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Adaptive responses of tropical tuna purse-seiners under temporal regulations

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Abstract :

The failure to achieve fisheries management objectives has been broadly discussed in international meetings. Measuring the effects of fishery regulations is difficult due to the lack of detailed information. The yellowfin tuna fishery in the eastern Pacific Ocean offers an opportunity to evaluate the fishers' responses to temporal regulations. We used data from observers on-board Mexican purse-seine fleet, which is the main fleet fishing on dolphin-associated tuna schools. In 2002, the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission implemented a closed season to reduce fishing effort for this fishery. For the period 1992–2008, we analysed three fishery indicators using generalized estimating equations to evaluate the fishers' response to the closure. We found that purse-seiners decreased their time spent in port, increased their fishing sets, and maintained their proportion of successful fishing sets. Our results highlight the relevance of accounting for the fisher behaviour to understand fisheries dynamics when establishing management regulations.

Keywords : Closed season, Eastern tropical Pacific, Fisher behaviour, Purse-seine fishing, Tropical tuna

25 **Introduction**

26 Acquisition of new technology and increase in vessel size, generally have resulted on an increase
27 in fleet capacity or efficiency with the associated impacts, such as access to new fishing grounds
28 or catchability improvements (Rijnsdorp et al. 2008; Eigaard et al. 2014; Torres-Irineo et al.
29 2014). These increase in fishing capacity affects many fisheries around the world resulting in
30 overfishing and economic waste (Clark et al. 2005; Beddington et al. 2007; FAO 2008; Ye et al.
31 2013). Management regulations that address the increasing fishing capacity and fishing effort
32 have attempted to limit catches and/or reduce fishing effort through the implementation of
33 measures including total allowable catch, closed seasons, no-take zones or a combination of the
34 above (Branch et al. 2006). Most of these management measures have not fulfilled their objectives
35 because they can encourage the race for fish and excessive investment by fishers due to
36 inappropriate incentives (Branch et al. 2006; Hilborn 2007; Sumaila et al. 2016). Although the
37 importance of considering the fishers' behaviour when designing management regulations has
38 been emphasized (Salas and Gaertner 2004; Branch et al. 2006; Hilborn 2007; Fulton et al. 2011;
39 Young et al. 2016), fisheries management is still mainly conducted without considering the
40 adaptive fisher's responses.

41 Among the common tools used to reduce fishing effort and to limit catch, the closed seasons have
42 been used in many types of fisheries. The effectiveness of this measure mainly depends on the
43 species' life traits (seasonal recruitment patterns, growth rates, and natural mortality rates) and on
44 the effects of implementing or modifying the length of the seasonal closure on the fishing effort
45 pattern (Watson et al. 1993). However, the results of such actions do not always reduce fishing
46 effort, because the fishers try to maintain profitable catch levels (Dorn 1998; Branch et al. 2006;
47 Fulton et al. 2011). The expectation of an increase in biomass from the closed season can produce
48 high levels of either nominal or effective fishing effort (Watson et al. 1993).

49 With the exception of skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) whose stocks do not show evidence of
50 overfishing, the majority of the stocks of bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) and yellowfin tuna

51 (*Thunnus albacares*) in the world ocean are fully exploited. In the case of yellowfin tuna in the
52 eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO), studies have suggested that the stock is in good condition (Hampton
53 et al. 2005; Sibert et al. 2006; Juan-Jorda et al. 2011; IATTC 2015). However, all tropical tuna
54 stocks face growing fishing pressures from overcapacity and the ongoing development of
55 technology (Allen et al. 2010; Lopez et al. 2014). Because of the highly mobile nature of tuna and
56 the global size of tuna fisheries, several regional fishery management organizations (RFMOs)
57 have been established to manage these fisheries within a regional/ocean context. The RFMO for
58 the management of tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) is the Inter-American Tropical Tuna
59 Commission (IATTC). Straddling stocks are shared among exclusive economic zones (EEZs) and
60 high seas, but approximately 40% of the world's tuna are caught in the high seas, providing a
61 challenge to their conservation and management (Allen et al. 2010). Such a situation poses
62 conservation and management issues of jurisdiction under international law and multilateral
63 cooperation to define property rights and management actions (Aranda et al. 2012). Such
64 management actions need to consider the real and potential impact according to their expected
65 outcome. Some countries have implemented on-board observers to collect information that can
66 allow to better assessments and monitoring.

67 The eastern Pacific tropical tuna purse-seine fishery

68 In the EPO, the IATTC has established catch limits for yellowfin and bigeye tuna mainly because
69 of the increase in fleet size. The concern about the increase in the catches of small bigeye by the
70 purse-seine fishery led the IATTC to adopt conservation measures in 1999 to restrict fishing on
71 fish aggregating devices (FAD). However, fishing effort increased continuously, reaching levels
72 above the effort that leads to maximum sustainable yield (F_{MSY}) for both species in the 2000-2001
73 period. In 2002 the IATTC recognized that the potential production of yellowfin and bigeye tuna
74 could be reduced by this excessive fishing effort. Therefore, the IATTC considered that a
75 limitation on the fishing effort by purse-seine tuna fishing was necessary and consequently
76 implemented a closed season from 1st December to 31st December [resolution: C-02-04]. In 2004,

77 the IATTC adopted a new resolution [C-04-09] “Multi-annual program on the conservation of
78 tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean for 2004, 2005 and 2006” because of the increasing catches of
79 bigeye tuna by longliners and the continuous increase in fishing capacity. Furthermore, the
80 yellowfin and bigeye tuna stocks were at a level below that which would produce the average
81 maximum sustainable yield. This resolution established two closed seasons for purse-seine
82 fishing, one from 1st August to 11th September and the other from 20th November to 31st
83 December. Mexico as contracting country in the IATTC complied with both resolutions C-02-04
84 and C-04-09. For the latter resolution, Mexican tuna purse-seine fleets chose the closed season
85 from 20th November to 31st December. Consequently, since 2002, December has remained closed
86 for Mexican purse-seiners.

87 Several fleets that target tropical tunas in the EPO use different fishing gears, mainly longline and
88 purse-seine. The main longline fleets are Japanese, Korean, and Taiwanese, but most of the purse-
89 seiners operating in the EPO come from Ecuador, Mexico and Venezuela. Tropical tuna purse-
90 seiners in the world’s oceans mainly fish on free-swimming schools and on FADs. In the EPO,
91 large yellowfin tuna (high market value) are known to be associated with herds of dolphins (Hall
92 1998). Therefore, in addition to fishing on free-swimming schools (targeting mainly pre-adults of
93 yellowfin tuna) and on FADs (targeting mainly juveniles of yellowfin and bigeye tuna), Mexican
94 purse-seiners take advantage of this association to locate herds of dolphins and perform fishing
95 operations on dolphin-associated tuna schools (**Figure 1**). When the presence of tuna is
96 confirmed, the skipper launches four or five speedboats that chase the dolphin herd away, making
97 a wide arc typically at a distance of 100-200 m to the side and behind the herd (Hall 1998).

98 Different studies have evaluated tuna management in the EPO. These have mainly focused on
99 management objectives, specifically the use of MSY as a management target reference point
100 (Maunder 2002; Maunder and Harley 2006) . Other studies have considered the response of stocks
101 to multiple management objectives such as minimizing dolphin mortality, minimizing incidental
102 catch (all species except dolphins), maximizing sustainable yield, and minimizing biological risk

103 for the yellowfin tuna stock (Enríquez-Andrade and Vaca-Rodríguez 2004; Vaca-Rodríguez and
104 Enríquez-Andrade 2006). However, there are no references to how fishers develop adaptive
105 responses to the establishment of closed seasons, which are often used by the IATTC. In this
106 sense, tuna purse-seine fleet dynamics has been studied in the EPO in terms of fishing strategies
107 (Vaca-Rodríguez and Dreyfus-León 2000; Dreyfus-León and Vaca-Rodríguez 2003; Solana-
108 Sansores et al. 2009). The effects of a closed area on the reallocation of fishing effort have also
109 been simulated (Dreyfus-León and Kleiber 2001). In this study we focused on the Mexican purse-
110 seine fleet as a case study to show the effects of closed seasons on fleet behaviour. We used data
111 collected from observers on-board Mexican tuna purse-seiners operating in the EPO to evaluate
112 the adaptive responses of the fleet to the implementation of a closed season and its effects on
113 catch and fishing effort.

114 **Material and Methods**

115 **[[INSERT FIGURE 1 HERE]]**

116 *Fishery indicators*

117 We used data from three sources: (1) the observers' data, from 1992 to 2008, corresponding to
118 3404 Mexican fishing trips (50% coverage), which include catches of yellowfin and skipjack tuna
119 for each fishing set, (2) information from departure and return dates of each fishing trip and (3)
120 monthly time series of climate indices from NOAA, including Sea Surface temperature (SST)
121 anomalies corresponding to the Niño 3 area (5°N-5°S, 150°W-90°W), Niño 1+2 (0°-10°S, 90°W-
122 80°W), Niño 3+4 (5°N-5°S, 170°W-120°W), Niño 4 (5°N-5°S, 160°E-150°W), and the Southern
123 Oscillation Index (SOI) (<http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/data/climateindices/list/>, accessed July
124 2013). Observer program data from Mexican tuna purse-seiners operating in the EPO have been
125 collected by the *Programa Nacional de Aprovechamiento del Atún y de Protección de Delfines*
126 (PNAAPD) since 1992. Notice that the Mexican fleet is the main fleet targeting dolphin-
127 associated tuna schools while the other nations mainly fish on FADs. According to the Agreement

128 on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP) established in 1992, on-board
129 observers must: 1) gather all the information related to fishing operations performed by the purse-
130 seiner in which the observer was assigned (purse-seiner logbook, dates of departure and return,
131 target species catch, bycatch species identification, reports of marine mammals presence, fishing
132 operations); 2) make available to the captain of the purse-seiner assigned all measures established
133 in the AIDCP; 3) make available to the captain the record of dolphin mortality of that vessel; and
134 4) prepare and provide reports to the corresponding Director of the observer national program.
135 Such on-board observers' activities have been performed since 1992 in all vessels operating in the
136 EPO. Detailed description about observers' activities on-board purse-seiners is available in
137 <http://www.iattc.org/PDFFiles2/AIDCP-amended-Jul-2014.pdf>.

138 According to Watson et al. (1993), the implementation of a closed seasons might exacerbate the
139 race for fish, i.e. there is an expectation of increase in biomass resulting from the closure, which
140 in turn can promote an increase in fishing effort. Therefore, we estimated the number of days in
141 port (P), considering that this indicator is easily controlled by fishers. We estimated P using data
142 from departure and return dates on a quarterly basis because fishing trips are around 60 days long
143 and do not depart/return on the same date. In addition, to evaluate whether any change in P
144 resulted in an additional effect on the dolphin-associated tuna fishing mode, using observer data,
145 we estimated the number of sets per vessel (E) and the proportion of successful fishing sets on
146 dolphin-associated schools (R) on an annual basis. Furthermore, since E is the total number of
147 fishing sets it does not reflect how many of these sets were successful (i.e. fishing sets with catch),
148 thus we used R to evaluate whether there was an increase or decrease in the number of successful
149 fishing sets. For instance, if E increased before and after the implementation of the regulation but
150 R remained similar, we would expect an increase in the number of successful fishing sets. We are
151 aware that the number of sets does not necessarily reflect a direct effect of time spent in port by
152 purse-seiners, but they depend on the fishing efficiency and the target species abundance. In the
153 component of the fleet addressed, new technology on-board Mexican purse-seine fleet was mainly

154 implemented during the 1980s (Guillermo Compeán 2015 comm. pers.). Since the introduction of
155 FADs in the tropical tuna purse-seine fishery during the 1990s, the main technological
156 development has mainly been on this fishing mode. Therefore, because Mexican purse-seiners are
157 specialist in fishing on dolphin-associated tuna schools, we assumed that fishing efficiency has
158 remained stable over the analysed period (1992-2008).

159 On the other hand, we acknowledge that tuna availability depends largely on environmental
160 conditions and given the fact that EPO present high inter-annual variability, we included climate
161 indices in the statistical analysis to taking into account these effects. Despite the potential effect of
162 the mentioned factors, we contend that P would result from an adaptive response of fishers to the
163 implementation of the closed season. We used E and R as a proxy to the closed season
164 effectiveness, since the aim was to reduce fishing effort.

165 Between 1992 and 2008 a total of 64 Mexican purse-seiners operated in the EPO, most of these
166 vessels operated either before or after the implementation of the closed season. We considered
167 only 22 Mexican purse-seiners operating at least half of the time period that includes the closed
168 season implementation as they operated in the EPO before and after the management regulation;
169 the potential effect of the closed season could be hence more evident.

170 *Adaptive fishers' response analyses*

171 We used generalised estimating equations (GEE) to evaluate the effects of a closed season on the
172 indicators described above (P , E , and R). This method is useful for analysing longitudinal data,
173 i.e. repeated measures from the same cluster (each purse-seiner) which are correlated; since this
174 can increase the risk of Type I errors (Zuur et al. 2009). GEE are similar to generalized linear
175 models but allow for the use of a correlation matrix structure which takes into account the lack of
176 independence of each cluster. The conditional mean $E(Y_{it}|X_{it})=\mu_{it}$ is related to independent
177 variables (i.e. linear predictor) through a link function $g(\mu_{it})=X_{it}\beta$. Our indicators correspond to
178 the vessel i in time t . The variance structure of Y_{it} is given by $\text{var}(Y_{it}|X_{it}) = \mu_{it}$ for count data, and

179 $\text{var}(Y_{it}|X_{it}) = \mu_{it}(1 - \mu_{it})$ for proportional data (Zuur et al. 2009). A correlation between points for
180 the same cluster is specified through a correlation structure. Model parameters are estimated
181 through an iterative process until the model converges, where parameters are consistent and
182 asymptotically normally distributed (Zuur et al. 2009).

183 In this study, the explanatory variables that comprised the linear predictor were the 1) before
184 (period of years without restriction, i.e. 1992-2001) and after (period of years with restriction, i.e.
185 2002-2008) closed season periods, and 2) environmental effects (i.e., the climate index). We
186 compared two models for each indicator through the Wald test statistic, one including the climate
187 index and the before-after effect, and another with only the before-after effect. We used an auto-
188 regressive correlation structure because we assumed the association between points to be time
189 dependent. Due to missing values of some purse-seiners (i.e. years in which they did not operate)
190 we specified the chronological order of time points of each purse-seiner as suggested in Højsgaard
191 et al. (2006).

192 GEE for indicators *P* and *E* was performed assuming a Poisson error distribution. The Poisson
193 distribution was expected to be most appropriate to describe *P* and *E* because these indicators are
194 non-negative integer values without an upper limit (i.e. count variables; Zuur et al. 2009). For the
195 indicator *R*, the GEE was performed with a binomial error distribution. The binomial distribution
196 is appropriate with proportion variables, for this study, the number of successful fishing sets vs
197 the total number of fishing sets. We performed the GEE using the *geepack* package of the
198 statistical software R (R Core Team 2014).

199 **Results**

200 **[[INSERT FIGURE 2 HERE]]**

201 Fishers' adaptive response to the closed season.

202 The GEE model used to evaluate the effects of climate index on the time (days) spent in port
203 showed no significant effect; therefore, we evaluated only the before-after effect on this fishing

204 indicator. As it can be observed in **Table 1** and **Figure 2a**, the closed season seem to have an
205 effect on the operations of fishers, thus purse-seiners reduced the number of days in port. Notice
206 that before the closed season, in average the days in port were around 19, and when the closed
207 season was implemented the time spent in the port was reduced to around 15 days.

208 **[[INSERT TABLE 1 HERE]]**

209 *Effects on fishing sets on dolphin-associated tuna schools*

210 The GEE model comparison for number of fishing sets showed a significant effect of both the
211 before-after effect and the SST anomaly for the NIÑO area 3+4. The number of sets on dolphin-
212 associated tuna schools (E , in average 2 fishing sets) increased before and after the
213 implementation of the closed season (**Table 1, Figure 2b**).

214 For the proportion of successful fishing sets in terms of the total number of sets on dolphin-
215 associated tuna schools (R), the Wald test statistic showed that it was not necessary to include the
216 climate index in the final model. Therefore, we only evaluated the before-after effect which did
217 not showed a significant effect on the proportion of successful fishing sets (**Table 1, Figure 2c**).

218 **Discussion**

219 As mentioned before, the increasing concern regarding the worldwide decline in stocks has led to
220 the implementation of stringent management measures to prevent overfishing, focusing on
221 controlling fishing effort. However, controlling effort does not necessarily account for the
222 adaptive strategies of fishers in response to regulations, which can lead to conservation and
223 management failures (Johannes et al. 2000; Arendse et al. 2007; Demestre et al. 2008; García-
224 Carreras et al. 2015).

225 Closed seasons do not necessarily reduce both nominal and effective effort, as much as
226 anticipated (Branch et al. 2006; Fulton et al. 2011); in the short-term fishers will respond to
227 environmental variability, market changes, and management regulations in order to increase, or at
228 least to maintain their income and/or catch levels (Salas and Gaertner 2004; Branch et al. 2006;

229 Russo et al. 2015), while in the long-term fishers can invest in acquiring new vessels and/or new
230 on-board technology (McIlgorm 2010; Torres-Irineo et al. 2014). Our study provides an example
231 of how fishers can respond to the implementation of seasonal regulations. Similar situations have
232 been reported in several fisheries with unintended impacts on fishing resources (Dorn 1998;
233 Arendse et al. 2007; Demestre et al. 2008; Torres-Irineo et al. 2011). For instance, Arendse et al.
234 (2007) showed that a closed season during the breeding period did not increase the reproductive
235 output of the population through a per-recruit simulation. In other example, Demestre et al. (2008)
236 analysed the use of seasonal closures to minimize the benthic communities' degradation by
237 trawling in the Mediterranean; they found that after the closure the faunal abundance decreased
238 due to the resumption of fishing activity. In the eastern Atlantic Ocean, Torres-Irineo et al. (2011)
239 found that purse-seiners increased their fishing sets on FADs after the implementation of a
240 seasonal closure area. In the case of the Pacific Hake, Dorn (1998) showed how the vessels
241 adjusted their response to a ban to fish at night by increasing their catches during the day in order
242 to maximize their profits. As Dorn (1998) stated, regulations that ignore the adaptive response of
243 fishers under different conditions may fail to achieve the intended goal.

244 Our findings suggest that the adaptive fisher's response to the closed season implementation in the
245 tuna fishery in the EPO was to decrease the time spent in port (P). This can be a direct result of
246 hastening fish landing and/or loading of the supplies for the next trip in order to at least maintain
247 the number of fishing sets. It must be kept in mind that tuna availability can affect the time purse-
248 seiners spent in port. For instance, it could be expected that when fishing is good, vessels with
249 high catch of tuna will slow down the unloading process which can result in spending more time
250 in port. Similarly, when tuna availability decrease (e.g. deepening of thermocline), fishers could
251 spend more time in port expecting better environmental conditions to go fishing. In this sense,
252 over the 1992-2001 period (before the closed season), the annual catch of retained yellowfin tuna
253 in the EPO was around 278,000 t (IATTC 2015). In this time period, the time spent in port by
254 Mexican purse-seiners remain around 19 days. During the 2002-2008 period, in 2003 was reached

255 the second largest on record catch of yellowfin tuna in the EPO (383,279 t), for the same year, it
256 was observed the highest number of sets on dolphin-associated tuna schools (IATTC 2015). On
257 the contrary, after the El Niño event during 1982-1983 which affected the tuna catch in the EPO,
258 the lowest catch registered for yellowfin tuna was in 2006 with 166,631 t (IATTC 2015). Despite
259 this change in catch magnitude for the 2002-2008 period, the time spent in port by Mexican purse-
260 seiners remain around 15 days in port. This suggests that the observed decrease in P was an
261 adaptive response of fishers to the implementation of the closed season.

262 Learning about fisher response to changes in their environment (climate, market, regulations)
263 when an intervention has been in place is important (Dorn 1998; Johannes et al. 2000; Young et
264 al. 2016). In this study, even though our analysis is based on data from on-board observers,
265 additional information obtained by fishers' interviews could be very useful to corroborate these
266 findings. Nonetheless it is worth to note that the IATTC in 2004, recognized that regulations
267 placed on purse-seiners fishing on dolphins-associated tuna schools had probably affected the way
268 these vessels operate, especially since the late 1980s. Notwithstanding, the proxies used in this
269 study to evaluate the closed season effect showed that the objective was not totally fulfilled.
270 Given the fact that fishing operations are dynamics and adaptive (Dorn 1998; Salas et al. 2004;
271 García-Carreras et al. 2015), it is necessary to take into consideration fishers' responses to
272 alleviate the fishing pressure on the resources (Torres-Irineo et al. 2011).

273 The establishment of spatio-temporal regulations is usually based on breeding or spawning
274 periods of target species (Arendse et al. 2007; van Overzee and Rijnsdorp 2015). According to
275 Arendse et al. (2007), closed seasons can be a useful management tool if reproductive outputs of
276 individuals are negatively affected by fishing activity. van Overzee and Rijnsdorp (2015),
277 consider that closed seasons that aim to protect spawning seasons can contribute to fisheries
278 sustainability depending on the complexity of the spawning system which varies among target
279 species. In the EPO, yellowfin spawning occurred continuously throughout the year with no
280 pronounced seasonal patterns in intensity (Knudsen 1977; Schaefer 1998). In the present case, the

281 closed season has been established to control fishing effort, rather than to protect spawners or
282 juveniles. Accordingly, the three proxy measures used in this study (*P*, *E*, and *R*) suggest that
283 these management measures led to behavioural changes in fishers to maintain or increase their
284 fishing effort.

285 Regardless of the purpose of the implementation of a closed season it is necessary to consider
286 relationships between closure length, closure timing, stock dynamics, and fleet dynamics (Watson
287 et al. 1993). According to Branch et al. (2006), the implementation of a closed seasons aiming to
288 control fishing effort could increase the fishing efficiency and capacity of fleets, particularly in
289 profitable fisheries, leading to further restrictions in future closed seasons. In this sense, it would
290 be expected that Mexican purse-seiners had invested in acquiring new technology to increase their
291 fishing power after the closed season implementation. However, there are no records of major
292 introduction of new on-board technology by Mexican purse-seiners after the closed season.
293 Worldwide, the major improvements of on-board technology of tuna purse-seiners have been
294 observed for FAD-fishing since the early 1990s (Lopez et al. 2014; Torres-Irineo et al. 2014);
295 hence the adaptations seem to be done at the operational level. Furthermore, as stated before, the
296 introduction of technology is likely expected to affect directly the purse-seiners' activities at-sea,
297 i.e. fishing sets, and to a lesser extent the time spent in port. For instance, due to the continuous
298 increase in purse-seine capacity despite regulation measures, in 2011 the IATTC implemented the
299 resolution [C-11-01] which established two closed seasons each of two months. Hence, there is no
300 unique recommendation for success when implementing a closed season or any management
301 regulation because objectives differ across RMFOs (van Overzee and Rijnsdorp 2015). Closed
302 seasons could be implemented together with limited-entry programs (Branch et al. 2006), however
303 the implementation must be considered on a case by case scheme, even within the same fishery.

304

305

306 **Conclusions**

307 Given the regional context of each tuna RFMO, it has been difficult to reach a consensus in terms
308 of regulatory measures. In the EPO, for the yellowfin tuna fishery, longliners are mainly from
309 Japan, the Republic of Korea and Taiwan. Most of the dolphin-associated schools sets are
310 operated by Mexican and Venezuelan purse-seine fleets, and most of the FADs sets are performed
311 by Ecuadorian purse-seiners. Therefore, any regulation of the allocation of effort among these
312 methods would require agreement among the States concerned, building on a management
313 strategy evaluation framework (Maunder 2002). It is important to understand that closed seasons
314 do not only affect fishing on dolphin-associated schools but all tropical tuna fisheries (i.e.,
315 longline, pole-and-line and purse-seine fisheries). However, it is difficult for a RFMO to
316 reallocate the total effort among the different international fleets. Such a reallocation may be
317 perceived to favour one group/country over another one, even if this is supported by a
318 scientifically rationale objective (Maunder 2002).

319 Several authors have emphasized the importance of accounting for fishers' behaviour and their
320 response to different incentives based on their traditional knowledge and experiences, including
321 fisheries management (Johannes et al. 2000; Branch et al. 2006; Hilborn 2007; Poos et al. 2010;
322 van Putten et al. 2012). Understanding both the incentives and behaviour of fishers is a crucial
323 step towards designing management measures. Simulation analyses can help to evaluate possible
324 fishers' responses before implementing management measures (Dorn 1998; Batsleer et al. 2013).
325 In this regard, the indicators used in this study can be used as input data to perform simulations.
326 The present study highlights the relevance of understanding the fishers' adaptive responses to the
327 management system which can make it possible to identify areas for improvements for a
328 continued sustainable and beneficial use of tropical tuna.

329

330

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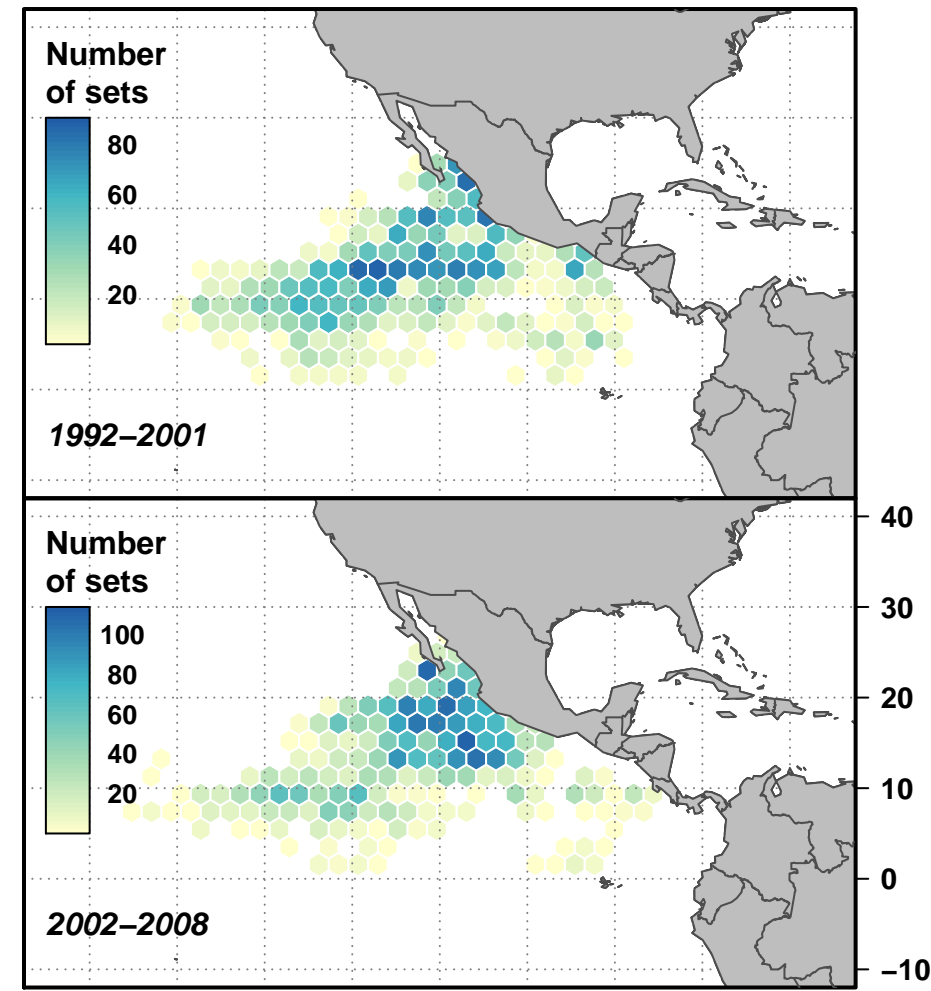
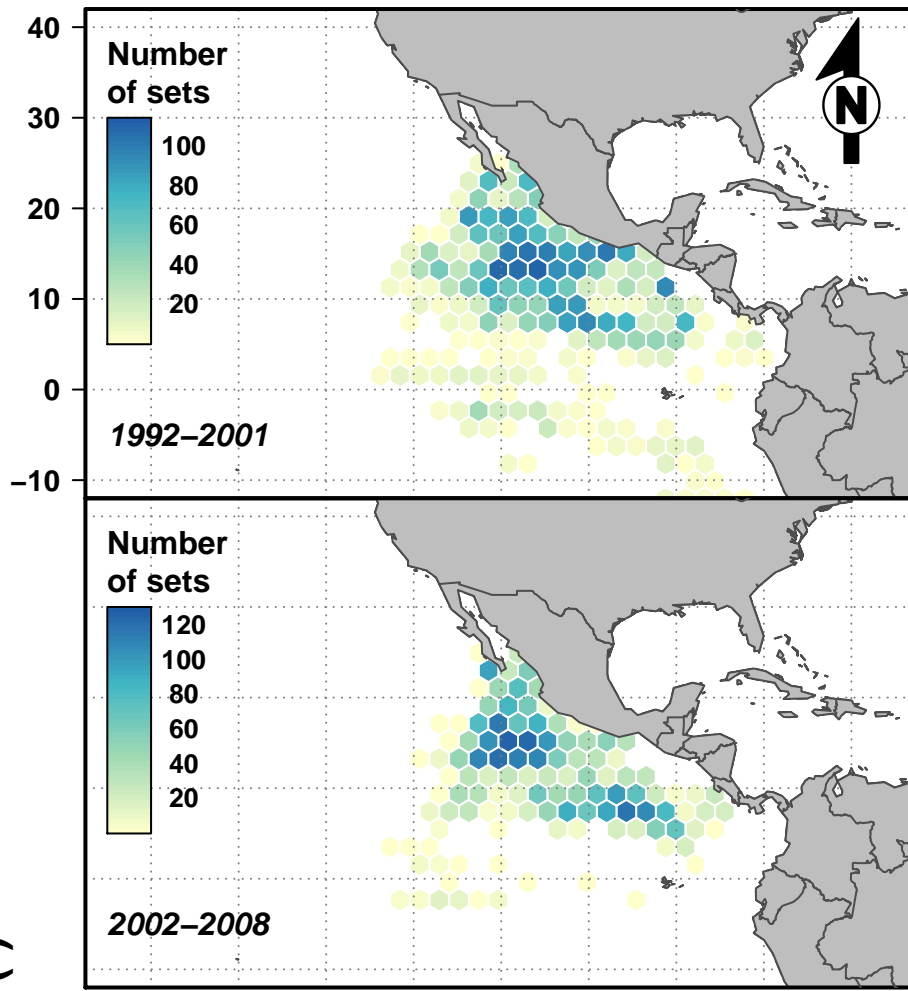
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472

Figure 1

Quarter 1

Quarter 2



Quarter 3

Quarter 4

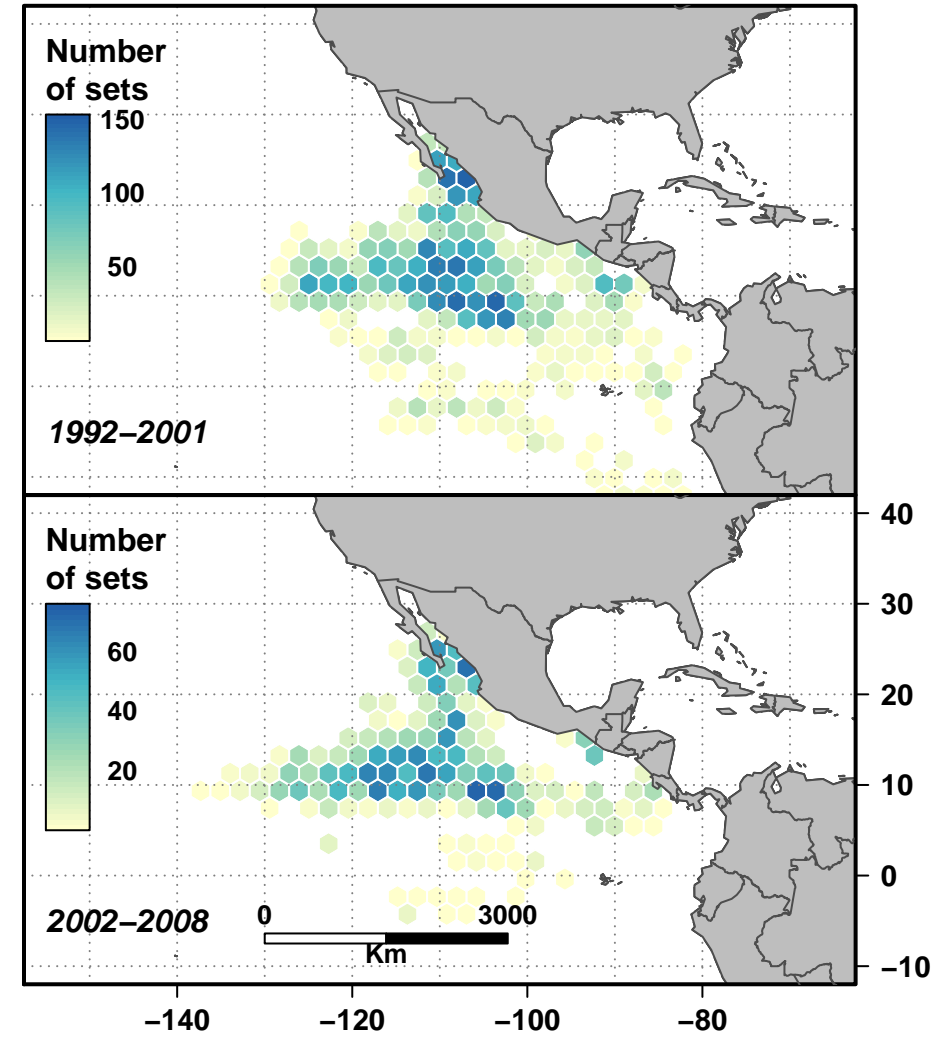
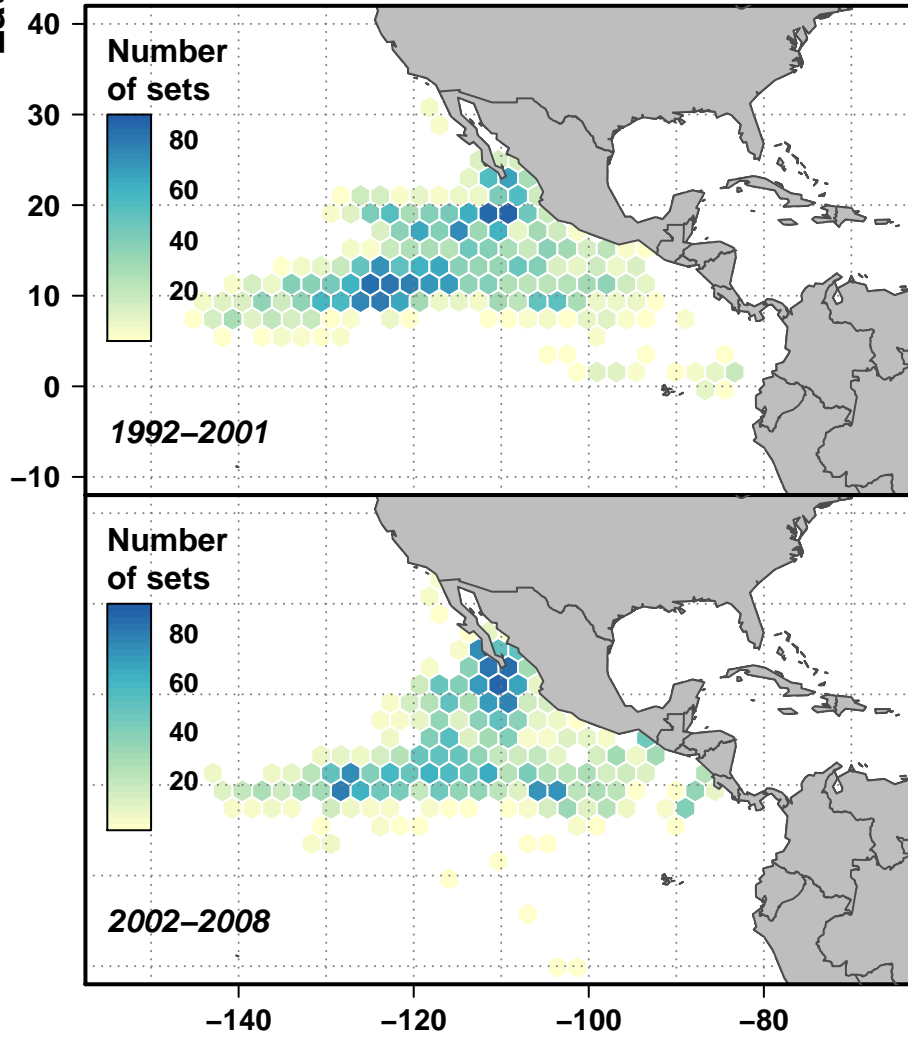


Figure 2

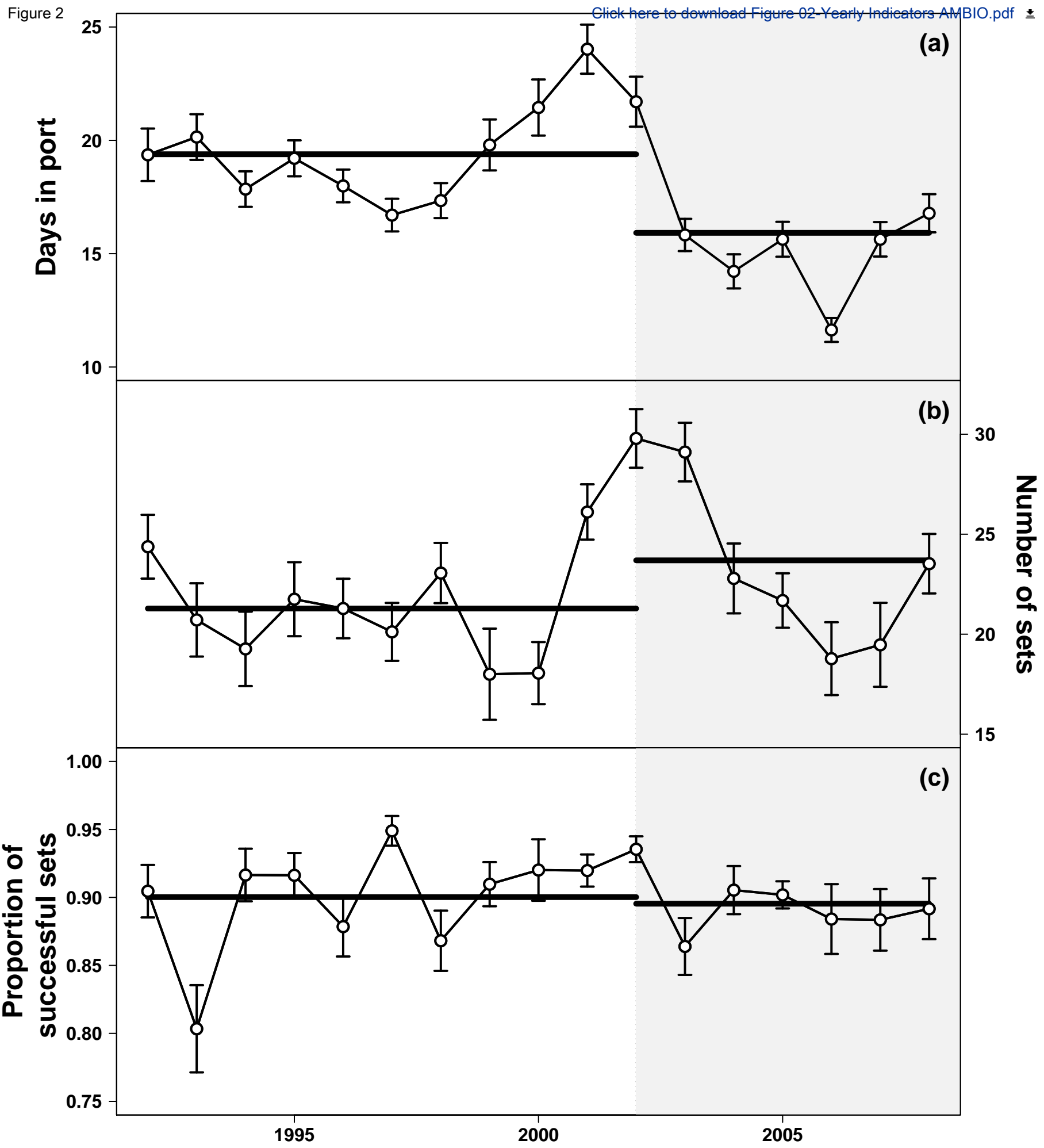


Figure captions

Figure 1. Spatio-temporal distribution of sets performed on dolphin-associated schools by the Mexican purse-seine fleet in the eastern Pacific Ocean. Data source from the PNAAPD observer program.

Figure 2. Annual average values and standard errors of fishery indicators. Indicator of the number of days in port (a), number of fishing sets on dolphin-associated tuna schools (b), and proportion of successful fishing sets in terms of the total number of fishing sets on dolphin-associated tuna schools (c). Grey lines and dots correspond to mean values for each vessel analysed, and black lines and dots are the mean values of the fleet. Black straight lines correspond to the mean values of fishery indicators before and after the implementation of the closed season in 2002.

Tables

Table 1. Generalized estimation equation (GEE) model results using the number of days in port, number of fishing sets, and the proportion of successful fishing sets as response variables. Estimates and statistics correspond to the model selected for each indicator. SE=standard error, CI= confidence interval (95%).

Model	Effect	Coefficient	SE	Lower CI	Upper CI	Wald	p-value
Days in port	Intercept	2.936	0.053	2.832	3.041	3025.05	< 0.001
	Before-After	-0.174	0.059	-0.291	-0.058	8.58	< 0.01
Fishing sets	Intercept	3.057	0.033	2.9924	3.121	8635.44	< 0.001
	Before-After	0.102	0.033	0.0368	0.167	9.44	<0.01
	SST Anomaly 3-4	0.067	0.019	0.0292	0.104	12.2	< 0.001
Proportion of successful fishing sets	Intercept	2.173	0.09	1.996	2.35	576.94	< 0.001
	Before-After	-0.014	0.115	-0.238	0.211	0.01	0.9