

2026 Scallop Survey Short Report

Prepared by:

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August 20, 2026

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1. METHODS

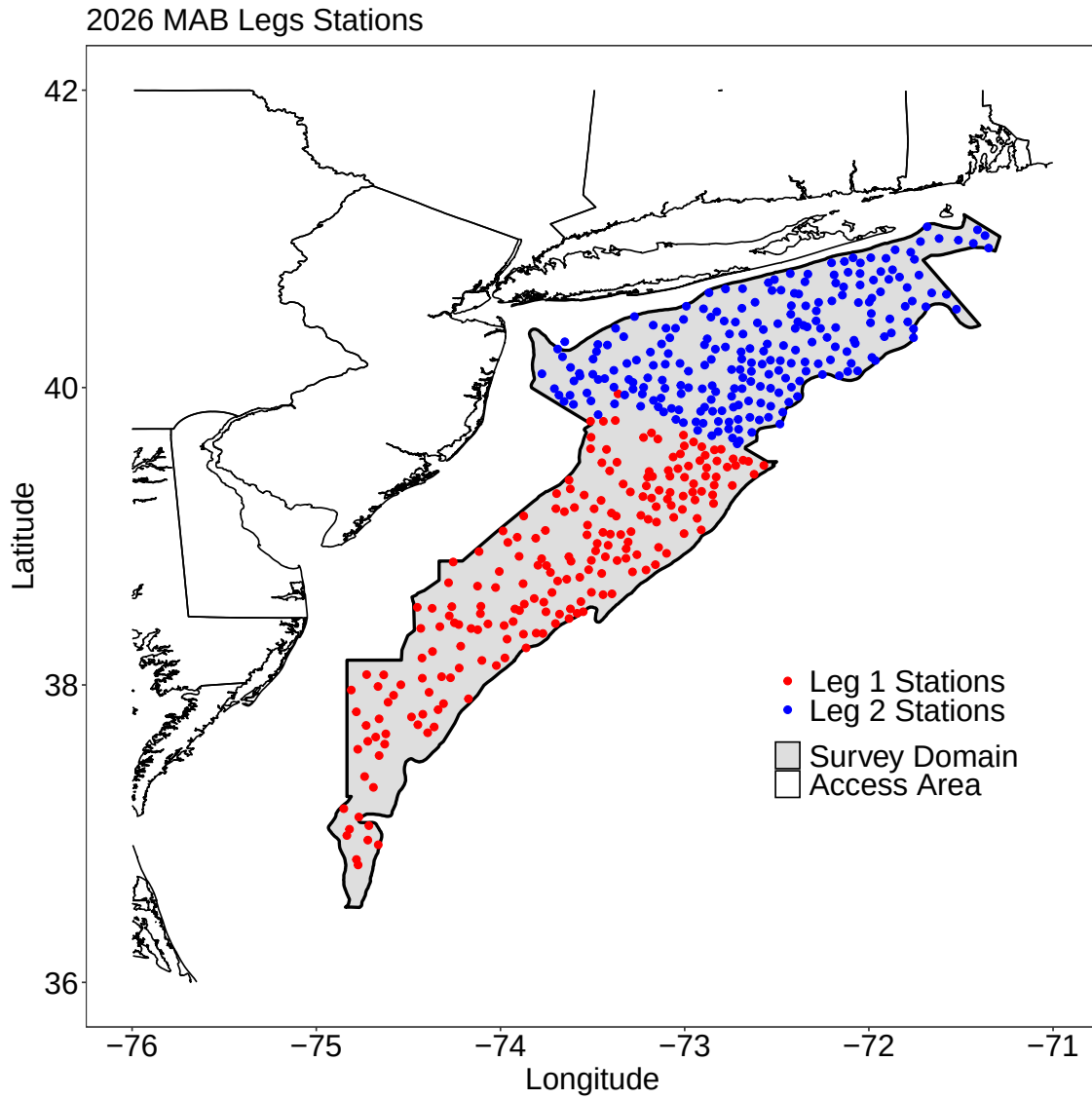
The VIMS dredge survey uses a paired design, towing both the standard sea scallop survey dredge and a commercial dredge simultaneously at all stations. The standard sea scallop survey dredge is 8 ft in width, with two-inch rings, and a 1.5 inch diamond mesh liner installed in the dredge. The commercial dredge varies by vessel and can be either a New Bedford style dredge or a Turtle Deflector dredge. The Turtle dredge is always fished in the Mid-Atlantic. The commercial dredge width has ranged from 14 - 16 ft. Standard protocols for fishing the dredges are followed and are similar to the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) protocols. Dredges are towed for 15 minutes, from when the winches are locked, with a tow speed of 3.8 - 4 kts and a 3:1 scope to depth ratio. A stratified random sampling design is employed using the NEFSC shellfish strata. All SAMS Areas within the survey domains are sampled as well as some areas outside of the SAMS Areas. A hybrid approach for allocating stations is used. Fifty percent of stations are allocated based on stratum area, 25 percent of stations are allocated based on biomass in weight from the previous year, and the other 25 percent is allocated based on the number of animals from the previous year. Biomass is estimated using the swept area method. The area swept by each dredge is calculated from the navigational information (polling frequency is one second) and data from the Star Oddi tilt sensor to obtain realized bottom time. Catch weight per tow is calculated using all scallops ≥ 40 mm and shell height meat weight relationships from the most recent stock assessment or as determined by the PDT. Exploitable biomass is calculated with selectivity parameters from Roman and Rudders (2019). Biomass is scaled to absolute biomass with dredge efficiency values from Miller et al. (2018); 0.40 for the survey dredge in soft bottom and 0.65 for the commercial dredge.

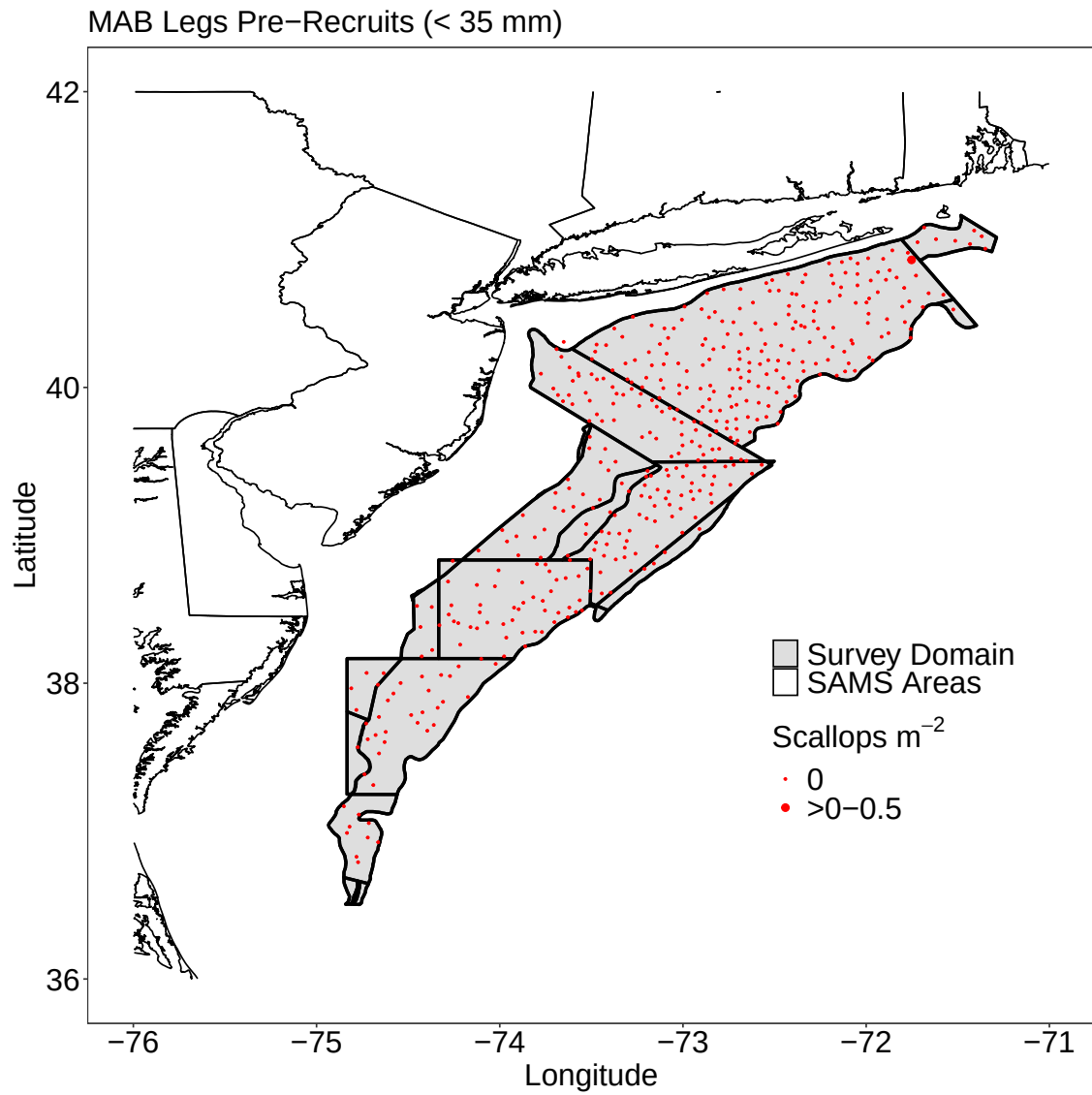
2. 2026 SURVEY BIOMASS ESTIMATES

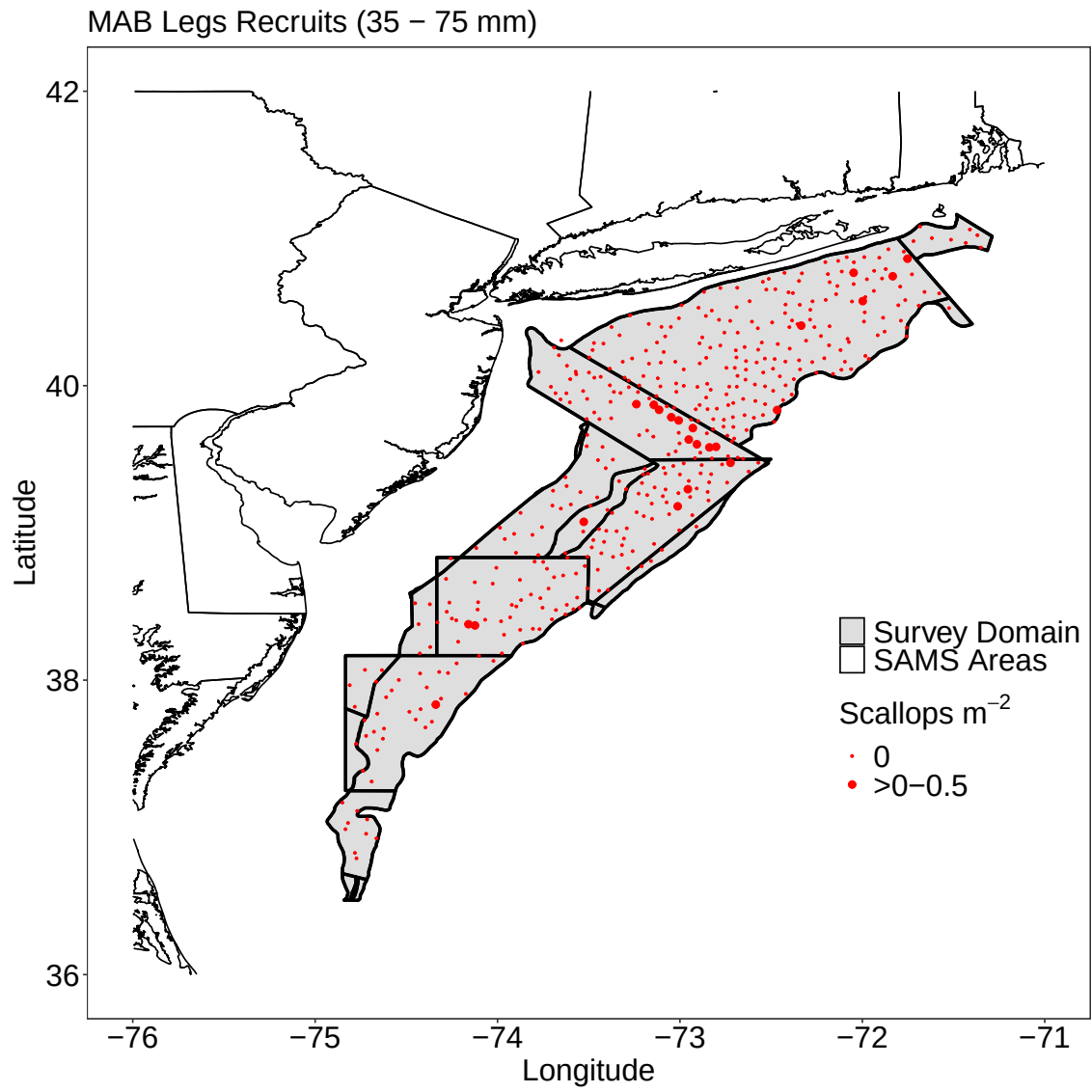
Region	Area	Abundance (mil.)	Biomass (mt)	SE	Avg. Weight (g)	Avg. Size (mm)	Avg. Density (#/m2)	#Tows
	CL2-South (Access)	707,808,475	11,862.69	3,587.12	16.77	46.12	0.2	35
	CL2- Extension	72,510,414	931.22	105.54	12.34	83.39	0.05	27
	NLS-North	37,100,592	834.57	51.14	21.35	94.83	0.02	35
Georges	NLS-South	767,768,722	6,425.11	848.78	8.38	79.86	0.63	60
Bank	NLS-West	16,297,654	199.41	30.74	12.5	76.28	0.01	35
	SF	534,297,195	5,016.93	649.78	9.28	68.96	0.15	48
	GB Total	2,135,783,053						
	BI	3,581,783	45.62	4.11	12.85	80.11	0.01	8
	LI	284,617,030	4,116.72	228.89	14.58	89.78	0.03	193
	NYB	299,581,591	3,682.47	384.52	12.43	86.82	0.09	68
	MAB- Nearshore	1,107,385	6.18	1.10	5.63	64.6	0.0002	28
Mid- Atlantic	HCS	437,835,541	6,949.07	559.43	15.79	97.28	0.14	57
	ET	466,402,171	8,875.92	754.16	19.12	104.6	0.14	49
	DMV	34,331,205	274.64	86.57	8.15	72.72	0.01	33
	VIR	1,393,103	3.75	0.89	2.67	50.88	0.001	10
	MA Total	1,528,849,809						

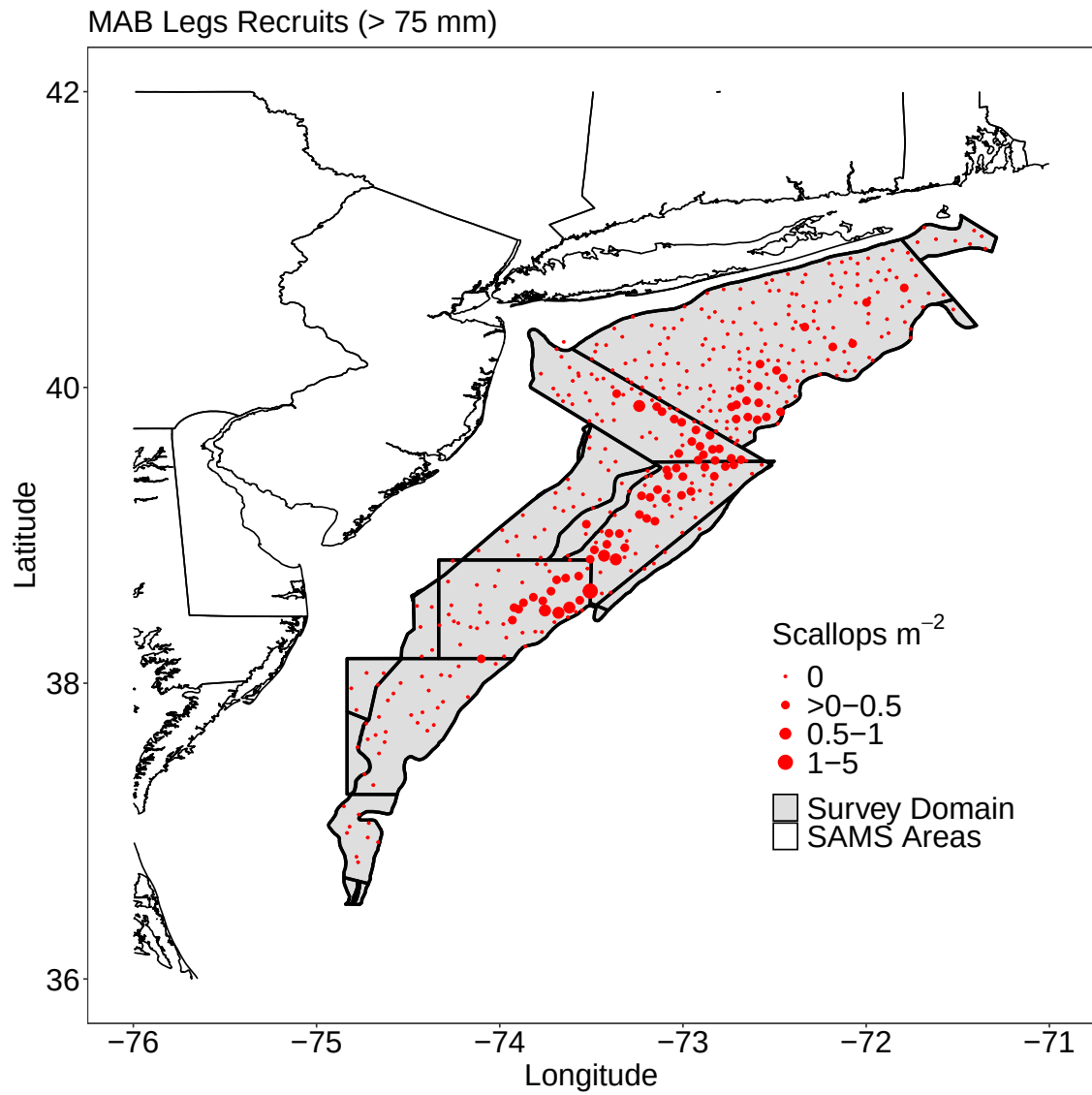
3. FIGURES OF SURVEY COVERAGE

MAB Legs

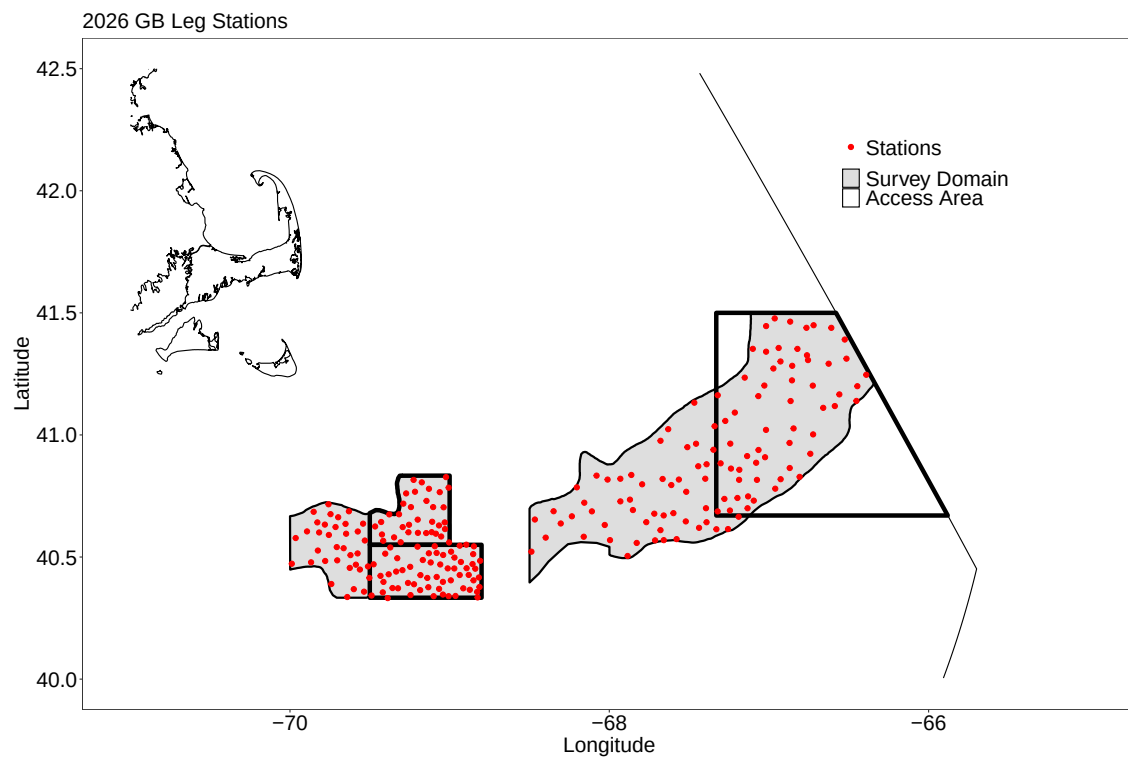


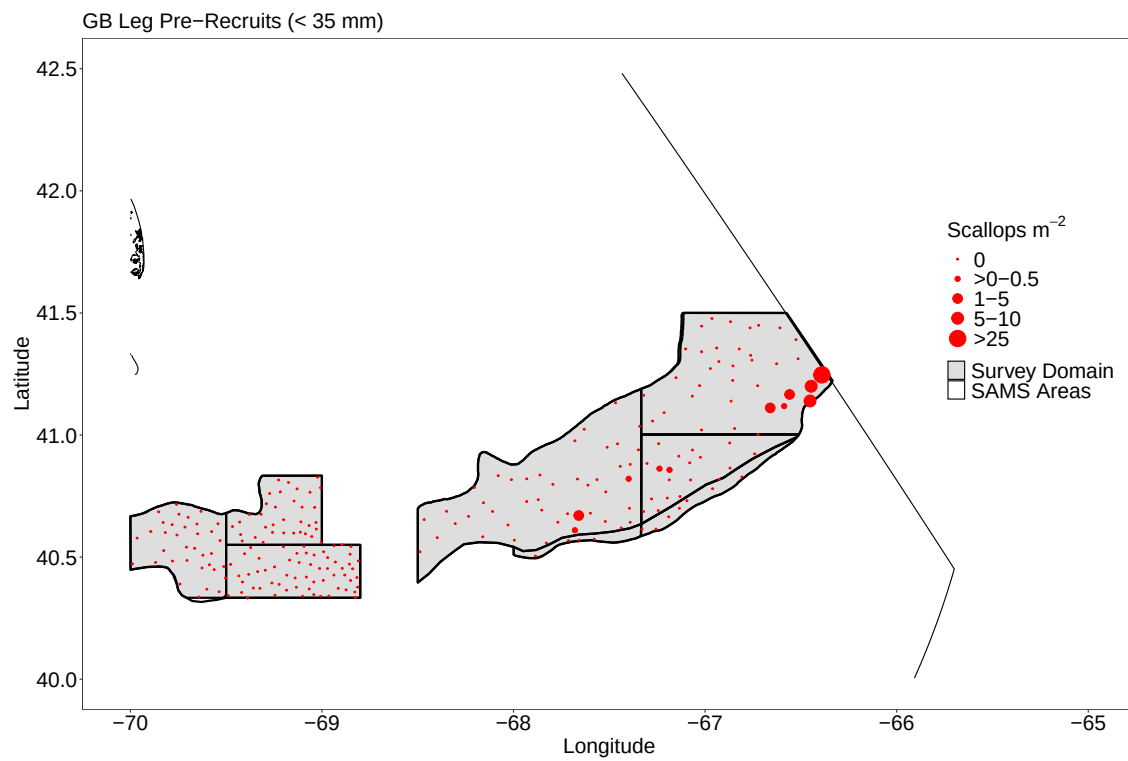


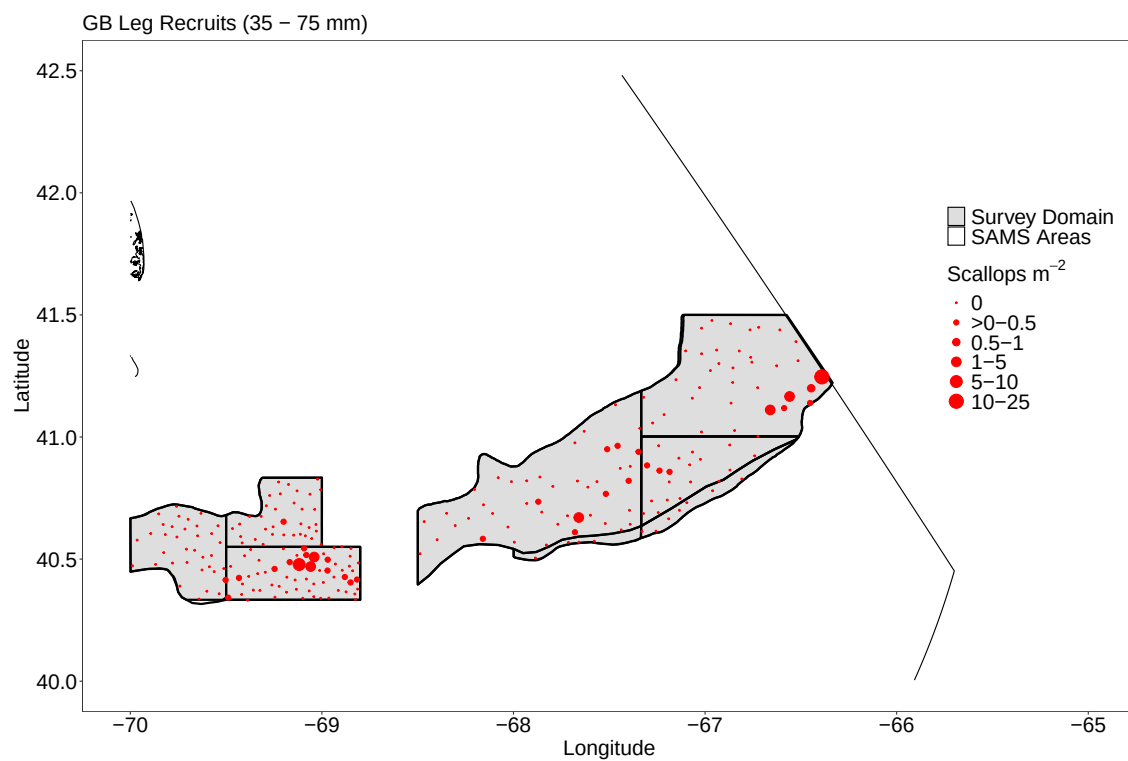


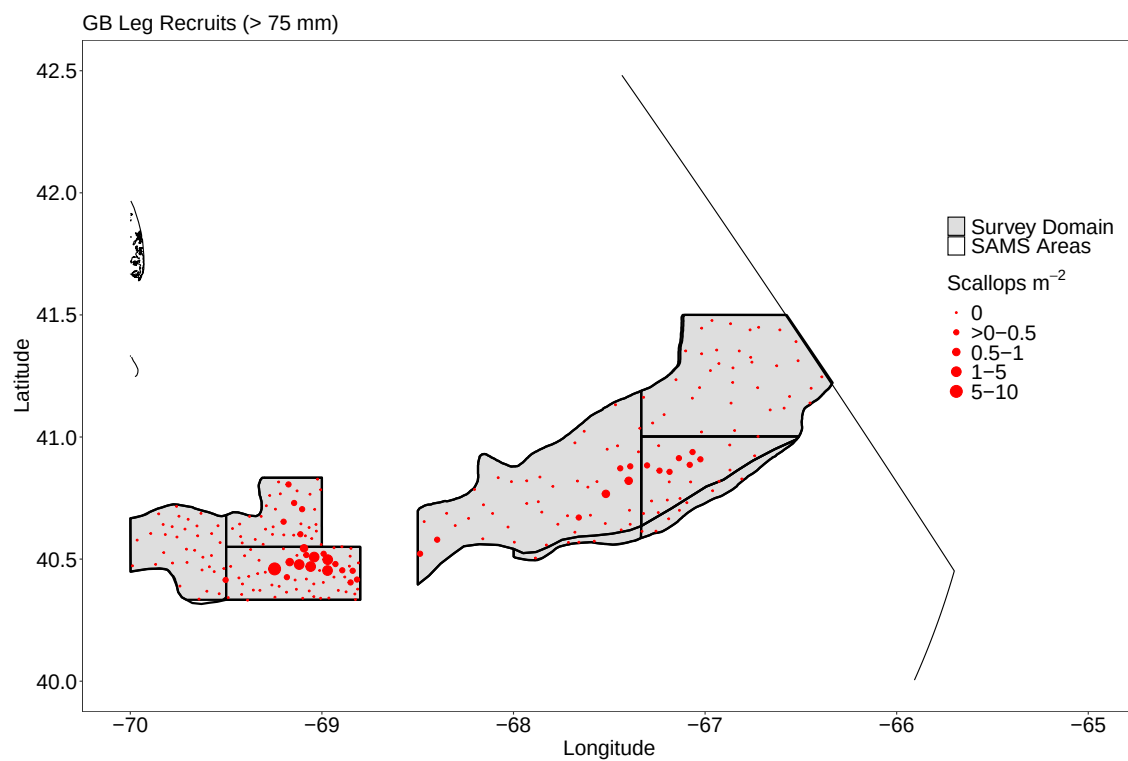


Georges Bank Leg





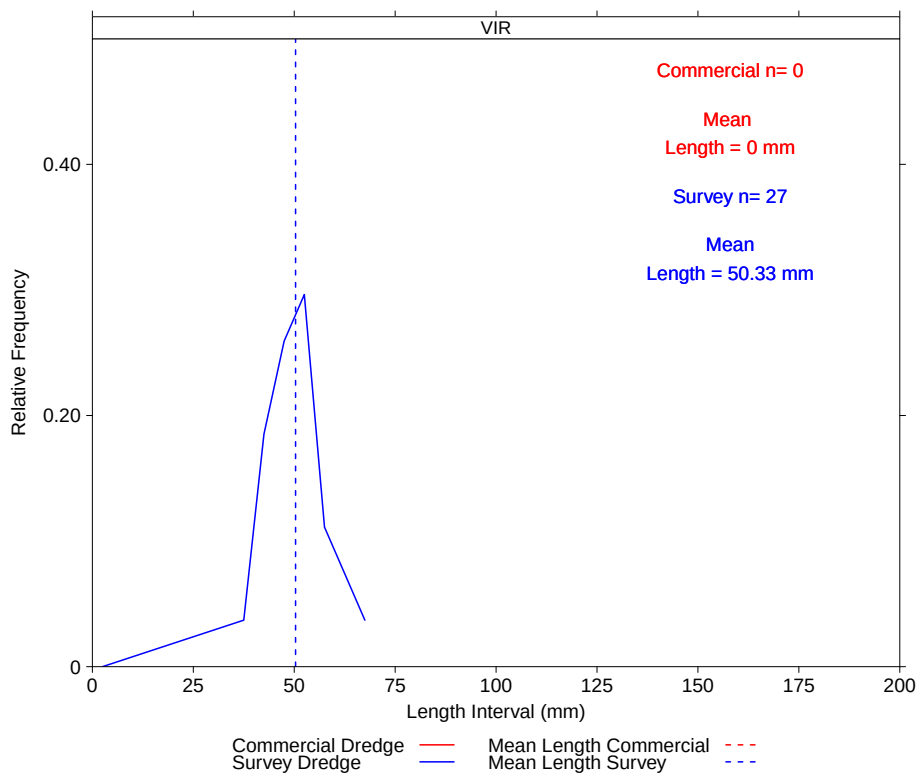




4. LENGTH FREQUENCY PLOTS BY SAMS AREA

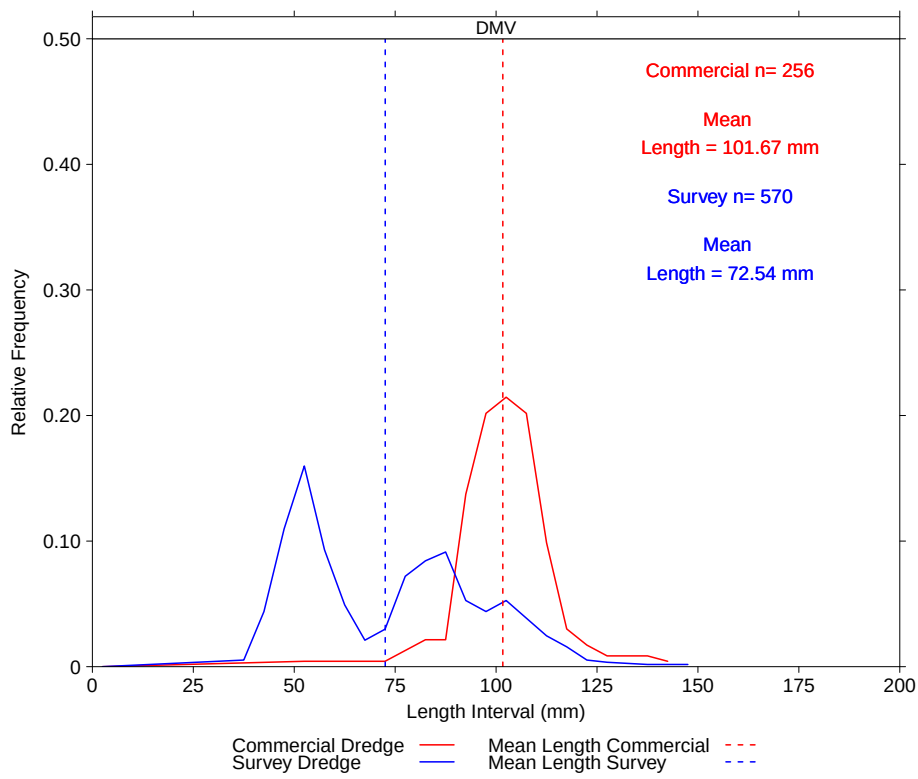
MAB Legs

Number Caught at Length by Gear
 Left – Relative Length Frequency Graph
 Right – Expanded Number of Scallops Caught at Length Table



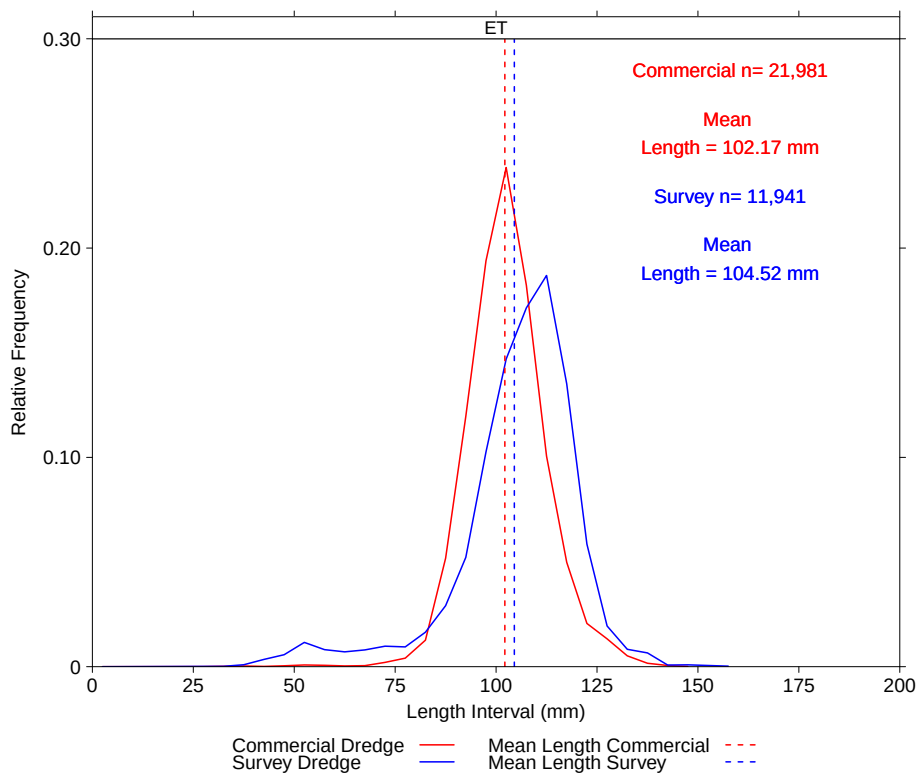
SAMS_Area	Length	Commercial	Survey
VIR	37.5	0	1
VIR	42.5	0	5
VIR	47.5	0	7
VIR	52.5	0	8
VIR	57.5	0	3
VIR	62.5	0	2
VIR	67.5	0	1

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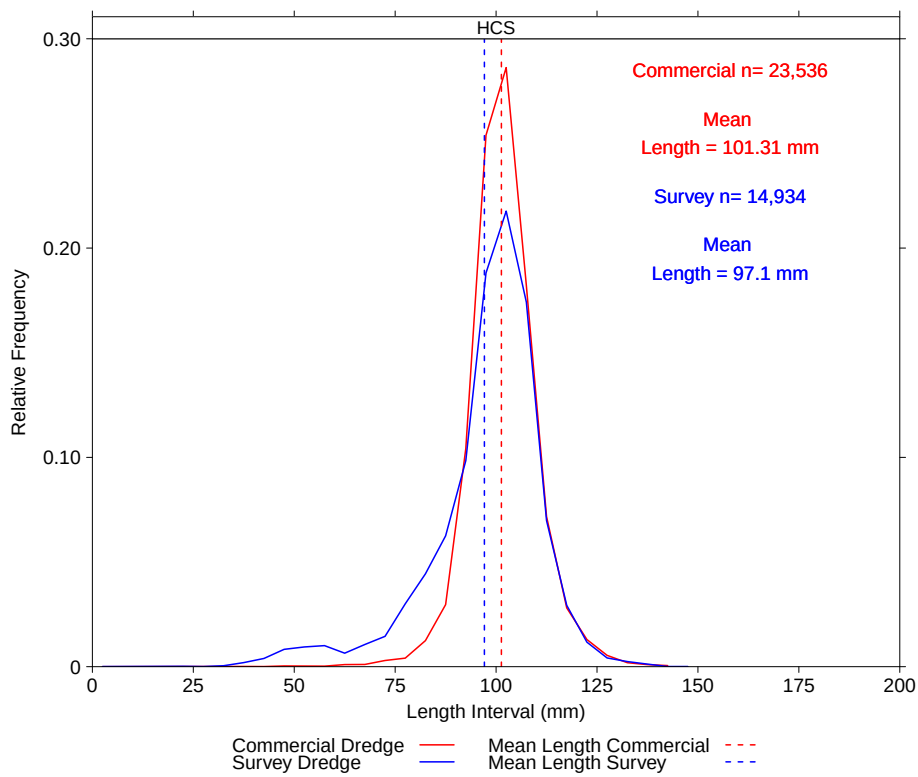
SAMS_Area	Length	Commercial	Survey
DMV	37.5	0	3
DMV	42.5	0	25
DMV	47.5	0	62
DMV	52.5	1	91
DMV	57.5	1	53
DMV	62.5	0	28
DMV	67.5	0	12
DMV	72.5	1	17
DMV	77.5	3	41
DMV	82.5	6	48
DMV	87.5	6	52
DMV	92.5	35	30
DMV	97.5	52	25
DMV	102.5	55	30
DMV	107.5	52	22
DMV	112.5	25	14
DMV	117.5	8	9
DMV	122.5	4	3
DMV	127.5	2	2
DMV	132.5	2	0
DMV	137.5	2	1
DMV	142.5	1	0
DMV	147.5	0	1

Number Caught at Length by Gear
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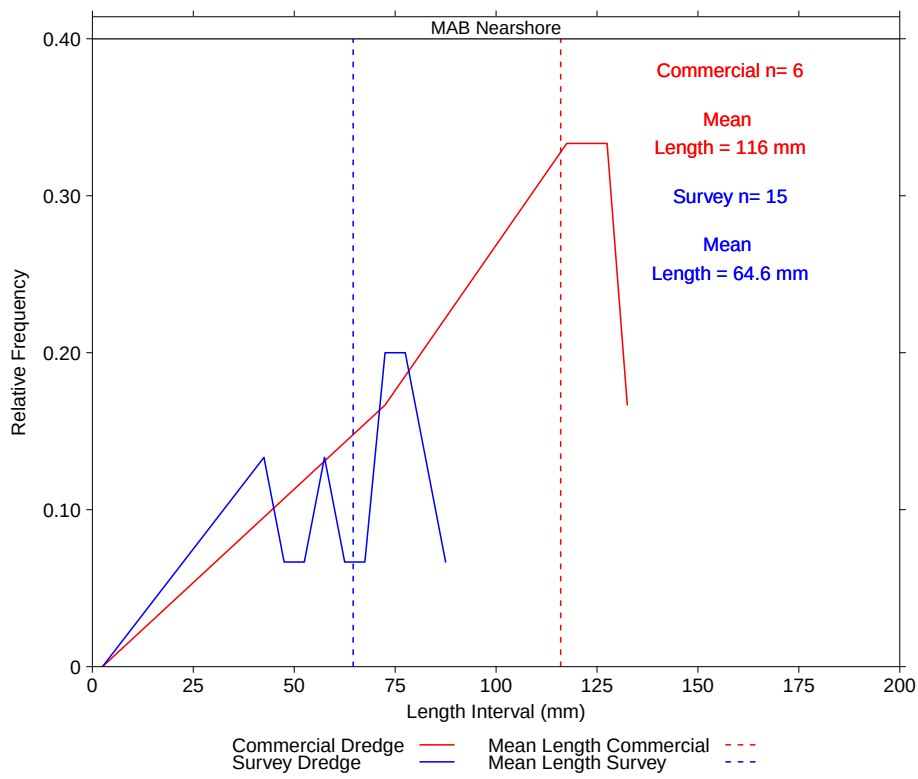
SAMS_Area	Length	Commercial	Survey
ET	27.5	1	0
ET	32.5	0	2
ET	37.5	7	11
ET	42.5	3	41
ET	47.5	9	68
ET	52.5	18	138
ET	57.5	14	97
ET	62.5	8	85
ET	67.5	11	96
ET	72.5	45	117
ET	77.5	90	113
ET	82.5	278	197
ET	87.5	1,139	348
ET	92.5	2,629	624
ET	97.5	4,263	1,225
ET	102.5	5,242	1,755
ET	107.5	4,006	2,047
ET	112.5	2,211	2,232
ET	117.5	1,096	1,613
ET	122.5	454	699
ET	127.5	292	232
ET	132.5	114	99
ET	137.5	36	79
ET	142.5	12	9
ET	147.5	3	10
ET	157.5	0	3

Number Caught at Length by Gear
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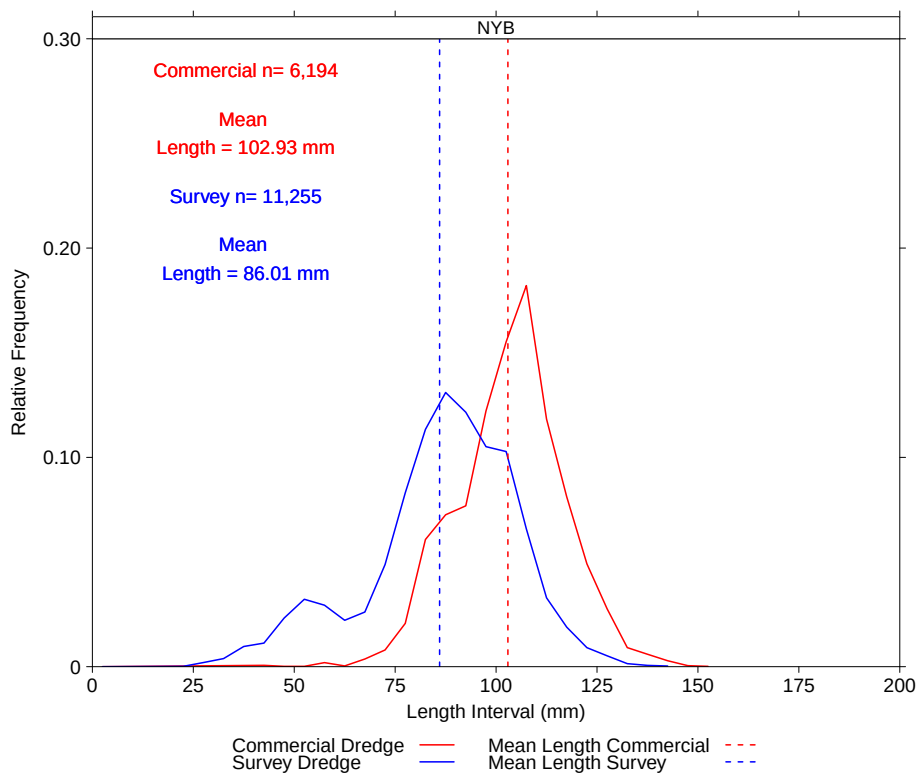
SAMS_Area	Length	Commercial	Survey
HCS	2.5	0	1
HCS	22.5	0	3
HCS	27.5	0	1
HCS	32.5	0	7
HCS	37.5	2	29
HCS	42.5	2	59
HCS	47.5	8	124
HCS	52.5	0	141
HCS	57.5	6	150
HCS	62.5	24	96
HCS	67.5	25	158
HCS	72.5	69	216
HCS	77.5	96	449
HCS	82.5	293	662
HCS	87.5	698	934
HCS	92.5	2,453	1,470
HCS	97.5	5,976	2,809
HCS	102.5	6,737	3,251
HCS	107.5	4,286	2,601
HCS	112.5	1,688	1,042
HCS	117.5	661	438
HCS	122.5	305	175
HCS	127.5	127	62
HCS	132.5	45	36
HCS	137.5	23	18
HCS	142.5	12	1
HCS	147.5	0	1

Number Caught at Length by Gear
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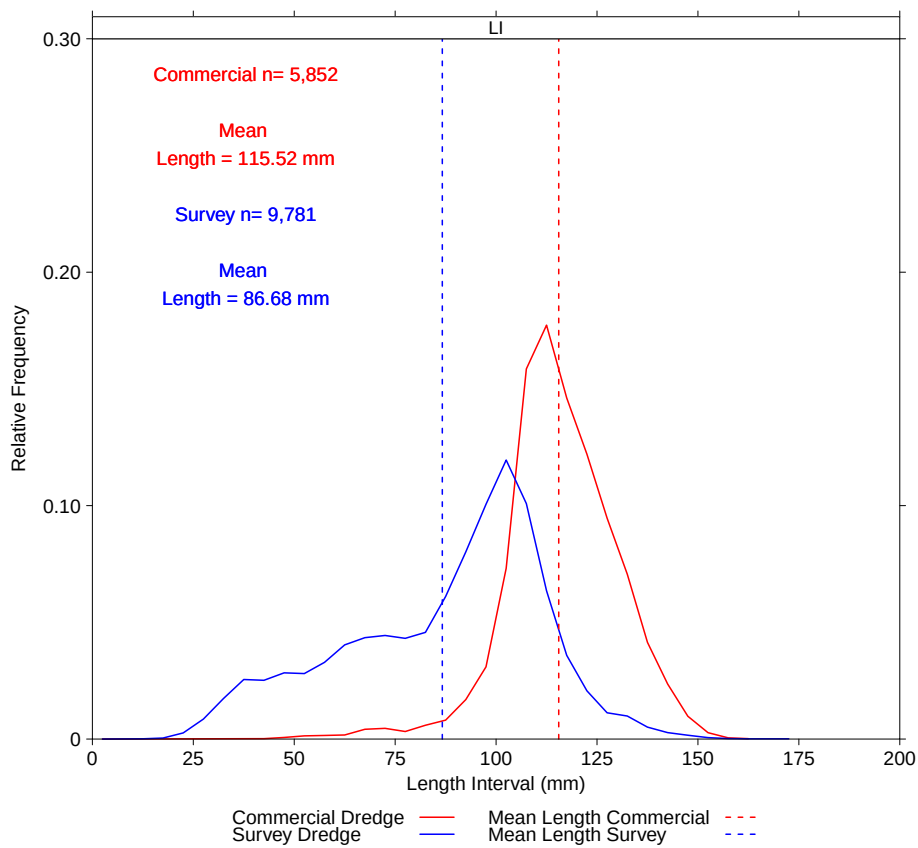
SAMS_Area	Length	Commercial	Survey
MAB_Nearshore	42.5	0	2
MAB_Nearshore	47.5	0	1
MAB_Nearshore	52.5	0	1
MAB_Nearshore	57.5	0	2
MAB_Nearshore	62.5	0	1
MAB_Nearshore	67.5	0	1
MAB_Nearshore	72.5	1	3
MAB_Nearshore	77.5	0	3
MAB_Nearshore	87.5	0	1
MAB_Nearshore	117.5	2	0
MAB_Nearshore	127.5	2	0
MAB_Nearshore	132.5	1	0

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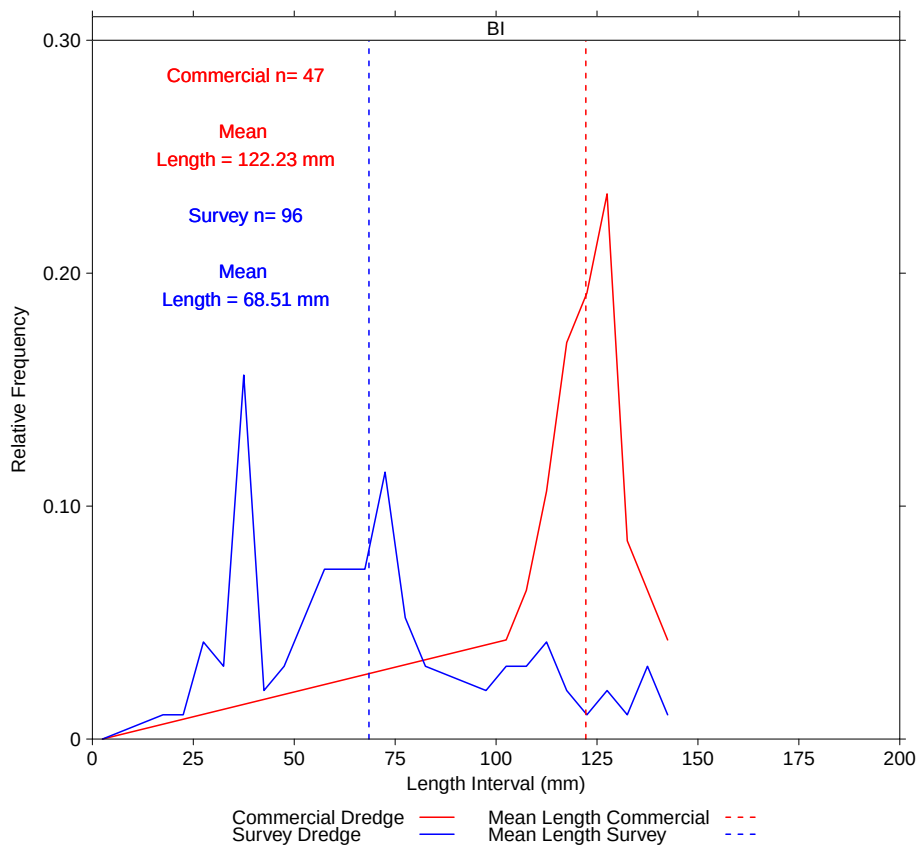
SAMS Area	Length	Commercial	Survey
NYB	17.5	0	1
NYB	22.5	0	2
NYB	27.5	0	22
NYB	32.5	0	44
NYB	37.5	0	109
NYB	42.5	4	127
NYB	47.5	1	261
NYB	52.5	1	362
NYB	57.5	12	330
NYB	62.5	2	249
NYB	67.5	23	294
NYB	72.5	49	549
NYB	77.5	128	935
NYB	82.5	376	1,276
NYB	87.5	450	1,474
NYB	92.5	476	1,368
NYB	97.5	757	1,183
NYB	102.5	962	1,157
NYB	107.5	1,128	741
NYB	112.5	733	370
NYB	117.5	503	213
NYB	122.5	304	102
NYB	127.5	171	58
NYB	132.5	56	16
NYB	137.5	37	7
NYB	142.5	18	4
NYB	147.5	3	0
NYB	152.5	1	0

Number Caught at Length by Gear
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SAMS Area	Length	Commercial	Survey
LI	12.5	0	1
LI	17.5	0	4
LI	22.5	0	26
LI	27.5	0	84
LI	32.5	0	170
LI	37.5	0	250
LI	42.5	1	246
LI	47.5	4	277
LI	52.5	8	274
LI	57.5	9	321
LI	62.5	10	395
LI	67.5	24	425
LI	72.5	27	434
LI	77.5	19	422
LI	82.5	35	447
LI	87.5	47	597
LI	92.5	99	784
LI	97.5	181	984
LI	102.5	428	1,169
LI	107.5	928	987
LI	112.5	1,038	621
LI	117.5	855	351
LI	122.5	714	202
LI	127.5	554	110
LI	132.5	413	96
LI	137.5	242	50
LI	142.5	138	27
LI	147.5	57	16
LI	152.5	16	6
LI	157.5	3	2
LI	162.5	1	1
LI	172.5	0	1

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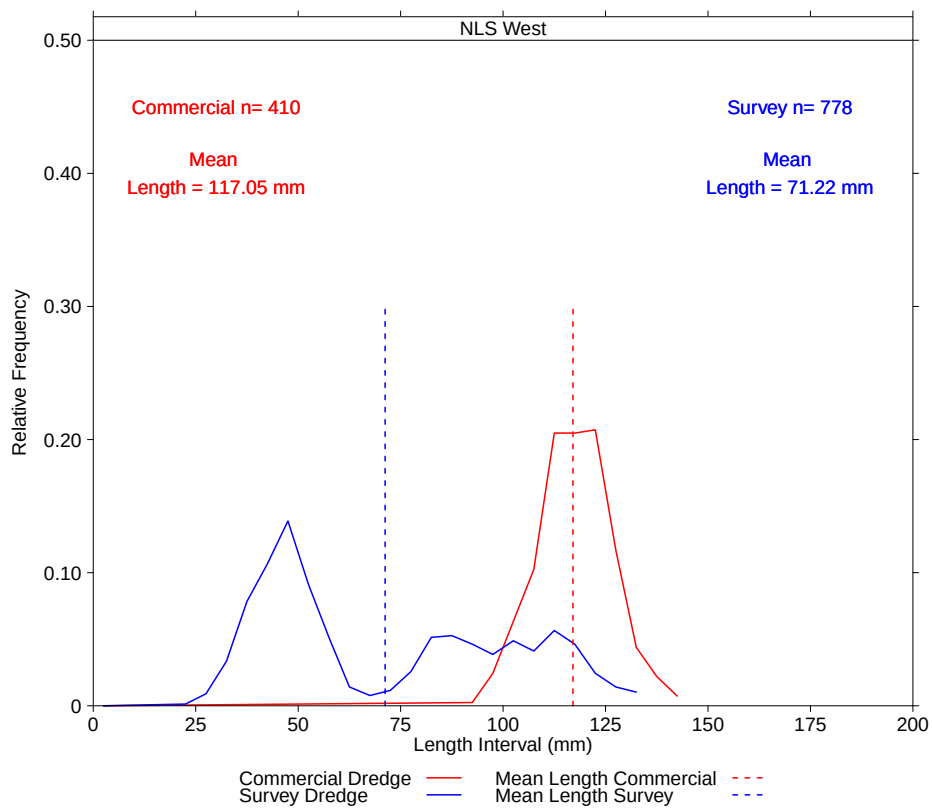
SAMS_Area	Length	Commercial	Survey
BI	17.5	0	1
BI	22.5	0	1
BI	27.5	0	4
BI	32.5	0	3
BI	37.5	0	15
BI	42.5	0	2
BI	47.5	0	3
BI	52.5	0	5
BI	57.5	0	7
BI	62.5	0	7
BI	67.5	0	7
BI	72.5	0	11
BI	77.5	0	5
BI	82.5	0	3
BI	97.5	0	2
BI	102.5	2	3
BI	107.5	3	3
BI	112.5	5	4
BI	117.5	8	2
BI	122.5	9	1
BI	127.5	11	2
BI	132.5	4	1
BI	137.5	3	3
BI	142.5	2	1

Georges Bank Leg

Number Caught at Length by Gear

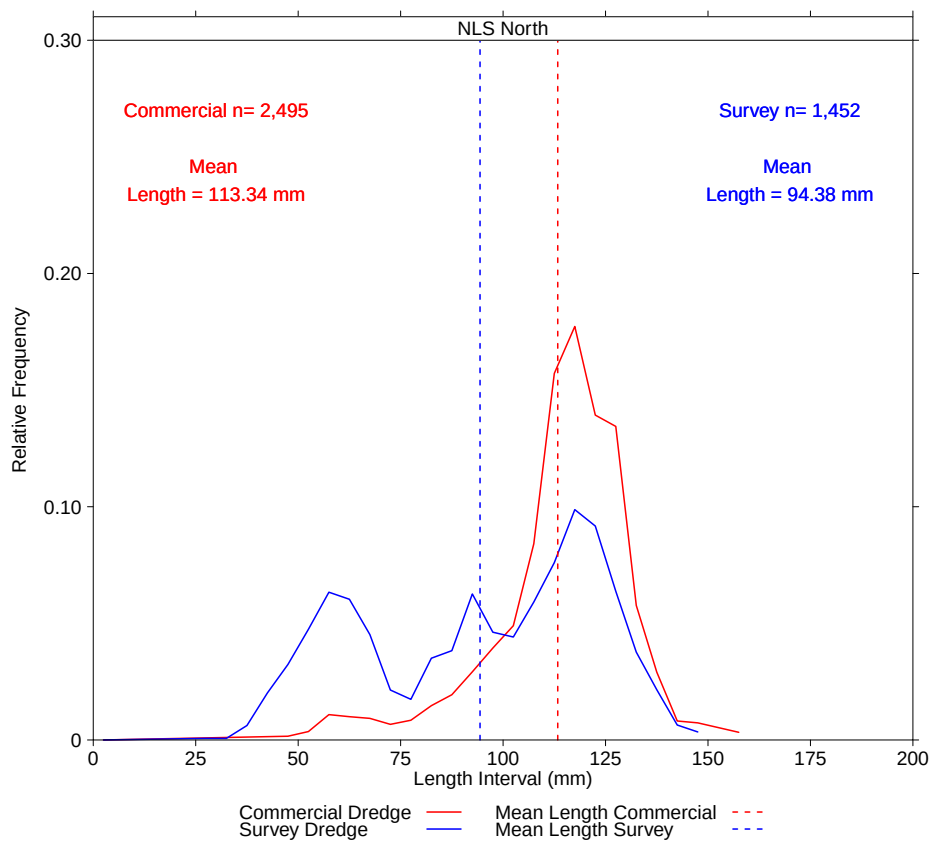
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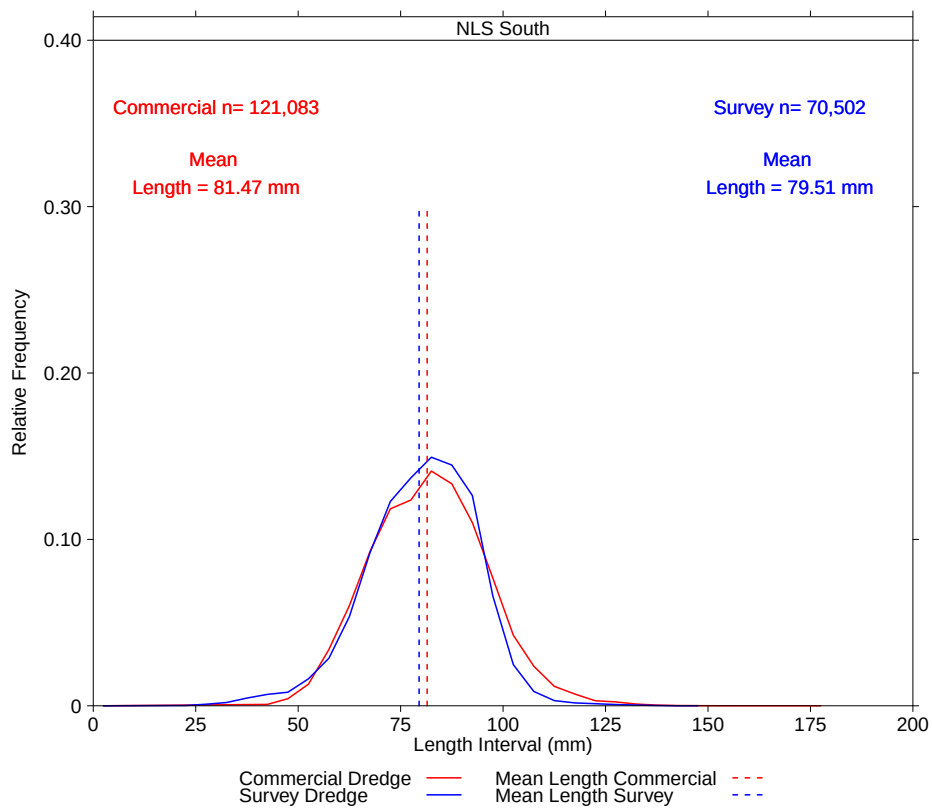
SAMS_Area	Length	Commercial	Survey
NLS_West	22.5	0	1
NLS_West	27.5	0	7
NLS_West	32.5	0	26
NLS_West	37.5	0	61
NLS_West	42.5	0	83
NLS_West	47.5	0	108
NLS_West	52.5	0	71
NLS_West	57.5	0	40
NLS_West	62.5	0	11
NLS_West	67.5	0	6
NLS_West	72.5	0	9
NLS_West	77.5	0	20
NLS_West	82.5	0	40
NLS_West	87.5	0	41
NLS_West	92.5	1	36
NLS_West	97.5	10	30
NLS_West	102.5	26	38
NLS_West	107.5	42	32
NLS_West	112.5	84	44
NLS_West	117.5	84	36
NLS_West	122.5	85	19
NLS_West	127.5	48	11
NLS_West	132.5	18	8
NLS_West	137.5	9	0
NLS_West	142.5	3	0

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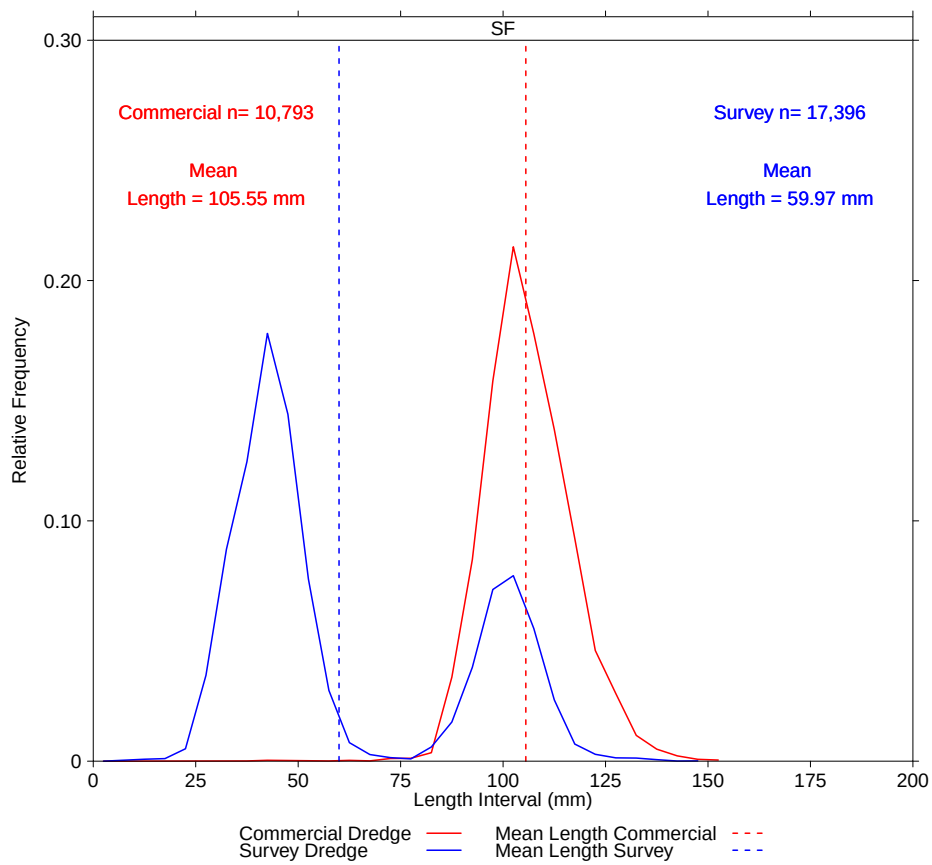
SAMS_Area	Length	Commercial	Survey
NLS_North	27.5	0	1
NLS_North	32.5	0	1
NLS_North	37.5	0	9
NLS_North	42.5	0	29
NLS_North	47.5	4	47
NLS_North	52.5	9	69
NLS_North	57.5	27	92
NLS_North	62.5	25	88
NLS_North	67.5	23	66
NLS_North	72.5	17	31
NLS_North	77.5	21	25
NLS_North	82.5	37	51
NLS_North	87.5	48	56
NLS_North	92.5	73	91
NLS_North	97.5	98	67
NLS_North	102.5	122	64
NLS_North	107.5	210	86
NLS_North	112.5	392	110
NLS_North	117.5	442	143
NLS_North	122.5	348	133
NLS_North	127.5	335	93
NLS_North	132.5	144	55
NLS_North	137.5	73	31
NLS_North	142.5	20	9
NLS_North	147.5	18	5
NLS_North	157.5	8	0

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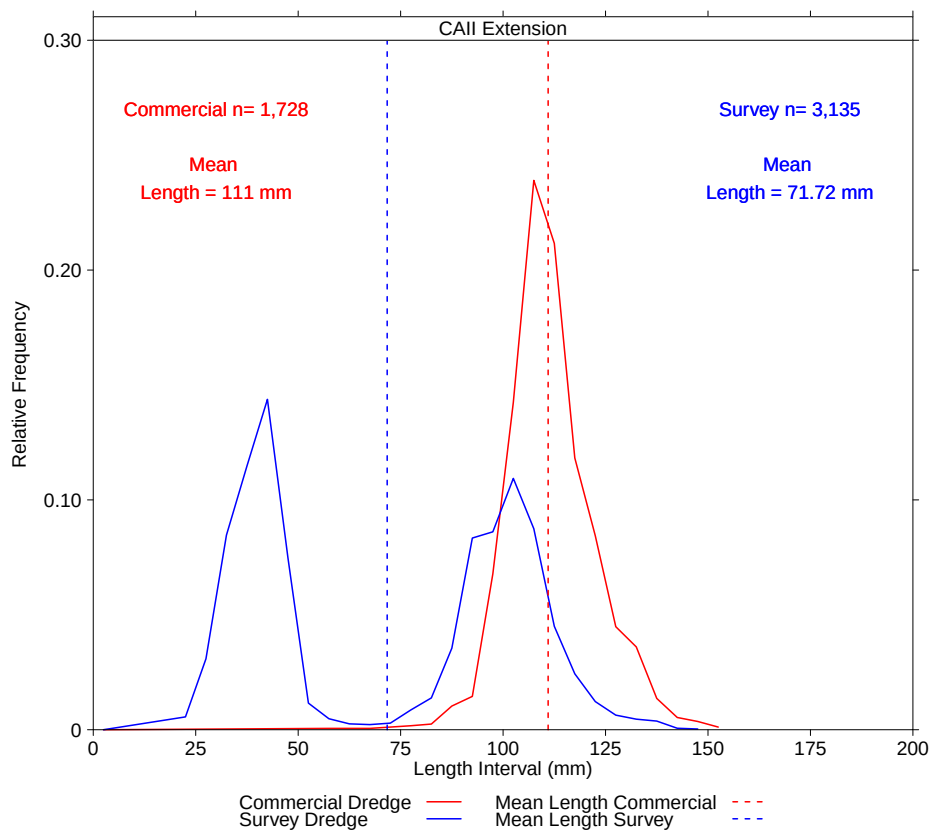
SAMS_Area	Length	Commercial	Survey
NLS_South	22.5	0	12
NLS_South	27.5	0	66
NLS_South	32.5	0	137
NLS_South	37.5	0	327
NLS_South	42.5	100	483
NLS_South	47.5	516	575
NLS_South	52.5	1,569	1,141
NLS_South	57.5	4,095	2,014
NLS_South	62.5	7,296	3,782
NLS_South	67.5	11,207	6,474
NLS_South	72.5	14,333	8,657
NLS_South	77.5	14,972	9,657
NLS_South	82.5	17,081	10,533
NLS_South	87.5	16,150	10,199
NLS_South	92.5	13,332	8,910
NLS_South	97.5	9,296	4,653
NLS_South	102.5	5,136	1,745
NLS_South	107.5	2,877	607
NLS_South	112.5	1,416	220
NLS_South	117.5	856	122
NLS_South	122.5	365	87
NLS_South	127.5	282	54
NLS_South	132.5	125	31
NLS_South	137.5	49	12
NLS_South	142.5	16	1
NLS_South	147.5	9	2
NLS_South	152.5	2	0
NLS_South	157.5	1	0
NLS_South	167.5	1	0
NLS_South	177.5	1	0

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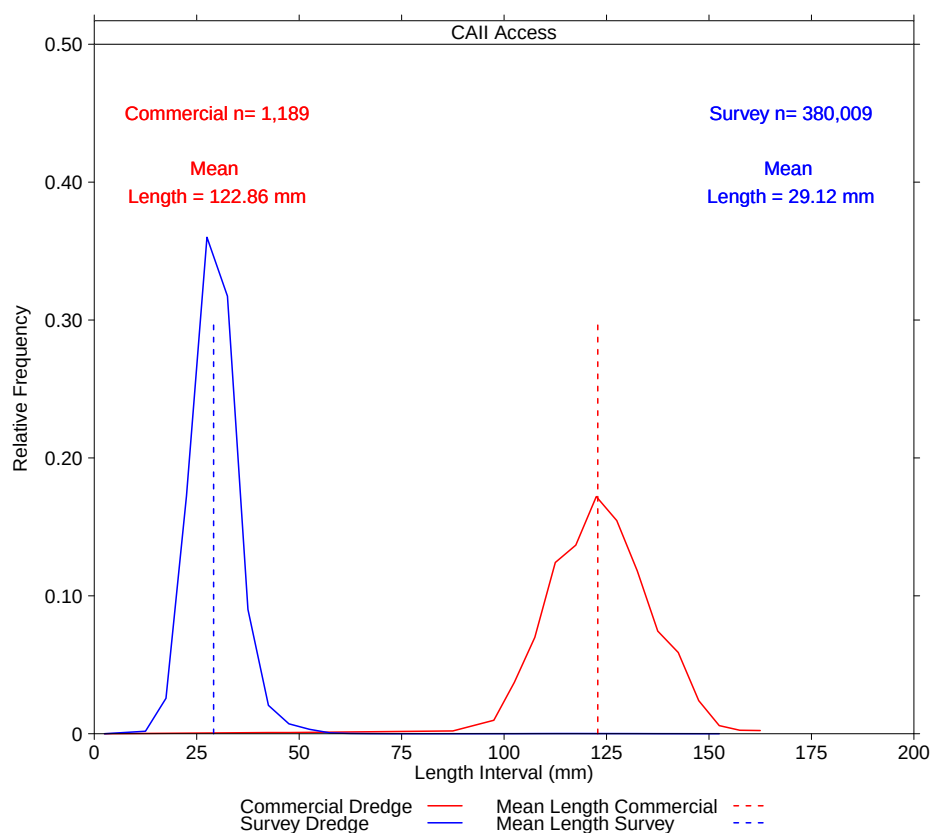
SAMS Area	Length	Commercial	Survey
SF	12.5	0	14
SF	17.5	0	19
SF	22.5	0	90
SF	27.5	0	621
SF	32.5	0	1,534
SF	37.5	1	2,168
SF	42.5	4	3,096
SF	47.5	0	2,511
SF	52.5	2	1,318
SF	57.5	1	512
SF	62.5	4	134
SF	67.5	1	48
SF	72.5	12	26
SF	77.5	13	17
SF	82.5	38	103
SF	87.5	377	283
SF	92.5	905	679
SF	97.5	1,708	1,243
SF	102.5	2,310	1,343
SF	107.5	1,920	960
SF	112.5	1,489	444
SF	117.5	1,000	124
SF	122.5	497	50
SF	127.5	304	24
SF	132.5	116	22
SF	137.5	54	11
SF	142.5	24	1
SF	147.5	8	2
SF	152.5	5	0

Number Caught at Length by Gear
 Left – Relative Length Frequency Graph
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SAMS_Area	Length	Commercial	Survey
CAII_Ext	22.5	0	18
CAII_Ext	27.5	0	97
CAII_Ext	32.5	0	266
CAII_Ext	37.5	0	360
CAII_Ext	42.5	0	451
CAII_Ext	47.5	0	235
CAII_Ext	52.5	0	36
CAII_Ext	57.5	1	15
CAII_Ext	62.5	1	8
CAII_Ext	67.5	1	7
CAII_Ext	72.5	2	9
CAII_Ext	77.5	3	27
CAII_Ext	82.5	4	43
CAII_Ext	87.5	18	111
CAII_Ext	92.5	25	262
CAII_Ext	97.5	117	270
CAII_Ext	102.5	246	343
CAII_Ext	107.5	413	274
CAII_Ext	112.5	366	141
CAII_Ext	117.5	204	76
CAII_Ext	122.5	146	38
CAII_Ext	127.5	77	20
CAII_Ext	132.5	62	14
CAII_Ext	137.5	24	12
CAII_Ext	142.5	9	2
CAII_Ext	147.5	6	1
CAII_Ext	152.5	2	0

Number Caught at Length by Gear
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SAMS_Area	Length	Commercial	Survey
CAII_Access	12.5	0	686
CAII_Access	17.5	0	9,765
CAII_Access	22.5	0	65,467
CAII_Access	27.5	0	136,805
CAII_Access	32.5	0	120,589
CAII_Access	37.5	0	34,247
CAII_Access	42.5	1	7,815
CAII_Access	47.5	1	2,726
CAII_Access	52.5	0	1,220
CAII_Access	57.5	0	232
CAII_Access	62.5	0	79
CAII_Access	67.5	0	30
CAII_Access	72.5	0	6
CAII_Access	77.5	0	1
CAII_Access	82.5	0	1
CAII_Access	87.5	2	6
CAII_Access	92.5	7	5
CAII_Access	97.5	12	12
CAII_Access	102.5	44	15
CAII_Access	107.5	83	38
CAII_Access	112.5	148	52
CAII_Access	117.5	163	56
CAII_Access	122.5	204	48
CAII_Access	127.5	184	42
CAII_Access	132.5	140	34
CAII_Access	137.5	88	16
CAII_Access	142.5	70	11
CAII_Access	147.5	28	2
CAII_Access	152.5	7	2
CAII_Access	157.5	3	0
CAII_Access	162.5	3	0

5. EXPLOITABLE BIOMASS ESTIMATES FOR 2026 (CURRENT FY)

Region	Survey Dredge				Avg. Weight (g)
	Area	Abundance (mil.)	Exploitable Biomass (mt)	SE	
Georges Bank	CL2-South (Access)	131,174,706.36	588.19	50.13	4.58
	CL2- Extension	30,869,247.43	583.29	64.28	18.17
	NLS-North	20,581,486.89	635.85	39.47	30.87
	NLS-South	199,668,208.97	2,179.07	285.13	10.88
	NLS-West	5,016,012.92	116.81	17.33	23.64
	SF	138,424,543.16	2,634.27	363.86	18.75
Mid- Atlantic	BI	1,101,281.73	27.47	3.34	25.05
	LI	124,485,462.64	2,483.68	135.08	19.72
	NYB	111,425,390.53	1,793.31	181.24	16.05
	MAB- Nearshore	124,050.46	1.02	0.21	8.27
	HCS	239,614,007.35	4,251.82	352.57	17.68
	ET	303,467,369.81	6,463.59	567.93	21.10
	DMV	7,931,114.69	115.12	42.63	14.57
	VIR	44,470.20	0.14	0.03	3.23

6. COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS ESTIMATES

Region	Area	Abundance (mil.)			Biomass (mil.)			Exploitable Biomass (mil.)		
		2025	2026	Percent Difference (%)	2025	2026	Percent Difference (%)	2025	2026	Percent Difference (%)
Georges Bank	CL2-South (Access)	37,242,458	707,808,475	1,800.54	776.43	11,862.69	1,427.85	393.01	588.19	49.66
	CL2-Extension	123,503,188	72,510,414	-41.29	1,356.74	931.22	-31.36	409.22	583.29	42.54
	NLS-North	27,758,337	37,100,592	33.66	434.67	834.57	92.00	182.10	635.85	249.18
	NLS-South	2,044,824,987	767,768,722	-62.45	7,804.59	6,425.11	-17.68	1,141.50	2,179.07	90.90
	NLS-West	12,545,901	16,297,654	29.90	313.04	199.41	-36.30	157.85	116.81	-26.00
	SF	259,956,140	534,297,195	105.53	3,145.69	5,016.93	59.49	1,003.20	2,634.27	162.59
Mid-Atlantic	BI	27,724,673	3,581,783	-87.08	560.79	45.62	-91.87	356.98	27.47	-92.30
	DMV	8,633,633	34,331,205	297.64	47.18	274.64	482.11	11.59	115.12	893.27
	ET	362,444,761	466,402,171	28.68	4,307.51	8,875.92	106.06	1,540.71	6,463.59	319.52
	HCS	777,417,155	437,835,541	-43.68	9,109.58	6,949.07	-23.72	3,075.93	4,251.82	38.23
	LI	999,623,611	284,617,030	-71.53	12,234.68	4,116.72	-66.35	4,764.87	2,483.68	-47.88
	MAB-Nearshore	5,126,449	1,107,385	-78.40	77.53	6.18	-92.03	44.06	1.02	-97.68
	NYB	467,462,065	299,581,591	-35.91	4,799.50	3,682.47	-23.27	1,730.26	1,793.31	3.64
	VIR	11,031,926	1,393,103	-87.37	52.81	3.75	-92.90	3.59	0.14	-96.10

7 SHELL-HEIGHT MEAT WEIGHT COMPARISONS

Comparison of NLS-South biomass estimates using the VIMS 2025 SHMW and the VIMS 2025/2026 SHMW equations.

Area	VIMS 2025	VIMS 2025_2026
NLS-South	6,425.11	6,269.78

Comparison of MAB SAMS Area biomass estimates using the updated 2025 research track SHMW and the 2026 SHMW equation.

Area	VIMS 2025	VIMS 2025_2026
VIR	3.75	4.15
DMV	274.64	292.11
ET	8,875.92	9,845.52
HCS	6,949.07	7,616.60
MAB_Nearshore	6.18	7.04
NYB	3,682.47	4,049.72
LI	4,116.72	4,547.84
BI	45.62	50.24

8 SPECIAL COMMENTS

DMV VIR SAMS Areas

Biomass in the VIR SAMS Area continues to decline over time. Biomass in DMV has increased this year due to a few stations with a large number of animals, and is the second highest biomass estimate in our time series, below the estimate in 2022 of 756 mt (Figure 1). VIMS has observed small numbers of pre-recruits and recruits in the DMV and VIR SAMS Areas over the past few years. We have not seen survival of cohorts in sequential years with the exception of 2025 and 2026 for the DMV. There are also three year classes in DMV this year. This has not been observed in our time series since 2018 (Figure 2). The causal mechanism for this is unclear, but evidence suggests warming bottom water temperature in the southern portion of the resource may be leading to high natural mortality.

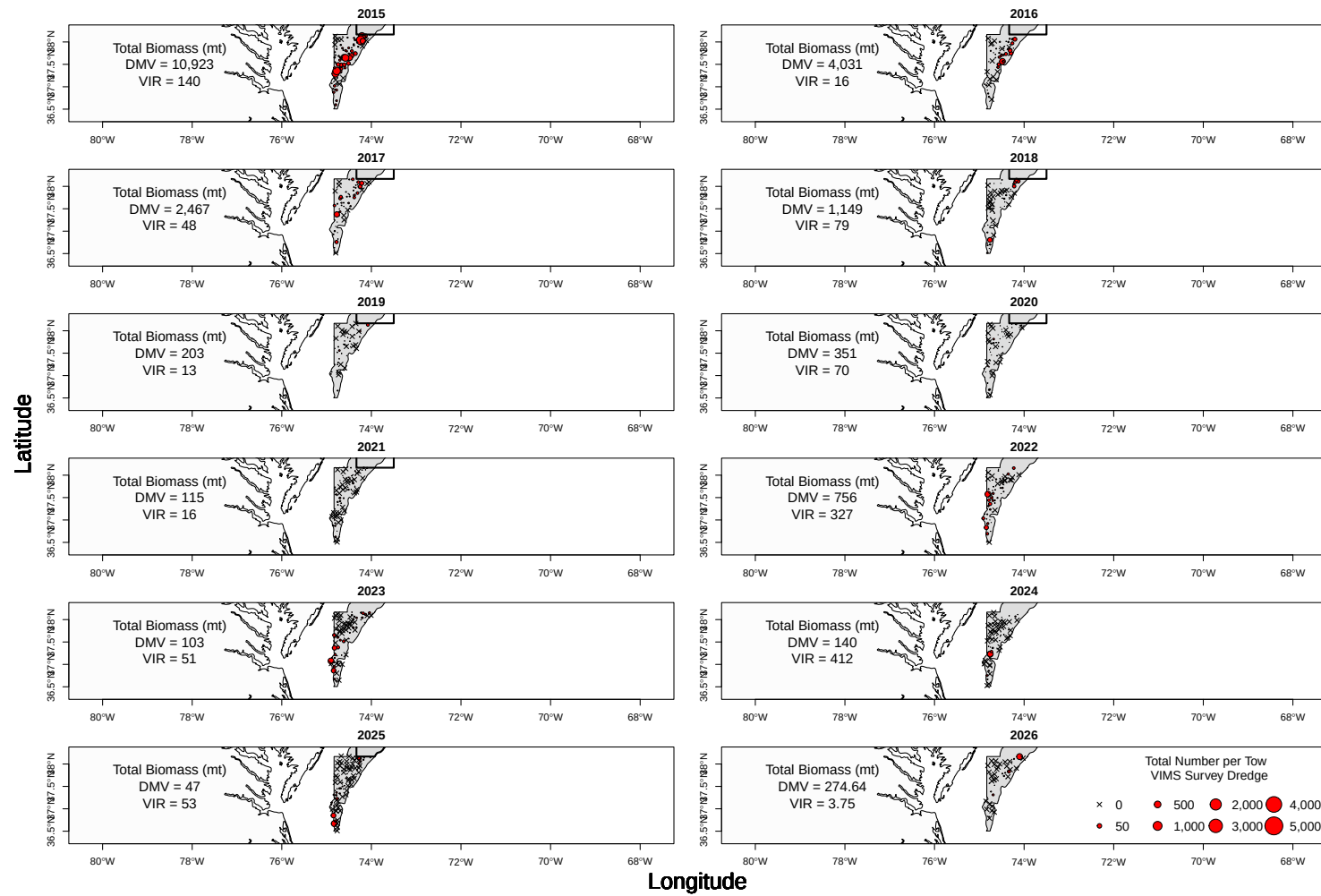


Figure 1: Spatial distribution of scallop catch in numbers by year for 2015 - 2026 from the VIMS dredge survey for the DMV and VIR SAMS Areas. Total biomass estimates (mt) are also provided.

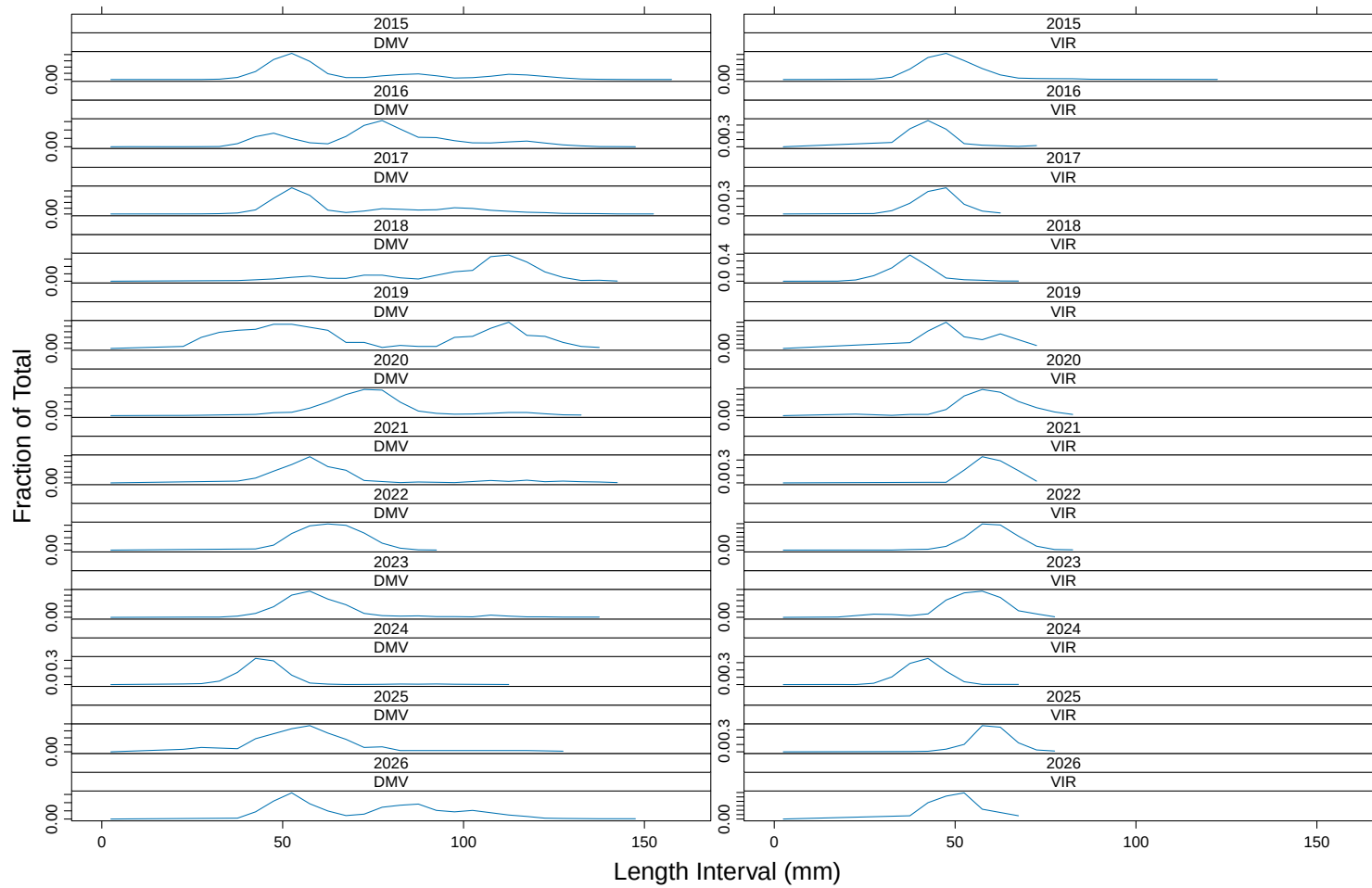


Figure 2: Relative length frequency distributions by year for 2015 - 2026 from the VIMS dredge survey for the DMV and VIR SAMS Areas.

MAB SURVEY NEMATODE DISTRIBUTION

The prevalence and intensity of nematodes present in scallops in the MAB has been monitored by VIMS since 2015. Prevalence is defined as the percent of scallops observed to be infected with nematodes out of all scallops sampled for SHMW analysis at the station-level. Intensity is defined as the mean number of lesions observed in infected scallops. Figure 3 below illustrates the spatial distribution of the prevalence of nematode infected scallops observed in the VIMS surveys for 2020 - 2026. The majority of infected scallops have been observed in the southern extent of the resource (VIR, DMV, and the ET SAMS Areas). The ET SAMS Area has continued to be identified as a hot spot, with high proportions of infected scallops. In 2026, the percentage of sea scallops with nematode infections was extremely low. No infected scallops have been documented on Georges Bank since 2015.

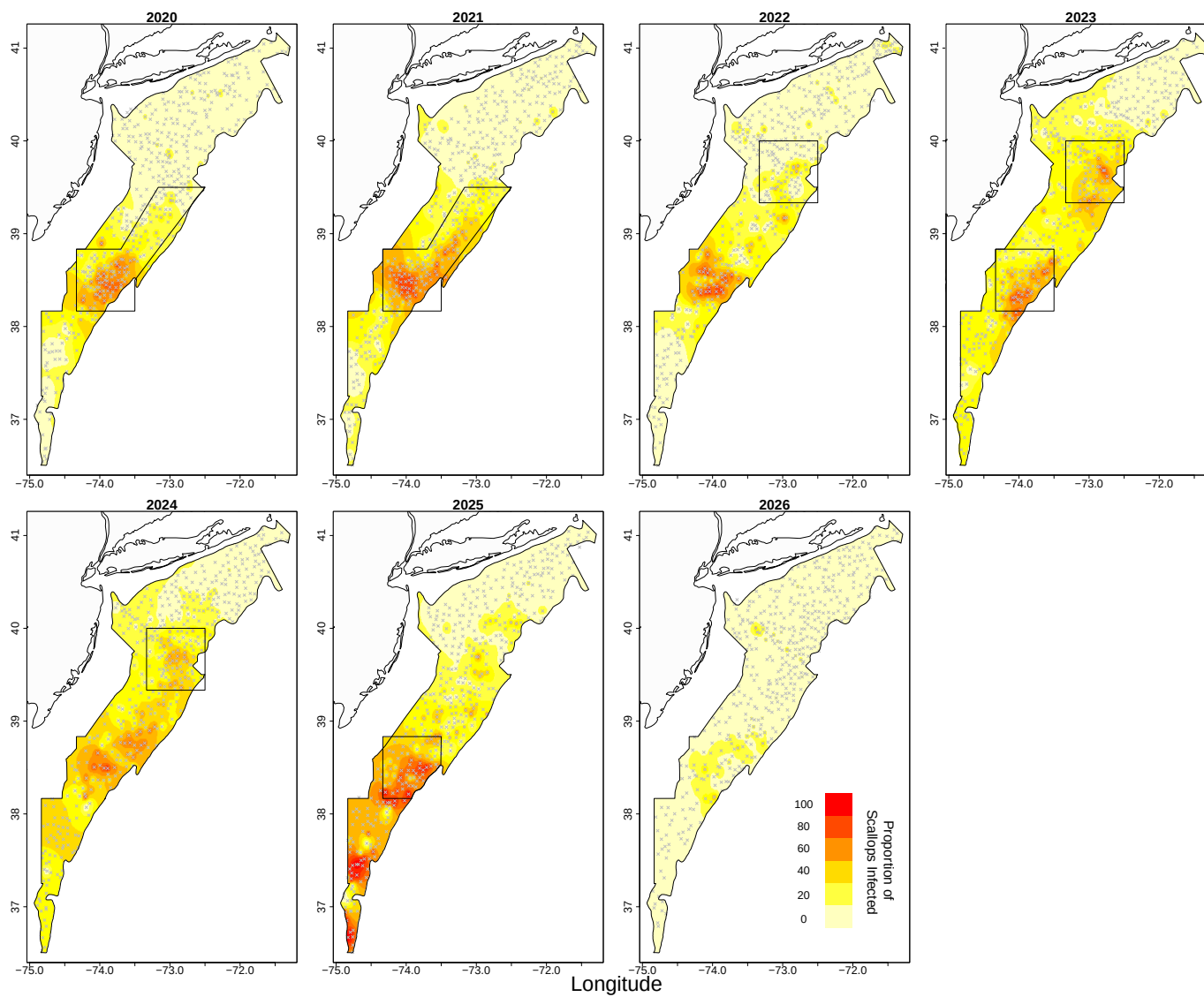
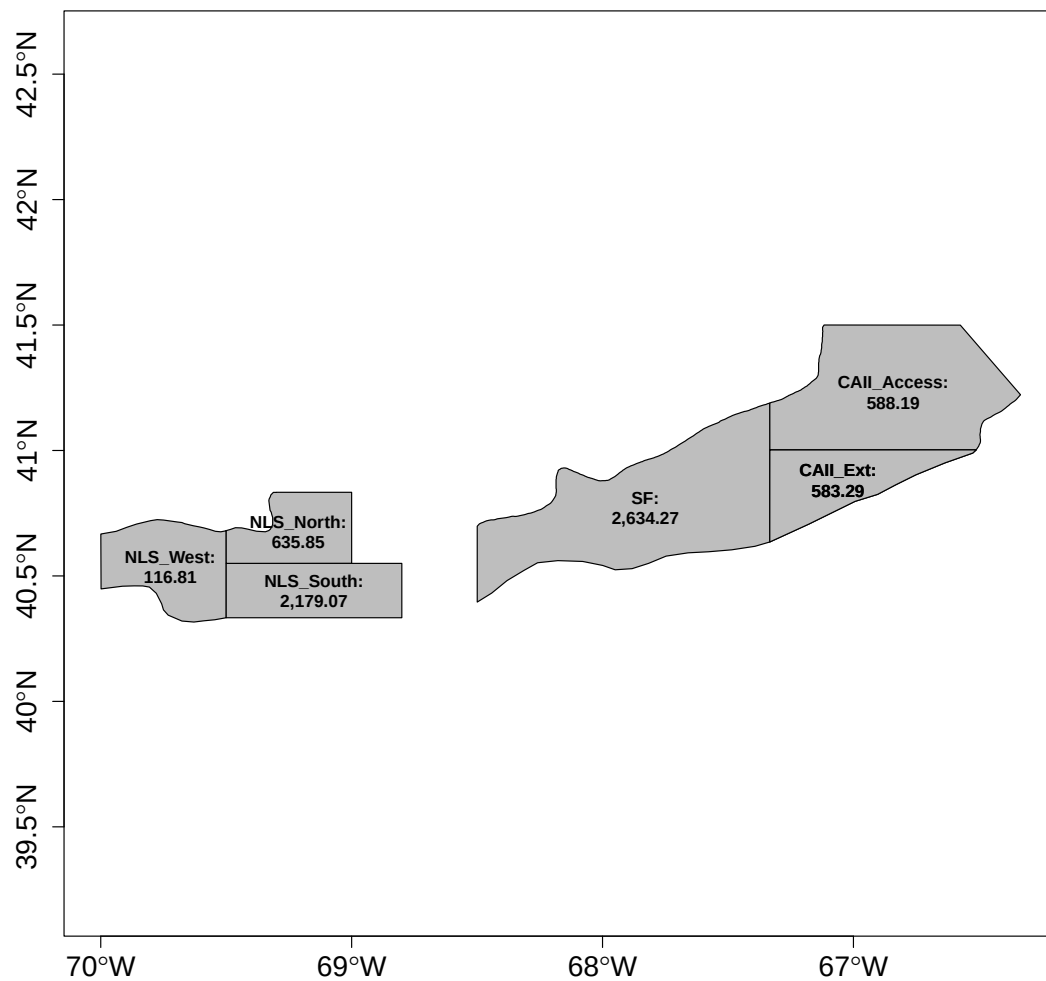


Figure 3: Proportion of nematode infected scallops as a percentage of all scallops assessed during SHMW analysis at the station-level by year for 2020 - 2026 from the VIMS dredge survey.

Georges Bank Exploitable Biomass Estimates by SAMS Area from Survey Dredge



MAB Exploitable Biomass Estimates by SAMS Area from Survey Dredge

