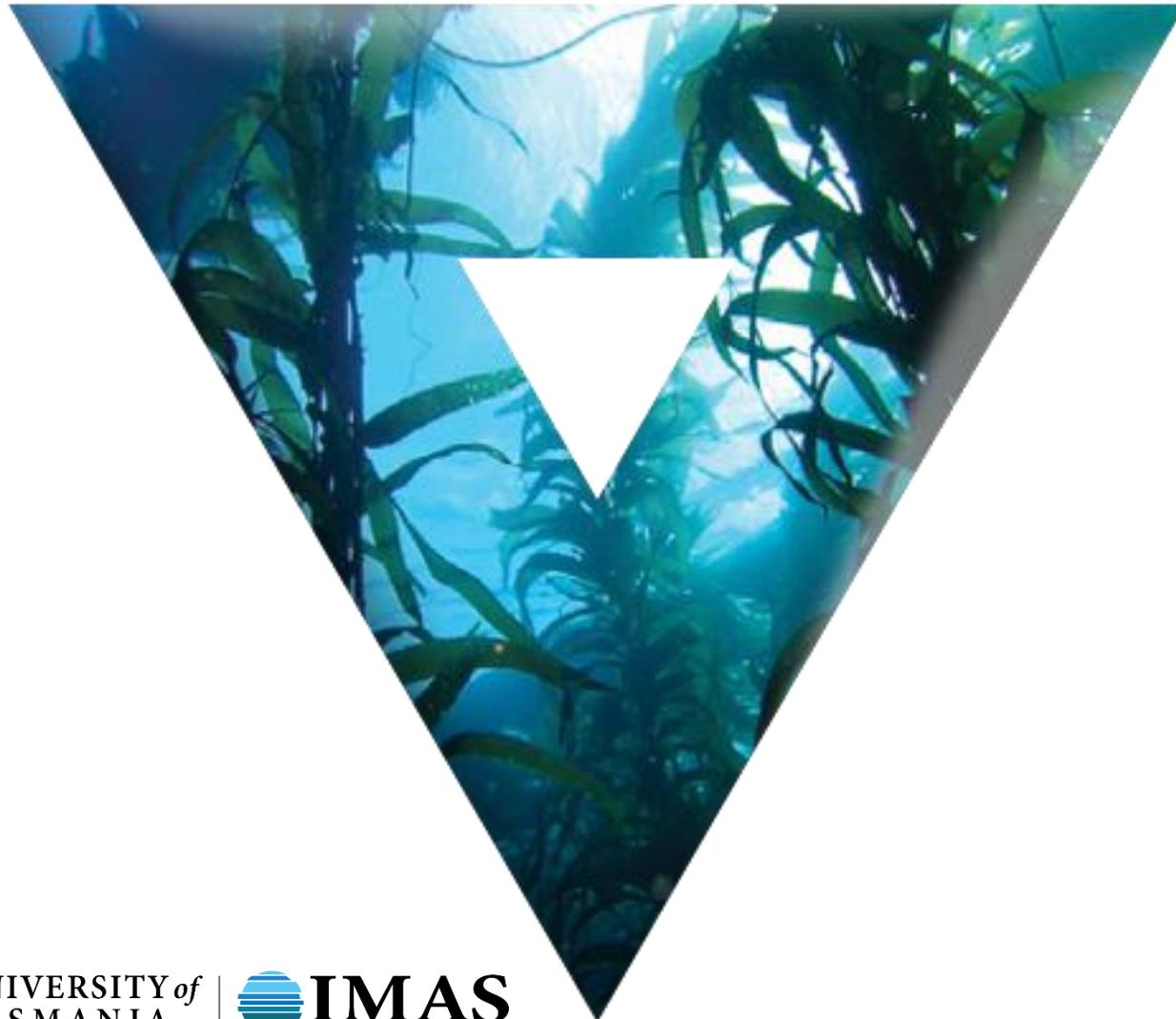


VIC RL and GC RAG #45

17th December 2025



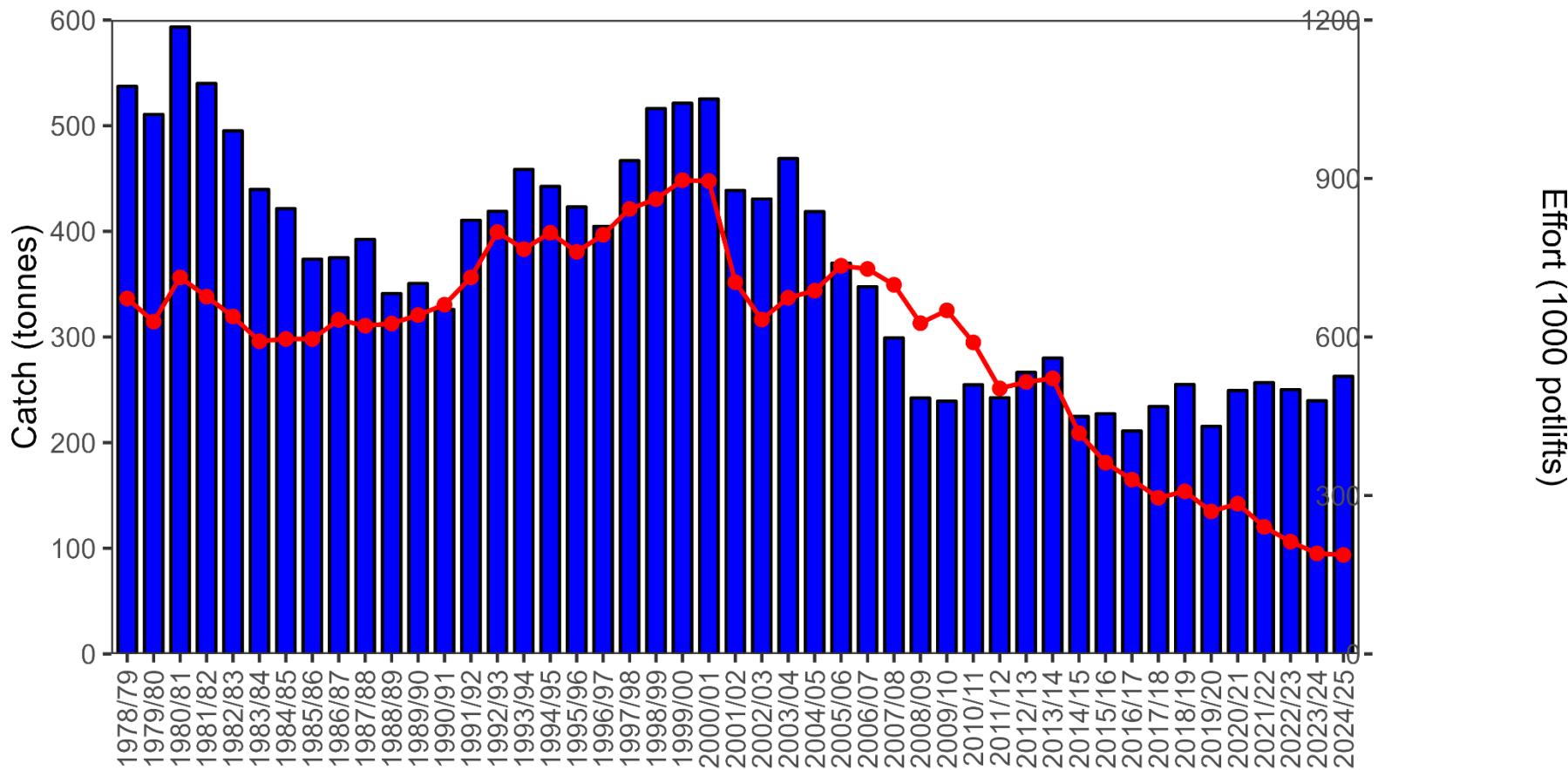
Agenda 5: Rock Lobster Assessment Results



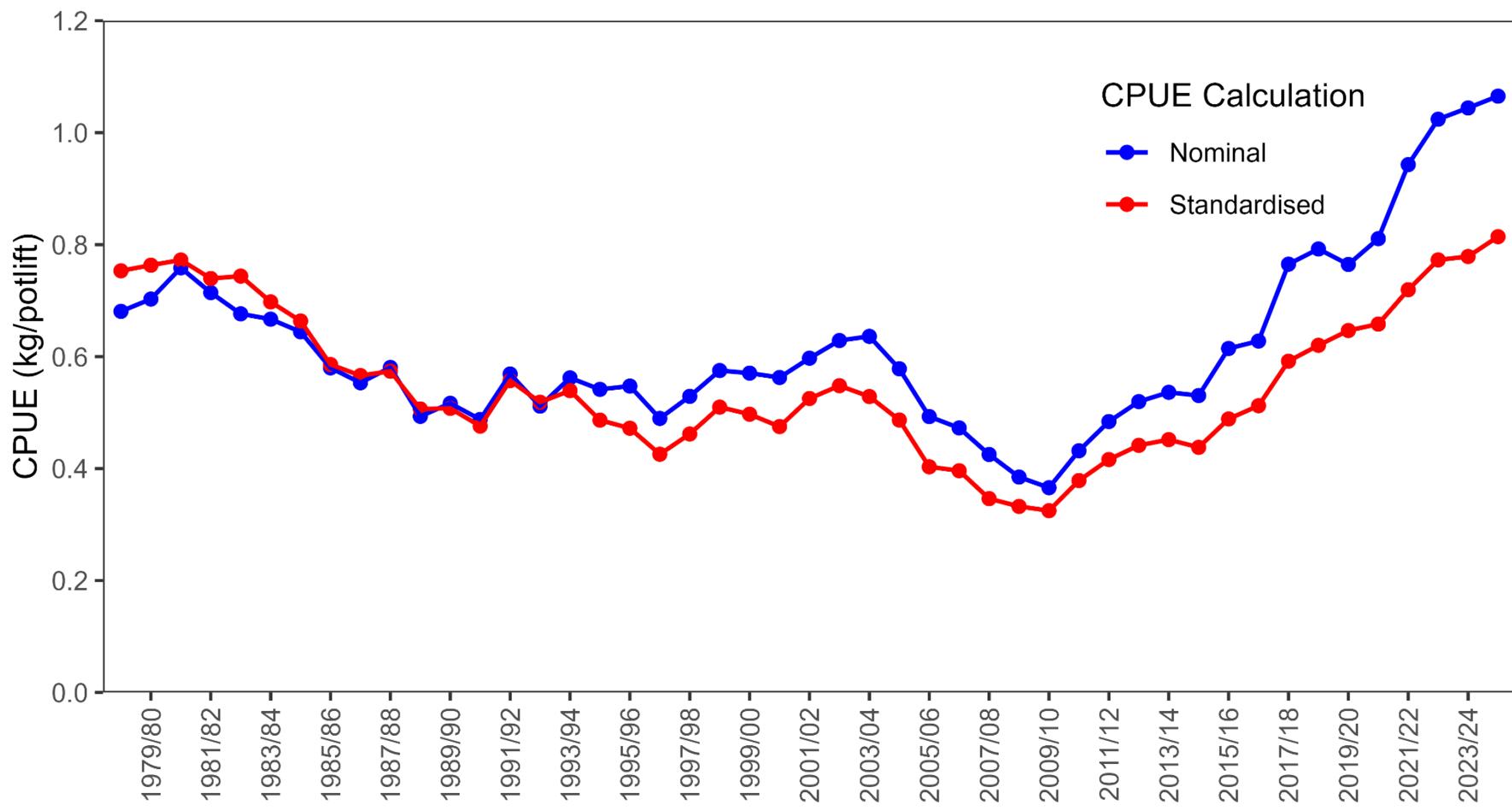
Western Zone Assessment



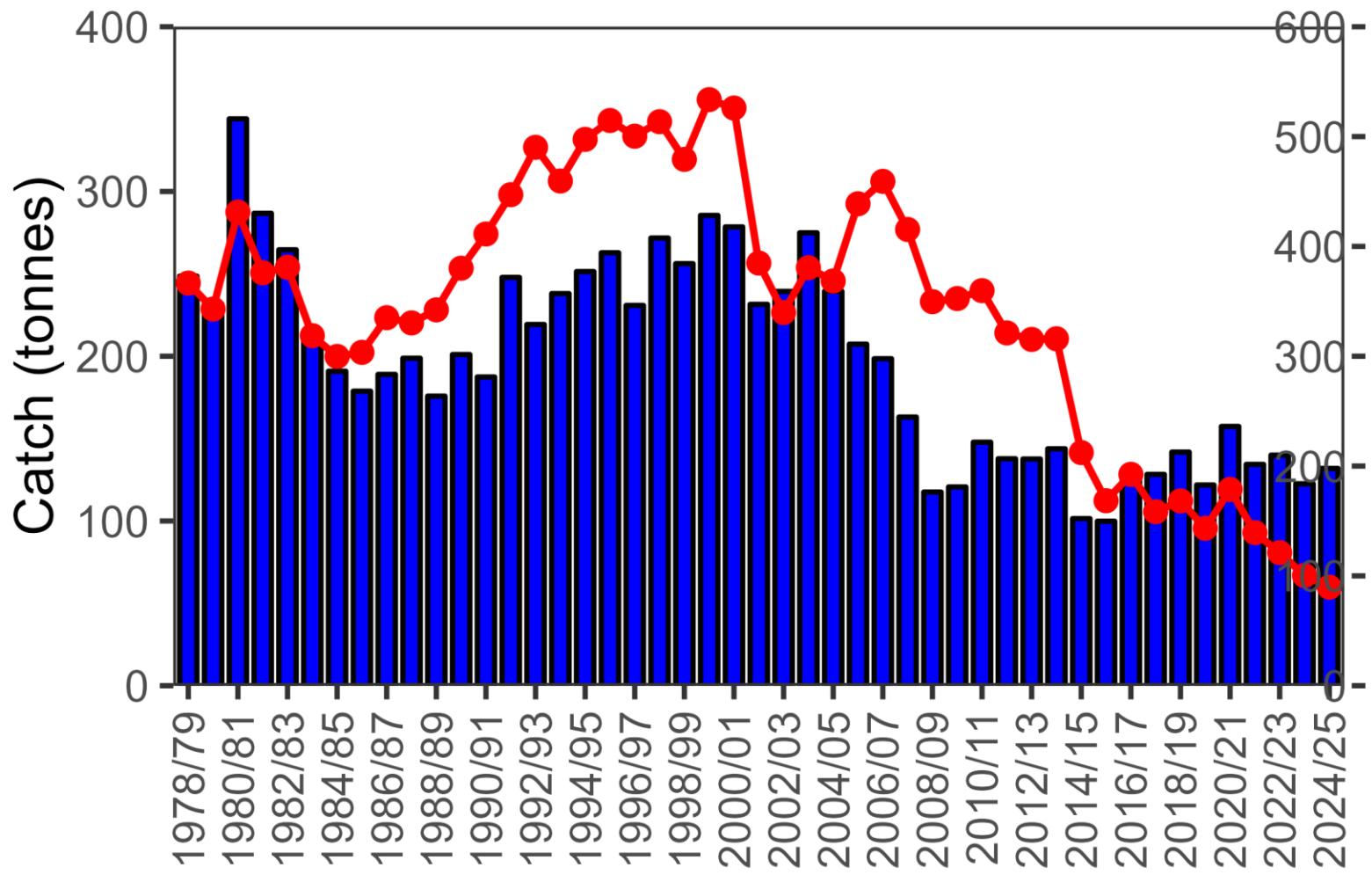
Western Zone Catch and Effort



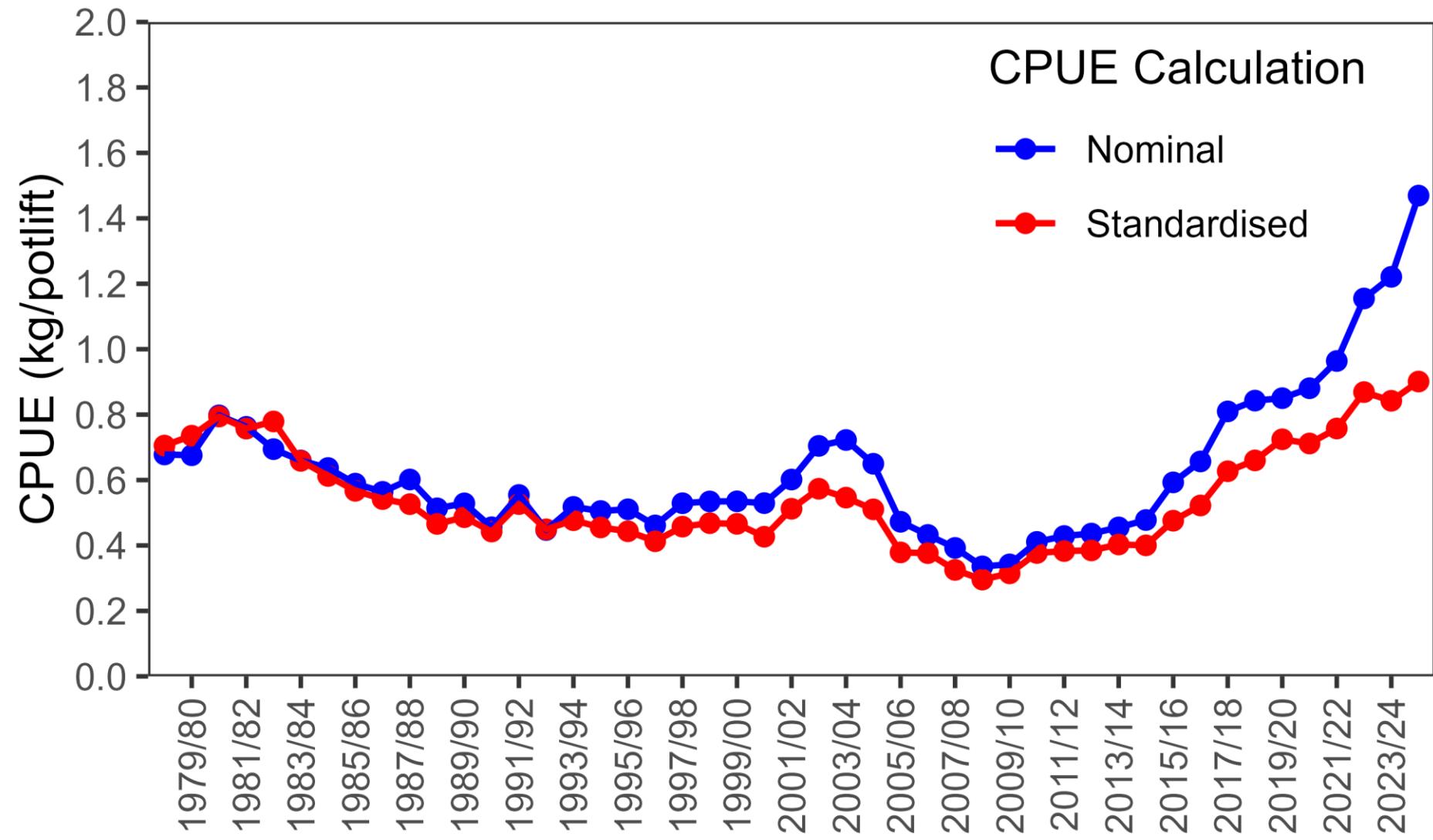
Western Zone CPUE



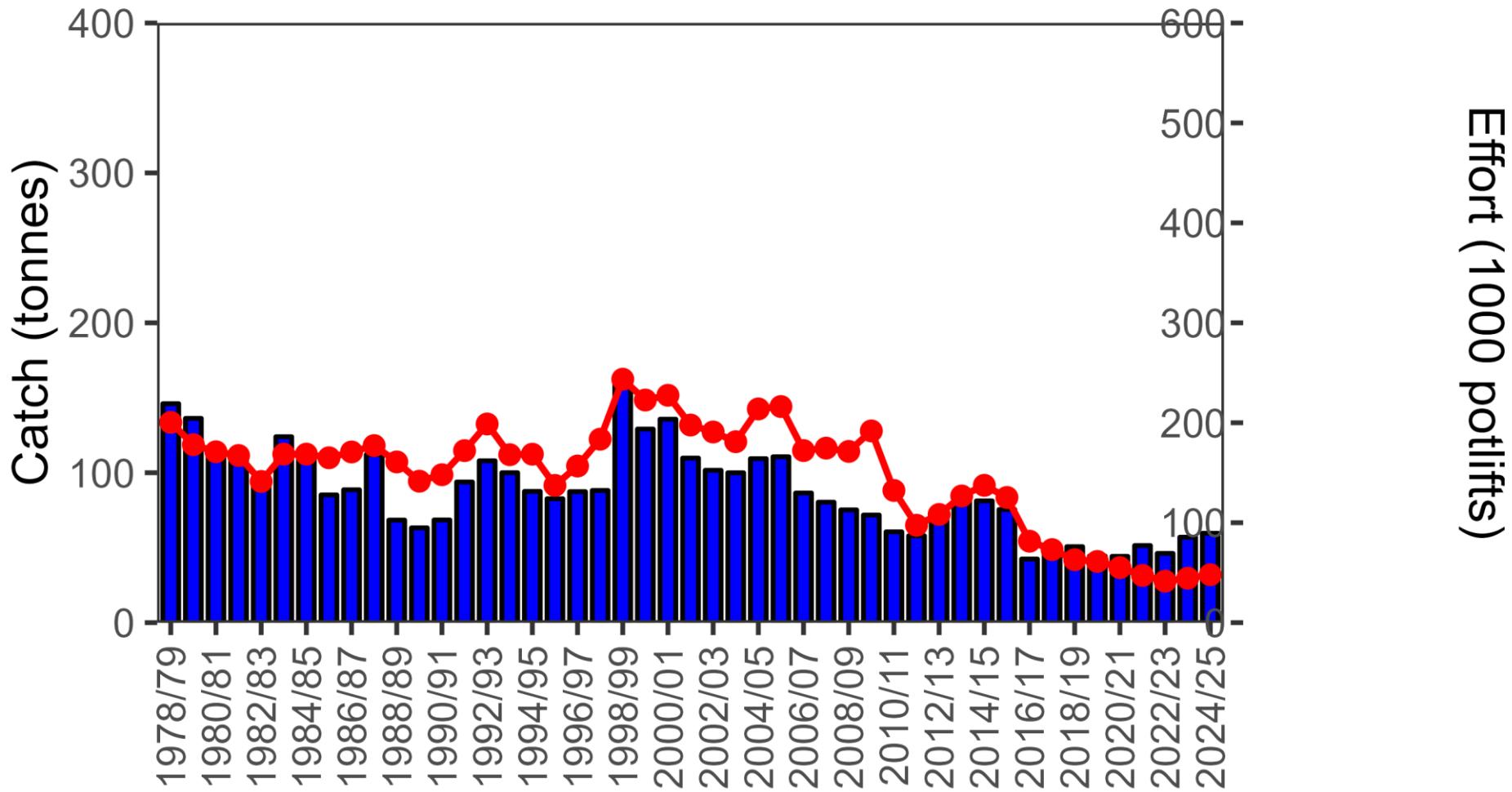
Portland Catch and Effort



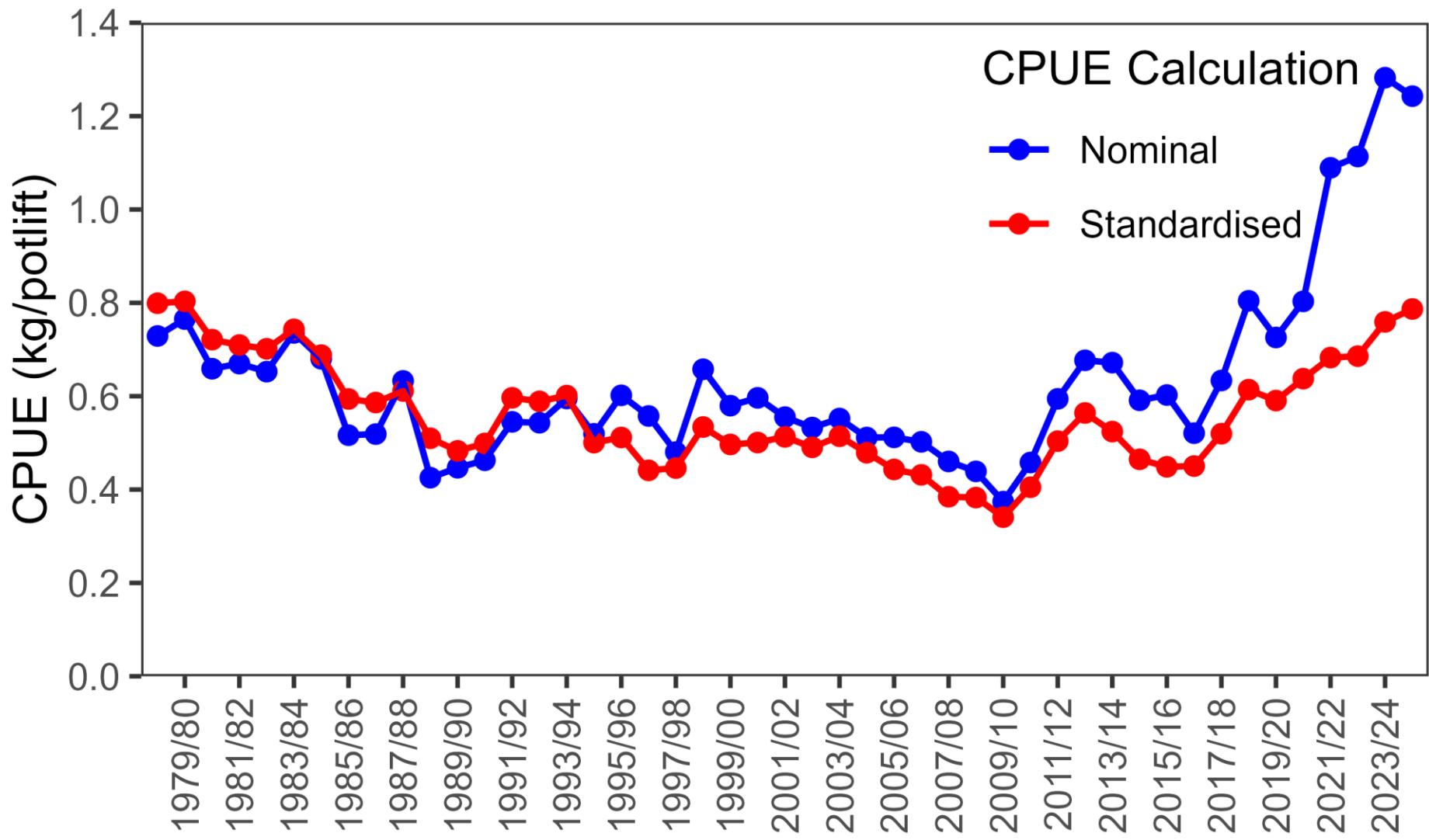
Portland CPUE



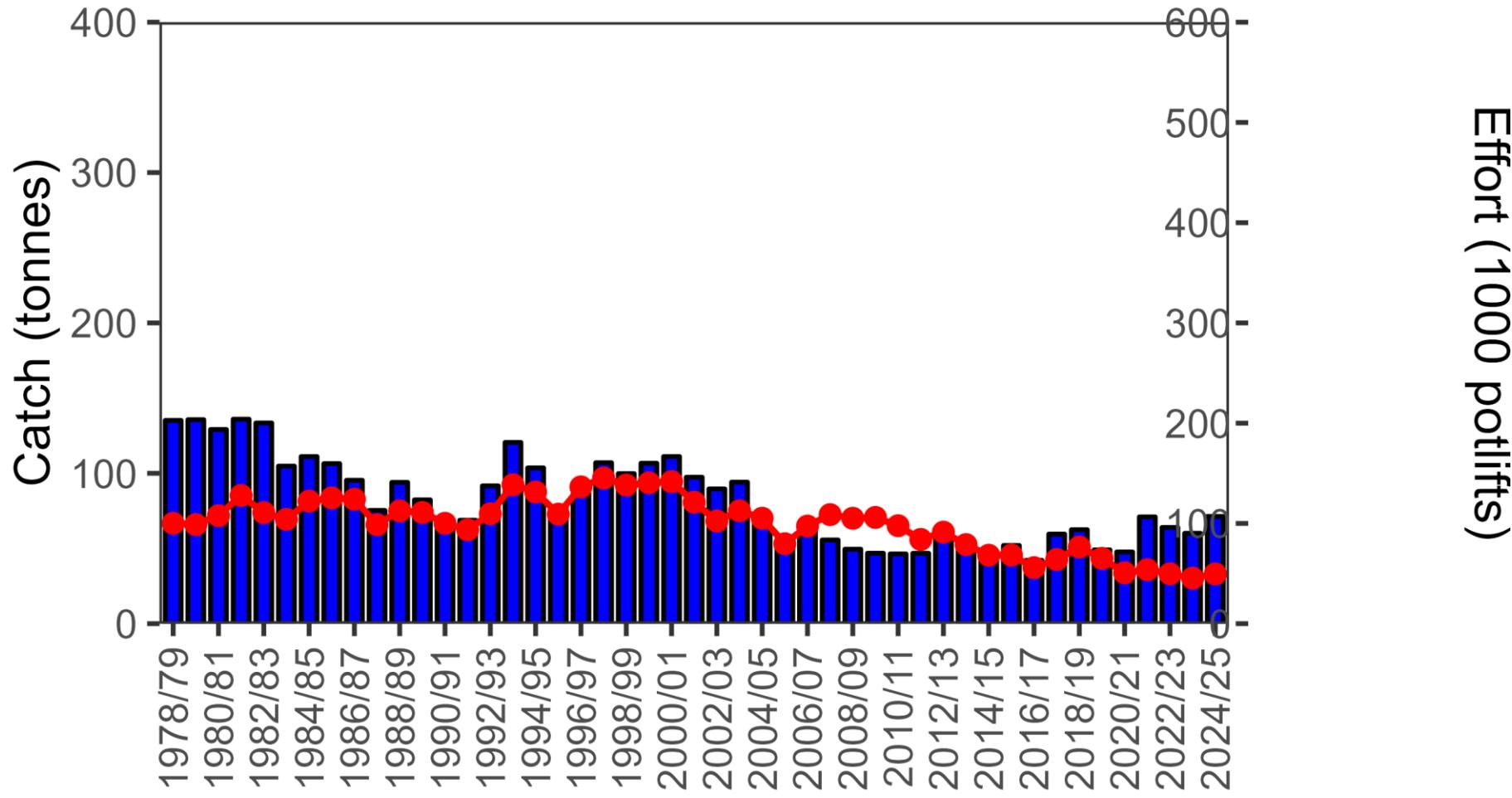
Warrnambool Catch and Effort



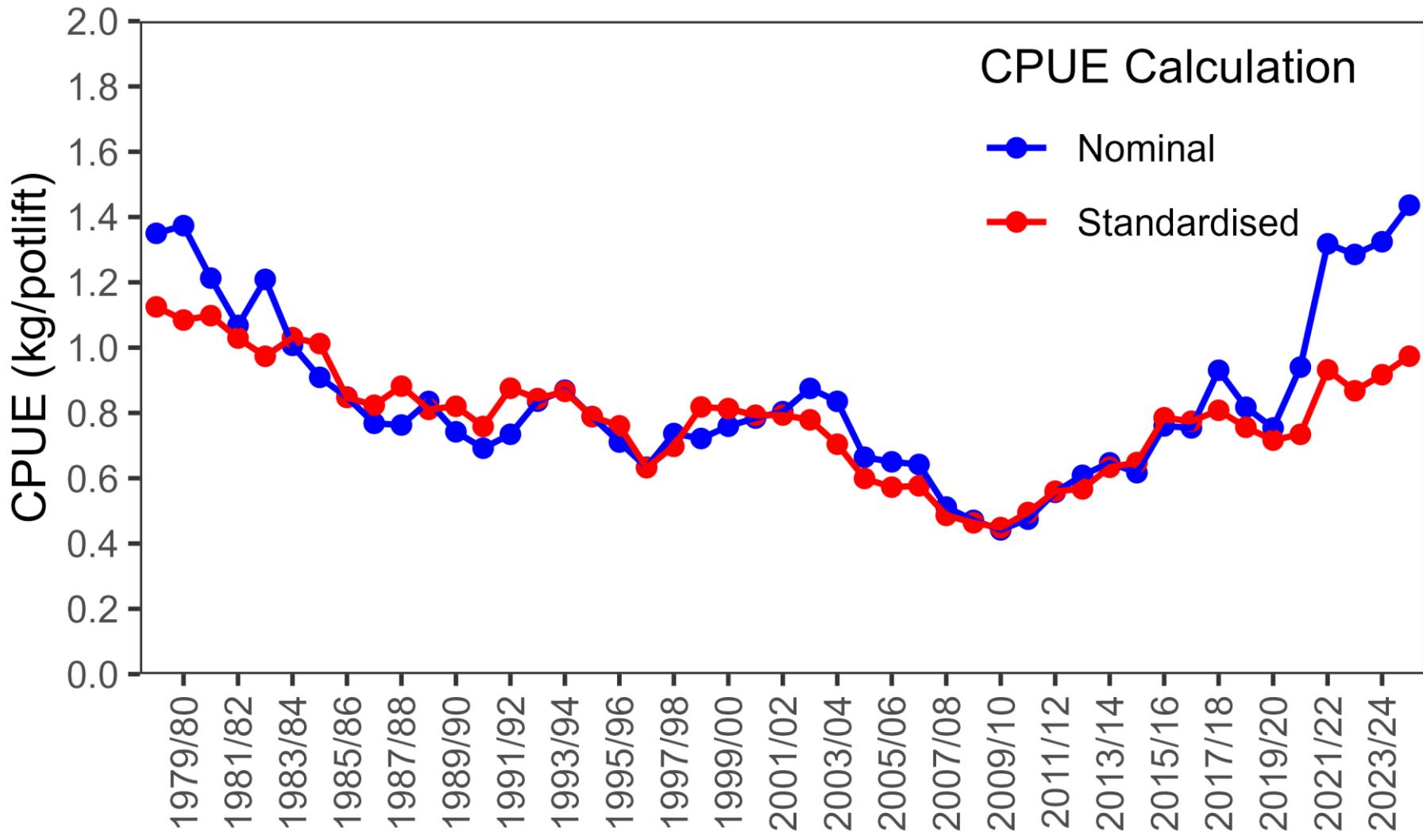
Warrnambool CPUE



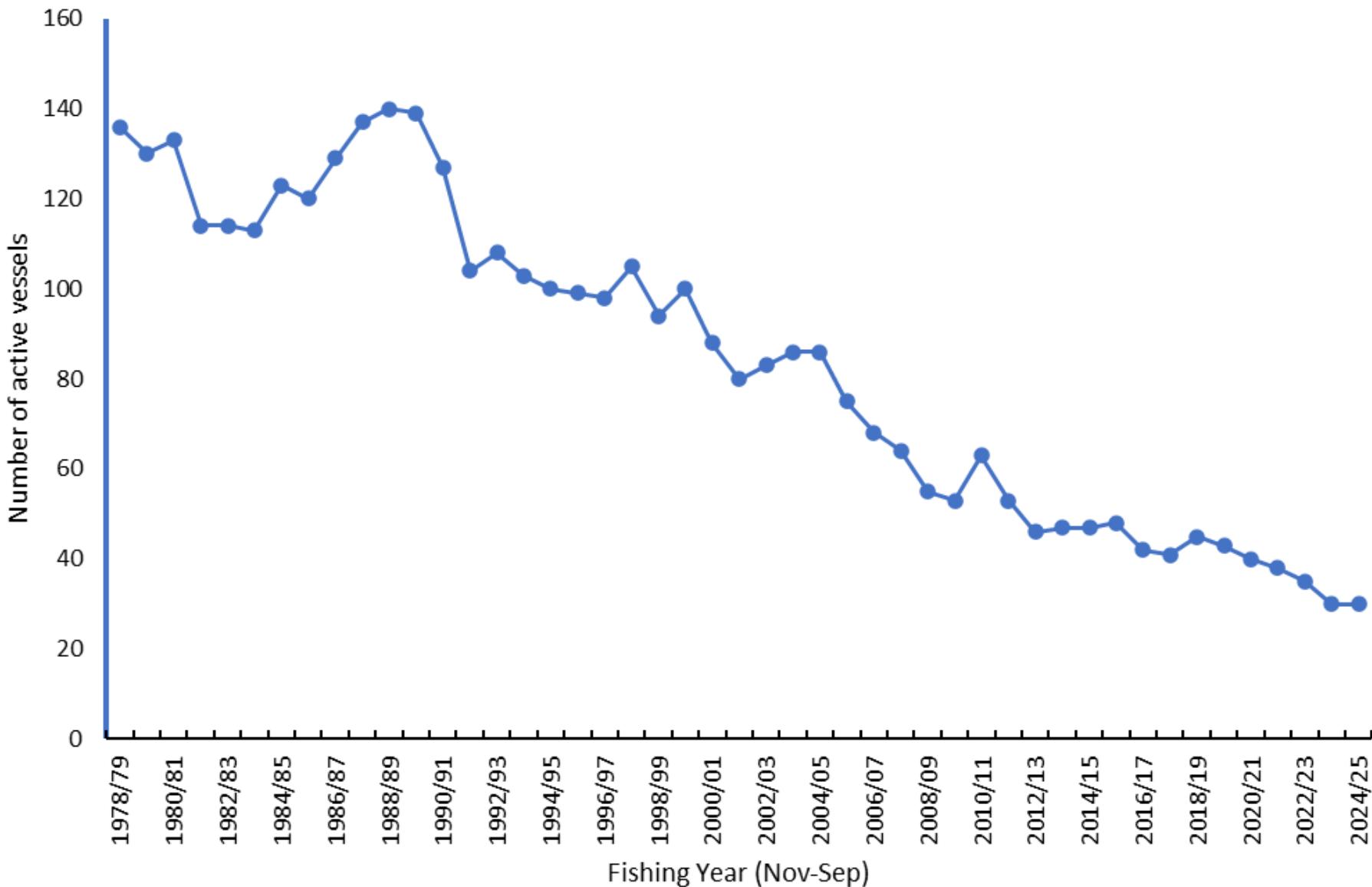
Apollo Bay Catch and Effort



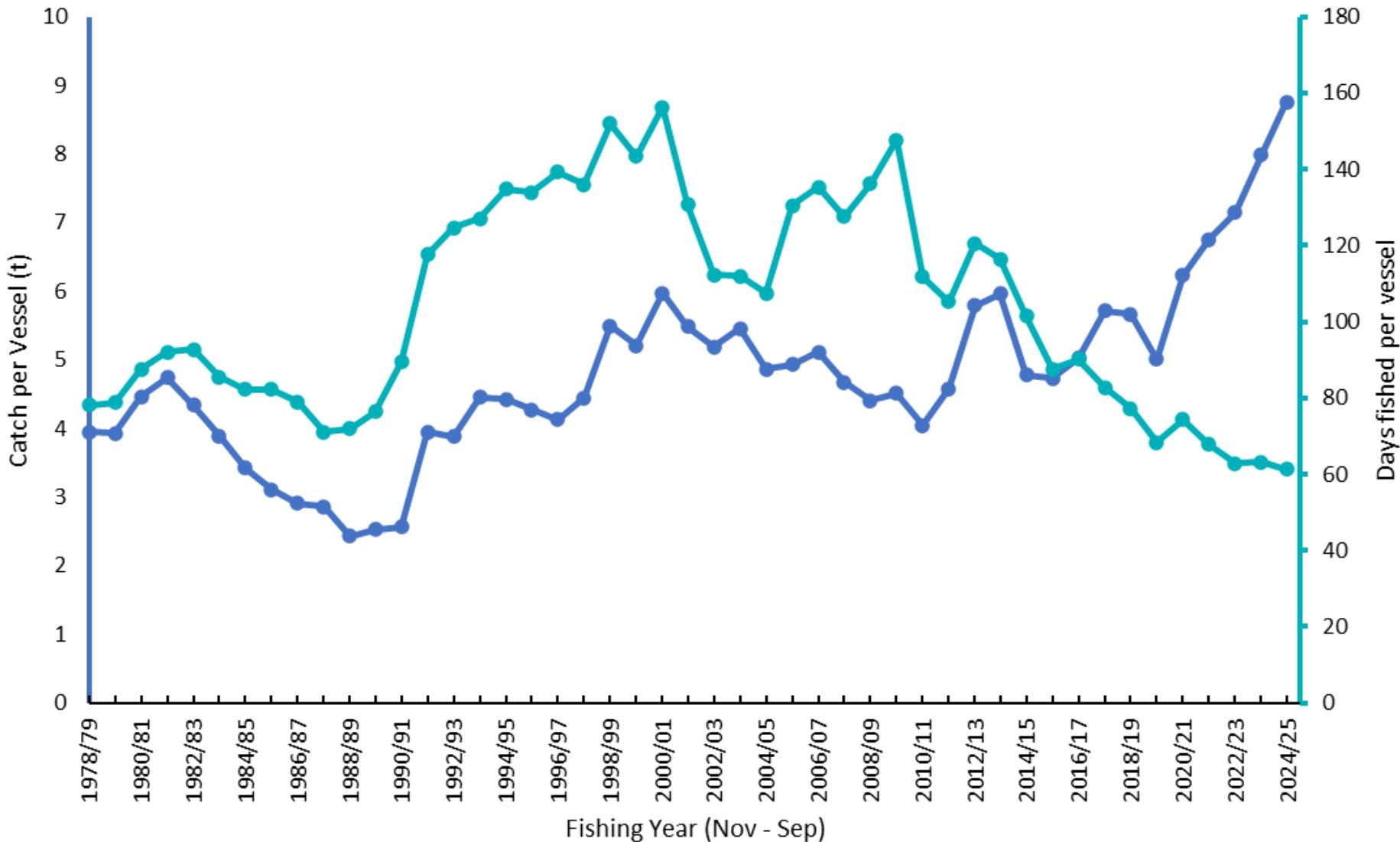
Apollo Bay CPUE



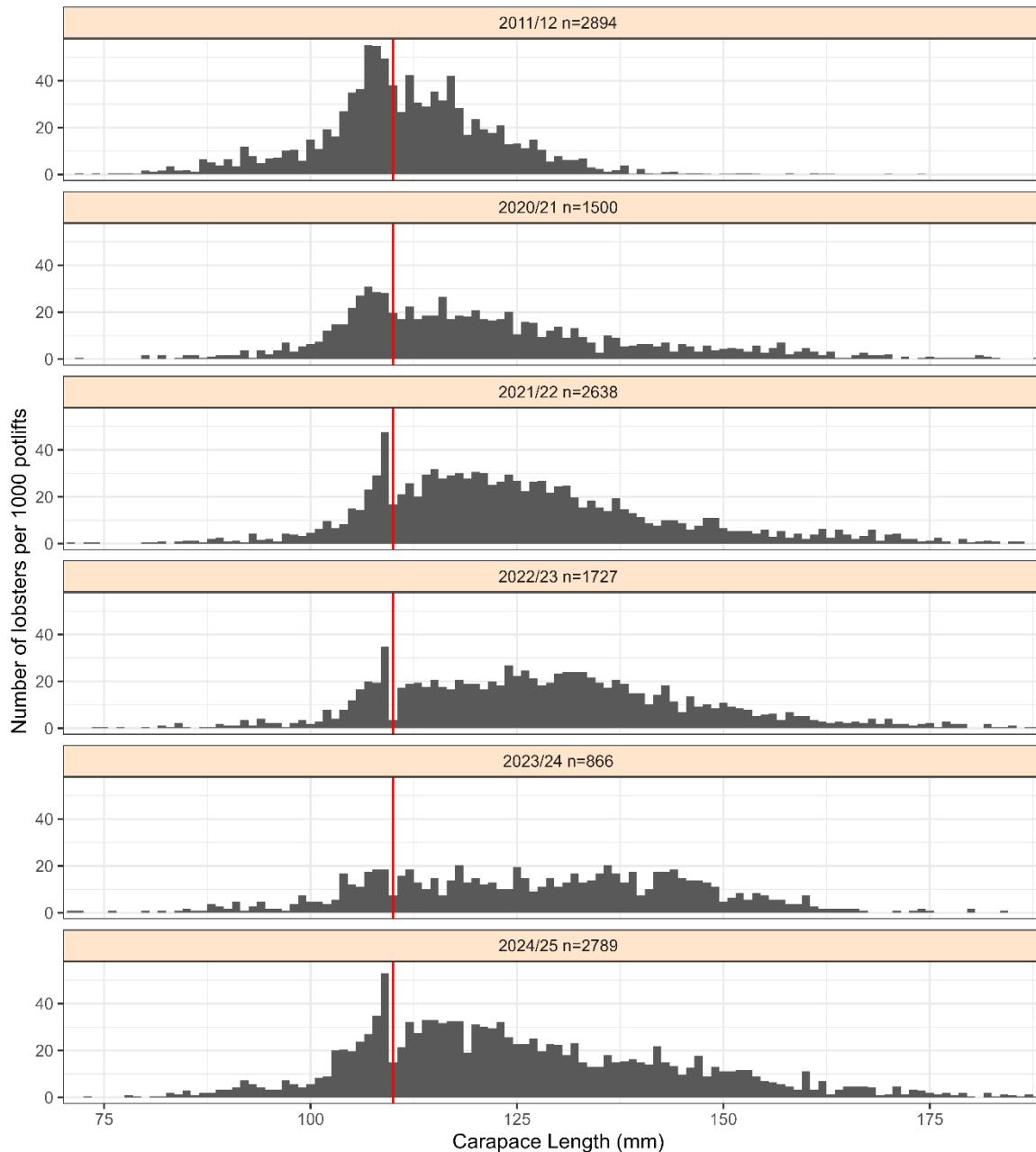
Vessel Numbers



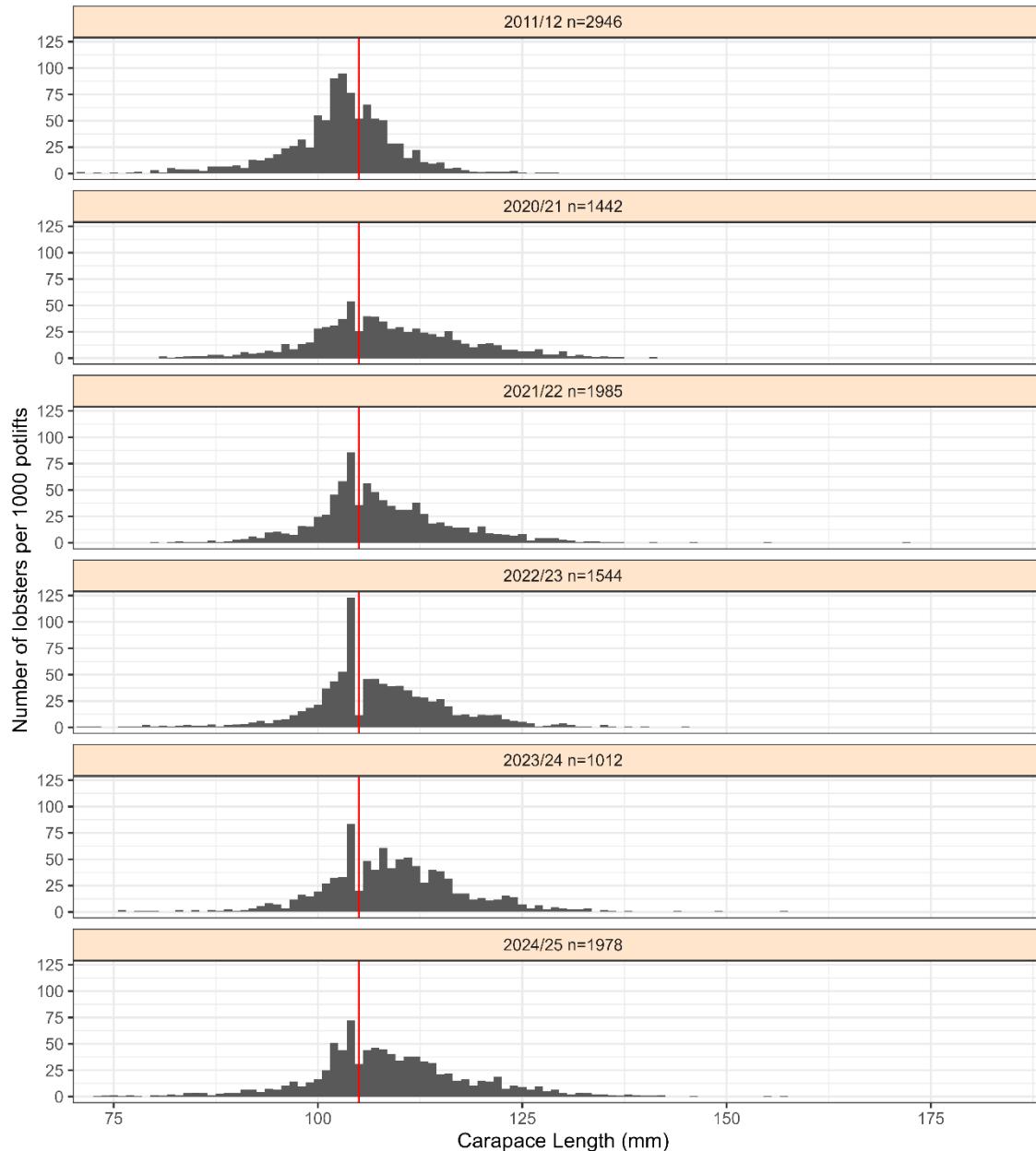
Per vessel catch and days fished



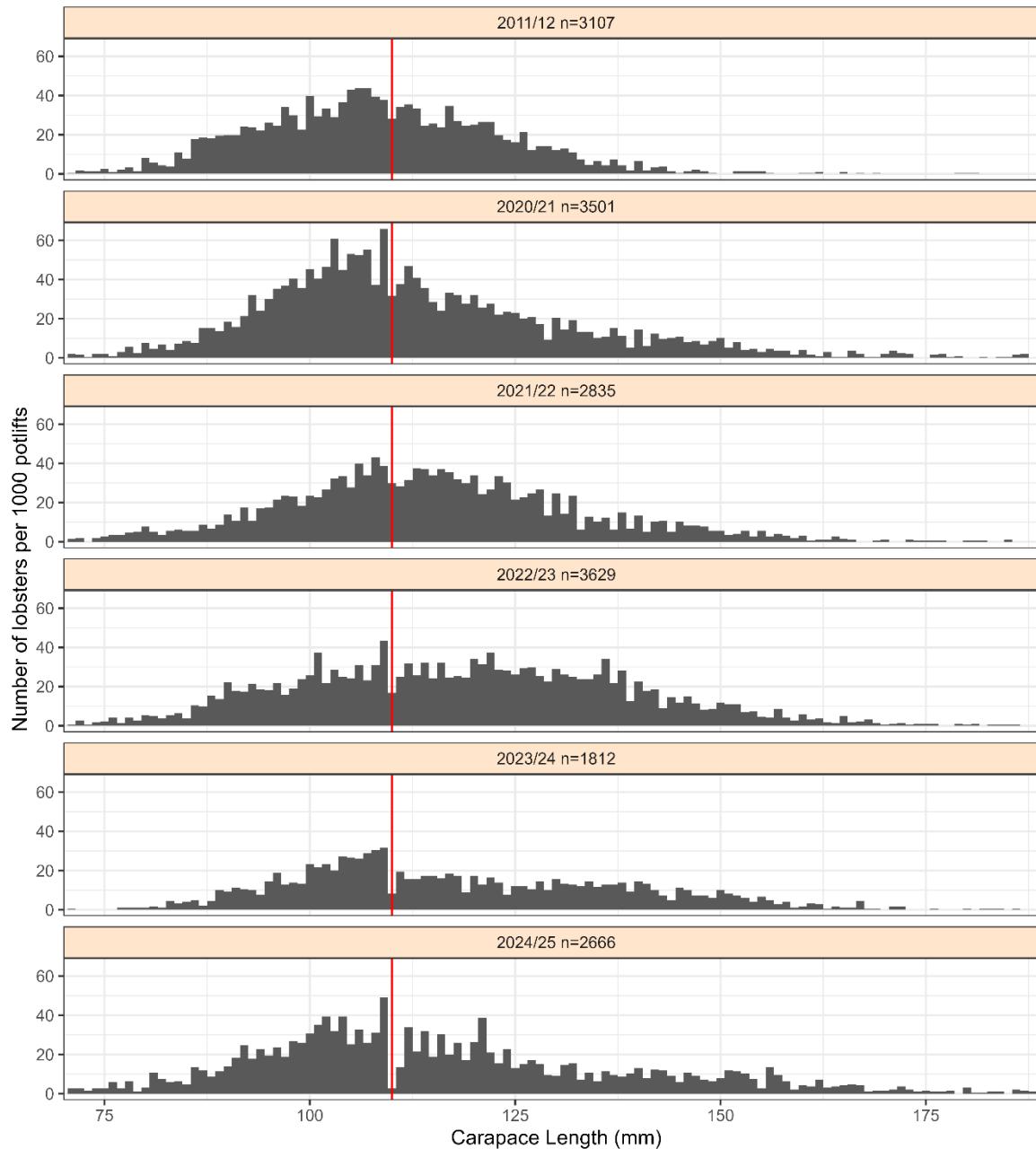
Western Zone LF, Male Observer Program



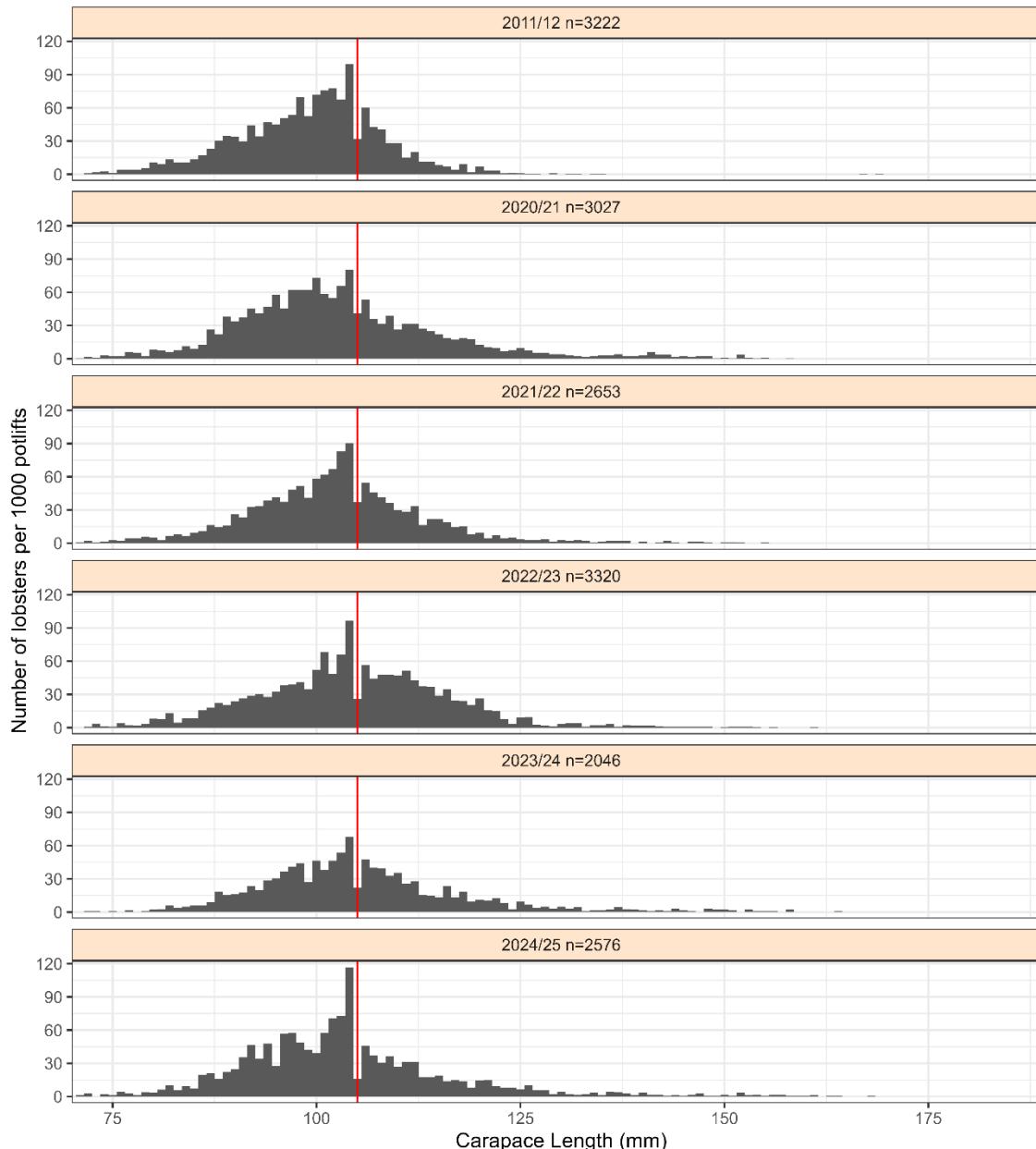
Western Zone LF, Female Observer Program



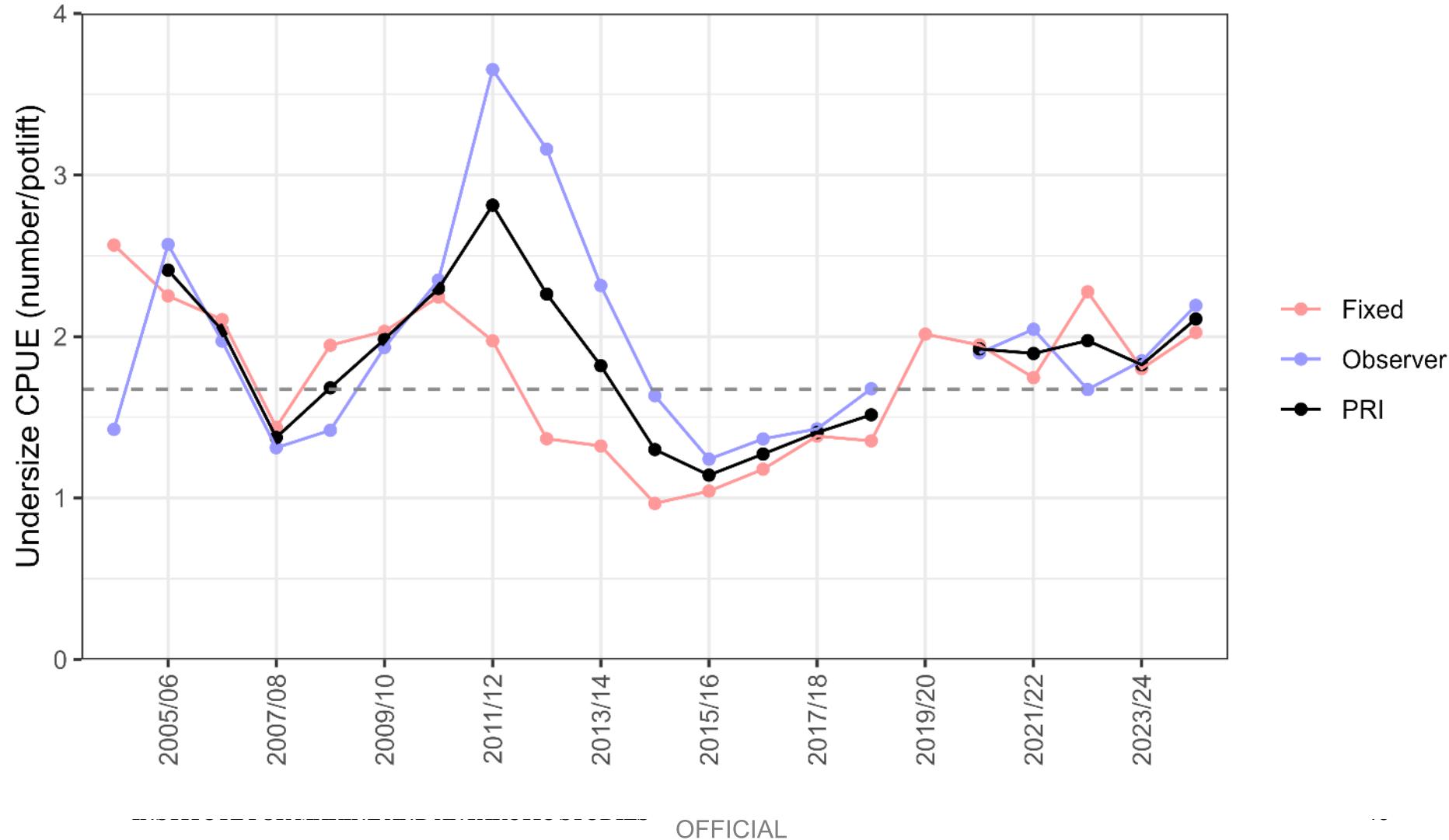
Western Zone LF, Male Fixed Sites



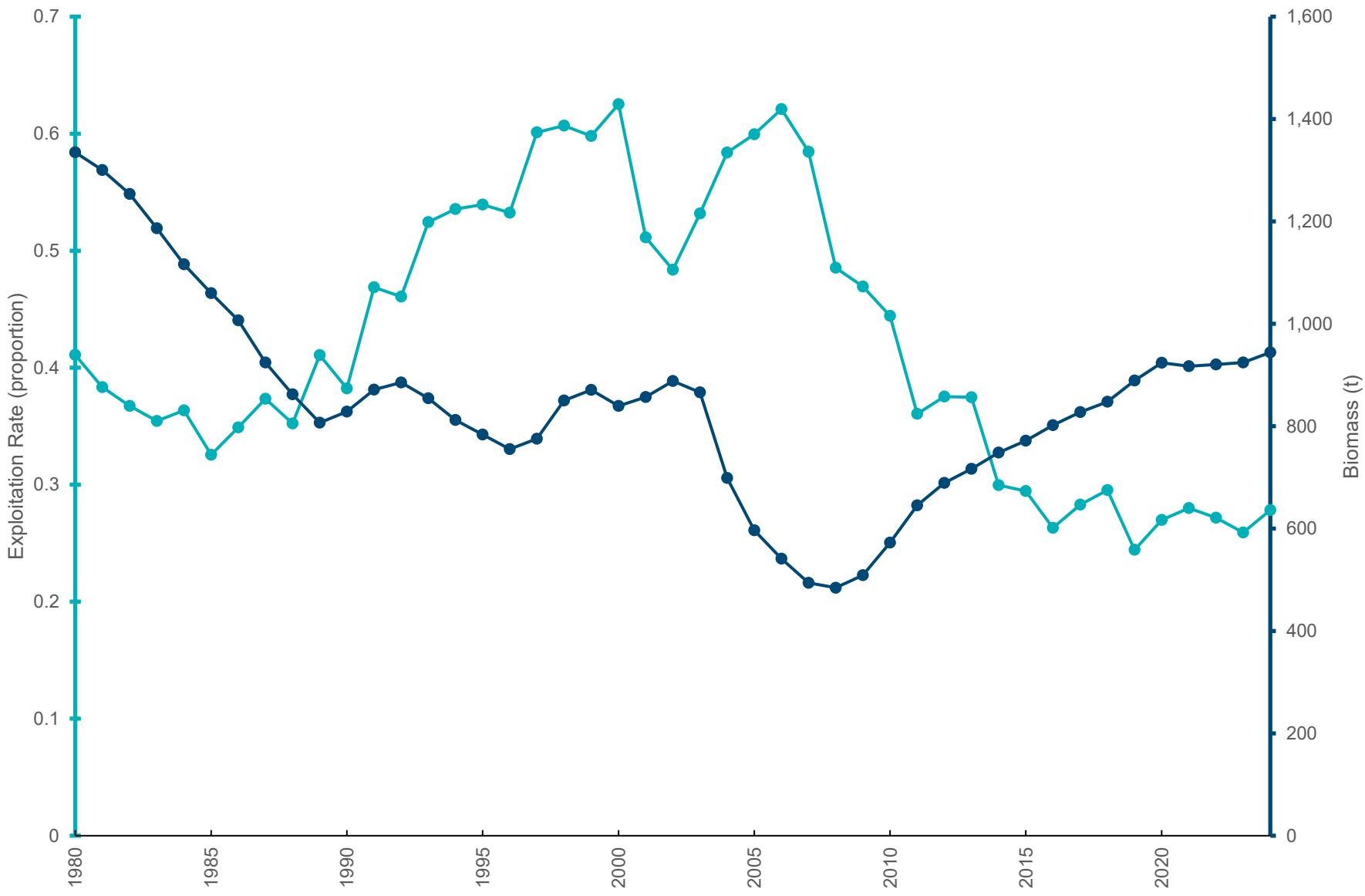
Western Zone LF, Female Fixed Site



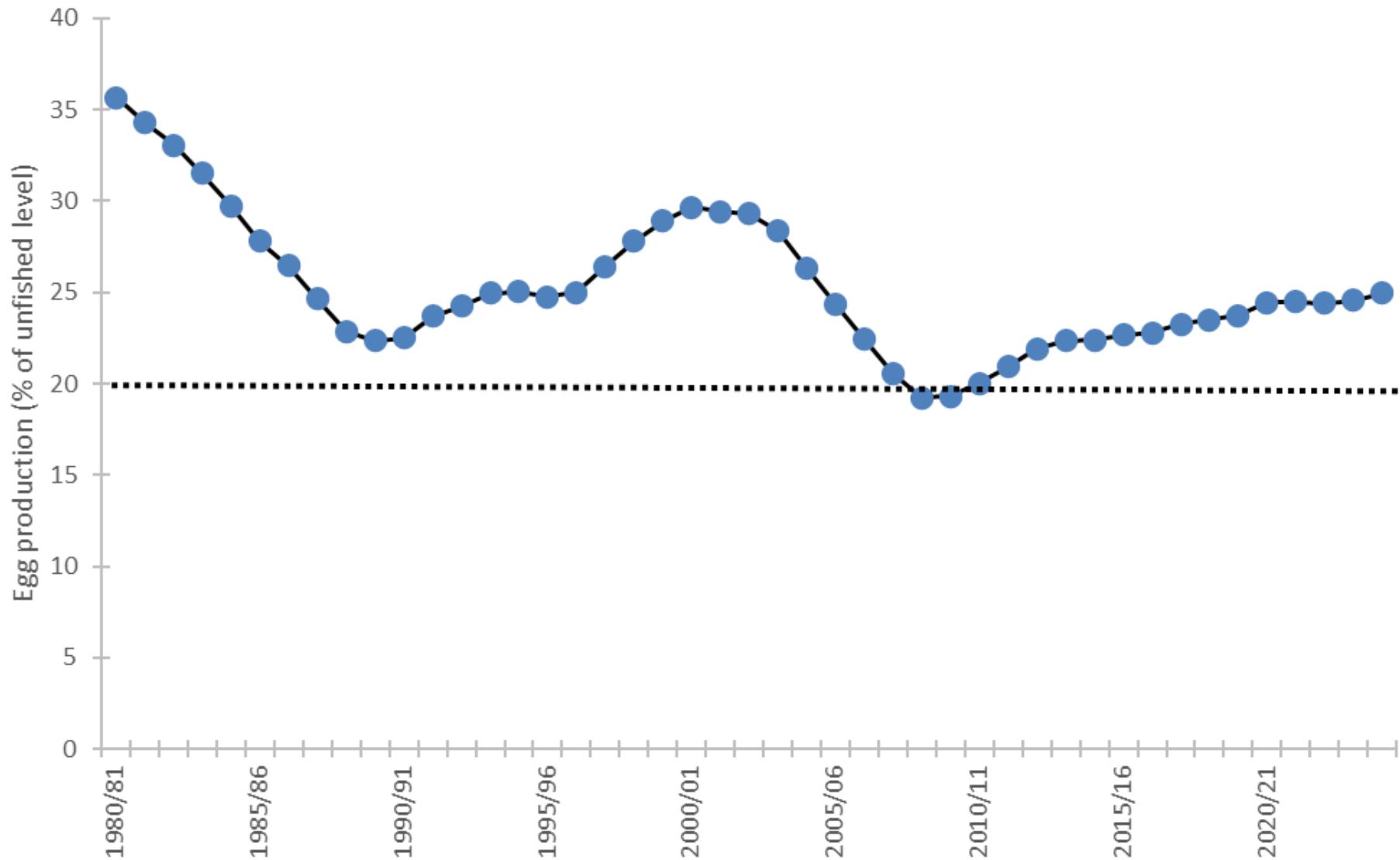
Western Zone PRI

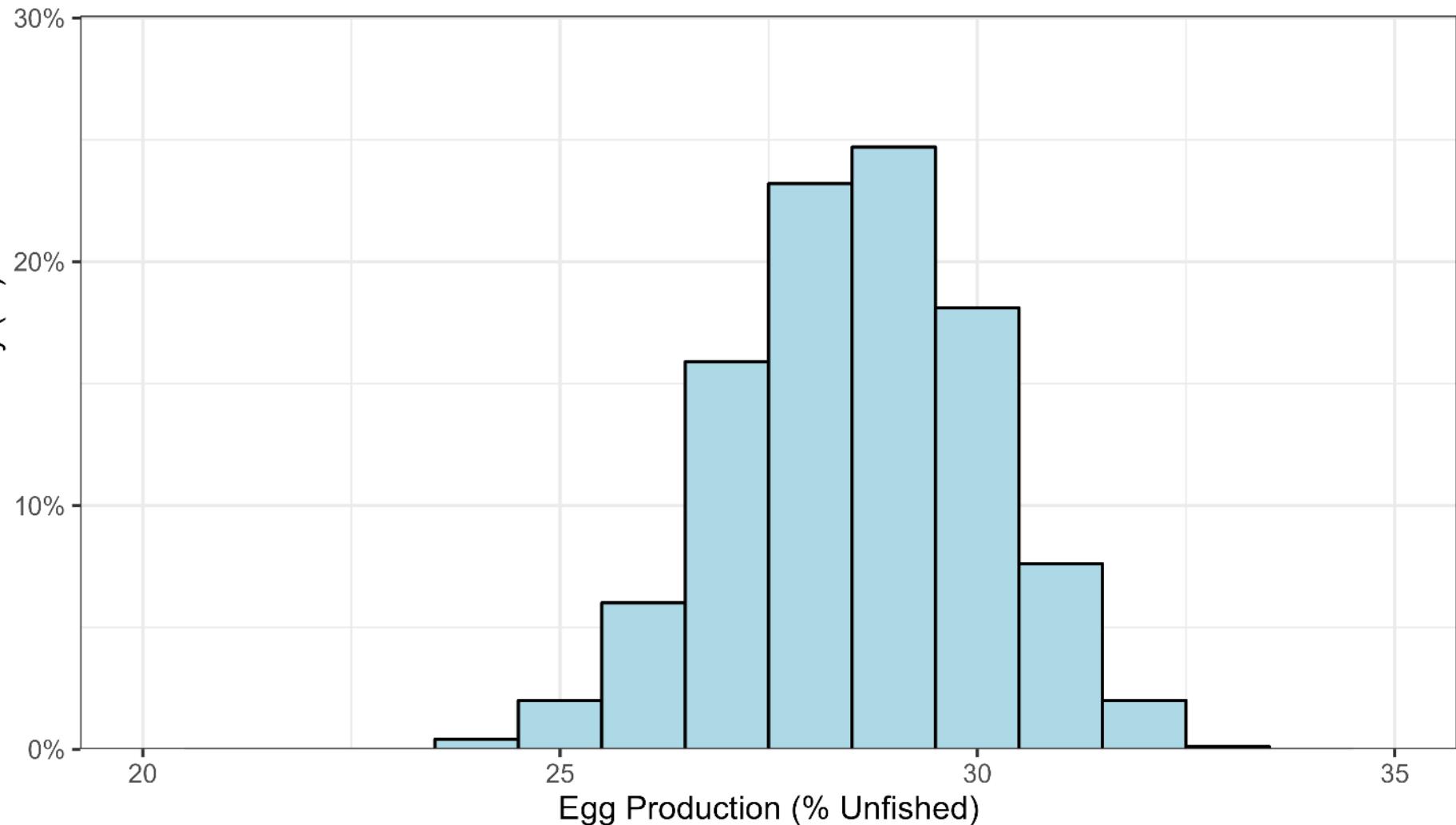


Western Zone biomass and exploitation rate

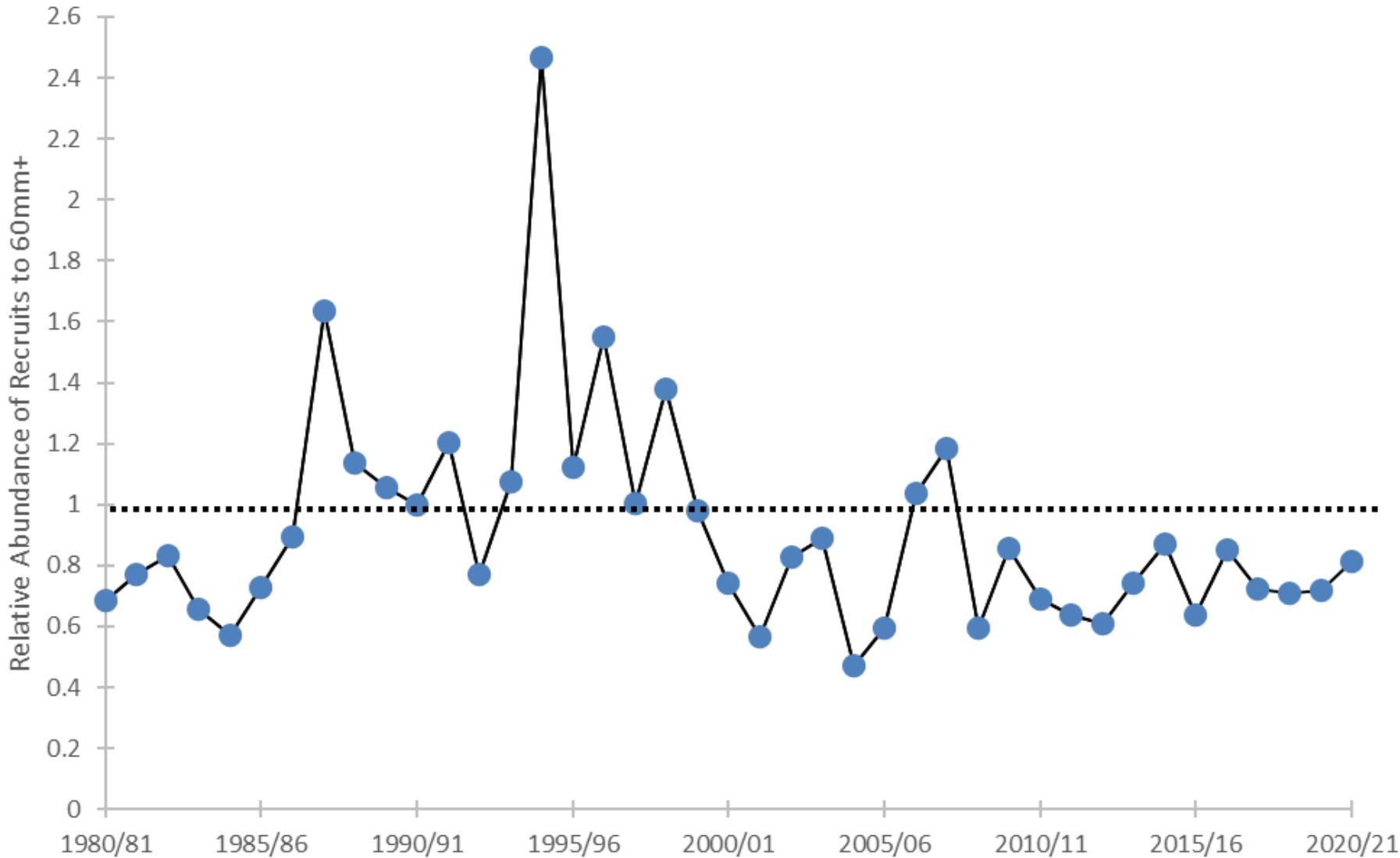


Western Zone Egg Production





Recruitment to 60mm+ size class



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 estimated at 25.0% of unfished levels.	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 0.78kg/pot-lift in 2023/24 to 0.81kg/pot-lift in 2024/25. This is in a higher CPUE band (0.80-0.85).	The CPUE band has remained the same.
a. Is the 2022/23 PRI at or above the threshold level of 1.67 undersize/pot-lift?	The combined PRI was 1.82 in 2023/24. This was a slight reduction from the previous three years but remains above the threshold level.	The combined PRI is above the threshold level.
	RESULT	The Western Zone moves to 0.80-<0.85 CPUE band 0.75-<0.80. This results in a shift to Step 3 and gives a TACC of 245t in 2026/27.

Harvest Strategy Application OFFICIAL

Harvest Control Rule Part 2: TACC Determination

When Decision Rule #1 has been met, the TACC is set using the standardised CPUE-TACC Table 11 and 12 for the Western Zone and Eastern Zone, respectively. Note that the HCR initially, at the time of its adoption, commences in Step 1.

1. The fishery will move to the next CPUE band (and possibly a higher TACC unless the cap has been reached) if:
 - i) the standardised CPUE is in a band higher than in the previous season;AND
 - ii) the PRI (rounded to two decimal places) is at or above the threshold level of 1.67 undersize per pot lift for the Western Zone or 0.25 undersize per pot lift for the Eastern Zone.

2024/25 CPUE up from 0.78 to 0.81 kg/pc

PRI was above the threshold

Move to CPUE band 0.80-<0.85

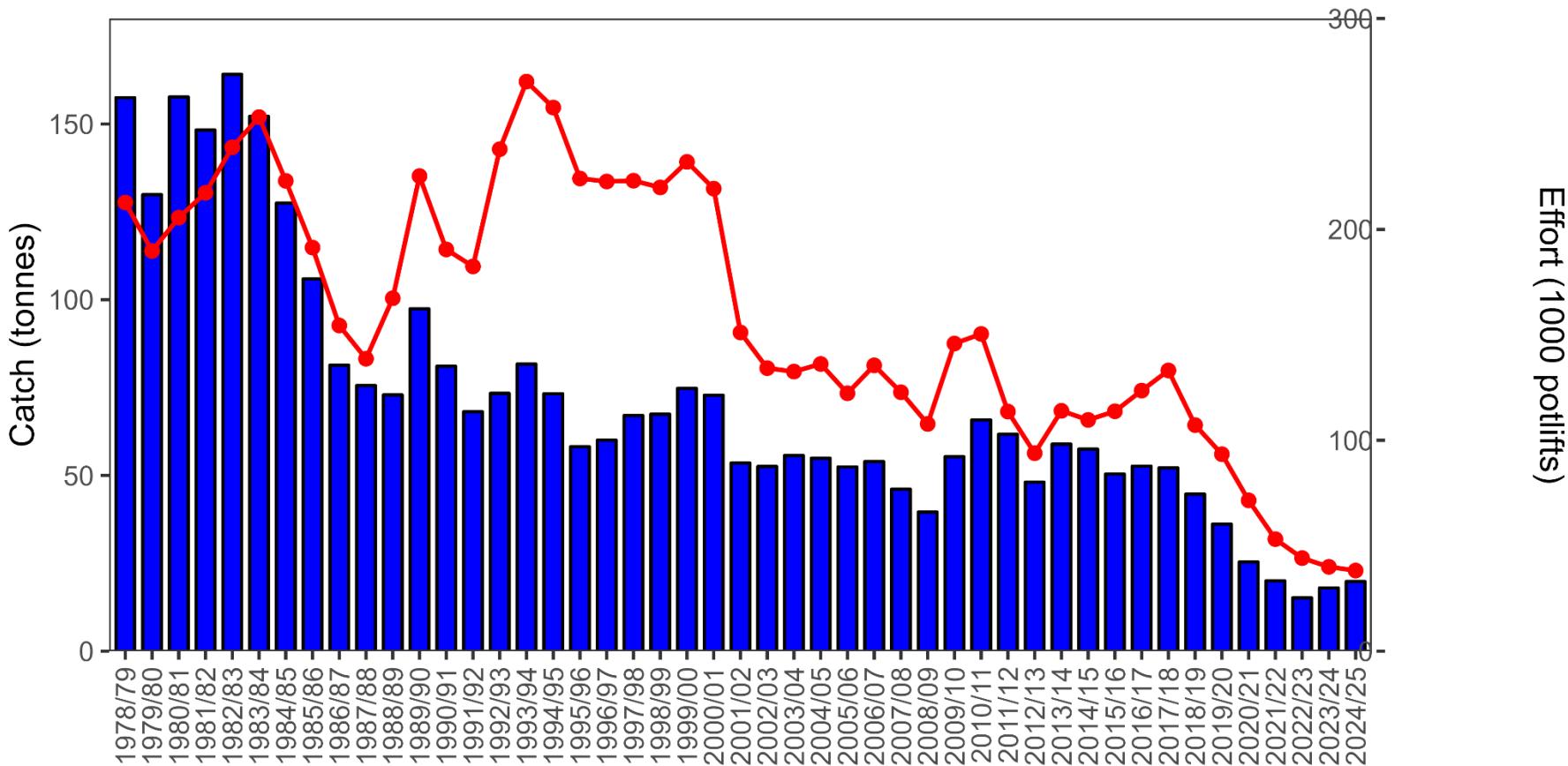
Transition to step 3.

CPUE	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
<0.25	0	0	0	0	0
0.250 - <0.275	0	0	0	0	0
0.275 - <0.300	0	0	0	0	0
0.300 - <0.325	5	4	4	3	3
0.325 - <0.350	15	13	12	10	9
0.350 - <0.375	27	24	21	18	16
0.375 - <0.40	40	36	32	28	24
0.40 - <0.425	55	49	43	38	32
0.425-<0.45	71	64	56	49	42
0.45 - <0.475	89	79	70	61	53
0.475-<0.50	108	97	85	75	64
0.50 - <0.525	129	115	102	89	76
0.525-<0.55	151	135	119	104	89
0.55 - <0.575	175	156	138	120	103
0.575-<0.60	200	178	157	138	118
0.60 - <0.625	227	202	178	156	134
0.625-<0.65	236	227	201	176	150
0.65 - <0.675	245	236	224	196	168
0.675-<0.70	245	245	232	217	186
0.70 - <0.75	245	245	245	229	215
0.75 - <0.80	→	245	245	245	230
0.80 - <0.85	→	245	245	245	245
0.85 - <0.90		→	245	245	245
>= 0.90		→	245	245	245

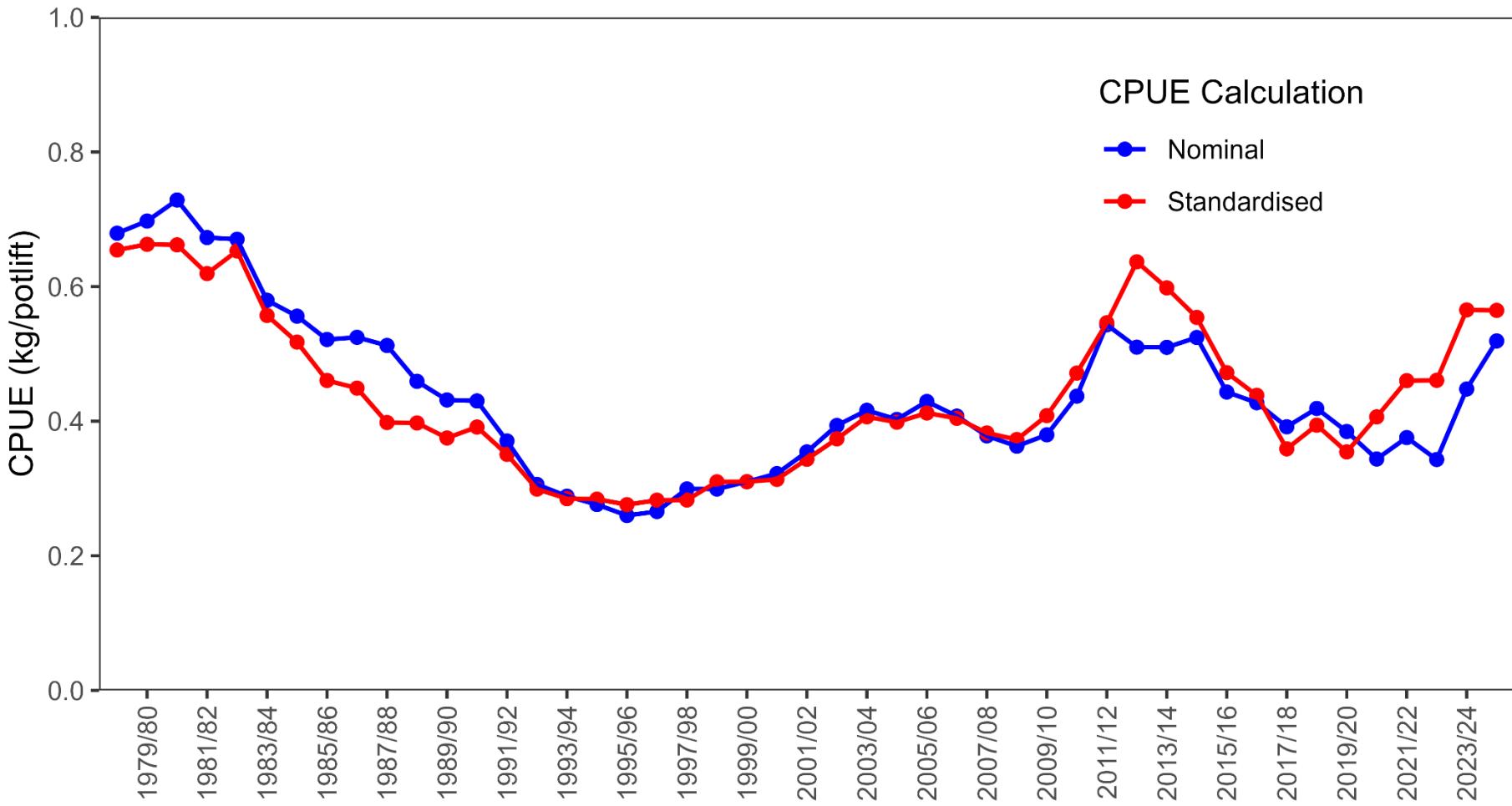
Eastern Zone Assessment



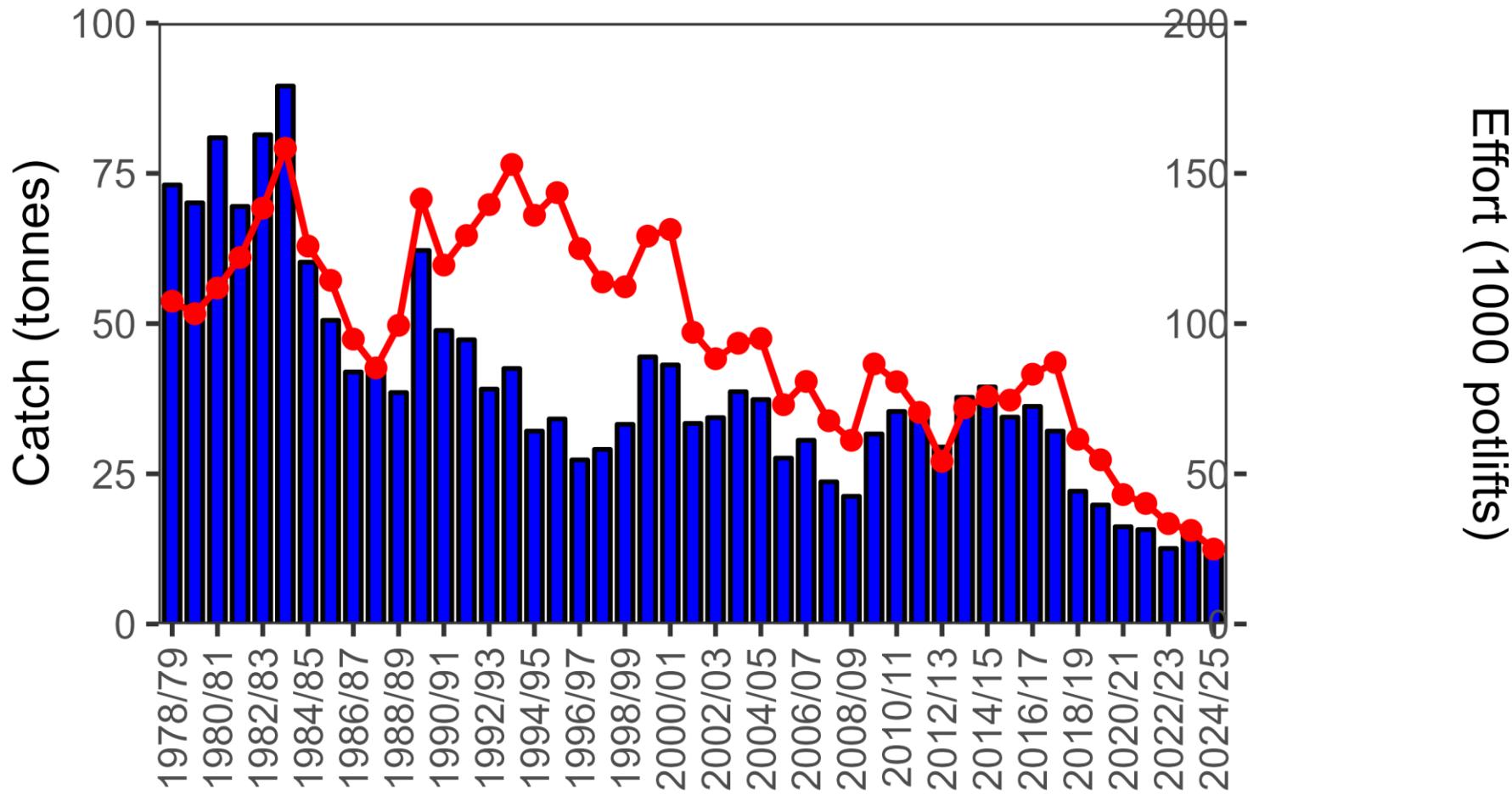
Eastern Zone Catch and Effort



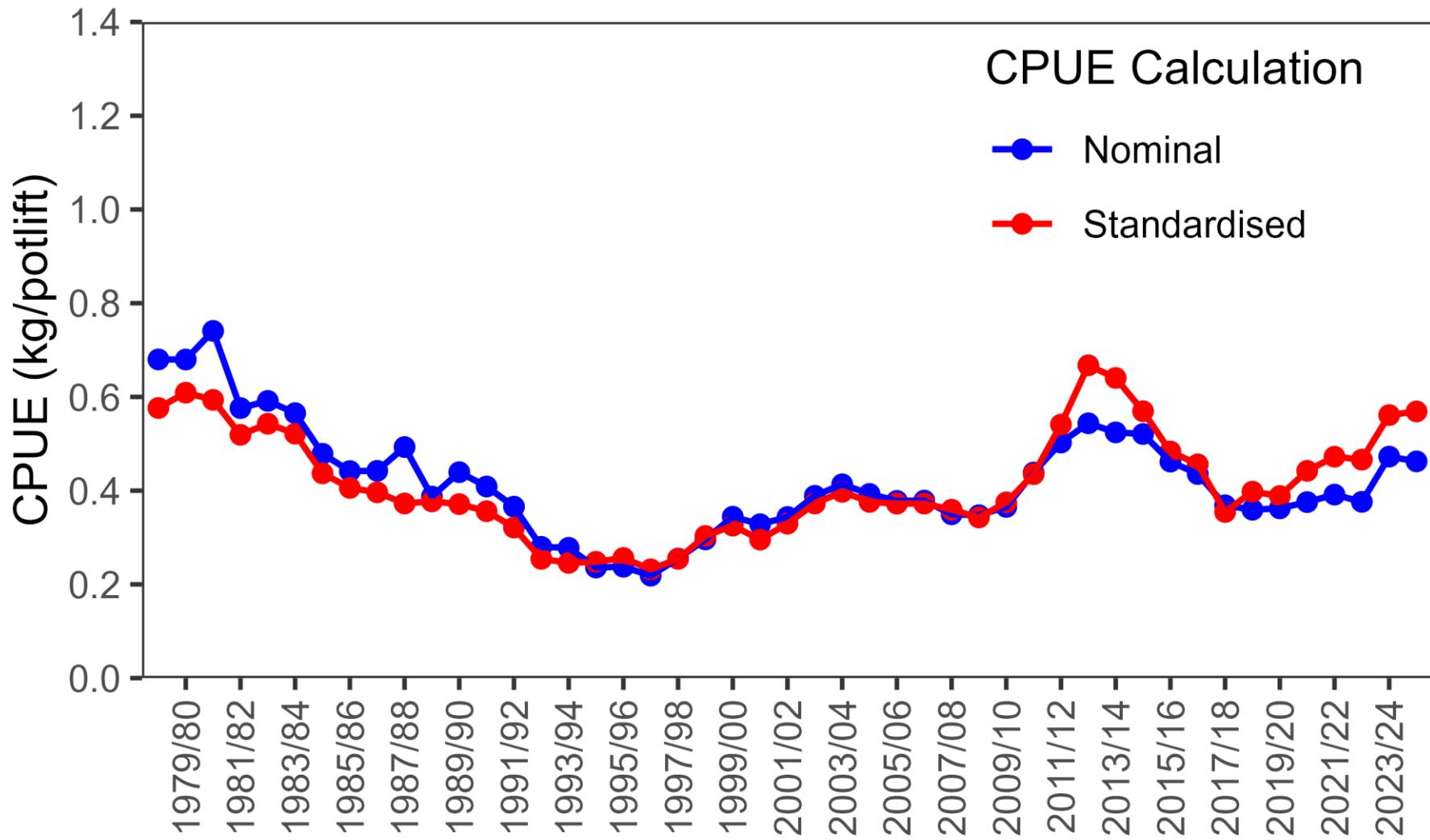
Eastern Zone CPUE



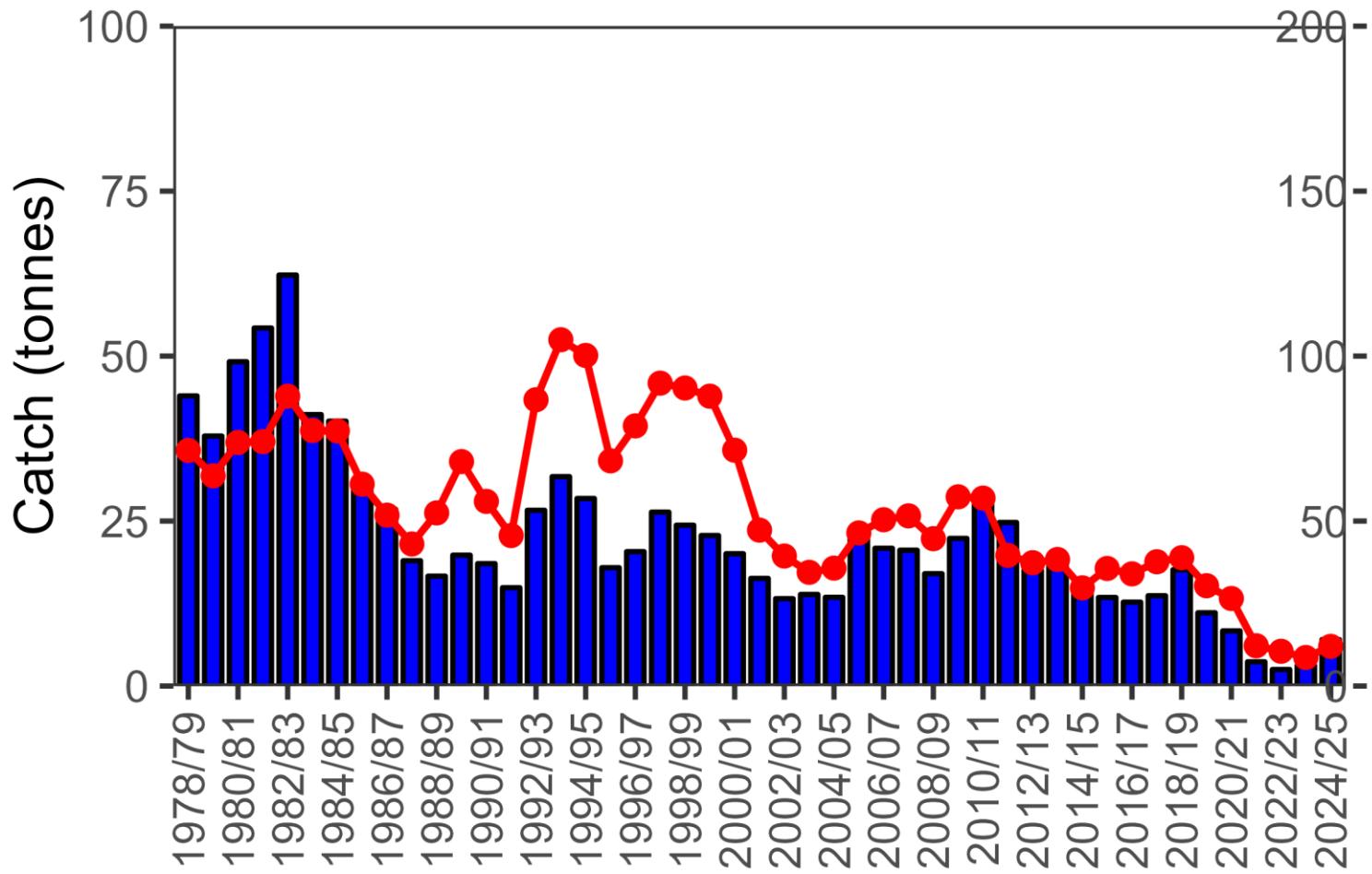
Queenscliff Catch and Effort



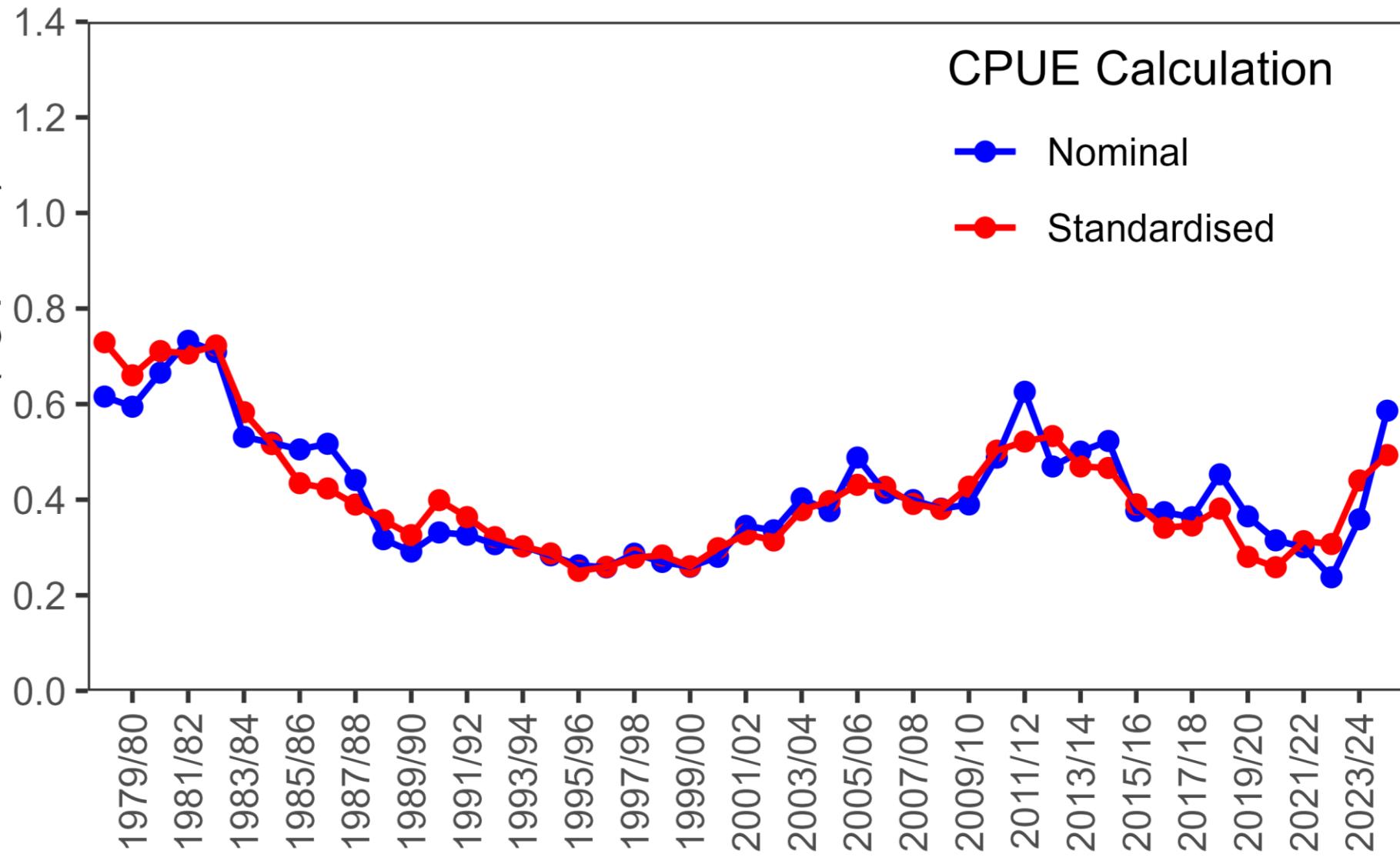
Queenscliff CPUE



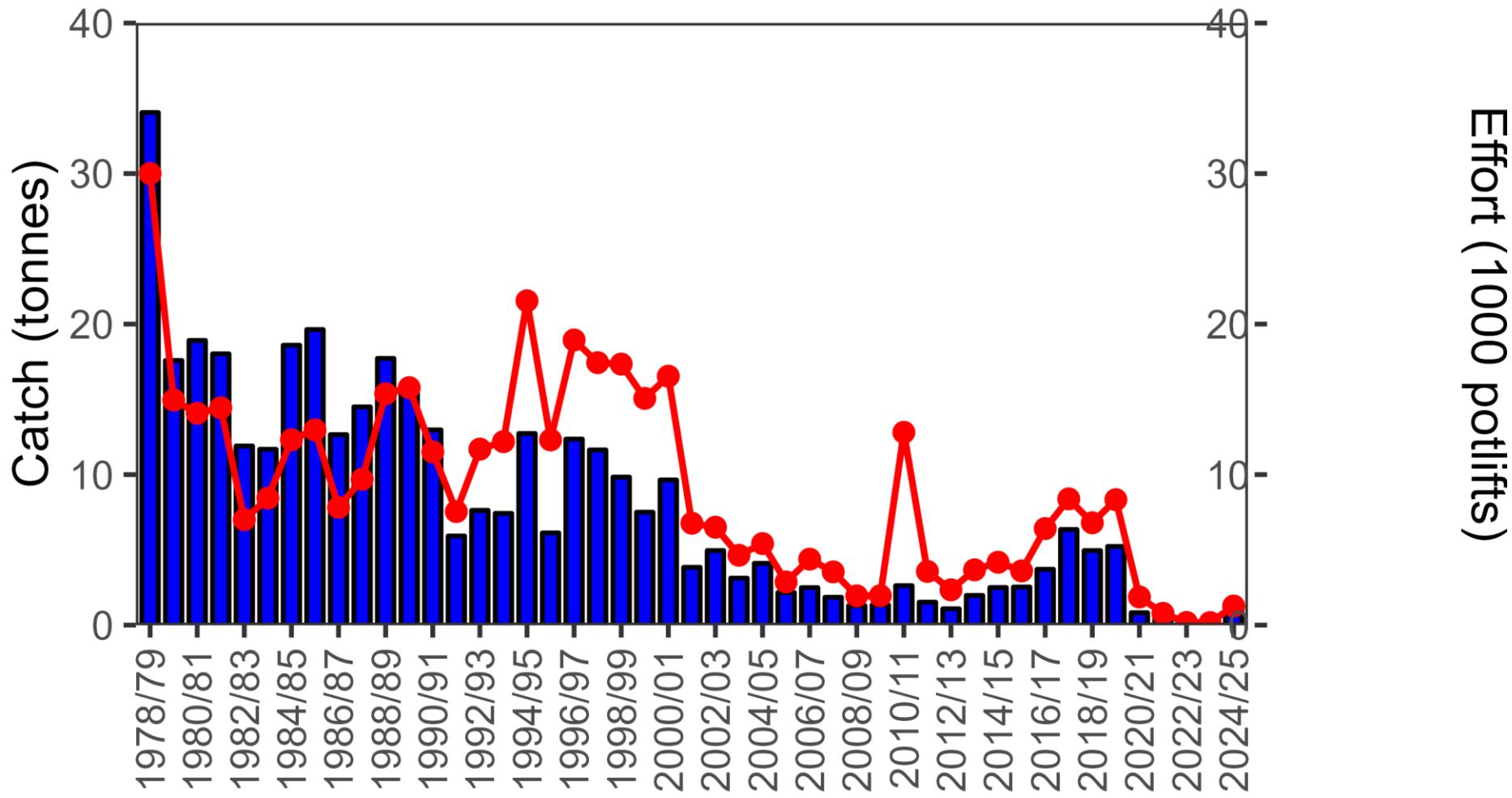
San Remo Catch and Effort



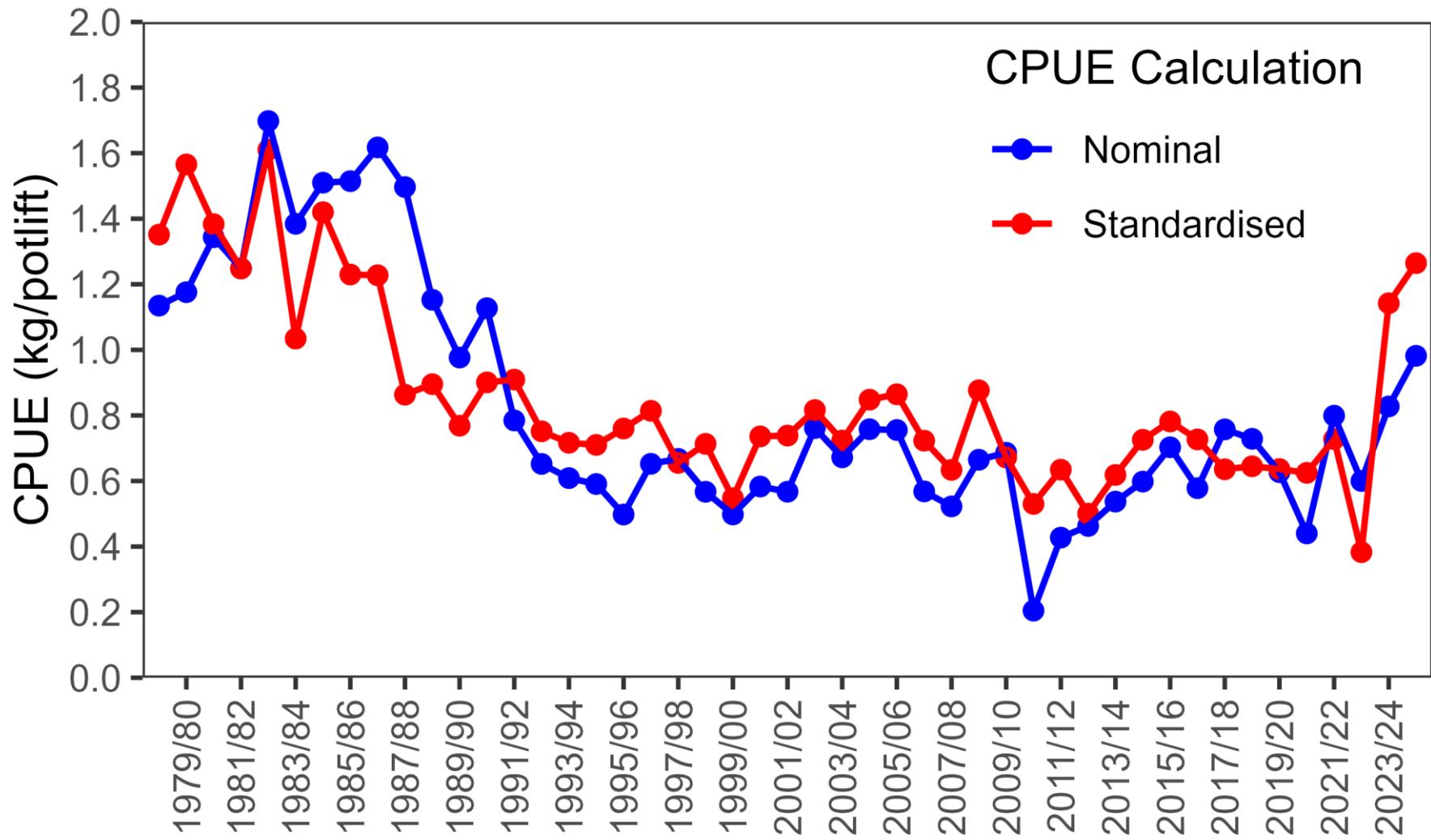
San Remo CPUE



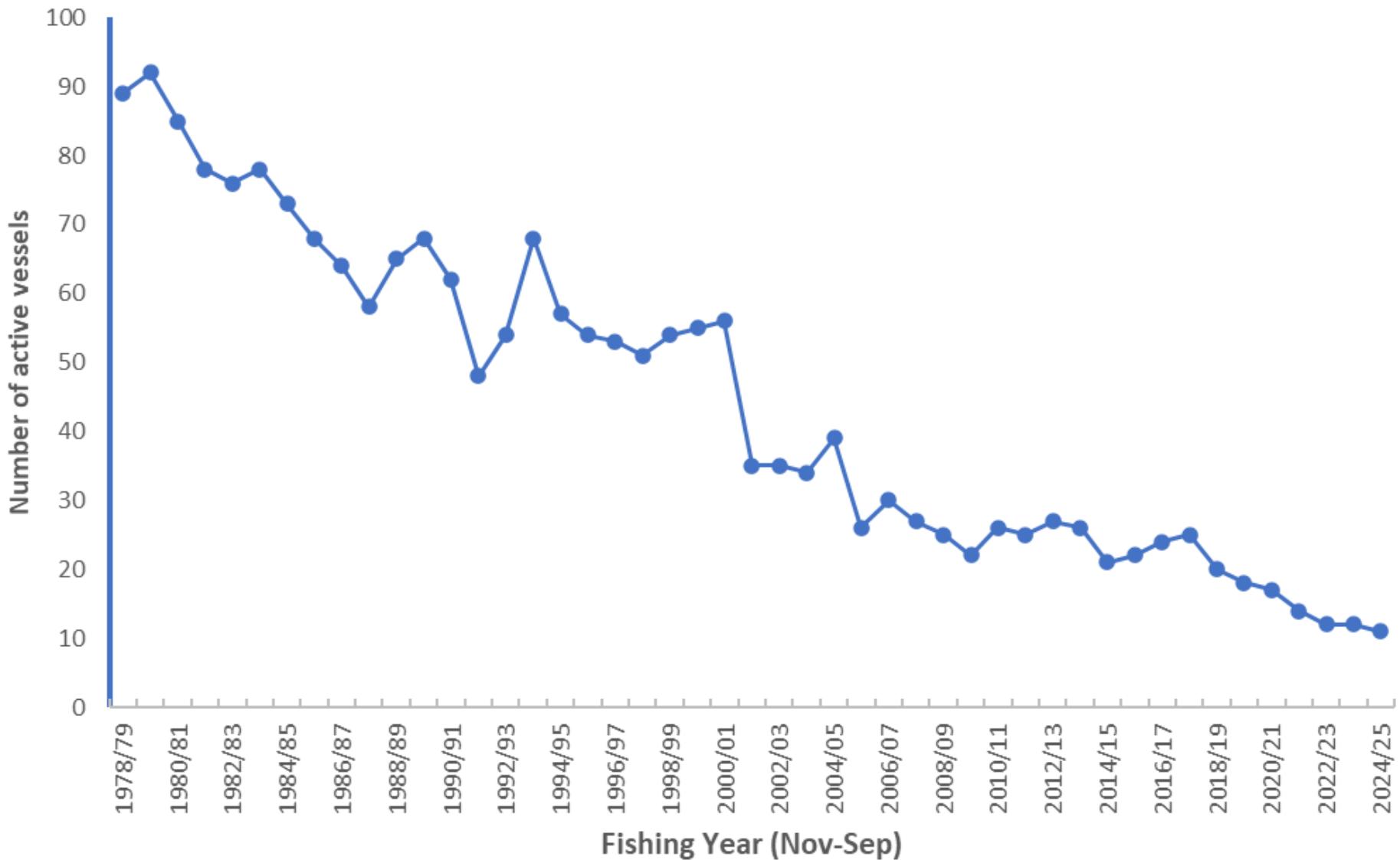
Lakes Entrance Catch and Effort



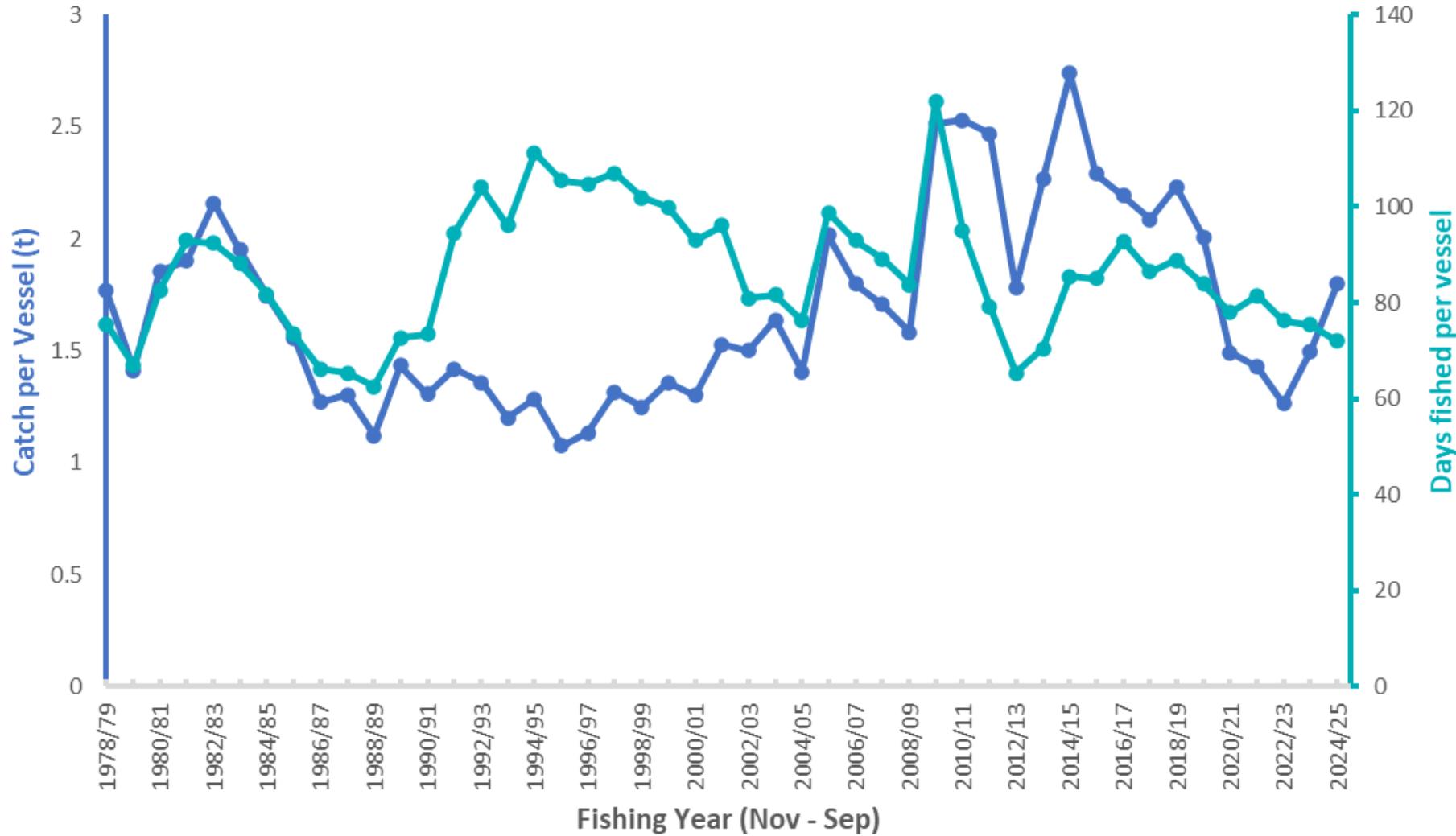
Lakes Entrance CPUE



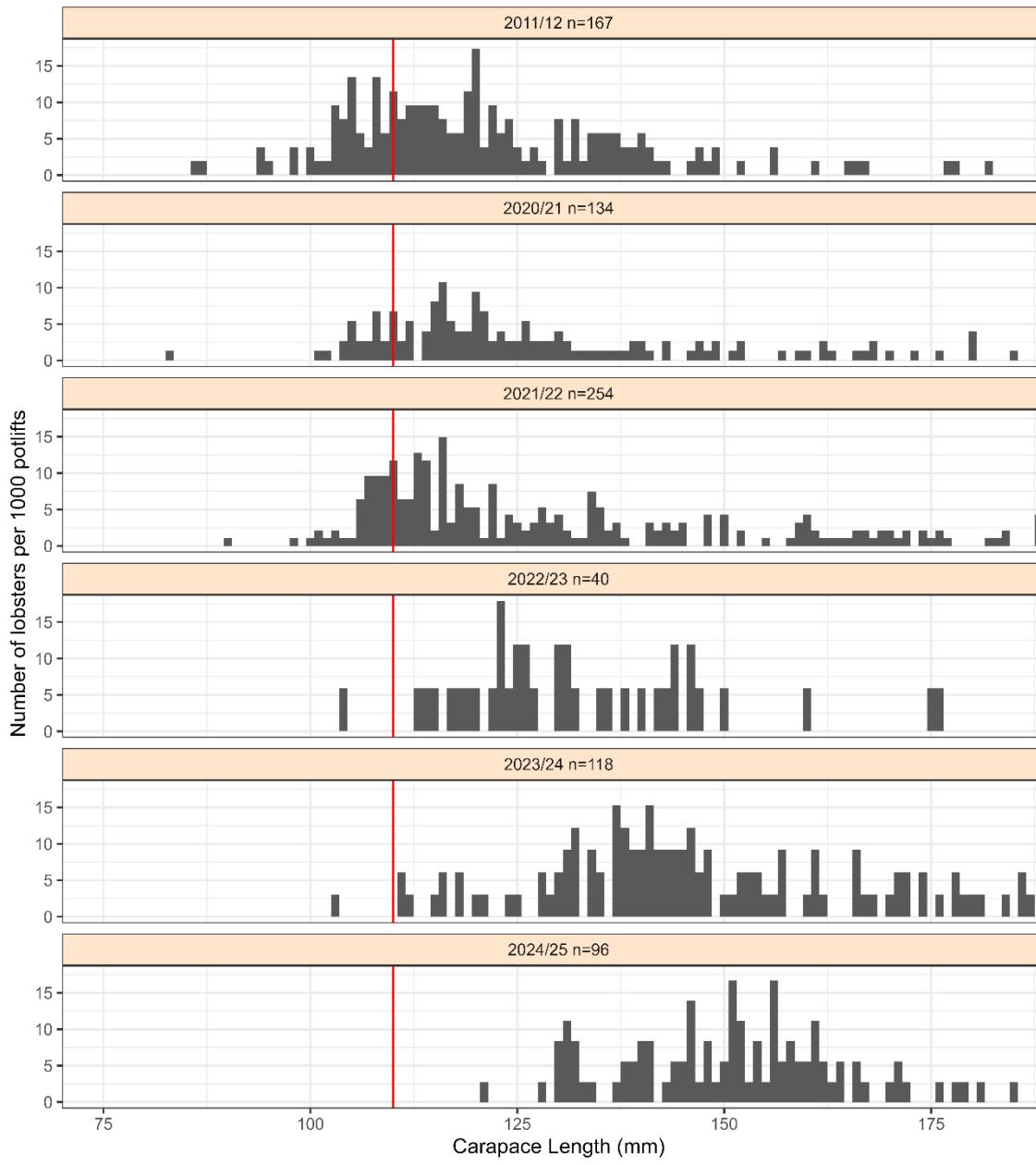
Vessel Numbers



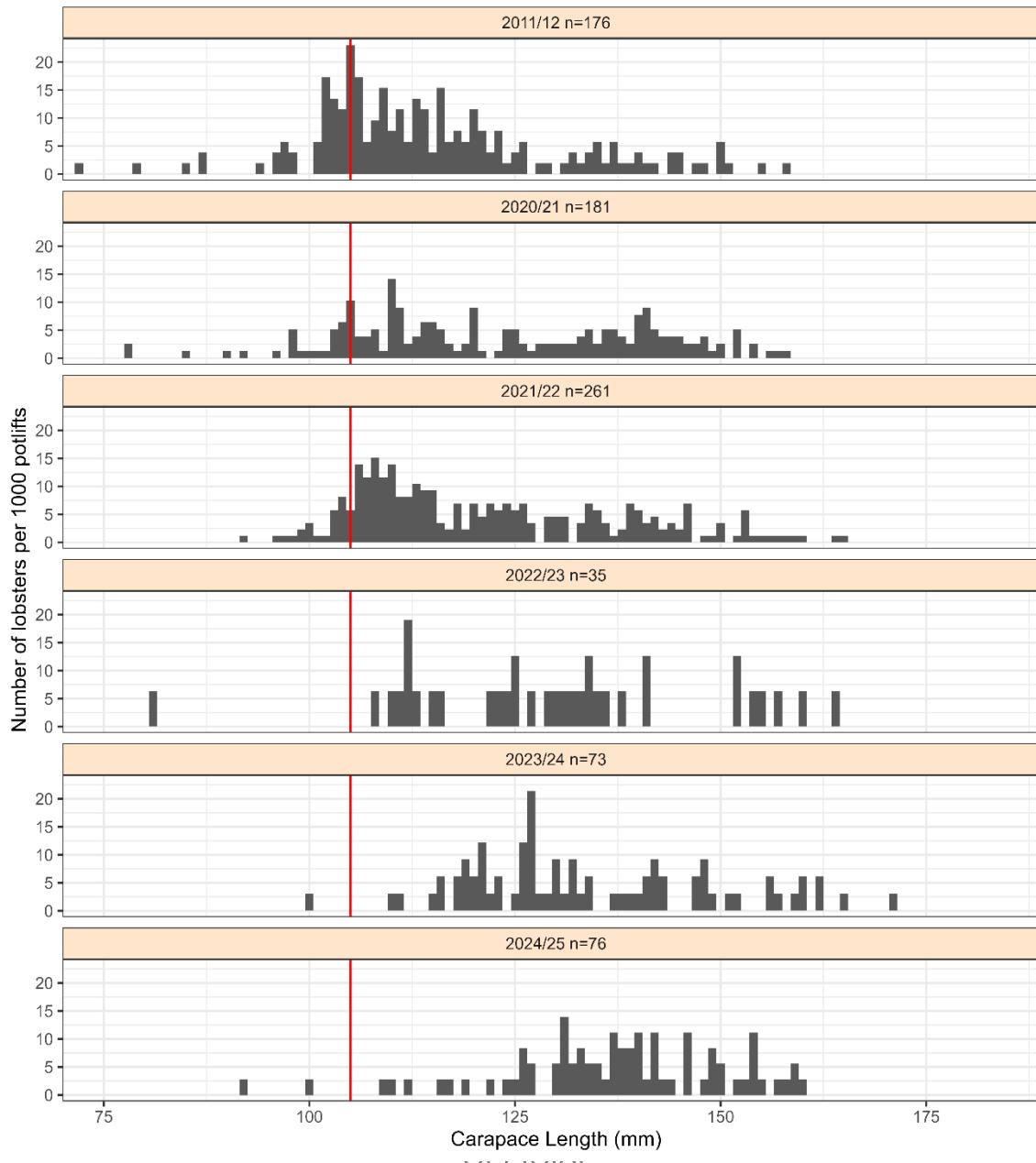
Per vessel catch and days fished



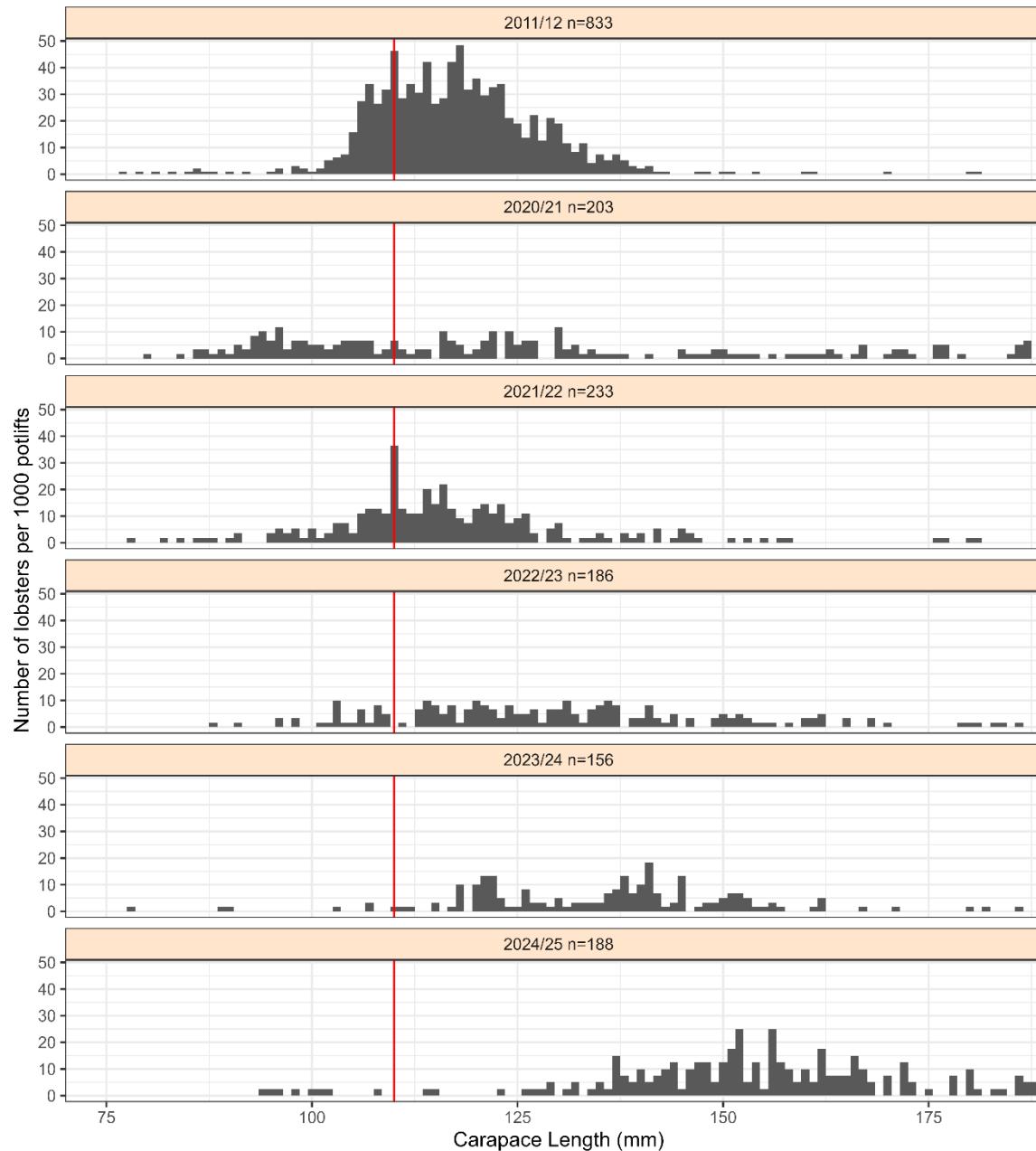
Eastern Zone LF, Male Observer Program



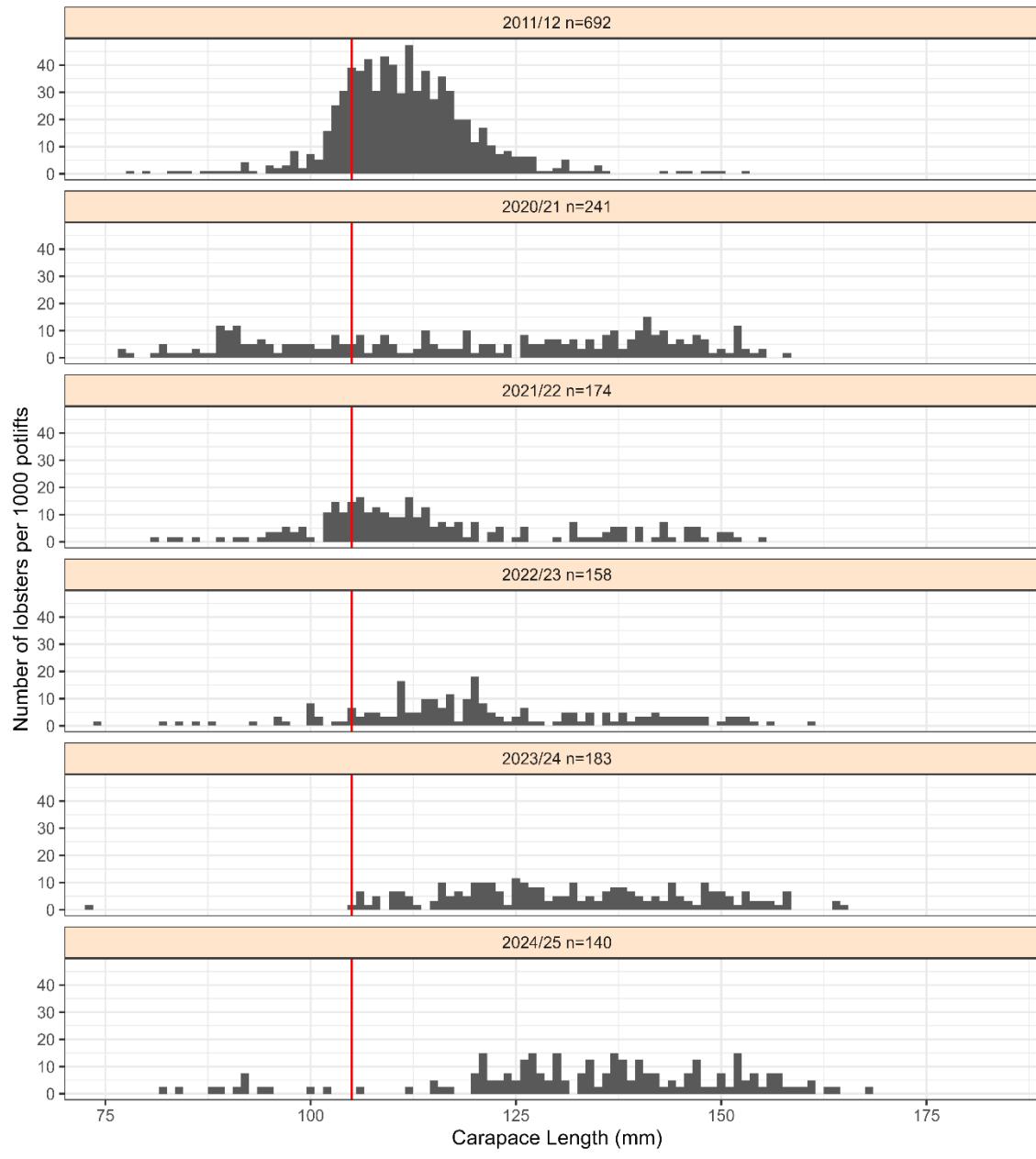
Eastern Zone LF, Female Observer Program



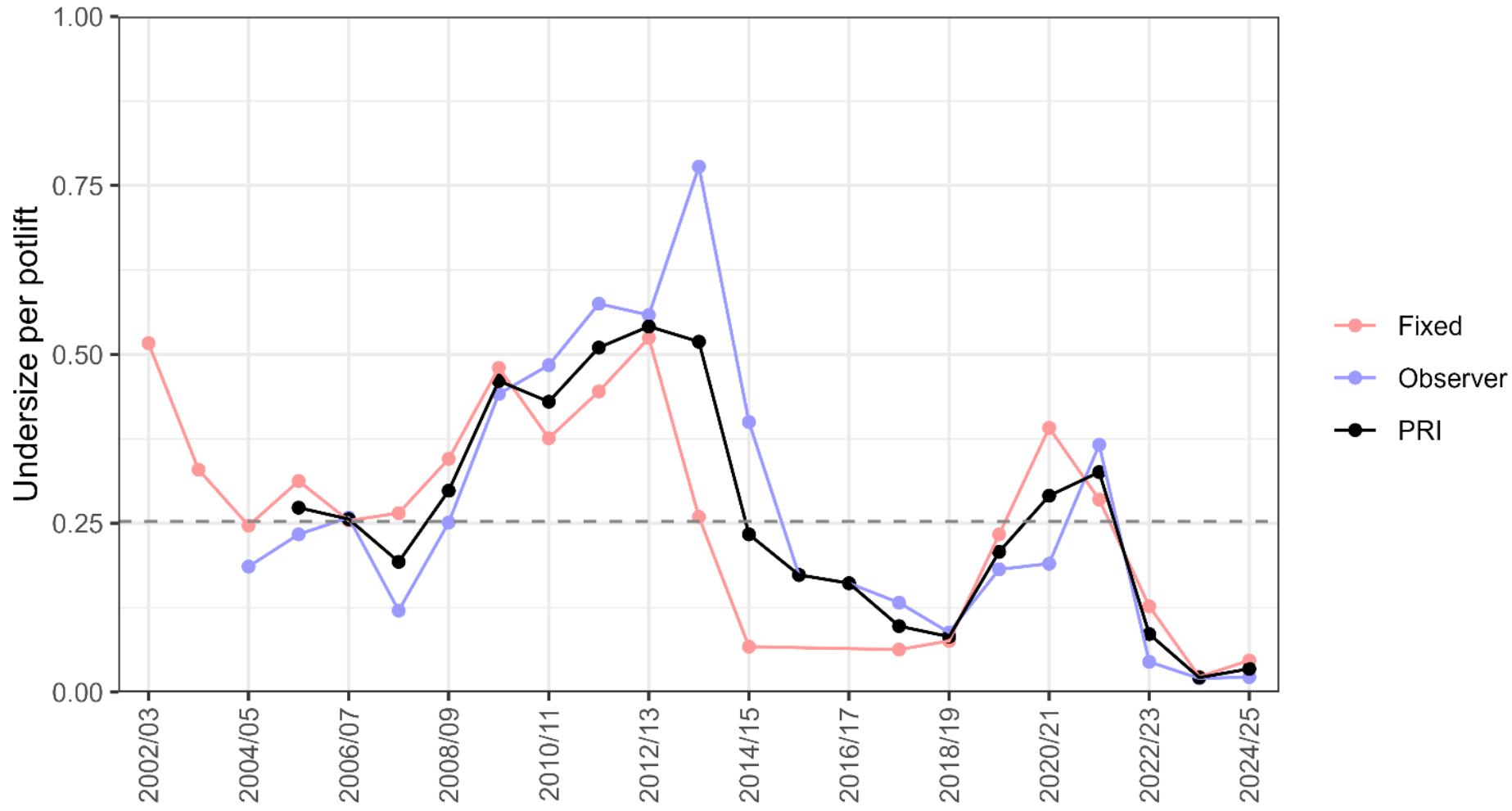
Eastern Zone LF, Male Fixed Sites



Eastern Zone LF, Female Fixed Site



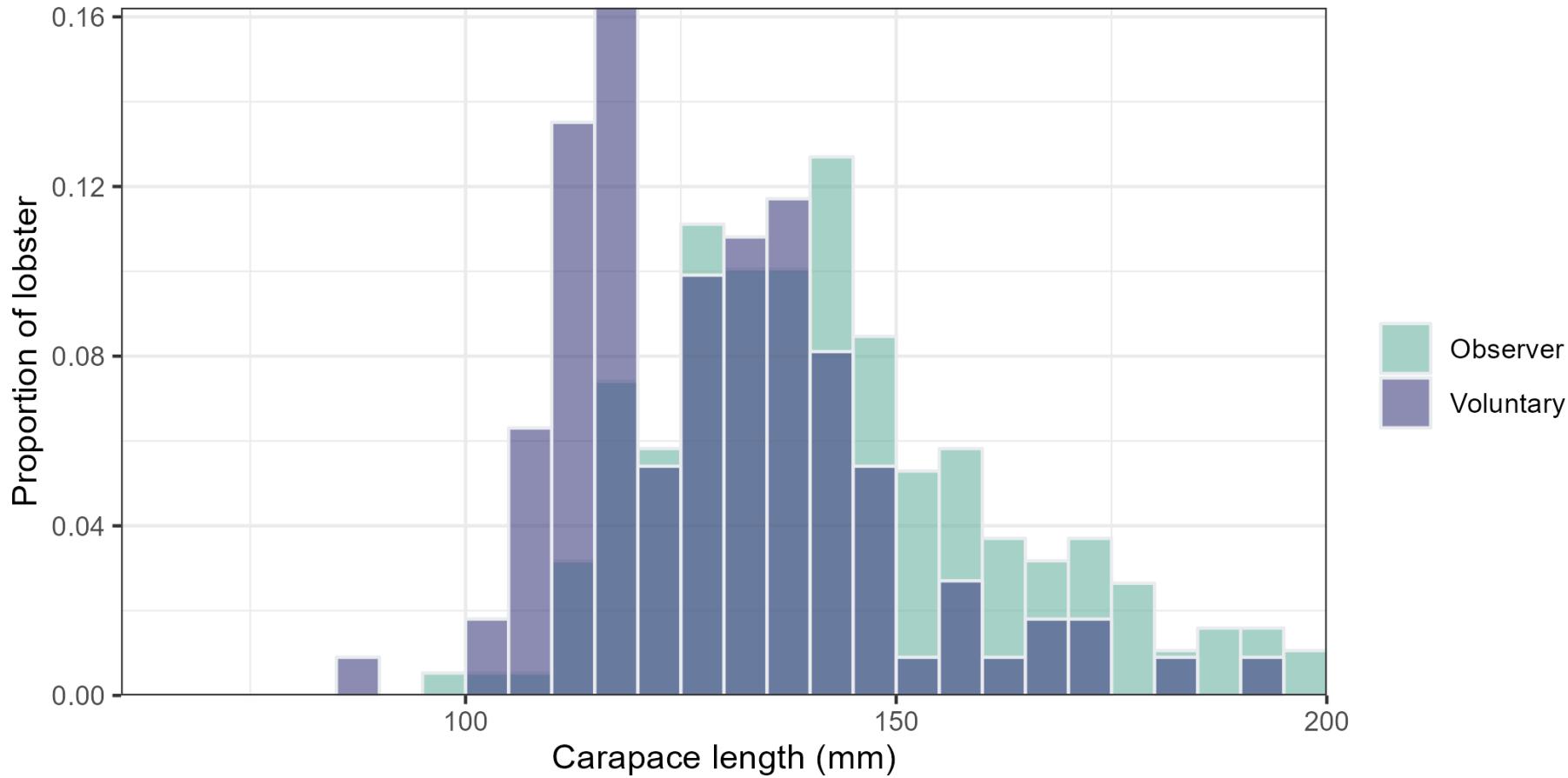
Eastern Zone PRI



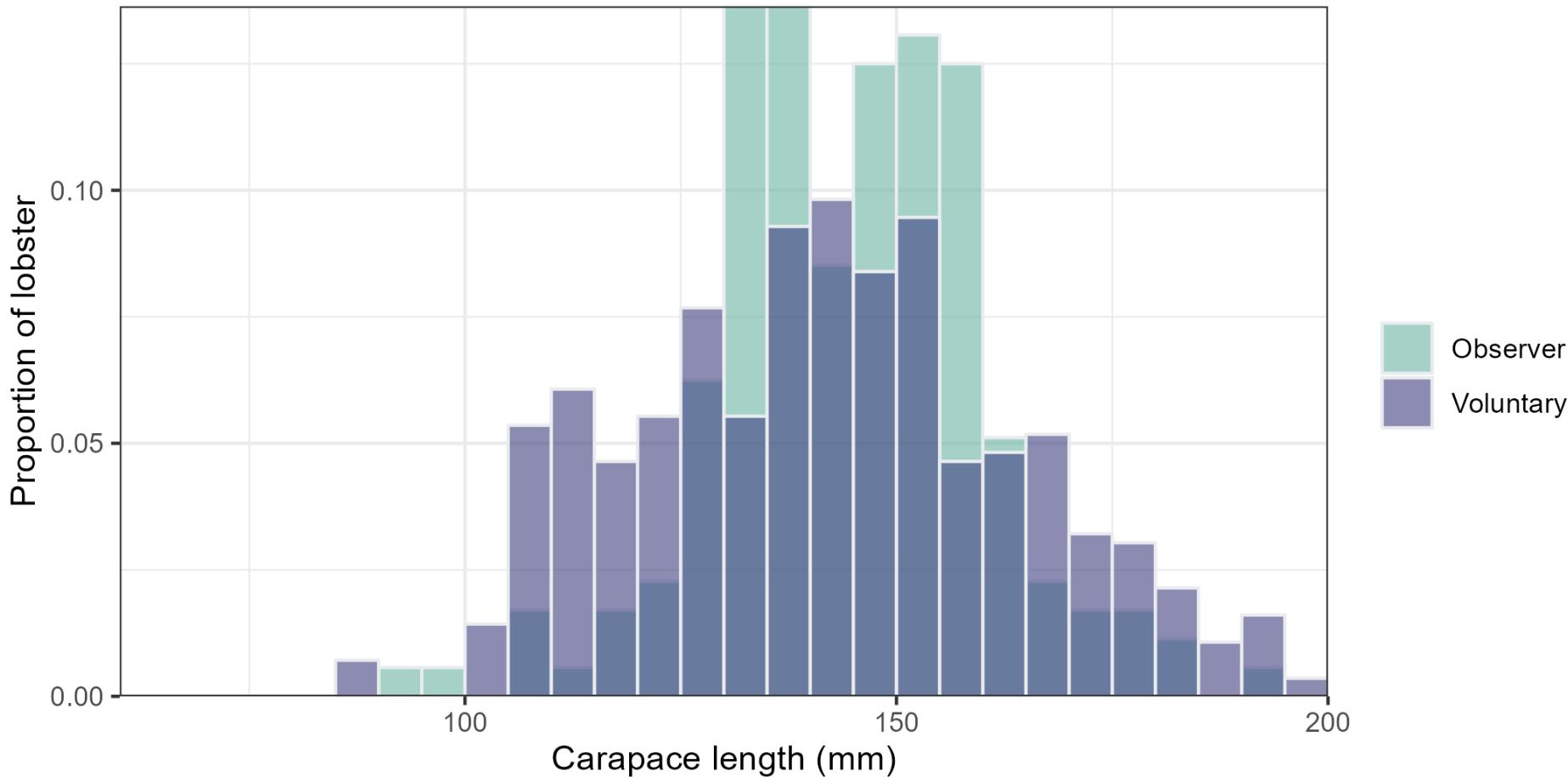
L-F Data Sources

Year	West				East			
	Observer	Fixed Site	Deck Log	Voluntary	Observer	Fixed Site	Deck Log	Voluntary
2010	11145	7377	0	0	306	0	0	0
2011	5877	6365	0	0	351	0	0	0
2012	4801	5975	0	38	215	0	0	242
2013	3395	5229	0	151	453	0	0	44
2014	3683	3415	0	9	968	0	0	2
2015	2759	3994	0	292	493	0	0	3
2016	3740	3315	48	259	1061	0	81	124
2017	5441	3374	286	71	1238	210	319	0
2018	6270	3550	0	591	460	341	450	58
2019	2027	4966	0	1640	387	809	528	196
2020	3064	6128	0	456	322	447	0	50
2021	4716	5102	0	0	518	410	0	0
2022	3346	6621	0	296	75	345	0	30
2023	1901	3530	0	338	191	340	0	111
2024	4849	4937	0	0	178	328	0	566

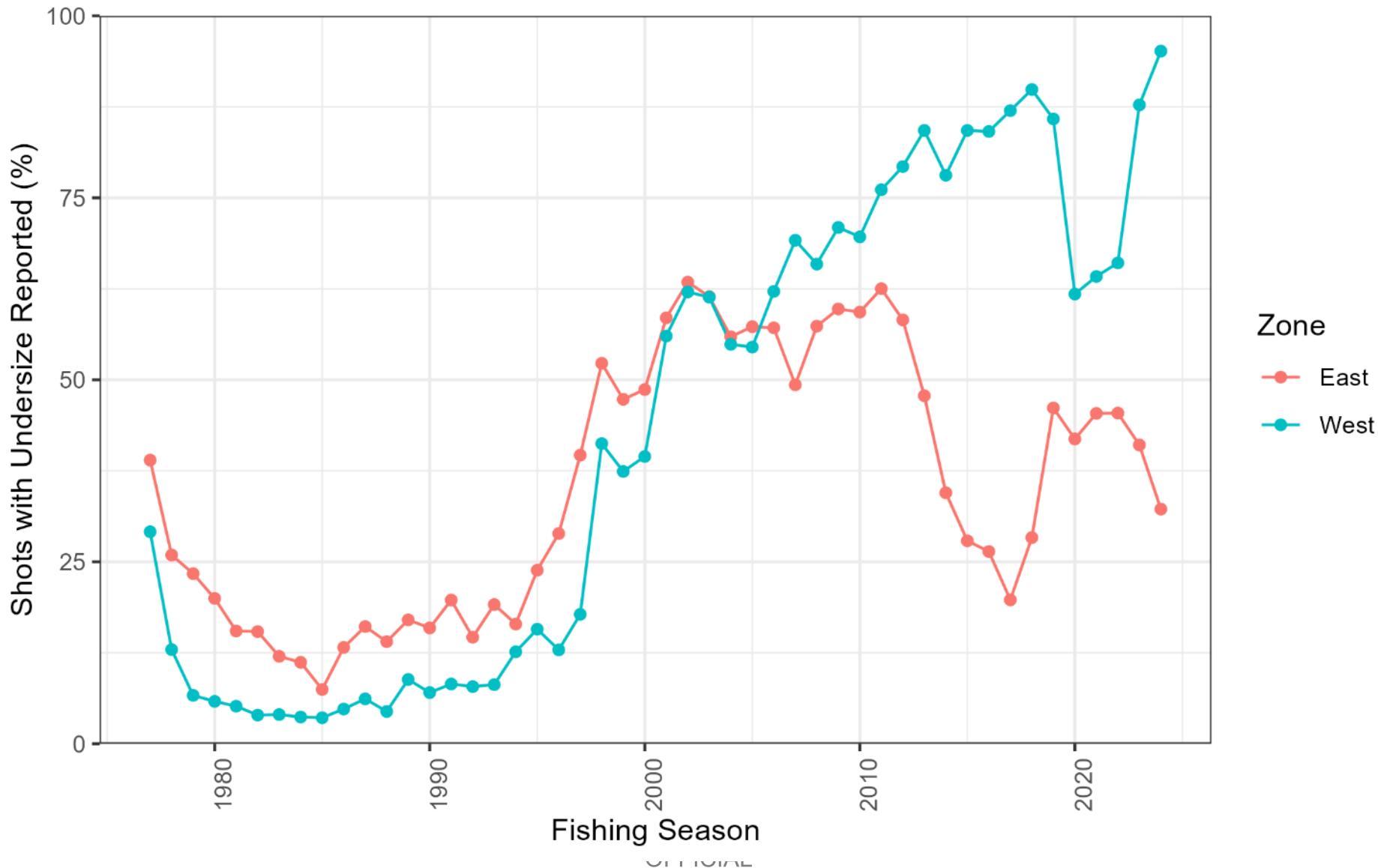
2023/24 – Eastern Zone



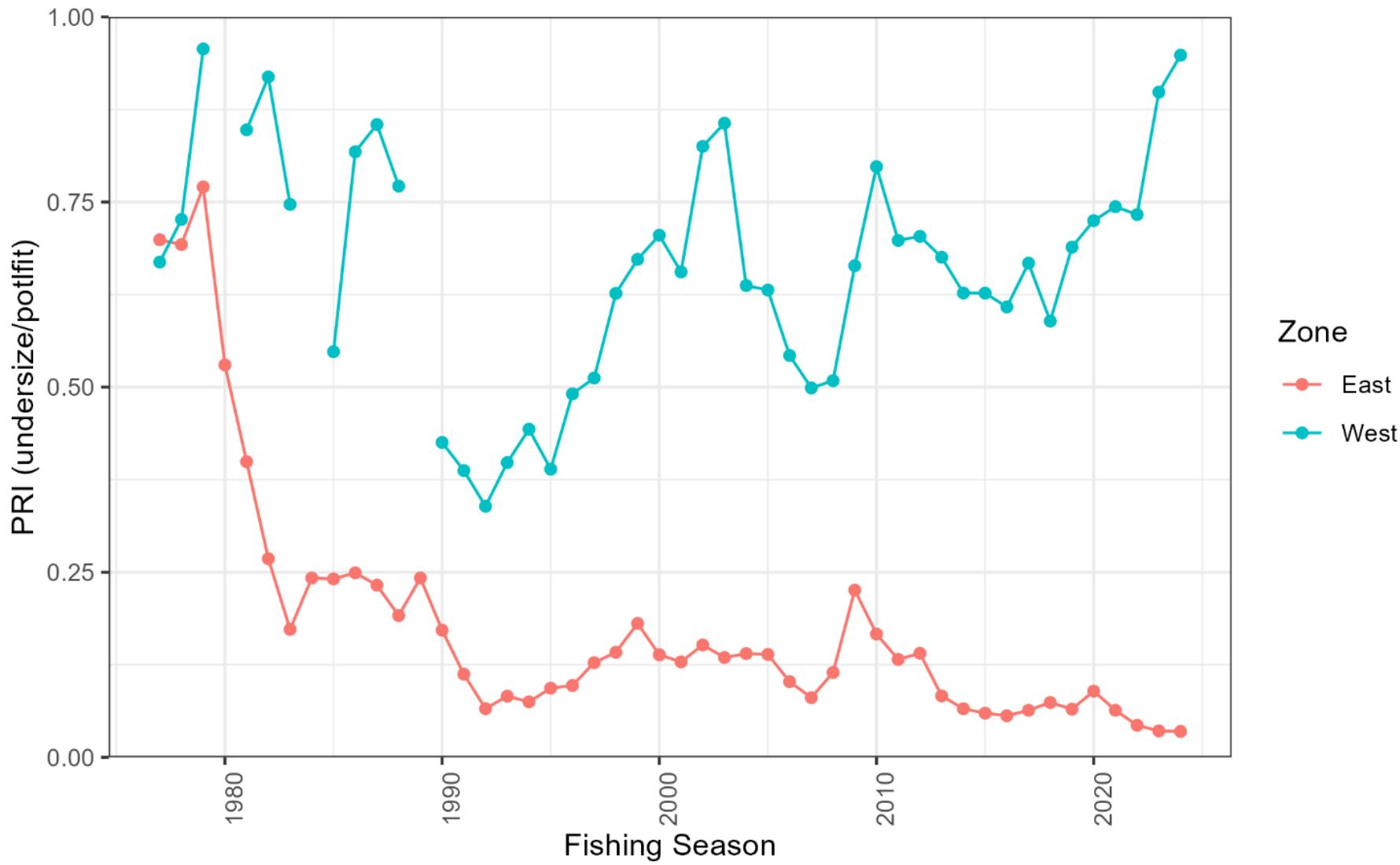
2024/25 – Eastern Zone



Shots with undersize reported in logbooks



Logbook Undersize PRI



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		
b. 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 2023/24 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.
RESULT		The Eastern Zone remains in the same CPUE band (0.45-<0.50) with a TACC of 21t.

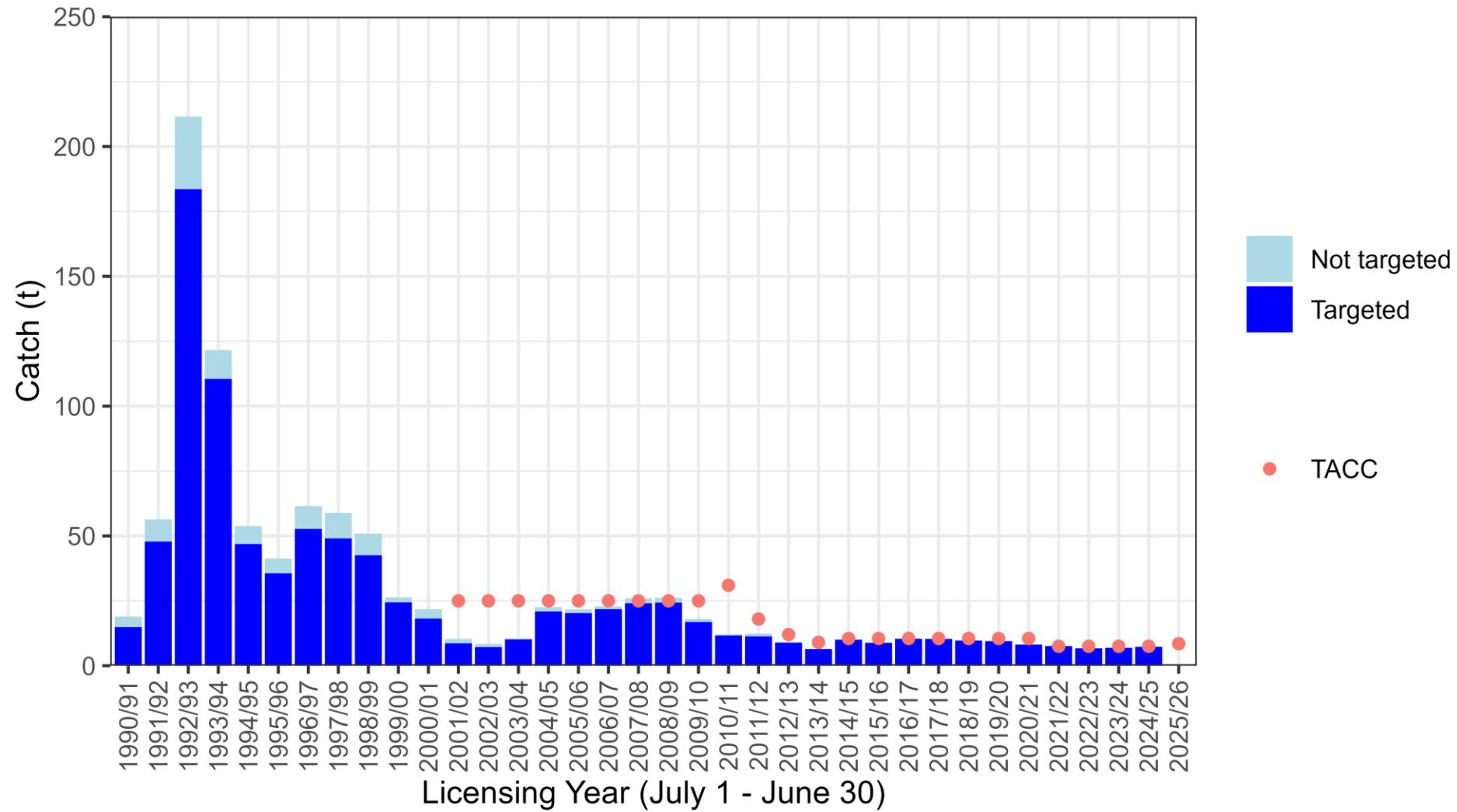
4. The harvest control rule will be reviewed when:
 - i) The catch rate band decreases for two consecutive years; or
 - ii) The PRI is below threshold for two consecutive years.

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.

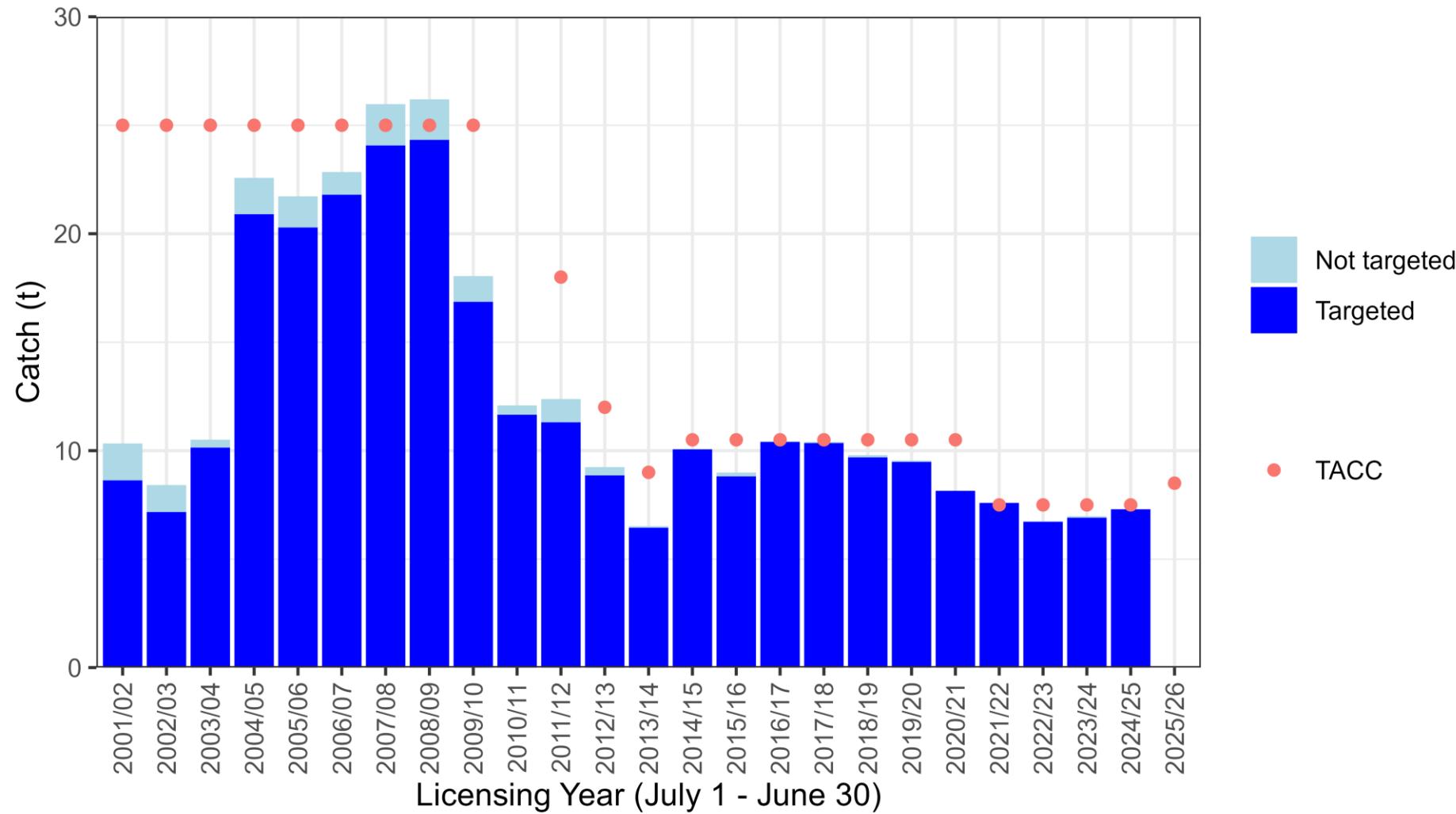
Agenda Item 6: Giant Crab Assessment



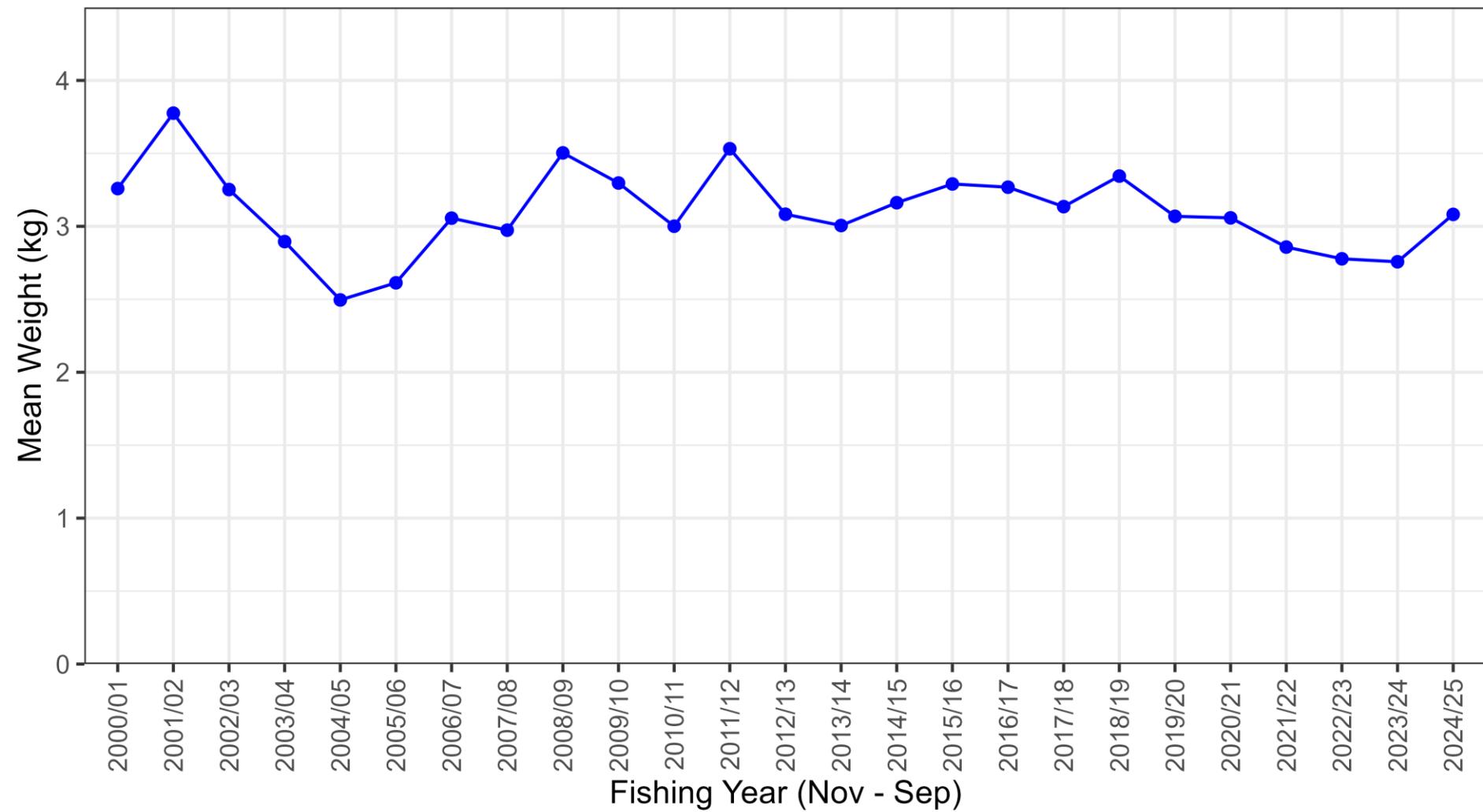
Catch history



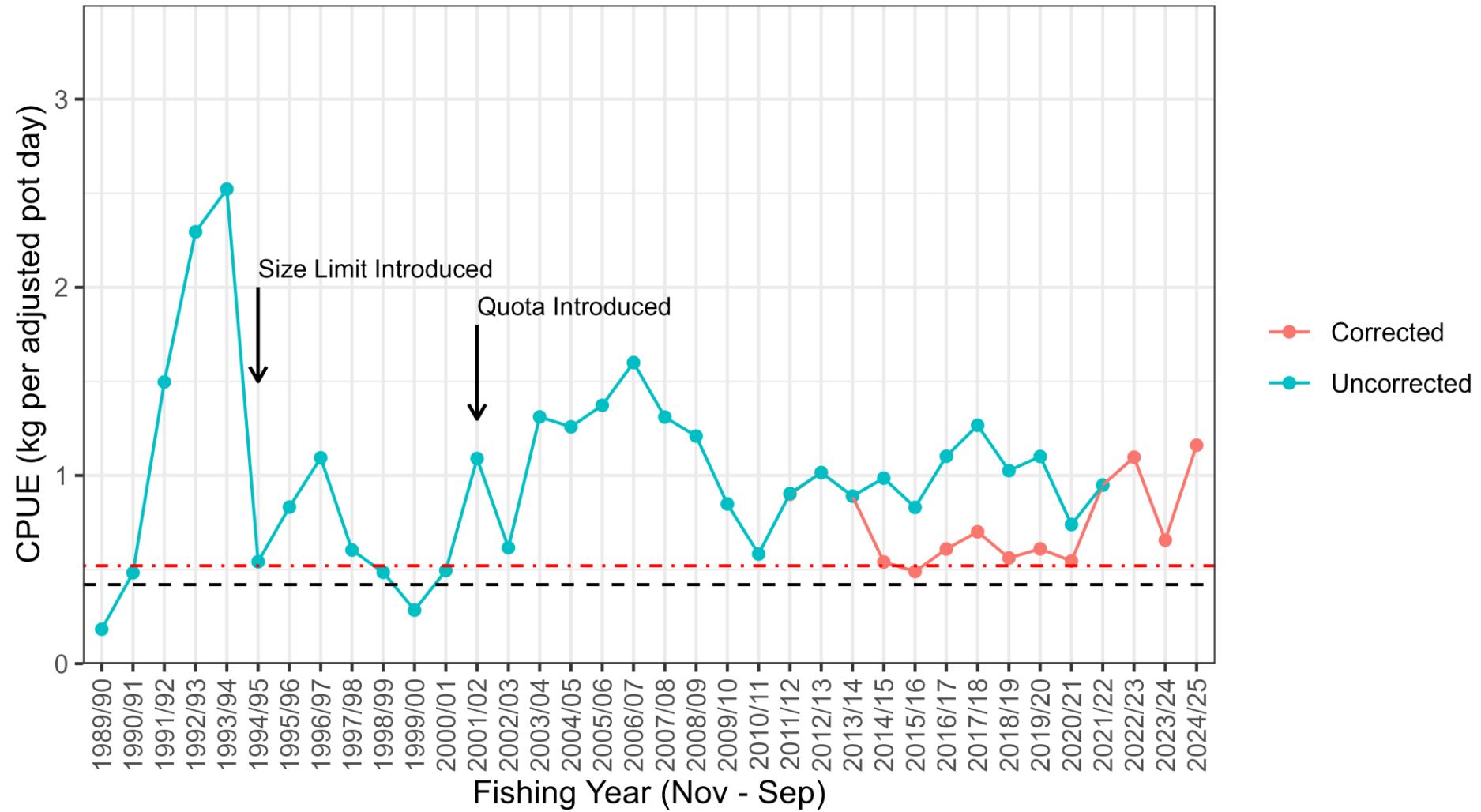
Recent catch history



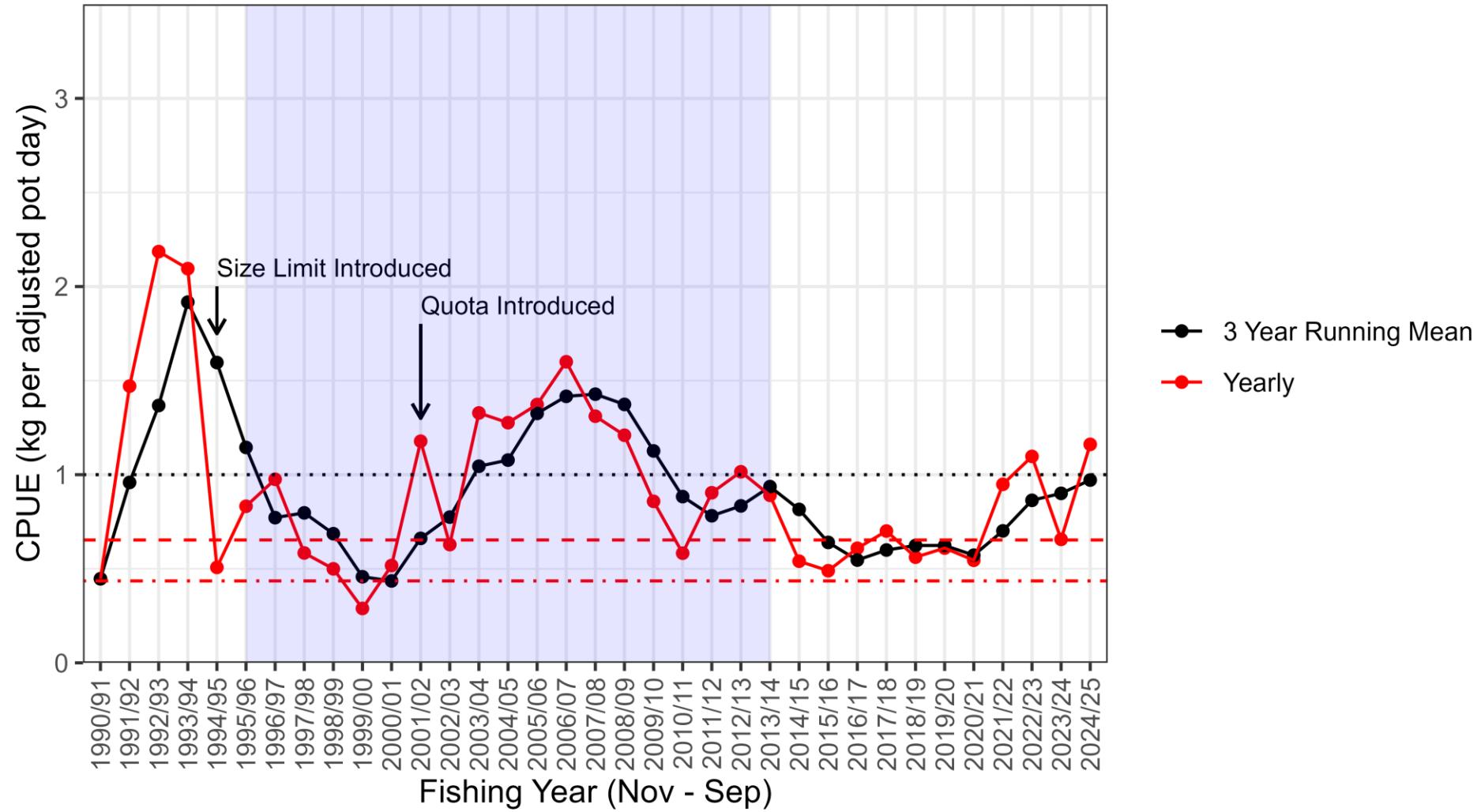
Mean Weight



CPUE with previous reference points



CPUE with new reference points



	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Data Type	Vic-eCatch	Level 1 plus verified mandatory L-F sampling* and verification of Vic-eCatch data (observer or camera)	Level 2 data for 3+ years and a model-based assessment
Analysis and assessment	CPUE Trends	CPUE Trends	CPUE Trends, stock assessment model
Key Harvest Control Rule elements	<p>Cap: 10.5t</p> <p>Increase: No available.</p> <p>Decrease: Up to 50% if the CPUE is below the threshold reference point 50-100% if the CPUE is below the limit reference point.</p>	<p>Cap: 10.5t when below the target reference point. No cap when above the target reference point.</p> <p>Increase: Up to 20% every 3 years if the CPUE is above the target reference point.</p> <p>Decrease: As per level 1</p>	<p>Cap: 10.5t when below the target reference point. No cap when above the target reference point.</p> <p>Increase and decrease: TACCs will be set according to the model to ensure the Fishery fluctuates around the target reference point, and remains above the limit reference point with a 90% probability</p>
Potential cost to licence holder/operator	Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate
Summary	A low level of data collection to inform the stock assessment; includes no scope to increase the TACC beyond 10.5; and results in a minimal cost to fishers.	The requirements include verified catch and length-frequency data which increases confidence in the assessment and permits the TACC to increase above 10.5t.	The assessment model provides an understanding of the stock status and dynamics. This allows input and output controls to be set flexibly to meet industry needs.

A

- Tier / Level 1 applies
- Increase is not possible
- CPUE is above the threshold RP, no decrease needed

TACC remains at 8.5t

A