

## 10 Greater forkbeard (*Phycis blennoides*) in all ecoregions

### 10.1 The fishery

Greater forkbeard is as a bycatch species in the traditional demersal longline and trawl mixed fisheries targeting species such as hake, megrim, monkfish, ling, and blue ling in Subareas 6, 7, 8 and 9.

Spanish, French, Norwegian and UK trawl and longline are the main fleets involved in this fishery. Since 2009, 67% of landings have come from Subareas 6 and 7. Although it is not a large economic species in the all Northeast Atlantic, however, is locally important for certain fleets (LLS and OTB) fishing in subareas 6 and 7 with base port mainly in the North West of Spain and in France. The Irish mixed deep-water fishery around Porcupine Bank historically landed important quantities of this species but since 2006 the landings of this country have been reduced strongly. Many countries are involved in the fishery in subareas 1, 2, 3, and 4 that accounted the 16% of total landings since 2009, but most of the landings are traditionally reported by the Norwegian fleets. Russian, Swedish, Faroese and the Icelandic fisheries in the Northeast Atlantic (Division 5b) land small and occasional quantities of greater forkbeard as bycatch of the trawler fleet targeting roundnose grenadier, tusk and ling on Hatton and Rockall Banks.

A further 13.6% of landings in this period come from the French and Spanish trawl and longline fleets in Subareas 8 and 9 (mainly from 8). In Subarea 9 since 2001 small amounts of *Phycis* spp (probably *Phycis phycis*) have been landed in ports of the Strait of Gibraltar by the longliner fleet targeting scabbardfish in Algeciras, Barbate and Conil. Portuguese landings of *P. blennoides* are scarce, but important amounts of *Phycis* spp and *Phycis* species are reported every year in Subarea 9. Portuguese landings of *P. blennoides* present a marked seasonal pattern, being particularly higher between March and July. Reasons for this marked seasonality are unknown, but may be related to abundance variations of this species or to seasonality patterns in other fisheries where this species is taken as bycatch (Lagarto *et al.*, 2016).

Minor quantities of *Phycis blennoides* are landed in Subarea 10 and divisions 5.a and 5.b. In subarea 12 there are not reported landings since 2012. In Subarea 10, the Azores deep-water fishery is a multispecies and multigear fishery dominated by the main target species *Pagellus bogaraveo*. Target species can change seasonally according to abundance and market prices, but *P. blennoides*, representing 0.5% of total deep-water landings in the last five years (2016-2020), can be considered as bycatch.

### 10.2 Landings trends

Tables 10.0a–i and Figure 10.1 show landings of greater forkbeard by country and subarea.

In Subareas 1, 2, 3 and 4 only Norwegian landings are significant reaching 229 t in 2020 in these combined subareas. The Norwegian longliners which fish in these areas catch *P. blennoides* as a bycatch in the ling fishery. The quantity of this bycatch depends on market price. After eight years without *P. blennoides* records, in 2002 the Norwegian fleet reported 315 t in Subareas 1 and 2 and 561 t in Subareas 3 and 4, since then the landings of this country have been significant but lower than in 2002. Denmark currently is the second country in landings and reported their first landings in subareas 3 and 4 since 2016 reaching 70 t in 2020. Historically the main landings in 5.b come from France and Norway and in 2011 and 2012 reached the highest values because

Faroese reported 310 t and 145 t respectively. Afterwards, combined landings in this subdivision dropped to lower levels because the Faroese fleet did report only 0.15 t in the period from 2013 to 2020. Landings reported in 2020 by all countries were 31 t.

Traditionally, the most important landings in 6 and 7 come from Spain, France, Norway, UK and Ireland. Historical landings decreased since the peak of 4967 t in 2000 and they are especially low in 2009 and 2010 due to the low landings reported by Spain in those years. In 2020 the international reported landings were 869 t, mainly by France (360 t) and Spain (339 t), the lowest figure since 2010.

The main landings from subareas 8 and 9 come from Spanish fleets reaching on average are 285 t in the last ten years. In 2010 landings were the lowest of the series mainly due to the reduction of landings reported by Spain. Landings reported in 2020 by all countries were 281 t.

Historically in Subarea 10 landings come only from Portugal (although France reported 0.2 t in 2014) . After the peaks to 136 t in 1994 and 91 t in 2000 the average in this Subarea in the last ten years is 7 t. In 2017 for first time this country did not report any landing but in 2018 reached 14 t. In 2014 for first time France reported 0.2 t in this subarea. Landings reported in 2019 and 2020 by all countries were 0 t.

Although since 1991 several countries were involved in the fishery in Subarea 12 only Spain reported significant landings in the period 2002–2009, and from 2013 onwards no country reported landings in this subarea.

### 10.3 ICES Advice

For 2019 and 2020 ICES advised on “the basis of the precautionary approach that landings should be no more than 1346 tonnes”.

### 10.4 Management

According to the Council Regulation (EU) 2018/2025, the TACs for greater forkbeard in all ICES subareas was no longer be set for 2019 and 2020. The ICES advice establishes that the absence of TACs would result in no or a low risk of unsustainable exploitation. Landings in subareas 1, 2, 3 and 4 include Norwegian landings.

PHYCIS BLENNOIDES	EU TAC	TOTAL INTERNATIONAL LANDINGS	
Subarea	2019-2020	2019	2020
1, 2, 3, 4	no TAC	376	305
5, 6, 7	no TAC	1260	900
8, 9	no TAC	214	281
10, 12	no TAC	0	0
Total	no TAC	1850	1486

## 10.5 Stock identity

ICES currently considers greater forkbeard as a single-stock for the entire ICES area. It is considered probable that the stock structure is more complex; however further studies would be required to justify change to the current assumption.

## 10.6 Data available

### 10.6.1 Landings and discard

Landings are presented in Table 10.0a–i and in Figure 10.1. Landings by fishing gear in 2020 are shown in Table 10.1a for countries reporting landings to InterCatch, and in Table 10.1b for Norway. The available discard estimates from 2013–2020 accounted 36%, 34%, 49%, 25%, 25%, 13% 17 and 15% of the total catches respectively (Table 10.2a and 10.2b). In 2020 the main reported discards come from subareas 7 (65%), 6 and 8 (12%), and 4 (11 %). Discards estimates in the first years of the series should be considered with caution because (i) not all countries report discards (ii) the method for estimating discards may not have been the same in all years. Nevertheless, in recent years (2015 onwards) discards of the most important countries involved in the fishery (except Norway) are reported in InterCatch.

Series of Effort data (kWd) since 2014 of the Spanish, French, Swedish, German, Netherlands, UK (Scotland) and Irish fleets (OTB, LLS and GTR) have been provided by subarea (Figure 10.2b). The effort for a given year is calculated as the sum of kWd of those fleets/countries reported information in InterCatch. As greater forkbeard is a bycatch for many of the fleets, reporting catches the presented effort could not be representative specifically for this species.

A standardized CPUE was developed for reference fleet within the polyvalent Portuguese fleet, based on fishery dependent data collected from commercial landings for the period 2009–2020, particularly the landed weight (in Kg) by fishing trip. A fishing trip is defined from the moment the vessel leaves the dock to when it returns to the dock (Table 10.3). The standardized CPUE series, based on commercial data, suggest that the status of the greater forkbeard population inhabiting the Portuguese continental waters in recent years has been stable (Farias et al., 2021).

### 10.6.2 Length compositions

Figure 10.2a shows the available length frequencies of commercial fleets and indicates that discards in 2015 affected specially individuals smaller than 17 cm of which 100% were discarded. In 2016 and 2017 the length range of discarded greater forkbeard increased affecting in high proportion also individuals smaller than 36 cm and 45 cm respectively, but in 2018 the size of the individual discarded took place in the range from 8 to 33 cm, in 2019 and 2020 the situation is similar to 2016 and mostly of the discarded individuals are smaller than 33 cm. Figures 10.3, 10.4, 10.5, and 10.6a present the length–frequency distributions of Spanish Groundfish Survey in the Porcupine bank, Northern Spanish Shelf bottom-trawl, French IBTS until 2020, and Portuguese Crustacean Surveys/*Nephrops* TV Surveys (PT-CTS (UWTV (FU 28–29) until 2018.

### 10.6.3 Age compositions

Data of age proportion of the commercial Spanish fleets were provided in WGDEEP in 2020 for subareas 7, 8 and Division 9.a since 2011. The series show that most of greater forkbeard belongs

to the age 1 in all subareas, although in 2019 individuals of age 2 reached 50% of the total and in 2016 61% in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a (Figure 10.6b).

#### 10.6.4 Weight-at-age

This year the accumulated mean weight-at-length of the international commercial landings and discards reported to InterCatch from 2016 to 2020 was presented (Figure 10.7). The weight of discarded greater forkbeard in 2016, 2018 and 2019 were quite lower than landings weight since overall the fleets discard the smallest individuals (see Figure 10.2a)

#### 10.6.5 Maturity and natural mortality

New information was provided for the Spanish Data Call to the WG in 2021:

	Value	Reference	Comments
$L_{mat}$ males	27.5	CV= 2%	n=388; year= 2018+2019+2020; Males
$L_{mat}$ females	47.2	CV= 3.3%	n=1025; year= 2018+2019+2020; Females
$L_{inf}$	111.1	CV=11%	n=1076; year= 2018+2019+2020; Both sex
K	0.13	CV=15%	n=1075; year= 2018+2019+2020; Both sex

#### 10.6.6 Catch, effort and research vessel data

In 2021 the following surveys covering the continental slope of 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9.a have been included in the analysis of biomass and abundance indices (Figure 10.8):

- Spanish Groundfish Survey in the Porcupine bank (SP-PorcGFS) in Divisions 7.c and 7.k. Biomass and abundance of greater forkbeard from 2001 to 2020 are presented in Figure 10.9.
- French EVHOE IBTS (FR-EVHOE) in Divisions 7.f, g, h, j; and 8.a,b,d. Abundance and biomass raised to the total subarea have been provided for a series from 1997 to 2020. This survey did not take place in 2017. (Figure 10.10).
- Irish Groundfish survey (IGFS) in Divisions 6.a South and 7.b. Abundance and biomass Indices (n° per hour and kg per hour) from the period 2005 to 2020. This survey provides abundance indices for the total catches and for individuals <32 cm by shelf and slope strata (Figure 10.11).
- Northern Spanish Shelf bottom-trawl survey (SP-NGFS) in Divisions 9.a and 8.c. Biomass and abundance (kg/30 min tow and No/30 min tow) of greater forkbeard in the Cantabrian Sea from 1983 to 2020 are presented in Figure 10.12.
- North Sea IBTS survey (NS-IBTS) in Divisions 4.abc, 3.a and 3.c. Abundance in number per hour from 1976 to 2020 is presented in Figure 10.13.
- Scottish Western Coast Groundfish IBTS survey (SWC-IBTS) in Divisions 5.b, 6.ab, 7.ab. No new information is available since 2014 onwards. Abundance in number per hour from 1986 to 2014 is presented in Figure 10.14.
- Scottish Deep-water trawler survey in Divisions 6.a. Biomass and abundance of greater forkbeard from 1998 to 2020 are presented in Figure 10.15. As it is a biennial since 2014 this survey did not take place in 2016 and 2018.

- Portuguese crustacean surveys/*Nephrops* TV Survey (PT-CTS (UWTV (FU 28–29) in Division 9.a South, Biomass in kg per hour from 1997 to 2018 is presented in Figure 10.16. This survey did not take place since 2019.

## 10.7 Data analyses

In the Spanish Groundfish Survey in the Porcupine bank the biomass and abundance of *P. blennoides* followed the pattern observed last year, but they increased slightly in this last survey, although the values still remain among the lowest in the time series (Figure 10.9). Biomass patches were widely found in the south, west and east area, but scarcely in the north, as in previous years (Figure 10.17). A small mode is seen at 20 cm and two more abundant at 31 cm and 40 cm (Figure 10.3) (Fernández-Zapico *et al.* 2021).

The EVHOE IBTS survey in Divisions 7.f,g,h,j and 8.a,b,d abundance shows no clear trend in the series, but has also peaks in 2002, 2007 and 2012. An important decrease was also observed since this year until 2016. In 2018 and 2019 a slight recovery but the biomass decreases again in 2020. The historical series indicates an increase in biomass since 1996, with peaks in 2004, 2007 and 2012 and a decrease from 2013 to 2015 and increases again until 2019. However, landings have decreased from 2012 onwards since the most important peak was in 2011. (Figure 10.10). The mean length has increased since the beginning of the series reaching the highest value in 2005, 2016 and 2020 (Figure 10.5).

Irish GFS indicates an increase in the abundance (No/hour) and biomass (Kg/hour) from 2009 to 2012 and 2013 respectively. From these years onwards a decrease in both parameters is shown to 2017 that is the lowest value of the series. In 2018 a slight recovery in biomass is recorded compared with values in 2017 but in 2019 and 2020 the trend decreased again (Figure 10.11).

In Northern Spanish Shelf bottom-trawl survey in 2020, 41% of the hauls where *P. blennoides* was found were additional hauls deeper than 500 m and contained 77% of the biomass. This last year the biomass in standard hauls remained low similarly to the values of the three previous years whereas the biomass in additional deep hauls remained being high, after the increase in 2019 (**Error! Reference source not found.**). The geographical distribution of *P. blennoides* remained similar to previous years, being widespread in the sampling area (Figure 10. 18). The length distribution in standard hauls remained showing low abundances per size and even fewer small (13-19 cm) and large (24-45 cm) specimens than in 2019. The largest individuals which ranged from 26 cm to 65 cm were found in the additional deeper hauls, although specimens around 35 cm were more abundant (**Error! Reference source not found.**10.4) (Ruiz-Pico *et al.*, 2021).

The NS-IBTS shows an increase on abundance since 1976 although the average abundance recorded until 2010 (3.1 individuals/hour) was lower than 2011 onwards (22.0 individuals/hour). The abundance recorded in 2012 (40.2 individuals/hour) is the most important of the series although the trend shows a decrease since this year to 2016 (Figure 10.13). In 2017 the survey recovered one of the highest abundance values hour but dropped again to 9.3 individuals/hour in 2020.

No data for 2015 and 2016 have been updated in the DATRAS system for the SWC-IBTS. The trend series of abundance until 2014 is shown in the Figure 10.14.

The Scottish Deep-water trawler survey covers a core area of the continental slope of the Rockall Trough (6.a) from between 55 to 59°N long with the slope stratified by depth at 500, 1000, 1500 and 1800 m. Historical series of biomass index show a tooth saw profile from 1998 to 2015 with a peak in 2017 of 37.2 kg/hour but dropped again in 2019 to 16.5 kg/hour . The abundance shows the same profile of the biomass with an important increase from 2011 to 2013 and also a peak in

2017 (53.6 individuals/hour). In 2019 the abundance decreased slightly to similar values found in the period from 2011 to 2013 (Figure 10.15).

In the Portuguese survey in 9.a south the series of biomass show a decrease trend since 1997 to 2004 but with significant peaks in 1999 and 2002. In recent years *P. blennoides* standardized biomass index estimates are above the overall mean, showing an increasing trend, particularly from 2013 to 2018 (a slight decrease was observed in 2017 in relation to 2016 (Moura *et al* 2019). Values biomass are in the range of 0 kg/hour to 2.33 kg/hour (Figure 10.16). In the years 2008–2010, catch rates were relatively high in all geographical areas. Length data from specimens caught during held between 1997 and 2016 support that these years were of strong recruitment, particularly the years 2007 and 2008 (Figure 10.6). The size range observed in the Portuguese continental coast, provides evidence that the species is able to complete the life cycle in this area.

Although the data provided by the surveys have increased the area covered in the ecoregion, neither the available surveys nor discard data cover yet the entire distributional stock, especially in Subareas 1 and 2.

### 10.7.1 Exploratory assessment

No analytical assessment was presented in WGDEEP 2021.

### 10.7.2 Comments on the assessment

No analytical assessment was presented in WGDEEP 2021.

## 10.8 Management considerations

As Greater Forkbeard is a bycatch species in both deep-water and shelf fisheries, advice should take account of advice for the targeted species in those fisheries. The life-history traits do not suggest it is particularly vulnerable.

In the subareas 3 and 4 the NS IBTS survey shows an increase trend since 1976, more noticeable from 2010 onwards. In the areas Subareas 6, and 7 covered by the Porcupine and Irish IGFS surveys and the indices indicate a decrease in the abundance since 2013, and in biomass since 2014. However, in the northern area of the Subarea 6 covered by the Scottish deep-water survey it is observed an important increase of the biomass in 2017 perhaps due to the high abundance recorded in 2011 to 2013. The trend in Subarea 8 indicated by the Northern Spanish Shelf bottom-trawl (Division 8c) shows a decrease in biomass and abundance since 2017, and on the contrary, the French EVHOE (in Divisions 7.f, g, h, j; and 8.a,b,d) shows an increase in biomass an abundance in 2018 and 2019 and a decrease in 2020. In Division 9.a south annual standardized biomass index of the Portuguese survey suggests an increase of biomass and abundance since 2013. The standardized indicator of the combined six survey index indicates a reduction of the 21% in the biomass in last two years (2019-2020 over the period 2016-2018).

On the other hand, landings in all ecoregions have been reduced since 2013 below the biennial TAC established for this period. In this sense, although the TAC increased in 2015 and 2016 to 2856 t landings reported have always been below, especially in 2017 in which landings were only 59% of TAC. It was supposed that the removing of the TAC for 2019 and 2020 could increase the landings (and discards) but it does not seem to have affected the decreasing trend.

Although greater forkbeard is a bycatch of the traditional demersal trawl and longline mixed fisheries, and it is only locally important for certain fleets fishing in subareas 6 and 7 with base port mainly in the North West of Spain, discards of this species are considered high. Many of the

countries involved in the fishery report data to InterCatch, and according to the information available, reported discards to catches ratio are high but have decreased from 2013 to 2020 (36%, 34%, 49%, 25%, 13%, 17% and 15%). In the same sense, the commercial length frequencies are only partially available from some countries and areas and the historical series is still short.

## 10.9 Application of MSY proxy reference points

A Stochastic Production Model in Continuous Time (SPiCT) was applied in 2017 to the GFB stock using the historical series of landings since 1998 and the standardized biomass indicator (average) from six surveys: IGFS-WIBTS-Q4, EVHOE-WIBTS-Q4F, SpGFS-WIBTS-Q4, SpGFS-WIBTS-Q4, SDS, PT-CTS (UWTV (FU 28–29) from the period 2005–2016. The model did not converge, so a new model was adjusted and the series of landings were shortened to the same period of the Index series (from 2005 to 2016), but again the estimation did not converge.

The inputs and results of the first attempt are shown in the Figures 10.19 and 10.20.

## 10.10 Tables and Figures

**Table 10.0a. Greater forkbeard (*Phycis blennoides*) in the Northeast Atlantic. Working group estimates of landings.**

YEAR	1+2	3+4	5B	6+7	8+9	10	12	TOTAL
1988	0	15	2	1898	533	29	0	2477
1989	0	12	1	1815	663	42	0	2533
1990	23	115	38	1921	814	50	0	2961
1991	39	181	53	1574	681	68	0	2596
1992	33	145	49	1640	702	91	1	2661
1993	1	34	27	1462	828	115	1	2468
1994	0	12	4	1571	742	136	3	2468
1995	0	3	9	2138	747	71	4	2972
1996	0	18	7	3590	814	45	2	4476
1997	0	7	7	2335	753	30	2	3134
1998	0	12	8	3040	1081	38	1	4180
1999	0	31	34	3455	673	41	0	4234
2000	0	11	32	4967	724	91	6	5831
2001	8	27	102	4405	727	83	8	5360
2002	318	585	149	3417	715	57	81	5321
2003	155	233	73	3287	661	45	82	4536
2004	75	143	50	2606	720	37	54	3685
2005	51	83	46	2290	519	22	77	3087

YEAR	1+2	3+4	5B	6+7	8+9	10	12	TOTAL
2006	49	139	39	2081	560	15	42	2925
2007	47	239	56	1995	586	17	37	2978
2008	117	245	45	1418	446	18	17	2307
2009	82	149	22	796	203	13	44	1309
2010	132	186	61	824	69	14	0	1287
2011	113	179	319	1257	321	11	0	2201
2012	98	199	169	1802	366	6	0	2641
2013	83	179	11	1588	275	8	0	2143
2014	97	214	24	1566	360	9	0	2269
2015	121	215	34	1471	323	10	0	2174
2016	187	273	13	1265	263	10	0	2012
2017	80	155	9	1073	186	0	0	1503
2018	60	192	12	1264	258	14	0	1801
2019	192	184	18	1242	214	0	0	1850
2020	118	187	31	869	281	0	0	1486

**Table 10.0b. Greater forkbeard (*Phycis blennoides*) in Subareas 1 and 2. Working group estimates of landings.**

YEAR	NORWAY	FRANCE	RUSSIA	UK (SCOT)	UK (EWN)	GERMANY	FAROE ISLANDS	TOTAL
1988	0							0
1989	0							0
1990	23							23
1991	39							39
1992	33							33
1993	1							1
1994	0							0
1995	0							0
1996	0							0
1997	0							0
1998	0							0



YEAR	NORWAY	FRANCE	RUSSIA	UK (SCOT)	UK (EWNI)	GERMANY	FAROE ISLANDS	TOTAL
1999	0	0						0
2000	0	0						0
2001	0	1	7					8
2002	315	0		1		2		318
2003	153	0				2		155
2004	72	0	3	0				75
2005	51	0						51
2006	46	0	3					49
2007	41	0	5	1	0			47
2008	112	0	4	1			0	117
2009	76	0	6	0				82
2010	127	4						132
2011	107	6						113
2012	98	0.4						98
2013	83	0.1		0				83
2014	96	0.4						97
2015	121							121
2016	187	0.3		0				187
2017	79	0.7		1				80
2018	60	0.1						60
2019	192	0.04						192
2020	118	0.1				0.0		118

**Table 10.0c. Greater forkbeard (*Phycis blennoides*) in Subareas 3 and 4. Working group estimates of landings.**

YEAR	FRANCE	NORWAY	UK (EWNI)	UK (SCOT) <sup>(1)</sup>	GERMANY	DENMARK	SWEDEN	NETHER- LANDS	TOTAL
1988	12	0	3	0					15
1989	12	0	0	0					12
1990	18	92	5	0					115
1991	20	161	0	0					181
1992	13	130	0	2					145
1993	6	28	0	0					34
1994	11			1					12
1995	2			1					3
1996	2	10		6					18
1997	2			5					7
1998	1		0	11					12
1999	3		5	23					31
2000	4		0	7					11
2001	6		1	19	2				27
2002	2	561	1	21	0				585
2003	1	225	0	7					233
2004	2	138		3					143
2005	2	81	0	1					83
2006	1	134	3						139
2007	1	236	0	2					239
2008	0	244		1					245
2009	4	142		3					149
2010	3	182		1					186
2011	17	160		1					179
2012	1	198							199
2013	1	178	0	0					179
2014	1	210		3					214
2015	1	213		1					215

YEAR	FRANCE	NORWAY	UK (EWNl)	UK (SCOT) <sup>(1)</sup>	GERMANY	DENMARK	SWEDEN	NETHER- LANDS	TOTAL
2016	1	267		2		3			273
2017	1	140		9		5	0		155
2018	1	150		2		37	2		192
2019	3	113		3		65	0		184
2020	3	111		2	0.1	70		0.4	187

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes Moridae, in 2005 only data from January to June.

**Table 10.0d. Greater forkbeard (*Phycis blennoides*) in Division 5b. Working group estimates of landings.**

YEAR	FRANCE	NORWAY	UK(SCOT) <sup>(1)</sup>	UK(EWNl)	FAROE ISLANDS	RUSSIA	ICELAND	TOTAL
1988	2	0						2
1989	1	0						1
1990	10	28						38
1991	9	44						53
1992	16	33						49
1993	5	22						27
1994	4							4
1995	9							9
1996	7							7
1997	7	0						7
1998	4	4						8
1999	6	28	0					34
2000	4	26	1	0				32
2001	9	92	1	0				102
2002	10	133	5	0				149
2003	11	55	7	0				73
2004	9	37	2	2				50
2005	7	39		0,3				46
2006	8	26			6			39
2007	11	34	0	0	9	2	0	58
2008	10	20	0		4	11	1	46

YEAR	FRANCE	NORWAY	UK(SCOT) <sup>(1)</sup>	UK(EWNI)	FAROE ISLANDS	RUSSIA	ICELAND	TOTAL
2009	0	13	3		3	2	0	24
2010	2	45	3	1	11		2	62
2011	7				310		1	319
2012	6	5			145	7	7	169
2013	7	3	0				0	11
2014	7	14	0		0		2	24
2015	5	27					2	34
2016	7	3	0				3	13
2016	7	3	0				3	13
2017	9		0					9
2018	5	7						12
2019	7	10						18
2020	7	24	0					31

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes Moridae in 2005 only data from January to June.

**Table 10.0e. Greater forkbeard (*Phycis blennoides*) in Subareas 6 and 7. Working group estimates of landings.**

YEAR	FRANCE	IRE- LAND	NOR- WAY	SPAIN <sup>(1)</sup>	UK (EWNI)	UK (SCOT) <sup>(2)</sup>	GER- MANY	RUS- SIA	FAROE IS- LANDS	NETH- ER- LANDS	TO- TAL
1988	252	0	0	1584	62	0					1898
1989	342	14	0	1446	13	0					1815
1990	454	0	88	1372	6	1					1921
1991	476	1	126	953	13	5					1574
1992	646	4	244	745	0	1					1640
1993	582	0	53	824	0	3					1462
1994	451	111		1002	0	7					1571
1995	430	163		722	808	15					2138
1996	519	154		1428	1434	55					3590
1997	512	131	5	46	1460	181					2335
1998	357	530	162	530	1364	97					3040
1999	314	686	183	824	929	518	1				3455
2000	671	743	380	1613	731	820	8	2			4967

YEAR	FRANCE	IRE- LAND	NOR- WAY	SPAIN <sup>(1)</sup>	UK (EWNI)	UK (SCOT) <sup>(2)</sup>	GER- MANY	RUS- SIA	FAROE IS- LANDS	NETH- ER- LANDS	TO- TAL
2001	683	663	536	1332	538	640	10	4			4405
2002	613	481	300	1049	421	545	9	0			3417
2003	469	319	492	1100	245	661	1	1			3287
2004	441	183	165	1131	288	397		1			2606
2005	598	237	128	979	179	164		5			2290
2006	625	68	162	1075	148			2	0		2081
2007	578	56	188	875	117	179		2			1995
2008	711	43	174	236	31	196		27	0		1418
2009	304	7	222	48	31	184		1			796
2010	383	8	219	23	14	173		3	1		824
2011	378	6	309	326	27	210					1257
2012	381	9	225	992	1	194					1802
2013*	451	16	289	583	3.4	246		0			1588
2014	468	25	159	769	9	135					1566
2015	451	37	135	716	26	105					1471
2016	412	13	97	641	13	90					1265
2017	431	6	134	399	14	88					1073
2018	458	10	203	453	20	121					1264
2019	430	18	187	498	13	95					1242
2020	360	18	72	339	18	62				0.5	869

<sup>(1)</sup> Landings of *Phycis* spp Included from 1988 to 2012.

<sup>(2)</sup> Includes Moridae in 2005 only data from January to June.

**Table 10.0f. Greater forkbeard (*Phycis blennoides*) in Subareas 8 and 9. Working group estimates of landings.**

YEAR	FRANCE	PORTUGAL	SPAIN <sup>(1)</sup>	UK(EWNI)	UK (SCOT)	TOTAL
1988	7	29	74			110
1989	7	42	138			187
1990	16	50	218			284
1991	18	68	108			194
1992	9	91	162			262

YEAR	FRANCE	PORTUGAL	SPAIN <sup>(1)</sup>	UK(EWNI)	UK (SCOT)	TOTAL
1993	0	115	387			502
1994		136	320			456
1995	54	71	330			455
1996	25	45	429			499
1997	4	30	356			390
1998	3	38	656			697
1999	8	41	361			410
2000	36	91	375			502
2001	36	83	453			573
2002	67	57	418			542
2003	28	45	387			461
2004	44	37	446			527
2005	58	22	312	0		392
2006	54	10	257			321
2007	32	14	510	0		556
2008	41	13	123			178
2009	8	13	183	0		203
2010	10	12	48		0	69
2011	13	13	295			321
2012	46	5	315			366
2013	31	8	234	2		275
2014	38	6	315		0	360
2015	38	8	278			323
2016	30	7	226		0	263
2017	18	9	159		0	186
2018	31	9	218		0	258
2019	29	7	178	0	-	214
2020	38	5	238	0	0	281

<sup>(1)</sup> Landings of *Phycis spp* Included from 1988 to 2012.

Table 10.0g. Greater forkbeard (*Phycis blennoides*) in Subarea 10. Working group estimates of landings.

YEAR	PORTUGAL	FRANCE	TOTAL
1988	29		29
1989	42		42
1990	50		50
1991	68		68
1992	91		91
1993	115		115
1994	136		136
1995	71		71
1996	45		45
1997	30		30
1998	38		38
1999	41		41
2000	91		91
2001	83		83
2002	57		57
2003	45		45
2004	37		37
2005	22		22
2006	15		15
2007	17		17
2008	18		18
2009	13		13
2010	14		14
2011	11		11
2012	6		6
2013	8		8
2014	9	0	9
2015	10		10
2016	10		10

YEAR	PORTUGAL	FRANCE	TOTAL
2017			0
2018	14		14
2019			0
2020			0

**Table 10.0h. Greater forkbeard (*Phycis blennoides*) in Subarea 12. Working group estimates of landings.**

YEAR	FRANCE	UK(SCOT) <sup>(1)</sup>	NORWAY	UK(EWNI)	SPAIN <sup>(2)</sup>	RUSSIA	TOTAL
1988							0
1989							0
1990							0
1991							0
1992	1						1
1993	1						1
1994	3						3
1995	4						4
1996	2						2
1997	2						2
1998	1						1
1999	0	0					0
2000	2	4					6
2001	0	1	6	1			8
2002	0		2	4	74		81
2003	3		8	0	71		82
2004	3		6		44		54
2005	1	0	0		75		77
2006					42		42
2007					37		37
2008	0				17		17
2009	1		0		37	6	44
2010	0						0



YEAR	FRANCE	UK(SCOT) <sup>(1)</sup>	NORWAY	UK(EWNI)	SPAIN <sup>(2)</sup>	RUSSIA	TOTAL
2011	0						0
2012	0						0
2013							0
2014	0						0
2015							0
2016							0
2017							0
2018							0
2019							0
2020							0

<sup>(1)</sup>Includes Moridae in 2005 only data from January to June.

<sup>(2)</sup>Landings of *Phycis spp* Included from 1988 to 2012.

**Table 10.0i. Greater forkbeard (*Phycis blennoides*). Working group estimates of landings. Catches inside and outside the NEAFC Regulatory Area (RA) as estimated by ICES for the stock in WGDEEP.**

WGDEEP Stock gfb.27.nea	Catch Inside NEAFC RA (t)	Catch Out- side NEAFC RA (t)	Total Catches	Proportion of catch inside the NEAFC RA (%)	NEAFC RA areas where caught
2020	0	1486	1486	0%	
2019	0	1850	1850	0%	
2018	0	1801	1801	0%	
2017	0	1503	1503	0%	

**Table 10.1a. Greater forkbeard (*Phycis blennoides*). European landings (t) by métier in 2020.**

Landings (t)	2020
Denmark	70
GNS_DEF	0.0
OTB_CRU	1.3
OTB_DEF	68.7
SDN_DEF	0.0
SSC_DEF	0.5
Ireland	18
OTB_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	15.6

Landings (t)	2020
OTB_DEF_70-99_0_0_all	2.8
Portugal	5
MIS_MIS_0_0_0	4.8
OTB	0.1
Spain	576
MIS_MIS_0_0_0_HC	4.0
OTB_DWS_100-129_0_0	0.0
OTB_DEF_70-99_0_0	16.6
OTB_DEF_100-119_0_0	88.1
OTB_DEF_>=70_0_0	15.7
OTB_MCD_>=55_0_0	6.6
GNS_DEF_80-99_0_0	5.8
PTB_MPD_>=55_0_0	3.5
LLS_DEF_0_0_0	348.1
OTB_MPD_>=55_0_0	7.7
GNS_DEF_>=100_0_0	3.7
OTB_DEF_>=55_0_0	72.8
GNS_DEF_120-219_0_0	2.0
GNS_DEF_60-79_0_0	0.7
LLS_DWS	0.3
LHM_DEF_0_0_0	0.1
GTR_DEF_60-79_0_0	0.4
UK (England)	18
GNS_DEF	3.0
LLS_DEF	0.1
MIS_MIS_0_0_0_HC	0.9
OTB_DEF	14.2
UK(Scotland)	64
LLS_DEF_0_0_0_all	1.4
MIS_MIS_0_0_0_HC	1.4

Landings (t)	2020
OTB_DEF_>=120_0_0_all	61.6
France	408
LLS_DEF	53.1
MIS_MIS_0_0_0	7.7
OTB_DEF_70-99_0_0	19.4
OTB_DEF_100-119_0_0	94.4
OTT-DWS	2.2
OTB_DWS_100-119_0_0_all	6.6
GNS_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	28.2
OTT_DEF_100-119_0_0	67.8
OTB_DEF_<16_0_0_all	0.0
OTT_DEF_>=70_0_0	5.8
OTB_DEF_>=70_0_0	3.0
OTT-DEF	0.0
OTB_DEF_>=120_0_0	65.5
OTB_DWS_>=120_0_0_all	48.7
OTT_CRU_100-119_0_0	0.1
OTT_DEF_70-99_0_0	0.0
GNS_DEF_120-219_0_0_all	2.1
OTB_CRU_100-119_0_0_all	3.6
OTM_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	0.0
Germany	0
OTB_DEF	0.1
Netherlands	1
TBB_CRU_16-31_0_0_all	0.4
OTM_SPF_32-69_0_0_all	0.5

**Table 10.1b. Greater forkbeard (*Phycis blennoides*). Norwegian landings (t) by métier in 2020.**

	Pot and Traps	Gillnets	Longlines	Longlines	Bottom trawl	Pelagic trawl	Purse Seiner
Norway	1.8	11.0	0.3	253.1	57.9	0.2	0.1

**Table 10.2a. Greater forkbeard (*Phycis blennoides*). Reported of total discards (ton) of *P. blennoides* from 2013 to 2020 and proportion in the catches.**

ton	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
DISCARDS	1185	1166	2068	677	513	263	366	256
LANDINGS	2143	2269	2175	2012	1503	1801	1850	1486
CATCHES	3328	3435	4243	2689	2016	2064	2216	1742
DISCARDS/CATCHES	36%	34%	49%	25%	25%	13%	17%	15%

**Table 10.2b. Greater forkbeard (*Phycis blennoides*). Reported discards (ton) of *P. blennoides* from 2013 to 2020 by sub-area.**

subarea	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL
2								0	0
3	0.9	2	0	6	3	10	10	0	32
4	334	7	83	99	279	57	42	27	927
5			1	7	0	0		0	7
6	769	647	1359	225	51	47	45	32	3174
7			256	301	131	74	245	167	1174
8	82	510	302	25	39	67	18	30	1073
9			67	15	10	7	6		104
TOTAL	1185	1166	2068	677	513	263	366	256	

**Table 10.3. Greater forkbeard (*Phycis blennoides*). Annual mean CPUE (Kg/trip) and GLM estimates, of the Portuguese Reference fleet as well as, upper and lower limits of the 95% CPUE confidence intervals for the period 2013-2020.**

year	Observation (kg/trip)	CPUE Upper limit	CPUE Estimate (Kg/trip)	CPUE Lower limit
2013	10.39	13.43	10.39	8.04
2014	11.88	16.07	12.25	9.34
2015	10.83	16.09	12.32	9.43
2016	10.28	13.96	10.74	8.27
2017	9.81	12.72	9.68	7.37
2018	10.59	13.43	10.17	7.7

year	Observation (kg/trip)	CPUE Upper limit	CPUE Estimate (Kg/trip)	CPUE Lower limit
2019	8.83	12.56	9.57	7.29
2020	8.35	11.66	8.88	6.77

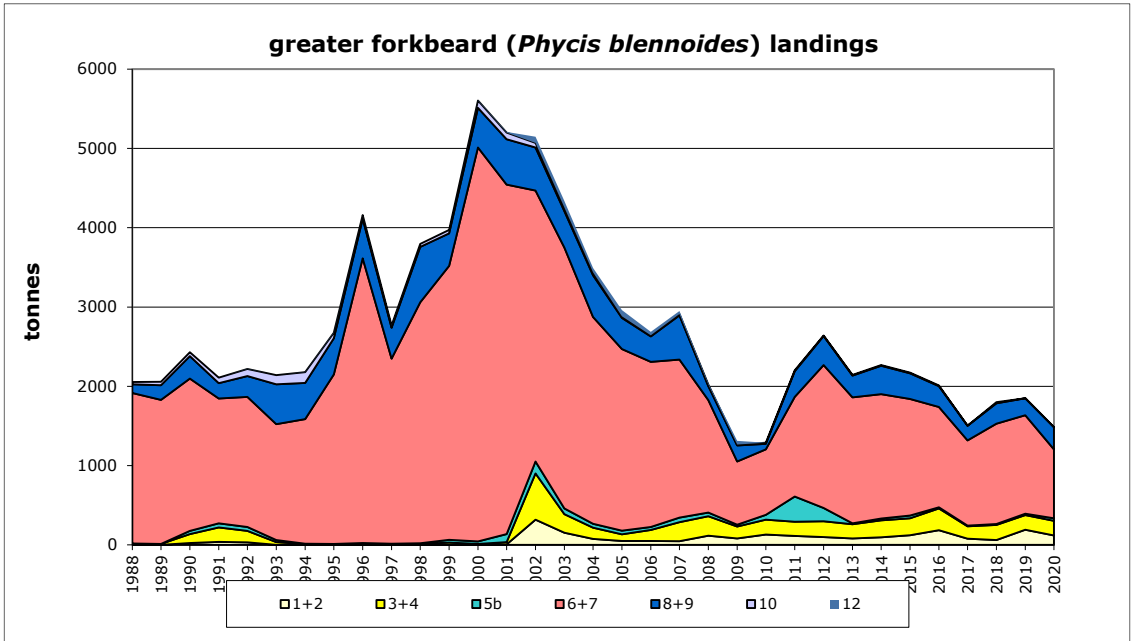


Figure 10.1. Greater forkbeard landing trends in all ICES subareas since 1988.

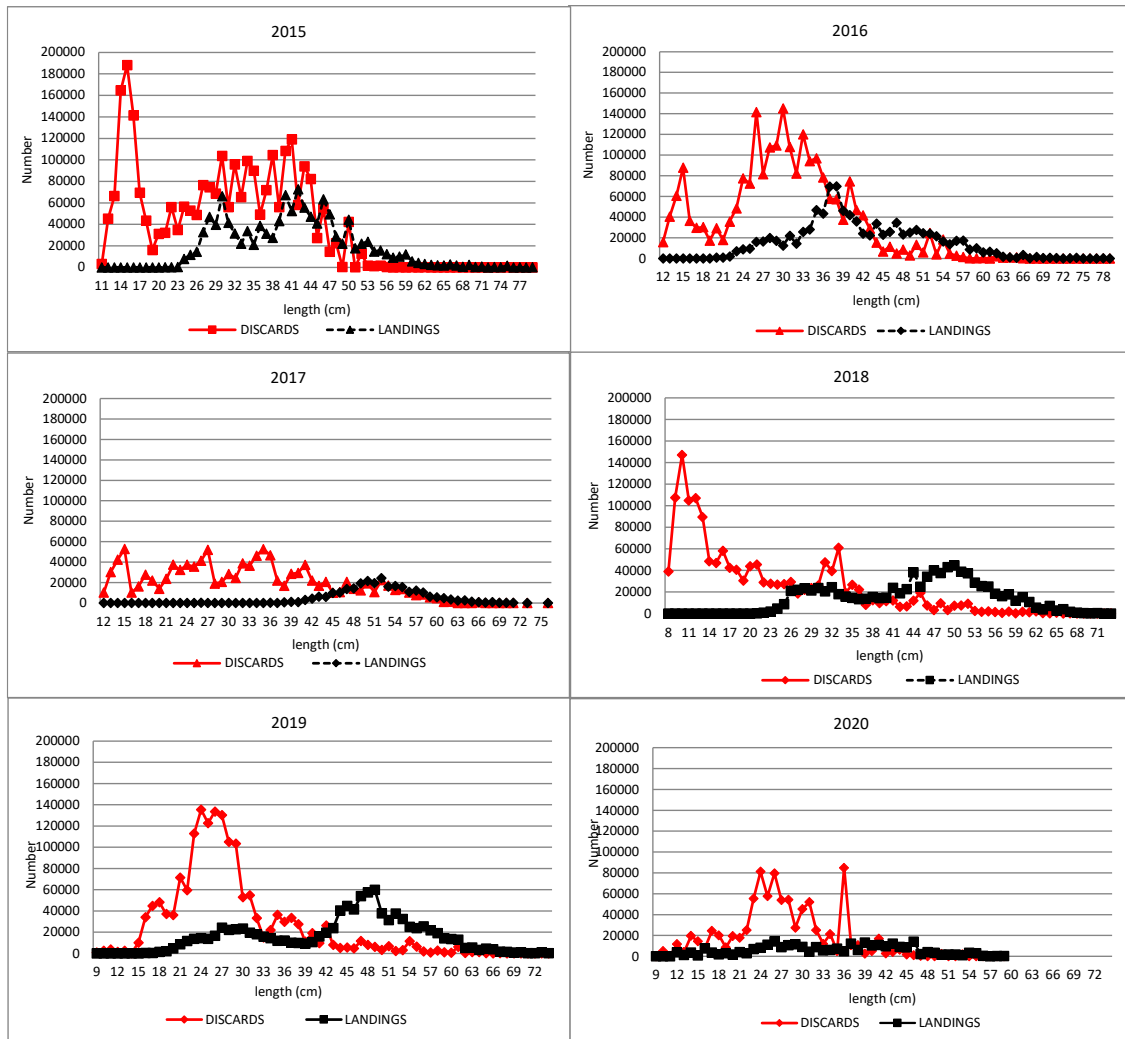


Figure 10.2a. Commercial length frequencies of the greater forkbeard landings and discards from 2015 to 2020 from France, Spain, Ireland, Portugal, Denmark, Sweden, UK (England), and UK (Scotland).

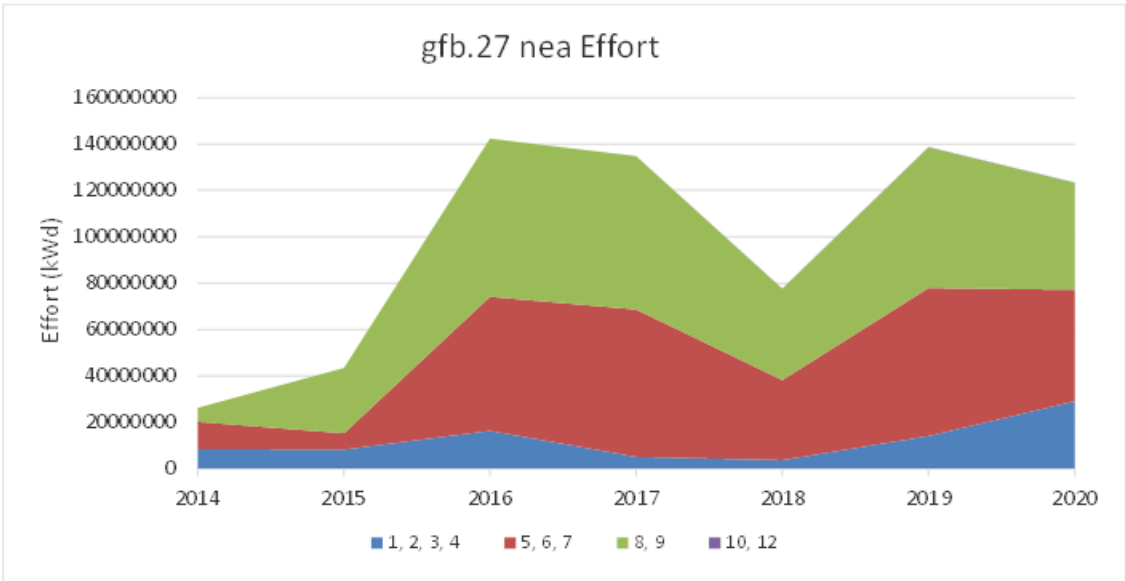


Figure 10.2b. Effort data (kWd) by stock units since 2014 of the Spanish, French, Swedish, UK (Scotland) and Irish fleets.

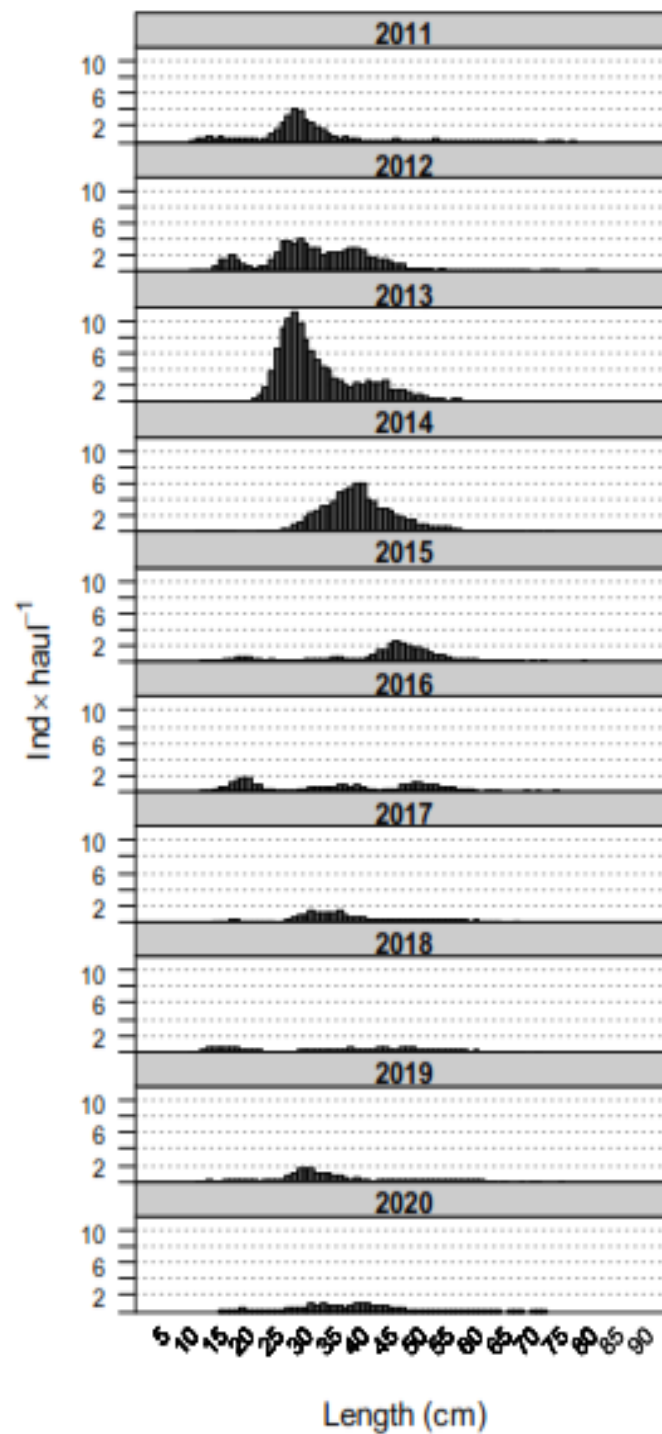


Figure 10.3. Mean stratified length distributions of greater forkbeard (*P. blennoides*) in Porcupine survey (Divisions 7.c and 7.k) time-series (2011–2020).



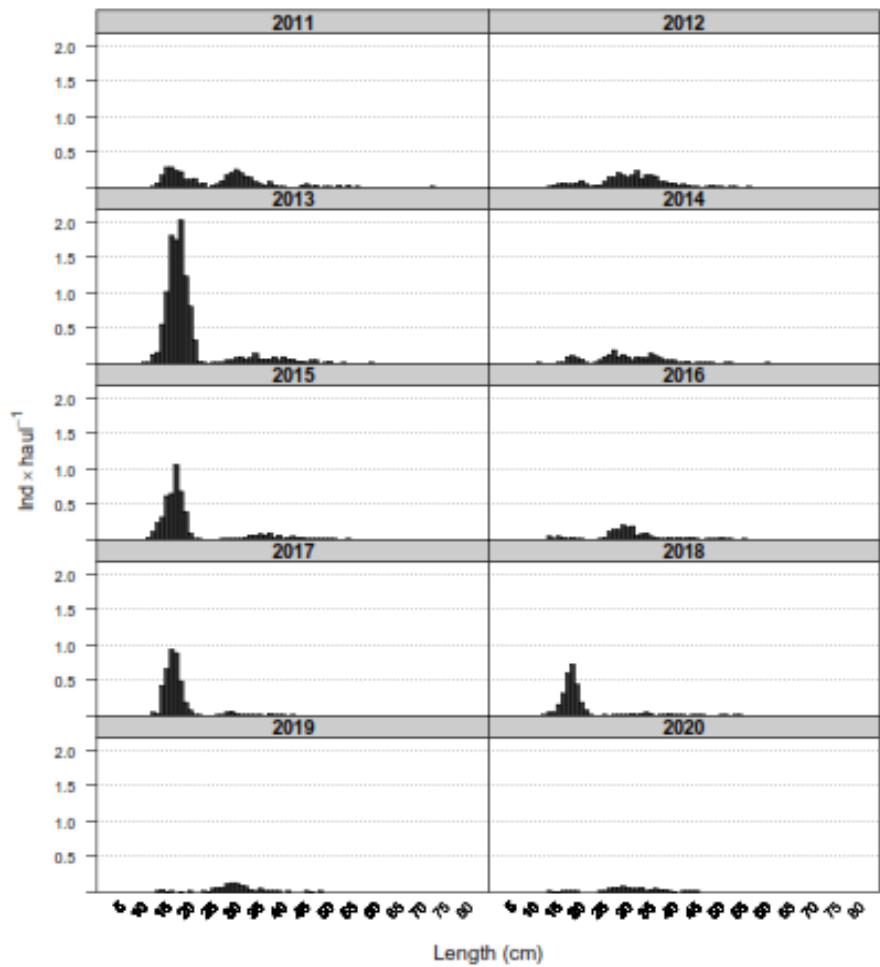


Figure 10. 4. Mean stratified length distributions of greater forkbeard (*P. blennoides*) in Northern Spanish Shelf survey (8.c and 9.a) in the period 2009–2018.

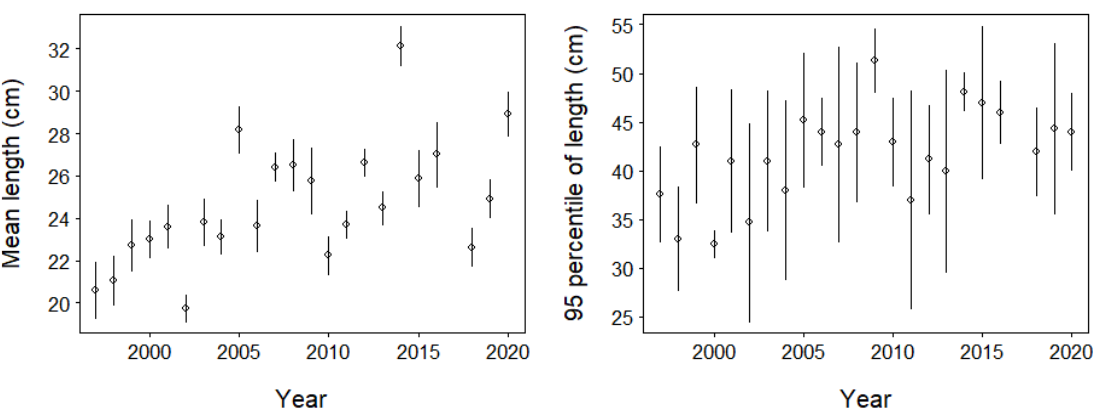


Figure 10.5. Greater forkbeard series of mean length from the French IBTS survey Divisions 7.fghj and 8.abd until 2020.

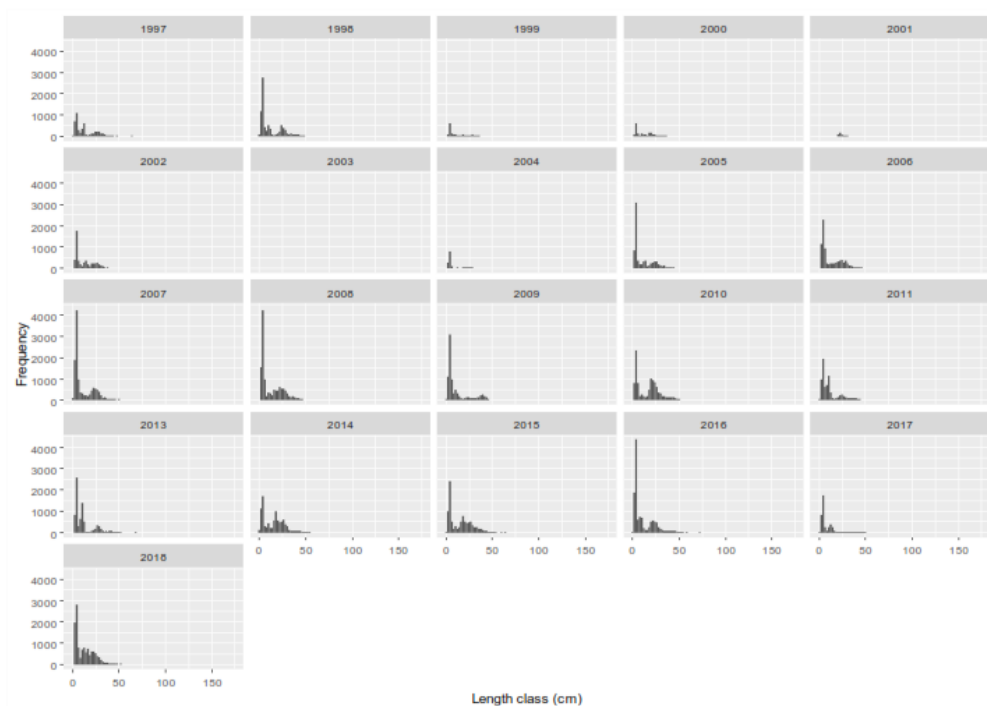


Figure 10.6a. Length frequency distribution of the greater forkbeard in the PT-CTS (UWTV (FU 28-29) until 2018.

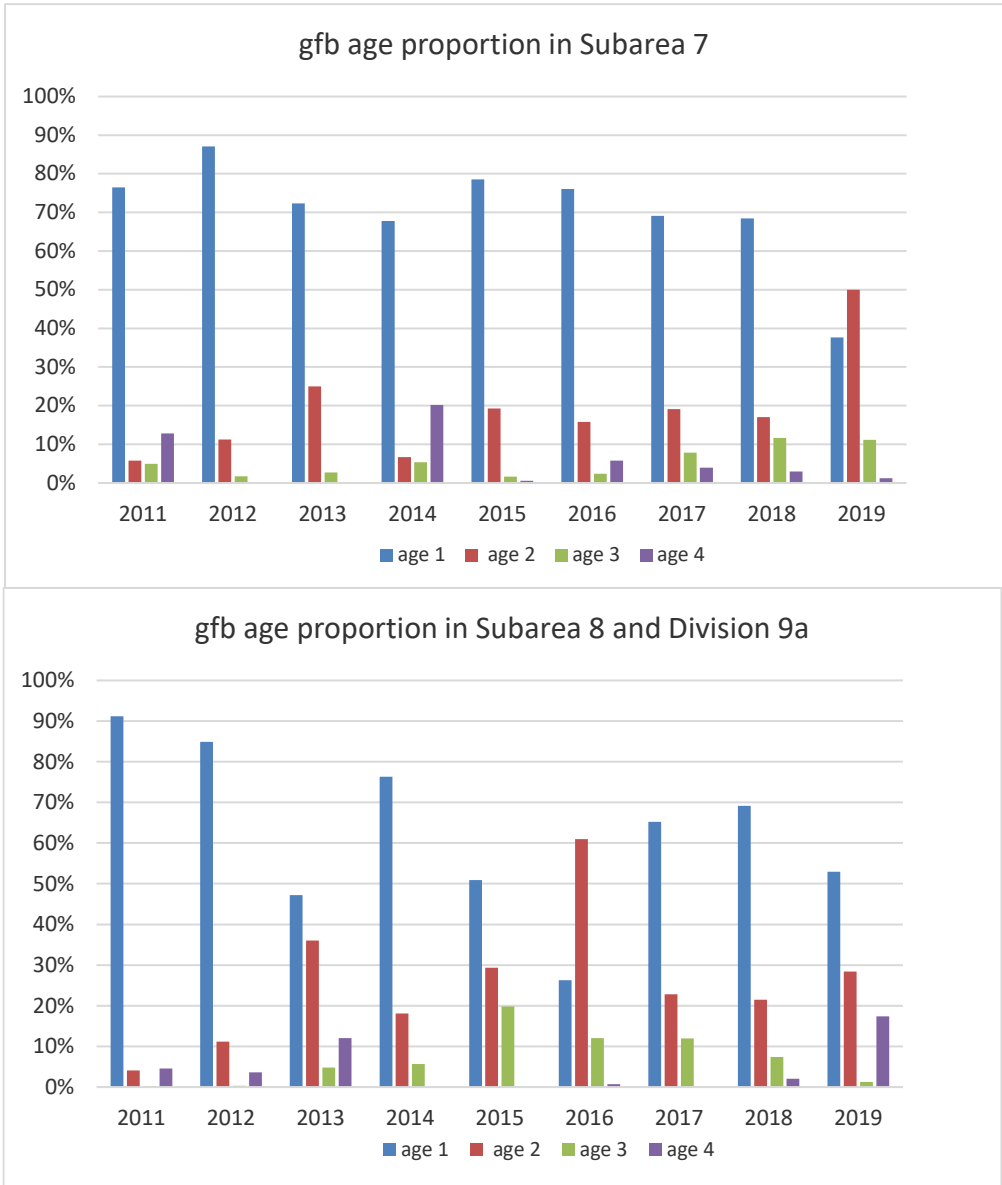


Figure 10.6b. Age proportion of the Spanish commercial fleets from 2011 to 2019 in subareas 7, 8 and Division 9a.

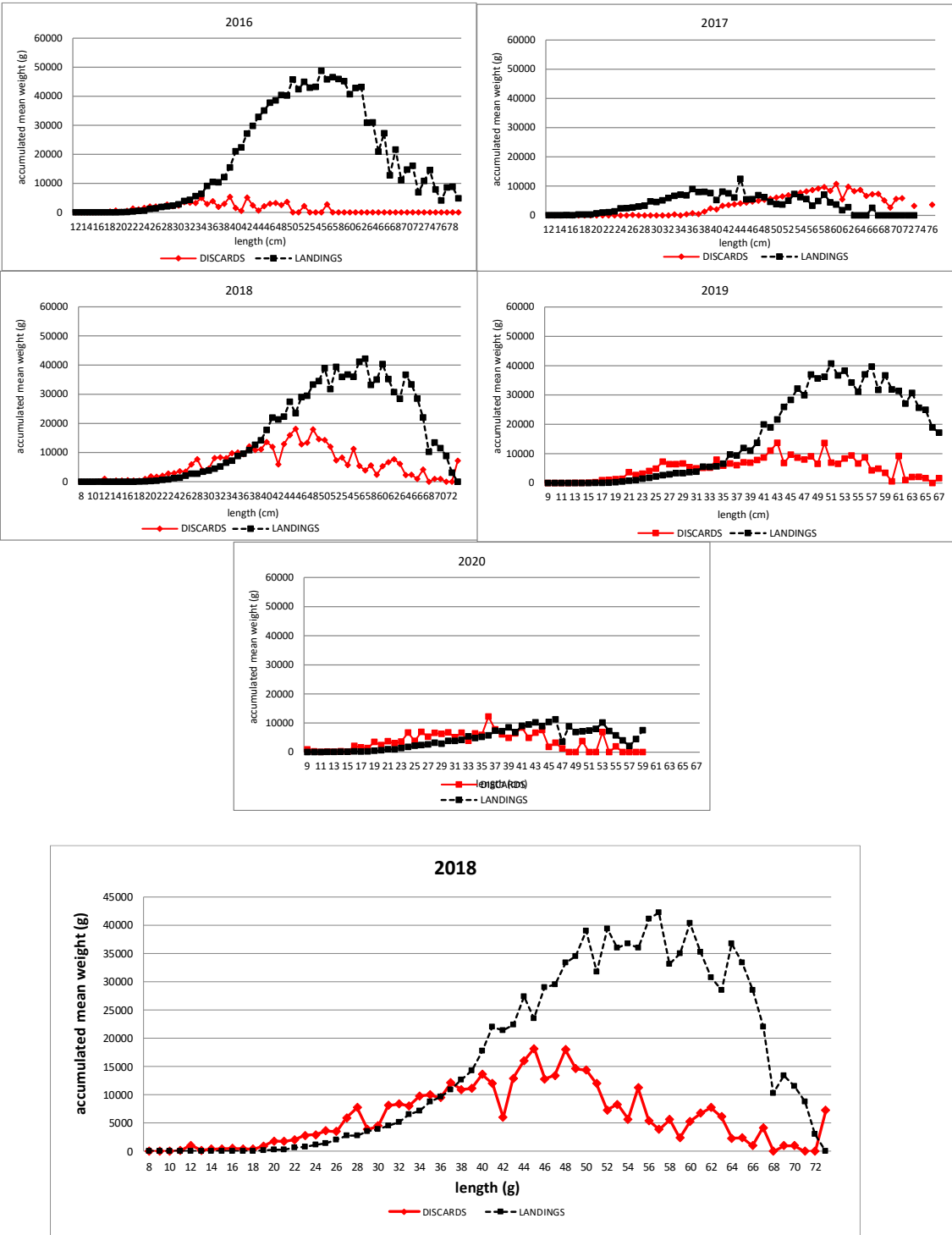


Figure 10.7 Accumulated mean weight at length of the international commercial landings and discards reported to Inter-Catch from 2016 to 2020.

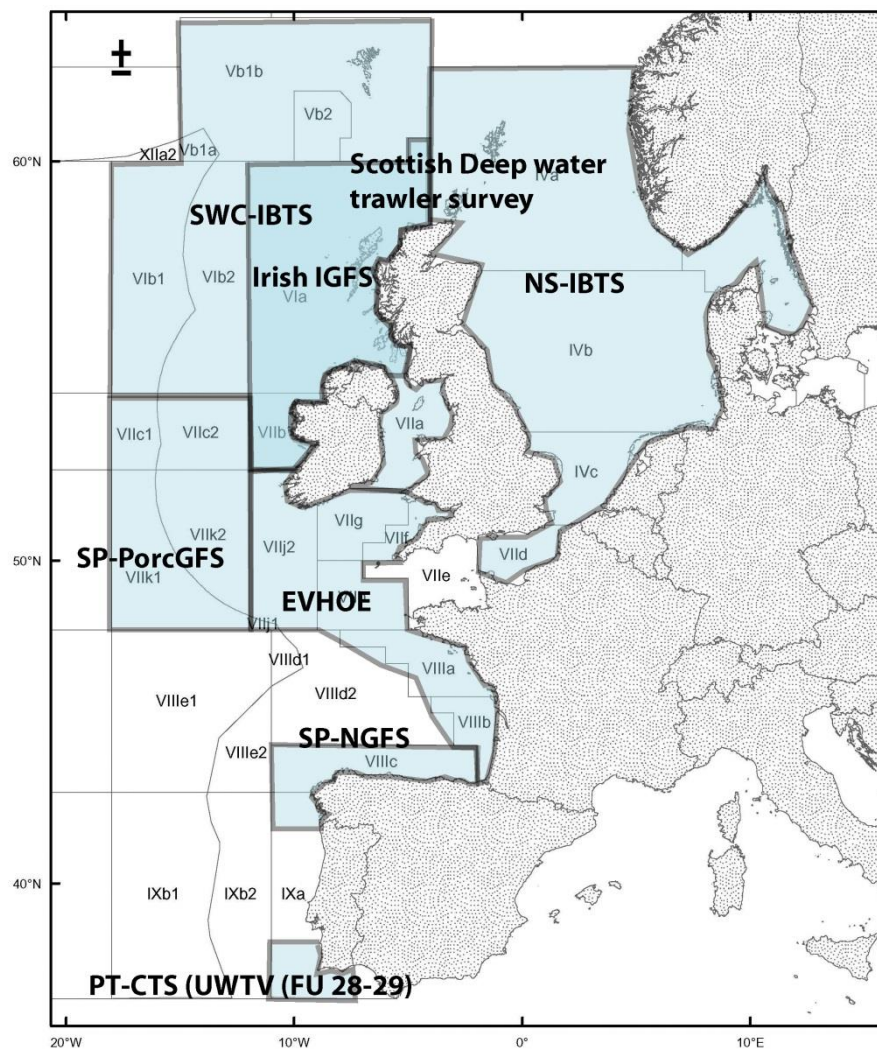


Figure 10.8. Map of the Divisions covered by the eight surveys used in the trend analysis of abundance and biomass of GFB.

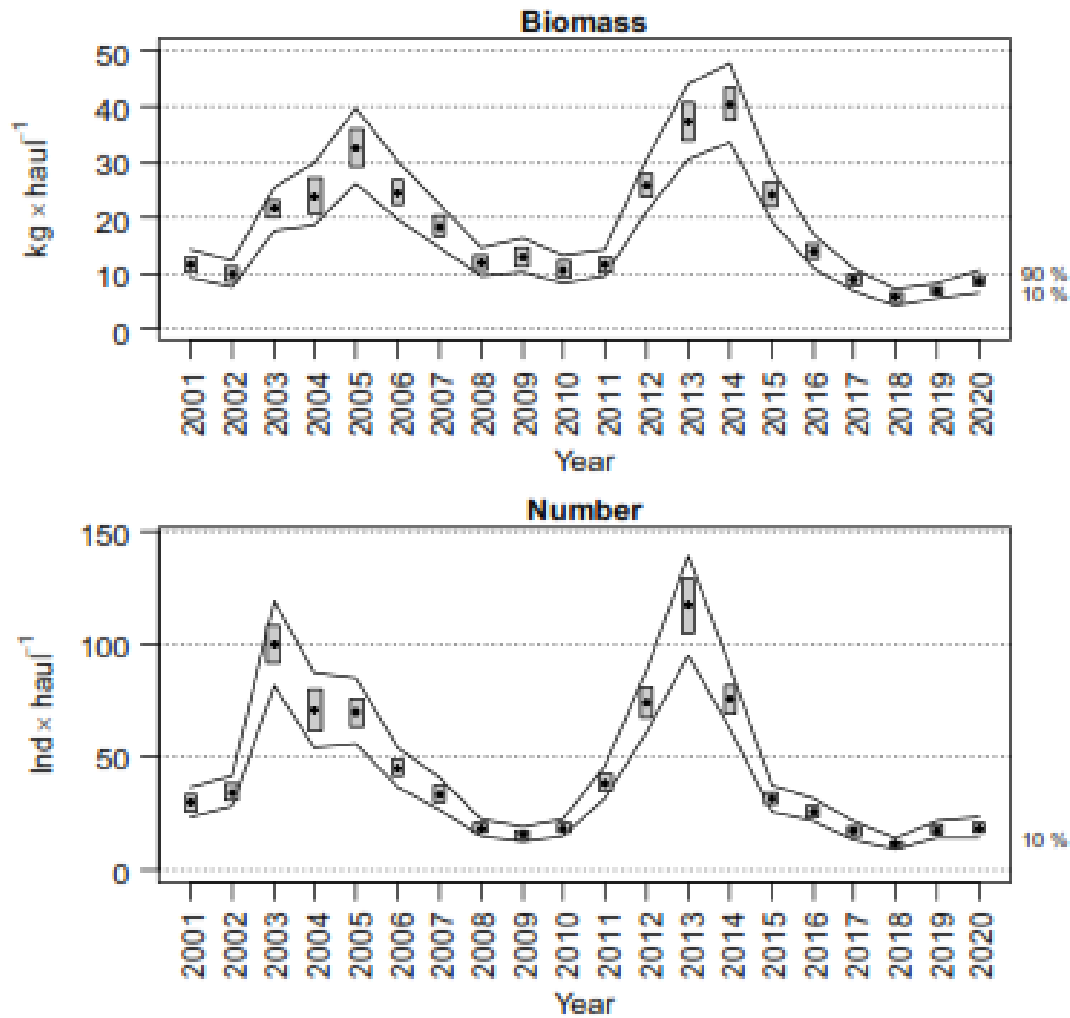


Figure 10.9. Evolution of *Phycis blennoides* biomass and abundance indices during Porcupine Survey time-series (2001–2020) in Divisions 7.c and 7.k. Boxes mark parametric standard error of the stratified abundance index. Lines mark bootstrap confidence intervals ( $\alpha=0.80$ , bootstrap iterations = 1000).

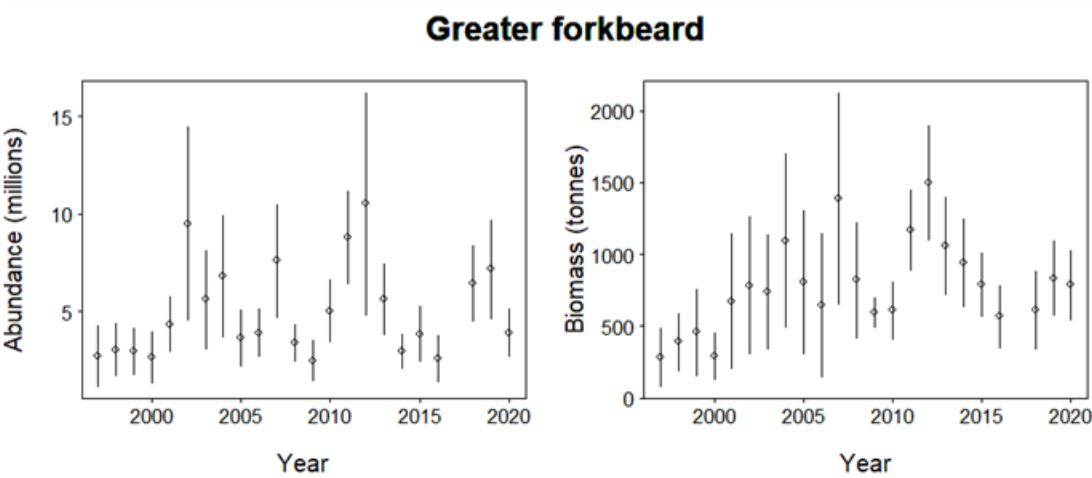


Figure 10.10. Greater forkbeard series of abundance and biomass of the French EVHOE IBTS survey in the Divisions 7.fghj and 8.abd combined until 2020.

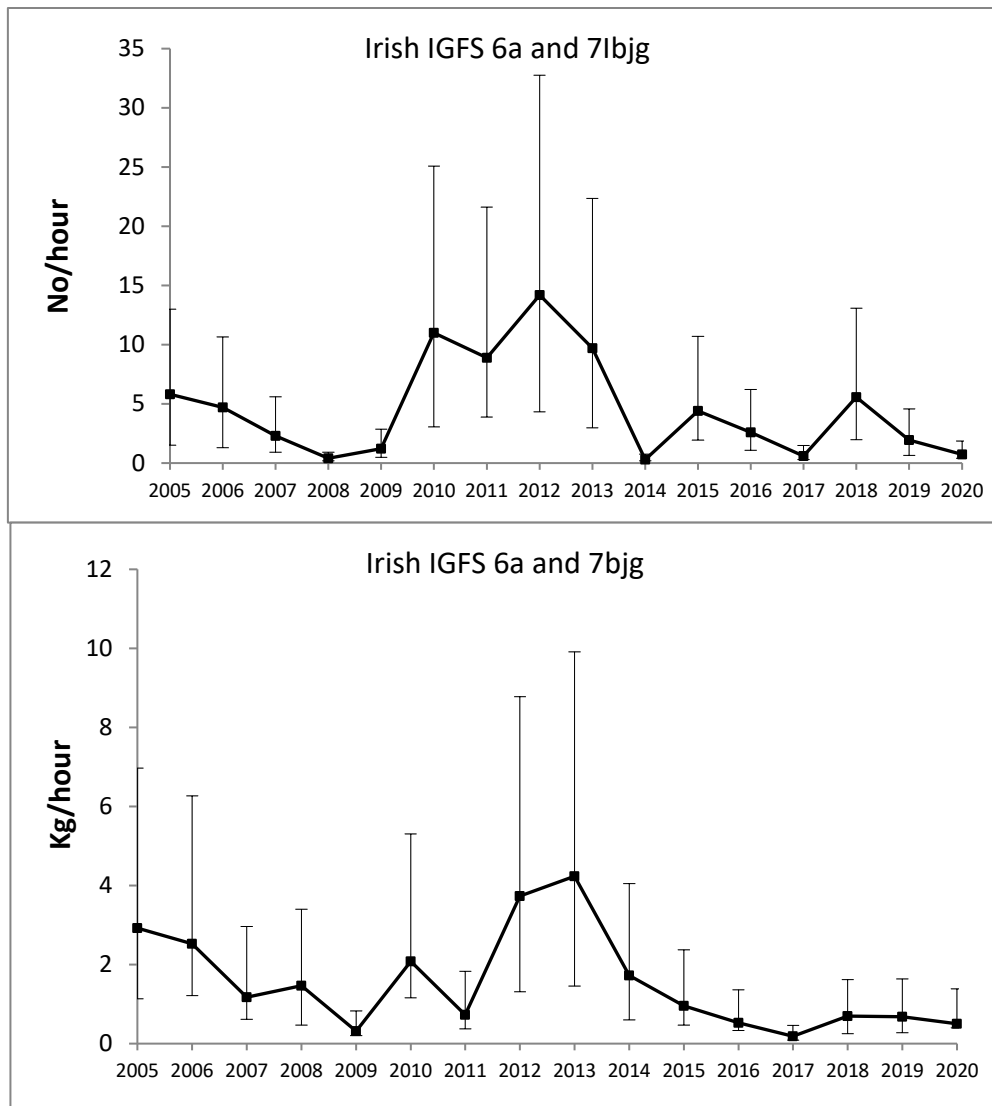


Figure 10.11. Abundance and biomass Indices (no. per hour and kg per hour) of Greater forkbeard total catches of the Irish IGFS Survey in the slope and shelf strata, 2005–2020.

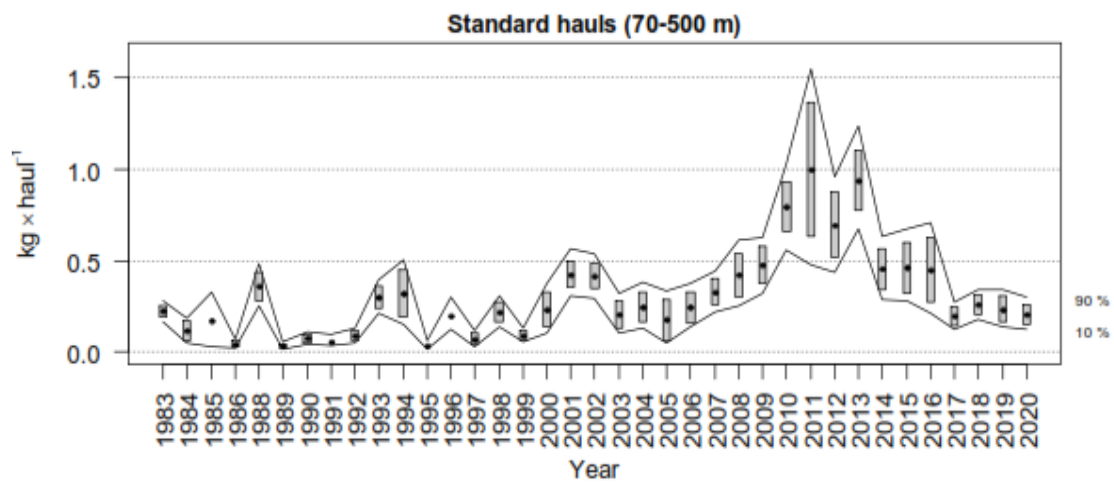


Figure 10.12. Changes in *Phycis blennoides* biomass index (kg/haul) during northern Spanish Shelf bottom-trawl survey time-series (1990–2020) in Divisions 9.a and 8.c.

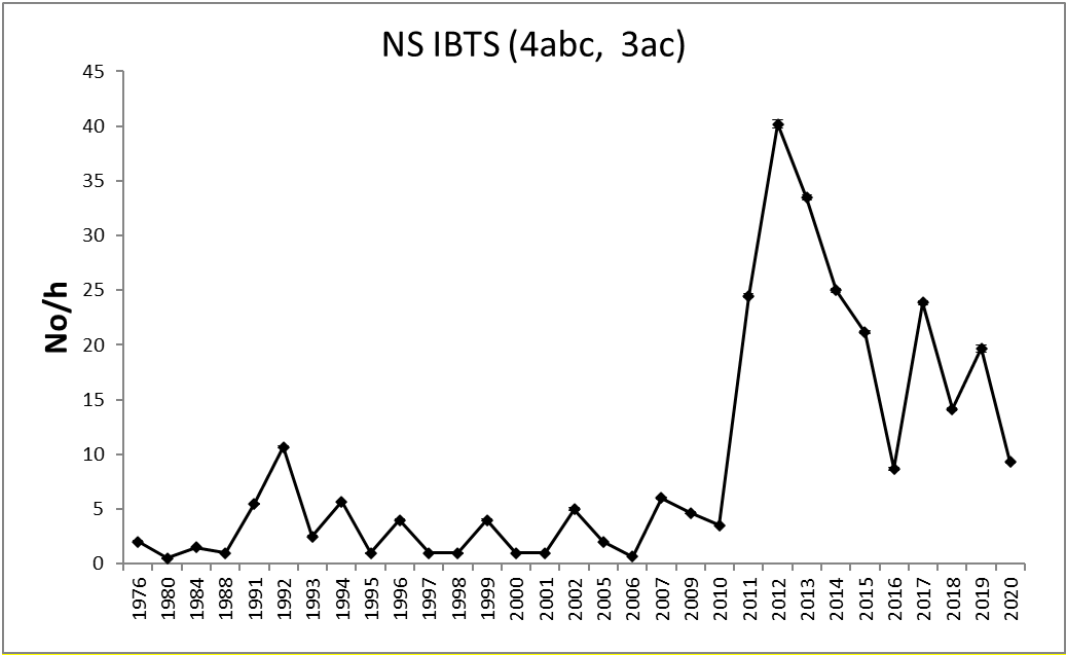


Figure 10.13. Greater forkbeard series of abundance (No/hour) of the North Sea IBTS survey (NS-IBTS) until 2020 in Divisions 4.abc and 3.ac.

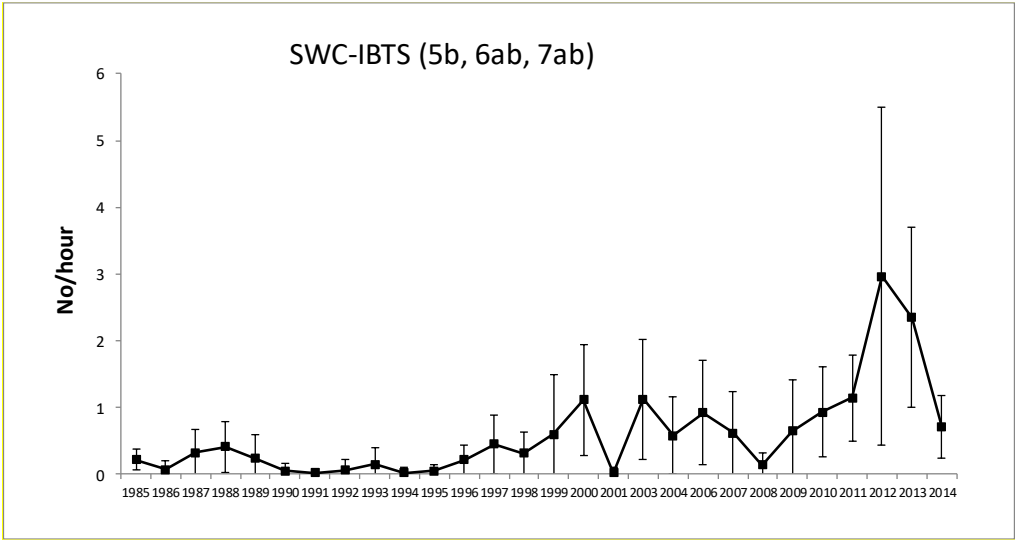


Figure 10.14. Greater forkbeard series of abundance (No/hour) of the Scottish Western Coast Groundfish IBTS survey (SWC-IBTS) until 2014 in Divisions 5.b, 6.ab and 7.ab.



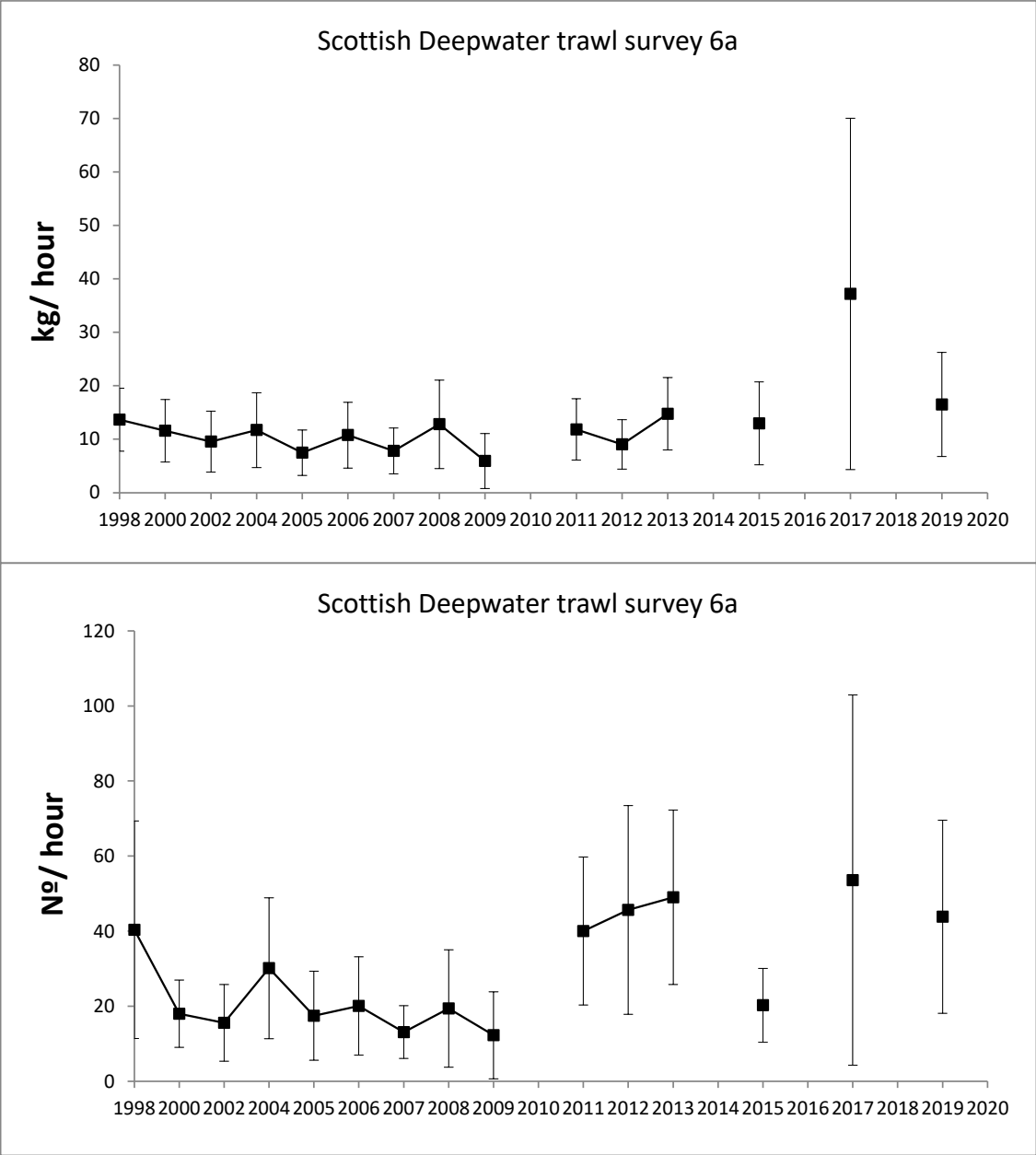


Figure 10.15. Greater forkbeard series of biomass (kg/hour) and abundance (N°/hour) of the Scottish Deep-water trawl survey until 2020 in Division 6.a.

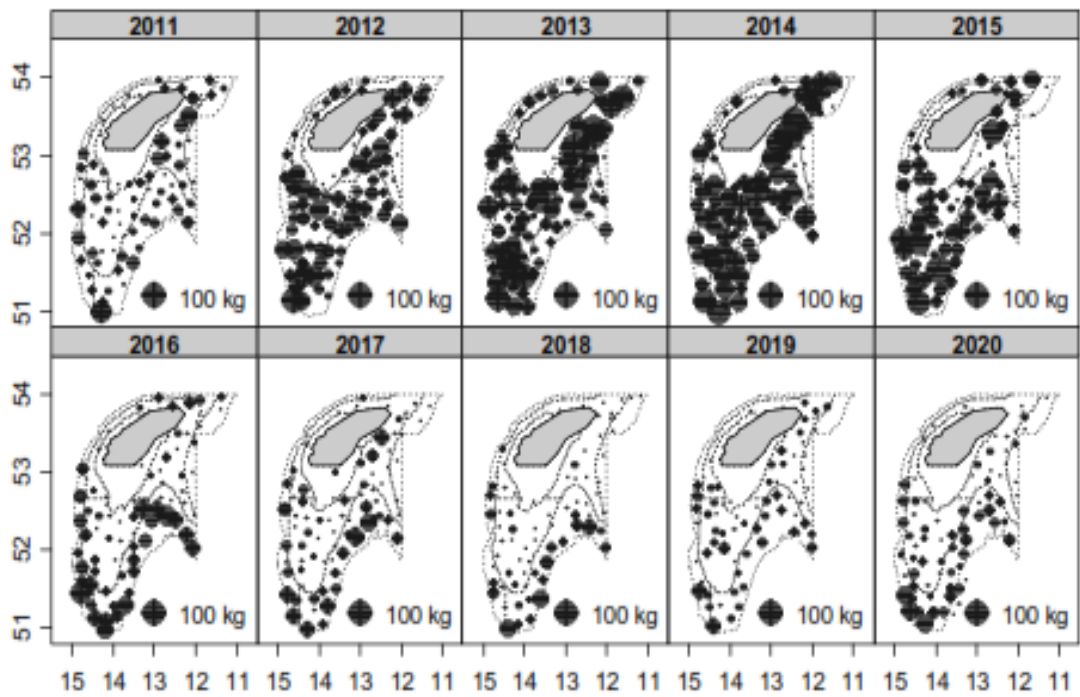


Figure 10.17. Geographic distribution of *Phycis blennoides* catches (kg/30 min haul) in Porcupine surveys between 2011 and 2020.

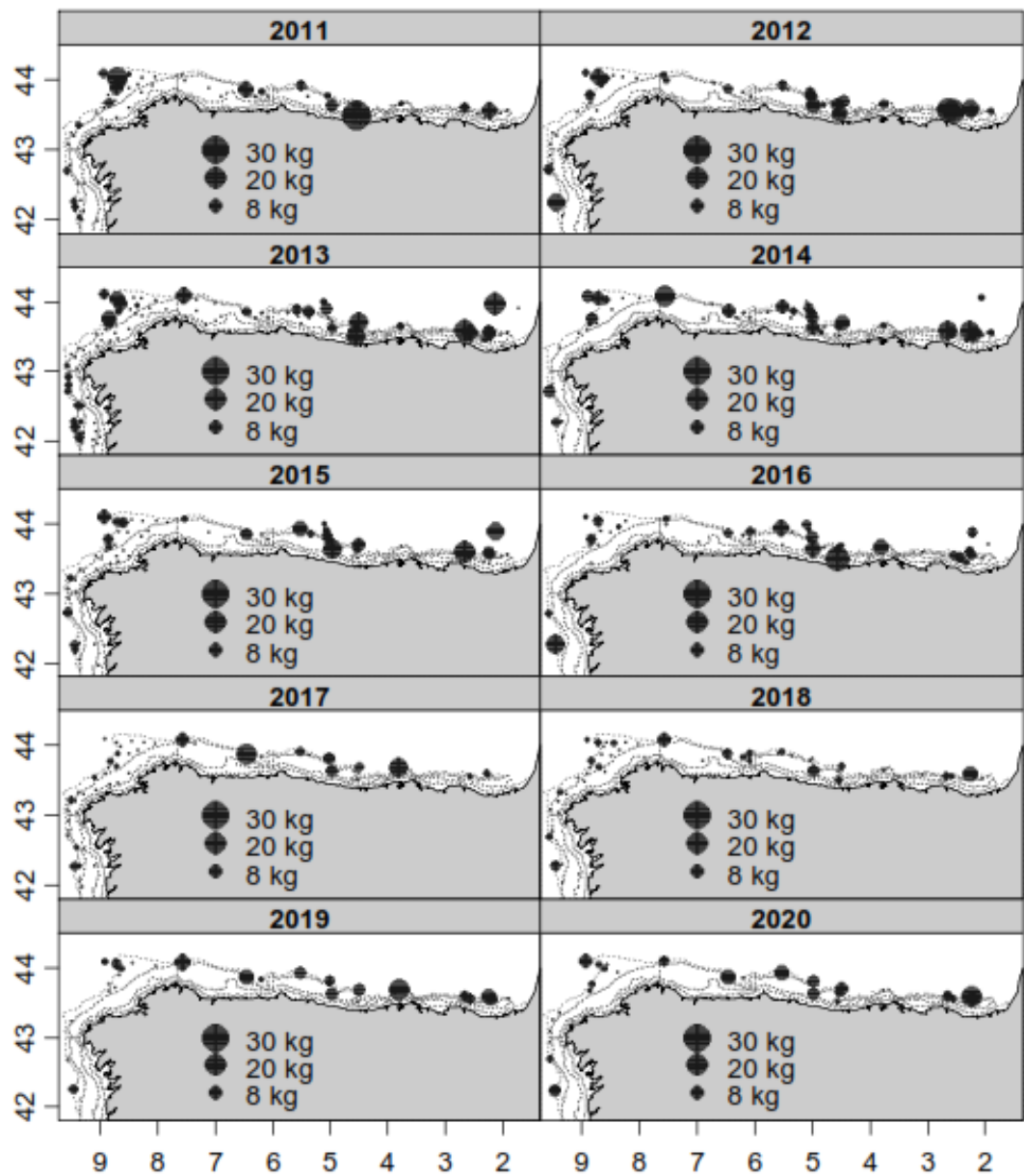


Figure 10.18. Catches in biomass of greater forkbeard on the Northern Spanish Shelf bottom-trawl surveys during the period: 20011–2020.

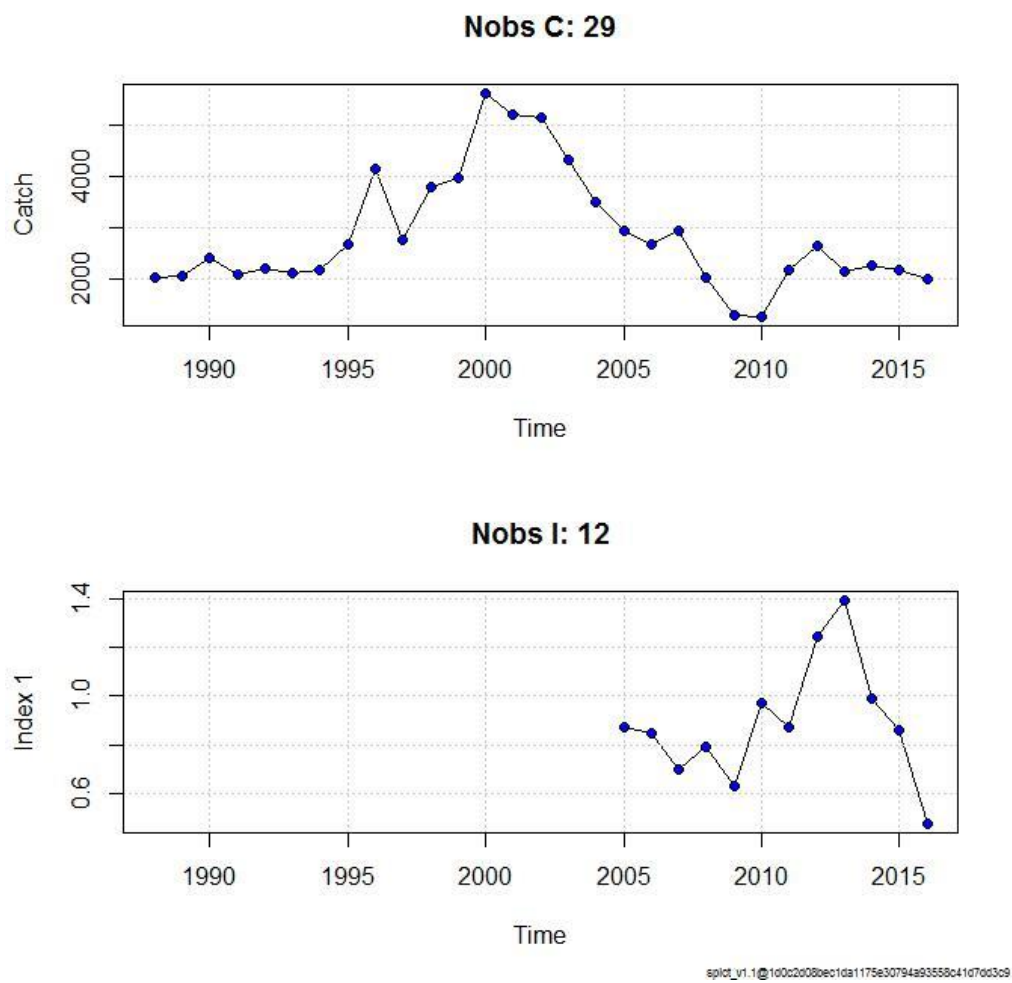


Figure 10.19. Inputs of the SPICT model used in the Greater Forkbeard stock.

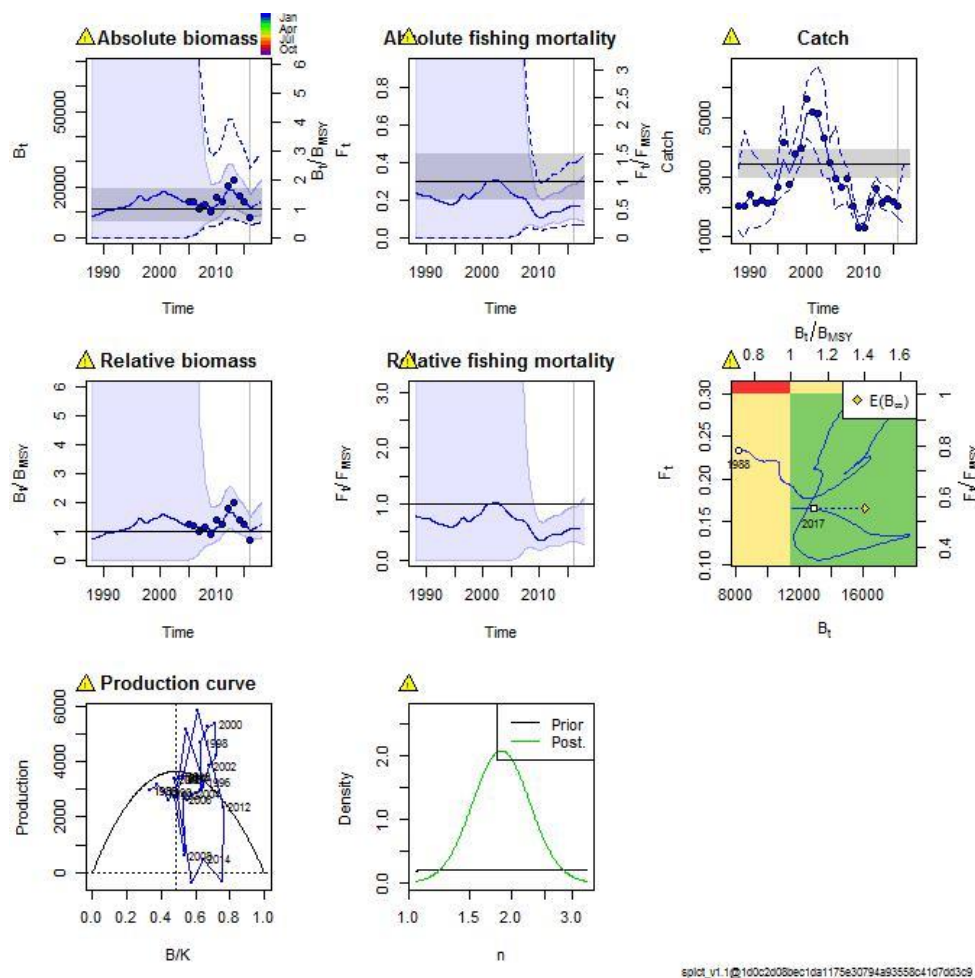


Figure 10.20. Results of the SPICT model for the Greater Forkbeard stock.

## 10.11 References

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