

COMPARABLE WEST COAST ROCK LOBSTER CATCH AND EFFORT DATA UP TO 31 MARCH 2016 FOR THE PAST FIVE SEASONS, WITH IMPLICATIONS FOR EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES DECLARATIONS

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Catch, effort (and hence CPUE) data for both the trap (offshore) and bakkie (inshore) commercial fisheries for super-areas 3+4, 5+6, 7 and 8+ for the period 1 October - 31 March are provided in Table 1 for seasons 2011¹-2015.

Table 1 and the following Figures 1-4 provide information on the total TAC set for seasons from 2011, and the amount caught (by 31 March each year). Information is also provided on the details on the offshore “trap” versus nearshore “bakkie” fishery.

A FIMS survey has been conducted for super-area 8+ only for the 2015 season. Nevertheless, using the data that are available from the fishery (until 31 March 2015), the resource indices for each super-area can still be compared with the threshold levels below which Exceptional Circumstances (ECs) are invoked (see Appendix of FISHERIES/2015/AUG/SWG-WCRL/26 for the most recent example of these analyses) by following the procedure below.

As the trap and bakkie data currently available for the 2015 season are “nominal” data and have not yet been standardised using GLM analyses, one needs to scale these nominal data (as presented in Table 1) to the 2011-2014 GLM standardised values, in order to use them to calculate combined indices for each super-area. For super-area 7 the GLM standardised Trap CPUE values have recently been calculated (Glazer pers. commn), so no rescaling is required. The lack of FIMS data for 2015 (for super-areas other than 8+) is more problematic; hence two scenarios are considered here:

- FIMS(2015)=0 (an extreme assumption which serves as a lower bound)
- FIMS(2015)=FIMS(2014)

Figures 5-8 report the combined indices for each of the super-areas (for both FIMS scenarios – except for super-area 8+ where the FIMS from the 2015 survey is used) and show where the resource is estimated to be at present relative to the threshold levels below which a declaration of Exceptional Circumstances would be appropriate.

Figures 5a and b suggest that super-area 3+4 is likely to be above the EC threshold at the end of this season.

Figures 6a and b show the situation for super-area 5+6. Only bakkie (or hoopnet data) from the commercial fishery are used along with the FIMS data in the combined index for this super-area. Trap data are not incorporated in the combined index as these data were not available for 1998-2010 period, so that at the time the EC threshold rules were simulation tested, it was not clear whether trap fishing would resume again in this super-area on a consistent basis. The geometric mean of the combined index has been decreasing towards the EC threshold over the last few years, and the value at the end of this season is likely to be virtually there if FIMS(2015) is taken to be zero. Were the combined index to include trap data, given the poor situation indicated by the limited trap

¹ Note the split season 2011/12 for example, is indexed by the first year only (2011).

data available for the 2015 season, the indications for the status of the resource in this super-area would be worse still.

For super-area 7, currently under EC, the situation is more promising (Figures 7a and b). Even for a FIMS(2015) value of 0, the geometric mean of what would now be the final combined index for the current season would be (marginally) above the EC threshold. Thus for the next (2016) season, Exceptional Circumstances can be lifted for super-area A7.

Figure 8 indicates super-area 8+ to now be very close to the threshold level for ECs. Bear in mind though that it is now still relatively early in the season for this super-area, so the final trap and hoop CPUE values could change by non-trivial amounts. Thus it is quite possible that Exceptional Circumstances may apply for super-area A8+ for next season.

Table 1: West Coast rock lobster TAC, Catch, Effort & CPUE for super-areas 3+4, 5+6 and 8+.

Super-area 3+4										
Season	TAC	Offshore TAC	Nearshore TAC	Actual Catch	Traps			Bakkies		
					Catch	Effort	CPUE	Catch	Effort	CPUE
11/12	148t	75t	73t	135t	69t	7866	8.75	66t	853	76.86
12/13	198t	125t	73t	176t	121t	13947	8.68	55t	894	61.02
13/14	205t	132t	73t	190t	127t	10781	11.75	63t	1136	55.26
14/15	185t	119t	66t	245t	183t	15444	11.87	62t	693	89.57
15/16	204t	138t	66t	172t	130t	18121	7.15	42t	931	44.72

Super-area 5+6										
Season	TAC	Offshore TAC	Nearshore TAC	Actual Catch	Traps			Bakkies		
					Catch	Effort	CPUE	Catch	Effort	CPUE
11/12	52t	20t	32t	38t	20t	2248	8.75	18t	264	68.75
12/13	92t	60t	32t	73t	51t	6295	8.10	22t	317	68.91
13/14	170t	138t	32t	121t	109t	22201	4.91	12t	200	59.43
14/15	153t	124t	29t	91t	76t	26020	2.91	15t	203	75.55
15/16		189t	29t	5t	0.1t	104	1.33	5t	82	62.99

Super-area 8+										
Season	TAC	Offshore TAC	Nearshore TAC	Actual Catch	Traps			Bakkies		
					Catch	Effort	CPUE	Catch	Effort	CPUE
11/12	1185t	1064t	121t	229t	174t	17371	10.03	55t	295	187.55
12/13	1177t	1056t	121t	159t	113t	16948	6.69	46t	348	132.47
13/14	1078t	958t	120t	194t	149t	22682	6.58	45t	395	114.56
14/15	868t	772t	96t	234t	185t	38184	4.84	49t	583	84.85
15/16	895t	799t	96t	274t	225t	63983	3.51	49t	617	78.84

All data extracts are for the period 1 October – 31 March for each year.

Figure 1: TAC, Catch and CPUE details for super-area 3+4. The TAC is for the full season but the Catch and CPUE cover the period until 31 March only.

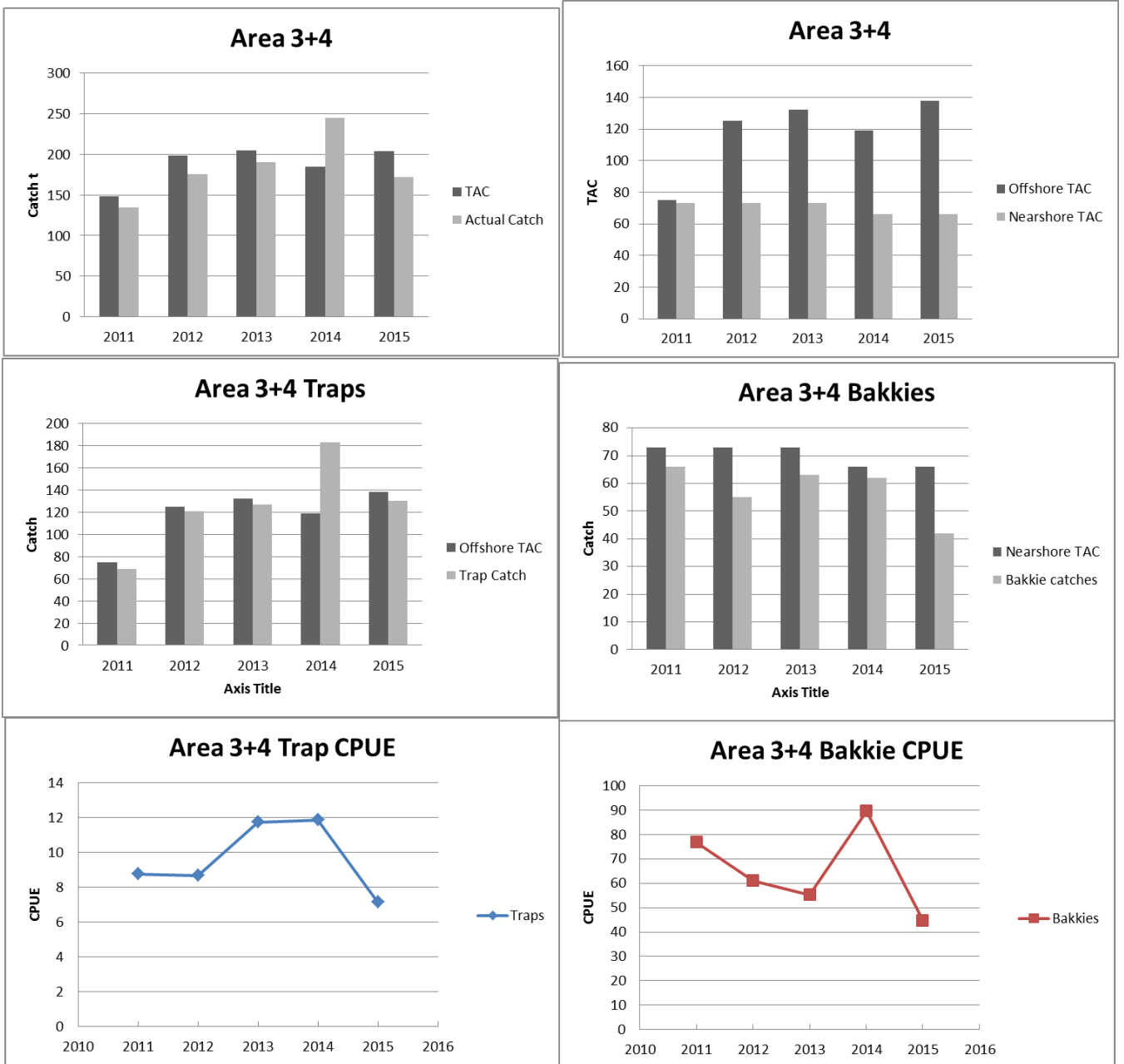


Figure 2: TAC, Catch and CPUE details for super-area 5+6. The TAC is for the full season but the Catch and CPUE cover the period until 31 March only.

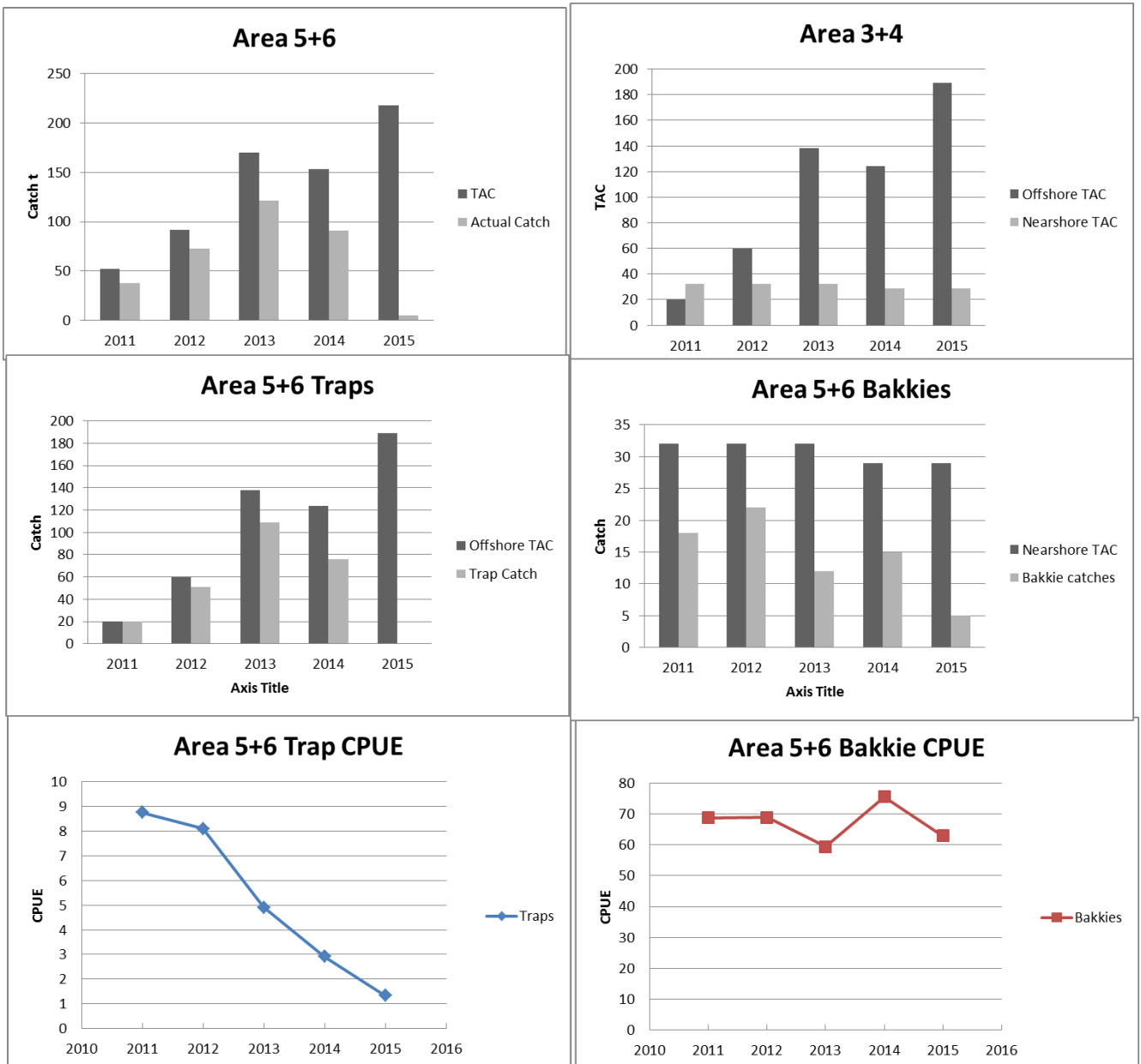


Figure 3: TAC, Catch and CPUE details for super-area 7. The TAC is for the full season but the Catch and CPUE cover the period until 31 March only.



Figure 4: TAC, Catch and CPUE details for super-area 8+. The TAC is for the full season but the Catch and CPUE cover the period until 31 March only.

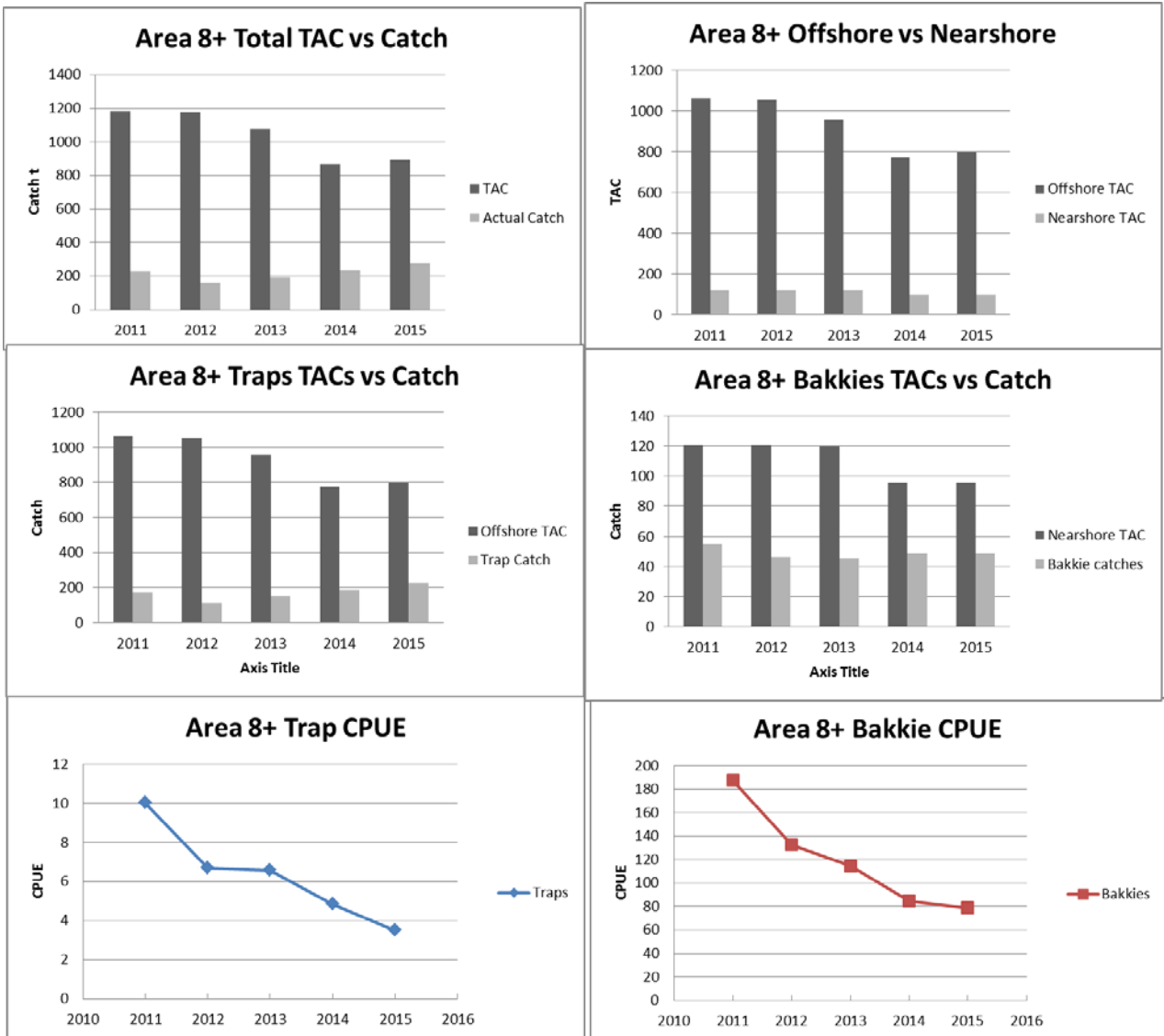


Figure 5a: Super-area 3+4 critical levels – assuming FIMS(2015)=0.

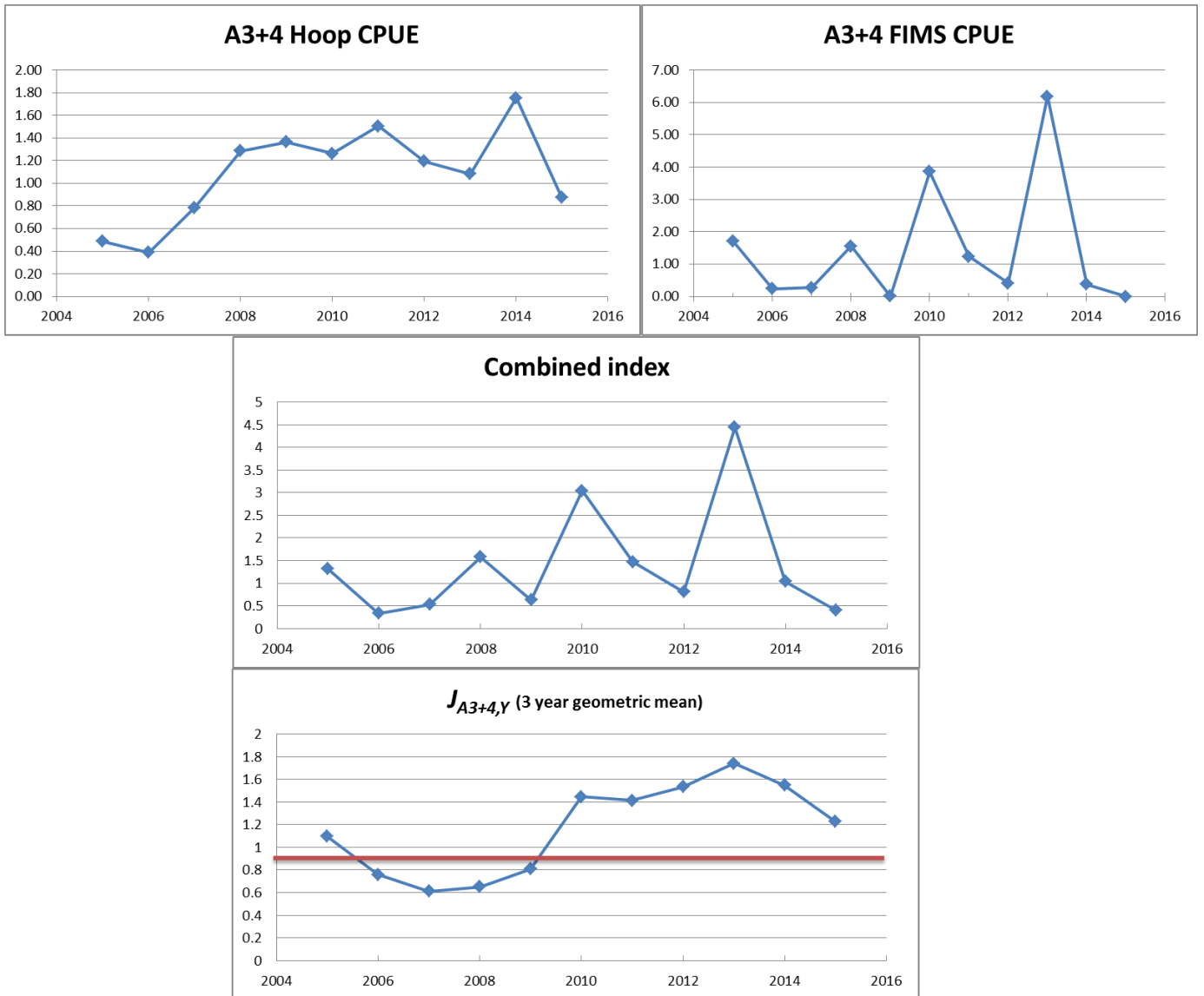


Figure 5b: Super-area 3+4 critical levels – assuming FIMS(2015)=FIMS(2014).

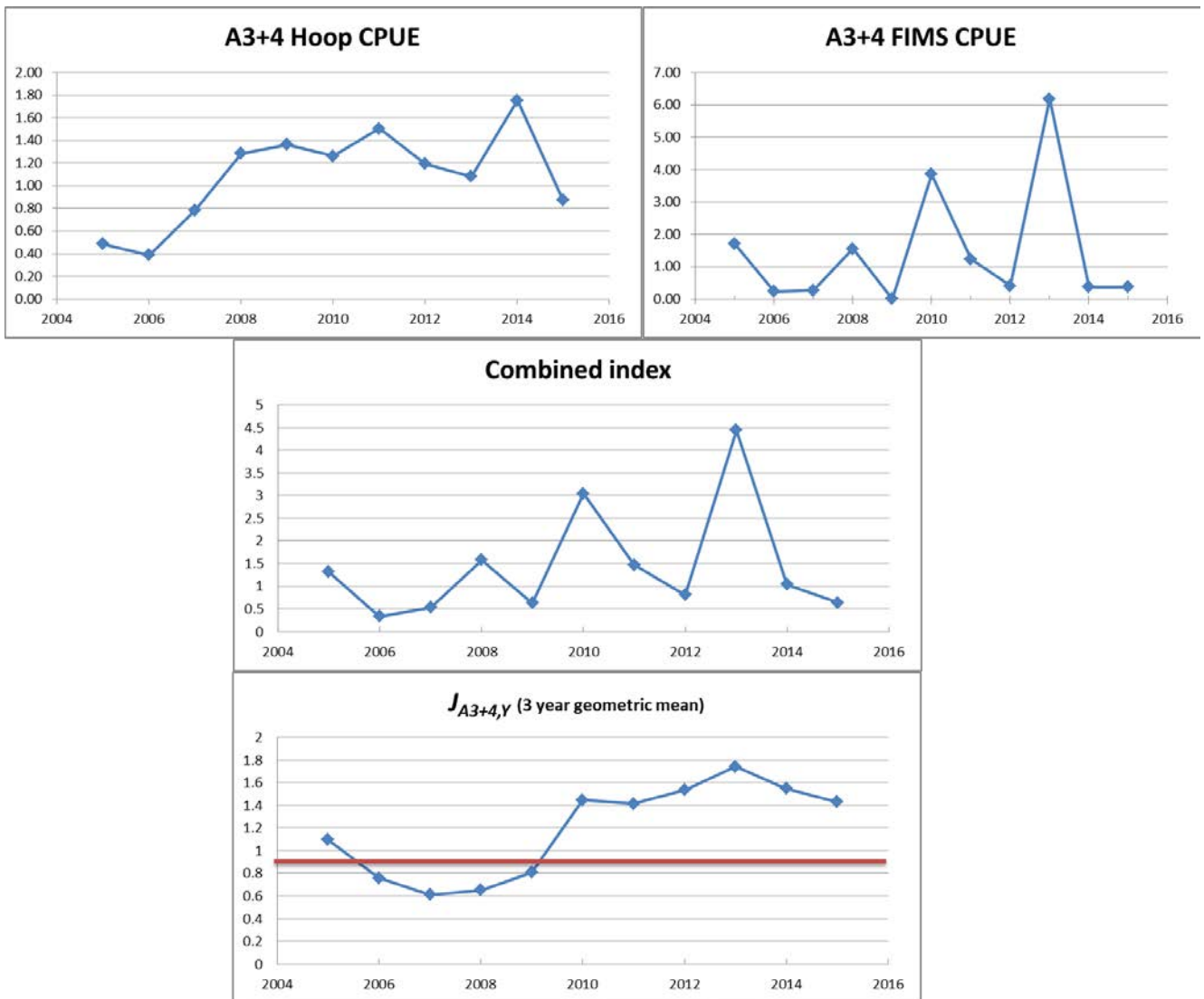


Figure 6a: Super-area 5+6 critical levels – assuming FIMS(2015)=0.

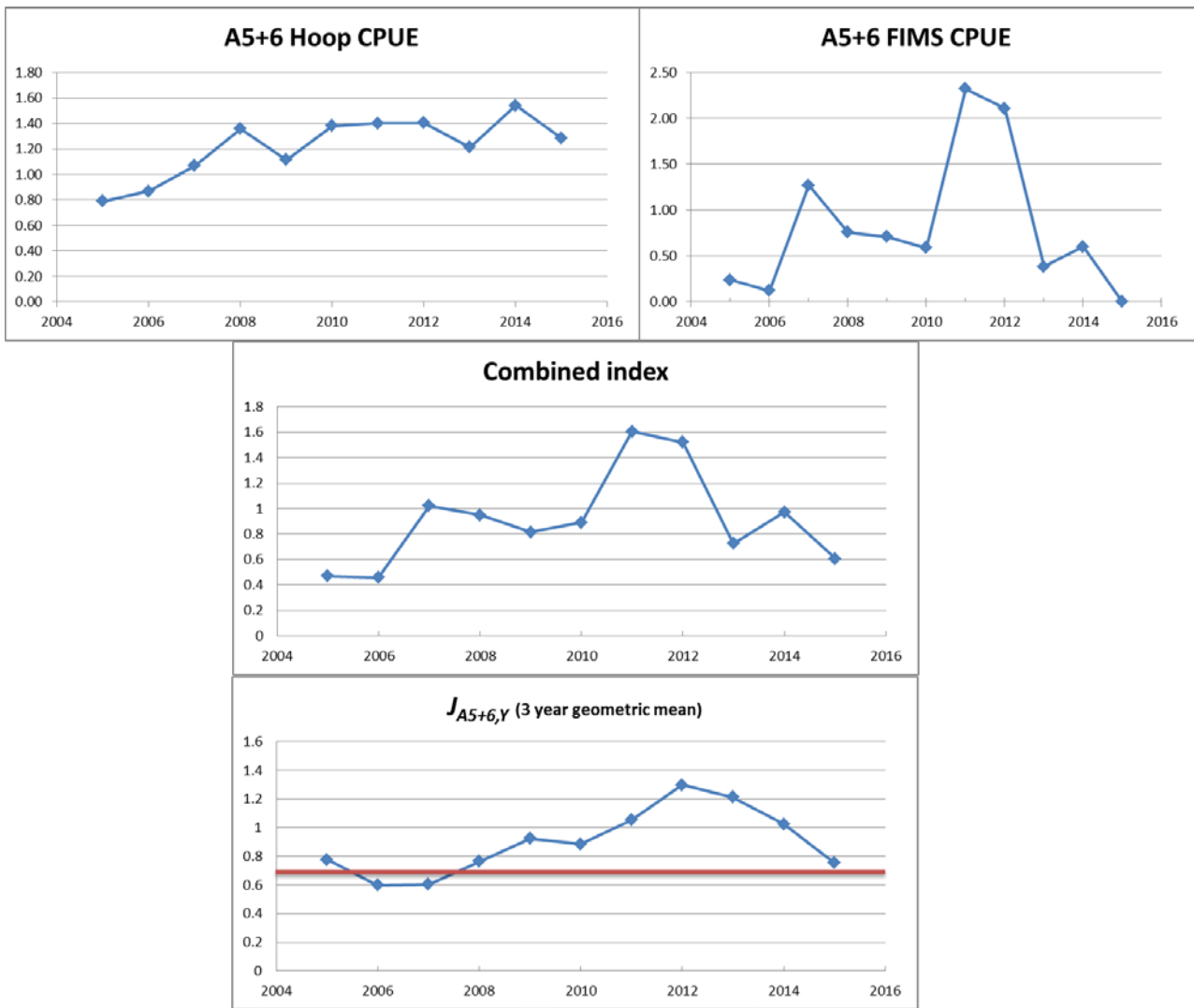


Figure 6b: Super-area 5+6 critical levels – assuming FIMS(2015)=FIMS(2014).

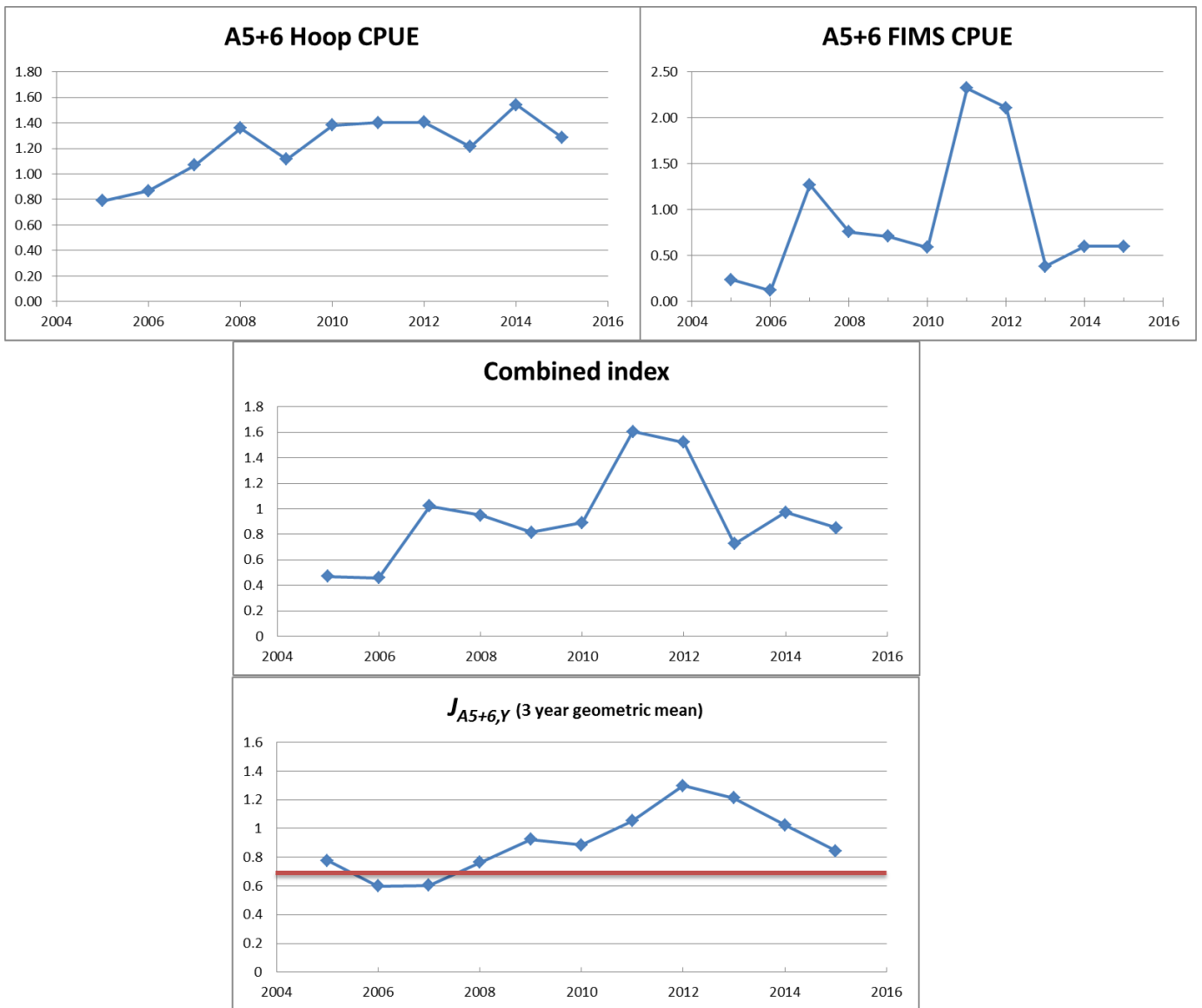


Figure 7a: Super-area 7 critical levels – assuming FIMS(2015)=0.

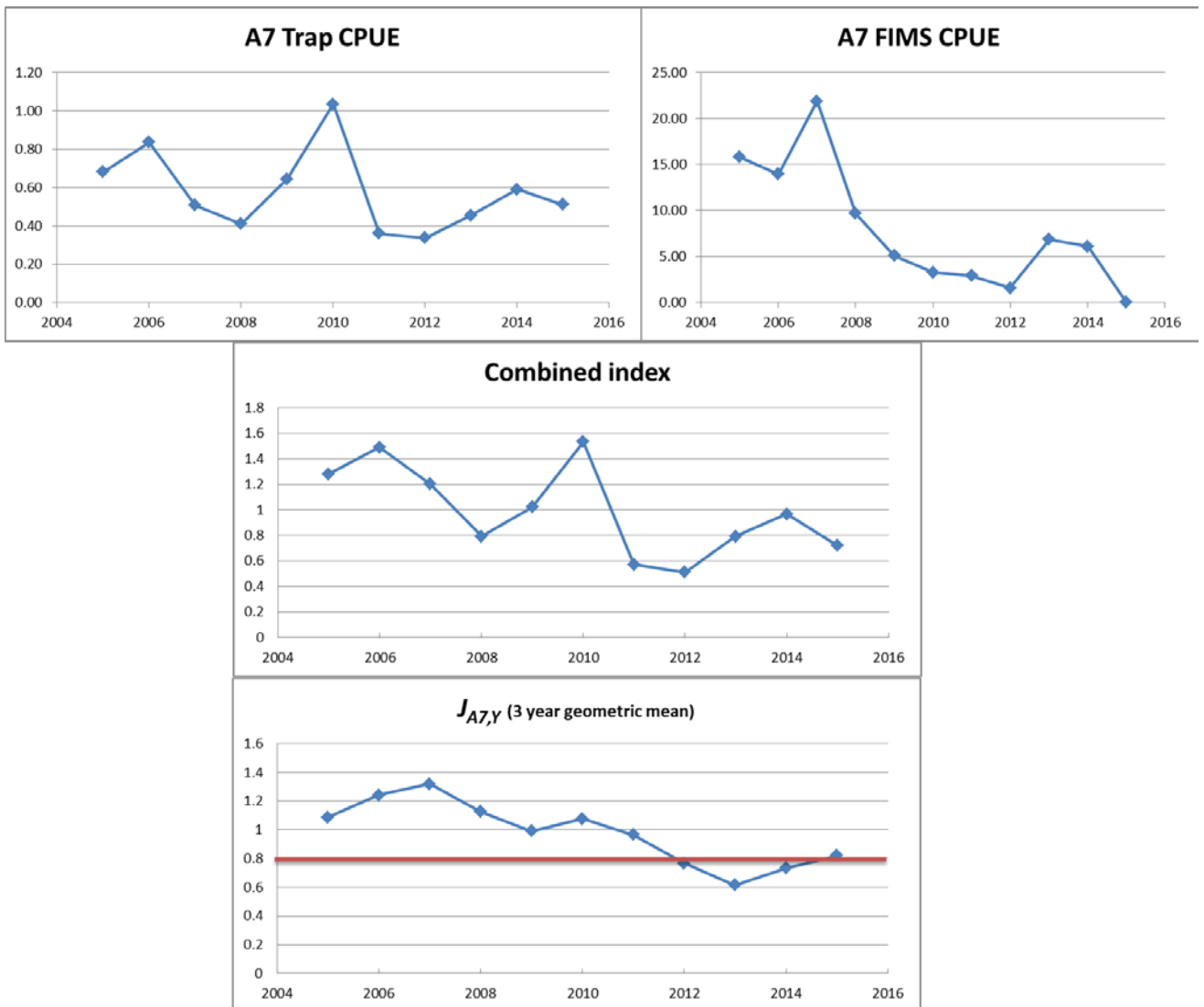


Figure 7b: Super-area 7 critical levels – assuming FIMS(2015)=FIMS(2014).



Figure 8: Super-area 8+ critical levels. FIMS(2015) from updated 2015 FIMS survey.

