

Appendix A1

New England Fishery Management Council

Whiting Advisory Panel Meeting
SMAST – Fairhaven, MA

DRAFT Meeting Summary
August 6, 2010

Purpose of meeting: The advisory panel meeting served as an initial hake assessment meeting for stakeholders and fishermen to provide input on fishery and survey data.

Attendance: Advisors: Dan Farnham and Bill Phoel. Also in attendance were David Goethel (Oversight Committee chair), Andrew Applegate (staff) Steve Cadrin (SSC and WG chair, SMAST), Pingguo He, Klondike Jonas, Yuying Zhang, Tony Wood, and Daniel Goethel (SMAST), Loretta O'Brien, Michele Traver, Katherine Sosebee and Larry Alade (NEFSC), and Dick Allen (advisor at large).

Motions: No motions were made.

Summary

Steve Cadrin gave a presentation outlining the benchmark assessment Terms of Reference and known issues from previous assessments for the three hake species: silver, offshore, and red. He emphasized that besides simply assessing the status of the stocks with new data and models, it was important that the stock assessment produced sufficient projections for 2011-2013 to set ACLs and specifications within the planned FMP amendment for small mesh multispecies.

All five stocks (northern and southern silver hake, offshore hake, and northern and southern red hake) have existing proxy MSY reference points developed in 2002 during the last amendment, but these may be inconsistent with new estimates of MSY. Dr. Cadrin stressed the importance of making a status determination against the existing reference points as well as against any reference point recommendations that would be estimated and developed. Meeting participants also noted that another benchmark assessment may be a long way off, so that this benchmark assessment needed to identify how future update assessments should be conducted, either by the PDT or another group.

Dr. Cadrin also reviewed the calendar of related meetings, including a data meeting in early September, followed by a models/analysis meeting in late October, and the SAW review in early December.

Larry Alade, Michele Travers, and Kathy Sosebee gave an overview of the assessment data for silver, offshore, and red hakes, respectively. Data for all three species exhibited problems with mis-identification and reporting, uncertain stock structure (north and south stocks for silver and red hake), and difficult to estimate stock dynamics. Particularly for silver hake, it was noted that

landings have been at relatively low levels since 1980, yet the survey biomass indices have not increased very much. The low landings may have been a result of the 5% groundfish catch limit for small mesh fisheries.

During the presentations, several issues were raised and there was some discussion of possible approaches and analyses to address these issues.

Silver hake

For silver hake, these issues included mis-reporting of species (silver and offshore hake mixed), stock structure (separate north/south stocks or combined), potential aging errors (mis-interpretation of annuli), difficulty in following strong and weak cohorts beyond age 2, and the effects of cannibalism on biological reference points and productivity. The work group was given a term of reference and had plans to develop model-based estimates of the species composition in landings and discard.

Species composition may be resolved through a variety of means. Although the dealer data is considered to be the more accurate estimate of landings volume, in this case, the vessel trip reports may be the more accurate estimate of species composition. Although sampling frequency in the observer data may be too low to estimate species composition, the VMS data may be useful because silver and offshore hake stratify by depth.

Some suggested that the dealer reports may also be subject to some underreporting, either via sales as bait or via sales to dealers in other states via truck. Some states, particularly CT, obtain these landings and make an aggregate report at the end of the year. Nonetheless, one of the advisors suggested that silver hake reported landings may be as much as 2 million pounds too low. Some discussion also occurred about industrial, or 'trash' fish, landings in the 1960s and 1970s, particularly at the Point Judith fish meal plant. Someone would investigate whether there was more information about those landings. Some fishermen thought that there might have been an increase in CPUE around 1975, when larger vessels began to fish offshore, which also may have lead to an increase in landings of offshore hake. Advisors reported that the hake fishery was market driven, controlled by what can be landed for a price, rather than what can be caught.

Some discussion also occurred about the apparent absence of larger 3+ fish in the survey data, without high landings. It was decided that the working group would inquire about growth ring validation. Fishermen reported that the larger silver hake move more seasonally than the smaller silver hake and can be found in deeper water (> 40 fathoms). Periodic or ad hoc offshore surveys, like the cooperative monkfish survey, should be investigated for presence of silver hake in deep water, the working group decided. Some wondered whether the larger fish in the southern portion of the range end up in the northern portion, but there is no tagging data suggesting that this is the case. Hake are difficult to tag due to their delicate nature and high discard mortality.

Red hake

It has been 20 years since the last red hake assessment and aging data is only available up to

1985. It was noted that there is significant over the side bait sales (supposedly reported on vessel trip reports), but that there were few red hake in the groundfish catch, suggesting low discards by vessels using large groundfish mesh. There were also industrial fish landings that included red hake, potentially recoverable data in the ICNAF data.

Although previous assessments analyzed a northern and southern stock separately, there was little evidence for such a separation. The group decided that a combined assessment would be appropriate, but that separate north/south assessments would also be needed for status determinations using the existing reference points and overfishing definitions.

Offshore hake

Besides the species composition of the commercial catch discussed in the context of silver hake, the offshore range and what proportion of the stock was sampled by the NMFS trawl survey was an issue. And like silver hake, periodic offshore surveys like the cooperative monkfish survey might be informative. The length of the derived catch series was questioned and it might be difficult to complete an analytical assessment. A catch/biomass exploitation rate might be possible, but its utility as a measure of population trend and mortality would be questionable due to noise caused by availability to the survey and to the fishery. It was suggested that the relationship between the survey index (or number of positive tows) might be related to the NAO and Gulf Stream positioning. The working group thought that this could be a productive avenue for analysis.

Depending on the amount of catch and the range of the stock relative to the commercial fishery, it seemed that offshore hake might be re-classified as an ecosystem fishery component by a new amendment. This would mean that there would be monitoring, but no overfishing definition.

Other issues; Management and amendment schedule

For both red and silver hake, discards would be estimated and hindcasted, using sea sampling data, most recently collected using standard bycatch reporting methodology (SBRM). Dr. He indicated that there were some experiments planned to estimate discard mortality, but not enough data would be available for this assessment. In the absence of more data, the group thought that 100% discard mortality was the most reasonable assumption for trawls and especially dredges. Non-catch mortality was discussed, but not having any data, it would be assumed that there was no non-catch mortality of hakes, although some is likely, particularly in scallop dredges and might occur in large mesh trawls.

Andy Applegate gave a brief summary of the amendment timeline and process going forward. He indicated that except for the structure of accountability measures, it was difficult to make much progress on the amendment until the stock assessment was completed because the assessment might change the biological reference points and stock status. He said that the January Council meeting would be the earliest that the Council could approve draft amendment alternatives, which then would be analyzed and taken to public hearing. The Council could consider final alternatives in April, but he thought that June would be much more likely. In this case, the Council would submit the final amendment in June or July, and the final rule could be

published in late 2011, with an ACL that applied to the 2011 fishing year beginning in May 2011. He thought that unless the assessment changed the status, the specification cycle would be for three years, or 2011-2013.

Appendix A2-A6 Silver Hake ASAP Model Results

[SAW51 Editor's Note: The SARC-51 peer review panel concluded that no single silver hake ASAP model run provided a suitable basis for providing management advice. The silver hake ASAP model results, which are described in Appendices A2-A6, are included in this report mainly to document the ASAP modeling runs that the Hake Working Group provided to the SARC for peer review.]

- A. Appendix 2:** Combined Area Consumption ASAP model results (Also summarizes as Run 6 in Table A52). Two block selectivity in the directed fleet and assumes Flat-top selectivity in the survey.

- B. Appendix A3:** North Model ASAP results M=0.4 Base run

- C. Appendix A4:** North Model ASAP results M=0.4 assuming Flat-top selectivity in the survey

- D. Appendix A5:** North Model Consumption ASAP model results M=0.15 _Base run

- E. Appendix A6:** North Model ASAP results M=0.15. Assuming Flat-top selectivity in survey

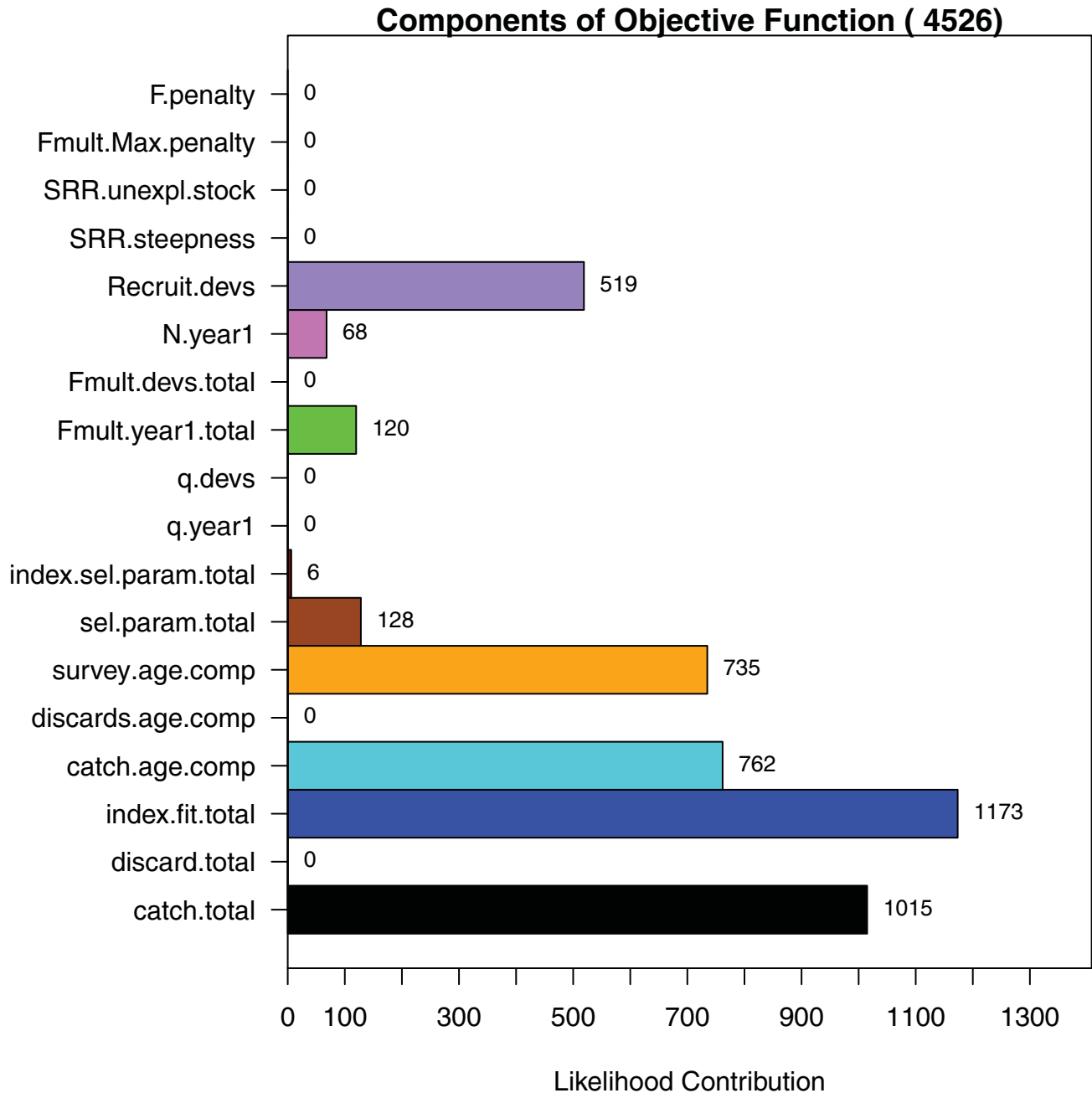
Appendix A2: Combined Area Consumption ASAP Model Results (Also summarized as Run 6 in Table A52)

Model Attributes:

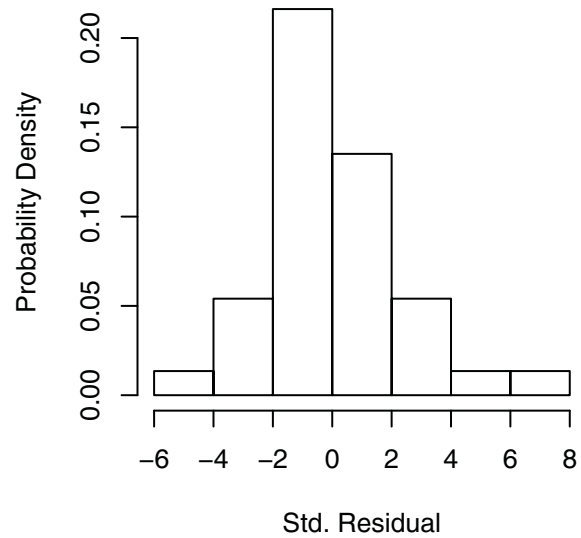
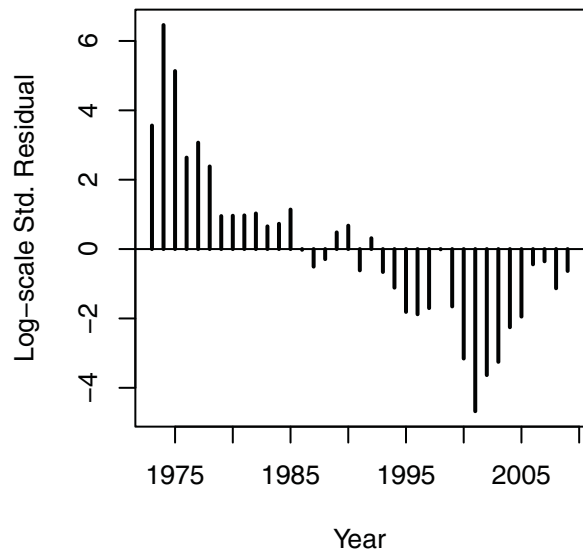
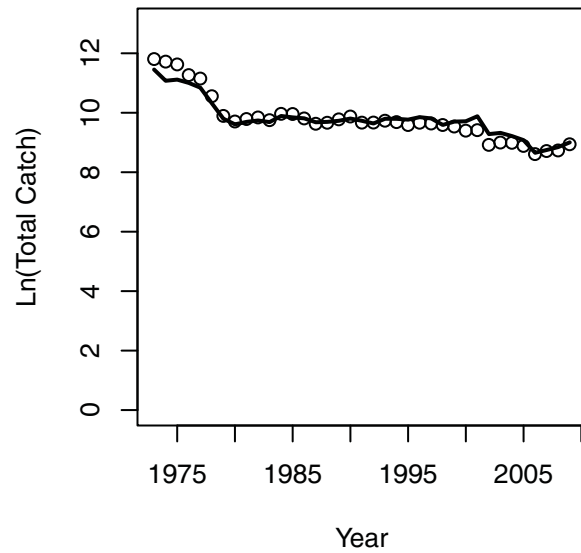
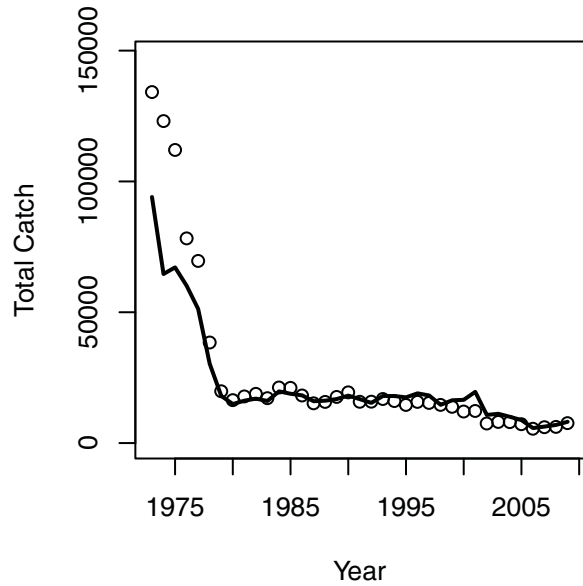
1. 3 Fleet Model
 - a. Catch : 1973-2009
 - b. Discards: 1981 – 2009
 - c. Consumption – 1973-2009

2. Fishery Selectivity (3 Block Selectivity)
 - a. Landings (2 Blocks: 1973-1988; 1989-2009)
 - b. Discards (1 Block: 1981-2009)
 - c. Consumption (Double Logistic Functional Form)

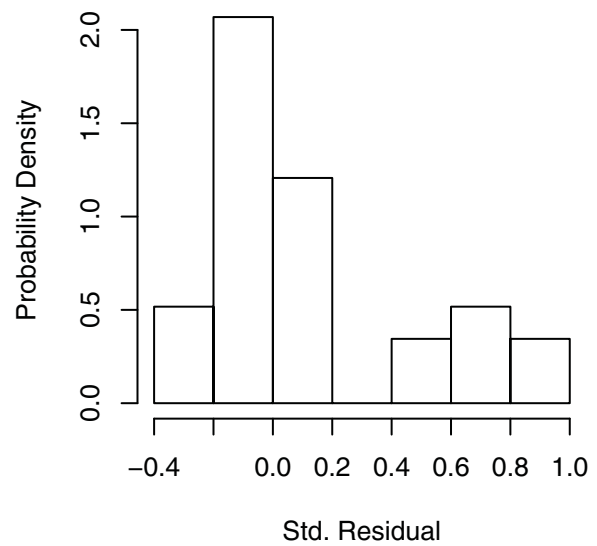
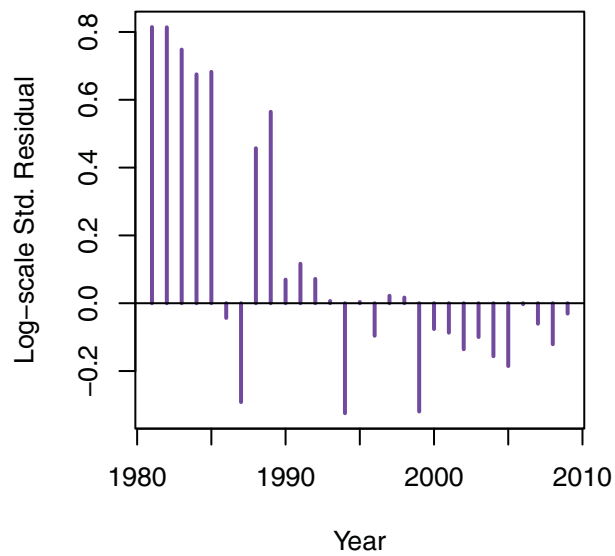
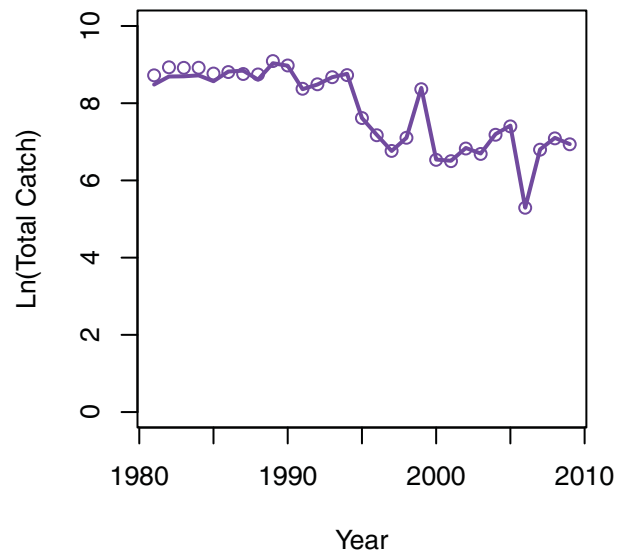
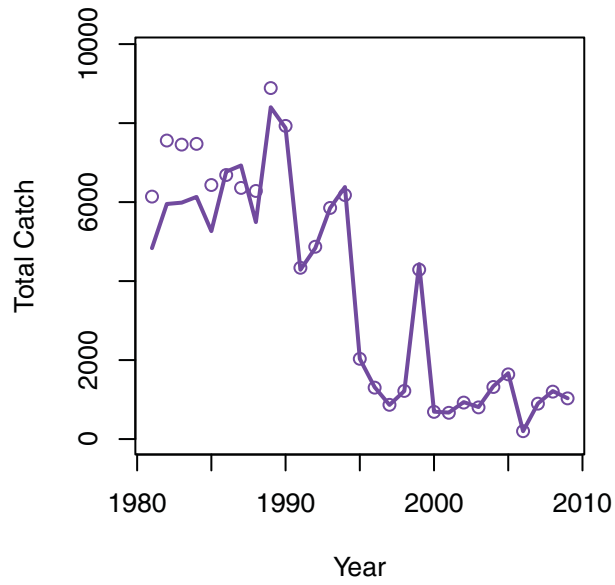
3. Survey Selectivity (Fixed 100% at age 2 – 6+) i.e. Flat-top



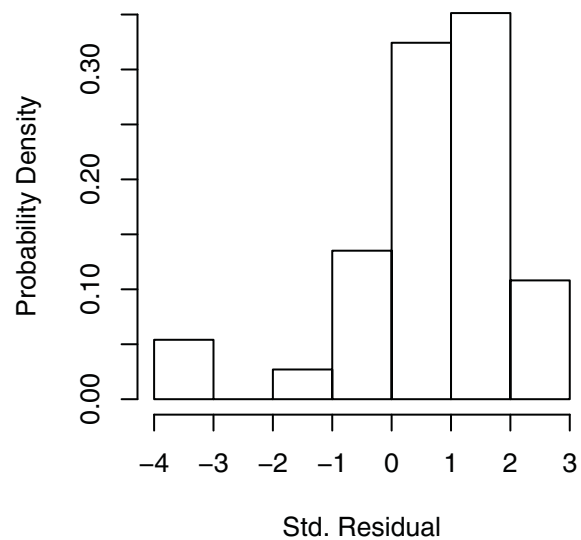
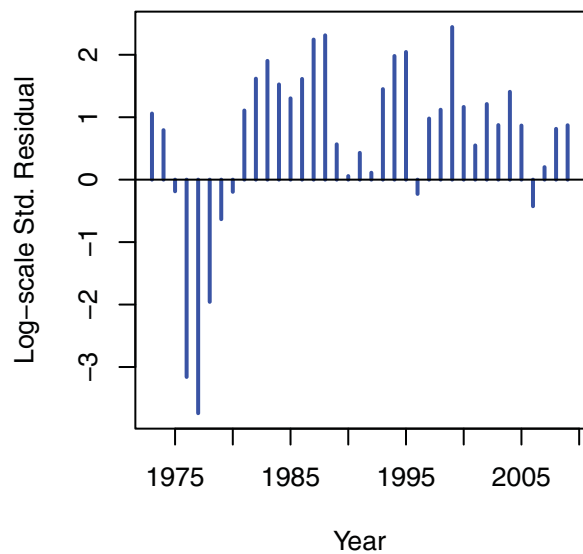
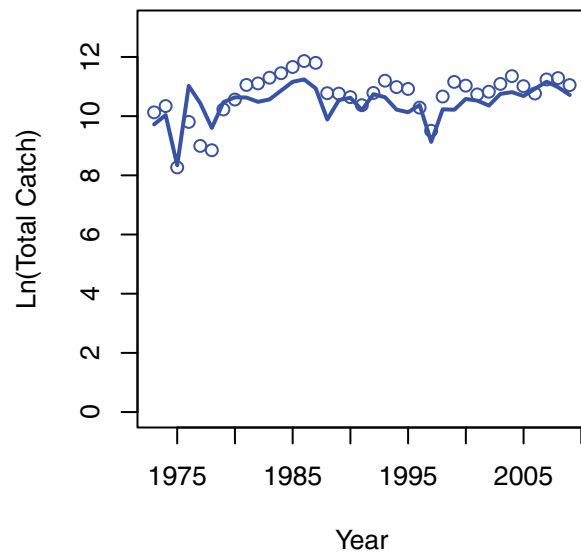
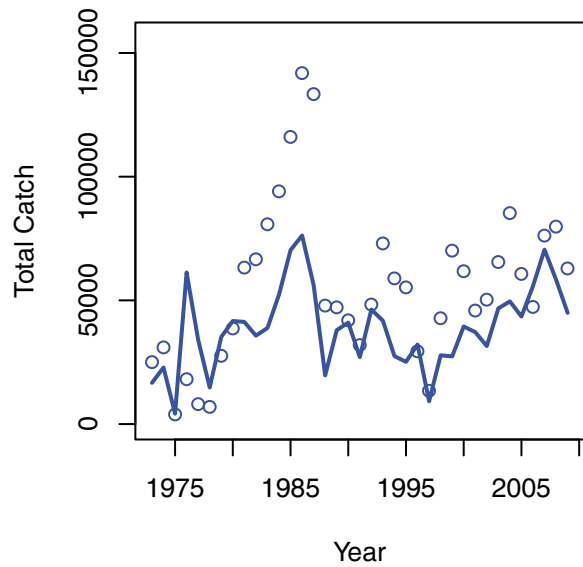
Fleet 1 Landings (Comm)



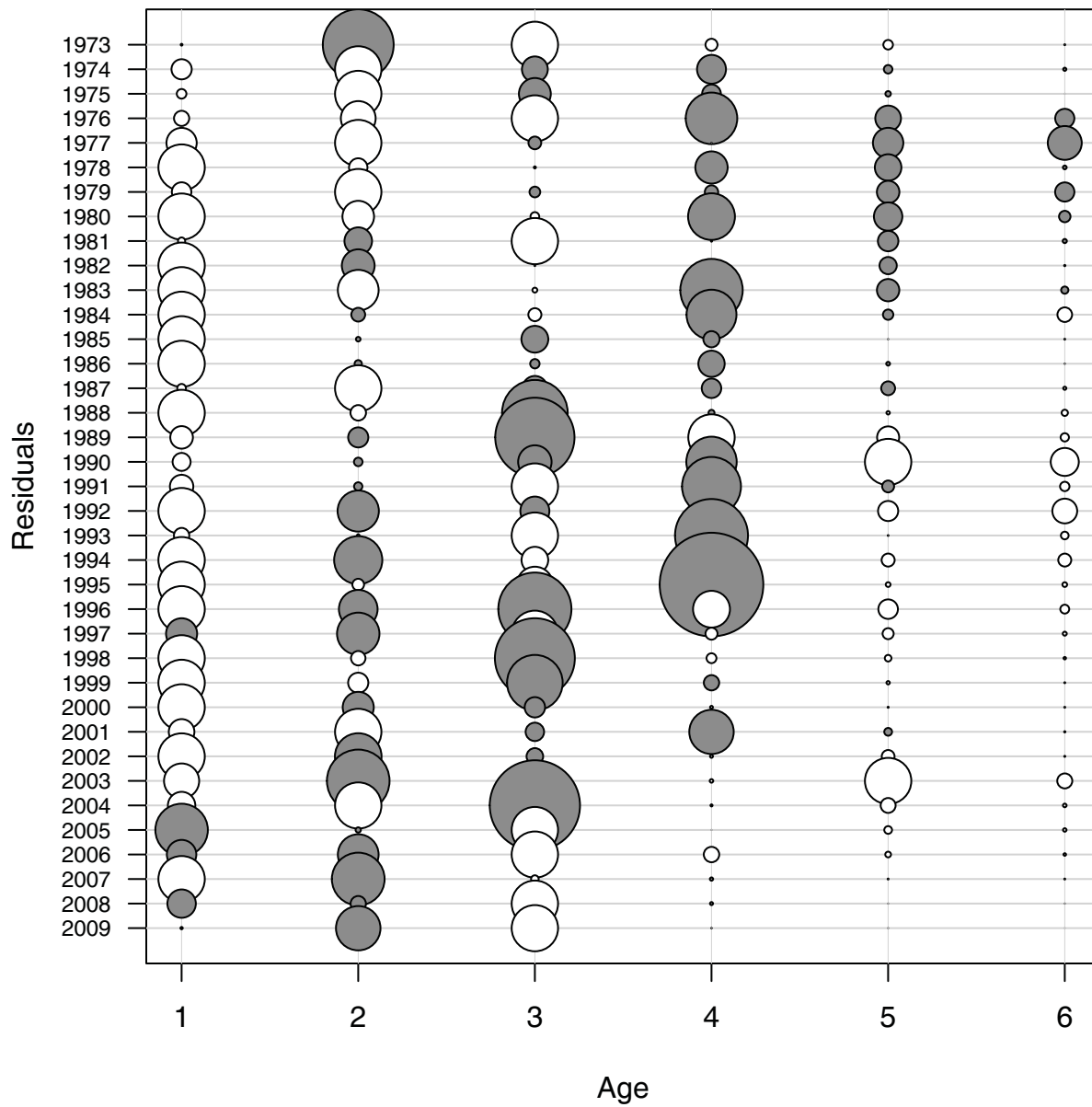
Fleet 2 Landings (disc)



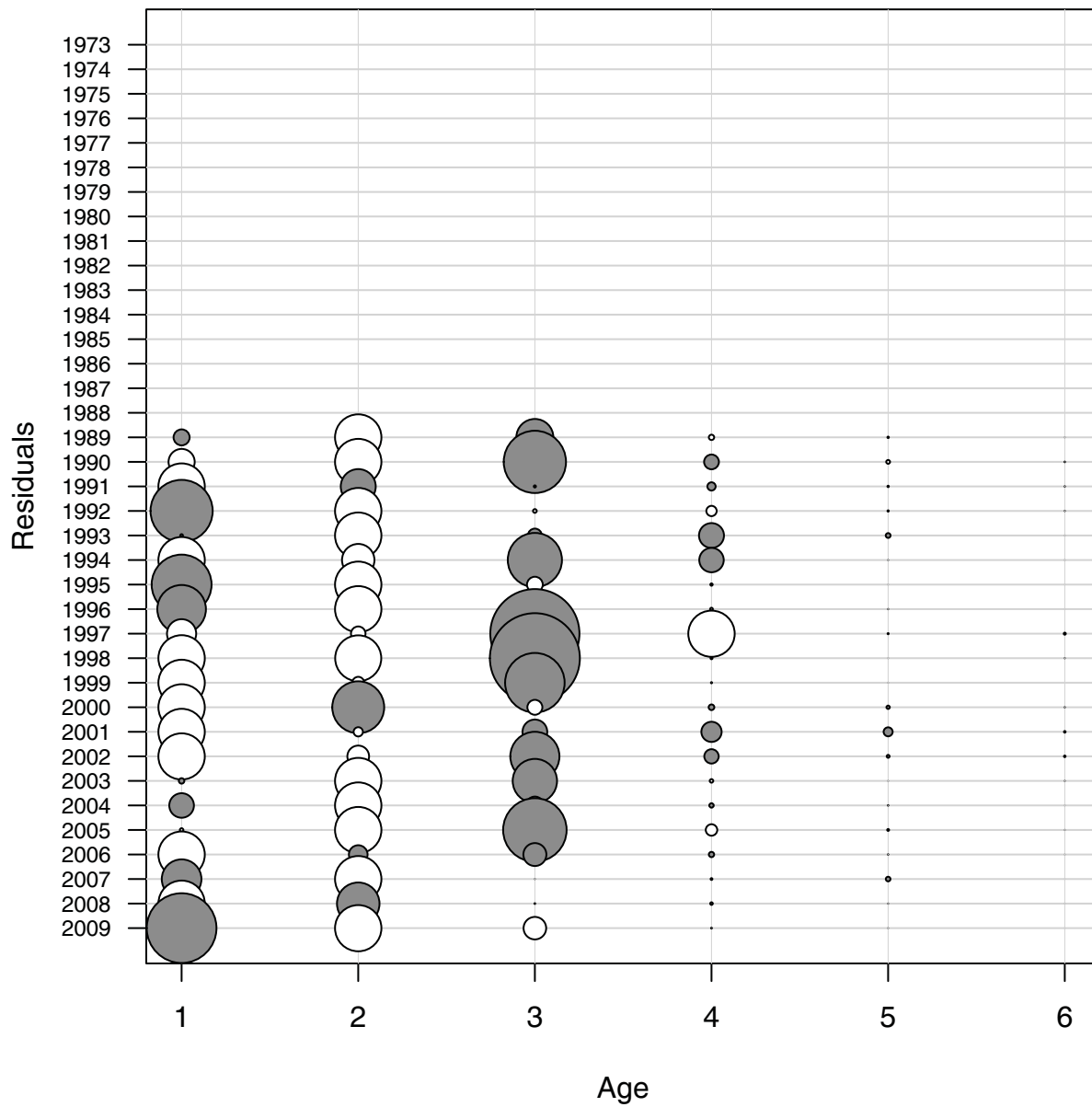
Fleet 3 Landings (consump)

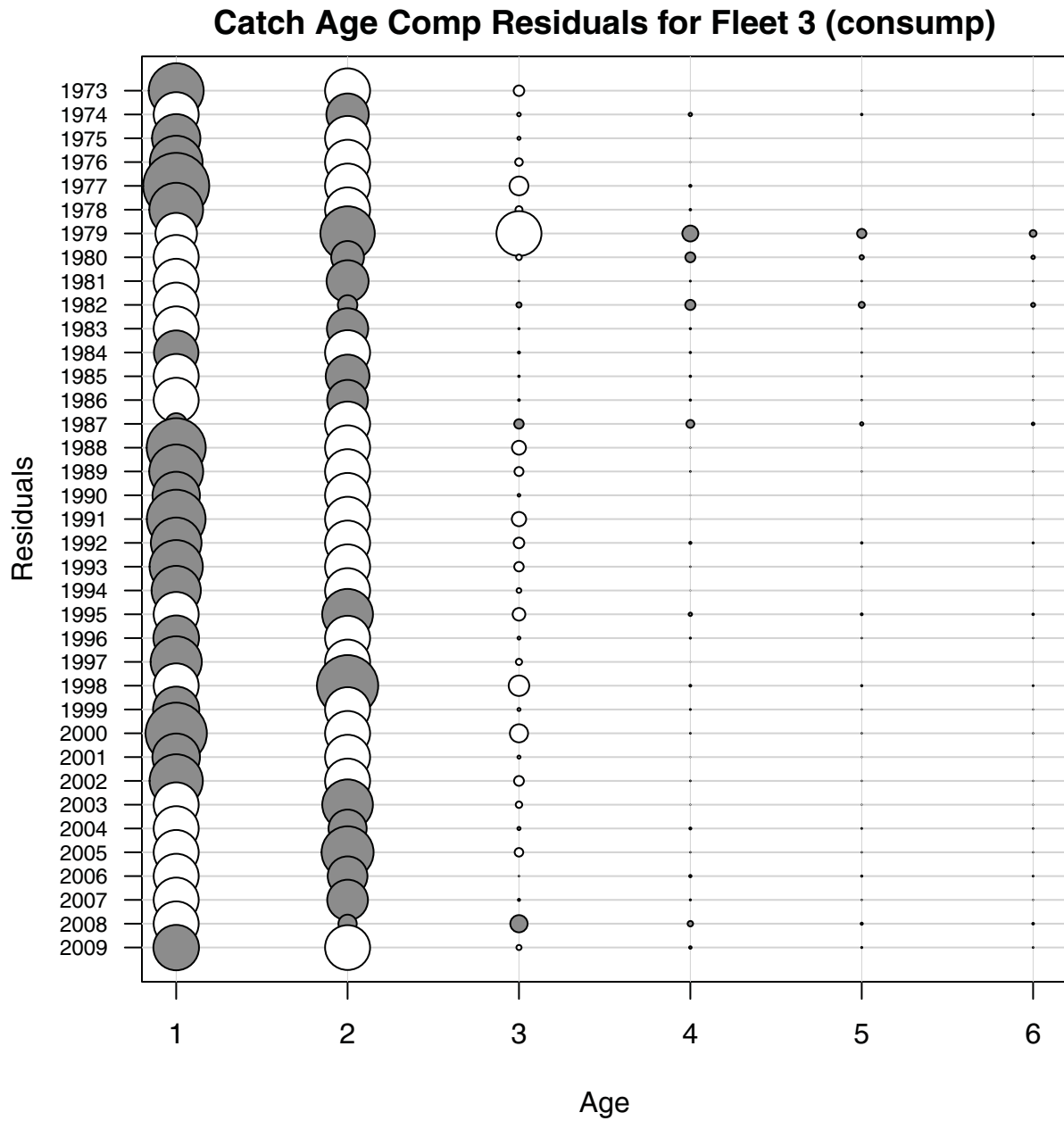


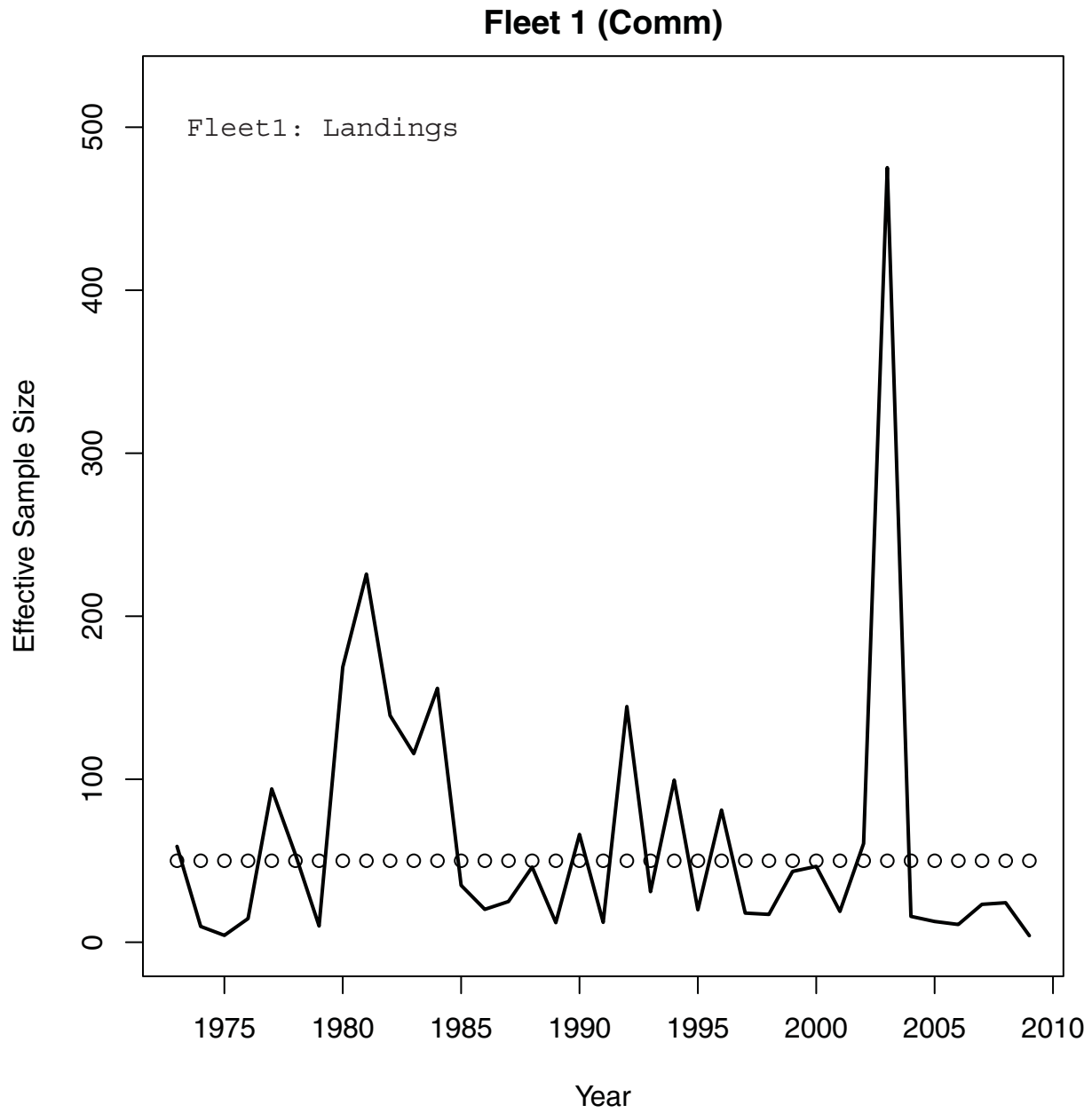
Catch Age Comp Residuals for Fleet 1 (Comm)

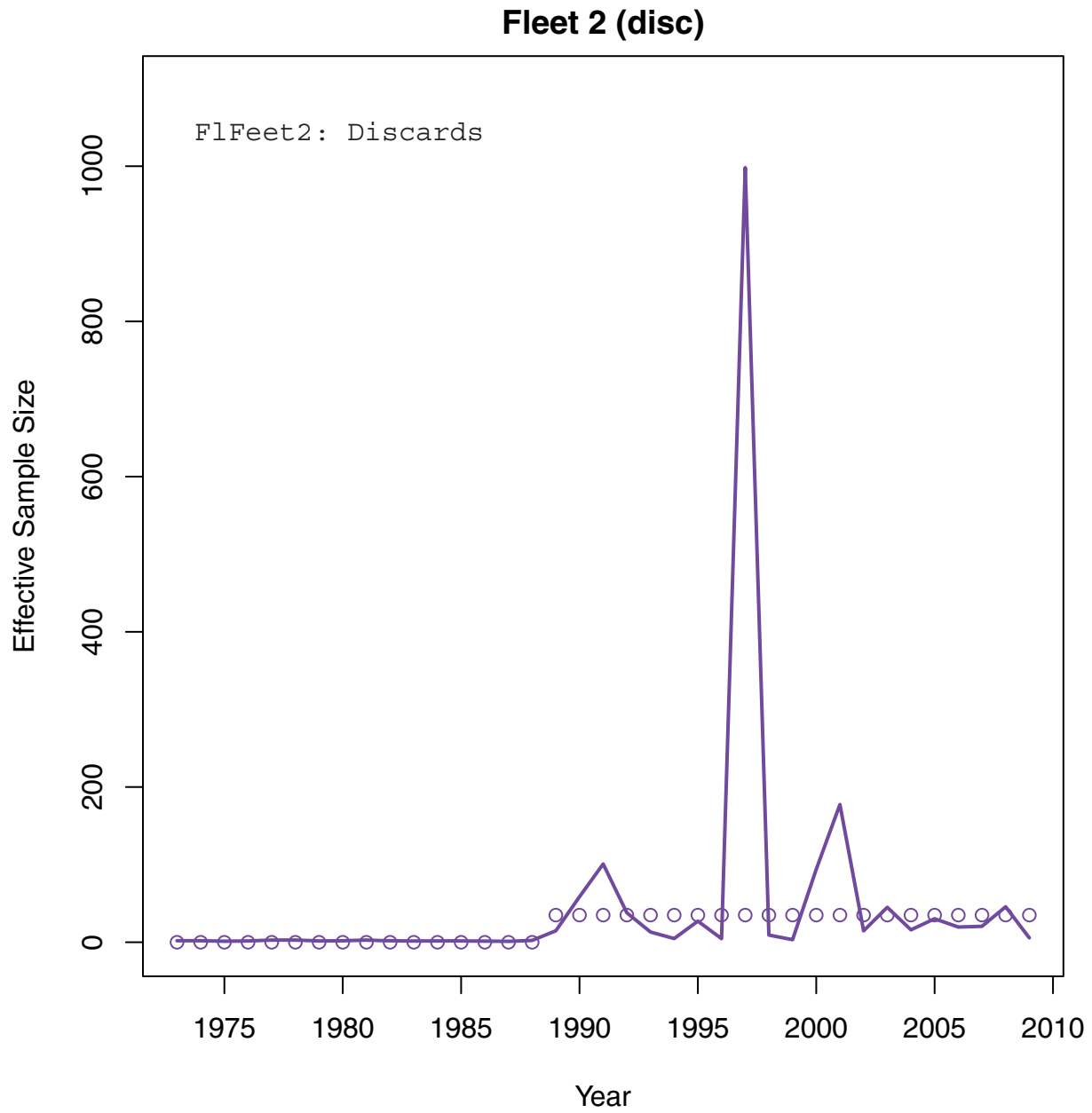


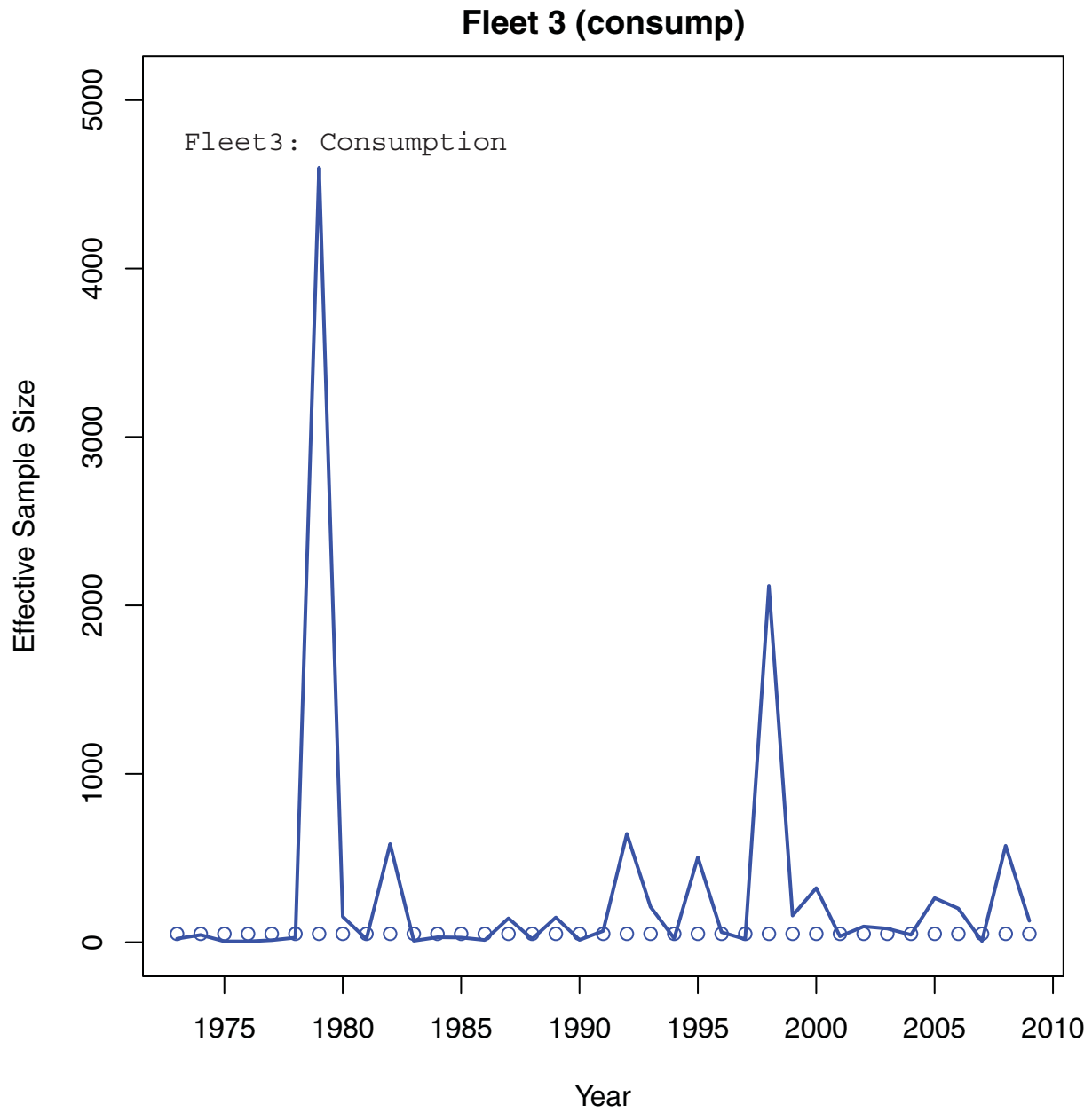
Catch Age Comp Residuals for Fleet 2 (disc)

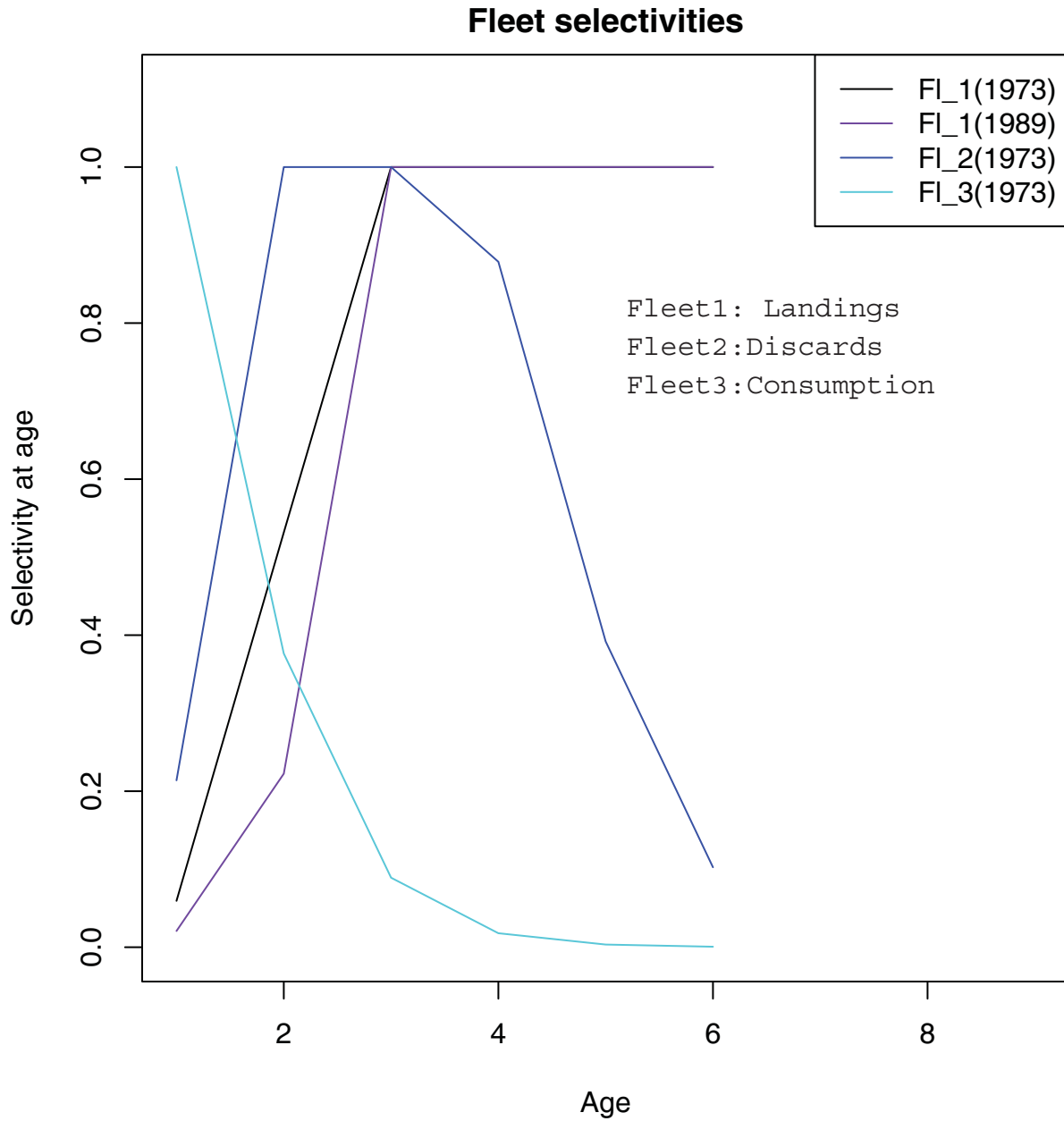




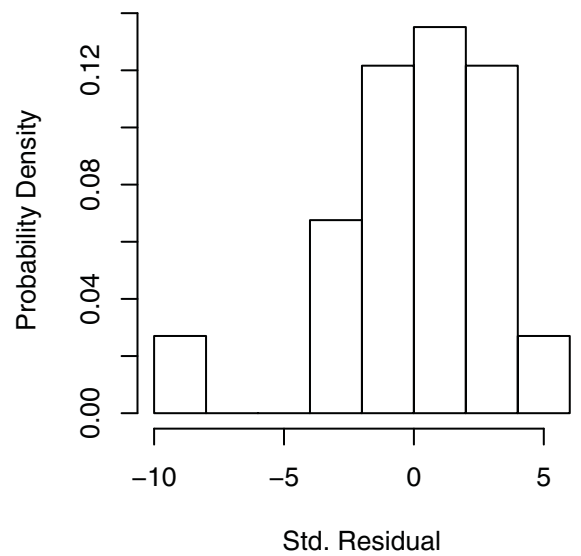
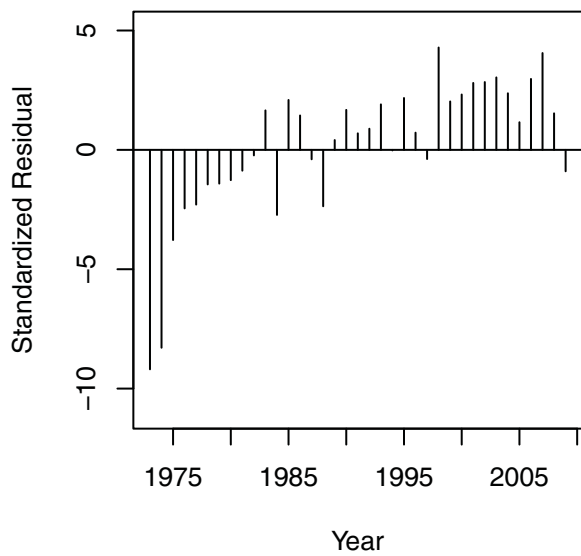
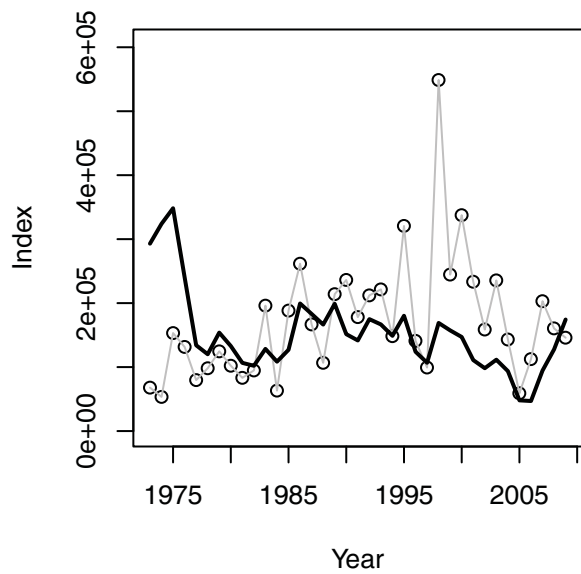




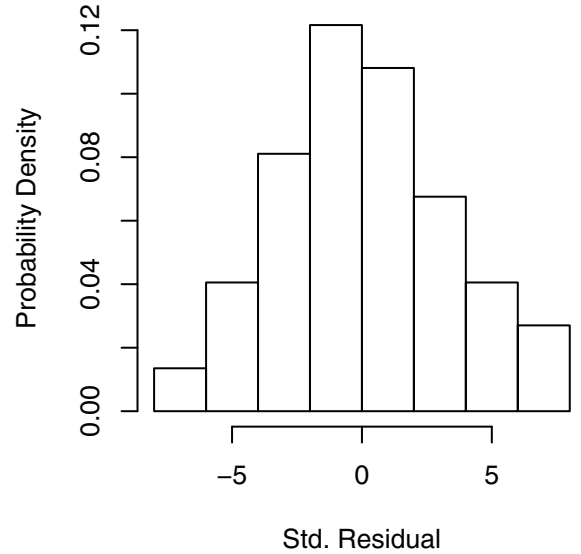
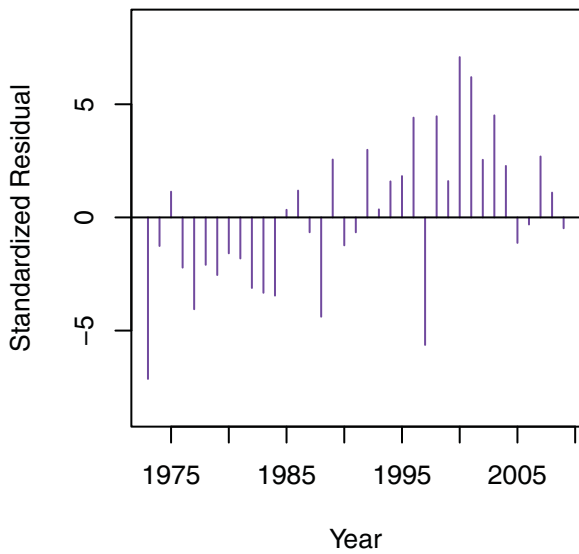
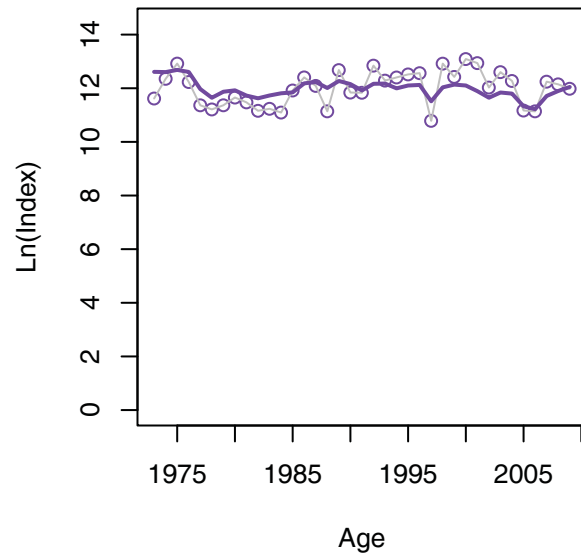
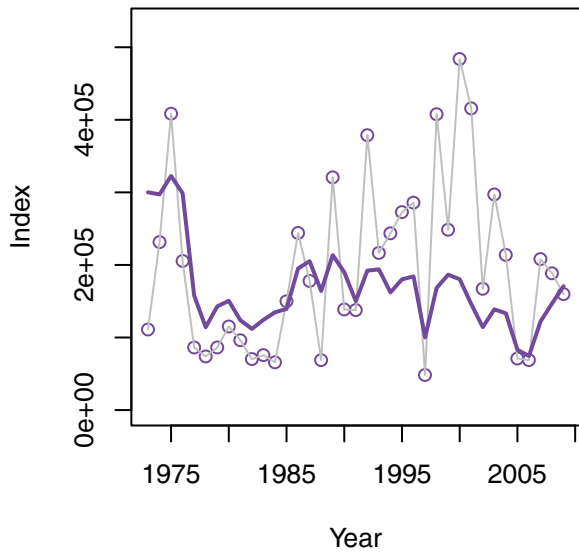


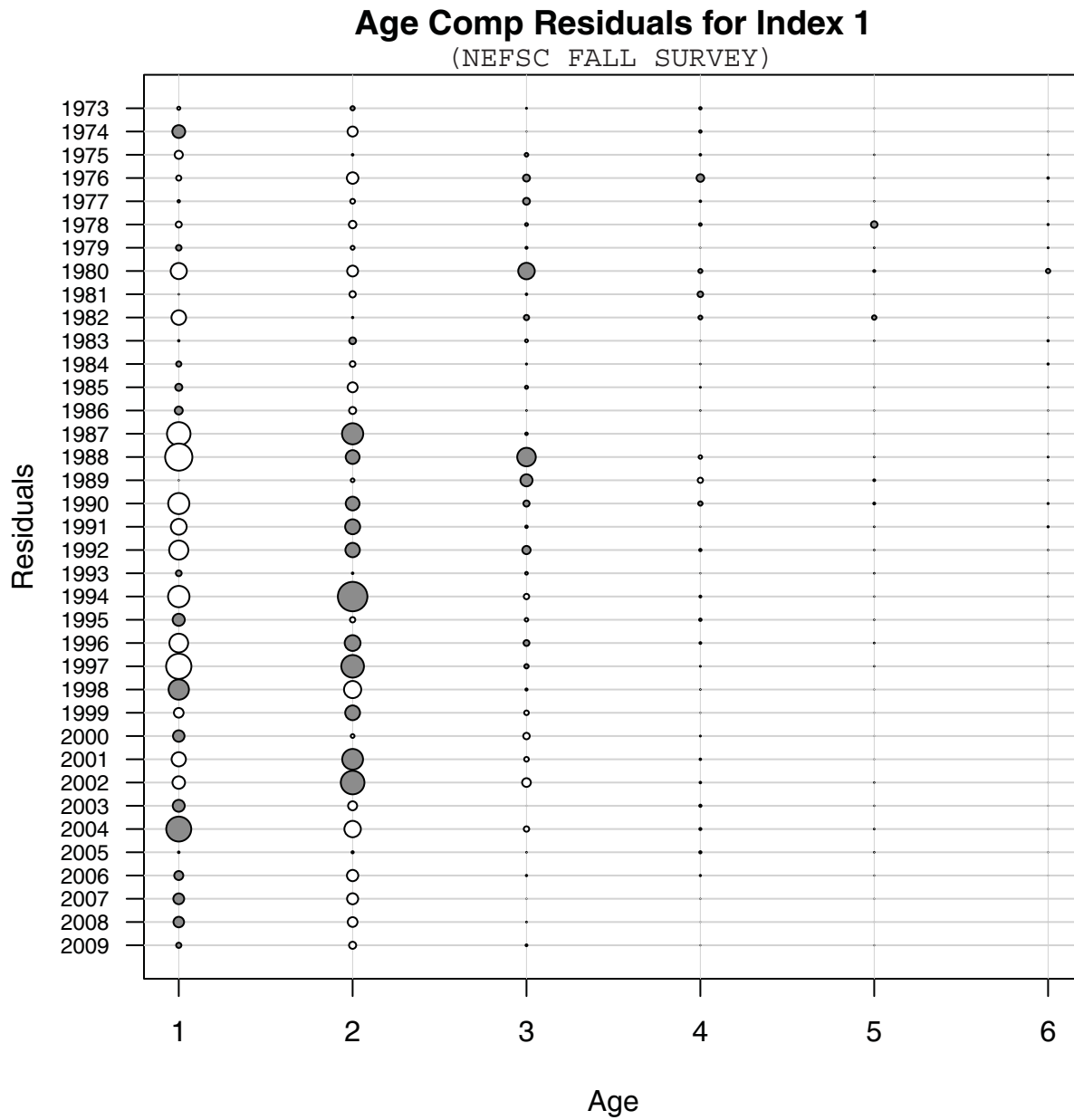


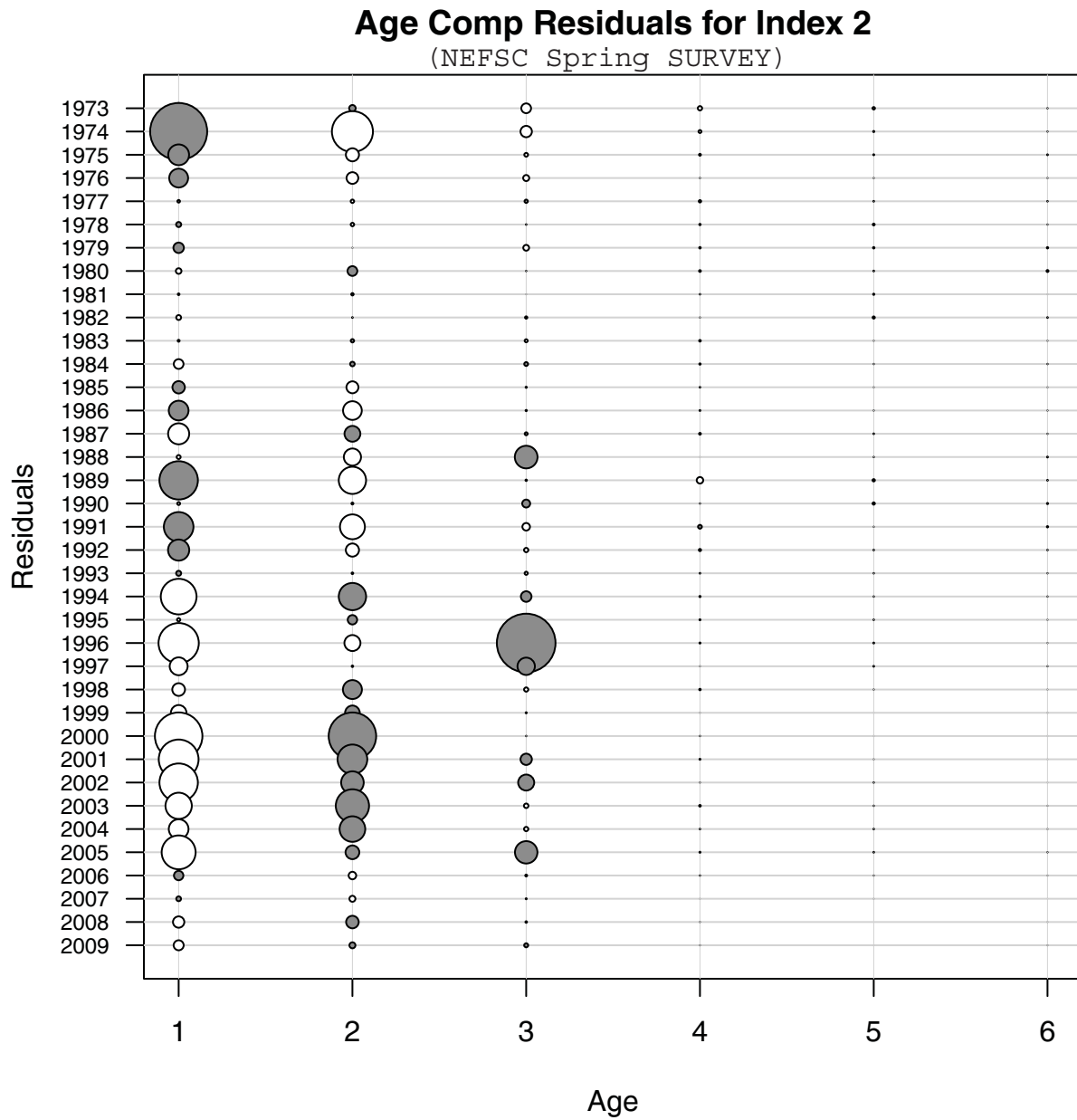
Index 1
NEFSC FALL SURVEY

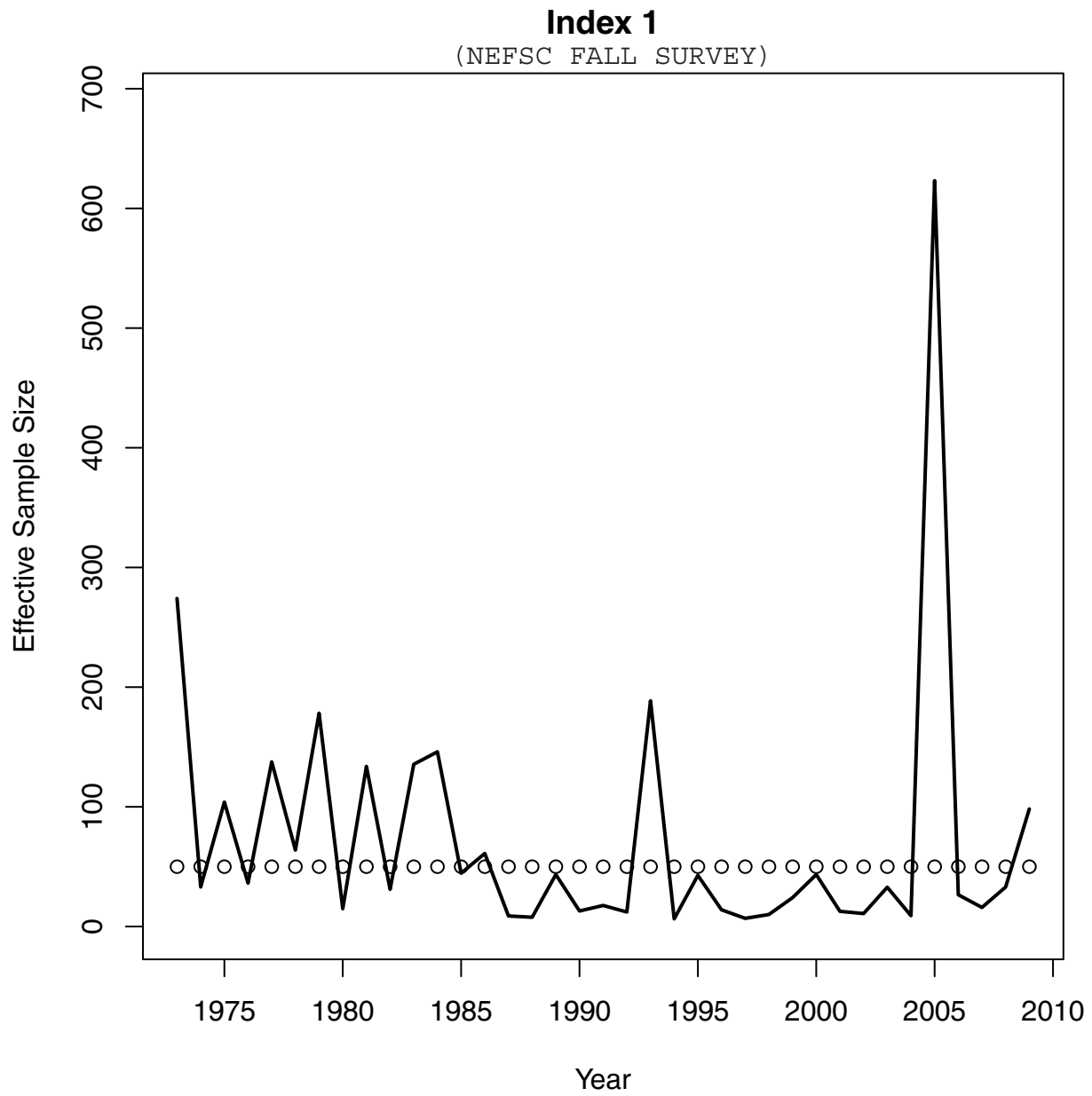


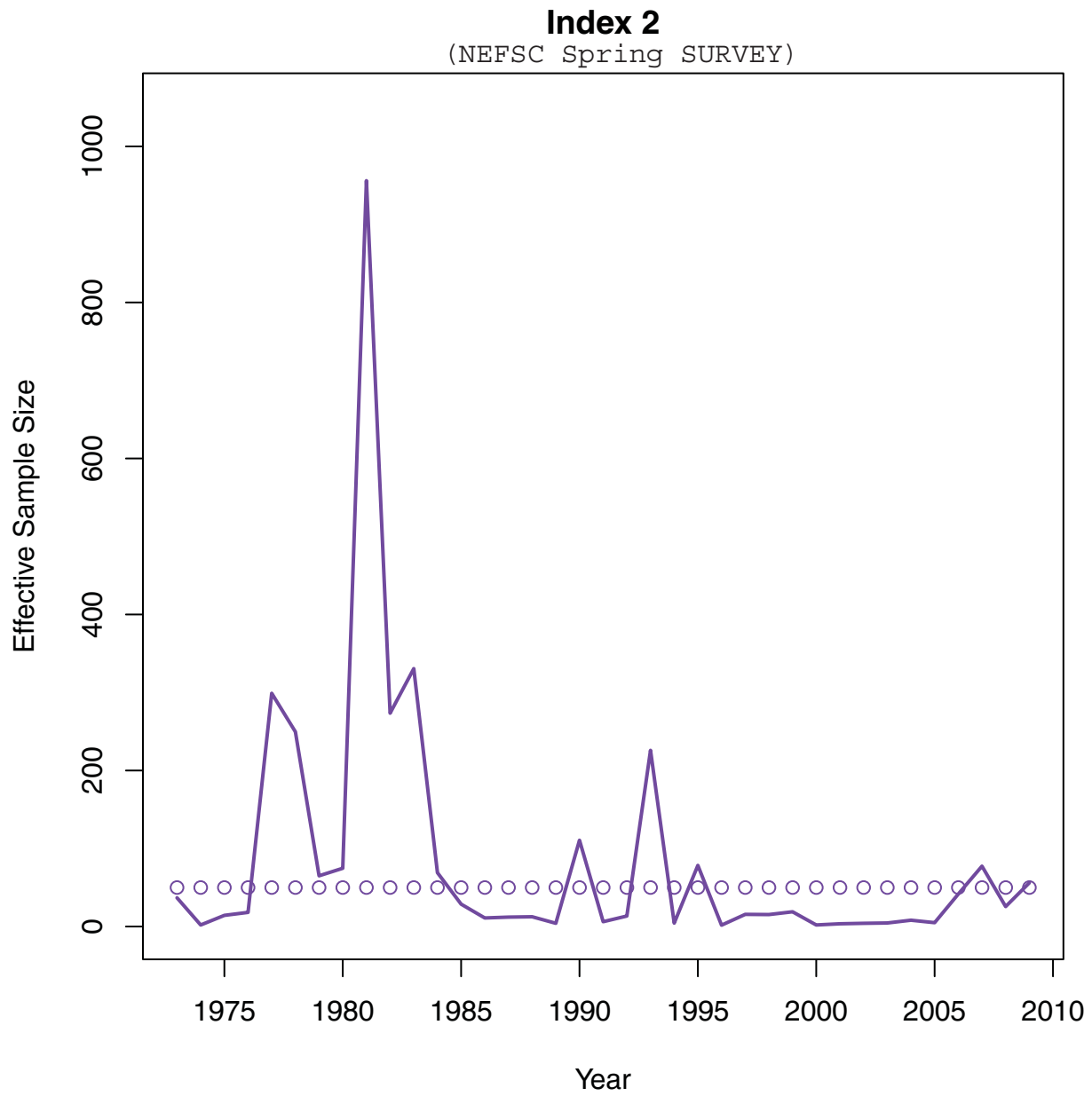
Index 2
NEFSC Spring Survey

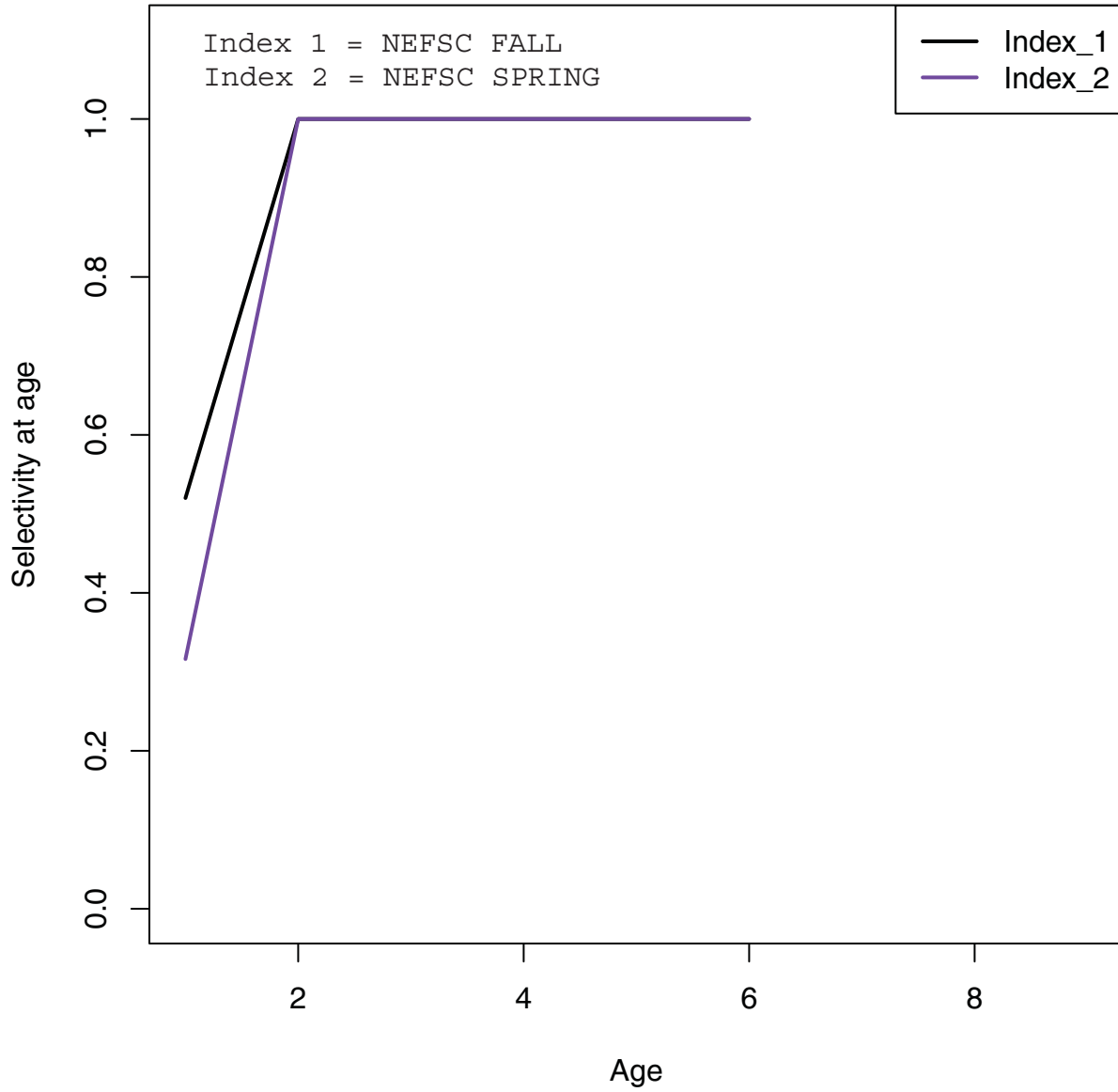




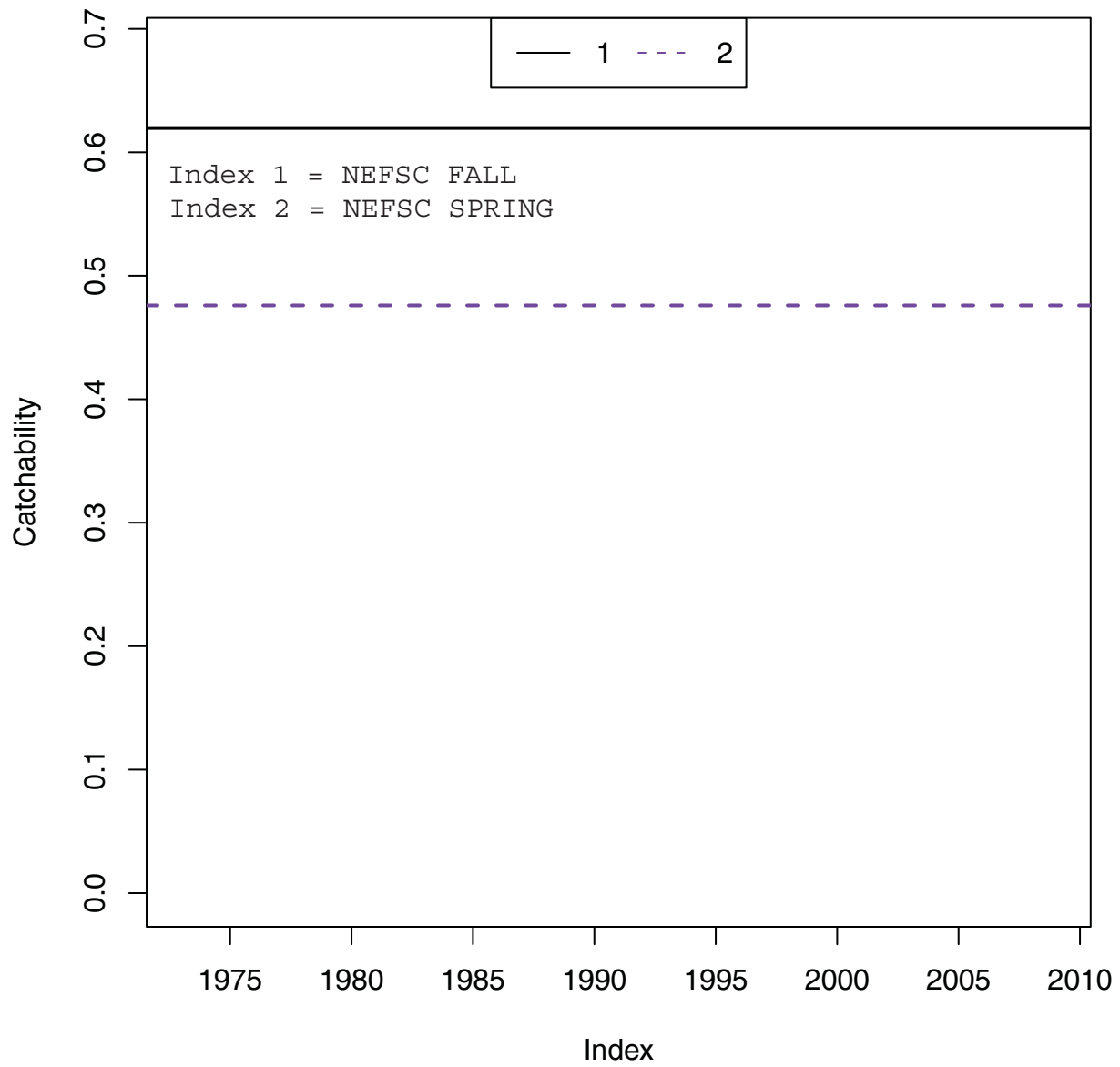


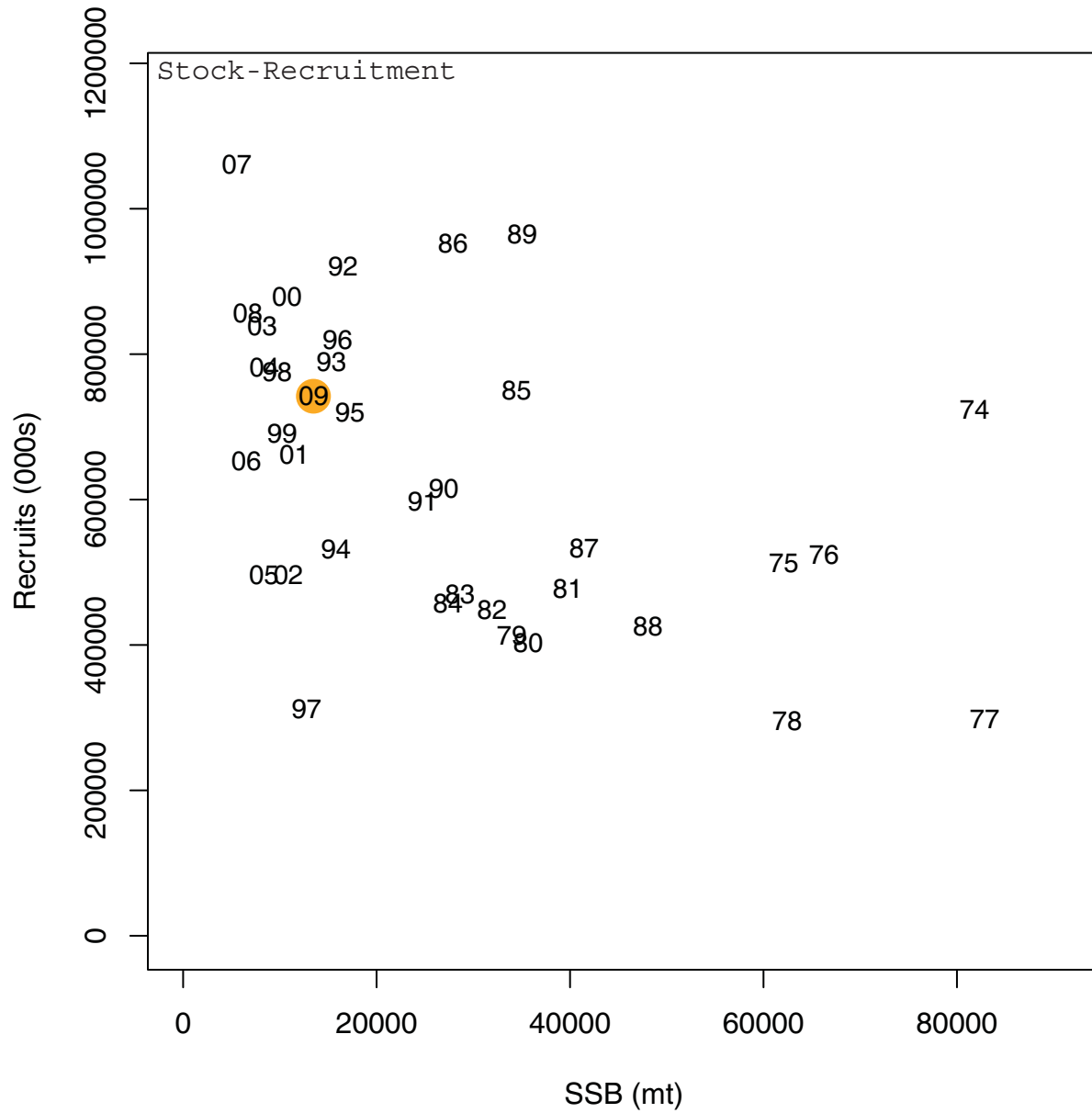


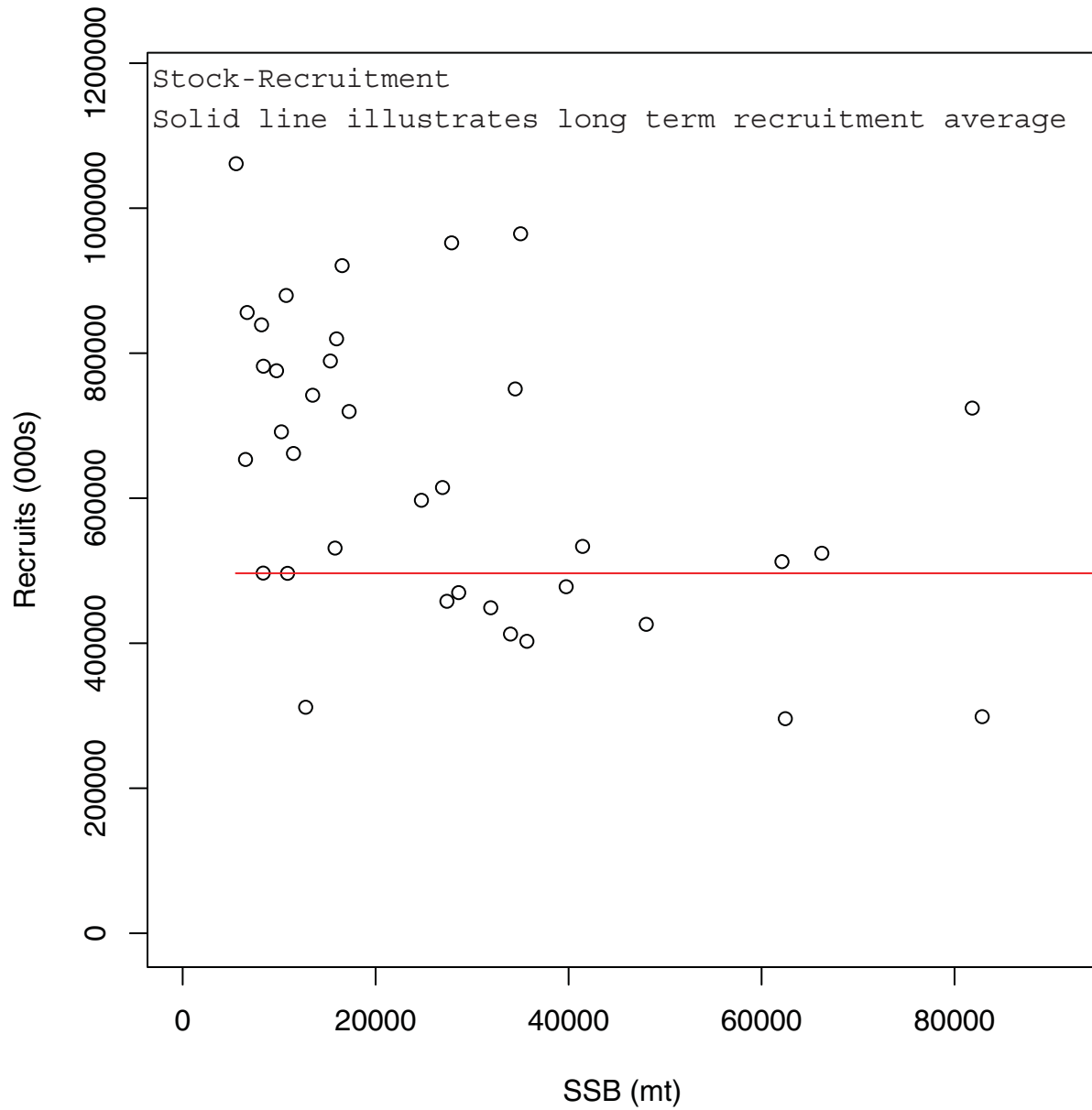


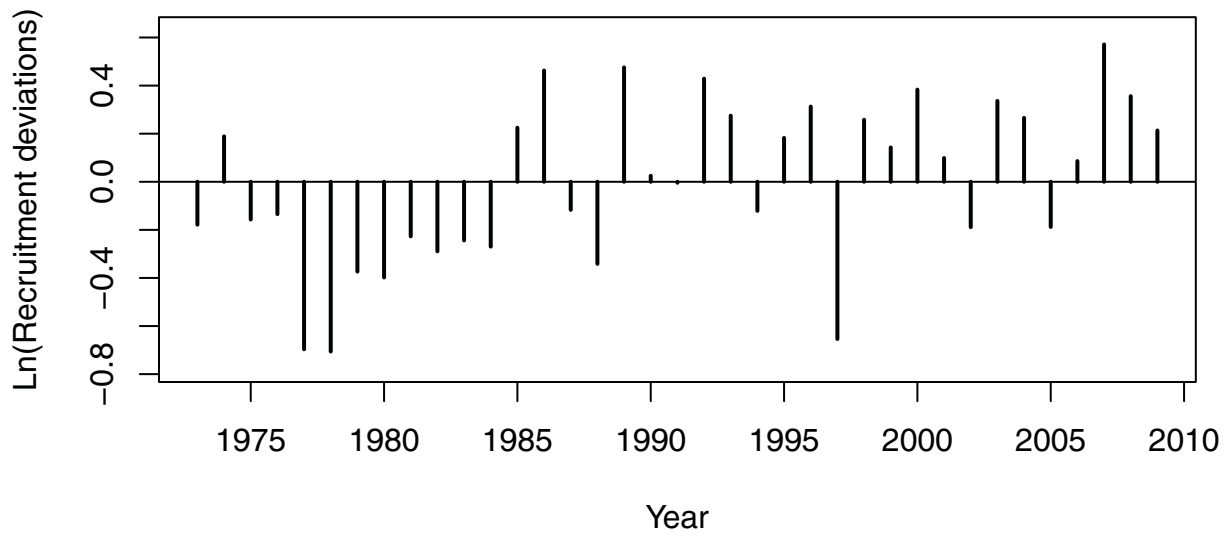
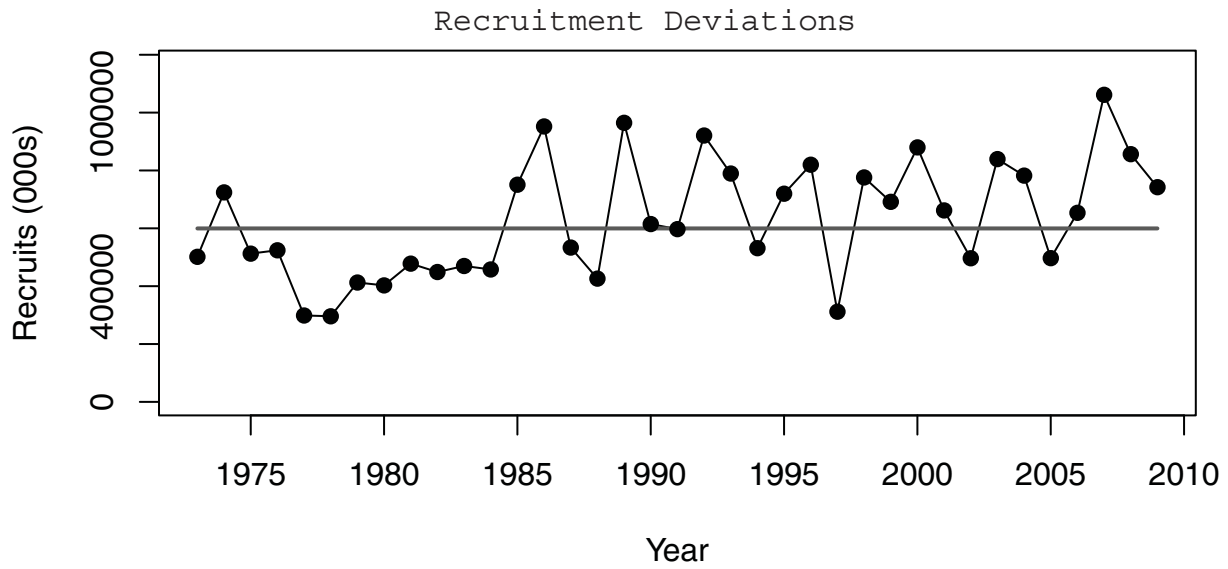


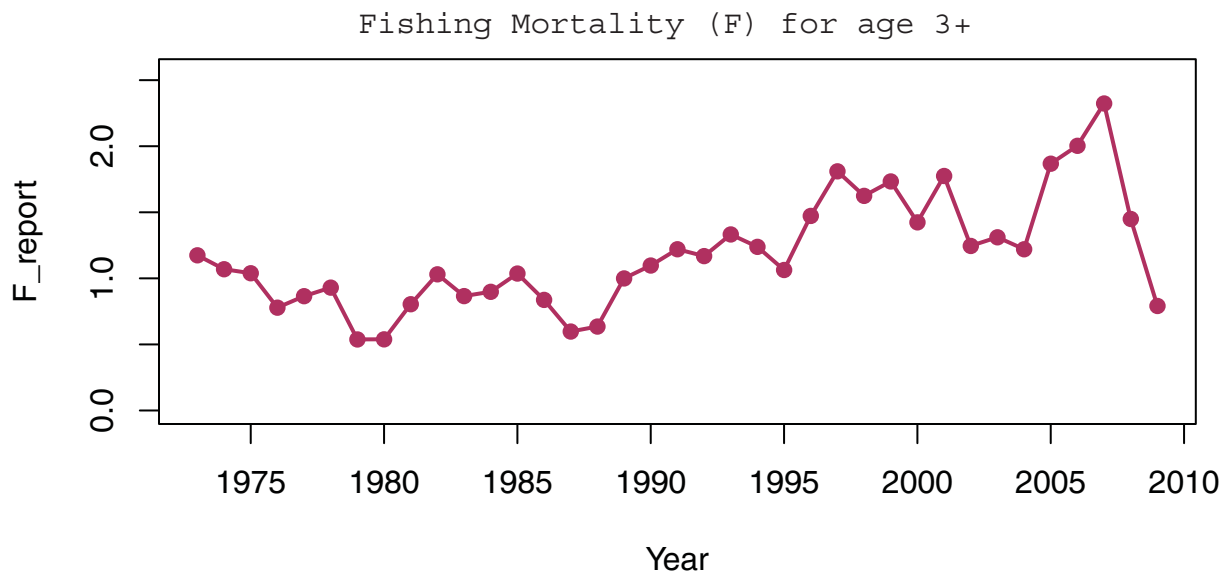
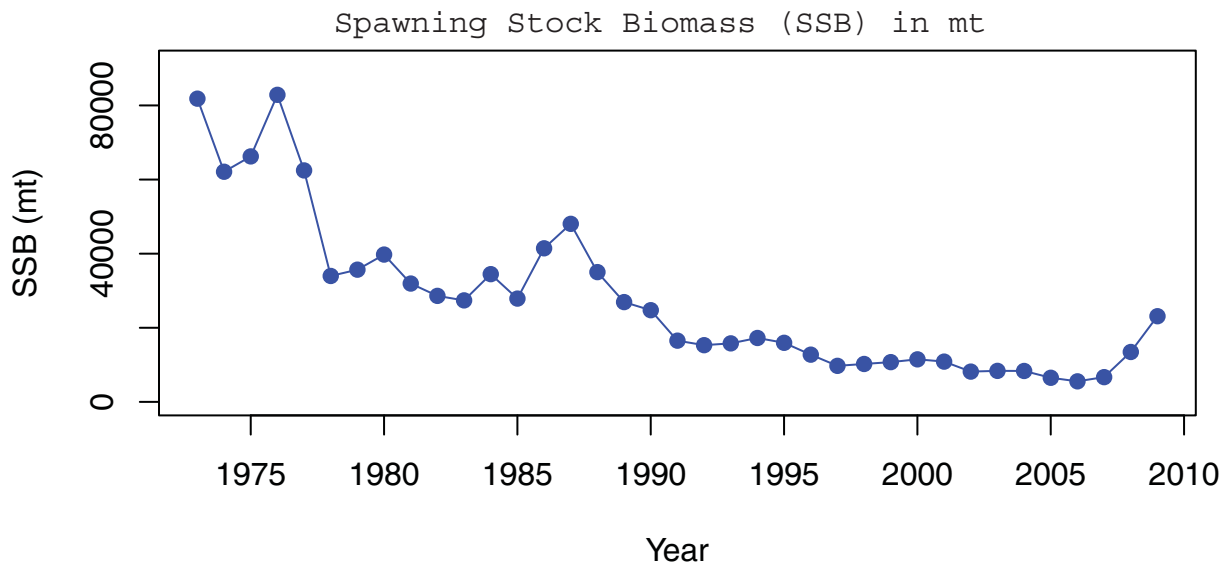
Index q estimates

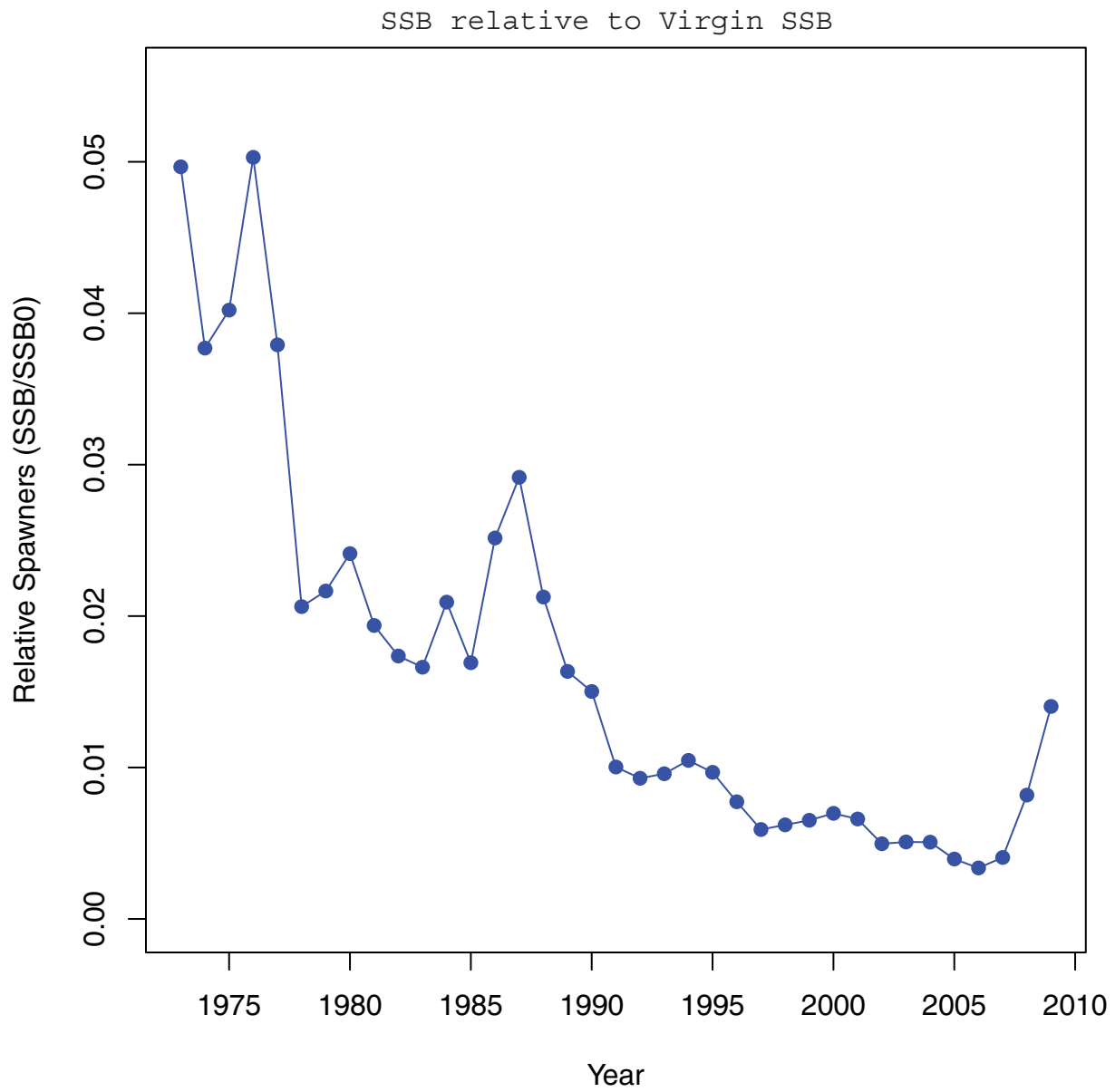


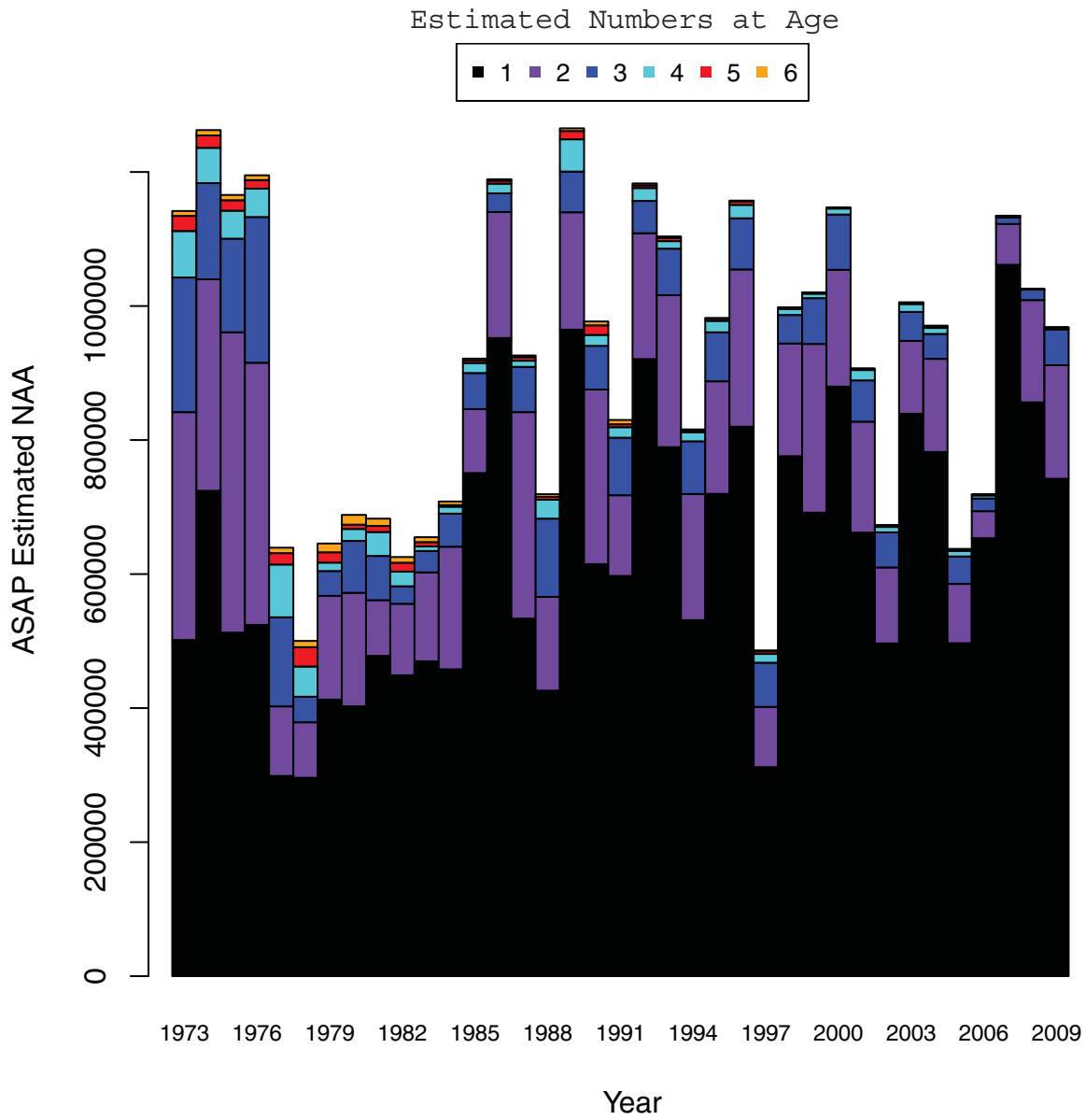


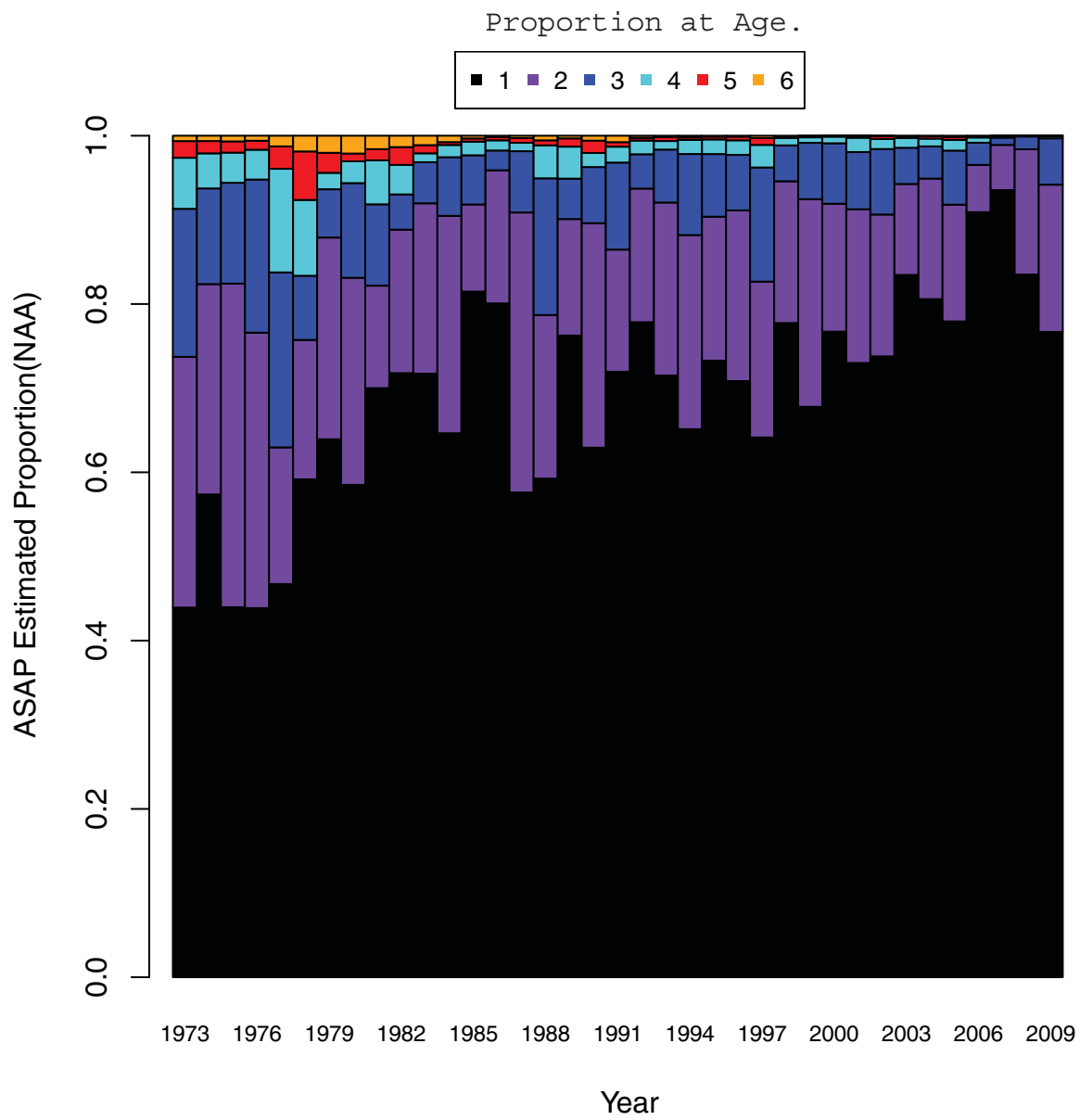


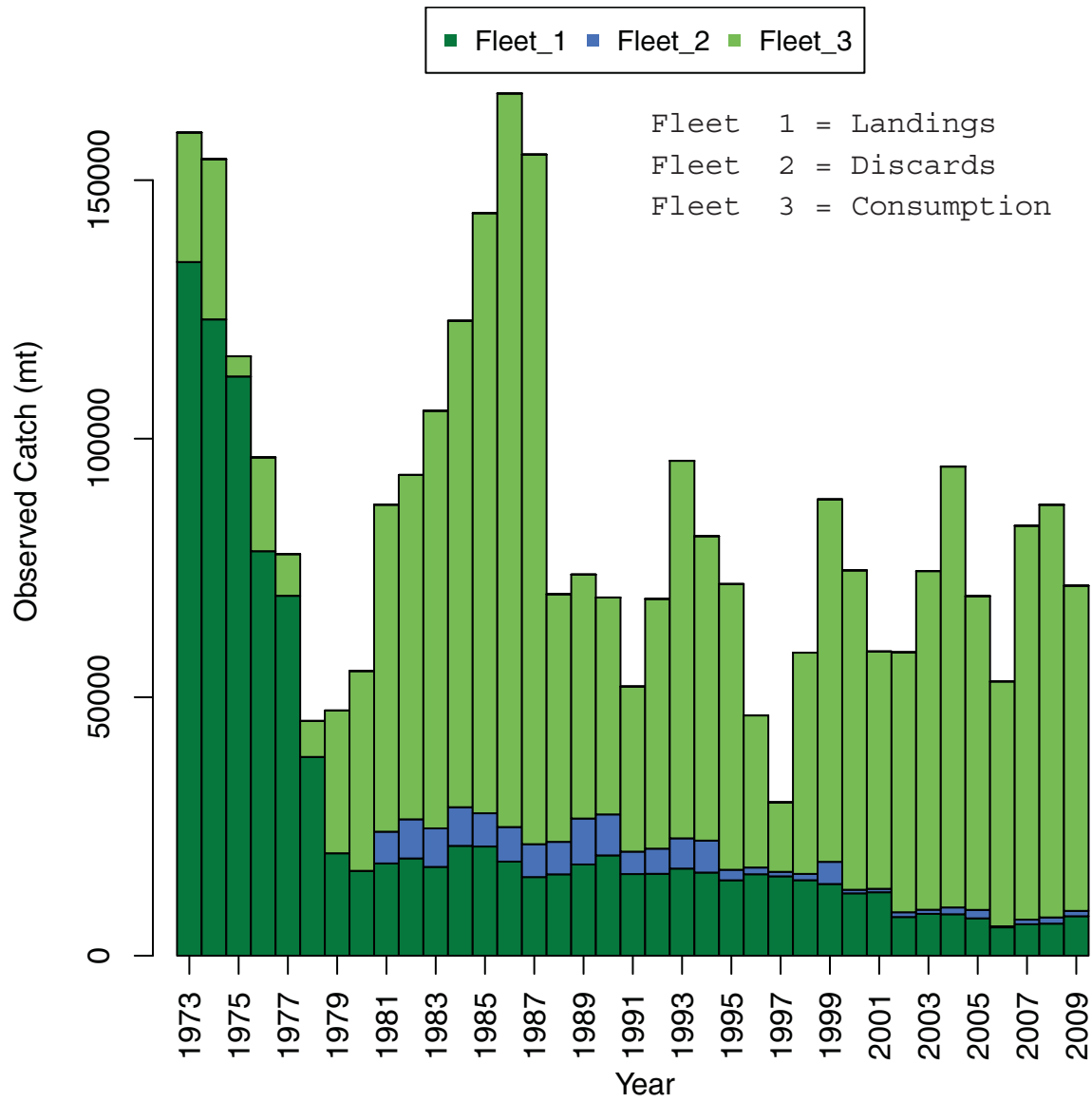


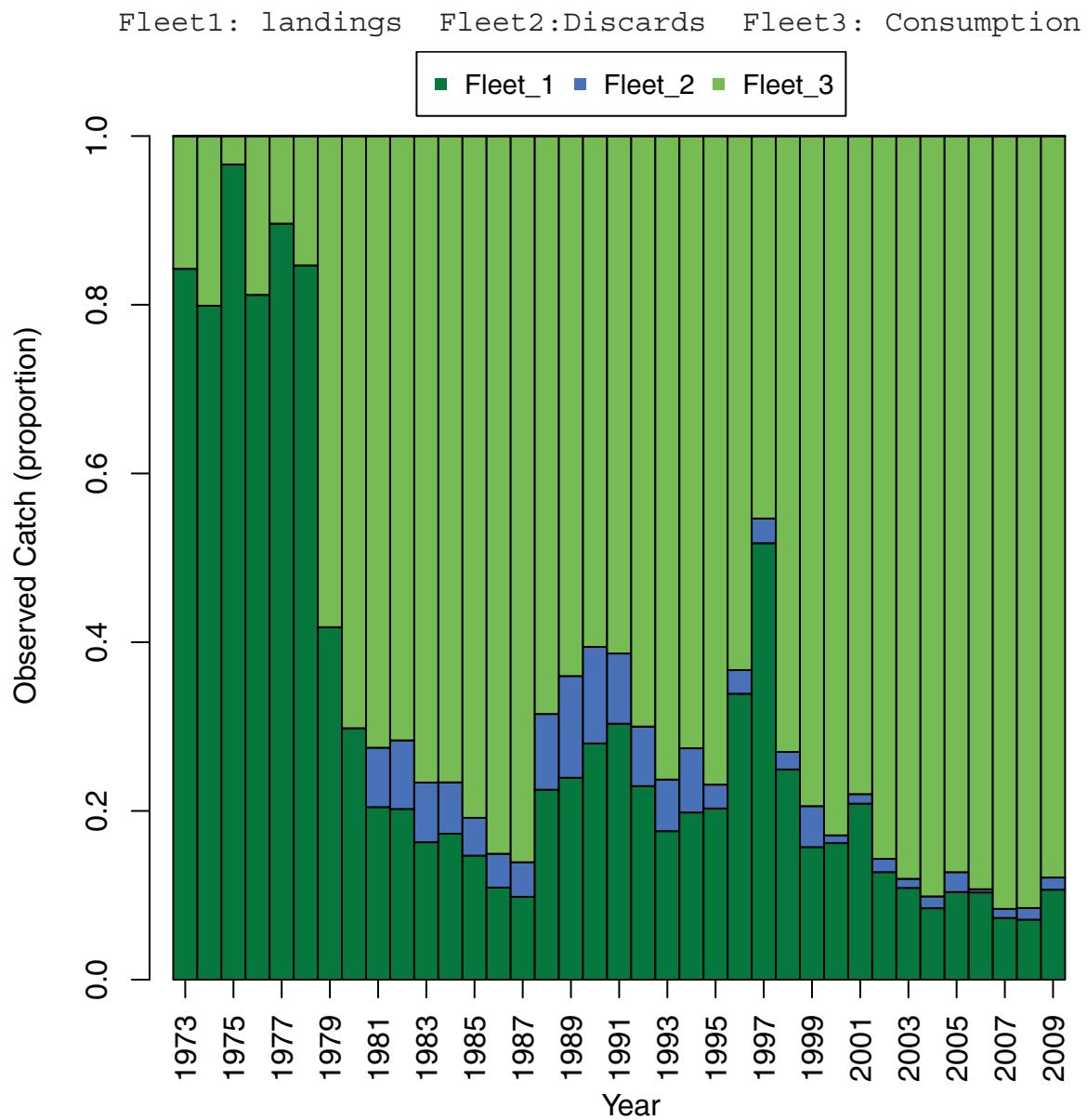


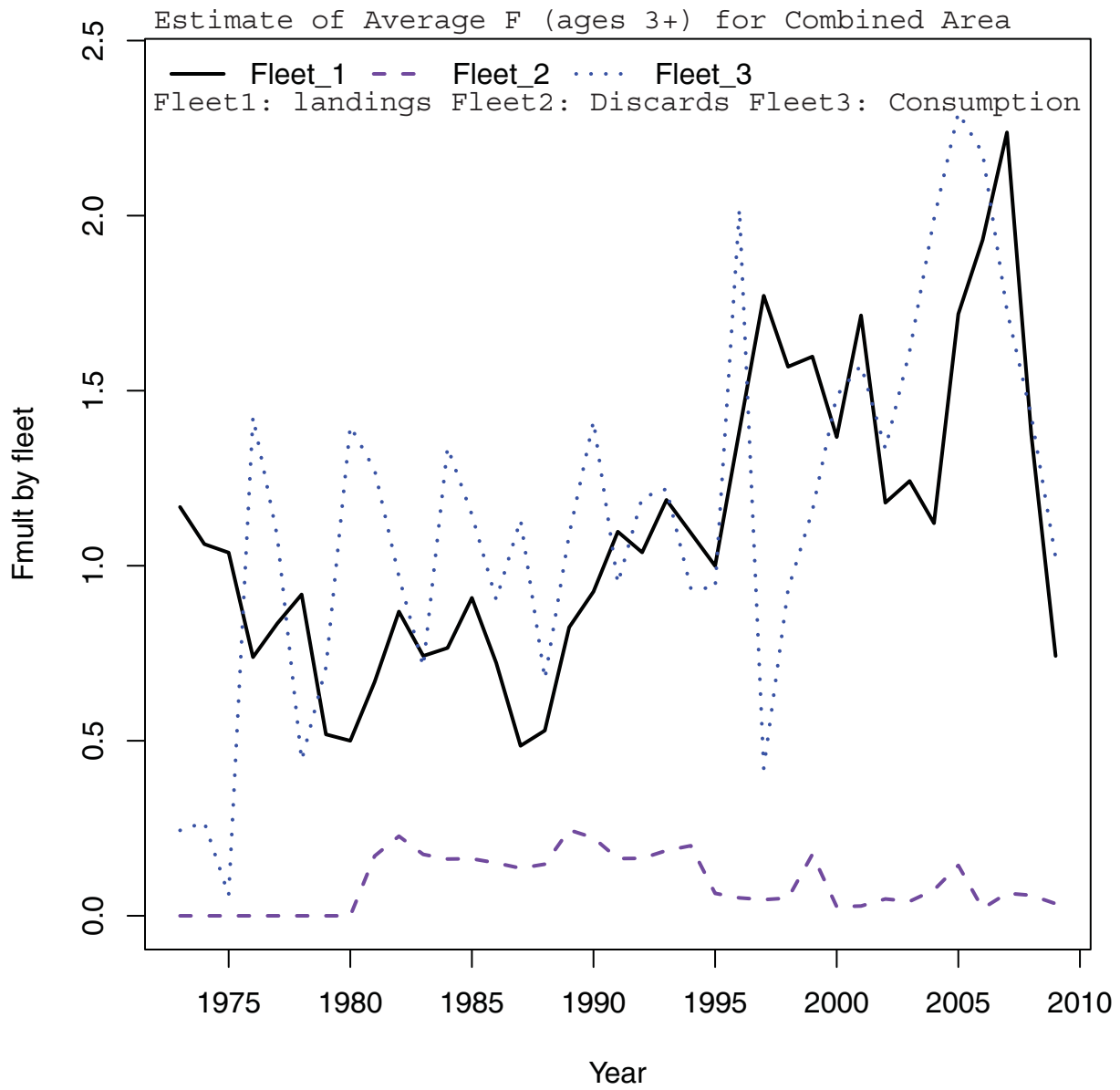


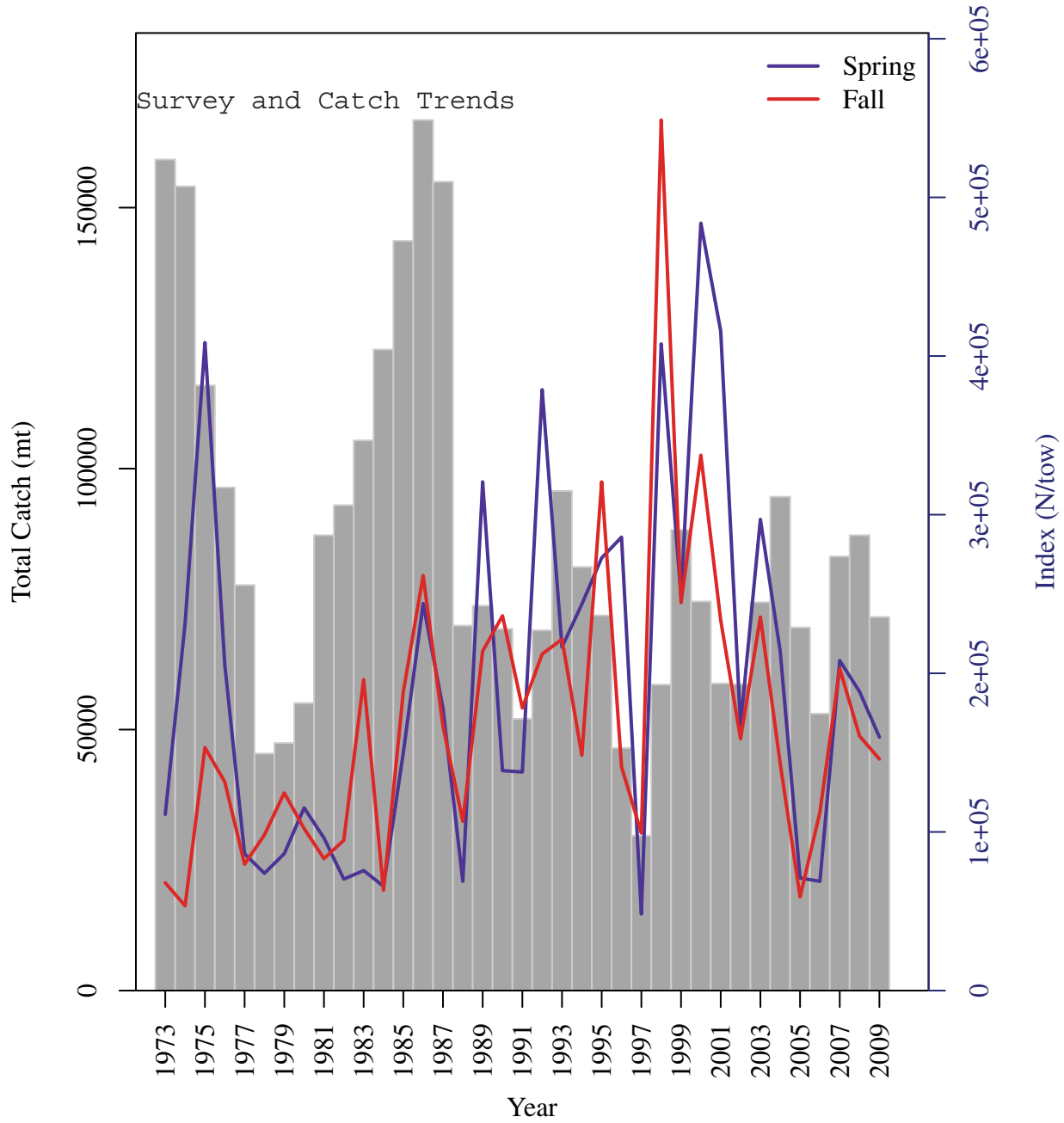


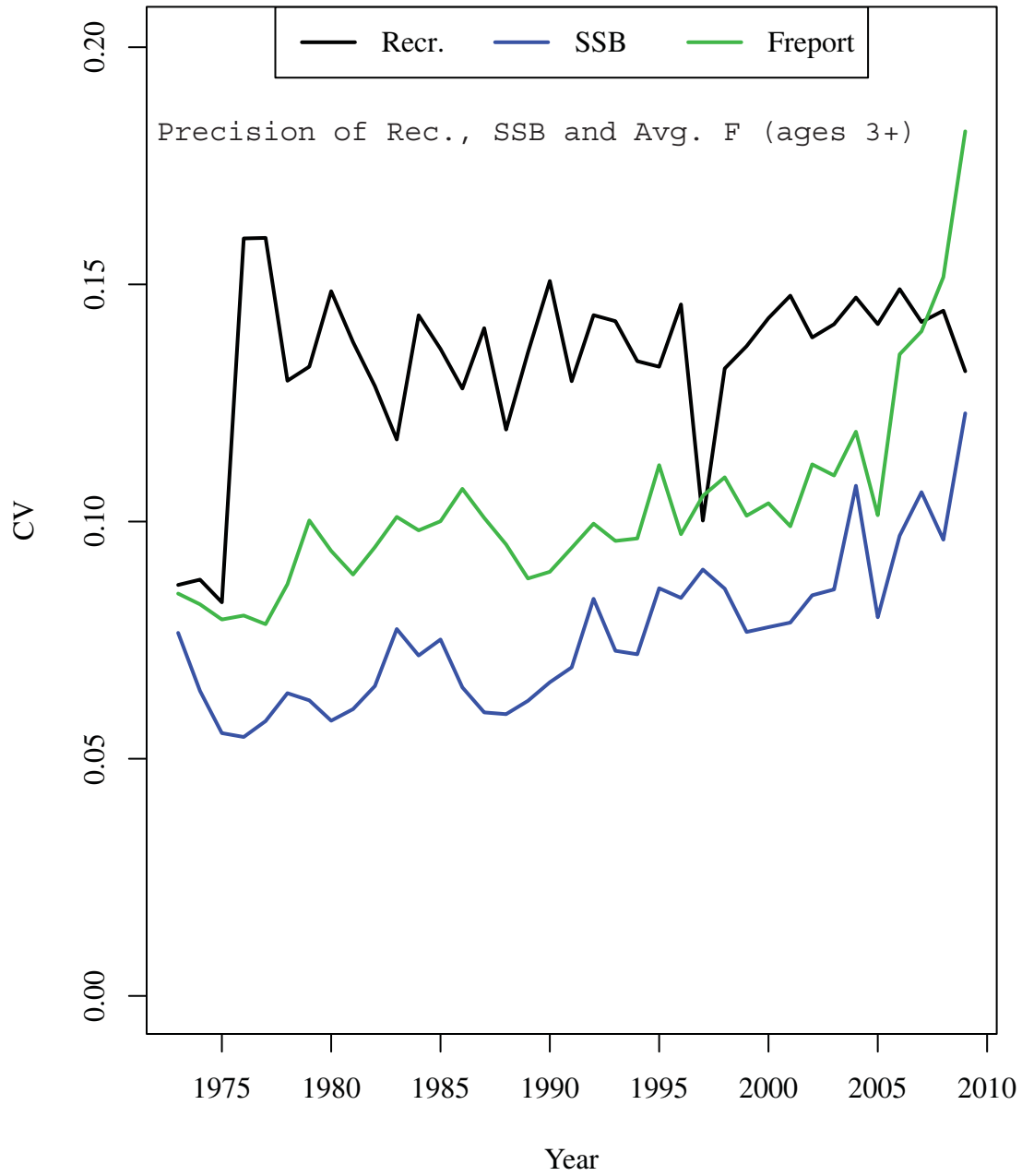


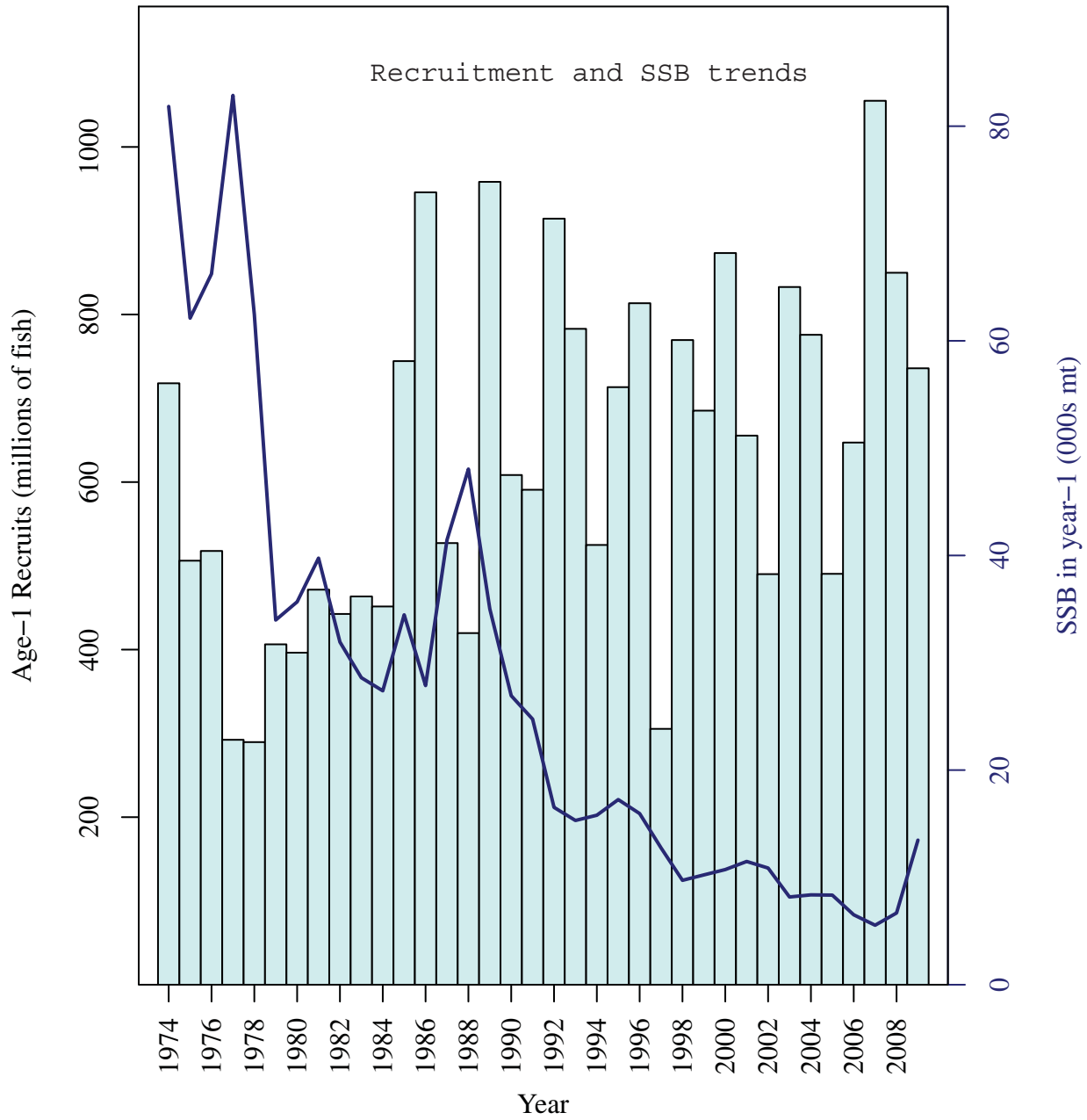












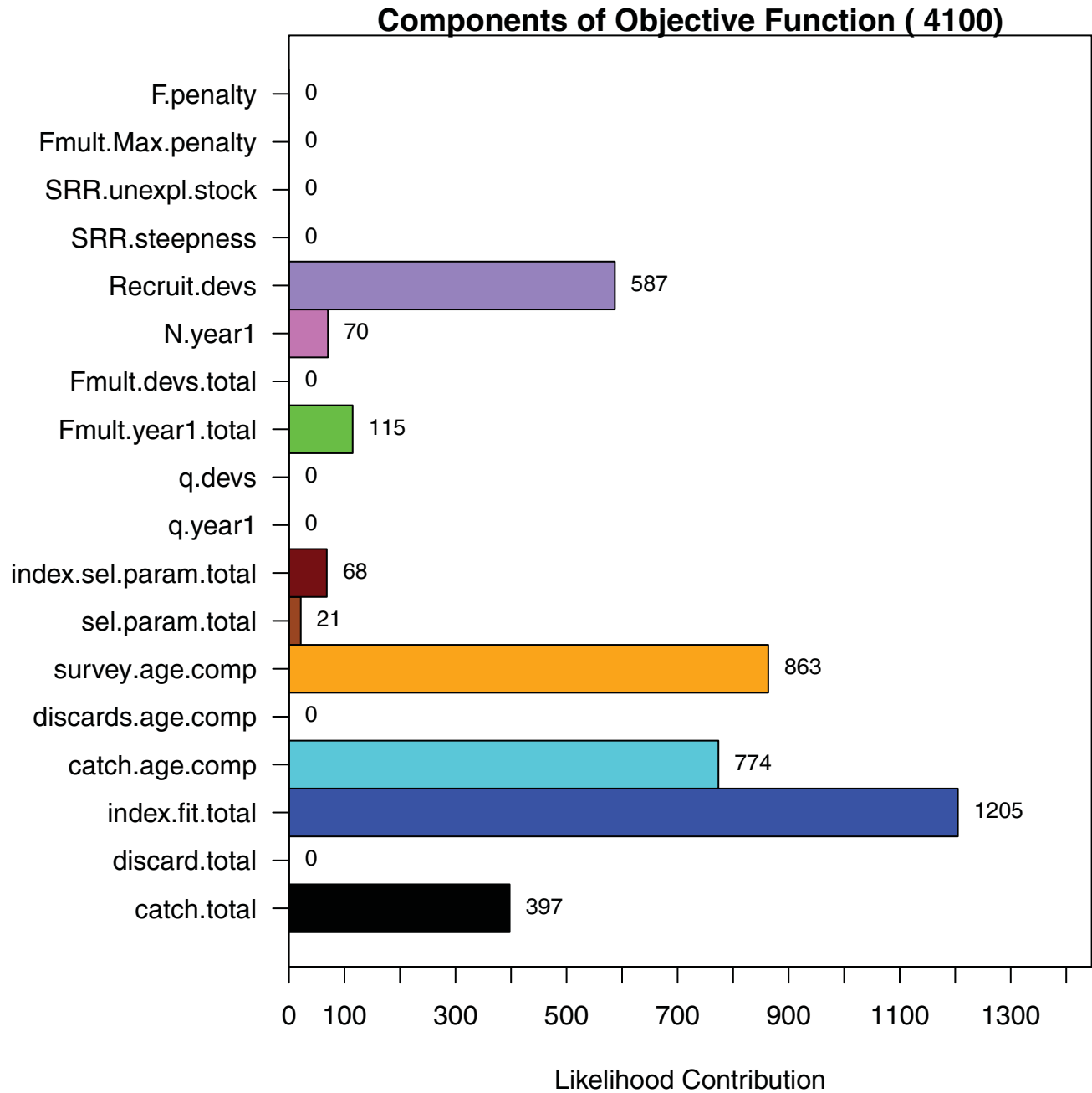
Appendix A3: North Model ASAP results $M = 0.4$ Base run

Model Attributes:

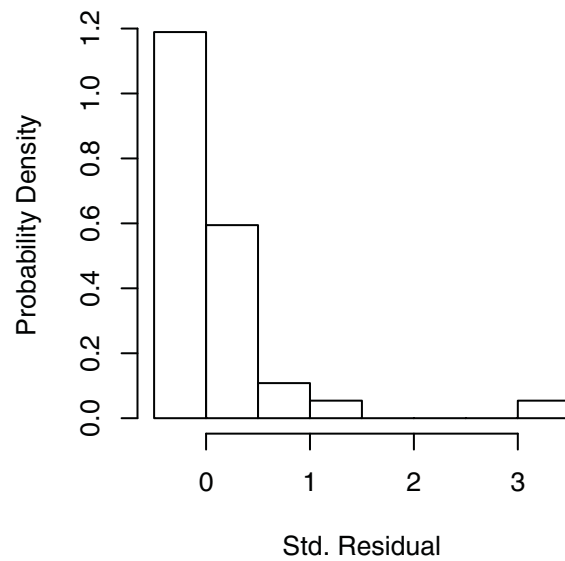
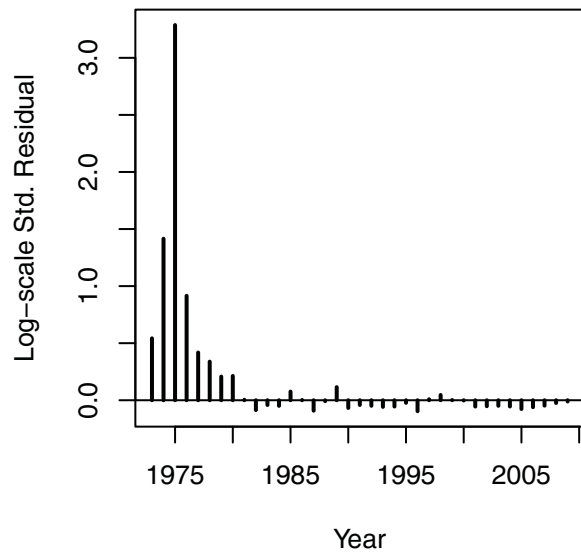
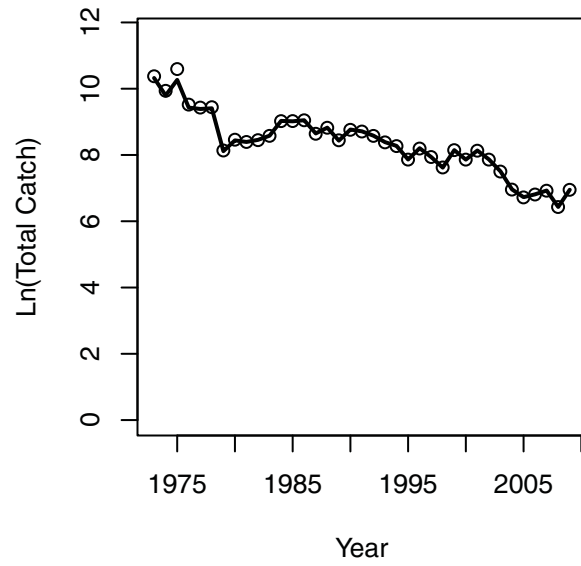
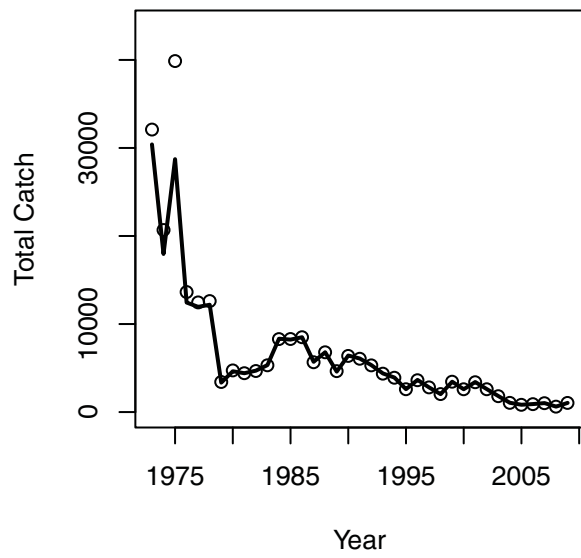
1. 3 Fleet Model
 - a. Catch : 1973-2009
 - b. Discards: 1981 – 2009
 - c. Consumption – 1973-2009

2. Fishery Selectivity (3 Block Selectivity)
 - a. Landings (1 Blocks: 1973-2009)
 - b. Discards (1 Block: 1981-2009)
 - c. Consumption (Double Logistic Functional Form)

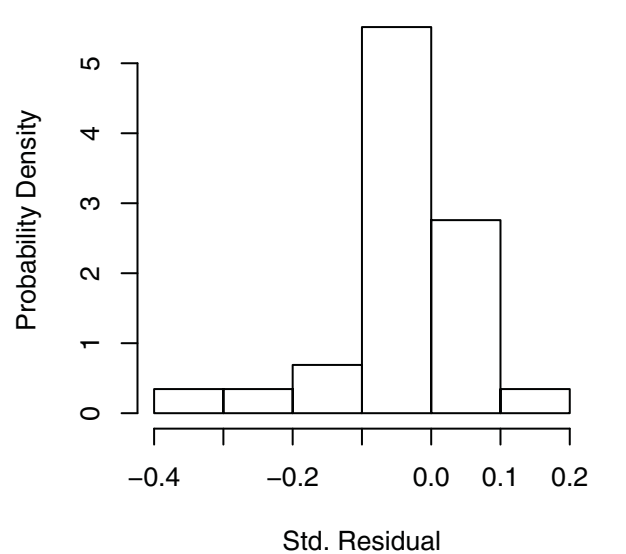
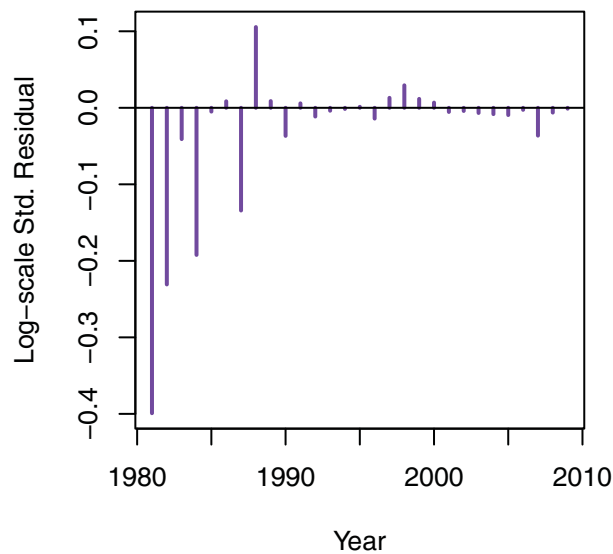
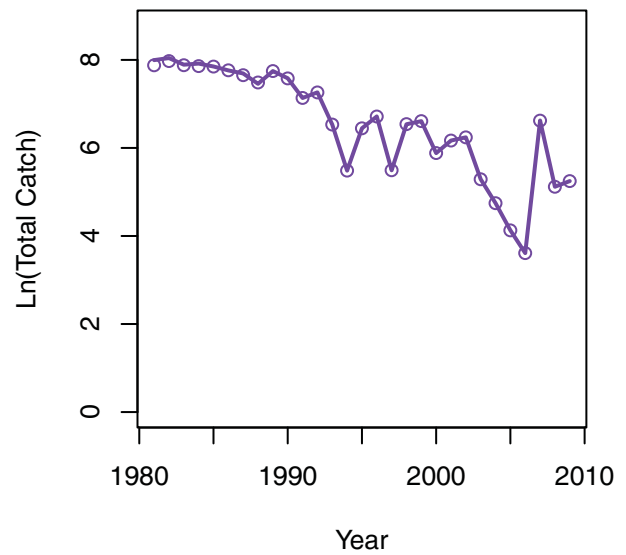
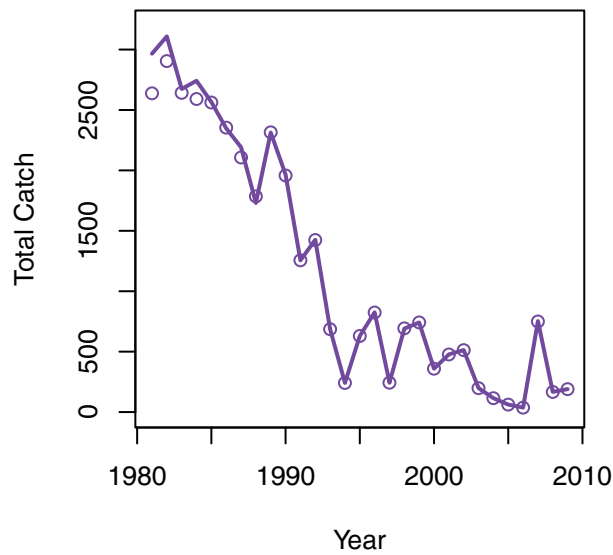
3. Survey Selectivity (Fixed 100% at age 2 and freely estimated older aged (3+))



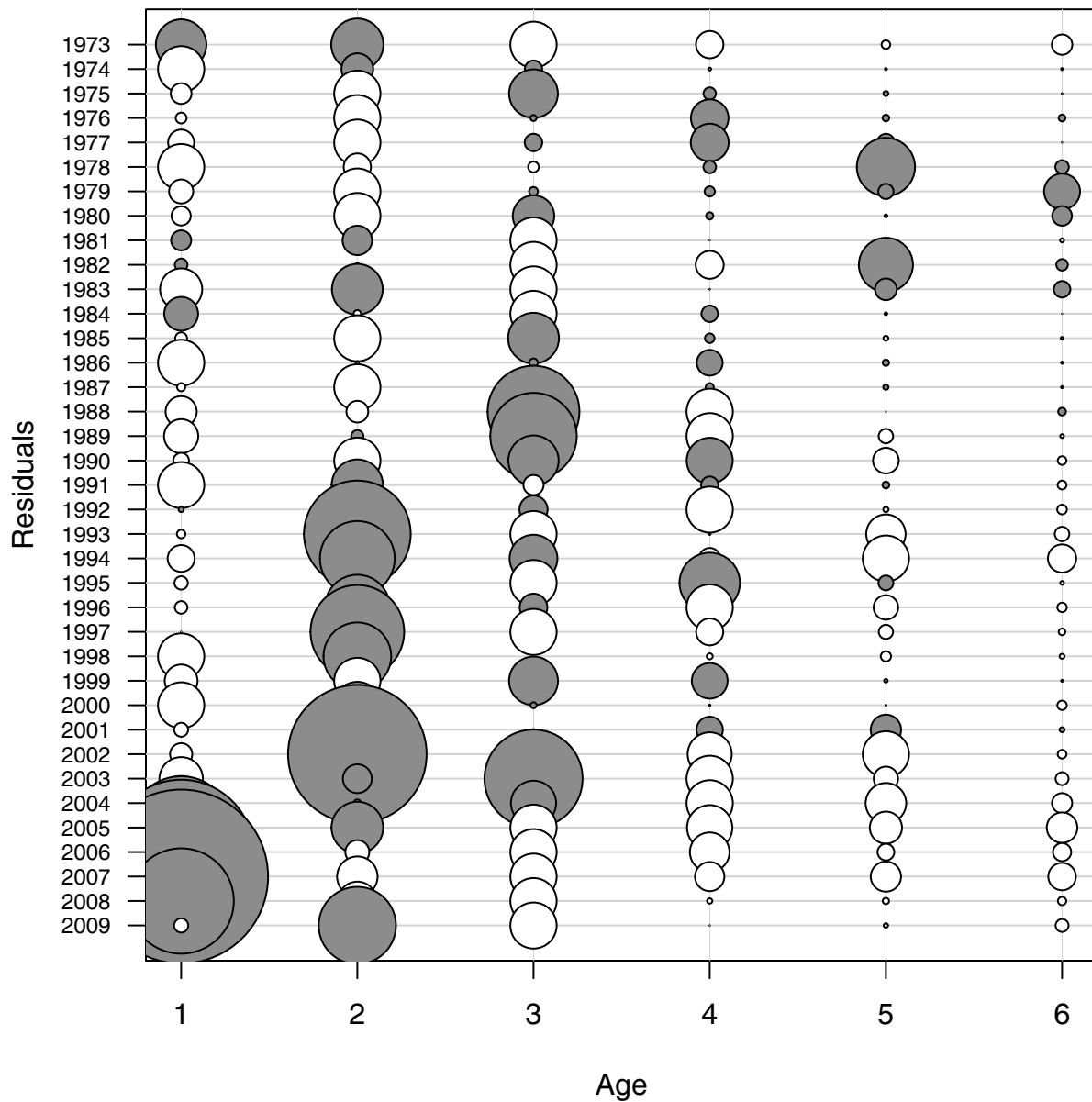
Fleet 1 Landings (Comm)



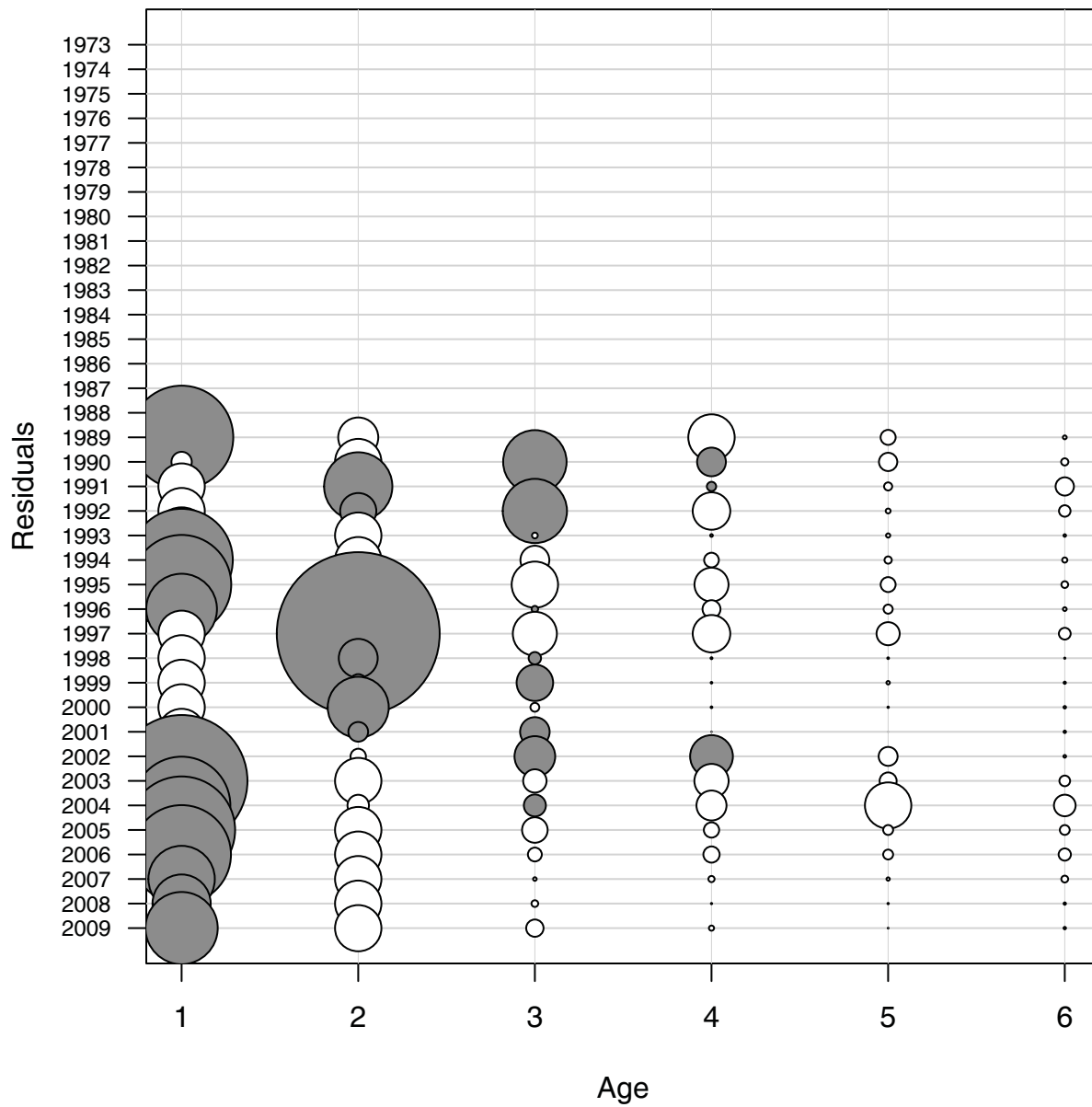
Fleet 2 Landings (disc)

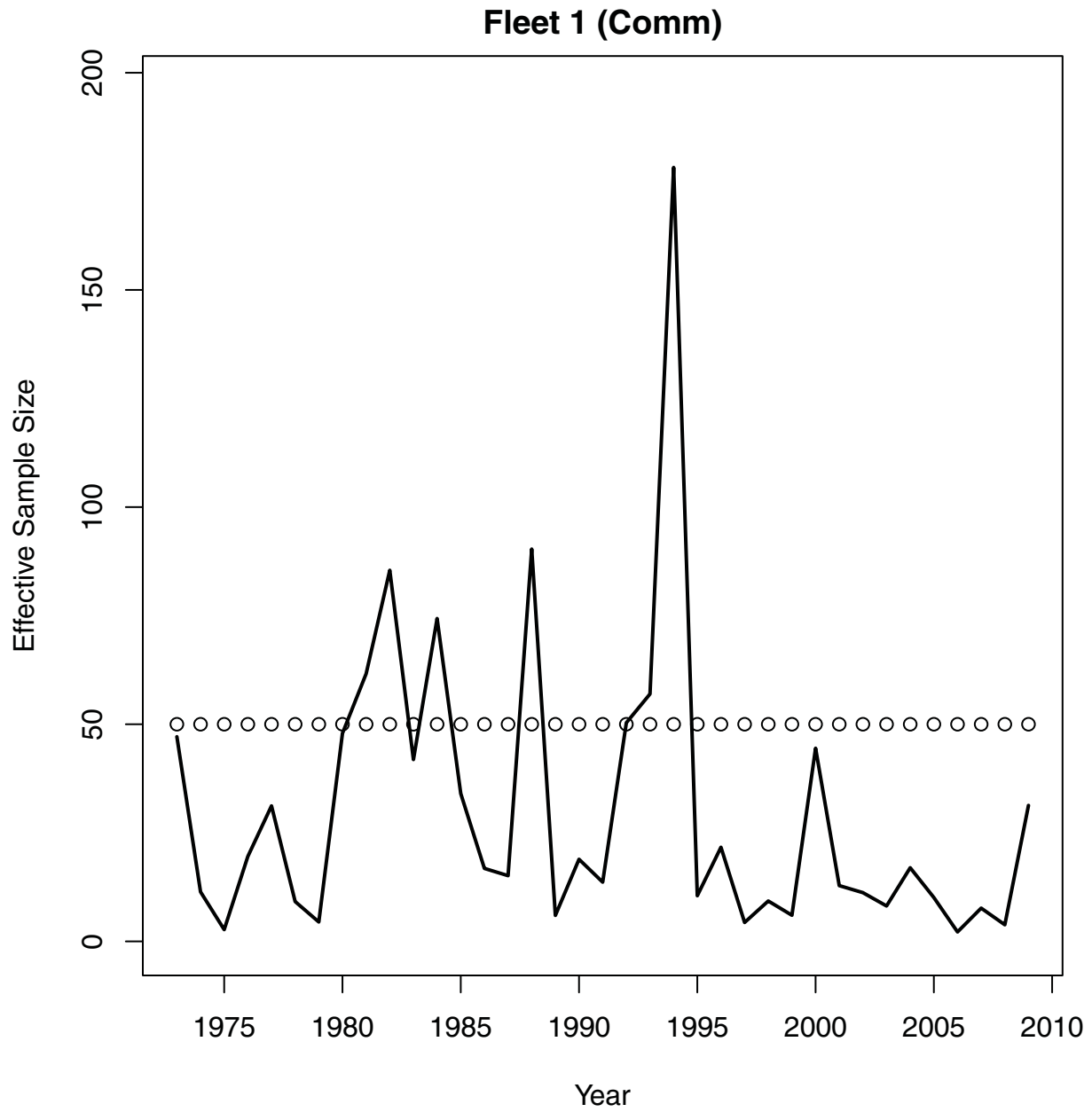


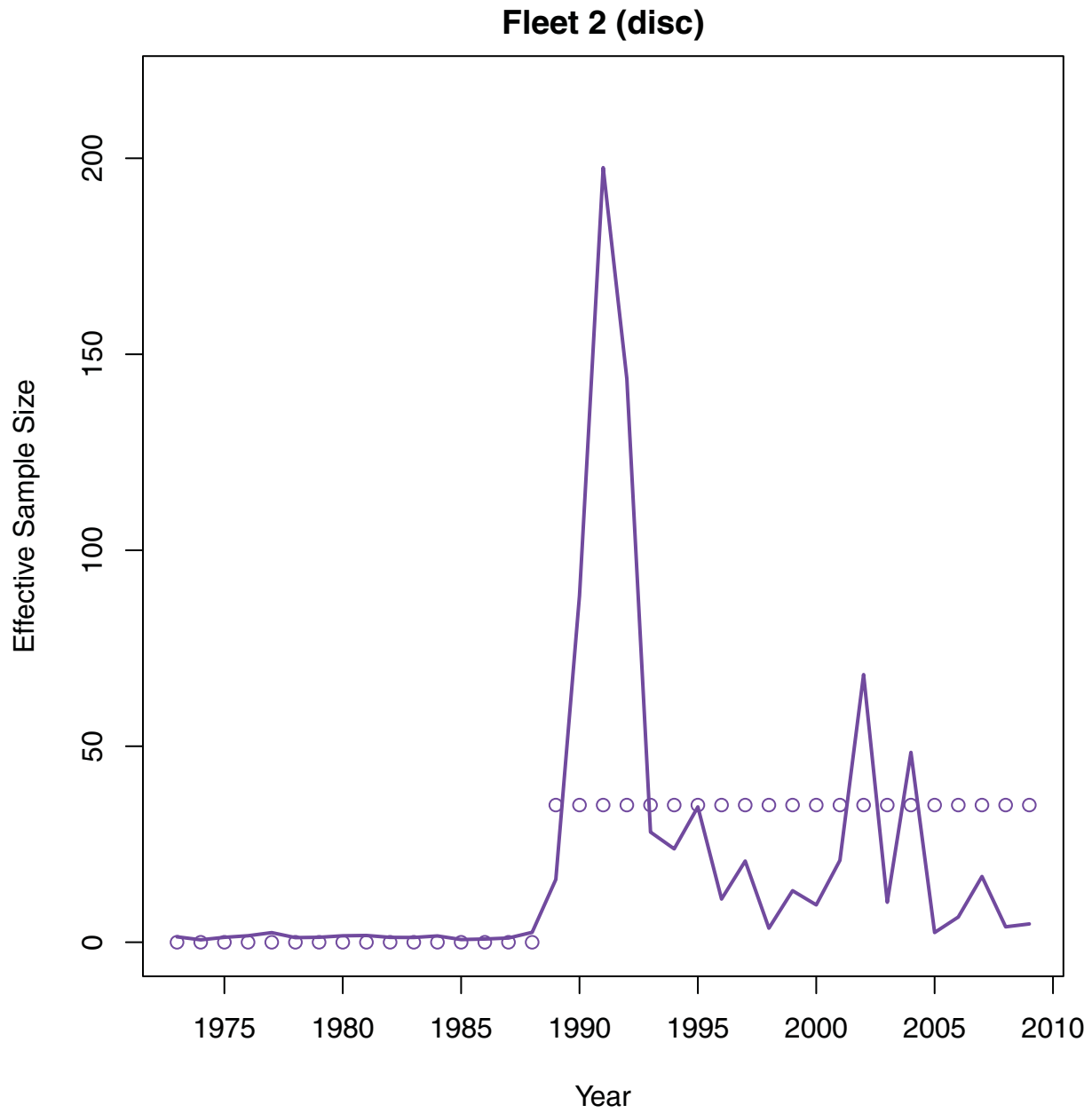
Catch Age Comp Residuals for Fleet 1 (Comm)

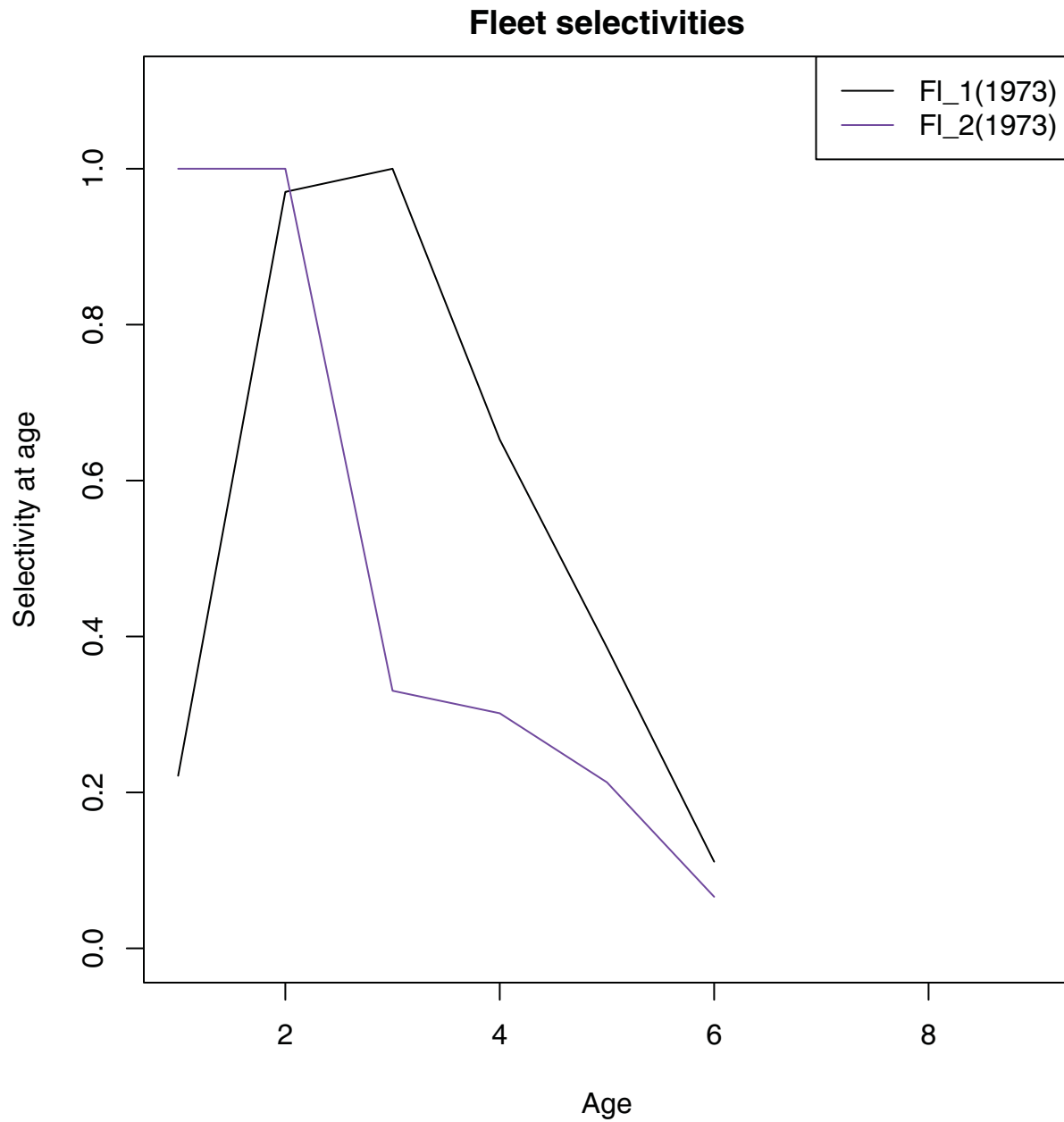


Catch Age Comp Residuals for Fleet 2 (disc)

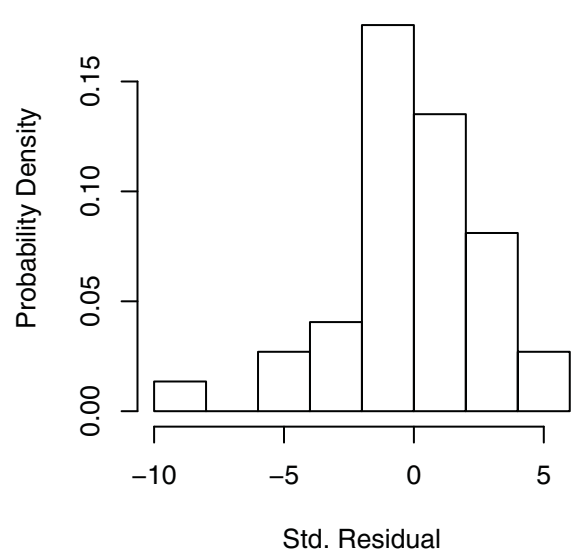
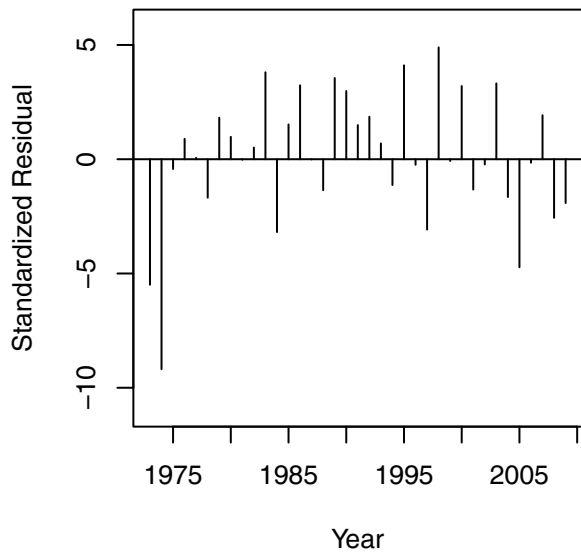
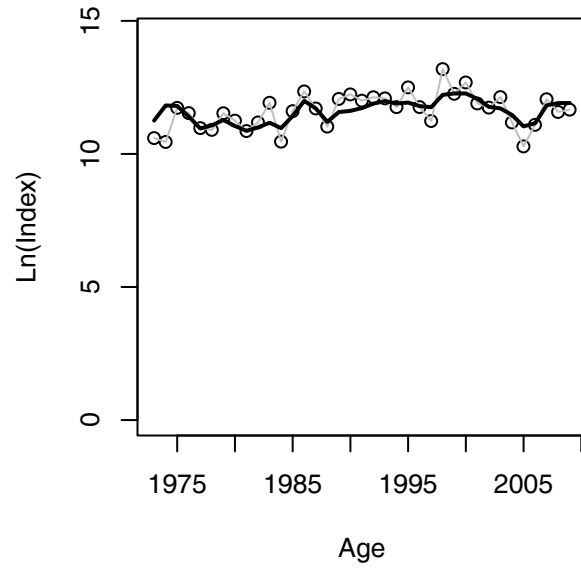
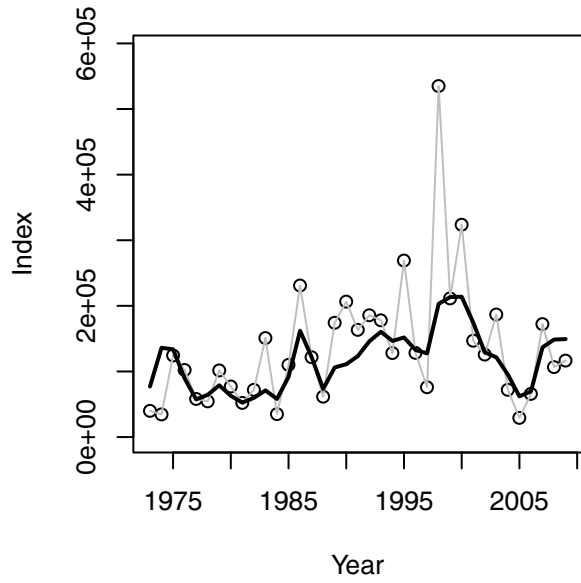




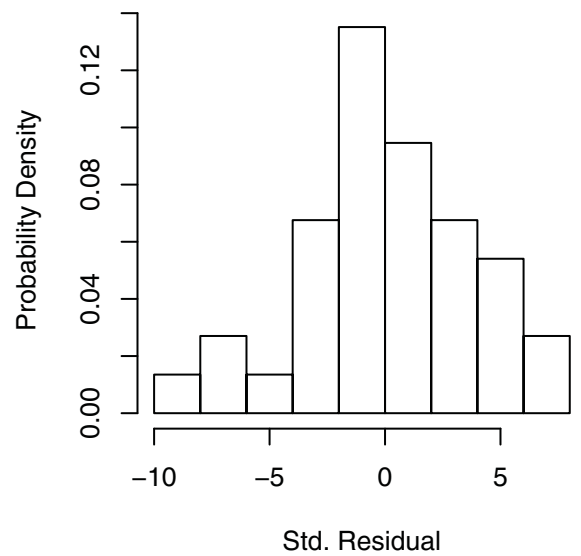
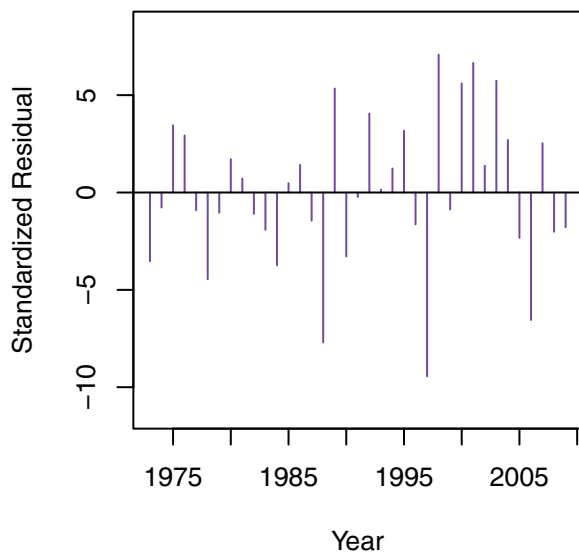
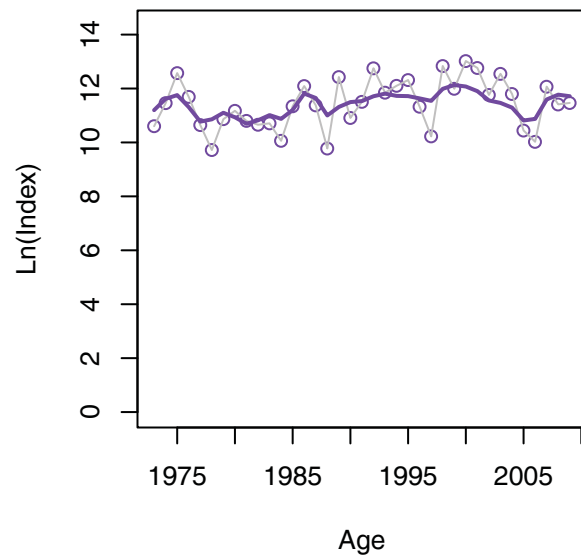
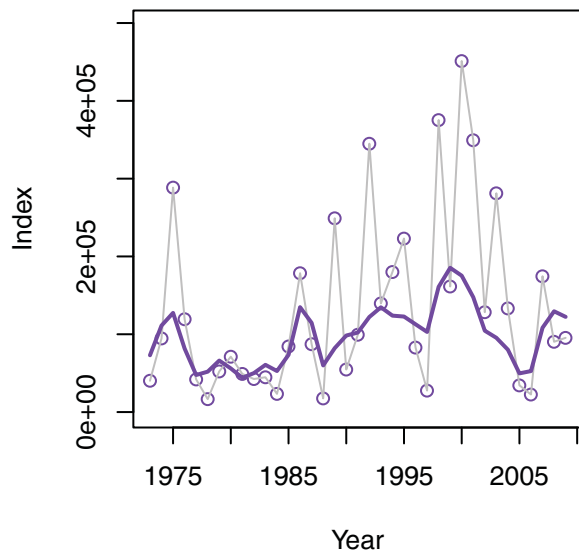




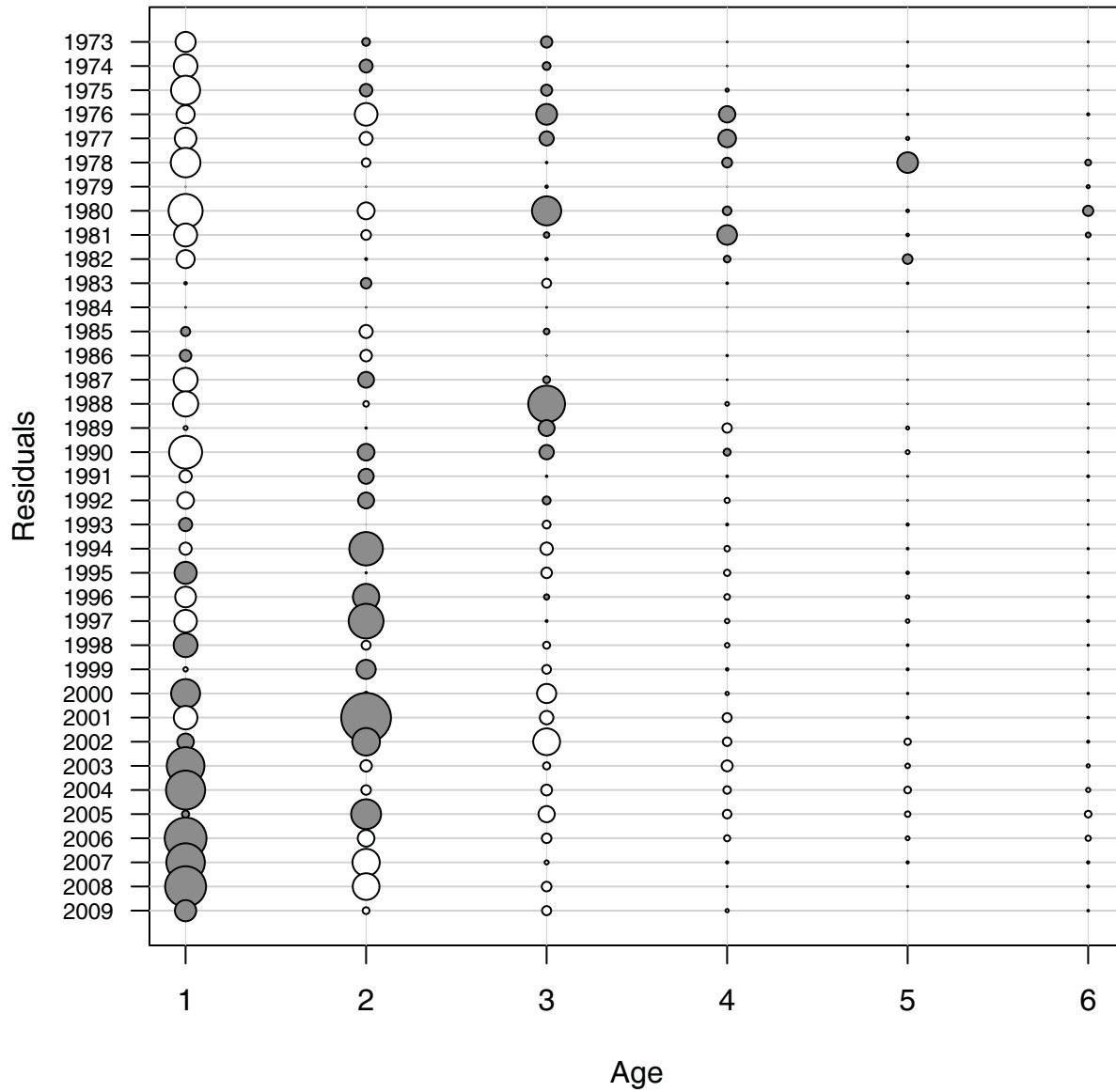
Index 1



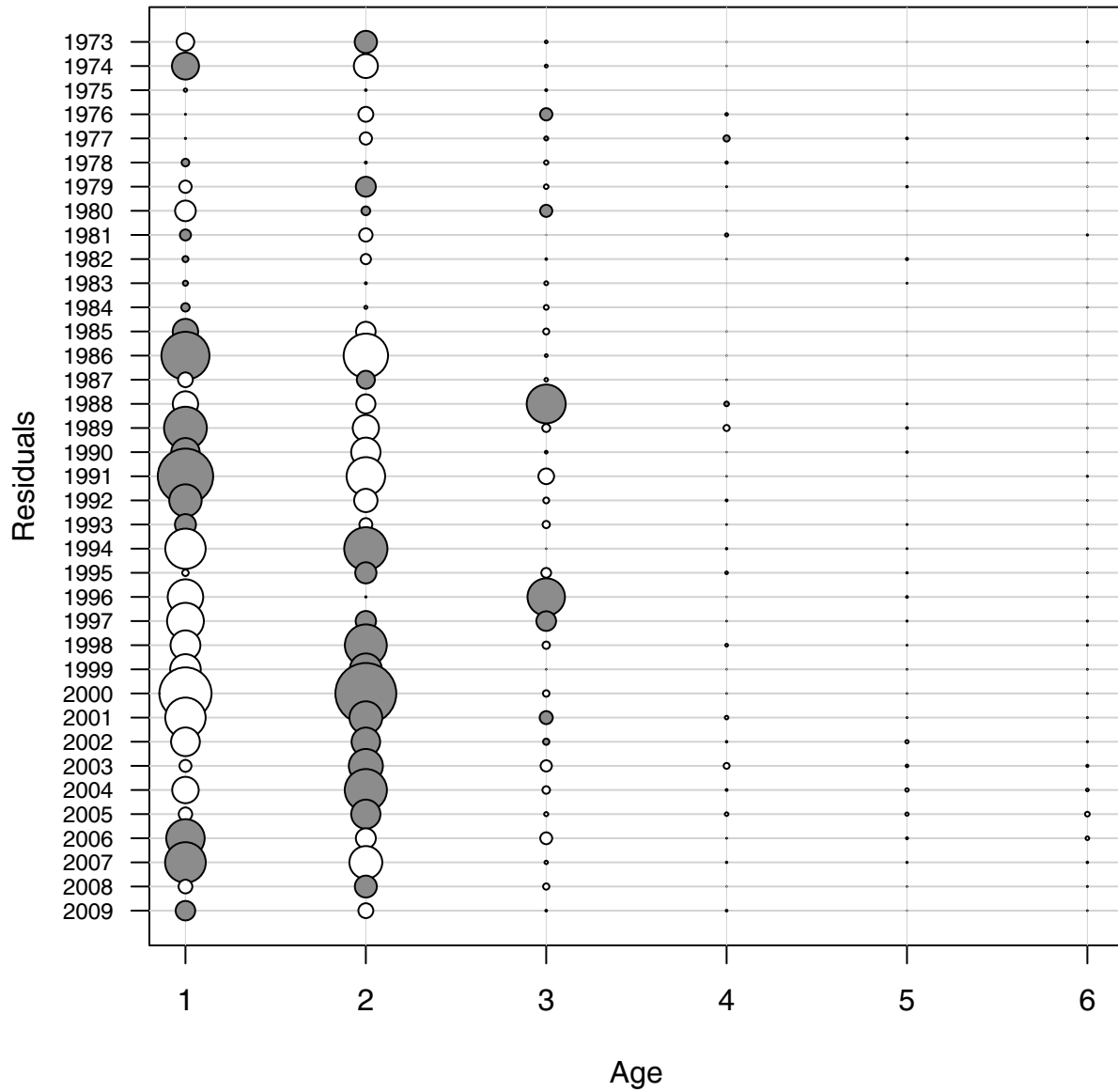
Index 2



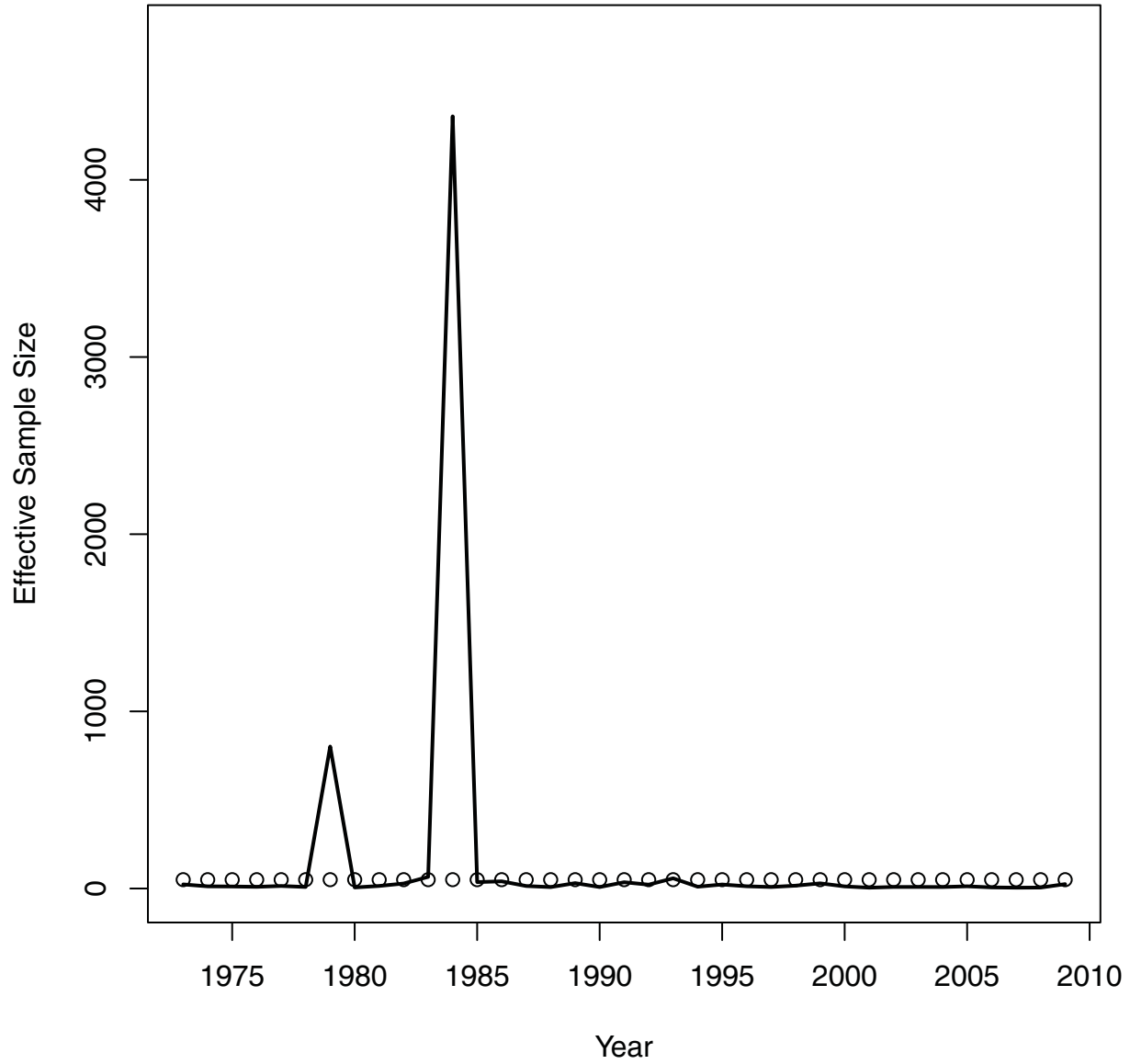
Age Comp Residuals for Index 1



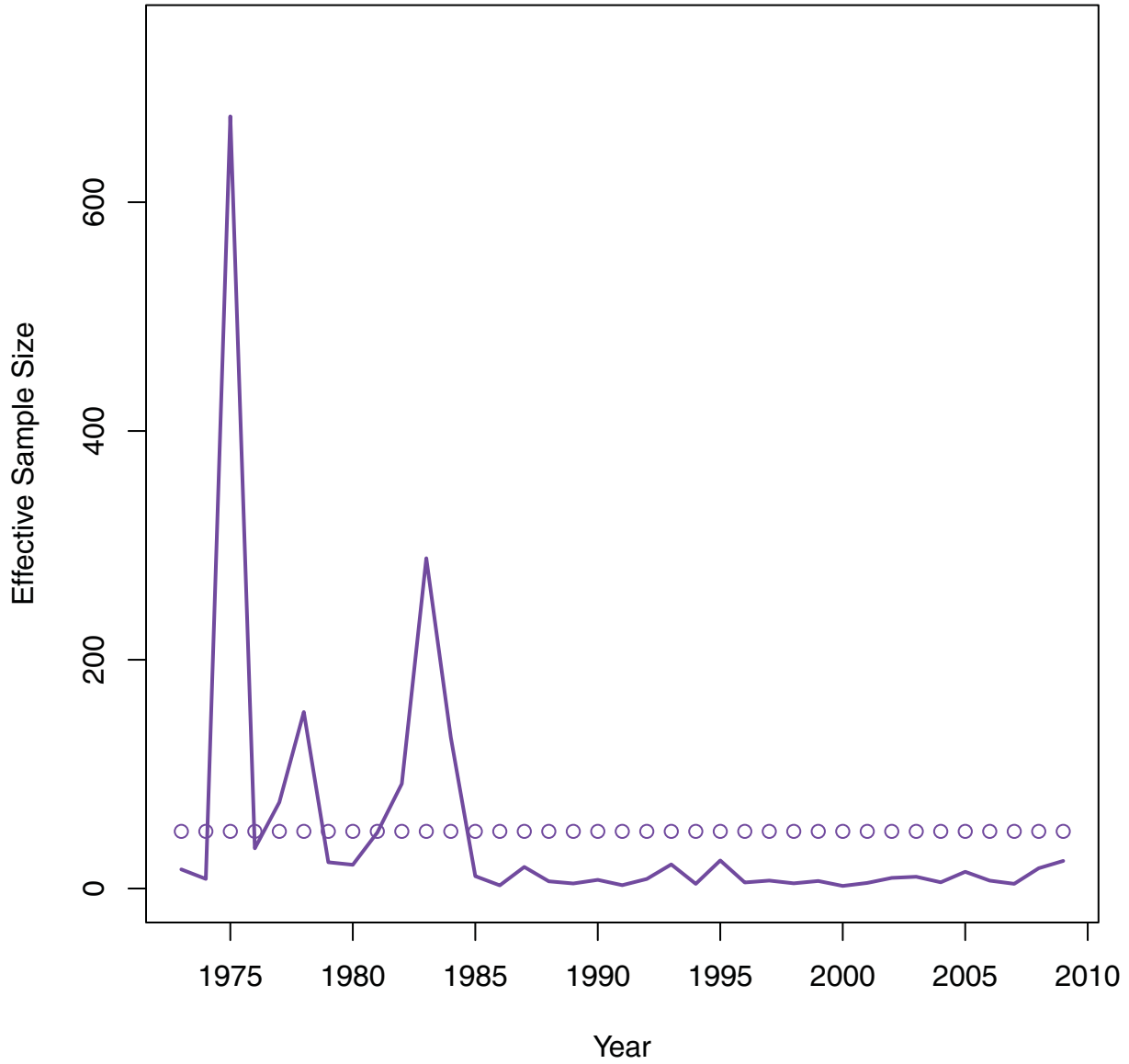
Age Comp Residuals for Index 2

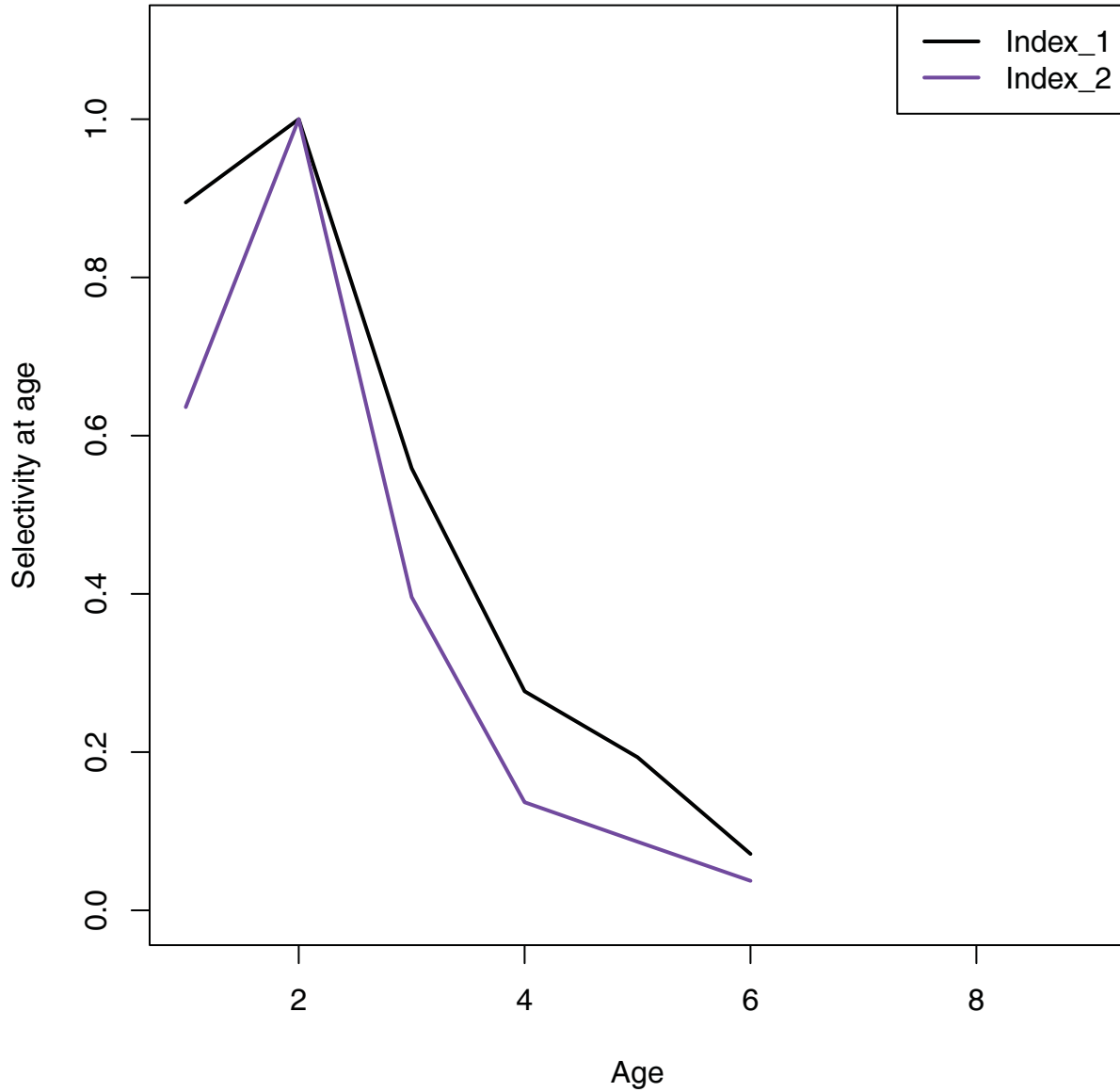


Index 1

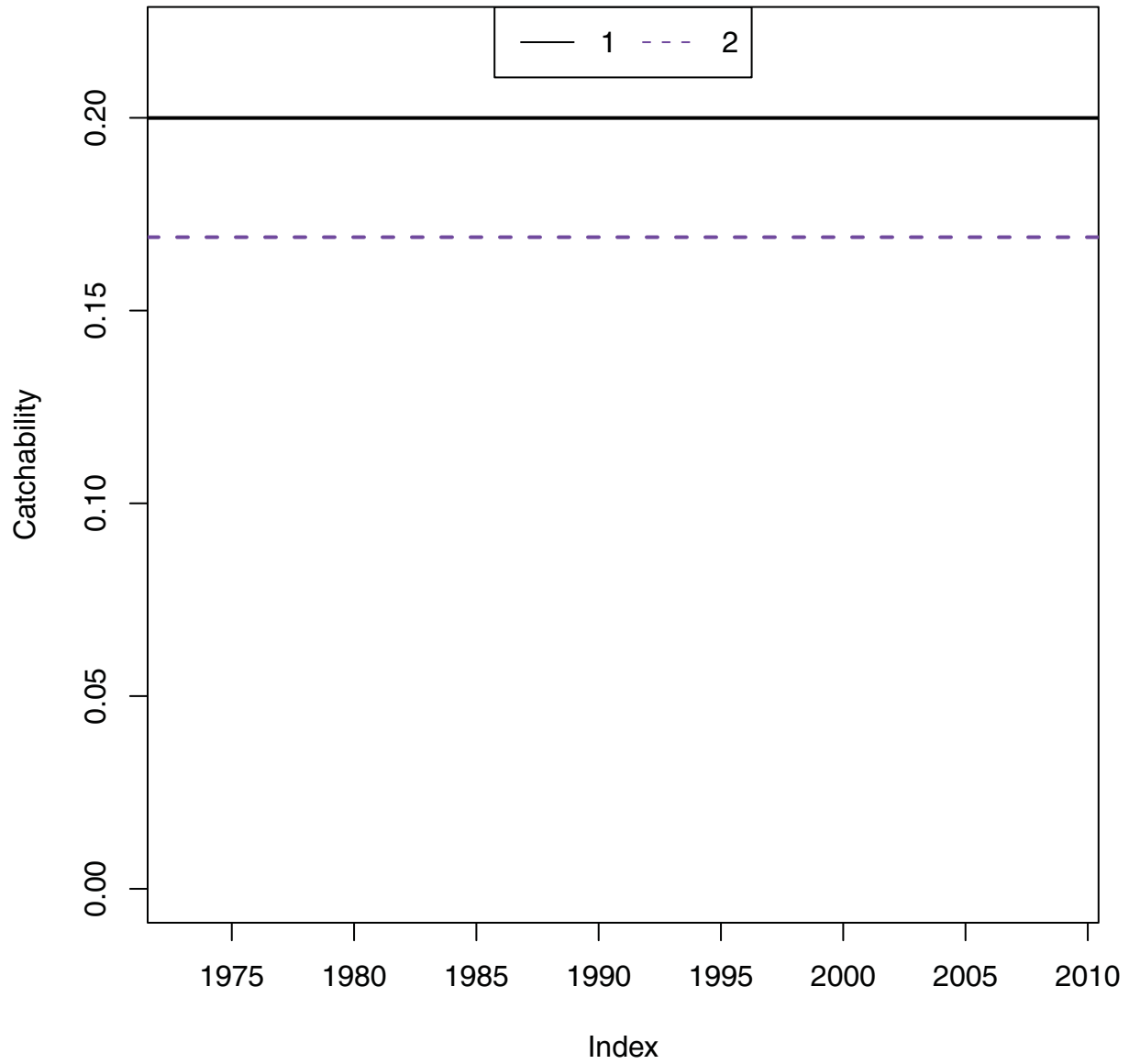


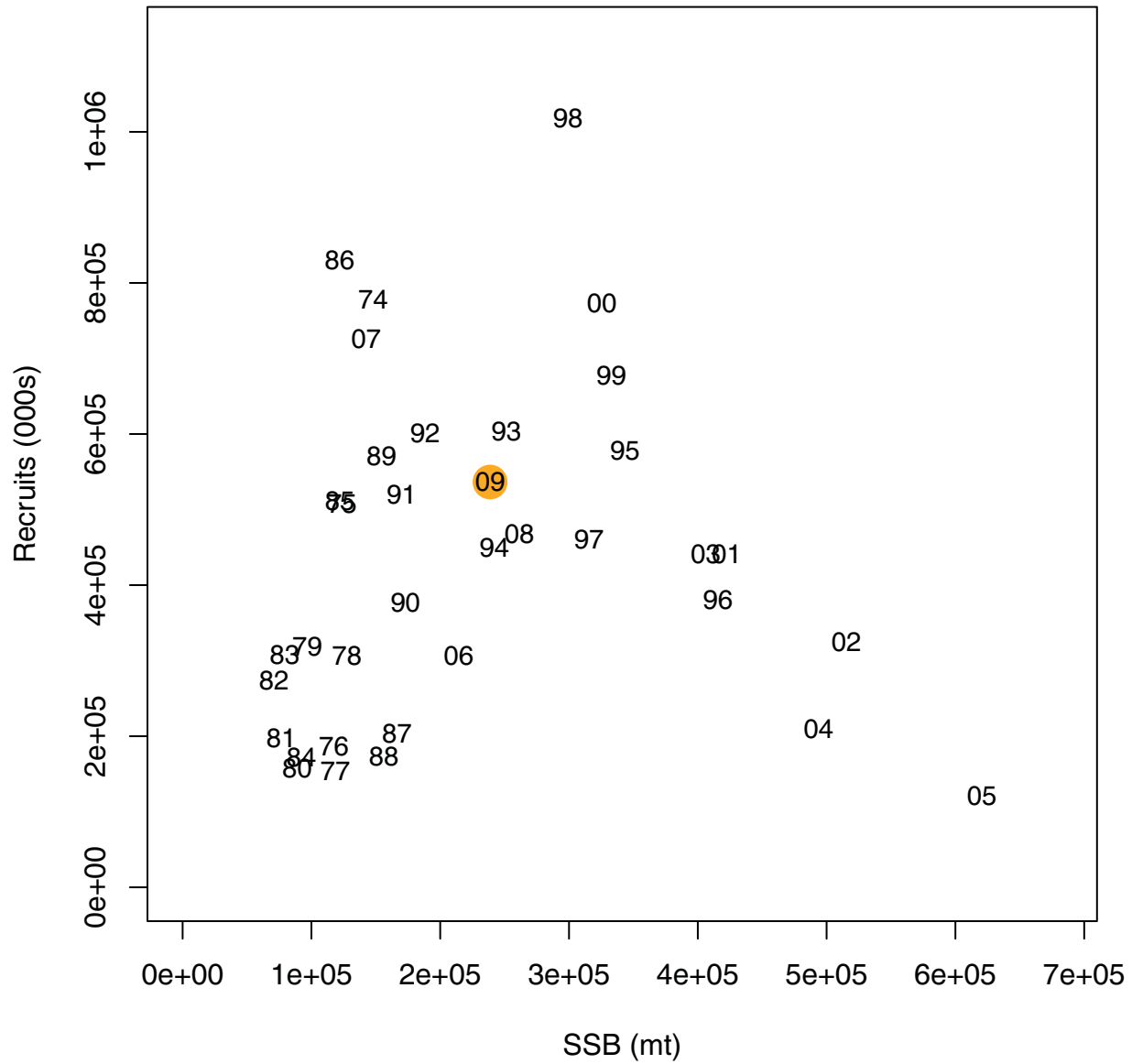
Index 2

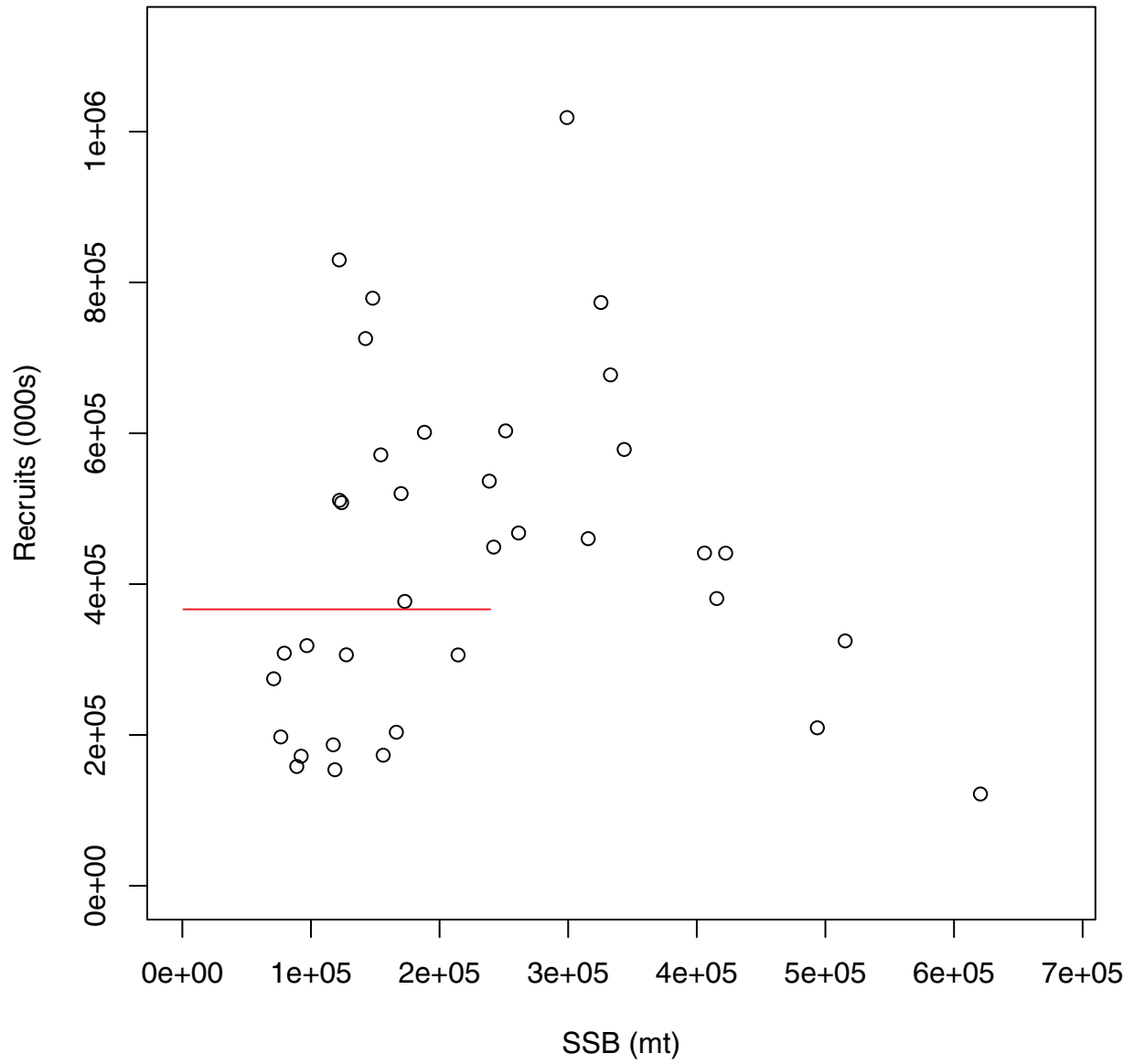


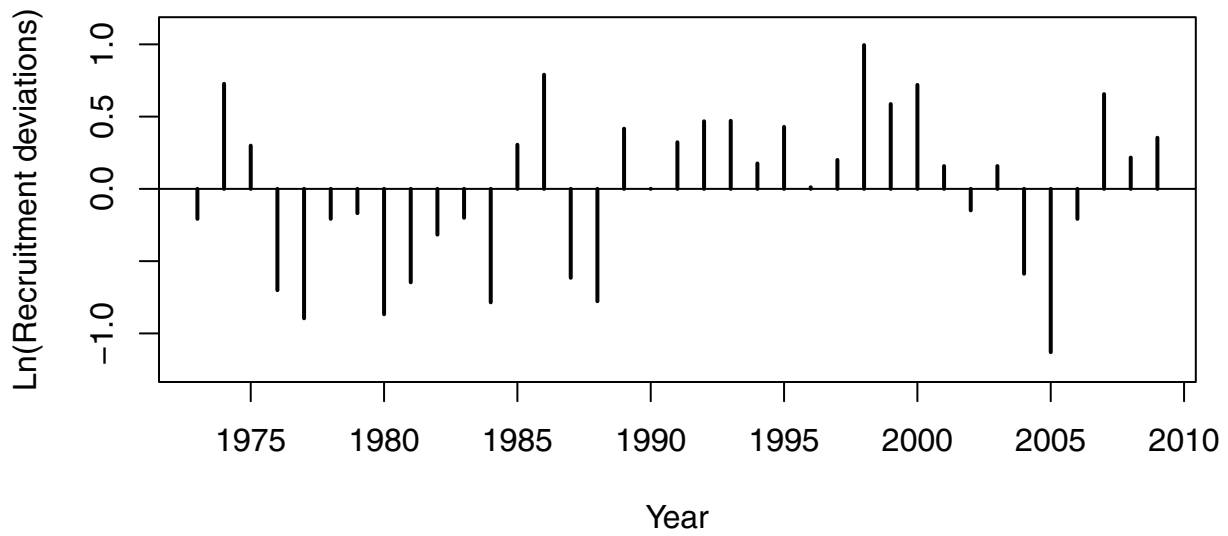
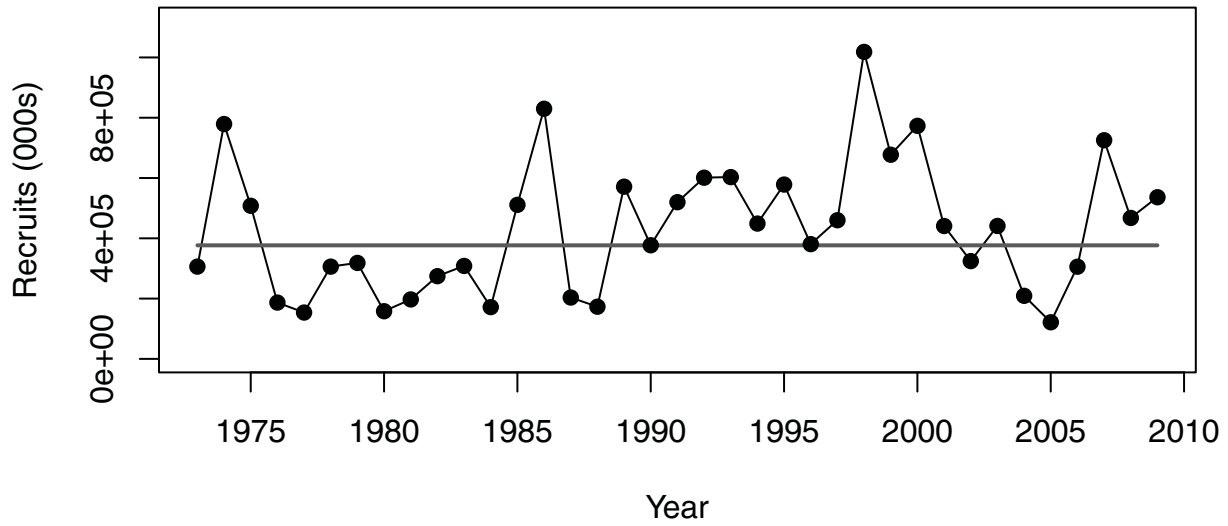


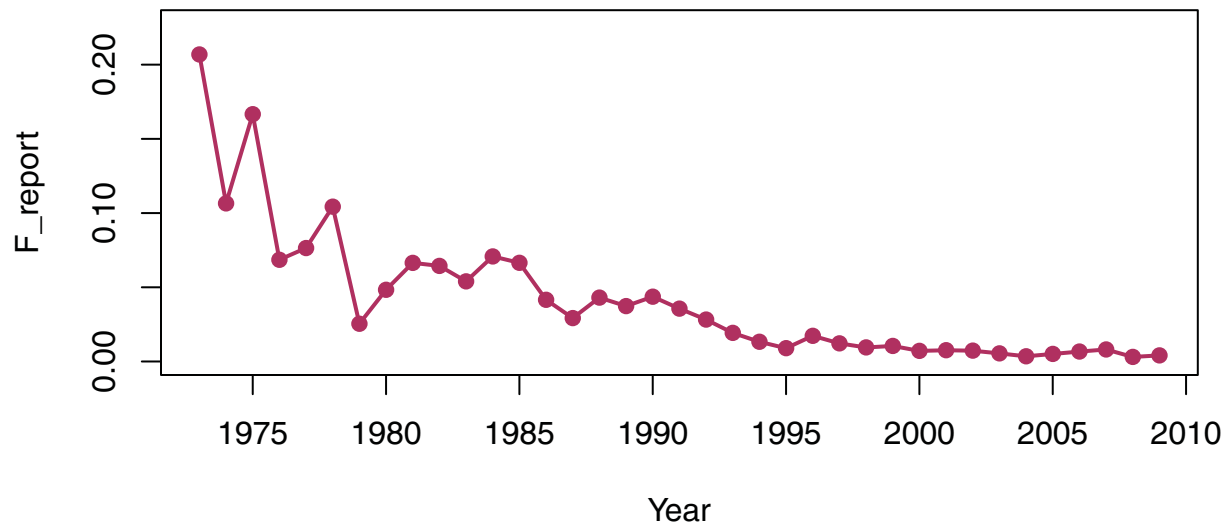
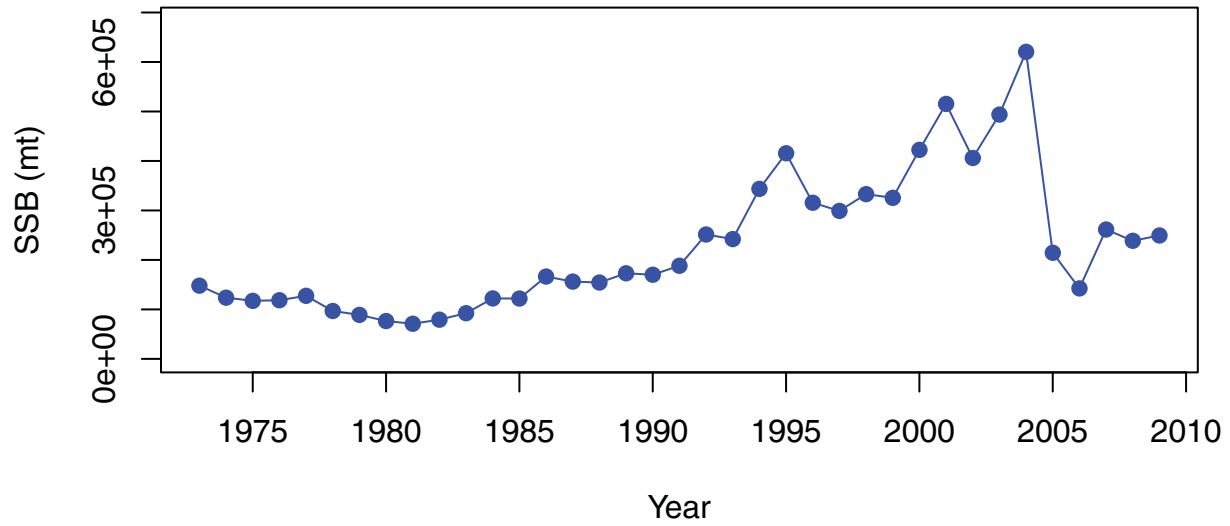
Index q estimates

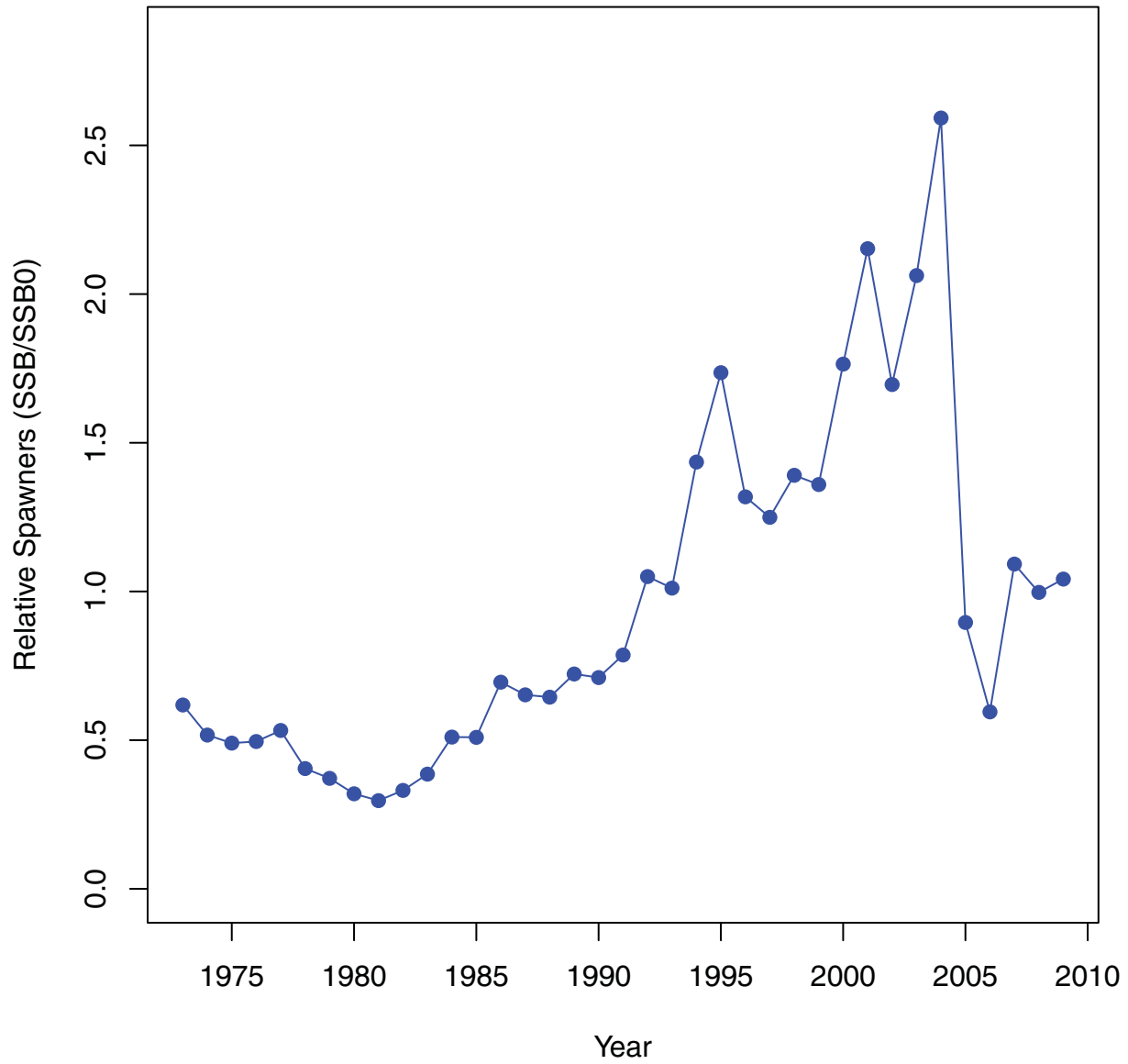


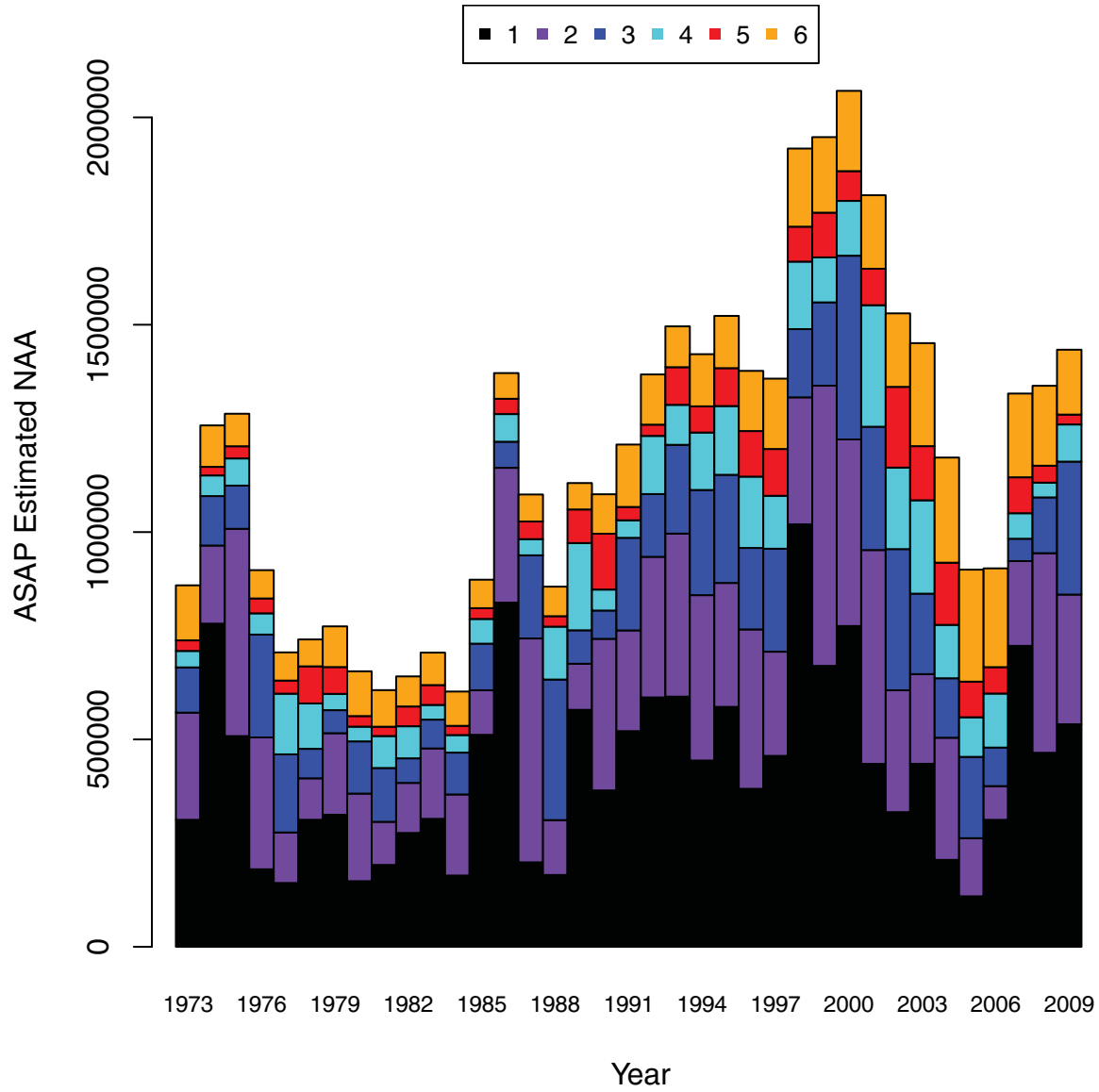


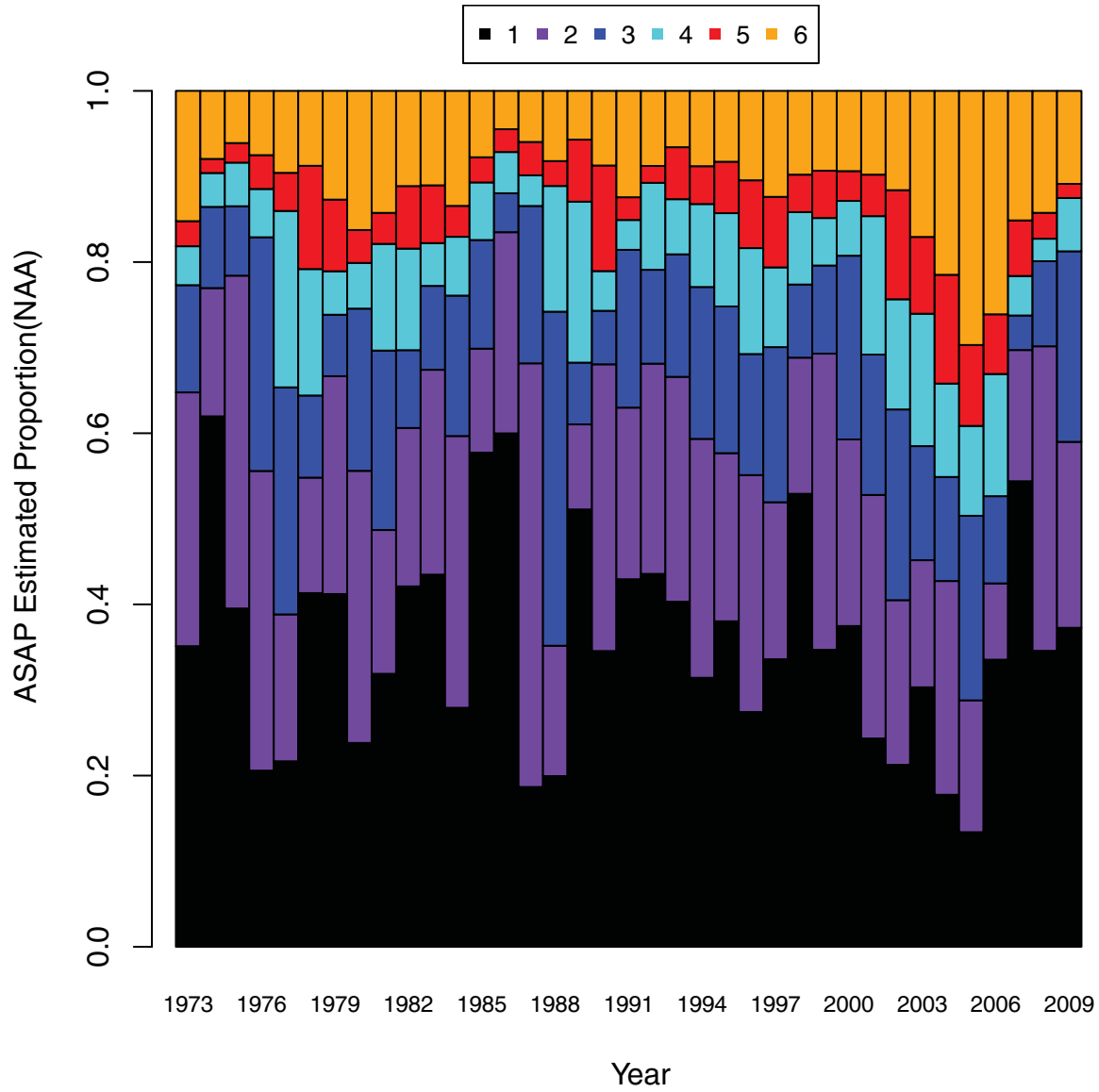


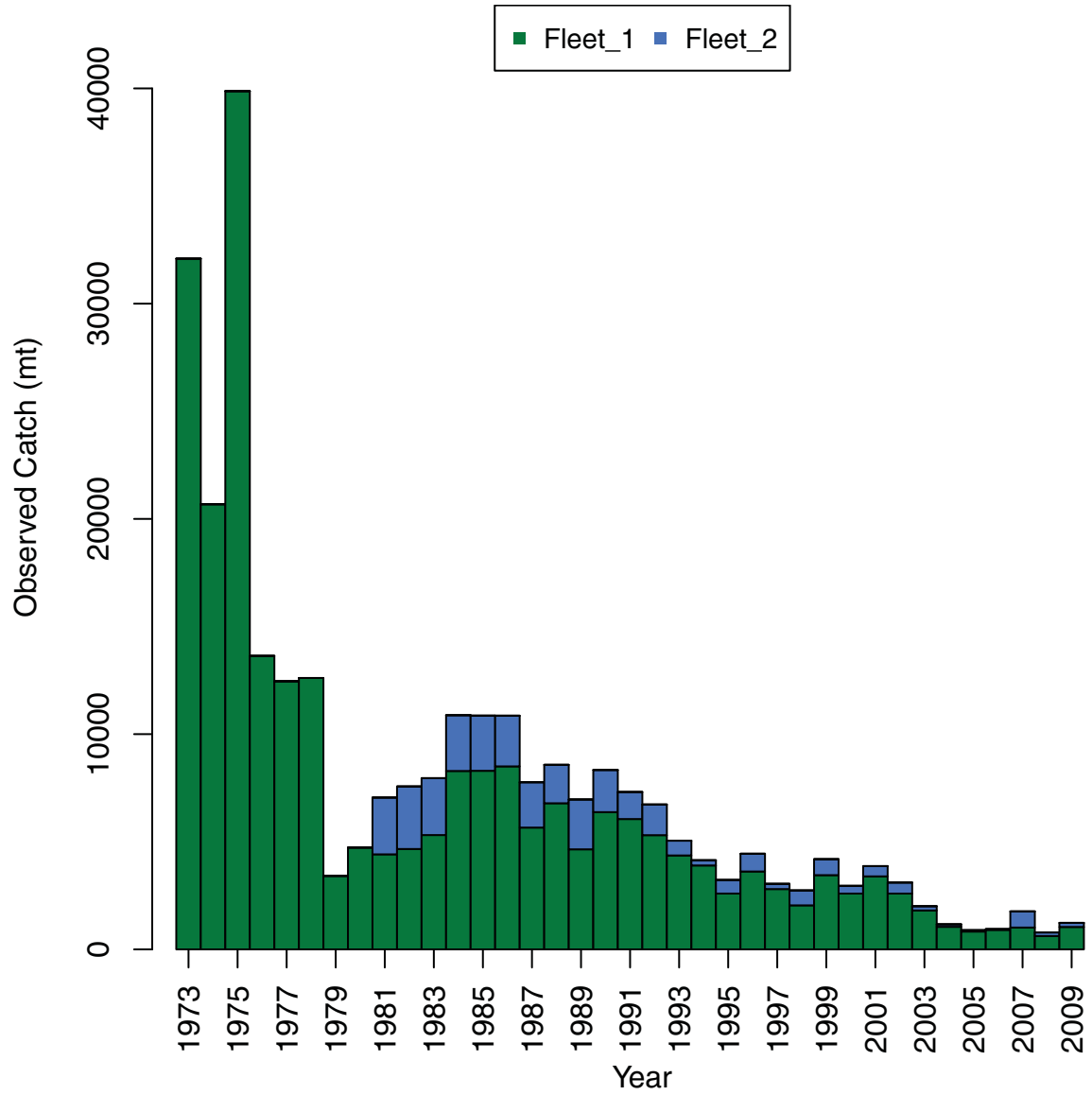


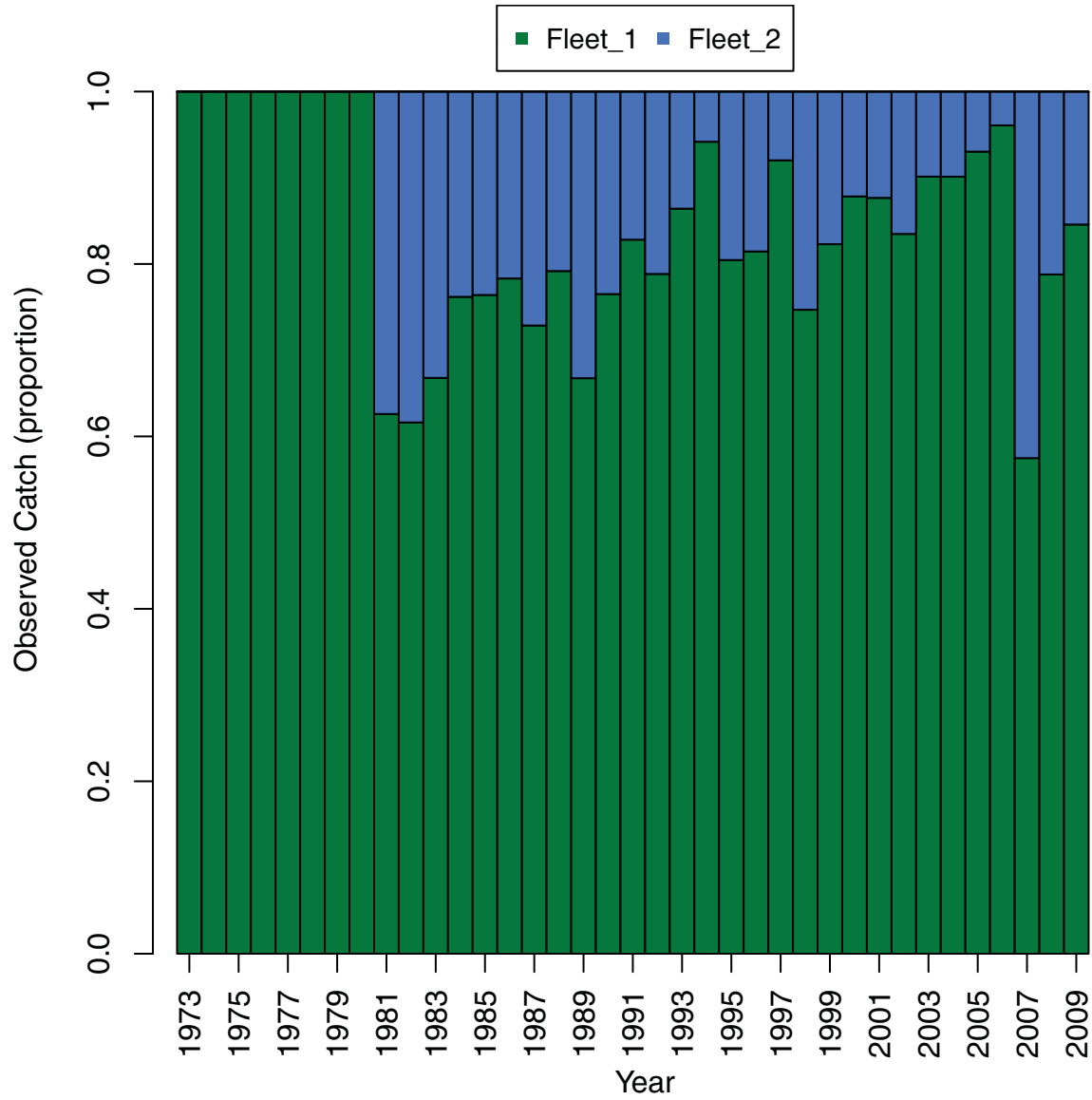


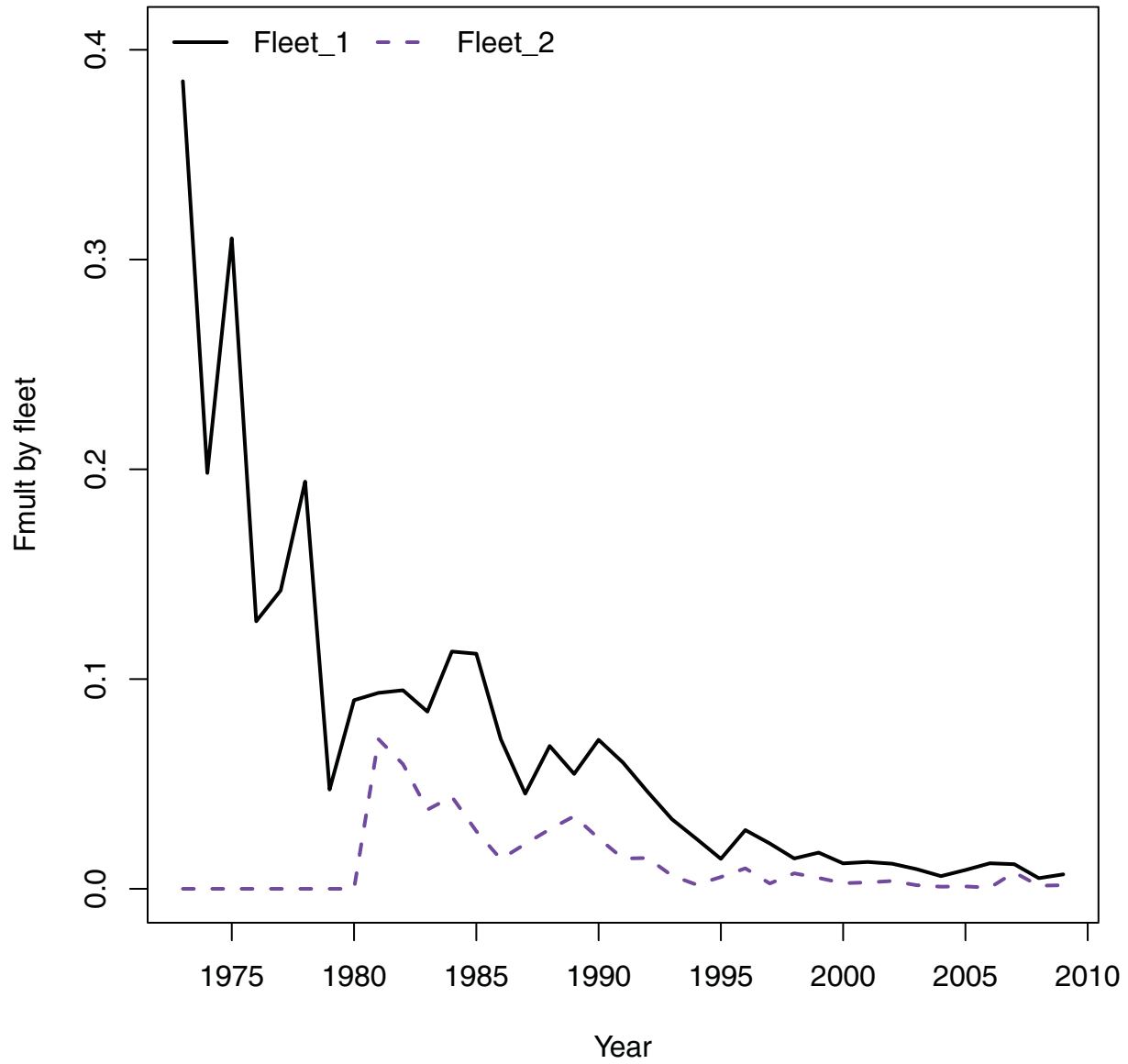


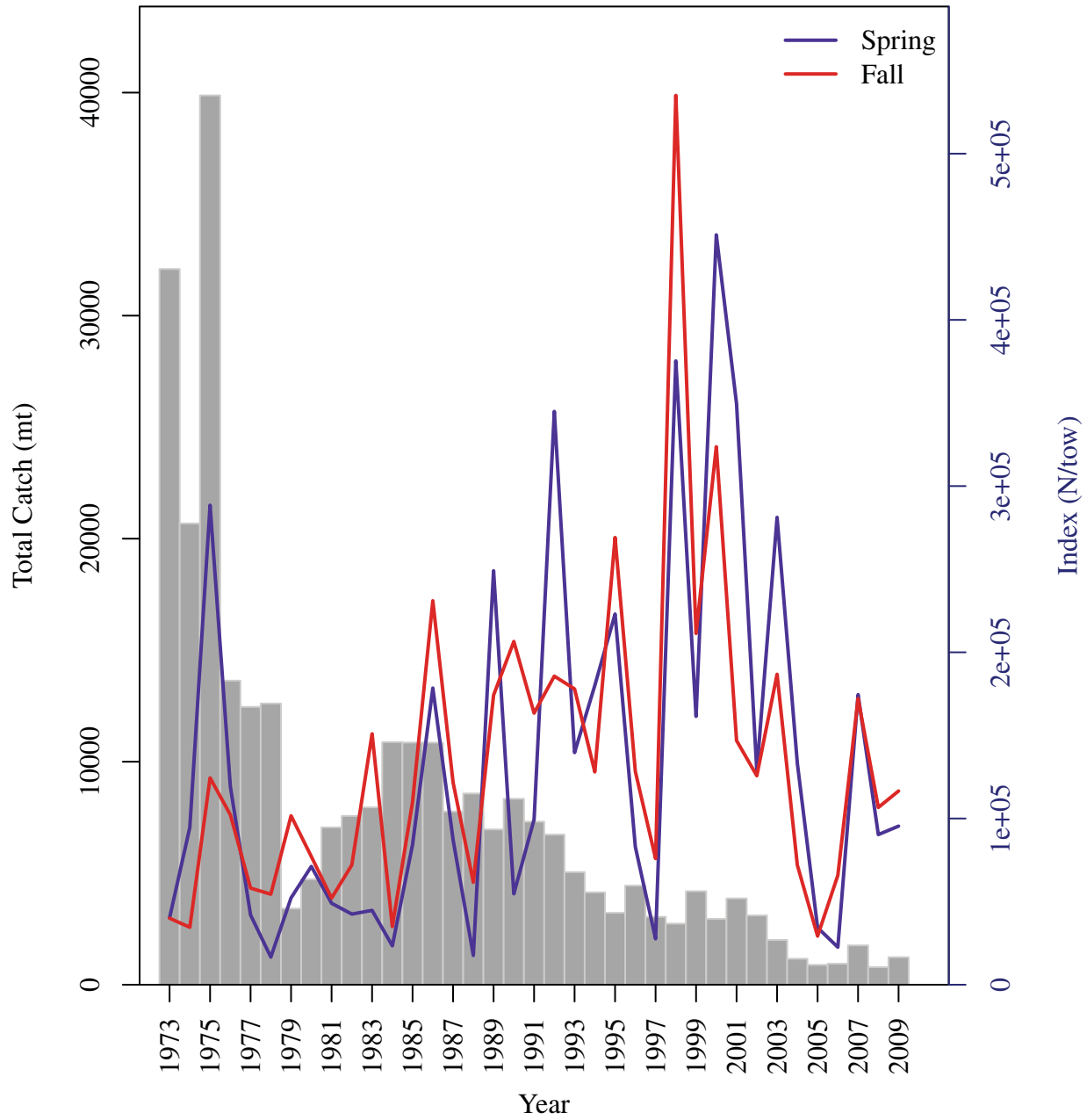


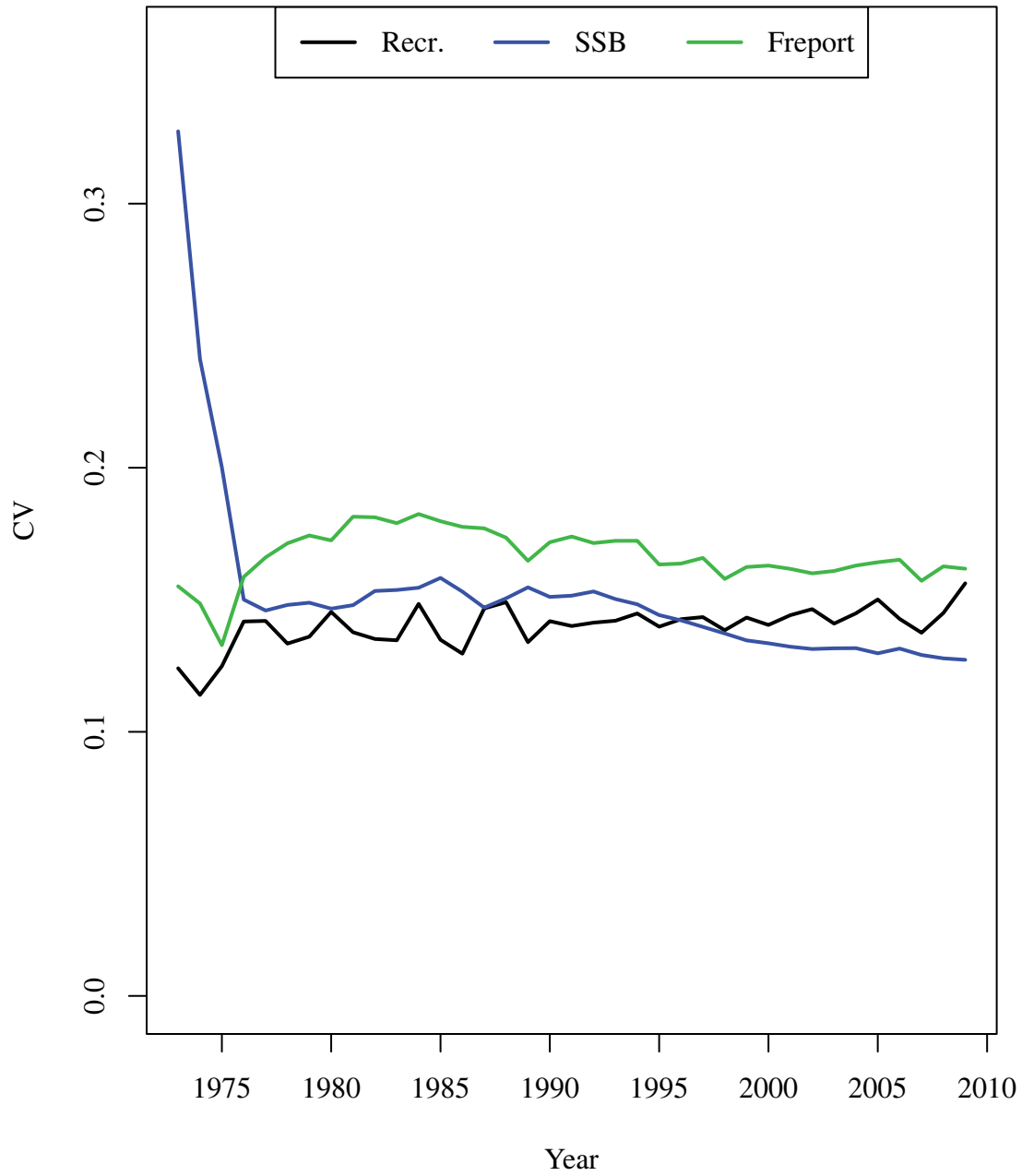


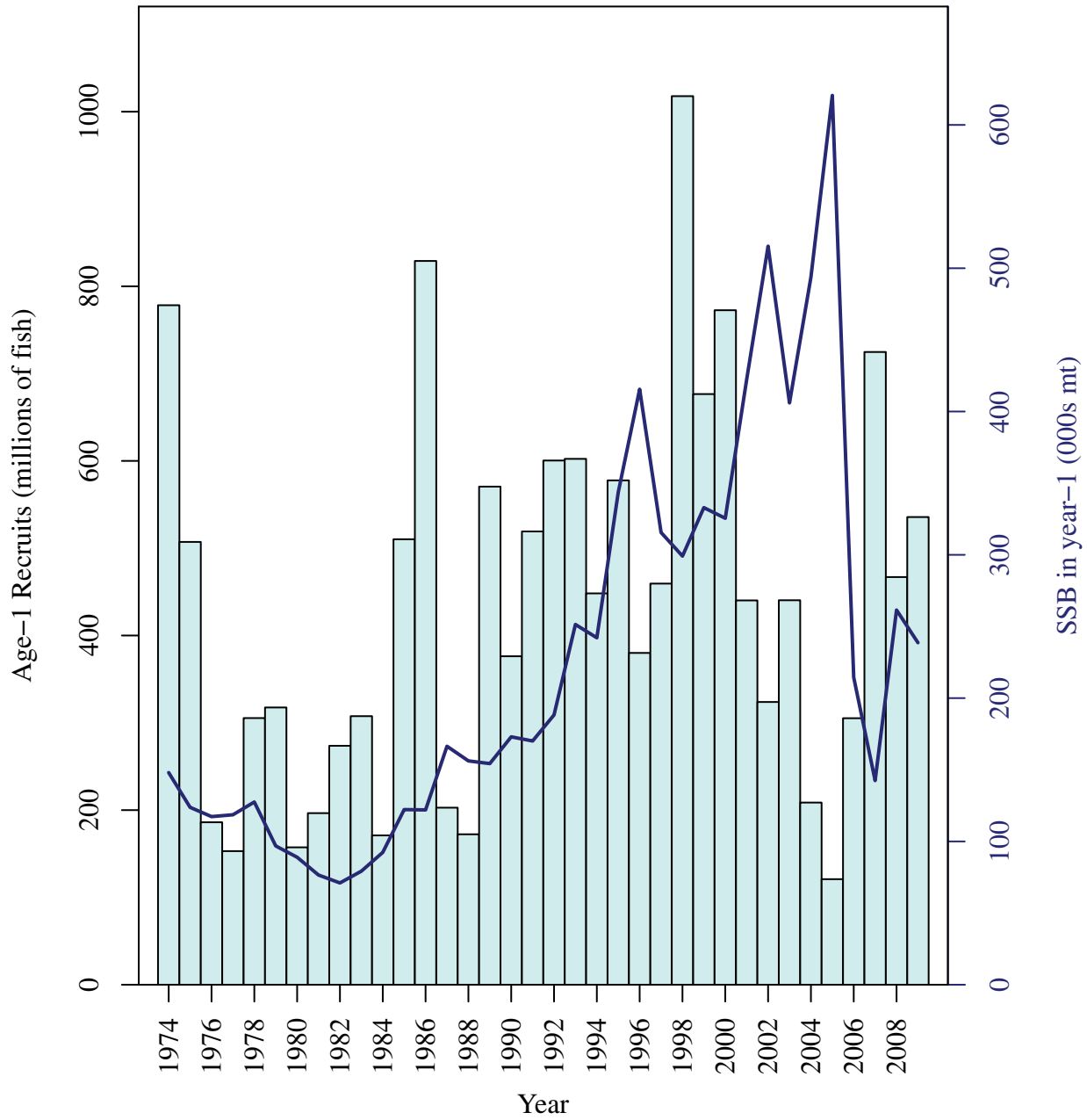












Appendix A4: North Model ASAP results $M = 0.4$ assuming Flat-top Selectivity in the Survey

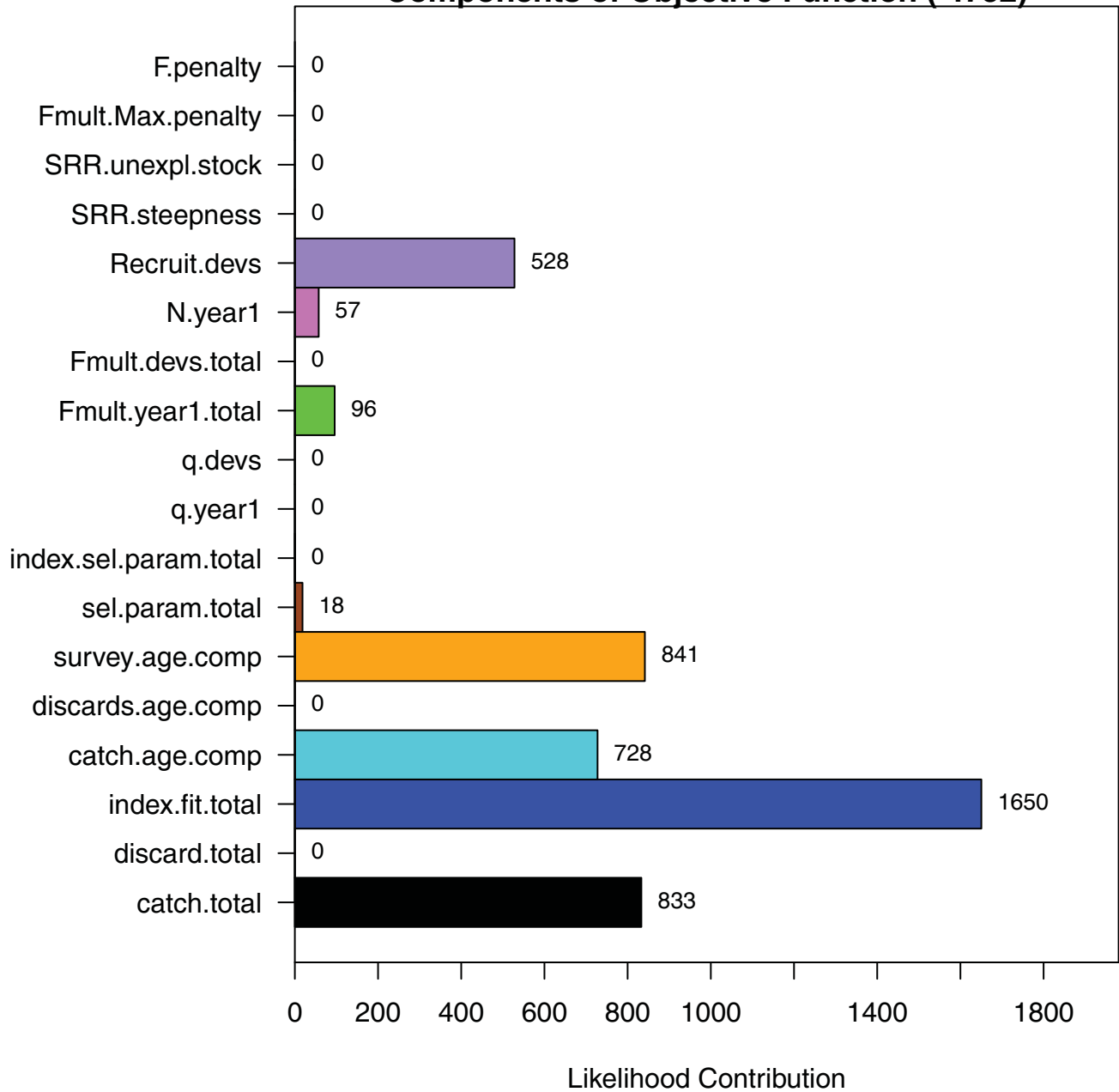
Model Attributes:

1. 3 Fleet Model
 - a. Catch : 1973-2009
 - b. Discards: 1981 – 2009
 - c. Consumption – 1973-2009

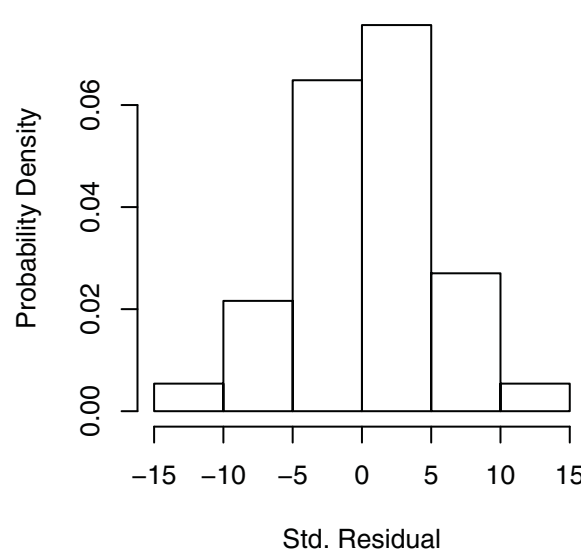
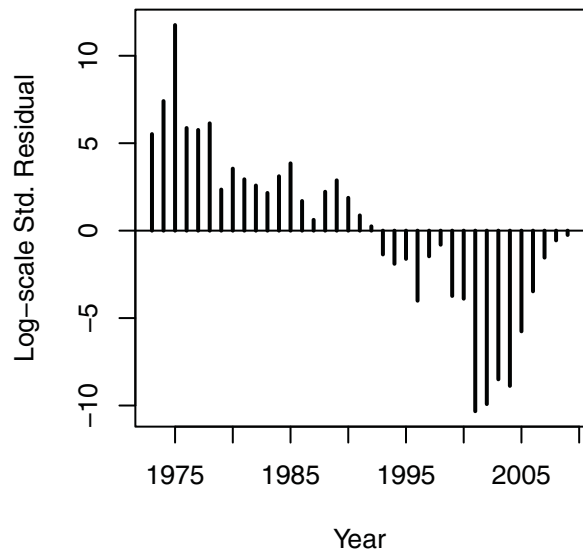
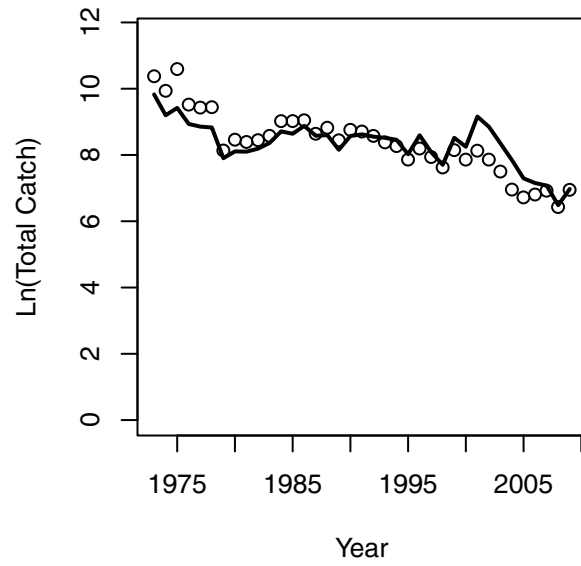
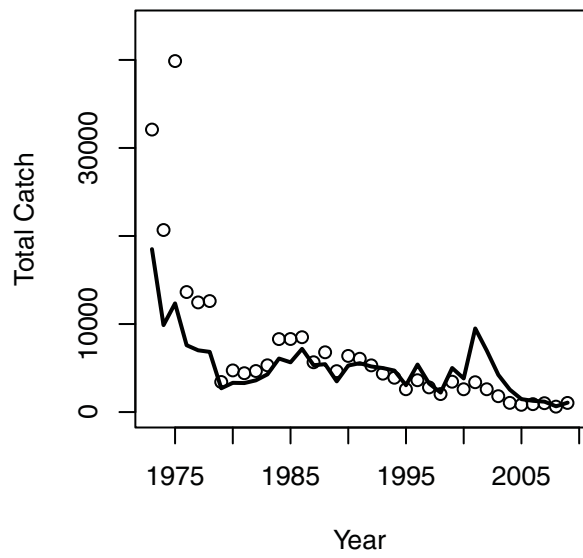
2. Fishery Selectivity (3 Block Selectivity)
 - a. Landings (1 Blocks: 1973-2009)
 - b. Discards (1 Block: 1981-2009)
 - c. Consumption (Double Logistic Functional Form)

3. Survey Selectivity (Fixed 100% at age 2-6+)

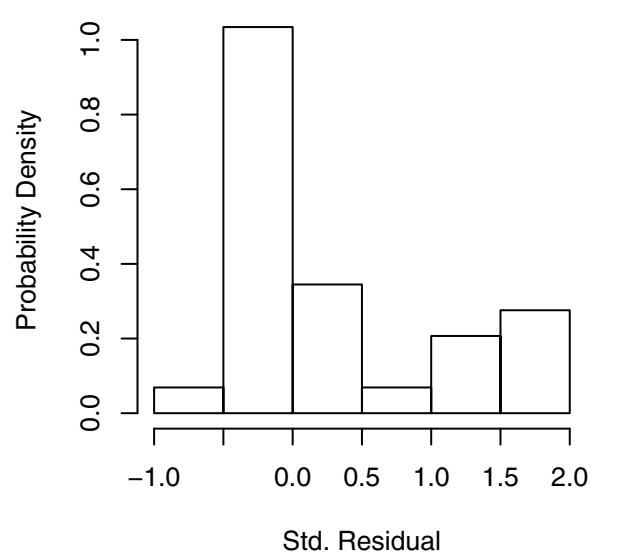
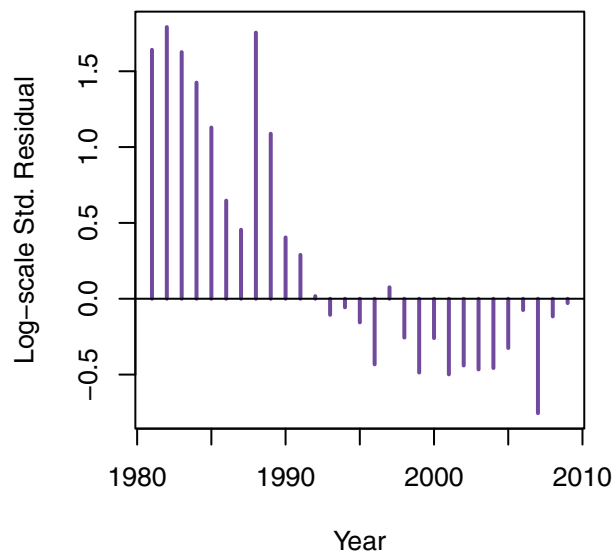
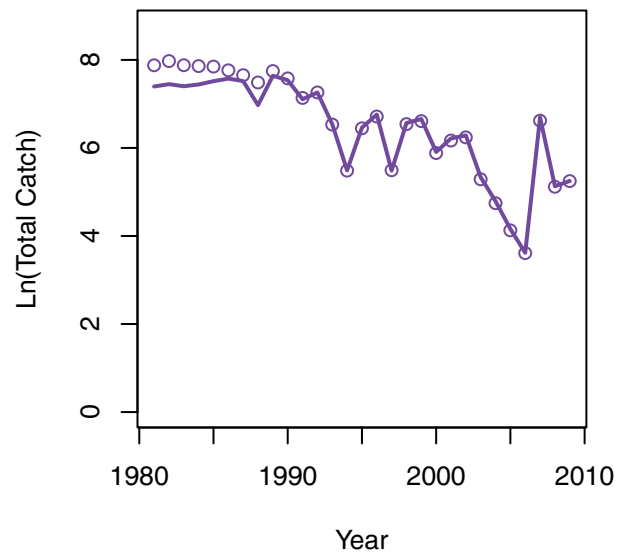
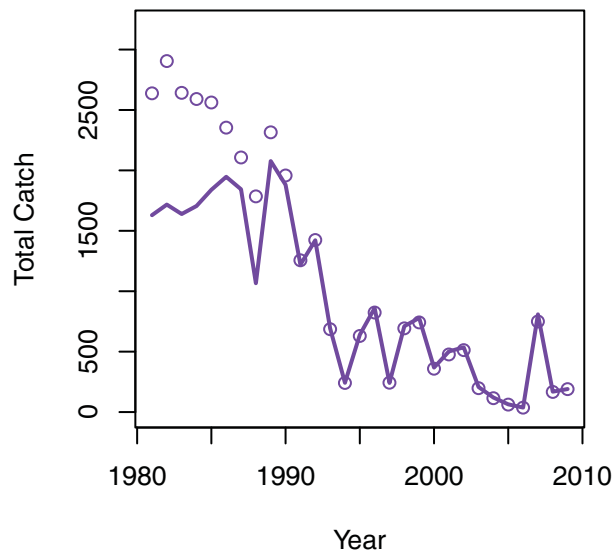
Components of Objective Function (4752)

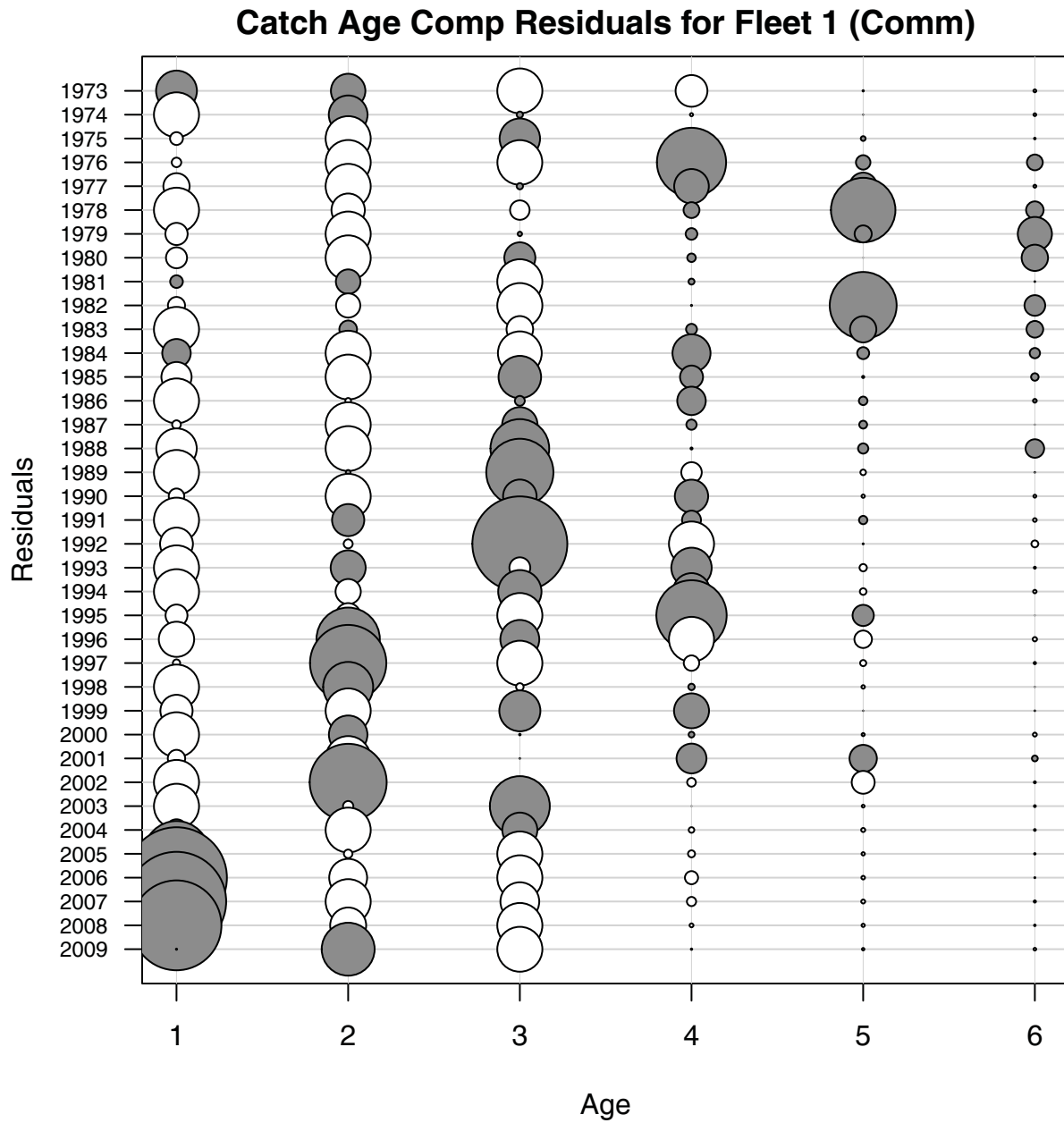


Fleet 1 Landings (Comm)

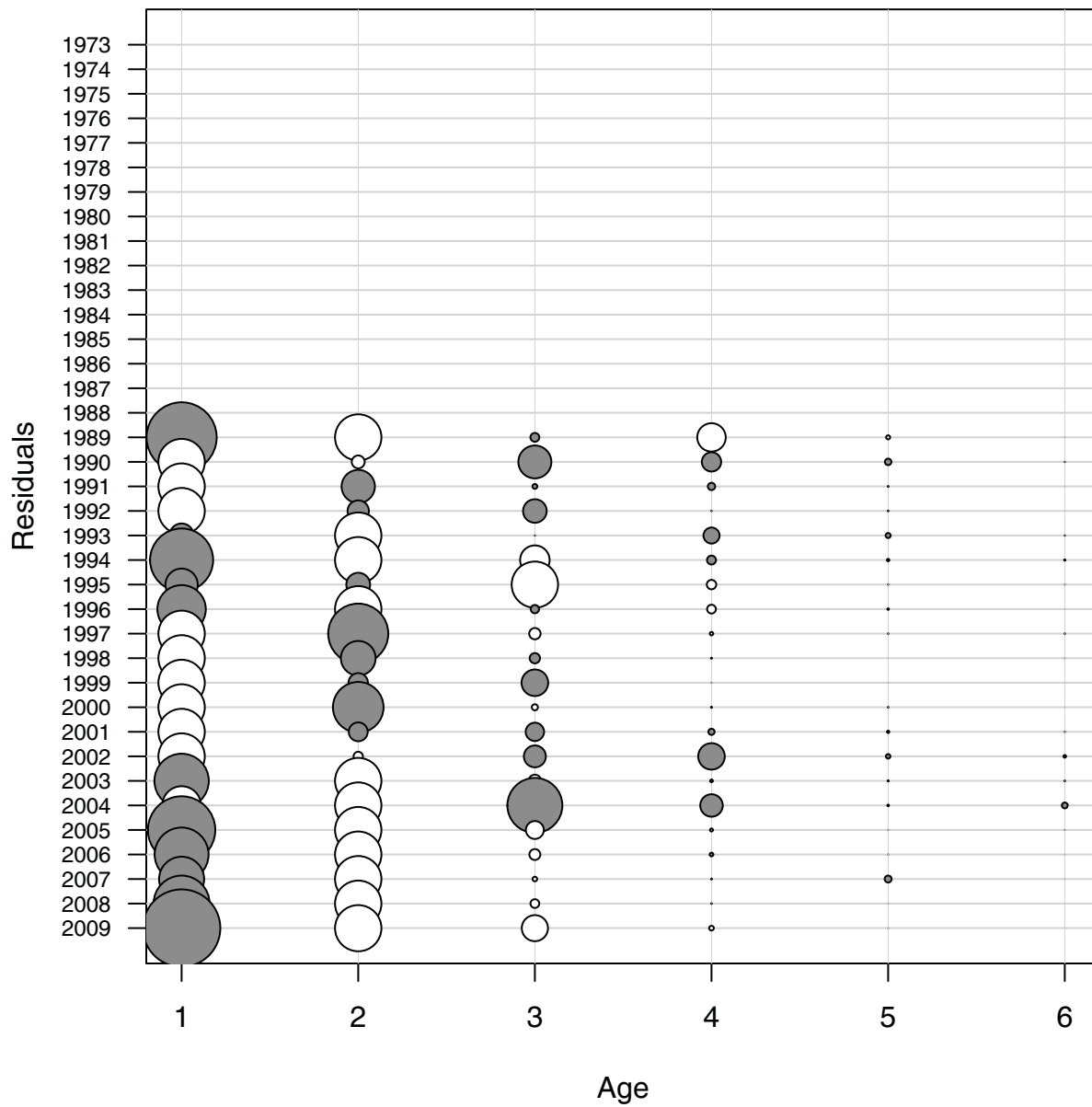


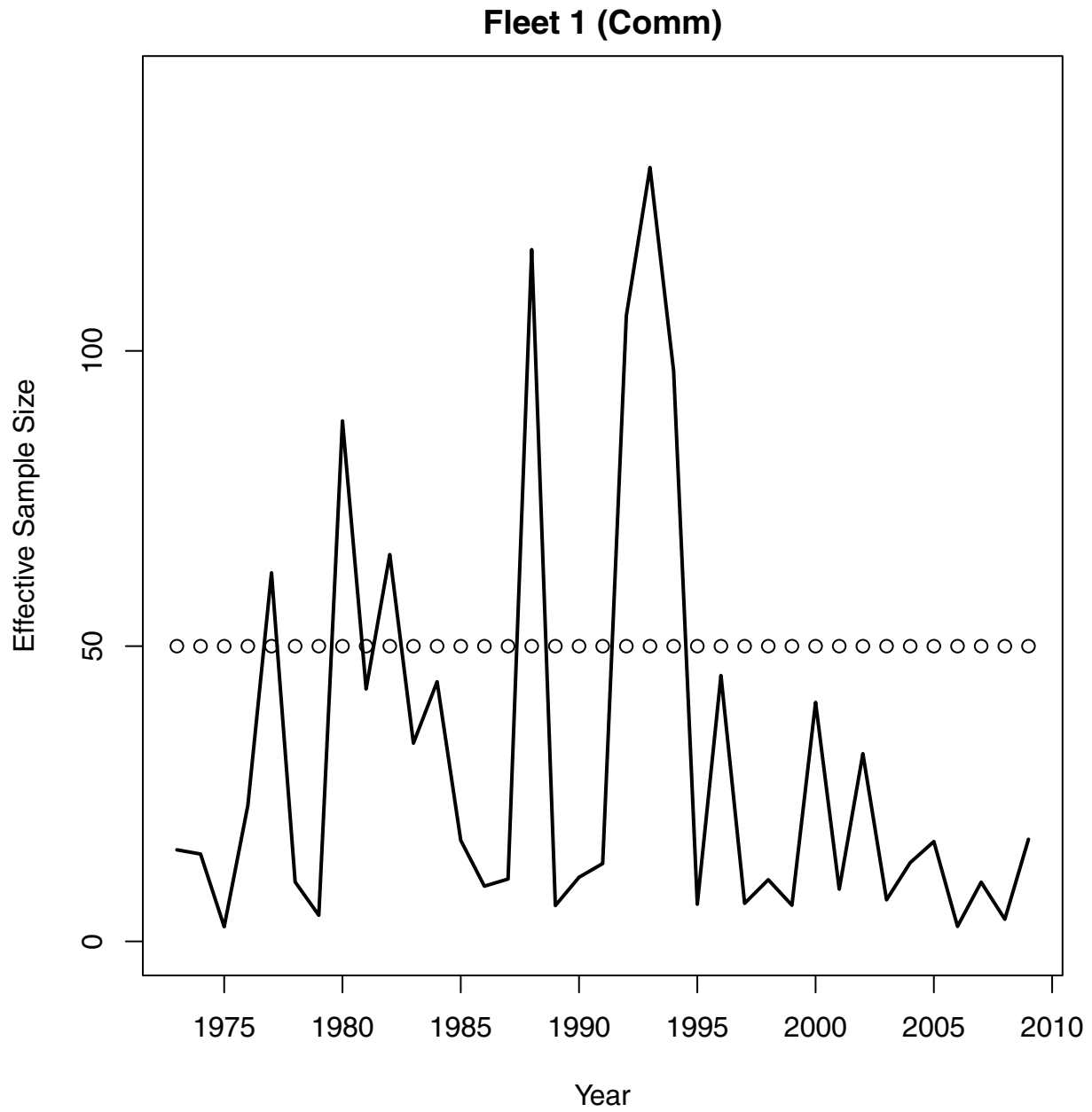
Fleet 2 Landings (disc)

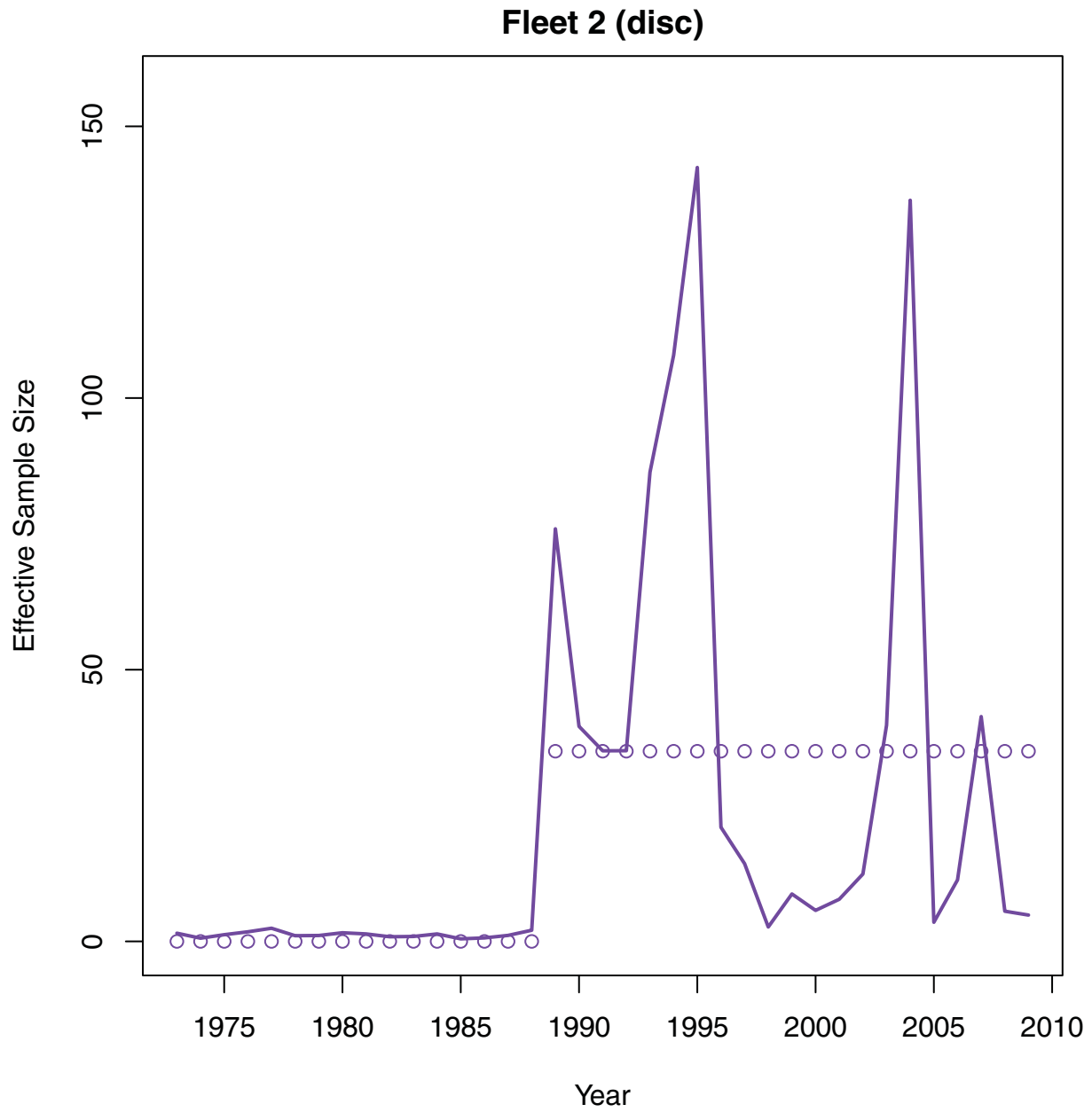


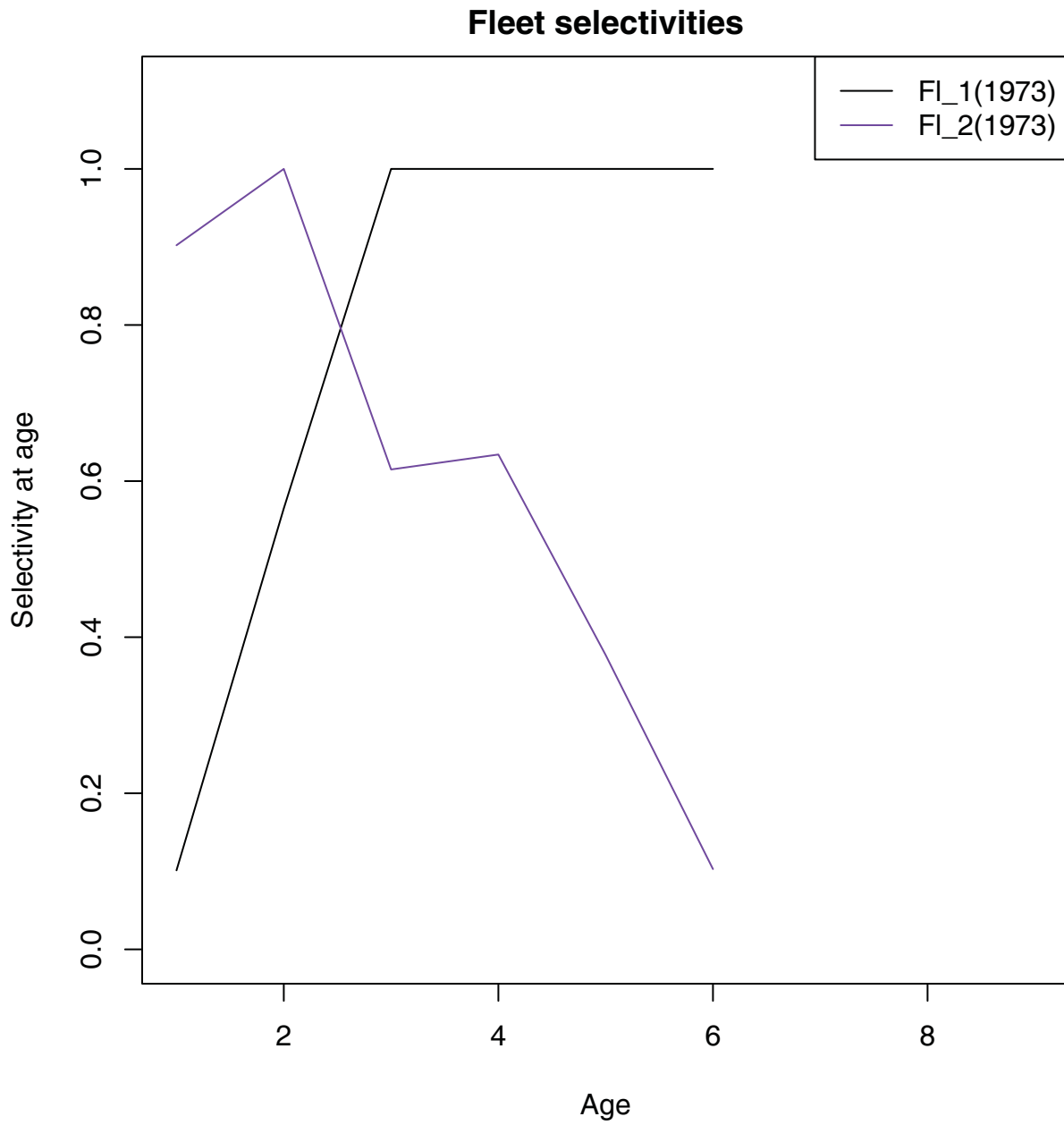


Catch Age Comp Residuals for Fleet 2 (disc)

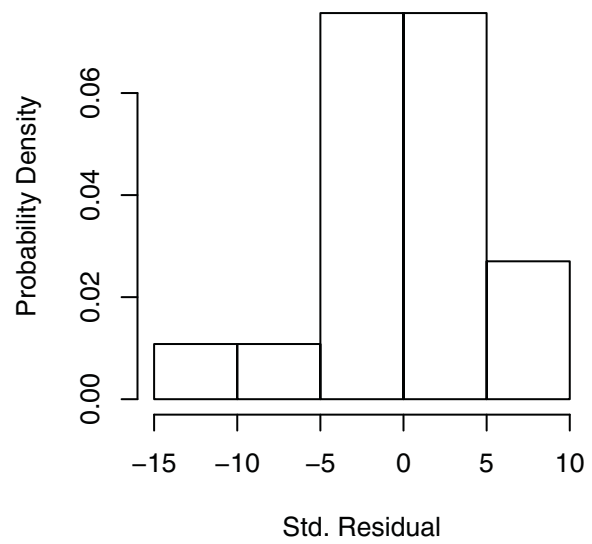
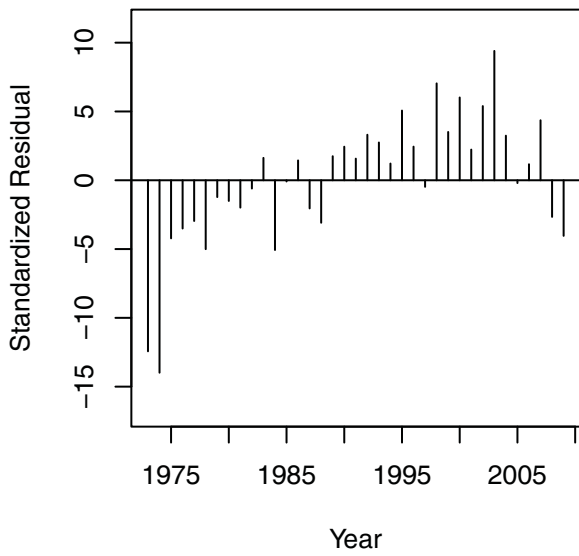
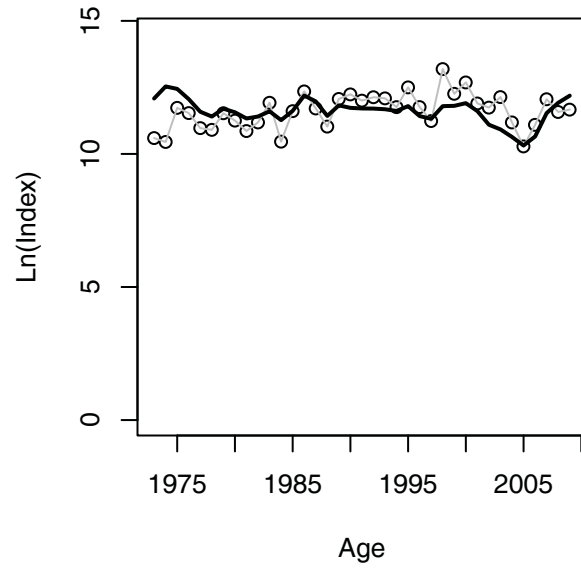
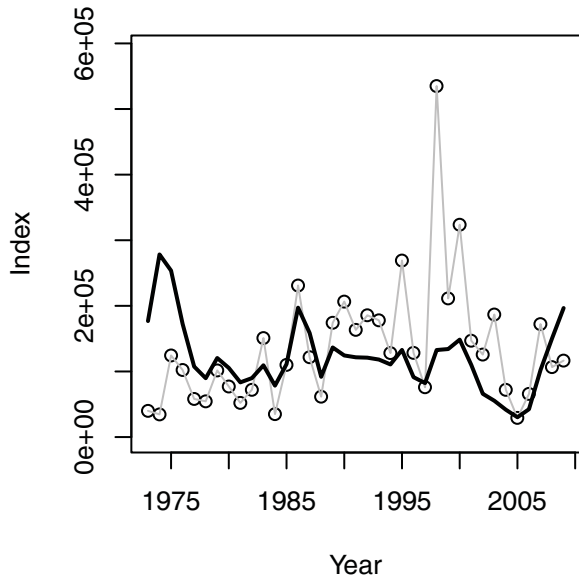




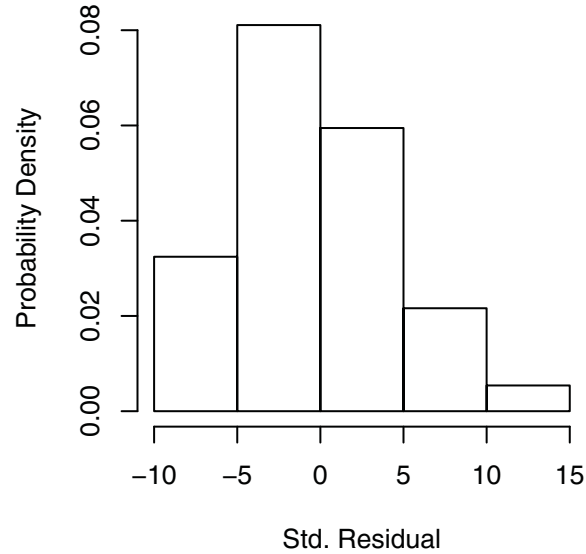
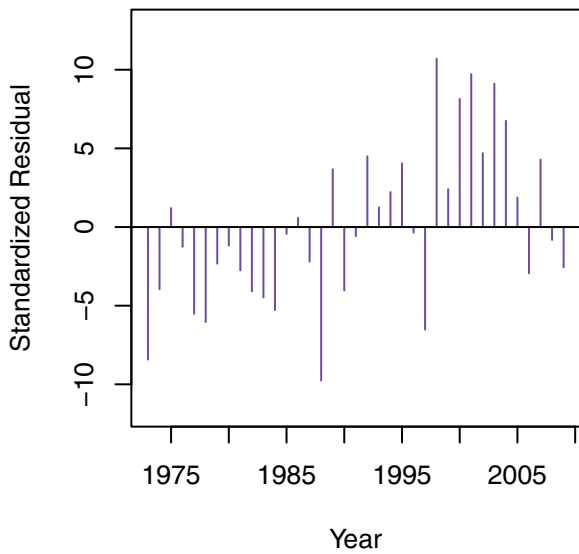
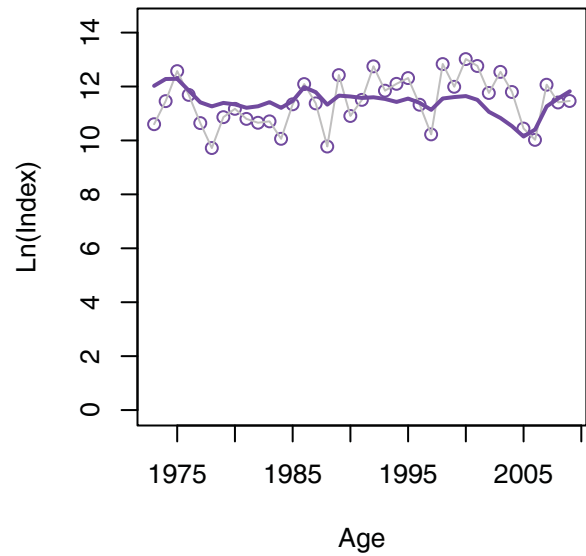
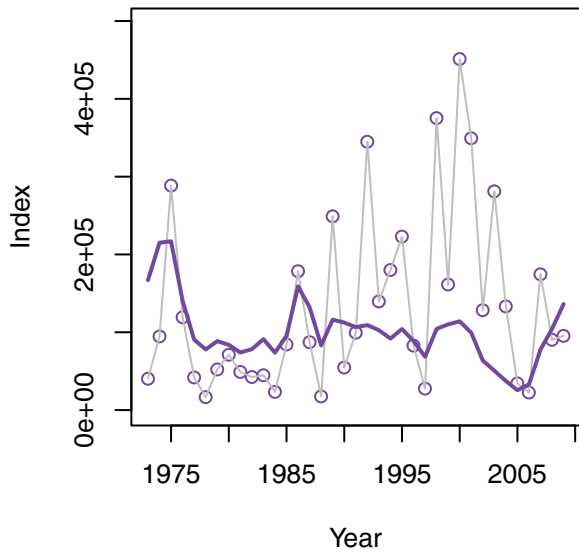




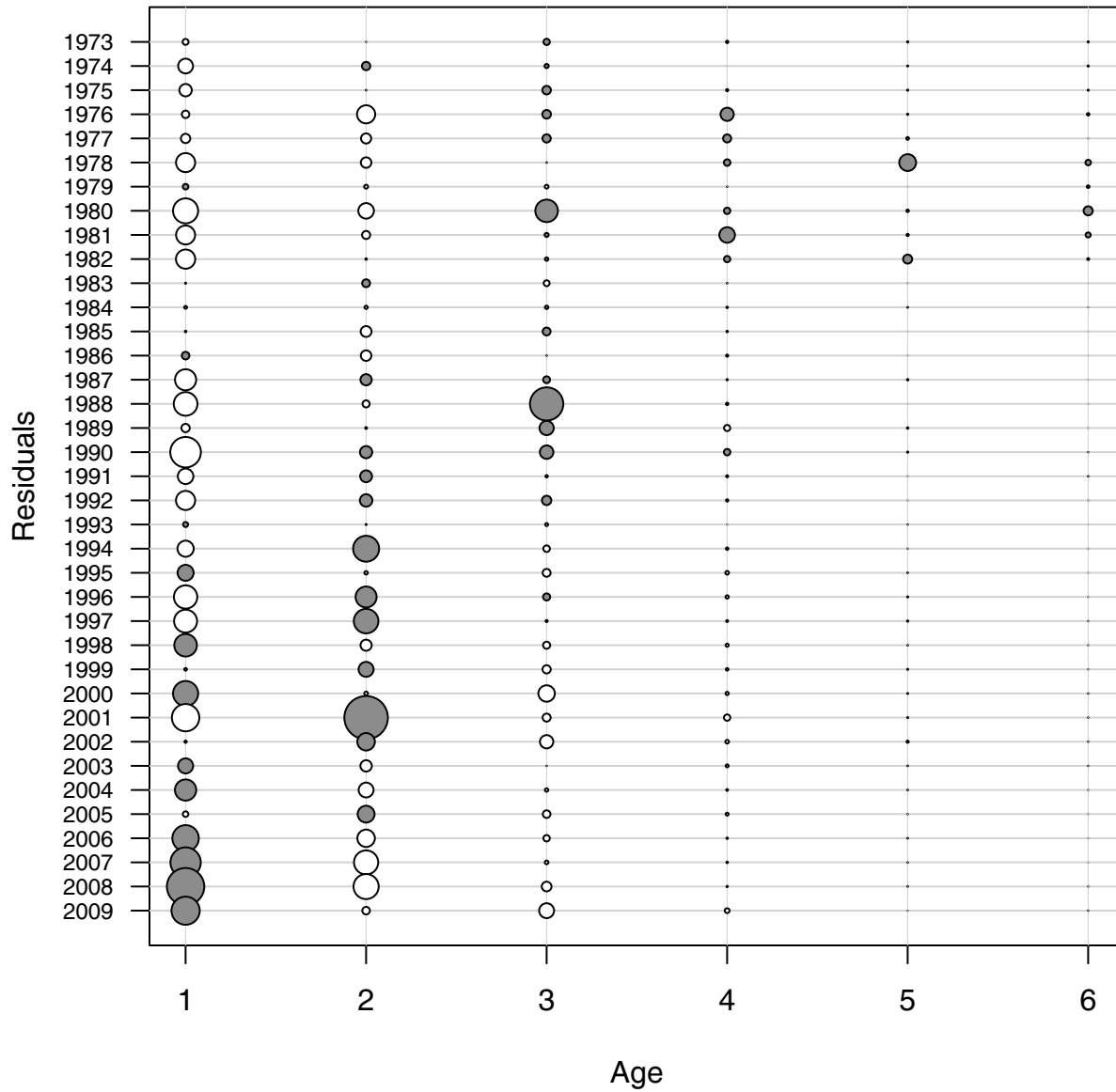
Index 1



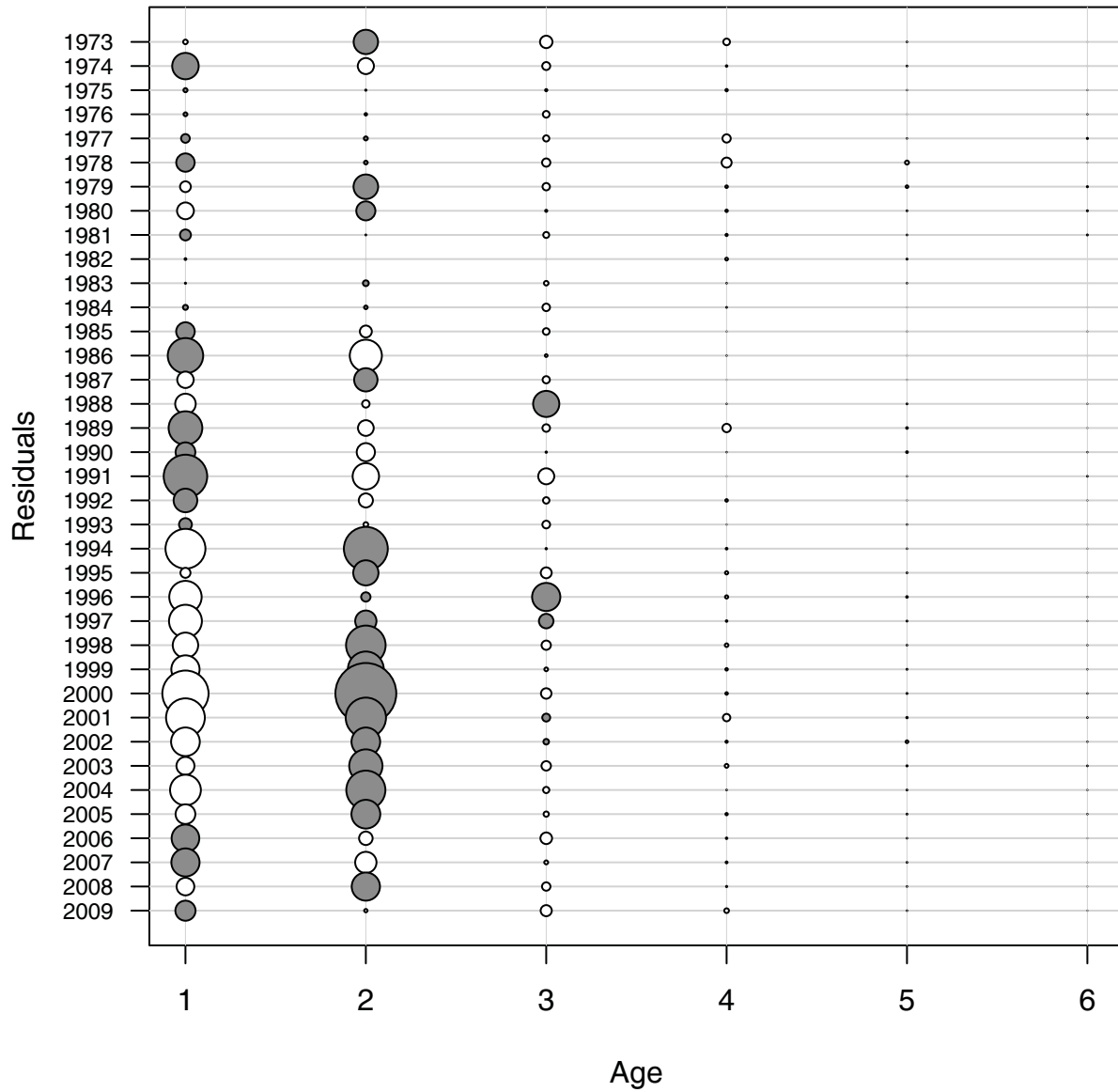
Index 2

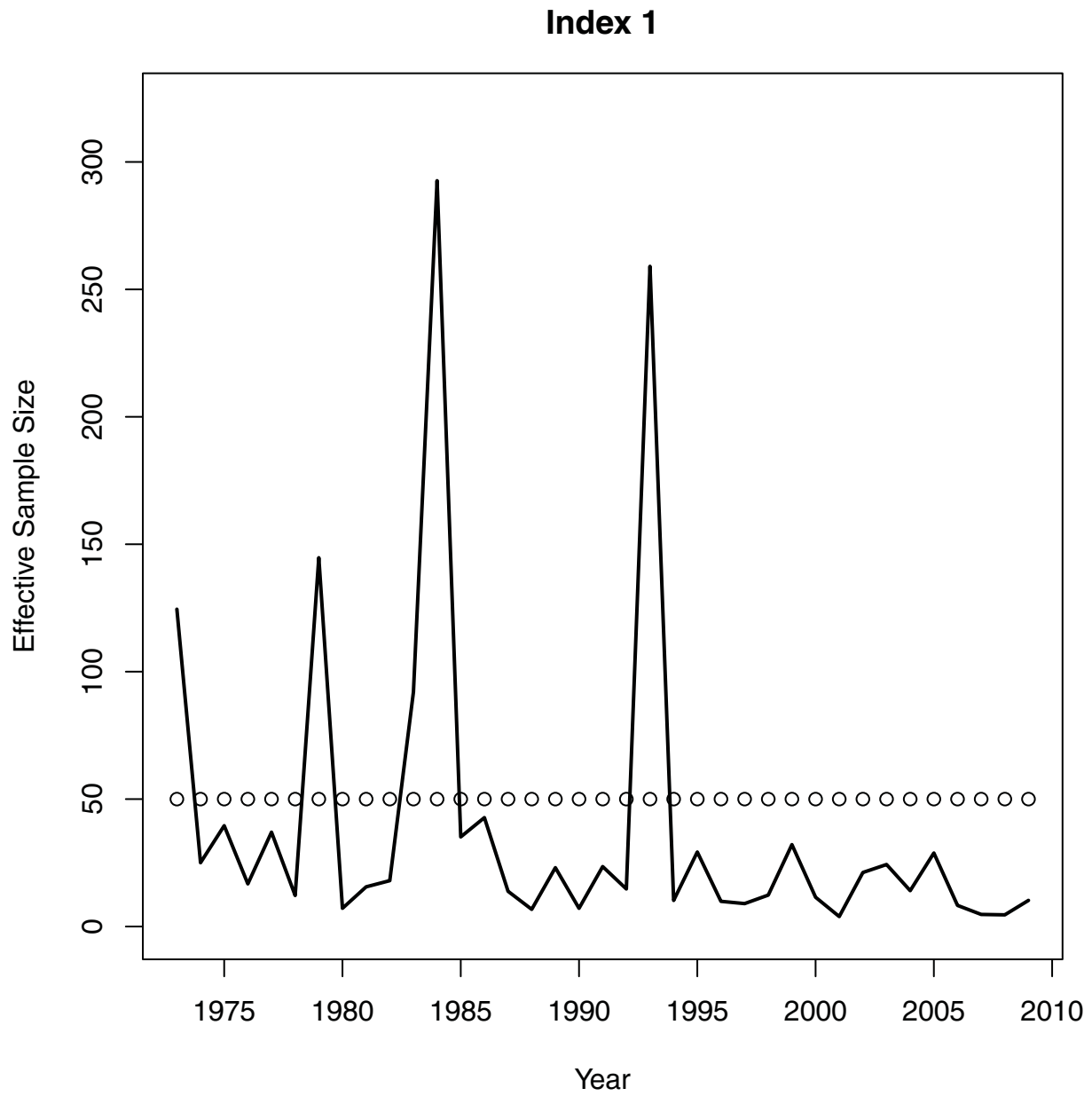


Age Comp Residuals for Index 1

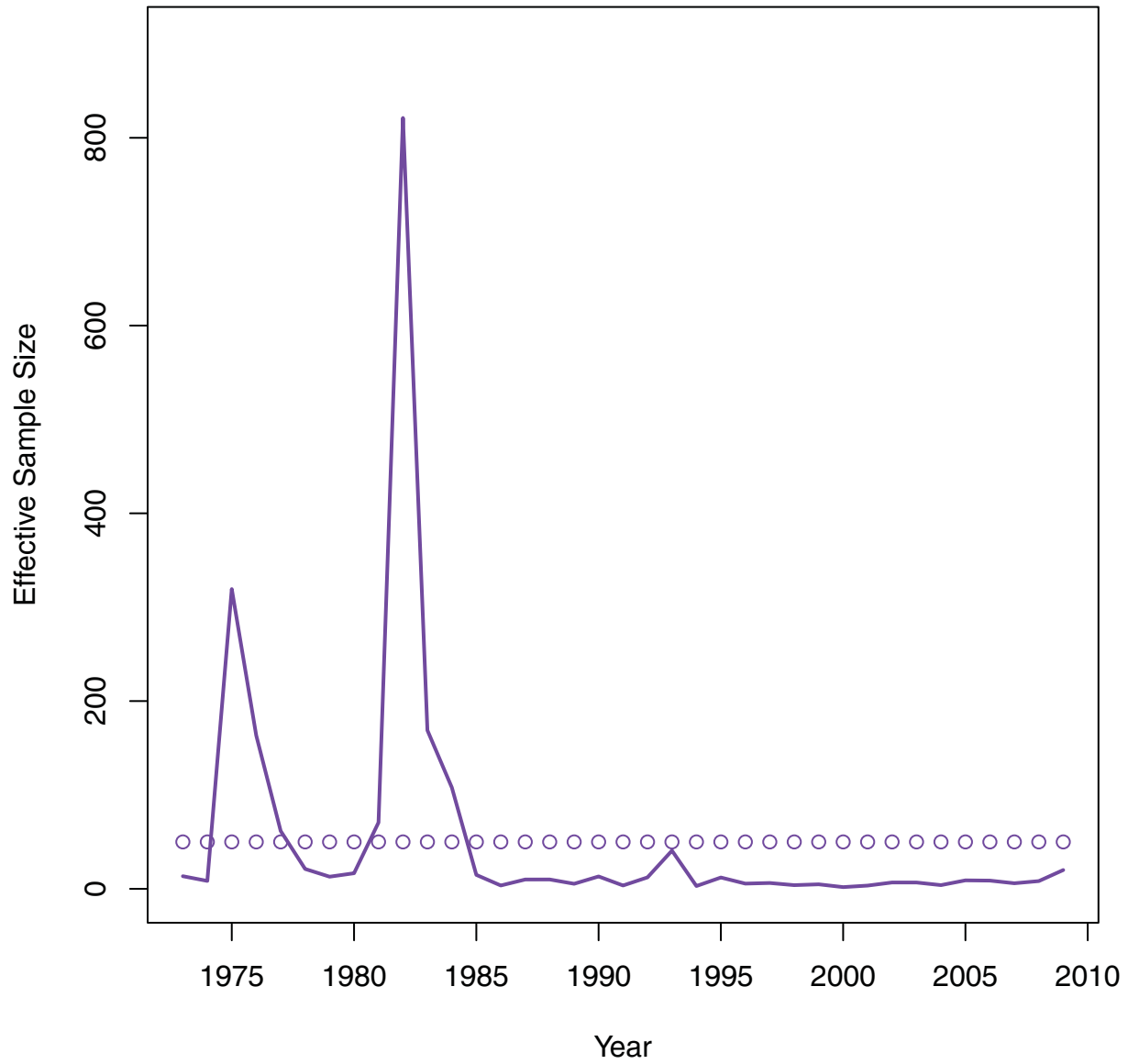


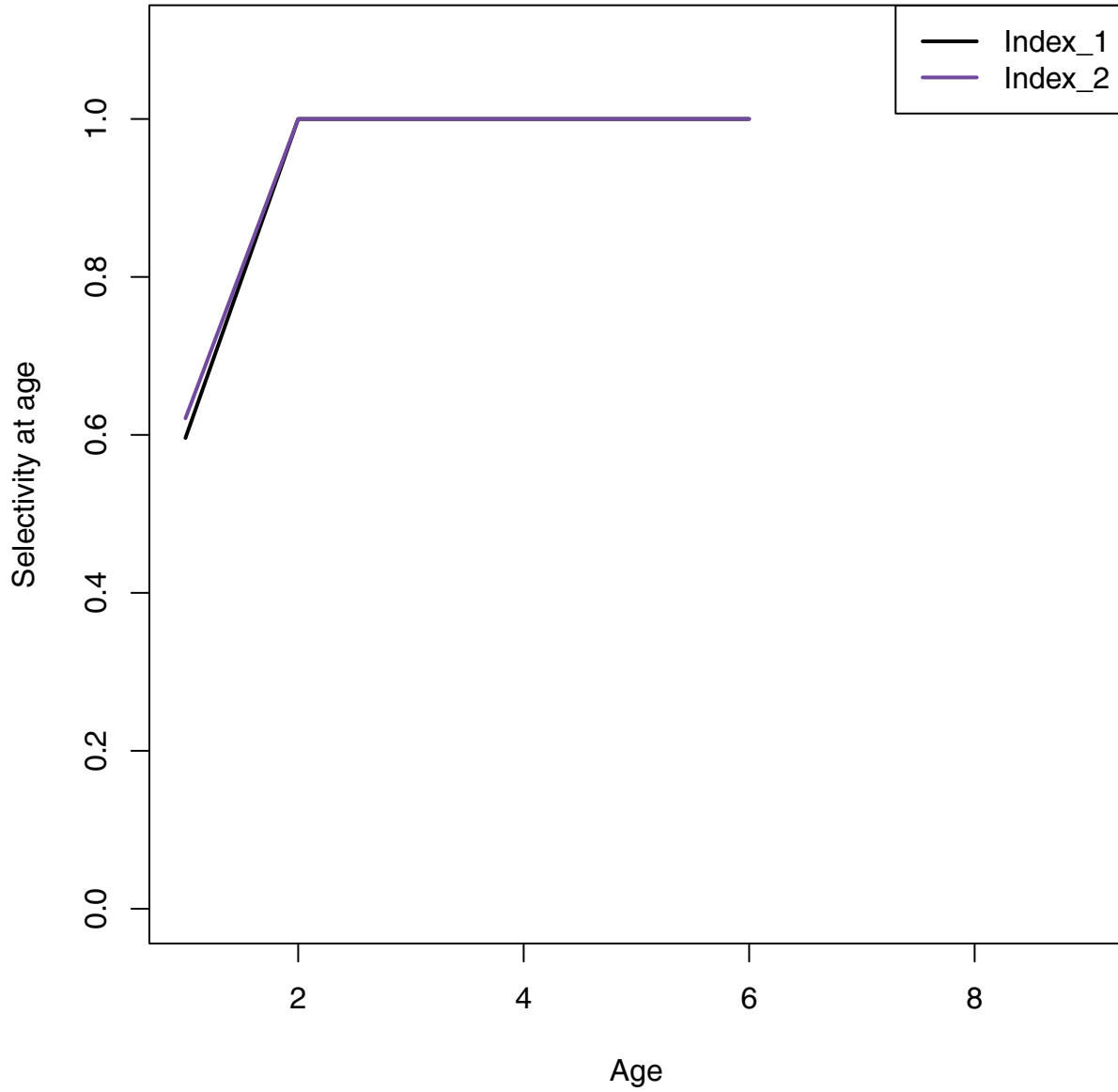
Age Comp Residuals for Index 2



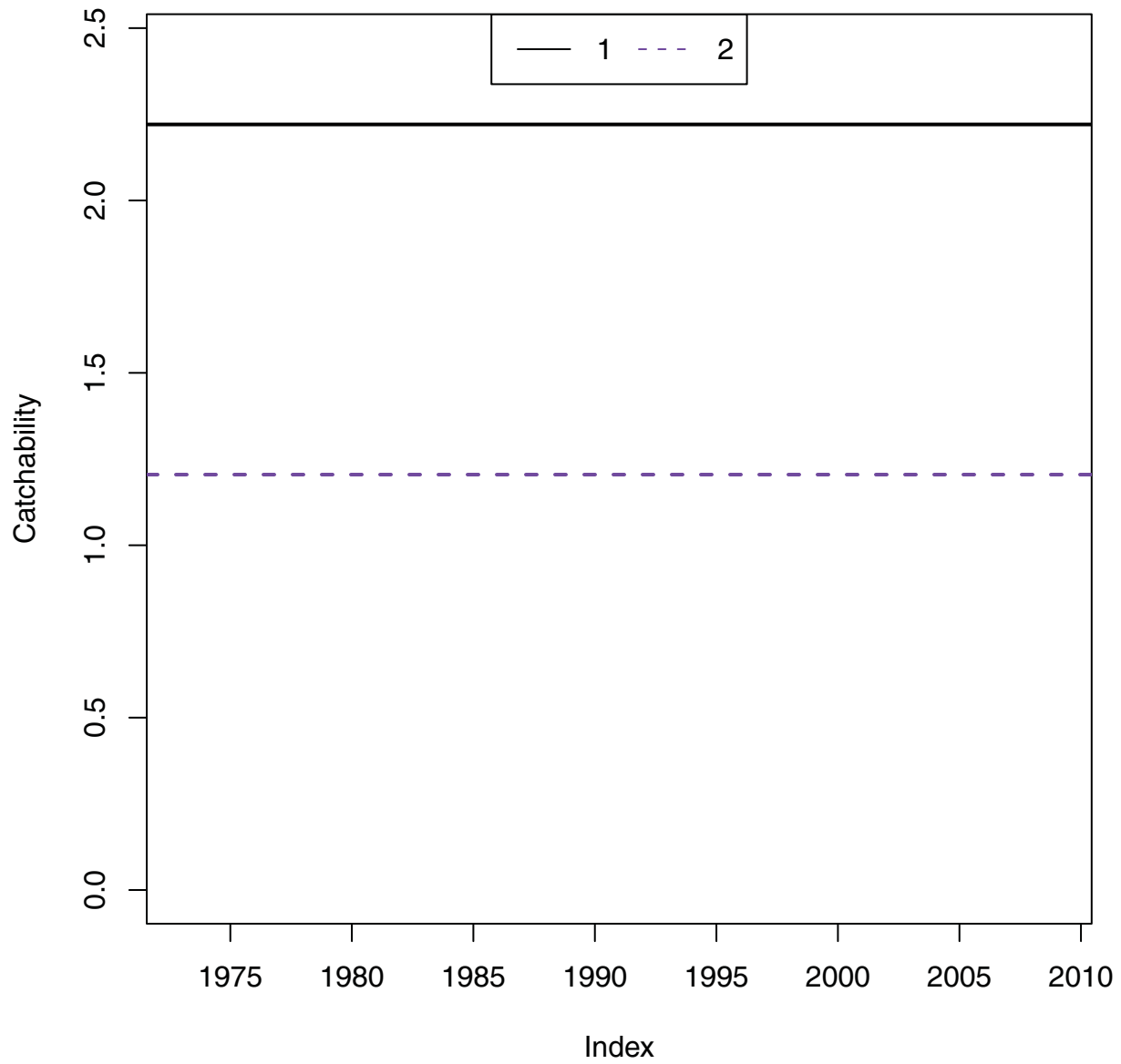


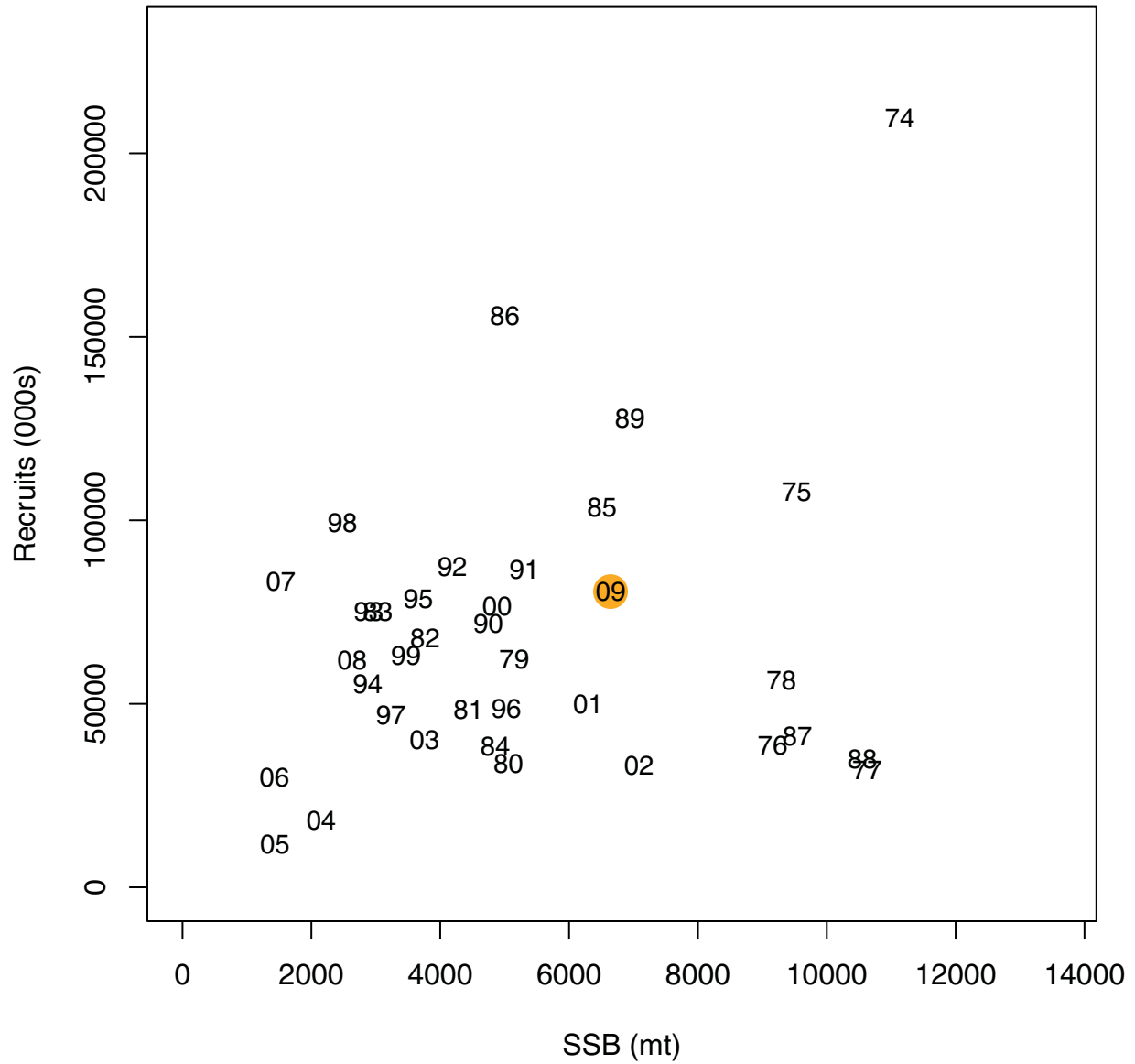
Index 2

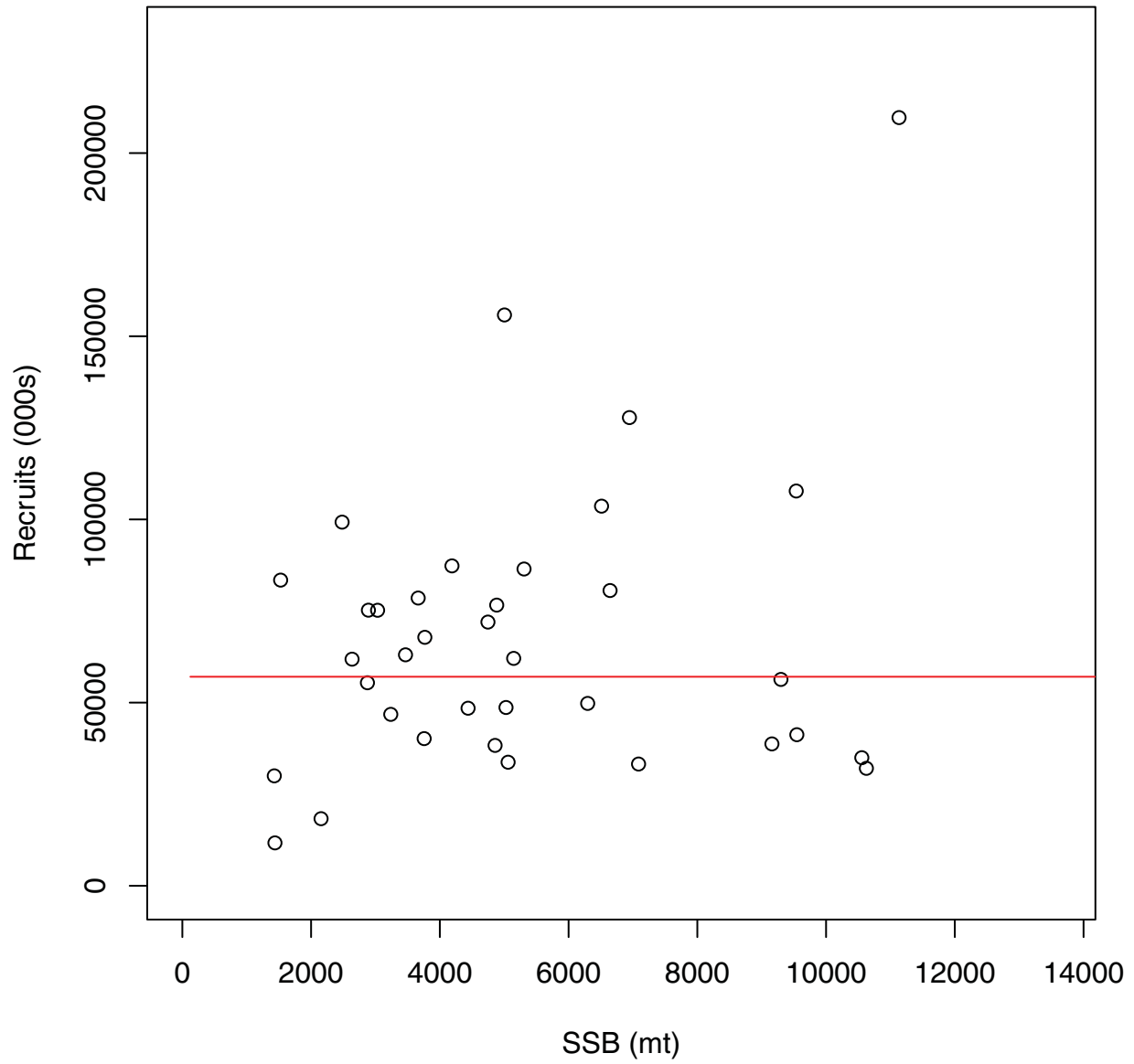


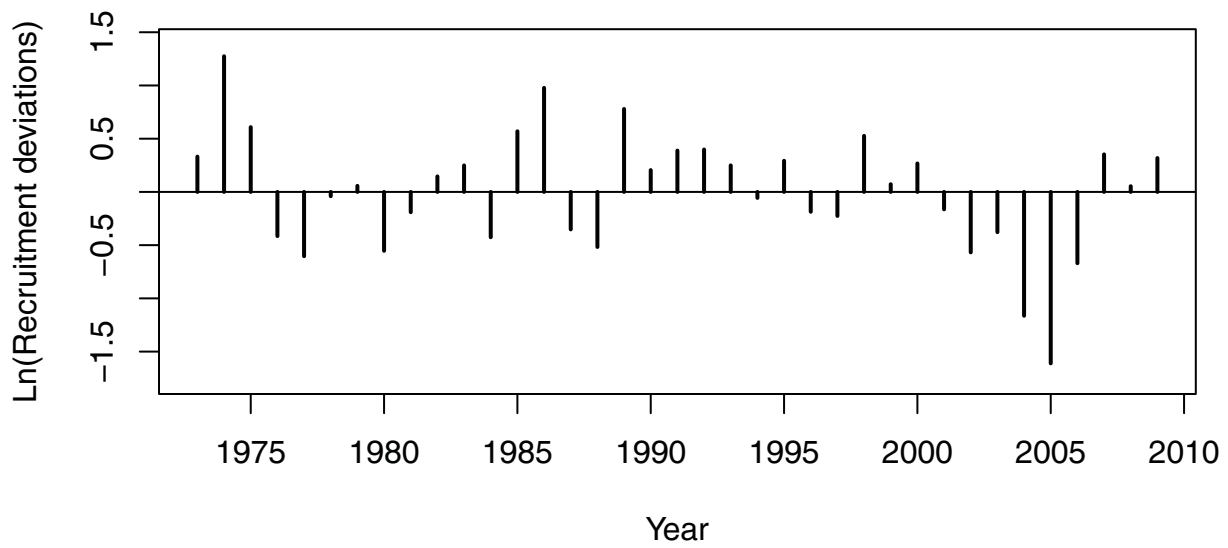
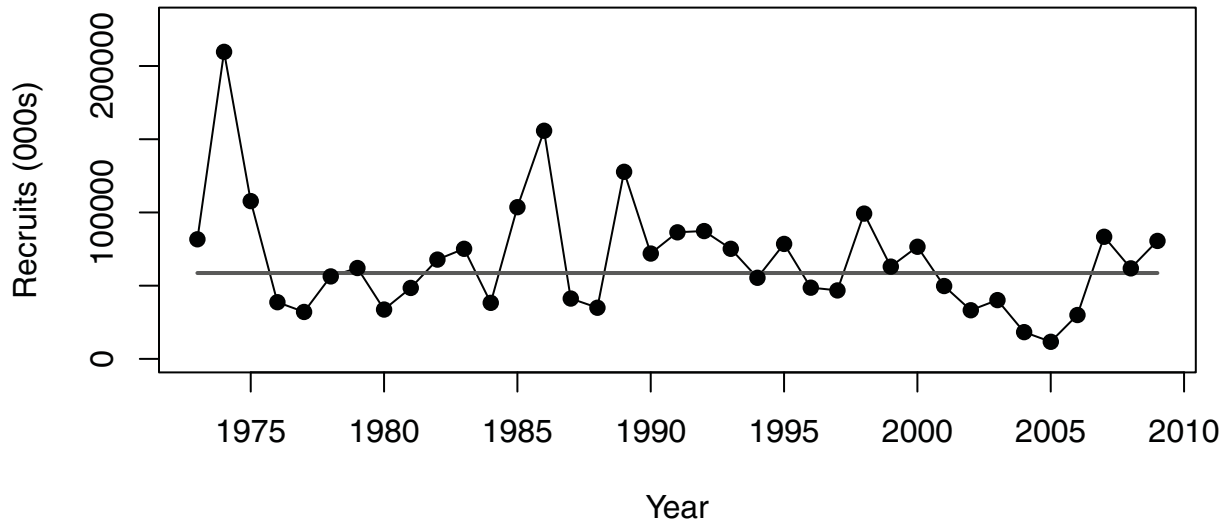


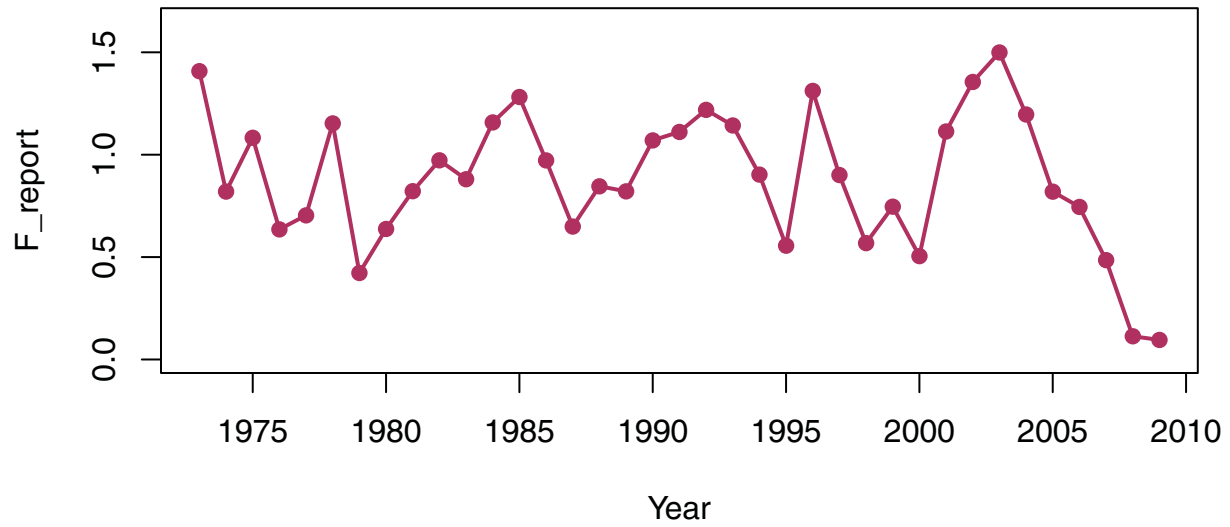
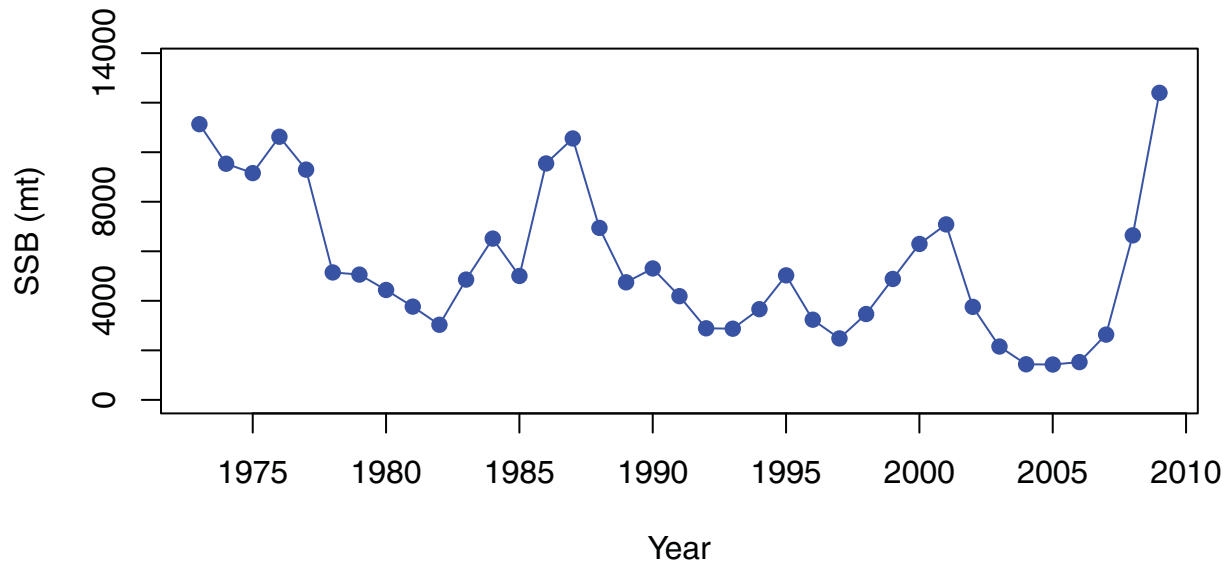
Index q estimates

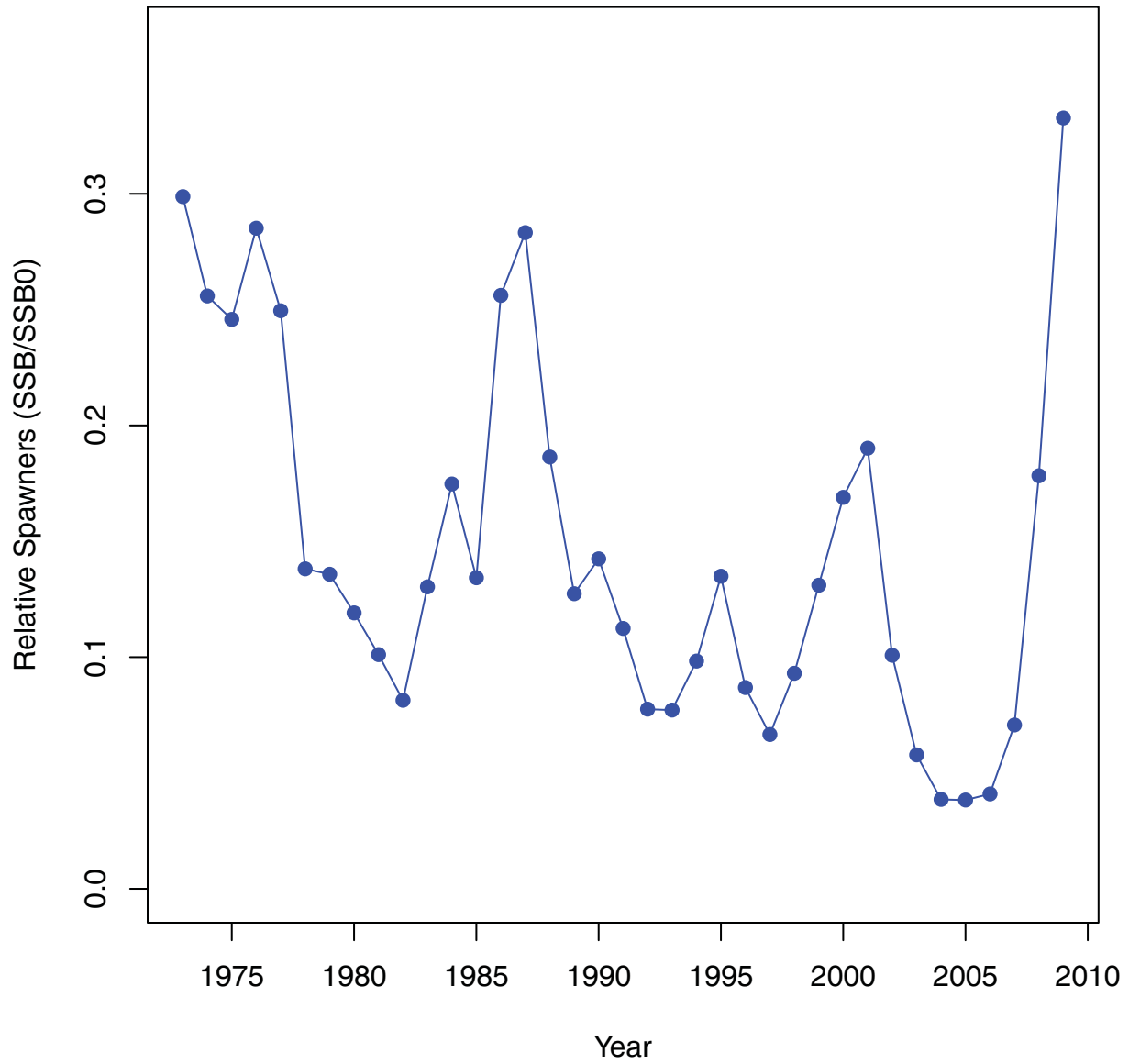


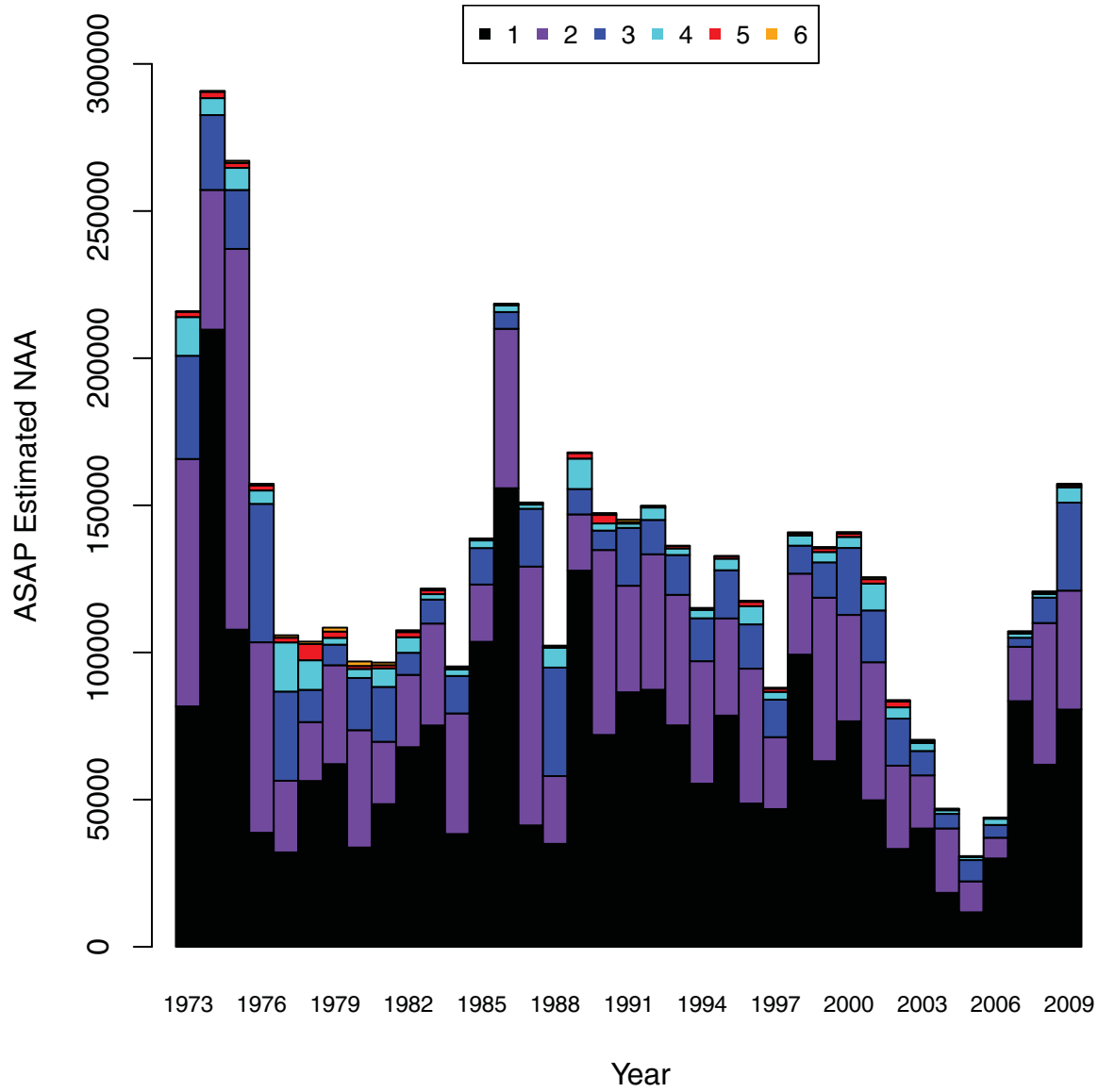


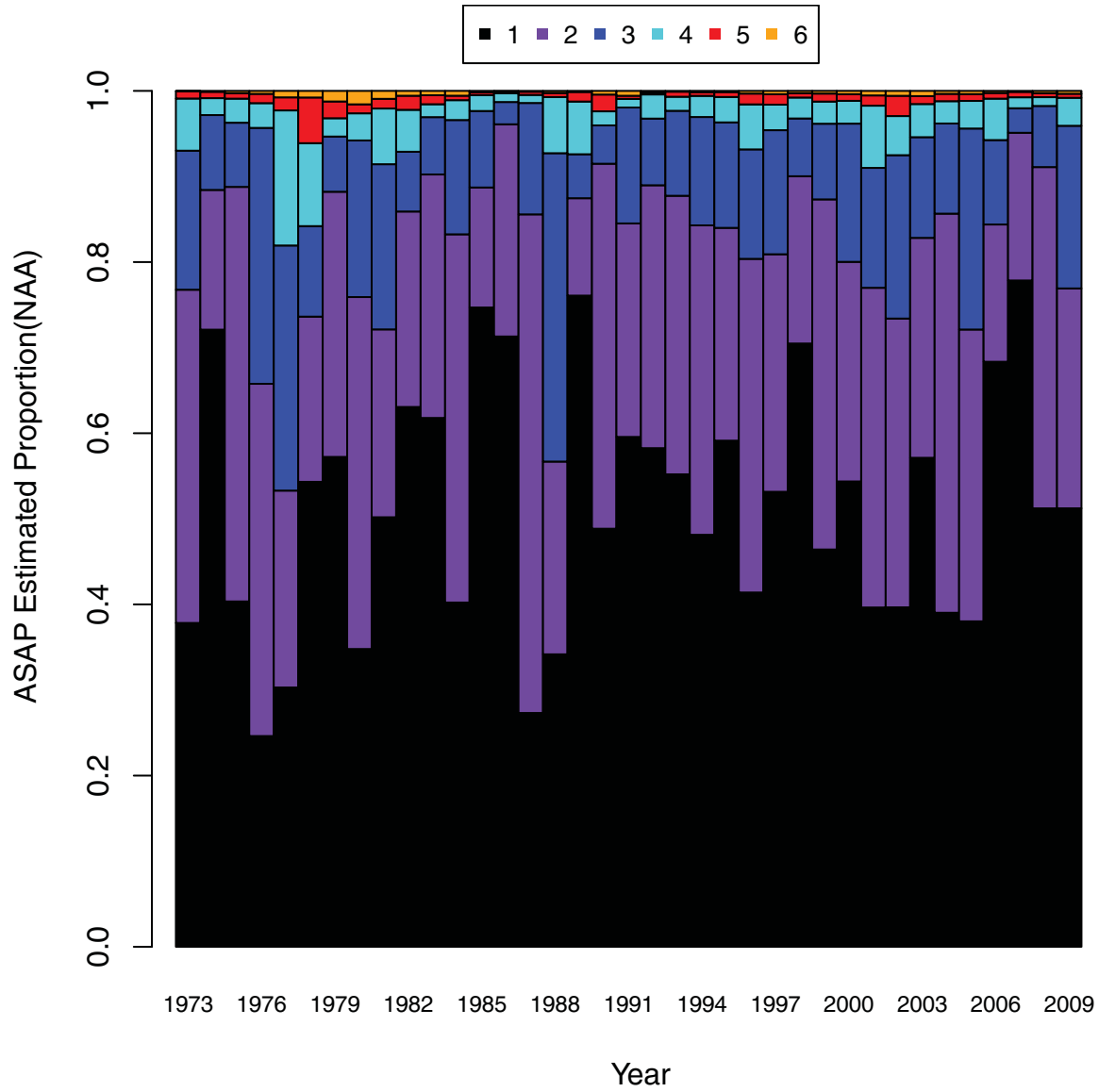


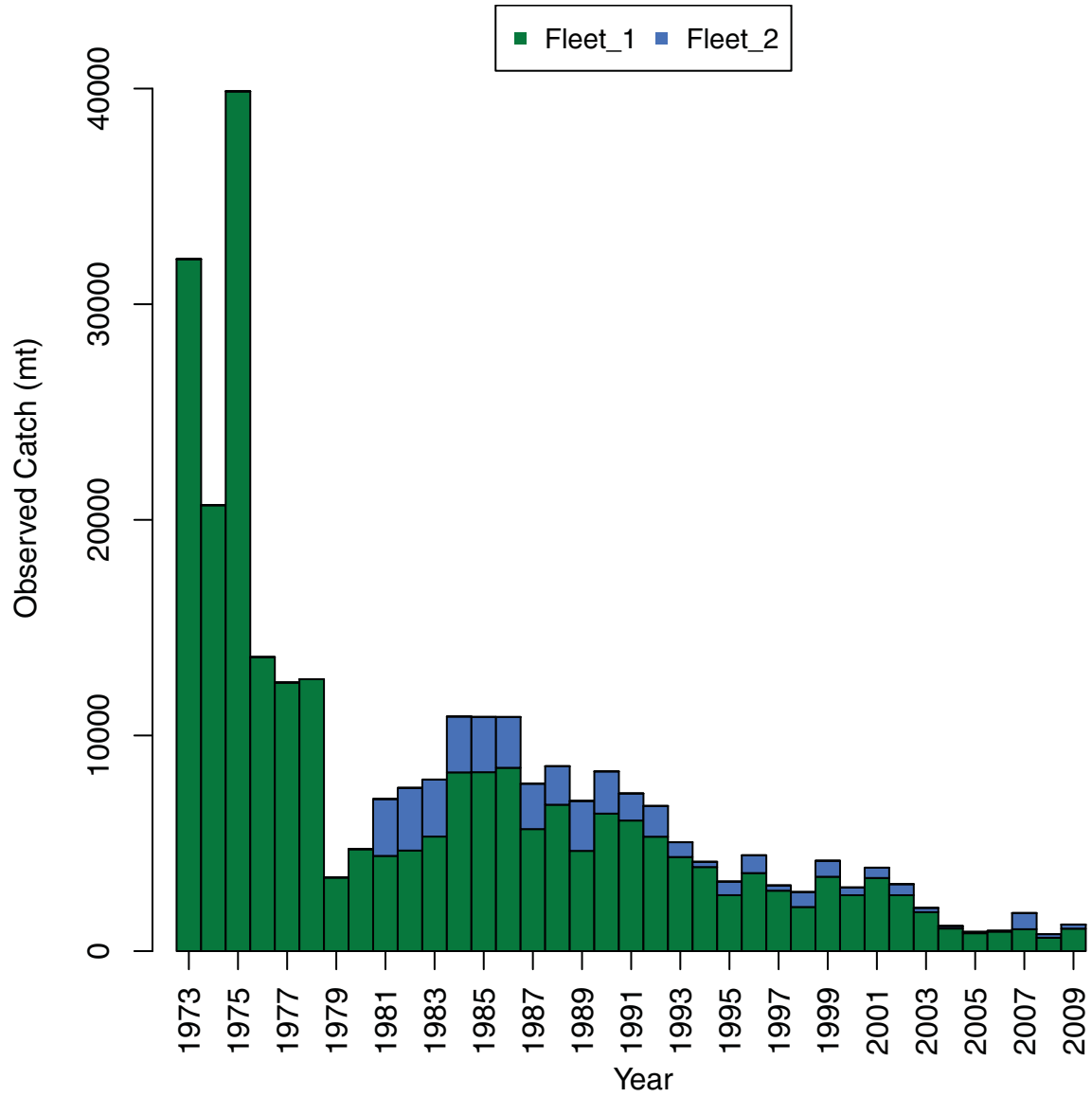


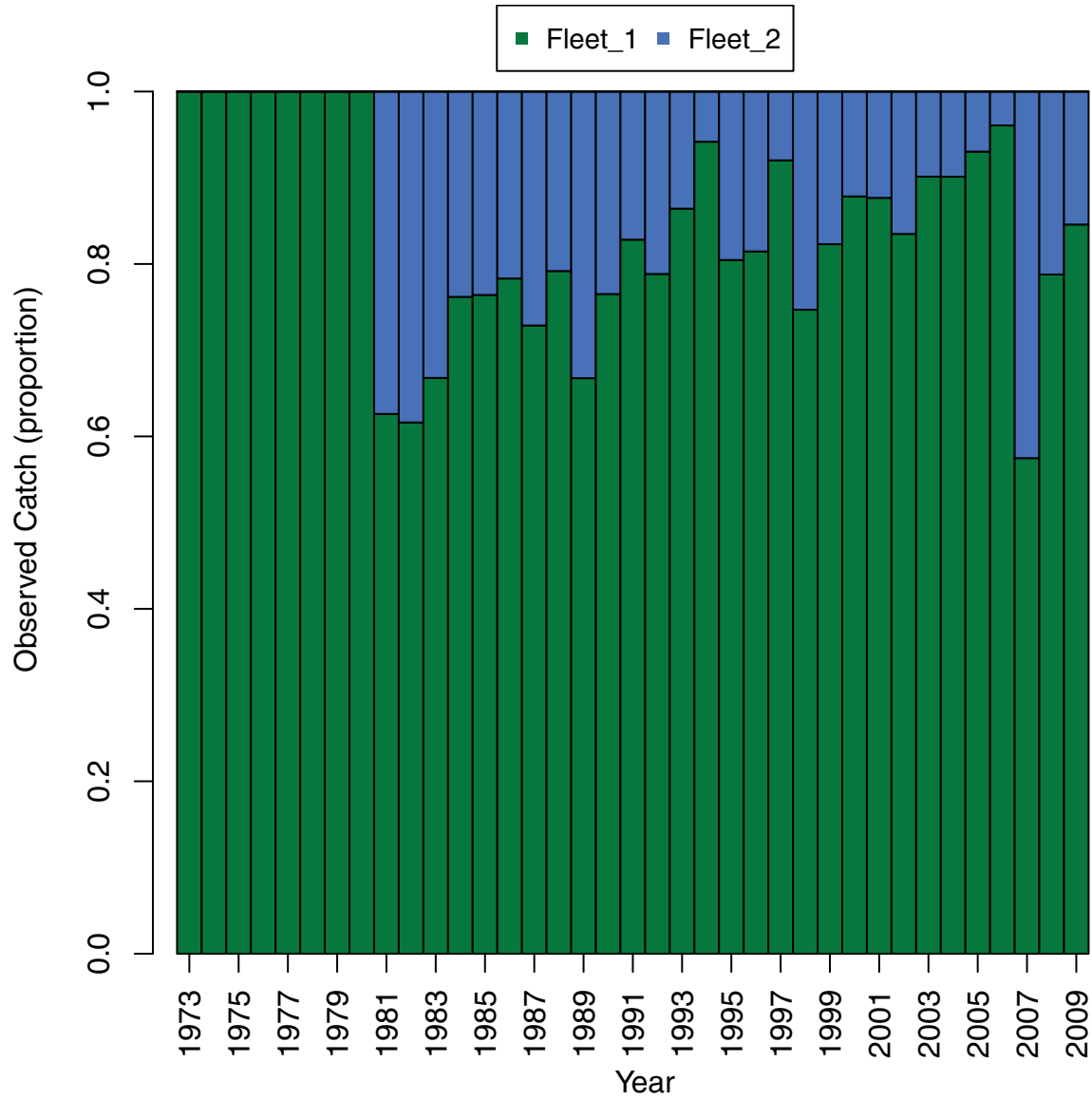


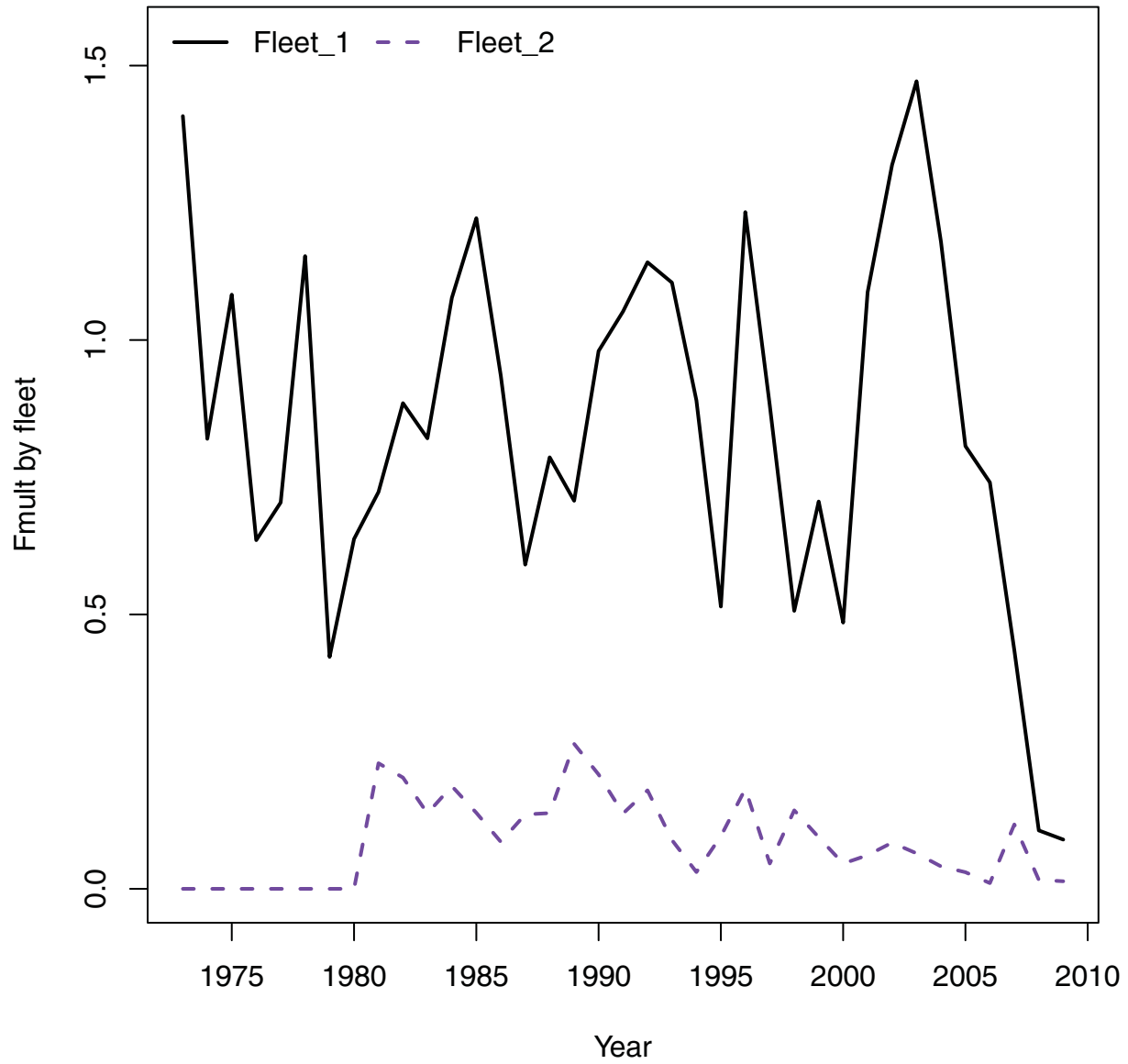


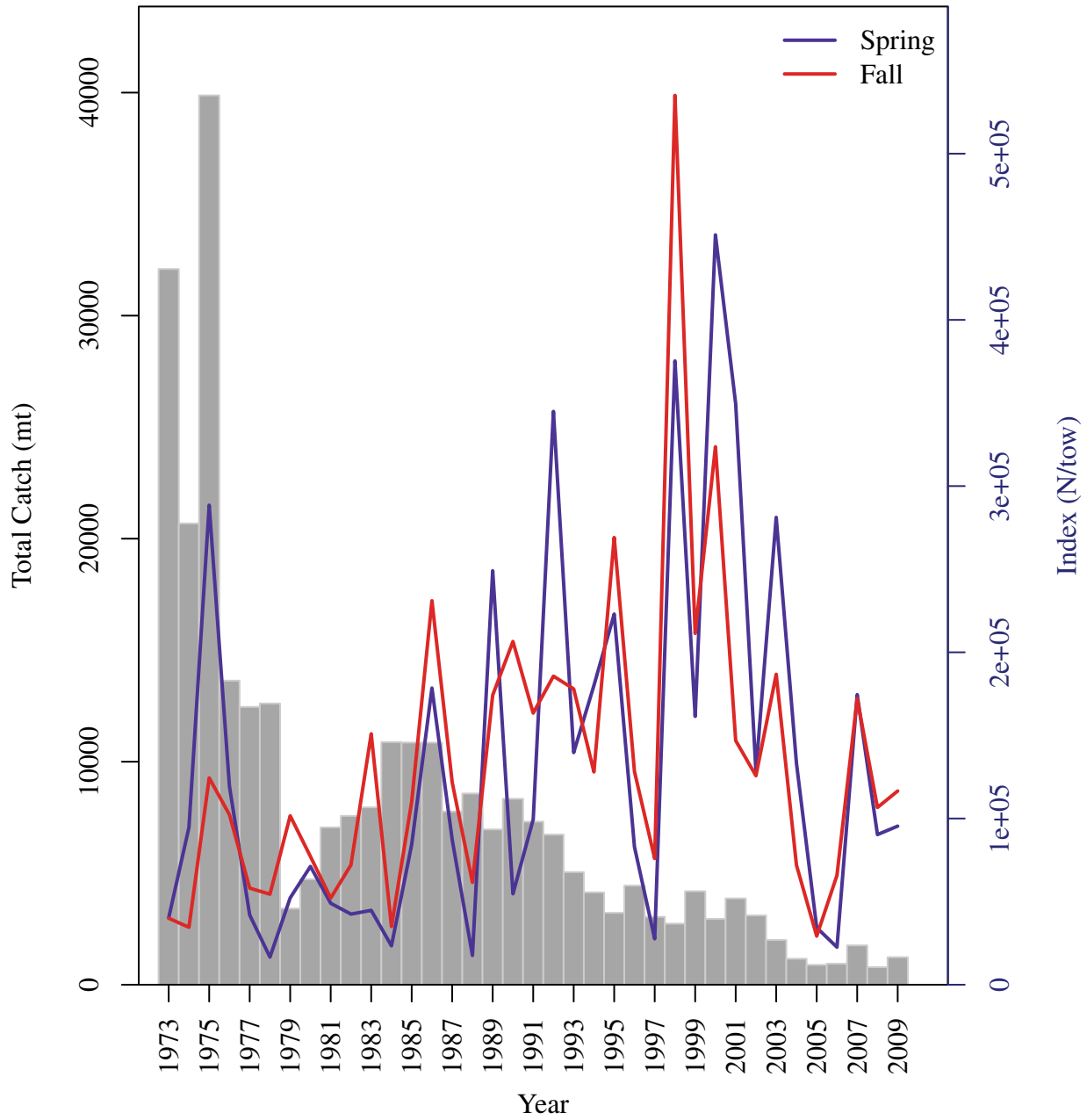


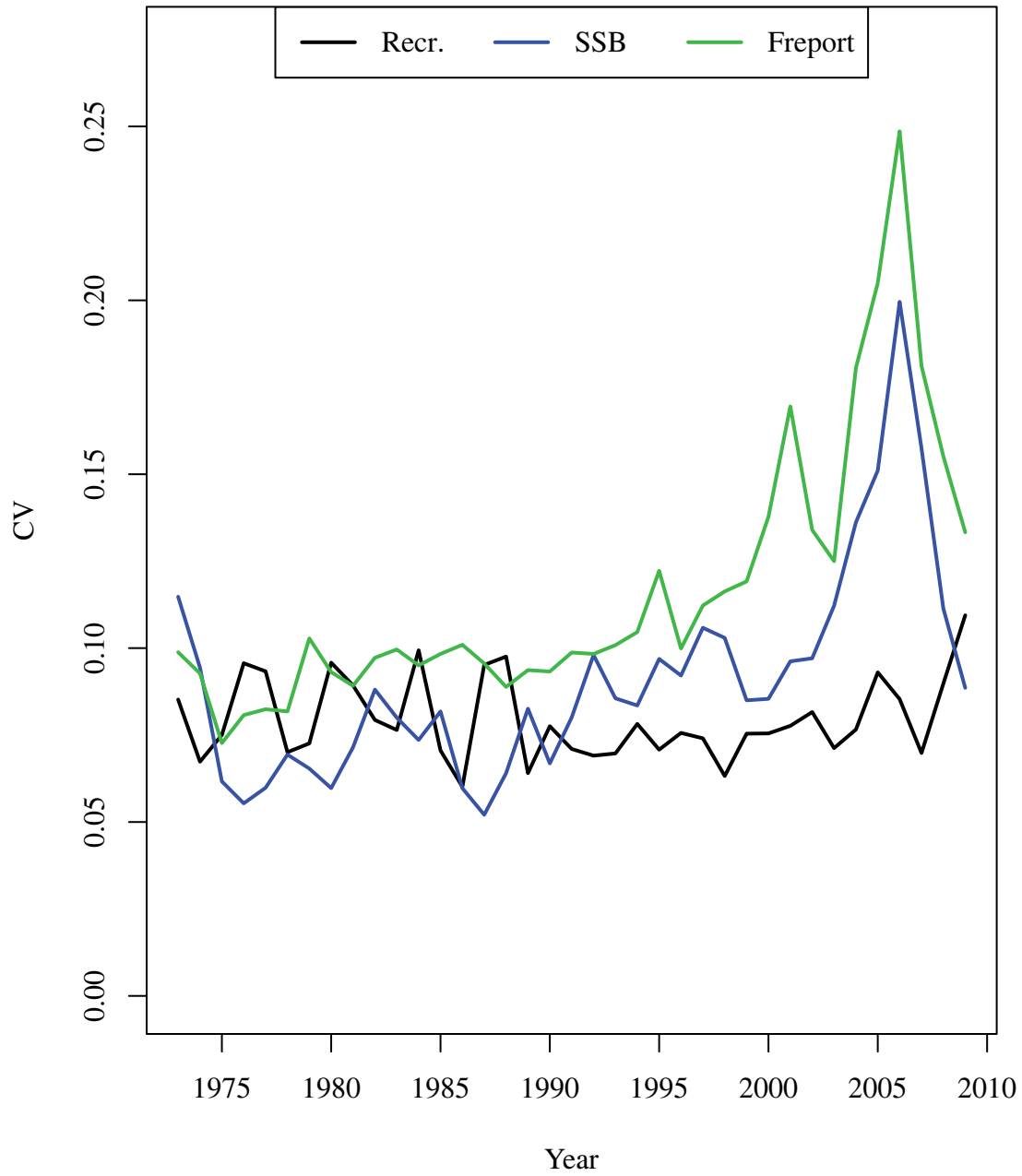


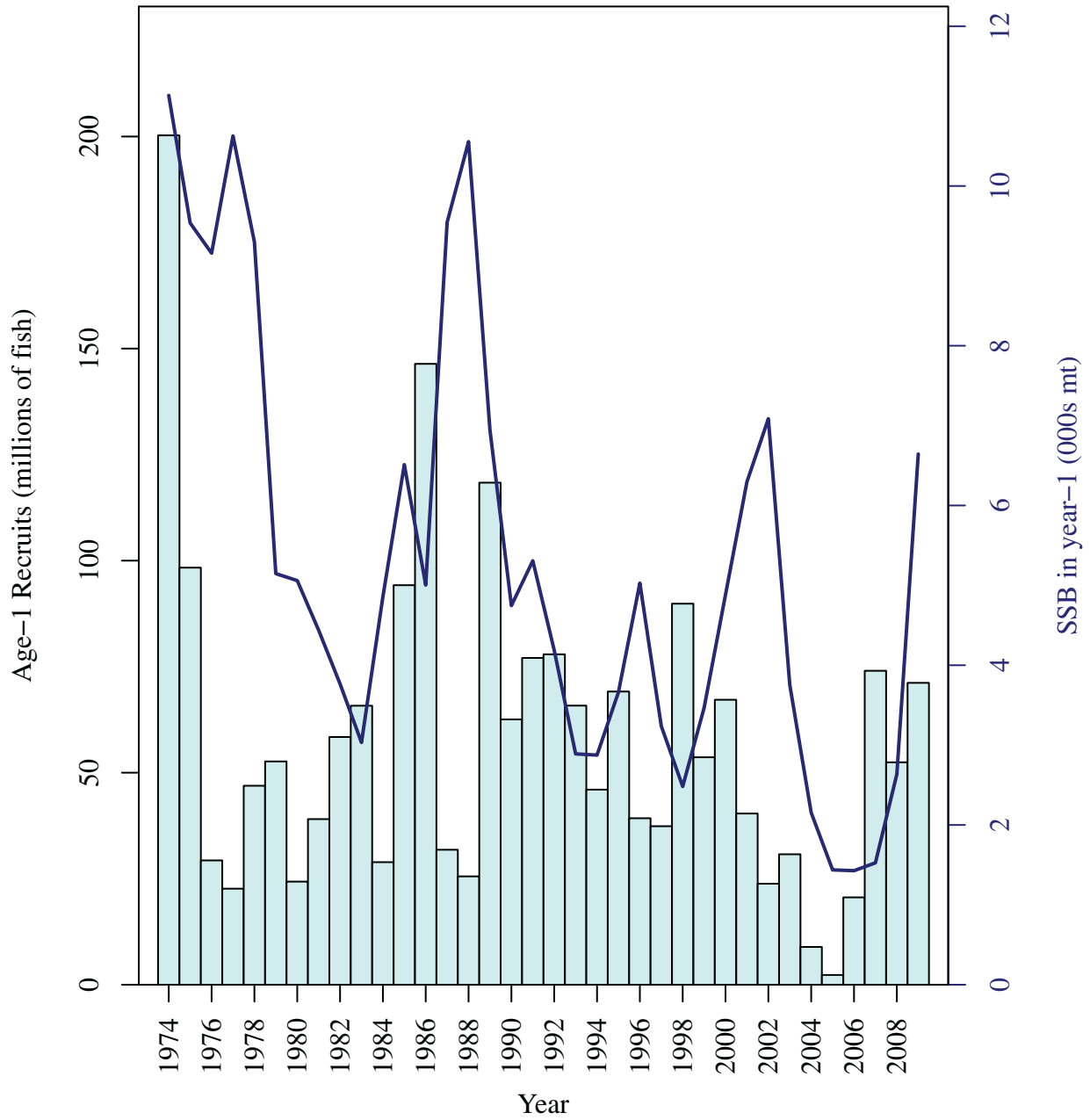












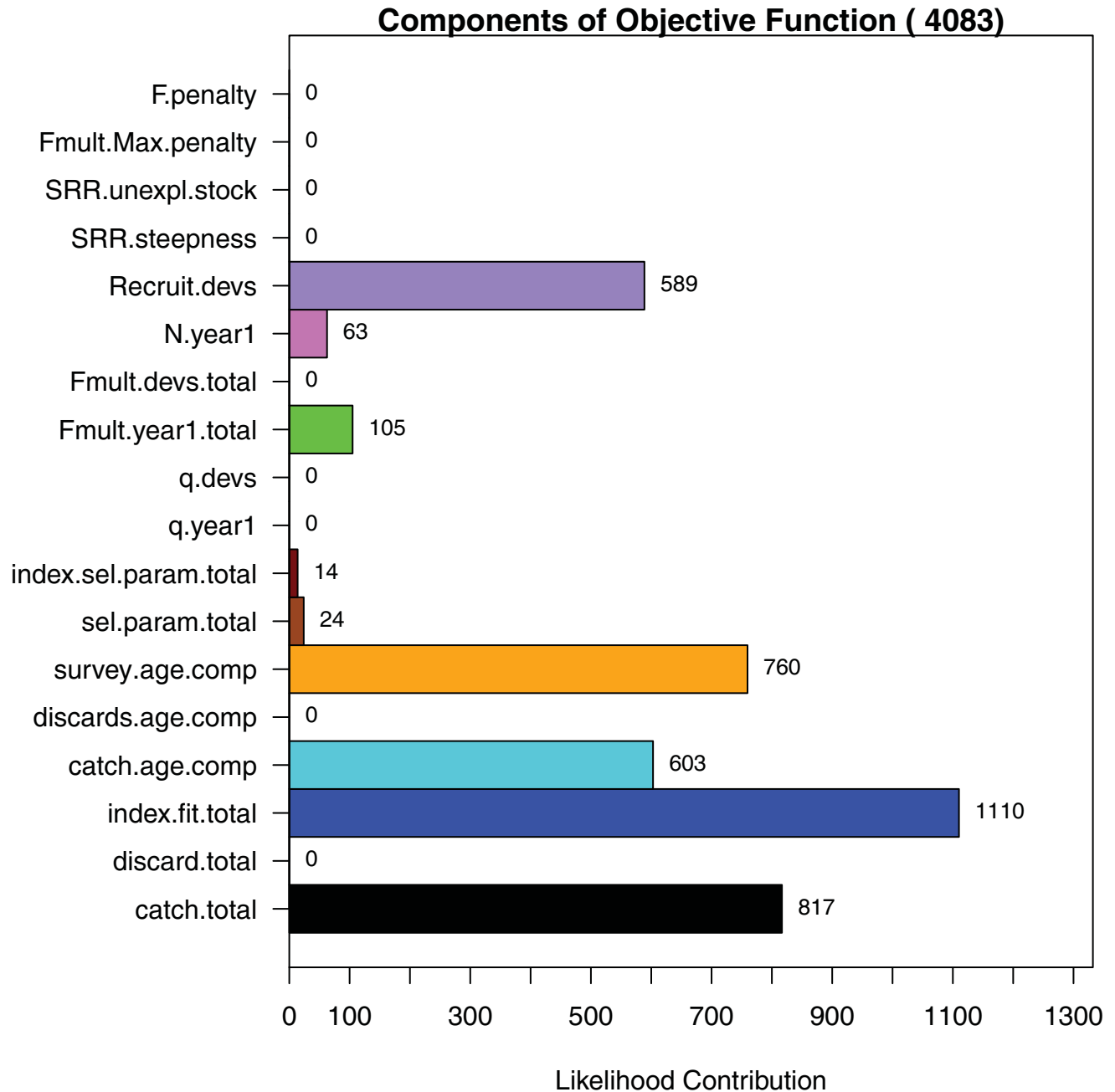
Appendix A5: North Model Consumption ASAP results $M = 0.15$ _Base run

Model Attributes:

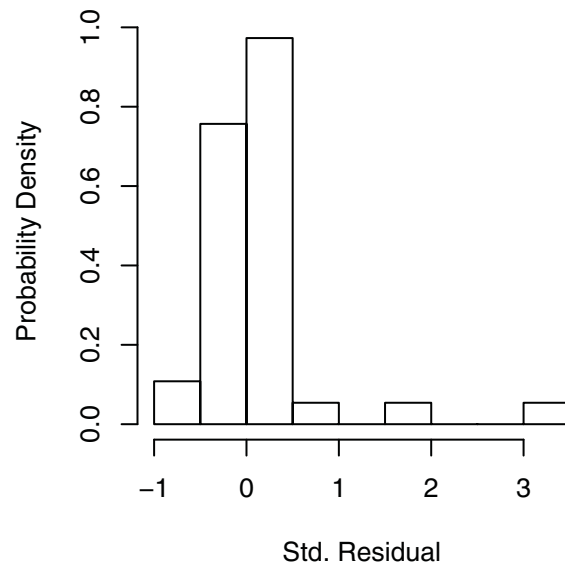
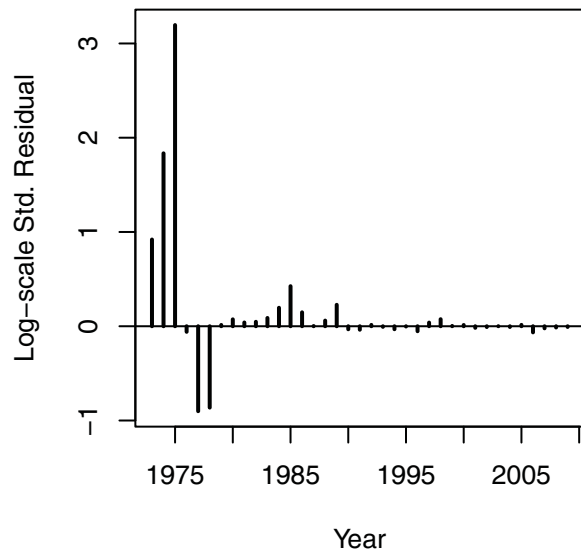
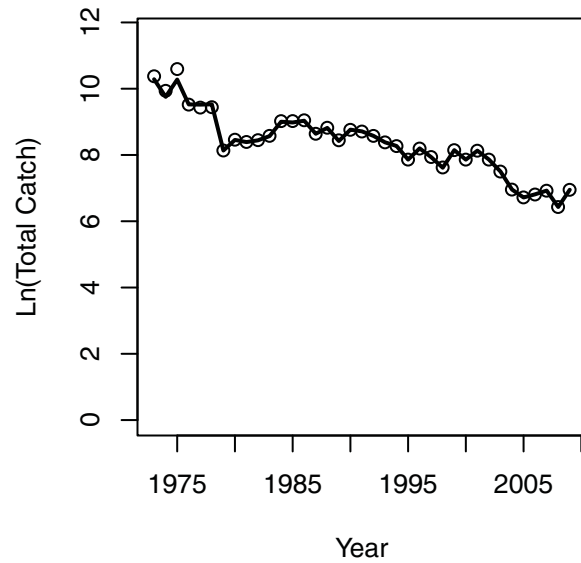
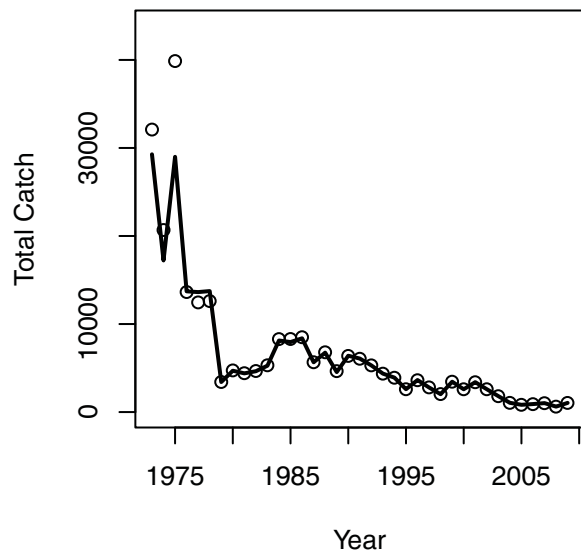
1. 3 Fleet Model
 - a. Catch : 1973-2009
 - b. Discards: 1981 – 2009
 - c. Consumption – 1973-2009

2. Fishery Selectivity (3 Block Selectivity)
 - a. Landings (1 Blocks: 1973-2009)
 - b. Discards (1 Block: 1981-2009)
 - c. Consumption (Double Logistic Functional Form)

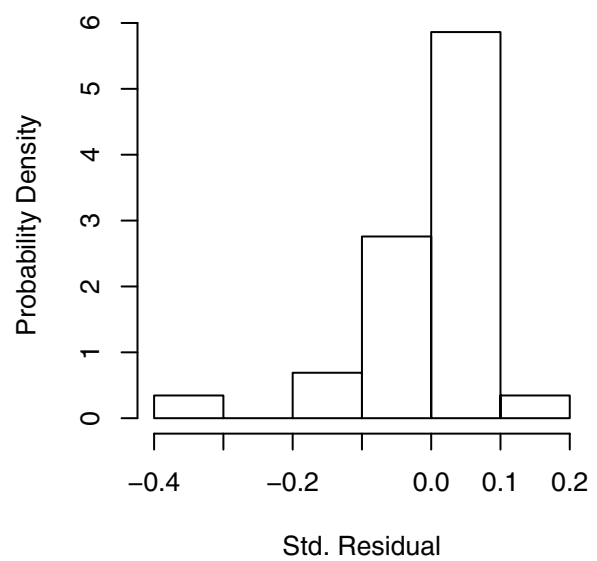
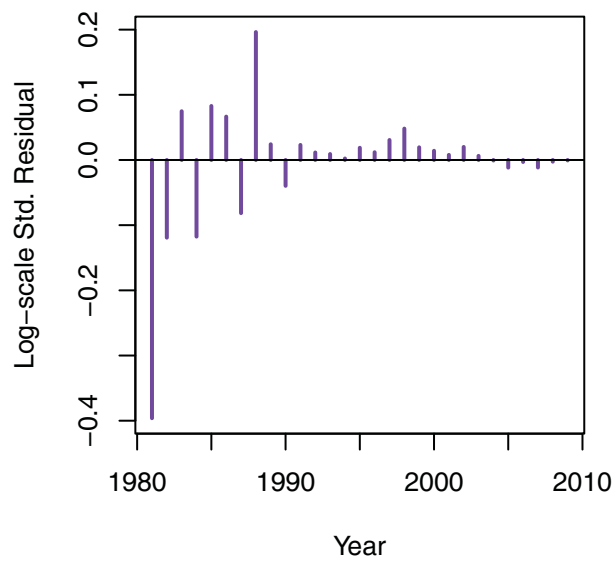
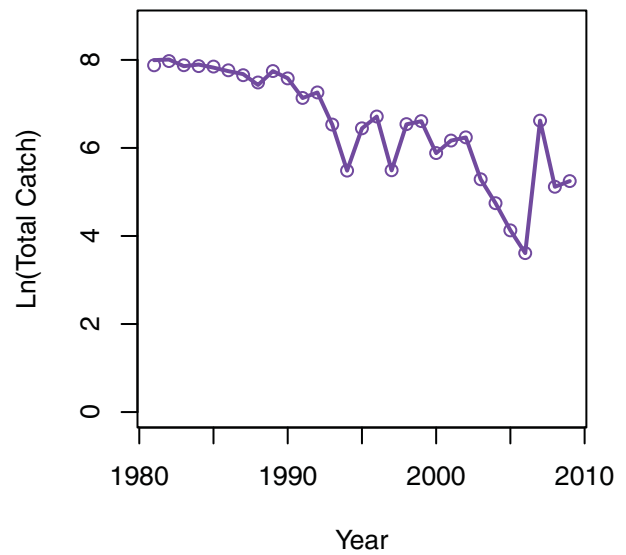
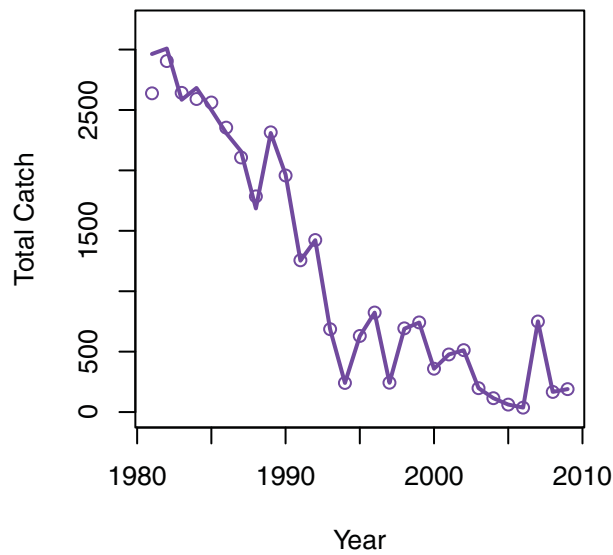
3. Survey Selectivity (Fixed 100% at age 2 and freely estimating older ages (3+))



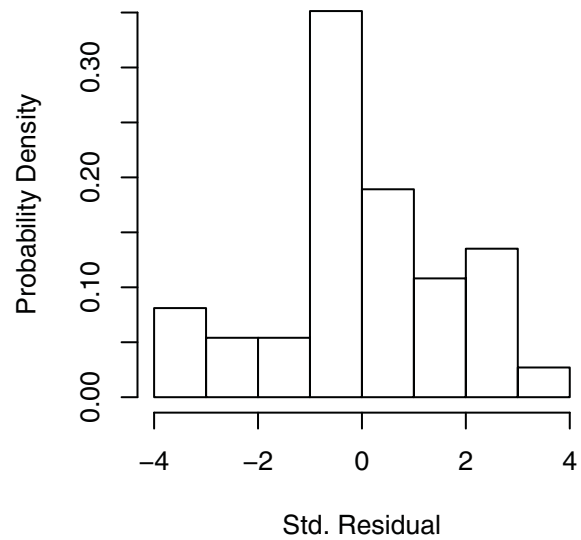
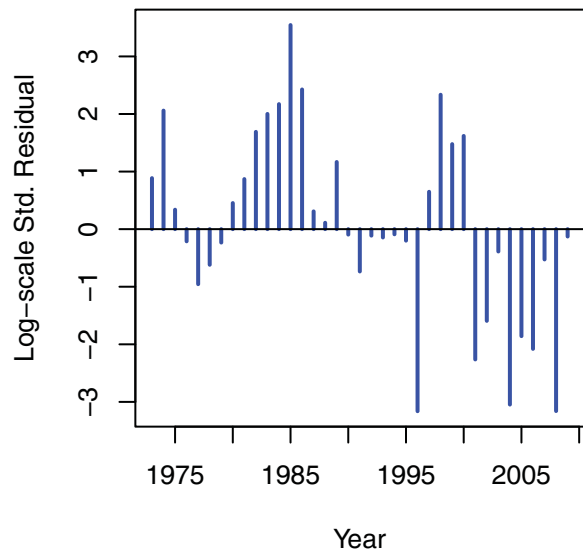
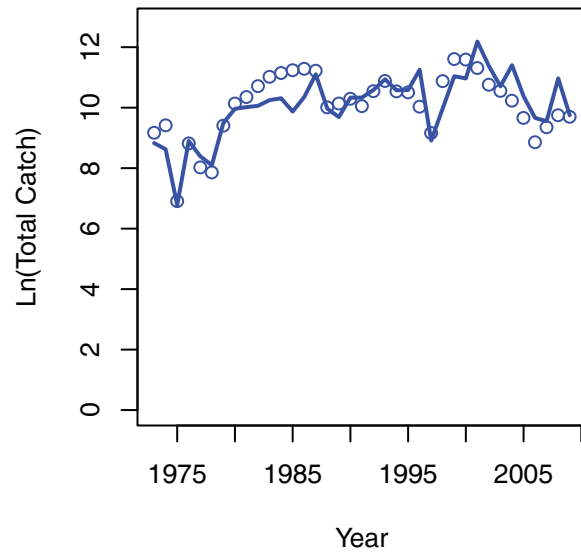
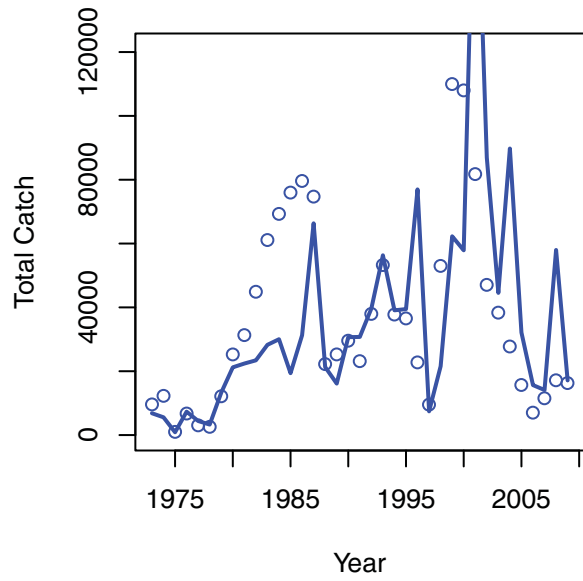
Fleet 1 Landings (Comm)

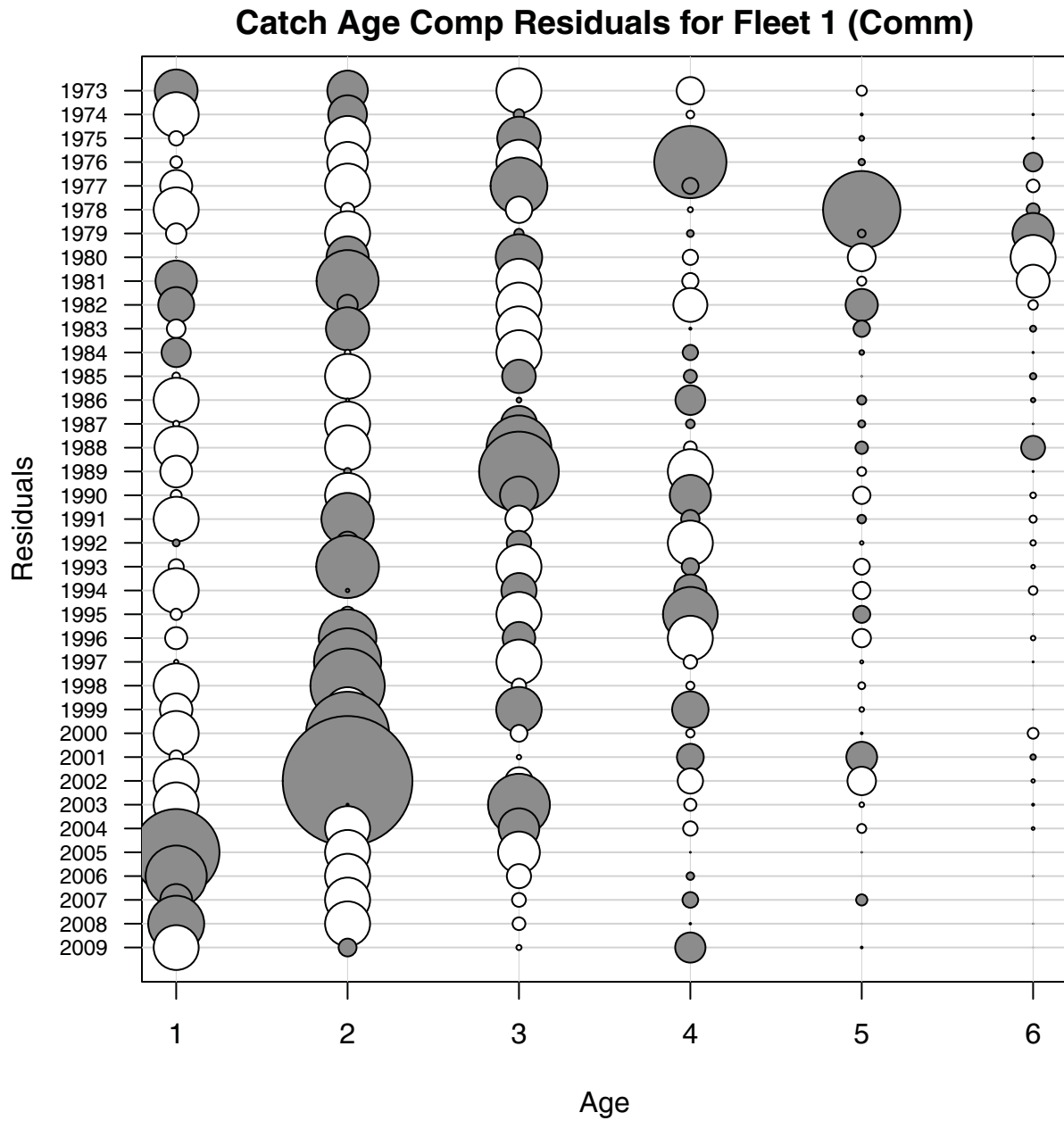


Fleet 2 Landings (disc)

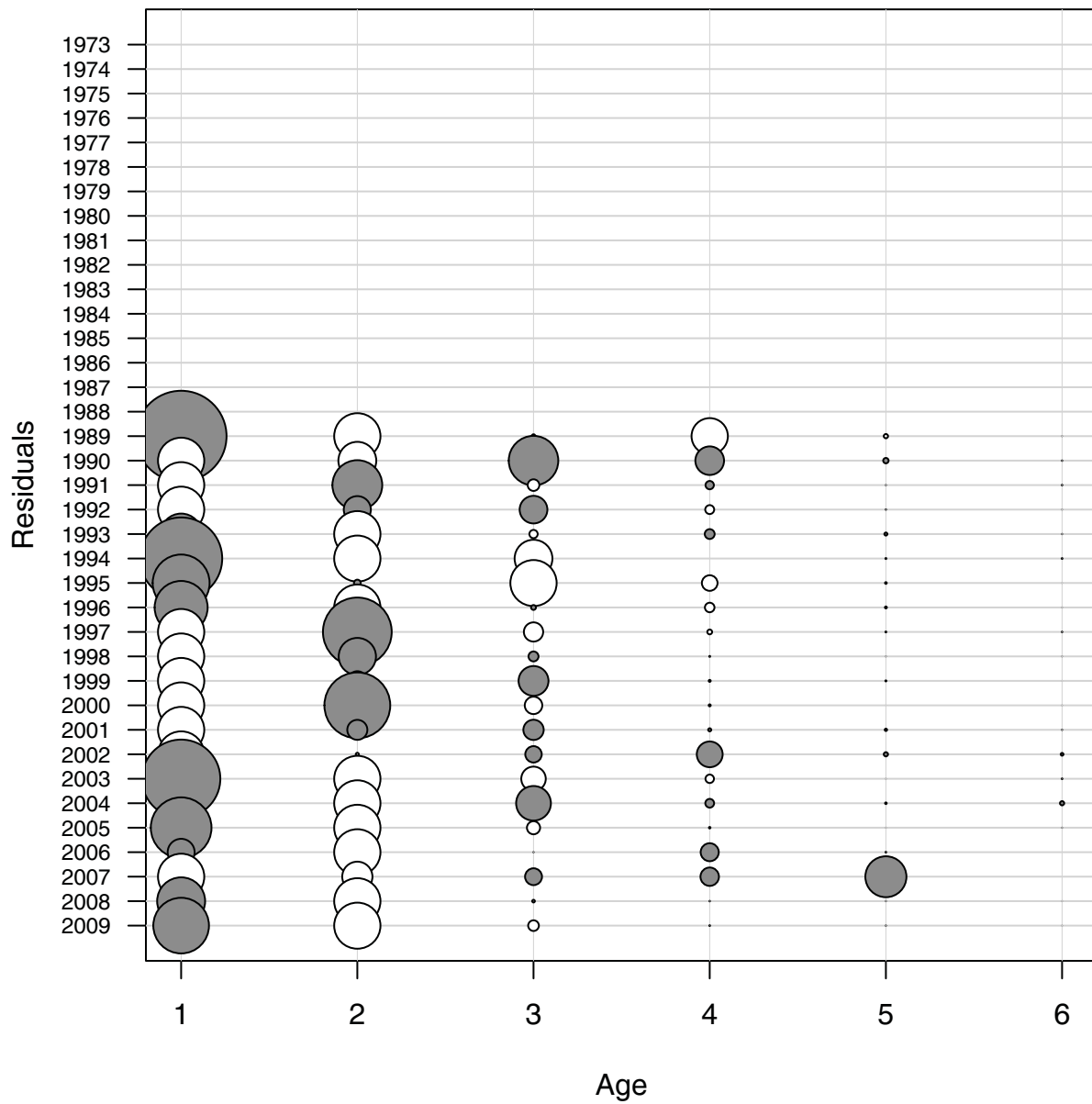


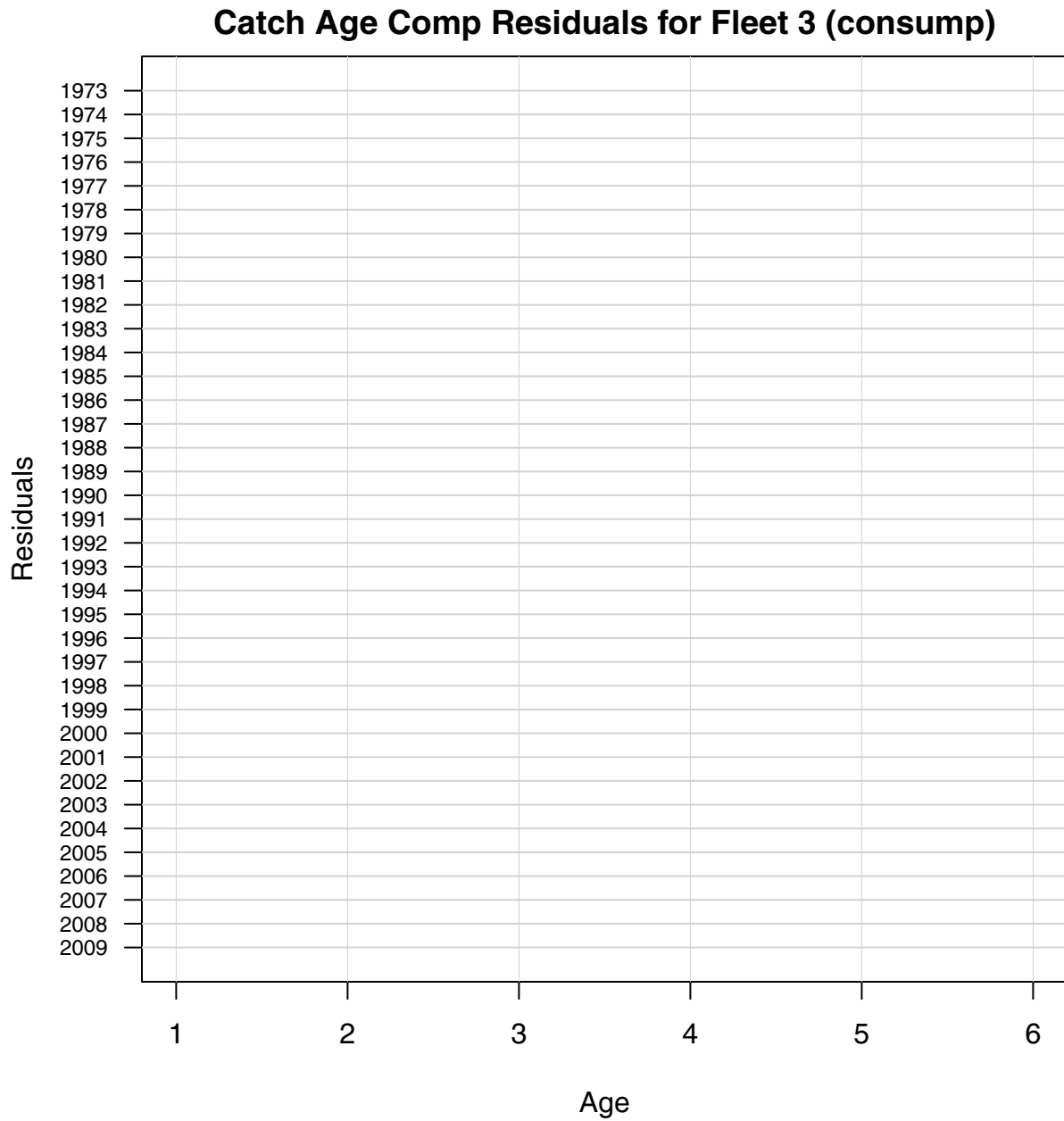
Fleet 3 Landings (consump)

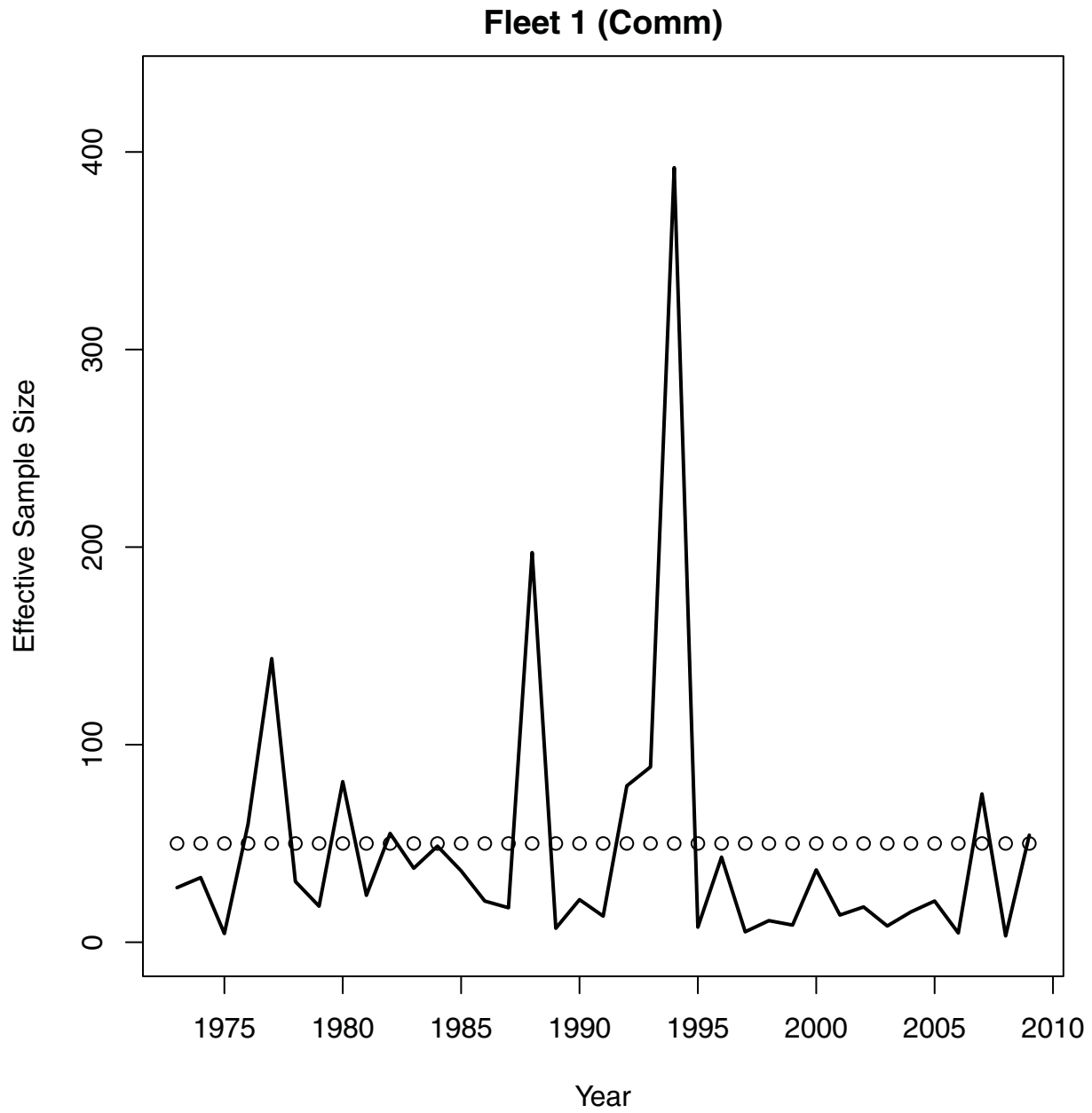


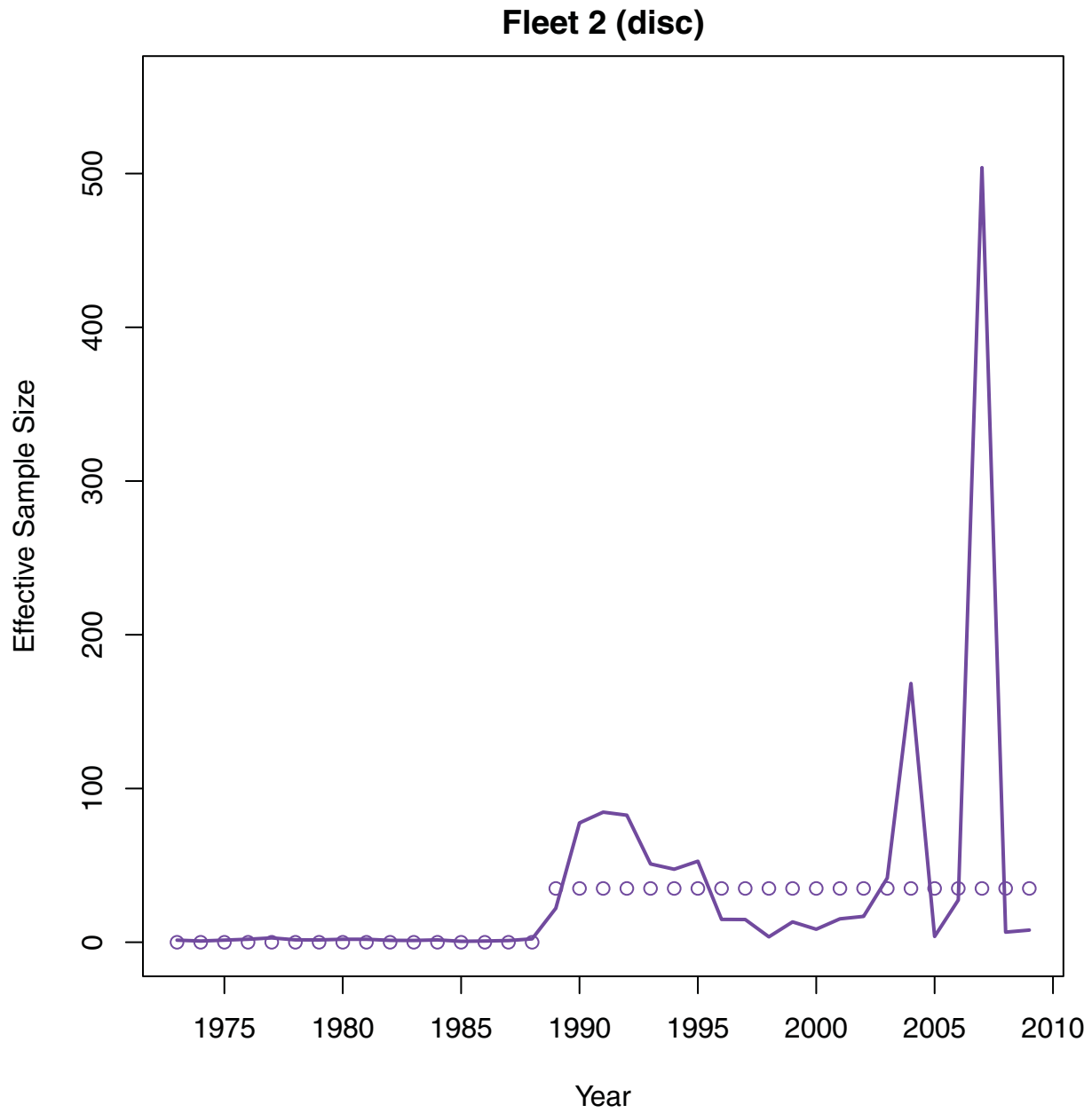


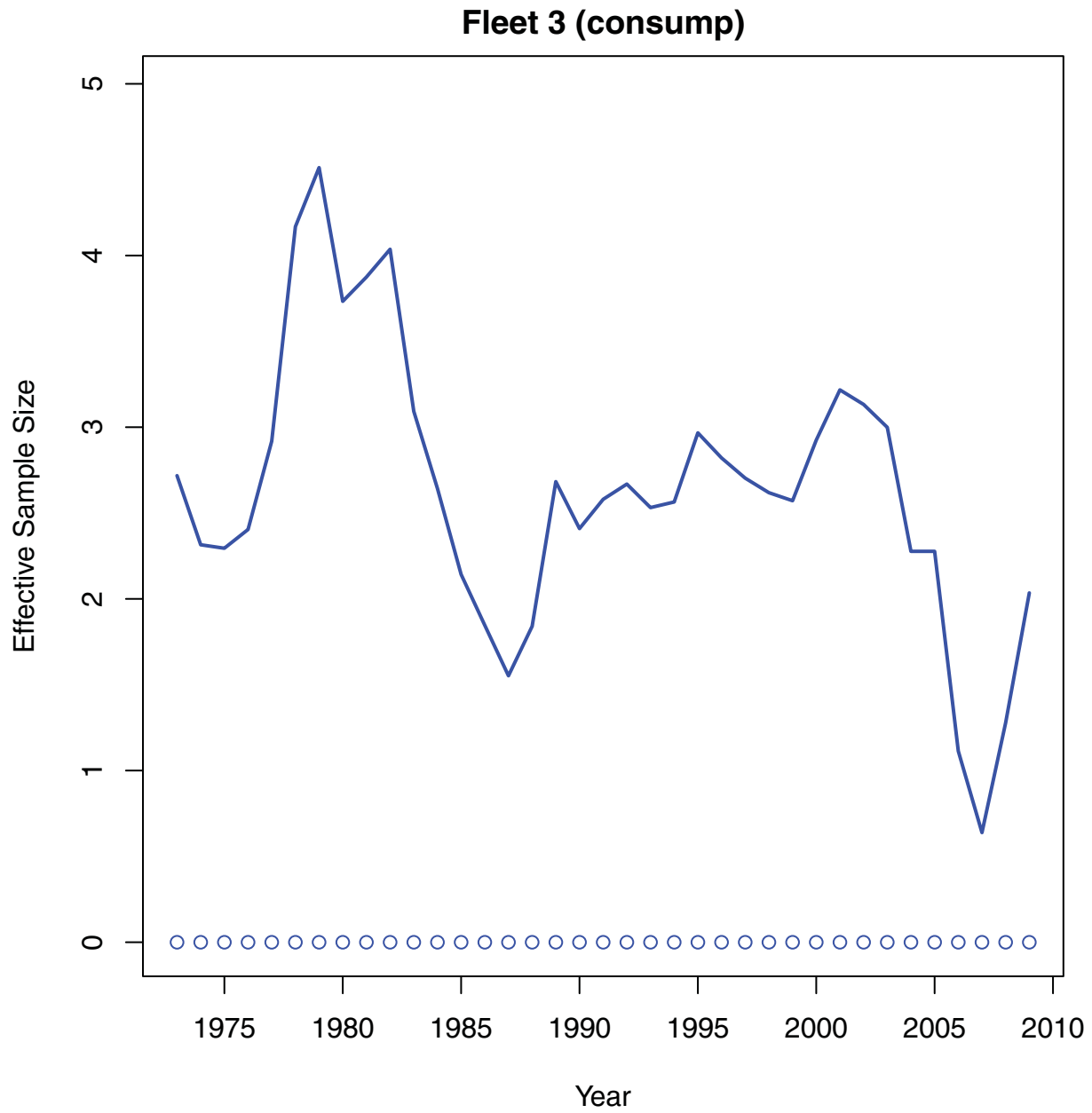
Catch Age Comp Residuals for Fleet 2 (disc)

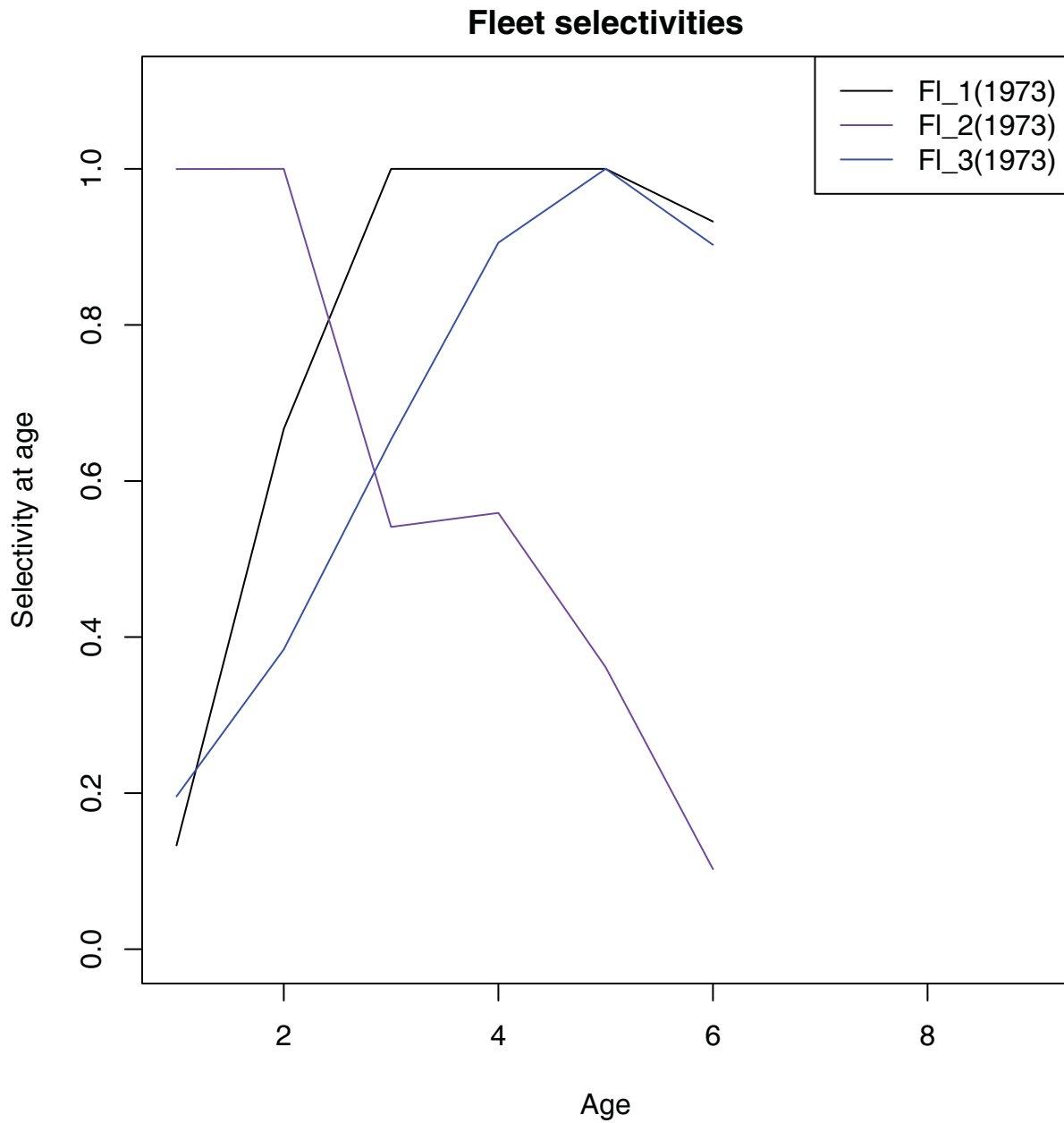




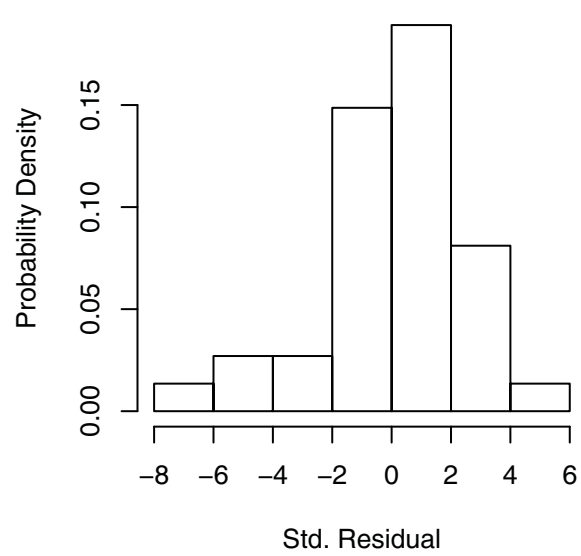
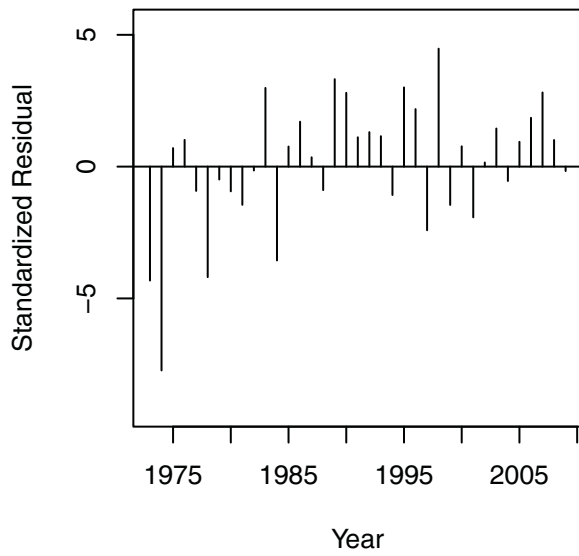
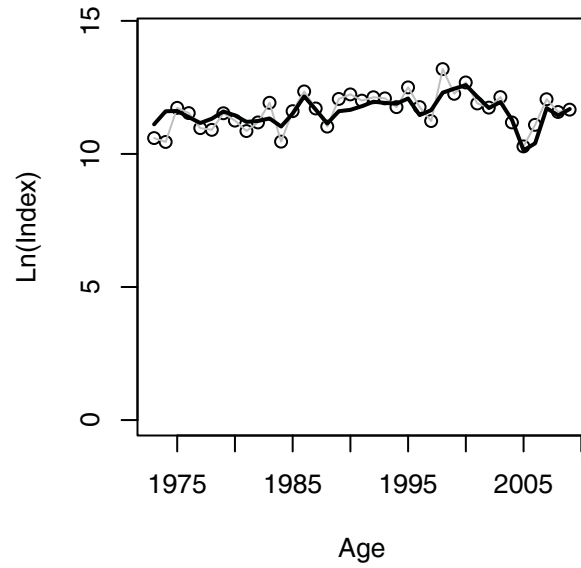
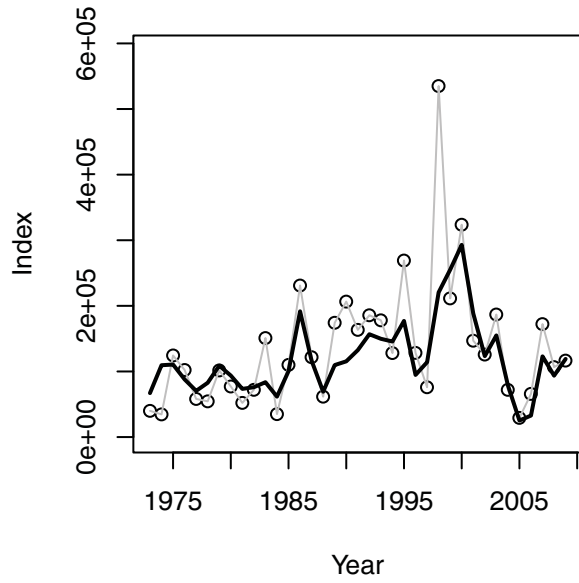




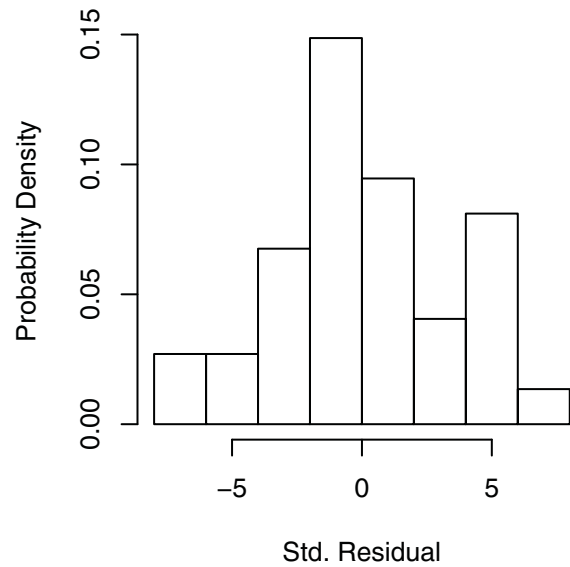
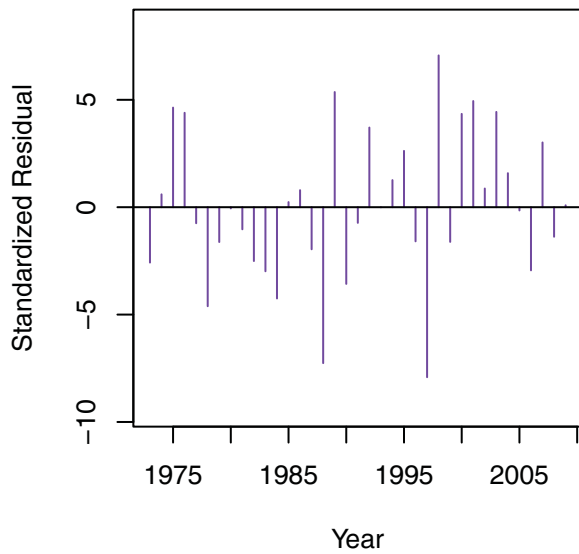
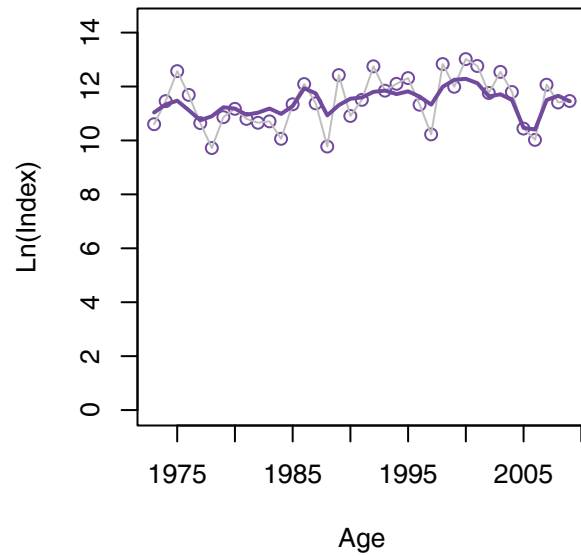
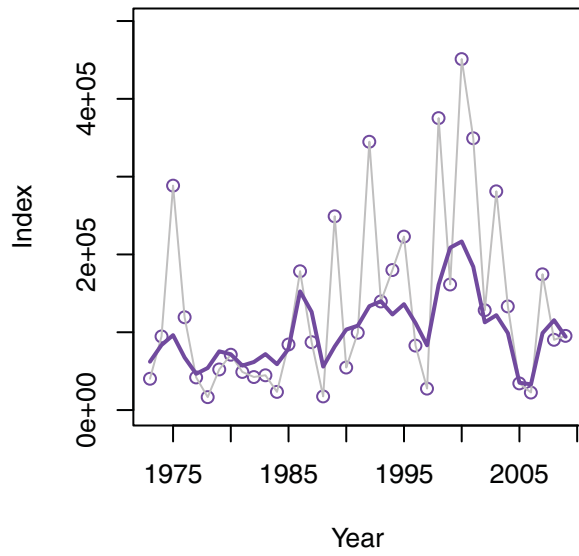




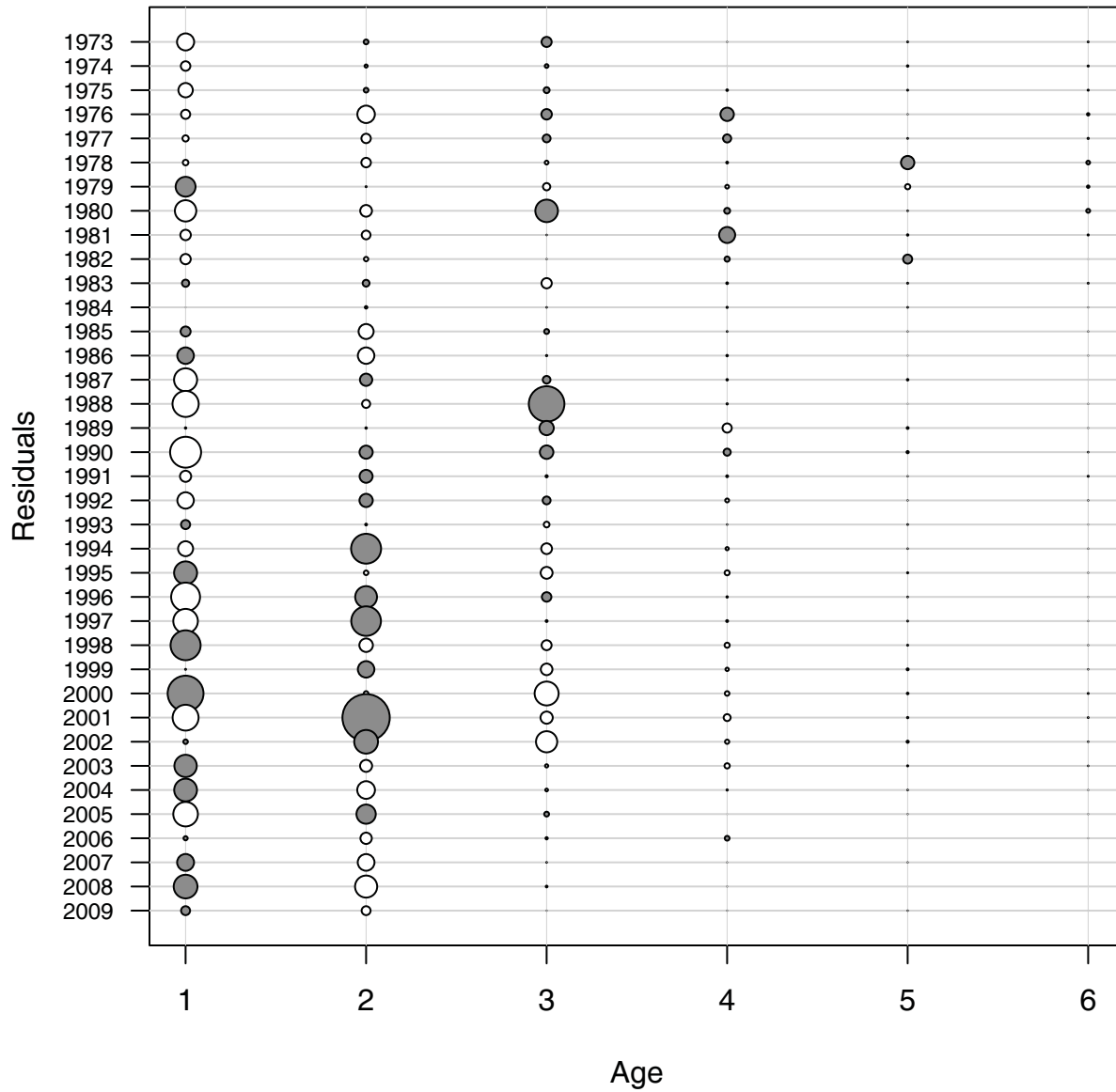
Index 1



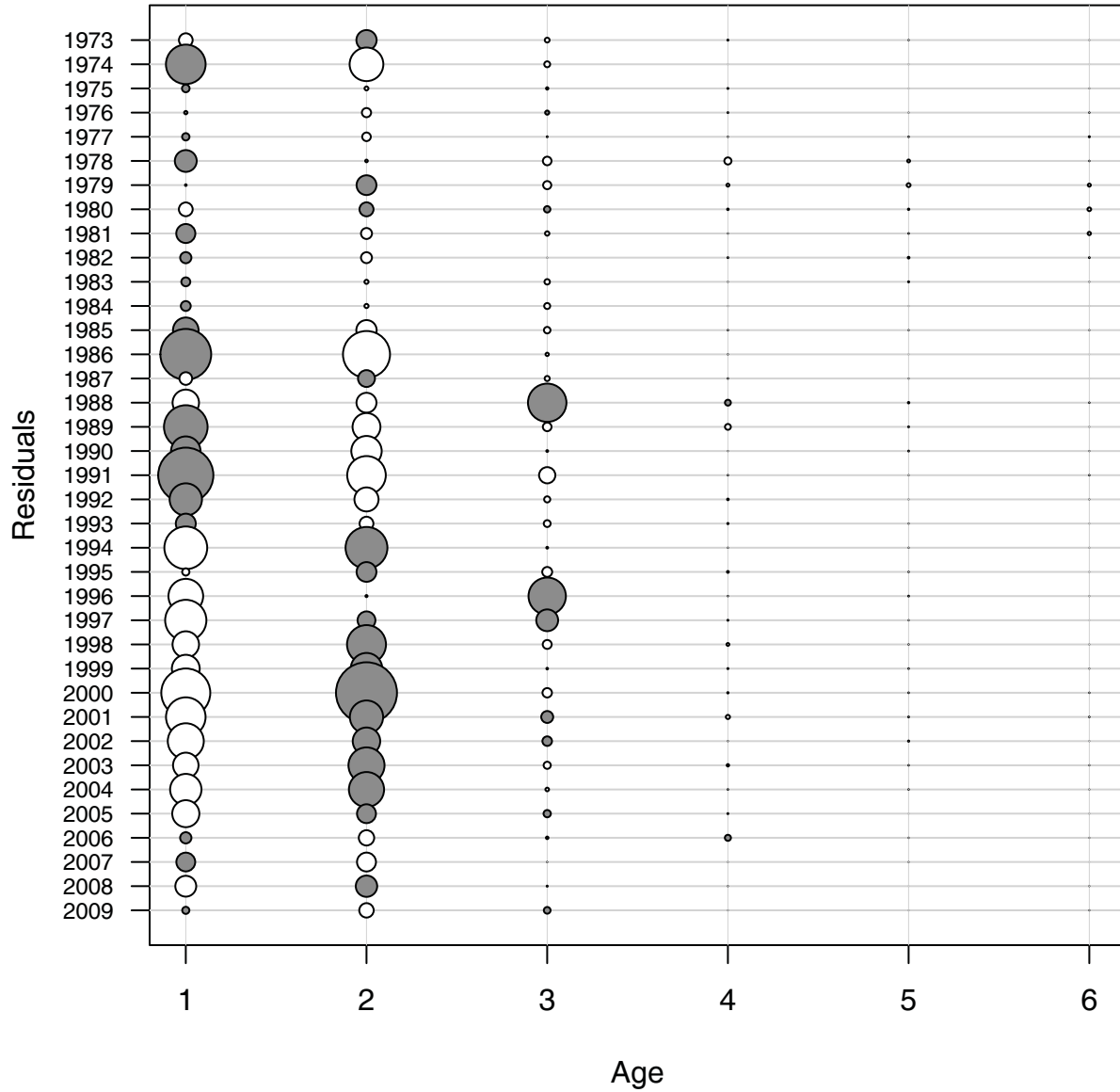
Index 2



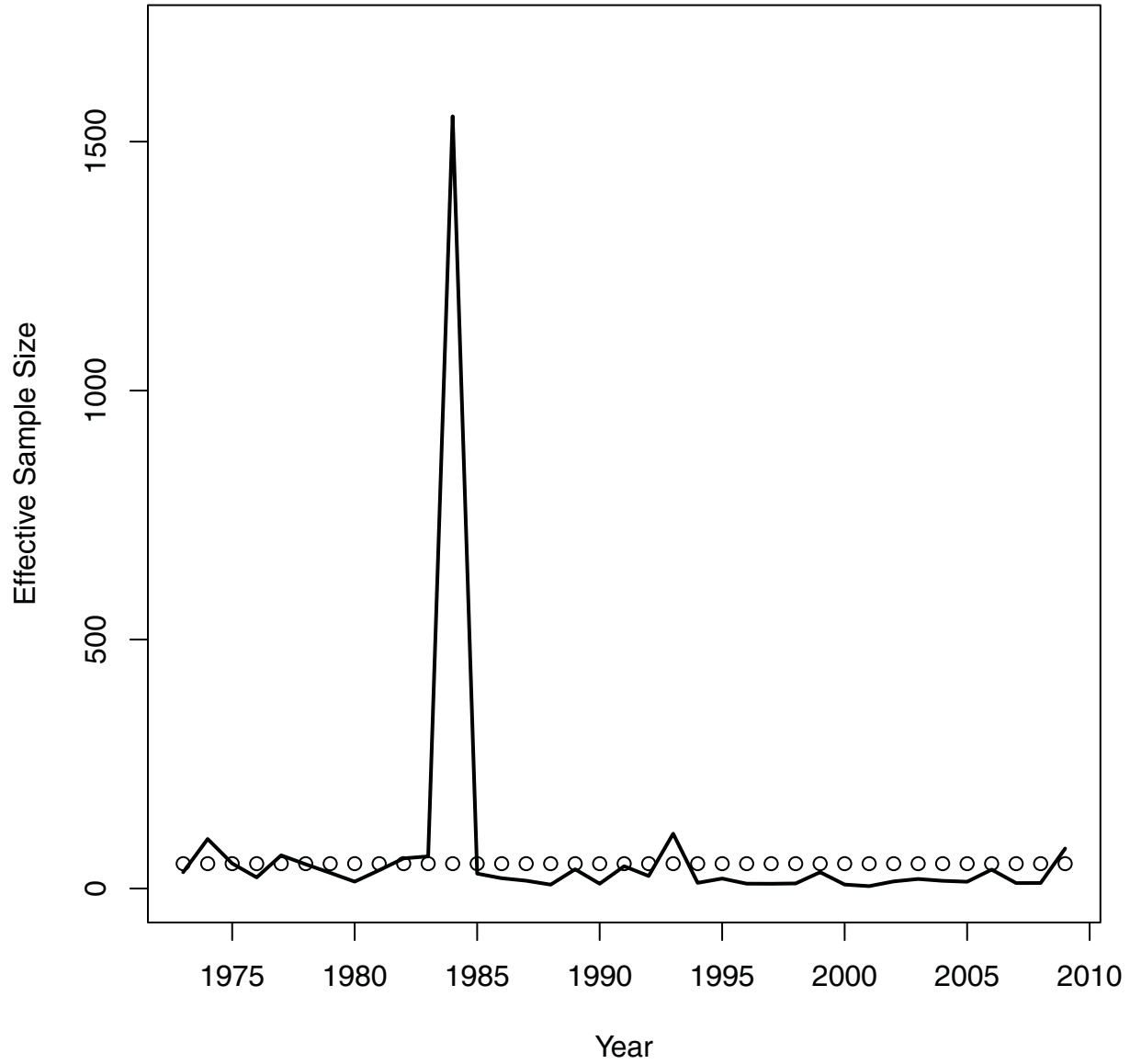
Age Comp Residuals for Index 1



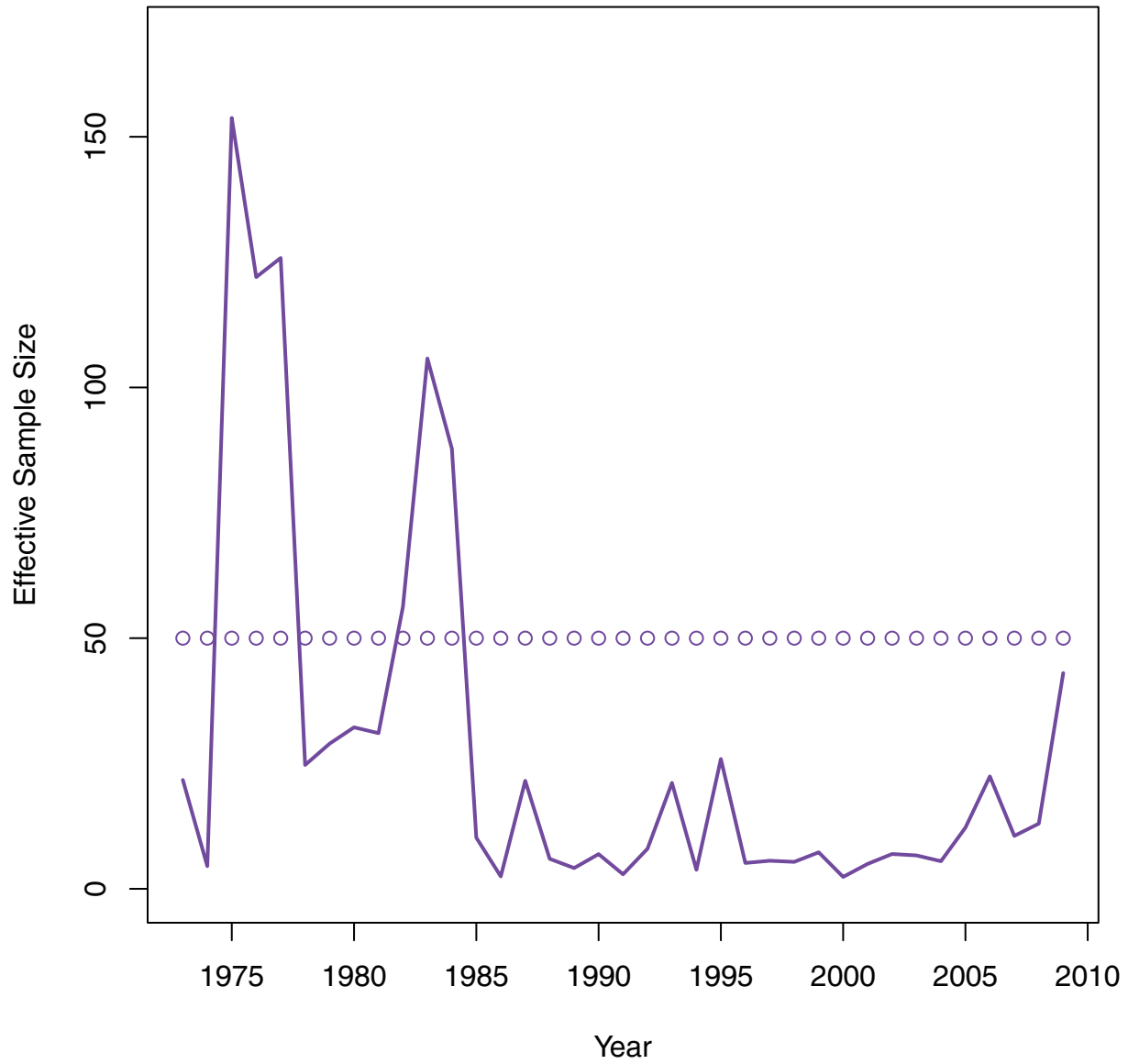
Age Comp Residuals for Index 2

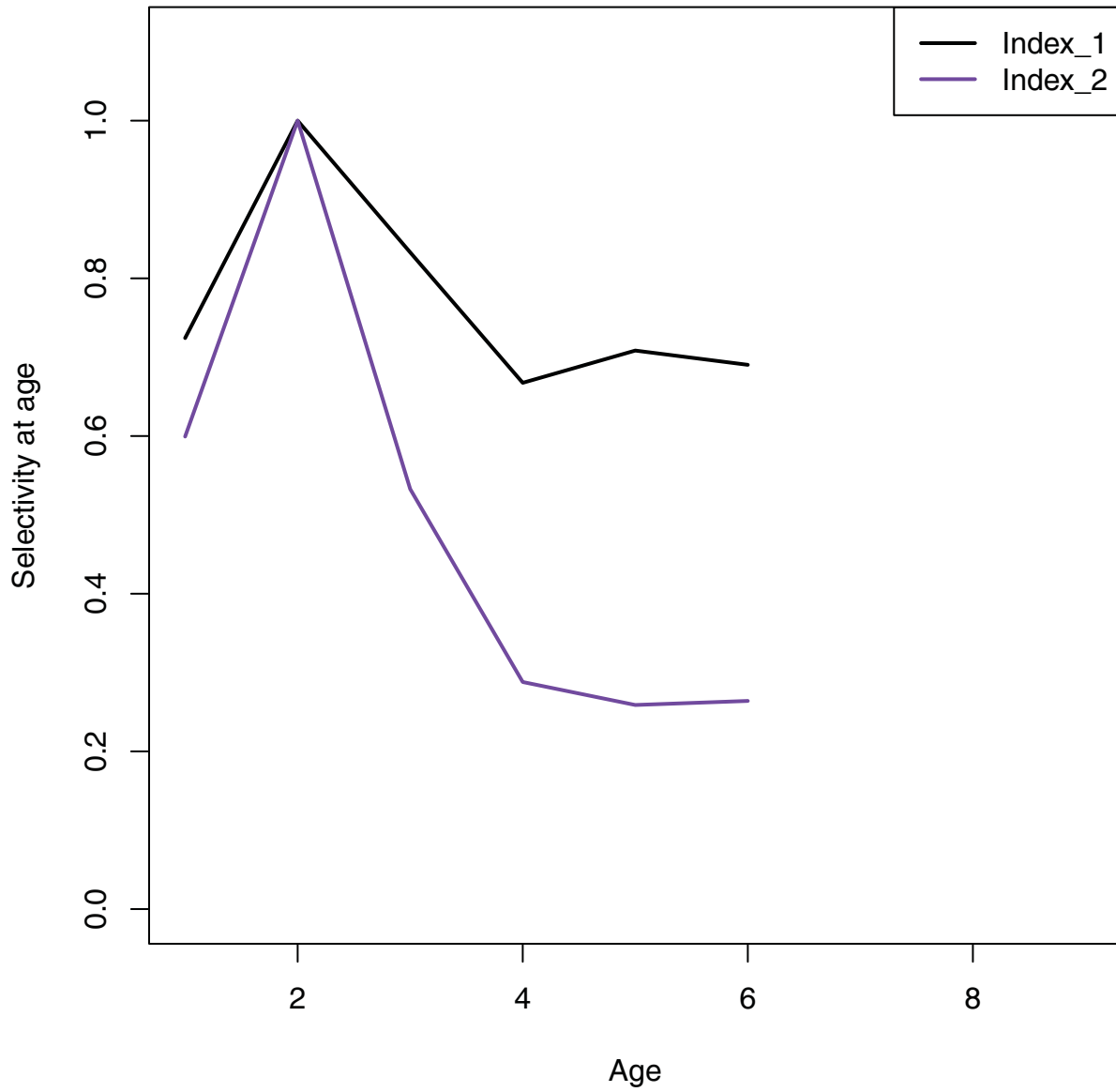


Index 1

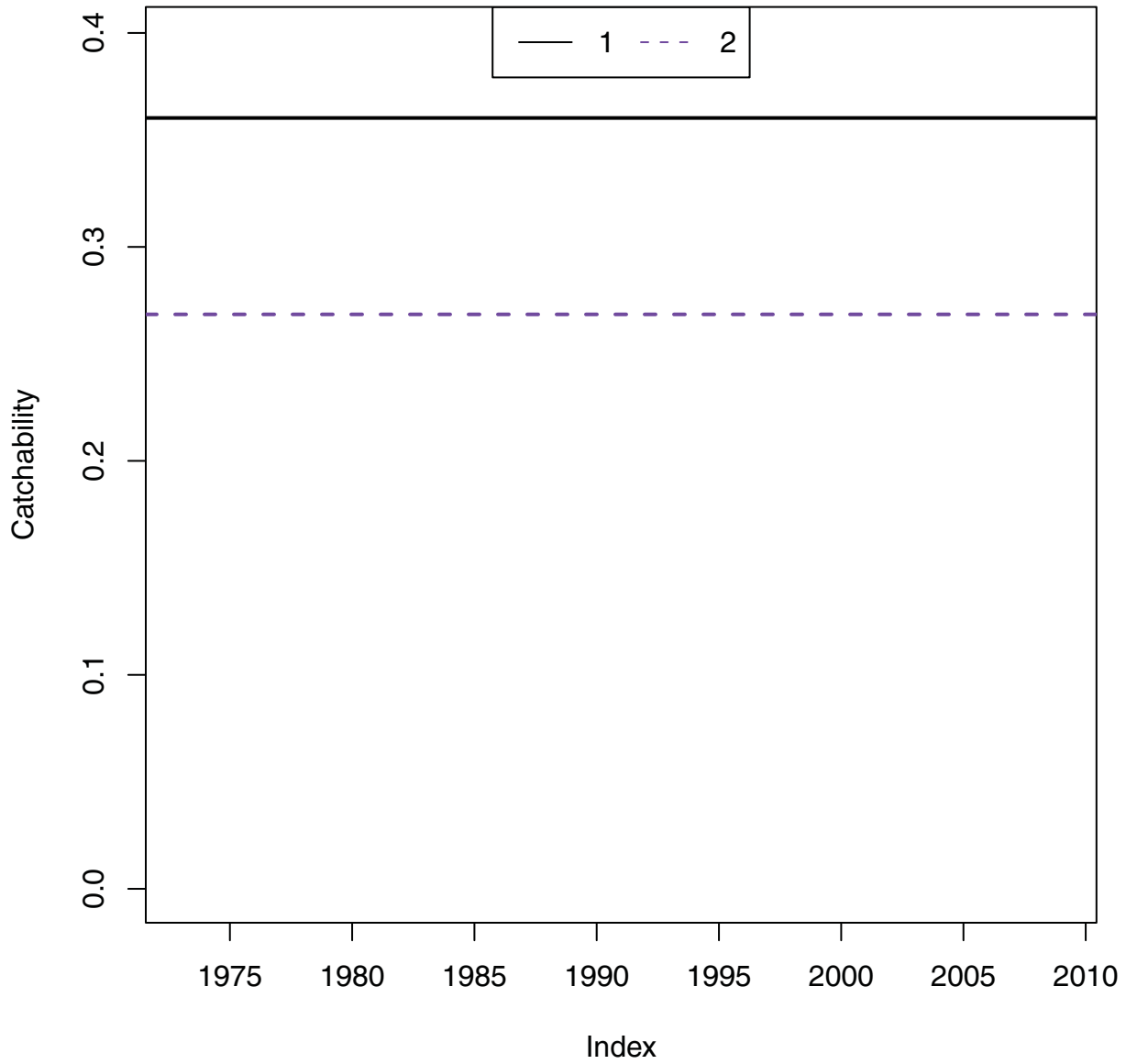


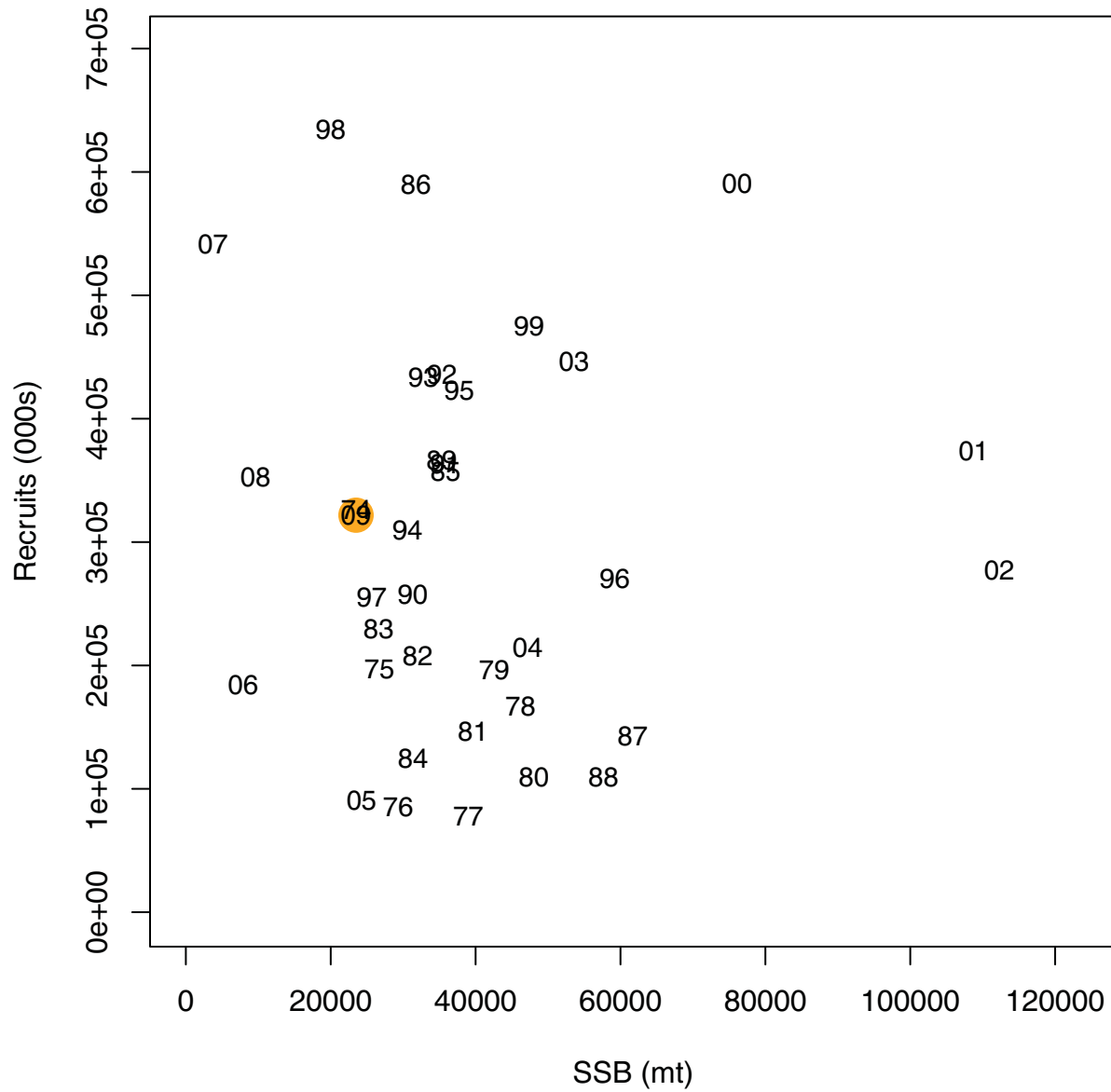
Index 2

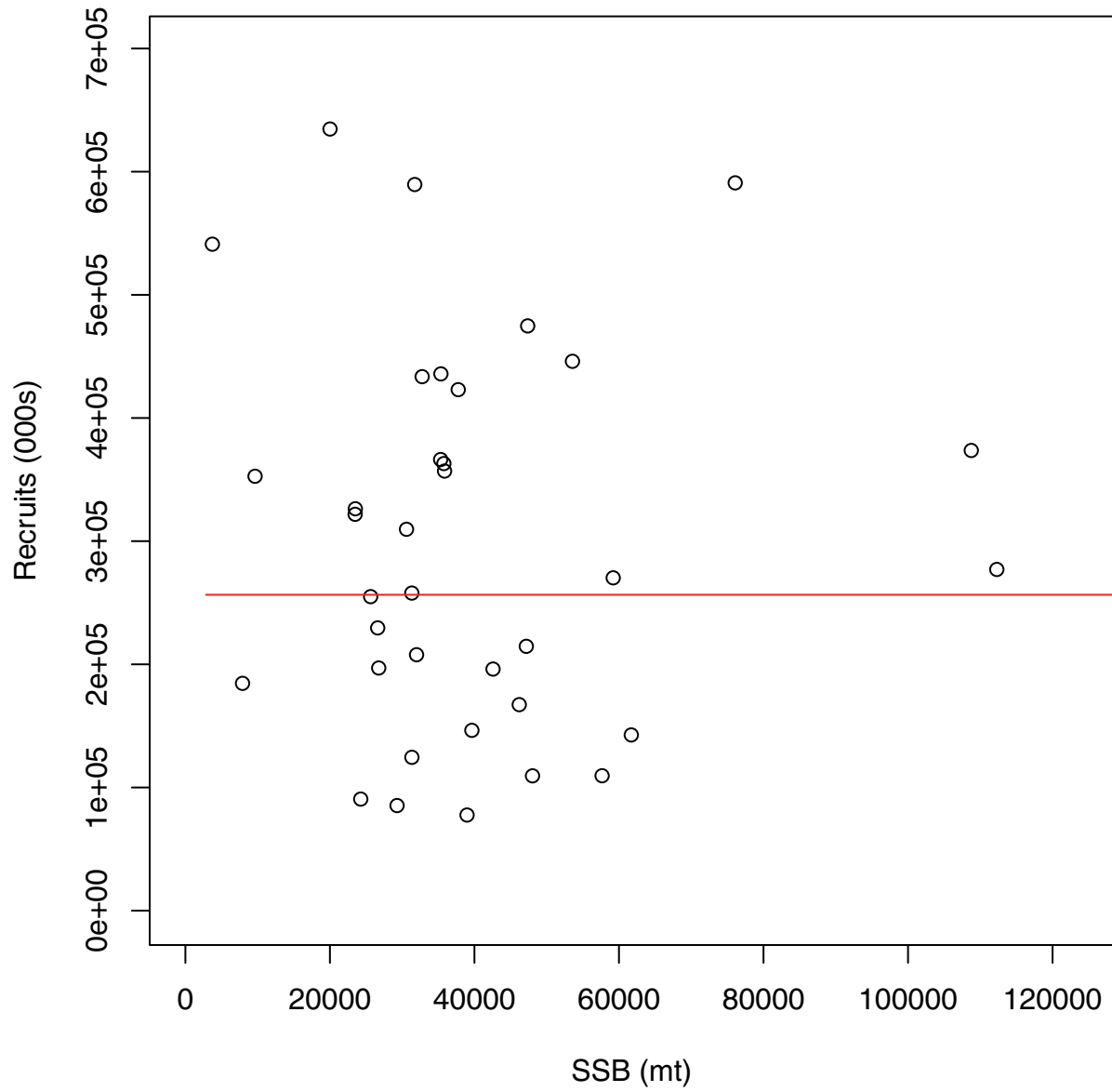


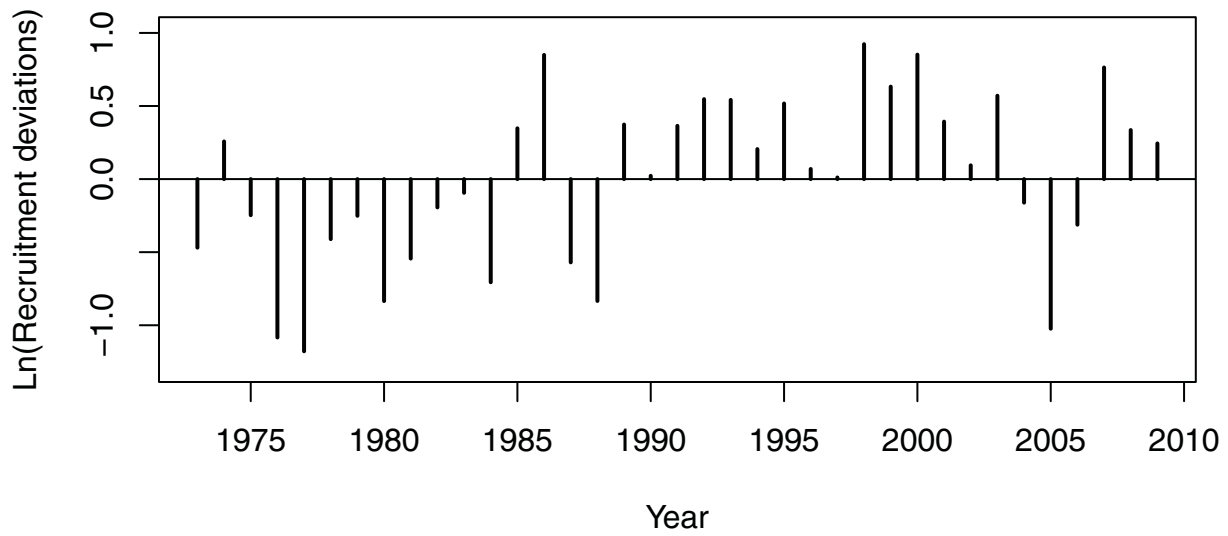
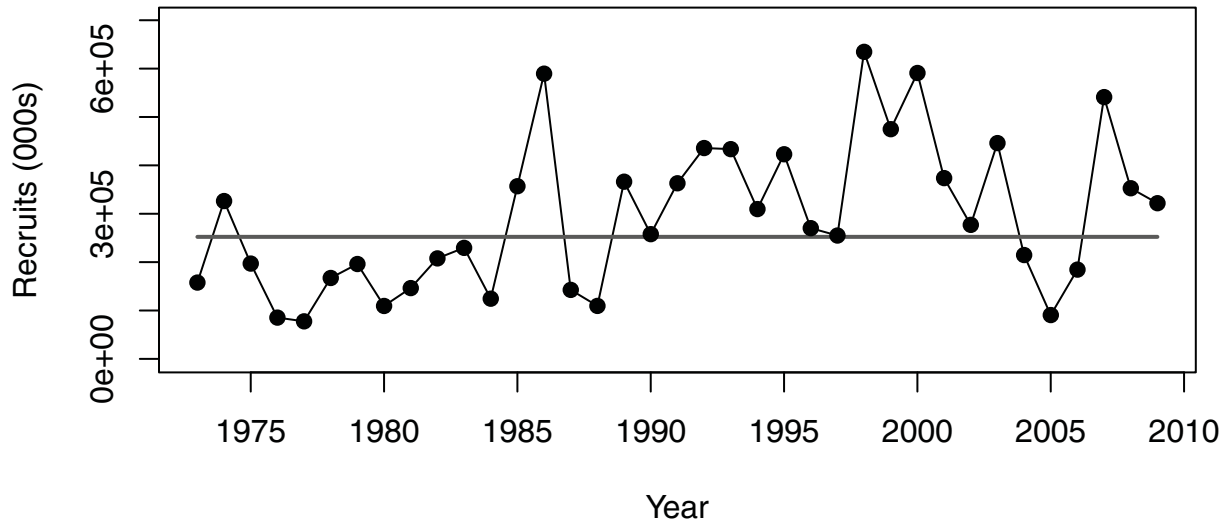


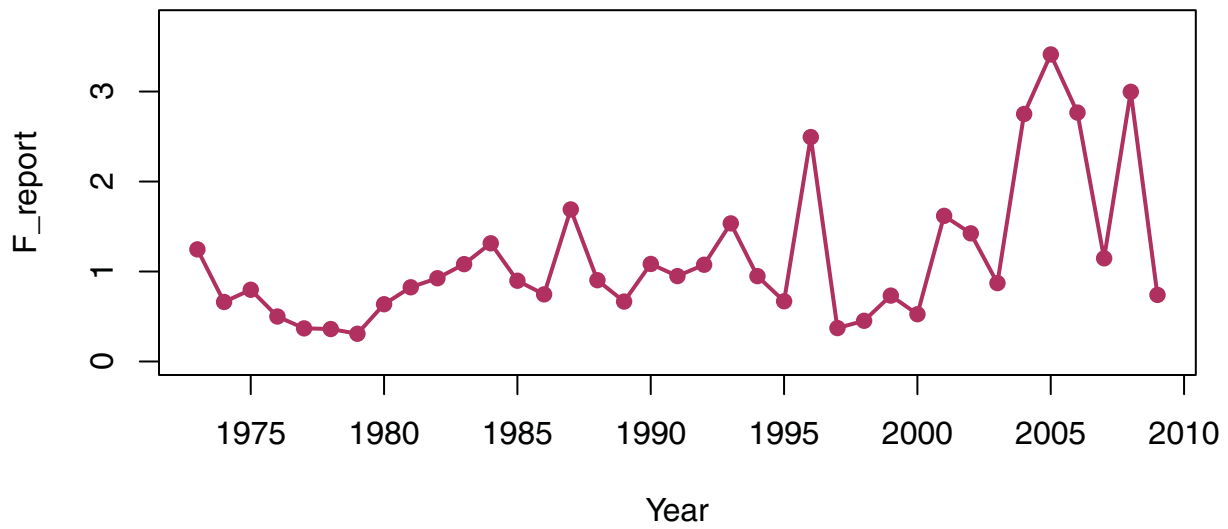
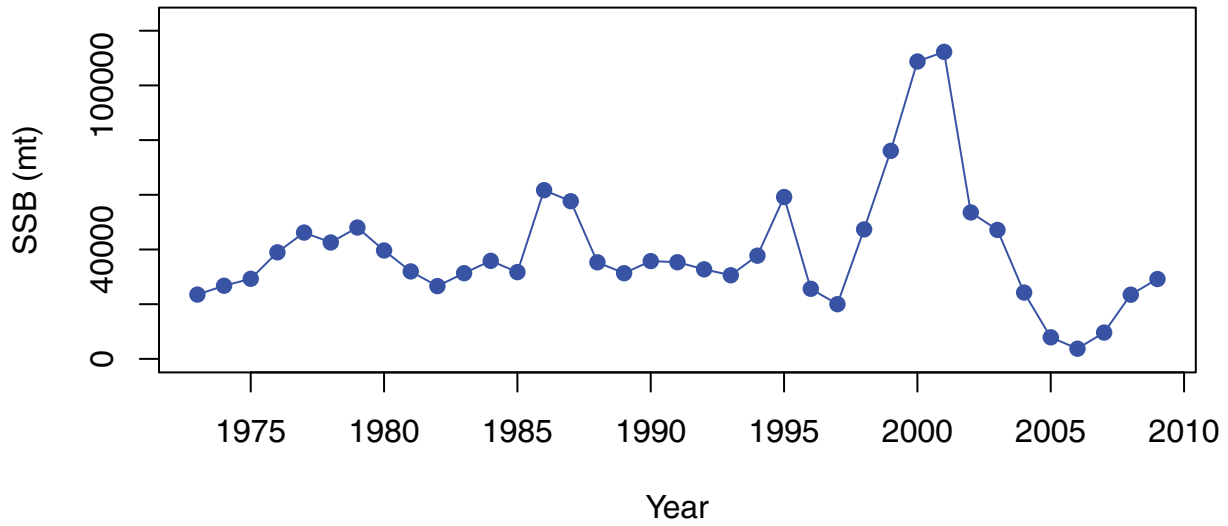
Index q estimates

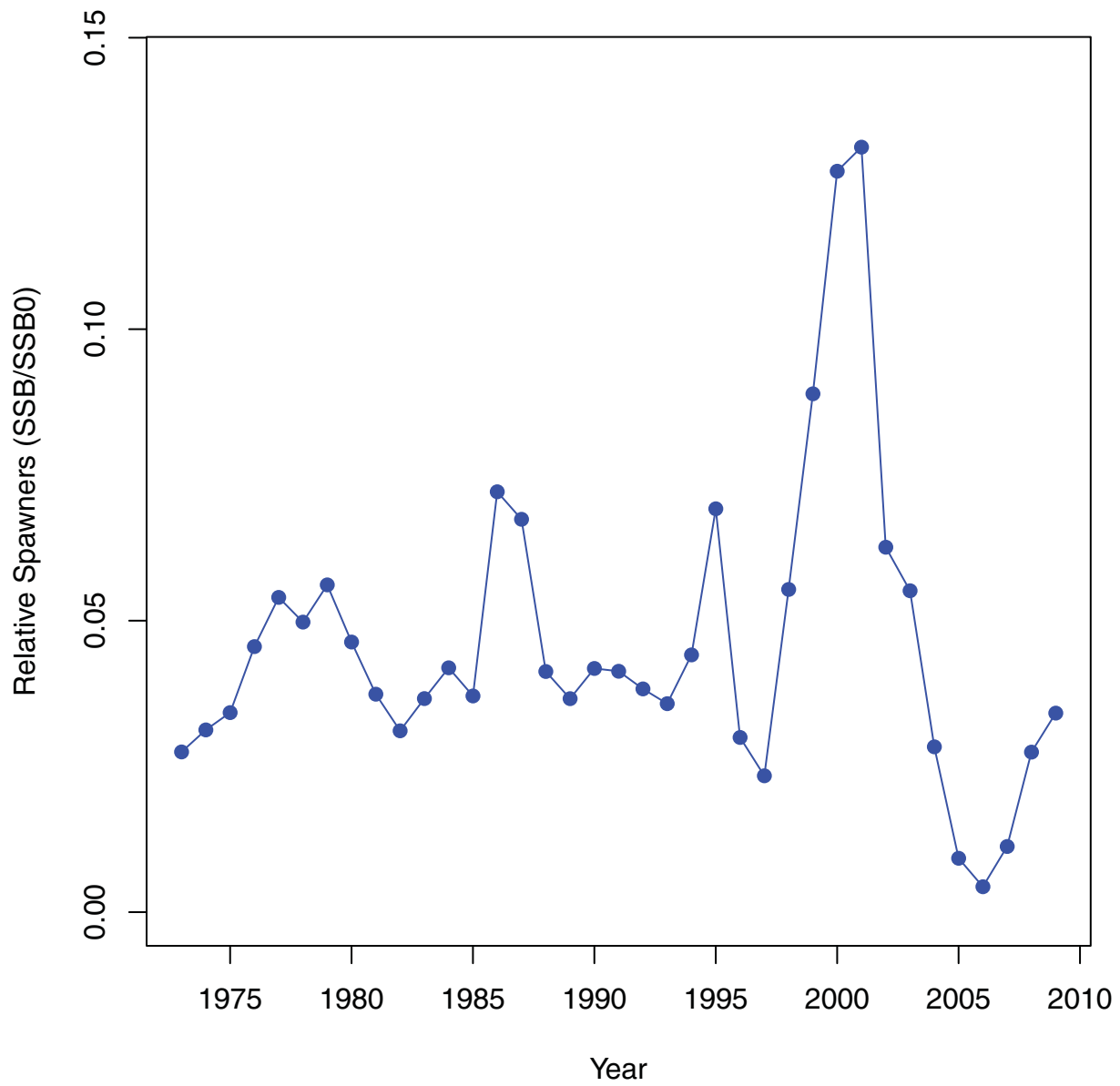


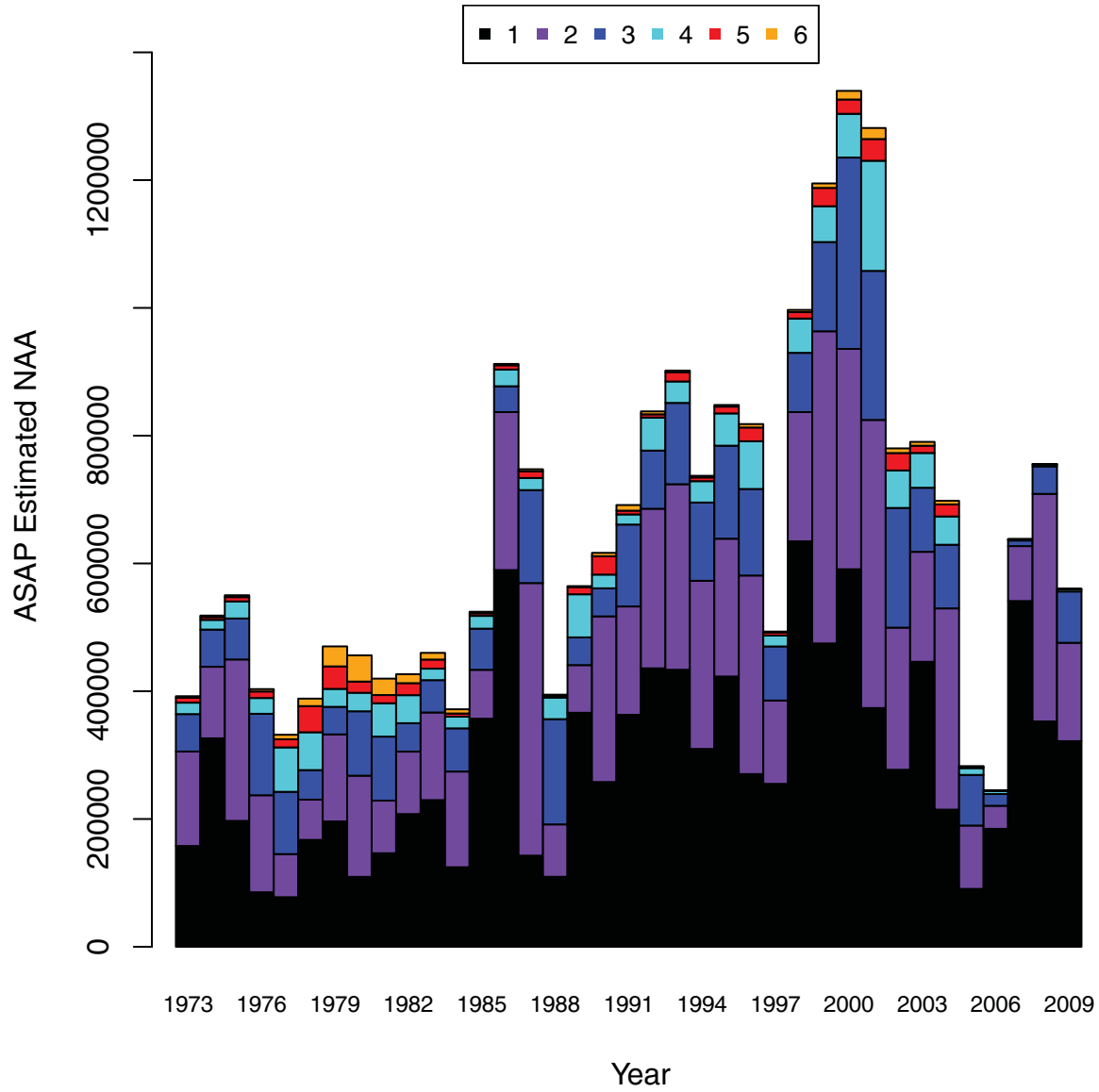


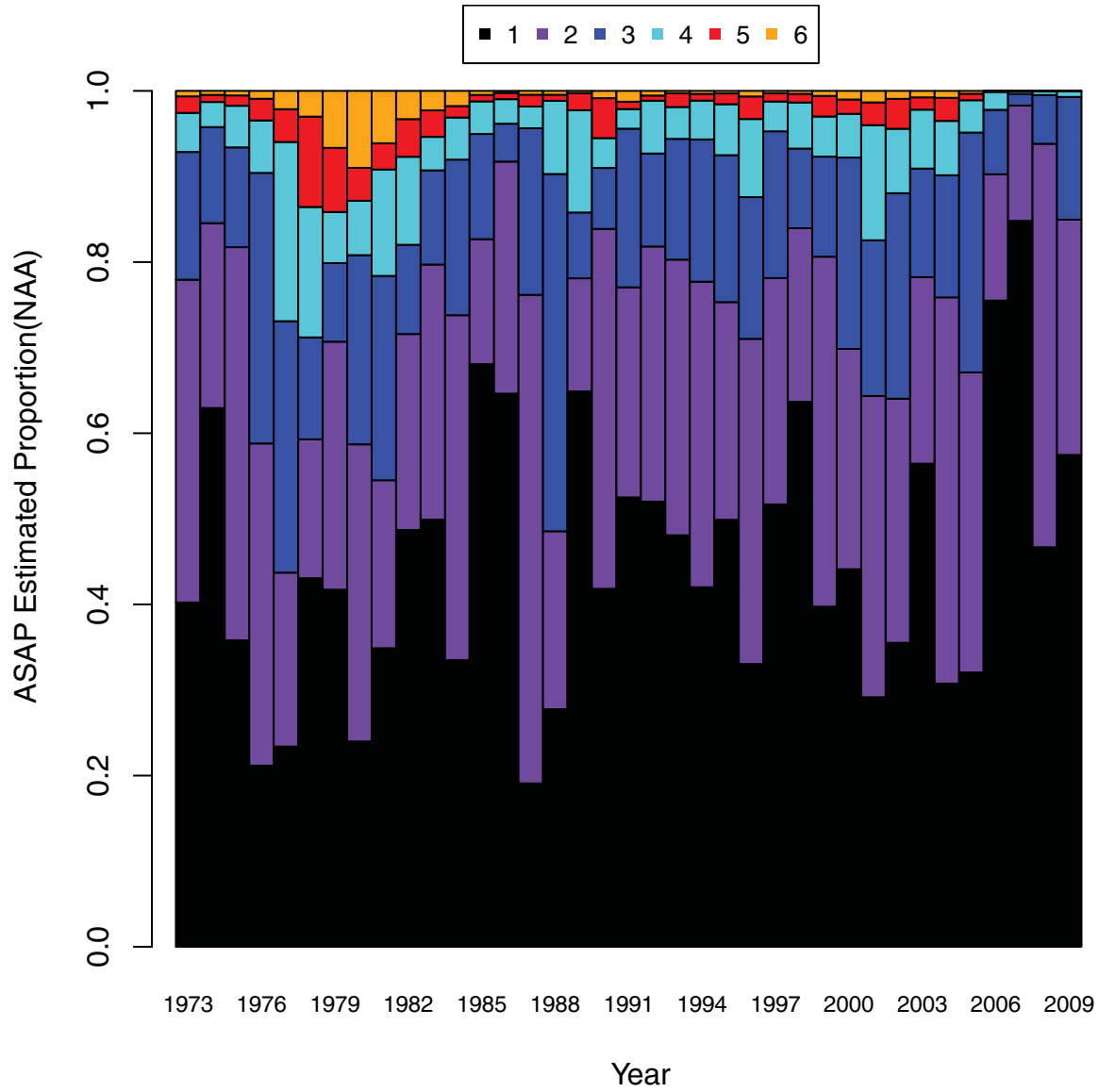


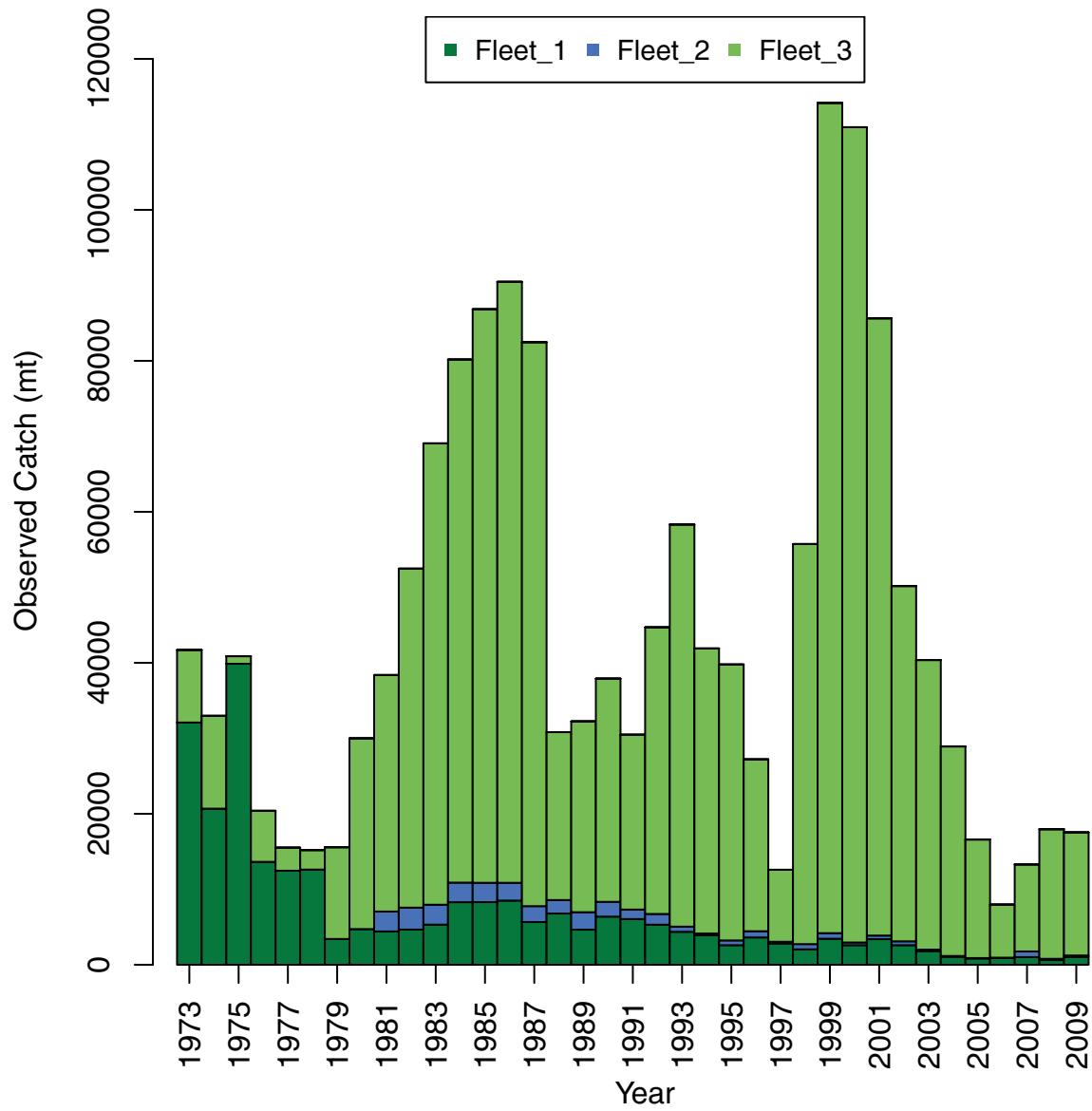


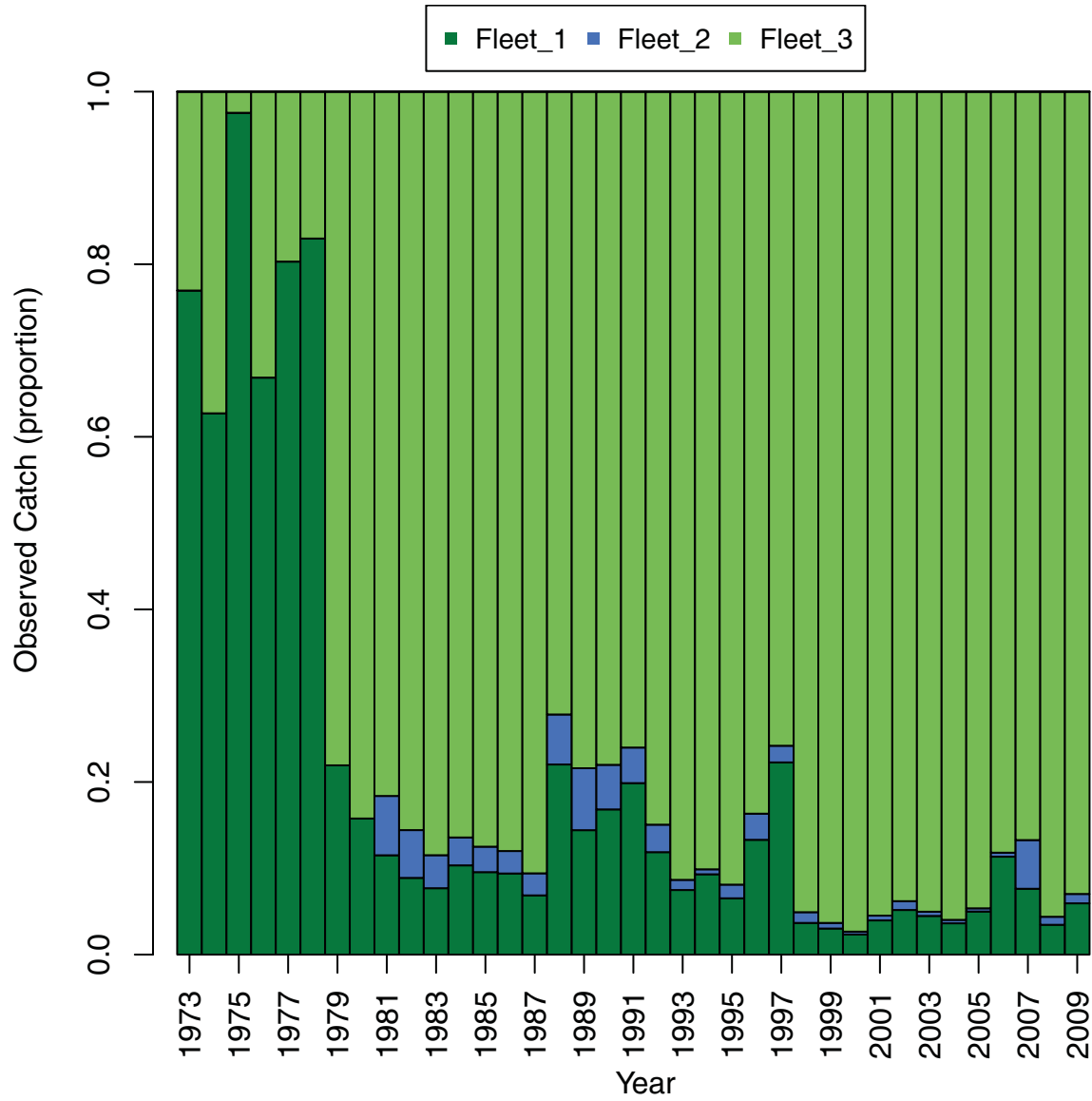


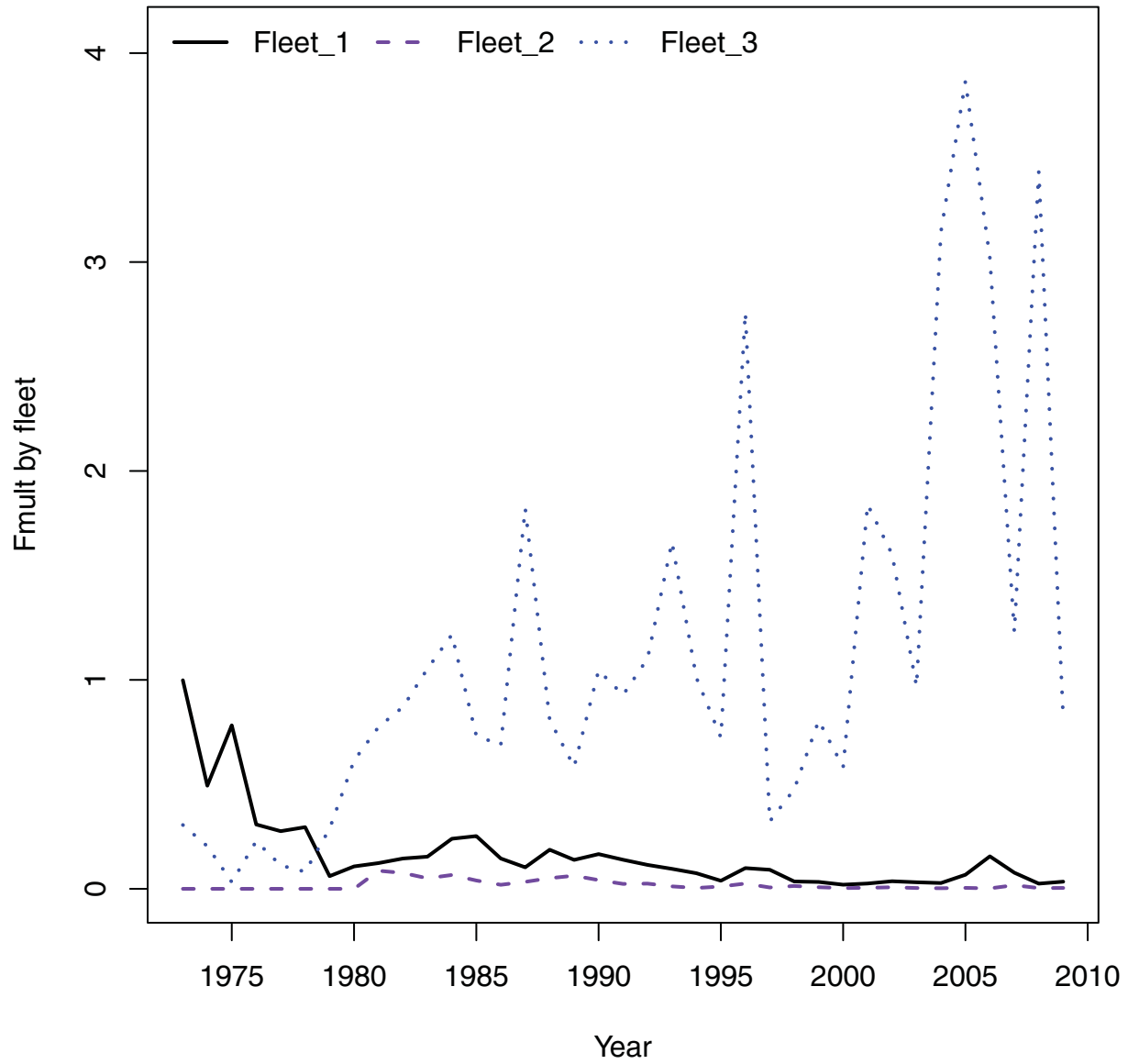


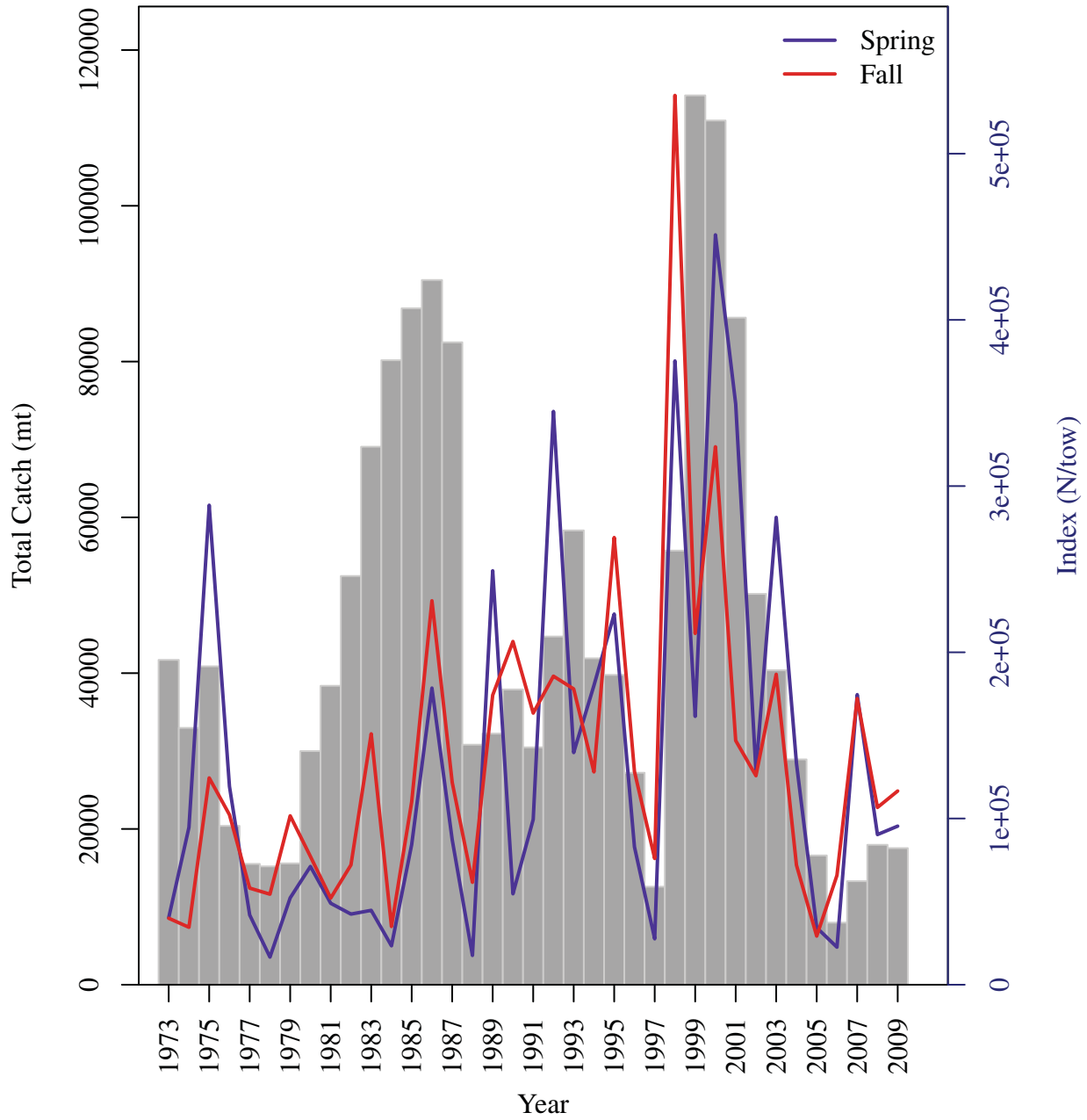


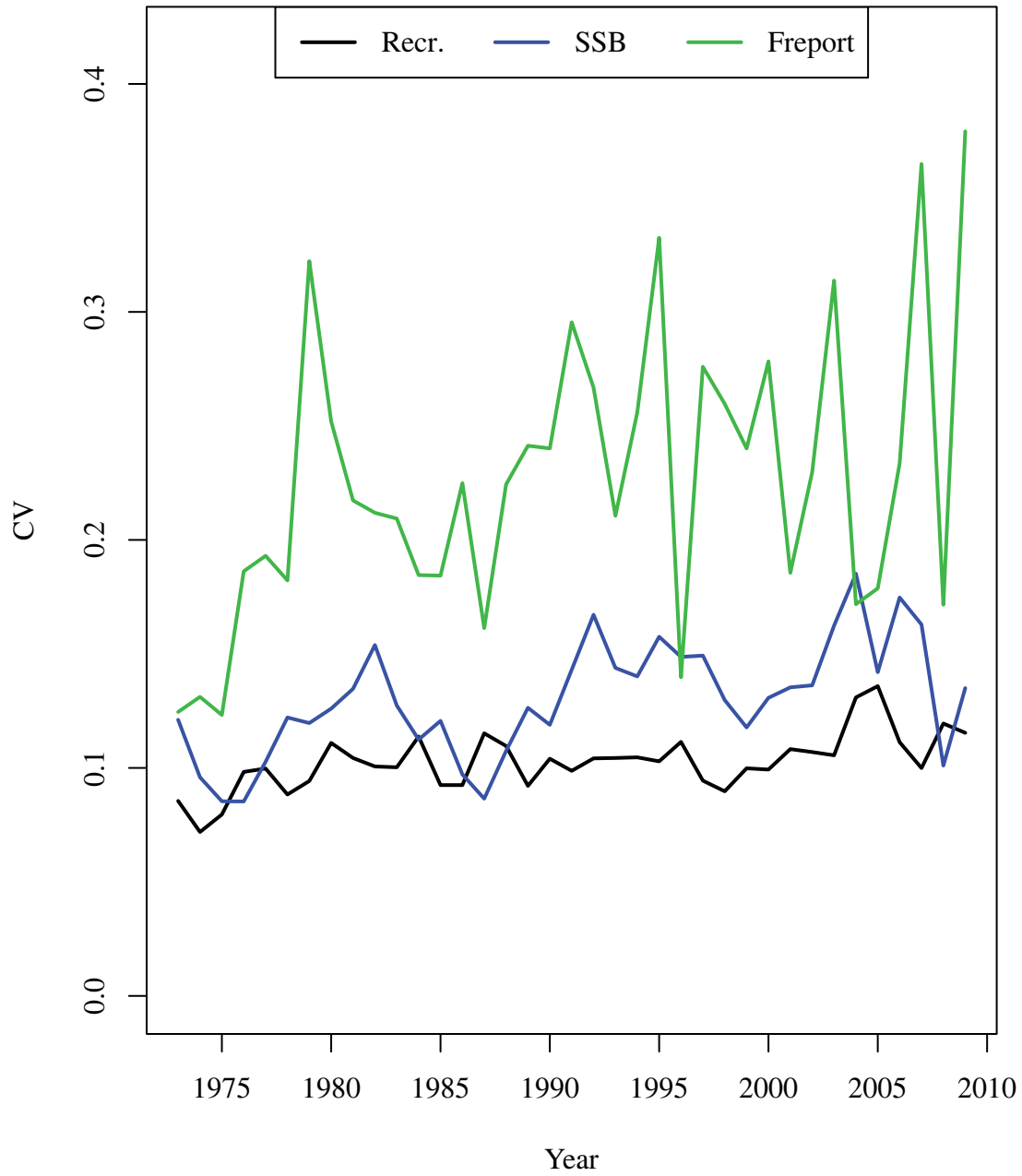


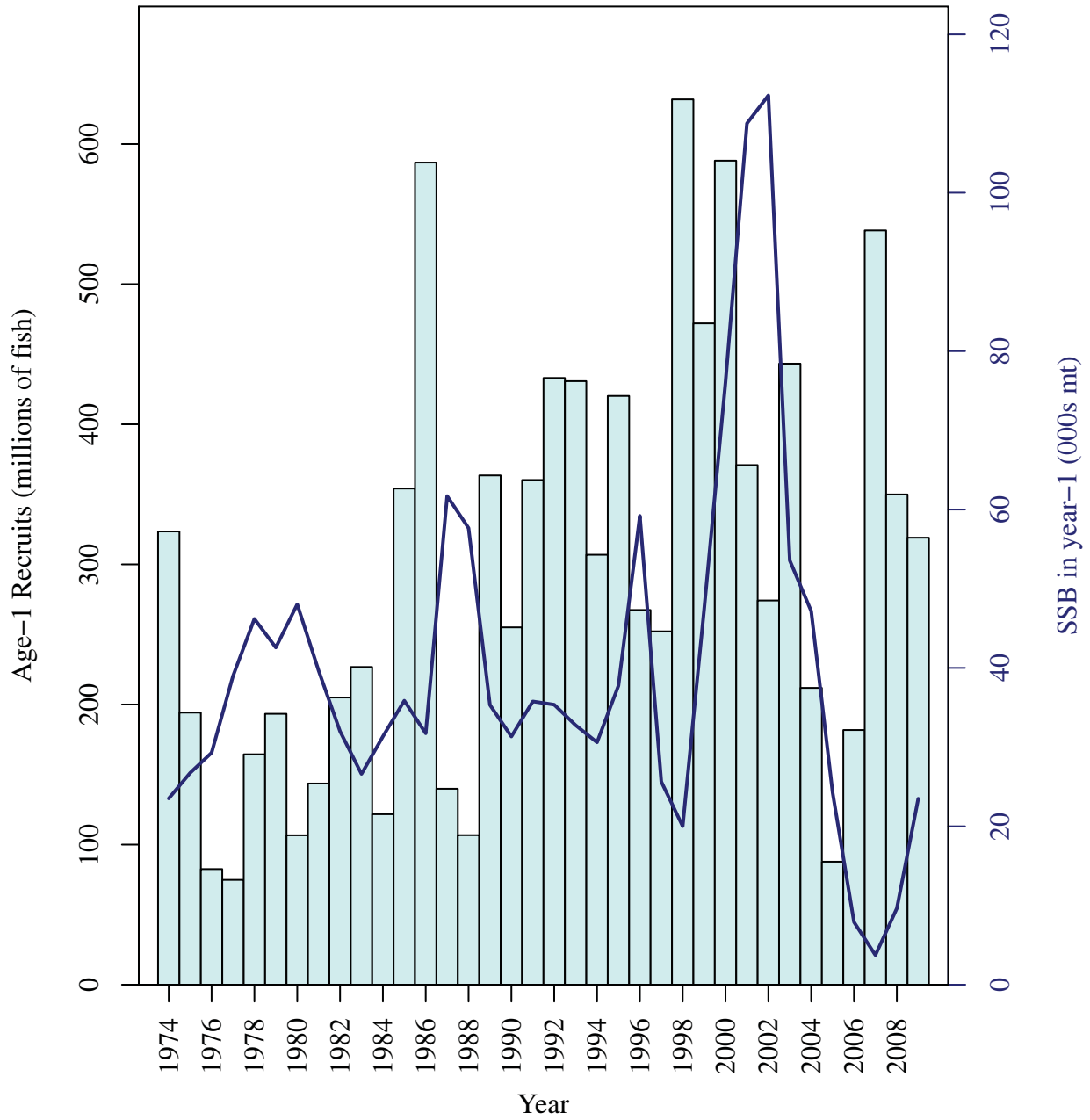












Appendix A6: North Model Consumption ASAP results $M = 0.15$ _Assuming Flat-top Selectivity in the Survey

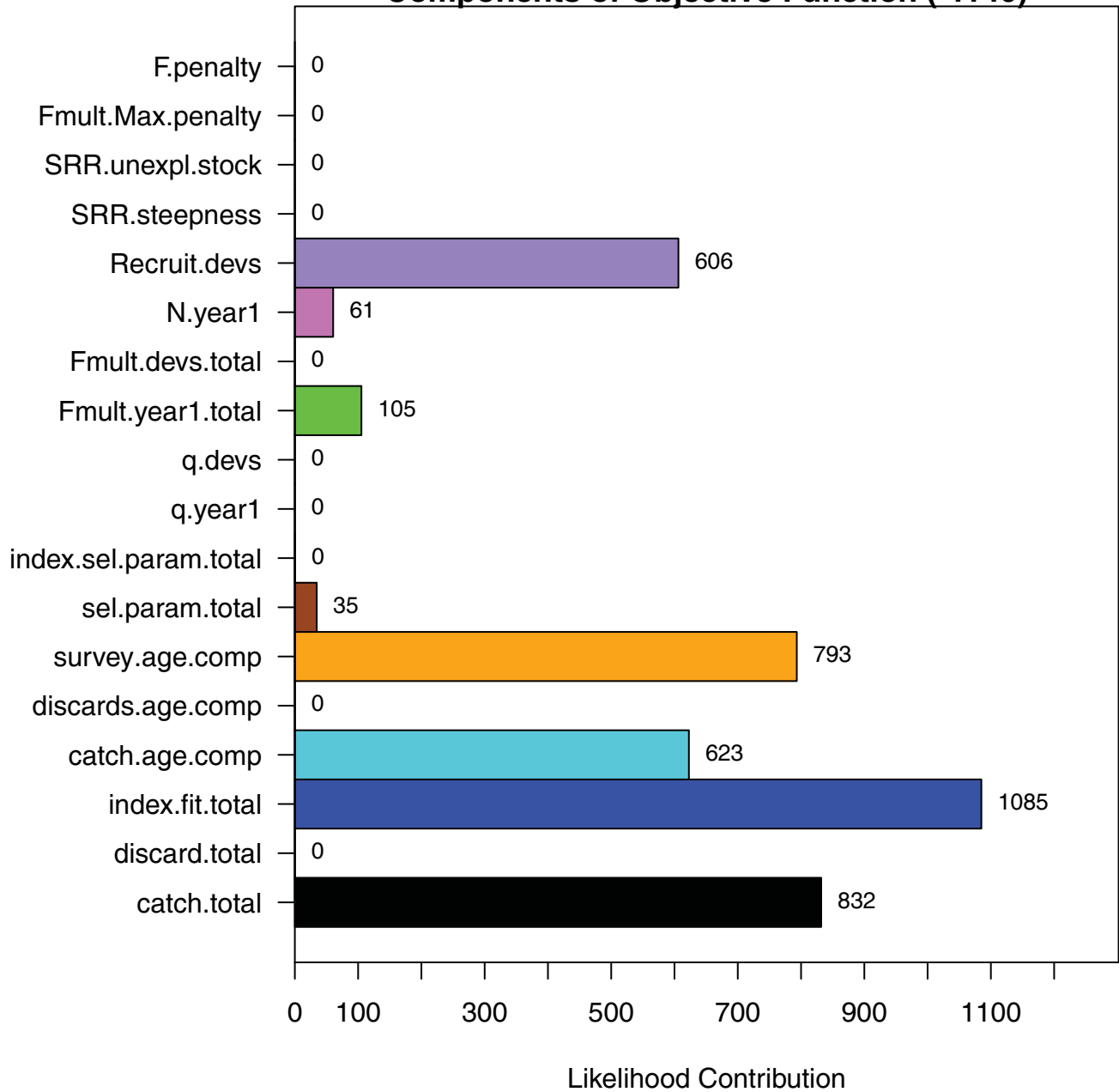
Model Attributes:

1. 3 Fleet Model
 - a. Catch : 1973-2009
 - b. Discards: 1981 – 2009
 - c. Consumption – 1973-2009

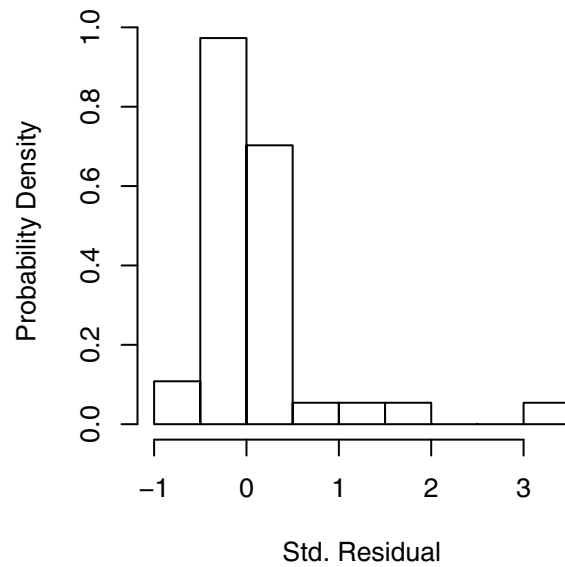
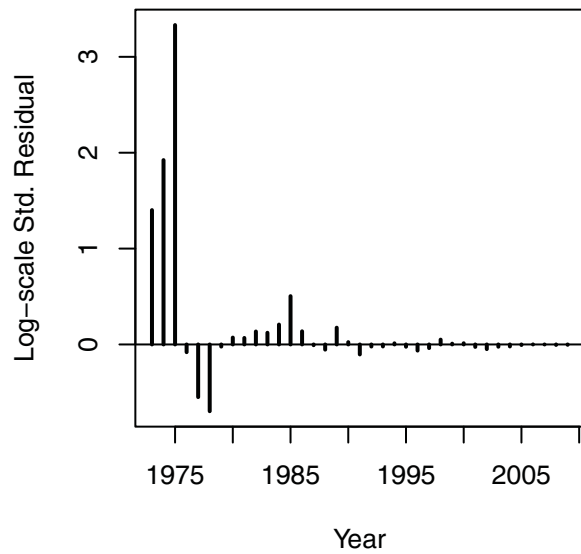
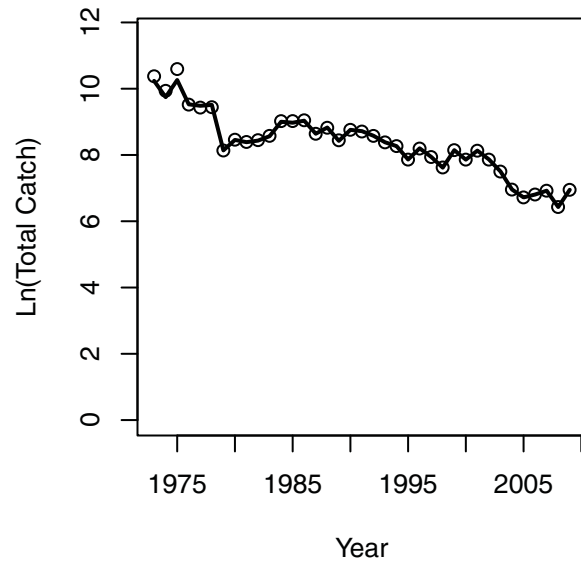
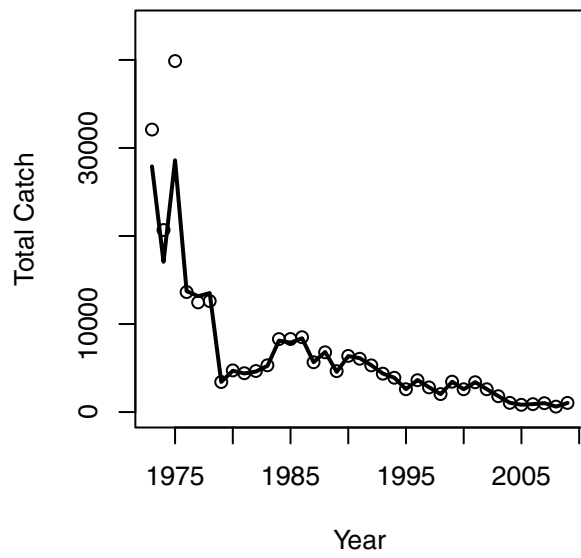
2. Fishery Selectivity (3 Block Selectivity)
 - a. Landings (1 Blocks: 1973-2009)
 - b. Discards (1 Block: 1981-2009)
 - c. Consumption (Double Logistic Functional Form)

3. Survey Selectivity (Fixed 100% at age 2-6)

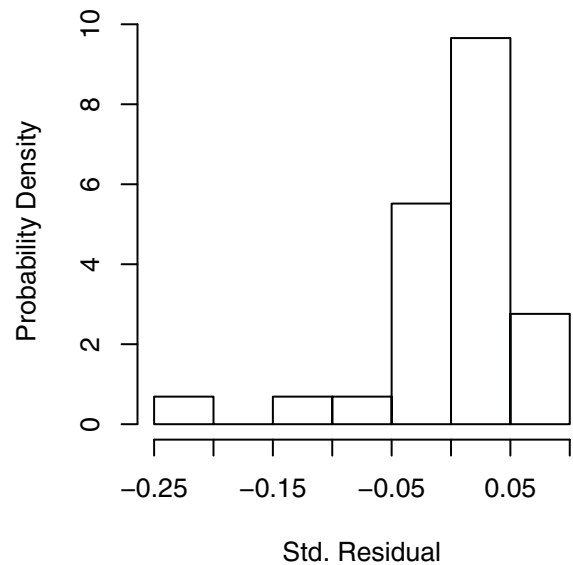
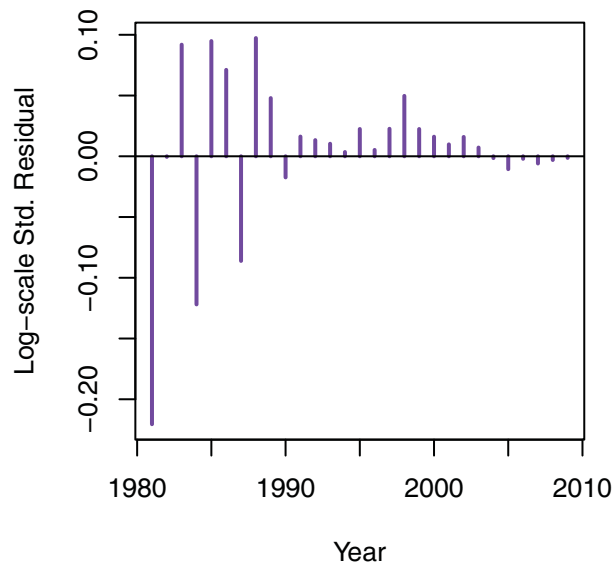
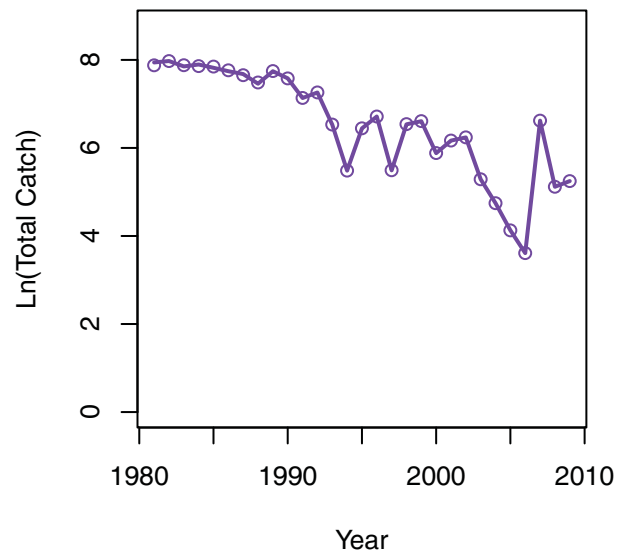
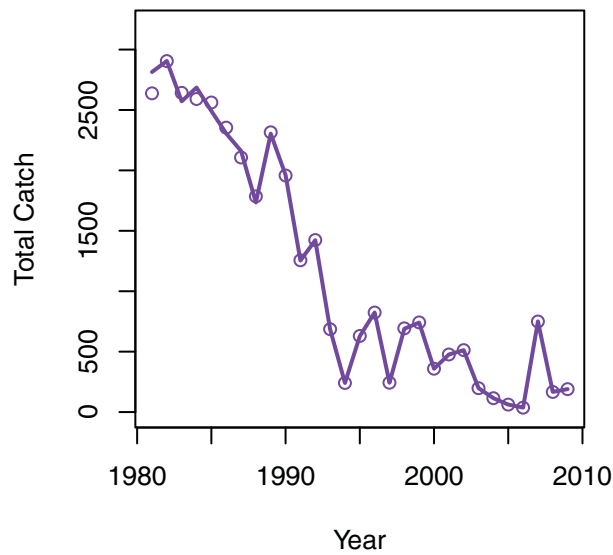
Components of Objective Function (4140)



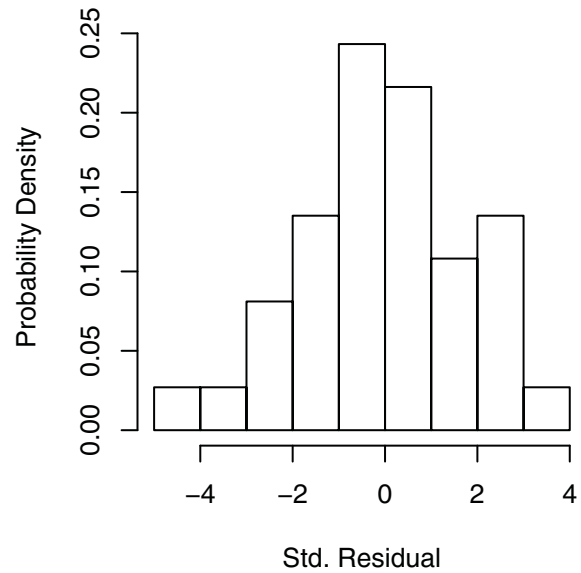
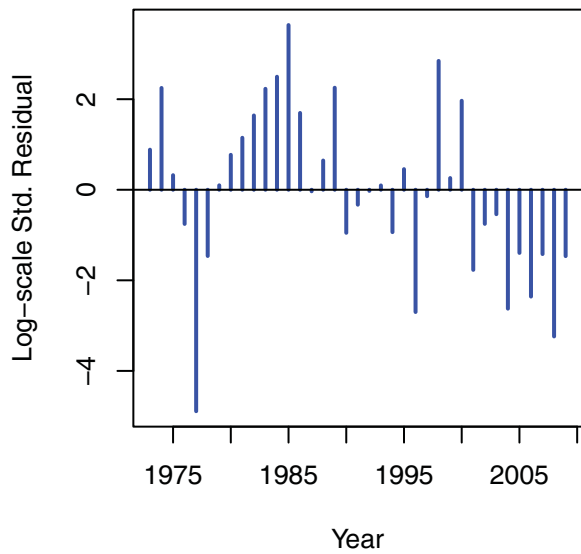
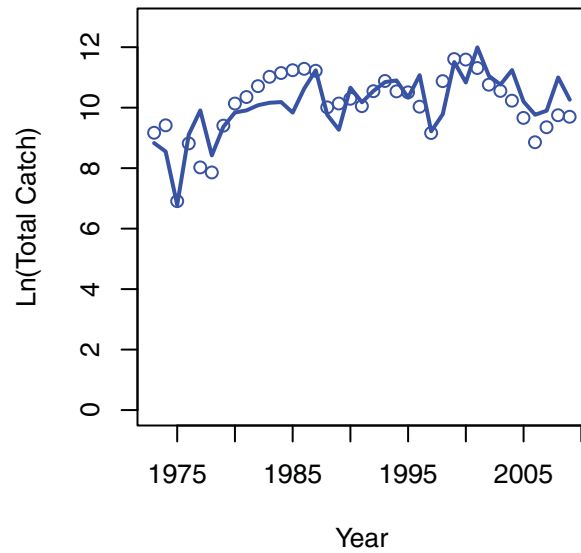
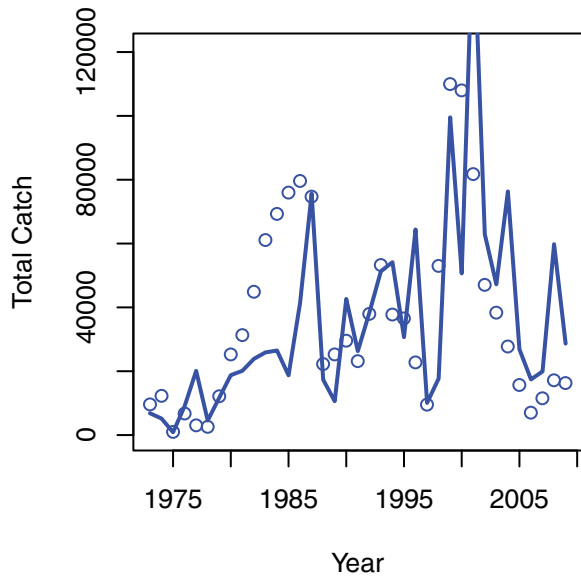
Fleet 1 Landings (Comm)



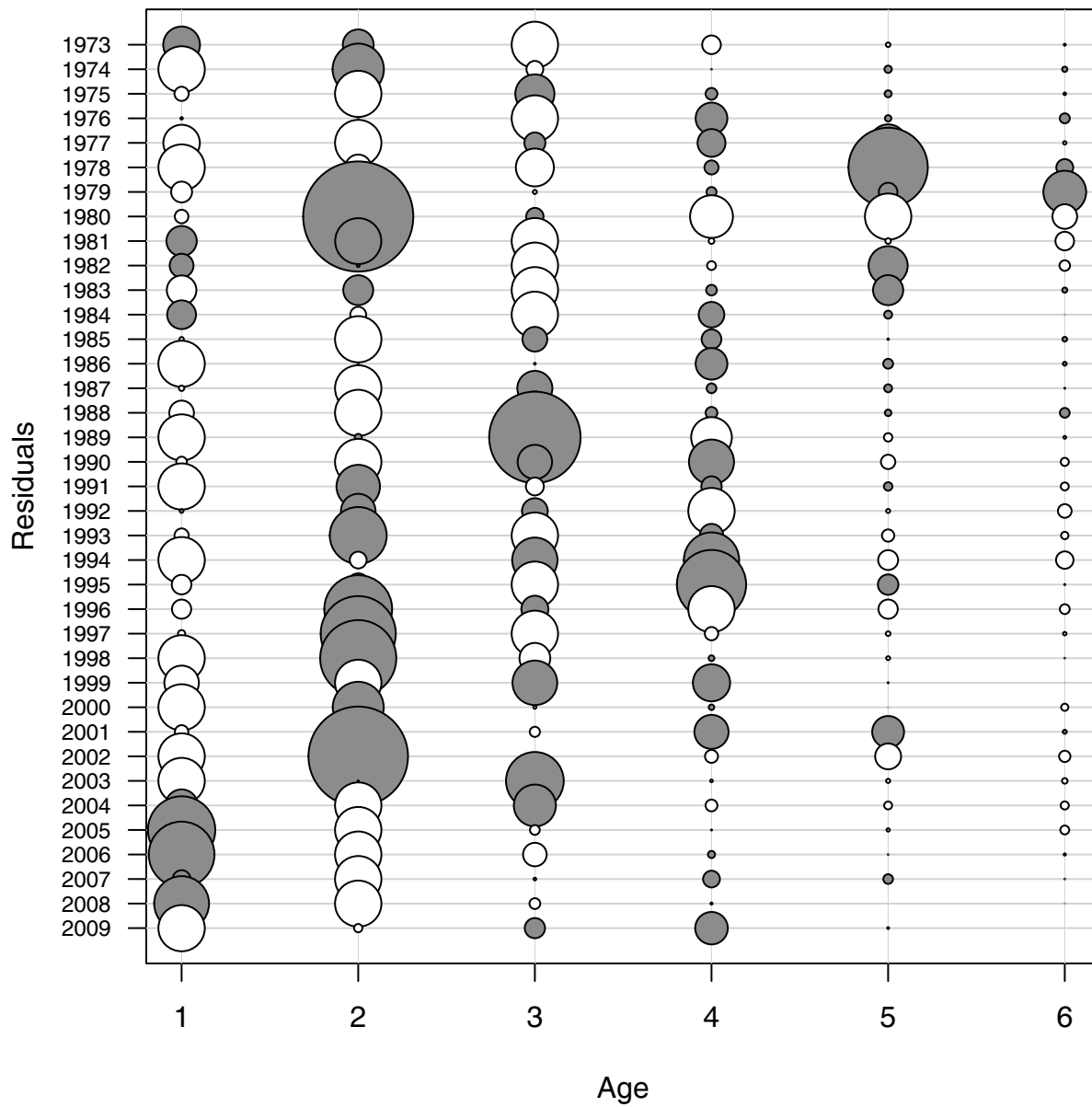
Fleet 2 Landings (disc)



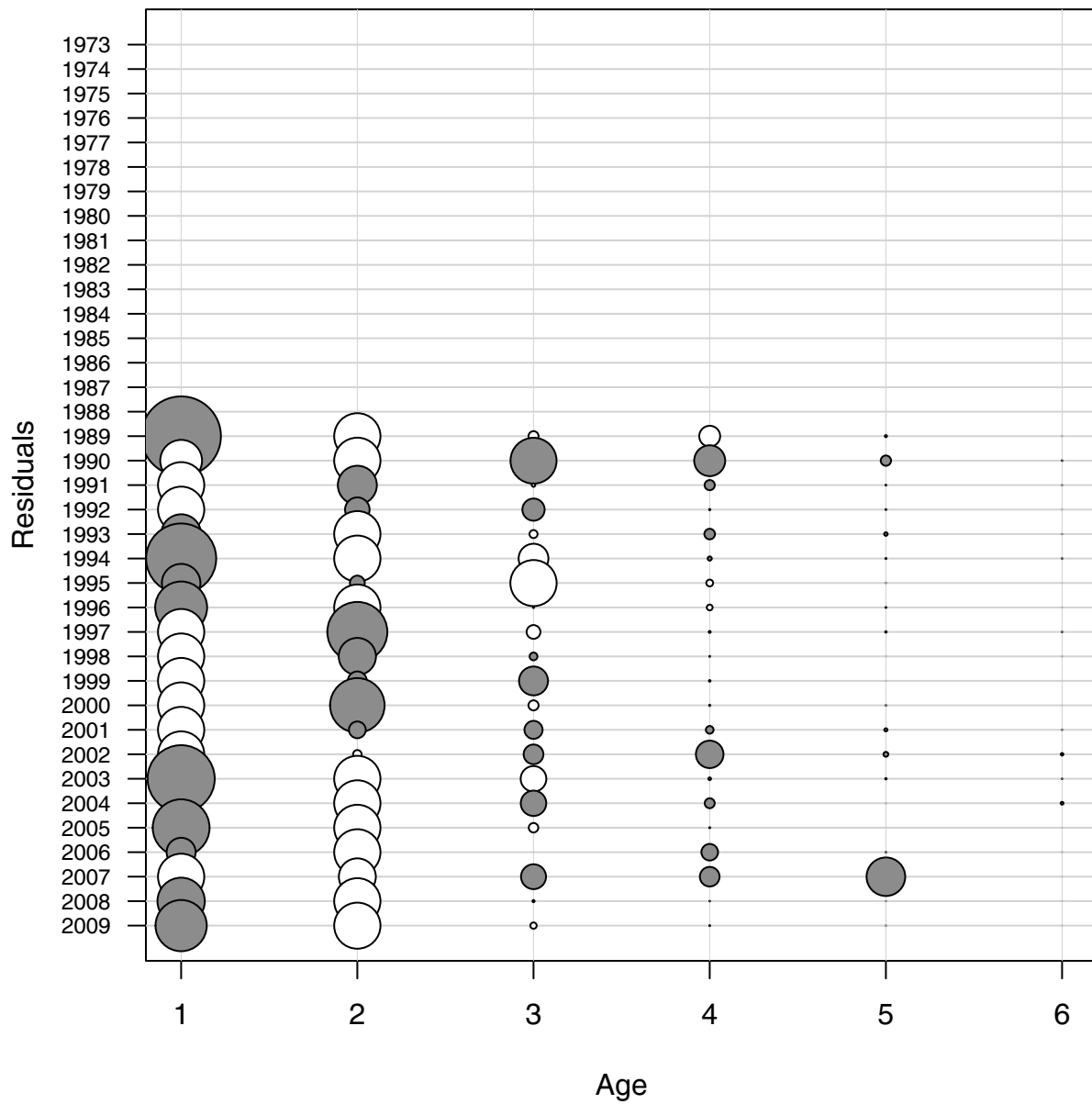
Fleet 3 Landings (consump)



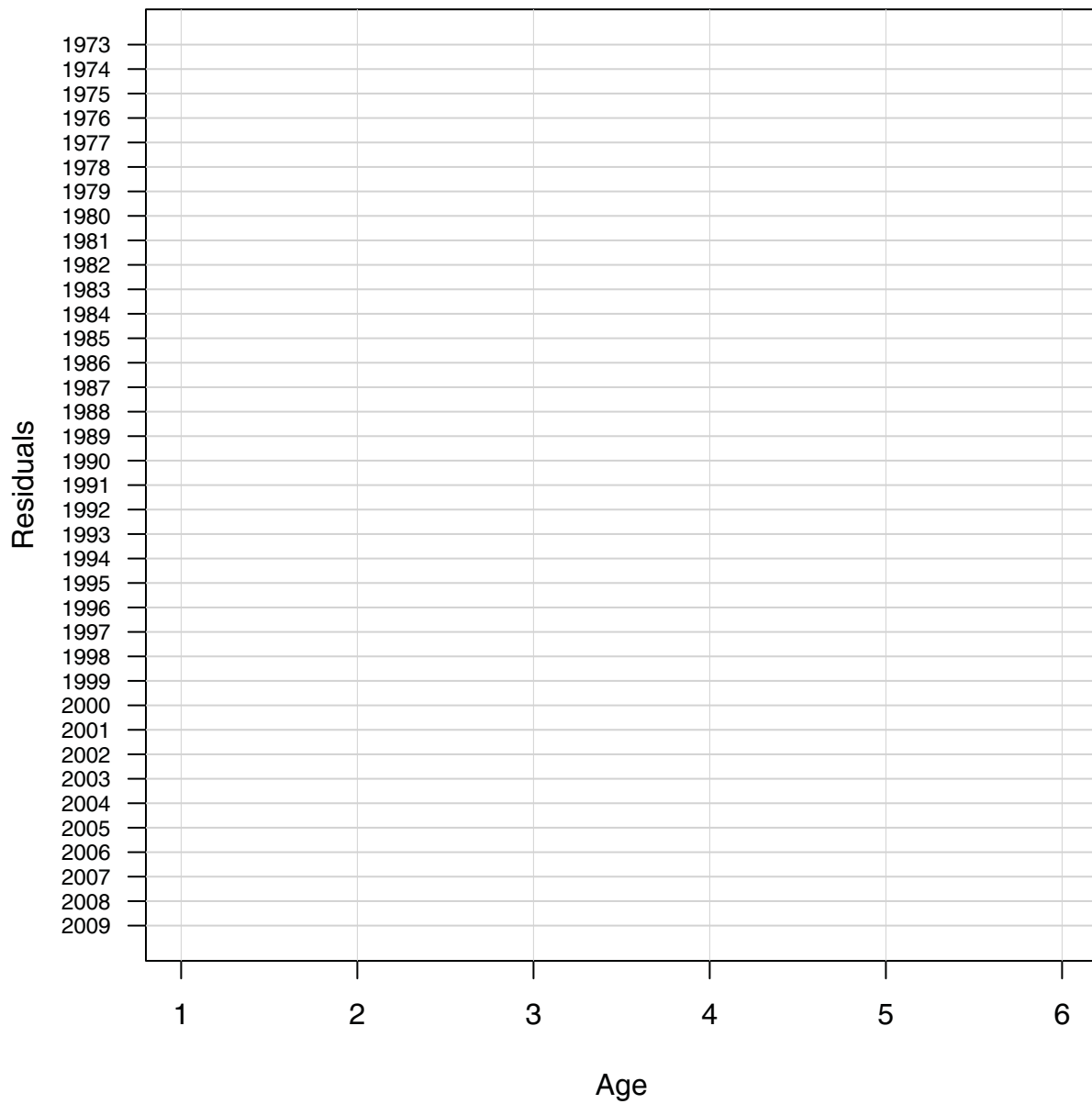
Catch Age Comp Residuals for Fleet 1 (Comm)

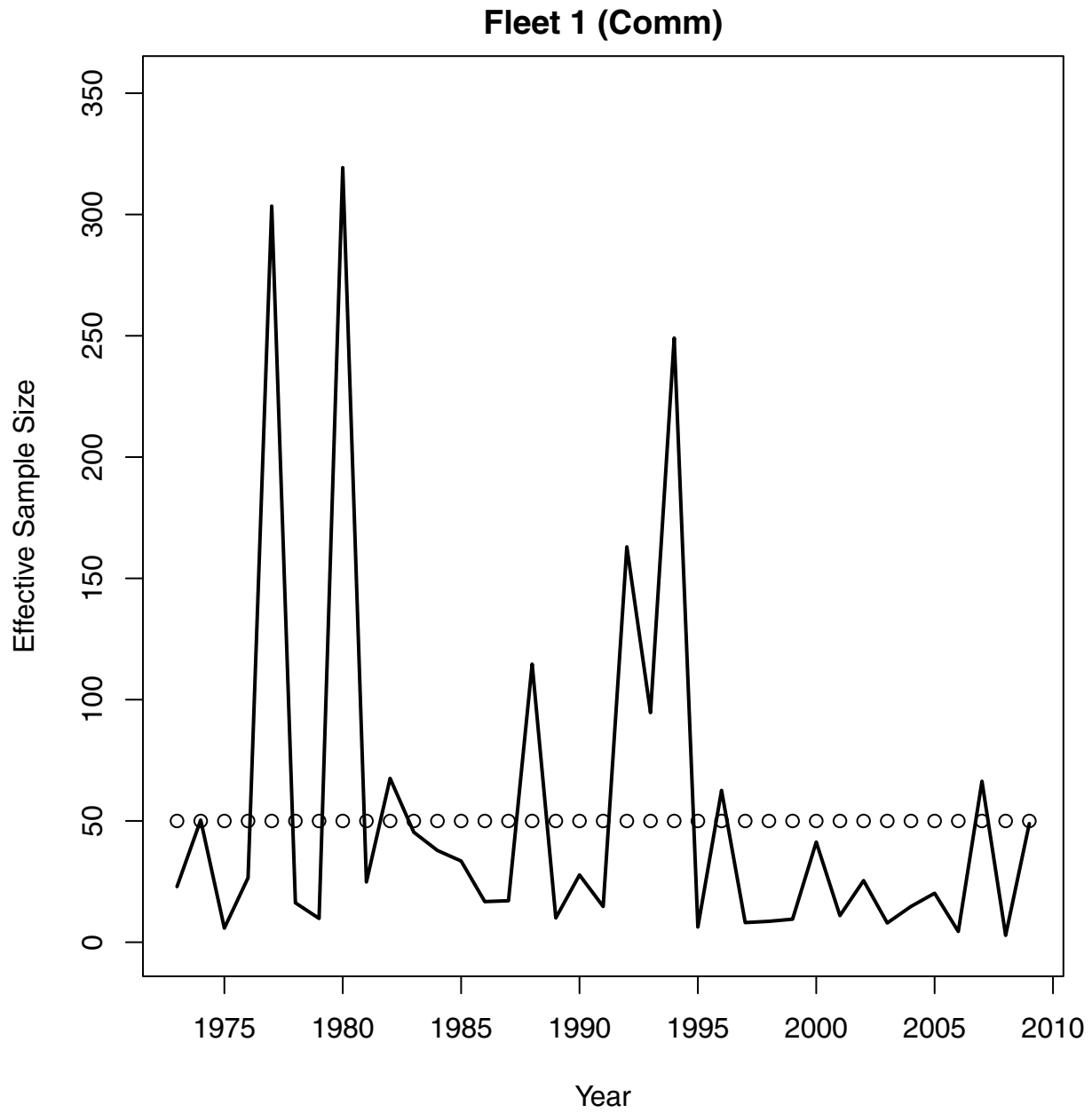


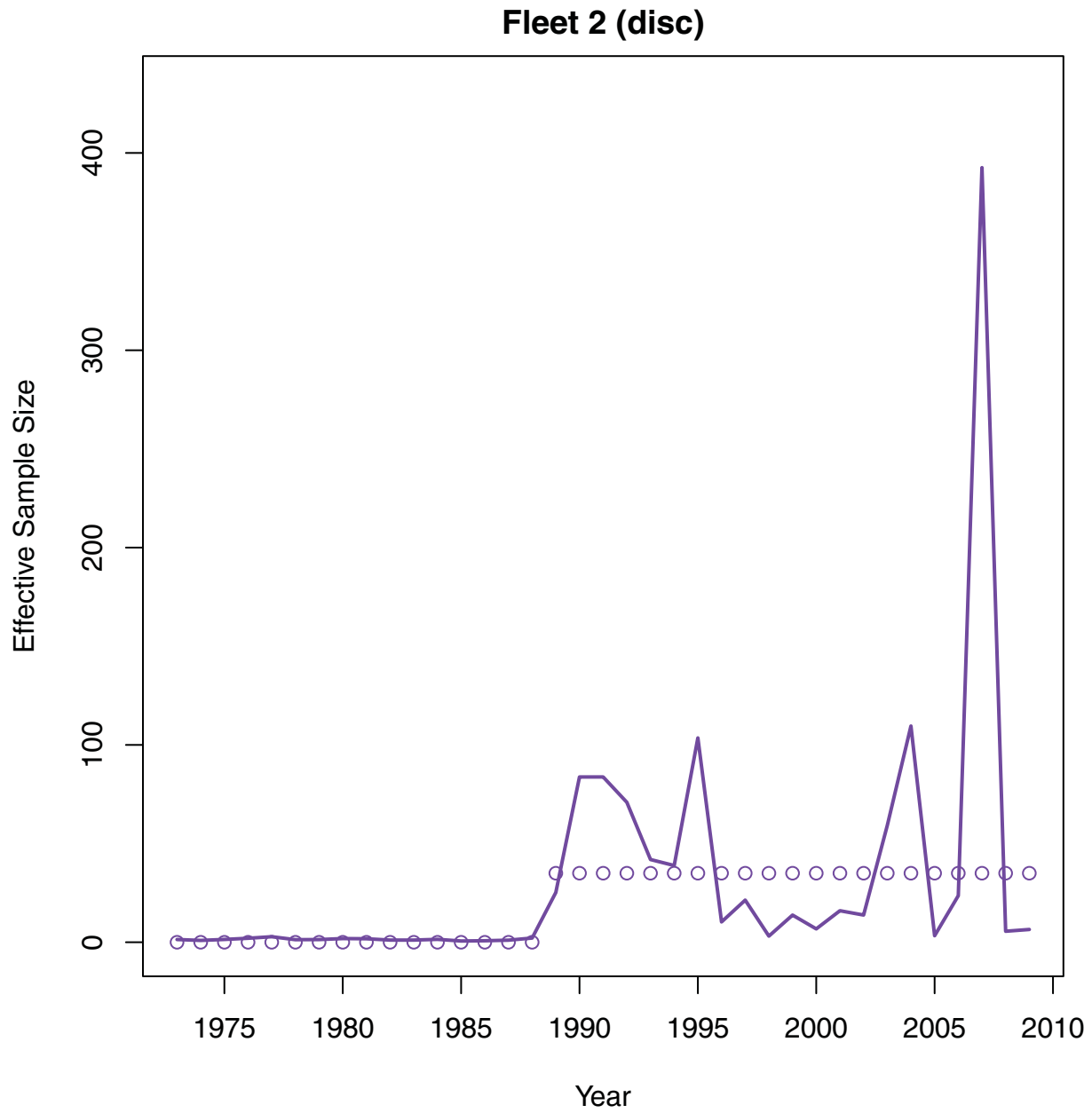
Catch Age Comp Residuals for Fleet 2 (disc)

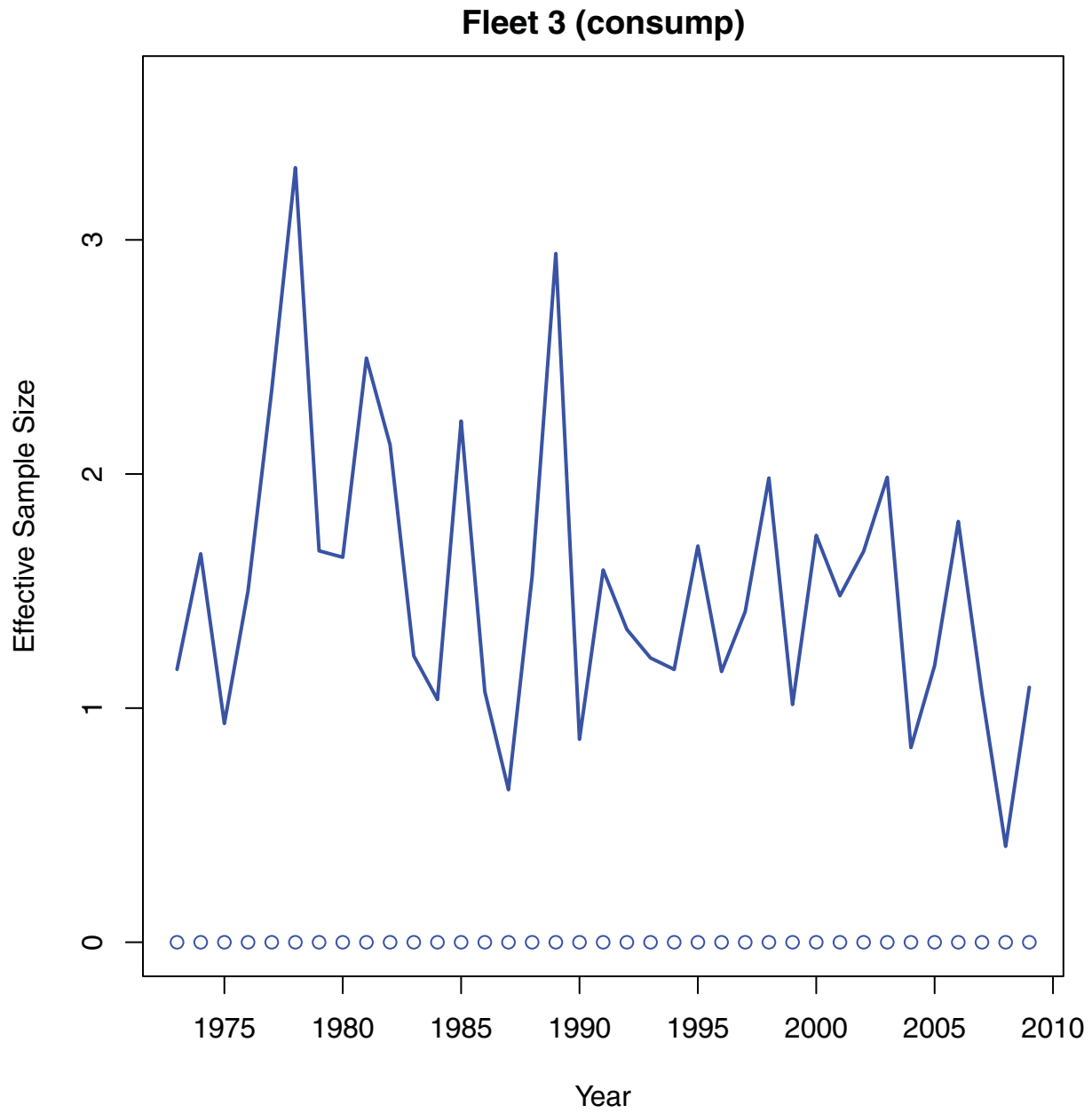


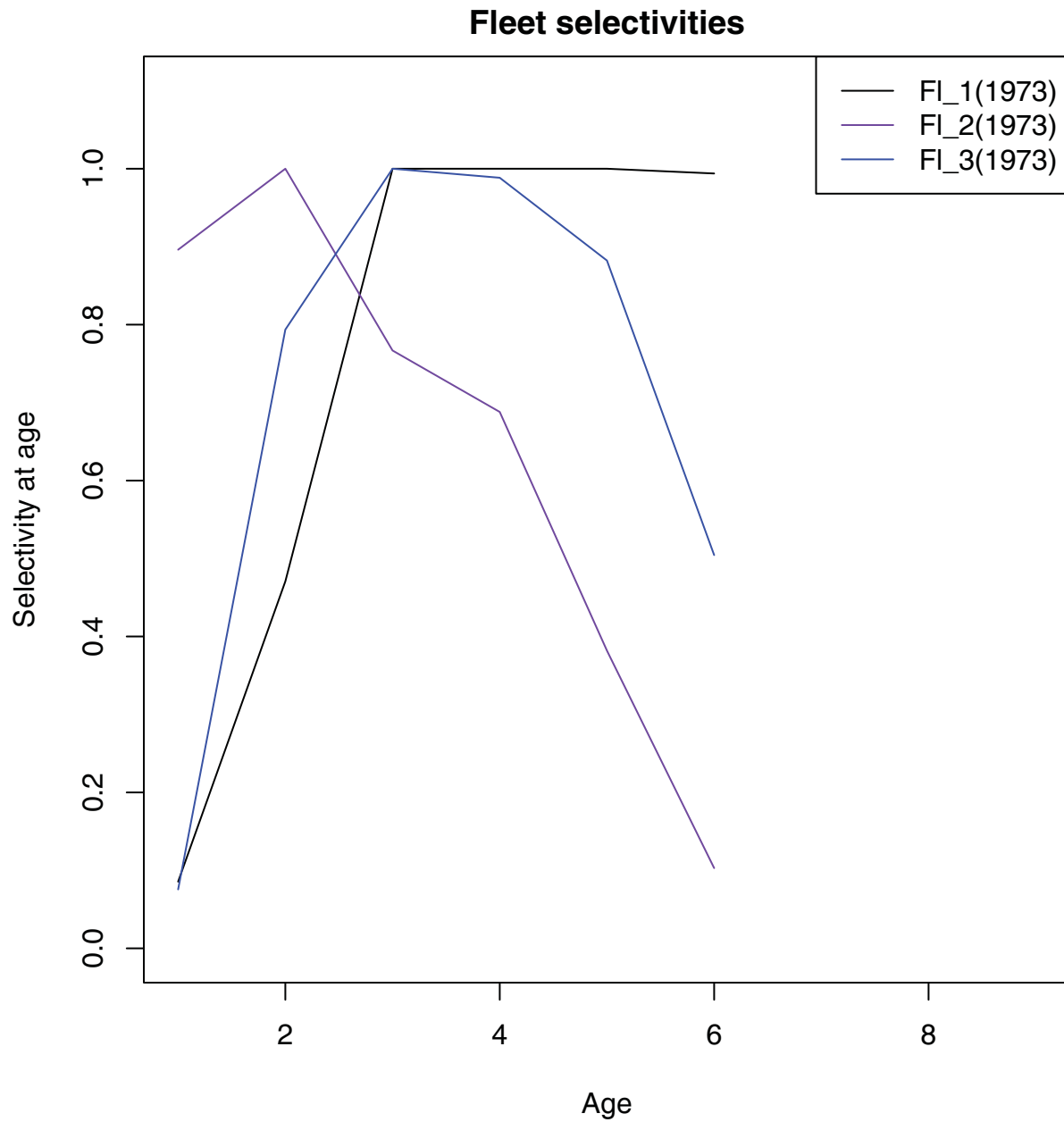
Catch Age Comp Residuals for Fleet 3 (consump)



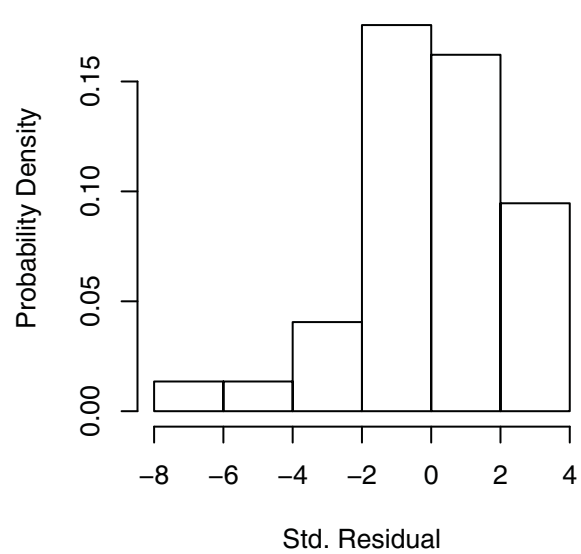
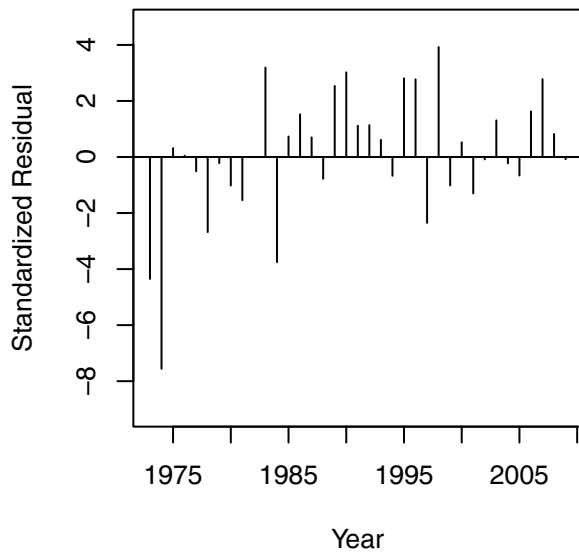
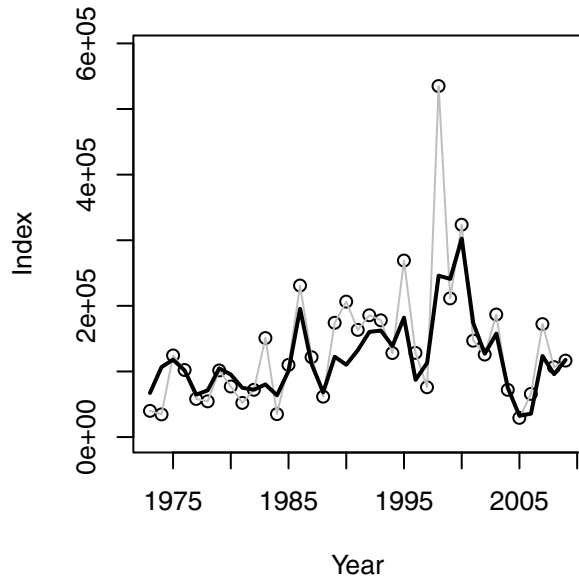




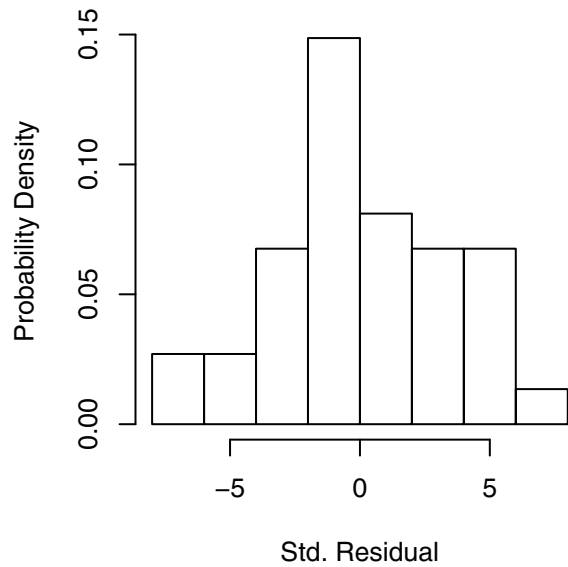
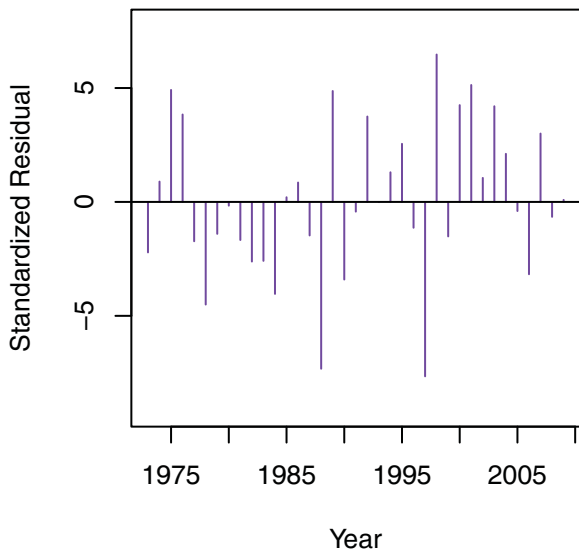
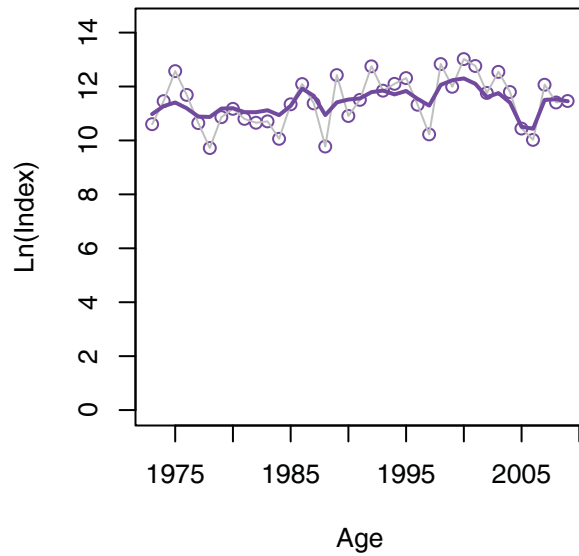
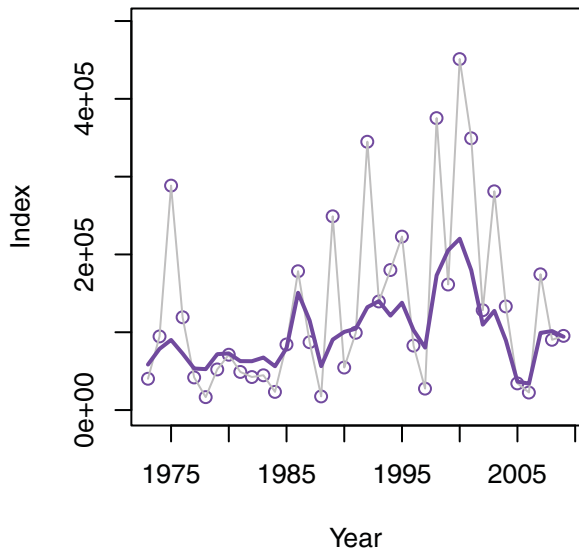




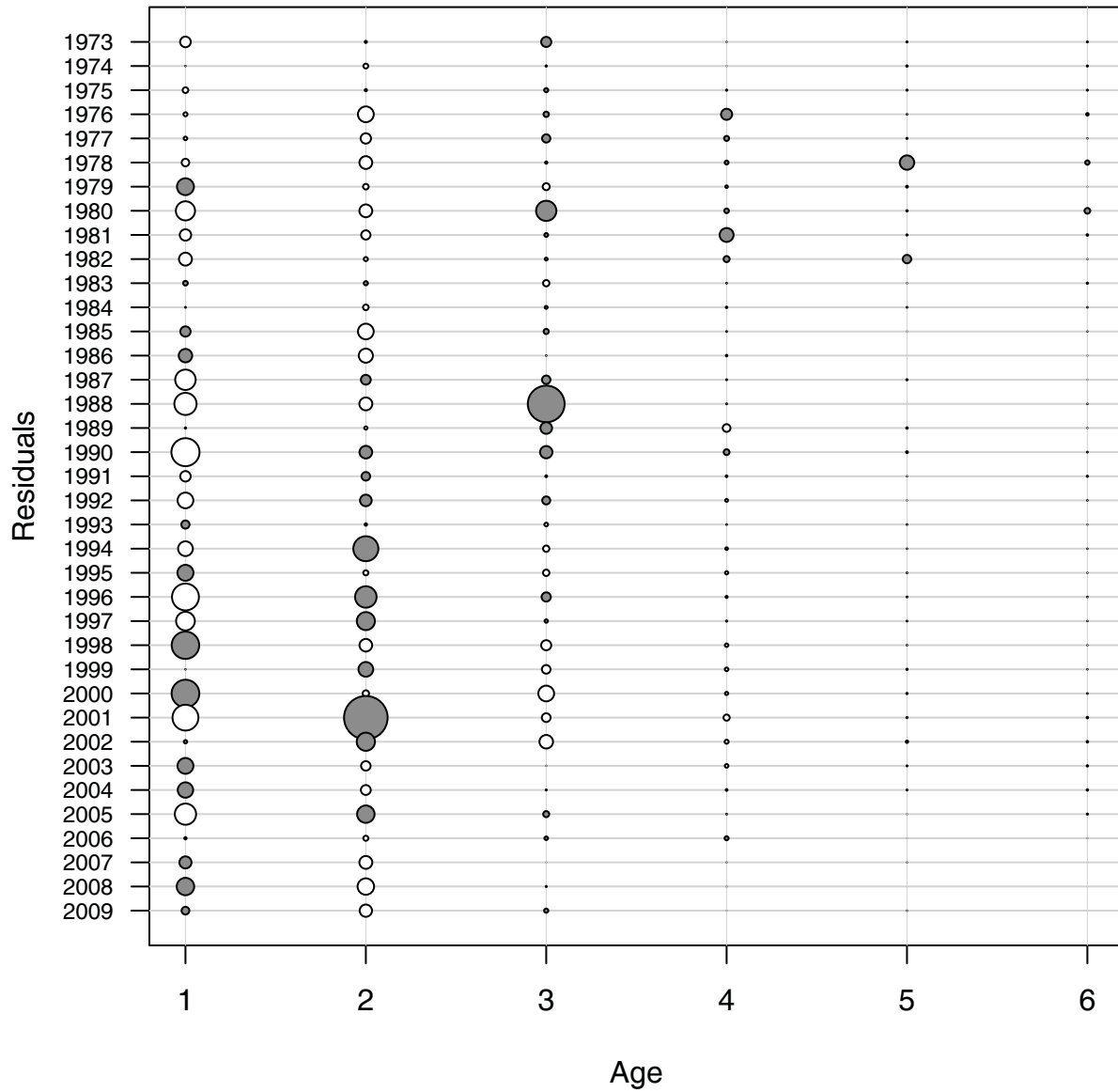
Index 1



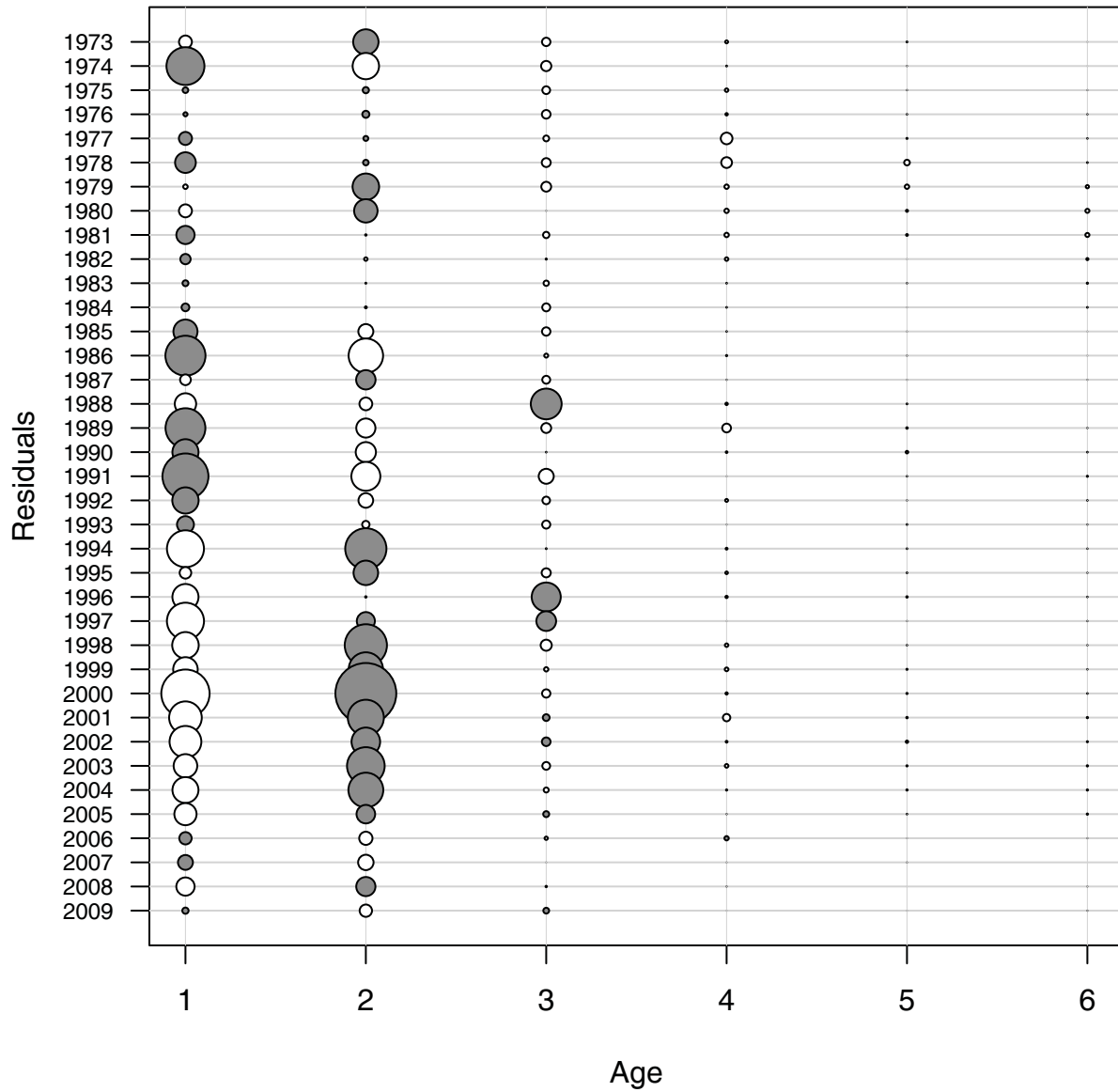
Index 2



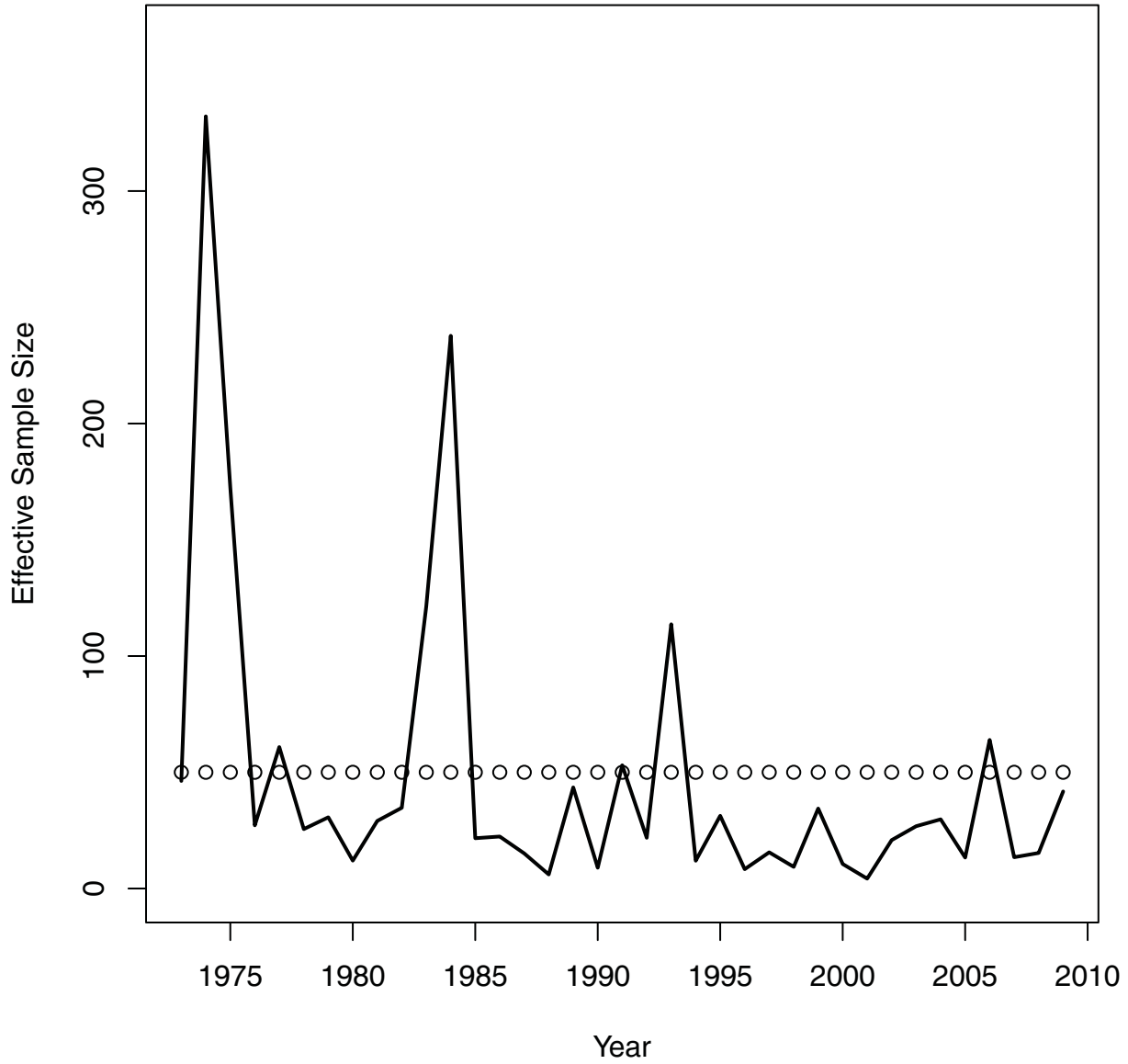
Age Comp Residuals for Index 1



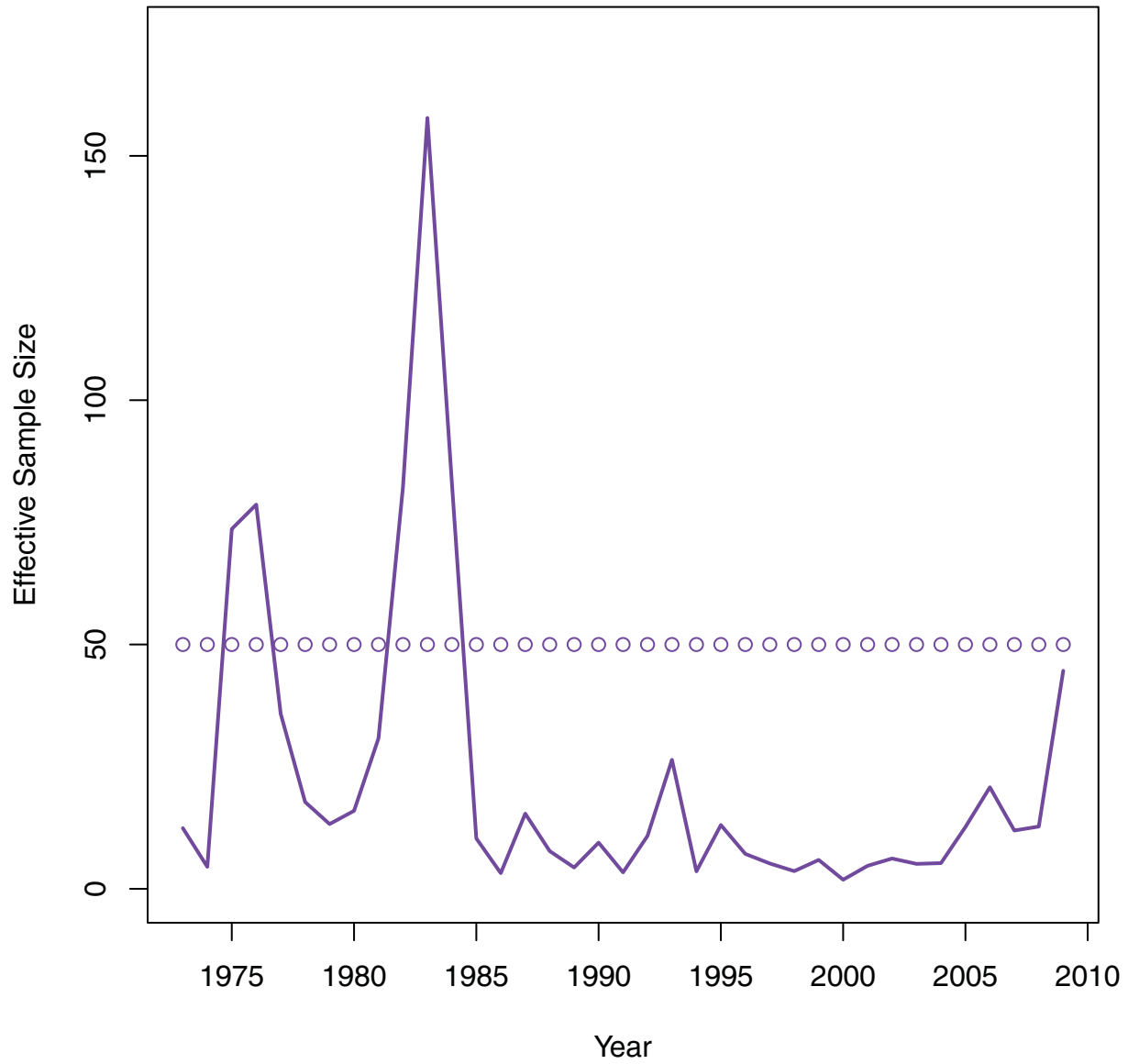
Age Comp Residuals for Index 2

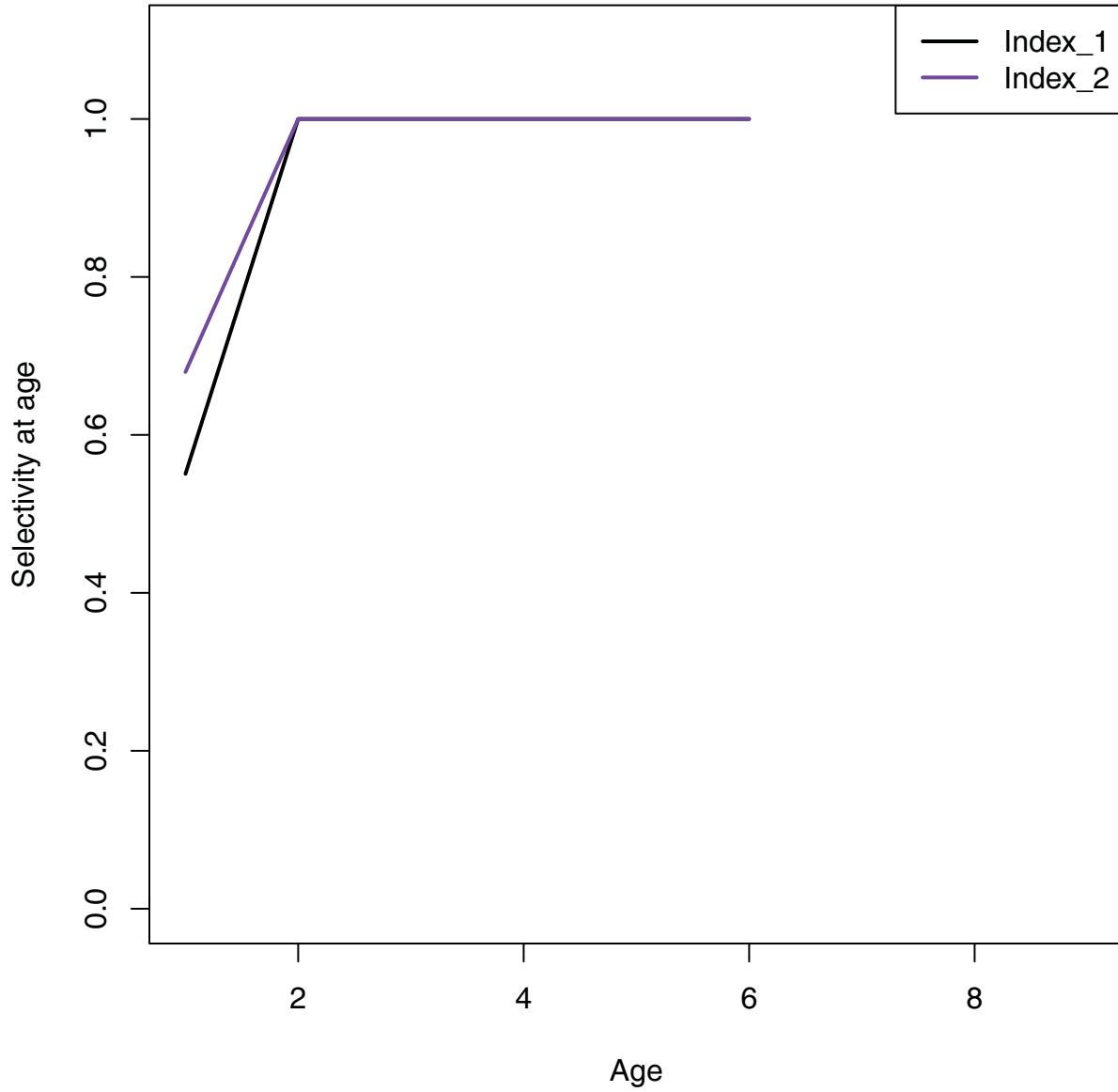


Index 1



Index 2





Index q estimates

