



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# Eastern Bering Sea pollock Update

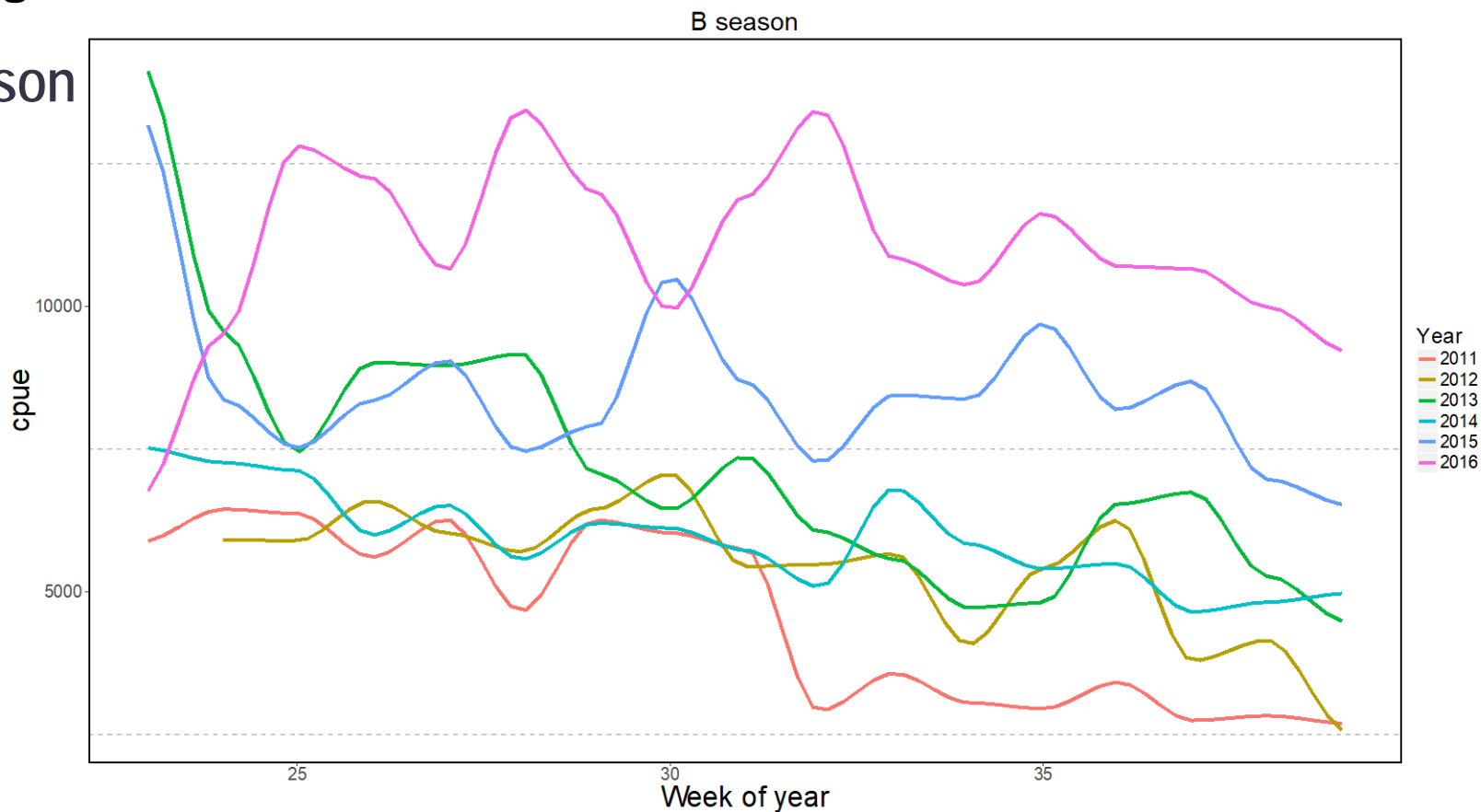
Jim Ianelli, Steve Barbeaux, Stan Kotwicki,  
Taina Honkalehto, and Kirstin Holsman

Alaska Fisheries Science Center

NMFS/NOAA

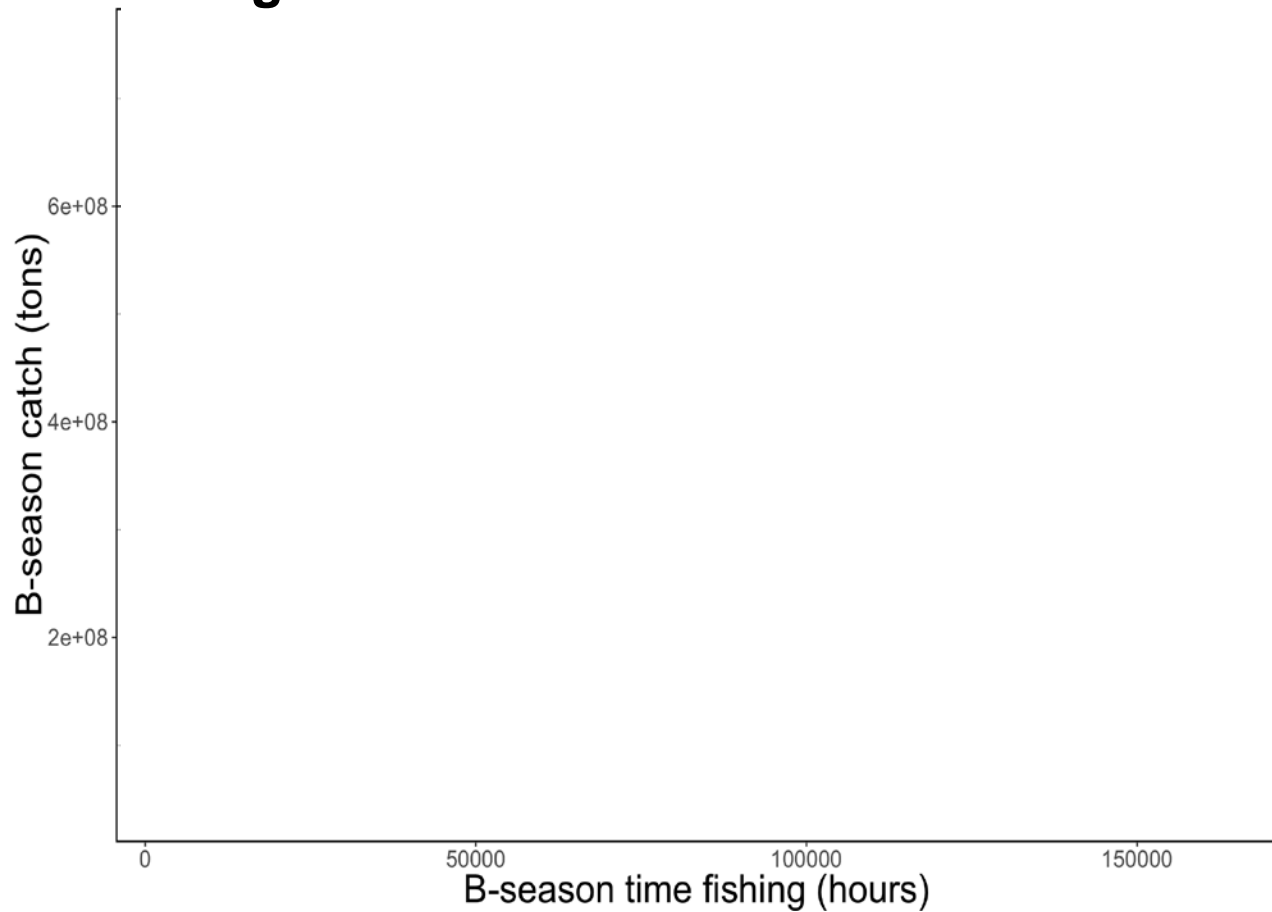
# Fishing conditions

B-Season  
catch  
rates



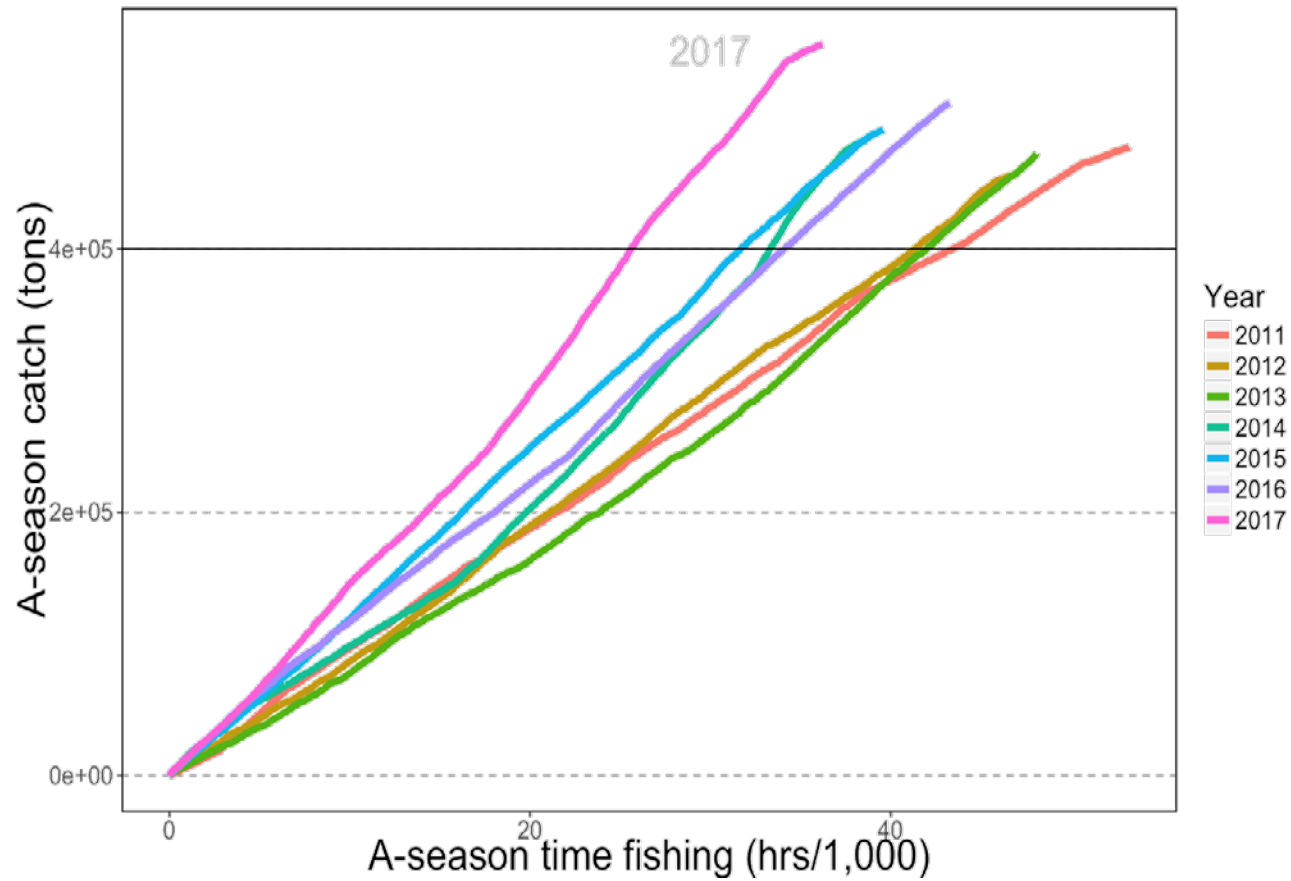
# Fishing conditions

B-season



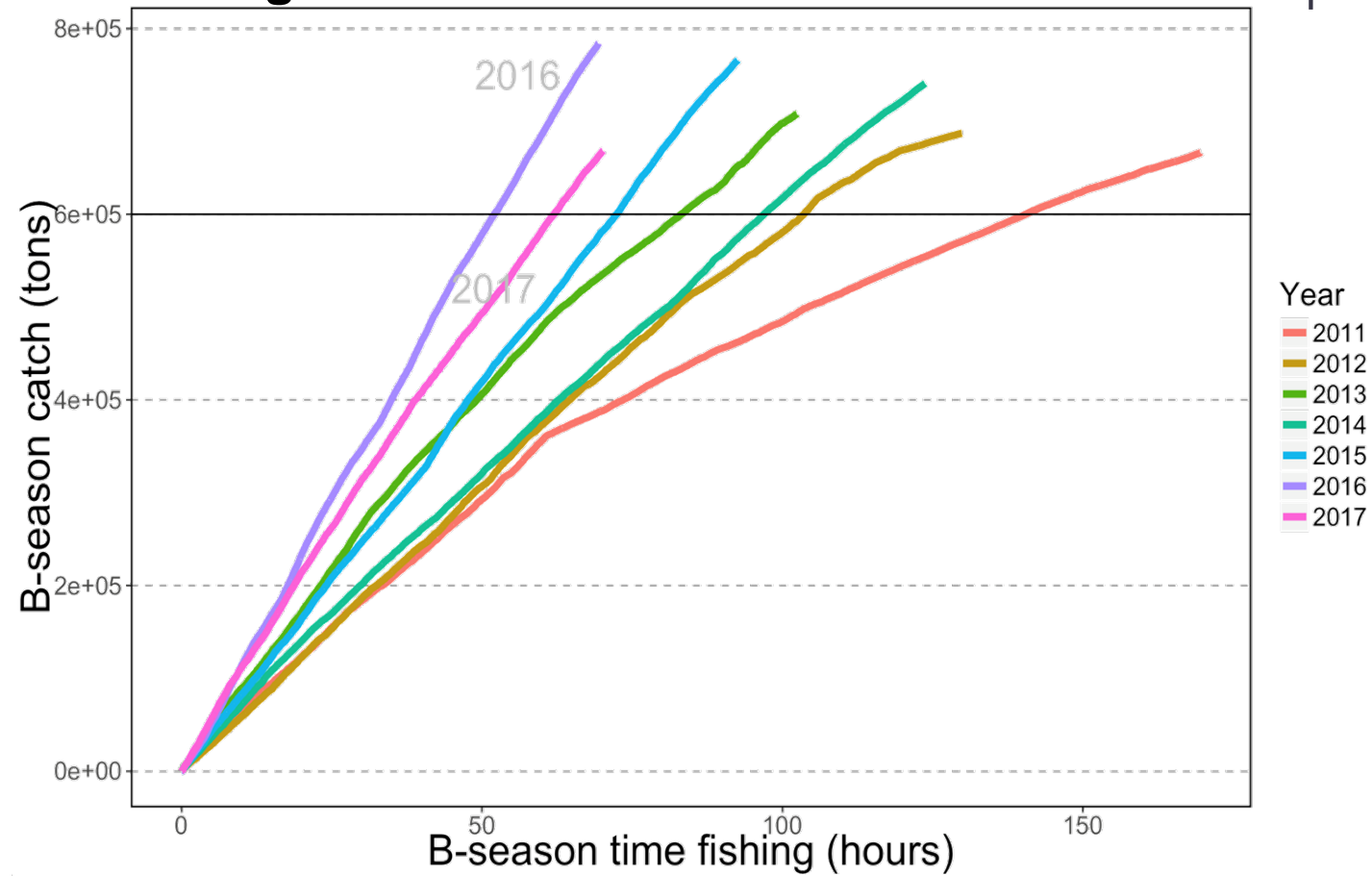
# Fishing conditions

# A-season



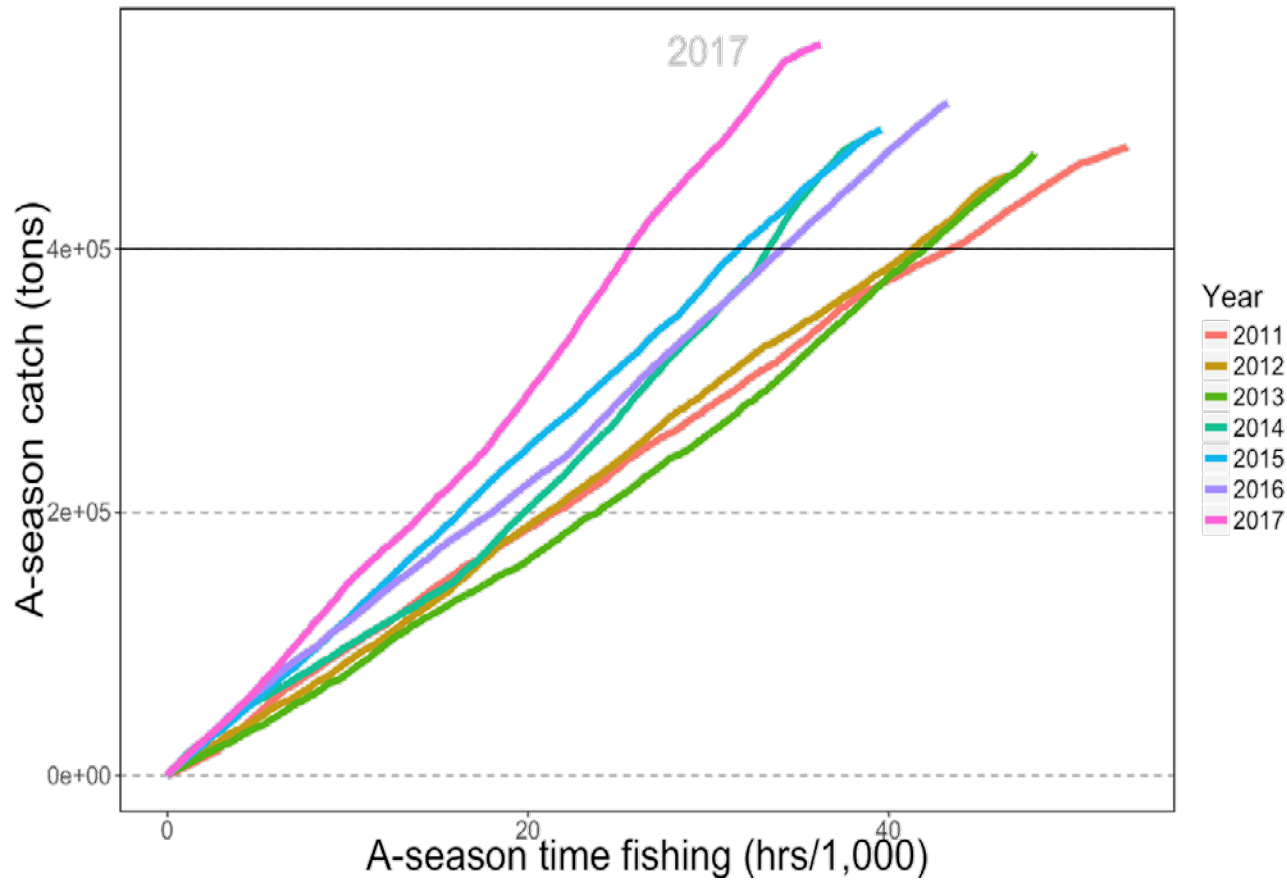
# Fishing conditions

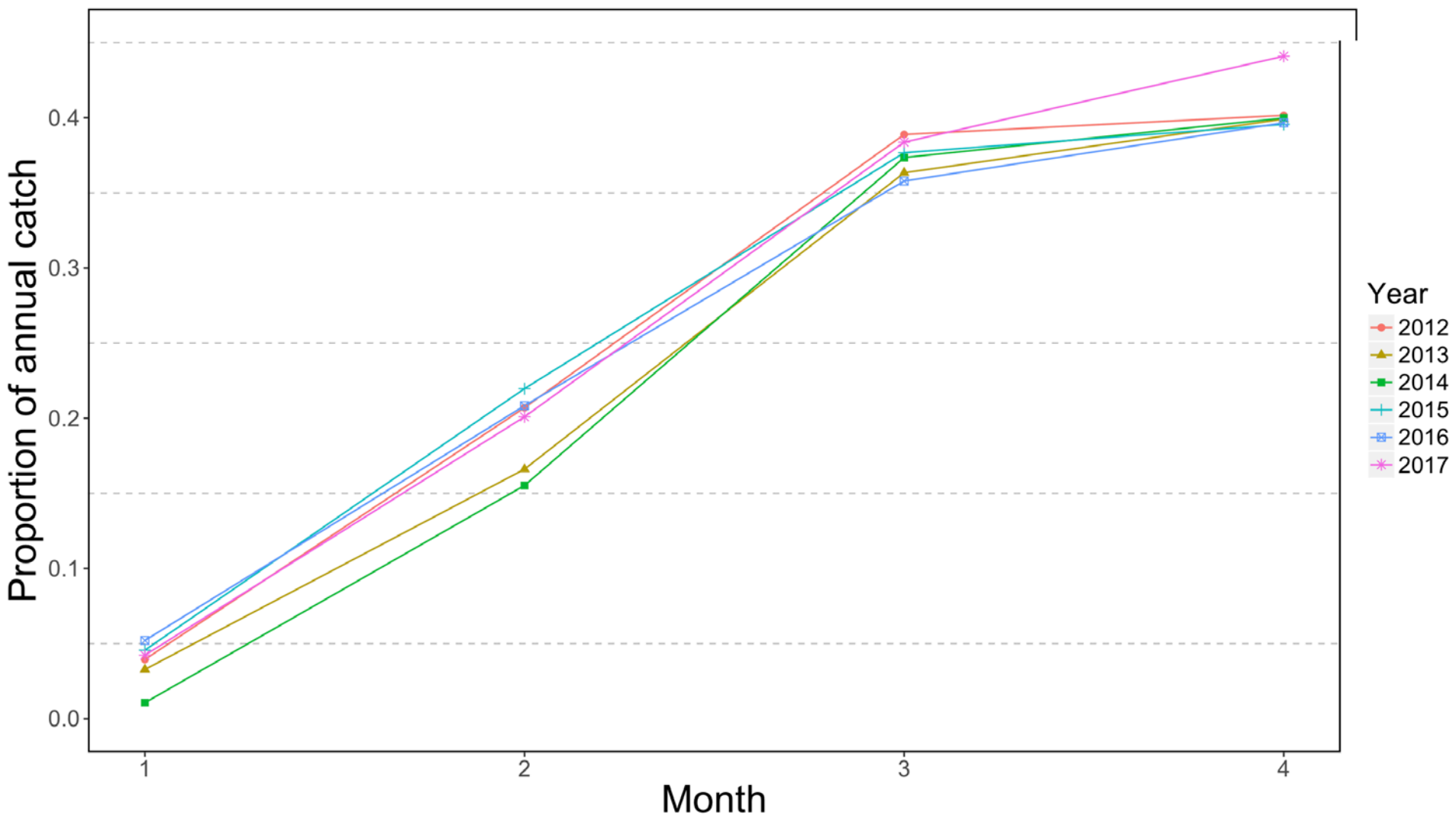
B-season...updated



# Fishing conditions

A-season...





## Sizes of pollock

Questions:

- How do sizes differ in regions and over the season?
- Where they smaller (lighter) at length than normal?



# Fishery data from scientific observers



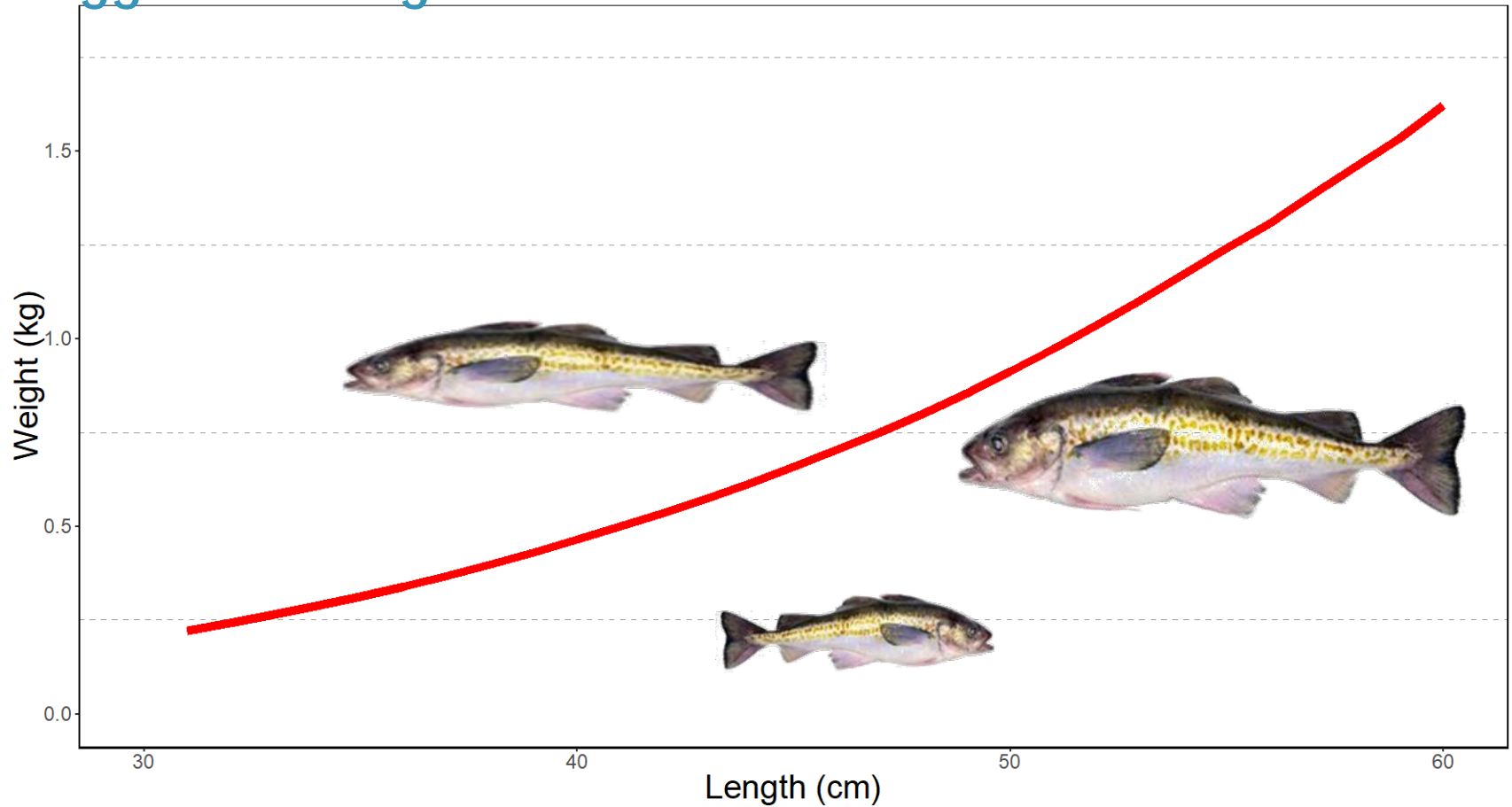
~300,000 lengths

~30,000 wts

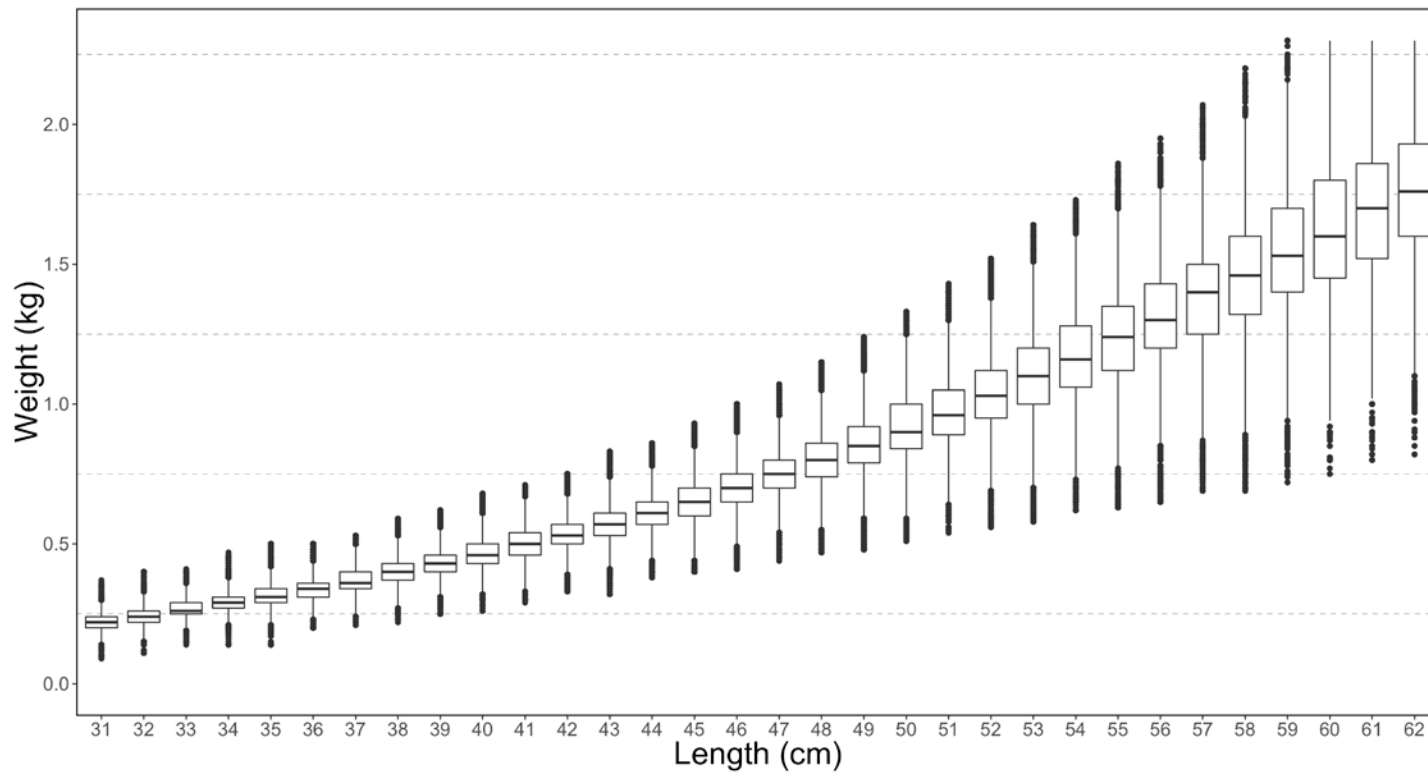
~3,000  
ages



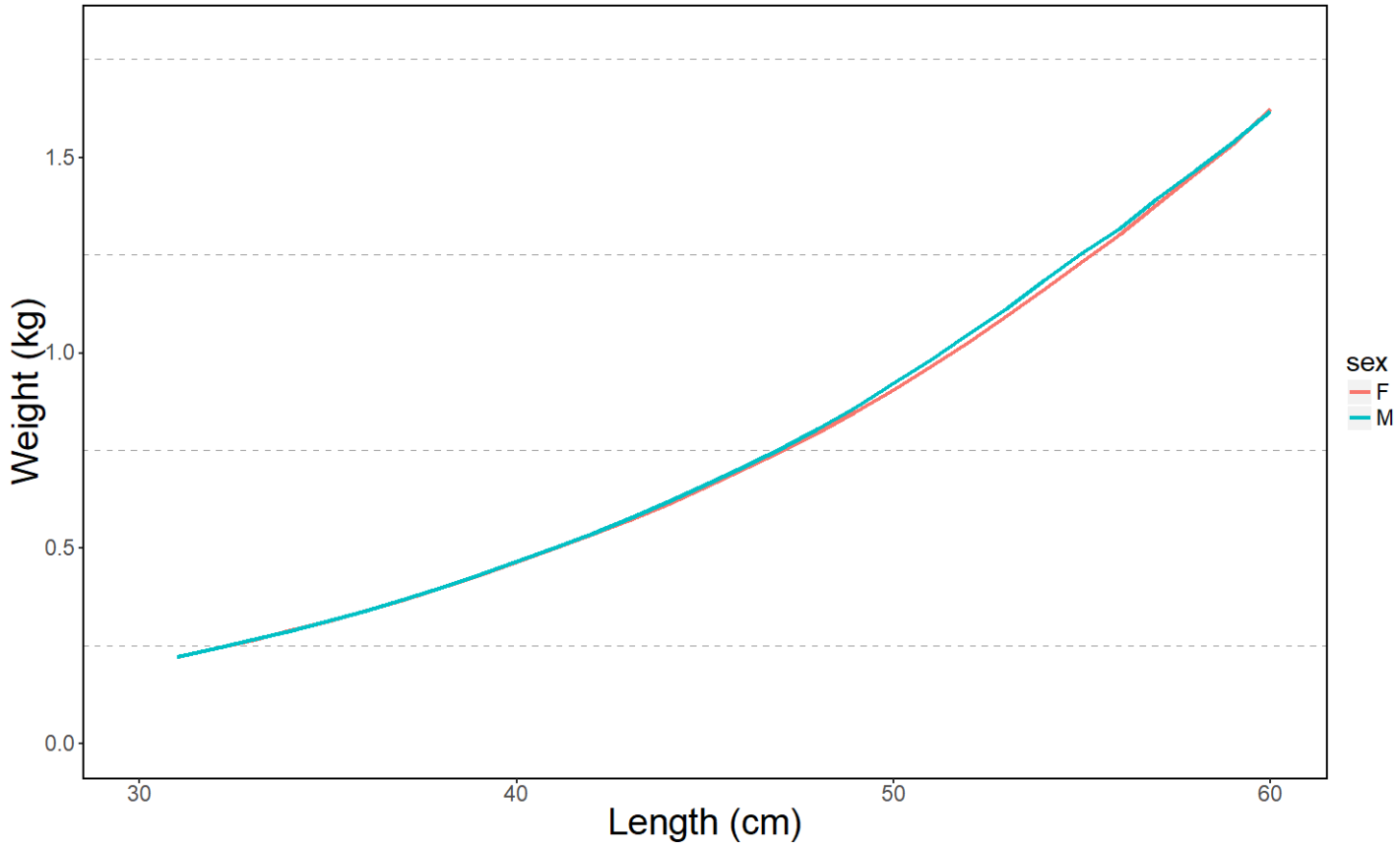
# Bigger fish weigh more....



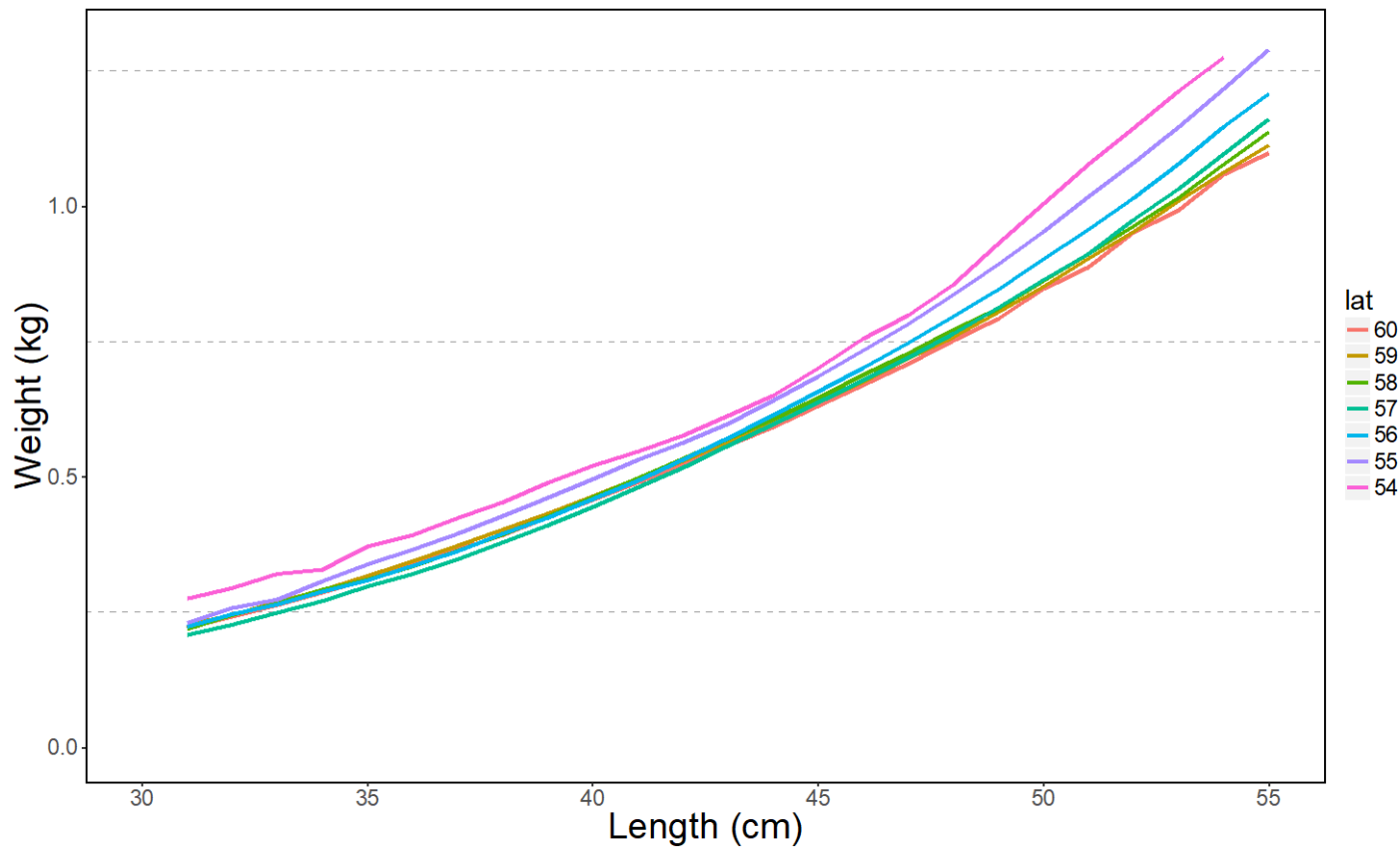
But lots of **individual** variability...



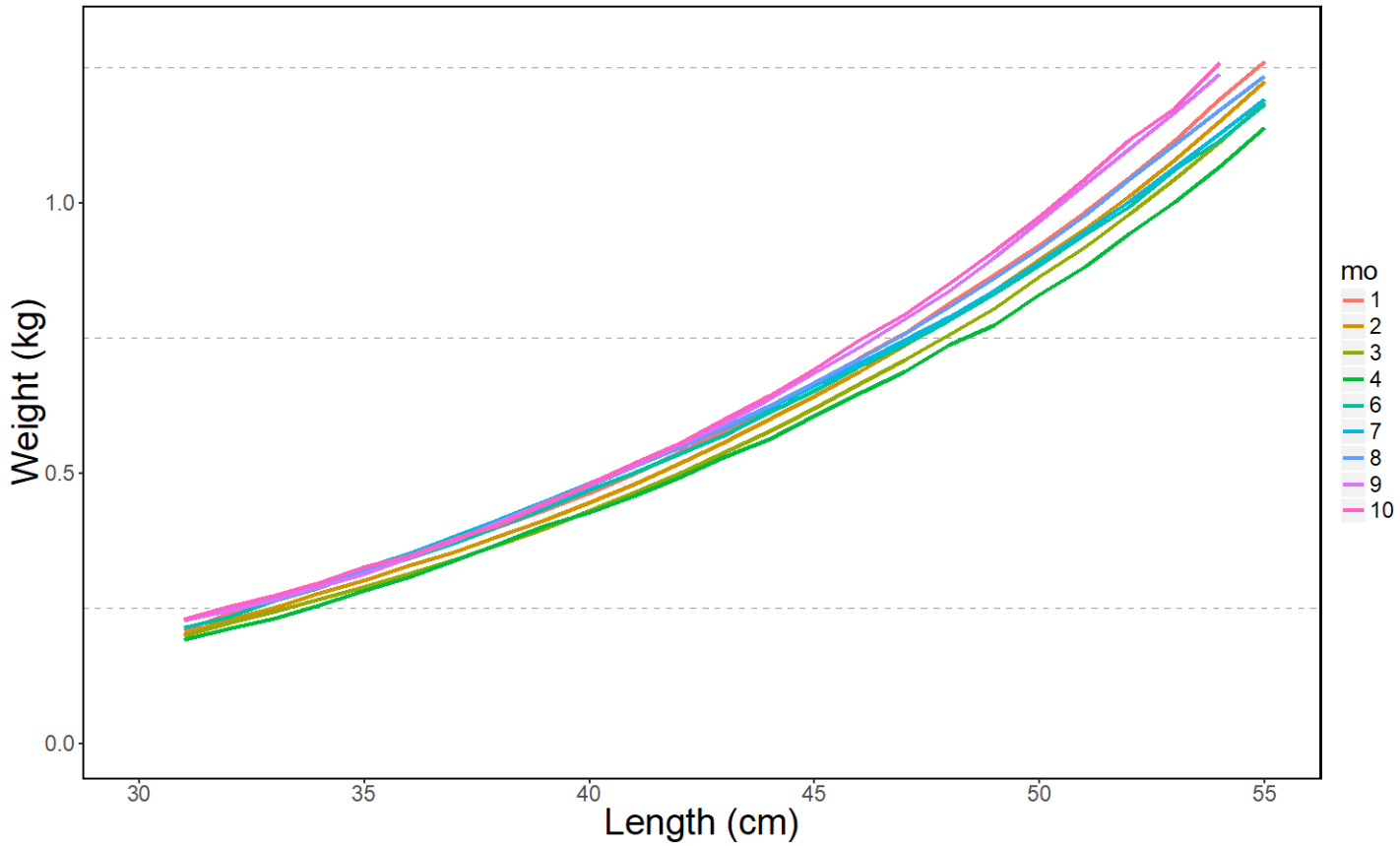
Given length, avg wt about same by **SEX**

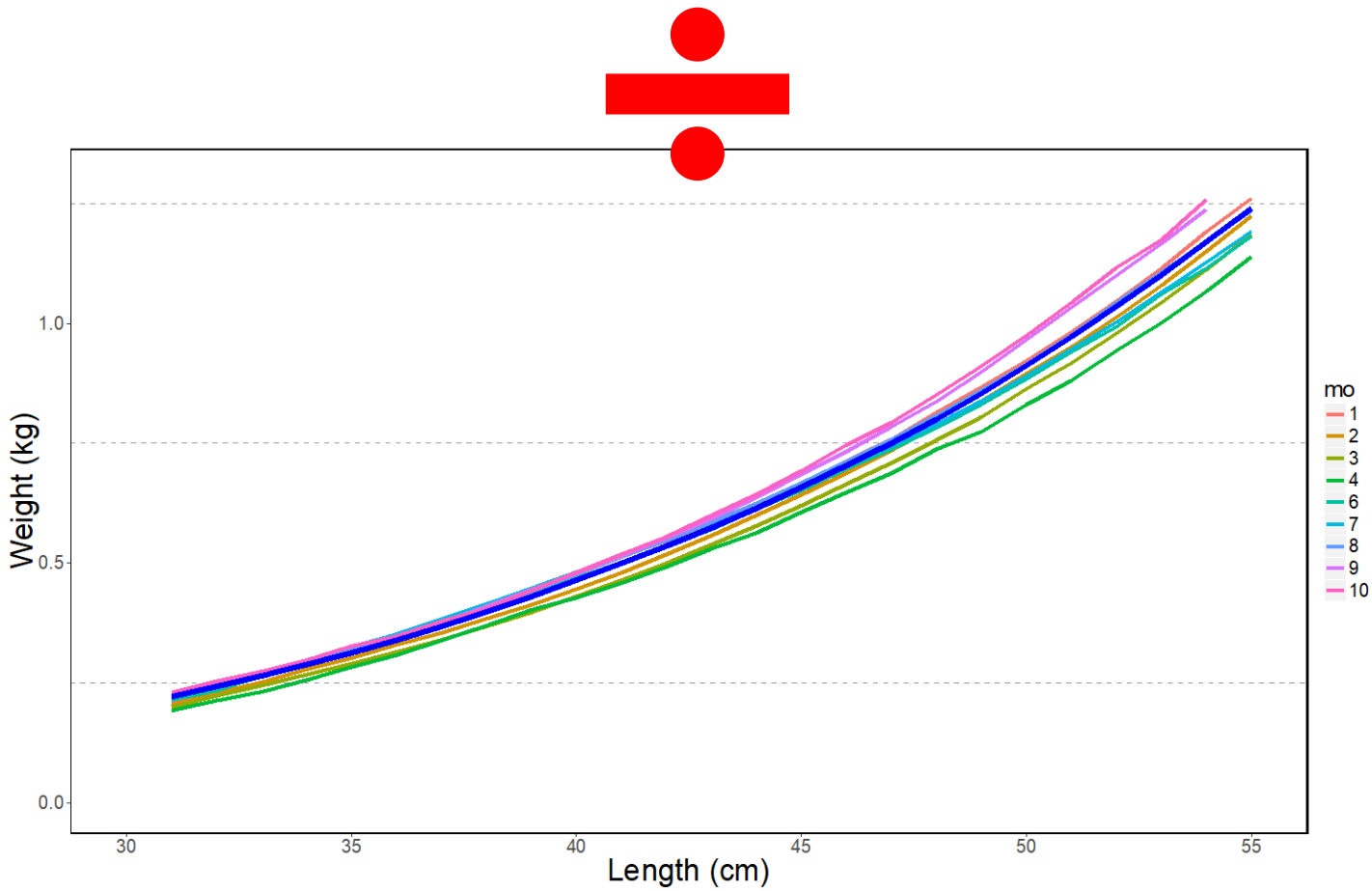


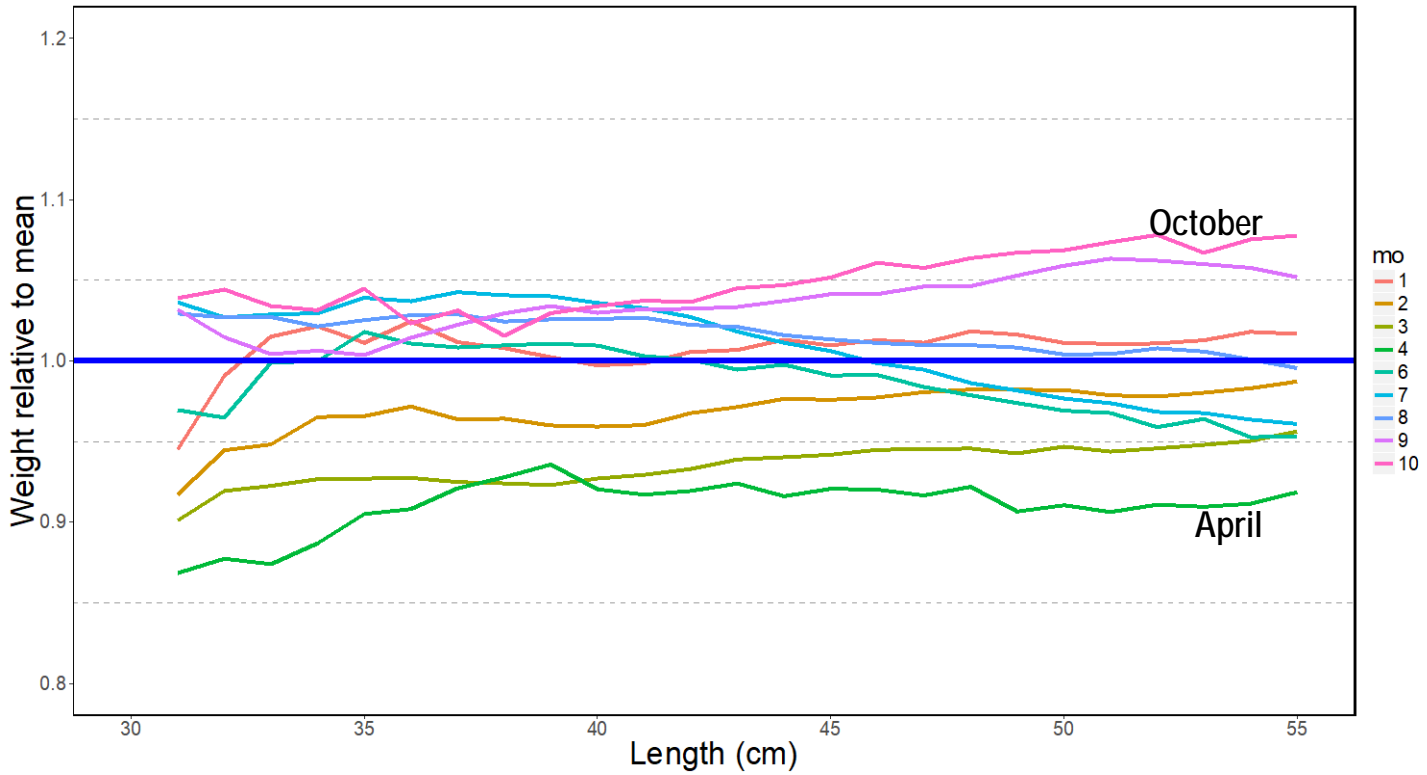
But varies by **latitude**...



And **month**...

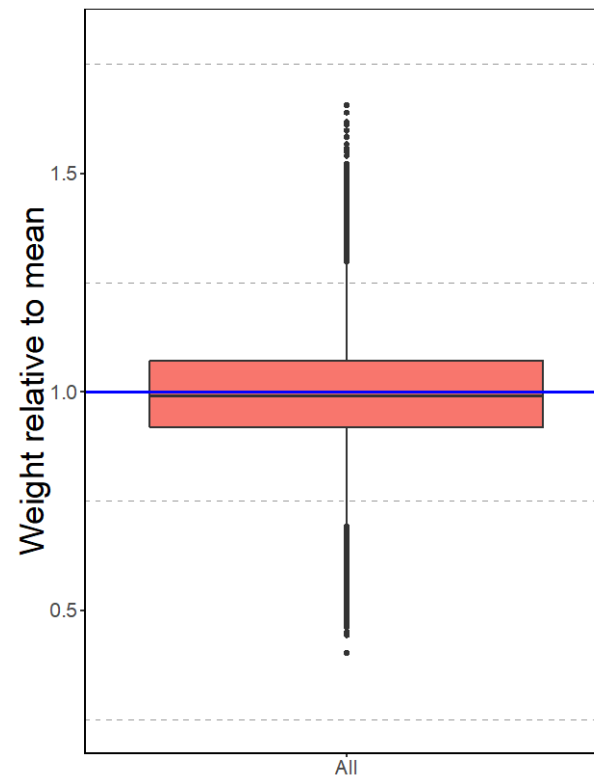




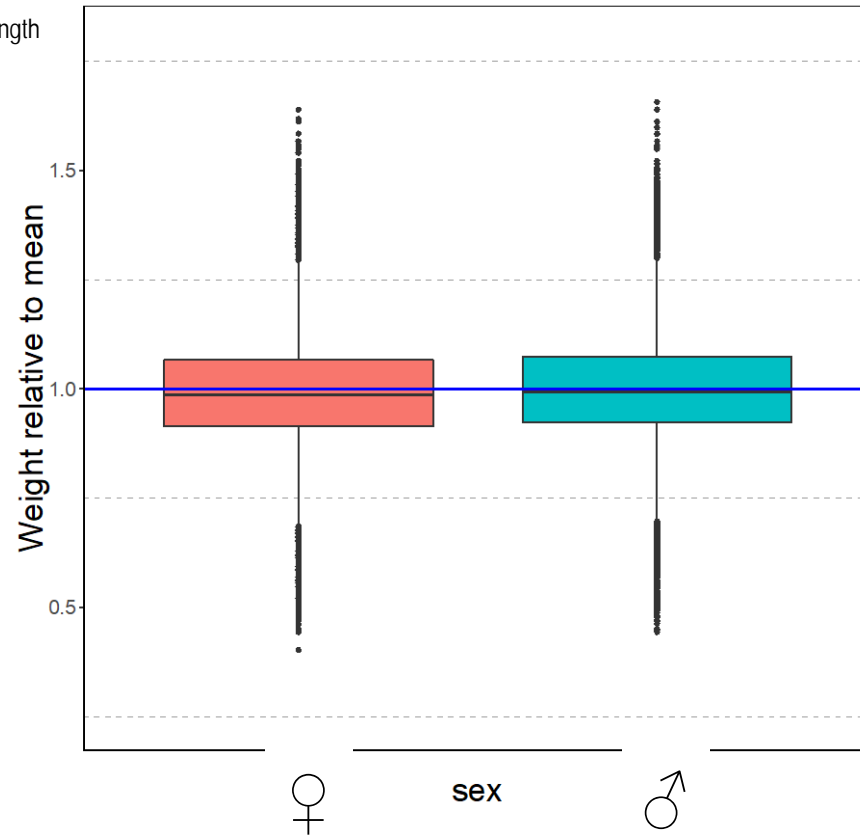


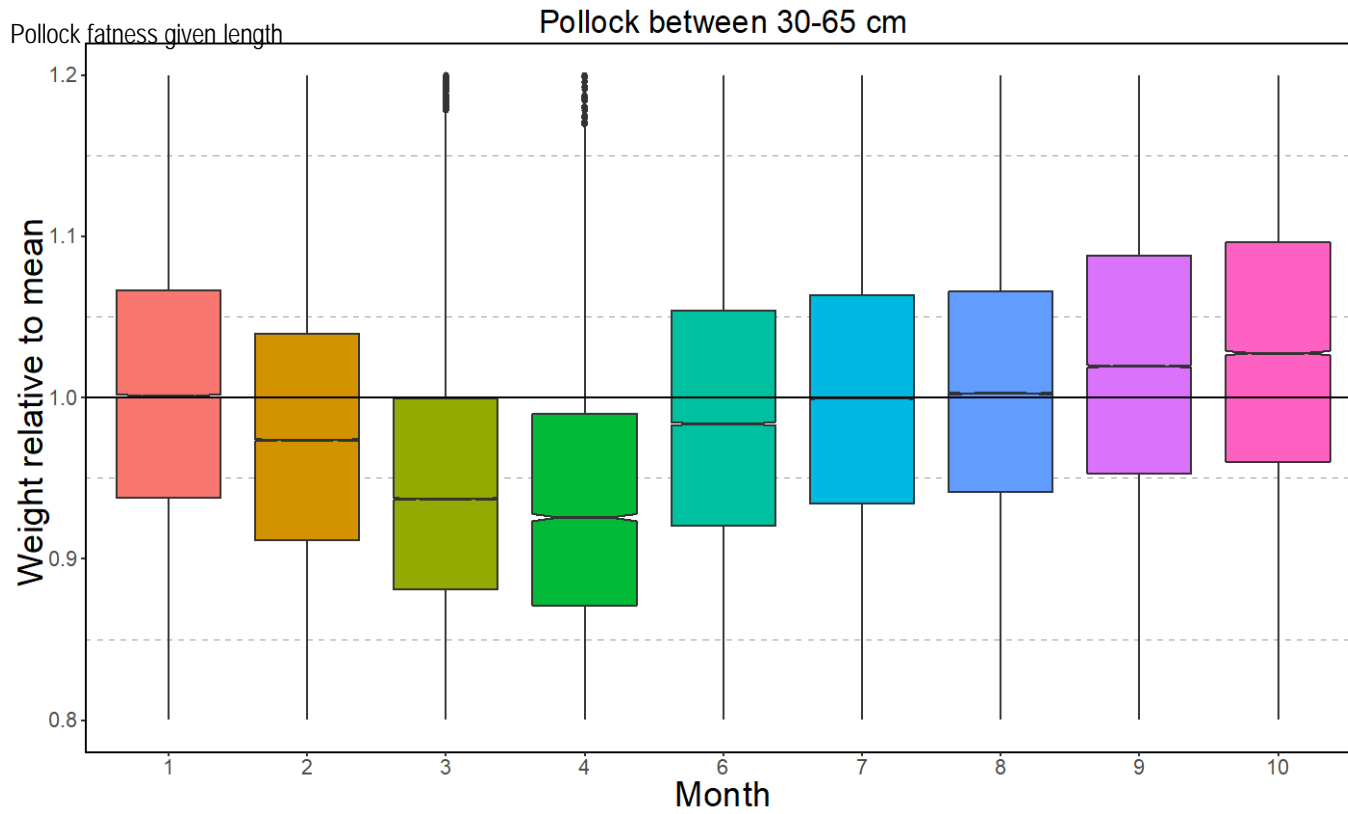


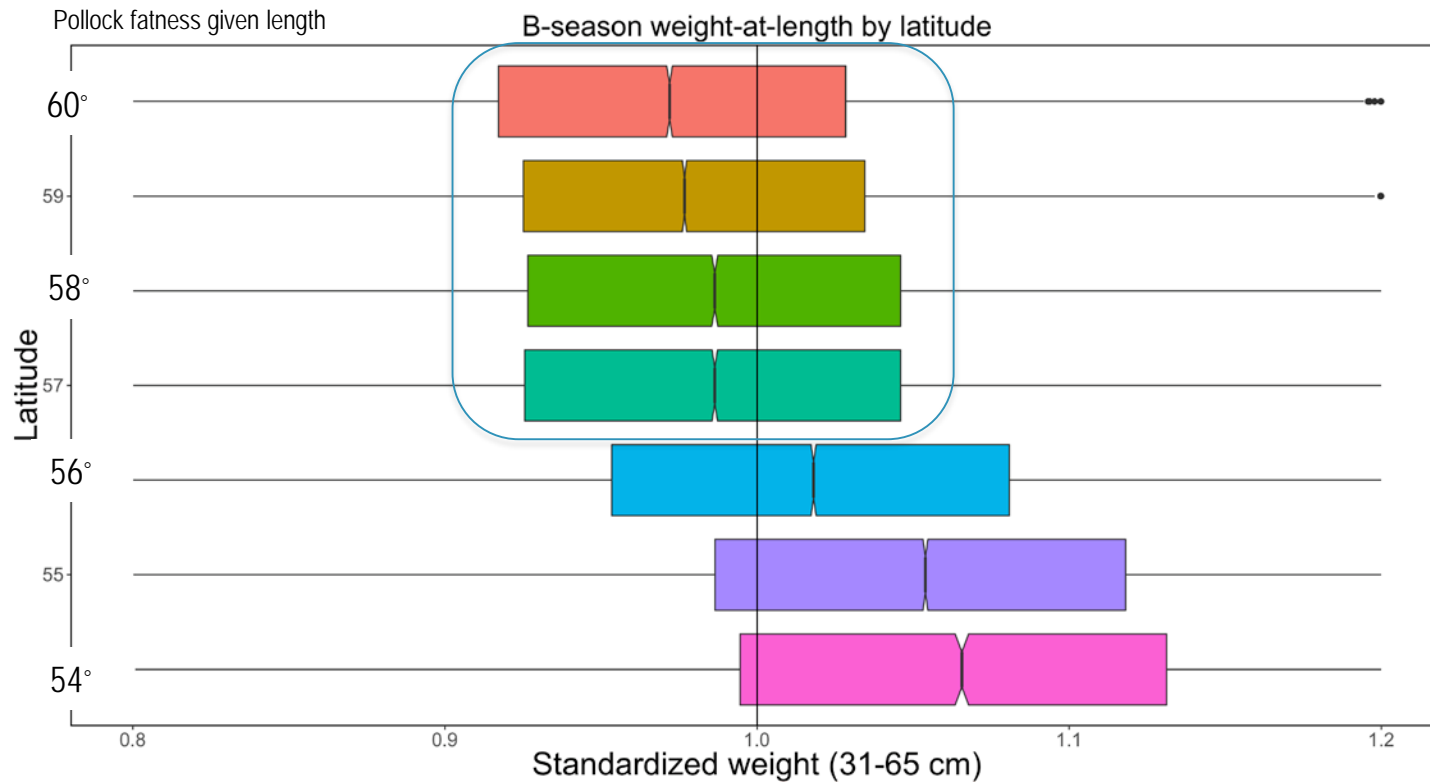
- Based on ~760 thousand lengths and weights measured by observers



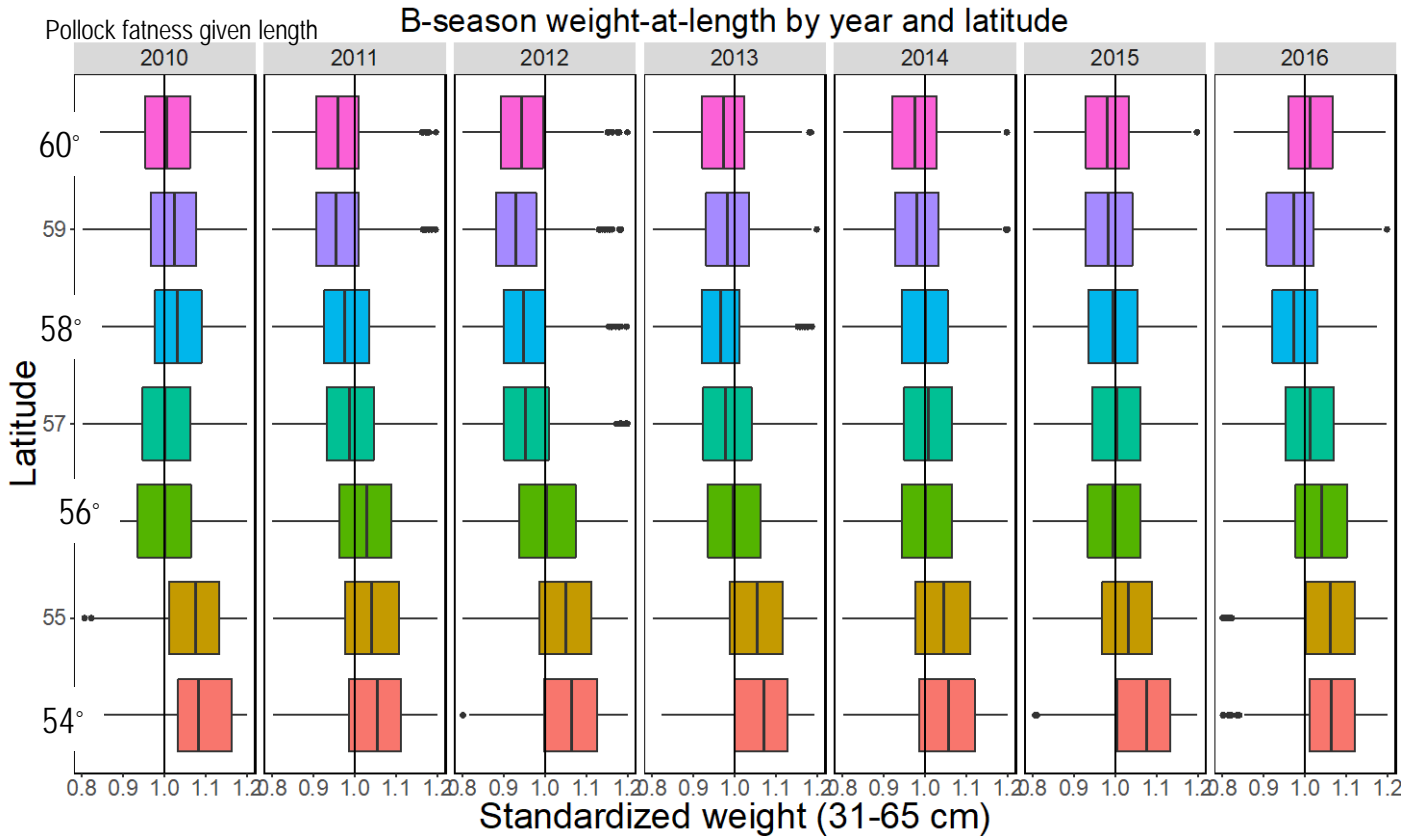
Pollock fatness given length



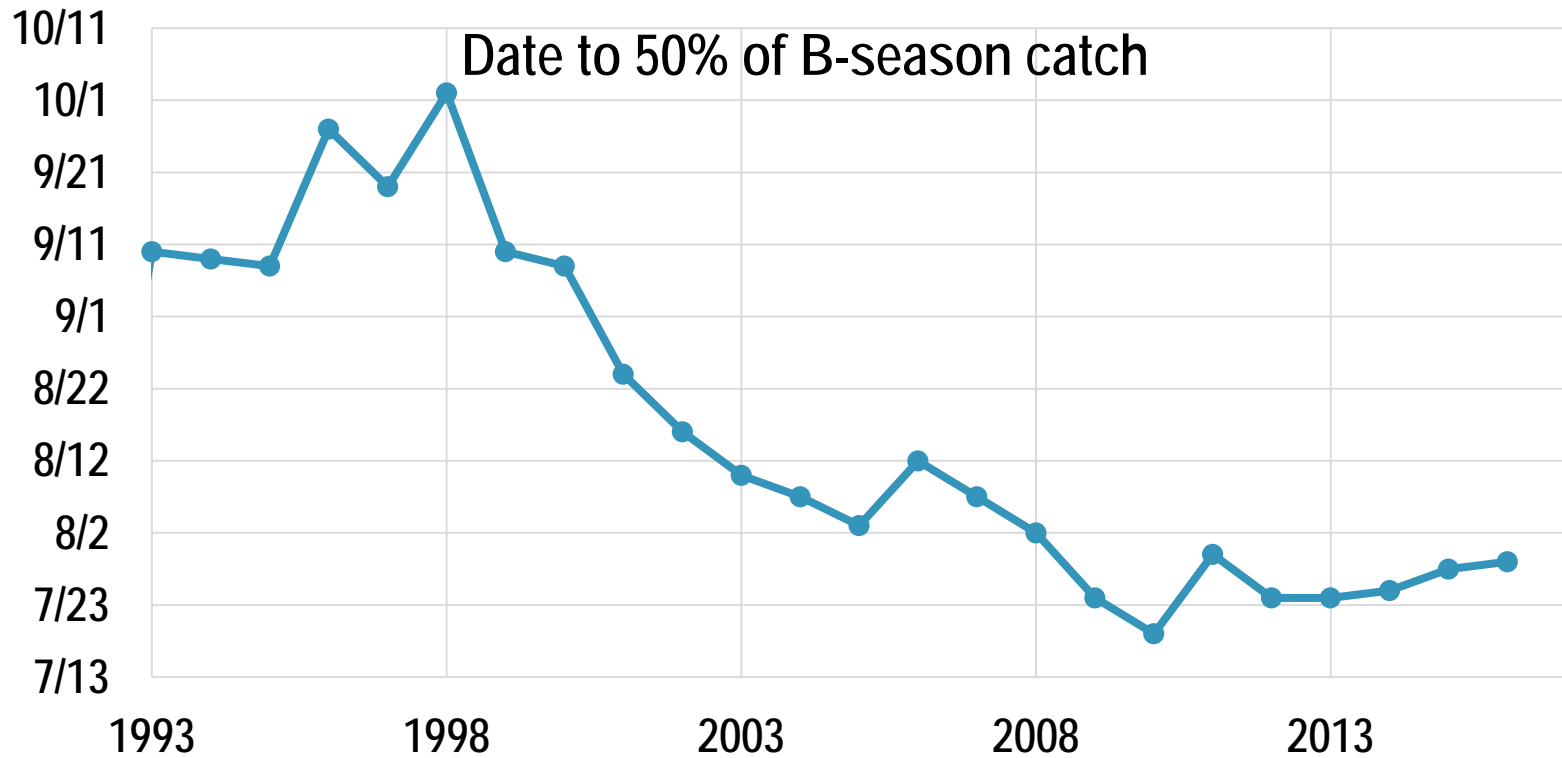




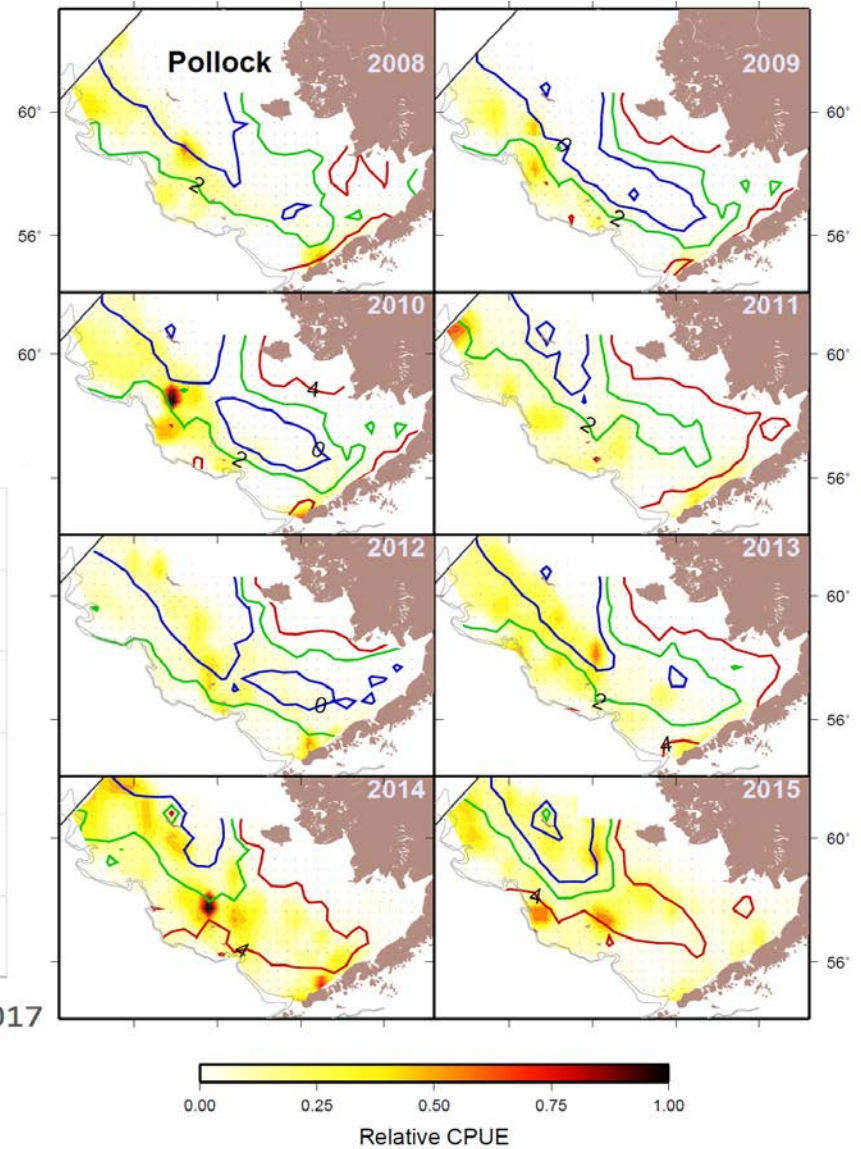
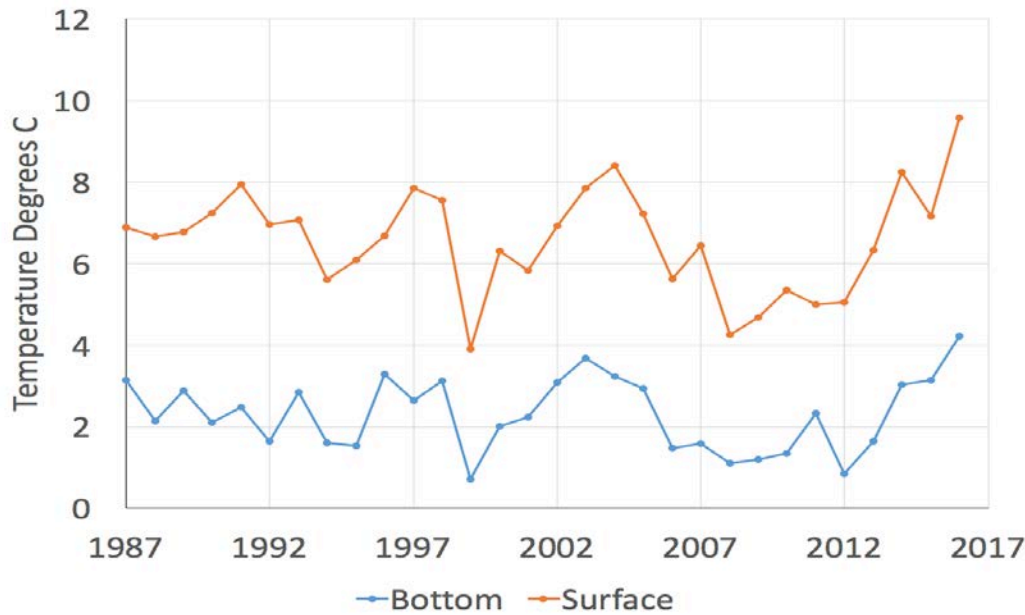
# Latitude by year

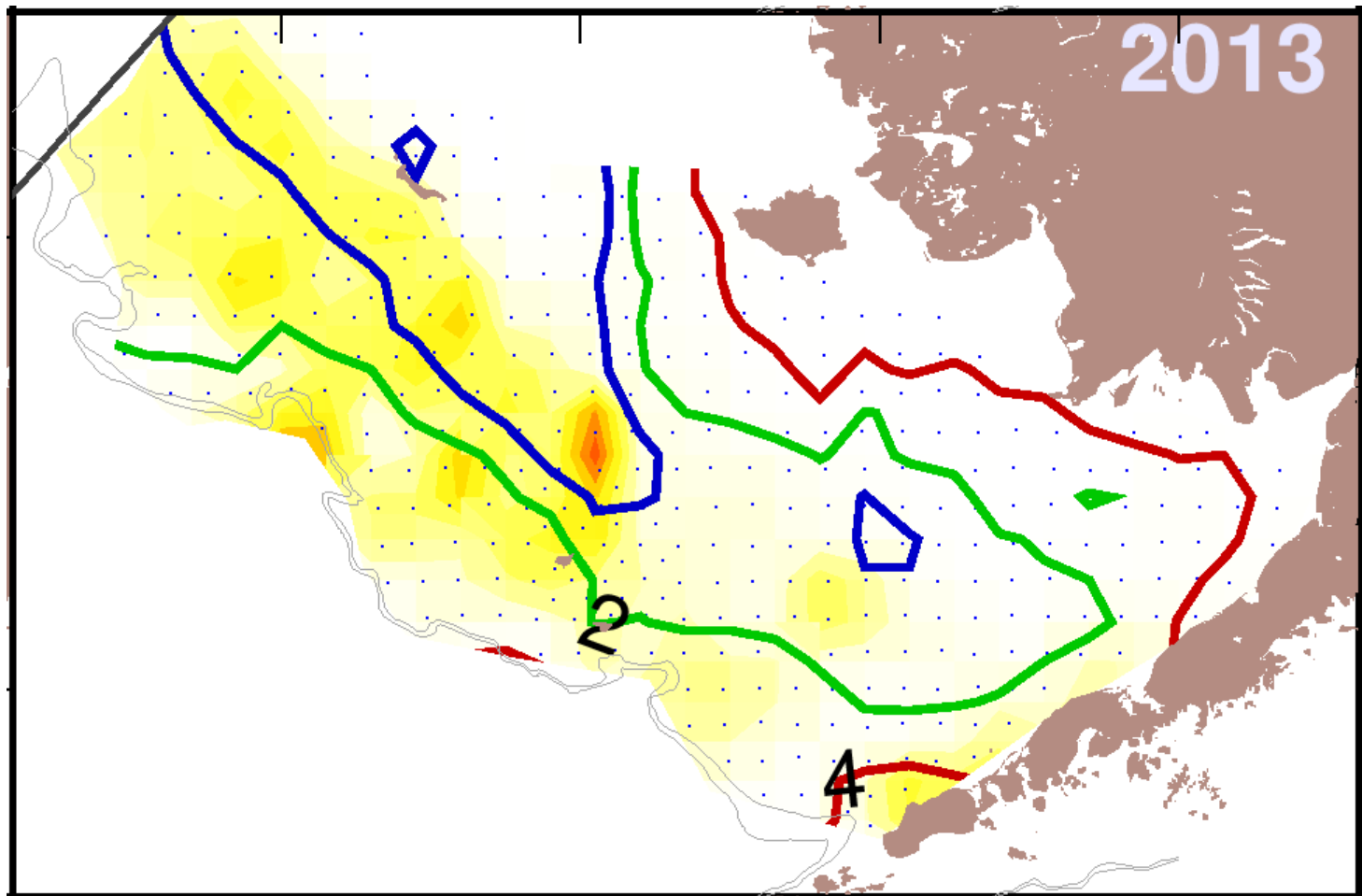


# Within season fishing patterns



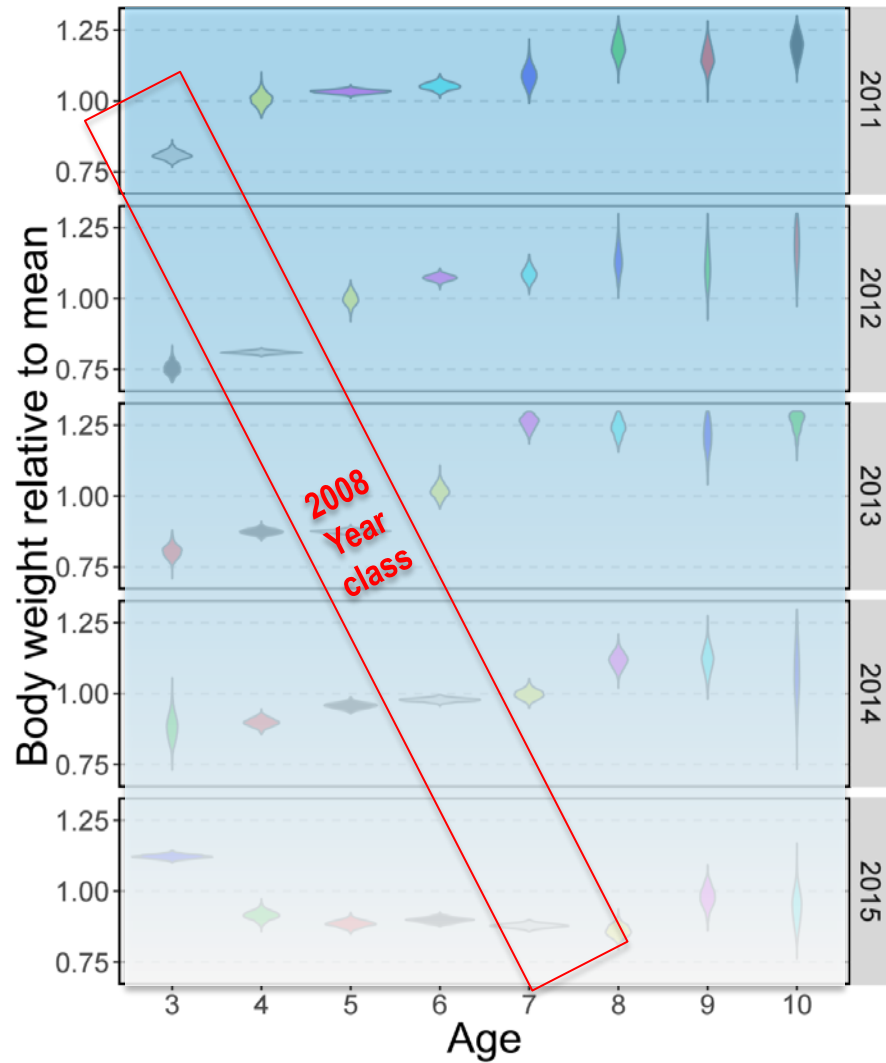
# Pollock density and environment

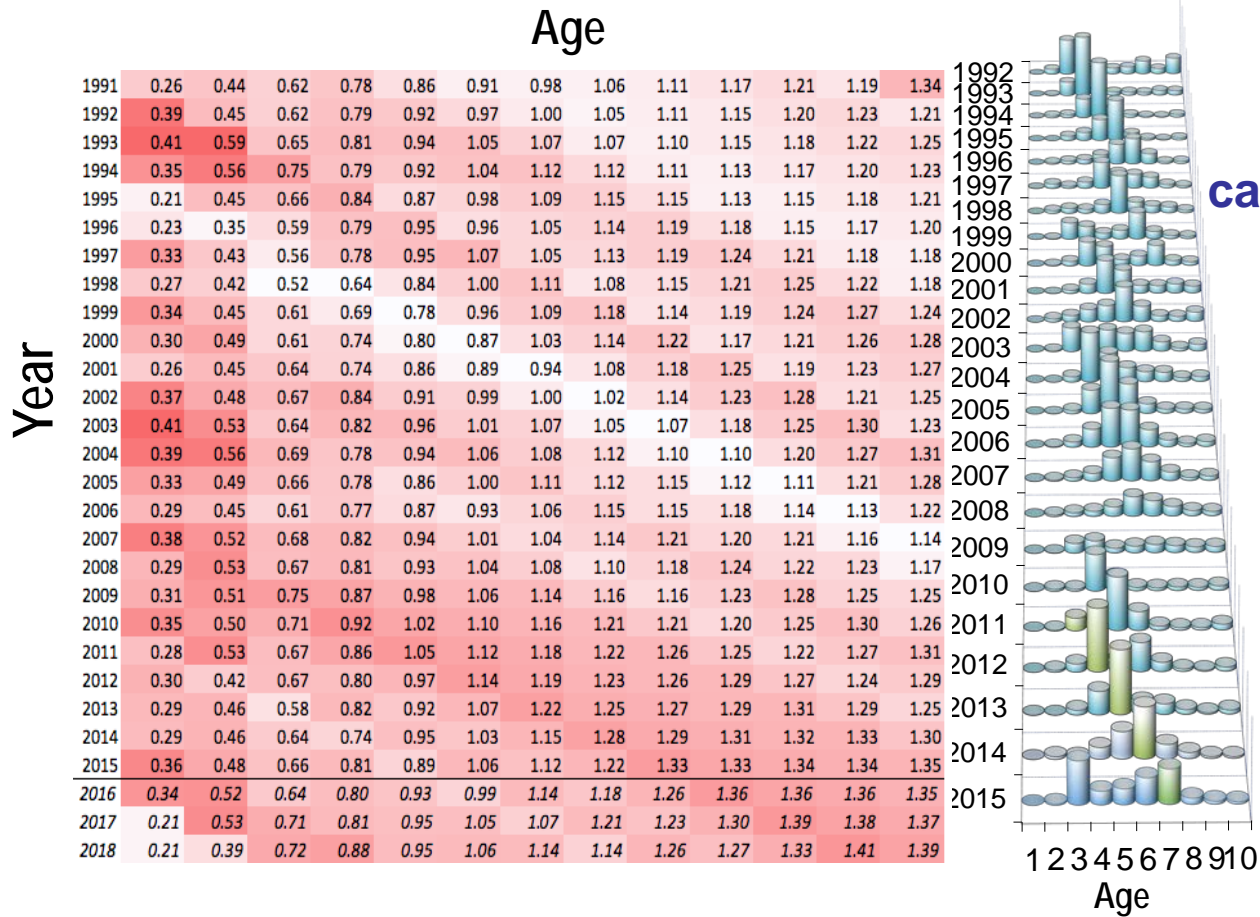




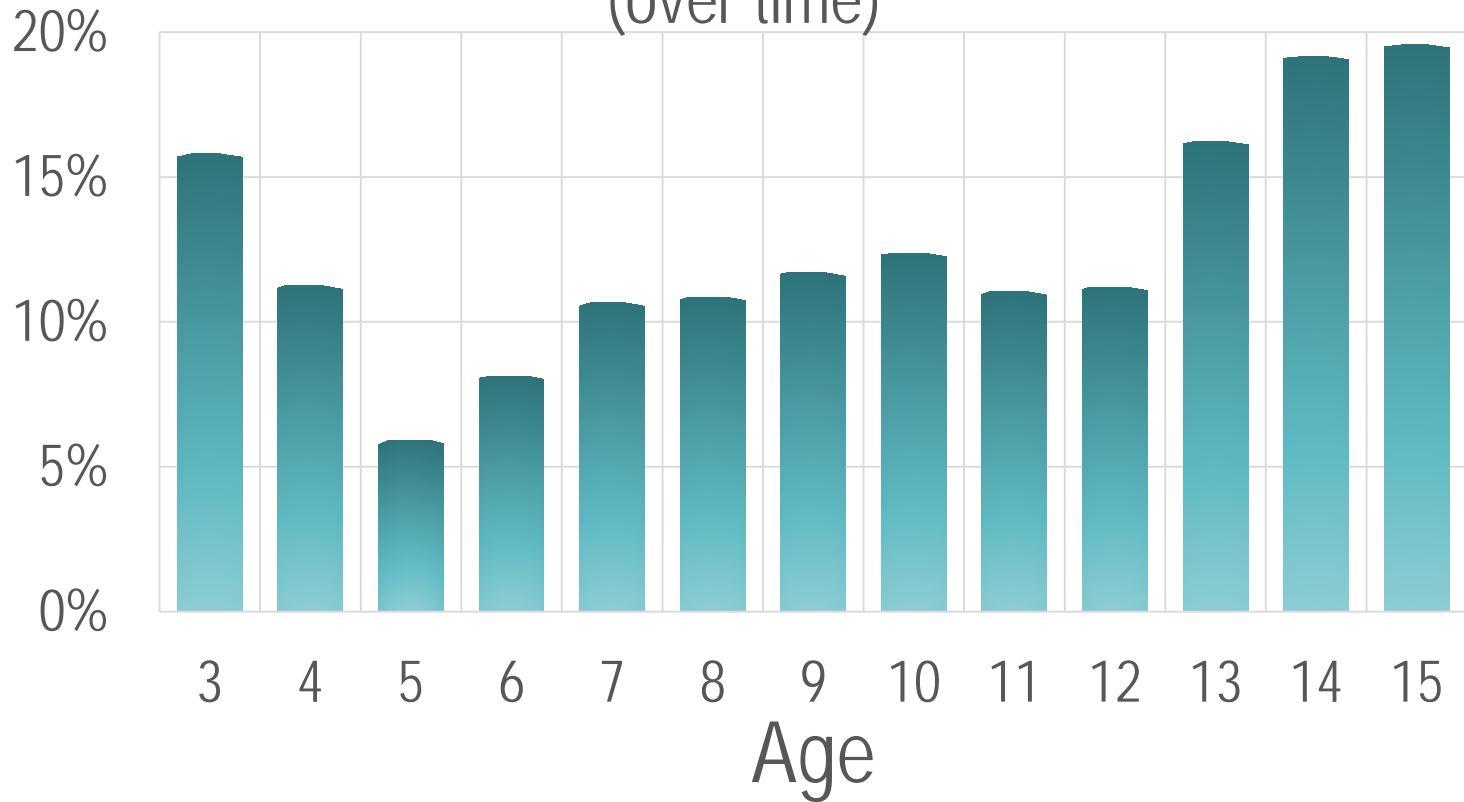


# Average weight at age anomalies

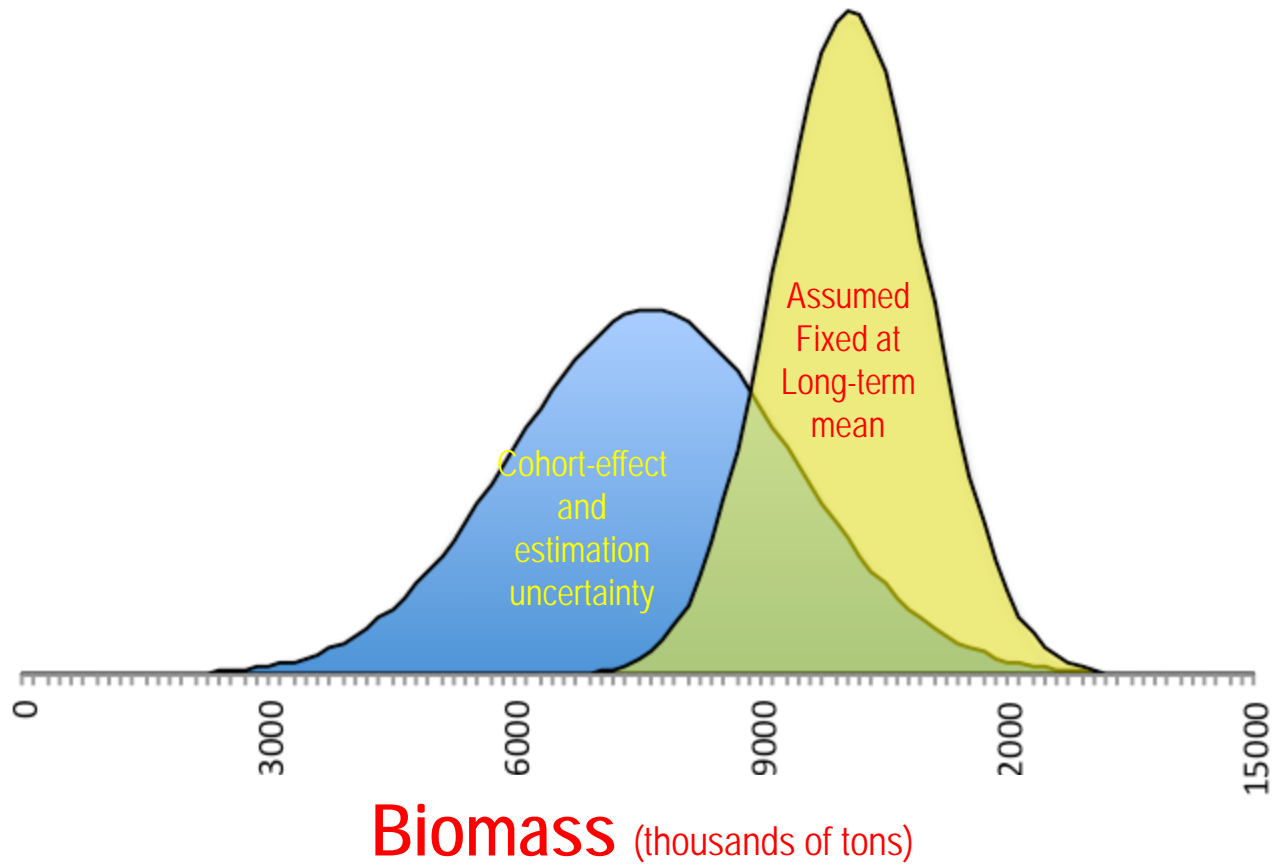




## Coefficient of variation in mean weight at age (over time)



## Impact on biomass estimate



## Procedure

1. Run a separate random effects model with observation errors for mean weights at age (from two-stage sample bootstrapping)
  - Estimate the process error variances:
    - Year and cohort effects
2. Use same estimation procedure in full assessment model
  - With weights-at-age from cohort and year effects **treated as fixed effect**
  - Uses variances from step 1



## Status of assessment activities

- New 2016 fishery wt-at-age and age composition
  - Same plan for fishery weight-age estimation
- CIE response planned for an appendix
- ACLIM work
  - Growth and recruitment for EBS pollock and some for flatfish