SECTION 4

CHANGES TO THE GULF OF ALASKA ARROWTOOTH FLOUNDER ASSESSMENT SINCE NOVEMBER, 1998 AND SUMMARY OF THE CURRENT ASSESSMENT

Catch for 1998 was updated, and an age-based model run using different natural mortality values for males and females with added survey age composition data from 1984, 1987 and 1990. The 1999 NMFS survey biomass estimate and length composition were added to the model. The natural mortality for males was set higher than for females to obtain a sex ratio of about 70% female in the population. Length composition data were fit using a fixed length-age transition matrix. The 1998 assessment used the length-based synthesis model, estimating growth parameters in the model. In the 1998 assessment the natural mortality estimates and the selectivities by length were the same for males and females.

Survey biomass estimates from Halibut trawl surveys in the 1960's, groundfish trawl surveys in the 1970's and NMFS triennial trawl surveys from 1984 to 1999 were used. Selectivities were estimated by a smooth function that was constrained to be monotonically increasing with age for the fishery and survey. The estimated biomass from the model increased from about 206,600 mt in 1961 to 1,690,000 mt in 1994, then declined to about 1,592,000 mt in 1999. In the 1998 assessment the survey selectivities by age for males was lower than females resulting in a higher population biomass than in the current assessment (about 2,126,000 mt in 1999). In the current model the survey selectivities by age for males and females are more similar, resulting in population biomass estimates that are closer to the survey biomass estimates.
The 2000 yield using F40% was 145,361 mt. OFL using F35% was 173,915 mt. The 1999 ABC using F40% was 217,106 mt.

ARROWTOOTH FLOUNDER

by
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INTRODUCTION

Arrowtooth flounder (Atheresthes stomias) are currently the most abundant groundfish species in the Gulf of Alaska. While research is being conducted on their commercial utilization (Greene and Babbitt, 1990, Wasson et al., 1992, Porter et al., 1993, Reppond et al., 1993, Cullenberg 1995), they are currently of low value and most are discarded. In 1990, the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council separated arrowtooth flounder for management purposes from the flatfish assemblage, which at the time included all flatfish.

Although arrowtooth flounder are presently of limited economic importance as a fisheries product, trophic studies (Yang 1993, Hollowed, et al. 1995) suggest they may be an important component in understanding the dynamics of the Gulf of Alaska benthic ecosystem. The majority of the prey by weight of arrowtooth larger than 40 cm was pollock, the remainder consisting of herring, capelin, euphausids, shrimp and cephalopods (Yang 1993). The percent of pollock in the diet of arrowtooth flounder increases for sizes greater than 40 cm. Arrowtooth flounder 15 cm to 30 cm consume mostly shrimp, capelin, euphausiids and herring, with small amounts of pollock and other miscellaneous fish. Groundfish predators include Pacific cod and Halibut.

Arrowtooth flounder occur from central California to the Bering Sea, in waters from about 20m to 800m, although CPUE from survey data is highest in 100m to 300m. Information concerning stock structure is not currently available. Migration patterns are not well known for arrowtooth flounder, however, there is some indication that arrowtooth flounder move into deeper water as they grow, similar to other flatfish (Zimmerman and Goddard 1996).

CATCH HISTORY

Prior to 1990, flatfish catch in the Gulf of Alaska was reported as an aggregate of all species. The bottom trawl fishery in the Gulf of Alaska primarily targets on rock, rex and Dover sole. The best estimate of annual arrowtooth catch since 1960 was calculated by multiplying the proportion of arrowtooth in observer sampled flatfish catches in recent years (nearly 50%) by the reported flatfish catch (1960-77 from Murai et al. 1981 and 1978-93 from Wilderbuer and Brown 1993) (Table 4.1). Catch through 9 October 1999 was 15,061 t, up slightly from 12,975 t in 1998. Total allowable catch for 1999 was 5,000 t for the Western and Eastern GOA, and 25,000 t for the Central GOA.

This year, scientific research catches are reported in the SAFE reports. Table 4.2 documents annual research catches (1977 - 1998) from NMFS longline, trawl, and echo integration trawl surveys.

Substantial amounts of flatfish are discarded overboard in the various trawl target fisheries. The following estimates of retained and discarded catch (t) since 1991, were calculated from discard rates observed from at-sea sampling and industry reported retained catch.

Arrowtooth flounder

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Retained	2,174	498	1,488	458	2,275	5,438	2,985
Discards	19,896	22,629	22,565	22,011	16,153	17,093	13,442
percent retained	10%	2%	6%	2%	12%	24%	18%

Under current fishing practices, arrowtooth flounder are mostly discarded when caught, although the percent retained has increased from 2% in 1992 and 1994 to 18% in 1997.

ABUNDANCE AND EXPLOITATION TRENDS

The survey biomass estimates used in this assessment are from International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) trawl surveys, NMFS groundfish surveys, and NMFS triennial surveys (Table 4.3). Biomass estimates from the surveys in the 1960's and 1970's were analyzed using the same strata and methods as the triennial survey (Brown 1986). The data from the 1961 and 1962 IPHC surveys were combined to provide total coverage of the GOA area. The NMFS surveys in 1973 to 1976 were also combined to provide total coverage of the survey area. However, sample sizes were lower in the 1970's surveys (403 hauls, Table 4.3) than for other years, and some strata had less than 3 hauls. The IPHC and NMFS 1970's surveys used a 400 mesh Eastern trawl, while the triennial surveys used a noreastern trawl. The trawl used in the early surveys had no bobbin or roller gear, which would cause the gear to be more in contact with the bottom than current trawl gear. Also the locations of trawl sites may have been restricted to smooth bottoms in the earlier surveys because the trawl could not be used on rough bottoms. Selectivity of the different surveys is assumed to be equal. There is limited size composition data for the 1970's surveys but none for the 1960's surveys. Catchability (Q) was assumed to be 1.0. NMFS has conducted studies to estimate the escapement under the triennial survey net, and will estimate herding into the net from future experiments. The percent of arrowtooth flounder caught that were in the path of the net varies by size from about 40% to 50% at 20-25 cm to about 95% at greater than 40cm(Peter Munro, pers. Comm.). This results in a Q less than 1. The herding component will increase Q, but is unknown at this time. The 400 mesh eastern trawl used in the 1960's and 1970's surveys was estimated to be 1.61 times as efficient at catching arrowtooth flounder than the noreastern trawl used in the NMFS triennial surveys (Brown, in prep). The 1960's and 1970's survey abundance estimates have been lowered by dividing by 1.61. A cv of 0.2 for the efficiency estimate was assumed since a variance has not been estimated at this time.

Survey abundance estimates were low in the 1960's and 1970's, increasing from about 146,000 mt in 1975 to about 1,640,000 mt in 1996, then declining to 1,262,797 mt in 1999.

ANALYTIC APPROACH

Model Structure

The model structure is developed following Fournier and Archibald's (1982) methods, with many similarities to Methot (1990). We implemented the model using automatic differentiation software developed as a set of libraries under C++(ADModel Builder). ADModel Builder can estimate a large number of parameters in a non-linear model using automatic differentiation software extended from Greiwank and Corliss(1991) and developed into C++ class libraries. This software provides the derivative calculations needed for finding the objective function via a quasi-Newton function minimization routine(e.g., Press et al. 1992). The model implementation language (ADModel Builder) gives simple and rapid access to these routines and provides the ability to estimate the variance-covariance matrix for all parameters of interest.

Details of the population dynamics and estimation equations, description of variables and likelihood equations are presented in Appendix A (Tables A.1, A.2 and A.3) . There were a total of 137 parameters estimated in the model (Table A.4). The 44 selectivity parameters estimated in the model were constrained so that the number of effectively free parameters would be less than the total of 137. The instantaneous natural mortality rate, catchability for the survey and the Von Bertalanffy growth parameters were fixed in the model (Table A.5).

Model assumptions

A higher weight was used on the likelihood values for the survey length (weight =5) and age data (10) and the survey biomass (10). The fishery length data is essentially from bycatch and in some years has low sample sizes. Higher weights on the survey data components results in a better fit to the survey data than to the fishery length data. The length based synthesis model used in the 1998 assessment estimated the growth parameters by fitting a Von Bertalanffy curve to the length at age data. The estimated length at age relationship is used to convert population age compositions to estimated size compositions. The current model estimated size compositions using a fixed length-age transition matrix estimated from the 1984 through 1996 survey data combined. The distribution of lengths within ages was assumed to be normal with cv's estimated from the length at age data of 0.06 for younger ages and 0.05 for older ages. Size bins were 2 cm starting at 24 cm, 3 cm bins from 40 cm to 69cm, one 5 cm bin from 70 cm to 74 cm, then a 75+cm bin. There were 13 age bins from 3 to 14 by 1 year interval, and ages over 15 accumulated in the last bin, 15+.

Data Sources

The model simulates the dynamics of the population and compares the expected values of the population characteristics to those observed from surveys and fishery sampling programs.

The following data sources were used in the model:

Data component	Years
Fishery catch	1960-1999
IPHC trawl survey biomass and S.E.	1961-1962
NMFS exploratory research trawl survey biomass and S.E.	1973-1976
NMFS triennial trawl survey biomass and S.E.	1984,1987,1990,1993,1996,1999
Fishery size compositions	1977-1981,1984-1993,1995,1996
NMFS survey size compositions	1975,1999
NMFS triennial trawl survey age composition data	1984,1987,1990,1993,1996

Sample sizes for the fishery length data were adequate for the 1970's and 1980's, however, recently, sample sizes have decreased. No length samples were collected in 1994. Otoliths from the 1984, 1987, 1990, 1993 and 1996 triennial trawl surveys were aged in 1998 and 1999 allowing the use of age compositions for all the triennial surveys (except 1999) (Table 4.4). Size composition data for the surveys are shown in Table 4.5.

Natural mortality, Age of recruitment, and Maximum Age

The estimation of natural mortality rates for Gulf of Alaska arrowtooth flounder were analyzed using the methods of Alverson and Carney (1975), Pauly (1980), and Hoenig (1983) in the 1988 assessment (Wilderbuer and Brown 1989). The maximum age of female arrowtooth flounder otoliths collected was 23 years. Using Hoenig's empirical regression method (Hoenig 1983) M would be estimated at 0.18. There are fewer males than females in the 15+ age group, with the maximum age for males varying between 14 and 20 years from different survey years. Natural Mortality with a maximum age of 14 years and 20 years was estimated at 0.30 and 0.21 respectively using Hoenig's method.

Natural mortality was fixed at 0.2 for females. A higher natural mortality for males was used to fit the age and size composition data, which are about 70% female. A value of M=0.35 for males was chosen so that the survey selectivities for males and females both reached a maximum selectivity of 1.0. This assumes that the relatively lower number of males in the age and length samples reflects the population and not the availability to the gear.

The fraction female tends to increase with age for all years of age data except 1984, from about 0.6 at age 3 to close to 1.0 at age 15 (Figure B.1, Appendix B). The lower maximum age of males and the increasing fraction female with age points to a higher value of natural mortality for males than females. Attempts to estimate total mortality by sex from analysis of cohorts from the survey data have resulted in very high estimates of M that seem unreasonable. However, there is also the possibility that male arrowtooth flounder are less available to the survey for some unknown reason. Model runs with male natural mortality values from 0.2 to 0.35 showed decreasing selectivity for males with decreasing natural mortality values, resulting in higher population biomass and ABC estimates (Appendix B).

Age at recruitment was set at three in the model due to the small number of fish caught at younger ages.

Weight at Age

The weight-length relationship for arrowtooth flounder is, $W = .003915 L^{3.2232}$, for both sexes combined where weight is in grams and length in centimeters.

Selectivity

The shape of the selectivity curve for the fishery and the survey was constrained to be monotonically increasing with age using a smooth function (Figure 4.1). The selectivities by age were estimated separately for females and males, which, along with the different natural mortality values for males and females resulted in a better fit to the size and age compositions for the survey and fishery data than for the 1998 assessment. The differential natural mortality and selectivities by sex resulted in a predicted fraction female of about 0.70, which is close to the fraction female in the fishery and survey length and age data.

Growth

L_{inf} was 101.5 cm for females and 54 cm for males(Figure 4.2). The length at age 2 for both sexes was estimated at 20 cm and K was 0.077 for females and 0.22 for males from the survey age and length data in 1984 through 1996.

$$L_t = L_{\max} + (L_1 - L_{\max}) * \exp(-k(t-1)).$$

The mean length at age data from the surveys show no trends over time for females (Table 4.7 and Figure 4.3). Males were smaller in 1984, however other years are similar (Table 4.6 and Figure 4.4).

Maturity

Length at 50% mature was estimated at 47 cm with a logistic slope of -0.3429 from arrowtooth sampled in hauls that occurred in September from the 1993 bottom trawl survey (Zimmerman in review). Arrowtooth flounder are batch spawners, spawning from fall to winter off Washington State at depths greater than 366 m (Rickey 1995). There was some indication of migration of larger fish to deeper water in winter and shallower water in summer from examination of fisheries data off Washington, however, discarding of fish may confound observations (Rickey 1995). Length at 50% mature from survey data in 1992 off Washington was 36.8 cm for females and 28.0 cm for males, with logistic slopes of -0.54 and -0.893 respectively (Rickey 1995). Oregon arrowtooth flounder had length at 50% mature of 44 cm for females and 29 cm for males (Rickey 1995). Spawning fish were found in depths from 108m to 360m in March to August in the Gulf of Alaska (Hirshberger and Smith 1983) from analysis of trawl surveys from 1975 to 1981. Most observations of spawning fish were found in the northeastern Gulf, off Prince William sound, off Cape St. Elias, and Icy Bay.

RESULTS

Fits to the size composition data from the fishery are shown in Figures 4.5 for females and Figure 4.6 for males. The survey length data in 1975 were fit well by the model, however, the length data from the most recent survey in 1999 lacked larger female fish that are estimated by the model (Figures 4.7 and 4.8). The high recruitments in the 1980's and early 1990's and the low fishing mortalities resulted in many large older fish in the estimated population, that were not found in the 1999 survey. The survey length data for males is fit well (Figure 4.8). The survey age data indicate an accumulation of older fish in the 15+ age bin, however in recent years the model estimates more than in the data (Figure 4.9 and 4.10). Weighting the age data higher results in a better fit, but degrades the fit to the increasing survey biomass that requires large recruitments.

Model estimates of biomass

The model estimates of age 3+ biomass increased from a low of about 207,000 mt in 1961 to a high of about 1,690,000 mt in 1994 then decreased to 1,592,000 mt in 1999. (Table 4.8 and Figure 4.11). The 1999 biomass was higher in the 1998 assessment (2,126,714 mt) due to the differential mortality by sex, allowing the length and age data to be fit well with more similar selectivities by age for males and females, and the addition of the 1999 survey biomass estimate and length data. The 1999 survey biomass estimate was 1,262,797 mt, a decline from the 1996 estimate of 1,639,671 mt.

Model estimates of recruitment

The model estimates of age 3 recruits increase in the 1970's and 1980's then decrease in the 1990's (Table 4.8 and Figure 4.12).

Spawner-Recruit Relationship

No spawner-recruit curve was used in the Model. Recruitments were estimated as deviations from a mean value on a log scale.

REFERENCE FISHING MORTALITY RATES AND YIELDS

Reliable estimates of biomass, $B_{35\%}$, $F_{35\%}$ and $F_{40\%}$, are available, and current biomass is greater than $B_{40\%}$. Therefore, arrowtooth flounder is in tier 3a of the ABC and overfishing definitions. Under this definition, $F_{ofl}= F_{35\%}$, and F_{ABC} is less than or equal to $F_{40\%}$.

Yield for 2000 using $F_{40\%} = 0.134$ was estimated at 145,361 mt. Yield at $F_{35\%} = 0.159$ was estimated at 173,915 mt.

MAXIMUM SUSTAINABLE YIELD

Since there is no estimate of the spawner-recruit relationship for arrowtooth flounder, no attempt has been made to estimate MSY. However, using the projection model described in the next section, spawning biomass with F=0 was estimated at 1,091,860 mt. $B_{35\%}$ (equilibrium spawning biomass with fishing at $F_{35\%}$) is estimated at 382,151 mt.

PROJECTED CATCH AND ABUNDANCE

This year, a standard set of projections is required for each stock managed under Tiers 1, 2, or 3 of Amendment 56. This set of projections encompasses seven harvest scenarios designed to satisfy the requirements of Amendment 56, the National Environmental Protection Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA).

For each scenario, the projections begin with the vector of 1999 numbers at age estimated in the assessment. This vector is then projected forward to the beginning of 2000 using the schedules of natural mortality and selectivity described in the assessment and the best available estimate of total (year-end) catch for 1999. In each subsequent year, the fishing mortality rate is prescribed on the basis of the spawning biomass in that year and the respective harvest scenario. In each year, recruitment is drawn from an inverse Gaussian distribution whose parameters consist of maximum likelihood estimates determined from recruitments estimated in the assessment. Spawning biomass is computed in each year based on the time of peak spawning and the maturity and weight schedules described in the assessment. Total catch is assumed to equal the catch associated with the respective harvest scenario in all years. This projection scheme is run 1000 times to obtain distributions of possible future stock sizes, fishing mortality rates, and catches.

Five of the seven standard scenarios will be used in an Environmental Assessment prepared in conjunction with the final SAFE. These five scenarios, which are designed to provide a range of harvest alternatives that are likely to bracket the final TAC for 2000, are as follow ("*max* F_{ABC}" refers to the maximum permissible value of F_{ABC} under Amendment 56):

> *Scenario 1*: In all future years, F is set equal to *max* F_{ABC}. (Rationale: Historically, TAC has been constrained by ABC, so this scenario provides a likely upper limit on future TACs.)
>
> *Scenario 2*: In all future years, F is set equal to a constant fraction of *max* F_{ABC}, where this fraction is equal to the ratio of the F_{ABC} value for 2000 recommended in the assessment to the *max* F_{ABC} for 2000. (Rationale: When F_{ABC} is set at a value below *max* F_{ABC}, it is often set at the value recommended in the stock assessment.)

Scenario 3: In all future years, *F* is set equal to 50% of max F_{ABC}. (Rationale: This scenario provides a likely lower bound on F_{ABC} that still allows future harvest rates to be adjusted downward when stocks fall below reference levels.)
Scenario 4: In all future years, *F* is set equal to the 1994-1998 average *F*. (Rationale: For some stocks, TAC can be well below ABC, and recent average *F* may provide a better indicator of F_{TAC} than F_{ABC}.)

Scenario 5: In all future years, *F* is set equal to zero. (Rationale: In extreme cases, TAC may be set at a level close to zero.)

Two other scenarios are needed to satisfy the MSFCMA's requirement to determine whether a stock is currently in an overfished condition or is approaching an overfished condition. These two scenarios are as follow (for Tier 3 stocks, the MSY level is defined as $B_{35\%}$):

Scenario 6: In all future years, *F* is set equal to F_{OFL}. (Rationale: This scenario determines whether a stock is overfished. If the stock is expected to be above ½ of its MSY level in 2000 and above its MSY level in 2010 under this scenario, then the stock is not overfished.)

Scenario 7: In 2000 and 2001, *F* is set equal to *max* F_{ABC}, and in all subsequent years, *F* is set equal to F_{OFL}. (Rationale: This scenario determines whether a stock is approaching an overfished condition. If the stock is expected to be above its MSY level in 2012 under this scenario, then the stock is not approaching an overfished condition.)

Projected catch and abundance were estimated using $F_{40\%}$, F equal to the average F from 1994 to 1998, F equal to one half $F_{40\%}$, and F=0 from 2000 to 2004 (Table 4.9). Under scneario 6 above, the year 2000 spawning biomass is 1,075,900 mt and the year 2010 spawning biomass is 393,969 mt, above the $B_{35\%}$ level of 382,151 mt. For scenario 7 above, the year 2012 spawning biomass is 397,252 mt also above $B_{35\%}$.

ACCEPTABLE BIOLOGICAL CATCH

ABC for 2000 using $F_{40\%}$ = 0.134 was estimated at 145,361 mt. The 1999 ABC was estimated at 217,106 mt using the synthesis model that estimated a higher population biomass and different selectivities (Turnock, Wilderbuer and Brown 1998). The ABC by management area using $F_{40\%}$ was estimated by calculating the fraction of the 1999 survey biomass in each area and applying that fraction to the ABC:

	Western	Central	West Yakutat	East Yakutat/SE
ABC 2000	16,165	97,712	23,768	7,715

OVERFISHING DEFINITION

Yield at $F_{35\%}$ = 0.159 was estimated at 173,915 mt.

SUMMARY

Table 4.10 shows a summary of model results.

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Table 4.1. Catch of arrowtooth flounder in the Gulf of Alaska from 1964 to 9 October, 1999.

Yr.	*Catch (mt)*
64	514
65	514
66	2,469
67	2,276
68	1,697
69	1,315
70	1,886
71	1,185
72	4,477
73	10,007
74	4,883
75	2,776
76	3,045
77	9,449
78	8,409
79	7,579
80	7,848
81	7,433
82	4,639
83	6,331
84	3,457
85	1,539
86	1,221
87	4,963
88	5,138
89	2,584
90	7,706
91	10,034
92	15,970
93	15,559
94	23,560
95	18,428
96	22,583
97	16,319
98	12,975
99	15,061

Table 4.2. Catches from NMFS research cruises from 1977 to 1999.

Year	Catch (mt)
1977	29.3
1978	30.6
1979	38.9
1980	36.7
1981	151.5
1982	90.2
1983	61.4
1984	223.9
1985	149.4
1986	179.0
1987	297.4
1988	22.0
1989	64.1
1990	228.1
1991	27.7
1992	32.1
1993	255.4
1994	36.7
1995	173.5
1996	137.3
1997	20.8
1998	92.4

Table 4.3. Biomass estimates and standard errors from bottom trawl surveys.

Survey	Biomass(mt)	s.e.	Hauls
IPHC 1961-1962	283,799	61,515	1,172
NMFS groundfish 1973-1976	145,744	33,531	403
NMFS triennial 1984	979,335	71,209	930
NMFS triennial 1987	979,957	74,673	783
NMFS triennial 1990	1,922,107	239,150	708
NMFS triennial 1993	1,585,040	101,160	776
NMFS triennial 1996	1,639,671	114,792	804
NMFS triennial 1999	1,262,797	99,329	764

Table 4.4. Age data from triennial surveys in 1984 through 1996. The numbers are percentages, where the female plus the male numbers add to 100 within a year.

females	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
1984	0.01	0.00	3.61	5.87	10.37	15.82	8.55	5.41	2.30	1.65	1.17	1.25	0.70	0.83	2.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1987	0.00	1.93	7.86	9.18	7.05	8.00	5.23	11.81	6.98	3.37	0.91	0.98	1.69	0.27	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1990	0.00	2.81	5.48	6.50	11.40	11.07	6.52	7.34	4.38	2.41	3.77	2.29	1.28	0.74	0.84	0.64	0.96	0.61	0.21	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.00
1993	0.13	4.40	6.54	6.03	6.44	7.65	8.12	7.88	9.60	4.60	2.54	2.77	1.63	1.05	0.46	0.23	0.33	0.13	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.01
1996	0.03	3.93	5.71	6.76	6.83	8.74	8.79	7.17	7.84	8.35	2.27	1.28	0.89	0.55	0.14	0.14	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
males																							
1984	0.00	0.00	0.56	4.42	5.31	4.05	5.10	5.44	3.76	2.72	2.46	1.66	1.05	0.88	2.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1987	0.00	0.00	8.10	6.95	8.08	3.62	2.40	2.44	0.45	0.00	0.69	1.03	0.35	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1990	0.00	2.51	3.53	4.90	5.10	4.42	4.54	0.67	2.33	1.27	1.24	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1993	0.08	2.90	3.75	2.53	2.70	6.70	3.20	2.63	1.93	1.08	0.77	0.45	0.24	0.12	0.09	0.11	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00
1996	0.07	2.64	3.47	3.54	3.70	5.82	2.88	4.04	1.48	1.09	1.06	0.50	0.12	0.05	0.05	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Table 4.5. Length data from triennial surveys in 1984 through 1996. The numbers are percentages, where the female plus the male numbers add to 100 within a year.

	22	24	26	28	30	32	34	36	38	40	43	46	49	52	55	58	61	64	67	70	75+
1975	4.99	4.38	4.77	5.07	4.59	4.58	4.83	4.89	4.05	4.02	3.21	2.79	2.37	1.49	1.04	0.67	0.38	0.34	0.21	0.14	0.01
1999	1.90	1.78	2.89	3.34	3.18	3.35	3.68	3.56	3.25	4.30	3.98	4.81	5.92	7.46	7.26	4.11	1.84	1.06	0.69	0.53	0.33
1975	3.63	3.19	3.91	4.72	4.69	4.64	4.68	3.96	2.88	2.35	0.91	0.16	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1999	1.22	1.14	1.83	1.98	1.93	1.91	2.00	1.95	2.04	3.31	4.34	3.76	1.76	0.24	0.05	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Table 4.6. Mean length (cm) at age for male arrowtooth flounder from triennial surveys 1984 through 1996.

	1984	1987	1990	1993	1996
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.8	14.5
2	0.0	23.8	0.0	21.4	20.7
3	22.3	28.4	28.6	27.6	26.3
4	26.0	33.1	33.6	31.9	34.0
5	29.9	36.9	37.2	36.9	35.3
6	33.6	41.1	39.4	40.9	41.1
7	36.1	41.2	41.8	42.2	43.6
8	37.8	42.5	43.7	44.3	44.7
9	39.3	42.8	44.5	45.7	46.9
10	40.1	0.0	45.3	45.5	46.9
11	41.7	42.5	46.2	46.2	48.1
12	42.6	42.9	0.0	48.8	49.1
13	42.9	45.0	0.0	47.1	49.3
14	44.3	45.0	51.0	40.0	51.0
15	47.5	0.0	0.0	48.0	52.0
16	0.0	0.0	0.0	47.0	0.0
17	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	51.0
18	0.0	0.0	0.0	52.0	0.0
19	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20	0.0	0.0	0.0	48.0	0.0

Table 4.7. Mean length (cm) at age for female arrowtooth flounder from triennial surveys 1984 through 1996.

	1984	1987	1990	1993	1996
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.4	13.3
2	0.0	23.0	22.6	21.5	21.5
3	25.2	30.1	27.9	27.6	26.3
4	31.5	35.3	33.2	32.5	32.9
5	38.0	38.6	38.1	39.4	37.4
6	42.3	44.9	43.5	41.7	42.1
7	46.6	47.2	45.4	46.5	46.6
8	50.8	50.1	49.1	48.5	49.7
9	54.0	51.7	51.7	52.5	53.6
10	56.7	50.4	55.8	55.6	54.8
11	58.9	50.2	58.3	55.8	59.2
12	60.8	51.5	58.3	55.9	63.8
13	62.8	55.2	58.5	61.5	64.7
14	63.9	51.0	63.8	59.7	68.2
15	66.8	57.0	56.2	60.5	73.7
16	0.0	0.0	60.8	67.2	68.3
17	0.0	0.0	74.7	64.4	0.0
18	0.0	0.0	73.4	69.1	81.0
19	0.0	0.0	63.0	76.7	0.0
20	0.0	0.0	0.0	70.6	82.0
21	0.0	0.0	70.0	81.2	0.0
22	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
23	0.0	0.0	0.0	79.0	0.0

Table 4.8. Estimated age 3+ population biomass(mt), female spawning biomass(mt) and age 3 recruits(1,000's).

Year	age 3+ biomass	Female spawning biomass	Age 3 recruits (1,000's)
61	206,597	78,227	95,110
62	223,867	90,809	60,753
63	236,224	107,024	49,177
64	246,265	125,317	55,768
65	252,586	142,853	50,661
66	257,099	156,689	55,307
67	258,429	163,924	58,447
68	261,057	167,637	69,765
69	267,166	170,689	81,731
70	280,214	174,970	107,055
71	291,210	176,592	100,913
72	319,056	178,720	205,938
73	349,849	175,913	239,285
74	394,697	169,299	347,400
75	462,386	171,232	402,527
76	523,399	182,813	281,101
77	592,646	204,932	340,125
78	651,750	236,369	304,974
79	708,731	280,472	295,727
80	768,348	331,504	324,720
81	842,427	381,695	432,792
82	923,429	430,388	454,468
83	980,245	476,799	277,840
84	1,035,380	526,134	293,800
85	1,106,070	578,945	430,211
86	1,190,320	640,718	481,985
87	1,289,790	698,648	585,024
88	1,369,810	732,053	546,966
89	1,445,150	765,586	491,498
90	1,516,320	803,089	503,011
91	1,566,640	845,410	434,190
92	1,609,350	894,992	434,502
93	1,660,520	946,041	528,817
94	1,689,700	989,160	408,906
95	1,679,000	1,003,310	353,139
96	1,666,910	1,019,270	327,682
97	1,660,560	1,037,540	372,582
98	1,629,880	1,058,560	183,778
99	1,591,510	1,077,190	160,527

Table 4.9. Projected female spawning biomass and yield from 2000 to 2004.

Year	Female spawning biomass(mt)	Yield(mt)
F=F40%		
2000	1,075,900	145,361
2001	945,450	132,388
2002	826,739	119,152
2003	715,201	108,248
2004	623,964	100,117
F=0.01(avg F)		
2000	1,075,900	11,644
2001	1,062,940	11,555
2002	1,041,380	11,483
2003	1,005,120	11,388
2004	969,865	11,336
F=0.5F40%		
2000	1,075,900	76395
2001	1,007,180	72160
2002	936,383	68485
2003	859,161	65165
2004	790,913	62600
F=0		
2000	1,075,900	0
2001	1,073,000	0
2002	1,060,910	0
2003	1,033,120	0
2004	1,005,230	0

Table 4.10. Summary of results of arrowtooth flounder assessment in the Gulf of Alaska.

Natural Mortality	0.2 females 0.35 males	
Age of full(95%) selection	9 females, max is 77% at age 12 males	
Reference fishing mortalities	$F_{40\%}$	0.134
	$F_{35\%}$	0.159
Biomass at MSY	N/A	
Equilibrium unfished Spawning biomass	1,091,860 mt	
$B_{35\%}$ Spawning biomass fishing at $F_{35\%}$	382,151 mt	
$B_{40\%}$ Spawning biomass fishing at $F_{40\%}$	436,744 mt	
Projected 2000 biomass	Total(age 3+)	1,571,670 mt
	Spawning	1,075,900 mt
	Exploitable	1,289,000 mt
Overfishing level for 2000	173,915 mt	

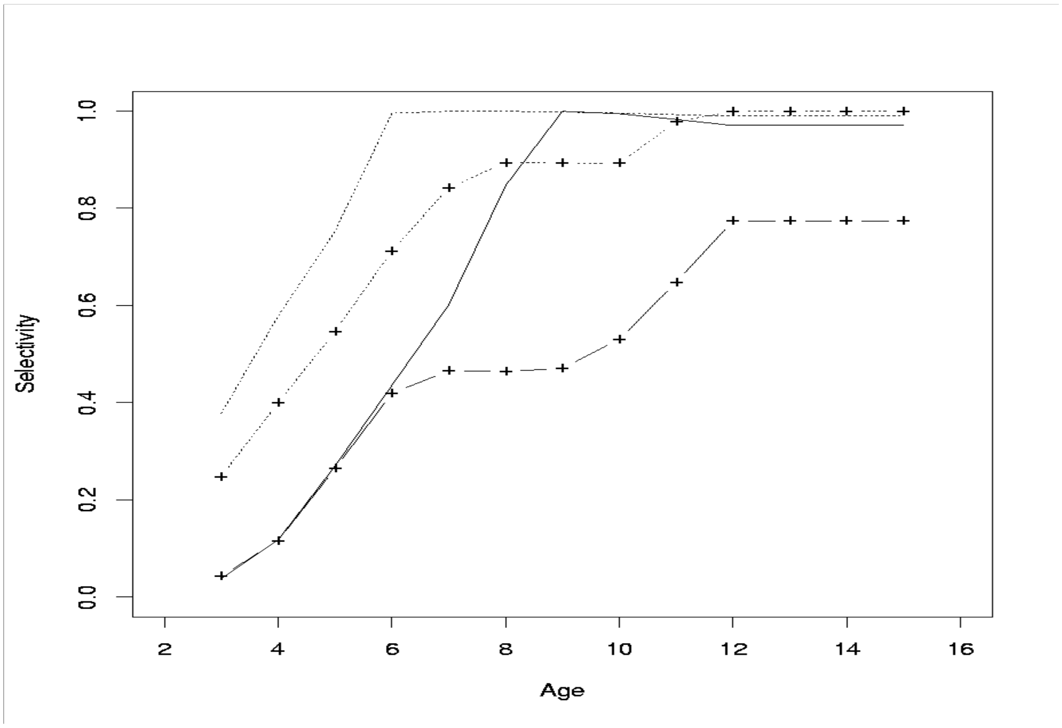

Figure 4.1. Selectivities for the fishery (solid line) and survey (dotted line). Males are the lines with the + symbol.

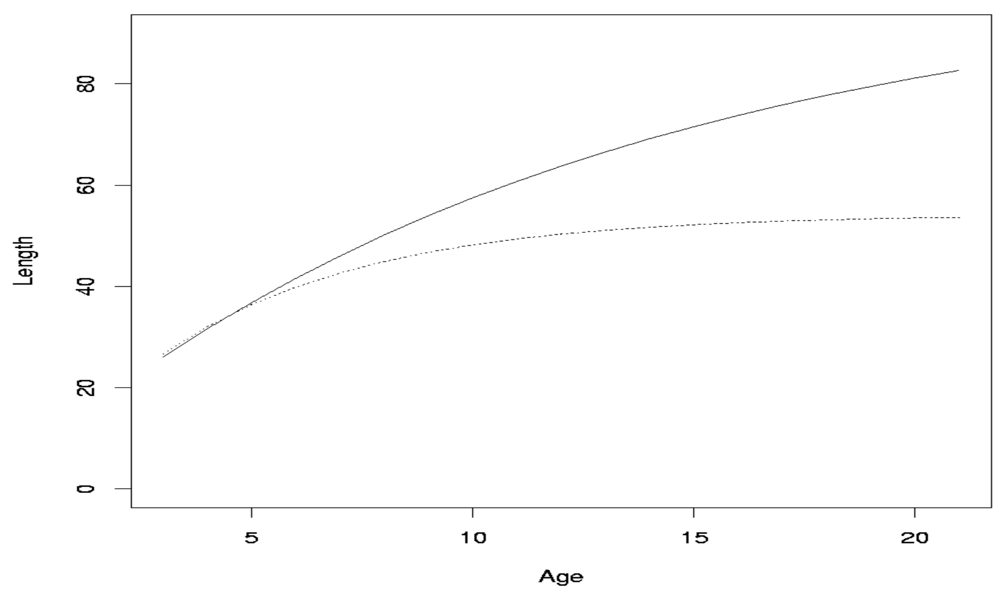

Figure 4.2. Mean length at age estimated from the 1984 through 1996 survey combined(females solid line, males dotted line), used to estimate the length-age transition matrix.

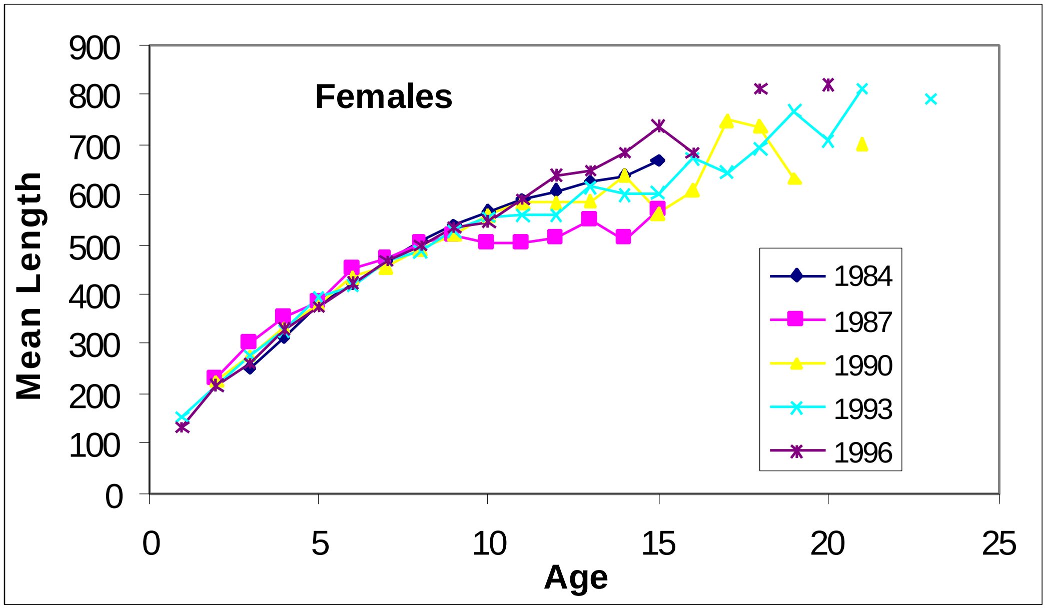

Figure 4.3. Mean length at age for female arrowtooth flounder from survey data 1984 to 1996.

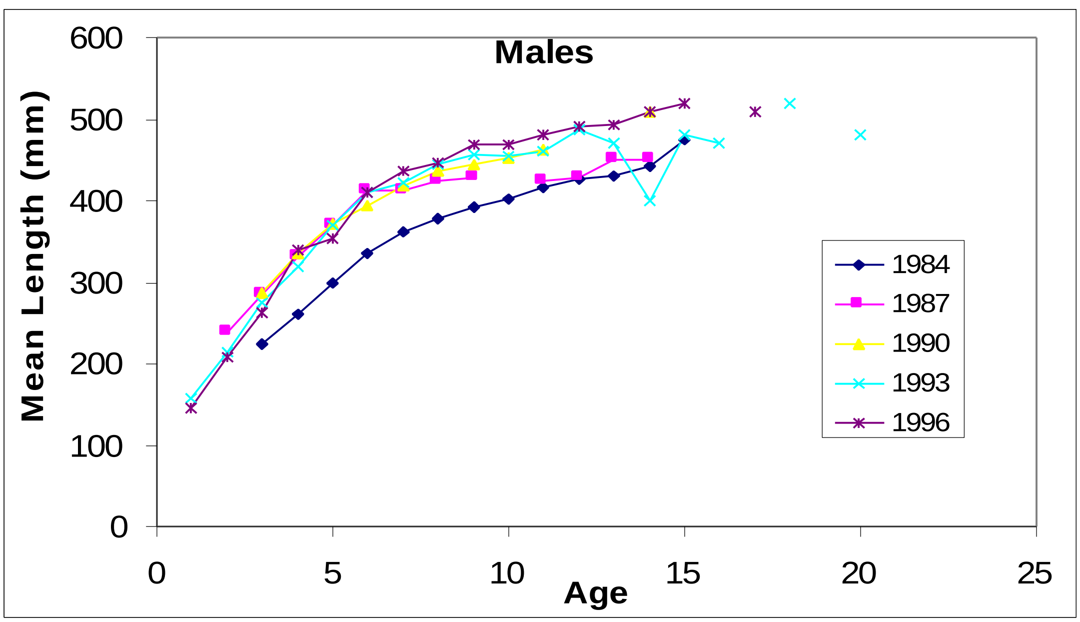

Figure 4.4. Mean length at age for male arrowtooth flounder from survey data 1984 to 1996.

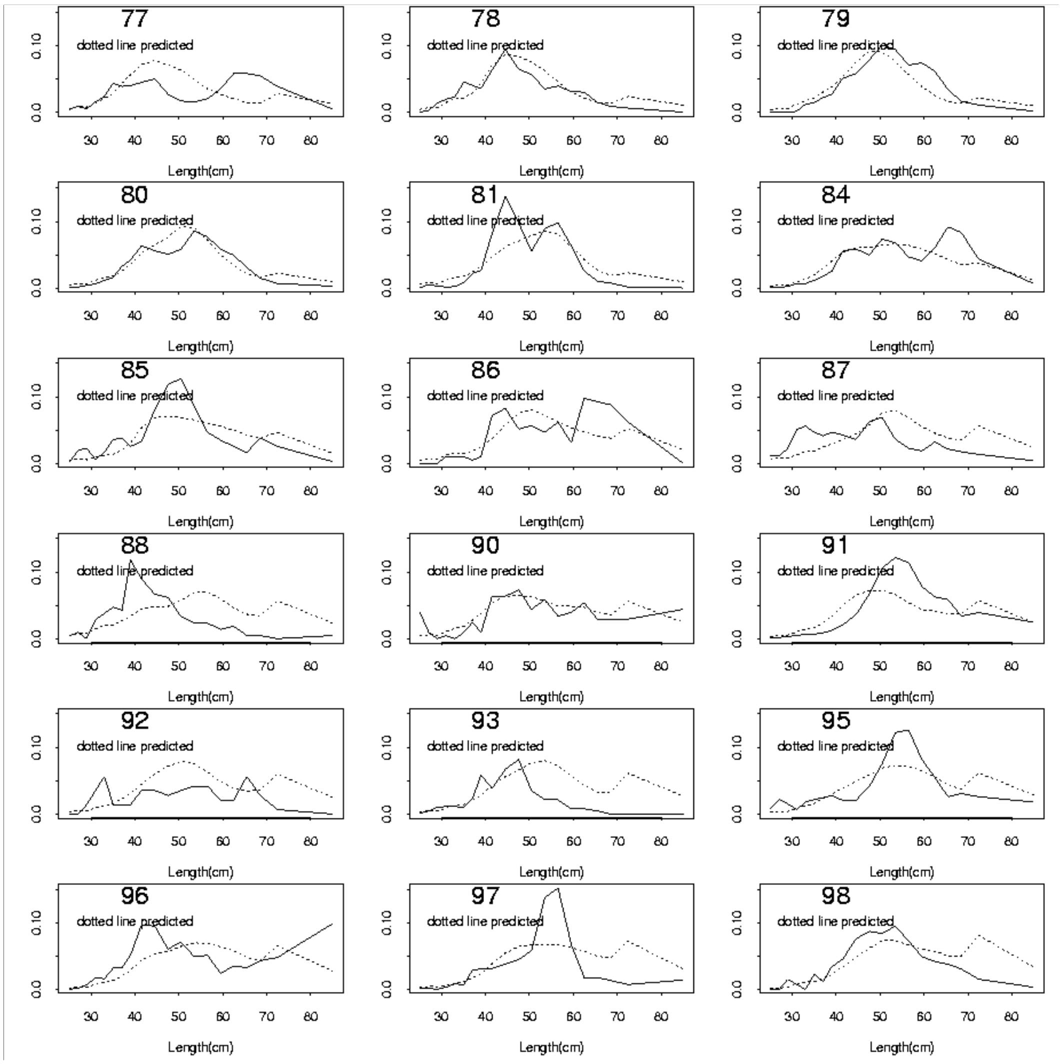

Figure 4.5. Fit to the female fishery length composition data.

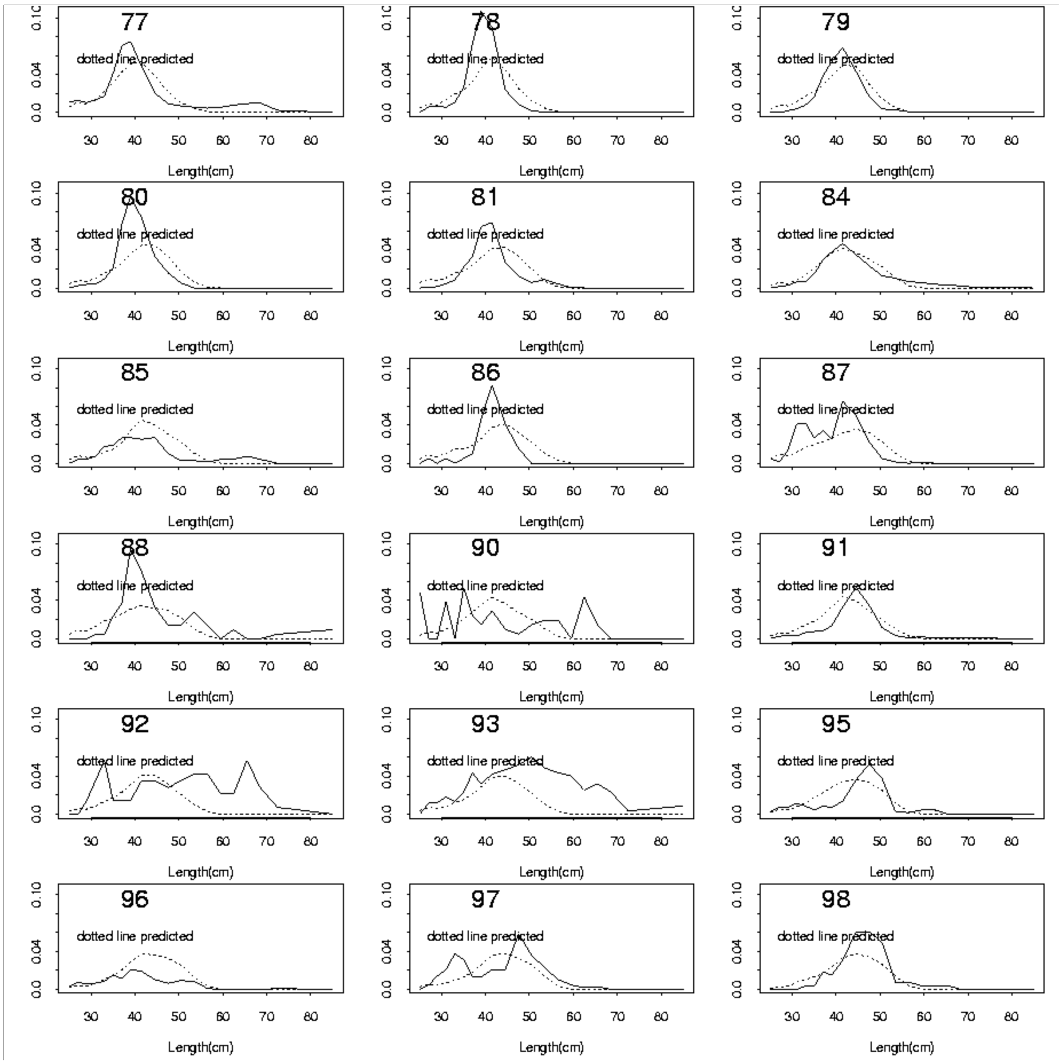

Figure 4.6. Fit to the male fishery length composition data.

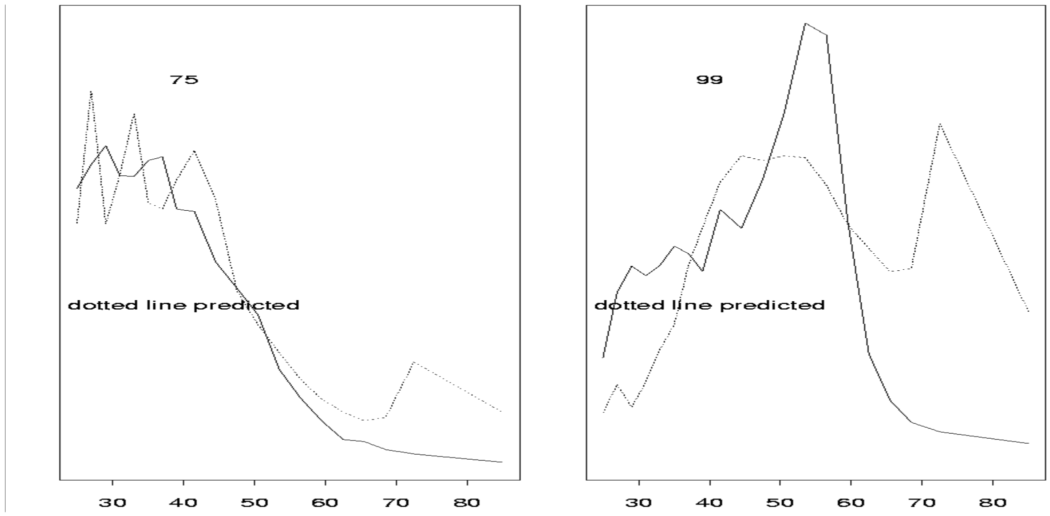

Figure 4.7. Fit to the female survey length data.

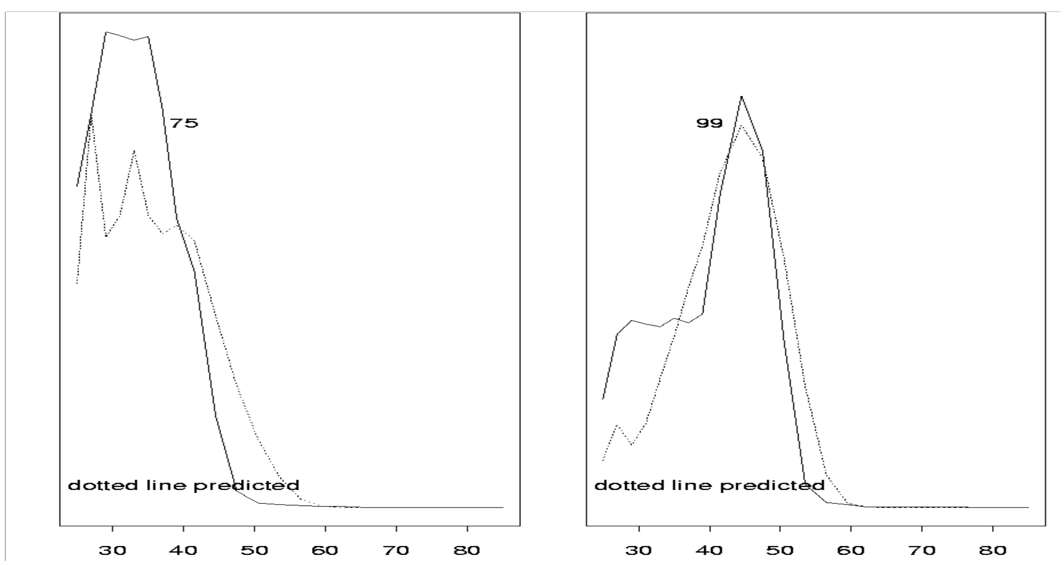

Figure 4.8. Fit to the male survey length data.

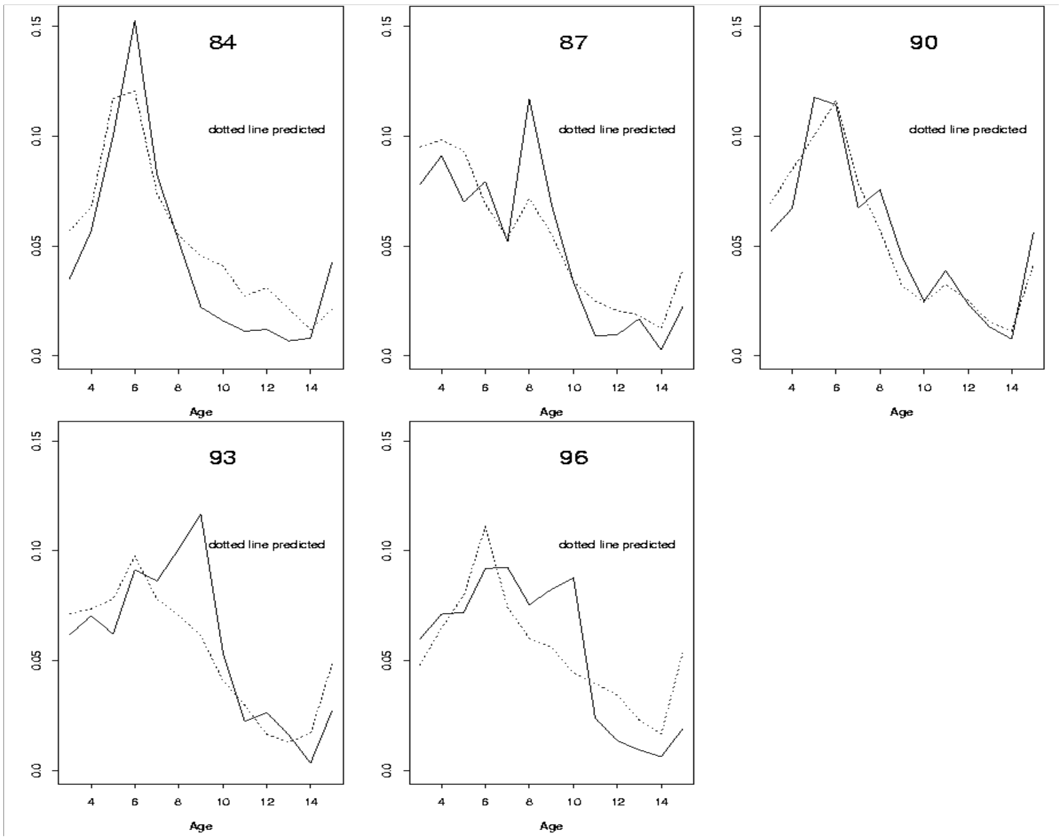

Figure 4.9. Fit to the female survey age data. The last age group is 15+.

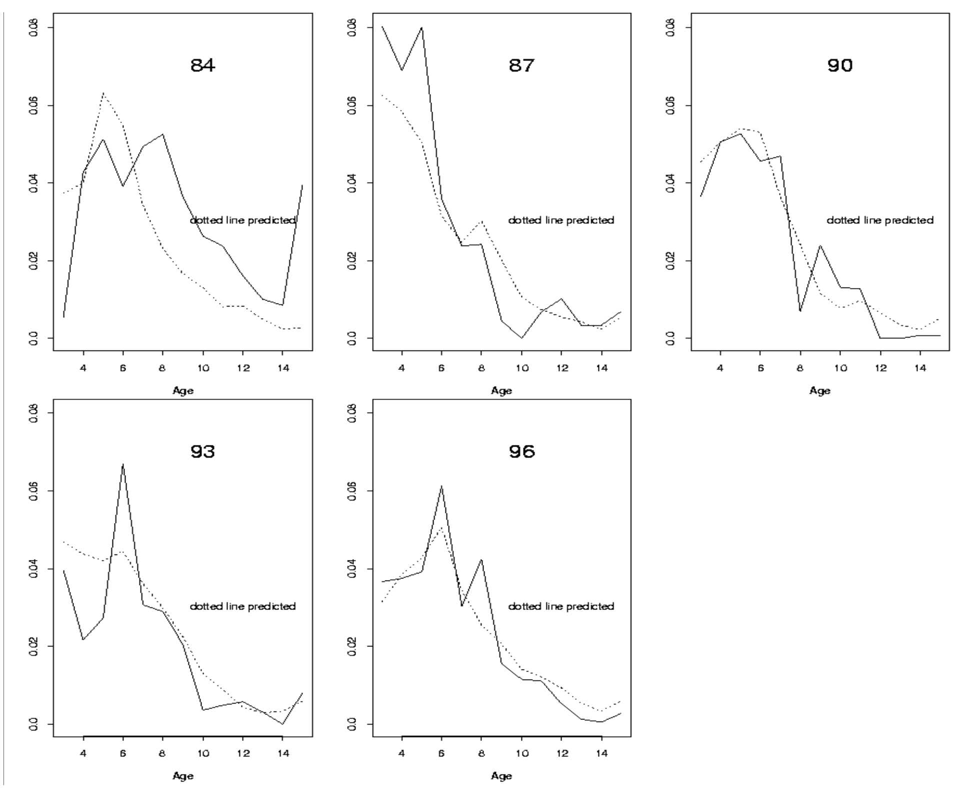

Figure 4.10. Fit to the male survey age data. The last age group is 15+.

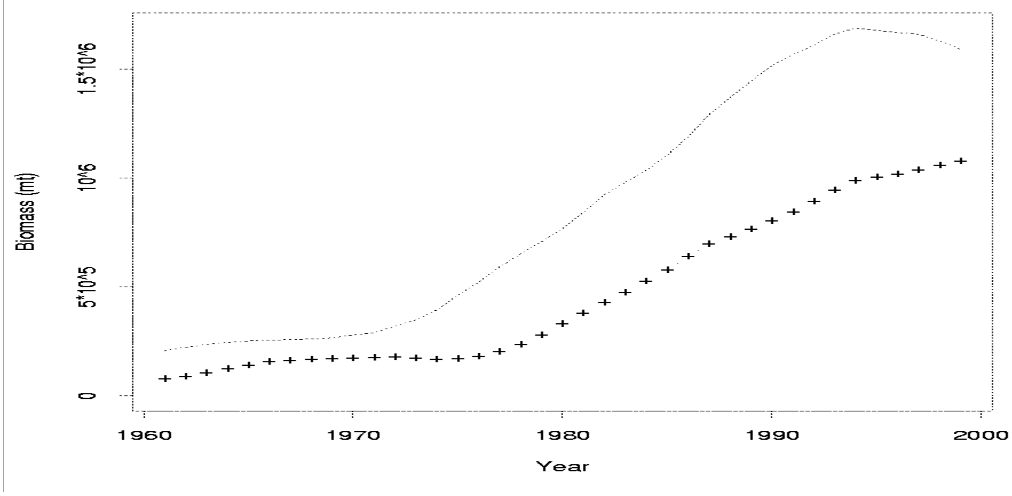

Figure 4.11. Age 3+ biomass (solid line) and female spawning biomass (line with +) from 1984 to 1999.

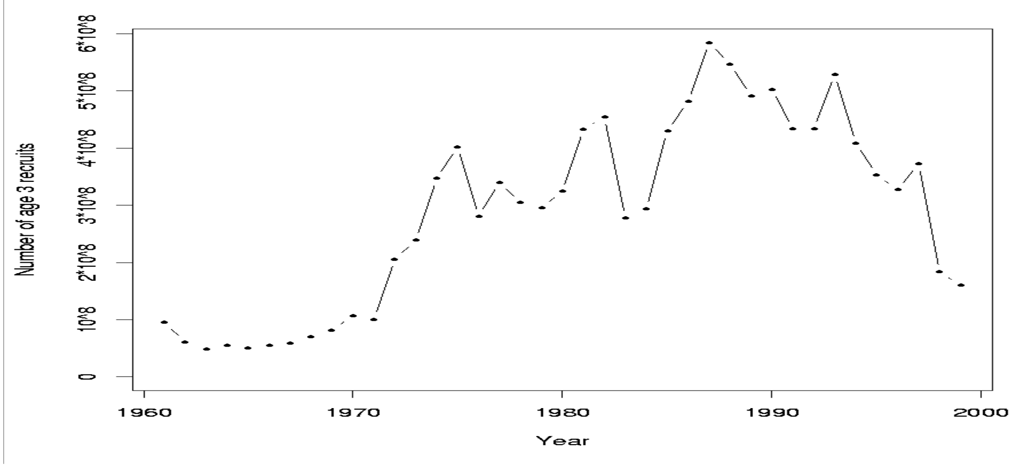

Figure 4.12. Age 3 recruitments from 1961 to 1999.

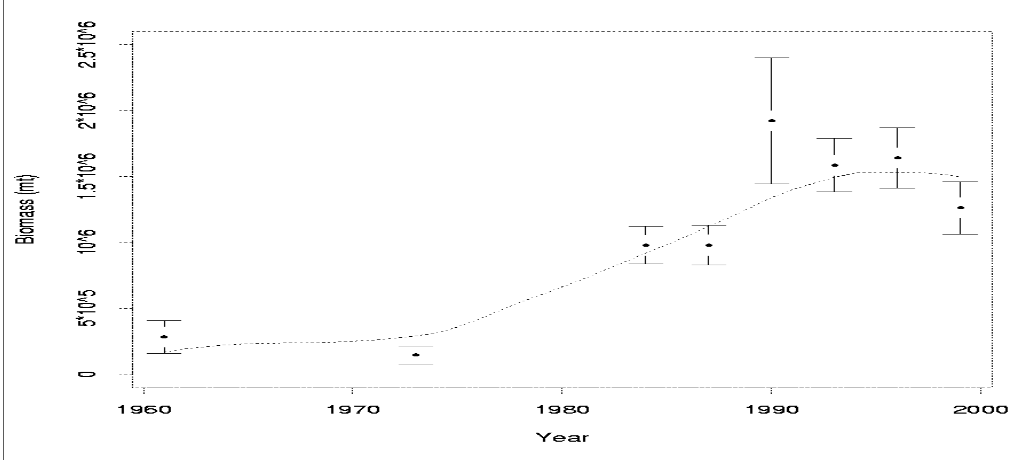

Figure 4.13. Fit to survey biomass estimates with 2*standard deviation for 1984, 1987, 1990, 1993, 1996 and 1999.

Appendix A.

Table A.1. Model equations describing the populations dynamics.

$N_{t,1} = R_t = R_0 e^{t_t}$	$t_t \sim N(0, s_R^2)$		Recruitment
$C_{t,a} = \frac{F_{t,a}}{Z_{t,a}}(1-e^{-Z_{t,a}})N_{t,a}$		$1 \le t \le T$ $1 \le a \le A$	Catch
$N_{t+1,a+1} = N_{t,a} e^{-Z_{t,a}}$		$1 < t \le T$ $1 \le a < A$	Numbers at age
$FSB_t = \sum_{a=1}^{A} w_a f_a N_{t,a}$			Female spawning biomass
$N_{t+1,A} = N_{t,A-1} e^{-Z_{t,A-1}} + N_{t,A} e^{-Z_{t,A}}$		$1 < t \le T$	Numbers in "plus" group
$Z_{t,a} = F_{t,a} + M$			Total Mortality
$C_t = \sum_{a=1}^{A} C_{t,a}$			Total Catch in numbers
$p_{t,a} = C_{t,a} / C$			proportion at age in the catch
$Y_t = \sum_{a=1}^{A} w_{t,a} C_{t,a}$			Yield
$F_{t,a} = s_{t,a} E_t e^{e_t}$	$e_t \sim N(0, s_R^2)$		Fishing mortality
S_a for a = 3 to 13			selectivity – smooth monotonically increasing function for fishery
S_a for a = 3 to 13			selectivity – smooth monotonically increasing function for survey
$SB_t = Q \sum_{a=1}^{A} w_a s_{t,a}^{s} N_{t,a}$			survey biomass, Q = 1.

Table A.2. Likelihood components.

$\sum_{t=1}^{T}\left[\log(C_{t,obs})-\log(C_{t,pred})\right]^2$	Catch using a lognormal distribution.
$\sum_{t=1}^{T}\ \sum_{a=1}^{A} nsamp_t * p_{obs,t,a}\log(p_{pred,t,a})$ - offset	age and length compositions using a multinomial distribution. Nsamp is the observed sample size. Offset is a constant term based on the multinomial distribution.
offset = $\sum_{t=1}^{T}\ \sum_{a=1}^{A} nsamp_t * p_{obs,t,a}\log(p_{obs,t,a})$	the offset constant is calculated from the observed proportions and the sample sizes.
$\sum_{t=1}^{ts}\left[\frac{\log\left[\frac{SB_{obs,t}}{SB_{pred,t}}\right]}{sqrt(2)*s.d.(\log(SB_{obs,t}))}\right]^2$	survey biomass using a lognormal distribution, ts is the number of years of surveys.
$\sum_{t=1}^{T}(t_t)^2$ $\sum_{a=3}^{15}(diff(diff(s_a)))^2$	Recruitment, where $t_t \sim N(0, s_R^2)$ Smooth selectivities. The sum of the squared second differences.

Table A.3. List of variables and their definitions used in the model.

Variable	Definition
T	number of years in the model(t=1 is 1961 and t=T is 1998
A	number of age classes (A =13, corresponding to ages 3(a=1) to 15+)
w_a	mean body weight(kg) of fish in age group a.
f_a	proportion mature at age a
R_t	age 3(a=1) recruitment in year t
R_0	geometric mean value of age 3 recruitment
t_t	recruitment deviation in year t
$N_{t,a}$	number of fish age a in year t
$C_{t,a}$	catch number of age group a in year t
$p_{t,a}$	proportion of the total catch in year t that is in age group a
C_t	Total catch in year t
Y_t	total yield(tons) in year t
$F_{t,a}$	instantaneous fishing mortality rate for age group a in year t
M	instantananeous natural mortality rate
E_t	average fishing mortality in year t
e_t	deviations in fishing mortality rate in year t
$Z_{t,a}$	instantantaneous total mortality for age group a in year t
s_a	selectivity for age group a

Table A.4. Estimated parameters for the Admodel builder model. There were 137 total parameters estimated in the model.

Parameter	Description
$\log(R_0)$	log of the geometric mean value of age 3 recruitment
t_t $61 \le t \le 99$, plus 13 parameters for the initial age composition equals 52.	Recruitment deviation in year t
$\log(f_0)$	log of the geometric mean value of fishing mortality
e_t $61 \le t \le 99$, 39 parameters	deviations in fishing mortality rate in year t
s_a for ages 3 to 13, 22 parameters	selectivity parameters for the fishery for males and females.
s_a for ages 3 to 13, 22 parameters	selectivity parameters for the survey for males and females.

Table A.5. Fixed parameters in the Admodel builder model.

Parameter	Description
M = 0.2 females , M=0.35 males	Natural mortality
Q = 1.0	Survey catchability
L_{inf} , L_{age2} , k , cv of length at age 2 and age 20 for males and females	von Bertalanffy Growth parameters estimated from the 1984-1996 survey length and age data.

Appendix B.

The fraction female increases with increasing age for age data from the NMFS surveys from 1987 to 1996(Figure B.1). The fraction female decreased with age in the 1984 data. The value of natural mortality and the selectivities estimated by the model are confounded and result in similar fits to the data. With increasing male natural mortality the selectivities decline for males(Figure B.2). The selectivities for females were the same for the different model runs and are not shown here. The higher selectivities at higher values of male natural mortality result in a lower population biomass estimate that is closer to the survey biomass estimates (Table B.1). The population biomass estimate decreases from 2,158,820 t to 1,571,670 t, while the ABC decreases from about 153,319 t to 145,361 t, with increasing values of male natural mortality.

Table B.1. 1999 population biomass, maximum male survey selectivity and ABC values for model runs with different values of male natural mortality.

Male M	1999 age 3+ population biomass	Maximum selectivity	male ABC
0.20	2,158,820	0.35	153,319
0.25	1,845,820	0.48	148,615
0.30	1,673,890	0.66	146,627
0.35	1,571,670	1.0	145,361

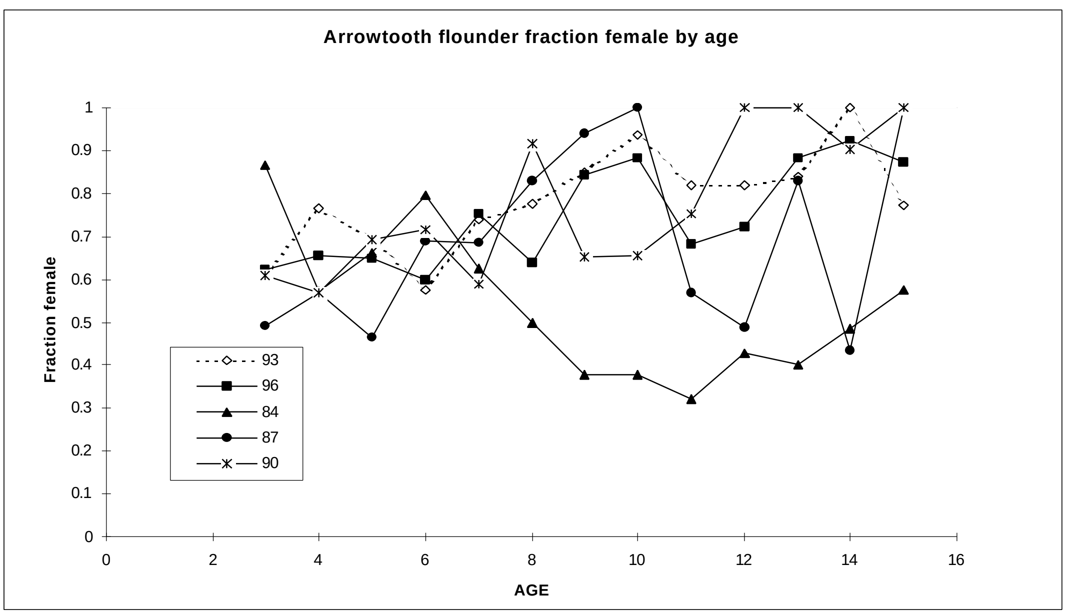

Figure B.1. Fraction female by age for age composition data from NMFS surveys in 1984, 1987, 1990, 1993, and 1996.

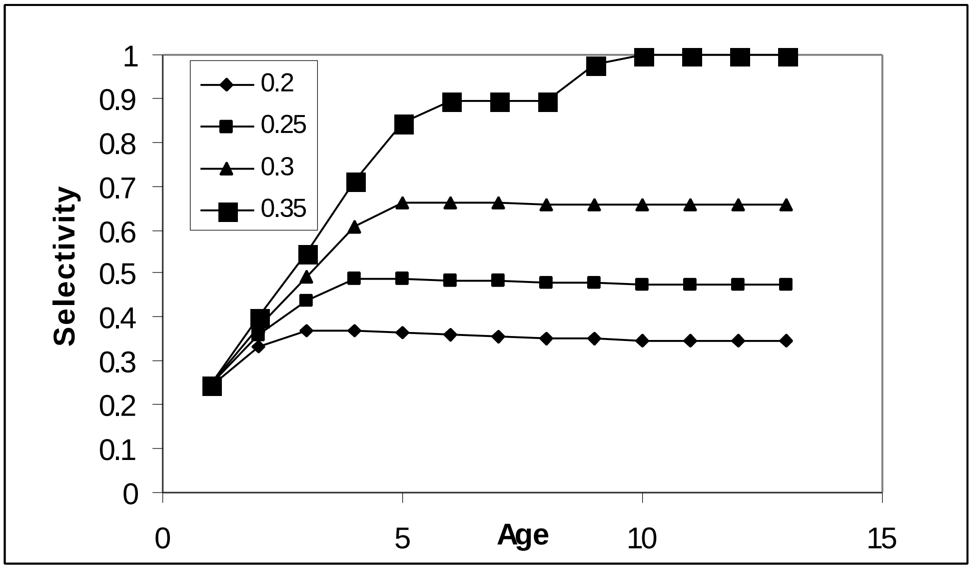

Figure B.2. Male survey selectivities at natural mortality values of 0.2, 0.25, 0.3, and 0.35.