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Growth and Reproduction in Northern Shrimp on Flemish Cap (Division 3M)  
and the Nose of the Bank (Division 3L) in September 1993–May 1994

by

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**Introduction**

A commercial shrimp fishery on Flemish Cap emerged around May 1993. Since Oct 1993 Faroese observers have been monitoring Faroese vessels both in the regular fishery and in an exploratory fishery for shrimps on the Nose of the Bank. Based on the material collected by these observers, this paper tries to estimate some population parameters related to growth and reproduction.

**Material and method**

The material was collected by Faroese observers on board Faroese shrimp vessels in the period Sep 1993 – May 1994. Some of these were engaged in an exploratory shrimp fishery in Div 3L. Two types of samples were taken: samples for length measurements which were worked on board and biological samples which were frozen to be worked later in laboratory. The number of specimens sampled is shown by area and month in Tab. 1 and the geographical distribution of the samples is presented in Figs. 1 and 2.

Samples for length measurements were taken from the unsorted catch. 314 samples with a total of 61981 specimens were measured. The oblique carapace length (OCL) of the shrimp was measured with Vernier calipers to the nearest 0.5 mm. The length distribution was standardized by multiplying the number of shrimp with total catch and divide by sample weight and divide by area swept. The area was calculated as average towing speed (2.75 nm/h) times duration of trawl on the bottom times the assumed effective trawl width (42 m). As the length samples were not weighted, the sample weight was calculated from the weight-length relationship mentioned below. Length samples were grouped into areas and months.

From 12 frozen samples taken back to the laboratory 2734 shrimps were investigated for sex and maturity, and 2771 were weighted individually. The sex and maturity stages were determined according to Rasmussen (1953) and Allen (1957) and condition of sternal spines in line with McCrary (1971). First the shrimps were grouped into males, intermediate and female, then females were characterized by the presence or absence of sternal spines, headroe and eggs with or without eyespots. In the modal analysis four groups were used: males, intermediate, females with or without sternal spines.

A whole shrimp weight - oblique carapace length relationship was calculated by fitting data to an allometric growth curve.

**Growth**

From the modes of the length distributions shown in Tabs. 2 and 3 and Figs. 3,4 and 5 a fair estimate of average size for each age group can be made for some month in

the sampling period. In this approach it has been done by eye. The precision will of course not be the same as in a statistical analysis. The results are presented in Table 4. A von Bertalanffy curve has been fitted. This was done with the use of a spreadsheet by watching the curve move instantly in relation to the data point while fiddling around with the growth parameters. The results are shown in Figure 6. It seems like the growth in Div 3M is some what faster than in Div 3L.

Data from Div 3M and 3L were pool together to estimate weight - length relationship. The result is presented in Tab. 5 and Fig. 7.

#### The reproductive cycle

From Tab. 3 and Fig. 5 it might be noted that the abundance of females with eggs decreases from Mar through May indicating the hatching period. In May all females have released their eggs. According to U. Skúladóttir (personal communication) the spawning period in Div 3M is in Aug so the incubation time is 9 months.

There is a drastic fall in the abundance of age group 5 from Mar to Apr (to about half the size in the start of the period). This might be due to migration of females to certain areas (possible shallower) to release their larvae.

#### References

Allen, J.A. 1959. On the biology of *Pandalus borealis* Krøyer, with reference to a population off the Northumberland coast. J. Mar. Biol. Assoc. U.K. 38: 189-220.

McCrary, J.A. 1971. Sternal spines as a characteristic for differentiating between females of some Pandalidae. J. Fish. Res. Board Can., 28: 98-100.

Rasmussen, B. 1953. On the geographical variation in growth and sexual development of the deep sea prawn (*Pandalus borealis* Kr.). Norweg. Fish. and Mar. Invest. Rep., 10 (3): 1-160.

Table 1 Number of specimens collected by Faroese observers group into areas and periods.

Northern shrimp, NAFO Div 3L and 3M, Sep 1993 - Mar 1994.

Investigation of sex, maturity. Number of observations.

Year	Month	3L	3M
1993	Sep		1219
	Oct		674
	Nov		372
	Total		2265

1994 Mar 469

Northern shrimp, NAFO Div 3L and 3M, Oct 1993 - May 1994.

Oblique carapace length measurements. Number of observations.

Year	Month	3L	3M	Total
1993	Oct	213	15931	16144
	Nov	0	3939	3939
	Total	213	19870	20083
1994	Feb	172	3353	3525
	Mar	12805	7440	20245
	Apr	5008	4533	9541
	May	4213	4374	8587
	Total	22198	19700	41898
	Total	22411	39570	61981



Table 2 OCL distributions for different sex and maturity stages group by area and month. The three rightmost columns are summations used in the figures.  
(Continued).

Div	Year	Mon	Cpx mm	Female								FEMALE			FEMALE			
				Male	Female inter-	Female sternal	+headroe mediate	+headroe spines	Female +sternal	Female +sternal	Female +sternal	Female +sternal with eggs	Female +eggs +eyespots	WITH	WITHOUT	STERNAL	STERNAL	SPINES
3M	1993	Nov	16.5	5														5
			17.0	9														9
			17.5	12														12
			18.0	15														15
			18.5	27														27
			19.0	15														15
			19.5	10														10
			20.0	3														3
			20.5	7														7
			21.0	5														5
			21.5	10										1				11
			22.0	12	3													15
			22.5	1	2													3
			23.0	5	3		1											9
			23.5	3	4		2							1				10
			24.0	2	1									1				4
			24.5	4	2		2							2				10
			25.0	4	2		3							16				25
			25.5	6		5								24				35
			26.0	3		2	1							18				24
			26.5	2	2	1								29				34
			27.0											26				26
			27.5											23				23
			28.0											23				23
			28.5											6				6
			29.0											5				5
			29.5											1				1
				160	19	16	2							174	1			372

Div	Year	Mon	Cpx mm	Female								FEMALE			FEMALE			
				Male	Female inter-	Female sternal	+headroe mediate	+headroe spines	Female +sternal	Female +sternal	Female +sternal	Female +sternal with eggs	Female +eggs +eyespots	WITH	WITHOUT	STERNAL	STERNAL	SPINES
3L	1994	Mar	12.5	1														1
			13.0															
			13.5															
			14.0	1														1
			14.5															
			15.0															
			15.5	1														1
			16.0															
			16.5	2														2
			17.0	4														4
			17.5	6														6
			18.0	3														3
			18.5	7														7
			19.0	2														2
			19.5	2														2
			20.0	18														18
			20.5	26														26
			21.0	20	1	1												22
			21.5	28	3	1												32
			22.0	23	1	3												27
			22.5	17	4	6								2				29
			23.0	16	10	21								6				53
			23.5															
			24.0	3	5	19								7				34
			24.5	1	4	14								5				24
			25.0		9	1								11				21
			25.5		10	2								15				27
			26.0		7	3								19				29
			26.5		3	2								17				22
			27.0		3	1								22				26
			27.5											18				18
			28.0		2									11				13
			28.5		1									9				10
			29.0											5				5
			29.5											4				4
			30.5															
				181	28	100	9							151				469







**Table 4** Average OCL in Div 3M and 3L for different months in the period Sep 1993 -May 1994.

Northern shrimp on Flemish Cap (Div 3M) and the Nose of the Bank (Div 3L)  
Mean OCL (mm) estimated from length distributions.

NAFO Div	Age Group	1993					1994			
		Sep	Oct	Nov.	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
3L	1						12.50	13.50	15.50	
	2		17.50				18.00	18.75	18.75	
	3		22.00			21.50	21.50	21.25	21.50	
	4		24.50			25.00	24.50	24.25	25.50	
	5		26.50			27.25	26.00	28.00		
3M	1						14.75	16.50	15.75	
	2	17.75	18.50	18.50			19.50	19.75	20.50	20.75
	3	21.25	22.00	22.00			22.50	24.00	23.50	24.00
	4	24.75	25.00	24.50			25.00	27.00	27.25	27.50
	5	26.75	27.00	26.75			27.25			

**Table 5** Input to regression: average OCL and average weight and their logs. Output from regression analysis.

Northern shrimp, NAFO Div 3M and 3L, Oct 1993 - Apr 1994.

Mean weight (gr) at cpx length (mm)

DATA:

QUALITY\$	CPX	WEIGHT	N	CALWEIGHT	LNCPX	LNWEIGHT
-OK	11.5	0.79	1	0.8738	2.4423	-0.2357
-OK	12.5	3.18	1	1.1360	2.5257	1.1569
-OK	14.0	1.54	1	1.6229	2.6391	0.4318
-OK	15.5	2.18	6	2.2357	2.7408	0.7793
+OK	16.0	2.58	12	2.4706	2.7726	0.9478
+OK	16.5	2.85	21	2.7218	2.8034	1.0473
+OK	17.0	3.05	48	2.9900	2.8332	1.1151
+OK	17.5	3.34	61	3.2756	2.8622	1.2060
+OK	18.0	3.56	58	3.5793	2.8904	1.2698
+OK	18.5	3.81	62	3.9016	2.9178	1.3376
+OK	19.0	4.24	27	4.2433	2.9444	1.4446
+OK	19.5	4.48	21	4.6047	2.9704	1.4996
+OK	20.0	4.93	52	4.9867	2.9957	1.5953
+OK	20.5	5.34	102	5.3897	3.0204	1.6752
+OK	21.0	5.71	114	5.8144	3.0445	1.7422
+OK	21.5	6.02	135	6.2613	3.0681	1.7951
+OK	22.0	6.47	100	6.7311	3.0910	1.8672
+OK	22.5	6.97	75	7.2245	3.1135	1.9416
+OK	23.0	7.82	84	7.7419	3.1355	2.0567
+OK	23.5	7.91	40	8.2841	3.1570	2.0681
+OK	24.0	8.72	92	8.8516	3.1781	2.1656
+OK	24.5	9.27	126	9.4451	3.1987	2.2268
+OK	25.0	10.11	166	10.0652	3.2189	2.3135
+OK	25.5	10.99	224	10.7125	3.2387	2.3970
+OK	26.0	11.66	237	11.3876	3.2581	2.4562
+OK	26.5	12.33	275	12.0912	3.2771	2.5120
+OK	27.0	13.00	275	12.8239	3.2958	2.5649
+OK	27.5	13.75	194	13.5862	3.3142	2.6210
+OK	28.0	14.66	98	14.3790	3.3322	2.6851
+OK	28.5	15.39	52	15.2027	3.3499	2.7337
+OK	29.0	16.41	20	16.0581	3.3673	2.7979
-OK	29.5	16.91	9	16.9457	3.3844	2.8279
-OK	30.0	18.05	1	17.8663	3.4012	2.8931
-OK	30.5	17.93	2	18.8203	3.4177	2.8865

OUTPUT FROM SYSTAT:

DEP VAR:LNWEIGHT N: 27 MULTIPLE R: 0.999 SQUARED MULTIPLE R: 0.998  
ADJUSTED SQUARED MULTIPLE R: .998 STANDARD ERROR OF ESTIMATE: 0.02592

VARIABLE	COEFFICIENT	STD ERROR	STD COEF	TOLERANCE	T	P(2 TAIL)
CONSTANT	-7.82192	0.08753	0.00000	.	-.89E+02	0.00000
LNCPX	3.14737	0.02821	0.99900	.100E+01	.11E+03	0.00000

ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE

SOURCE	SUM-OF-SQUARES	DF	MEAN-SQUARE	F-RATIO	P
REGRESSION	8.36687	1	8.36687	12449.21761	0.00000
RESIDUAL	0.01680	25	0.00067		

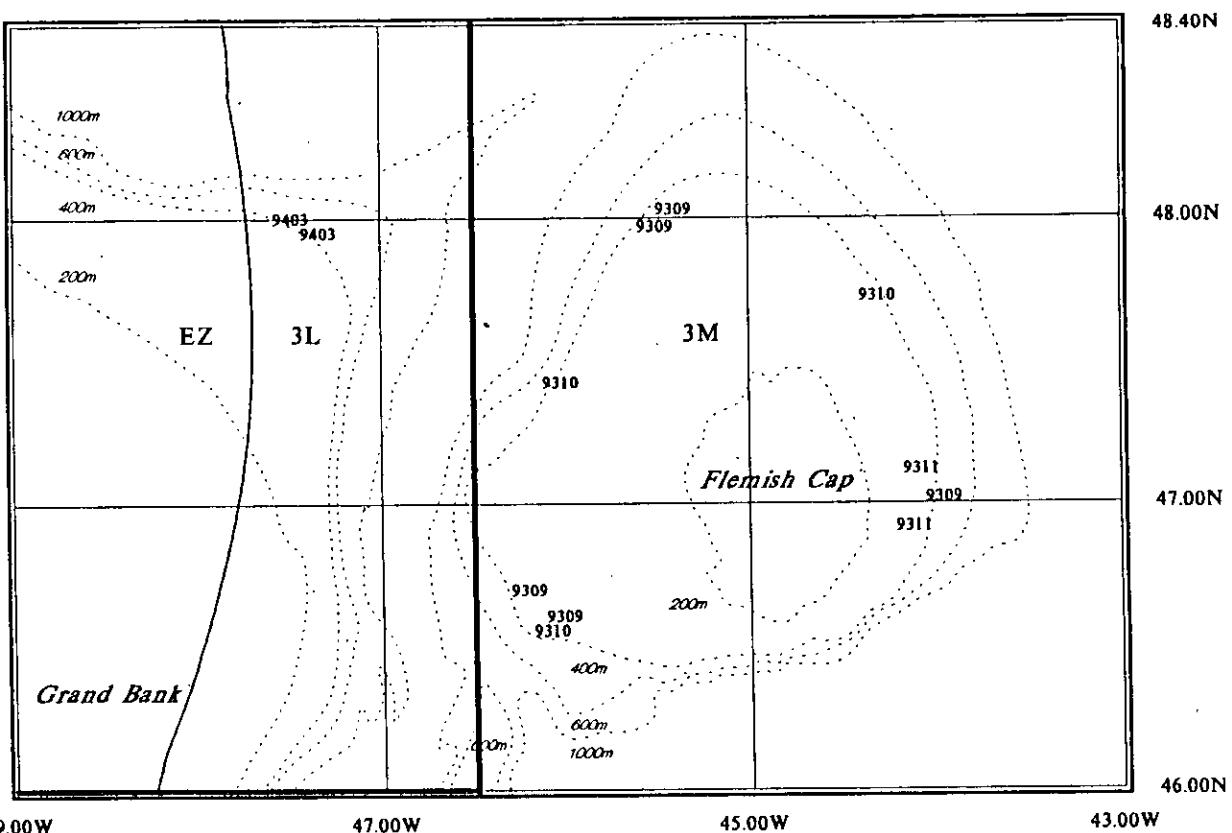


Figure 1 Geographical distribution of 12 biological samples taken in the period Sep 1993 - Mar 1994, indicated by year and month number.

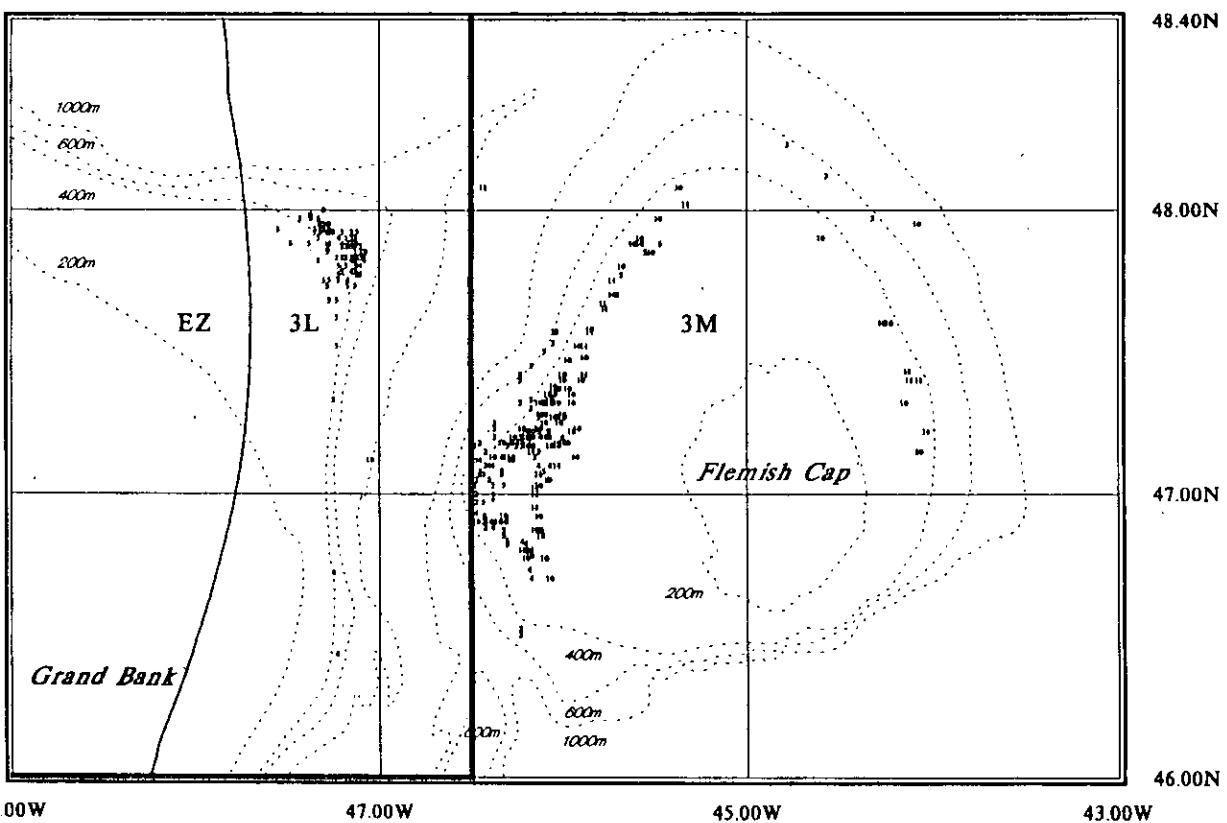


Figure 2 Geographical distribution of 314 OCL measurement samples taken in the period Oct 1993 - May 1994 indicated by month number.

**Figure 3** OCL distribution of different sex and maturity groups in Div 3M Sep - Nov 1993 and Div 3L Mar 1994.

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**Northern shrimp, NAFO Div 3M and 3L, Sep 1993 – Mar 1994**

**Oblique carapace length distribution for different maturity groups**

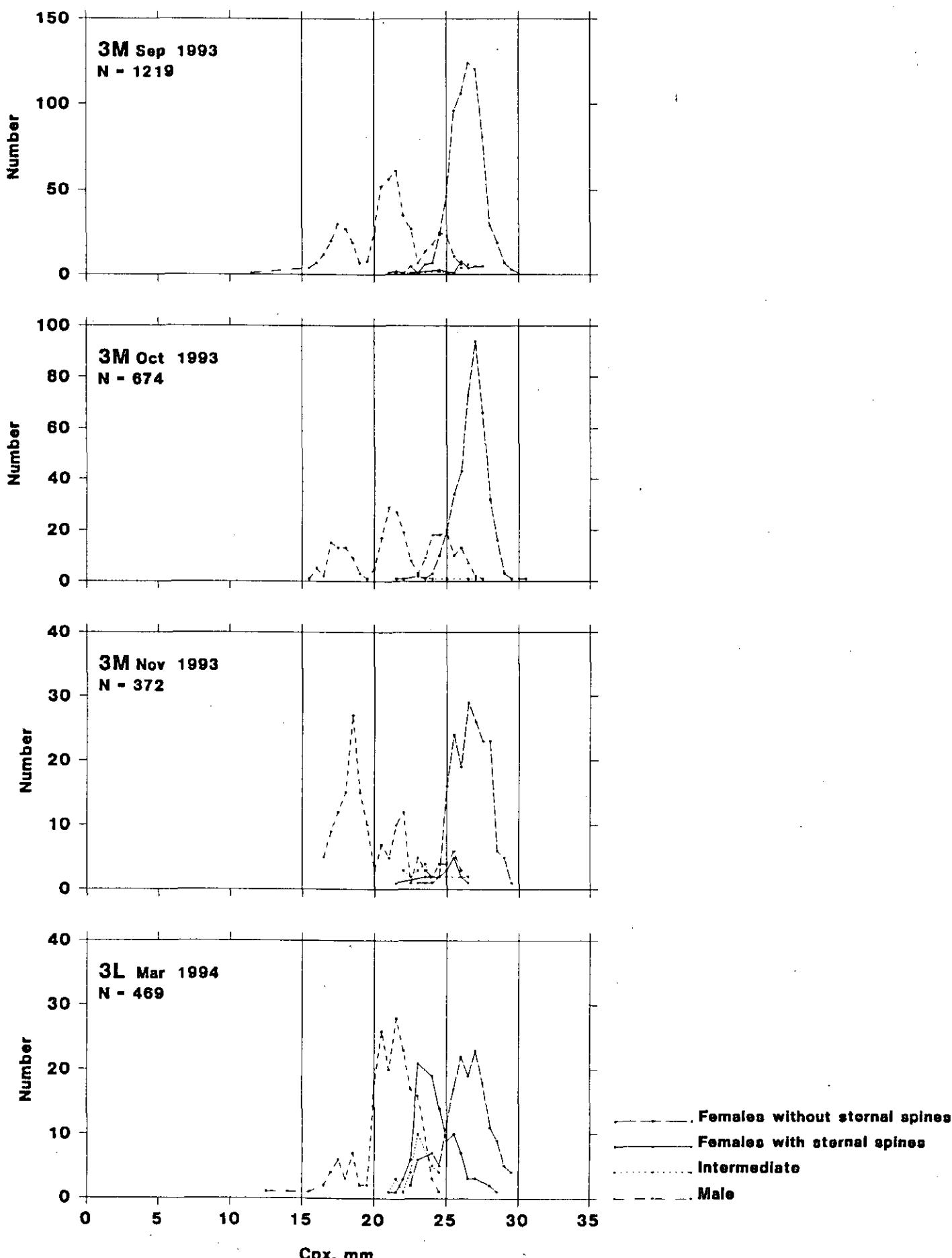
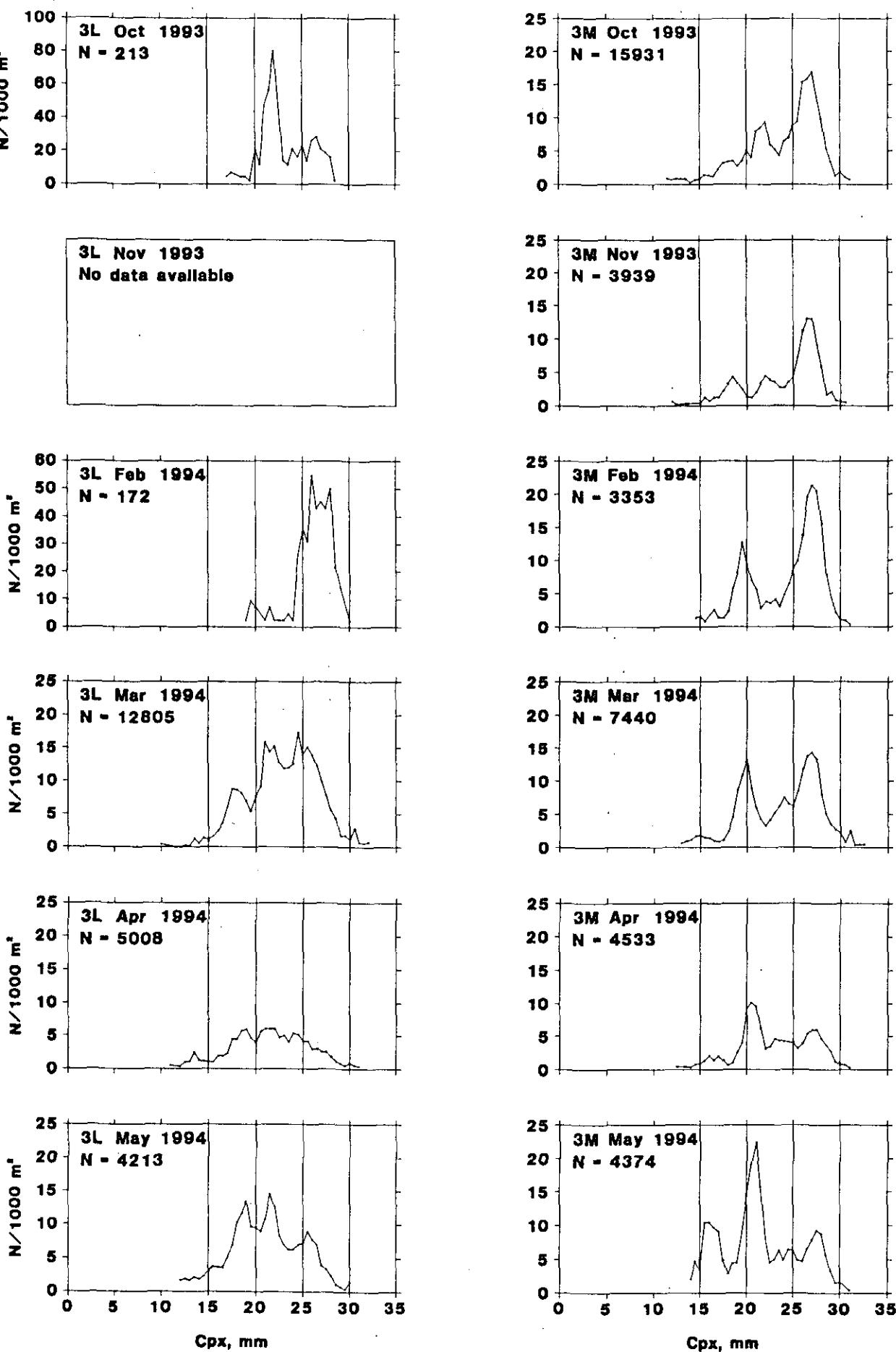


Figure 4 Standardized total OCL distribution in Div 3M and 3L in Oct 1993 - May 1994.

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## Northern shrimp, NAFO Div 3M and 3L, Oct 1993 - May 1994

### Oblique carapace length distribution

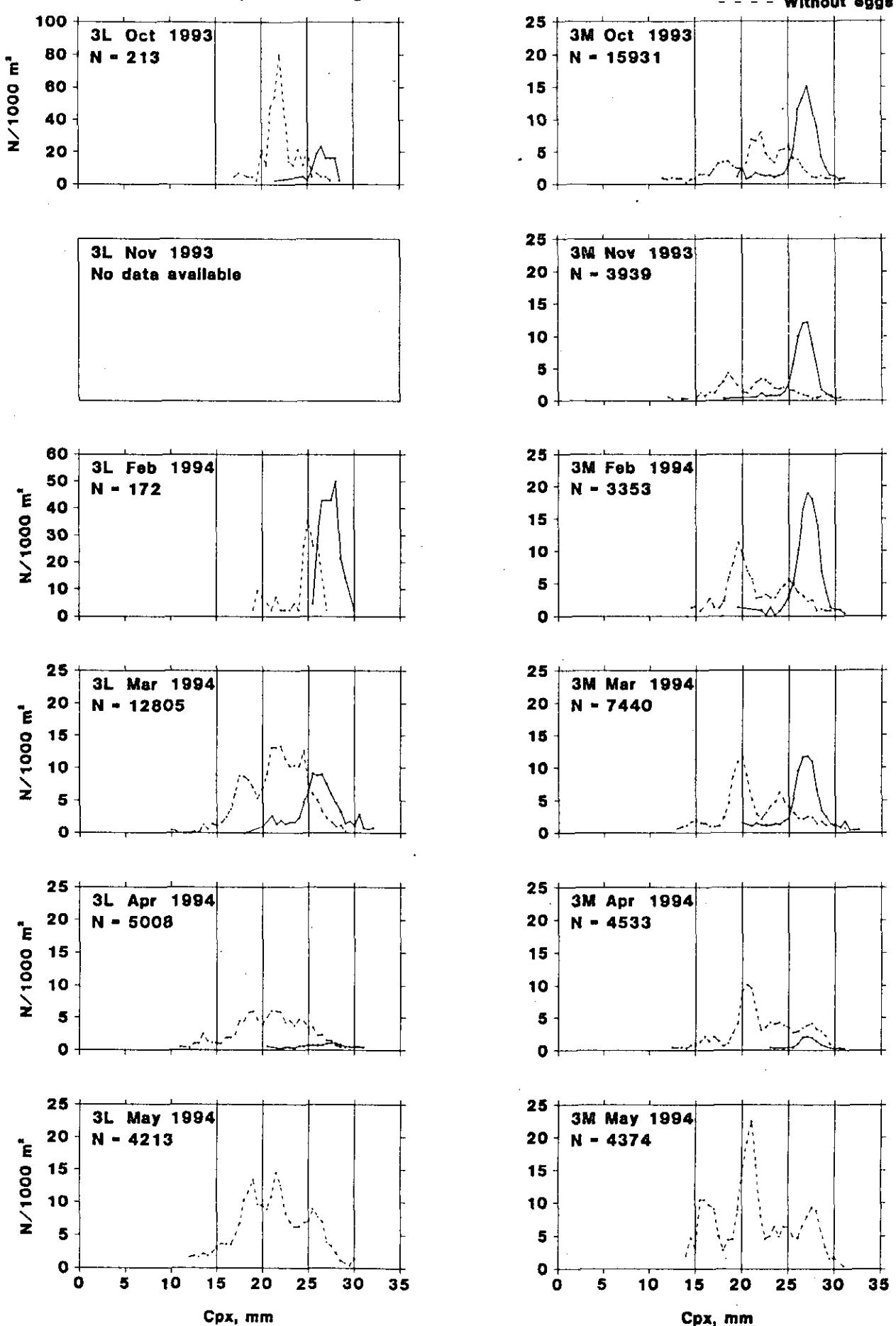


**Figure 5** Standardized OCL distribution of shrimp with and without eggs in Div 3M and 3L in Oct 1993 - May 1994.

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### Northern shrimp, NAFO Div 3M and 3L, Oct 1993 - May 1994

#### Oblique carapace length distribution



### Northern shrimp, NAFO Div 3M and 3L, Sep 1993 - May 1994

#### Von Bertalanffy growth curve

Legend: Age group (yr)

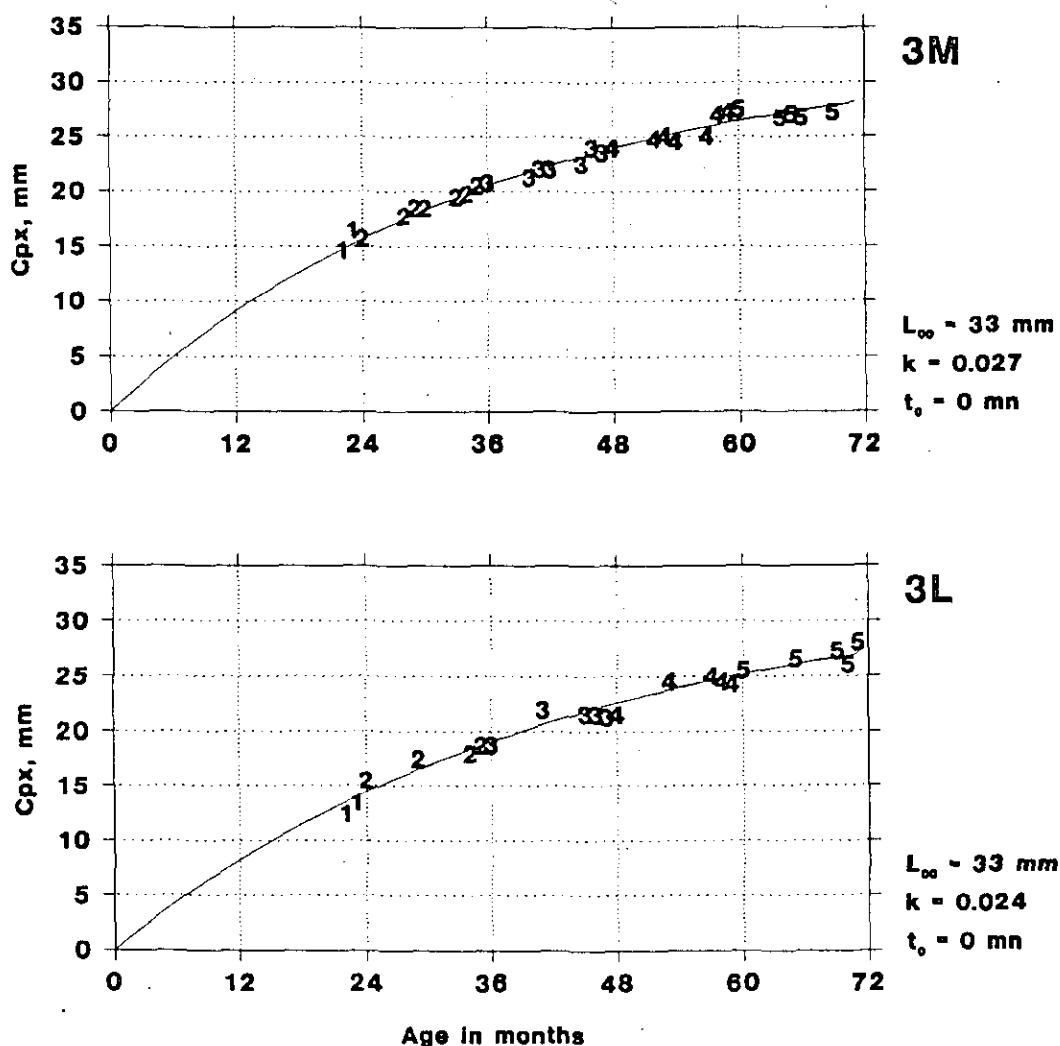
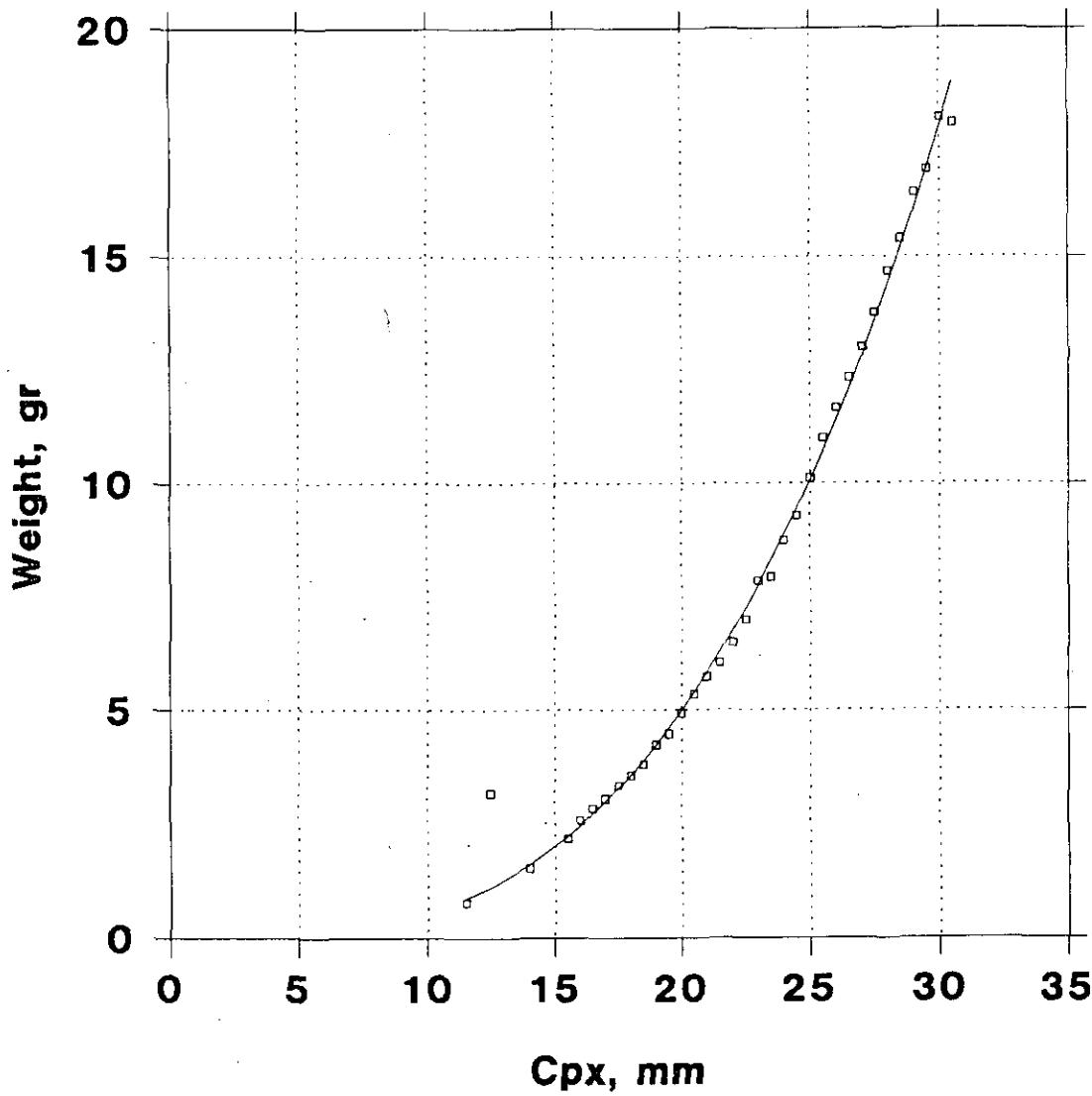


Figure 6 von Bertalanffy growth curves for Div 3M and 3L.

**Northern shrimp**  
**NAFO Div 3M and 3L, Sep 1993 - Mar 1994.**



**Weight = 0.040086 Cpx<sup>3.1474</sup>, r<sup>2</sup> = 0.998**

**Regression based on mean weights of 2771**

**observation in size range 16 - 29 cpx mm**

**Figure 7** Whole shrimp weight - OCL relationship. Data for Div 3M and 3L are pooled together.