

Georgia Whelk Fishery



Intertidal Tagging Results

18,878 whelks:

K 84.8%, **C** 13.7%, **L** 1.4%, **P** 0.1%

Females larger

L 257mm, **K** 228mm, **C** 175mm, **P** 111.6mm

Much higher female/male ratio than offshore:

K 3.79 (versus 0.76), **C** 1.25 (vs 0.86), **L** 25.5, **P** 1.33

Common in fall, spring when also egg laying

Limited movement and very slow growth rates

Intertidal Harvesting

Collections performed every low tide (day and night)

All visible whelks collected

February 27 to April 1

RESULTS

1,824 whelks collected over 34 days

91.2% knobbed, 4.7% lightning, 4.1% channeled & 1 pearwhelk

Greater numbers collected at night

More abundant when water temp $> \sim 13-14^{\circ}\text{C}$

Greater numbers of females than males

Hand harvesting rapidly reduced the mean size and depleted

the numbers of whelks in the study area

Trapping Study

5 trap designs tested at 2 locations (Wassaw Sound & Beard Creek)

Traps checked every two days between May 10 and June 27



Results

Plastic pyramid trap
worked best

Trapped out stocks within
1.5 months