**UPDATED INDICATORS OF STOCK STATUS FOR SKIPJACK TUNA IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN**

Mark N. Maunder

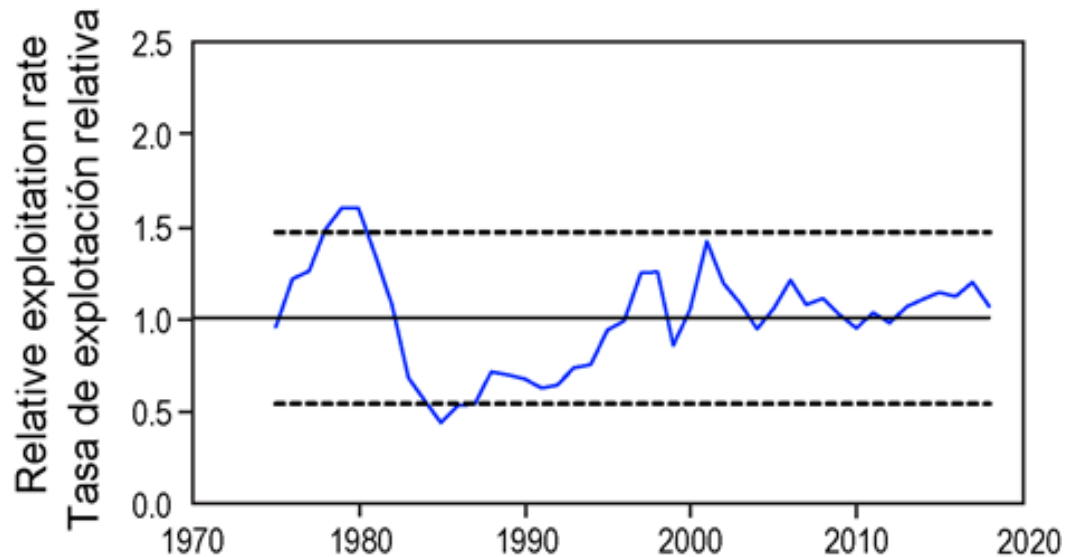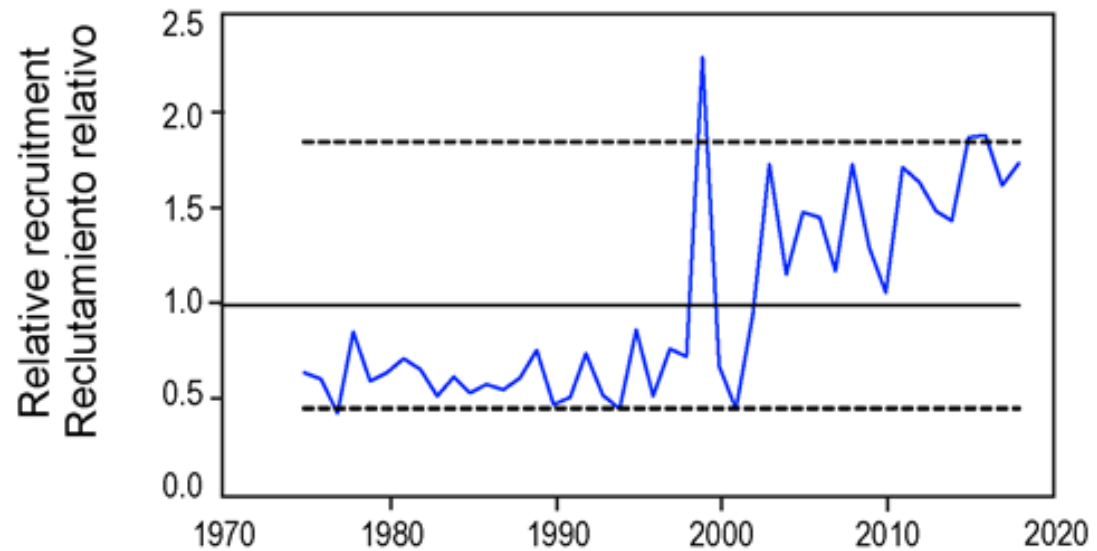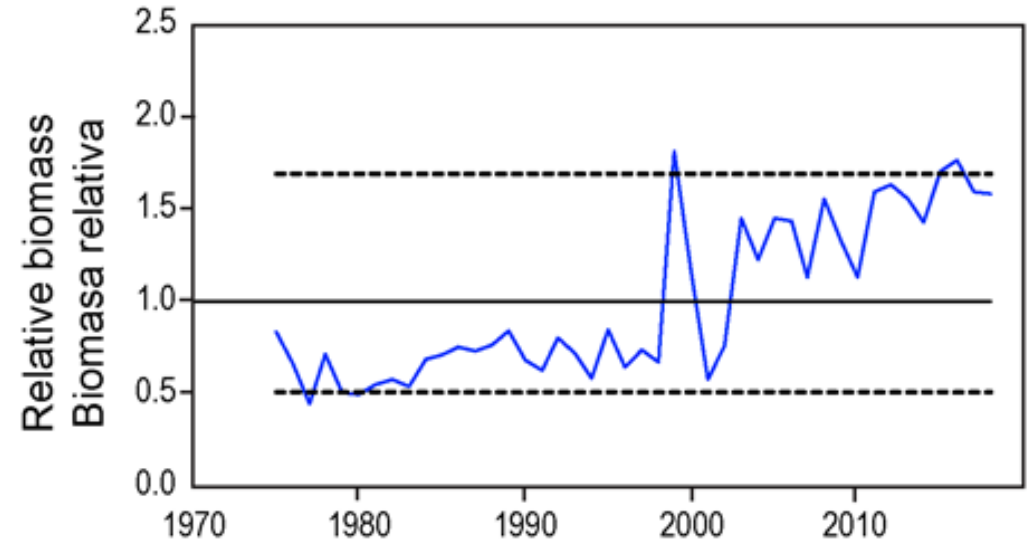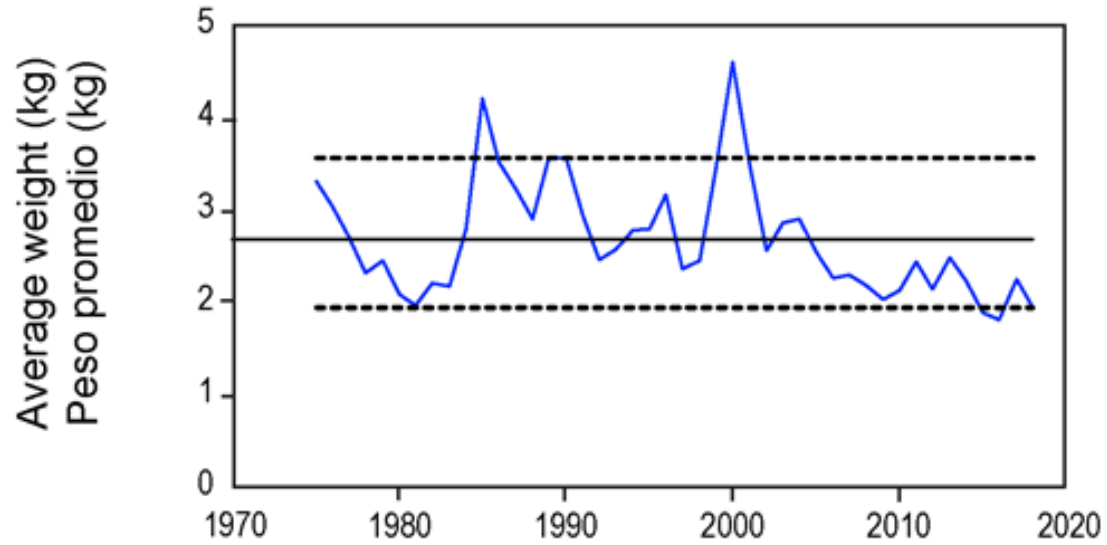10th Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee San Diego, California USA, 13-17 May 2019

Indicators

- Based on data (catch, effort, CPUE, and mean weight)

- Based on a simple population dynamics model (biomass, recruitment, and exploitation rate)

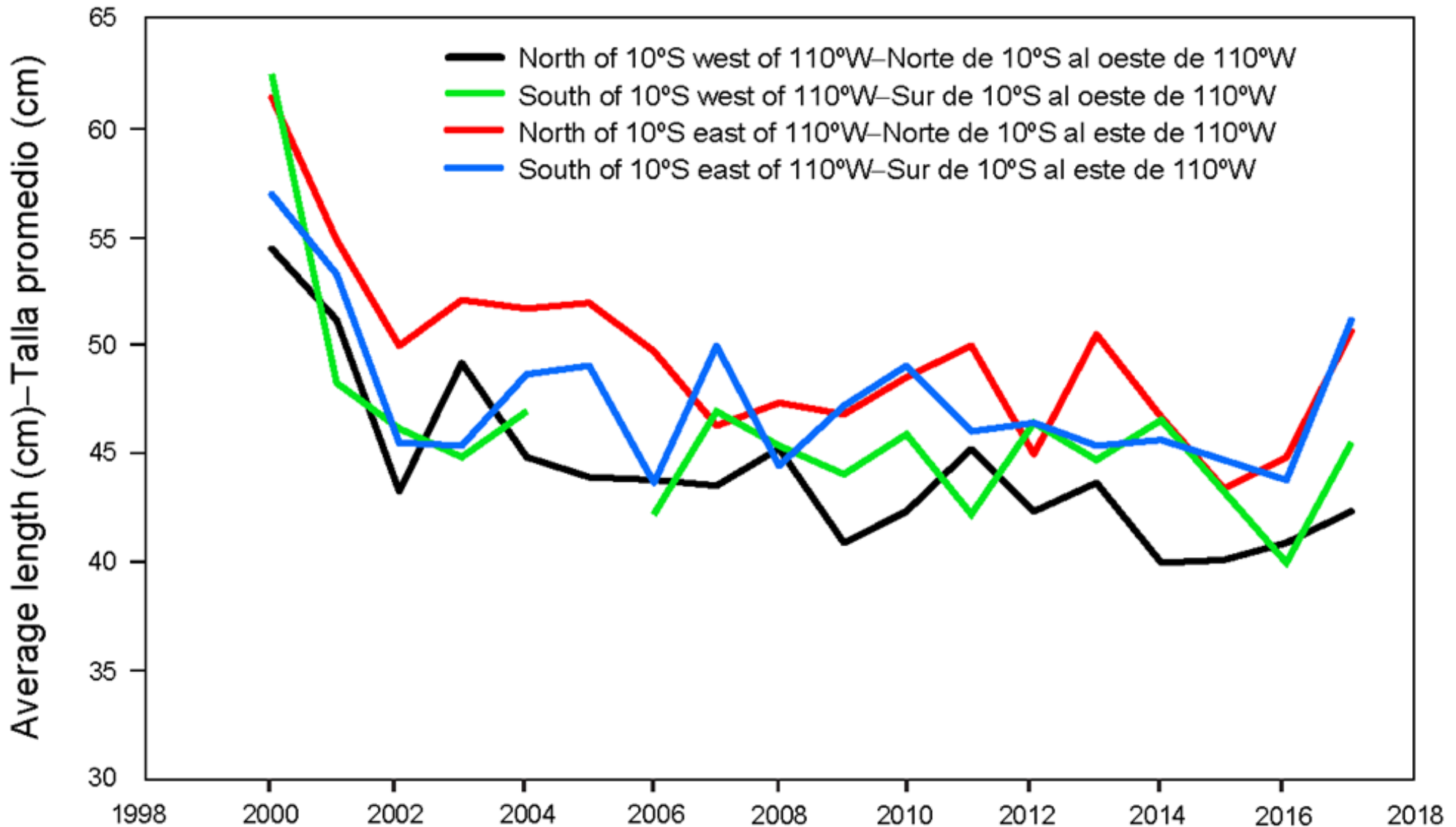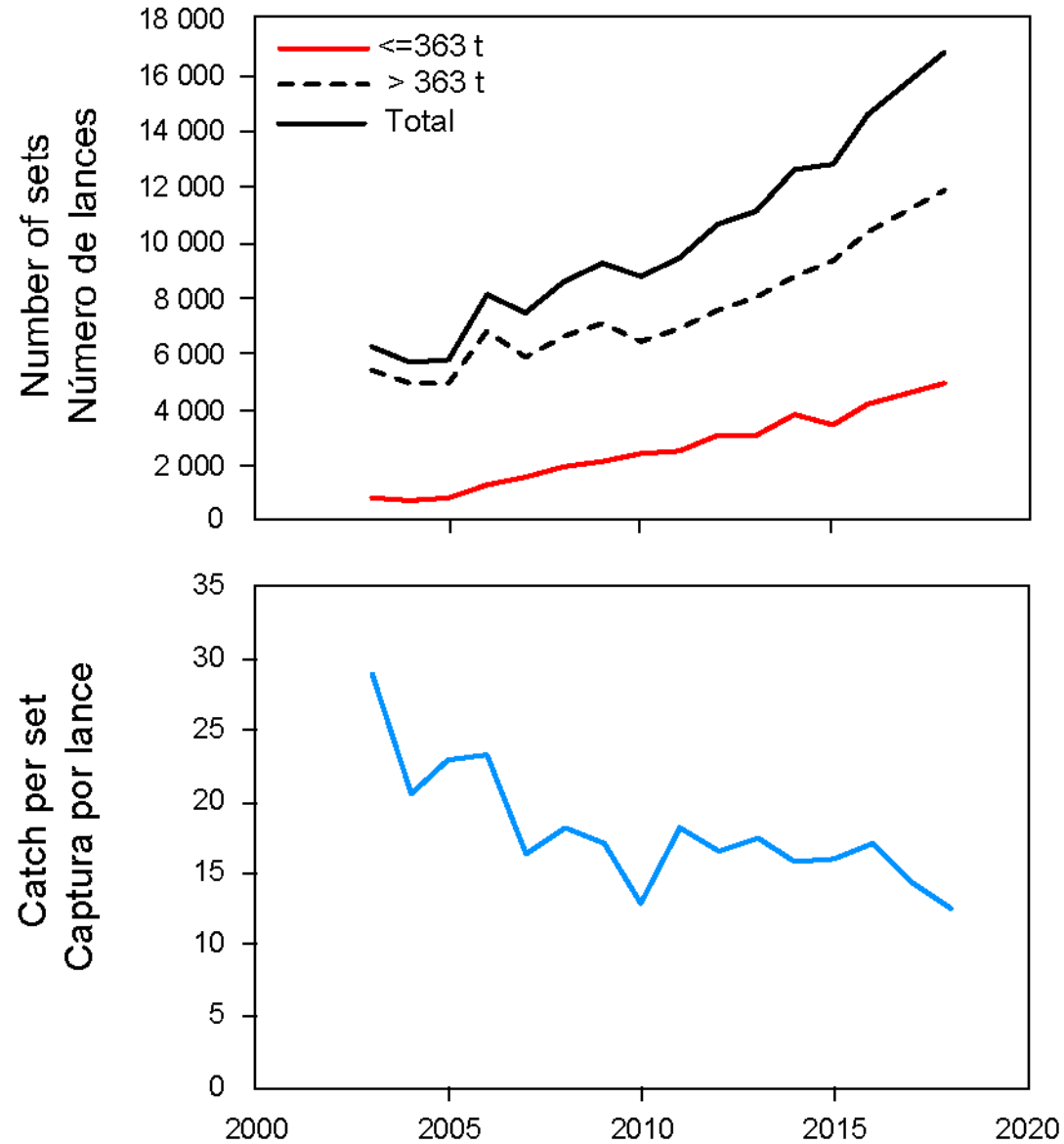- Reference levels based on the 5th and 95th percentiles

Indicators
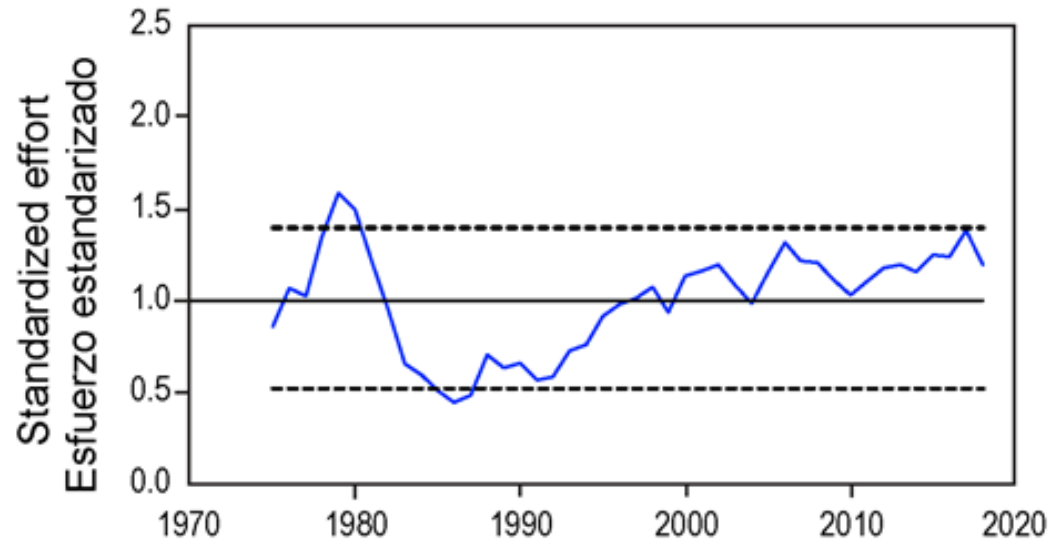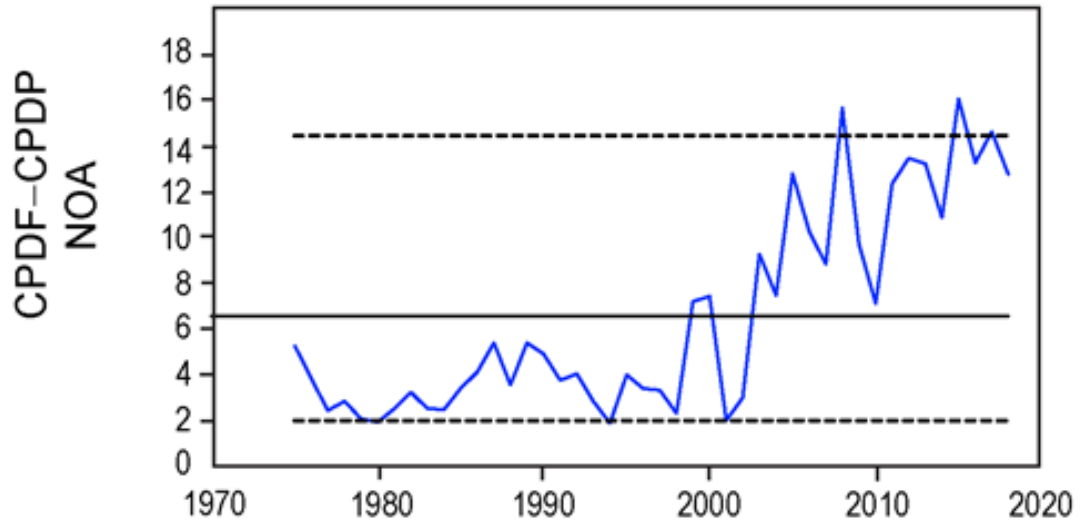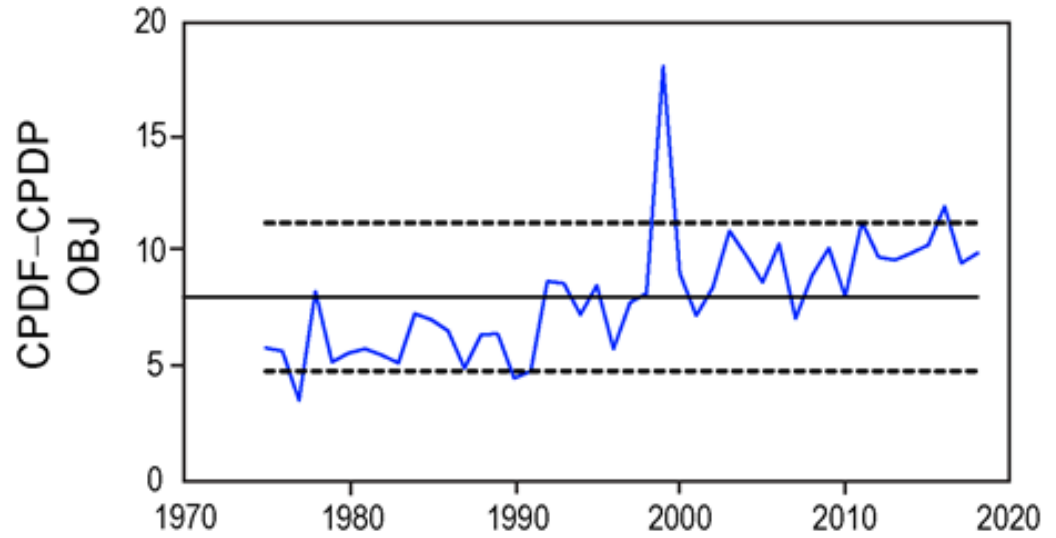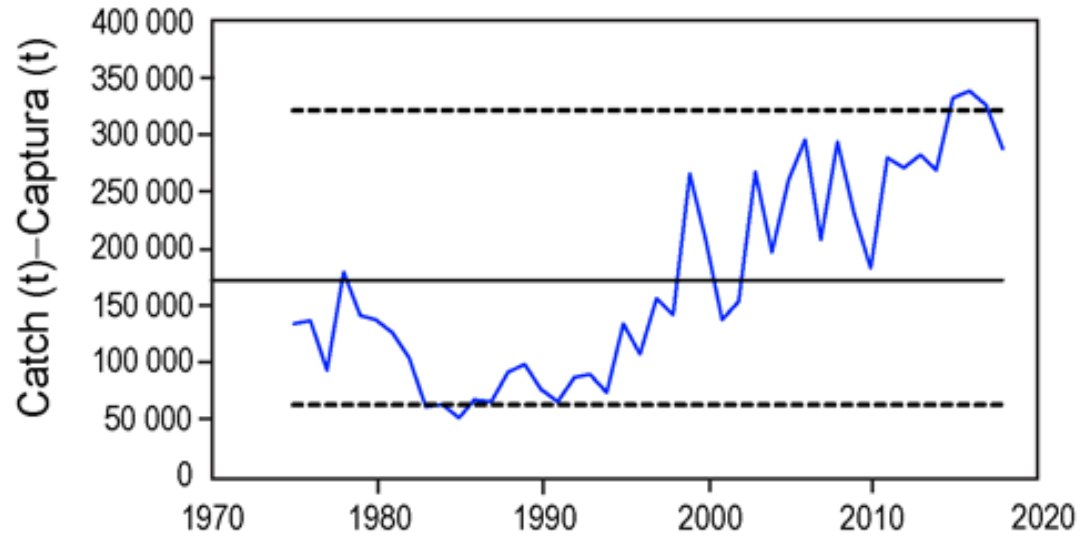
Indicators
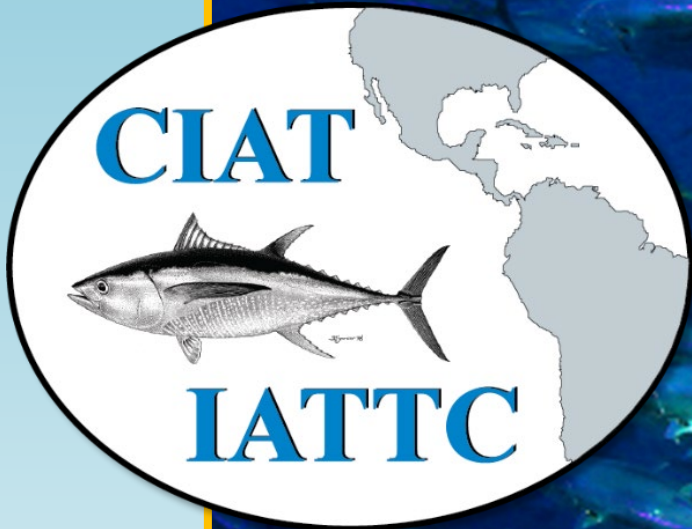
Average length

Number of sets

Conclusions

- Indicators not detected any adverse impacts of the fishery

- Model-based indicators are probably biased

- Average weight was below its lower reference level in 2015 - 2017

- Could be a consequence of

  - Overexploitation

  - High recent recruitments

  - Expansion of the fishery into areas of smaller skipjack

- The average length is less in the western part of the EPO, but it has been declining in all areas

- The long-term pattern in reduced average weight is probably due to increasing fishing mortality resulting from the increasing number of sets.

Conclusions

- Skipjack is assumed to be more productive, but have similar susceptibility as bigeye

- Assumed to be managed appropriately under bigeye and yellowfin measures

- Current bigeye and yellowfin assessments problematic

Questions

© ISSF (2013)

Photo: Jeff Muir