



Lobster Recruitment Trap Project

2013-2014 Update

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Overview of Project

The Goal of the project was to provide an index of the number of lobsters that will moult into the legal size in the coming seasons.

The **Lobster Recruitment Project** involved fishermen from LFAs 27-35 who fish standard traps in fixed locations. The fishermen use a special measuring gauge and record the size and sex of the lobsters in the “science” traps. They also monitor the bottom temperature using a VEMCO data logger attached to one of the science traps. The traps are wire with one inch mesh and have no escape mechanisms.

The measuring gauge currently used is divided into 15 units and the fishermen record in a logbook the size range of the lobsters caught in the traps. Before Fall of 2003, the gauge was broken into 8 size units but it was decided that these did not reflect all the sizes that were being caught by the fishermen.

Participants in LFA 33 also participate in a Commercial Trap study where they use three of their own commercial traps and record the size ranges caught using the special measuring gauge.

Over the last few years, this valuable data collected by fishermen themselves is being used as an assessment tool for the Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) in their assessment of the American lobster stocks.

Measuring Gauge Size Groupings

Size 1: less than 10.99 mm
Size 2: 11mm- 20.99 mm
Size 3: 21 mm- 30.99 mm
Size 4: 31 mm-40.99 mm
Size 5: 41mm- 50.99 mm
Size 6: 51 mm-60.99 mm
Size 7: 61mm- 70.99 mm
Size 8: 71 mm- 75.99 mm
Size 9: 76 mm- 80.99mm
Size 10: 81 mm- 90.99 mm
Size 11: 91 mm-100.99 mm
Size 12: 101 mm- 110.99 mm
Size 13: 111 mm- 120.99 mm
Size 14: 121 mm-130.99 mm
Size 15: greater than 130.99 mm



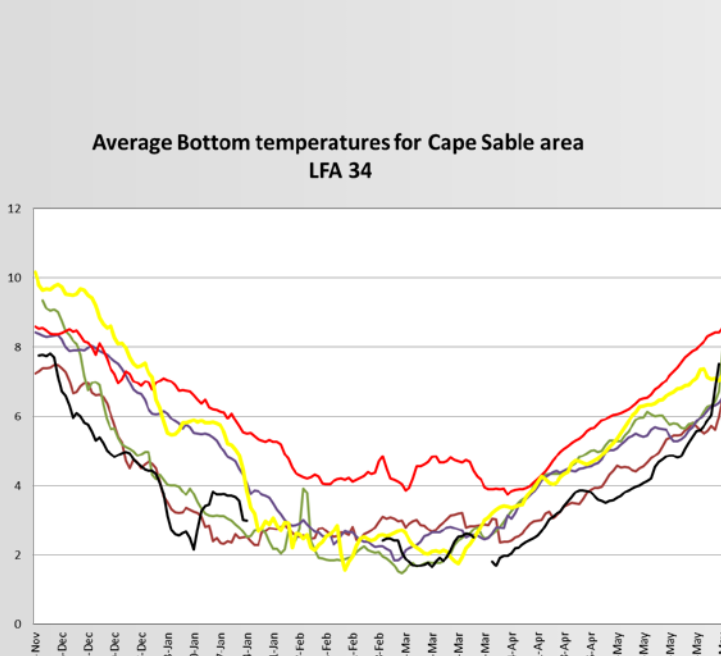
Photos taken by Tricia Pearo, FSRs



Lobster Recruitment project trap measures 14"x 21"x 40". It has 1 " mesh, no escape vents and a biodegradable panel

Photo provided by Shaun Allain, FSRs

** Size 8 and 9 are in 5 mm increments to give a clearer indication of the lobsters just under the legal size limit (82.5 mm).



Summary graphs showing bottom temperatures recorded in the lobster recruitment science trap. All participants in this project receive a graph of the bottom temperatures around their science traps (not all areas sampled are shown on poster)

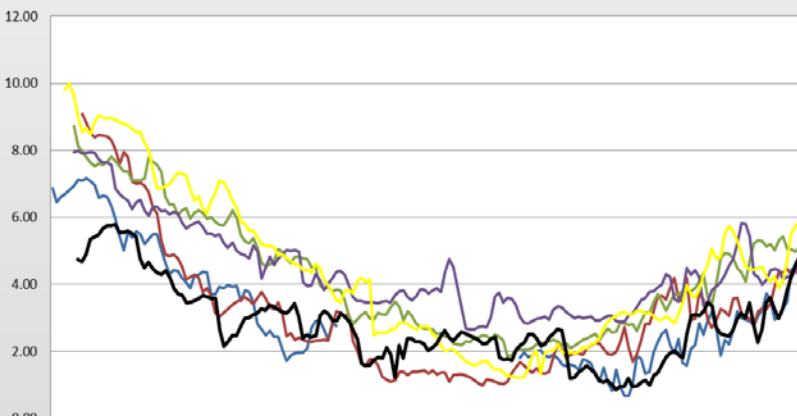
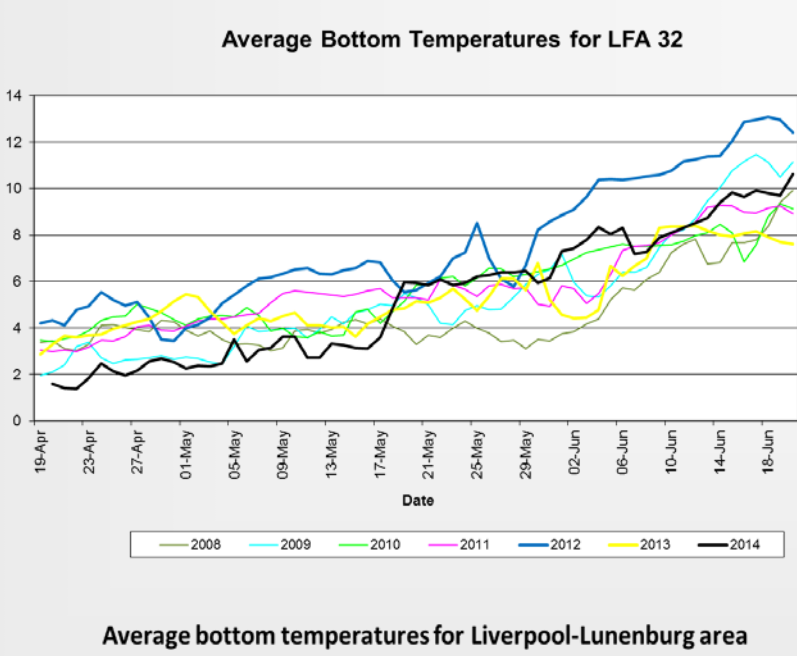
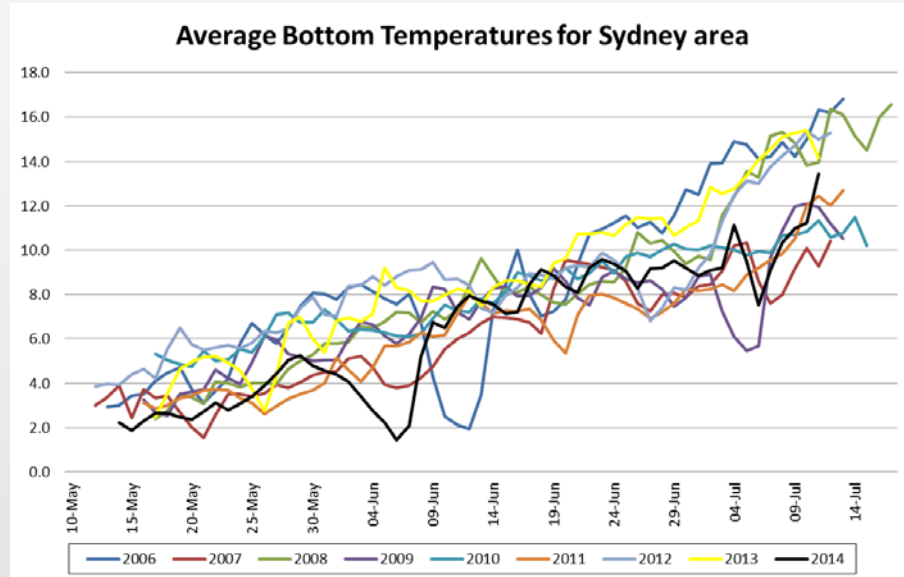
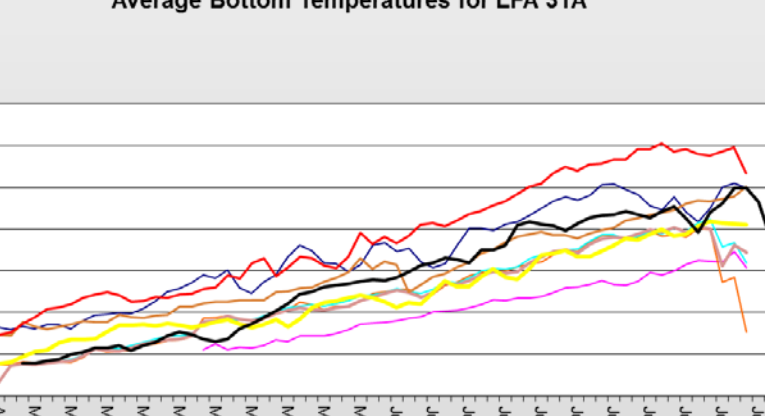
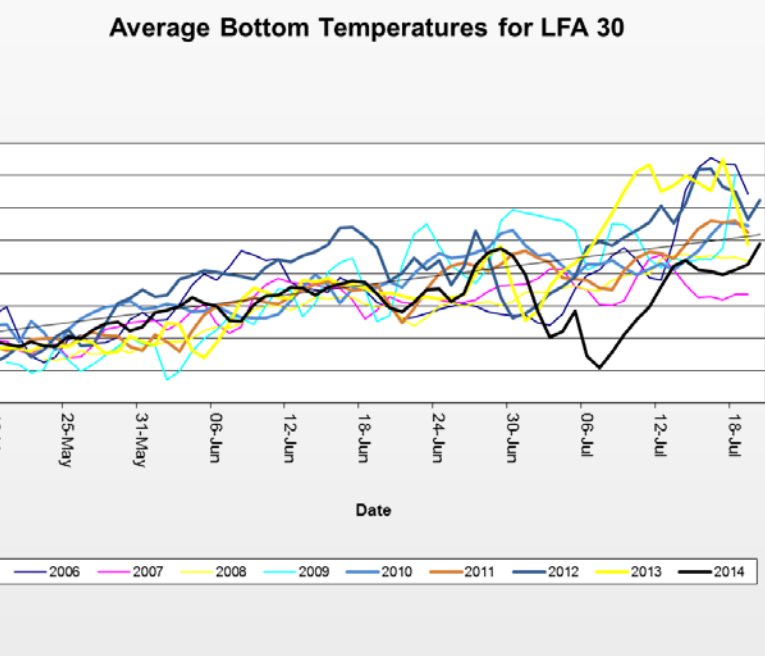
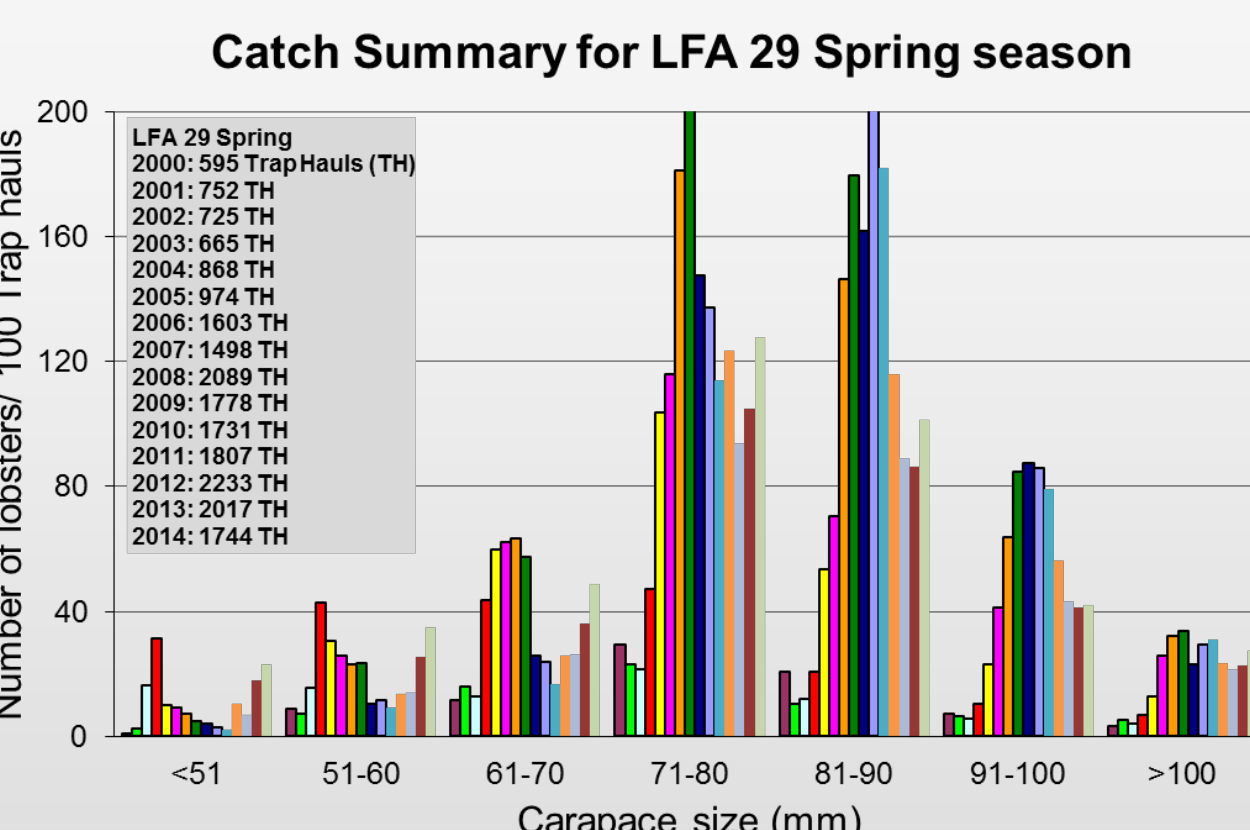
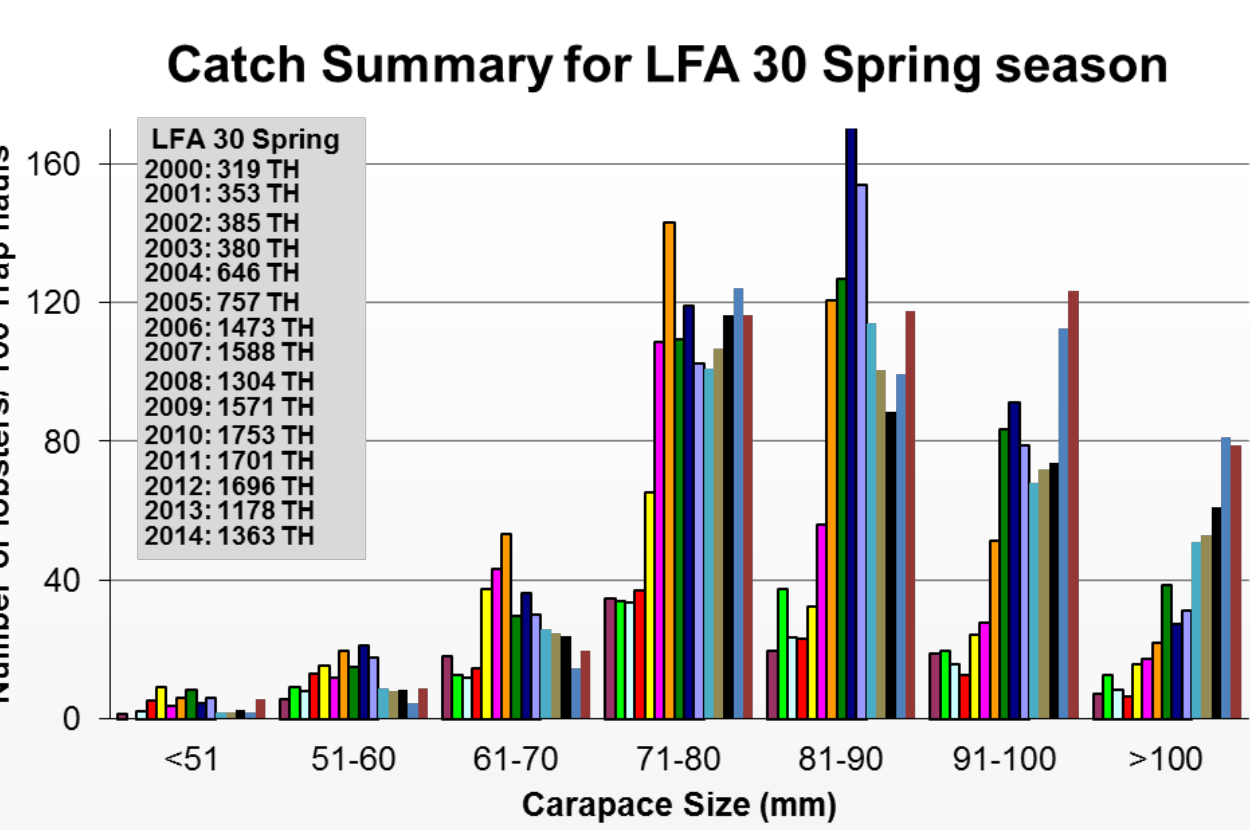
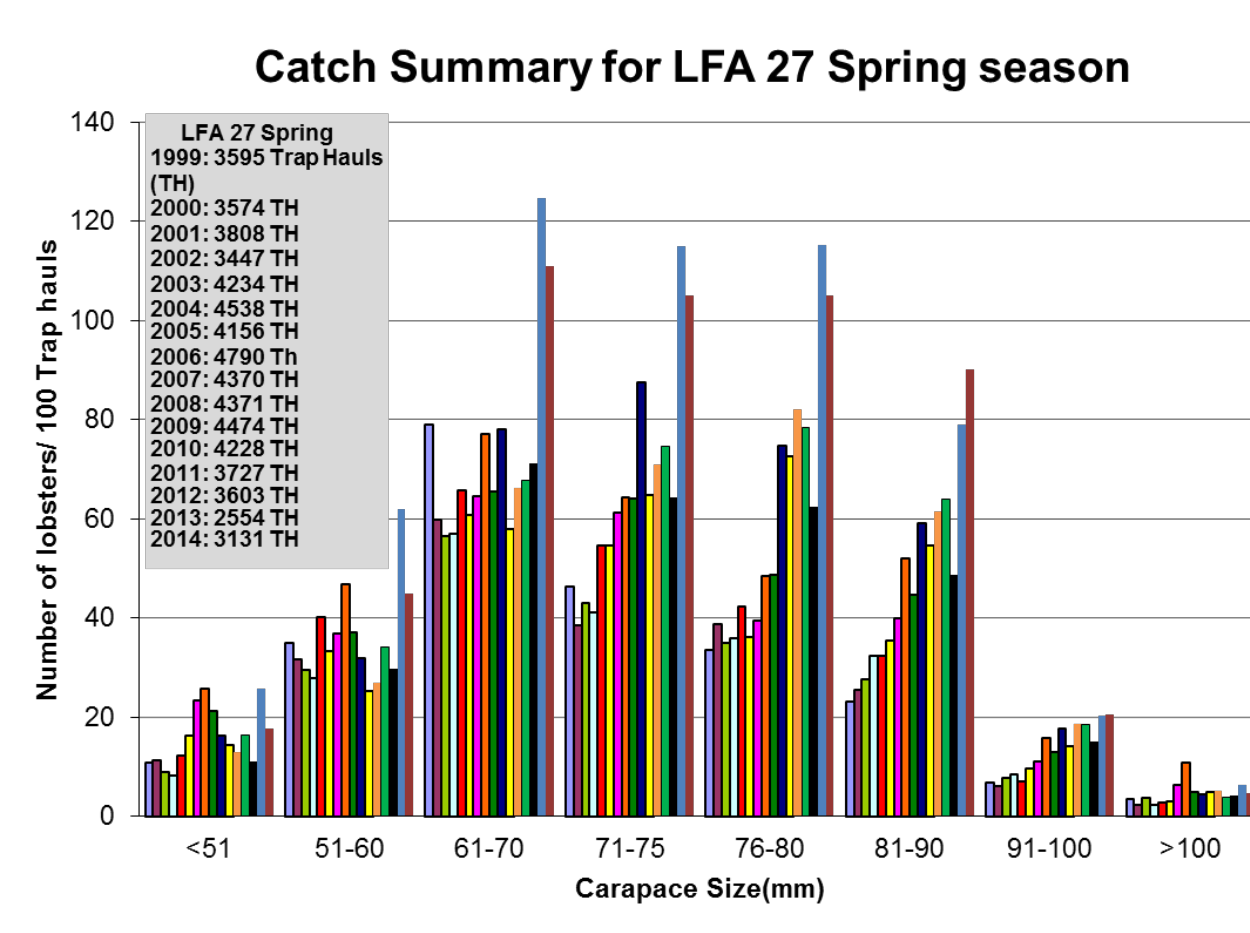
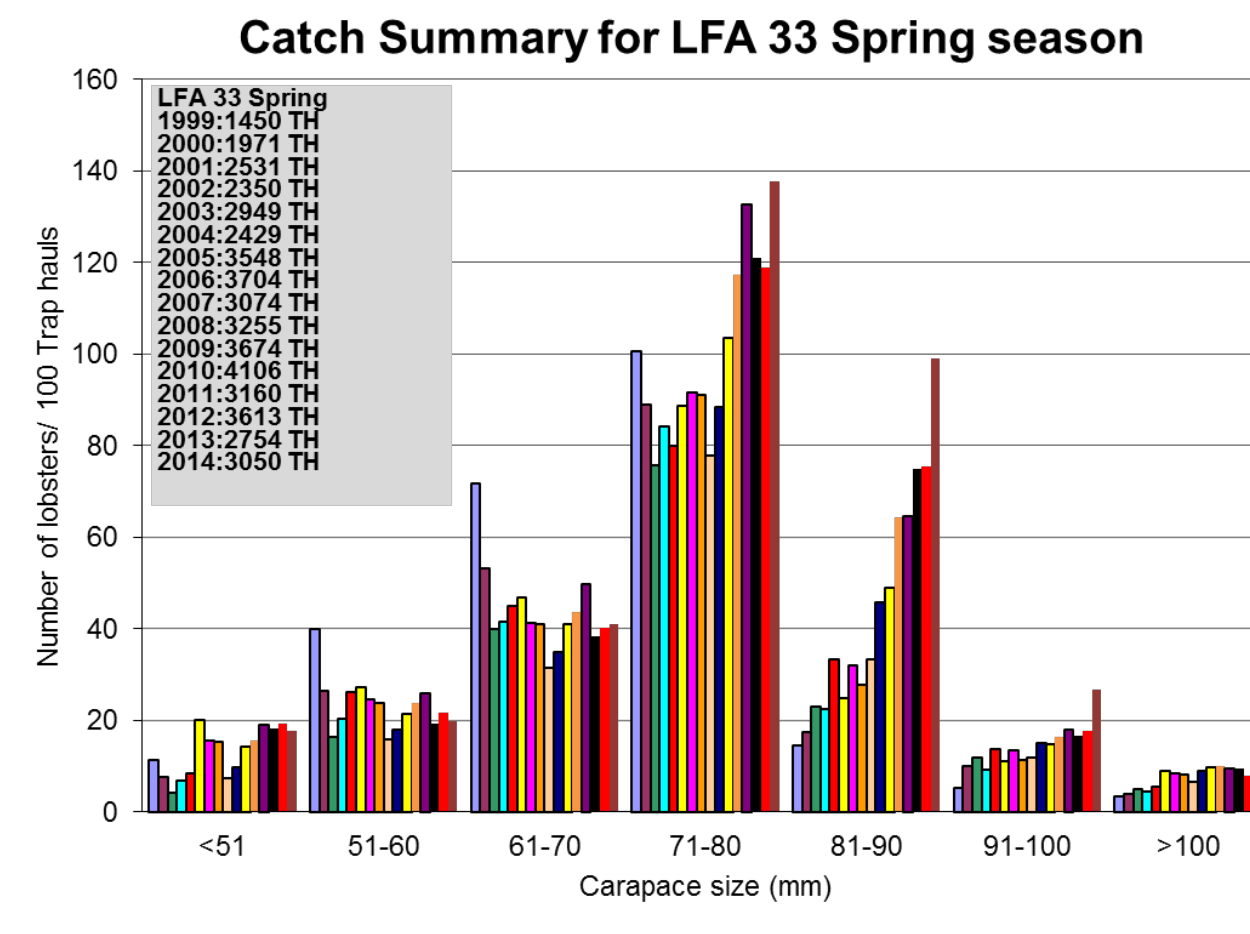
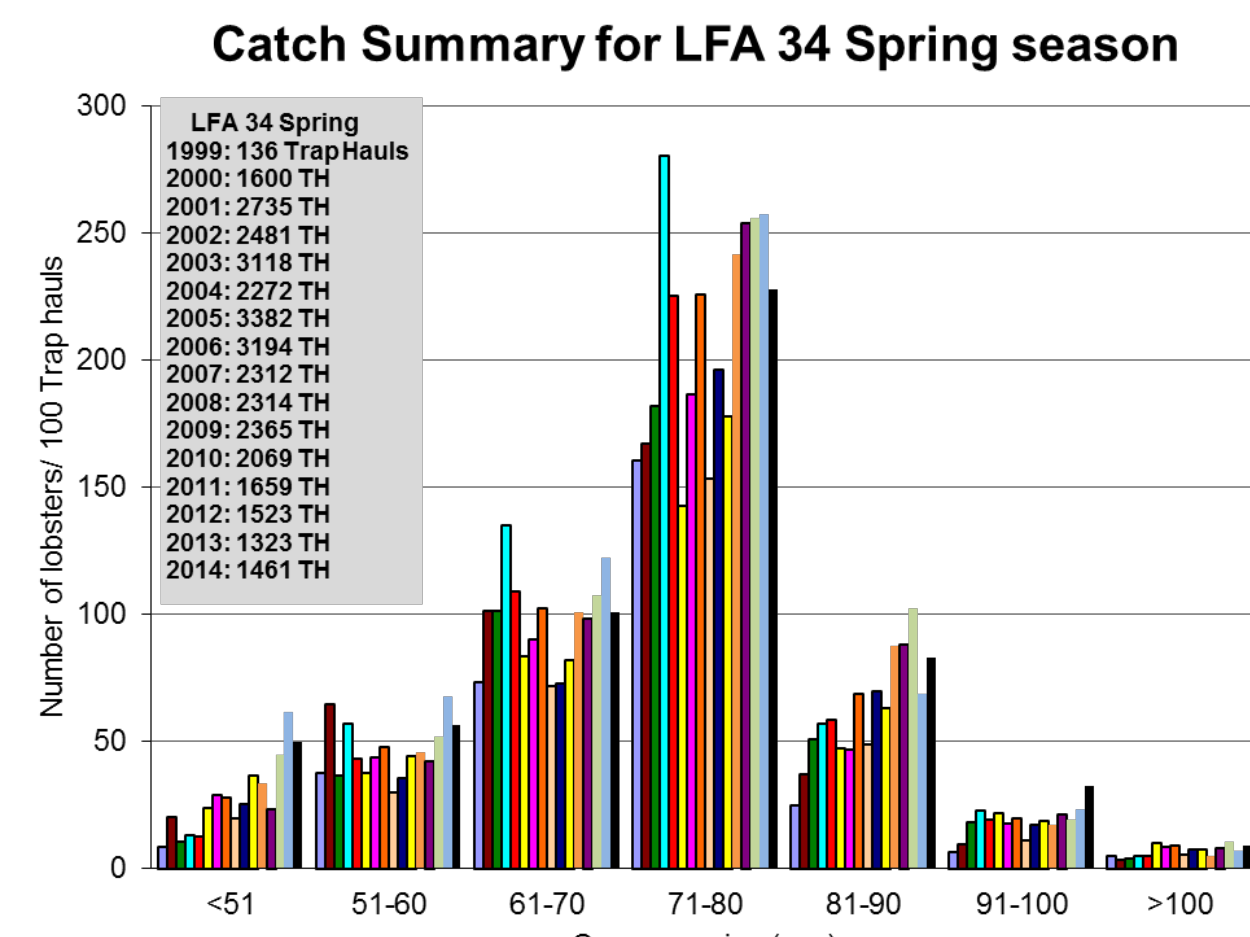
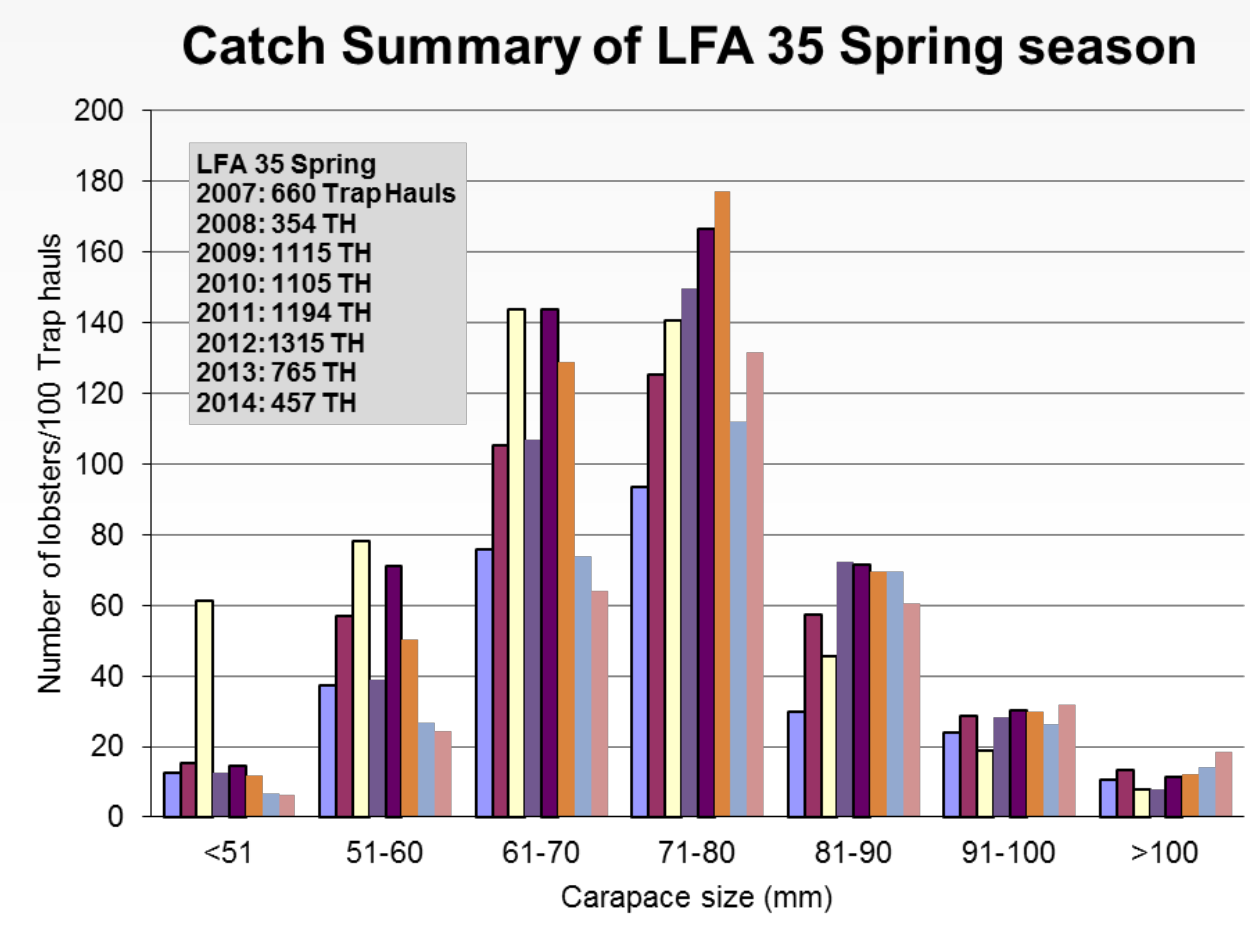
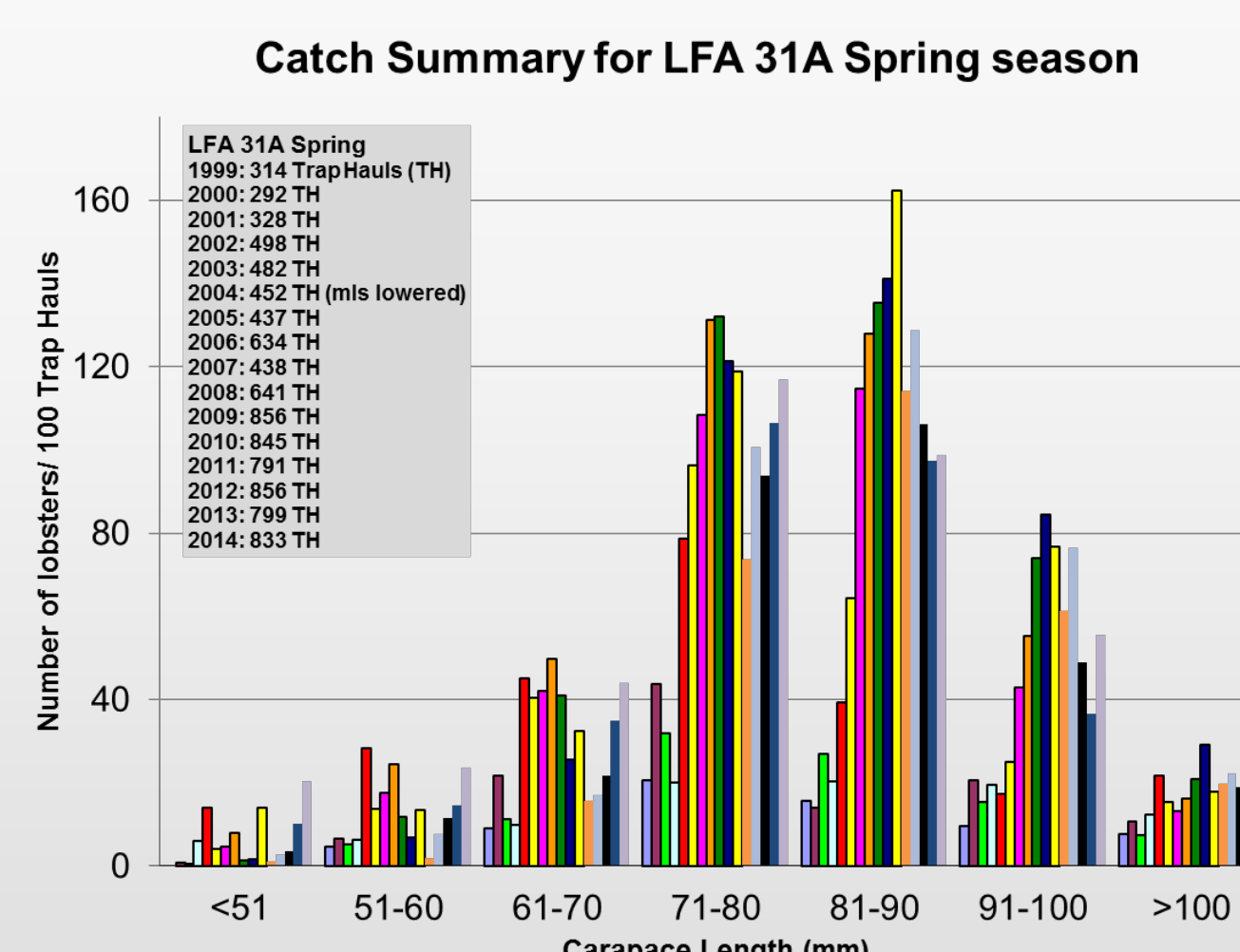
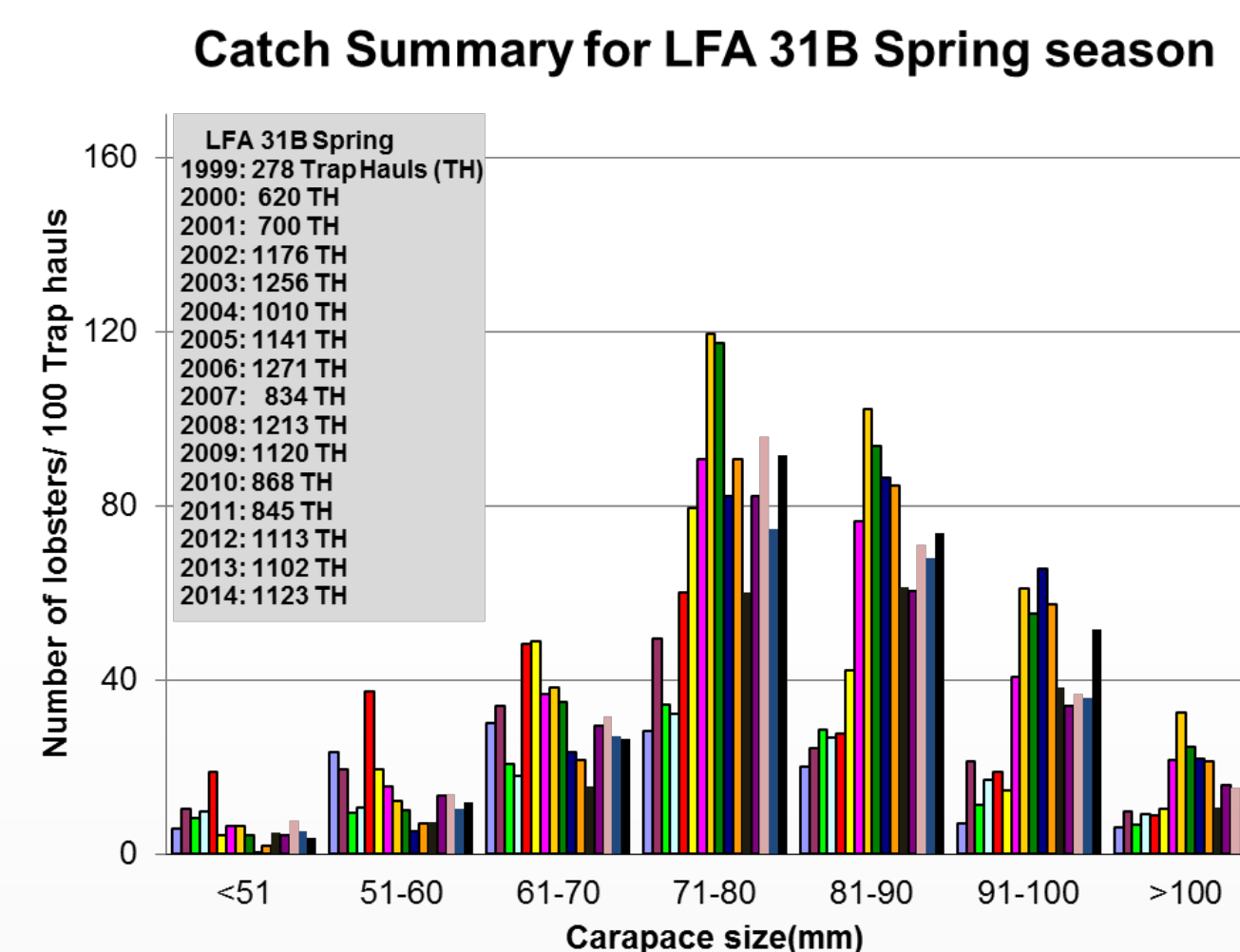
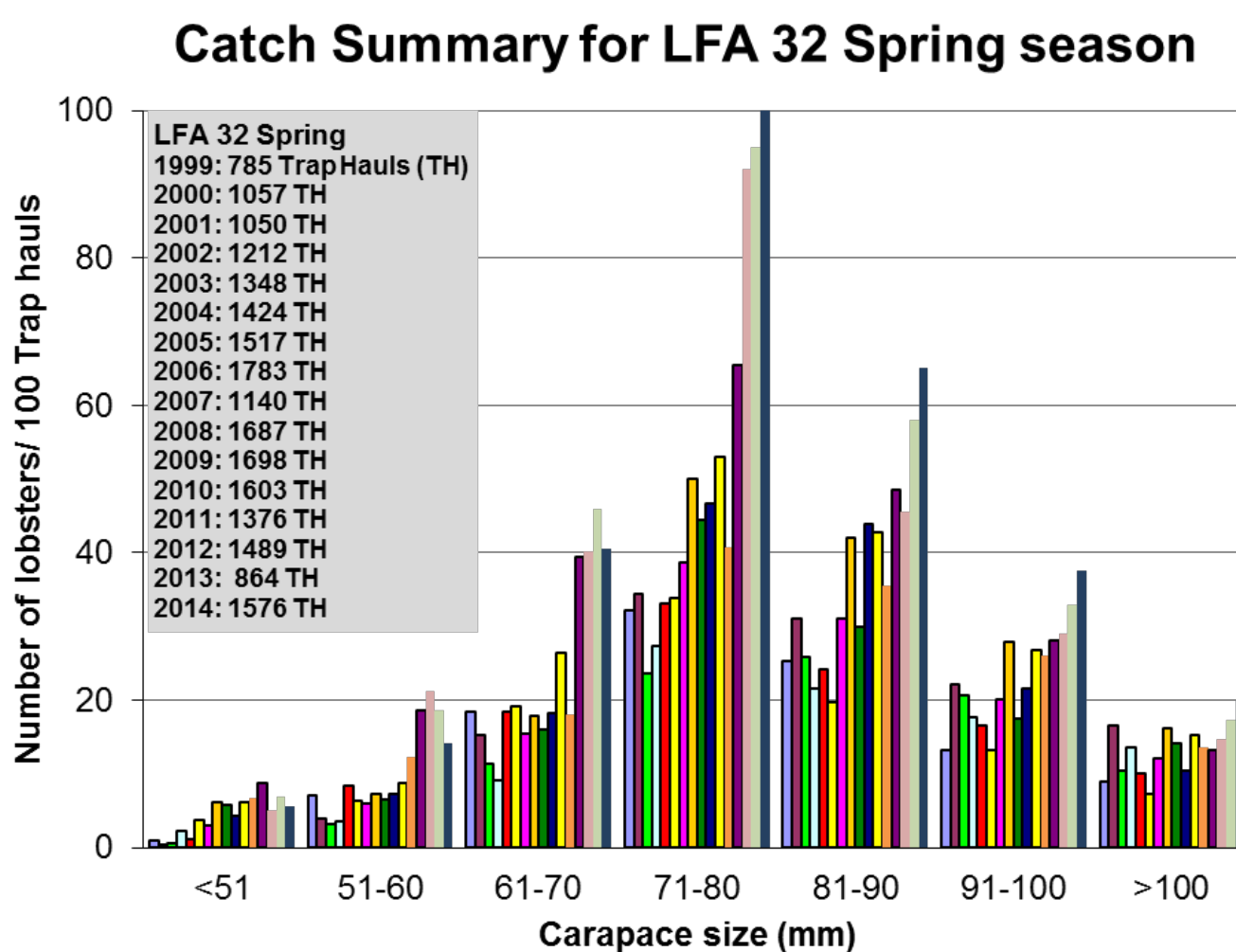
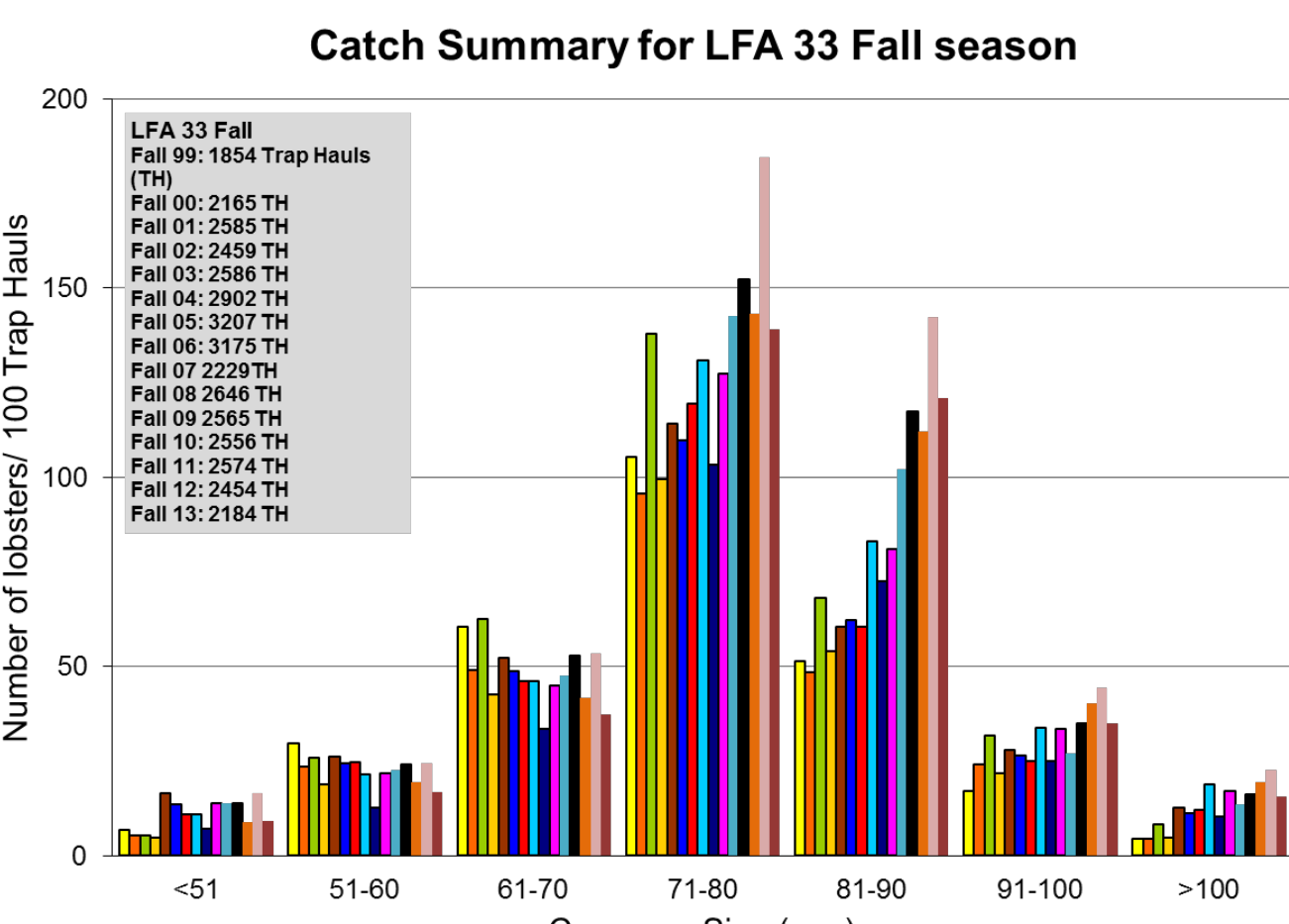
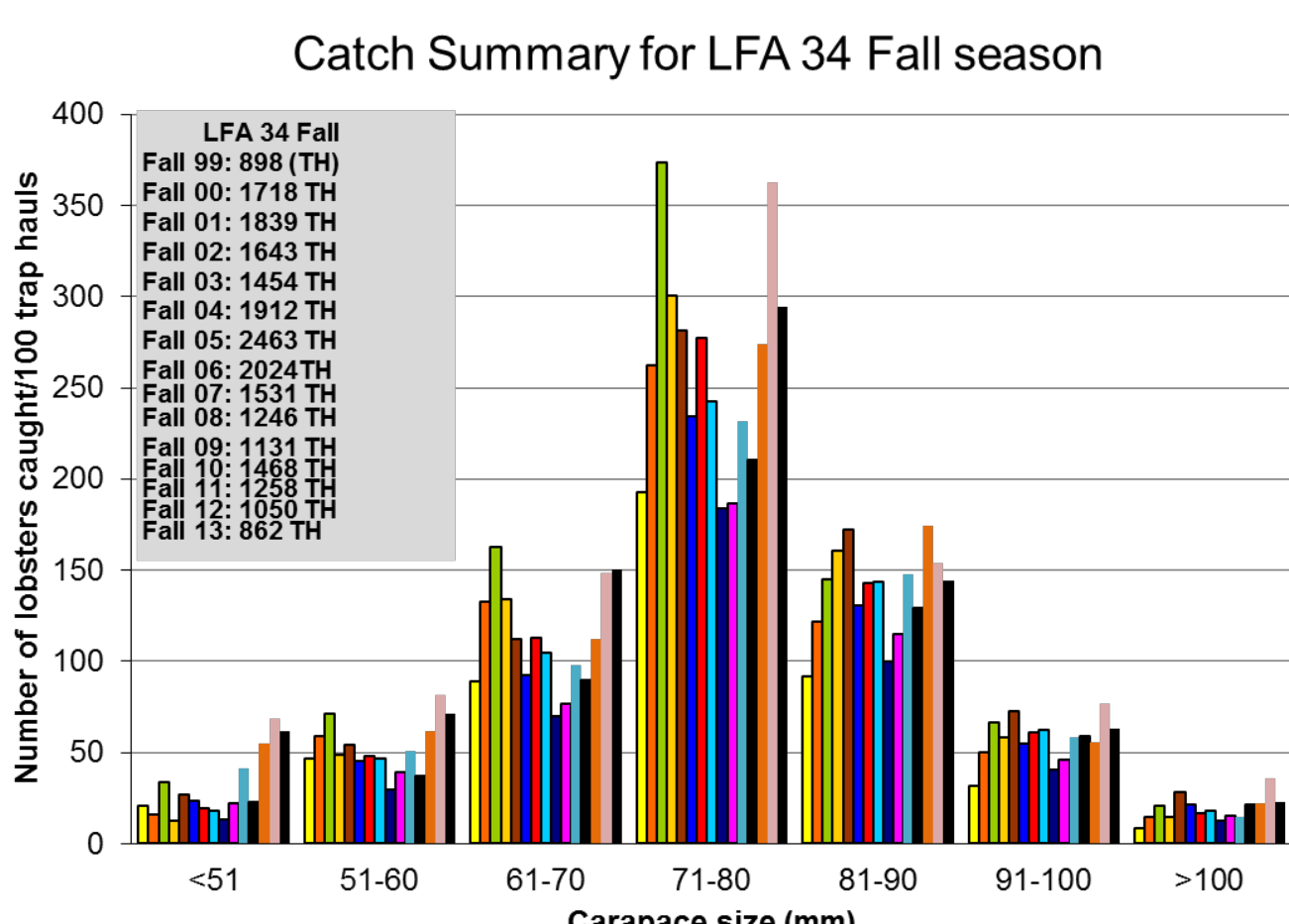
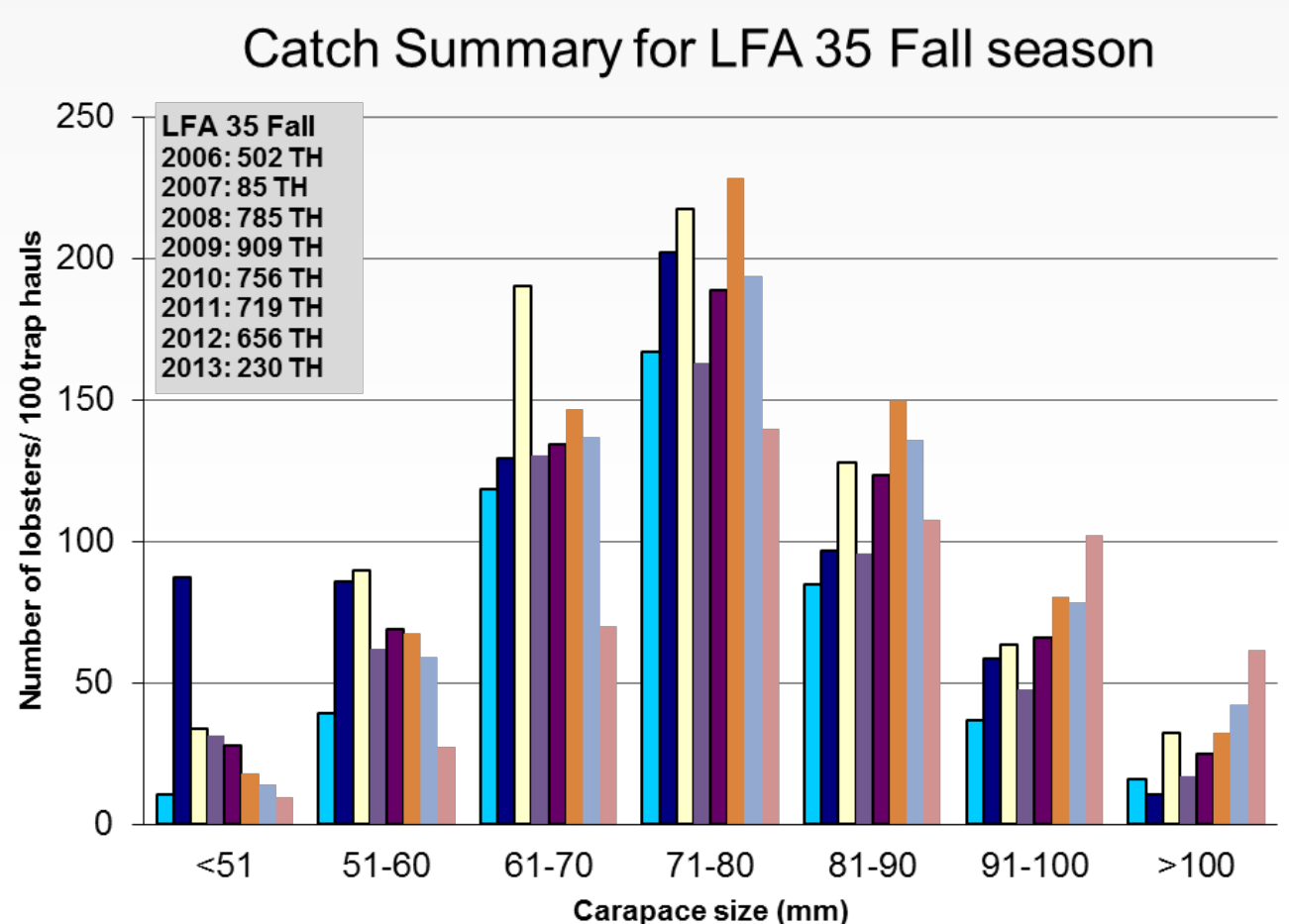


Photo provided by Shaun Allain, FSRs



The map above shows the distribution of the FSRs recruitment science traps during the Spring fishing season (March- July)when we have representation from all LFAs involved in the study



Lobster Recruitment Results from Fall 2013

- 63 fishermen participated from LFAs 33, 34 and 35
- 176 project traps were fished
- 3,276 trap hauls
- 16,654 lobsters measured
- 5.08 lobsters caught per trap haul

Lobster Recruitment Results from Spring 2014

- 133 participates from LFAs 27-35
- 400 project traps were fished
- 14, 738 trap hauls
- 61, 626 lobsters measured
- 4.18 lobsters caught per trap haul



Acknowledgements

The FSRs would like to acknowledge the invaluable support we have received from the fishermen involved in this project. The project would be impossible without all of your efforts. We look forward to continuing to work with all participants and to facing the challenges of scientific work together.

For more information on this project : shannon.tibbetts@fsrs.ns.ca
Special thank you for the photos provided by Shaun Allain, Tricia Pearo Drew.

