

VIC RL and GC RAG EZ PRI

2nd July 2025



PRI Role in Harvest Strategy



Harvest Strategy Application

2. The TACC will remain at the same level and the same band when:

i) the standardised CPUE remains in the current band;

OR

ii) the standardised CPUE has increased to a higher band but the PRI is below the trigger point.

3. The TACC will be **decreased** when:

i) the standardised CPUE has decreased into any lower band. In this circumstance the TACC will be set at the level that corresponds to the standardised CPUE band in the current step.

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.

CPUE has increased from 0.49 kg/potlift to 0.60 kg / potlift.

PRI has remained below the proposed threshold level for a second year.

Remain in Step 1.

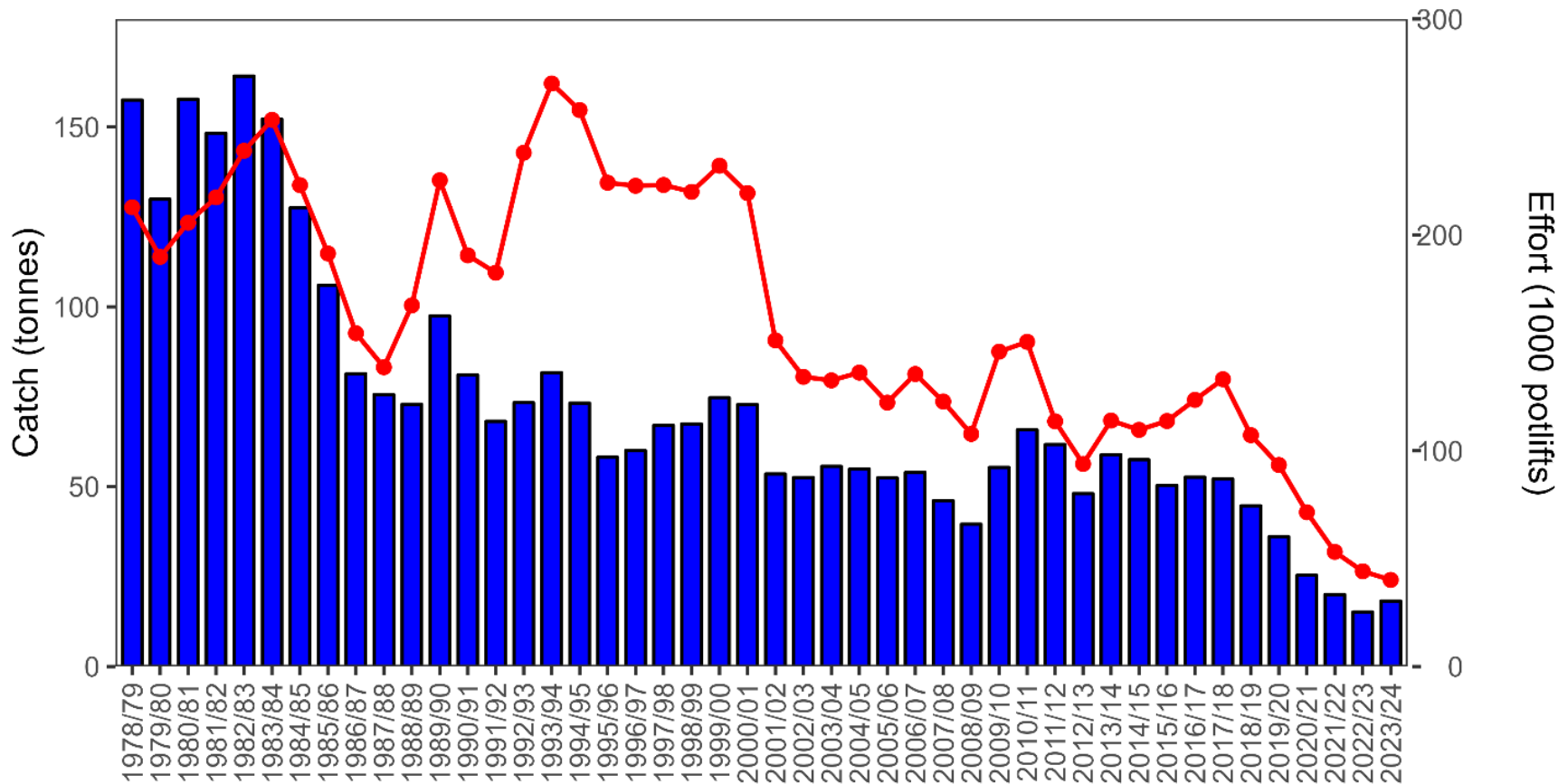
Why have this rule?

- The CPUE TACC table is based on an assumption about recruitment
- Extended periods below the PRI threshold are highly unlikely under those assumptions
- Therefore, extended periods below the threshold indicate that the assumptions may no longer be appropriate
- Consequently, rebuilding time frames and levels used to develop the harvest strategy may no longer be feasible

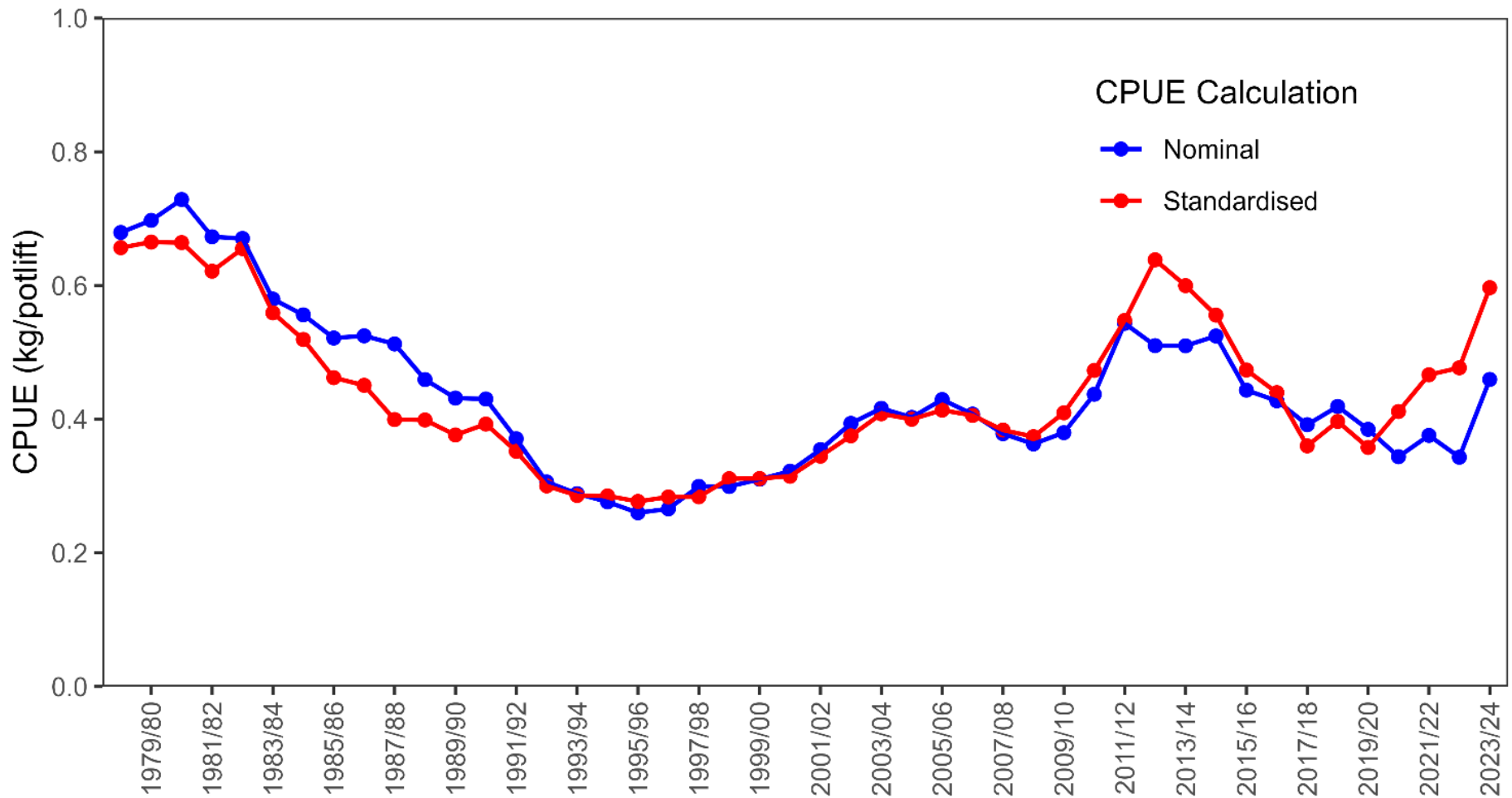
Review of existing information



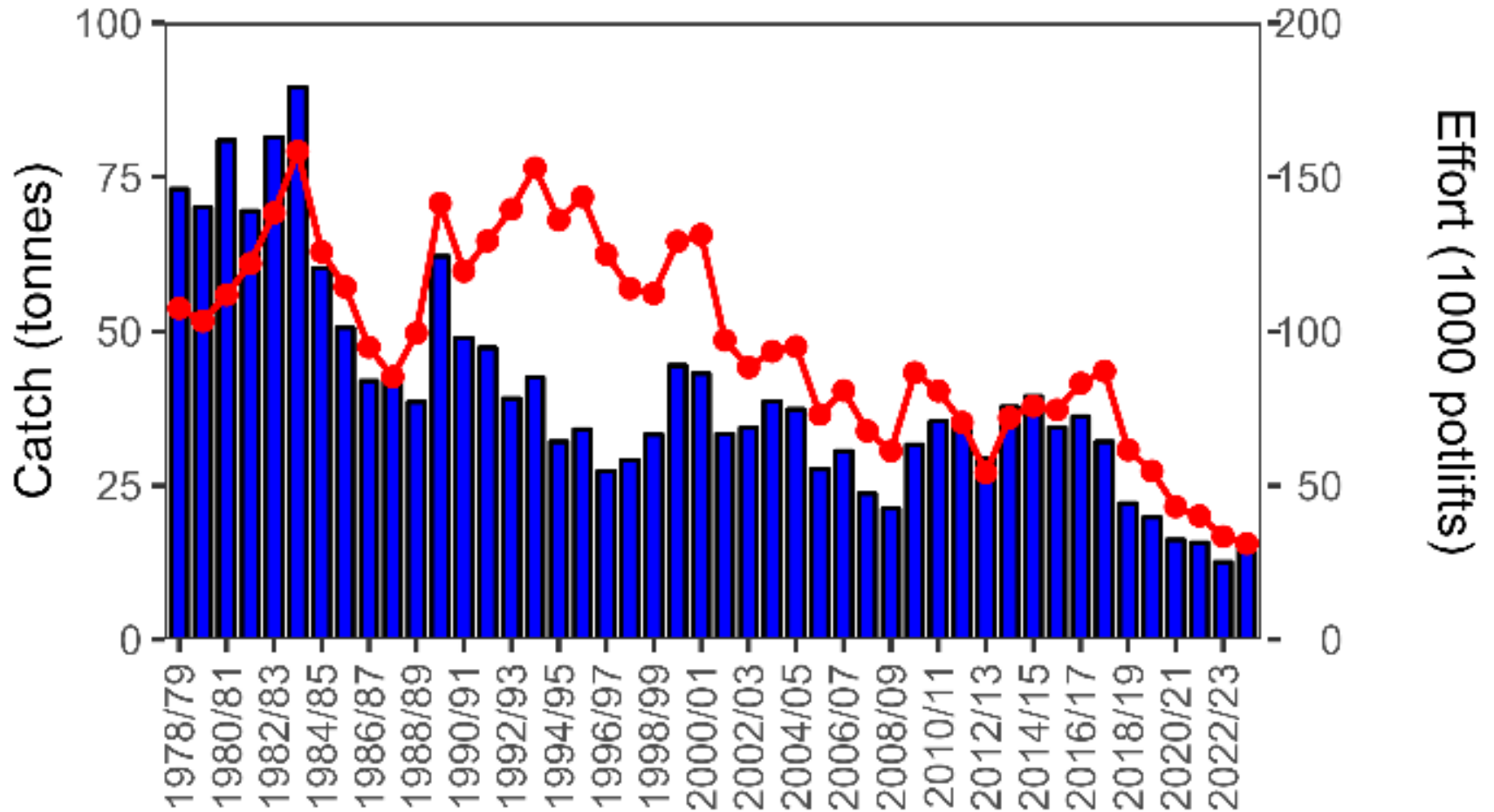
Eastern Zone Catch and Effort



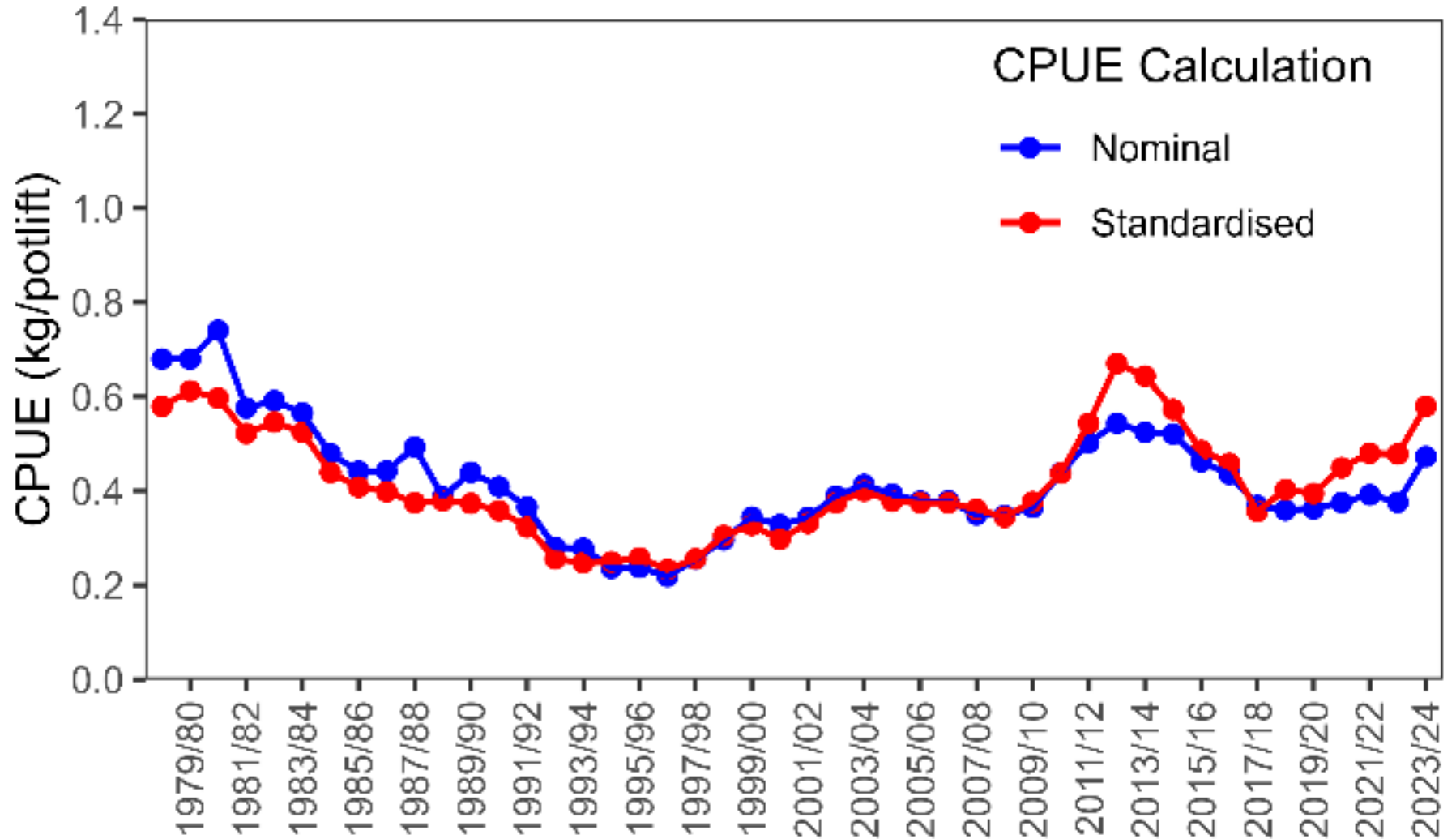
Eastern Zone CPUE



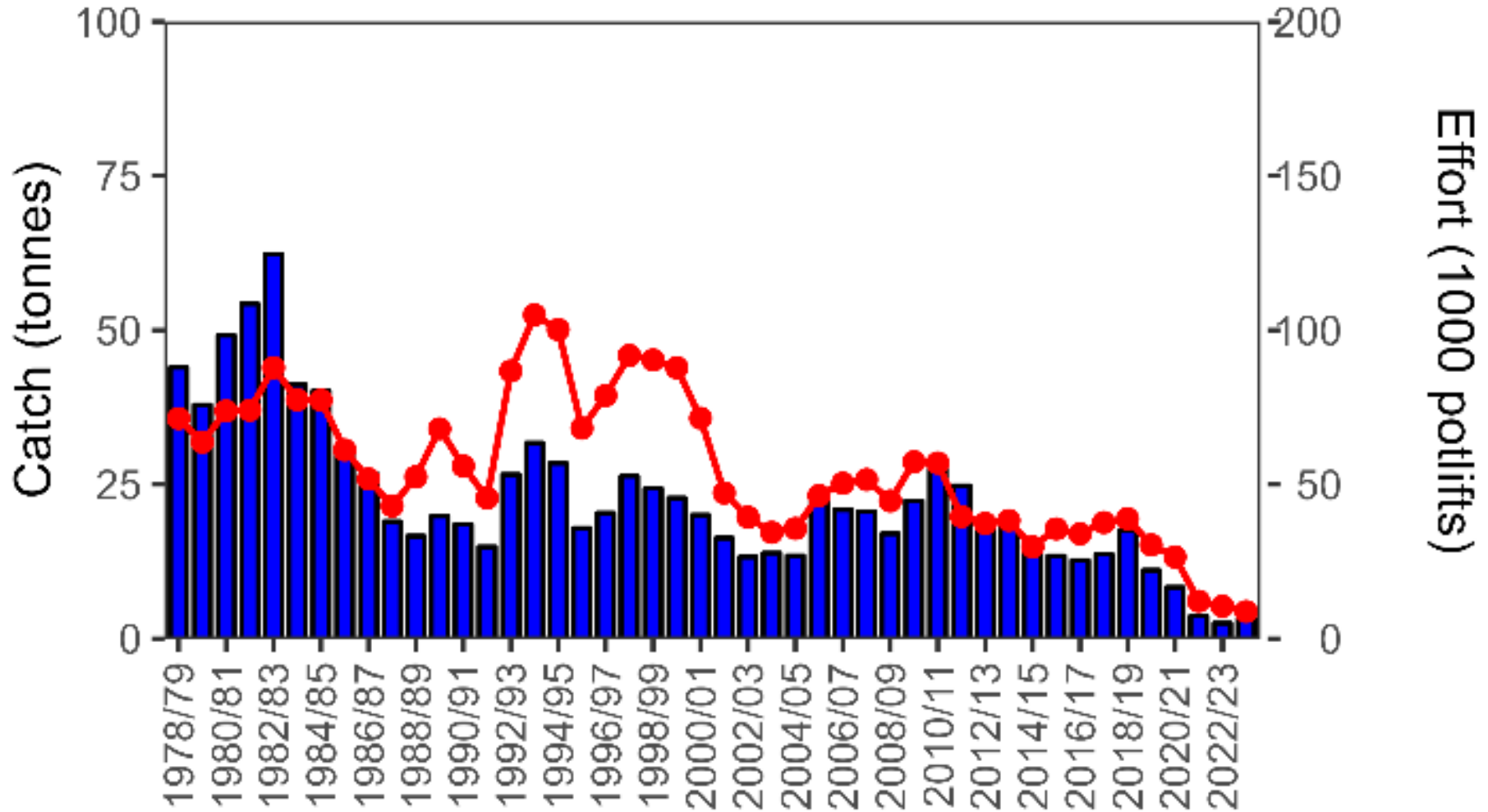
Queenscliff Catch and Effort



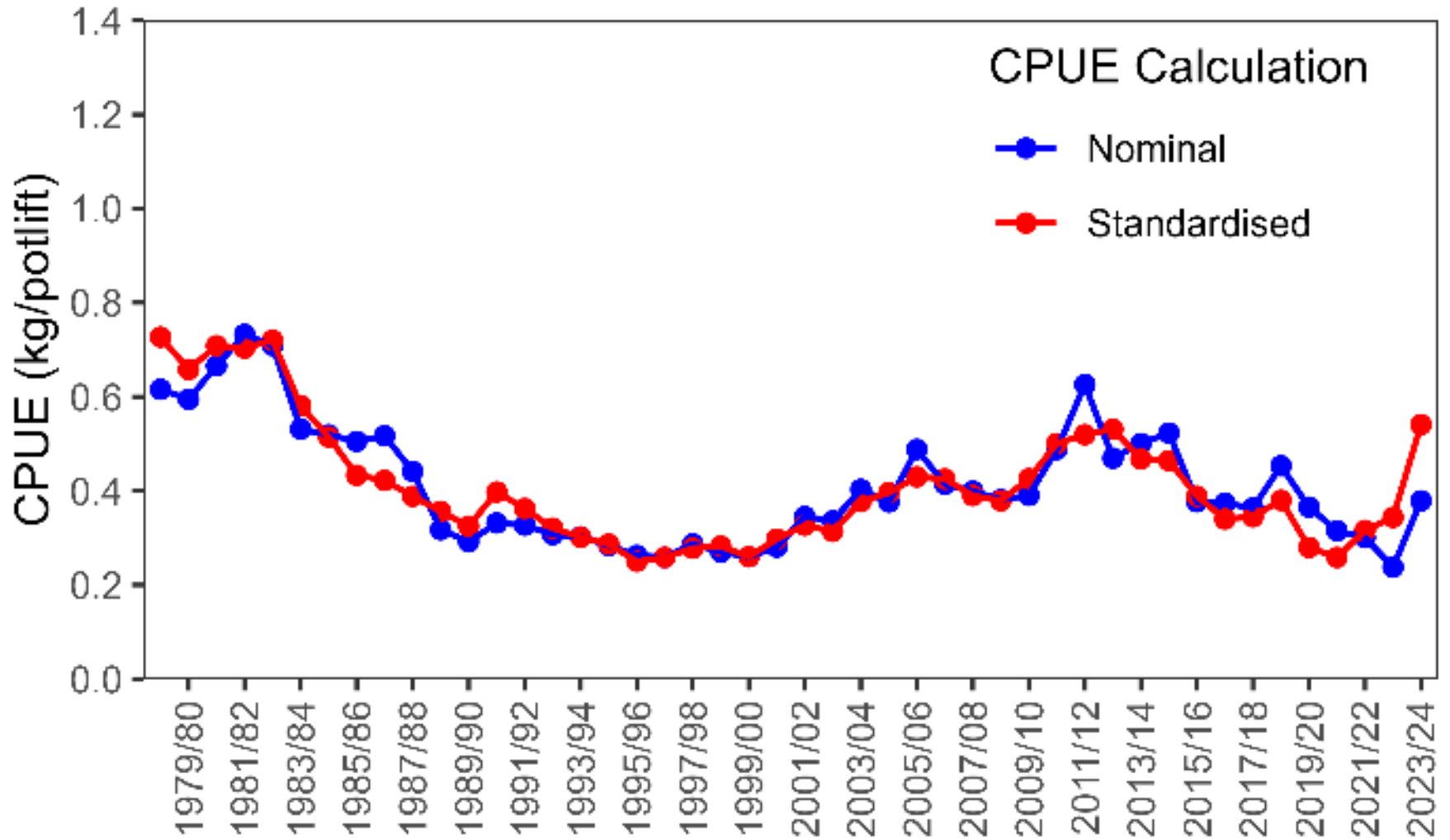
Queenscliff CPUE



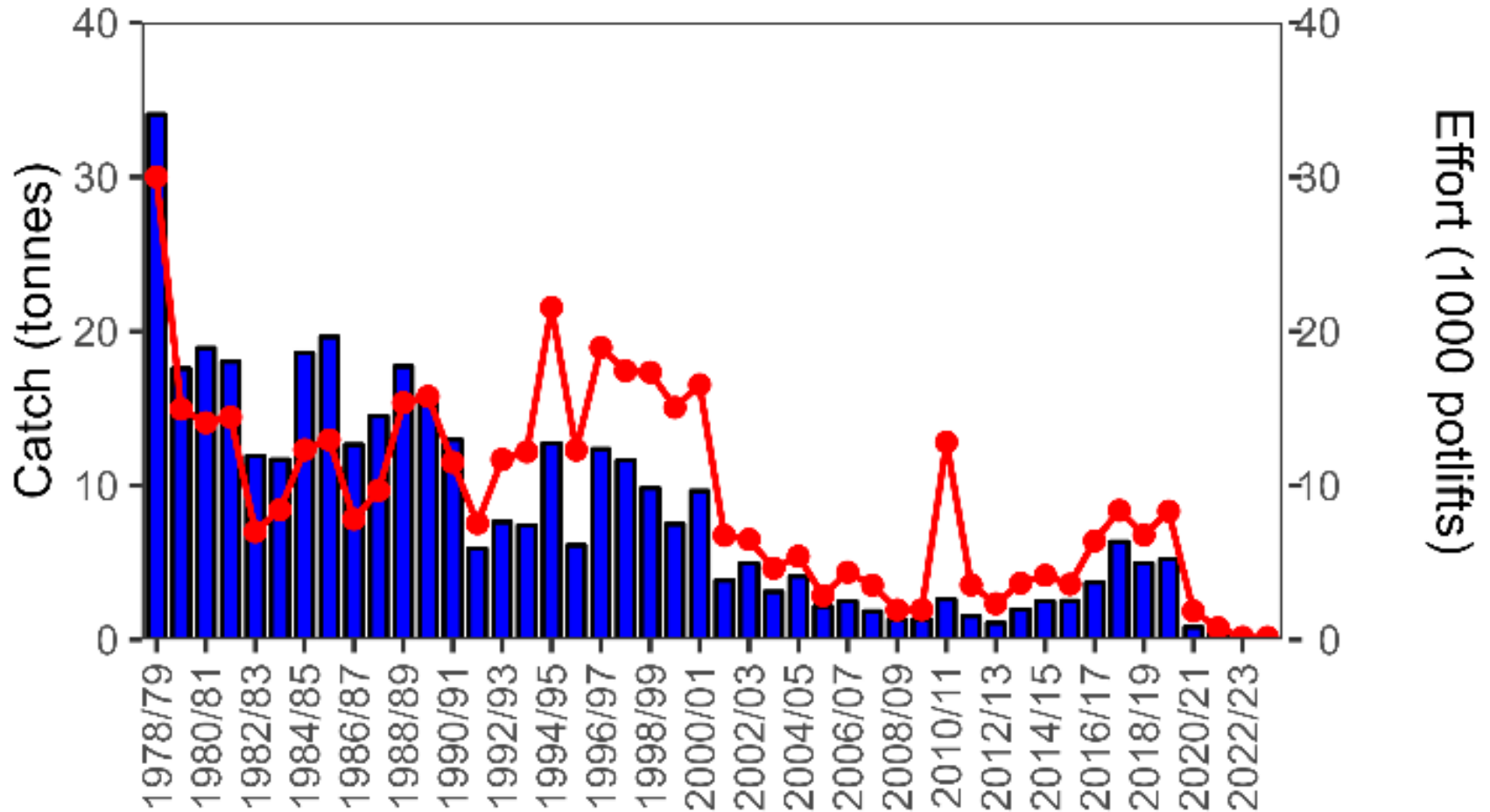
San Remo Catch and Effort



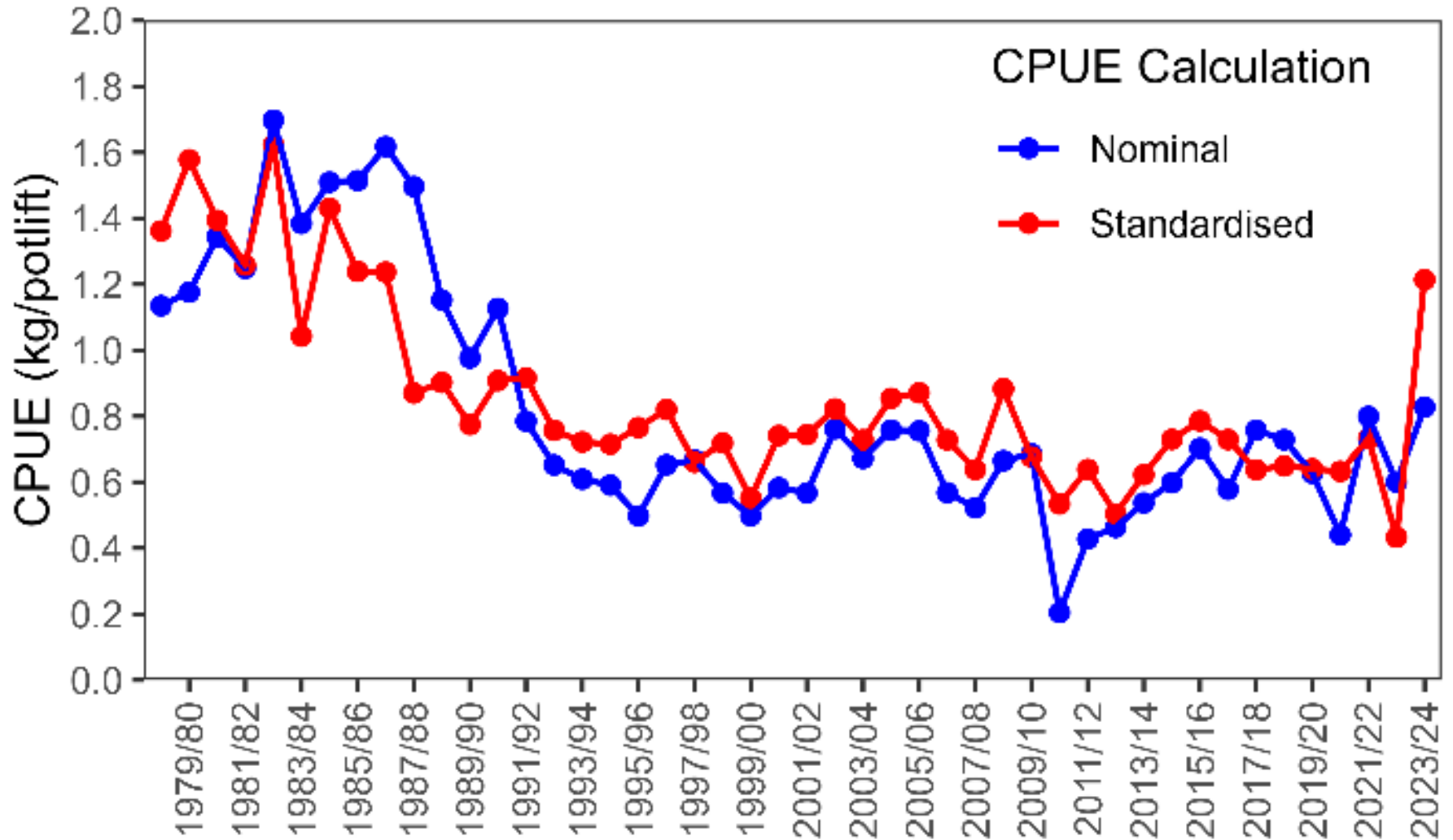
San Remo CPUE



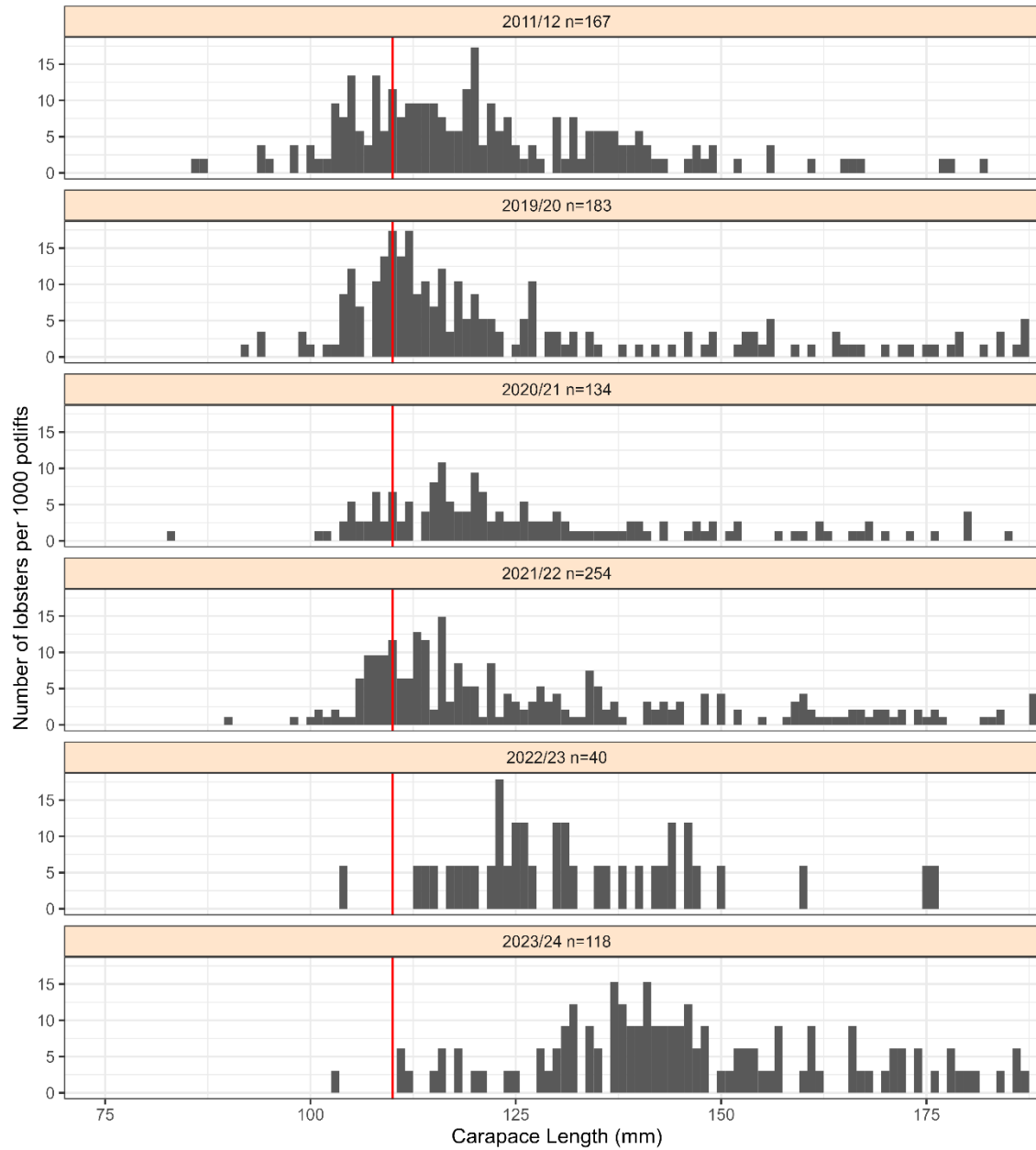
Lakes Entrance Catch and Effort



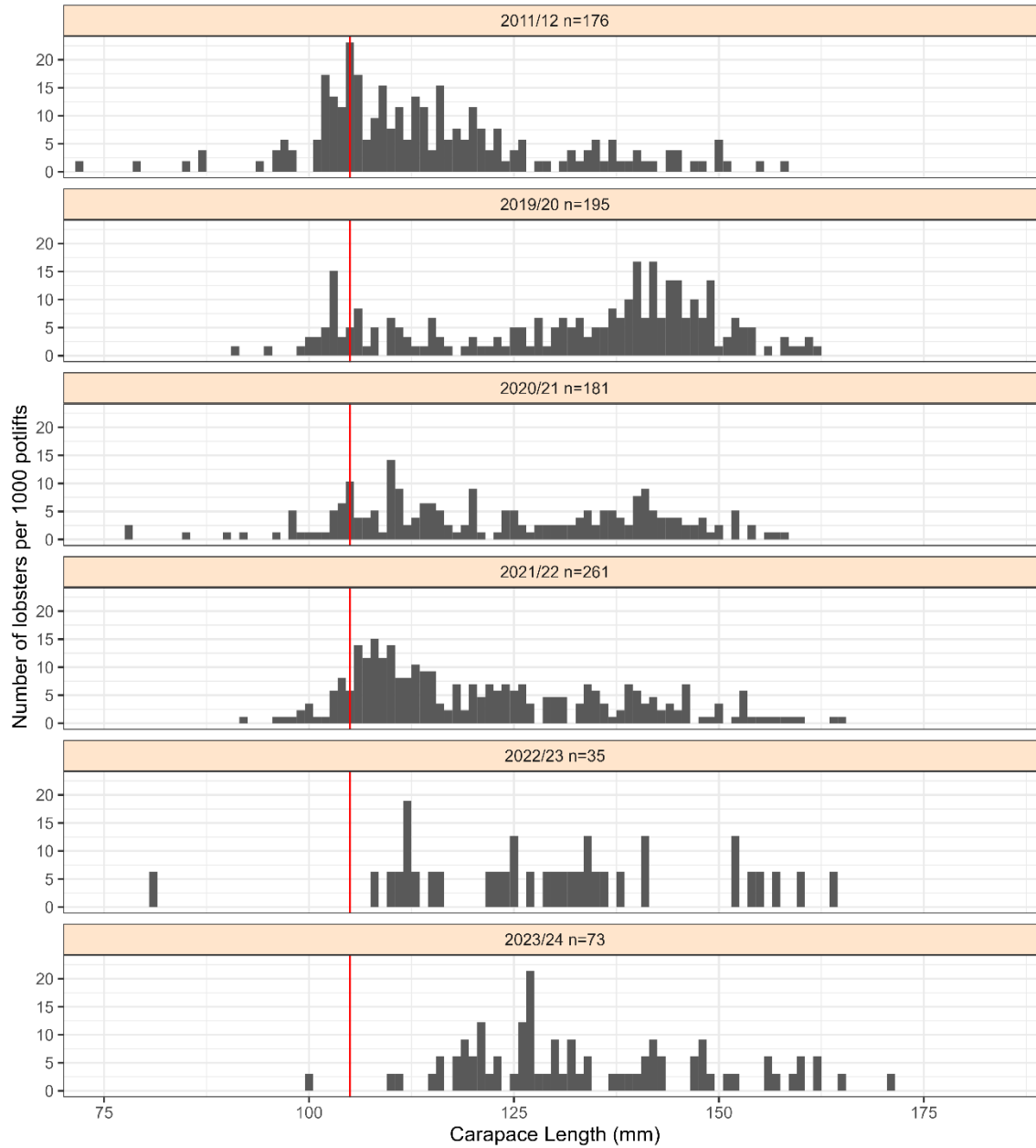
Lakes Entrance CPUE



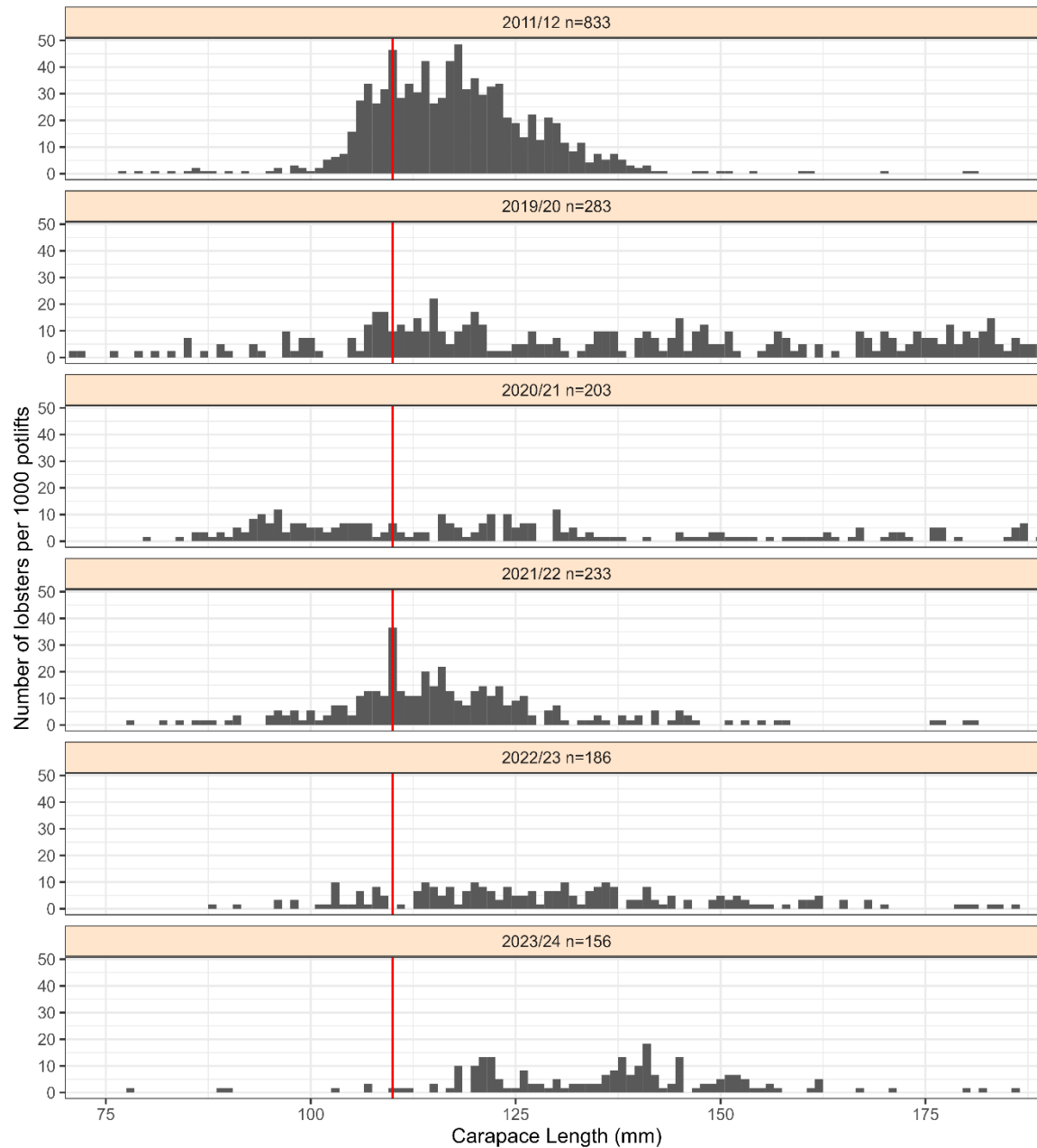
Eastern Zone LF, Male Observer Program



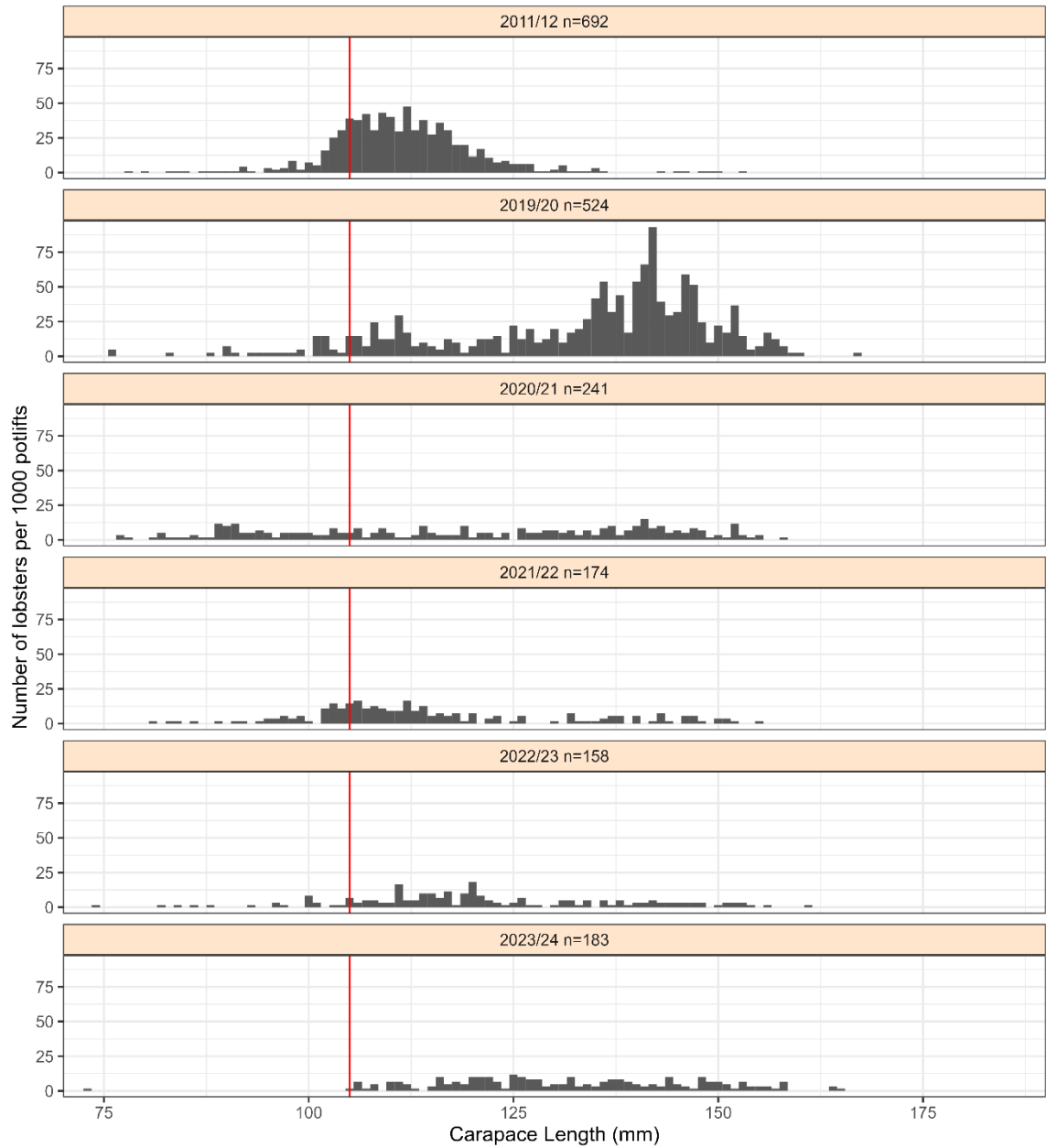
Eastern Zone LF, Female Observer Program



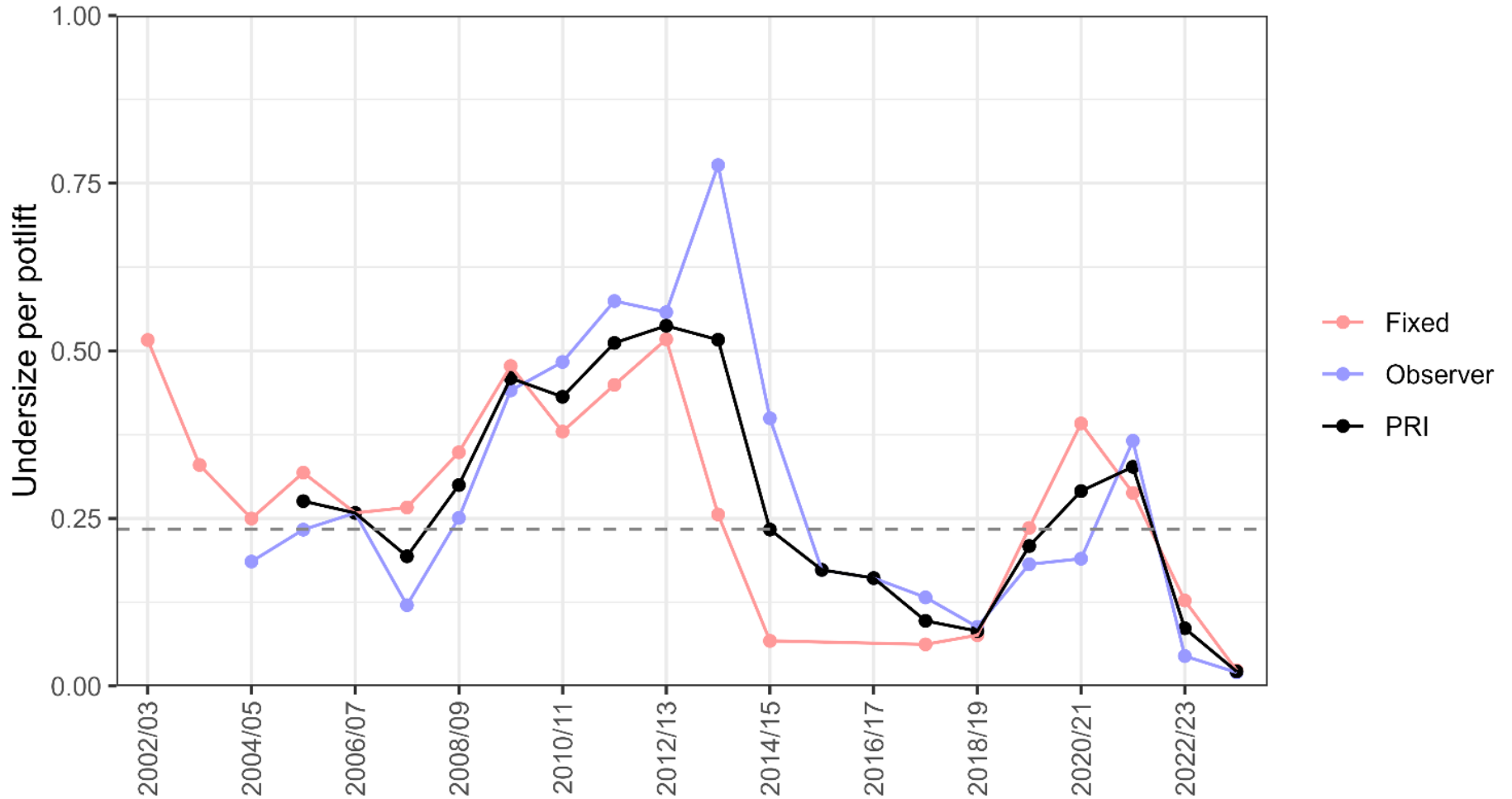
Eastern Zone LF, Male Fixed Sites



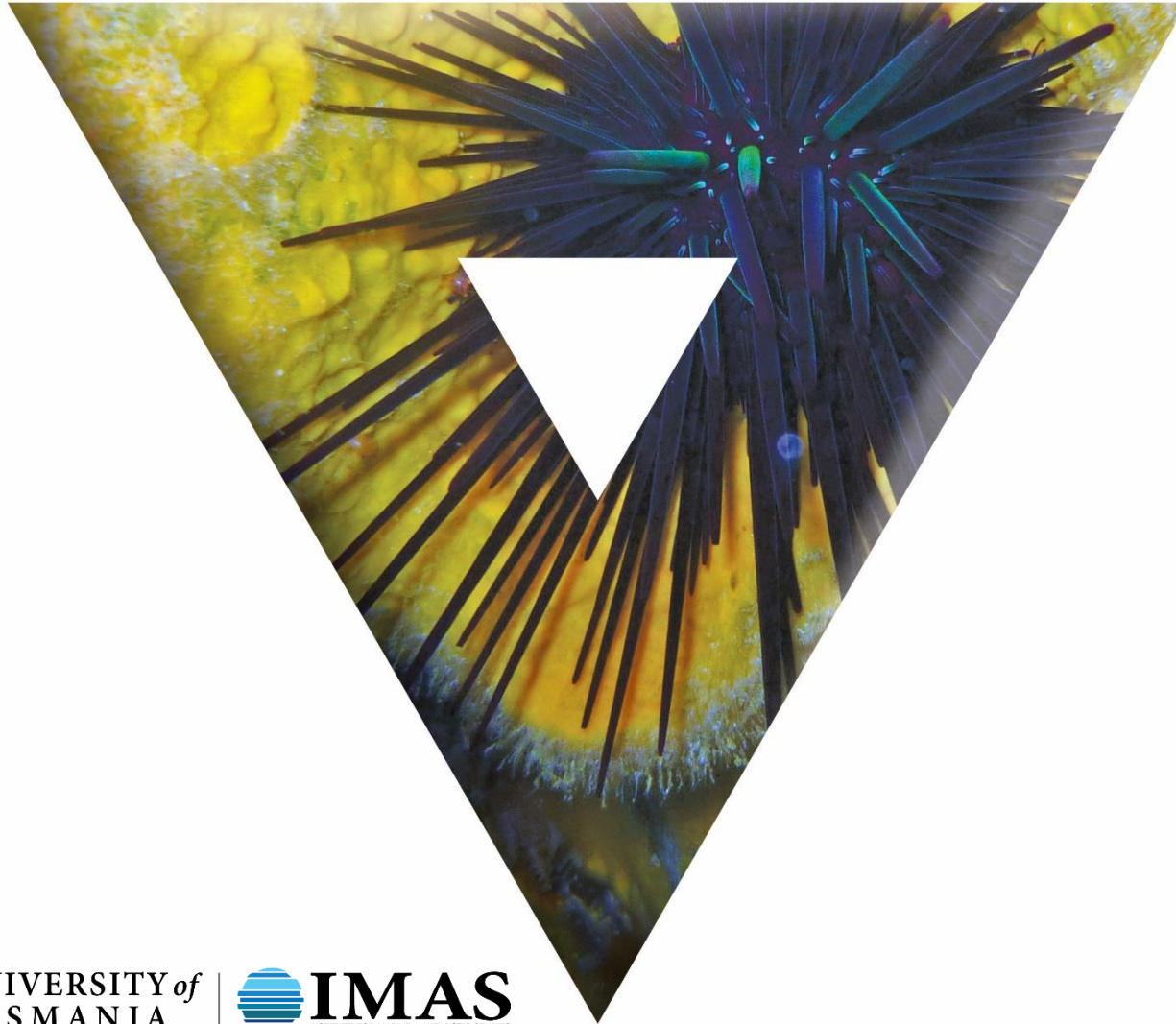
Eastern Zone LF, Female Fixed Site



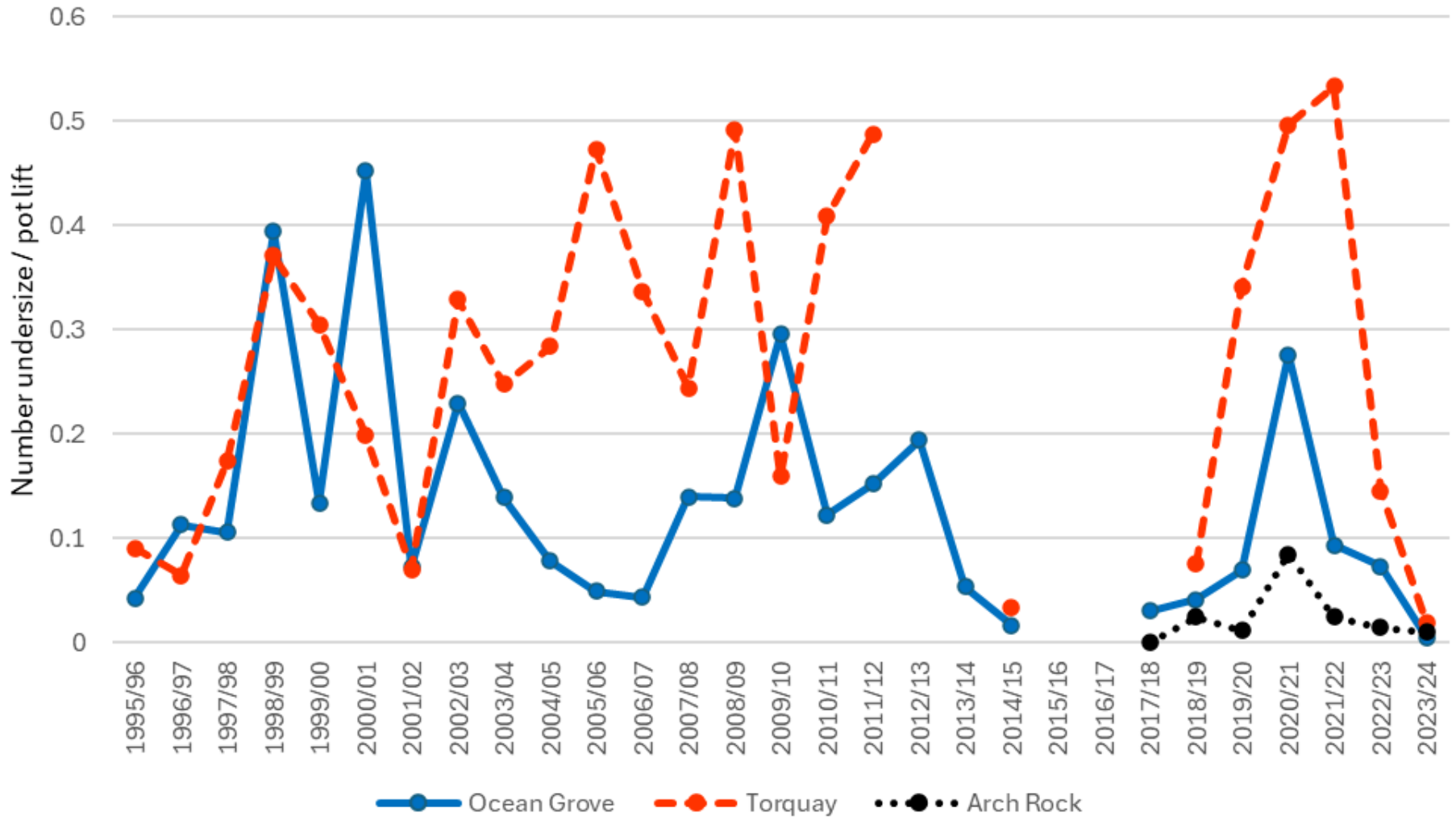
Eastern Zone PRI



Long term fixed site PRI index (from Dave Reilly)



Queenscliff & San Remo Regions

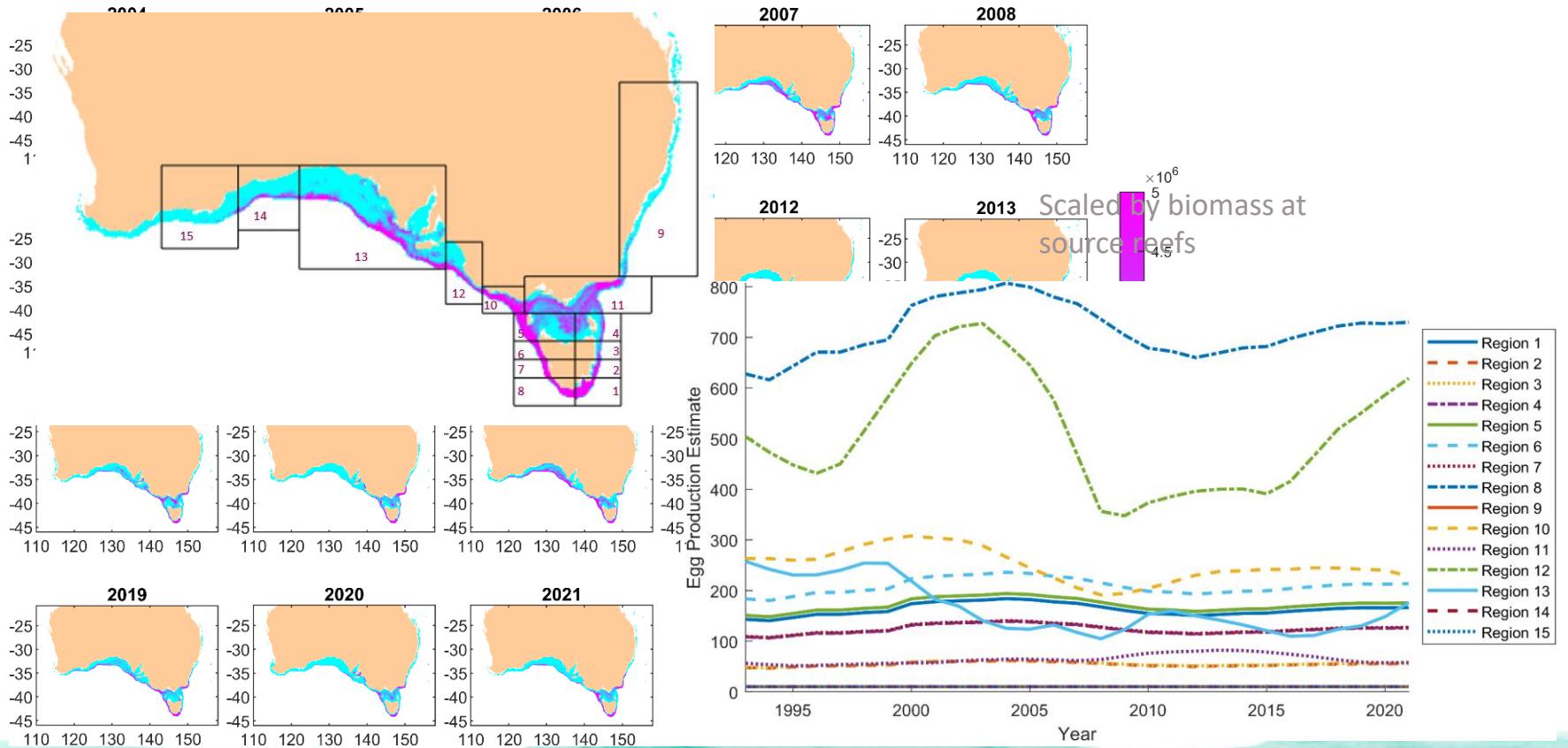


FRDC 2019-130 Larval dispersal for Southern Rock Lobster and Longspined sea urchin to support management decisions

Cresswell, K., Hartmann, K., Tracey, S.



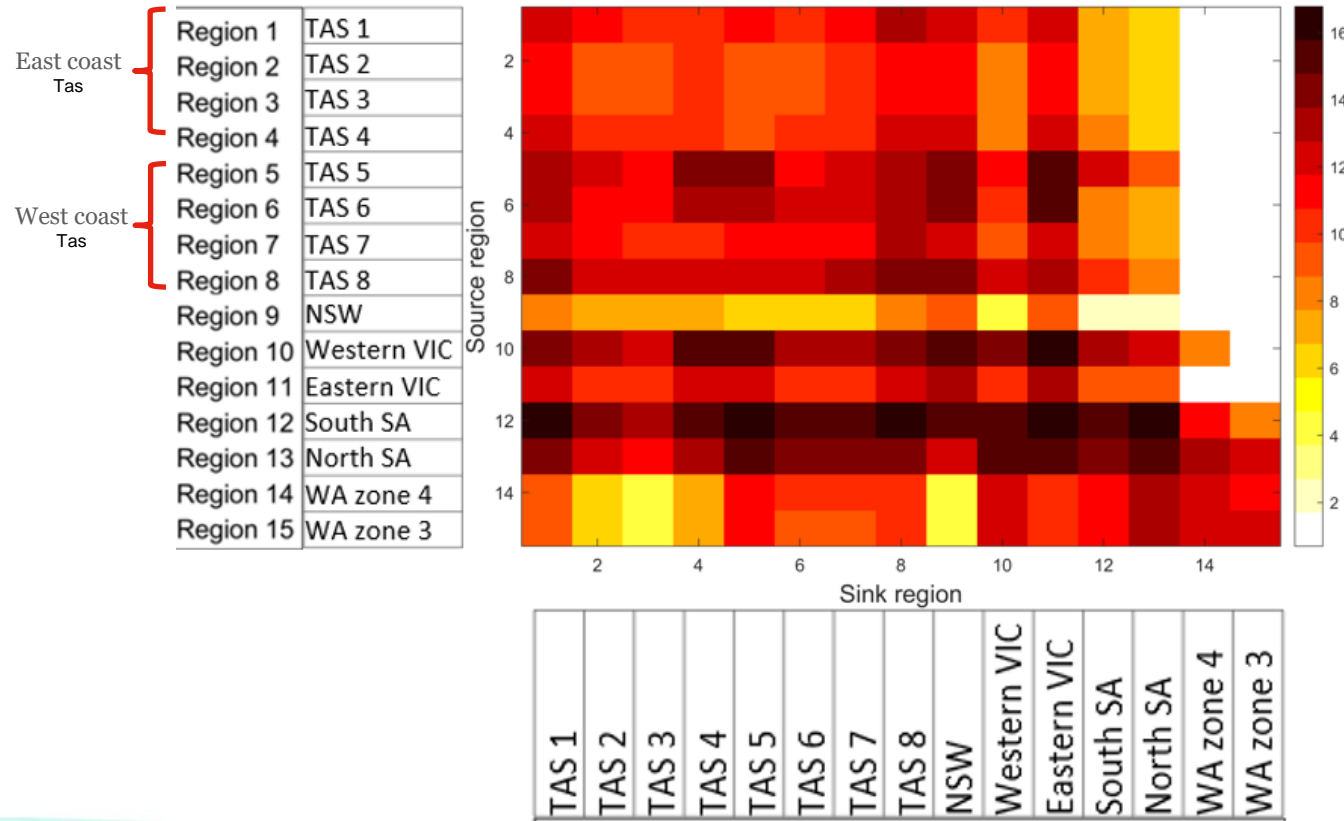
Overall relative magnitude of settlement



UNOFFICIAL



Overall connectivity between regions (averaged over time)



Southern Rock Lobster
Jasus edwardsii



Illustration © R. Swainston/anima.fish

UNOFFICIAL

Harvest control rule review required

RLRAG 43 noted that:

While members agreed the data was concerning, the zone has employed a very conservative rebuilding strategy. While the higher number of legal-sized lobsters should continue to support egg production, recruitment remains the primary concern. As the levels of fishing are already very low, members agreed that this is likely due to environmental factors external to the fishery. For this reason, it was noted that changing the minimum legal length is unlikely to have an impact. In addition, very little data has been recorded providing some uncertainties in the results.