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**Non-Target Species Interactions with the Tuna Fisheries of the Western and
Central Pacific Ocean**

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Oceanic Fisheries Programme¹

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INTRODUCTION

The Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) tuna fisheries are amongst the largest, most complex and valuable fisheries resources in the world. In 2008, the most recent year with confirmed statistics, the annual catch exceeded 2.4 million tonnes (Williams and Terawasi, 2009), comprised over 50% of the total global tuna catch and was valued at over USD 5 billion dollars. Although albacore, bigeye, skipjack and yellowfin tunas have dominated annual catches from the WCPO, the fisheries also interact with non-tuna taxa, such as billfishes and sharks, which are important components of the retained catches and a range of other species with no commercial value (e.g. turtles, birds).

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) is the Regional Fisheries Management Organisation for the tuna fishery with responsibilities for not just managing the catch of target species but also non-target species. Estimates of the catch of non-target species have been provided regularly to the WCPFC since 2005 (Molony 2005, SPC 2006, 2007, 2008). This report synthesises the current information on the interaction of WCPO tuna fisheries with non-target species to assist with informing discussion within the Ecosystem and Bycatch Specialist Working Group at the 2010 regular meeting of the WCPFC Scientific Committee.

OBSERVER DATA

The species and species groups caught in the WCPO can be determined from observer data held by the SPC Oceanic Fisheries Programme that were collected onboard longliners since 1992 and purse seiners since 1994. Tables 1 and 2 show the number of observer trips covered by data held by the OFP for longliners and purse seiners respectively.

The number of trips onboard purse seiners have been relatively consistent through time, both for trips fishing mainly unassociated schools and trips fishing schools associated with floating objects (primarily logs, drifting FADs and anchored FADs). In the early years of the time series, the majority of trips were taken on United States vessels, but the coverage of other fleets, particularly those fishing under the FSM Arrangement, has improved over time. Since 2002, a large number of observer trips has been taken in the waters of Papua New Guinea.

The number of trips taken on offshore longliners based in Pacific island countries and fishing in the tropics or targeting albacore in sub-tropical waters, and on vessels in the domestic fleets of Australia and New Zealand, has been relatively consistent. However, data held by the OFP for trips taken on longliners based in Hawaii cover only the period from 1994 to 2004; while the fleet has continued to operate since 2004, data have no longer been provided to the OFP. The distant-water fleets of Japan, Korea and Chinese Taipei account for a high proportion of longline effort in the WCPO, but the number of trips covered by observer data held by the OFP, other than for Japanese vessels fishing in the waters of Australia or New Zealand, is minimal. The Japanese longline fleet ceased fishing in the Australian Fishing Zone in 1998. The discontinuities in the observer data covering the fleet based in Hawaii and the Japanese vessels fishing in the AFZ should be born in mind when interpreting time series of catch rates of finfish determined from the observer data.

Table 1. Number of trips taken by observers onboard longliners covered by data held by the SPC Oceanic Fisheries Programme, by sector

| Year | Australia Domestic | Australia Japanese | Distant-Water Albacore | Distant-Water Yellowfin & Bigeye | Hawaii | New Zealand Domestic | New Zealand Japanese | Offshore Albacore | Offshore Tropical Deep | Offshore Tropical Shallow | Shark | Total |
|-------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|--------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-------|-------|
| 1992 | 0 | 59 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 69 |
| 1993 | 0 | 86 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 112 |
| 1994 | 0 | 62 | 0 | 0 | 46 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 15 | 0 | 135 |
| 1995 | 0 | 41 | 0 | 1 | 48 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 18 | 3 | 131 |
| 1996 | 0 | 34 | 1 | 0 | 53 | 5 | 0 | 13 | 7 | 13 | 2 | 126 |
| 1997 | 0 | 31 | 0 | 0 | 37 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 19 | 20 | 3 | 132 |
| 1998 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 50 | 11 | 5 | 6 | 11 | 24 | 4 | 112 |
| 1999 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 38 | 4 | 6 | 12 | 11 | 13 | 10 | 85 |
| 2000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 111 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 20 | 14 | 4 | 164 |
| 2001 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 229 | 21 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 10 | 266 |
| 2002 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 279 | 10 | 4 | 32 | 69 | 8 | 5 | 404 |
| 2003 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 264 | 5 | 4 | 48 | 49 | 6 | 1 | 383 |
| 2004 | 34 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 213 | 16 | 0 | 52 | 47 | 11 | 11 | 373 |
| 2005 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 12 | 2 | 53 | 41 | 0 | 6 | 122 |
| 2006 | 51 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 14 | 3 | 74 | 67 | 4 | 3 | 218 |
| 2007 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 3 | 49 | 53 | 12 | 4 | 150 |
| 2008 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 2 | 70 | 17 | 11 | 3 | 117 |
| 2009 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 90 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 99 |
| Total | 121 | 315 | 4 | 14 | 1,368 | 151 | 83 | 529 | 430 | 183 | 70 | 3,198 |

Table 2. Number of trips taken by observers onboard purse seiners covered by data held by the SPC Oceanic Fisheries Programme, by main type of school association per trip

| Year | Unassociated Schools | Associated Schools | Total |
|-------|----------------------|--------------------|-------|
| 1994 | 14 | 11 | 25 |
| 1995 | 32 | 30 | 62 |
| 1996 | 52 | 57 | 109 |
| 1997 | 47 | 62 | 109 |
| 1998 | 78 | 85 | 163 |
| 1999 | 21 | 54 | 75 |
| 2000 | 35 | 55 | 90 |
| 2001 | 56 | 69 | 125 |
| 2002 | 84 | 128 | 212 |
| 2003 | 91 | 144 | 235 |
| 2004 | 141 | 224 | 365 |
| 2005 | 164 | 246 | 410 |
| 2006 | 191 | 256 | 447 |
| 2007 | 169 | 239 | 408 |
| 2008 | 151 | 169 | 320 |
| 2009 | 53 | 63 | 116 |
| Total | 1,379 | 1,892 | 3,271 |

Figures 1 and 2 show the distribution of observed effort relative to total effort in the longline and purse-seine fisheries in the WCPFC Statistical Area. While the coverage of observer data collected on purse seiners is more or less geographically representative, except for the lack of data covering Indonesia and the Philippines, the coverage for longliners is not, primarily because of the lack of data covering the distant-water fleets.

MAJOR FINFISH SPECIES AND SPECIES GROUPS CAUGHT BY LONGLINERS AND PURSE SEINERS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN

The major finfish species and species groups caught by longliners and purse seiners covered by observer data held by the OFP are listed in Tables 3 and 4, ranked by the amount of observed catch. Non-target species account for only 0.89% of the observed purse-seine catch (assuming that the unidentified tunas were target species), whereas for the longline fleets that are covered by the data, non-target species account for about half of the observed catch, with sharks accounting for 29.7%. The relatively large proportion of southern bluefin in the observed catch of longliners reflects the fact that much of the observer coverage of Japanese longliners fishing in Australia and New Zealand has been of trips targeting southern bluefin.

Figure 1. Distribution of longline hooks set and hooks observed in the WCPFC Statistical Area, 1992–2007

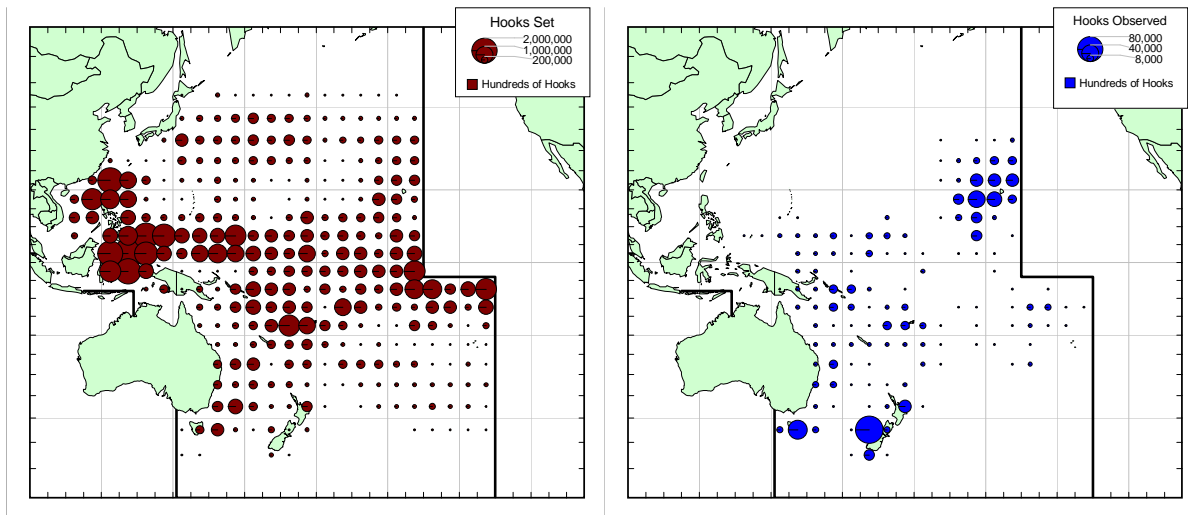


Figure 2. Distribution of purse-seine days fished or searched and days observed, 1994–2008

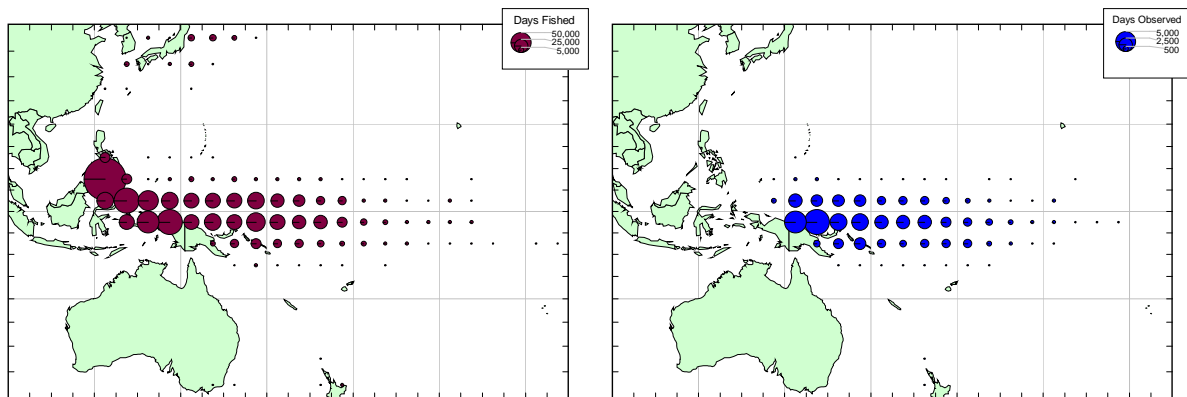


Table 3. Major finfish species and species groups caught by longliners in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, ranked by total observed catch, 1994–2009

| Species or Species Group | Scientific name | Observed Catch | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------|
| | | Tonnes | % |
| Blue shark | <i>Prionace glauca</i> | 9,216 | 19.5% |
| Bigeye tuna | <i>Thunnus obesus</i> | 7,381 | 15.6% |
| Albacore | <i>Thunnus alalunga</i> | 5,945 | 12.6% |
| Yellowfin tuna | <i>Thunnus albacares</i> | 5,560 | 11.8% |
| Southern bluefin tuna | <i>Thunnus maccoyii</i> | 4,468 | 9.5% |
| Swordfish | <i>Xiphias gladius</i> | 2,792 | 5.9% |
| Silky shark | <i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i> | 1,644 | 3.5% |
| Opah | <i>Lampris guttatus</i> | 1,330 | 2.8% |
| Striped marlin | <i>Tetrapturus audax</i> | 1,200 | 2.5% |
| Mako sharks | <i>Isurus</i> spp | 1,047 | 2.2% |
| Escolars | Gempylidae | 805 | 1.7% |
| Blue marlin | <i>Makaira nigricans</i> | 799 | 1.7% |
| Oceanic whitetip shark | <i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i> | 666 | 1.4% |
| Common dolphinfish | <i>Coryphaena hippurus</i> | 565 | 1.2% |
| Ocean sunfish | <i>Mola mola</i> | 499 | 1.1% |
| Porbeagle | <i>Lamna nasus</i> | 450 | 1.0% |
| Wahoo | <i>Acanthocybium solandri</i> | 408 | 0.9% |
| Pomfrets | Bramidae | 346 | 0.7% |
| Skipjack tuna | <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i> | 323 | 0.7% |
| Shortbill spearfish | <i>Tetrapturus angustirostris</i> | 289 | 0.6% |
| Lancetfishes | <i>Alepisaurus</i> spp | 264 | 0.6% |
| Butterfly kingfish | <i>Gasterochisma melampus</i> | 223 | 0.5% |
| Shark suckers | <i>Remora</i> spp | 213 | 0.5% |
| Oilfish | <i>Ruvettus pretiosus</i> | 207 | 0.4% |
| Thresher sharks | <i>Alopias</i> spp | 181 | 0.4% |
| Black marlin | <i>Makaira indica</i> | 149 | 0.3% |
| Indo-Pacific sailfish | <i>Istiophorus platypterus</i> | 117 | 0.2% |
| Hammerhead sharks | <i>Sphyrna</i> spp | 106 | 0.2% |
| Other sharks and rays | Elasmobranchii | 719 | 1.5% |
| Other fish | Osteichthyes | 590 | 1.2% |
| Total | | 47,193 | 100.0% |

Table 4. Major finfish species and species groups caught by purse seiners in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, ranked by observed catch, 1994–2009

| Species or Species Group | Scientific Name | Observed Catch | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------|---------|
| | | Tonnes | % |
| Skipjack tuna | <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i> | 812,882 | 64.95% |
| Yellowfin tuna | <i>Thunnus albacares</i> | 349,719 | 27.94% |
| Bigeye tuna | <i>Thunnus obesus</i> | 59,574 | 4.76% |
| Rainbow runner | <i>Elagatis bipinnulata</i> | 4,131 | 0.33% |
| Triggerfish | Balistidae | 1,023 | 0.08% |
| Whale shark | <i>Rhincodon typus</i> | 939 | 0.07% |
| Mackerel scad | <i>Decapterus macarellus</i> | 931 | 0.07% |
| Silky shark | <i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i> | 900 | 0.07% |
| Frigate and bullet tuna | <i>Auxis thazard</i> & <i>Auxis rochei</i> | 787 | 0.06% |
| Common dolphinfish | <i>Coryphaena hippurus</i> | 512 | 0.04% |
| Blue marlin | <i>Makaira nigricans</i> | 365 | 0.03% |
| Mantas | Mobulidae | 284 | 0.02% |
| Black marlin | <i>Makaira indica</i> | 234 | 0.02% |
| Albacore | <i>Thunnus alalunga</i> | 161 | 0.01% |
| Wahoo | <i>Acanthocybium solandri</i> | 155 | 0.01% |
| Oceanic whitetip shark | <i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i> | 120 | 0.01% |
| Tunas (unidentified) | Thunnini | 18,270 | 1.46% |
| Other scombrids | Scombridae | 192 | 0.02% |
| Other sharks and rays | Elasmobranchii | 177 | 0.01% |
| Other billfish | Istiophoridae | 120 | 0.01% |
| Other fish | Osteichthyes | 760 | 0.06% |
| Total | | 1,251,474 | 100.00% |

Longline Fisheries catch composition

To examine the differences in species caught by the various longline fisheries, the observer data from 1996 onwards (excluding data from the Aust., NZ, and Hawaii observer programmes) was grouped into four combinations of geographic area and depth of set: (1) Western South Pacific (WSP) Albacore is 10°S to 25°S, (2) Western Tropical Pacific (WTP) Deep is 10°N-10°S and west of 180° and > 10 Hooks Between Floats (HBF), (3) WTP Shallow is 10°N-10°S and west of 180° and <= 10 HBF and (4) Shark targeted sets. There was considerable variation in the species composition by group (Figure 3). The target tuna species (albacore, bigeye, skipjack, yellowfin) comprised 74% of the number of individuals observed in the WSP Albacore group, 66% of the observations for the WTP Deep group and 43% of the WTP Shallow group.

One hundred and ninety non-target species have been observed to interact with the WSP Albacore group. The most commonly observed non-target species were mahi mahi (17%), wahoo (12%), blue shark (10%), longsnouted lancetfish (9%), escolar (5%), great barracuta (4%), opah (4%),

shortbilled spearfish (3%), silky shark (3%) oceanic whitetip shark (2%), pelagic stringray (2%), blue marlin (2%), swordfish (2%), oilfish (2%), striped marlin (2%), sailfish (1%), short finned mako (1%) sickle pomfret (1%) and snake mackerel (1%). All other species comprised observation frequencies of < 1%.

One hundred and forty non-target species have been observed to interact with the WTP Deep group with blue shark (12%), silky shark (11%), wahoo (8%), mahi mahi (7%), blue marlin (6%), pelagic stringray (4%), bigeye thresher (4%), sailfish (3%), pelagic thresher (3%), great barracuda (3%), shortsnouted lancetfish (3%), longsnouted lancetfish (3%), lancetfish (3%), oceanic whitetip shark (3%), swordfish (3%), pomfret (2%), opah (2%), oilfish (2%), striped marlin (2%), snake mackerel (2%), black marlin (2%), escolar (2%), barracuda (1%), short finned mako (1%), sickle pomfret (1%), longfinned mako (1%) and shortbilled spearfish (1%) the most commonly observed. All other species comprised observation frequencies of < 1%.

Ninety seven non-target species have been observed to interact with the WTP shallow group. The most commonly observed non-target species were blue shark (22%), silky shark (15%), blue marlin (8%), swordfish (8%), pelagic stringray (5%), oceanic whitetip shark (5%), mahi mahi (3%), wahoo (3%), sailfish (3%), black marlin (2%), bigeye thresher (2%), striped marlin (2%), oilfish (2%), escolar (2%), barracuda (2%), lancetfish (2%), shortfinned mako (2%), snake mackerel (1%), great barracuda (1%), pelagic thresher (1%), shortbilled spearfish (1%), longsnouted lancetfish (1%) and crocodile shark (1%) with all other species comprising observation frequencies of < 1%. The longline data to the east of 180 degrees longitude was excluded as the sample size of 296 sets available for analysis was too small for meaningful comparison.

The most commonly observed species from shark targeted sets were silky shark (55%), oceanic whitetip shark (6%), yellowfin tuna (5%), grey reef shark (3%), swordfish (3%), great barracuda (2%), sailfish (2%), blacktip shark (2%), hammerhead shark (2%), silvertip shark (2%), blue shark (2%), blue marlin (2%) galapagos shark (1%), balcktip reef shark (1%), bronze whaler shark (1%), scalloped hammerhead shark (1%), mahi mahi (1%) and bigeye (1%). The number of observations of seabirds, turtles and marine mammals was <1% for each group.

Purse-seine Fisheries catch composition

The purse-seine fisheries operating between 10°N and 10°S were split into unassociated and associated (log, drifting FAD, anchored FAD) sets. There was considerable variation in the species composition between associated and unassociated sets (Figure 4). The target species comprised 98% for log associated sets and 99% for all other set types.

On log associated the most commonly observed non-target species were rainbow runner (41%), mackerel scad (12%), oceanic triggerfish (11%), silky shark (6%), mahi mahi (4%), frigate tuna (3%), blue marlin (1%), black marlin (1%), bullet tuna (1%), black triggerfish(1%), manta rays (1%), wahoo (1%), kawakawa (1%), mackerel (1%) and other sharks (1%). On anchored FAD associated sets the most common non-target species observed were rainbow runner (41%), frigate tuna (12%), silky shark (8%), mackerel scad (6%), mahi mahi (6%), bullet tuna (5%), oceanic triggerfish (4%), kawakawa (4%), manta rays (2%), blue marlin (2%), black marlin (1%), oceanic whitetip sharks (1%), barracudas (1%), wahoo (1%), black triggerfish(1%), and other sharks (1%). On drifting FAD associated sets the most common non-target species observed were rainbow runner (45%), silky shark (8%), oceanic triggerfish (8%), mackerel scad (7%), mahi mahi (6%),

blue marlin (3%), wahoo (3%), albacore (3%), bullet tuna (2%), black marlin (2%), other sharks (2%), manta rays (1%), frigate tuna (1%), oceanic whitetip sharks (1%), swordfish (1%), and kawakawa (1%).

On unassociated sets the most common non-target species observed were silky shark (19%), blue marlin (14%), manta rays (11%), black marlin (9%), rainbow runner (8%), saury (7%), albacore (4%), mackerel scad (4%), bullet tuna (4%), frigate tuna (3%), barracudas (3%), kawakawa (2%), striped marlin (2%), mahi mahi (2%), oceanic triggerfish (1%), sailfish (1%) and amberjacks (1%).

Figure 3. Catch composition of the various categories of longline fisheries operating in the WCPO.

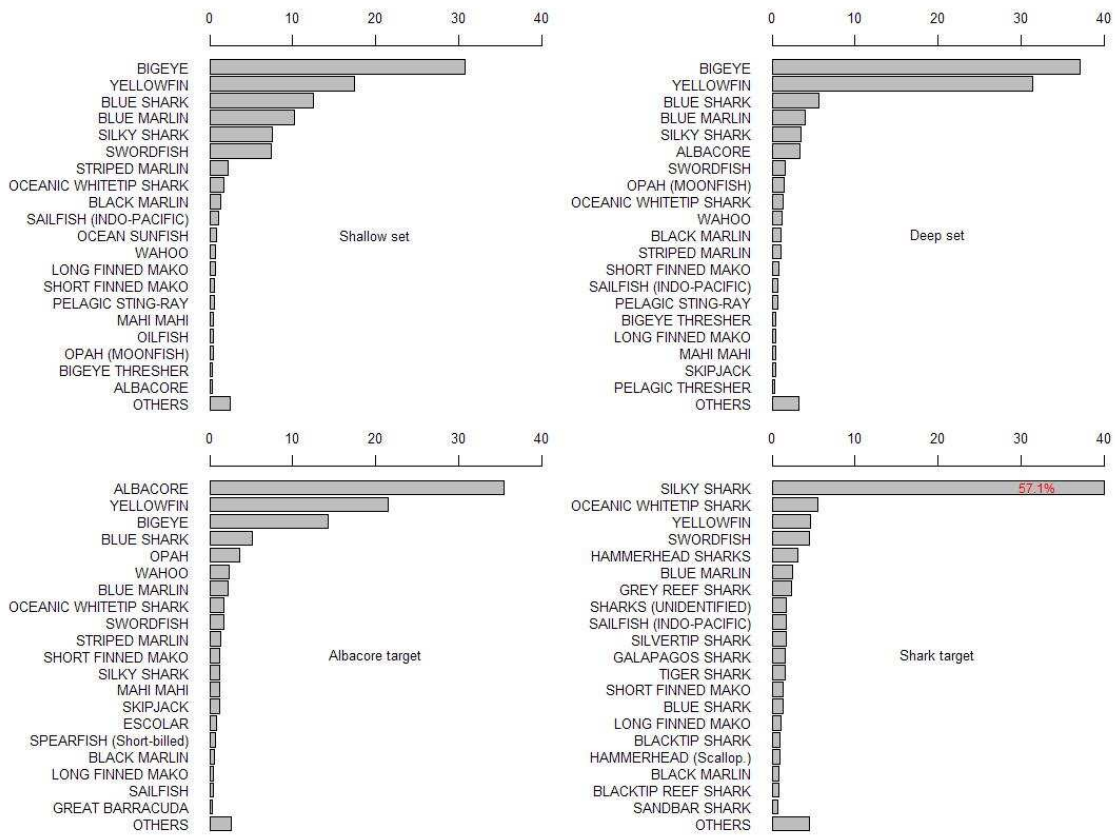
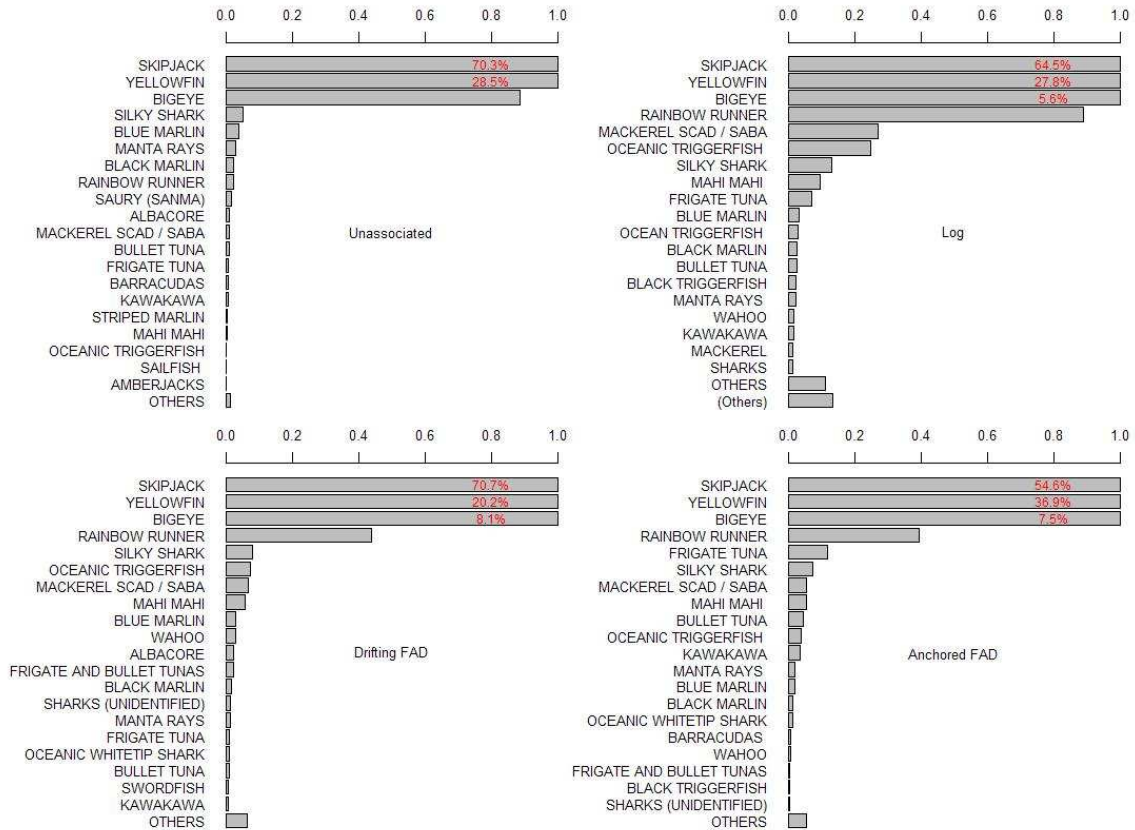


Figure 4 Catch composition of the various categories of purse-seine fisheries operating in the WCPO.



Discarding

The average discarding of the target tuna in the longline fisheries is approximately 5% for yellowfin, bigeye and albacore and 20% for skipjack. Discarding (including live release) of other billfishes is approximately 11%, 54% for other teleosts, 49% for sharks and rays, 73% for seabirds, 94% for marine mammals and 96% for turtles. Approximately 50% of the landed yellowfin, bigeye and albacore are dead and 77% of landed skipjack are dead. The percentage dead on landing for billfish, other teleosts, sharks and rays, seabirds, marine mammals and turtles are 55%, 46%, 21%, 86%, 7% and 33% respectively. Species specific discard and mortalities are presented in Appendix Table A1. The percentage of discarded sharks which are finned is provided in Appendix Table A2. The shark finning percentage for pelagic thresher, long finned mako, blacktip shark, great hammerhead, silvertip shark, grey reef shark, scalloped hammerhead, silky shark, sanbar shark, porbeagle shark, blacktip reef shark, oceanic whitetip shark, hammerhead sharks, galapagos shark was >50%.

Turtles (from EB-WP-07 WCPFC-SC5)

'Life status' has been recorded for 96% of the 262 individual turtles encountered: 41% of these were 'dead' or 'barely alive', while 55% were alive (27% were alive and 'healthy', 12% were alive and 'Injured/stressed', 16% were alive with condition 'Not specified'). Observers have covered most longline fleets throughout the SPC Statistical Area with at least one trip, although overall coverage at <1% is very low. Fleets for which observer data are most lacking, especially in regards to marine turtle, are the Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Chinese Taipei and Vanuatu distant-water longline fleets and the offshore fleets of Chinese Taipei; these fleets collectively account for ca. 65-70% of the WCPFC Convention Area tuna catch. Other fleets do collect observer data but due to national restrictions these data are not available for regional analyses. Observations clearly show that tropical areas have higher incidence of turtle encounters than temperate areas (3% vs. <1%). Species composition changes with latitude, with leatherback/loggerhead turtle encounters being more prevalent in sub-tropical to temperate waters, while species encountered in tropical/sub-tropical waters include Olive Ridley, green, loggerhead, hawksbill, flatback and leatherback turtles. Leatherbacks are also observed in deep-set longline fisheries. Interactions with turtles is higher for all shallow sets than for any deep sets (>4.5% vs. <2.4%). The current level of coverage provided by observer data on purse-seine vessels, while spatially representative and much higher than for longline, is not sufficient to provide statistically robust estimates of total marine turtle encounters in WCPO purse seine fisheries. This situation is expected to change as the purse seine fleet moves towards 100% coverage.

Species Diversity (see Proceeding of the National Academy of Sciences, 107: 9707-9711)

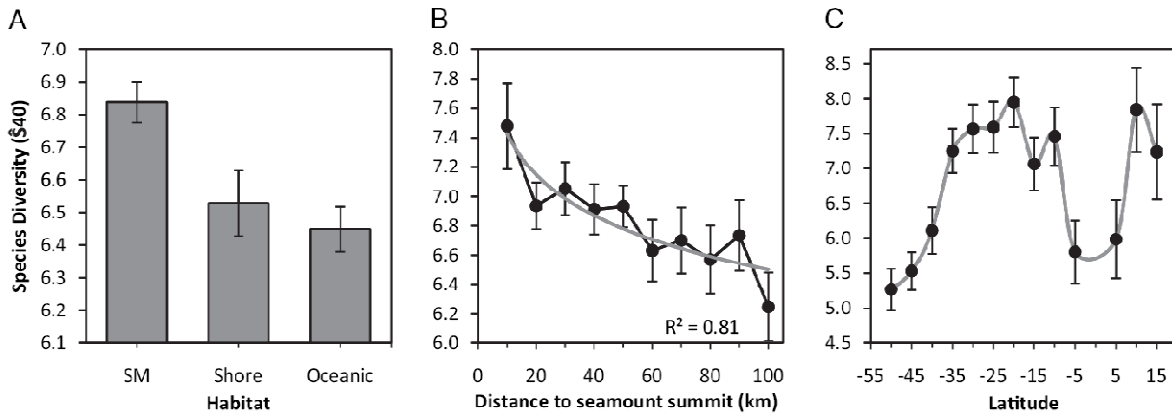
Species diversity was examined using rarefaction techniques to account for differences in fishing effort (number of hooks) among longline sets. The expected number of species (\hat{S}_{40}), standardized to 1000 hooks per longline set, was rarefied for subsamples of 40 individuals from the total number of individuals in the sample. GLM techniques were used to standardize rarefied richness and to evaluate whether the influence of significant explanatory variables. The explanatory variables included in the model were year as a proxy for temporal variability, moon phase as the relationship between lunar periodicity and catch rates has been demonstrated for a wide variety of commercially exploited species, geographical area, fleet type, distance to the closest feature, and fishing effort. The Akaike's Information Criterion (AIC) was used to compare the model fits using different relationships with distance to feature, with log-transformed having the better fit. The model used was:

$$\hat{S}_{40} \sim \text{Year} + \text{moon phase} + \text{month} + \text{lat5} + \text{long5} + \text{flagfleet} + \text{Log}(\text{distance to feature}) \cdot \text{feature} + \text{ns}(\text{hooks}, \text{df}=10)$$

Moon phase was divided into 8 categories from New to Full. The geographical areas used in the standardization were squares of 5 degrees latitude and longitude. Vessels were categorized based on a combination of their flag and fleet type. Effort was measured as the number of hooks in each longline set. The species being targeted, and the depth and time of a set can influence the non-target species caught. Information on these variables was not contained within the database and fleet type and number of hooks was used as a proxy measures for these variables.

Rarefied pelagic diversity was significantly higher in seamount habitats than in coastal or oceanic waters (Figure 4A) and was found to be nonlinearly related to the distance to seamount, with diversity higher close to the summits (Figure 4B). Rarefied diversity was higher at intermediate latitudes (10-35°S and 10-15°N; Figure 4C). Regions with higher pelagic diversity included Indonesia, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia and Marshall Islands in the Northern hemisphere and Tonga, New Caledonia, and Norfolk Island in the Southern Hemisphere.

Figure 4. Mean expected species diversity ($\pm 95\%$ confidence limits) rarefied from 40 individuals ($^{\wedge}S_{40}$) as a function of (A) the main habitat [seamount (SM), shore and oceanic], (B) distance to seamount summit where the fitted logarithmic regression is also shown (shaded line), and (C) 5° latitude.



Catch Rates

Nominal catch rates of target and non-target species determined from observer data collected onboard longliners and purse seiners are presented in Appendix Figures A1 and A2. For longliners, the catch rates have been estimated for six combinations of geographic area and depth of set: (1) shallow sets north of 10°N (labelled “Hawaii, Shallow Sets”, since observer data held by the OFP for the area north of 10°N cover only the Hawaii-based fleet); (2) deep sets north of 10°N (“Hawaii, Deep Sets”); (3) shallow sets from 10°N to 10°S ; (4) deep sets from 10°N to 10°S ; (5) all sets from 10°S to 25°S ; and (6) all sets south of 25°S . For purse seiners, the catch rates have been estimated for associated and unassociated sets.

For longliners, each page in Figure A1 presents line plots of nominal catch rates for a particular species for each combination of geographic area and depth of set, with the most northern areas at the top of the page and the most southern at the bottom. Since certain species are not distributed in all latitudes, some of the plots include catch rates that are all zero, but the plots have been included for the sake of completeness. The mean catch rate was estimated as the total catch divided by the total effort within each stratum. Mean catch rates for strata with less than 50,000 hooks are not shown. The scale of the ordinate (“Y”) axes have been allowed to vary among the plots for a given species so that trends can be examined regardless of the scale. The error bars in each plot represent plus or minus two standard errors of the estimate of the mean catch rate; the standard errors were determined from sets, which are not independent, and so the error bars underestimate the uncertainty. For purse seine, the standard errors were determined from trips and the error bars almost certainly overestimate the uncertainty.

The estimates of mean catch rates may be subject to species identification errors, particularly in the early years of the time series. For example, observers may not have routinely identified sharks to the species level during the early years of the observer programmes and then subsequently were encouraged to do so by their supervisors. As a result, the mean catch rates for the species group “Other sharks and rays” tend to decline, while mean catch rates for some shark species may increase.

When interpreting trends in longline catch rates in the area south of 25°S, the almost complete cessation of fishing by the Japanese fleet in the AFZ after 1997 should be born in mind. Also, the number of trips taken by observers on Japanese vessels in the waters of New Zealand dropped to zero in 2004 and only two or three trips were taken during 2005–2008. Trends in estimates of purse-seine catch rates may have been affected by the large increase in the number of trips taken by observers in Papua New Guinea since 2002. Some of these and other difficulties in the interpretation of nominal catch rates would be addressed through the standardisation of catch rates.

KEY CONCLUSIONS

Species diversity in the WCPO varies in association with habitat features and latitudes. Rarefied pelagic diversity was significantly higher in seamount habitats and was higher at intermediate latitudes (10-35°S and 10-15°N). Regions with higher pelagic diversity included Indonesia, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia and Marshall Islands in the Northern hemisphere and Tonga, New Caledonia, and Norfolk Island in the Southern Hemisphere.

There are differences in the catch composition between longline and purse-seine fishery with a higher proportion of non-target species caught. Over 98% of the catch on purse –seine sets are the target species (including juvenile yellowfin and bigeye) whereas on longline sets the target species comprise 74% (WSP-albacore), 66% (WTP-Deep) and 43% (WTP-Shallow) of the observations.

Non target species composition varies between purse-seine and longline with higher observations of sharks on longline sets in comparison to purse-seine sets which were dominated by surface teleosts such as rainbow runner, mackerel scad and mahi mahi.

Non-target species catch was highest on log sets for purse-seine and WTP-shallow sets for longline.

The number of reported interactions between marine mammals, seabirds and turtles are insufficient for more complex analyses. The percentage dead on landing for seabirds, marine mammals and turtles are 86%, 7% and 33% respectively.

The most important gap in the data required to examine catches of non-target species in the WCPO is observer data covering the distant-water longline fleets, for which coverage by data held by the OFP is minimal.

The declines observed in catch rates for porbeagle shark, oceanic whitetip shark and silky shark warrants further investigation to determine whether this reflects changes in observer patterns, fisheries behaviours or a decline in abundance.

Table A1. Discarding and condition percentages from observer records in the WCPO held by SPC

| Common_Name | Scientific_Name | Discarding (%) | | | | | Dead (%) | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------|----------------|-------|---------------|------------------|-------------|----------------|-------|
| | | North 10°N | WSP- Albacore | WTP Deep | WTP Shallow | Shark | North 10°N | WSP- Albacore | WTP Deep | WTP Shallow | Shark |
| <i>Tuna</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ALBACORE | Thunnus alalunga | 2 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 63 | 56 | 75 | 0 | 33 |
| YELLOWFIN | Thunnus albacares | 9 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 10 | 50 | 43 | 51 | 45 | 51 |
| BIGEYE | Thunnus obesus | 6 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 28 | 33 | 31 | 20 | 47 |
| SKIPJACK | Katsuwonus pelamis | 35 | 8 | 44 | 11 | 0 | 93 | 90 | 91 | 87 | 25 |
| WAHOO | Acanthocybium solandri | 5 | 3 | 14 | 14 | 6 | 87 | 83 | 83 | 69 | 64 |
| SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA | Thunnus maccoyii | 33 | 11 | 0 | | 0 | 33 | 20 | 100 | | 100 |
| BUTTERFLY TUNA KINGFISH | Gasterochisma melampus | | 36 | 100 | 0 | | | 65 | 33 | 100 | |
| PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA | Thunnus orientalis | 0 | 19 | 15 | | | 0 | 47 | 67 | | |
| SLENDER TUNA | Allothunnus fallai | | 96 | 50 | | 0 | | 50 | 0 | | 21 |
| BULLET TUNA ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA | Auxis rochei | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 25 | | 25 | 14 | 0 | 25 |
| KAWAKAWA | Thunnus thynnus | | 11 | | | | | 35 | | | |
| DOGTOOTH TUNA | Euthynnus affinis | | 43 | 0 | 0 | | | 57 | 0 | 100 | |
| LONGTAIL TUNA | Gymnosarda unicolor | | 100 | 0 | | 100 | | 0 | 0 | | 0 |
| | Thunnus tonggol | | | | | 0 | | | | | 33 |
| <i>Billfishes</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SWORDFISH | Xiphias gladius | 44 | 13 | 29 | 13 | 5 | 54 | 60 | 62 | 67 | 70 |
| STRIPED MARLIN SHORTBILLED | Tetrapturus audax | 7 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 57 | 36 | 52 | 22 | 32 |
| SPEARFISH | Tetrapturus angustirostris | 8 | 10 | 38 | 3 | 0 | 75 | 73 | 67 | 41 | 25 |
| BLUE MARLIN | Makaira nigricans | 3 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 57 | 57 | 54 | 38 | 44 |
| SAILFISH (INDOPACIFIC) | Istiophorus platypterus | 19 | 7 | 29 | 4 | 13 | 65 | 74 | 79 | 35 | 54 |
| BLACK MARLIN | Makaira indica | 5 | 45 | 6 | 0 | 7 | 85 | 60 | 73 | 35 | 53 |
| <i>Sharks and Rays</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BLUE SHARK | Prionace glauca | 96 | 30 | 12 | 19 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 16 |
| SILKY SHARK | Carcharhinus falciformis | 47 | 10 | 7 | 35 | 3 | 22 | 26 | 23 | 27 | 22 |
| PELAGIC STINGRAY | Dasyatis violacea | 95 | 98 | 99 | 99 | 100 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 0 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|-----|-----|----|
| OCEANIC WHITETIP SHARK | <i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i> | 84 | 10 | 11 | 7 | 0 | 23 | 25 | 20 | 14 | 12 |
| BIGEYE THRESHER | <i>Alopias superciliosus</i> | 75 | 52 | 12 | 43 | 1 | 21 | 26 | 37 | 30 | 38 |
| SHORT FINNED MAKO | <i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i> | 55 | 26 | 12 | 90 | 0 | 21 | 24 | 28 | 5 | 26 |
| SMOOTH SKIN DOGFISH | <i>Centroscymnus owstoni</i> | | 100 | | | | | 11 | | | |
| PELAGIC THRESHER | <i>Alopias pelagicus</i> | 40 | 69 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 39 | 34 | 53 | 36 | 49 |
| CROCODILE SHARK | <i>Pseudocarcharias kamoharai</i> | 98 | 98 | 62 | 50 | 100 | 3 | 5 | 18 | 32 | 0 |
| SCHOOL SHARK | <i>Galeorhinus galeus</i> | | 6 | | | | | 21 | | | |
| GREY REEF SHARK | <i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i> | | 11 | 0 | | 1 | | 29 | 30 | | 30 |
| GALAPAGOS SHARK | <i>Carcharhinus galapagensis</i> | 100 | 0 | 59 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 12 | 0 | 16 |
| SCALLOPED HAMMERHEAD | <i>Sphyrna lewini</i> | 89 | 15 | 65 | | 1 | 38 | 50 | 31 | | 25 |
| LONG FINNED MAKO | <i>Isurus paucus</i> | 38 | 12 | 3 | 89 | 1 | 12 | 19 | 28 | 11 | 8 |
| SILVERTIP SHARK | <i>Carcharhinus albimarginatus</i> | 0 | 8 | 14 | 0 | 2 | 11 | 45 | 54 | 0 | 29 |
| BLACKTIP SHARK | <i>Carcharhinus limbatus</i> | | 6 | 14 | 0 | 1 | | 30 | 51 | 100 | 21 |
| BLACKTIP REEF SHARK | <i>Carcharhinus melanopterus</i> | | 0 | 17 | 100 | 6 | | 57 | 32 | 0 | 47 |
| THRESHER | <i>Alopias vulpinus</i> | 25 | 59 | 6 | 55 | 0 | 75 | 22 | 37 | 20 | 0 |
| PORBEAGLE SHARK | <i>Lamna nasus</i> | | 28 | | | | | 36 | | | |
| BRONZE WHALER SHARK | <i>Carcharhinus brachyurus</i> | 100 | 56 | 5 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 22 | 0 | 44 |
| RAYS | <i>Dasyatis spp</i> | 100 | 100 | 89 | | 100 | 0 | 1 | 13 | | 0 |
| TIGER SHARK | <i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i> | 80 | 52 | 64 | 100 | 0 | 50 | 3 | 17 | 0 | 4 |
| GREAT HAMMERHEAD | <i>Sphyrna mokarran</i> | | 6 | 33 | 100 | 3 | | 67 | 67 | 100 | 18 |
| GIANT MANTA | <i>Manta birostris</i> | | 99 | 100 | | 100 | | 0 | 0 | | 17 |
| SANDBAR SHARK | <i>Carcharhinus plumbeus</i> | 89 | 13 | 50 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 0 | 50 | 14 |
| CHILEAN DEVIL RAY | <i>Mobula tarapacana</i> | | 100 | 100 | | 100 | | 0 | 0 | | 0 |
| GREAT WHITE SHARK | <i>Carcharodon carcharias</i> | | 0 | 33 | | 45 | | 0 | 0 | | 57 |
| CENTROSCYMNUS COELOLEPIS | <i>Centroscymnus coelolepis</i> | | 100 | | | | | 3 | | | |
| VELVET DOGFISH | <i>Scymnodon squamulosus</i> | 95 | 100 | 100 | | | 14 | 10 | 100 | | |
| DUSKY SHARK | <i>Carcharhinus obscurus</i> | | 96 | | | | | 10 | | | |
| SMOOTH HAMMERHEAD | <i>Sphyrna zygaena</i> | 82 | 21 | | | 0 | 33 | 70 | | | 64 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|-----|----|
| BASKING SHARK | Cetorhinus maximus | | 28 | | | | | 17 | | | 11 |
| MANTA RAY | Mobula japanica | | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | | 46 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| PLUNKET SHARK | Centroscyrnus plunketi | | 100 | | | | | 11 | | | |
| COOKIE CUTTER SHARK | Isistius brasiliensis | 100 | 71 | 90 | | | 0 | 14 | 0 | | |
| WHITETIP REEF SHARK | Triaenodon obesus | | 0 | | | | 0 | 0 | | | 18 |
| SEAL SHARK BLACK SHARK | Dalatias licha | | 94 | | | | | 0 | | | |
| AUSTRALIAN BLACKTIP SHARK | Carcharhinus tilstoni | | 78 | | | | | 11 | | | |
| BIGNOSE SHARK | Carcharhinus altimus | 100 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| SALMON SHARK | Lamna ditropis | 100 | | | | | 60 | | | | |
| WINGHEAD SHARK | Eusphyra blochii | | 0 | | | | | 33 | | | |
| BROADSNOUTED SEVENGILL SHARK | Notorynchus cepedianus | | 50 | | | | | 0 | | | |
| BULL SHARK | Carcharhinus leucas | | 0 | 0 | | | | 0 | 0 | | |
| BAXTERS LANTERN DOGFISH | Etmopterus spp | | 100 | | | | | 0 | | | |
| BIGEYE SAND SHARK | Odontaspis noronhai | | | | | | 0 | | | | 0 |
| BIRDBEAK DOGFISH | Deania calcea | | 100 | | | | | 0 | | | |
| KNIFETOOTH DOGFISH | Scymnodon ringens | | 100 | | | | | 0 | | | |
| SHORTNOSE SPURDOG | Squalus megalops | | 100 | | | | | 0 | | | |
| SPINNER SHARK | Carcharhinus brevipinna | | 0 | | | | | 50 | | | |
| <i>Other Teleosts</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| LONGSNOUTED LANCETFISH | Alepisaurus ferox | 100 | 99 | 99 | 93 | 70 | 86 | 70 | 80 | 93 | 80 |
| MAHI MAHI | Coryphaena hippurus | 7 | 3 | 18 | 6 | 4 | 42 | 27 | 35 | 27 | 21 |
| SICKLE POMFRET | Taractichthys steindachneri | 5 | 11 | 60 | 100 | | 14 | 17 | 35 | 50 | |
| RAYS BREEM | Brama brama | 0 | 41 | 68 | 100 | | 0 | 9 | 18 | 100 | |
| ESCOLAR | Lepidocybium flavobrunneum | 10 | 21 | 76 | 25 | 22 | 7 | 16 | 28 | 45 | 28 |
| SNAKE MACKEREL | Gempylus serpens | 97 | 95 | 64 | 55 | 92 | 46 | 49 | 60 | 52 | 50 |
| MOONFISH OPAH | Lampris guttatus | 3 | 23 | 49 | 40 | 50 | 35 | 25 | 46 | 40 | 0 |
| GREAT BARRACUDA | Sphyrna barracuda | 13 | 14 | 25 | 1 | 13 | 18 | 28 | 44 | 22 | 25 |
| BIGSCALED POMFRET | Taractichthys longipinnis | | 61 | 71 | | | | 15 | 32 | | 0 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|----|
| SHORTSNOURED | | | | | | | | | | | |
| LANCETFISH | <i>Alepisaurus brevirostris</i> | 99 | 99 | 97 | 100 | 100 | 94 | 59 | 82 | 75 | 75 |
| OILFISH | <i>Ruvettus pretiosus</i> | 41 | 56 | 73 | 60 | 23 | 14 | 18 | 33 | 40 | 33 |
| DEALFISH RIBBON FISH | <i>Trachipterus trachipterus</i> | | 100 | | | | | 84 | | | |
| RUDDERFISH | <i>Centrolophus niger</i> | | 89 | | | | | 9 | | | |
| SLENDER SUNFISH | <i>Ranzania laevis</i> | 96 | 85 | 88 | | 100 | 51 | 81 | 36 | | 0 |
| OCEAN SUNFISH | <i>Mola mola</i> | 97 | 98 | 48 | 55 | | 15 | 9 | 16 | 0 | |
| BLUE GRENADIER | <i>Macrurus novaezelandiae</i> | | 84 | | | | | 79 | | | |
| DAGGER POMFRET | <i>Taractes rubescens</i> | 88 | | 96 | | | 20 | | 12 | | |
| BLACKFIN BARRACUDA | <i>Sphyræna genie</i> | | 11 | 17 | 0 | 4 | | 25 | 46 | 0 | 26 |
| OMOSUDID | <i>Omosudis lowei</i> | 85 | 100 | 100 | 100 | | 89 | 99 | 100 | 100 | |
| ROUDI ESCOLAR | <i>Promethichthys prometheus</i> | 100 | 53 | 100 | | | 100 | 37 | 0 | | |
| BLACK MACKEREL | <i>Scombrobrax heterolepis</i> | 94 | 96 | 0 | | | 57 | 56 | 100 | | |
| BARRACUDA | <i>Sphyræna putnamae</i> | | 2 | 0 | | 1 | | 51 | 83 | | 39 |
| BARRACOUTA | <i>Thyrsites atun</i> | | 95 | 83 | 0 | 33 | | 51 | 40 | 50 | 0 |
| RAINBOW RUNNER | <i>Elagatis bipinnulata</i> | 26 | 8 | 29 | 33 | 0 | 64 | 61 | 79 | 100 | 44 |
| BARRACUDA | <i>Sphyræna jello</i> | | 34 | 63 | | 4 | | 29 | 50 | | 25 |
| FLATHEAD POMFRET | <i>Taractes asper</i> | 71 | 59 | | | | 29 | 20 | | | |
| RAZORBACK | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SCABBARDFISH | <i>Assurger anzac</i> | 71 | 99 | | | | 33 | 17 | | | |
| CRESTED OARFISH | <i>Lophotus lacepede</i> | 83 | 78 | 100 | | | 49 | 44 | 100 | | |
| MANOWAR | <i>Cubiceps spp</i> | | 97 | | | | | 63 | | | |
| CRESTFISHUNICORNFISH | <i>Lophotus capellei</i> | | 57 | 100 | | | | 35 | 50 | | |
| OCEANIC PUFFER | <i>Lagocephalus lagocephalus</i> | 100 | 100 | 100 | | | 16 | 13 | 0 | | |
| BLACK GEMFISH | <i>Nesiarchus nasutus</i> | | 89 | 100 | | | | 46 | 100 | | |
| GEMFISH | <i>Rexea solandri</i> | 0 | 85 | 20 | | 0 | 0 | 57 | 40 | | 0 |
| BLACK SNOEK | <i>Thyrsitoides marleyi</i> | | 92 | | | | | 72 | | | |
| FROSTFISH | <i>Lepidopus caudatus</i> | | 77 | 0 | | | | 12 | 100 | | |
| HAPUKU | <i>Polyprion oxygeneios</i> | | 60 | | | | | 14 | | | |
| BRILLIANT POMFRET | <i>Eumegistus illustris</i> | 31 | 0 | 13 | | | 29 | 40 | 38 | | |
| FALSE FROSTFISH | <i>Paradiplospinus gracilis</i> | | 97 | | | | | 19 | | | |
| BASS GROPER | <i>Polyprion americanus</i> | | 100 | | | | | 24 | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| GIANT YELLOWTAIL | <i>Seriola lalandi</i> | 0 | 72 | | | | 32 | | | |
| SPANISH MACKEREL | <i>Scomberomorus commerson</i> | | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 87 | 100 | 0 |
| HAKE | <i>Merluccius australis</i> | | 59 | | | | 71 | | | |
| PRICKLY FANFISH | <i>Pterycombus petersii</i> | | 88 | | | | 29 | | | |
| SNAPPERS | Lutjanidae | | 0 | | | 0 | 14 | | | 50 |
| SPOTTED FANFISH ORANGEFRECKLED FLATHEAD | <i>Pteraclis velifera</i> | | 100 | | | | 50 | | | |
| SHARPTAIL MOLA | <i>Ratabulus diversidens</i> | | 0 | | | | 33 | | | |
| GREATER AMBERJACK | <i>Masturus lanceolatus</i> | | 100 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 17 | 0 | |
| POMPANO DOLPHINFISH | <i>Seriola dumerili</i> | | 0 | | | | 56 | | | |
| YELLOWEDGE GROUPER | <i>Coryphaena equiselis</i> | 25 | | | | | 75 | | | |
| ALASKA POLLOCK | <i>Epinephelus flavolimbatus</i> | | | 100 | | | | 50 | | |
| BLUE MACKEREL | <i>Theragra chalcogramma</i> | | 100 | | 100 | | 40 | | 100 | |
| DEALFISH | <i>Scomber australasicus</i> | | 100 | | | | 50 | | | |
| UNICORN LEATHERJACKET | <i>Desmodema polystictum</i> | | 50 | | | | 0 | | | |
| HECTORS LANTERNFISH | <i>Aluterus monoceros</i> | | 0 | | | 0 | 67 | | | 0 |
| SAND SILLAGO | <i>Lampanyctodes hectoris</i> | | 100 | | | | 20 | | | |
| SHARK MACKEREL | <i>Sillago ciliata</i> | | 20 | | | | 100 | | | |
| NEEDLEFISHES | <i>Grammatorcynus bicarinatus</i> | | | | | 20 | | | | 60 |
| TAPERTAIL RIBBONFISH | <i>Tylosurus spp</i> | | | 0 | | | | 100 | | |
| ACANTHOPAGRUS BUTCHERI | | 75 | | | | | 25 | | | |
| BIGEYE TREVALLY | <i>Acanthopagrus butcheri</i> | | 0 | | | | 67 | | | |
| BLACK TRIGGERFISH | <i>Caranx sexfasciatus</i> | | | | | 0 | | | | 0 |
| FALSE MORAY | <i>Melichthys niger</i> | | 50 | 100 | | | 0 | 100 | | 0 |
| OARFISH | <i>Kaupichthys hyoproroides</i> | | 100 | | | | 67 | | | |
| LONGFIN YELLOWTAIL | <i>Regalecus glesne</i> | 100 | | | | | 67 | | | |
| BLUEBANDED WRASSE | <i>Seriola rivoliana</i> | | 100 | 0 | | | 0 | 0 | | |
| COBIA | <i>Xiphocheilus typus</i> | | 0 | | | | 50 | | | |
| DRUMMER) | <i>Rachycentron canadum</i> | | 0 | | | | 0 | | | |
| | <i>Kyphosus cinerascens</i> | | | 50 | | | | 50 | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-----|-----|--|-----|--|-----|--|-----|
| EMPORER RED SNAPPER | Lutjanus sebae | | 0 | | 0 | | 100 | | 0 |
| SCRIBBLED | | | | | | | | | |
| LEATHERJACKET | Aluterus scriptus | | 0 | | 100 | | 100 | | 0 |
| MOONFISH | Mene maculata | | 0 | | | | 100 | | |
| MORID COD | Mora moro | | 100 | | | | 50 | | |
| MORWONG | Nemadactylus spp | | 100 | | 100 | | 0 | | 100 |
| PILOT FISH | Naucrates ductor | | 50 | | | | 50 | | |
| PUFFERFISH | Sphoeroides spp | | 100 | | | | 100 | | |
| RIBBONFISH | Agrostichthys parkeri | | 50 | | | | 50 | | |
| SCALLOPED RIBBONFISH | Zu cristatus | 100 | | | | | 50 | | |
| SOUTHERN RAYS | | | | | | | | | |
| BREAM | Brama australis | | 0 | | | | 100 | | |
| YELLOWTAIL SCAD | Atule mate | | 100 | | 100 | | 0 | | 100 |
| WELLINGTON FLYING | | | | | | | | | |
| SQUID | Nototodarus sloani | | 100 | | | | 0 | | |
| AUSTRALIAN SALMON | Arripis trutta | | 100 | | | | 100 | | |
| BANDED WRASSE | | | 100 | | | | 0 | | |
| BLUENOSE | Hyperoglyphe antarctica | | 100 | | | | 20 | | |
| COMMON WAREHOU | Seriolella brama | | 0 | | | | 0 | | |
| COTTONMOUTH JACK | Uraspis secunda | 0 | | | | | 0 | | |
| DEEPWATER RED | | | | | | | | | |
| SNAPPER | Etelis carbunculus | | | | 0 | | | | 0 |
| EUROPEAN SPRAT | Sprattus sprattus | | 0 | | | | 100 | | |
| FLATBACK TURTLE | | | 100 | | | | 100 | | |
| GIZZARD SHAD | Konosirus punctatus | | 0 | | | | 100 | | |
| KIMBERLEY GRUNTER | Syncomistes kimberleyensis | | 0 | | | | 100 | | |
| LOUVAR | Luvarus imperialis | 100 | | | | | 100 | | |
| ARAFURA EEL | Lumiconger arafura | | 0 | | | | 100 | | |
| PENCIL CARDINAL | Epigonus denticulatus | | 100 | | | | 100 | | |
| PRICKLY ANGLERFISH | | | 100 | | | | 0 | | |
| REMORA | Remora spp | | 100 | | | | 100 | | |
| SCISSORTAIL | | | 100 | | | | 0 | | |
| SHARK SUCKER | Remora remora | | 100 | | | | 0 | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|---|
| SLIMY MACKEREL | Scomber japonicus | 100 | | | | 100 | | | |
| SQUARETAIL | | | 100 | | | | | | |
| STARRY TRIGGERFISH | Abalistes stellaris | | 0 | | | | 100 | | |
| TARAKIHI | Nemadactylus macropterus | | 0 | | | | 0 | | |
| TREVALLY | Pseudocaranx dentex | | 100 | | | | 100 | | |
| YELLOWTAIL HORSE MACKEREL | Trachurus novaezelandiae | | 100 | | | | 100 | | |
| BIGTAIL SNAILFISH | Osteodiscus cascadae | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Marine Mammal</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| NEW ZEALAND FUR SEAL | Arctocephalus gazella | | 100 | | | | 4 | | |
| FALSE KILLER WHALE | Pseudorca crassidens | 100 | | 100 | | 13 | | 0 | |
| SHORTFINNED PILOT WHALE | Globicephala macrorhynchus | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 0 | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| COMMON DOLPHIN | Delphinus delphis | | 100 | | | | 67 | | |
| BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN | Tursiops truncatus | 100 | | 100 | | | | 0 | |
| HUMPBACK WHALE | Megaptera novaeangliae | 100 | 100 | | | 0 | 0 | | |
| MELONHEADED WHALE | Peponocephala electra | | 100 | | | 100 | 0 | | |
| HARBOUR SEAL | Phoca vitulina | | | 0 | | | | 0 | |
| RISSOS DOLPHIN | Grampus griseus | | 100 | | | | 0 | | |
| SOUTH AFRICAN FUR SEAL | Arctocephalus pusillus | | | | | | 0 | | |
| TOOTHED WHALES NEI (BLACKFISH) | Odontoceti | | | | | | | | 0 |
| <i>Seabirds</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| WANDERING ALBATROSS | Diomedea exulans | | 96 | | | | 53 | | |
| LAYSAN ALBATROSS | Phoebastria immutabilis | 100 | | | | 67 | | | |
| FLESHFOOTED SHEARWATER | Puffinus carneipes | | 92 | | | | 85 | | |
| NEW ZEALAND WHITE CAPPED MOLLYMAWK | Thalassarche cauta | | 97 | | | | 80 | | |
| BLACKFOOTED ALBATROSS | Phoebastria nigripes | 100 | | | | 100 | | | |
| BLACKBROWED MOLLYMAWK | Thalassarche melanophrys | | 95 | | | | 71 | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|
| SOOTY SHEARWATER | Puffinus griseus | | 94 | | | | | 82 | | | |
| CAMPBELL IS BLACKBROWED MOLLYMAWK | | | 100 | | | | | 100 | | | |
| GREY PETREL | Procellaria cinerea | | 100 | | | | | 100 | | | |
| GREY HEADED ALBATROSS | Thalassarche chrysostoma | | 100 | | | | | 100 | | | |
| WHITECHINNED PETREL | Procellaria aequinoctialis | | 100 | | | | | 100 | | | |
| SHORTTAILED SHEARWATER | Puffinus tenuirostris | | 0 | | | | | 100 | | | |
| WEDGETAILED SHEARWATER | Puffinus pacificus | | 33 | | | | | 86 | | | |
| WESTLAND PETREL | Procellaria westlandica | | 40 | | | | | 100 | | | |
| CAPE PIGEON | Daption capense | | 25 | | | | | 20 | | | |
| SOUTHERN ROYAL ALBATROSS | Diomedea epomophora | | 100 | | | | | 75 | | | |
| GREATWINGED PETREL | Pterodroma macroptera | | 0 | | | | | 100 | | | |
| BLACK PETREL | Procellaria parkinsoni | | 100 | | | | | 100 | | | |
| BULLERS ALBATROSS | Thalassarche bulleri | | 0 | | | | | 50 | | | |
| SOUTHERN GIANT PETREL | Macronectes giganteus | | 100 | | | | | 100 | | | |
| ATLANT YELLOWNOSED ALBATROSS | Thalassarche chlororhynchos | | 0 | | | | | 100 | | | |
| LIGHTMANTLED SOOTY ALBATROSS | Phoebetria palpebrata | | 100 | | | | | 100 | | | |
| SALVINS ALBATROSS | Thalassarche salvini | | 100 | | | | | 100 | | | |
| <i>Turtles</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE | Lepidochelys olivacea | 100 | 71 | 74 | 100 | 100 | 70 | 29 | 76 | 8 | 0 |
| GREEN TURTLE | Chelonia mydas | 100 | 82 | 94 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 18 | 67 | 22 | 0 |
| LEATHERBACK TURTLE | Dermochelys coriacea | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 0 | 4 | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| HAWKSBILL TURTLE | Eretmochelys imbricata | | 75 | 71 | 100 | 100 | | 50 | 83 | 50 | 50 |
| LOGGERHEAD TURTLE | Caretta caretta | 100 | 100 | 100 | | 100 | 0 | 0 | 50 | | 0 |
| FLATBACK TURTLE | Natator depressus | | 100 | | | 100 | | 50 | | | 0 |

Table A2. Percentage of discarded shark which are finned

| Row Labels | Discarded Not finned | Discarded Finned | Total Discarded | Percentage of discarded shark which are finned |
|------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------|
| BULL SHARK | | 2 | 2 | 100 |
| PELAGIC THRESHER | 180 | 1236 | 1416 | 87.28813559 |
| LONG FINNED MAKO | 53 | 360 | 413 | 87.16707022 |
| BLACKTIP SHARK | 22 | 113 | 135 | 83.7037037 |
| GREAT HAMMERHEAD | 8 | 40 | 48 | 83.33333333 |
| SILVERTIP SHARK | 20 | 96 | 116 | 82.75862069 |
| GREY REEF SHARK | 14 | 53 | 67 | 79.10447761 |
| SCALLOPED HAMMERHEAD | 29 | 75 | 104 | 72.11538462 |
| SILKY SHARK | 1390 | 3179 | 4569 | 69.57758809 |
| SANDBAR SHARK | 16 | 33 | 49 | 67.34693878 |
| PORBEAGLE SHARK | 116 | 233 | 349 | 66.76217765 |
| BLACKTIP REEF SHARK | 42 | 76 | 118 | 64.40677966 |
| OCEANIC WHITETIP SHARK | 1164 | 1802 | 2966 | 60.75522589 |
| HAMMERHEAD SHARKS | 62 | 95 | 157 | 60.50955414 |
| GALAPAGOS SHARK | 17 | 23 | 40 | 57.5 |
| BROADSNOUTED SEVENGILL SHARK | 1 | 1 | 2 | 50 |
| BIGEYE THRESHER | 1999 | 1863 | 3862 | 48.23925427 |
| SMOOTH HAMMERHEAD | 13 | 12 | 25 | 48 |
| BRONZE WHALER SHARK | 169 | 153 | 322 | 47.51552795 |
| SHORT FINNED MAKO | 1171 | 885 | 2056 | 43.04474708 |
| BLUE SHARK | 40637 | 24814 | 65451 | 37.91233136 |
| THRESHER | 244 | 130 | 374 | 34.75935829 |
| TIGER SHARK | 111 | 40 | 151 | 26.49006623 |
| MAKO SHARKS | 25 | 7 | 32 | 21.875 |
| BASKING SHARK | 8 | 2 | 10 | 20 |
| BIGNOSE SHARK | 6 | 1 | 7 | 14.28571429 |
| THRESHER SHARKS NEI | 217 | 23 | 240 | 9.583333333 |
| GREAT WHITE SHARK | 34 | 2 | 36 | 5.555555556 |
| SHARKS UNIDENTIFIED | 378 | 22 | 400 | 5.5 |
| CROCODILE SHARK | 618 | 34 | 652 | 5.214723926 |
| VARIOUS SHARKS NEI | 24 | 1 | 25 | 4 |
| COOKIE CUTTER SHARK | 26 | 1 | 27 | 3.703703704 |
| SCHOOL SHARK | 42 | 1 | 43 | 2.325581395 |
| PELAGIC STINGRAY | 5340 | 5 | 5345 | 0.09354537 |
| RAYS SKATES AND MANTAS | 62 | | 62 | 0 |
| AUSTRALIAN BLACKTIP SHARK | 7 | | 7 | 0 |
| GROUND SHARKS | 9 | | 9 | 0 |
| CENTROSCYMNUS | | | | |
| COELOLEPIS | 69 | | 69 | 0 |
| PLUNKET SHARK | 37 | | 37 | 0 |
| SMOOTH SKIN DOGFISH | 2273 | | 2273 | 0 |
| DOGFISH | 5 | | 5 | 0 |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|---|
| BIRDBEAK DOGFISH | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| DOG FISHES | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| SHORTNOSE SPURDOG | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| DUSKY SHARK | 46 | 46 | 0 |
| SALMON SHARK | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| MANTA RAYS (UNIDENTIFIED) | 226 | 226 | 0 |
| GIANT MANTA | 109 | 109 | 0 |
| MANTA RAY | 37 | 37 | 0 |
| CHILEAN DEVIL RAY | 86 | 86 | 0 |
| MOBULA NEI | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| REQUIEM SHARKS NEI | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| SEAL SHARK BLACK SHARK | 16 | 16 | 0 |
| BAXTERS LANTERN DOGFISH | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| SHARKS RAYS SKATES ETC NEI | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| RAYS STINGRAYS MANTAS NEI | 148 | 148 | 0 |
| VELVET DOGFISH | 67 | 67 | 0 |
| RAYS (TORPEDINIDAE NARKIDAE) | 354 | 354 | 0 |
| RAYS (DASYATIDIDAE) | 93 | 93 | 0 |
| KNIFETOOTH DOGFISH | 1 | 1 | 0 |

Figure A1. Nominal catch rates of target and non-target species determined from observer data collected onboard longliners in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean

Albacore

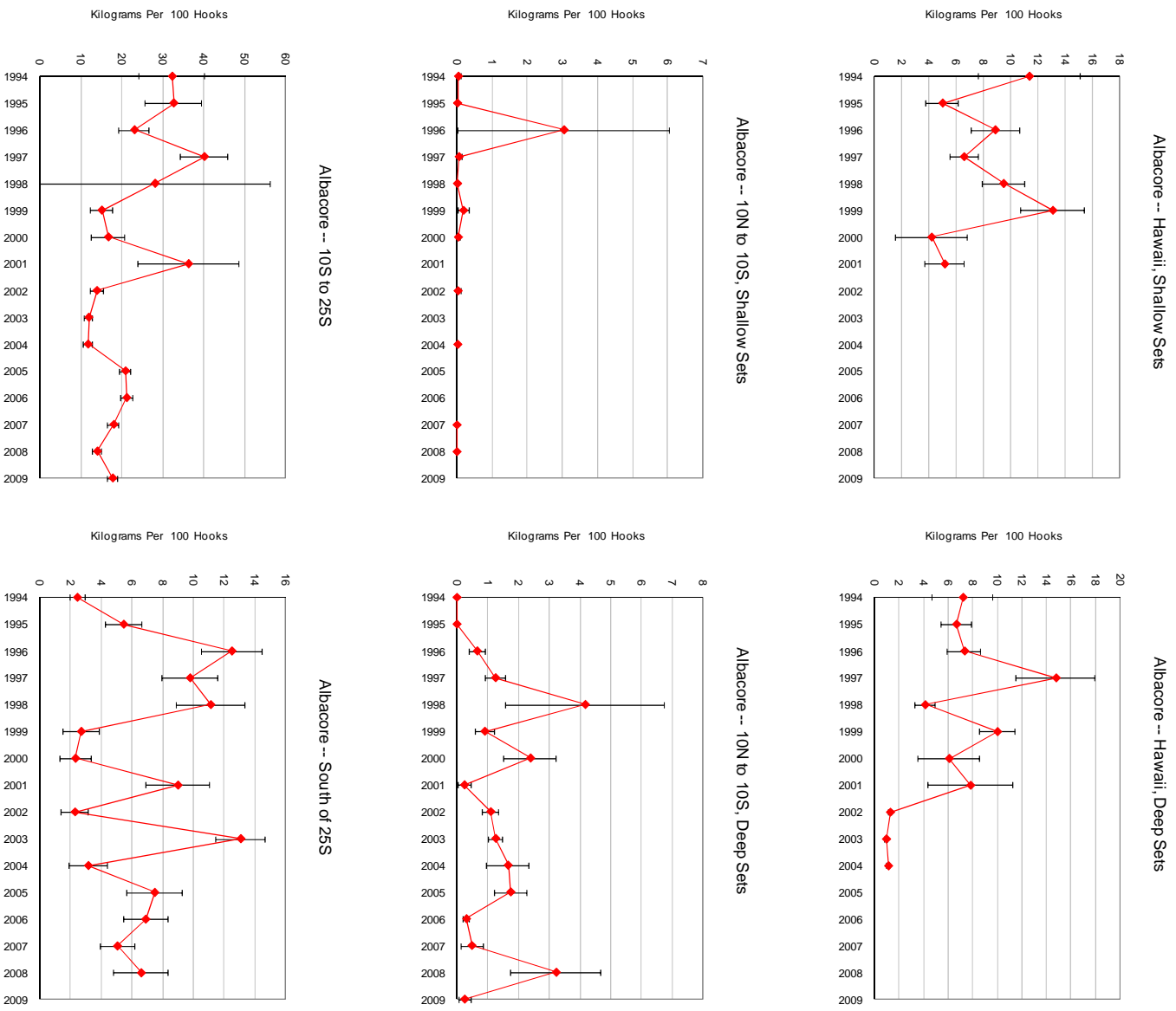


Figure A1 (continued) — Bigeye

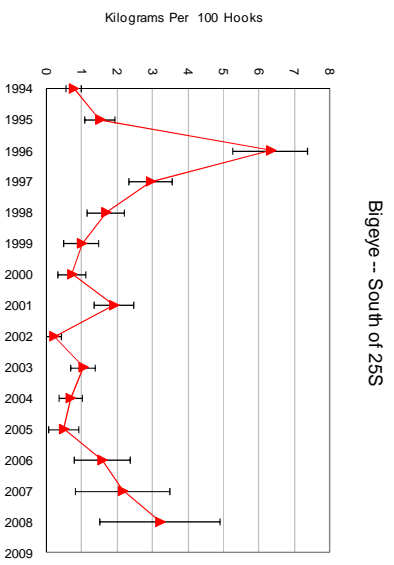
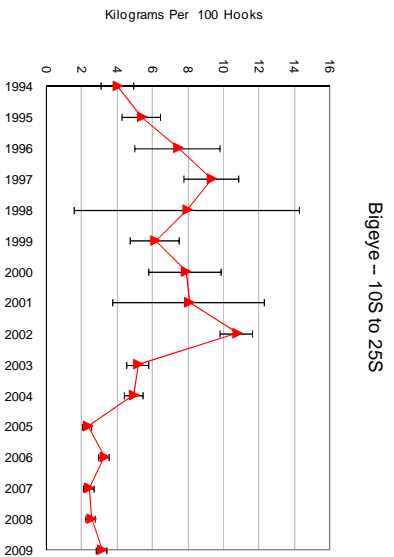
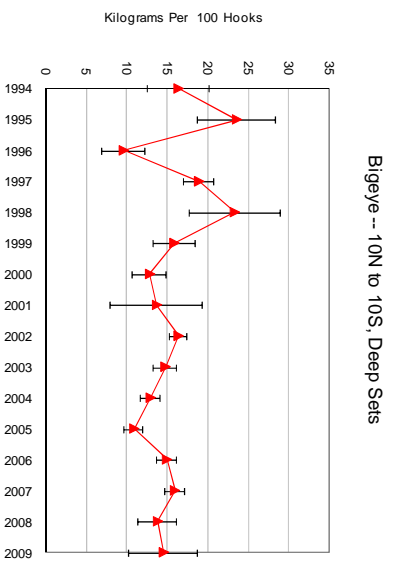
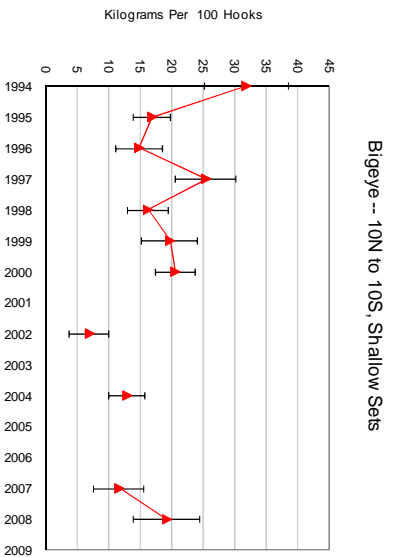
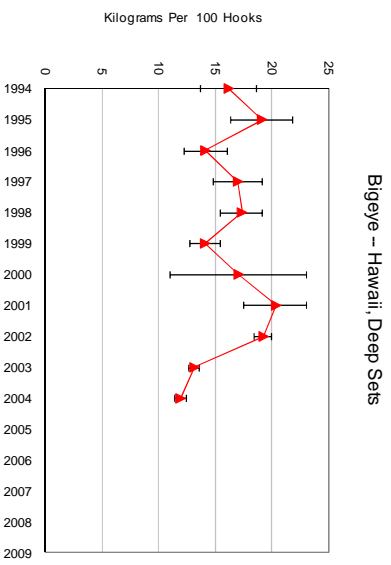
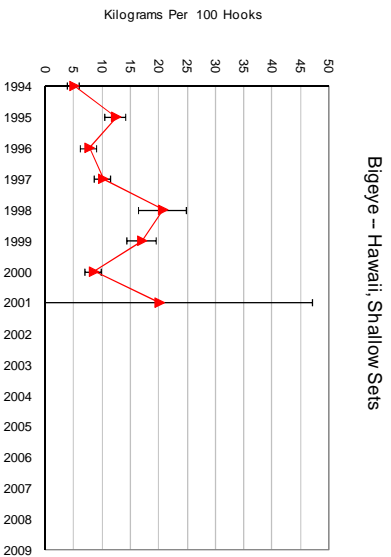
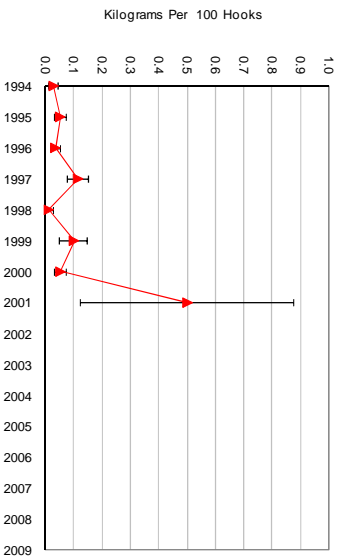
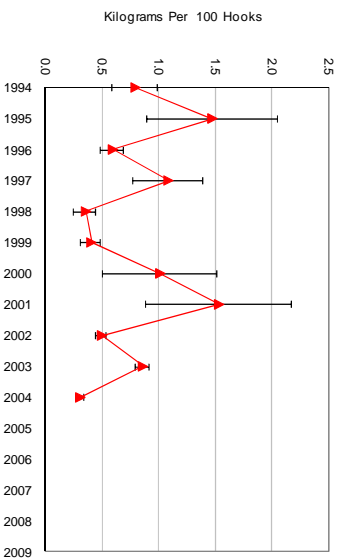


Figure A1 (continued) — Skipjack

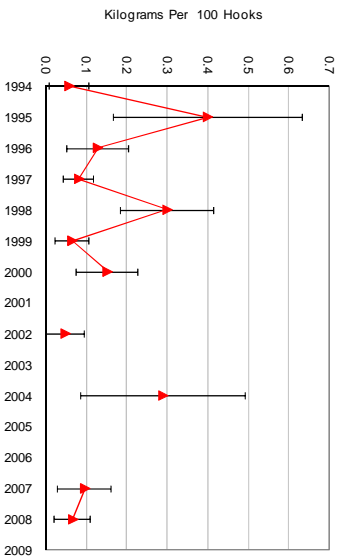
Skipjack -- Hawaii, Shallow Sets



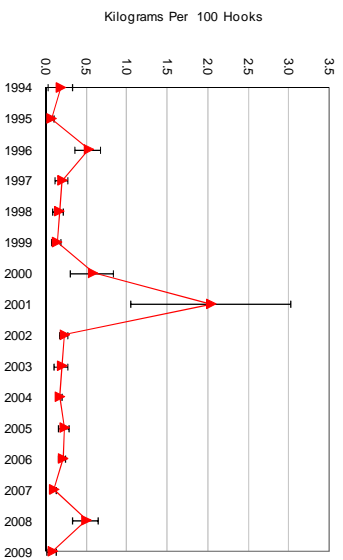
Skipjack -- Hawaii, Deep Sets



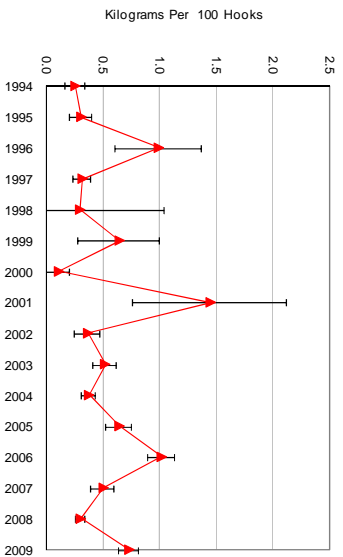
Skipjack -- 10N to 10S, Shallow Sets



Skipjack -- 10N to 10S, Deep Sets



Skipjack -- 10S to 25S



Skipjack -- South of 25S

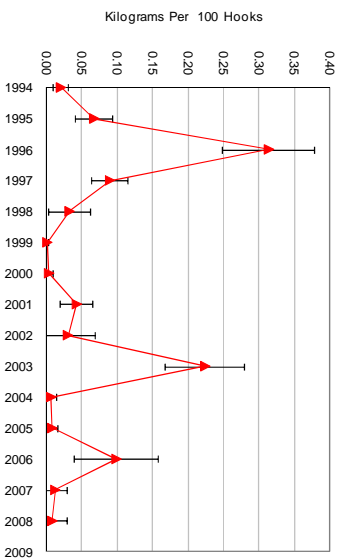
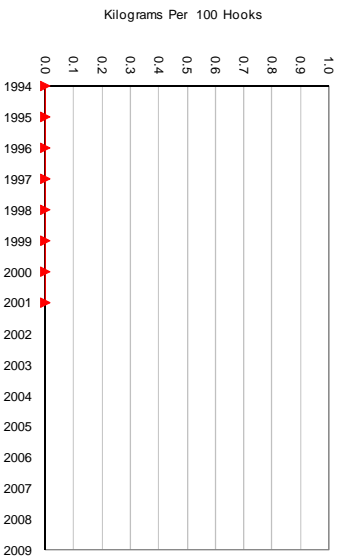
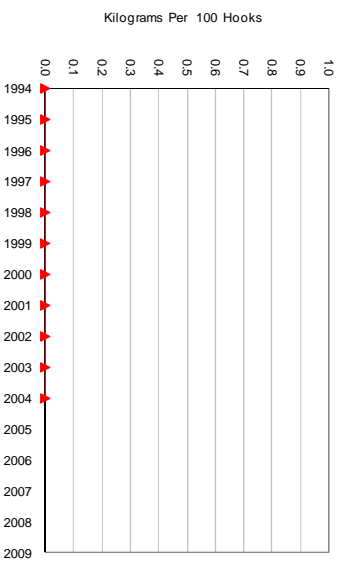


Figure A1 (continued) — Southern Bluefin

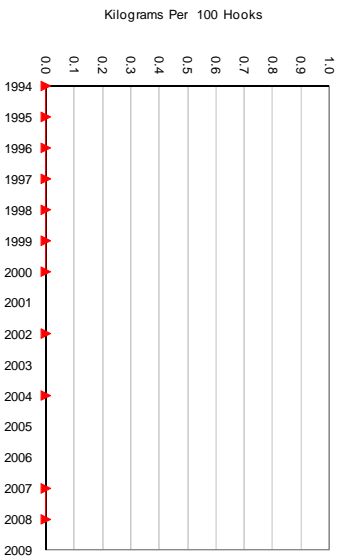
Southern Bluefin --Hawaii, Shallow Sets



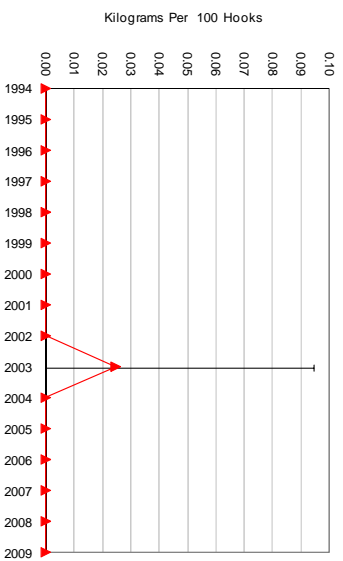
Southern Bluefin --Hawaii, Deep Sets



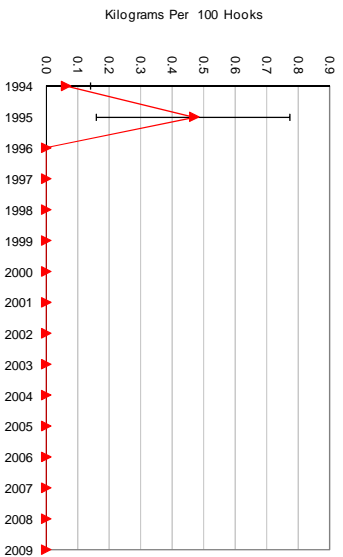
Southern Bluefin --10N to 10S, Shallow Sets



Southern Bluefin --10N to 10S, Deep Sets



Southern Bluefin --10S to 25S



Southern Bluefin --South of 25S

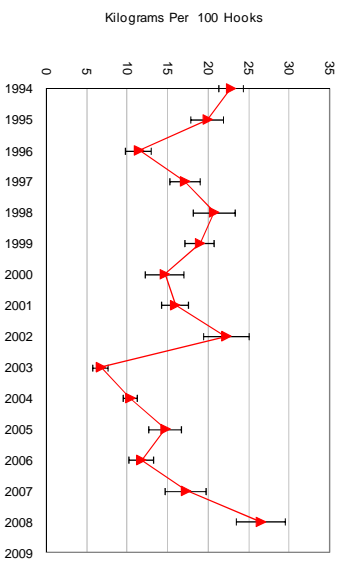


Figure A1 (continued) — Yellowfin

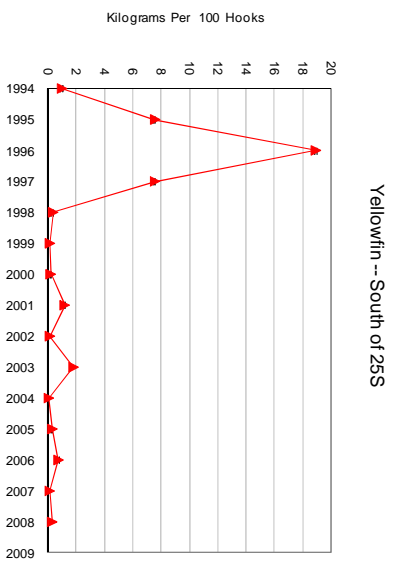
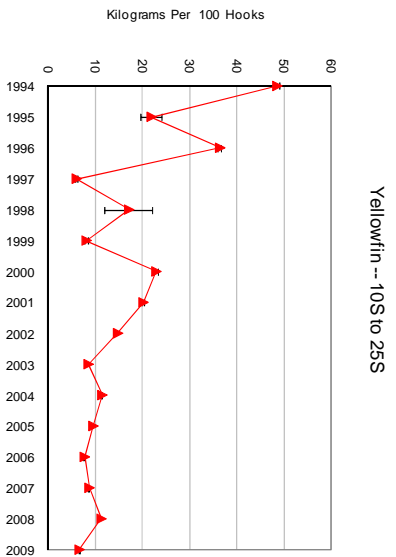
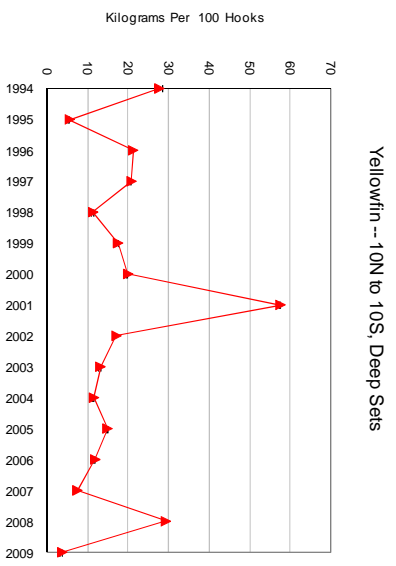
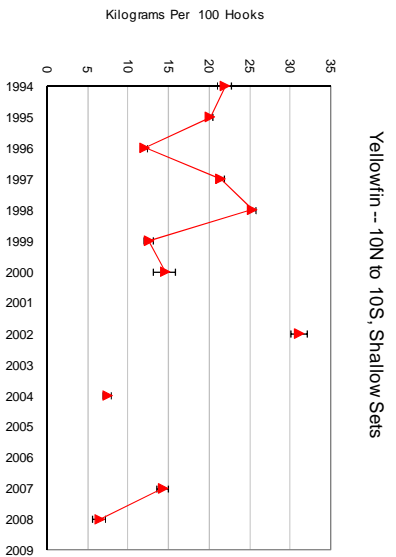
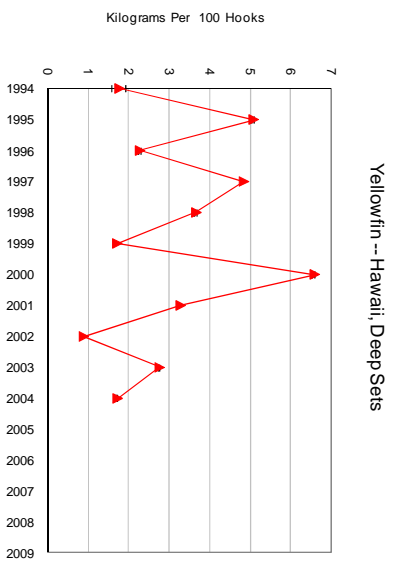
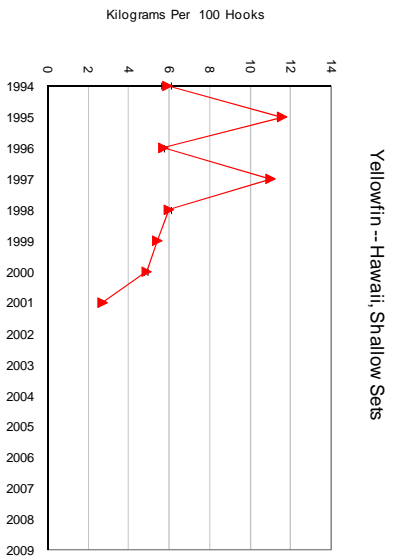
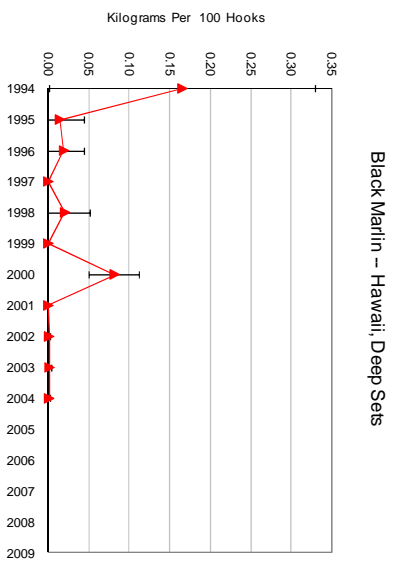
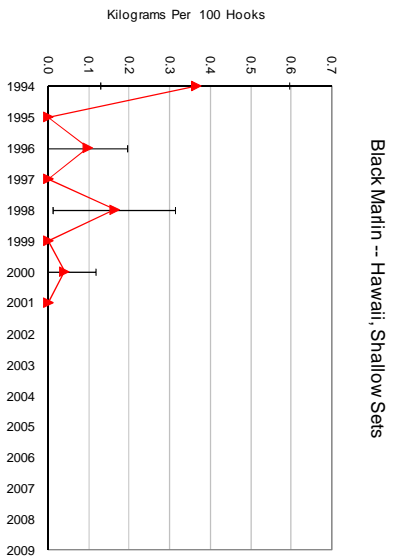
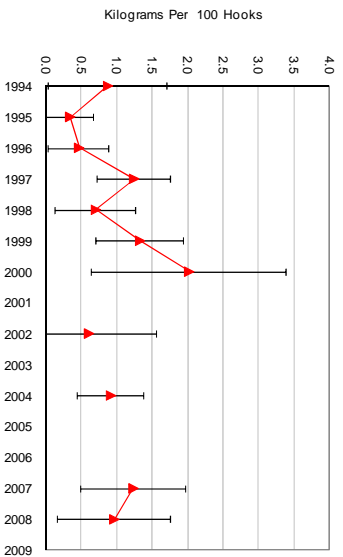


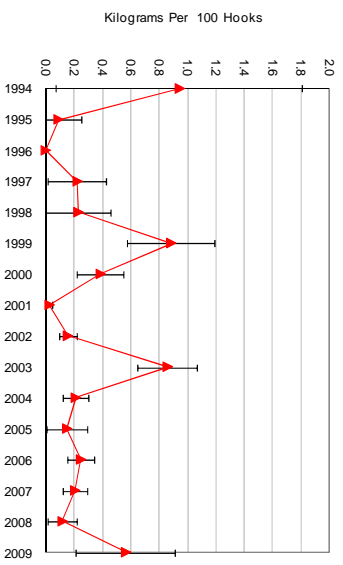
Figure A1 (continued) — Black Marlin



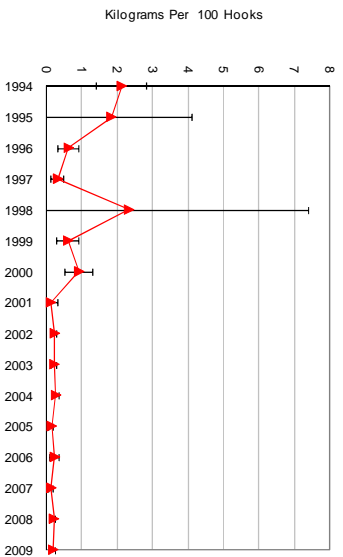
Black Marlin -- 10N to 10S, Shallow Sets



Black Marlin -- 10N to 10S, Deep Sets



Black Marlin -- 10S to 25S



Black Marlin -- South of 25S

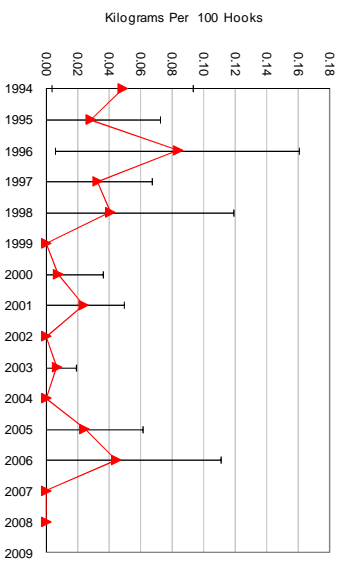


Figure A1 (continued) — Blue Marlin

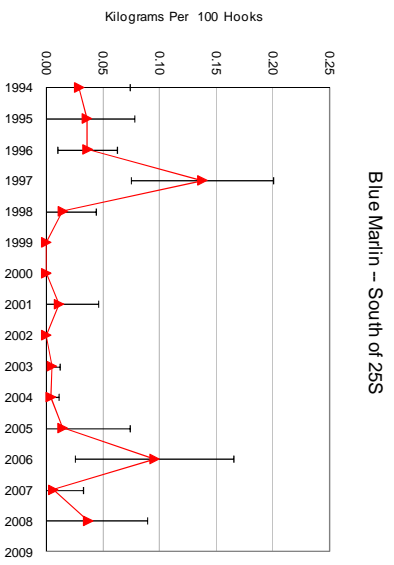
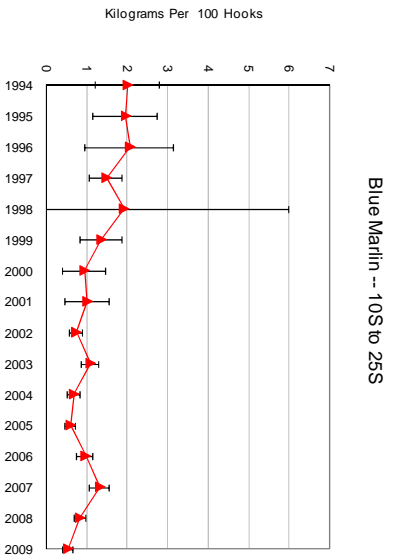
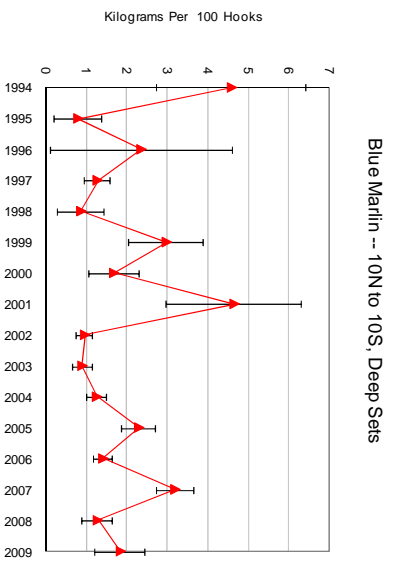
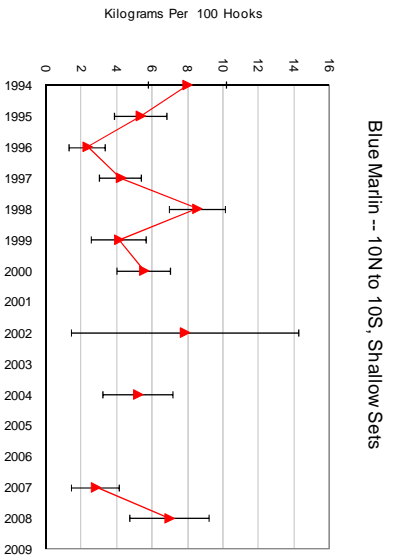
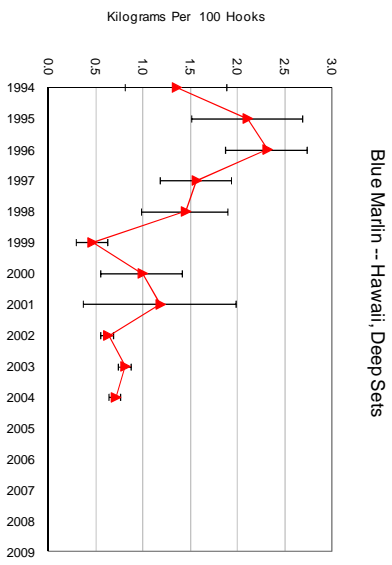
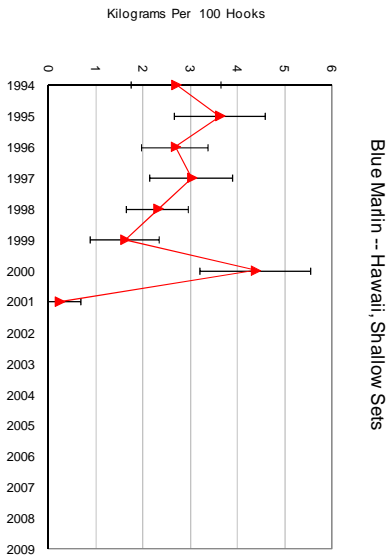
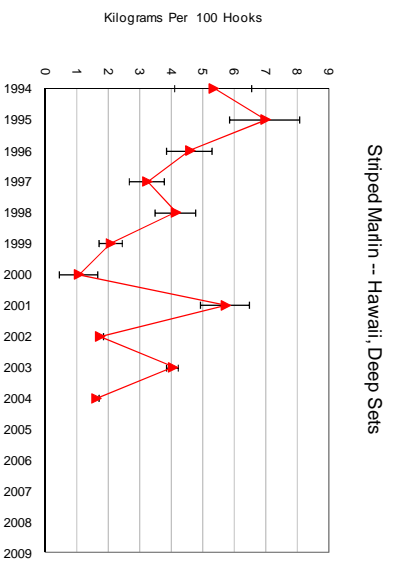
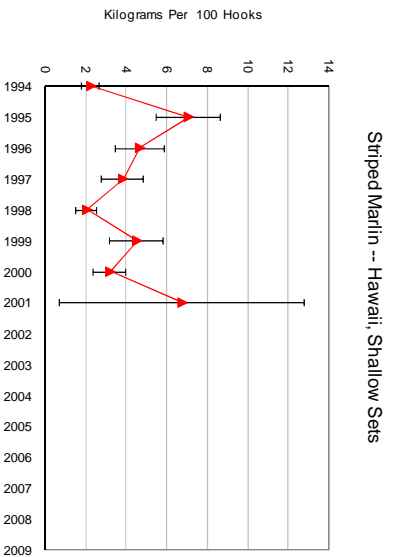
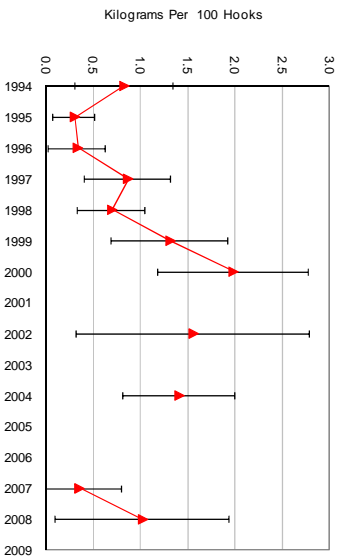


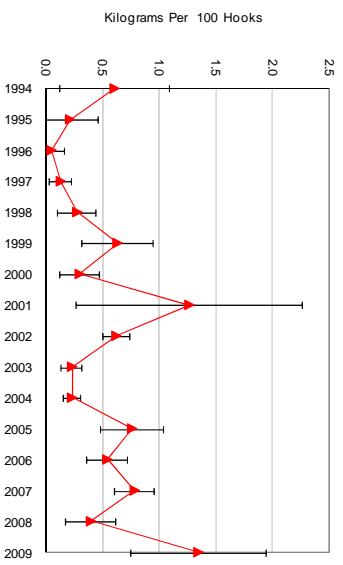
Figure A1 (continued) — Striped Marlin



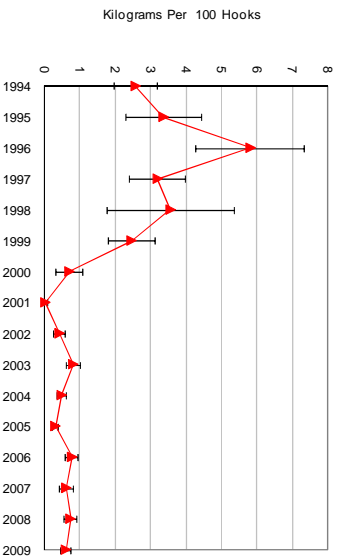
Striped Marlin -- 10N to 10S, Shallow Sets



Striped Marlin -- 10N to 10S, Deep Sets



Striped Marlin -- 10S to 25S



Striped Marlin -- South of 25S

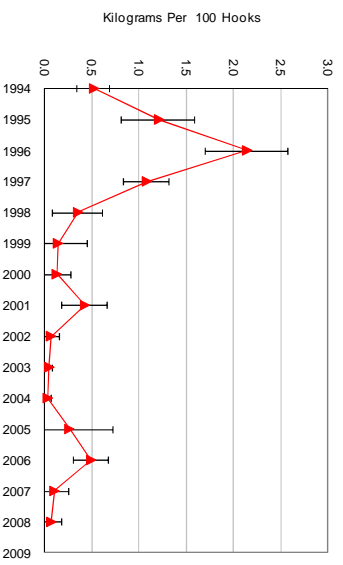


Figure A1 (continued) — Indo-Pacific Sailfish

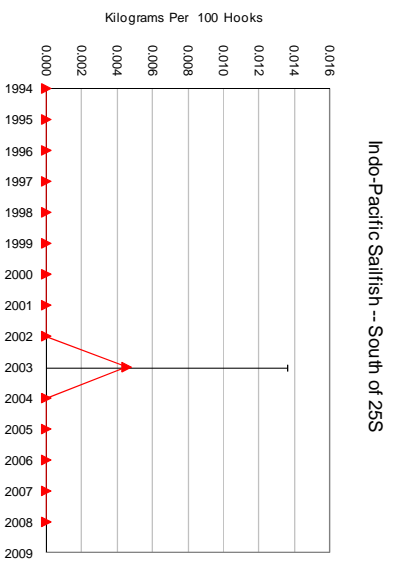
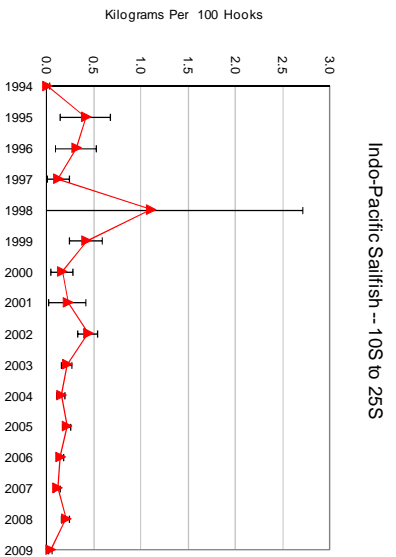
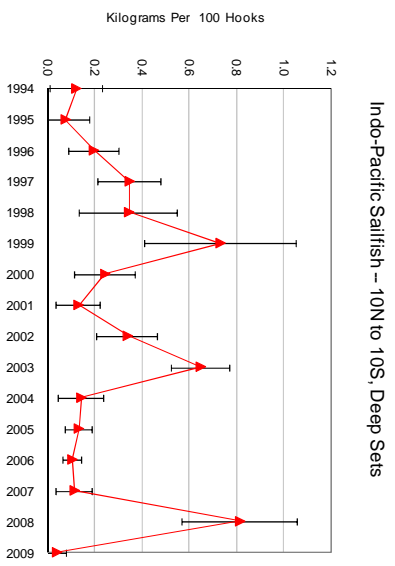
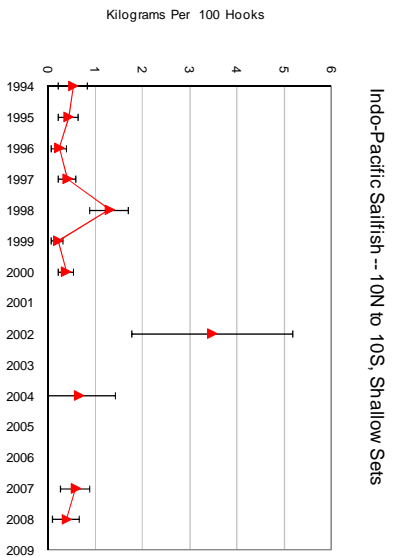
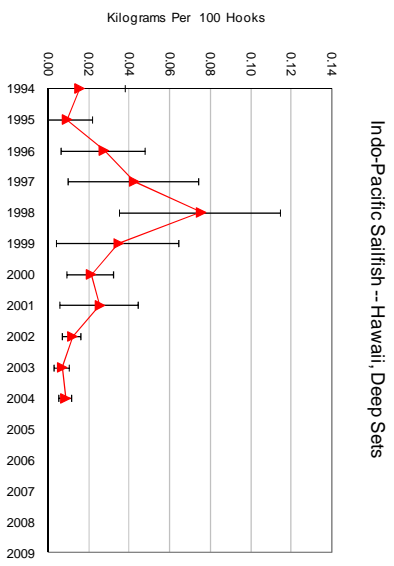
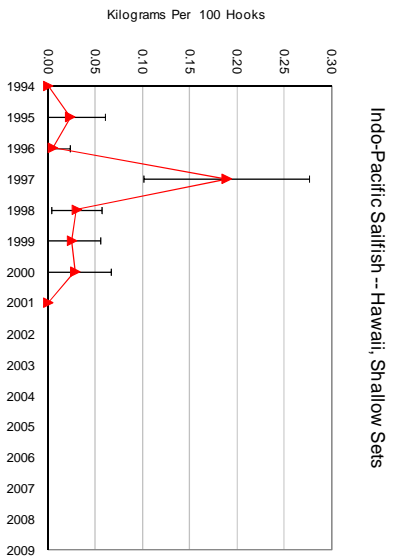
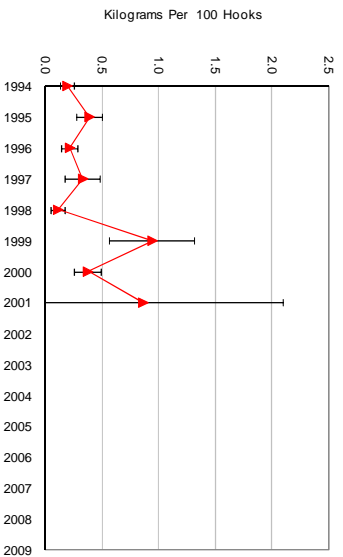
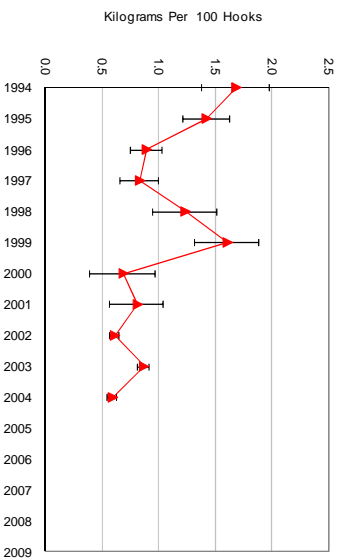


Figure A1 (continued) — Shortbill Spearfish

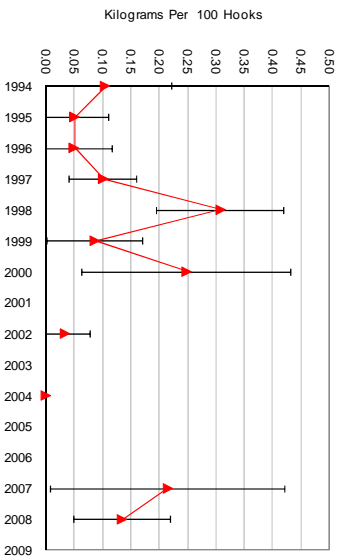
Shortbill Spearfish --Hawaii, Shallow Sets



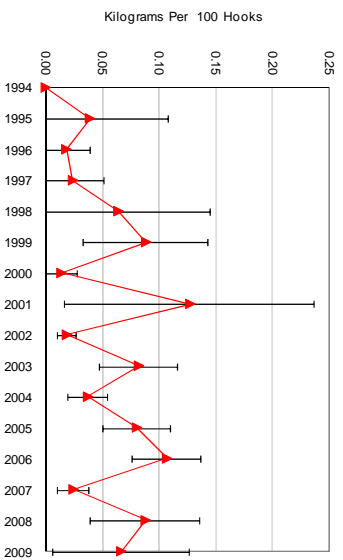
Shortbill Spearfish --Hawaii, Deep Sets



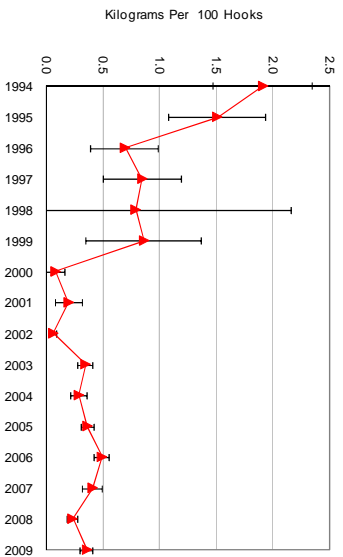
Shortbill Spearfish -- 10N to 10S, Shallow Sets



Shortbill Spearfish -- 10N to 10S, Deep Sets



Shortbill Spearfish -- 10S to 25S



Shortbill Spearfish -- South of 25S

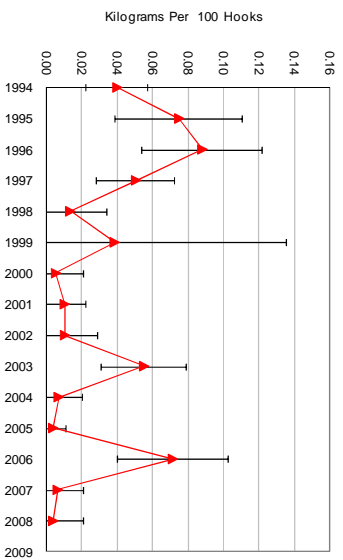


Figure A1 (continued) — Swordfish

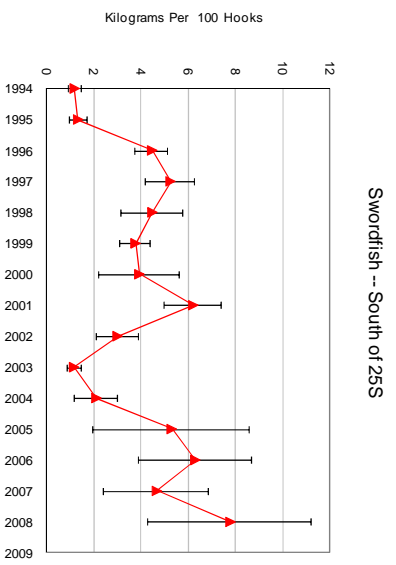
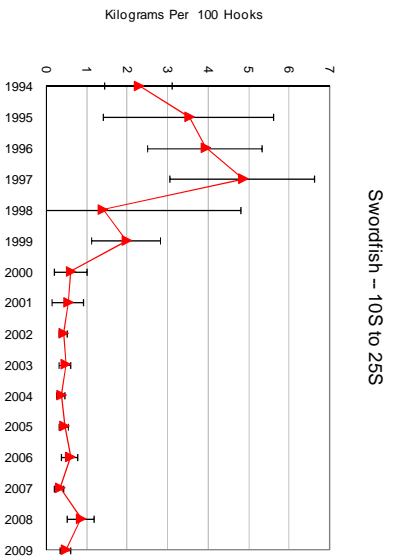
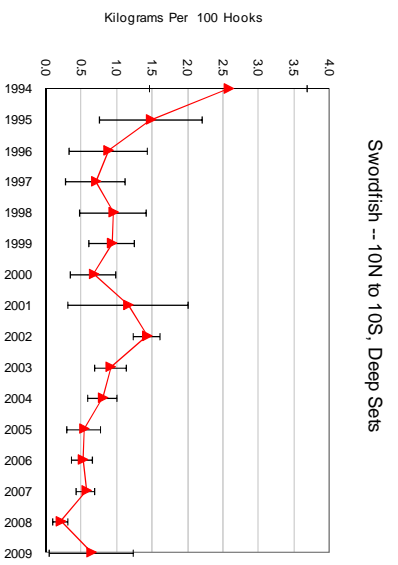
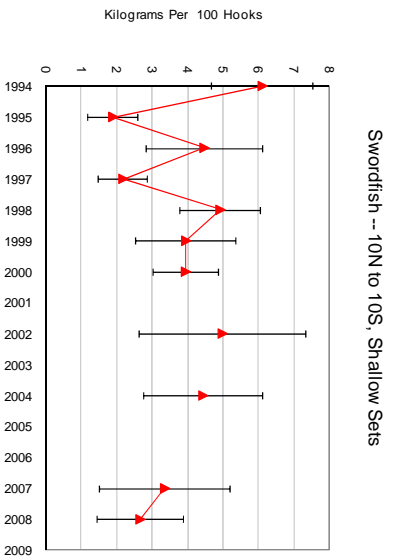
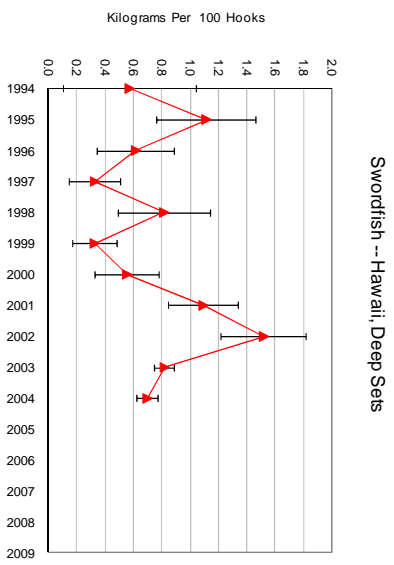
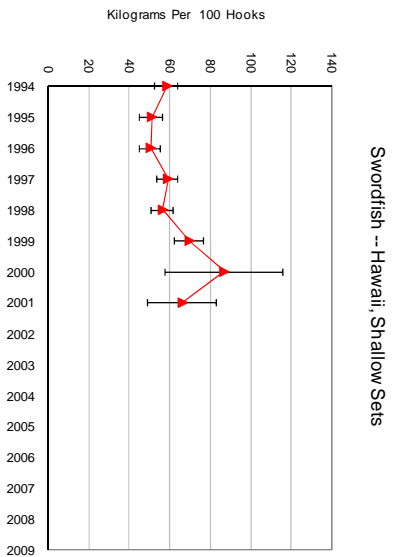


Figure A1 (continued) — Blue Shark

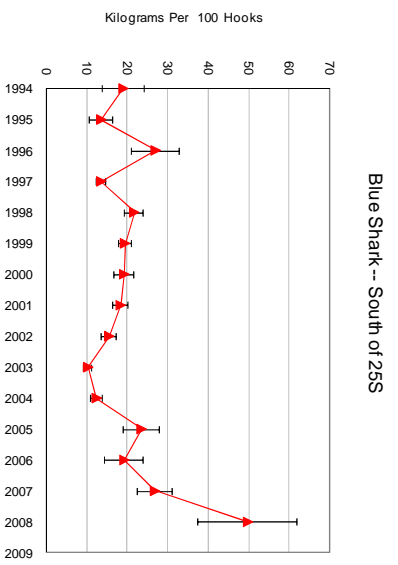
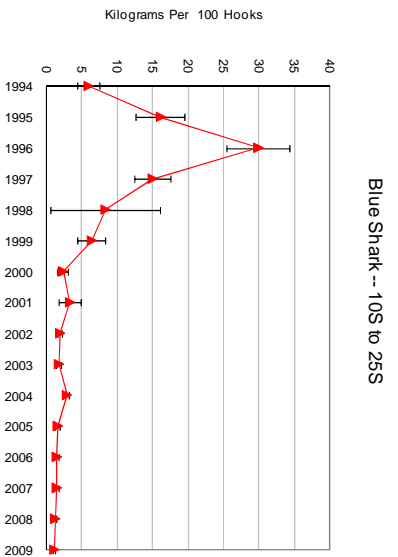
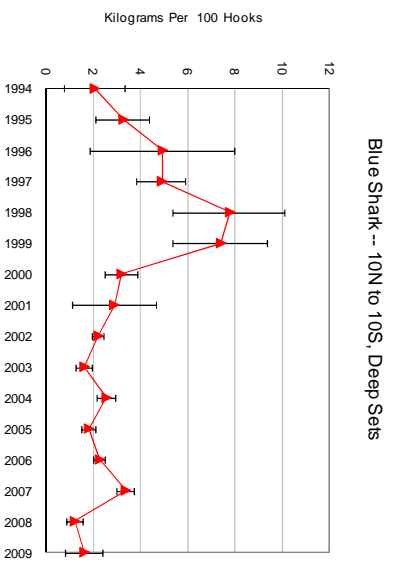
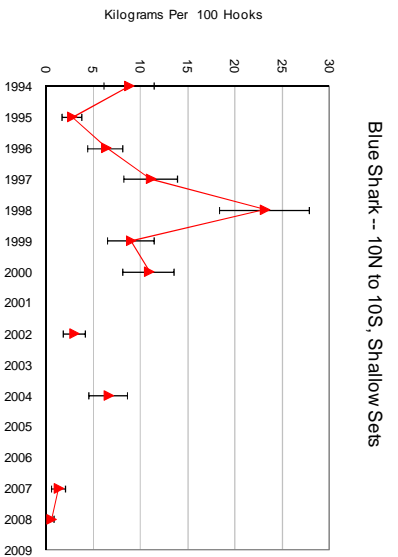
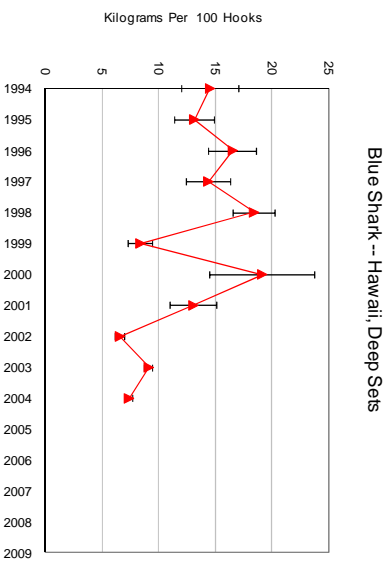
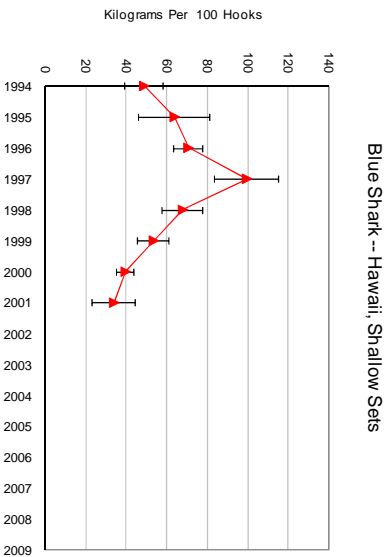


Figure A1 (continued) — Hammerhead Sharks

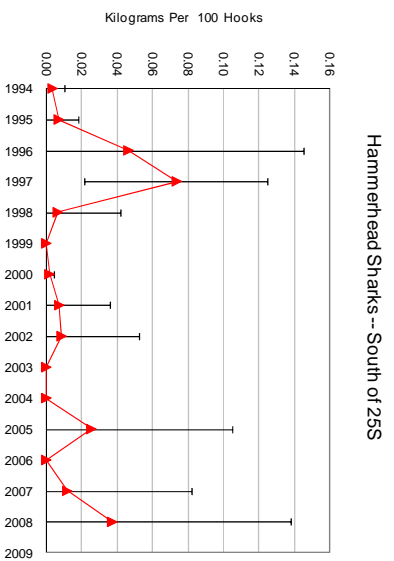
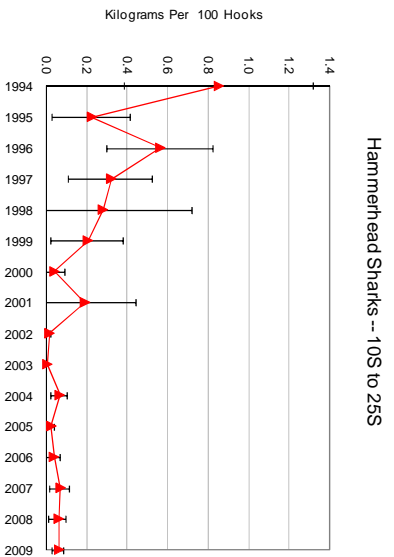
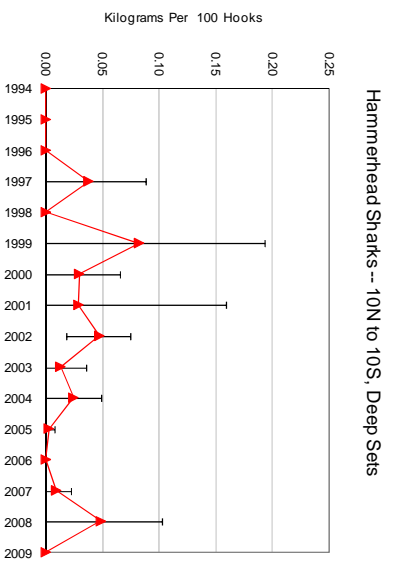
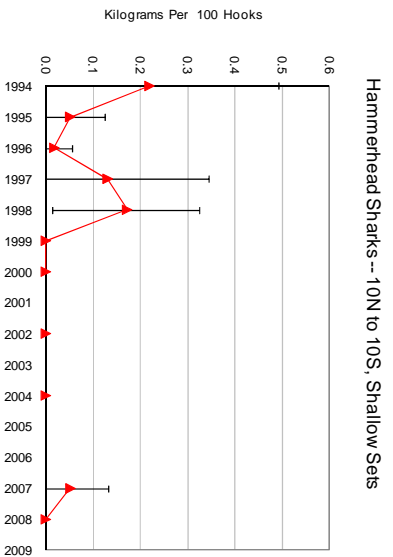
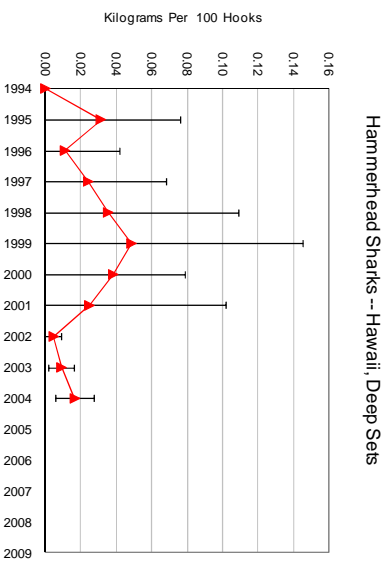
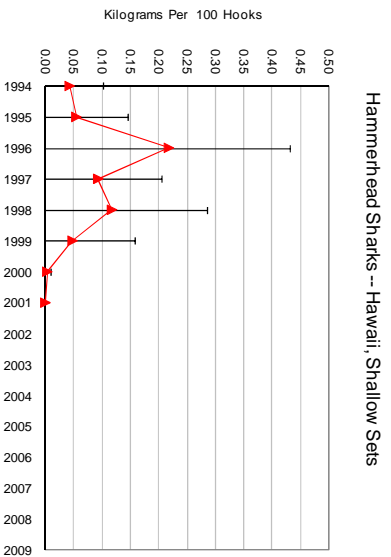


Figure A1 (continued) — Mako Sharks

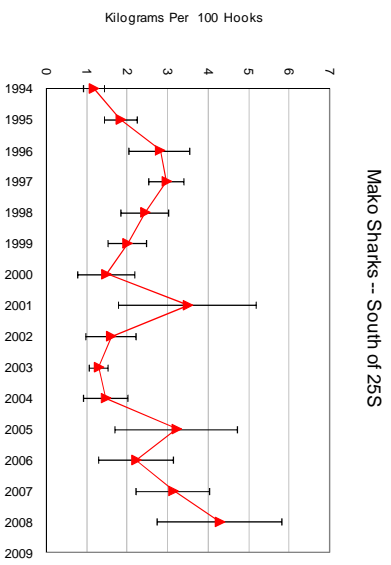
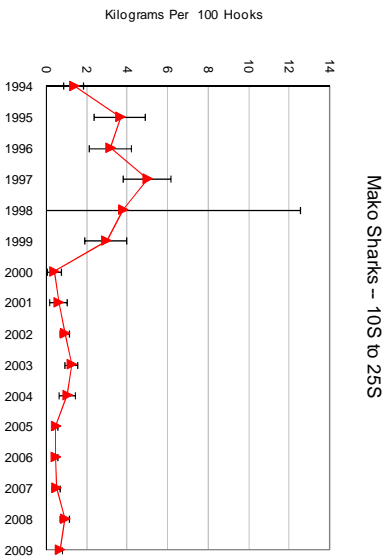
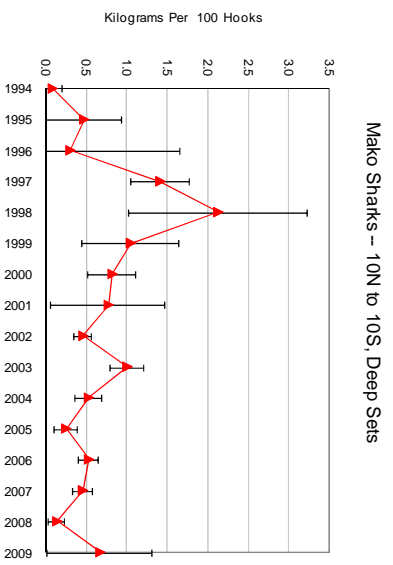
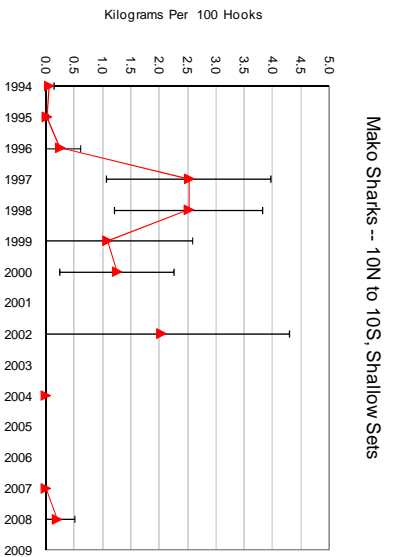
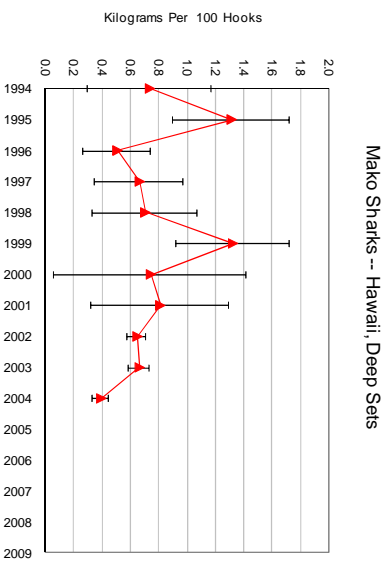
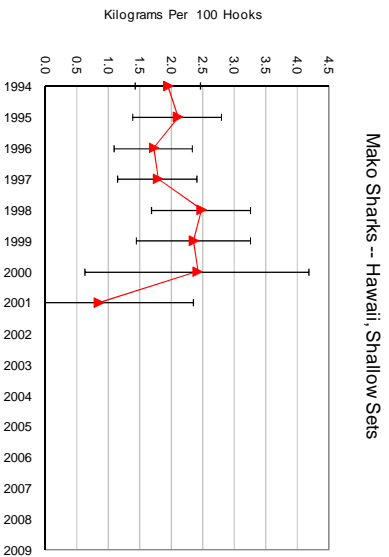


Figure A1 (continued) — Oceanic Whitetip Sharks

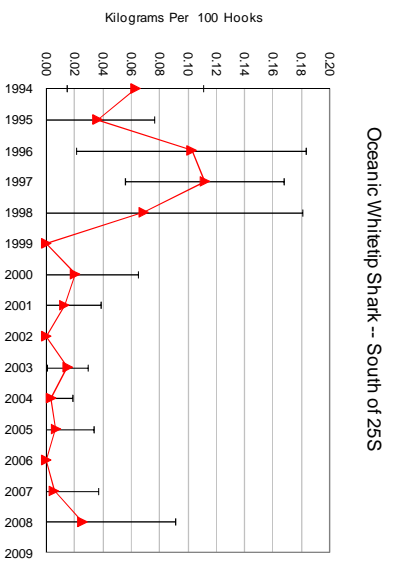
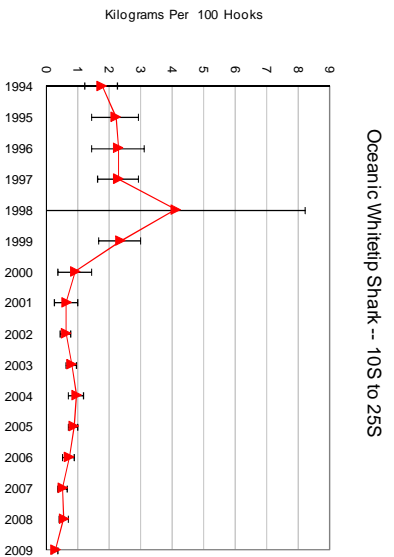
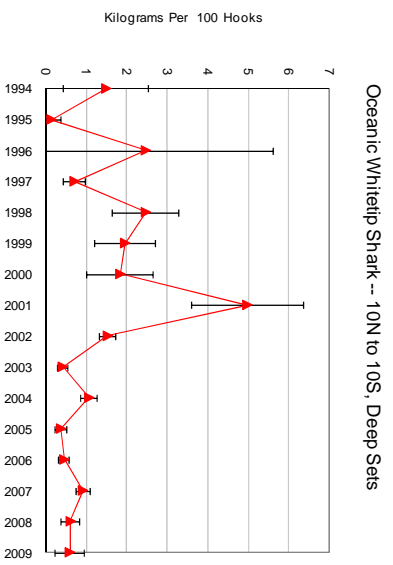
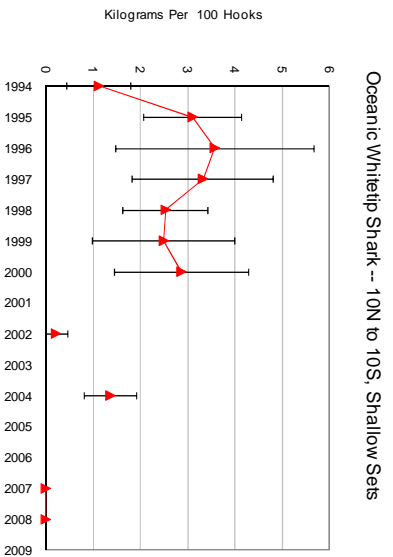
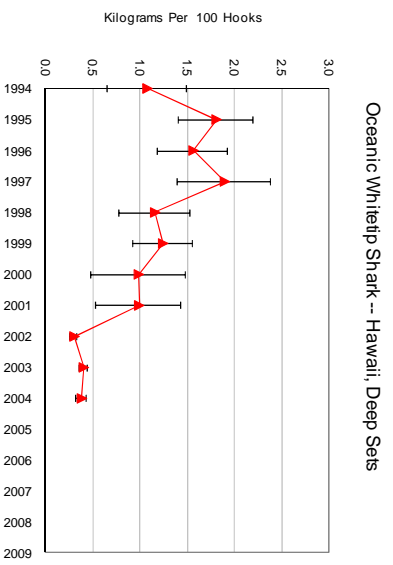
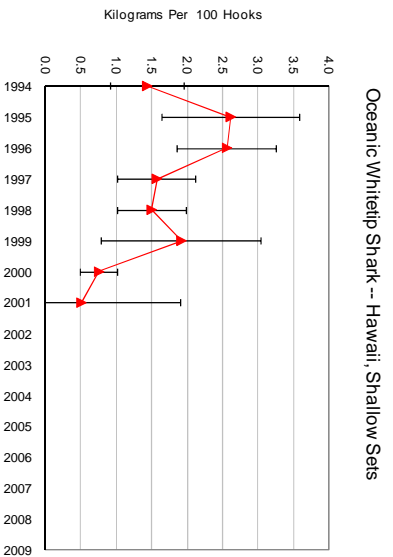


Figure A1 (continued) — Porbeagle

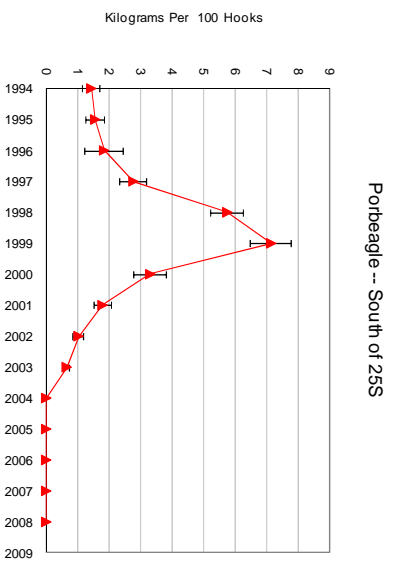
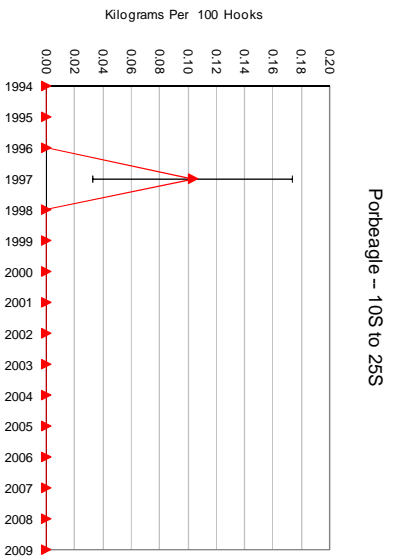
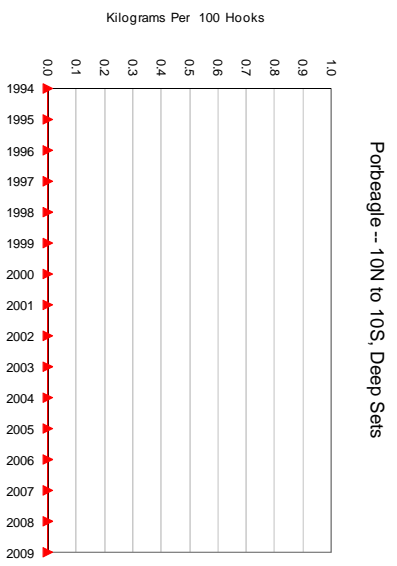
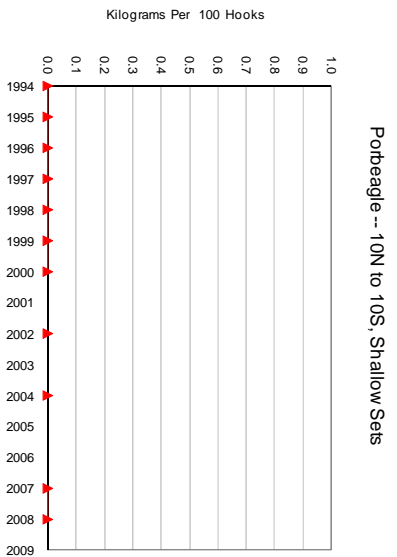
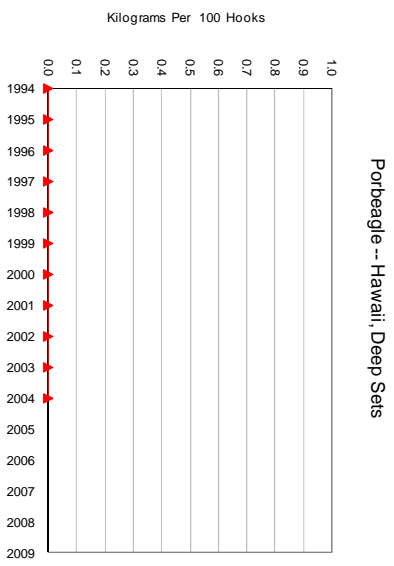
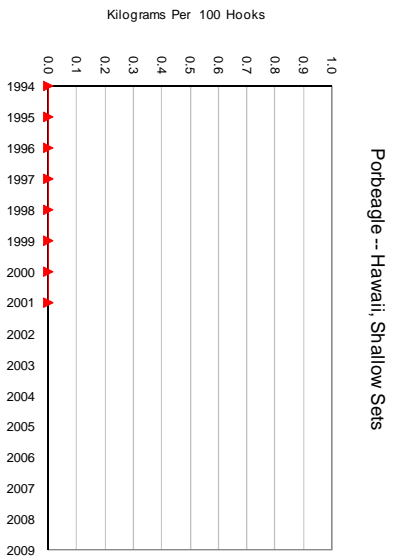


Figure A1 (continued) — Silky Shark

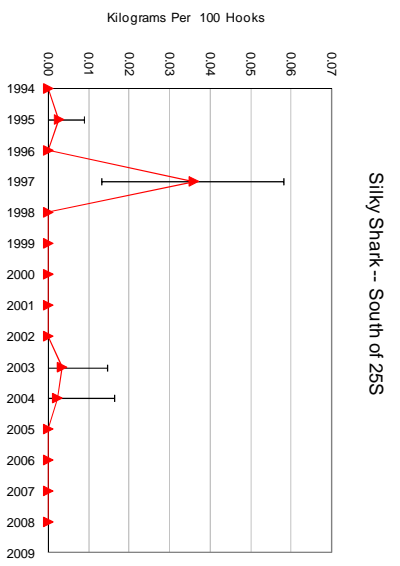
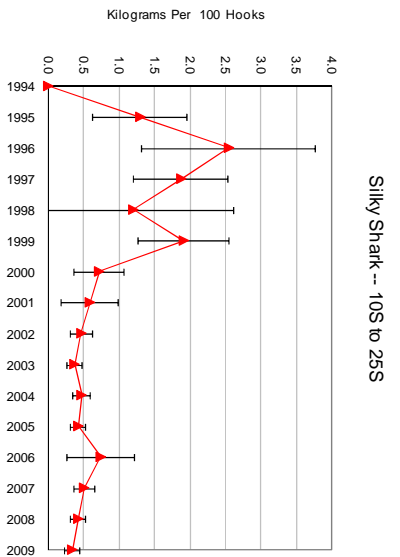
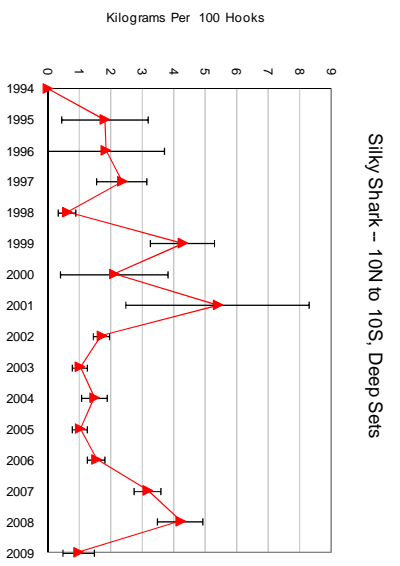
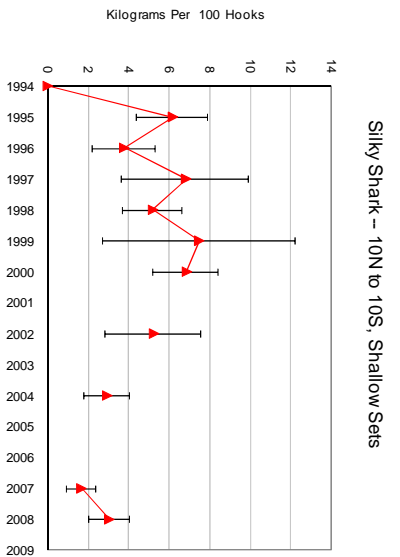
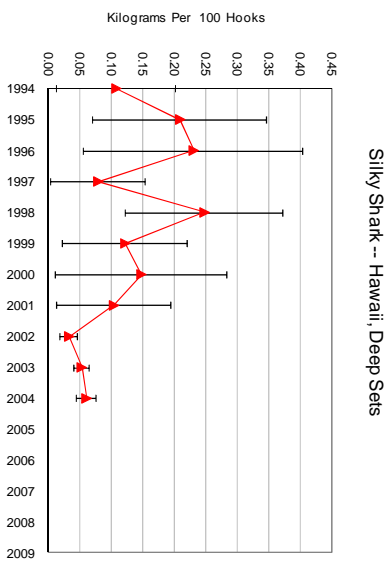
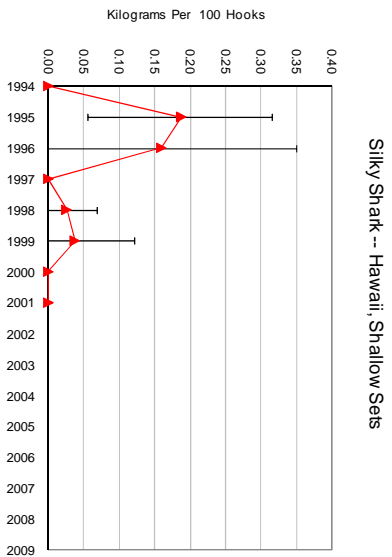


Figure A1 (continued) — Thresher Sharks

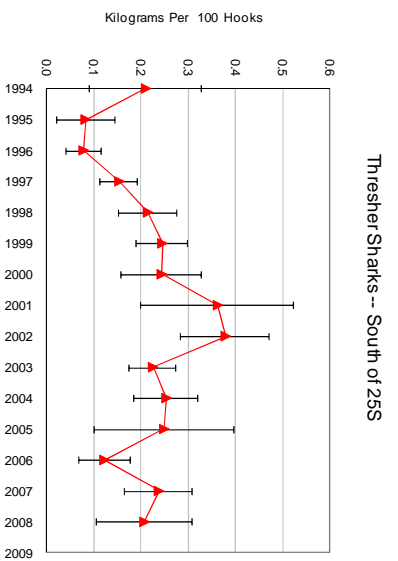
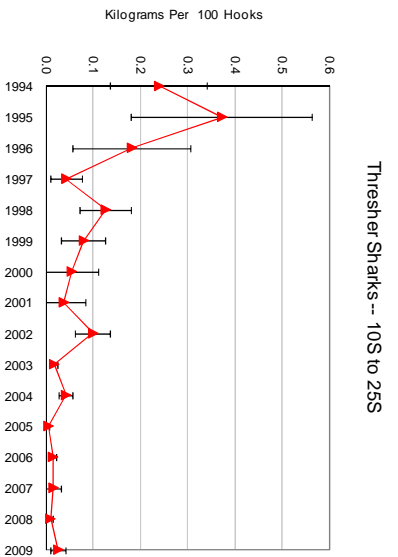
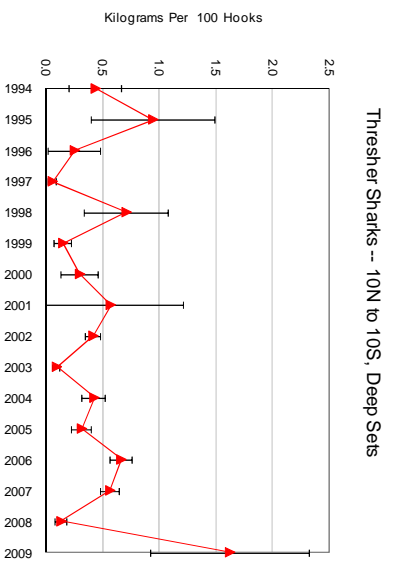
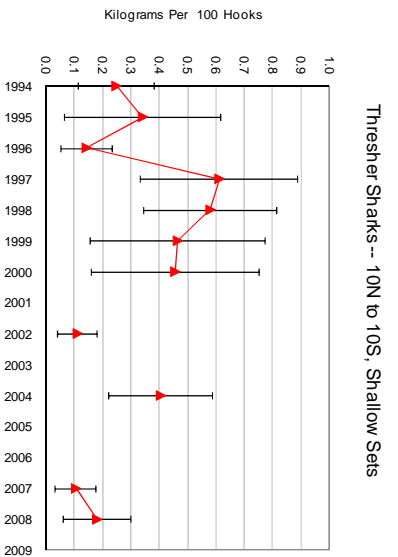
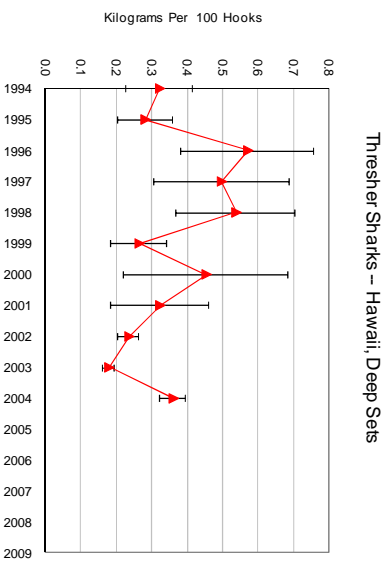
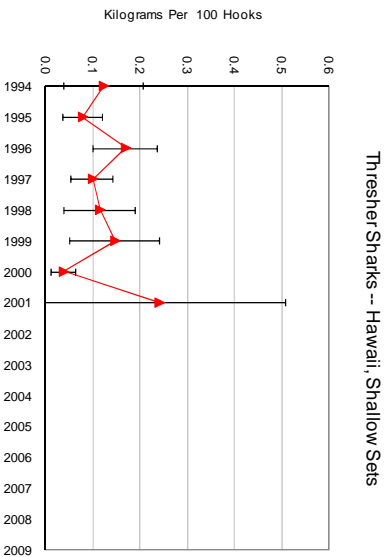
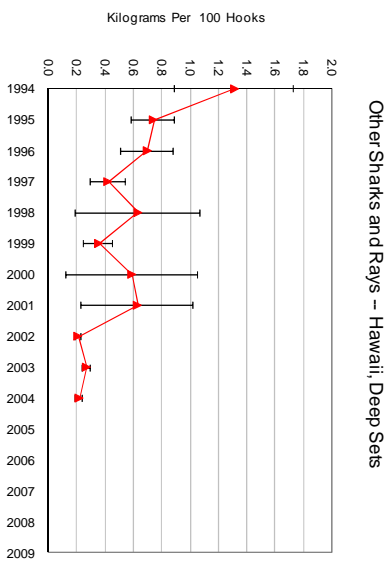
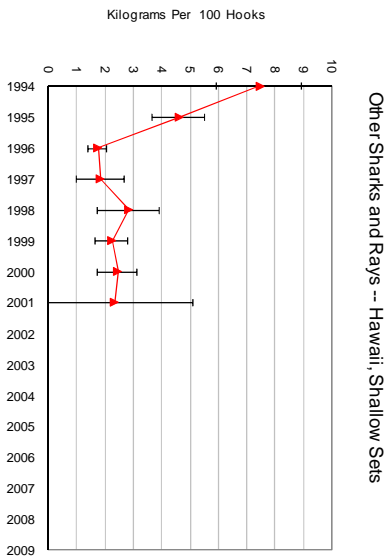
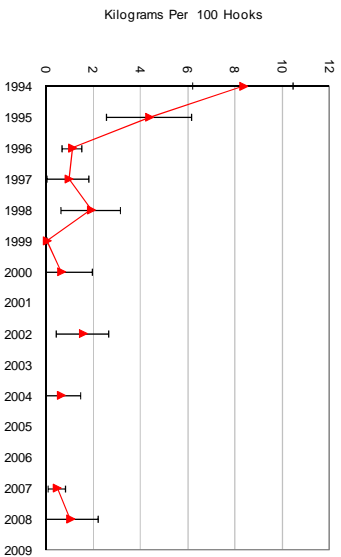


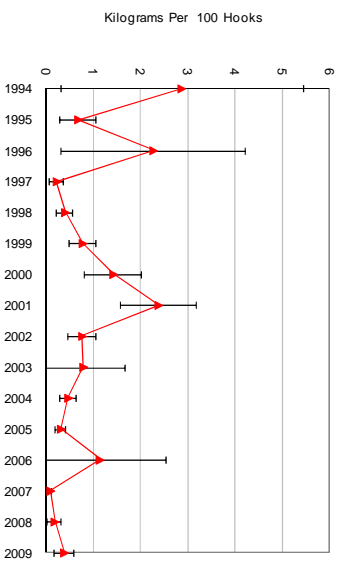
Figure A1 (continued) — Other Sharks and Rays



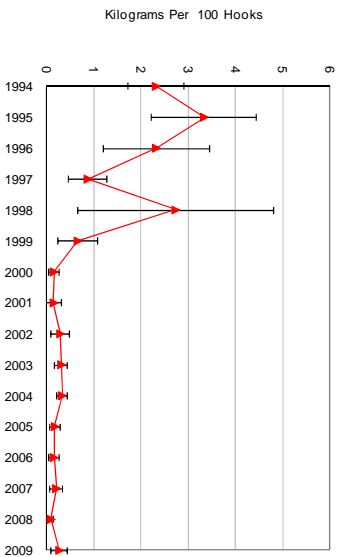
Other Sharks and Rays -- 10N to 10S, Shallow Sets



Other Sharks and Rays -- 10N to 10S, Deep Sets



Other Sharks and Rays -- 10S to 25S



Other Sharks and Rays -- South of 25S

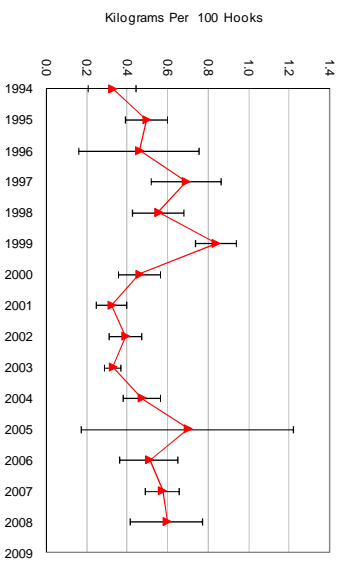


Figure A1 (continued) — Butterfly Kingfish

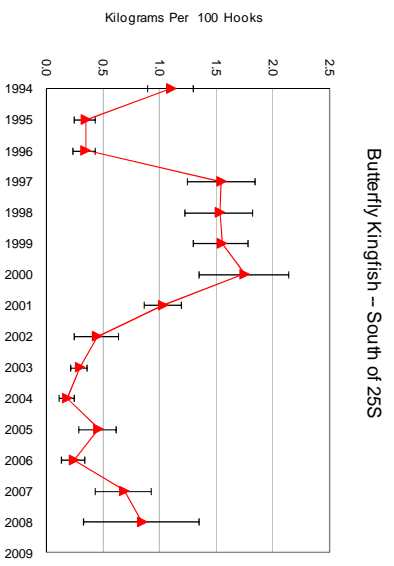
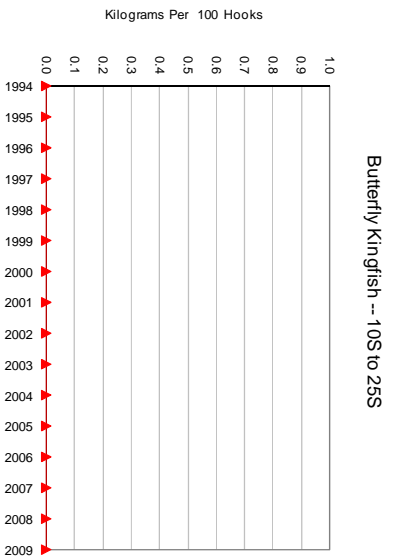
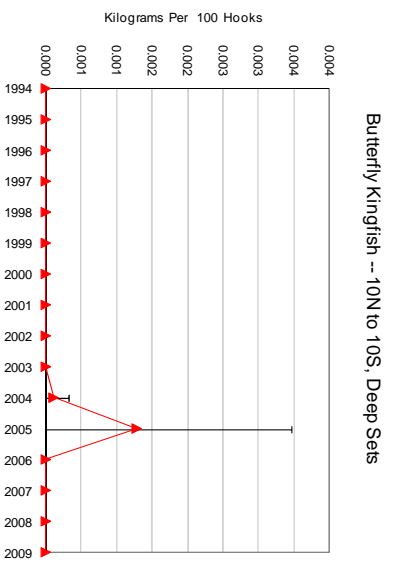
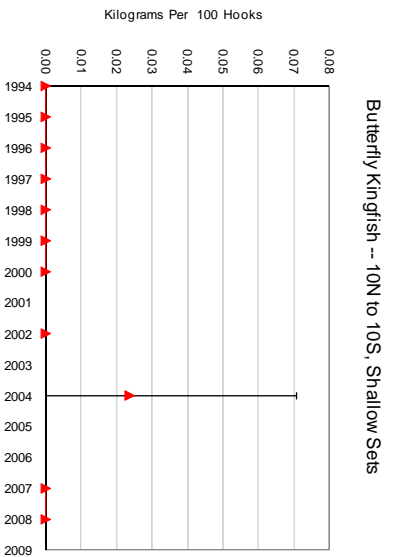
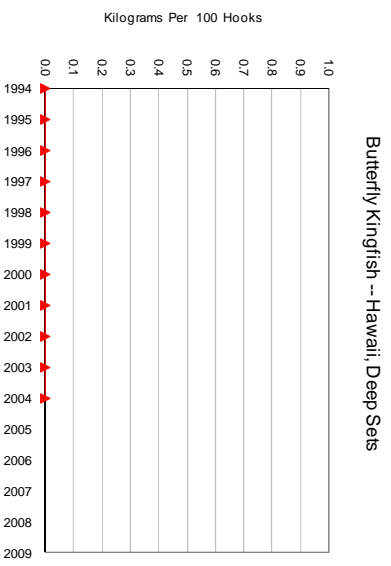
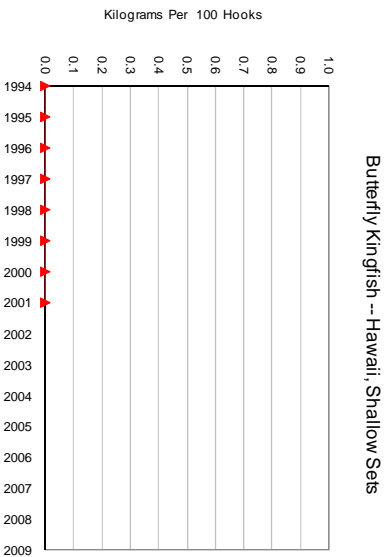
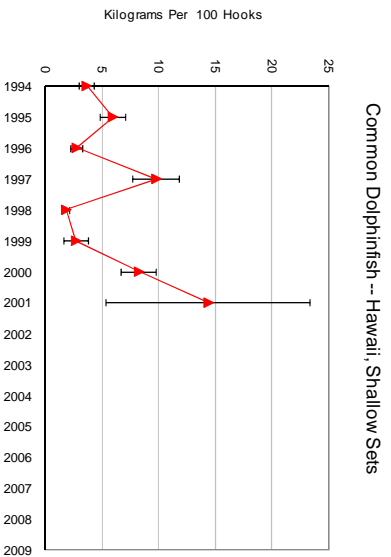
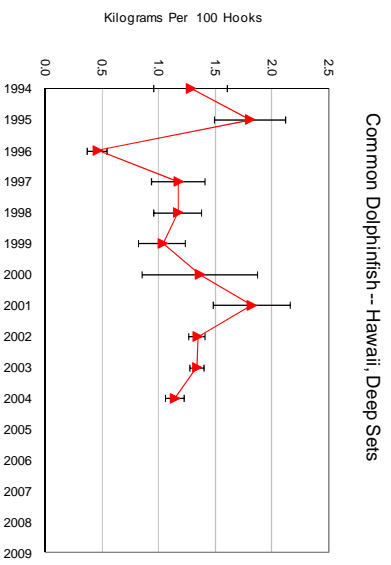


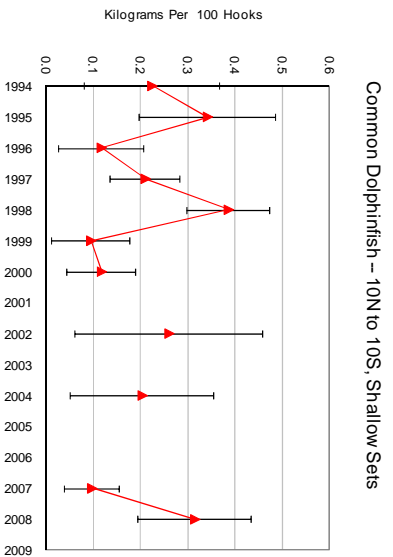
Figure A1 (continued) — Common Dolphinfish



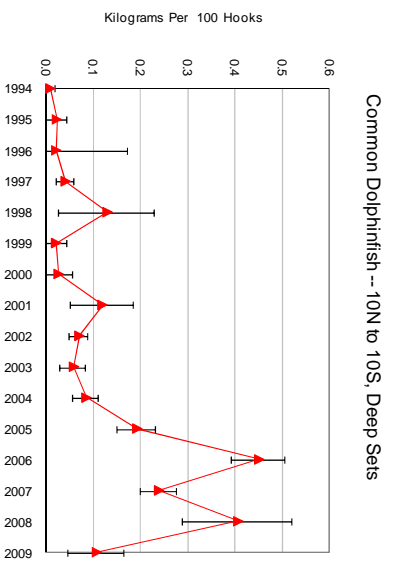
Common Dolphinfish -- Hawaii, Shallow Sets



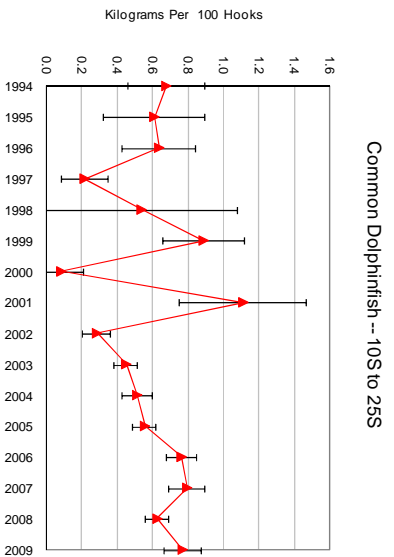
Common Dolphinfish -- Hawaii, Deep Sets



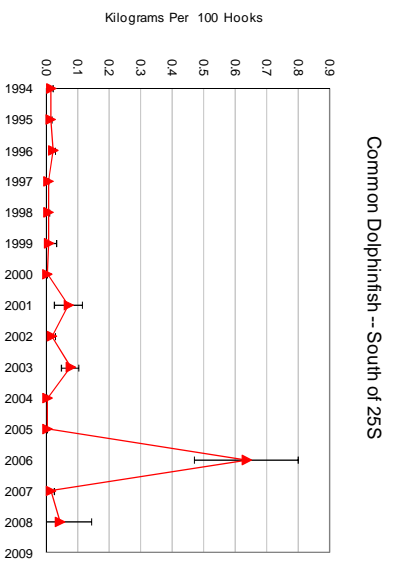
Common Dolphinfish -- 10N to 10S, Shallow Sets



Common Dolphinfish -- 10N to 10S, Deep Sets



Common Dolphinfish -- 10S to 25S



Common Dolphinfish -- South of 25S

Figure A1 (continued) — Escolars

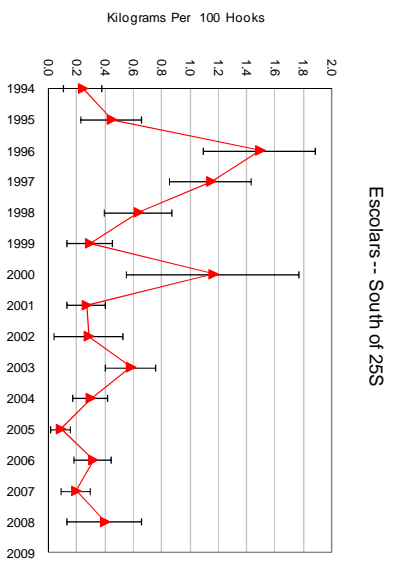
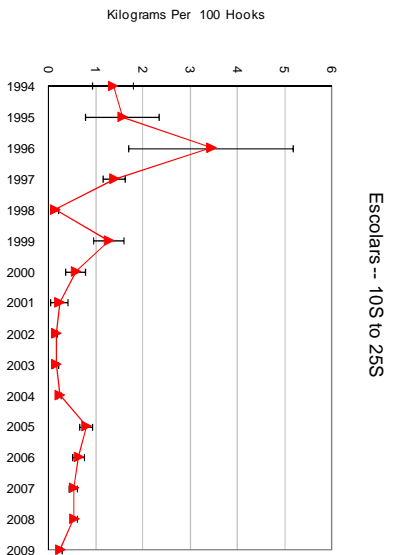
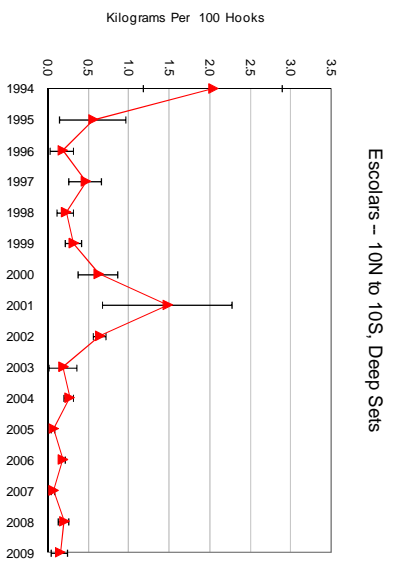
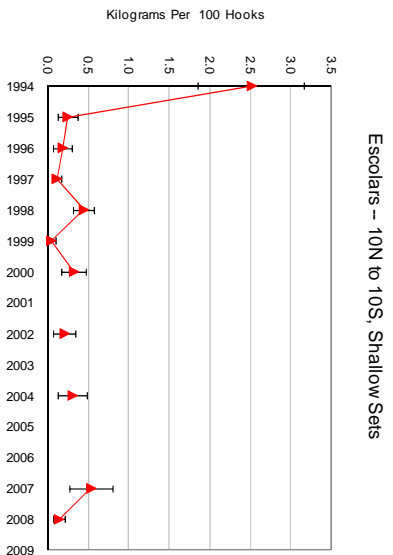
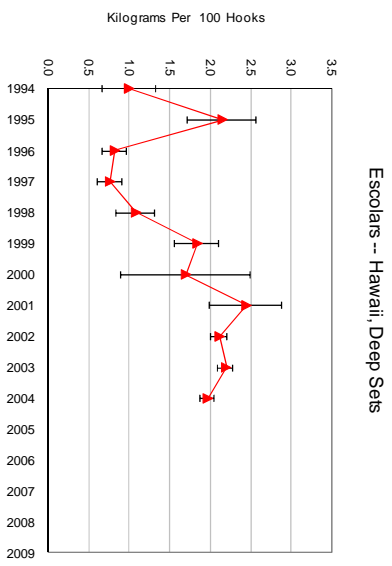
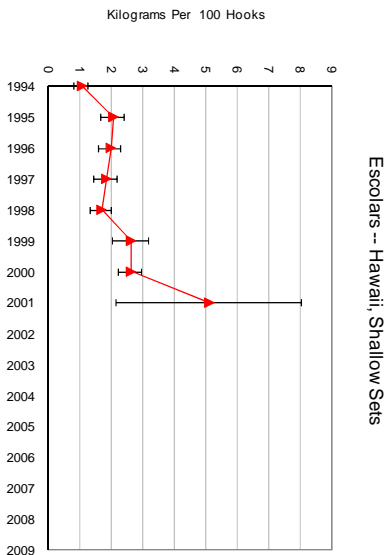


Figure A1 (continued) — Lancetfish

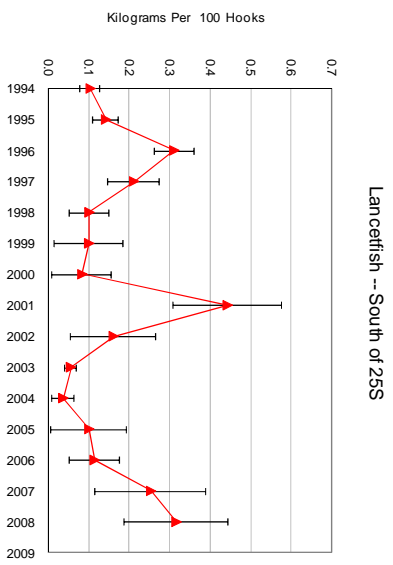
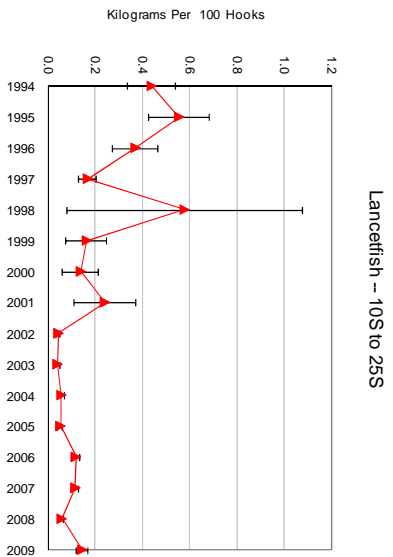
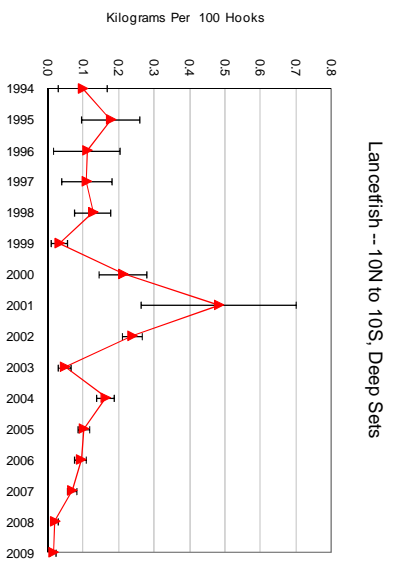
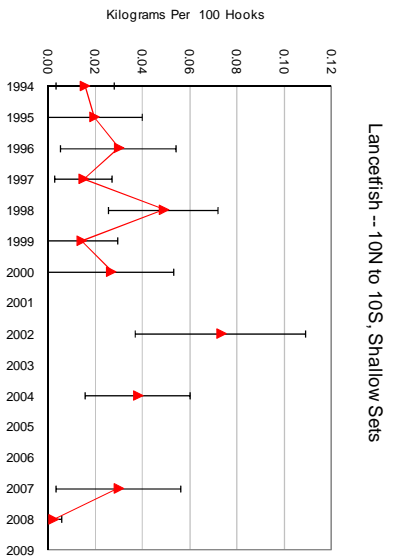
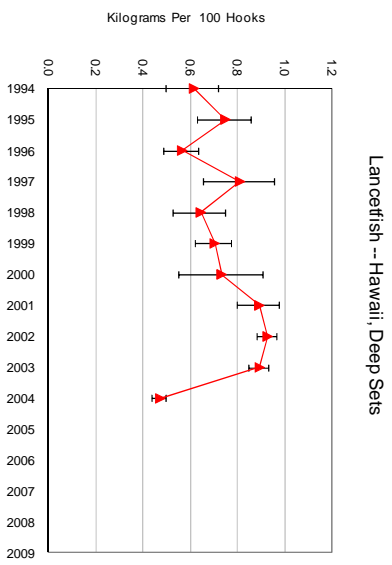
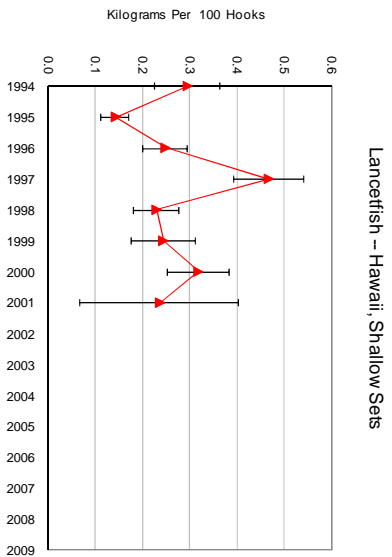


Figure A1 (continued) — Ocean Sunfish

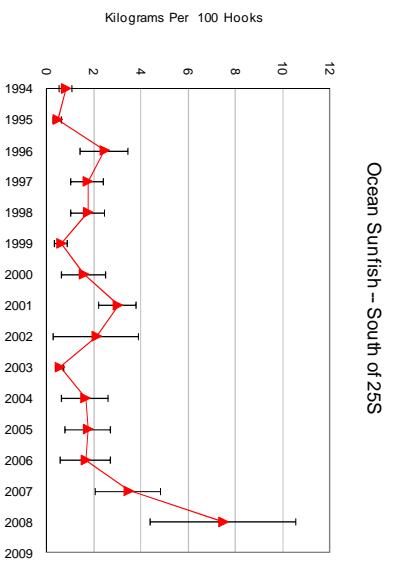
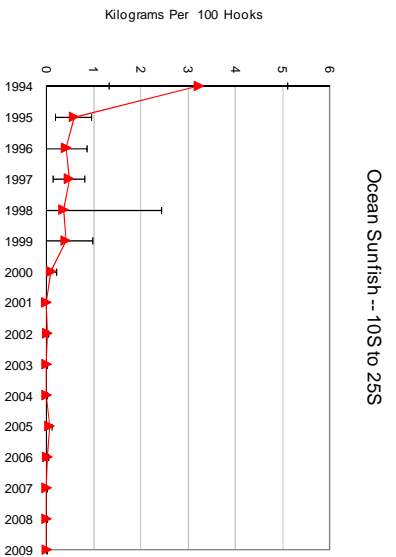
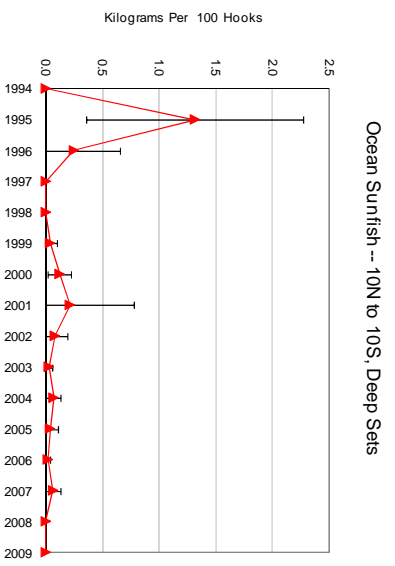
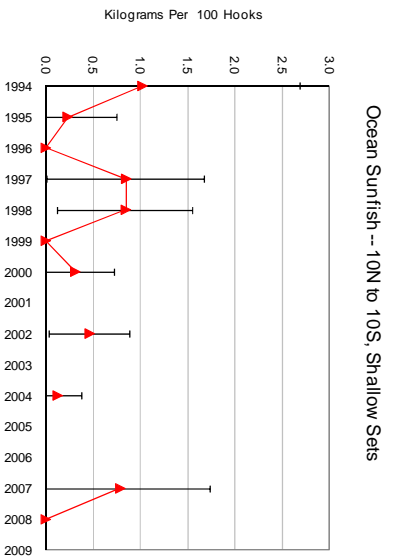
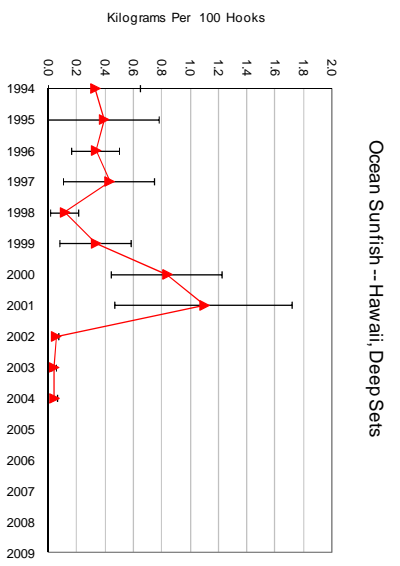
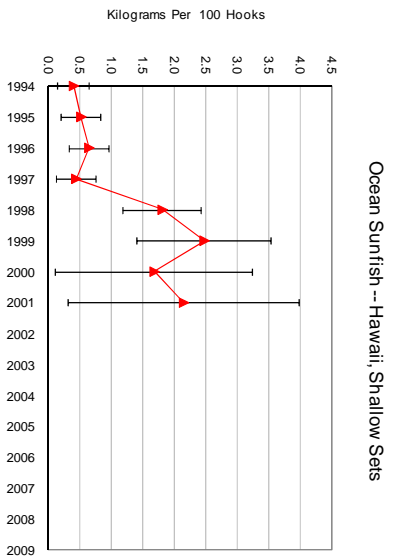


Figure A1 (continued) — Oilfish

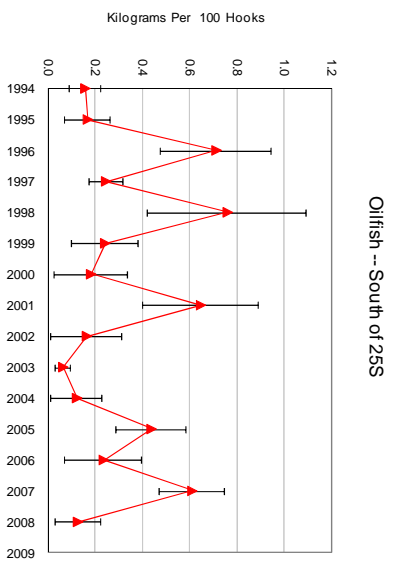
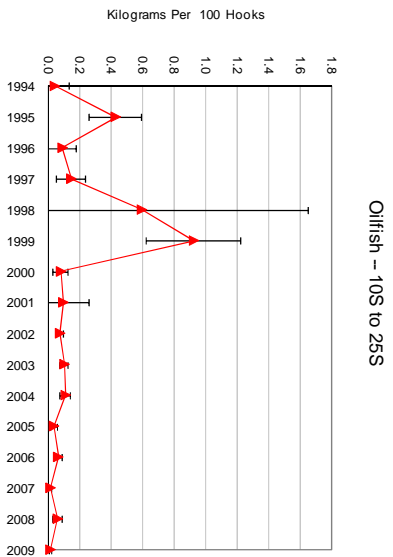
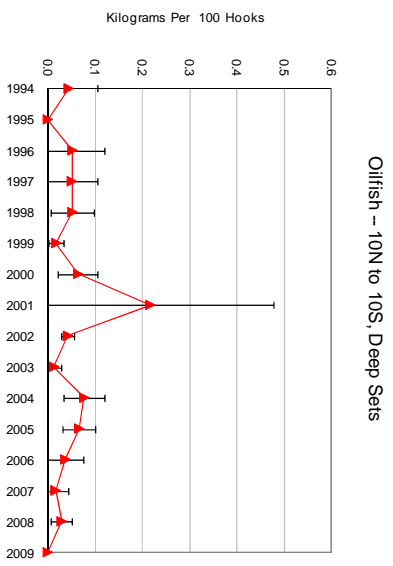
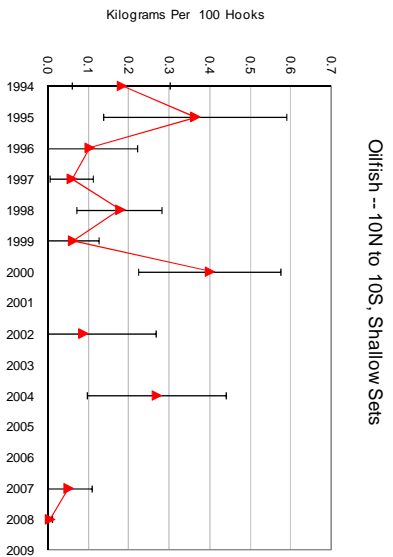
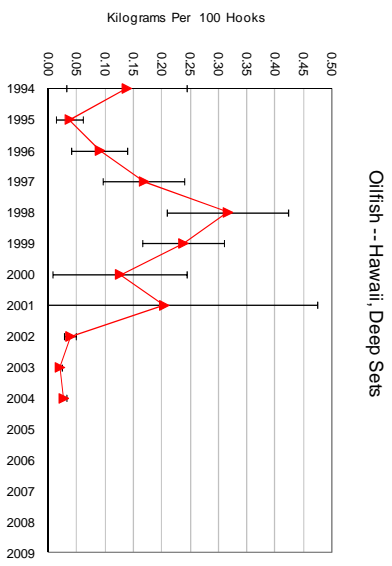
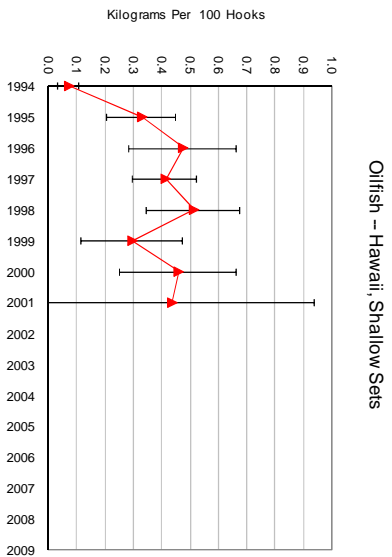
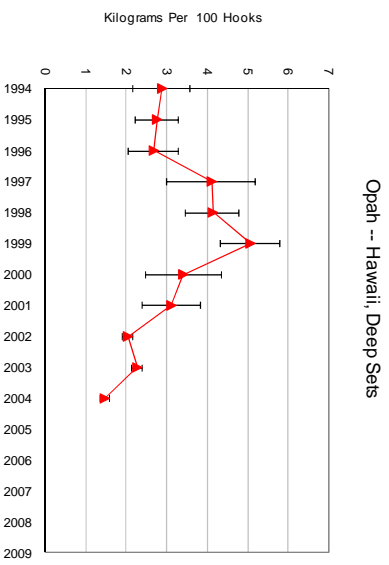
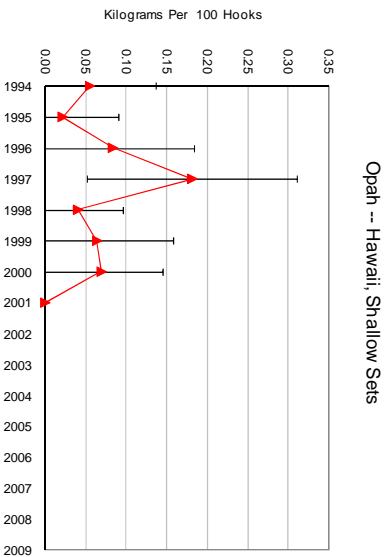
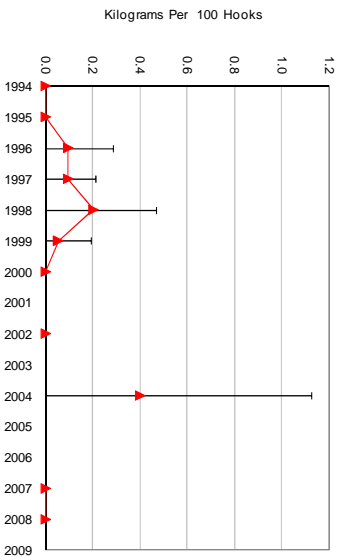


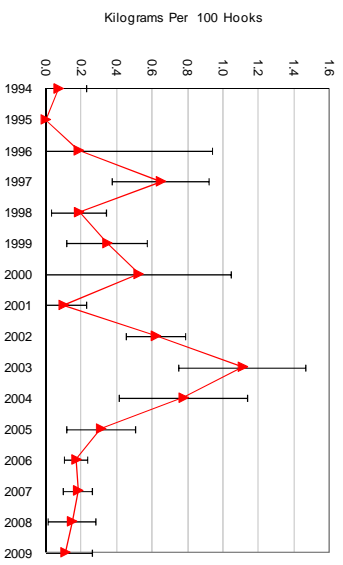
Figure A1 (continued) — Opah



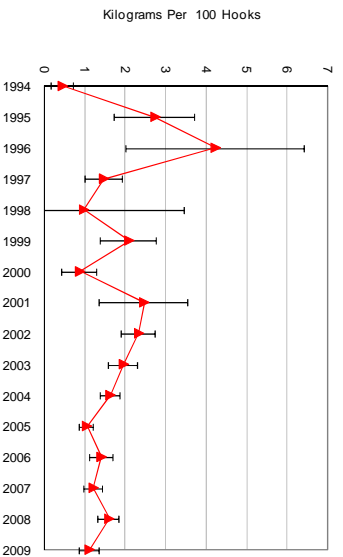
Opah -- 10N to 10S, Shallow Sets



Opah -- 10N to 10S, Deep Sets



Opah -- 10S to 25S



Opah -- South of 25S

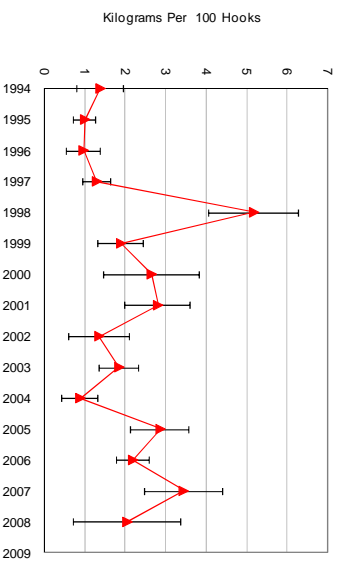


Figure A1 (continued) — Pomfrets

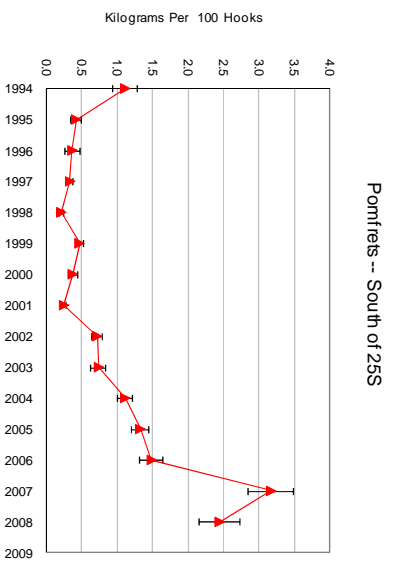
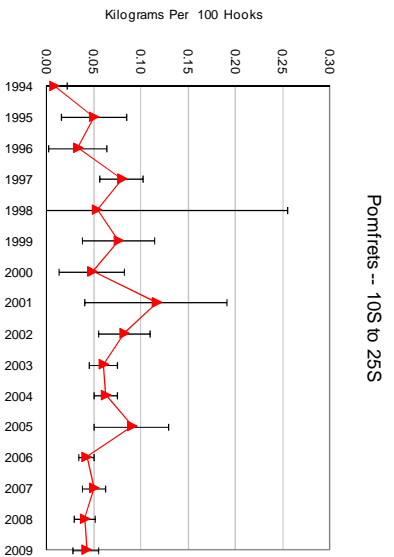
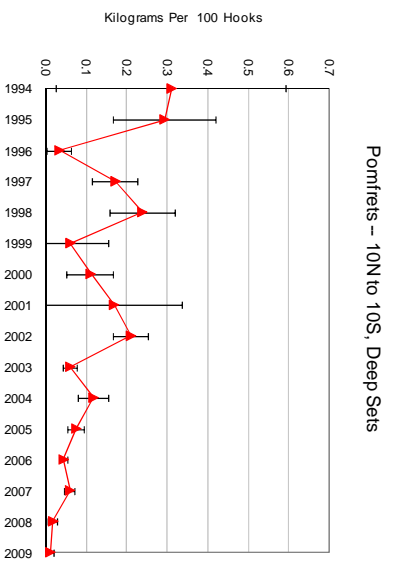
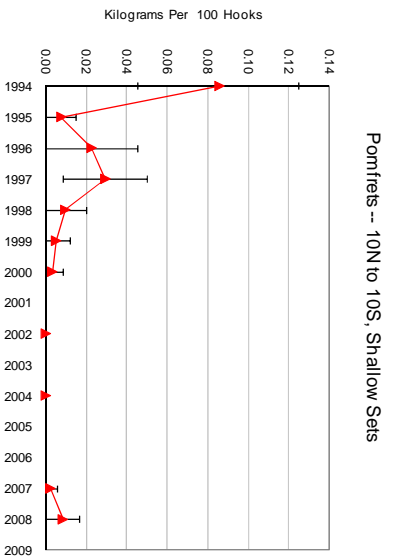
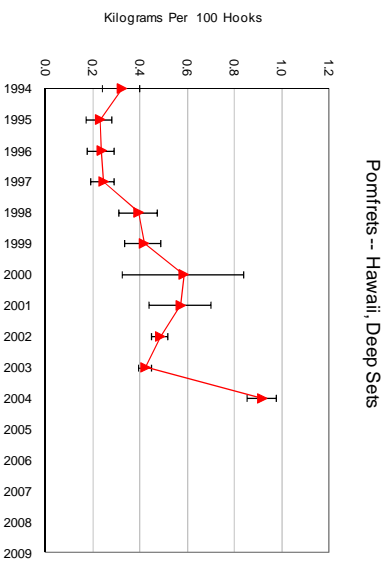
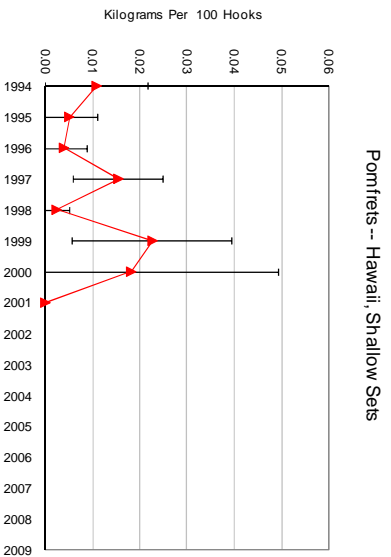


Figure A1 (continued) — Shark Suckers

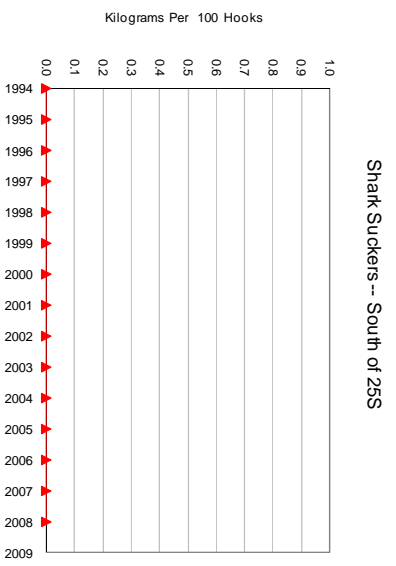
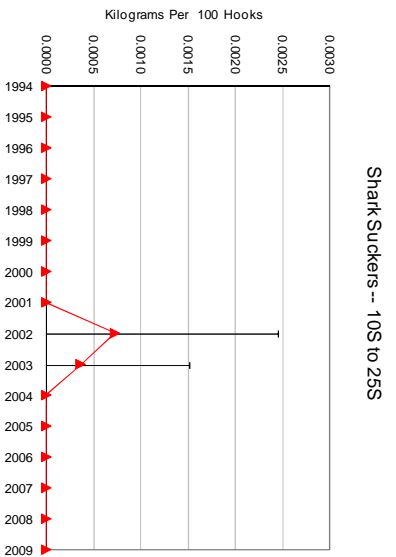
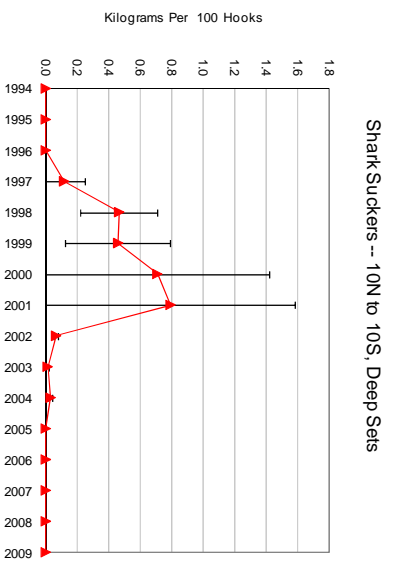
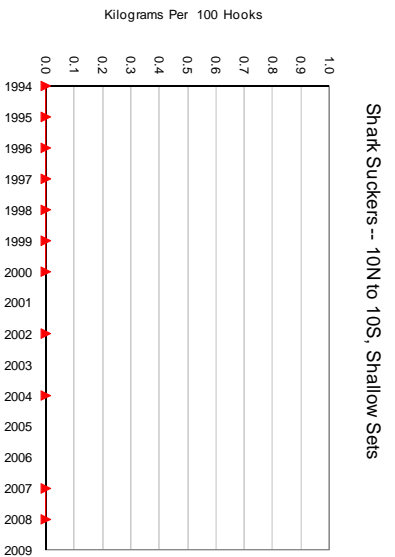
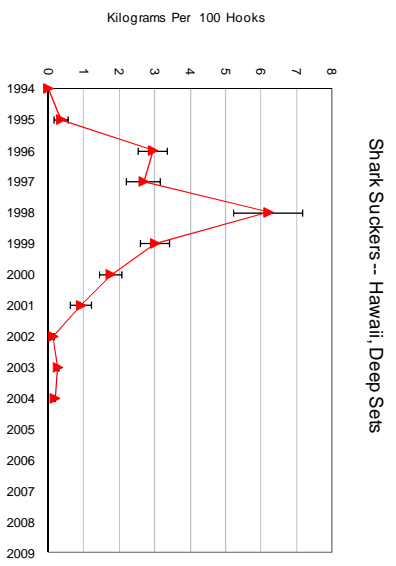
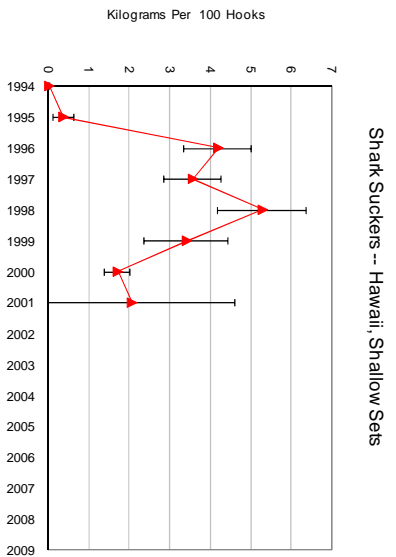
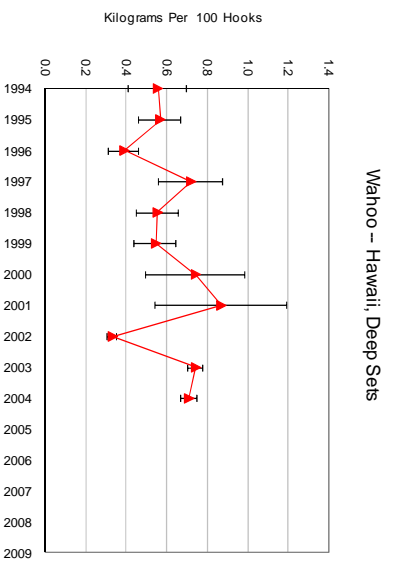
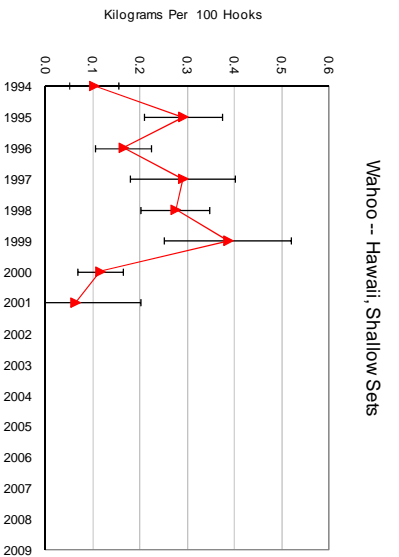
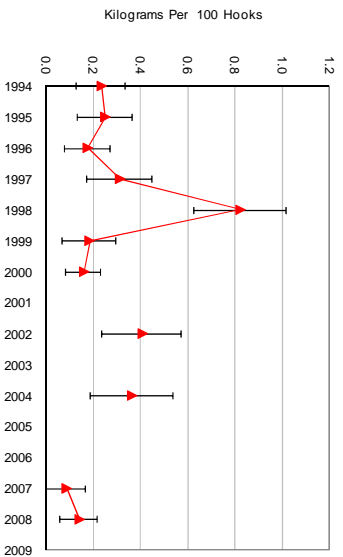


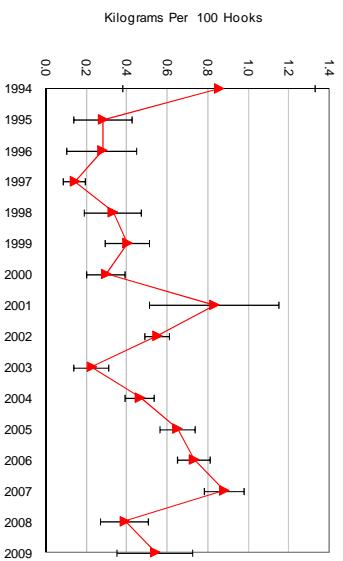
Figure A1 (continued) — Wahoo



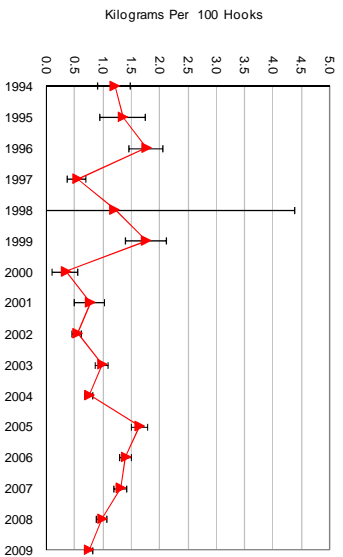
Wahoo -- 10N to 10S, Shallow Sets



Wahoo -- 10N to 10S, Deep Sets



Wahoo -- 10S to 25S



Wahoo -- South of 25S

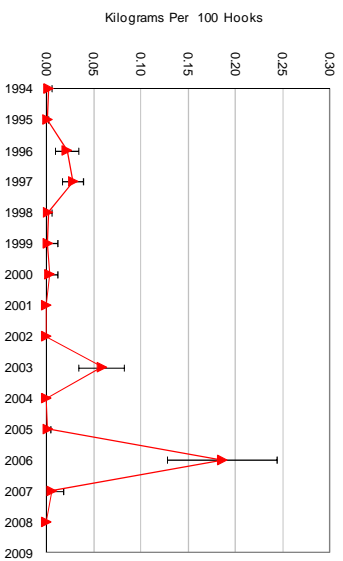


Figure A1 (continued) — Other Fish

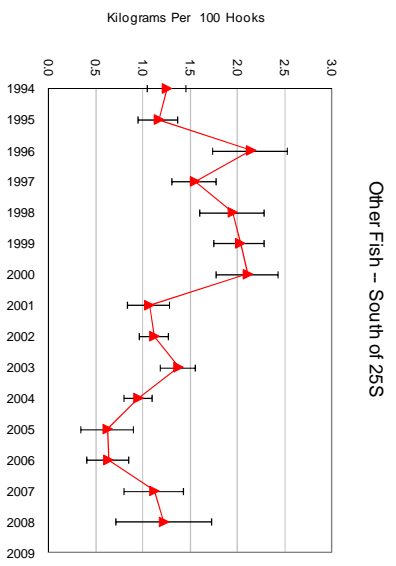
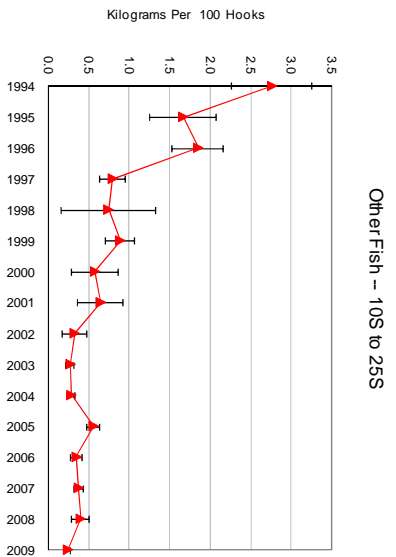
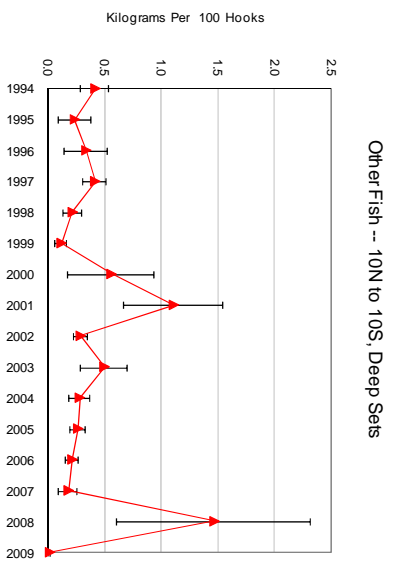
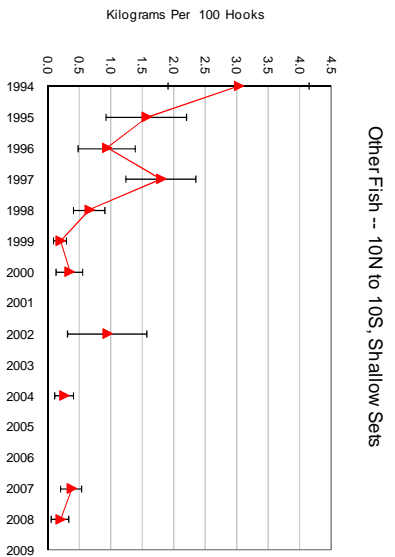
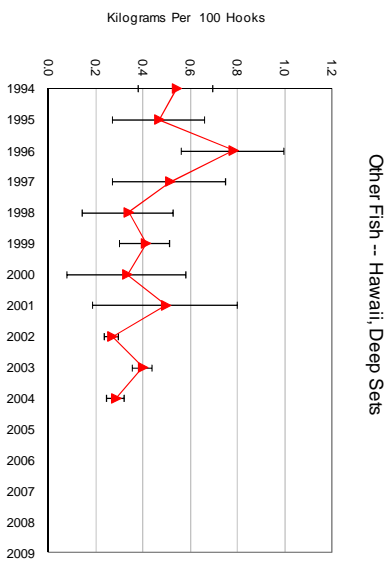
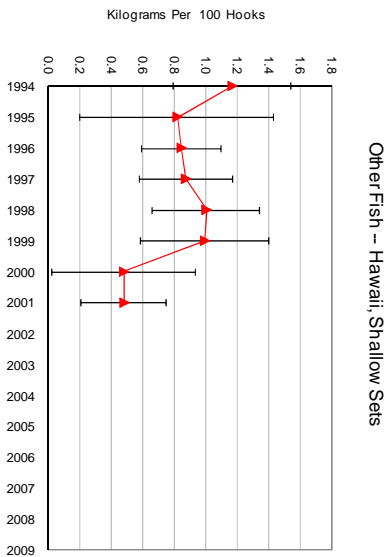


Figure A2. Catch rates of target and non-target species determined from observer data collected onboard purse seiners in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean

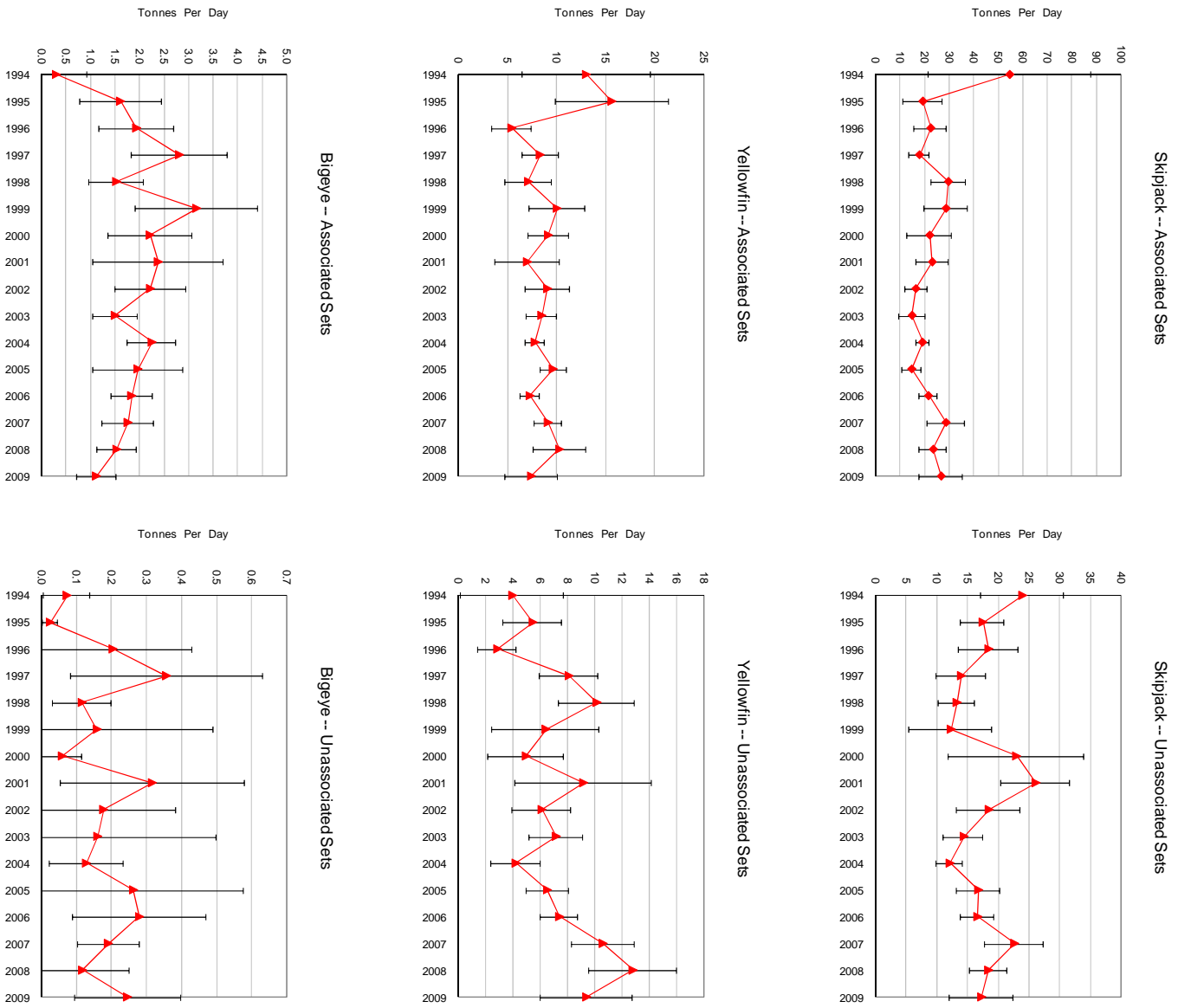
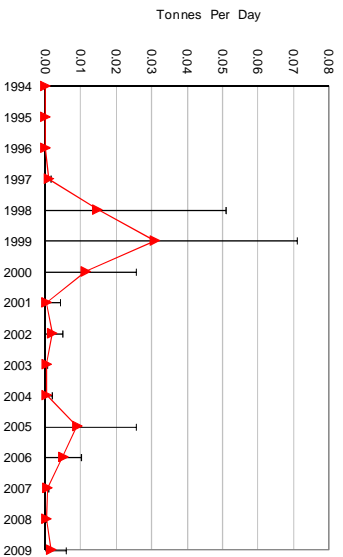
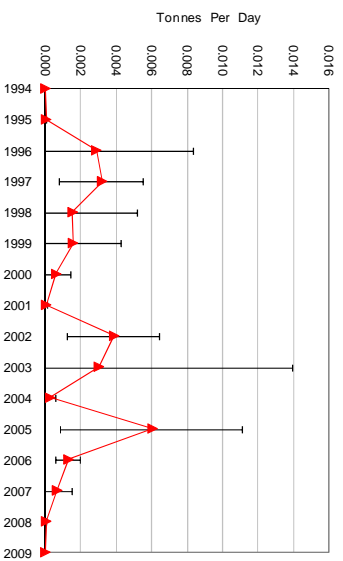


Figure A2 (continued)

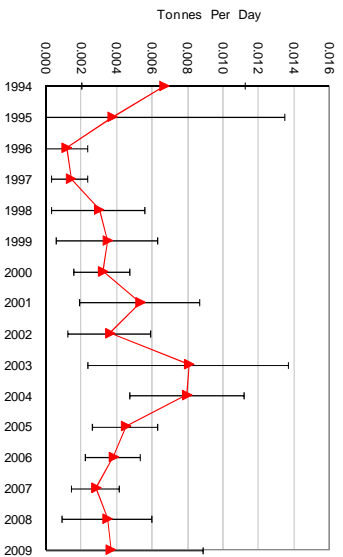
Albacore -- Associated Sets



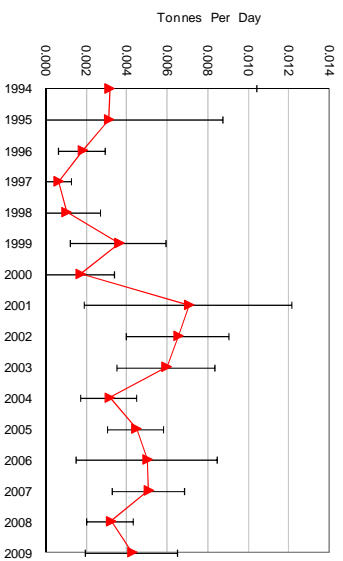
Albacore -- Unassociated Sets



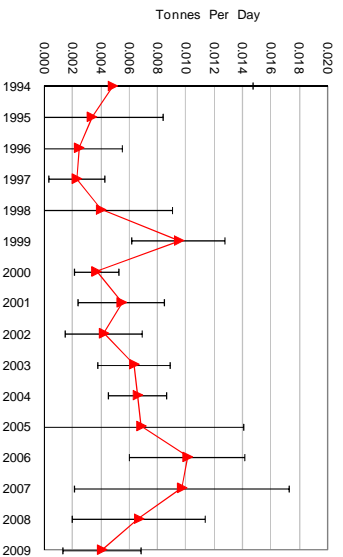
Black Marlin -- Associated Sets



Black Marlin -- Unassociated Sets



Blue Marlin -- Associated Sets



Blue Marlin -- Unassociated Sets

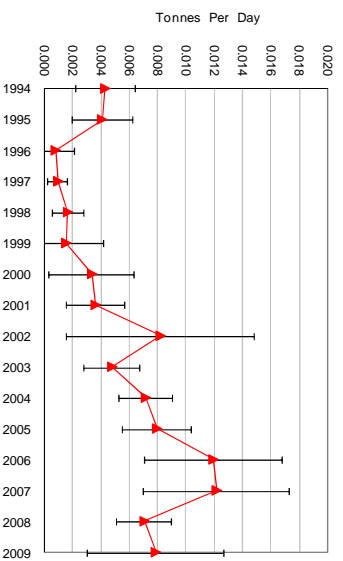
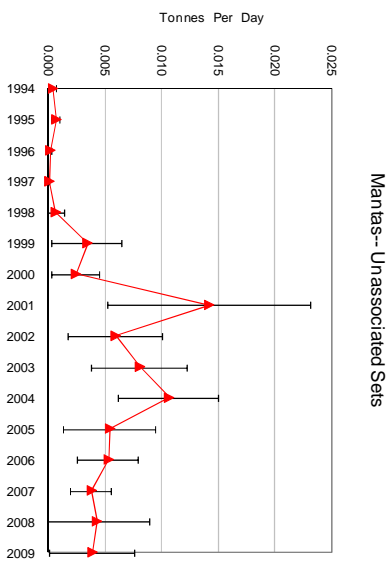
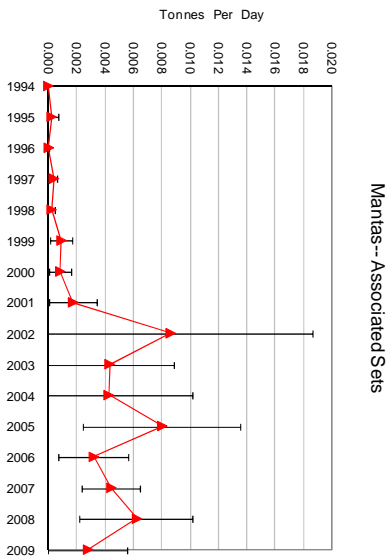
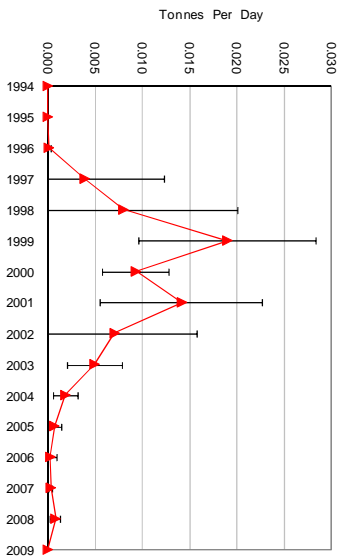


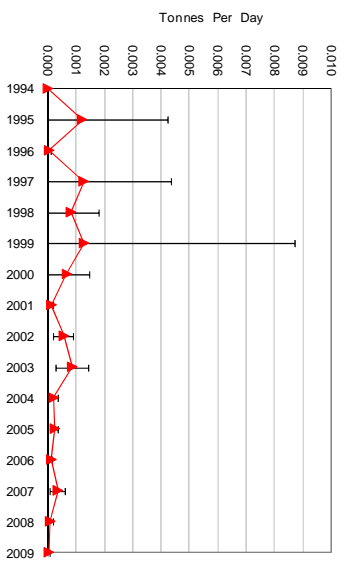
Figure A2 (continued)



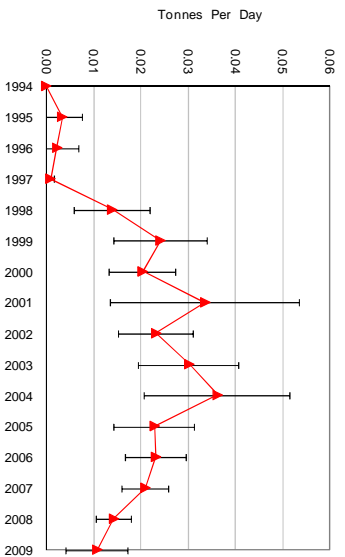
Oceanic Whiteip Shark -- Associated Sets



Oceanic Whiteip Shark -- Unassociated Sets



SilkyShark -- Associated Sets



SilkyShark -- Unassociated Sets

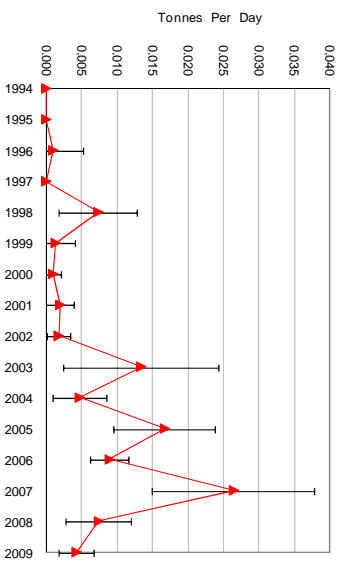


Figure A2 (continued)

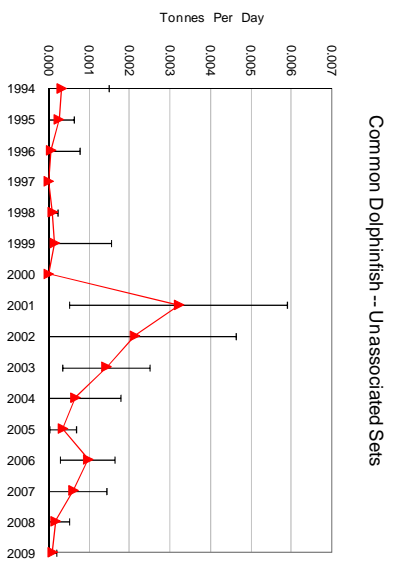
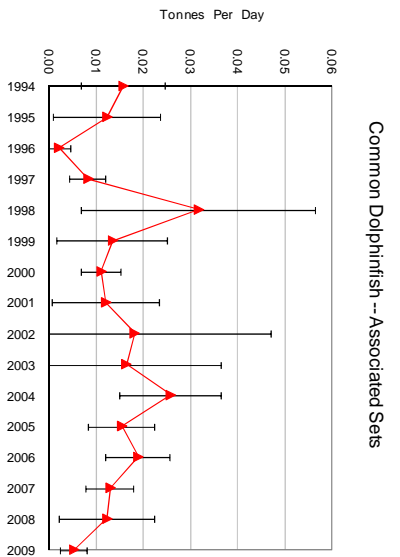
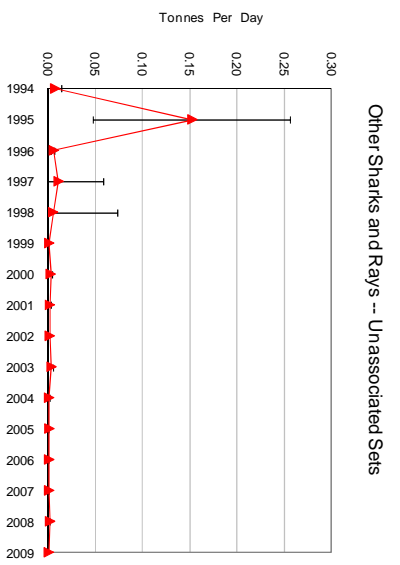
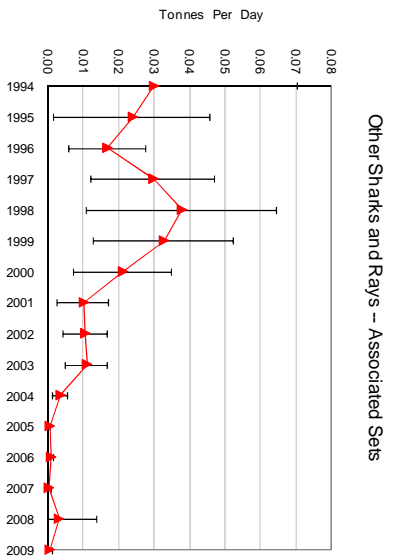
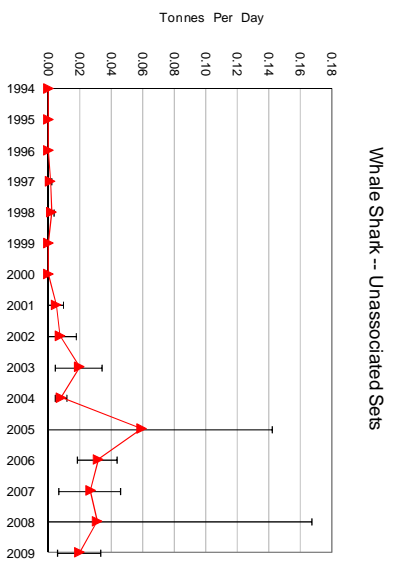
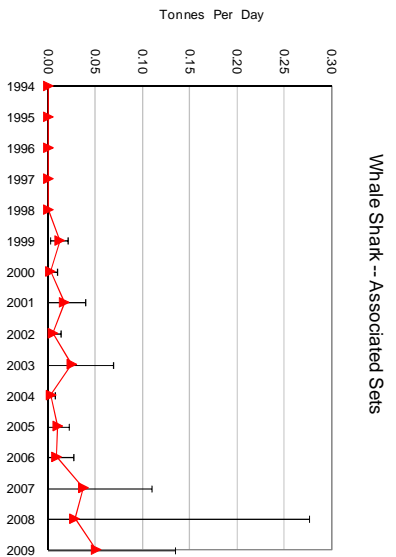


Figure A2 (continued)

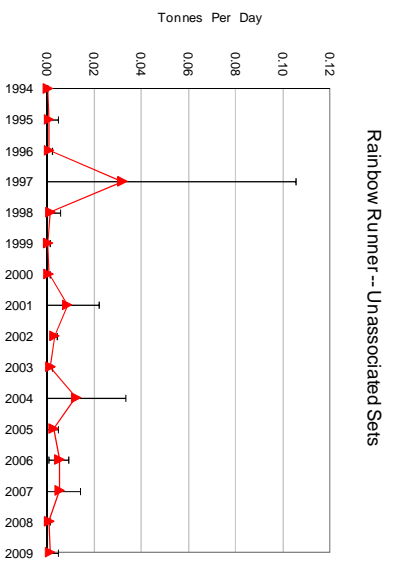
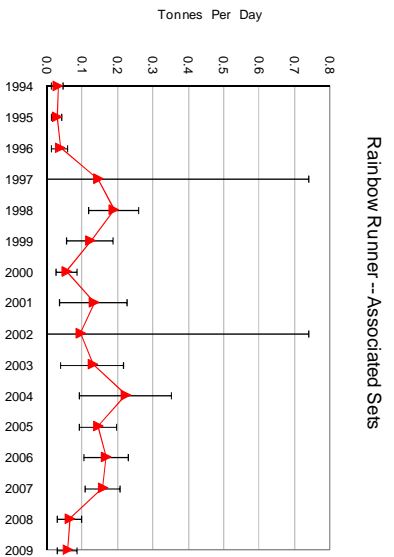
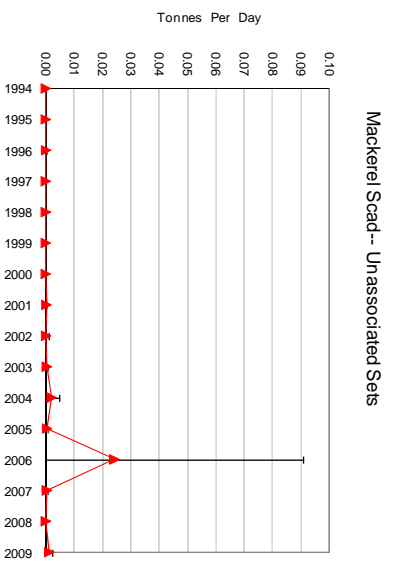
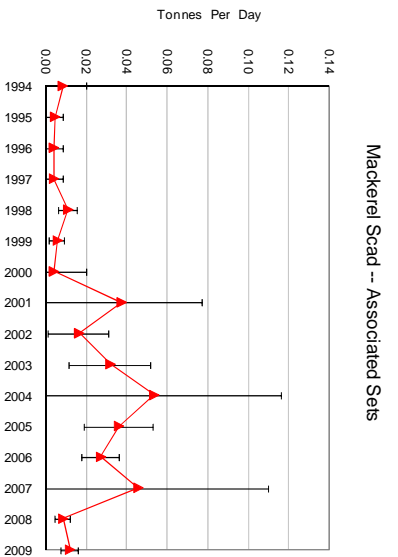
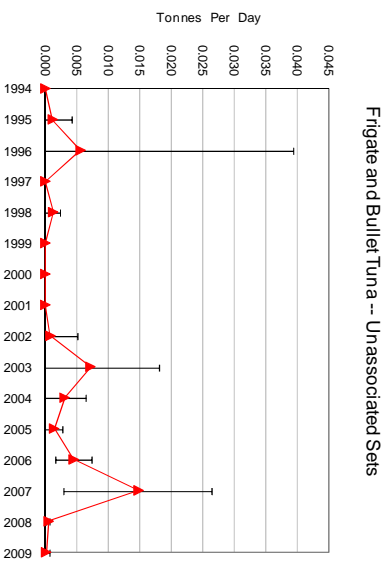
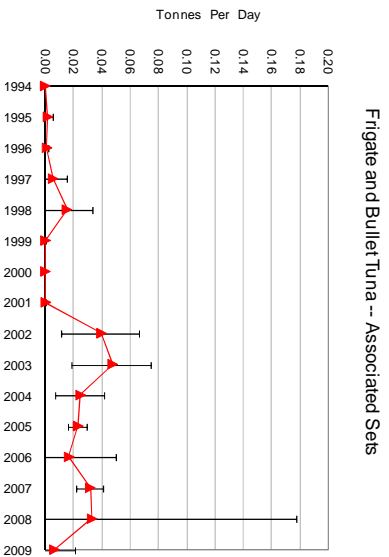


Figure A2 (continued)

