

ミナミマグロ 1 歳魚の曳縄指数：  
グリッドタイプ曳縄指数の更新 2024 年

Trolling indices for age-1 southern bluefin tuna:  
update of the grid type trolling index in 2024

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## 要約

オーストラリア南西岸において実施したミナミマグロ 1 歳魚の科学加入量調査の曳縄漁獲データから、1996 年から現在までの 20 年以上に及ぶ加入量指数を求めた。本文書では、2024 年調査データを追加して計算した結果を示す。ピストンライン曳縄指数 (TRP) は、既定の調査定線 (ピストンライン) 上における探索距離 100km 当たりの漁獲をモデルベースの標準化はせずに求めた。グリッドタイプ曳縄指数 (TRG) は、より広範な海域のデータを使用してデルタログノーマルアプローチで一般化線形モデルで標準化して計算した。2024 年の TRG は 2023 年よりもわずかに減少し、27 年間の平均値の 61%であった。

## Summary

From the trolling catch data of the scientific recruitment monitoring surveys for the age-1 southern bluefin tuna (SBT) on the southwestern coast of Australia, the recruitment index for more than 20 years since 1996 to the present was calculated. This document shows updated indices by adding the 2024 survey data. The piston-line trolling index (TRP) was derived from catch per 100 km search distance on a pre-determined transect line (called piston-line) without model-based standardization. The grid-type trolling index (TRG) was calculated based on data from wider area and standardized by the generalized linier model with delta lognormal approach. TRG in 2024 was slightly lower than that in 2023 and 61% of the 27-year average.

## Introduction

Trolling survey for southern bluefin tuna (*Thunnus maccoyii* SBT) is a scientific research survey which aims to provide recruitment indices of the stock at age-1. The survey has been carried out in the southern coast of Western Australia since 2006, except 2015. It has provided an index named the piston-line trolling index (TRP) which have been reported to CCSBT since 2006 (Itoh and Kurota 2006, Itoh 2007, Itoh and Sakai 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, Itoh et al. 2011, 2012, 2013, Itoh and Tokuda 2014, Itoh and Tsuda 2016, Tsuda and Itoh 2017, 2018, 2019, Itoh and Tsuda 2020, Itoh 2021, 2022, 2023). TRP is derived from catch per 100 km search distance on a pre-determined transect line (called piston-line) without model-based standardization. In addition, another recruitment index, the grid-type trolling index (TRG) which used data from wider area and standardized by the generalized linier model (GLM) has developed and has been reported to CCSBT since 2014 (Itoh and Takahashi 2014).

In 2021, while the trolling survey was conducted, the survey area was limited to off Esperance only due to the influence of COVID-19, which resulted in no surveys on the piston-line. We presented the updated TRG and provided a variation of TRG (TRG\_esp) limited to the area off Esperance. In 2022, the trolling survey was carried out in full range scale including piston-line, though still under the influence of COVID-19 in some extent. Since 2023, the trolling survey has been able to be carried out in the same specification as before 2020. In this document, we provide updated TRP and TRG as of 2024.

## Materials and methods

### 1. Piston-line Trolling Index TRP

For TRP, data used were the trolling catch data on the piston-line in the acoustic survey in 2005 and 2006 and that in the trolling survey from 2006 to 2014, 2016 to 2020, and 2022 to 2024. Details of the survey were described in other papers that submitted every year (e.g. Itoh 2024). It contains data in a total of 236 times on the piston-line (Table 1). Data of another 12 times were not included because the line was incomplete due to mainly rough sea conditions. Datasets were separated between the acoustic survey and trolling survey because there were differences in the two surveys, such as survey design, a vessel used especially in size and specification of trolling gears. Trolling operations on the piston-line were repeated from 8 to 20 times per year.

The piston-line was set off Bremer Bay, in the middle of the whole area for the acoustic and trolling surveys (Fig. 1). The exact locations and length of the line have been changed a few times since its first determination in 2005. The offshore part of the piston line, which had caught a small number of fish over the past years, was cut and extended towards the coast in

which available to enter for the small vessels used in the trolling survey in 2007. The data in 2005 and 2006 where locate offshore than the 2007 end points were eliminated (no SBT were caught in the eliminated data). The locations of the piston-line have been almost the same since 2008 to the present. Figure 2 shows the piston-line in 2024. The vessel proceeded almost without deviation on the piston line for all of 12 times.

The summary of data is shown in Table 2. It reached a total of 626 hours in search time and 7,912 km in search distance. The number of age-1 SBT caught was 791 individuals.

TRP was calculated as a catch of age-1 SBT per 100 km search distance. There were five types of catch definition and TRPs were calculated for each of them.

(1) School of age-1 SBT. A catch of age-1 SBT that apart from 2 km in distance from last catch of age-1 SBT is defined as a different school. TRP from this definition is “TRI\_2km.”

(2) School of age-1 SBT. A catch of age-1 SBT that apart from 20 minutes in time from last catch of age-1 SBT is defined as a different school. TRP from this definition is “TRI\_20min.”

(3) School of age-1 SBT. A catch of age-1 SBT that apart from 30 minutes in time from last catch of age-1 SBT is defined as a different school. TRP from this definition is “TRI\_30min.”

(4) Number of times age-1 SBT caught. All the catches even it was likely to be from the same school were counted as different. TRP from this definition is “TRI\_Times.”

(5) Number of age-1 SBT individuals. TRP from this definition is “TRI\_ind.”

Confidence intervals of TRP were calculated from data sampled 1000 times by bootstrap method, and the results were shown by median, 5% and 95% points.

## 2. Grid-type Trolling Index TRG

For TRG, data used were the trolling catch in the acoustic survey between 1996 and 2003, 2005 and 2006, and in the trolling survey between 2006 and 2014, and between 2016 and 2024. While the surveys were carried out from December in some years, the year was referred to that include January in the survey (e.g. the survey extended from December 2008 to January 2009 was referred to be the 2009 survey) in this analysis.

Search distance of trolling, catch of age-1 SBT and CPUE (catch/100km searched) were aggregated by survey type (acoustic survey / trolling survey), year, month, day, hour, longitude (0.1 degree), latitude (0.1 degree) and four area types (described later). Data west of 117.5E were eliminated.

Time intervals of a recording of latitude and longitude during the surveys differed by year.

Up to the 2005 acoustic survey, latitude and longitude were only recorded when any events occurred, including hourly environmental observation, catch, detection of anything in sonar, the arrival of transect reflection point, CTD observation, etc. Then, locations at every one minute were calculated by interpolating two points of records available. Since the 2006 surveys, locations were recorded in a short interval such as 10 or 15 seconds by GPS logger devices and mean locations by one minute were used for analysis.

In the acoustic survey, it was planned that trolling was operated in the daytime from 6 AM to 6 PM. Actual times of start and end of trolling were not recorded. Some records of catch before 6 AM and after 6 PM were eliminated. In the trolling survey, all the times of start and end of trolling operations were recorded.

Catch was limited for age-1 SBT (estimated from fork length of 40-63 cmFL) in the analysis. Catch was defined as a fish school and schools were defined as that successive catches more than 30 minutes apart were from different schools. Other definition of a school (e.g. 20 minutes apart, 2 km apart) can be possible, however, it has already confirmed that it caused little difference in the previous analysis.

In the research area, SBT distribution was distinctly different by area type which categorized as follows (Fig. 1).

lump: Small seamounts or small islands. Its center position was measured on nautical charts.

shelledge: A range near 200 m isobath. The range was determined from observing SBT catch records that 3.0 km toward inshore and 0.5 km toward offshore.

onshelf: the northern area of the shelledge.

offshore: the southern area of the shelledge.

The area for each grid was classified as follows. When a part of the shelledge zone is included in the grid, it is classified as shelledge, the coastal side is classified as onshelf, and the offshore side is classified as offshore. After that, those whose center position of any lump is included in the grid are classified as lump. Furthermore, in the case of four lumps (Figure of eight Island, Investigator Island, etc.) where the lump is large or the center of the lump is near the edge of the grid, the adjacent grid that is likely to be affected by the lump is also classified as lump. In the 2021 analysis, the number of lumps to be referred to was increased (170), so the data classification was different from the previous data.

Delta log-normal GLM was applied for CPUE standardization because of a high percentage of zero catch observations (Lo et al. 1992, Li and Jiao 2013). The delta model handles zero catch data and positive catch data in two separate sub-models, i.e. one sub-model to estimate

the probability of catching SBT age-1 with an assumption of binomial distribution and logit link function (binomial sub-model), and the other to fit the positive catch data with an assumption of lognormal distribution (CPUE sub-model).

Binomial sub-model:

$$\log(p/(1-p)) \sim \text{year} + \text{month} + \text{hour} + \text{area} + \text{survey} + \text{offset}(\log(\text{distance})) + \text{error}$$

$$\text{error} \sim \text{binomial}$$

CPUE sub-model:

$$\log(\text{catch}) \sim \text{year} + \text{month} + \text{hour} + \text{area} + \text{survey} + \text{offset}(\log(\text{distance})) + \text{error}$$

$$\text{error} \sim \text{gaussian}$$

where  $p$  is the probability of positive catch, survey is either acoustic or trolling surveys, explanatory variables of year, month, hour, area and survey are treated as factors.

In this GLM standardization, the explanatory variables for the optimum model were selected based on the AIC using MuMIn package in R software v4.4.1 (R-core team 2012). The MuMIn package calculates the AIC for models of all combinations of the explanatory variables. The lowest AIC model containing the year explanatory variable was selected as the best model. Product of estimates from these two sub-models gives the final estimate of the TRG. Furthermore, the bootstrap method was applied to obtain a range of the estimate. 1000 datasets were made through stratified sampling by year.

Because the survey area in 2021 was limited to the offshore of Esperance due to the survey design temporarily revised in response to the situation of COVID-19, another TRG that limited to the off Esperance (TRG\_esp) was calculated. Eliminated data before 2012 when there is little data for this calculation, the area east of longitude 121.4E was used. There are two types of areas, onshelf and lump. As with TRG, we used a delta model consisting of a binomial sub-model and a CPUE sub-model. The model structure used was similar except for the survey.

Binomial sub-model for TRG\_esp:

$$\log(p/(1-p)) \sim \text{year} + \text{month} + \text{hour} + \text{area} + \text{offset}(\log(\text{distance})) + \text{error}$$

$$\text{error} \sim \text{binomial}$$

where  $p$  is the probability of positive catch.

CPUE sub-model for TRG\_esp:

$$\log(\text{catch}) \sim \text{year} + \text{month} + \text{hour} + \text{area} + \text{offset}(\log(\text{distance})) + \text{error}$$

error ~ gaussian

## Results

### 1. Piston-line Trolling Index: TRP

Summary of data on piston-line is shown in Table 2. Figure 3 and Table 3 show the five types of estimated TRP by different school/catch definition. Figure 4 shows the median of the five types of indices that adjusted to the mean of each. Small differences were observed among the five type indices except 2013 where there was a large difference between school indices (TRI\_20min, 30min and 2km) and catch indices (TRI\_times and ind.). The relative index of TRI\_30min was consistent with the index from the acoustic survey in 2006. The fluctuation in TRI\_30min overtime was smaller among the five types of indices. Therefore, the TRI\_30min index which was submitted to CCSBT data exchange is used as TRP. Twelve individual SBT of age-1 was caught in the 12 piston lines in 2024. The TRP in 2024 was higher than in 2023. Since 2006, TRPs have been on an overall downward trend.

### 2. Grid-type Trolling Index: TRG

Summary of data aggregated by grid is shown in Table 4. It consists of 11,363 records in total that reach about 61,379 km search distance and 1,220 age-1 schools. One record with anomalously high CPUE (>2000) with a short distance was removed for analysis. Quite a large part of data was zero catch (89.2%).

Distributions of effort, catch and CPUE in 2024 are shown in Fig. 5. Those in previous years are available in previous document (e.g. Itoh 2023). It covers the area from Esperance to Albany through Bremer Bay as usual years. Probability of catch is different by the area type distinctively, the largest in lump (17%), followed by onshelf and shelfedge, and lowest in offshore (2.7%) (Table 5). In the positive catch, there is small difference in CPUE by area type.

Nominal CPUE is shown in Fig. 6. Note that a substantial part of the effort was made up offshore where few SBT caught from 1996 to 2005 in which to be expected to underestimate compared to the latter half period. In 2024, the nominal CPUE slightly decreased from 2023 and within the range in the past seven years.

The selected GLM models for TRG based on the AIC were as follows (Table 6):

Binomial sub-model:

$$\log(p/(1-p)) \sim \text{year} + \text{month} + \text{area} + \text{offset}(\log(\text{distance})) + \text{error}$$

CPUE sub-model:

$$\log(\text{catch}) \sim \text{year} + \text{area} + \text{survey} + \text{offset}(\log(\text{distance})) + \text{error}$$

Relationships between the probability of catch and various variables and between CPUE and various variables in terms of least square mean are shown in Fig.7 and Fig. 8, respectively. The estimated values of each variable are shown in Table 7 and Table 8. QQ plot of CPUE sub-model is shown in Fig. 9, which shows good fit in the lower and middle part though lack of fits in high values. LS-means of year trend in each sub-model are shown in Table 9 and Table 10. Indices of both sub-models and point estimation of TRG are shown in Table 11 and Fig. 10.

Table 12 and Figure 11 show TRG with confidence interval calculated through 1000 times bootstrap. TRG showed considerable low levels in 2000-2002, then increase in 2005-2008 and relatively high level in 2006-2016 with fluctuation from year to year. TRG values in recent eight years (2017-2024) have returned to relatively low levels, similar to those in 2000-2002. TRG value for 2024 is slightly smaller than that in 2023, while the median is 61 % of the mean over 27 years.

### 3. Comparison among indices

We compared among TRG, TRP and TRG\_esp. Trolling index from grid data limited to off Esperance (TRG\_esp) was calculated between 2013 and 2024 (Fig. 12). From the full models, following models were selected by AIC.

Binomial sub-model:

$$\log(p/(1-p)) \sim \text{year} + \text{offset}(\log(\text{distance})) + \text{error}$$

CPUE sub-model:

$$\log(\text{catch}) \sim \text{year} + \text{offset}(\log(\text{distance})) + \text{error}$$

The TRG\_esp in 2024 was the second lowest among TRG\_esp in 11 years. Figure 13 shows comparison between TRG and TRG\_esp. Two indices are significantly correlated (Pearson's correlation coefficient,  $r=0.713$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) and general trends are similar to each other, while the increase in 2023 was distinct in TRG\_esp. It is suggested that the index derived from the survey area, reduced temporarily in 2021 only off Esperance, represents that from all survey areas.

Figure 14 shows comparison between TRG and TRP. Two indices are significantly correlated to each other (Pearson's correlation coefficient,  $r=0.931$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ).

## Discussion

The present paper provided updated Piston line trolling index (TRP) and Grid-type trolling

index (TRG) of age-1 SBT recruitment indices. Both trolling indices are based on catch that is the number of schools. When we encountered SBT school in the survey, the numbers of fish individuals caught and catch times could have increased if we handled the trolling line well and/or the vessel moved well to catch up or attract the fish school. The numbers of fish individuals caught and catch times were decreased when a suspended fishing operation such as several trolling lines was tangled at one catch and we needed several minutes to solve the tangling. The numbers of fish individuals or catch time can be depends on such crew skills of trolling. The number of schools was selected as a catch to avoid the influence of crew skill. However, the definition of catch as a school for index means to set an assumption that the probability distribution of the size of school (the number of individuals per school) is the same every year.

TRG is a comprehensive index that includes not only on the piston-line but also all the area surveyed. TRG enabled to extend the years to as long as 27 years, by adding the trolling data in the acoustic survey from 1996 to 2003. The acoustic survey and the trolling survey were not originally designed to obtain TRG. However, because the acoustic survey was well designed to cruise randomly in the research area for sonar detection, the trolling catch operated simultaneously in the daytime is expected to be a random sampling in the area. While the survey area was concentrated on the piston-line in 2006 and 2007, the trolling survey was also operated in the larger area since 2008 intending development of TRG. When trolling was operated on a lump, we tried to operate trolling also in the area out of the lump so that collect data to evaluate the SBT distribution difference in area types.

In GLM standardization, the delta method which frequently used for data with a high percentage of zero observation was used. Area type was highly significant in the binomial sub-model. It is well known the effect of sea bottom topography, such as lumps, on SBT distribution (Hobday and Campbell 2009). It should fully consider the effect of lumps and islands on SBT distribution for survey design. On the other hand, as Tsuda and Itoh (2017) showed, weather conditions have a negligible effect on the standardization of TRG.

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Table 1. Number of times piston-line surveyed

Year	Total	Used for index	Incomplete and not used for index
Acoustic Survey			
2005	21	20	1
2006	22	18	4
Trolling Survey			
2006	16	12	4
2007	14	14	
2008	10	10	
2009	11	10	1
2010	11	11	
2011	12	12	
2012	14	14	
2013	13	13	
2014	14	14	
2016	14	14	
2017	10	10	
2018	9	9	
2019	8	8	
2020	10	10	
2022	15	13	2
2023	12	12	
2024	12	12	
Total	248	236	12



Table 3. Piston-line Trolling Index value

index	Survey	Year	Minimum	5%	Median	95%	Maximum	
sch20min	Acoustic	2005	0.496	1.322	2.314	3.471	4.297	
		2006	3.369	4.493	5.429	6.364	7.113	
	Trolling	2006	2.279	3.373	4.867	6.854	8.597	
		2007	2.826	4.244	6.149	8.186	10.487	
	Trolling	2008	3.161	3.979	4.929	5.920	6.672	
	Trolling	2009	1.134	2.310	3.837	5.519	7.904	
	Trolling	2010	1.045	1.843	2.884	3.953	4.931	
	Trolling	2011	1.699	4.598	6.333	8.346	9.972	
	Trolling	2012	0.414	0.811	1.622	2.440	3.275	
	Trolling	2013	2.580	3.478	4.346	5.180	5.641	
	Trolling	2014	1.226	2.247	3.257	4.294	5.271	
		2015						
	Trolling	2016	1.450	2.845	4.349	5.796	6.984	
	Trolling	2017	0.000	0.836	1.702	2.826	3.470	
	Trolling	2018	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	
	Trolling	2019	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	
	Trolling	2020	0.000	0.849	1.723	2.850	4.059	
	Trolling	2021						
	Trolling	2022	0.000	0.239	0.896	1.547	2.067	
	Trolling	2023	0.000	0.000	0.240	0.719	1.199	
	Trolling	2024	0.000	0.236	0.932	1.849	3.267	
	sch30min	Acoustic	2005	0.331	1.157	1.983	2.975	3.801
			2006	3.182	3.931	4.680	5.429	5.990
		Trolling	2006	1.968	3.127	4.297	5.429	6.294
2007			1.524	2.796	4.461	6.660	9.465	
Trolling		2008	3.119	3.989	4.894	5.880	6.631	
Trolling		2009	1.141	2.280	3.582	5.079	6.788	
Trolling		2010	0.534	1.584	2.623	3.650	4.721	
Trolling		2011	1.957	3.416	5.085	6.791	9.192	
Trolling		2012	0.397	0.811	1.618	2.432	3.269	
Trolling		2013	2.379	2.841	3.697	4.562	5.027	
Trolling		2014	1.225	2.030	2.859	3.690	4.335	
		2015						
Trolling		2016	1.440	2.679	4.046	5.333	7.091	
Trolling		2017	0.279	0.839	1.711	2.848	4.017	
Trolling		2018	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	
Trolling		2019	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	
Trolling		2020	0.000	0.842	1.718	2.623	4.066	
Trolling		2021						
Trolling		2022	0.000	0.239	0.887	1.559	2.036	
Trolling		2023	0.000	0.000	0.240	0.719	1.439	
Trolling		2024	0.000	0.236	0.932	1.862	2.764	
sch2km		Acoustic	2005	0.331	1.322	2.644	3.967	5.289
			2006	5.054	6.364	8.236	10.670	13.478
		Trolling	2006	2.314	3.421	5.151	6.952	8.815
	2007		2.825	4.978	7.591	10.118	12.226	
	Trolling	2008	3.532	4.565	5.450	6.482	7.502	
	Trolling	2009	1.154	2.300	3.819	5.584	7.080	
	Trolling	2010	0.793	2.098	3.413	4.753	6.888	
	Trolling	2011	3.127	4.604	6.656	9.284	11.686	
	Trolling	2012	0.596	1.007	1.835	2.828	3.873	
	Trolling	2013	2.619	3.693	4.780	5.851	6.704	
	Trolling	2014	1.627	2.643	3.862	5.298	7.278	
		2015						
	Trolling	2016	1.640	3.130	4.561	5.832	6.821	
	Trolling	2017	0.000	0.849	1.709	2.819	4.036	
	Trolling	2018	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	
	Trolling	2019	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	
	Trolling	2020	0.000	0.586	1.723	2.620	3.763	
	Trolling	2021						
	Trolling	2022	0.000	0.239	0.899	1.562	2.243	
	Trolling	2023	0.000	0.000	0.240	0.719	1.199	
	Trolling	2024	0.000	0.236	0.949	2.320	3.909	
	hit.times	Acoustic	2005	0.331	1.653	3.306	5.124	7.107
			2006	7.488	9.921	14.414	19.468	25.083
		Trolling	2006	3.394	5.484	9.628	13.706	17.193
2007			2.939	6.440	9.719	13.388	15.746	
Trolling		2008	3.721	4.818	6.050	7.295	8.442	
Trolling		2009	1.451	2.882	4.903	7.331	11.517	
Trolling		2010	1.039	3.109	6.070	9.891	15.019	
Trolling		2011	2.903	5.700	9.007	13.378	16.874	
Trolling		2012	0.397	1.005	1.824	2.837	3.669	
Trolling		2013	4.116	6.261	9.959	15.029	18.748	
Trolling		2014	1.846	3.031	4.697	7.126	9.059	
		2015						
Trolling		2016	2.073	3.493	4.956	6.589	8.206	
Trolling		2017	0.270	0.836	1.709	2.835	3.460	
Trolling		2018	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	
Trolling		2019	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	
Trolling		2020	0.277	0.863	1.997	3.185	4.927	
Trolling		2021						
Trolling		2022	0.000	0.426	1.110	1.976	3.032	
Trolling		2023	0.000	0.000	0.240	0.719	1.199	
Trolling		2024	0.000	0.236	1.159	2.535	3.909	
number SBT		Acoustic	2005	0.661	3.140	6.446	10.578	15.371
			2006	12.355	18.157	26.394	35.753	52.039
		Trolling	2006	5.616	11.017	18.836	27.063	35.499
	2007		8.904	14.059	22.285	31.846	41.926	
	Trolling	2008	7.960	10.538	13.522	16.220	17.449	
	Trolling	2009	1.852	5.726	10.456	16.452	22.357	
	Trolling	2010	2.574	5.028	9.551	14.879	18.782	
	Trolling	2011	5.347	9.269	18.249	28.709	42.850	
	Trolling	2012	0.404	1.206	2.622	4.513	5.788	
	Trolling	2013	9.448	14.846	20.892	27.582	35.290	
	Trolling	2014	2.421	4.138	6.661	9.600	12.271	
		2015						
	Trolling	2016	3.515	6.612	10.276	14.342	18.443	
	Trolling	2017	0.000	2.471	5.353	8.595	11.456	
	Trolling	2018	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	
	Trolling	2019	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	
	Trolling	2020	0.277	2.003	5.521	9.489	13.765	
	Trolling	2021						
	Trolling	2022	0.000	0.922	2.892	5.180	7.660	
	Trolling	2023	0.000	0.000	0.240	0.719	1.439	
	Trolling	2024	0.000	0.687	2.575	5.194	8.026	

Table 4. Data summary for Grid-type Trolling Index (TRG)

Survey	Year	N_Record	Time_Min	Time_Max	Range			
					South	North	West	East
Acoustic	1996	385	21 Jan. 1996 06:00	13 Feb. 1996 17:00	-35.2	-34.4	118.2	121.7
	1997	459	26 Jan. 1997 09:00	26 Feb. 1997 12:00	-35.3	-34.0	117.5	121.8
	1998	469	19 Jan. 1998 06:00	24 Feb. 1998 17:00	-35.4	-34.4	117.7	121.7
	1999	596	21 Jan. 1999 06:00	14 Mar. 1999 17:00	-35.4	-34.0	118.0	121.8
	2000	626	19 Jan. 2000 06:00	14 Mar. 2000 14:00	-35.4	-34.0	117.5	122.5
	2001	686	22 Jan. 2001 06:00	14 Mar. 2001 16:00	-35.4	-33.9	117.5	121.9
	2002	578	22 Jan. 2002 06:00	14 Mar. 2002 15:00	-35.4	-33.9	117.5	121.9
	2003	463	25 Dec. 2002 08:00	28 Jan. 2003 15:00	-35.3	-33.9	117.9	121.9
	2005	806	14 Jan. 2005 06:00	04 Mar. 2005 16:00	-35.3	-33.9	117.5	121.9
	2006	756	12 Jan. 2006 06:00	18 Feb. 2006 13:00	-35.4	-34.0	117.5	121.9
Trolling	2006	180	22 Jan. 2006 08:00	31 Jan. 2006 15:00	-34.8	-34.1	119.3	121.3
	2007	181	21 Jan. 2007 10:00	29 Jan. 2007 07:00	-34.8	-34.1	119.3	121.3
	2008	294	20 Jan. 2008 09:00	01 Feb. 2008 08:00	-35.5	-34.1	117.6	121.3
	2009	317	03 Dec. 2008 10:00	29 Jan. 2009 07:00	-35.5	-34.1	117.5	121.3
	2010	334	19 Jan. 2010 08:00	04 Feb. 2010 17:00	-35.5	-34.1	117.7	123.4
	2011	334	25 Jan. 2011 08:00	11 Feb. 2011 10:00	-35.5	-34.1	117.8	121.8
	2012	332	24 Jan. 2012 08:00	10 Feb. 2012 11:00	-35.5	-34.0	117.9	121.9
	2013	354	19 Jan. 2013 06:00	04 Feb. 2013 12:00	-35.5	-33.9	117.9	122.1
	2014	360	25 Jan. 2014 08:00	11 Feb. 2014 10:00	-35.4	-34.0	117.6	123.2
	2016	344	26 Jan. 2016 08:00	12 Feb. 2016 12:00	-35.5	-34.0	117.7	122.3
	2017	321	27 Jan. 2017 06:00	13 Feb. 2017 11:00	-34.9	-33.9	118.8	122.4
	2018	382	31 Jan. 2018 06:00	17 Feb. 2018 13:00	-34.9	-33.9	118.8	122.3
	2019	325	31 Jan. 2019 07:00	18 Feb. 2019 12:00	-35.5	-34.0	117.7	122.5
	2020	299	30 Jan. 2020 07:00	15 Feb. 2020 10:00	-35.3	-34.0	117.8	122.2
	2021	173	03 Feb. 2021 06:00	20 Feb. 2021 14:00	-34.4	-33.9	121.5	122.2
	2022	293	31 Jan. 2022 06:00	26 Feb. 2022 15:00	-34.9	-33.9	119.3	122.2
	2023	332	31 Jan. 2023 07:00	14 Feb. 2023 10:00	-35.3	-33.9	117.8	122.2
	2024	384	30 Jan. 2024 07:00	16 Feb. 2024 10:00	-35.5	-33.9	117.8	122.2

Survey	Year	Distance searched (km)					SBT Catch
		Total	Offshore	Shelfedge	On Shore	Lump	
Acoustic	1996	2,765	1,498	1,192	75		21
	1997	3,134	1,589	1,019	438	88	38
	1998	3,214	1,657	1,184	324	49	34
	1999	3,961	2,080	1,317	493	71	56
	2000	4,049	1,906	1,375	685	82	17
	2001	4,388	1,809	1,125	954	501	20
	2002	3,783	1,699	1,055	815	214	9
	2003	2,865	854	1,220	649	143	29
	2005	5,054	1,418	1,624	1,348	665	62
	2006	3,884	1,380	1,584	817	103	84
Trolling	2006	911	237	380	252	42	27
	2007	903	192	401	300	9	33
	2008	1,149	213	426	350	161	44
	2009	1,402	245	516	382	258	41
	2010	1,499	262	470	304	464	56
	2011	1,392	261	473	334	325	58
	2012	1,394	214	405	465	311	38
	2013	1,516	226	401	471	419	50
	2014	1,597	176	437	542	442	50
	2016	1,508	258	365	436	448	68
	2017	1,471	131	194	465	681	27
	2018	1,734	319	279	587	549	26
	2019	1,445	155	167	354	769	16
	2020	1,342	212	265	395	470	34
2021	916			147	769	19	
2022	1,352	296	263	368	426	16	
2023	1,449	303	284	314	548	145	
2024	1,659	299	423	232	706	102	
Total		61,739	19,886	18,843	13,297	9,712	1,220

SBT Catch is the number of school with the definition of 30 minutes is necessary to be a different school from last catch.

Table 5. Summary data by area type

Area	N_records	Catch		CPUE		
		All	positive catch	% positive	Mean	SD
Lump	1,845		314	17.02%	25.2	42.7
Offshore	3,522		96	2.73%	28.0	32.0
OnShelf	2,727		292	10.71%	27.6	32.2
Shelfedge	3,269		326	9.97%	24.1	24.6
Total	11,363		1,028	9.0%		

Table 6. AIC and selected models for two sub-models in TRG

	model	AIC	Model
Binomial sub-model	full	6005.5	pn~year + month + hour + area + survey + offset(log(dist))
	AIC selected	5990.5	pn~year + month + area + offset(log(dist))
CPUE sub-model	full	2209.0	catch~year + month + hour + area + survey + offset(log(dist))
	AIC selected	2186.7	catch~year + area + survey + offset(log(dist))

Table 7. Estimated value by GLM for binomial sub-model of TRG

	Estimate	Std. Error	z value	Pr (>  z  )	Significance
(Intercept)	-3.48129	0.25765	-13.51169	1.33.E-41	***
fyear1997	0.30887	0.29334	1.05293	2.92.E-01	
fyear1998	0.28021	0.29469	0.95086	3.42.E-01	
fyear1999	0.81604	0.27767	2.93888	3.29.E-03	**
fyear2000	-0.71580	0.33996	-2.10551	3.52.E-02	*
fyear2001	-0.68525	0.33210	-2.06341	3.91.E-02	*
fyear2002	-1.28192	0.41327	-3.10191	1.92.E-03	**
fyear2003	-0.19210	0.32077	-0.59887	5.49.E-01	
fyear2005	0.03269	0.27119	0.12054	9.04.E-01	
fyear2006	0.89148	0.25641	3.47675	5.08.E-04	***
fyear2007	1.28698	0.31956	4.02740	5.64.E-05	***
fyear2008	1.15760	0.30016	3.85659	1.15.E-04	***
fyear2009	0.79598	0.30537	2.60660	9.14.E-03	**
fyear2010	0.98650	0.28880	3.41585	6.36.E-04	***
fyear2011	1.26262	0.28131	4.48841	7.18.E-06	***
fyear2012	0.70435	0.29722	2.36977	1.78.E-02	*
fyear2013	0.86425	0.28993	2.98093	2.87.E-03	**
fyear2014	0.81564	0.28582	2.85373	4.32.E-03	**
fyear2016	1.30816	0.27850	4.69720	2.64.E-06	***
fyear2017	-0.03986	0.32052	-0.12437	9.01.E-01	
fyear2018	-0.09392	0.32013	-0.29338	7.69.E-01	
fyear2019	-0.66341	0.36208	-1.83221	6.69.E-02	
fyear2020	0.55333	0.30625	1.80681	7.08.E-02	
fyear2021	-0.10132	0.35185	-0.28797	7.73.E-01	
fyear2022	-0.34325	0.36189	-0.94851	3.43.E-01	
fyear2023	0.26045	0.31657	0.82271	4.11.E-01	
fyear2024	-0.07696	0.31912	-0.24118	8.09.E-01	
fmonth2	-0.04782	0.08703	-0.54944	5.83.E-01	
fmonth3	-0.84950	0.25802	-3.29244	9.93.E-04	***
fmonth12	0.30090	0.32473	0.92659	3.54.E-01	
fareaOffshore	-2.03892	0.13721	-14.86020	5.98.E-50	***
fareaOnShore	-0.51914	0.09897	-5.24554	1.56.E-07	***
fareaShelfedge	-0.78492	0.10264	-7.64748	2.05.E-14	***

Significances are \*\*\* < 0.001, \*\* < 0.01 and \* < 0.05.



Table 8. Estimate values by GLM for CPUE sub-model of TRG

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr (> t )	Significance
(Intercept)	-0.14829	0.16770	-0.88425	3.77.E-01	
fyear1997	-0.60440	0.19678	-3.07150	2.19.E-03 **	
fyear1998	-0.72441	0.19635	-3.68931	2.37.E-04 ***	
fyear1999	-0.44261	0.18167	-2.43630	1.50.E-02 *	
fyear2000	-0.25244	0.23318	-1.08262	2.79.E-01	
fyear2001	-0.71012	0.22730	-3.12412	1.84.E-03 **	
fyear2002	-0.70838	0.28556	-2.48068	1.33.E-02 *	
fyear2003	-0.27980	0.20399	-1.37164	1.70.E-01	
fyear2005	-0.36751	0.18012	-2.04036	4.16.E-02 *	
fyear2006	-0.63245	0.17311	-3.65338	2.73.E-04 ***	
fyear2007	-1.00200	0.25446	-3.93779	8.81.E-05 ***	
fyear2008	-0.78069	0.24680	-3.16324	1.61.E-03 **	
fyear2009	-1.18922	0.24739	-4.80716	1.77.E-06 ***	
fyear2010	-1.00444	0.24291	-4.13506	3.85.E-05 ***	
fyear2011	-0.85732	0.24086	-3.55941	3.90.E-04 ***	
fyear2012	-1.12880	0.25120	-4.49363	7.84.E-06 ***	
fyear2013	-1.00535	0.24622	-4.08307	4.81.E-05 ***	
fyear2014	-1.19749	0.24527	-4.88227	1.22.E-06 ***	
fyear2016	-1.00544	0.23940	-4.19989	2.91.E-05 ***	
fyear2017	-1.26775	0.26520	-4.78027	2.02.E-06 ***	
fyear2018	-0.88977	0.26575	-3.34820	8.45.E-04 ***	
fyear2019	-0.97904	0.29192	-3.35379	8.28.E-04 ***	
fyear2020	-1.30981	0.25530	-5.13040	3.49.E-07 ***	
fyear2021	-1.44516	0.27943	-5.17182	2.81.E-07 ***	
fyear2022	-0.84820	0.28898	-2.93516	3.41.E-03 **	
fyear2023	-1.29515	0.26263	-4.93153	9.59.E-07 ***	
fyear2024	-1.02978	0.26373	-3.90473	1.01.E-04 ***	
fareaOffshore	0.05647	0.09327	0.60549	5.45.E-01	
fareaOnShore	0.03654	0.06229	0.58663	5.58.E-01	
fareaShelfedge	-0.11043	0.06844	-1.61365	1.07.E-01	
surveyTR	0.48672	0.15651	3.10991	1.93.E-03 **	

Significances are \*\*\* < 0.001, \*\* < 0.01 and \* < 0.05

Table 9. Year trends of binomial sub-model of TRG

Year	Mean	Mean-SE	Mean+SE
1996	0.1279	0.0948	0.1611
1997	0.1639	0.1285	0.1992
1998	0.1603	0.1254	0.1951
1999	0.2381	0.1972	0.2790
2000	0.0688	0.0485	0.0892
2001	0.0708	0.0508	0.0907
2002	0.0408	0.0254	0.0563
2003	0.1089	0.0834	0.1344
2005	0.1314	0.1053	0.1575
2006	0.2507	0.2127	0.2887
2007	0.3228	0.2653	0.3803
2008	0.2982	0.2474	0.3490
2009	0.2348	0.1919	0.2777
2010	0.2672	0.2216	0.3127
2011	0.3181	0.2692	0.3670
2012	0.2201	0.1774	0.2629
2013	0.2461	0.2025	0.2898
2014	0.2380	0.1954	0.2806
2016	0.3269	0.2783	0.3755
2017	0.1238	0.0932	0.1543
2018	0.1183	0.0885	0.1481
2019	0.0722	0.0497	0.0946
2020	0.1973	0.1559	0.2387
2021	0.1176	0.0847	0.1505
2022	0.0957	0.0669	0.1245
2023	0.1578	0.1209	0.1946
2024	0.1200	0.0902	0.1499

Table 10. Year trends of CPUE sub-model of TRG

Year	Mean	Mean-SE	Mean+SE
1996	2.3933	2.1975	2.5891
1997	1.7889	1.6228	1.9550
1998	1.6689	1.5008	1.8369
1999	1.9507	1.8024	2.0990
2000	2.1409	1.9322	2.3495
2001	1.6832	1.4846	1.8817
2002	1.6849	1.4200	1.9498
2003	2.1135	1.9382	2.2888
2005	2.0258	1.8807	2.1709
2006	1.7608	1.6417	1.8800
2007	1.3913	1.2192	1.5634
2008	1.6126	1.4547	1.7705
2009	1.2041	1.0454	1.3628
2010	1.3889	1.2386	1.5391
2011	1.5360	1.3889	1.6830
2012	1.2645	1.1014	1.4276
2013	1.3879	1.2344	1.5415
2014	1.1958	1.0433	1.3483
2016	1.3879	1.2451	1.5306
2017	1.1255	0.9429	1.3082
2018	1.5035	1.3199	1.6871
2019	1.4143	1.1940	1.6346
2020	1.0835	0.9149	1.2521
2021	0.9481	0.7450	1.1513
2022	1.5451	1.3274	1.7628
2023	1.0981	0.9188	1.2775
2024	1.3635	1.1815	1.5455

Table 11. Point estimates of TRG

Year	Prob*Pos	Standardized
1996	0.3062	1.1379
1997	0.2932	1.0896
1998	0.2674	0.9940
1999	0.4645	1.7263
2000	0.1474	0.5477
2001	0.1191	0.4426
2002	0.0688	0.2557
2003	0.2302	0.8557
2005	0.2662	0.9894
2006	0.4415	1.6409
2007	0.4491	1.6692
2008	0.4809	1.7873
2009	0.2827	1.0508
2010	0.3710	1.3791
2011	0.4886	1.8160
2012	0.2784	1.0347
2013	0.3416	1.2697
2014	0.2846	1.0580
2016	0.4537	1.6863
2017	0.1393	0.5178
2018	0.1779	0.6613
2019	0.1020	0.3793
2020	0.2138	0.7945
2021	0.1115	0.4144
2022	0.1479	0.5496
2023	0.1733	0.6440
2024	0.1636	0.6082

Table 12. TRG with confidence intervals calculated by 1000 times bootstrap

Year	5 percentile	25 percentile	Median	75 percentile	95 percentile
1996	0.932	1.050	1.136	1.228	1.350
1997	0.903	1.010	1.090	1.177	1.300
1998	0.813	0.915	0.992	1.083	1.198
1999	1.493	1.632	1.736	1.842	1.998
2000	0.453	0.508	0.546	0.591	0.655
2001	0.350	0.404	0.446	0.486	0.545
2002	0.201	0.234	0.256	0.279	0.308
2003	0.722	0.795	0.852	0.905	0.997
2004					
2005	0.850	0.933	0.991	1.051	1.139
2006	1.457	1.562	1.641	1.731	1.853
2007	1.446	1.576	1.666	1.761	1.882
2008	1.560	1.692	1.786	1.874	1.999
2009	0.908	0.990	1.051	1.113	1.203
2010	1.212	1.311	1.374	1.448	1.549
2011	1.648	1.745	1.820	1.883	1.969
2012	0.893	0.981	1.037	1.095	1.169
2013	1.114	1.199	1.263	1.330	1.430
2014	0.918	1.000	1.054	1.109	1.180
2015					
2016	1.472	1.591	1.680	1.768	1.888
2017	0.418	0.477	0.511	0.554	0.611
2018	0.540	0.615	0.661	0.706	0.772
2019	0.323	0.358	0.379	0.399	0.431
2020	0.652	0.732	0.789	0.849	0.923
2021	0.327	0.377	0.411	0.447	0.501
2022	0.425	0.499	0.549	0.600	0.670
2023	0.510	0.586	0.638	0.692	0.780
2024	0.494	0.562	0.606	0.650	0.723

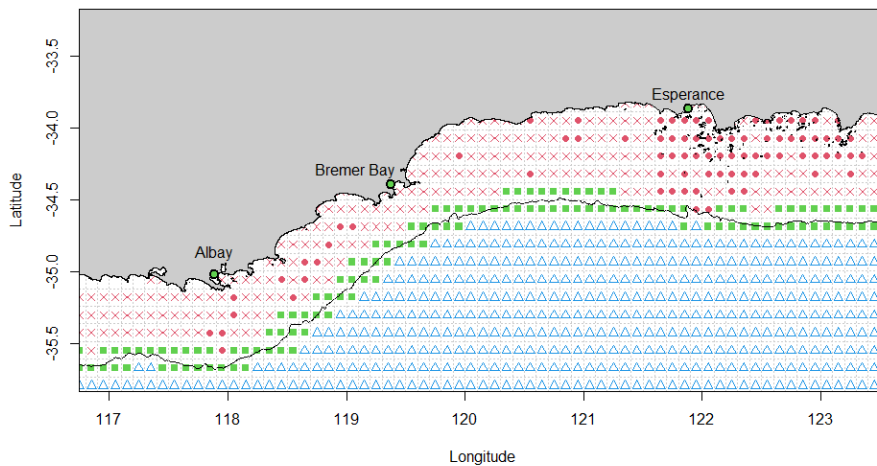


Fig. 1. Map and area classified.

Red cross denotes on-shore, red solid circle denotes lump, green solid square denotes shelf-edge, and open blue triangle denotes offshore.

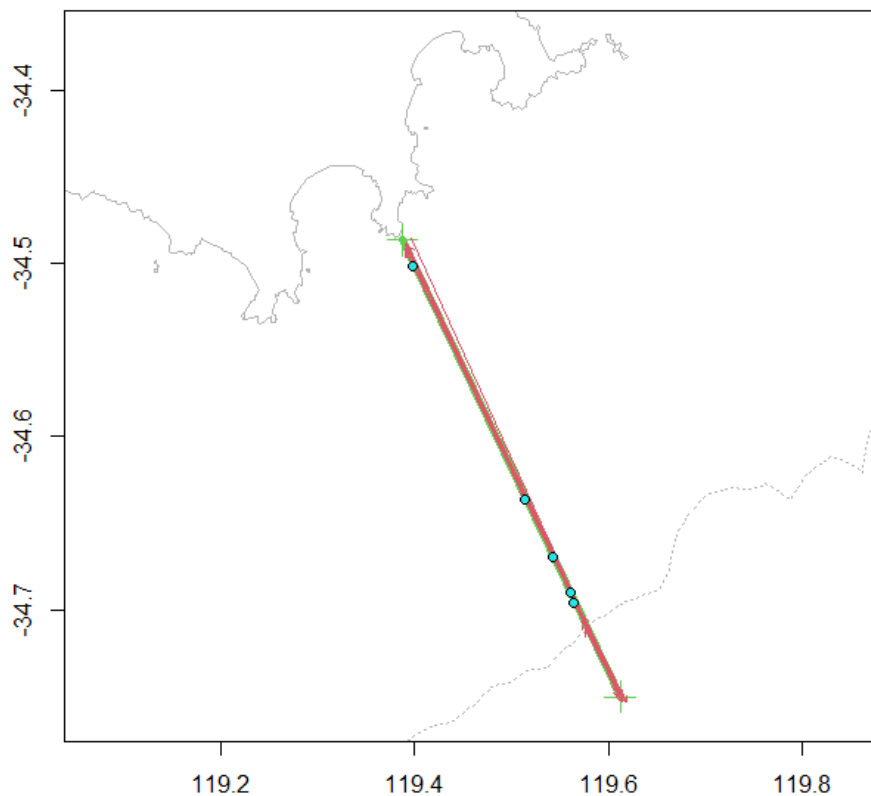


Fig. 2. Locations of the piston-line off Bremer Bay in the 2024 survey.

Green cross marks are defined end points of the piston line. Red arrow denotes each of piston line and direction. Circles denote location where age-1 SBT caught. Dotted line is the 200 m isobath.

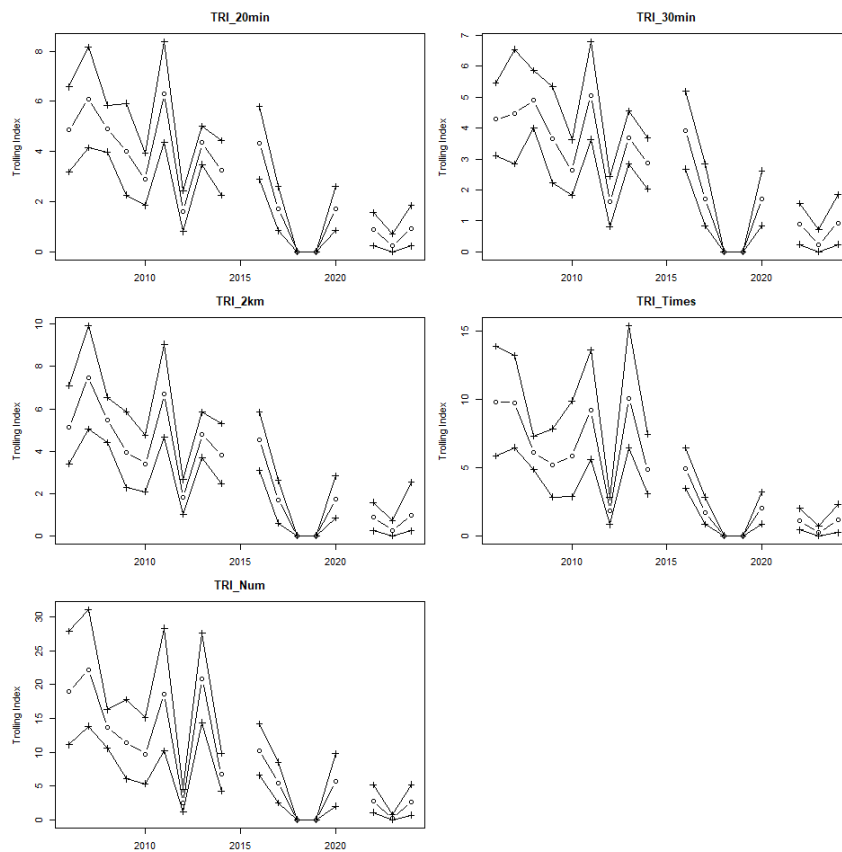


Fig. 3. Five types of the piston-line trolling index (TRP) by different school/catch definition. Showing median, 5 and 95 percentiles.

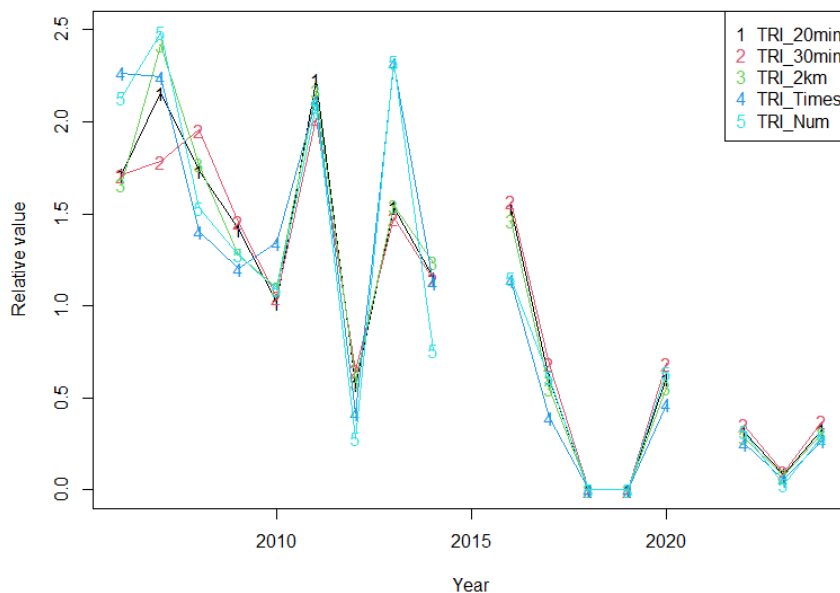


Fig. 4. Comparison of the median from five types of piston-line trolling index (TRP) by different school/catch definition. Standardized with the mean of each index.

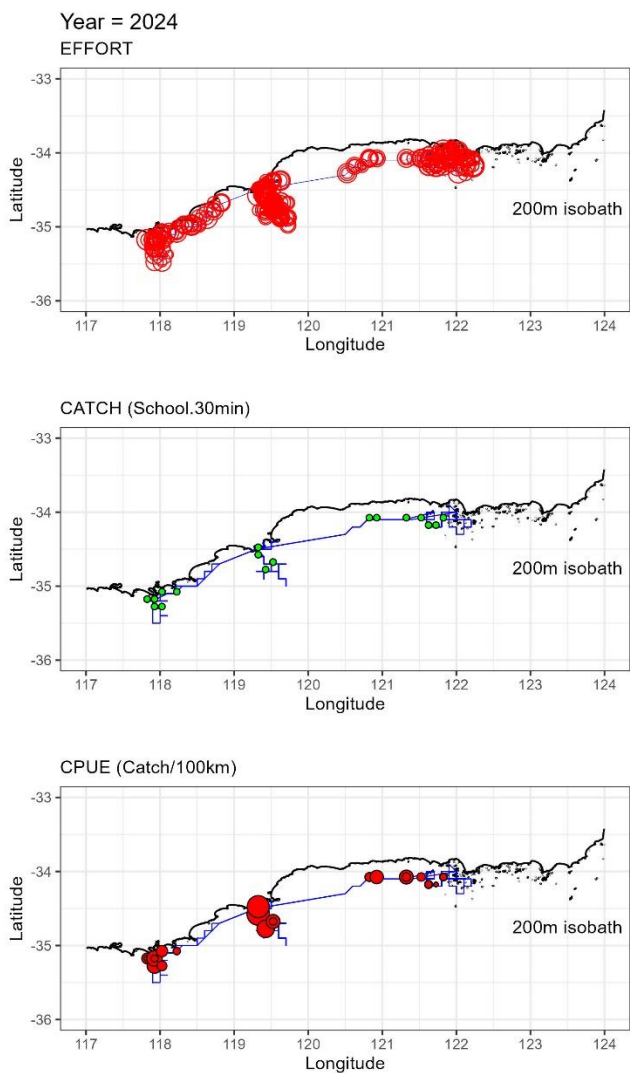


Fig. 5. Distributions of effort, age-1 SBT catch and CPUE in the 2024 survey

Blue line is the trajectory of the vessel while trolling.

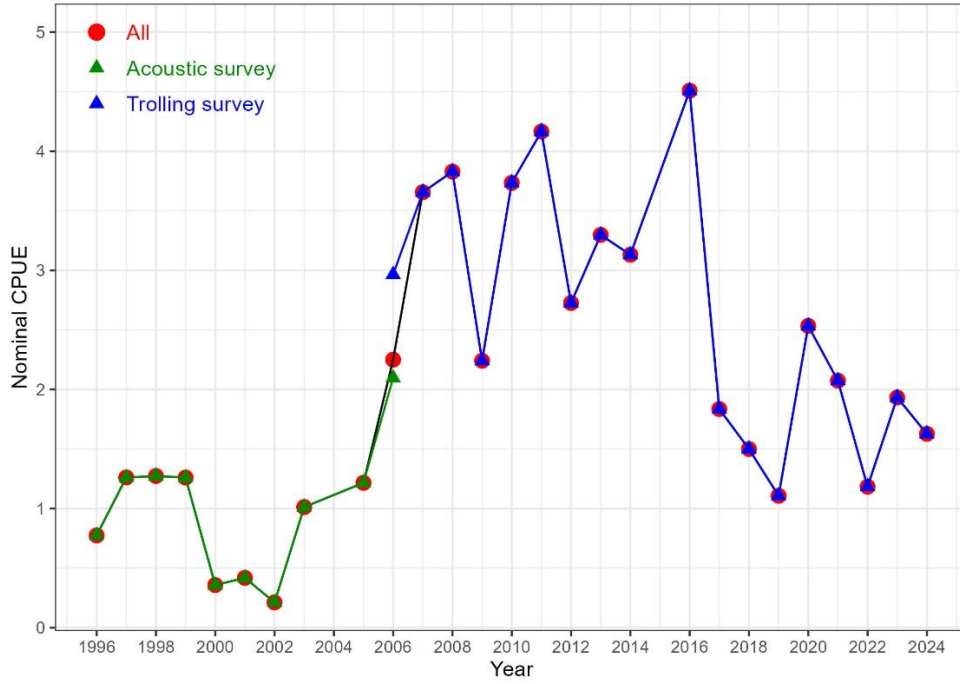


Fig. 6. Nominal CPUE of TRG.

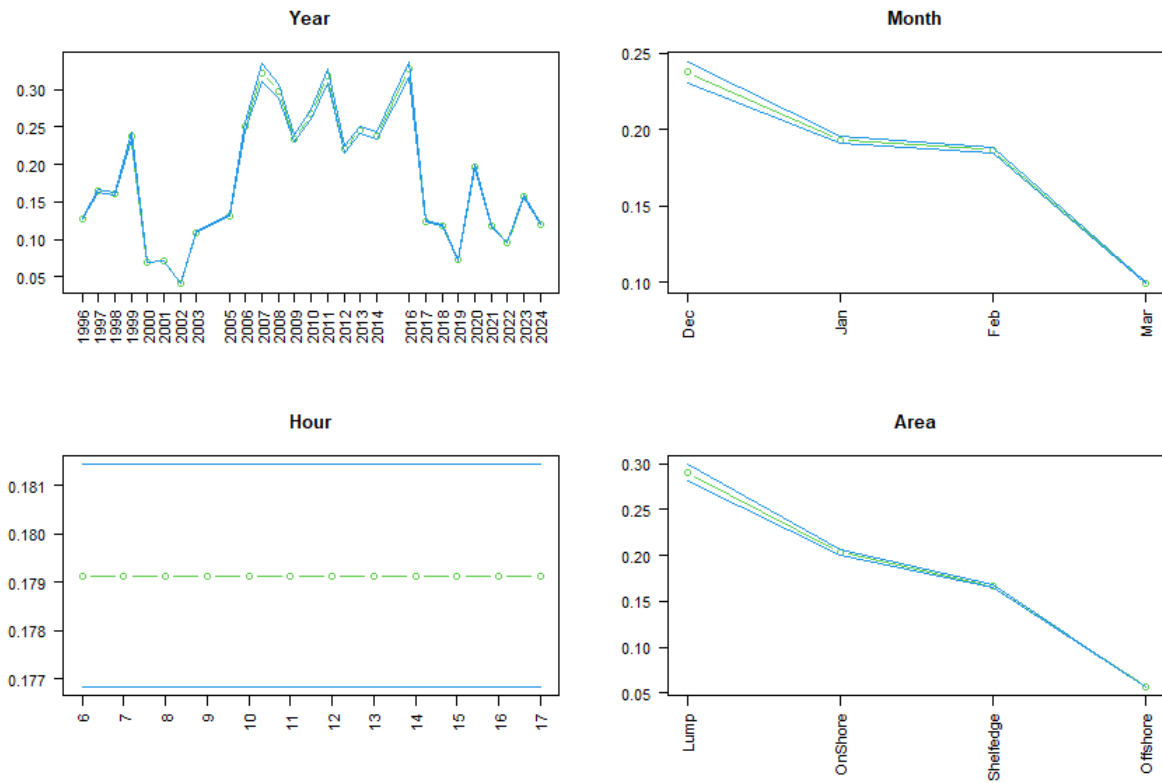


Fig. 7. Least square means of variables in binomial sub-model for TRG.

Green is mean and blue is mean ± SD. Catch was defined as schools with a definition of 30 minutes is necessary for a different school. Note that hour term was not selected in the optimal model formula.

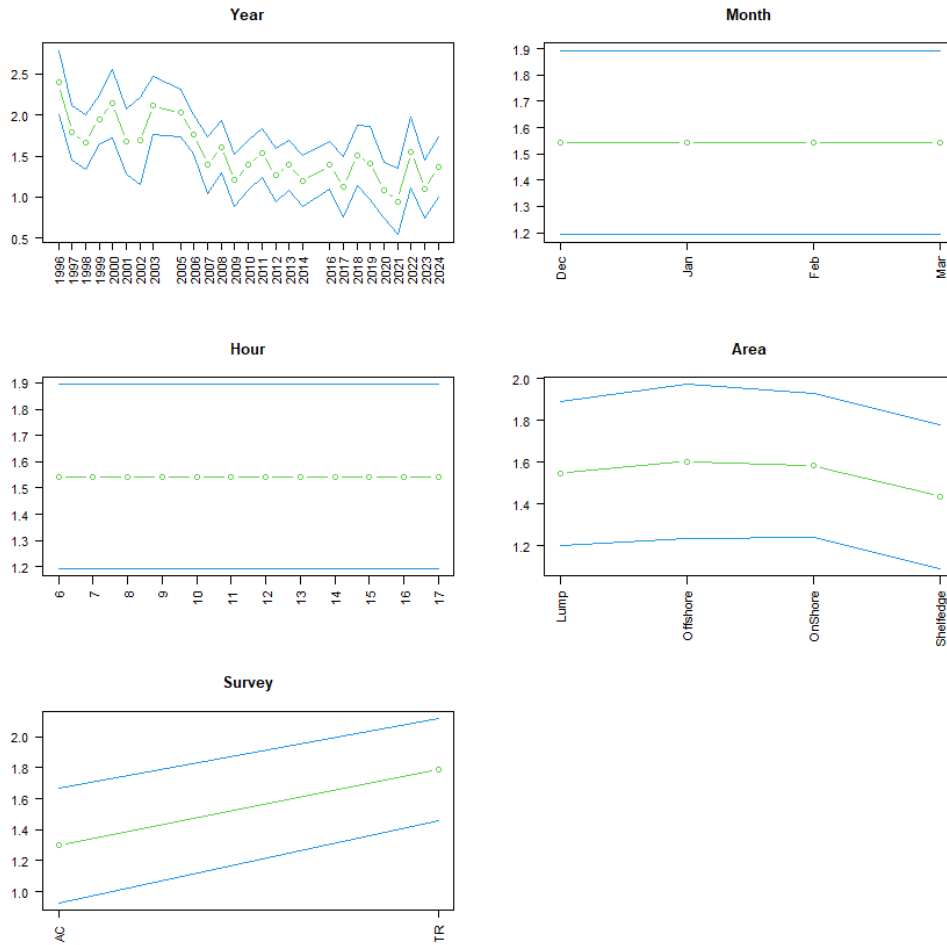


Fig. 8. Least square means of variables in catch in the CPUE sub-model for TRG.

Green is mean and blue is mean  $\pm$  SD. Catch was defined as schools with a definition of 30 minutes is necessary for a different school. Note that month and hour terms were not selected in the optimal model formula.

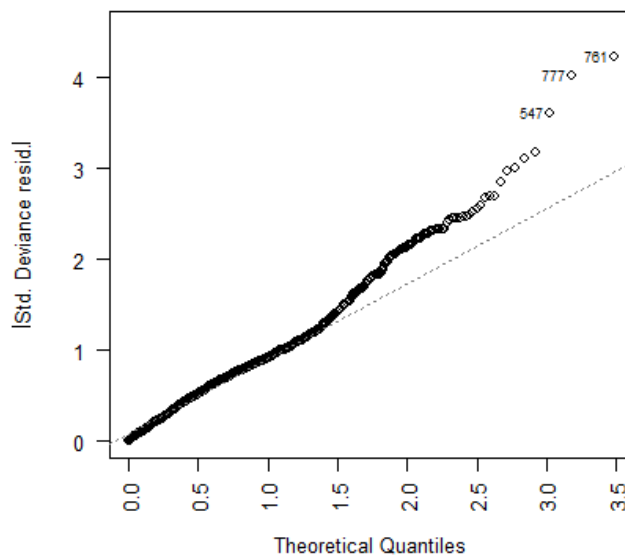


Fig. 9. QQ plot of GLM for CPUE sub-model for TRG.



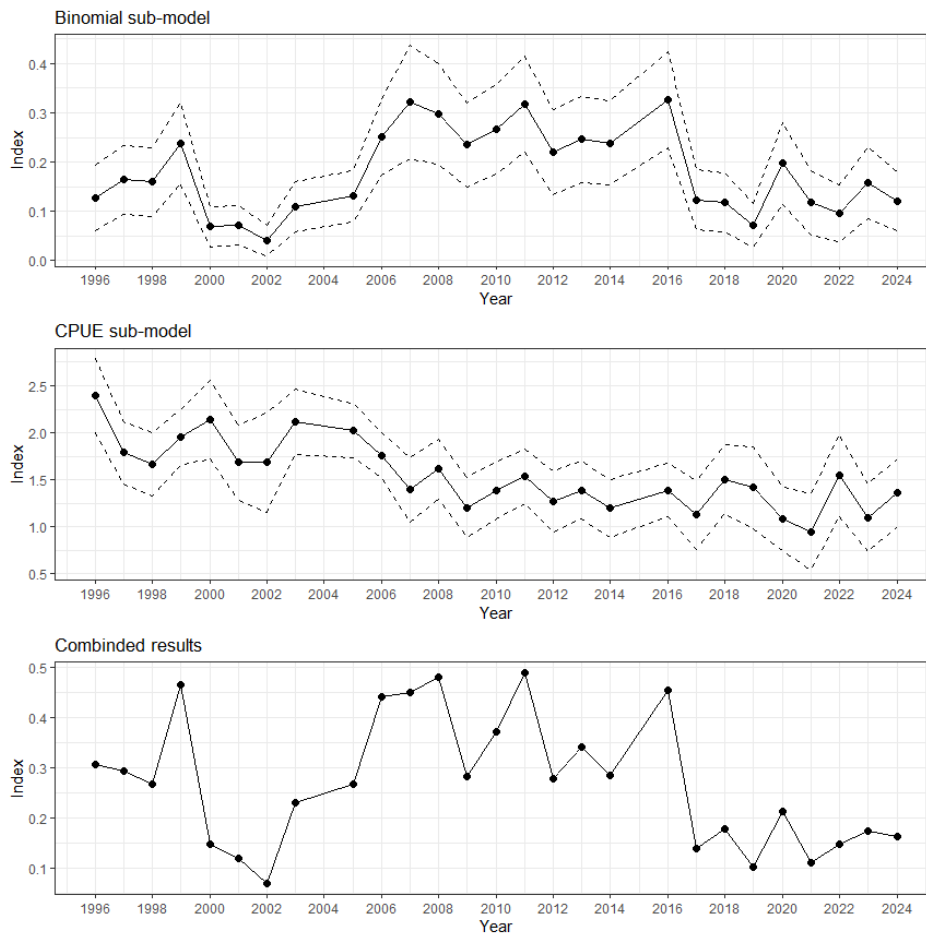


Fig. 10. Binomial sub-model, CPUE sub-model, and combined index from two sub-models (point estimation standardized TRG).

Upper panel shows the year trend from the binomial sub-model. Mean  $\pm$  1SD. The middle panel shows the year trend from the CPUE sub-model. Mean  $\pm$  1SD. Lower panel shows TRG which is a product of two sub-models.

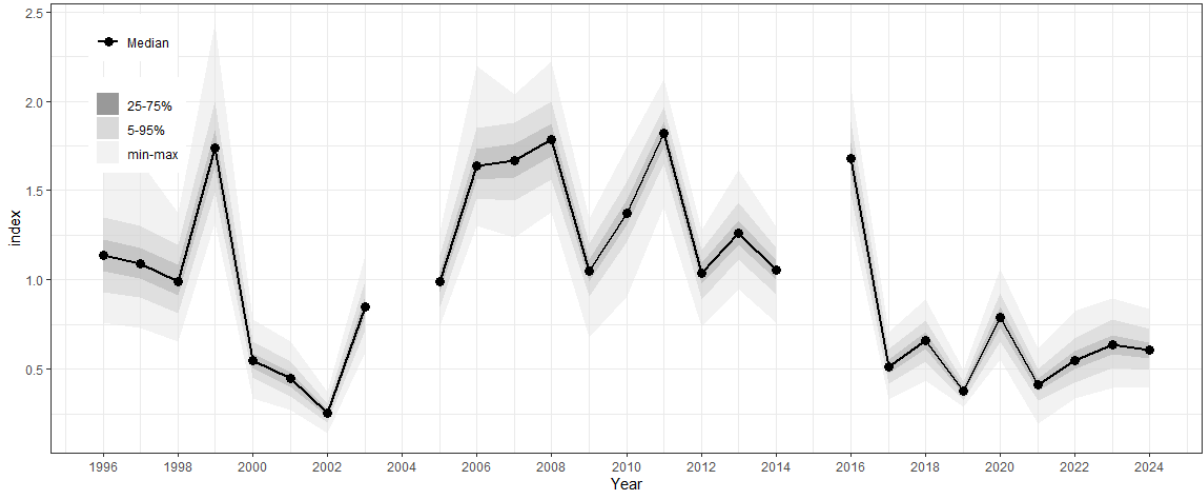


Fig. 11. TRG with confidence intervals.  
 Estimate was simulated with 1000 times bootstrapping.

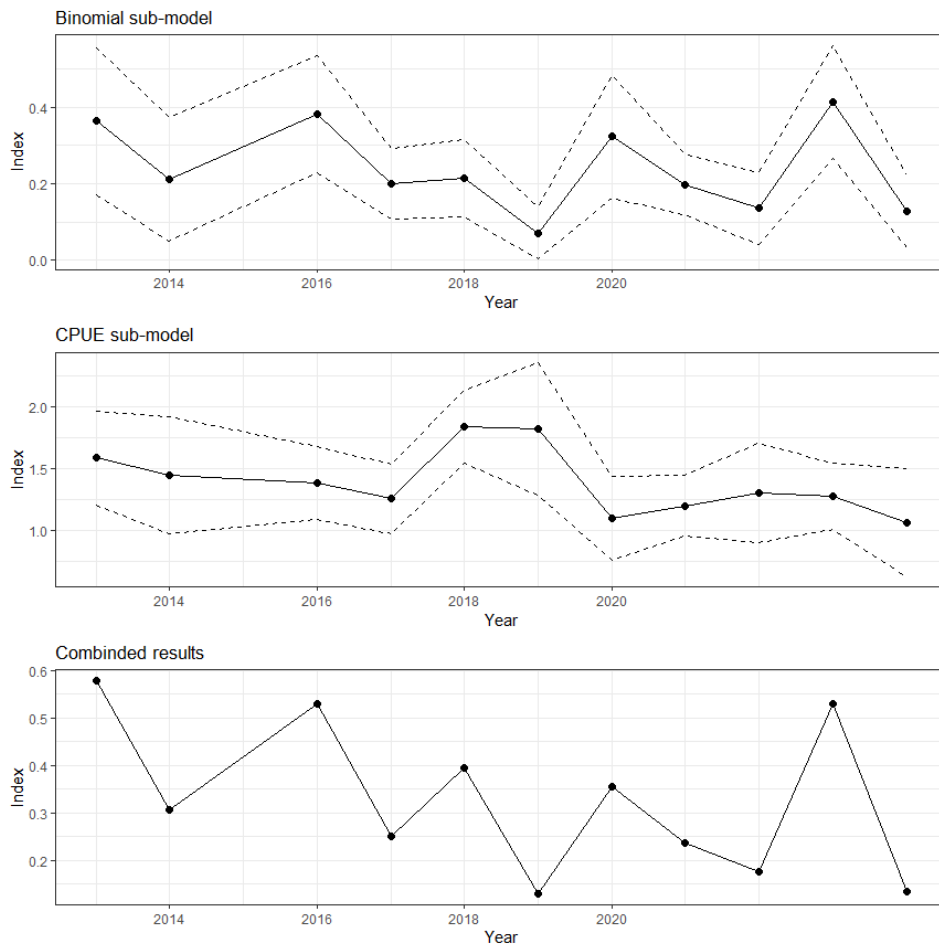


Fig. 12. TRG off Esperance only (TRG\_esp) with confidence intervals.  
 Upper panel shows the year trend from the binomial sub-model. Mean  $\pm 1SD$ . The middle panel shows the year trend form the CPUE sub-model. Mean  $\pm 1SD$ . Lower panel shows TRG\_esp which is a product of two sub-models.

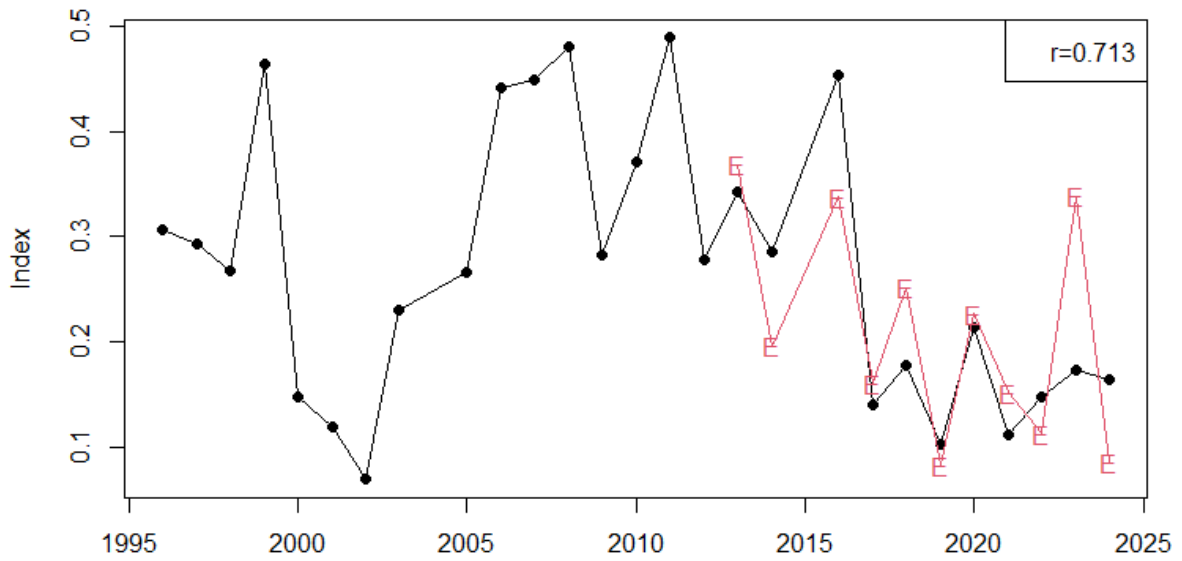


Fig. 13. Comparison between TRG and TRG\_esp where data are limited off Esperance only.

Values of TRG\_esp are standardized to the mean of TRG between 2013 and 2024. Pearson's correlation  $r$  is 0.71 ( $p < 0.05$ ).

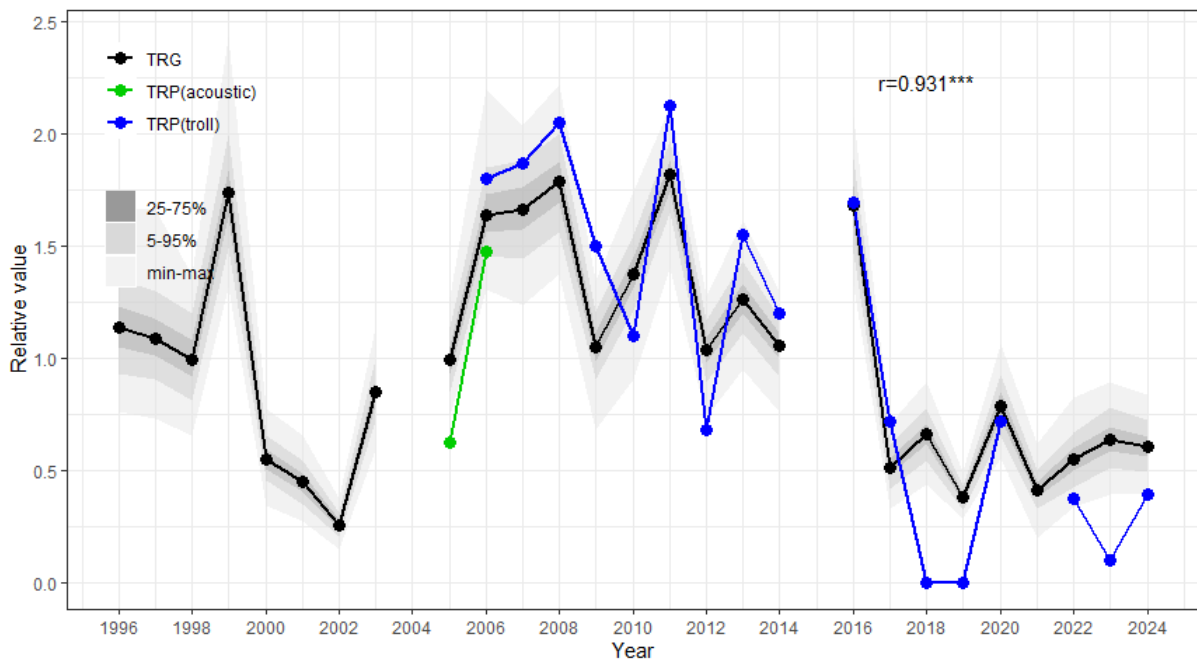


Fig. 14. Comparison between TRG and TRP.

$r$  is Pearson's correlation.