

A list of data inputs to the south coast rock lobster assessment

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(1) Catch data

Commercial catch data are available for the 1973-2006¹ seasons. The total catches per fishing season (1 October – 30 September) are assumed to be equal to the TAC², except in years where information is available on over-catches. In those years, the total catch for the resource is taken as TAC + Overcatch. The total catch is split into the three areas, using catch proportions obtained in the catch and effort database, which have been recorded spatially.

(2) CPUE

CPUE data are available for the 1977-2005 seasons. These data are collected spatially and so allow for easy break-up into the three new areas recently identified following clustering analyses by OLRAC. A GLM standardization method is used to produce a CPUE index for each area.

(3) Catch-at-length data

Scientific sample-based catch-at-length data for 1995-2005 are available. These are reported in 5mm size classes from 45mm to 125mm. The 1999 values are considered unreliable because of poor sampling levels that season. They are omitted from assessments. The size composition data are collected by fisheries observers at sea from 131 grid areas over four 3-month periods in a year. These data have been regrouped into the three designated assessment areas. Males and females are recorded separately (see ASWS/JUL07/SCRL/DAT2).

(4) Catch-at-age data

Catch-at-age data for the resource as a whole (for use in the “old” ASPM assessment methodology) are produced by applying cohort slicing to the observed catch-at-length data (OLRAC pers. commn).

(5) Tagging data

Tag-recapture data are available from 1987-2005. These data were incorporated in the ASPM assessment of the resource until 2002, when the Working Group decided to

¹ 1973 refers to the 1973/74 season

² This is necessary at this stage because of uncertainty whether the catch and effort database contains a complete set of records.

omit them from the assessment in the future. The reason was that there was little difference in the results whether the tagging data were included or not, and there was substantial increased modeling complexity and run-time required for taking account of the tagging data. These data have recently been used to estimate growth rates for male and female lobsters in each of the three assessment areas.