North Pacific Fisheries Commission

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Chub Mackerel Catch in Canada (updated for 2026)

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Commercial catches

There are n = 7679 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 54 catches of Chub mackerel in pelagic tows, with a maximum catch of 8650 individuals.

The Chub mackerel were mostly captured on the outer coast surveys (Figure 3). 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 = 1020 Chub mackerel lengths have been collected in surveys in Canada since 1983. The peak of observed lengths was ~28 cm (Figure 4). The length-weight data is limited to a few years of collection, but the relationship between length and weight is shown in Figure 5.

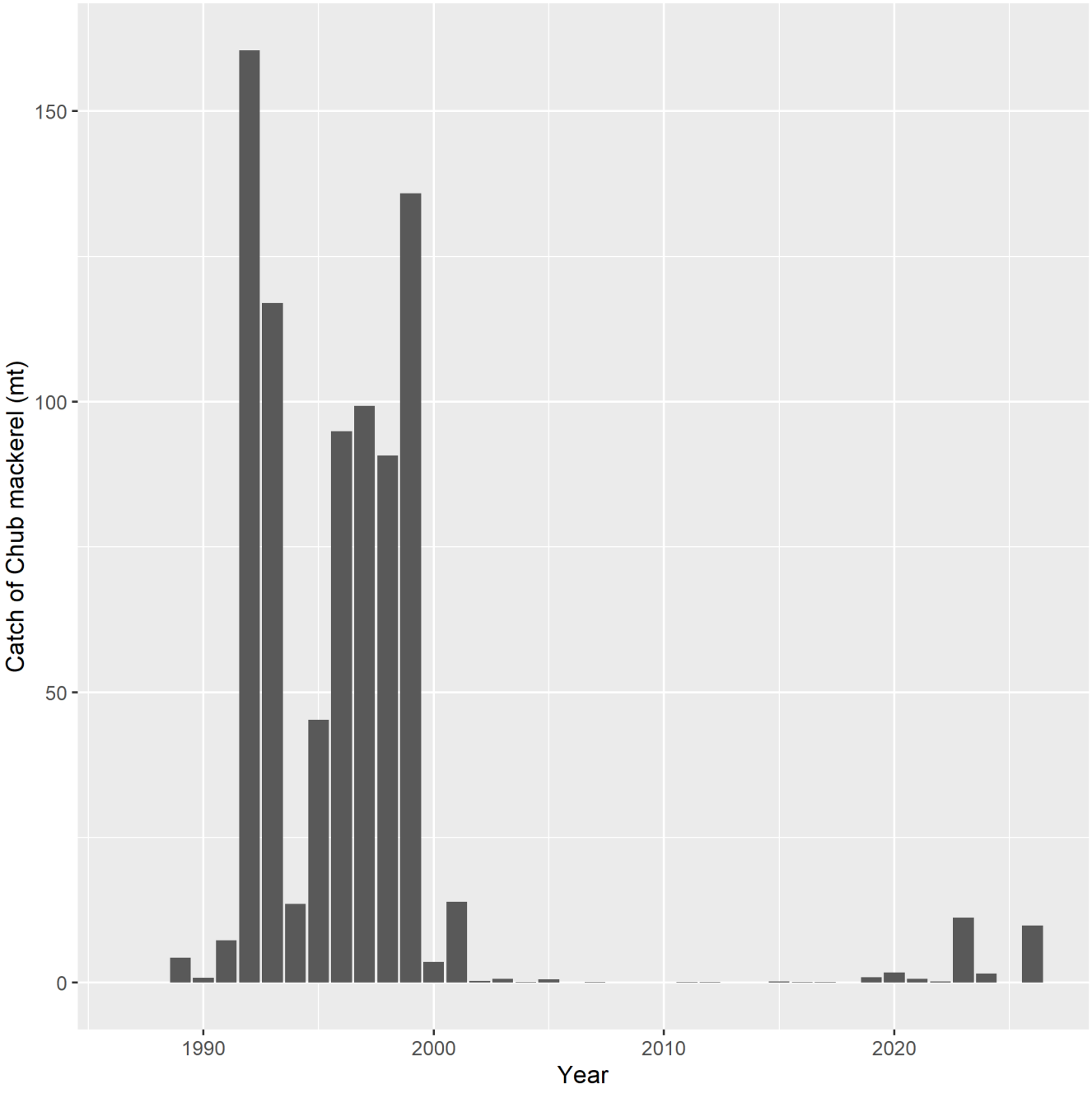


Figure 1: Catch of Chub mackerel in commercial fisheries in British Columbia, Canada combined by year across all fishing gears.

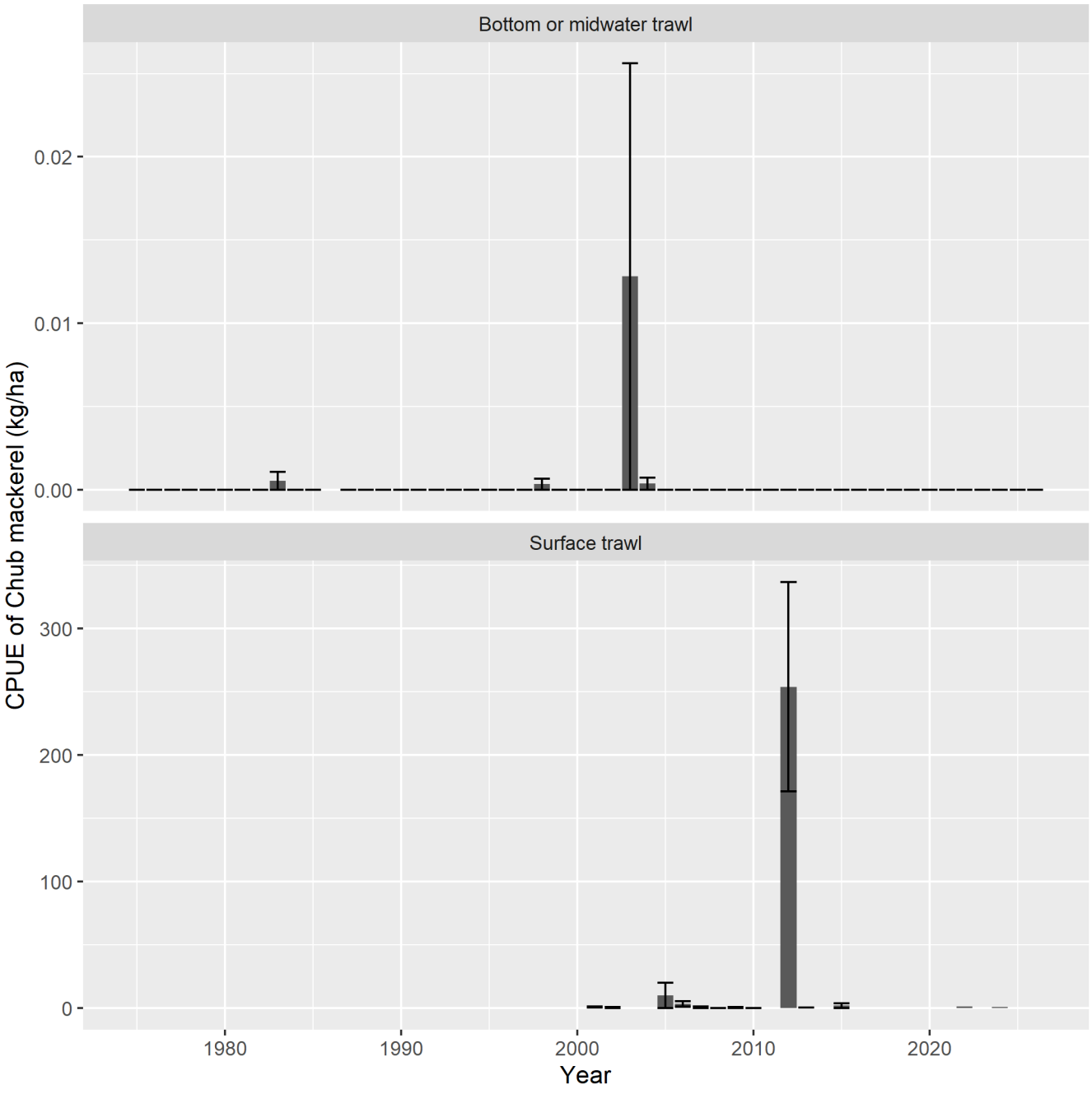


Figure 2: Catch per unit effort of Chub mackerel in research survey trawl in British Columbia, Canada. Data were combined across gear types (pelagic, midwater and bottom trawls).

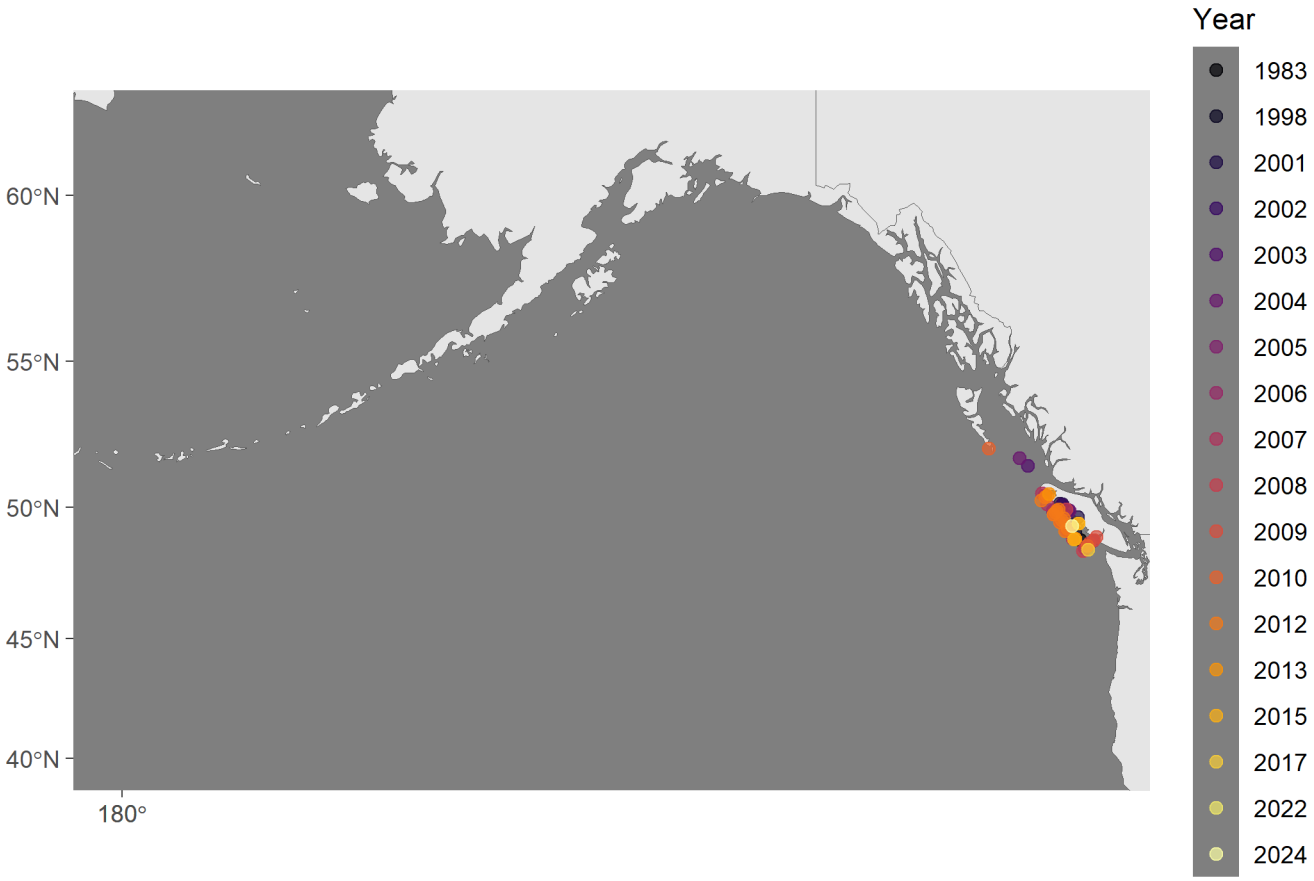


Figure 3: Locations of Chub mackerel catches in historical research surveys in British Columbia.

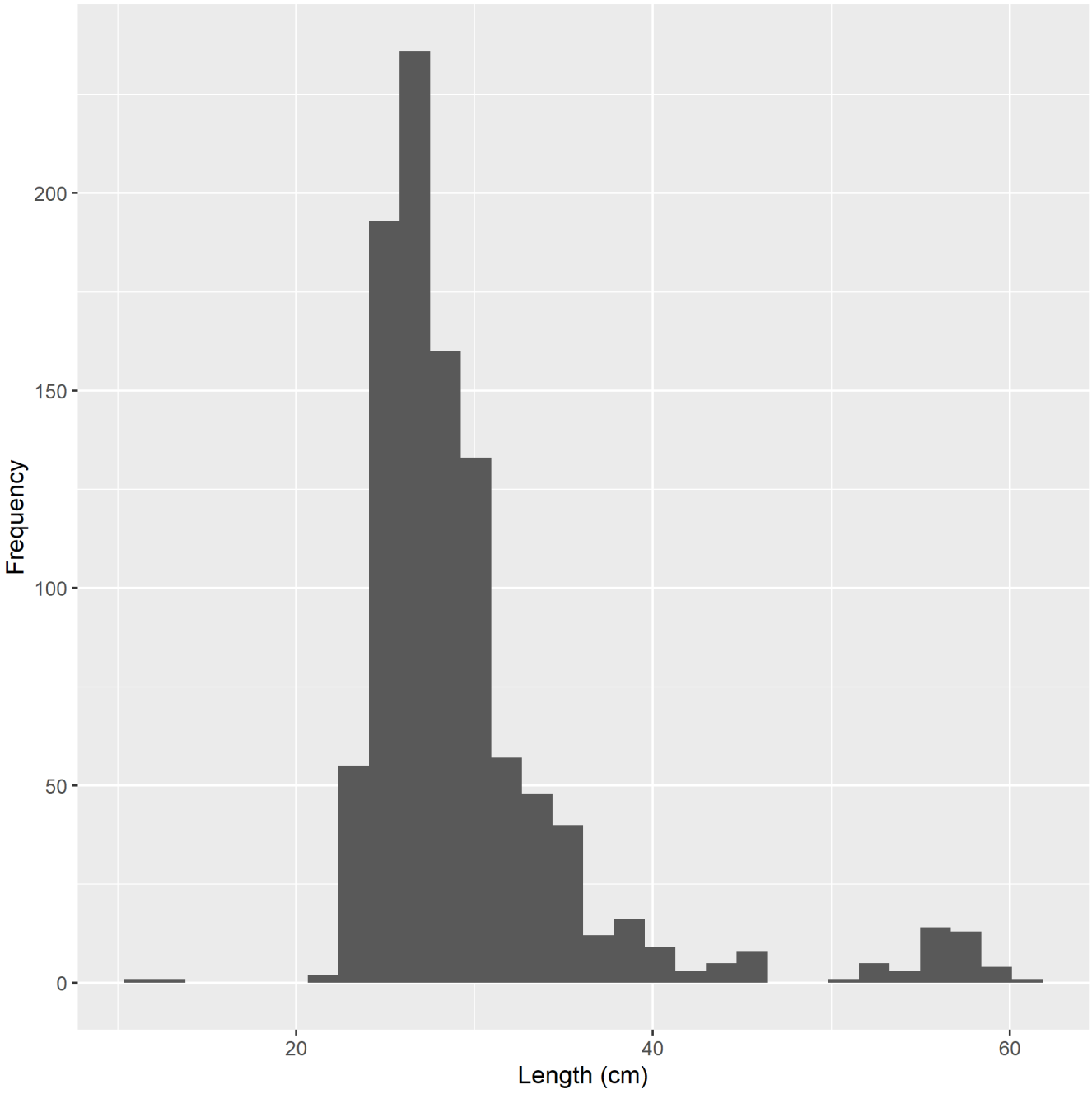


Figure 4: Length frequency of research survey catch of Chub mackerel in British Columbia, Canada.

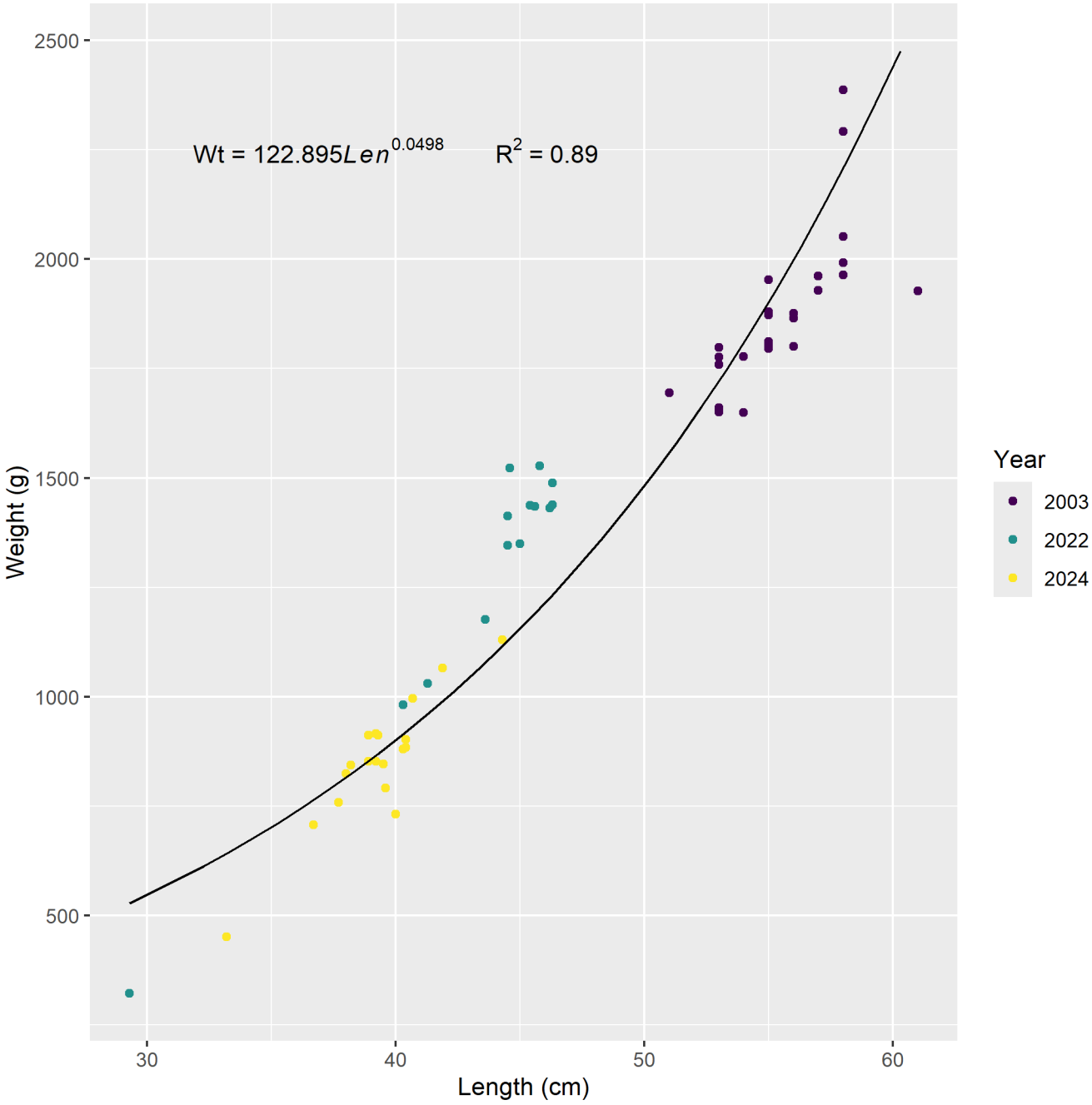


Figure 5: Length-weight relationship for of research survey catch of Chub mackerel in British Columbia, Canada.

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. The 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 no targeted fisheries and no market for Chub mackerel in British Columbia.