

Victorian SRL RAG 47 – 3/9/2026

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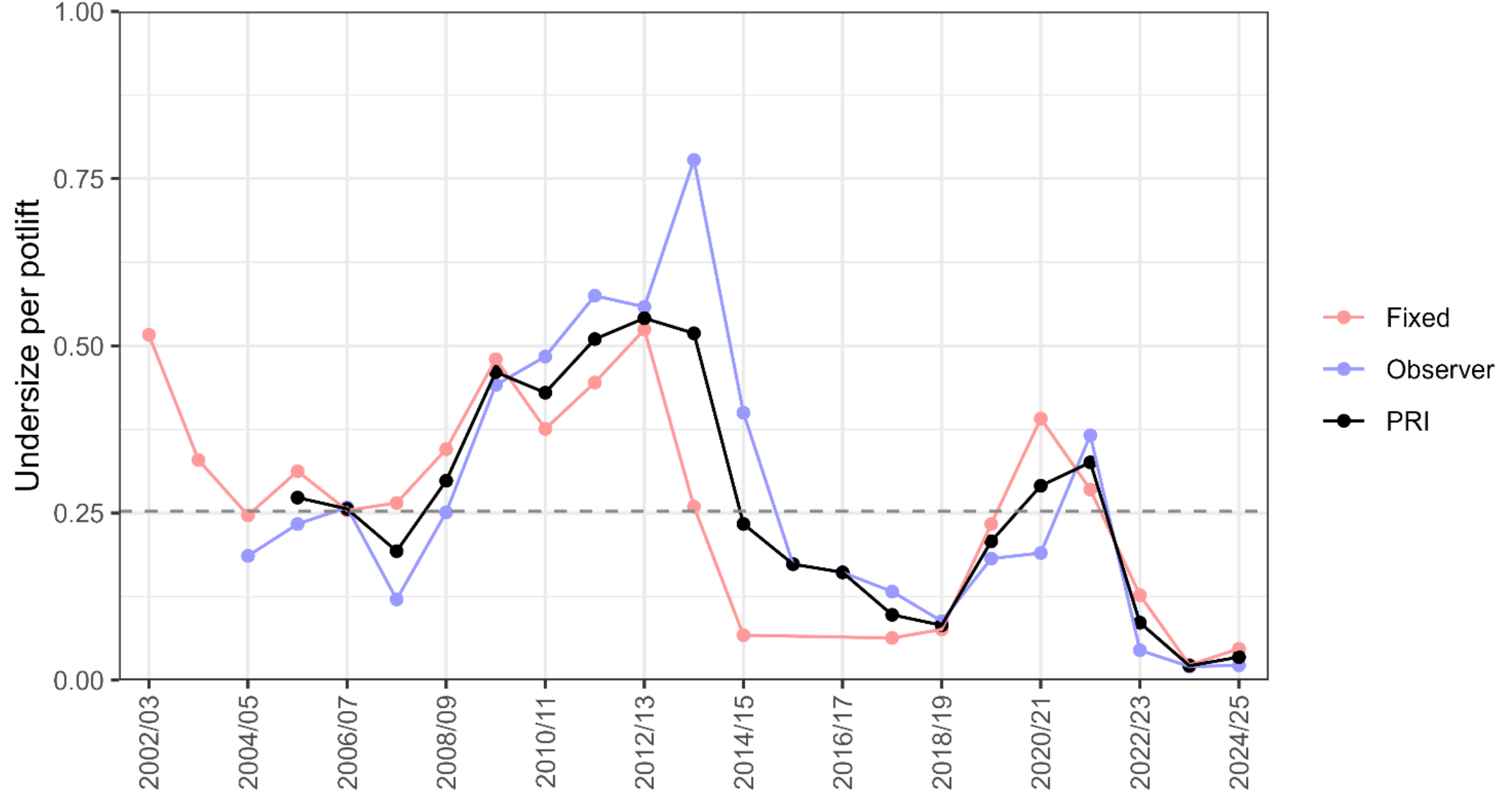
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6.1 Role of PRI in the HS



Decision Rule	2024/25 Stock Indicator Level	Outcome
Part 1: Egg Production		
Is the model estimated egg production above the limit reference point of 20% of unfished levels?	The 2024/25 egg production level is likely to be above the 20% level based on the CPUE proxy and weight of evidence argument.	Decision rule has been met. Go to Part 2
Part 2: TACC Determination		
a. Is standardised CPUE in a higher band than the previous season?	CPUE increased from 0.48kg/pot-lift in 2022/23 to 0.57kg/pot-lift in 2023/24 and 0.56kg/pot-lift in 2024/25. This corresponds to the 0.55 -< 0.60 band which is higher than the current 0.45-<0.50 band.	The CPUE band has increased.
b. Is the 2024/25 PRI at or above the threshold level of 0.25 undersize/pot-lift?	The combined PRI was 0.03 in 2024/25. This is well below the threshold level.	The combined PRI is below the threshold level.
Outcome		TACC remains at the same level Harvest control rule review is required
RESULT		
The Eastern Zone remains in the same CPUE band (0.45-<0.50) with a TACC of 21t.		

4. The harvest control rule will be reviewed when:
 - i) The catch rate band decreases for two consecutive years; or
 - ii) The PRI is below threshold for two consecutive years.

Both of these conditions provide an early warning sign that the recruitment assumptions underpinning the harvest control rule may no longer be valid (as happened with the reduction in recruitment and productivity experience in the late 2000s). Consequently, a review of the harvest control rule to investigate this further will be required.

PRI Working Group – Chair Summary

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- The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a review that had been triggered in the harvest strategy due to consecutive years of PRI below the threshold reference point.
- Two key issues were identified in the zone's data collection:
 - i. The total lack of length-frequency data collected.
 - ii. The small spatial scale from which that data was collected.
- The current TACC is extremely precautionary, providing additional protection to the zone's biomass. In addition, the increase in catch rates is positive.
- Based on a range of considerations, the group recommended the following:
 - i. An increased focus on expanding the spatial extent of data collection, likely achieved through increased activity in the Lakes Entrance region.
 - ii. A revised voluntary pot sampling program to enhance representative data collection.
 - iii. An increase in the number of voluntary participants in the zone, noting that this was an element of the fee relief package currently in place.
 - iv. No further management response at this time, other than to reconsider the data collected in 12 months.
 - v. Anthony to consider feasibility of an independent survey across the Eastern Zone.

6.2 Review of recent East Coast data and ongoing trends

Sources:

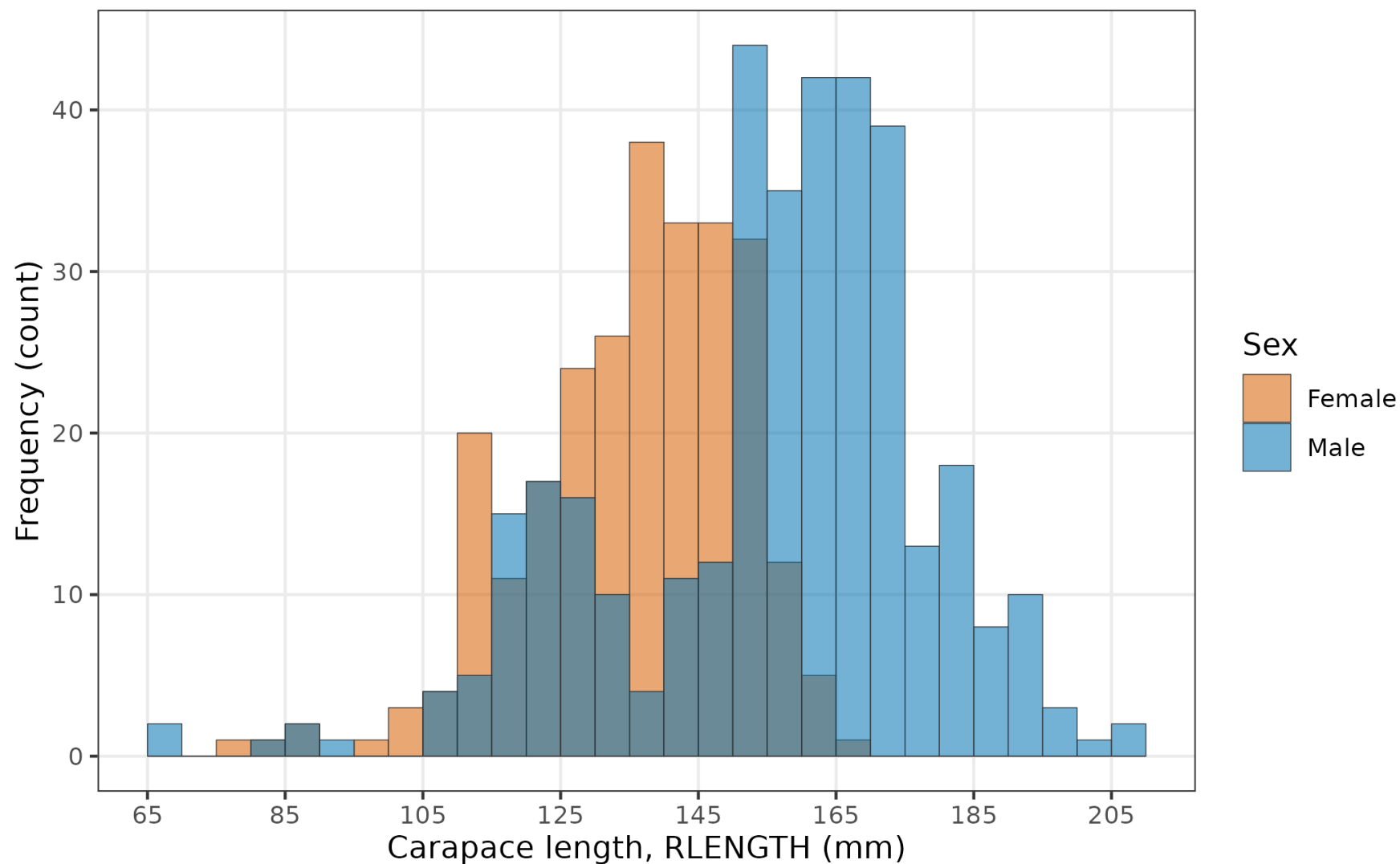
- 2025/26 Voluntary Data
- 2025/26 Arch Rock fixed site
- Combined time-series



Arch Rocks 2025/26

Arch Rocks FSS 2026: length-frequency by sex - all days, all pots

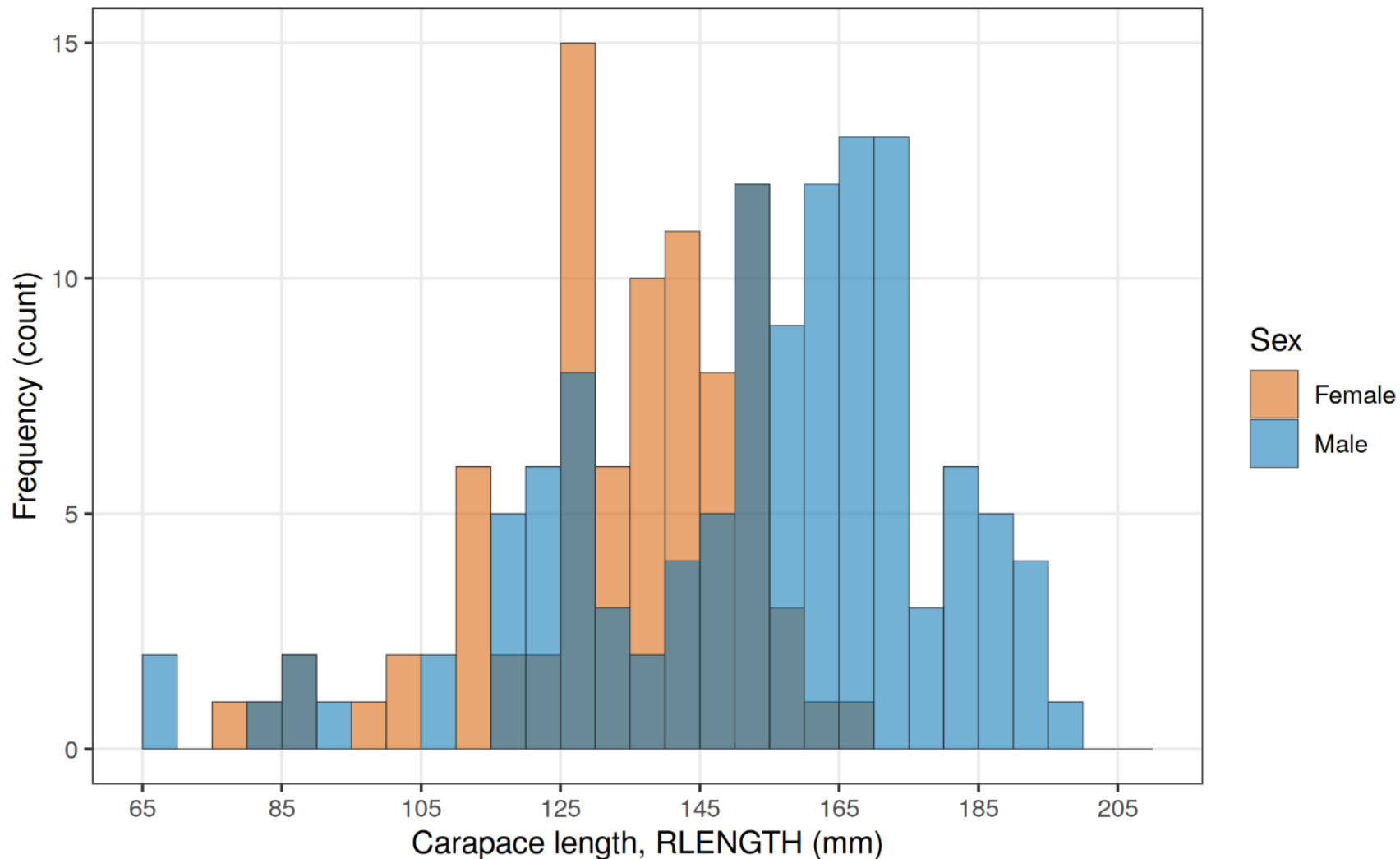
n = 621 (Female = 264, Male = 357)



Arch Rocks 2025/26 Escape Gaps Closed

Arch Rocks FSS 2026: length-frequency by sex - escape gaps CLOSED (ESCAPE = NO)

n = 203 (Female = 84, Male = 119)

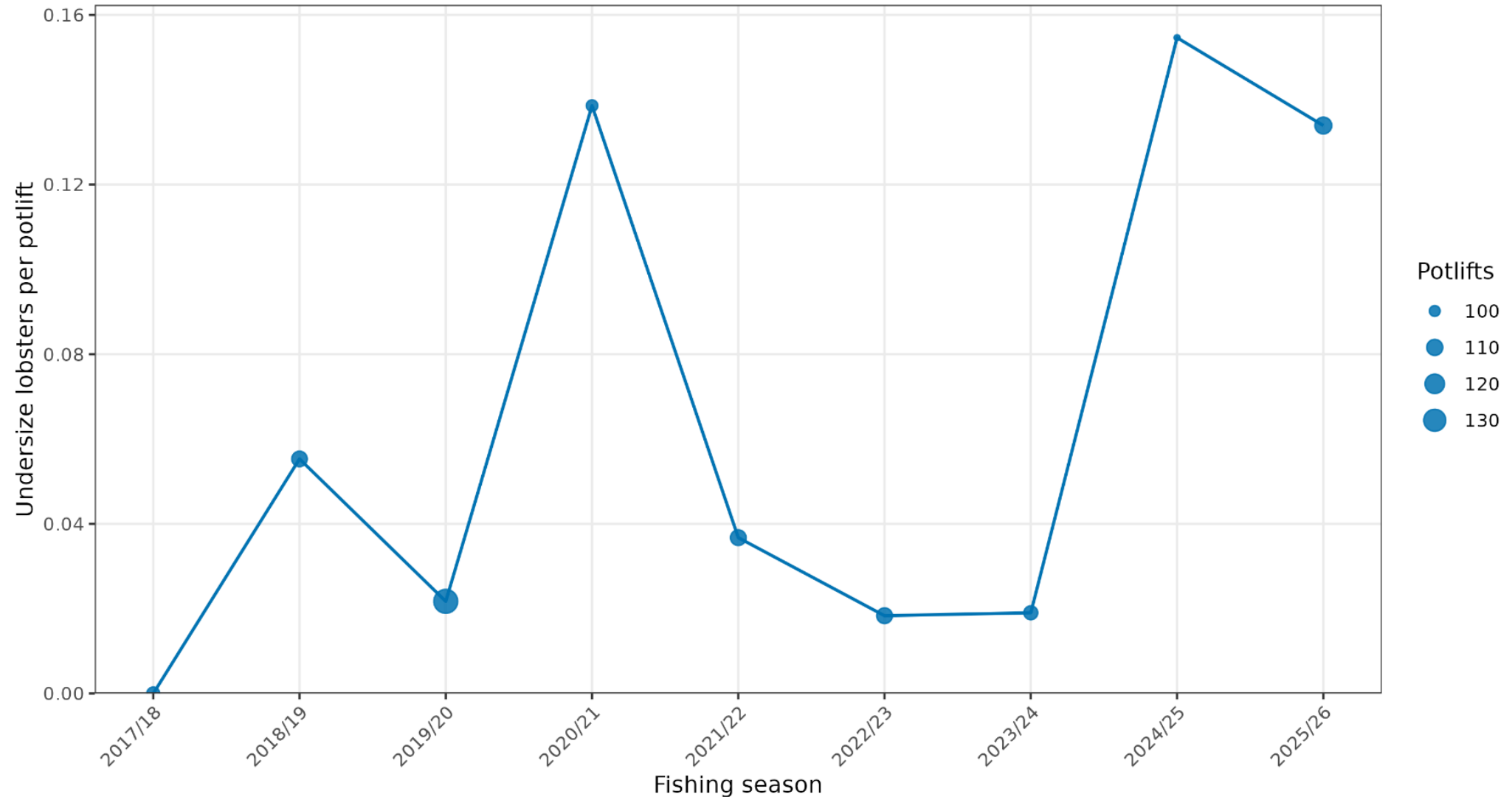


Arch Rocks undersize catch rate time series

Arch Rocks undersize catch rate by fishing season (Female <105mm, Male <110mm)

Average undersize lobsters per potlift; Arch Rocks site, escape gaps closed (ESCAPE = NO)

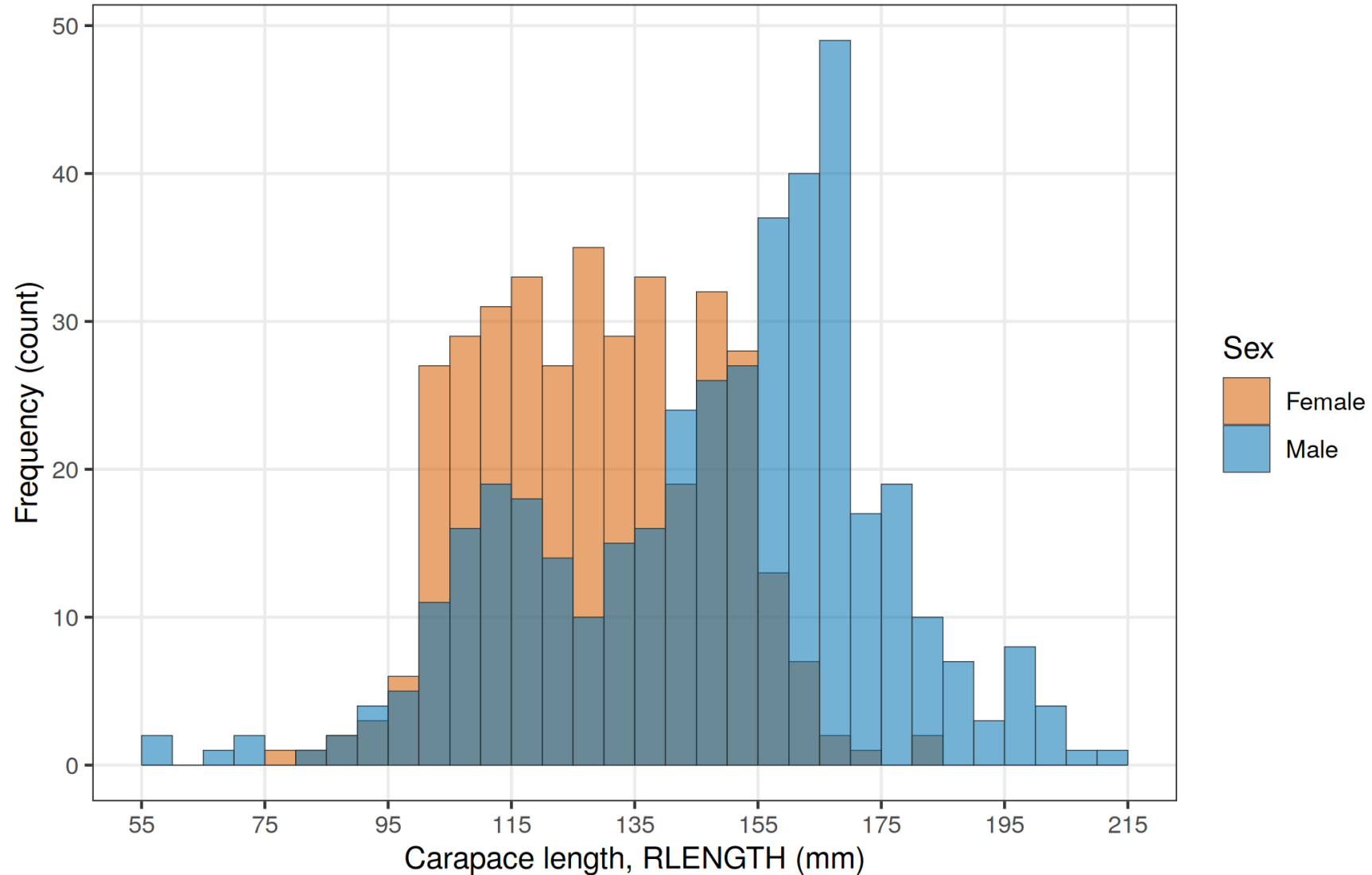
Sources: observer data (site ARCH ROCK East) to 2024/25; Arch Rocks FSS survey for 2025/26; points sized by potlifts



Voluntary 2025/26 Data

Southern rock lobster length-frequency by sex - all areas, all records

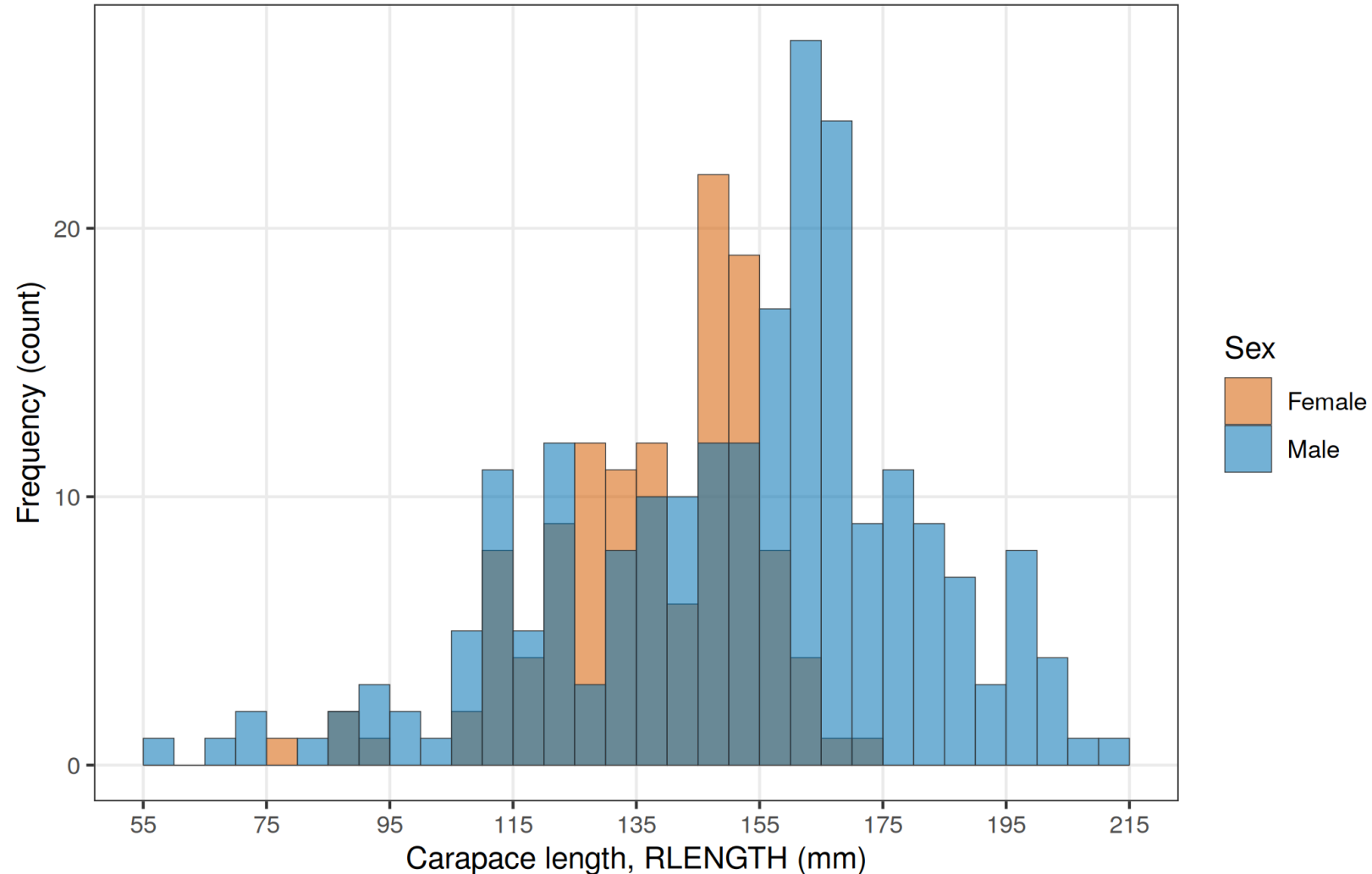
n = 770 (Female = 361, Male = 409)



Voluntary 2025/26 Data Escape Gaps Closed (concentrated in J30)

Length-frequency by sex - escape gaps CLOSED/absent (ESCAPE = NO)

n = 345 (Female = 123, Male = 222)

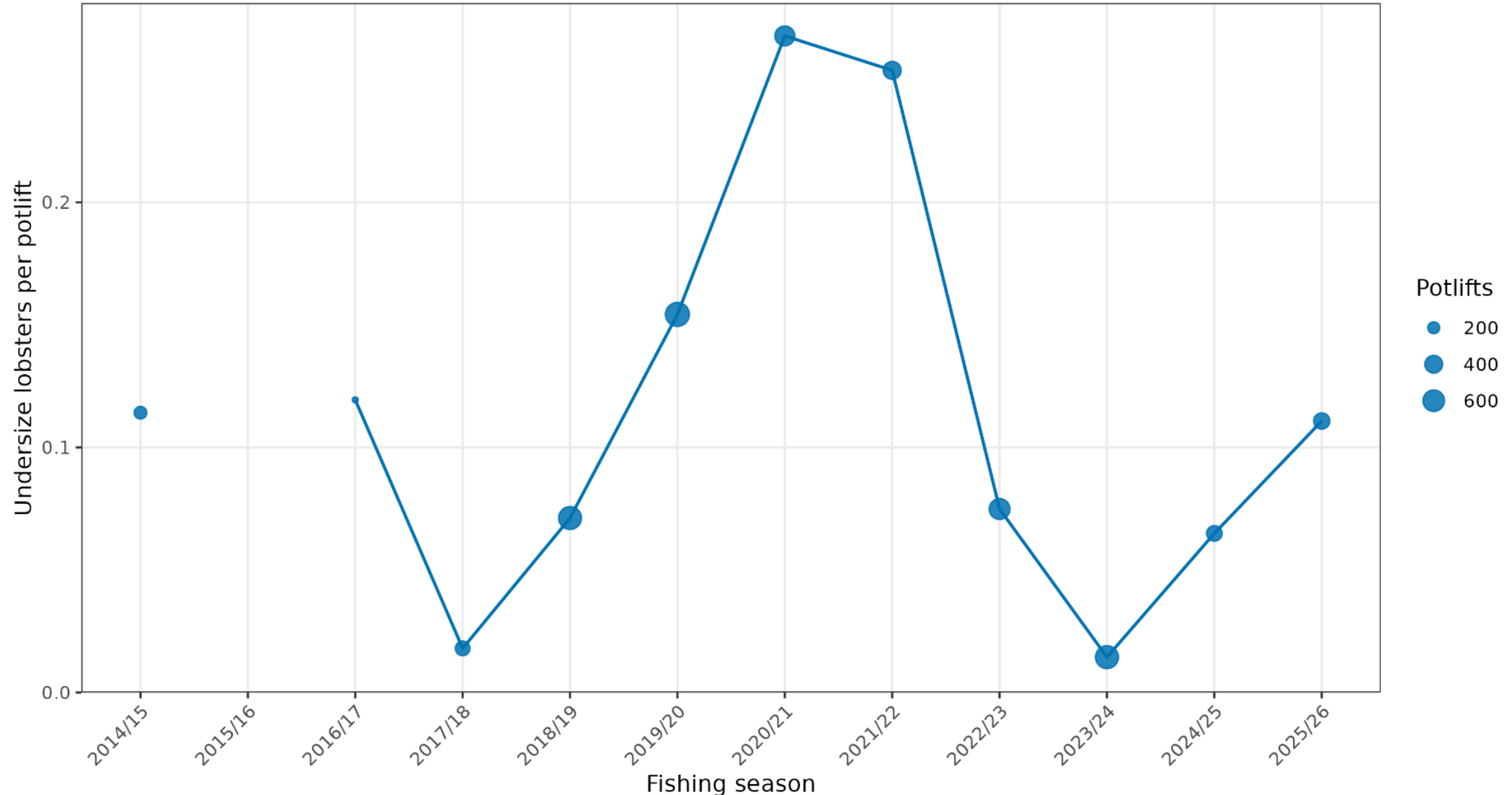


Combined undersize catch rate time series

Undersize catch rate by fishing season (Female <105mm, Male <110mm)

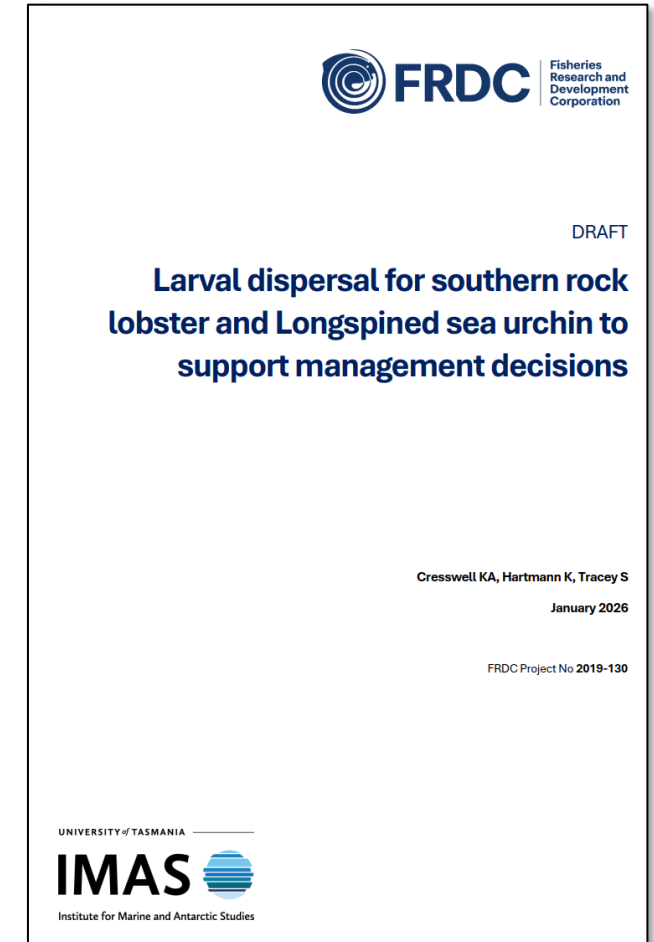
Average undersize lobsters per potlift; East zone, escape gaps closed (ESCAPE = NO), 2014/15 onwards

Sources: combined data to 2024/25; voluntary data and arch rock for 2025/26



6.3 Larval Dispersal analysis

- Larval dispersal simulation combining oceanographic models and biological information
- Oceanographic model provides:
 - Currents
 - Temperature estimates (SST and subsurface)
- Biology provides
 - Potential larval dispersal period
 - Larval mortality-temperature relationship
 - Spawning period
 - Volume of eggs spawned by broad location (from assessment models)
- Puerulus data provides validation



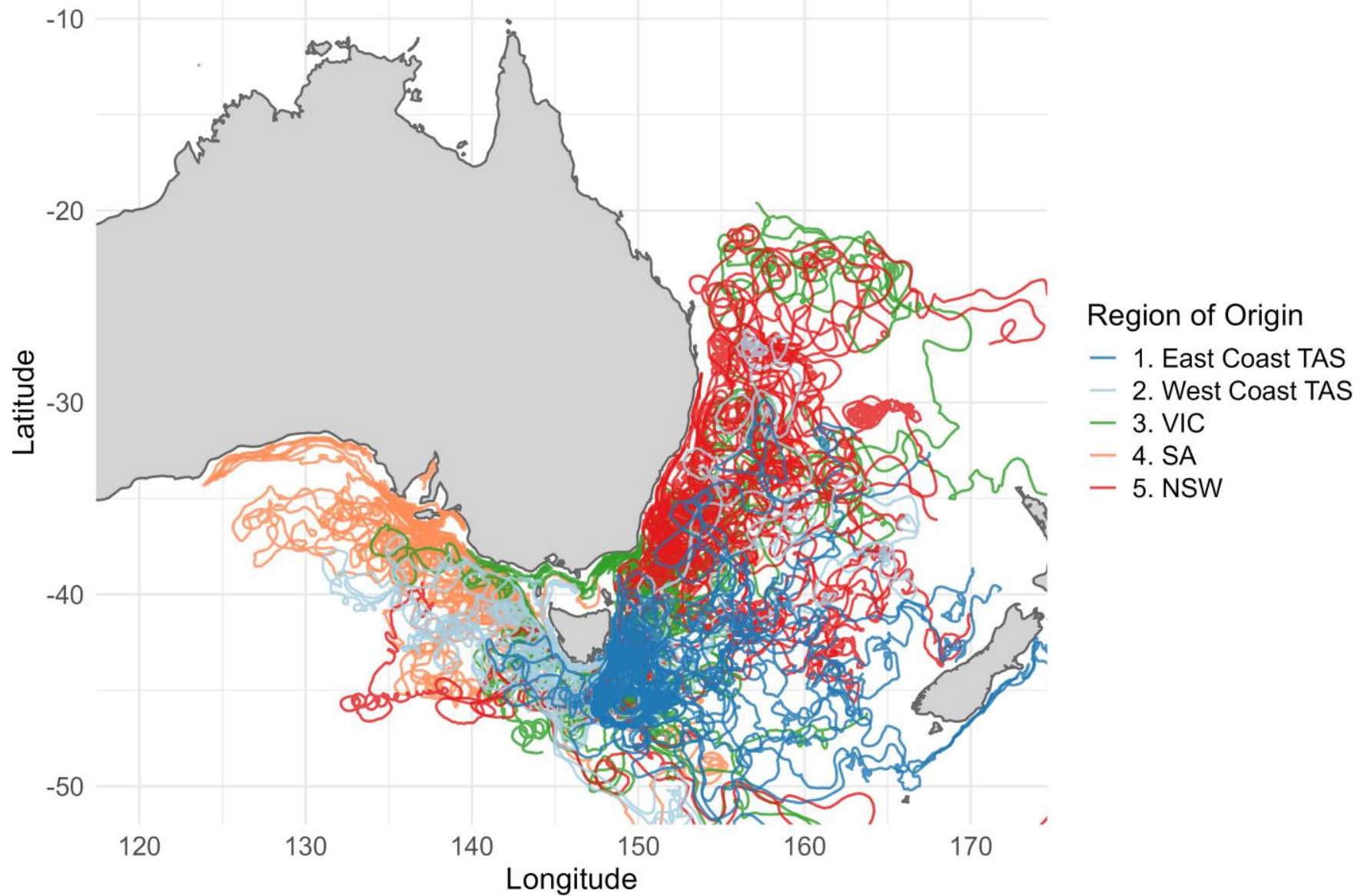
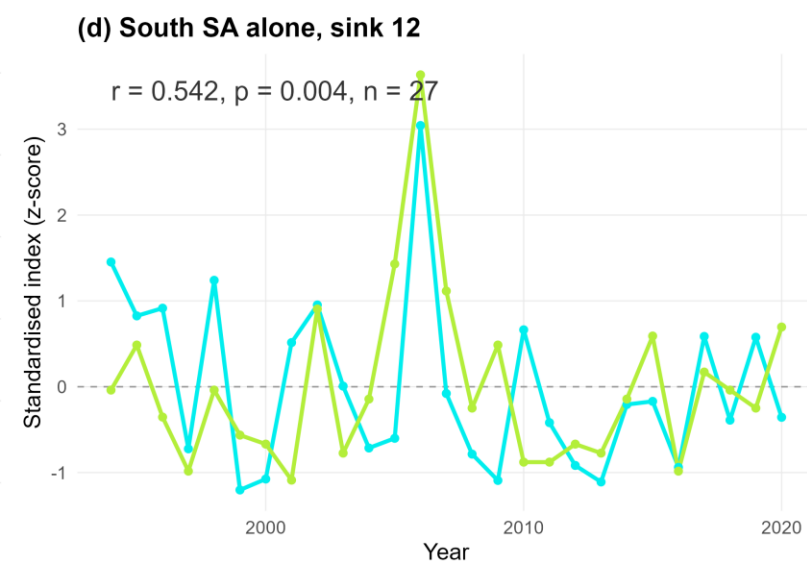
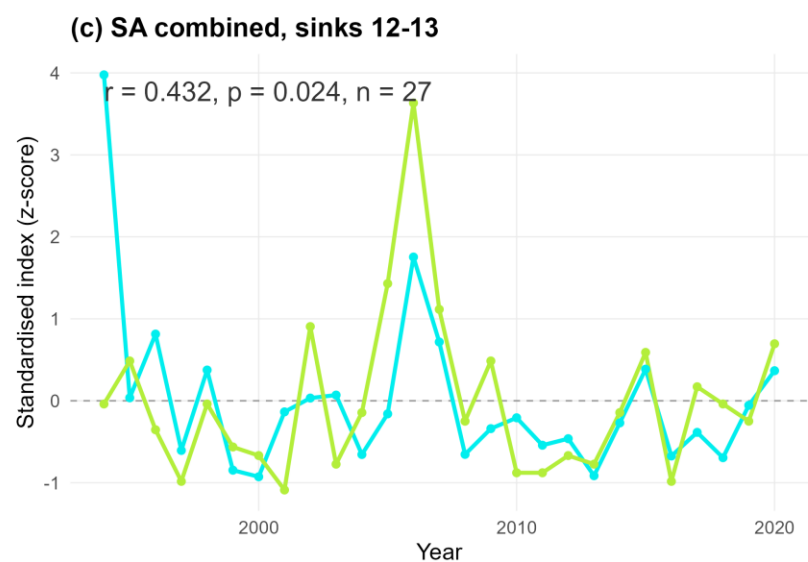
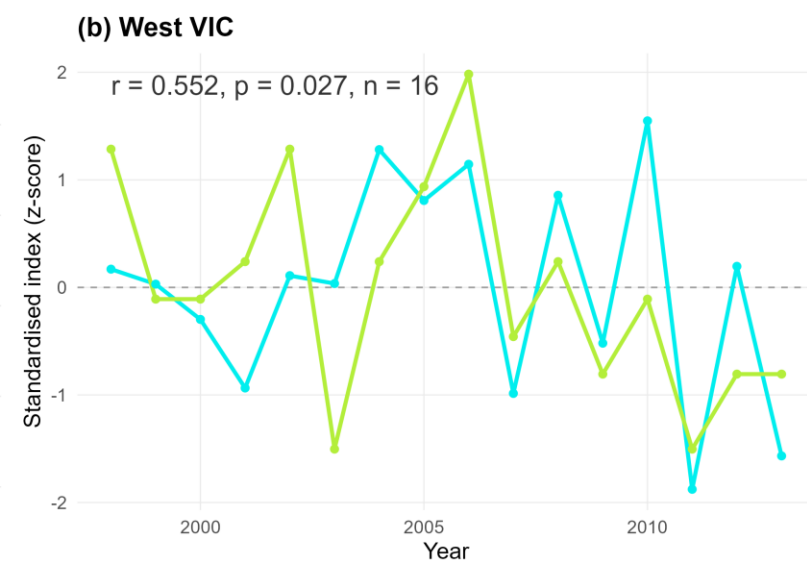
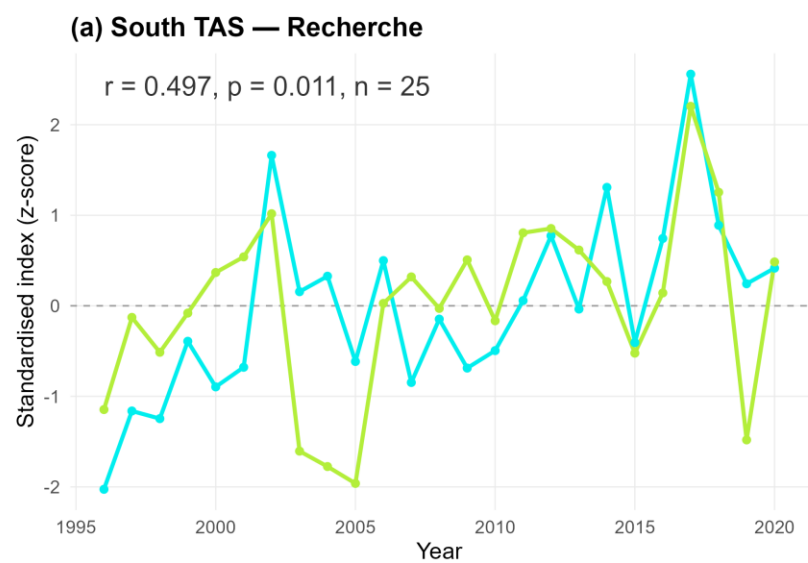


Figure 7: Example larval dispersal tracks for *J. edwardsii* showing 100 particle trajectories released in example year 2021, coloured by grouped region of origin. Tracks represent passive dispersal over the full 730-day pelagic duration and do not incorporate settlement probability or survival.

Settlement comparison

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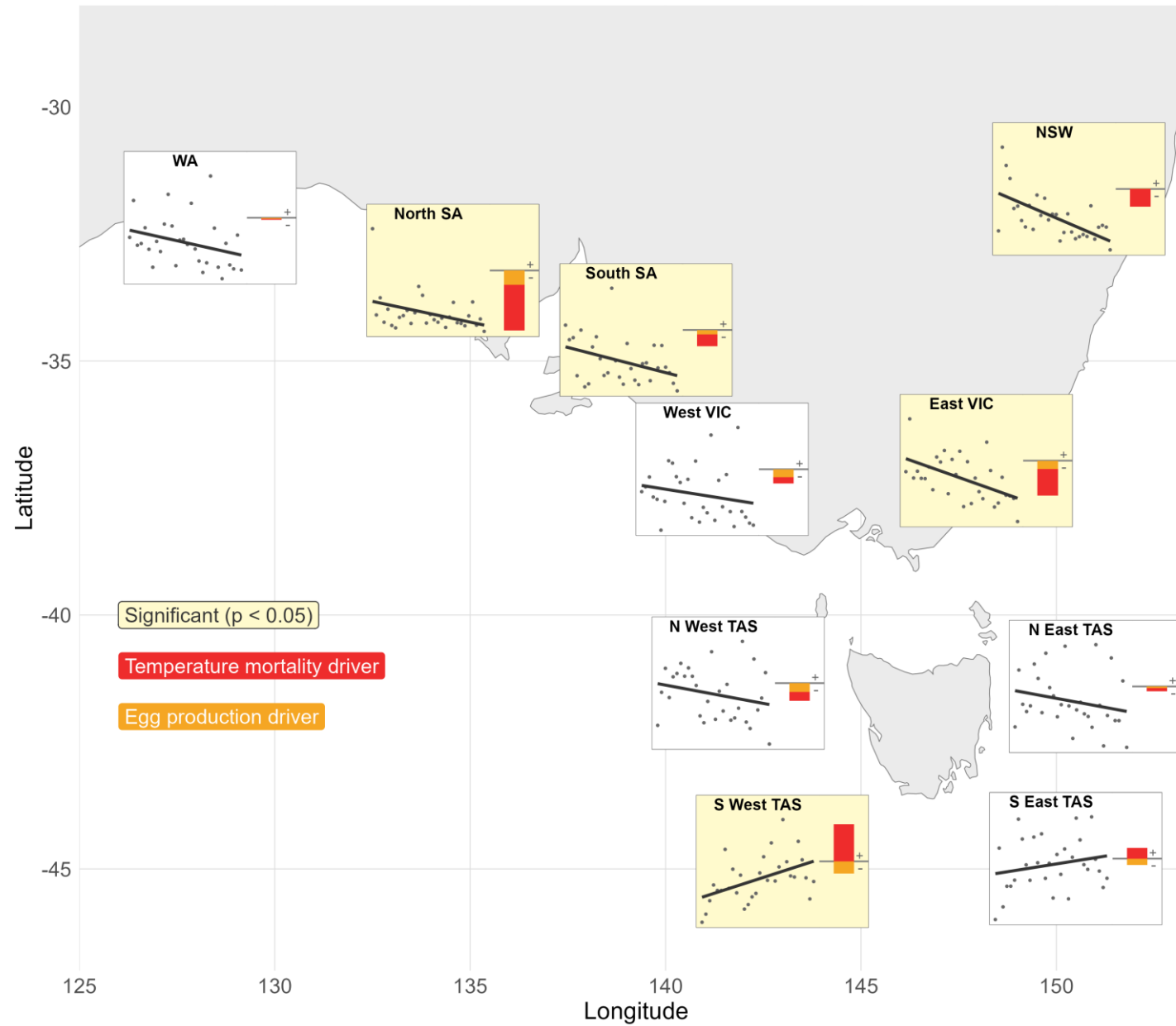


—●— Dispersal model —●— Puerulus index

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Larval trends

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Connectivity

