NPFC-2025-SSC PS16-IP08

Pacific saury fishing condition in Japan in 2025 (Up to the end of November)

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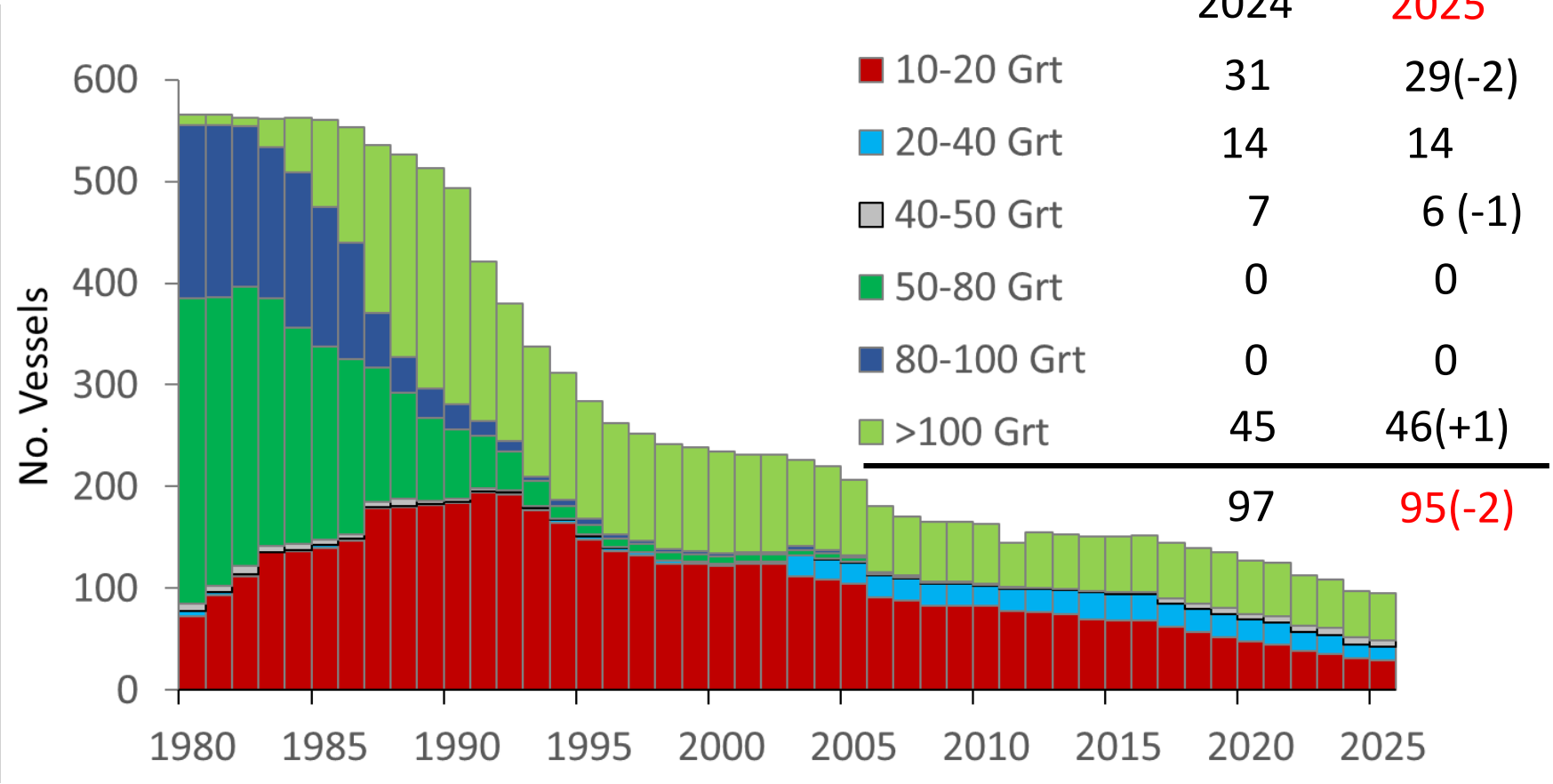
Number of vessels until 2025

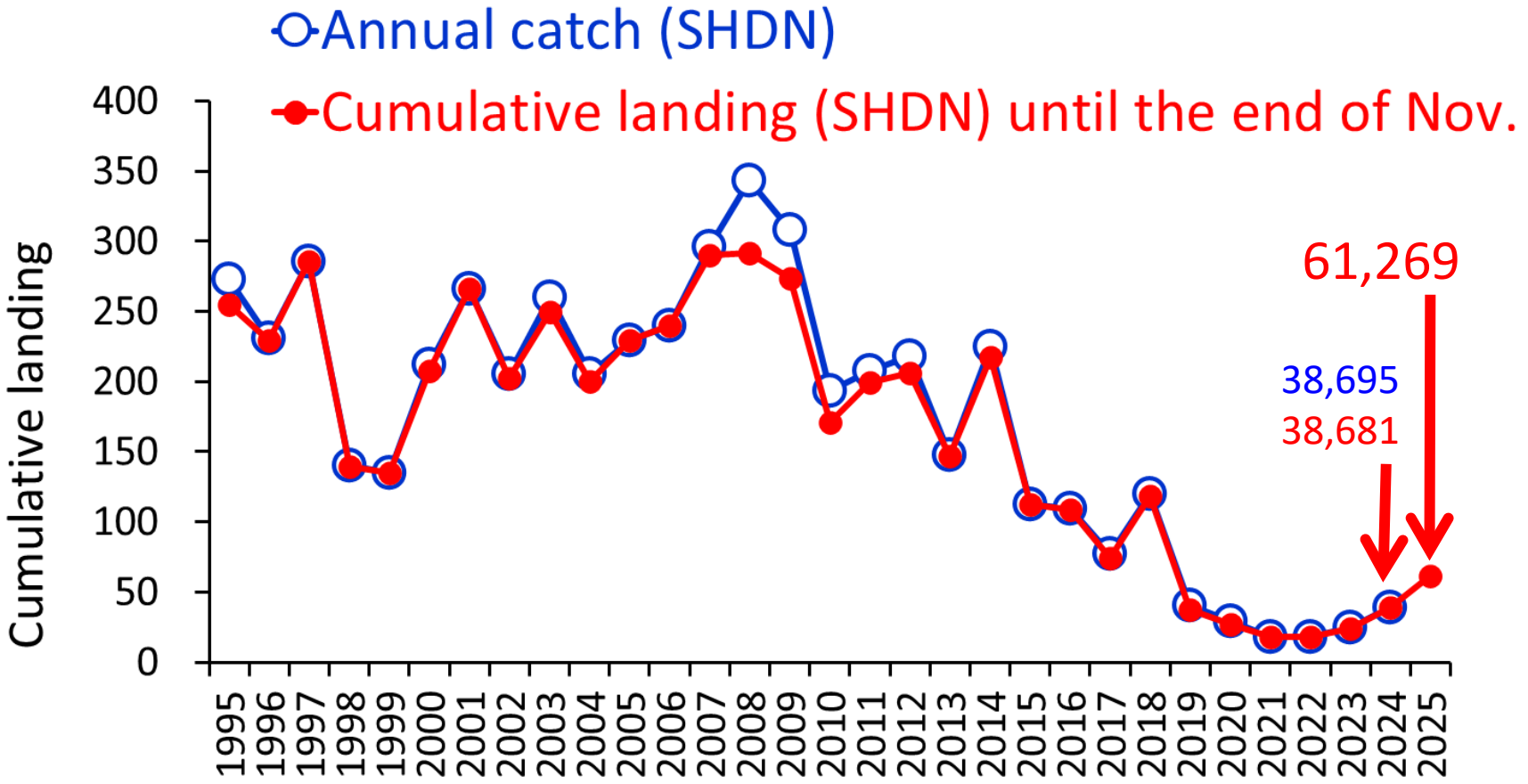
Licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries



	2024	2025
10-20 Grt	31	29(-2)
20-40 Grt	14	14
40-50 Grt	7	6 (-1)
50-80 Grt	0	0
80-100 Grt	0	0
>100 Grt	45	46(+1)
	97	95(-2)

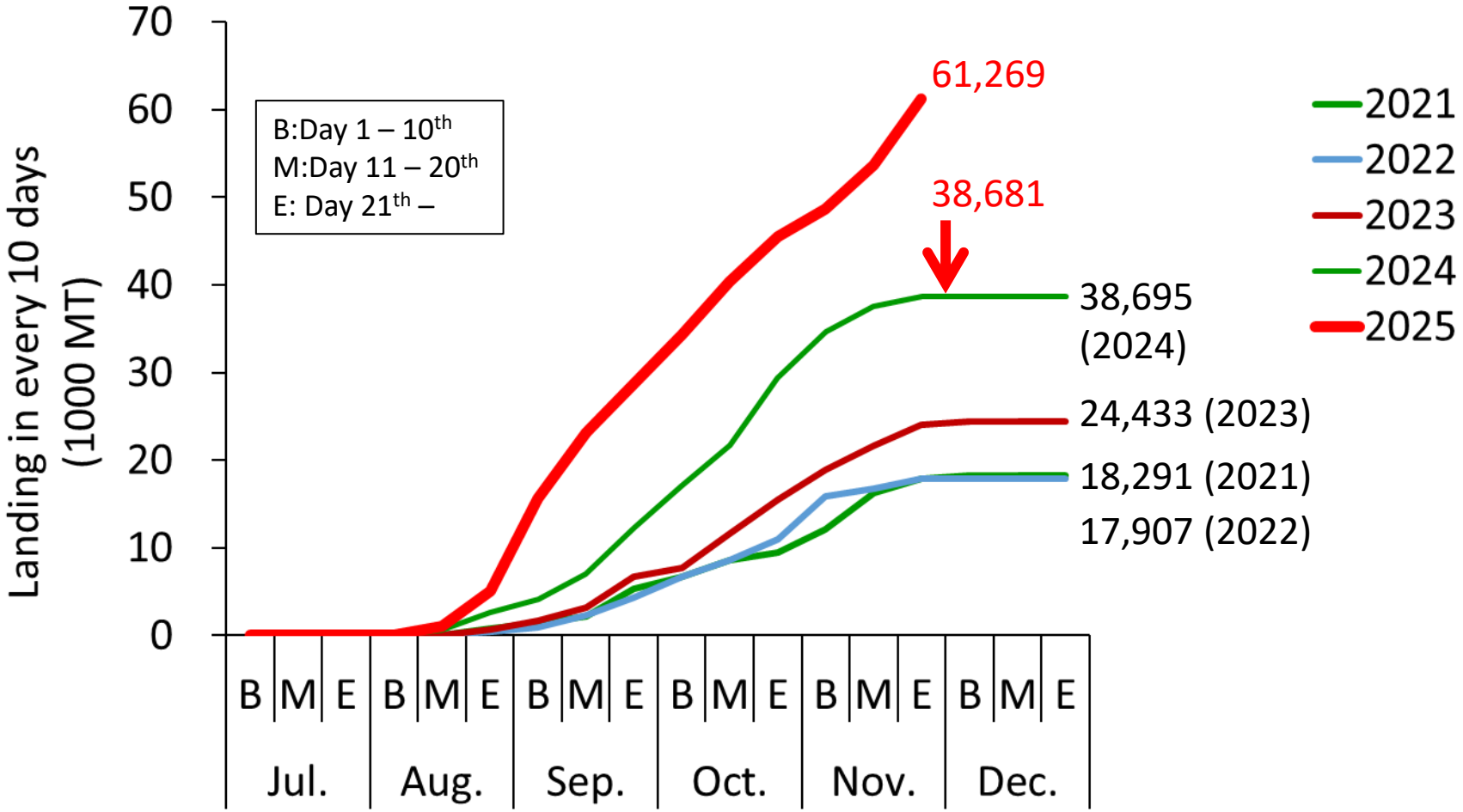
- **In 2025, 95 fishing vessels were registered, two fewer than in 2024.**

Total landing until the end of Nov.



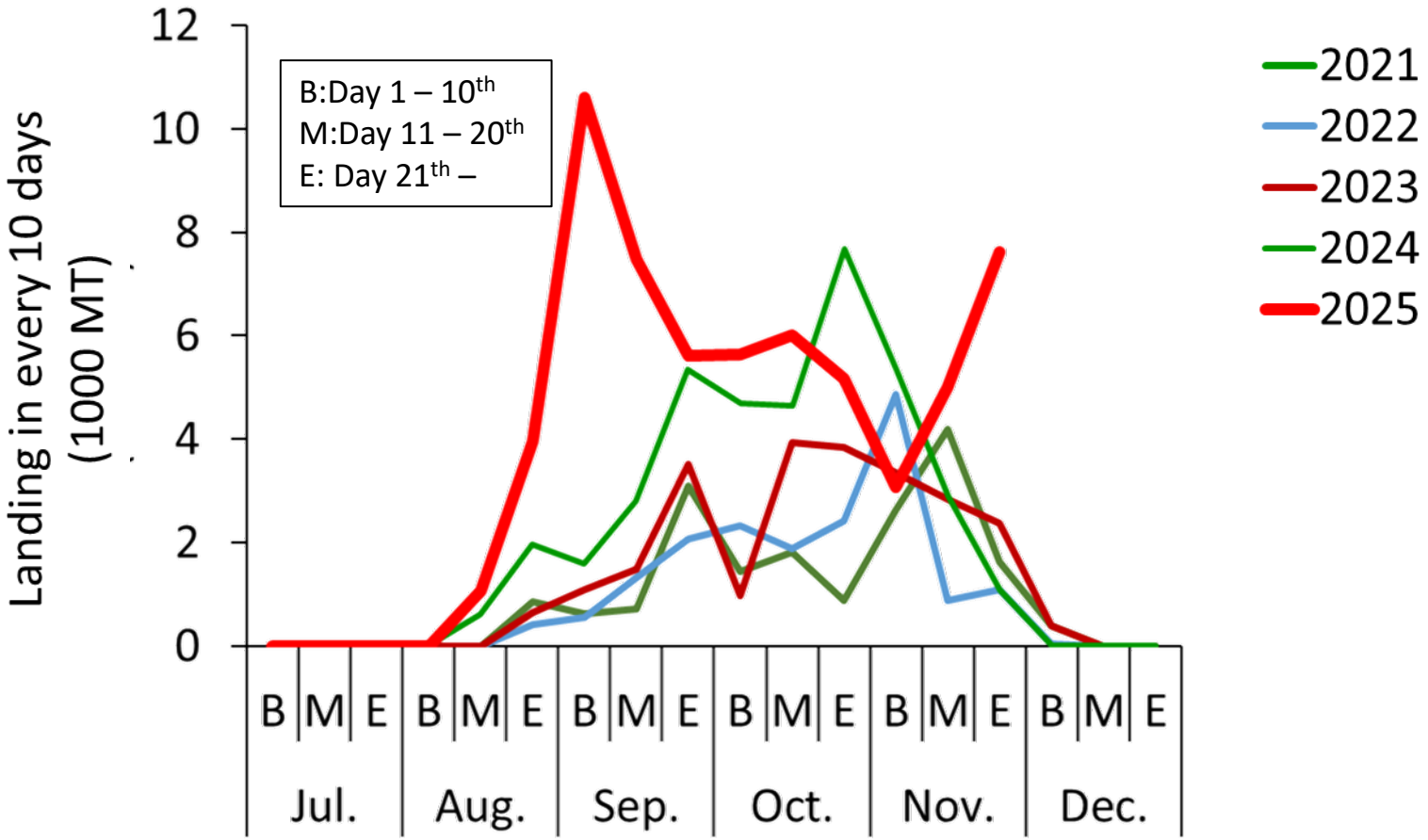
- The 2025 fishing season started on August 10.
- This graph shows the annual landing up to 2024 and the catch by the end of November, including 2025.
- Total landing by stick-held dip net (SHDN) vessels until the end of November is 61,269 MT (38,681 MT in 2024).

Cumulative catch in 2025



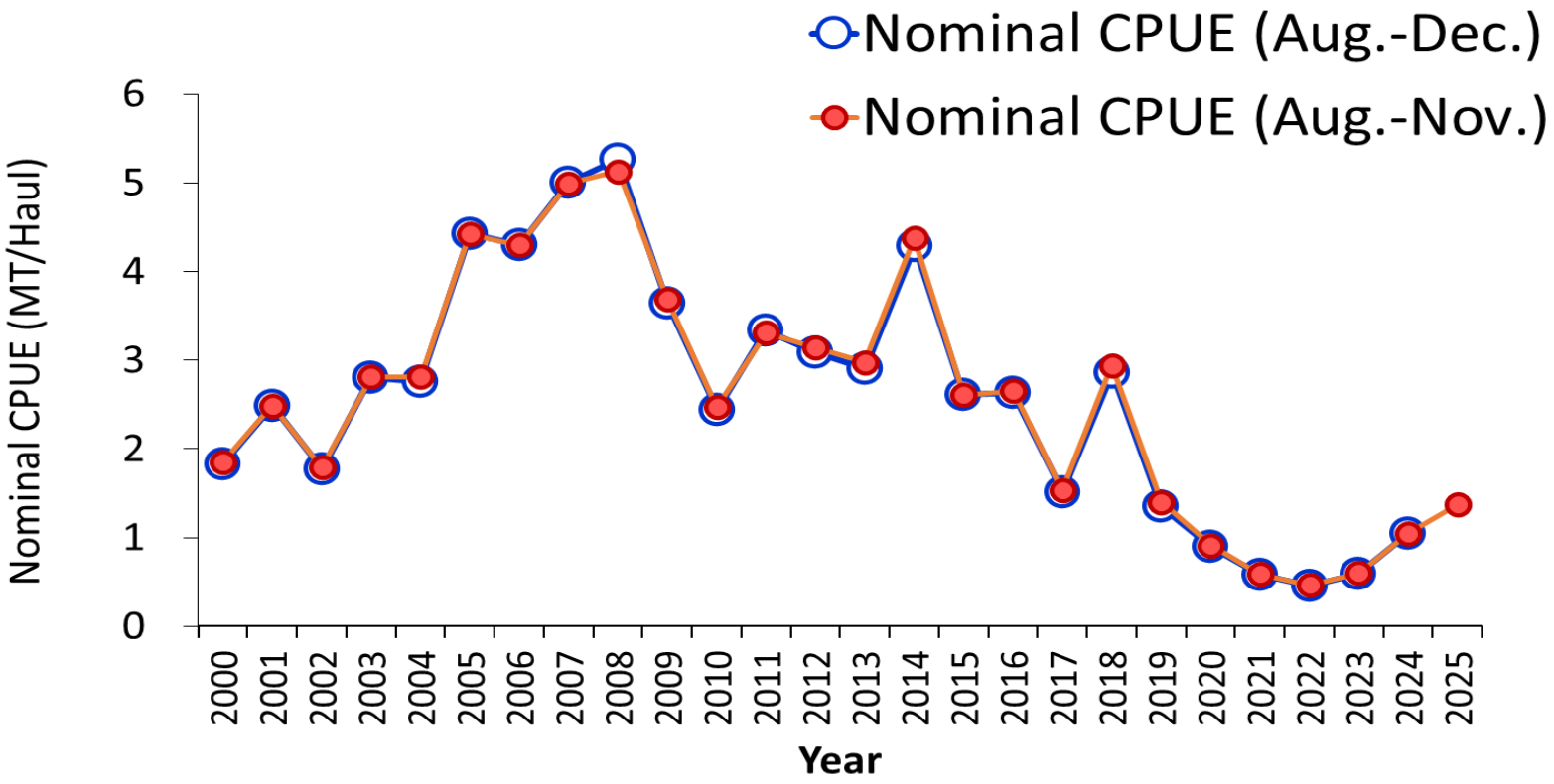
- **The cumulative landings since August has exceeded that of the past five years.**
- **The landings by the end of November is 158% of the 2024 landings.**

Seasonal catch (2021-2025)



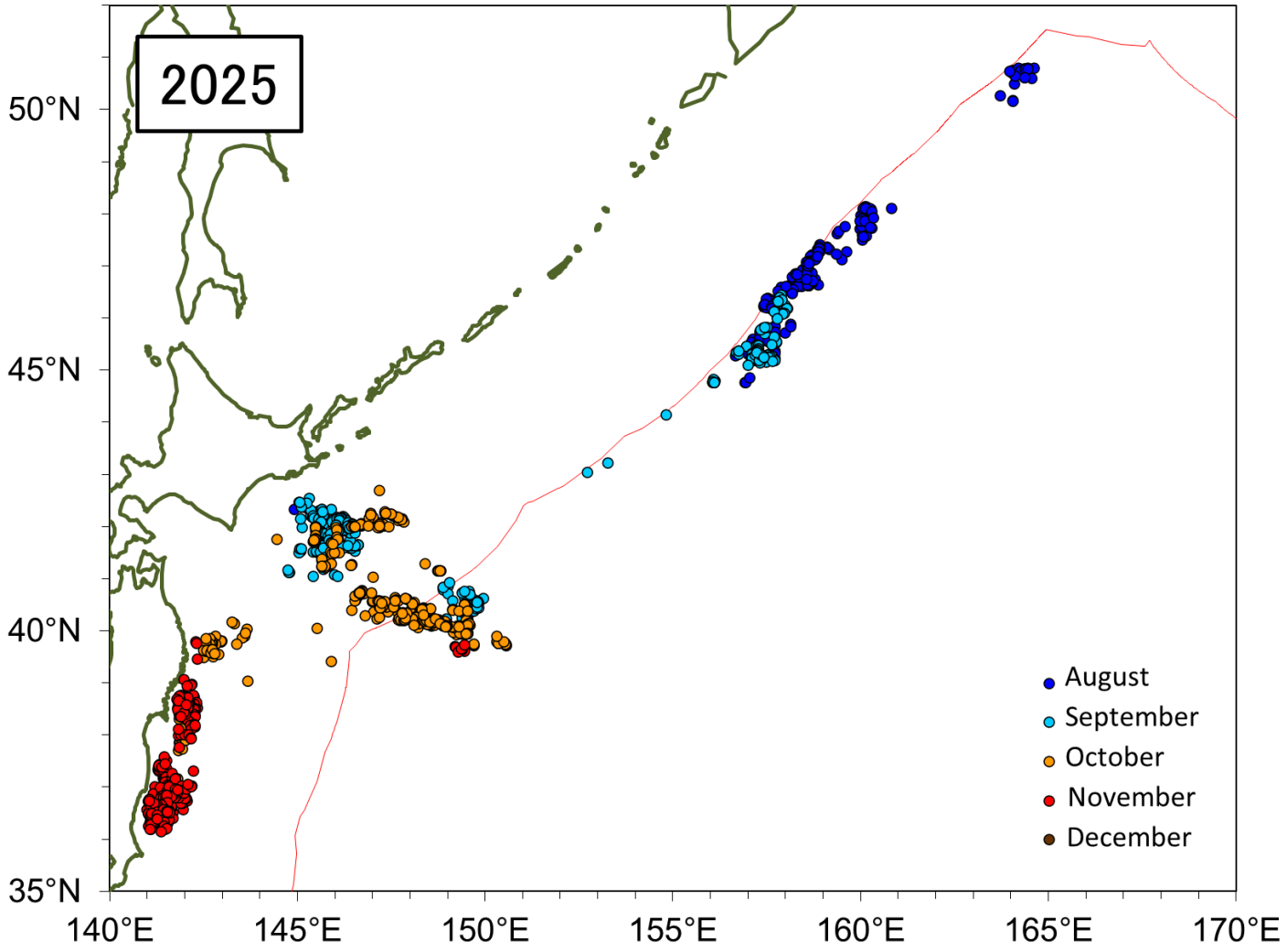
- **The highest landings occurred in early September.**
- **It decreased once in early November, but increased again afterward.**

Nominal CPUE



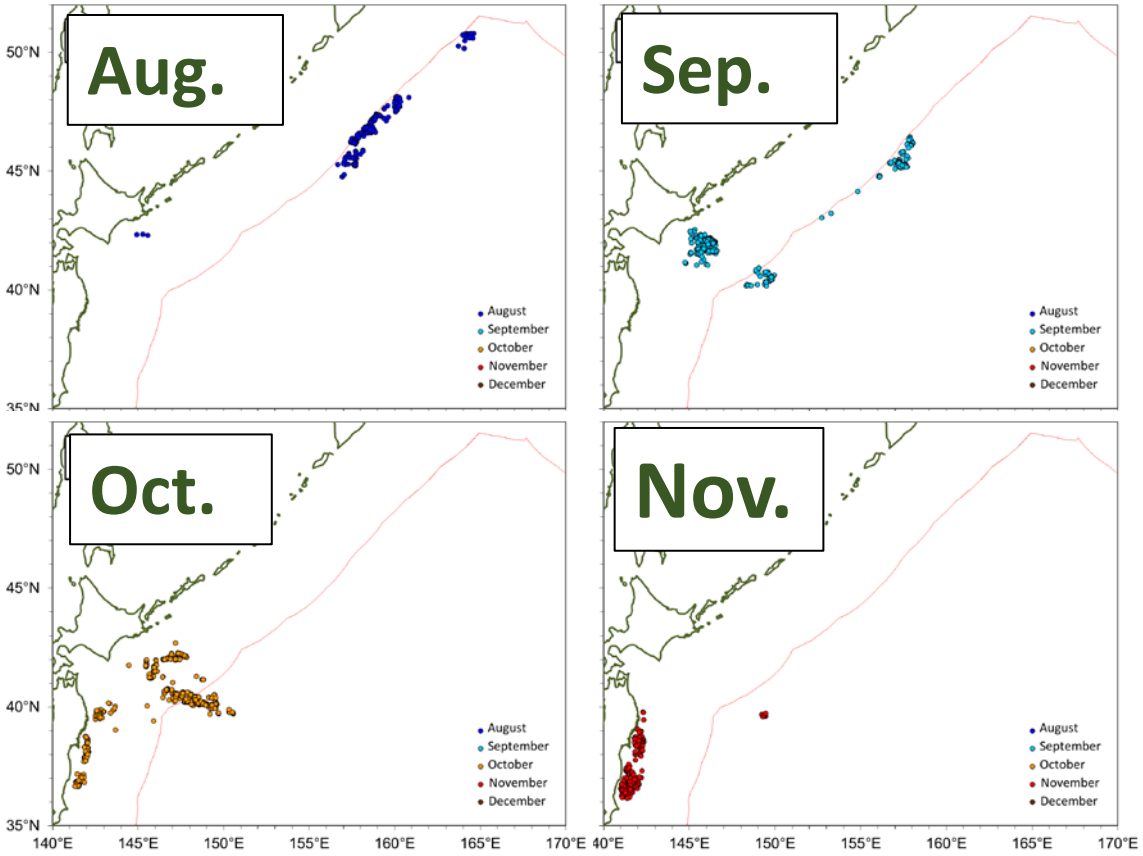
- **Nominal CPUE up to the end of November was 1.37, the highest in the last six years, but the value remains low compared with the 2000s.**

Fishing grounds in 2025



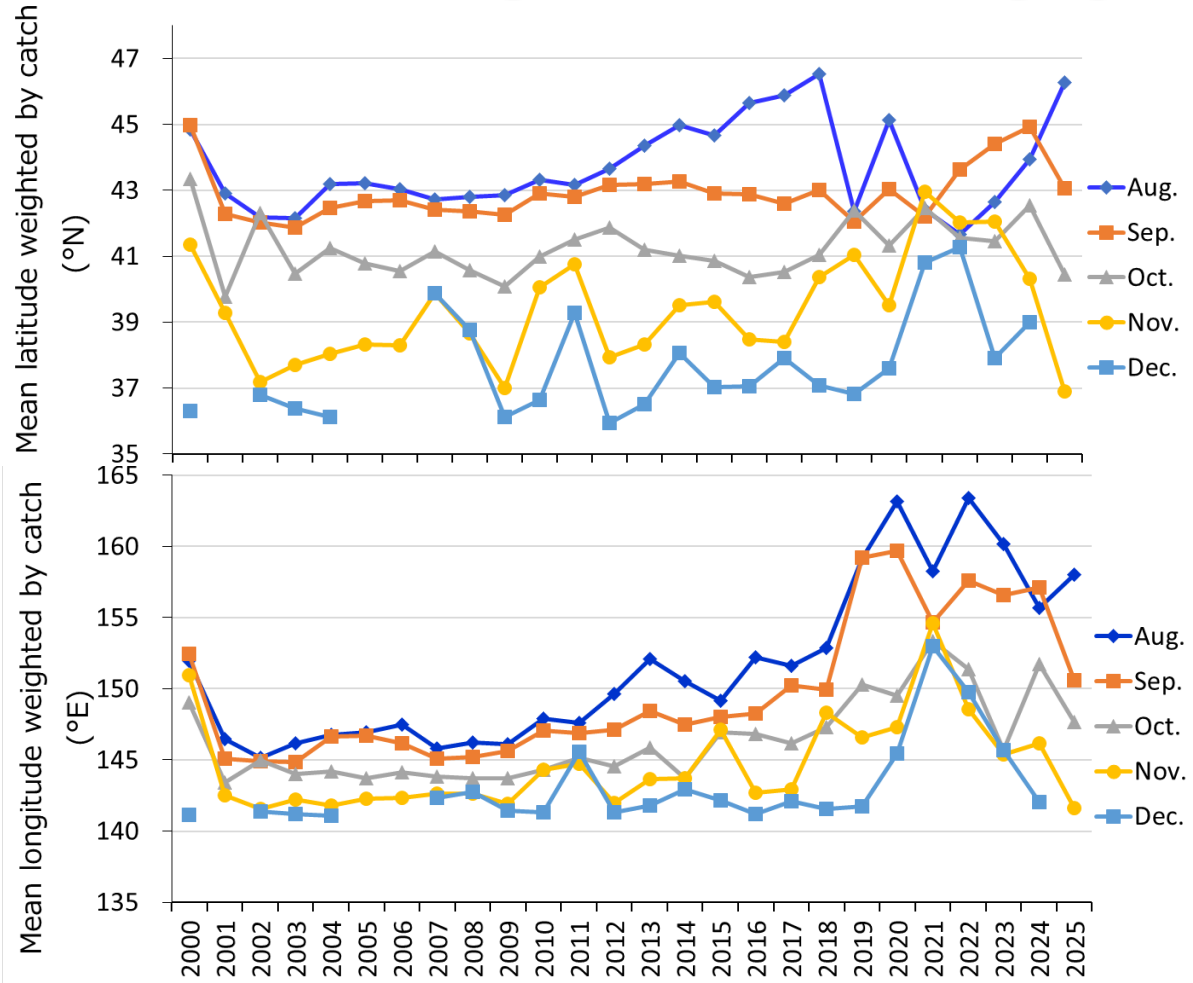
- **This season's fishing grounds were in High seas , but after middle of fishing season, they mainly located in EEZ.**

Fishing grounds in 2025



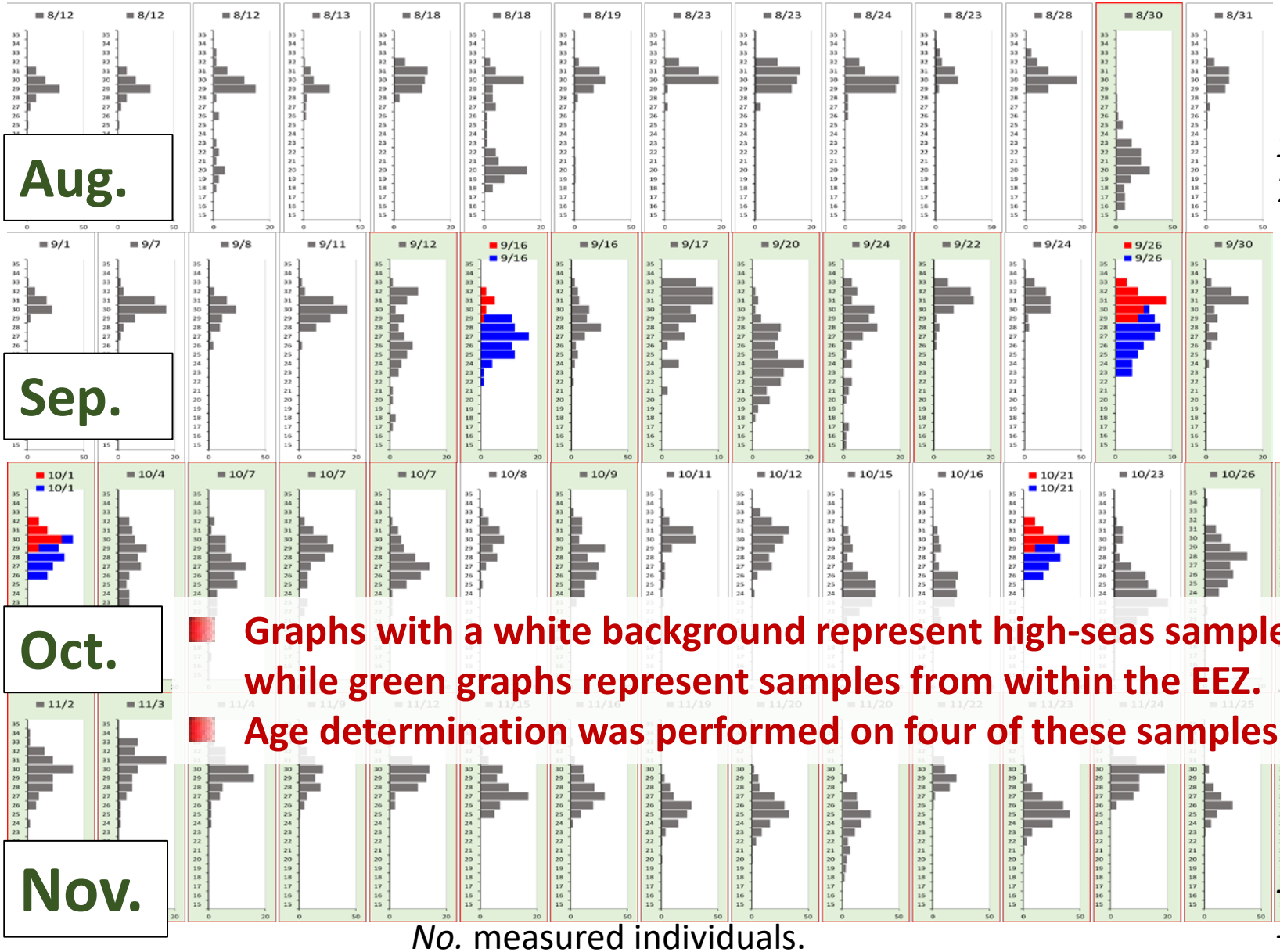
- At the beginning of the season, fishing grounds were formed north of 45-50° N in high seas.
- Fishing grounds formed within the EEZ in August, the first time since 2018. After middle of September, the main fishing grounds located in EEZ.
- Proportion of the EEZ catch against the total catchwas 64.3%.

Annual change of fishing ground



- **In 2025, the centroid in August, at the start of the fishing season, shifted northward.**
- **From September , the centroid shifted west compared with 2024.**

Size and age compositions



14 samples
784 ind.

14 samples
887 ind.

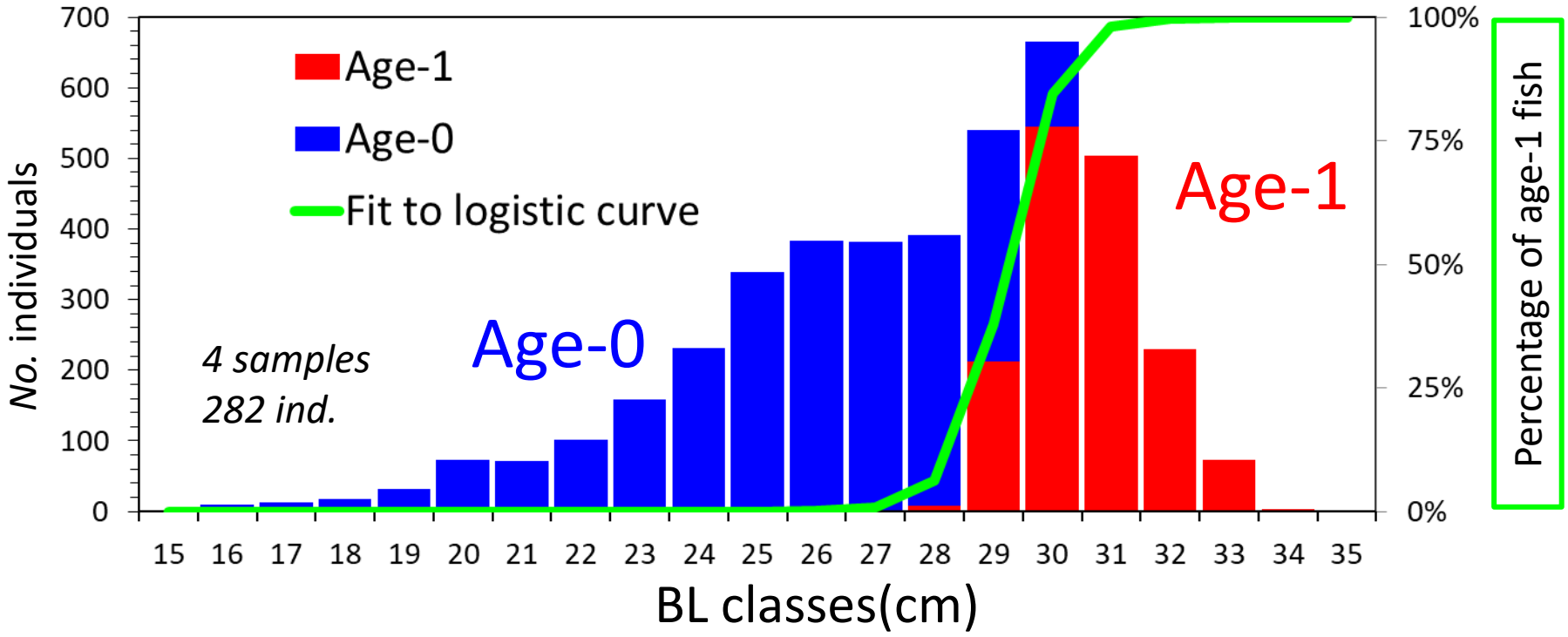
15 samples
1,322 ind.

15 samples
1,251 ind.

- Graphs with a white background represent high-seas samples, while green graphs represent samples from within the EEZ.
- Age determination was performed on four of these samples.

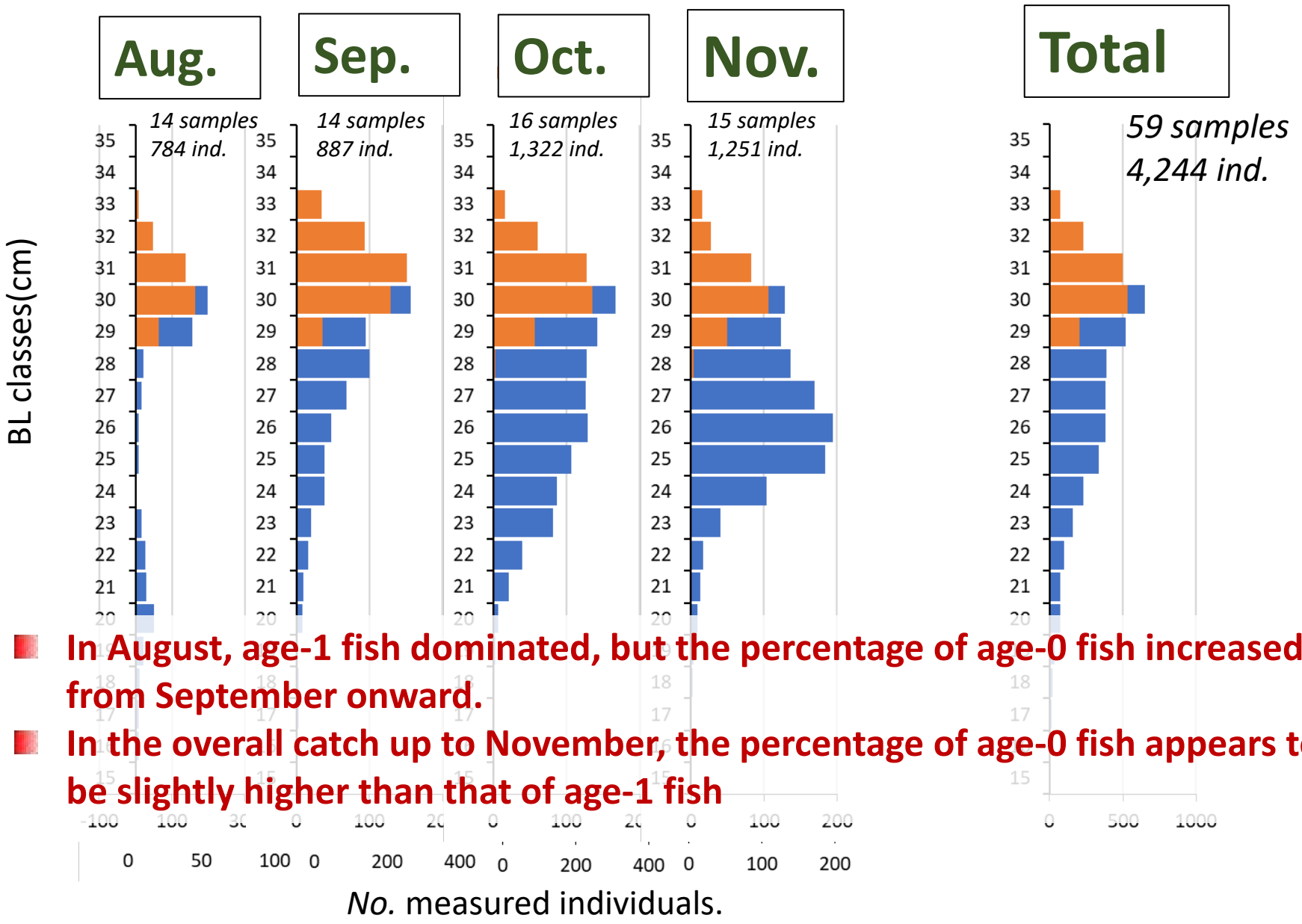
No. measured individuals.

Size and age compositions



- Age determination was conducted on 282 individuals collected from four locations in September and October.
- The body length at which 50% of individuals are age-1 was estimated to be 29.2 cm, and the average body length of age-1 fish was 30.1 cm.
- In recent years, the body length of age-1 fish has decreased annually, but this year it has recovered greatly.
- The results below were obtained using this age–length key (ALK).

Size and age compositions



- In August, age-1 fish dominated, but the percentage of age-0 fish increased from September onward.
- In the overall catch up to November, the percentage of age-0 fish appears to be slightly higher than that of age-1 fish

Bycatch information from the Japanese fisheries

The following species have been reported as bycatch.

- Sardine (*Sardinops melanostictus*)
- Mackerel (*Scomber japonicus* and/or *S. australasicus*)
- Anchovy (*Engraulis japonicus*)
- Japanese flying squid (*Todarodes pacificus*)

Summary

- The landings by the end of November is 61,269 MT, 158% of the 2024 landings in same period.
- At the beginning of the fishing season in August, fishing grounds were formed north of 45 - 50°N in high seas. After middle of September, the main fishing grounds located in EEZ. Proportion of the EEZ catch against the total catch was 64.3% until the end of November.
- The average body length of age-1 fish was 30.1 cm. In recent years, the body length of age-1 fish has decreased annually, but this year it has recovered greatly.
- In the overall catch up to November, the percentage of age-0 fish appears to be slightly higher than that of age-1 fish.
- The following species have been reported as bycatch: Sardine (*Sardinops melanostictus*), Mackerel (*Scomber japonicus* and/or *S. australasicus*), Anchovy (*Engraulis japonicus*) and Japanese flying squid (*Todarodes pacificus*)