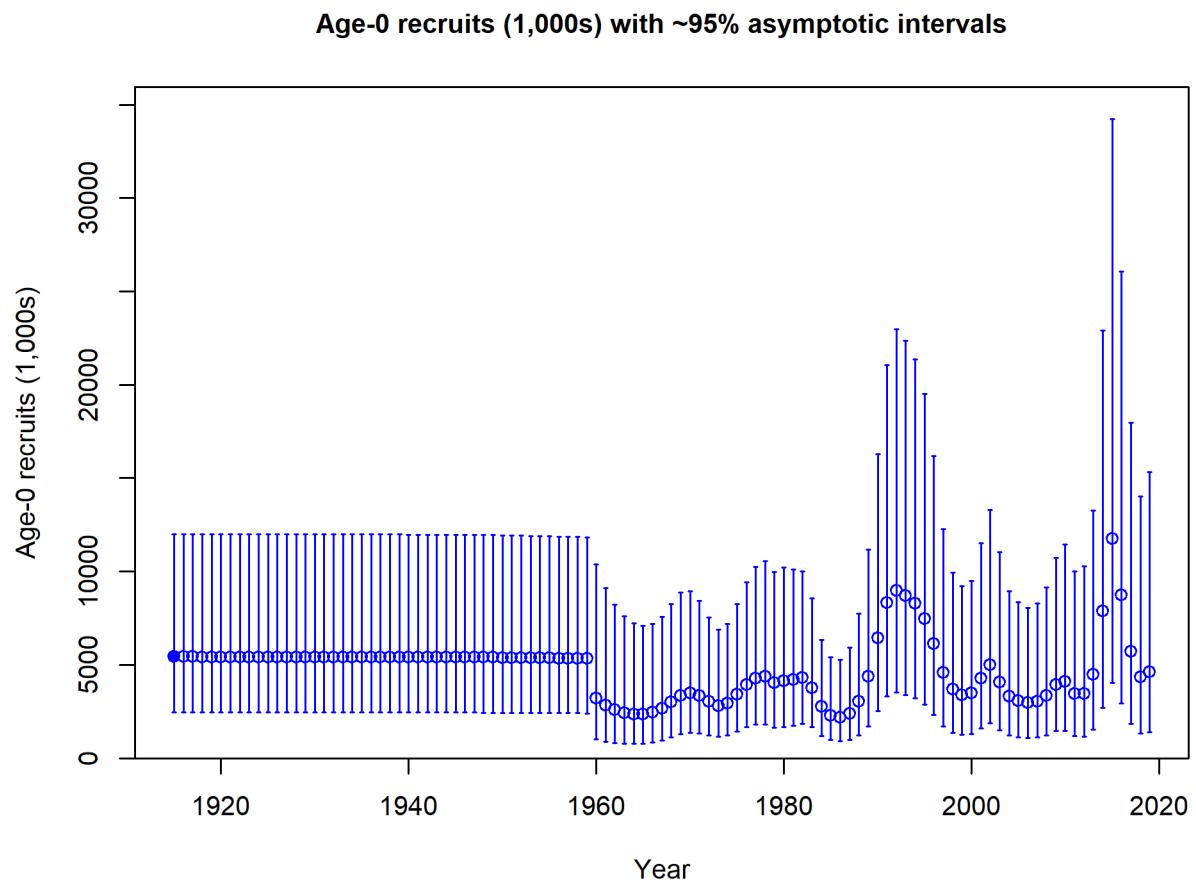


Figure g: Time series of estimated GBYR recruitments for the base-case model with 95% confidence or credibility intervals.

¹⁶⁶ **Exploitation status**

¹⁶⁷ Harvest rates estimated by the base model indicate catch levels have been below the limits
¹⁶⁸ that would be associated with the Spawning Potential Ratio (SPR) = 50% limit (corre-
¹⁶⁹ sponding to a relative fishing intensity of 100%) (Table d and Figure h). SPR is calculated
¹⁷⁰ as the lifetime spawning potential per recruit at a given fishing level relative to the lifetime
¹⁷¹ spawning potential per recruit with no fishing. Harvest rates estimated by the base model
¹⁷² exceeded management target levels during a number of years in the 1990s. Recent harvest
¹⁷³ over the last decade increased until 2016-2017 peaking at 0.71, then declined to 0.66 in 2018.
¹⁷⁴ The estimated relative depletion is currently greater than the 40% unfished spawning output
¹⁷⁵ target. Recent exploitation rates on GBYR were predicted to be significantly below target
¹⁷⁶ levels.

Table d: Recent trend in spawning potential ratio (entered as $(1 - SPR)/(1 - SPR_{50\%})$) and exploitation for GBYR in the model.

Year	Estimated (1-SPR)/(1- SPR50%)	~ 95% confidence interval	Harvest rate (ratio)	95% confidence interval
2009	0.56	0.33 - 0.78	0.07	0.04 - 0.09
2010	0.69	0.44 - 0.94	0.10	0.06 - 0.14
2011	0.68	0.43 - 0.93	0.09	0.06 - 0.13
2012	0.57	0.34 - 0.81	0.07	0.04 - 0.1
2013	0.55	0.32 - 0.78	0.06	0.04 - 0.09
2014	0.65	0.4 - 0.89	0.08	0.05 - 0.11
2015	0.68	0.42 - 0.93	0.08	0.05 - 0.12
2016	0.71	0.45 - 0.97	0.08	0.04 - 0.12
2017	0.71	0.44 - 0.98	0.07	0.04 - 0.11
2018	0.67	0.41 - 0.94	0.06	0.03 - 0.09

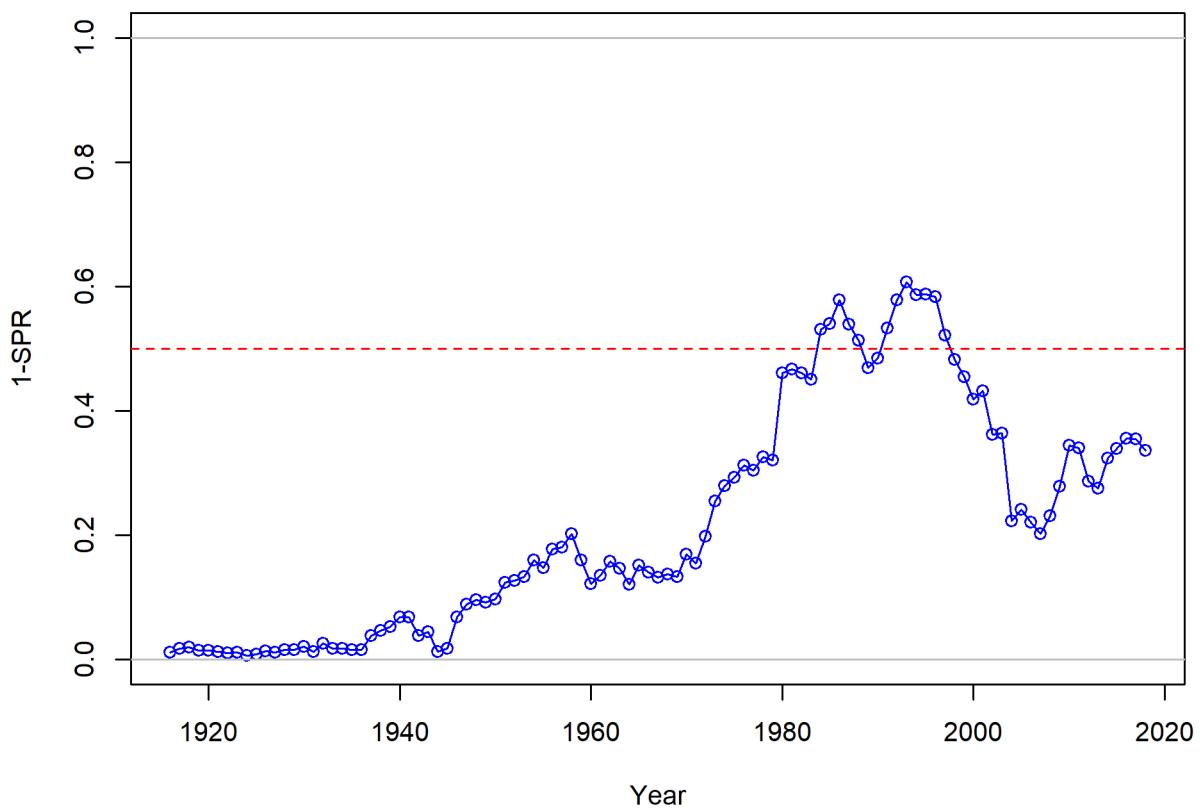


Figure h: Estimated spawning potential ratio (SPR) for the base-case model. One minus SPR is plotted so that higher exploitation rates occur on the upper portion of the y-axis. The management target is plotted as a red horizontal line and values above this reflect harvests in excess of the overfishing proxy based on the SPR_{50%} harvest rate. The last year in the time series is 2018.

¹⁷⁷ **Ecosystem Considerations**

¹⁷⁸ In this assessment, ecosystem considerations were not explicitly included in the analysis.
¹⁷⁹ This is primarily due to a lack of relevant data and results of analyses (conducted elsewhere)
¹⁸⁰ that could contribute ecosystem-related quantitative information for the assessment.

¹⁸¹ **Reference Points**

¹⁸² This stock assessment estimates that GBYR in the model is above the biomass target
¹⁸³ ($SB_{40\%}$), and well above the minimum stock size threshold ($SB_{25\%}$). The estimated relative
¹⁸⁴ depletion level for the base model in 2018 is 0.46 (95% asymptotic interval: 0.308-0.592,
¹⁸⁵ corresponding to an unfished spawning biomass of 656 million eggs (95% asymptotic inter-
¹⁸⁶ val: 336 - 977 million eggs) of spawning biomass in the base model (Table [e](#)). Unfished age
¹⁸⁷ 1+ biomass was estimated to be 2,361 mt in the base case model. The target spawning
¹⁸⁸ biomass ($SB_{40\%}$) is 569 million eggs, which corresponds with an equilibrium yield of 200
¹⁸⁹ mt. Equilibrium yield at the proxy F_{MSY} harvest rate corresponding to $SPR_{50\%}$ is 186 mt
¹⁹⁰ (Figure [i](#)).

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

Quantity	Estimate	Low 2.5% limit	High 2.5% limit
Unfished spawning output (million eggs)	1,421	969	1,874
Unfished age 1+ biomass (mt)	2,361	1,755	2,966
Unfished recruitment (R_0)	5,426	933	9,920
Spawning output(2018 million eggs)	640	337	942
Depletion (2018)	0.45	0.308	0.592
Reference points based on SB_{40%}			
Proxy spawning output ($B_{40\%}$)	569	448	689
SPR resulting in $B_{40\%}$ ($SPR_{B40\%}$)	0.458	0.458	0.458
Exploitation rate resulting in $B_{40\%}$	0.152	0.103	0.202
Yield with $SPR_{B40\%}$ at $B_{40\%}$ (mt)	200	108	291
Reference points based on SPR proxy for MSY			
Spawning output	634	499	769
SPR_{proxy}	0.5		
Exploitation rate corresponding to SPR_{proxy}	0.133	0.09	0.175
Yield with SPR_{proxy} at SB_{SPR} (mt)	186	102	270
Reference points based on estimated MSY values			
Spawning output at MSY (SB_{MSY})	300	232	368
SPR_{MSY}	0.288	0.272	0.303
Exploitation rate at MSY	0.271	0.192	0.351
Dead Catch MSY (mt)	236	122	351
Retained Catch MSY (mt)	236	122	351

191 Management Performance

192 Gopher and black-and-yellow rockfishes are managed as part of the minor nearshore complex
 193 in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan. The total mortality of the
 194 minor nearshore rockfish has been below the ACL in all years (2011-2016). Total mortality
 195 estimates from the NWFSC are not yet available are not yet available for 2017-2018. GBYR
 196 total mortality was on average 20% of the total minor nearshore rockfish total mortality
 197 from 2011-2016. A summary of these values as well as other base case summary results can
 198 be found in Table f.

199 Unresolved Problems and Major Uncertainties

Table f: Recent trend in total mortality for gopher and black-and-yellow rockfishes (GBYR), combined, relative to the management guidelines for the minor nearshore rockfish south of 40°10' N. latitude. Total mortality estiamtes are based on annual reports from the NMFS NWFSC.

Year	GBYR	Minor Nearshore Rockfish		
	Total mortality	Total mortality	ACL	OFL
2011	122.87	436	1,001	1,156
2012	91.96	445	1,001	1,145
2013	104.53	495	990	1,164
2014	103.63	596	990	1,160
2015	107.95	676	1,114	1,313
2016	111.55	641	1,006	1,288
2017	-	-	1,329	1,163
2018	-	-	1,344	1,179

²⁰⁰ Decision Table

²⁰¹ This section will be completed after the STAR panel.

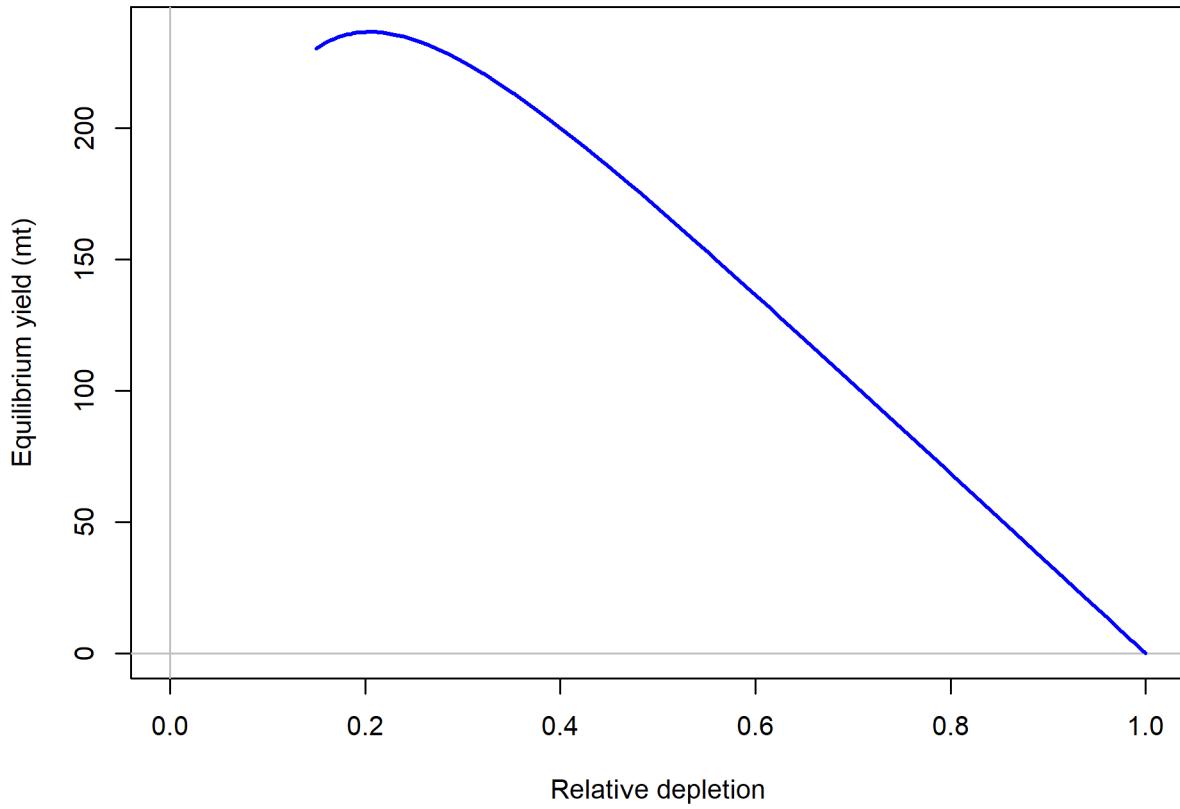


Figure i: Equilibrium yield curve for the base case model. Values are based on the 2018 fishery selectivity and with steepness fixed at 0.72.

Table g: Base case results summary.

Quantity	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Landings (mt)										
Total Est. Catch (mt)										
OFL (mt)										
ACL (mt)										
(1-SFR)(1-SFR _{50%})	0.69	0.68	0.57	0.55	0.65	0.68	0.71	0.71	0.67	0.67
Exploitation rate	0.10	0.09	0.07	0.06	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.07	0.06	0.06
Age 1+ biomass (mt)	1623.86	1546.11	1451.35	1381.20	1347.39	1327.49	1312.10	1335.06	1406.00	1519.32
Spawning Output	929	837	796	760	733	699	671	648	640	656
95% CI	550 - 1308	500 - 1213	460 - 1132	441 - 1079	426 - 1039	401 - 997	376 - 965	353 - 944	337 - 942	336 - 977
Depletion	65.4	60.3	56.0	53.5	51.5	49.2	47.2	45.6	45.0	46.2
95% CI	47 - 83.72	43.17 - 77.39	40.01 - 71.99	38.48 - 68.47	37.35 - 65.76	35.44 - 62.92	33.59 - 60.77	31.87 - 59.34	30.78 - 59.24	30.85 - 61.5
Recruits	4096	3460	3465	4497	7879	11760	8732	5727	4333	4624
95% CI	1467 - 11441	1197 - 10005	1168 - 10282	1524 - 13264	2709 - 22910	4041 - 34227	2924 - 26076	1826 - 17559	1339 - 14024	1396 - 15319

²⁰² **Research and Data Needs**

²⁰³ This section will be completed after the STAR panel.

204 **1 Introduction**

205 **1.1 Basic Information and Life History**

206 *Population Structure and Complex Assessment Considerations*

207 There have been a number of analyses conducted on the genetic differentiation between go-
208 pher rockfish and black-and-yellow rockfish. The studies have yielded a range of results,
209 but have generally concluded that there is unusually low genetic differentiation between the
210 two species. The most frequently used measure of genetic analyses to evaluate evidence for
211 population differentiation is the fixation index (F_{ST}), defined as the proportion of the total
212 genetic variation in one sub-population (subscript S) relative to the total genetic variation
213 (subscript T) (Hauser and Carvalho 2008, Waples et al. 2008). Values of F_{ST} range from
214 0 to 1 where a zero value implies the populations are panmictic and a value closer to one
215 implies the two populations are genetically independent. Values of F_{ST} thought to be consis-
216 tent with biologically meaningful genetic differentiation and demographic isolation between
217 populations range from 0.05 to 0.1 (Waples and Gaggiotti 2006). It is also important to
218 note that F_{ST} values are dependent on the study's sample size and it may not necessarily be
219 appropriate to compare them across studies.

220 Morphologically, gopher and black-and-yellow rockfishes are almost indistinct, except for
221 their color variation (Hubbs and Schultz 1933). Early efforts to evaluate whether the two
222 species were genetically distinct began with an allozyme analysis by Seeb et al. (1986),
223 which did not detect genetic differentiation between gopher and black-and-yellow rockfish.
224 However, as allozymes are proteins that are often conserved, this early work was not neces-
225 sarily representative of genome-wide relationships between the two groups. In a subsequent
226 study of restriction site polymorphisms, Hunter et al. (1994) found slight but significant
227 differences between species based on restriction fragment length polymorphisms (RFLP's).
228 Following that study, an analysis of the mitochondrial control region by Alesandrini and
229 Bernardi (1999) did not detect differences between the two species, although mtDNA also
230 has limitations regarding how results can be extrapolated across the nuclear genome. Anal-
231 ysis of seven microsatellite loci by Narum et al. (2004) found an F_{ST} of 0.049 across the
232 overlapping range of the two species, which provided some evidence of divergence, although
233 such divergence is relatively low compared to other species within *Sebastes*. Those authors
234 characterized their results as suggesting that the two are “reproductively isolated incipient
235 species.” Buonaccorsi et al. (2011) found an even lower F_{ST} of 0.01 using 25 microsatellite
236 loci, and concluded that gopher and black-and-yellow rockfish “have not completed the spe-
237 ciation process.” All of these studies are indicative of low levels of genetic divergence and a
238 high probability of ongoing gene flow between the two nominal species.

239 Most recently, an analysis of rockfish species assignment using microhaplotypes by Baetscher
240 (2019) observed mistaken genetic assignment of a small number of individuals between go-
241 pher and black-and-yellow rockfishes, while no other species among the 54 rockfishes analyzed

242 resulted in mis-assignments. In addition, comparisons of F_{ST} values within the study indicated
243 that the level of genetic differentiation observed between gopher and black-and-yellow
244 rockfishes is lower than that observed among all other pairwise comparisons of the 54 species
245 in the *Sebastodes* genus that were included in their analysis. Baetscher (2019) characterized the
246 results as suggestive of the two species representing “sister species with evidence of ongoing
247 gene flow,” noting that a more rigorous evaluation of the level of genetic distinction between
248 these two species would benefit from whole-genome sequencing of representatives from each
249 species group.

250 In addition to the differences in coloration, the depth distribution and range differ between
251 the two species. The range of both species extends from Cape Blanco Oregon to Baja
252 California. Both species are uncommon north of Fort Bragg, California and black-and-yellow
253 rockfish is uncommon south of Point Conception, California. However, gopher rockfish can
254 be found as far south as Punta San Roque on the Baja peninsula. Gopher rockfish are found
255 in rocky reef habitat from the intertidal to depths of 264 ft (80 m) with a predominant depth
256 distribution of 30 to 120 ft (9-37 m), while the black-and-yellow rockfish occupies depths
257 from the intertidal to 120 ft (40 m) and is predominantly observed in depths shallower than
258 60 ft (18 m) (Eschmeyer et al. 1983, Love et al. 2002).

259 Both species are solitary, sedentary, and territorial species with home ranges of 10-12 square
260 meters (Love et al. 2002). A large percentage (67-71%) of black-and-yellow rockfish returned
261 to the site of capture within two weeks after translocated within 50 m (Hallacher 1984). Lea
262 et al. (1999) found that gopher rockfish exhibit minor patterns of movement (<12.8 km)
263 with all fish being recaptured on the same reef system where they were tagged. Matthews
264 (1985) found that 11.8% of tagged and recaptured gopher rockfish, and 25% of black-and-
265 yellow rockfish, moved from four low-relief natural reefs to a new high-relief artificial reef
266 in Monterey Bay. The maximum distance between the natural and artificial reefs traveled
267 by gopher or black-and-yellow rockfish was 1.6 km. After only a year, the fish assemblage
268 on the artificial reef closely resembled that of the nearby natural reefs. The paper did not
269 address the spatial segregation of gopher and black-and-yellow rockfish on the new artificial
270 reef.

271 Larson (1980) conducted a study on the territoriality and segregation between gopher and
272 black-and-yellow rockfishes. When one species was removed, the other extended its depth
273 range to areas where the other previously occupied, indicating inter-specific competition
274 plays a role in controlling their depth distributions where both species are present. Of the
275 two species, black-and-yellow rockfish are socially dominant and aggressive towards excluding
276 gopher rockfish from shallower waters.

277 Both species are be feed at night, with similar diets composed primarily of crabs and
278 shrimp, supplemented by fish and cephalopods (Larson 1972, 1985, Love et al. 2002). Loury
279 et al. (2015) found no significant differences in the diet of gopher rockfish inside and outside
280 the 35 year old Point Lobos Marine Protected Area (MPA). She did find the diet of gopher
281 rockfish at Año Nuevo (shallower and north of Point Lobos) was dominated by crabs and
282 dominated by brittle stars at southern, deeper study locations. Zuercher (2019) examined

283 the diets of a suite of nearshore rockfish species including black-and-yellow and found that
284 they relied on hard-bodied benthic invertebrates such as Brachyuran crabs, shrimps, other
285 arthropods, and octopus. The diet of black-and-yellow rockfish remained the same across
286 sampling years, but they occupied a lower trophic level during the upwelling season.

287 1.2 Early Life History

288 Gopher and black-and-yellow rockfish have similar juvenile development. Both rockfish
289 species are viviparous and release one brood per season between January and July (Echev-
290 erria 1987). Larvae are approximately 4 mm in length at birth and have a 1-2 month pelagic
291 stage before recruiting to the kelp forest canopy, i.e., surface fronds of *Macrosystis pyrifera*
292 and *Cystoseira osmundacea* at around 15-21 mm (Anderson 1983, Wilson et al. 2008).
293 The larvae are transparent until they reach juvenile stage at 22-23 mm. Differences in col-
294 oration between the two species begin to occur at 25-30 mm and can be used to identify one
295 species from the other. Gopher rockfish become more orange and brown, while black-and-
296 yellow rockfish become more black and yellow. Benthic juveniles associate with *Macrosystis*
297 holdfasts and sporophylls (Anderson 1983).

298 The juveniles undergo ontogenetic migration down the stalks to deeper depths, finally settling
299 on rocky reef habitat in their respective adult depth distribution. Juvenile bocaccio and other
300 fish predate on young of year and other reef dwelling species including cabezon predate on
301 post-settlement juveniles. Individuals avoid rough surge conditions and predators by hiding
302 in the rocky bottom during the daylight hours, then returning to more open water at dusk
303 (Love et al. 2002).

304 1.3 Map

305 A map showing the scope of the assessment and depicting boundaries at Cape Mendocino
306 to the north and the U.S./ Mexico border at the south (Figure 1). The recreational fishing
307 fleet was split into two fleets at Point Conception.

308 1.4 Ecosystem Considerations

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

312 **1.5 Fishery Information**

313 The hook-and-line fishery off California developed in the late 19th century (Love et al. 2002).

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

317 Gopher and black-and-yellow (referred to from hereon as GBYR when discussing the com-
318 plex) rockfish have been a minor component of the commercial and recreational rockfish
319 fishery since at least the late 1960s (CFIS and RecFIN). The commercial catch histories
320 of the two species cannot easily be separated (Figure 2). From 1916-1936 only black-and-
321 yellow rockfish were reported in the landings, and an average of 0.04 mt of black-and-yellow
322 rockfish are reported from 1937-1983. Black-and-yellow rockfish reappear in the landings in
323 1984 with 7.2 mt landed commercially. From 1985-1988 the trend switches and only black-
324 and-yellow rockfish appear in the commercial landings, with gopher rockfish averaging 0.1
325 mt landed, and 0 mt reported in 1987. From 1988 and on, the landings are dominated by
326 gopher rockfish, and both species are represented in the commercial landings.

327 The landings from south of Point Conception are minor throughout the time period, with
328 peaks in the 1950s and 60s for gopher rockfish. Black-and-yellow rockfish are rare south of
329 Point Conception and expected that these catches are minimal.

330 The live fish fishery began in the early 1990s, with the first reported commercial landings of
331 live gopher rockfish in 1993, and black-and-yellow rockfish a year later. By 1995 over half
332 (57%; 39 mt) of the commercial landings were from the live fish fishery. This increased quickly
333 over the next few years and has been on average 84% of the landed gopher and black-and-
334 yellow rockfish (also referred to GBYR to reference the complex in this assessment) since
335 2000. The majority of the landings are from gopher rockfish north of Point Conception.
336 Landings of live GBYR south of Point Conception were higher in the late 1990s, (max. 3.2
337 mt in 1999), and have been averaging 0.4 mt since 2003.

338 The ex-vessel value of GBYR increased from less than \$40,000 in 1984 and peaked at \$680,452
339 in 1996 (Figure 3). The ex-vessel revenue has been fairly stable at around \$500,000 a year
340 since 2007. Prior to the live fish fishery in 1994, the average price per pound for either
341 species was around \$2 a pound. The live fish fishery increased the value of both species to
342 an average of \$6-\$8 a pound. The maximum reported value of either a gopher or black-and-
343 yellow rockfish was \$20 a pound in 2003.

344 The recreational GBYR fishery for California is most prominent north of Point Conception
345 throughout the entire catch history (Figure a). The recreational landings increased from
346 1928 to 1980. The sharp increase in the 1980s could be an artifact of the MRFSS sampling
347 program that began in 1980; however, the more recent recreational landings also exhibit a
348 cyclical trend of years with high catches followed by period of decreased recreational landings.
349 The CRFS era recreational total mortality represents the most accurate description of the
350 recreational fleet's catches in terms of area, mode and species (Figure 4).

351 Recreational GBYR catches are dominated by gopher rockfish north of Point Conception in
352 the private/rental (PR) and party/charter (PC or CPFV) modes. South of Point Conception
353 gopher rockfish are predominately caught by the CPFV fleet, with all other modes being
354 insignificant. The total recreational mortality of black-and-yellow rockfish south of Point
355 Conception since 2005 is 3 mt, compared to 106 mt north of Point Conception. The total
356 mortality since 2005 for gopher rockfish is 86 mt south of Point Conception and 669 mt north
357 of Point Conception.

358 1.6 Summary of Management History

359 Prior to the adoption of the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP)
360 in 1982, GBYR were managed through a regulatory process that included the California
361 Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) along with either the California State Legislature
362 or the Fish and Game Commission (FGC) depending on the sector (recreation or commercial)
363 and fishery. With implementation of the Pacific Coast Groundfish FMP, GBYR came under
364 the management authority of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC), and were
365 managed as part of the *Sebastes* complex. Because neither species had undergone rigorous
366 stock assessment and did not compose a large fraction of the landings they were classified
367 and managed as part of “Remaining Rockfish” under the larger heading of “Other Rockfish”
368 (PFMC ([2002](#), [2004](#))).

369 Since the early 1980s a number of federal regulatory measures have been used to manage
370 the commercial rockfish fishery including cumulative trip limits (generally for two- month
371 periods) and seasons. Starting in 1994 the commercial groundfish fishery sector was divided
372 into two components: limited entry and open access with specific regulations designed for
373 each component. Other regulatory actions for the general rockfish categories have included
374 area closures, gear restrictions, and cumulative bimonthly trip limits set for the four different
375 commercial sectors - limited entry fixed gear, limited entry trawl, open access trawl, and open
376 access non-trawl. Harvest guidelines are also used to regulate the annual harvest for both
377 the recreational and commercial sectors.

378 In 2000, changes in the PFMC’s rockfish management structure resulted in the discontinued
379 use of the *Sebastes* complex, and was replaced with three species groups: nearshore, shelf,
380 and slope rockfishes (January 4, 2000; 65 FR 221), of which GBYR are included in the
381 nearshore group. Within the nearshore group, they are included in the “shallow nearshore
382 rockfish” component.

383 During the late 1990s and early 2000s, major changes also occurred in the way that California
384 managed its nearshore fishery. The Marine Life Management Act (MLMA), which was passed
385 in 1998 by the California Legislature and enacted in 1999, required that the FGC adopt an
386 FMP for nearshore finfish ([Wilson-Vandenberg et al. 2014](#)). It also gave authority to the
387 FGC to regulate commercial and recreational nearshore fisheries through FMPs and provided
388 broad authority to adopt regulations for the nearshore fishery during the time prior to

389 adoption of the nearshore finfish FMP. Within this legislation, the Legislature also included
390 commercial size limits for ten nearshore species including GBYR (10-inch minimum size)
391 and a requirement that commercial fishermen landing these ten nearshore species possess a
392 nearshore permit.

393 Following adoption of the Nearshore FMP and accompanying regulations by the FGC in fall
394 of 2002, the FGC adopted regulations in November 2002 which established a set of marine
395 reserves around the Channel Islands in southern California (which became effective April
396 2003). The FGC also adopted a nearshore restricted access program in December 2002
397 (which included the establishment of a Deeper Nearshore Permit) to be effective starting in
398 the 2003 fishing year.

399 Also, since the enactment of the MLMA, the Council and State in a coordinated effort
400 developed and adopted various management specifications to keep harvest within the harvest
401 targets, including seasonal and area closures (e.g. the CCAs; a closure of Cordell Banks
402 to specific fishing), depth restrictions, minimum size limits, and bag limits to regulate the
403 recreational fishery and license and permit regulations, finfish trap permits, gear restrictions,
404 seasonal and area closures (e.g. the RCAs and CCAs; a closure of Cordell Banks to specific
405 fishing), depth restrictions, trip limits, and minimum size limits to regulate the commercial
406 fishery.

407 The state of California has adopted regulatory measures to manage the fishery based on
408 the harvest guidelines set forth by the PFMC. The commercial open access and limited
409 entry fixed gear sectors have undergone three different spatial management changes in since
410 2000. Since 2005, both have managed the area south of 40°10' N. latitude as one area. The
411 open access commercial fishery is managed based on bimonthly allowable catches, that have
412 ranged from 200 pounds to 1800 pounds per two months since 2000. From 2005 to 2018, the
413 catch limits have doubled and are now set at 1200 pounds per two months (for all months)
414 with March and April remaining closed. The limited entry fixed year sector has followed the
415 same pattern as the open access sector with bi-monthly limits and a doubling of the catch
416 since 2005. The limited entry trawl fleet is managed on monthly limits on an annual basis.
417 Since 2011, the limit has been 300 pounds per month for non-IFQ species. A history of
418 California's commercial regulations from 2000-2018 can be found in [Appendix A](#). A 10-inch
419 total length minimum size limit was implemented in 1999 for both species in the commercial
420 fleet.

421 Significant regulatory changed in California's recreational sector began with a change from
422 unlimited number of hooks and lines allowed in 1999 and prior to no more than three hooks
423 and one line per angler in 2000. Since 2001, the limit has been no more than two hooks and
424 one line per angler. There is no size limit in the recreational fishery for gopher or black-and-
425 yellow rockfish. GBYR are part of the nearshore complex which has had a sub-bag limit
426 within the rockfish bag limit since 1999. The nearshore sub-bag limit has been 10 fish since
427 2005.

428 California also began spatial management, closures, and depth restrictions for the recre-
429 ational fleet in 2000. In general, the recreational season north of Point Conception extends

430 from April to December, and south of Point Conception from March to December. In the
431 area that GBYR are most commonly landed, from Monterey to Morro Bay, the depth restric-
432 tions have been between 30 and 40 fathoms until 2017. In 2017 the depth restrictions were
433 eased by 10 fathoms, opening up fishing depths along the central California coast that had
434 not been open consistently since 2002. In both 2017 and 2018, the deepest 10 fathoms was
435 closed prior to the season in December due to high by-catch rates of yelloweye rockfish, one
436 of two rockfish species that are still overfished. A full history of the recreational regulations
437 relating to the spatial management of the fleet can be found in [Appendix B](#).

438 1.7 Management Performance

439 The contribution of GBYR to the minor nearshore rockfish OFLs is currently derived from
440 two sources: 1) forecasts from Key et al. ([2005](#)), from Cape Mendocino to Point Conception,
441 and 2) a Depletion Corrected Average Catch (DCAC ([MacCall 2009](#))) for the area south of
442 Point Conception. The total mortality of the minor nearshore rockfish has been below
443 the ACL in all years (2011-2016). Total mortality estimates from the NWFSC are not
444 yet available for 2017-2018. GBYR total mortality was on average 20% of the total minor
445 nearshore rockfish total mortality from 2011-2016. A summary of these values as well as
446 other base case summary results can be found in Table [f](#).

447 1.8 Fisheries Off Mexico or Canada

448 The range of GBYR does not extend north to the Canadian border, and they are rarely
449 encountered in Oregon and Washington. The southern end of the gopher rockfish's range
450 extends to Punta San Roque (southern Baja California) while the southern end of the black-
451 and-yellow rockfish's range extends to Isla Natividad (central Baja California) (Love et al.
452 [2002](#)). However, black-and-yellow rockfish are rare south of Point Conception, California.
453 This was no available information on the fishery for GBYR at the time of this assessment,
454 nor additional details on the abundance or distribution patterns in Mexican waters.

455 2 Assessment

456 2.1 Data

457 Data used in the GBYR assessment are summarized in Figure [5](#). Descriptions of the data
458 sources are in the following sections.

459 **2.1.1 Commercial Fishery Landings**

460 *Overview of gopher and black-and-yellow catch history*

461 Commercial fishery landings for gopher and black-and-yellow rockfishes have not been re-
462 ported consistently by species throughout the available catch history (Figure 2). The period
463 from 1916-1935 indicates that only black-and-yellow rockfish were landed in the commercial
464 fishery, which then switched to predominately gopher rockfish from 1937-1984. From 1985-
465 1988 the landings data suggest that only black-and-yellow rockfish were landed and not until
466 1995 are both species well-represented in the catches. Pearson et al. (2008) noted:

467 The fact that the majority of estimated landings are not based on actual sam-
468 pling, combined with the likelihood for misidentification [between gopher and
469 black-and-yellow rockfishes], suggests that our landing estimates are generally
470 unreliable [see Figure 37 in Pearson et al. (2008)]. This is particularly true for
471 the time interval between 1983 and 1988. Between 1983 and 1988, market cat-
472 egory 962 (group gopher) landings increased sharply while market category 263
473 (gopher rockfish) landings declined (not visible in Figure 37 since the stratum
474 was unsampled and the landings were converted to unspecified rockfish). Port
475 samples indicated a shift from gopher rockfish to black-and-yellow rockfish during
476 the same time interval, suggesting problems with identification. We suggest that
477 if black-and-yellow landings are combined with gopher landings, the estimates
478 would be generally reliable for the group.

479 There is no way to tease apart the historical catches by species and even across north and
480 south of Point Conception prior to about 1995. This precludes the ability to model the catch
481 histories for either species accurately. Given these constraints, all commercial data were
482 combined to represent one commercial fleet in the assessment. Additional details regarding
483 this decision are described below.

484 The stock assessment of gopher rockfish in 2005 did not include black-and-yellow rockfish
485 landings. A comparison of the recreational and commercial landings from the 2005 assess-
486 ment to those used in this assessment suggest the 2005 assessment may have included some
487 black-and-yellow rockfish landings (Figure 6). The 2005 assessment estimated recreational
488 landings from 1969-1980 based on a ratio of commercial to recreational landings, whereas
489 this assessment makes use of the California Catch Reconstruction landings estimates (Ral-
490 ston et al. 2010).

491 *Commercial Landings Data Sources*

492 The California Catch Reconstruction (Ralston et al. 2010) contains landings estimates of
493 commercial landings from 1916-1968 and was queried on 4 April 2019 for GBYR. There were
494 no estimated gopher rockfish landings prior to 1937. Landings in this database are divided

495 into trawl and ‘non-trawl.’ Since the majority of GBYR are caught in the commercial fixed
496 gear fisheries, only estimated catch in the ‘non-trawl’ was used. A total of 0.154 mt (3.18%)
497 were removed from Eureka commercial landings (based on current proportions of commercial
498 catch from north of Cape Mendocino in Eureka) since the assessment represents the GBYR
499 stock south of Cape Mendocino. The majority of GBYR commercial landings (avg. 83%)
500 are landed in the Monterey and Morro Bay port complexes.

501 Contemporary landings were extracted from two data sources, the California Cooperative
502 Groundfish Survey, [CALCOM](#)) and the Pacific Fisheries Information Network ([PacFIN](#))
503 landings database. Both databases are based on the same data sources (CALCOM landing
504 receipts), but apply a catch expansion based on different algorithms. CALCOM collects
505 information including species composition data (i.e. the proportion of species landed in a
506 sampling stratum), and landing receipts (sometimes called “fish tickets”) that are a record
507 of pounds landed in a given stratum. Strata in California are defined by market category,
508 year, quarter, gear group, port complex, and disposition (live or dead). Although many
509 market categories are named after actual species, catch in a given market category can
510 consist of several species. These data form the basis for the “expanded” landings, i.e.,
511 species composition data collected by port samplers were used to allocate pounds recorded
512 on landing receipts to species starting in 1978. Use of the “Gopher Rockfish” or the “Black-
513 and-Yellow Rockfish” categories alone to represent actual landings of GBY would not be
514 accurate.

515 See Pearson et al. Appendix C ([2008](#)) for a simple example of the expansion calculations
516 for the CALCOM database and a description of the landings in PacFIN can be found in
517 Sampson and Crone ([1997](#)). Both databases, including species compositions, and expanded
518 landings estimates are stored at the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, a central
519 repository of commercial landings data for the U.S. West Coast. As a note, CALCOM is the
520 only source for landings from 1969-1980.

521 Commercial landings from 1981-2018 were queried for a final time from the CALCOM
522 database on 4 April 2019 and from PacFIN on 3 June 2019. There are very small dif-
523 ferences in commercial landings between CALCOM and PacFIN from 1981-2018 (Figure 7).
524 Landings estimates from PacFIN were used in the assessment (Table 1). Landings were
525 stratified by year, quarter, live/dead, market category, gear group, port complex, and source
526 of species composition data (actual port samples, borrowed samples, or assumed nominal
527 market category). Data from individual quarters were aggregated at the year level. Fish
528 landed live or dead were combined, due to changes over time in the reliability of condi-
529 tion information (Don Pearson, retired NMFS SWFSC, personal communication). From
530 1916-1968, on average, 74% of GBYR were landed north of Point Conception, which rose to
531 97% from 1978-2018. Given the smaller landings south of Point Conception and the similar
532 length composition of GBYR north and south of Point Conception, no spatial separation
533 was considered for the commercial fleet.

534 **2.1.2 Commercial Discards**

535 The West Coast Groundfish Observer Program (WCGOP) provides observer data on dis-
536 carding across fishery sectors back to 2003. Gopher and black-and-yellow rockfishes have
537 species-specific depth-stratified commercial fishery discard mortality rates (Pacific Fishery
538 Management Council 2018). In consultation with WCGOP staff, the STAT used estimates of
539 total discard mortality from WCGOP's Groundfish Expanded Mortality Multiyear (GEMM)
540 report. WCGOP observes between 1-5% of nearshore fixed gear landings annually south of
541 40°10' N. latitude (coverage rates available [here](#)). The expanded estimates of total discard
542 weight by species is calculated as the ratio of the observed discard weight of the individual
543 species divided by the observed landed weight from PacFIN landing receipts. WCGOP disc-
544 card estimates for the nearshore fixed gear fishery take into account the depth distribution
545 of landings in order to appropriately apply the depth-stratified discard mortality rates by
546 species (Somers et al. 2018). The discard mortality for 2018 was estimated as an average
547 of the discard mortality from 2013-2017. Discard mortality was estimated from the period
548 prior to WCGOP discard estimates (1916-2002) based on the average discard mortality rate
549 from 2003-2016 (2017 was excluded because 2017 discard mortality was disproportionately
550 higher than all other years) (Table 1).

551 **2.1.3 Commercial Fishery Length and Age Data**

552 Biological data from the commercial fisheries that caught GBYR were extracted from CAL-
553 COM on 9 May 2019. The CALCOM length composition data were catch-weighted to
554 “expanded” length the raw length composition data (Table 2). The 2005 assessment used
555 commercial length composition information from CALCOM, but did not include black-and-
556 yellow rockfish and is not directly comparable. The 2005 assessment used 2 cm length bins
557 from 16-40 cm, where this assessment uses 1 cm length bins from 4-40 cm. Sex was not
558 available for the majority (99.5%) of the commercial length, and the assessment did not
559 find sexual dimorphism in growth for either species. We aggregated the commercial length
560 composition among all gears and regions south of Cape Mendocino.

561 Discard length compositions from WCGOP (2003-2017) were expanded based on the the
562 discard estimates and were aggregated for all regions south of Cape Mendocino and across
563 all fixed gear fisheries.

564 A total of 46 ages were available for gopher rockfish from the commercial fisheries 2009-2011,
565 2016, and 2018. Though sparse, the data were included as conditional age-at-length for the
566 commercial fleet.

567 The input sample sizes for commercial length composition data were calculated via the
568 Stewart Method for fisheries (Ian Stewart, personal communication, IPHC):

569
$$\text{Input effN} = N_{\text{trips}} + 0.138 * N_{\text{fish}} \text{ if } N_{\text{fish}} / N_{\text{trips}} < 44$$

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

571 Commercial length composition data are made available from PacFIN and the expanded
572 catch-weight length compositions were provided by Andi Stephens (NWFSC) processed
573 through the [PacFIN Utilities](#) package. We compared differences between the catch-weighted
574 length composition expansions from CALCOM and PacFIN. We were unable to reconcile the
575 difference between the two data sets. Sample sizes became more similar if the PacFIN data
576 were restricted to the same market categories used by CALCOM in the expansion. However,
577 both data sets apply other filters that we did not have time to explore. For instance, in the
578 year 2000, 290 more fish were used in the CALCOM expansion than in PacFIN, but in 2002,
579 150 more fish were used in the PacFIN expansions that were not used in CALCOM. Given
580 these caveats, Figure 8 shows the percent difference in the expanded length comps within a
581 year. The biggest difference is in length bin 32 in 2006. However, the same number of fish
582 and samples were used to expand the 2006 lengths in both databases, indicating there are
583 also fundamental differences in how the data are treated. Full documentation is not available
584 for the PacFIN length composition expansion program. Consequently the STAT chose to use
585 a query that they could completely understand and selectively develop from the CALCOM
586 database for the base model, although a sensitivity was conducted using the PacFIN-derived
587 length composition data.

588 **2.1.4 Recreational Fishery Landings and Discards**

589 *Historical recreational landings and discard, 1928-1980*

590 Ralston et al. ([2010](#)) reconstructed estimates of recreational rockfish catch and discard in
591 California, 1928-1980. Reported landings of total rockfish were allocated to species based
592 on several sources of species composition data. Estimates of GBYR landings and discard
593 (combined) from 1928-1979 are available from the SWFSC. For this assessment, historical
594 recreational catch was stratified by year and area (north and south of Point Conception).
595 The catches of GBYR reported in Ralston et al. ([2010](#)) are higher by an order of magnitude
596 than expected given the more recent catches of GBYR in the MRFSS and CRFS eras south
597 of Point Conception (Figure 9). The recreational catches estimated by Ralston et al. ([2010](#))
598 were discussed with the paper's co-authors and also Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel
599 (CPFV), i.e., party/charter mode, captains in California. A consensus was reached that
600 the estimated landings did not accurately represent the historical GBYR landings and an
601 alternative catch stream should be developed. One possibility for the inflated catches of
602 GBYR in southern California is that all nearshore shallow species were combined and all
603 of the nearshore deep species were combined and a constant relative fraction between the
604 two was used to assign catches to each combination of CDFW fishing block and year. The
605 fraction of GBYR within the nearshore shallow species group was likely overestimated.

606 The California Catch Reconstruction applied a linear ramp from 1928-1936 that was
607 not altered in this assessment. From 1937-1979 a linear ramp was developed from the

608 1936 estimate to the average recreational landing from 1980 and 1983 (1981-1982 catches
609 interpolated as described in the next section) of 4.3 mt. The recreational catches north of
610 Point Conception were not altered from the original catch reconstruction. The resulting
611 alternate recreational catch streams are in (Table 3 and Figure 10).

612 The total difference in the catch streams from Figure 9 and Figure 10 is plotted in Figure
613 11. The differences in the catches are due to the addition of commercial discards prior to
614 2004 and the reduction of the recreational catches south of Point Conception.

615 *Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS), 1980-2003*

616 From 1980-2003, the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) executed a
617 dockside (angler intercept) sampling program in Washington, Oregon, and California (see
618 Holliday et al. (1984) for a description of methods). Data from this survey are available from
619 the Recreational Fisheries Information Network [RecFIN](#). RecFIN serves as a repository for
620 recreational fishery data for California, Oregon, and Washington. Catch estimates for years
621 1980-2003 were downloaded on 23 March 2019, and are consistent from 1992-2004 with the
622 previous assessment (Key et al. 2005) (Figure 6).

623 MRFSS-era recreational removals for California were estimated for two regions: north and
624 south of Point Conception. No finer-scale estimates of landings are available for this period.
625 Catches were downloaded in numbers and weight. Catch in weight is sometimes missing
626 from the database due to missing average weight estimates. We estimated average weights
627 based on adjacent strata as needed, although the effect was relatively minor (7.4 mt over all
628 years for gopher rockfish and 0.6 mt for black-and-yellow rockfish). Data were not available
629 for the CPFVs in Northern California from 1980-1982, and we used the average value from
630 this mode and region from 1983-1987 for these three years. MRFSS sampling was temporar-
631 ily suspended from 1990-1992, and we used linear interpolation to fill the missing years.
632 Sampling of CPFVs in Northern California was further delayed, and the linear interpolation
633 spans the period 1990-1995 for this boat mode and region. Landings data for the shore-
634 based modes (beach/bank, man-made/jetty and shore) were sparse throughout the MRFSS
635 sampling. All three shore-based modes were combined by region and linear interpolations
636 were applied missing data in 1981 for the Northern California and 1995, 1996-2001, and 2004
637 in Southern California.

638 Catches from north of Cape Mendocino were removed based on a CRFS-era average of frac-
639 tion of recreational landings north of Cape Mendocino by mode (3.3% of shore-based, 0.1% of
640 CPFV, and 0.2% of private/rental were removed). From 1980-1989, San Luis Obispo County
641 was sampled as part of Southern California (personal observation from MRFSS Type 3 sam-
642 pler examined catch where county is available for 1980-2004). This assessment separates the
643 recreational fleet at Point Conception. Recreational landings were re-allocated from southern
644 California from 1980-1992 by fleet based on the average proportion of recreational landings
645 in northern California from 1996-2004 (after sampling of the CPFV fleet in northern Cali-
646 fornia resumed). The average proportion re-allocated from southern to northern California
647 for the CPFV mode was 85%, 97% for the private/rental mode, and 81% for the shore-based

648 modes. Data were pooled over all years and modes to estimate the landings re-allocation
649 for the shore-based modes. Total recreational landings for 1981 and 1982 were 18.8 mt and
650 18.6 mt, respectively. These landings were >60 mt lower than any of the neighboring years.
651 Landings from 1981-1982 were interpolated from the 1980 and 1983 landings.

652 *California Recreational Fisheries Survey (CRFS), 2004-2016*

653 MRFSS was replaced with the California Recreational Fisheries Survey (CRFS) beginning
654 January 1, 2004. Among other improvements to MRFSS, CRFS provides higher sampling
655 intensity, finer spatial resolution (6 districts vs. 2 regions), and onboard CPFV sampling.
656 Estimates of catch from 2004-2018 were downloaded from the RecFIN database a final time
657 on 4 June 2019. We queried and aggregated CRFS data to match the structure of the
658 MRFSS data, by year, and region (Table 3). Catches in the shore-based modes are small
659 compared to the CPFV and private rental modes. All modes are combined, but separated
660 at Point Conception for two recreational fleets in this assessment, just as was done for the
661 California Catch Reconstruction and MRFSS time series.

662 *Recreational Discards*

663 Recreational discards were only added to the California Catch Reconstruction landings, as
664 Ralston et al. (2010) did not address discards for the recreational reconstruction. Recre-
665 ational removals from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife MRFSS era (1980-
666 2003) includes catch type A + B1. Catch type A refers to estimates of catch based on
667 sampler-examined catch. Catch type B1 includes mainly angler-reported discard, but also
668 angler-reported retained fish that were unavailable to the sampler during the interview (e.g.,
669 fillets). The CRFS era removals account for depth-stratified discard mortality rate and the
670 catch time series includes both retained and discarded catch (total mortality). We calculated
671 the ratio of dead discards to total mortality from the CRFS era by region and mode. The
672 region average across modes was applied to the California Catch Reconstruction as a con-
673 stant. The result added 4.68% annually to recreational removals north of Point Conception
674 and 4.05% annually to the removals South of Point Conception). The final time series of
675 landings and discard mortality are in Table 3.

676 **2.1.5 Recreational Fishery Length and Age Data**

677 Recreational length composition samples for California were obtained from several sources,
678 depending on the time period and boat mode (Table 2). This assessment makes use of a
679 much longer time series of length composition data, relative to the previous assessment, as
680 described below. Input sample sizes for recreational length composition data were based on
681 the number of observed trips, when available. Other proxies that were used to estimate the
682 number of trips are described below.

683 There were no standardized coastwide surveys measure retained or discarded fish from the
684 recreational fleet prior to 1980.

685 *CPFV length composition data, 1959-1978*

686 The earliest available length data for this assessment were described by Karpov et al. (1995),
687 who assembled a time series (1959-1972) of available California CPFV length data (made
688 available courtesy of W. Van Buskirk). For GBYR, data from 1959-1961 and 1966 were
689 available north of Point Conception and from 1959-1961 from south of Pt Conception. A
690 total of 716 (680 north of Point Conception) unsexed measurements of retained fish (no
691 discards) were included in the assessment (Table 2). Sampling of these length data did not
692 follow a consistent protocol over time and areas (data are unweighted), and therefore may
693 not be representative of total catch. Since the number of trips sampled was not reported
694 by Karpov et al. (1995), we assume the number of sampled trips is proportional to the
695 number of measured fish in each year, and estimated the number of trips using the ratio of
696 fish measured per trip in the MRFSS data (roughly 10 fish per trip).

697 Collins and Crooke (n.d.) conducted an onboard observer survey of the CPFV fleet in
698 southern California from 1975-1978. A total of 1,308 GBYR lengths were available from
699 the study and were assumed to all be from retained fish. Ally et al. (1991) conducted an
700 onboard observer program of the CPFV fleet from 1985-1987 in southern California. Because
701 MRFSS data were available for this time period as well and represents multiple recreational
702 modes, the Ally et al. (1991) length data were not used in the assessment.

703 *MRFSS Recreational Length Data, 1980-1989 and 1993-2003*

704 Unsexed length data of retained fish were collected by MRFSS dockside samplers and down-
705 loaded from the RecFIN website. We identified a subset of lengths that were converted from
706 weight measurements, and these were excluded from the final data set (Table 2). The length
707 measurements from Collins and Crooke (n.d.) from 1975-1978 are assumed to all be from
708 retained fish. As of 2003, the CDFW Onboard Observer program has taken length mea-
709 surements for discarded fish. The retained catch is measured during the dockside (angler
710 intercept) surveys.

711 The number of CPFV trips used as initial sample sizes for the MRFSS was based on the
712 number of CPFV trips was determined from the trip-level MRFS CPFV database and the
713 number of private boat trips was determined based on unique combinations of the vari-
714 ables ASSNID ,ID_CODE, MODE_FX, AREA_X, DIST, INTSITE, HRSF, CNTRBTRS,
715 SUB_REG, WAVE, YEAR, and CNTY in the Type 3 (sampler-examined catch) data.

716 During the recent restructuring of the CRFS data on RecFIN, a “trip” identifier was not
717 carried over for all modes, and trip-level sample sizes could not be extracted from the bio-
718 logical detail table on RecFIN. A proxy for initial sample sizes for 2004-2018 were developed
719 using the 2015 data for which I had access to raw data files by mode from CDFW. In more
720 recent years, sampling of the shore-based modes has declined and were not sampled at all
721 in 2018. Samples sizes were calculated by mode as the number of port-days (or site-days for
722 shore-based modes) during bi-weekly intervals (e.g., Jan 1-15, Jan 16-31, etc). The number
723 of port-days sampled in the bi-weekly intervals was used as the initial sample size for number

⁷²⁴ of trips to calculate initial input sample sizes using Ian Stewart's method (described above).
⁷²⁵ All length data were re-weighted in the assessment model.

⁷²⁶ 2.1.6 Fishery-Dependent Indices of Abundance

⁷²⁷ A summary of all indices in the assessment can be found in Table 5. Figure 12 shows each
⁷²⁸ index scaled to the mean value of that index to show them all on the same scale, i.e., the
⁷²⁹ mean of each index in the plot is 1.

⁷³⁰ MRFSS Dockside CPFV Index

⁷³¹ From 1980 to 2003 the MRFSS program conducted dockside intercept surveys of recreational
⁷³² fishing fleet. The program was temporarily suspended from 1990-1992 due to lack of fund-
⁷³³ ing. For purposes of this assessment, the MRFSS time series was truncated at 1998 due to
⁷³⁴ sampling overlap with the onboard observer program (i.e., the same observer samples the
⁷³⁵ catch while onboard the vessel and also conducts the dockside intercept survey for the same
⁷³⁶ vessel). Each entry in the RecFIN Type 3 database corresponds to a single fish examined
⁷³⁷ by a sampler at a particular survey site. Since only a subset of the catch may be sampled,
⁷³⁸ each record also identifies the total number of that species possessed by the group of anglers
⁷³⁹ being interviewed. The number of anglers and the hours fished are also recorded. The data,
⁷⁴⁰ as they exist in RecFIN, do not indicate which records belong to the same boat trip. A
⁷⁴¹ description of the algorithms and process used to aggregate the RecFIN records to the trip
⁷⁴² level is outlined Supplemental Materials ("Identifying Trips in RecFIN").

⁷⁴³ Initial trip filters included eliminating trips targeting species caught near the surface waters
⁷⁴⁴ for all or part of the trip, including trips with catch of bluefin tuna, yellowfin tuna, skipjack,
⁷⁴⁵ and albacore.

⁷⁴⁶ The following filtering steps were applied to gopher rockfish, as well as the sum of the
⁷⁴⁷ two species to represent GBYR. No filtering or indices were developed for black-and-yellow
⁷⁴⁸ rockfish alone due to the sparseness in the data. In the raw data, unfiltered data, black-
⁷⁴⁹ and-yellow rockfish only occurred in 48 trips that did not also observe gopher rockfish.
⁷⁵⁰ There were an additional 65 trips that encountered both species. There was little difference
⁷⁵¹ between indices developed for gopher-only and the GBYR complex for both north and south
⁷⁵² of Point Conception (Figure 13). The descriptions of the filtering and data below represent
⁷⁵³ those for the GBYR complex.

⁷⁵⁴ The species composition of catch in California varies greatly with latitude.
⁷⁵⁵ Therefore, Stephens-MacCall filtering was applied independently for north and south of Point
⁷⁵⁶ Conception. Separate indices were also developed to represent two recreational fleets in the
⁷⁵⁷ model. Since recreational fishing trips target a wide variety of species, standardization of
⁷⁵⁸ the catch rates requires selecting trips that are likely to have fished in habitats containing
⁷⁵⁹ GBYR. The Stephens-MacCall (2004) filtering approach was used to identify trips with a

760 high probability of catching GBYR, based on the species composition of the catch in a given
761 trip. Prior to applying the Stephens-MacCall filter, we identified potentially informative
762 predictor species, i.e., species with sufficient sample sizes and temporal coverage (at least 30
763 positive trips total) to inform the binomial model. Coefficients from the Stephens-MacCall
764 analysis (a binomial GLM) are positive for species which co-occur with GBYR, and negative
765 for species that are not caught with GBYR. Each of these filtering steps and the resulting
766 number of trips remaining in the sampling frame are provided in Table 16.

767 *MRFSS Filtering and Index Standardization for North of Point Conception.* Prior to the
768 Stephens-MacCall filter, a total of 2,788 trips were retained for the analysis. As expected,
769 positive indicators of GBYR trips include several species of nearshore rockfish, treefish, kelp
770 rockfish, and blue rockfish, and the strongest counter-indicator was striped bass (Figure
771 14). While the filter is useful in identifying co-occurring or non-occurring species assuming
772 all effort was exerted in pursuit of a single target, the targeting of more than one target
773 species can result in co-occurrence of species in the catch that do not truly co-occur in
774 terms of habitat associations informative for an index of abundance. Stephens and MacCall
775 (Stephens and MacCall 2004) recommended including all trips above a threshold where the
776 false negatives and false positives are equally balanced. However, this does not have any
777 biological relevance and for this data set, we assume that if a GBYR was landed, the anglers
778 had to have fished in appropriate habitat, especially given how territorial GBYR and both
779 species are strongly associated with rocky habitat.

780 Two levels of possible filtering were applied using the Stephens-MacCall filter (Table 16).
781 The Stephens-MacCall filtering method identified the probability of occurrence (in this case
782 0.4) at which the rate of “false positives” equals “false negatives.” The trips selected using
783 this criteria were compared to an alternative method including all the “false positive” trips,
784 regardless of the probability of encountering GBYR (Table 19). This assumes that if GBYR
785 were caught, the anglers must have fished in appropriate habitat during the trip. The catch
786 included in this index is “sampler-examined” and the samplers are well trained in species
787 identification. The last filter applied was to exclude years after 1999 due to a number of
788 regulation changes, and years in which there were less than 20 observed trips. The final
789 index is represented by 544 trips, 220 of which encountered GBYR.

790 Due to the large number of zeros in the data, we modeled catch per angler hour (CPUE;
791 number of fish per angler hour) using maximum likelihood and Bayesian negative binomial
792 regression. Models incorporating temporal (year, 2-month waves) and geographic (region
793 and area_x) factors were evaluated. Counties were grouped into three regions, north of
794 Sonoma county, Sonoma county through Santa Cruz county, and San Luis Obispo county.
795 Based on AIC values from maximum likelihood fits (Table 17), a main effects model including
796 all factors (year, region, area_x, and 2-month waves) was fit in the “rstanarm” R package
797 (version 2.18.2). Diagnostic checks of the Bayesian model fit (Neff, Rhat, and Monte Carlo
798 standard error values) were all reasonable. Predicted means by stratum (Year) were strongly
799 correlated with observed means, suggesting a reasonable fit to the data (Figure 16). The
800 NB model generated data sets with roughly 50-70% zeros, compared to the observed 60%
801 (Figure 17).

802 The index represents the years 1984-1989, 1995, 1996 and 1999. There is not a lot of contrast
803 in the index, except for a small increase in 1986. The final index values and associated log
804 standard error included in the assessment can be found in Table 6.

805 *MRFSS Filtering and Index Standardization for South of Point Conception.* Prior to the
806 Stephens-MacCall filter, a total of 7,334 trips were available for the analysis. As expected,
807 positive indicators of GBYR trips included several nearshore species, e.g., kelp rockfish,
808 treefish, and black croaker, while the strongest counter-indicator was opaleye (Figure 18).
809 While the filter is useful in identifying co-occurring or non-occurring species assuming all
810 effort was exerted in pursuit of a single target, the targeting of more than one target species
811 can result in co-occurrence of species in the catch that do not truly co-occur in terms of
812 habitat associations informative for an index of abundance. For consistency with the methods
813 used north of Point Conception (Table 16) the index includes the trips identified as “false
814 positives” from the Stephens-MacCall filtering that had a lower threshold level of 0.22 (Table
815 20). The last filter applied was to exclude years after 1999 due to a number of regulation
816 changes, and years in which there were less than 20 observed trips. The final index is
817 represented by 475 trips, 342 of which encountered GBYR.

818 Catch per angler hour (CPUE; number of fish per angler hour) was modeled using the delta-
819 GLM approach (Lo et al. 1992, Stefánsson 1996). A negative binomial model was explored,
820 but the proportion of zeroes was not well estimated in the negative binomial models. This
821 is likely due to the facts that MRFSS sampling effort was higher south of Point Conception,
822 and GBYR are also rare south of Point Conception, both leading to a higher proportion of
823 zeroes in the trip data than for north of Point Conception.

824 Model selection using Akaike Information Criterion (AIC) supported inclusion of year, region,
825 area_x, and 2-month waves. Counties were grouped into three regions, Santa Barbara to
826 Ventura counties, Los Angeles and Orange counties, and San Diego county for both the
827 positive observation model and the binomial model. Area_x is a measure of distance from
828 shore, a categorical variable indicating whether most of the fishing occurred inside or outside
829 three nautical miles from shore.

830 The resulting index for south of Point Conception represents different years than the index for
831 north of Point Conception (Table 6). The index starts in 1980 with continuous data through
832 1986, and three additional years in 1996, 1998 and 1999. The index increases through 1983
833 and a marked decrease to 1986. The index for the three years in the 1990s does not exhibit
834 any significant trend.

835 **CPFV Onboard Observer Surveys**

836 Onboard observer survey data were available from three sources for this assessment, 1)
837 a CDFW survey in central California from 1987-1998 (referred to as the Deb Wilson-
838 Vandenberg onboard observer survey, (Reilly et al. 1998)), 2) the CDFW CPFV onboard
839 observer survey from 1999-2018, and 3) a Cal Poly survey from 2003-2018. During an on-
840 board observer trip the sampler rides along on the CPFV and records location-specific catch

841 and discard information to the species level for a subset of anglers onboard the vessel. The
842 subset of observed anglers is usually a maximum of 15 people the observed anglers change
843 during each fishing stop. The catch cannot be linked to an individual, but rather to a specific
844 fishing location. The sampler also records the starting and ending time, number of anglers
845 observed, starting and ending depth, and measures discarded fish.

846 The fine-scale catch and effort data allow us to better filter the data for indices to fishing
847 stops within suitable habitat for the target species.

848 The state of California implemented a statewide sampling program in 1999 (Monk et al.
849 2014). California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) has conducted an independent
850 onboard sampling program as of 2003 for boats in Port San Luis and Morro Bay, and follows
851 the protocols established in Reilly et al. (1998). Cal Poly has modified protocols reflect
852 sampling changes that CDFW has also adopted, e.g., observing fish as they are encountered
853 instead of at the level of a fisher's bag. Therefore, the Cal Poly data area incorporated in
854 the same index as the CDFW data from 1999-2018. The only difference is that Cal Poly
855 measures the length of both retained and discarded fish.

856 We generated separate relative indices of abundance in for the 1987-1999 and 2000-2018
857 data sets due to the number of regulation changes occurring throughout the time period (see
858 Appendix B). Separate indices were also developed for north and south of Point Conception.

859 *Deb Wilson-Vandenberg Onboard Observer Index Filtering and Standardization.* A large
860 effort was made by the SWFSC to recover data from the the original data sheets for this
861 survey and developed into a relational database (Monk et al. 2016). The specific fishing
862 locations at each fishing stop were recorded at a finer scale than the catch data for this survey.
863 We aggregated the relevant location information (time and number of observed anglers) to
864 match the available catch information. Between April 1987 and July 1992 the number of
865 observed anglers was not recorded for each fishing stop, but the number of anglers aboard the
866 vessel is available. We imputed the number of observed anglers using the number of anglers
867 aboard the vessel and the number of observed anglers at each fishing stop from the August
868 1992-December 1998 data (see Supplemental materials for details). In 1987, trips were only
869 observed in Monterey, CA and were therefore excluded from the analysis. The years 1990
870 and 1991 were also removed for low sample sizes. Final data filters included removing reefs
871 that never encountered GBYR, drifts that had fishing times outside 95% of the data, and
872 fishing stops with depths <9 m and >69m. The final data set contained 2,411 fishing stops,
873 with 1,096 of those encountering GBYR (Figure 19).

874 The index was fit using a delta-GLM model, with a lognormal model (AIC: 1,088) selected
875 over a gamma model (AIC: 1,143) for the positive encounters. Covariates considered in
876 the full model included year, depth, and month (Table 8). The model selected by AIC for
877 both the lognormal and binomial components of the delta-GLM included year, depth and
878 reef. Depth was included in 10 m depth bins and eight reefs were select in the final model
879 (Figure coming). The final index did not indicate an increasing trend that was seen in the
880 2005 gopher rockfish assessment using the same data set (Figure 20). A number of reasons
881 include that finer-scale location data was keypunched in 2012 for this survey, the index in

882 this assessment includes black-and-yellow rockfish, and different filters were applied to the
883 data. However, the same peaks and decreases in the two indices are present.

884 *CDFW and Cal Poly Onboard Observer Index Filtering and Standardization* As described
885 above the CDFW and Cal Poly onboard observer programs are identical in that the same
886 protocols are followed. The only difference is that Cal Poly measures both retained and
887 discarded fish from the observed anglers. CDFW measures discarded fish only from the
888 observed anglers, and measures retained fish as part of the angler interview at the bag level.
889 Cal Poly has also begun collecting otoliths during the onboard observer trips, which are used
890 as conditional age-at-length data the recreational fishery north of Point Conception in this
891 assessment.

892 A number of filters are applied to these data. All of the Cal Poly data have been through
893 a QA/QC process once key-punched, whereas a number of errors remain in the data from
894 CDFW. Data sheets from CDFW are not longer available prior to 2012 and staff constraints
895 have also prevented a quality control review of the data.

896 Each drift was assigned to a reef (hard bottom). Hard bottom was extracted from the
897 [California Seafloor Mapping Project](#), with bathymetric data from state waters available at
898 a 2 m resolution. Reefs were developed based on a number of factors described in the
899 supplemental material (“Reef Delineation”).

900 Initial filters were applied to the entire data set, north and south of Point Conception com-
901 bined. After an initial clean-up of the data, 67,850 drifts remained, with GBYR present
902 in 9,317 (Table 9). This was reduced to 25,427 drifts with GBYR present in 7,250 drifts
903 after filtering the data to remove potential outliers in the time fished and observed anglers,
904 limiting the data to reefs that observed GBYR and were sampled in at least 2/3 of all years,
905 and to drifts with starting locations within 1,000 m of a reef.

906 Recreational fishing trips north and south of Point Conception can be fundamentally different
907 due to differences in habitat structure, target species, and weather.

908 *Filtering and Index Standardization for north of Point Conception* The number of drifts
909 remaining before region specific filtering was 13,792, with 6,036 drifts encountering GBYR
910 (Table 9).

911 Because GBYR are strongly associated with hard bottom habitat, the distance from a reef at
912 the start of a drift was re-examined for drifts encountering GBYR. The maximum distance
913 was 872 m, but the 97% quantile dropped to 42 m and was chosen as a reasonable cutoff
914 value, and only resulted in a reduction of 182 drifts that encountered gopher rockfish. The
915 final data were filtered to ensure all selected reefs were sampled in at least 2/3 of all years,
916 leaving 12,965 drifts for the final index, 5,796 of which encountered GBYR (Figure 21).

917 The index of abundance was modeled with a delta-GLM modeling approach, with year,
918 month, 10 m depth bins from 10-59 m, and 12 reefs as possible covariates. A lognormal
919 model (AIC: 12,185) was selected over a gamma (AIC: 12,520) for the positive observations

920 using AIC. The full model was selected by AIC for the lognormal and binomial components
921 of the delta-GLM. The index indicates a relatively stable trend from 2001-2009 and a steady
922 decrease from 2010-2013. The relative index of abundance has increased since 2014.

923 *Filtering and Index Standardization for south of Point Conception* The bathymetric data is
924 not available at as fine-scale resolution for the Southern California Bight and more of the
925 trips and drifts target mid-water species, including mid-water rockfish (Table 9). Therefore,
926 instead of using distance to reef as a filter, we filtered the data to drifts that encountered
927 20% or more groundfish. This resulted in the total number of drifts decreasing from 11,635
928 to 5,495, but only decreased the number of drifts encountering GBYR from 1,277 to 1,171.
929 A final check was made to ensure all reefs were sampled in at least 2/3 of all years, leaving
930 5,440 drift for the final index, of which 1,132 encountered GBYR (Figure 22).

931 The index of abundance was modeled with the a delta-GLM modeling approach, with year,
932 month, 10 m depth bins from 10-59 m, and four reefs as possible covariates. A lognormal
933 model (AIC: 162) was selected over a gamma (AIC: 277) for the positive observations using
934 AIC. A model with year, depth and reef was selected by AIC for both the lognormal and
935 binomial components of the delta-GLM. The index indicates a relatively stable trend from
936 2001-2004 and a steady increase from 2005-2017.

937 2.1.7 Fishery-Dependent Indices: Available Length and Age Data

938 Length data associated with the MRFSS dockside CPFV survey and the current onboard ob-
939 server surveys conducted by CDFW are incorporated into the biological data pulled from the
940 respective data sources, MRFSS and CRFS. The additional length data are not incorporated
941 as separate length composition data as they represent the same portion of the population
942 sampled by the CDFW onboard observer program.

943 Cal Poly collected otoliths from the onboard observer program starting in 2017 as part of
944 a special study to correlate fish length before and after the fish was filleted by the
945 deckhands onboard the CPFV vessels. All fish collected in 2017 only had associated post-
946 fillet lengths and were not used in the assessment since the study has not been finalized nor
947 has the method been endorsed by the SSC. A subset of fish from the 2018 collection included
948 both pre- and post-fillet length and were used in the assessment as conditional age-at-length
949 data associated with the recreational fleet north of Point Conception.

950 Length composition from Deb Wilson-Vandenberg's onboard observer survey are included
951 in the assessment. This program measured both retained and discarded fish, and represent
952 the portion of the population sampled with the spatial extent of the index. This onboard
953 observer program continued during the period from 1990-1992 when MRFSS was on hiatus.

954 **2.1.8 Fishery-Independent Data Sources**

955 Neither of the two fishery-independent surveys described below have previously been used
956 in stock assessments as indices of abundance.

957 **California Collaborative Fisheries Research Project**

958 The California Collaborative Fisheries Research Project, [CCFRP](#), is a fishery-independent
959 hook-and-line survey designed to monitor nearshore fish populations at a series of sampling
960 locations both inside and adjacent to MPAs along the central California coast (Wendt and
961 Starr [2009](#), Starr et al. [2015](#)). The CCFRP survey began in 2007 and was originally designed
962 as a statewide program in collaboration with NMFS scientists and fishermen. From 2007-
963 2016 the CCFRP project was focused on the central California coast, and has monitored four
964 MPAs consistently since then (Figure [23](#)). In 2017, the program was expanded coastwide
965 within California. The index of abundance was developed from the four MPAs sampled
966 consistently (Año Nuevo and Point Lobos by Moss Landing Marine Labs; Point Buchon and
967 Piedras Blancas by Cal Poly).

968 The survey design for CCFRP consists a number 500 x 500 m cells both within and outside
969 each MPA. On any given survey day for a chose site cells are randomly selected within a
970 stratum (MPA and/or reference cells). CPFVs are chartered for the survey and the fishing
971 captain is allowed to search within the cell for a fishing location. During a sampling event,
972 each cell is fished for a total of 30-45 minutes by volunteer anglers. Each fish encountered is
973 recorded, measured, and can be linked back to a particular angler, and released (or descended
974 to depth). Starting in 2017, a subset of fish have been retained to collect otoliths and fin clips,
975 needed biological information for nearshore species. For the index of abundance, CPUE was
976 modeled at the level of the drift, similar to the fishery-dependent onboard observer survey
977 described above.

978 The CCFRP data are quality controlled at the time they are key punched and little filtering
979 was needed for the index. Cells not consistently sampled over time were excluded as well as
980 cells that never encountered GBYR. CCFRP samples shallower depths to avoid barotrauma-
981 induced mortality. The index was constrained to 5-39m in 5 m depth bins. The final index
982 included 4,920 drifts, 3,848 of which encountered GBYR.

983 We modeled catch per angler hour (CPUE; number of fish per angler hour) using maximum
984 likelihood and Bayesian negative binomial regression. The proportion of zeroes in this data
985 was relatively small (22%), and if overdispersion were not present, the regression would
986 innately become Poisson. Models incorporating temporal (year, month) and geographic
987 (MPA site and MPA vs Reference cells) factors were evaluated. Based on AIC values from
988 maximum likelihood fits (Table [15](#)), a main effects model including all factors (year, month,
989 site and MPA/REF) was fit in the “rstanarm” R package (version 2.18.2). Diagnostic checks
990 of the Bayesian model fit (Neff, Rhat, and Monte Carlo standard error values) were all
991 reasonable. Predicted means by stratum (Year) were strongly correlated with observed

⁹⁹² means, suggesting a reasonable fit to the data (Figure 24). The NB model generated data
⁹⁹³ sets with roughly 18-22% zeros, compared to the observed 22% (Figure 17).

⁹⁹⁴ The CCFRP index of abundance closely matches the trend observers in the onboard observer
⁹⁹⁵ index from 2009-2018 (Figure 12). The index decreases from 2009 to 2013, and then exhibits
⁹⁹⁶ the same increase through 2018. When both indices are standardized to their means, the
⁹⁹⁷ values for 2013 and 2018 are the same.

⁹⁹⁸ *CCFRP Length Measurements and Available Ages*

⁹⁹⁹ The CCFRP program measures every fish encountered to the nearest half centimeter. A
¹⁰⁰⁰ total of 22,470 GBYR were measured by CCFRP from 2007-2018, of which only 212 were
¹⁰⁰¹ black-and-yellow rockfish. The length distributions for each of the four MPAs used in the
¹⁰⁰² index for this assessment show slight difference in their peaks (Figure 26). Año Nuevo is the
¹⁰⁰³ most northern site and Point Buchon the most southern.

¹⁰⁰⁴ Conditional age-at-length data were also incorporated into the assessment from the CCFRP
¹⁰⁰⁵ program, including two master's theses that are products of the CCFRP. Erin Loury (Loury
¹⁰⁰⁶ 2011) collected gopher rockfish otoliths as part of her thesis work from 2007-2009 that in-
¹⁰⁰⁷ cluded specimens from both inside and outside the MPAs. Natasha Meyers-Cherry (Meyers-
¹⁰⁰⁸ Cherry 2014) conducted another thesis focused on the life history of gopher rockfish and
¹⁰⁰⁹ collected otoliths from 2011-2012, also both inside and outside the MPAs. Both MLML and
¹⁰¹⁰ Cal Poly began routinely collecting otoliths from a select number of fish in 2017 as part of
¹⁰¹¹ the CCFRP program. Also included in the conditional age-at-length data for this fleet are
¹⁰¹² otoliths collected in 2018 by the University of California Davis Bodega Marine Lab CCFRP
¹⁰¹³ program.

¹⁰¹⁴ **Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans**

¹⁰¹⁵ The Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans, [PISCO-UCSC](#), conducts
¹⁰¹⁶ a number of surveys to monitor the kelp forests, one of which is a kelp forest fish survey.
¹⁰¹⁷ PISCO has monitored fish population in the 0-20 m depth range as part of the Marine Life
¹⁰¹⁸ Protection Act (MLPA) since 1998. Paired sites inside and outside MPAs are surveyed to
¹⁰¹⁹ monitor the long-term dynamics of the kelp forest ecosystem and provide insight into the
¹⁰²⁰ effect of MPAs on kelp forest species. PISCO conducts the fish surveys from late July through
¹⁰²¹ September. At each site, benthic, midwater, and canopy scuba transects are conducted at
¹⁰²² 5, 10, 15, and 20 m depth. All divers are trained in species identification. Along each 30
¹⁰²³ m transect, divers enumerate all identifiable non-cryptic fish, and measure total length to
¹⁰²⁴ the nearest centimeter. PISCO surveys are conducted by the University of California Santa
¹⁰²⁵ Cruz (UCSC) in central California and through the University of California Santa Barbara
¹⁰²⁶ in southern California. All PISCO data were provided by Dan Malone (UCSC).

¹⁰²⁷ The majority of filtering for the PISCO data set was to determine which sites to keep for
¹⁰²⁸ the final index. After initial filtering the data for GBYR in southern California were too
¹⁰²⁹ sparse to be considered for the index of abundance. Gopher and black-and-yellow rockfish

were also rarely observed in the midwater and canopy transects, and therefore the index is based only on the benthic transects. Only sites sampled consistently throughout the time period 2001-2018 were kept for the index. Multiple transects can be conducted along the same line within a sampling event. All transects within a site were combined and effort was modeled as the number of transects represented in the number of fish observed. The final index included 3,231 transects, of which 1,729 observed GBYR (Figure 27).

We modeled number of fish observed per transect(s) using maximum likelihood and Bayesian negative binomial regression. Models incorporating temporal (year, month) and geographic (site and zone) factors were evaluated. The zone is a factor indicating the depth stratification at a site, i.e., 5 m, 10 m, 15 m, or 20 m targeted bottom depth.. Based on AIC values from maximum likelihood fits (Table 13), a main effects model including all factors (year, month, site and zone) was fit in the “rstanarm” R package (version 2.18.2). Diagnostic checks of the Bayesian model fit (Neff, Rhat, and Monte Carlo standard error values) were all reasonable. Predicted means by stratum (Year) were strongly correlated with observed means, suggesting a reasonable fit to the data (Figure 28). The NB model generated data sets with roughly 16-25% zeros, compared to the observed 23% (Figure 29).

The final index decreases from 2001 to the late 2000s, with lower estimates of relative abundance from 2005-2010. From 2010 to 2015, the index increases and peaks in 2015, before the decreasing trends from 2016-2018. The trend observed in this index is counter to that observed in the onboard observer and CCFRP indices for north of Point Conception (Figure 12). The PISCO survey is sampling different habitat types than the other two surveys, and covers much shallower depths. It’s possible that the PISCO index captures recruitment pulses, but because this index includes both young-of-the-year and adult fish, the trend may be captured in the model.

PISCO Length Measurements

Every GBYR observed by PISCO divers except one, had an associated length measurement ($N = 11,965$). Divers measure fish to the nearest centimeter, and are trained to measure fish underwater and be aware of possible biases, e.g., ambient light, body color, visibility, and body shape. Both juvenile and adult GBYR were observed in the PISCO kelp forest fish survey data (Figure 30). Of note is the similarity in length distributions both between the species and for the two species combined across sites. Fish in the 10-17 cm size range (approximately) are not observed in this survey. There is significant post-settlement mortality for both species, which is thought to be due to density-dependent predation (Johnson 2006, 2007). Secondly, both species are cryptic and observed more often at night than during the day (Mark Carr, PISCO-UCSC, personal communication).

2.1.9 Biological Parameters and Data

Neither gopher nor black-and-yellow rockfish have forked tails, therefore total length and fork length are equal. All of the data provided for this assessment were either in fork length

1068 or total length.

1069 (Table 4)

1070 **Length and Age Compositions**

1071 Length compositions were provided from the following sources:

- 1072 • CALCOM (*commercial retained dead fish*, 1987, 1992-2018)
- 1073 • WCGOP (*commercial discarded fish*, 2004-2018)
- 1074 • Deb Wilson-Vandenberg's onboard observer survey (*recreational charter retained and*
1075 *discarded catch*, 1987-1998)
- 1076 • California recreational sources combined (*recreational charter retained catch*)
 - 1077 – Miller and Gotshall dockside survey (1959-1966)
 - 1078 – Ally et al. onboard observer survey (1985-1987)
 - 1079 – Collins and Crooke onboard observer survey (1975-1978)
 - 1080 – MRFSS dockside survey (1980-2003)
 - 1081 – CRFS onboard and dockside survey (2004-2018)
- 1082 • PISCO dive survey (*research*, 2001-2018)
- 1083 • CCFRP hook-and-line survey (*research*, 2007-2018)

1084 The length composition of all fisheries aggregated across time by fleet is in Figure 31 and
1085 Table 4. Descriptions and details of the length composition data are in the above section for
1086 each fleet or survey.

1087 **Age Structures**

1088 A total of 2,421 otoliths were incorporated in this assessment and a summary by source can
1089 be found in Table 21. The final base model excludes the commercial age data that were
1090 sparse and not representative of the fishery. Gopher rockfish comprised 79% of the samples
1091 (922 females, 879 males, 121 unknown sex), and all but a few black-and-yellow rockfish (247
1092 females, 232 males, 20 unknown sex) came from a directed study by Jody Zaitlin (1986),
1093 collected from 1983-1986 (Figure 32).

1094 Of the available ages, 94% were collected during fishery-independent surveys.

1095 The remaining 6% were recreational dockside surveys and collected by Cal Poly during their
1096 CPFV onboard observer survey (36 otoliths) in 2018.

1097 All otoliths were read by Don Pearson (NMFS SWFSC, now retired) and estimated ages
1098 ranged from 1-28. The aged black-and-yellow rockfish ranged in length from 7-32 cm with a
1099 mean of 24 cm and gopher rockfish ranged in length from 11-36 cm, with a mean of 26. In
1100 terms of ages, the black-and-yellow rockfish ranged from 2-19 and gophers from 2-28. Fits
1101 to the von Bertalanffy growth curve (Bertalanffy 1938), $L_i = L_\infty e^{(-k|t-t_0|)}$, where L_i is the
1102 length (cm) at age i , t is age in years, k is rate of increase in growth, t_0 is the intercept, and
1103 L_∞ is the asymptotic length, were explore by species and sex.

¹¹⁰⁴ No significant differences were found in growth between gopher and black-and-yellow rock-
¹¹⁰⁵ fishes (Figure 33) or between males and females (Figure 34), species combined.

¹¹⁰⁶ Aging Precision and Bias

¹¹⁰⁷ Uncertainty in ageing error was estimated using a collection of 376 gopher and black-and-
¹¹⁰⁸ yellow rockfish otoliths with two age reads (Figure 36). Age-composition data used in the
¹¹⁰⁹ model were from a number of sources described above. All otoliths were read by Don Pearson
¹¹¹⁰ (NMFS SWFSC, no retired) who also conducted all blind double reads.

¹¹¹¹ Ageing error was estimated using publicly available software (Thorson et al. 2012). The
¹¹¹² software setting for bias was set to unbiased since the same reader conducted the first and
¹¹¹³ second readings. The best fit model chose by AIC for the standard deviation was a constant
¹¹¹⁴ coefficient of variation for reader one ad mirrored for reader two (Figure 37).

¹¹¹⁵ The resulting estimate indicated a standard deviation in age readings increasing from 0.74
¹¹¹⁶ years at age 0 to a standard deviation of 2.07 years at age 28, the first year of the plus group
¹¹¹⁷ in the assessment model.

¹¹¹⁸ Weight-Length

¹¹¹⁹ The weight-length relationship is based on the standard power function: $W = \alpha(L^\beta)$ where
¹¹²⁰ W is individual weight (kg), L is length (cm), and α and β are coefficients used as constants.

¹¹²¹ The weight-length relationships was estimated from the three studies, Loury (2011), Meyers-
¹¹²² Cherry (2014) (both gopher rockfish only from CCFRP) and Zaitlin (Zaitlin 1986) (black-
¹¹²³ and-yellow rockfish only). Only one weight-length relationship was estimated for the GBYR
¹¹²⁴ complex. The estimated parameters are $\alpha = 8.84e^{-006}$ and $\beta = 3.25584$. The estimated
¹¹²⁵ relationship is similar to that estimated by Lea et al. (1999) for gopher rockfish (Figure
¹¹²⁶ 38). The weight-length relationship estimated here was used in the assessment model to
¹¹²⁷ best represent the GBYR complex.

¹¹²⁸ Sex Ratio, Maturity, and Fecundity

¹¹²⁹ The sex ratio for GBYR is assumed to be 50:50 as there is no evidence to suggest otherwise.

¹¹³⁰ Zaitlin (1986) found that females reached 50% maturity at 17.5 cm or 4 years of age in Central
¹¹³¹ California and were 100% mature by age 6, with the same age of maturity found in southern
¹¹³² California though individuals were smaller at age. Echeverria (1987) estimated maturity for
¹¹³³ 17 rockfish species in central California. She found the size at first maturity and the size
¹¹³⁴ at 50% maturity for male and female gopher rockfish to be 17 cm total length, and 100%
¹¹³⁵ mature by 21 cm. Black-and-yellow rockfish males and females were first mature at 14 cm,

1136 50% of females were mature at 15 cm, 50% of males mature at 16 cm. Male black-and-yellow
1137 rockfish were 100% mature at 20 cm and females at 19 cm. In southern California waters,
1138 both males and females were found to reach first maturity at 13 cm total length (Larson
1139 1980). We did not have any samples from southern California to re-analyze the maturity
1140 ogive for that portion of the population. Both Zaitlin and Echeverria estimated the maturity
1141 ogives using ages from whole otoliths. A sample of 151 black-and-yellow rockfish otoliths
1142 surface read by Zaitlin were also read by Don Pearson, and Zaitlin's ages were consistently
1143 younger than Pearson's, by up to nine years. All of the available otoliths for this assessment
1144 were re-aged using a combination of surface reading and break-and-burn methodology.

1145 The maturity data from Zaitlin (1986) (422 black-and-yellow rockfish) were re-analyzed along
1146 with samples from Meyers-Cherry (2014) (115 gopher rockfish). Combining the two data sets
1147 provided an updated maturity ogive for the GBYR complex females (Figure 35). The first
1148 observed mature fish was 19 cm and the length at 50% was 21.66 cm, larger than suggested
1149 from the estimate used by Key et al. (2005) in the 2005 assessment. After re-analyzing the
1150 available data, the length at which 50% of female gopher rockfish were mature was estimated
1151 at 23.33 cm, and was 21.26 cm for female black-and-yellow rockfish. An important note is
1152 that the smaller fish from these studies were black-and-yellow rockfish and the larger fish
1153 were gopher rockfish. Although not used in this assessment, the estimate of 50% maturity
1154 for 23 GBYR from these studies was 21.88 cm. The age at 50% mature increased in this
1155 assessment to 21.66 cm, which is 3.96 cm larger than the value used in the 2005 assessment.

1156 Mature females in central California release larvae between January and July, peaking in
1157 February, March, and May (Larson 1980, Lea et al. 1999, Love et al. 2002). Both species of
1158 GBYR release one brood per season (Love et al. 2002). Black-and-yellow rockfish females
1159 can produce 25,000 - 450,000 eggs spawning from January to May. Gopher rockfish females
1160 ranging between 176 and 307 grams carry approximately 249 eggs per gram of body weight
1161 (MacGregor 1970). The fecundity estimates used in this assessment were provided by E.J.
1162 Dick (NMFS SWFSC) from a meta-analysis of fecundity in the genus *Sebastes* (Dick et al.
1163 2017).

1164 Natural Mortality

1165 Hamel (2015) developed a method for combining meta-analytic approaches to relating the
1166 natural mortality rate M to other life-history parameters such as longevity, size, growth
1167 rate and reproductive effort, to provide a prior on M . In that same issue of ICESJMS,
1168 Then et al. (2015), provided an updated data set of estimates of M and related life history
1169 parameters across a large number of fish species, from which to develop an M estimator
1170 for fish species in general. They concluded by recommending M estimates be based on
1171 maximum age alone, based on an updated Hoenig non-linear least squares (nls) estimator
1172 $M = 4.899 * A_{max}^{-0.916}$. The approach of basing M priors on maximum age alone was one that
1173 was already being used for west coast rockfish assessments. However, in fitting the alternative
1174 model forms relating $-0.916M$ to A_{max} , Then et al. (2015) did not consistently apply their
1175 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 (Owen Hamel, personal communication, NMFS). Using a maximum age of 28 the point estimate and median of the prior is 0.193, which is used as a prior for in the assessment model.

2.1.10 Environmental or Ecosystem Data Included in the Assessment

In this assessment, neither environmental nor ecosystem considerations were explicitly included in the analysis. This is primarily due to a lack of relevant data and results of analyses (conducted elsewhere) that could contribute ecosystem-related quantitative information for the assessment.

2.2 Previous Assessments

2.2.1 History of Modeling Approaches Used for this Stock

This is the first full assessment to include data for black-and-yellow rockfish. Black-and-yellow rockfish was assessed coastwide as a data poor species using Depletion-Based Stock Reduction Analysis (DB-SRA) (Dick and MacCall 2010). The DB-SRA model assigned a 40% probability that the then recent (2008-2009) catch exceeded the 2010 OFL.

Gopher rockfish south of Point Conception was assessed as a data poor species in 2010 (Dick and MacCall 2010). A Depletion-Corrected Average Catch (DCAC) model was used due to time constraints. The mean yield from the DCAC distribution was 25.5 mt.

Gopher rockfish north of Point Conception ($34^{\circ}27'$ N. latitude) was first assessed a full stock assessment in 2005 (Key et al. 2005) using SS2 (version 1.19). The assessment was sensitive to the CPFV onboard observer index of abundance (referred to as Deb Wilson-Vandenbergs's onboard observer index in this assessment). The final decision table was based around the emphasis (lambda) given to the index. Lambda of 1, 5, and 10 were used to weight the index, with the lambda of 5 used in the baseline model. The stock was found to be at 97% depletion.

1206 **2.2.2 2005 Assessment Recommendations**

1207 The 2005 STAR panel only had one recommendation specific to gopher rockfish. However,
1208 they had a number of generic rockfish recommendations that can be found in the STAR
1209 panel report available [here](#).

1210 **Recommendation 1: Additional length and age composition data should be
1211 collected for gopher rockfish. This would help to characterize spatial and
1212 possibly temporal variation in growth**

1213
1214 2019 STAT response: Additional age and length data have been collected from a num-
1215 ber of sources, the majority of which have been fishery-independent studies, including
1216 two master's theses focused on gopher rockfish. Only a handful of otoliths have been
1217 collected for gopher rockfish south of Point Conception. Additional length composition
1218 data are available since the last assessment.

1219 **2.3 Model Description**

1220 The model descriptions in the following sections reflect decisions and modelling choices the
1221 STAT team made prior to the STAR panel. Changes from the pre-STAR base model to the
1222 final post-STAR base model are documented in the “Responses to the Current STAR Panel
1223 Requests” section. None of the data changed during the STAR panel, and the figures and
1224 tables reflect the post-STAR final base model.

1225 While investigating convergence issues in the cowcod assessment, Richard Methot (NMFS)
1226 identified an issue with the performance of the ‘sfabs’ function in ADMB. This led to poor
1227 convergence during the iterative search for Fspr under certain conditions. Dr. Methot re-
1228 solved the issue, and provided a new ‘safe’ version of SS (V3.30.13.09) to the cowcod and
1229 GBYR STATs on June 28, followed by an optimized executable on June 30. Apart from the
1230 iterative Fspr search mentioned above, other model outputs and analyses were unaffected
1231 by the change. All of the base model results were run in this newest version of SS.

1232 **2.3.1 Transition to the Current Stock Assessment**

1233 The first formal stock assessment for gopher rockfish was conducted in 2005 (Key et al.
1234 [2005](#)). There are two major differences between the 2005 assessment this assessment, 1) this
1235 assessment models gopher and black-and-yellow rockfish as a complex, and 2) this assessment
1236 includes the area south of Point Conception.

1237 The 2005 model conducted in SS2 version 1.19 was first transitioned to SS3.24z as a bridge
1238 model, before moving forward to SS3.30. Below, we describe the most important changes

1239 made since the last full assessment in 2005 and explain rationale for each change. Some of
1240 these items are changes due to structure changes with Stock Synthesis, and some denote
1241 parameters chosen for options that were not available in SS2 (version 1.19).

1242 Changes in the bridge model from SS2 version 1.9 to SS3.24z and SS3.30.13.09 include:

1243 The way growth is modeled for age-0 fish has changed. More recent versions of Stock Syn-
1244 thesis model length-at-age for fish below the first reference age (A_{min}) as linearly increasing
1245 from the initial length bin to the length given by the L_{at_Amin} parameter. The mini-
1246 mum population length bin was reduced from 10 cm in the 2005 assessment to 4 cm in this
1247 assessment. The timing of settlement was set at July to reflect the month at which
1248 the young-of-the-year are expected to be at 4 cm (Figure 39). The length data leading to
1249 this decision were provided by Diana Baetscher (UCSC) and were collected via Standard
1250 Monitoring Unit for the Recruitment of Fishes (SMURFs) (Ammann 2004) from the UCSC-
1251 PISCO kelp forest fish survey as part of her dissertation work on rockfish genetics (Baetscher
1252 2019).

1253 This stock assessment retains a single fleet for the commercial fishery, and also includes
1254 a commercial discard fleet. Data on commercial discards were not available for and not
1255 included in the 2005 assessment. The decision to retain one commercial fleet was made by
1256 examining the length distributions across species, fishing gears, and space, i.e., north and
1257 south of Point Conception (Figure 40). There is very little difference between the length
1258 composition of gopher and black-and-yellow rockfish landed in the commercial fleet north of
1259 Point Conception, which contributed 97% of the commercial landings from 1978-2018. The
1260 length distributions suggest that gopher rockfish south of Point Conception landed dead
1261 south of Point Conception are slightly smaller on average than north of Point Conception.
1262 However, there is not enough data available to justify splitting the commercial fishery north
1263 and south of Point Conception. The length compositions of discarded fish are small in all
1264 of the subplots, suggesting size-based discarding. Because Stock Synthesis is not set up to
1265 handle depth-dependent discard mortality rates and we're modelling two species as a complex
1266 with differing depth-dependent discard mortality rates, the time series of commercial discards
1267 was incorporated as a fleet.

1268 This assessment incorporates the area south of Point Conception, which was previously
1269 excluded from the 2005 assessment. The length composition data suggested that while the
1270 lengths of gopher and black-and-yellow rockfish were similar, fish encountered south of Point
1271 Conception were smaller (Figure 41). The recreational catches from the man-made/jetty
1272 mode are negligible and did not influence the decision to split the fleet at Point Conception.
1273 From 2005-2018, the man-made/jetty mode averaged 0.5% of the total recreational catch and
1274 discards north of Point Conception and 0.03% south of Point Conception. The similarity of
1275 the length distributions between species and among modes within a region were similar and
1276 justified one recreational fleet.

1277 The 2005 model was a length-based model. This assessment uses conditional age-at-length
1278 from fish aged from a number of sources (Table 21).

1279 Differences in both the recreational and commercial catches used in this assessment are
1280 described in detail in the [1.5](#) section.

1281 The bias adjustment for recruitment deviations did not exist in SS2 (version 1.19). We set
1282 1973-2015 as the range of years with full bias adjustment to span the time series that was
1283 modeled.

1284 The previous assessment modeled selectivity of the commercial fleet as logistic curve, and
1285 both parameters for the logistic selectivity were estimated. Selectivity for the onboard CPFV
1286 survey and recreational fleet were modeled using the double logistic. The current assessment
1287 uses the six parameter double normal for all fleets for which selectivity is estimated and not
1288 mirrored. The MRFSS dockside CPFV surveys and the CPFV onboard observer surveys are
1289 mirrored to the recreational fishing fleets, north and south of Point Conception, respectively.

1290 The 2005 assessment did not include any time blocks. This assessment includes two time
1291 blocks for the commercial fleet (1916-1998 and 1999-2018). A 10-inch minimum size limit
1292 was placed on the commercial fleet in 1999, which was reflected in the CALCOM length
1293 composition data. No additional time blocks were added for the recreational fleet. GBYR
1294 are a minor component of the nearshore rockfish complex and no significant changes were
1295 detected in the landings or length composition during the time when regulations changed
1296 (1999-2002).

1297 The 2005 assessment considered two candidate fishery-dependent indices of abundance, the
1298 Deb Wilson-Vandenberg onboard observer CPFV survey and a dockside intercept survey
1299 from MRFSS and RecFIN from 1983-2003. However, the dockside index was removed at the
1300 request of the STAR panel, citing “did not provide a reliable measure of relative abundance
1301 due to changes in regulations and fishery targeting during the 1990s-2000s.” The current
1302 assessment uses a version of the MRFSS database that has been more robustly aggregated to
1303 the trip level. Starting in 1999, the CDFW began the onboard observer program (described
1304 in the indices of abundance). Once the program ramped up by the mid-2000s, almost all of
1305 the CPFV groundfish trips sampled as onboard observer trips were also sampled as angler
1306 intercept surveys, i.e., dockside interviews. Using both the onboard observer data and the
1307 dockside interviews for this time period would result in developing indices from the same
1308 fish. The onboard observer program provides greater detail in terms of catch and location
1309 than the dockside sampler examined catch. The onboard observer indices do not include the
1310 years 1999 and 2000 due to the number of regulation changes occurring in those two years.

1311 The fishery-independent indices are all new for this assessment; the PISCO kelp forest fish
1312 survey and the CCFRP hook-and-line survey.

1313 Maturity was changed for this assessment based upon newly available data described in the
1314 biological specifications of this assessment.

1315 The 2005 assessment pre-STAR base model fixed steepness for gopher rockfish at 1.0, which
1316 was then changed to 0.65 (the Dorn prior at the time) during the STAR panel. In this

1317 assessment, steepness was set at 0.72, the mean of the prior developed from a meta-analysis of
1318 West Coast groundfish, with a standard deviation of 0.16 (see Accepted Practices Guidelines
1319 for Groundfish Stock Assessments in the supplemental material).

1320 The prior for female natural mortality was updated to the median of the prior from a meta-
1321 analysis conducted by Owen Hamel (see Accepted Practices Guidelines for Groundfish Stock
1322 Assessments in the supplemental material). Assuming a maximum age of 28 years, the
1323 median of the prior is 0.193, close to the fixed value used in the 2005 assessment of 0.2.

1324 Due to the fact that the 2005 model only included gopher rockfish and excluded the area
1325 south of Point Conception, a complete bridge model was not developed. Comparison of
1326 the 2005 input data, catch streams, and indices are provided throughout the document in
1327 appropriate sections.

1328 **2.3.2 Summary of Data for Fleets and Areas**

1329 There are 12 fleets in the base model. They include:

1330 *Commercial*: The commercial fleets include two separate fleets, one for GBYR landed (all
1331 gears combined), and one for commercial dead discards.

1332 *Recreational*: The recreational fleets include two fleets, one for north of Point Conception
1333 and one for south of Point Conception (all mode combined).

1334 *Fishery-Dependent Surveys*: There are five fishery-dependent survey fleets, one each for
1335 north and south of Point Conception from the MFRSS CPFV dockside survey, one each
1336 for north and south of Point Conception from the CDFW/Cal Poly onboard observer survey,
1337 and one from the Deb Wilson-Vandenberg CPFV onboard observer survey that represents
1338 north of Point Conception only.

1339 *Research*: There are third main sources of fishery-independent data available the CCFRP
1340 survey the PISCO kelp forest fish survey. A third survey fleet is included as a “dummy”
1341 fleet to allow incorporation of additional conditional age-at-length composition data from the
1342 Zaitlin and Abrams theses, the Pearson groundfish cruise, and the special study conducted
1343 during the SWFSC’s juvenile rockfish and ecosystem cruise. This dummy fleet includes 1,067
1344 ages of gopher and black-and-yellow rockfish. This dummy fleet does not have any length or
1345 catches associated with it.

1346 **2.3.3 Other Specifications**

1347 Stock synthesis has a broad suite of structural options available. Where possible, the ‘default’
1348 or most commonly used approaches are applied to this stock assessment. The assessment

1349 is a one-sex model, as no significant differences in growth between males and females was
1350 detected in external analyses.

1351 The length composition data for some years and fleets was small, and may not be representative
1352 of the total catch. Length composition data were removed from the model if fewer
1353 than 20 fish were measured in a given year and fleet. From 1985-1989, two surveys measured
1354 fish from the recreational party/charter fleet, the Ally et al. (Ally et al. [1991](#)) onboard
1355 observer survey and the dockside intercept survey. The number of trips and fish sampled by
1356 the onboard observer survey was far greater than the RecFIN survey and were used in the
1357 model. Initial input sample sizes were also capped at 400 for each set of length composition
1358 data.

1359 The time-series of landings begins in 1916 for the commercial fleet and in 1928 for the
1360 recreational fleet. This captures the inception of the fishery, so the stock is assumed to be
1361 in equilibrium at the beginning of the modeled period.

1362 The internal population dynamics model tracks ages 0-28, where age 28 is the ‘plus-group.’
1363 There are relatively few observations in the age compositions that are greater than age 28.
1364 The population length bins and the length composition length bins are set at 1-cm bins from
1365 fish 4-40 cm.

1366 The extra standard deviation parameter was added to all indices except the Deb Wilson-
1367 Vandenberg CPFV onboard observer index and the MRFSS dockside index for north of Point
1368 Conception that both had relatively large estimated variances associated with them. The
1369 extra parameter was explored, but estimated to be on the lower bound, and was removed for
1370 the final base model. All other indices, both recent recreational onboard observer indices,
1371 CCFRP, PISCO, and the MRFSS dockside index south of Point Conception, were estimated
1372 with relatively small variances (10-20%) from their respective indices. Extra variance was
1373 estimated for these indices in the base model.

1374 The following likelihood components are included in this model: catch, indices, discards,
1375 length compositions, age compositions, recruitment, parameter priors, and parameter soft
1376 bounds. See the SS technical documentation for details (Methot et al. [2019](#)).

1377 Electronic SS model files including the data, control, starter, and forecast files can be found
1378 on the [PFMC ftp site](#).

1379 2.3.4 Modeling Software

1380 The STAT team used Stock Synthesis 3 version 3.30.13.09 (published on 6/28/2019) by
1381 Dr. Richard Methot at the NWFSC. This most recent version was used, since it included
1382 improvements and corrections to older versions. The r4SS package (GitHub release number
1383 v1.35.1) was used to post-process output data from Stock Synthesis.

1384 **2.3.5 Data Weighting**

1385 Length composition and conditional-age-at-length (CAAL) compositions sample sizes for the
1386 base model were tuned by the “Francis method,” based on equation TA1.8 in Francis (2011),
1387 and implemented in the r4ss package. This approach involves comparing the residuals in the
1388 model’s expected mean length with respect to the observed mean length and associated
1389 uncertainty derived from the composition vectors and their associated input sample sizes.
1390 The sample sizes are then tuned so that the observed and expected variability are consistent.
1391 After adjustment to the sample sizes, models were not re-tuned if the bootstrap uncertainty
1392 value around the tuning factor overlapped 1.0.

1393 As outlined in the Best Practices, a sensitivity run was conducted with length and
1394 conditional-age-at-length (CAAL) compositions were re-weighted using the Ianelli-
1395 McAllister harmonic mean method (McAllister and Ianelli 1997). Additionally, weighting
1396 using the Dirichlet-Multinomial likelihood, that includes and estimable parameter (theta)
1397 that scales the input sample size, was explored. However, the model did not converge
1398 when the Dirichlet-Multinomial likelihood was applied to a number of the fleets with
1399 composition data. Given this, and the current challenges with this method described in the
1400 Stock Synthesis manual (Methot et al. 2019), the Francis weightings were applied in the
1401 base model.

1402 A series of sensitivities were conducted to determine the need to estimate extra variability
1403 parameters were estimated and added to the survey CPUE indices, and described below in
1404 the Estimated Parameters section.

1405 **2.3.6 Priors**

1406 The log-normal prior for female natural mortality were based on a meta-analysis completed
1407 by Hamel (2015), as described under “Natural Mortality.” Natural mortality was estimated
1408 using with a prior of, 0.193 (with log-space sigma of 0.438) for an assumed maximum age of
1409 28.

1410 The prior for steepness (h) assumes a beta distribution with parameters based on an update
1411 for the Thorson-Dorn rockfish prior (Dorn, M. and Thorson, J., pers. comm.), which was
1412 endorsed by the Science and Statistical Committee in 2019. The prior is a beta distribution
1413 with $mu=0.72$ and $sigma=0.16$. Steepness is fixed in the base model at the mean of the
1414 prior.

1415 **2.3.7 Estimated and Fixed Parameters**

1416 A full list of all estimated and fixed parameters is provided in Tables 23. Time-invariant,
1417 growth is estimated in this assessment, with all SS growth parameters being estimated. The

¹⁴¹⁸ log of the unexploited recruitment level for the Beverton-Holt stock-recruit function is treated
¹⁴¹⁹ as an estimated parameter. The early annual recruitment deviations begin in 1960, with the
¹⁴²⁰ main recruitment deviations estimated from 1972-2018. The survey catchability parameters
¹⁴²¹ are calculated analytically (set as scaling factors) such that the estimate is median unbiased,
¹⁴²² which is comparable to the way q is treated in most groundfish assessments.

¹⁴²³ The base model has a total of 111 estimated parameters in the following categories:

- ¹⁴²⁴ • Natural mortality
- ¹⁴²⁵ • Equilibrium recruitment (R_0) and 71 recruitment deviations
- ¹⁴²⁶ • Stock recruitment autocorrelation parameter
- ¹⁴²⁷ • Five growth parameters
- ¹⁴²⁸ • Five index extra standard deviation parameter, and
- ¹⁴²⁹ • 27 selectivity parameters

¹⁴³⁰ The estimated parameters are described in greater detail below and a full list of all estimated
¹⁴³¹ and parameters is provided in Table 23.

¹⁴³² *Growth.* Five growth parameters were estimated for the one-sex model: three von Bertalanffy
¹⁴³³ parameters and two parameters for CV as a function of length-at-age related to variability
¹⁴³⁴ in length-at-age for small and large fish.

¹⁴³⁵ *Natural Mortality.* The estimated natural mortality of 0.212 is close to the median of the
¹⁴³⁶ prior, 0.193.

¹⁴³⁷ *Selectivity.* Selectivity for all fleets was estimated as double-normal.

¹⁴³⁸ Selectivity was estimated as asymptotic for the commercial fleet, with one time block.
¹⁴³⁹ Asymptotic selectivity was also estimated for both recreational fleets, Deb Wilson-
¹⁴⁴⁰ Vandenberg's onboard observer survey, and the PISCO. Three parameters were estimated
¹⁴⁴¹ for each of these fleets, the peak, the ascending width, and the selectivity at the first bin.

¹⁴⁴² Dome-shaped selectivity was estimated for the commercial discard fleet and the CCFRP
¹⁴⁴³ survey. Five of the size parameters were estimated for the commercial discard selectivity
¹⁴⁴⁴ (selectivity at the last bin was fixed). Four parameters were estimated for the CCFRP
¹⁴⁴⁵ length compositions (selectivity at the first and last bins was fixed).

¹⁴⁴⁶ *Other Estimated Parameters.* Early recruitment deviations for the base model are estimated
¹⁴⁴⁷ from 1960-1972, with the main recruitment deviations estimated from 1978 to 2018. The

¹⁴⁴⁸ base model also included estimated recruitment deviations for the forecast years, although
¹⁴⁴⁹ these have no impact on the model estimates for the current year.

¹⁴⁵⁰ Many variations of the base case model were explored during this analysis. Sensitivities to
¹⁴⁵¹ asymptotic vs. domed selectivity were explored for the appropriate fisheries, e.g. commercial
¹⁴⁵² fisheries and surveys, as well as estimating selectivity and mirroring fleet selectivities. Time
¹⁴⁵³ blocked selectivity without the time block from 1999-2019 for the recreational fisheries was
¹⁴⁵⁴ investigated.

¹⁴⁵⁵ Much time was also spent tuning the advanced recruitment bias adjustment options.
¹⁴⁵⁶ Sensitivities were performed to each of the thirteen advanced options for recruitment, e.g.,
¹⁴⁵⁷ early recruitment deviation start year, early recruitment deviation phase, years with bias
¹⁴⁵⁸ adjustments, and maximum bias adjustment. The final base model sets the first year of
¹⁴⁵⁹ recruitment deviations just prior to when the majority of fishery/survey length composition
¹⁴⁶⁰ are available.

¹⁴⁶¹ Initial runs showed that the estimated recruitments were highly auto-correlated.
¹⁴⁶² Therefore, an auto-correlation parameter was late estimated and its value was estimated to
¹⁴⁶³ be positive and significantly different from zero.

¹⁴⁶⁴ Several models were also investigated where steepness and natural mortality were either
¹⁴⁶⁵ estimated, fixed at their respective priors.

¹⁴⁶⁶ *Other Fixed Parameters.* The stock-recruitment steepness is fixed at the SSC approved
¹⁴⁶⁷ steepness prior for rockfish of 0.72.

¹⁴⁶⁸ 2.4 Model Selection and Evaluation

¹⁴⁶⁹ 2.4.1 Key Assumptions and Structural Choices

¹⁴⁷⁰ Key assumptions in the model are that it is appropriate to model gopher and black-and-yellow
¹⁴⁷¹ rockfish as a complex. The catch histories are inseparable at this time, especially for
¹⁴⁷² the early commercial landings. The biological information available also precluded complete
¹⁴⁷³ analyses of difference in growth, i.e., the majority of black-and-yellow rockfish aged were
¹⁴⁷⁴ small fish and small fish were lacking for gopher rockfish. Data from both species were used
¹⁴⁷⁵ to provide a complete picture of the growth curve.

¹⁴⁷⁶ The assessment is a one area model with fleets as areas for the recreational fishery. There
¹⁴⁷⁷ were only a handful of aged gopher rockfish from south of Point Conception, and not enough
¹⁴⁷⁸ other biological information available that would have justified a multi-area model.

1479 **2.4.2 Alternate Models Considered**

1480 A number of models were run with different catch histories for the recreational fleet south of
1481 Point Conception, given that the catch histories were modified from the original data. None
1482 of the alternatives explored altered the model at any significant level due to the fact that
1483 the recreational catches south of Point Conception are relatively small. Results from select
1484 sensitivity runs compared to the base model are in Table 26.

1485 Two sensitivities were also performed altering the commercial discard catch history. The
1486 discard catch was set to zero for all years prior to 2004, the year when WCGOP estimates
1487 were first available, and to a constant rate of 17% of the commercial landings, the maximum
1488 discard rate observed in the WCGOP data. Neither of these sensitivities resulted in any
1489 significant change to the model outputs.

1490 Sensitivity of the model to the spawning and settlement months were also explored. The
1491 base model originally set settlement month to January. Both gopher and black-and-yellow
1492 rockfish settle at a small size (~2 cm) and over a course of several months. After exploring the
1493 young-of-the-year length data made available by Diana Baetscher, the timing of settlement
1494 was moved to July for the base model, when the majority of GBYR are 4 cm, the size of the
1495 smallest length bin. The change of the timing of settlement had little effect on the model
1496 results.

1497 Runs of the base case model estimating steepness were also considered.

1498 A sensitivity of the model to using the commercial length composition data from PacFIN
1499 was also considered. The fits to the changed only slightly, (increasing depletion from 0.46
1500 to 0.48) but given the concerns outlined in the discussion on commercial length composition
1501 the base model includes the commercial length compositions from CALCOM.

1502 Sensitivities were developed to look at alternate selectivity patterns for the the commercial
1503 discard fleet and the CCFRP survey. Neither of the length compositions for these fleets
1504 observed larger fish. A time block for the commercial discard fishery was not considered
1505 since no length composition of discarded fish were available prior to 2004.

1506 **2.4.3 Convergence**

1507 Model convergence was determined by starting the minimization process from dispersed val-
1508 ues of the maximum likelihood estimates to determine if the model found a better minimum.
1509 Jitter is a SS option that generates random starting values from a normal distribution lo-
1510 gistically transformed into each parameter's range (Methot et al. 2019). This was repeated
1511 240 times and the minimum was reached in 97% of the runs (Table 22). The model did not
1512 experience convergence issues, e.g., final gradient was below 0.0001, when reasonable starting
1513 values were used and there were no difficulties in inverting the Hessian to obtain estimates of

1514 variability. We did sensitivity runs for convergence by changing the phases for key estimated
1515 parameters; neither the total log-likelihood nor the parameter estimates changed.

1516 2.5 Response to the Current STAR Panel Requests

1517 To be populated after the STAR panel.

1518 2.6 Base Case Model Results

1519 The following description of the model results reflects a base model that was developed prior
1520 to the STAR panel (this section will be updated after the STAR panel). The base model
1521 parameter estimates and their approximate asymptotic standard errors are shown in Table
1522 23 and the likelihood components are in Table 24. Estimates of derived reference points
1523 and approximate 95% asymptotic confidence intervals are shown in Table e. Time-series of
1524 estimated stock size over time are shown in Table 25.

1525 Steepness of the assumed Beverton-Holt stock-recruitment relationship was fixed at 0.72,
1526 and natural mortality was estimated to be 0.22.

1527 2.6.1 Parameter Estimates

1528 The base model produces estimates of growth parameters different from the external esti-
1529 mates (Figure 42). The external estimate of the von Bertalanffy growth coefficient k was
1530 0.247, whereas the internal estimate was much lower at 0.121. Using the Schnute param-
1531 eterization with the age for L1 set at 2 and L2 at 23, the external estimates of lengths at
1532 Amin and Amax were 13.80 and 28.22, respectively. The internal estimates of the lengths
1533 for Amin and Amax were 9.72 and 28.36, respectively. Natural mortality was estimated in
1534 the base model and natural mortality and the growth parameter k are negatively correlated.
1535 The model sensitivity to growth and natural mortality are explored in the sensitivities.

1536 The additional survey variability (process error added directly to each year's input variabil-
1537 ity) for all surveys was estimated within the model.

1538 Selectivity curves were estimated for the fishery and survey fleets. The estimated selectivities
1539 for all fleets within the model are shown in Figure 43. The commercial fishery selectivities
1540 are all asymptotic. Maximum selectivity for the commercial fleet is reached at 34 cm from
1541 1916-1998 and also selected fish smaller than recent years. The implementation of the 10-
1542 in size limit resulted in a steeper selectivity curve, with fish fully selected at 31 cm from
1543 1999-2018 (Figure 44).

1544 The commercial discard fleet did not observe any fish over 36 cm in the 14 years of available
1545 data. The majority of the nearshore fishery for GBYR is the live fish fishery, and fishermen
1546 are fishing shallower waters in order to ensure that the landed fish remain alive. The larger
1547 GBYR likely reside in waters deeper than typically fished by this fleet.

1548 The recreational fleet north of Point Conception selects the largest fish of the other fleets,
1549 with full selectivity at 34 cm. Fish south of Point Conception encountered in the recreational
1550 fleet were noticeably smaller, and fully selected at 29 cm.

1551 The two fishery-independent surveys sample different habitats and depth ranges. The PISCO
1552 study only samples in 0-20 m depth and observes small young-of-the-year fish and adults,
1553 but not the 10-17 cm size range. The asymptotic selectivity for the PISCO survey does not
1554 go to zero on the ascending side since the young-of-the-year fish are observed. The CCFRP
1555 survey does not see the larger size classes, possibly due to the maximum survey depth fished
1556 to reduce barotrauma. Dome shaped selectivity was estimated for this survey.

1557 The additional survey variability (process error added directly to each year's input variabil-
1558 ity) for all surveys was estimated within the model. The model estimated a small added
1559 variance for MRFSS dockside recreational index north of Point Conception that was then
1560 turned off for the final base model. The added variance for Deb's onboard observer survey
1561 was estimated at 0.075566 but the model presented stability issues during jittering when the
1562 variability was turned off. Therefore, it was turned on for the final base model, and can be
1563 explored further. The added variances were highest for the recreational onboard observer
1564 survey north of Point Conception (0.234) and south of Point conception (0.598), the MRFSS
1565 dockside south of Point Conception (0.282), PISCO (0.2), and CCFRP (0.187).

1566 Recruitment deviations were estimated from 1978-2018 (Figure 45). Estimates of recruitment
1567 suggest that GBYR are characterized by cyclical years of high and low recruitment (Figure
1568 46). The years of highest estimated recruitment were in the early 1990s, followed by a period
1569 of below average recruitment, and another high recruitment pulse in the late 2010s. The bias
1570 adjustment for recruitment deviations can be found in Figure 47. The PISCO kelp forest
1571 fish survey is the only fishery-independent survey that observed young-of-the-year GBYR in
1572 this assessment.

1573 The stock-recruit curve resulting from a fixed value of steepness is shown in Figure 48.
1574 The stock has not been depleted to a low enough level that would inform the estimation of
1575 steepness. Steepness was not estimated in this model, and profiles over steepness values are
1576 discussed below.

1577 2.6.2 Fits to the Data

1578 Model fits to the indices of abundance, fishery length composition, survey length composition,
1579 and conditional age-at-length observations are all discussed below. The full r4ss plotting
1580 output is available in the supplementary material.

1581 The fits to the five fishery-dependent and two fishery-independent survey indices are shown
1582 in Figures 49 - 55. The majority of the indices represent the area north of Point Conception
1583 only and not all of these were fit well by the assessment model. The MRFSS recreational
1584 dockside survey index north of Point Conception spanning the 1980s-1990s was fit well by the
1585 model without added variance, but relatively flat, and is not a very informative index. The
1586 index for Deb's CPFV onboard observer survey spanning 1988-1998 was well fit and indicates
1587 an increase in relative abundance in the last year of the survey. The current recreational
1588 CPFV onboard observer survey north of Point Conception from 2001-2018 was relatively
1589 well fit, except for the decline suggested 2013 and 2014. The increase in relative abundance
1590 observed in 2018 was not fit by the model, even with the added variance.

1591 The fishery-dependent indices for north of south of Point Conception were both relatively
1592 flat. The MRFSS CPFV dockside survey index was relatively well fit and indicated an
1593 increase in the last two years of the survey, 1998-1999. The current onboard observer survey
1594 representing 2001-2018 showed very little trend in the estimated CPUE, and the variance
1595 added to this survey was the highest for all indices.

1596 The fishery-independent PISCO kelp forest fish survey index indicates a cyclical trend that
1597 was not captured by the model fit. The fit to the index is relatively flat This may be in part
1598 due to the observation of both young-of-the-year, small juveniles, and adults in the survey.
1599 An alternative index of abundance teasing apart the two life stages will be developed and
1600 presented at the STAR panel.

1601 The model was not able to capture the trends observed in the fishery-independent CCFRP
1602 hook-and-line survey. The index suggested the same depressed relative abundance in 2013
1603 as the fishery-dependent onboard observer survey, that was also not captured here by the
1604 fit. The increasing trends in abundance from 2016-2018 was also not captured by the model
1605 fit, and the fit suggests a declining trend over the entire time series from 2007-2018.

1606 Fits to the length data are shown based on the proportions of lengths observed by year and
1607 the Pearson residuals-at-length for all fleets. Detailed fits to the length data by year and
1608 fleet are provided in Appendix 8. Aggregate fits by fleet are shown in Figure 56. Overall,
1609 the length composition all fit well. The fit to the the commercial discard length composition
1610 was underestimated at the peak, but otherwise captures the observations well. The same
1611 is true for one of the peaks at 25 cm for the PISCO data, that were the nosiest of all the
1612 length composition data. There are a handful of years within some of the annual length
1613 composition data that were not particularly well fit, e.g., 1980 and 1996 for RecSouth, but
1614 these were usually due to high frequencies of fish in a small number of length bins.

1615 The age data were also weighted according to Francis weighting which adjust the weight given
1616 to a data set based on the fit to the mean age by year. The mean age of the recreational
1617 fleet declined from 1980 to 1986, and the mean for 2017 was the highest of all years (Figure
1618 57). The conditional age data from the CCFRP data was not well fit for the earliest years
1619 in the data, but was reasonably well fit for the last four years of data (Figure 58). The
1620 conditional length composition data from the 'dummy' fleet was well fit, although heavily

1621 down-weighted. Age data in this fleet are from a number of sources and sampling programs
1622 (Figure 59).

1623 2.6.3 Uncertainty and Sensitivity Analyses

1624 A number of sensitivity analyses were conducted, including:

- 1625 1. Fixing natural mortality at the prior of 0.193
- 1626 2. Fixing the von Bertalanffy k at the external estimate of 0.247
- 1627 3. Using the PacFIN expanded length composition data
- 1628 4. Data weighting scenarios including unweighted, harmonic means (McAllister-Ianelli
1629 method), and Francis weights

1630 The following sensitivities are based on the pre-STAR base model and indicate areas that the
1631 STAT identified as either areas of uncertainty or model sensitivities outlined in the Accepted
1632 Practices and Guidelines document. A summary of parameters for all sensitivity runs is in
1633 Table 26.

1634 Fixing either natural mortality or the von Bertalanffy k parameter results in a stock with
1635 higher spawning output in 2018 as compared to the base model (Figure 60).

1636 Fixing either M or k demonstrates the negative correlation between the two parameters. The
1637 von Bertalanffy k parameter is estimated at 0.12 when natural mortality (estimated at 0.21)
1638 and growth are both estimated. When natural mortality is fixed at the prior of 0.19, k is
1639 estimated at 0.14, but the two other growth parameters, L1 and L2 do not change much at
1640 all. When k is fixed to the external estimate of 0.247, natural mortality is estimated at 0.16,
1641 and the other growth parameters both decrease. A number of additional sensitivities to the
1642 growth parameters will be presented at the STAR panel.

1643 Replacing the CALCOM commercial length composition data with the PacFIN length com-
1644 position results in the stock at an overall lower level of biomass than the base model. Deple-
1645 tion in the final year with the PacFIN length composition is 0.50, compared to 0.46 in the
1646 base model. A detailed discussion on the decision to use the CALCOM length composition
1647 in the base model can be found in the discussion commercial length and age data, Section
1648 (2.1.3).

1649 Data weighting is an area of uncertainty for stock assessment, and research is ongoing to
1650 determine the effects of data weighting and the most appropriate initial sample sizes for
1651 length and age composition data. The base model used the Stewart sample sizes for initial
1652 sample sizes for the fishery data and either the Stewart sample sizes or number of “trips” for

1653 the survey sample sizes. Weighting the data by the harmonic mean resulted in a model with
1654 a total likelihood between the base model, which uses the Francis method for weighting, and
1655 the model with default weights (Figure 61). The end year spawning output is almost identical
1656 for the models using harmonic means and Francic weights, both of which down-weighted the
1657 composition data.

1658 The Francis weights in the base model were stable, and did not tend to serially decrease
1659 (down-weight) any of the data sets, which has been seen in other assessments. The final
1660 base model re-weights the composition data only once. As discussed above in the data
1661 weighting section, the Dirichlet-Multinomial weighting was explored, but a model with a
1662 positive definite Hessian was not identified with the pre-STAR base model.

1663 2.6.4 Retrospective Analysis

1664 A 4-year retrospective analysis was conducted by running the model using data only through
1665 2018 (retro 1), 2017 (retro 2), 2016 (retro 3), and 2015 (retro 4) (Table 27). The initial
1666 population size and estimation of trends in spawning biomass in the retrospective runs
1667 were lower than the base model (Figure 62). All retrospective runs converged to the same
1668 low point in the 1990s and the diverged for the remainder of the time series. There is
1669 no conditional age-at-length composition data for 2015-2016, leading to the minor change
1670 in the age composition likelihood from Retro2 to Retro3 and Retro4 (Table 27). The age
1671 composition data in 2017 accounts for 2.5% of all available ages, and 4.5% of all fish aged were
1672 from 2018. The available length data in each year from 2015-2018 range from 4-6% of the
1673 total available length data. The PISCO kelp forest fish survey observed increased abundance
1674 of small fish from 2015-2017 (Figure C7), which are captured in all of the retrospective runs.
1675 The length compositions of all the other fleets have similar length distributions for 2015-2018
1676 (8). Additional investigations into the retrospective patters will be made by the STAT.

1677 The recruitment deviations in the more recent years shrink towards zero the more years are
1678 removed from the model (Figure 63).

1679 2.6.5 Likelihood Profiles

1680 Likelihood profiles were conducted for R_0 , steepness, and over natural mortality values sep-
1681 arately. These likelihood profiles were conducted by fixing the parameter at specific values
1682 and estimated the remaining parameters based on the fixed parameter value (Tables 28-29).

1683 In regards to values of R_0 , the negative log-likelihood was minimized at approximately
1684 $\log(R_0)$ of 8.5 (Table 28). The individual fleets tend to minimize at the lower bound, e.g.,
1685 CCFRP and commercial fleets, or the upper bound, e.g., PISCO and the recreational north
1686 fleets (Figure 64). The data all consistently minimize around 8.5 with a small change in

1687 likelihood at larger values of R_0 (Figure 65). Over the range of values of R_0 , depletion
1688 ranged from 0.22-0.05 (Figure 66).

1689 For steepness, the negative log-likelihood reaches a minimum around a steepness of 0.90 for
1690 the prior and the total likelihood (Figure 68 and Table 28). The other likelihood components
1691 continue to decline as alternative values of steepness (Figure 72).

1692 Likelihood components by data source show that the commercial discard lengths, recreational
1693 south lengths, Deb's onboard observer fleets support a steepness value at the lower bound of
1694 the values explored, and the other data sources higher value for steepness (Figure 68). The
1695 relative depletion for GBYR ranges from 0.375 to 0.493 across different assumed values of
1696 steepness (Table 28).

1697 The negative log-likelihood was minimized at a natural mortality value of 0.22, slightly higher
1698 than the prior of 0.19 (Table 28 and Figure 71). The age, length, index, and prior likelihood
1699 contributions were minimized at natural mortality values around 0.22, and the recruitment
1700 contribution was minimized as the second to largest value of M run, 026. (Table 28).
1701 The relative depletion for GBYR ranged from 0.32-0.59 across alternative values of natural
1702 mortality (Figure 72).

1703 2.6.6 Reference Points

1704 Reference points were calculated using the estimated selectivities and catch distribution
1705 among fleets in the most recent year of the model, (2017). Sustainable total yield (landings
1706 plus discards) were 186 mt when using an $SPR_{50\%}$ reference harvest rate and with a 95%
1707 confidence interval of 102 mt based on estimates of uncertainty. The spawning biomass
1708 equivalent to 40% of the unfished level ($SB_{40\%}$) was 569 mt.

1709 The predicted spawning output from the base model shows an initial decline starting the
1710 1950s, is then stable, and declines steeply until 1995 (Figure 73). The spawning output then
1711 rapidly increases through the early 2000s, and has been in a decline since 2006.

1712 The 2018 spawning biomass relative to unfished equilibrium spawning biomass is above the
1713 target of 40% of unfished levels (Figure 74). The relative fishing intensity, $(1 - SPR)/(1 -$
1714 $SPR_{50\%})$, was below the management target from 1981-1998, and below the minimum stock
1715 size threshold in 1995. The stock has been above the management target since 1999.

1716 Table e shows the full suite of estimated reference points for the base model and Figure 75
1717 shows the equilibrium curve based on a steepness value fixed at 0.72.

1718 3 Harvest Projections and Decision Tables

1719 This section will be completed at or after the STAR panel.

₁₇₂₀ **4 Regional Management Considerations**

₁₇₂₁ While the proportion of the stock residing within U.S. waters is unknown, the assessment
₁₇₂₂ provides an adequate geographic representation of the portion assessed for management
₁₇₂₃ purposes. There is little evidence that black-and-yellow rockfish extend into Mexico, and
₁₇₂₄ the proportion of gopher rockfish residing south of Pt. Conception is small. While there has
₁₇₂₅ been work on the genetic structure between the two species, there has not been work done
₁₇₂₆ within each species to inform spatial structure of the populations. Given the relatively small
₁₇₂₇ area in the waters of California where these species occur, there is relatively little concern
₁₇₂₈ regarding exploitation in proportion to the regional distribution of abundance in the area
₁₇₂₉ assessed in this study.

₁₇₃₀ The state of California implements regional management for the recreational fleet in the
₁₇₃₁ form of five regions. Neither gopher nor black-and-yellow rockfish are a large component
₁₇₃₂ of the total recreational landings and are managed as part of a shallow nearshore rockfish
₁₇₃₃ complex. Current regional management appears appropriate for these species.

₁₇₃₄ **5 Research Needs**

₁₇₃₅ This section will be completed at or after the STAR panel.

₁₇₃₆ **6 Acknowledgments**

₁₇₃₇ This section will be completed at or after the STAR panel.

7 Tables

Table 1: Commercial landings and discards (mt) from the commercial fisheries. Data sources are the California Catch Reconstruction, CALCOM, PacFIN, and WCGOP GEMM report.

Year	Landings	Discards	Total Commercial Removals	Source
1916	3.88	0.38	4.27	Catch Reconstruction
1917	6.03	0.59	6.63	Catch Reconstruction
1918	7.06	0.69	7.75	Catch Reconstruction
1919	4.91	0.48	5.39	Catch Reconstruction
1920	5.01	0.49	5.50	Catch Reconstruction
1921	4.13	0.41	4.54	Catch Reconstruction
1922	3.56	0.35	3.90	Catch Reconstruction
1923	3.84	0.38	4.22	Catch Reconstruction
1924	2.22	0.22	2.44	Catch Reconstruction
1925	2.78	0.27	3.05	Catch Reconstruction
1926	4.48	0.44	4.92	Catch Reconstruction
1927	3.81	0.37	4.18	Catch Reconstruction
1928	4.60	0.45	5.06	Catch Reconstruction
1929	3.81	0.37	4.18	Catch Reconstruction
1930	5.40	0.53	5.93	Catch Reconstruction
1931	1.93	0.19	2.11	Catch Reconstruction
1932	6.24	0.61	6.85	Catch Reconstruction
1933	2.58	0.25	2.84	Catch Reconstruction
1934	1.75	0.17	1.92	Catch Reconstruction
1935	0.43	0.04	0.47	Catch Reconstruction
1936	0.01	0.00	0.01	Catch Reconstruction
1937	7.27	0.71	7.98	Catch Reconstruction
1938	10.29	1.01	11.30	Catch Reconstruction
1939	13.13	1.29	14.42	Catch Reconstruction
1940	16.90	1.66	18.56	Catch Reconstruction
1941	17.06	1.67	18.73	Catch Reconstruction
1942	8.55	0.84	9.38	Catch Reconstruction
1943	11.00	1.08	12.08	Catch Reconstruction
1944	0.05	0.00	0.05	Catch Reconstruction
1945	0.59	0.06	0.65	Catch Reconstruction
1946	16.71	1.64	18.35	Catch Reconstruction
1947	26.71	2.62	29.33	Catch Reconstruction
1948	23.95	2.35	26.30	Catch Reconstruction
1949	18.29	1.79	20.09	Catch Reconstruction
1950	17.15	1.68	18.83	Catch Reconstruction
1951	24.83	2.44	27.26	Catch Reconstruction

Continues next page

Table 1: Commercial landings and discards (mt) from the commercial fisheries. Data sources are the California Catch Reconstruction, CALCOM, PacFIN, and WCGOP GEMM report.

Year	Landings	Discards	Total	Source
			Commercial Removals	
1952	27.59	2.71	30.29	Catch Reconstruction
1953	32.30	3.17	35.47	Catch Reconstruction
1954	40.75	4.00	44.74	Catch Reconstruction
1955	29.49	2.89	32.38	Catch Reconstruction
1956	40.66	3.99	44.65	Catch Reconstruction
1957	37.52	3.68	41.20	Catch Reconstruction
1958	33.56	3.29	36.86	Catch Reconstruction
1959	19.62	1.92	21.54	Catch Reconstruction
1960	11.30	1.11	12.41	Catch Reconstruction
1961	17.49	1.72	19.20	Catch Reconstruction
1962	27.18	2.67	29.85	Catch Reconstruction
1963	22.29	2.19	24.48	Catch Reconstruction
1964	16.55	1.62	18.17	Catch Reconstruction
1965	21.50	2.11	23.61	Catch Reconstruction
1966	13.44	1.32	14.76	Catch Reconstruction
1967	6.70	0.66	7.36	Catch Reconstruction
1968	8.29	0.81	9.10	Catch Reconstruction
1969	9.99	0.98	10.97	CALCOM
1970	14.21	1.39	15.60	CALCOM
1971	14.41	1.41	15.83	CALCOM
1972	19.42	1.91	21.33	CALCOM
1973	31.43	3.08	34.51	CALCOM
1974	33.41	3.28	36.69	CALCOM
1975	33.08	3.25	36.33	CALCOM
1976	33.90	3.33	37.23	CALCOM
1977	30.13	2.96	33.09	CALCOM
1978	43.41	4.26	47.67	CALCOM
1979	34.24	3.36	37.60	CALCOM
1980	63.65	6.24	69.89	CALCOM
1981	52.71	5.17	57.87	PacFIN
1982	38.97	3.82	42.79	PacFIN
1983	28.67	2.64	31.30	PacFIN
1984	16.74	1.45	18.20	PacFIN
1985	8.54	0.83	9.37	PacFIN
1986	25.16	2.50	27.66	PacFIN
1987	34.05	3.36	37.40	PacFIN
1988	54.98	5.47	60.44	PacFIN
1989	45.22	4.46	49.68	PacFIN

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Table 1: Commercial landings and discards (mt) from the commercial fisheries. Data sources are the California Catch Reconstruction, CALCOM, PacFIN, and WCGOP GEMM report.

Year	Landings	Discards	Total	Source
			Commercial Removals	
1990	46.08	4.59	50.67	PacFIN
1991	67.98	6.75	74.73	PacFIN
1992	83.91	8.24	92.15	PacFIN
1993	73.43	7.27	80.70	PacFIN
1994	54.84	5.89	60.74	PacFIN
1995	91.10	8.97	100.07	PacFIN
1996	95.08	9.29	104.37	PacFIN
1997	69.99	6.81	76.80	PacFIN
1998	65.29	6.40	71.70	PacFIN
1999	62.65	6.15	68.80	PacFIN
2000	54.44	5.29	59.72	PacFIN
2001	53.76	5.24	59.00	PacFIN
2002	42.64	4.15	46.79	PacFIN
2003	21.08	13.04	34.12	PacFIN & WCGOP
2004	26.25	2.66	28.91	PacFIN & WCGOP
2005	28.67	3.33	31.99	PacFIN & WCGOP
2006	24.05	4.10	28.15	PacFIN & WCGOP
2007	30.36	4.50	34.87	PacFIN & WCGOP
2008	36.22	1.63	37.85	PacFIN & WCGOP
2009	35.62	5.38	40.99	PacFIN & WCGOP
2010	38.83	3.92	42.75	PacFIN & WCGOP
2011	42.39	5.72	48.12	PacFIN & WCGOP
2012	33.55	1.93	35.48	PacFIN & WCGOP
2013	33.45	2.85	36.31	PacFIN & WCGOP
2014	36.40	2.85	39.24	PacFIN & WCGOP
2015	43.25	2.93	46.18	PacFIN & WCGOP
2016	36.96	2.42	39.38	PacFIN & WCGOP
2017	42.04	1.65	43.68	PacFIN & WCGOP
2018	47.00	2.54	49.54	PacFIN & WCGOP

Table 2: Length composition sample sizes for fishery dependent data. Continuous years begin in 1975. Recreational north samples include Karpov et al., MRFSS, and CRFS data. Recreational south samples include Karpov et al., Collins and Crooke unpub., Ally et al. 1991, MRFSS, and CRFS data.

Year	CALCOM		WCGOP		Rec North		Rec South		Deb VW	
	Trips	Lengths	Trips	Lengths	Trips	Lengths	Trips	Lengths	Trips	Lengths
1959					27	271	2.10	21		
1960					39	394	1.40	14		
1961					1	8	0.10	1		
1966					1	7				
1975							50.00	159		
1976							73.00	224		
1977							96.00	392		
1978							91.00	533		
1979										
1980					4	164	21.00	53		
1981					1	19	30.00	100		
1982					1	50	17.00	58		
1983					6	323	60.00	170		
1984					14	849	42.00	150		
1985					35	1027	34.00	180		
1986					36	826	126.00	362		
1987	2	82			28	392	131.00	529	14	73
1988					30	303	110.00	410	54	664
1989					19	303	111.00	436	70	727
1990									17	109
1991									38	722
1992	56	671							55	838
1993	148	1648			14	1094	8.00	24	75	614
1994	170	1379			12	608	1.00	15	86	735
1995	174	1523							90	1171
1996	256	3270			74	607	14.00	32	100	1364
1997	140	1319			95	1424	7.00	23	107	1415
1998	206	2549			89	614	19.00	66	83	1048
1999	251	3283			49	1112	33.00	301		
2000	384	4918			21	695	12.00	58		
2001	142	2179			46	929	14.00	35		
2002	59	870			58	1656	22.00	65		
2003	55	625			72	1690	15.00	100		
2004	63	770	72	572	19	2023	3.00	42		
2005	72	700	42	260	30	3217	8.00	93		
2006	31	478	42	266	35	3737	9.00	106		
2007	80	1165	37	268	30	3200	10.00	126		
2008	46	503	12	46	39	4165	11.00	132		
2009	73	854	22	263	43	4612	15.00	184		
2010	75	925	37	344	47	4992	16.00	192		
2011	61	858	68	366	44	4692	22.00	270		
2012	57	709	69	302	46	4904	89.00	1081		
2013	48	581	56	348	40	4339	77.00	930		
2014	15	184	62	388	44	4746	49.00	595		
2015	48	578	93	521	54	5789	36.00	436		
2016	77	928	56	317	58	6265	37.00	444		
2017	67	1581	49	226	44	4691	39.00	478		
2018	67	1210			33	3563	26.00	317		

Table 3: Recreational removals (mt) of GBYR. Data sources are the California Catch Reconstruction (modified for south of Pt. Conception), MRFSS (modified for 1981-1982), and CRFS.

Year	North of Pt. Conception	South of Pt. Conception	Total Recreational Removals	Source
1928	0.84	0.02	0.85	Catch Reconstruction
1929	1.67	0.03	1.70	Catch Reconstruction
1930	1.92	0.05	1.97	Catch Reconstruction
1931	2.56	0.06	2.62	Catch Reconstruction
1932	3.20	0.08	3.28	Catch Reconstruction
1933	3.84	0.09	3.93	Catch Reconstruction
1934	4.48	0.11	4.59	Catch Reconstruction
1935	5.12	0.12	5.24	Catch Reconstruction
1936	5.76	0.22	5.98	Catch Reconstruction
1937	6.82	0.31	7.14	Catch Reconstruction
1938	6.71	0.41	7.12	Catch Reconstruction
1939	5.87	0.50	6.37	Catch Reconstruction
1940	8.45	0.60	9.05	Catch Reconstruction
1941	7.81	0.69	8.51	Catch Reconstruction
1942	4.15	0.79	4.94	Catch Reconstruction
1943	3.97	0.88	4.85	Catch Reconstruction
1944	3.26	0.98	4.24	Catch Reconstruction
1945	4.35	1.07	5.42	Catch Reconstruction
1946	7.48	1.17	8.65	Catch Reconstruction
1947	5.92	1.26	7.18	Catch Reconstruction
1948	11.81	1.36	13.17	Catch Reconstruction
1949	15.30	1.45	16.76	Catch Reconstruction
1950	18.65	1.55	20.20	Catch Reconstruction
1951	22.97	1.64	24.61	Catch Reconstruction
1952	19.99	1.74	21.73	Catch Reconstruction
1953	17.02	1.83	18.85	Catch Reconstruction
1954	21.16	1.93	23.09	Catch Reconstruction
1955	25.23	2.02	27.25	Catch Reconstruction
1956	28.17	2.12	30.28	Catch Reconstruction
1957	31.80	2.21	34.01	Catch Reconstruction
1958	48.15	2.31	50.46	Catch Reconstruction
1959	38.25	2.40	40.65	Catch Reconstruction
1960	28.66	2.50	31.15	Catch Reconstruction
1961	27.74	2.59	30.33	Catch Reconstruction
1962	28.04	2.69	30.73	Catch Reconstruction
1963	27.53	2.78	30.32	Catch Reconstruction
1964	21.73	2.88	24.61	Catch Reconstruction

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Table 3: Recreational removals (mt) of GBYR. Data sources are the California Catch Reconstruction (modified for south of Pt. Conception), MRFSS (modified for 1981-1982), and CRFS.

Year	North of Pt. Conception	South of Pt. Conception	Total Recreational Removals	Source
1965	31.10	2.97	34.07	Catch Reconstruction
1966	33.85	3.07	36.91	Catch Reconstruction
1967	37.08	3.16	40.25	Catch Reconstruction
1968	36.78	3.26	40.03	Catch Reconstruction
1969	31.46	3.35	34.81	Catch Reconstruction
1970	41.25	3.45	44.70	Catch Reconstruction
1971	31.18	3.54	34.72	Catch Reconstruction
1972	41.50	3.64	45.13	Catch Reconstruction
1973	50.02	3.73	53.75	Catch Reconstruction
1974	51.60	3.83	55.43	Catch Reconstruction
1975	49.01	3.92	52.93	Catch Reconstruction
1976	49.30	4.02	53.32	Catch Reconstruction
1977	41.99	4.11	46.10	Catch Reconstruction
1978	32.57	4.21	36.77	Catch Reconstruction
1979	36.23	4.30	40.53	Catch Reconstruction
1980	80.56	4.54	85.10	MRFSS
1981	81.32	1.42	82.74	Estimated
1982	82.08	0.90	82.99	Estimated
1983	82.85	3.29	86.14	MRFSS
1984	150.47	5.58	156.05	MRFSS
1985	158.34	5.74	164.08	MRFSS
1986	171.81	6.52	178.33	MRFSS
1987	118.51	5.78	124.29	MRFSS
1988	79.43	4.80	84.23	MRFSS
1989	66.61	3.57	70.19	MRFSS
1990	82.33	2.73	85.06	MRFSS
1991	98.04	1.89	99.93	MRFSS
1992	113.76	1.04	114.80	MRFSS
1993	127.71	1.97	129.68	MRFSS
1994	97.39	3.03	100.42	MRFSS
1995	49.25	1.19	50.44	MRFSS
1996	38.06	5.23	43.28	MRFSS
1997	38.15	2.84	40.99	MRFSS
1998	43.55	2.52	46.07	MRFSS
1999	48.17	10.45	58.61	MRFSS
2000	66.53	4.39	70.92	MRFSS
2001	106.23	3.29	109.53	MRFSS

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Table 3: Recreational removals (mt) of GBYR. Data sources are the California Catch Reconstruction (modified for south of Pt. Conception), MRFSS (modified for 1981-1982), and CRFS.

Year	North of Pt. Conception	South of Pt. Conception	Total Recreational Removals	Source
2002	84.28	2.15	86.43	MRFSS
2003	111.50	2.70	114.20	MRFSS
2004	41.75	0.98	42.73	CRFS
2005	47.51	6.59	54.10	CRFS
2006	48.10	2.13	50.22	CRFS
2007	32.88	2.70	35.58	CRFS
2008	45.14	3.61	48.74	CRFS
2009	65.64	4.30	69.94	CRFS
2010	106.76	3.90	110.67	CRFS
2011	76.16	10.24	86.40	CRFS
2012	48.25	9.89	58.14	CRFS
2013	38.43	8.86	47.28	CRFS
2014	56.96	9.06	66.02	CRFS
2015	58.09	5.00	63.09	CRFS
2016	65.72	6.57	72.29	CRFS
2017	49.36	11.15	60.51	CRFS
2018	36.48	6.30	42.78	CRFS

Table 4: Length composition sample sizes for survey data.

Year	CCFRP		PISCO	
	Trips	Lengths	Trips	Lengths
2001			55	222
2002			56	438
2003			64	473
2004			64	312
2005			65	241
2006			68	220
2007	35	2147	68	156
2008	52	3143	67	198
2009	35	1579	68	154
2010	32	2201	58	144
2011	32	1727	68	260
2012	32	1820	40	183
2013	32	685	61	258
2014	32	1655	61	313
2015	18	1121	64	622
2016	32	2015	56	346
2017	58	2402	58	317
2018	29	1975	60	264

Table 5: Summary of the biomass/abundance time series used in the stock assessment.

Fleet	Years	Name	Fishery ind.	Filtering	Method	Endorsed
5	1988-1998	Deb Wilson-Vandenberg's Onboard Observer Survey	Fishery-dependent	Central California	Delta lognormal	SSC
6	2001-2018	CRFS CPFV Onboard Observer Survey	Fishery-dependent	North of Pt. Conception	Delta lognormal	SSC
7	2001-2018	CRFS CPFV Onboard Observer Survey	Fishery-dependent	South of Pt. Conception	Delta lognormal	SSC
8	2001-2018	PISCO Dive Survey	Fishery-independent	North of Pt. Conception	Negative Binomial	First use in stock assmnt
9	2007-2018	CCFRP Hook-and-Line Survey	Fishery-independent	Central California	Negative Binomial	First use in stock assmnt
10	1984-1999	MRFSS Dockside Survey	Fishery-dependent	North of Pt. Conception	Negative Binomial	SSC
11	1980-1999	MRFSS Dockside Survey	Fishery-dependent	South of Pt. Conception	Negative Binomial	SSC

Table 6: Index inputs.

Year	Deb WV		MRFSS N		MRFSS S		Onboard N		Onboard S		CCFRP		PISCO	
	Obs	se_log	Obs	se_log	Obs	se_log	Obs	se_log	Obs	se_log	Obs	se_log	Obs	se_log
1980					0.08	0.21								
1981					0.05	0.24								
1982					0.07	0.25								
1983					0.13	0.13								
1984		0.04	0.60	0.09	0.17									
1985		0.03	0.55	0.09	0.21									
1986		0.09	0.58	0.03	0.19									
1987		0.02	0.66											
1988	0.22	0.17	0.03	0.61										
1989	0.34	0.15	0.02	0.66										
1990														
1991														
1992	0.30	0.17												
1993	0.20	0.14												
1994	0.23	0.12												
1995	0.25	0.10	0.04	0.64										
1996	0.28	0.10	0.04	0.52	0.04	0.28								
1997	0.21	0.09												
1998	0.24	0.11			0.05	0.26								
1999		0.03	0.53	0.05	0.22									
2000														
2001					0.32	0.12	0.01	0.52			1.66	0.23		
2002					0.19	0.14	0.01	0.37			2.05	0.21		
2003					0.28	0.07	0.03	0.33			2.53	0.19		
2004					0.27	0.06	0.01	0.37			1.29	0.22		
2005					0.26	0.08	0.02	0.24			0.91	0.24		
2006					0.34	0.08	0.04	0.21			0.87	0.23		
2007					0.33	0.08	0.08	0.16	1.20	0.15	0.69	0.24		
2008					0.33	0.08	0.06	0.16	1.14	0.16	0.92	0.22		
2009					0.27	0.08	0.07	0.16	1.13	0.16	0.59	0.22		
2010					0.26	0.07	0.08	0.15	1.32	0.16	0.67	0.21		
2011					0.24	0.07	0.15	0.11	0.97	0.16	1.24	0.19		
2012					0.18	0.08	0.09	0.11	1.00	0.15	1.34	0.23		
2013					0.09	0.09	0.07	0.12	0.38	0.16	1.45	0.22		
2014					0.10	0.10	0.09	0.13	0.81	0.15	1.43	0.23		
2015					0.17	0.10	0.06	0.17	1.03	0.16	2.55	0.22		
2016					0.18	0.08	0.09	0.14	0.96	0.16	2.17	0.22		
2017					0.15	0.12	0.08	0.17	1.18	0.16	1.80	0.23		
2018					0.30	0.10	0.08	0.18	1.33	0.16	1.24	0.19		

Table 7: Data filtering steps for Deb Wilson-Vandenberg's CPFV onboard observer index of abundance

Filter	Drifts	Positive Drifts
Remove errors, missing data	6691	1470
Remove 1987 (sampled only MNT), 1990-1991 low sample sizes	4283	1372
Remove reefs that never encountered GBY	4022	1372
Remove lower and upper 2.5% of time fished	3762	1300
Remove depth less than 9 m and greater than 69 m	3515	1279
Remove reefs with low sample rates	2411	1096

Table 8: Model selection for Deb Wilson-Vandenberg's CPFV onboard observer index of abundance. Bold values indicate the model selected.

Model	Lognormal	Binomial
Year	2834	3330
Year + Depth	2781	2906
Year + Reef	2716	2880
Year + Month	2839	3286
Year + Depth + Reef	2625	2488
Year + Month+ Reef	2725	2844
Year + Depth + Month	2780	2902
Year+ Depth+Month+Reef	2632	2479

Table 9: Data filtering steps for the CRFS CPFV onboard observer index of abundance for north and south of Pt. Conception.

Filter	Drifts	Positive Drifts
Data from SQL filtered for missing data	67850	9317
Remove years prior to 2001 and north of Cape Mendocino	64448	9129
Depth, remove 1% data on each tail of positive catches	50846	8955
Time fished, remove 1% data on each tail	50100	8903
Observed anglers, remove 1% data on each tail	48089	8774
Limit to reefs observering gopher/byel in at least 20 drifts	29639	8025
Limit to reefs sampled in at least 2/3 of all years	32672	7517
Limit to drifts within 1000 m of a reef	27355	7358
Put depth in 10m depth bins, remove 0-9 and 60-69 m bins	25427	7250
Start of north filtering	13792	6036
Filter to drifts within 43 m of a reef, 97% quantile	13145	5854
Make sure reefs still sampled at least 2/3 of years	12965	5796
Start of south filtering	11635	1277
Filter to drifts with $\geq 20\%$ groundfish and recheck reefs	5495	1171
Make sure reefs still sampled at least 2/3 of years	5440	1132

Table 10: Model selection for the CRFS CPFV onboard observer index of abundance for north of Pt. Conception. Bold values indicate the model selected.

Model	Lognormal	Binomial
Year	14135	17531
Year + Month	14120	17529
Year + Depth	13953	17025
Year + Reef	14126	17293
Year + Month + Depth	13951	17027
Year + Month + Depth + Reef	13921	16674

Table 11: Model selection for the CRFS CPFV onboard observer index of abundance for south of Pt. Conception. Bold values indicate the model selected.

Model	Lognormal	Binomial
Year	2798	5490
Year + Month	2799	5487
Year + Depth	2744	5159
Year + Reef	2653	5390
Year + Depth + Reef	2652	5071
Year + Depth + Reef + Month	2663	5072

Table 12: Data filtering steps for the PISCO dive survey.

Filter	Transects	Positive Transects
Remove missing data and retain only bottom transects	22,055	6,330
Remove month of June - few samples	21,941	6,318
Remove dives earlier than 2004 for UCSB and 2001 for UCSC	20,659	6,165
Keep sites sampled in at least half of all years (UCSC and UCSB separate)	14,721	4,097
Keep sites observing GBYR in at least half of all years	12,139	4,002
Remove transects denoted as old, no longer sampled	10,712	3,268
Subset to just UCSC sites	5,686	2,939
Use only consistently sampled sites	3,231	1,729
Collapse repeated transects	1,928	1,487

Table 13: Model selection for the PISCO dive survey data.

Model	AIC
Year	5,687
Year + Month	5,672
Year + Month + Site	5,623
Year + Month + Site + Zone	5,512

Table 14: Data filtering steps for the fishery-independent CCFRP hook-and-line survey.

Filter	Drifts	Positive Drifts
All data	5,886	Drift and catch data not merged
Remove missing data and cells not sampled consistently at Piedras Blancas	4,942	3,857
Remove cells that never encountered GBYR	4,934	3,857
Remove depth bins with little or no sampling (keep 5-39 m)	4,920	3,848

Table 15: Model selection for the fishery-independent CCFRP hook-and-line survey.

Model	AIC
Year	23,212
Year + Month	23,214
Year + Depth	22,901
Year + Depth + Site	22,642
Year + Depth + Site + MPA/REF	22,341

Table 16: Data filtering steps for the MRFSS dockside intercept survey index of abundance for north and south of Pt. Conception.

Filter	Trips	Positive Trips
All data	10,392	1,061
Remove north of Cape Mendocino	10,327	1,061
Remove trips targetting offshore species	10,122	1,061
Start northern filtering	2,788	620
Remove species that never co-occur and not present in at least 1% of all	2,788	620
Stephens-MacCall filter (keep all positives - selected filter)	806	620
Alternate Stephens-MacCall filter (keep only above threshold)	623	437
Remove years after 1999 due to regulation changes and with fewer than 20 trips	544	220
Start southern filtering	7,334	441
Remove species that never co-occur and not present in at least 1% of all	7,334	441
Stephens-MacCall filter (keep all positives - selected filter)	687	441
Alternate Stephens-MacCall filter (keep only above threshold)	430	184
Remove years after 1999 due to regulation changes and with fewer than 20 trips	475	342

Table 17: Model selection for the MRFSS dockside intercept survey north of Pt. Conception. Bold values indicate the model selected.

Model	AIC
Year	1,481
Year + Region	1,429
Year + Region + Area_X	1,403
Year + Region + Area_X + Wave	1,397

Table 18: Model selection for the MRFSS dockside intercept survey south of Pt. Conception. Bold values indicate the model selected.

Model	Lognormal	Binomial
Year	911	552
Year+ Wave	908	538
Year + Wave + Area_X	905	540
Year + Wave + Area_X + SubRegion	903	537
Year + Wave + SubRegion	908	536

Table 19: Contingency table for the Stephens-MacCall filtering for the MRFSS dockside CPFV index for GBYR north of Pt. Conception.

	GBYR absent	GBYR present
Above 0.4	186	437
Below 0.4	1982	183

Table 20: Contingency table for the Stephens-MacCall filtering for the MRFSS dockside CPFV index for GBYR south of Pt. Conception.

	GBYR absent	GBYR present
Above 0.22	246	184
Below 0.22	6647	257

Table 21: Summary of available age data. All ages except the commercial ages were used in the assessment.

Project	Source	Years	Region	Gear	Black-and-yellow	Gopher
Port sampling	Commercial	2009-2010; 2018	Bodega; Morro Bay	hook-and-line	0	46
CDFW sampling	Recreational	1978; 1980; 1982-1986	Morro Bay; San Francisco	hook-and-line	0	138
Cal Poly onboard observer	Recreational	2018	Morro Bay	hook-and-line	0	36
E.J.'s trap survey	Research	2012	Monterey	trap	1	25
Zaitlin thesis	Research	1983-1986	Monterey	spear	491	0
Pearson groundfish cruise	Research	2002-2005	Monterey	hook-and-line	0	118
Hanan CPFFV survey	Research	2003-2004	Morro Bay; Santa Barbara	hook-and-line	0	189
Juv. rockfish cruise special study	Research	2004-2005	Monterey	hook-and-line	0	79
CCFRP	Research	2007-2013	Central CA	hook-and-line	7	1,191
CCFRP trap	Research	2008-2009	Central CA	trap	0	87
Abrams thesis	Research	2010-2011	Fort Bragg	hook-and-line	0	59
Total					499	1,968

Table 22: Results from 100 jitters from the base case model.

Description	Value
MinLike	516.36
MaxLike	796.04
DiffLike	279.68
MinMGC	0.00
MaxMGC	0.00
DepletionAtMinLikePercent	46.18
DepletionAtMaxLikePercent	75.32
DiffDepletionPercent	29.14
NJitter	100.00
PropRunAtMinLike	0.97
PropRunAtMaxLike	0.01

Table 23: 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	0.212	2	(0.05, 0.4)	OK	0.030	Log_Norm (-1.6458, 0.4384)
2	L_at_Amin_Fem_GP_1	9.666	3	(4, 50)	OK	0.755	None
3	L_at_Amax_Fem_GP_1	28.444	3	(20, 60)	OK	0.907	None
4	VonBert_K_Fem_GP_1	0.125	3	(0.01, 0.3)	OK	0.031	None
5	CV_young_Fem_GP_1	0.268	3	(0.05, 0.5)	OK	0.035	None
6	CV_old_Fem_GP_1	0.115	3	(0.03, 0.3)	OK	0.014	None
7	Wtlen_1_Fem_GP_1	0.000	-3	(-3, 3)	None	None	None
8	Wtlen_2_Fem_GP_1	3.256	-3	(2, 4)	None	None	None
9	Mat50%_Fem_GP_1	21.666	-3	(-3, 3)	None	None	None
10	Mat_slope_Fem_GP_1	-0.906	-3	(-6, 3)	None	None	None
11	Eggs/kg_inter_Fem_GP_1	1.000	-3	(-3, 3)	None	None	None
12	Eggs/kg_slope_wt_Fem_GP_1	0.000	-3	(-3, 3)	None	None	None
13	CohortGrowDev	1.000	-1	(0.1, 10)	None	None	None
14	FracFemale_GP_1	0.500	-4	(0.000001, 0.999999)	OK	0.423	None
15	SR_LN(R0)	8.599	1	(2, 15)	OK	0.423	None
16	SR_BH_stEEP	0.720	-1	(0.2, 1)	Full_Beta (0.72, 0.16)	None	None
17	SR_sigmaR	0.500	-2	(0, 2)	None	None	None
18	SR_regime	0.000	-4	(-5, 5)	None	None	None
19	SR_autocorr	0.653	4	(-1, 1)	OK	0.115	None
103	LnQ_base_DebCPFV(5)	-7.107	-1	(-15, 15)	None	None	None
104	Q_extraSD_DebCPFV(5)	0.076	4	(0, 2)	OK	0.050	None
105	LnQ_base_RecOnboardNorth(6)	-7.822	-1	(-15, 15)	None	None	None
106	Q_extraSD_RecOnboardNorth(6)	0.234	4	(0.0001, 2)	OK	0.057	None
107	LnQ_base_RecOnboardSouth(7)	-10.381	-1	(-15, 15)	None	None	None
108	Q_extraSD_RecOnboardSouth(7)	0.598	4	(0.0001, 2)	OK	0.149	None

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Table 23: 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)
109	LnQ_base_PISCO(8)	-7.716	-1	(-15, 15) (0.0001, 2)	OK	0.073	None
110	Q_extraSD_PISCO(8)	0.200	4	(-15, 15) (0.0001, 2)	OK	0.073	None
111	LnQ_base_CCFRP(9)	-6.564	-1	(-15, 15) (0.0001, 2)	OK	0.074	None
112	Q_extraSD_CCFRP(9)	0.187	4	(-15, 15) (0.0001, 2)	OK	0.074	None
113	LnQ_base_RecDocksideNorth(10)	-8.881	-1	(-15, 15) (0, 2)	OK	None	None
114	Q_extraSD_RecDocksideNorth(10)	0.000	-4	(-15, 15) (0, 2)	OK	None	None
115	LnQ_base_RecDocksideSouth(11)	-9.797	-1	(-15, 15) (0.0001, 2)	OK	None	None
116	Q_extraSD_RecDocksideSouth(11)	0.282	4	(-15, 15) (0.0001, 2)	OK	0.110	None
117	Size_DbIN_peak_Com(1)	32.248	1	(19, 38) (-5, 10)	OK	0.706	None
118	Size_DbIN_top_logit_Com(1)	8.000	-5	(-5, 10) (-9, 10)	OK	0.126	None
119	Size_DbIN_ascend_se_Com(1)	3.111	5	(-9, 9) (-15, -5)	OK	1.761	None
120	Size_DbIN_descend_se_Com(1)	5.000	-5	(-9, 9) (-5, 15)	OK	0.454	None
121	Size_DbIN_start_logit_Com(1)	-11.759	5	(-9, 9) (-15, -5)	OK	78.883	None
122	Size_DbIN_end_logit_Com(1)	10.000	-5	(-9, 10) (-15, 10)	OK	0.220	None
123	Size_DbIN_peak_ComDisc(2)	25.025	2	(19, 38) (-15, 10)	OK	2.017	None
124	Size_DbIN_top_logit_ComDisc(2)	-9.380	5	(-9, 9) (-15, -5)	OK	19.718	None
125	Size_DbIN_ascend_se_ComDisc(2)	2.035	5	(-9, 10) (-15, -5)	OK	0.410	None
126	Size_DbIN_descend_se_ComDisc(2)	5.518	5	(-9, 9) (-15, -5)	OK	0.076	None
127	Size_DbIN_start_logit_ComDisc(2)	-14.142	5	(-9, 10) (-15, -5)	OK	1.558	None
128	Size_DbIN_end_logit_ComDisc(2)	-999.000	-5	(-9, 10) (-15, -5)	OK	None	None
129	Size_DbIN_peak_RecNorth(3)	32.419	3	(19, 39) (-5, 10)	OK	0.410	None
130	Size_DbIN_top_logit_RecNorth(3)	8.000	-5	(-9, 10) (-15, -5)	OK	0.076	None
131	Size_DbIN_ascend_se_RecNorth(3)	3.270	5	(-9, 10) (-9, 9)	OK	None	None
132	Size_DbIN_descend_se_RecNorth(3)	5.000	-5	(-9, 9) (-15, -5)	OK	1.558	None
133	Size_DbIN_start_logit_RecNorth(3)	-12.041	5	(-5, 15) (19, 38)	OK	None	None
134	Size_DbIN_end_logit_RecNorth(3)	10.000	-5	(-5, 15) (19, 38)	OK	1.029	None
135	Size_DbIN_peak_RecSouth(4)	27.549	4	(-5, 15) (19, 38)	OK	1.029	None

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Table 23: 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)
136	Size_DbIN_top_logit_RecSouth(4)	8.000	-5	(-5, 10)	OK	0.236	None
137	Size_DbIN_ascend_se_RecSouth(4)	3.081	5	(-9, 10)	OK	0.236	None
138	Size_DbIN_descend_se_RecSouth(4)	5.000	-5	(-9, 9)	OK	2.214	None
139	Size_DbIN_start_logit_RecSouth(4)	-8.655	5	(-15, -5)	OK	2.214	None
140	Size_DbIN_end_logit_RecSouth(4)	10.000	-5	(-5, 15)	OK	None	None
141	Size_DbIN_peak_DebCPFV(5)	30.799	5	(19, 38)	OK	0.576	None
142	Size_DbIN_top_logit_DebCPFV(5)	8.000	-5	(-5, 10)	OK	0.576	None
143	Size_DbIN_ascend_se_DebCPFV(5)	2.986	5	(-9, 10)	OK	0.108	None
144	Size_DbIN_descend_se_DebCPFV(5)	5.000	-5	(-9, 9)	OK	0.108	None
145	Size_DbIN_start_logit_DebCPFV(5)	-17.979	5	(-20, -5)	OK	36.426	None
146	Size_DbIN_end_logit_DebCPFV(5)	10.000	-5	(-5, 15)	OK	36.426	None
147	SizeSel_P1_RecOnboardNorth(6)	-1.000	-5	(-1, 10)	OK	0.437	None
148	SizeSel_P2_RecOnboardNorth(6)	-1.000	-5	(-1, 10)	OK	0.437	None
149	SizeSel_P1_RecOnboardSouth(7)	-1.000	-5	(-1, 10)	OK	0.700	None
150	SizeSel_P2_RecOnboardSouth(7)	-1.000	-5	(-1, 10)	OK	0.700	None
151	Size_DbIN_peak_PISCO(8)	30.509	5	(19, 38)	OK	2.753	None
152	Size_DbIN_top_logit_PISCO(8)	8.000	-5	(-15, 10)	OK	0.437	None
153	Size_DbIN_ascend_se_PISCO(8)	3.924	5	(-9, 10)	OK	0.437	None
154	Size_DbIN_descend_se_PISCO(8)	5.000	-5	(-9, 9)	OK	0.437	None
155	Size_DbIN_start_logit_PISCO(8)	-2.828	5	(-15, 15)	OK	0.700	None
156	Size_DbIN_end_logit_PISCO(8)	10.000	-5	(-5, 15)	OK	0.700	None
157	Size_DbIN_peak_CCFRP(9)	31.067	5	(19, 38)	OK	0.632	None
158	Size_DbIN_top_logit_CCFRP(9)	-10.630	5	(-15, 10)	OK	65.212	None
159	Size_DbIN_ascend_se_CCFRP(9)	3.143	5	(-9, 10)	OK	0.151	None
160	Size_DbIN_descend_se_CCFRP(9)	1.664	5	(-15, 9)	OK	0.813	None
161	Size_DbIN_start_logit_CCFRP(9)	-999.000	-5	(-15, -5)	OK	None	None
162	Size_DbIN_end_logit_CCFRP(9)	-999.000	-5	(-5, 10)	OK	None	None

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Table 23: 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)
163	SizeSel_P1_RecDocksideNorth(10)	-1.000	-5	(-1, 10)			None
164	SizeSel_P2_RecDocksideNorth(10)	-1.000	-5	(-1, 10)			None
165	SizeSel_P1_RecDocksideSouth(11)	-1.000	-5	(-1, 10)			None
166	SizeSel_P2_RecDocksideSouth(11)	-1.000	-5	(-1, 10)			None
167	Size_DblIN_peak_Com(1)_BLK1rep1_1999	28.900	6	(19, 38)	OK	0.317	None
168	Size_DblIN_ascend_se_Com(1)_BLK1rep1_1999	1.588	6	(-9, 10)	OK	0.159	None
169	Size_DblIN_start_logit_Com(1)_BLK1rep1_1999	-12.088	6	(-15, -5)	OK	3.693	None

Table 24: Likelihood components from the base model.

Likelihood component	Value
TOTAL	516.362
Catch	2.180E-07
Survey	-32.175
Length composition	372.458
Age composition	189.563
Recruitment	-13.514
Forecast recruitment	6.730E-13
Parameter priors	2.443E-02
Parameter soft bounds	5.290E-03

Table 25: Time-series of population estimates from the base-case model. Relative exploitation rate is $(1 - SPR)/(1 - SPR_{50\%})$.

Year	Total biomass (mt)	Spawning biomass (mt)	Depletion	Age-0 recruits	Total catch (mt)	Relative exploitation rate	SPR
1916	2369	1421	0.000	5426	4	0.00	0.99
1917	2367	1419	0.998	5426	7	0.00	0.98
1918	2363	1415	0.996	5424	8	0.00	0.98
1919	2359	1412	0.993	5423	5	0.00	0.99
1920	2357	1410	0.992	5422	5	0.00	0.99
1921	2355	1408	0.991	5422	5	0.00	0.99
1922	2354	1408	0.990	5421	4	0.00	0.99
1923	2354	1407	0.990	5421	4	0.00	0.99
1924	2354	1407	0.990	5421	2	0.00	0.99
1925	2354	1408	0.990	5421	3	0.00	0.99
1926	2355	1408	0.991	5421	5	0.00	0.99
1927	2354	1407	0.990	5421	4	0.00	0.99
1928	2353	1407	0.990	5421	6	0.00	0.98
1929	2352	1405	0.989	5420	6	0.00	0.98
1930	2350	1404	0.988	5420	8	0.00	0.98
1931	2348	1402	0.986	5419	5	0.00	0.99
1932	2348	1402	0.986	5419	10	0.00	0.97
1933	2345	1399	0.984	5418	7	0.00	0.98
1934	2344	1398	0.984	5418	7	0.00	0.98
1935	2343	1398	0.983	5418	6	0.00	0.99
1936	2343	1398	0.983	5418	6	0.00	0.98
1937	2343	1398	0.983	5418	15	0.01	0.96
1938	2337	1392	0.980	5415	18	0.01	0.95
1939	2330	1386	0.975	5413	21	0.01	0.95
1940	2322	1379	0.970	5410	28	0.01	0.93
1941	2311	1369	0.963	5406	27	0.01	0.93
1942	2302	1360	0.957	5403	14	0.01	0.96
1943	2303	1361	0.957	5403	17	0.01	0.96
1944	2301	1359	0.956	5403	4	0.00	0.99
1945	2308	1366	0.961	5405	6	0.00	0.98
1946	2313	1370	0.964	5407	27	0.01	0.93
1947	2303	1362	0.958	5404	37	0.02	0.91
1948	2289	1350	0.949	5399	39	0.02	0.90
1949	2275	1337	0.941	5393	37	0.02	0.91
1950	2265	1327	0.934	5389	39	0.02	0.90
1951	2255	1318	0.927	5385	52	0.02	0.88
1952	2238	1303	0.917	5379	52	0.02	0.87

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Table 25: Time-series of population estimates from the base-case model. Relative exploitation rate is $(1 - SPR)/(1 - SPR_{50\%})$.

Year	Total biomass (mt)	Spawning biomass (mt)	Depletion	Age-0 recruits	Total catch (mt)	Relative exploitation rate	SPR
1953	2223	1289	0.907	5373	55	0.02	0.87
1954	2209	1277	0.898	5367	68	0.03	0.84
1955	2189	1258	0.885	5359	60	0.03	0.85
1956	2176	1247	0.877	5354	76	0.03	0.82
1957	2156	1229	0.864	5345	76	0.04	0.82
1958	2138	1213	0.853	5337	88	0.04	0.80
1959	2115	1193	0.839	5327	62	0.03	0.84
1960	2108	1190	0.837	3223	44	0.02	0.88
1961	2110	1197	0.842	2846	50	0.02	0.87
1962	2095	1201	0.845	2590	61	0.03	0.84
1963	2054	1197	0.842	2423	56	0.03	0.85
1964	1998	1195	0.841	2340	43	0.02	0.88
1965	1932	1194	0.840	2348	58	0.03	0.85
1966	1843	1173	0.825	2452	52	0.03	0.86
1967	1750	1143	0.804	2673	48	0.03	0.87
1968	1658	1102	0.775	3022	49	0.03	0.86
1969	1568	1050	0.739	3361	46	0.03	0.87
1970	1488	993	0.698	3489	60	0.04	0.83
1971	1411	925	0.650	3358	51	0.04	0.85
1972	1355	864	0.608	3034	66	0.05	0.80
1973	1301	801	0.563	2801	88	0.07	0.75
1974	1245	734	0.516	2943	92	0.07	0.72
1975	1197	678	0.477	3421	89	0.07	0.71
1976	1160	638	0.449	3948	91	0.08	0.69
1977	1132	607	0.427	4287	79	0.07	0.70
1978	1124	590	0.415	4363	84	0.08	0.67
1979	1124	575	0.404	4050	78	0.07	0.68
1980	1140	567	0.399	4142	155	0.14	0.54
1981	1119	525	0.370	4198	143	0.13	0.53
1982	1117	502	0.353	4306	129	0.12	0.54
1983	1131	497	0.350	3759	118	0.10	0.55
1984	1153	506	0.356	2759	174	0.15	0.47
1985	1142	495	0.348	2292	173	0.15	0.46
1986	1126	491	0.345	2178	206	0.18	0.42
1987	1083	478	0.336	2389	162	0.15	0.46
1988	1053	483	0.340	3055	145	0.14	0.49
1989	1025	492	0.346	4381	120	0.12	0.53

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Table 25: Time-series of population estimates from the base-case model. Relative exploitation rate is $(1 - SPR)/(1 - SPR_{50\%})$.

Year	Total biomass (mt)	Spawning biomass (mt)	Depletion	Age-0 recruits	Total catch (mt)	Relative exploitation rate	SPR
1990	1009	501	0.352	6433	136	0.14	0.52
1991	995	491	0.346	8333	175	0.18	0.47
1992	986	455	0.320	8992	207	0.21	0.42
1993	1000	402	0.283	8707	210	0.21	0.39
1994	1060	356	0.250	8277	161	0.15	0.41
1995	1187	350	0.246	7460	150	0.13	0.41
1996	1343	377	0.265	6125	148	0.11	0.42
1997	1507	439	0.309	4580	118	0.08	0.48
1998	1673	541	0.381	3679	118	0.07	0.52
1999	1806	660	0.465	3395	127	0.07	0.55
2000	1891	780	0.548	3487	131	0.07	0.58
2001	1931	887	0.624	4270	169	0.09	0.57
2002	1914	958	0.674	4983	133	0.07	0.64
2003	1887	1012	0.712	4071	148	0.08	0.64
2004	1836	1025	0.721	3305	72	0.04	0.78
2005	1821	1046	0.736	3074	86	0.05	0.76
2006	1783	1039	0.731	2964	78	0.04	0.78
2007	1740	1024	0.720	3046	70	0.04	0.80
2008	1693	1007	0.708	3355	87	0.05	0.77
2009	1630	976	0.687	3947	111	0.07	0.72
2010	1553	929	0.654	4096	153	0.10	0.66
2011	1457	857	0.603	3460	135	0.09	0.66
2012	1387	796	0.560	3465	94	0.07	0.71
2013	1355	760	0.535	4497	84	0.06	0.72
2014	1340	733	0.516	7879	105	0.08	0.68
2015	1331	699	0.492	11760	109	0.08	0.66
2016	1349	671	0.472	8732	112	0.08	0.64
2017	1415	648	0.456	5727	104	0.07	0.65
2018	1526	640	0.450	4333	92	0.06	0.66
2019	1657	656	0.462	4624			

Table 26: Sensitivity of the base model to alternative assumptions about natural mortality, growth, and using PacFIN-derived length composition data.

Label	Base model (Francis weights)	Fix M at prior	Fix k at external est.	PacFIN length comps	Default weighting	Harmonic mean weighting
TOTAL_like	516.36	516.61	524.71	508.20	4041.05	1734.79
Catch_like	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Equil_catch_like	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Survey_like	-32.17	-32.25	-31.21	-31.91	-25.08	-27.59
Length_comp_like	372.46	372.55	373.98	365.19	2192.10	1015.78
Age_comp_like	189.56	189.70	194.77	188.81	1872.77	753.42
Recruitment_like	-13.51	-13.40	-12.94	-13.99	1.13	-6.87
Param_prior_like	0.02	0.00	0.11	0.09	0.13	0.05
Param_softbounds_like	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Female_M	0.21	0.19	0.16	0.23	0.24	0.22
Steepness	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72
InR0	8.60	8.33	7.86	8.87	9.03	8.80
Total Biomass	2369.39	2313.35	2322.80	2307.70	2321.26	2439.02
Depletion	0.46	0.43	0.42	0.00	0.50	0.49
SPR ratio	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00
L_at_Amin_Fem_GP_1	9.67	9.61	8.53	9.91	9.62	9.88
L_at_Amax_Fem_GP_1	28.44	28.23	26.39	27.79	27.24	27.64
VonBert_K_Fem_GP_1	0.12	0.14	0.25	0.11	0.10	0.12
No. para	112.00	111.00	112.00	112.00	112.00	112.00

Table 27: Summaries of key assessment outputs and likelihood values from the retrospective analysis. The base model includes all of the data. Retro1 removes the last year of data (2018), Retro2 removes the last two years of data, Retro3 removes three years and Retro4 removes four years.

Label	Base	Retro1	Retro2	Retro3	Retro4
Female natural mortality	0.21	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.19
Steepness	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72
lnR0	8.60	8.42	8.35	8.22	7.87
Total Unfished Biomass (mt)	2369.39	2197.03	2055.25	1812.34	1526.88
Depletion	0.46	0.38	0.37	0.32	0.23
SPR ratio	1.00	0.99	0.99	0.97	0.89
Female Lmin	9.67	9.66	10.12	10.62	10.89
Female Lmax	28.44	28.13	27.94	27.76	27.52
Female K	0.12	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.13
Negative log-likelihood					
TOTAL	516.36	491.40	474.84	460.88	444.75
Equilibrium catch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Survey	-32.17	-31.40	-30.64	-30.37	-33.18
Length composition	372.46	360.37	347.07	335.57	324.50
Age composition	189.56	175.79	171.91	170.80	169.70
Recruitment	-13.51	-13.46	-13.67	-15.32	-16.28
Forecast Recruitment	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Parameter priors	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Table 28: Summaries of key assessment outputs and likelihood values from selected likelihood profile runs on virgin recruitment ($\ln R_0$) and steepness. Depletion and SPR ratio are for the year 2019.

Label	R07000	R08000	R08500	R09500	R010500	h0390	h0550	h0710	h0850	h0990
Female M	0.11	0.17	0.21	0.28	0.34	0.27	0.23	0.21	0.20	0.20
Steepness	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.39	0.55	0.71	0.85	0.99
$\ln R_0$	7.00	8.00	8.50	9.50	10.50	9.71	9.02	8.62	8.39	8.23
Total unfished biomass (mt)	2073.45	2190.37	2331.91	2881.56	4040.10	4035.93	2872.00	2389.96	2158.79	2009.99
Depletion	0.22	0.37	0.45	0.57	0.66	0.38	0.43	0.46	0.48	0.49
SPR ratio	0.86	0.99	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.99	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Female Lmin	9.23	9.54	9.65	9.77	9.66	10.08	9.82	9.67	9.60	9.54
Female Lmax	27.47	28.03	28.38	29.02	29.89	28.74	28.55	28.45	28.38	28.34
Female K	0.21	0.15	0.13	0.09	0.05	0.10	0.12	0.12	0.13	0.13
Negative log-likelihood										
TOTAL	531.14	517.70	516.39	517.94	521.64	525.26	519.36	516.49	515.18	515.70
Catch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Survey	-25.53	-31.68	-32.15	-31.92	-31.40	-30.36	-31.68	-32.16	-32.35	-32.46
Length_comp	374.51	372.69	372.46	372.88	374.10	373.67	372.78	372.47	372.35	372.29
Age_comp	192.78	190.01	189.59	189.97	191.18	191.65	190.34	189.60	189.18	188.88
Recruitment	-11.50	-13.36	-13.51	-13.34	-13.10	-11.56	-12.69	-13.47	-13.94	-14.28
Parm_priors	0.88	0.04	0.01	0.32	0.85	1.85	0.60	0.04	-0.05	1.27
Parm_softbounds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Table 29: Summaries of key assessment outputs and likelihood values from selected likelihood profile runs on female natural mortality. Depletion and SPR ratio are for the year 2019.

Label		M0140	M0180	M0220	M0260	M0300
Female M		0.14	0.18	0.22	0.26	0.30
Steepness		0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72
lnR0		7.61	8.16	8.70	9.25	9.80
Total unfished biomass (mt)		2325.92	2290.85	2396.04	2613.52	2993.24
Depletion		0.32	0.40	0.47	0.54	0.59
SPR ratio		0.97	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Female Lmin		9.43	9.57	9.69	9.76	9.76
Female Lmax		27.91	28.09	28.51	28.92	29.46
Female K		0.18	0.15	0.12	0.09	0.07
Negative log-likelihood						
TOTAL		520.87	517.09	516.39	517.29	518.96
Catch		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Survey		-31.78	-32.25	-32.13	-31.84	-31.48
Length_comp		373.35	372.68	372.45	372.59	372.88
Age_comp		191.76	189.93	189.56	189.86	190.58
Recruitment		-12.73	-13.28	-13.54	-13.57	-13.53
Parm_priors		0.27	0.01	0.04	0.23	0.51
Parm_softbounds		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01

₁₇₃₉ 8 Figures

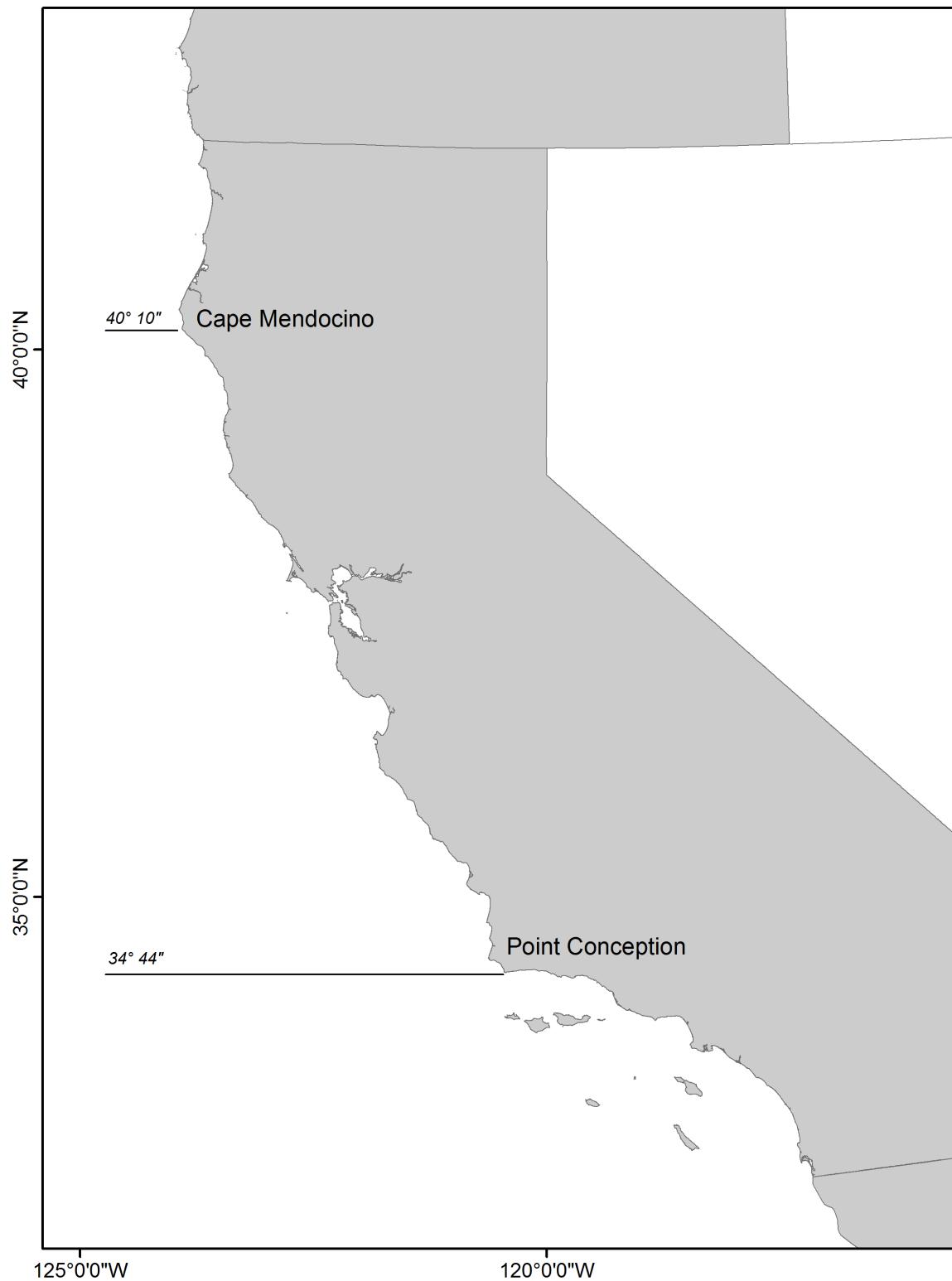


Figure 1: Map showing the management area for gopher and black-and-yellow rockfish from Cape Mendocino to the U.S.-Mexico border.

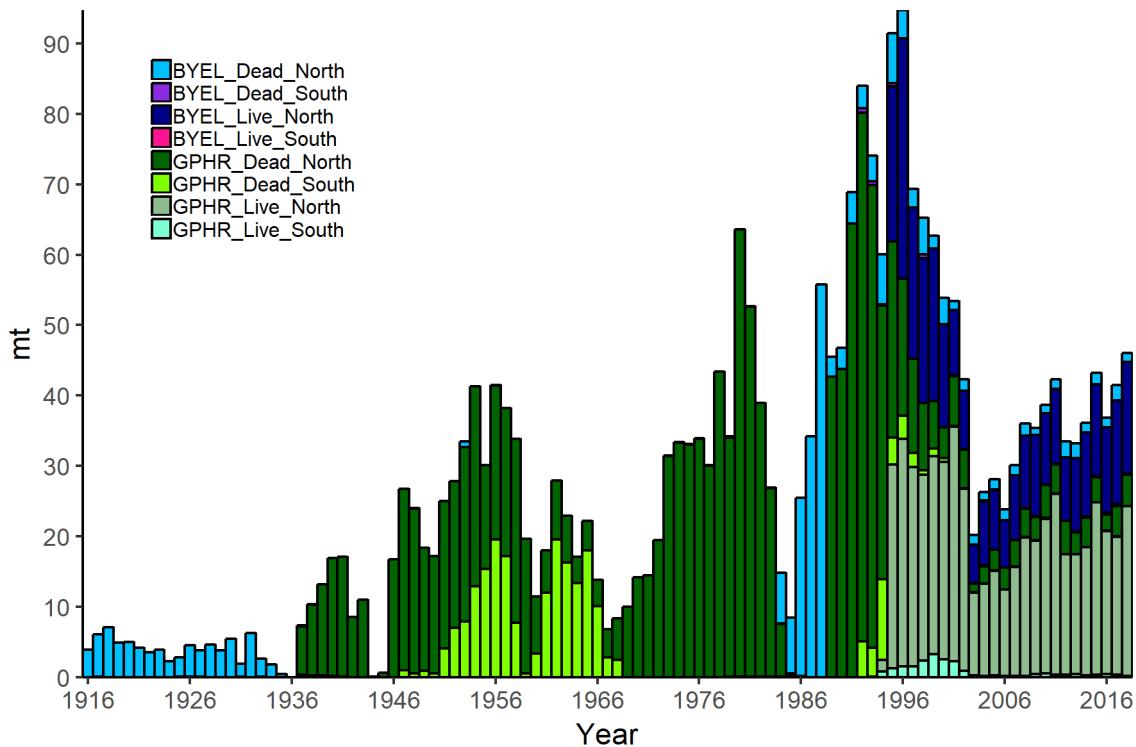


Figure 2: Commercial landings for gopher (GPHR) and black-and-yellow (BYEL) rockfishes landed live and dead north and south of Point Conception. All catch time series were combined for the assessment into one commercial fleet.

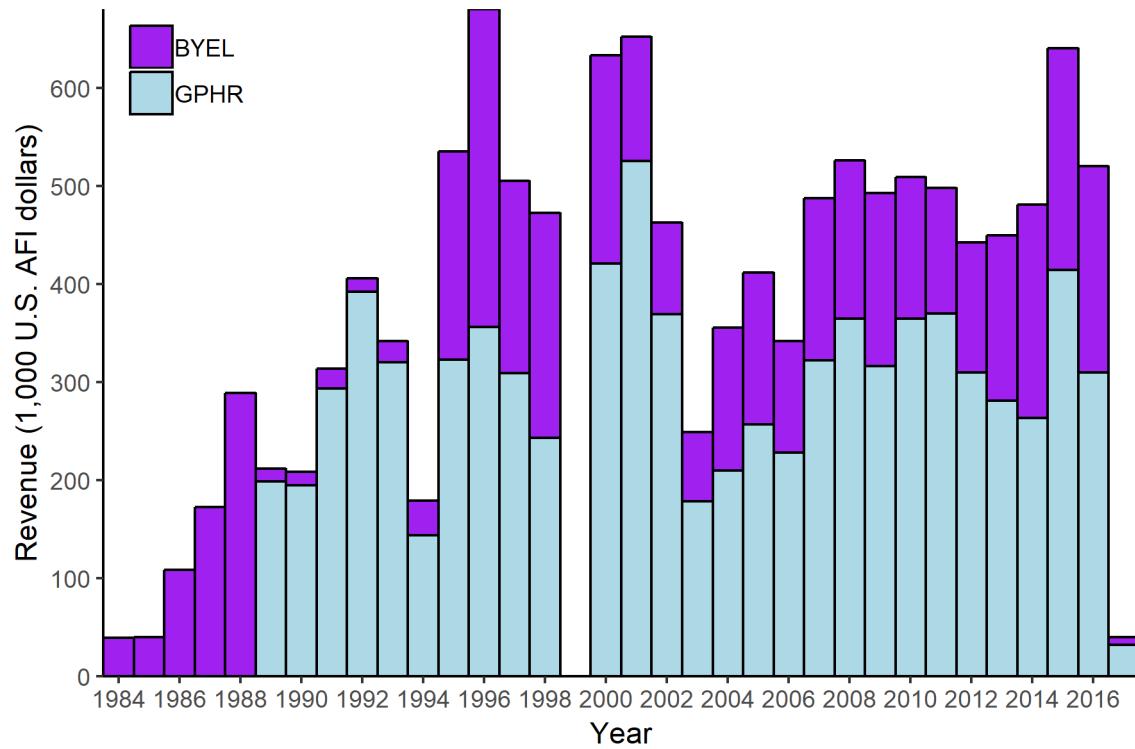


Figure 3: Annual ex-vessel revenue, adjusted for inflation (AFI) in thousands of dollars for gopher and black-and-yellow rockfish.

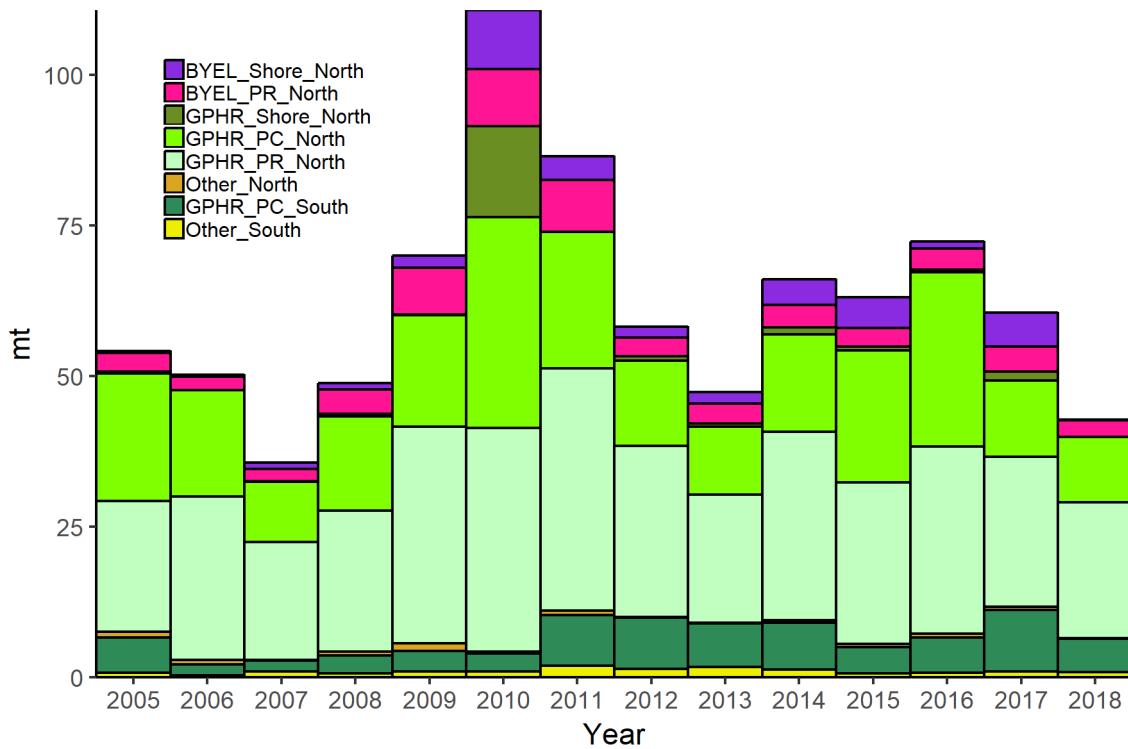


Figure 4: Recreational total mortality for gopher rockfish (GPHR) and black-and-yellow (BYEL) rockfish from the CDFW CRFS sampling era by mode and split north and south of Point Conception.

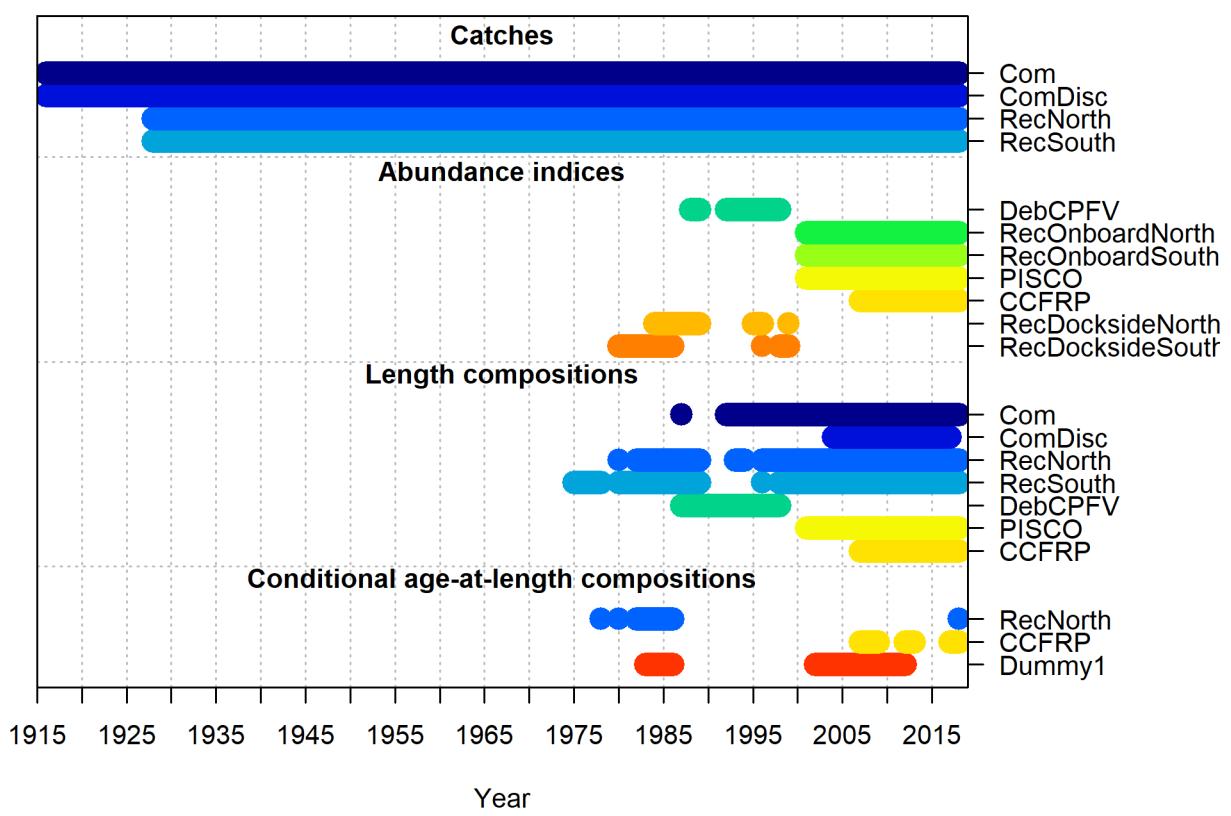


Figure 5: Summary of data sources used in the model.

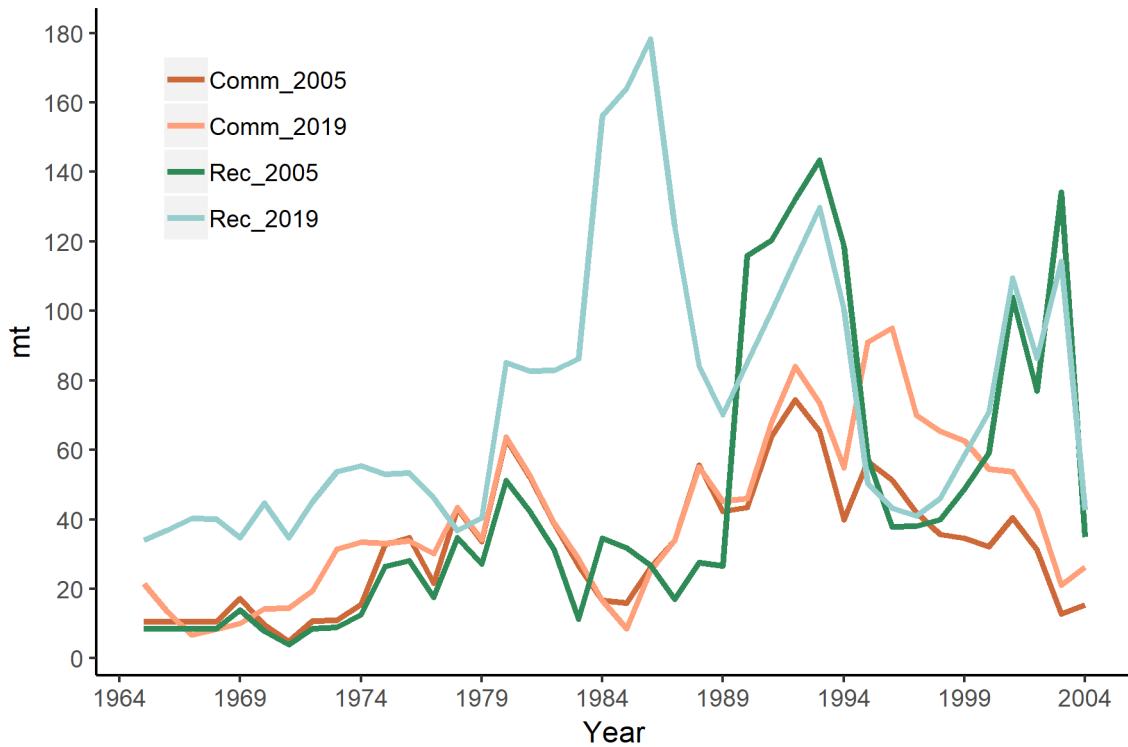


Figure 6: Comparison of the recreational and commercial fishery landings from the 2005 assessment to this 2019 assessment. Note that the 2019 assessment includes both gopher and black-and-yellow rockfish where the 2005 assessment represents gopher rockfish only. The 2005 assessment also did not include landings from south of Point Conception.

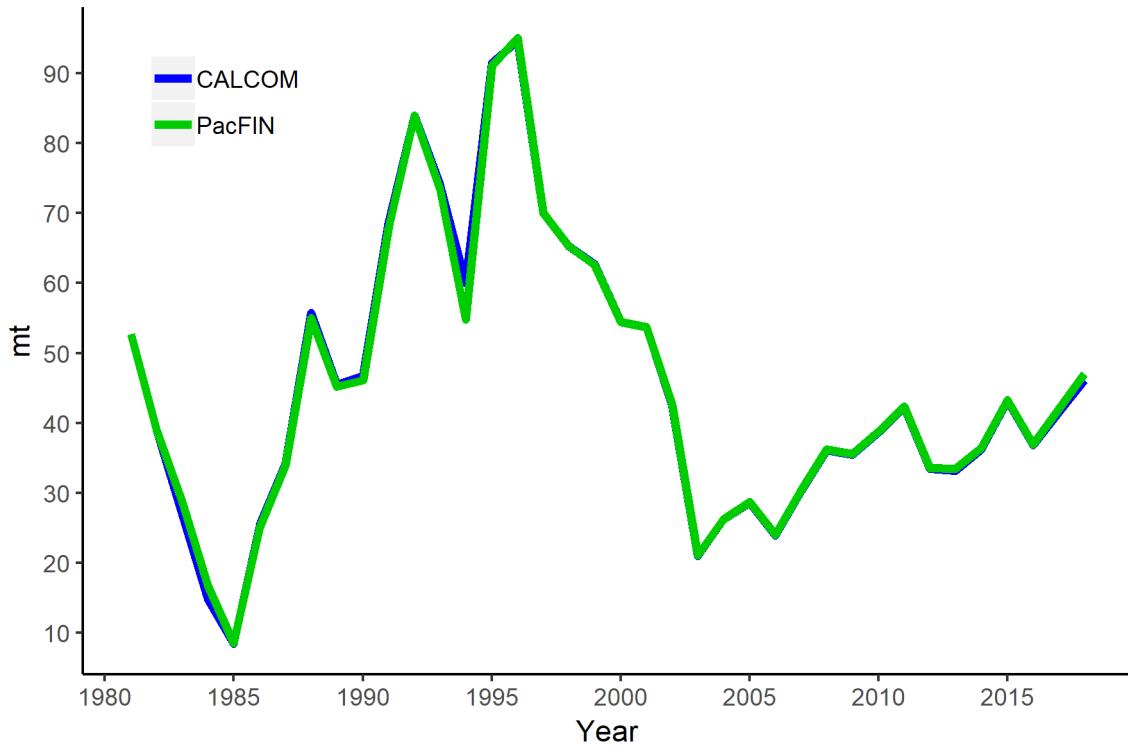


Figure 7: Commercial landings estimates from CALCOM add PacFIN.

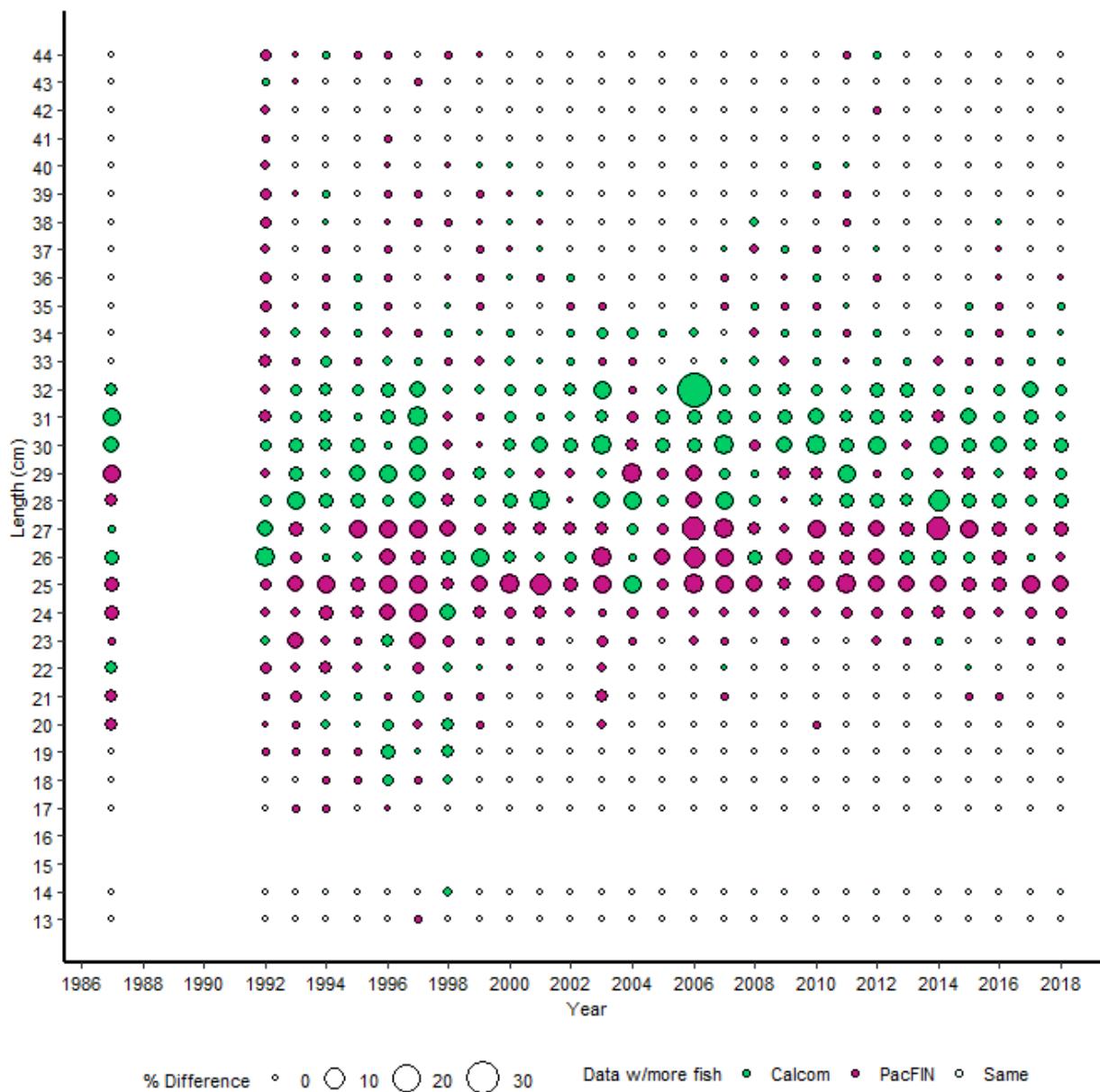


Figure 8: Percent differences in the expanded length compositions by year from CALCOM and PacFIN. The same market categories were used for each dataset, but each database was subject to further independent filtering criteria and expansion algorithms.

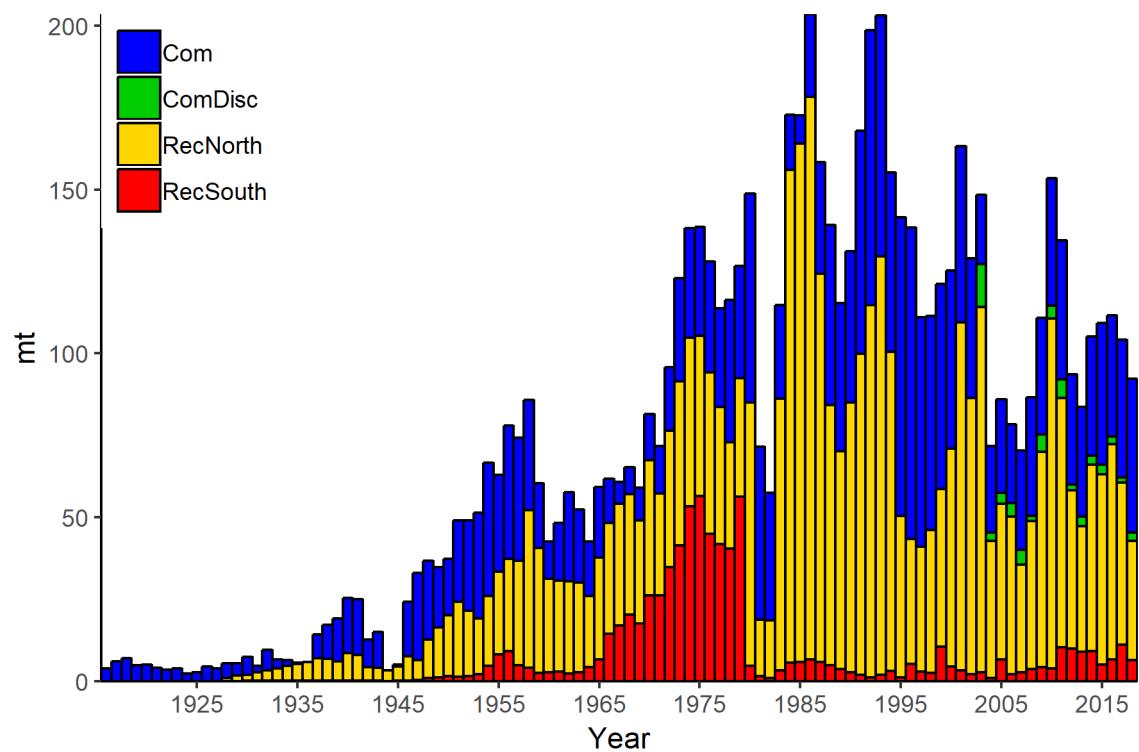


Figure 9: Commercial and recreational landings estimates prior to any data modification or interpolation to the recreational catches or hindcasting of commercial discards.

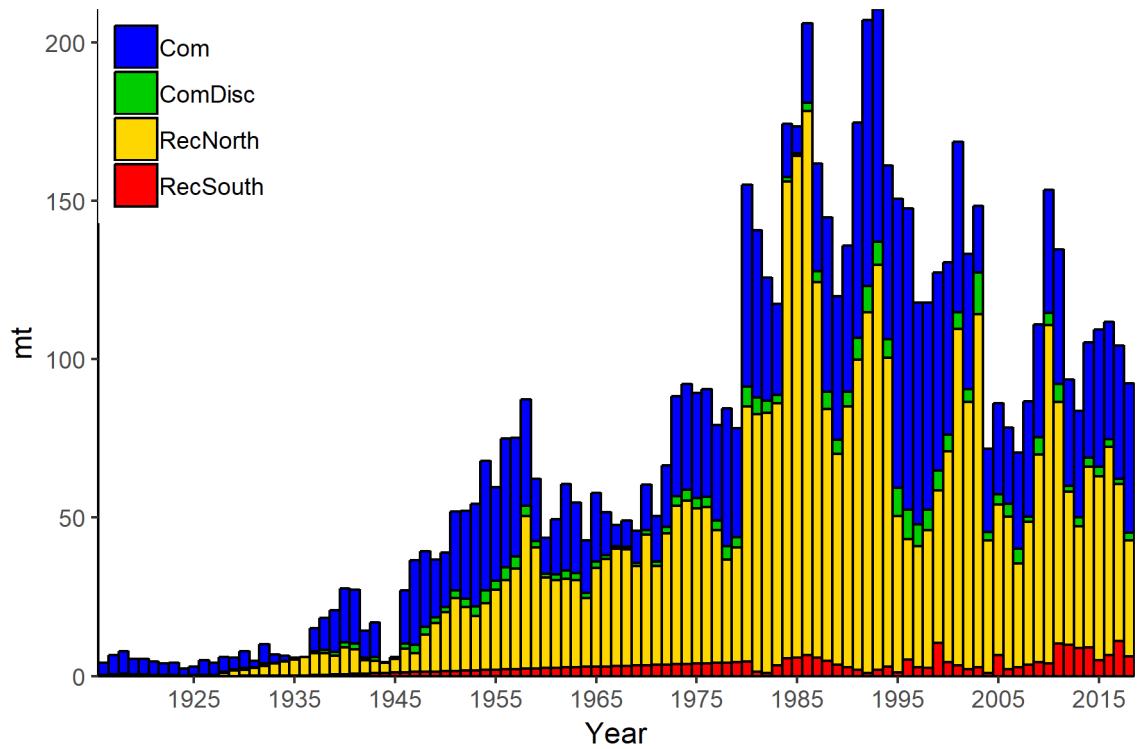


Figure 10: Commercial and recreational landings estimates after data modification and interpolations were made to the recreational catches and commercial discards.

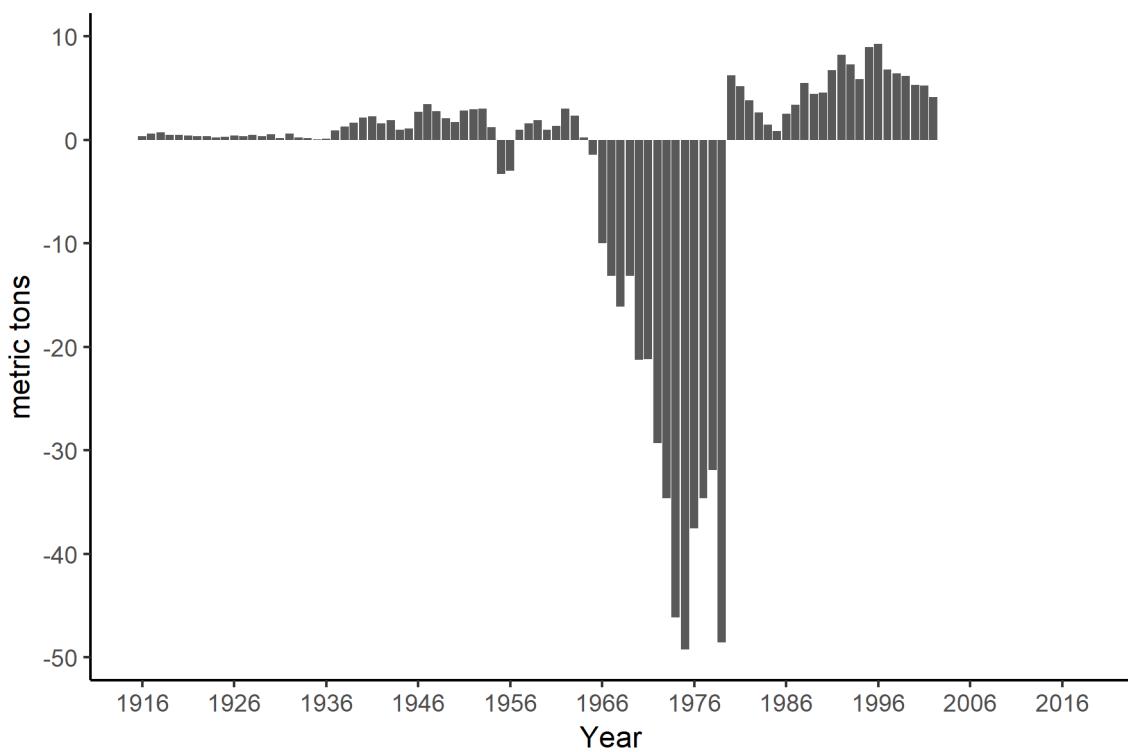


Figure 11: Difference in landings between the original and modified landings presented in the previous two figures. The only two fleets with modifications are recreational south and commercial discards. Negative values indicate catches removed from the original estimates and positive values represent the addition of landings from the commercial dicard fleet.

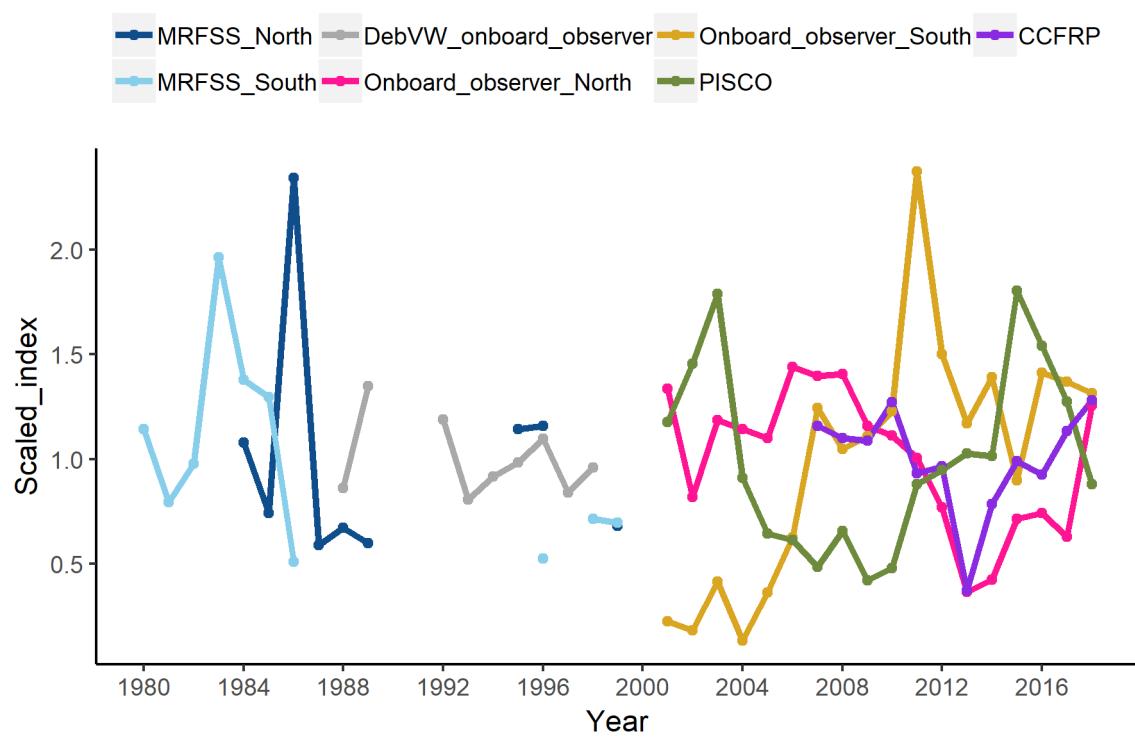


Figure 12: Comparison of all indices of abundance (with each index scaled to its mean).

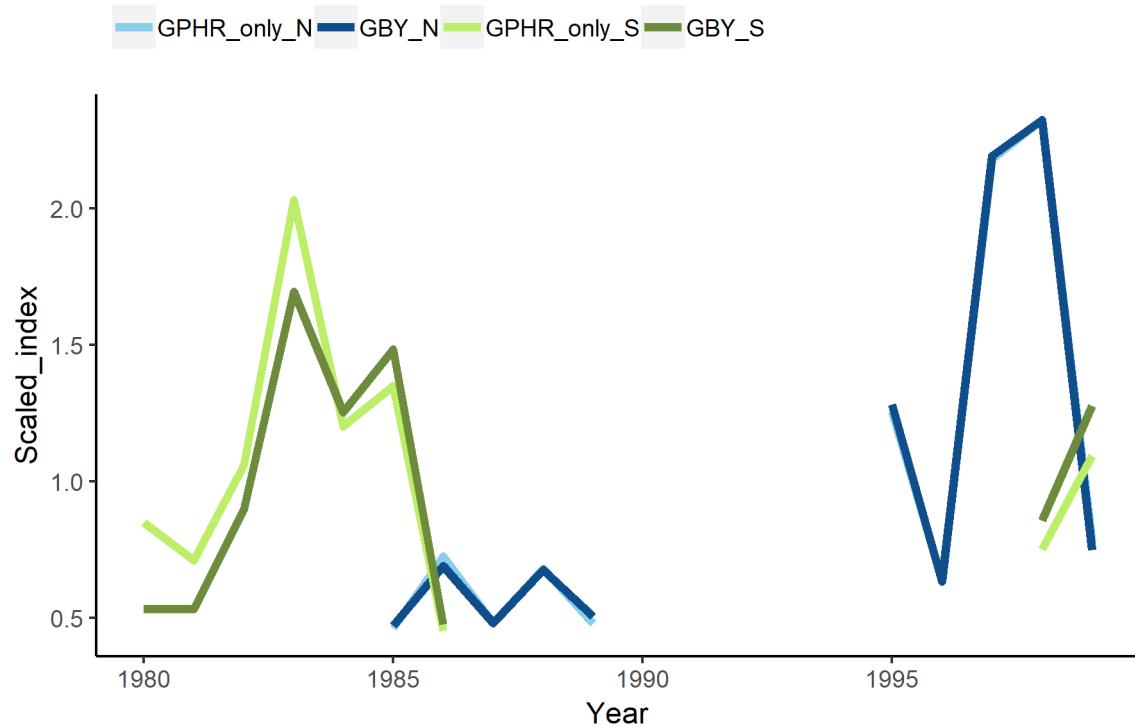


Figure 13: Comparison of indices of abundance (scaled to their means) for the MRFSS dockside CPFV survey between a gopher-only and GBYR complex index for north and south of Point Conception.

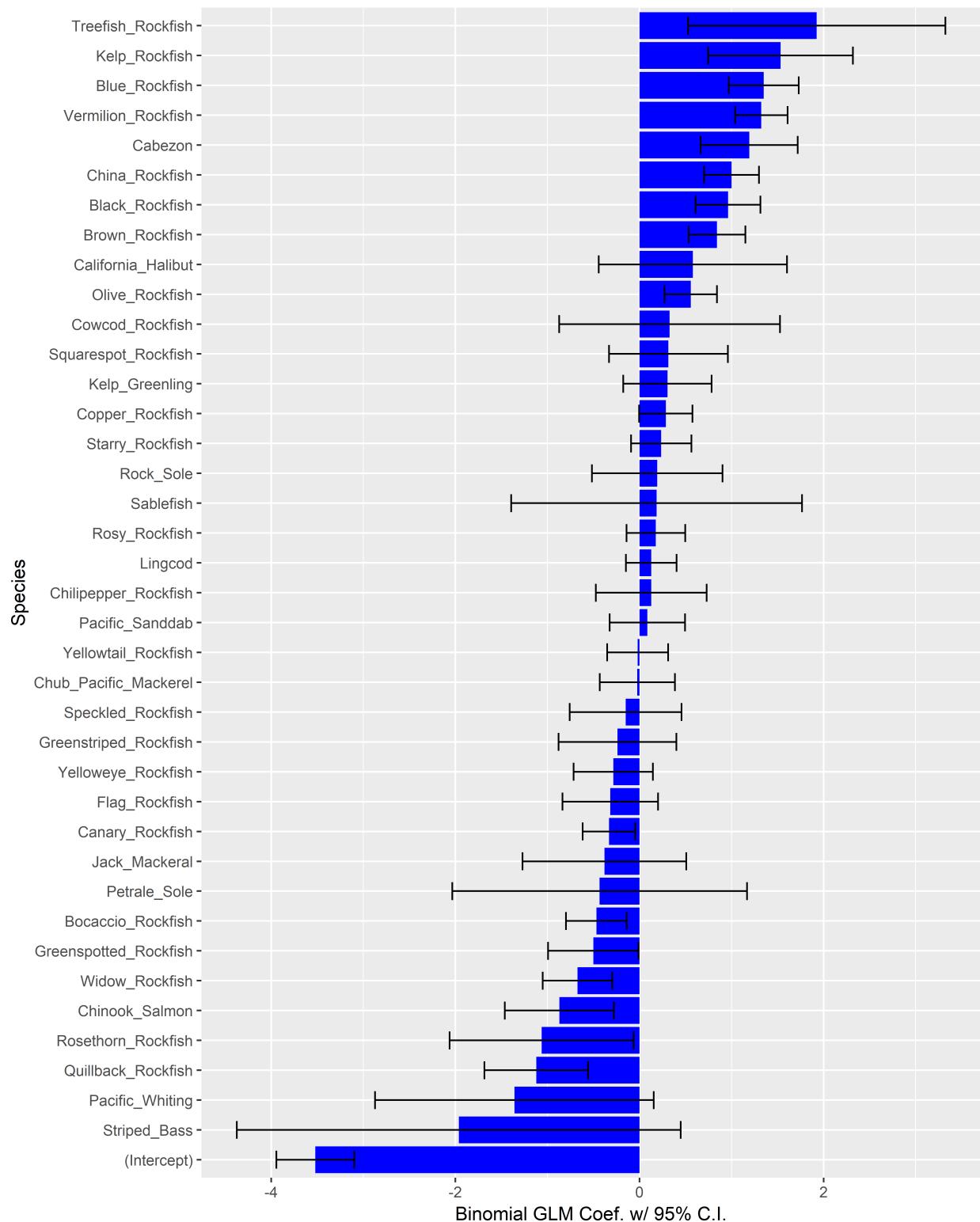


Figure 14: Species coefficients from the binomial GLM for presence/absence of GBYR in the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) CPFV mode dockside survey data set north of Point Conception. Horizontal bars are 95% confidence intervals.

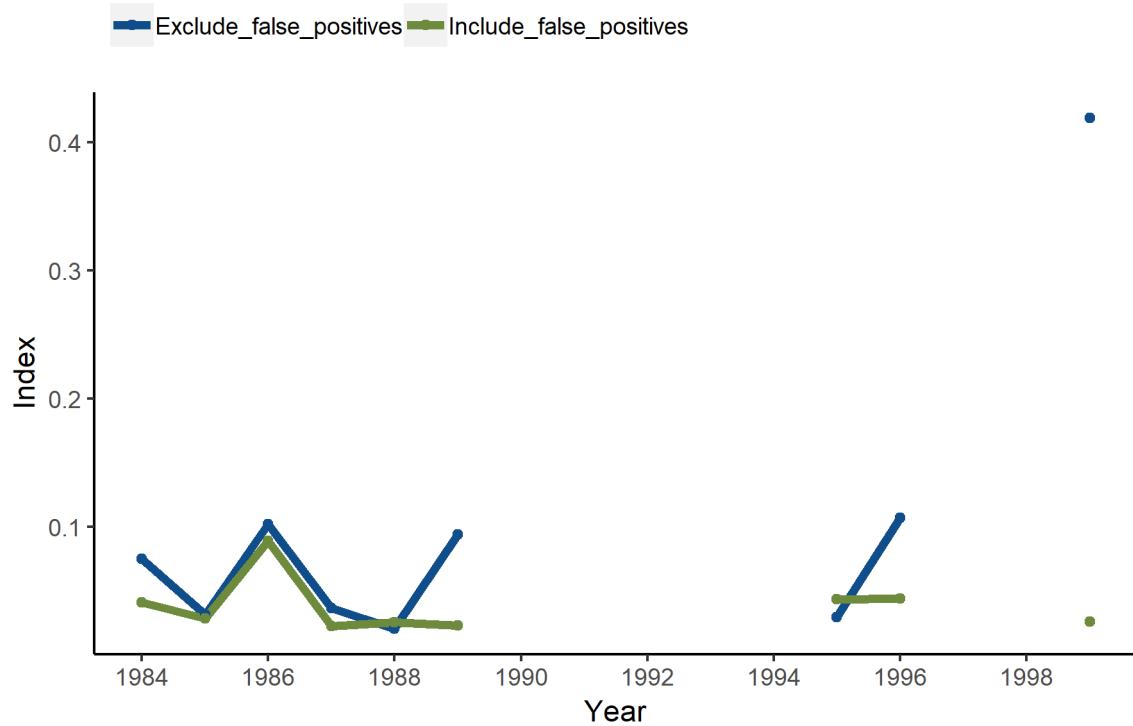


Figure 15: Comparisons of the indices of abundance for GBYR north of Point Conception from the MRFSS dockside CPVS survey that either include or exclude the trips identified as false positives from the Stephens-MacCall filter.

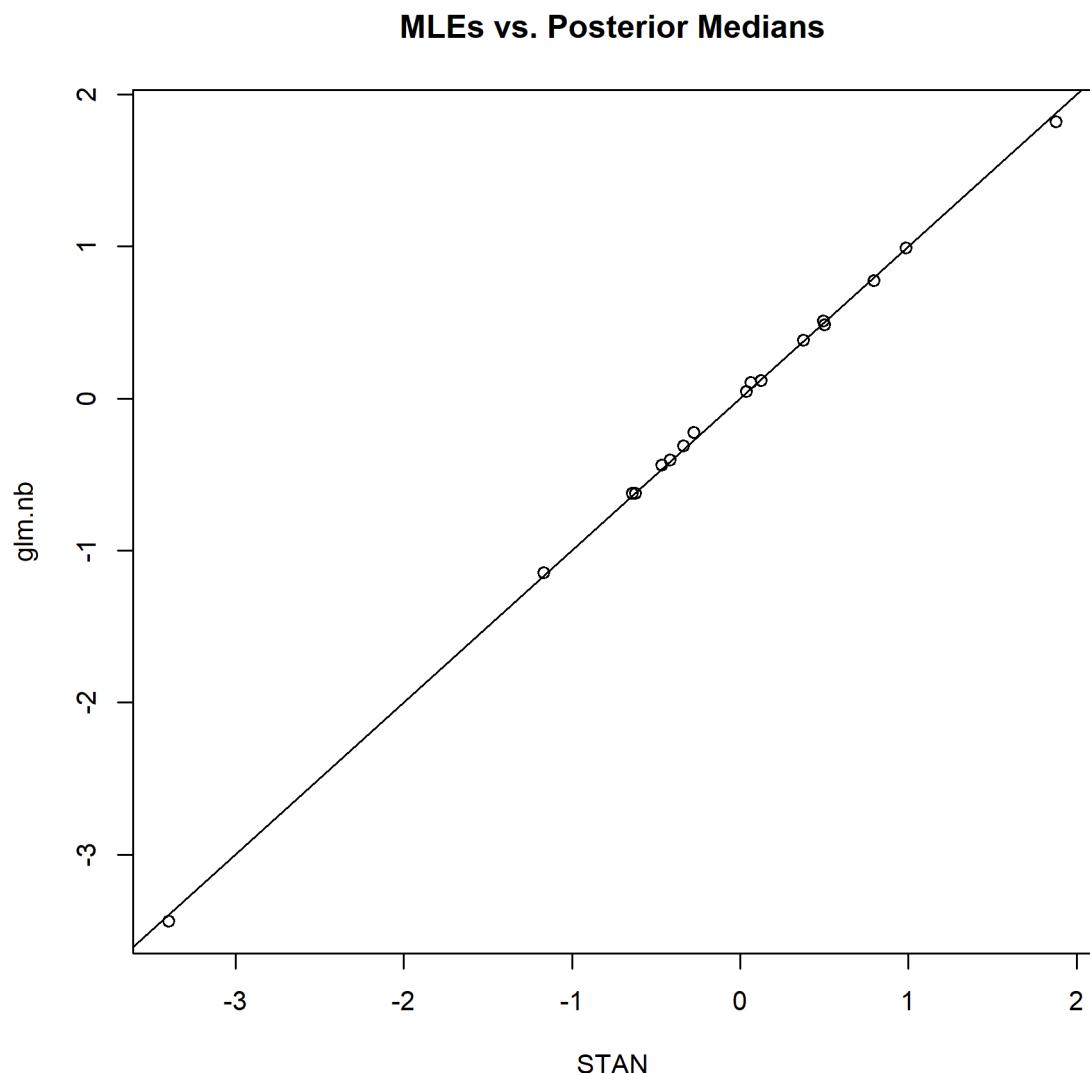


Figure 16: Comparison of negative binomial predictions (CPUE) to observed means in each stratum (year) MRFSS CPFV dockside index north of Point Conception. The 1:1 plot is for reference.

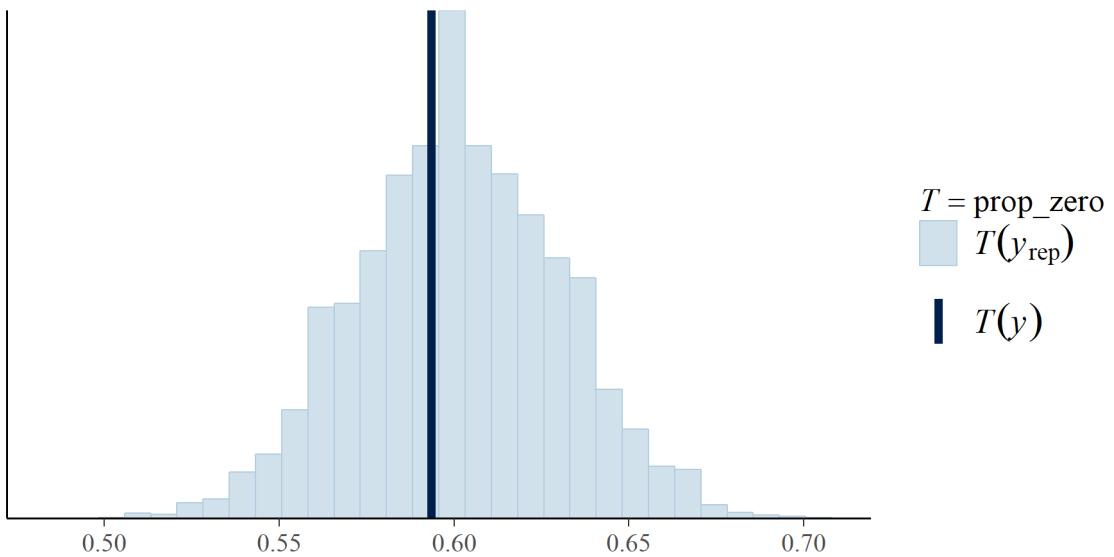


Figure 17: Posterior predictive distribution of the proportion of zero observations in replicate data sets generated by the negative binomial model for MRFSS dockside CPFV index north of Point Conception.

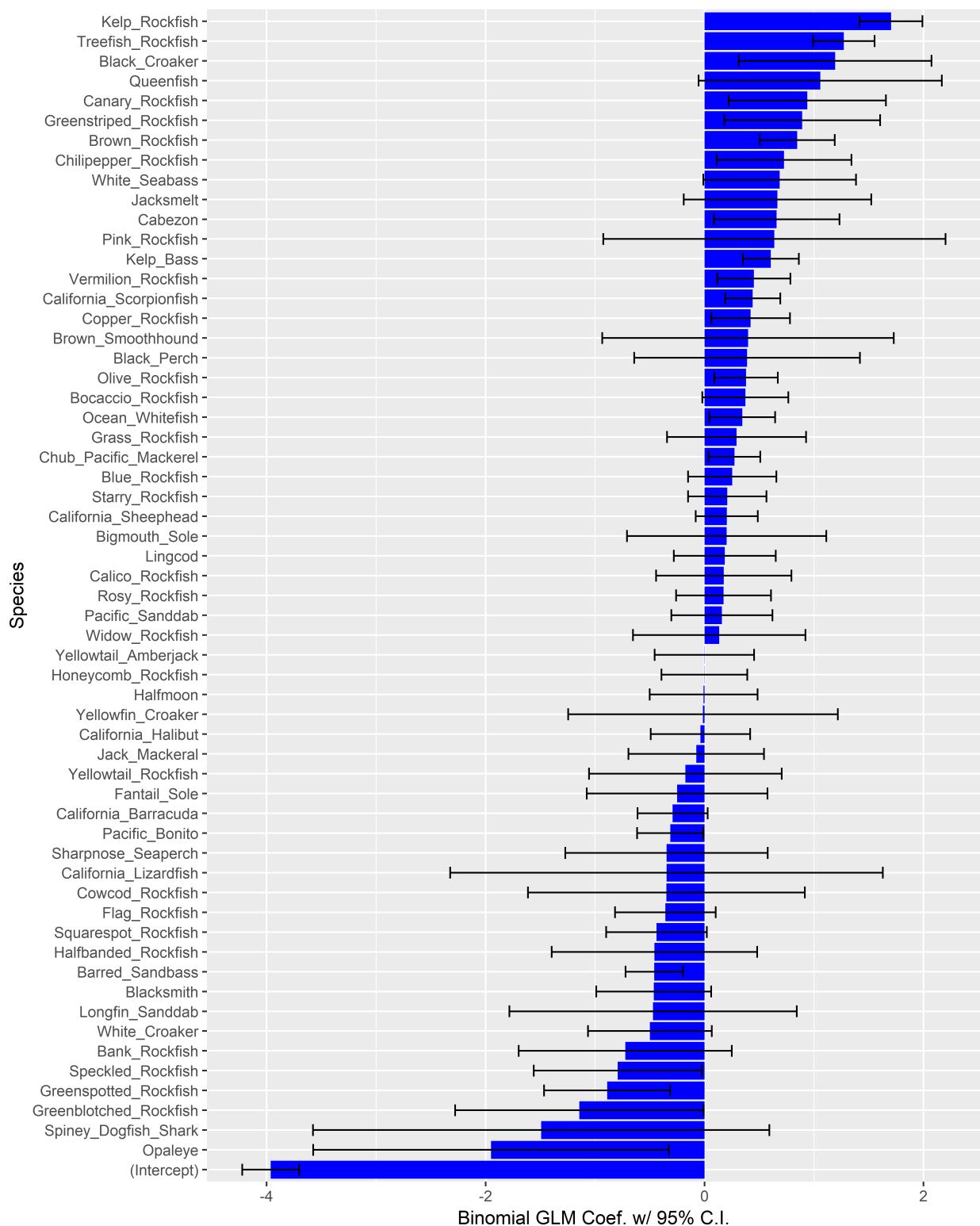


Figure 18: Species coefficients from the binomial GLM for presence/absence of GBYR in the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) CPFV mode dockside survey data set north of Point Conception. Horizontal bars are 95% confidence intervals.

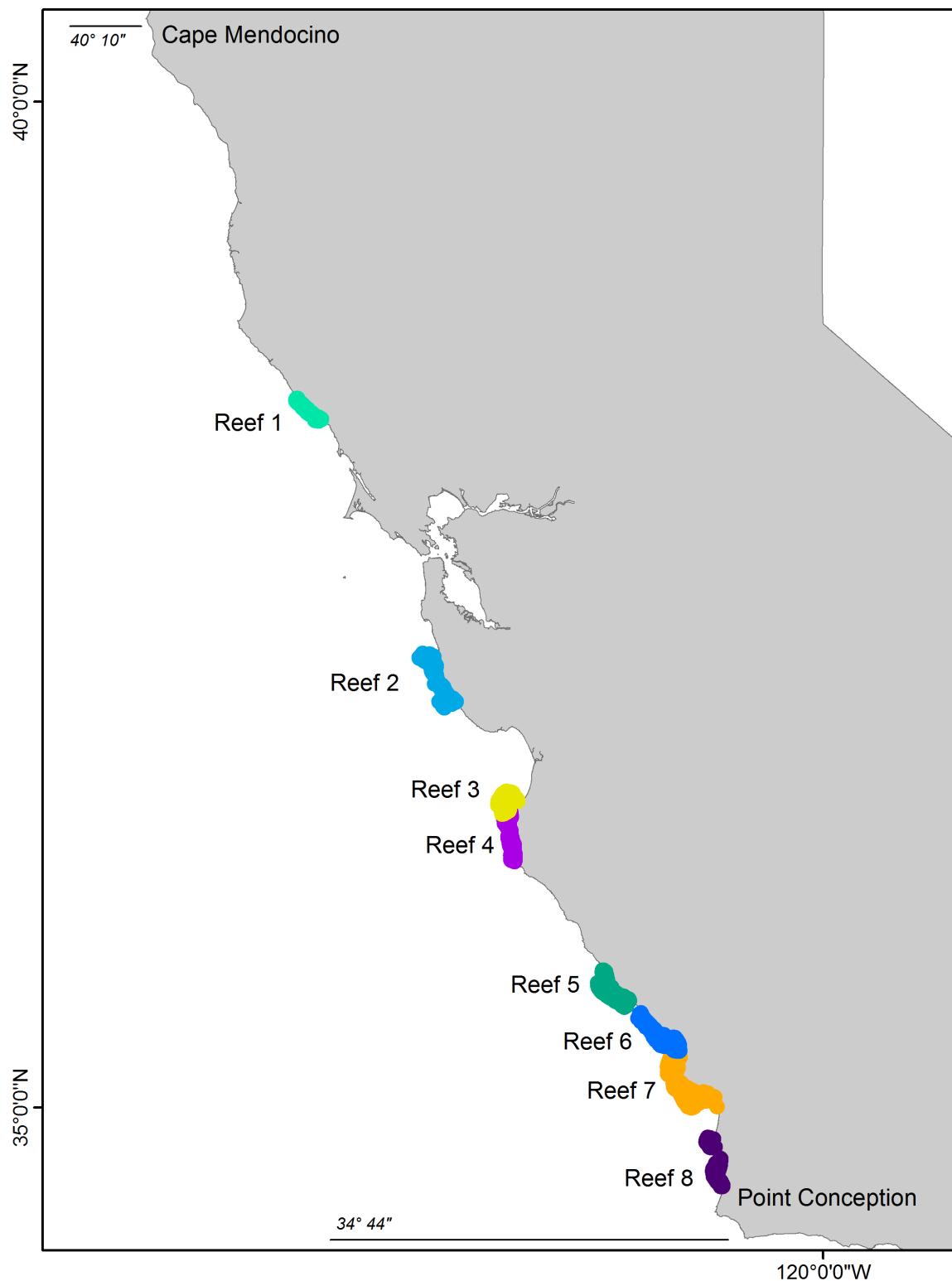


Figure 19: Map of the reefs used in the Deb Wilson-Vandenbervy CPFV onboard observer survey index of abundance.

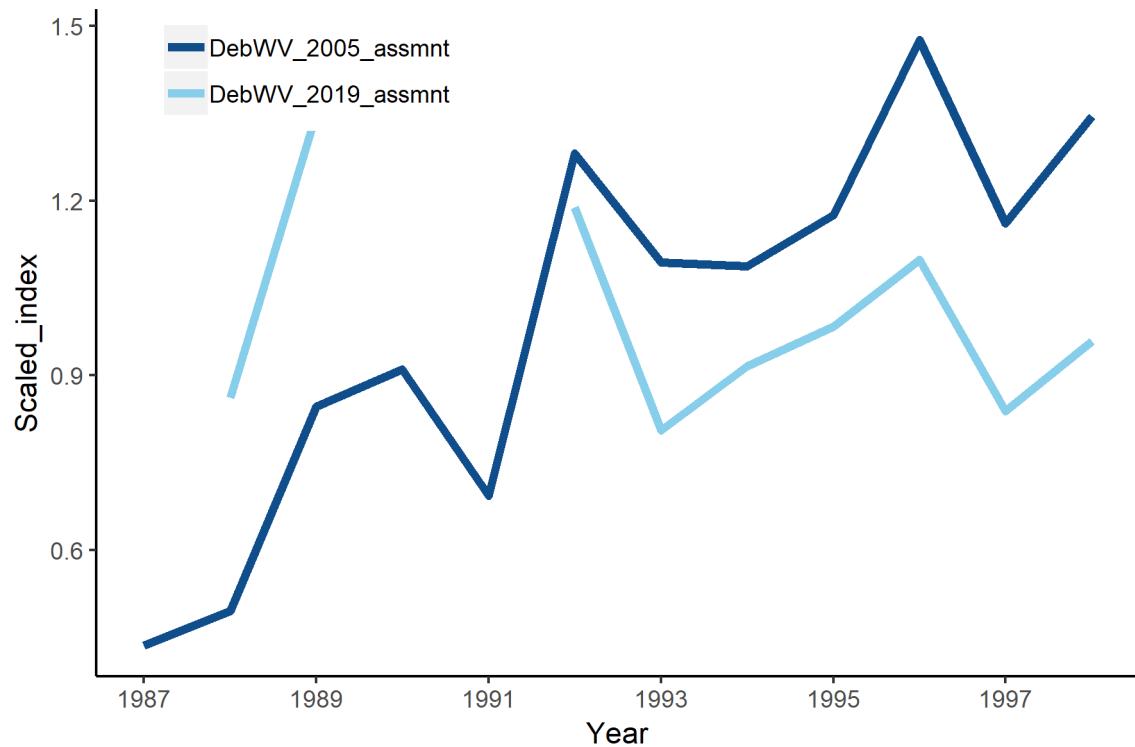


Figure 20: Comparison of the index developed for the Deb Wilson-Vandenberg CPFV on-board observer survey from the 2005 assessment and for the 2019 assessment.

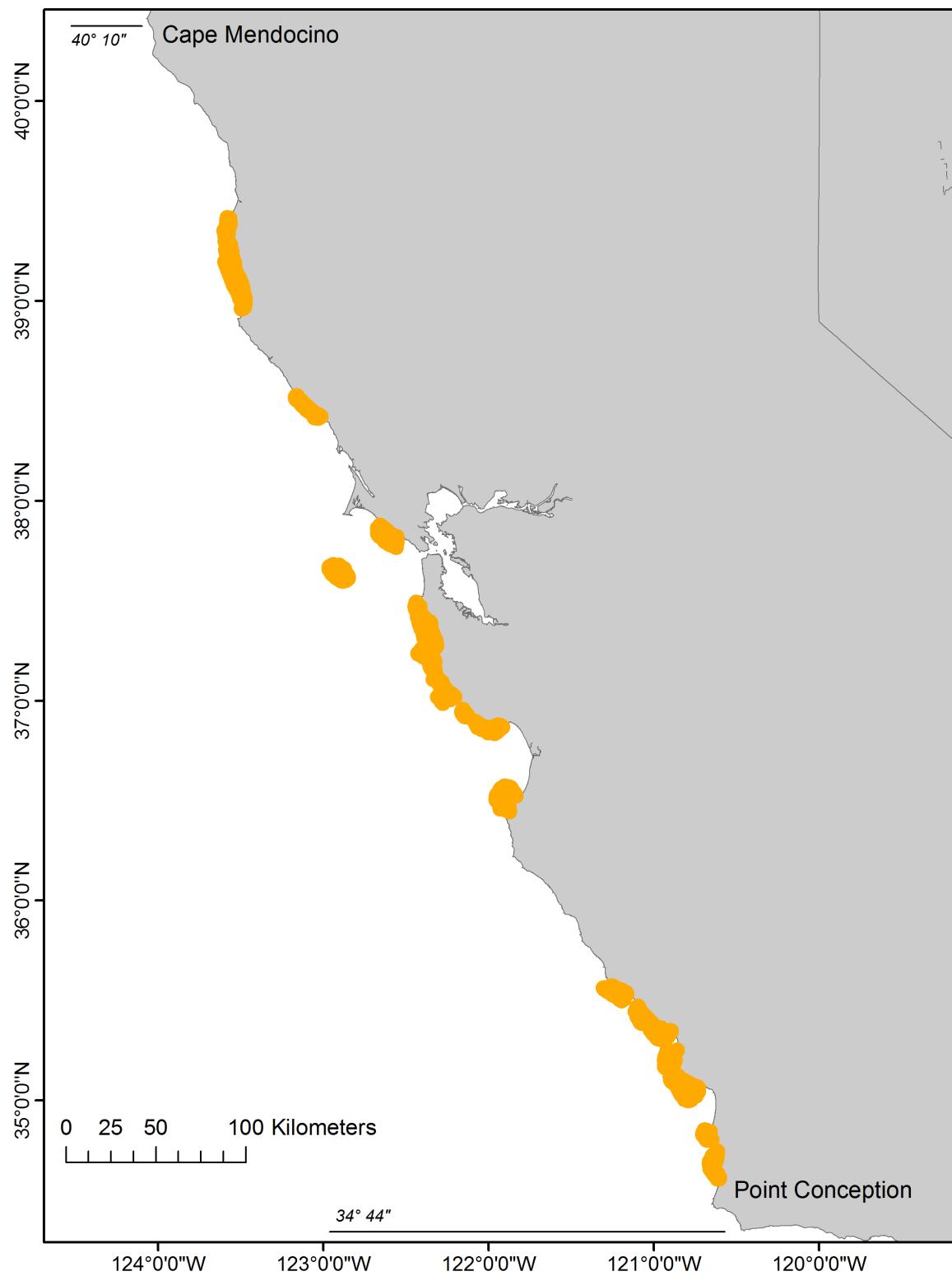


Figure 21: Map of the reefs selected for the final index for the onboard observer surveys (CDFW and Cal Poly) north of Point Conception

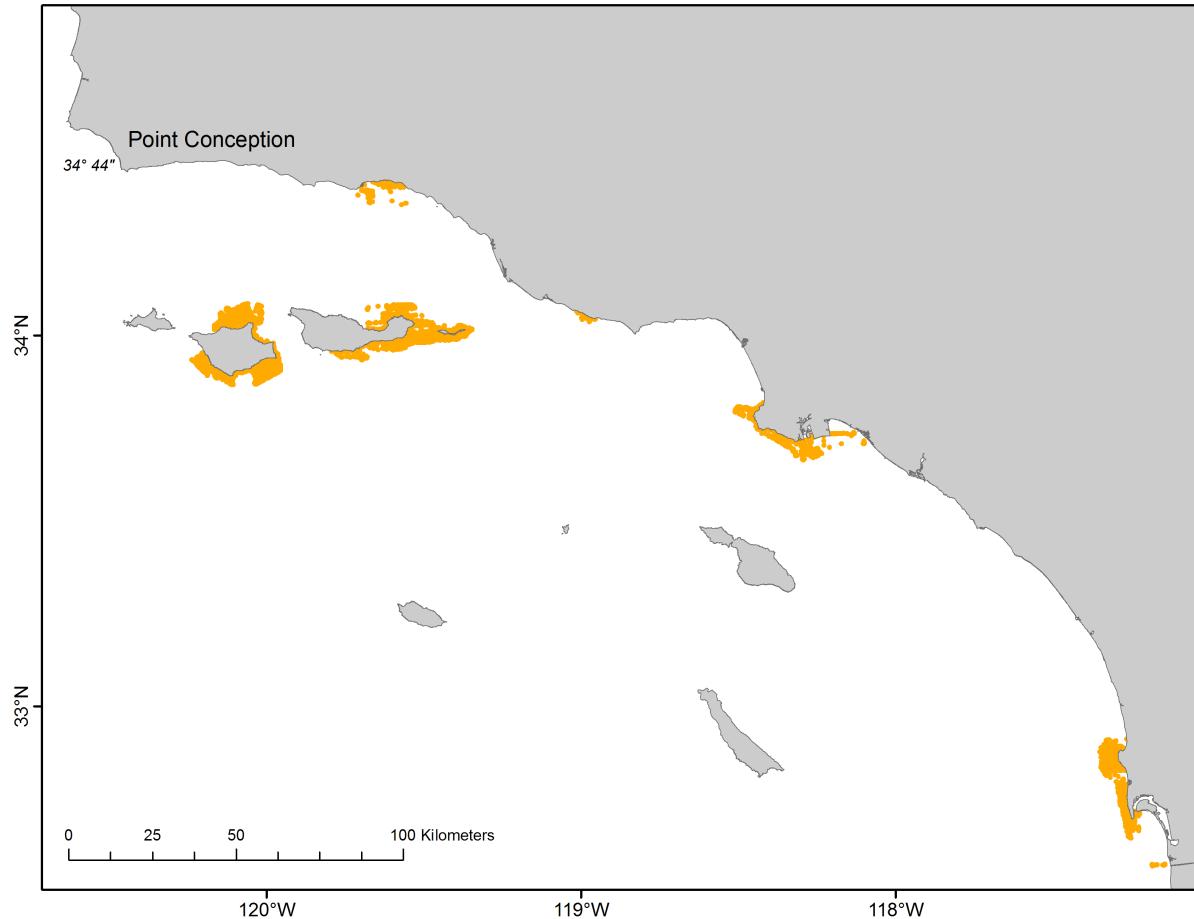


Figure 22: Map of the reefs selected for the final index for the CDFW onboard observer survey south of Point Conception

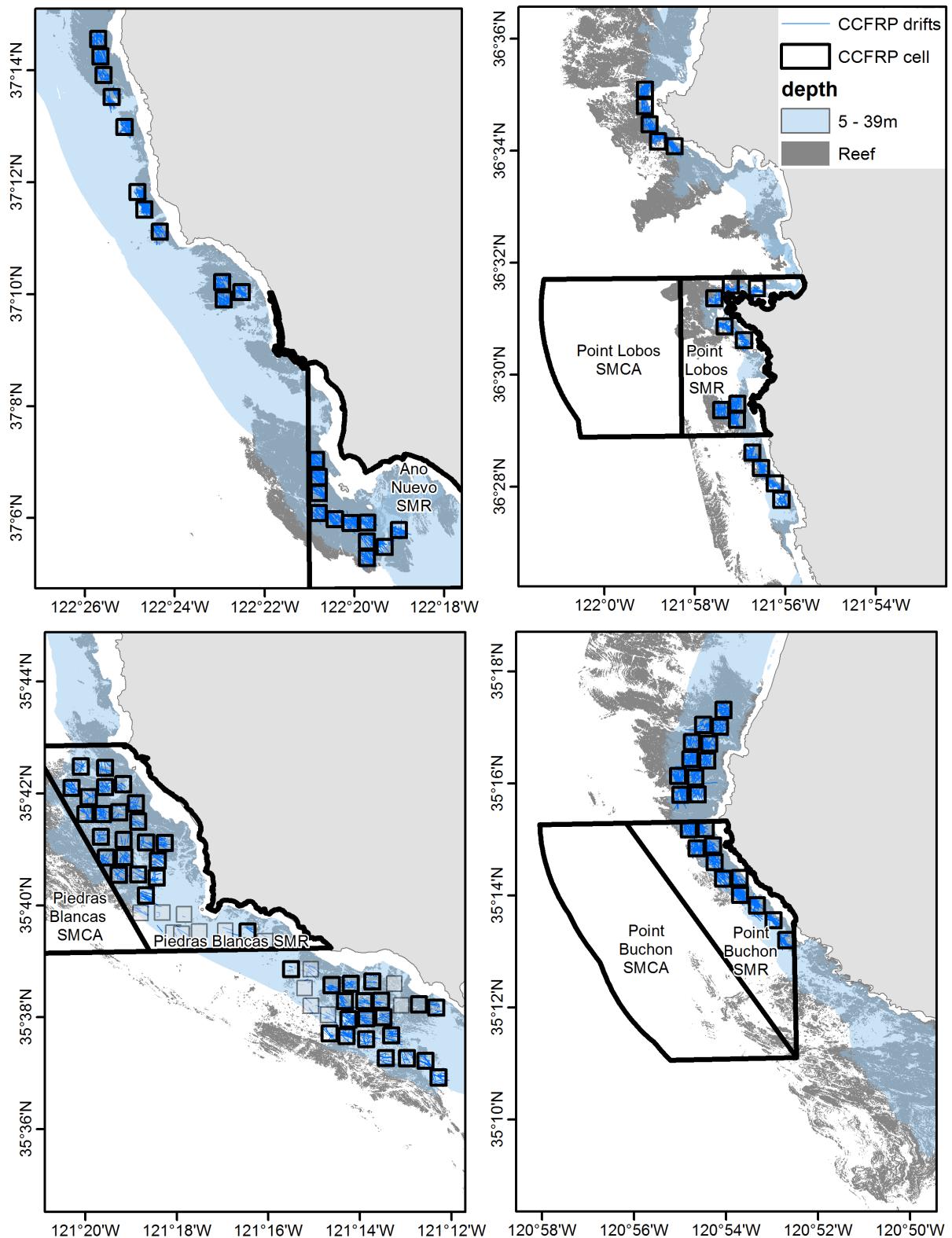


Figure 23: Map of the four MPAs sample consistently through time for the CCFRP fishery-independent survey.

MLEs vs. Posterior Medians

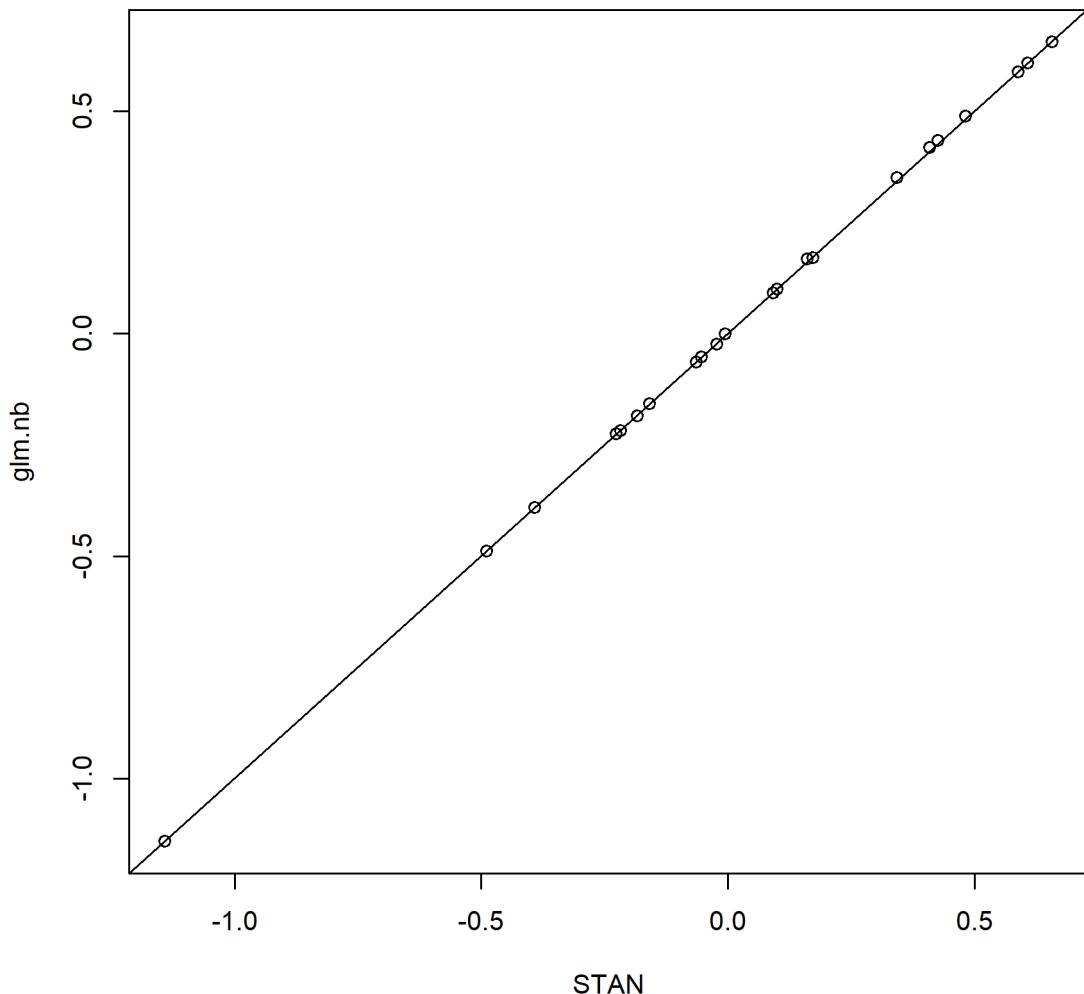


Figure 24: Comparison of negative binomial predictions (CPUE) to observed means in each stratum (year) for the CCFRP index. The 1:1 plot is for reference.

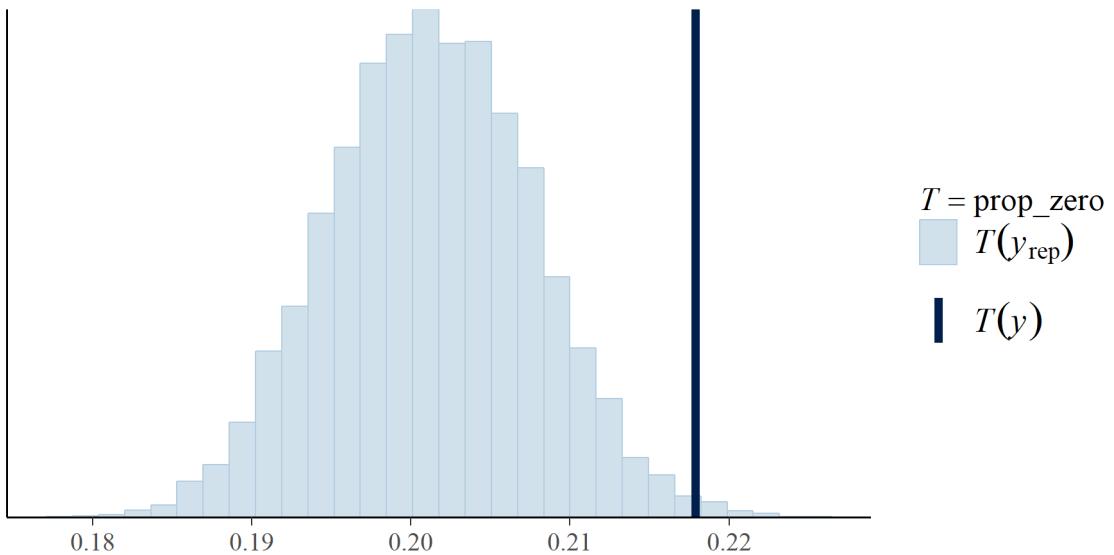


Figure 25: Posterior predictive distribution of the proportion of zero observations in replicate data sets generated by the negative binomial model for the CCFRP index.

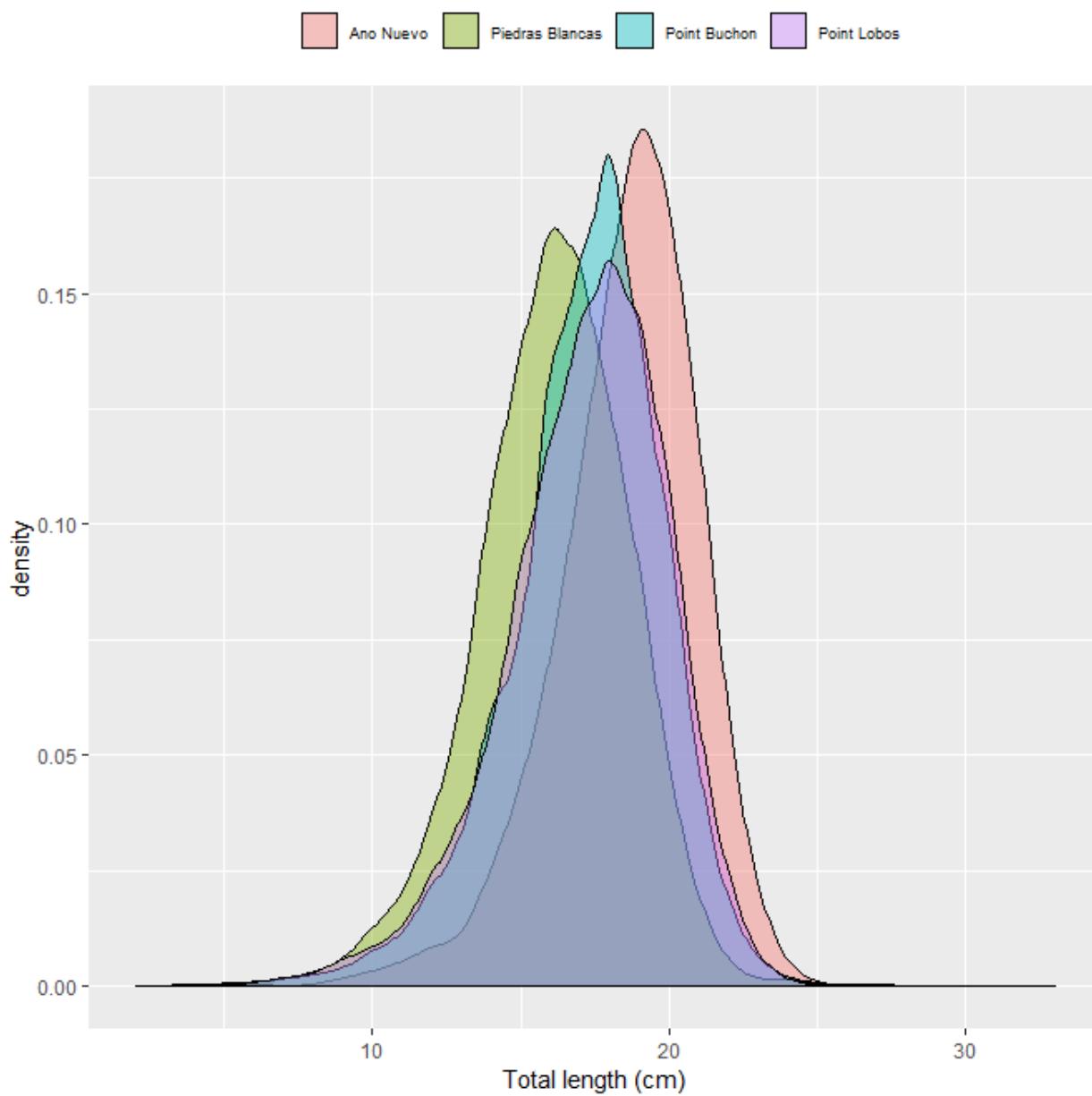


Figure 26: Length distributions of GBYR for the four MPAs sampled by the CCFRP survey used in this assessment.

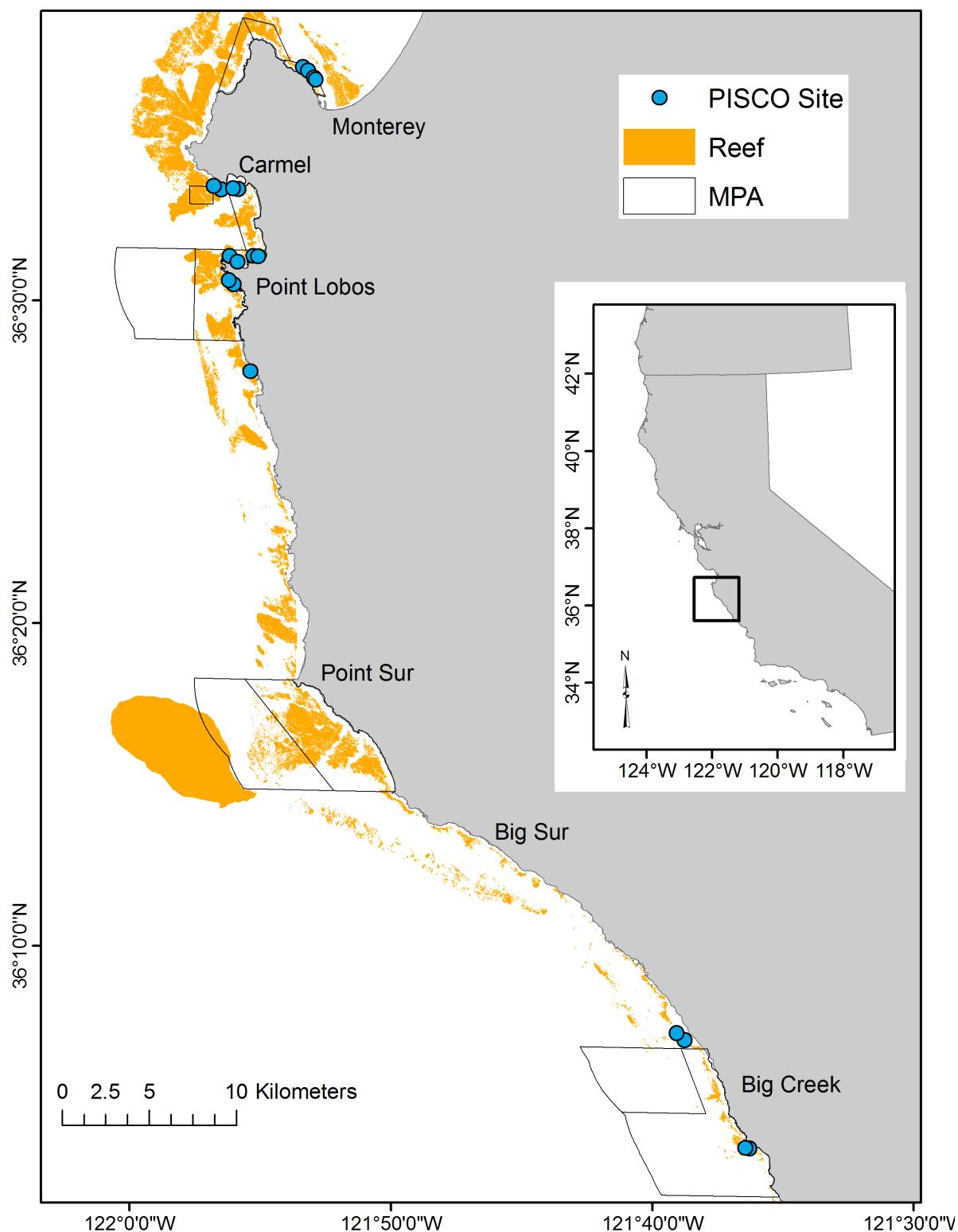


Figure 27: Map of the sites sampled consistently through time for the PISCO kelp forest fish survey.

MLEs vs. Posterior Medians

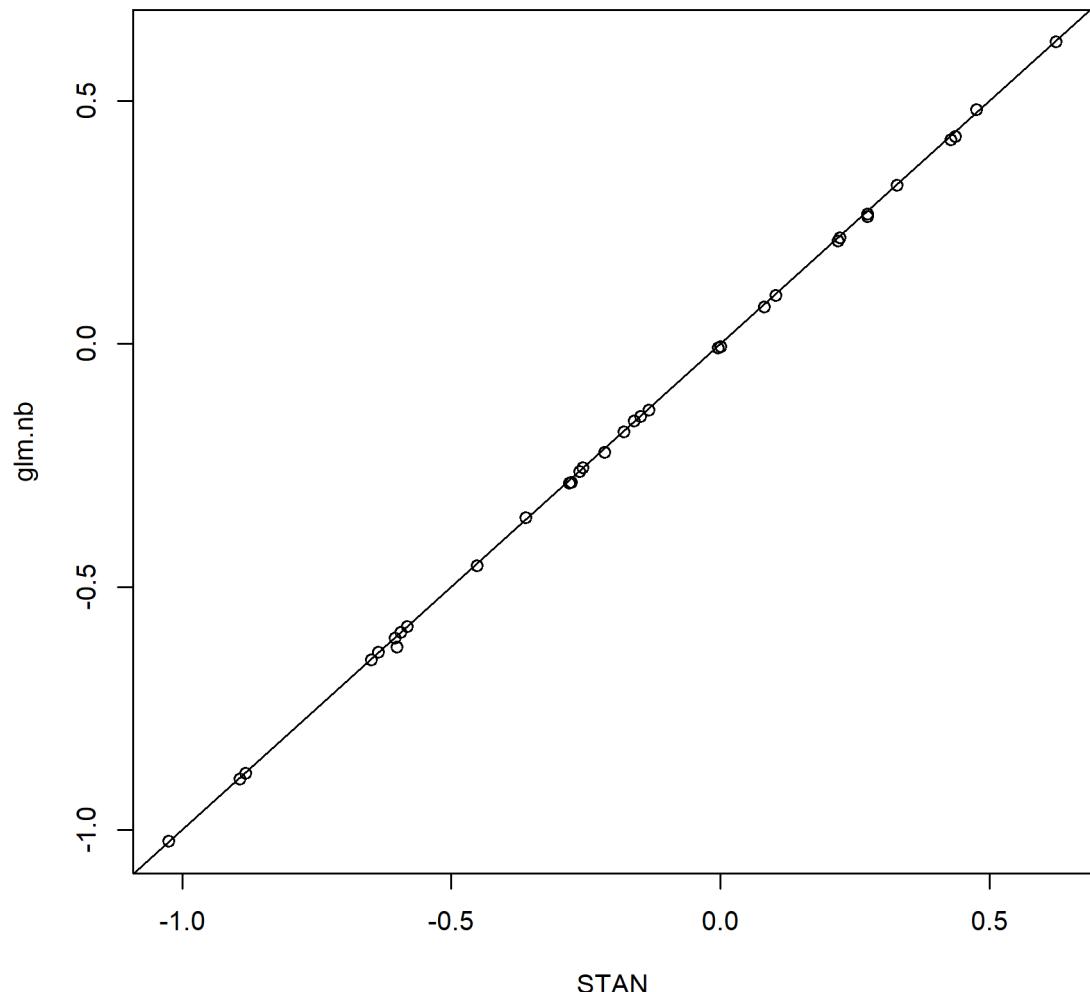


Figure 28: Comparison of negative binomial predictions (CPUE) to observed means in each stratum (year) for the PISCO kelp forest fish survey index. The 1:1 plot is for reference.

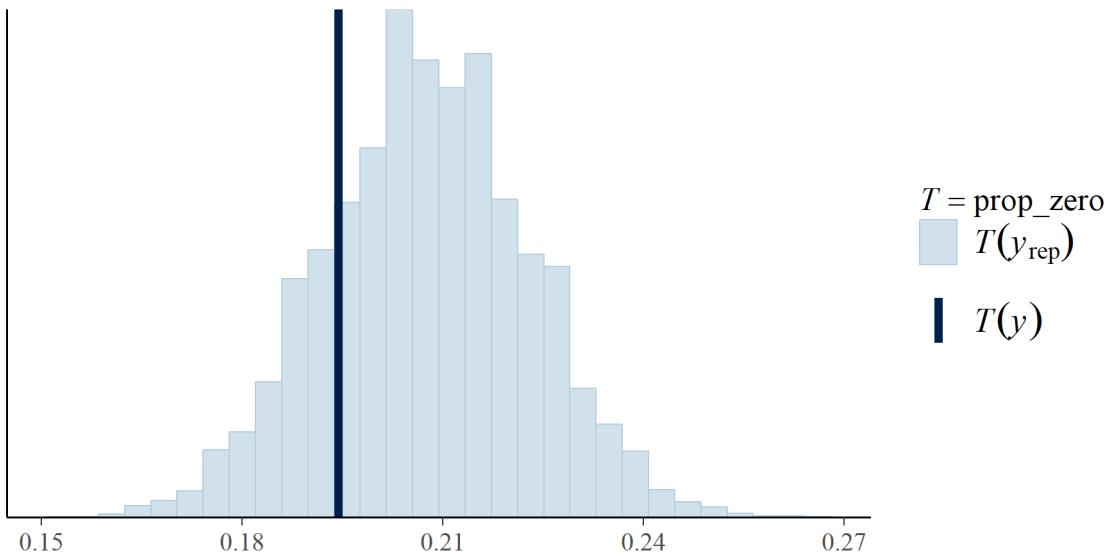


Figure 29: Posterior predictive distribution of the proportion of zero observations in replicate data sets generated by the negative binomial model for the PISCO kelp forest fish survey.

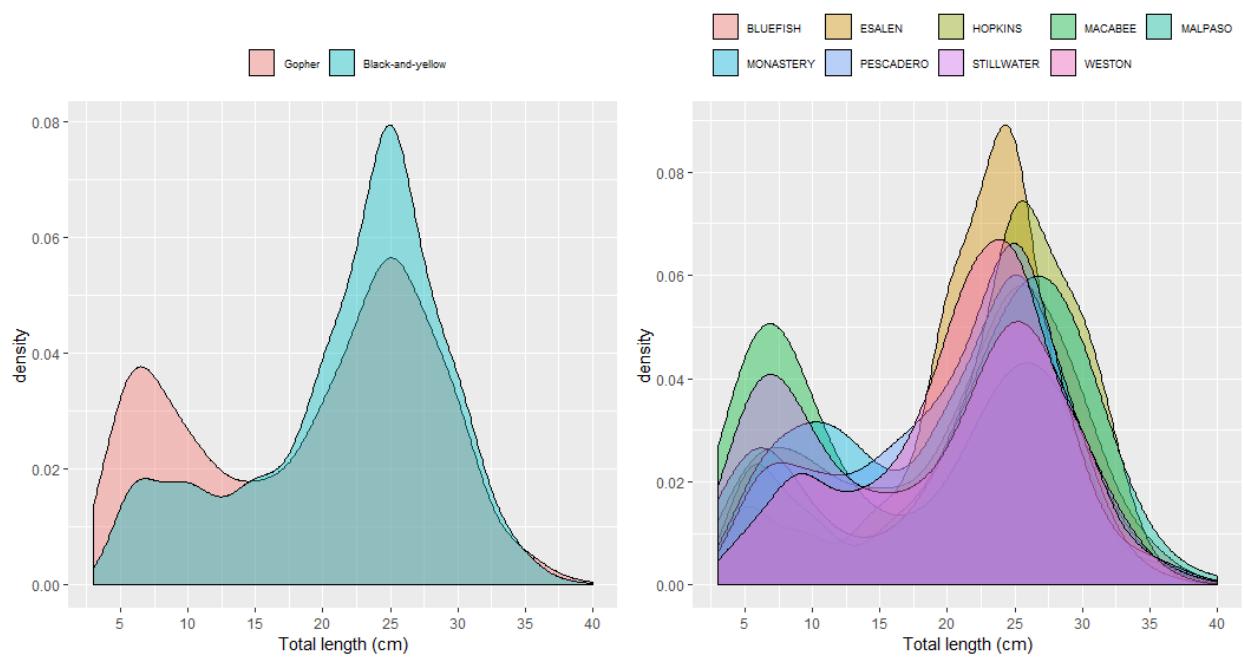


Figure 30: Plots of the length distributions from the PISCO kelp forest fish survey by species (left) and for combined species by site (right) for sites included in the final index of abundance.

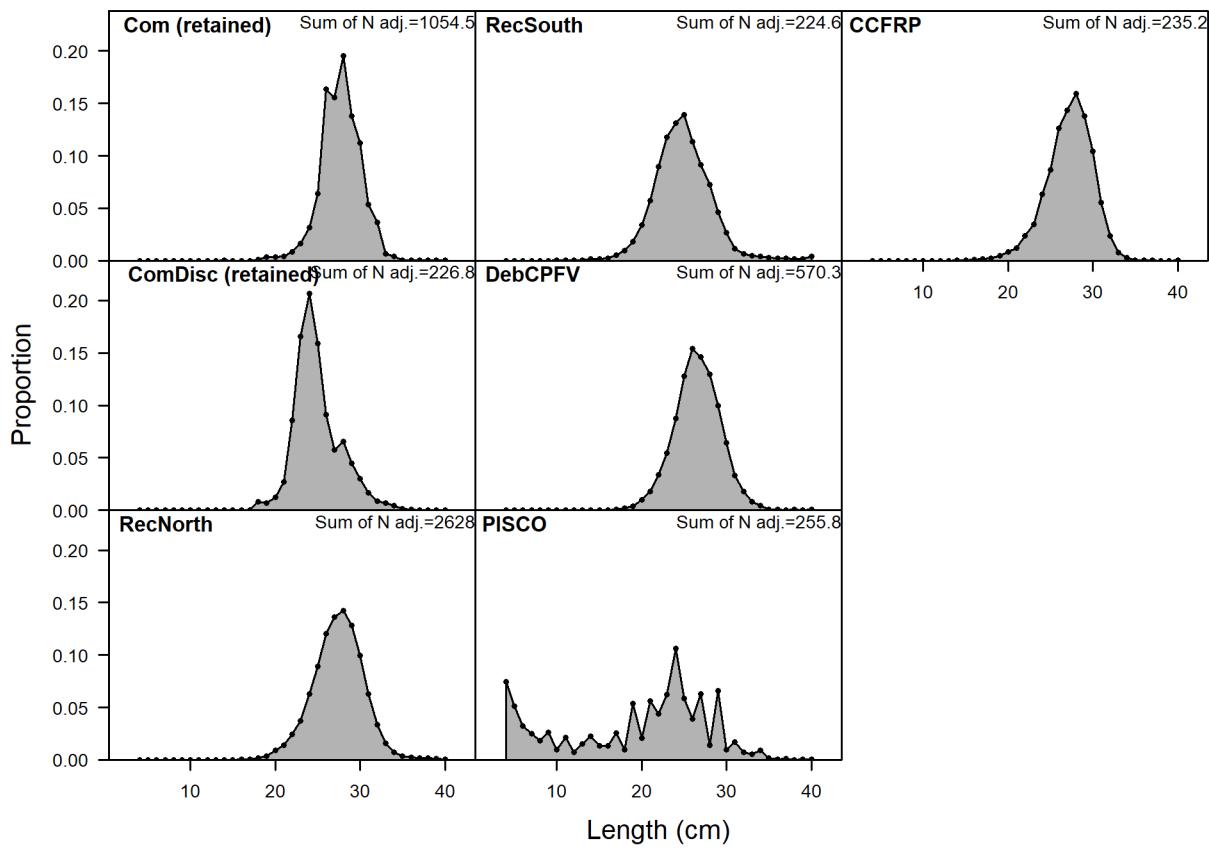


Figure 31: Length comp data, aggregated across time by fleet. Labels ‘retained’ and ‘discard’ indicate discarded or retained sampled for each fleet. Panels without this designation represent the whole catch.

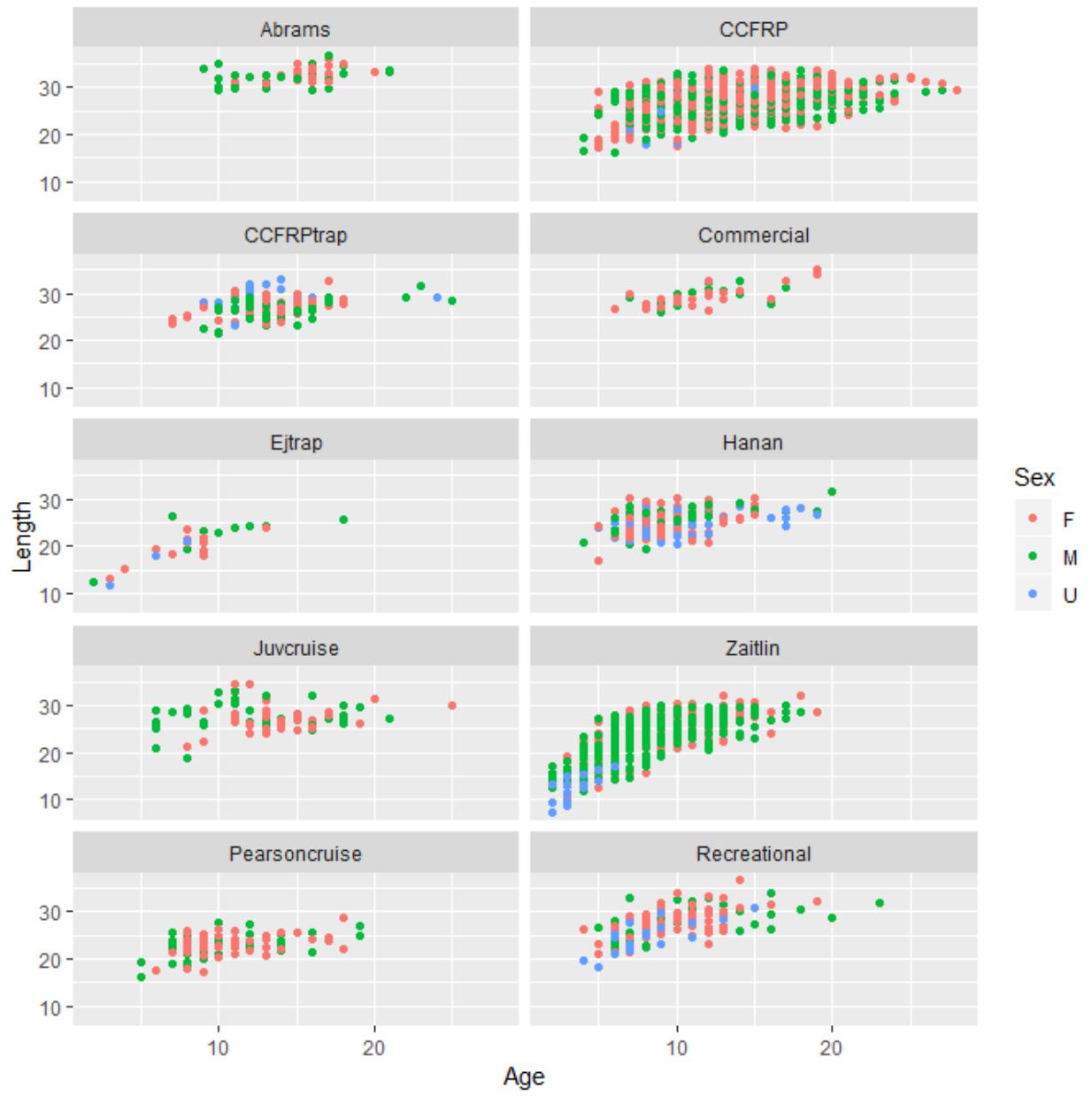


Figure 32: Available length-at-age data for gopher and black-and-yellow rockfish by sex and data source. The Zaitlin study is all black-and-yellow rockfish. The remaining plots represent gopher rockfish

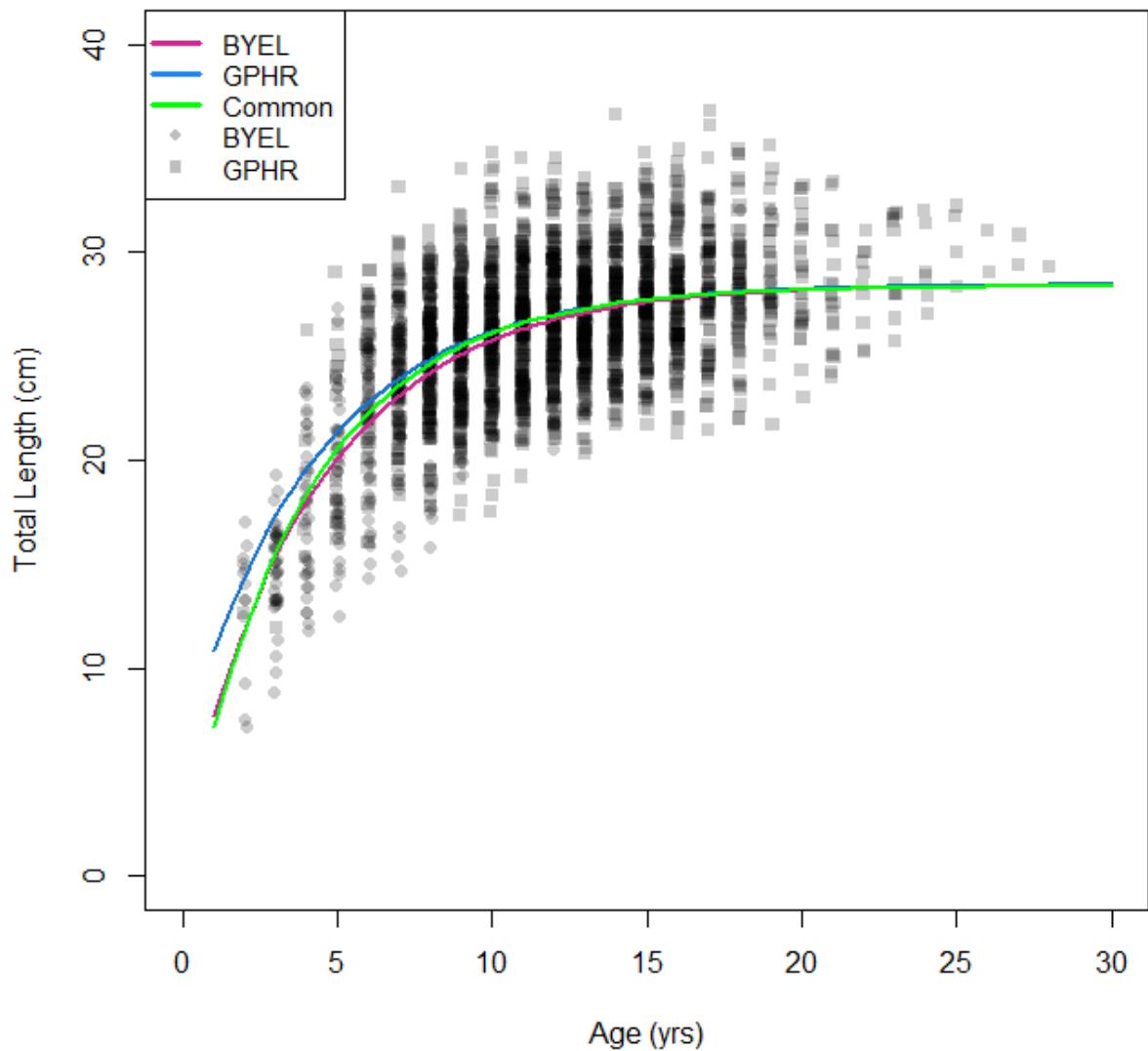


Figure 33: External estimates of growth for gopher and black-and-yellow rockfish from fits to von Bertalanffy growth models.

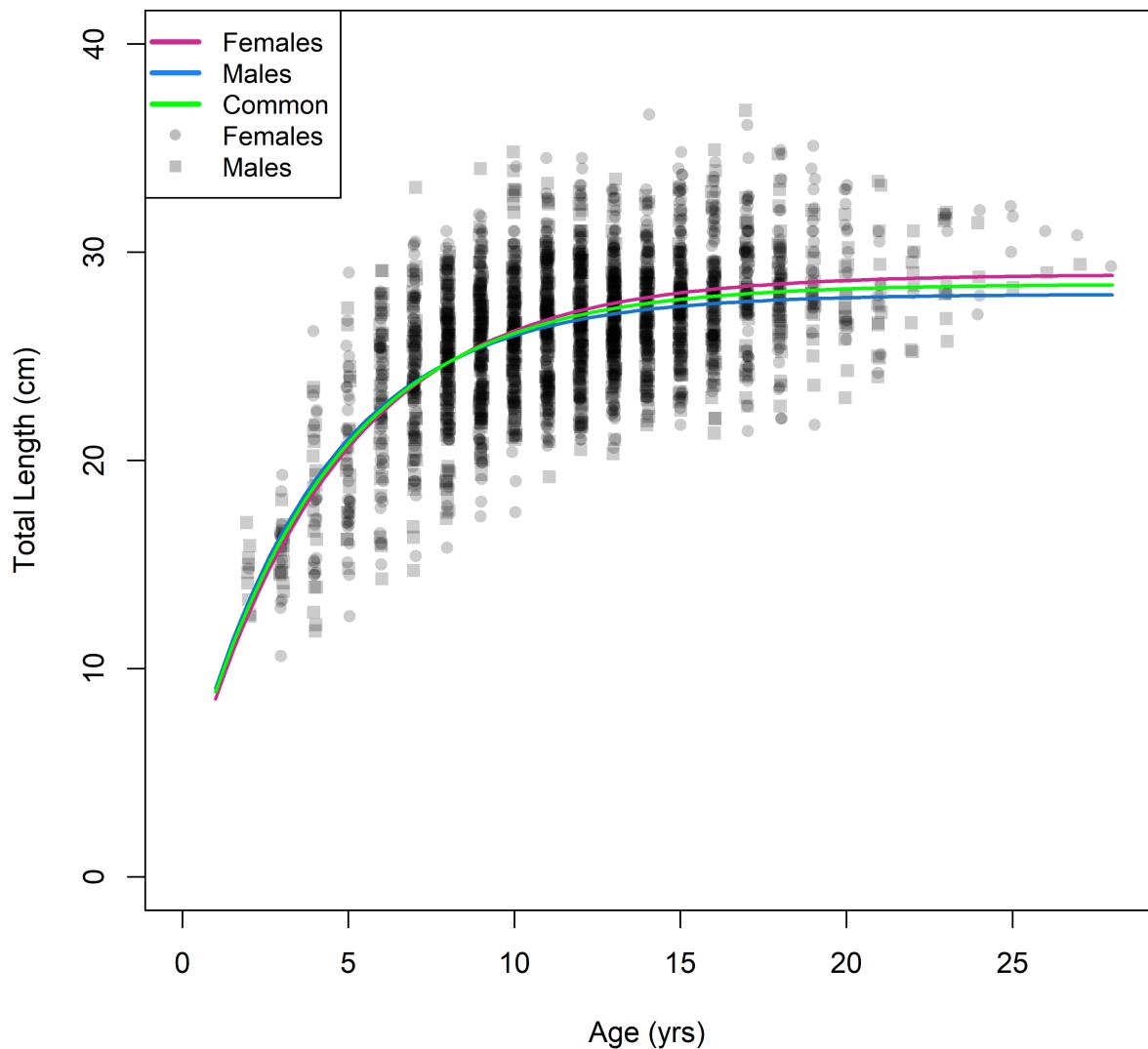


Figure 34: External estimates of growth for GBYR combined by sex from fits to von Bertalanffy growth models.

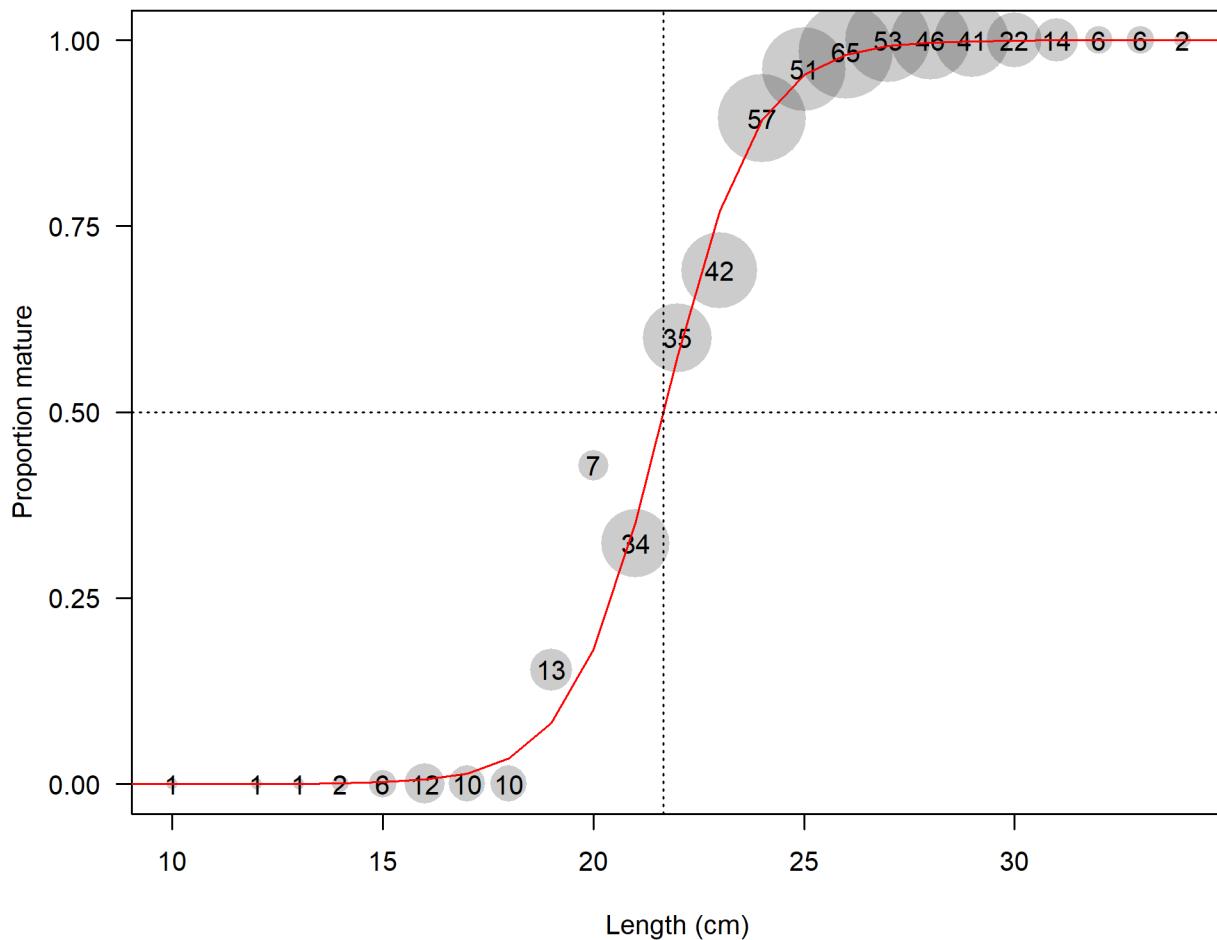


Figure 35: Maturity ogive for females estimated from black-and-yellow rockfish from Zaitlin (1986) and gopher rockfish from Meyers-Cherry (2014). Sample sizes at a given length are shown in the circles.

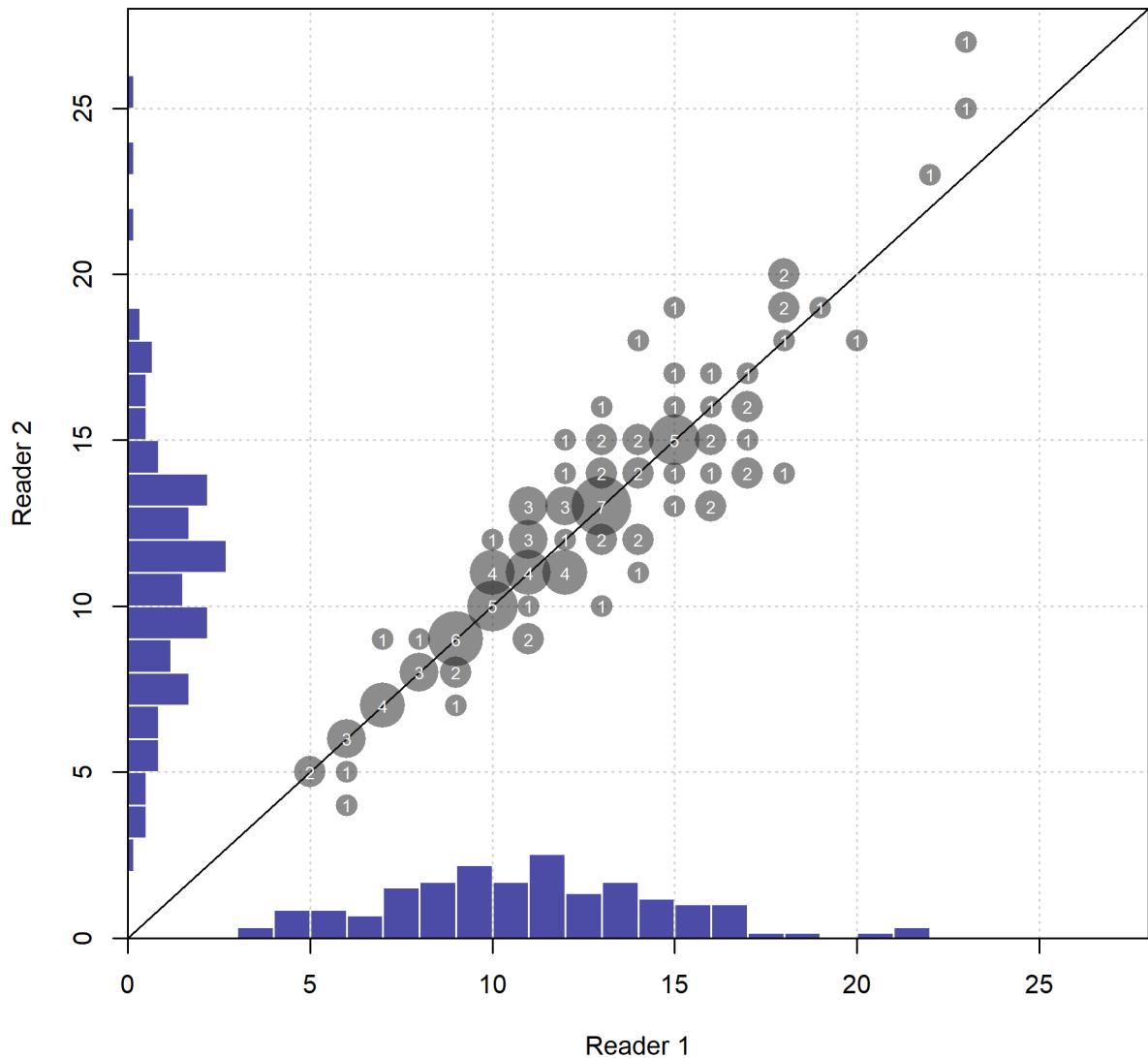


Figure 36: Aging precision between initial and blind double reads for GBYR. Numbers in the bubbles are the sample sizes of otoliths cross-read.

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

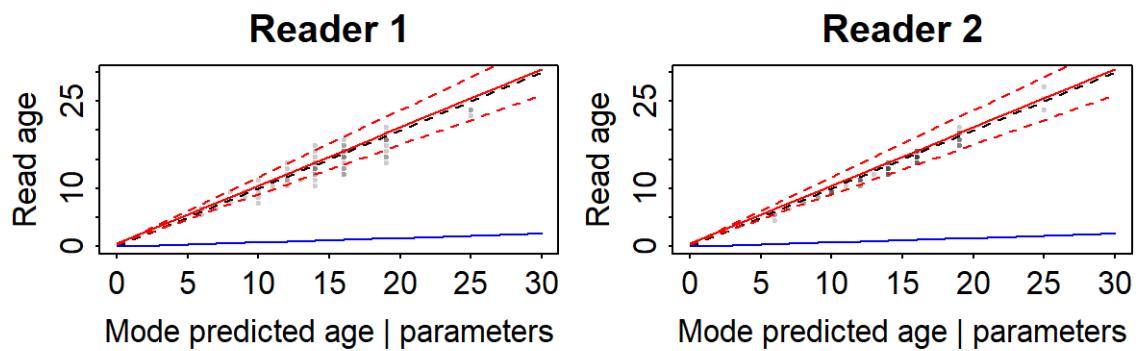


Figure 37: True versus predicted age for two current age readers at the NWFSC from the ageing error software with unbiased reads and curvilinear standard deviation for both readers.

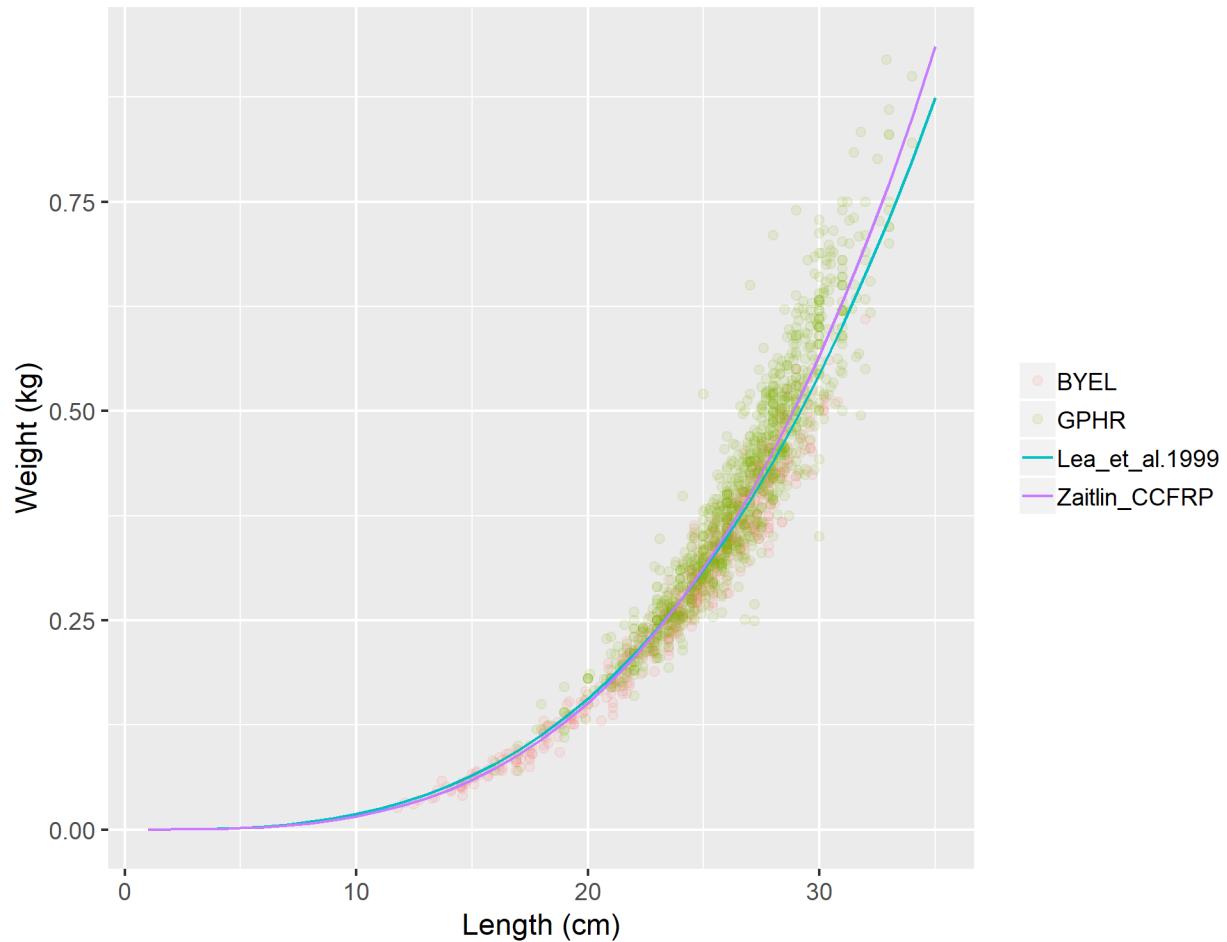


Figure 38: Comparison of the gopher rockfish weight-length curves from Lee et al. (1999) and tha estimated from black-and-yellow rockfishes from Zaitlin (1986), and gopher rockfishes from Loury (2011) and Meyers-Cherry(2014). The estimated curve from the current data is used in this assessment.

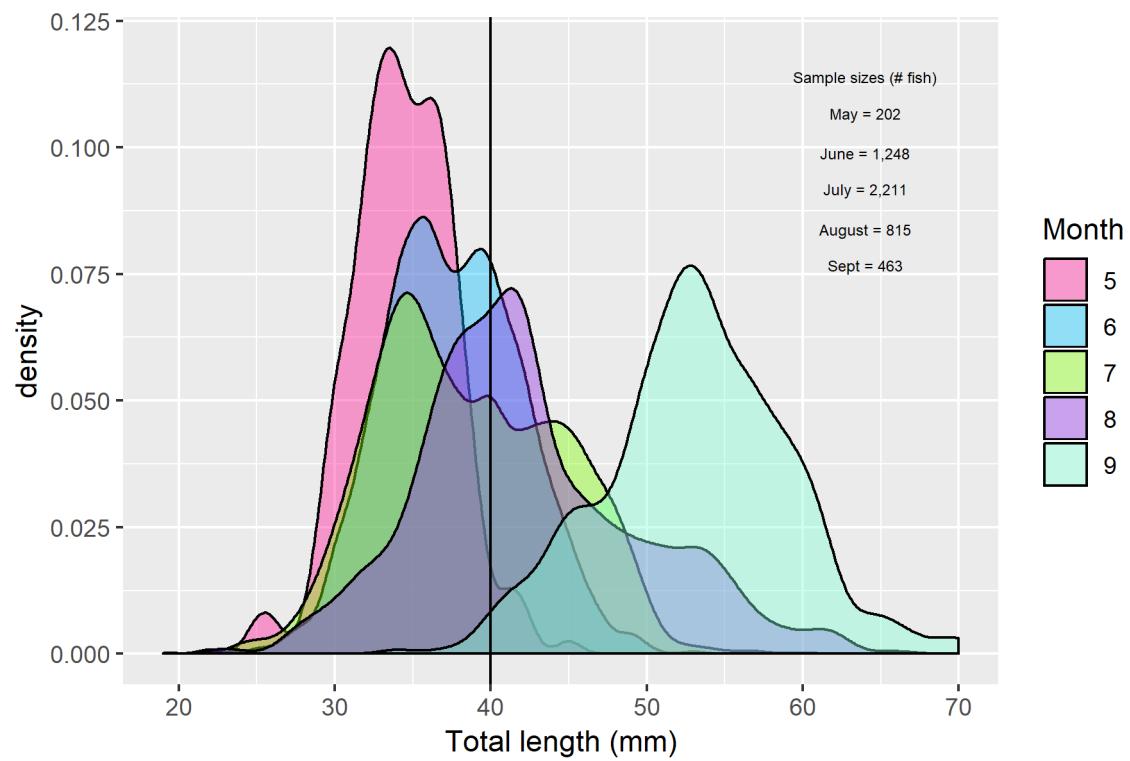


Figure 39: Length distribution by month for GBYR captured using a sampling tool called a Standard Monitoring Unit for the Recruitment of Fishes (SMURFs) from the UCSC-PISCO kelp forest fish survey, specifically as part of Diana Baetscher's dissertation work (Baetscher 2019).

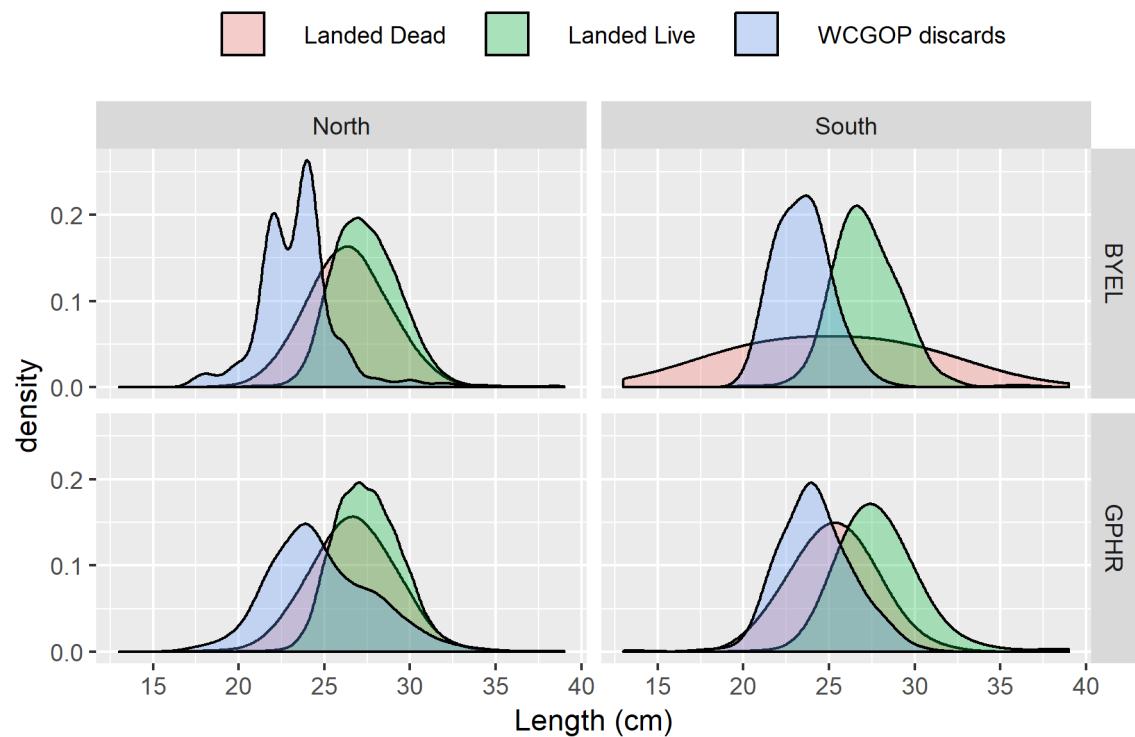


Figure 40: Length distributions of gopher and black-and-yellow rockfish for the commercial fleet and WCGOP discards north and south of Point Conception. The commercial landings were also separated between fish landed live and fish landed dead for this figure.

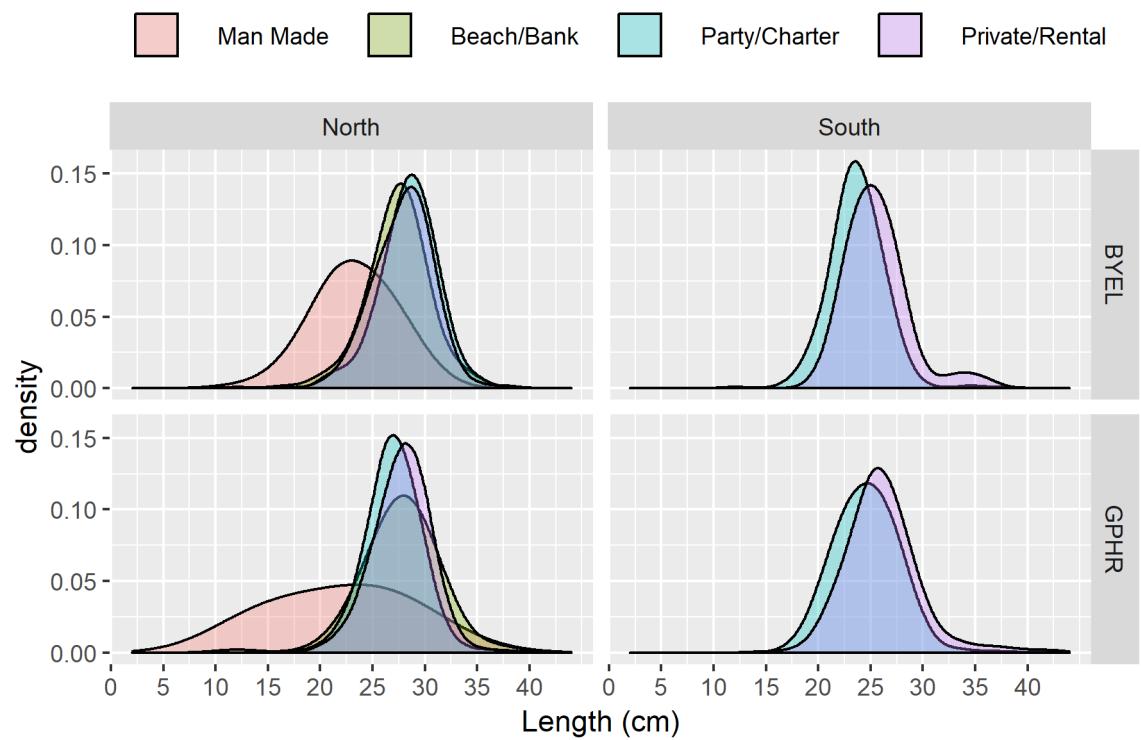


Figure 41: Length distributions of gopher and black-and-yellow rockfish for the recreational fleet north and south of Point Conception and by mode.

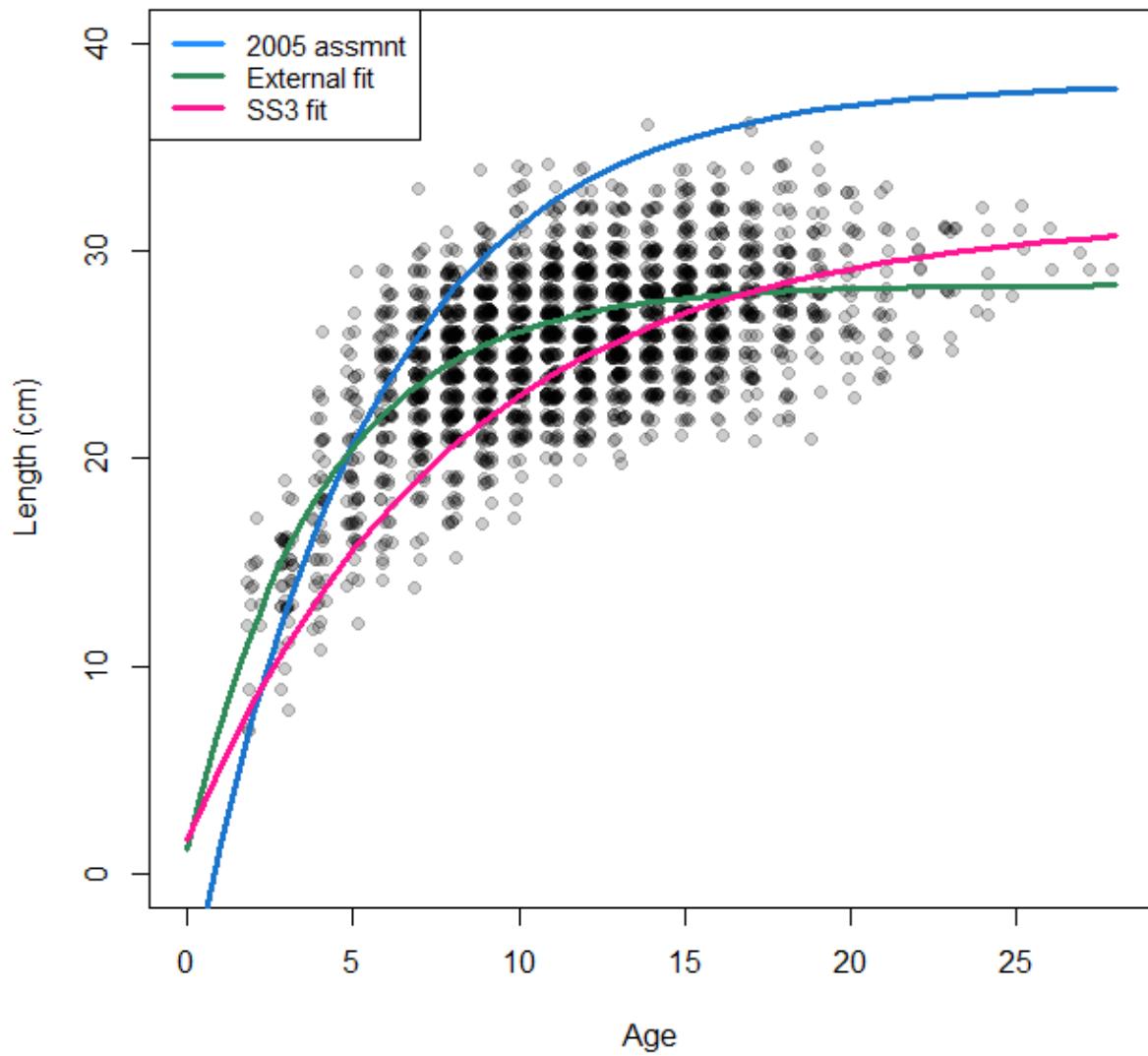


Figure 42: Estimates of growth for GBYR from the 2005 assessment, external fit to the CAAL data used in this assessment and the internal SS estimate of growth for this assessment. All growth curves were estimated using the Schnute parameterization of the von Bertalanffy growth curve

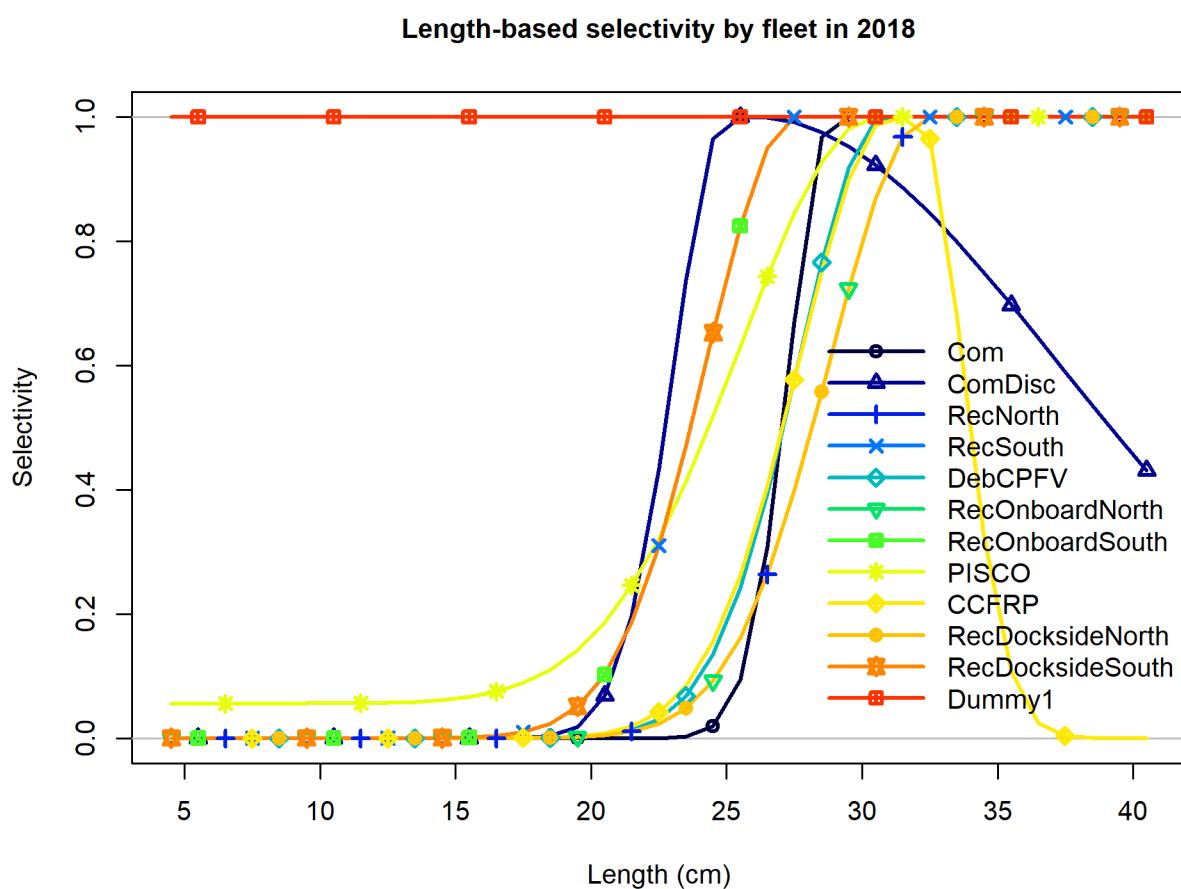


Figure 43: Selectivity at length for all of the fleets in the base model.

Time-varying selectivity for Com

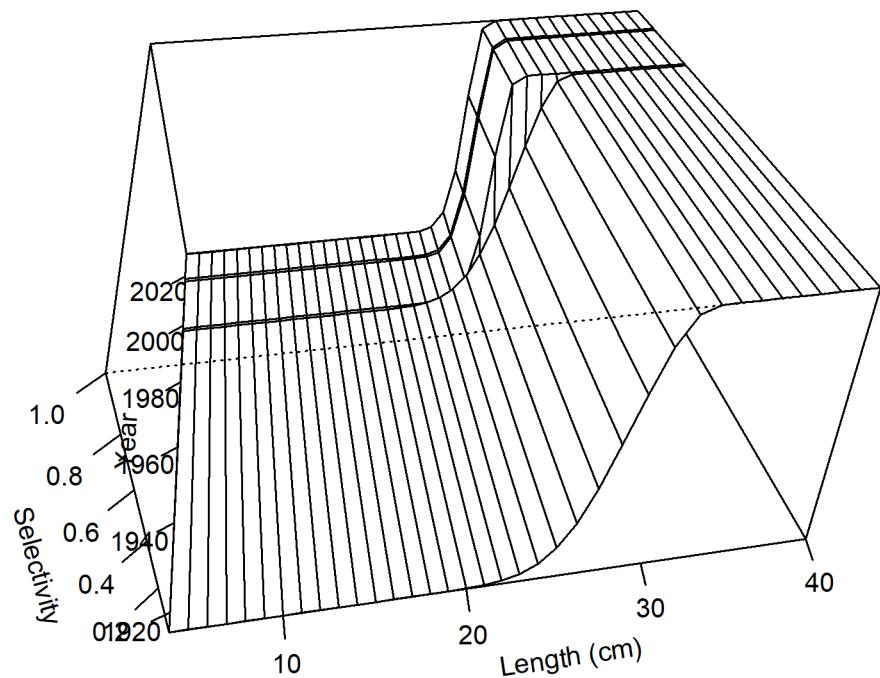


Figure 44: Surface plot of Female time-varying selectivity for the commercial fleet, with time blocks from 1916-1998 and 1999-2018.

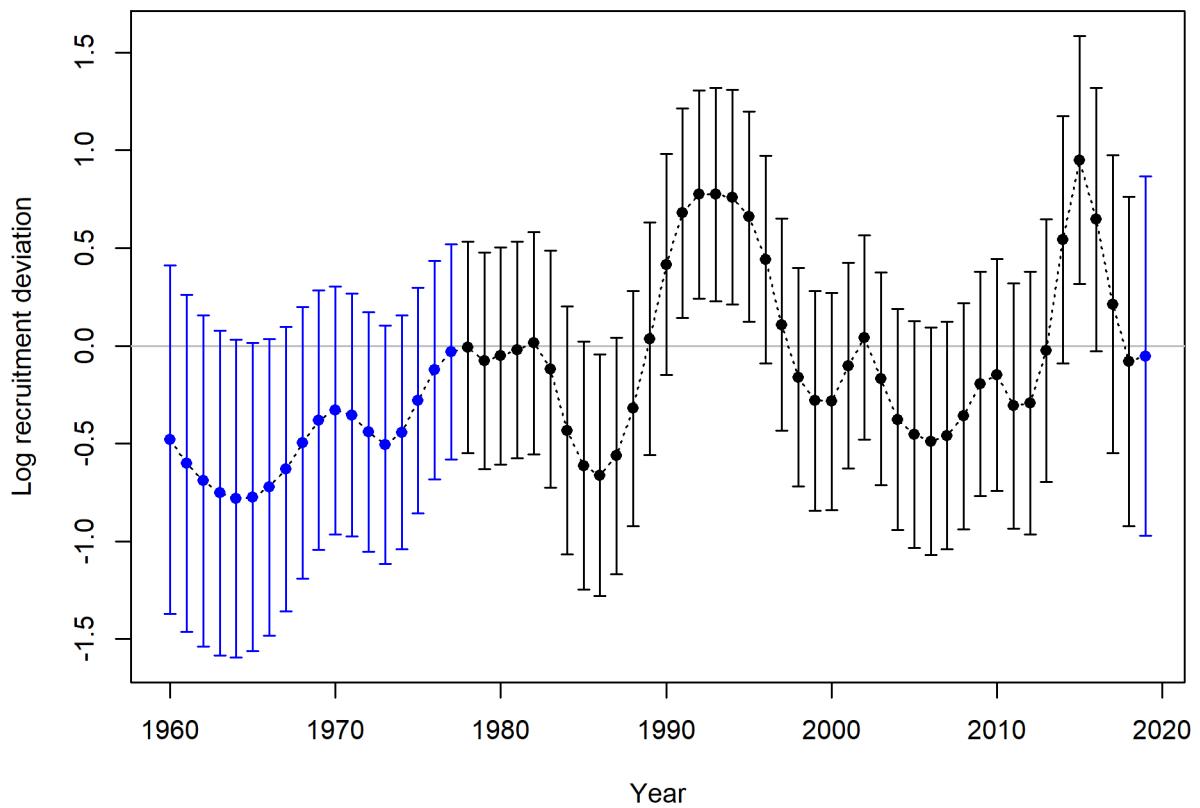


Figure 45: Estimated time-series of recruitment deviations for GBYR with 95% intervals.

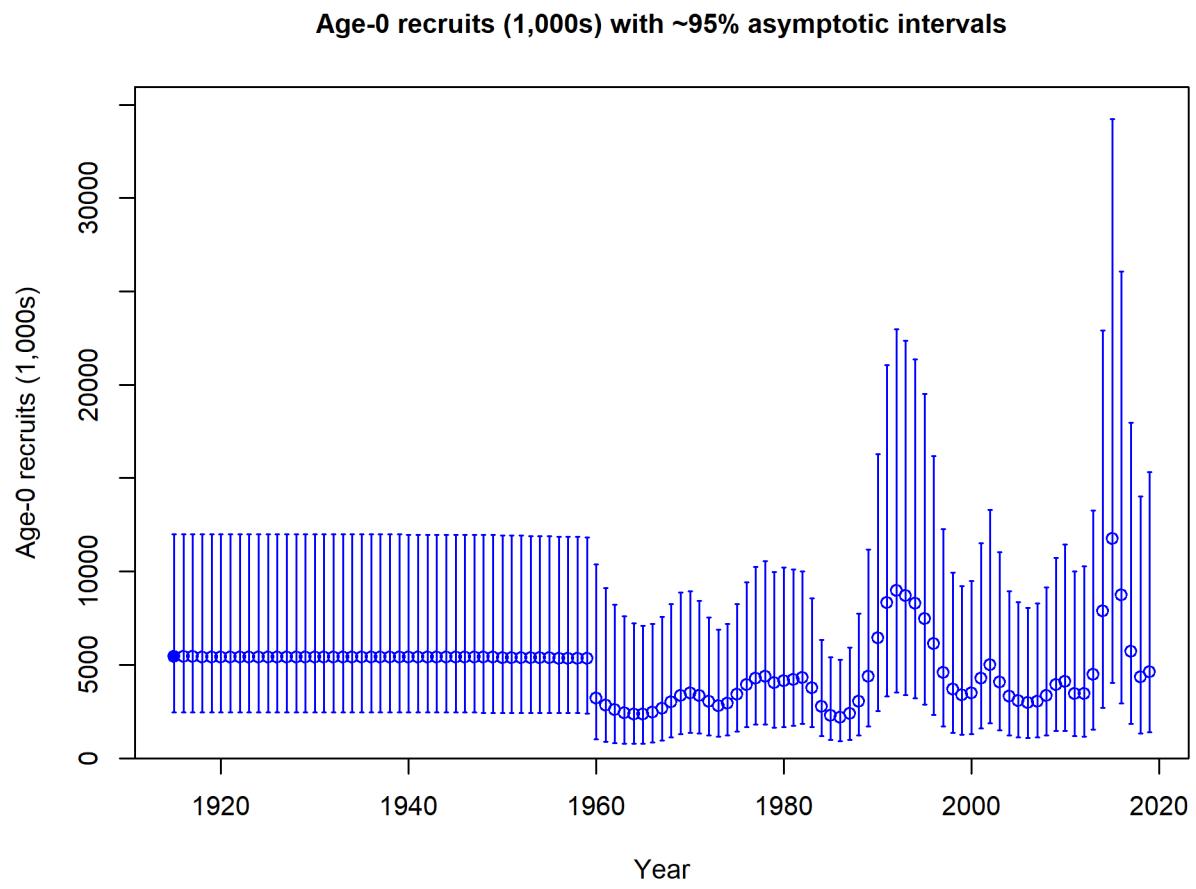


Figure 46: Time series of estimated GBYR recruitments for the base-case model with 95% confidence or credibility intervals.

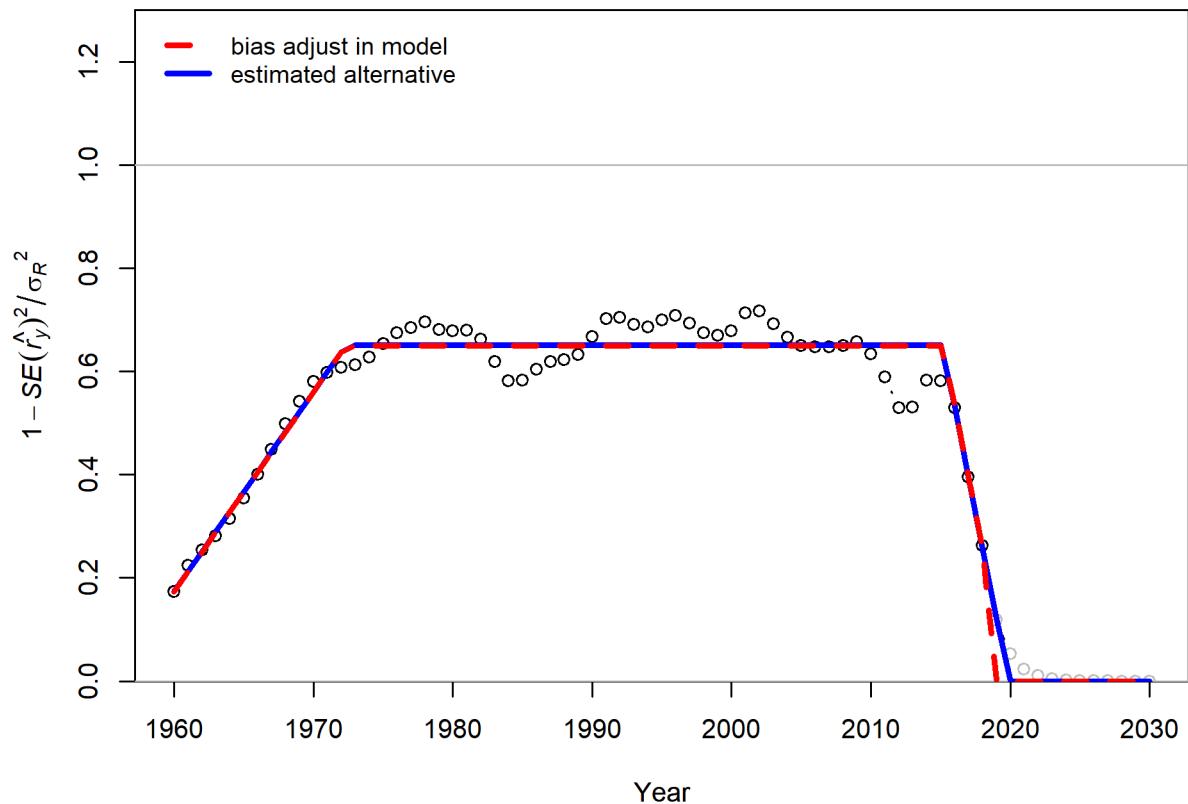


Figure 47: Bias adjustment for recruitment deviations. Points are transformed variances. Red line shows current settings for bias adjustment specified in control file. Blue line shows least squares estimate of alternative bias adjustment relationship for recruitment deviations

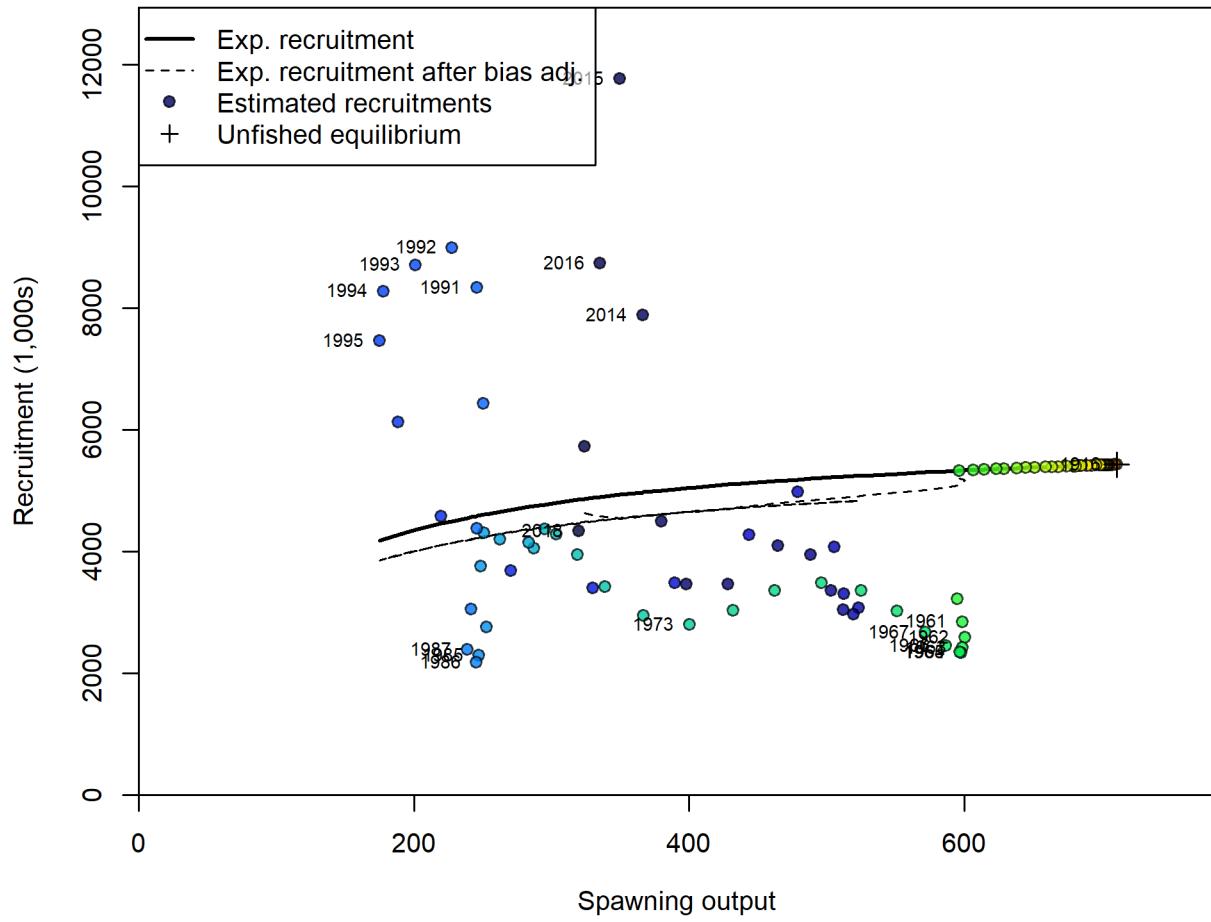


Figure 48: Estimated recruitment (red circles) and the assumed stock-recruit relationship (black line) for GBYR. The green line shows the effect of the bias correction for the lognormal distribution.

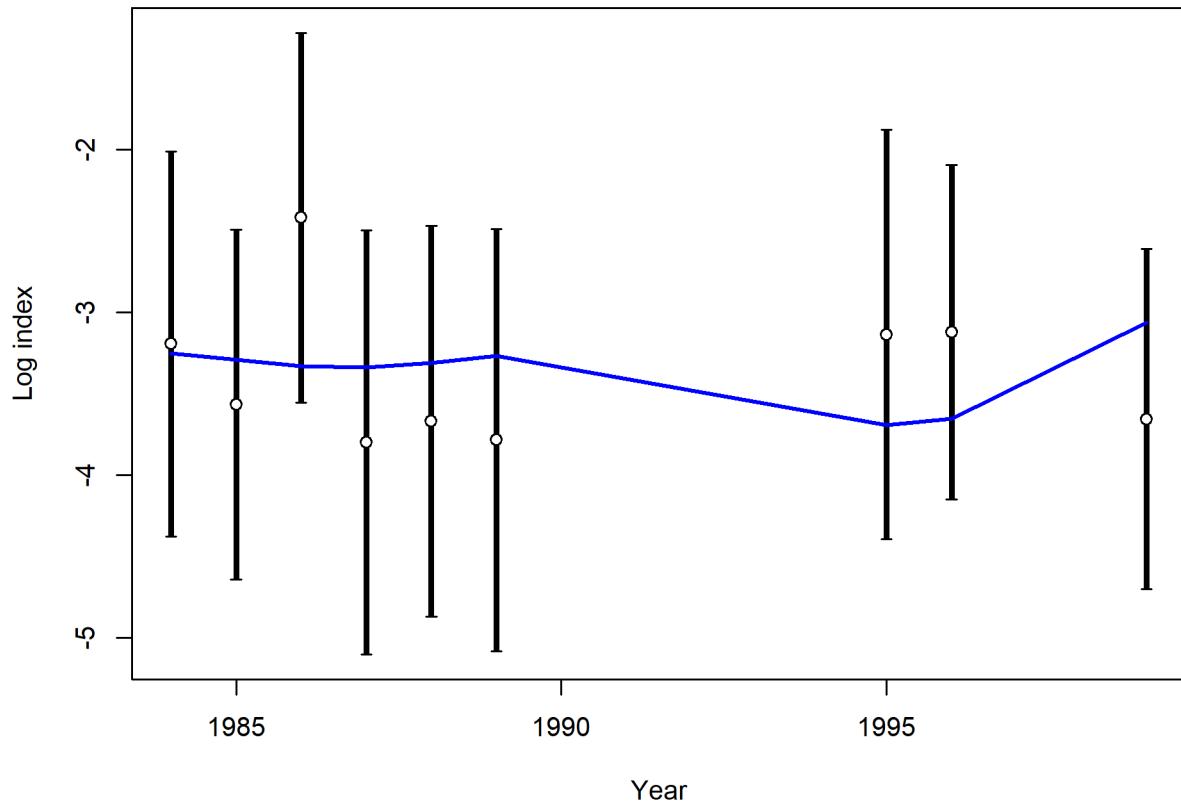


Figure 49: Fit to log index data on log scale for the recreational MRFSS dockside CPFV fishery north of Point Conception. Lines indicate 95% uncertainty interval around index values. Thicker lines indicate input uncertainty before addition of estimated additional uncertainty parameter.

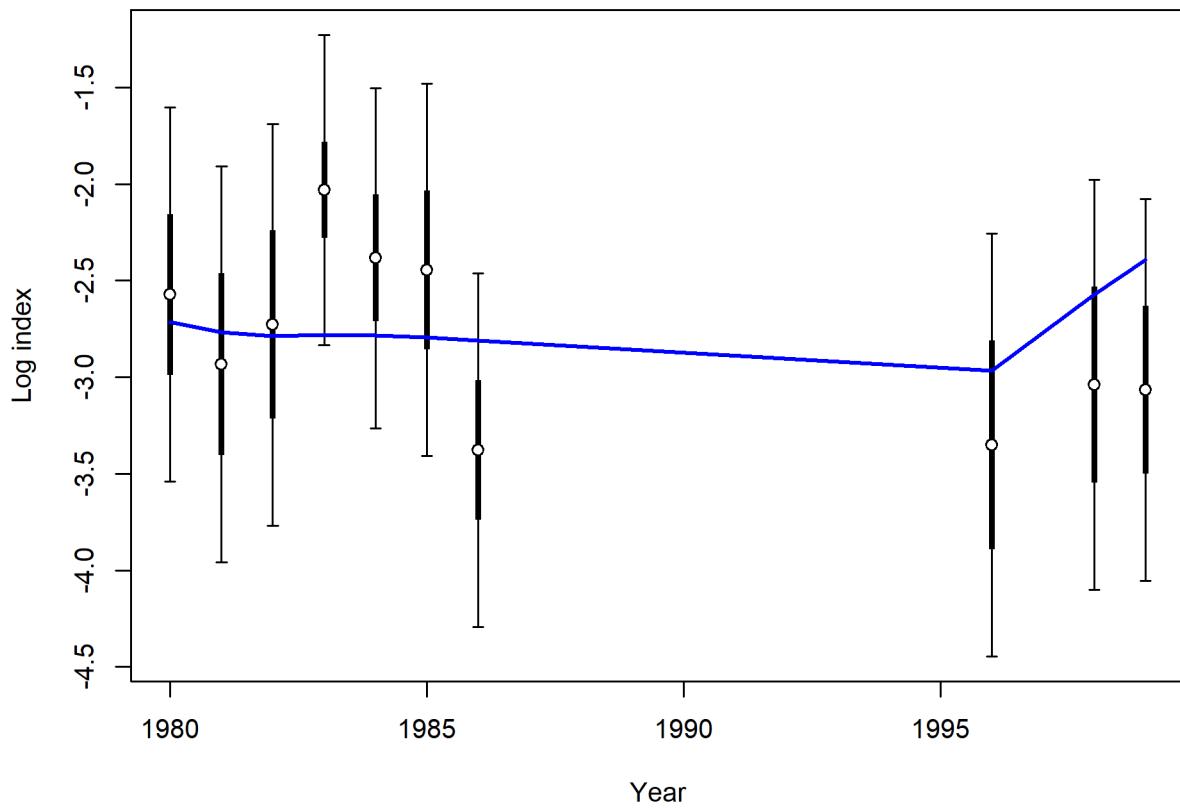


Figure 50: Fit to log index data on log scale for the recreational MRFSS dockside CPFV fishery south of Point Conception. Lines indicate 95% uncertainty interval around index values. Thicker lines indicate input uncertainty before addition of estimated additional uncertainty parameter.

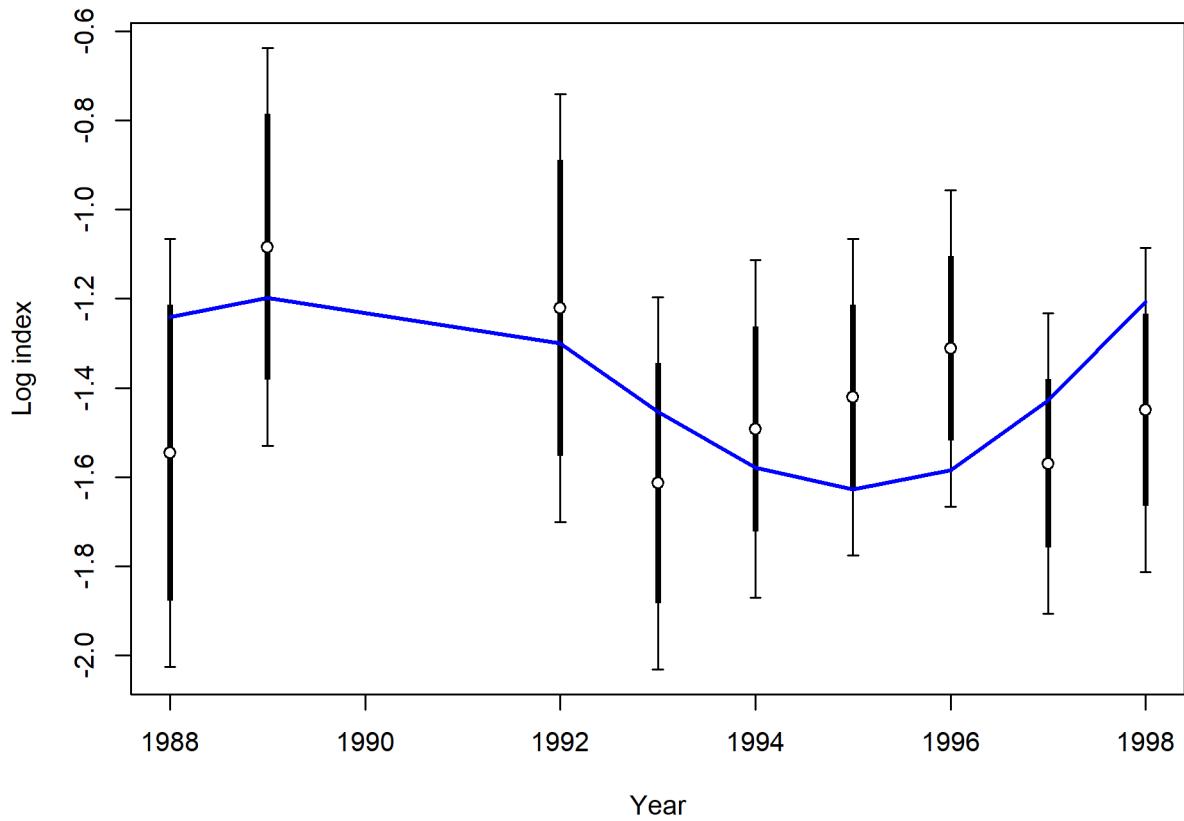


Figure 51: Fit to log index data on log scale for the recerational Deb's CPFV onboard observer program, representing north of Point Conception. Lines indicate 95% uncertainty interval around index values. Thicker lines indicate input uncertainty before addition of estimated additional uncertainty parameter.

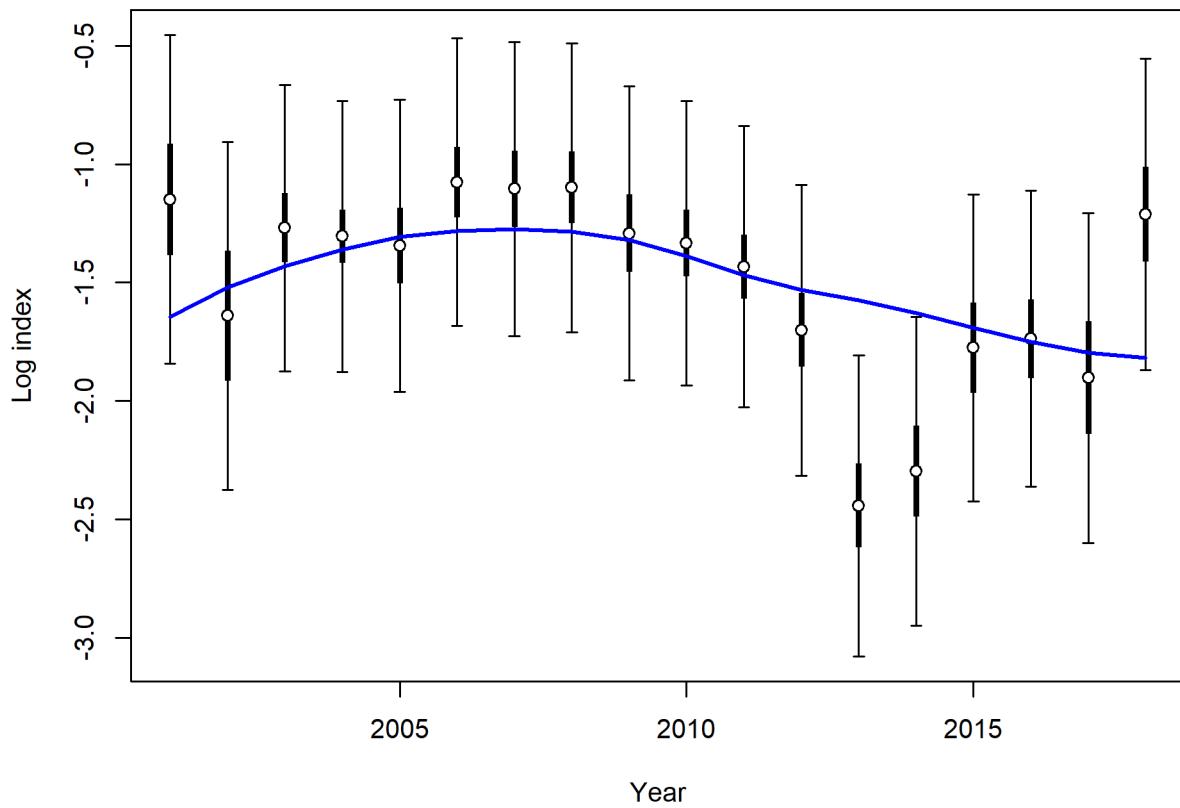


Figure 52: Fit to log index data on log scale for the recerational current CPFV onboard observer program north of Point Conception. Lines indicate 95% uncertainty interval around index values. Thicker lines indicate input uncertainty before addition of estimated additional uncertainty parameter.

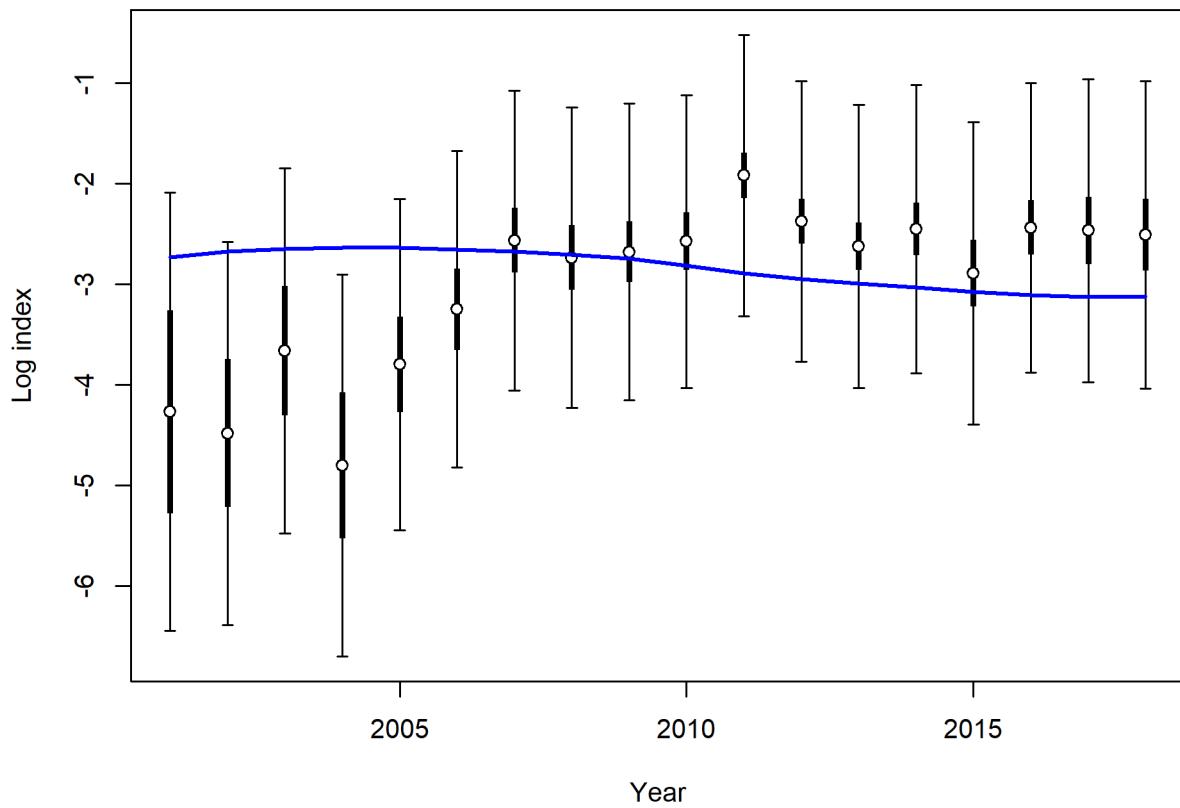


Figure 53: Fit to log index data on log scale for the recerational current CPFV onboard observer program south of Point Conception. Lines indicate 95% uncertainty interval around index values. Thicker lines indicate input uncertainty before addition of estimated additional uncertainty parameter.

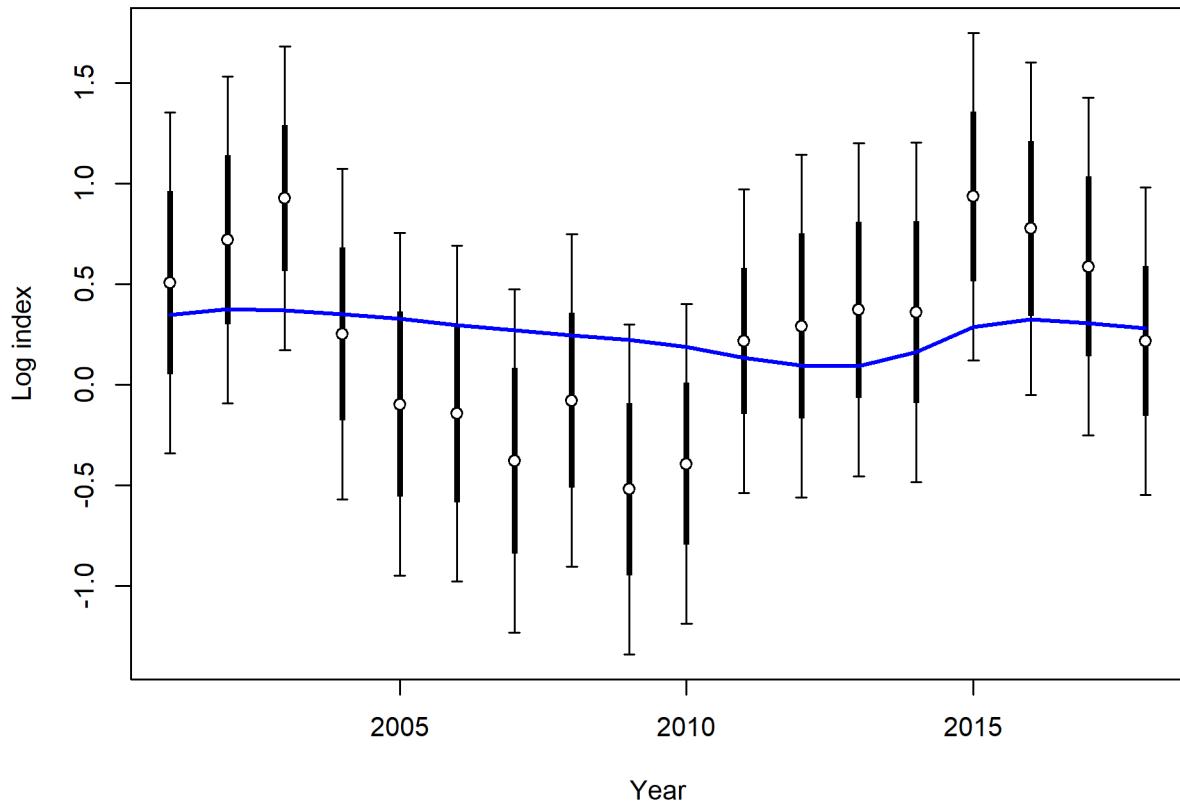


Figure 54: Fit to log index data on log scale for the fishery-independent PISCO kelp forest fish survey. Lines indicate 95% uncertainty interval around index values. Thicker lines indicate input uncertainty before addition of estimated additional uncertainty parameter.

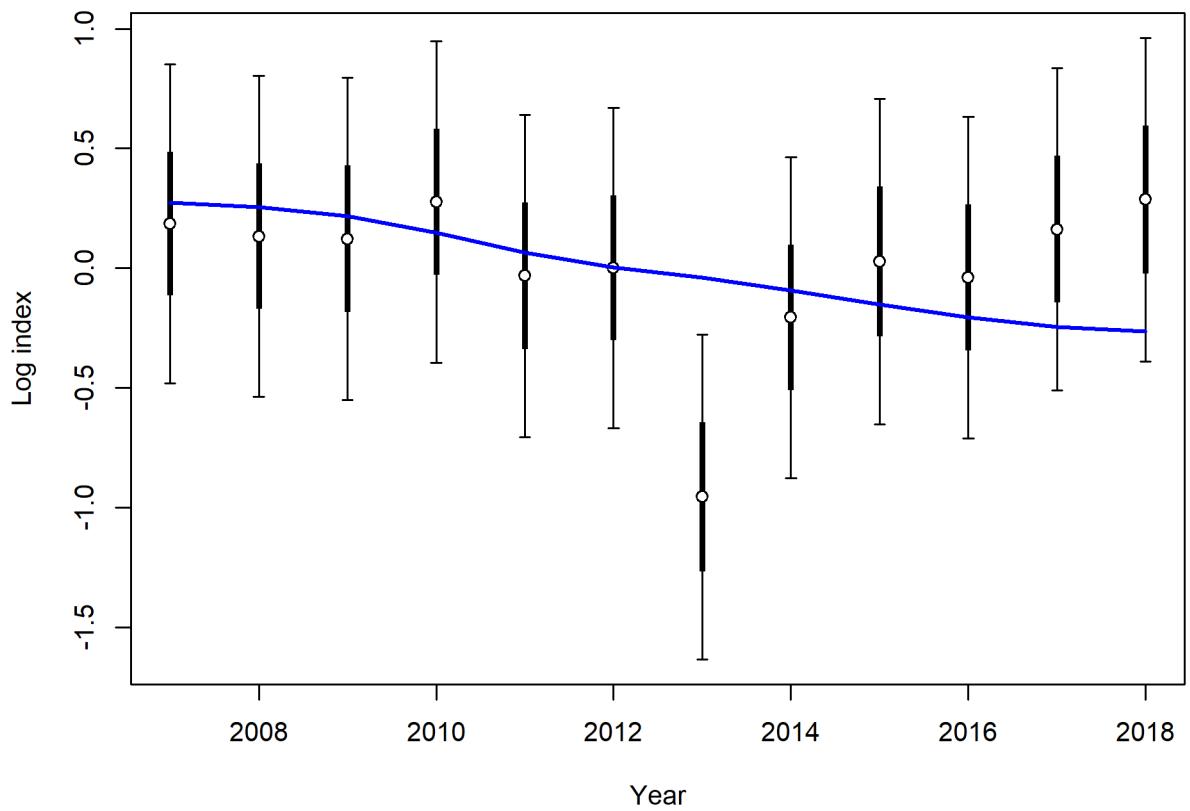


Figure 55: Fit to log index data on log scale for the fishery-independent CCFRP hook-and-line survey. Lines indicate 95% uncertainty interval around index values. Thicker lines indicate input uncertainty before addition of estimated additional uncertainty parameter.

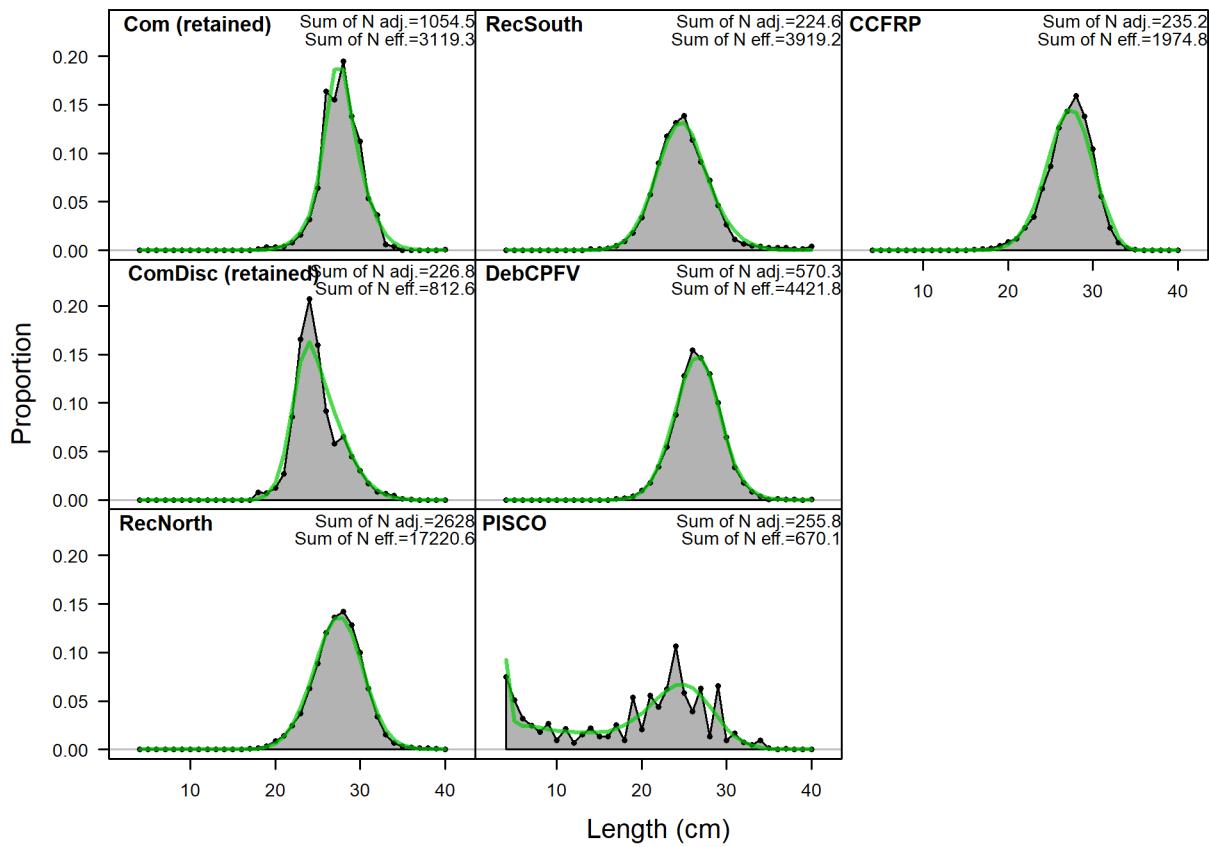


Figure 56: Length compositions aggregated across time by fleet.

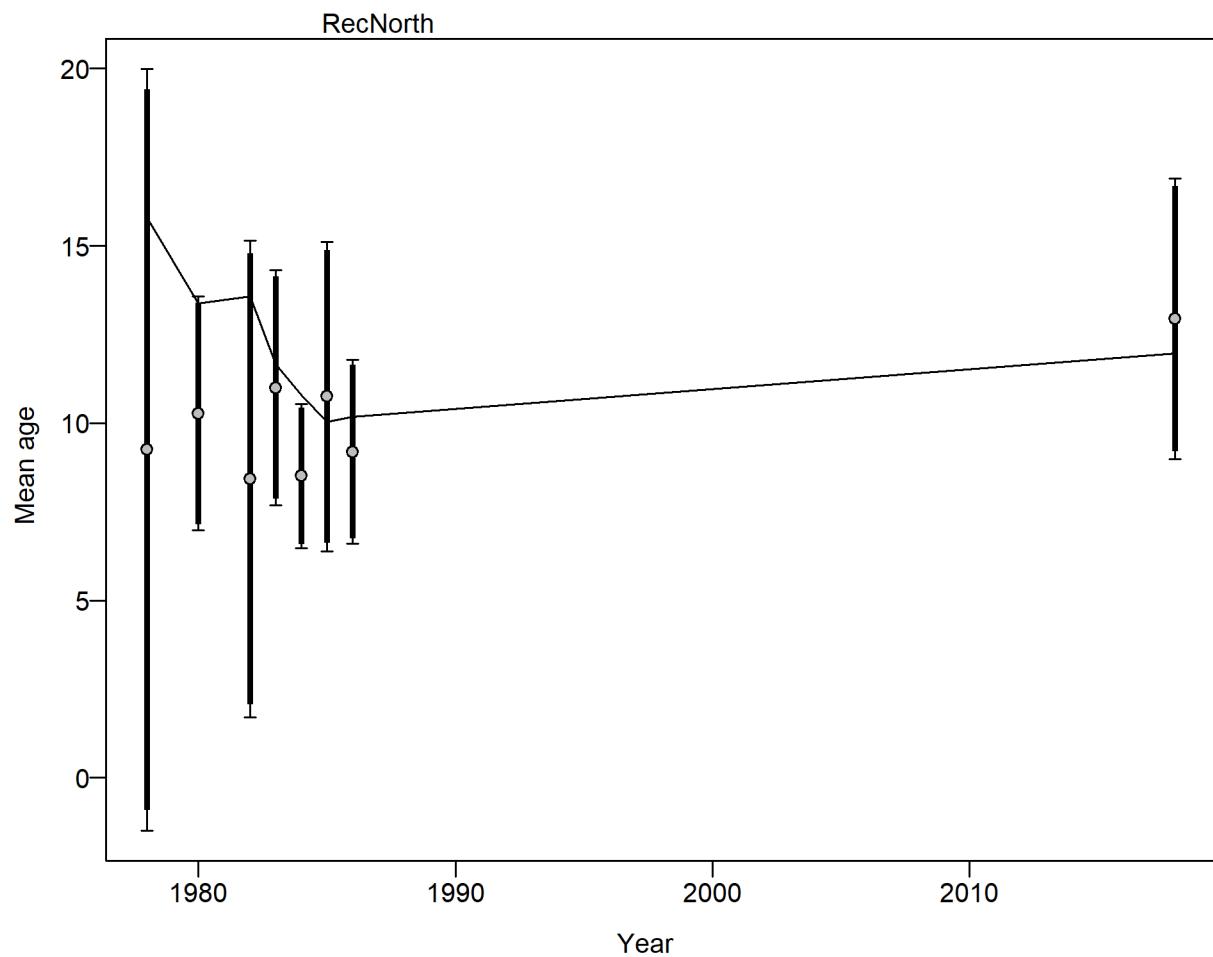


Figure 57: Mean age for the recreational fishery (ages from north of Point Conception only) with 95% confidence intervals based on current samples sizes. Francis data weighting method TA1.8: thinner intervals (with capped ends) show result of further adjusting sample sizes based on suggested multiplier (with 95% interval) is 0.028139 (0.378941-2.777483). For more info, see Francis et al. (2011).

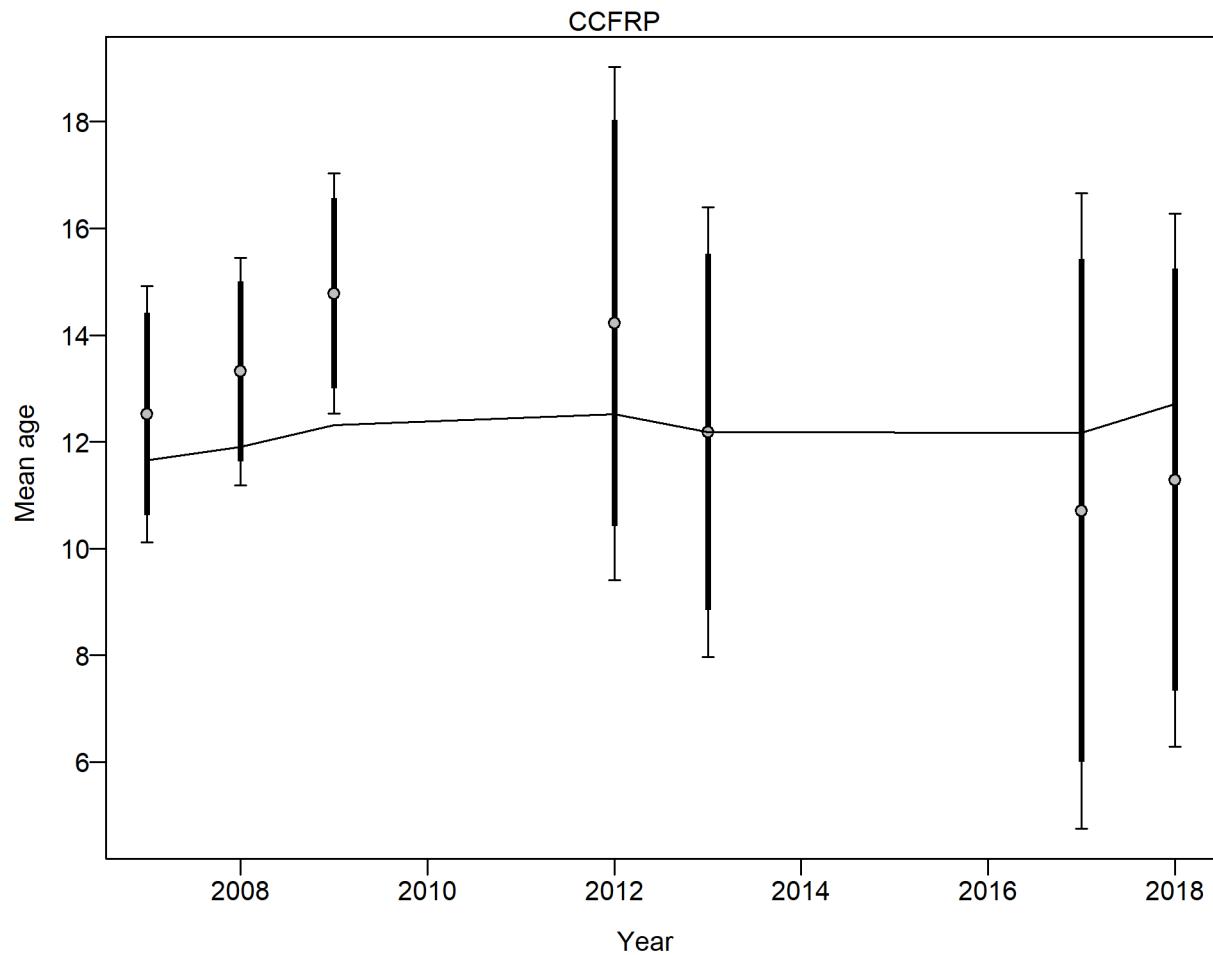


Figure 58: Mean age for the CCFRP survey with 95% confidence intervals based on current samples sizes. Francis data weighting method TA1.8: thinner intervals (with capped ends) show result of further adjusting sample sizes based on suggested multiplier (with 95% interval) is 0.072401 (0.359932-3.573706). For more info, see Francis et al. (2011).

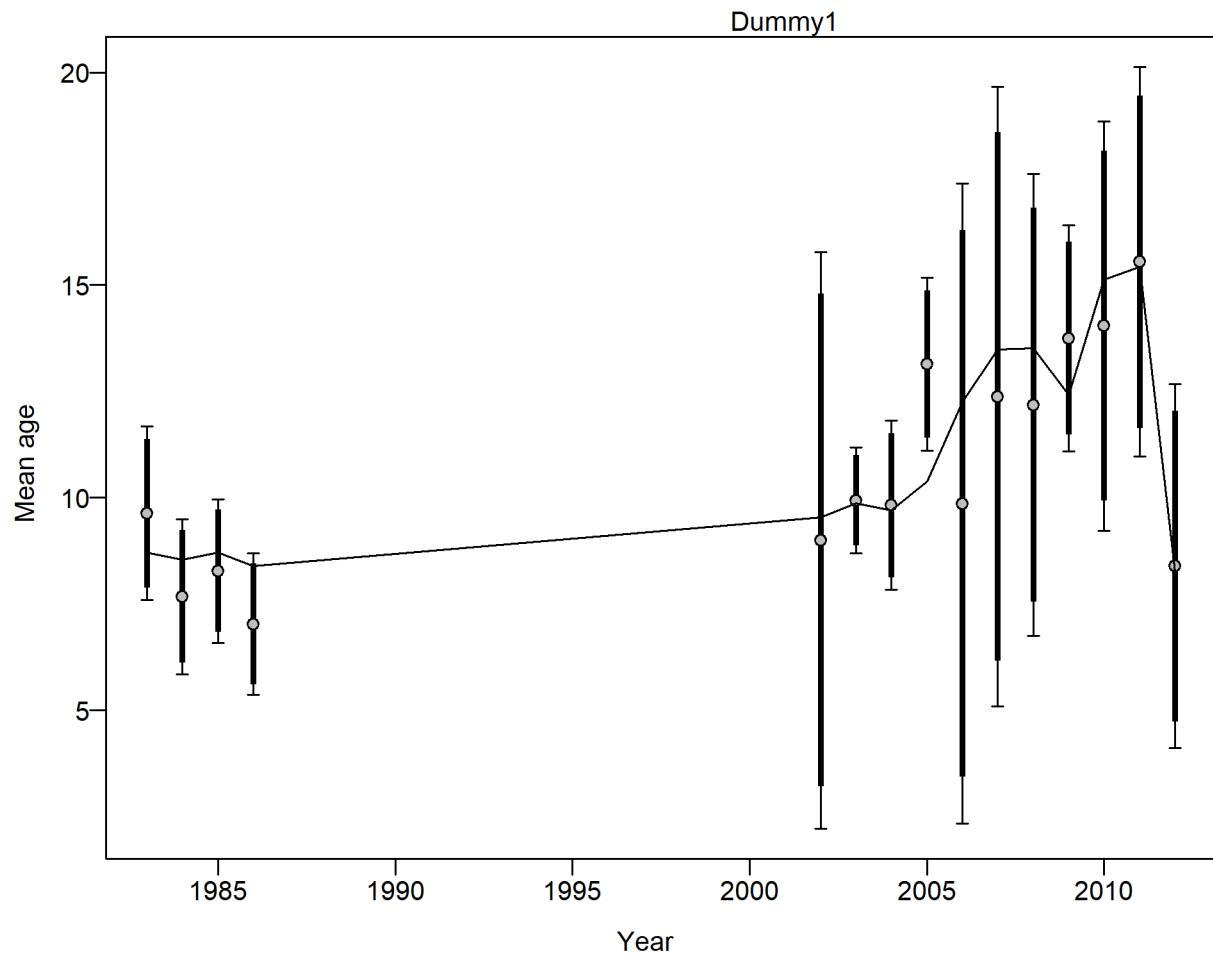


Figure 59: Mean age for the 'dummy' fleet with 95% confidence intervals based on current samples sizes. Francis data weighting method TA1.8: thinner intervals (with capped ends) show result of further adjusting sample sizes based on suggested multiplier (with 95% interval) is NA (NA-NA). For more info, see Francis et al. (2011).

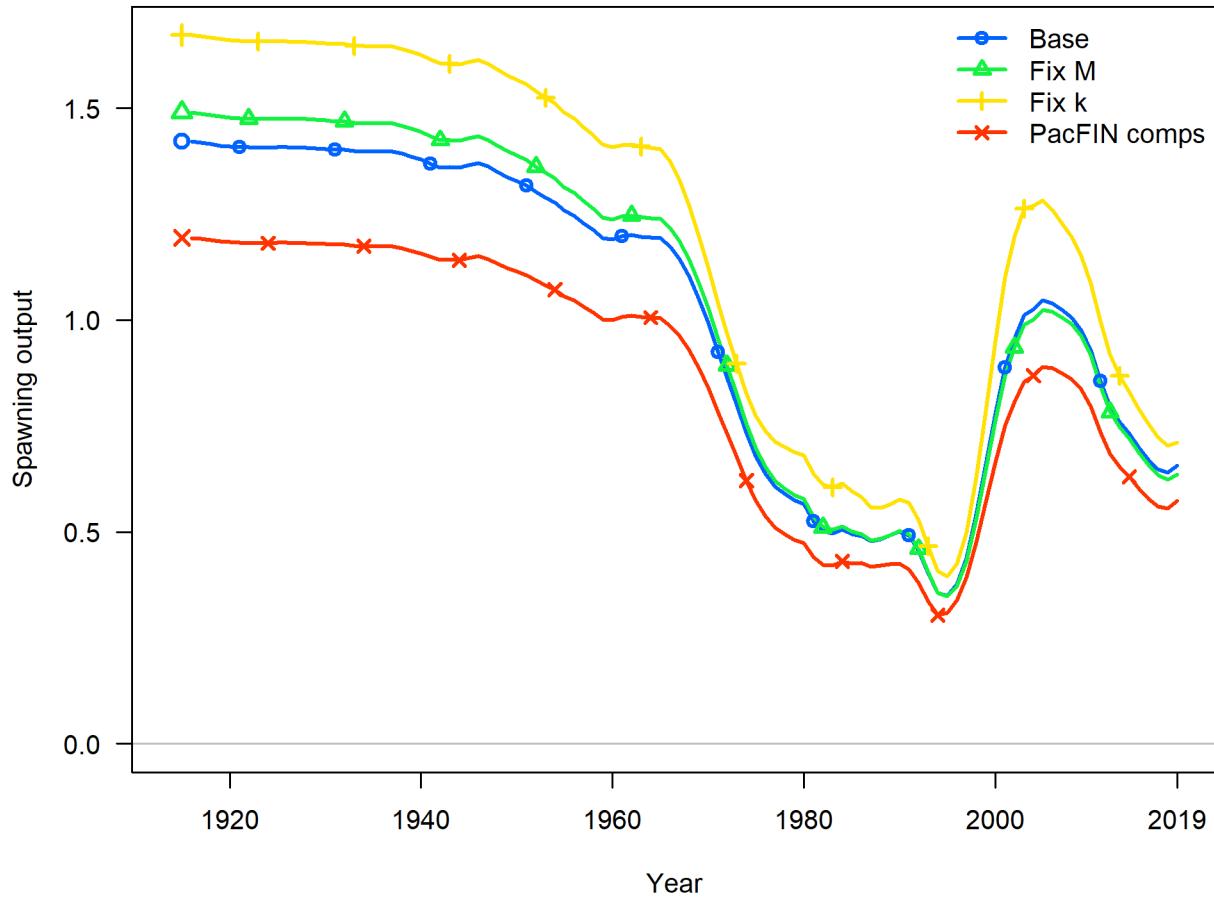


Figure 60: Sensitivity of the spawning biomass to fixing natural mortality to the prior, fixing the von Bertalanffy k parameter to the external estimate, or using commercial PacFIN length composition data instead of CALCOM, as compared to the pre-STAR base model.

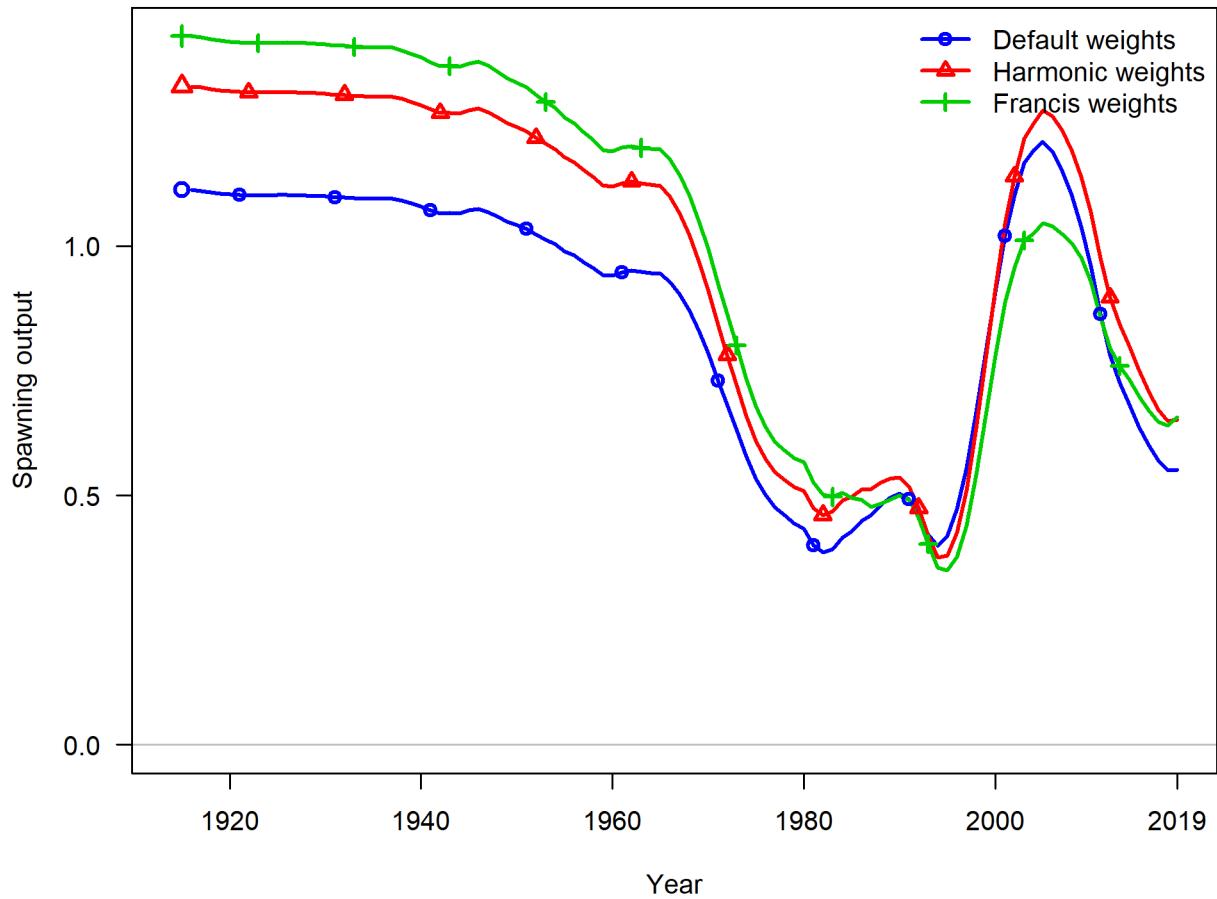


Figure 61: Sensitivity of the spawning biomass to either the default weight of composition data, the harmonic mean, or Francis weights.

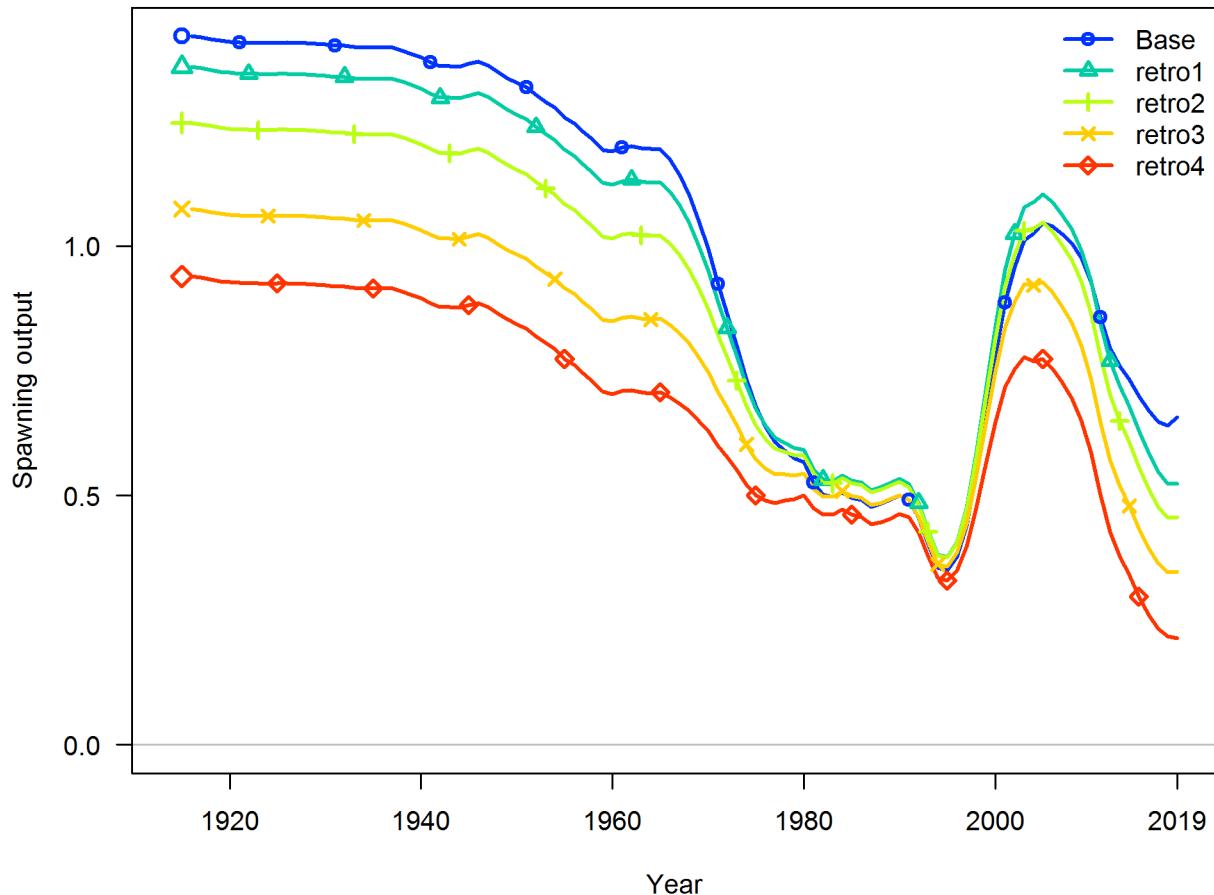


Figure 62: Retrospective pattern for spawning output.

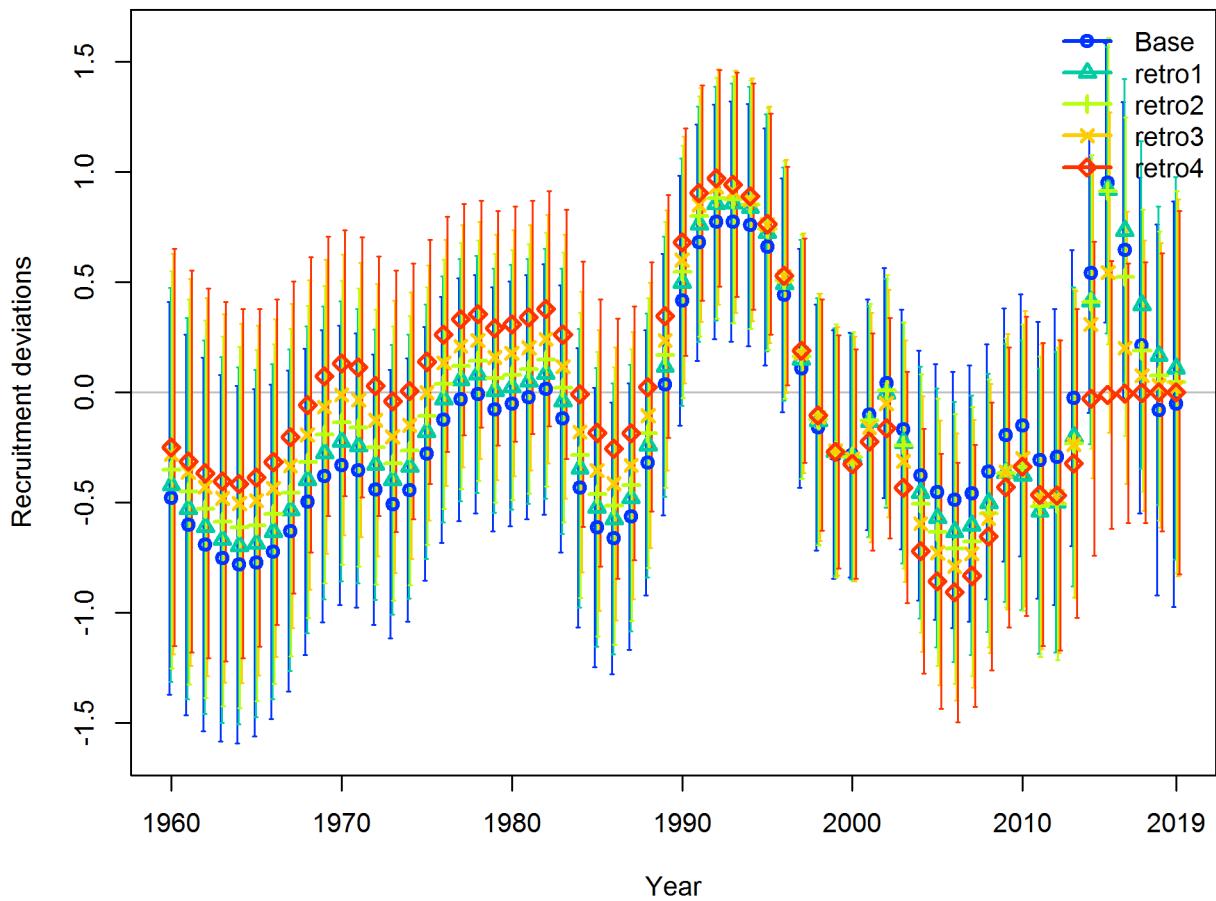


Figure 63: Retrospective pattern for estimated recruitment deviations.

Changes in length-composition likelihoods by fleet

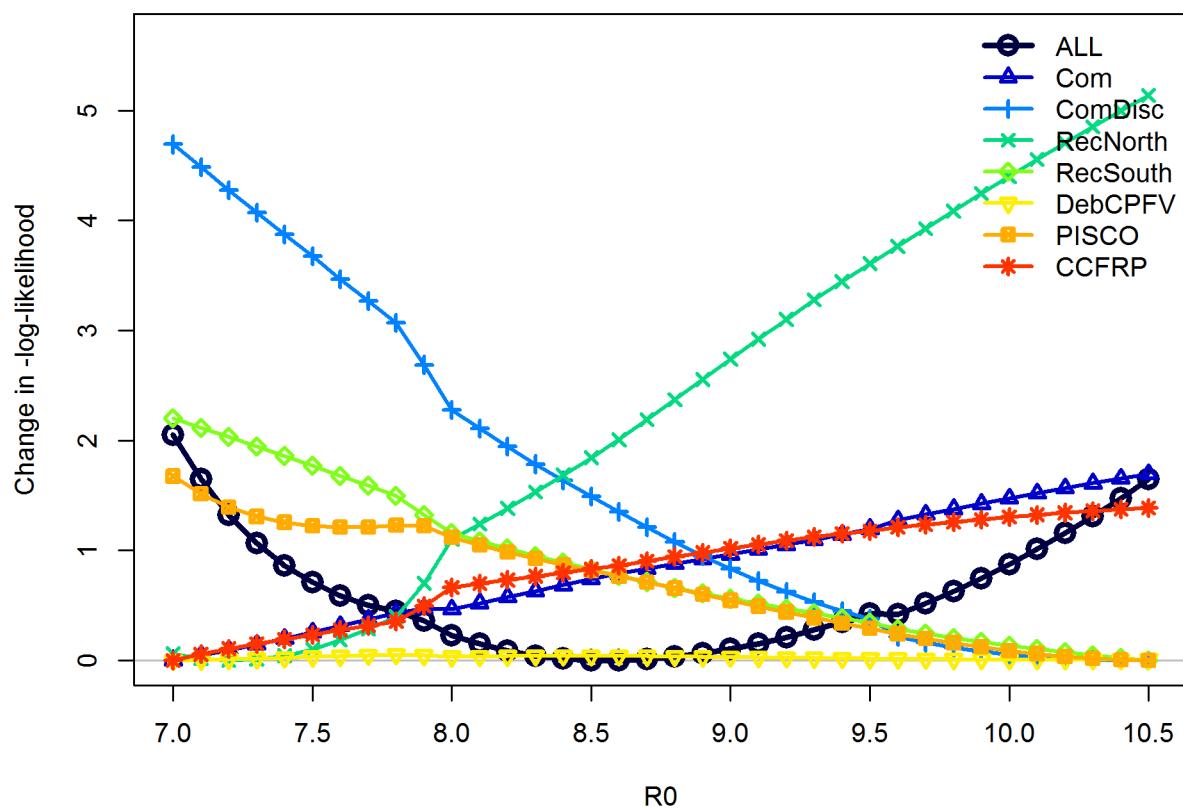


Figure 64: Likelihood profile across R_0 values by fleet.

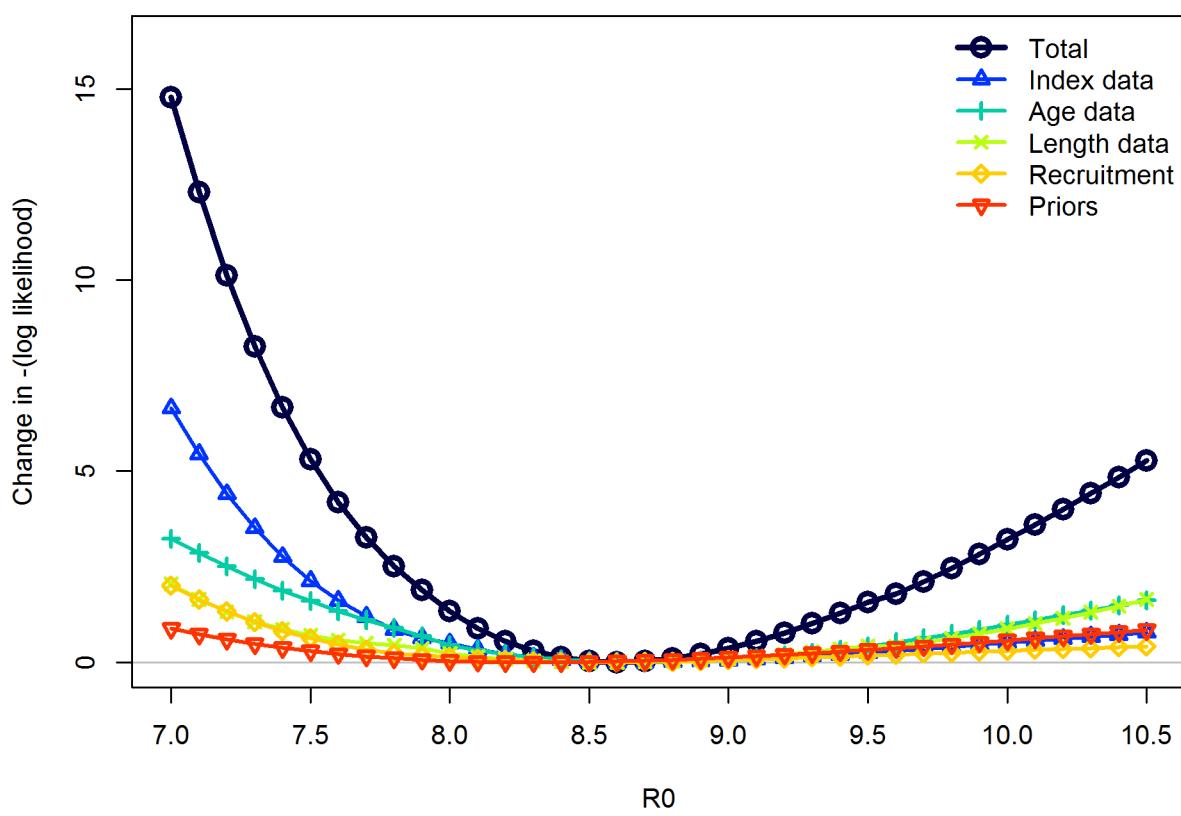


Figure 65: Likelihood profile across R_0 values for each data type.

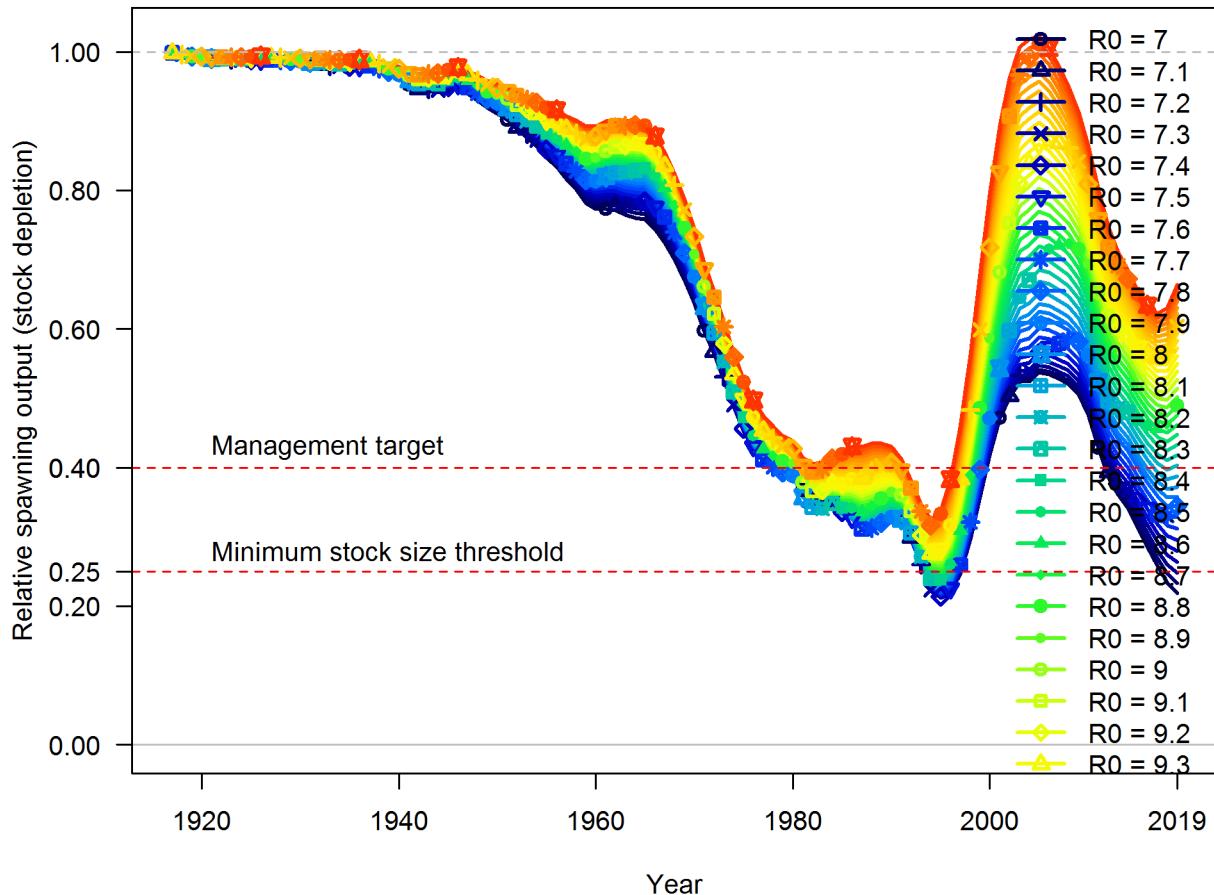


Figure 66: Trajectories of depletion across values of R_0 .

Changes in length-composition likelihoods by fleet

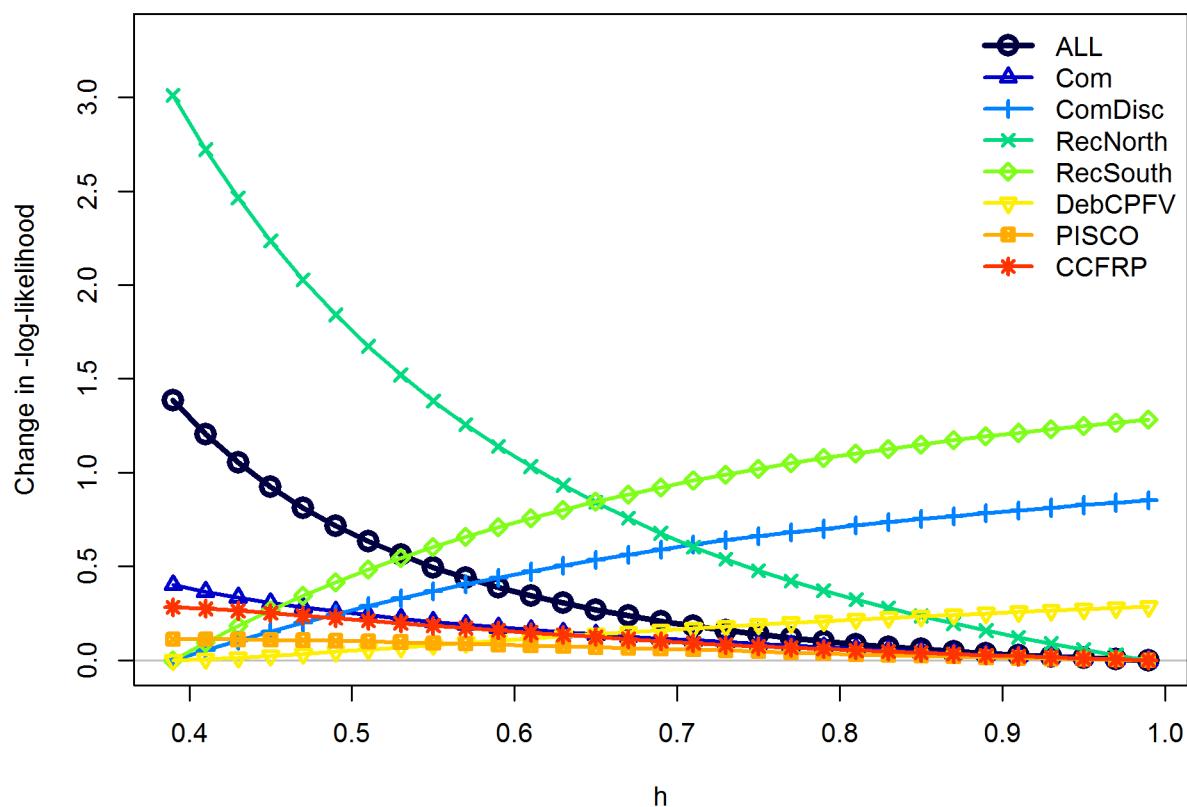


Figure 67: Likelihood profile across steepness values by fleet.

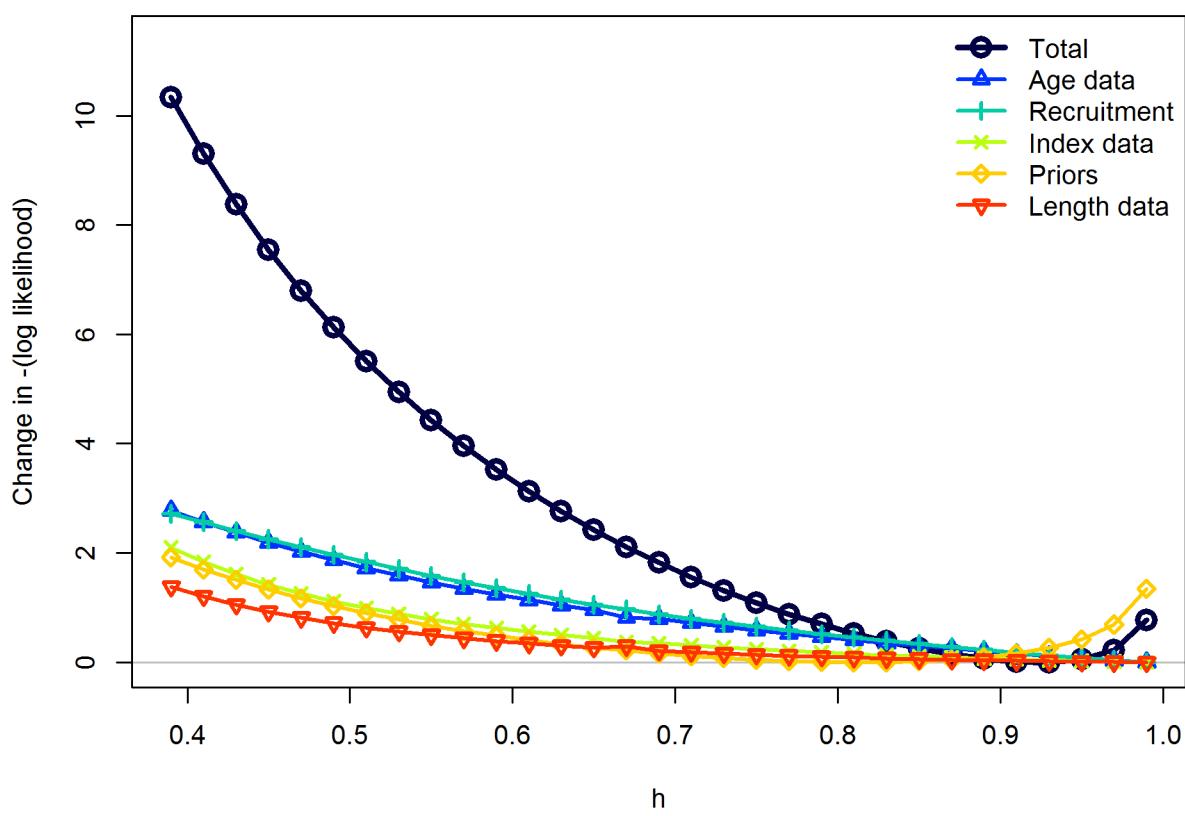


Figure 68: Likelihood profile across steepness values for each data type.

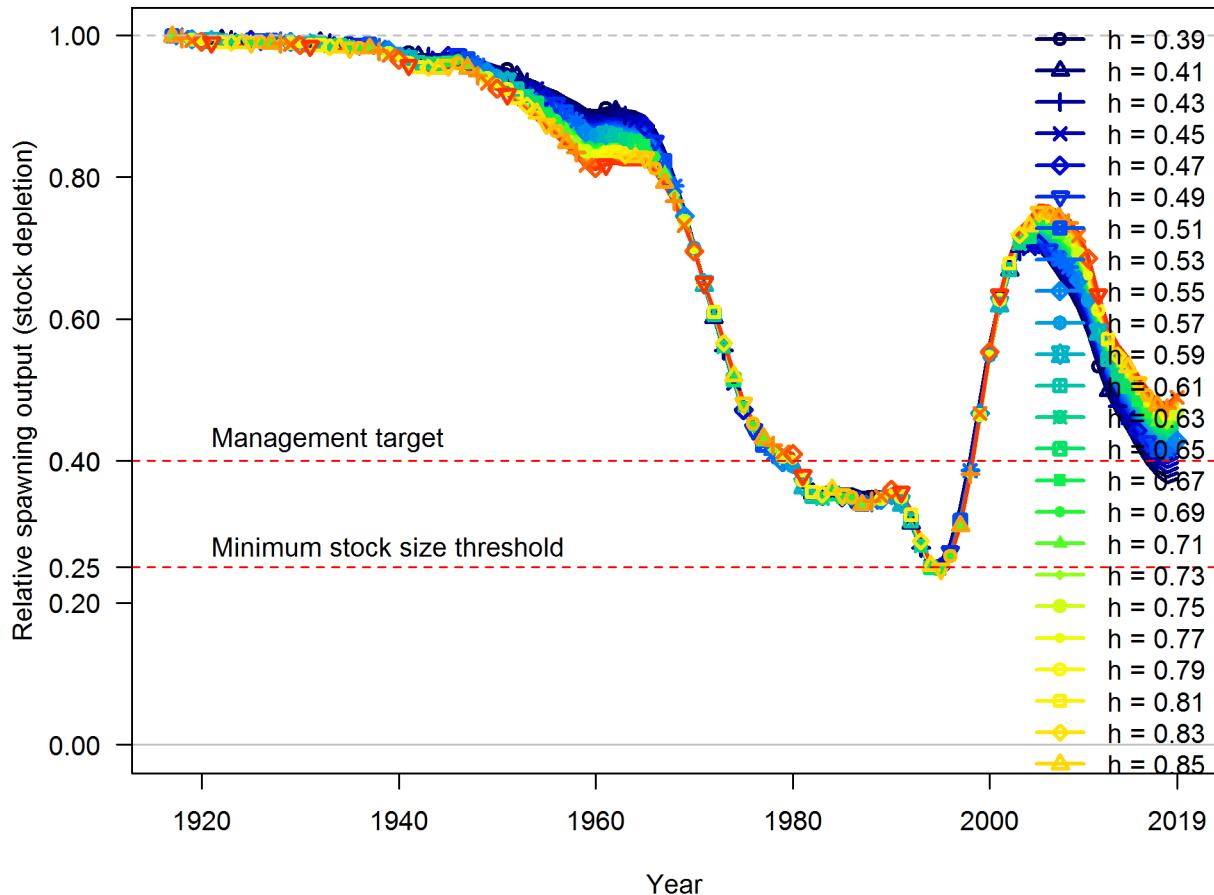


Figure 69: Trajectories of depletion across values of steepness.

Changes in length-composition likelihoods by fleet

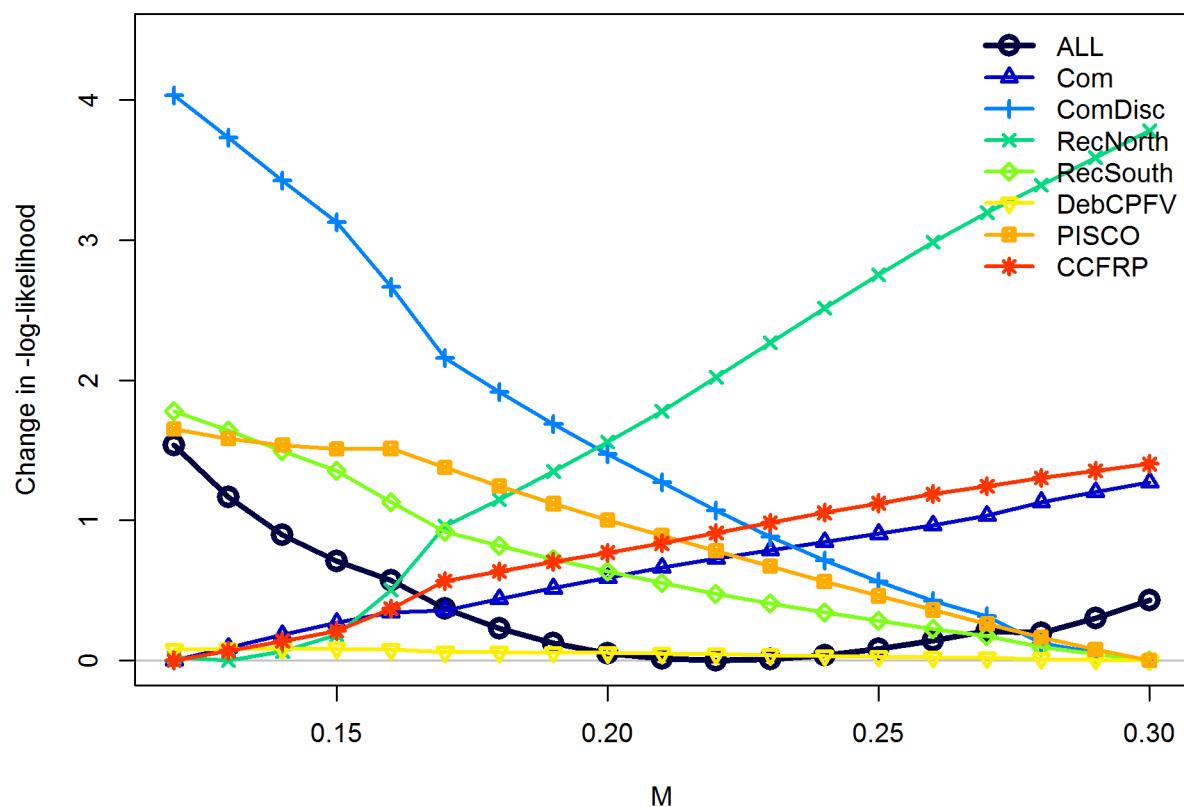


Figure 70: Likelihood profile across female natural mortality values by fleet.

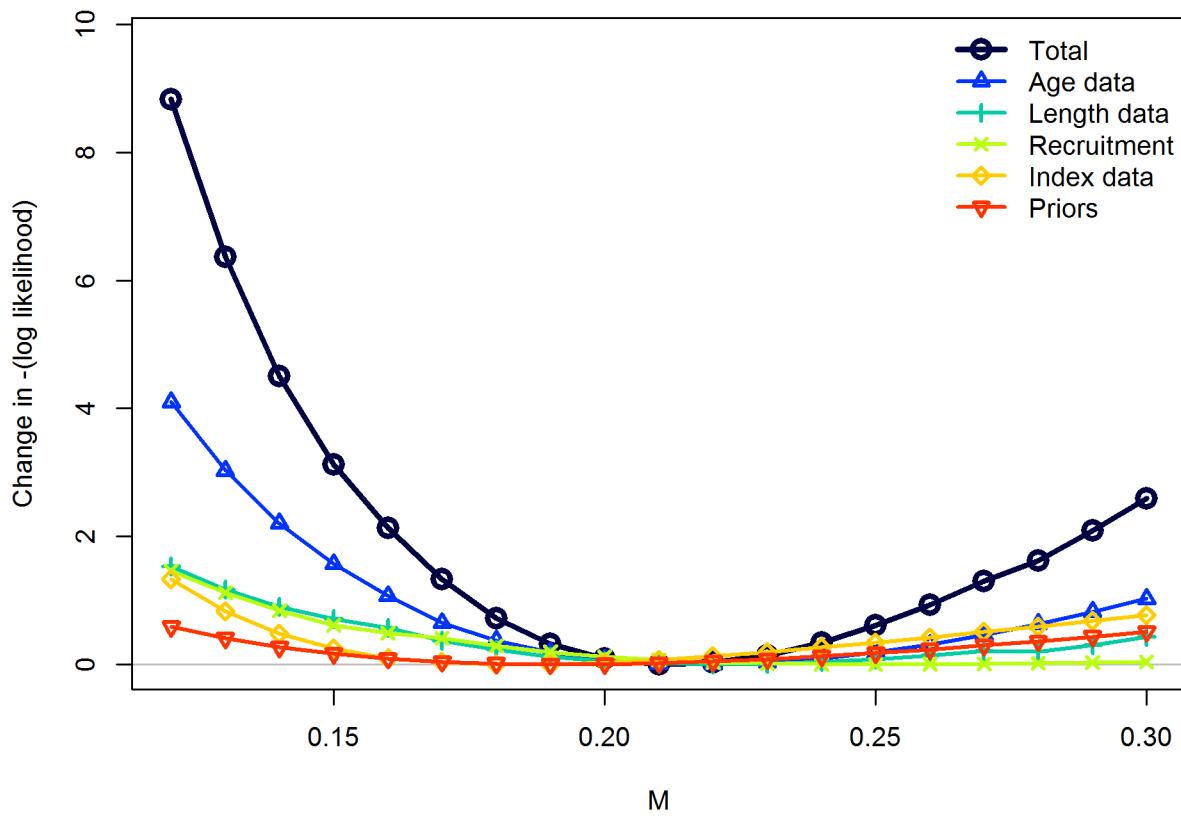


Figure 71: Likelihood profile across female natural mortality values for each data type.

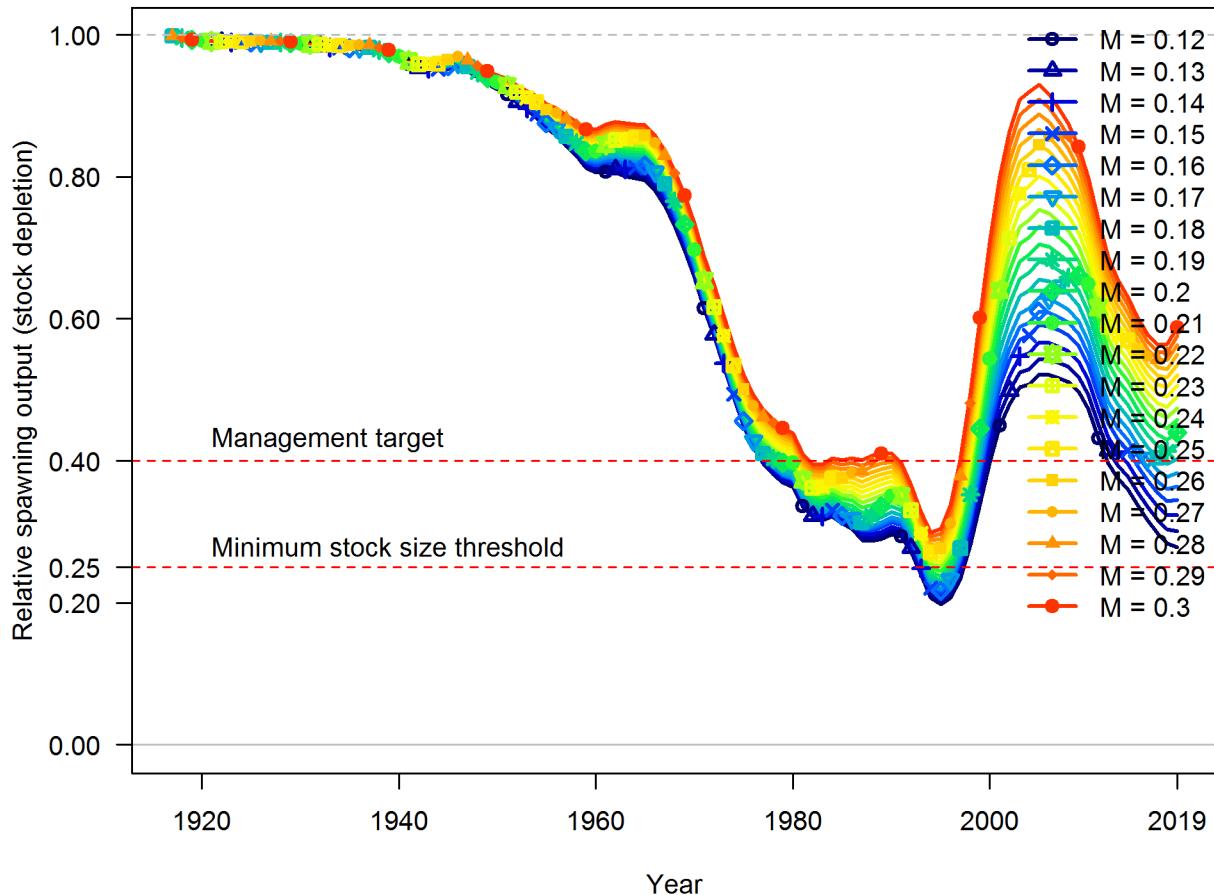


Figure 72: Trajectories of depletion across values of female natural mortality.

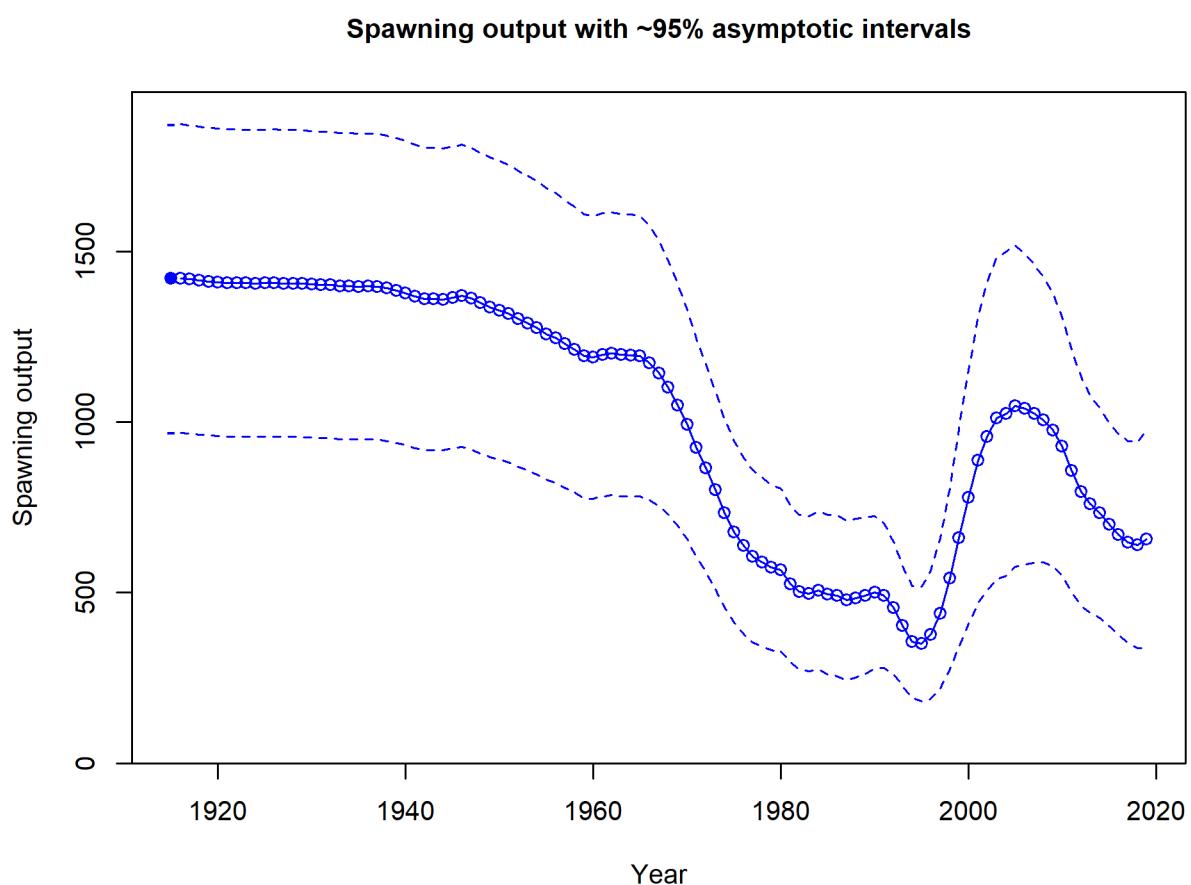


Figure 73: Estimated spawning biomass (mt) with approximate 95% asymptotic intervals.

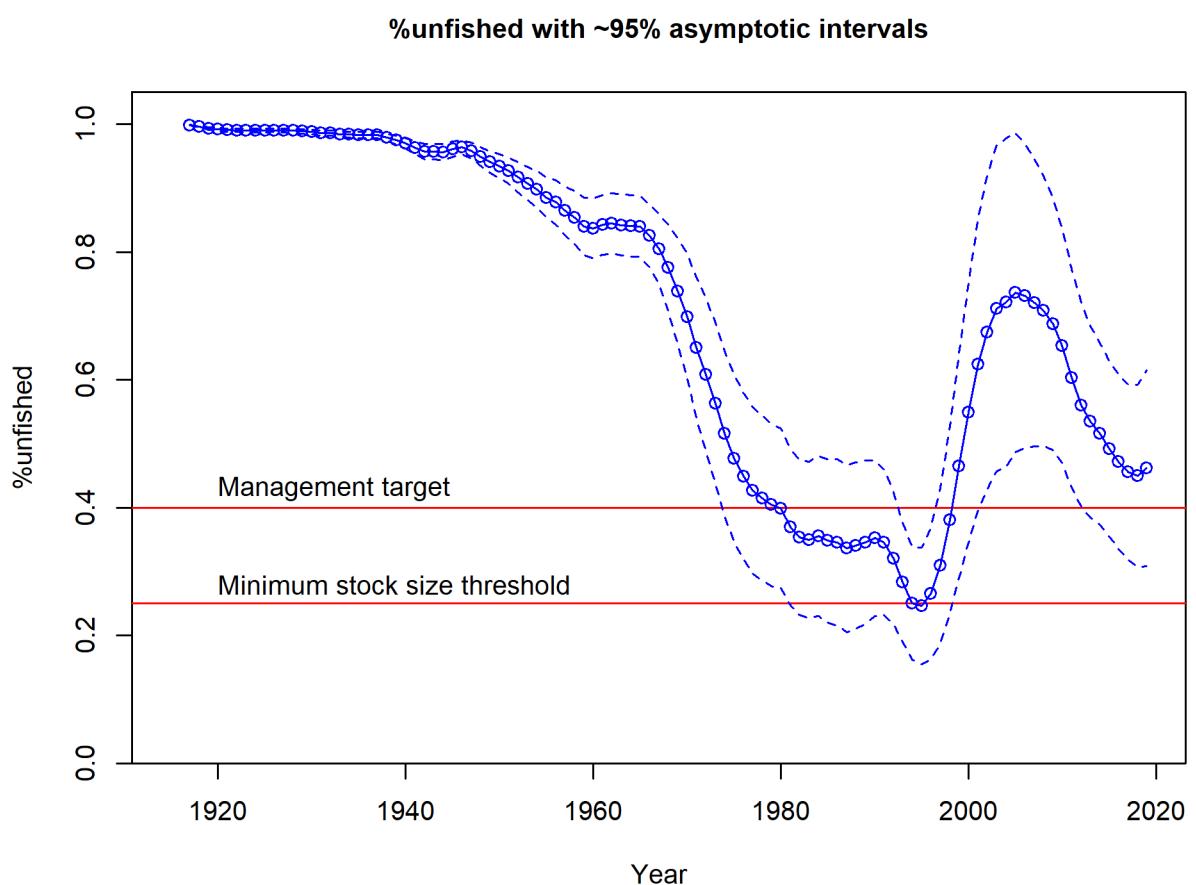


Figure 74: Estimated spawning depletion with approximate 95% asymptotic intervals.

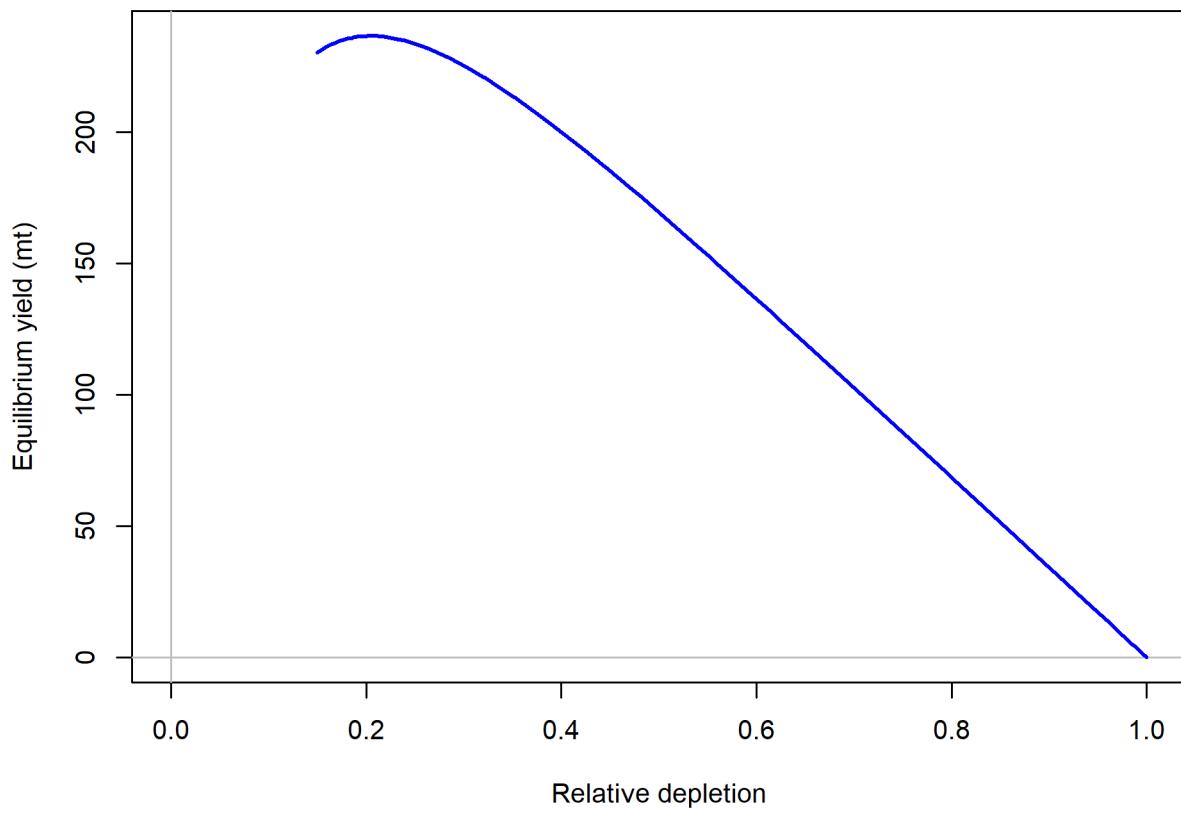


Figure 75: Equilibrium yield curve for the base case model. Values are based on the 2018 fishery selectivity and with steepness fixed at 0.718.

¹⁷⁴⁰ **Appendix A. California's Commercial Fishery Regula-**

¹⁷⁴¹ **tions**

California Commercial Regulations for Open Access Fixed Gear			
Year Month	40°10'-34°27'	34°27' - Mex.	40°10' - Mex.
2000 Jan	550 lbs/2 mths*	Closed*	
2000 Mar	Closed*	550 lbs/2 mths*	
2000 May	550 lbs/2 mths		
		800 lbs/2 mths shoreward of 20 fm; otherwise closed	
2001 Jan	1800 lbs/2 mths		
2001 Mar	Closed	1800 lbs/2 mths	
		800 lbs/2 mths shoreward of 20 fm; otherwise closed	
2001 May			
2001 Jul	1800 lbs/2 mths	1800 lbs/2 mths	
2002 Jan	1200 lbs/2 mths	Closed	
2002 Mar	Closed	1200 lbs/2 mths	
		1200 lbs/2 mths shoreward of 20 fm; otherwise closed	
2002 May			
2002 Jul	1200 lbs/2 mths		
		1200 lbs/2 mths shoreward of 20 fm; otherwise closed	
2002 Sep			
2002 Nov	Closed	Closed	
2003 Jan			200 lbs/2 mths
2003 Mar			Closed
2003 May			400 lbs/2 mths
2003 Jul			400 lbs/2 mths
2003 Sep			300 lbs/2 mths
2003 Nov			200 lbs/2 mths
2004 Jan	300 lbs/2 mths	Closed	
2004 Mar	Closed	300 lbs/2 mths	
2004 May	500 lbs/2 mths	500 lbs/2 mths	
2004 Jul	600 lbs/2 mths	600 lbs/2 mths	
2004 Sep	500 lbs/2 mths	500 lbs/2 mths	
2004 Nov	300 lbs/2 mths	300 lbs/2 mths	
2005-2006 Jan			300 lbs/2 mths
2005-2006 Mar			Closed
2005-2006 May			500 lbs/2 mths
2005-2006 Jul			600 lbs/2 mths
2005-2006 Sep			500 lbs/2 mths
2005-2006 Nov			300 lbs/2 mths
2007-2008 Jan			600 lbs/2 mths
2007-2008 Mar			Closed
2007-2008 May			800 lbs/2 mths
2007-2008 Jul			900 lbs/2 mths
2007-2008 Sep			800 lbs/2 mths
2007-2008 Nov			600 lbs/2 mths
2009-2016 Jan			600 lbs/2 mths
2009-2016 Mar			Closed
2009-2016 May			800 lbs/2 mths
2009-2016 Jul			900 lbs/2 mths
2009-2016 Sep			800 lbs/2 mths
2009-2016 Nov			1000 lbs/2 mths
2017-2018 Jan			1200 lbs/2 mths
2017-2018 Mar			Closed
2017-2018 May			1200 lbs/2 mths
2017-2018 Jul			1200 lbs/2 mths
2017-2018 Sep			1200 lbs/2 mths
2017-2018 Nov			1200 lbs/2 mths

Figure A2

California Commercial Regulations for Limited Entry Fixed Gear			
Year Month	40°10'-34°27'	34°27' - Mex.	40°10' - Mex.
2000 Jan	1000 lbs/2 mths*	closed*	
2000 Mar	closed*	1000 lbs/2 mths*	
2000 May	1000 lbs/2 mths*	1000 lbs/2 mths*	
2001 Jan	2000 lbs/2 mths	2000 lbs/2 mths shoreward of 20 fm; otherwise closed	
2001 Apr	closed	2000 lbs/2 mths	
2001 May	2000 lbs/2 mths shoreward of 20 fm; otherwise closed		
2001 Jul	2000 lbs/2 mths	2000 lbs/2 mths	
2002 Jan	1600 lbs/2 mths	closed	
2002 Mar	closed		
2002 May	1600 lbs/2 mths shoreward of 20 fm; otherwise closed	2000 lbs/2 mths	
2002 Jul	1600 lbs/2 mths		
2002 Sep	1600 lbs/2 mths shoreward of 20 fm; otherwise closed		
2002 Nov	closed	closed	
2003 Jan			200 lbs/2 mths
2003 Mar			closed
2003 May			400 lbs/2 mths
2003 Jul			400 lbs/2 mths
2003 Sep			300 lbs/2 mths
2003 Nov			200 lbs/2 mths
2004 Jan	300 lbs/2 mths	closed	
2004 Mar	closed	300 lbs/2 mths	
2004 May	500 lbs/2 mths	500 lbs/2 mths	
2004 Jul	600 lbs/2 mths	600 lbs/2 mths	
2004 Sep	500 lbs/2 mths	500 lbs/2 mths	
2004 Nov	300 lbs/2 mths	300 lbs/2 mths	
2005-2006 Jan			300 lbs/2 mths
2005-2006 Mar			closed
2005-2006 May			500 lbs/2 mths
2005-2006 Jul			600 lbs/2 mths
2005-2006 Sep			500 lbs/2 mths
2005-2006 Nov			300 lbs/2 mths
2007-2008 Jan			600 lbs/2 mths
2007-2008 Mar			closed
2007-2008 May			800 lbs/2 mths
2007-2008 Jul			900 lbs/2 mths
2007-2008 Sep			800 lbs/2 mths
2007-2008 Nov			600 lbs/2 mths
2009 Jan			600 lbs/2 mths
2009 Mar			closed
2009 May			800 lbs/2 mths
2009 Jul			900 lbs/2 mths
2009 Sep			800 lbs/2 mths
2009 Nov			800 lbs/2 mths
2010-2011 Jan			600 lbs/2 mths
2010-2011 Mar			closed
2010-2011 May			800 lbs/2 mths
2010-2011 Jul			900 lbs/2 mths
2010-2011 Sep			800 lbs/2 mths
2010-2011 Nov			600 lbs/2 mths
2012-2016 Jan			600 lbs/2 mths
2012-2016 Mar			closed
2012-2016 May			800 lbs/2 mths
2012-2016 Jul			900 lbs/2 mths
2012-2016 Sep			800 lbs/2 mths
2012-2016 Nov			1000 lbs/2 mths
2017-2018 Jan			1200 lbs/2 mths
2017-2018 Mar			closed
2017-2018 May			1200 lbs/2 mths
2017-2018 Jul			1200 lbs/2 mths
2017-2018 Sep			1200 lbs/2 mths
2017-2018 Nov			1200 lbs/2 mths

Figure A3

California Commercial Regulations for Limited Entry Trawl for 40°10' - Mex.			
Year Month	All trawls	Large footrope or midwater trawl	Small footrope
2000-2001 Jan	200 lbs/mth		
2002-2003 Jan	300 lbs/mth		
2004 Jan		closed	300 lbs/mth
2004 Nov			closed
2005-2010 Jan		closed	300 lbs/mth
2011-2018 Jan	300 lbs/mth, nonIFQ species		

Figure A4

¹⁷⁴² **Appendix B. California's Recreational Fishery Regulations**

¹⁷⁴³

California's Recreational Fishing Regulations											
				42°-40°10'	40°10'-38°57'	40°10'-37°11'	38°57'-37°11'	37°11'-36°	37°11'-34°27'	36°-34°27'	34°27'-Mex.
Year	Month	Northern	Mendocino	North-Central	San Francisco	South-Central		Monterey		Morro Bay	
2000	Jan	Open						Open		Closed	
2000	Feb	Open						Open		Closed	
2000	Mar	Open						Closed		Open	
2000	Apr	Open						Closed		Open	
2000	May	Open						Open		Open	
2000	Jun	Open						Open		Open	
2000	Jul	Open						Open		Open	
2000	Aug	Open						Open		Open	
2000	Sep	Open						Open		Open	
2000	Oct	Open						Open		Open	
2000	Nov	Open						Open		Open	
2000	Dec	Open						Open		Open	
2001	Jan	Open						Open		Closed	
2001	Feb	Open						Open		Closed	
2001	Mar	Open						Closed		Open	
2001	Apr	Open						Closed		Open	
2001	May	Open						20		Open	
2001	Jun	Open						20		Open	
2001	Jul	Open						Open		Open	
2001	Aug	Open						Open		Open	
2001	Sep	Open						Open		Open	
2001	Oct	Open						Open		Open	
2001	Nov	Open						20		20	
2001	Dec	Open						20		20	
2002	Jan	Open						Open		Closed	
2002	Feb	Open						Open		Closed	
2002	Mar	Open						Closed		Open	
2002	Apr	Open						Closed		Open	
2002	May	Open						20		Open	
2002	Jun	Open						20		Open	
2002	Jul	Open						20		20	
2002	Aug	Open						20		20	
2002	Sep	Open						20		20	
2002	Oct	Open						20		20	
2002	Nov	Open						Closed		Closed	
2002	Dec	Open						Closed		Closed	
2003	Jan	Open						Closed		Closed	
2003	Feb	Open						Closed		Closed	
2003	Mar	Open						Closed		Closed	
2003	Apr	Open						Closed		Closed	
2003	May	Open						Closed		Closed	
2003	Jun	Open						Closed		Closed	
2003	Jul	Open						20		20	
2003	Aug	Open						20		20	
2003	Sep	Open						20		30	
2003	Oct	Open						20		30	
2003	Nov	Open						20		30	
2003	Dec	Open->Closed						20->Closed		30->Closed	
2004	Jan	Open					30			30	Closed
2004	Feb	Open					30			30	Closed
2004	Mar	Open					Closed			Closed	60
2004	Apr	Open					Closed			Closed	60
2004	May	30					Closed			20	60
2004	Jun	30					Closed			20	60
2004	Jul	30					Closed			Closed	60
2004	Aug	30					20			20	60
2004	Sep	30					20			20	30
2004	Oct	30					20			20	30
2004	Nov	30					Closed			20	60
2004	Dec	30					Closed			20	60

Figure B2

Latitude Range		42°-40°10'	40°10'-38°57'	40°10'-37°11'	38°57'-37°11'	37°11'-36°	37°11'-34°27'	36°-34°27'	34°27'-Mex.
Year	Month	Northern	Mendocino	North-Central	San Francisco	South-Central	Central	South-Central	Southern
2005	Jan	Closed		Closed		Closed		Closed	Closed
2005	Feb	Closed		Closed		Closed		Closed	Closed
2005	Mar	Closed		Closed		Closed		Closed	60
2005	Apr	Closed		Closed		Closed		Closed	60
2005	May	30		Closed		Closed		40	60
2005	Jun	30		Closed		Closed		40	60
2005	Jul	30		20		20		40	60
2005	Aug	30		20		20		40	60
2005	Sep	30		20		20		40	30
2005	Oct	30		20		20		Closed	30
2005	Nov	30		20		20		Closed	60
2005	Dec	30		20		20		Closed	60
2006	Jan	Closed		Closed		Closed		Closed	Closed
2006	Feb	Closed		Closed		Closed		Closed	Closed
2006	Mar	Closed		Closed		Closed		Closed	60
2006	Apr	Closed		Closed		Closed		Closed	60
2006	May	30		Closed		Closed		40	60
2006	Jun	30		Closed		Closed		40	60
2006	Jul	30		30		30		40	60
2006	Aug	30		30		30		40	60
2006	Sep	30		30		30		40	60
2006	Oct	30		30		30		40	60
2006	Nov	30		30		30		Closed	60
2006	Dec	30		30		30		Closed	60
2007	Jan	Closed		Closed		Closed		Closed	Closed
2007	Feb	Closed		Closed		Closed		Closed	Closed
2007	Mar	Closed		Closed		Closed		Closed	60
2007	Apr	Closed		Closed		Closed		Closed	60
2007	May	30		Closed		40		40	60
2007	Jun	30		30		40		40	60
2007	Jul	30		30		40		40	60
2007	Aug	30		30		40		40	60
2007	Sep	30		30		40		40	60
2007	Oct	Closed		Closed		40		40	60
2007	Nov	Closed		Closed		40		40	60
2007	Dec	Closed		Closed		Closed		Closed	60
2008	Jan	Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed
2008	Feb	Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed
2008	Mar	Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	60
2008	Apr	Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	60
2008	May	20	Closed		Closed	40		40	60
2008	Jun	20	20		20	40		40	60
2008	Jul	20	20		20	40		40	60
2008	Aug	20	20		20	40		40	60
2008	Sep	Closed	Closed		20	40		40	60
2008	Oct	Closed	Closed		20	40		40	60
2008	Nov	Closed	Closed		20	40		40	60
2008	Dec	Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	60
2009	Jan	Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed
2009	Feb	Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed
2009	Mar	Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	60
2009	Apr	Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	60
2009	May	Closed->20	Closed->20		Closed	40		40	60
2009	Jun	20	20		Closed->20	40		40	60
2009	Jul	20	20		20	40		40	60
2009	Aug	20	20->Closed		20	40		40	60
2009	Sep	20->Closed	Closed		20	40		40	60
2009	Oct	Closed	Closed		20	40		40	60
2009	Nov	Closed	Closed		Closed	40->Closed		40->Closed	60
2009	Dec	Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	60

Figure B3

Latitude Range		42°-40°10'	40°10'-38°57'	40°10'-37°11'	38°57'-37°11'	37°11'-36°	37°11'-34°27'	36°-34°27'	34°27'-Mex.
Year	Month	Northern	Mendocino	North-Central	San Francisco	South-Central	Central	South-Central	Southern
2010	Jan	Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed
2010	Feb	Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed
2010	Mar	Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	60
2010	Apr	Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	60
2010	May	Closed->20	Closed->20		Closed	Closed		40	60
2010	Jun	20	20		Closed->30	Closed->20		40	60
2010	Jul	20	20		30	20		40	60
2010	Aug	20	20->Closed		30	20		40	60
2010	Sep	20->Closed	Closed		30	20		40	60
2010	Oct	Closed	Closed		30	20		40	60
2010	Nov	Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		40->Closed	60
2010	Dec	Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed		Closed	60
2011	Jan	Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed	Closed	Closed
2011	Feb	Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed	Closed	Closed
2011	Mar	Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed	60	60
2011	Apr	Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed	60	60
2011	May	Closed->20	Closed->20		Closed		40	60	60
2011	Jun	20	20		Closed->30		40	60	60
2011	Jul	20	20		30		40	60	60
2011	Aug	20	20->Closed		30		40	60	60
2011	Sep	20	Closed		30		40	60	60
2011	Oct	20	Closed		30		40	60	60
2011	Nov	Closed	Closed		30		40	60	60
2011	Dec	Closed	Closed		30		40	60	60
2012	Jan	Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed	Closed	Closed
2012	Feb	Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed	Closed	Closed
2012	Mar	Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed	60	60
2012	Apr	Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed	60	60
2012	May	Closed->20	20->Closed		Closed		40	60	60
2012	Jun	20	20		30		40	60	60
2012	Jul	20	20		30		40	60	60
2012	Aug	20	20->Closed		30		40	60	60
2012	Sep	20	Closed		30		40	60	60
2012	Oct	20	Closed		30		40	60	60
2012	Nov	Closed	Closed		30		40	50	50
2012	Dec	Closed	Closed		30		40	50	50
2013	Jan	Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed	Closed	Closed
2013	Feb	Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed	Closed	Closed
2013	Mar	Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed	50	50
2013	Apr	Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed	50	50
2013	May	Closed->20	Closed->20		Closed		40	50	50
2013	Jun	20	20		30		40	50	50
2013	Jul	20	20		30		40	50	50
2013	Aug	20	20		30		40	50	50
2013	Sep	20	20->Closed		30		40	50	50
2013	Oct	20	Closed		30		40	50	50
2013	Nov	Closed	Closed		30		40	50	50
2013	Dec	Closed	Closed		30		40	50	50
2014	Jan	Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed	Closed	Closed
2014	Feb	Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed	Closed	Closed
2014	Mar	Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed	50	50
2014	Apr	Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed	50	50
2014	May	Closed->20	Closed->20		Closed		40	50	50
2014	Jun	20	20		30		40	50	50
2014	Jul	20	20		30		40	50	50
2014	Aug	20	20		30		40	50	50
2014	Sep	20	20->Closed		30		40	50	50
2014	Oct	20	Closed		30		40	50	50
2014	Nov	Closed	Closed		30		40	50	50
2014	Dec	Closed	Closed		30		40	50	50

Figure B4

Latitude Range		42°-40°10'	40°10'-38°57'	40°10'-37°11'	38°57'-37°11'	37°11'-36°	37°11'-34°27'	36°-34°27'	34°27'-Mex.
Year	Month	Northern	Mendocino	North-Central	San Francisco	South-Central	Central	South-Central	Southern
2015	Jan	Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed		Closed
2015	Feb	Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed		Closed
2015	Mar	Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed		Closed
2015	Apr	Closed	Closed		Closed->30		40		Closed
2015	May	Closed->20	Closed->20		30		40		Closed
2015	Jun	20	20		30		40		Closed
2015	Jul	20	20		30		40		Closed
2015	Aug	20	20		30		40		Closed
2015	Sep	20	20		30		40		Closed
2015	Oct	20	20		30		40		Closed
2015	Nov	Closed	Closed		30		40		Closed
2015	Dec	Closed	Closed		30		40		Closed
2016	Jan	Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed		Closed
2016	Feb	Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed		Closed
2016	Mar	Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed		Closed
2016	Apr	Closed	Closed		Closed->30		40		Closed
2016	May	Closed->20	Closed->20		30		40		Closed
2016	Jun	20	20		30		40		Closed
2016	Jul	20	20		30		40		Closed
2016	Aug	20	20		30		40		Closed
2016	Sep	20	20		30		40		Closed
2016	Oct	20	20		30		40		Closed
2016	Nov	Closed	Closed		30		40		Closed
2016	Dec	Closed	Closed		30		40		Closed
2017	Jan	Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed		Closed
2017	Feb	Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed		Closed
2017	Mar	Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed		60
2017	Apr	Closed	Closed		Closed		50		60
2017	May	30	20		40		50		60
2017	Jun	30	20		40		50		60
2017	Jul	30	20		40		50		60
2017	Aug	30	20		40		50		60
2017	Sep	30	20		40		50		60
2017	Oct	30->20	20		40->30		50->40		60
2017	Nov	20	20		30		40		60
2017	Dec	20	20		30		40		60
2018	Jan	Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed		60
2018	Feb	Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed		60
2018	Mar	Closed	Closed		Closed		Closed		60
2018	Apr	Closed	Closed		Closed		50		60
2018	May	30	20		40		50		60
2018	Jun	30	20		40		50		60
2018	Jul	30	20		40		50		60
2018	Aug	30->20	20		40->30		50->40		60
2018	Sep	20	20		30		40		60
2018	Oct	20	20		30		40		60
2018	Nov	20	20		30		40		60
2018	Dec	20	20		30		40		60

Figure B5

¹⁷⁴⁴ Appendix C. Detailed fits to length composition data

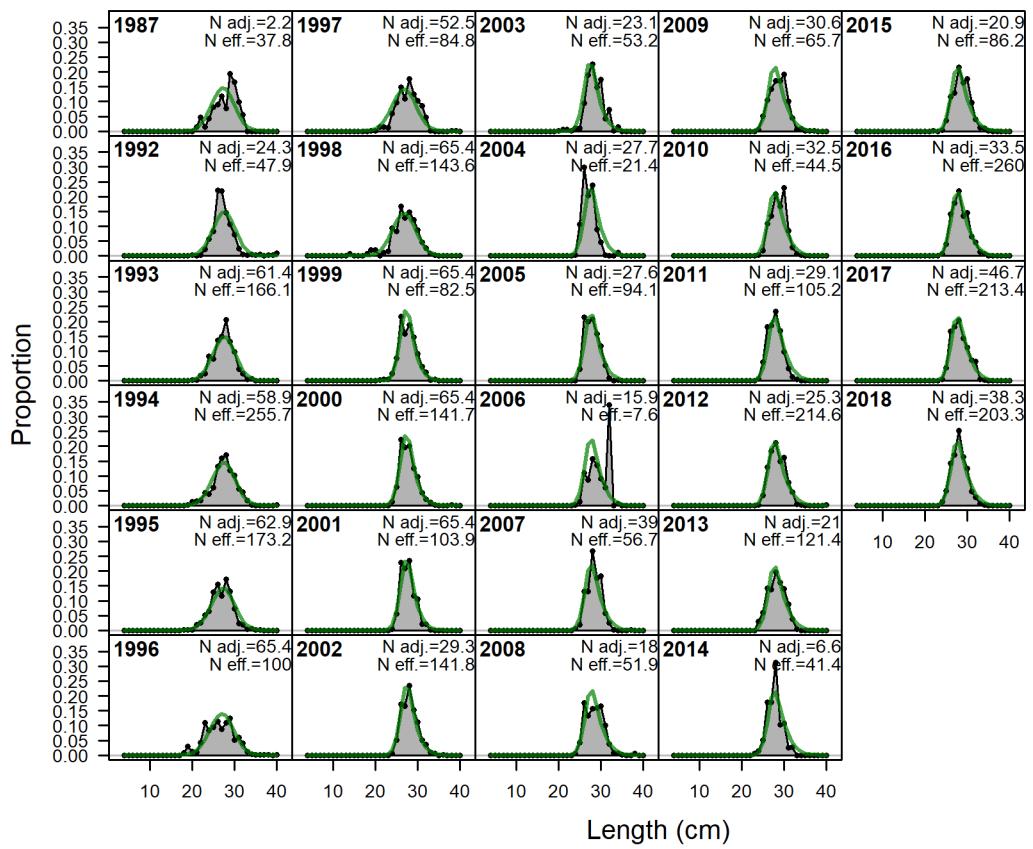


Figure C2: Length comps, retained, Com. ‘N adj.’ is the input sample size after data_weighting adjustment. N eff. is the calculated effective sample size used in the McAlister_Iannelli tuning method.

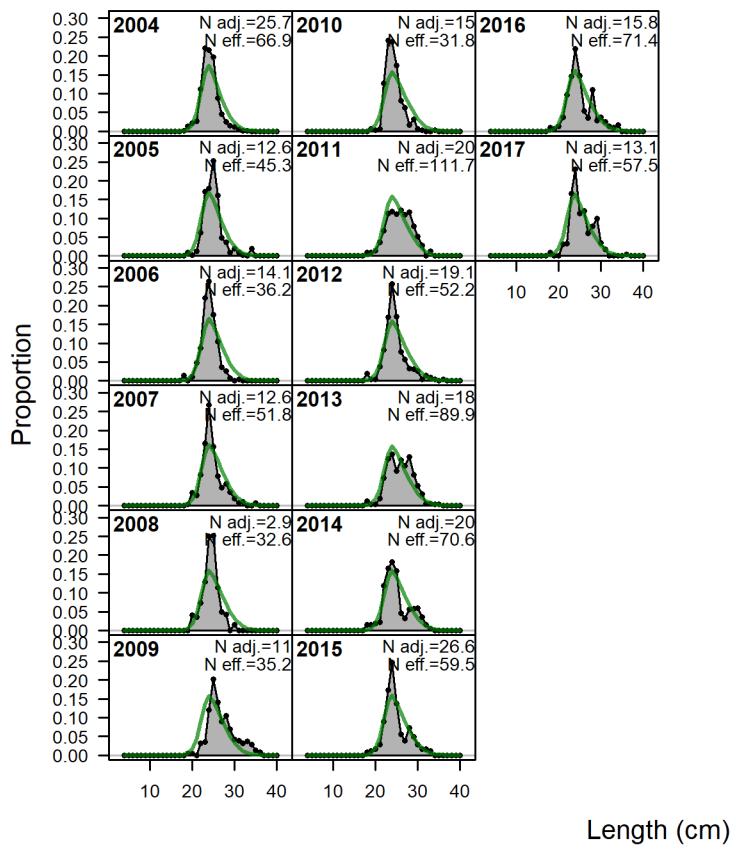


Figure C3: Length comps, retained, ComDisc. ‘N adj.’ is the input sample size after data_weighting adjustment. N eff. is the calculated effective sample size used in the McAlister_Iannelli tuning method.

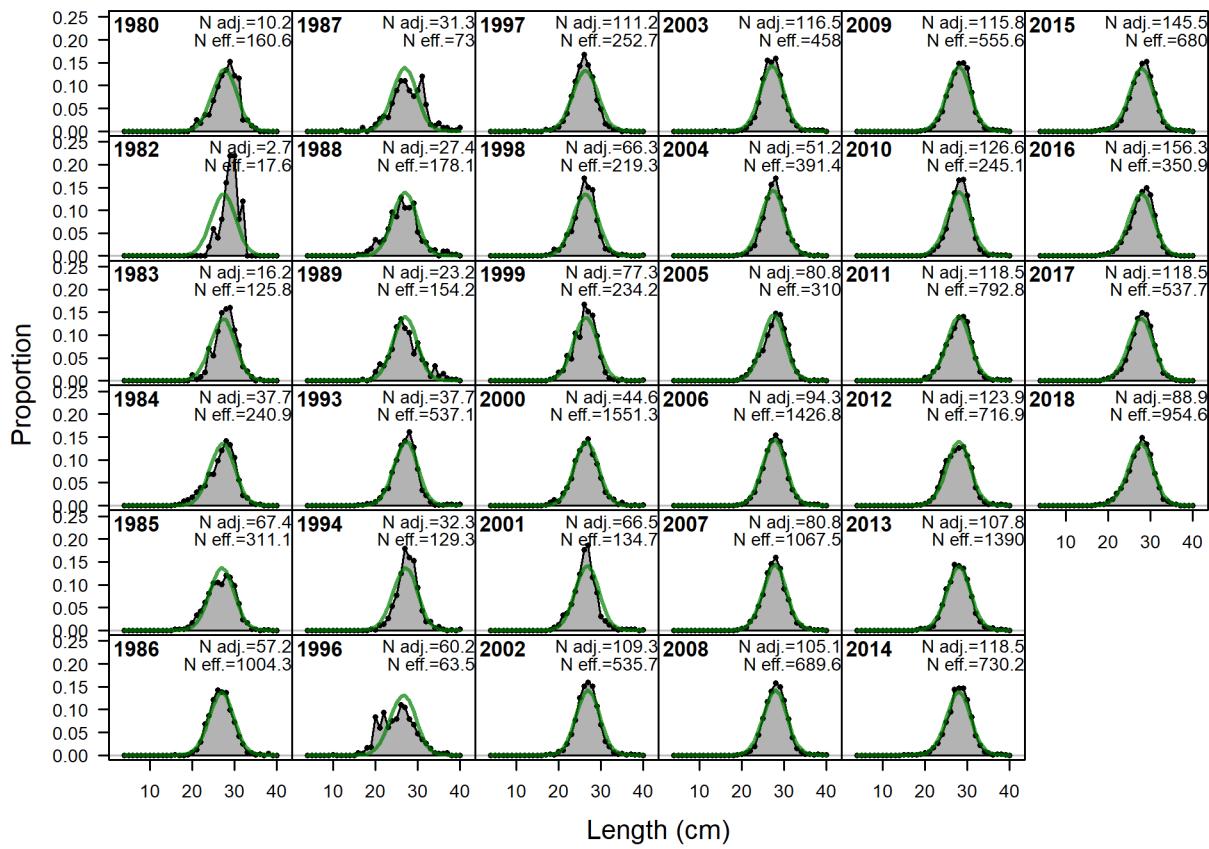


Figure C4: Length comps, whole catch, RecNorth. 'N adj.' is the input sample size after data_weighting adjustment. N eff. is the calculated effective sample size used in the McAllister_Iannelli tuning method.

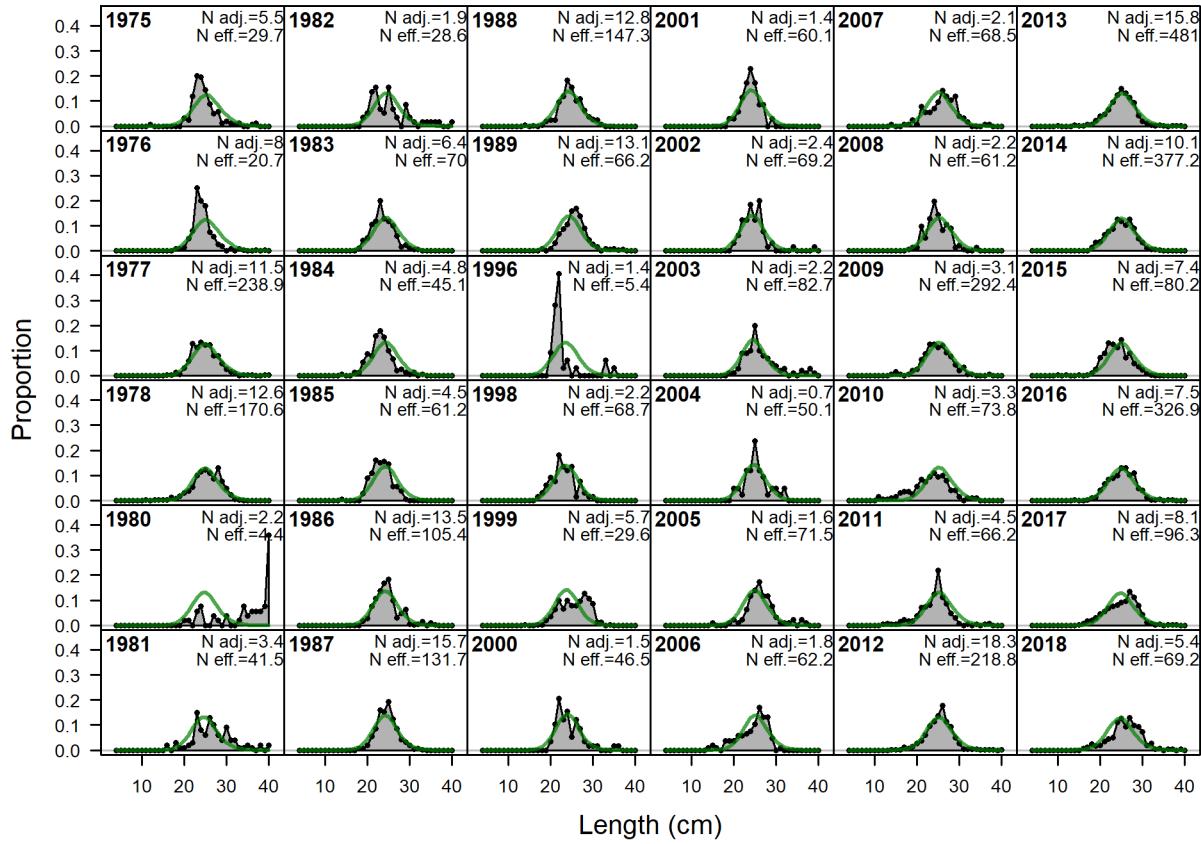


Figure C5: Length comps, whole catch, RecSouth. 'N adj.' is the input sample size after data_weighting adjustment. N eff. is the calculated effective sample size used in the McAllister_Iannelli tuning method.

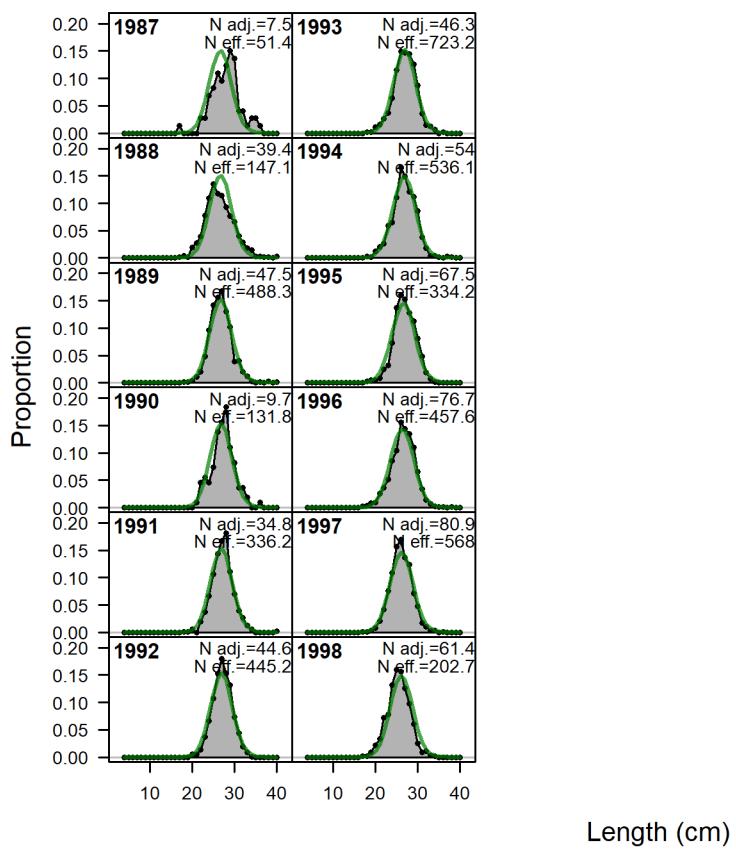


Figure C6: Length comps, whole catch, DebCPFV. 'N adj.' is the input sample size after data_weighting adjustment. N eff. is the calculated effective sample size used in the McAllister_Iannelli tuning method.

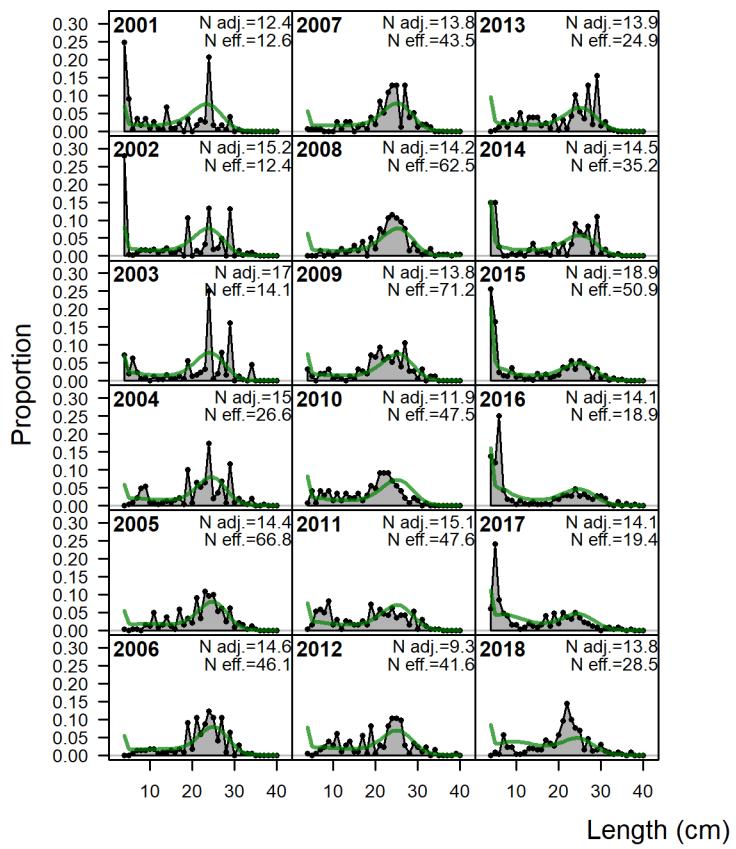


Figure C7: Length comps, whole catch, PISCO. 'N adj.' is the input sample size after data_weighting adjustment. N eff. is the calculated effective sample size used in the McAlister_Iannelli tuning method.

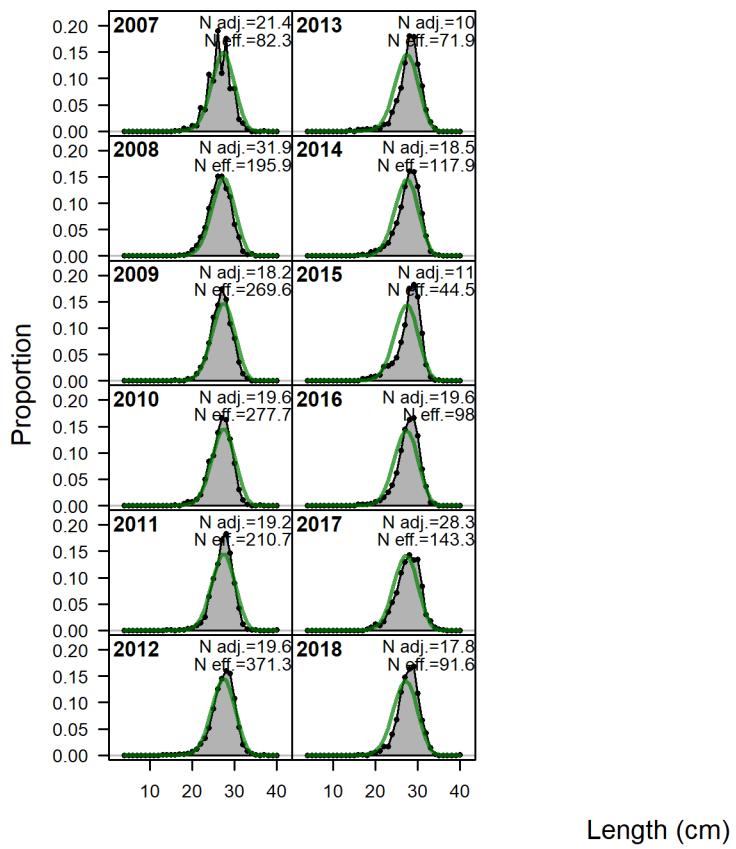


Figure C8: Length comps, whole catch, CCFRP. ‘N adj.’ is the input sample size after data_weighting adjustment. N eff. is the calculated effective sample size used in the McAlister_Iannelli tuning method.

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