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Assessment of Redfish (*Sebastes marinus*, *S. mentella*) in NAFO Subarea 1  
and ICES Div. XIVb Based on Survey Indices, 1982-98

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### Abstract

On the basis of survey data there are clear indications that both stocks of *Sebastes marinus* L. and deep sea *Sebastes mentella* Travin off Greenland have undergone significant changes in stock abundance and structure during the past 17 years. Recently, both adult stock components remained severely depleted. Contrarily, juveniles of deep sea *Sebastes mentella* Travin ( $\geq 17$  cm) were very abundant. Considering the absence of a significant commercial fishery, the most recent decrease by 50 % indicated an emigration of the small deep sea *S. mentella* ( $\geq 17$  cm) from the survey area to either pelagic or adjacent eastern habitats. During 1997-98, the dominant year class has grown from 25 to 27 cm displaying an annual growth increment of about 2 cm. The 1998 estimates indicated a weak signal of stock recovery from the severely depleted status for the stock of *Sebastes marinus* L. due to increased recruitment.

All juvenile redfish (<17 cm) were assessed as a unit due to time consuming and difficult species identification. In 1985 and since 1993, small and unspecified redfish (<17 cm) were very abundant and distributed mainly off East Greenland. Juveniles off East Greenland were found to be bigger than those off West Greenland. Reappearing peaks at 6, 10-12 and 15-16 cm might indicate annual growth increments and represent the age groups 0, 1 and 2 years of unspecified juvenile redfish.

### Introduction

The shelf areas around Greenland traditionally were important fishery grounds for redfish. The importance of extensive redfish nursery grounds, particularly on the East Greenland shelf, is known since the mid-50's (Magnússon, 1956; Magnússon and Magnússon, 1975) and possible impacts on recruitment success for *Sebastes marinus* and the Irminger Sea stocks of *S. mentella* were described frequently (e.g. Magnússon *et al.*, 1988 and 1990, Magnússon and Magnússon, 1995; Magnússon and Jóhannesson, 1997; Anon., 1998).

Catches of *S. marinus* on the Greenland shelf have been declining over the last three decades, and since 1991, there is no targeted fishery on this stock. Mean lengths in commercial catches have decreased since the mid-70's (Rätz, 1996).

Deep sea *S. mentella* catches on the Greenland shelf have varied considerably, the overall trend being an increase in catch rates over the past two decades (Anon., 1998). The occurrence of large amounts of young redfish on the East Greenland shelf, observed by Magnússon *et al.* (1988), was found to be present over the past five years.

The mean growth rate for young redfish (< 17cm), reported by Friðriksson (1961) from Icelandic surveys in the 30's and by Magnússon *et al.* (1988), was found to be around 2cm/year. Similar observations were made for redfish off Nova Scotia (Perlmutter and Clarke, 1949) and Newfoundland (Sandemann, 1957 and 1961). Age-validation studies by Mayo *et al.* (1981) and Nedreaas (1990) indicated slightly higher growth rates, referring to strong year classes.

This paper presents survey results for *Sebastes marinus* ( $\geq 17$  cm), deep sea *S. mentella* ( $\geq 17$  cm), and juvenile redfish (<17 cm) off West and East Greenland. Estimates of stock abundance and biomass indices as well as mean lengths and length compositions are given for the period 1982-98.

### **Materials and Methods**

Abundance, biomass estimates and length structures have been derived using annual groundfish surveys covering shelf areas and the continental slope off West and East Greenland. Surveys commenced in 1982 and were primarily designed for the assessment of cod. Because of favourable weather and ice conditions and to avoid spawning concentrations, autumn was chosen for the time of the surveys. These were carried out by the research vessel (R/V) WALTHER HERWIG (II) throughout most of the time period. In 1984 and since 1994, she was replaced by R/V ANTON DOHRN and the new R/V WALTHER HERWIG III, respectively. The fishing gear used was a standardized 140-feet bottom trawl, its net frame rigged with heavy ground gear because of the rough nature of the fishing grounds. A small mesh liner (10 mm) was used inside the cod end. The horizontal distance between wing-ends was 25 m at 300 m depth, the vertical net opening being 4 m. Calculations of abundance and biomass indices were based on the 'swept area' method using 22 m horizontal net opening as trawl parameter, i. e. the constructional width specified by the manufacturer. The towing time was normally 30 min. at a speed of 4.5 knots. Trawl parameters were listed in Table 1. Hauls which received net damage or became hangup after less than 15 minutes were rejected. Some hauls of the 1987 and 1988 surveys were also included although their towing time had been intentionally reduced to 10 minutes because of the expected large cod catches as observed from echo sounder traces.

Fish were identified to species or lowest taxonomic level and the catch in number and weight was recorded. Redfish inhabiting the survey area close to the bottom are believed to belong to the traditional stocks off Greenland, Iceland and Faroes (Anon., 1995). Fish ( $\geq 17$  cm) were separated to *Sebastes marinus* L. or deep sea *Sebastes mentella* Travin, whereas juvenile redfish (<17 cm) were classified as *Sebastes spp.* due to time-consuming and difficult species identification. Total fish lengths were measured to cm below.

The surveys were primarily designed for the assessment of cod. In order to reduce the error of abundance estimates, the subdivision of shelf areas and the continental slope into different geographic and depth strata was required due to a pronounced heterogeneity of cod distribution. The survey area was thus split into seven geographic strata. Each stratum was itself subdivided into two depth strata covering the 0-200 m and 201-400 m zones. Figure 1 and Table 2 indicate the names of the 14 strata, their geographic boundaries, depth ranges and areas in nautical square miles ( $\text{nm}^2$ ). The inner limit of all strata was the 3 mile offshore line.

The applied strategy was to distribute the sampling effort according both to the stratum areas and to cod abundance. Consequently, fifty percent of the hauls were allocated proportionally to strata by stratum area while the other fifty percent were apportioned on the basis of a review of the historical mean cod abundance/ $\text{nm}^2$ , all hauls being randomly distributed within trawlable areas of the various strata. Non-trawlable areas are mainly located inshore. During 1982-98, 2 521 successful sets were carried out, the numbers of valid sets by year and stratum being listed in Table 3. Apart from stratum 7.2 (Dohrn Bank), East Greenland strata were not covered adequately in 1984, 1992 and 1994 due to technical problems. In 1995, the survey area off West Greenland was incompletely covered for the first time again due to technical problems. Only 50 % of the strata of West Greenland were covered, namely the southern strata 3.1, 3.2, 4.1 and 4.2. Stratum 7.1 has a very low area and therefore never been covered. Since 1996, the entire survey area was covered. Figure 1 shows the positions of hauls conducted during the most recent survey.

Stratified abundance estimates were calculated from catch-per-tow data using the stratum areas as weighting factor (Cochran, 1977; Saville, 1977). Strata with less than five valid sets were rejected from the calculation. The coefficient of catchability was set arbitrarily at 1.0, implying that estimates are merely indices of abundance and biomass. Respective confidence intervals (CI) were set at the 5% significance level of the stratified mean.

## Results

For the period 1982-98, survey abundance and biomass indices for *S. marinus* ( $\geq 17$  cm) are listed in Tables 4 and 5 by stratum, West and East Greenland, aggregated to total and accompanied confidence intervals. The trends of the survey indices are illustrated in Figures 2 and 3. Values in 1984, 1992 and 1994 were indicated as incorrect due to incomplete sampling off East Greenland. Ignoring these years, total estimates showed a declining trend from 680 million to 325 million individuals and 440 000 tons to 140 000 tons during 1982-1985. Since 1986, an almost continuous reduction in survey biomass from 300 000 tons to 11 000 tons in 1995 was observed, which was the minimum of the time series among years with complete survey coverage. Apart from the year 1990 with the maximum value amounting to 780 million individuals caused by the occurrence of juveniles (<25 cm), there was a similar decreasing trend regarding the survey abundance. During 1987-1995, abundance estimates decreased from 610 million to 43 million and remained at that low level thereafter. The most recent indices amounted to 176 million individuals and 38 000 tons. It can be seen from Figures 2 and 3 that *S. marinus* ( $\geq 17$  cm) was mainly distributed off East Greenland, while the minor abundance and biomass off West Greenland decreased to non-recognizable parts. It should be underlined that the enormous variation of catch per tow data resulted in high confidence intervals. Weighted mean length and length frequencies of *S. marinus* ( $\geq 17$  cm) were listed for West, East Greenland and aggregated to total in Tables 6, 7 and 8, and illustrated in Figures 4 and 5a and 5b, respectively. They revealed pronounced year and area effects. Usually, the few individuals off West Greenland showed a peak around 30 cm while fish off East Greenland were larger and varied over a wide range. Since 1984, juvenile *S. marinus* (<30 cm) contributed important and increasing parts to the stock structure and caused continuously decreasing trends in mean fish size. There are marked peaks at lengths of 20, 25, 28, 29 and 30 cm between the successive years 1985-89 and at lengths of 22 and 25 cm between the successive years 1990-91 and 1995-96.

Survey abundance and biomass estimates and accompanied confidence intervals for deep sea *S. mentella* ( $\geq 17$  cm) were presented in Tables 9 and 10, broken down by stratum, West and East Greenland. The trends in stock size in numbers and weight were illustrated in Figures 6 and 7. During the early eighties, the abundance varied among 90-170 million individuals, while the minimum and maximum biomass amounted to 34 000 tons and 65 000 tons. Subsequently, increasing trends were evident for both abundance and biomass. In 1991, 1993 and 1995, when the survey area was completely covered, deep sea *S. mentella* ( $\geq 17$  cm) was found to be very abundant with 970 million, 1 400 million and 2 500 million individuals and 290 000, 230 000 and 375 000 tons, respectively. The peak abundance and biomass were observed in 1997, reaching 7 billion individuals and 1.5 million tons. In 1998, the estimates decreased by almost 50 % although few survey catches yielded more than 5 000 kg/30 min. West Greenland shares were negligible and varied without a clear trend. The high confidence intervals indicated a low precision of these estimates. The weighted mean length and length compositions were given for West, East Greenland and in total in Tables 11, 12 and 13, and shown in Figures 8, 9a and 9b. Since 1985, juvenile deep sea *S. mentella* ( $\geq 17$  cm) contributed significant portions and dominated the stock structure since 1989, the adult stock component remaining severely depleted. Consequently, an almost continuously decreasing trend in fish size was evident until 1994. Since 1995, the mean length increased from 20.7 to 26.4 cm due to the growth of recruiting year classes (Fig. 8). During 1997-98, the dominant year class has grown from 25 to 27 cm displaying an annual growth increment of around 2 cm (Fig. 9b). Other growth indications for single cohorts between successive years were hardly derivable from these length distributions, the only occurring in 1990-92 with pronounced peaks at 21-23, 25-26 and 26-28 cm, respectively.

Trends in survey abundance and biomass for juvenile redfish (<17 cm) were listed in Tables 14 and 15, again broken down by stratum, West and East Greenland and accompanied with confidence intervals. Respective values were shown in Figures 10 and 11. In 1985 and since 1993, small and unspecified redfish (<17 cm) were very abundant and distributed mainly off East Greenland. A lack of these size groups during the years 1982-84 might be

caused by irregular recording of catches. Weighted mean lengths and length distributions were listed in Tables 16, 17 and 18 for West, East Greenland and total. These data were illustrated in Figures 12, 13a and 13b. Juveniles off East Greenland were found to be bigger than those off West Greenland. Reappearing peaks at 6-7, 10-12 and 15-16 cm might indicate annual growth increments and represent the age groups 0, 1 and 2 years of unspecified juvenile redfish.

## Discussion

After a severe depletion of the *S. marinus* stock on the traditional fishing grounds around Greenland in the early 90's, the most recent survey results provide weak signals of a possible recovery. Marked shifts of size-spectra peaks might indicate annual growth increments of single cohorts. The low mean length and left-skewed size composition in 1998 indicates relatively good recruitment which caused a slight stock increase. The adult stock, however, remains depleted.

The poor status of the deep-sea *S. mentella* stock on the East and West Greenland shelves in the 80's was subject to a steady improvement since the mid-90's. This positive trend was due to successful recruitment of one or two individual year classes. The 1998 survey results indicated a considerable decrease of about half the abundance and biomass of the 1997 peak. Considering the absence of a significant commercial fishery and unchanged natural mortality rates, this decrease indicated an emigration of deep sea *S. mentella* ( $\geq 17$  cm) from the survey area to either pelagic or adjacent eastern habitats. 90 % of the stock was concentrated in one single deep stratum off East Greenland, namely the stratum 6.2. The observed growth rate of about 2cm/year coincides quite closely with results from studies by Perlmutter and Clarke (1949), Sandemann (1957 and 1961), Friðriksson (1961), Mayo *et al.* (1981), Magnússon *et al.* (1988) and Nedreaas (1990). Since the size-spectra are dominated by juvenile fish, a recovery of the adult stock is yet to come.

Juvenile unspecified redfish (<17cm) was found to be bigger in catches off East Greenland, compared to West Greenland, exhibiting growth rates of about 5cm/yr in age-groups 0, 1 and 2.

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Table 1 Trawl parameters of the survey.

Gear	140-feet bottom trawl
Horizontal net opening	22 m
Standard trawling speed	4.5 kn
Towing time	30 minutes
Coefficient of catchability	1.0

Table 2 Specification of strata.

	Stratum geographic boundaries			depth	area	
	south	north	east	west	(m)	(nm <sup>2</sup> )
1.1	64°15'N	67°00'N	50°00'W	57°00'W	1-200	6805
1.2	64°15'N	67°00'N	50°00'W	57°00'W	201-400	1881
2.1	62°30'N	64°15'N	50°00'W	55°00'W	1-200	2350
2.2	62°30'N	64°15'N	50°00'W	55°00'W	201-400	1018
3.1	60°45'N	62°30'N	48°00'W	53°00'W	1-200	1938
3.2	60°45'N	62°30'N	48°00'W	53°00'W	201-400	742
4.1	59°00'N	60°45'N	44°00'W	50°00'W	1-200	2568
4.2	59°00'N	60°45'N	44°00'W	50°00'W	201-400	971
5.1	59°00'N	63°00'N	40°00'W	44°00'W	1-200	2468
5.2	59°00'N	63°00'N	40°00'W	44°00'W	201-400	3126
6.1	63°00'N	66°00'N	35°00'W	41°00'W	1-200	1120
6.2	63°00'N	66°00'N	35°00'W	41°00'W	201-400	7795
7.1	64°45'N	67°00'N	29°00'W	35°00'W	1-200	92
7.2	64°45'N	67°00'N	29°00'W	35°00'W	201-400	4589
Sum					37463	

Table 3 Numbers of valid hauls by stratum and total, 1982-98.

Year	1.1	1.2	2.1	2.2	3.1	3.2	4.1	4.2	5.1	5.2	6.1	6.2	7.1	7.2	Sum
1982	20	11	16	7	9	6	13	2	1	10	3	12	1	25	136
1983	26	11	25	11	17	5	18	4	3	19	10	36	0	18	203
1984	25	13	26	8	18	6	21	4	5	4	2	8	0	5	145
1985	10	8	26	10	17	5	21	4	5	21	14	50	0	28	219
1986	27	9	21	9	16	7	18	3	3	15	14	37	1	34	214
1987	25	11	21	4	18	3	21	3	19	16	13	40	0	18	212
1988	34	21	28	5	18	5	18	2	21	8	13	39	0	26	238
1989	26	14	30	9	8	3	25	3	17	18	12	29	0	11	205
1990	19	7	23	8	16	3	21	6	18	19	6	15	0	13	174
1991	19	11	23	7	12	6	14	5	8	11	10	28	0	16	170
1992	6	6	6	5	6	6	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	6	53
1993	9	6	9	6	10	8	7	0	9	6	6	18	0	14	108
1994	16	13	13	8	10	6	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	6	84
1995	0	0	3	0	10	7	10	5	8	6	6	17	0	12	84
1996	5	5	8	5	12	5	10	5	7	9	5	13	0	9	98
1997	5	6	5	5	6	5	8	5	5	5	4	8	0	8	75
1998	9	5	10	7	11	6	10	5	5	8	6	12	0	9	103

Table 4 *S. marinus* ( $\geq 17$  cm). Abundance indices ( $n \times 1000$ ) for West, East Greenland and total by stratum, 1982-98. Confidence intervals (CI) are given in per cent of the stratified mean at 95% level of significance. () incorrect due to incomplete sampling.

YEAR	1.1	1.2	2.1	2.2	3.1	3.2	4.1	4.2	5.1	5.2	6.1	6.2	7.1	7.2	WEST	EAST	TOTAL	CI
1982	7015	6340	88792	5512	5736	14876	4087		195798		312132		38899	132358	546829	679187	55	
1983	4025	3186	3355	6523	4043	5885	1697		140766	453	264813		14365	28714	420397	449111	53	
1984	1324	3438	460	1209	10671	2776	4214		6888		47974		9890	24092	(64752)	(88844)	65	
1985	4658	10451	6158	1569	3220	14441	4973		78118	32397	1787	141500		25944	45470	279746	325216	52
1986	6327	4324	2077	3483	21503	2883	2717			124613	470	298706		22234	43314	446023	489337	53
1987	906	653	1327		9612		659		50961	9422	245	507387		27920	13157	595935	609092	39
1988	831	2239	342	2255	5938	1954	731		3012	5015	148	132458		34352	14290	174985	189275	54
1989	421	422	776	690	6489		361		4003	33320	625	110663		76934	9159	225545	234704	60
1990	120	433	279	709	1038		146	2271	14974	72316	391	653009		37483	4996	778173	783169	75
1991	227	256	96	691	236	527	21	1671	1385	13237	172	64692		28201	3725	107687	111412	51
1992	126	106	73	190	193	477	192	835						32622	2192	(32622)	(34814)	151
1993	169	481	59	267	80	132	0		175	6043	77	54424		4170	1188	64889	66077	93
1994	111	325	156	167	65	46	151	247						3348	1268	(3348)	(4616)	41
1995					51	67	38	146	346	1521	153	38892		2060	302	42972	43274	97
1996	152	267	22	244	381	383	29	298	647	3145	494	21110		2366	1776	27762	29538	47
1997	252	609	16	175	120	311	36	552	721	913		21257		1611	2072	24501	26573	40
1998	116	141	45	142	19	106	126	254	590	1388	328	166868		5837	949	175011	175959	160

Table 5 *S. marinus* ( $\geq 17.5$  cm). Biomass indices (tons) for West, East Greenland and total by stratum, 1982-98. Confidence intervals (CI) are given in per cent of the stratified mean at 95% level of significance. () incorrect due to incomplete sampling.

YEAR	1.1	1.2	2.1	2.2	3.1	3.2	4.1	4.2	5.1	5.2	6.1	6.2	7.1	7.2	WEST	EAST	TOTAL	CI		
1982	1798	1354	34440	2558	3206	9794	2532			155971		194379		30115	55682	380465	436147	54		
1983	846	945	1572	3042	1873	4815	1084			161687	269	229541		15607	14177	407104	421281	61		
1984	308	894	196	519	4935	2284	2089			3601		21281		12052	11225	(36934)	(48159)	55		
1985	1020	1819	2968	472	1427	9209	2718			8613	22453	1317	65299		23762	19633	121444	141077	35	
1986	1282	1215	752	1229	10122	1705	1762			43119	382	213268		24368	18067	281137	299204	38		
1987	255	247	660		4954		438			9539	5346	106	230844		19327	6554	265162	271716	38	
1988	146	404	118	942	2570	1342	382			1092	4930	68	98131		48262	5904	152483	158387	60	
1989	182	137	272	249	2619		209			970	14920	442	54589		34360	3668	105281	108949	47	
1990	39	149	75	275	479		79	1343	6761	27245	154	130530		14723	2439	179413	181852	45		
1991	44	83	24	226	120	273	3	1007	725	10631	120	34265		62979	1780	108720	110500	98		
1992	18	35	20	61	53	241	70	447			75	1377	30	20179		12076	945	(12076)	(13021)	130
1993	46	112	19	114	39	55	0							2899	385	24560	24945	68		
1994	34	146	48	64	26	35	40	80						1540	473	(1540)	(2013)	38		
1995					19	19	20	43	114	712	51	8896		1141	101	10914	11015	38		
1996	64	102	4	60	128	118	8	132	139	1714	196	10855		1408	616	14312	14928	40		
1997	41	261	5	61	35	188	10	246	163	447		15411		1225	847	17246	18092	58		
1998	20	43	12	42	14	54	56	117	193	597	112	34680		2005	359	37587	37946	102		





Table 10 Deep sea *S. mentella* ( $\geq 17$  cm). Biomass indices (tons) for West, East Greenland and total by stratum, 1982-98. Confidence intervals (CI) are given in per cent of the stratified mean at 95% level of significance. () incorrect due to incomplete sampling.

YEAR	1.1	1.2	2.1	2.2	3.1	3.2	4.1	4.2	5.1	5.2	6.1	6.2	7.1	7.2	WEST	EAST	TOTAL	CI
1982	0	96	6	114	0	893	0		5178		4843		22795	1109	32816	33925	68	
1983	16	213	26	1158	0	2857	0		8701	0	21047		12747	4270	42495	46765	47	
1984	6	798	4	490	0	472	0		2		12786		35202	1770	(47990)	(49760)	97	
1985	0	96	15	11	27	110	0		2960	7169	40	17011	38533	259	65713	65972	35	
1986	223	39	20	110	3	179	0		0	3943	15	29277	31333	574	64568	65142	36	
1987	84	1184	9		31		0		0	4891	17	2328	23264	1308	30500	31808	46	
1988	20	425	21	159	45	1878	0		3542	10166	9	55838	11607	2548	81162	83710	56	
1989	0	23	7	15	0		1		90	655	0	21151	45452	46	67348	67394	63	
1990	0	5	2	87	7		0	542	62	2741	329	1961	3275	643	8368	9011	44	
1991	0	0	0	0	0	153	0	445	0	2959	30	211468	69454	598	283911	284509	80	
1992	0	3	0	2	0	28	0	0					19856	33	(19856)	(19889)	160	
1993	0	5	0	23	2	0	0		34	493	19	194675	34102	30	229323	229353	61	
1994	0	31	3	10	12	25	0	0	3				7122	84	(7122)	(7206)	128	
1995				5	25	10	159	29	2859	207	355946	16505	199	375546	375745	52		
1996	5	55	0	19	0	235	4	689	13	24445	124	837222	14503	1007	876307	877314	59	
1997	20	141	0	38	2	320	18	2973	20	3445	1323965	162744	3512	1490174	1493686	59		
1998	0	26	0	17	17	88	3	326	153	6458	0	728848	8719	478	744179	744657	73	

Table 11 Deep sea *S. mentella* ( $\geq 17$  cm). Length disaggregated abundance indices ( $n \times 1000$ ) for West Greenland, 1982-1998.

Length (cm)	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
17.5	9	58	140	6	967	2177	217	14	72	0	0	0	0	0	0	6345	0
18.5	29	51	102	9	304	2794	99	18	83	9	17	6	266	700	3187	9988	1341
19.5	6	79	164	41	136	1721	965	64	240	31	25	6	163	365	2673	11375	752
20.5	28	89	149	26	98	1922	748	91	636	9	0	12	76	251	1857	4345	543
21.5	40	96	155	26	54	272	531	30	1078	71	20	6	30	349	930	1446	408
22.5	18	143	130	13	88	131	722	25	1544	300	5	19	62	44	720	1034	364
23.5	41	124	194	35	78	84	408	9	640	390	18	6	25	15	330	658	264
24.5	38	184	160	85	103	137	346	0	191	649	28	13	22	39	171	721	120
25.5	105	265	98	76	30	36	354	19	76	608	9	19	0	29	43	262	80
26.5	83	362	182	52	42	18	320	0	58	165	18	13	5	29	29	111	102
27.5	231	548	184	37	38	47	319	0	18	93	5	25	0	0	0	151	34
28.5	181	559	329	46	93	43	265	5	0	38	0	25	12	0	0	28	29
29.5	315	776	457	38	68	0	296	0	4	19	0	0	5	0	0	6	15
30.5	571	1452	742	55	76	52	454	0	0	29	0	12	0	7	0	6	20
31.5	391	1179	664	44	57	36	324	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.5	380	928	522	48	92	24	397	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	22	0
33.5	247	744	440	40	49	6	397	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34.5	125	563	245	32	106	6	421	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.5	93	358	139	26	58	0	482	5	0	5	5	13	0	0	0	22	0
36.5	69	137	51	15	43	6	228	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
37.5	28	71	10	4	21	0	129	6	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0
38.5	5	28	24	0	26	4	37	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
39.5	19	10	11	9	13	0	49	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
40.5	19	6	8	7	0	8	18	0	0	0	0	6	5	0	0	0	0
41.5	9	14	5	9	18	12	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
42.5	14	0	0	0	0	4	17	8	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0
43.5	9	6	0	0	8	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
44.5	5	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45.5	0	0	5	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
46.5	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
47.5	5	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
48.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
49.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
50.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
51.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
52.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
53.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
54.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mean	30.7	30.3	28.7	27.6	21.9	18.4	26.6	22.3	22.0	24.6	24.2	26.7	20.6	20.1	18.3	19.5	20.7





Table 17 *Sebastes spp.* (<17 cm). Length disaggregated abundance indices (n\*1000) for East Greenland, 1982-1998. () incorrect due to incomplete sampling.

Length (cm)	1982	1983	(1984)	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	(1992)	1993	(1994)	1995	1996	1997	1998
0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.5	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	0	0
5.5	0	0	0	59	173	20	0	0	0	11	0	7408	0	208	17	0	105
6.5	0	0	18	169	417	85	9	20	0	293	0	184	0	302	989	803	11703
7.5	0	0	73	193	0	54	0	20	252	373	0	8205	0	87545	2831	1212	67654
8.5	0	0	0	214	460	157	126	46	281	746	0	77003	0	757306	13655	905	31523
9.5	0	32	36	3719	2008	475	356	110	1234	6039	0	693957	0	498875	165504	23970	45502
10.5	21	147	73	80721	7290	754	284	133	1212	21770	0	413320	0	109292	418878	114109	317417
11.5	89	145	219	350908	5780	1896	756	127	1212	17348	28	562208	29	428703	402736	44359	612504
12.5	109	83	127	246177	1054	2689	1470	299	732	2488	168	1753530	543	618072	78735	46097	148411
13.5	380	226	146	35246	365	3763	2818	611	1315	597	56	736969	1745	361458	204342	83578	305157
14.5	268	348	113	41307	658	11437	3287	1028	511	355	168	396137	8237	49198	399689	134051	371674
15.5	224	450	54	66498	704	36338	3090	1778	1381	378	168	652487	11469	52623	163139	117029	457390
16.5	291	831	106	70013	249	53227	3424	2518	2533	501	448	510140	9581	61631	84278	124540	878446
17.5	619	291	59	56546	777	23023	4697	2762	6819	109	112	391937	26285	116858	71454	431	361575
18.5	311	111	0	20913	851	3569	7172	1572	6493	33	224	258	0	0	466	43	1382
19.5	0	0	0	0	0	248	6849	34	20	0	0	0	418026	0	0	366	0
20.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2313	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	324	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	224	0	0
22.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mean	15.9	15.1	12.9	13.0	11.5	16.1	17.0	16.1	15.9	10.9	15.8	13.5	16.3	11.2	12.7	13.7	14.1

Table 18 *Sebastes spp.* (<17 cm). Length disaggregated abundance indices (n\*1000) for Greenland (total), 1982-1998. () incorrect due to incomplete sampling.

Length (cm)	1982	1983	(1984)	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	(1992)	1993	(1994)	1995	1996	1997	1998
0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.5	0	0	0	6	5	0	7	0	14	59	0	0	0	0	23	0	0
5.5	0	6	255	84	209	141	97	40	3468	15530	2396	7408	2393	234	253	622	287
6.5	6	78	602	280	514	935	495	1834	5708	59898	30723	301	9938	495	8115	32852	56427
7.5	0	219	252	378	459	1448	1940	2131	3010	11481	27897	8405	1054	87687	31647	55854	192619
8.5	70	518	425	540	2373	1059	9941	2222	8765	16705	5799	78938	4092	757846	20744	3310	36193
9.5	56	612	871	5881	6229	1133	7760	4394	13070	29955	11346	703438	9037	499490	173412	28559	49429
10.5	117	506	1505	84886	15886	1695	3662	5836	8205	58692	8922	422237	5238	110227	447048	127350	327950
11.5	348	739	2369	352378	25493	4342	2209	4962	8262	33546	5816	568188	2939	433793	420351	55486	616798
12.5	296	802	1411	246685	107920	9707	3030	3455	8306	4876	7686	1763056	6585	627728	90935	52882	150515
13.5	494	737	826	36845	76857	12430	6061	2759	7599	2245	11518	742584	6102	365705	221782	103662	311479
14.5	652	813	794	44022	14722	29849	12153	2048	5122	1551	6247	402157	10924	56541	411104	160273	381879
15.5	685	1059	705	70671	4892	83548	16734	2487	4937	1927	1388	658309	13871	61341	174797	133160	463035
16.5	291	831	106	70013	5370	84943	8250	3090	3477	1506	839	514054	10910	66721	101026	139117	883649
17.5	619	291	59	56546	7290	29159	7695	3267	7473	700	491	394042	27526	120403	82616	431	366160
18.5	311	111	0	20913	2251	3569	9686	1880	7317	251	270	258	68	44	524	43	1382
19.5	0	0	0	0	930	248	7043	58	153	32	0	418026	48	0	381	0	19
20.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2313	20	133	13	0	0	16	0	0	0	0
21.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	324	0	67	0	0	0	32	0	224	0	0
22.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	67	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mean	14.8	12.9	11.3	13.0	12.9	15.6	14.4	12.4	12.3	9.1	9.4	13.5	13.4	11.2	12.5	13.1	13.8

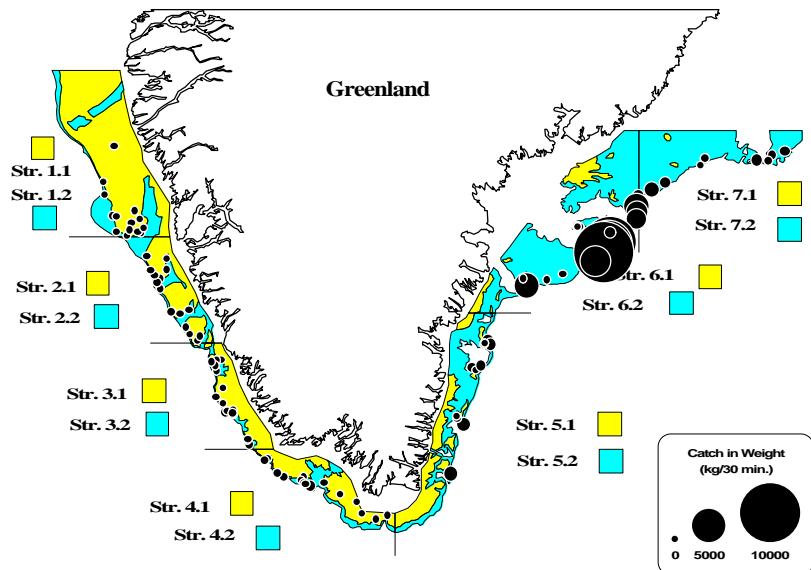


Fig. 1 Stratification of the survey area as specified in Table 2, positions of hauls carried out in 1998 and catches of deep sea *S. mentella* ( $\geq 17$  cm).

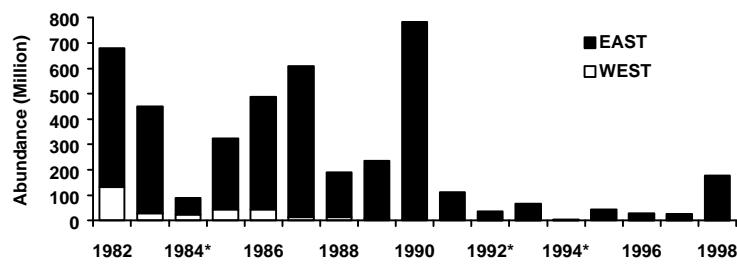


Fig. 2 *S. marinus* ( $\geq 17$  cm). Survey abundance indices for East and West Greenland, 1982-98. \*) incomplete survey coverage.

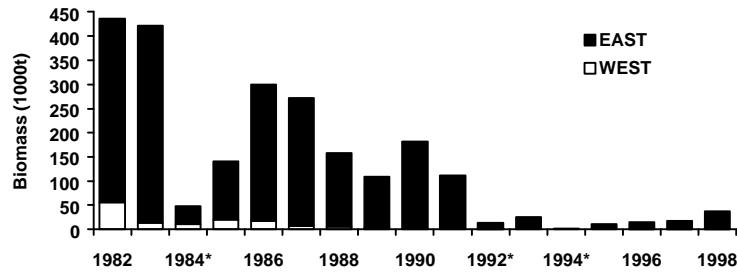


Fig. 3 *S. marinus* ( $\geq 17$  cm). Survey biomass indices for East and West Greenland, 1982-98. \*) incomplete survey coverage.

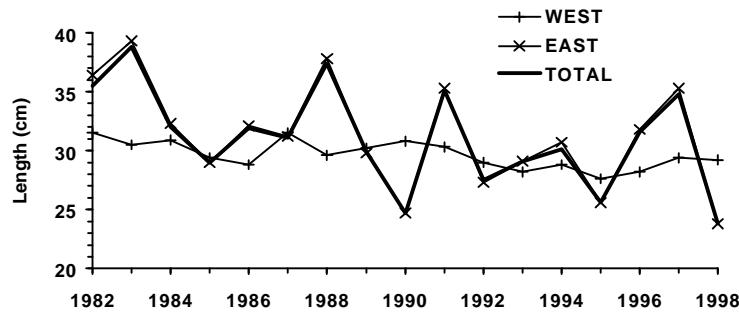


Fig. 4 *S. marinus* ( $>= 17$  cm). Weighted mean length (by abundance) for West, East Greenland and total as listed in Tables 6-8, 1982-98.

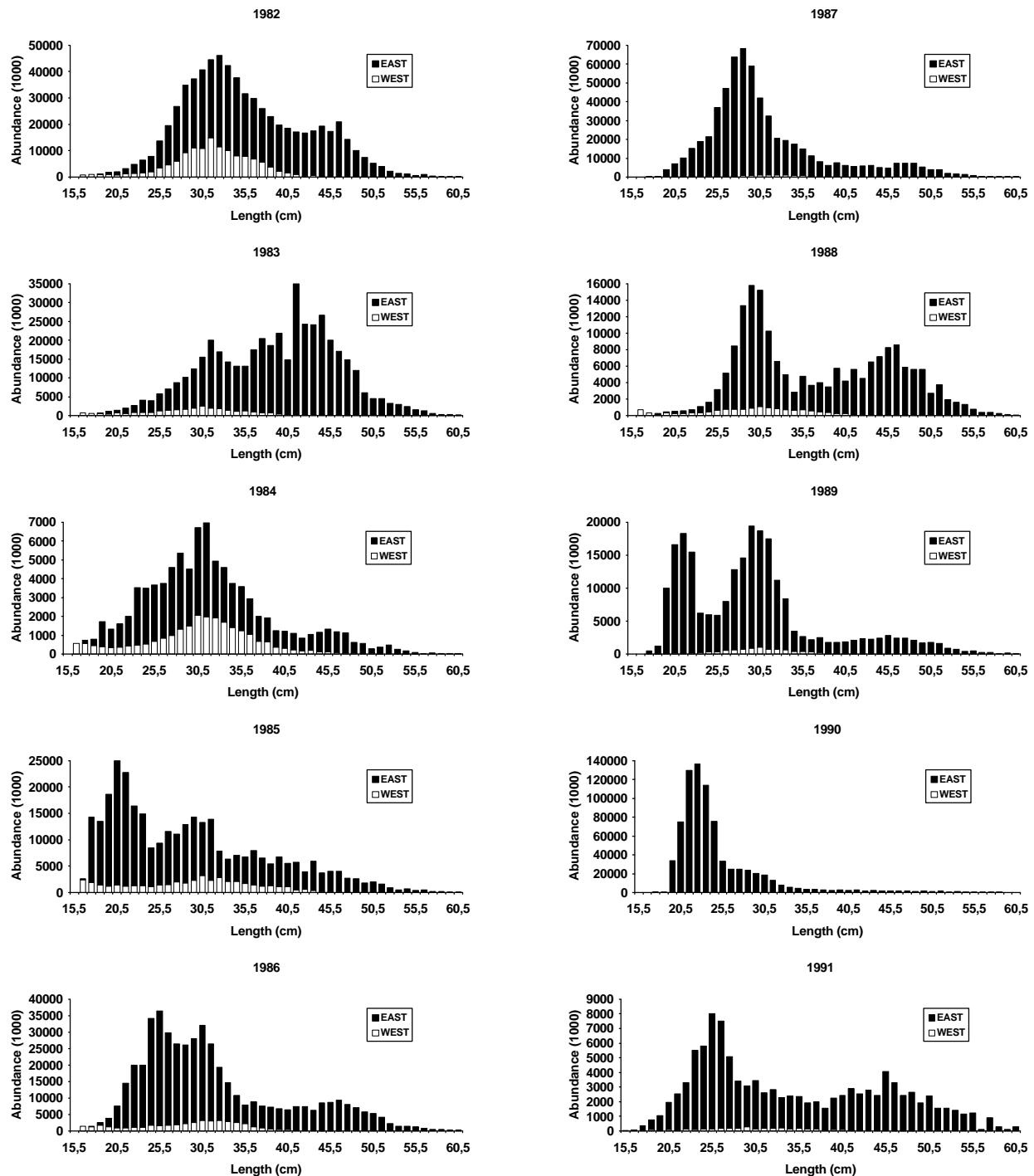


Fig. 5a *S. marinus* ( $\geq 17$  cm). Length frequencies for East and West Greenland, 1982-91.

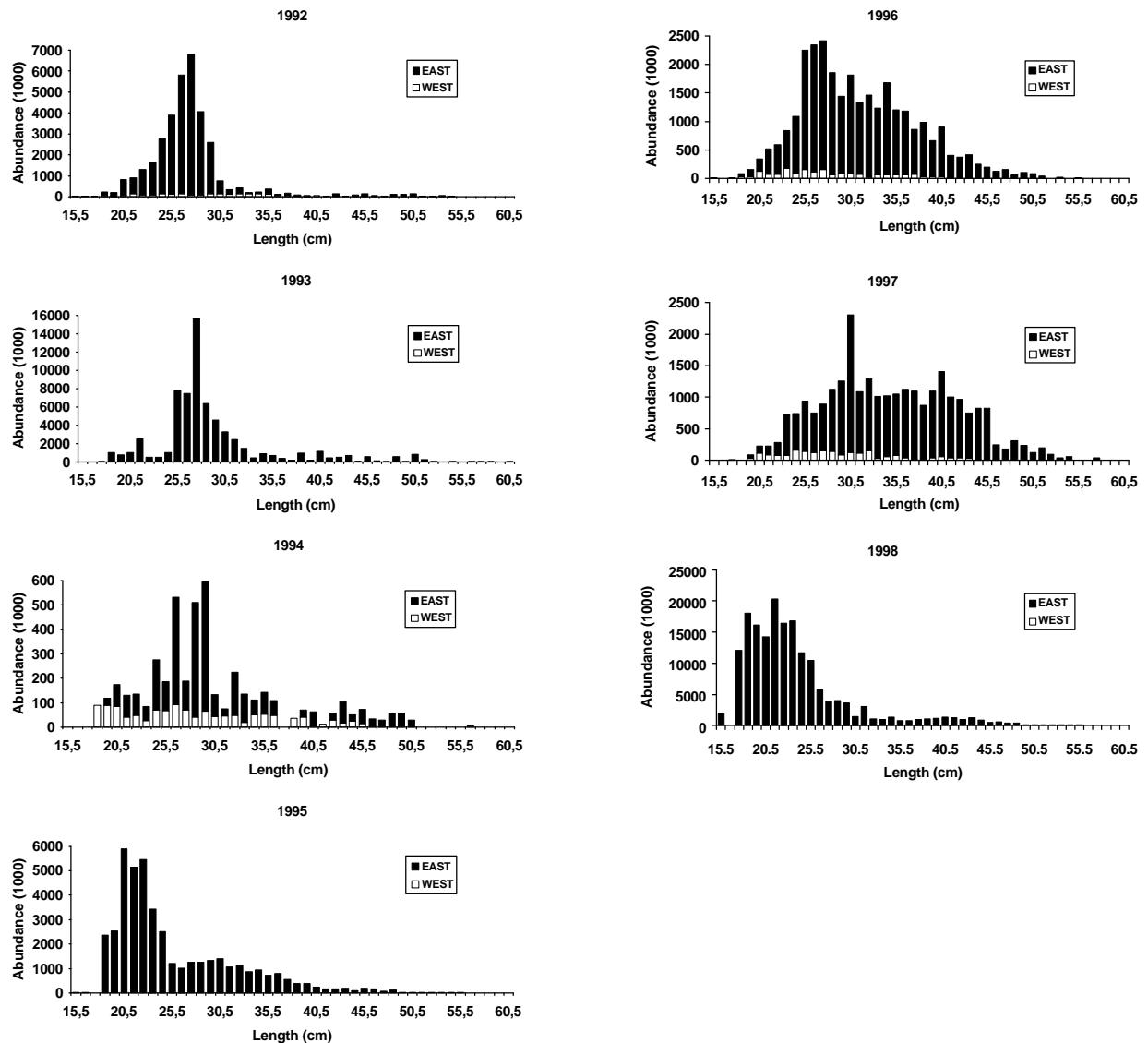


Fig. 5b *S. marinus* ( $\geq 17$  cm). Length frequencies for East and West Greenland, 1992–98.

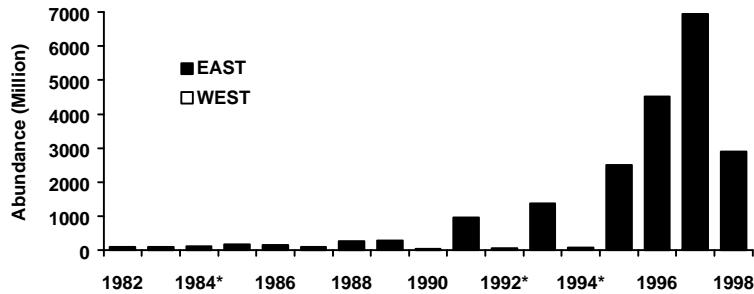


Fig. 6 Deep sea *S. mentella* ( $\geq 17$  cm). Survey abundance indices for East and West Greenland, 1982-98. \*) incomplete survey coverage.

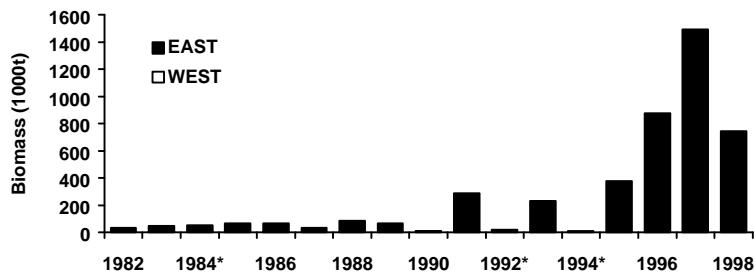


Fig. 7 Deep sea *S. mentella* ( $\geq 17$  cm). Survey biomass indices for East and West Greenland, 1982-98. \*) incomplete survey coverage.

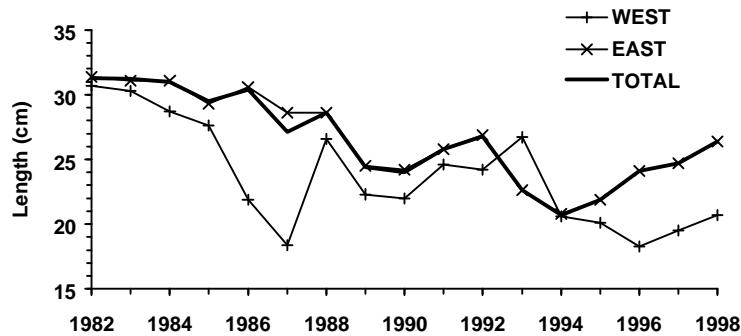


Fig. 8 Deep sea *S. mentella* ( $\geq 17$  cm). Weighted mean length (by stratum abundance) for West, East Greenland and total as listed in Tables 11-13, 1982-98.

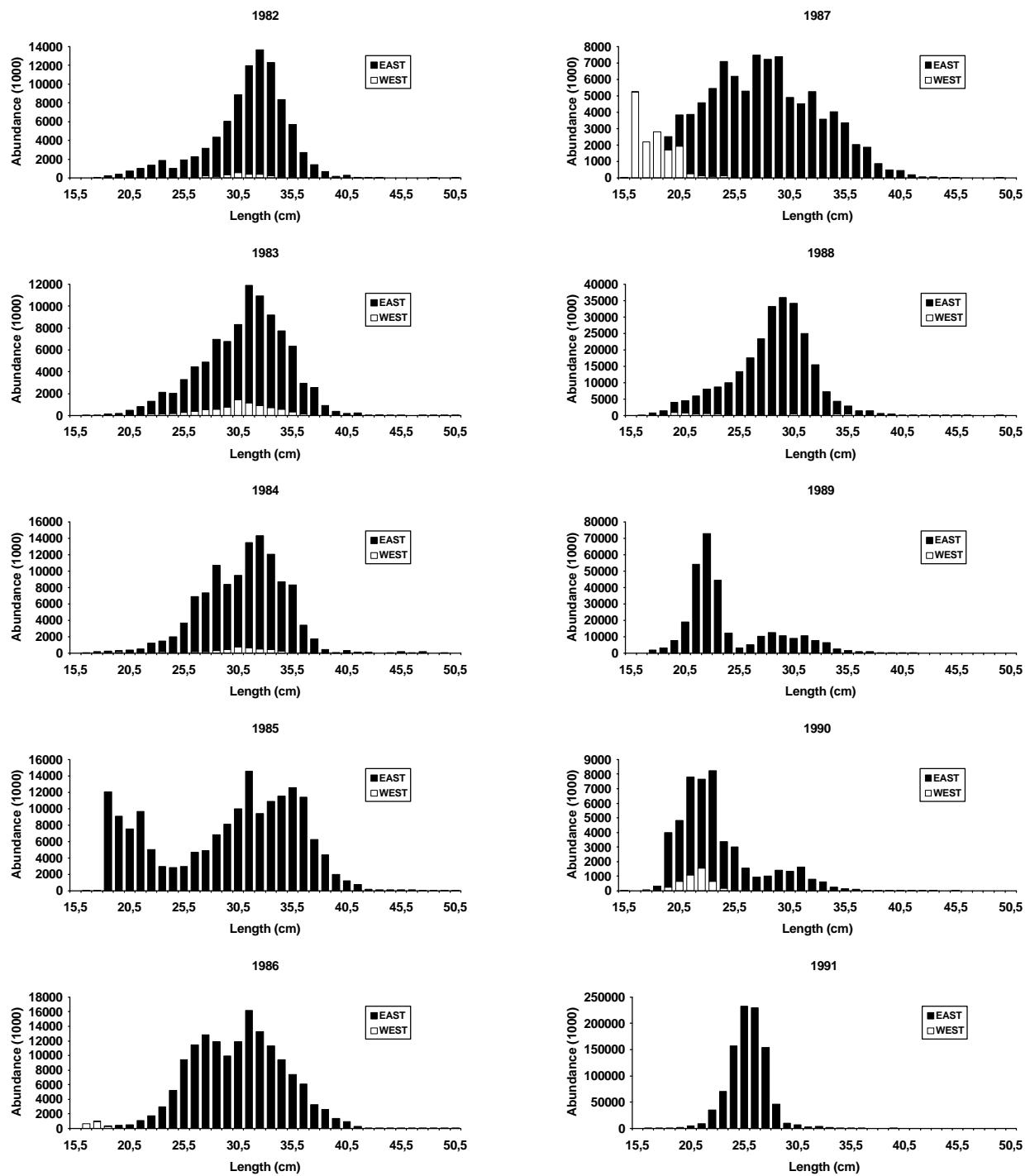


Fig. 9a Deep sea *S. mentella* ( $\geq 17$  cm). Length frequencies for East and West Greenland, 1982-91.

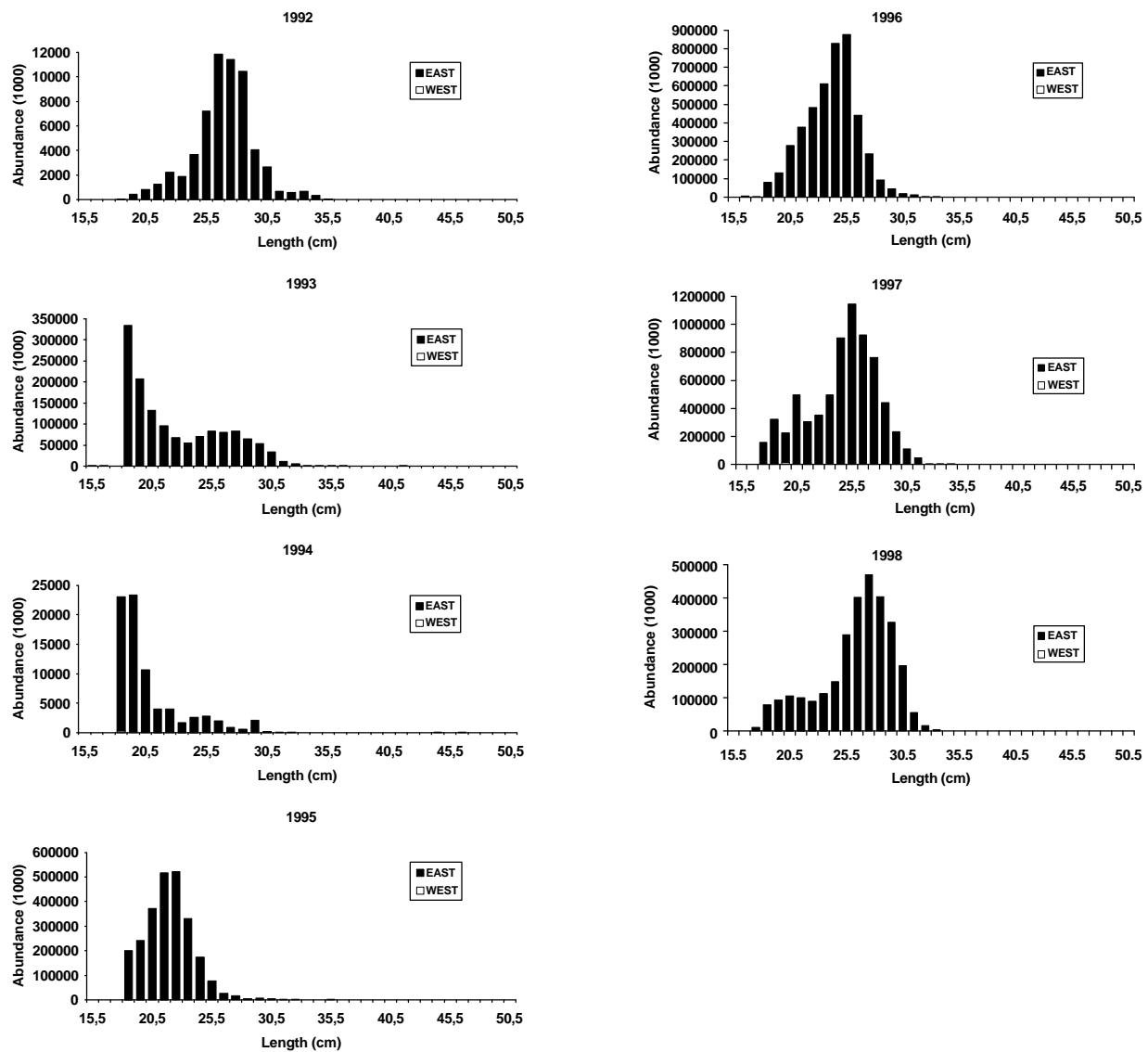


Fig. 9b Deep sea *S. mentella* ( $\geq 17$  cm). Length frequencies for East and West Greenland, 1992-98.

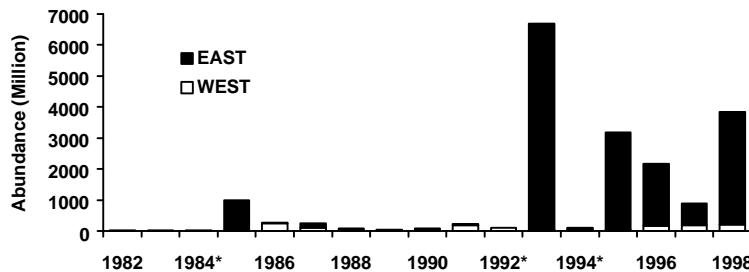


Fig. 10 *Sebastes spp.* (<17 cm). Survey abundance indices for East and West Greenland, 1982-98. \*) incomplete survey coverage.

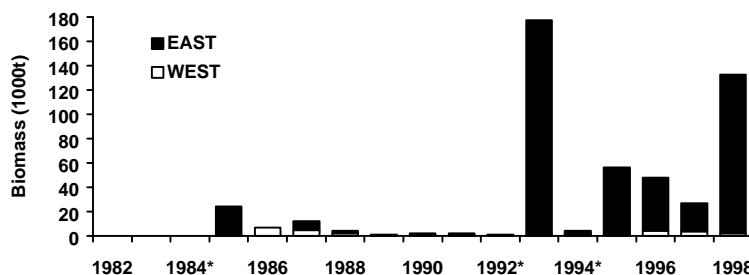


Fig. 11 *Sebastes spp.* (<17 cm). Survey biomass indices for East and West Greenland, 1982-98. \*) incomplete survey coverage.

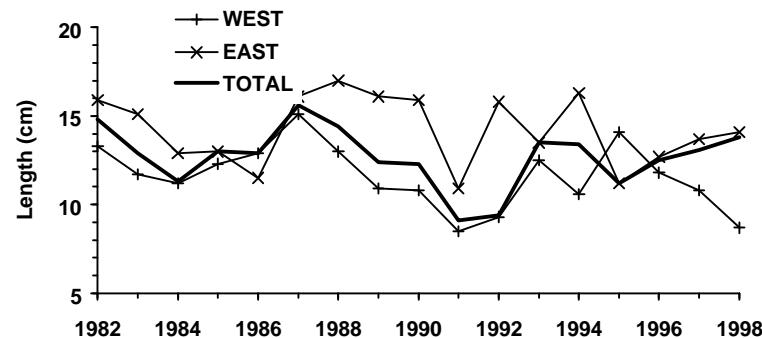


Fig. 12 *Sebastes spp.* (<17cm). Mean weighted length (by stratum abundance) for West, East Greenland and total as listed in Tables 16-18, 1982-98.

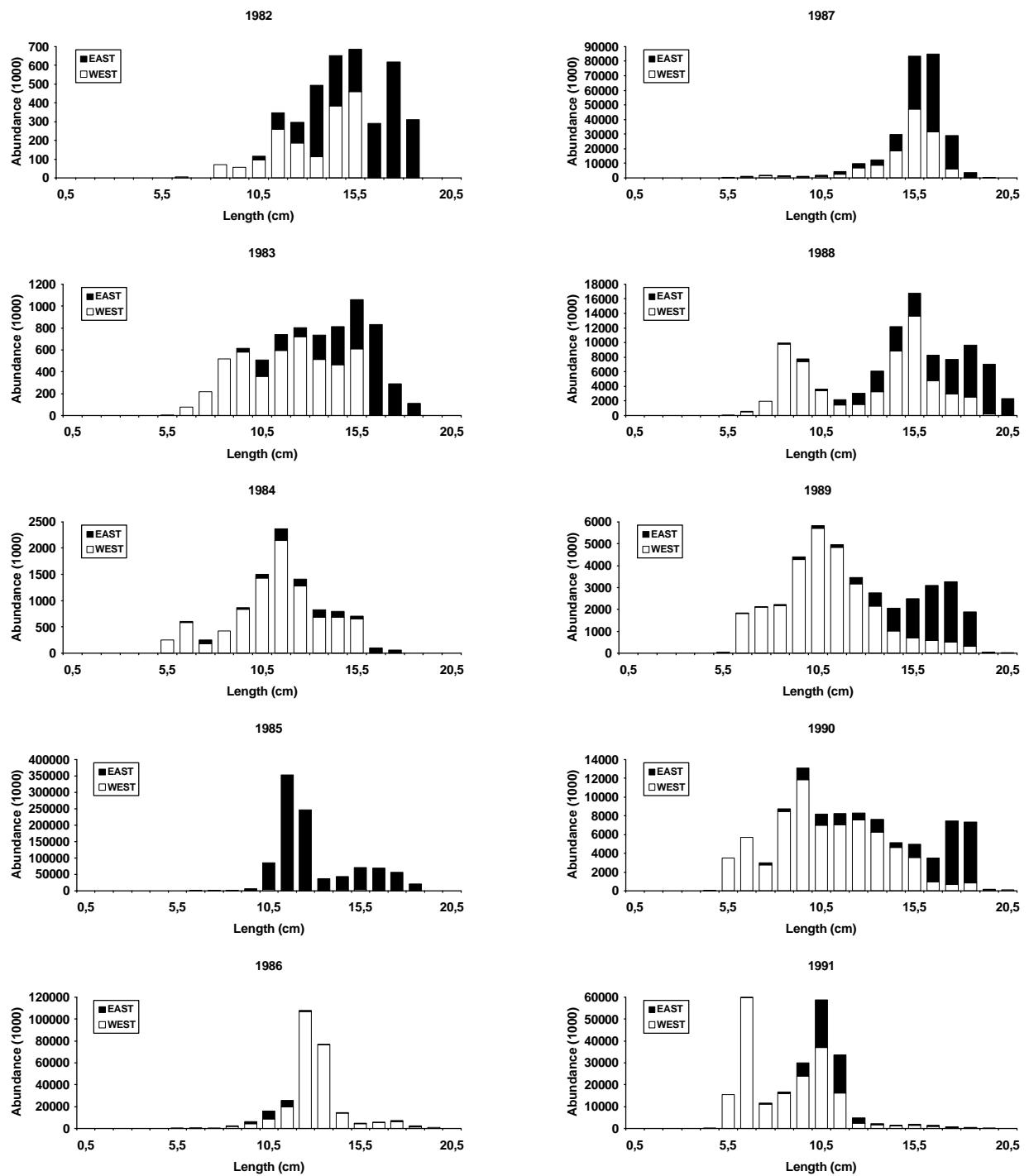


Fig. 13a *Sebastes spp.* (<17 cm). Length frequencies for East and West Greenland, 1982-91.

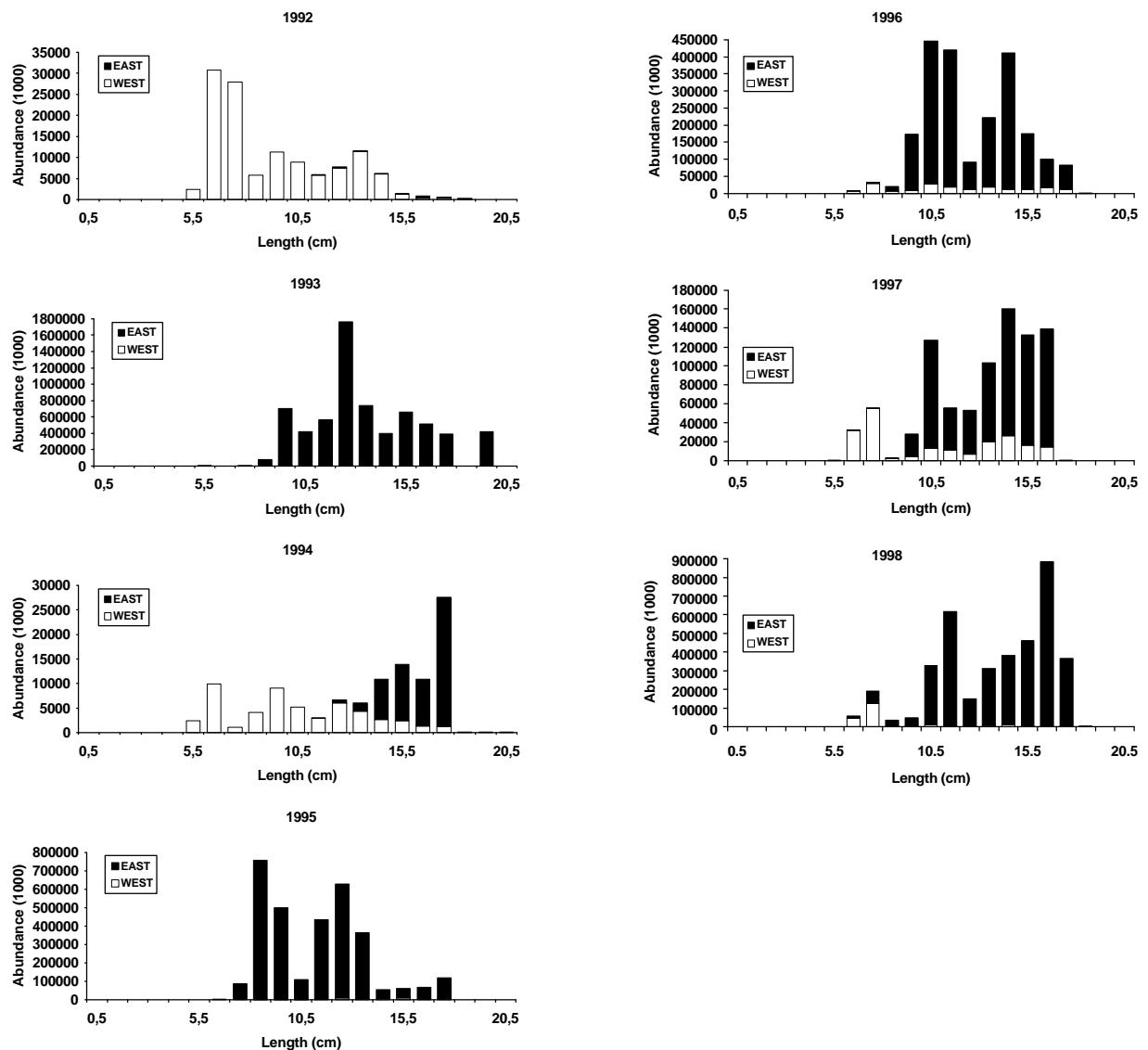


Fig. 13b *Sebastes spp.* (<17 cm). Length frequencies for East and West Greenland, 1992-98.