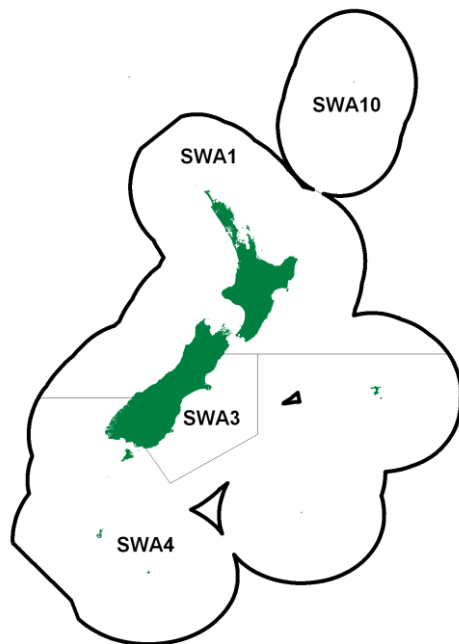


SILVER WAREHOU (SWA)

(*Seriolella punctata*)
Warehou



1. FISHERY SUMMARY

1.1 Commercial fisheries

Silver warehou entered the Quota Management System (QMS) on 1 October 1986. Silver warehou are common around the South Island and on the Chatham Rise in depths of 200–800 m. The majority of the commercial catch is taken from the Chatham Rise, Canterbury Bight, southeast of Stewart Island and the west coast of the South Island. Reported landings by nation from 1974 to 1987–88 are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Reported landings (t) by nation from 1974 to 1987–88. Source: 1974–1978 (Paul 1980); 1978 to 1987–88 (FSU).

Fishing Year	New Zealand			Foreign Licensed		Grand Total	
	Domestic	Chartered	Total	Japan	Korea		USSR
1974*							7 412
1975*							6 869
1976*	estimated as 70% of total warehou landings						13 142
1977*							12 966
1978*							12 581
1978–79**	?	629	629	3 868	122	212	4 832
1979–80**	?	3 466	3 466	4 431	217	196	8 309
1980–81**	?	2 397	2 397	1 246	-	13	3 656
1981–81**	?	2 184	2 184	1 174	186	3	3 547
1982–83**	?	3 363	3 363	1 162	265	189	4 979
1983†	?	1 556	1 556	510	98	3	2 167
1983–84§	303	3 249	3 552	418	194	3	4 167
1984–85§	203	4 754	4 957	1 348	387	15	6 706
1985–86§	276	5 132	5 408	1 424	217	5	7 054
1986–87§	261	4 565	4 826	1 169	29	100	6 125
1987–88§	499	7 008	7 507	431	111	39	8 088

* Calendar year.

**1 April to 31 March.

†1 April to 30 September.

§1 October to 30 September.

Commercial fishing for silver warehou developed in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Before the establishment of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), silver warehou, common or blue warehou, and

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2001-02	1 004	2 132	2 899	3 280	4 648	4 090	0	10	8 551	9 512
2002-03	1 029	3 000	3 772	3 280	4 746	4 090	0	10	9 547	10 380
2003-04	1 595	3 000	3 606	3 280	5 529	4 090	0	10	10 730	10 380

Table 2 [Continued]

Fishstock FMA (s)	SWA 1		SWA 3		SWA 4		SWA 10		Total	
	1, 2, 7, 8 & 9		3		4, 5 & 6		10		Landings	TACC
	Landings	TACC	Landings	TACC	Landings	TACC	Landings	TACC		
2004-05	1 467	3 000	3 797	3 280	4 279	4 090	0	10	9 543	10 380
2005-06	1 023	3 000	4 524	3 280	5 591	4 090	0	10	11 138	10 380
2006-07	2 093	3 000	6 059	3 280	6 022	4 090	0	10	14 174	10 380
2007-08	1 679	3 000	2 918	3 280	3 510	4 090	0	10	8 107	10 380
2008-09	1 366	3 000	3 264	3 280	4 213	4 090	0	10	8 843	10 380
2009-10	712	3 000	2 937	3 280	3 429	4 090	0	10	7 078	10 380
2010-11	938	3 000	3 559	3 280	3 507	4 090	0	10	8 004	10 380
2011-12	1 029	3 000	3 318	3 280	2 783	4 090	0	10	7 130	10 380
2012-13	748	3 000	3 788	3 280	4 128	4 090	0	10	8 664	10 380
2013-14	903	3 000	3 201	3 280	3 885	4 090	0	10	7 989	10.380

* FSU data

§Totals do not match those in Table 1 as the data were collected independently and there was under-reporting to the FSU in 1987-88.

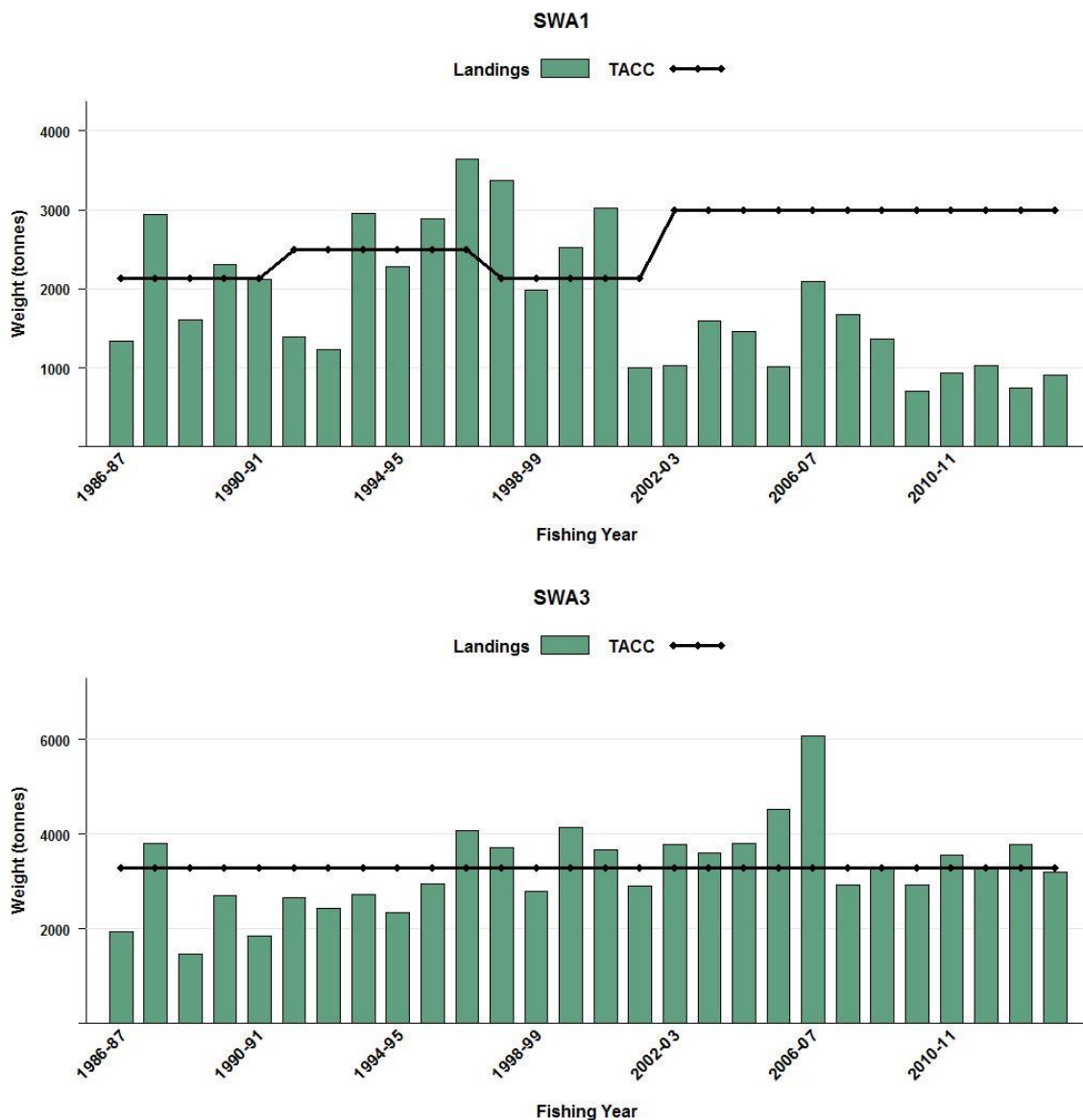


Figure 1: Reported commercial landings and TACCs for the three main SWA stocks. From top to bottom: SWA 1 (Auckland East) and SWA 3 (South East Coast). Note that these figures do not show data prior to entry into the QMS. [Continued on next page].

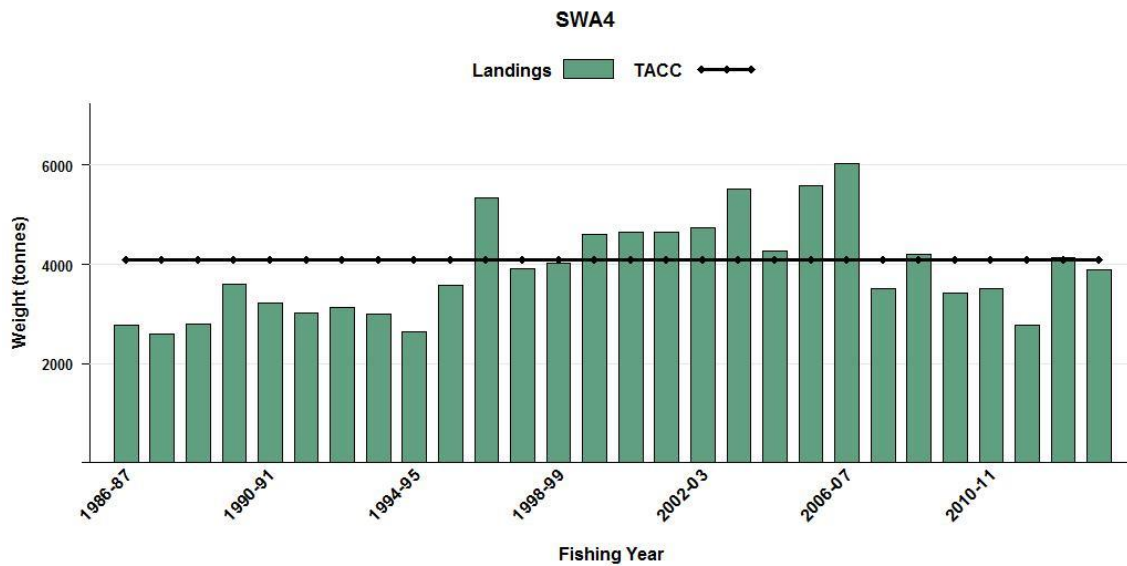


Figure 1 [Continued]: Reported commercial landings and TACCs for the three main SWA stocks. SWA 4 (South East Chatham Rise). Note that these figures do not show data prior to entry into the QMS.

1.2 Recreational fisheries

There are no current recreational fisheries for silver warehou.

1.3 Customary non-commercial fisheries

Quantitative information on the current level of customary non-commercial take is not available.

1.4 Illegal catch

Silver warehou have been misreported as white and blue warehou in the past. The extent of this practice is unknown and could lead to under-reporting of silver warehou catches.

1.5 Other sources of mortality

Other sources of mortality are unknown.

2. BIOLOGY

Initial growth is rapid and fish reach sexual maturity at around 45 cm fork length in 4 years. Based on a study of ageing methodology and growth parameters (Horn & Sutton 1995), maximum age is considered to be 23 years for females and 19 years for males. An estimate of instantaneous natural mortality (M) was derived by using the equation $M = \log_e 100/A_{MAX}$, where A_{MAX} is the age reached by 1% of the virgin population. From their study, A_{MAX} of 19 years for female silver warehou and 17 years for males produced estimates of M of 0.24 and 0.27 respectively. Horn & Sutton (1995) qualified this result as the samples used in their study were not from virgin populations and the sampling method did not comprehensively sample the whole population. Based on these results M is likely to fall within the range 0.2–0.3.

Horn & Sutton also calculated von Bertalanffy growth curve parameters from their sample of fish from off the south and southeast coasts of the South Island (Table 3). Other biological parameters relevant to the stock assessment are shown in Table 3. Length weight regressions were calculated from two series of random trawl surveys using *Tangaroa*. One series was conducted on the Chatham Rise in January, 1992–97 and the other in Southland during February–March, 1993–96.

Silver warehou is a schooling species, aggregating to both feed and spawn. During spring–summer, both adult and juvenile silver warehou migrate to feed along the continental slope off the east and southeast coast of the South Island. Late-stage silver warehou eggs and larvae have been identified in

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plankton samples, and the early life history of silver warehou appears typical of many teleosts. Juvenile silver warehou inhabit shallow water at depths of 150–200 m and remain apart from sexually mature fish. Few immature fish are consequently taken by trawlers targeting silver warehou. Juveniles have been caught in Tasman Bay, on the east coast of the South Island and around the Chatham Islands. Once sexually mature, fish move out to deeper water along the shelf edge.

Table 3: Estimates of biological parameters of silver warehou.

Fishstock	Estimate		Source
	Both sexes		
1. $W = a(\text{length})^b$ (Weight in g, length in cm, total length).			
	a	b	
Chatham Rise	0.00848	3.214	Tangaroa Survey: January 1992–97
Southland	0.00473	3.380	February–March 1993–96
2. von Bertalanffy growth parameters			
Female			Males
L_∞	k	t_0	L_∞
54.5	0.33	-1.04	51.8
			k
			t_0
			-0.71
Horn & Sutton (1995)			

3. STOCKS AND AREAS

The stock structure is unknown.

Livingston (1988) found that spawning occurs on the Chatham Rise (Mernoo), east coast North Island and west coast South Island in late winter and at the Chatham Islands in late spring-early summer. There is some evidence for another spawning ground on the Stewart-Snares shelf, also in late winter. It is uncertain whether the same stock migrates from one area to another, spawning whenever conditions are appropriate, or if there are several separate stocks. The current boundaries bear little relation to known spawning areas and silver warehou distribution. Horn et al. (2001) investigated growth rates, gonad staging information, and age structure with regard to stock structure, but found no evidence from these characteristics for separate reproductive units.

4. STOCK ASSESSMENT

The assessment of silver warehou stocks was not updated in 2015.

4.1 Estimates of fishery parameters and abundance

Bottom trawl surveys have been conducted since the early 1990's using either the *Tangaroa* (Chatham Rise survey, Sub-Antarctic survey, and three surveys of the WCSI). . These surveys all encounter silver warehou, and the *Tangaroa* surveys on the WCSI are now optimized to estimate biomass for this species. However, for the other surveys the average CVs are high, and they have not been considered suitable for stock assessment or good monitoring tools for these stocks (Ministry of Fisheries 2008). They may, nonetheless, be useful in interpreting CPUE analysis.

A biomass time series is available for the Chatham Rise East area (Chatham Rise survey). Although there is a *Kaharoa* survey for the ECSI, it does not overlap well in areas fished as it tends to fish shallower water and encounter juvenile silver warehou. However, the Chatham Rise East survey overlaps considerably in area with the ECSI fishery, therefore the biomass estimates from this survey were compared with ECSI CPUE as well as Chatham Rise CPUE. There is also a WCSI *Tangaroa* survey, although this is only for years 2000 and 2012 and 2013. The inshore WCSI *Kaharoa* survey does not tend to catch larger fish.

Table 4: Biomass indices (t) and estimated coefficients of variation (CV).

Fishstock	Area	Vessel	Trip code	Date	Biomass	CV (%)
SWA 3&4	Chatham Rise	<i>Tangaroa</i>	TAN9106	Jan–Feb 1992	4 489	54
			TAN9212	Jan–Feb 1993	2 694	51
			TAN9401	Jan 1994	11 640	49
			TAN9501	Jan 1995	3 737	28
			TAN9601	Jan 1996	1 707	28
			TAN9701	Jan 1997	2 101	32
			TAN9801	Jan 1998	4 708	48
			TAN9901	Jan 1999	6 760	34
			TAN0001	Jan 2000	5 425	46
			TAN0101	Jan 2001	2 728	22
			TAN0201	Jan 2002	6 410	81
			TAN0301	Jan 2003	7 815	74
			TAN0401	Jan 2004	20 548	40
			TAN0501	Jan 2005	6 671	22
			TAN0601	Jan 2006	7 704	48
			TAN0701	Jan 2007	14 646	32
			TAN0801	Jan 2008	15 546	36
			TAN0901	Jan 2009	15 061	34
			TAN1001	Jan 2010	80 469	58
			TAN1101	Jan 2011	82 075	62
TAN1201	Jan 2012	16 055	52			
TAN1301	Jan 2013	6 945	29			
TAN1401	Jan 2014	2 658	61			
SWA 1	WCSI	<i>Tangaroa</i>	TAN0007	Aug 2000	1 507	25
			TAN1210	Aug 2012	617	32
			TAN1308	Aug 2013	313	23

Merged (stratified) and unmerged (tow-level) datasets were modelled separately to derive relative biomass indices based on CPUE data (McGregor, in press). Positive catch models based on the lognormal distribution were applied to both datasets within each region and binomial/delta-lognormal models were developed for the unmerged datasets. Each record in the unmerged datasets represented a tow which allowed for the inclusion of fine scale spatial and temporal information, as well as other factors which may influence CPUE, such as tow distance or bottom depth. However, these tow-by-tow data are limited by the design of the forms used to collect these data, whereby only the top five species taken in the tow are required to be reported. Consequently some tows which may have captured SWA would not have had this information reported because the species did not qualify in the top five, leading to a “false zero” for the tow in question. This data omission at the tow level will bias the CPUE for the positive catch records but should be compensated when the delta-lognormal model is created by adding the catch success/failure model based on the binomial distribution.

Length and age data are collected during the course of trawl surveys and by the Scientific Observer Programme from commercial fishing vessels. A feature of these time series, especially with the Chatham Rise and ECSI surveys, is that the size distributions are extremely variable among years. The Chatham Rise survey sometimes completely lack the typical 50 cm size class, and often lacks the 25 or 35 cm modes even though the appropriate mode is present in the subsequent year. The variability is highest in the ECSI survey, which shows up to four distinct size modes, but usually only one or two simultaneously. Beentjes et al. (2004) noted that variability in adult size classes captured in this survey is a common feature and considered it to be a result of either environmental influences on fish distribution, fish schooling by size, or the result of problems with gear performance (Beentjes et al. 2004).

Trawl survey and CPUE indices

The Chatham Rise trawl survey index suggests an overall upward trend, although the 2010 and 2011 years are difficult to interpret given the very large CIs (Figure 2). Two further surveys have been completed since 2011.

Both the stratified and un-stratified CPUE series (Figure 2) showed a very slight increasing trend from 1998 to 2011. CPUE showed an increase in 2005 about the time when twin trawls were increasingly used. A large proportion of zeroes were found in the tow by tow unmerged data, which has a strong influence on the combined index. CPUE was not considered likely to be a good index here, but the slight increase matched the trend in the trawl survey data for Eastern Chatham Rise.

The tow-level CPUE and trawl survey biomass estimates have peaks in one where there are troughs in the other, but both suggest a slight overall upward trend.

Length and age data

The age and length frequency data may prove useful in interpreting trends in the trawl survey and CPUE relative abundance indices in the future.

Conclusions

The CPUE time series is currently not a useful relative abundance index for this area. The trawl surveys are not considered a good monitoring tool or useful for stock assessment for this area.

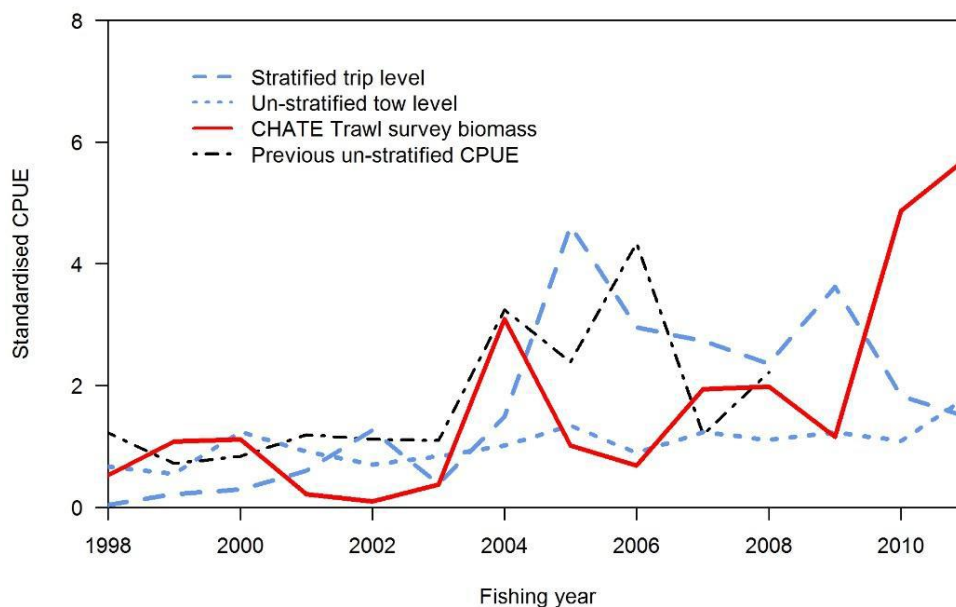


Figure 2. East Chatham Rise standardized CPUE (1998-2011) for merged (stratified, trip level) and unmerged (un-stratified, tow level) data; previous un-stratified CPUE (1998-2008) data; and biomass estimates from Chatham Rise East *Tangaroa* trawl surveys 1998-2011.

East Coast South Island (part of SWA 3)

Trawl survey and CPUE indices

The *Kaharoa* east coast South Island inshore surveys (Figure 3) suggest an upward trend, but estimates are highly uncertain. Biomass in the core strata (30–400 m) for the recent years

(through 2012) is higher overall than in the 1990s by about two-fold. The hoki research survey strata on the West Chatham Rise showed a similar trend to the East Chatham Rise with higher abundance and high CVs in the last 2 years.

Both the stratified and un-stratified CPUE series (Figure 3) showed a slight increasing trend from 1998 to 2011. The fishery was bycatch of HOK and SQU fisheries before 2008 with increasing target SWA catches since. Twin trawls also appear to influence these indices as the CPUE jumps up in 2004.

The ECSI tow-level CPUE and ECSI trawl survey both show a similar upward trend, although the CPUE index does not match the sudden increase in the 2010 and 2011 trawl survey biomass estimates. The two series look a close match with the biomass estimates for 2010-2011 removed. The biomass estimates have higher year to year variability, but the general trend is similar.

Length and age data

The *Kaharoa* trawl survey is monitoring pre-recruited cohorts, but not fish in the recruited size range. Plots of time series length frequency distributions consistently show the presence of the pre-recruited cohorts on nearly all surveys, with indications that these could be tracked through time (modal progression). Therefore, the age and length frequency data may prove useful in interpreting trends in the trawl survey and CPUE indices in the future.

Conclusions

McGregor (in press) suggests that the East Coast South Island CPUE time series are more promising as indices of abundance. The trawl surveys are not considered a good monitoring tool or useful for stock assessment for this area.

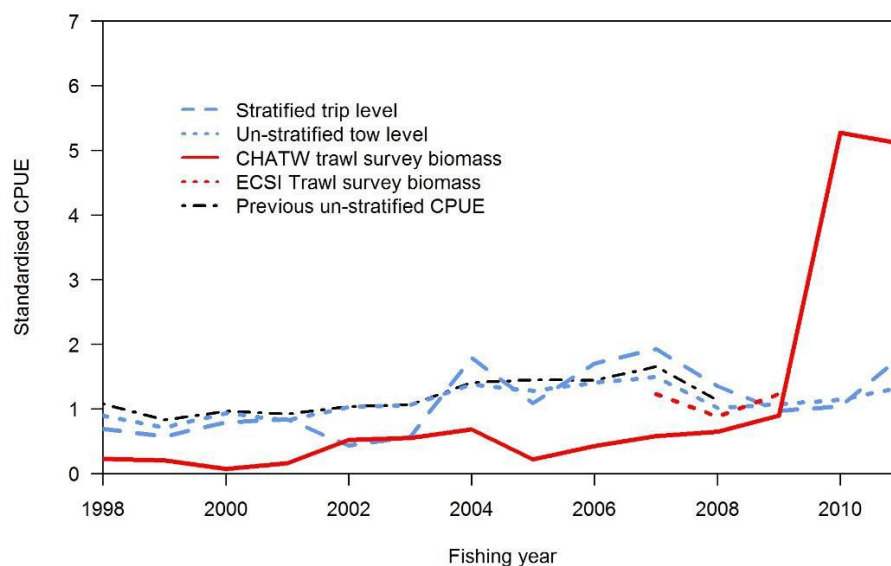


Figure 3. East Coast South Island standardized CPUE (1998-2011) for merged (stratified, trip level) and unmerged (un-stratified, tow level) data; previous un-stratified CPUE (1998-2008) data; and biomass estimates from Chatham Rise West *Tangaroa* (1998-2011) and East Coast South Island *Kaharoa* (2007-09) trawl surveys.

Southland (Sub-Antarctic) (part of SWA 4)

Trawl survey and CPUE indices

The Sub-Antarctic trawl survey index (Figure 4) is fairly flat, with the possible exception of the increase in 2008 and 2009, although the CIs on these years are very large.

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Both the stratified and un-stratified CPUE series (Figure 4) showed a flat trend from 1998 to 2011. The SQU and SWA target CPUE were both flat and improved CPUE indices may be possible from tightening up data selection.

The standardized CPUE indices for Southland are similar to the estimated biomass from the sub-Antarctic summer trawl survey. The general trend in both series is flat (with the possible exception of the increase in 2008 and 2009) and the biomass estimates do not contradict the CPUE index.

Length and age data

The age and length frequency data may prove useful in interpreting trends in the trawl survey and CPUE relative abundance indices in the future.

Conclusions

The overall conclusion is that the Southland CPUE series is not useful to monitor silver warehou in this area. The trawl surveys are not considered a good monitoring tool or useful for stock assessment for this area.

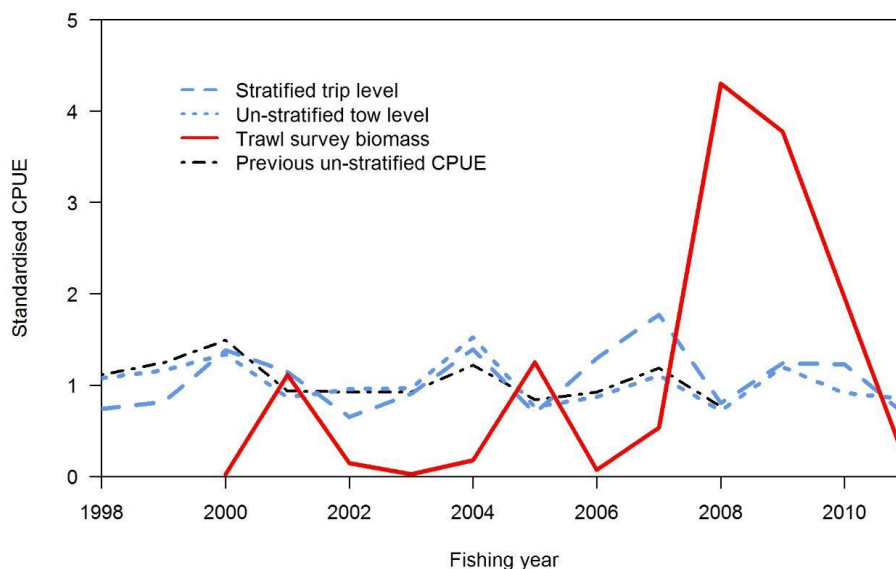


Figure 4. Southland standardized CPUE (1998-2011) for merged (stratified, trip level) and unmerged (un-stratified, tow level) data; previous un-stratified CPUE (1998-2008) data; and biomass estimates from Sub-Antarctic *Tangaroa* trawl surveys 2000 -11.

West coast South Island (part of SWA 1)

Trawl survey and CPUE indices

The WCSI *Kaharoa* survey includes the TBGB (Tasman Bay Golden Bay) area, which is a shallow area and dominated by juvenile SWA. When separated out, the TBGB index shows a downward trend (Figure 5) while the WCSI index with TBGB omitted is fairly flat, with highly variable CIs. There are also biomass estimates from the WCSI *Tangaroa* survey for 2000, 2012 and 2013. The biomass estimate for 2012 is more than double that for 2000.

Both the stratified and un-stratified CPUE series (Figure 5) showed a decreasing trend from 1998 to 2003 and have remained relatively flat since.

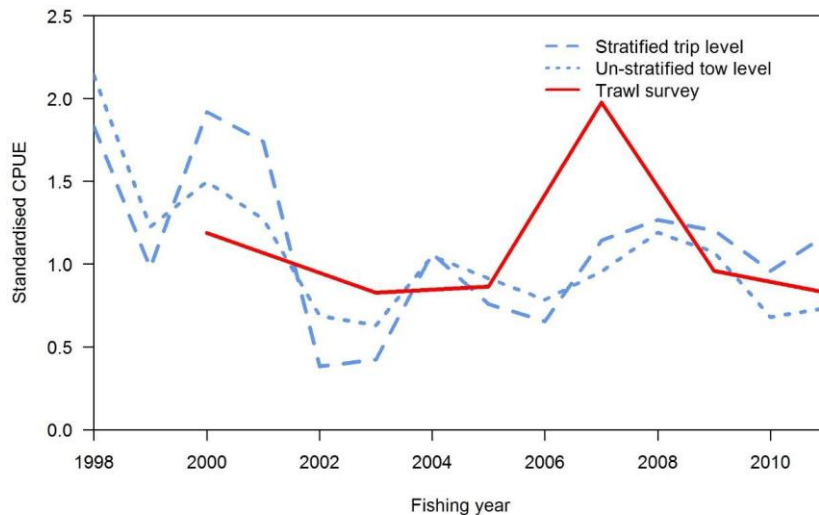


Figure 5. West Coast South Island standardized CPUE (1998-2011) for merged (stratified, trip level) and unmerged (un-stratified, tow level) data; and biomass estimates from Tasman Bay – Golden Bay *Kaharoa* trawl surveys 1998-2011.

A CPUE analysis for this stock was also conducted in 2009 (Cordue 2009) using selected observer catch and effort data for a core fleet of vessels for positive bottom and midwater trawl SWA catches in area FMA 7 for winter fishing within a WCSI box (40.2°S–43.3°S). The resulting index (Figure 6) is noisy but shows a general trend of slow CPUE decline from 1986 to 1992, a steep increase from 1992 to 1996 and high levels through to 2000, followed by a steep decline back to low levels by 2002 and a stable trend at slightly above historically lowest levels through 2008. This CPUE index was possibly consistent with strong year classes in 1993–94 and in 1997 (evident in the length frequency data), and resulting increased abundance over the ensuing few years. This CPUE standardization might be indexing SWA 1 abundance and, given the substantial amount of catch-at-age data for this stock, it was recommended that a stock assessment should now be conducted to investigate the coherence between catch-at-age data and this abundance index.

The WG noted that this Fishstock sustained catches which averaged 2800 t/year from 1993–94 to 2000–01 without resulting in high Z estimates, but that this occurred over a period where CPUE indices indicate abundance of more than double current levels. A stock assessment is considered to be a more appropriate methodology to assess this Fishstock than relying on analyses of catch curve.

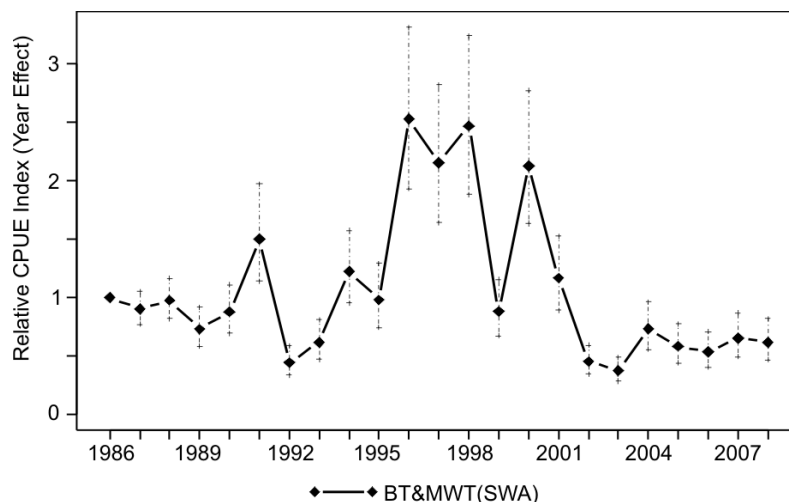


Figure 6. Standardized CPUE index (year effects) for SWA 1 from an analysis of Scientific Observer Programme trawl records (Cordue 2009).

Length and age data

The WCSI inshore trawl series typically has a dominant 20 cm mode and a smaller mode around 35 cm. Age frequency distributions from otoliths collected by the Scientific Observer Programme from the west coast South Island hoki fishery indicate that a wide range of year classes were present in the catch for all seasons 1992–96. Catch curve analysis based on the age structure of annual catches made from 1992–2005 suggested that fishing mortality was lower than natural mortality (SeaFIC 2007). Observer length data may help interpret patterns in CPUE.

Conclusions

McGregor (in press) suggests that the West Coast South Island CPUE time series are more promising as indices of abundance. In addition, Observer length data may help interpret patterns in the CPUE. The inshore *Kaharoa* trawl surveys are not considered a good monitoring tool or useful for stock assessment for this area. The biomass estimates from the WCSI *Tangaroa* survey may prove useful for this stock once the time series is extended.

4.2 Yield estimates and projections

MCY cannot be determined. Problems with mis-reporting of warehou catches and the lack of consistent catch histories make *MCY* estimates based on catch data alone unreliable.

An estimate of current biomass is not available, and *CAY* cannot be estimated.

4.3 Other factors

The degree of interdependence between Fishstocks is unknown

5. ANALYSIS OF ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES (AMP)

The Ministry of Fisheries revised the AMP framework in December 2000. The AMP framework is intended to apply to all proposals for a TAC or TACC increase, with the exception of fisheries for which there is a robust stock assessment. In March 2002, the first meeting of the new Adaptive Management Programme Working Group was held. Two changes to the AMP were adopted:

- a new checklist was implemented with more attention being made to the environmental impacts of any new proposal;
- the annual review process was replaced with an annual review of the monitoring requirements only. Full analysis of information is required a minimum of twice during the 5 year AMP.

The SWA 1 TACC was increased from 2132 t to 3000 t in October 2002 under the Adaptive Management Programme (AMP). A mid-term review of the SWA 1 AMP was carried out in 2009 (AMP WG/09/10, 11). This programme has been discontinued.

6. STATUS OF THE STOCKS

All stocks

There are no stock assessments available for any silver warehou stocks. Neither the trawl survey nor the CPUE time series are currently suitable for monitoring the stocks or useful for stock assessments. No estimates of biomass are available and the status of the stocks are unknown.

In most years from 2000–01 to 2008–09 catches in SWA 3 and SWA 4 were well above the TACCs as fishers landed catches well in excess of ACE holdings. The sustainability of current TACCs and recent catch levels for these Fishstocks is not known, and it is not known if they will allow the stocks to move towards a size that will support the maximum sustainable yield.

Yield estimates, TACCs and reported landings for the 2013–14 fishing year are summarized in Table 5.

Table 5: Summary of yields (t), TACCs (t), and reported landings (t) of silver warehou for the most recent fishing year.

Fishstock		FMA	MCY	2013–14 Actual TACC	2013–14 Reported landings
SWA 1	Auckland (East) (West), Central (East) (West), & Challenger	1, 2, 7, 8, & 9		3 000	903
SWA 3	South-East (Coast) South-East (Chatham), Southland, and Sub-	3	-	3 280	3 201
SWA 4	Antarctic	4, 5 & 6	-	4 090	3 885
SWA 10	Kermadec	10	-	10	0
Total			-	10 380	7 989

7. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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