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July 1, 1994

F/SWC3:JMR

MEMORANDUM FOR: Richard D. Methot
FROM: Jean Beyer Rogers
SUBJ: Update of widow rockfish assessment

Last years assessment was based on data up until 1992, so this update includes information for 1992 and 1993. Acurate 1993 age composition expansions for the EUR-CON area were not available, and landings for that area are preliminary.

Landings for widow rockfish were below the Harvest Guideline of 7000 mt in 1992 and above it in 1993 (Figure 1). The proportions of the landings made with the four fisheries defined in last year's assessment show an increase in the relative amount of VAN-COL landings made with bottom trawls in Oregon (the other states do not distinguish between bottom and midwater trawl landings). That proportion increased from 0.15 in 1989 to 0.21 in 1990 to 0.30 in 1991, and then to 0.46 in 1992 and 0.44 in 1993.

The available age frequencies indicate that the strong 1981 year class still is relatively important in the landings (age 11 in 1992)(figure 2). In last year's assessment the estimated strength of the 1985 year class depended upon the model selected. That year class dominates the EUR-CON landings (age 7 in 1992), and is strongly represented in the other areas (figure 2). The 1986 year class appears relatively weak, but there may be a strong 1987 year class (age 6 in 1993)(figure 2).

These data do not indicate a need to change the ABC before the scheduled 1996 stock assessment.

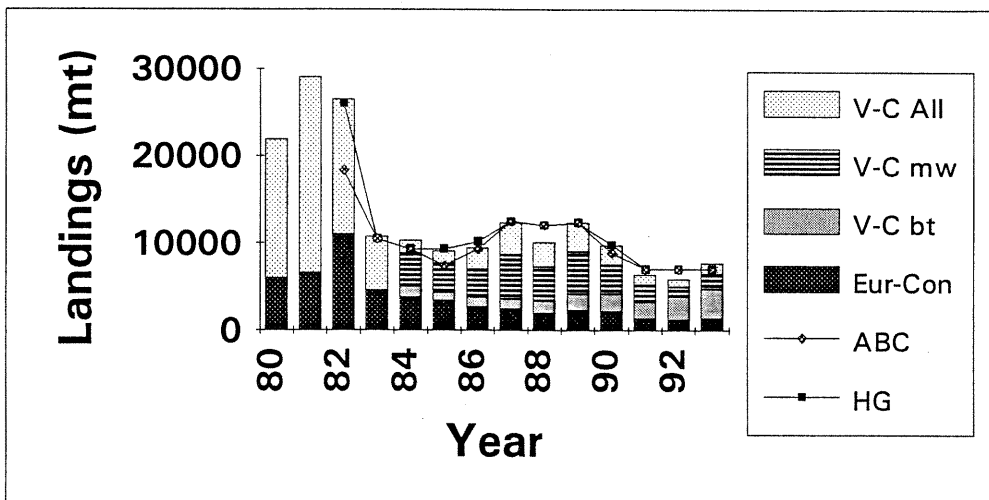


Figure 1. Widow rockfish landings for four fisheries: Vancouver and Columbia INPFC areas, all trawls (V-C All), midwater trawl (V-C mw), and bottom trawl (V-C bt); Eureka and Conception INPFC areas, all trawls (Eur-Con).

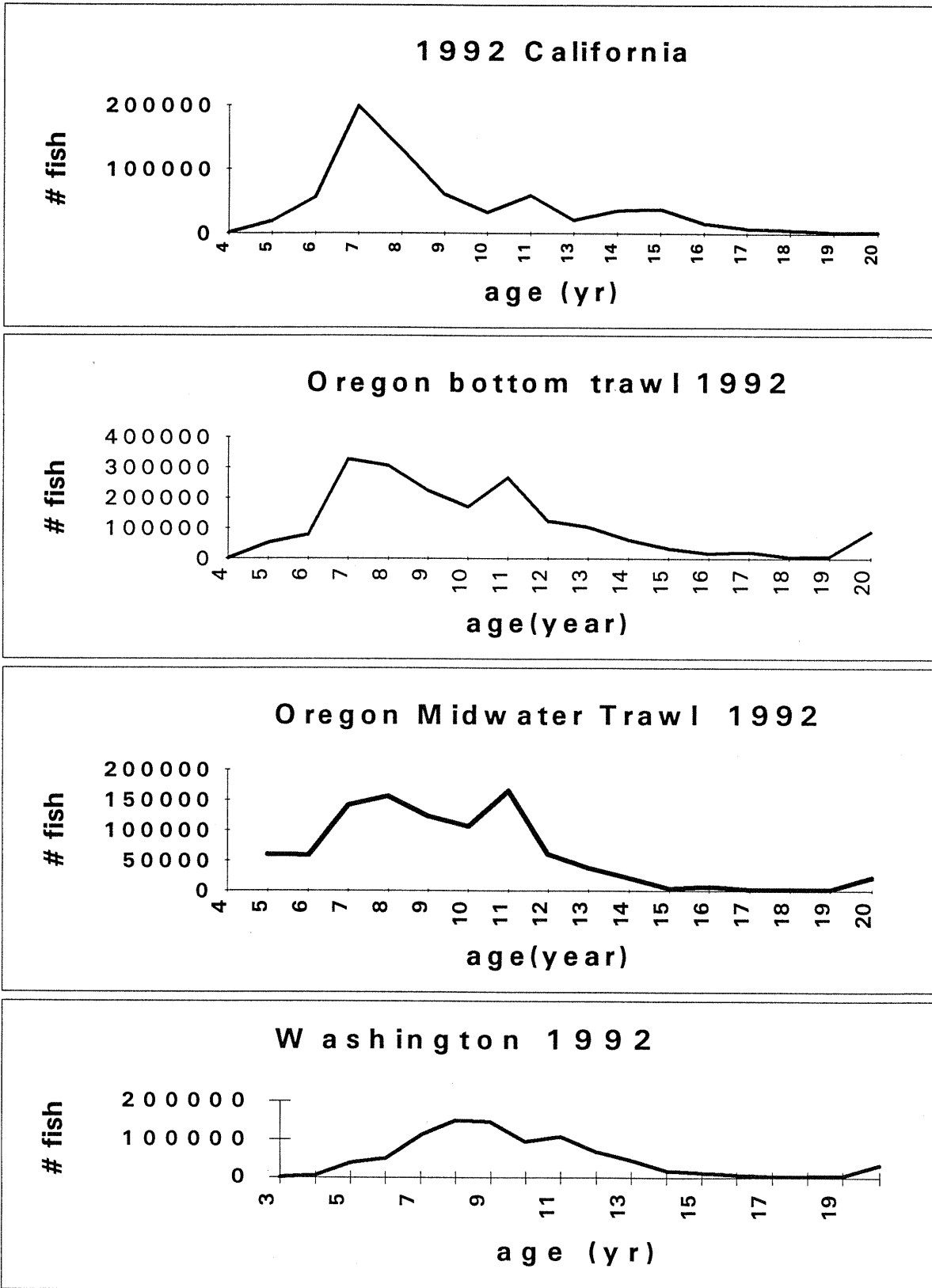


Figure 2. Estimated age frequencies for widow rockfish.

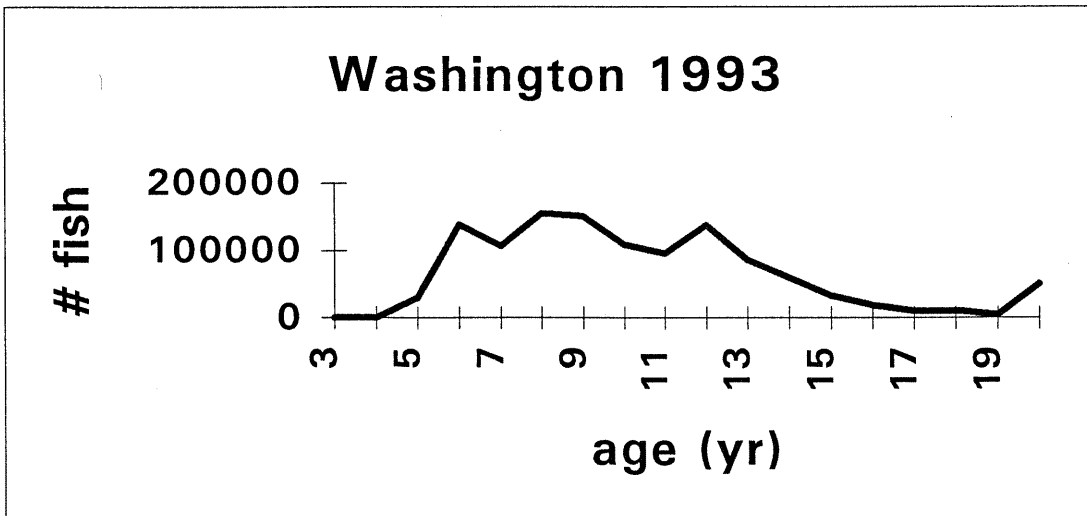
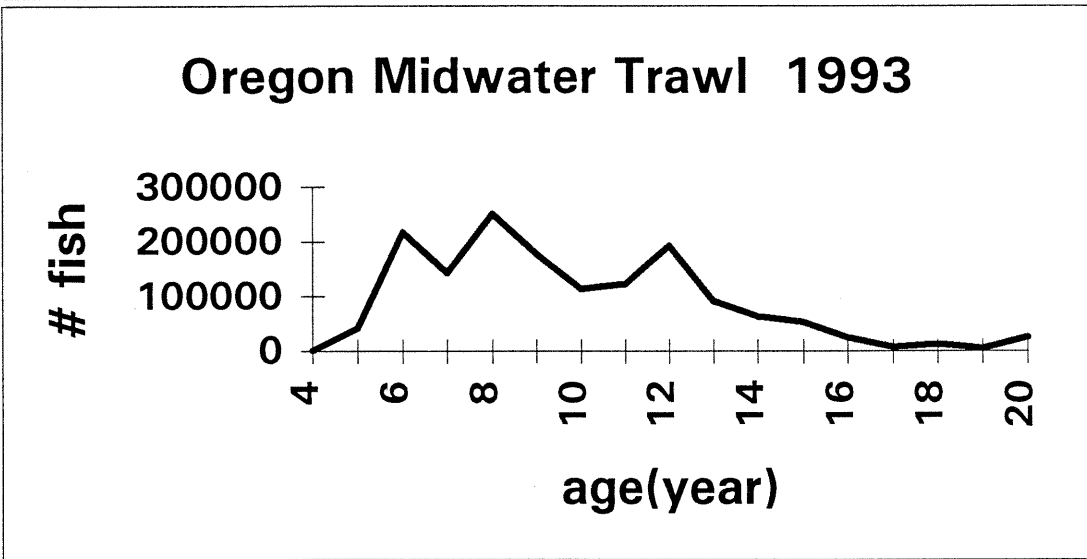
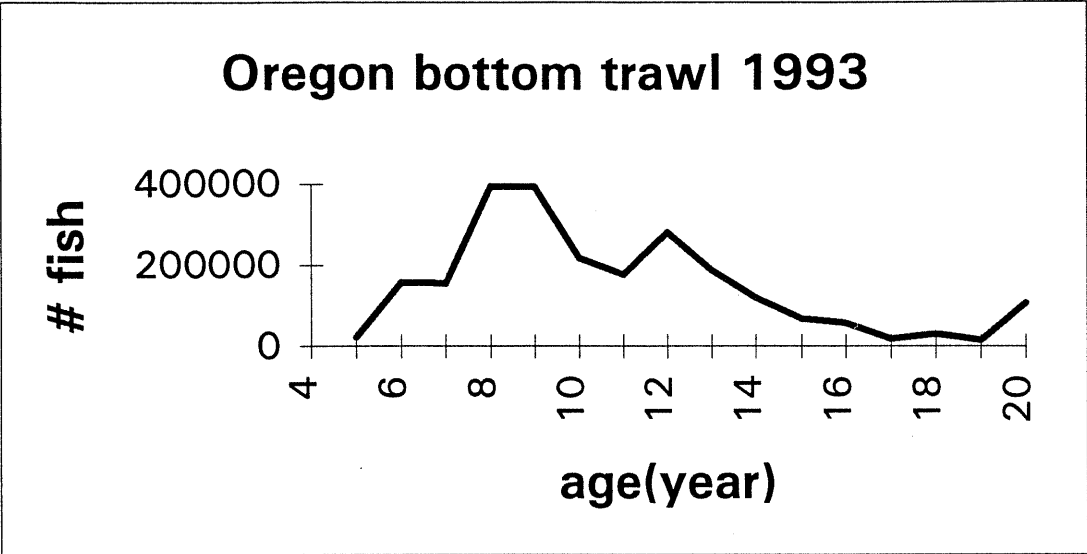


Figure 2 (continued). Widow rockfish estimated age frequencies.