

Monitoring Program Summary 2024/25 Season



Monitoring Program – Eastern Zone

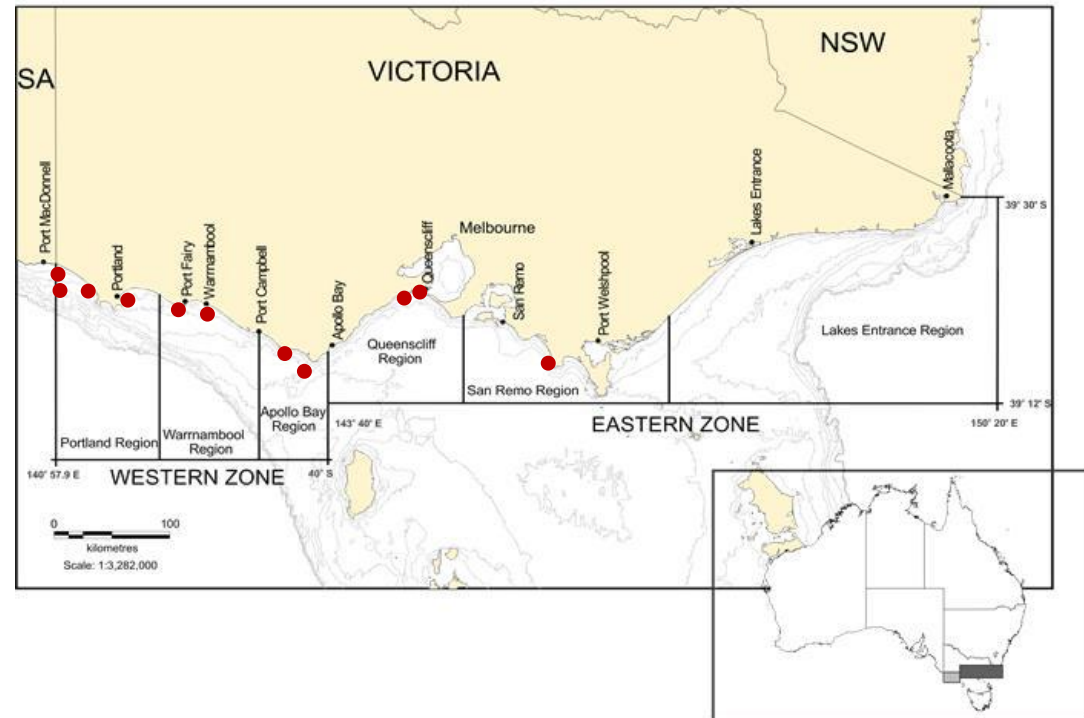


Data source	No. days	No. vessels	No. potlifts	No. Lobsters
On-board observer	8	1	359	172
Fixed site	6	2	401	328
Voluntary Log	166	4	771	566
Total				1,066

- Observer coverage restricted to Queenscliff region
- Fixed site survey – 2 of 3 sites
- Improved participation in voluntary sampling
 - Target (10% of pot lifts; 800 lengths)
- 70% increase in number of LF measurements

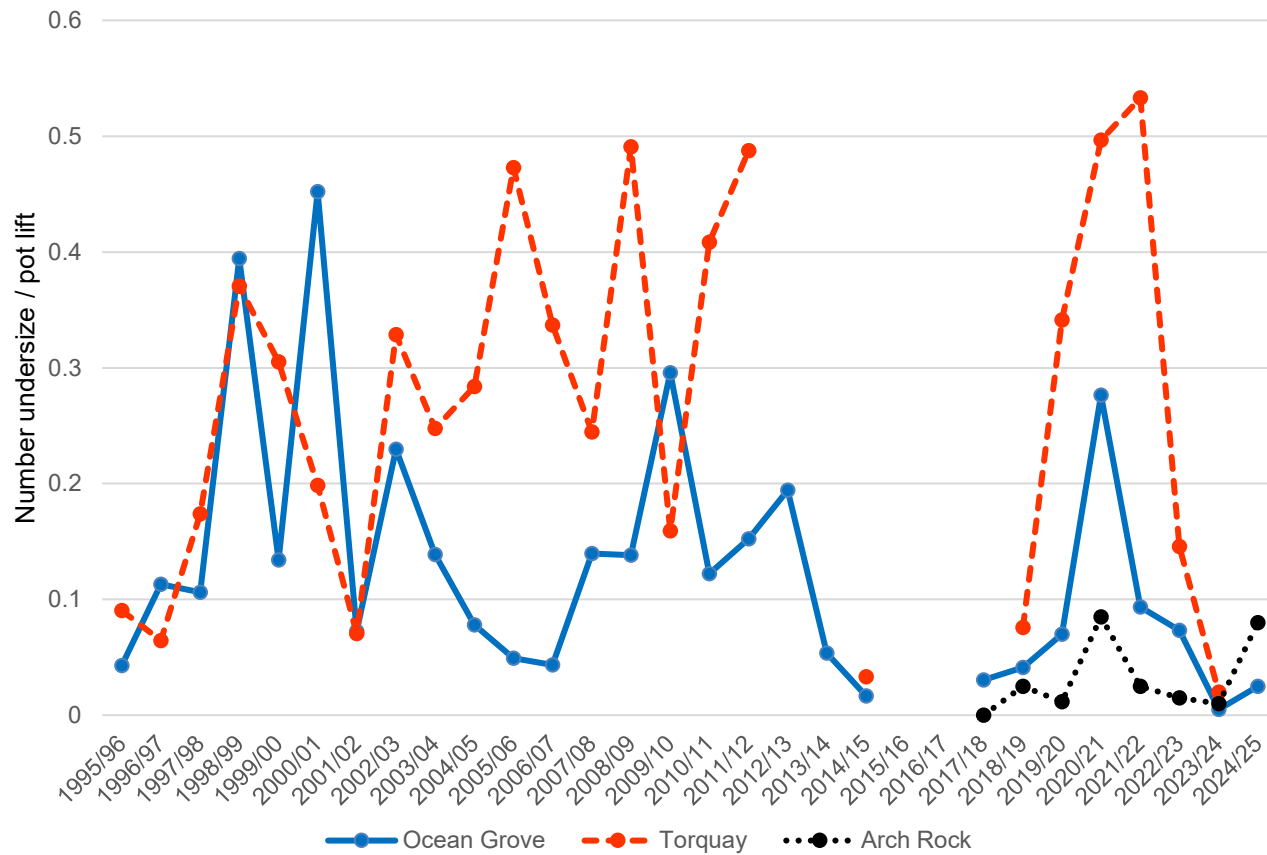
Fixed site surveys

- WZ since 2002
 - 8 sites
 - Escape gaps closed
- EZ since 1996
 - 3 sites
 - Escape gaps closed (50% pots)



Fixed Site Surveys - EZ

Queenscliff & San Remo Regions



Fishers' observations

- Recent reports of smaller lobsters off Torquay and Cape Schanck
- Need to try to capture this in the data
- Hopefully a promising sign for the Ezone!



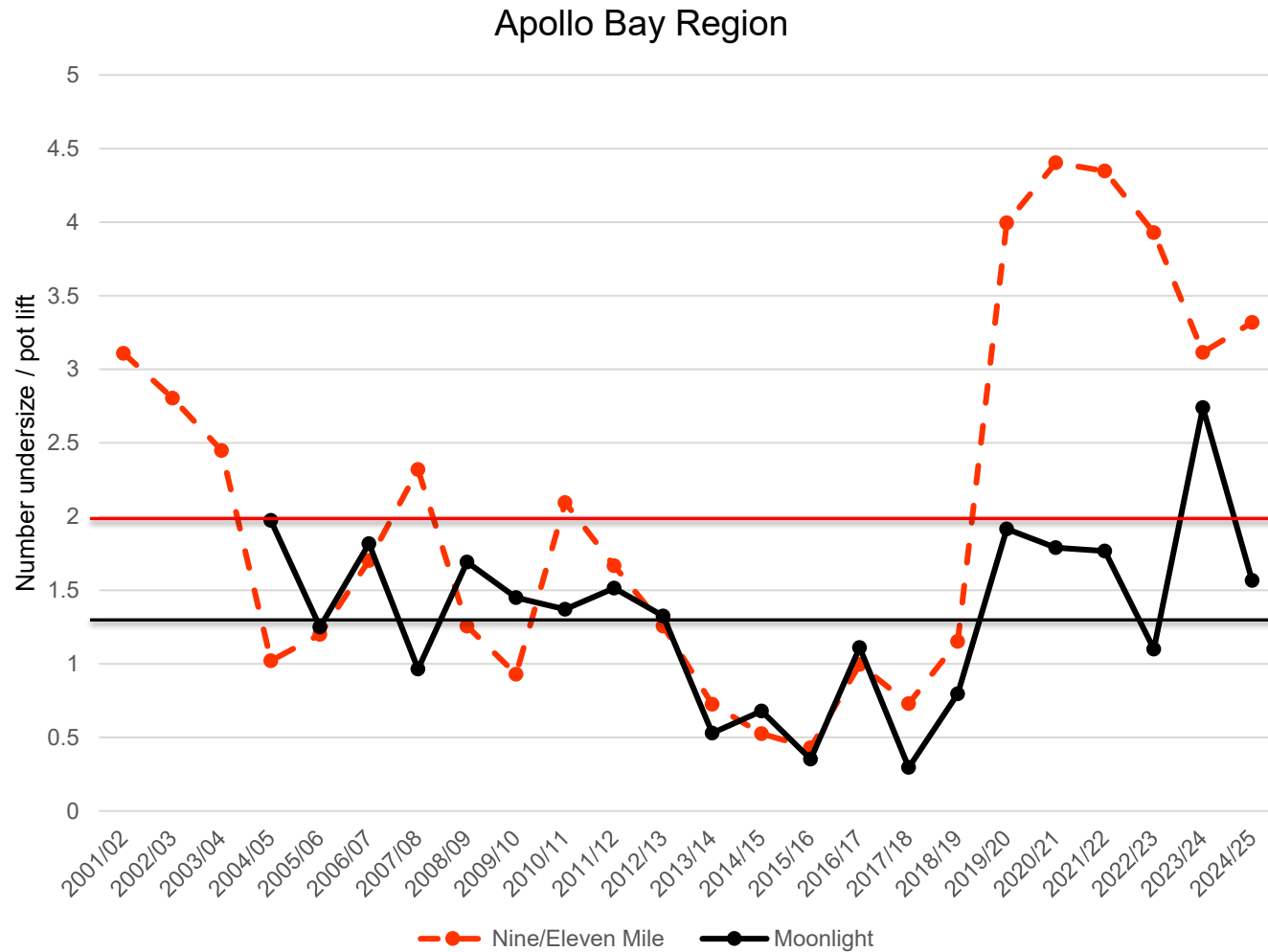
Monitoring Program – Western Zone



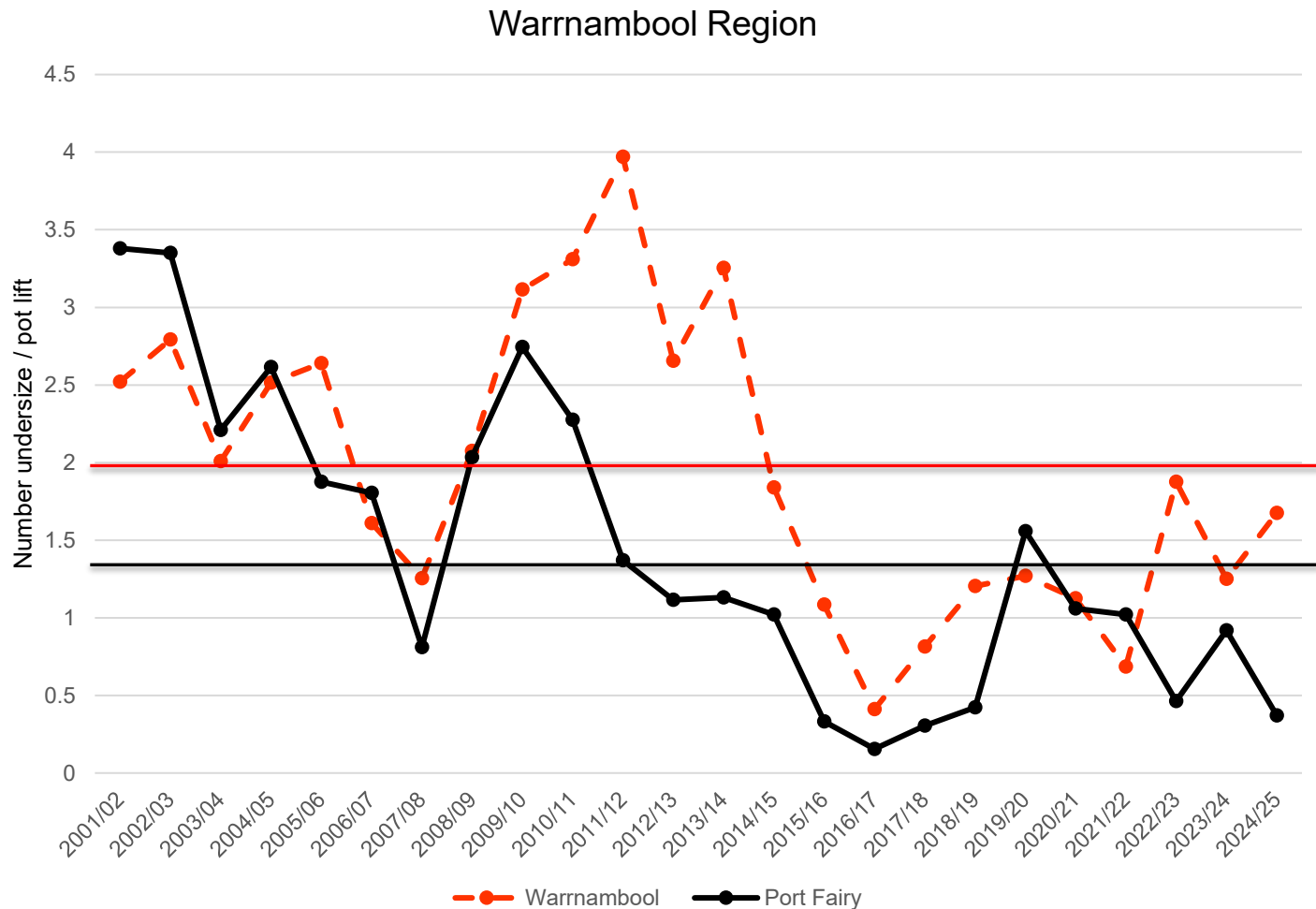
Data source	No. days	No. vessels	No. potlifts	No. Lobsters
On-board observer	28	8	2,149	4,767
Fixed site	28	5	1,405	4,937
Voluntary Log	-	-	-	-
Total				9,704

- Aim for additional data from Apollo Bay
- Surveyed 7 of 8 fixed sites
 - Difficulty maintaining some sites(catch rates/costs)

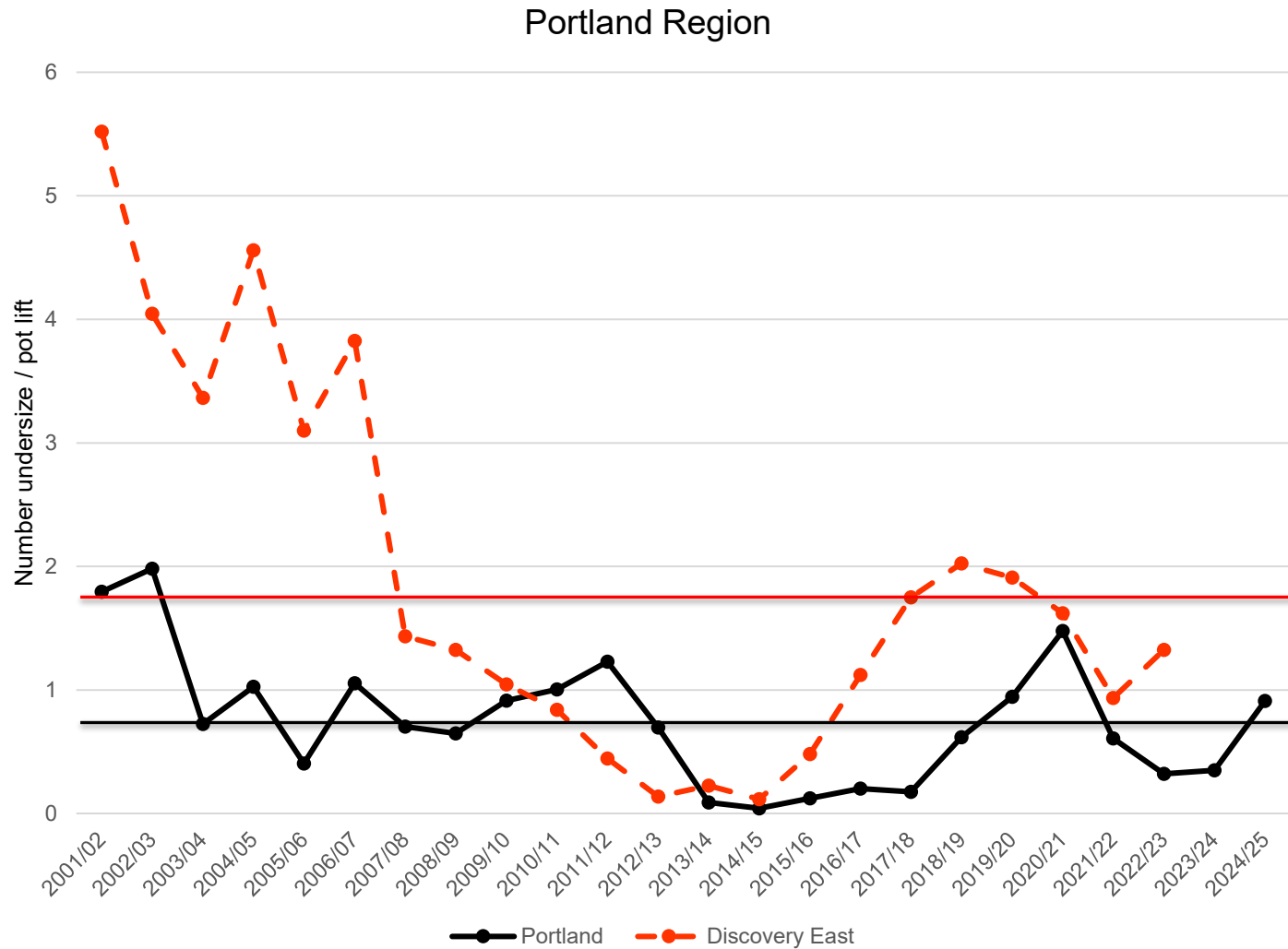
Fixed Site Surveys - WZ



Fixed Site Surveys - WZ

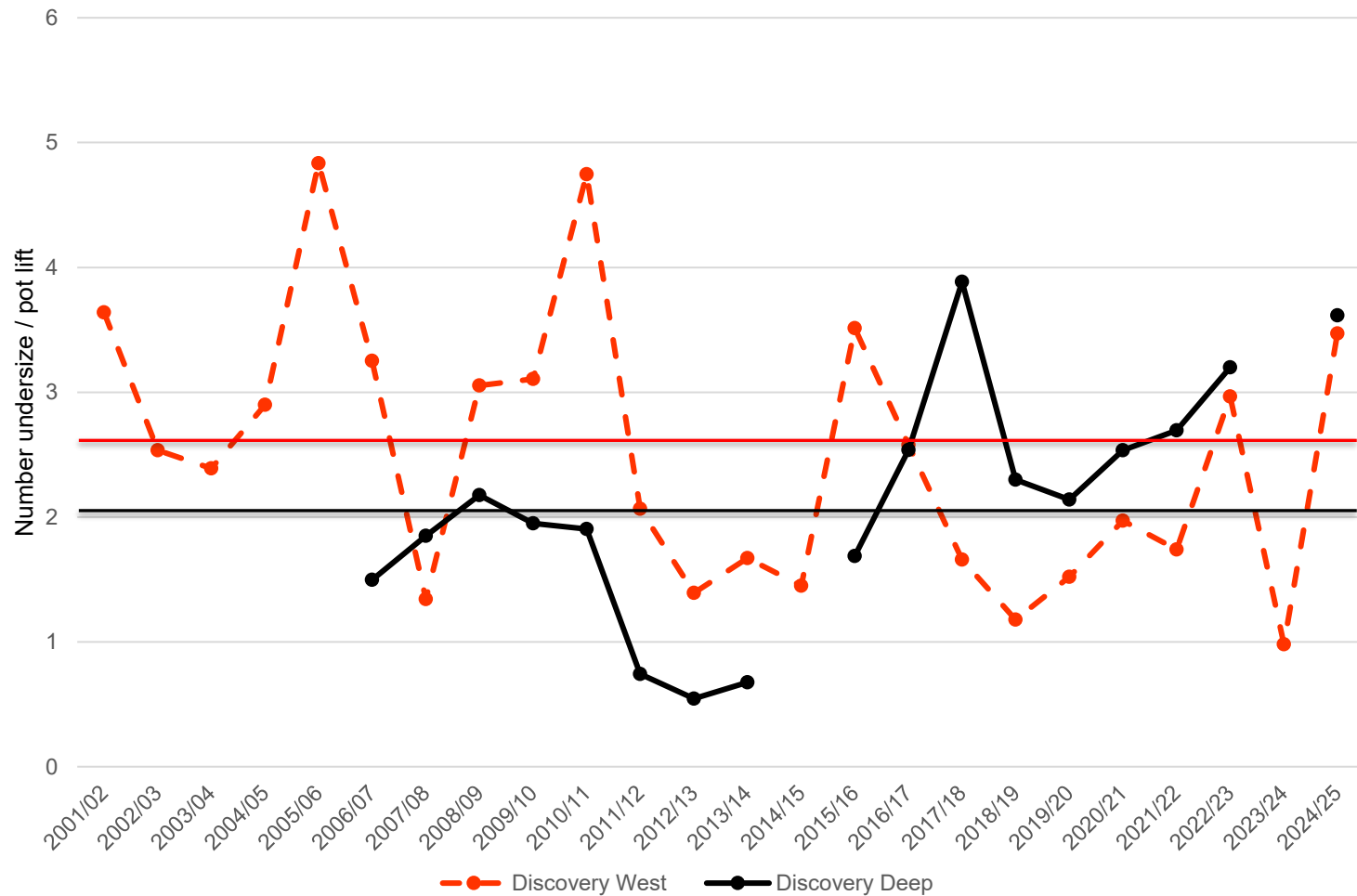


Fixed Site Surveys - WZ



Fixed Site Surveys - WZ

Portland Region

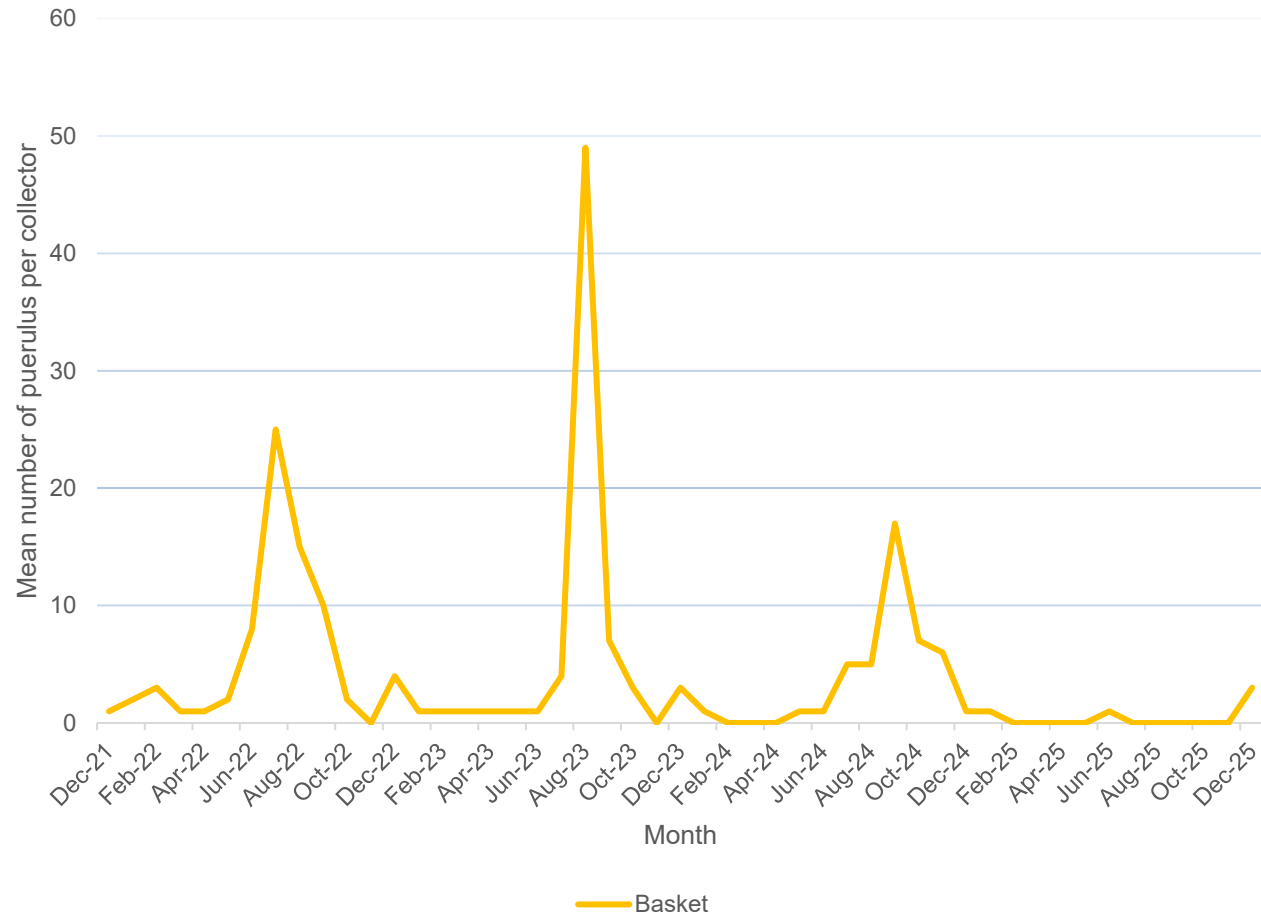


Puerulus Monitoring – Apollo Bay

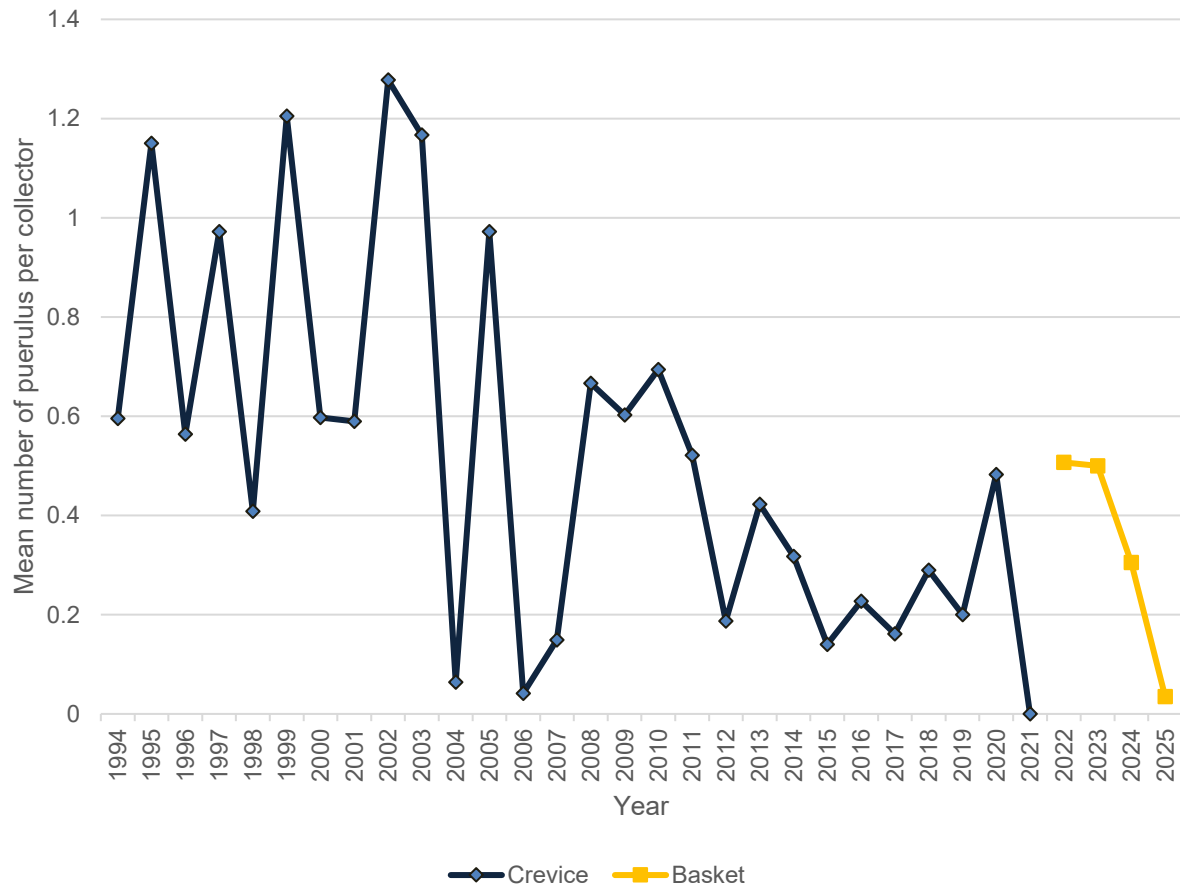
- Basket collectors
 - Initiated Dec 2021
 - Continue to be serviced monthly by Otway Ocean Care.



Puerulus Settlement



Puerulus Settlement



Rock Lobster Ruler



RL ruler



Aim: Improve accuracy of lobster lengths reported by recreational fishers

- EOI emailed to 420 recreational fishers who reported lobster catch in 2023/24 season.
- Rulers were posted to more than 200 respondents in Nov 24.
- Feedback requested in March 2025 – mostly positive
- Next step. Send rulers to 'New' fishers who reported catch in 2024/25 season.

