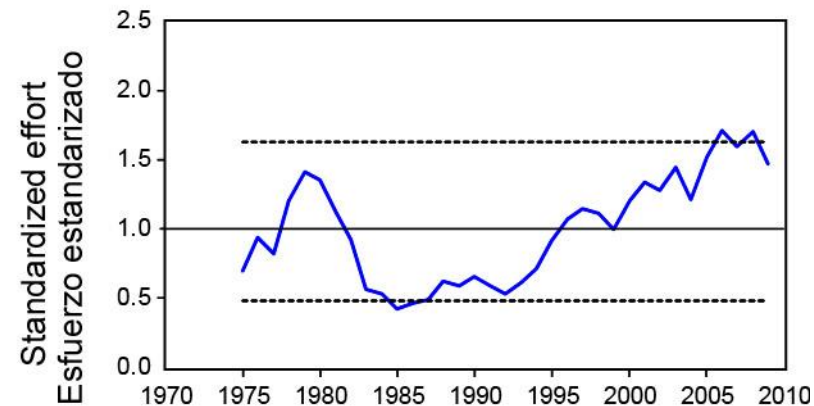
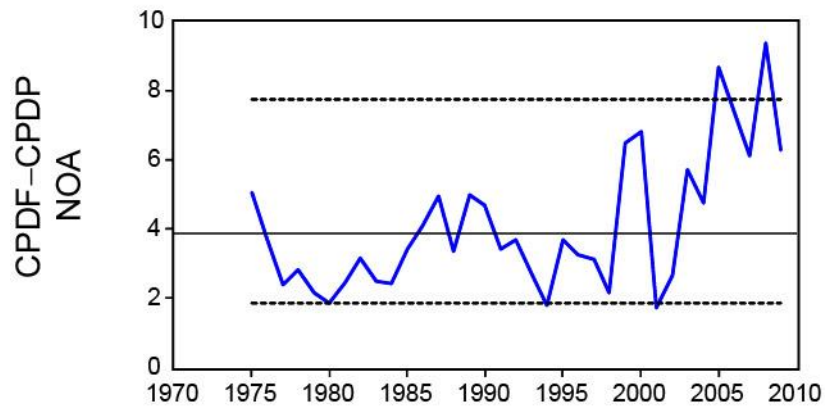
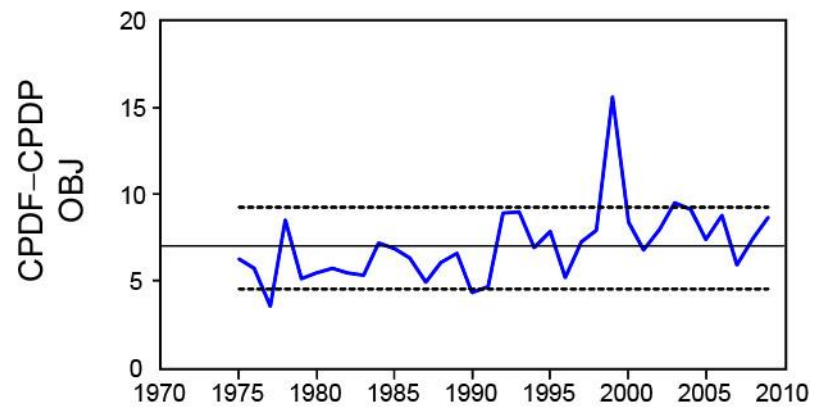
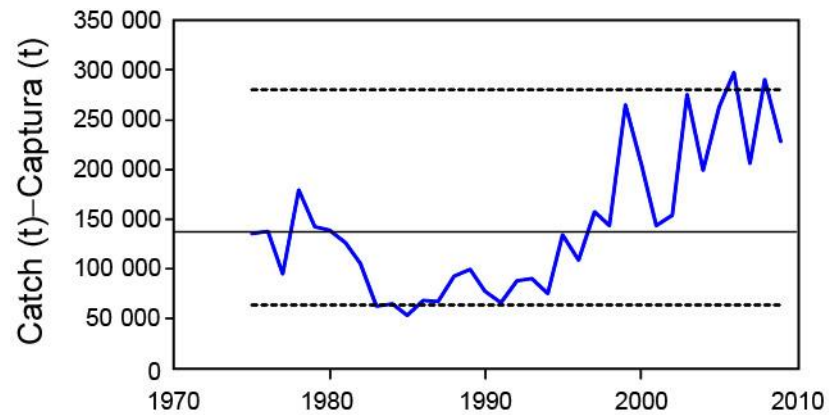
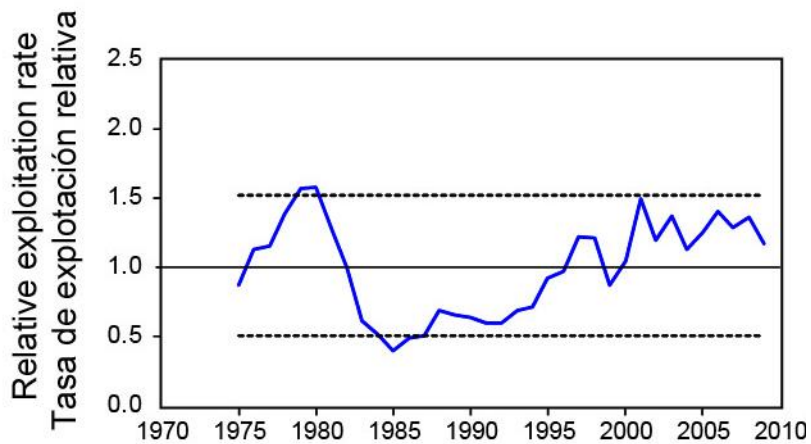
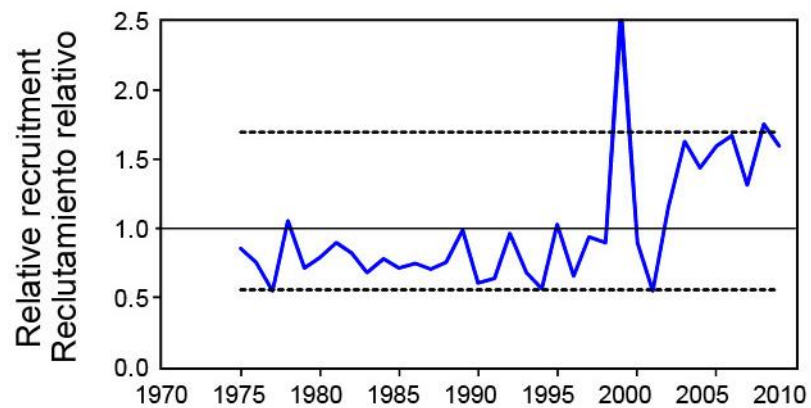
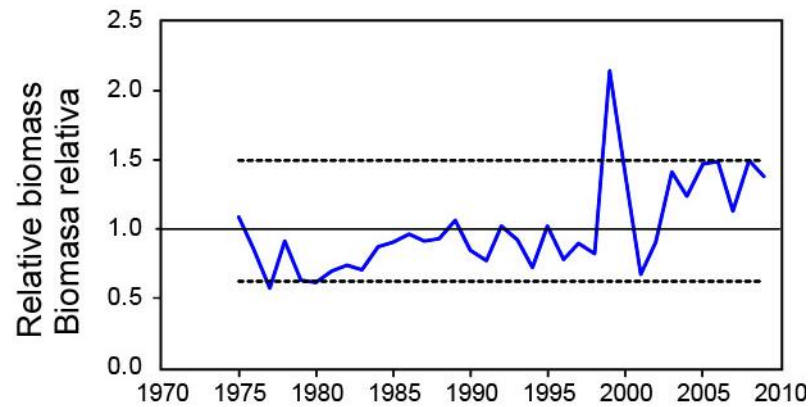
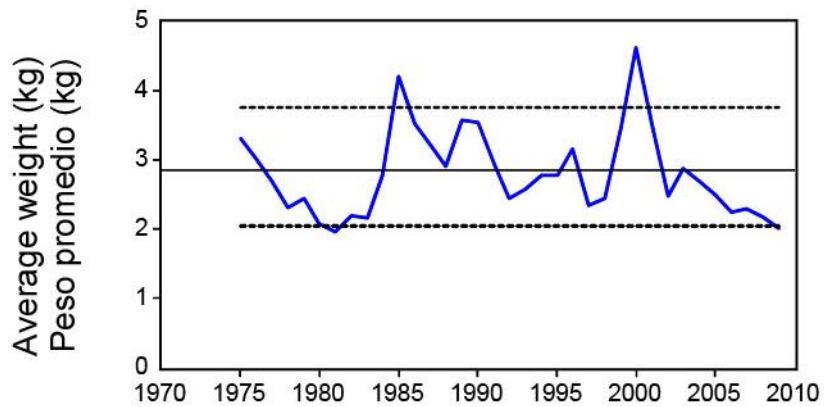


INDICATORS OF STOCK STATUS FOR SKIPJACK TUNA IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN

Indicators

- Based on data (catch, effort, CPUE, and mean weight)
- Based on a simple population dynamics model (biomass, recruitment, and exploitation rate)
- Reference levels based on the 5th and 95th percentiles





Conclusions

- The main concern with the skipjack tuna stock is the constantly increasing exploitation rate.
- The indicators have yet to detect any adverse consequence of this increase in exploitation rate.
- The average weight is below its lower reference level, which can be a consequence of overexploitation, but it can also be caused by recent recruitments being greater than past recruitments.
- The continued decline in average length is a concern and, combined with leveling off of catch and CPUE, may indicate that the exploitation rate is approaching or above the level associated with MSY