

# Update on work for EBS pollock assessment

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**NOAA FISHERIES**

# SSC Recommendations

- Ongoing genetic studies to determine the relationship between pollock in the NBS and EBS, and nearby GOA and AI regions.
- The 2019 BSAI GPT recommendation to revisit and evaluate the treatment of variance parameters within the assessment, with particular attention to those that are fixed.
- Efforts to quantify pollock movement and abundance along the US-Russia EEZ boundary.
- Geostatistical analyses of combined trawl and acoustic data to provide a single time-series, statistically accounting for the overlap between these data, for informing stock trends.

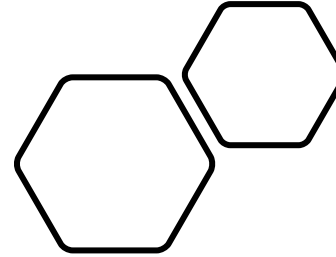
## **The SSC provides the following additional recommendations:**

- Exploration of young-of-year pollock density and quality estimates from NMFS BASIS surveys to inform pollock recruitment.
- Consideration of whether the observed sensitivity in the SRR to prior specification should constitute an increased risk level specification within the assessment or population dynamics-related considerations. This could provide a clearer justification for the use of the Tier 3 calculation as the basis for harvest specification.
- Given the time-varying specification of fishery selectivity within the assessment model and the large change in the estimated 2021 FOFL between the 2019 and 2020 assessments, the authors should provide a retrospective comparison of the selectivity assumed in projections to that estimated with the addition of new data.
- Consideration of whether risk table specifications should account for the importance of pollock as a key forage species in the EBS ecosystem to better justify the use of a Tier 3 ABC determination as a precautionary measure for this Tier 1 stock.
- Given the apparent disappearance of the second and large mode in fishery length compositions as the 2020 B-season progressed, exploration of within-season spatial variation in fishery length composition would be useful in evaluating whether these larger pollock simply moved out of the area of fishing effort, or died as a result of natural or fishing mortality.

Ongoing genetic studies to determine the relationship between pollock in the NBS and EBS, and nearby GOA and AI regions.

- Results by the assessment deadline (sometime in October)
- IcWGS was conducted on 600 walleye pollock from throughout their range in Alaska
- Analyses are underway

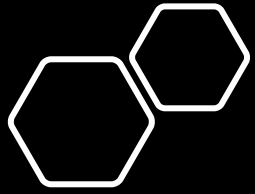




The 2019 BSAI GPT  
recommendation to  
revisit and evaluate the  
treatment of variance  
parameters ...

Alternative weightings of  
indices will be evaluated in  
the coming assessment  
including variance  
specification





Efforts to quantify pollock movement and abundance along the US-Russia EEZ boundary.

- Upward looking sonar/ecosounder data evaluation continues, no new information to report on yet!
- Two papers in 2020...studying ways to incorporate factors

## EBS pollock SSC/Plan Team recommendations

Deep-Sea Research II 181-182 (2020) 104881



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Deep-Sea Research Part II

journal homepage: <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/dsr2>



Environmental impacts on walleye pollock (*Gadus chalcogrammus*) distribution across the Bering Sea shelf

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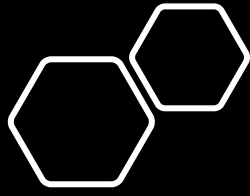
DOI: 10.1111/1365-2664.13914

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Journal of Applied Ecology 

Estimating spatiotemporal availability of transboundary fishes to fishery-independent surveys


Cecilia A. O'Leary<sup>1,5</sup>  | Stan Kotwicki<sup>1</sup>  | Gerald R. Hoff<sup>1</sup> | James T. Thorson<sup>2</sup>  | Vladimir V. Kulik<sup>3</sup>  | James N. Ianelli<sup>4</sup>  | Robert R. Lauth<sup>1</sup> | Daniel G. Nichol<sup>1</sup> | Jason Conner<sup>1</sup> | André E. Punt<sup>5</sup> 



Geostatistical analyses of combined trawl and acoustic data to provide a single time-series...

**Paper was published but no new combined data will be available until after the 2022 survey (summer) season for EBS trawl and acoustic data**

## **Incorporating vertical distribution in index standardization accounts for spatiotemporal availability to acoustic and bottom trawl gear for semi-pelagic species**

Cole C. Monnahan <sup>1,2\*</sup>, James T. Thorson <sup>1</sup>, Stan Kotwicki <sup>1</sup>, Nathan Lauffenburger<sup>1</sup>, James N. Ianelli<sup>1</sup>, and Andre E. Punt <sup>2</sup>

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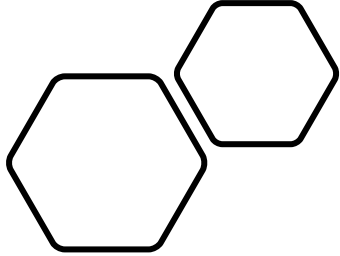
Monnahan, C. C., Thorson, J. T., Kotwicki, S., Lauffenburger, N., Ianelli, J. N., and Punt, A. E. Incorporating vertical distribution in index standardization accounts for spatiotemporal availability to acoustic and bottom trawl gear for semi-pelagic species. – ICES Journal of Marine Science, doi:10.1093/icesjms/fsab085.

Received 12 August 2020; revised 7 April 2021; accepted 12 April 2021.

Exploration of young-of-year pollock density and quality estimates from NMFS BASIS surveys to inform pollock recruitment

- No further work on including these data has been developed
- Yasumiishi's copepod index examined

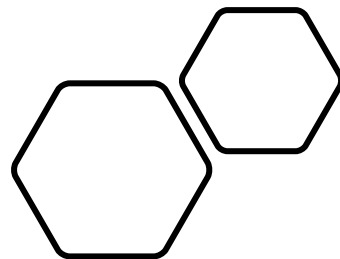




Consideration of whether the observed sensitivity in the SRR to prior specification should constitute an increased risk level specification within the assessment or population dynamics related considerations. This could provide a clearer justification for the use of the Tier 3 calculation as the basis for harvest specification.

- Alternative impacts as specified through ACLIM research activities is underway. No conclusions as of yet...





Given the time-varying specification of fishery selectivity within the assessment model and the large change in the estimated 2021 FOFL between the 2019 and 2020 assessments, the authors should provide a retrospective comparison of the selectivity assumed in projections to that estimated with the addition of new data.

- Further study supports the inclination to make 2021 ABC recommendations (below  $\max(\text{ABC})$ ) given the tendency towards smaller (younger) pollock in 2021
- Alternative diagnostics on how selectivity has changed retrospectively will be attempted



Consideration of whether risk table specifications should account for the importance of pollock as a **key forage species** in the EBS ecosystem to better justify the use of a Tier 3 ABC determination as a precautionary measure for this Tier 1 stock.

Work on this limited

CEATTLE notes importance as prey

Seeking further advice!



Given the apparent disappearance of the second and large mode in fishery length compositions as the 2020 B-season progressed, exploration of within-season spatial variation in fishery length composition would be useful in evaluating whether these larger pollock simply moved out of the area of fishing effort, or died as a result of natural or fishing mortality.

- Patterns of 2020 and 2021 size composition suggest that the larger (older) age-classes are less abundant in the catch
- Resolution on shifts in the relative year-class strengths are affected vs new recruitment is an important area of research/support given available data





Hypotheses  
being  
considered as  
part of ACLIM  
project

## Some being considered for EBS pollock

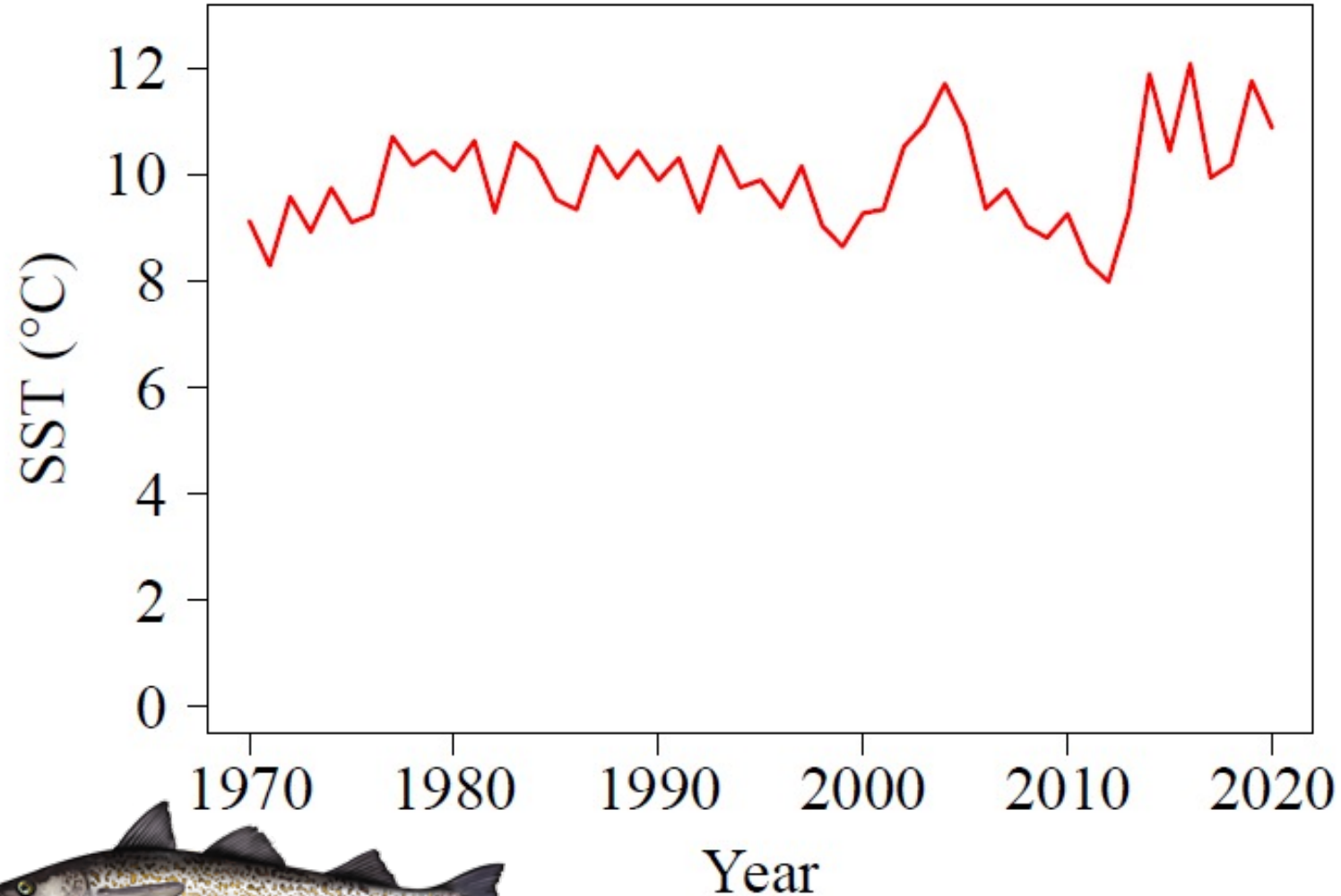
- Recruitment is related to temperature
- Survival to age 3 related to large copepods
- Natural mortality can be drawn reasonably from CEATTLE
- Growth increment is related to temperature



Recruitment is related to temperature

# Temperature moderated recruitment

Hindcast eastern Bering Sea summer sea surface temperature



From Bering Sea high resolution  
10K regional ocean model

(Kearney et al. 2020. Geosci.  
Model Dev., 13: 597–650)

Courtesy Paul Spencer



# Temperature moderated recruitment

## Hypothesis:

- Pollock recruitment declines at high temperatures

## Support:

- Mueter et al. (2011)
- Spencer et al. (2016)

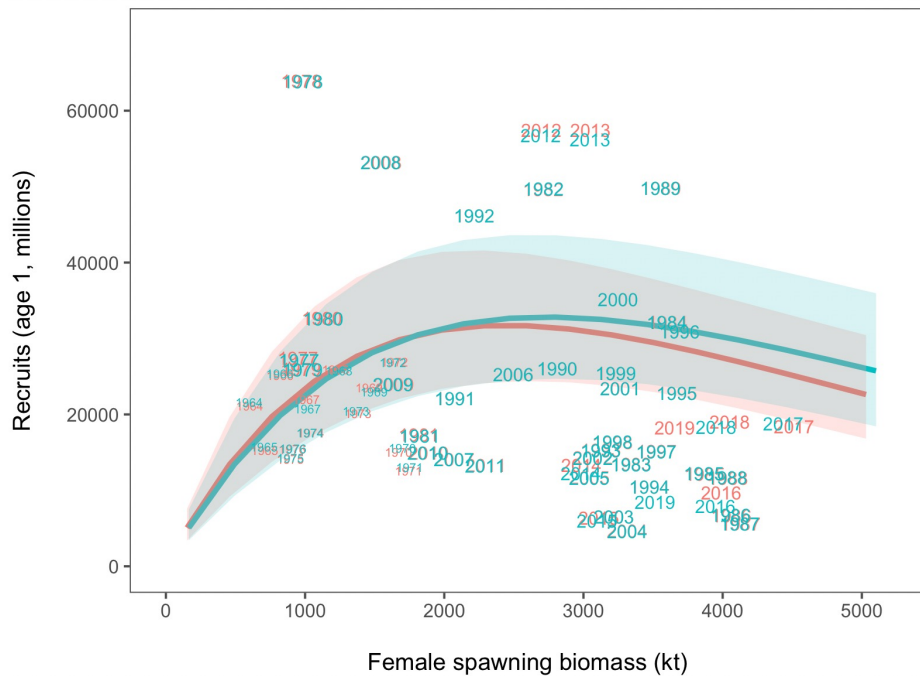
Implementation within pollock assessment model:

$$R_t = f(SSB_{t-a}) e^{\alpha + x_1 SST_{t-a} + x_2 SST_{t-a}^2} e^{\varepsilon_t}$$

Courtesy Paul Spencer



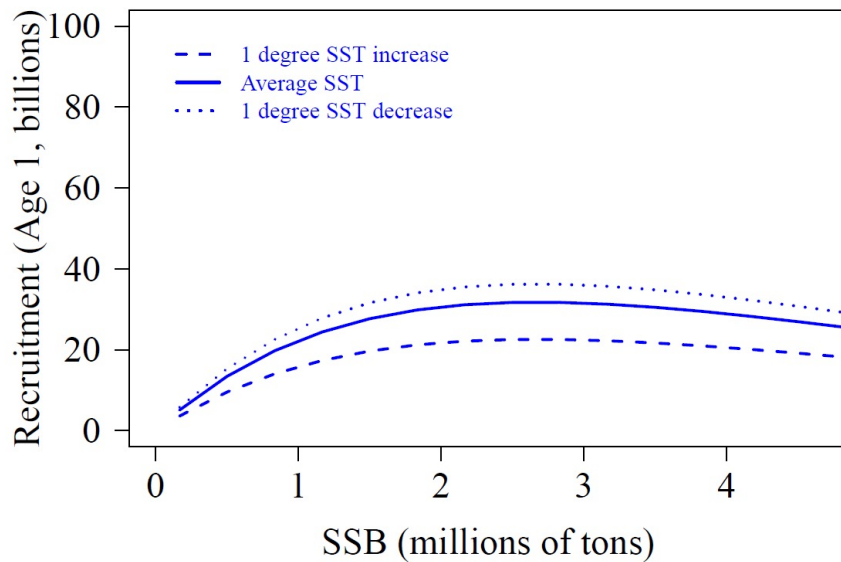
# Stock-recruit relationship



Model  
— base  
— With CE

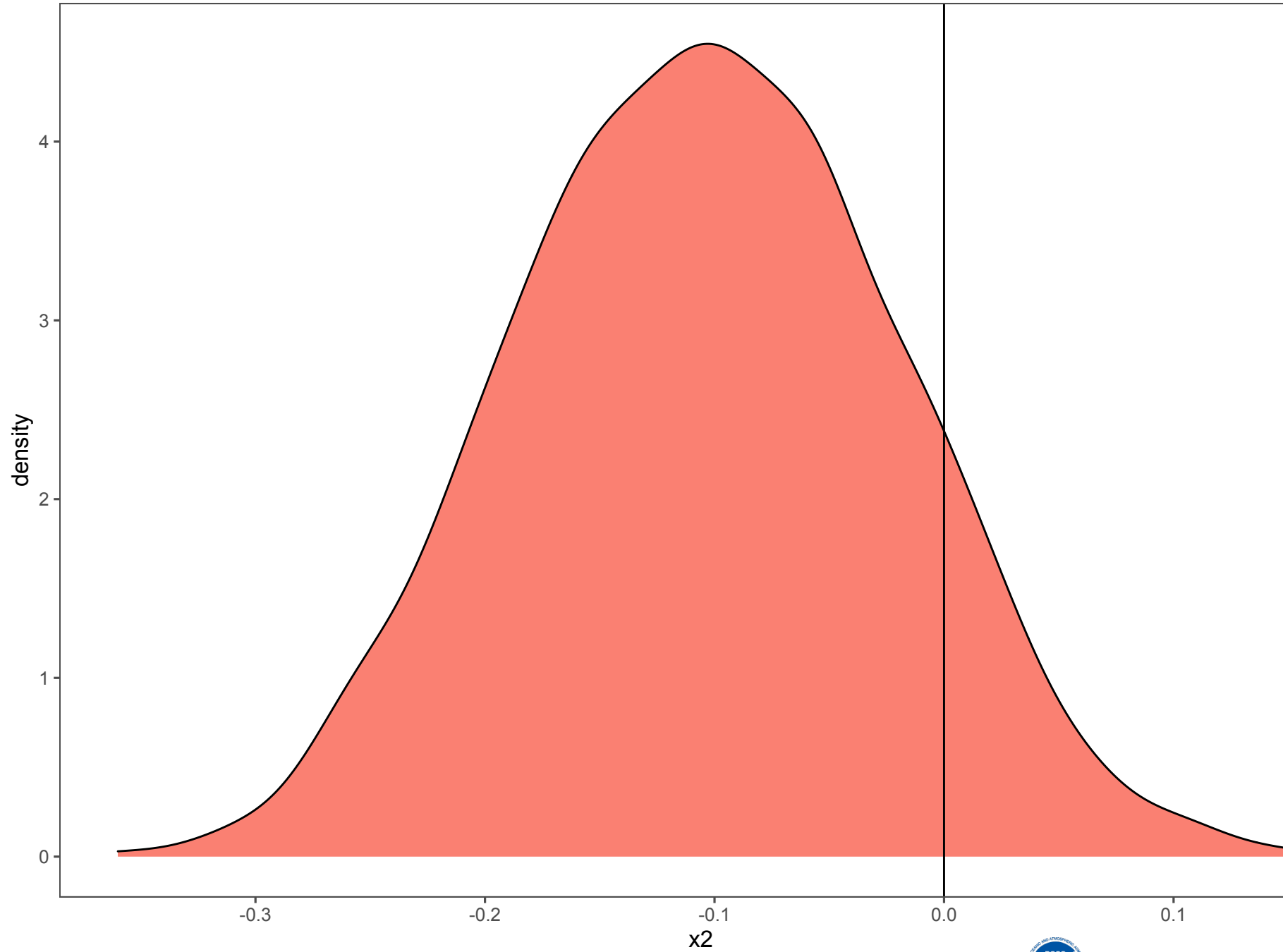
## Climate-enhanced model

- Minor impact on recruits and spawning biomass
  - Due to extensive age composition data
  - Curves similar (at average temperature)
- 
- However, as temperature increases, the expected recruitment substantially decreases
  - This would affect estimated reference points and harvest recommendations.



*Draft*

Testing  
coefficient  
influence



Courtesy Paul Spencer

*Draft*

Survival to age 3 related to large copepods



# Copepod index affects survival to age 3

## Hypothesis:

- Pollock age 0 survival affected by large zooplankton abundance

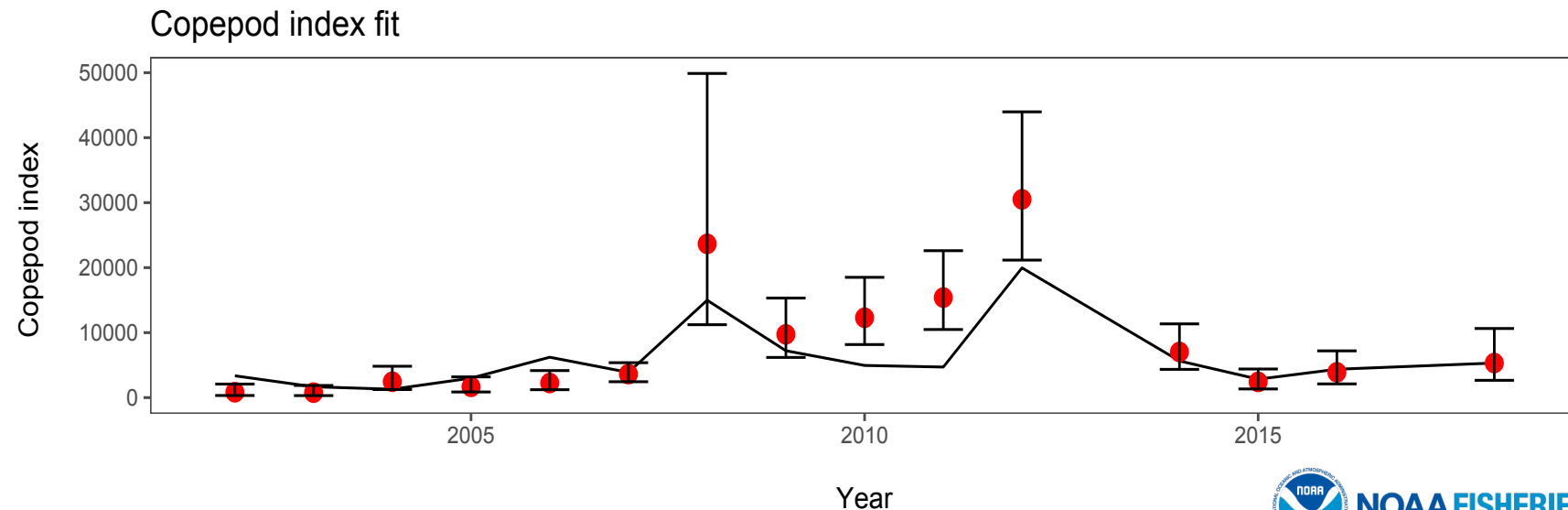
## Support:

- Yasumiishi, Eisner, Kimmel (ref)

## Implementation within pollock assessment model:

As a form of “data”  
related to age 3  
model abundance

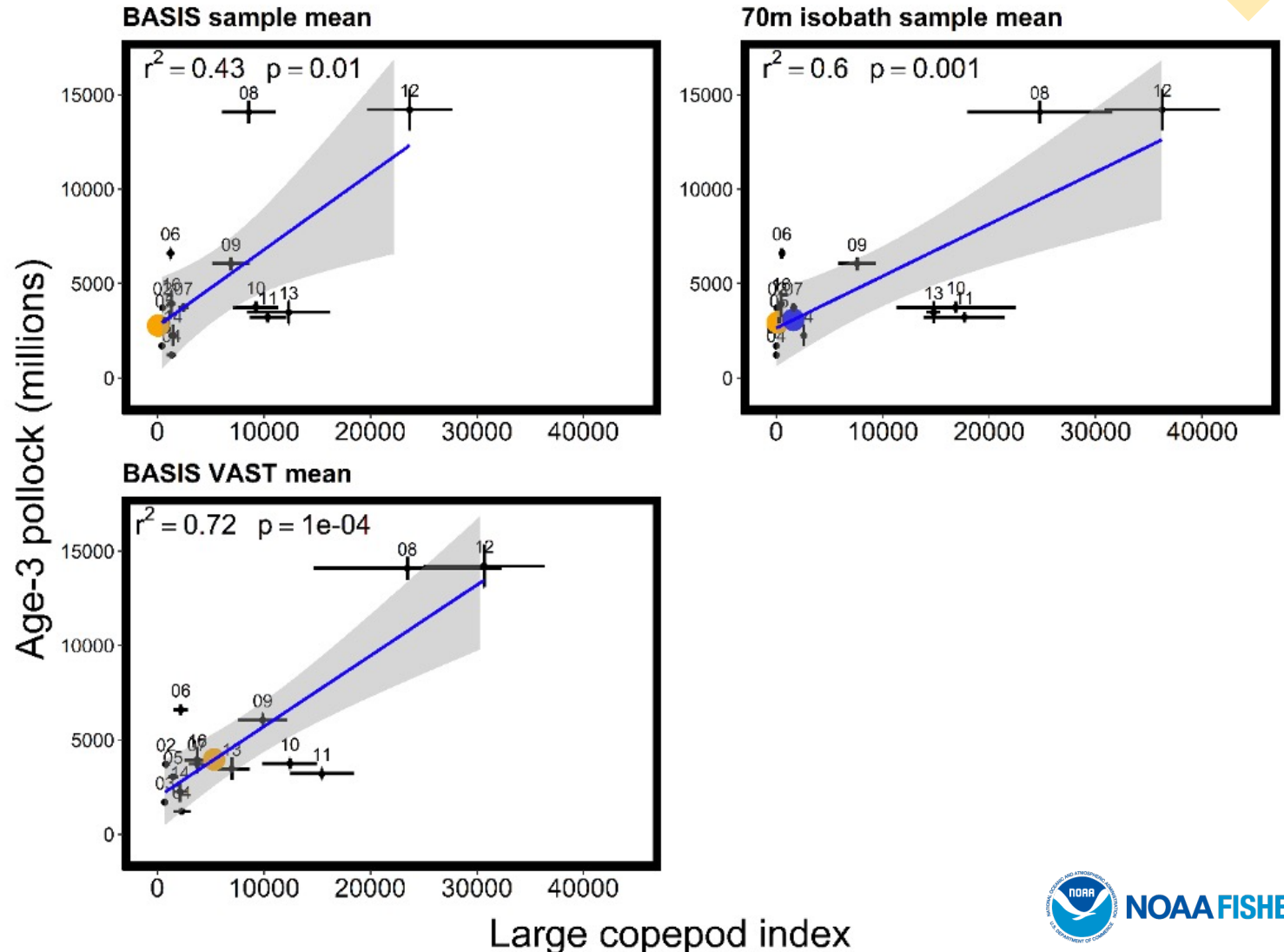
As yet, lacks linkage  
within assessment to  
mortality



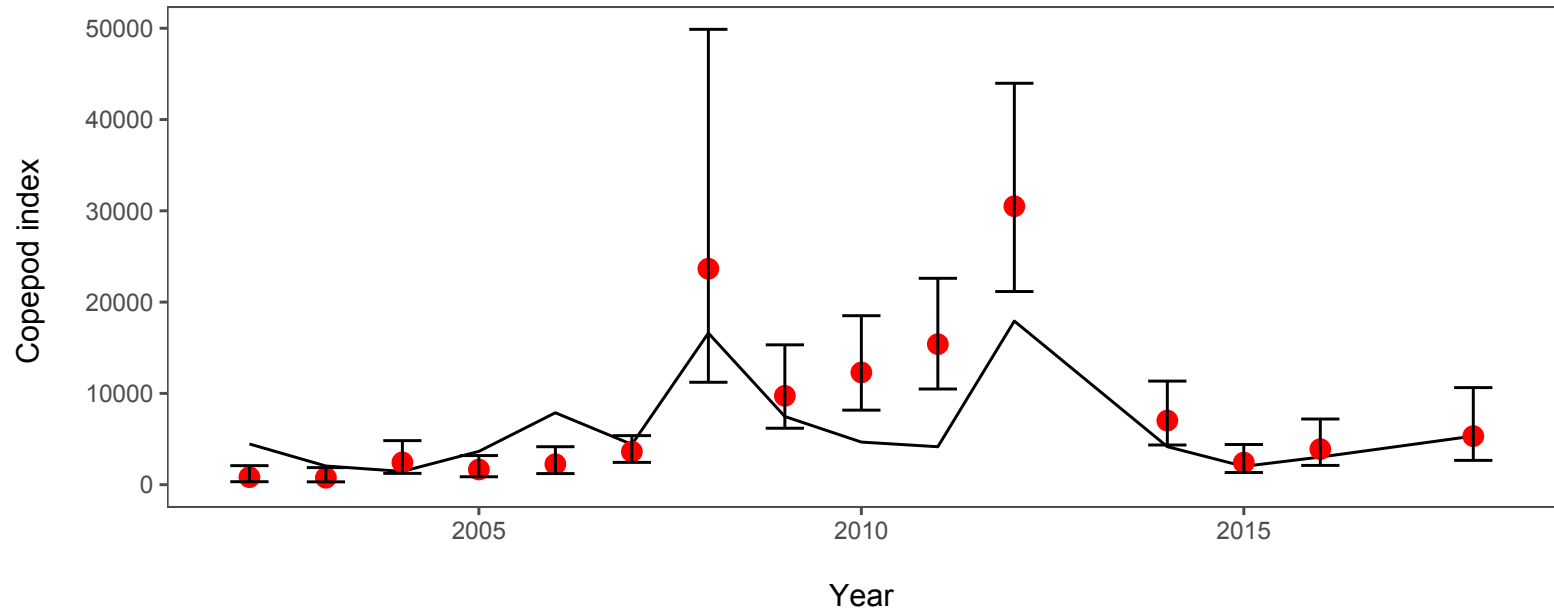
# Large copepod for age-0 pollock

From Yasumiishi, Eisner, and Kimmel

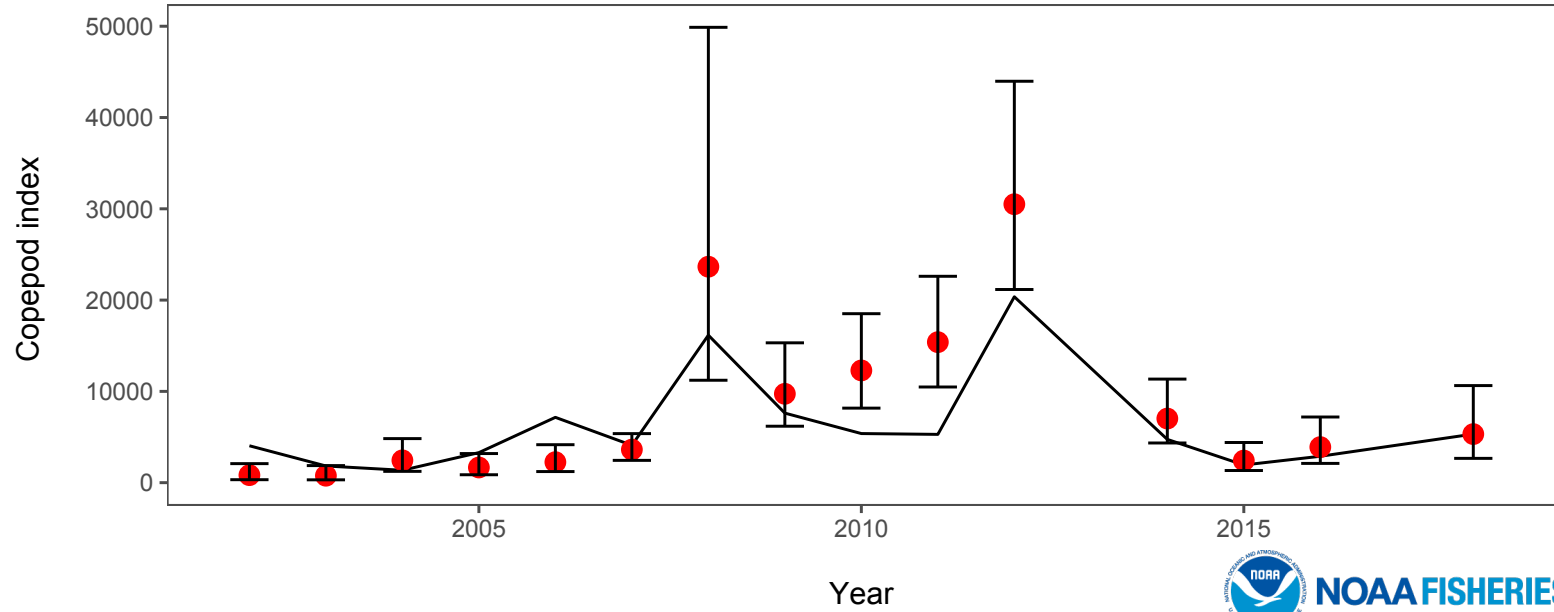
- Index sums *Calanus marshallae/glacialis* (copepodite stage 3 (C3)-adult), *Neocalanus spp.* (C3-adult), and *Metridia pacifica* (C4-adult),



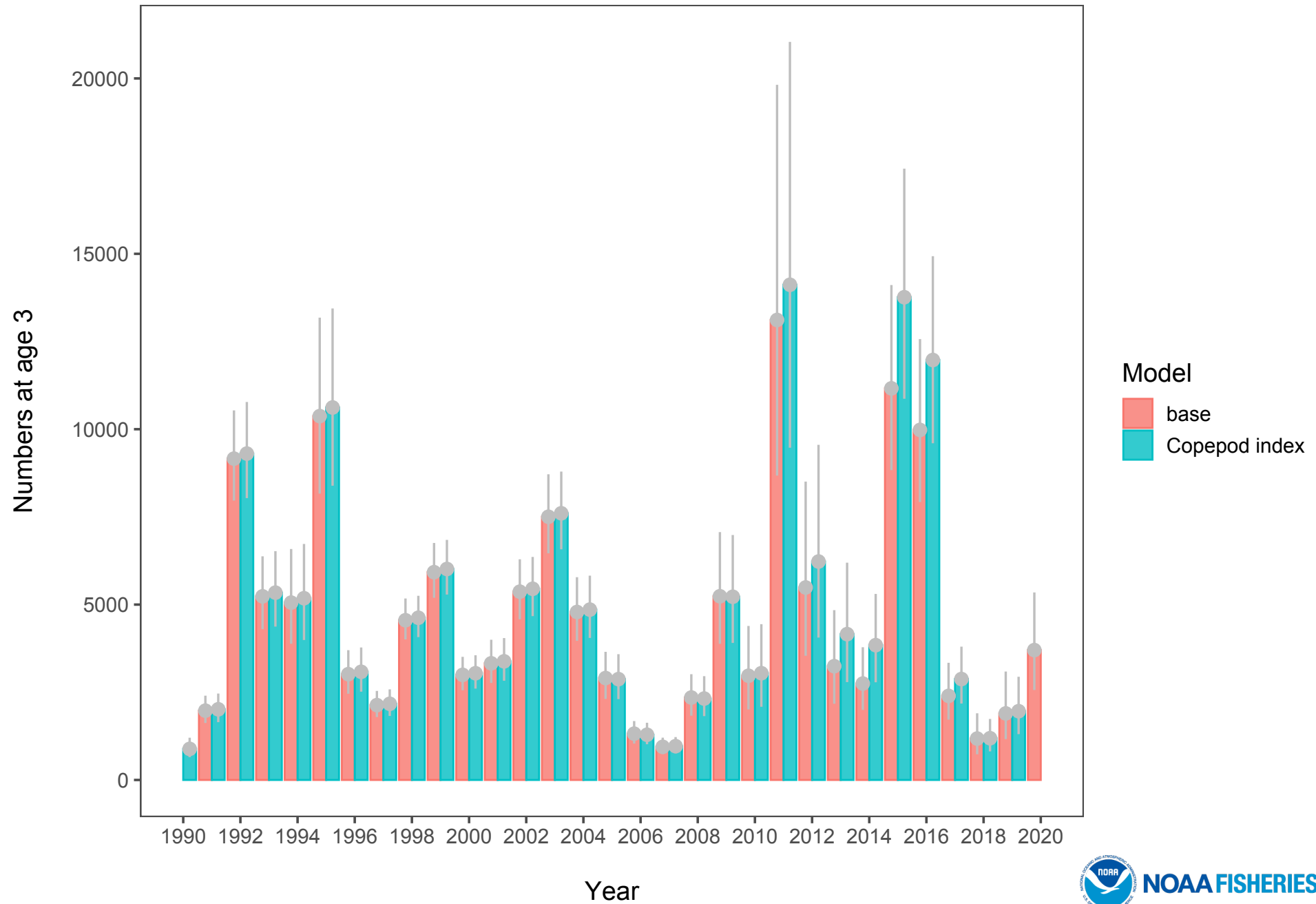
Base



Copepod index fit



# Copepod index on age 3 abundance



Natural mortality can be drawn reasonably  
from CEATTLE

# Apply CEATTLE results for natural mortality

## Hypothesis:

- Pollock mortality varies over time and age due to predator diets

## Support:

- Holsman et al. (various)

## Implementation within pollock assessment model:

Matrix of natural mortality (years and ages) pre-specified

Does it improve fits to the assessment data?

# CEATTLE

- M matrix

Year x age

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1978	2.24	0.42	0.35	0.32	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
1979	2.45	0.41	0.34	0.32	0.30	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
1980	2.66	0.43	0.35	0.32	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
1981	2.87	0.46	0.36	0.33	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
1982	2.83	0.46	0.36	0.33	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31
1983	3.19	0.49	0.38	0.34	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.32	0.30	0.30	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31
1984	3.18	0.48	0.37	0.33	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.32	0.30	0.30	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31
1985	3.27	0.49	0.37	0.34	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
1986	3.47	0.52	0.39	0.34	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31
1987	3.35	0.53	0.39	0.34	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31
1988	3.31	0.56	0.41	0.35	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.32	0.30	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31
1989	2.83	0.49	0.38	0.34	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.32	0.30	0.30	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31
1990	2.86	0.46	0.37	0.33	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31
1991	2.90	0.44	0.35	0.33	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
1992	2.88	0.43	0.35	0.32	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
1993	3.13	0.45	0.35	0.32	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
1994	3.20	0.47	0.36	0.33	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31
1995	3.01	0.47	0.36	0.33	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31
1996	2.84	0.46	0.36	0.33	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
1997	3.12	0.48	0.37	0.33	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31
1998	2.85	0.45	0.36	0.32	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
1999	2.93	0.46	0.36	0.33	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
2000	2.79	0.45	0.36	0.32	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
2001	2.91	0.45	0.36	0.32	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
2002	3.04	0.46	0.36	0.33	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
2003	3.05	0.48	0.37	0.33	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
2004	3.08	0.51	0.38	0.33	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31
2005	3.01	0.50	0.38	0.33	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31
2006	2.76	0.47	0.37	0.33	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
2007	2.81	0.47	0.36	0.33	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
2008	2.61	0.45	0.36	0.32	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
2009	2.83	0.46	0.36	0.32	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
2010	2.96	0.46	0.36	0.33	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
2011	2.92	0.47	0.36	0.33	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
2012	2.74	0.45	0.36	0.32	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
2013	3.01	0.46	0.36	0.32	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
2014	3.42	0.47	0.36	0.33	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
2015	3.72	0.52	0.38	0.33	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31
2016	3.21	0.51	0.38	0.33	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31
2017	3.19	0.51	0.39	0.34	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31
2018	2.98	0.48	0.37	0.33	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31
2019	2.98	0.48	0.37	0.33	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31



# A suite of pollock models with some climate enhancements

# Models crossed w/ some indicators

Name	SST Climate enhanced recruit	M-matrix from CEATTLE	Copepod index
base			
With CE			
CEATTLE M			
CEATTLE M CE			
Copepod index			
Copepod index+ CE			
Copepod index + CE + M			

# Fits to indices, root mean squared errors

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Component	base	With CE	CEATTLE_M	CEATTLE_M_CE	Copepod index	Cope+CE	Cope+CE+CE_M
RMSE BTS	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16
RMSE ATS	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.23	0.23	0.24
RMSE AVO	0.2	0.2	0.27	0.2	0.25	0.25	0.32
RMSE CPUE	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.09	0.08	0.08

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# Negative log-posterior (NLL) by model (columns)

Component	base	With CE	CEATTLE_M	CEATTLE_M_CE	Copepod index	Cope+ CE	Cope+CE +CE_M
BTS NLL	25.7	25.8	26.8	25.8	25.5	25.5	26.6
ATS NLL	8.7	8.5	8.2	8.5	11.6	11.4	11.5
AVO NLL	10.1	9.7	9.5	9.7	10.3	9.9	9.6
Copepod NLL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	48.0	48.0	46.5
Fish Age NLL	148.8	148.9	150.3	148.9	147.5	147.8	149.0
BTS Age NLL	146.4	147.1	145.8	147.1	147.5	148.0	147.4
ATS Age NLL	25.0	24.7	25.4	24.7	24.5	24.4	24.6
Data NLL	380.1	379.8	389.3	379.8	433.9	433.8	440.2
Total NLL	593.3	588.0	626.4	588.0	649.2	644.0	679.6

*Draft*

# Negative log-posterior (NLL) by model (columns)

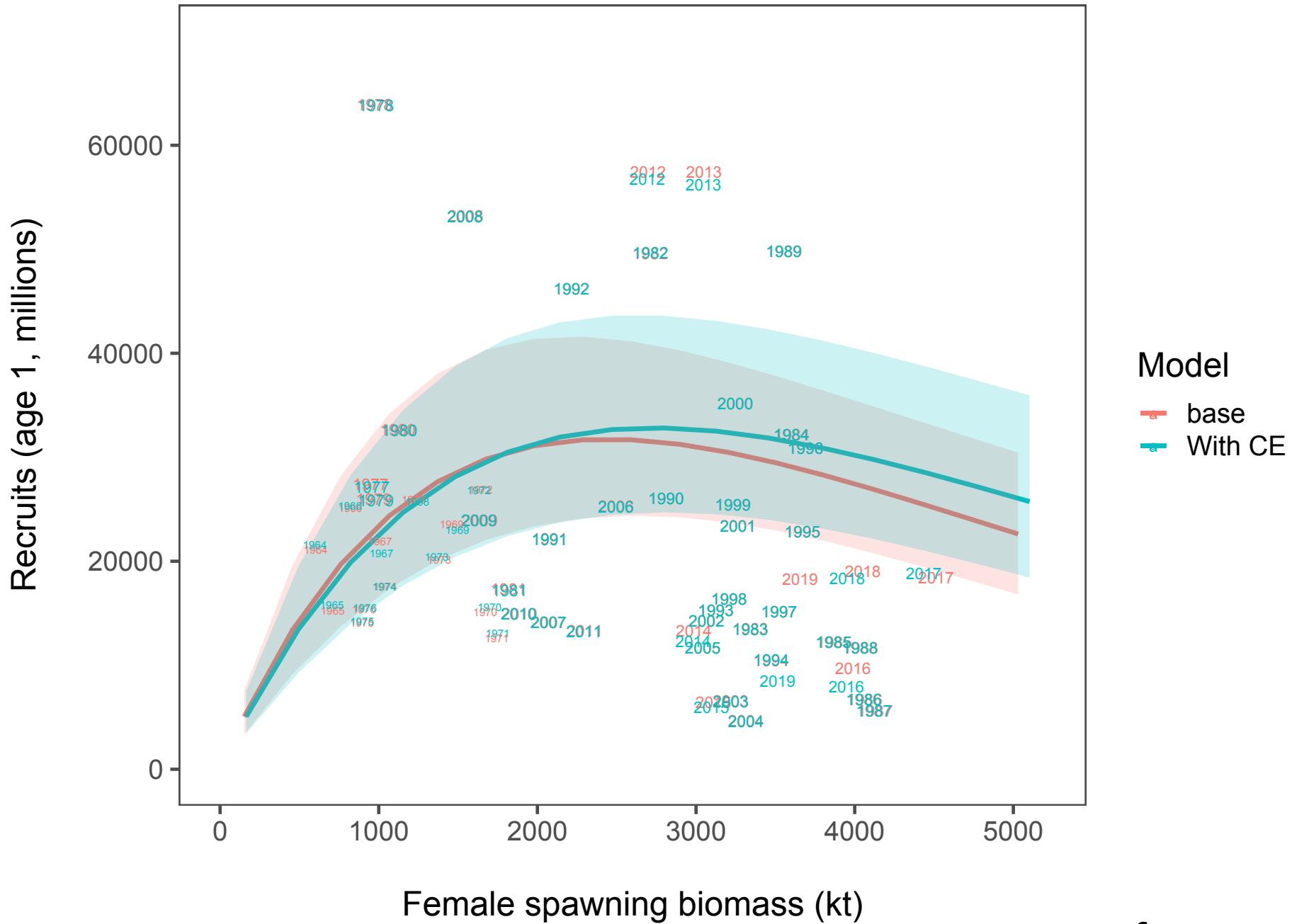
Relative to “Base” (but w/o copepod in totals)

Component	base	With CE	CEATTLE_M	CEATTLE_M_CE	Copepod index	Cope+CE	Cope+CE+CE_M
BTS NLL	0.0	0.1	1.1	0.1	-0.2	-0.2	0.9
ATS NLL	0.0	-0.2	-0.4	-0.2	3.0	2.8	2.8
AVO NLL	0.0	-0.4	-0.6	-0.4	0.2	-0.2	-0.5
Copepod NLL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	48.0	48.0	46.5
Fish Age NLL	0.0	0.1	1.4	0.1	-1.3	-1.0	0.1
BTS Age NLL	0.0	0.6	-0.6	0.6	1.1	1.6	1.0
ATS Age NLL	0.0	-0.3	0.4	-0.3	-0.5	-0.6	-0.4
Data NLL	0.0	-0.3	9.2	-0.3	5.8	5.7	13.6
Total NLL	0.0	-5.3	33.2	-5.3	7.9	2.8	39.9

Draft

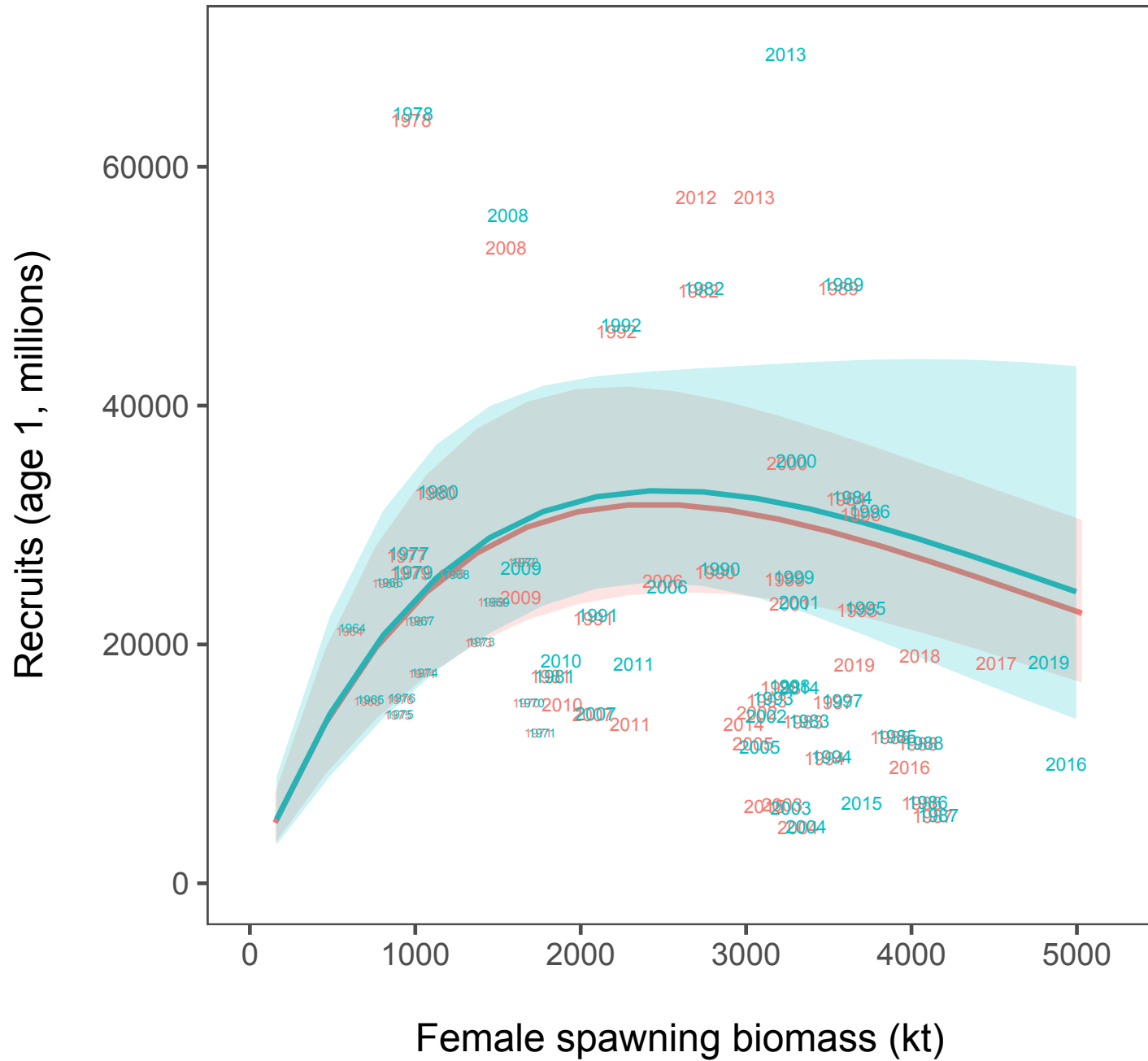
# Comparing these model configurations

- Stock-recruit relationship plots



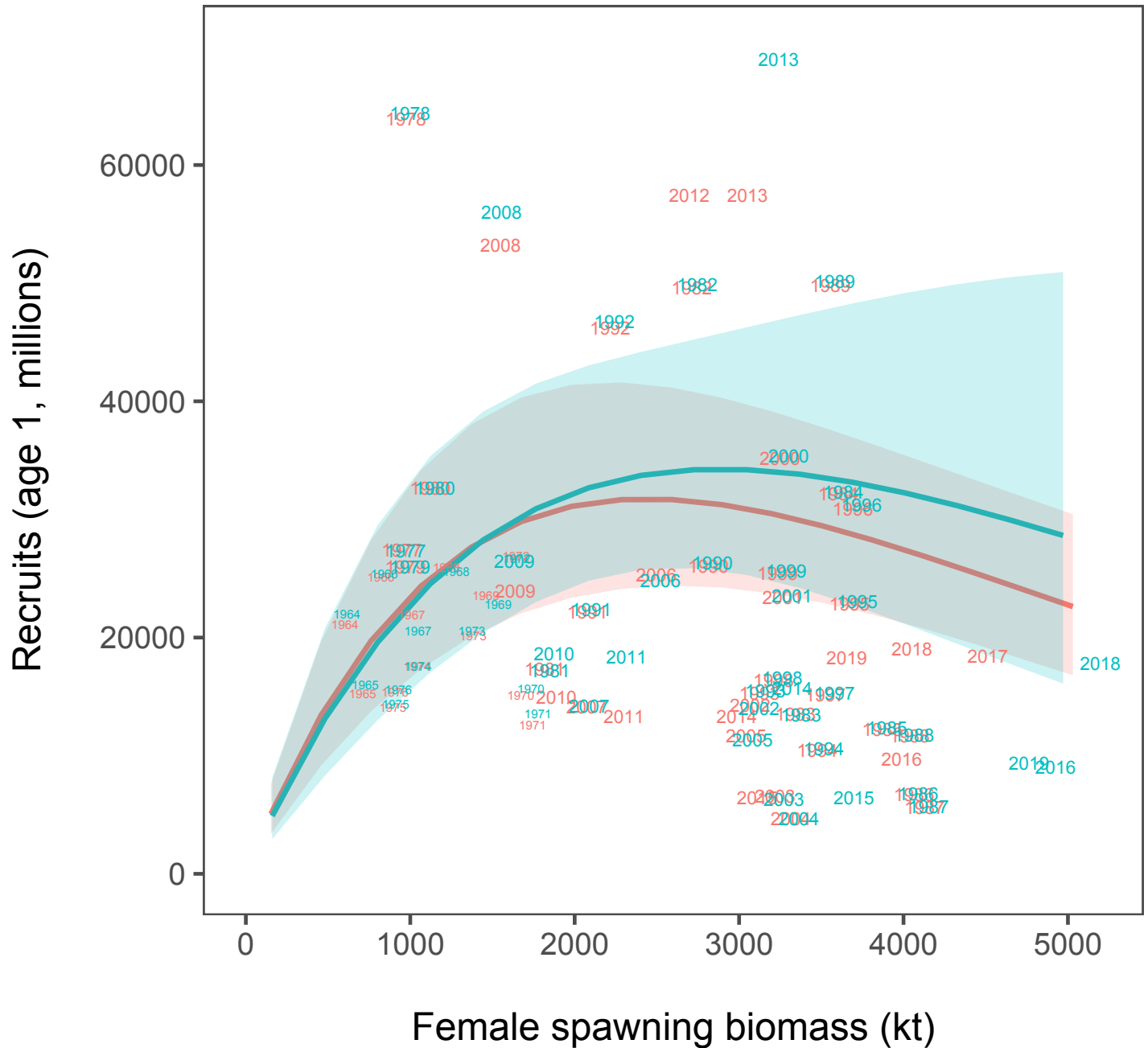
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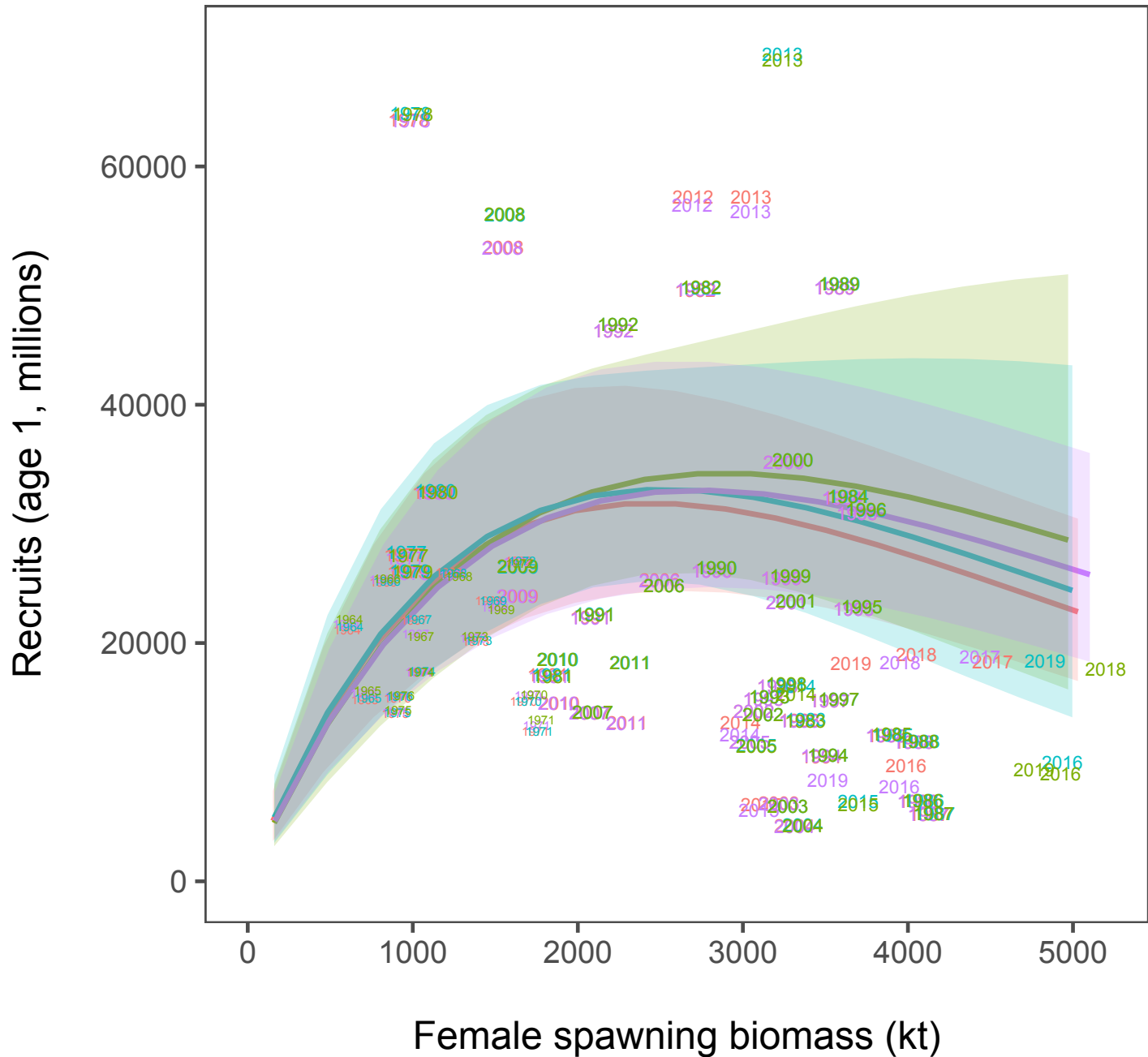


**Model**

- base
- Copepod index



Draft



**Model**

- base
- Copepod + CE
- Copepod index
- With CE

*Draft*



# Preliminary conclusion

## Climate enhanced recruitment model improves fit

- This was also shown to be the case for the posterior predictive loss approach (next slide from Paul)

## Current M-matrix from CEATTLE degraded fit

- Needs revisiting/cross checking
- Reference point calculations affected
- Projection mode?

# Model selection and prediction of new data?

## Posterior Predictive Loss (PPL; Gelfand and Gnosh 1998)

Based on decision theory, and a loss function

$$PPL = \mathcal{L}(\tilde{y}_i, \hat{y}_i) + w\mathcal{L}(y_i, \hat{y}_i)$$

$\tilde{y}_i$  = Replicate data drawn from posterior predictive distribution of the data

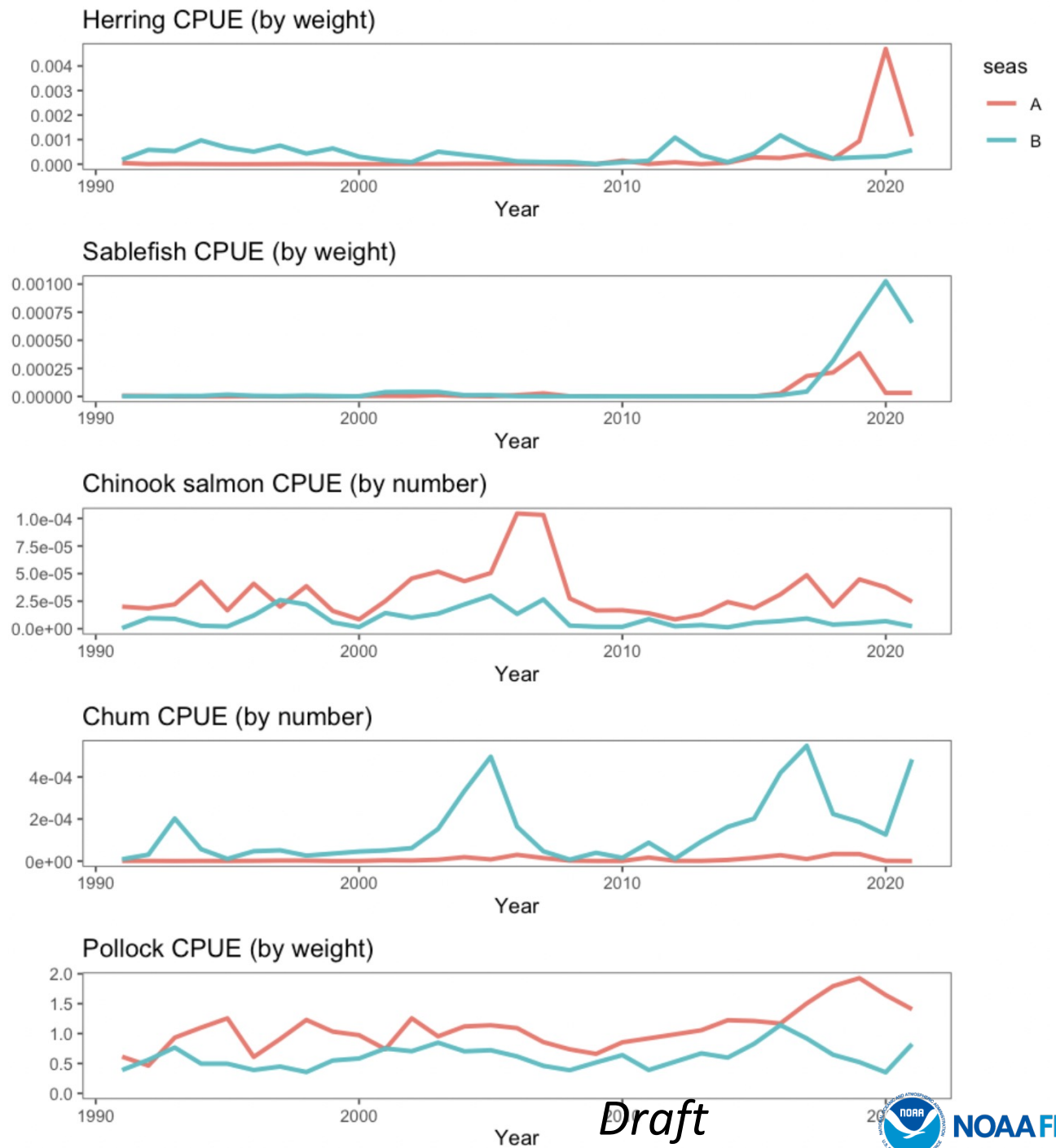
Squared error loss function  
 $\mathcal{L}(x, y) = (x - y)^2$

Goodness of fit to observed data

Precision of estimation (i.e., how well the model fits new data not used in model fitting)

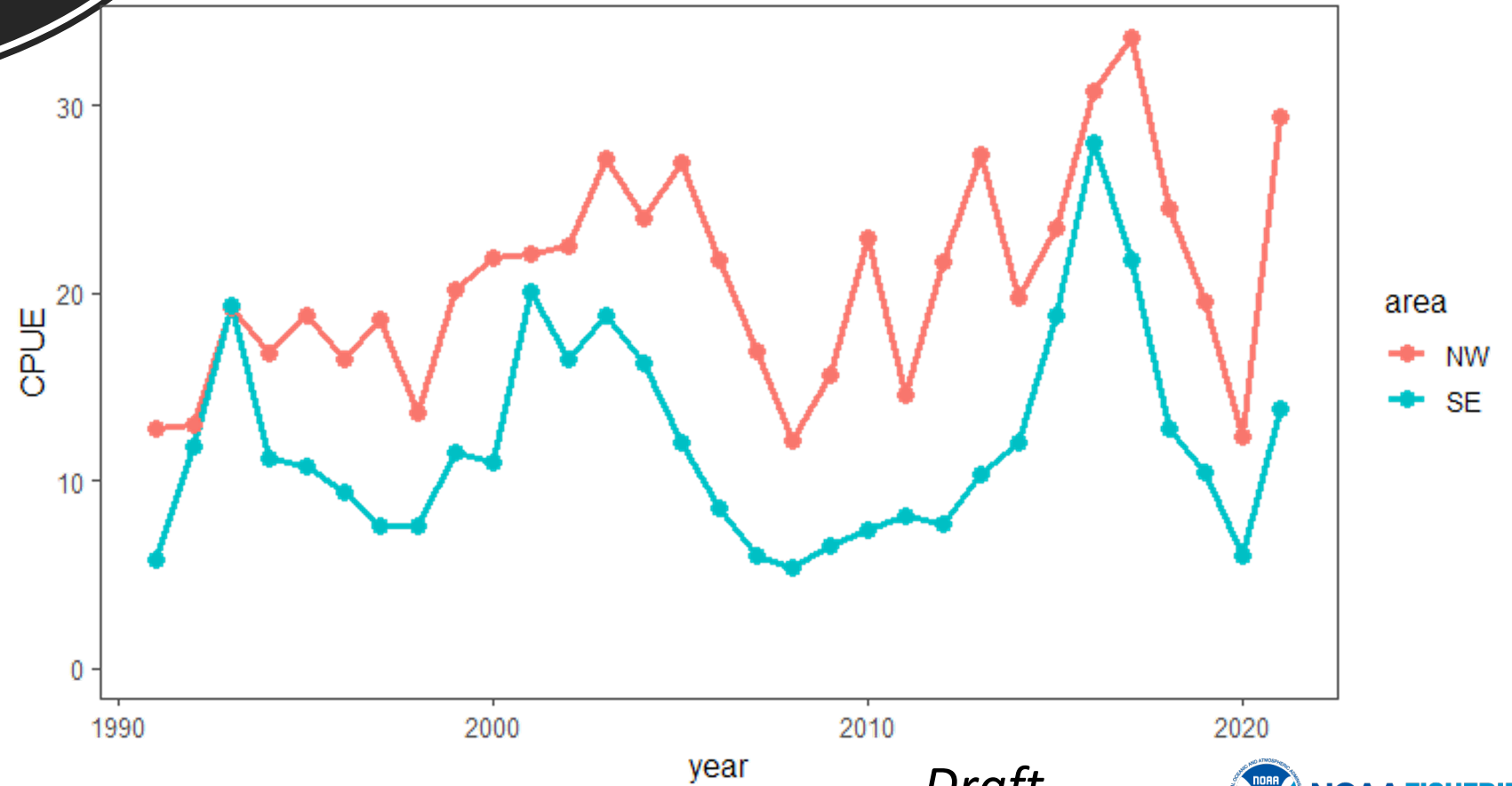
# Fishery conditions

- Catch rates of pollock and selected bycatch species
- B-season through August



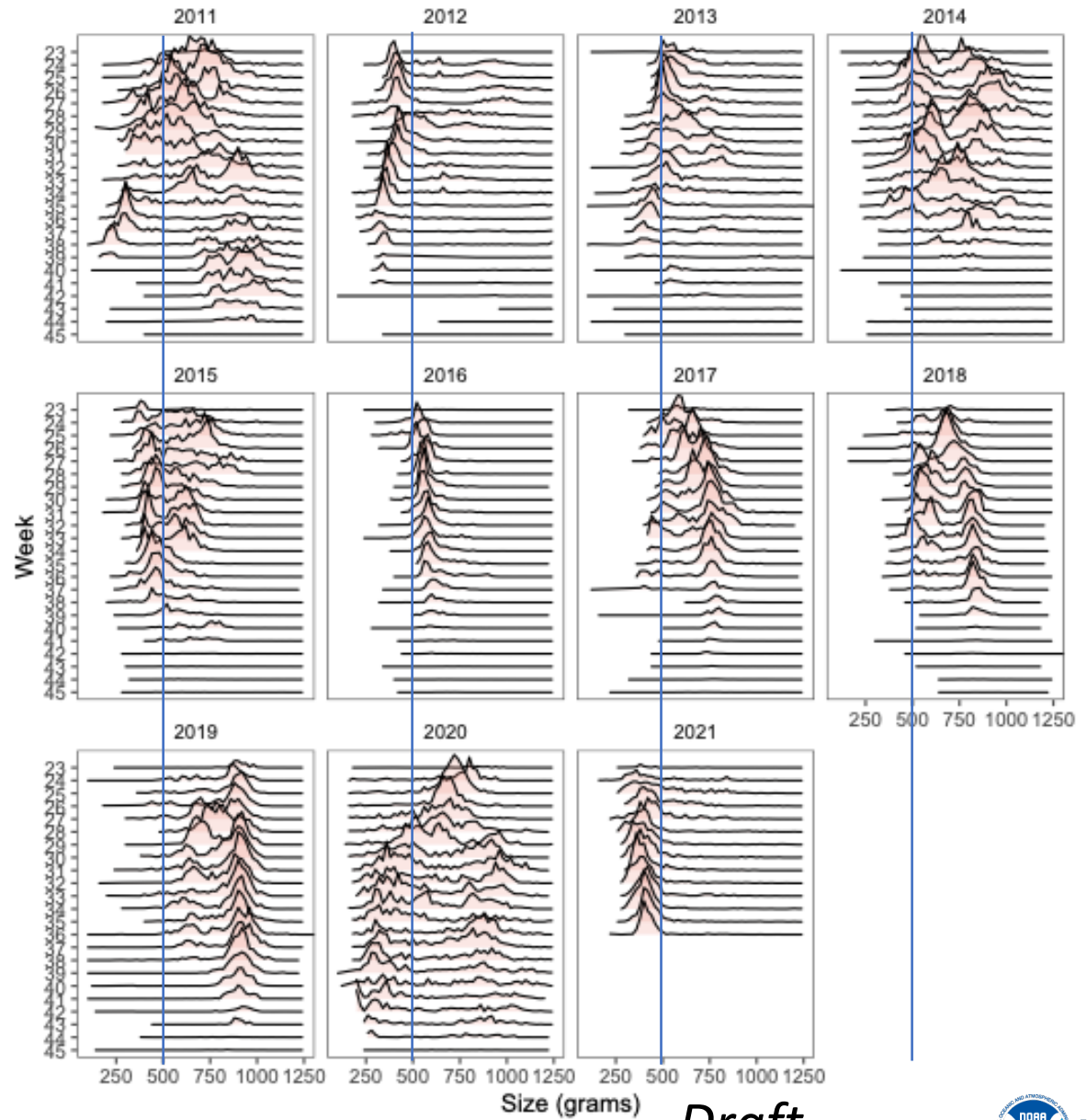
Draft

June-August  
Pollock fishery CPUE by  
area (E and W of 170)



*Draft*

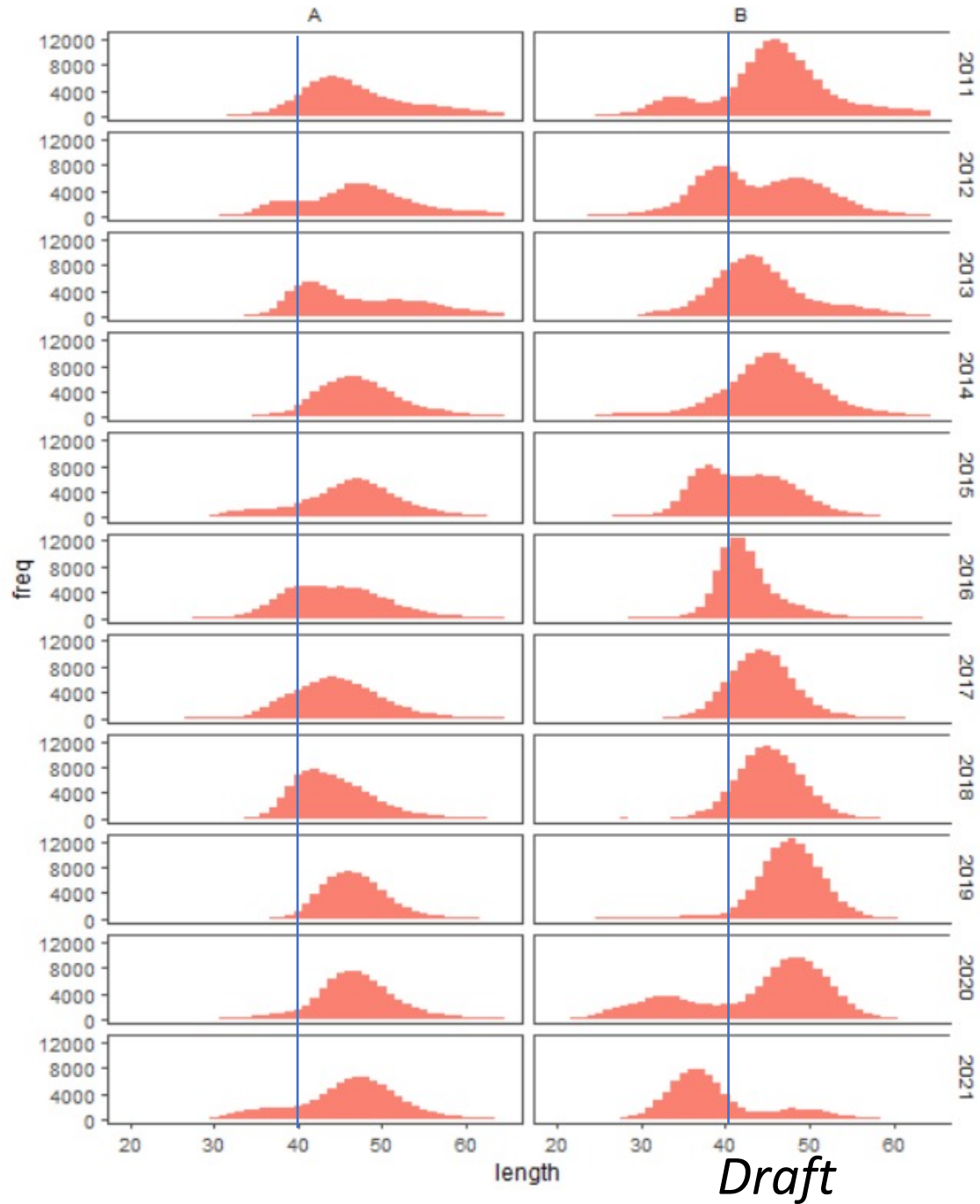
# Weight frequency (by haul)



Size (grams) *Draft*

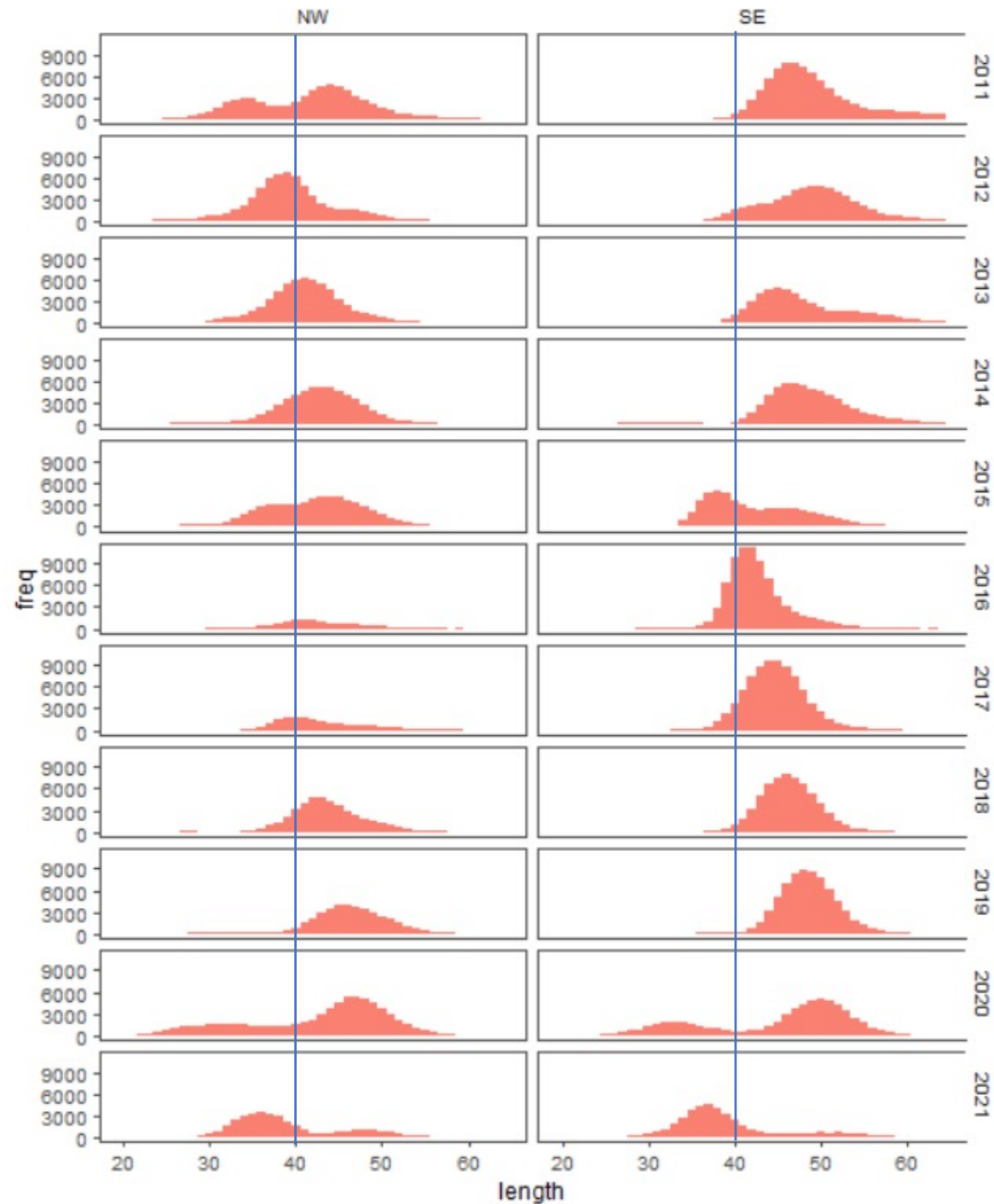


Pollock fishery length frequency by season

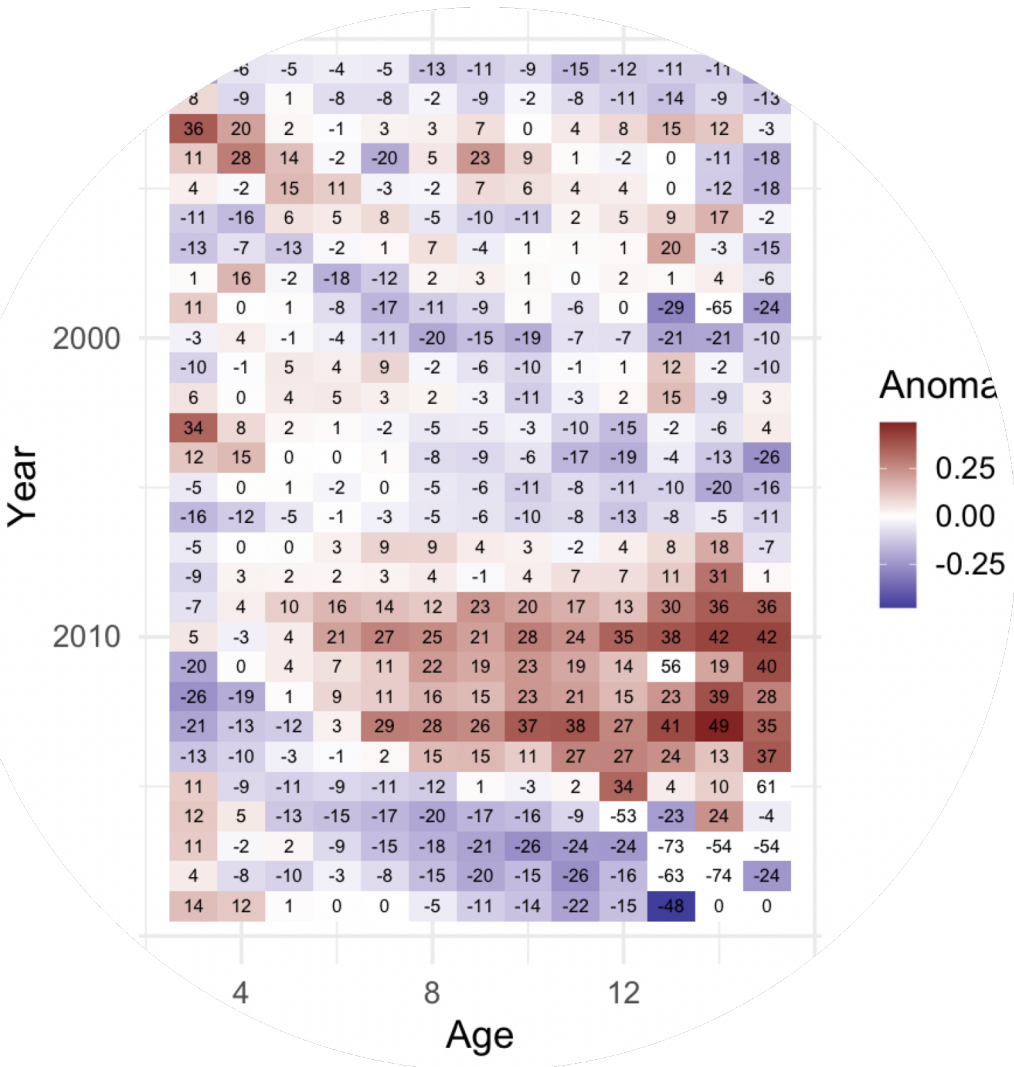


B-season  
(E and W of 170)

Pollock  
fishery  
length  
frequency by  
area

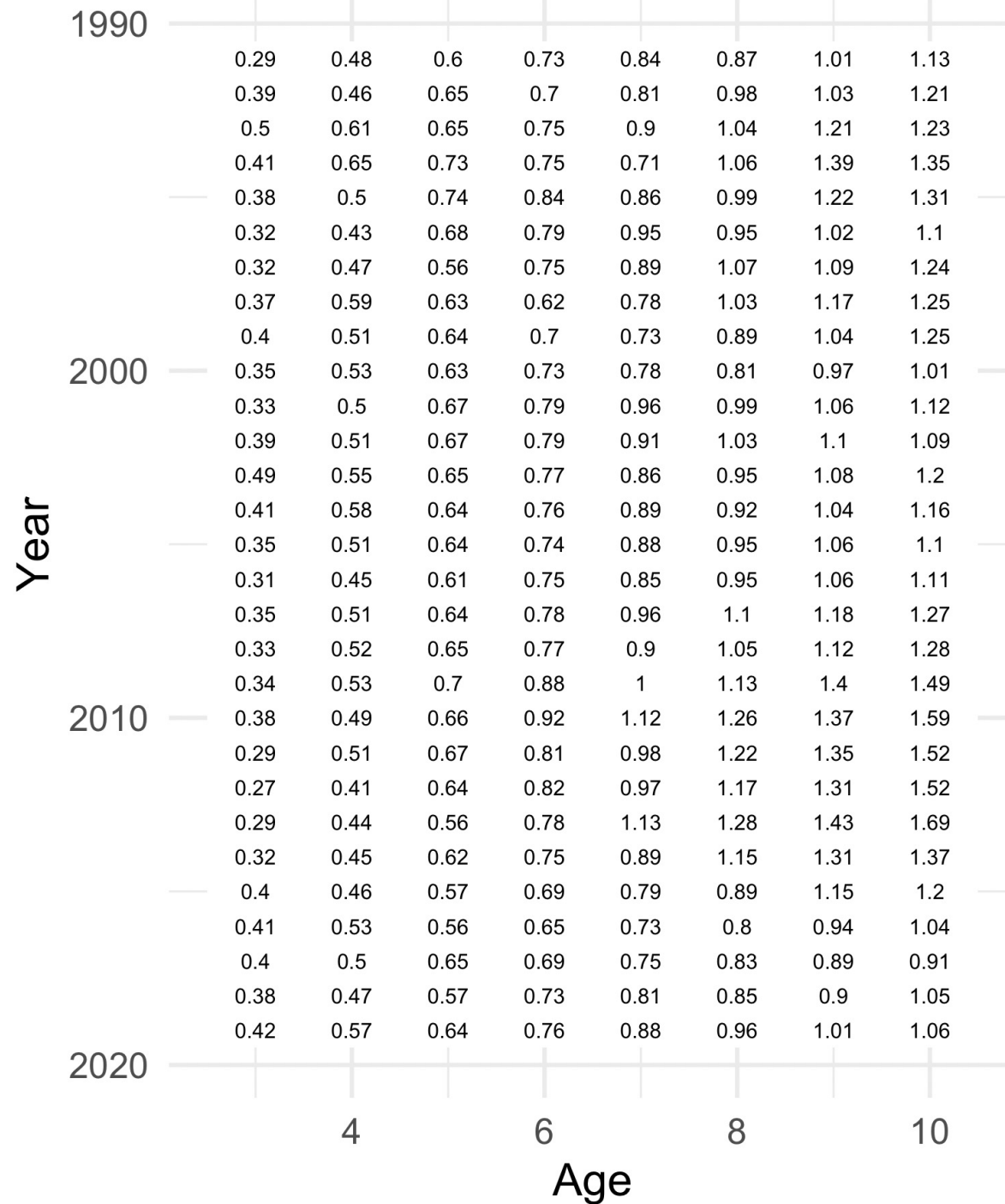


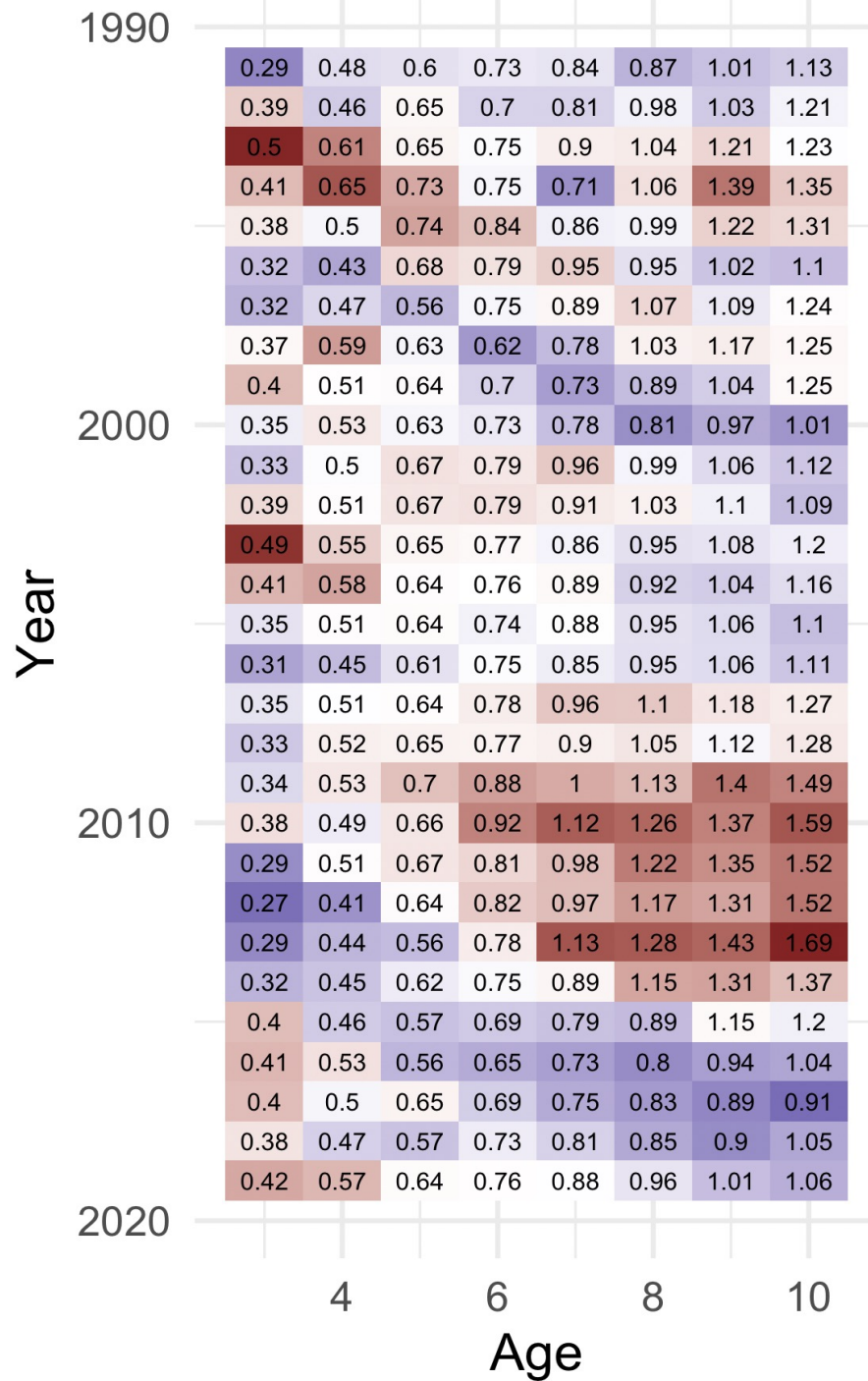
# Body mass-at-age



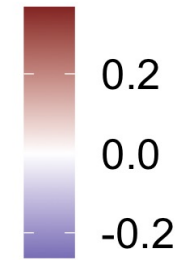
- Can it be considered w/ an environmental index?

Start with  
body mass  
at age



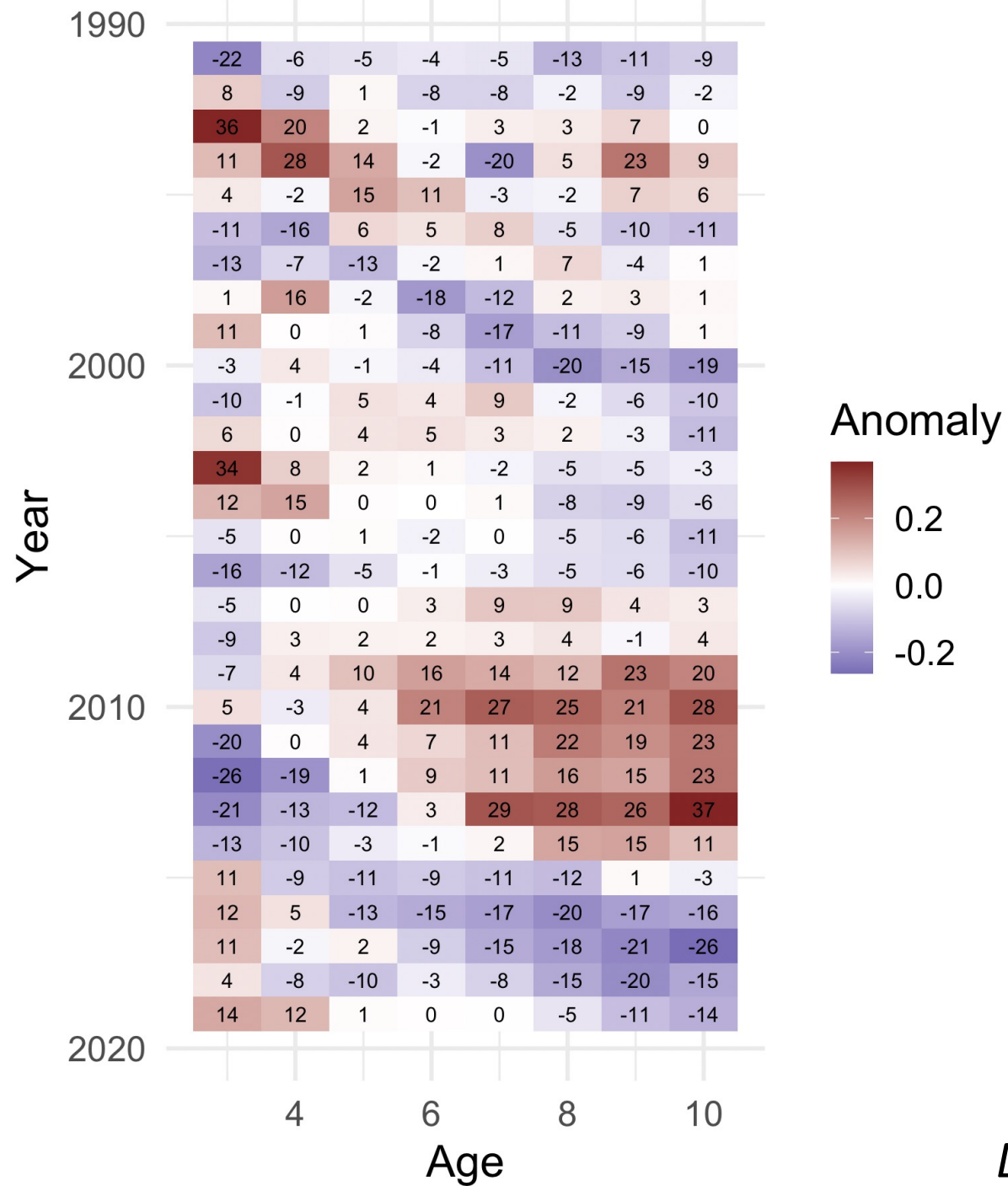


$$\text{Anomaly} = \frac{w_{a,t}}{\bar{w}_a} - 1$$



*Draft*





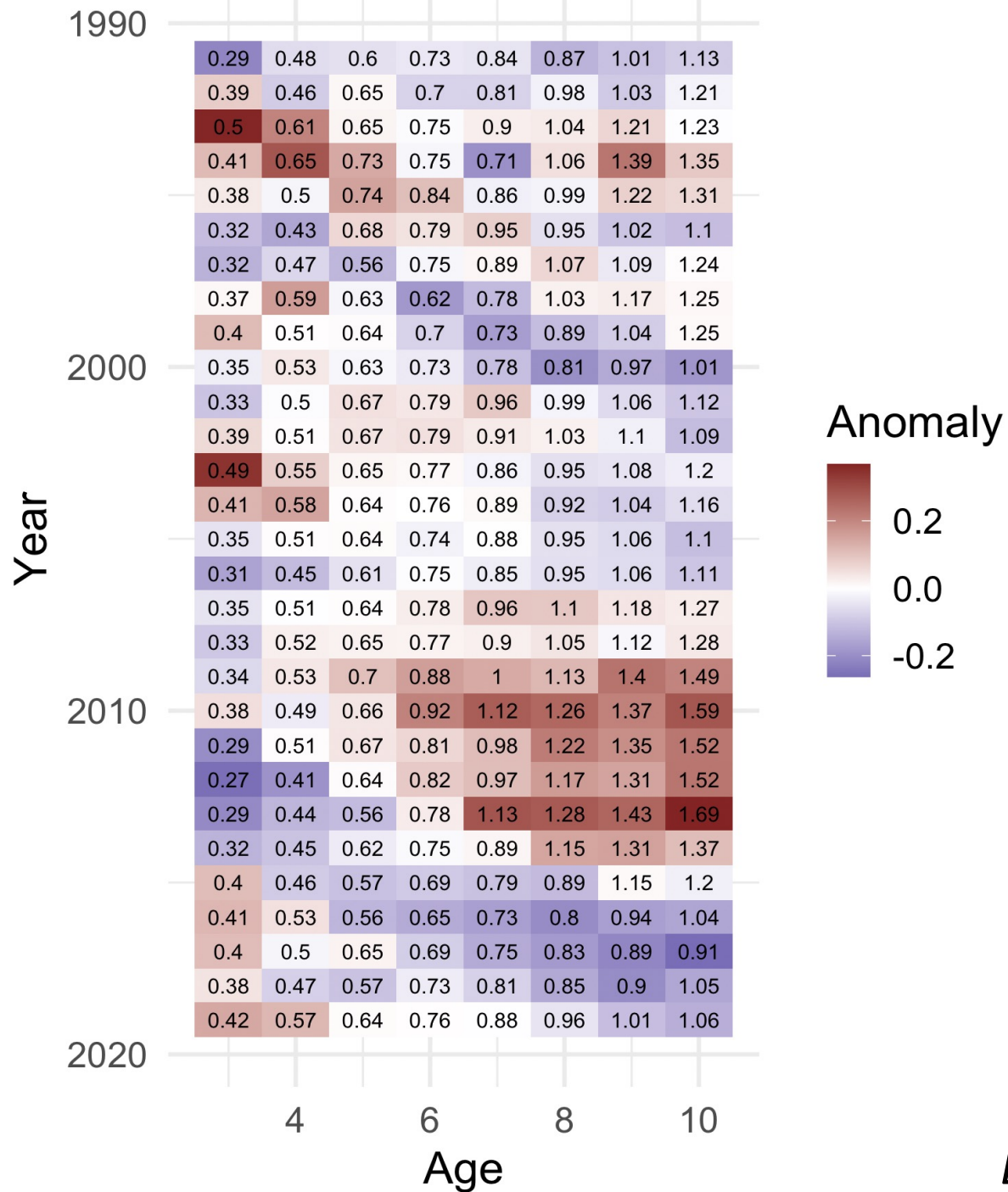
*Draft*

# Fishery data...

Started with domestic fishery

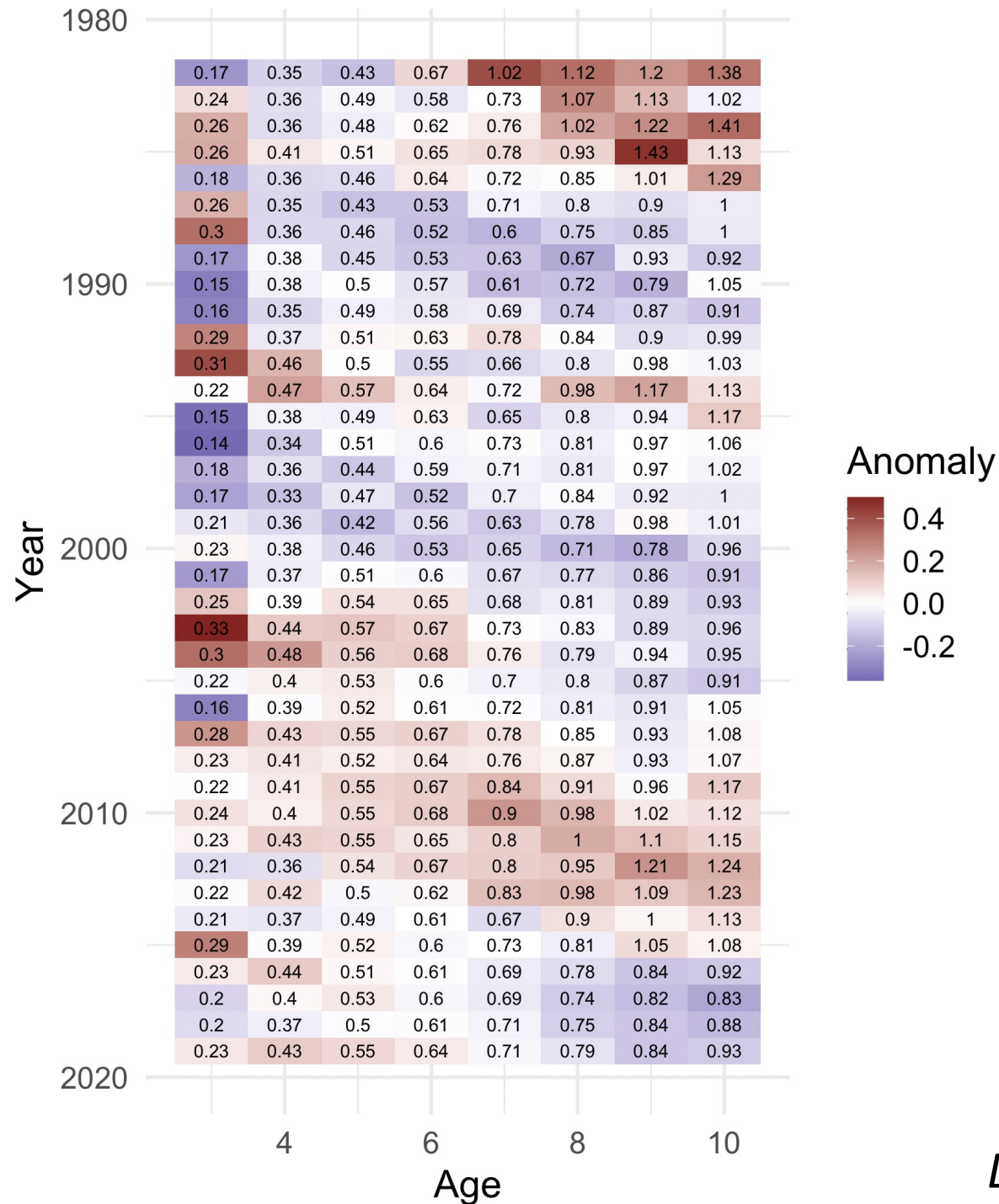
(for pollock)

# Eastern Bering Sea



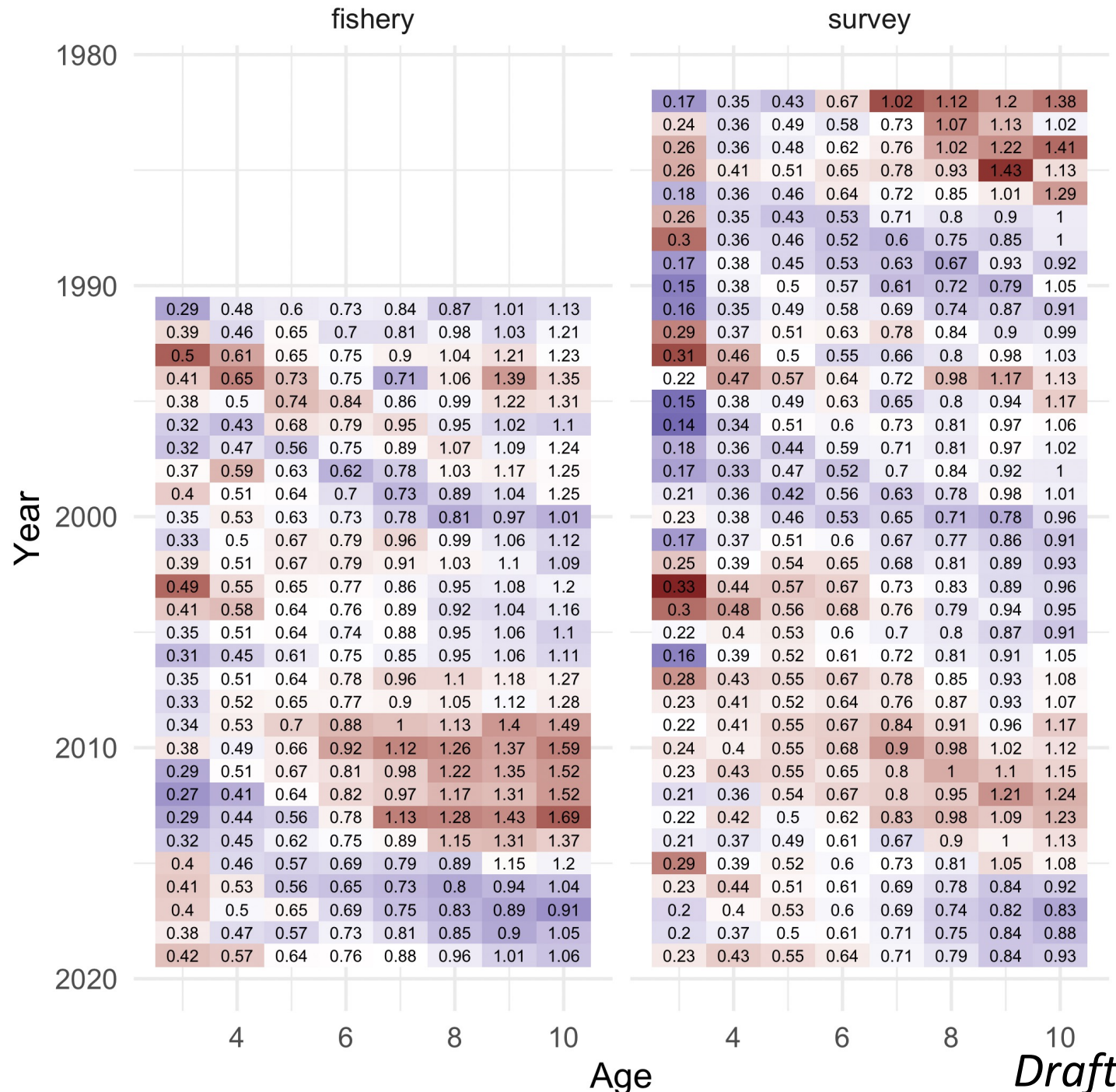
# Survey data

# Eastern Bering Sea



Draft





# Fishery weight-at-age

## Hypothesis:

- Pollock weight-at-age in fishery has year and cohort effects

## Support:

- SAFE reports for EBS and GOA pollock

## Implementation within pollock assessment model:

Modeled as random effects outside of model to get year and cohort effect variances

Those variances then used within model to estimate year and cohort effects as fixed

**Future consideration:** can cohort and year effects be effectively modeled as driven by the environment and/or density dependence?

*Draft*

# Basic model for body mass-at-age

$$\hat{w}_{ta} = \bar{w}_a e_t^v \quad a = 1, t \geq 1964$$

$$\hat{w}_{ta} = \hat{w}_{t-1, a-1} + \Delta_a e_t^\psi \quad a > 1, t > 1964$$

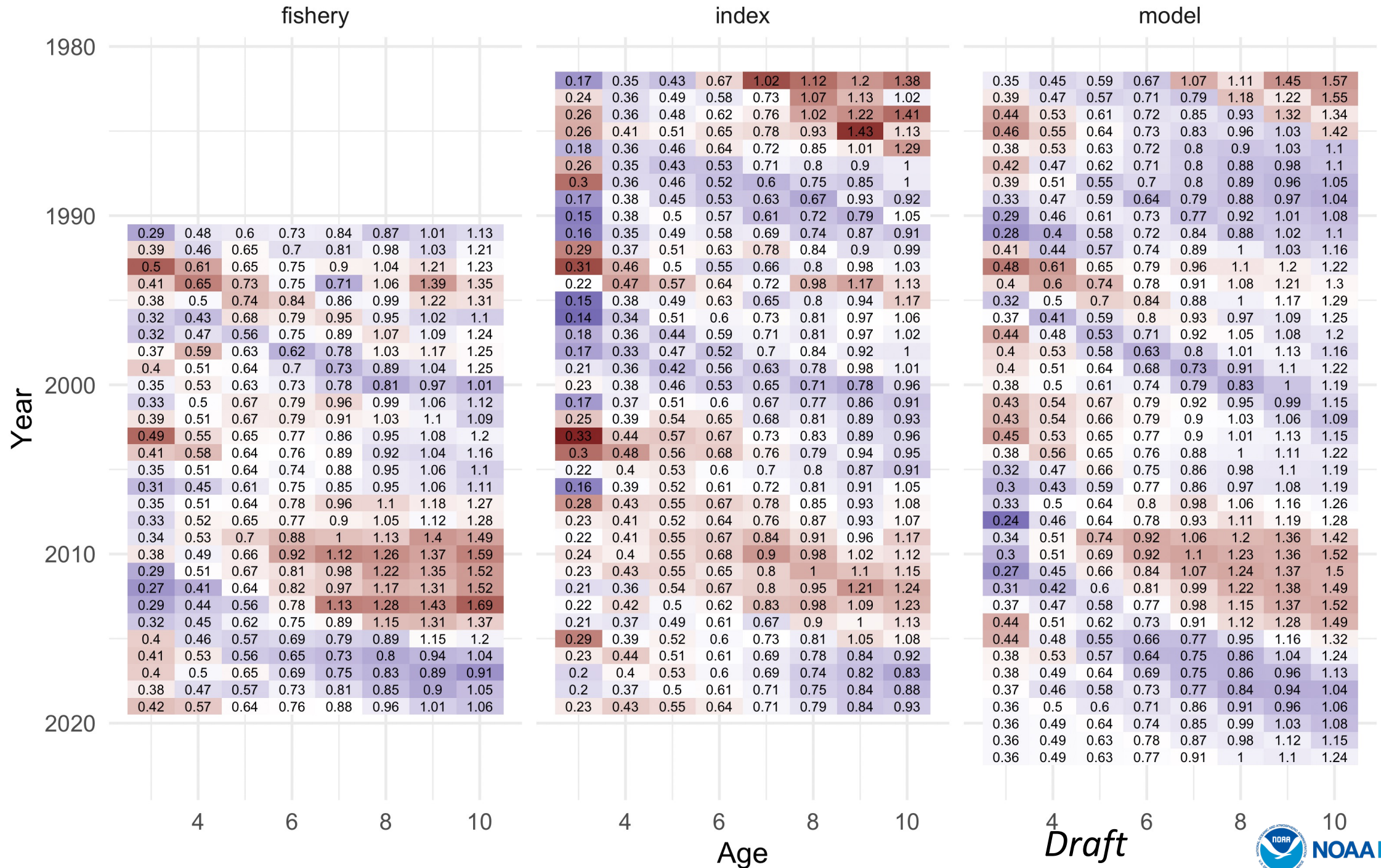
$$\Delta_a = \bar{w}_{a+1} - \bar{w}_a \quad a < A$$

$$\bar{w}_a = \alpha \left\{ L_1 + (L_2 - L_1) \left( \frac{1 - K^{a-1}}{1 - K^{A-1}} \right) \right\}^3$$

where the fixed effects parameters are  $L_1, L_2, K$ , and  $\alpha$  while the random effects parameters are  $v_t$  and  $\psi_t$ .

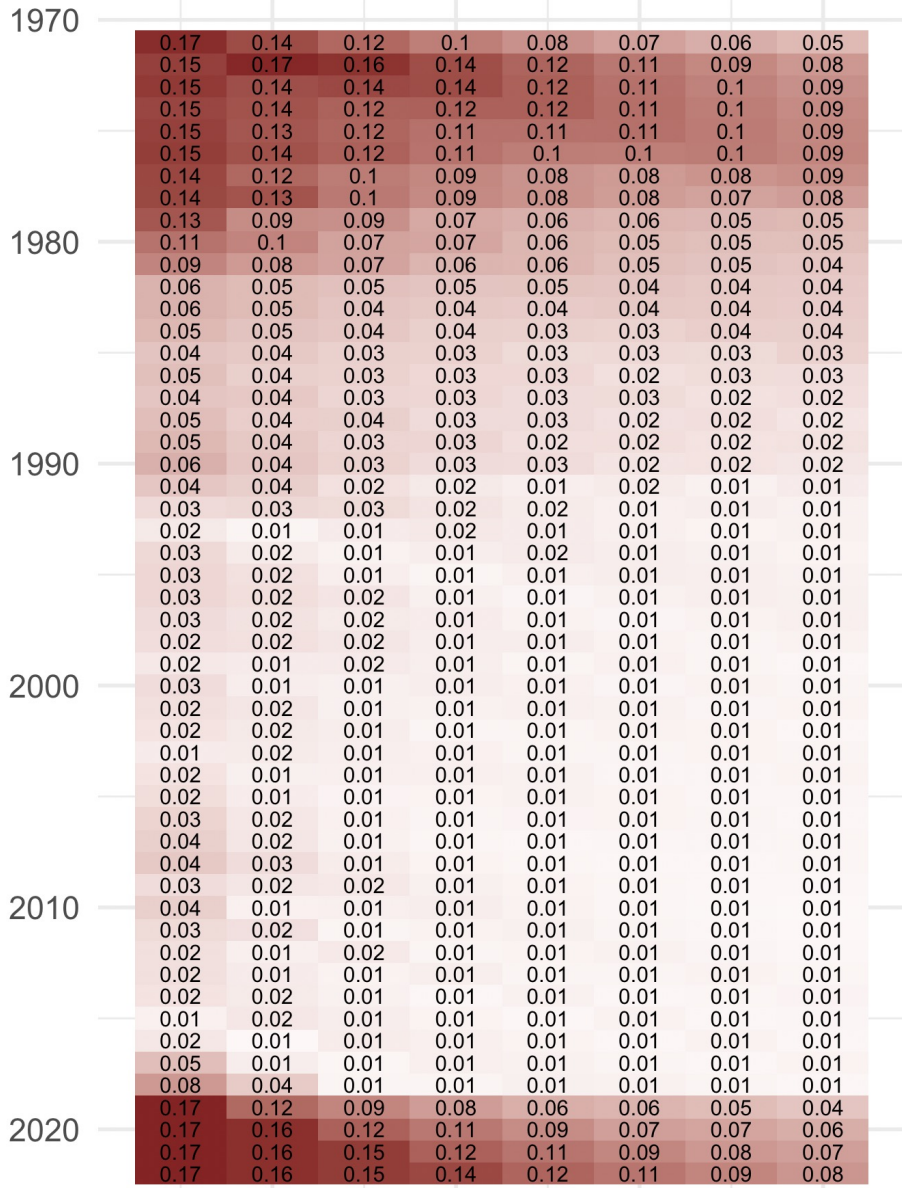
$$nll_i = 0.5 \sum_{at} \frac{\ln(w_{at}/\hat{w}_{at})^2}{2\sigma_{w_{at}}^2}$$

Draft



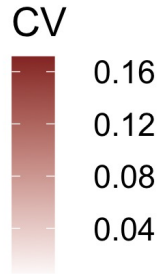
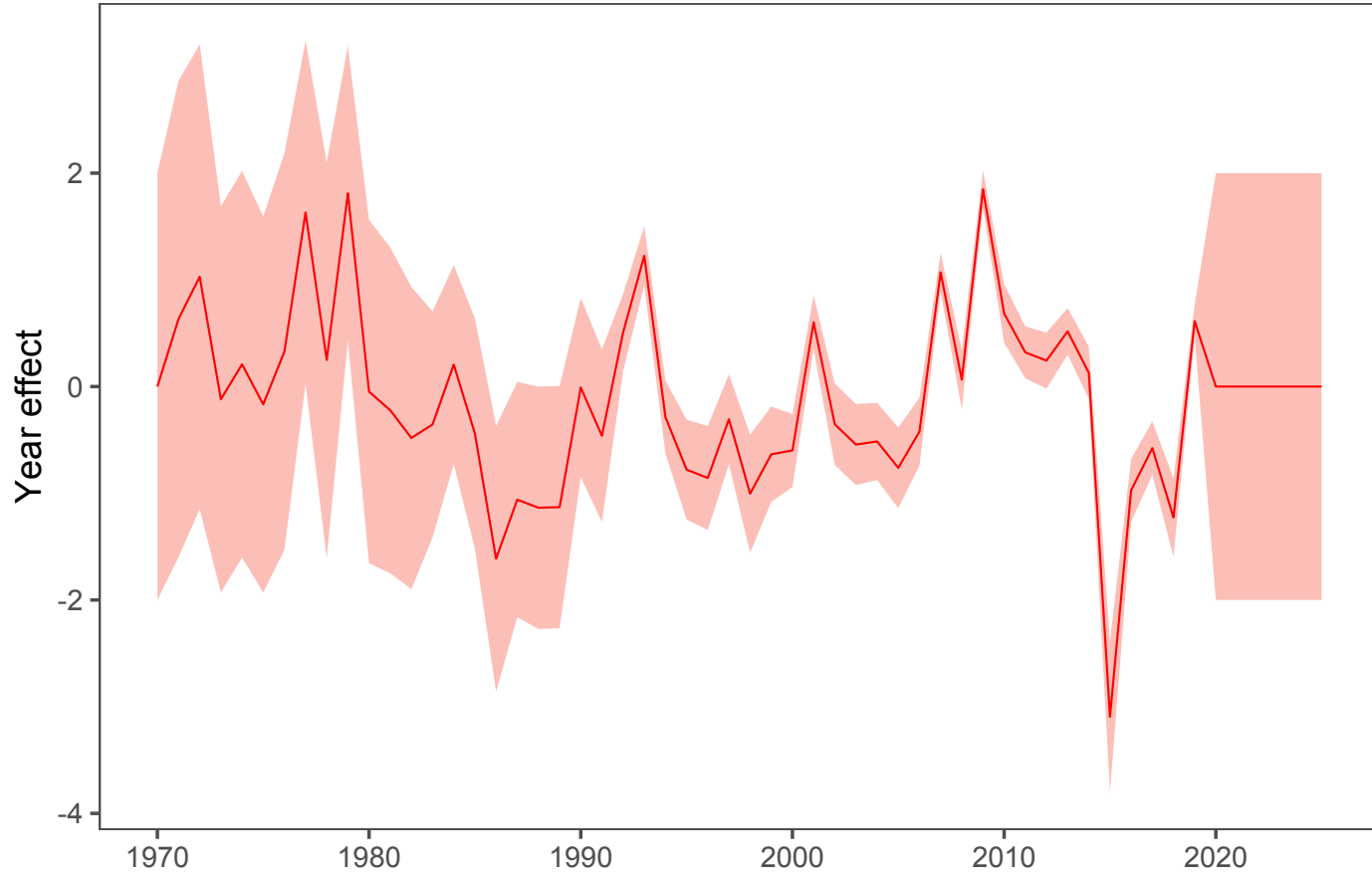


# Weight-at-age CV

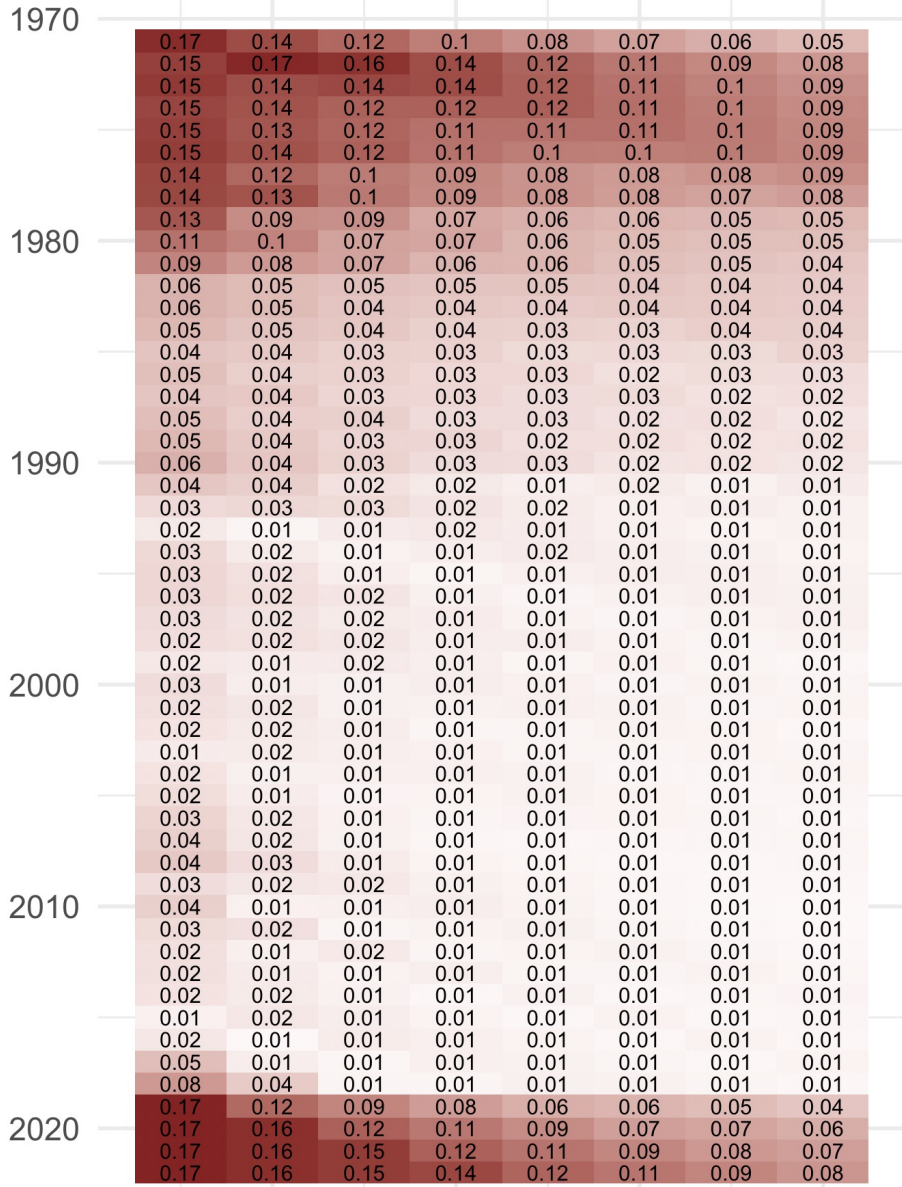


# certainty propogation

## Year-effect on growth increment

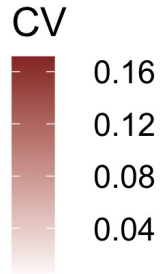
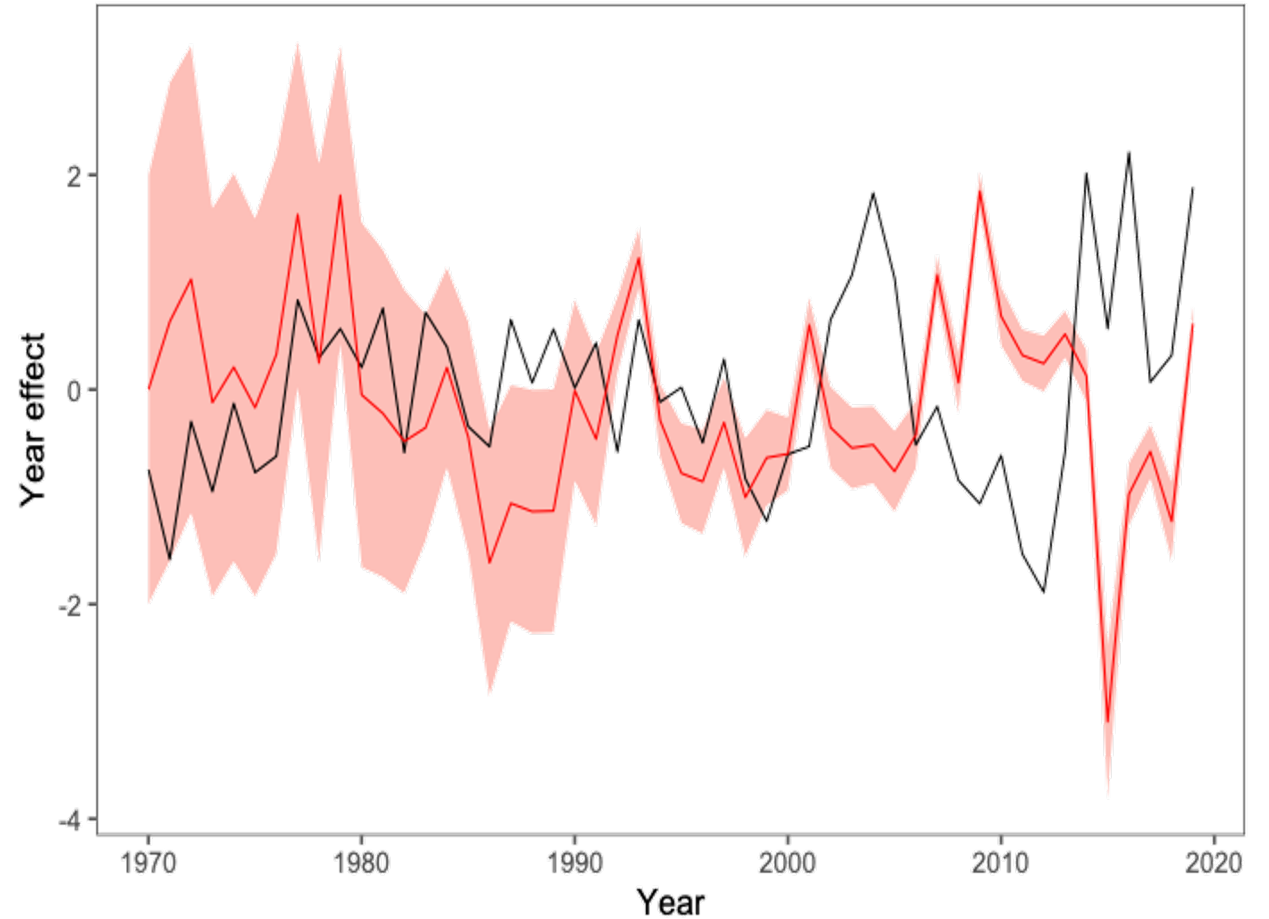


# Weight-at-age CV



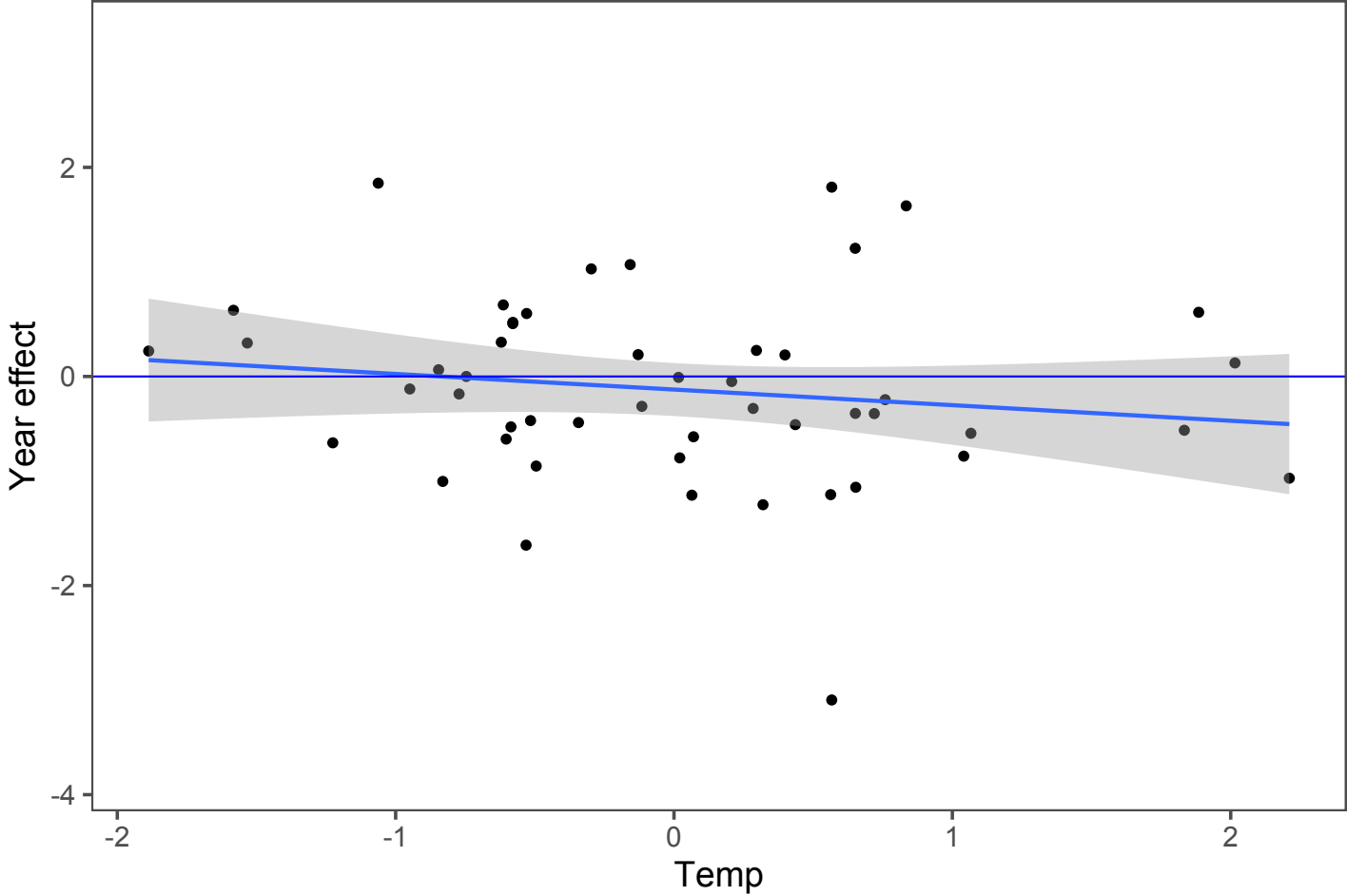
# certainty propogation

## Year-effect on growth increment



Comparing temperature on growth year-effect

Temperature and year-effect growth increment



# Summary

- New data for 2021:
  - Bottom trawl survey
    - Combined NBS+EBS
    - Age compositions (EBS only)
  - Acoustic vessels of opportunity (AVO)
  - Fishery 2020 age composition
  - Fishery updated weight-at-age
- Model
  - Standard from 2020
  - Some alternatives for reference point sensitivities