



Fisheries Management Division

Dept. of Plans and Statistics

2007 TILEFISH AND GROUPER AGES





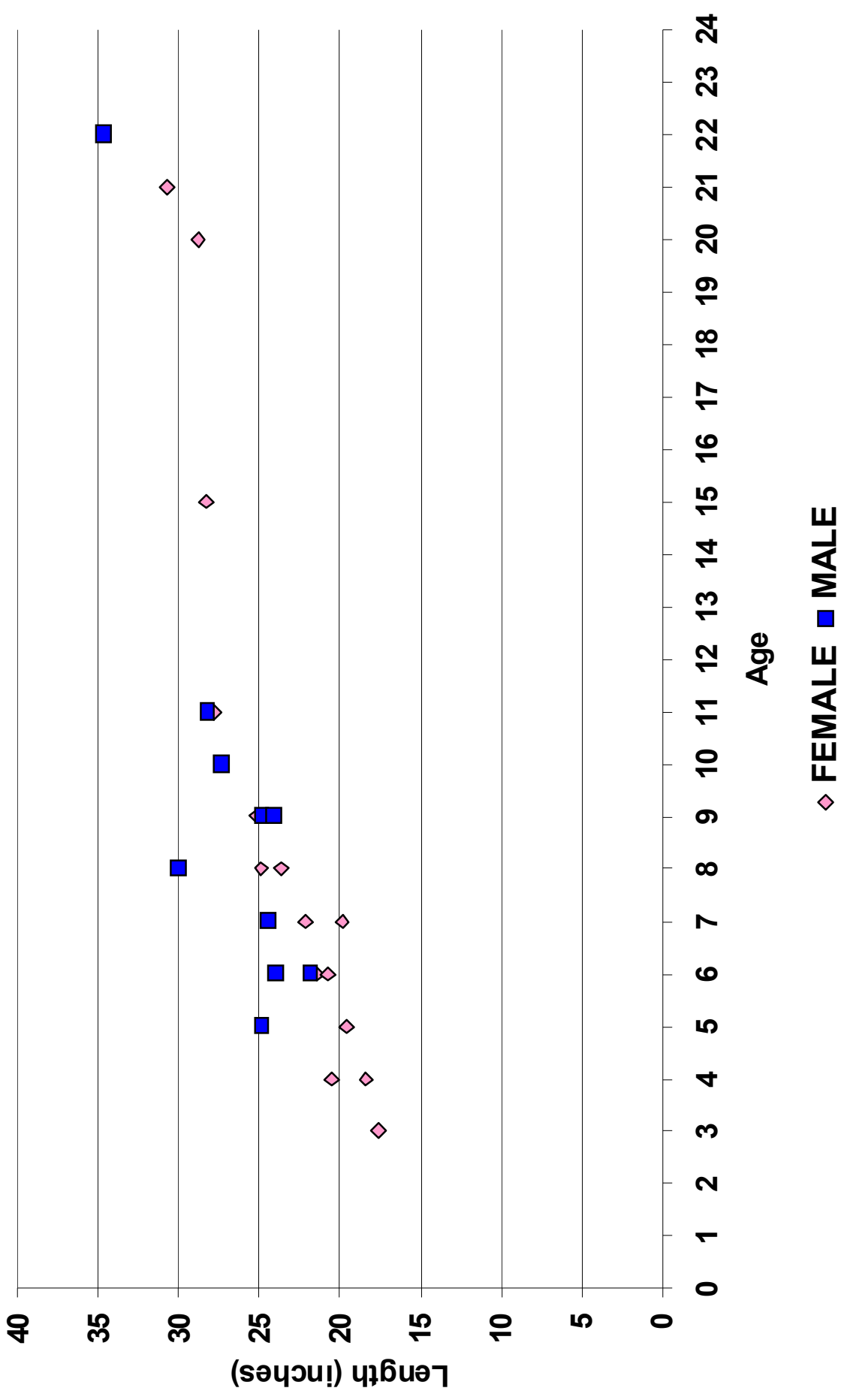
In 2007, VMRC's Fisheries Management Division partnered with anglers, through various means, to begin collecting biological data from the tilefish and grouper being targeted off the Virginia coast.

In addition, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service's Laboratory in Beaufort, NC, volunteered to assist VMRC with the ageing of a sub-sample of tilefish and grouper from Virginia. The Beaufort lab is the primary ageing laboratory for tilefish and grouper in the Southeastern United States, and this cooperative effort ensured that the age data would be consistent with previous studies for these difficult to age fish.

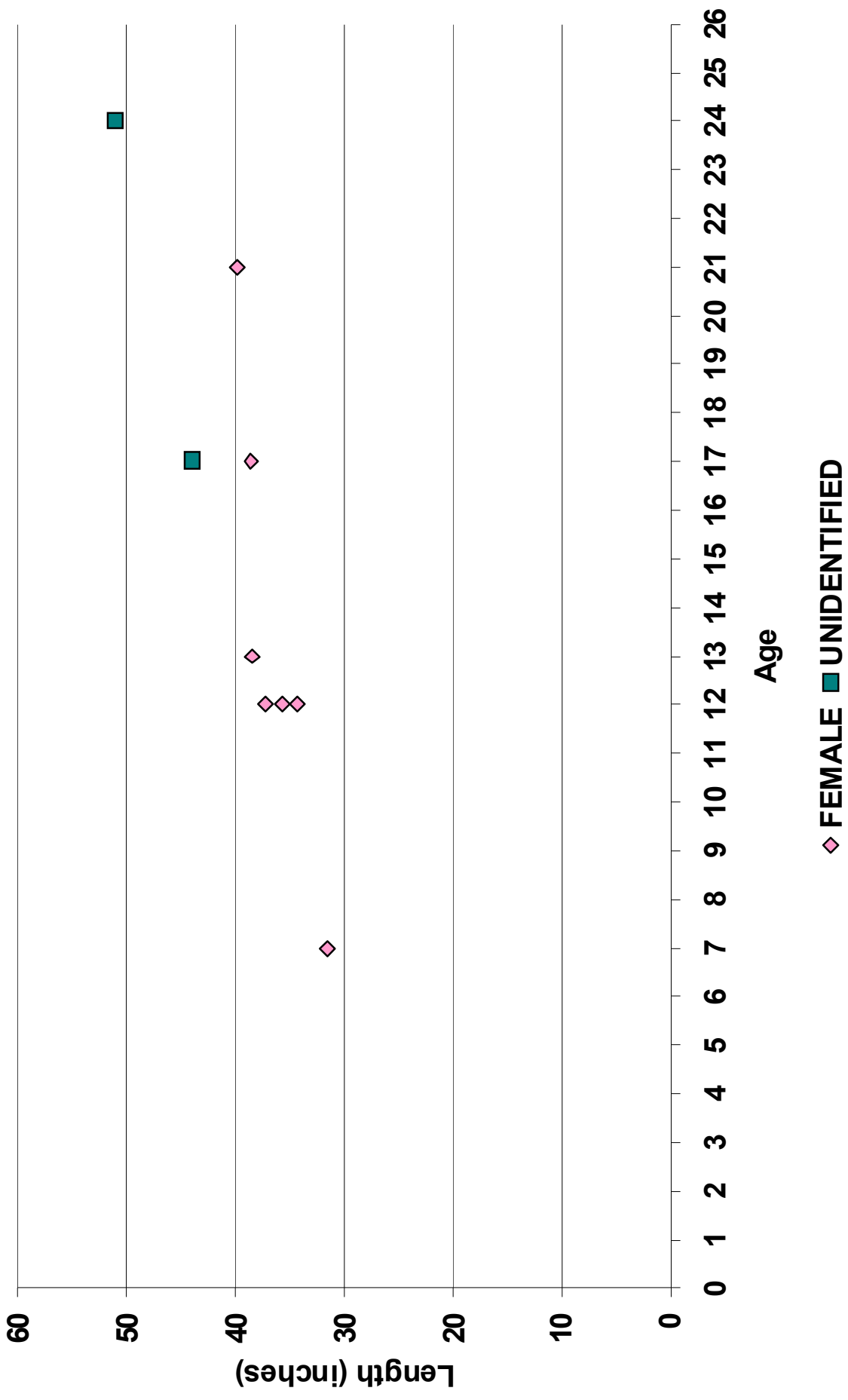


**A sectioned otolith from a snowy grouper
caught off the Virginia coast in 2007**

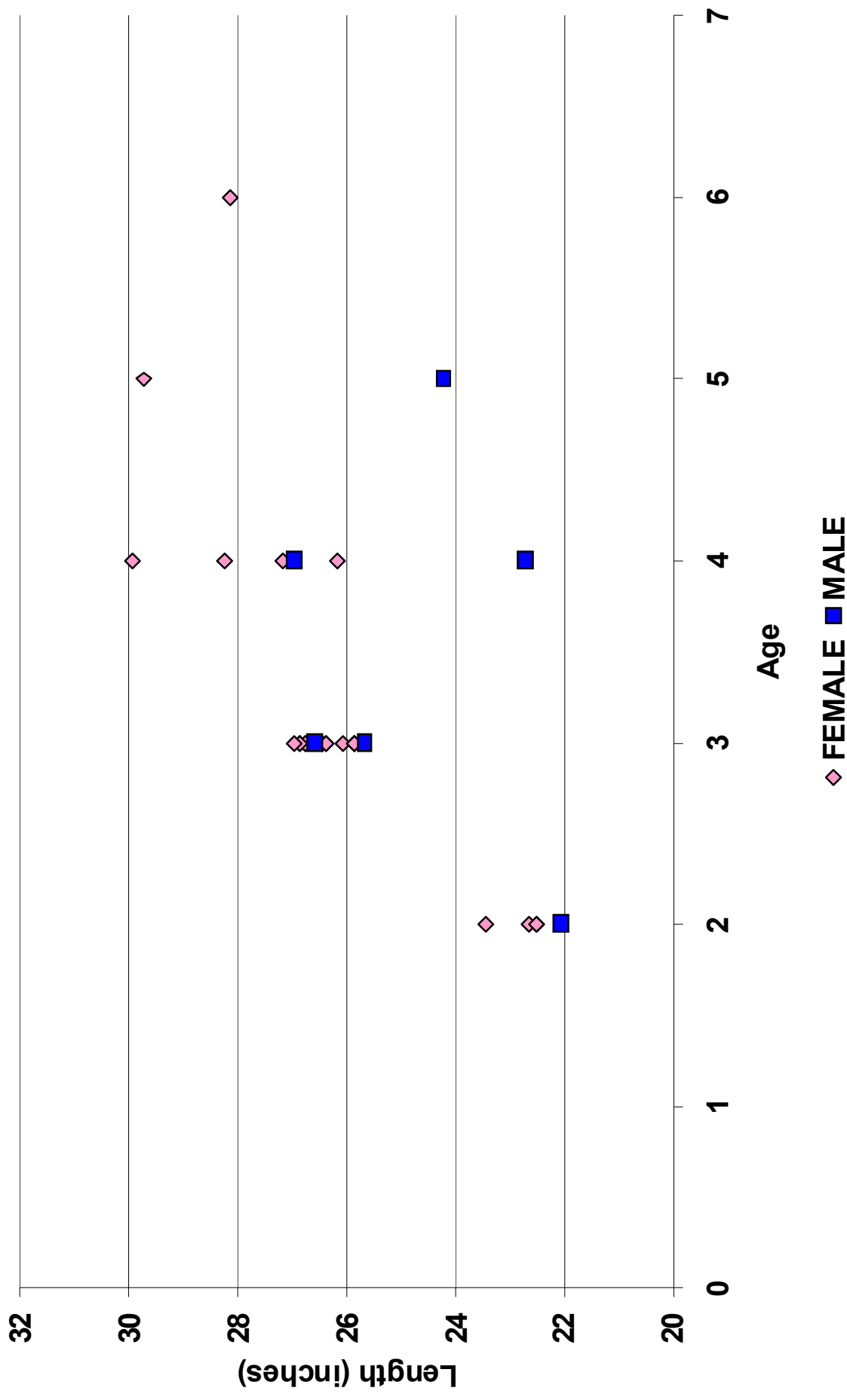
2007 Marine Sportfish Collection Project: Blueline Tilefish



2007 Marine Sportfish Collection Project: Snowy Grouper



2007 Marine Sportfish Collection Project: Wreckfish



Special note from the NMFS Beaufort Lab: The wreckfish provided were all juveniles, and some of the youngest specimens ever received.