

Review of Catch, Catch at Size, Sex ratios and Catch at Age of king mackerel from the U.S. Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic fisheries.

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Summary

Catch data from commercial and recreational fisheries for king mackerel are sized by sex to estimate the catch at size (CAS) by sex tables. Then the CAS data are converted to Catch-at-Age (CAA) by sex using age length keys when available, or a stochastic ageing method. A review of the size samples, age samples for ALK, sex ratios at size, and protocols applied is presented.

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Introduction

King mackerel commercial and recreational fisheries in the US extend from the Northeast states of New England to Texas in the Gulf of Mexico. Presently, this resource is managed under the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources Fishery Management Plan implemented in February 1983. The FMP recognized two different stocks for the purpose of fishery management: the Atlantic migratory stock extending from New England to the South Florida Atlantic coast, and the Gulf of Mexico migratory stock extending from the Florida Keys and West Coast to the Texas border with Mexico. The FMP also recognized the seasonal mixing of these stocks on the Florida East coast and Florida Keys region. At present, for management and assessment purposes, there is a mobile boundary between the Atlantic and Gulf stocks. In the winter (Nov 1st through Mar 31st), the boundary is defined as a line due east from the Volusia and Flagler County coastal border (about 29°25' latitude north); in the summer (Apr 1st through Oct 31st), the boundary is defined as the line due west from the Monroe and Collier County coast border (about 25°48' latitude north) (Fig 1).

Commercial and Recreational landings data

Catch data from commercial fisheries have been collected by NMFS and the individual State programs, and compiled by the SEFSC Accumulated Landing System (ALS). Catches from the North Atlantic states were provided by the NMFS Northeast Regional Office. Recreational catch was estimated by the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS), NMFS Headboat Survey, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Coastal Creel Survey (TPWD). Commercial catch is recorded in weight units and standardized to whole fish weight; recreational catch estimates are provided in numbers of fish landed (AB1) and number of fish released (B2). Table 1 and Fig 2 show the catch from commercial fisheries for king mackerel Atlantic and Gulf stocks by calendar year. Because of the interest in the mixing zone dynamics of these stocks, plots and tables show the distribution of the catch by regions; Atlantic no mixing (north of including Flagler County to New England), the mixing zone (between Volusia and Monroe Counties FL), and the Gulf no mixing (north and west of Collier county FL to Texas). Commercial catch by state is presented in Fig 3 and Table 2. For the Atlantic stock over 95% of the catch is landed by Florida and North Carolina. In the Gulf, about 75% of the catch is landed in Florida, followed by Louisiana (23%). Commercial catch is caught mainly by hook and line, and by trolling fishing gears, however smaller catches have been reported from other gears (including gillnets, purse seines, beach seines, traps, and trawls) (Table 3 and Fig 4). Before 1997, reporting of fishing gear was incomplete in the ALS data; therefore, some of the information of gear catch proportion was obtained from the Florida General Canvass files, and from discussions of the Mackerel stock assessment panel (MSAP) (SEDAR5-DW Ortiz et al 2003).

Florida is the main landing state for commercial fisheries of king mackerel stocks; ALS data provide information on county level landings for Florida (Table 4). For the Gulf no mix zone stock, the major counties of landings are Collier, Bay, Okaloosa, Franklin, Pinellas, Lee, and Manatee (Fig 5). For

the Atlantic no mix zone, Duval and Flagler are the main counties of landings, although the landing are much lower than in the mixing zone. For the mixing zone, landings are greater during the winter months (GOM stock) than in summer (ATL stock), with Palm Beach, Monroe, St Lucie, Indian River, and Martin the main landing areas. However, the information provided by ALS is from fish-houses and trip ticket data; there are reservations regarding what information is reported in trip ticket fishing locations. It is likely that the county catch distribution from ALS commercial data reflect more the economic trade statistics than fishing location (Orhun & Turner 2008).

MRFSS Recreational catch estimates are in the numbers of fish by state (Florida is split into Florida East [Nassau-Dade], and Florida West [Monroe-Escambia]), mode (i.e. private, shore, charter boat, headboat), and bi-month (Jan-Feb, ..., Nov-Dec). The allocation of mixing zone MRFSS catch is done at the Florida east-west split, by bi-month (splitting equally catch in Mar-Apr). Headboat catch estimates started in 1986; prior year estimates were combined with MRFSS charter boat (1981-85) (Matter 2008). Texas recreational estimates started in 1982; however in 2005 the TPWD provided revised estimates for the whole time series (1983-2004) which were different than estimates used in last assessment(s). Unfortunately, no verification or documentation support were provided with the “revised Texas” recreational estimates; therefore, it was decided to defer whether or not to replace the TPWD estimates for the SEDAR working group discussions.

MRFSS also provided estimates of discards (live releases of king mackerel) B2 component of the catch. Prior assessments have ignore those estimates mainly because of the low numbers compared to the total catch retained (AB1). However, in recent years B2 estimates are rapidly increasing, and it is likely that some portion of these releases die. Table 6 and Fig 6 and 7 show the distribution of MRFSS recreational catch estimates (numbers) of landed fish (AB1) and releases (B2) by stock unit and region. As with the commercial catch, the proportions of recreational catch are higher in the mixing zone for the Atlantic stock, although this is not the case for the Gulf stock. As noted before, the number of releases is increasing since 2000 in Atlantic and Gulf; lately, the B2 release catch has been about 35% of the retained catch in the Atlantic stock, and 50% in the Gulf stock. Above 90% of the recreational catch is from the MRFSS estimates (Table 7, Fig 8), Headboat catch is about 5% of total recreational removals. Recreational AB1 catches by state are shown in Table 8 and Fig 9. For the Atlantic stock, most of the recreational activity is off of Florida and North Carolina; for the Gulf stock, it is mainly off Florida, with smaller proportions off Alabama and Texas. Fig 10 and Table 9 present the distribution of recreational AB1 catches by region and season. For the Gulf no mix and Atlantic no mix zones, most of the recreational catch is taken during the summer (Apr-Oct) months; while in the mixing zone, recreational activity is all year around, with proportional equivalent catches during winter and summer periods.

In past assessments of king mackerel catch data started from 1981 due to model requirements (primarily a full Catch-at-age matrix for VPA analysis). However, the fishery for king mackerel goes back to the 19th century (NMFS 1999). Other documents are presented at the SEDAR16 DW that detailed the information source, methods and estimates of king mackerel catch both recreational and commercial prior to 1980 (Walter 2008, Orhun and Turner 2008). Here we present those estimates added to the ALS data to get an overview of the catch trends for king mackerels stocks. Following recommendations from the last assessment review panel and the scientific management councils, the dynamics of king

mackerel are modeled for both stock units integrated in a single assessment model that considers two stocks (ATL and GLF) with 3 main areas/regions: 1) Atlantic no mix, 2) A mixing zone, and 3) Gulf no mix partitions. The stocks will “migrate” between the respective no mix to the mixing zone and return to their original stock area for spawning. This model assumes that the information from the mixing area represents a combination of data for both stocks, while the information from the no mix zones represents each individual stock unit. Thus catch series, indices of abundance, and biological data are arranged or estimated under these region conventions for input into the multi-stock unit model. Table 10 shows the commercial catch of king mackerel stocks by region and season from 1930 to 2007. Annual historic estimates of catch (1930-1978) were partitioned by season using the average proportion by season of the 1979-1989 before management implementations (Fig 12). Similar estimates of catch were done for the recreational fisheries of king mackerel. Tables 11 and 12 show the retained catch (AB1) in numbers of fish by region and season (Fig 13). Recreational fisheries were estimated independently for Headboat (Table 11) and other MRFSS recreational fisheries (Table 12).

Catch At Size and Sex ratios At Size

Document Ortiz et al (2003) details the procedures for sizing the commercial and recreational catch of king mackerel. Document SEDAR16-DW-13 (Ortiz 2008) also describes the size and size-frequency samples available for king mackerel assessment. Briefly, catch were matched to size frequency samples to estimate catch at size and multiplied by sex-ratios at size to convert the Catch-at-size into Catch-at-size by sex. The assessment review panel in 2004 recommended updating the sex ratios at size for king mackerel. Sex information is routinely collected with biological information (otolith ageing samples), and with some size frequency data. Table 13 summarizes the available sex and size information available for king mackerel stocks. For the Atlantic stock, there were 68,831 male and 66,077 female samples (Fork length \geq 30 cm); for the Gulf stock, there were 117,589 male and 77,539 female samples (FL \geq 30 cm). However, the distribution of samples by year and by season is not uniform (Fig 14), with fewer sex samples in the winter (Nov-Mar) for the Atlantic stock. Fig 15 and 16 show the proportions of males at size (5 cm bin size intervals) for king mackerel for all years combined. As expected, the proportions of males decline with size: above 120 cm there are practically no males. However, there is a large variation and year; seasonal effects were investigated using a GAM model to estimate sex ratios (proportion of males) at size.

The GAM model fitted the ratio of males/(males+females) as function of a spline smoother of size (fish \geq 50 cm FL) and fixed factors stock unit (MigGrp), year, season and the interaction year*season. It assumed a binomial error distribution and used the logit as link function between the linear predicted component and the binomial sex proportion distribution. Table 14 summarizes the GAM model fit; all parametric terms were significant, as well the interaction year*season. The model explained about 68% of the observed deviance, and had the lowest AIC (Akaike information criteria) of alternative fitting models evaluated. Fig 17 and 18 shows the predicted sex ratio for males at size by year and season for Atlantic and Gulf king mackerel stock units, respectively. Appendix 1 shows the fit of two comparable models and the observed proportions of males by region, year and season.

Appendix 2A shows the CAS by Sex for each stock unit and region, by year and season using the sex at size ratios of last stock assessment (Restrepo 1996). Appendix 2B shows similar information, but using the updated sex ratios at size.

Catch At Age

Ageing protocols for king mackerel have been describe previously by Cummings and Turner (2003) and Ortiz et al (2003), as well as reports regarding the ageing methods, number and source of otolith samples, etc, (Palmer et al 2008). Briefly, the majority of the king otoliths were collected from commercial and recreational fisheries, with fewer collected from scientific research projects. The Panama City laboratory provided the age-size data available for king mackerel since 1986 (SEDAR16-DW-12, Ortiz and Palmer 2008). This information was used to construct Age Length Keys (ALK) for each stock unit and year. ALK were constructed by aggregating aged fish into 5 cm size bins, from 30 to 200 FL cm sizes. Table 15 summarizes the number of aged fish by stock, year and season. For the Atlantic unit, over 90% of samples are from the Apr-Oct months, very few or none samples in Jan-Mar and Nov-Dec seasons. By year, all except 2005 had above 400 otolith samples. Ageing sampling has increased in recent years; however, due to staff and time limitations, the reading of the otoliths in more recent years is a subsample of the field collected sample (Fig 19). For the Gulf stock, there are more aged samples which are more uniformly distributed between seasons. All years, except 1986, have over 400 samples; sampling has also increased in recent years (Fig 19).

Tables 16 and 17 provide the number of fish per age and size bin (5 cm interval) for Atlantic and Gulf stock units, respectively (Fig 20). These matrices are for all years combined, and the cell shades represent the ranges of fish samples. Most of the samples are from ages 1 through 7, although the oldest age was 26 and 24 for Atlantic and Gulf fish, respectively. Appendix 3 shows the ALK distribution by stock unit and year for king mackerel. Number of samples per bin size and number of samples per ALK follow the recommendations from the SEDAR5 review panel that considered 400 samples as minimum per year for an ALK, and 10 samples for size in the lower size boundary. It also assumed that the fish of size FL 15 or below are age 0 by definition. In the past, only the sexed fish were included in the construction of ALK; however, unidentified fish of age 0 and 1 were included with sexed fish to increase the number of size samples, particularly of smaller fish. There are not significant size differences by sex for those age classes.

The preferred method for ageing the CAS by sex king data is to use ALK; the alternative method is the stochastic length deconvolution of Shepherd (1985). For king mackerel, the CAS by sex was converted to Catch At Age by sex (CAAS) for each year, stock unit and quarter. Decision rule(s) on what method to apply depended on whether the ALKs were available for a given stock, year, and quarter. Table 18 shows the instruction file for ageing current CAS by sex data, KEY code refers to use of ALK, while the SAR code refers to the stochastic length deconvolution method. (Note that the SAR method used the king mackerel growth parameters by stock and sex adopted by the SEDAR5 panel).

Table 19 and Fig 21 show the estimated Catch at Age for Atlantic king stock unit 1981-2006 calendar year. Total catch numbers increased since 2002 from 441,591 fish to 756,320 in 2006. Ages 2, 3, 4 and 5 were the main components of the catch. Catch by age proportions varied in 2002 and 2005, years when no ALKs were available and the ageing was defaulted to the SAR method. Table 20 and Fig 22 show the estimated CAA for Gulf kings 1981-2006. Here also the catch increased from 848,497 fish in 2001, first with a peak in 2003 of 1.006 million fish and a second peak in 2006 of 1.165 million fish. As with Atlantic kings, most of the catch is from ages 2, 3, 4 and 5. Catch by age proportions also varied in 2005 when no ALK were available. CAA estimates and proportion by age was similar to the CAA base model of last assessment (SEDAR5-2003) (Fig 23).

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Table 1. Commercial landed catch (t) by stock unit and region from 1979 to 2007 (partial reports for 2007).

Year	Commercial catch t			GOM			
	ATL	MixZone	ATLnnoMix	Total	GLFnnoMix	MixZone	Total
1979	662		239	901	95	1,598	1,692
1980	814		483	1,297	384	1,638	2,022
1981	663		426	1,088	60	2,986	3,046
1982	1,109		677	1,786	166	1,906	2,071
1983	586		496	1,082	704	1,452	2,155
1984	448		445	893	371	1,163	1,535
1985	623		492	1,114	470	923	1,394
1986	650		621	1,271	201	1,146	1,347
1987	811		728	1,539	275	552	827
1988	934		502	1,436	230	401	631
1989	691		435	1,125	330	210	540
1990	511		640	1,151	322	731	1,053
1991	463		702	1,165	334	416	751
1992	381		637	1,018	598	651	1,249
1993	468		503	971	499	1,137	1,636
1994	482		448	930	601	383	984
1995	386		527	913	422	765	1,187
1996	578		432	1,011	513	797	1,310
1997	614		767	1,382	604	853	1,457
1998	536		585	1,121	661	841	1,502
1999	526		538	1,064	745	943	1,688
2000	474		533	1,007	654	675	1,329
2001	460		420	880	590	779	1,369
2002	404		386	791	576	746	1,322
2003	493		371	864	598	912	1,510
2004	738		460	1,198	622	690	1,312
2005	468		597	1,064	521	923	1,444
2006	788		566	1,354	646	837	1,483
2007	554		456	1,011	209	623	832

Table 2. Commercial landed catch (t) Atlantic and Gulf stocks by state 1979 to 2007 (partial reports for 2007).

Year	Atlantic Stock				Year	Gulf Stock			
	FLEK	GA-SC	NE	Total		FLW	FLEK	MS-AL	TX-LA
1979	36	41	691	769	1979	95	1598	0	0
1980	94	103	854	1051	1980	384	1638	0	0
1981	61	62	693	817	1981	60	2986	0	0
1982	84	91	1154	1330	1982	62	1906	0	104
1983	81	84	619	784	1983	27	1452	1	676
1984	63	64	487	613	1984	30	1163	2	340
1985	37	42	699	778	1985	27	923	1	441
1986	43	45	771	859	1986	48	1146	1	152
1987	58	65	869	993	1987	32	552	2	241
1988	56	63	978	1097	1988	20	401	4	206
1989	80	82	719	882	1989	31	210	2	296
1990	73	79	565	717	1990	32	731	1	289
1991	121	126	544	791	1991	70	416	0	264
1992	116	119	433	668	1992	80	651	5	514
1993	73	73	495	642	1993	90	1137	1	408
1994	42	42	512	595	1994	202	374	2	396
1995	37	42	416	495	1995	77	765	1	343
1996	43	44	608	696	1996	179	797	2	332
1997	28	28	648	703	1997	244	853	2	358
1998	32	33	571	635	1998	129	841	2	530
1999	31	33	542	606	1999	250	943	1	494
2000	33	34	501	567	2000	185	675	2	468
2001	22	22	478	523	2001	191	779	9	390
2002	16	16	421	454	2002	132	746	2	442
2003	10	10	509	529	2003	145	912	6	447
2004	11	11	754	776	2004	142	690	15	466
2005	12	12	487	512	2005	95	923	6	420
2006	15	15	801	832	2006	164	837	27	455
2007	4	4	561	568	2007	176	623	31	3

Table 3. Commercial landed catch (t) king mackerel by fishing gears and year.

Catch MT													
stock	year	Gillnet	GillNetDr if	GillNetPo un	H&L_co mm	NetTram mel	PurseSei ne	SeineBe ach	SeineLo ngH	Trap	Trawl	unknow n	Total
ATL	1979	25	6		859					4	5	901	
	1980	163			1,118					7	8	1,297	
	1981	149			918					21	1	1,088	
	1982	417			1,357					7	6	1,786	
	1983	138		3	935					4	2	1,082	
	1984	27	0	0	862				0	3	1	893	
	1985	12	39		1,058					5	0	1,114	
	1986	9	126		1,132		0			2	2	1,271	
	1987	18	328		1,184		0			7	2	1,539	
	1988	136	353		885		53			1	7	1,436	
	1989	6	315	1	798		3		0	3		1,125	
	1990	21	3	2	1,122					0	3	0	1,151
	1991	5	6	1	1,151		0			0	0	1	1,165
	1992	8	7	2	1,000		0			0	1	0	1,018
	1993	4	7	0	955		0			0	5	0	971
	1994	28	0	0	908		0	0		1	2	0	939
	1995	28	0	0	881		0			1	0	2	913
	1996	25	0	0	984		0			1	1		1,011
	1997	183	0	1	1,197		0	0	0	0	1	0	1,382
	1998	40	1	0	1,077		0			1	1	2	1,121
	1999	30	1	0	1,031		0			0	0	2	1,064
	2000	60		1	944		0			0	0	0	1,007
	2001	33		0	846		0			0	0	0	880
	2002	44			747		0			0	0	0	791
	2003	18			845		0			0	1	0	864
	2004	64		0	1,134		0			0	0	0	1,198
	2005	112		2	948		0			0	0	2	1,064
	2006	82			1,271		0			0	0	1	1,354
	2007	82		0	928		0			0	0	1	1,011
GOM	1979	951			741								1,692
	1980	1,031			991								2,022
	1981	1,485			1,561								3,046
	1982	1,016			1,055								2,071
	1983	875			1,280					1			2,155
	1984	568			967		0			0			1,535
	1985	480			913					0			1,394
	1986	686			647		15			0			1,347
	1987	167			659		0			0			827
	1988	207			424		0			0			631
	1989				539		0						540
	1990	211			841		1						1,053
	1991	104			383					264			751
	1992				754					495			1,249
	1993	643			585					408			1,636
	1994	1			578					396			975
	1995	169			1,018								1,187
	1996	223			1,087								1,310
	1997	223			1,234					0	0		1,457
	1998	284			1,215		1			0	3		1,502
	1999	463			1,224		0	0		1	0		1,688
	2000	186			1,143		0			0	0		1,329
	2001	207			1,162		0	0		0	0		1,369
	2002	150			1,172		0	0			0		1,322
	2003	179			1,331		0	0		0	0		1,510
	2004	218			1,094		0	1			0		1,312
	2005	311			1,133		0				0		1,444
	2006	233			1,248		0	-	0	0	0	1	1,483
	2007	223			602		2	0		4	0	1	832

Table 6. Recreational landed (AB1) and releases (B2) catch (numbers of fish) for king mackerel by stock unit, year and region. Partial reports for 2007.

N fish stock	year	Landed AB1			Releases B2			Totals	
		ATLnMix	GLFnMix	MixZone	ATLnMix	GLFnMix	MixZone	AB1	B2
ATL	1981	302,172		114,287	-			2,182	416,459
	1982	287,773		321,972	-			1,172	609,745
	1983	327,925		341,592	-			240	669,517
	1984	330,568		283,554	878			205	614,122
	1985	589,986		216,125	-			10,550	806,111
	1986	516,450		167,647	7,412			6,438	684,097
	1987	424,161		143,226	37,248			5,398	567,387
	1988	382,425		163,839	15,226			17,409	546,264
	1989	208,632		160,126	7,013			15,566	368,758
	1990	270,730		193,580	5,513			8,361	464,310
	1991	344,273		246,139	10,002			40,730	590,412
	1992	417,691		298,152	4,090			22,316	715,843
	1993	174,696		183,352	7,026			25,144	358,048
	1994	191,657		206,167	8,424			10,664	397,824
	1995	183,173		281,174	9,085			32,182	464,347
	1996	141,581		223,386	13,460			33,970	364,967
	1997	299,113		230,352	63,497			19,426	529,465
	1998	225,971		223,293	20,029			55,682	449,264
	1999	108,436		251,260	37,161			53,306	359,696
	2000	219,621		330,507	32,637			46,766	550,128
	2001	145,218		194,774	29,257			55,385	339,992
	2002	85,530		192,662	15,544			54,418	278,192
	2003	138,543		307,064	23,519			100,316	445,607
	2004	129,505		219,430	50,153			69,914	348,935
	2005	180,855		217,917	83,686			82,058	398,772
	2006	143,863		303,555	32,610			110,163	447,418
	2007	116,258		190,378	15,689			80,032	306,636
GOM	1981	438,330	229,334		8,619	-		667,664	8,619
	1982	742,365	169,381		16,138	1,172		911,746	17,310
	1983	293,859	30,435		179	-		324,294	179
	1984	294,915	105,818		925	-		400,733	925
	1985	154,489	41,874		8,655	8,002		196,363	16,657
	1986	147,940	73,644		7,905	11,850		221,584	19,755
	1987	401,679	145,355		31,061	1,643		547,034	32,704
	1988	354,702	120,468		27,986	14,913		475,170	42,899
	1989	240,021	124,498		125,045	32,282		364,519	157,327
	1990	383,720	179,332		89,817	28,335		563,052	118,152
	1991	584,626	143,278		89,161	77,121		727,904	166,282
	1992	346,967	145,496		99,310	63,192		492,463	162,502
	1993	430,021	264,913		47,880	20,851		694,934	68,731
	1994	419,912	234,318		114,371	40,758		654,230	155,129
	1995	355,183	299,811		105,694	54,708		654,994	160,402
	1996	463,873	269,288		120,188	66,593		733,161	186,781
	1997	381,011	360,003		96,880	43,504		741,014	140,384
	1998	330,791	292,345		39,071	66,899		623,136	105,970
	1999	301,679	232,055		65,836	39,423		533,734	105,259
	2000	396,553	142,944		102,089	50,997		539,497	153,086
	2001	359,409	167,867		122,003	187,015		527,276	309,018
	2002	376,216	192,419		165,609	35,870		568,635	201,479
	2003	321,243	258,083		126,945	144,631		579,326	271,576
	2004	309,942	142,084		166,823	48,845		452,026	215,668
	2005	276,227	155,169		149,208	58,109		431,396	207,317
	2006	566,661	208,447		517,535	70,366		775,108	587,901
	2007	220,125	116,346		35,748	34,309		336,471	70,057

Table 9. Recreational AB1 catch by season and region.

year	NumFish				ATLnoMix				MixZone				GLFnoMix			
	JanMar	AprJun	JulOct	NovDec	JanMar	AprJun	JulOct	NovDec	JanMar	AprJun	JulOct	NovDec	JanMar	AprJun	JulOct	NovDec
1981		33,541	268,631		285,621	43,208	71,079	17,464		220,893	143,687					
1982	80,157	111,172	96,445		82,412	101,979	219,993	92,693		54,969	681,284	388				
1983		195,629	132,296		21,958	88,583	253,009	8,893	1,744	24,548	266,764	388				
1984	1,544	64,776	264,248		52,944	72,818	210,736	59,374	898	11,920	266,041	9,556				
1985		63,894	519,921	6,171	35,920	133,983	82,142	18,407	264	26,676	115,000	97				
1986	12,189	175,625	292,766	35,870	32,010	61,285	106,362	44,203	13	18,127	126,893	338				
1987	28,068	145,217	234,849	16,028	98,470	82,595	60,631	57,452	20	172,279	218,768	46				
1988	4,312	104,872	267,520	5,722	12,574	56,810	107,029	108,753		13,999	339,840	5				
1989	14,426	52,957	121,227	20,022	43,501	64,289	95,837	83,103	344	33,152	201,548	2,871				
1990	25,893	46,343	158,594	39,901	98,527	76,675	116,905	113,722	1,179	126,829	222,751	44				
1991	1,052	86,387	221,443	35,391	88,580	95,924	150,215	72,307	411	76,335	490,238	34				
1992	49,155	94,820	259,301	14,415	63,874	78,067	220,085	87,165	971	110,698	229,254	502				
1993	6,038	52,507	89,326	26,825	207,189	54,906	128,446	85,572	528	107,321	293,048	1,276				
1994	22,990	61,064	76,650	30,953	190,121	71,524	134,643	85,700	2,547	112,627	258,748	4,488				
1995	6,868	26,517	107,411	42,377	278,769	117,061	164,113	105,346	2,057	162,239	106,576	8				
1996	6,010	47,179	68,545	19,847	236,053	103,236	120,150	105,222	506	185,939	203,392	2,050				
1997	23,412	69,665	187,057	18,979	245,779	116,055	114,297	143,427	1,806	104,574	240,893	4,535				
1998	15,302	122,880	64,231	23,558	223,276	130,142	93,151	107,265	2,273	99,457	187,264	3,602				
1999	4,506	25,139	53,181	25,610	155,713	130,812	120,448	106,169	873	106,657	159,391	4,931				
2000	4,056	61,503	126,014	28,048	97,343	107,160	223,347	61,423	5,560	98,279	246,634	30,259				
2001	5,395	50,104	77,138	12,581	145,784	107,404	87,370	51,584	2,949	97,951	208,969	20,039				
2002	1,885	13,889	35,730	34,026	130,596	99,627	93,035	88,334	2,427	154,531	191,450	1,298				
2003	1,108	33,194	82,608	21,633	207,663	158,727	148,337	70,686	5,250	106,286	177,429	12,012				
2004	3,507	39,133	67,405	19,460	101,978	96,279	123,151	53,493	2,956	114,172	172,211	7,216				
2005	1,143	46,452	111,707	21,553	112,568	97,987	119,930	64,987	2,491	135,330	113,840	2,181				
2006	6,885	61,926	67,448	7,604	155,930	145,218	158,337	82,388	5,948	221,246	307,018	2,578				
2007	1,391	226,764			176,378	337,477			2,572	379,222						

Table 13. Numbers of sexed king mackerels by stock unit, year, season available for sex-ratio at size estimation.

MigGrp	year	season		Values									
		JanMar	Sum of females	Sum of males	AprJun	Sum of females	Sum of males	JulOct	Sum of females	Sum of males	NovDec	Sum of females	Sum of males
ATL	1980				1		1		18		7		
	1981				356		486						
	1983				193		333						
	1984				404		884		1663		1213		28
	1985				406		115		2255		1269		227
	1986				708		670		3527		2660		94
	1987	8	1	1401	2070		5597		3101		422		456
	1988	38	17	1411	1840		3354		2217		144		96
	1989	11	3	2300	2584		2579		1635		169		136
	1990	10	9	1008	1609		3511		2555		360		237
	1991	53	64	829	1127		3597		2605		162		199
	1992	9	22	1033	1361		2832		2262		218		185
	1993	155	104	948	1220		1219		1124		70		39
	1994	53	33	1597	2812		1046		1003		50		43
	1995	14	13	569	981		455		389		27		26
	1996	16	10	931	1574		1098		520		1		0
	1997	0	1	228	305		396		296		13		10
	1998	37	25	634	1001		1024		941		19		6
	1999	19	13	1469	1978		966		818		55		36
	2000	14	12	1301	2087		1196		1086		26		9
	2001			1029	1618		1333		1203		38		15
	2002	14	11	884	936		878		806				
	2003			1332	2324		1464		1239		23		17
	2004			1022	1095		1424		651				
	2005	0	47	428	579		538		439				
	2006			869	986		635		535		0		34
	2007	0	239	313	544		39		36				
ATL Total		451	624	23604	33120		42644		30610		2132		1723
GLF	1981	5479	5768	144	275						1603		1119
	1982	3084	3525								1054		212
	1983	3287	2900	74	267		2256		1050		113		71
	1984	8808	6390				1876		1146		5598		2671
	1985	1568	1417	609	896		1985		1142		900		241
	1986	2076	1771	399	253		1460		986		58		86
	1987	1136	591	853	367		2815		1457		82		50
	1988	77	22	357	149		1852		988		314		144
	1989	123	112	305	181		2267		856		303		165
	1990	579	488	390	243		964		380		521		360
	1991	50	12	400	202		2528		1369		2032		918
	1992	1890	863	977	435		2863		1074		1621		665
	1993	2104	1680	606	143		1546		993		1874		737
	1994	517	385	743	153		1532		680		402		93
	1995	1098	1188	451	111		628		325		1033		440
	1996	2357	1530	518	300		963		424		1851		694
	1997	2144	1015	301	96		798		380		398		214
	1998	1658	1232	91	38		189		60		745		484
	1999	2670	2930	60	45		153		74		675		388
	2000	3025	2113	47	9		96		36		166		81
	2001	1858	1528	5	4		433		444		593		387
	2002	2007	2085	192	95		879		709		639		421
	2003	2255	2141	313	130		968		842		563		213
	2004	906	800	99	40		982		610		176		69
	2005	1500	1151	168	59		469		302		122		30
	2006	1090	672	274	103		996		732		249		54
	2007	233	106	130	83		321		381				
GLF Total		53579	44415	8506	4677		31819		17440		23685		11007
Grand Total		54030	45039	32110	37797		74463		48050		25817		12730

Table 14. Summary fit of the GAM final model to estimate sex-ratios (proportion males) at size of king mackerel.

Family: binomial
Link function: logit
Formula: males/(males+females) ~ s(size) + MigGrp + year + season + year * season
Parametric Terms:
MigGrp
year
season
year:season
AIC
Approximate significance of smooth terms:
s(size)
R-sq.(adj)
Deviance explained
UBRE score
Scale est.
n

Table 15. Otolith aged king mackerel available for construction of Age Length Keys by stock, year and season. Shade bars are proportional to the number of samples per cell, under the total column cells with 400 or more samples per year are shaded. Partial reports for 2007 samples.

MigGrp	Year	JanMar	AprJun	JulOct	NovDec	Total
ATL	1986		207	314		521
	1987		216	175	110	501
	1988		304	148	16	468
	1989		147	675	13	835
	1990	19	221	685	44	969
	1991	36	120	577	51	784
	1992	31	261	912	83	1287
	1993	124	430	306	45	905
	1994	86	273	476	44	879
	1995	27	359	258	14	658
	1996	19	414	483		916
	1997		114	386	24	524
	1998	65	230	424	25	744
	1999	32	429	346	82	889
	2000	26	147	453	35	661
	2001		289	536	53	878
	2002	29	253	610		892
	2003		883	905	40	1828
	2004		680	1016		1696
	2005		105	245		350
	2006		237	380		617
	2007		6			6
ATL Total		494	6325	10310	679	17808
GLF	1986		15	336	6	357
	1987	48	274	584	1	907
	1988	87	171	517	45	820
	1989	124	275	621	35	1055
	1990	189	351	357	44	941
	1991	62	523	872	355	1812
	1992	141	475	836	76	1528
	1993	70	264	912	154	1400
	1994	130	287	590	132	1139
	1995	41	246	331	408	1026
	1996	300	374	622	517	1813
	1997	640	166	374	38	1218
	1998	293	104	111	199	707
	1999	194	91	192	106	583
	2000	530	56	126	179	891
	2001	1105	9	412	177	1703
	2002	977	200	899	422	2498
	2003	1034	307	942	483	2766
	2004	622	40	602	263	1527
	2005	462	151	503	86	1202
	2006	249	292	520	64	1125
	2007	308	141			449
GLF Total		7606	4812	11259	3790	27467

Year	Catch at age numbers of fish by year Gulf stock unit											Total	
	Age0	Age1	Age2	Age3	Age4	Age5	Age6	Age7	Age8	Age9	Age10		
1981	-	22,594	28,542	330,093	610,095	346,481	104,263	74,457	25,884	4,423	12,673	17,091	1,576,596
1982	-	29,862	59,988	196,861	411,109	332,368	171,319	32,927	51,400	22,374	5,524	119,941	1,433,671
1983	89	47,464	38,203	227,308	147,812	179,890	40,278	51,566	31,678	15,541	9,760	22,229	811,817
1984	0	48,433	35,148	131,363	344,786	81,530	74,227	40,942	19,460	6,242	3,288	7,770	793,188
1985	-	21,053	26,511	58,464	102,981	155,500	48,433	56,539	14,617	5,323	4,889	11,606	505,915
1986	48	16,615	27,265	100,993	190,723	97,595	88,904	17,717	9,774	6,591	2,703	4,452	563,380
1987	4,036	77,977	255,851	197,648	61,557	93,237	36,440	22,472	10,003	11,880	3,345	12,299	786,745
1988	-	51,754	36,172	42,314	139,665	160,443	56,478	57,957	17,599	8,087	3,648	21,992	596,109
1989	1,796	101,098	54,374	106,742	60,729	57,696	25,240	24,689	9,538	6,406	5,564	16,136	470,006
1990	-	59,754	206,427	175,882	188,983	70,520	48,890	20,434	22,599	9,329	2,959	13,980	819,756
1991	22,890	188,600	287,693	118,282	111,464	56,416	33,029	14,920	14,849	25,688	3,595	16,049	893,473
1992	130	50,804	238,313	194,343	94,973	55,556	55,557	31,414	16,266	4,055	24,956	17,052	783,419
1993	2,565	134,685	119,915	160,748	302,240	145,214	73,438	44,248	23,795	26,935	10,216	47,564	1,091,565
1994	-	162,221	118,706	116,225	175,267	141,734	56,791	39,499	27,450	14,200	3,592	24,074	879,759
1995	2,780	49,071	111,005	121,156	191,165	201,601	101,955	47,633	39,999	34,187	22,386	31,135	954,073
1996	-	87,436	359,233	252,279	103,978	78,050	87,298	53,746	25,385	3,684	8,776	26,403	1,086,268
1997	-	47,762	379,042	263,770	167,607	78,814	35,825	51,399	57,674	27,721	-	47,428	1,157,042
1998	-	76,116	119,463	322,363	148,319	111,501	53,513	34,704	40,423	32,477	19,207	12,385	970,471
1999	-	100,142	138,766	164,084	250,331	122,686	55,752	26,053	25,534	40,345	8,886	16,000	948,579
2000	-	81,236	216,297	162,556	172,275	110,102	33,076	34,571	8,666	19,529	15,033	22,215	875,554
2001	19,847	44,768	112,760	258,592	144,552	79,845	65,486	44,215	27,651	10,918	8,826	31,038	848,497
2002	61	62,802	122,487	179,589	217,908	143,380	75,910	47,747	25,719	12,253	7,871	21,804	917,532
2003	-	66,637	303,113	170,099	165,563	116,402	62,538	27,263	35,918	19,784	18,184	21,402	1,006,904
2004	-	41,342	172,797	163,493	131,994	90,155	72,707	33,940	12,779	23,968	12,311	19,489	774,976
2005	654	22,799	268,216	150,013	158,596	82,484	43,959	47,683	16,750	13,174	10,868	20,883	836,078
2006	59,707	35,514	228,593	239,864	187,222	141,644	88,200	59,595	57,067	11,936	12,816	43,339	1,165,499

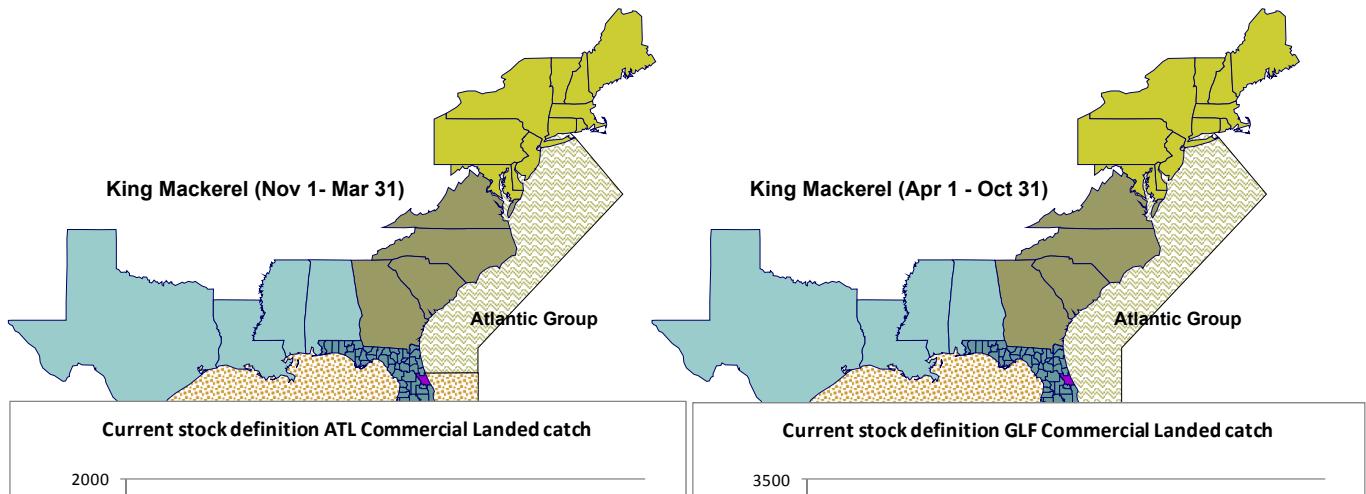


Figure 1. Current stock boundaries for Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico king mackerel stock units.

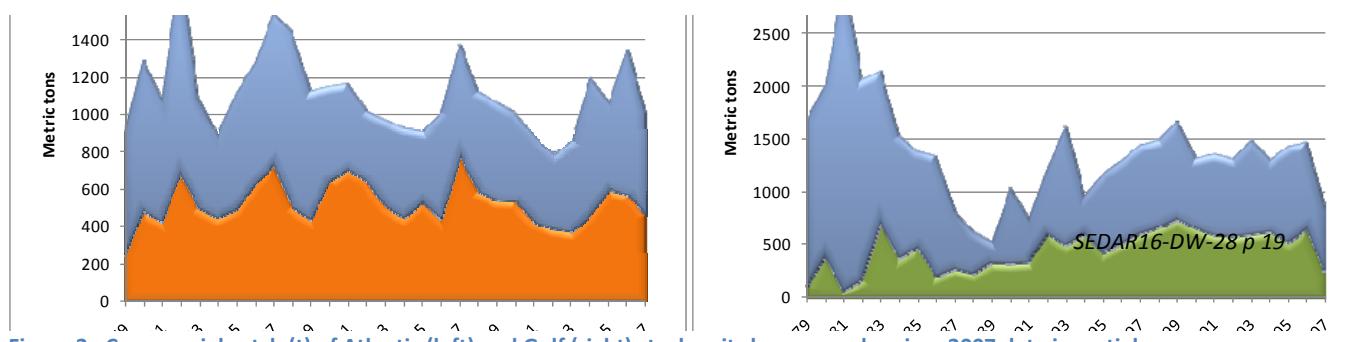


Figure 2. Commercial catch (t) of Atlantic (left) and Gulf (right) stock units by year and region, 2007 data is partial.

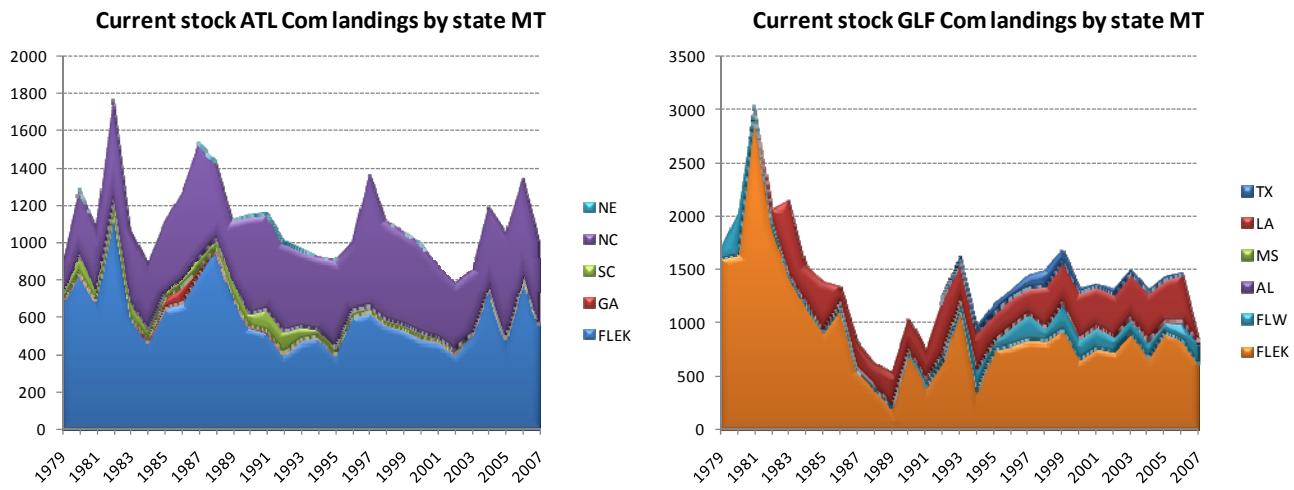


Figure 3. Commercial catch (t) of Atlantic and Gulf stocks by year and state since 1979.

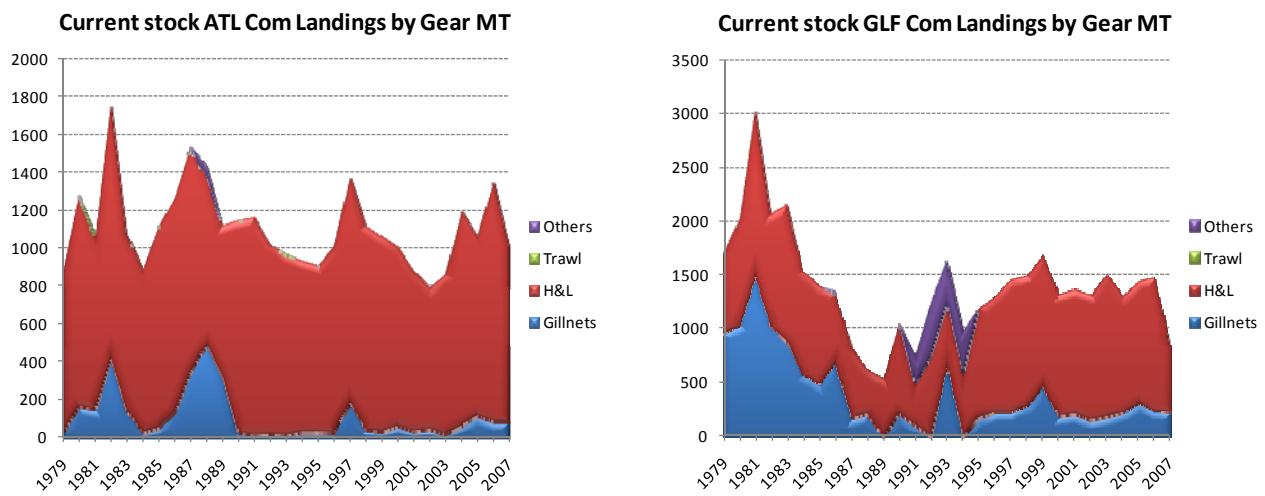


Figure 4. Commercial catch (t) of Atlantic and Gulf stocks by year and main fishing gear.

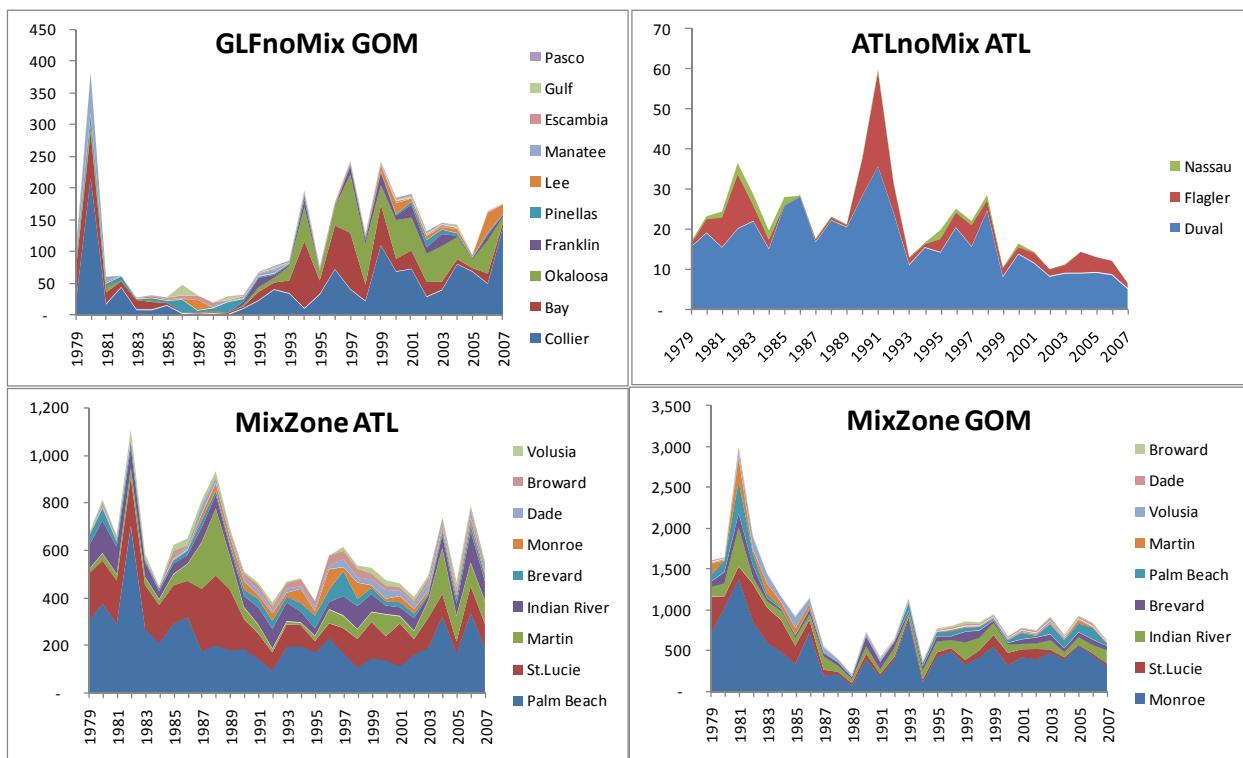


Figure 5.

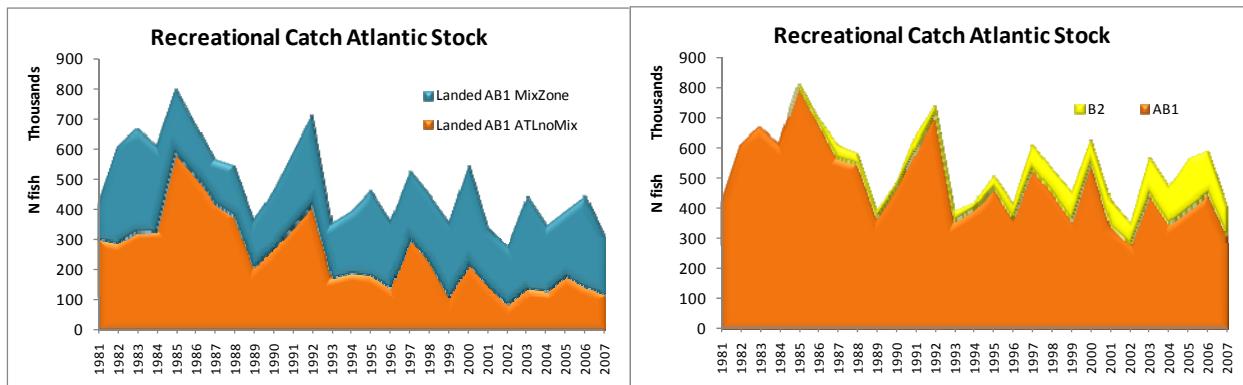


Figure 6. Recreational Catch Atlantic stock unit by region (left) of landed catch (AB1) and total catch including landings plus releases (B2) (right) of king mackerel 1981-2007. (2007 is partial data).

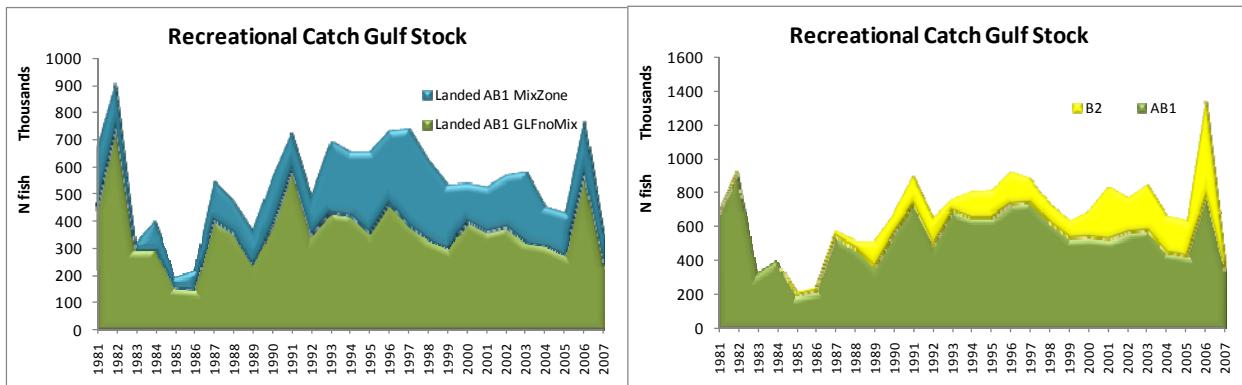


Figure 7. Recreational Catch Gulf of Mexico stock unit by region (left) of landed catch (AB1) and total catch including landings plus releases (B2) (right) of king mackerel 1981-2007. (2007 is partial data).

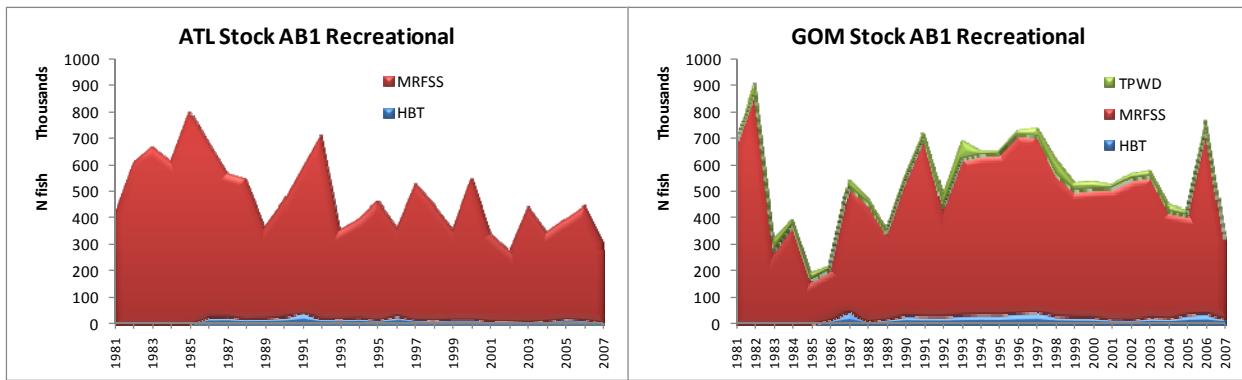


Figure 8. Distribution of recreational retained catch (AB1) by source for the Atlantic (left) and Gulf stock units.

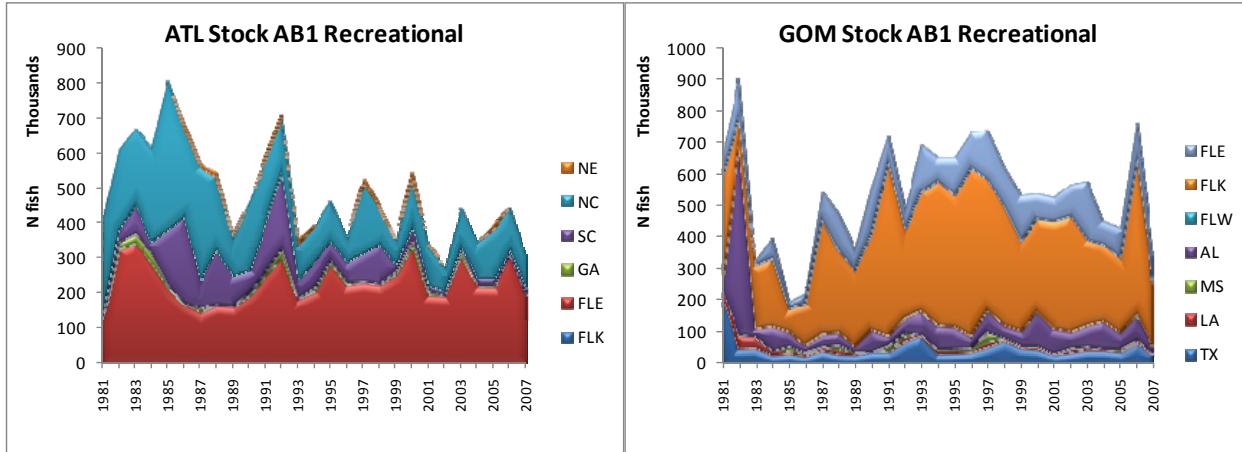


Figure 9. Distribution of recreational retained (AB1) catch by state.

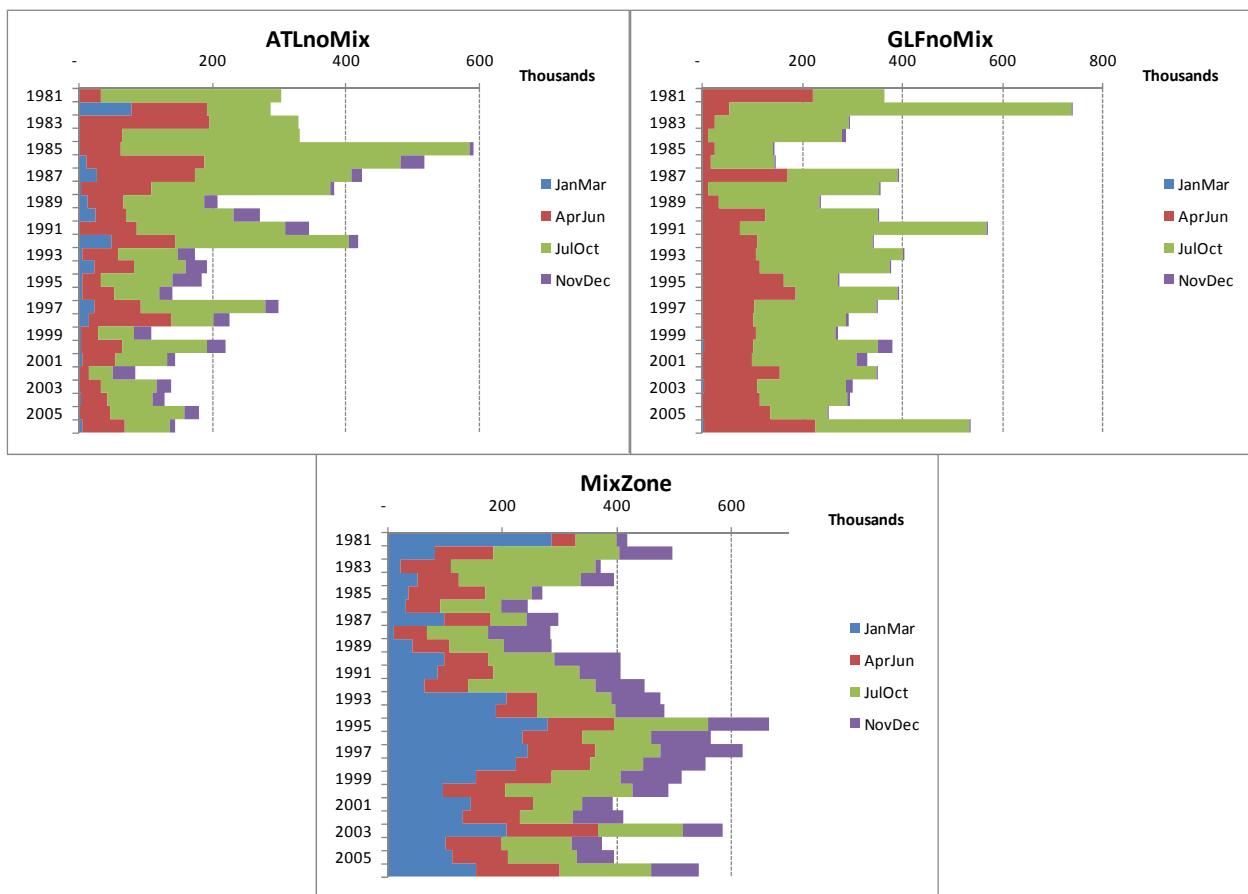


Figure 10. Distribution of recreational AB1 catch by region and by season.

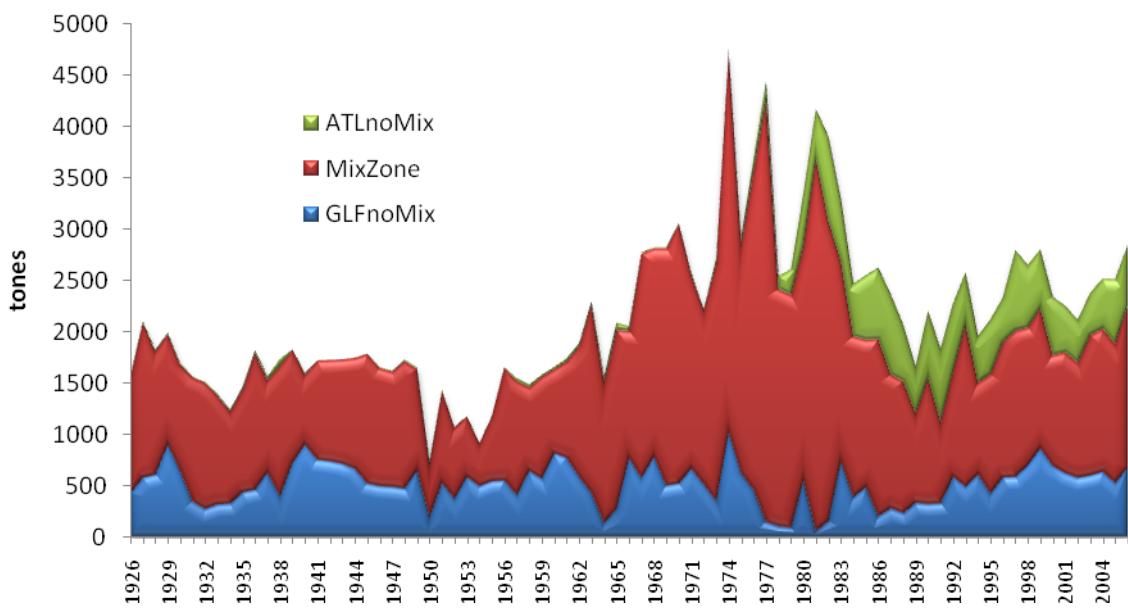


Figure 11. King mackerel commercial catch (t) trends 1926-2006 ALS estimates by region for both Atlantic and Gulf stock units.

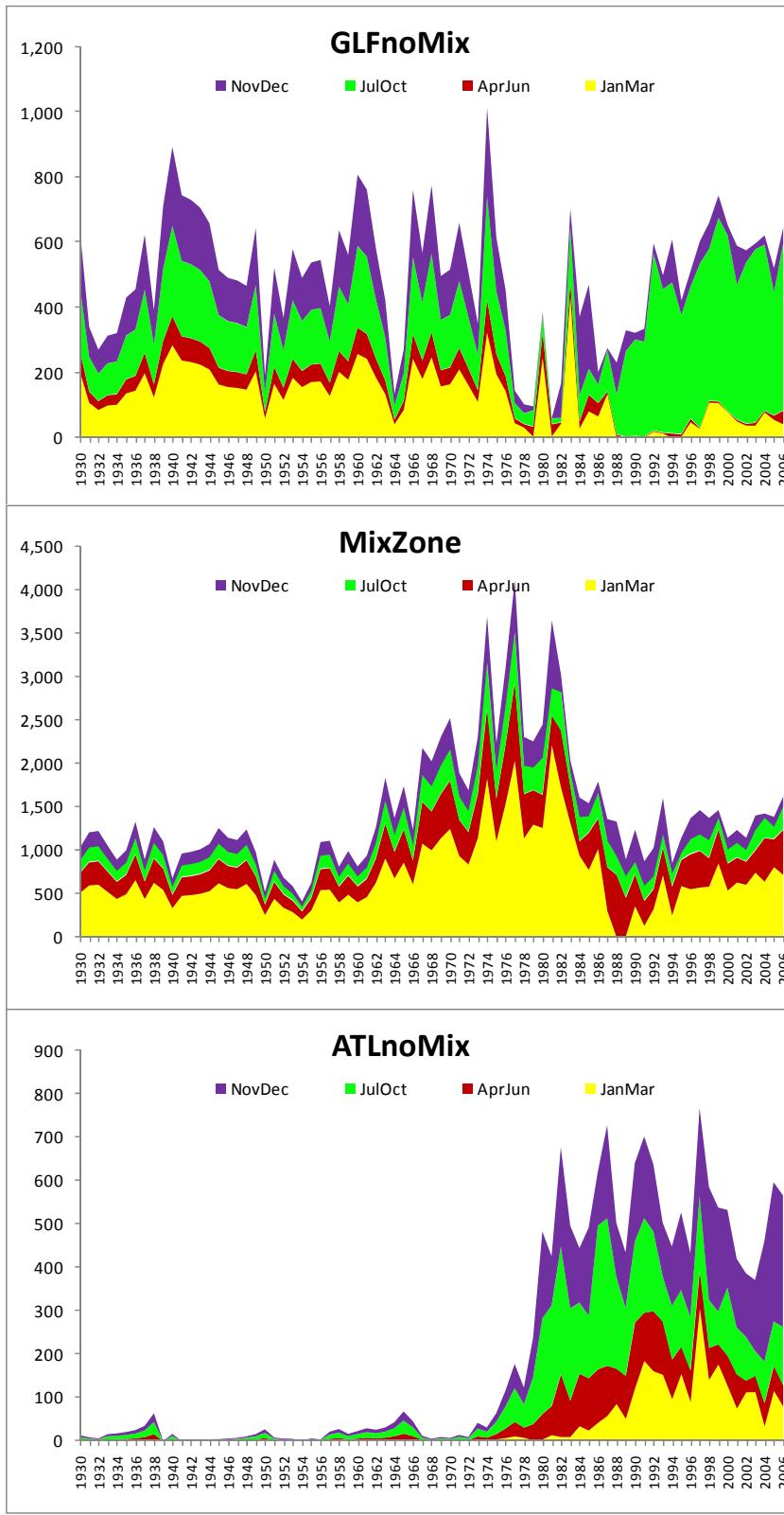


Figure 12. King mackerel commercial catch (t) by region and season from 1930 to 2006.

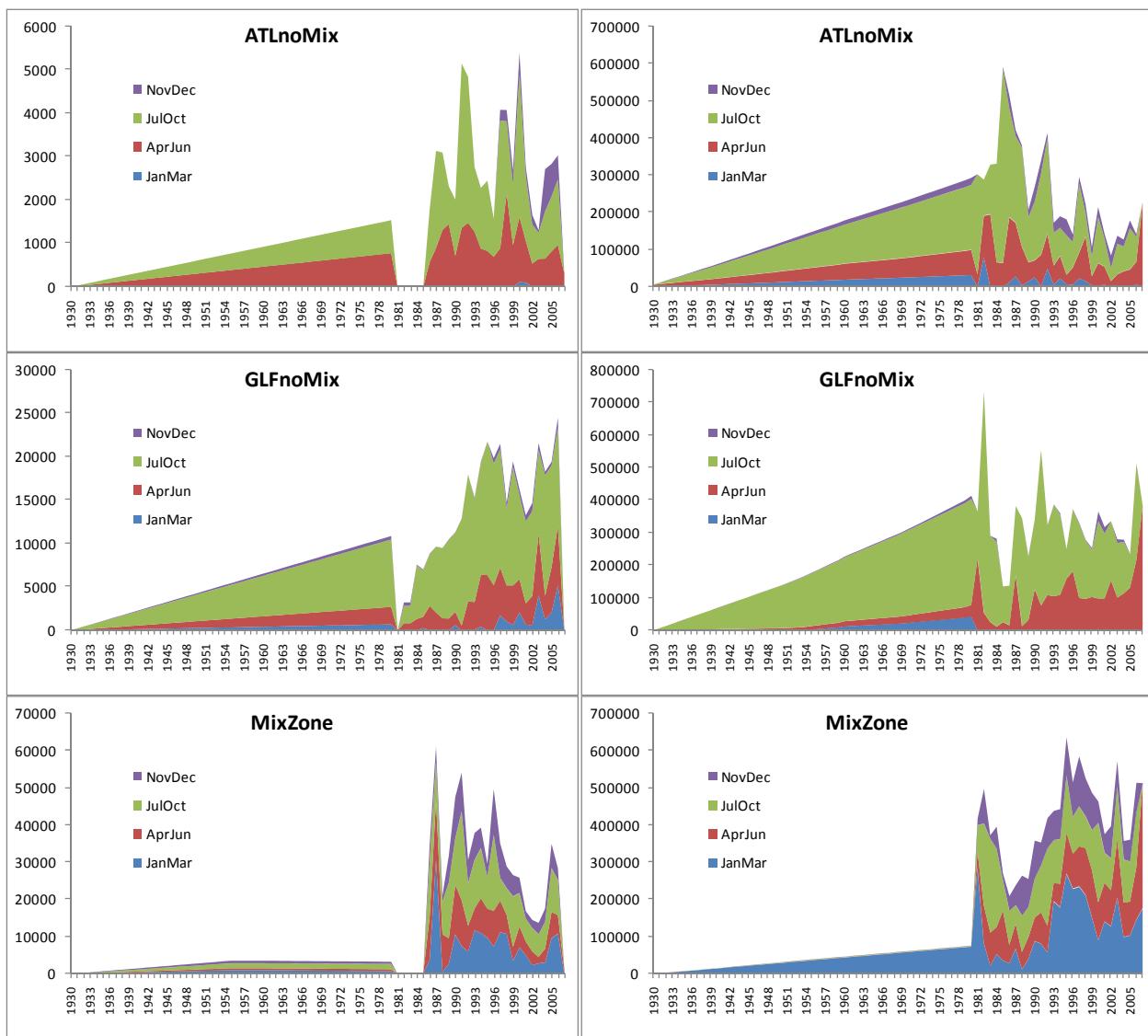


Figure 13. King mackerel recreational catch (AB1 numbers of fish) by region and season from 1930 to 2006, from Headboat (left column) and MRFSS (right column) fisheries.

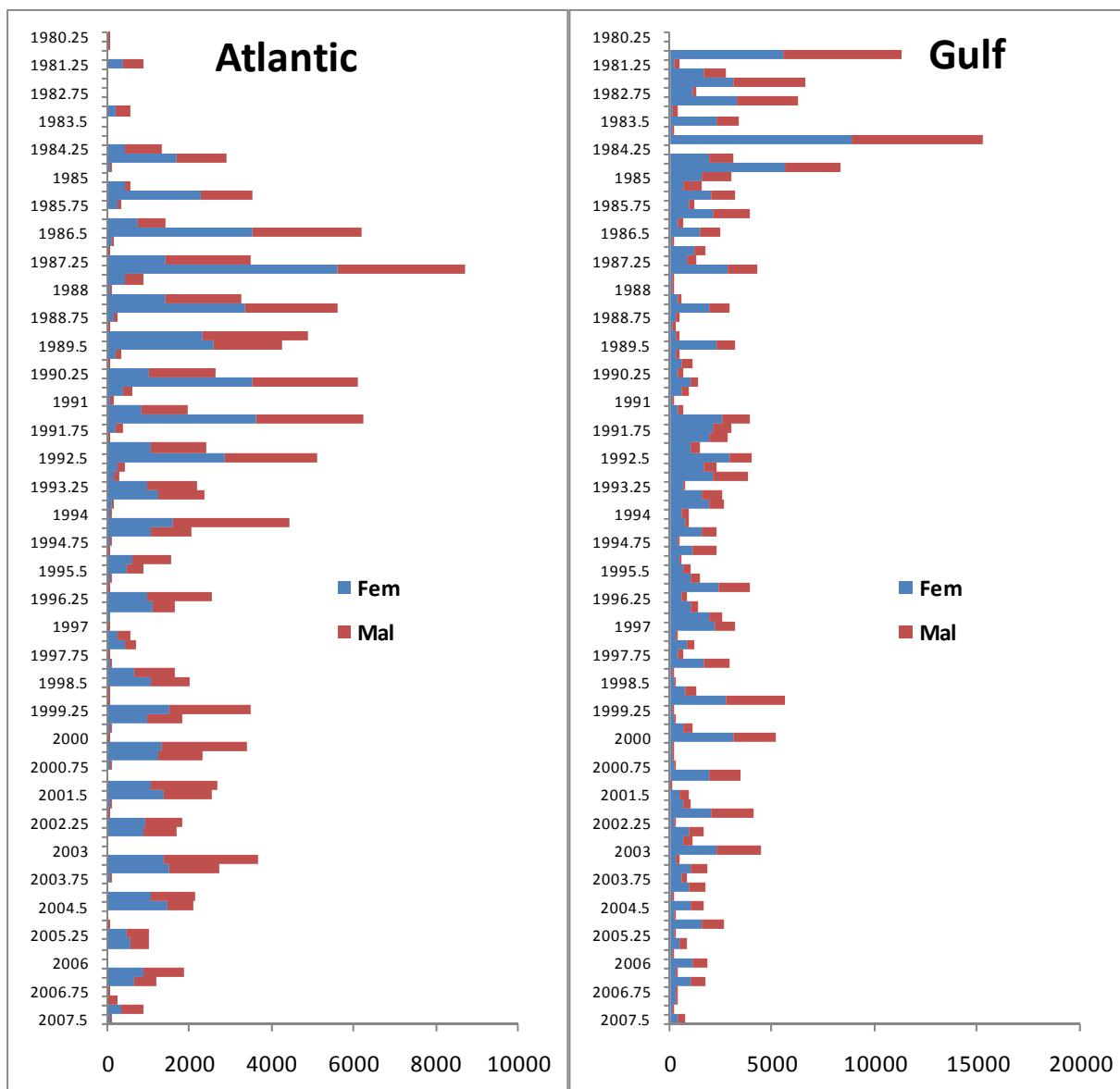


Figure 14. Number of sexed king mackerel by stock and year-season available for estimating sex-ratios at size 1980-2006.

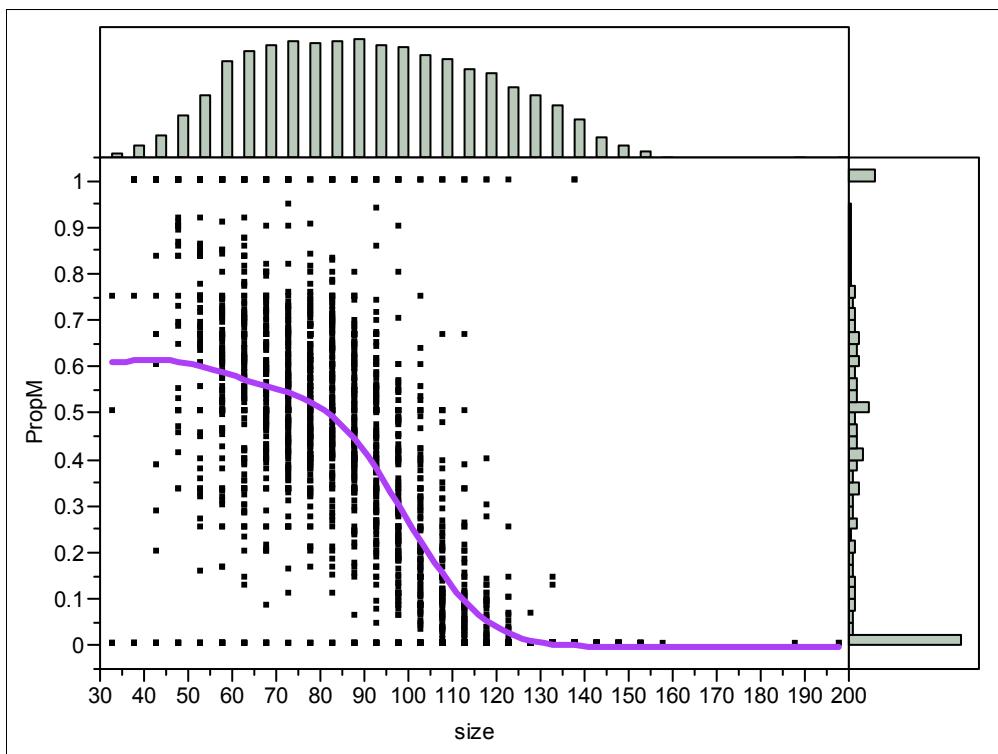


Figure 15. Proportion of males king at size (FL cm) for the Atlantic stock unit all years, line represents a smoothing spline fit, histograms show the number of samples per 5 cm size bin for fish ≥ 30 cm FL.

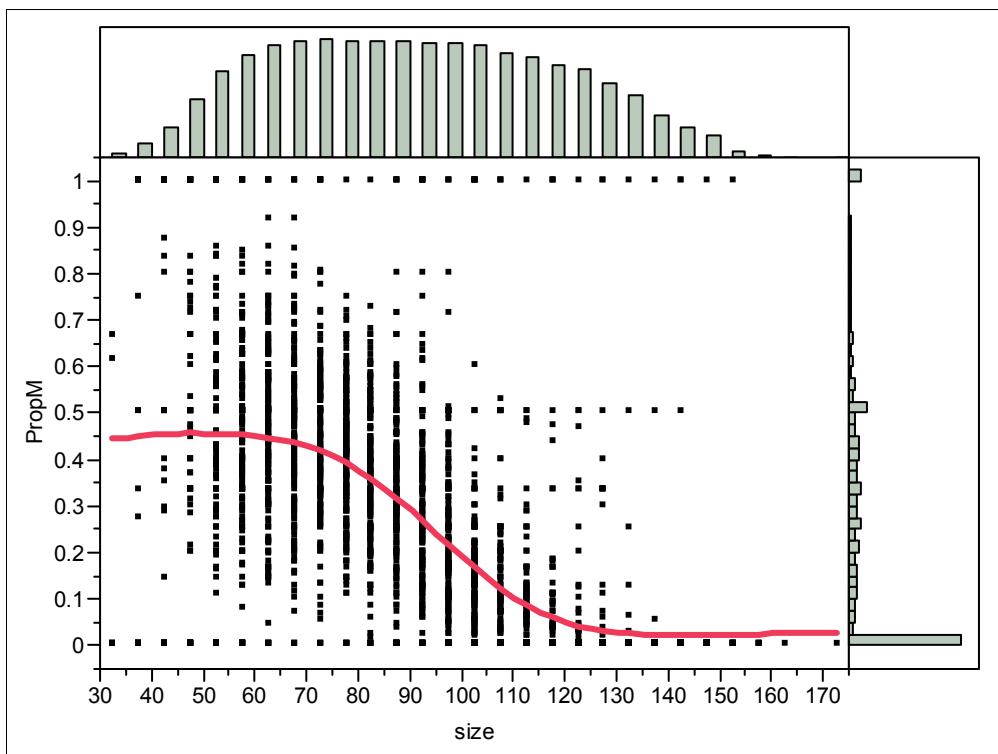


Figure 16. Proportion of males king at size (FL cm) for the Gulf stock unit all years, line represents a smoothing spline fit, histograms show the number of samples per 5 cm size bin for fish ≥ 30 cm FL.

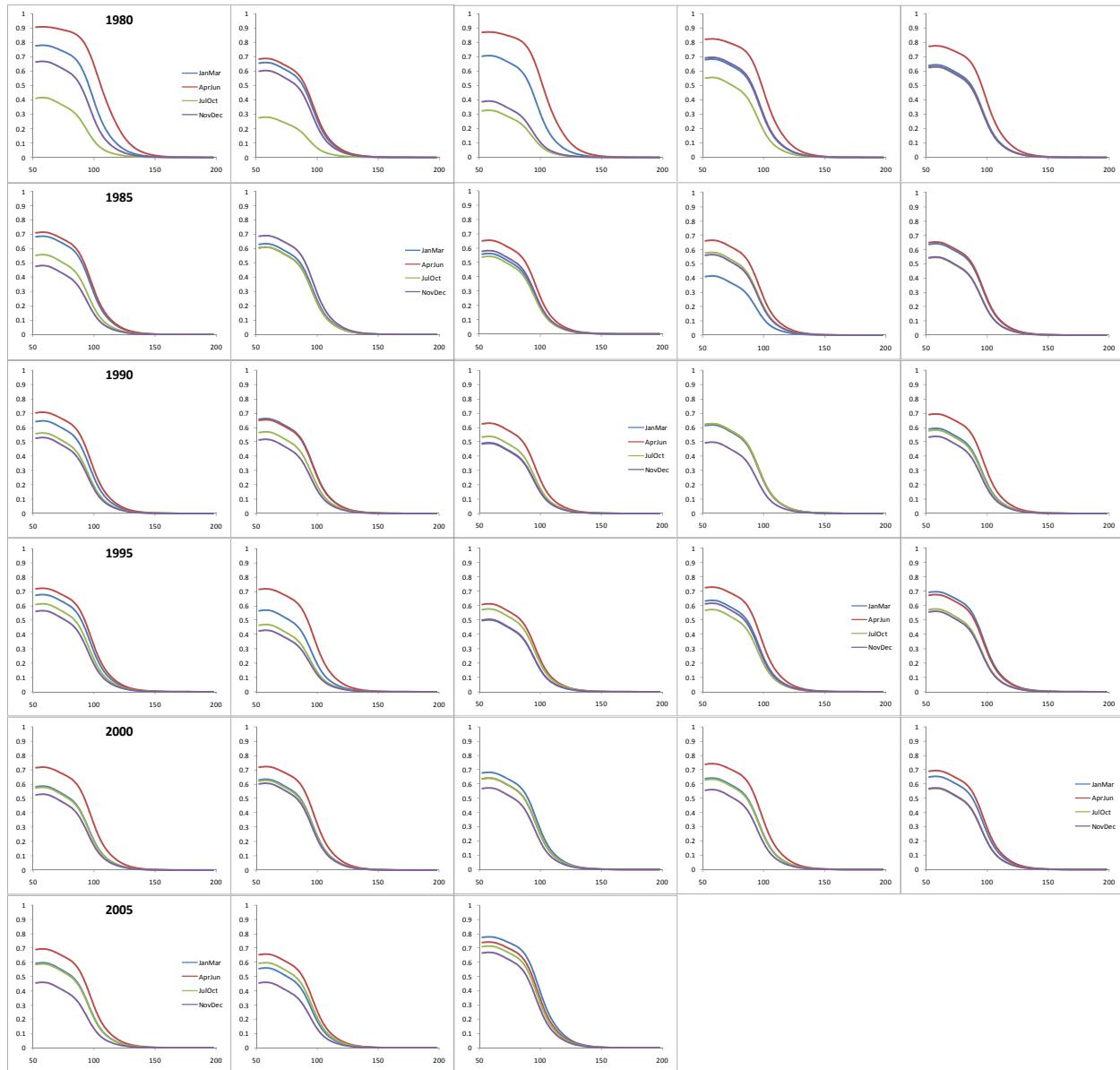


Figure 17. Predicted sex ratio (males) at size for Atlantic king mackerel by year (rows) and season (each color line) by the GAM fit model 1980 -2007.

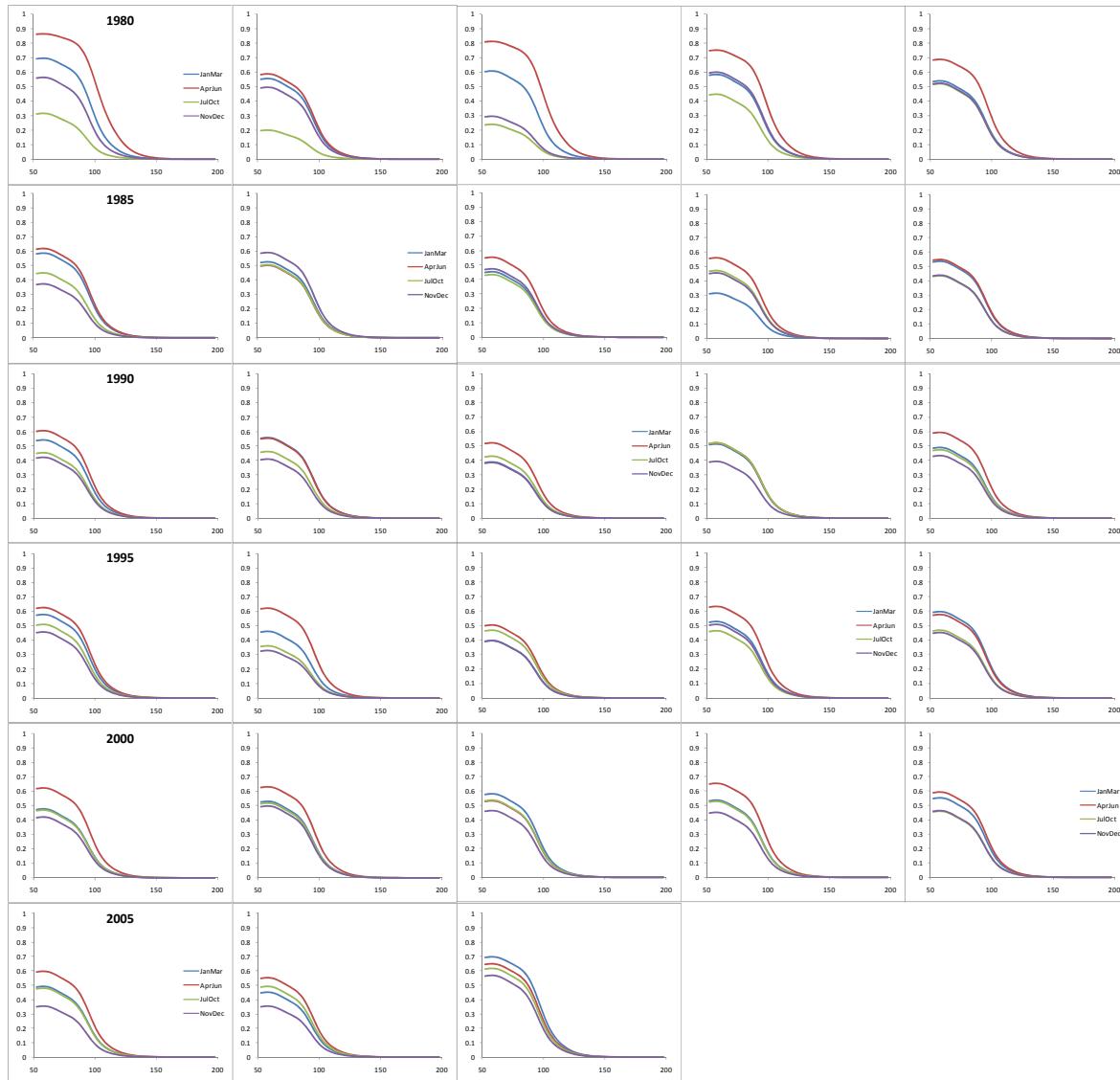


Figure 18.. Predicted sex ratio (males) at size for Gulf of Mexico king mackerel by year (rows) and season (each color line) by the GAM fit model 1980 -2007.

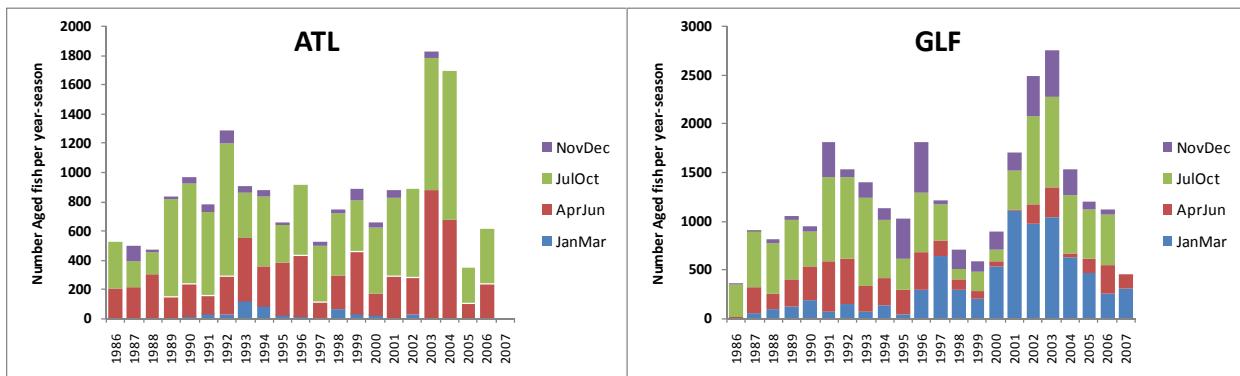
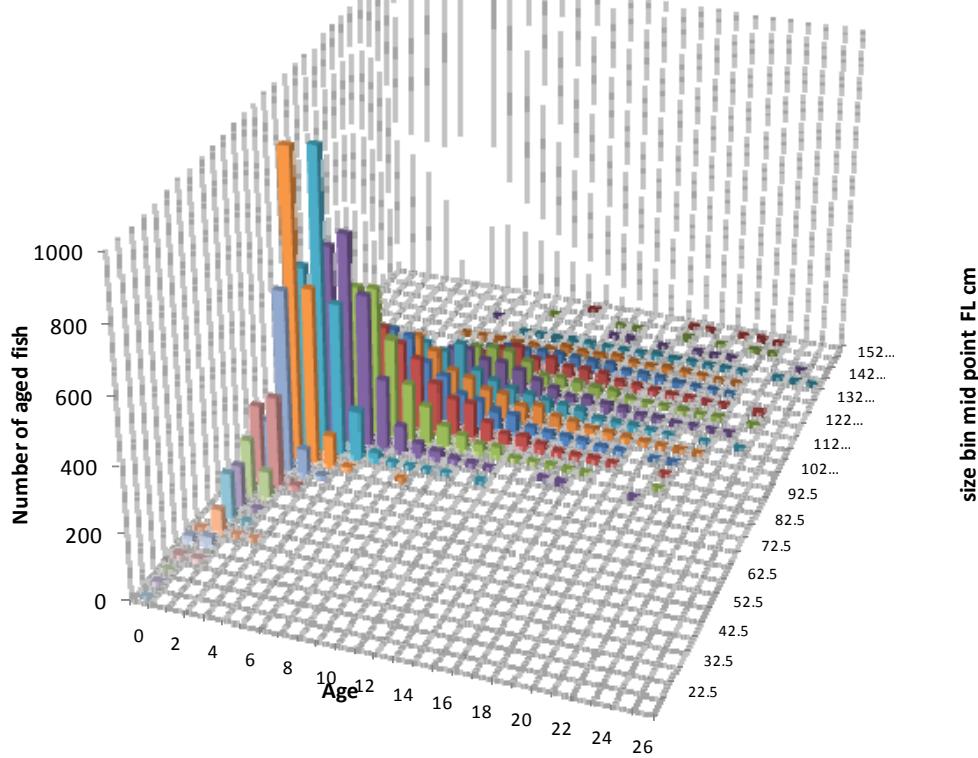


Figure 19. Number of aged samples for king mackerel by stock unit, year and season available for construction of Age Length Keys.

Size at Age ALL Years ATLANTIC KING



Size at Age ALL Years GULF KING

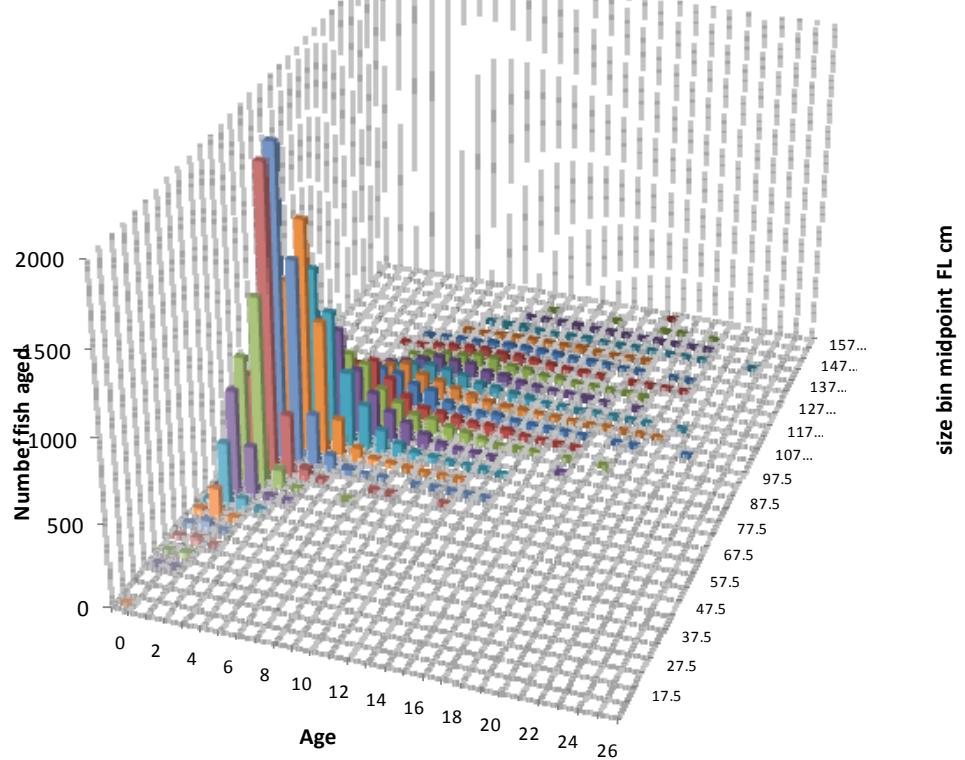


Figure 20. Distribution of aged king by age and size all years, for Atlantic stock unit (top) and Gulf of Mexico stock unit (bottom).

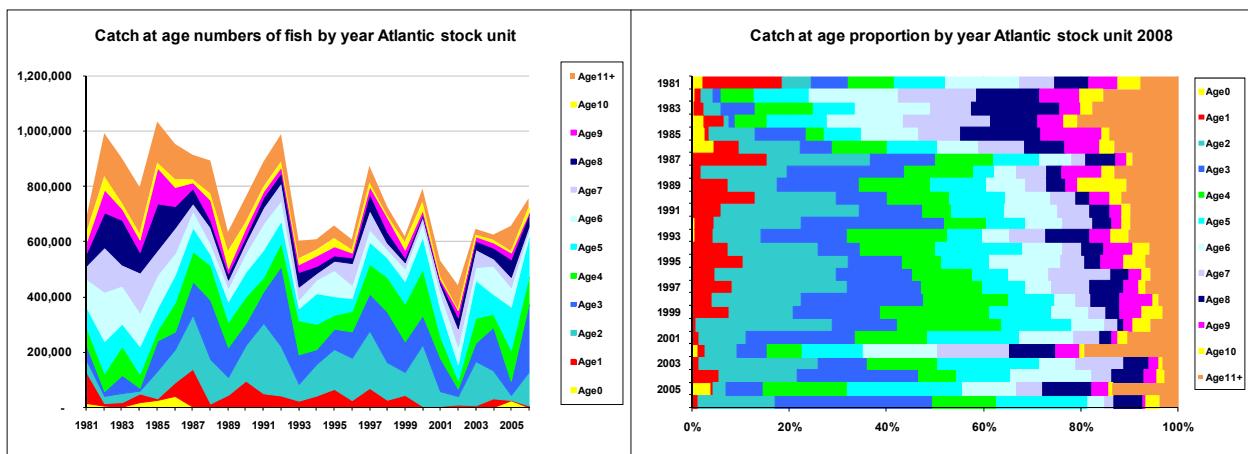


Figure 21. Estimated catch at age for Atlantic king 1981-2007. Numbers of fish (right) and proportions by age (left).

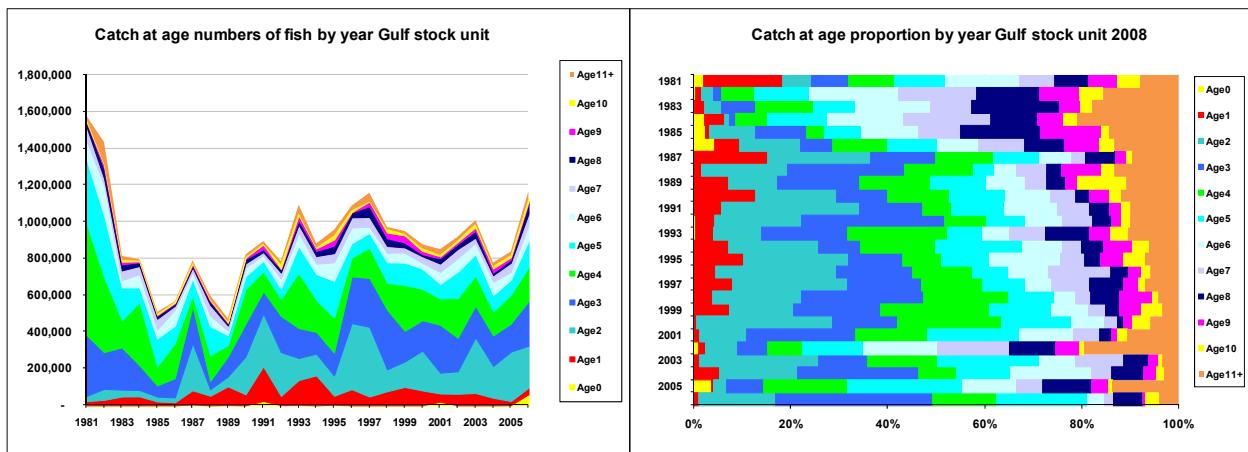


Figure 22. Estimated catch at age for Gulf of Mexico king 1981-2007. Numbers of fish (right) and proportion of catch at age (left).

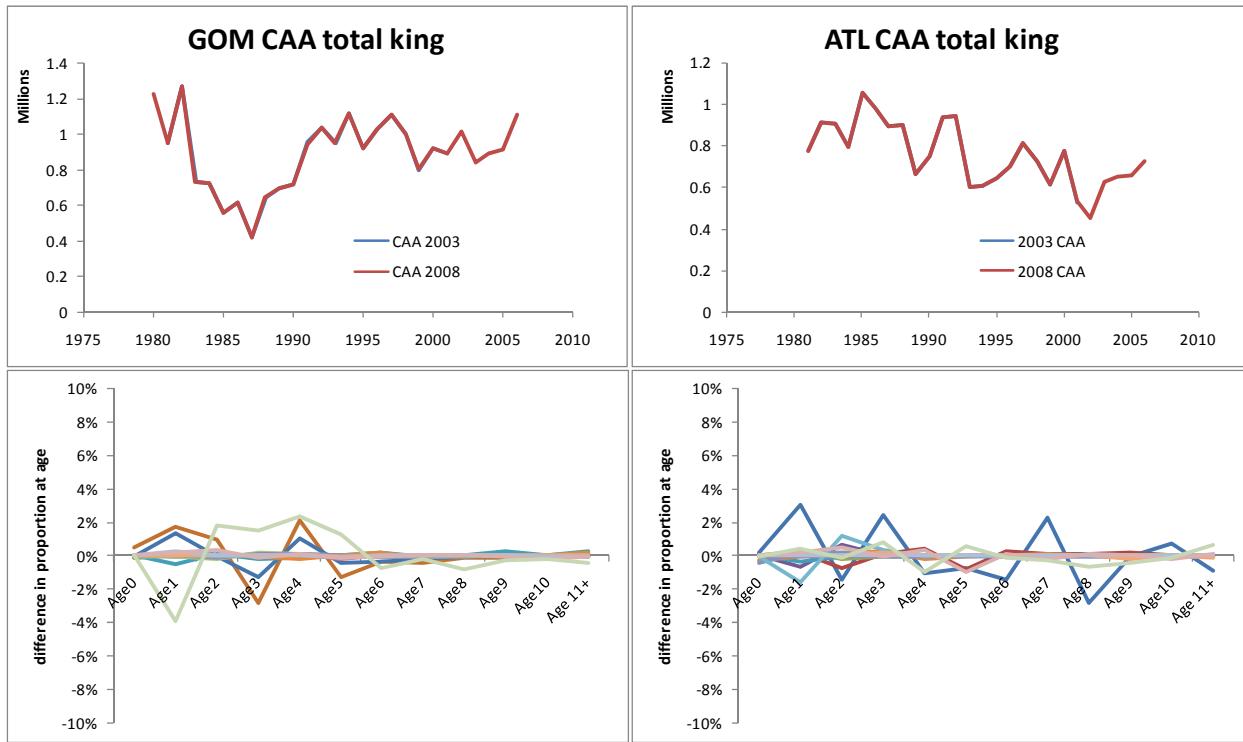
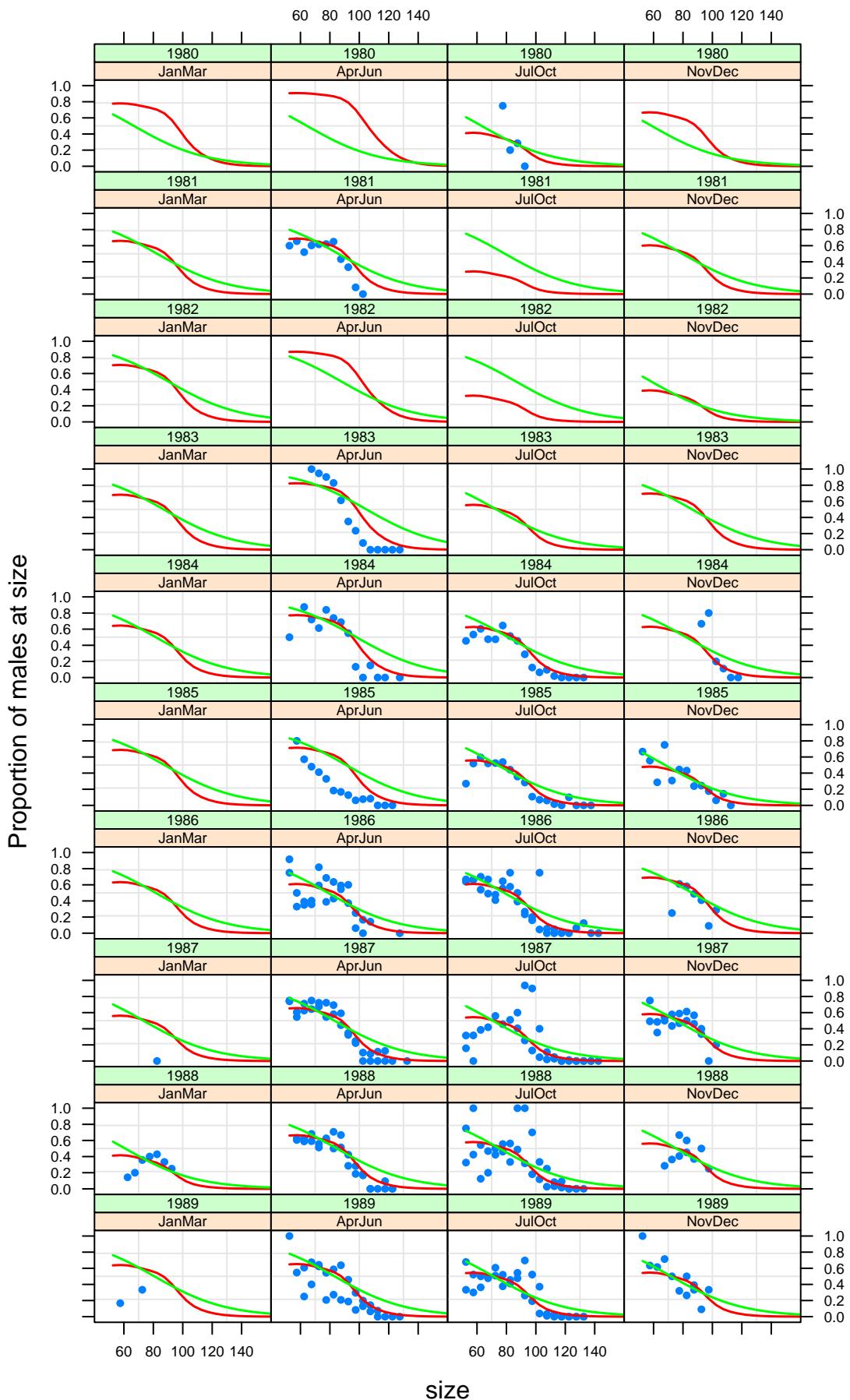


Figure 23. Comparison of estimated CAA for Atlantic (right) and Gulf (left) king mackerel, and proportion of catch at age (bottom row) between 2008 and 2003 assessment evaluations.

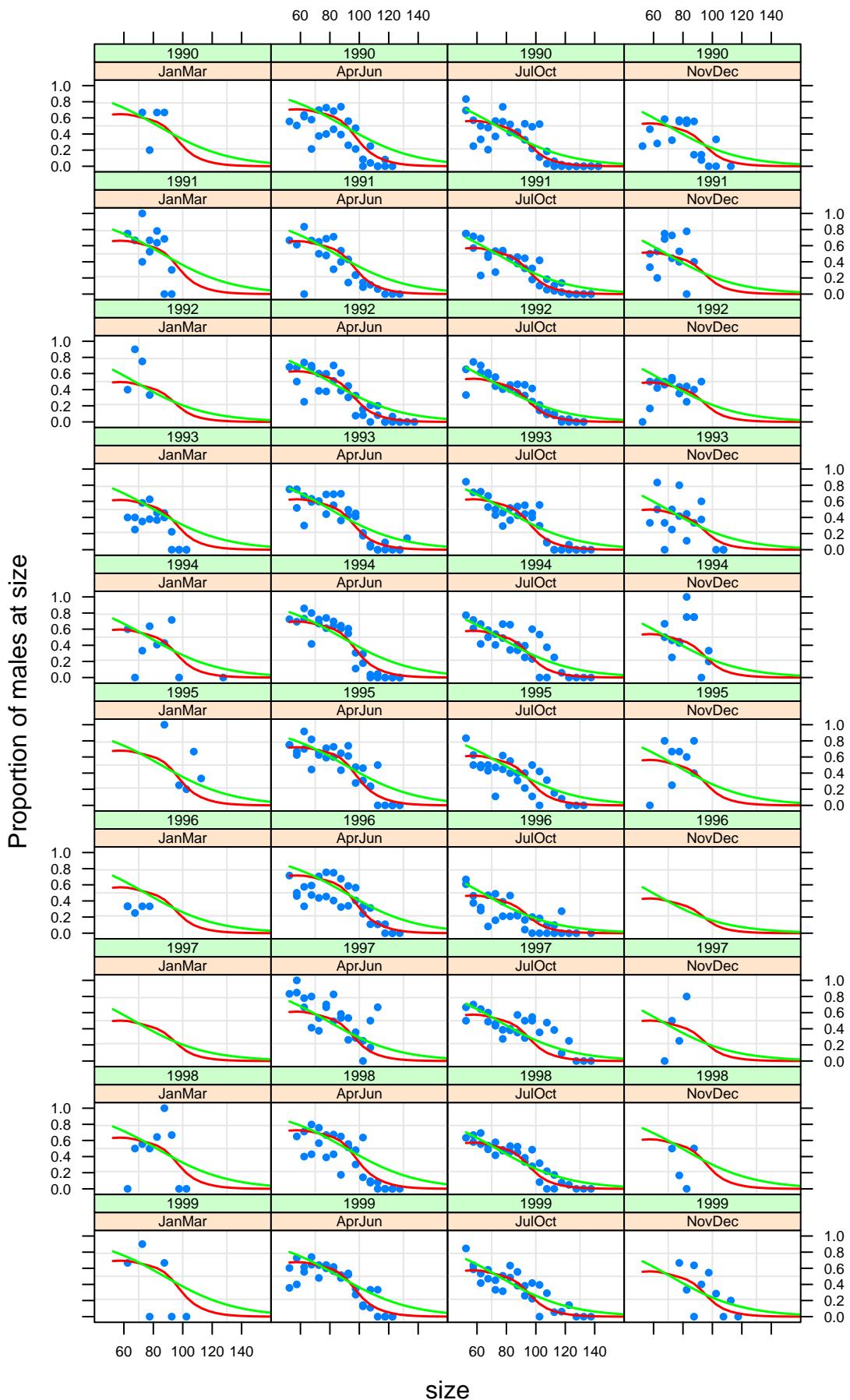
Appendix list

1. Plot of sex ratios at size by stock unit, year and season. Observer male ratio at size (5 cm bin FL) (blue points), predicted GAM model proportions of males (red line), and predicted GLM model proportions of males (green line). Pages 1 to 6
2. Density distribution histograms of catch at size CAS by sex (red= males, blue=females), region and sector. Pages 1 to 18 estimates of CAS using sex ratios 1984-1996. Pages 19 to 36 estimates of CAS using updated sex ratios 1984-2006.
3. Distribution of aged samples by size bin (5 cm FL) for Age Length Key by stock unit and year. Shade cells code: yellow 1 to 4 samples per cell, red 5 to 10 samples per cell, black >10 samples per cell. Pages 1 and 2.

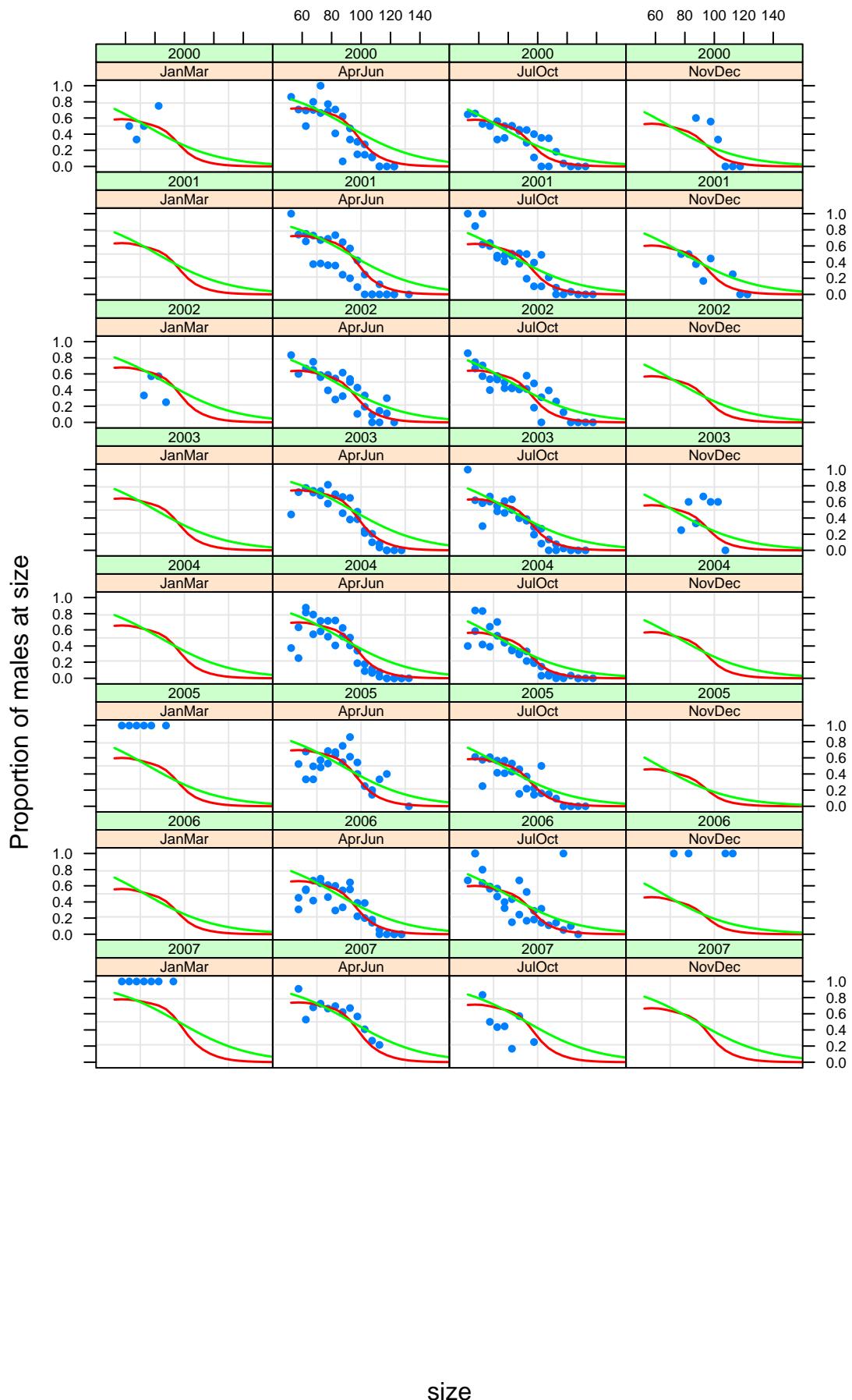
Sex ratio at size ATL stock unit year



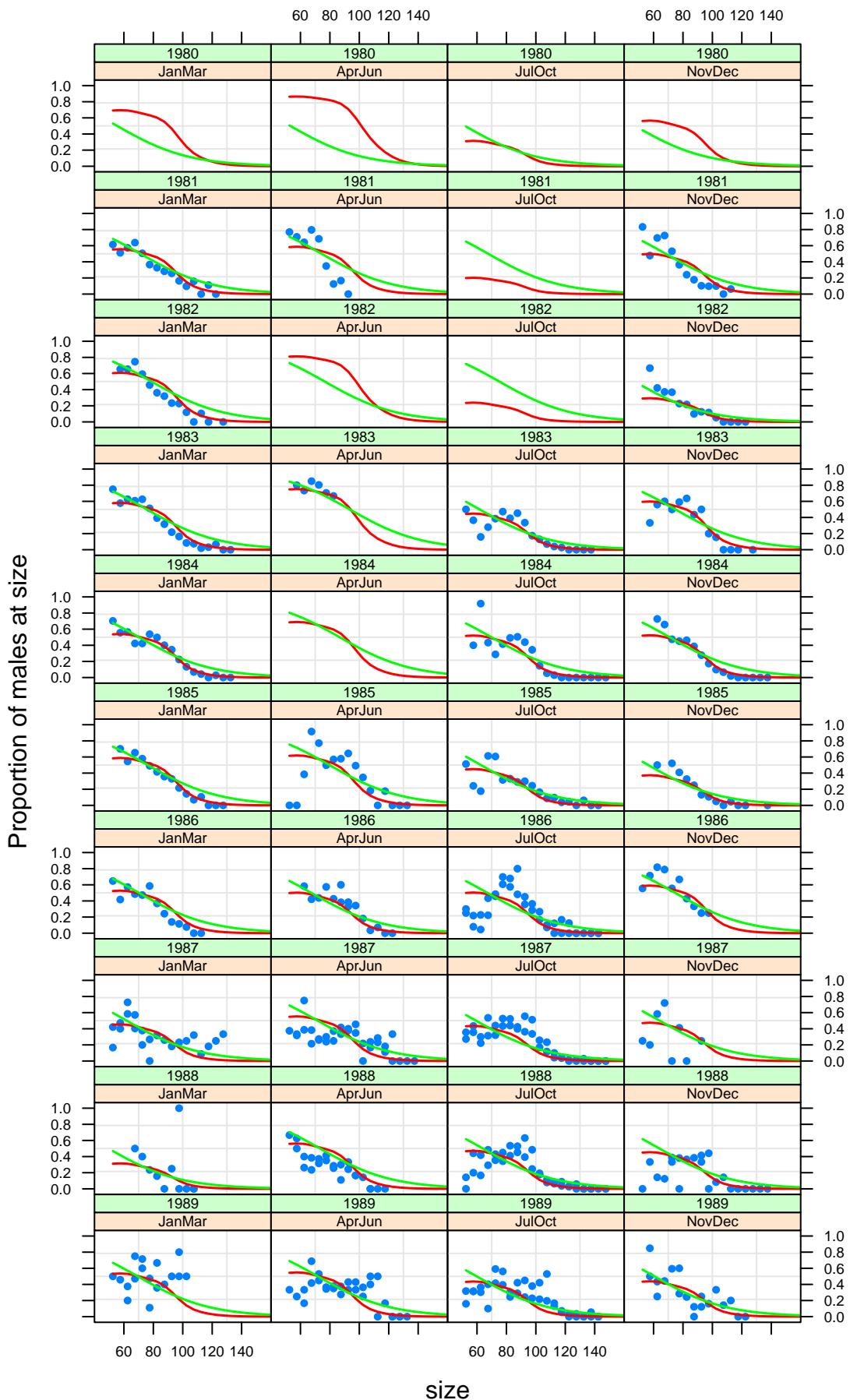
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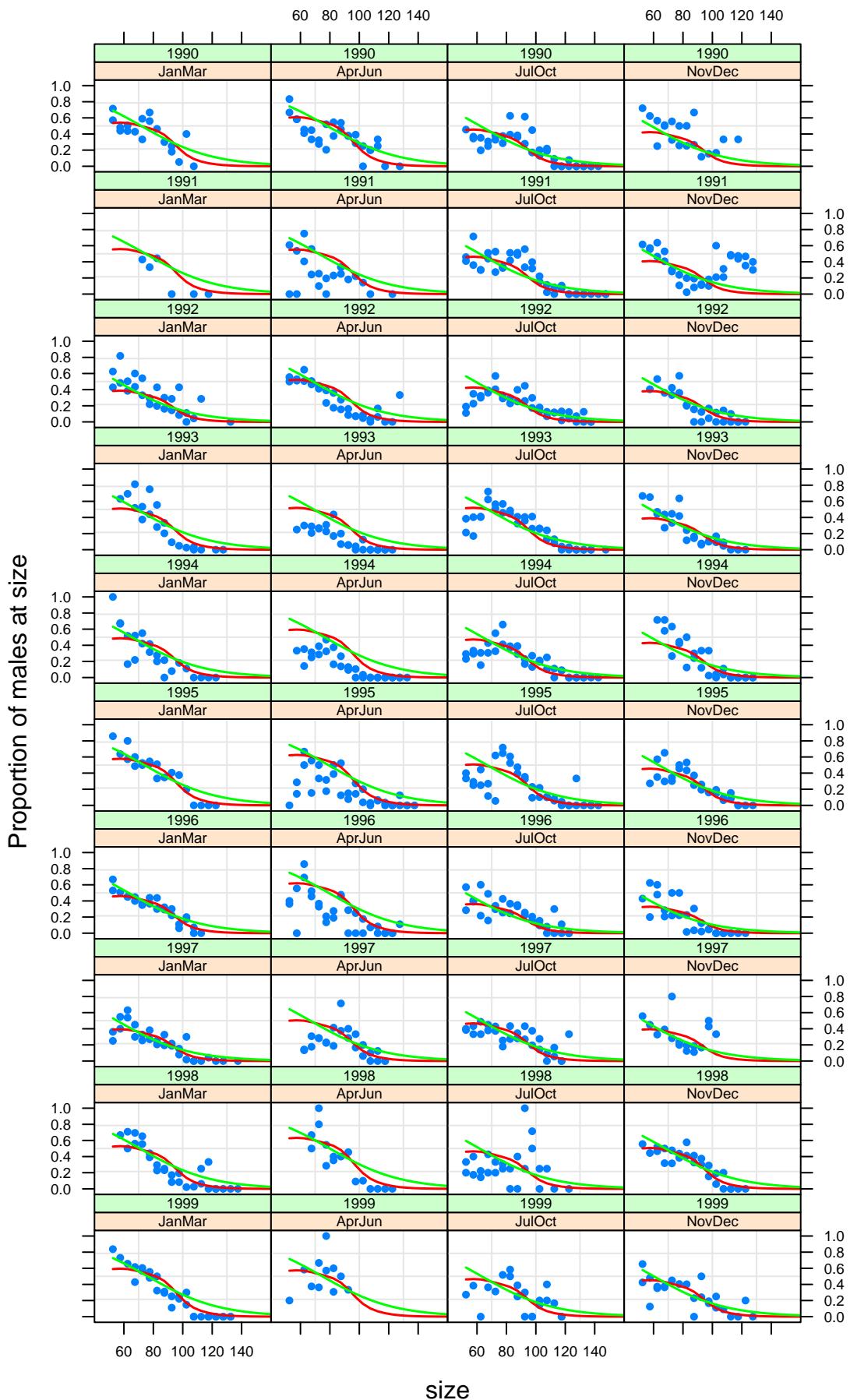
Sex ratio at size ATL stock unit year



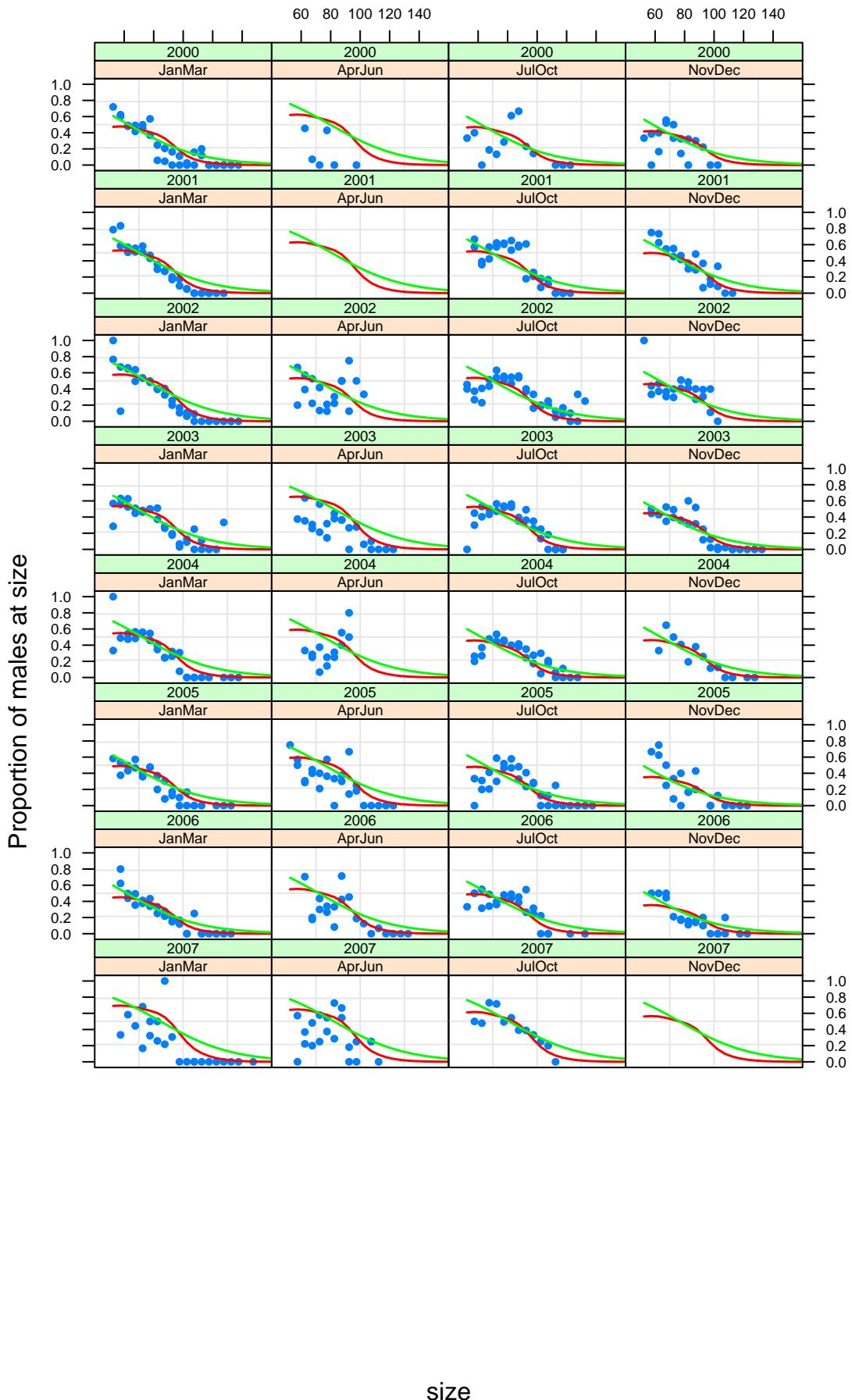
Sex ratio at size GLF stock unit year



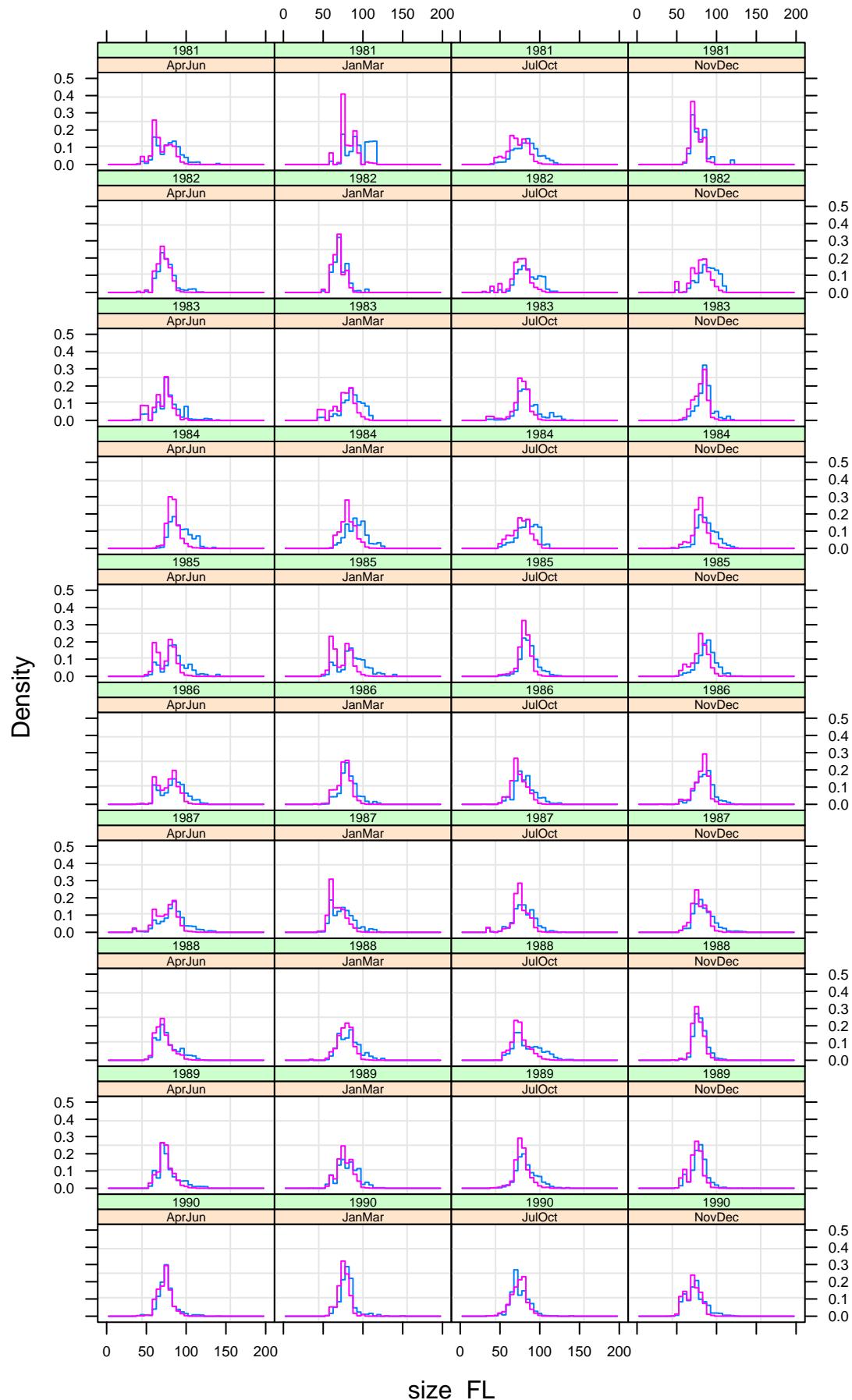
Sex ratio at size GLF stock unit year



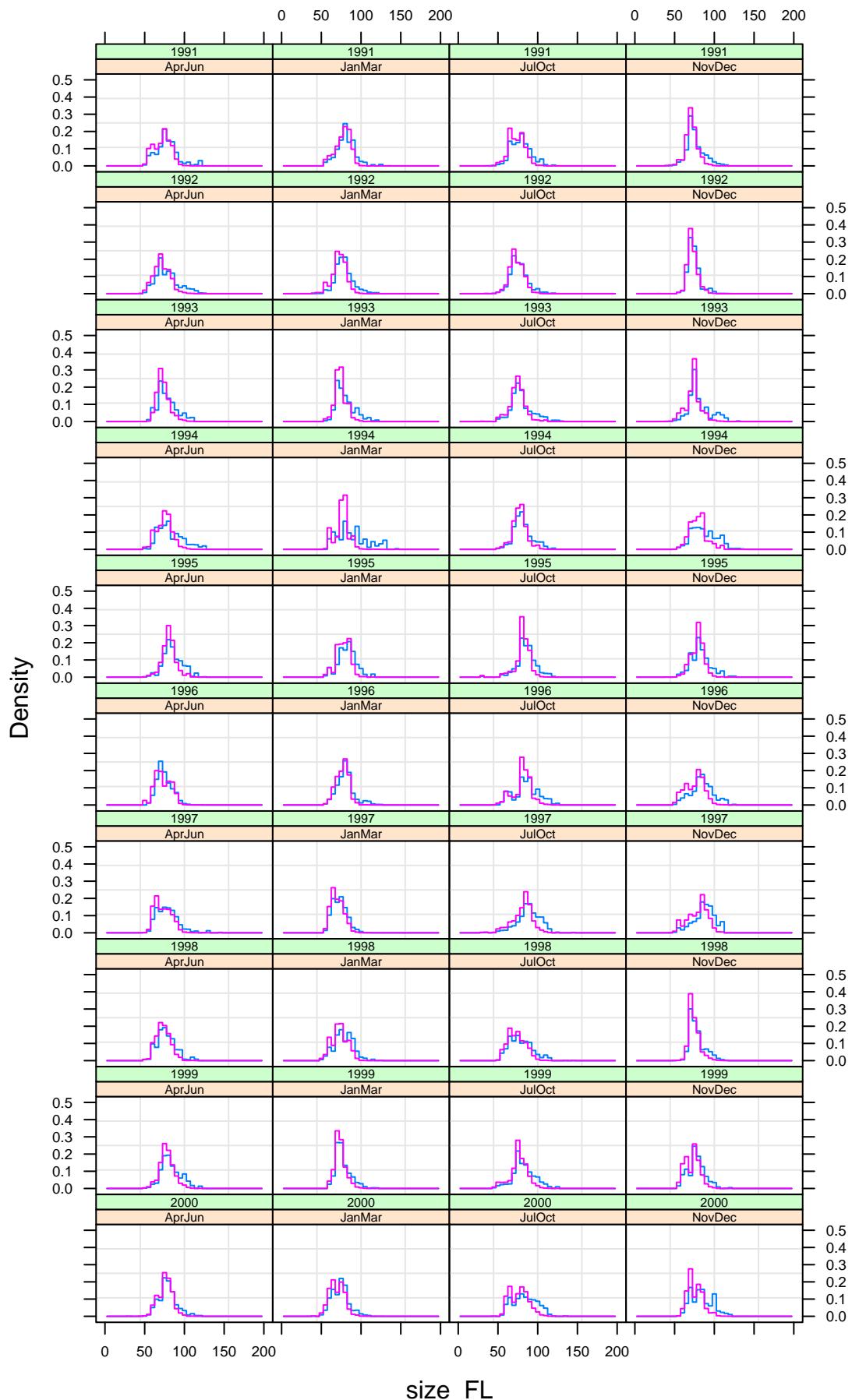
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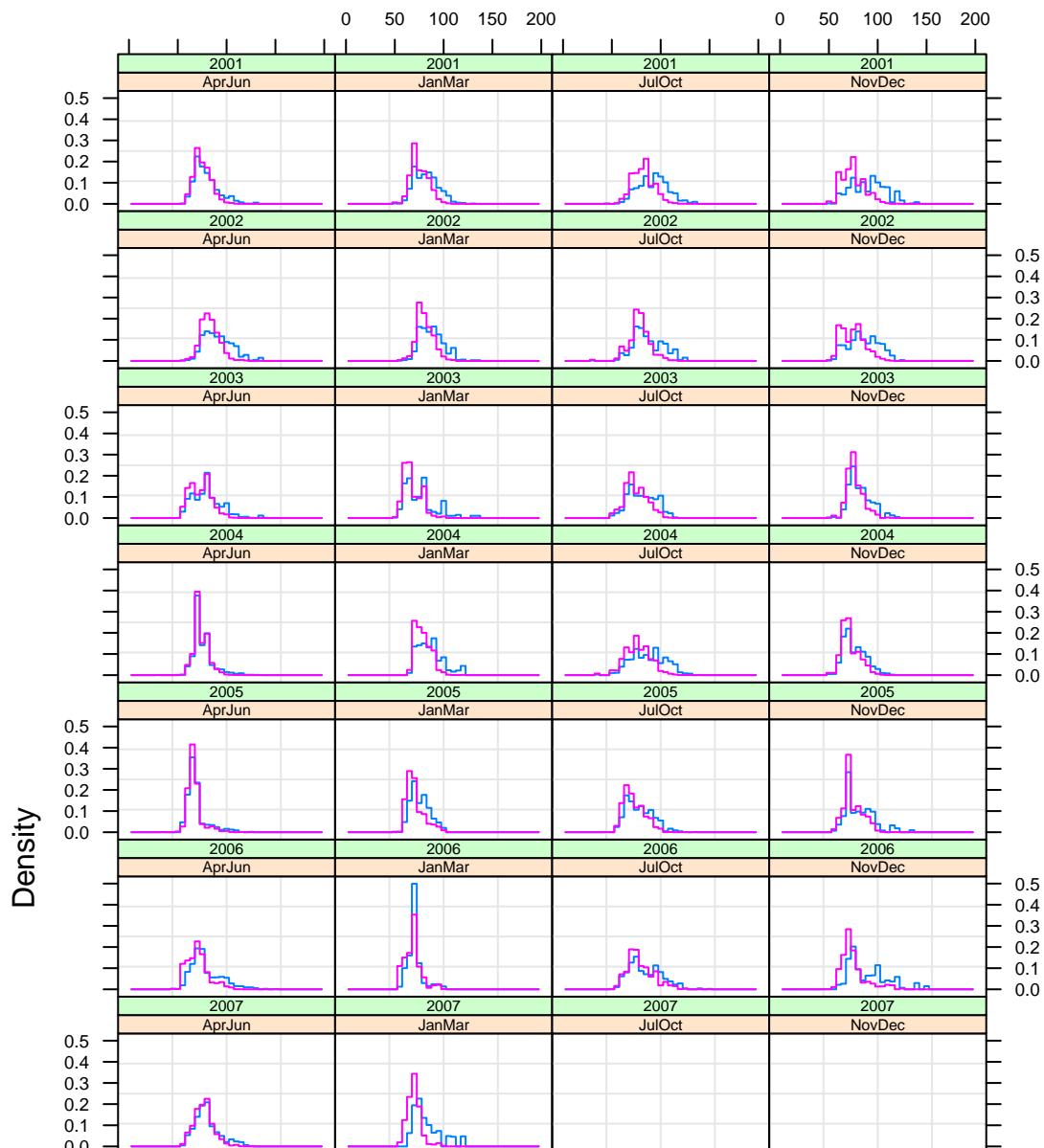
CAS by Sex ATL Com



CAS by Sex ATL Com

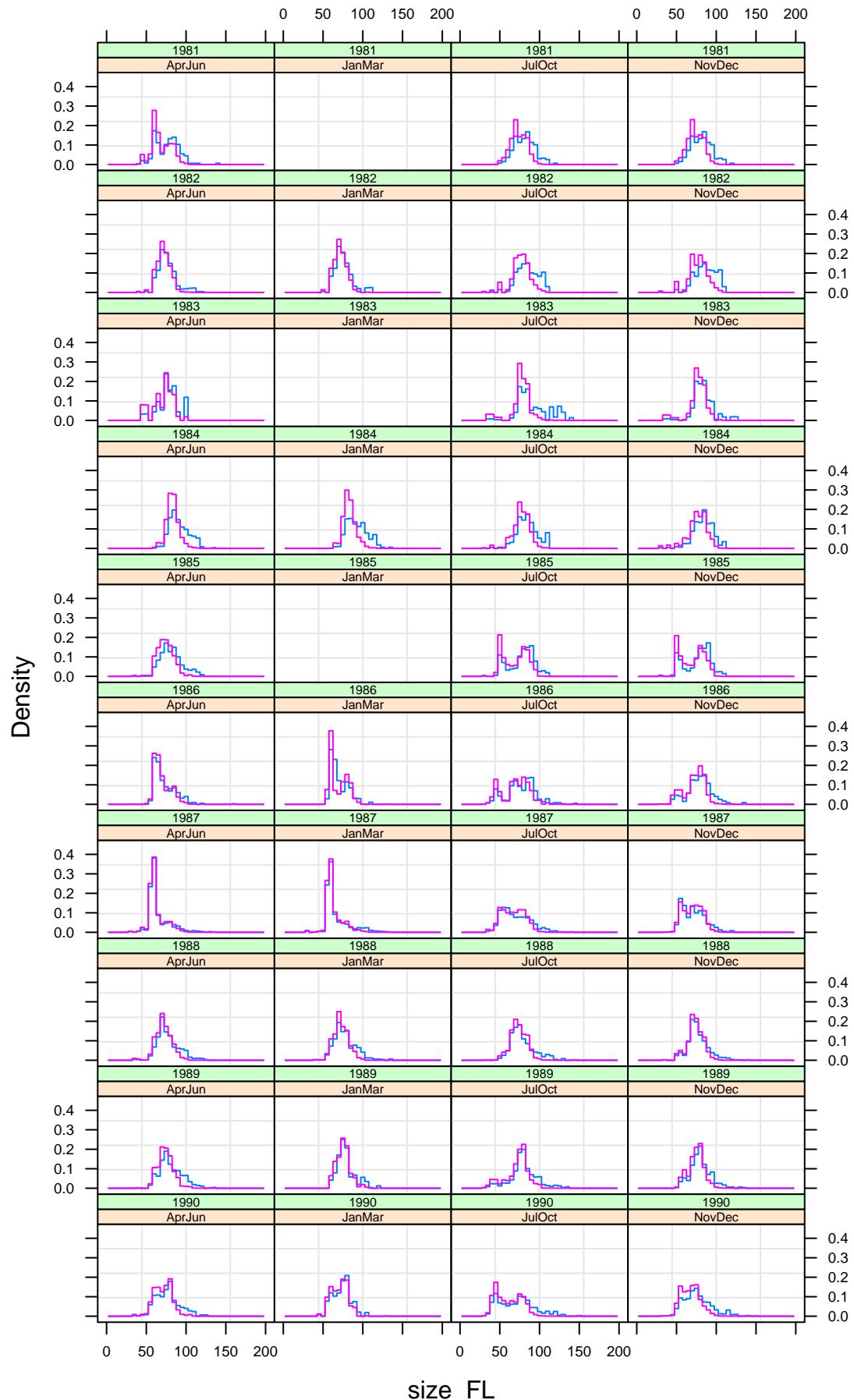


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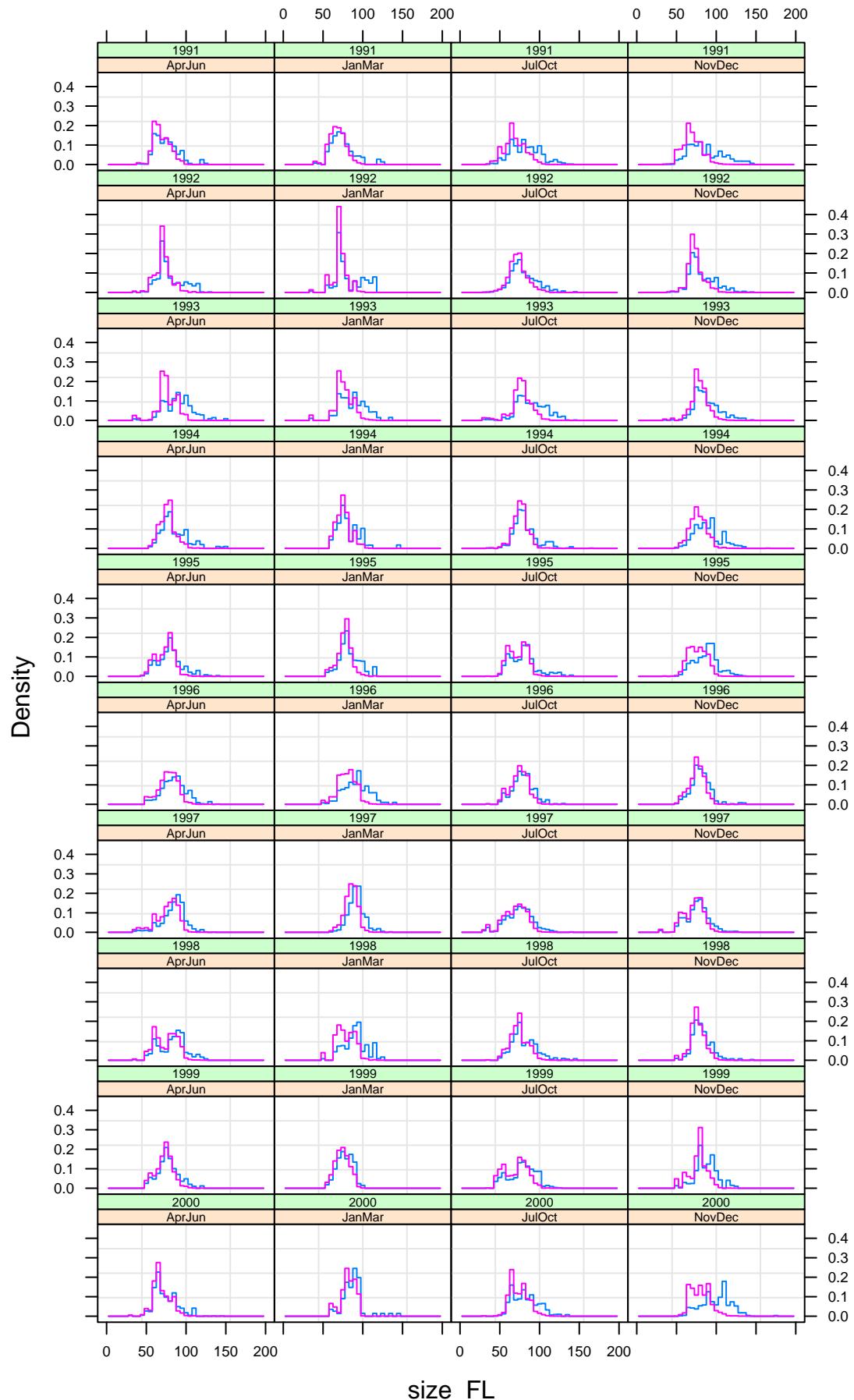


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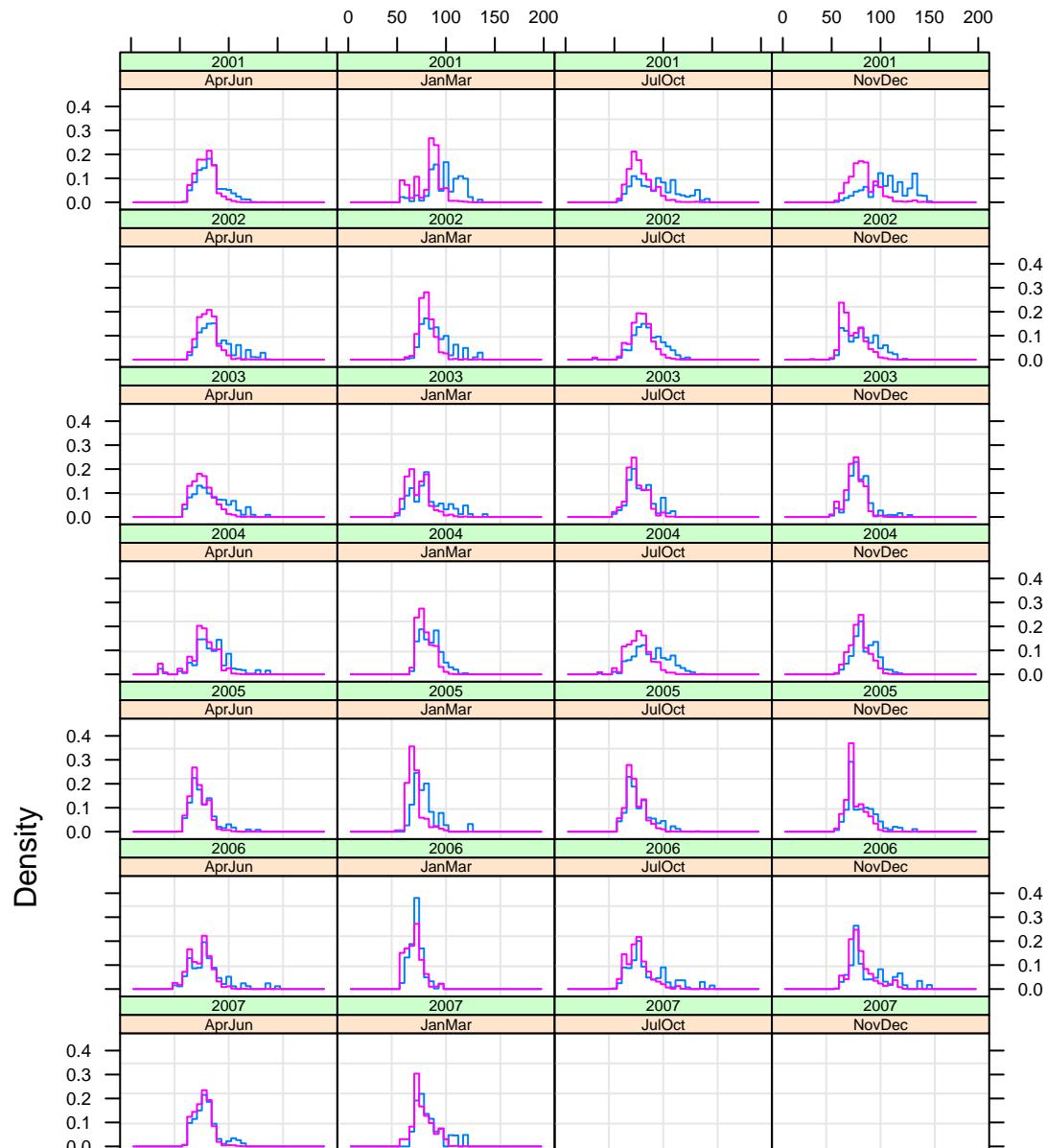
CAS by Sex ATL Rec



CAS by Sex ATL Rec

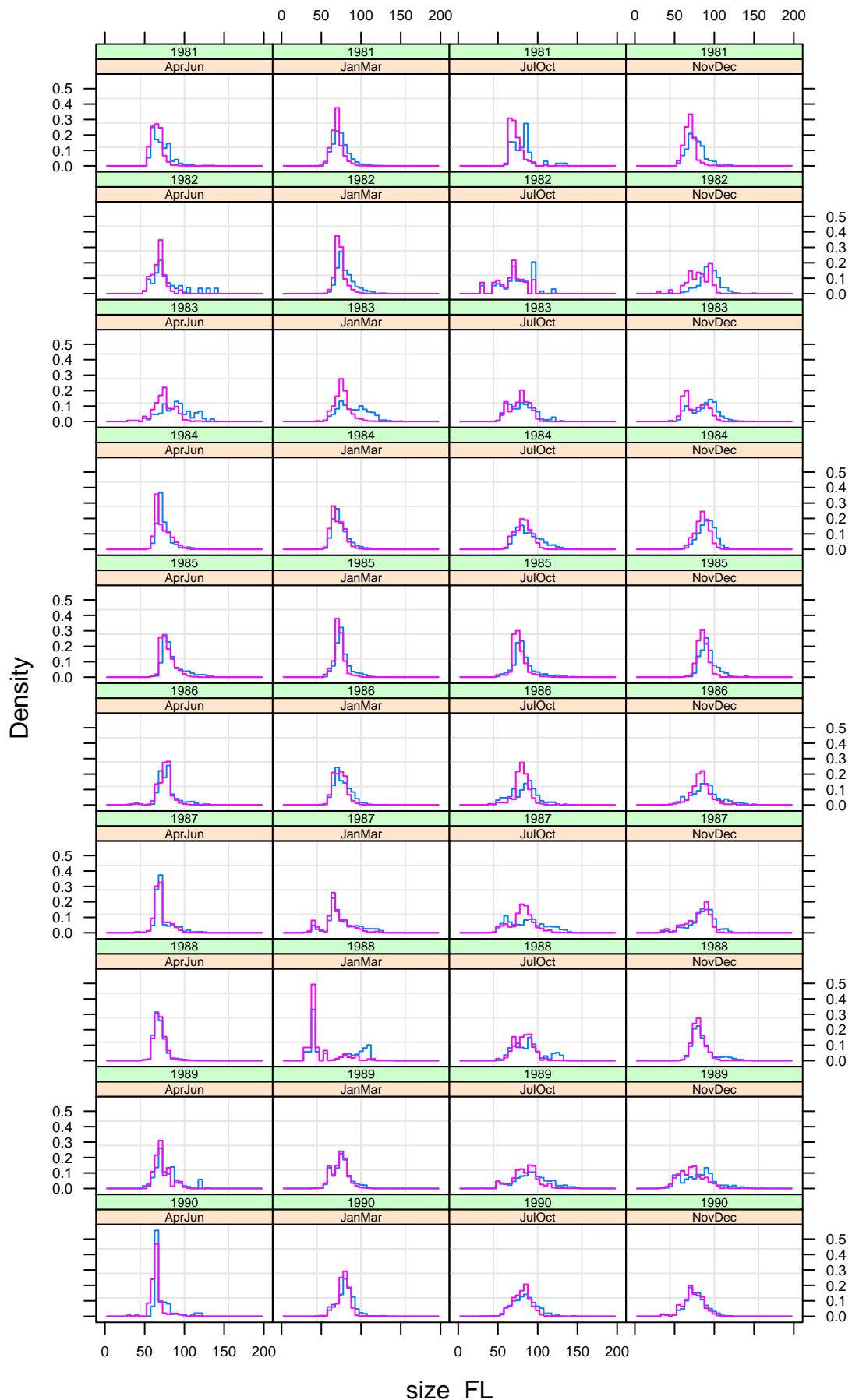


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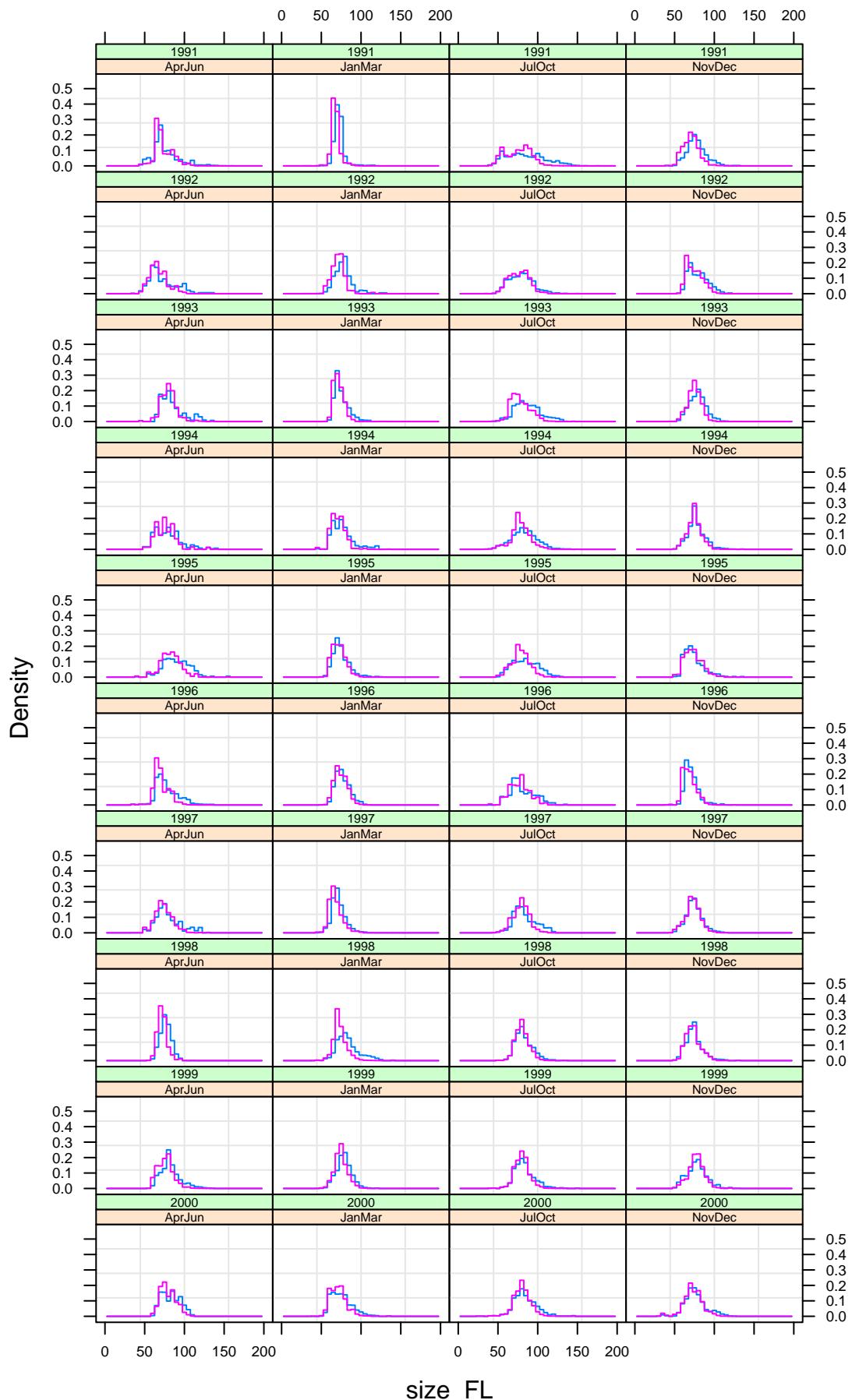


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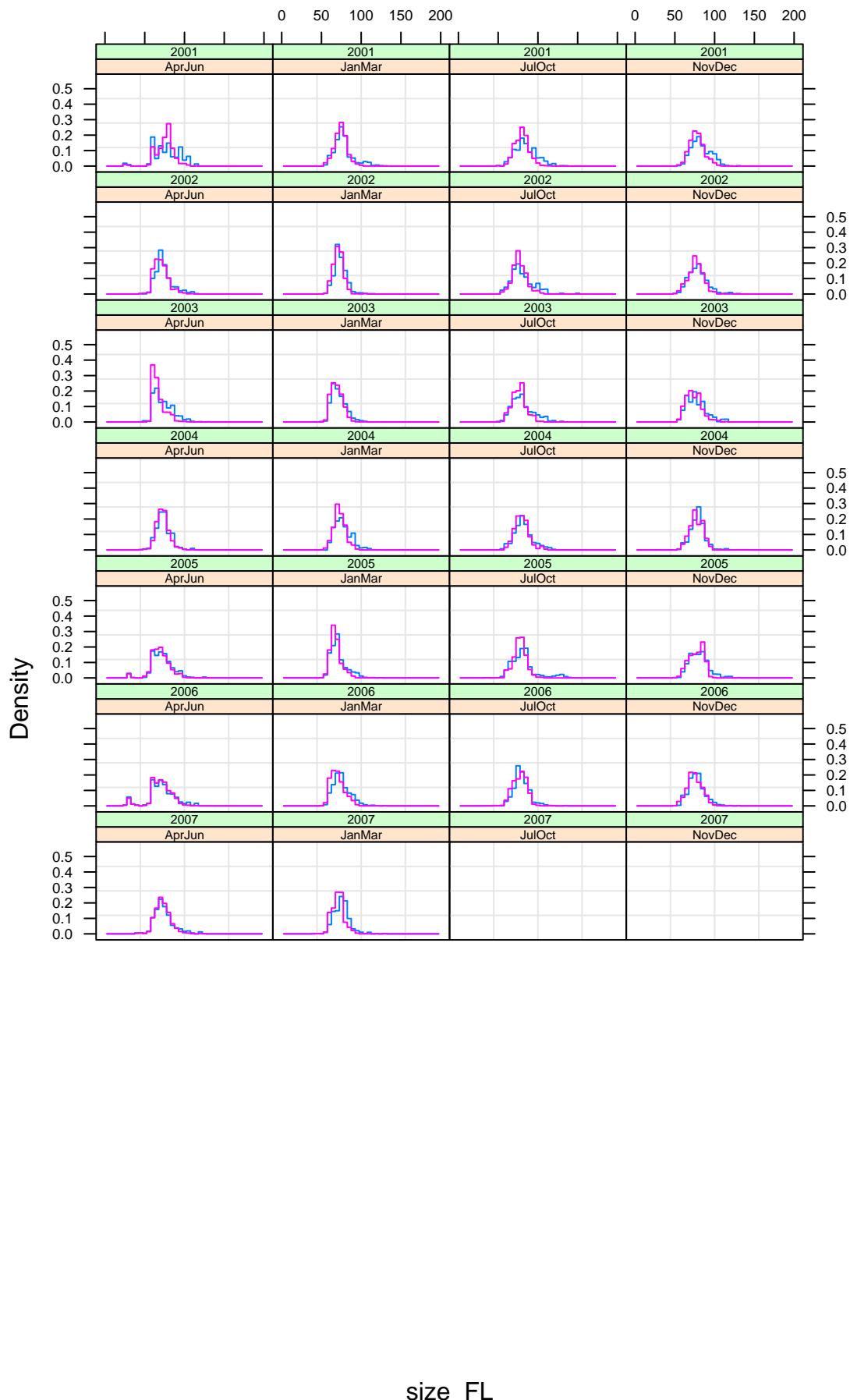
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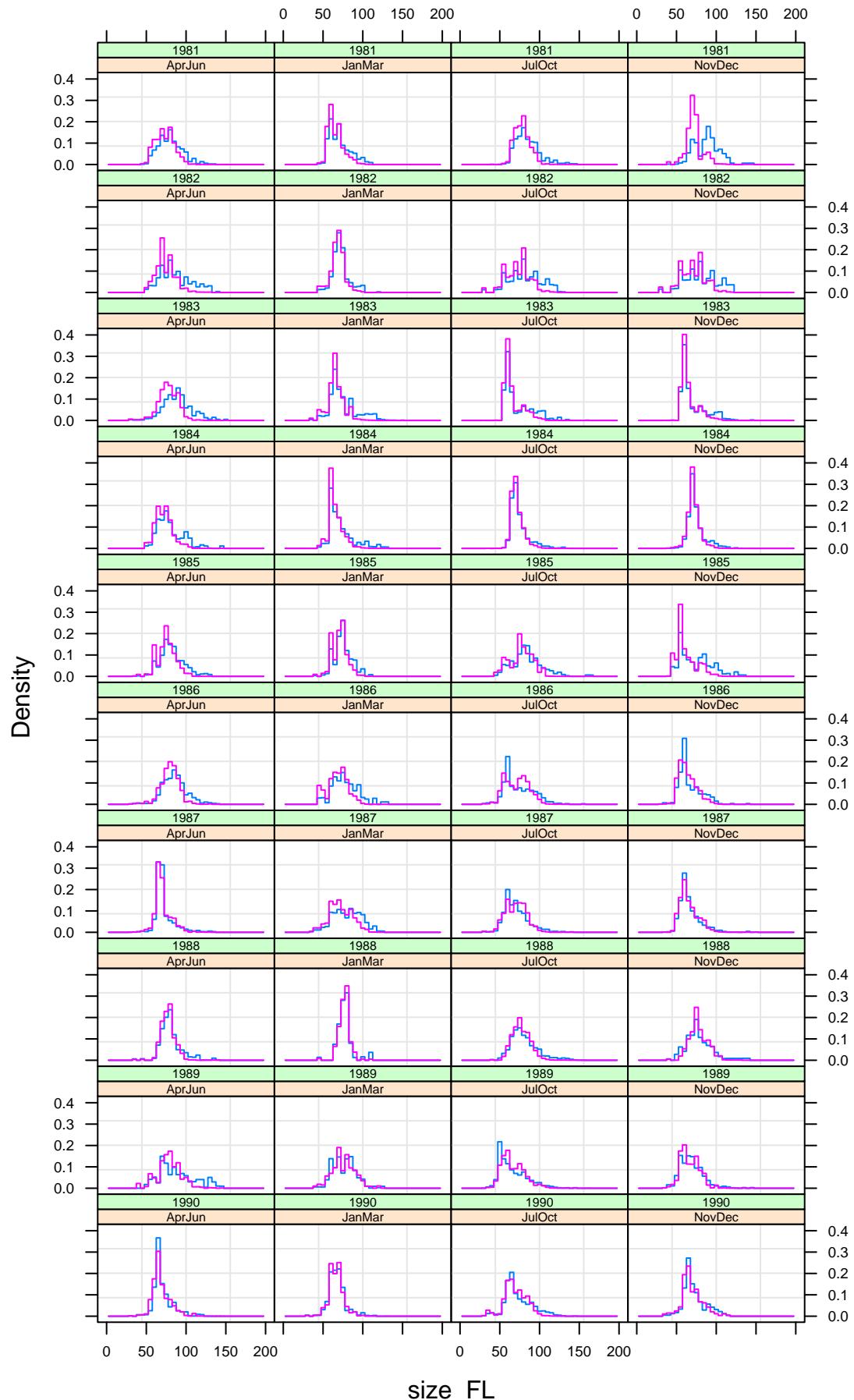
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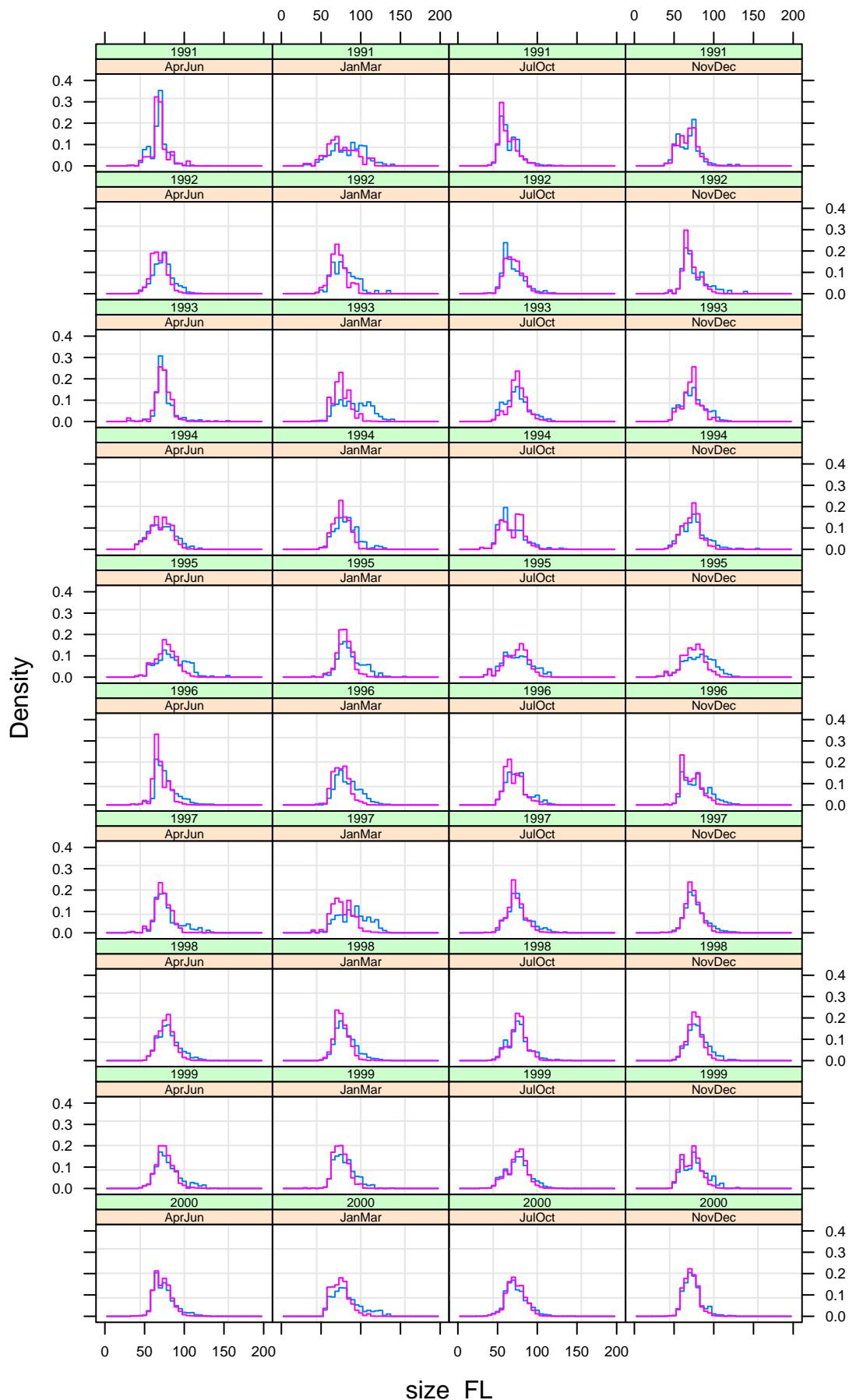
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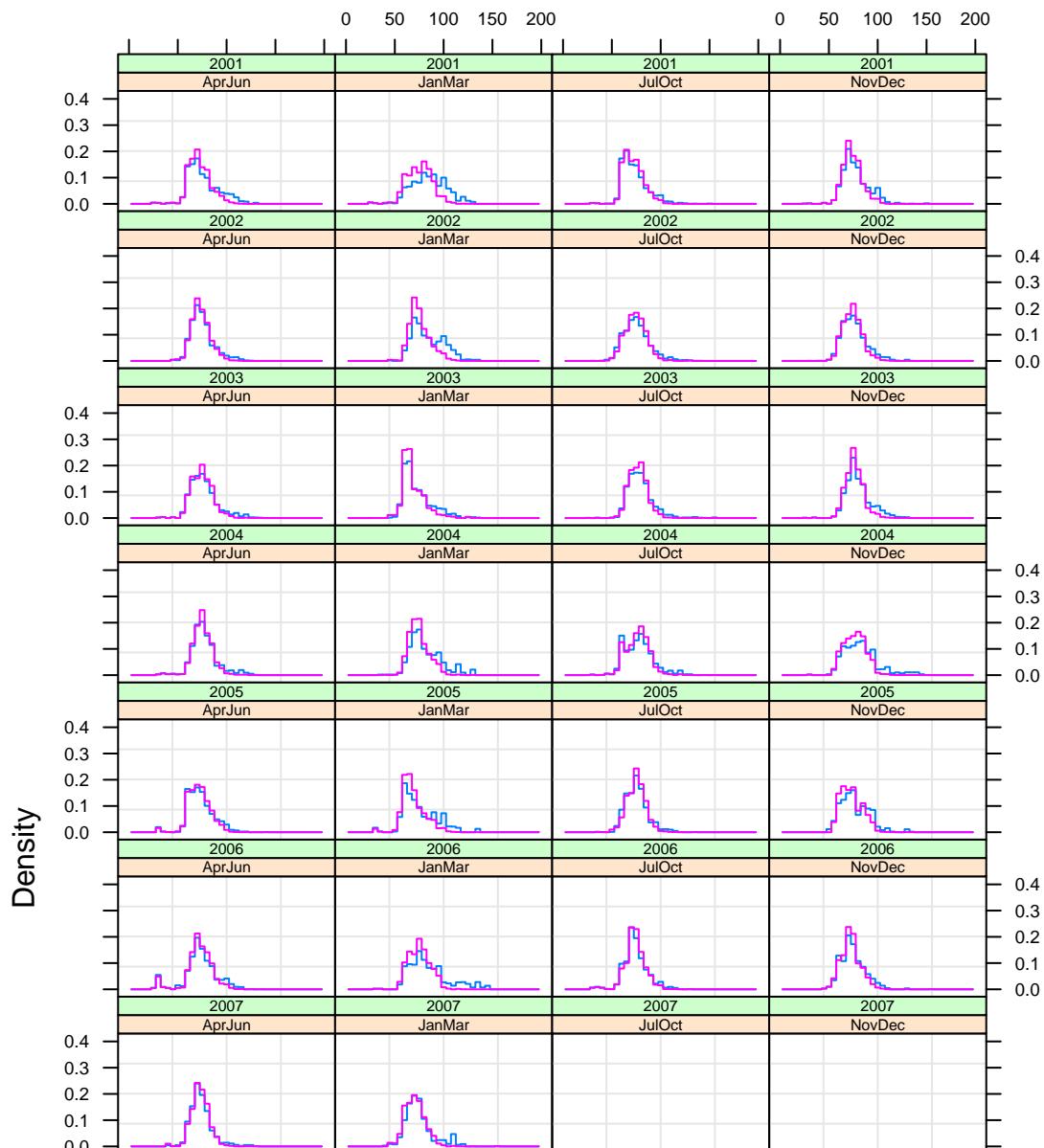
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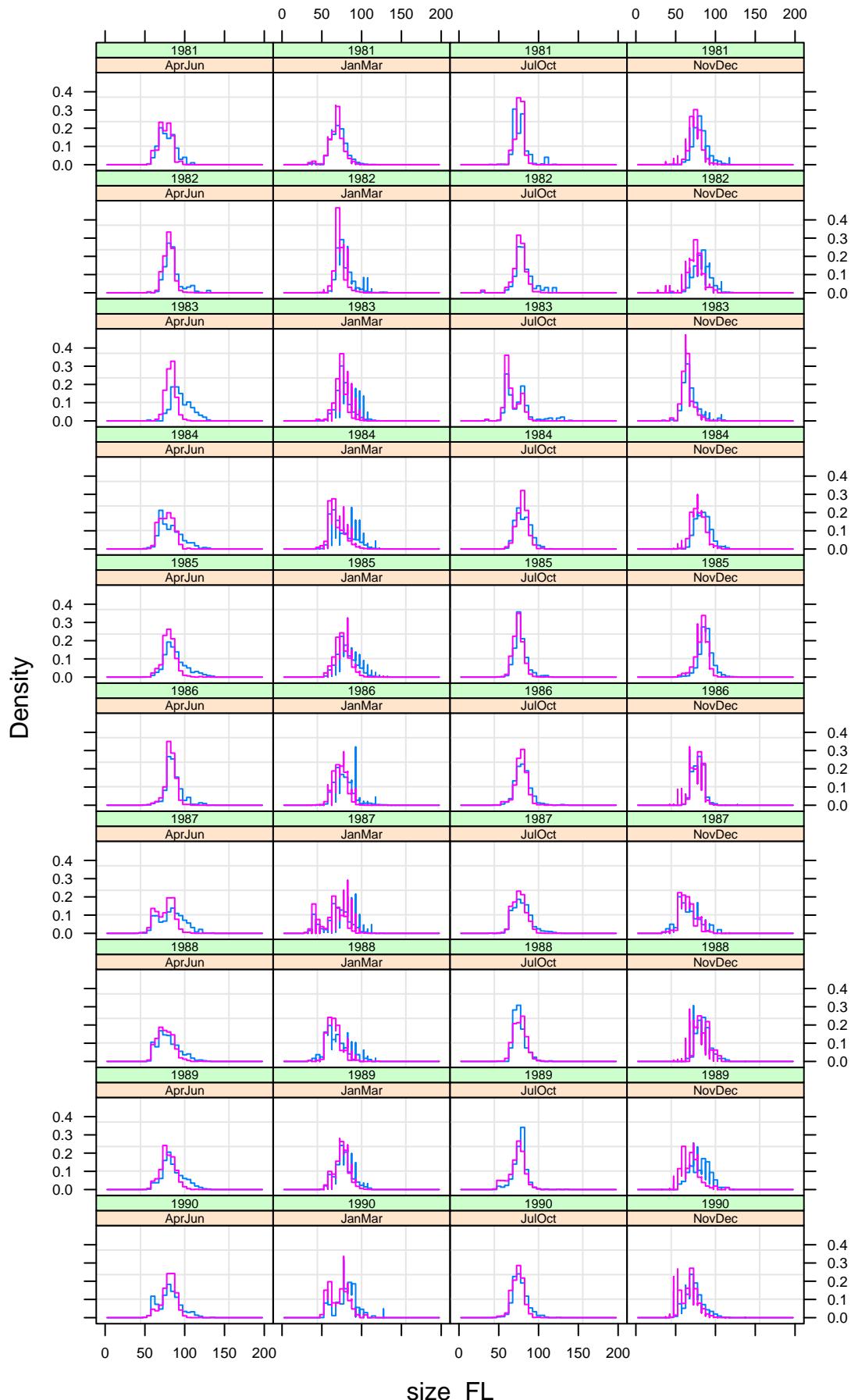


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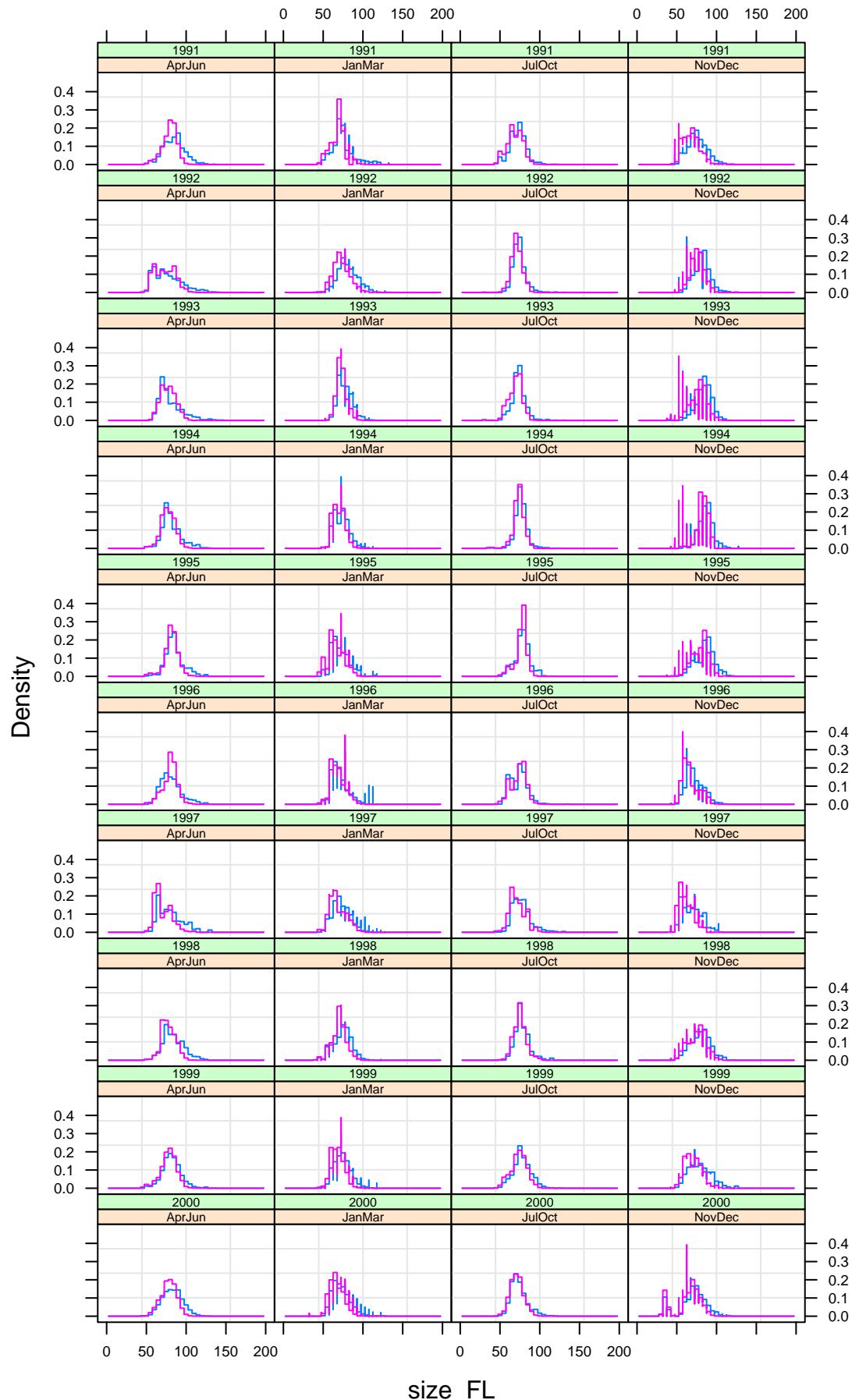


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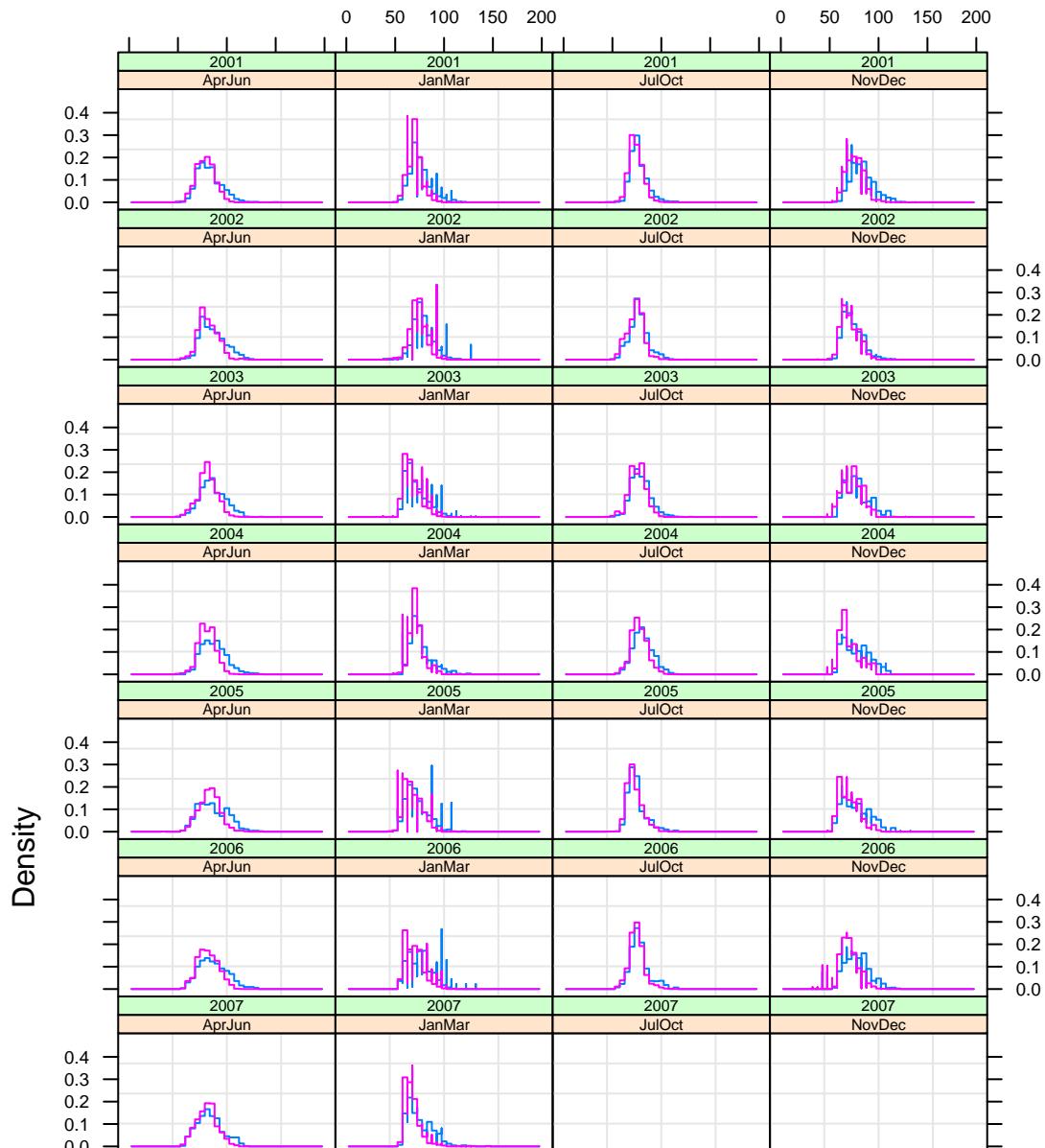
CAS by Sex MixZone Com



CAS by Sex MixZone Com

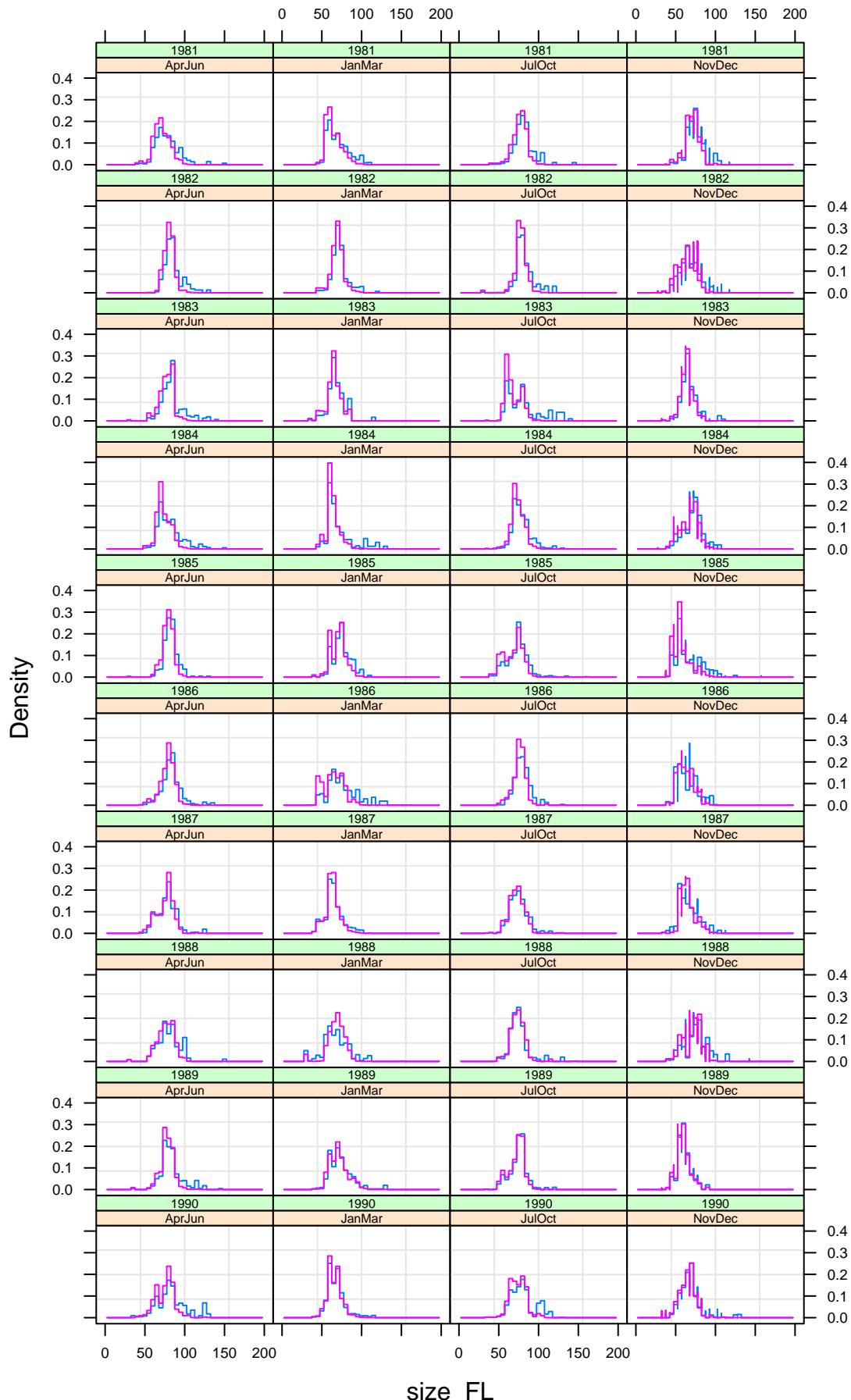


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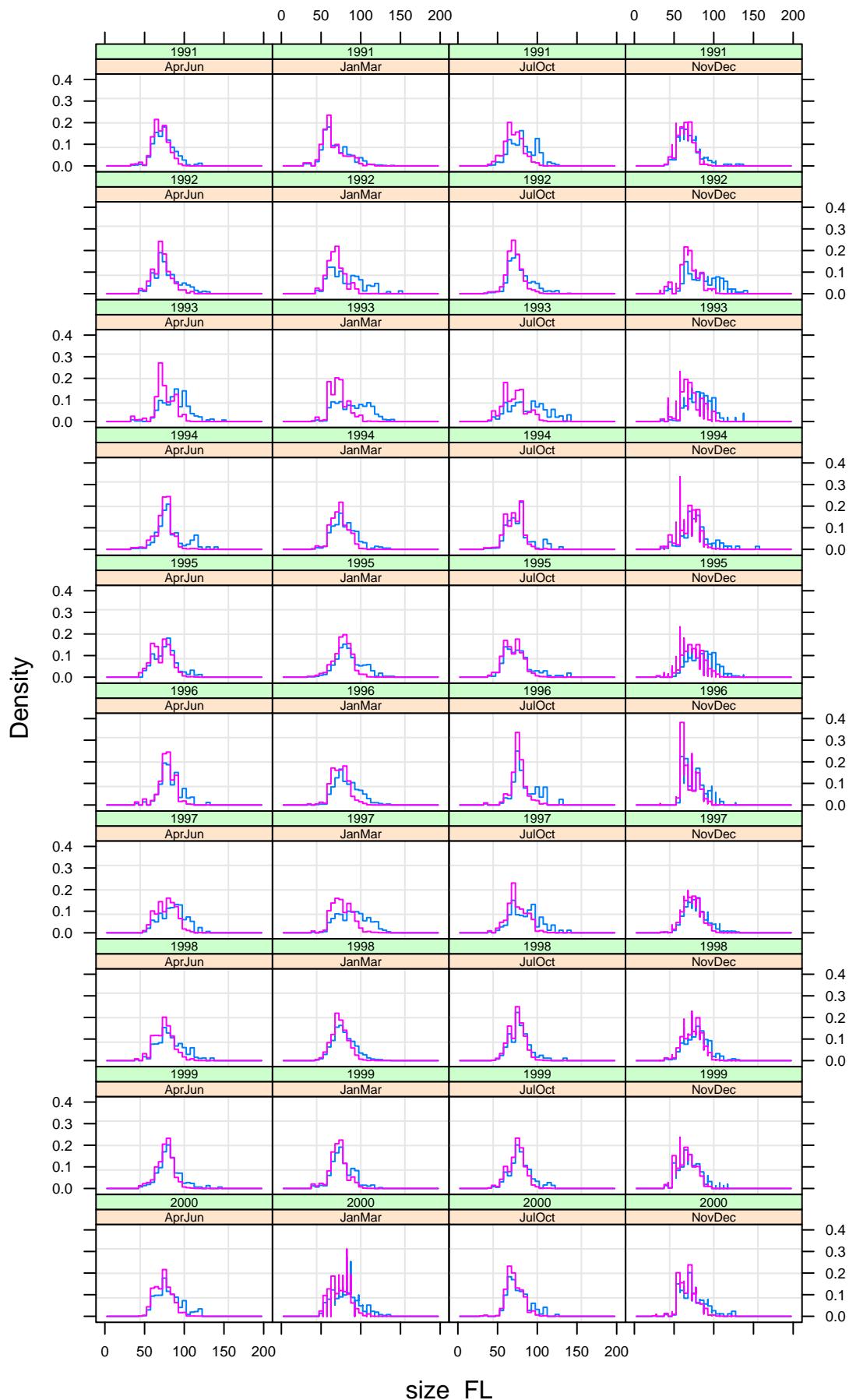


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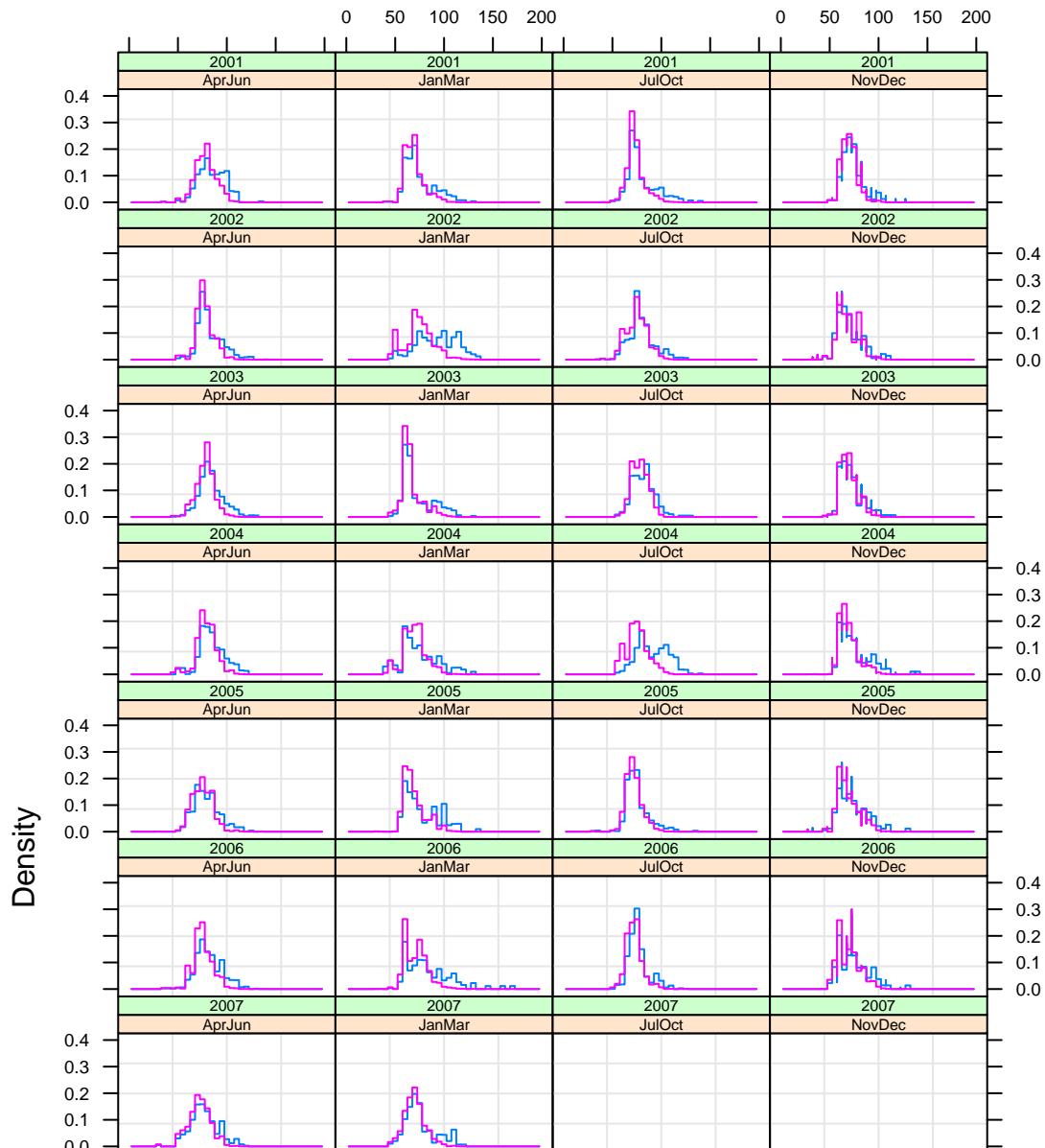
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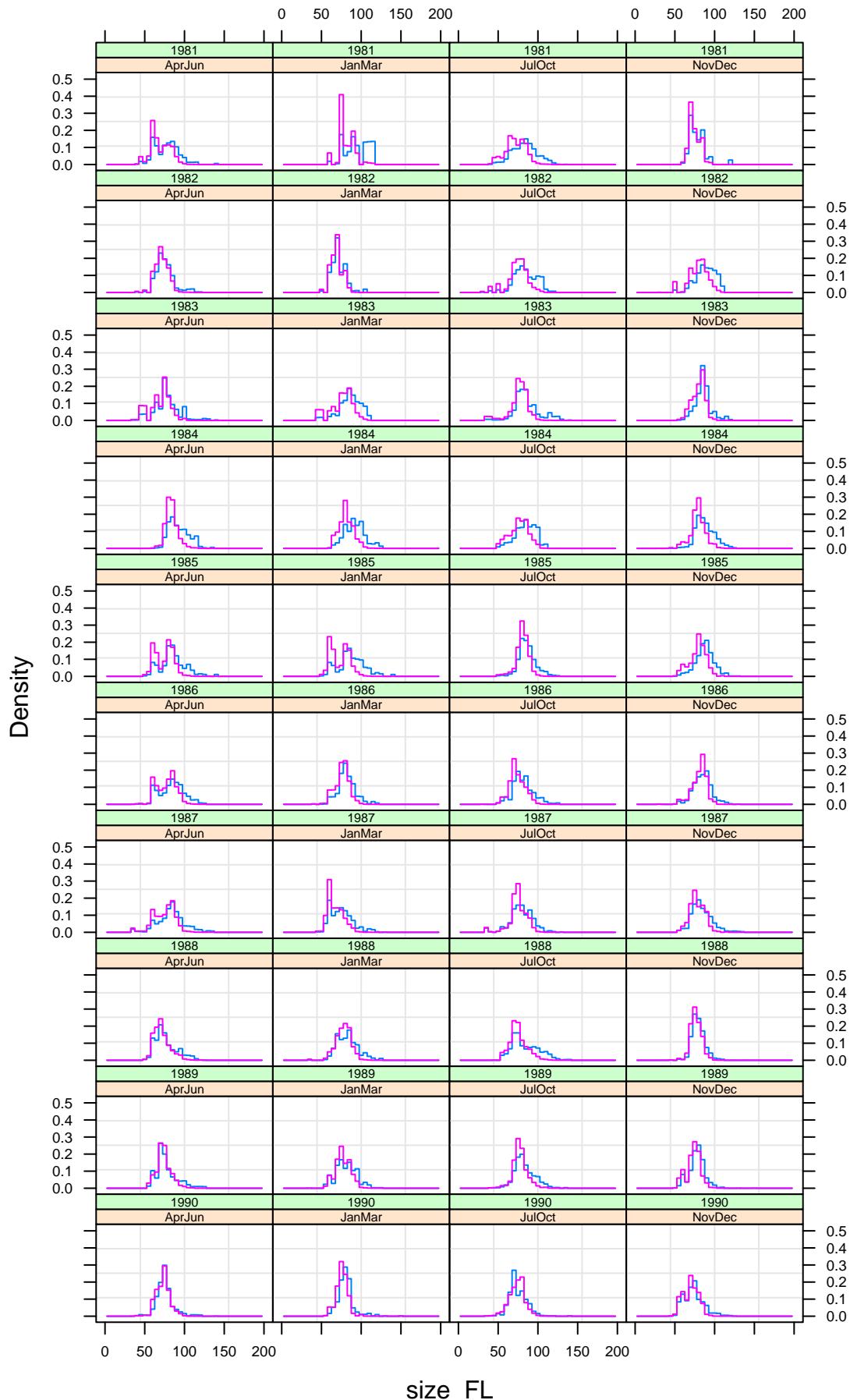


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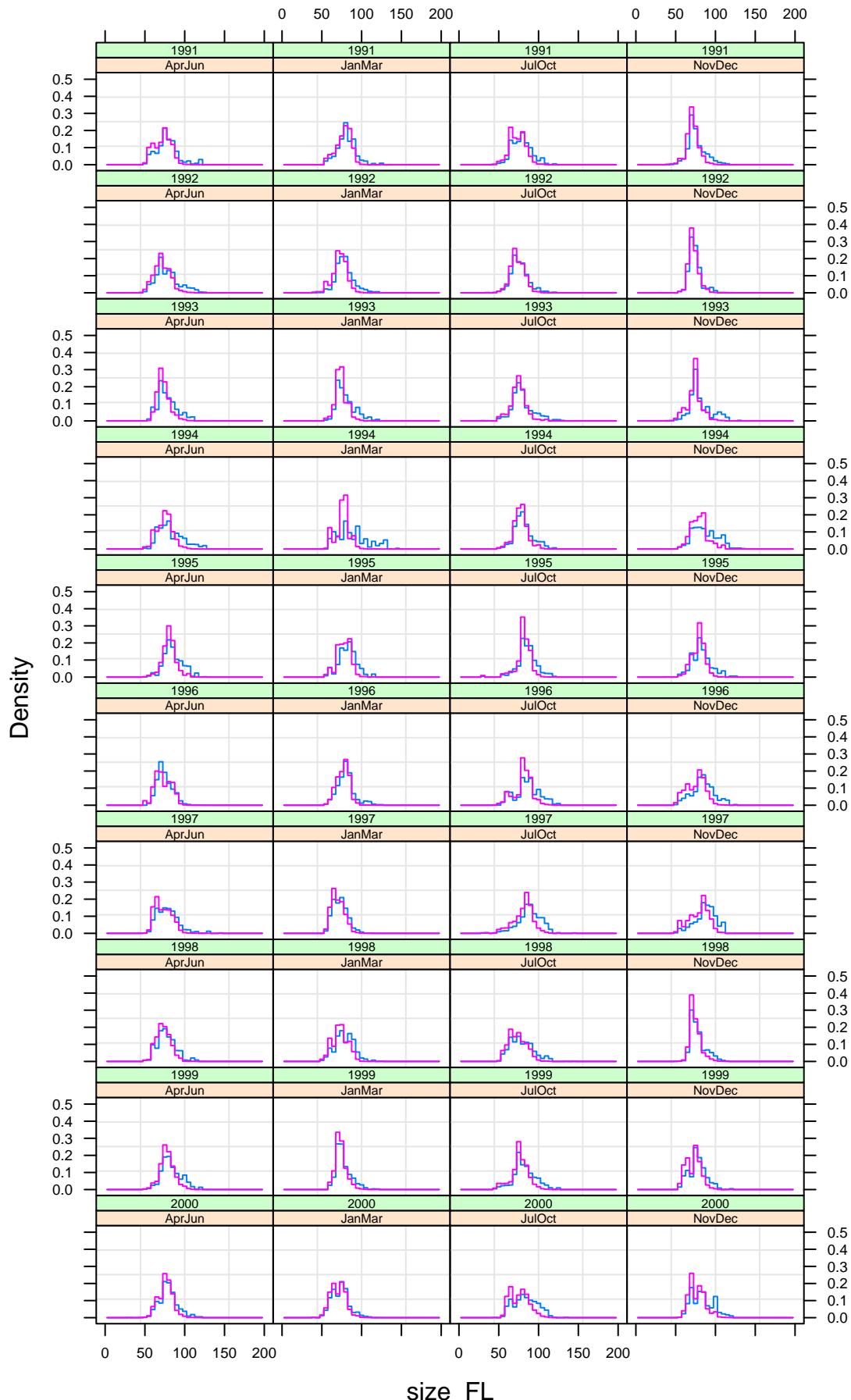


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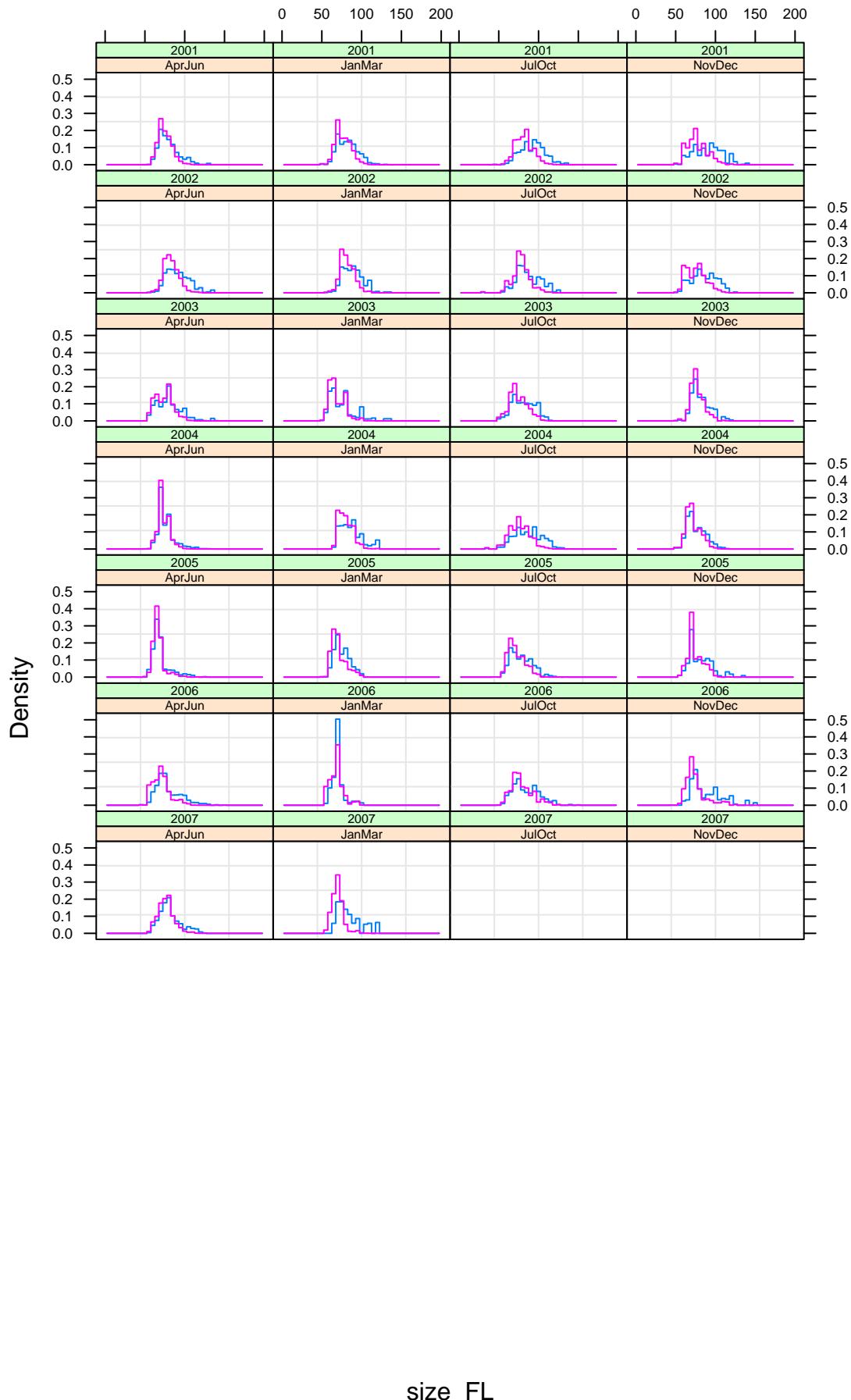
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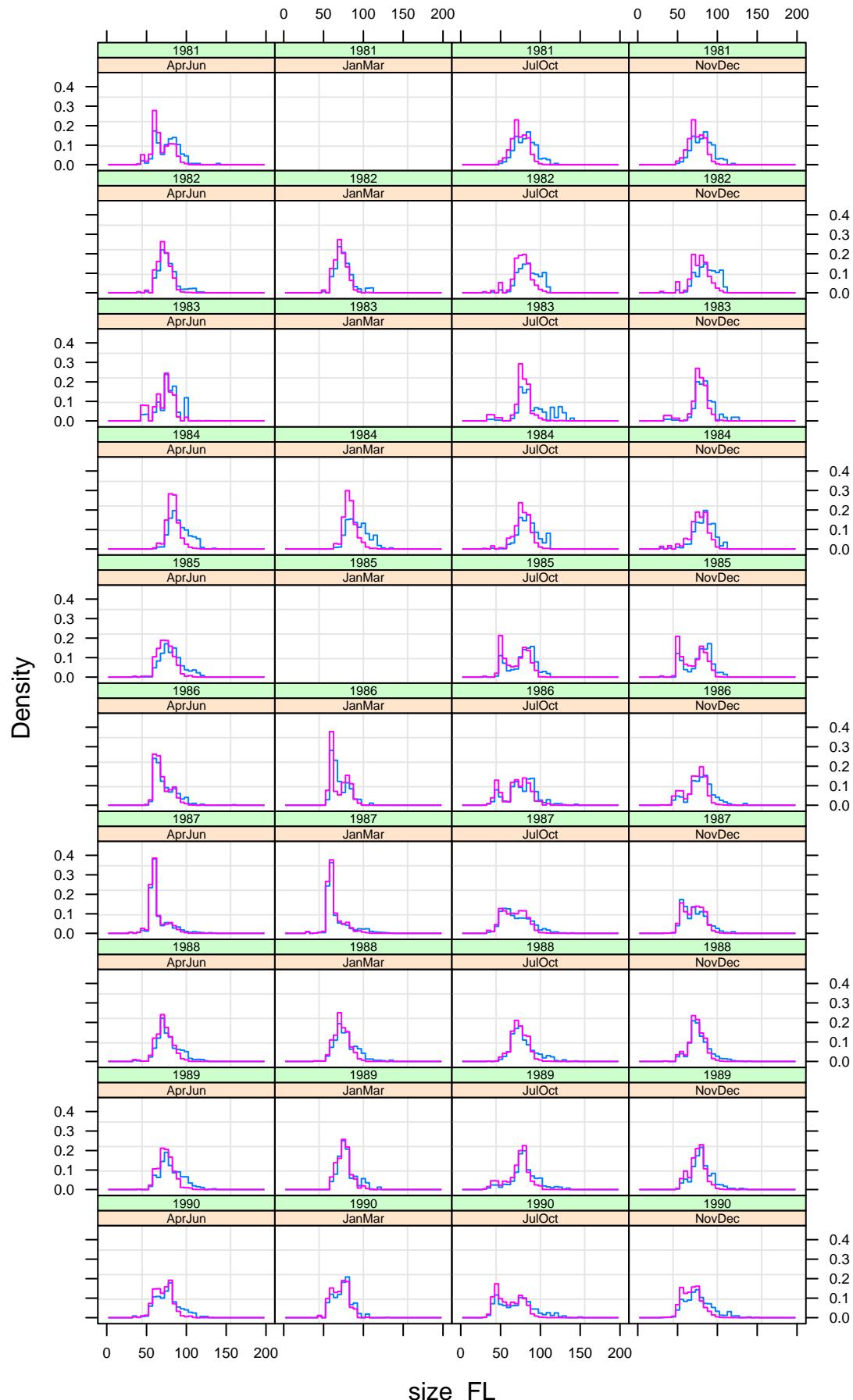
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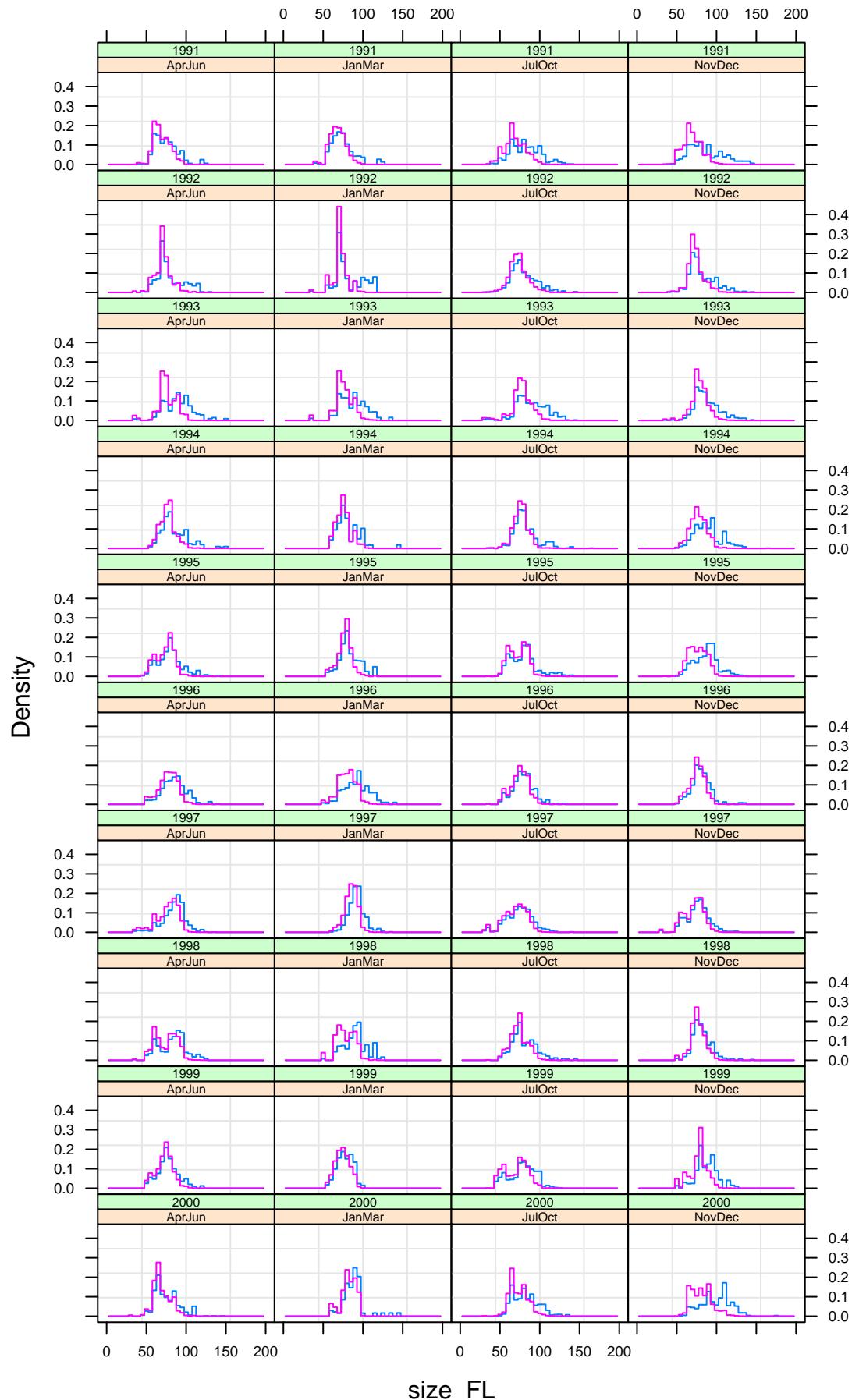
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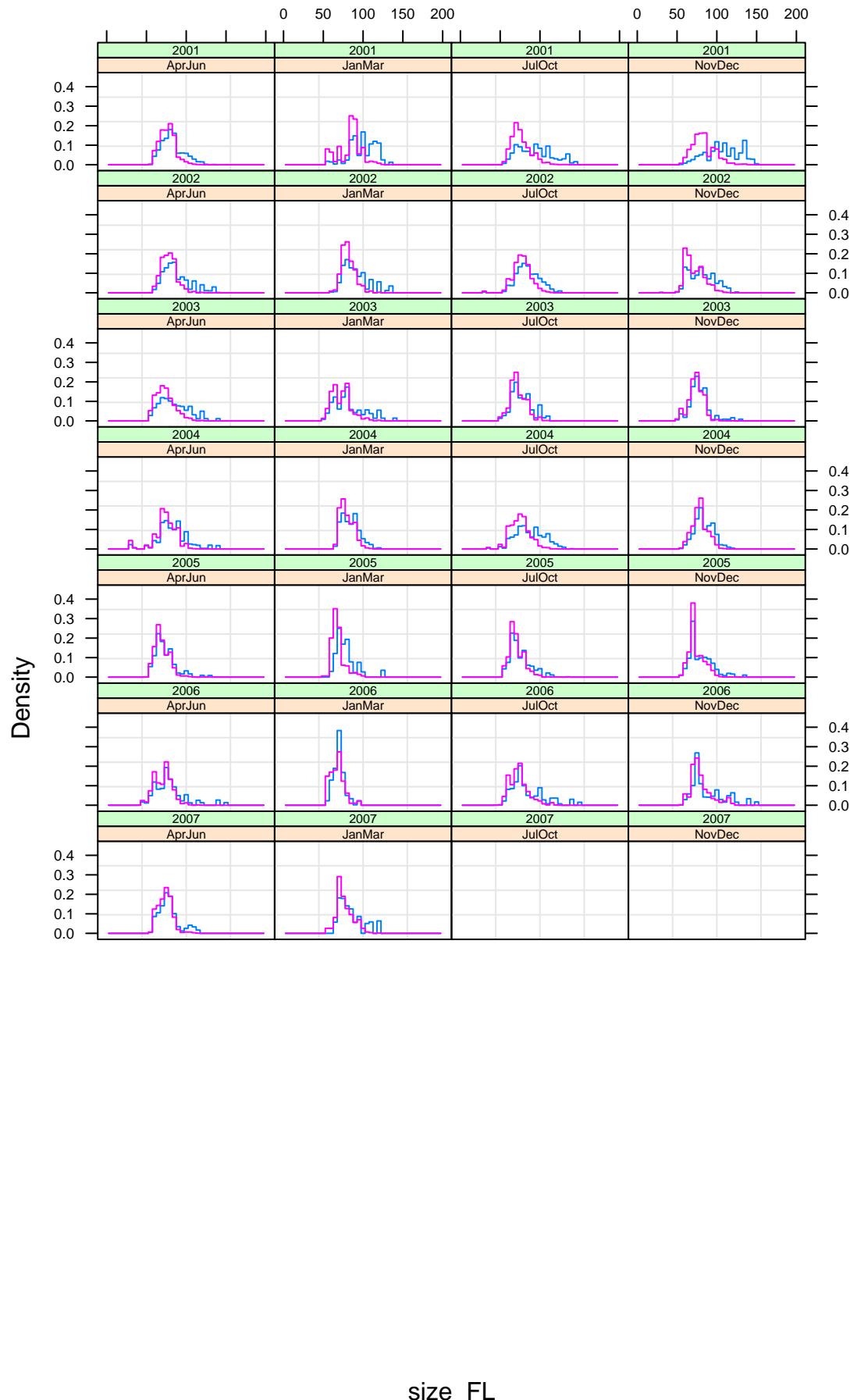
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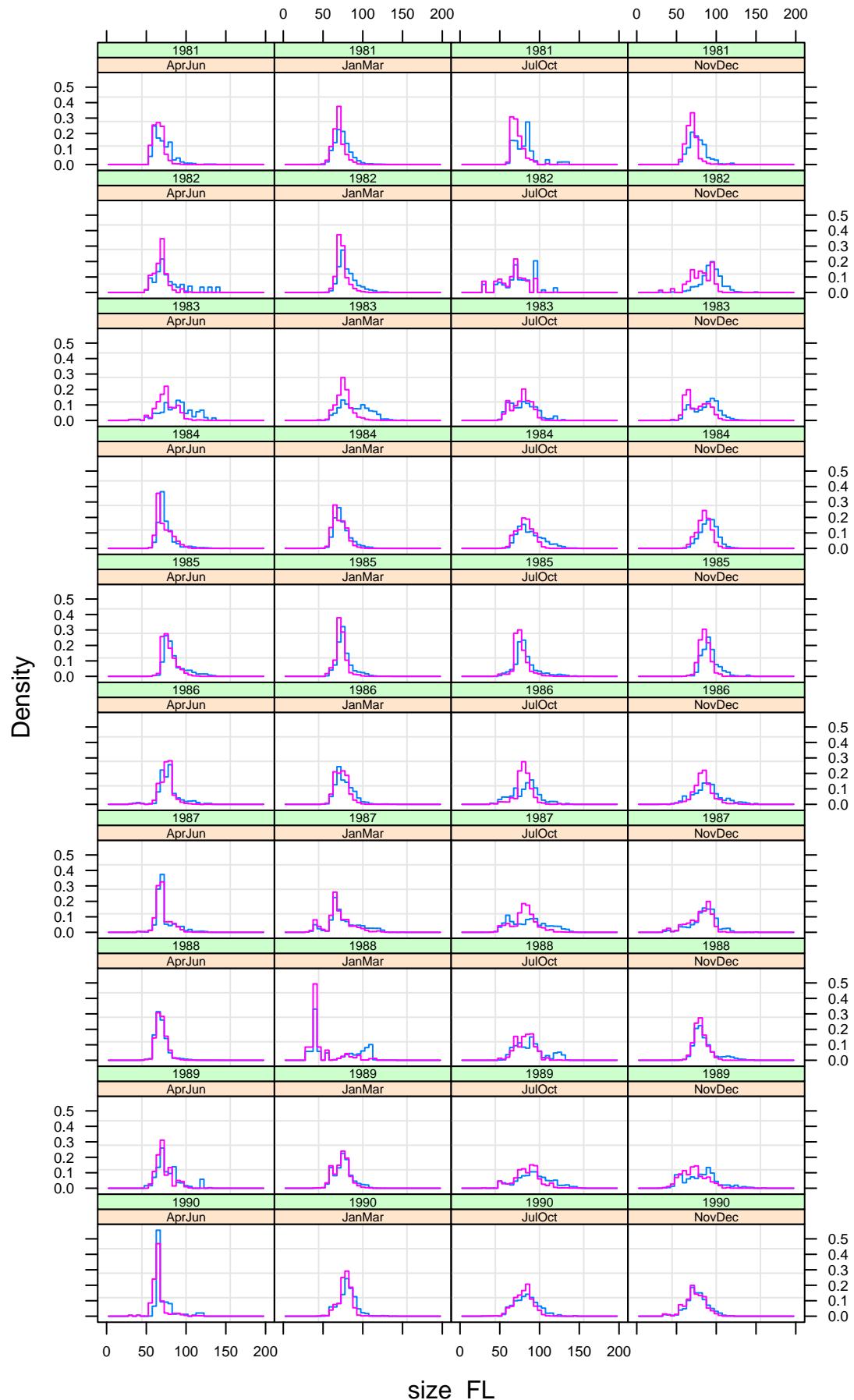
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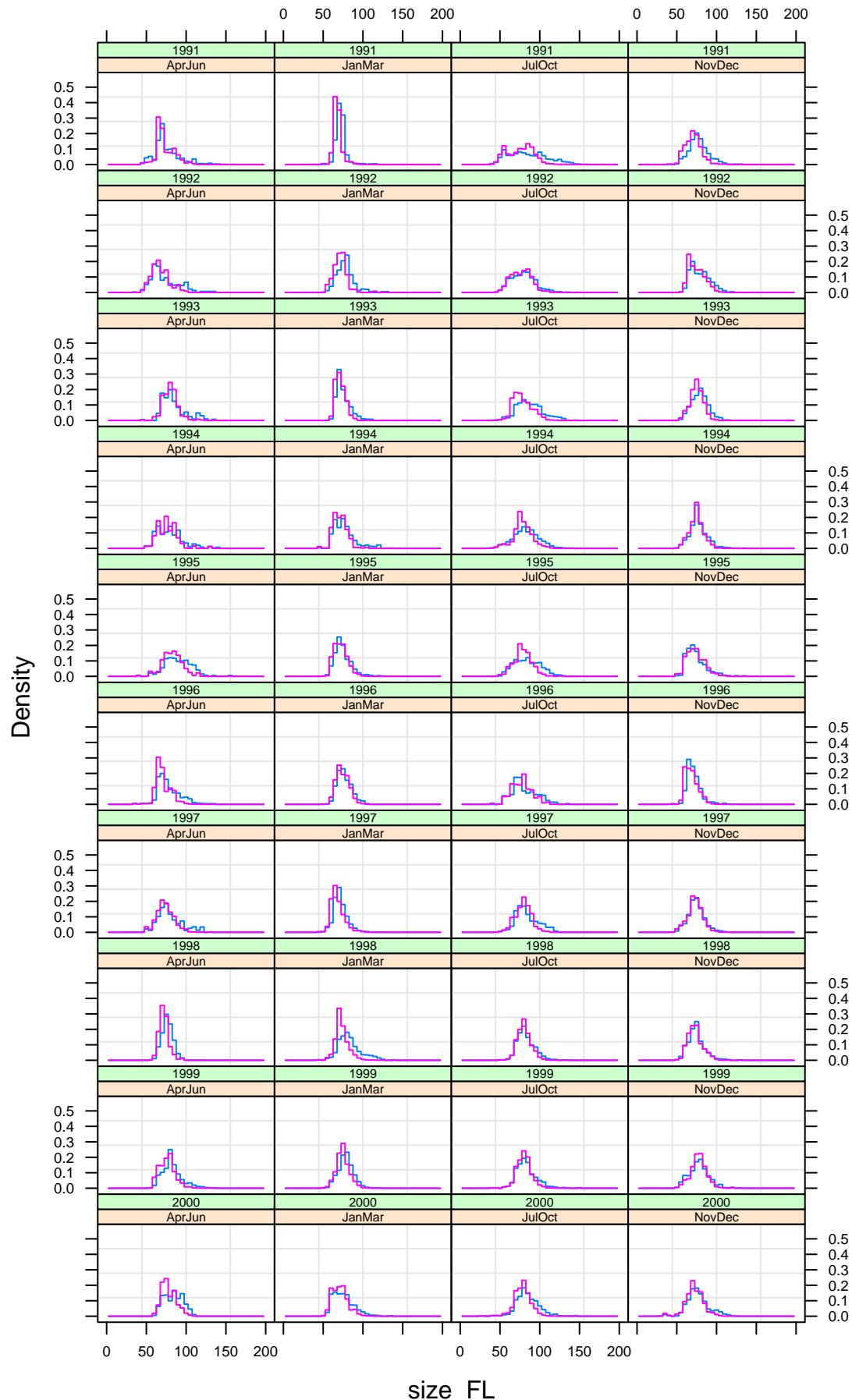
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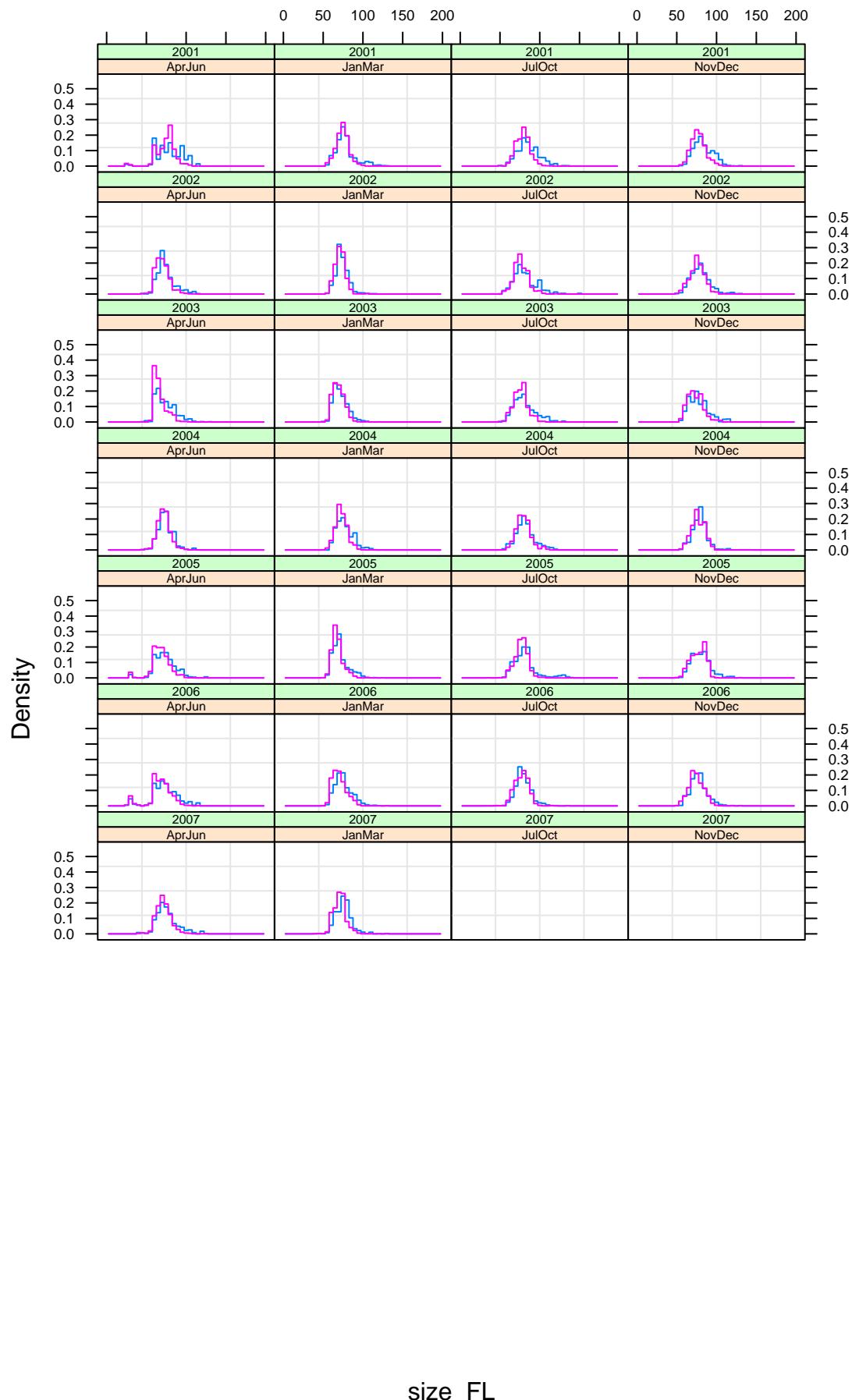
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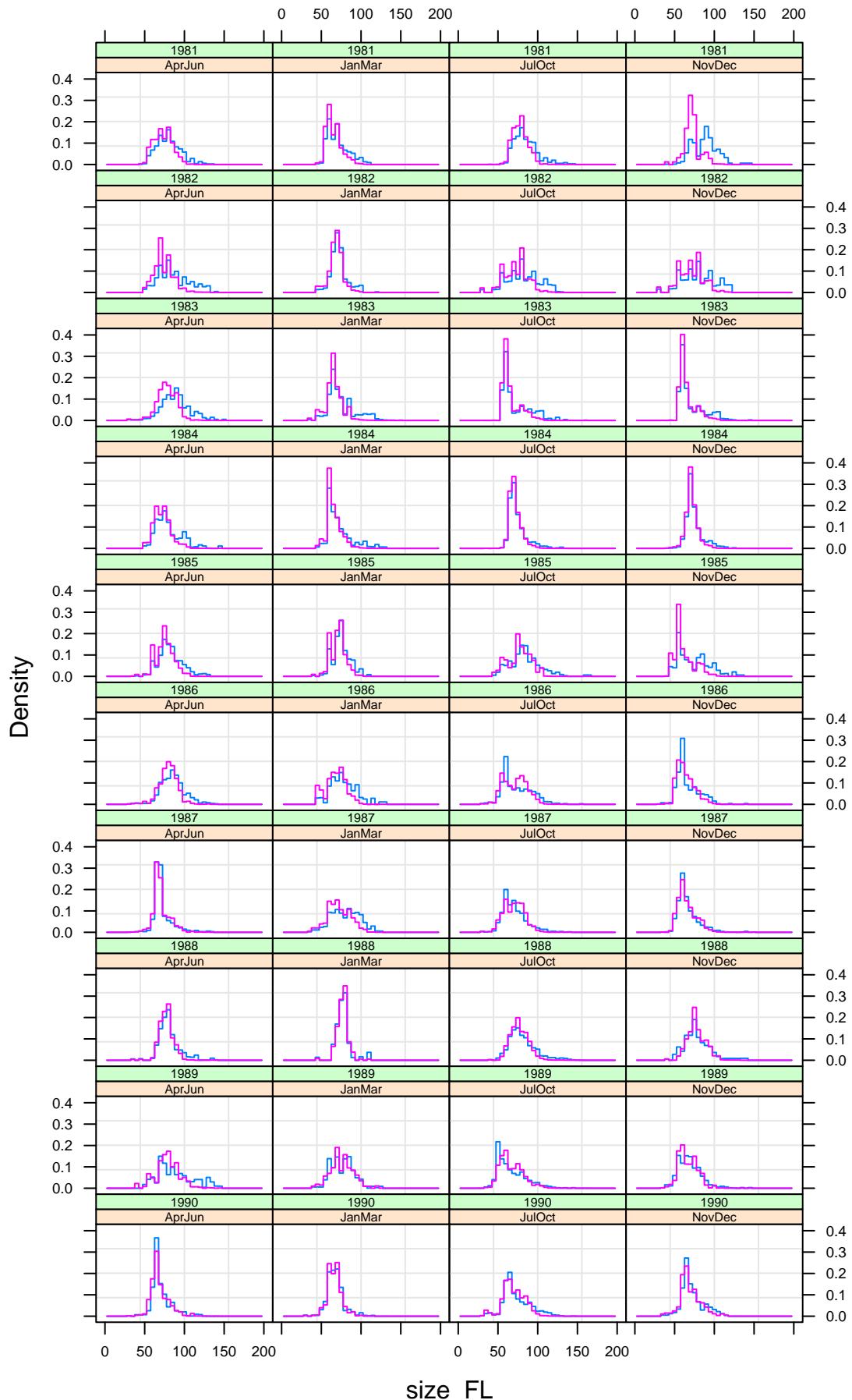
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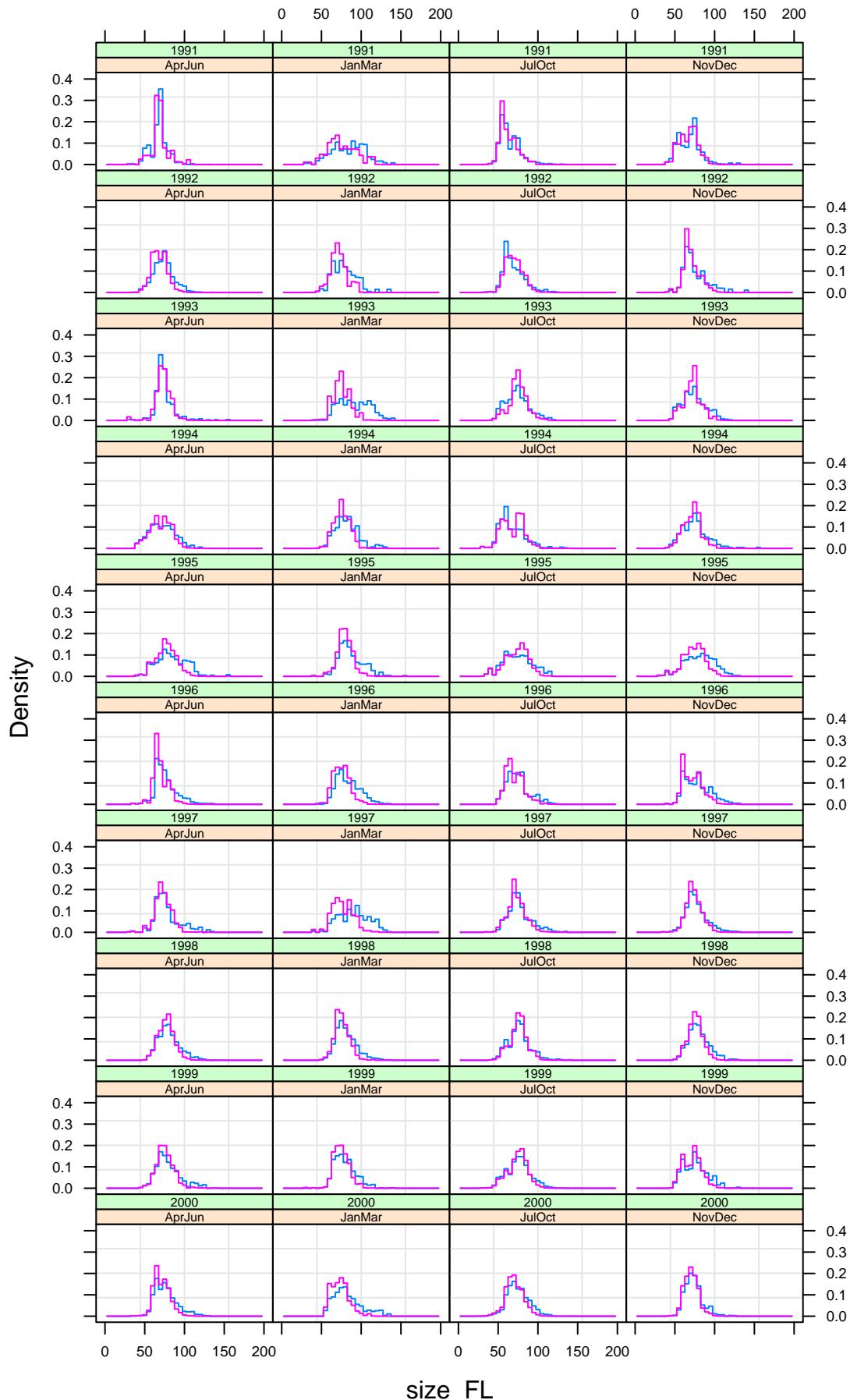
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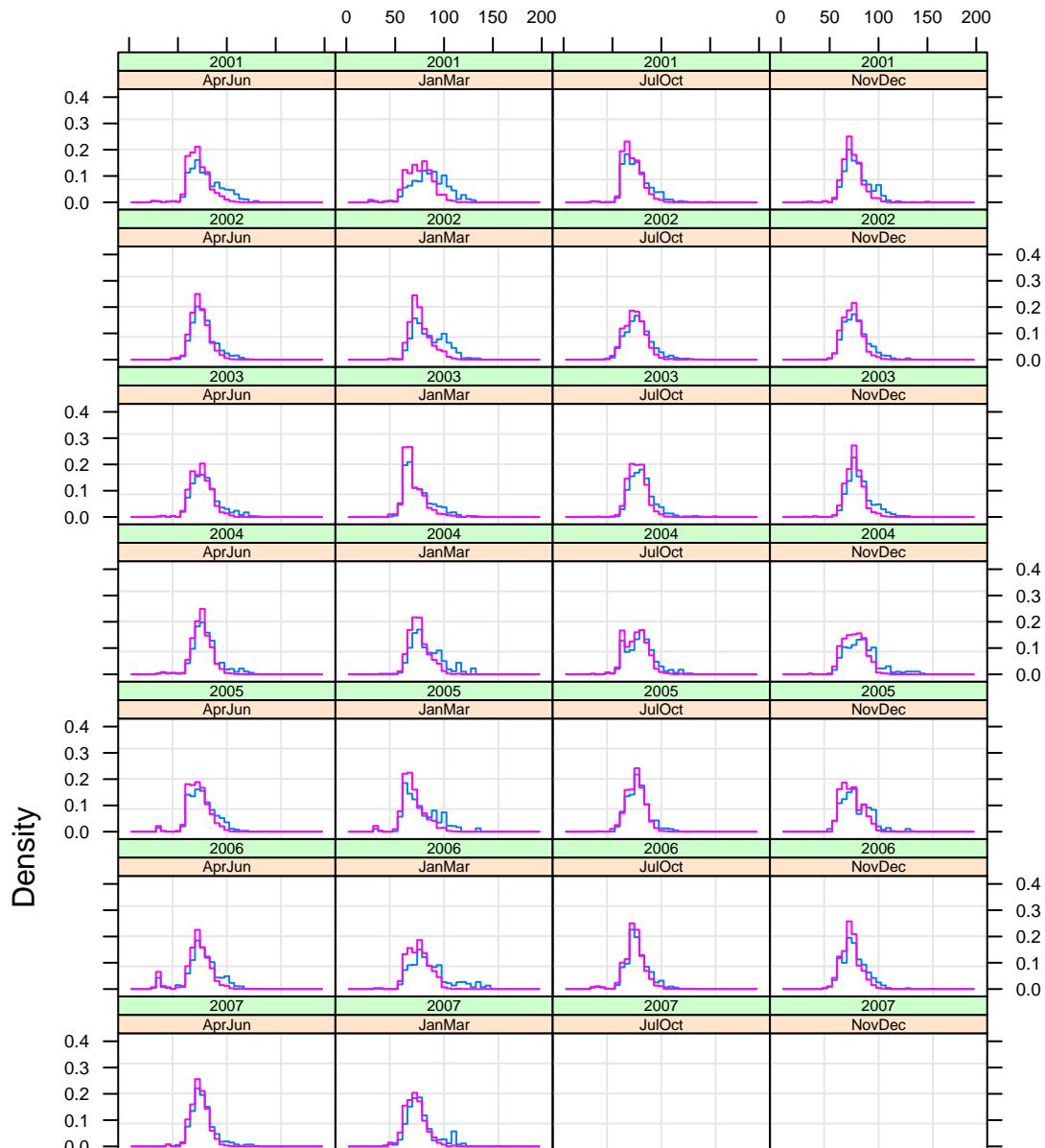
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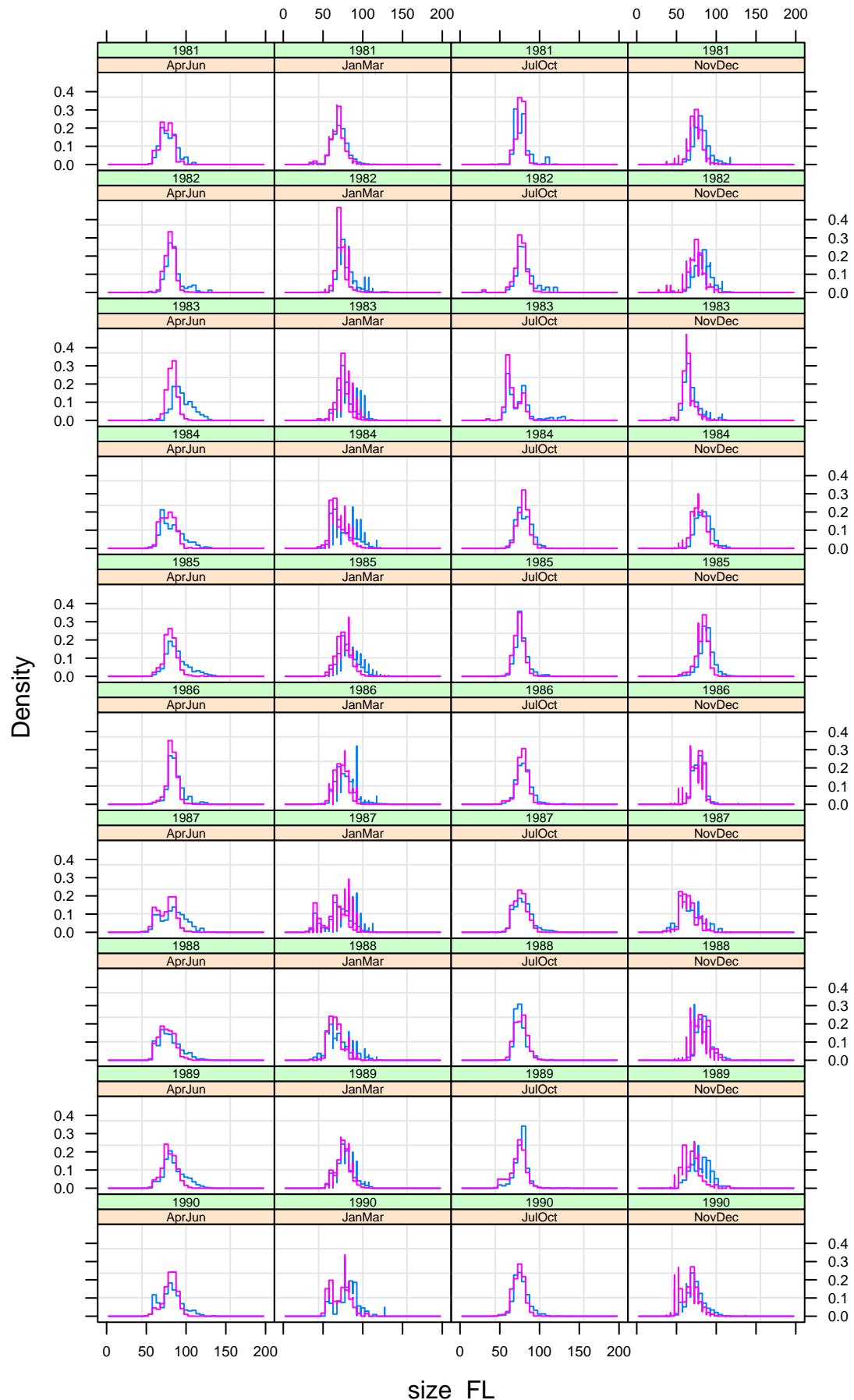


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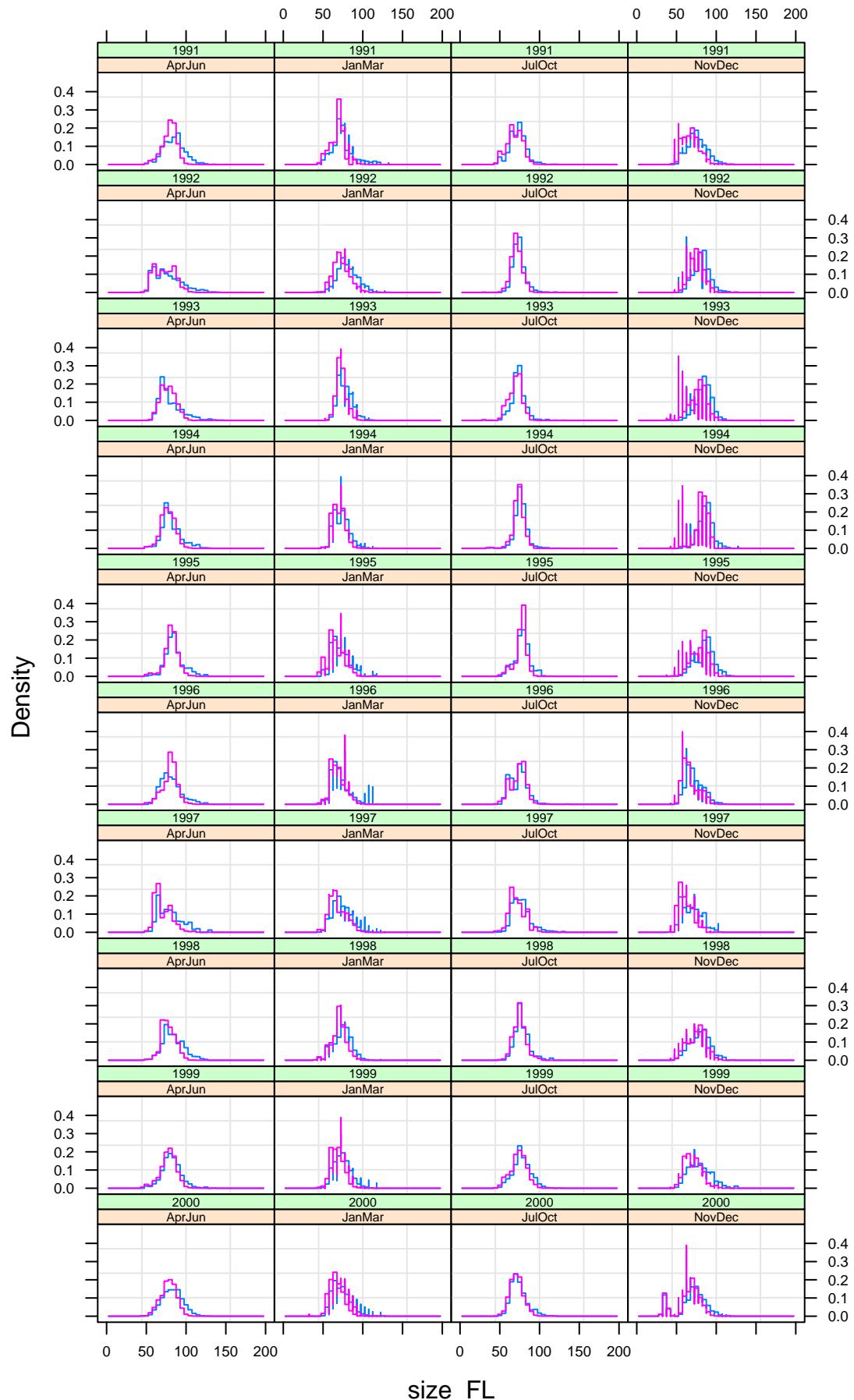


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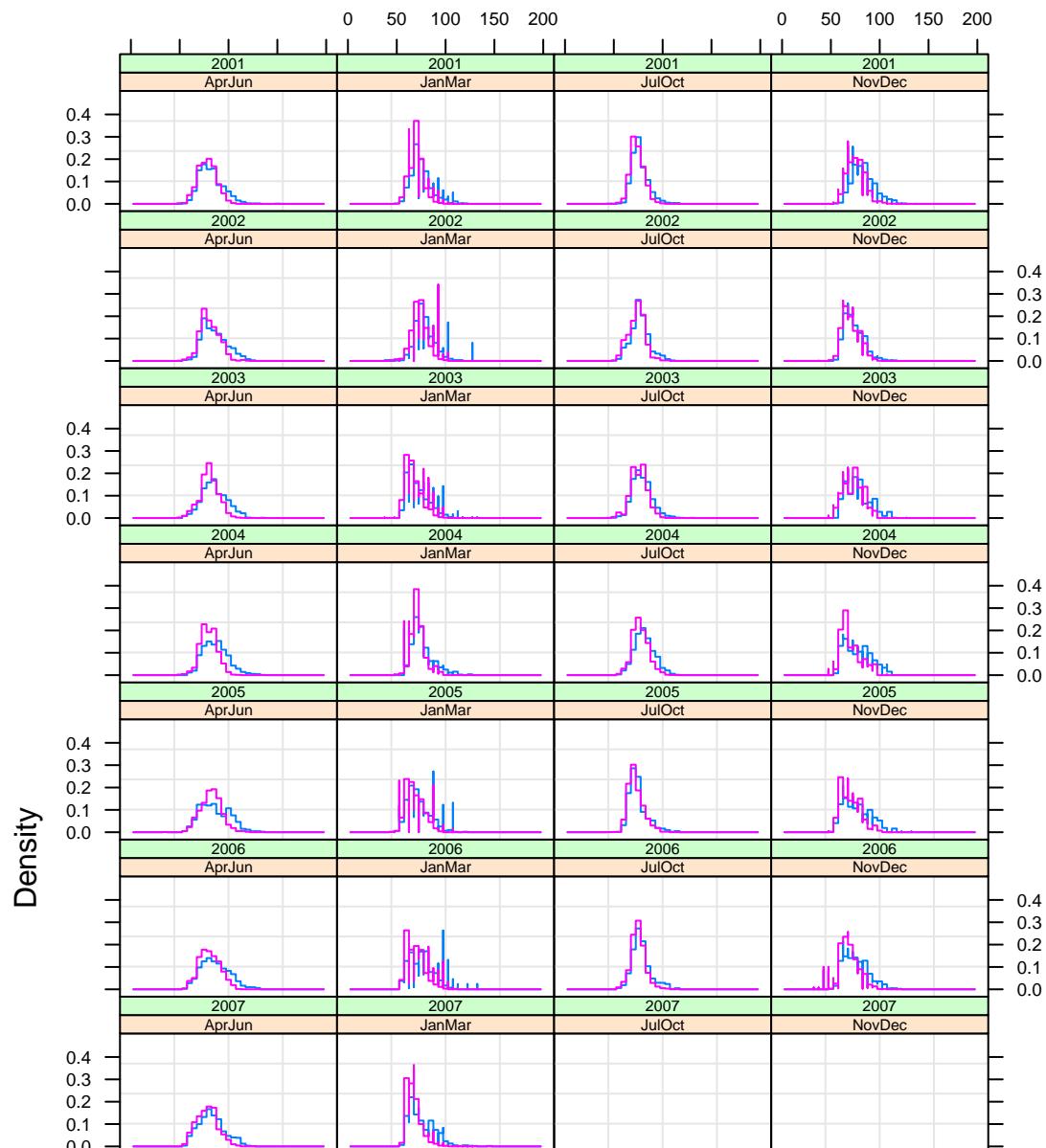
CAS by Sex SR08 MixZone Com



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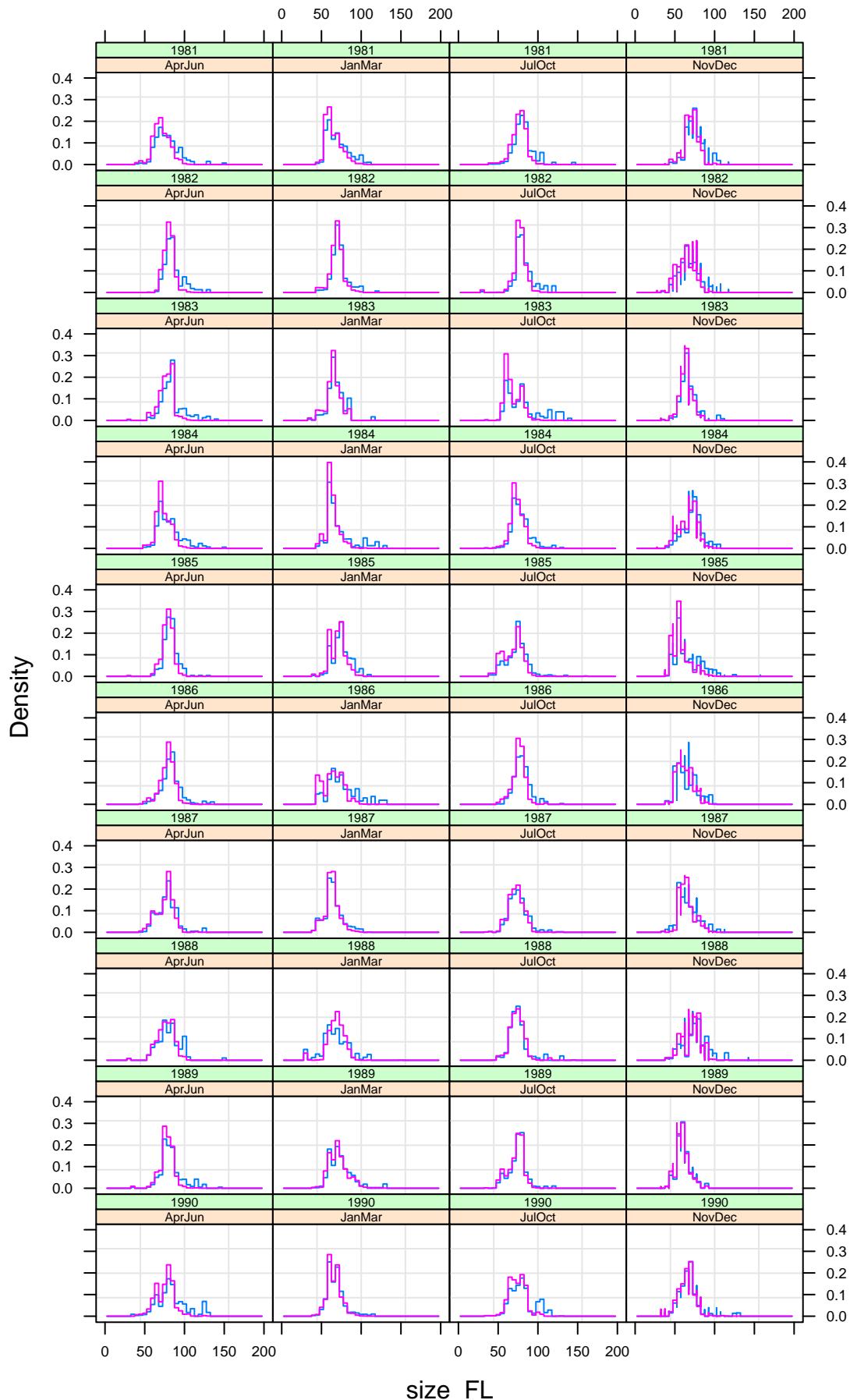


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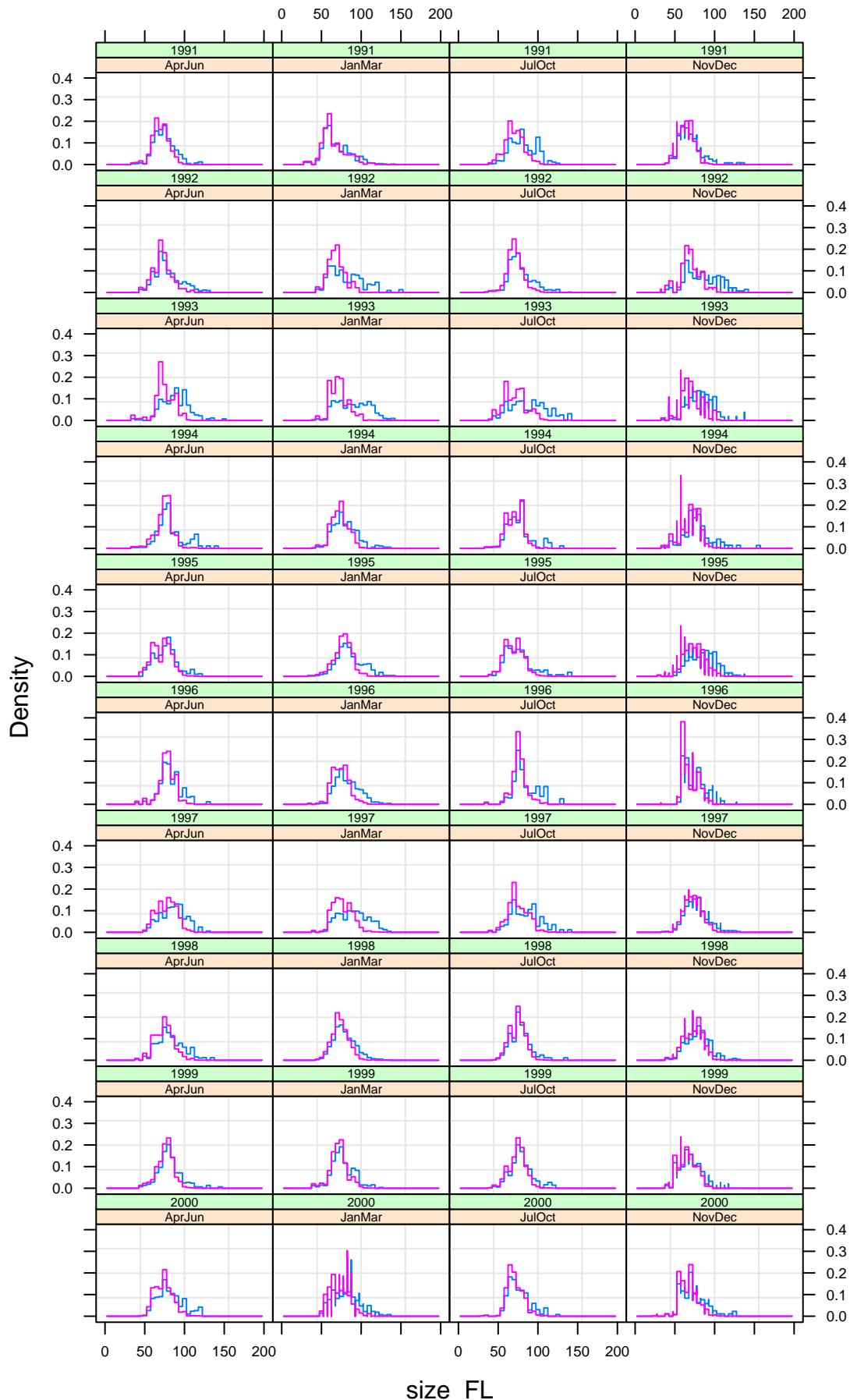


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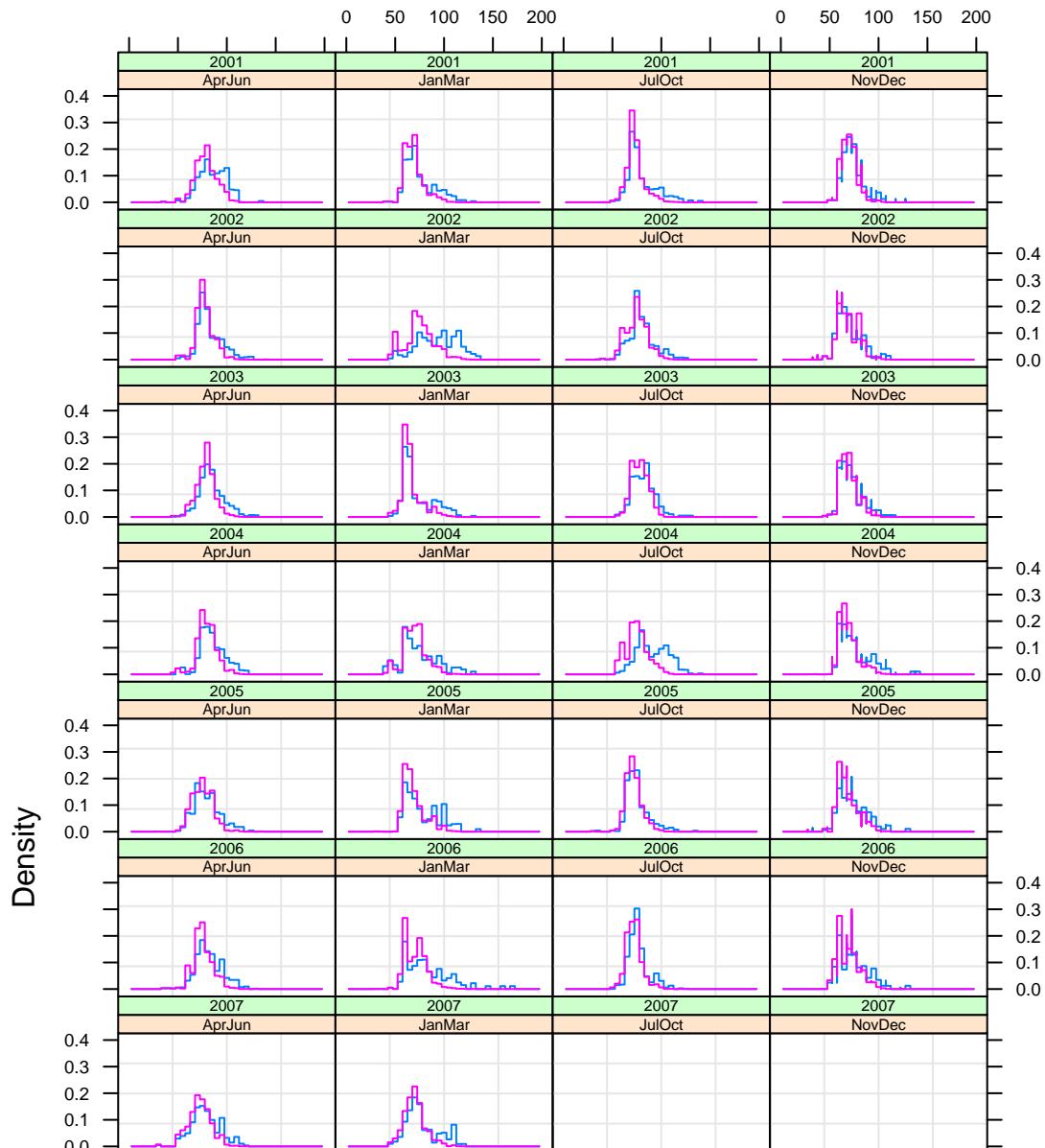
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