

# The 2006 age-structured production model assessments and projections for the South Coast rock lobster resource – routine update

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## Executive Summary

The assessment conducted in 2006 has been routinely extended, taking account of a further year's catch, CPUE and catch-at-age data.

CPUE shows a continuation of the increase that commenced in 1998. The sustainable yield estimates are generally very similar to those for the 2005 assessment, although estimates of current biomass levels relative to  $K$  increase. The Reference Case (RC) scenario suggests that a TAC of about 360 MT or less would be appropriate to prevent biomass decline in the future. Other scenarios suggest either higher or lower values than this. If the catch-at-age data are down-weighted, then this 360 MT level for the TAC is increased to 390 MT. On the other hand, the scenario which assumes the 1996+ recruitment to be equal to the average of the previous 10 years is more pessimistic and suggests an appropriate TAC level of only some 300 MT or less to prevent biomass decline.

## Introduction

The age-structured production model applied previously to South Coast rock lobster has been used to update the assessment of the resource and to provide a range of projections into the future for a number of harvesting policies. The age-structured production model is unchanged from that initially described by Geromont (2000a) and used for the 2001-20051 assessments (Johnston and Butterworth 2001; 2002a; 2003a; 2003b, 2004, 2005). The age-structured model is reported in detail here in the Appendix.

The Reference Case (RC) “Bayesian” ASPM assessment as considered for 2006 involves the following choices (essentially unchanged from 2003-2005 except for taking the extra year into account).

1. Standard priors for  $P$ ,  $h^1$ ,  $M$ ,  $a_{50}$ ,  $a_{95}$ .
2. Use of GLM-standardised CPUE for 1977-2004<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> The prior for  $h$  is a truncated (at 1.0) normal distribution with mean of 0.95 and  $\sigma = 0.2$

<sup>2</sup> In this report the year “2000”, for example, refers to the 2000/01 season

3. Use of scientific-sample-based catch-at-age data for 1994-2004, with an 8- and 20+ grouping. Note that the Working Group agreed that the 1999 scientific catch-at-age data should not be included in the RC assessment due to poor spatio-temporal coverage for that season that may render them unrepresentative.
4. A Beverton-Holt stock recruit relationship.
5. Deterministic recruitment, except for estimation of recruitment residuals from 1974-1996 (i.e. one more year included than last year) with zero serial correlation ( $\rho = 0$ ) and CV ( $\sigma_R$ ) of 0.4.

## Data

The annual total catch (by mass) ( $C_y$ ) and relative abundance index ( $CPUE_y$ ) data used are reported in Table 1a. The relative abundance index corresponds to the standardised CPUE time series provided by Glazer (2006a). The commercial catches-at-age ( $C_{y,a}$ ) derived from the updated scientific length data (see Glazer 2006b) are given in Table 2 (Bergh pers. commn). Table 3 summarises somatic growth curve parameter values (Glazer and Groeneveld 1999).

## Sensitivity analyses

In addition to the RC, results for the following sensitivity analyses are also reported in Table 4a.

### 1) Historic catches = MCM records + over-catches

The MCM catch records where available (from 1995) are used in place of the TAC. The same set of over-catches is added as for the RC. Table 1 reports this catch series.

### 2) Over-catches 87-97 set = 100 tons per year

The RC historic catch series is modified by setting the over-catches between 1987 and 1997 to 100 tons per year. Table 1 reports the final catch series.

### 3) Effort Saturation

This scenario examines the possibility that the proportional relationship between CPUE and biomass does not hold true at high levels of effort due to competition between units of effort – i.e. effort saturation occurs. This effort saturation effect is taken into account here by allowing the constant of proportionality between the GLM derived CPUE index and exploitable biomass,  $q$ , to become a declining function of fishing effort once effort exceeds a certain level (see the appendix equations 15 and 16 for details). This analysis also includes fitting to the 1998 Effort Saturation Experiment data (Groeneveld *et al.* 1999). For this application, parameters  $E'$  and  $n^*$  are fixed at 2500 and 1.0 respectively (see Model 5c of Geromont 2000b). Thus the extent of effort saturation is determined by the parameter  $E^*$  alone. In previous stock assessment scenarios that have taken effort saturation into account, the approach was formulated slightly differently (the observed CPUE series was “detrended” to take account of effort saturation), but the resultant computations are mathematically identical so yield the same results.

#### **4) Sensitivity to 1997+ recruitment**

This assumes that the 1997+ recruitment residuals are equal to the average of the preceding 10-year period (i.e. 1987-1996 average, i.e. advanced one year from last year's analysis). The rationale for this analysis is that a ten-year average, rather than a shorter period, is used because the recent recruitments have been below expected levels, so that using this recent 10-year average when projecting into the future may be a more realistic approach.

#### **5) Catch-at-age down-weight**

The catch-at-age data is down-weighted by a multiplicative factor of 0.10 in the likelihood function as an *ad hoc* approach to allow for positive correlations in these data.

### **Projections**

The resource is projected ahead from 2006 to 2015 under a number of constant catch (CC) levels: 300 MT, 330 MT, 360 MT, 390 MT, 420 MT and 450 MT.

### **Results**

#### **Assessment results**

The assessment results for the RC model and the five sensitivity analyses are presented in Table 4a. Table 4b compares the current results with those obtained from the 2005 assessment. Fits to CPUE data and catch-at-age data are illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 respectively. The RC and effort saturation (Sensitivity 3) fits to the CPUE data are shown in Figure 1a, and those to the recent low recruitment (Sensitivity 4) and catch-at-age down-weight (Sensitivity 5) scenarios in Figure 1b. Figures 3a and 3b show the estimated exploitable biomass and spawning biomass trends for the RC and effort saturation scenarios.

The estimated stock-recruit residuals for the RC, effort saturation and catch-at-age down-weight scenarios are illustrated in Figure 4.

#### **Projections**

Table 5 presents results of projected spawning biomass trends for the RC and the five sensitivity analyses for a range of future constant catches. The projected exploitable biomass trends are also illustrated in Figures 5a-d for the RC and the effort saturation, recent low recruitment and catch-at-age down-weight scenarios.

### **Discussion**

The 2005 RC assessment of the south coast rock lobster resource estimated the resource at the start of 2003 to be 32% of carrying capacity for the exploitable portion of the stock, and 34% of capacity for the spawning biomass. The updated 2006 RC assessment estimates these values to now be 33% and 35% respectively (see Table 4b). Whilst these values are comparatively slightly higher than those estimates for the 2005 assessment, both the spawning biomass and exploitable biomass are now estimated to have declined

slightly between the years 2004 and 2005. The MSY for the resource is estimated to be 367 MT for the RC model, and between 353 and 458 for the five sensitivity analyses.

The RC MSY estimate (367 MT) is almost identical to that estimated by the 2005 assessment (365 MT) – see Table 4b. The 95% confidence interval for the updated 2006 MSY estimate as calculated using a likelihood profile method (which treats the Bayesian priors as penalty functions) is [158; 399] – showing increased precision of this estimate. The previous year's 95% CI was wider at [112; 428].

The sensitivity test where the MCM catch records are used in place of TAC values (see Table 1a) gives results quite similar to those for the RC. The sensitivity test for which the over-catches for 1987-1997 are replaced by 100 tons per year, results in more optimistic results: for example, the MSY is higher at 391 MT (RC = 367 MT).

The effort saturation scenario results are more positive than those for the RC model. The ES model estimated CPUE is able to reproduce the observed CPUE trends, particularly in more recent years, to a better extent than the RC (Figure 1a).

Down-weighting the catch-at-age data once again results in a more optimistic appraisal of the resource. Through this down-weighting, this model is able to better fit the CPUE data (Figure 1b), in particular the recent upturn in CPUE. The fits to the catch-at-age data do however deteriorate substantially (see Figure 2), particularly for more recent years such as the 2002-2004 seasons for which there is appreciable overestimation of the proportion of small and underestimation of that of large lobsters.

The projected spawning biomass trends estimated for the different future constant catch harvesting strategies, are rather different across the various scenarios (see Table 5 for the RC and five sensitivity scenarios). The RC predicts that catches of a little less than 350 MT will result in the spawning biomass remaining at its current (2005) level. Catches much above 330 MT are shown to result in spawning biomass declines for the over-catch for 1987-97 set equal to 100 tons per year, the effort saturation and the catch-at-age down-weight scenarios. The lower recruitment scenario is the most pessimistic, suggesting that future annual catches set even as low as 300 MT will result in a spawning biomass decline, and the historic catch equal to the MCM records scenario suggests future catches larger than 300 MT will result in a spawning biomass decline. These results, whilst qualitatively similar to those presented last year, are in some cases slightly more pessimistic.

Plots of exploitable biomass trajectories show that for the RC, a future CC of 360 MT will keep the exploitable biomass level constant, whilst larger TACs will cause the exploitable biomass to decline (Figure 5a). The effort saturation and catch-at-age down-weight scenarios are somewhat more optimistic (Figures 5b and d) and indicate that future CC of 390 MT or less will prevent further decline in the exploitable biomass. The lower recent recruitment scenario (1997+ recruitment assumed to equal the previous 10 year average) produces the least optimistic projection results (Figure 5c). This scenario

suggests that a future TAC of 300 MT or less is needed to prevent further decline in the exploitable biomass.

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Table 1: Total annual catch scenarios (data from WG/06/04/SCRL1) and GLM standardised CPUE (Glazer 2006) data for the South Coast rock lobster fishery.

	<b>RC</b>	<b>Sensitivity 1: Historic Catches= MCM records+ over-catches</b>	<b>Sensitivity 2: Over-catches 87-97 set=100 tons per year</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Catch (MT tails)</b>	<b>Total Catch (MT tails)</b>	<b>Total Catch (MT tails)</b>	<b>CPUE (kg tails/trap)</b>
1973	372	372	372	
1974	973	973	973	
1975	551	551	551	
1976	712	712	712	
1977	667	667	667	0.2175
1978	461	461	461	0.2049
1979	122	122	122	0.1595
1980	176	176	176	0.2025
1981	348	348	348	0.1920
1982	407	407	407	0.1639
1983	524	524	524	0.1939
1984	450	450	450	0.1612
1985	450	450	450	0.1582
1986	450	450	450	0.2064
1987	452	452	552	0.1849
1988	452	452	552	0.2196
1989	452	452	552	0.2040
1990	477	477	577	0.1729
1991	524.54	524.54	577	0.1417
1992	529.96	529.96	577	0.1384
1993	524.27	524.27	577	0.1268
1994	507.89	507.89	552	0.1159
1995	504.89	472.99	527	0.1073
1996	442.69	428.39	515	0.0898
1997	416.39	384.09	502	0.0818
1998	516.03	460.73	516.03	0.0784
1999	512.16	514.86	512.16	0.0795
2000	423.4	378	423.4	0.0885
2001	288	288	288	0.0982
2002	340	325	340	0.1094
2003	350	350	350	0.1144
2004	382	382	382	0.1287
2005	382	382	382	

Table 2: Scientific sampling-based catches at-age (proportions) for the South Coast rock lobster. [Note that the 1999 values are omitted from the assessment because of poor sampling levels that season.]

AGE	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
1	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
2	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
3	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
4	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
5	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
6	0.0000	0.0000	0.0039	0.0000	0.0056	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0001
7	0.0003	0.0006	0.0140	0.0003	0.0201	0.0009	0.0012	0.0001	0.0011	0.0009	0.0004
8	0.0029	0.0093	0.0266	0.0066	0.0484	0.0244	0.0069	0.0010	0.0190	0.0092	0.0075
9	0.0215	0.0554	0.0478	0.0609	0.0834	0.1229	0.0389	0.0105	0.0510	0.0218	0.0379
10	0.0709	0.1265	0.0819	0.1467	0.1233	0.2021	0.1166	0.0451	0.0767	0.0446	0.0690
11	0.1441	0.1838	0.1202	0.2080	0.1429	0.1958	0.2099	0.1119	0.0930	0.0816	0.0924
12	0.1537	0.1369	0.1256	0.1373	0.0939	0.1039	0.1648	0.1548	0.0986	0.1033	0.1106
13	0.1493	0.1110	0.1184	0.1079	0.0844	0.0800	0.1224	0.1552	0.1143	0.1278	0.1180
14	0.1343	0.0829	0.1054	0.0775	0.0744	0.0591	0.0782	0.1437	0.1242	0.1453	0.1196
15	0.0677	0.0440	0.0603	0.0412	0.0462	0.0372	0.0397	0.0762	0.0708	0.0868	0.0734
16	0.0786	0.0548	0.0782	0.0498	0.0637	0.0507	0.0461	0.0924	0.0927	0.1155	0.1003
17	0.0386	0.0342	0.0419	0.0262	0.0361	0.0265	0.0252	0.0459	0.0510	0.0564	0.0534
18	0.0293	0.0319	0.0349	0.0215	0.0315	0.0214	0.0213	0.0354	0.0434	0.0433	0.0443
19	0.0238	0.0274	0.0296	0.0192	0.0271	0.0171	0.0195	0.0290	0.0368	0.0372	0.03880
20+	0.0849	0.1013	0.1113	0.0968	0.1192	0.0579	0.1094	0.0990	0.1275	0.1266	0.1350

Table 3: Somatic growth parameters as detailed in Glazer and Groeneveld (1999).

$\alpha$ ( $w$ in gm)	0.0007
$\beta$	2.846
$l_{\infty}$ (mm CL)	111.9
$\kappa$ (year <sup>-1</sup> )	0.08
$t_0$ (years)	0.0

Table 4a: Stock assessment results for the Reference Case and a number of sensitivity analyses. Units of mass-related quantities (e.g. *MSY*) are tons. Note that recruitment residuals from 1974 to 1996 are estimated in all instances.

	Reference Case	Sensitivity 1: Historic Catches=MCM records+ over-catches	Sensitivity 2: Over-catches 87-97 set=100 tons per year	Sensitivity 3: Effort saturation	Sensitivity 4: Lower recruitment (1997+ R = previous 10 year average)	Sensitivity 5: Catch-at-age log-likelihood down-weighted by 0.10 multiplier
$K^{sp}$	8386	8253	8875	7793	8390	7170
$h$	0.879	0.870	0.877	0.885	0.881	0.954
$M$	0.102	0.100	0.103	0.127	0.102	0.138
$a_{50}$	10.07	10.07	10.08	10.04	10.07	11.26
$a_{95}$	12.47	12.46	12.48	12.36	12.47	13.74
$n^*$	-	-	-	1.0 fixed	-	-
$E'$	-	-	-	2500 fixed	-	-
$E^*$	-	-	-	6799	-	-
$\sigma$	0.200	0.197	0.184	0.106	0.200	0.074
$\sigma_{age}$	0.068	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.068	0.140
$-\ln L$ CPUE	-31.09	-31.54	-33.45	-48.81	-31.10	-58.87
$-\ln L$ age	-103.21	-103.53	-103.64	-104.11	-103.33	-8.24
$-\ln L$ S-R	3.59	3.47	3.60	5.63	3.63	5.52
$-\ln L$ effort expt	-	-	-	1.15	-	-
<b><math>-\ln L</math>(total)</b>	<b>-131.32</b>	<b>-132.18</b>	<b>134.10</b>	<b>-149.06</b>	<b>-131.40</b>	<b>-54.85</b>
$MSY$	367	353	391	418	370	458
$MSYL^{exp}/K$	0.210	0.215	0.211	0.194	0.209	0.134
$B_{2005}^{exp} / K^{exp}$	0.307	0.299	0.320	0.358	0.306	0.375
$B_{2005}^{exp} / B_{msy}^{exp}$	1.460	1.391	1.520	1.844	1.464	2.807
$B_{2005}^{sp} / K^{sp}$	0.333	0.326	0.345	0.384	0.333	0.466
$B_{2015}^{sp} / K^{sp}$	0.339	0.321	0.368	0.417	0.291	0.515
<b>CC=330 MT</b>						
$B_{2015}^{sp} / B_{05}^{sp}$	1.017	0.985	1.066	1.086	0.896	1.106
<b>CC=330 MT</b>						

Table 4b: Stock assessment results for the Reference Case analysis and three of the sensitivity analyses. Units of mass-related quantities (e.g.  $MSY$ ) are tons. The results in parenthesis are those for the corresponding 2005 assessment (note that here all  $B^{exp}$  estimates refer to 2004 rather than 2005 as in Table 4a). The  $MSY$  values in square brackets are the 95% confidence intervals evaluated using a likelihood profile method.

	Reference Case	Sensitivity 3: Effort saturation	Sensitivity 4: Lower recruitment (1996+ R = previous 10 year average)	Sensitivity 5: Catch-at-age log- likelihood down- weighted by 0.10 multiplier
$h$	0.879 (0.857)	0.885 (0.888)	0.881 (0.856)	0.954 (0.933)
$M$	0.102 (0.107)	0.127 (0.130)	0.102 (0.107)	0.138 (0.140)
$a_{50}$	10.07 (10.08)	10.04 (10.03)	10.07 (10.08)	11.26 (11.10)
$a_{95}$	12.47 (12.49)	12.36 (12.36)	12.47 (12.50)	13.74 (13.47)
$E^*$	-	6799 (7161)	-	-
$\sigma$	0.200 (0.184)	0.106 (0.094)	0.200 (0.184)	0.074 (0.075)
$\sigma_{age}$	0.068 (0.070)	0.067 (0.069)	0.068 (0.070)	0.140 (0.135)
$K^{sp}$	8386 (8299)	7793 (7597)	8390 (8289)	7170 (7020)
$MSY$	367 (365) [158; 399]	418 (417) [187; 432]	370 (330)	458 (447)
$MSYL^{exp}/K$	0.210 (0.218)	0.194 (0.194)	0.209 (0.218)	0.134 (0.133)
$B_{2004}^{exp} / K^{exp}$	0.326 (0.315)	0.383 (0.351)	0.325 (0.298)	0.365 (0.351)
$B_{2004}^{exp} / B_{msy}^{exp}$	1.547 (1.436)	1.972 (1.806)	1.554 (1.369)	2.727 (2.635)
$B_{2004}^{sp} / K^{sp}$	0.351 (0.340)	0.408 (0.374)	0.350 (0.322)	0.460 (0.435)

Table 5: Projected spawning biomass estimates for various harvesting strategies and models. Units of mass-related quantities (e.g.  $RY$ ) are tons. [Shaded cells show a biomass reduction relative to 2005.]

Statistic	Strategy	Reference Case	Sensitivity 1: Historic Catches= MCM records+ over-catches	Sensitivity 2: Over-catches 87-97 set=100 tons per year	Sensitivity 3: Effort saturation	Sensitivity 4: Lower recruitment (1996+ R = previous 10 year average)	Sensitivity 5: Catch-at-age log-likelihood down- weighted by 0.10 multiplier
$B_{2005}^{sp} / K^{sp}$	ALL	0.333	0.326	0.345	0.384	0.333	0.466
$B_{2015}^{sp} / K^{sp}$	CC=450	0.229	0.210	0.264	0.307	0.193	0.412
	CC=420	0.256	0.236	0.290	0.334	0.217	0.430
	CC=390	0.283	0.264	0.316	0.362	0.244	0.459
	CC=360	0.311	0.292	0.342	0.389	0.271	0.487
	CC=330	0.339	0.321	0.368	0.417	0.298	0.515
	CC=300	0.367	0.349	0.394	0.444	0.326	0.543
$B_{2015}^{sp} / B_{2005}^{sp}$	CC=450	0.684	0.639	0.762	0.798	0.573	0.863
	CC=420	0.765	0.722	0.838	0.870	0.649	0.923
	CC=390	0.848	0.809	0.914	0.942	0.730	0.984
	CC=360	0.933	0.896	0.990	1.014	0.813	1.045
	CC=330	1.016	0.985	1.066	1.086	0.896	1.106
	CC=300	1.100	1.072	1.142	1.158	0.979	1.166

Figure 1a: Observed and estimated CPUE for the Reference Case (RC) and effort saturation (ES – Sensitivity 3) scenarios.

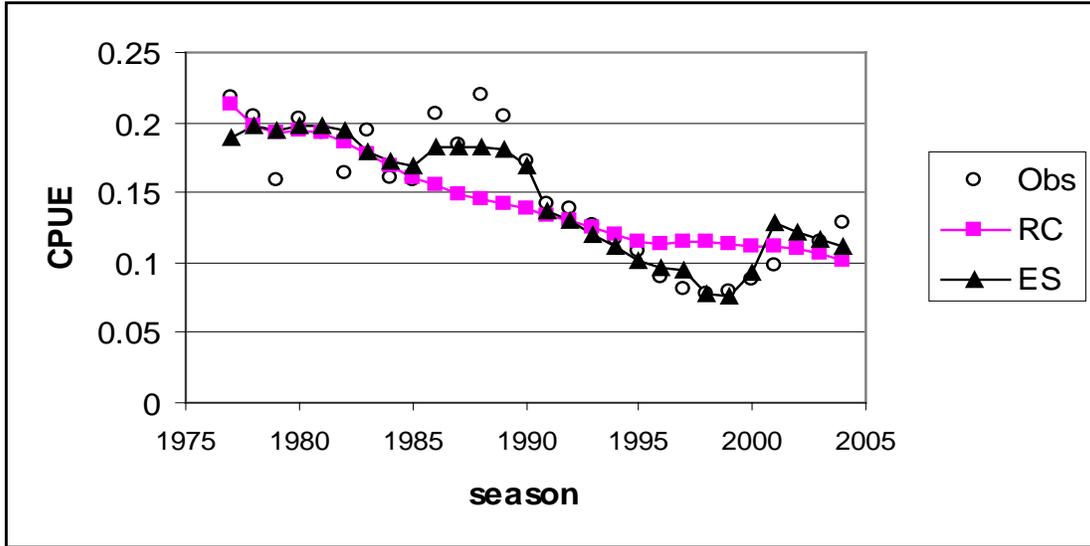


Figure 1b: Observed and estimated CPUE for the lower recruitment (Sensitivity 4: 1997+ R = previous 10 year average) and catch-at-age down-weight (cdw – Sensitivity 5) scenarios.

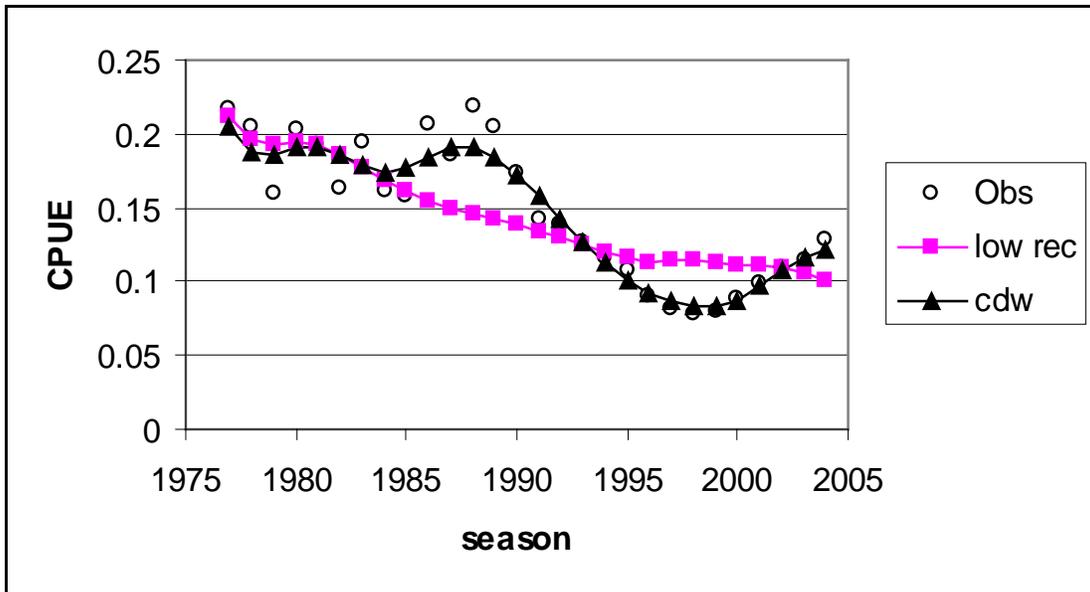


Figure 2: Observed and estimated catch-at-age proportions for the Reference Case (RC) and catch-at-age down-weight (cdw – Sensitivity 5) scenarios.

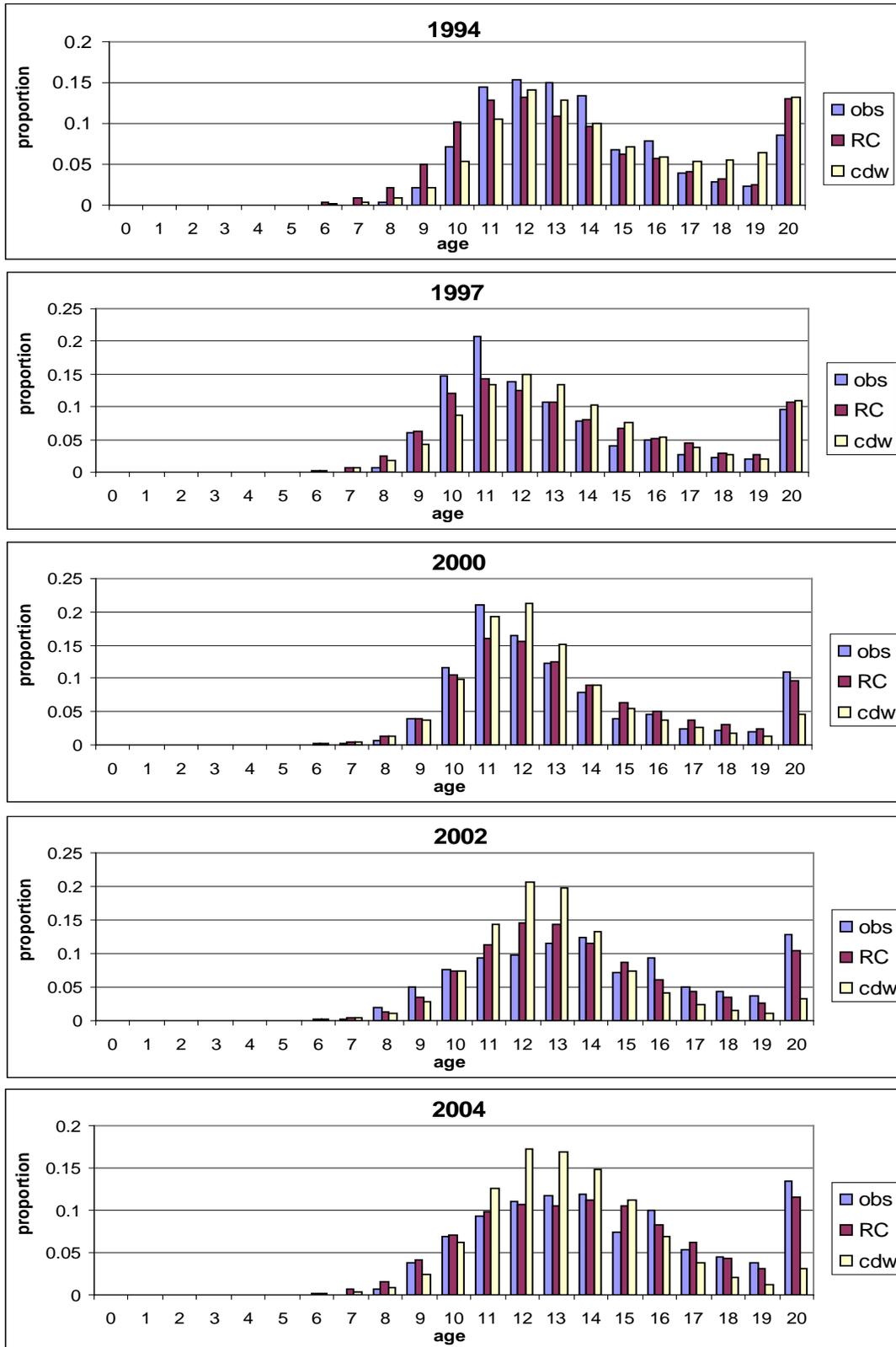


Figure 3a: Exploitable biomass trends for the Reference Case and effort saturation (Sensitivity 5) scenarios.

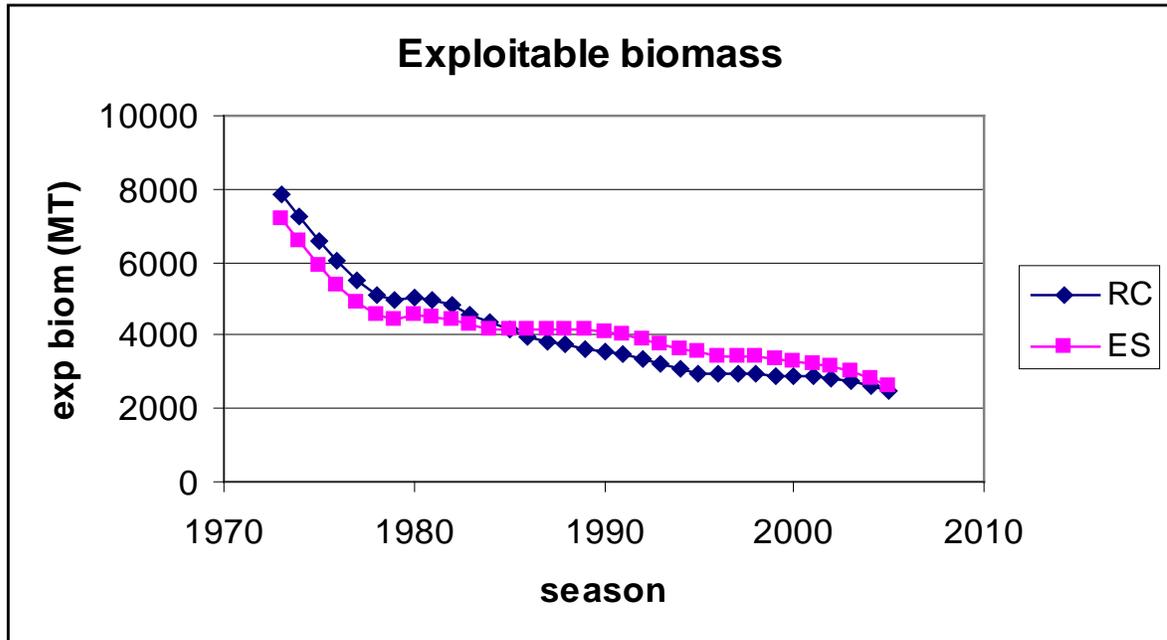


Figure 3b: Spawning biomass trends for the Reference Case and effort saturation (Sensitivity 5) scenarios.

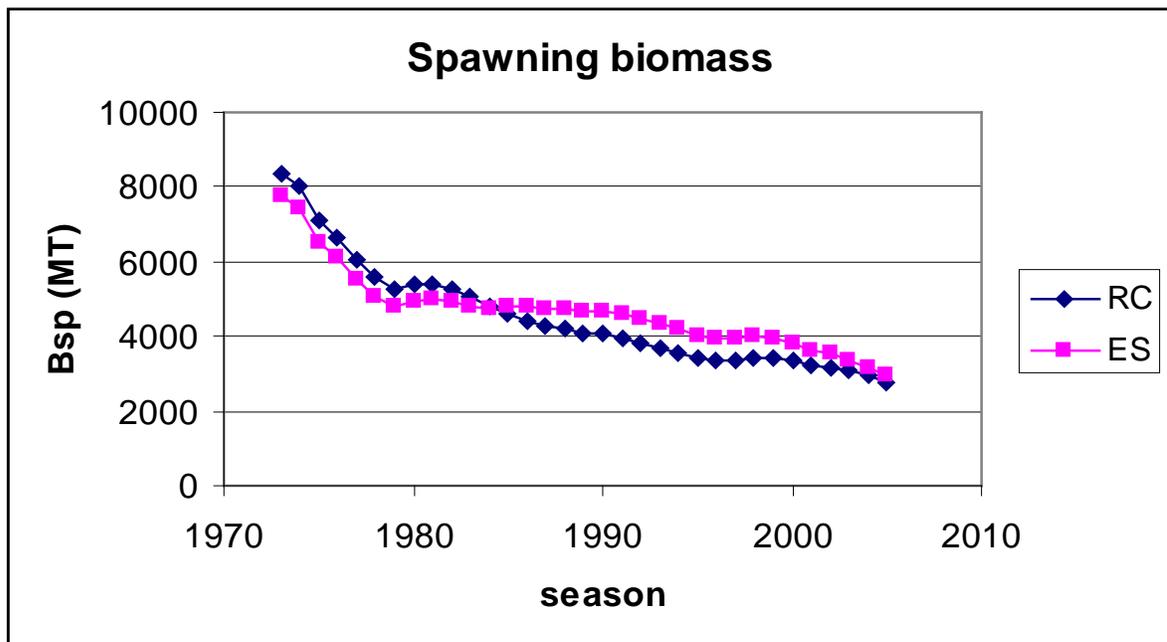


Figure 4: Stock-recruitment residuals for the Reference Case, effort saturation (Sensitivity 3) and catch-at-age down-weighting (Sensitivity 5) scenarios.

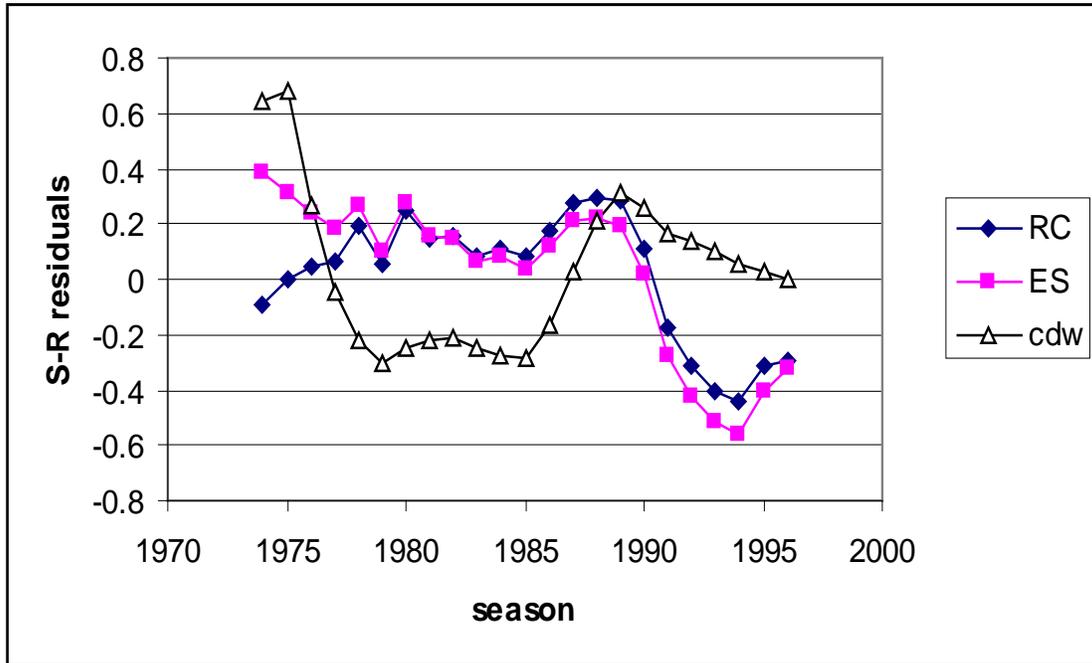


Figure 5a: Biomass (exploitable) projections for six different CC strategies for the Reference Case.

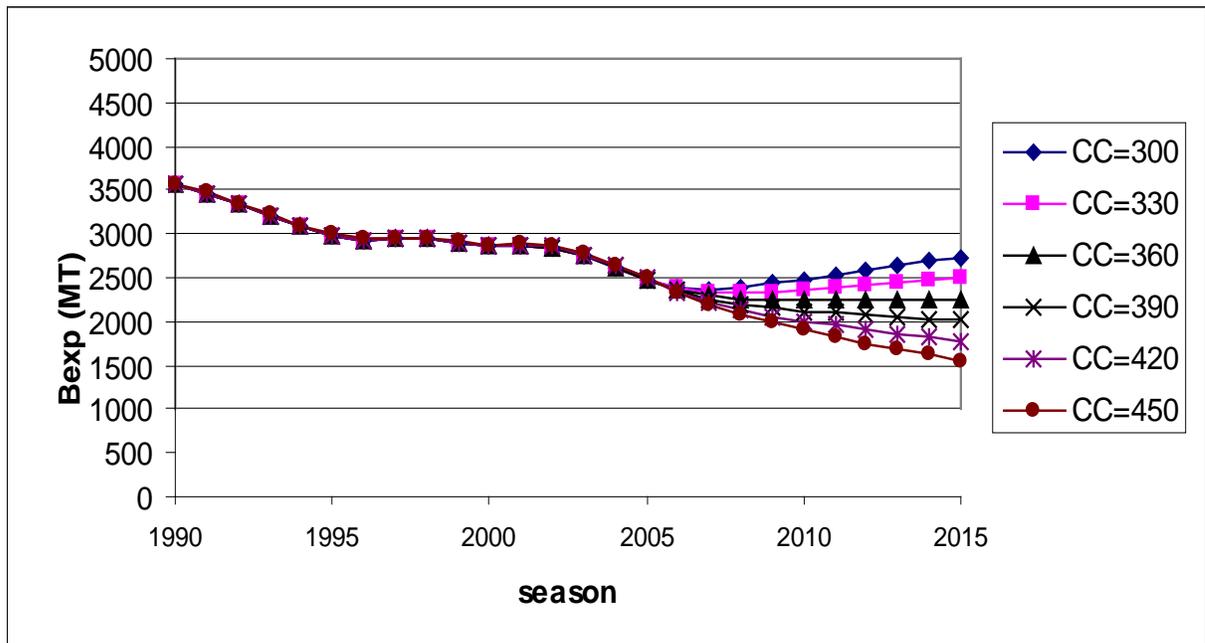


Figure 5b: Biomass (exploitable) projections for six different CC strategies for the effort saturation (Sensitivity 3) scenario.

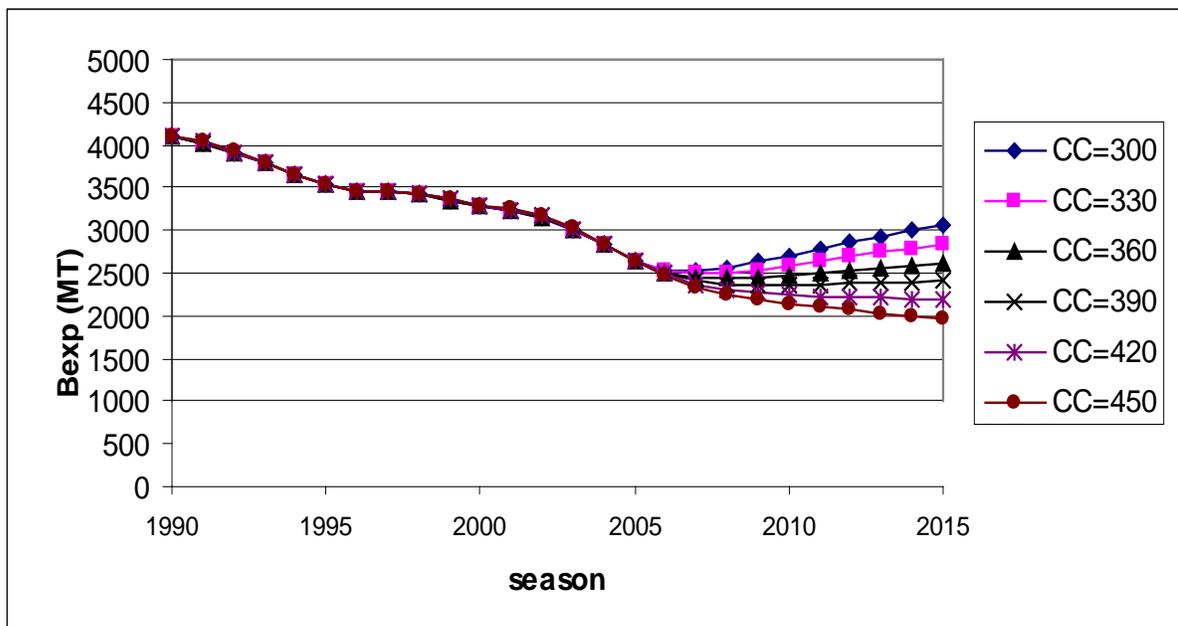


Figure 5c: Biomass (exploitable) projections for six different CC strategies for the lower recruitment scenario (Sensitivity 4: 1996+ R = previous 10 year average).

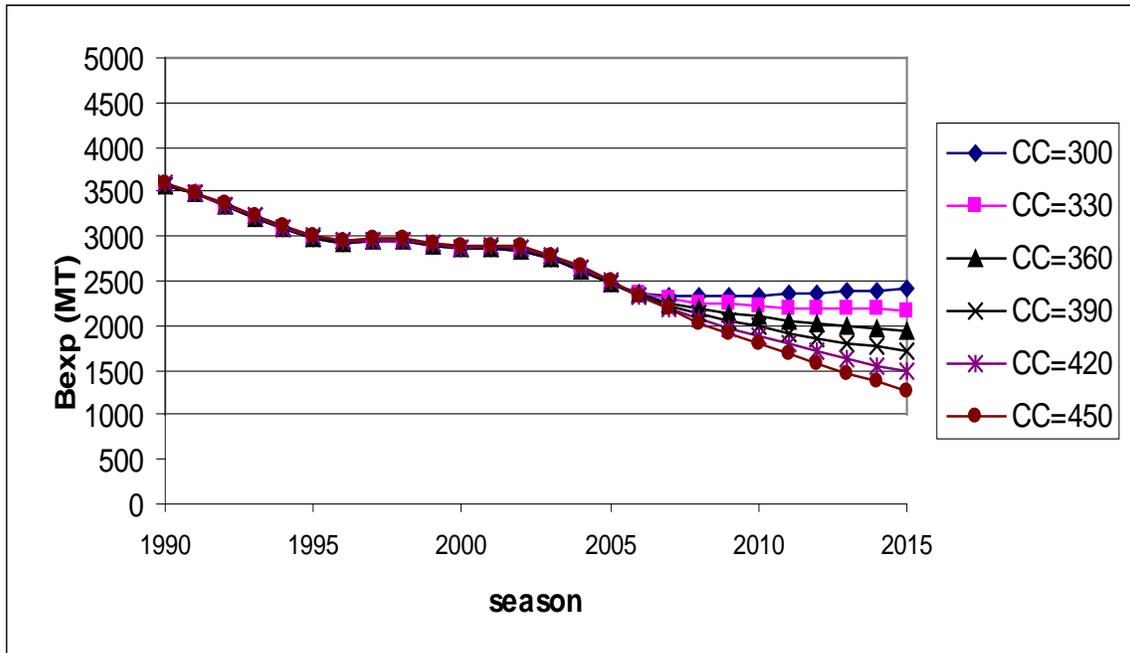
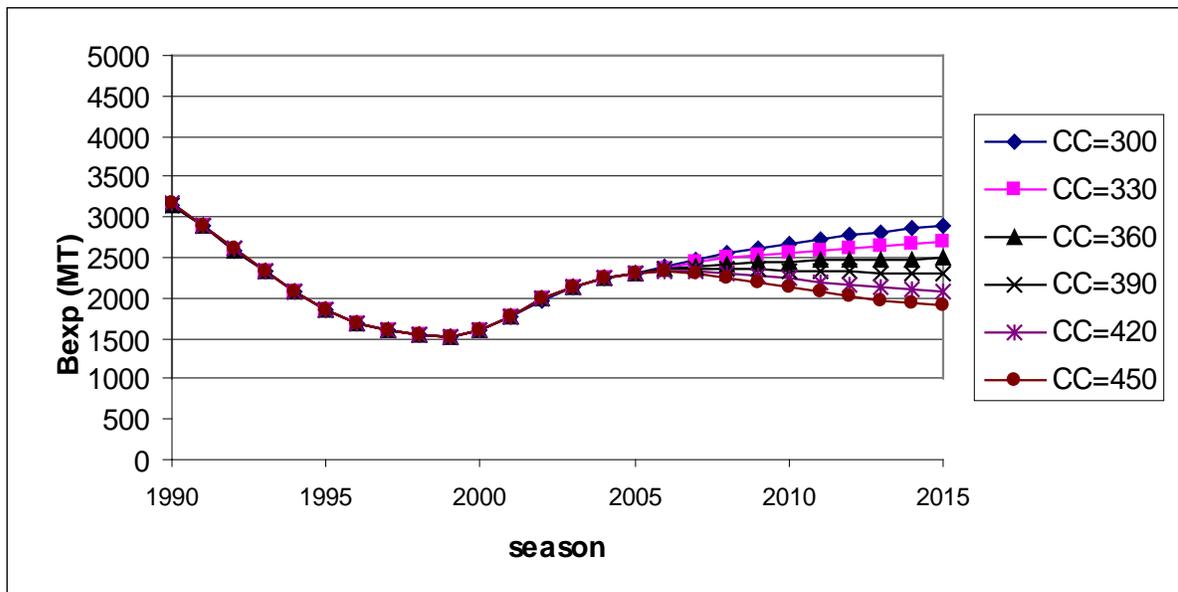


Figure 5d: Biomass (exploitable) projections for six different CC strategies for the catch-at-age down-weight (Sensitivity 5) scenario.





## Appendix: The Age-structured production model for the South Coast rock lobster resource.

### 1. The population model:

The resource dynamics are modeled by the equations:

$$N_{y+1,0} = R_{y+1} \quad (1)$$

$$N_{y+1,a+1} = N_{y,a} e^{-(M_a + S_a F_y)} = N_{y,a} e^{-Z_{y,a}} \quad (2)$$

$$N_{y+1,m} = N_{y,m-1} e^{-(M_{m-1} + S_{m-1} F_y)} + N_{y,m} e^{-(M_m + S_m F_y)} \quad (3)$$

where

$N_{y,a}$  is the number of lobsters of age  $a$  at the start of year  $y$ ,

$M_a$  denotes the natural mortality rate on lobsters of age  $a$ ,

$S_a$  is the age-specific selectivity,

$F_y$  is the fully selected fishing mortality in year  $y$ , and

$m$  is the maximum age considered (taken to be a plus-group).

The number of recruits at the start of year  $y$  is related to the spawner stock size by a stock-recruitment relationship:

$$R_y = \frac{\alpha B_y^{sp}}{\beta + (B_y^{sp})^\gamma} e^{\zeta_y} \quad (4)$$

where

$\alpha, \beta$  and  $\gamma$  are spawner biomass-recruitment parameters ( $\gamma=1$  for a Beverton-Holt relationship),

$\zeta_y$  reflects fluctuation about the expected recruitment for year  $y$ , and

$B_y^{sp}$  is the spawner biomass at the start of year  $y$ , given by:

$$B_y^{sp} = \sum_{a=1}^m f_a w_a N_{y,a} \quad (5)$$

where  $w_a$  is the begin-year mass of fish at age  $a$  and  $f_a$  is the proportion of fish of age  $a$  that are mature.

In order to work with estimable parameters that are more meaningful biologically, the stock-recruit relationship is re-parameterised in terms of the pre-exploitation equilibrium spawning biomass,  $K^{sp}$ , and the ‘‘steepness’’ of the stock-recruit relationship (recruitment at  $B^{sp} = 0.2K^{sp}$  as a fraction of recruitment at  $B^{sp} = K^{sp}$ ):

$$\alpha = \frac{(5 - 0.2^{\gamma-1}) h R_1 (K^{sp})^{\gamma-1}}{5h - 1} \quad (6)$$

and

$$\beta = \frac{(K^{sp})^\gamma (1 - 0.2h)^{\gamma-1}}{5h - 1} \quad (7)$$

where

$$R_1 = K^{sp} / \left[ \sum_{a=1}^{m-1} f_a w_a e^{-\sum_{a'=0}^{a-1} M_{a'}} + f_m w_m \frac{e^{-\sum_{a'=0}^{m-1} M_{a'}}}{1 - e^{-M_m}} \right] \quad (8)$$

The total catch by mass in year  $y$  is given by:

$$C_y = \sum_{a=0}^m w_{a+\frac{1}{2}} N_{y,a} \frac{S_a F_y}{Z_{y,a}} (1 - e^{-Z_{y,a}}) \quad (9)$$

where  $w_{a+\frac{1}{2}}$  denotes the mid-year mass of a lobster at age  $a$ .

The model estimate of mid-year exploitable biomass is given by:

$$\hat{B}_y = \sum_{a=0}^m w_{a+\frac{1}{2}} S_a N_{y,a} e^{-(Z_{y,a})/2} \quad (10)$$

where

$\hat{B}_y$  is the model estimate of exploitable biomass for year  $y$ , and  
 $S_a$  is the fishing selectivity-at-age for age  $a$ .

Models that do not allow for the possibility of fluctuations about the stock-recruitment relationship (i.e. those which set  $\zeta_y = 0$  in equation 4) assume that the resource is at the deterministic equilibrium that corresponds to an absence of harvesting at the start of the initial year ( $B_{1973}^{sp} = K^{sp}$ ). For models that allow for that possibility, this assumption together with that of the associated equilibrium age-structure is made for 1973, with the biomass and age-structure thereafter potentially impacted by such fluctuations.

## 2. The likelihood function

The model is fitted to CPUE and catch-at-age data to estimate model parameters. Contributions by each of these to the negative log-likelihood ( $-\ln L$ ) are as follows:

### 2.1 Relative abundance data (CPUE):

The likelihood is calculated assuming that the observed abundance index is log-normally distributed about its expected value:

$$CPUE_y = qB_y e^{\varepsilon_y} \text{ or } \varepsilon_y = \ln(CPUE_y) - \ln(qB_y) \quad (11)$$

where

$CPUE_y$  is the CPUE abundance index for year  $y$ ,  
 $B_y$  is the model estimate of mid-year exploitable biomass for year  $y$  given by equation 10,  
 $q$  is the constant of proportionality (catchability coefficient), and  
 $\varepsilon_y$  from  $N(0, \sigma^2)$ .

The contribution of the abundance data to the negative of the log-likelihood function (after removal of constants) is given by:

$$-\ln L = \sum_y \left[ (\varepsilon_y)^2 / 2\sigma^2 + \ln \sigma \right] \quad (12)$$

where

$\sigma$  is the residual standard deviation estimated in the fitting procedure by its maximum likelihood value:

$$\hat{\sigma} = \sqrt{1/n \sum_y (\ln CPUE_y - \ln \hat{q} \hat{B}_y)^2} \quad (13)$$

where

$n$  is the number of data points in the CPUE series, and

$q$  is the catchability coefficient, estimated by its maximum likelihood value:

$$\ln \hat{q} = 1/n \sum_y (\ln CPUE_y - \ln \hat{B}_y) \quad (14)$$

## 2.2 “Effort saturation”

When the possibility of “effort saturation” is taken into account, the CPUE abundance relationship of equation 11 is modified as follows:

$$CPUE_y = q_y B_y e^{\varepsilon_y} \text{ or } \varepsilon_y = \ln(CPUE_y) - \ln(q_y B_y) \quad (15)$$

where

$$q_y = q' \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{E_y - E'}{E^* - E'} \right)^{n^*} \right] \quad \text{if } E_y > E' \quad (16)$$

$$q_y = q' \quad \text{if } E_y \leq E'$$

where

$CPUE_y$  is the GLM standardised CPUE data given in Table 1,

$E_y$  is the estimated effort given by  $\frac{C_y}{CPUE_y}$ ,

$$q' = e^{\left( \sum_{y, E_y < E'} (\ln(CPUE_y) - \ln B_y) + \sum_{y, E_y \geq E'} \left( \ln(CPUE_y \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{E_y - E'}{E^* - E'} \right)^{n^*} \right]) - \ln B_y \right) \right) / n}$$

$E^*$  quantifies the extent of “effort saturation”,

$E'$  is the threshold effort above which “effort saturation” sets in, and

$n^*$  allows for flexibility in the “effort saturation” relationship.

For this scenario, equation 13 is modified by replacing  $q$  with the  $q_y$  as defined above.

## 2.3 Catches-at-age

The contribution of the catch-at-age data to the negative of the log-likelihood function when assuming a log-normal error distribution and when making an adjustment to effectively weight in proportion to sample size is given by:

$$-\ln L = \sum_y \sum_a \left[ \ln(\sigma_{age} / \sqrt{p_{y,a}}) + p_{y,a} (\ln p_{y,a} - \ln \hat{p}_{y,a})^2 / 2(\sigma_{age})^2 \right] \quad (17)$$

where

$p_{y,a} = C_{y,a} / \sum_{a'} C_{y,a'}$  is the observed proportion of fish caught in year  $y$  that are of age  $a$ ,

$\hat{p}_{y,a} = \hat{C}_{y,a} / \sum_{a'} \hat{C}_{y,a'}$ , is the model predicted proportion of fish caught in year  $y$  that are of age  $a$ , where:

$$\hat{C}_{y,a} = N_{y,a} \frac{S_{y,a} F_y}{Z_{y,a}} (1 - e^{-Z_{y,a}}) \quad (18)$$

and  $\sigma_{age}$  is the standard deviation associated with the catch-at-age data, estimated in the fitting procedure by:

$$\hat{\sigma}_{age} = \sqrt{\left[ \sum_y \sum_a p_{y,a} (\ln p_{y,a} - \ln \hat{p}_{y,a})^2 / \sum_y \sum_a 1 \right]} \quad (19)$$

Note that allowance is made for a “minus” group (lobsters age 8 and younger) in the catch-at-age contribution to the likelihood function, as well as for a “plus” group (lobsters aged 20 and over).

#### 2.4 Stock-recruitment function residuals:

The assumption that these residuals are log-normally distributed and could be serially correlated defines a corresponding joint prior distribution. This can be equivalently regarded as a penalty function added to the log-likelihood, which for fixed  $\rho$  is given by:

$$-\ln L = \sum_{y=y1}^{y2} \left[ \frac{\zeta_y - \rho \zeta_{y-1}}{\sqrt{1 - \rho^2}} \right]^2 / 2\sigma_R^2 \quad (20)$$

where

$\zeta_y = \rho \tau_{y-1} + \sqrt{1 - \rho^2} \varepsilon_y$  is the recruitment residual for year  $y$  (see equation 4), which is estimated for years  $y1$  to  $y2$  if  $\rho = 0$ , or  $y1+1$  to  $y2$  if  $\rho > 0$ ,

$$\varepsilon_y \sim N(0, \sigma_R^2),$$

$\sigma_R$  is the standard deviation of the log-residuals, which is input, and

$\rho$  is their serial correlation coefficient, which is input.

Note that for the Reference Case assessment,  $\rho$  is set equal to zero, i.e. the recruitment residuals are assumed uncorrelated, and  $\sigma_R$  is set equal to 0.4. Because of the absence of informative age data for a wider period, recruitment residuals are estimated for years 1974 to 1996 only for the 2006 assessment.

### 3 Model parameters

**Natural mortality:** Natural mortality,  $M_a$ , is assumed to be the same ( $M$ ) for all age classes.

**Commercial selectivity-at-age:** The following time-invariant logistic curve is assumed for the commercial selectivity:

$$S_a = \frac{1}{1 + e^{(-\ln(19)(a-a_{50})/(a_{95}-a_{50}))}} \quad (21)$$

where

$a_{50}$  years is the age-at-50% selectivity which is estimated, and  
 $a_{95}$  years is the age-at-95% selectivity which is estimated.

**Age-at-maturity:** The proportion of lobsters of age  $a$  that are mature is approximated by  $f_a = 1$  for  $a > 9$  years (i.e.  $f_a = 0$  for  $a = 0, \dots, 9$ ).

**Minimum age:** Age 8 is taken to be a minus group.

**Maximum age:**  $m = 20$ , and is taken as a plus-group.

**Mass-at-age:** The mass  $w$  of a lobster at age  $a$  is given by:

$$w = \alpha \left[ l_\infty \left( 1 - e^{-\kappa(a-t_0)} \right) \right]^\beta \quad (22)$$

where the values assumed for the growth parameters are shown in Table 3.

**Stock-recruitment relationship:** The shape parameter,  $\gamma$ , is fixed to 1, corresponding to a Beverton-Holt form.

#### 4. The Bayesian approach

The Bayesian method entails updating prior distributions for model parameters according to the respective likelihoods of the associated population model fits to the CPUE, catch-at-age and tag-recapture data, to provide posterior distribution for these parameters and other model quantities.

In the case of an age-structured production model, the Bayesian computations require integration over the following priors:

- The 1993 harvest proportion ( $P = C_{1993}/B_{1993}$ ),
- The “steepness” of the stock-recruit relationship ( $h$ ), and
- Natural mortality ( $M_a$ ), assumed independent of age.
- In addition, we integrate over the two parameters defining the shape of the selectivity-at-age curve ( $a_{50}$  and  $a_{95}$ ).

Furthermore, priors for the parameters characterising the postulated “effort saturation” effects ( $E^*$ ,  $E'$  and  $n^*$ ) of equation 16 are also required. In applications considered thus far,  $E'$  and  $n^*$  have been taken as fixed. An effective prior based on the effort saturation experiment leads to the following term:

$$-\ln L = 4 \ln \sigma_E + 2 \quad (23)$$

where  $\sigma_E$  is estimated from the data such that:

$$\sigma_E = \sqrt{SS(E^*)/4} \quad (24)$$

where  $\sigma_E$  is the standard deviation of the residuals.

The  $SS(E^*)$  term is developed as follows (Butterworth 2000): Considering the “full effort” exerted in Dec-Jan of the 1998/99 experiment as the standard, the extent of effort reduction ( $\lambda$ ) and the associated relative change in CPUE (GLM-standardised to adjust

for normal monthly trends),  $f^{obs}(\lambda)$ , were as follows for the four area-period combinations considered in the experiment:

<u>Area-period</u>	<u><math>\lambda</math></u>	<u><math>f^{obs}(\lambda)</math></u>
East – Feb/Mar	0.93	1.25
East – Apr/May	1.24	1.30
Agulhas – Feb/Mar	1.15	1.04
Agulhas – Apr/May	0.60	0.71

The effort “reduction” factors,  $\lambda$ , above are taken from Groeneveld *et al.* (1999), (specifically Table 2c) for effective effort. The  $f^{obs}(\lambda)$  values follow from Tables 1 and 2 of an update of a section of that paper (WG/07/99/SCL16a), by dividing CPUE ratios (in relation to the Dec-Jan values taken as the standard) from the 1998/99 experiment by average values over the preceding 1991/92 to 1997/98 seasons.

To relate this “observed” information to a model for the extent of effort saturation, the formulation of Geromont (2000a), equation 16, is used:

$$\hat{f}(\lambda) = \frac{1 + [(E_{98/99} - E')/(E^* - E')]^{n^*}}{1 + [\lambda E_{98/99} - E']/(E^* - E')]^{n^*}} \quad (25)$$

Taking the effort for 1998/99, given by  $C_{98/99}/CPUE_{98/99}$ , (see Geromont 2000a, equation 16 and Table 1) to be reflective of the full effort Dec-Jan period of the experiment, sets  $E_{98/99}$  above to equal 5255. Geromont (pers. commn) advised values of  $E' = 2500$  and  $n^* = 1$  to be typical of those obtained in her fits of the ASPM model with effort saturation. This leaves only the key  $E^*$  parameter unspecified, and this is estimated by minimizing the sums of squared differences between the observed  $f(\lambda)$  values and those predicted by equation 25 above:

$$SS(E^*) = \sum_{i=1}^4 [f^{obs}(\lambda_i) - \hat{f}(\lambda_i, E^*)]^2 \quad (26)$$

The catchability coefficient ( $q$ ) and the standard deviations associated with the CPUE and catch-at-age data ( $\sigma$  and  $\sigma_{age}$ ) are estimated in the fitting procedure by their maximum likelihood values, rather than integrating over these three parameters as well. This is adequately accurate given reasonable large sample sizes (Walters and Ludwig 1994, Geromont and Butterworth 1995).

Modes of posteriors, obtained by finding the maximum of the product of the likelihood and the priors, are then estimated rather than performing a full Bayesian integration, due to the time intensiveness of the latter.

#### 4.1 Priors

The following prior distributions for  $P$ ,  $h$ ,  $M$ ,  $a_{50}$ ,  $a_{95}$  are assumed, as previously agreed to by the Working Group (see also Butterworth 1997 and Groeneveld *et al.* 1997).

$P$ : U[0,1]

$h$ : N(0.95,SD) with SD=0.2, where the normal distribution is truncated at  $h = 1$ .

$M$ : “tent shaped” function (P1,P2,P3,P4) = (0.05,0.1,0.2,0.3)

$a_{50}$ : U[6,13] yr

$a_{95}$ : U[9,17] yr subject to  $a_{95} \geq a_{50}$