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Manatū Ahu Matua



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Executive Summary

This report describes the New Zealand southern bluefin tuna (SBT) fishery for 2015 and the 2014/15 fishing year. Commercial landings were 922.2t in the 2014/15 fishing year, which ran from 1 October 2014 to 30 September 2015. Scaled observer data was used to estimate discards from the fishery and the status of discards on release. New Zealand allows for discard mortality and recreational catch within its national allocation and it is unlikely that those allowances were exceeded in 2015. In 2014 a zero non-commercial catch of SBT was reported.

CPUE in 2015 increased slightly for the charter fleet, which largely fishes the west coast of the South Island (CCSBT region 6), and also for the domestic fleet. Since 2007 catch rates (by number) have increased to much higher levels than in 2003-06. The length frequency data show that this increase is mainly due to the recruitment of a strong length mode that has grown through the fishery and now dominates the catch at about 155 cm.

New Zealand's Observer Programme covers both charter and domestic longline vessels. In 2015, 25% of the total catch and 34% of the total effort was observed. All four charter vessels were covered by observers in 2015, coverage was 78% for catch (numbers) and 80% for effort (hooks). For the domestic fishery in 2015 coverage was 7% for catch and 10% for effort.

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1 Introduction

Historically both adult and juvenile southern bluefin tuna (SBT) were distributed around New Zealand. During the 1960s and 1970s, juvenile SBT were encountered on both the east and west coasts of the North Island and the west coast of the South Island during summer months, with several tonnes taken in pole and line and troll fisheries.

From the late 1970s and early 1980s, a concerted effort to develop a domestic fishery to service the Japanese market was undertaken. By 1982 a handline fishery was established, with the catch frozen onboard a former Japanese longline vessel. The handline fishery continued, albeit at a reduced level, following the high catches in the 1982 season (305t landed) into the early 1990s when longlining became the dominant fishing method for SBT.

The New Zealand SBT fishery was constrained by a national catch limit of 420t per year between 1989 and 2008/09. New Zealand increased the TAC for the 2009/10 fishing year, in reflection of the allocation decisions made at CCSBT16 in 2009. New Zealand subsequently advised CCSBT that its catches in 2010 and 2011 would average 570t. The global TAC has been set in accordance with the Management Procedure since its adoption by the CCSBT. The New Zealand allocation within this TAC has risen to 1000t in 2015. On the few occasions historically when New Zealand exceeded its catch limit, the subsequent year's catch limit has been reduced to adjust for the over-catch (Figure 1; Table 1).

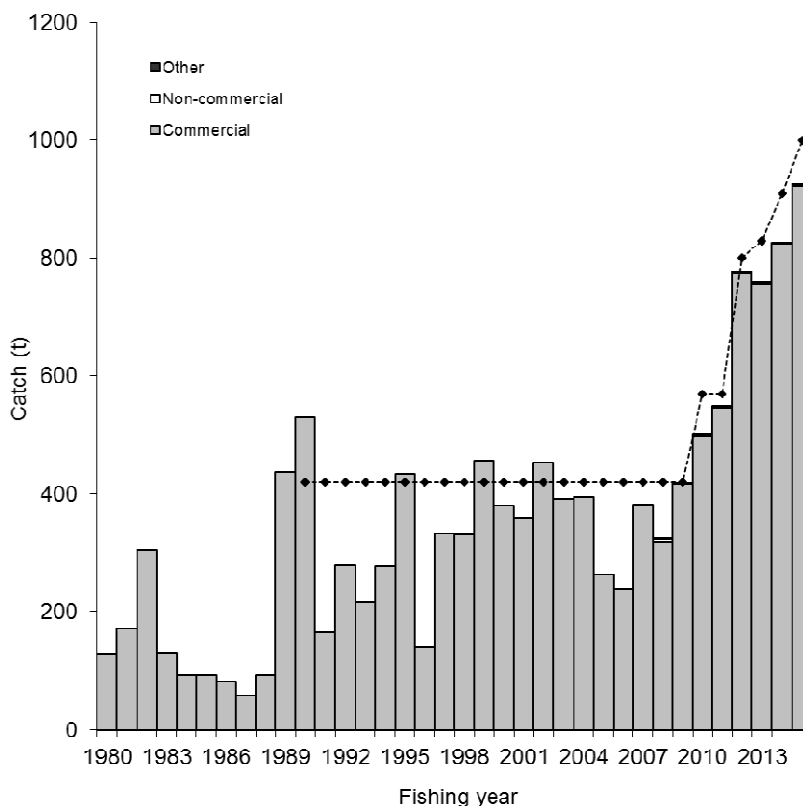


Figure 1: Commercial catches of southern bluefin tuna (tonnes whole weight) by New Zealand fishing year (1 October to 30 September). Annual total catch is from Licensed Fish Receiver returns for 1998/99 to 2000/01, and from Monthly Harvest Returns from permit holders since 2001/02. The dashed horizontal line refers to the catch limit for New Zealand. From the 2007/08 fishing year, estimates of non-commercial catch, and discard mortality are included.



All but a few tonnes of the commercial SBT catch are now taken by longline. SBT catches are taken chiefly off the southwest coast of the South Island (WCSI; CCSBT Region 6) and off the east coast of the North Island (ECNI; CCSBT Region 5) from April to July. Longlining off the WCSI is almost entirely targeted at SBT. Historically, the fleet operating off the southwest coast was primarily composed of the larger –60° freezer vessels of the charter fleet. The generally heavier weather conditions off the WCSI compared to the ECNI meant that fewer of the smaller domestic owned and operated vessels fished in this area. However, in recent years there has been an increase in effort in region 6 by small domestic vessels as the operators of those vessels attempt to extend the season that they can fish for SBT.

The smaller domestically owned and operated “ice boats” operate mainly in the longline fishery off the ECNI. These vessels are typically at sea for only a few days, and land SBT both as a target and as a bycatch of bigeye target sets.

SBT has been managed under a Quota Management System (QMS) since 1 October 2004. The introduction to the QMS saw a change from the “Olympic” race for fish and was associated with a consolidation of the fleet.

For the 2014/15 season, the fishery had a Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) equivalent to 971t, the remainder of New Zealand’s TAC being allocated to recreational (eight tonnes) and customary non-commercial fishers (one tonne), and other sources of fishing-related mortality (twenty tonnes). In 2014/15 fishing year commercial removals were 922.2 tonnes.

2 Catch and Effort

Catches for the charter fleet by calendar year and CCSBT region are provided in Table 2. Effort information is provided in Figure 2 and Table 3. Most catch and effort occurs in Region 6, which covers the west coast of the South Island fishing grounds.

Catches for the domestic fleet by calendar year and CCSBT Region are provided in Table 4. SBT target effort for this sector is provided in Figure 3 and Table 5. A longline fishery targeting other highly migratory species also operates outside the SBT fishing season. It is important to separate these data out to better understand the New Zealand SBT fishery. For catches, the importance of the two regions has varied since 1995. While target effort increased dramatically in both regions from 1995 to 2003, it declined to a low level in 2007 and 2008, particularly in Region 6. This decline is associated with a substantial decrease in the number of vessels in the surface longline fleet (Table 7), and the removal from the fleet of a domestically-owned freezer vessel that fished in region 6. However, in recent years with the increased catch limits domestic vessels have increased effort in region 6.

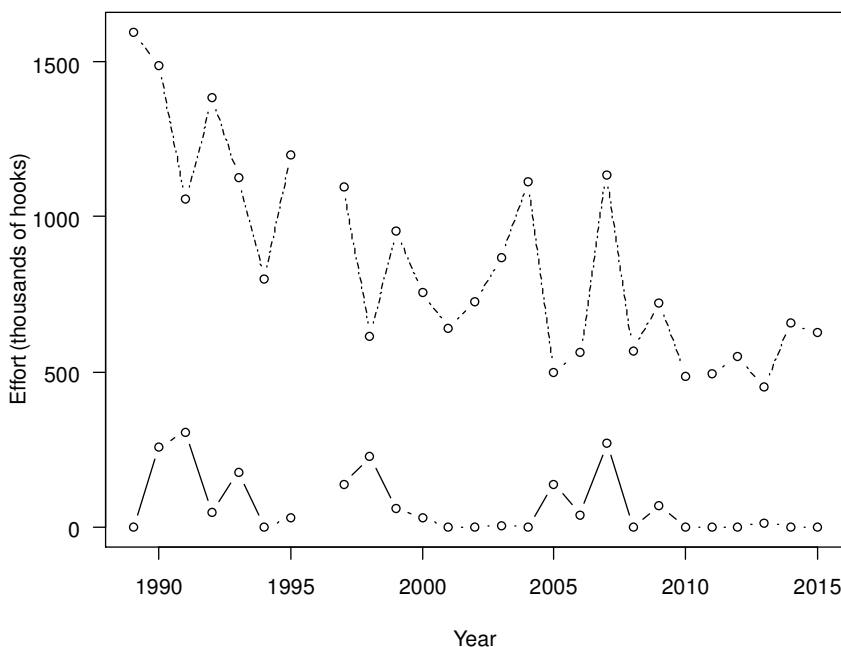


Figure 2: Effort (thousands of hooks) for the charter fleet in Region 5 (solid line – east coast North Island) and Region 6 (dashed line – west coast South Island). Note that this includes some non-SBT target effort in Region 5 and that no charter vessels fished in 1996.

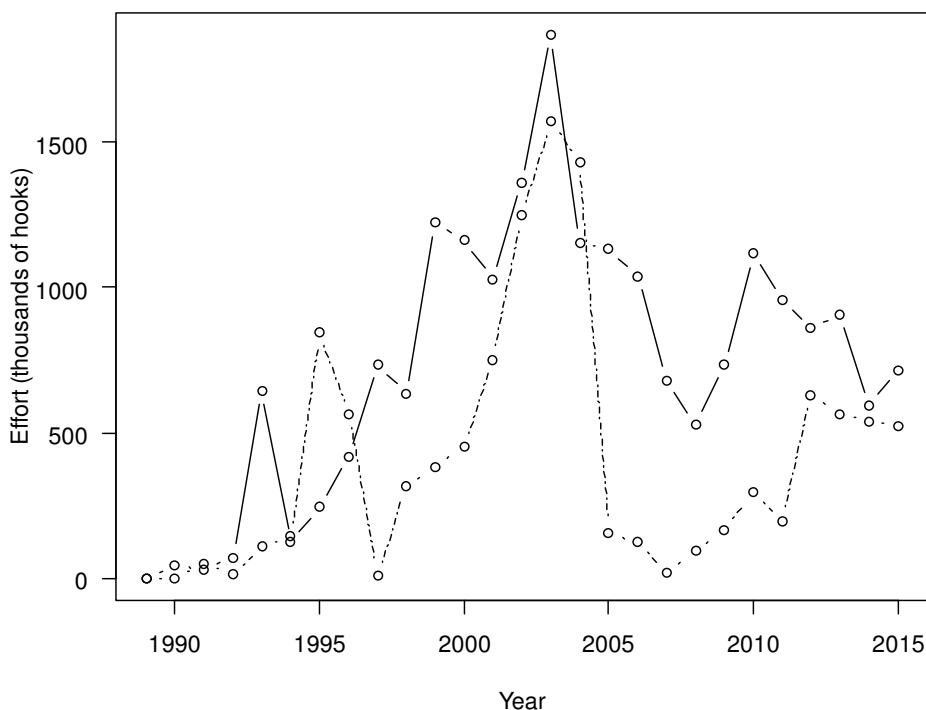


Figure 3: Target effort (hooks from sets that either targeted or caught SBT – thousands of hooks) by the domestic fleet for Region 5 (solid line – east coast North Island) and Region 6 (dashed line – west coast South Island).



3 Nominal CPUE

Nominal CPUE was calculated by fleet, year, and CCSBT Region. For the domestic fleet, CPUE was calculated for effort from sets that either caught or targeted SBT (referred to as target effort). Due to the large changes in the structure of the domestic fleet and the nature of the “Olympic system” under which the New Zealand fishery operated prior to 2004, the trends in the CPUE for the domestic fishery may not provide reliable information on trends in vulnerable biomass, although the CPUE does exhibit similar trends to that of the charter fleet.

Nominal CPUE by fleet across all regions based on targeted longline effort is provided in Figure 4. Associated with the lack of new recruitment (Section 4), CPUE declined dramatically for both charter and domestic fleets in 2003 and stayed at these low levels (about one fish per 1000 hooks) for four to five years. The domestic fleet operating in Region 5 experienced an increase in 2007 and further increases up to 2015. A marked increase occurred in 2008 for the charter fleet and further increased to peak in 2010 at nearer 8 SBT per thousand hooks. For the charter fleet CPUE has varied around 7 fish per 1000 hooks in the last 3 years while the domestic fleet had a catch rate of almost 10 fish per 1000 hooks in 2015.

Nominal CPUE was also calculated for the charter fleet in Region 6 for fish thought to be of spawning age (SBT greater than 10 years of age). This was done based on both the proportional ageing of observer lengths and on the smaller dataset of SBT that were directly aged. The series are compared in Figure 5 and agree closely with each other. There is a slowly increasing trend to 2011; CPUE of SBT >10 years has varied around one SBT per 1000 hooks with an historical low point in 2003 and the highest level for the series in 2008.

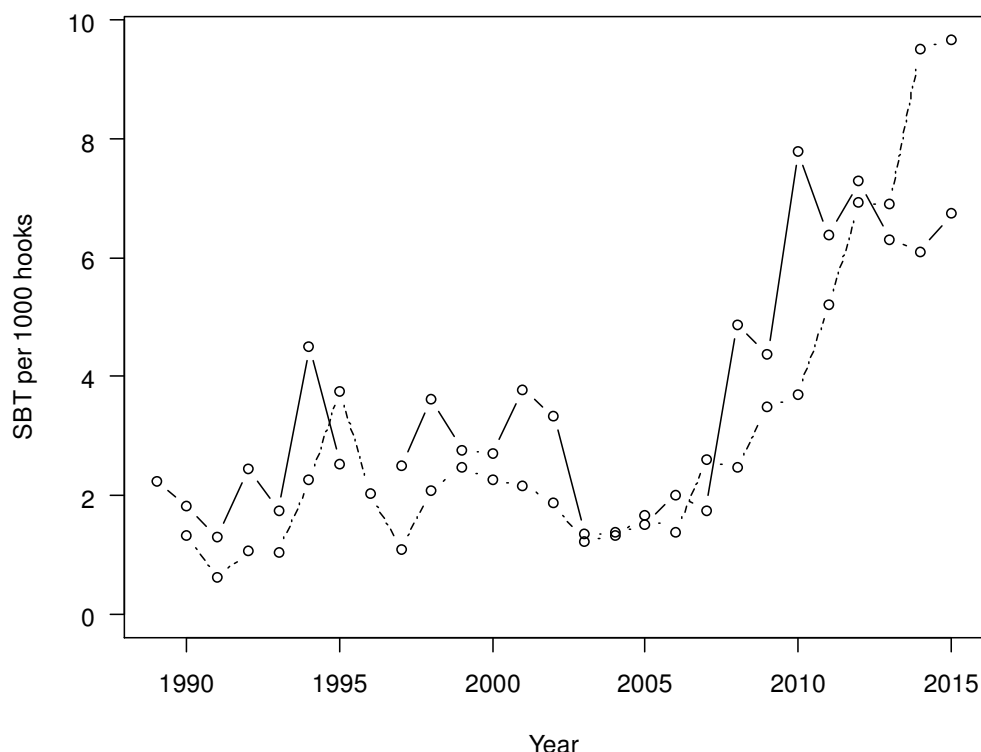


Figure 4: Catch per unit effort (number of SBT per thousand hooks) by calendar year for the charter (solid line) and domestic (dashed line) longline fleets based only on effort from sets that either targeted or caught southern bluefin tuna.

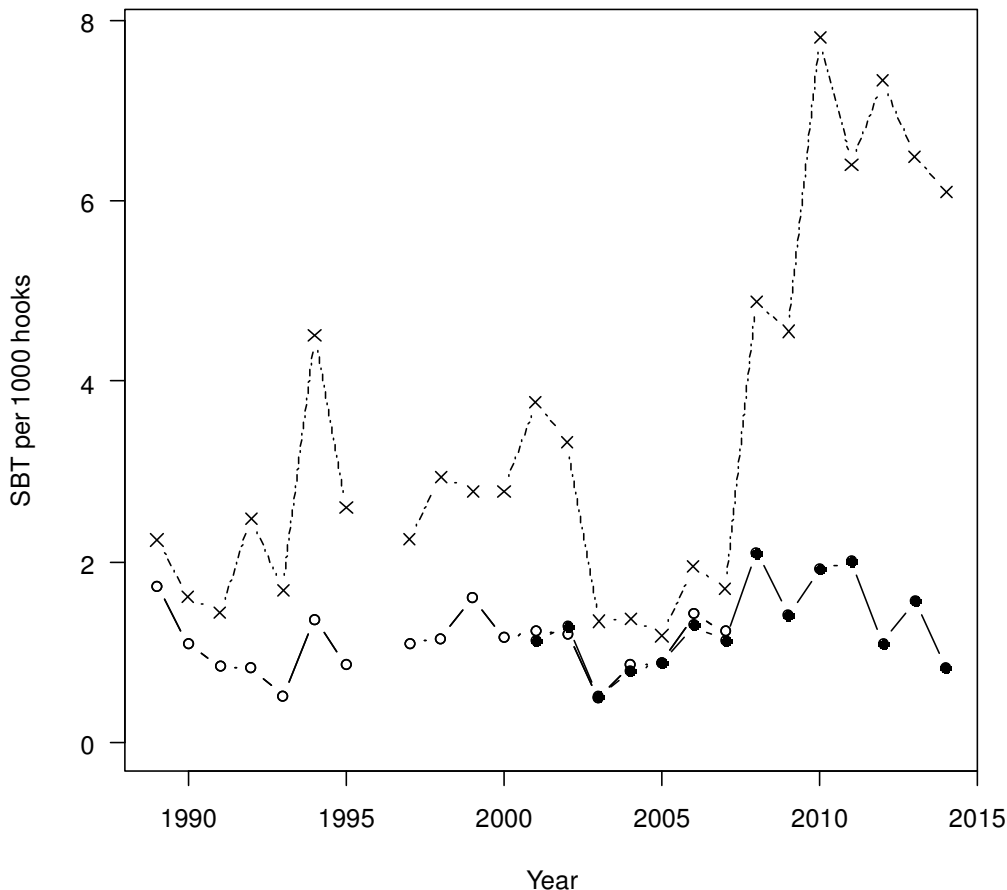


Figure 5: Catch per unit effort (number of SBT per thousand hooks) from the charter fleet in Region 6 (west coast South Island) for all southern bluefin tuna (dashed line) and for fish greater than 10 years of age based on proportional ageing data (solid line, open symbols) and based on direct ageing data (solid line, solid symbols).

4 Size composition

Fish length data collected from 2001 to 2015 are shown in Figures 6 and 7.

4.1.1 Size composition data

There was a very clear reduction in the range of sizes of SBT taken in the New Zealand fishery between 2001 and 2006. There is evidence of growth (progression of modes) over this period, but little evidence of recruitment of smaller fish to the New Zealand fishery. However, more recent data show a change, with smaller recruits appearing from 2006 and dominating the catch (by number) since 2010 (Figure 6). This mode mainly represents fish from the 2004 to 2006 year classes.

Due to lower levels of observer coverage historically in the domestic fishery, size composition data are not as well estimated for that fleet. Nevertheless, size composition data for the domestic fleet (based on observer reports) are provided in Figure 7 and show similar patterns to that observed in the charter fleet. These distributions would now be better described by data from the Catch Documentation System, which provides a complete census of fish lengths for the fishery since 2011.



An examination of the proportion of the charter fleet catch under a given size since 1989 (Table 6; Figure 8) indicates that fish under 140 cm have varied from less than 10% from 2001-04 to over 60% in 2010. In 2013 this had dropped to less than 30% as a result of growth (progression of the main length mode). Overall, the proportions fluctuate in a manner consistent with periods of above and below average recruitment (e.g. two to three year cycles).

4.1.2 Direct ageing data

Proportions-at-age determined from direct ageing of fish caught by the charter fleet are available for the years 2001 to 2014 (Figure 9). Direct aging data for 2015 is expected to be available in November 2016.

It is noted that the direct ageing showed considerably fewer ‘plus group’ fish than were estimated from proportional ageing (see New Zealand’s country report 2010 for comparison). Direct ageing data have also been used to calculate the annual catch rates for SBT that are greater than 10 years of age (spawning age fish), as shown in Figure 5 above.

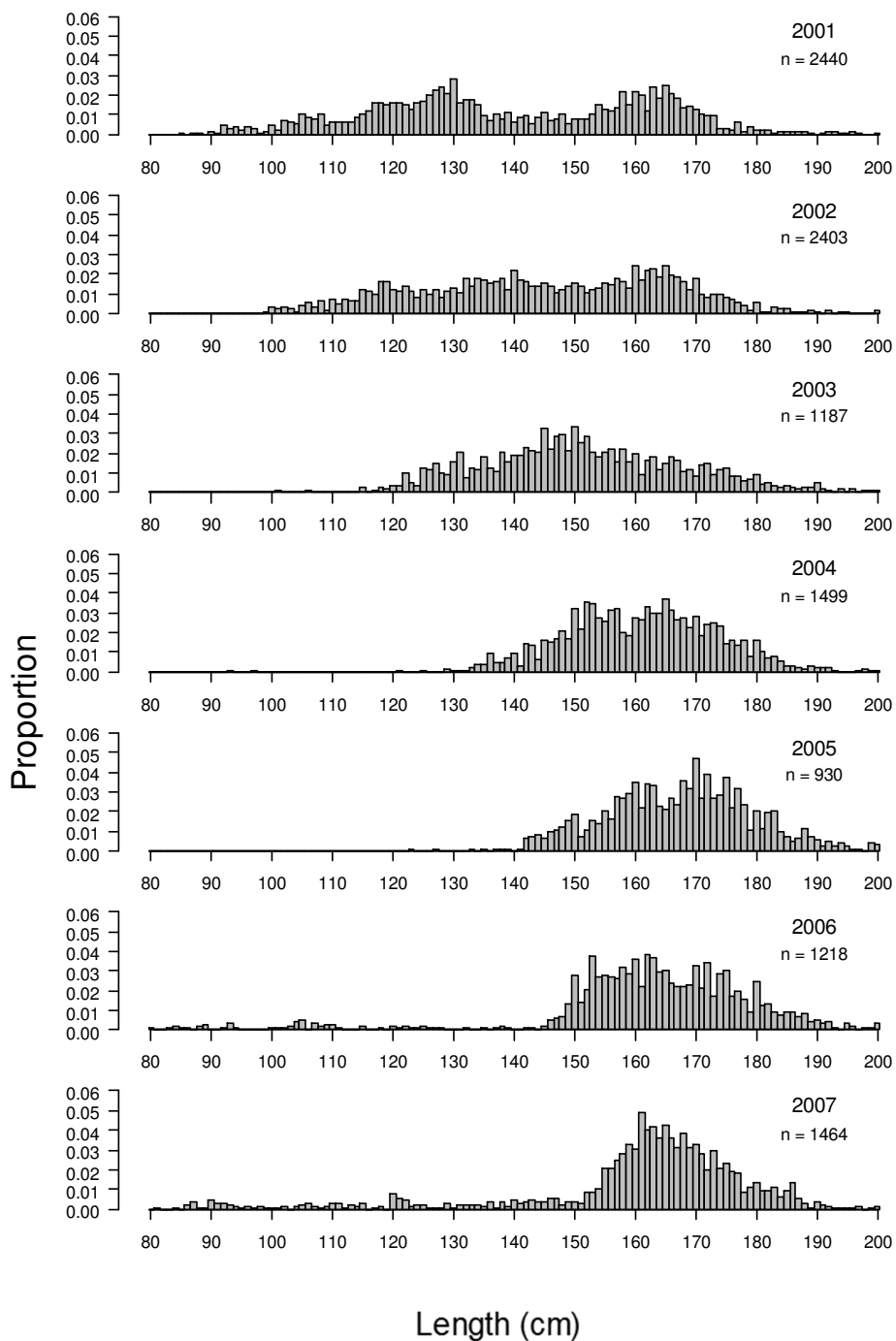


Figure 6: Proportion-at-length for the charter fleet for 2001 to 2015.

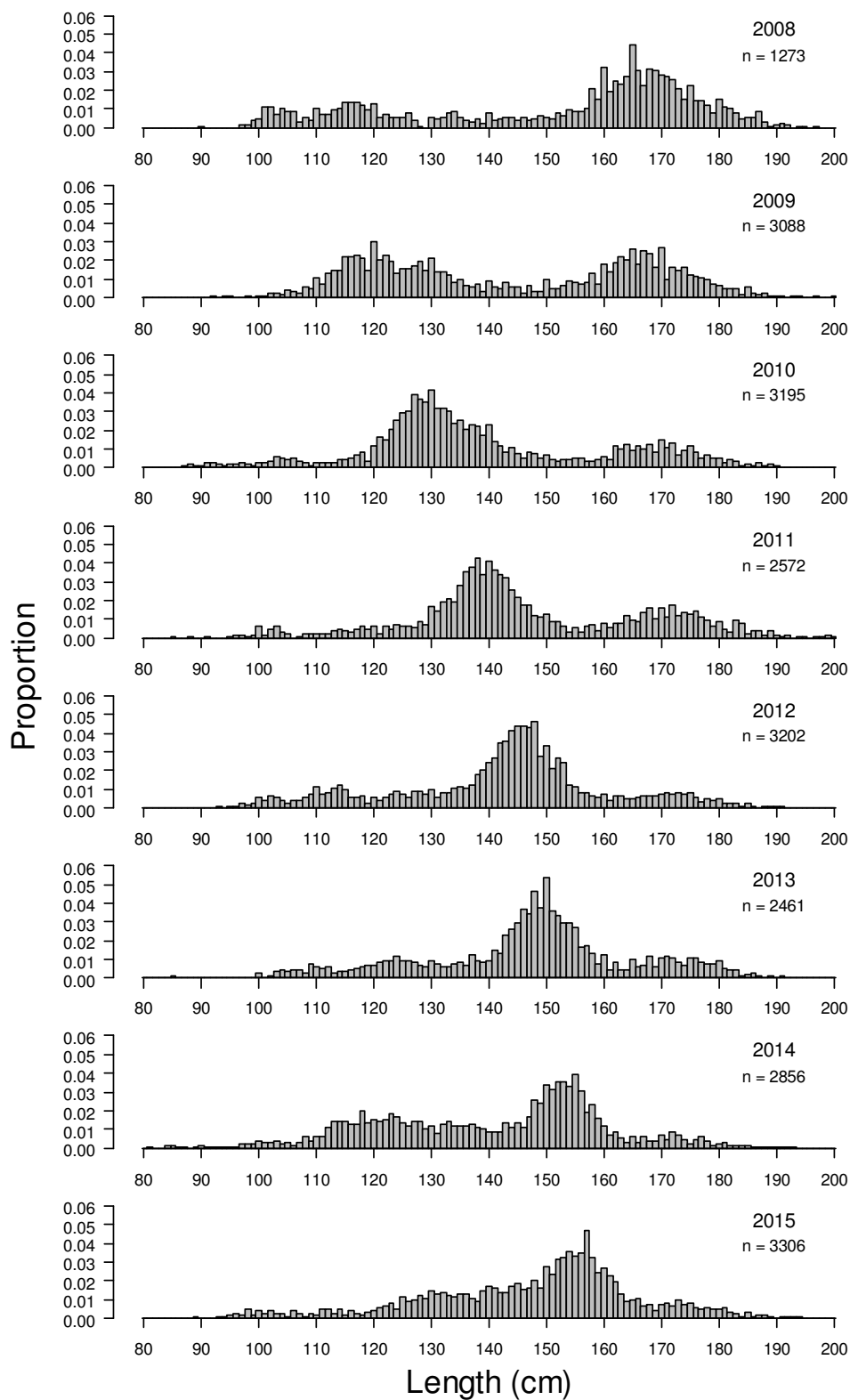


Figure 6(cont.): Proportion-at-length for the charter fleet for 2001 to 2015.

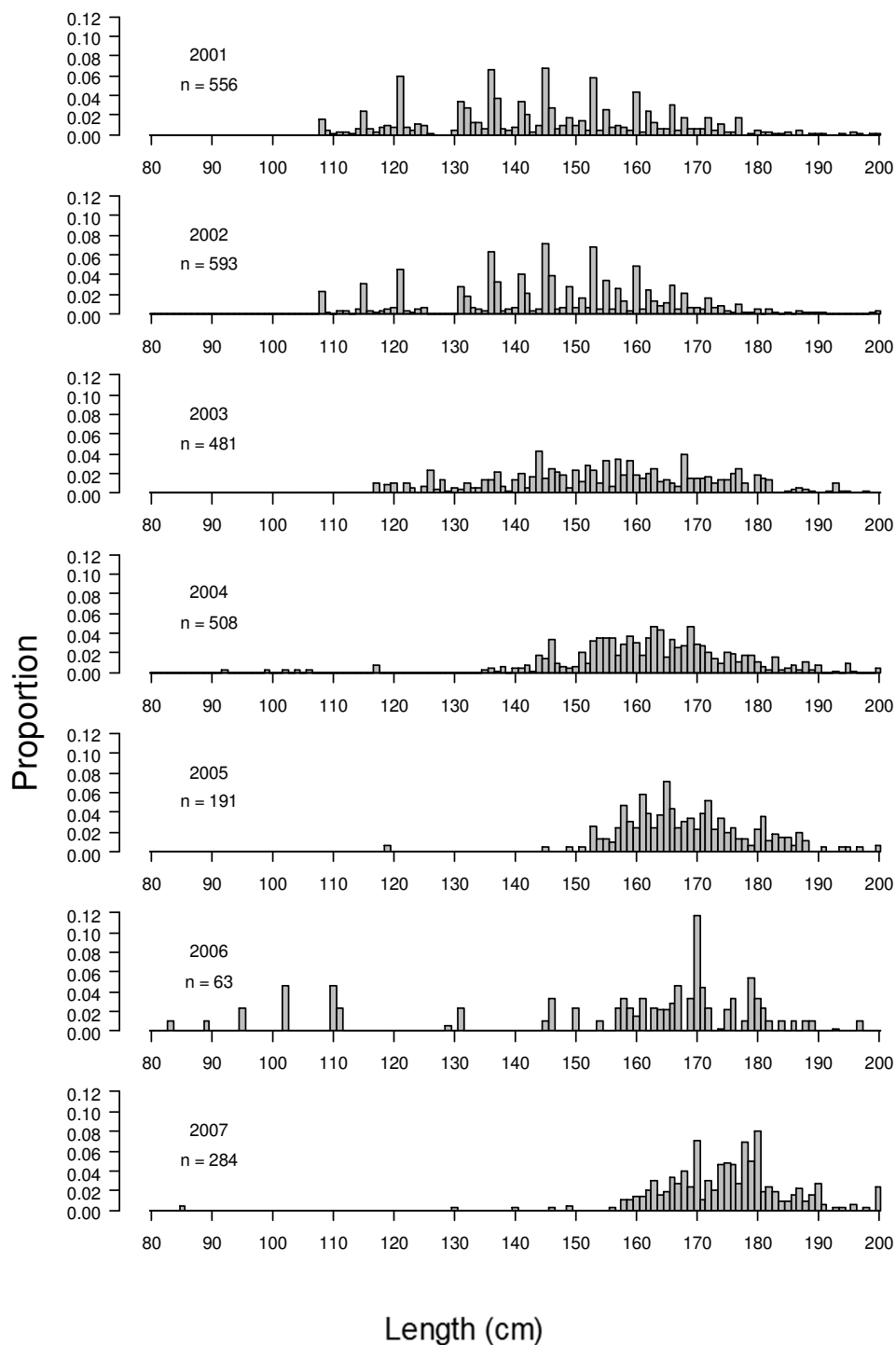


Figure 7: Proportion-at-length for the domestic fleet for 2001 to 2015.

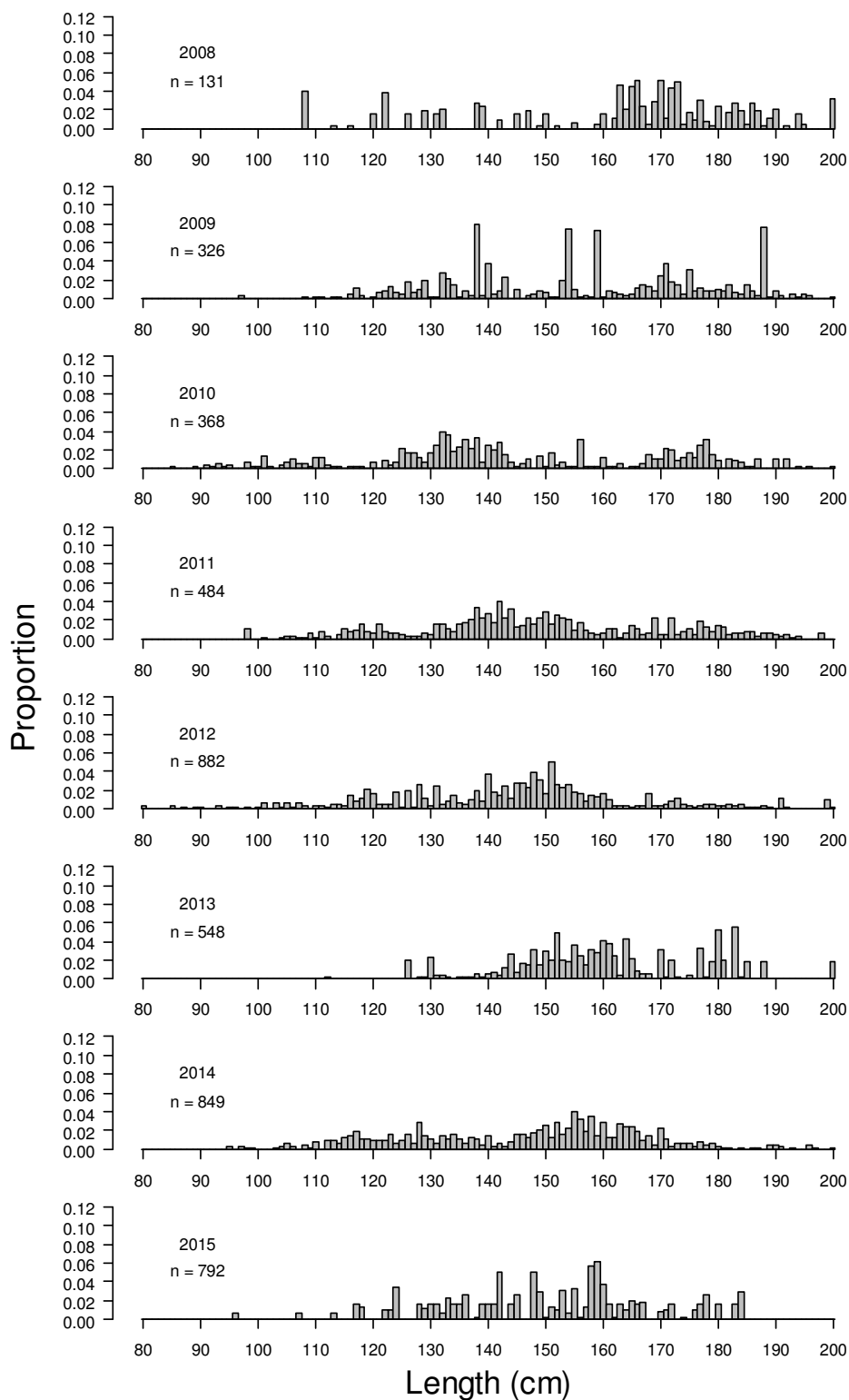


Figure 7 (cont.): Proportion-at-length for the domestic fleet for 2001 to 2015.

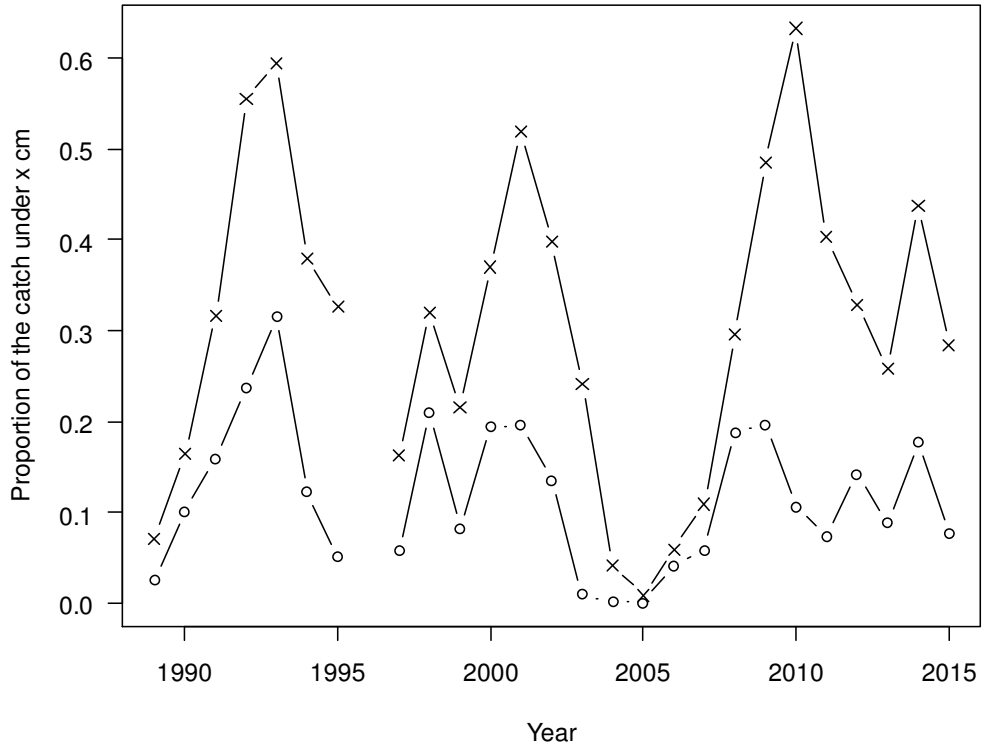


Figure 8: Proportion of the catch from the charter fleet under 120 cm (o) and 140 cm (x) for 1989 to 2015.

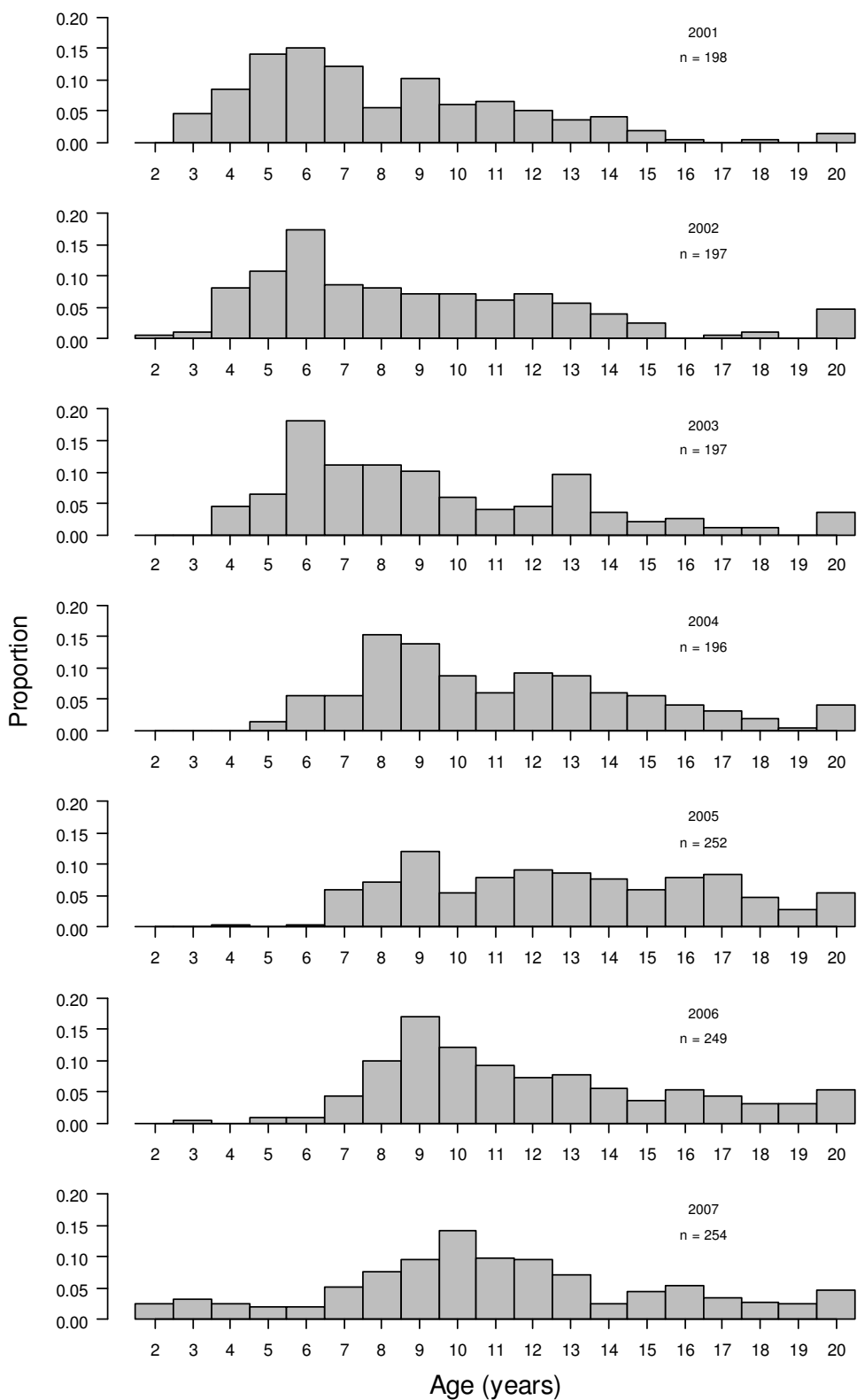


Figure 9: Proportion-at-age for the charter fleet for 2001 to 2014 based on direct ageing. Age 20 is a plus group.

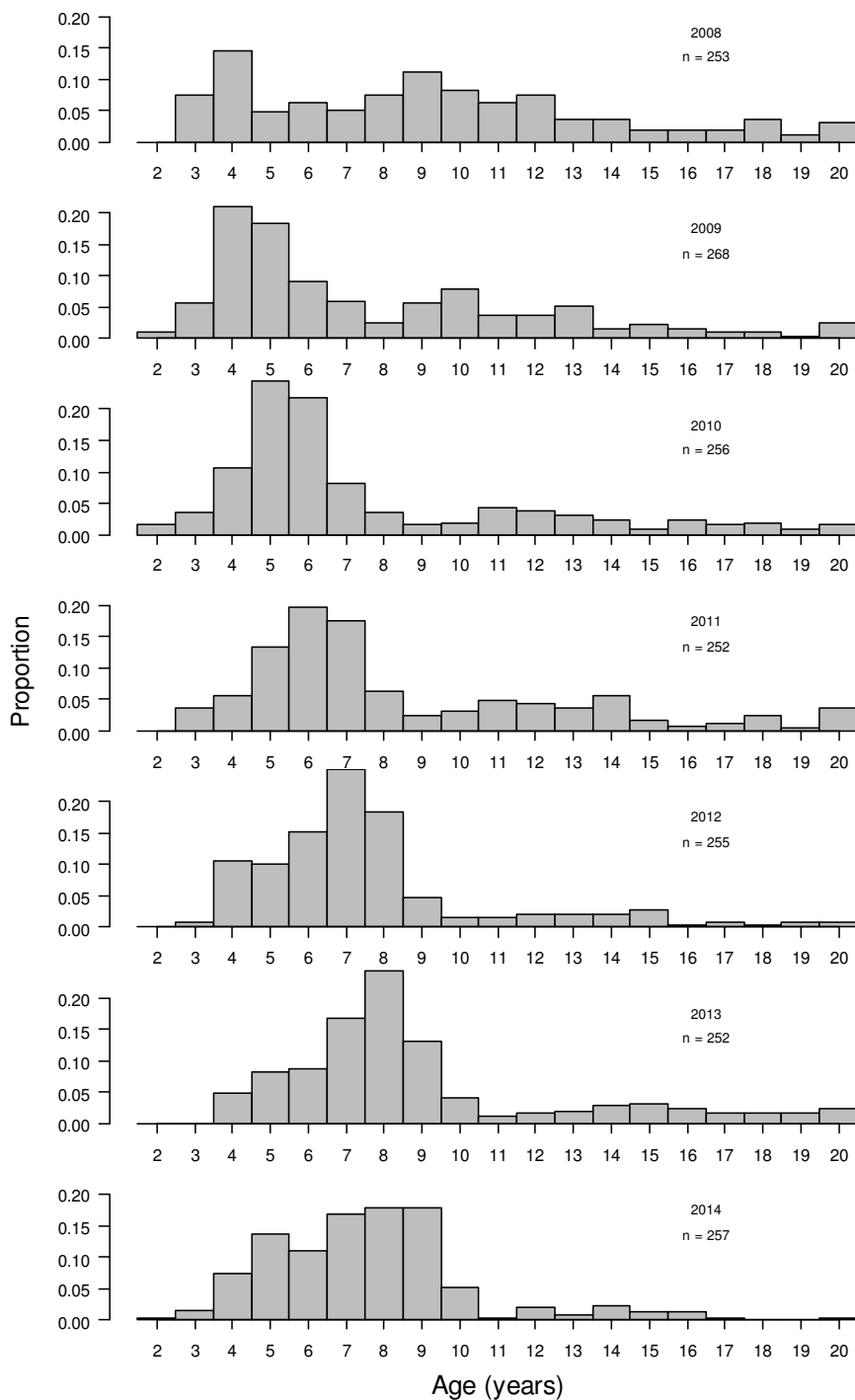


Figure 9 (Cont.): Proportion-at-age for the charter fleet for 2001 to 2014 based on direct ageing. Age 20 is a plus group.



5 Fleet size and distribution

The spatial distribution of fishing effort and SBT catches of the charter fleet are provided in Figures 10 and 11 respectively. Most of the charter catch and effort occurs off the WCSI. There has been little effort off the ECNI in most years since 2007 (none targeting SBT in the last 6 years).

The spatial distribution of target fishing effort and SBT catches, respectively, of the domestic fleet are provided in Figures 12 and 13. While most target effort occurs off the ECNI, domestic vessels have operated off the WCSI since 2008. The distribution of catches is similar to that of target effort.

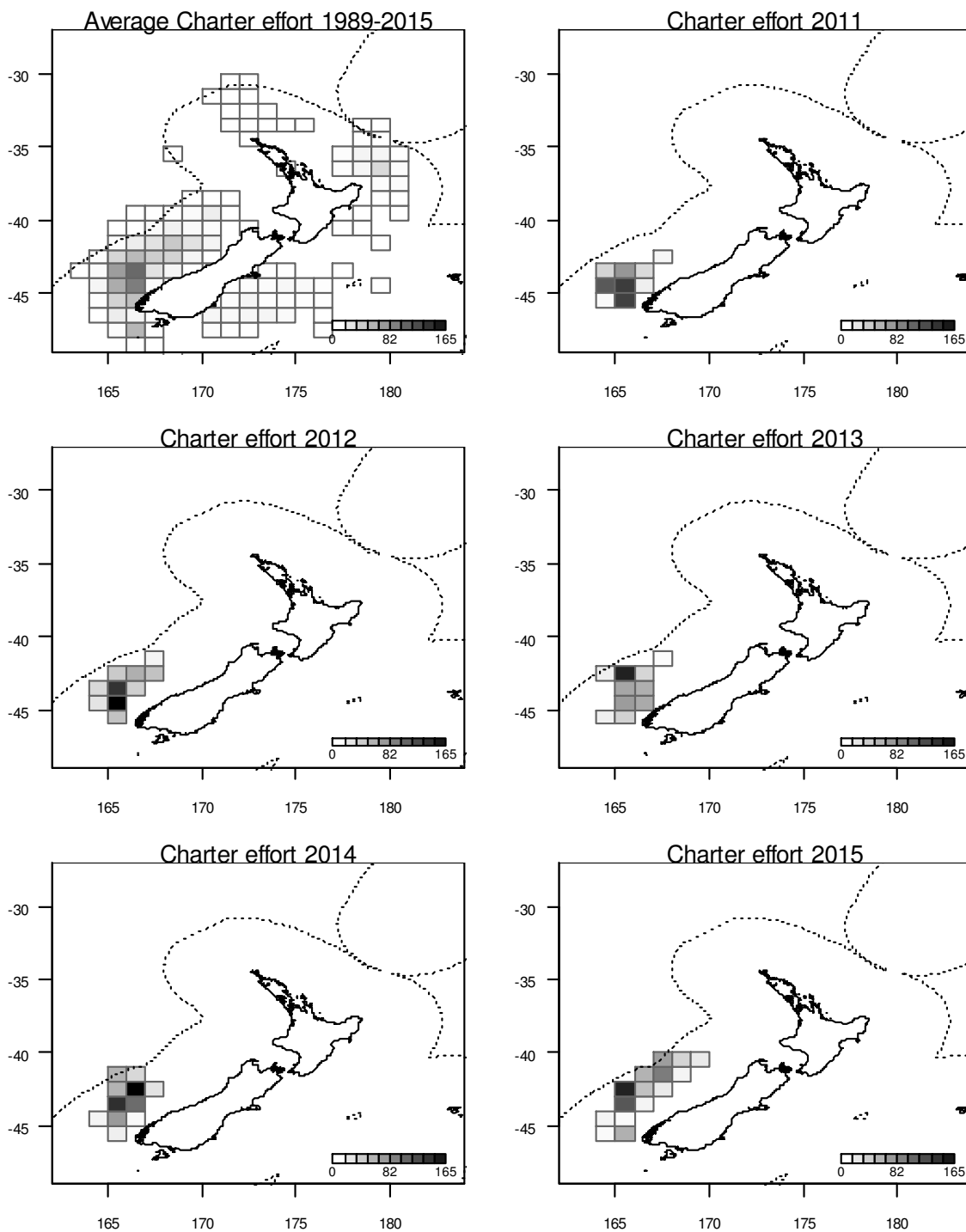


Figure 10: Distribution of longline effort (thousands of hooks per 1 degree square) for the charter fleet: average for the time series (1989-2015), and annually for 2011 to 2015.

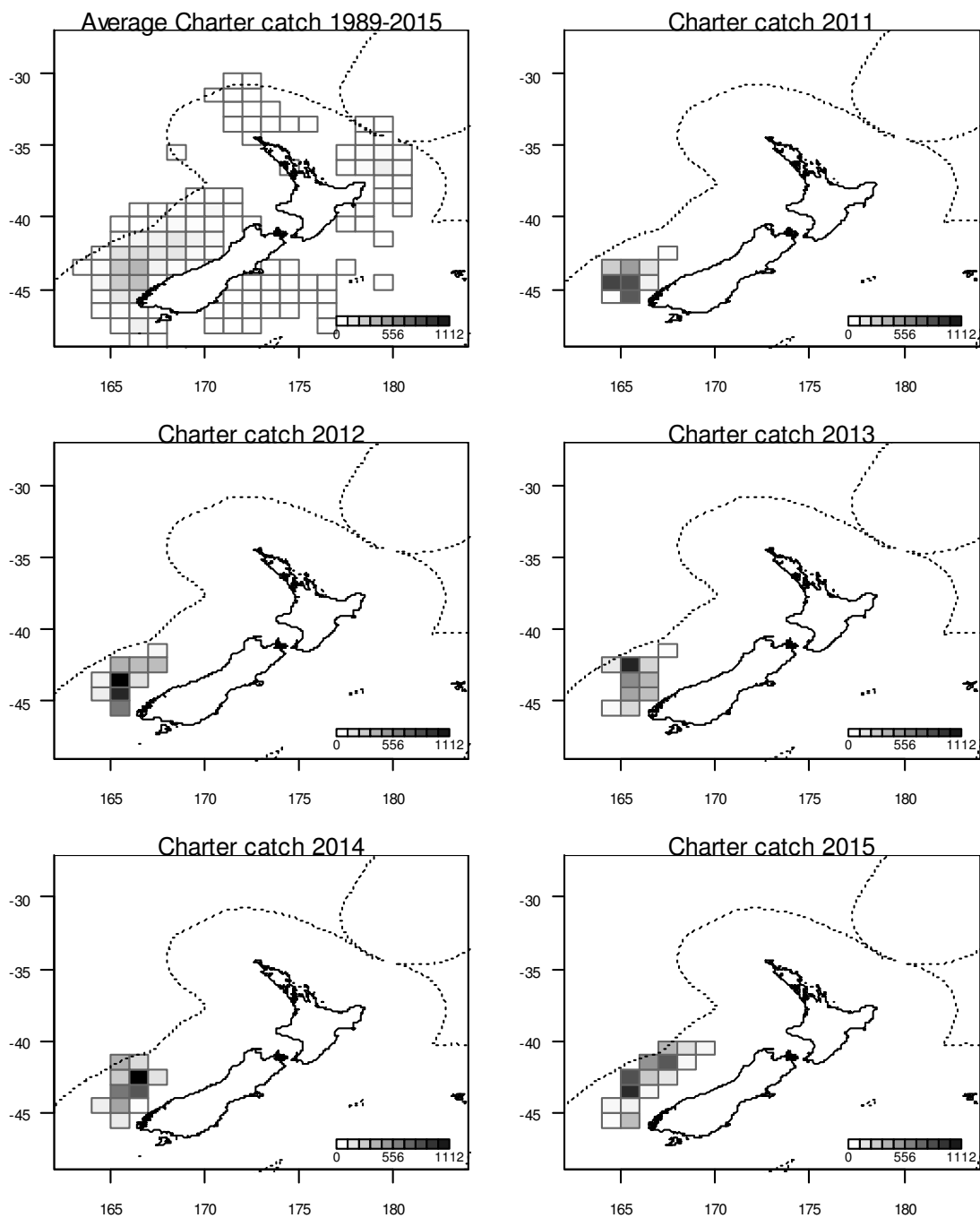


Figure 11: Distribution of longline catches (number of fish per 1 degree square) for the charter fleet: average for the time series (1989-2015), and annually for 2011 to 2015.

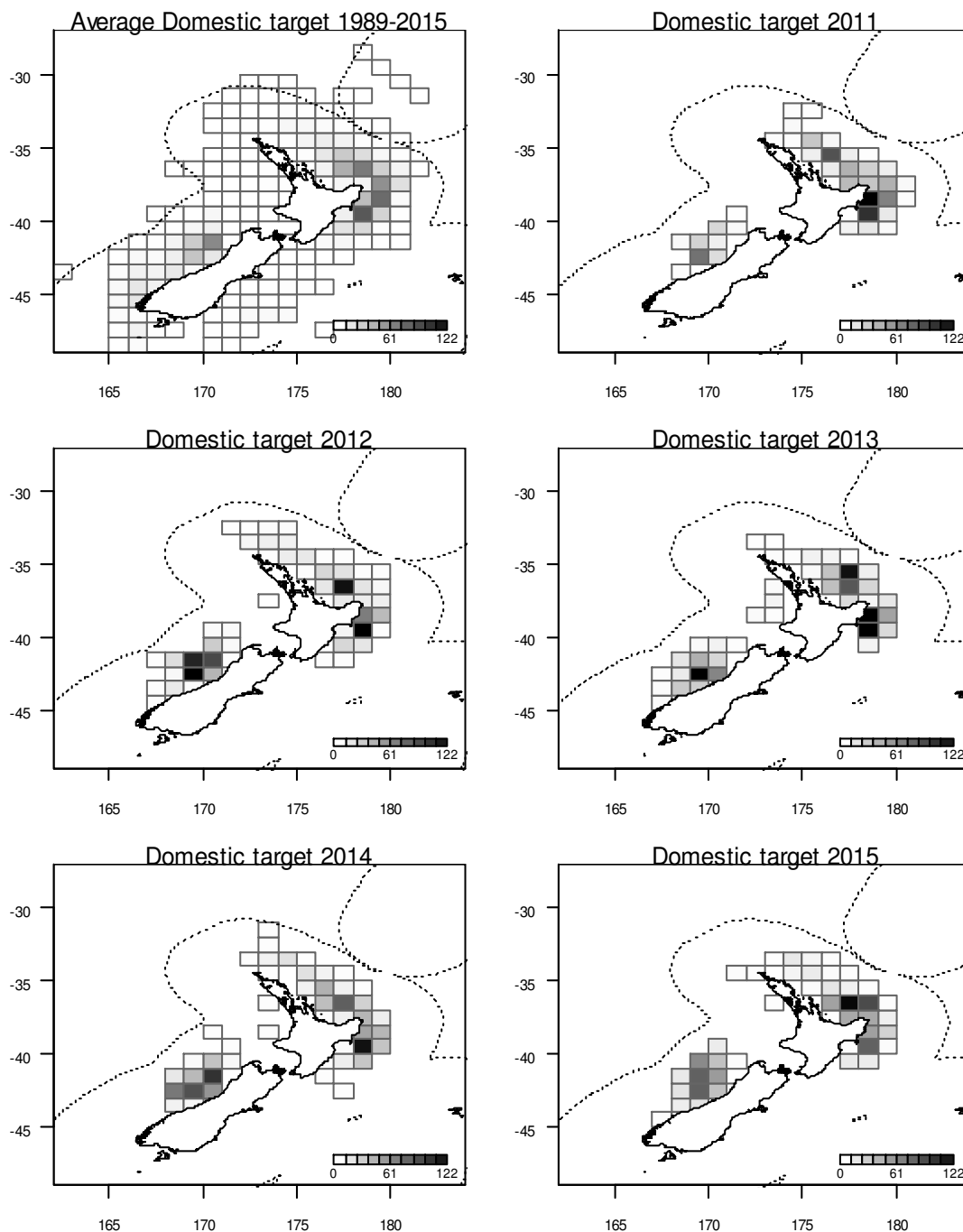


Figure 12: Distribution of longline effort (thousands of hooks per 1 degree square) for the domestic fleet that was targeted at southern bluefin tuna: average for the time series (1989-2015), and annually for 2011 to 2015.

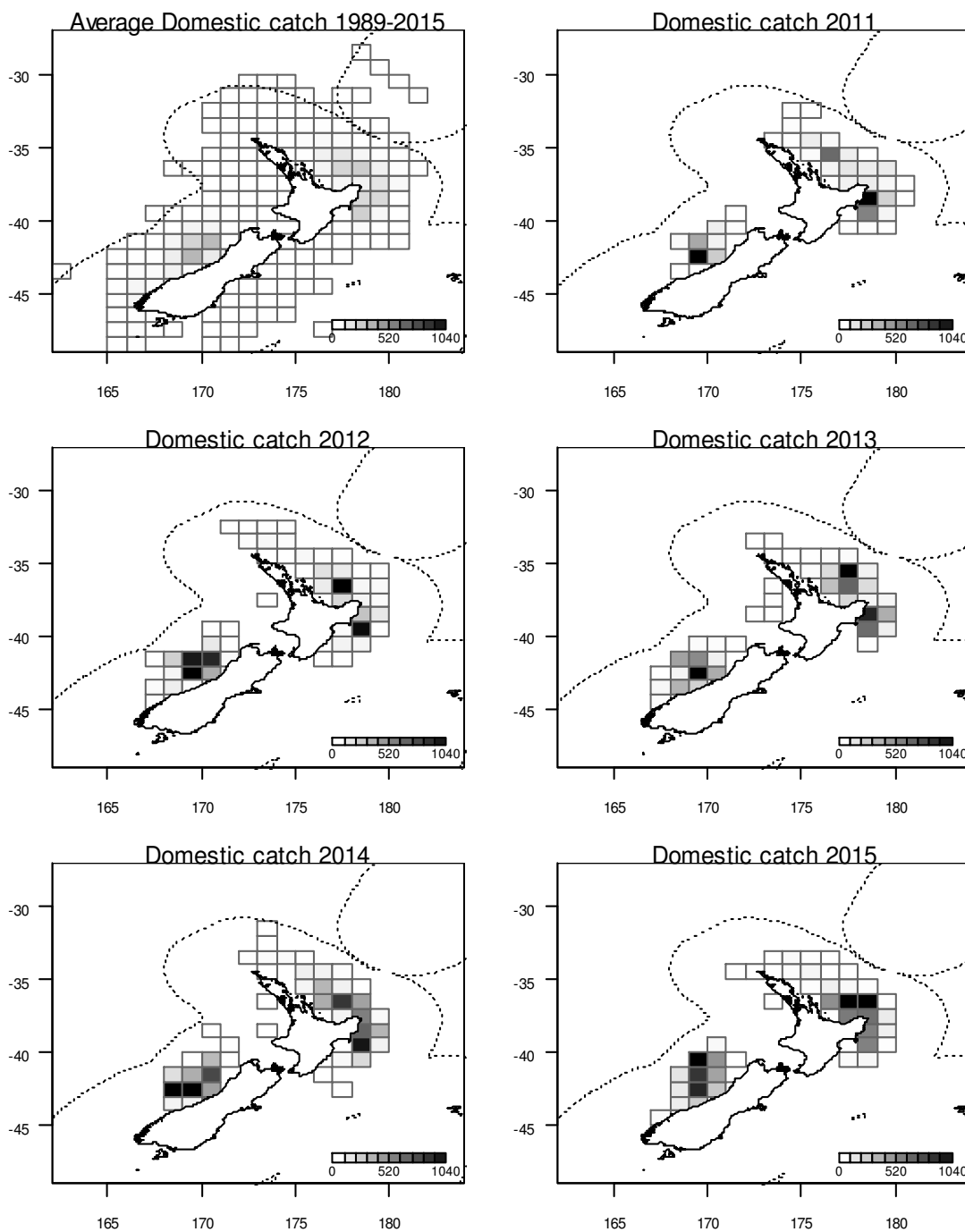


Figure 13: Distribution of longline catches (number of fish per 1 degree square) for the domestic fleet: average for the time series (1989-2015), and annually for 2011 to 2015.



6 Other relevant information

6.1.1 Observer programme

New Zealand's Observer Programme covers both domestic and charter longline vessels. In 2015, 25% of the total catch and 34% of the total effort was observed. All four charter vessels were covered by observers in 2015. The target coverage level for the domestic fleet is 10% of the effort to reflect 10% of the catch. Coverage is measured in two ways, proportion of catch (in numbers of fish) observed (Table 8) and proportion of hooks observed (Table 9).

Because only one observer is present on the vessel, and the observer takes breaks during the long hauling process on the charter vessels, it is not possible to observe all hooks on these vessels. The observer accurately reports the portions of the haul that are not observed. The proportion of the catch observed is generally higher than hooks observed, because some unobserved catches are recorded as they are available to the observer after their break. In the past, unobserved catches which were measured were noted.

Around 78% of the catch was observed (and measured) in the charter fleet in 2015 while 80% of the hooks were observed. For the domestic fleet, 7% of the catch and 10% of the hooks were observed in 2015.

All catch is now measured to comply with the requirements of the Catch Documentation System (CDS). The Observer data for the domestic vessels shows some differences from the CDS data indicating that the catch of smaller fish may have been under-observed.

Six dart tags were recaptured during observed trips. Of those, five came from Area 6, the other coming from Area 5. All six fish had a fork length within the range of 150-160 cm.

6.1.2 Otolith collection

Observers onboard the charter vessels collect otoliths from as many SBT caught as possible. Due to the smaller size of the domestic vessels and the different processing practices, it is often not feasible to collect otoliths from the domestic fleet.

A sub-sample of the otoliths from 2001 to 2014 has been aged and the information is described in this report. The number of otoliths collected and aged per year is shown in Table 10.

6.1.3 Estimation of non-retained catches

As required for the CCSBT data exchange, estimates of non-retained catches of SBT from the New Zealand charter and domestic fleets for the years 1989-2015 were provided to the Commission (Tables 11 and 12). The totals are based on observer estimates of discards and releases scaled to total effort.

There was no auxiliary information on the size structure of the discards, so it is assumed that they are representative of the retained catch. Discards have been separated into the categories alive and dead based on the annual proportions of alive/dead discards reported by observers. Dead discards can only occur when authorised by observers and are required to be reported against ACE. In 2015 a total of 12 dead SBT were authorised as discards. These SBT had either shark- or orca-inflicted damage. Scaled estimates for that year assume similar discard rates on unobserved vessels (noting that this would not be in compliance with QMS rules) and is counted within the TAC as an allowance for other sources of fishing related mortality.

Since 2004, fishers have also been required to report discards on their catch effort returns, providing another method to estimate non-retained catches. Also since 2004, specific provisions under the Fisheries Act have provided for the live releases of southern bluefin tuna



where they are considered likely to survive. Such releases are also recorded on catch effort returns.

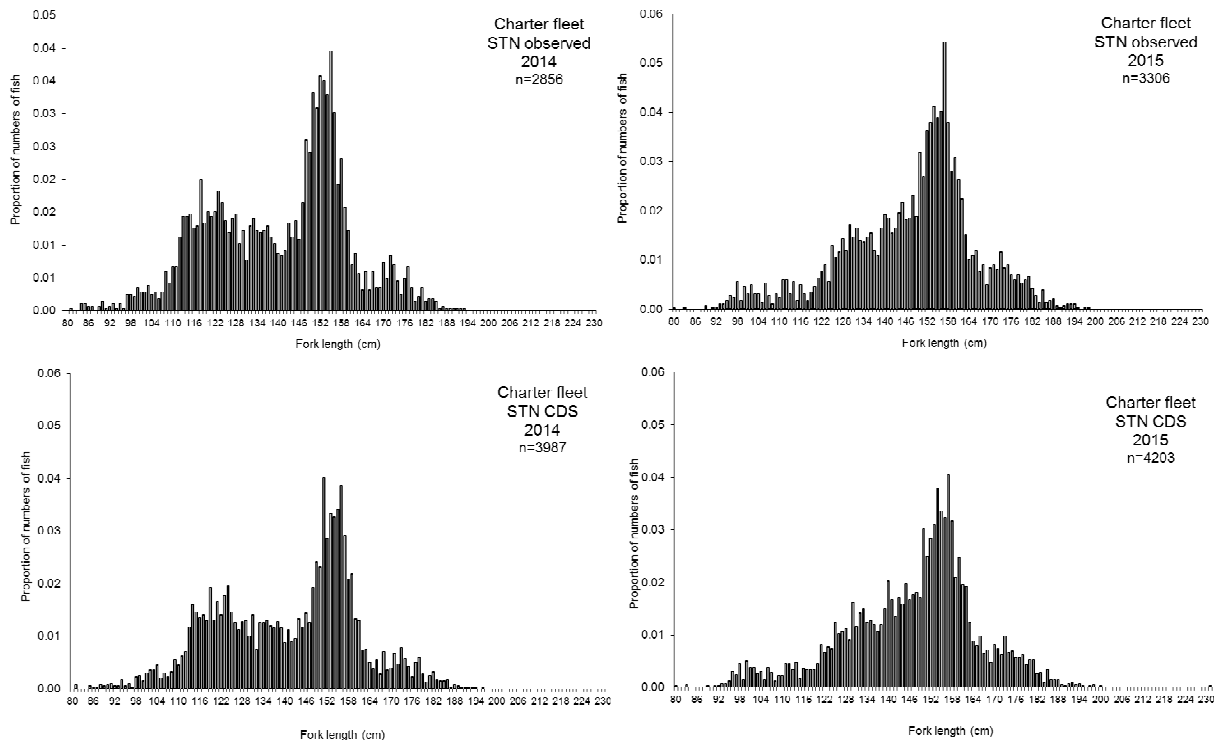


Figure 14: Proportion-at-length for the SBT catches from 2014, and 2015 for the charter fleet measured by observers, and reported on CDS forms.

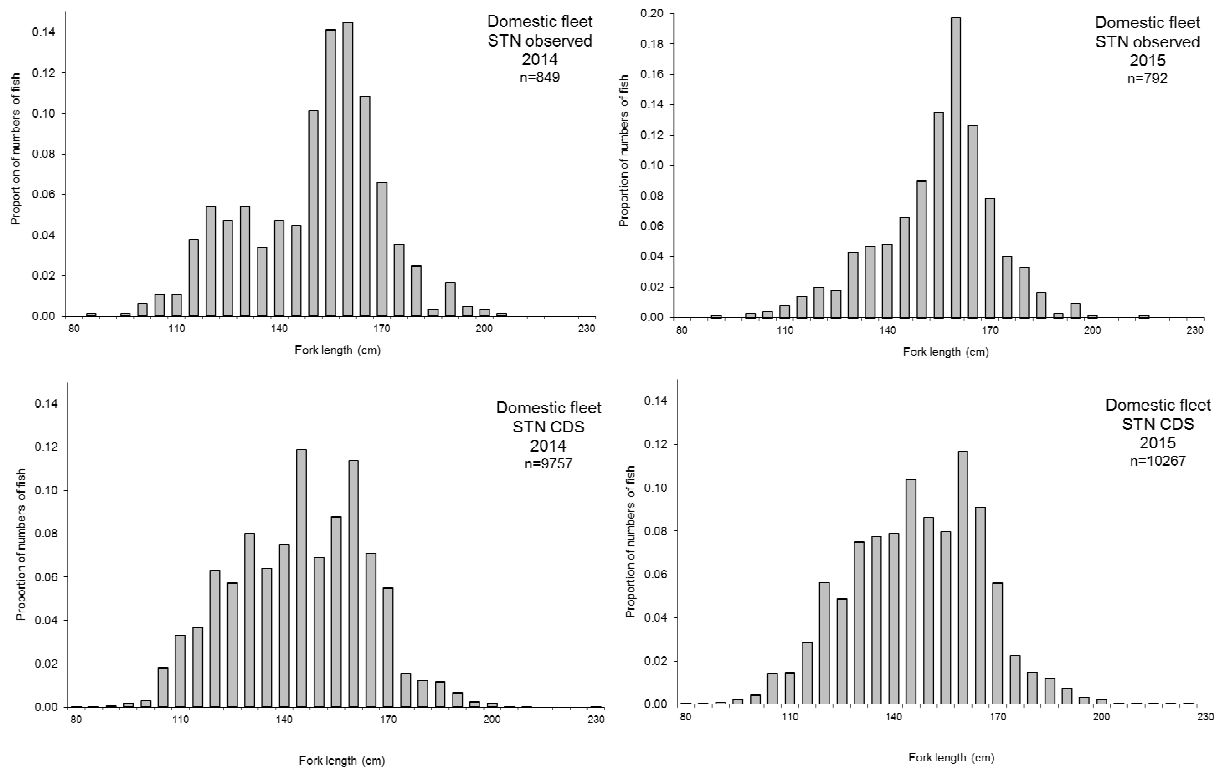


Figure 15: Proportion-at-length for SBT catches from 2014, and 2015 for the domestic fleet measured by observers, and reported on CDS forms.



6.1.4 Non-commercial catches

Prior to 2007, recreational catches of southern bluefin tuna are likely to have been rare because of the locations and seasons during which SBT are found in New Zealand waters (generally winter months and areas with little recreational fishing). However, there have been reports of bycatch of SBT in the recently developed sport fishery for Pacific bluefin off the west coast of the South Island since then. Generally, the SBT are only taken early in the season (July) with the catch being almost entirely Pacific bluefin by August – September when most effort occurs.

A programme was initiated in 2007 to estimate the number and weight of fish kept or released. In 2007, about four tonnes was reported as being caught and retained while a further two tonnes of SBT were caught and released. In 2008 and 2009, provisional data suggests lower southern bluefin landings (around 0.4t and 0.1t respectively). Only two fish were reported by recreational sportfishers in 2010, for an estimated catch weight of 250kg, and none in 2014. No data was available on releases. It is not known why reported recreational landings of southern bluefin have decreased since their apparent peak in 2007, but economic and social factors are likely to play a part.

Compulsory reporting for recreational charter vessel operators¹ was introduced in November 2010, and in 2012 a small number (4) of recreational charter vessel operators reported catching SBT in New Zealand fishery waters. These vessels reported a catch of 6 fish, of which 4 were landed (estimated total weight 131 kg) and 2 were released alive (165 kg). In 2013, twelve fish (550 kg) were caught and all were landed. In 2014, no SBT were reported caught. In 2015, ten fish were caught, for an estimated weight of 1050kg of which only five were retained.

7 Acknowledgements

MPI acknowledges Terese Kendrick and John Holdsworth for assistance with various parts of this report. Also, we thank Colin Millar for his assistance to New Zealand in the preparation of the data.

¹ A recreational charter vessel is a vessel that takes paying recreational fishing customers on fishing trips. The fish caught on the fishing trips are retained by the customers, and are not entitled to be sold or traded, so the catch is regarded as recreational catch.



Table 1: Catches of southern bluefin tuna in New Zealand fisheries waters (tonnes whole weight) by calendar year and New Zealand fishing year (1 October to 30 September).

Year	Calendar year catches	Fishing year catches
1980	130.0	130.0
1981	173.0	173.0
1982	305.0	305.0
1983	132.0	132.0
1984	93.0	93.0
1985	94.0	94.0
1986	82.0	82.0
1987	59.0	59.0
1988	94.0	94.0
1989	437.2	437.1
1990	529.2	529.3
1991	164.5	164.5
1992	279.2	279.2
1993	216.6	216.3
1994	277.0	277.2
1995	436.4	434.7
1996	139.3	140.4
1997	333.7	333.4
1998	337.1	333.0
1999	460.6	457.5
2000	380.3	381.7
2001	358.5	359.2
2002	450.3	453.6
2003	389.6	391.7
2004	393.3	394.0
2005	264.4	264.0
2006	238.2	238.2
2007	382.6	383.1
2008	319.0	318.8
2009	418.5	417.3
2010	500.8	500.0
2011	547.1	547.2
2012	775.5	775.4
2013	756.4	758.2
2014	825.6	825.8
2015	922.3	922.2



Table 2: Catch (t) for the charter fleet by year and CCSBT Region.

Calendar Year	Region 5	Region 6	Other*
1989		296.3	0.3
1990	66.7	174.9	
1991	23.0	102.6	
1992	4.8	214.5	0.5
1993	20.2	120.5	9.5
1994		234.1	
1995	1.6	228.7	0.2
1996			
1997	52.3	186.2	
1998	83.9	117.3	
1999	9.8	190.7	
2000	2.5	132.5	
2001		139.3	
2002		148.4	
2003		82.1	
2004		126.4	
2005	34.4	53.0	
2006	9.9	95.3	
2007	53.0	161.0	
2008		200.0	
2009	17.0	201.2	
2010		207.8	
2011		199.1	
2012		240.1	0.1
2013		183.9	
2014		223.9	
2015		256.8	

*Most often erroneous position data



Table 3: Effort (thousands of hooks) for the charter fleet by year and CCSBT Region.). Note that this includes some non-SBT target effort in Region 5.

Calendar Year	Region 5	Region 6	Other*
1989		1596	3.5
1990	259	1490.6	
1991	306	1056.5	
1992	47.6	1386.8	3
1993	174.1	1125.7	101.4
1994		799.1	
1995	27.1	1198.7	13.5
1996			
1997	135.2	1098.7	
1998	225	616	
1999	57.2	955.1	
2000	30.3	757.9	
2001		639.4	
2002		726.4	
2003	3	866.6	
2004		1113.5	
2005	137	498.9	
2006	39.4	562.5	
2007	271.6	1136.1	
2008		568.3	
2009	66.8	731.0	
2010		484.9	
2011		495.9	
2012		548.4	3.4
2013	13.2	450.8	
2014		655.8	
2015		625.9	

*Most often erroneous position data



Table 4: Catch (t) for the domestic fleet by year and CCSBT Region.

Calendar Year	Region 5	Region 6	Other*
1980			130.0
1981			173.0
1982			305.0
1983			132.0
1984			93.0
1985			94.0
1986			82.0
1987			59.0
1988			94.0
1989	0.1	140.5	
1990	6.9	278.7	2.0
1991	0.9	37.8	0.1
1992	6.2	53.2	
1993	49.4	16.3	0.8
1994	6.5	35.6	0.8
1995	15.0	184.9	6.1
1996	34.2	103.8	1.3
1997	57.9	36.2	1.1
1998	83.4	52.2	0.4
1999	194.7	64.8	0.6
2000	184.0	60.9	0.4
2001	113.1	105.7	0.4
2002	135.7	162.9	3.2
2003	216.7	89.7	0.1
2004	101.0	165.9	
2005	165.2	11.6	0.3
2006	122.8	10.2	
2007	162.5	2.1	
2008	80.5	38.1	
2009	133.5	66.7	0.2
2010	204.8	88.2	
2011	237.2	110.8	
2012	249.1	285.8	
2013	344.1	227.2	
2014	334.0	267.6	
2015	406.1	259.3	0.1

* Includes erroneous position data and data without positions.



Table 5: Effort (thousands of target[#] hooks) for the domestic fleet by year and CCSBT Region.

Calendar Year	Region 5	Region 6	Other*
1989			
1990	41.7		
1991	31.5	49.2	
1992	71.7	12.1	
1993	644.0	108.1	7.7
1994	122.6	143.3	5.8
1995	221.5	760.4	26.7
1996	417.9	564.3	11.5
1997	736.4	8.9	17.3
1998	633.6	314.5	1.2
1999	1221.4	382.9	5.5
2000	1164.0	454.4	8.5
2001	1027.6	751.5	1.9
2002	1358.6	1246.8	13.5
2003	1868.7	1569.1	4.3
2004	1154.1	1431.9	1.2
2005	1133.0	153.6	2.4
2006	1036.4	122.4	0.9
2007	681.2	19.0	
2008	527.8	94.0	
2009	733.9	165.4	1.3
2010	1116.7	294.3	
2011	955.7	197.8	
2012	858.9	629.3	
2013	905.3	565.0	1.2
2014	595.0	540.2	
2015	716.0	524.1	0.7

* Includes erroneous position data and data without position data

[#] Effort for sets that either targeted or caught southern bluefin tuna



Table 6: Proportion of the catch from the charter fleet under 110, 120, 130, and 140 cm for 1989 to 2015.

Year	< 110 cm	< 120 cm	< 130 cm	< 140 cm
1989	0.006	0.026	0.045	0.071
1990	0.041	0.101	0.131	0.164
1991	0.114	0.158	0.274	0.317
1992	0.052	0.237	0.392	0.556
1993	0.217	0.316	0.472	0.594
1994	0.028	0.122	0.229	0.380
1995	0.019	0.05	0.161	0.326
1996	NA	NA	NA	NA
1997	0.038	0.057	0.098	0.162
1998	0.094	0.209	0.247	0.321
1999	0.033	0.082	0.157	0.216
2000	0.067	0.194	0.279	0.370
2001	0.093	0.196	0.378	0.519
2002	0.037	0.135	0.245	0.398
2003	0.002	0.009	0.094	0.241
2004	0.001	0.001	0.004	0.042
2005	0.000	0.000	0.002	0.008
2006	0.035	0.041	0.051	0.059
2007	0.042	0.058	0.087	0.109
2008	0.080	0.181	0.230	0.289
2009	0.033	0.196	0.384	0.485
2010	0.062	0.106	0.366	0.633
2011	0.035	0.073	0.135	0.403
2012	0.062	0.142	0.212	0.328
2013	0.039	0.089	0.175	0.258
2014	0.050	0.177	0.321	0.438
2015	0.044	0.077	0.159	0.284



Table 7: Number of vessels catching southern bluefin tuna in New Zealand fisheries waters by Calendar year and New Zealand fishing year (1 October to 30 September).

Year	Calendar year vessel numbers	Fishing year vessel numbers
2001	132	132
2002	151	155
2003	132	132
2004	99	101
2005	57	58
2006	56	57
2007	44	45
2008	35	36
2009	40	39
2010	44	42
2011	42	42
2012	43	44
2013	39	39
2014	37	38
2015	34	33

Table 8: Observer coverage in terms of catch (proportion of numbers observed) for the charter (NZC) and domestic (NZD) fleets for 2014 and 2015.

Calendar year	NZC	NZD
2014	0.71	0.08
2015	0.78	0.07

Table 9: Observer coverage in terms of effort (proportion of hooks observed) for the charter (NZC) and domestic (NZD) fleets for 2014 and 2015.

Calendar year	NZC	NZD
2014	0.83	0.11
2015	0.80	0.10

Table 10: Number of otoliths collected and aged by observers from the charter fleet catch for the years 2000 – 2015. (*Number of aged otoliths not yet available for 2015.)

Year	Otoliths	Number aged
2000	149	0
2001	777	198
2002	1199	197
2003	838	197
2004	1141	196
2005	417	252
2006	443	249
2007	714	254
2008	745	253
2009	1066	268
2010	875	258
2011	604	270
2012	1252	255
2013	1019	252
2014	1241	257
2015	1231	*



Table 11: Actual number of releases and discards observed and the estimated total number of discards (separated by life status² - alive and dead) based on observer coverage and the life status of the observed discards for the charter fleet. Note that numbers are rounded to the nearest whole fish.

Year	Observed Numbers	Scaled estimate		
		Alive (released)	Dead	Total
1989	0	0	0	0
1990	0	0	0	0
1991	0	0	0	0
1992	0	0	0	0
1993	22	55	13	68
1994	36	40	13	53
1995	5	4	9	13
1996		0	0	
1997	23	0	38	38
1998	20	0	20	20
1999	33	18	15	33
2000	3	0	4	4
2001	6	3	4	6
2002	5	2	3	5
2003	2	0	2	2
2004	2	0	2	2
2005	0	0	0	0
2006	4	2	2	5
2007	3	4	2	5
2008	0	0	0	0
2009	5	6	0	6
2010	12	12	3	15
2011	10	14	0	14
2012	36	43	0	43
2013	68	82	5	87
2014	65	78	0	78
2015	16	20	0	20

² The Resolution on Reporting all Sources of Mortality of Southern Bluefin Tuna requires that members report the fate of discards. New Zealand does not currently use the moribund category when reporting fate of captures. Moribund fish are included within the “dead” category reflecting the domestic requirement that only discarded fish which are “likely to survive” can be considered “alive”.



Table 12: Actual number of releases and discards observed and the estimated total number of discards (separated by life status - alive and dead) based on observer coverage and the life status of the observed discards for the Domestic fleet. Note that numbers are rounded to the nearest whole fish. *Dead discards can only occur when authorised by observers so the scaled estimates should be treated with caution, for example in 2015 a total of 12 dead SBT were discarded. These SBT had either shark or orca-inflicted damage.

Year	Observed Numbers	Scaled estimate		
		Alive (released)	Dead	Total
1989	0			
1990	0			
1991	0			
1992	0	0	0	0
1993	0			
1994	0	0	0	0
1995	4	10	20	30
1996	5	25	6	31
1997	1	0	4	4
1998	0	0	0	0
1999	0	0	0	0
2000	0	0	0	0
2001	5	8	10	18
2002	4	24	30	53
2003	0	0	0	0
2004	1	0	7	7
2005	5	33	8	42
2006	1	16	0	16
2007	2	8	8	15
2008	2	13	0	13
2009	2	12	12	24
2010	26	282	25	307
2011	44	442	84	526
2012	66	745	65	810
2013	50	1180	0	1180
2014	67	697	276*	973
2015	77	910	214*	1124