Supplementary Table 2. Best fixed-effect structures for jack mackerel (*Trachurus declivis*) and redbait (*Emmelichthys nitidus*) from waters off Kangaroo Island (KI) and New South Wales (NSW) in Australia. Models were first fit with estimates of maximum likelihood and then refit with restricted estimates of maximum likelihood. df=degrees of freedom; AIC_c=Akaike information criterion corrected for small sample size; ΔAIC_c=difference in AICc between current and top model; LL=log likelihood; AIC_cWt=the proportion of the total predictive power of the model set; and R^2_c=conditional coefficient of multiple determination. An asterisk (*) indicates the top-ranked model for each species and region.

Growth comparison	Fixed-effect structure	df	AIC_c	ΔAIC_c	LL	AIC_cWt	R^2_c
T. declivis—KI	*Age**	12	129.75	0.00	−52.64	0.68	0.71
	AgeCap	12	149.42	19.67	−62.47	<0.001	0.67
	Age + AgeCap	13	131.28	1.52	−52.36	0.31	0.71
T. declivis—NSW	*Age**	12	75.82	0.00	−25.53	0.54	0.72
	AgeCap	12	96.21	20.39	−35.72	<0.001	0.72
	Age + AgeCap	13	76.21	0.39	−24.66	0.45	0.72
E. nitidus—KI	*Age**	12	54.65	0.00	−14.37	0.75	0.62
	AgeCap	12	70.38	15.73	−22.24	<0.001	0.79
	Age + AgeCap	13	56.86	2.21	−14.31	0.24	0.63
E. nitidus—NSW	*Age**	12	254.91	0.00	−115.07	0.65	0.59
	AgeCap	12	287.72	32.82	−131.47	<0.001	0.60
	Age + AgeCap	13	256.18	1.28	−114.64	0.34	0.58