Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization

Serial No. N5585 **NAFO SCR Doc. 08/56**

NAFO/ICES WG *PANDALUS* ASSESSMENT GROUP – OCTOBER 2008

The Norwegian fishery for northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) in the Barents Sea and round Svalbard

by

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Abstract

The resource of northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) in the Barents Sea is assessed as one stock. The fishery is multinational. Catches have ranged between 25 and 128 ktons. Norway accounts for 70-92% of the landings. The fishery is managed by effort control. Discard of small shrimp and by-catch of other species is believed to be low.

Overall catches have declined from 83 ktons in 2000 to 26 ktons in 2007 due to reduced market prices for shrimp products, and a major restructuring of the fleet has taken place. Catches in 2008 is projected at 23 ktons. A standardised catch-per-unit-effort series indicate a slight decline in stock density from 2000 to 2004 and a large increase thereafter to a peak in 2006. The index for 2008 is down approx. 14% as compared to 2006. A standardised effort series indicate a declining trend in fishing mortality since 2000.

Introduction

The resource of northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) in the Barents Sea (Fig. 1) within the Norwegian EEZ and in the Svalbard zone (ICES Div I and II) is for assessment purposes considered as one stock. Norwegian and Russian vessels exploit the stock in the entire area while vessels from other nations are restricted to the Svalbard fisheries zone.

The fishery was initiated in 1970 by Norwegian vessels. As the fishery developed, vessels from several nations joined and catches reached some 128 ktons in 1984 (Fig. 3). During the recent decade annual yields have varied between 26 and 83 ktons. Norwegian vessels accounted for around 70-92% of the total catches and vessels from Russia, Iceland, Greenland and the EU for the rest (Tab. 1).

The fishery is regulated by effort control: licences are required for the Russian and Norwegian vessels and the fleets operating in the Svalbard zone is regulated by number of effective fishing days and number of vessels by country. Minimum mesh size is 35mm. Other species and small shrimp are protected by mandatory sorting grids and by temporary closing of areas where excessive by-catch of juvenile cod, haddock, Greenland halibut, redfish and shrimp<15mm carapace length (measured in catch samples taken by independent observers).

A major restructuring of the fleet towards fewer and larger vessels has taken place since the mid 1990s. The fleet is now largely composed of a group of large freeze or factory trawlers (>2000HP (HP=engine horsepower)) and a smaller group of <500HP vessels. Trawling is mainly performed using two or three trawls simultaneously.

The present paper updates available information derived from catch statistics, logbooks and catch sampling from the Norwegian trawl fishery for shrimp in the Barents Sea (ICES Div. I and II).

Materials and methods

Logbook data were analysed to show the spatial and temporal distribution of the fishery and fleet composition. Catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) data from Norwegian vessels were used in multiplicative models to calculate standardised annual catch rate indices (Hvingel et al., 2000). A Standardised effort series was derived by dividing total catch by the standardised CPUE.

The CPUE indices included the following variables: (1) vessel fishing power grouped by engine size, (2) seasonal availability of shrimp, (3) spatial availability of shrimp, (4) gear type (single, double or triple trawl) and (5) annual mean CPUE. The calculations were done using the SAS statistical software (Anon., 1988). The area definition used is similar to the stratification used in the 1980-2004 survey (Hvingel, 2007). The multiplicative model was represented in logarithmic form as:

$$\ln\left(CPUE_{kjmhi}\right) = \ln\left(u\right) + \ln\left(V_k\right) + \ln\left(S_j\right) + \ln\left(A_m\right) + \ln(G_h) + \ln\left(Y_i\right) + e_{kjmhi}$$

Where $CPUE_{kjmhi}$ is the mean CPUE for vessel k, fishing in area m in month j during year i with geartype h (k = 1,...,n; m = 1,…,a; j = 1,…,s; i = 1,…,y; h=1,2,3); ln(u) is overall mean ln($CPUE$); V_k is the effect of the k^{th} vessel; S_j is the effect of the j^{th} month; A_m is effect of the m^{th} area; G_h is the effect of grar type h; Y_i is the effect of the i^{th} year; e_{kjmhi} is the error term assumed to be normally distributed $N(0,\sigma^2/n)$ where n is the number of observations in the cell. The standardised CPUE indices are the antilog of the year coefficient.

The fishing powers, V, were estimated at individual vessel level. Previously (before 2008) vessels were grouped by engine power and each group was one level in the model. The change was made in order not to have the year effects (the biomass indices) confounded by the recent restructuring of the fleet. Supposedly the least effective vessels are the ones leaving the fishery, which again would make the fishing power of the vessel groups increase. By using individual vessels as the unit of fishing power this concern is now accommodated.

Results

Spatial and seasonal distribution

The fishery is conducted mainly in the Hopen area (central Barents Sea) which, along with the Svalbard shelf, is considered the most important fishing ground (Fig. 1). The fishery takes place in all months but may in certain years be restricted by ice conditions. The lowest intensity is generally seen in October through March, the highest in May to August (Fig. 2).

Landings

Since the early 1980s annual landings have varied in a cyclic manner with local minima and maxima separated by periods of 4-5 years (Fig. 3). Overall catches have ranged from 25 to 128 ktons. The most recent peak was seen in 2000 at approximately 83 ktons. Catches thereafter declined to 30 ktons in 2006 and 2007. Based on data until August (logbooks and information from the industry) the total catch of 2008 is estimated at 26 ktons.

Discards and by-catch

Discard of shrimp is believed to be small as the fishery is not catch regulated. Small cod, haddock, Greenland halibut and redfish in the size range of 5-25 cm are caught as by-catch. The by-catch of small cod ranged between 2 and 67 million individuals/yr since 1997, while 1-9 million haddock/yr and 0.5 to 14 million Greenland halibut/yr was registered since 2000 (Table 3). Details on by-catch are reported to AFWG (ICES, 2007).

Fleet composition and gear
A major restructuring of the fleet towards fewer and larger vessels has taken place since the mid 1990s. An average vessel had at that time around 1000 HP. 10 year later this value had increased to more than 4000 HP (Fig. 4).

Until 1996 the fishery was conducted by using single trawls only. Double trawls were then introduced and in 2002 approximately 2/3 the total effort spent was by using two trawls simultaneously (Fig. 6). In 2000 a few vessels started to experiment with triple trawls: 30% of the effort in 2007 and 2008 is accounted for by this fishing method.

Standardised CPUE
The fishery dependent index of stock biomass – the standardised CPUE – is indicative of shrimp greater than 16 mm cpl., i.e. of the older male and the female stock combined.

The standardised CPUE declined by 60% from a maximum in 1984 to the lowest value of the time series in 1987 (Fig. 7) (Tab. 2). Since then it has showed an overall increasing trend. A new peak was reached in 2006. The 2008 mean value is about 14% lower than the 2006-value, but is still above the average of the series.

A unique vessel identifier (e.g. registration id, call sign) was not readily available in logbooks until year 2000. Therefore fishing power has in previous assessments been treated on the level of vessel groups, sorted by intervals of engine size (HP) rather than on an individual vessel level. In the recent years many vessels have left the fishery – presumably the least effective ones – which could mean changes (improvements) of the fishing efficiency of the vessel groups and thus bias the standardised CPUE as a stock biomass indicator (Hvingel and Thangstad 2007).

Some detective work using a somewhat stable vessel registration number and time lines of associated information on vessel GRT, HP and length we were able to determine when the registration number 'changed vessel'. Based on this, a new and unique vessel ID could be constructed.

A new index series based on individual vessels as levels of fishing power was not significantly different from the old one using vessel groups (Fig. 6). However, the overall increase from 1986 to 2007 is lower as well as the recent increase from 2004-2006, and the difference between the peaks in 1999 and 2006 smaller.
This indicates that the 'old' series based on vessel groups may have slightly overestimated the recent improvement in stock density.

Effort
Standardised effort has shown a declining trend since 2000 (Fig. 7).

References

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Table 1. Nominal landings (‘000 tons) by nation (2008 catch is estimated based on data until August).

Year	Norway	Russia	Others	total
1970	5.508	0	0	5.508
1971	5.116	0	0	5.116
1972	6.772	0	0	6.772
1973	6.921	0	0	6.921
1974	8.008	0.992	0	9.000
1975	8.197	0	0.002	8.199
1976	9.752	0.548	0	10.300
1977	6.78	12.774	4.854	24.408
1978	20.484	15.859	0	36.343
1979	25.435	10.864	0.39	36.689
1980	35.061	11.219	0	46.280
1981	32.713	10.897	1.011	44.621
1982	43.451	15.552	3.835	62.838
1983	70.798	29.105	4.903	104.806
1984	76.636	43.180	8.246	128.062
1985	82.123	32.104	10.262	124.489
1986	48.569	10.216	6.538	65.323
1987	31.353	6.690	5.324	43.367
1988	32.021	12.32	4.348	48.689
1989	47.064	12.252	3.432	62.748
1990	54.182	20.295	6.687	81.164
1991	39.272	29.434	6.156	74.862
1992	39.603	20.944	8.021	68.568
1993	33.109	22.397	0.806	56.312
1994	20.116	7.108	1.063	28.287
1995	19.337	3.564	2.319	25.220
1996	25.445	5.747	3.320	34.512
1997	29.079	1.493	5.164	35.736
1998	44.792	4.895	6.1031	55.790
1999	52.612	10.765	12.292	75.669
2000	55.333	19.596	8.2413	83.170
2001	43.031	5.846	8.659	57.536
2002	48.799	3.790	8.899	61.488
2003	34.172	2.186	1.599	37.957
2004	35.918	1.170	4.211	41.299
2005	36.966	0.933	3.519	41.418
2006	27.352	0.000	2.282	29.634
2007	26.154	0.009	4.252	30.415
2008	23.000	0	3.000	26.000

Table 2. Nominal landings, realised catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) and effort (hrs trawled), and standardised (se text) CPUE and effort as proxies for fishable biomass and fishing mortality respectively. Norwegian data. (2008 values are estimated based on data until August).

	Absolute		Standardised	
year	CPUE	Effort	CPUE	Effort
	kg/hr	'000 hrs	index	index
1980	186	188.760	1.00	1.00
1981	216	151.709	1.19	0.81
1982	198	219.393	1.15	1.18
1983	231	306.022	1.31	1.73
1984	250	306.487	1.38	2.00
1985	231	355.971	1.15	2.35
1986	154	314.910	0.68	2.08
1987	116	270.492	0.53	1.76
1988	113	282.450	0.57	1.84
1989	143	330.167	0.72	1.88
1990	150	360.685	0.74	2.38
1991	171	229.728	0.78	2.08
1992	211	187.802	0.90	1.64
1993	209	158.702	0.97	1.25
1994	173	116.486	0.80	0.76
1995	150	128.761	0.67	0.81
1996	191	133.005	0.84	0.89
1997	228	127.424	0.80	0.97
1998	294	152.543	0.97	1.24
1999	295	178.274	1.02	1.60
2000	283	195.359	0.90	1.99
2001	356	120.788	0.91	1.36
2002	412	118.573	0.90	1.48
2003	386	88.441	0.88	0.93
2004	402	89.389	0.75	1.18
2005	611	60.522	1.05	0.86
2006	754	36.264	1.15	0.56
2007	866	30.203	1.05	0.63
2008	850	27.056	0.98	0.57

Table 3. Estimated bycatch of cod, haddock, Greenland halibut and redfish (million individuals)

Year	Cod	Redfish	Haddock	Gr. Halibut
1983	14.57	91		
1984	12.6	167		
1985	92.41	198		
1986	10.91	18		
1987	9.87	110		
1988	5.19	46		
1989	1.5	199		
1990	9.02	94		
1991	22.52	51		
1992	25.43	78		
1993	19.23	22		
1994	4.56	23		
1995	5.92	2		
1996	17.1	25		
1997	28.69	24		
1998	67.11	3		
1999	13.43	11		
2000	7.77	15	3.72	13.94
2001	12.87	14	1.75	7.57
2002	2.46	5	9.19	0.19
2003	15.03	0.61	5.52	0.59
2004	2.66	1.1	1.22	0.33
2005	6.46	2.01		
2006	4.9	5.09		
2007	2.52	6.49		

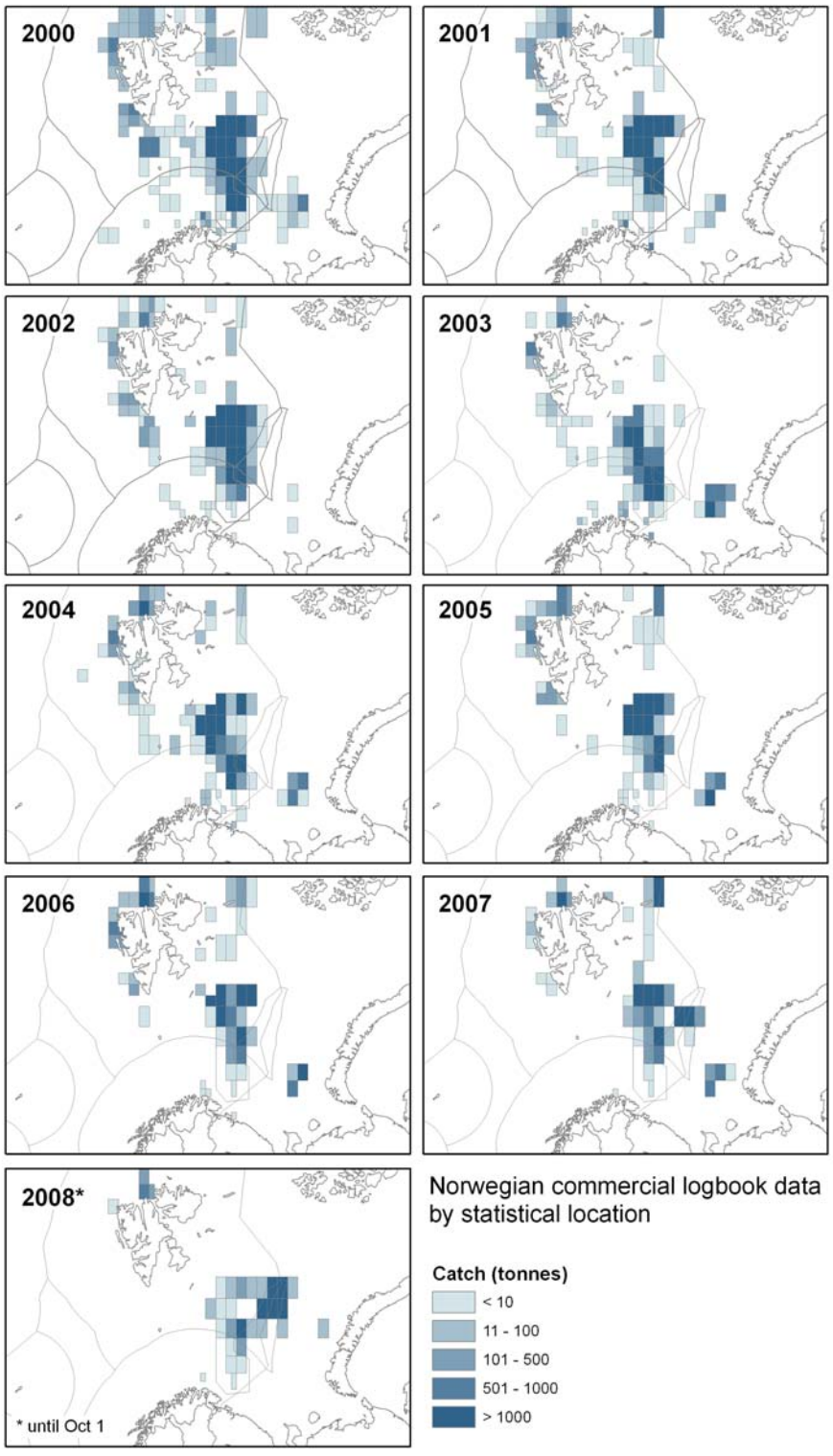


Fig. 1. Distribution of catches by Norwegian vessels 2001-2007 based on logbook information.

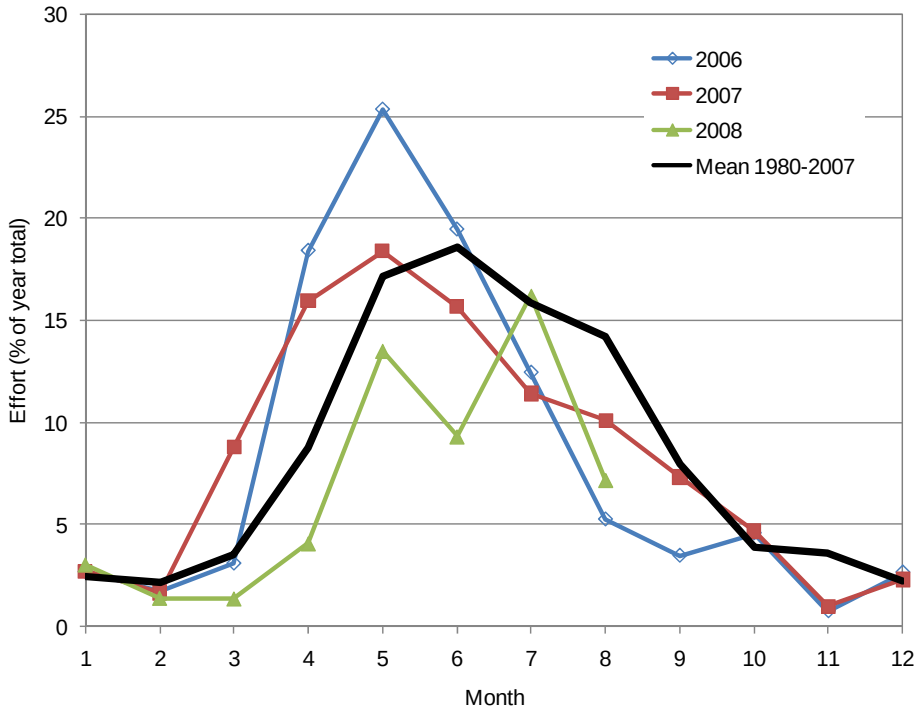


Fig. 2. Shrimp in the Barents Sea: Seasonal distribution of fishing effort 2006-2008 and mean 1980-2007. Hours trawled in a month as a percentage of total effort of the year. Norwegian data.

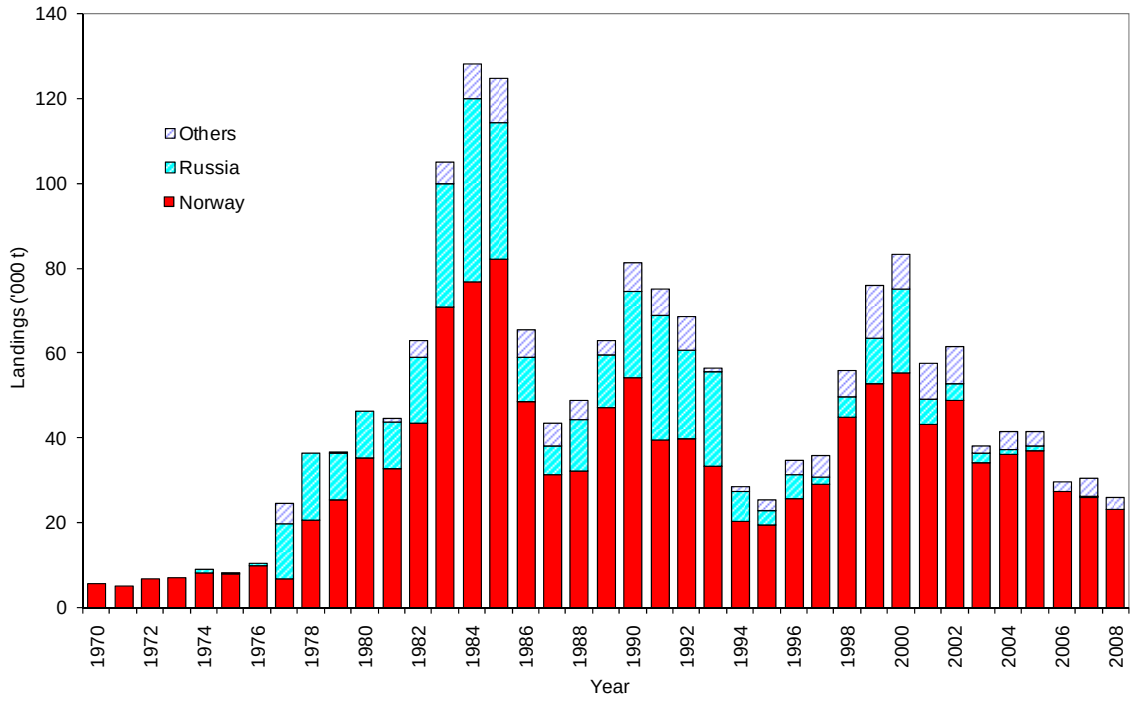


Fig. 3. Shrimp in the Barents Sea: Total annual landings. The 2008 projected value is estimated based on data until August.

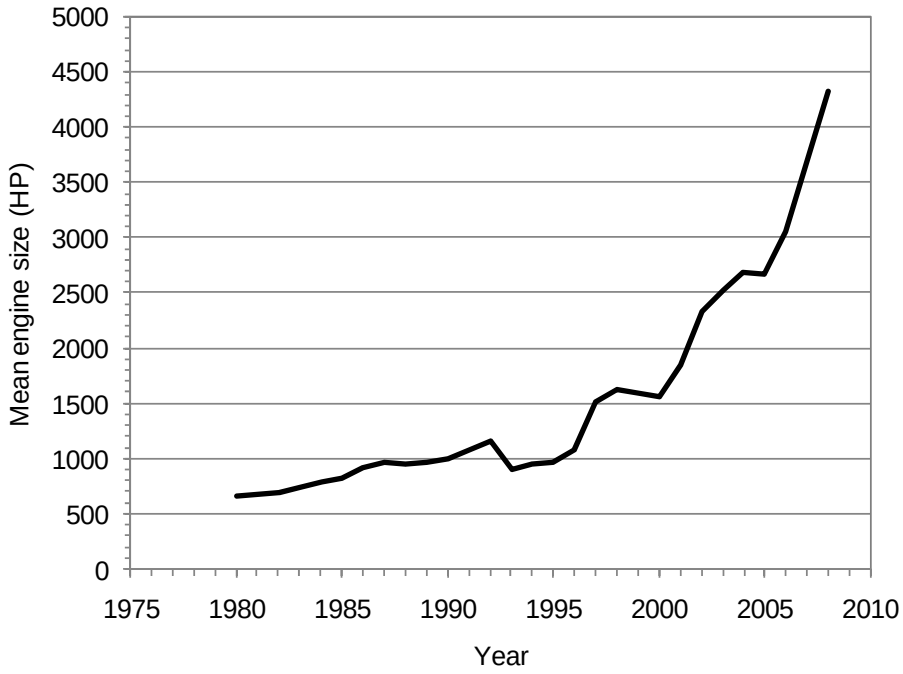


Fig. 4. Shrimp in the Barents Sea: Mean engine size (horse powers) of a vessel spending an hour of trawling in the years 1980-2008.

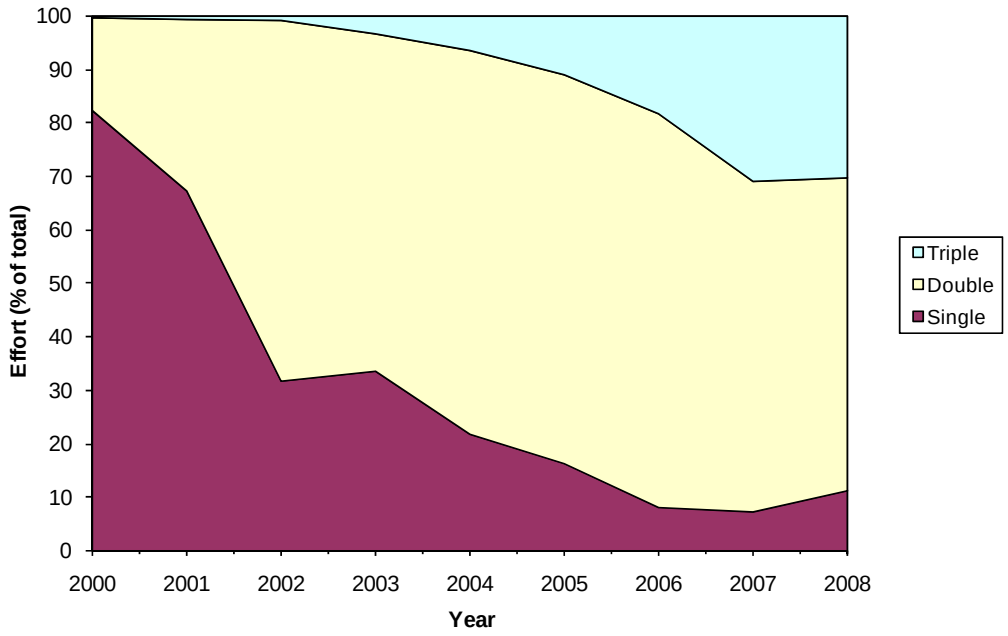


Fig. 5. Shrimp in the Barents Sea: Percentage of total fishing effort spent by using single, double or triple trawls 2000-2007. Norwegian data.

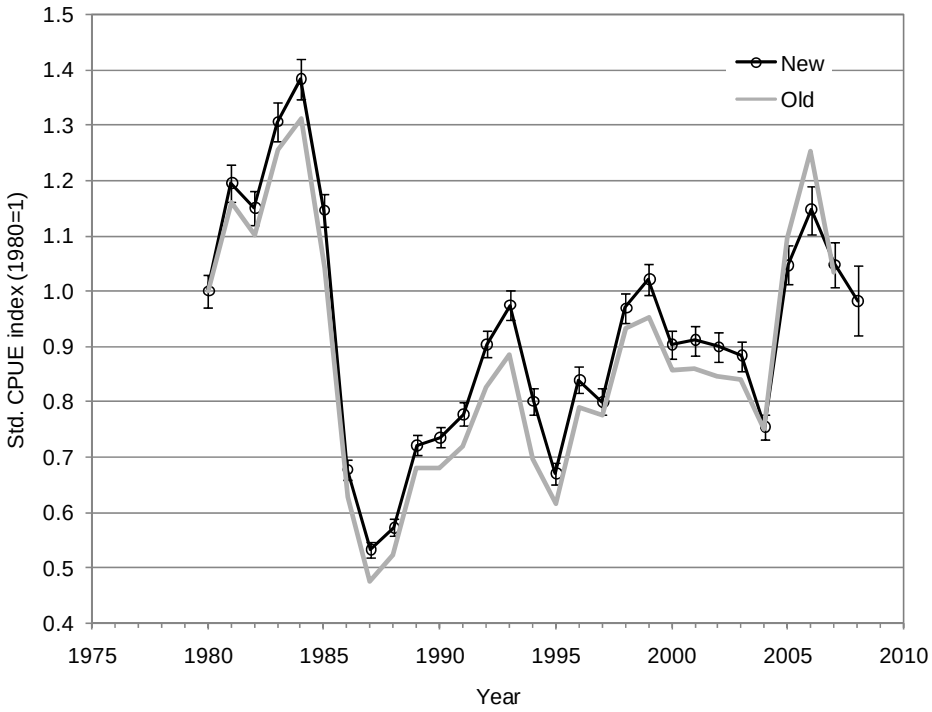


Fig 6. Shrimp in the Barents Sea: Standardised CPUE, 'Old' (used in previous assessments) and 'New' (not used before, based on new analyses, see text). Norwegian data.

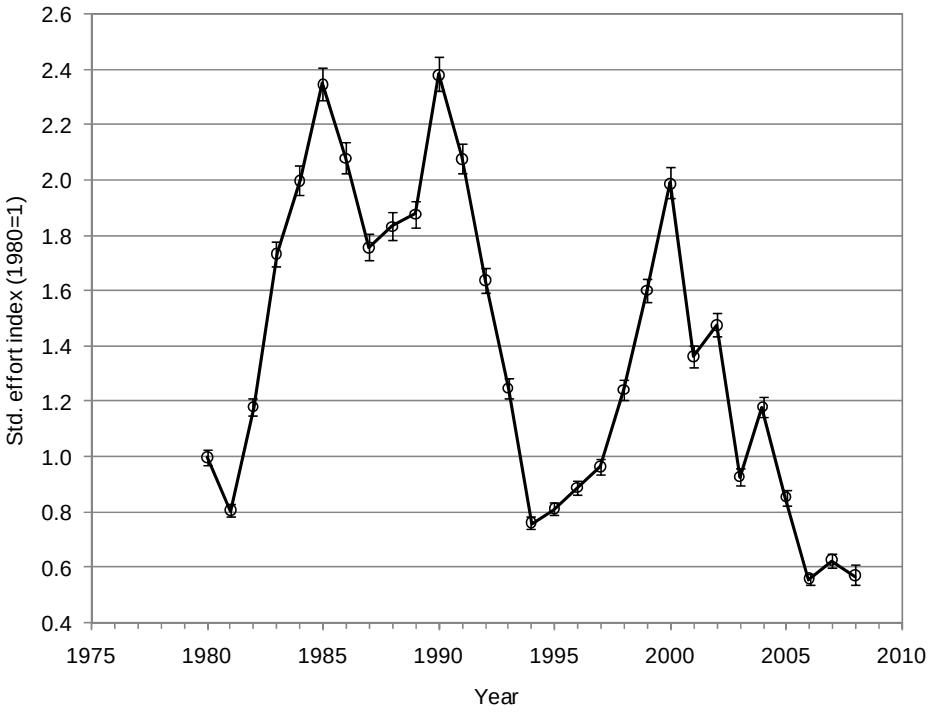


Fig 7. Shrimp in the Barents Sea: Standardised effort. Norwegian data.

Appendix 1. Output from GLM-run of the Barents Sea index. Gear 55=single trawl, grar 58=double trawl, gear 59= triple trawl. Strata definitions see Hvingel 2007. Vessels are individual vessel identification code.

Class Level Information

Class	Levels	Values
strata	8	A B C D E F G H
gear	3	55 58 59
vessel	426	Not listed
year	29	1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008
month	12	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Number of Observations Used 207213

‘

The GLM Procedure

Dependent Variable: lncpue
Weight: effort

Source	DF	Sum of Squares	Mean Square	F Value	Pr > F
Model	473	958364.644	2026.141	532.70	<.0001
Error	206739	786336.339	3.804		
Corrected Total	207212	1744700.983			

R-Square	Coeff Var	Root MSE	lncpue Mean
0.549300	37.54359	1.950262	5.194661

Source	DF	Type III SS	Mean Square	F Value	Pr > F
strata	7	16571.1242	2367.3035	622.40	<.0001
year	28	145911.5581	5211.1271	1370.08	<.0001
gear	2	167.7999	83.8999	22.06	<.0001
vessel	425	218919.3520	515.1044	135.43	<.0001
month	11	57220.7736	5201.8885	1367.65	<.0001

Parameter		Estimate		Standard Error	t Value	Pr > |t|
Intercept		3.954097435	B	0.34316473	11.52	<.0001
strata	A	-0.088067133	B	0.00546840	-16.10	<.0001
strata	B	0.065546881	B	0.00484581	13.53	<.0001
strata	C	0.069402056	B	0.00452577	15.33	<.0001
strata	D	0.022581685	B	0.00946047	2.39	0.0170
strata	E	0.192184984	B	0.00380135	50.56	<.0001
strata	F	0.035521976	B	0.00982023	3.62	0.0003
strata	G	0.015768417	B	0.00558125	2.83	0.0047
strata	H	0.000000000	B	.	.	.
year	1980	0.018661469	B	0.03245114	0.58	0.5652
year	1981	0.196505057	B	0.03253190	6.04	<.0001
year	1982	0.158096757	B	0.03216651	4.91	<.0001
year	1983	0.285134628	B	0.03196521	8.92	<.0001
year	1984	0.342562943	B	0.03192544	10.73	<.0001
year	1985	0.154279439	B	0.03185893	4.84	<.0001
year	1986	-0.370306056	B	0.03187295	-11.62	<.0001
year	1987	-0.610903686	B	0.03201639	-19.08	<.0001
year	1988	-0.537774960	B	0.03190836	-16.85	<.0001
year	1989	-0.307720074	B	0.03179631	-9.68	<.0001
year	1990	-0.288430789	B	0.03175727	-9.08	<.0001
year	1991	-0.232649771	B	0.03180489	-7.31	<.0001
year	1992	-0.082758828	B	0.03177445	-2.60	0.0092
year	1993	-0.007383966	B	0.03188181	-0.23	0.8168
year	1994	-0.202974398	B	0.03217038	-6.31	<.0001
year	1995	-0.381859979	B	0.03216101	-11.87	<.0001
year	1996	-0.156933218	B	0.03203938	-4.90	<.0001

year	1997	-0.204600061	B	0.03192839	-6.41	<.0001
year	1998	-0.012540065	B	0.03173616	-0.40	0.6927
year	1999	0.038406268	B	0.03156736	1.22	0.2237
year	2000	-0.083766576	B	0.03128338	-2.68	0.0074
year	2001	-0.074497062	B	0.03119165	-2.39	0.0169
year	2002	-0.087730665	B	0.03085913	-2.84	0.0045
year	2003	-0.106285671	B	0.03129768	-3.40	0.0007
year	2004	-0.262507584	B	0.03086511	-8.50	<.0001
year	2005	0.064158650	B	0.03085111	2.08	0.0376
year	2006	0.154824873	B	0.03160874	4.90	<.0001
year	2007	0.065143906	B	0.03223064	2.02	0.0433
year	2008	0.000000000	B	.	.	.
gear	55	-0.106994187	B	0.03055706	-3.50	0.0005
gear	58	-0.047392384	B	0.02933775	-1.62	0.1062
gear	59	0.000000000	B	.	.	.
vessel	Values not printed					
month	1	0.218138471	B	0.00921292	23.68	<.0001
month	2	0.163585355	B	0.00959884	17.04	<.0001
month	3	0.277810109	B	0.00898488	30.92	<.0001
month	4	0.203221507	B	0.00812612	25.01	<.0001
month	5	0.136558539	B	0.00771764	17.69	<.0001
month	6	0.130450941	B	0.00768286	16.98	<.0001
month	7	0.075067200	B	0.00772791	9.71	<.0001
month	8	0.014229907	B	0.00775961	1.83	0.0667
month	9	-0.159284172	B	0.00797826	-19.96	<.0001
month	10	-0.387662279	B	0.00865385	-44.80	<.0001
month	11	-0.186991332	B	0.00841359	-22.22	<.0001
month	12	0.000000000	B	.	.	.

Continues .....

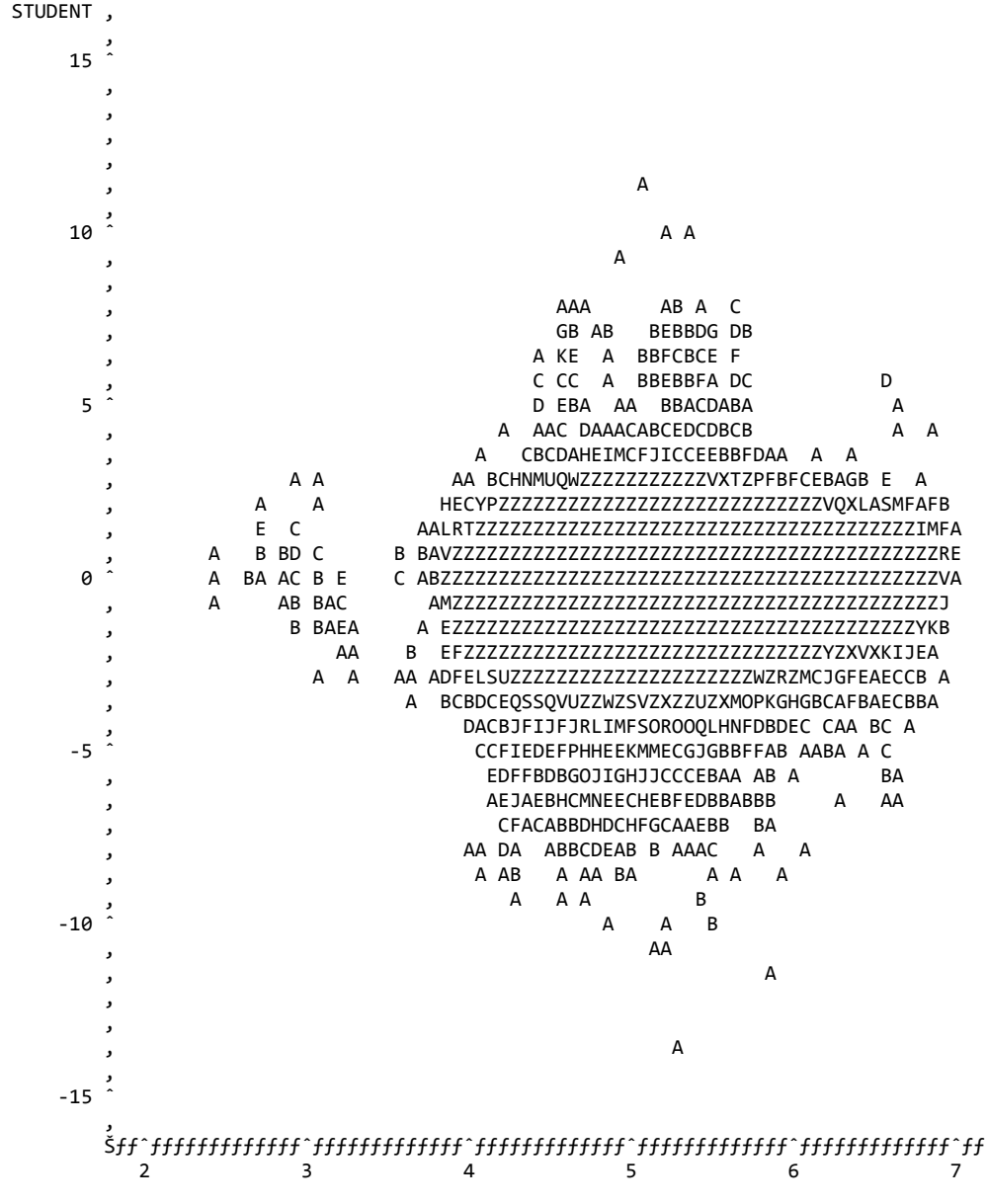
The GLM Procedure

Least Squares Means

year	lncpue LSMEAN	Standard Error	Pr > |t|
1980	5.14619466	0.01420844	<.0001
1981	5.32403825	0.01438779	<.0001
1982	5.28562995	0.01353403	<.0001
1983	5.41266782	0.01307904	<.0001
1984	5.47009614	0.01306361	<.0001
1985	5.28181263	0.01305253	<.0001
1986	4.75722714	0.01317794	<.0001
1987	4.51662951	0.01349045	<.0001
1988	4.58975823	0.01318402	<.0001
1989	4.81981312	0.01299510	<.0001
1990	4.83910240	0.01291312	<.0001
1991	4.89488342	0.01320329	<.0001
1992	5.04477436	0.01338376	<.0001
1993	5.12014923	0.01372397	<.0001
1994	4.92455879	0.01451953	<.0001
1995	4.74567321	0.01452645	<.0001
1996	4.97059997	0.01431466	<.0001
1997	4.92293313	0.01452521	<.0001
1998	5.11499313	0.01416513	<.0001
1999	5.16593946	0.01365470	<.0001
2000	5.04376662	0.01399265	<.0001
2001	5.05303613	0.01477877	<.0001
2002	5.03980253	0.01452729	<.0001
2003	5.02124752	0.01529472	<.0001
2004	4.86502561	0.01519543	<.0001
2005	5.19169184	0.01671697	<.0001
2006	5.28235807	0.01892967	<.0001
2007	5.19267710	0.01894278	<.0001
2008	5.12753319	0.03226184	<.0001

Continues.....

Plot of STUDENT*ESTIMATE. Legend: A = 1 obs, B = 2 obs, etc.



NOTE: 5 obs had missing values. 196657 obs hidden.