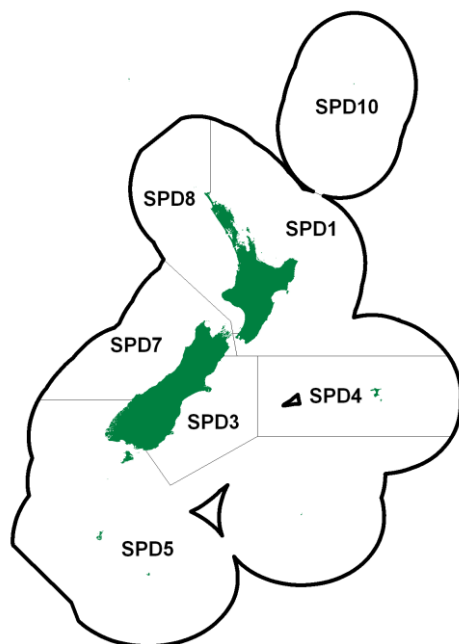


**SPINY DOGFISH (SPD)**

(*Squalus acanthias*)  
Makohuarau, Pioke, Kāraerae

**1. FISHERY SUMMARY****1.1 Commercial fisheries**

Spiny dogfish are found throughout the southern half of New Zealand, extending to East Cape and Manakau Harbour on the east and west coasts of the North Island respectively. A related species, the northern spiny dogfish (*Squalus mitsukurii*), is mainly restricted to North Island waters, overlapping with its conspecific in the central west coast area and around the Chatham Islands. Although they have different species codes for reporting purposes it is probable that some misidentification and misreporting occurs - particularly in FMAs 1, 8 and 9.

The best estimate of reported catch from the fishery is shown in the final column in Table 1. For the period 1980–81 to 1986–87 the best estimate of landings is the sum of the FSU data. For the period 1987–88 to 1996–97 this is the sum of the LFRR and the discards from the CELR and CLR. It has been assumed here that all the fish which have been caught and discarded will die, and that all the discarded fish have been recorded. Although neither assumption is likely to be true, and the biases they produce will at least partially cancel each other out, it is likely that the true level of discards is considerably higher. However, these figures are currently the best estimates of total removals from the fishery.

Before 1980–81 landings of rig and both *Squalus* species were included together and catches of the latter were probably small. Since then the reported catch of spiny dogfish has fluctuated between about 3000 and 7000 t. The reported catch by the deepwater fleet has remained fairly constant during most of the period, averaging 2000–4000 t, with a slight decrease in recent years. Reported catch by the inshore fleet has shown a steady increase throughout the period and is now at a similar level to the catch from the deepwater fleet.

Most of the spiny dogfish caught by the deepwater fleet are taken as a bycatch in the jack mackerel, barracouta, hoki, red cod, and arrow squid fisheries, in depths from 100 to 500 m. Some are packed whole but most are trunked and exported to markets in Asia and Europe.

**Table 1: Reported catches of spiny dogfish (t) by fishing year. FSU (Fisheries Statistics Unit), LFRR (Licensed Fish Receiver Return). Discards reported from CELR (Catch Effort Landing Return), and CLR (Catch Landing Return). Numbers in brackets are probably underestimates. (- no data).**

	FSU		LFRR	Discards	Best Estimate
	Inshore	Deepwater			
1980–81	-	(196)	-	-	196
1981–82	-	1 881	-	-	1 881
1982–83	(107)	2 568	-	-	2 675
1983–84	309	2 949	-	-	3 258
1984–85	303	3 266	-	-	3 569
1985–86	311	2 802	-	-	3 113
1986–87	870	2 277	2 608	-	3 147
1987–88	834	3 877	4 823	-	4 823
1988–89	(351)	(500)	3 573	(16)	3 589
1989–90	(14)	0	2 952	321	3 273
1990–91	-	-	5 983	333	6 316
1991–92	-	-	3 274	521	3 795
1992–93	-	-	4 157	616	4 773
1993–94	-	-	6 150	1 063	7 213
1994–95	-	-	4 793	628	5 421
1995–96	-	-	6 230	1 920	8 150
1996–97	-	-	4 887	2 572	7 459

Spiny dogfish are also taken as bycatch by inshore trawlers, setnetters and longliners targeting flatfish, snapper, tarakihi and gurnard. Because of processing problems due to their spines, sandpaper-like skin, and short shelf life, and their low economic value, many inshore fishers are not interested in processing and landing them. Furthermore, because of their sheer abundance they can at times severely hamper fishing operations for other commercial species and they are regarded by many fishers as a major nuisance. Trawlers working off Otago during the summer months often reduce towing times and headline heights, and at times leave the area altogether to avoid having to spend hours pulling hundreds of meshed dogfish out of trawl nets. Setnetters and longliners off the Otago coast, and in Tasman Bay and the south Taranaki Bight have also complained about spiny dogfish taking longline baits, attacking commercial fish caught in the nets or lines, and rolling up nets.

The catch by FMA from the FSU, CELR and CLR databases is shown in Table 3. Large catches have been made from FMAs 3, 5, 6, and 7 since 1982–83. Catches from FMA 4 have increased substantially since the mid-1990s. Landings from FMA 5 and 6 were most important in the early 1980s, with 1000–2000 t taken annually by factory trawlers. In more recent years FMA 3, and to a lesser extent, FMA 7 have become more important. The catch in both these areas is taken equally by factory trawlers and inshore fleets. The catch in FMA 1 is unlikely to be spiny dogfish which is considered to be virtually absent from the area, and so these catches should probably be attributed to *S. mitsukurii*.

Competitive quotas of 4075 t for FMA 3, and of 3600 t for FMAs 5 and 6, were introduced for the first time in the 1992–93 fishing year. These quotas were based on yields derived from trawl surveys using a method that is now considered obsolete, and harvest levels which are now considered unreliable. The reported catches exceeded the FMA 3 quota in 1997–98, 2000–01 and 2001–02 and the FMA 5/6 quota in 2001–02.

Spiny dogfish was introduced into the QMS in October 2004. Catches and TACCs are shown in Table 4, while Figure 1 depicts historical landings and TACC values for the main SPD stocks.

Prior to their introduction into the QMS spiny dogfish were legally discarded at sea (provided that total catch was reported). Although discard rates increased dramatically through the 1990s (Table 5), this is believed to reflect a change in reporting practise rather than an increase in the proportion of catch discarded.

## SPINY DOGFISH (SPD)

**Table 2: Reported landings (t) for the main QMAs from 1931 to 1982.**

Year	SPD 1	SPD 3	SPD 4	SPD 5	Year	SPD 1	SPD 3	SPD 4	SPD 5
1931	0	0	0	0	1957	0	0	0	0
1932	0	0	0	0	1958	0	0	0	0
1933	0	0	0	0	1959	0	0	0	0
1934	0	0	0	0	1960	0	0	0	0
1935	0	0	0	0	1961	0	0	0	0
1936	0	0	0	0	1962	0	0	0	0
1937	0	0	0	0	1963	0	0	0	0
1938	0	0	0	0	1964	0	0	0	0
1939	0	0	0	0	1965	0	0	0	0
1940	0	0	0	0	1966	0	0	0	0
1941	0	0	0	0	1967	0	0	0	0
1942	0	0	0	0	1968	0	0	0	0
1943	0	0	0	0	1969	0	0	0	0
1944	0	0	0	0	1970	0	0	0	0
1945	0	0	0	0	1971	0	0	0	0
1946	0	0	0	0	1972	0	0	0	0
1947	0	0	0	0	1973	0	0	0	0
1948	0	0	0	0	1974	0	0	0	0
1949	0	0	0	0	1975	0	0	0	0
1950	0	0	0	0	1976	0	0	0	0
1951	0	0	0	0	1977	0	0	0	0
1952	0	0	0	0	1978	1	20	0	38
1953	0	0	0	0	1979	2	130	67	74
1954	0	0	0	0	1980	0	39	13	149
1955	0	0	0	0	1981	2	123	92	203
1956	0	0	0	0	1982	20	291	31	2228

Year	SPD 7	SPD 8	Year	SPD 7	SPD 8
1931	0	0	1957	0	0
1932	0	0	1958	0	0
1933	0	0	1959	0	0
1934	0	0	1960	0	0
1935	0	0	1961	0	0
1936	0	0	1962	0	0
1937	0	0	1963	0	0
1938	0	0	1964	0	0
1939	0	0	1965	0	0
1940	0	0	1966	0	0
1941	0	0	1967	0	0
1942	0	0	1968	0	0
1943	0	0	1969	0	0
1944	0	0	1970	0	0
1945	0	0	1971	0	0
1946	0	0	1972	0	0
1947	0	0	1973	0	0
1948	0	0	1974	0	0
1949	0	0	1975	0	0
1950	0	0	1976	0	0
1951	0	0	1977	0	0
1952	0	0	1978	124	41
1953	0	0	1979	128	40
1954	0	0	1980	11	31
1955	0	0	1981	73	150
1956	0	0	1982	113	84

**Notes:**

1. The 1931–1943 years are April–March but from 1944 onwards are calendar years.
2. Data up to 1985 are from fishing returns: Data from 1986 to 1990 are from Quota Management Reports.
3. Data for the period 1931 to 1982 are based on reported landings by harbour and are likely to be underestimated as a result of under-reporting and discarding practices. Data includes both foreign and domestic landings. Data were aggregated to FMA using methods and assumptions described by Francis & Paul (2013).

**Table 3: Reported landings of spiny dogfish by FMA. Proportions by area have been taken from CELR and CLR and pro-rated to the best estimate from Table 1. Competitive quotas of 4075 t for FMA 3, and of 3600 t for FMAs 5 and 6, were introduced for the first time in the 1992–93 fishing year.**

Year	FMA 1	FMA 2	FMA 3	FMA 4	FMA 5	FMA 6	FMA 7	FMA 8	FMA 9	FMA 10	Other	Total
1982–83	4	0	151	131	2 089	81	145	66	7			2 675
1983–84	22	18	409	347	565	1 700	119	63	16			3 258
1984–85	21	12	557	481	451	1 899	90	48	10			3 569
1985–86	13	11	892	411	537	1 017	120	92	20			3 113
1986–87	64	18	1 048	162	1 002	29	501	296	27			3 147
1987–88	50	9	1 664	172	642	16	1 402	841	27			4 823
1988–89	341	16	1 510	168	771	7	633	132	11			3 589
1989–90	36	14	2 243	136	241	2	521	80	0			3 273
1990–91	129	14	2 987	513	1 708	14	883	67	0			6 316
1991–92	54	23	1 801	66	538	33	1 031	249	0			3 795
1992–93	50	9	2 128	218	817	22	1 163	366	0			4 773
1993–94	51	34	3 165	358	1 158	21	2 212	214	0			7 213
1994–95	84	47	2 883	363	606	37	1 205	196	0			5 421
1995–96	68	177	2 558	969	1 147	152	1 205	186	15			7 052
1996–97	30	159	2 428	1 287	764	120	1 517	235	7	1	1	6 555
1997–98	52	165	5 042	917	428	223	2 389	1 172	34	0	11	10 433
1998–99	45	488	3 148	1 048	1 996	154	1 902	74	< 1	0	< 1	8 424
1999–00	15	328	3 309	994	1 163	189	1 505	25	7	0	5	7 540
2000–01	38	336	4 355	1 075	1 389	212	1 310	54	16	0	28	8 811
2001–02	12	222	4 249	1 788	3 734	487	961	71	12	0	-	11 530
2002–03	10	245	3 553	1 010	2 621	413	772	85	19	0	0	8 727
2003–04	12	91	2 077	516	1 032	302	423	20	5	0	0	4 477

**Table 4: Reported domestic landings (t) of spiny dogfish by Fishstock and TACC from 2004–05 to 2013–14.**

Fishstock FMA	SPD 1 1&2		SPD 3 3		SPD 4 4		SPD 5 5&6		SPD 7 7	
	Landings	TACC	Landings	TACC	Landings	TACC	Landings	TACC	Landings	TACC
2004–05	234	331	2 707	4 794	839	1 626	2 479	3 700	842	1 902
2005–06	186	331	3 831	4 794	1 055	1 626	2 298	3 700	832	1 902
2006–07	239	331	2 712	4 794	822	1 626	2 165	3 700	1 125	1 902
2007–08	156	331	2 082	4 794	1 397	1 626	1 501	3 700	928	1 902
2008–09	229	331	1 981	4 794	866	1 626	2 071	3 700	929	1 902
2009–10	128	331	1 855	4 794	667	1 626	2 205	3 700	1 116	1 902
2010–11	176	331	1 976	4 794	825	1 626	1 443	3 700	1 436	1 902
2011–12	187	331	1 607	4 794	740	1 626	1 390	3 700	1 704	1 902
2012–13	193	331	1 302	4 794	442	1 626	1 547	3 700	1 298	1 902
2013–14	226	331	1 411	4 794	1 090	1 626	2 068	3 700	914	1 902

Fishstock FMA	SPD 8 8&9		Total	
	Landings	TACC	Landings	TACC
2004–05	121	307	7 222	12 660
2005–06	108	307	8 311	12 660
2006–07	118	307	7 181	12 660
2007–08	124	307	6 188	12 660
2008–09	150	307	6 226	12 660
2009–10	194	307	6 166	12 660
2010–11	221	307	6 077	12 660
2011–12	252	307	5 880	12 660
2012–13	182	307	4 965	12 660
2013–14	122	307	5 831	12 660

**Table 5: Discard rates (% of catch) by FMA and fishing year (after Manning et al 2004).**

Fishing year	FMA										Average
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1989–90	11	17	18	4	46	100	13	34	0	0	18
1990–91	7	0	6	2	29	11	21	24	0	0	11
1991–92	9	3	8	13	34	90	42	18	0	0	20
1992–93	13	47	5	51	39	43	20	80	0	0	21
1993–94	5	65	13	42	21	34	29	66	0	0	23
1994–95	2	52	8	31	20	74	29	64	98	0	19
1995–96	7	39	18	55	39	94	45	72	100	0	36
1996–97	15	61	26	40	70	68	59	89	93	0	44
1997–98	53	83	51	53	72	86	81	92	100	0	64
1998–99	20	92	57	60	29	78	82	63	0	0	58
1999–00	9	86	60	55	39	68	81	84	35	0	62
2000–01	37	70	60	77	57	77	72	56	29	0	64
Average	15	74	35	53	42	78	54	68	78	0	45

## SPINY DOGFISH (SPD)

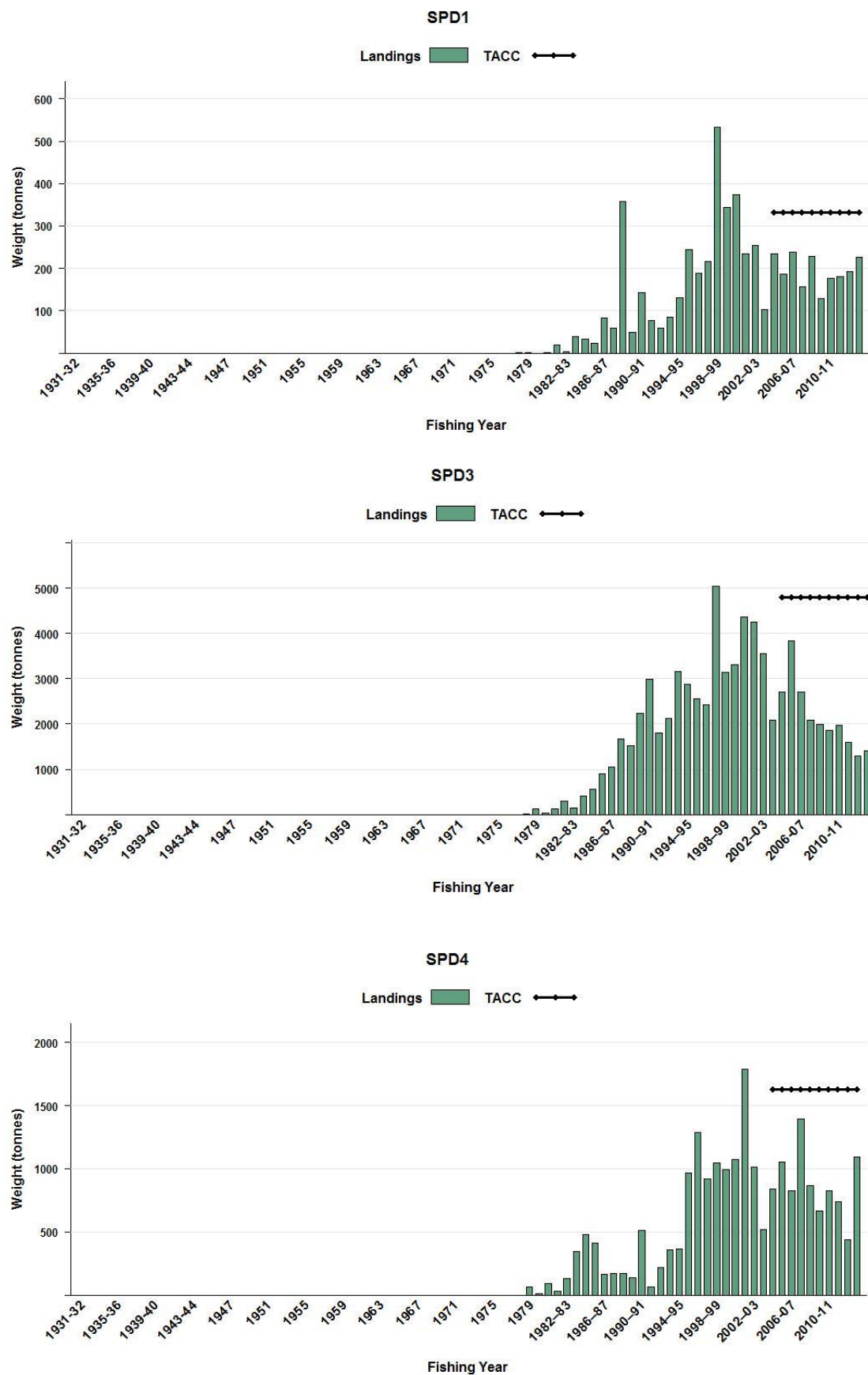


Figure 1: Reported commercial landings and TACCs for the six main SPD stocks. From top to bottom: SPD 1 (Auckland East, Central East), SPD 3 (South East Coast), SPD 4 (South East Chatham Rise. [Continued on next page].

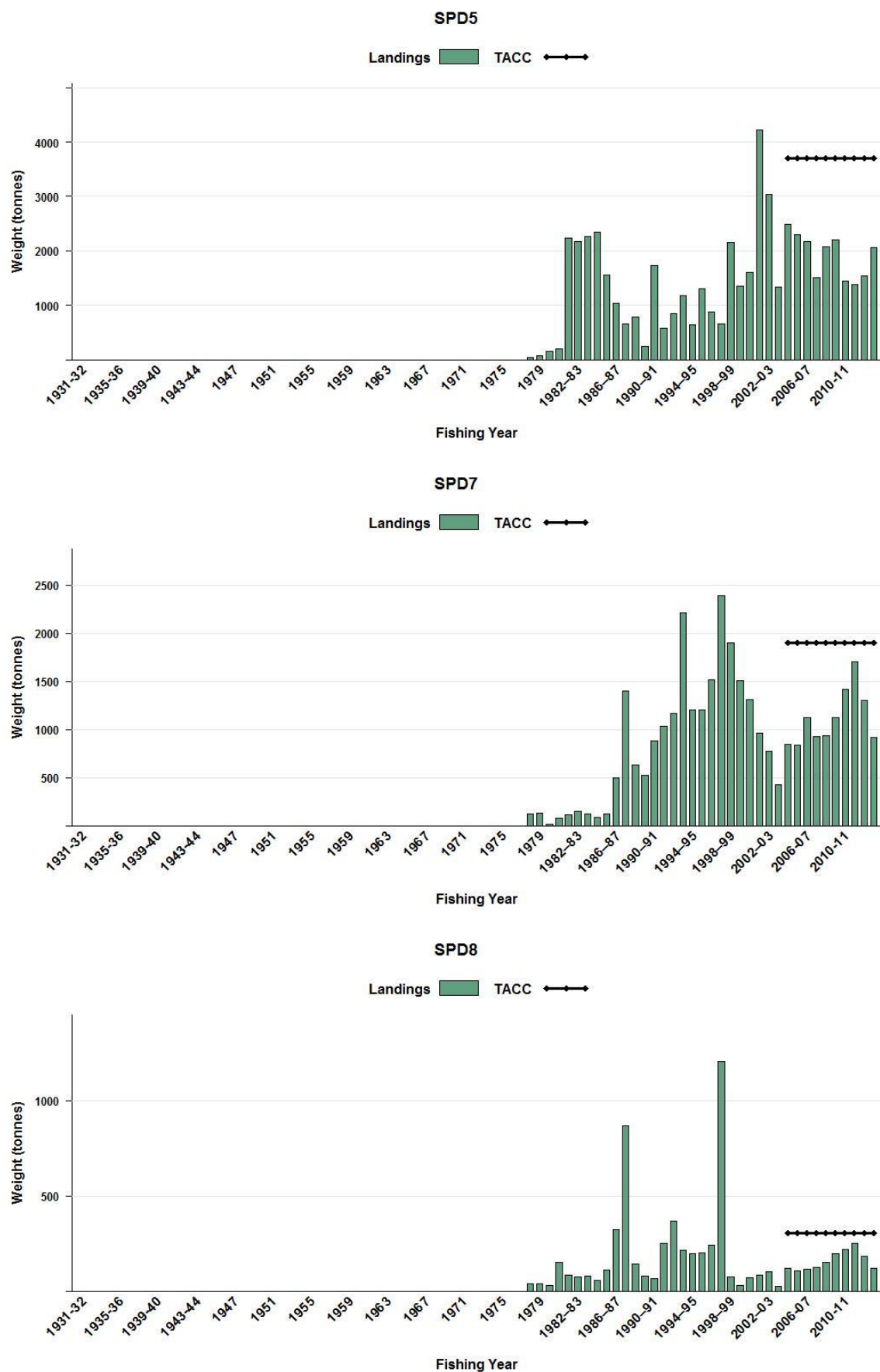


Figure 1 [Continued]: Reported commercial landings and TACCs for the six main SPD stocks. From top to bottom: SPD 5 (Sub-Antarctic, Southland), SPD 7 (Challenger), and SPD 8 (Central Egmont, Auckland West).

## 1.2 Recreational fisheries

Spiny dogfish are caught by recreational fishers throughout their geographical range in New Zealand. They are mainly taken as bycatch when targeting other more valued species using rod and line and setnet. In many parts of New Zealand, spiny dogfish are regarded by recreational anglers as a pest, often clogging nets and taking baits from hooks. Estimates of recreational landings obtained from three surveys in 1991–92 to 1993–94, 1996 and 1999–00 are given in Table 6. Overall, recreational landings probably comprise only a small proportion (less than 10 %) of the total spiny dogfish catch.

**Table 6: Estimated number and weight of spiny dogfish harvested by recreational fishers by Fishstock and survey. Surveys were carried out in different years in the MAF Fisheries regions: South in 1991–92, Central in 1992–93, North in 1993–94 (Teirney et al 1997) and nationally in 1996 (Bradford 1998) and 1999–00 (Boyd & Reilly 2005). Survey harvests are presented as a range to reflect the uncertainty in the estimates.**

Fishstock	Survey	Number	CV%	Harvest Range (t)	Point estimate (t)
1991–92					
FMA 3	South		23		120
FMA 5	South		-		2
FMA 7	South		92		11
1992–93					
FMA 2	Central		42		133
FMA 7	Central		35		46
FMA 8	Central		45		143
1993–94					
FMA 1,9	North		-		< 10
1996					
FMA 1	National	1 000	-	-	-
FMA 2	National	5 000	-	-	-
FMA 3	National	21 000	17	25–40	33
FMA 5	National	9 000	-	-	-
FMA 7	National	24 000	21	30–45	37
FMA 9	National	15 000	-	-	-
1999–00					
FMA 1	National	9 000	61	4.4–17.9	11
FMA 2	National	22 000	37	17.3–37.8	28
FMA 3	National	93 000	27	83.2–145.9	115
FMA 5	National	7 000	47	4.4–12.3	8
FMA 7	National	25 000	35	20.4–41.9	31
FMA 8	National	21 000	52	12.7–40.3	27
FMA 9	National	12 000	82	2.7–26.2	14

The Recreational Technical Working Group concluded that the harvest estimates from the diary surveys should be used only with the following qualifications: a) they may be very inaccurate; b) the 1996 and earlier surveys contain a methodological error; and c) the 2000 and 2001 estimates are implausibly high for many important fisheries.

## 1.3 Customary non-commercial fisheries

Maori fishers traditionally caught large numbers of “dogfish” and this included rig, school shark, and spiny dogfish. Quantitative information on the current level of customary non-commercial fisheries take is not available.

## 1.4 Illegal catch

It is unlikely that there is an illegal catch of spiny dogfish as the quota for this species has never been reached, and it has low commercial value.

## 1.5 Other sources of mortality

It is likely that there is a large amount of spiny dogfish discarded by fishers which is never reported on the returns. The level of mortality and any temporal trends from non-reported discards have not been estimated. The introduction of cost recovery charges in 1994–95 may account for the decline in reported discards in that year.

## 2. BIOLOGY

Spiny dogfish are widely distributed around the South Island and extend as far north as Manakau Harbour and East Cape on the west and east coasts of the North Island respectively. They are most abundant on the east coast of the South Island and the Stewart/Snares Shelf. They are found on the continental shelf and upper slope down to a depth of at least 500 m, but are most common in depths of 50–150 m. Schools are strongly segregated by size and sex. The size of fish in the commercial fishery is not known but will depend to a large extent on the method of capture and the area fished.

Spiny dogfish are born at a size of 18–30 cm total length (TL). They have been aged using fin spines, and early growth has been validated by following modes in length-frequency and eye lens weight frequency data. Males mature at 58 cm TL at age 6, and females mature at 73 cm TL at age 10. The maximum ages and lengths in a study of east coast South Island dogfish were 21 years and 90 cm TL for males, and 26 years and 111 cm TL for females.

$M$  was estimated using the equation  $\log_e 100/\text{maximum age}$ , where maximum age is the age to which 1% of the population survive in an unexploited stock. Using a maximum age of 26 gave an estimate of  $M$  of 0.18. This has been revised up to 0.2 to reflect the imprecision with which this estimate is known. A similar estimate of  $M$  was obtained using a survivorship table approach (Hanchet 1986). At an instantaneous mortality rate of  $0.2 \text{ year}^{-1}$  an initial population of 1000 females would replace themselves over their lifespan (given their length-at-age, length-at-maturity and fecundity-length relationships).

Female spiny dogfish give birth to young over an extended period between April and September, mainly on the shelf edge in depths of 200–300 m. Mating also occurs in deeper water (coincident with a movement of mature males offshore), after which females with young "candled" embryos move into shallower waters of 100 m or less. They remain there for 12 months until the embryos are 15 cm long after which they return to deeper water. Parturition occurs after a gestation period approaching 24 months, and is closely followed by mating and ovulation and the biennial cycle is repeated. Both the number and the size of the young increase linearly with the length of the mother. The number of young per litter ranges from 1 to 19.

Young of the year move inshore into shallower waters shortly after birth. Over the next few years they move steadily into deeper water but remain in size segregated schools comprising up to 2 or 3 age classes. Once maturity is reached both males and females undergo inshore/offshore migrations associated with reproductive activity. A north/south migration along the east coast South Island during autumn/spring has also been postulated but the full extent of this migration is unknown.

Spiny dogfish are found both on the bottom and in mid-water and feed on a very wide range of species, including *Munida*, krill, fish, squid, and crabs.

Biological parameters relevant to the stock assessment are shown in Table 7.

## 3. STOCKS AND AREAS

No specific research on the stock structure of spiny dogfish has been carried out. Limited tagging has been conducted, so the only available data come from seasonal trawl surveys, and fisheries landings data.

The analysis of *W.J. Scott* and *James Cook* surveys carried out from 1978 to 1983 clearly showed seasonal migrations of spiny dogfish along the east coast of South Island (ECSI). Spiny dogfish were most abundant in the southern part of the coast from October to April, and more abundant to the north in May to September. It is also clear from summer trawl surveys of the area that there is a resident part of the population of spiny dogfish on the Stewart/Snares Shelf over the summer months. However, there have been no comparable series of seasonal surveys there and so it is presently unclear whether the East Coast South



## SPINY DOGFISH (SPD)

Island (ECSI) fish migrate south as far as the Stewart/Snares Shelf. Until more data become available fish from the two areas should be treated as separate stocks.

**Table 7: Estimates of biological parameters of spiny dogfish for QMA 3 (Hanchet 1986).**

<u>1. Natural mortality (<i>M</i>)</u>											
0.2											
<u>2. Weight = a (length)<sup>b</sup> (Weight in g, length in cm fork length)</u>											
<u>Males</u>						<u>Females</u>					
a			b			a			b		
0.00275			3.05			0.00139			3.25		
<u>3. von Bertalanffy growth parameters</u>											
<u>Males</u>						<u>Females</u>					
<i>K</i>		<i>t</i> <sub>0</sub>		<i>L</i> <sub>∞</sub>		<i>K</i>		<i>t</i> <sub>0</sub>		<i>L</i> <sub>∞</sub>	
0.116		-2.88		89.5		0.069		-3.45		120.1	
<u>4. Maturity ogive</u>											
Age (years)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	➤ <b>12</b>
Males	0.00	0.02	0.21	0.68	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Females	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.04	0.23	0.52	0.75	1.00	1.00

Seasonal trawl surveys were also carried out on West Coast South Island (WCSI) between June 1981 and April 1983 using the *W.J. Scott*. The catches showed a strong seasonal component being highest in summer and autumn and lowest in winter and spring. It is likely that some fish migrate north in winter, perhaps to the northern and southern Taranaki Bights, and Tasman Bay and Golden Bay. However, it is also clear from summer trawl surveys of the areas that there is a resident part of the population of spiny dogfish in the Taranaki Bights over the summer months. It may therefore be appropriate to treat fish from FMAs 7 and 8 as a single stock.

There is little commercial catch in FMAs 1, 2, 4, and 9, and little data on movement in or between the areas. Until more data have been obtained it would seem appropriate to manage spiny dogfish with the following five Fishstocks:

- SPD 1: FMAs 1 & 2
- SPD 3: FMA 3
- SPD 4: FMA 4
- SPD 5: FMAs 5 & 6
- SPD 7: FMAs 7, 8 & 9

## 4. STOCK ASSESSMENT

There are no estimates of current or virgin biomass.

### 4.1 Estimates of fishery parameters and abundance

Biomass indices of spiny dogfish from recent trawl surveys using *Tangaroa* and *Kaharoa* are summarised in Table 8 and Figure 2. Based on a combination of CVs, variability in biomass indices and the time span of each series, it is concluded that surveys only provide reliable indices of dogfish abundance off the west coast of the South Island and on the Chatham Rise. Relative biomass indices suggest that spiny dogfish became more abundant on the Chatham Rise during the early to mid 1990s. Apart from a temporary increase during the mid-1990s, the abundance of dogfish off the west coast of South Island appears to have been fairly stable between 1991 and 2003. Although the relevant surveys were discontinued, spiny dogfish appear also to have increased substantially in abundance off the east coast of the South Island and on the Stewart-Snares shelf in the mid 1990s.

### 4.2 Biomass estimates

Indices of relative biomass are available from several *Tangaroa* and *Kaharoa* trawl surveys, including recent surveys of the Chatham Rise, East Coast South Island and West Coast South Island (Table 8, and Figures 2-4).

### West Coast South Island Trawl Survey

SPD 7 is one of a suite of inshore stocks the WCSI trawl survey is designed to monitor. The depth range for this survey is 30–400m on the west coast of the South Island and >20m in Tasman and Golden Bay (MacGibbon and Stevenson, 2013). Biomass estimates have trended around the series mean with peaks in 1995 and 2009 (Figure 2).

### Chatham Rise Trawl Survey

The Chatham Rise Trawl Survey was designed primarily for Hoki and covers the depth range 200–400m. It therefore excludes a small portion of SPD habitat around the Mernoo Bank in < 200m. The survey biomass estimates for SPD increased from 1991 to 1995, and have cycled around the series mean since then (Figure 2). The Chatham rise SPD survey catch is dominated by mature females (60–100 cm), while that of the ECSI survey consists mostly of males and females < 60 cm (Beentjes et al. 2015; Stevens et al. 2015).

### ECSI

The East Coast South Island winter surveys from 1991 to 1996 (30–400 m) were replaced by summer trawl surveys (1996–97 to 2000–01) which also included the 10–30 m depth range; but these were discontinued after the fifth in the annual time series because of the extreme fluctuations in catchability between surveys (Francis et al. 2001). The winter surveys were reinstated in 2007, and this time were expanded to include the 10–30 m depth range, in order to monitor elephantfish and red gurnard. Only 2007, 2012, and 2014 surveys provide full coverage of the 10–30 m depth range.

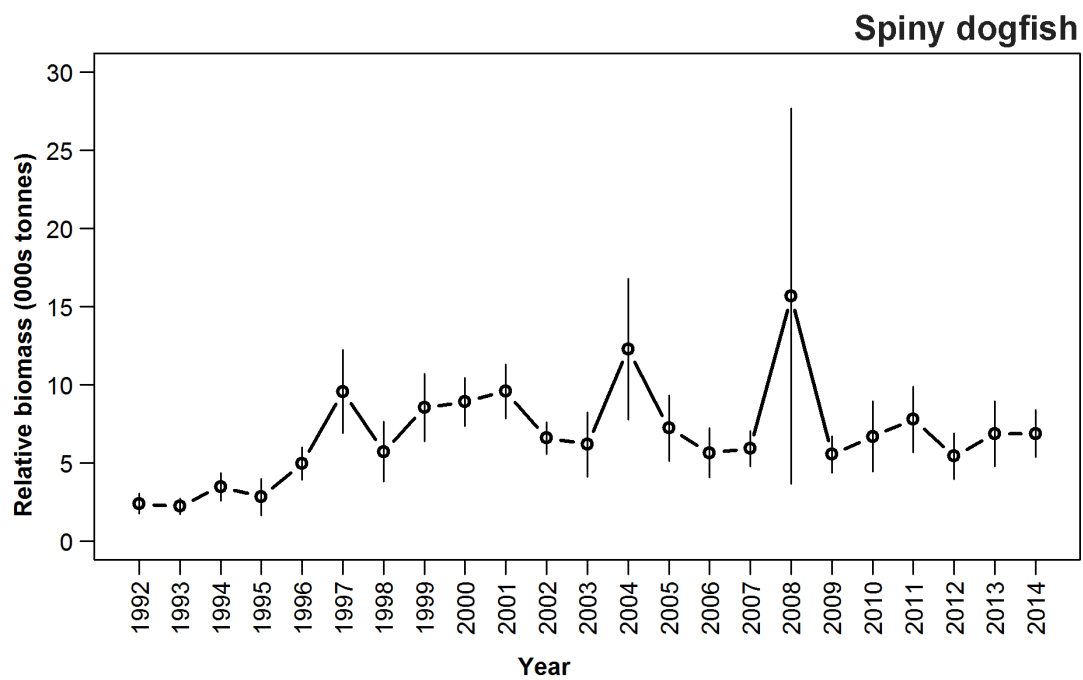
Spiny dogfish biomass in the core strata (30–40 m) of the east coast of the South Island increased markedly in 1996 and although it has fluctuated, remained high until 2012 before a 43% decline in 2014 (Table 8, Figure 3). This represents the first substantial change in spiny dogfish biomass since the large 2.5 fold increase in 1996 in one year. Pre-recruited biomass was a small component of the total biomass estimate in the 1992 to 1994 surveys at 1–3% of total biomass, but since 1996 it ranged from 7 to 28%, and in 2014 it was the highest at 28% (Table 8, Figure 3). This is also reflected in the biomass of juvenile spiny dogfish (based on the length-at-50% maturity) which increased markedly from about 14% of total biomass before 1996, to between 33 and 57% in the last six surveys (Figure 4).

The additional spiny dogfish biomass captured in the 10–30 m depth range accounted for 5%, 8% and 10% of the biomass in the core plus shallow strata (10–400 m) for 2007, 2012 and 2014 respectively, indicating that it is important to monitor the shallow strata for spiny dogfish biomass (Table 8, Figure 3). Further, the addition of the 10–30 m depth range may be important for monitoring the small fish, as was evident in 2012 although in 2014 the smallest and largest fish were present in the shallow strata.

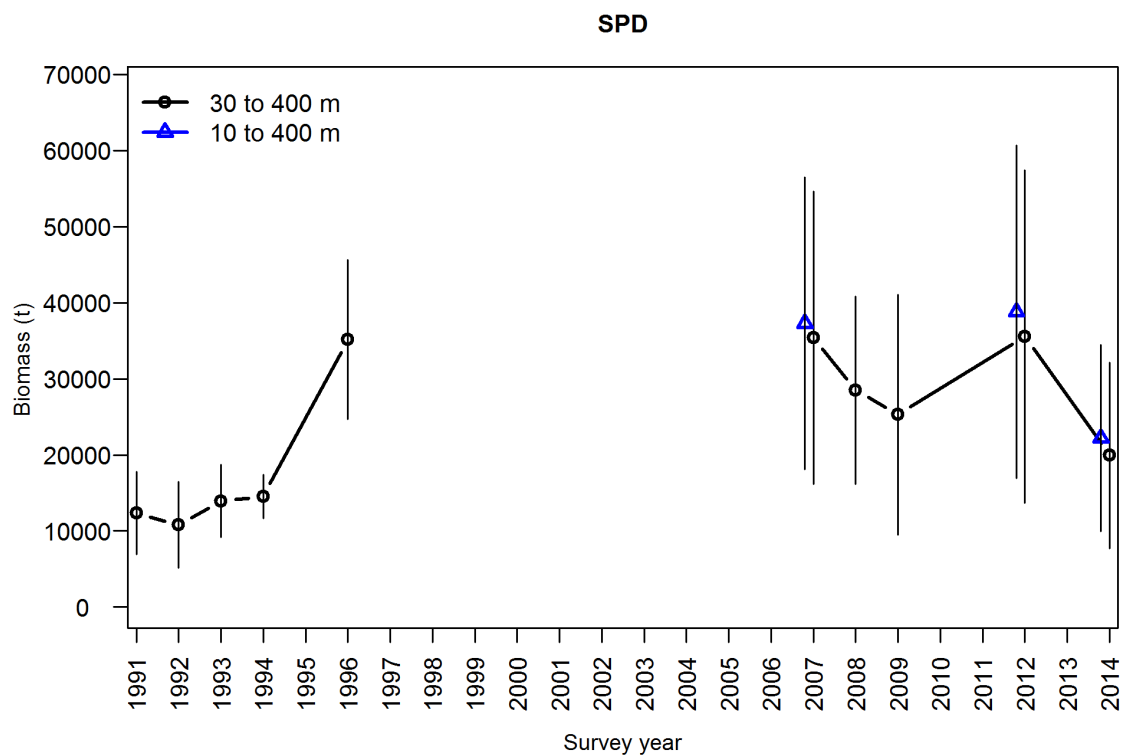
The spatial distribution of spiny dogfish hotspots varies, but overall this species is consistently well represented over the entire survey area, most commonly from 30 m to about 350 m.

The size distributions of spiny dogfish in the 1992 to 1994 ECSI core strata (30–400 m) surveys were similar and generally bimodal for males, but less defined for females (Beentjes et al. 2015). From 1996 onwards smaller fish were more prominent and for females in particular, the proportions of large fish declined. The proportion of mature spiny dogfish in 2014 was the lowest since 1994, commensurate with the relatively low biomass estimate for 2014 (Figure 4). In 2009, 2012 and 2014, unlike previous years, there were signs of a strong juvenile cohort recruiting to the population, although this has not translated to increased adult biomass in 2014. Spiny dogfish on the ECSI sampled on these surveys were considerably smaller than those from the Chatham Rise, Southland, and the sub-Antarctic surveys, suggesting that this area may be an important nursery ground for juvenile spiny dogfish and there may be movement in and out of the ECSI survey area.

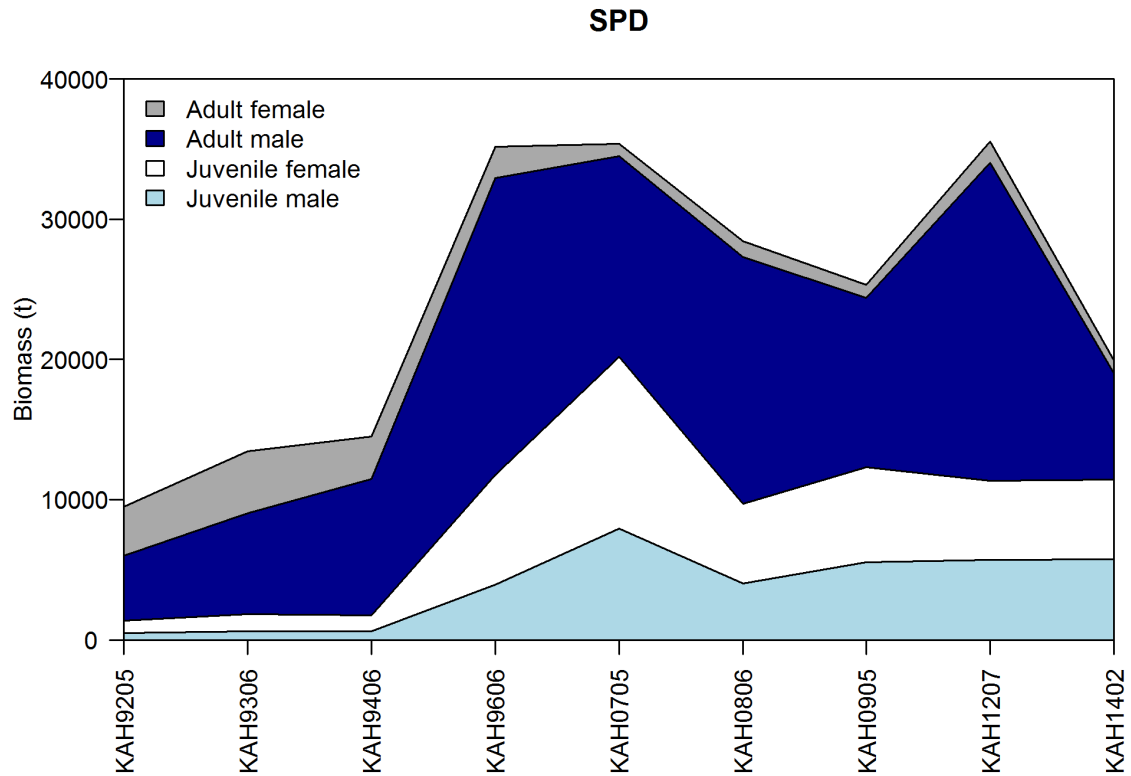
## SPINY DOGFISH (SPD)



**Figure 2: Spiny dogfish biomass  $\pm 95\%$  CI (estimated from survey CVs assuming a lognormal distribution) and the time series mean (dotted line) estimated from the Chatham Rise (Top) and West Coast South Island (Bottom) trawl survey.**



**Figure 3: Spiny dogfish total biomass and 95% confidence intervals for the all ECSI winter surveys in core strata (30–400 m), and core plus shallow strata (10–400 m) in 2007, 2012, and 2014.**



**Figure 4: Spiny dogfish juvenile and adult biomass for ECSI winter surveys in core strata (30–400 m), where juvenile is below and adult is equal to or above length at which 50% of fish are mature.**

# SPINY DOGFISH (SPD)

**Table 8: Relative biomass indices (t) and coefficients of variation (CV) for spiny dogfish for east coast North Island (ECNI), east coast South Island (ECSI) - summer and winter, Chatham Rise, Stewart-Snares Shelf, Sub-Antarctic, west coast South Island (WCSI) and west coast North Island (WCNI) survey areas\*. Biomass estimates for ECSI in 1991 have been adjusted to allow for non-sampled strata (7 & 9 equivalent to current strata 13, 16 and 17). The sum of pre-recruit and recruited biomass values do not always match the total biomass for the earlier surveys because at several stations length frequencies were not measured, affecting the biomass calculations for length intervals. – , not measured; NA, not applicable. Recruited is defined as the size-at-recruitment to the fishery (50 cm).**

Region	Fishstock	Year	Trip number	Total Biomass estimate	CV (%)	Total Biomass estimate	CV (%)	Pre- recruit	CV (%)	Pre- recruit	CV (%)	Recruited	CV (%)	Recruited	CV (%)
ECNI	SPD 2	1993	KAH9304	963	78	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		1994	KAH9402	988	47	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		1995	KAH9502	658	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		1996	KAH9602	1 026	51	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<hr/>															
ECSI(winter)	SPD 3			30–400 m		10–400 m		30–400 m		10–400 m		30–400 m		10–400 m	
		1991	KAH9105	12 873	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		1992	KAH9205	10 787	26	-	-	266	27	-	-	9 212	31	-	-
		1993	KAH9306	13 949	17	-	-	343	72	-	-	13 122	17	-	-
		1994	KAH9406	14 530	10	-	-	205	49	-	-	14 325	10	-	-
		1996	KAH9606	35 169	15	-	-	3 412	23	-	-	31 757	16	-	-
		2007	KAH0705	35 386	24	37 299	26	5 831	46	-	-	29 554	27	-	-
		2008	KAH0806	28 476	22	-	-	1 886	50	-	-	26 590	22	-	-
		2009	KAH0905	25 311	31	-	-	2 398	30	-	-	22 913	32	-	-
		2012	KAH1207	35 546	31	38 821	28	3 804	58	-	-	31 742	34	-	-
		2014	KAH1402	19 949	31	22 188	28	5 683	34	-	-	14 266	36	-	-
<hr/>															
ECSI(summer)	SPD 3	1996-97	KAH9618	35 776	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		1997-98	KAH9704	29 765	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		1998-99	KAH9809	22 842	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		1999-00	KAH9917	49 832	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		2000-01	KAH0014	30 508	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<hr/>															
Chatham Rise	SPD 4	1991	TAN9106	2 390	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		1992	TAN9212	2 220	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		1994	TAN9401	3 449	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		1995	TAN9501	2 841	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		1996	TAN9601	4 969	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		1997	TAN9701	8 905	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		1998	TAN9801	9 586	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		1999	TAN9901	6 334	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		1999-00	TAN0001	6 191	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		2000-01	TAN0101	12 289	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		2001-02	TAN0201	2 390	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

\*Assuming areal availability, vertical availability and vulnerability equal 1.0. Biomass is only estimated outside 10 m depth except for COM9901 and CMP0001. Note: because trawl survey biomass estimates are indices, comparisons between different seasons (e.g., summer and winter ECSI) are not strictly valid.

**Table 8 [Continued]: Relative biomass indices (t) and coefficients of variation (CV) for spiny dogfish for east coast North Island (ECNI), east coast South Island (ECSI) - summer and winter, Chatham Rise, Stewart-Snares Shelf, Sub-Antarctic, west coast South Island (WCSI) and west coast North Island (WCNI) survey areas\*. Biomass estimates for ECSI in 1991 have been adjusted to allow for non-sampled strata (7 & 9 equivalent to current strata 13, 16 and 17). The sum of pre-recruit and recruited biomass values do not always match the total biomass for the earlier surveys because at several stations length frequencies were not measured, affecting the biomass calculations for length intervals. – , not measured; NA, not applicable. Recruited is defined as the size-at-recruitment to the fishery (50 cm).**

Region	Fishstock	Year	Trip number	Total Biomass estimate	CV (%)	Total Biomass estimate	CV (%)	Pre- recruit	CV (%)	Pre- recruit	CV (%)	Recruited	CV (%)	Recruited	CV (%)
Chatham Rise	SPD 4	2002–03	TAN0301	2 220	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		2004	TAN0401	3 449	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		2005	TAN0501	7 227	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		2006	TAN0601	5 650	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		2007	TAN0701	5 906	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		2008	TAN0801	15 674	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		2009	TAN0901	5 548	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		2010	TAN1001	6 698	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		2011	TAN1101	7 794	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		2012	TAN1201	5 438	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		2013	TAN1301	6 884	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		2014	TAN1401	6 886	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		1993	TAN9301	35 776	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		1994	TAN9402	29 765	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stewart-Snares Shelf	SPD 5	1995	TAN9502	22 842	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		1996	TAN9604	49 832	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub-Antarctic (Spring)	SPD 5	1991	TAN9105	8 502	55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		1992	TAN9211	1 150	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		1993	TAN9310	1 585	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		2000	TAN0012	4 173	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		2001	TAN0118	8 528	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		2002	TAN0219	3 505	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		2003	TAN0317	2 317	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		2004	TAN0414	3 378	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		2005	TAN0515	4 344	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		2006	TAN0617	3 039	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub-Antarctic (Autumn)	SPD 5	1992	TAN9204	926	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		1993	TAN9304	440	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		1996	TAN9605	207	56	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		1998	TAN9805	1 532	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WCSI	SPD 7	1992	KAH9204	3 919	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

\*Assuming areal availability, vertical availability and vulnerability equal 1.0. Biomass is only estimated outside 10 m depth except for COM9901 and CMP0001. Note: because trawl survey biomass estimates are indices, comparisons between different seasons (e.g., summer and winter ECSI) are not strictly valid.

# SPINY DOGFISH (SPD)

**Table 8 [Continued]: Relative biomass indices (t) and coefficients of variation (CV) for spiny dogfish for east coast North Island (ECNI), east coast South Island (ECSI) - summer and winter, Chatham Rise, Stewart-Snares Shelf, Sub-Antarctic, west coast South Island (WCSI) and west coast North Island (WCNI) survey areas\*. Biomass estimates for ECSI in 1991 have been adjusted to allow for non-sampled strata (7 & 9 equivalent to current strata 13, 16 and 17). The sum of pre-recruit and recruited biomass values do not always match the total biomass for the earlier surveys because at several stations length frequencies were not measured, affecting the biomass calculations for length intervals. – , not measured; NA, not applicable. Recruited is defined as the size-at-recruitment to the fishery (50 cm).**

Region	Fishstock	Year	Trip number	Total Biomass estimate	CV (%)	Total Biomass estimate	CV (%)	Pre- recruit	CV (%)	Pre- recruit	CV (%)	Recruited	CV (%)	Recruited	CV (%)
WCSI	SPD 7	1994	KAH9404	7 145	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		1995	KAH9504	8 370	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		1997	KAH9701	5 275	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		2000	KAH0004	4 777	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		2003	KAH0304	4 446	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		2005	KAH0503	6 175	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		2007	KAH0704	6 219	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		2009	KAH0904	10 270	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		2010	KAH1004	6 402	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WCNI	SPD 9	1991	KAH9111	443*	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		1994	KAH9410	381*	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		1996	KAH9615	634*	68	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		1999	KAH9915	106*	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

\*Assuming areal availability, vertical availability and vulnerability equal 1.0. Biomass is only estimated outside 10 m depth except for COM9901 and CMP0001. Note: because trawl survey biomass estimates are indices, comparisons between different seasons (e.g., summer and winter ECSI) are not strictly valid.

Manning et al (2004) evaluated the usefulness of commercial CPUE, commercial length composition, trawl survey relative biomass estimates and trawl-survey-catch length-composition for monitoring all major SPD stocks (Table 9).

**Table 9: Catch and effort data sets and analyses evaluated as monitoring tools for major SPD stocks.**

QMA	Data set and analysis
SPD 3 - East coast South Island	1. Standardised setnet CPUE for core vessels targeting SPD. 2. Standardised setnet CPUE for core vessels targeting all species. 3. Standardised bottom trawl CPUE for core vessels targeting all species. 4. Relative abundance indices from East Coast South Island trawl surveys (discontinued after 2001)
SPD 4 - Chatham Rise	5. Standardised bottom trawl CPUE for core Korean vessels 6. Standardised bottom trawl CPUE for core domestic vessels 7. Standardised bottom longline CPUE for core domestic vessels 8. Relative abundance indices from Chatham Rise trawl surveys.
SPD 5 - Stewart Snares Shelf	9. Standardised bottom trawl CPUE. 10. Relative abundance indices from Stewart-Snares shelf surveys (discontinued after 1996)
SPD 7 - West Coast South Island	11. Standardised bottom trawl CPUE for core vessels 12. Relative abundance indices from West coast South Island Trawl Surveys.

Based on the results of the analyses listed in Table 9, the following methods were recommended for monitoring SPD:

QMA	Recommended Monitoring Tools
SPD 3 - East coast South Island	Standardised setnet CPUE using model 2 (core vessels targeting all species)
SPD 4 - Chatham Rise	Chatham Rise Trawl Survey and length composition of commercial catch
SPD 5 - Stewart Snares Shelf	*Standardised bottom trawl CPUE and length composition of commercial catch.
SPD 7 - West Coast South Island	West coast South Island Trawl survey and length composition of commercial catch

\* Information on historical changes in reporting rates is required before this index can be used.

#### 4.2 Biomass estimates

Lack of suitable information has precluded estimation of virgin and current biomass for spiny dogfish. Although most of the necessary biological parameters (Hanchet 1986, 1988, Hanchet & Ingerson 1997), relative indices of abundance and data required to estimate fishing selectivity for most important fisheries (with the exception of FMA 4 bottom longline and FMA 3 setnet fisheries) are now available, robust stock assessments will also require estimates of historical, unreported discarding and discard mortality so that an accurate history of fishery related removals can be constructed.

#### 4.3 Yield estimates and projections

##### Estimation of Maximum Constant Yield (MCY)

MCY cannot be estimated.

##### Estimation of Current Annual Yield (CAY)

CAY cannot be determined.

#### 4.5 Other factors

The ability to withstand harvesting depends on the strength of a number of compensatory mechanisms. For example, under exploitation individuals may grow faster, show increased fecundity, or suffer reduced natural mortality. In elasmobranchs the number of young born is related directly to the number of adult females, and, because of the relatively large size and hence good survival of the young at birth, it is presumed that there is a strong stock recruit relationship for these species.

Several methods of estimating MCY involve the multiplication of a harvest level by an estimate of  $B_0$  or  $B_{av}$ . Francis & Francis (1992) used Monte Carlo simulation to estimate harvest levels for calculating MCY for a rig stock. No stock-recruitment data were available for elasmobranchs at the time and so they used values for the Beverton & Holt steepness parameter ranging from 0.35 to 0.50, and recruitment variability of 0.4. These values were all at the low range of values used for teleost species and which they considered appropriate for rig. The results of their simulation studies showed that the estimates of MCY obtained using the harvest levels given in the equations in the Guide to Biological Reference Points were overly optimistic for rig. Given that spiny dogfish have a slower growth rate and are less fecund than rig, it seems reasonable to assume that those harvest levels are also unsuitable for spiny dogfish.



## 5. STATUS OF THE STOCKS

No estimates of current or reference biomass are available, but trawl survey estimates of abundance are all at or above the long term average (1991–2011 for Chatham Rise and 1992–2011 for WCSI).

Although reported commercial catches of spiny dogfish were observed to increase in all major FMAs during the 1990s, the extent to which these increases can be attributed to changes in reporting practice (i.e., more accurate reporting of discards in recent times) is uncertain. Trawl surveys, on the other hand, indicate that there was a general increase in the abundance of spiny dogfish, particularly around the South Island, in the mid 1990s.

Reported landings and TACCs for the 2013–14 fishing year are summarised in Table 9.

**Table 10: Other mortality, recreational, and customary non-commercial allowances (t), Total Allowable Commercial Catches (TACC, t) and Total Allowable Catch (TAC, t), along with reported landings (t) of SPD for the most recent fishing year.**

Fishstock		FMA	Other Mortality	Recreational	Customary	TACC	TAC	2013–14 Reported landings
SPD 1	Auckland (East), Central (East)	1&2	4	39	39	331	413	226
SPD 3	South east (coast)	3	51	115	115	4 794	5 075	1 411
SPD 4	South east (Chatham)	4	16	10	10	1 626	1 662	1 090
SPD 5	Southland, Sub-Antarctic	5&6	37	8	8	3 700	3 753	2 068
SPD 7	Challenger	7	19	31	31	1 902	1 983	914
SPD 8	Central (west), Auckland (west)	8&9	3	41	41	307	392	122
SPD 10	Kermadec	10	0	1	1	0	2	0
Total			130	245	245	12 660	13 280	5 831

## 6. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- Beentjes, M P; MacGibbon, D; Lyon, W S (2015) Inshore trawl survey of Canterbury Bight and Pegasus Bay, April–June 2014 (KAH1402). *New Zealand Fisheries Assessment Report 2015/14*. 136 p.
- Boyd, R O; Reilly, J L (2005) 1999/2000 national marine recreational fishing survey: harvest estimates. Draft New Zealand Fisheries Assessment Report. (Unpublished document held by Ministry for Primary Industries, Wellington.)
- Bradford, E (1998) Harvest estimates from the 1996 national recreational fishing surveys. New Zealand Fisheries Assessment Research Document 1998/16. 27 p. (Unpublished document held in NIWA library, Wellington.)
- Da Silva, H M (1993) The causes of variability in the stock-recruitment relationship of spiny dogfish, *Squalus acanthias*, in the NW Atlantic. *ICES CM 1993/G:52*. 17 p.
- Francis, M P; Francis, R I C C (1992) Growth, mortality, and yield estimates for rig (*Mustelus lenticulatus*). New Zealand Fisheries Assessment Research Document 1992/5. 32 p. (Unpublished document held in NIWA library, Wellington.)
- Hanchet, S M (1986) The distribution and abundance, reproduction, growth and life history characteristics of the spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias* Linnaeus) in New Zealand. PhD Thesis, University of Otago, New Zealand.
- Hanchet, S M (1988) Reproductive biology of *Squalus acanthias* from the east coast, South Island, New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research* 22: 537–549.
- Hanchet, S M (1991) Diet of spiny dogfish, *Squalus acanthias* Linnaeus, on the east coast, South Island, New Zealand. *Journal of Fish Biology* 39: 313–323.
- Hanchet, S M; Ingerson, J K V (1997) A summary of biology and commercial landings, and a stock assessment of spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*). New Zealand Fisheries Assessment Research Document 1997/6. 32 p. (Unpublished document held in NIWA library, Wellington.)
- MacGibbon, D J; Stevenson, M L (2013) Inshore trawl survey of the west coast South Island and Tasman and Golden Bays, March–April 2013 (KAH1305). *New Zealand Fisheries Assessment Report 2013/66*. 115 p.
- Manning, M J; Hanchet, S M; Stevenson, M L (2004) A description and analysis of New Zealand's spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*) fisheries and recommendations on appropriate methods to monitor the status of the stocks. *New Zealand Fisheries Assessment Report 2004/61*. 135 p.
- Palmer, G (1994) Spiny dogfish - pest or potential. *Seafood New Zealand*, March 1994. Pp 31–36.
- Phillips, N L (2004) Length Frequency distributions of spiny dogfish from the Chatham Rise, Sub-Antarctic, and the west coast South Island fisheries. *New Zealand Fisheries Assessment Report 2004/53*.
- Stevens, D W; O'Driscoll, R L; Dunn, M R; Ballara, S L; Horn, P L (2012) Trawl survey of hoki and middle depth species on the Chatham Rise, January 2011 (TAN1101). *New Zealand Fisheries Assessment Report 2012/10*. 98 p.
- Stevens, D W; O'Driscoll, R L; Oeffner, J; Ballara, S L; Horn, P L (2014). Trawl survey of hoki and middle depth species on the Chatham Rise, January 2013 (TAN1301). *New Zealand Fisheries Assessment Report 2014/02*. 110 p.
- Stevens, D W; O'Driscoll, R L; Lacroix, Y; Ballara, S L; MacGibbon, D J; Horn, P L (2015). Trawl survey of hoki and middle depth species on the Chatham Rise, January 2014 (TAN1401). *New Zealand Fisheries Assessment Report 2015/19*. 119 p.
- Stevenson, M L (2007) Inshore trawl survey of the west coast of the South Island and Tasman and Golden Bays, March–April 2007 (KAH0704). *New Zealand Fisheries Assessment Report 2007/41*.
- Teirney, L D; Kilner, A R; Millar, R E; Bradford, E; Bell, J D (1997) Estimation of recreational catch from 1991/92 to 1993/94 New Zealand. Fisheries Assessment Research Document 1997/15. 43 p. (Unpublished document held in NIWA library, Wellington.)