



North Pacific Fisheries Commission

NPFC-2025-TWG CMSA10-IP01

Chub Mackerel Catch in Canada (updated for 2024)

Chris Rooper, Jackie King, Amy Tabata, Jennifer Boldt

2024-07-16

Commercial catches

There are $n = 7607$ records of Chub mackerel bycatch in commercial fishing gear (Figure 1). These records are from bottom trawl, midwater trawl, and the hook and line halibut fisheries. There are a number of records of catches of Pacific mackerel which were not included in this report.

Research catches

The catch per unit of effort (CPUE) of Chub mackerel in survey catches (bottom trawl, midwater and surface trawls) is zero in most years (Figure 2). In 1983, 1998, 2003 and 2004 there were a total of 4 bottom trawl survey tows capturing Chub mackerel. There have been an unknown number of catches of Chub mackerel in pelagic tows, with a maximum catch of individuals. Unfortunately these data were not currently available.

The Chub mackerel were mostly captured on the outer coast surveys (Figure 4). However, this may reflect the areas where the surveys are conducted (on the shelf and continental slope exclusively), rather than representing the distribution of Chub mackerel in the area.

It should be noted that historical survey catches focussed primarily on Salmonids and at times the bycatch species (including Chub mackerel) were not entered in the databases. There is currently an effort underway to include bycatch species, so it is likely that the historical numbers presented in this report will be updated in future years.

A total of $n = 677$ Chub mackerel lengths have been collected in surveys in Canada since 1983. The peak of observed lengths was ~ 28 cm.

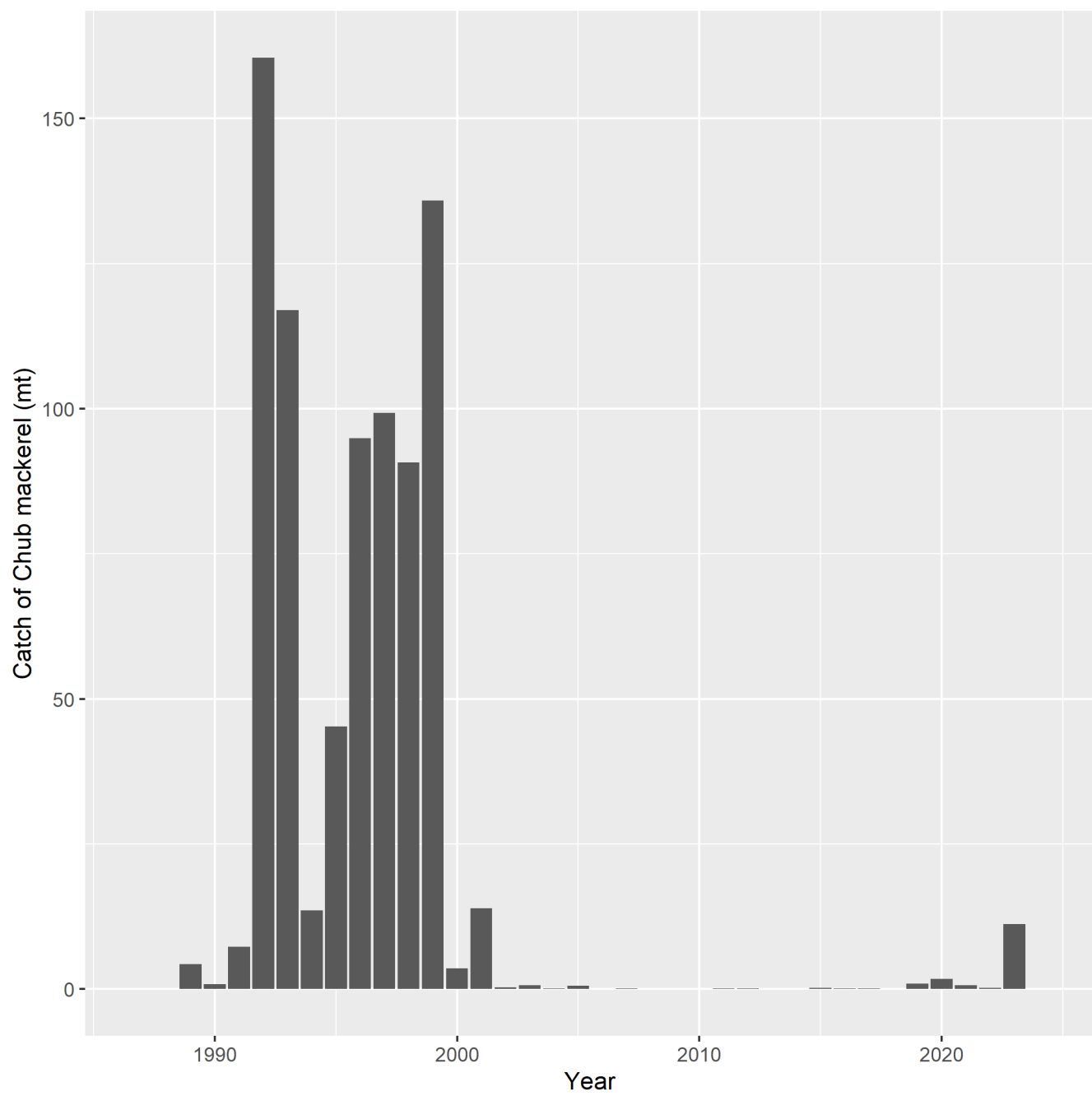


Figure 1: Catch of Chub mackerel in commercial fisheries in British Columbia, Canada combined by year across all fishing gears.

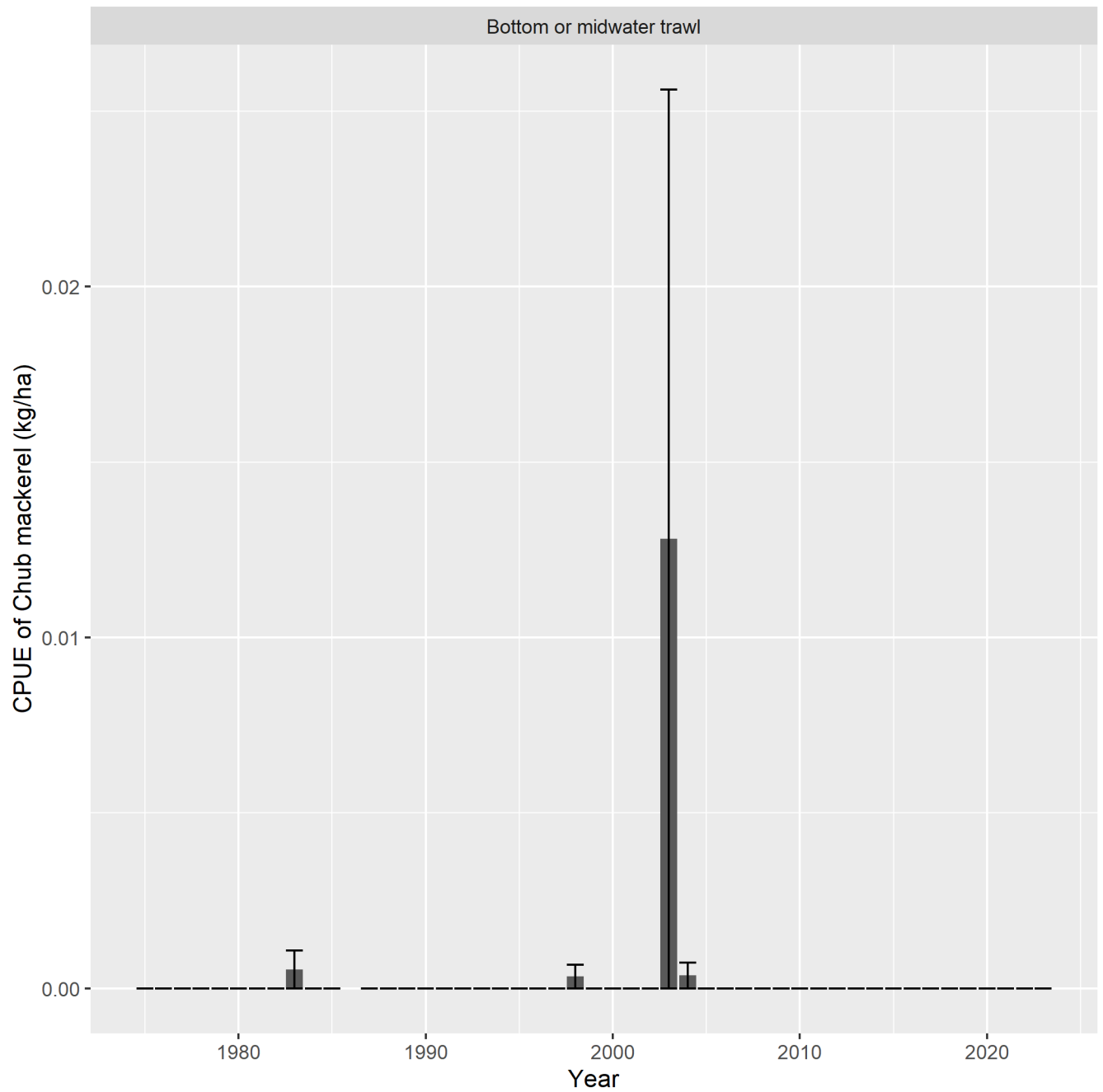


Figure 2: Catch per unit effort of Chub mackerel in research survey trawl in British Columbia, Canada. Data were combined across gear types (pelagic, midwater and bottom trawls).



Figure 3: Locations of Chub mackerel catches in historical research surveys in British Columbia.

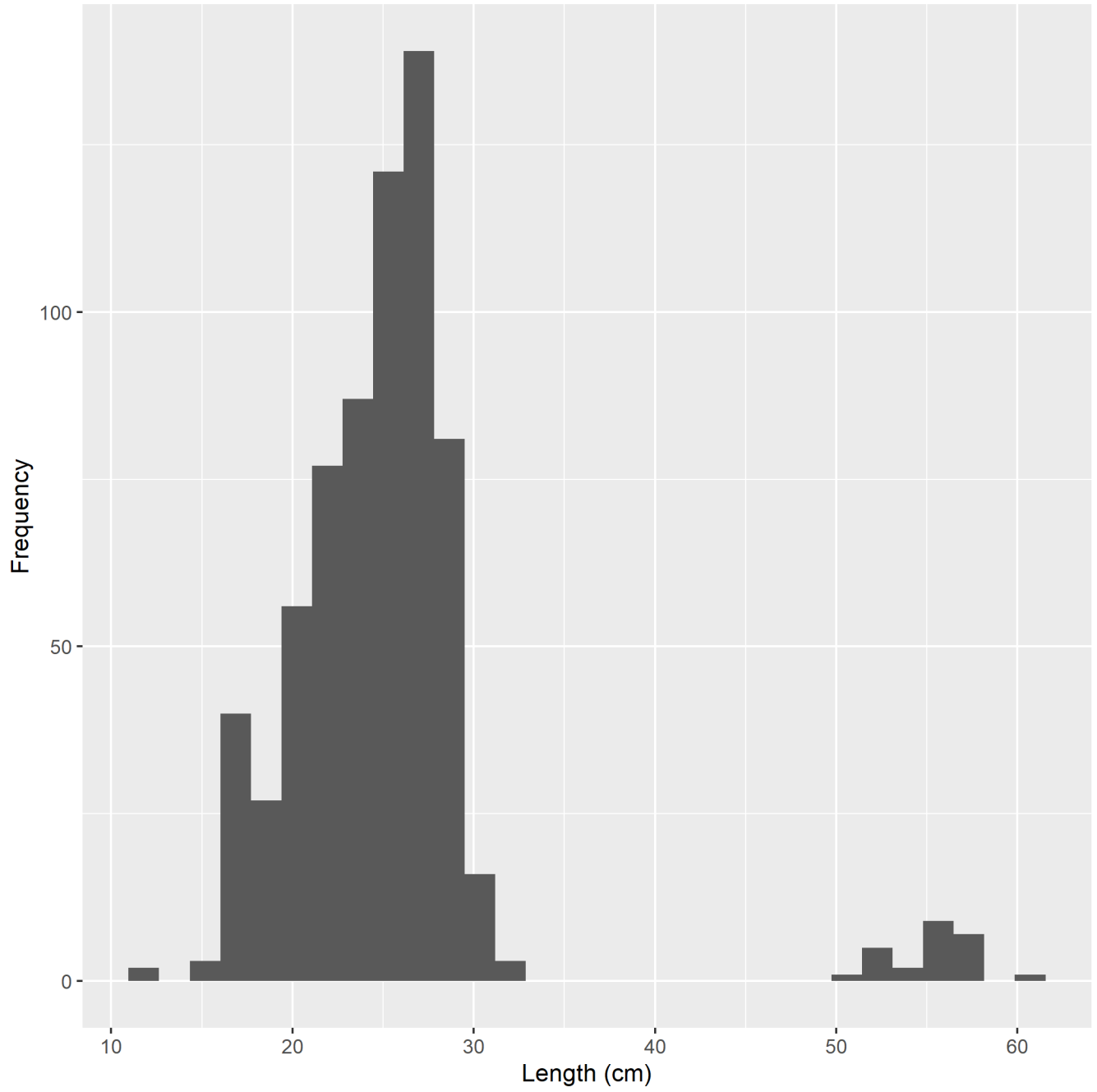


Figure 4: Length frequency of research survey catch of Chub mackerel in British Columbia, Canada.

Other observations

Chub mackerel are often captured as bycatch in both recreational and commercial fisheries for Pacific salmon species. Especially off the west coast of Vancouver Island and off of Prince Rupert in northern British Columbia. They are also allowed to be caught and landed under Canada's integrated fishery management plan. However, although they are often consumed for personal use, there appears to be no targeted fisheries and no market for Chub mackerel in British Columbia.