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A Review on Roughhead Grenadier (*Macrourus berglax*) Biology and Population Structure on Flemish Cap (NAFO Division 3M), 1991-1999

by

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ABSTRACT

The European Union has conducted since 1988 an annual bottom trawl survey in Flemish Cap (NAFO Div. 3M) in the 200-720 m depth range. The information on roughhead grenadier population structure recorded during the last 9 EU surveys (1991-1999) in Flemish Cap is studied. Geographic distribution of captures, length/age distribution, growth, sex-ratios and total biomass estimated by the swept area method are presented.

Age and length composition of the catches showed clear differences between the two sexes. The importance of males in the capture declines in larger fish, disappearing from the capture in largest length classes. The bulk of captures in 1999 is composed of ages 7-9. Both sexes are fully recruited at age 7, and total mortality was estimated as 0.21 for females and 0.45 for males.

The oldest male found was 15 years old, while oldest female was 18 years old. Results show that *M. berglax* has a prolonged life cycle and multiaged population structure with differences in growth and mortality between males and females.

INTRODUCTION

The roughhead grenadier (*Macrourus berglax* Lacépède, 1802) is an abundant and widespread fish species in the north Atlantic and is usually found both on the shelf and on the continental slope (Scott and Scott, 1988; Savvatimsky, 1994). It is predominant in depths ranging from 400 to 1200 m, although they may inhabit depths between 200-2000 m (Snelgrove and Haedrich, 1985; Cardenas *et al*. 1996), and it has been found in depths up to 2700 m (Wheeler, 1969).

Roughhead grenadier is becoming an important commercial fish in NAFO Regulatory Area and reliable information is needed for its assesment. The fishery for *M. berglax* is unregulated as it has been mainly taken as by-catch in Greenland halibut fishery. Catches of roughhead grenadier increased sharply from 1989 (333 tones) to 1990 (3 244 tones), since then total catches averaged about 5 150 tones (Susana *et al*., 1999). At the moment there is scarce information about the fishing pressure.

Since 1988 EU has conducted an annual random-stratified bottom trawl survey in Flemish Cap (NAFO Div. 3M) in the 200-720 m depth range. The objective of this scientific survey is to obtain abundance indices and to study the population structure and biological parameters of the main species in the area.

Limited information on age structure and growth rate of *M. berglax* is available in scientific literature. Savvatimsky (1971, 1984, 1989, 1994) and Jorgensen (1996) have carried out studies on this species in the NW Atlantic (NAFO Divisions 0,2GHJ,3K and 1ABCD respectively), basing findings on age readings from scales. The

age structure and growth parameters of roughhead grenadier have been estimated by Casas (1994), Sainza (1996), Alpoim (1997), Sarasua *et al*., (1998), Rodríguez-Marín *et al*., (1998), Sarasua *et al*., (1999) and Murua *et al*., (1999) from otolith readings of specimens captured in NAFO Divisions 3LM. Eliassen (1983) also performed age estimation by otolith reading from roughhead caught in the continental slope of Norway.

Biology and population structure of roughhead grenadier in Flemish Cap in the period 1991-1999 is presented in this paper. The results are presented taking into account that the survey only covers the shallowest distribution area of *M. berglax*.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Data on *M. berglax* for the 1991-1999 period were collected on the annual random-stratified bottom trawl surveys carried out by the European Union on the area (methodology is described by Vázquez, 1999). Data on age structure and sex-ratio are only available for the 1994-1999 period. Otolith sampling began in 1994, and since then a total of 2795 otoliths have been read. Annual length-age keys have been applied for each year. For years when otoliths were not sampled the mean 96-97 age-length key (the most consistent readings) were applied.

Otoliths were broken through the nucleus and read by transmited light (Casas, 1994). Many difficulties in reading Macrouridae age from otoliths and scales have been reported previously (Savvatimsky, 1984). Age reading in larger fish (more than 9 years old) is even more complicated, because many rings are present and they lie close to each other. Nevertheless, intercalibration of readings between three readers has been done and 80% of agreement has been reached. Differences were $\pm$ 1 year in otoliths between 2-10 years and 1, 2 years in older than 10 years (Rodríguez-Marín *et al*., 1998).

Individuals were measured from tip of snout to base of first anal-fin ray, in 0.5 cm intervals, as adopted by NAFO in June 1980 (Atkinson, 1991) as a standard measurement for roundnose and roughhead grenadiers. Length is presented as anal-fin length (AFL) and data are given in 1 cm intervals. Length is presented as anal-fin length (AFL). Total weight was recorded accurate to the nearest 10 g.

In 1999 it was made a comparison between different gears (Lofoten vs Campelen), but data presented here concerns only to data gathered by Lofoten gear, which has been the net used in previous cruises.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Total biomass of roughhead grenadier estimated by the swept area method by strata are presented in Table 1 and for the whole bank in Figure 1. Biomass increased from 1989 to 1993, since then the biomass has been rather stable between 1500 and 2000 tons. Mean catch per trawl by strata and whole bank data are presented in Table 2. The results indicate that roughhead grenadier occupy the deepest part of the area studied and the abundance and biomass increase with depth, as is evidenced by other authors (De Cardenas *et al*., 1996).

Table 3 shows length distributions of roughhead grenadier for the 1991-1999 period. Captures are dominated by the 14-20 cm length classes, 58.7 % of the total catch. The average AFL for both sexes is 15,52 cm. This value is smaller than the values found by Savvatimsky (1994) and Cardenas *et al*. (1996). The former gives an average AFL of 19.8 cm (51.25 cm total length) for Div. 3K, and the latter gives a mean AFL of 21,12 cm (54,39 cm TL) for specimens caught in a long-line survey in Div. 3LMN. These differences are related to the fishing gear employed and depth where fish were caught, because length has a tendency to increase with depth, from the shallowest stratum to the deepest (Cárdenas *et al*., 1996).

Annual length frequencies by sex are presented in Figure 2. The importance of males in the capture declines in larger fish and they disappear from the capture in largest length classes. Largest male found in the scientific surveys was 25 cm while females are larger reaching 34 cm long. Average AFL for females is also greater than for males. Female's mean AFL for the 1993-1999 period in Flemish Cap was 16.71 cm, while mean AFL for males was 15.44 cm. This sexual difference is consistent with data found in the literature. Savvatimsky (1989) gives an average AFL of 18 cm (47 cm total length) and 21.2 cm (54.6 cm total length) for males and females respectively in 3LKN. Those differences have also been seen in the commercial fleet in 3LN, where females are larger than males (Junquera et al., 2000).

The mean AFL-age key for 1994-1999, as well as mean length at age and standard deviation are given by sex in Table 4. Mean length at age is similar for males and females for ages under 9 years, but males grow slower from this length onwards. Mean lengths at age are higher than those obtained by Savvatimsky (1994) for NAFO Divs. 0B, 2GH and 3K. Savvatimsky (1994) and Jorgensen (1996) described similar growing pattern using scales for aging fish, they found that the differences between sexes in size at age come about from 10 years onwards. This fact could be explained due to the different aging method used in their studies and in ours, or due to different latitude of the sampling areas where specimens were obtained, because temperature differences would cause slower growth, and a delay in reaching sexual maturity (Rodríguez-Marín *et al*., 1998).

Table 5 shows age composition by sexes for *Macrourus berglax* in Flemish Cap in 1993-1999. Females are more abundant in almost all year-classes, but differences increase in largest groups (>12 year-class). Only females appear in year-classes older than 15. The oldest male found in the study period was 15 years old, while oldest female was 18 years old. Mean age for females in Flemish Cap in the 1993-1999 period was 7.9 years, while mean age for males was 7.4 years. Savvatimsky (1994) for Div. 0B, 2GH and 3K found similar differences.

Interannual differences in length and age are shown in Figure 3 and 4. The 1984-1986 cohorts dominated the catches during the first years. The importance of these annual classes have declined sharply during last 4 years and the 1990-91 cohorts now dominates captures. The strength of this year-class has been seen in previous surveys (Alpoim, 1997; Sarasua *et al*., 1998; Sarasua *et al*., 1999) and it has been confirmed by the 1999 survey (Murua, 2000).

Female-ratio in the whole study period is 51%. This value is lower that the one found by Cardenas *et al*. (1996) in 3LMN, where females made up 71,4% of the catch. However, this difference could be easily explained due to the different area covered by both surveys. As length increases with depth in many species (Cárdenas *et al*., 1996; Junquera *et al*., 1992), female ratio might also increase in deeper areas.

Figures 5 and 6 present sex-ratio by age and by length respectively, for the whole study period. In the sex-ratio, female proportion fluctuates around 40%-50% the first 12 years (up to 20 cm in length). It increases from age 13 (length 20 cm) upwards. Female-proportion reaches 73% in year-group 13 (20 cm) and 80% in year-group 14 (24 cm). Females are 100% of the captures after that. Similar sex-ratio, with males being more abundant in the central part of the population, is described by Savvatimsky (1994) for Northwestern Atlantic.

The increment in the female-ratio can be due to three different reasons: sexual differences in growth rate, in mortality or a combination of both. In this case, there are certainly sexual differences in growth, which are reflected in the mean length at age (Rodríguez-Marín *et al.,* 1998) and in the different growth curves presented in this study.

Von Bertalanffy growth curves and logarithmic regression lines (Figure 6 and Table 6), fitted to mean length at age by sex, show that males growth rate declines when reaching 18 cm long, around 9-10 years old, while females do not decline growing until reaching 34-35 cm, around 20 years old. This result was also observed by Savvatimsky (1994), Jorgensen (1996) and Rodríguez-Marín *et al* (1998).

On the other hand, it seems that there are some differences in mortality between both sexes, since males disappear from the capture in larger length-classes; this phenomenon has been also observed for other species, i.e. Greenland halibut (Cárdenas, 1996). Total mortality by sex was calculated from catch curves, fitting regression lines by sex to ages fully recruited to the fishery. The catch curve (Figure 7) was elaborated from data for six years (1994-1999). Both sexes are fully recruited at age 7, and in fact a different mortality is obtained: 0.21 for females and 0.45 for males.

Length-weight relationship by sex are shown in Table 7 for all the years studied. The relationship between fish length (AFL) and fish weight was assumed to be adequately expresses by the exponential function. A comparison between regression lines of both sexes was made and the results are presented in Table 7. If the analysis shows no significant difference between neither the slopes nor the intercepts of the regressions, one relationship is presented to express the length-weight relationship. Figure 8 shows the length-weight relationship for both sexes in 1999.

Data available show that *M. berglax* has a prolonged life cycle and multiaged population structure with differences in growth and mortality between males and females. The complex multy-mode length structure and a slow growth is characteristic of deepwater fishes, including grenadiers (Hureau *et al*., 1979; Casas, 1994; Savvatimsky, 1994). All this results must be taken with care due to the small proportion of the roughhead grenadier distribution area covered by the survey.

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Table 1.- Total biomass of roughhead grenadier estimated by the swept area method by strata during the EU bottom survey (1988-1999).

		Biomass estimated by the swept area method (tons)											
Strata	Depth (m)	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
1 – 6	125-252								10	26			
7	253-360					0							
8	253-360		12		1					13	3		8
9	253-360	56	5		6	33	25	4	25	182	22	48	54
10	253-360	1								7	1		21
11	253-360												3
12	261-540	133	123	47	129	119	491	65	150	55	163	66	227
13	261-540	25	76	21	21	71	22	38	89	6	22	93	109
14	261-540	238	159	127	101	165		87	80	321	92	231	161
15	261-540	109	6	35	76	62	382	98	214	100	82	120	86
16	541-720	415	167	252	273	514	1586	622	305	472	251	482	179
17	541-720	159	53	37	214	146		117	153	32	138	243	114
18	541-720	370	152	170	423	256		900	492	183	267	225	372
19	541-720	884	270	325	344	510	1089	419	336	223	383	504	153
TOTAL		**2390**	**1024**	**1014**	**1587**	**1878**	**3595**	**2350**	**1855**	**1619**	**1425**	**2014**	**1488**
SOP				574	1537	1634	1775	2258	1844	1497	1411	1914	1400
Mean Length (cm)					16.03	15.04	15.31	16.45	15.04	15.24	15.81	15.13	16.04
Mean Age							8.1	7.4	6.5	7.6	8.0	7.8	8.0

Table 2.- Mean catch per trawl by strata and whole bank.

Strata	Area	Depth (m)	Average weight per trawl (Kg)											
			1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
1 – 6	467	125-252								0.16	0.68			
7	108	253-360					0.01							
8	82	253-360		0.3		0.02					0.26	0.06		0.14
9	34	253-360	2.1	0.3		0.26	1.46	0.94	0.2	1.02	6.52	0.87	2.03	2.15
10	128	253-360	0.02								0.09	0.02		0.28
11	107	253-360	-											0.06
12	90	261-540	2.5	2.6	1.0	2.47	2.31	8.79	1.08	3.12	1.08	3.04	1.28	4.19
13	31	261-540	1.4	4.2	1.2	1.16	3.36	1.13	2.01	4.85	0.33	1.18	4.83	5.05
14	72	261-540	4.2	4.3	3.1	2.08	3.61		1.87	1.69	6.4	1.92	5.07	3.52
15	85	261-540	2.2	0.1	0.7	1.59	1.29	6.78	1.84	4.09	2	1.58	2.32	1.61
16	82	541-720	7.7	3.6	5.3	5.33	9.48	29.26	11.72	6.21	9.93	5.1	9.39	3.59
17	23	541-720	8.4	3.4	2.4	13.9	6.67		6.29	8.85	1.9	8.18	13	5.81
18	22	541-720	21.9	10.7	9.8	25.1	16.52		40.03	28.38	1	16.95	13.37	20.85
19	54	541-720	26.6	9.1	10.3	10.8	15.46	29.13	12.71	10.52	6.84	12.21	15.09	4.49
Weighted averaged per trawl (Kg)			2.74	1.40	1.27	1.94	2.20	3.94	2.47	2.24	1.94	1.75	2.38	1.71
Nº of valid tows			115	116	113	117	117	101	116	121	117	117	119	117

Table 3.- Roughhead grenadier length distribution and mean AFL (,000) for each year of the 1991-1999 period.

AFL (cm)/Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	Proportion (%)
3	7	29	0	0	0	7	7	113	21	0.52
4	14	104	104	0	37	59	35	33	18	1.14
5	24	321	379	47	45	215	16	95	27	3.30
6	33	82	120	31	46	63	52	65	24	1.46
7	77	120	515	65	60	31	111	57	17	2.98
8	25	57	226	169	72	56	98	66	23	2.24
9	41	37	112	98	139	46	76	208	35	2.24
10	40	36	182	231	342	113	94	177	93	3.70
11	97	49	156	196	295	116	31	121	205	3.58
12	215	53	200	117	527	160	173	155	102	4.81
13	253	98	177	100	271	255	195	217	141	4.83
14	275	259	307	255	131	308	395	496	190	7.40
15	208	298	560	236	185	212	317	577	324	8.25
16	221	256	890	213	275	308	208	489	447	9.35
17	271	187	715	426	332	244	90	345	394	8.49
18	315	197	613	469	412	244	127	197	330	8.21
19	266	155	505	440	433	308	163	215	201	7.59
20	226	210	364	248	280	270	148	159	142	5.79
21	86	112	282	166	151	114	107	144	128	3.65
22	81	81	193	101	73	101	113	157	47	2.68
23	45	74	244	71	16	31	83	50	55	1.89
24	31	35	95	73	26	46	82	88	32	1.44
25	0	35	50	72	26	21	45	68	39	1.01
26	22	62	78	43	19	29	52	38	0	0.97
27	16	29	31	24	28	21	53	23	9	0.66
28	25	29	58	8	13	8	22	7	14	0.52
29	16	21	58	46	0	0	15	23	8	0.53
30	16	44	17	19	9	8	0	17	25	0.44
31	0	10	0	31	6	7	7	0	0	0.17
32	0	14	0	11	7	14	8	0	0	0.15
33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0.02
Total	**2946**	**3094**	**7231**	**4006**	**4256**	**3415**	**2923**	**4407**	**3091**	**100**
Mean AFL (cm)	**16.03**	**15.04**	**15.31**	**16.45**	**15.04**	**15.24**	**15.81**	**15.13**	**16.04**	**15.52**

Table 4.- Mean Age-Length key (1994-1999).

Males	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**Total**
3	3	1														4
4	2	5														7
5		7														7
6		8	6													14
7		1	12													13
8		2	11	5												18
9		1	12	17	1											31
10			6	27	7											40
11			2	18	19	2										41
12			1	3	24	20	7									55
13				2	15	27	13									57
14					12	27	17	9	1							66
15					2	18	22	13	4							59
16					2	16	29	21	14	2	1					85
17						9	20	18	15	14	1					77
18						1	10	22	19	17	14	2	1			86
19							6	13	18	19	18	8	3	1	1	87
20								3	12	17	9	19	6	2		68
21								1	9	5	10	12	7	3		47
22										2	2	4	2	1		11
23													1	1		2
24														1		1
Total	**5**	**25**	**50**	**72**	**82**	**120**	**124**	**100**	**92**	**76**	**55**	**45**	**20**	**9**	**1**	**876**
Mean AFL (cm)	**3.4**	**5.5**	**8.2**	**10.0**	**12.2**	**14.1**	**15.5**	**16.9**	**18.1**	**18.8**	**19.3**	**20.2**	**20.5**	**21.2**	**19.0**	
St. Dv.	**0.55**	**1.42**	**1.46**	**1.09**	**1.43**	**1.60**	**1.80**	**1.65**	**1.72**	**1.37**	**1.29**	**0.98**	**1.19**	**1.47**		

Table 4.- (continued)

Females	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Total
3	3																		3
4		5																	5
5		15																	15
6		11	9																20
7		10	22																32
8		2	23	7															32
9			14	19	1														34
10			8	30	10														48
11			1	20	21	2													44
12				10	20	19	1	1											51
13				1	22	25	8	1	1										58
14					13	24	14	7											58
15					4	23	19	16	4	1									67
16					2	11	22	15	7	2									59
17						6	23	19	12	1									61
18							13	19	15	6									53
19							3	18	26	13	2	2							64
20								8	20	20	10	5							63
21								4	12	17	11	5	3						52
22									4	13	20	12	7	3					59
23									2	2	8	9	8	1	2				32
24									1	5	7	9	14	4	2				42
25										1	6	4	10	8	3				32
26										1	1	10	4	2	5	2			25
27										1	1	1	6	7	5		1		22
28													3	4	3	1			11
29												1	1	1	4	3			10
30											1		1	2	4		1		9
31															1	1		1	3
32												1		1	1	1			4
34																1			1
Total	**3**	**43**	**77**	**87**	**93**	**110**	**103**	**108**	**104**	**83**	**67**	**59**	**57**	**33**	**30**	**9**	**2**	**1**	**1069**
Mean AFL	**3.0**	**5.7**	**7.9**	**10.1**	**12.3**	**13.9**	**15.8**	**17.2**	**18.9**	**20.6**	**22.3**	**23.4**	**24.5**	**26.0**	**27.2**	**29.3**	**28.5**	**31.0**	
St. Dv.		**1.09**	**1.22**	**1.16**	**1.50**	**1.48**	**1.60**	**1.95**	**1.93**	**2.08**	**1.98**	**2.45**	**2.06**	**2.38**	**2.36**	**2.65**	**2.12**		

Table 5.- Age compostition by sexes in Flemish Cap (1993-1999)

	1993			1994			1995			1996		
Age	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**	**Males**	**Female**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**
2		8	8		9	9	20	38	58	46	24	70
3	112	248	359	17	36	53	92	104	196	35	79	114
4	173	162	335	143	121	264	190	247	437	116	84	200
5	120	151	271	108	139	247	360	443	803	149	172	321
6	445	207	652	187	101	288	324	259	583	365	194	559
7	621	570	1190	224	104	328	385	180	565	191	157	348
8	437	413	850	169	134	303	343	240	583	232	127	359
9	309	353	663	124	160	284	162	192	354	167	85	252
10	278	257	535	42	133	175	41	111	152	199	127	326
11	248	327	575		113	113		39	39	226	97	323
12	128	205	334	28	50	78		33	33	68	52	120
13	69	149	218		47	47		27	27	15	34	49
14	6	62	67					7	7		44	44
15		85	85		22	22		22	22		5	5
16		31	31								14	14
Total	**2946**	**3228**	**6174**	**1042**	**1169**	**2211**	**1917**	**1942**	**3859**	**1809**	**1295**	**3104**
Mean Age	**7.79**	**8.39**	**8.10**	**6.79**	**7.93**	**7.39**	**6.33**	**6.57**	**6.45**	**7.62**	**7.60**	**7.61**
S.D.	**2.37**	**3.10**	**2.79**	**1.93**	**2.88**	**2.54**	**1.76**	**2.56**	**2.20**	**2.53**	**3.09**	**2.78**

	1997			1998			1999			Total		
Age	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**	**Males**	**Female**	**Total**	**Males**	**Female**	**Total**	**Males**	**Female**	**Total**
1				26	13	39	10		10	36	13	49
2	14	21	35	63	130	193		36	36	143	266	409
3	83	149	232	119	135	254	20	34	54	478	785	1262
4	53	106	159	125	121	246	128	81	209	928	922	1850
5	73	89	162	90	49	139	108	83	191	1008	1126	2134
6	214	230	444	141	201	342	92	153	245	1768	1345	3113
7	284	309	593	411	322	733	303	143	446	2419	1785	4203
8	59	110	169	549	410	959	383	278	661	2172	1712	3884
9	71	111	182	125	155	280	274	210	484	1232	1266	2499
10	78	63	141	156	120	276	131	113	244	925	924	1849
11	74	130	204	101	73	174	87	55	142	736	834	1570
12	103	127	230	99	149	248	48	59	107	474	675	1150
13	44	110	154	60	147	207	25	49	74	213	563	776
14	15	55	70	34	68	102	35	47	82	90	283	372
15		56	56		61	61	5	39	44	5	290	295
16		18	18		31	31		4	4	0	98	98
17					15	15			0	0	15	15
18		18	18						0	0	18	18
Total	**1165**	**1702**	**2867**	**2099**	**2200**	**4299**	**1649**	**1384**	**3033**	**12627**	**12920**	**25547**
Mean Age	**7.60**	**8.24**	**7.98**	**7.53**	**8.12**	**7.83**	**7.9**	**8.2**	**8.0**	**7.42**	**7.91**	**7.67**
S.D.	**2.84**	**3.60**	**3.33**	**2.74**	**3.58**	**3.21**	**2.35**	**2.96**	**2.65**	**2.45**	**3.21**	**2.87**

Table 6a.- Logarithmic growth regression curves, fitted to mean length at age data, for male and female roughhead grenadier from EU Survey (1993-1999).

	MALES		FEMALES	
Year	Regression	r^2	Regression	r^2
1999	AFL (cm) = 7.4754 Ln (A) + 1.1001	0.9621	AFL (cm) = 9.6124 Ln (A) - 1.1061	0.9240
1998	AFL (cm) = 7.1799 Ln (A) + 1.3319	0.9678	AFL (cm) = 9.5935 Ln (A) - 1.4863	0.9183
1997	AFL (cm) = 8.7078 Ln (A) - 1.6519	0.9925	AFL (cm) = 12.118 Ln (A) - 6.4209	0.9546
1996	AFL (cm) = 8.9440 Ln (A) - 1.6428	0.9911	AFL (cm) = 12.241 Ln (A) - 6.1702	0.9551
1995	AFL (cm) = 8.8152 Ln (A) - 0.2014	0.9509	AFL (cm) = 12.268 Ln (A) - 5.1506	0.9503
1994	AFL (cm) = 13.034 Ln (A) - 8.1095	0.9241	AFL (cm) = 12.394 Ln (A) - 5.4082	0.9412
1993	AFL (cm) = 8.8156 Ln (A) - 1.8999	0.9861	AFL (cm) = 12.999 Ln (A) - 8.6786	0.9794

Table 6b.- Parameters of the Von Bertalanffy growth curves by sex for the EU Survey 1993-1999.

	MALES			FEMALES		
Year	**t_o**	**L**	**K**	**t_o**	**L**	**K**
1999	-0,132	27,9	0,104	0,405	57,8	0,044
1998	0,270	27,5	0,109	0,460	46,3	0,056
1997	1,425	22,9	0,176	0,533	51,2	0,050
1996	0,490	23,5	0,172	0,346	77,0	0,032
1995	-1,576	37,1	0,073	-0,681	51,9	0,053
1994	1,768	22,8	0,254	-0,054	57,6	0,048
1993	1,074	21,9	0,197	0,634	46,4	0,060

Table 7.- Length weight relationship for roughhead grenadier males and females from EU Survey (1993-1999). A comparison between regression was made and when there were no significances differences neither between slopes nor intercept only one relationship was built for both sexes.

	MALES		**FEMALES**		**BOTH**			
Year	Regression	r^2	Regression	r^2	Regression	r^2	P slope	P inter.
1999	$W (g) = 0.1290 * AFL (cm)^{2.8670}$	0.9718	$W (g) = 0.1174 * AFL (cm)^{2.8950}$	0.9866	$W (g) = 0.1220 * AFL (cm)^{2.8841}$	0.9813	0.445	0.124
1998	$W (g) = 0.1338 * AFL (cm)^{2.8621}$	0.9669	$W (g) = 0.1199 * AFL (cm)^{2.9015}$	0.9866	$W (g) = 0.1253 * AFL (cm)^{2.8861}$	0.9799	0.265	0.763
1997	$W (g) = 0.1209 * AFL (cm)^{2.8840}$	0.9812	$W (g) = 0.1202 * AFL (cm)^{2.8898}$	0.9923			0.574	0
1996	$W (g) = 0.1244 * AFL (cm)^{2.8889}$	0.9802	$W (g) = 0.1367 * AFL (cm)^{2.8536}$	0.9851	$W (g) = 0.1309 * AFL (cm)^{2.8697}$	0.9828	0.1277	0.0821
1995	$W (g) = 0.1131 * AFL (cm)^{2.9409}$	0.9818	$W (g) = 0.1139 * AFL (cm)^{2.9344}$	0.9859	$W (g) = 0.1139 * AFL (cm)^{2.9359}$	0.9844	0.2781	0.8521
1994	$W (g) = 0.1489 * AFL (cm)^{2.8437}$	0.9694	$W (g) = 0.1015 * AFL (cm)^{2.9935}$	0.9895			0.002	0
1993	$W (g) = 0.0793 * AFL (cm)^{3.0883}$	0.9734	$W (g) = 0.1016 * AFL (cm)^{2.9934}$	0.9895			0	0

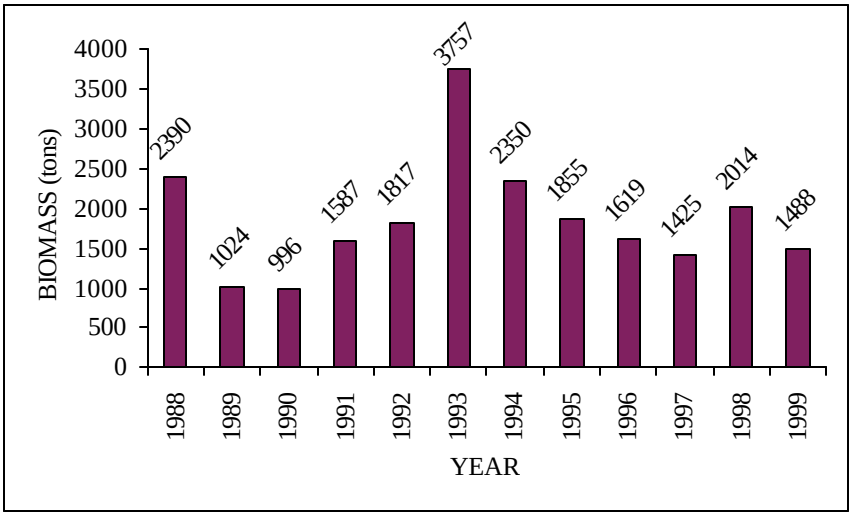


Figure 1. Total biomass estimated by the swept area method for the area studied during the EU bottom trawl survey (1988-1999).

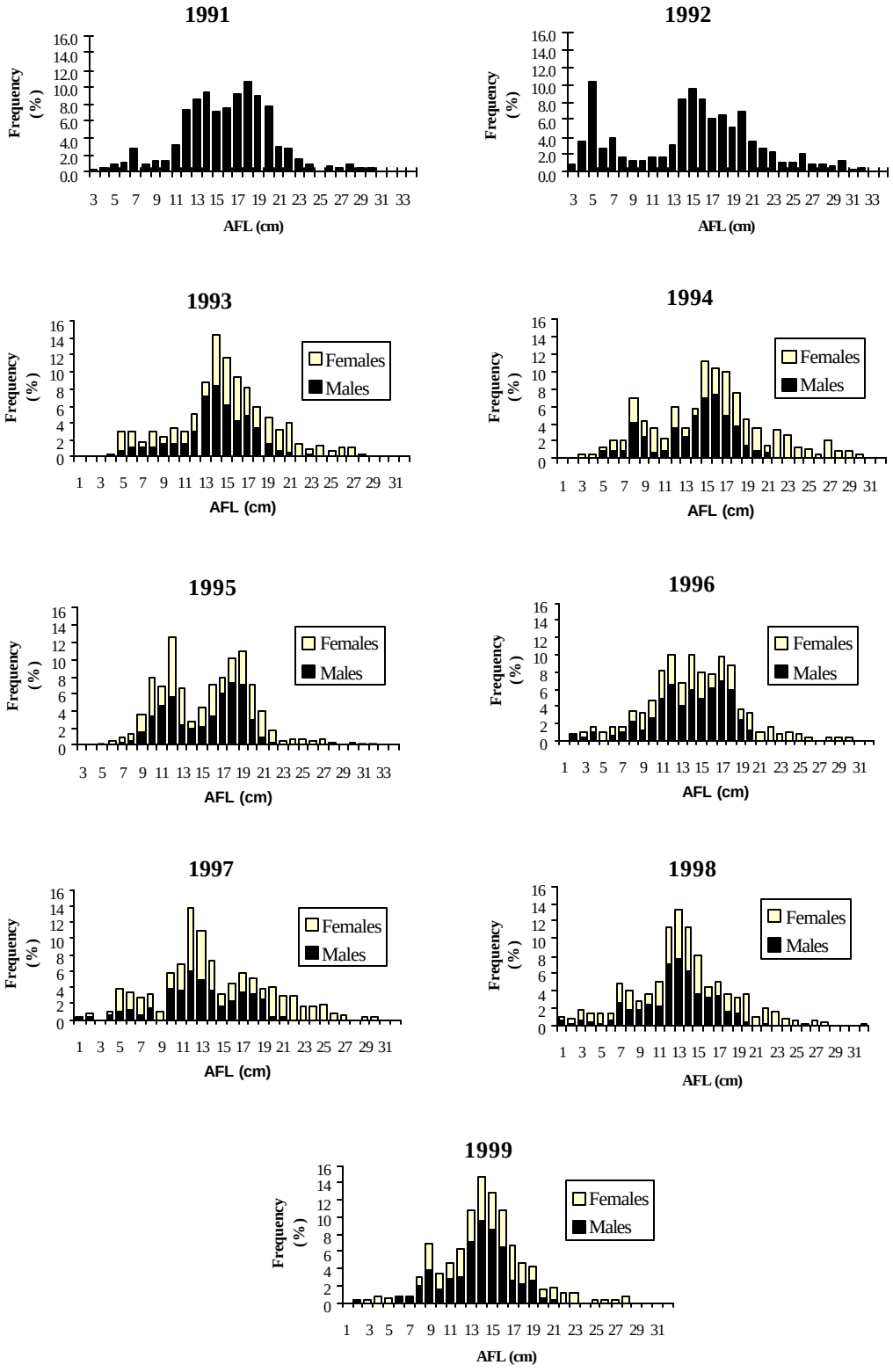


Figure 2. Annual length distribution by sex (except 1991-1992), Flemish Cap 1991-1999.

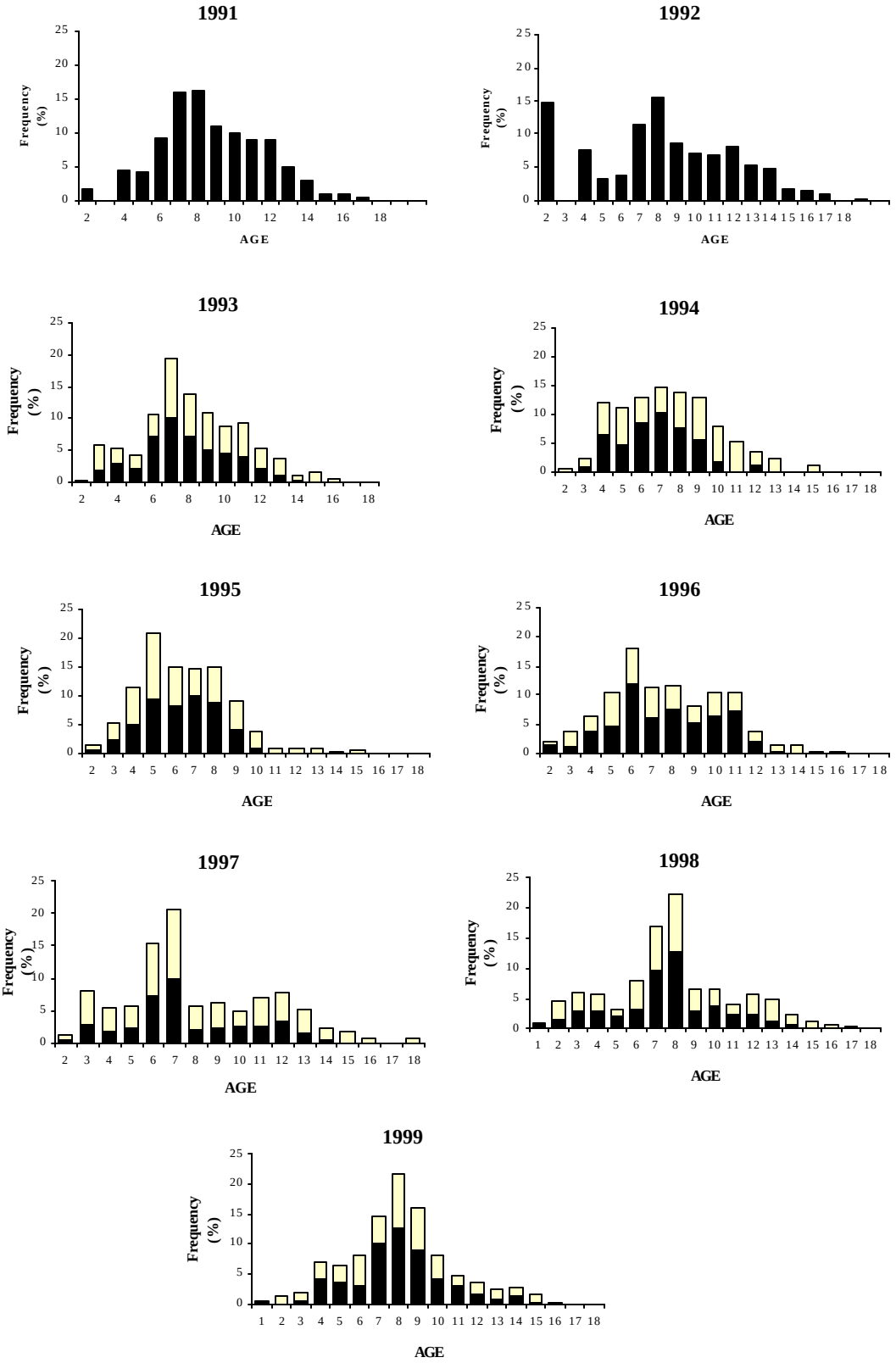


Figura 3. Annual age composition by sex, Flemish Cap 1991-1999.

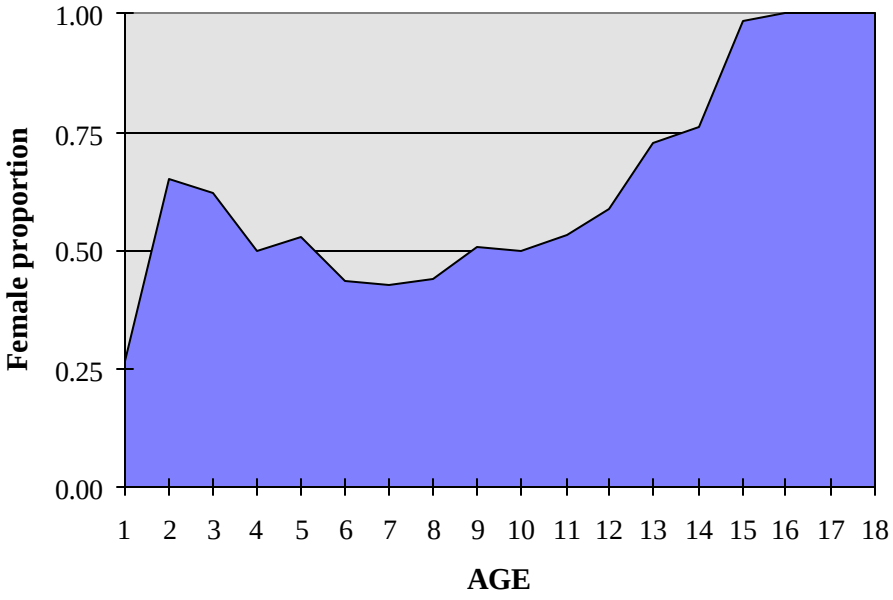


Figure 4. Female ratio by age in Flemish Cap 1993-1999.

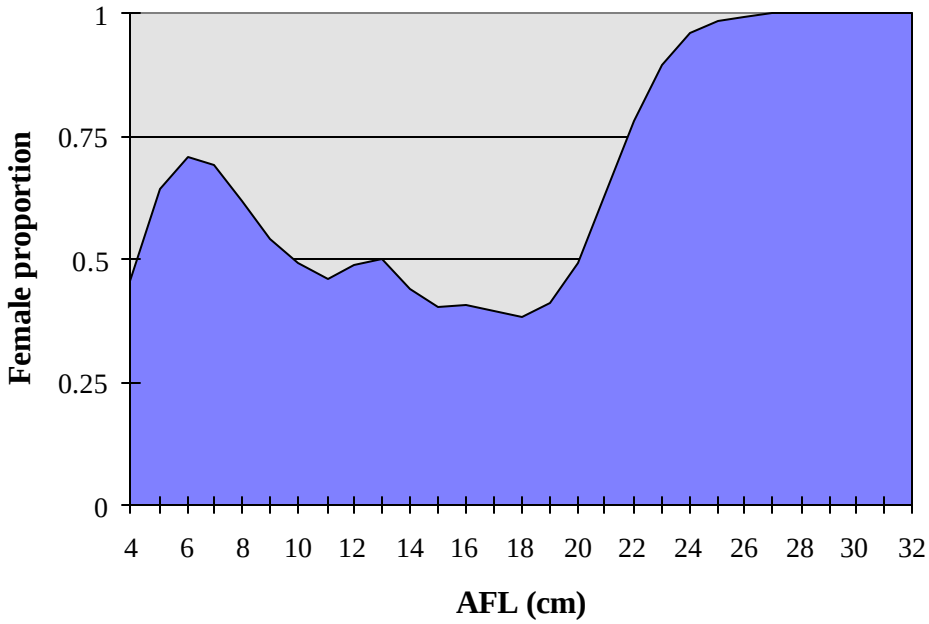
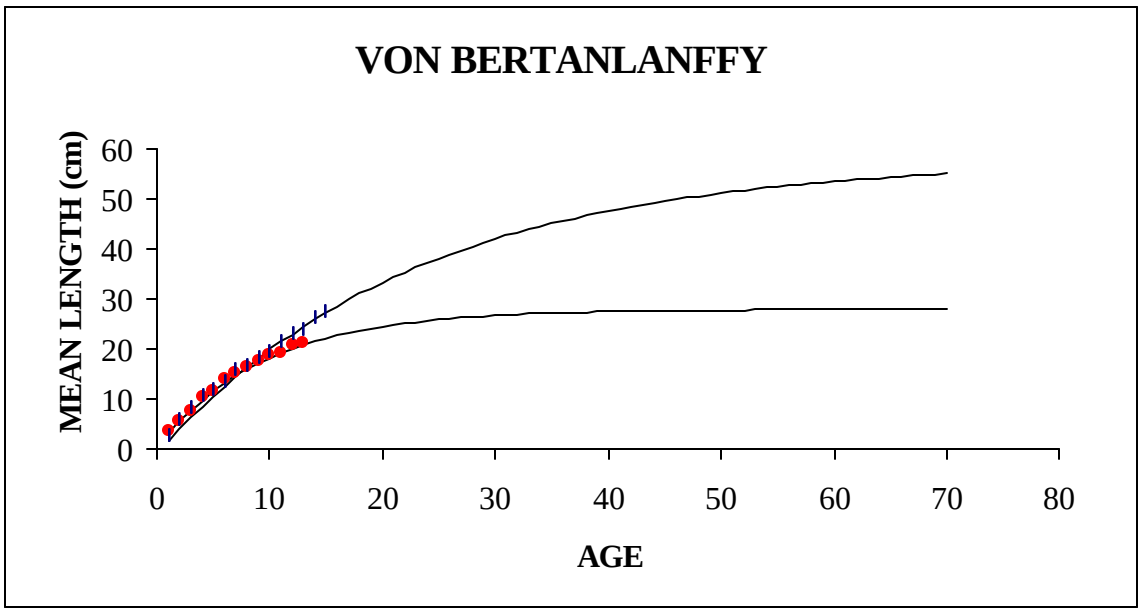


Figure 5. Female ratio by length in Flemish Cap 1993-1999.

A



B

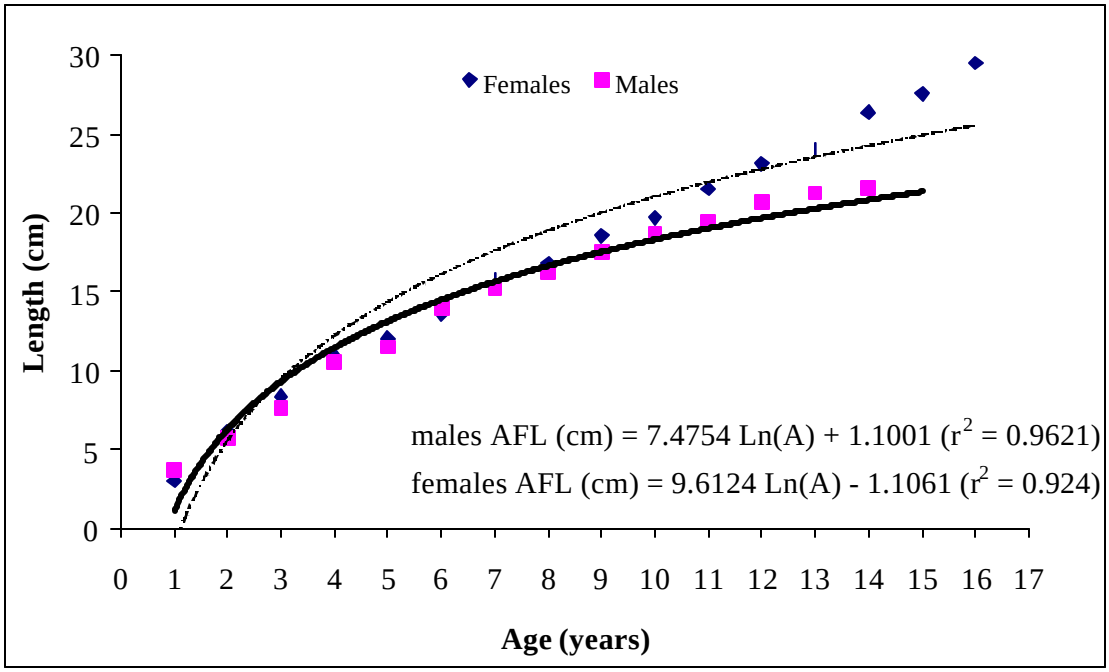


Figure 6 a and b. Von Bertanlanffy (a) and logarithmic (b) growth curve by sexes in Flemish Cap 1999**.**

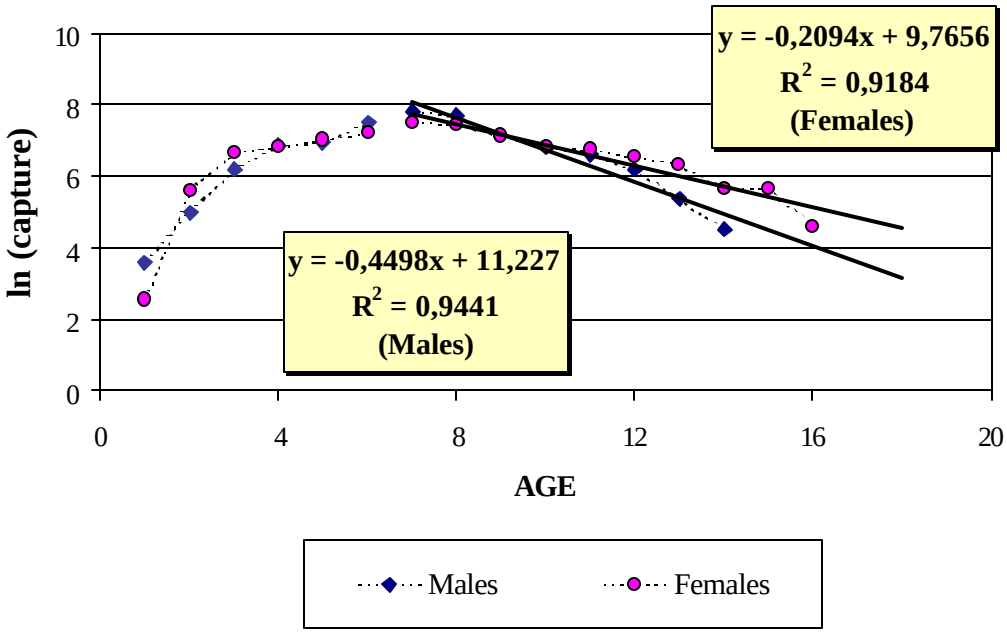


Figure 7. Catch curves by sex for roughhead grenadier in Flemish Cap 1994-1999.

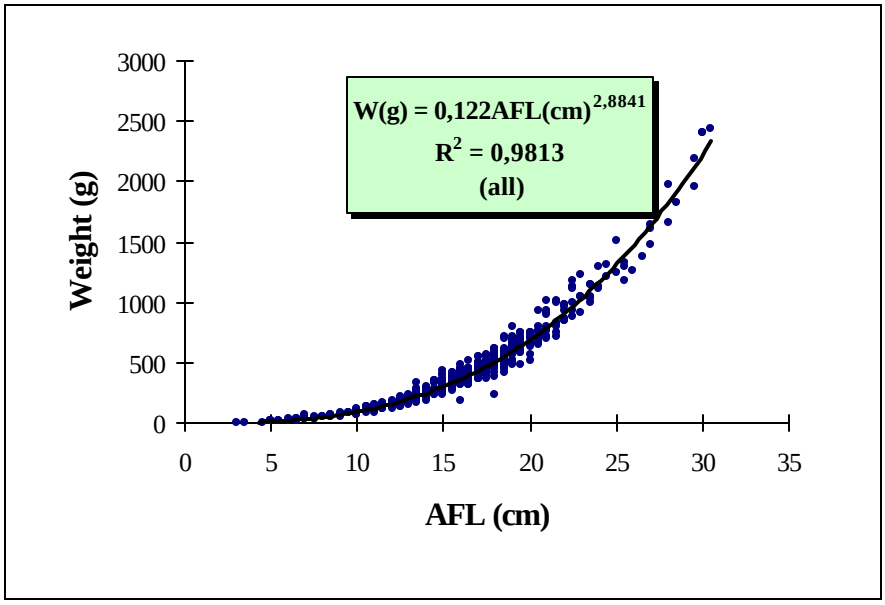


Figure 8. Length weight relationship for roughhead grenadier, both sexes, in 1999.