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Fisheries indicators for the southern bluefin tuna stock 2023–24

H. Patterson

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Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES)
GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601
Telephone 1800 900 090
Web agriculture.gov.au/abares

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Summary

The annual review of fisheries indicators is an important input for the management of southern bluefin tuna (SBT). The information is included in the development of the Extended Scientific Committee (ESC) advice to the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) on the status of the stock. It also forms part of the management procedure's metarule process to determine whether exceptional circumstances exist and if the global total allowable catch needs to be reconsidered.

The indicators include various catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) indicators, size composition indicators and abundance indices. Given there are a range of factors that can contribute to changes in the indicators, it is important that changes are interpreted with caution.

The 2023–24 update of fishery indicators for the SBT stock includes indicators in two groups: (1) indicators unaffected by the unreported catch identified by the 2006 Japanese Market Review and Australian Farm Review; and (2) indicators that may be affected by the unreported catch. Given the time since these reviews, the recent trends for some of these indicators are unlikely to be affected by unreported catches.

Recent trends in indicators are summarised in Appendix 1. Two indicators of juvenile (age 1–4) SBT abundance were updated. The piston-line trolling survey increased from the last index in 2023, while the grid-type trolling index decreased slightly from 2023. The gene-tagging abundance estimate has not yet been updated. Indicators of age 4+ SBT exhibited mixed trends. The standardised CPUE from the New Zealand domestic longline fishery increased slightly in 2023. In addition, both the Japanese longline nominal CPUE and standardised CPUE series (GAM series) decreased slightly in 2023. Updated Indonesian length and age data and updated close-kin data for adult fish were not available, due to an interruption in sampling in Indonesia.

1 Introduction

Fishery indicators have played an important role in the provision of advice to the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) on the status of the southern bluefin tuna (SBT) stock by the CCSBT Extended Scientific Committee (ESC). In 2001 it was agreed to monitor and review fishery indicators on an annual basis (CCSBT-SC 2001). The review of fishery indicators forms part of the management procedure's metarule process, undertaken by the ESC, to determine whether exceptional circumstances exist (Attachment 6, ESC25). Indicators can provide a broad perspective on recent changes in the status of the SBT stock and include some information that may not otherwise be incorporated into model-based assessments.

Some fisheries-dependent indicators could have been affected by unreported catches and potential biases identified by the 2006 Japanese Market Review (Lou et al. 2006) and Australian Farm Review (Fushimi et al. 2006). The 2023–24 update of fishery indicators for the SBT stock summarises indicators in the same groups presented in previous updates in 2007 to 2023, including the gene tagging index added in 2019, an updated close kin index added in 2022 and the new standardised Japanese CPUE (GAM series) developed in 2023 (Hartog et al. 2007; Hartog & Preece 2008; Patterson 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023; Patterson & Hennecke 2019; Patterson & Stobutzki 2014, 2015; Patterson et al. 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2016, 2017, 2018; Phillips 2009).

The list of indicators explored here includes:

(1) Indicators unaffected by the unreported catch:

- Trolling index (piston line and grid)
- Gene tagging
- Close-kin mark recapture
- New Zealand catch per unit effort (CPUE domestic fleets)
- New Zealand longline fishery size composition (domestic fleets)
- Indonesian longline fishery size/age composition.

(2) Indicators that may be affected by the unreported catch

- Japanese, Korean and Taiwanese CPUE
- Size/age composition in the Japanese and Taiwanese longline fisheries
- Age composition in the Australian surface fishery.

2 Indicators unaffected by unreported catch

2.1 Trolling index

The piston-line trolling survey index and grid-type trolling index (TRG) was updated in 2024 from data provided by Japan through the CCSBT data exchange (JP_Trollindex_2024).

The trolling survey is designed to provide a qualitative index of relative recruitment strength of age 1 SBT off the Western Australian coast (CCSBT-ESC13 2008, para 115). The objective of the recent piston-line trolling survey has been to provide a recruitment index at low cost (Itoh et al. 2013). The trolling index is comprised of: (1) a piston-line trolling survey, 2006–22; (2) trolling catch data from the acoustic survey ‘on’ the piston line, 2005–06; and (3) trolling catch data from the acoustic survey off the piston line, 1996–2003 and 2005–06 (Itoh & Sakai 2009). Methods used to obtain comparable data from these three sources are documented by Itoh (2007) and Japan has noted that all the indices reflect the number of SBT schools per 100 km, but have not been merged or converted to be quantitatively the same (CCSBT-SC 2010, para 81). The TRG is a standardisation of the trolling survey index and is described in Itoh (2021).

The piston-line survey increased in 2024 and is above the 5-year average (Fig. 1). The TRG index decreased slightly in 2024 (Fig. 2) and is very close to the 5-year average.

Figure 1 Trolling index, showing number of schools per 100 km off the Western Australian coast in January. Dashed lines are 90% confidence intervals. The red line shows the average 5-year median value.

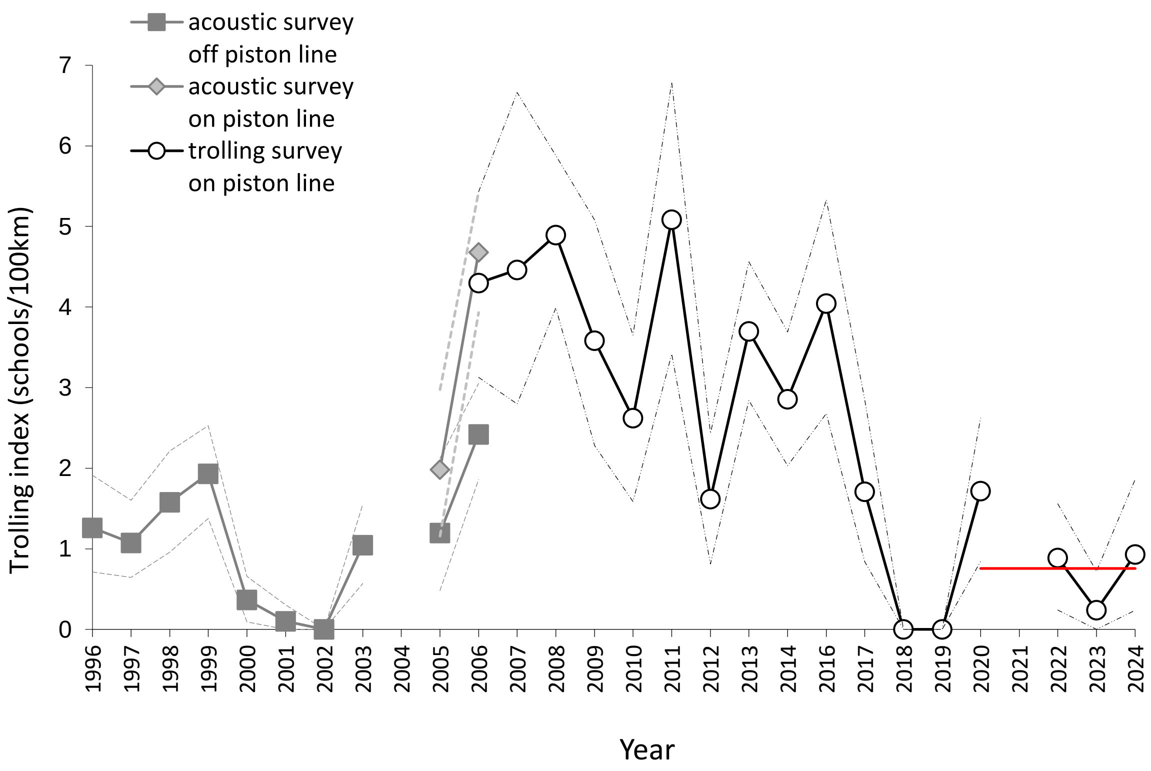
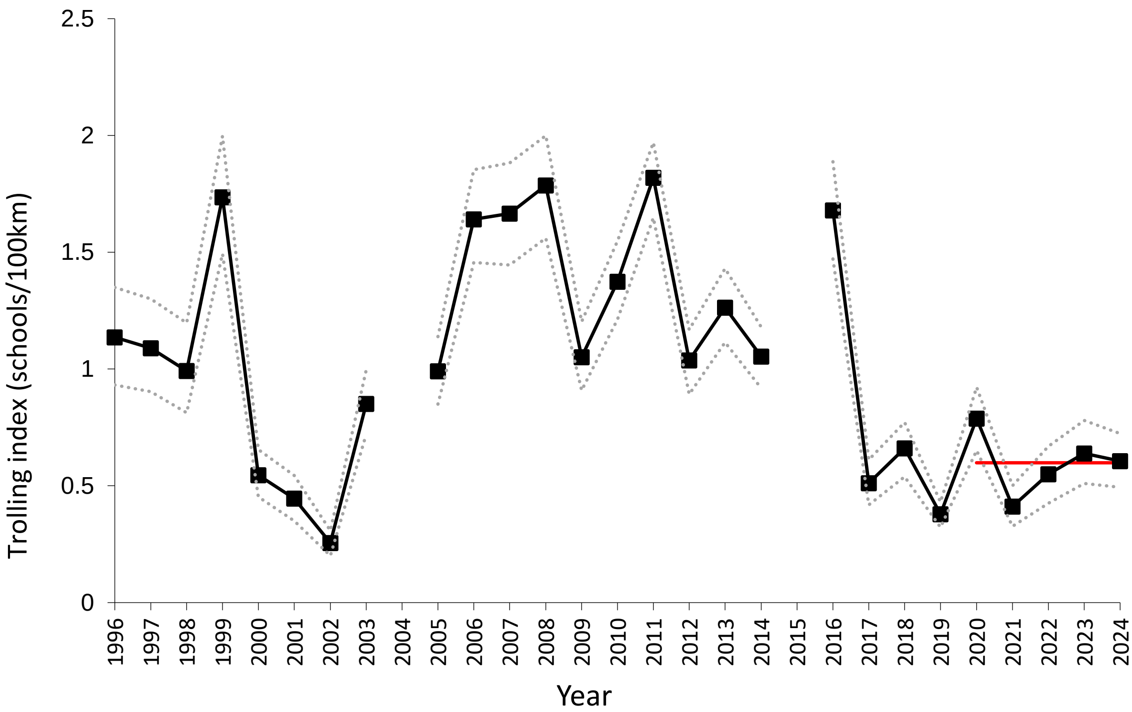


Figure 2 Grid-type trolling index, showing number of schools per 100 km off the Western Australian coast in January. Dashed lines are 90% confidence intervals. The red line shows the average 5-year median value.



2.2 Gene tagging

A pilot study examining the feasibility of conducting a large-scale SBT gene-tagging program was undertaken in 2016 to determine if this method could be used to provide a fisheries-independent estimate of the absolute abundance of juveniles; this would replace the scientific aerial survey which was discontinued in 2017 (Preece et al. 2018). The pilot project successfully demonstrated the technical feasibility of using this technique to provide abundance estimates for monitoring and management.

No new data from the ongoing program were provided in July 2022 (for 2020) because of the impacts of COVID -19 (Ann Preece, CSIRO, pers comm). The data were updated in the 2023 data exchange (GT2021_for2023dataexcahnge). The estimate of absolute abundance of 2-year old fish increased in 2021 (Table 1). No estimate for 2022 has yet been provided.

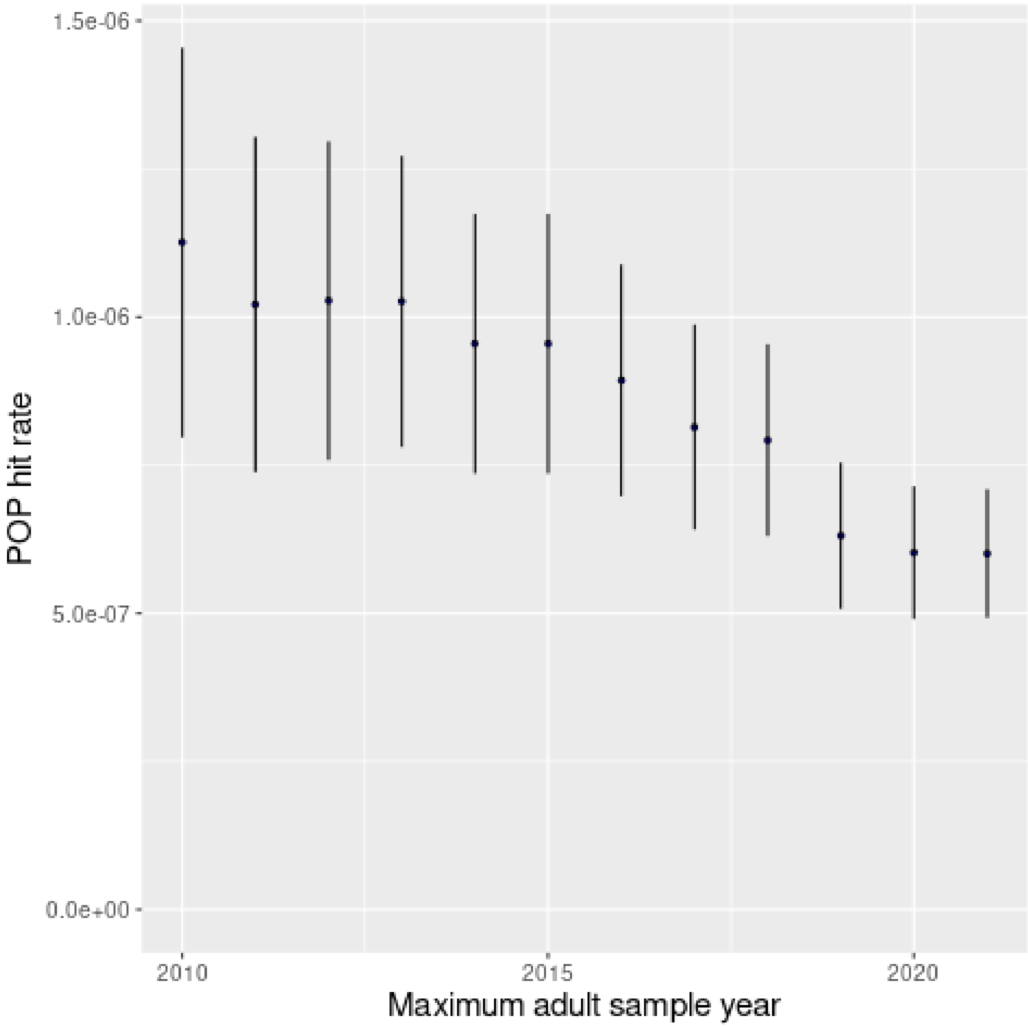
Table 1 Gene-tagging estimates for 2016 to 2021

	N release	N harvest	N Matches	Abundance estimate (millions)	CV
2016	2,952	15,390	20	2.27	0.224
2017	6,480	11,932	67	1.15	0.122
2018	6,295	11,980	66	1.14	0.123
2019	4,242	11,109	31	1.52	0.180
2020	–	–	–	–	–
2021	6,401	10,742	41	1.68	0.156

2.3 Close-kin mark recapture

Close-kin mark recapture (CKMR), which began tissue collection in 2014–15, is a high priority for CCSBT as it provides an estimate of abundance and is included in the Operating Model. The detection rate for Parent-Offspring-Pairs is provided in Figure 3. Further information on CKMR is provided in Hillary et al. (2016) and Hillary et al. (2020). The detection rate for 2021, the latest year for which it is calculated, decreased, which is consistent with the adult abundance increasing. Although 7 new parent-offspring pairs have been detected, no updated information for adults was available in 2024 because of the interruption to sampling in Indonesia in recent years.

Figure 3 Mean (circles) and approximate 95% confidence interval (full line) for the Parent-Offspring Pair (POP) detection rate (number of kin pairs per juvenile-adult comparison) for a maximum adult sampling year (x-axis). With respect to interpretation, as we move along the x-axis we effectively move further forward in time with regards to the adult population, so an increasing/decreasing detection rate can be qualitatively inferred as a decreasing/increasing overall adult abundance.



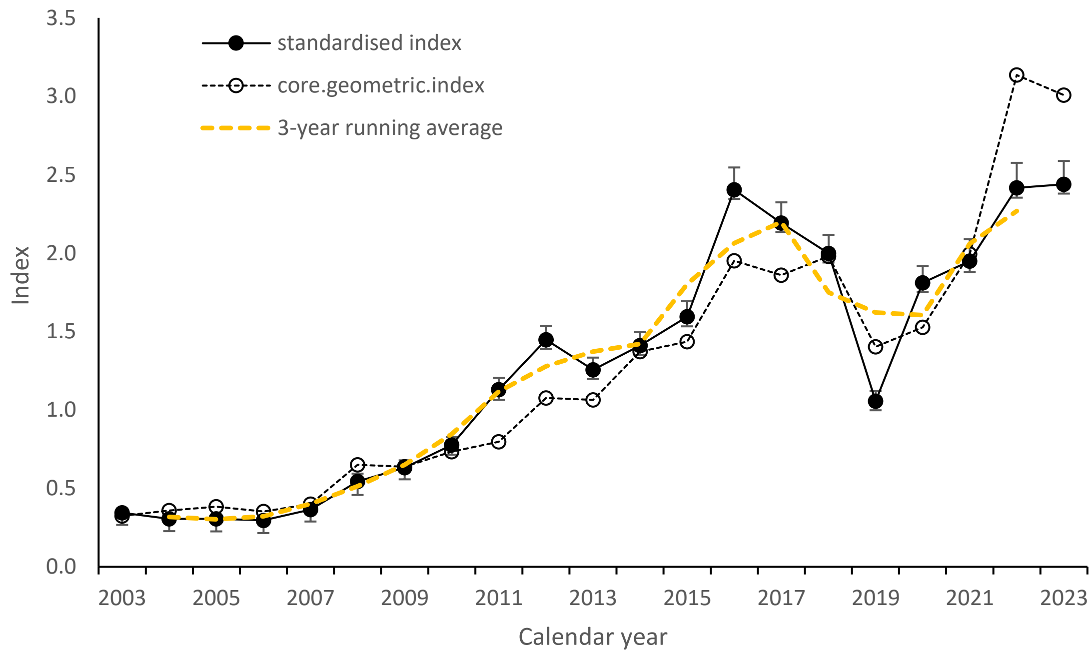
2.4 Catch per unit effort

2.4.1 New Zealand domestic longline CPUE

In previous years the nominal CPUE for the NZ domestic fishery has been provided, based on aggregated catch and effort data provided in the interim update of the CCSBT database. New Zealand updated their national report to include a standardised CPUE in 2023. For consistency, Figure 4 uses the values provided by New Zealand. The methodology used in generating these data is provided in CCSBT-ESC/2409/SBT Fisheries - New Zealand.

Overall, catch rates in the NZ domestic fishery increased from 2007, with a sharp decrease seen in 2019 (Fig. 4). CPUE then increased, with a very small increase in 2023.

Figure 4 Standardised CPUE for the NZ domestic longline fishery, core geometric index and 3-year running average. Figure provided by New Zealand.



2.5 Catch size/age composition

2.5.1 New Zealand domestic longline fishery size composition (< 6 years)

Size composition data for SBT caught by the NZ domestic fisheries were extracted from the interim update of the CCSBT database and were examined for trends in juvenile fish less than 6 years of age. The data for the early years of the domestic fishery are dominated by handline and troll caught fish and in more recent years by longline vessels. As such, caution should be used in interpreting the full time series because of this discontinuity (Hartog & Preece 2008).

It has been assumed that the following size categories represented ages 0–2, 3, 4 and 5:

≤86 cm: age 0–2

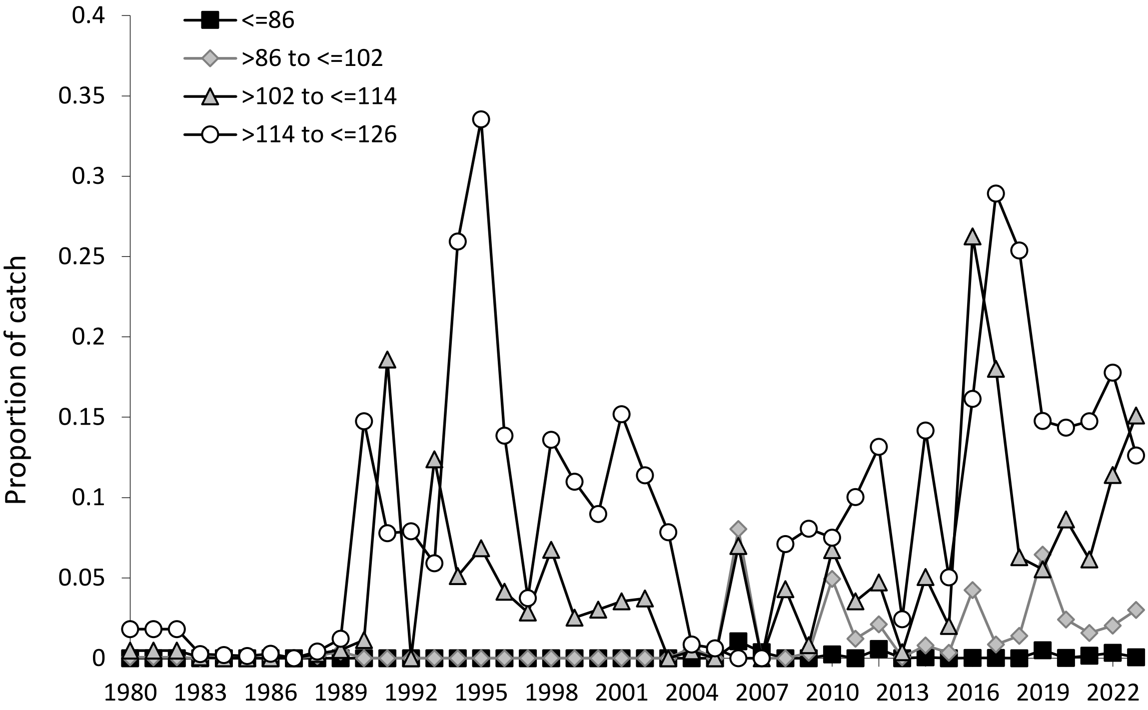
>86 to ≤102 cm: age 3

>102 to ≤114 cm: age 4

>114 to ≤126 cm: age 5

In the size/age categories examined, the NZ domestic fishery has historically landed age 4 and 5 SBT, with some small spikes in the landing of age 3 SBT in 2006, 2010, 2016 and 2019 (Fig. 5). The relative abundance of the juvenile age classes declined in 2003 and 2004 and has been variable since that time, increasing in 2016. The oldest age class decreased in 2023, while the two middle age classes increased. The 0–2 age class, which has been virtually zero throughout the time series, remained near zero.

Figure 5 Size composition of juvenile fish (< 6 years) for the NZ domestic longline fishery, where age 0–2<86 cm, 86<age 3≤102 cm, 102<age 4≤114 cm, 114<age 5≤126 cm.



2.5.2 Indonesian spawning ground size/age composition

The Indonesian catch data provide an important source of information about the spawning population if we assume that the selectivity of this fishery has been constant over time. The most recent Indonesian size and age data were provided in the 2023 data exchange. No updated information was available in 2024 because of the interruption to sampling in Indonesia in recent years. Therefore, the figures presented here could not be updated this year.

Since the mid- to late-1990s the size of SBT landed in this fishery has declined. As reported previously, since 2012–13 the length data indicate a new mode of relatively small fish in the catch that have progressed through the fishery, although this mode seems to be disappearing (Fig. 6, Fig. 7; Farley et al. 2023). The mean size has decreased in recent years and was 161.55 cm in 2020–21.

There was also an increase in the catch of young SBT (7–10 years) in 2012–13 (Sulistyaningsih et al. 2020). The mean age of SBT on the spawning ground decreased substantially from 16.75 years in 2010–11 to 12.78 years in 2020–21. The median age class remained at 10 years in 2020–21 (Fig. 8, Fig. 9; Farley et al. 2023).

It has been determined that SBT caught by Indonesia are taken in CCSBT statistical areas 1, 2 and 8. It is therefore possible that the small fish noted in the data are not being caught on the spawning grounds, but rather are being caught south of the spawning grounds (Farley et al. 2017). Resolving the location of this catch is important for interpreting the indicators, as well as the use of these data in the operating model. A preliminary study to confirm the catch location in Indonesia was undertaken in 2019 (Fahmi et al. 2019). This study found that the proportion of small fish in the spawning area had increased in recent years. A preliminary review of the data in 2021 found that size data from two sources resulted in different age composition results (Farley et al. 2021). Further work is needed to determine the reasons for these differences and improve the quality of the data. Given the importance of the size and age composition estimates from the Indonesian fishery to the assessment and management of SBT, this work was recommended as a high priority.

Figure 6 Length frequency (2 cm intervals) of SBT caught on the spawning ground (bars) by spawning season (Sulistyaningsih et al. 2020). The grey bar shows the median size class. For comparison, the length distribution of SBT thought to be caught south of the spawning ground (Processor A) is shown for the 2003/04 (n=121), 2004/05 (n=685), 2005/06 (n=311) and 2006/07 (n=452) seasons (grey line) (see Farley et al. 2007).

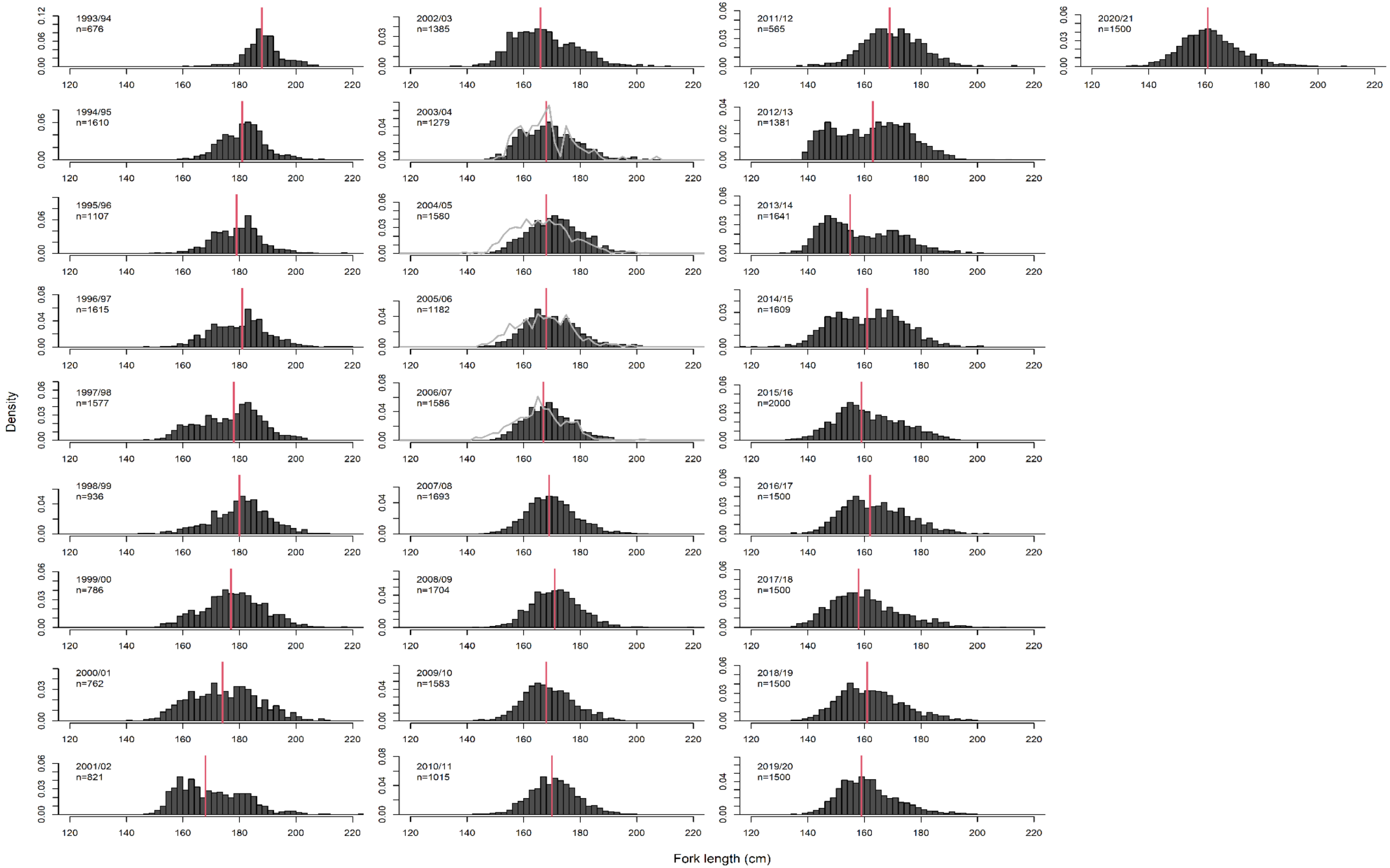


Figure 7 Size composition of SBT caught on the spawning grounds by the Indonesian longline fishery by spawning season (from Sulistyaningsih et al. 2020). Data from Processor A are excluded.

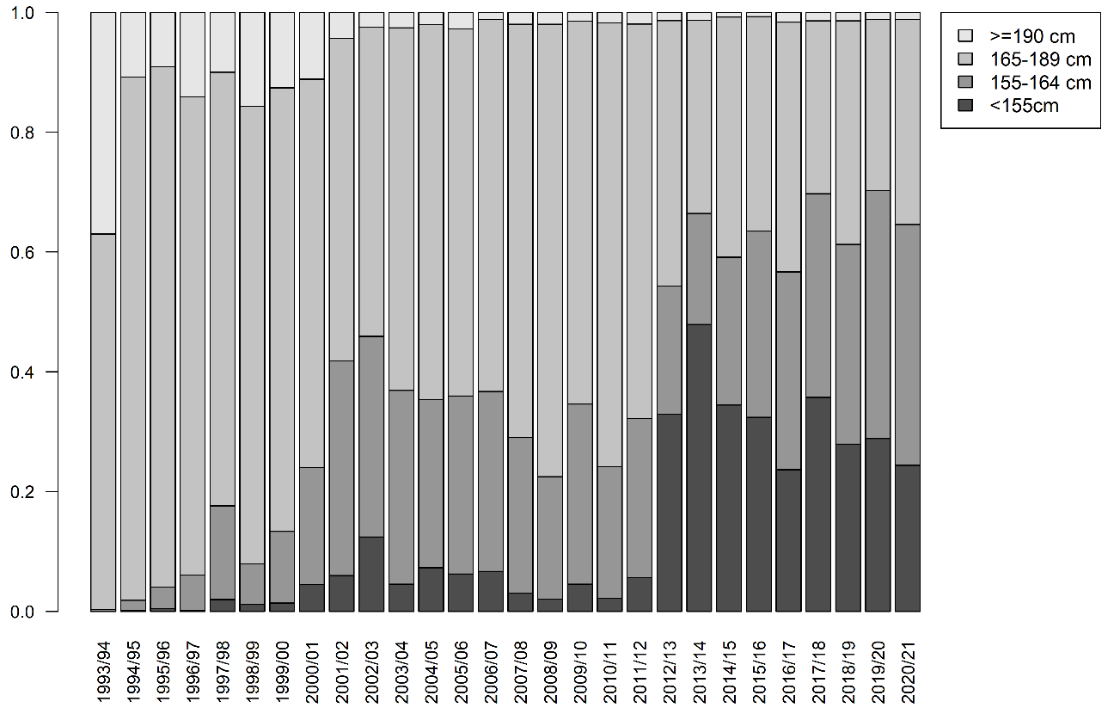


Figure 8 Mean estimated age (years) of SBT caught on the spawning grounds by Indonesian longliners (from Sulistyaningsih et al. 2020). Data from Processor A are excluded. Note that there are no age data for the 1995–96 season.

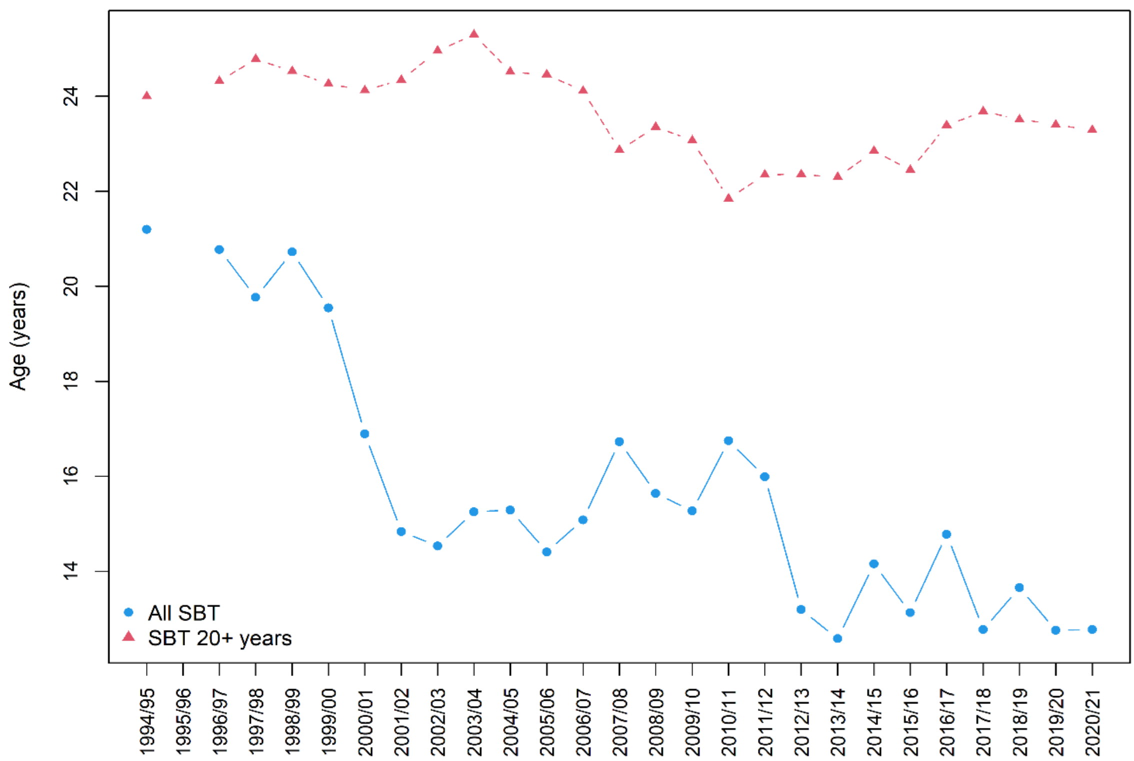
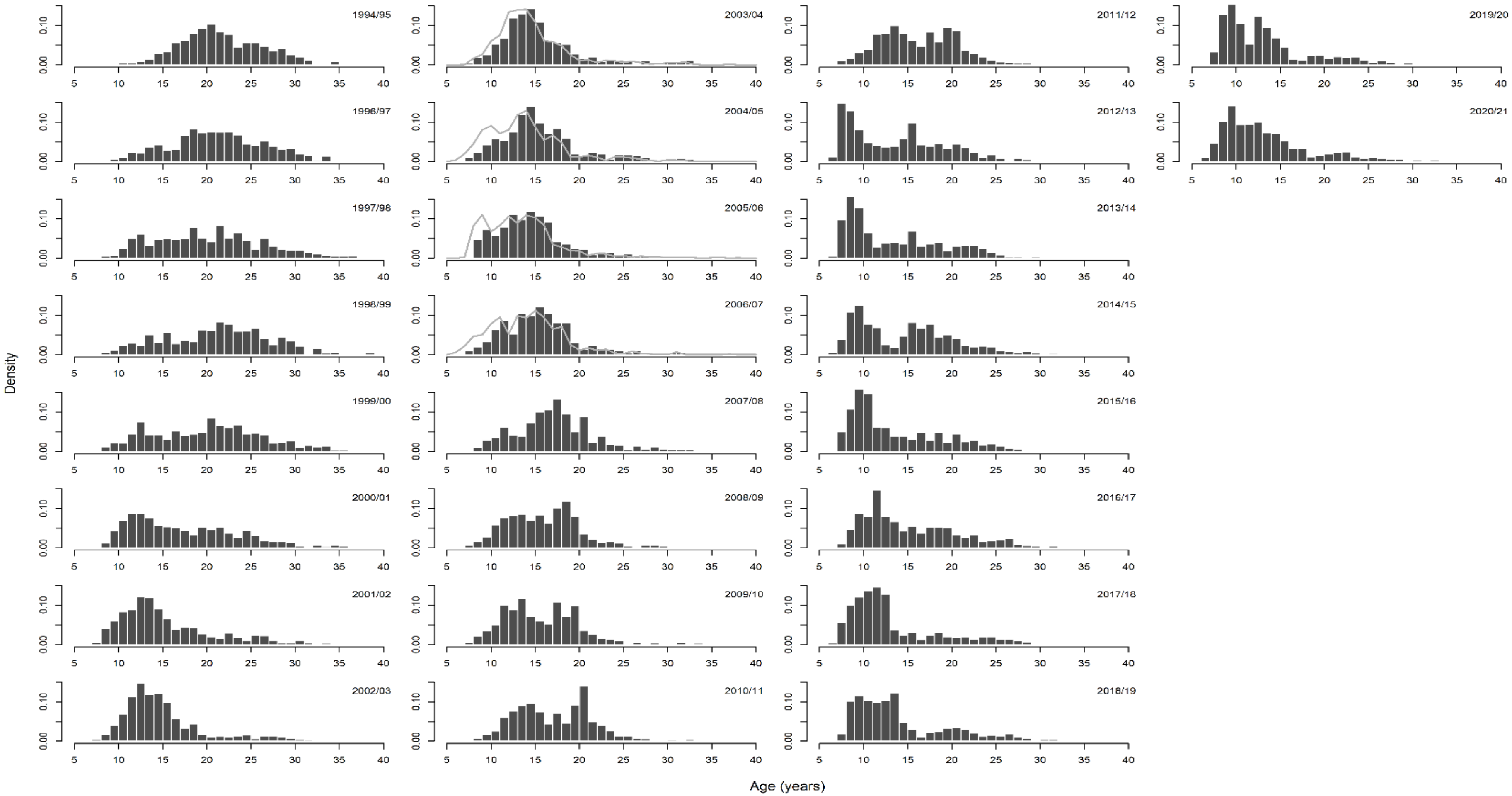


Figure 9 Age frequency distribution of SBT in the Indonesian catch on the spawning ground by spawning season estimated using age-length keys from sub-samples of direct aged fish and length frequency data obtained through the Indonesian monitoring program (from Sulistyaningsih et al. 2020). There was no direct ageing of the 2012–13 otoliths; age frequency is based on the age-length key from the previous two seasons and 2012–13 length frequency data. For comparison, the age frequency of SBT thought to be caught south of the spawning ground (Processor A) is shown for the 2004–05 to 2006–07 seasons (grey line) (see Farley et al. 2007).



3 Indicators potentially affected by unreported catch

The indicators included in this section are based on fishery-dependent data and may or may not have been affected by unreported catches identified in the Japanese Market Review (Lou et al. 2006) or the Australian Farm Review (Fushimi et al. 2006). These indicators have been updated with information provided through the CCSBT data exchange. Recent trends in these indicators are unlikely to be affected by unreported catches because of the improvements in catch documentation that have been implemented since 2006.

3.1 Catch per unit effort (CPUE)

3.1.1 Japanese longline CPUE

Nominal CPUE series for Japanese longliners was extracted from the CPUE input data provided in the CCSBT data exchange (CPUEInputs_1965–2023). The standardised CPUE series previously used were replaced with the new GAM series which was updated through the data exchange in 2024 (JP_CPUE_GAM2023).

There have been several perturbations significantly affecting the continuity of the Japanese longline CPUE series. Major changes were made to the management of the Japanese longline fleet in April 2006 (introduction of individual quota and removal of restrictions on fishing area and season) (Itoh 2006). It is not known to what extent the Japanese longline CPUE series would be affected by the unreported catches identified in 2006 (Polacheck et al. 2006).

In 2019, the CPUE series used to test the management procedure had a very high value for 2018, resulting from very high estimates in strata that had no observations. The CCSBT CPUE Working Group identified an alternate methodology and series (GAM) that replaced the series previously used (CCSBT 2022).

The following updates for 2023 have been compiled (note that age data are cohort slices from length composition):

- Nominal aggregate CPUE for age 4+ SBT in areas 4–9 in months 4–9. The series showed an overall decline until 2006–07 and has generally been increasing since. The data point for 2023 decreased slightly, but is above the 10-year mean (Fig. 10, horizontal line).
- Nominal CPUE for age 4–7, 8–11 and 12+ SBT. The nominal CPUE series for ages 4–7 decreased in 2023, while the CPUE of ages 8–11 and 12+ SBT increased (Fig. 11).
- Nominal CPUE for age 0–2, 3, 4 and 5 SBT. Since 2010, age 4 and 5 SBT have been the dominant year classes. Age 4 decreased substantially in 2023, while age 5 increased slightly. Age 3 also increased substantially and is on par with age 5. Ages 0–2 increased as well in 2023 but remain near relatively low (Fig. 12).
- Standardised CPUE. The recently adopted GAM series decreased in 2023 (Fig. 13).

Figure 10 Nominal CPUE of age 4+ SBT for Japanese longliners operating in statistical areas 4–9 in months 4–9. The 1995 and 1996 values are plotted as grey circles to indicate increased uncertainty about these points due to changes in retention policies for small fish in these two years, when a policy of releasing small fish applied. The horizontal line is the 10-year mean.

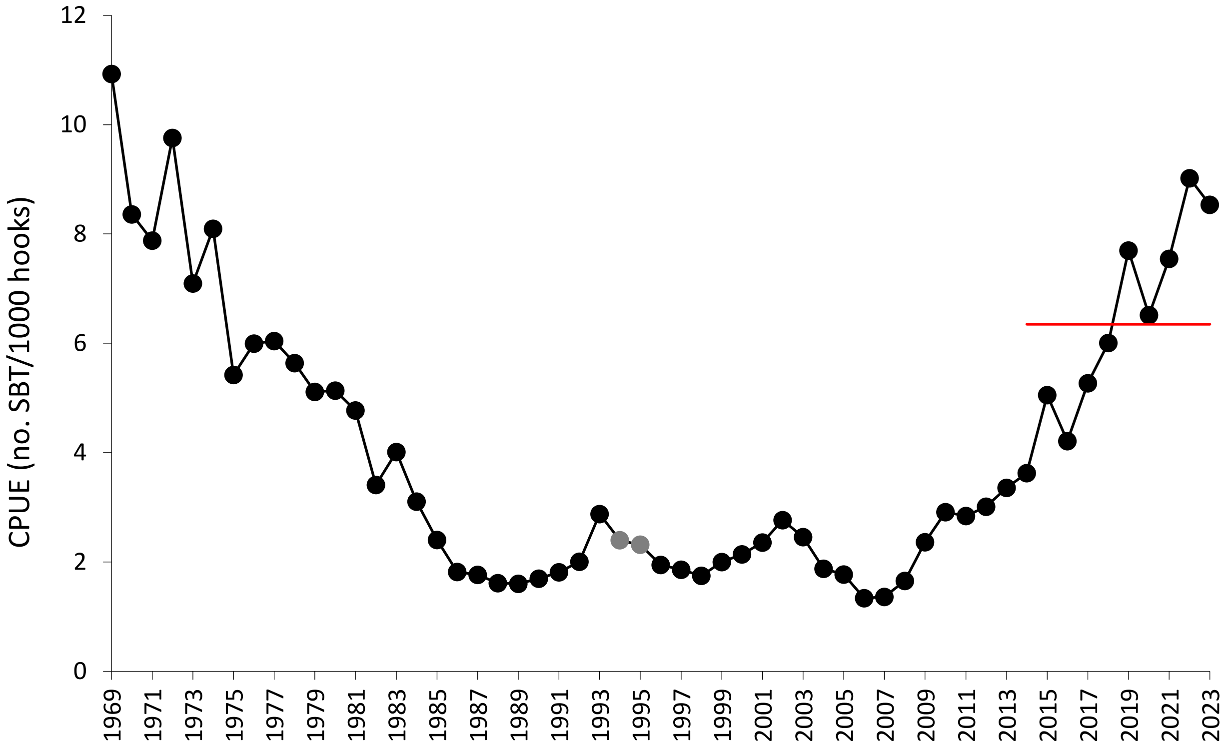


Figure 11 Nominal CPUE of ages 4–7, 8–11 and 12+ SBT for Japanese longliners operating in statistical areas 4–9 in months 4–9. The 1995 and 1996 values for ages 4–7 are plotted as grey squares to indicate increased uncertainty about these points due to changes in retention policies for small fish in these two years.

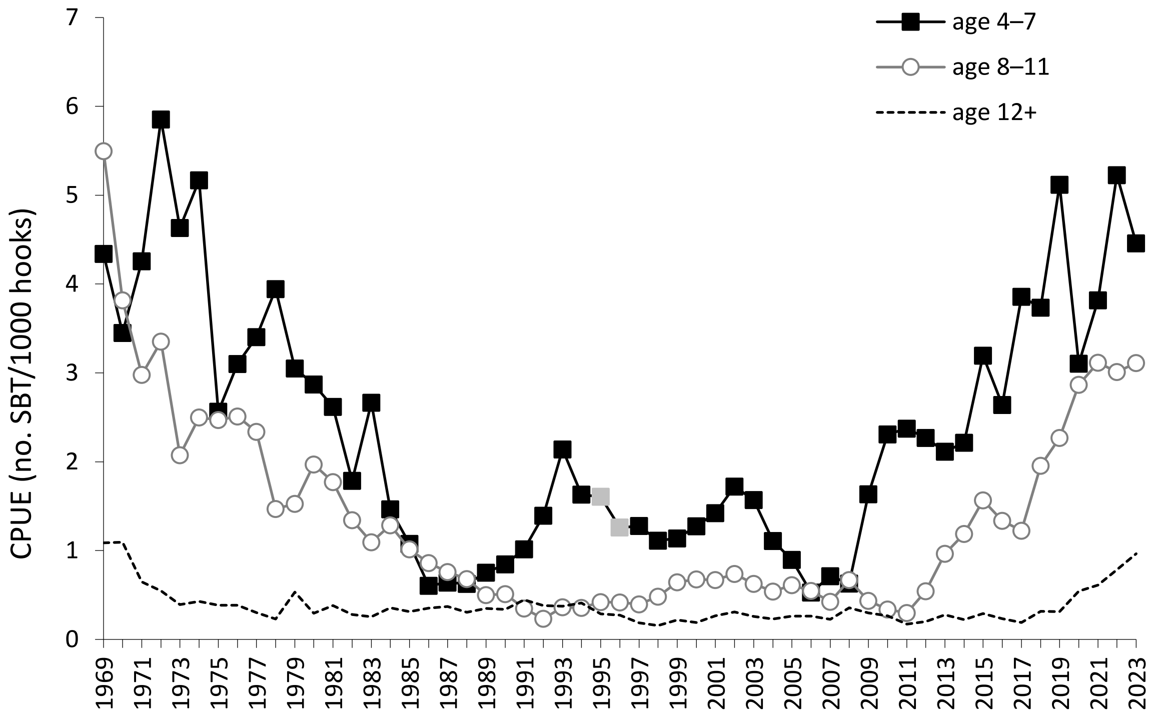


Figure 12 Nominal CPUE of ages 0–2, 3, 4 and 5 SBT for Japanese longliners operating in statistical areas 4–9 in months 4–9.

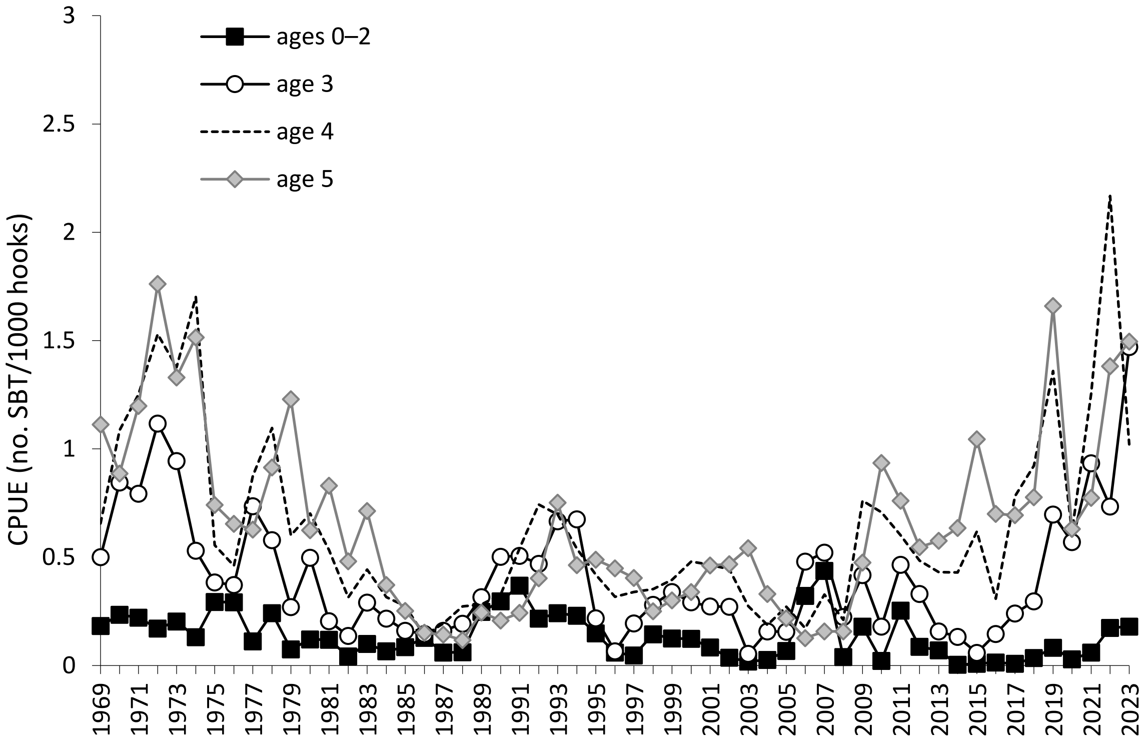
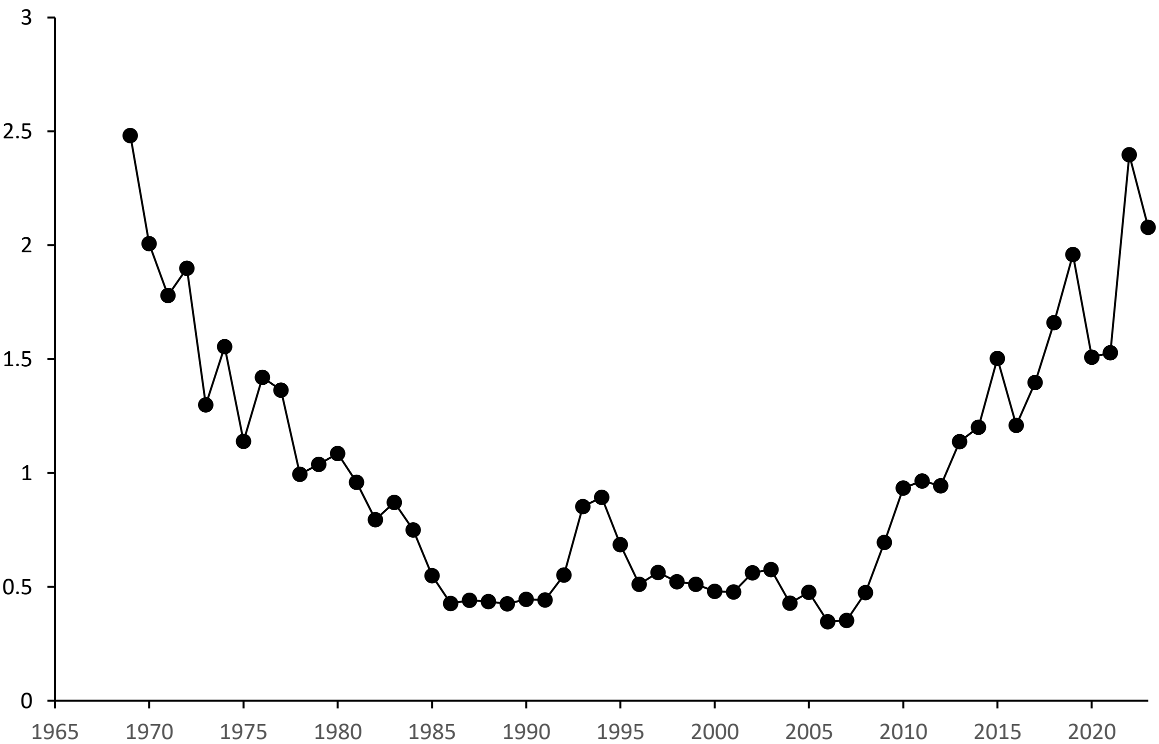


Figure 13 Standardised CPUE of age 4+ SBT for Japanese longliners (GAM)

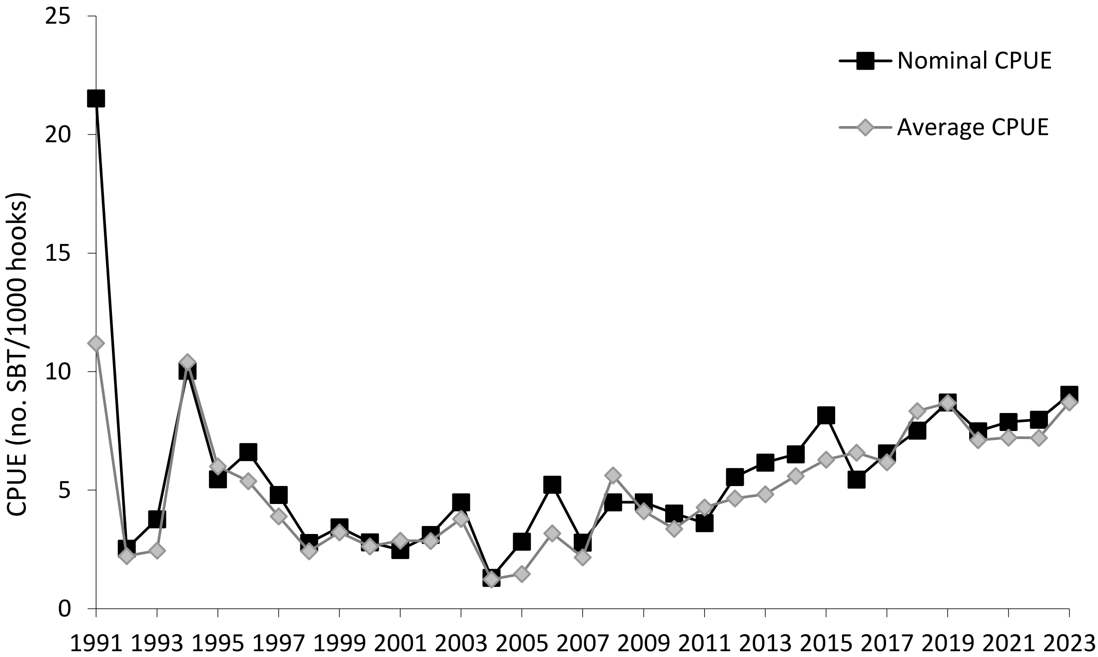


3.1.2 Korean longline CPUE

Nominal CPUE series for Korean longliners were obtained from aggregated catch and effort data provided in the interim update of the CCSBT database.

Both CPUE series have been reasonably stable since 1995 (Fig. 14). In 2007 and 2008, the spatial distribution of the fleet shifted from its normal pattern to take catches from western and central fishing grounds in the Indian Ocean (An et al. 2008). In 2023, both series increased slightly.

Figure 14 Nominal and average CPUE of total SBT for Korean longliners operating in statistical areas 4–9 in months 4–9. Nominal CPUE is the total number of SBT over total effort (1000 hooks), while average CPUE is the mean of the nominal rate in each 5×5° grid square per month.



3.1.3 Taiwanese longline CPUE

Nominal CPUE series of Taiwanese longliners were obtained from aggregated catch and effort data provided in the 2024 interim update of the CCSBT database.

The number of vessels in the Taiwanese fishery targeting SBT and catching SBT as bycatch has fluctuated since 2002 when records became more accurate (CCSBT-ESC/1309/SBT Fisheries-Taiwan). The Taiwanese fishery operates in both the northern fishery (areas 2, 14, 15), and the southern fishery (areas 8, 9) (Fig. 15, 16). The main area of effort is the southern 5 degrees of latitude in statistical areas 2, 14 and 15, where vessels have historically targeted albacore.

Catch rates have fluctuated over time, with a decrease in areas 8 and 9, and in areas 2, 14 and 15 in 2023 (Fig. 15). Catch rates in 2023 were highest in areas 2, 14 and 15 south in 2022. Catch rates in the middle section of 2, 14 and 15 declined (Fig. 16). Taiwan informed the 2009 ESC that changes in collection of fishery statistics was largely responsible for the increase seen in nominal catch rates in areas 2, 14 and 15 since 2000 (Fig. 15, 16; Anon 2009). Effort in all areas was largely the same as in the previous year (Fig. 17).

Figure 15 Nominal CPUE of SBT for Taiwanese longliners operating in statistical areas 8 and 9 (pooled) and 2, 14 and 15 (pooled) in months 4–9

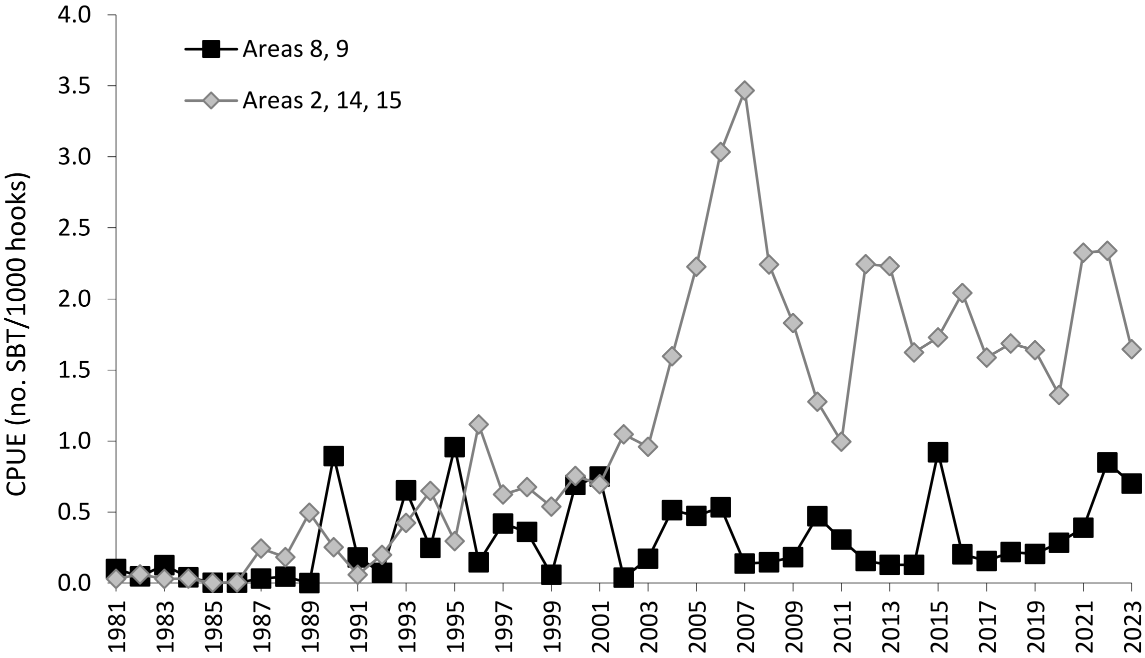


Figure 16 Nominal CPUE of SBT for Taiwanese longliners operating in statistical areas 2, 14 and 15 (pooled) by 5° latitudinal strips: South = 30–35°S; Middle = 25–30°S; North = 20–25°S. Nominal CPUE in areas 8 and 9 (pooled) shown for comparison. Data are from months 4-9 only.

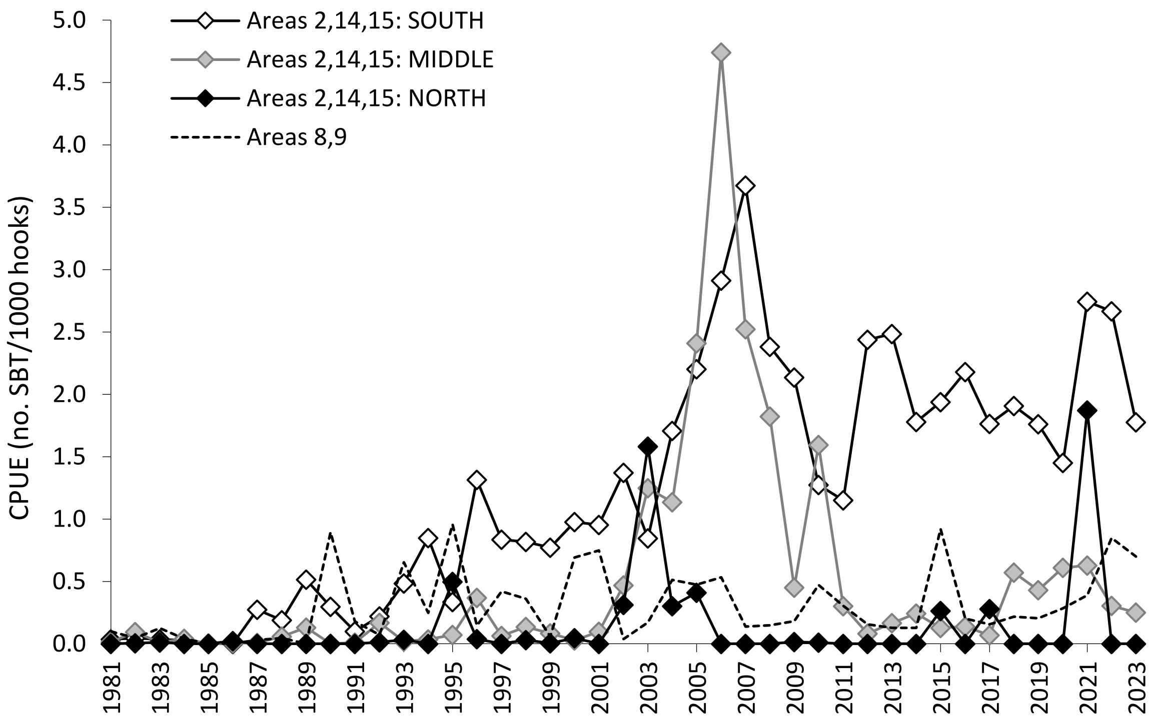
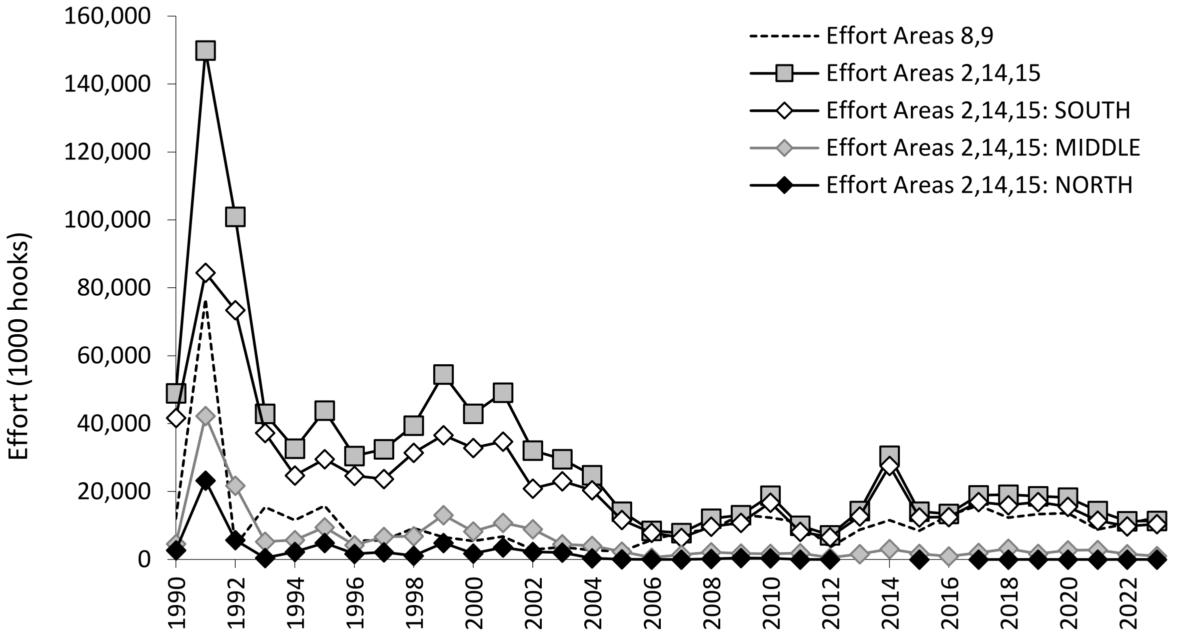


Figure 17 Effort (1000 hooks) from Taiwanese longliners in statistical areas 8 & 9 (pooled) and 2, 14 and 15 (pooled). Areas 2, 14 and 15 are also separated into 5° latitudinal strips: South = 30–35°S; Middle = 25–30°S; North = 20–25°S. Data are from months 4–9 only.



3.2 Catch size/age composition

Size and age composition of the unreported catch identified by the 2006 Japanese Market Review is unknown and the effect on age/size data from the bias identified in the Australian Farm Review has not been resolved. Therefore, the long-term trends in these data should be interpreted with caution. Data collected since 2006 for the longline fisheries are unlikely to be affected by unreported catches.

3.2.1 Japanese longline fishery size/age composition

Size composition data for SBT caught by Japanese longliners were obtained from the CCSBT data exchange in June 2024. These data are examined below for trends for juvenile fish aged less than 6 years.

For comparison with size/age composition in the NZ and Taiwanese longline fisheries, Japanese length data have also been compiled for < 6-year olds, assuming that the following size categories represented ages 0–2, 3, 4 and 5:

≤86 cm: age 0–2

>86 to ≤102 cm: age 3

>102 to ≤114 cm: age 4

>114 to ≤126 cm: age 5

The age composition of SBT (derived from cohort slicing) caught by the Japanese longline fishery has been highly variable over time. The relative proportion of the oldest age class examined here increased slightly in 2023, as the age 3 class. The age 4 class decreased. The youngest age class increased, although it remained near zero (Fig. 18).

Trends in size composition of < 126 cm indicate the proportion of the largest size class decreased in 2023, while the second largest declined slightly and the third largest increased slightly; the smallest size class remained near zero (Fig. 19).

Discarding of juveniles has been reported since 2009 but may have commenced earlier and would impact the size/age composition (Sakai & Itoh 2013).

Figure 18 Age composition (proportion of total catch) of ages 0–2, 3, 4 and 5 in the Japanese longline fishery in statistical areas 4–9, months 4–9

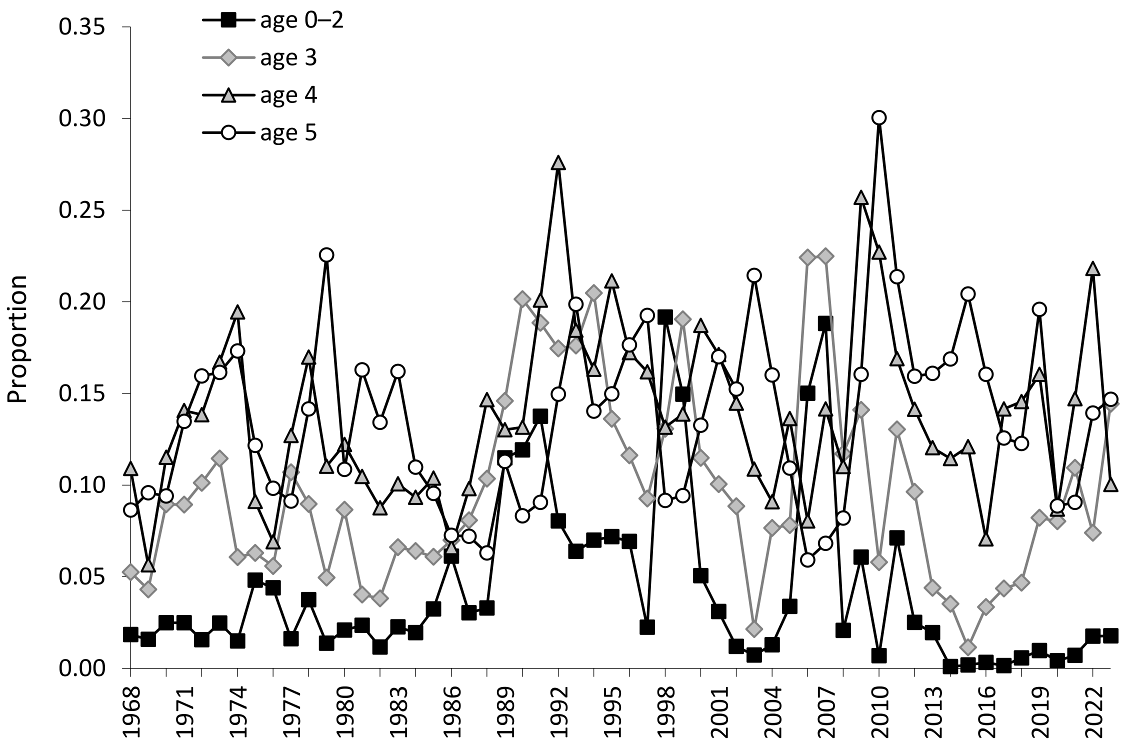
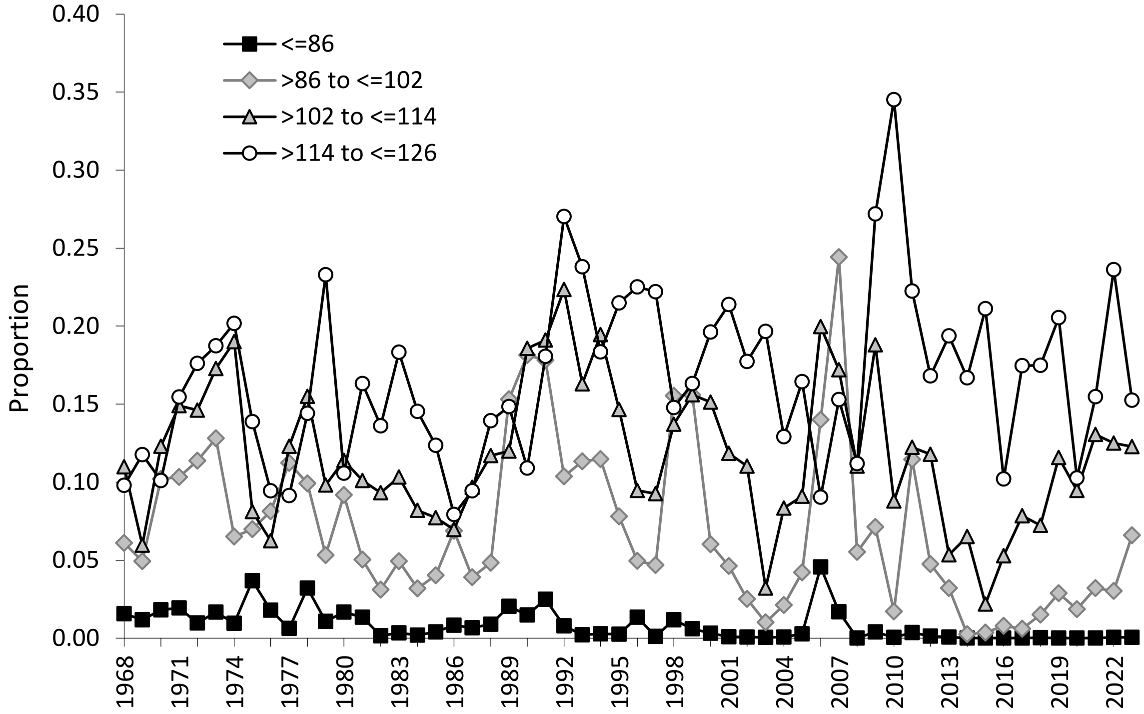


Figure 19 Size composition (proportion of total catch) of juvenile SBT caught by Japanese longliners in statistical areas 4–9, months 4–9, where age 0–2≤86 cm, 86<age 3≤102 cm, 102<age 4≤114 cm, 114<age 5≤126 cm



3.2.2 Taiwanese longline fishery size/age composition

Size composition data for SBT caught by Taiwanese longliners were obtained from the 2024 interim update of the CCSBT database. Data in this table are not linked to statistical area or month of capture. Therefore, all available size data in this table have been aggregated.

It has been assumed that the following size categories represented ages 0–2, 3, 4 and 5:

≤86 cm: age 0–2

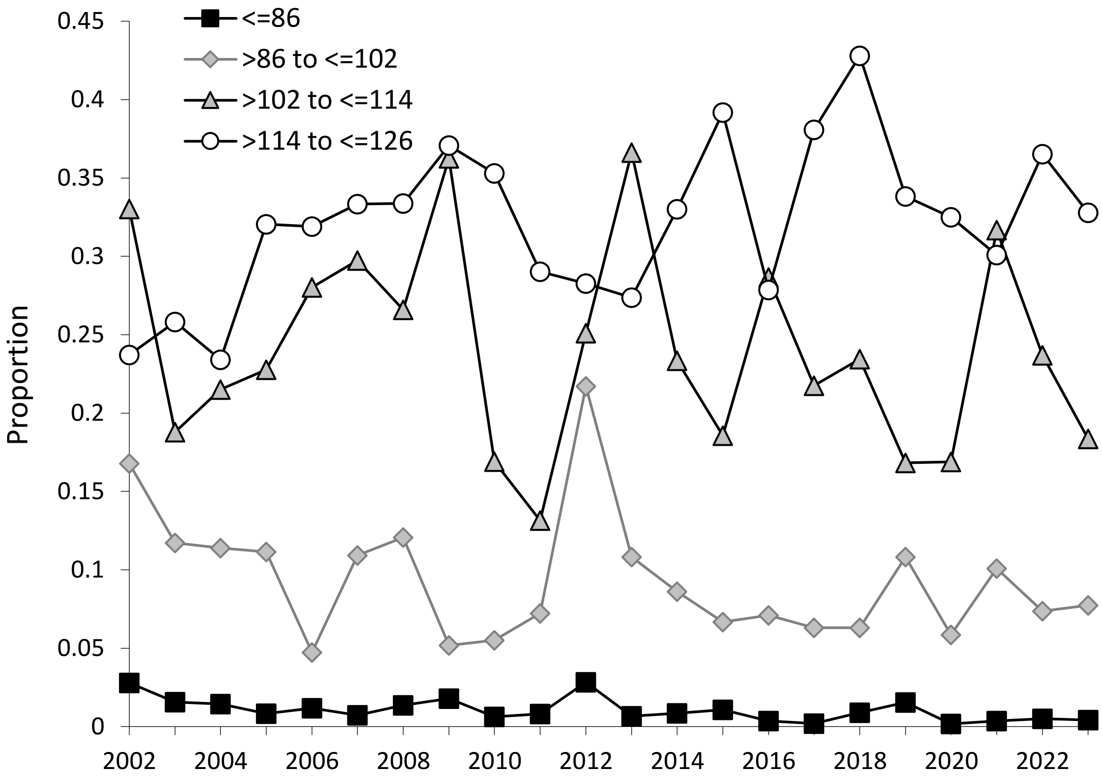
>86 to ≤102 cm: age 3

>102 to ≤114 cm: age 4

>114 to ≤126 cm: age 5

Taiwanese longliners have historically targeted albacore in the southern sections of statistical areas 2, 14 and 15, and generally catch higher proportions of juvenile SBT (Hartog & Preece 2008). In 2023, the proportion of the largest two size classes decreased, while proportions of the two smallest size classes remained largely the same as the previous year (Fig. 20).

Figure 20 Size composition (proportion of total catch) of juvenile SBT caught by Taiwanese longliners, where age 0–2≤86 cm, 86<age 3≤102 cm, 102<age 4≤114 cm, 114<age 5≤126 cm

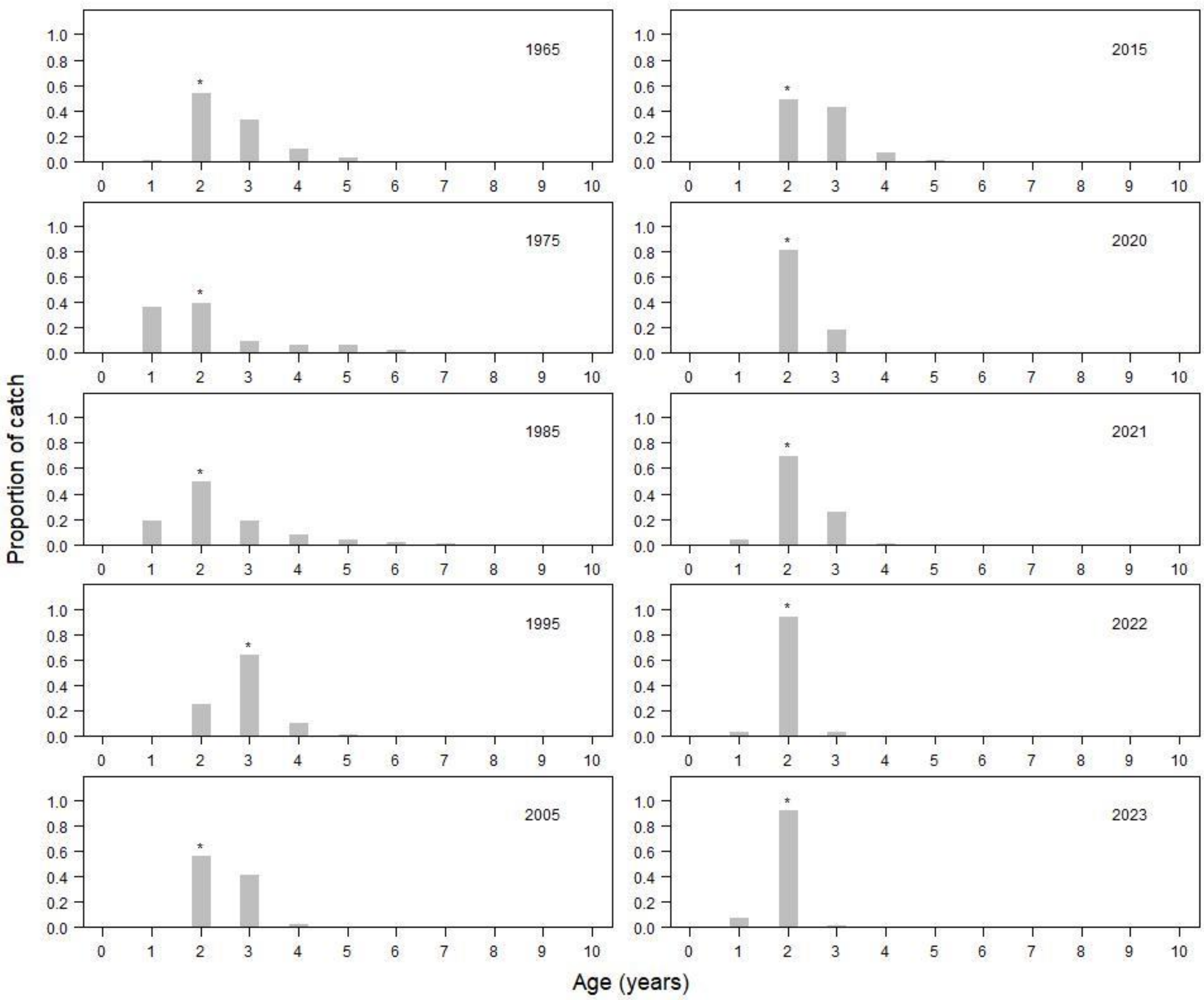


3.2.3 Australian surface fishery age composition

The age composition of SBT caught by the Australian surface fishery was updated directly from the proportional catch-at-age data prepared by the Secretariat and provided through the CCSBT data exchange (SEC_ManagementProcedureData_1952_2023). The catch at age is calculated from length frequency data (Preece et al. 2004).

The 2006 Australian Farm Review was unable to resolve whether there were biases in the 40-fish sampling program that would affect the size/age composition of the reported catch (Fushimi et al. 2006). Age composition in the Australian surface fishery has not changed markedly and continues to be dominated by age 2 and age 3 SBT (Fig. 21). These two age classes have historically comprised around 90% of the catch. In 2023, the 2 and 3-year old age classes accounted for about 93% of the catch, with the age 2 age class accounting for most of that.

Figure 21 Age composition in the Australian surface fishery. Median age classes are indicated with asterisks.



Appendix A: Recent trends in all indicators of the SBT stock

Table 2 Recent trends in all indicators of the SBT stock. Minimum and maximum values in the time series are also shown.

Indicator	Period	Min.	Max.	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	12 -month trend
Trolling index (piston line)	1996–2003 2005–06 2006–24	0.00 (2018, 2019)	5.09 (2011)	1.718	–-	0.887	0.240	0.932	↑
Trolling index (grid)	1996–2024	0.256 (2002)	1.786 (2011)	0.789	0.411	0.549	0.638	0.606	↓
Gene tagging	2016–21	1.14 (2018)	2.27 (2016)	–-	1.68	–-			–-
CKMR hit rate	2010–21	5.98e-7 (2021)	1.13e-6 (2010)	6.08e-7	6.00e-7	–-			–-
NZ domestic standardised CPUE	2003–2023	0.297 (2006)	2.44 (2023)	1.81	1.95	2.42	2.44		↑
NZ domestic age/size composition (proportion age 0–5 SBT)*	1980–2023	0.001 (1985)	0.48 (2017)	0.25	0.23	0.32	0.31		↓
Indonesian mean size class**	1993–2021	158.16 (2014)	188.06 (1994)	160.64	161.55	–-	–-		–-
Indonesian age composition:** mean age on spawning ground, all SBT	1994–2021	12.59 (2014)	21.19 (1995)	12.76	12.78	–-	–-		–-
Indonesian age composition:** mean age on spawning ground 20+	1994–2021	22.35 (2016)	25.29 (2004)	23.40	23.29	–-	–-		–-
Indonesian age composition:** median age class on spawning ground	1994–2021	10 (multiple years)	21 (multiple years)	10	10	–-	–-		–-

Table 2 (cont'd). Recent trends in all indicators of the SBT stock. Minimum and maximum values in the time series are also shown. Japanese age composition refers to ages in statistical areas 4–9 for months 4–9 only.

Indicator	Period	Min.	Max.	2020	2021	2022	2023	12-month trend
Japanese nominal CPUE, age 4+	1969–2023	1.338 (2006)	22.123 (1965)	6.515	7.547	9.020	8.536	↓
Japanese standardised CPUE, age 4+ (GAM series)	1969–2023	0.35 (2006)	2.48 (1969)	1.51	1.53	2.39	2.08	↓
Korean nominal CPUE	1991–2023	1.312 (2004)	21.523 (1991)	7.487	7.879	7.980	9.032	↑
Taiwanese nominal CPUE, Areas 8+9	1981–2023	<0.001 (1985)	0.956 (1995)	0.283	0.388	0.849	0.700	↓
Taiwanese nominal CPUE, Areas 2+14+15	1981–2023	<0.001 (1985)	3.672 (2007)	1.324	2.325	2.338	1.644	↓
Japanese age comp, age 0–2*	1969–2023	0.004 (1966,2020)	0.192 (1998)	0.004	0.007	0.018	0.018	––
Japanese age comp, age 3*	1969–2023	0.011 (2015)	0.228 (2007)	0.080	0.109	0.074	0.144	↑
Japanese age comp, age 4*	1969–2023	0.091 (1967)	0.256 (2009)	0.087	0.147	0.218	0.100	↓
Japanese age comp, age 5*	1969–2023	0.063 (1988)	0.300 (2010)	0.089	0.091	0.140	0.147	↑
Taiwanese age/size comp, age 0–2*	1981–2023	<0.001 (1982)	0.251 (2001)	0.002	0.004	0.005	0.004	↓
Taiwanese age/size comp, age 3*	1981–2023	0.024 (1996)	0.349 (2001)	0.059	0.101	0.074	0.077	↑
Taiwanese age/size comp, age 4*	1981–2023	0.027 (1996)	0.502 (1999)	0.169	0.317	0.237	0.184	↓
Taiwanese age/size comp, age 5*	1981–2023	0.075 (1997)	0.428 (2018)	0.325	0.301	0.365	0.328	↓
Australia surface fishery median age composition	1964–2023	age 1 (1979–80)	age 3 (multiple years)	age 2	age 2	age 2	age 2	––

*derived from size data; ** Indonesian catch not restricted to just the spawning grounds since 2012–13

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