

## SPRFMO THIRD WORKSHOP - DEEP WATER WORKING GROUP

### SCW3-Doc08 – On the Use of Catch-Per-Unit-Effort in Orange Roughy Assessments

Fishing for Orange Roughy is generally focused on large spawning aggregations and measuring effort can become problematic when enormous catches can occur in very short time periods and such mechanisms as 'burst panels' can exist. This means that the analysis of catch-per-unit-effort (cpue) can also be problematic. It would be, however, a mistake to state that cpue never has utility when assessing stock status in Orange Roughy fisheries. Orange Roughy fisheries are not homogeneous with some focused on aggregations and some on dis-aggregated fish.

As with all fisheries, all available data should be examined for information about the stock's dynamics and only rejected after such an examination.

Examples from Australia's eastern and western Orange Roughy fisheries are discussed.