

2013 Updated lobster catch-at-length data from the Tristan da Cunha fishery

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These catch-at-length (CAL) statistics are from the observer random samples of the commercial catch (both longline and powerboat). They represent the full size range of lobster landings i.e. include sublegal sizes, not only the legal sized portion of the catch.

The following statistics are presented graphically for each island and include:

- 1) Plots of the catch-at-length frequencies for the 2008-2011 seasons landings (Figure 1)
- 2) Plots of the average size of male lobsters in the landed catch since 1997 (Figure 2a)
- 3) Plots of the average size of female lobsters in the landed catch since 1997 (Figure 2b)
- 4) Plots of the percentage females in the landed catch since 1997 (Figure 3)

Note that, for example, the 2007 season refers to the period Sept 2007 to Aug 2008. There is a notable downward trend in the average size of males at Inaccessible over recent years.

Figure 1a: Male catch-at-length frequencies for the 2008-2011 seasons. The vertical arrow indicates current minimum legal carapace length (mm). Lobsters below the legal size limit are returned to the sea.

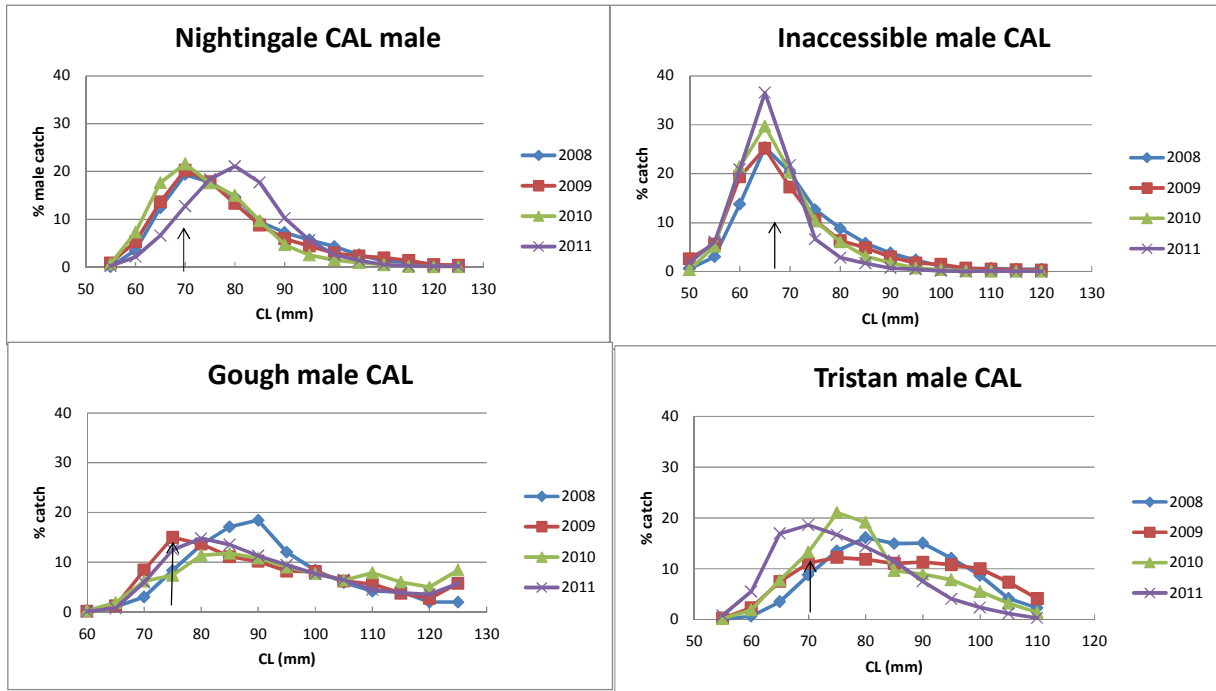


Figure 1b: Female catch-at-length frequencies for the 2008-2011 seasons. The vertical arrow indicates current minimum legal carapace length (mm).

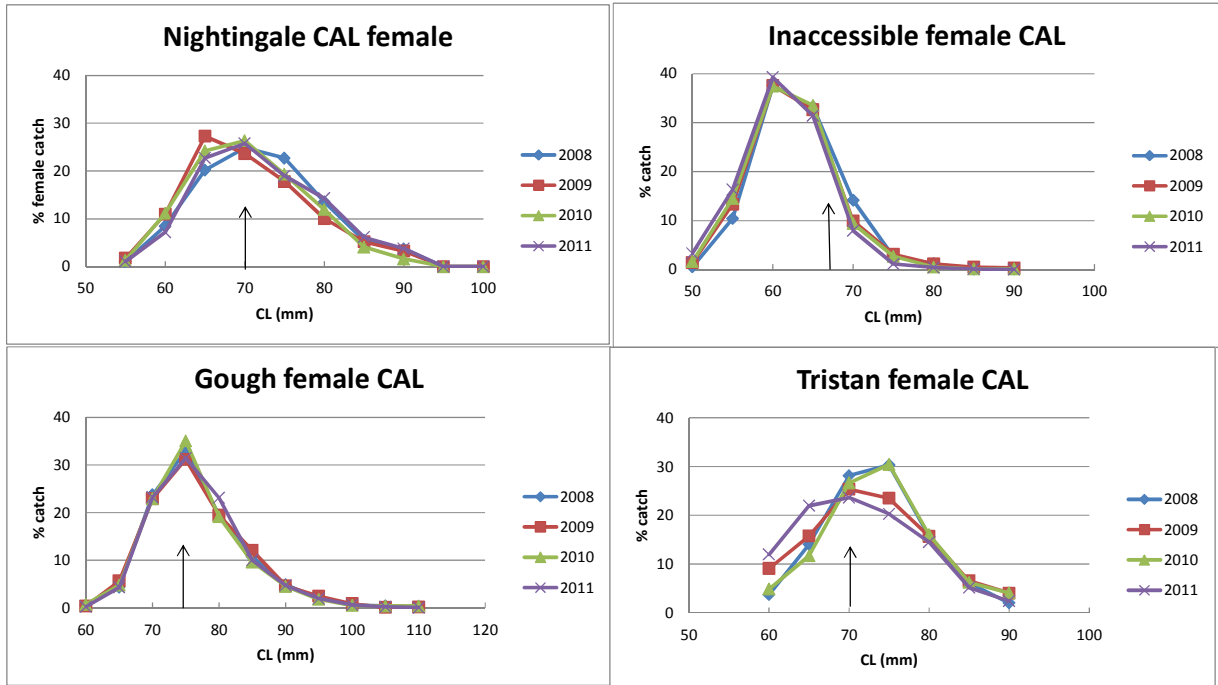


Figure 2a: Male average sizes in the catch.

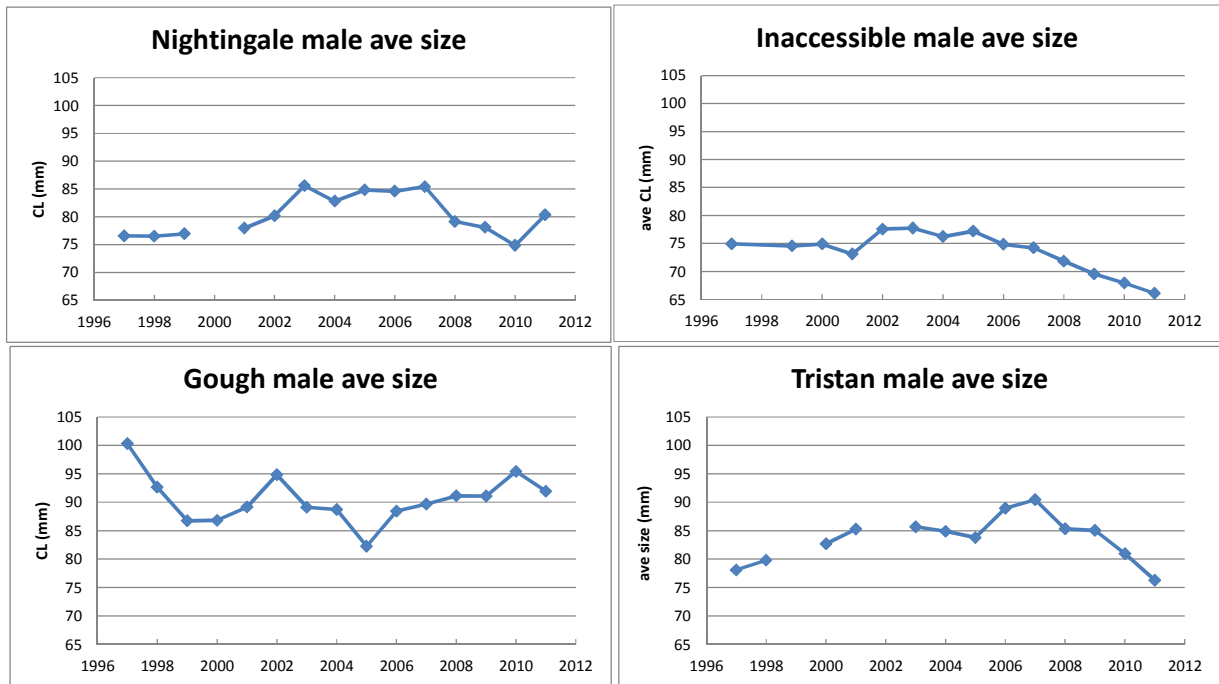


Figure 2b: Female average sizes in the catch.

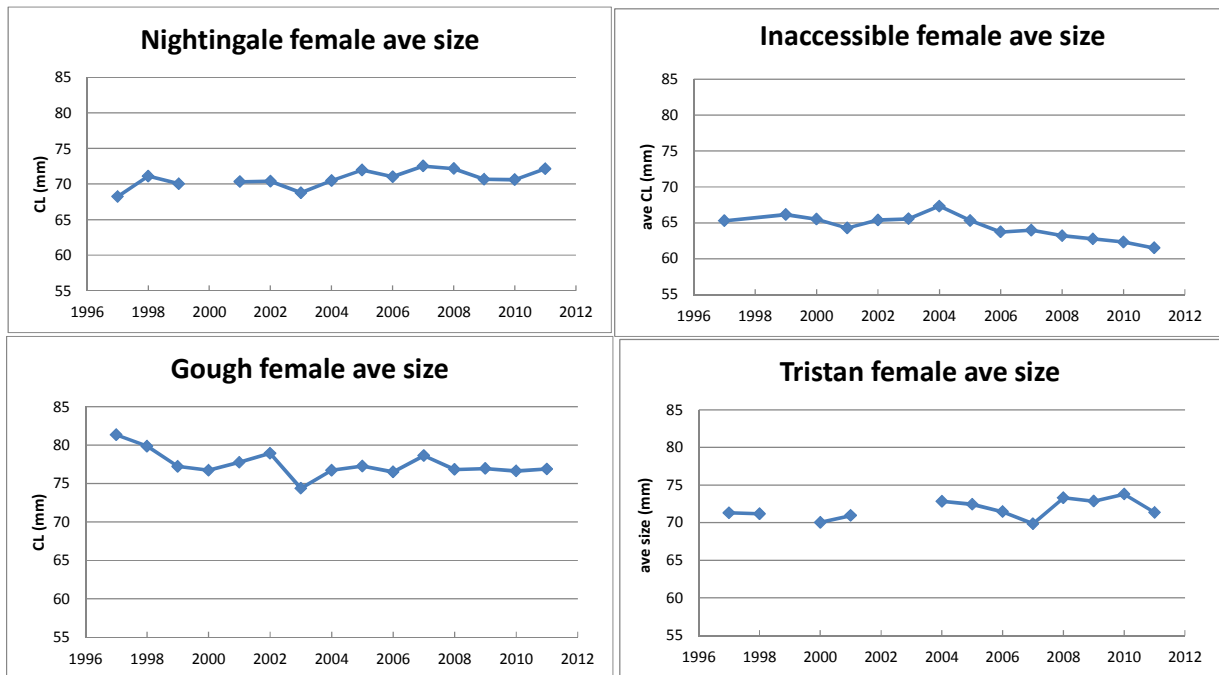


Figure 3: Percent females (by number) in the catch-at-length samples.

