

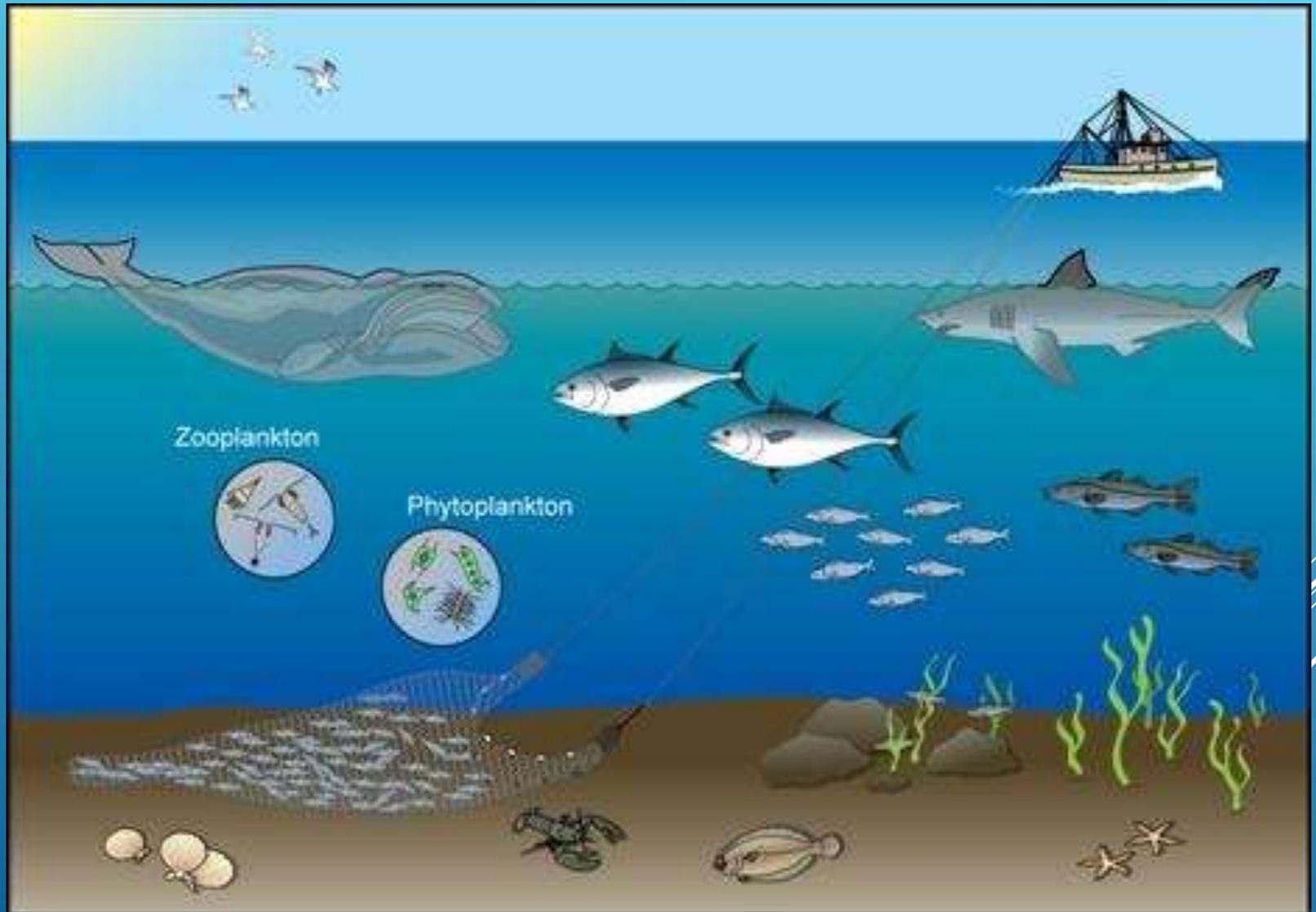
# THE SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION ECOPATH MODEL

Forming a workgroup to facilitate SSC engagement

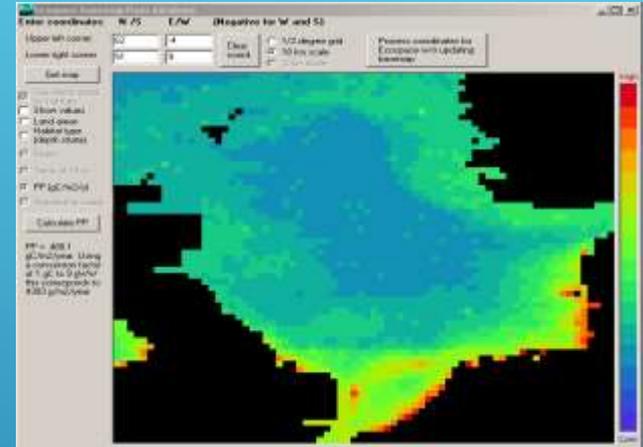
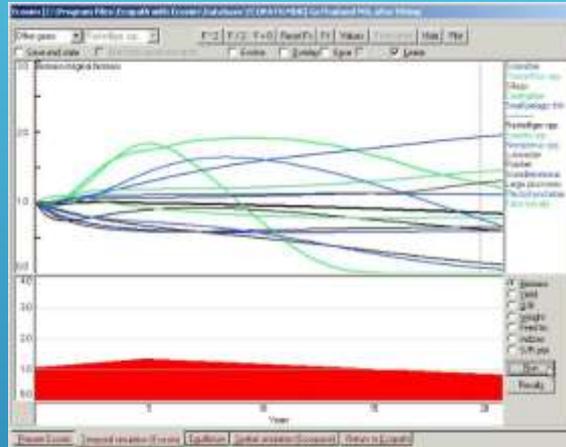
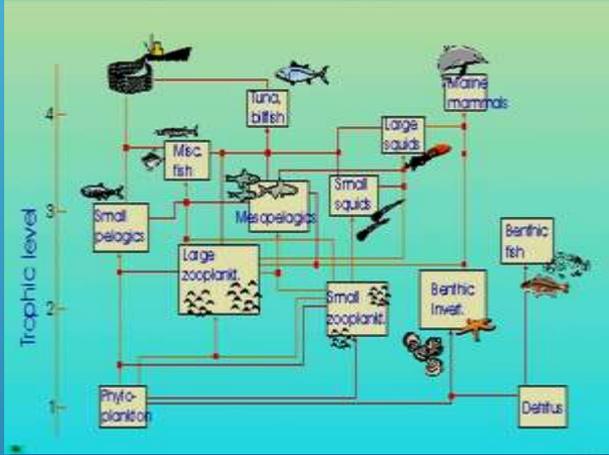
Tom Okey, Ocean Integrity Research and the University of Victoria  
Roger Pugliese, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
Howard Townsend, NOAA/NMFS/ST/Ecosystems

SAFMC Scientific and Statistical Committee Meeting  
15-17 October 2018

# FISHERY-ECOSYSTEM MODEL

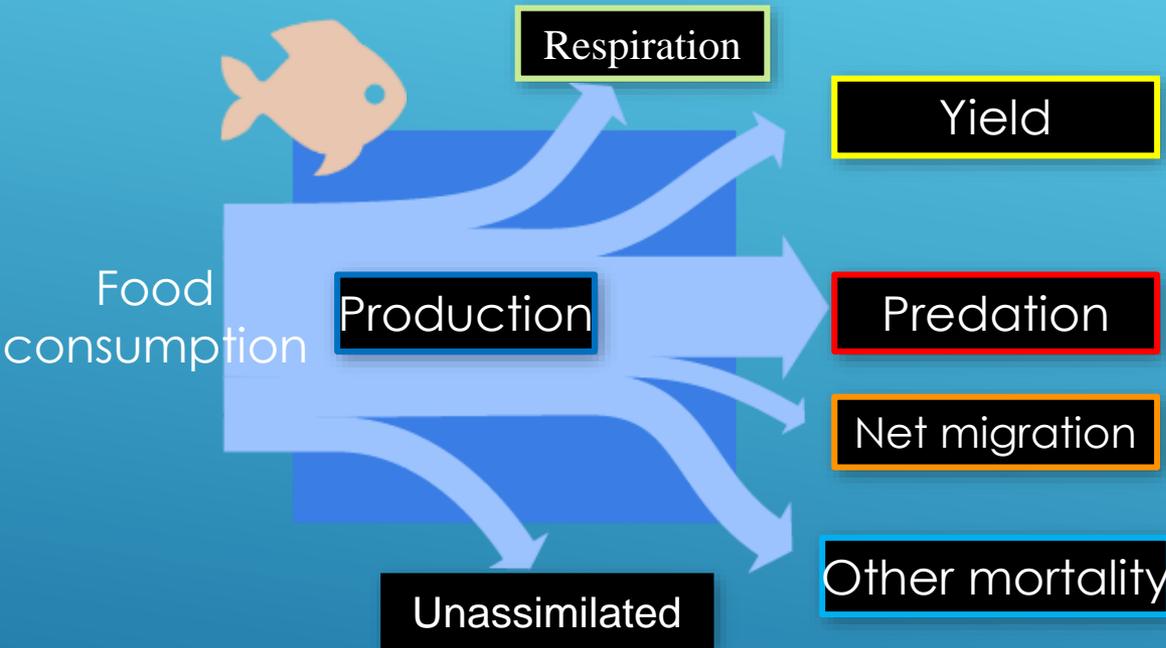


# ECOPATH / ECOSIM / ECOSPACE





# ECOPATH



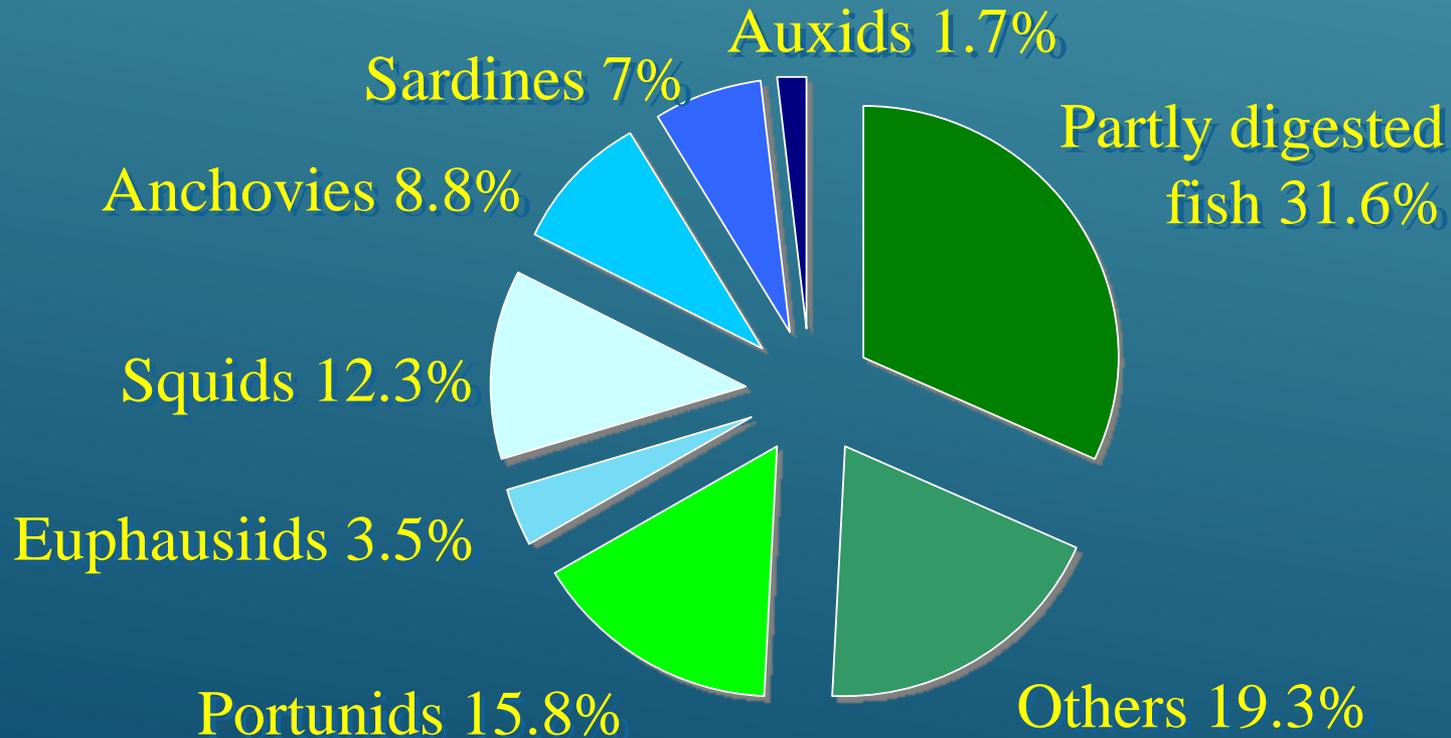
$B_i$	Biomass
$P_i/B_i$	Production
$Q_i/B_i$	Specific consumption
$DC_{ij}$	Fraction of prey $i$ in diet of predator $j$
$B_i A_i$	Biomass accumulation
$EE_i$	Production used in the system
$1-EE_i$	Unexplained mortality

$$1. \left(\frac{Q}{B}\right)_i \cdot B_i = \left(\frac{P}{B}\right)_i \cdot B_i + R_i + UN_i$$

$$2. \left(\frac{P}{B}\right)_i \cdot B_i = \sum_{Pred_j=1}^n \left(\frac{Q}{B}\right)_j \cdot B_j \cdot DC_{ij} + E_i + Y_i + BA_i + \left(\frac{P}{B}\right)_i \cdot B_i \cdot (1 - EE_i)$$

# Diet composition

e.g., for a tuna



Use volume or weight!

# SOUTH ATLANTIC BIGHT FOOD WEB (99-BOX)

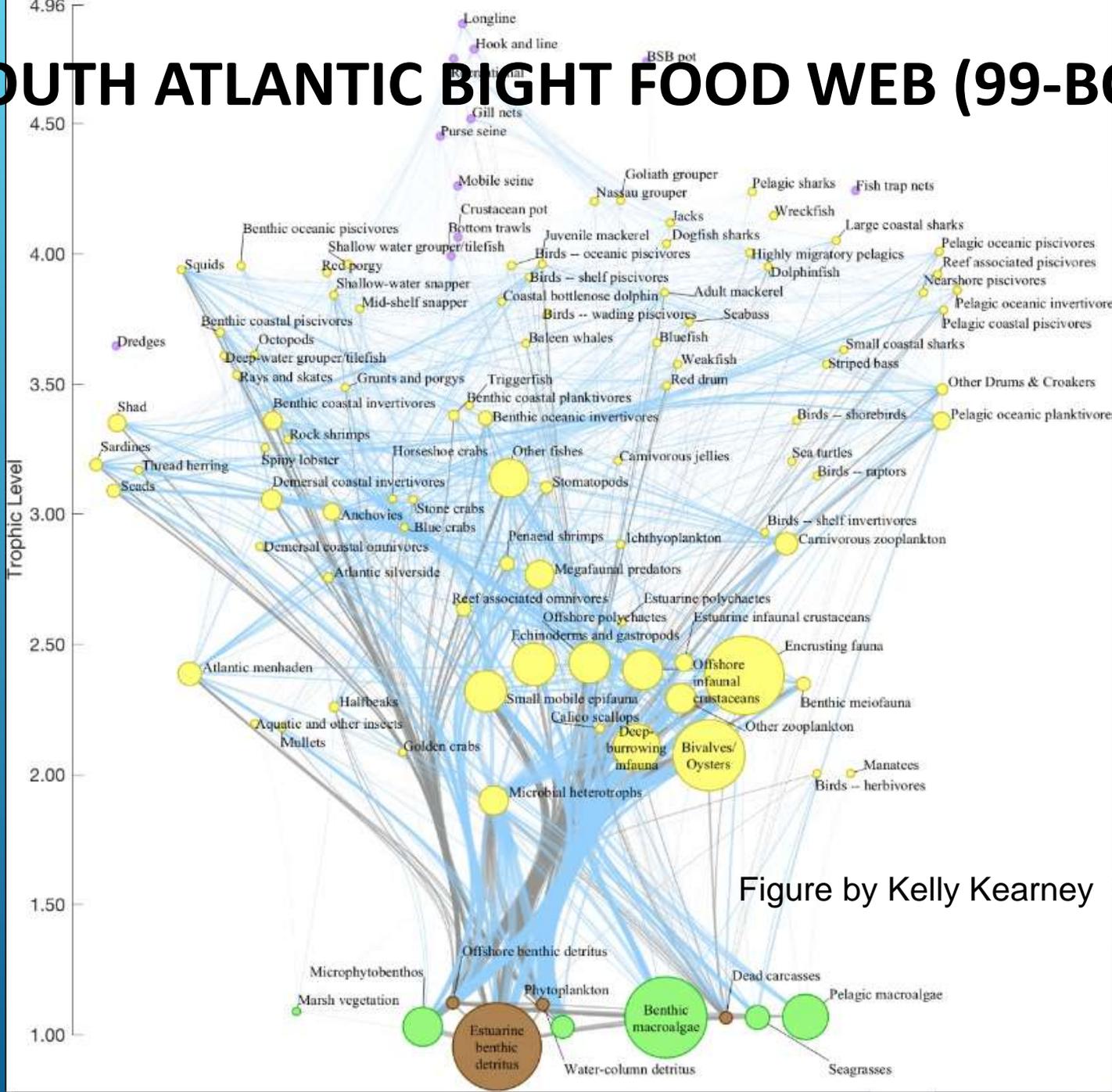


Figure by Kelly Kearney

# HISTORY OF THE SAB MODEL

- ▶ **2001** - Strawman 48-group model constructed
  - ▶ **2004** - Preliminary 98-group model developed
  - ▶ **2014** - Model refined to address forage fish questions (99 groups)
  - ▶ **2018** – Model refinement to articulate the managed species (137 boxes)
- 

# Preliminary SAS model

- Sponsored by SAFMC
- 42-box model
- 98-box model



## Fisheries Centre Research Reports

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2001 Volume 9 Number 4

Southeastern United States, Atlantic Shelf, Page 167

### A PRELIMINARY ECOPATH MODEL OF THE ATLANTIC CONTINENTAL SHELF ADJACENT TO THE SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES

Thomas A. Okey<sup>1</sup> and Roger Pugliese<sup>2</sup>

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#### ABSTRACT

The biological communities of the Atlantic continental shelf adjacent to the southeastern United States are well known, but this knowledge is not integrated into a cohesive description of that region. We constructed a preliminary food web model of this area using Ecopath with Ecosim, as a way to initiate a long-term process of integrating this knowledge, learning more about the structure and resiliency of the system, and helping to guide research priorities in the future. The current model is considered to be a first iteration that can be used as a vehicle to stimulate a more rigorous refinement effort in the near future. The ecologically defined area covered by this model extends from Cape Hatteras, North Carolina to the easternmost extent of the Florida Keys, and from the intertidal zone (or the entrance of estuarine systems) to the 500 m isobath. The time period characterized by this preliminary model is the four years from 1995 to 1998.

the Gulf Stream advect the underlying nutrient rich slope waters onto the shelf (Mallin *et al.* 2000). This region as a whole supports a diverse assemblage of marine organisms, as it is somewhat of an ecological interface, or gradient, between warm-water and cold-water species assemblages. We refer the reader to Mallin *et al.* (2000) for a general description of the ecological setting, processes, and related research. A brief overview of special habitats is presented below.

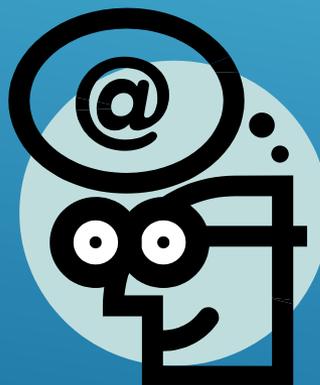
Human activities along the east coast of the southeastern United States have influenced the adjacent continental shelf ecosystem for thousands of years, as native Americans conducted some limited artisanal fisheries and modified fire regimes and the vegetation in upland watersheds (e.g., Cronon, 1983). Modifications to the ecology of the continental shelf ecosystem accelerated soon after the arrival of Europeans, who began fishing coastal waters (e.g., Mowat, 1984; Reeves *et al.*, 1999) in addition to introducing domesticated livestock, weed plants, disease, and new kinds of agriculture (e.g., Crosby, 1986).

Other profound anthropogenic modifications to this continental shelf occurred during the 20<sup>th</sup> century with the widespread use of powered fishing and whaling vessels, and coastal urbanization and industrialization. One particularly destructive type of fishing is bottom trawling, which destroys biogenic seafloor habitat in addition to simply removing fishes (Watling and Norse, 1998; Turner *et al.*, 1999).

Trawling activity is intense in this area, and little doubt remains that these activities have considerably modified the continental shelf. The continental shelf of the southeastern United

# Primary contributors

- Behzad Mahmoudi (FMRI)
- Bob Feller (USC)
- David Whitaker (SCDNR)
- Doug Vaughan (NMFS)
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- Larry Cahoon (UNC)
- Galen Johnson (UNC)
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# Secondary contributors

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- Sean McKenna (NCDENR)
- Pat Tester (NOAA)
- Lance Garrison (NMFS)
- Myra Brower (SEFMC)



# Forage version 2014

- Sponsored by Pew Charitable Trusts
- Forage groups articulated
- 99-box model

## Fisheries Centre

The University of British Columbia



### Working Paper Series

Working Paper #2014 - 14

**Exploring the Trophodynamic Signatures of Forage  
Species in the U.S. South Atlantic Bight Ecosystem  
to Maximize System-Wide Values**

Thomas A. Okey, Andrés M. Cisneros-Montemayor,  
Roger Pugliese, Ussif R. Sumaila

Year: 2014

Email: [thomas.okey@gmail.com](mailto:thomas.okey@gmail.com)

This working paper is made available by the Fisheries Centre, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, V6T 1Z4, Canada.

# Articulated forage groups in the 2014 99-box South Atlantic Bight *EwE* model

Anchovies

Atlantic menhaden

Atlantic silverside

Halfbeaks

Mulletts

Sardines

Scads

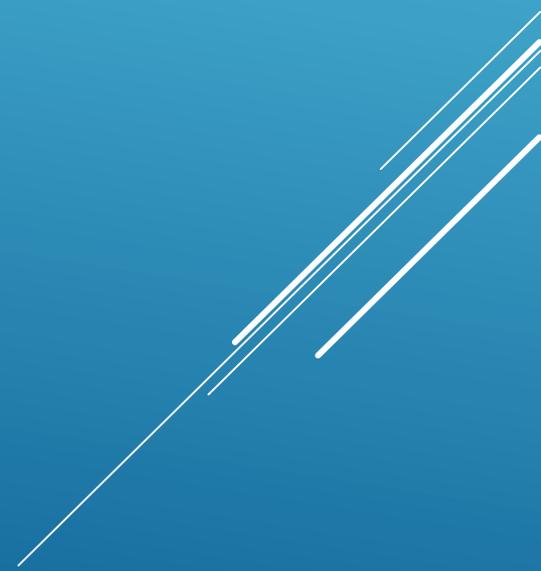
Shad

Thread herring

Pelagic oceanic planktivores

Squids

Shrimps



# Forage Groups in the 99-box South Atlantic Bight model

Group	Species included	B (t·km <sup>-2</sup> )	P/B (year <sup>-1</sup> )	Q/B (year <sup>-1</sup> )
<b>Anchovies</b>	Bay ( <i>Anchoa mitchilli</i> ), striped ( <i>A. hepsetus</i> ), silver ( <i>Engraulis eurystole</i> )	3.75	1.45	17.50
<b>Atlantic menhaden</b>	<i>Brevoortia tyrannus</i> (not <i>B. patronus</i> )	7.05	1.70	7.84
<b>Atlantic silverside</b>	<i>Menidia menidia</i>	1.18	2.00	14.90
<b>Halfbeaks</b>	Ballyhoo ( <i>Hemiramphus brasiliensis</i> ), balao ( <i>H. balao</i> ), common or Atlantic silverstripe ( <i>Hyporhamphus unifasciatus</i> )	1.22	2.60	11.70
<b>Mulletts</b>	Striped ( <i>Mugil cephalus</i> ), other ( <i>Mugil</i> spp.)	0.11	0.70	11.03
<b>Sardines</b>	Spanish ( <i>Sardinella aurita</i> ), scaled ( <i>Harengula jaguana</i> )	1.93	1.11	11.82
<b>Scads</b>	Round ( <i>Decapterus punctatus</i> ), rough ( <i>Trachurus lathami</i> ), bigeye ( <i>Selar crumenophthalmus</i> )	2.28	0.92	10.00
<b>Shad</b>	<i>Alosa</i> spp.	3.97	0.50	3.80
<b>Thread herring</b>	Atlantic thread herring ( <i>Ophistonema oglinum</i> )	0.28	1.60	13.26
<b>Pelagic oceanic planktivores</b>	Chub mackerel ( <i>Scomber japonicus</i> ), lanternfish ( <i>Diaphus</i> spp.), antenna codlet ( <i>Bregmaceros atlanticus</i> ), striated argentine ( <i>Argentina striata</i> ), flyingfish ( <i>Exocoetidae</i> )	3.95	0.87	11.71
<b>Squids</b>	Shortfin ( <i>Illex illecebrosus</i> ), longfin ( <i>Loligo pealei</i> )	0.45	2.67	36.50
<b>Shrimps</b>	Rock shrimps and penaeid shrimps	2.53	5.38	19.20

# Focused on predatory fish of particular value in the 99-box SAB ecosystem model

**Spanish/king mackerels**

**Vermillion snapper**

**Gag grouper**

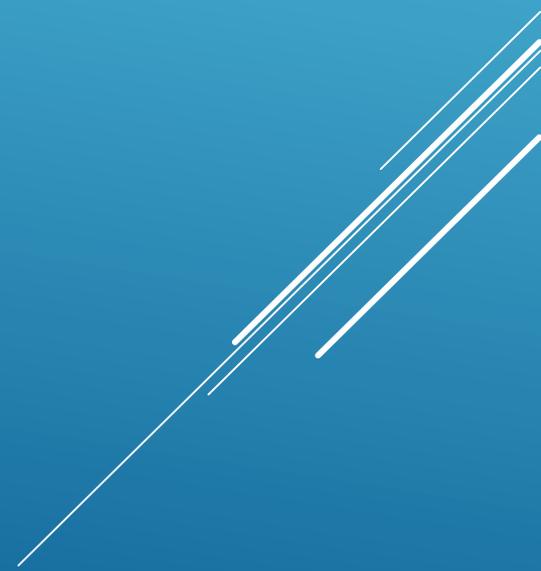
**Dolphinfish**

**Black seabass**

**Greater amberjack**

**Cobia**

**Red snapper**



# Species / Groups in the 2014 SAB 99-box model

Coastal bottlenose dolphin	Thread herring	Seabass	Estuarine infaunal crustaceans
Manatees	Shad	Wreckfish	Estuarine polychaetes
Large coastal sharks	Anchovies	Other fishes	Bivalves/Oysters
Small coastal sharks	Atlantic silverside	Sea turtles	Offshore infaunal crustaceans
Baleen whales	Halfbeaks	Carnivorous jellies	Offshore polychaetes
Pelagic sharks	Pelagic oceanic invertivores	Birds -- oceanic piscivores	Small mobile epifauna
Rays and skates	Demersal coastal invertivores	Birds -- shorebirds	Calico scallops
Dogfish sharks	Demersal coastal omnivores	Birds -- shelf piscivores	Benthic meiofauna
Adult mackerel	Benthic oceanic piscivores	Birds -- herbivores	Deep-burrowing infauna
Juvenile mackerel	Benthic oceanic invertivores	Birds -- wading piscivores	Carnivorous zooplankton
Bluefish	Benthic coastal piscivores	Birds -- shelf invertivores	Aquatic and other insects
Weakfish	Benthic coastal invertivores	Birds -- raptors	Other zooplankton
Red drum	Benthic coastal planktivores	Encrusting fauna	Ichthyoplankton
Atlantic menhaden	Reef associated piscivores	Squids	Microbial heterotrophs
Mullets	Reef associated omnivores	Stomatopods	Phytoplankton
Other Drums & Croakers	Triggerfish	Octopods	Microphytobenthos
Striped bass	Shallow water grouper/tilefish	Blue crabs	Benthic macroalgae
Highly migratory pelagics	Goliath grouper	Horseshoe crabs	Pelagic macroalgae
Dolphinfish	Nassau grouper	Golden crabs	Seagrasses
Pelagic oceanic piscivores	Deep-water grouper/tilefish	Stone crabs	Marsh vegetation
Pelagic coastal piscivores	Shallow-water snapper	Spiny lobster	Estuarine benthic detritus
Nearshore piscivores	Mid-shelf snapper	Rock shrimps	Offshore benthic detritus
Pelagic oceanic planktivores	Jacks	Penaeid shrimps	Water-column detritus
Sardines	Red porgy	Megafaunal predators	Dead carcasses
Scads	Grunts and porgys	Echinoderms and gastropods	



# Articulated Managed Species / Groups in the 2017 SAB 137-box model

Adult king mackerel	Red grouper	Vermilion snapper
Juvenile king mackerel	Black grouper	Silk snapper
Spanish Mackerel	Scamp grouper	Red snapper
Juvenile spanish mackerel	Other shallow grouper/tilefish	Other mid-shelf snapper
Spotted seatrout	Snowy grouper	Greater amberjack
Snook	Yellowedge grouper	Almaco jack
Tarpon	Other deep grouper	Bar Jack
Cobia	Blueline tilefish	Banded rudderfish
Bonfish	Golden tilefish	Blue runner
Permit	Yellowtail snapper	Other jacks
Atlantic Spadefish	Mutton snapper	Other porgys
Hogfish	Gray snapper	White grunt
Ocean triggerfish	Lane snapper	Other grunts
Gray triggerfish	Cubera snapper	Black Seabass
Gag grouper	Other shallow snapper	Bank/Rock seabass

# Species / Groups in SAB 137-box model

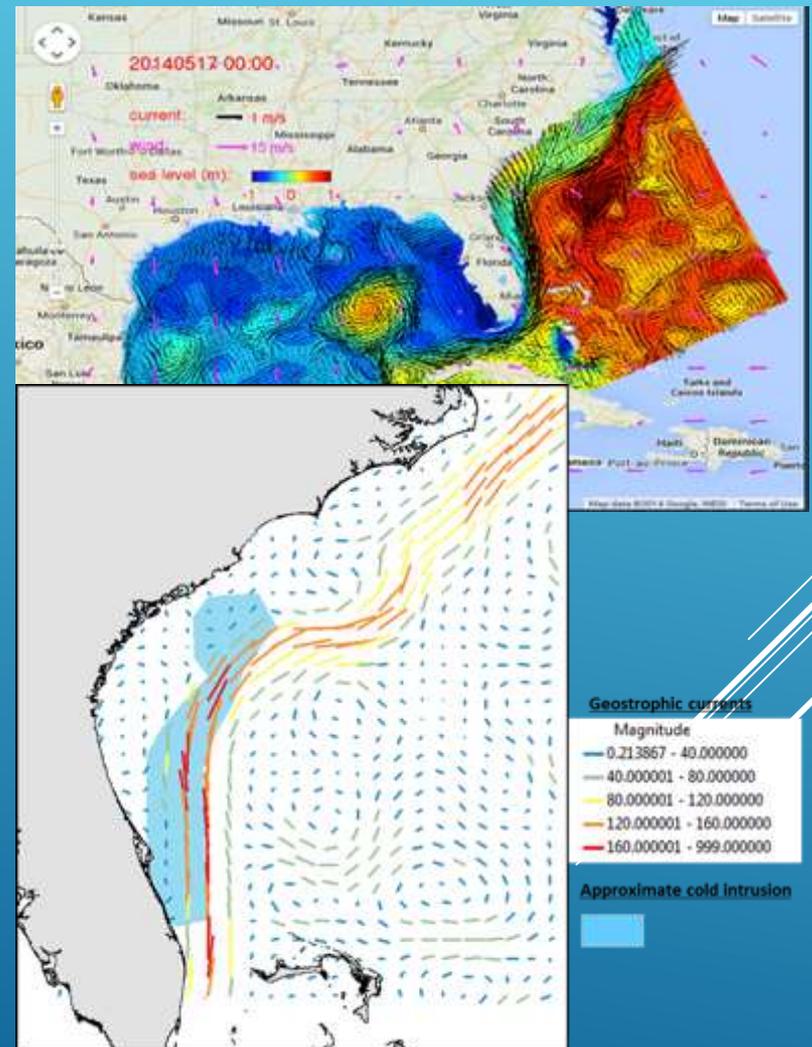
Coastal bottlenose dolphin	Nearshore piscivores	Gag grouper	Red porgy	Penaeid shrimps
Manatees	Pelagic oceanic planktivores	Red grouper	Other porgys	Megafaunal predators
Large coastal sharks	Sardines	Black grouper	White grunt	Echinoderms and gastropods
Small coastal sharks	Scads	Scamp grouper	Other grunts	Estuarine infaunal crustaceans
Baleen whales	Thread herring	Goliath grouper	Black seabass	Estuarine polychaetes
Pelagic sharks	Shad	Nassau grouper	Rock/Bank seabass	Bivalves/Oysters
Rays and skates	Anchovies	Other shallow grouper/tilefish	Wreckfish	Offshore infaunal crustaceans
Dogfish sharks	Atlantic silverside	Snowy grouper	Other fishes	Offshore polychaetes
Adult king mackerel	Halfbeaks	Yellowedge grouper	Sea turtles	Small mobile epifauna
Juvenile king mackerel	Pelagic oceanic invertivores	Other deep grouper	Carnivorous jellies	Calico scallops
Spanish mackerel	Permit	Blueline tilefish	Birds -- oceanic piscivores	Benthic meiofauna
Juv Spanish mackerel	Demersal coastal invertivores	Golden tilefish	Birds -- shorebirds	Deep-burrowing infauna
Bluefish	Demersal coastal omnivores	Yellowtail snapper	Birds -- shelf piscivores	Carnivorous zooplankton
Weakfish	Atlantic spadefish	Mutton snapper	Birds -- herbivores	Other zooplankton
Red drum	Benthic oceanic piscivores	Gray snapper	Birds -- wading piscivores	Ichthyoplankton
Atlantic menhaden	Benthic oceanic invertivores	Lane snapper	Birds -- shelf invertivores	Microbial heterotrophs
Spotted seatrout	Red Lionfish	Cubera snapper	Birds -- raptors	Phytoplankton
Mullets	Summer flounder	Other shallow snapper	Encrusting fauna	Microphytobenthos
Other Drums & Croakers	Southern flounder	Vermilion snapper	Squids	Benthic macroalgae
Striped bass	Gulf flounder	Silk snapper	Stomatopods	Pelagic macroalgae
Highly migratory pelagics	Benthic coastal piscivores	Red snapper	Octopods	Seagrasses
Dolphinfish	Benthic coastal invertivores	Other mid-shelf snapper	Blue crabs	Marsh vegetation
Pelagic oceanic piscivores	Hogfish	Greater amberjack	Horseshoe crabs	Estuarine benthic detritus
Snook	Benthic coastal planktivores	Almaco jack	Golden crabs	Offshore benthic detritus
Tarpon	Reef associated piscivores	Bar jack	Stone crabs	Water-column detritus
Pelagic coastal piscivores	Reef associated omnivores	Banded rudderfish	Spiny lobster	Dead carcasses
Cobia	Ocean triggerfish	Blue runner	Rock shrimps	
Bonefish	Gray triggerfish	Other jacks		

# OUR WORKING GROUP

- **Roger Pugliese** – South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
- **Dr. Rua Mordecai**, SALCC, **Dr. Simeon Yurek**, USGS
- **Dr. Marcel J. Reichert** – Marine Resources Research Institute, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (**Tracey Smart**, **Wally Buble**)
- **Dr. Howard Townsend** – NOAA/NMFS/ST/Ecosystems
- **Dr. Luiz Barbieri** – Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, FWRI
- **Dr. Ruoying He** – Department of Marine, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, North Carolina State University
- **Dr. Peter Sheng** – Professor and Director, Coastal and Oceanographic Engineering Program, University of Florida
- **Dr. Thomas Okey** – Ocean Integrity Research, Victoria, BC, Canada
- **Dr. Jerald S. Ault** – Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami
- **Dr. Jeroen Steenbeek** – Ecopath Research and Development Consortium
- **Dr. Patrick N. Halpin** – Director, Geospatial Analysis Program Duke University

# THE UPDATED ECOPATH MODEL WILL:

- ▶ Support the SA Fishery Management Council's move to ecosystem-based management
- ▶ Advance and refine the LCC conservation blueprint
- ▶ Link to hydrodynamic oceanographic models and satellite data
- ▶ Provide more realistic predictions about spatial policy options
- ▶ Estimate impacts of episodic events that are limited in space (oil spills, red tides, upwelling)
- ▶ Meet the immediate needs of the SSC and the South Atlantic Council



# FORMING AN SSC WORKGROUP

<b>Analysis Type:</b>	<b>Review, guidance for further development and evaluation of potential tool development associated with Ecosystem Model.</b>
<b>Analyst:</b>	Tom Okey, UVic and Roger Pugliese, SAFMC Staff. ➤ Possibilities of regional students and staff.
<b>Workgroup Members:</b>	Proposed -core SSC members and members of the Ecosystem Modeling Workgroup supporting SALCC funded model development.
<b>Tasks and Timeline:</b>	Development of the next generation Ecopath with Ecosim Model is nearing completion; therefore, this process will start with a review of data used, methods developed, decisions made, and analyses completed to date. More detailed timeline will be developed after initial meeting of workgroup.

# START WITH A COUPLE OF EXAMPLES

- A. Simulate use of MSY for all managed species to explore the broad ecosystem effects
  - B. Begin investigating red snapper and black sea bass interactions
- 

## B. Ecosystem Cascade - Red Snapper / Black Sea Bass

Hypothesis: South Atlantic Red Snapper extreme biomass shift is driven in part by environmental variation and prey fluctuations in the South Atlantic region, potentially affecting other competitors.

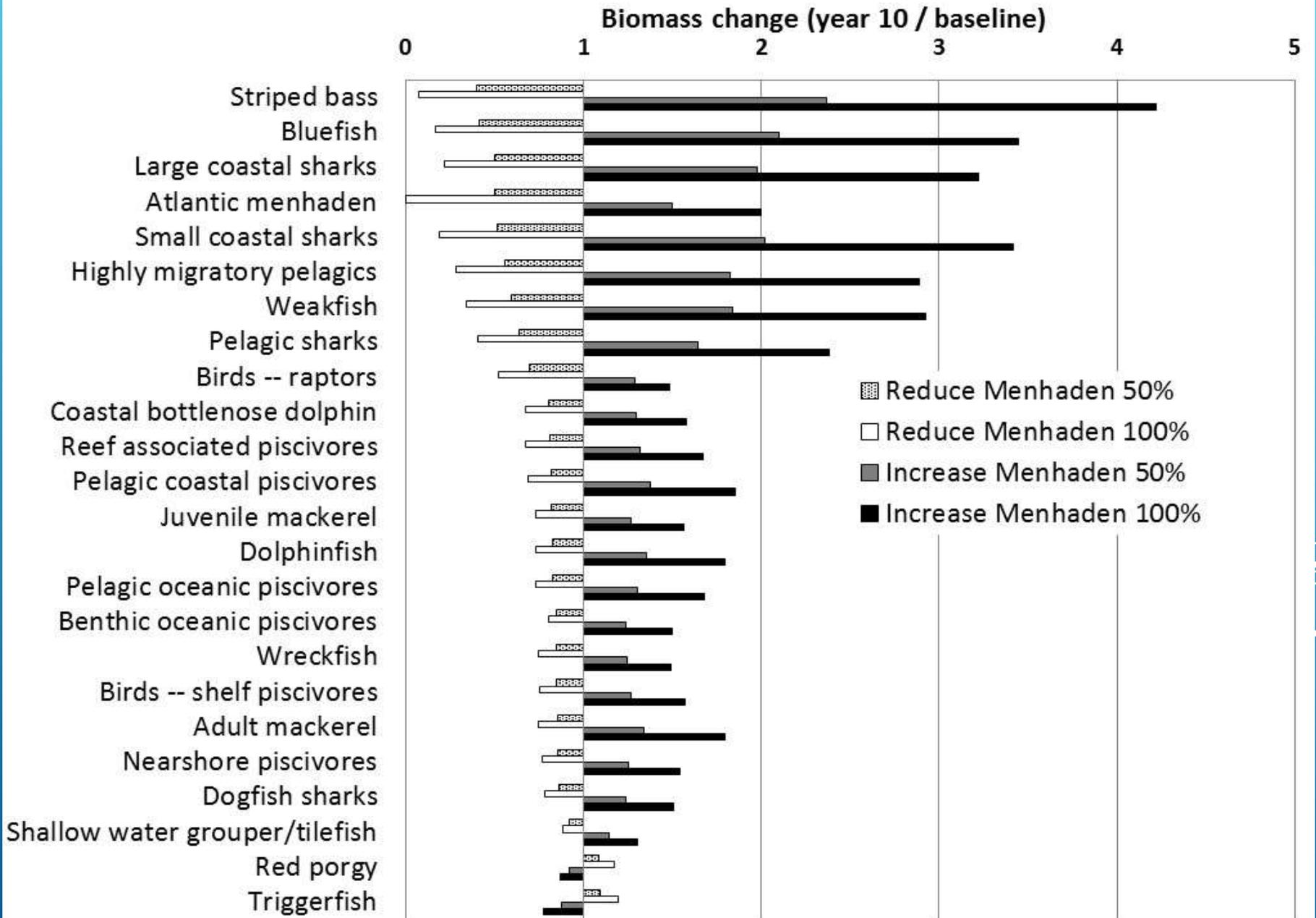
1. Black sea bass population is linked to red snapper as significant prey
2. Black sea bass are affected by environmental conditions (e.g., changing bottom temperature increased upwelling events off SE Florida) and availability of extensive nearshore and mid shelf live hard bottom habitat
3. Significant increase and recent shift south of black sea bass biomass into location of core (possibly spawning) distribution of red snapper off South East Florida.
4. Have currents shifted / eddies increased affecting settlement of black sea bass overall and onto South East Florida live hard bottom??
5. Does the increasing biomass of prey consumed by the growing red snapper population reduce availability to competitors possibly suppressing rebuilding/recovery (e.g., red grouper)?

# THIS COULD BE THE END OF THE PRESENTATION

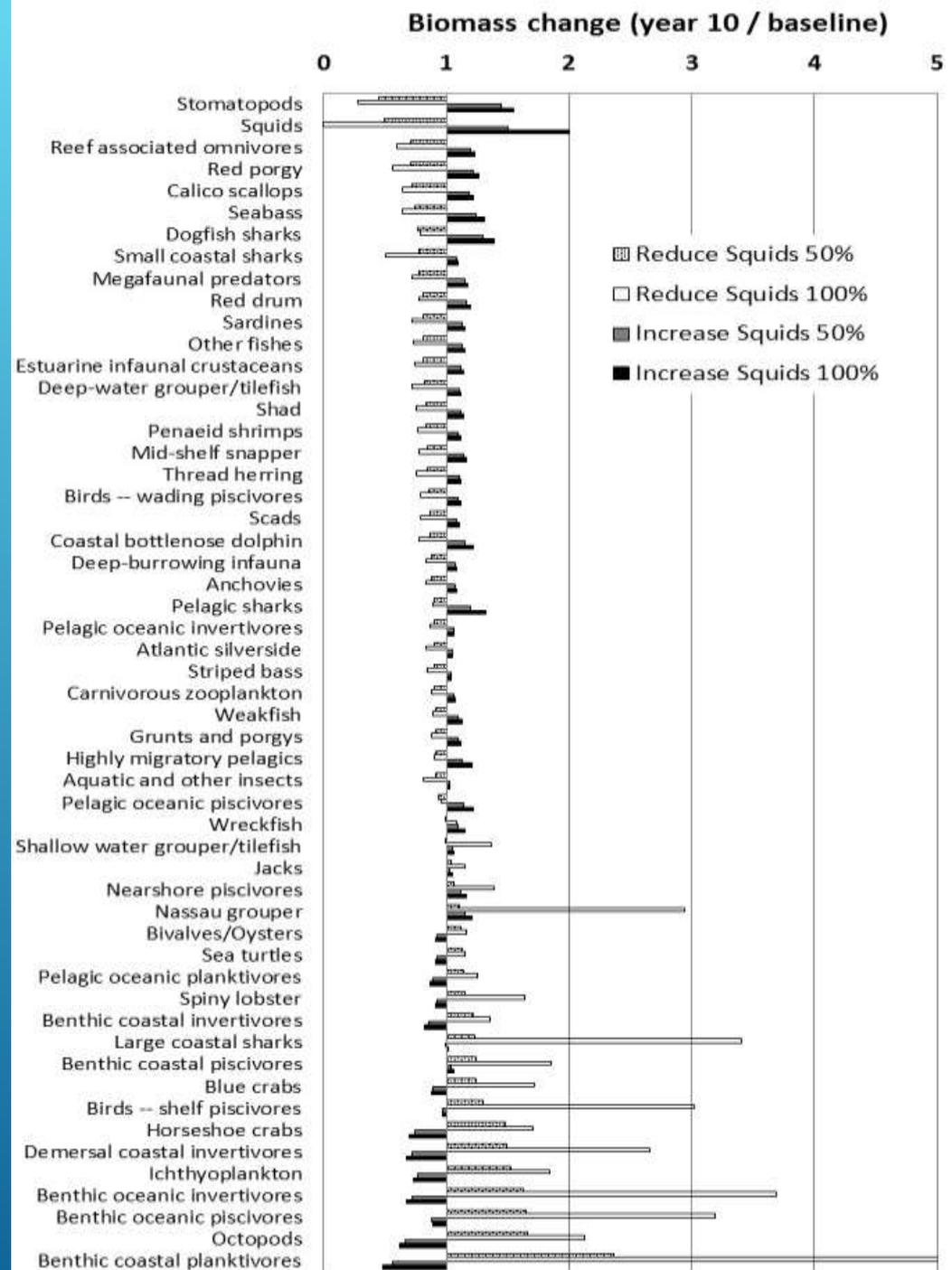
I left in some additional slides in case there are any questions they can help with.

A decorative graphic consisting of several parallel white lines of varying thicknesses, slanted diagonally from the bottom left towards the top right, located on the right side of the slide.

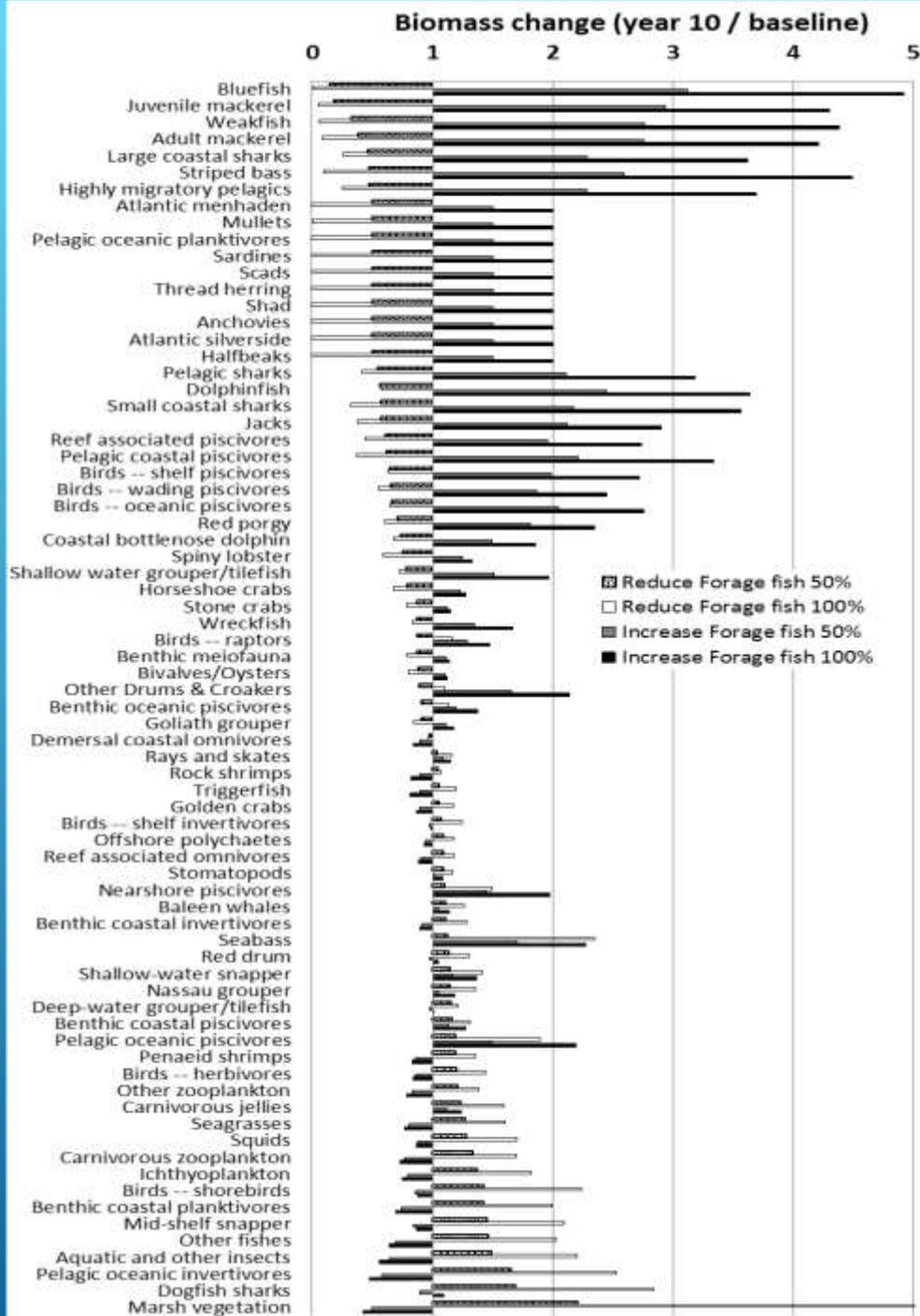
# Effect of Menhaden on other groups



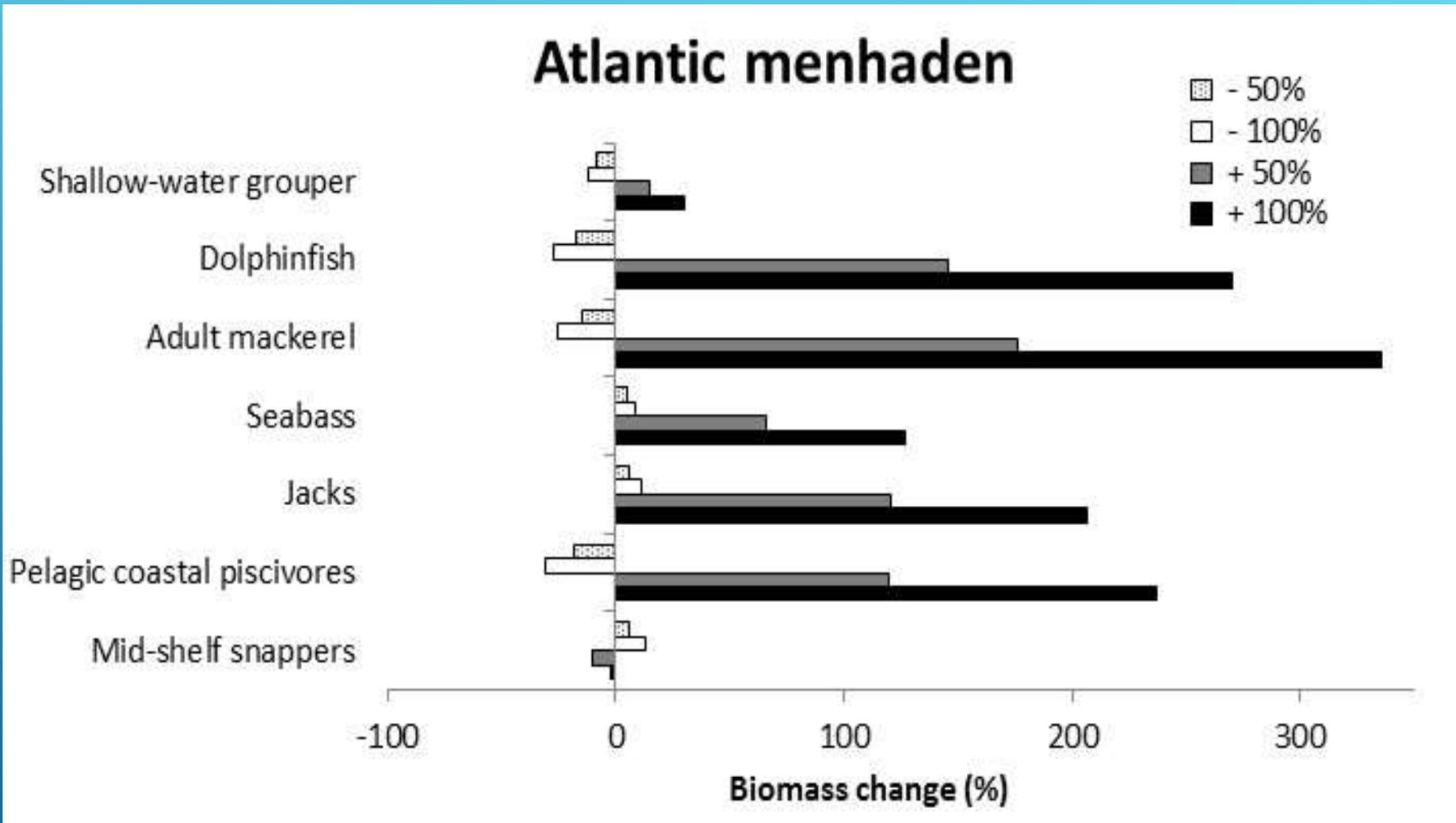
# Effect of Squids on other groups



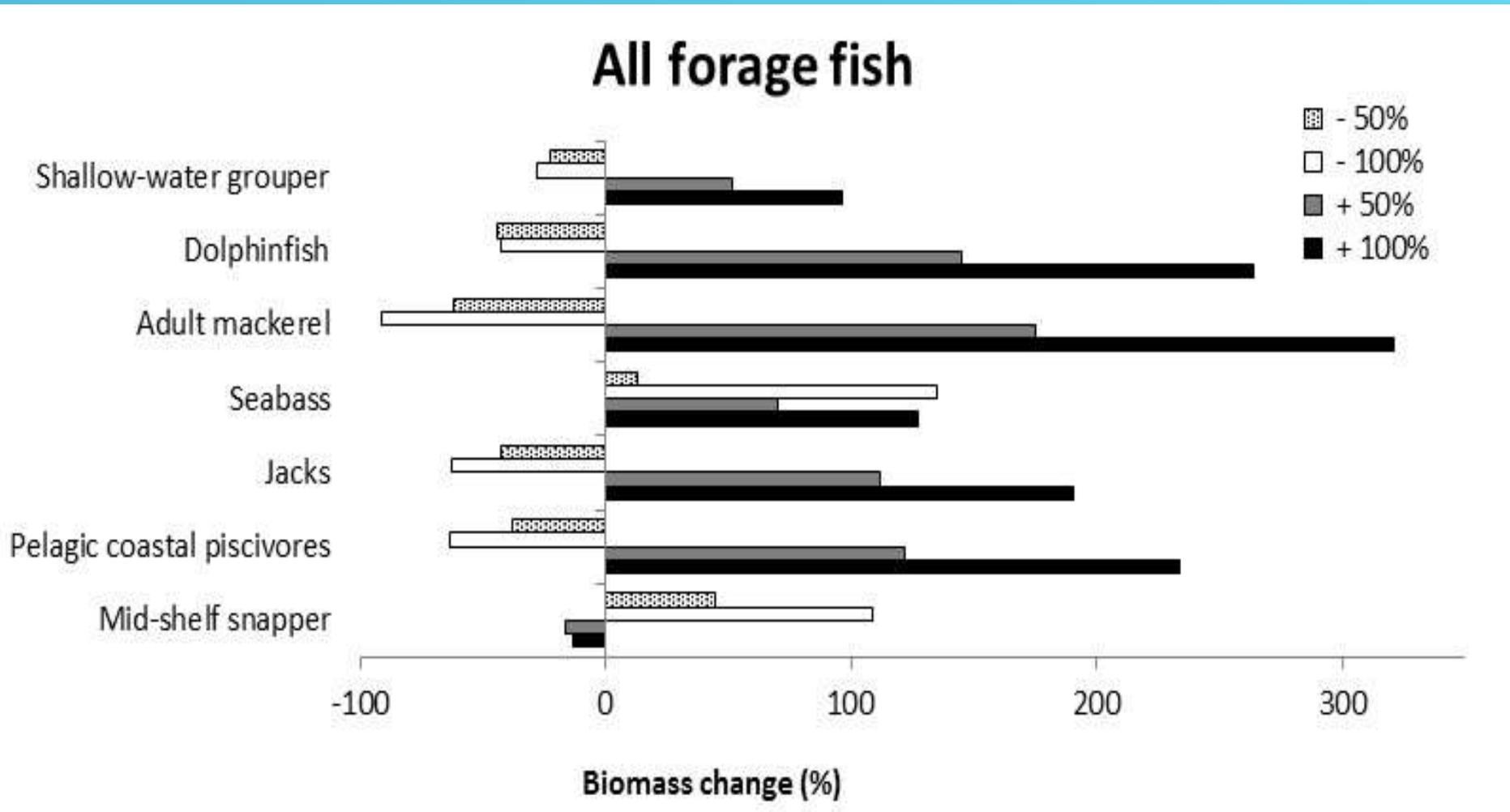
# Effect of all forage fish groups on other groups



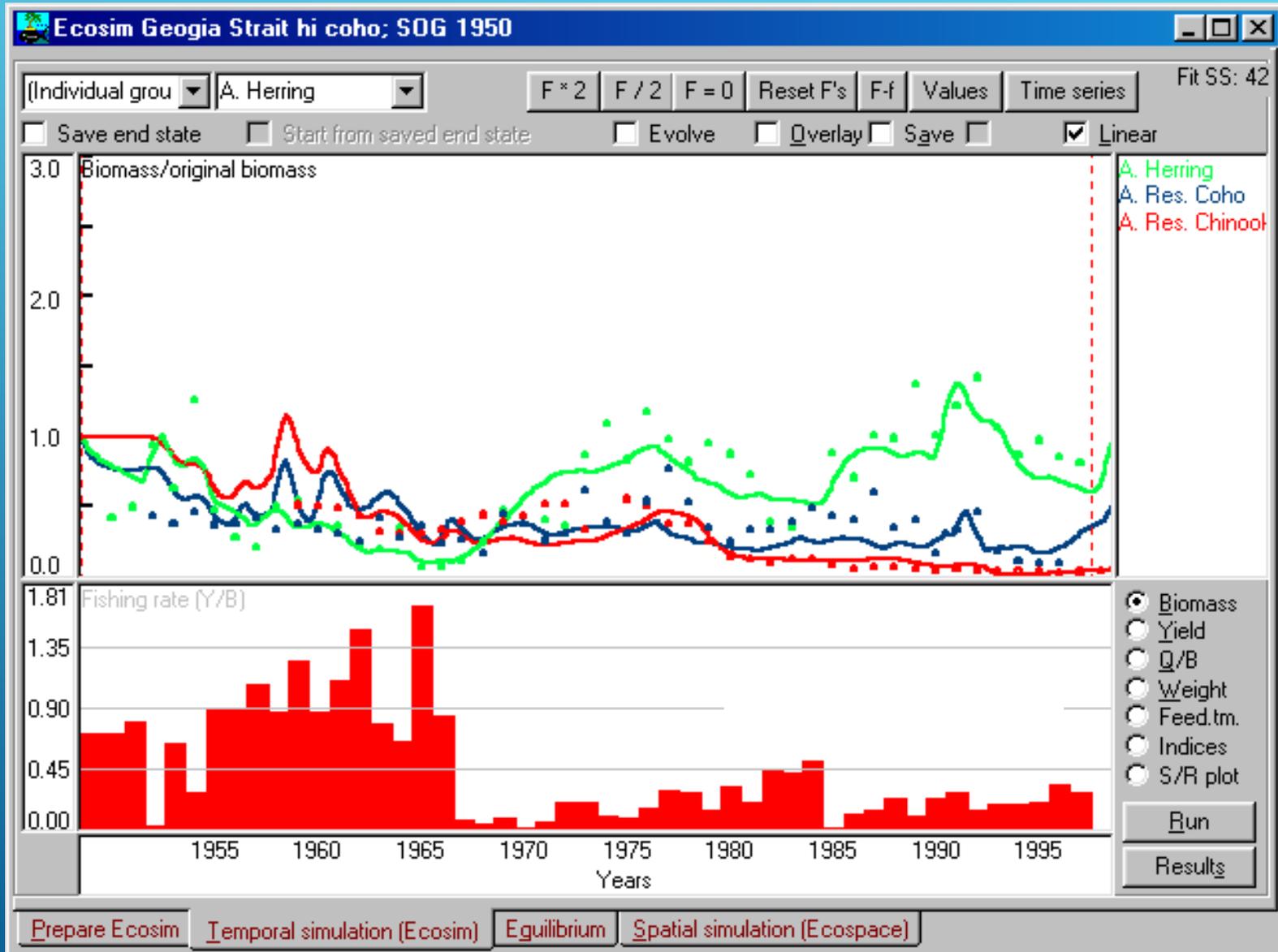
# Effects of menhaden on valued predatory fish



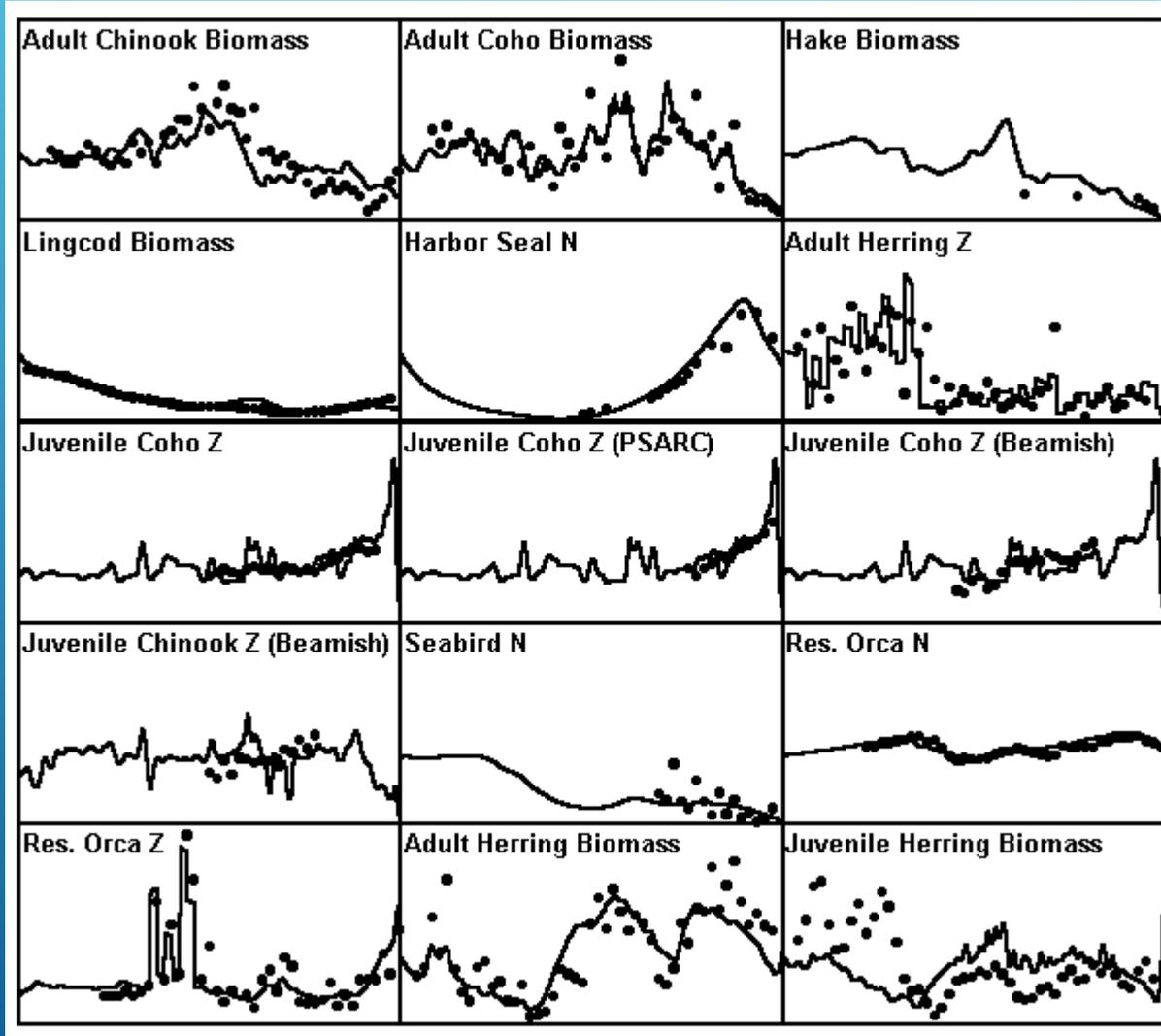
# Effects of all forage fish on valued predatory fish



# CALIBRATING THE MODEL



# TIME PREDICTIONS FROM THE STRAIT OF GEORGIA MODEL, 1950-2000





# ECOSPACE

SCatSea model 1978 - Ecopath with Ecosim 6.5.10838.0

File View Ecopath Ecosim Ecospace Tools Windows Help

G:\Projects\2014\CatSeaJob\Model\SCatSea78-10\_Ecospace.ewemdb

Navigator

- Ecopath
  - Input
    - Model parameters
    - Basic input
    - Diet composition
    - Detritus fate
    - Other production
    - Fishery
      - Growth input
    - Tools
  - Output
  - Ecosim
  - Ecospac
    - Input
      - Ecospac parameters
      - Maps
      - Habitat based foraging
      - Dispersal
      - Advection
      - Ecospac fishery
      - External data
    - Output
    - Tools

Basic input Maps

Save image... Position 100% Reset

Edit map details

- MPAs (1)
- Fishing (2)
- Reference (1)
- Data layers (3)
- Regions (1)
- Basemap (2)
  - Depth (selected)
  - Excluded cells
  - Habitat capacity (2)
  - Environmental drivers (1)
  - Importance (0)
  - Habitats (7)
    - 0-50
    - 50-150 sand
    - 50-150 mud
    - 50-150 rock
    - 150-400 sand
    - 150-400 mud
    - >400

Selected layer

Name: Depth

Max value: 1832

Min value: 1

Cursor: [arrow icon]

Land

Water 1

Only edit water cells

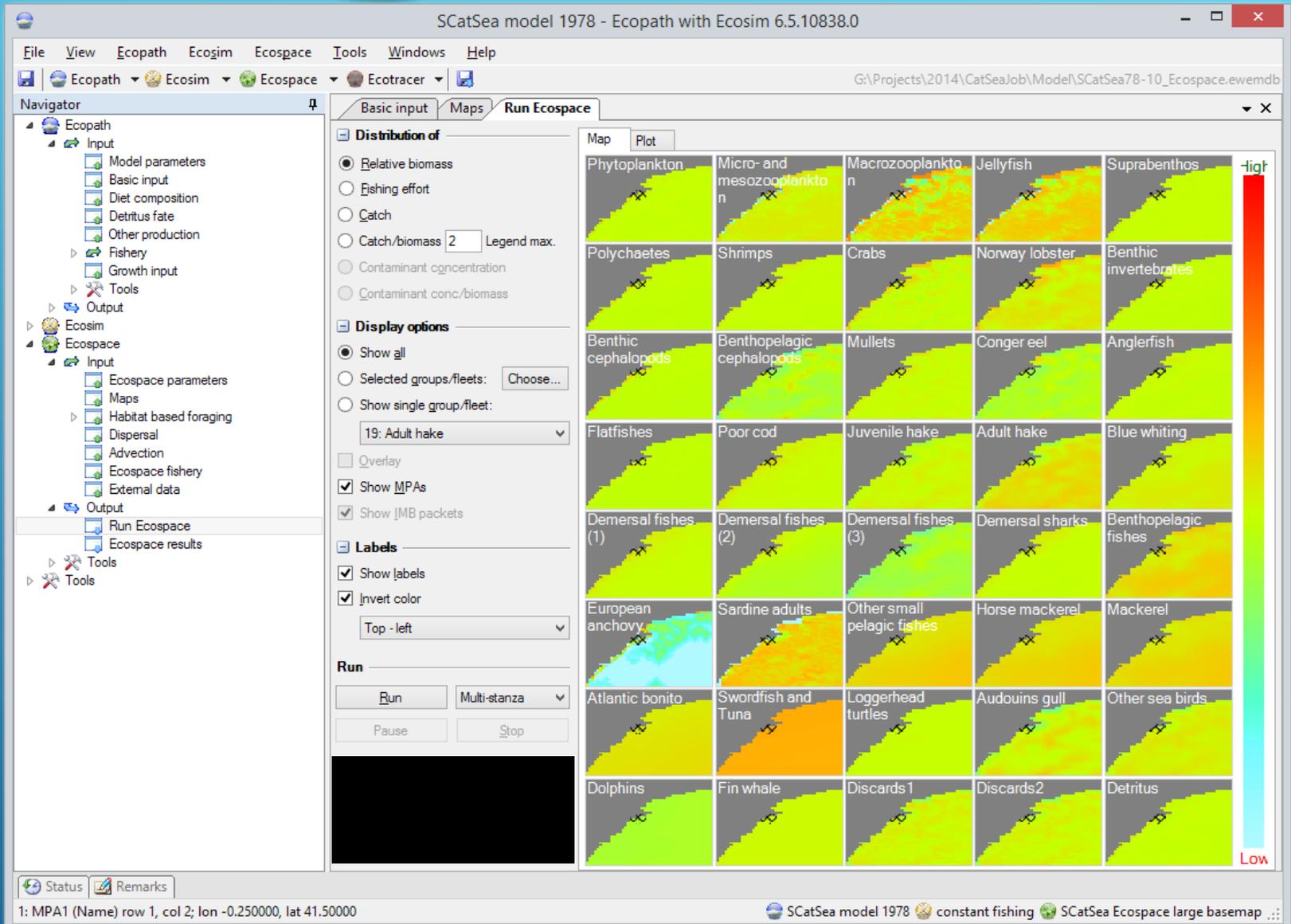
Status Remarks

(Depth map) row 37, col 46; lon 1.950000, lat 39.700000; value: 1030

SCatSea model 1978 constant fishing SCatSea Ecospac large basemap



# ECOSPACE



# HAB. CAP. CASE STUDY

## 1. Define environmental drivers

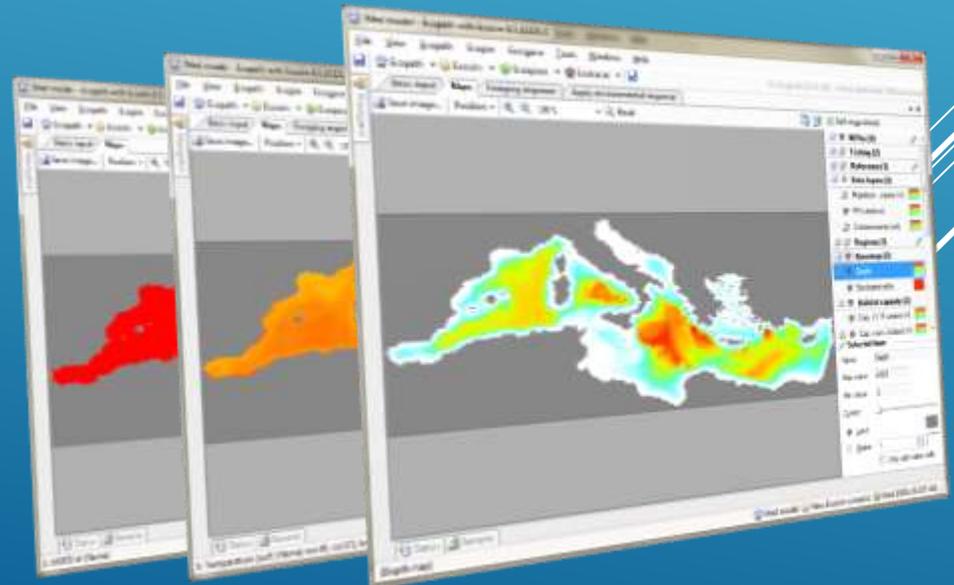
Primary production

Salinity (surface and bottom)

Temperature (surface and bottom)

Depth

MSFD area restrictions



# 3. POPULATE ENV. DRIVER MAPS

The screenshot displays the Ecosim software interface for 'Anchovy Bay - Ecopath with Ecosim 6.5.14149.0'. The 'Maps' tab is active, showing a spatial map of the bay with a color gradient representing temperature. The map is surrounded by a grid of black dots representing cell boundaries. The color scale ranges from red (high temperature) in the upper part of the bay to light blue (low temperature) in the lower part.

The interface includes a menu bar (File, View, Ecopath, Ecosim, Ecospace, Tools, Windows, Help) and a toolbar with options like 'Save image...', 'Position', '100%', and 'Reset'. The left sidebar shows a tree view of the project structure, including 'Ecopath', 'Ecosim', and 'Ecospace'. The right sidebar shows the 'Edit basemap...' panel with various layers and drivers. The 'Environmental drivers' section is expanded, showing the 'Temperature' driver with the following settings:

- Name: Temperature
- Max value: 21.83034
- Min value: 9.058641
- Cursor: [Slider]
- Value: 0.000
- Buttons: Smooth, Refresh

The status bar at the bottom shows '1: Temperature (Name)' and the project name 'Anchovy Bay - New Ecosim scenario - BayOfAnchovies'.

## 2. Define environmental responses

Here we are using a plug-in to import environmental responses from AquaMaps species envelopes

The image shows a composite screenshot of the AquaMaps and Ecosim software interface. On the left, the AquaMaps website is visible, displaying a world map with environmental data. A large grey arrow points from the AquaMaps map to the Ecosim software window. The Ecosim window, titled 'Anchovy Bay - Ecosim with Ecosim 6.3.1', shows a 'Navigator' panel on the left with various model components. A dialog box titled 'Import Aquamaps HSPEN envelopes' is open in the center, featuring a text area with the prompt 'Drop AquaMaps HSPEN file(s) here'. Below this, there are two sections: 'Species' and 'Envelopes'. The 'Species' section has a checked box for 'Sardina pilchardus (European pilchard)'. The 'Envelopes' section has several checked boxes: 'Depth (m)', 'Temperature (A°C)', 'Salinity (psu)', 'Primary Production', and 'Sea Ice Concentration'. At the bottom of the dialog, there is an 'Import' button and a logo for the JRC European Commission. The background of the Ecosim window shows a map of the anchovy bay area with various data layers.

# 4. DEFINE ENV. RESPONSE CURVES

The screenshot shows the Ecosim software interface for 'Anchovy Bay'. The 'Habitat based foraging' tab is active, displaying a large orange bell-shaped curve representing a foraging response to '2: Depth whiting'. The curve is labeled 'Input value' at its base. Below the main window, a smaller window titled 'Define foraging response...' shows a zoomed-in view of the curve, with the y-axis labeled 'Response' ranging from 0.0 to 0.5 and the x-axis ranging from 0 to 200. The interface includes a menu bar (File, View, Ecopath, Ecosim, Ecospace, Tools, Windows, Help), a Navigator pane on the left, and a status bar at the bottom. The status bar shows '1: Temperature (Name)' and 'Anchovy Bay New Ecosim scenario BayOfAnchovies'.

# HAB. CAP. CASE STUDY

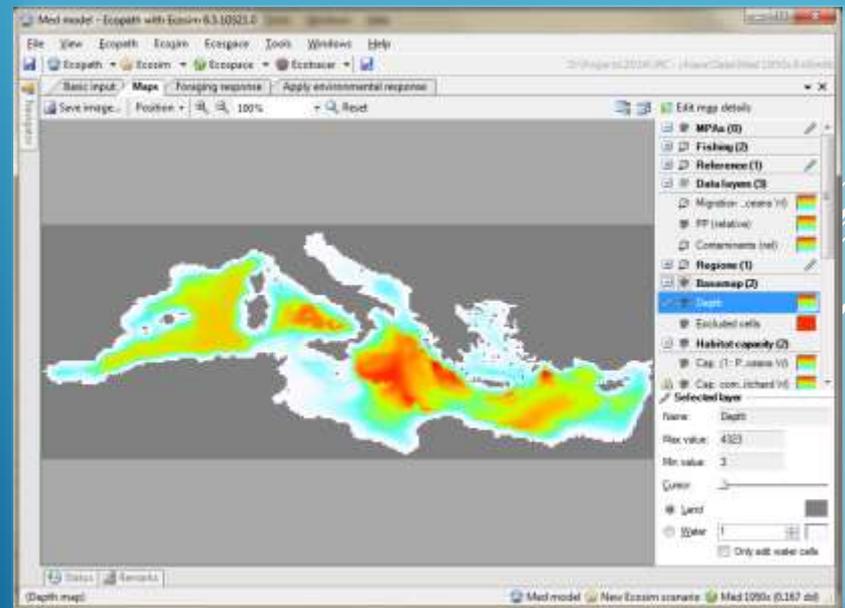
## Foraging habitat capacity model case study

Full Mediterranean EwE model

90+ functional groups, assigned to 4 MSFD zones

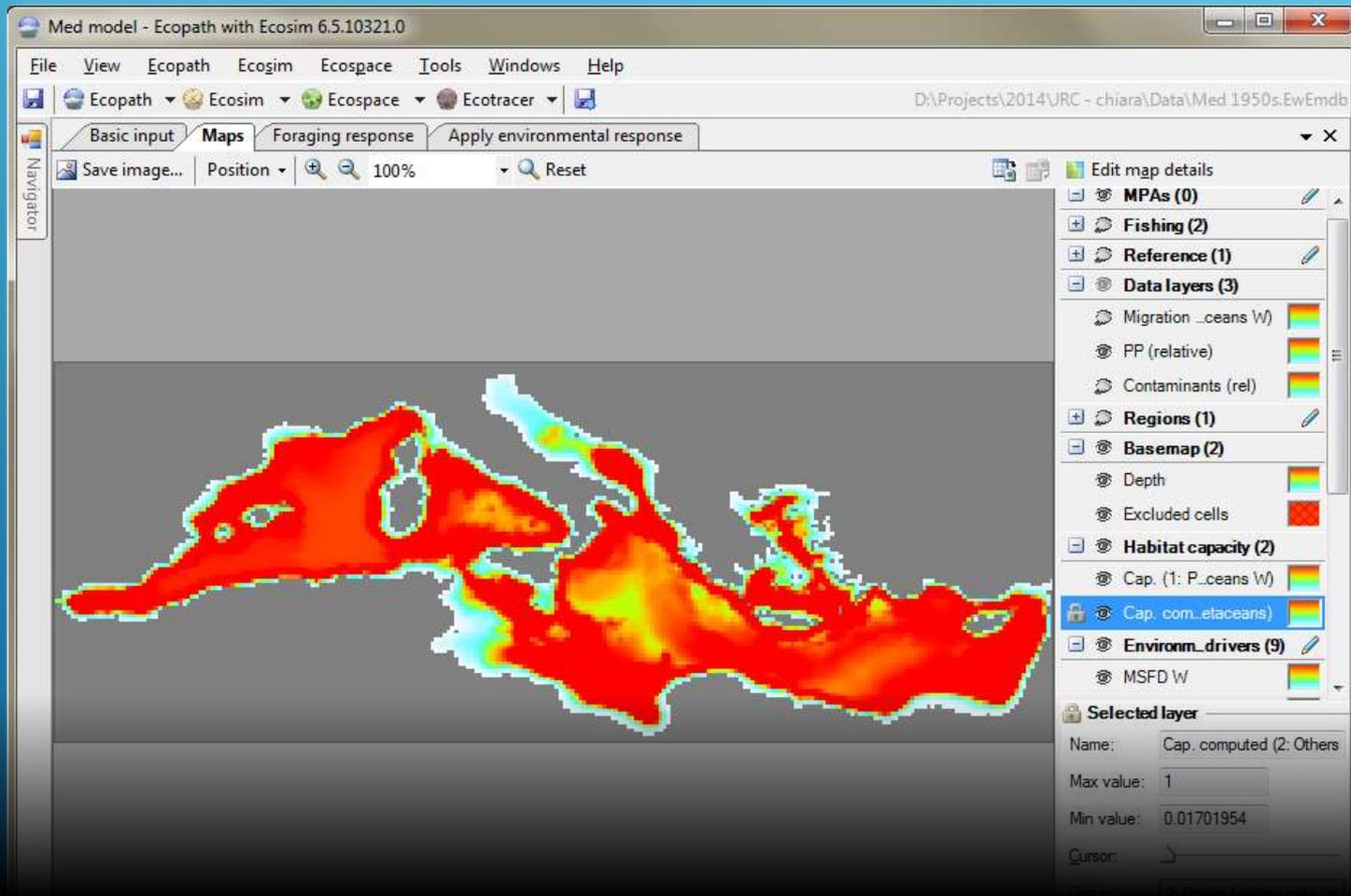
Time frame 1950 – 2010

Entire basin at 0.167 dd grid



# HAB. CAP. CASE STUDY

## 4. Ecospace computes capacity (cetaceans - depth)



# HAB. CAP. CASE STUDY

## 4. More capacity (Western sardine - depth, MSFD W)

