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What do Indicators Indicate?

*Northwest Power and Conservation Council – Ocean Forum
April 4th, 2024*



Presenter: Brian Burke
NOAA Fisheries, NWFSC

Team: Brian Beckman, Anna Bolm, Cindy Bucher, Elizabeth Daly, Jennifer Fisher, Susan Hinton, David Huff, Mary Hunsicker, Kym Jacobson, Jessica Miller, Cheryl Morgan, Krista Nichols, Joe Smith, Don Van Doornik, Laurie Weitkamp, Amy Wallace, Brian Wells, Jen Zamon, Sam Zeman

Also supported by:



NOAA's 'Stoplight Chart'

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/science-data/ocean-ecosystem-indicators-pacific-salmon-marine-survival-northern>

2023 OCEAN CONDITION INDICATORS TREND

good fair poor

ECOSYSTEM INDICATORS		1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
CLIMATE & ATMOSPHERIC	PDO (Sum Dec-March)	poor	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good
	PDO (Sum May-Sept)	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good
	ONI (Average Jan-June)	poor	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good	good
LOCAL PHYSICAL	SST NDBC buoys (°C; May-Sept)	poor	good	good	good	good	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor
	Upper 20 m T (°C; Nov-Mar)	poor	good	good	good	good	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor
	Upper 20 m T (°C; May-Sept)	poor	good	good	good	good	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor
	Deep Temp (°C; May-Sept)	poor	good	good	good	good	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor
	Deep Salinity (May-Sept)	poor	good	good	good	good	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor
LOCAL BIOLOGICAL	Copepod richness (May-Sept anom)	poor	good	good	good	good	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor
	N copepod biomass (May-Sept anom)	poor	good	good	good	good	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor
	S copepod biomass (May-Sept anom)	poor	good	good	good	good	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor
	Biological transition	poor	good	good	good	good	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor
	Nearshore Ichthyoplankton (Jan-Mar)	poor	good	good	good	good	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor
	Near & offshore Ichthyoplankton (community index Jan-Mar)	poor	good	good	good	good	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor
	Chinook salmon juvenile catch	poor	good	good	good	good	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor
	Coho salmon juvenile catch	poor	good	good	good	good	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor
MEANS & RANKS	Mean of ranks	22.1	7.6	9.4	9.1	7.3	16.6	19.9	20.9	13.4	11.9	3.8	10.8	14.4	8.8	7.4	9.9	15.5	21.8	21.5	19.9	14.6	18.8	14.9	6.9	11.9	11.4
	Rank of the mean rank	poor	good	good	good	good	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor
NOT INCLUDED IN THE MEAN OF RANKS OR STATISTICAL ANALYSES	Physical Spring Trans (UI based)	poor	good	good	good	good	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor
	Physical Spring Trans. Hydrographic	poor	good	good	good	good	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor
	Upwelling Anomaly (sum April-May)	poor	good	good	good	good	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor
	Length of Upwelling Season (UI based)	poor	good	good	good	good	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor
	Copepod Community Index (May-Sept)	poor	good	good	good	good	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor	poor

Basin Scale

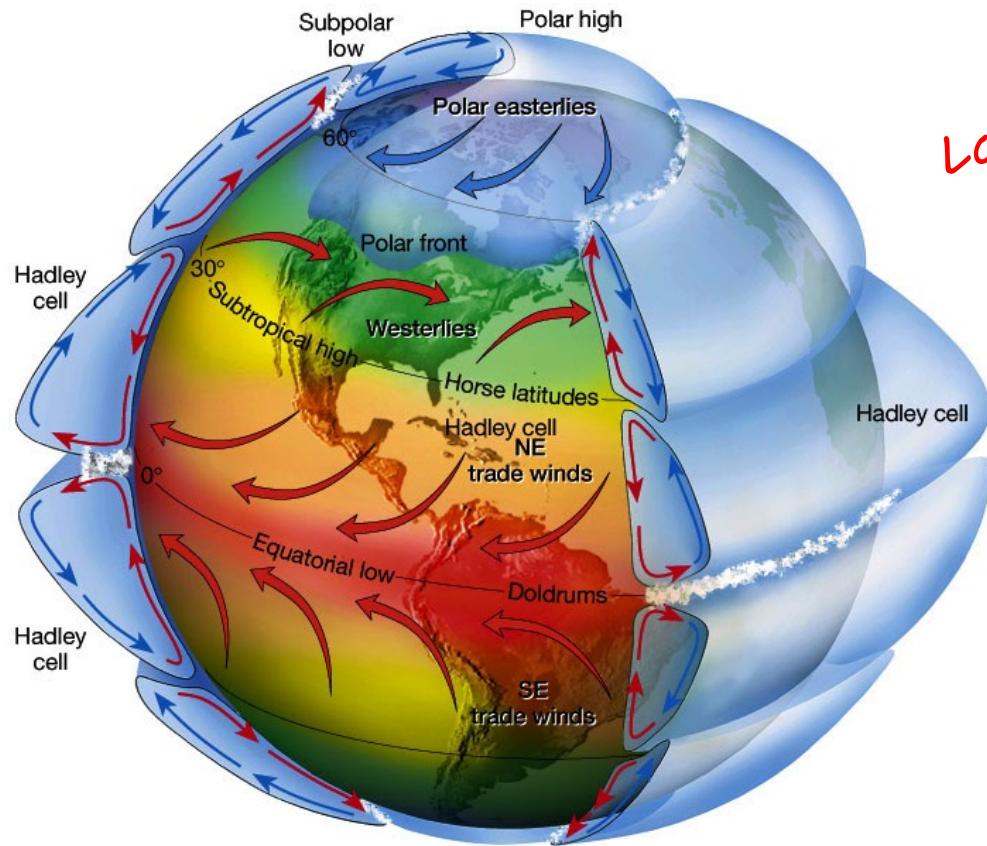
Local Physical Conditions

Local Biological Conditions

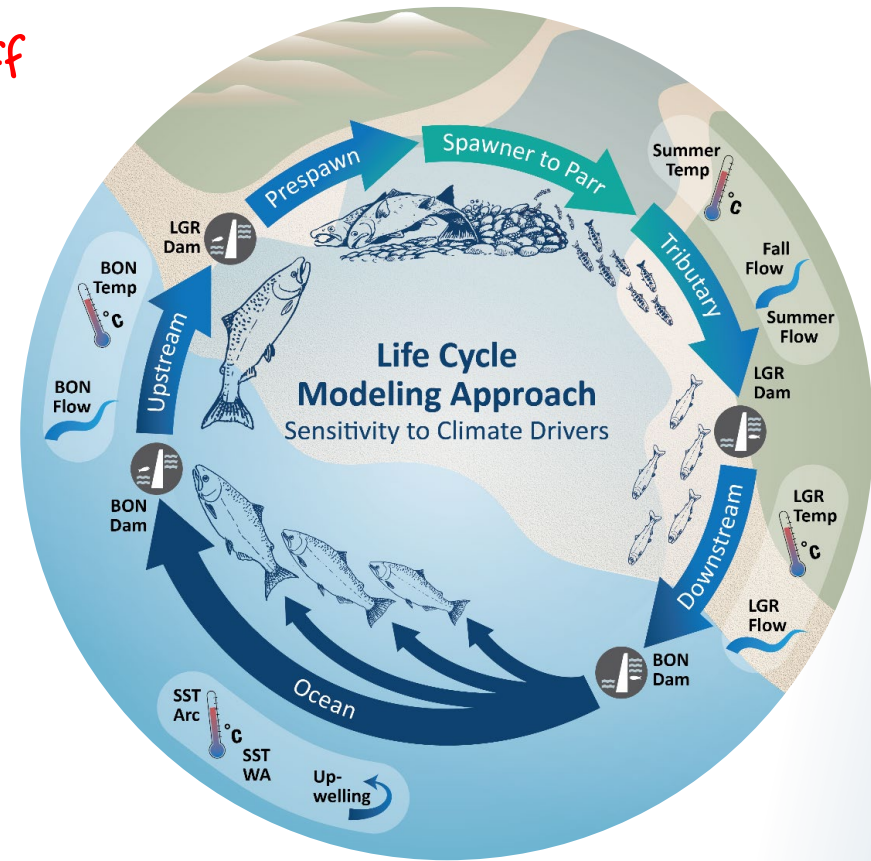


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Global Dynamics Shape Local Conditions



Lots of stuff



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The Quick Summary

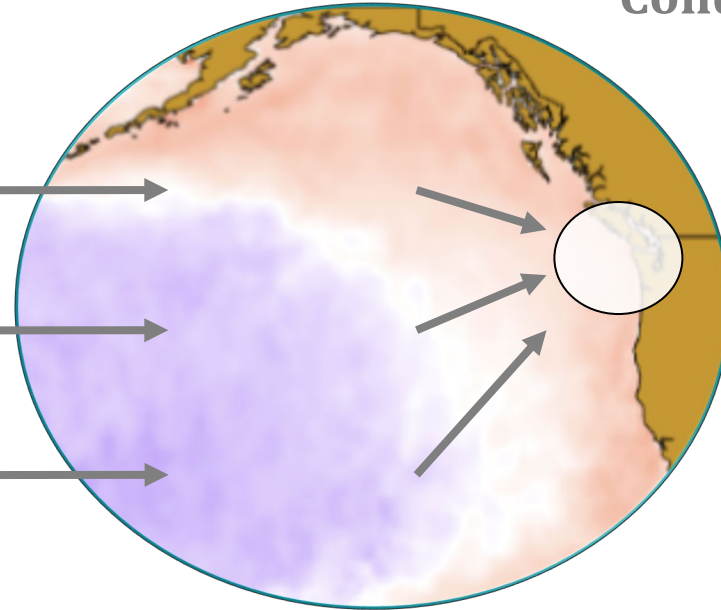
We have indicators representing many different scales

Underlying Processes

SST

SLP

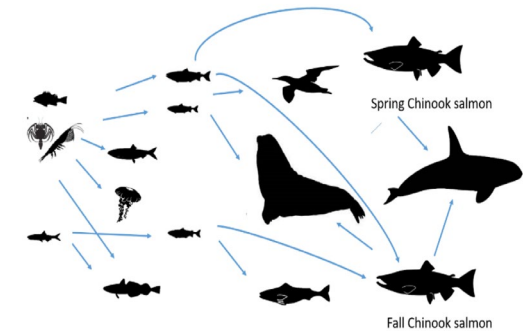
SSH



Local Physical Conditions



Local Biological Conditions



Common Indicators:

PDO, NPGO,
ONI, NPH

Wind
Upwelling
Coastal currents

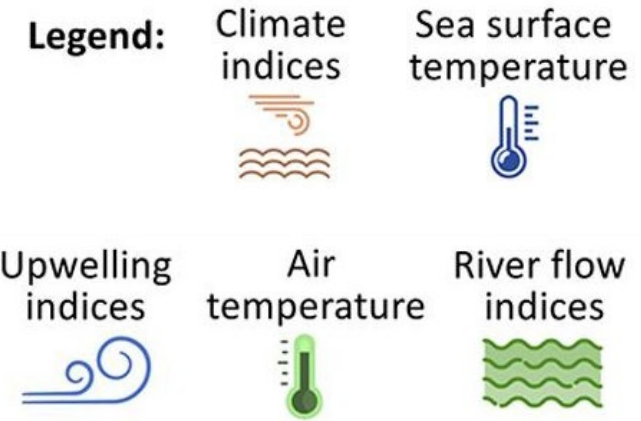
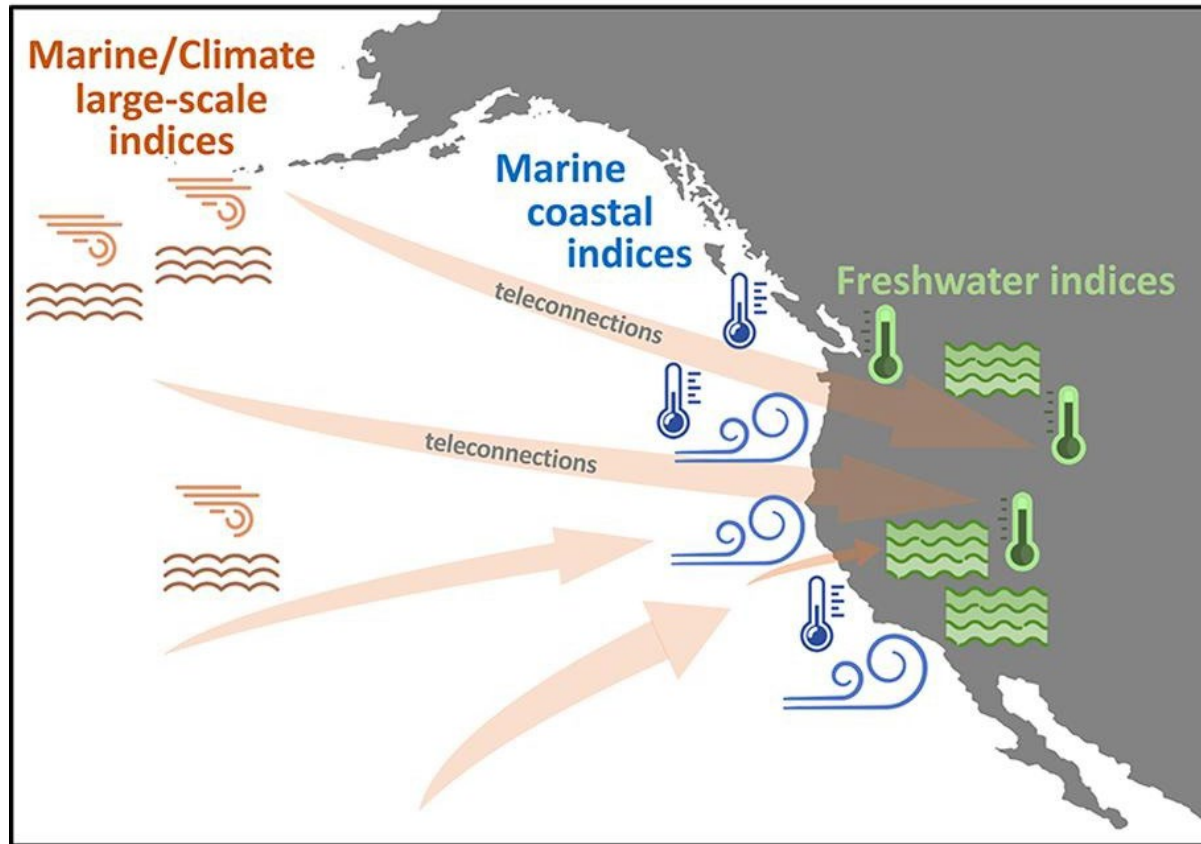
Copepods, Krill,
Ichthyoplankton,
Predators



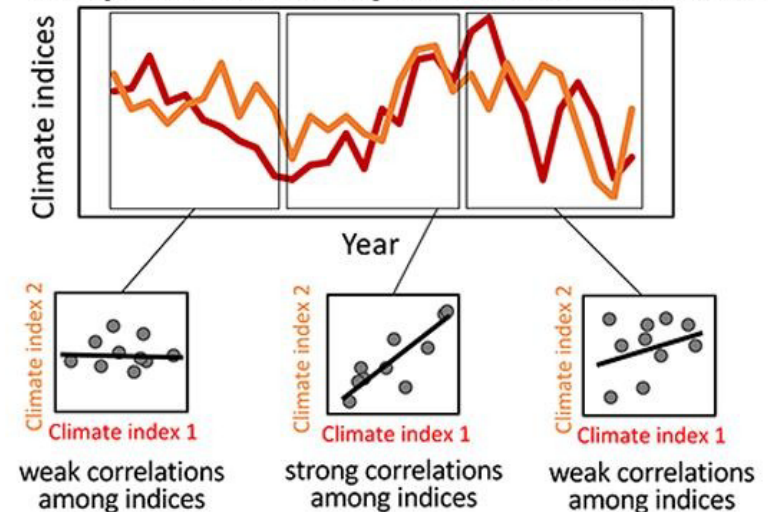
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Spatial 'teleconnections' are broader than just marine conditions

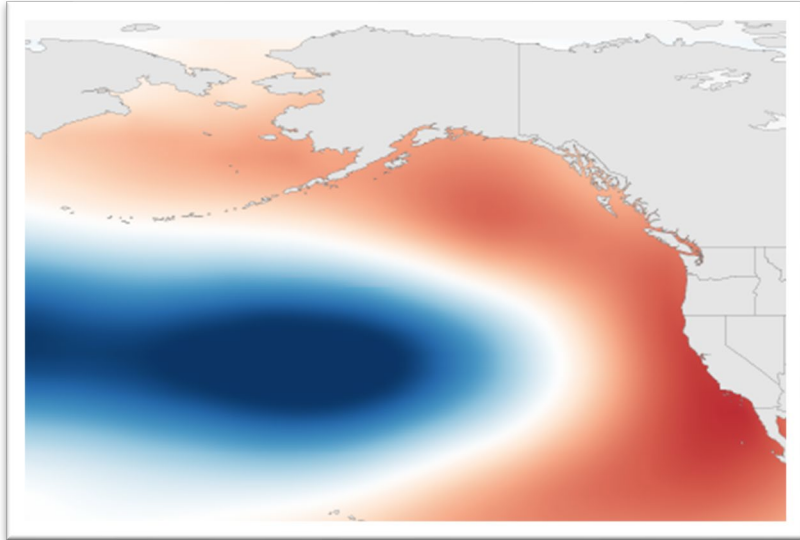
Types of indices where migratory salmon occur:



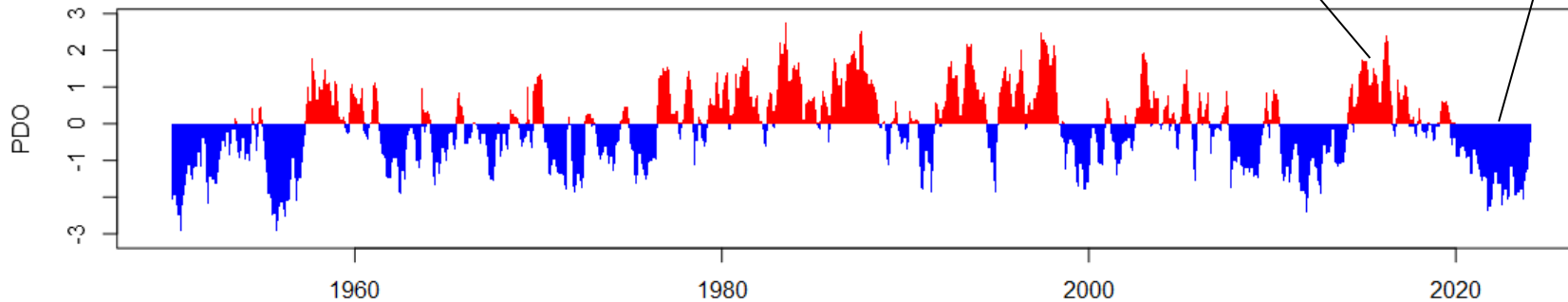
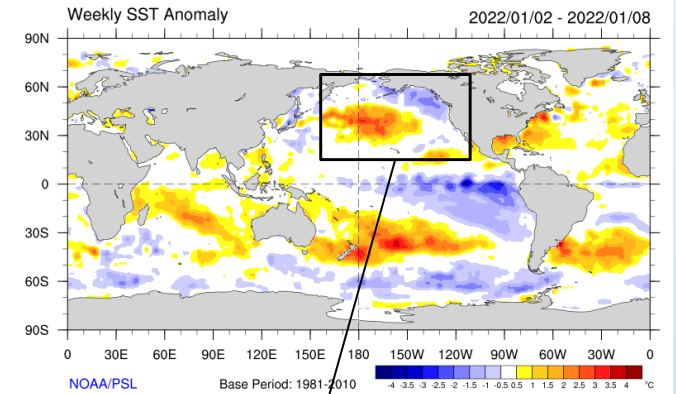
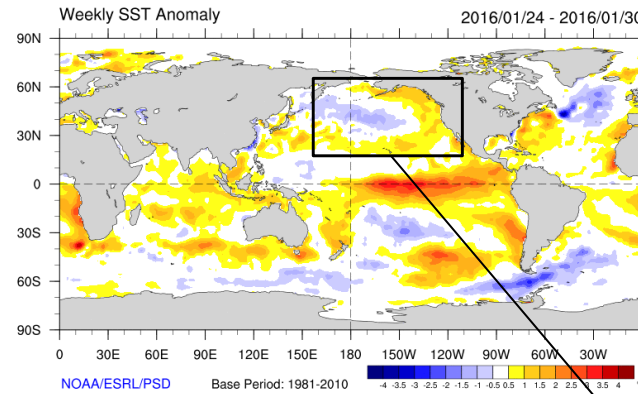
Temporal variability and teleconnections:



Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO)



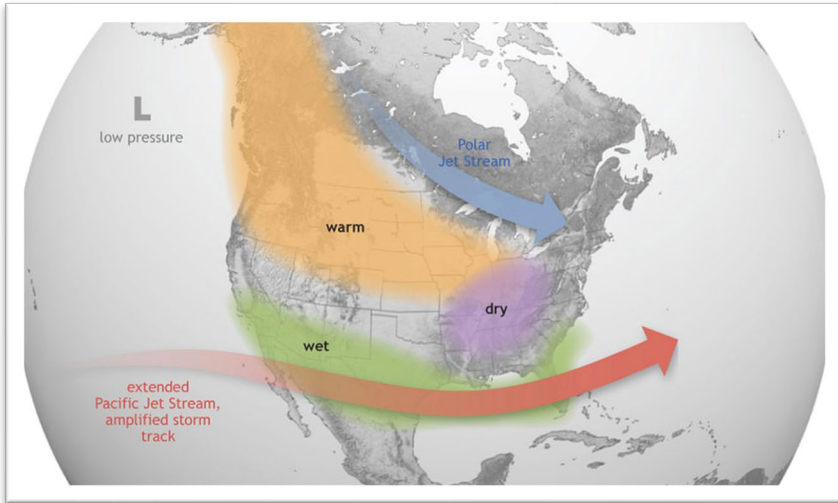
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/insight/ocean-atmosphere-climate-indices>



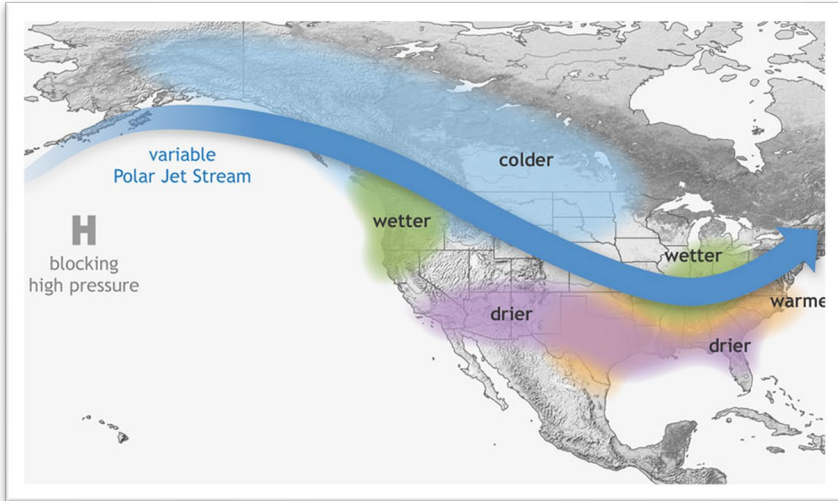
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El Niño

El Niño

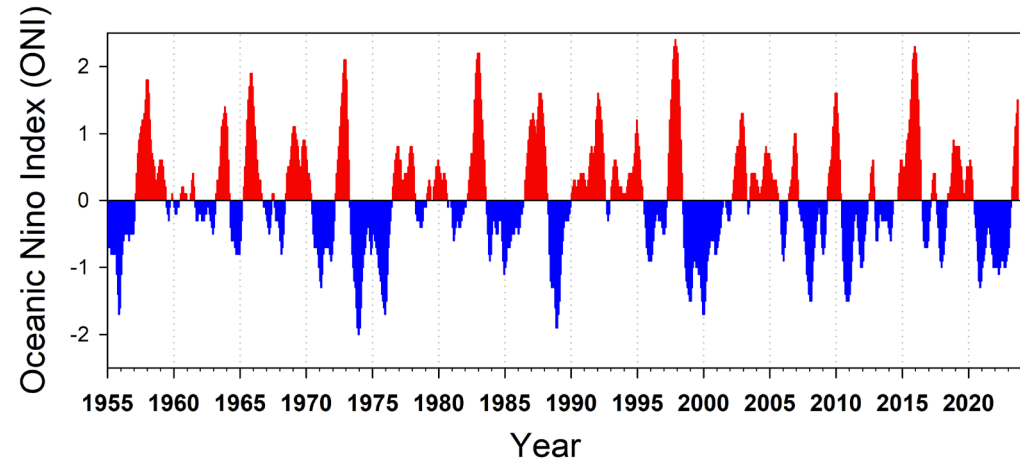
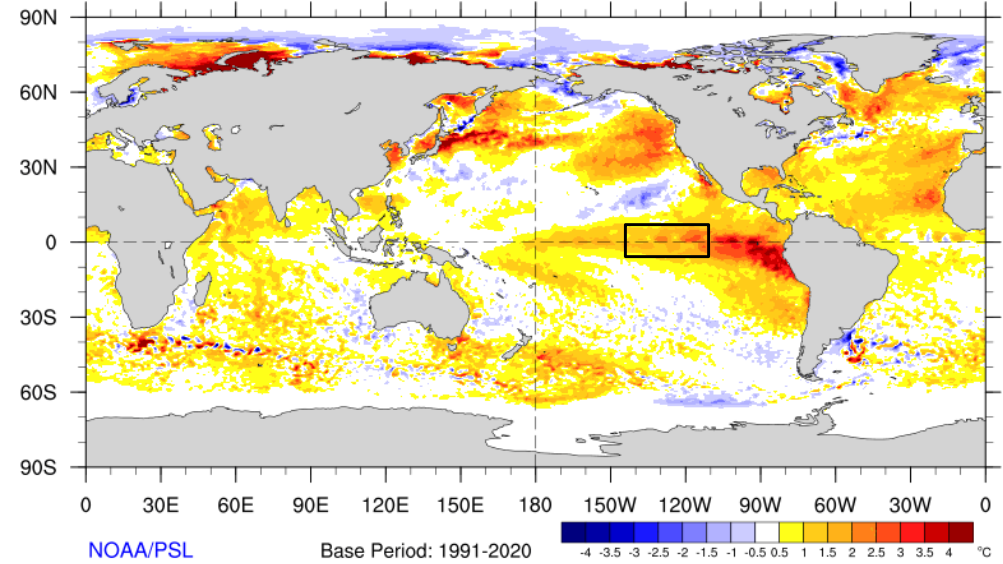


La Niña



Weekly SST Anomaly

2023/08/13 - 2023/08/19

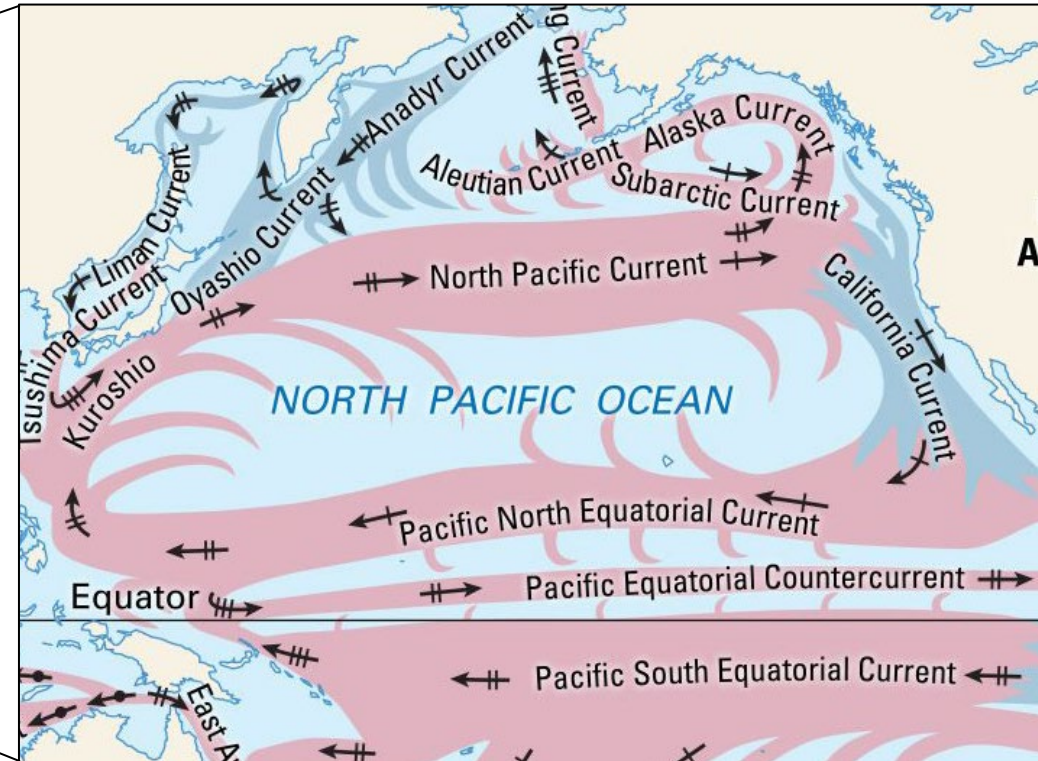
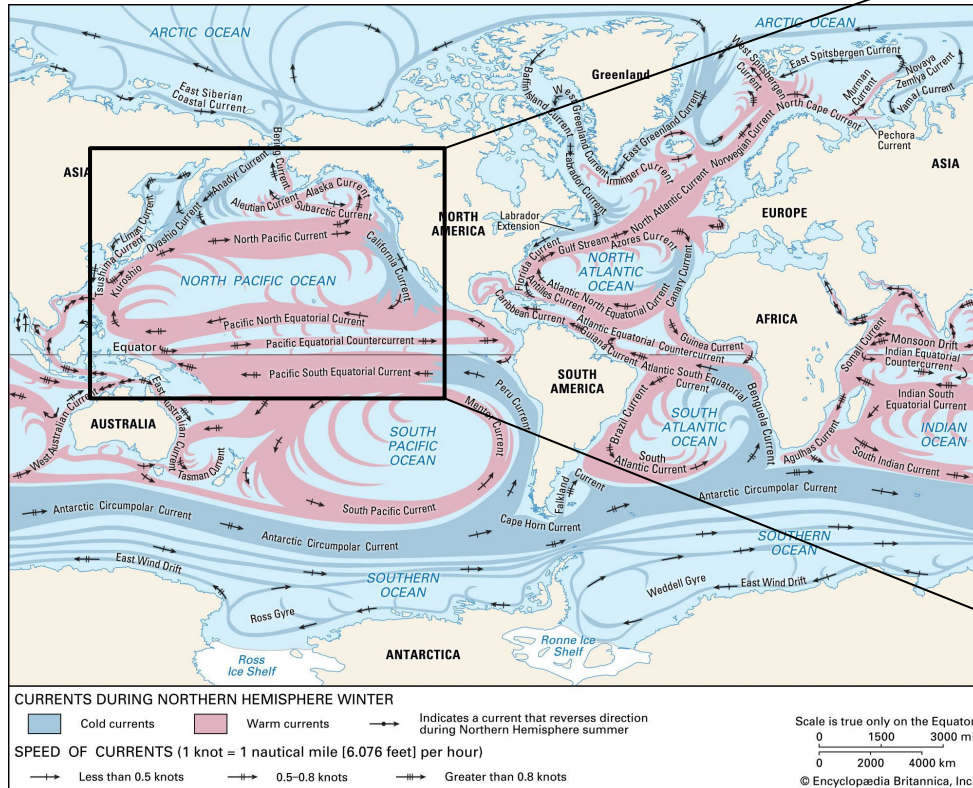


<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/ninonina.html>



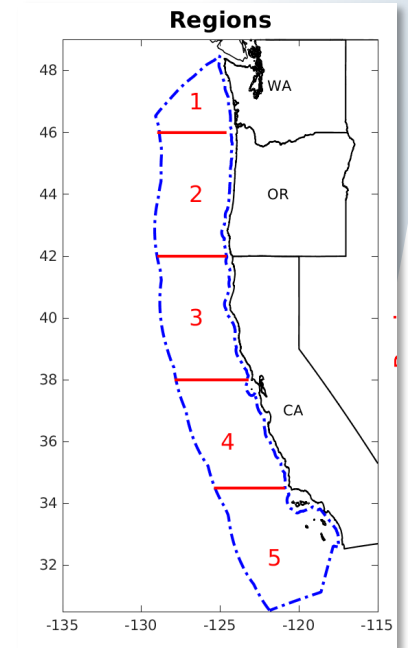
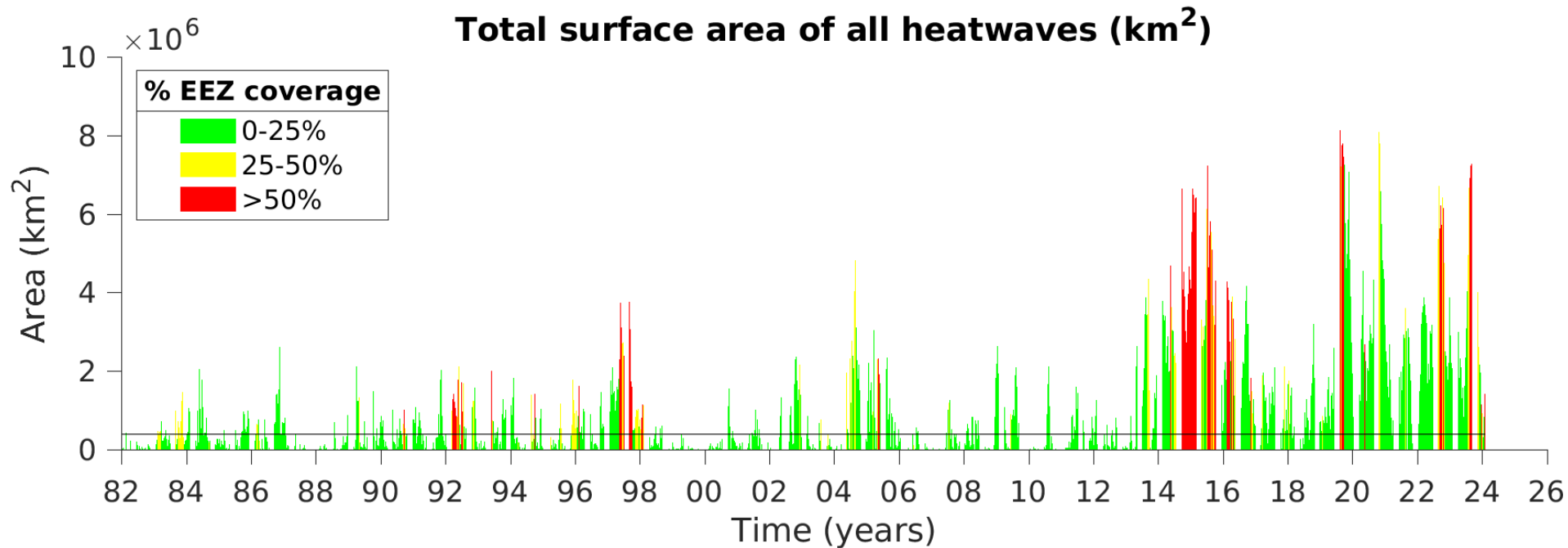
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Local Conditions depend on ocean currents



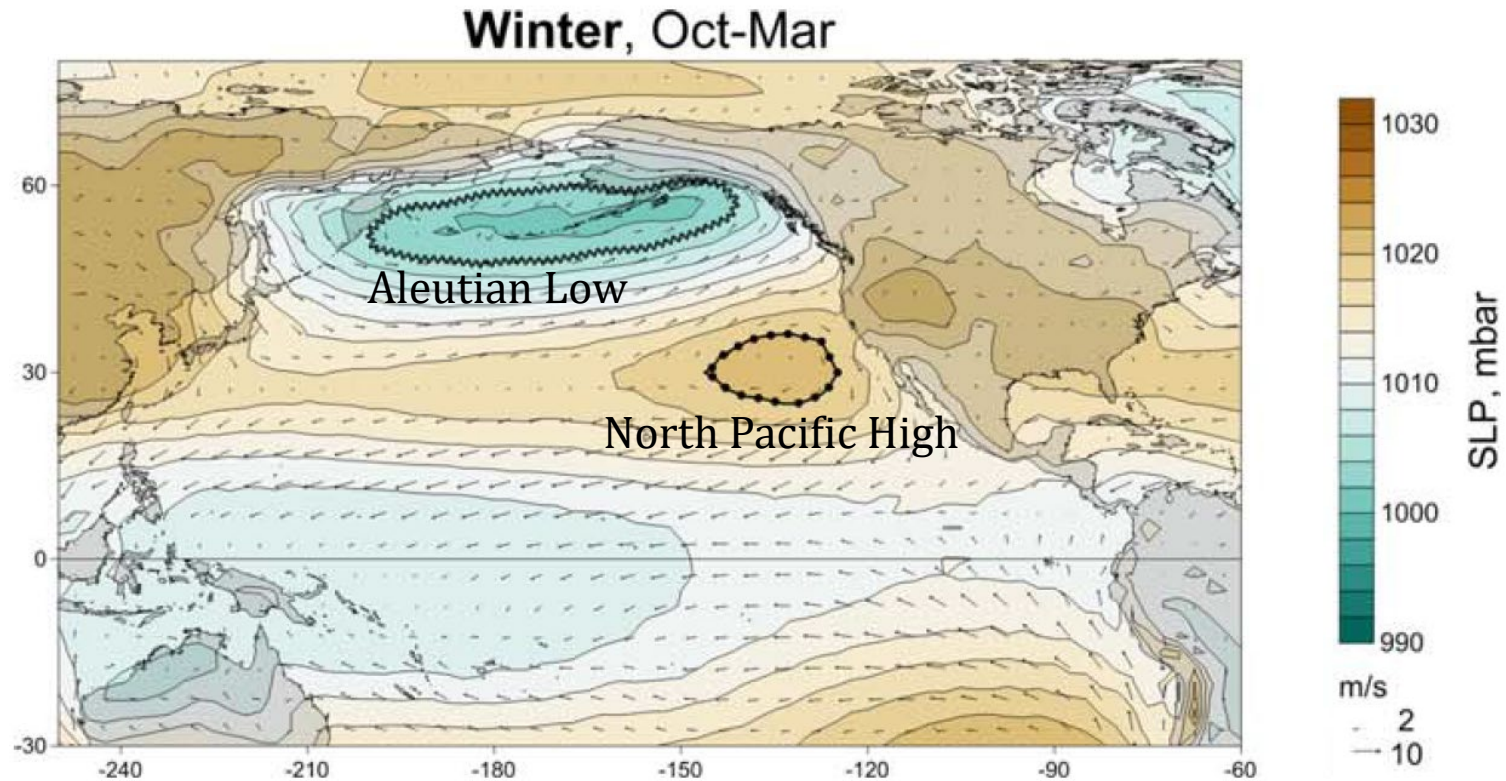
Example Indicator: Bifurcation Index from Malick et al. 2016.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/fog.12190>

NE Pacific marine heatwaves are increasing



California Current Ecosystem Status Report NOAA
<https://www.integratedecosystemassessment.noaa.gov/regions/california-current/california-current-marine-heatwave-tracker-blobtracker>

Heat waves are driven by a lack of surface mixing



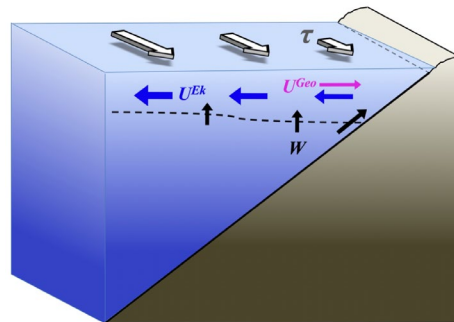
Fiedler & Mantua. 2017. How are warm and cool years in the California Current related to ENSO? Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans. 122. 10.1002/2017JC013094.

Aleutian Low - Beaufort Sea Anticyclone:
<https://psl.noaa.gov/data/timeseries/ALBSA/>

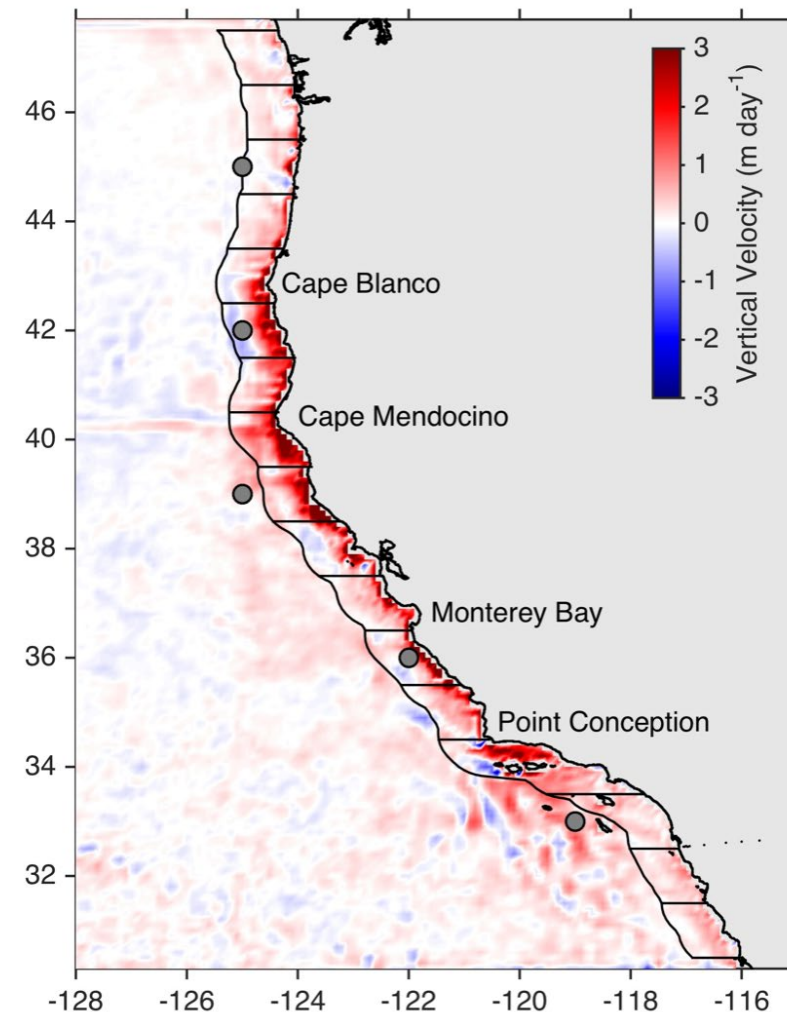
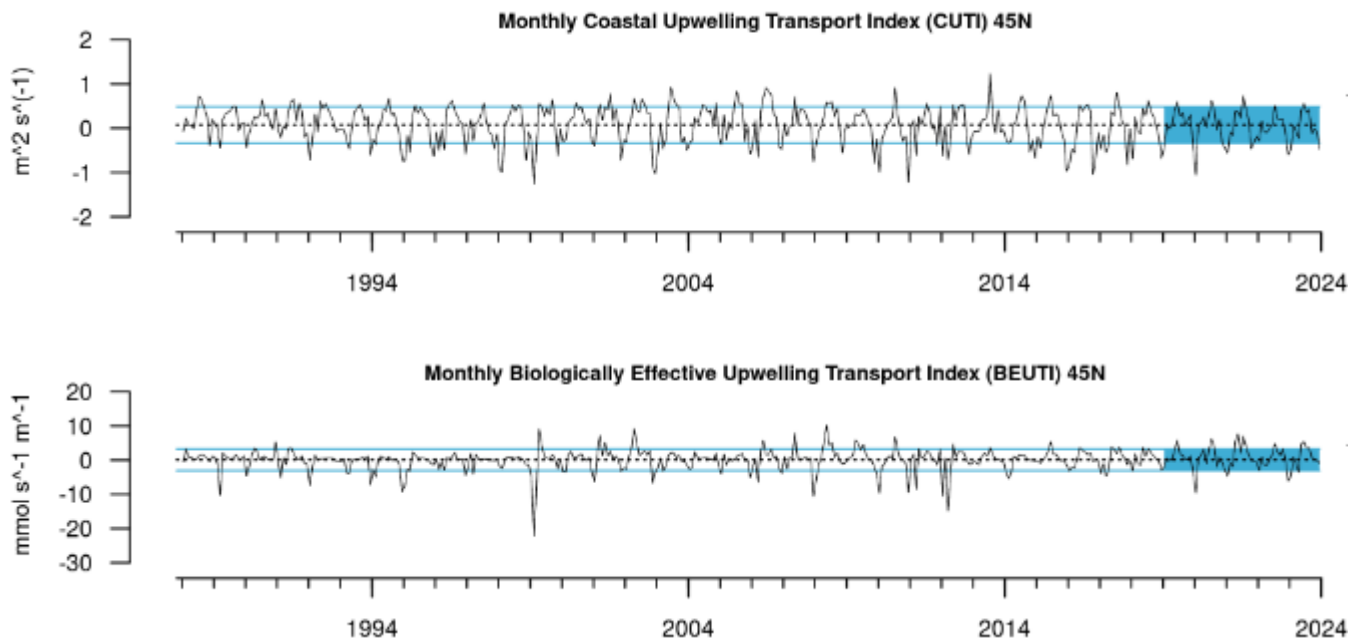


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Pressure Systems also drive Upwelling



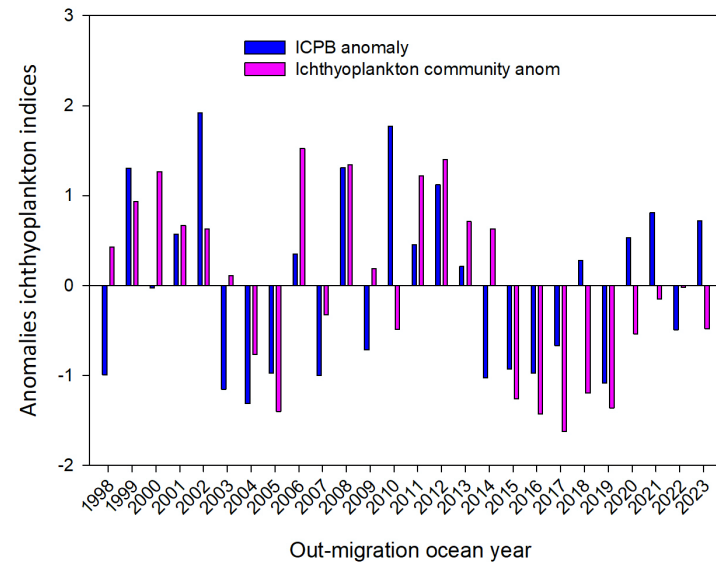
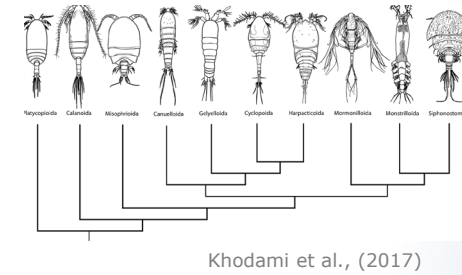
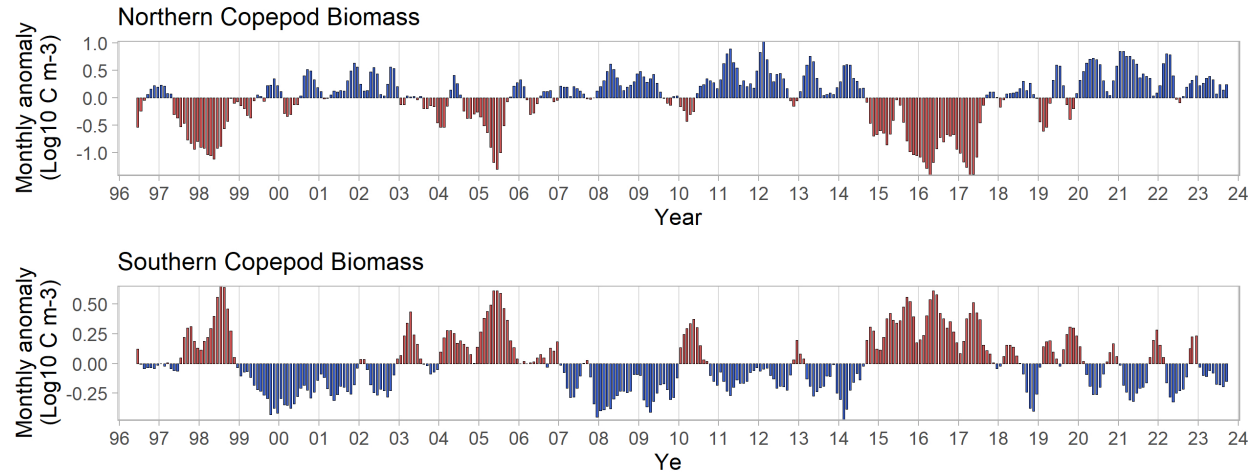
Alongshore wind stress (τ) and positive wind stress curl drive Ekman transport (U^{Ek}). Coastal sea surface height slopes downward toward the north, driving onshore geostrophic flow (U^{Geo}). Net upwelling (W) through the base of the mixed layer (dashed line) equals the sum of U^{Ek} and U^{Geo} . Not shown are alongshore changes in τ , which also contribute to U^{Ek} .



Mean spring/summer vertical velocity (upwelling in red, downwelling in blue). CUTI and BEUTI are calculated for 1° latitude bins, outlined in black. Gray dots are Bakun Index locations.

<https://mjacox.com/upwelling-indices/>

Currents, temperature, upwelling all drive the local food web



<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/science-data/ocean-ecosystem-indicators-pacific-salmon-marine-survival-northern>

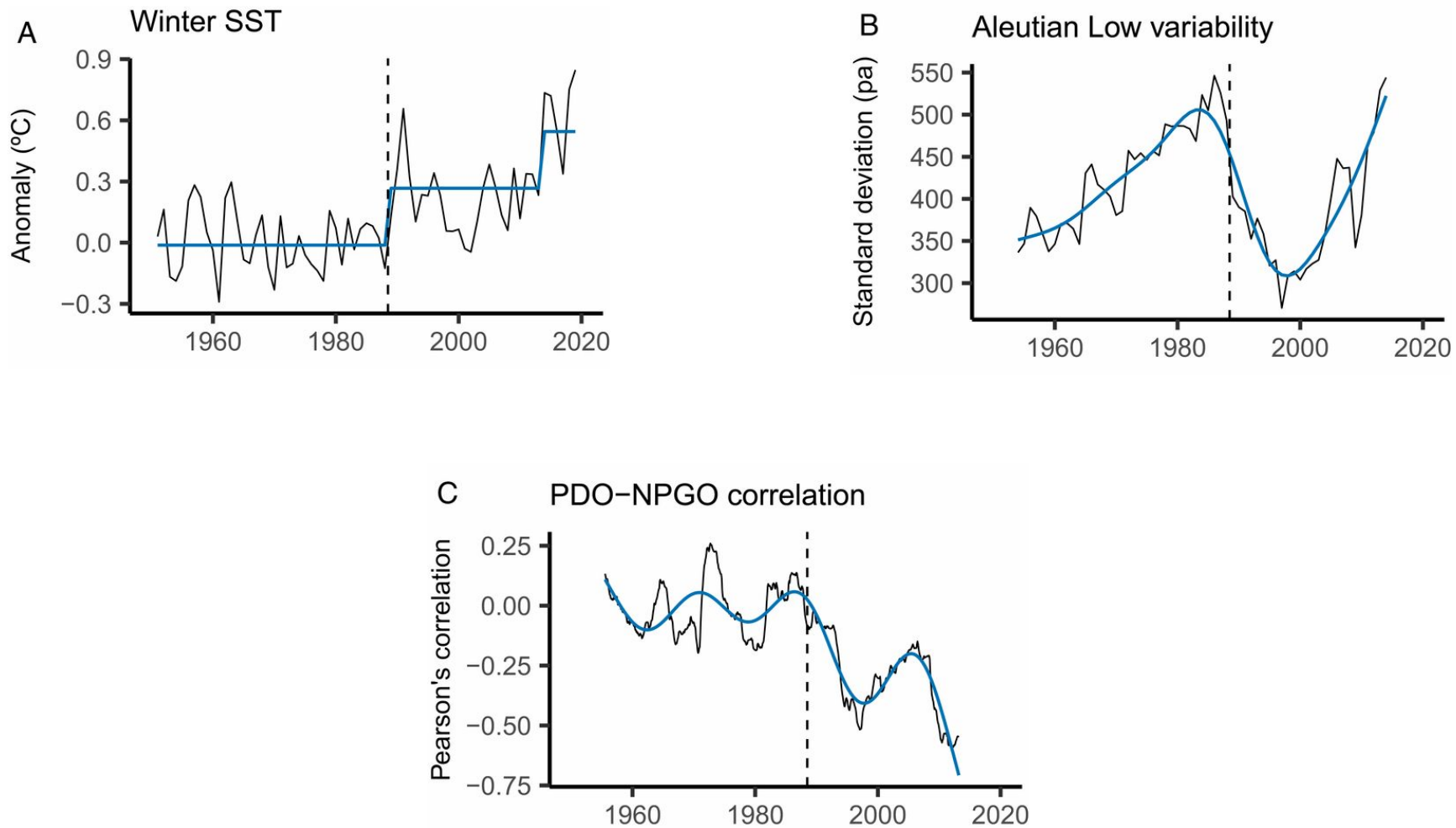
Non-stationarity

(you know, cause it wasn't complicated enough already)

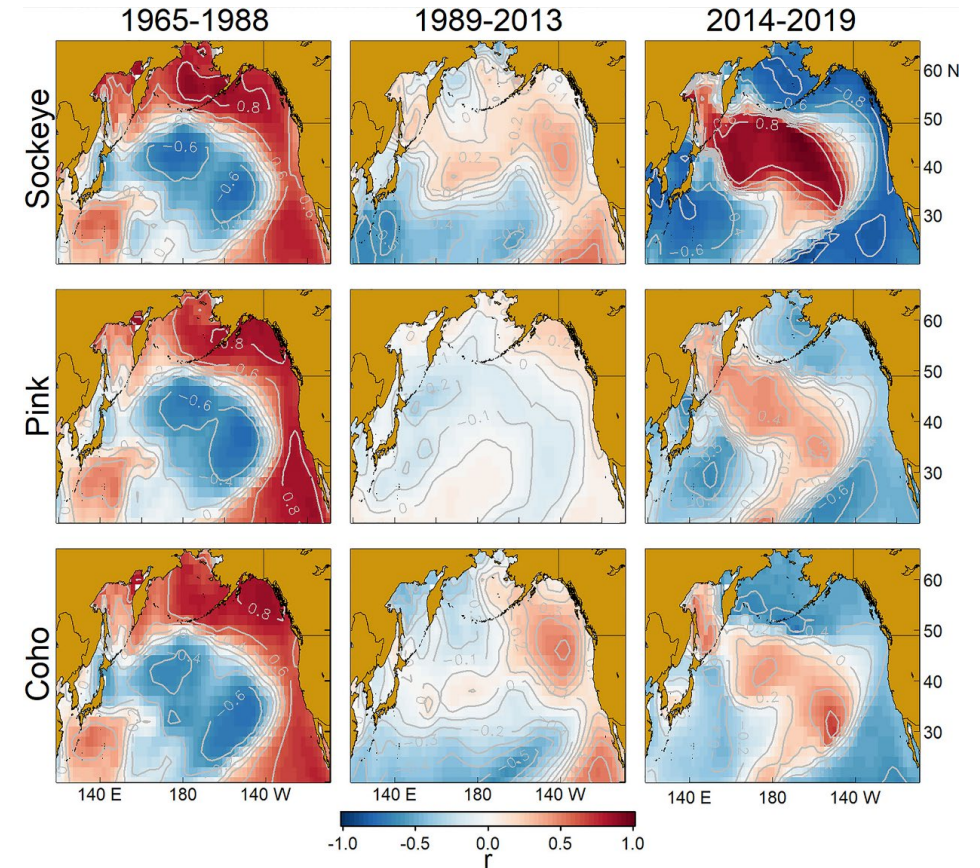
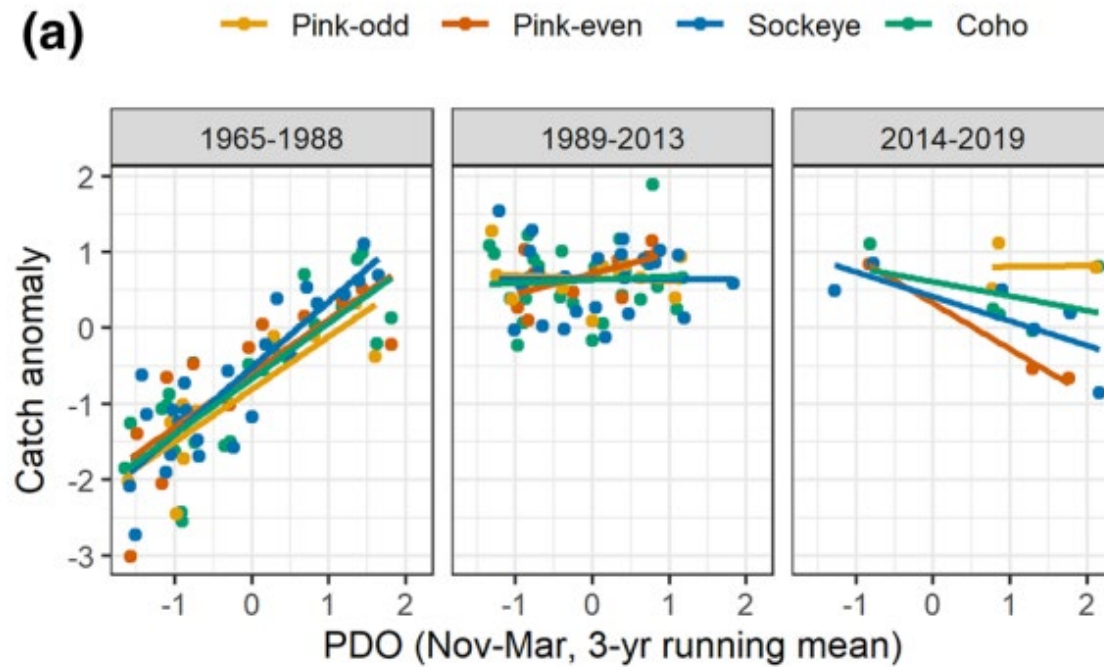


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Changes in individual time series or in the relationship among time series



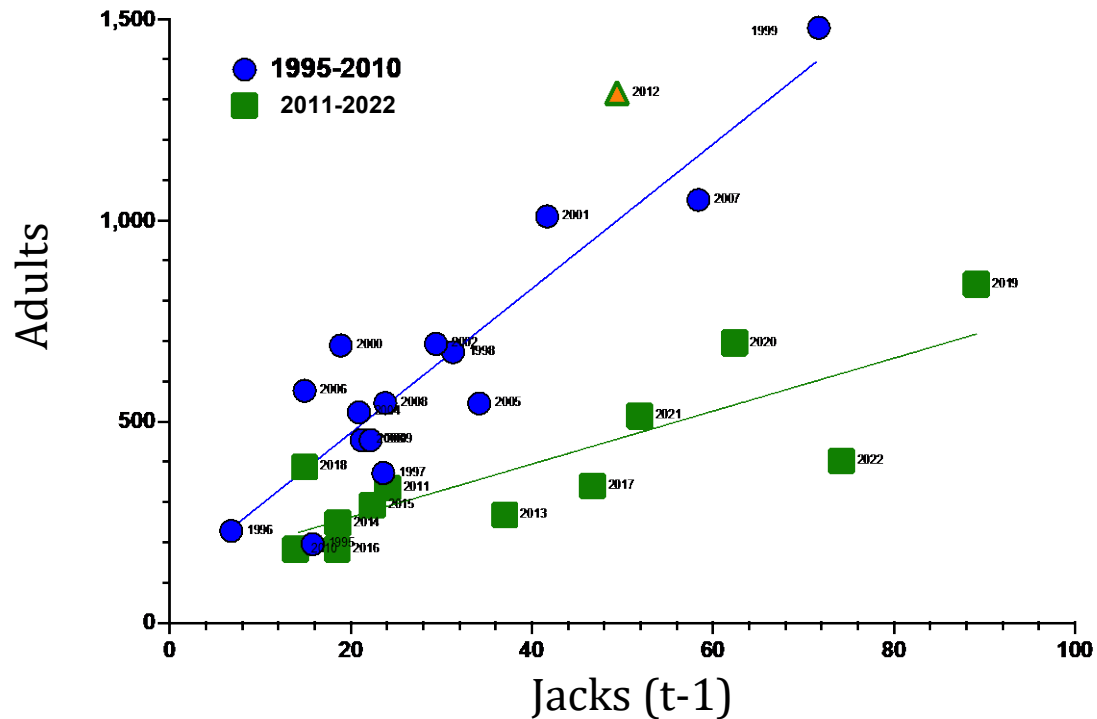
Changing PDO-Salmon Relationships



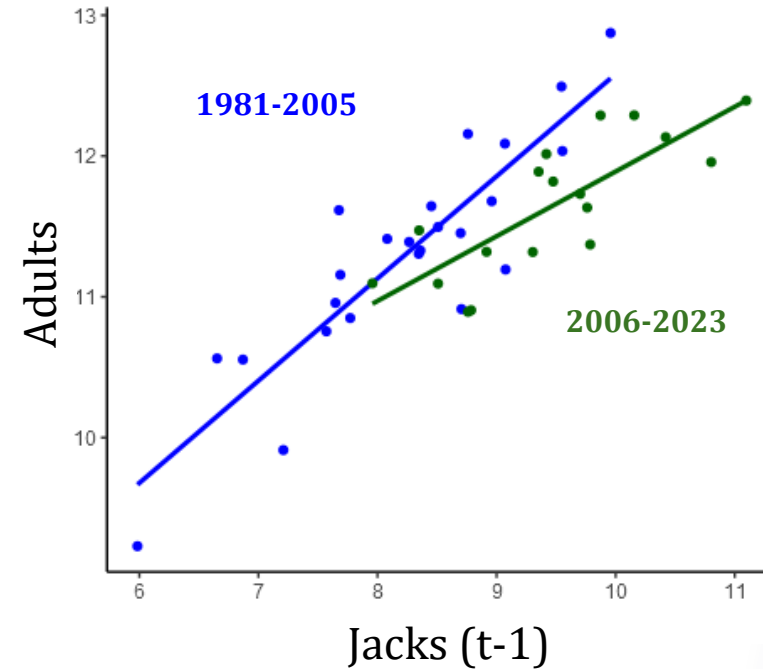
Litzow, M. A., et al. (2020). Quantifying a novel climate through changes in PDO-climate and PDO-salmon relationships. *Geophysical Research Letters*, 47, e2020GL087972. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2020GL087972>

Sibling Regressions are not immune

Coho Oregon Production Index - Hatchery



Counts of spring Chinook at Bonneville Dam (in log space)



What's a forecaster to do?

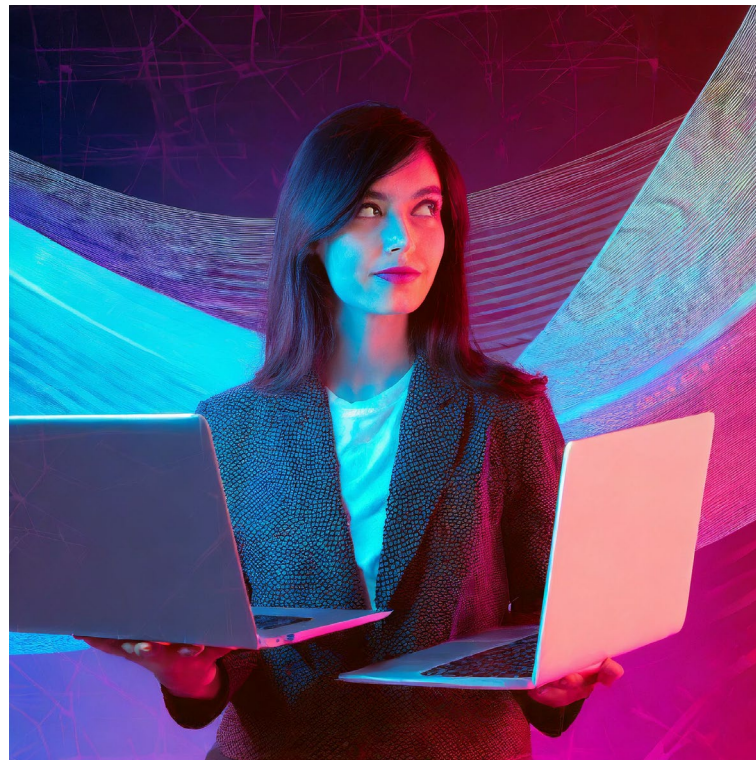
Better understand salmon marine ecology?

Try every possible covariate?

Take advantage of patterns in physical-biological relationships?

Find a simple indicator that works okay?

Random number generator?



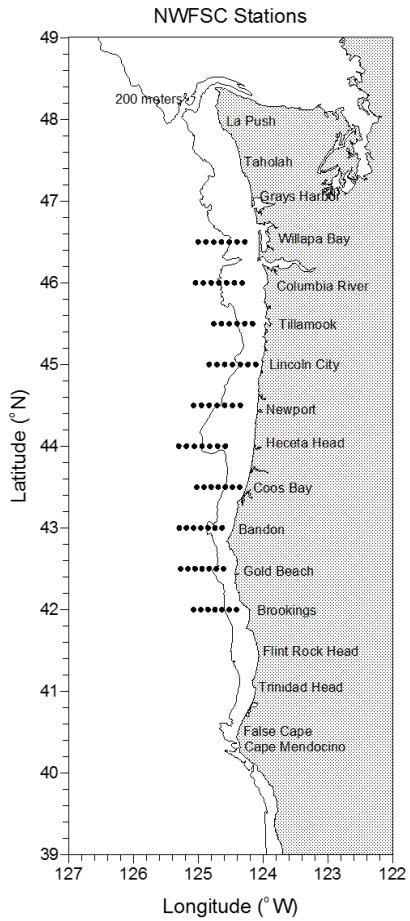
Build a full ecosystem model to represent every potential process?

Use the recent 5-year mean?



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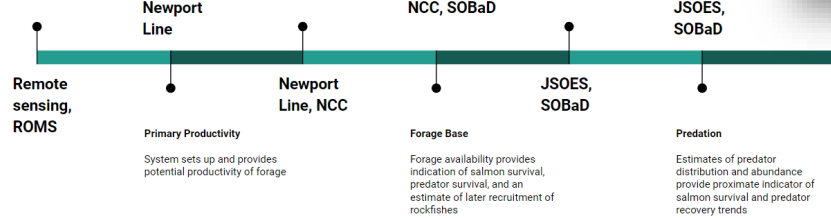
Our projects cover all ecosystem components



Basin-scale Ocean-Atmos Dynamics
Provides early indicator of coastal productivity

Copepods, Krill, Ichthyoplankton
At the bottom of the forage base, organisms provide a baseline nutrient level (lipids)

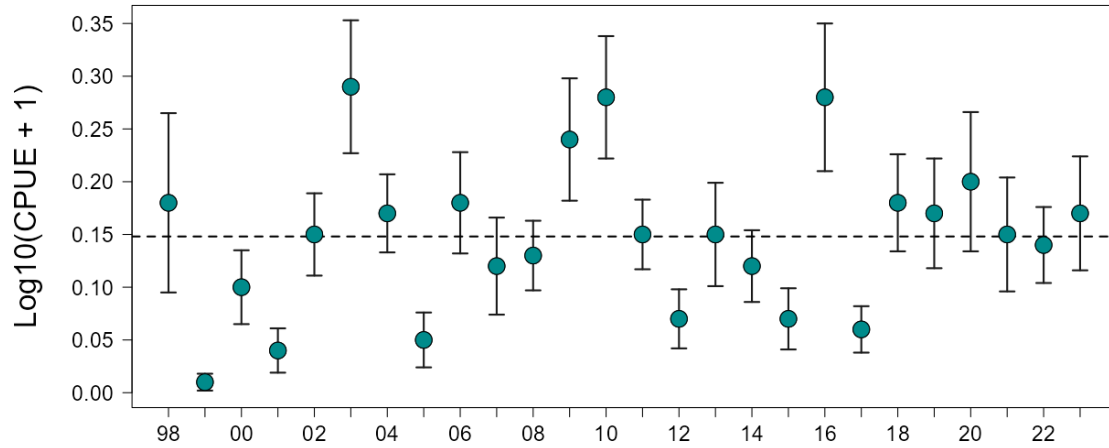
Salmon Condition, Behavior
Salmon condition provides a more proximate indicator of salmon recruitment



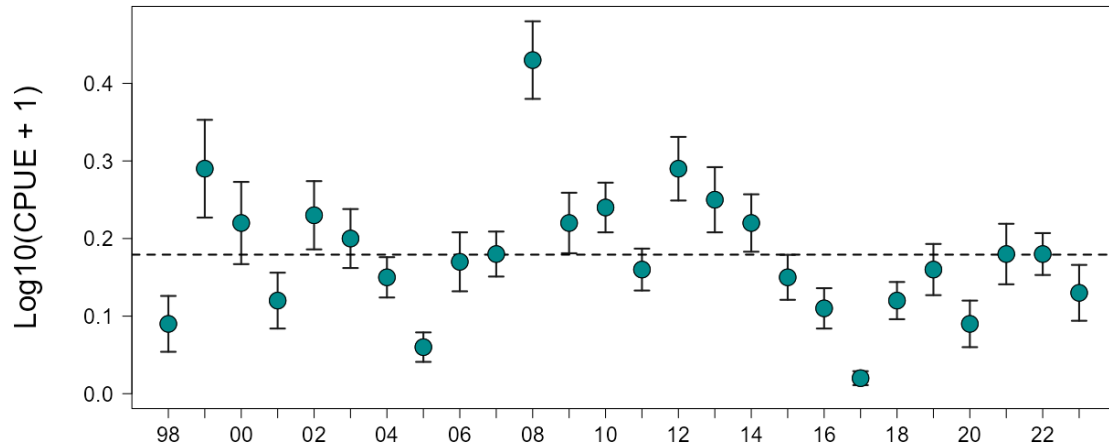
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JSOES Catches - June, 1998-2023

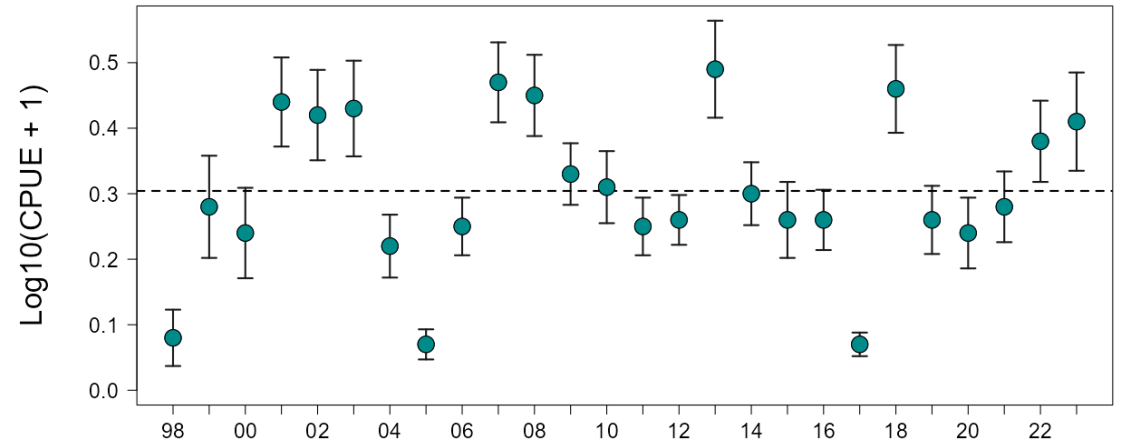
Chinook salmon subyearling



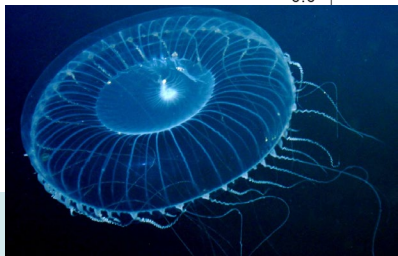
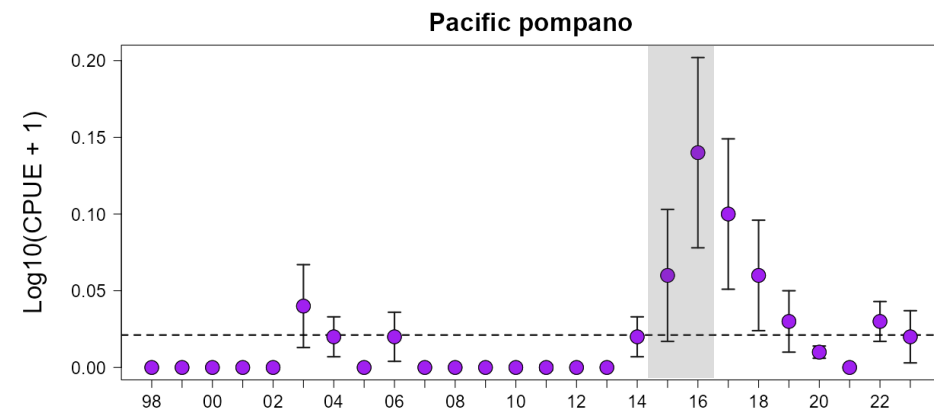
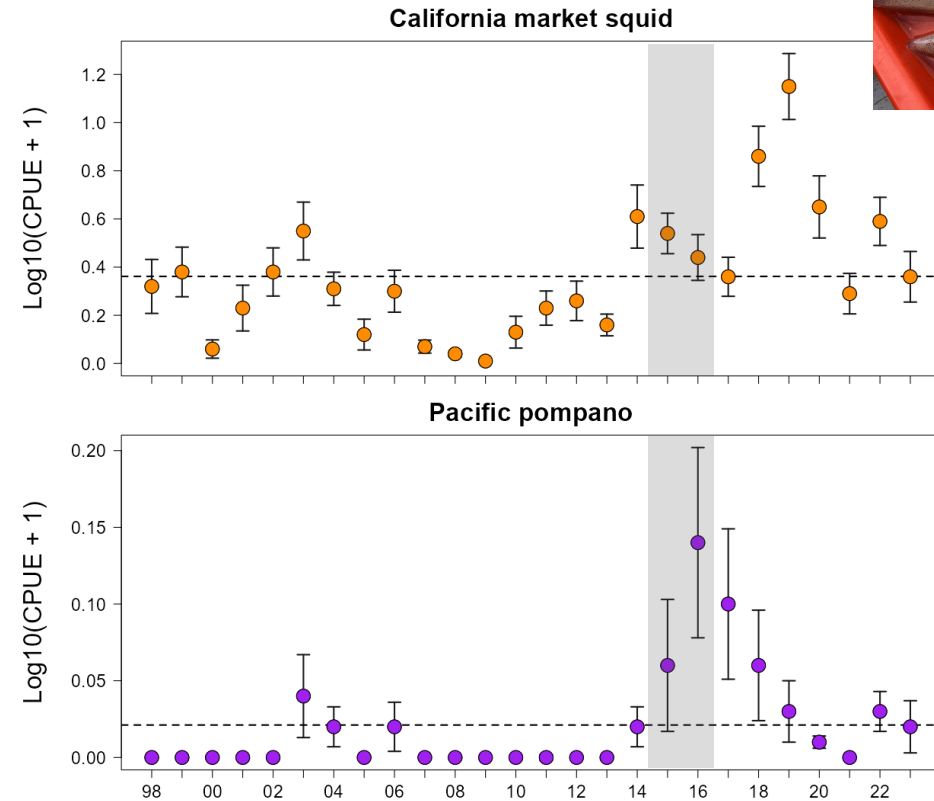
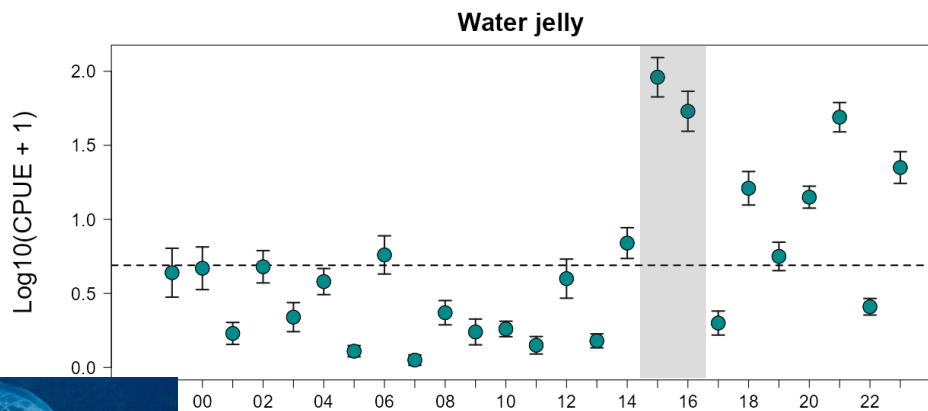
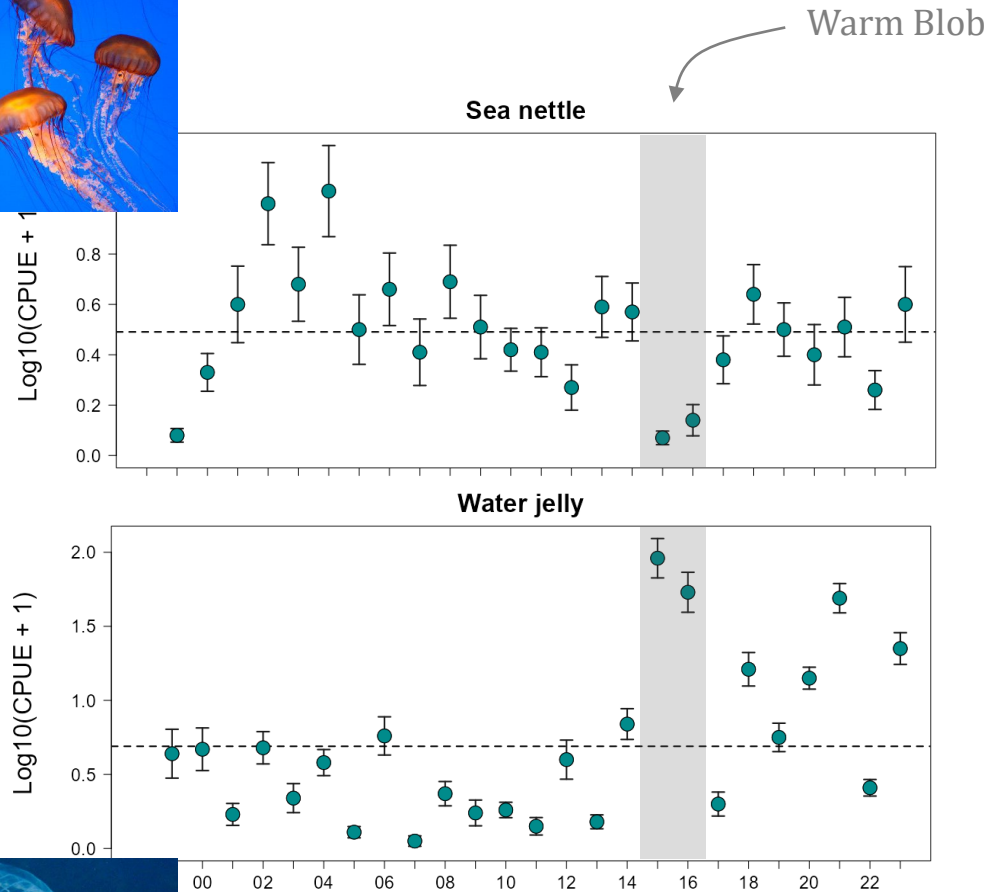
Chinook salmon yearling



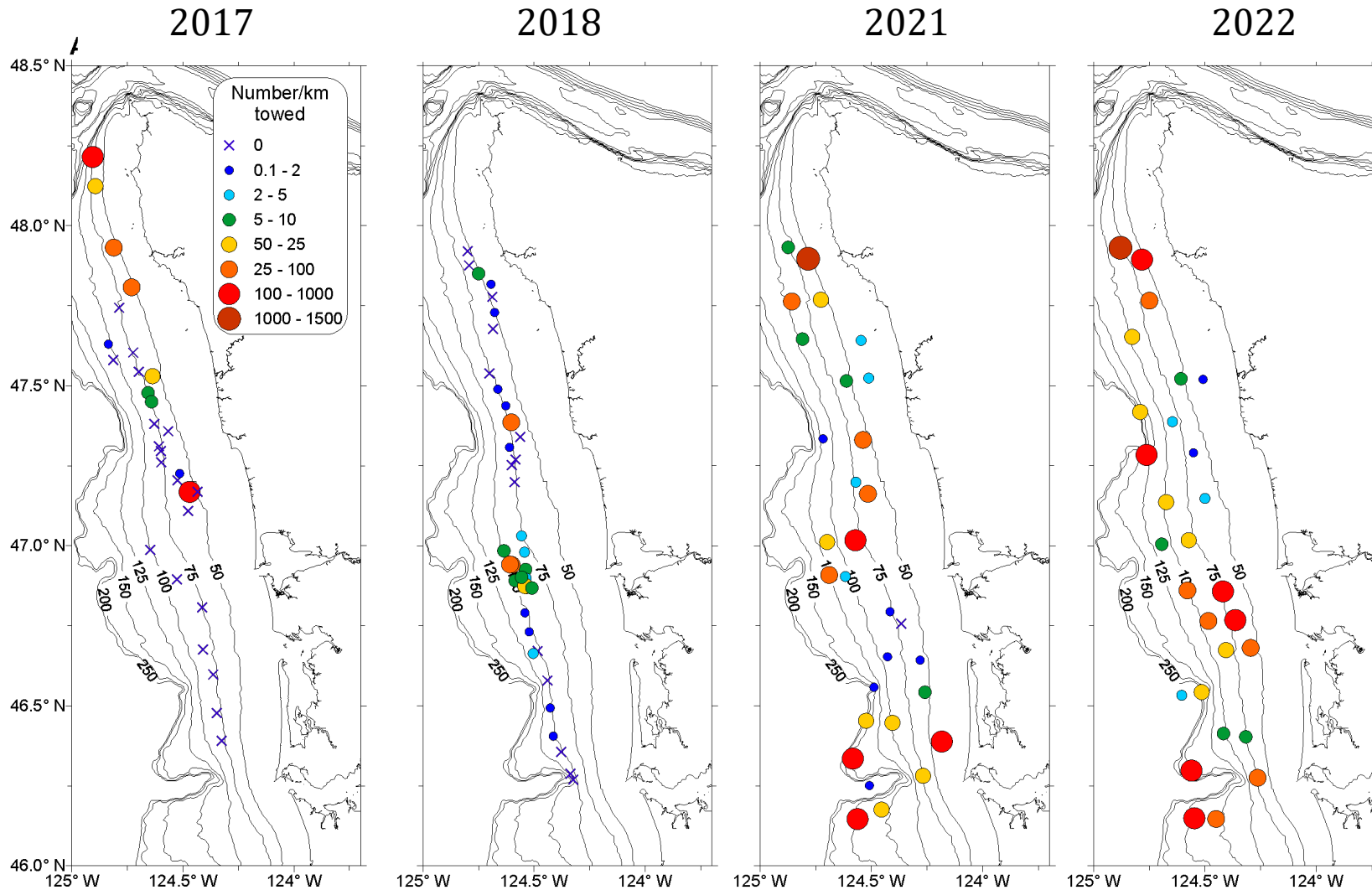
Coho salmon yearling



Recent trends among biological data streams



Pacific Sardine (larval)



Part II - CMISST



Summary:

- No single metric can represent our diverse uses for ocean indicators
- Current management needs can't wait for fully developed mechanistic ecosystem models
- We can quickly and easily generate a stock-specific indicator for a variety of species / management applications

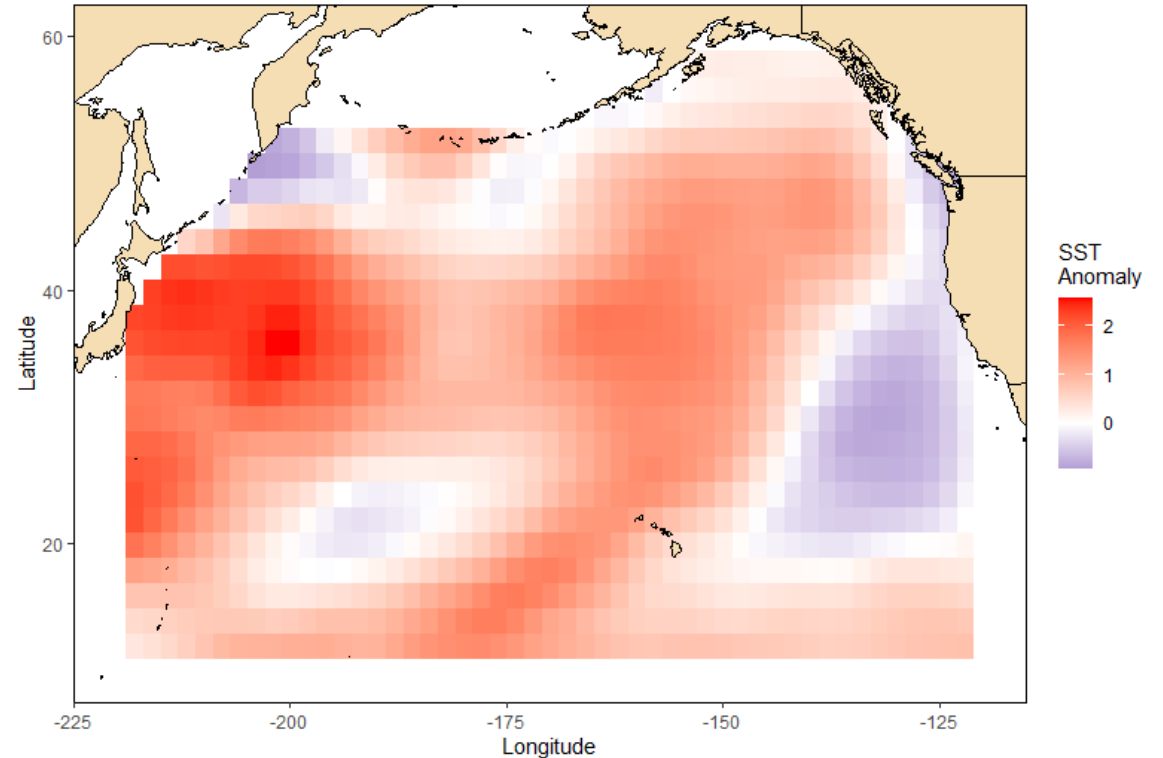


Wealth of existing data sources

Satellite data (SST, SSH):

- Publicly-available
- Spatially-explicit
- Regularly updated

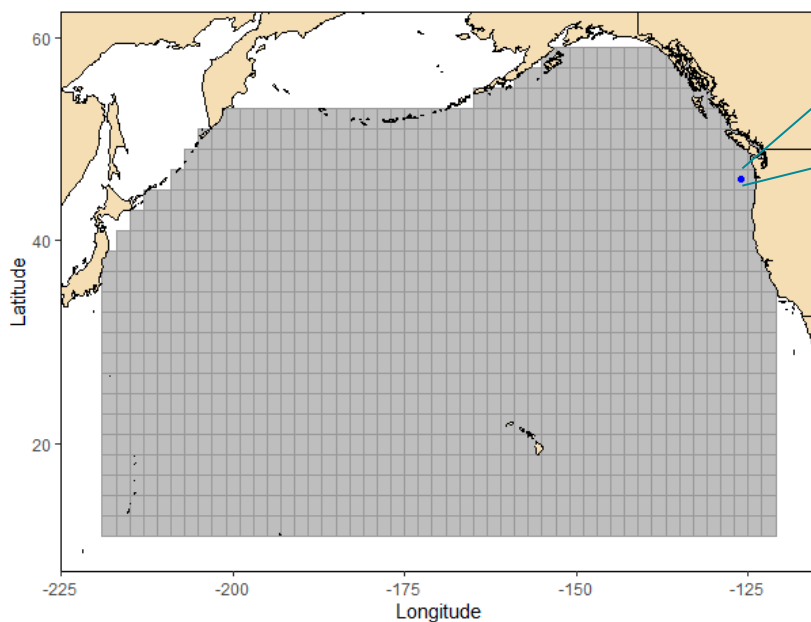
Jan-Mar 2020, Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly



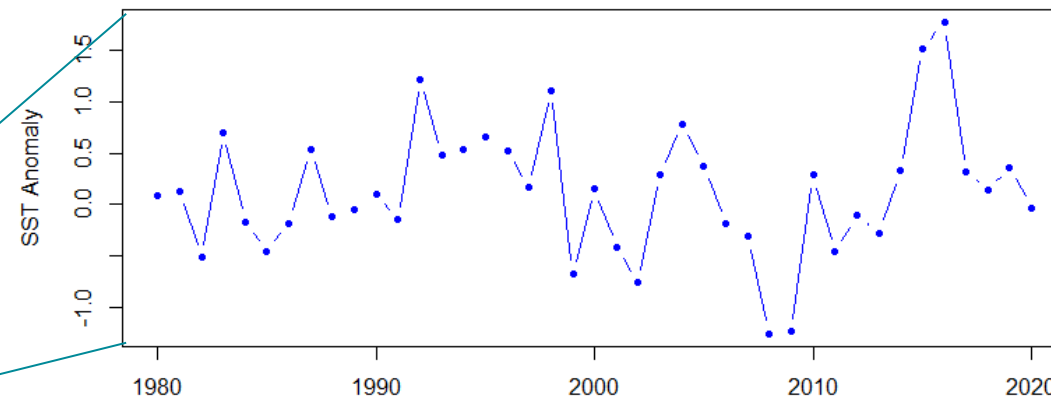
SST data are from ERSST
(<https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/pub/data/cmb/ersst/v5/netcdf/>)
See: Huang et al, 2017

Methods

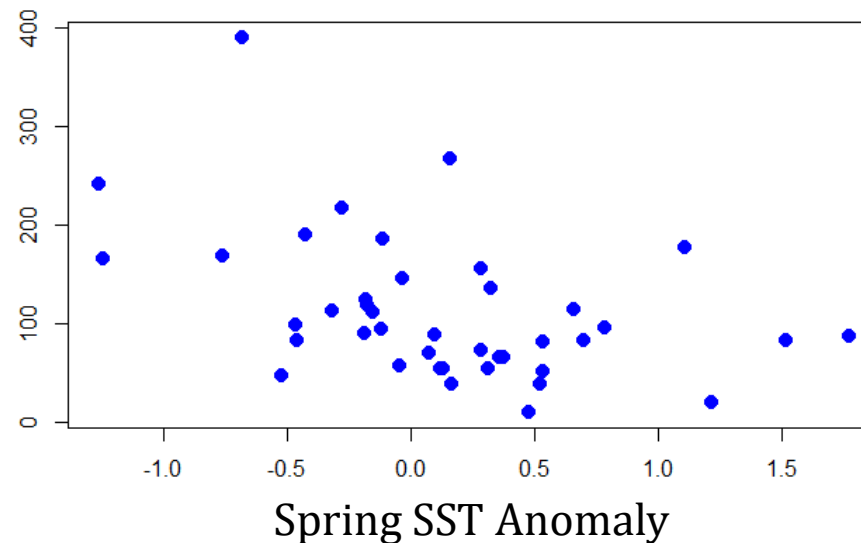
We can quantify the covariance between SST at any single location and the response variable we're interested in



Spring SST Anomaly

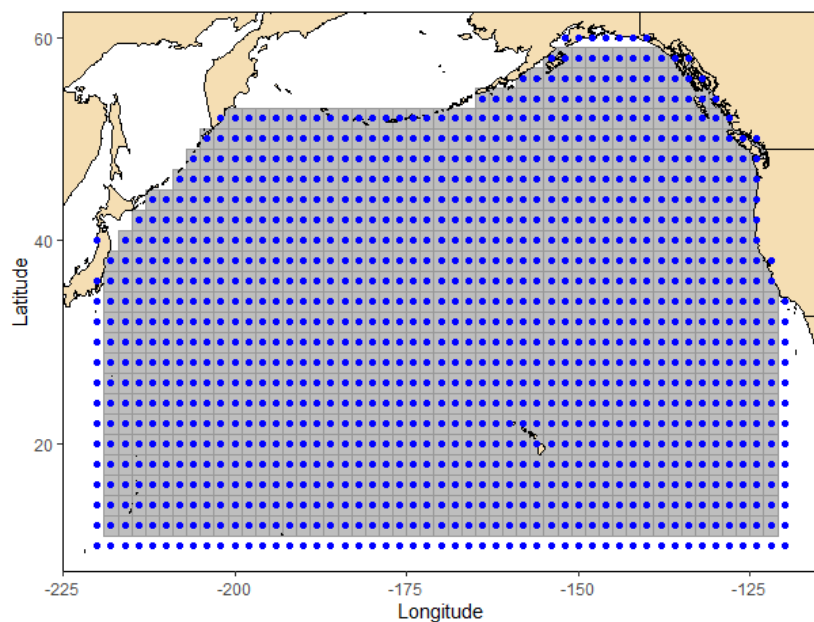


Spring Chinook (x1000, lagged by 2 years)



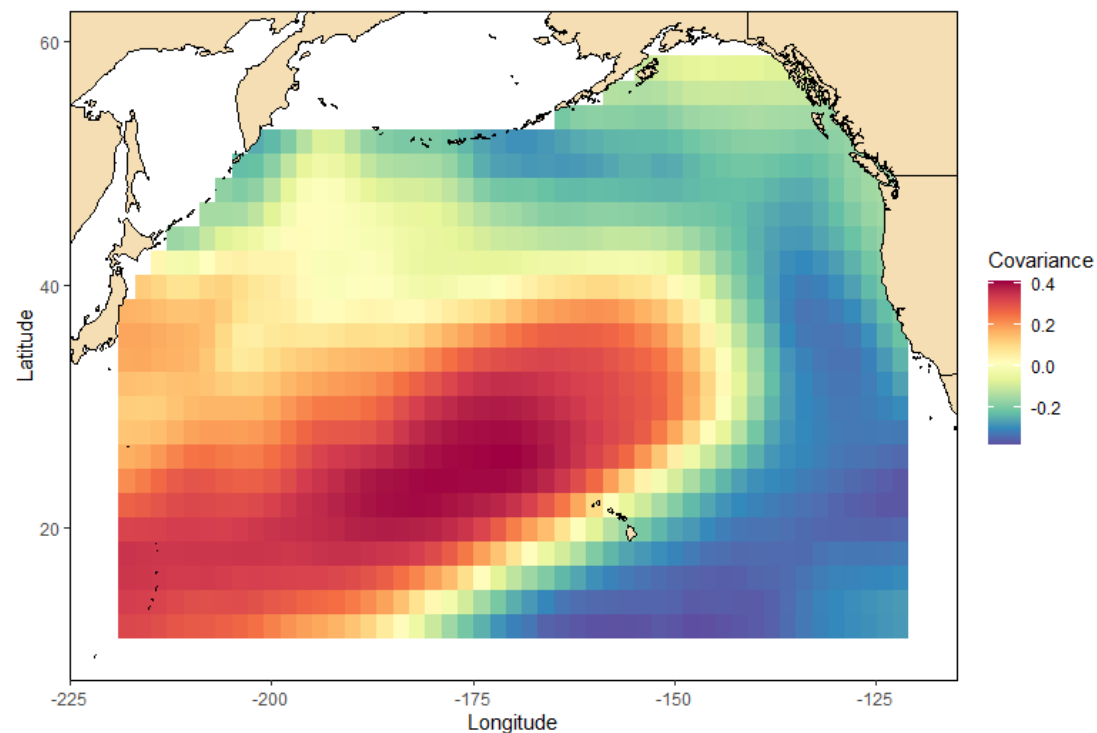
Methods

We can do the same thing for every grid cell in the North Pacific



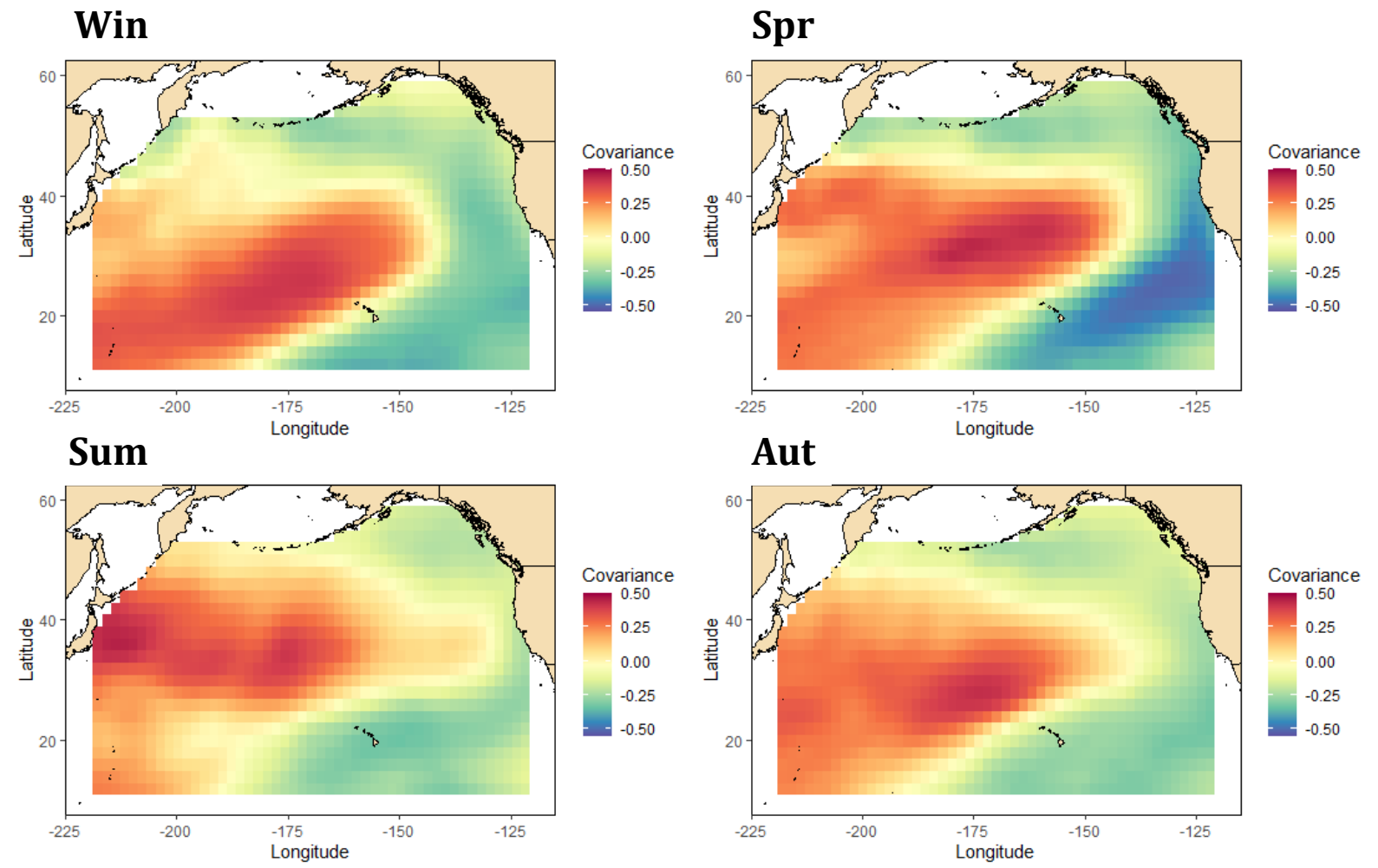
This “Covariance Map” represents the Optimal Spatial Distribution of SST anomalies for a given salmon population

Covariance between winter SST anomalies and counts of adult spring Chinook in the Columbia River
1980 - 2020



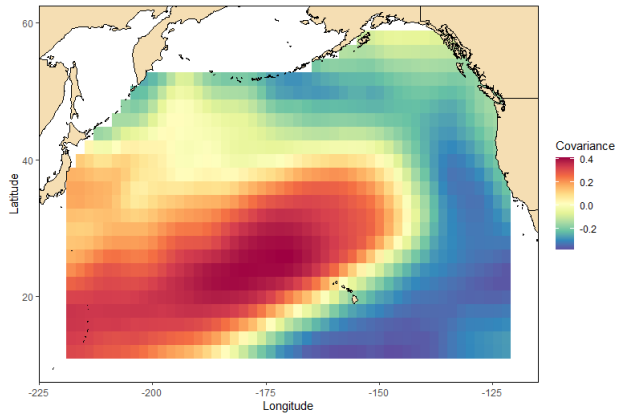
Basic Comparisons:

Spring Chinook Covariance Patterns by Season

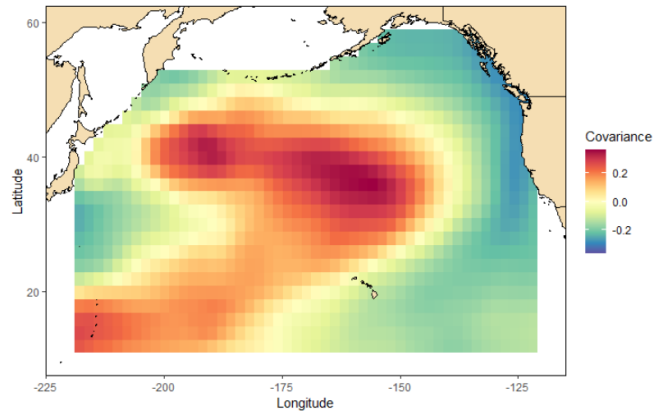


Basic Comparisons: Covariance Patterns by Species

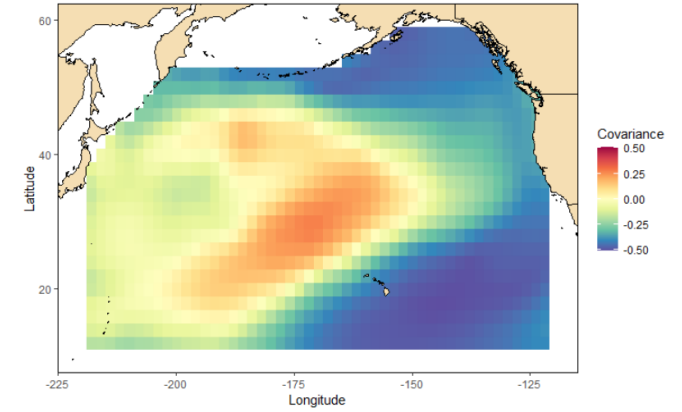
Spring Chinook



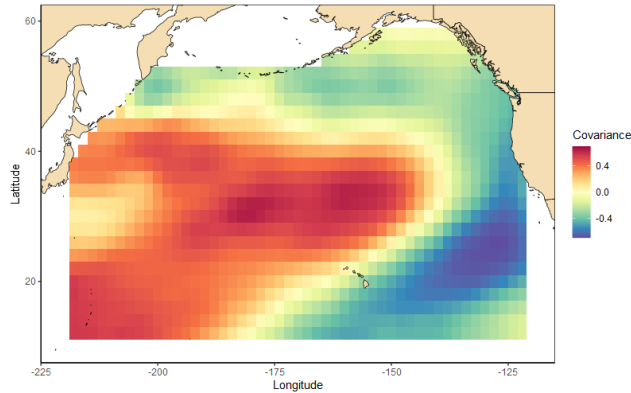
Fall Chinook



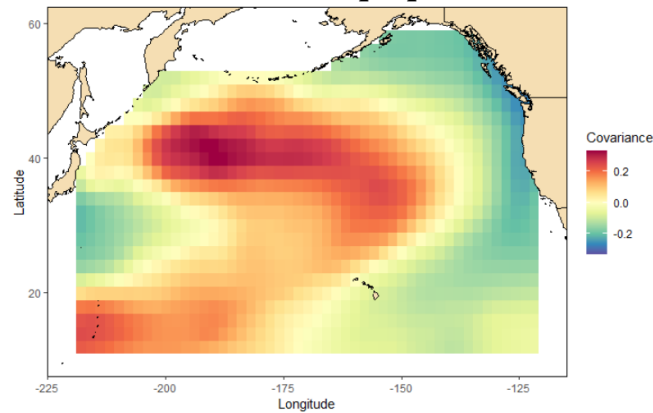
Steelhead



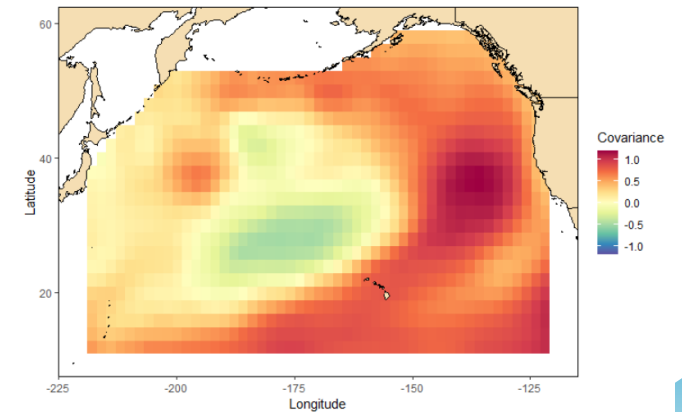
Spring Chinook jacks



Northern Copepods



Juvenile Rockfish

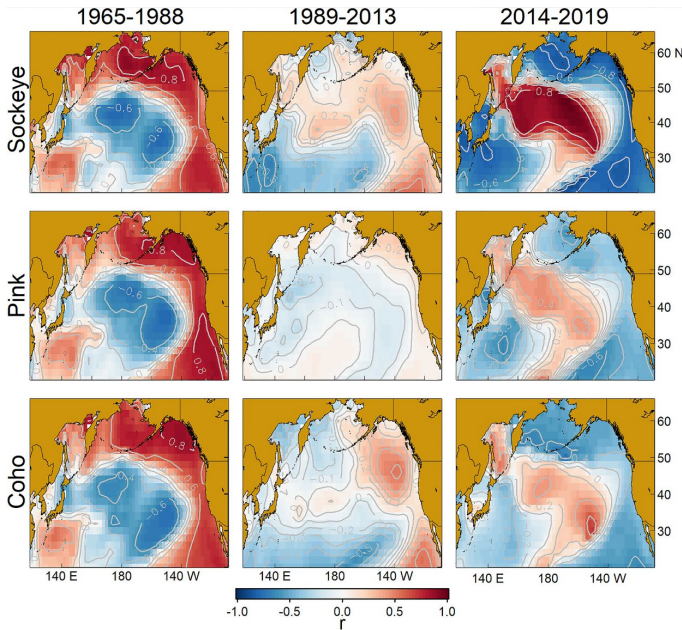


Note: Different scales

This isn't new - spatial correlations have been created for many reasons

Correlation between SST and salmon catch rates

Litzow, M. A., et al. (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1029/2020GL087972>



Correlation between predator abundance and salmon survival

Friedland et al. 2012. Fisheries Management and Ecology, 19, 22-35

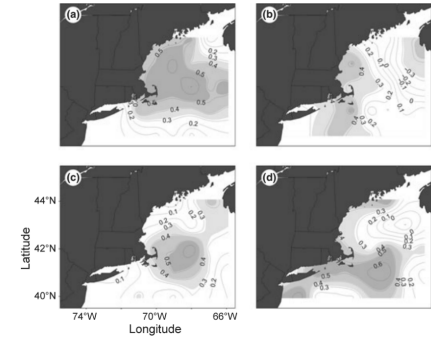


Figure 6. Correlation between 2SW return rates and the abundance of *Amblyraja radiata* (a), *Urophycis tenuis* (b), *Pollachius virens* (c), and *Gadus morhua* (d). Shading denotes correlation probabilities: light grey, $P < 0.05$; medium grey, $P < 0.01$; and dark grey, $P < 0.001$.

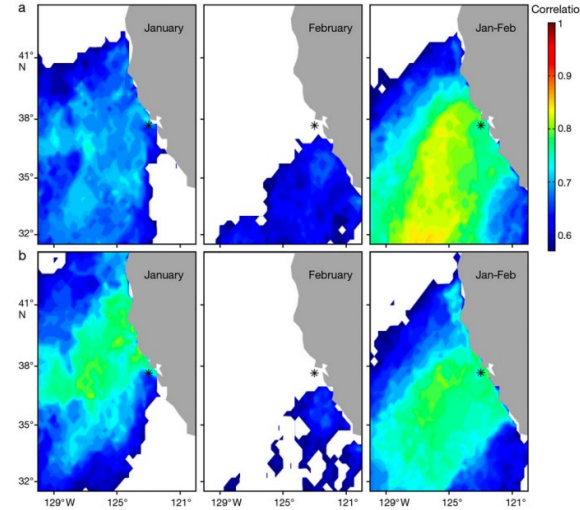


Fig. 3. *Ptychoramphus aleuticus* and *Uria aalge*. Correlations between meridional wind and mean egg-laying dates for (a) auklets and (b) murrelets. The spatial meridional wind data are the monthly means for January, February, and the average of January and February. For this and all subsequent correlation maps, a black asterisk marks the location of southeast Farallon Islands (SEFI). Only correlations with $p < 0.01$ are shown; areas in white are for non-significant correlations ($p > 0.01$).

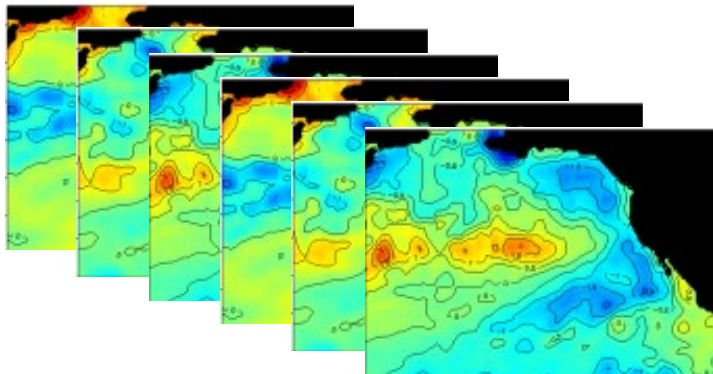
Correlation between wind and seabird egg-laying dates

Schroeder et al. 2009. Marine Ecology Progress Series 393:211-223
DOI:10.3354/meps08103

Taking the Next Step

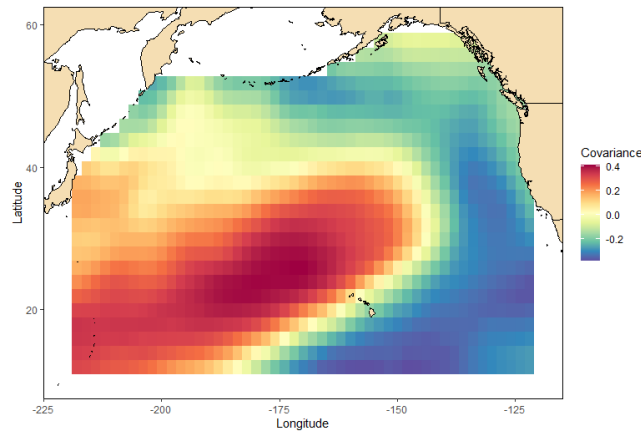
Regress annual SST patterns onto the Optimal Pattern to obtain an index of similarity, here called the Covariance Map Index of Sea Surface Temperature

Winter SST data



Y

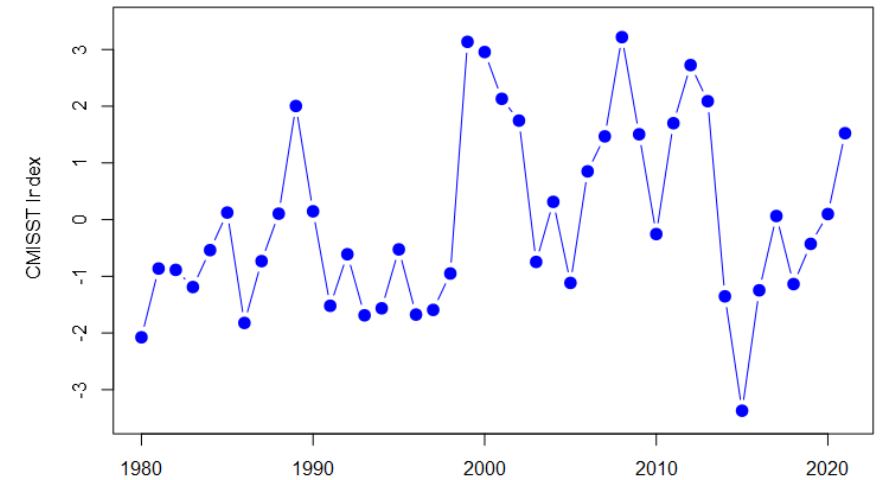
Optimal Pattern



X

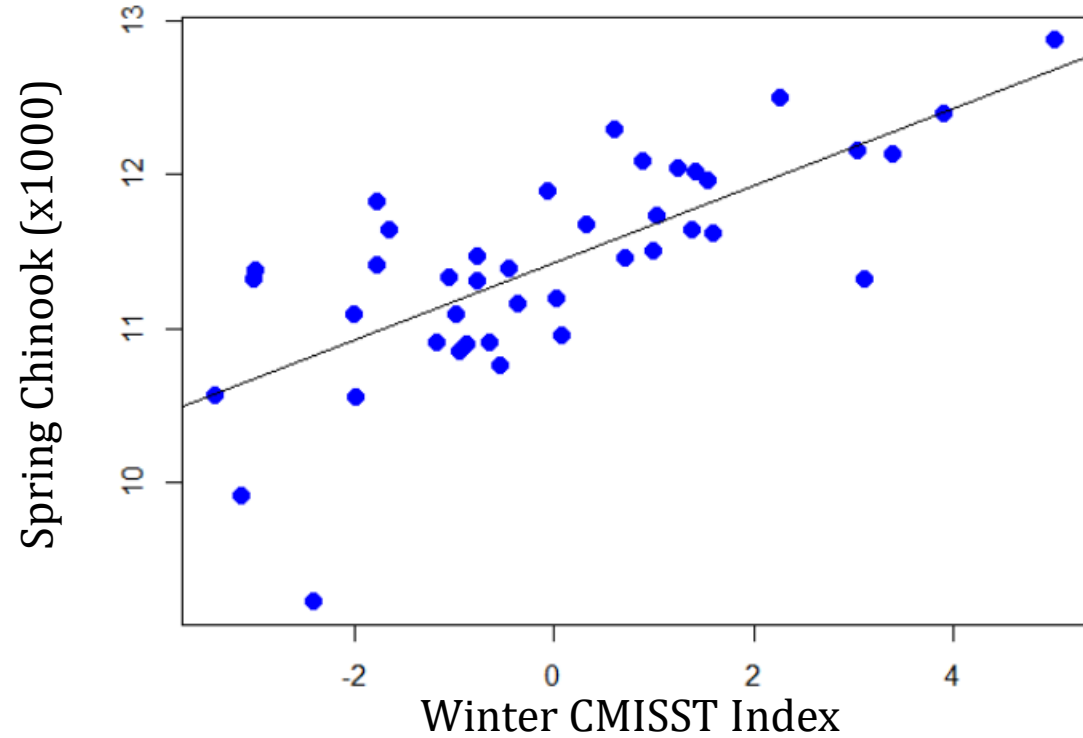
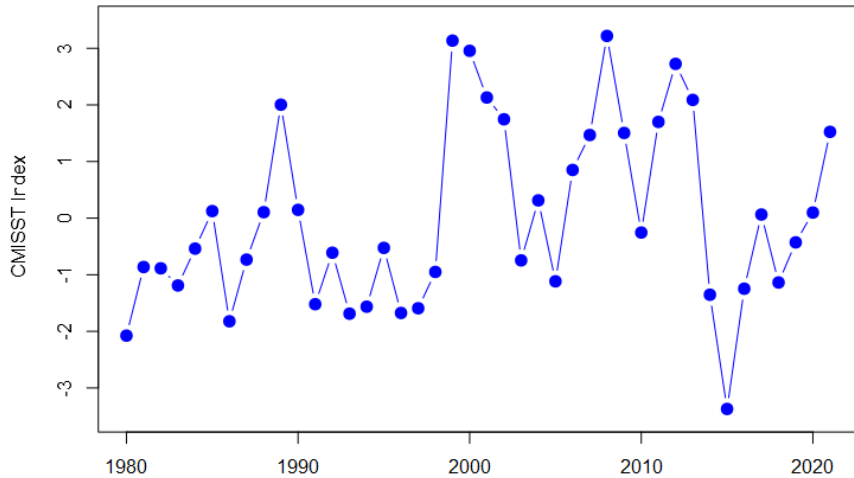
~

Winter Index (CMISST)
for spring Chinook



Methods

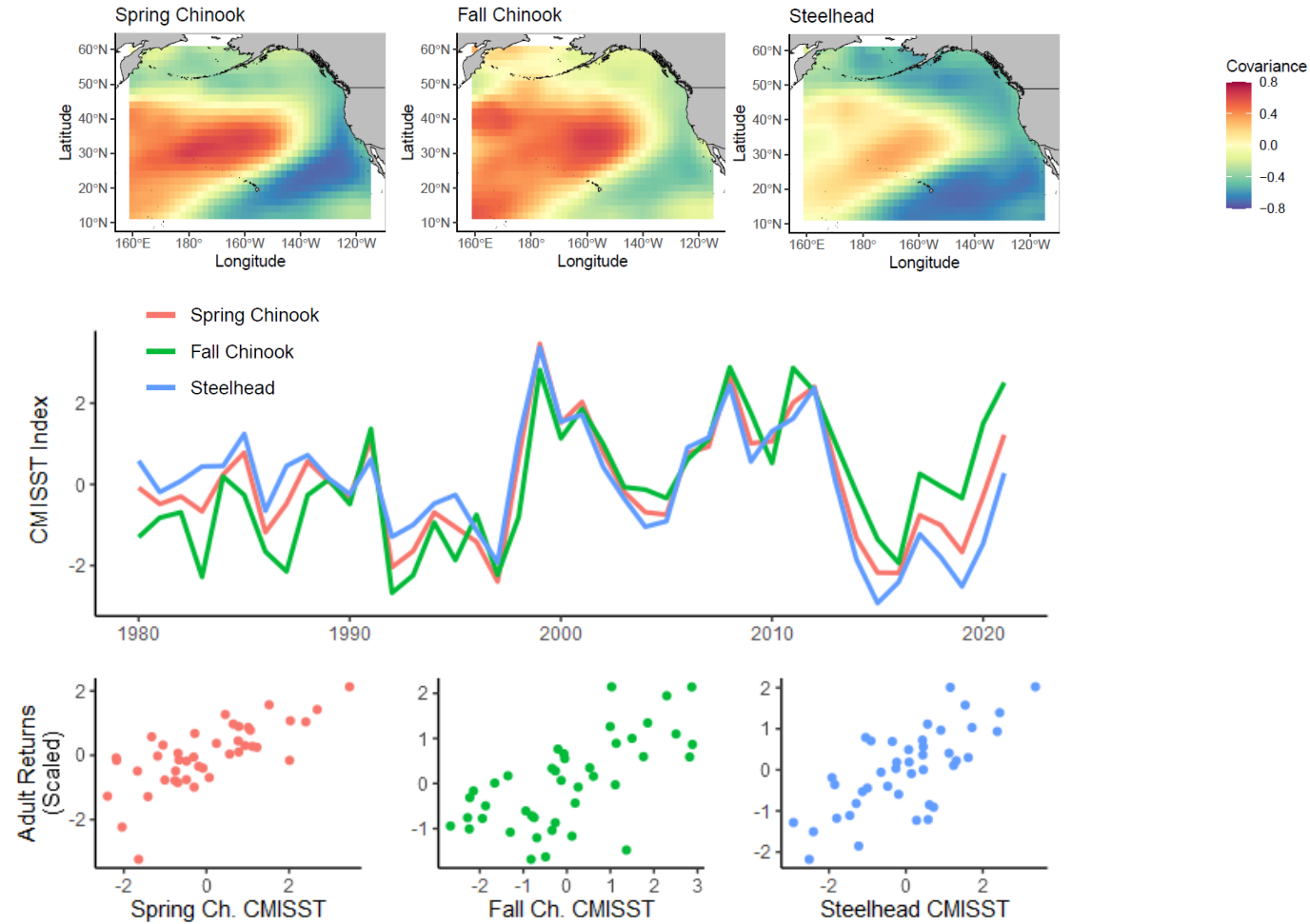
Once we have the index, we can model the response variable with a regression model



Years when SST is opposite of Optimal Pattern

Years when SST is similar to Optimal Pattern

A Stock-Specific Index can be created from each Map

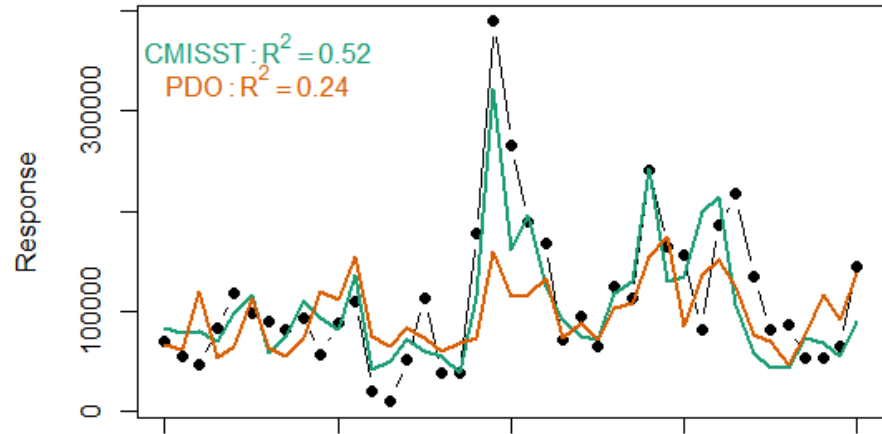


CMISST = Covariance Map Index of Sea Surface Temperature

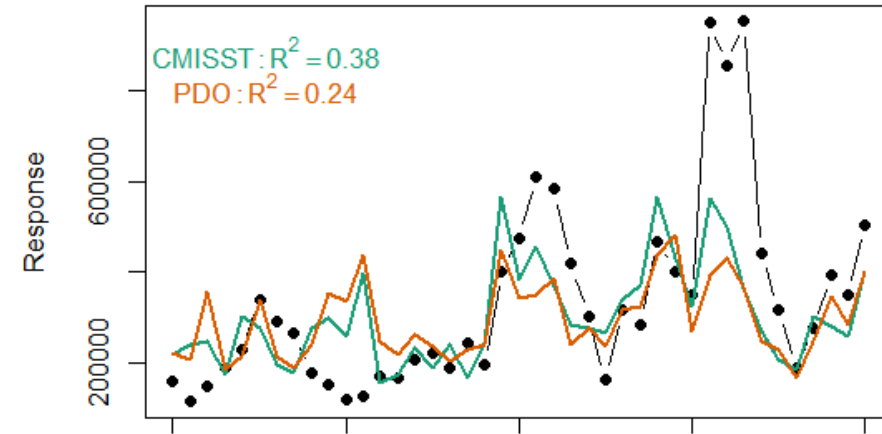
And compare performance to other indicators

Methods

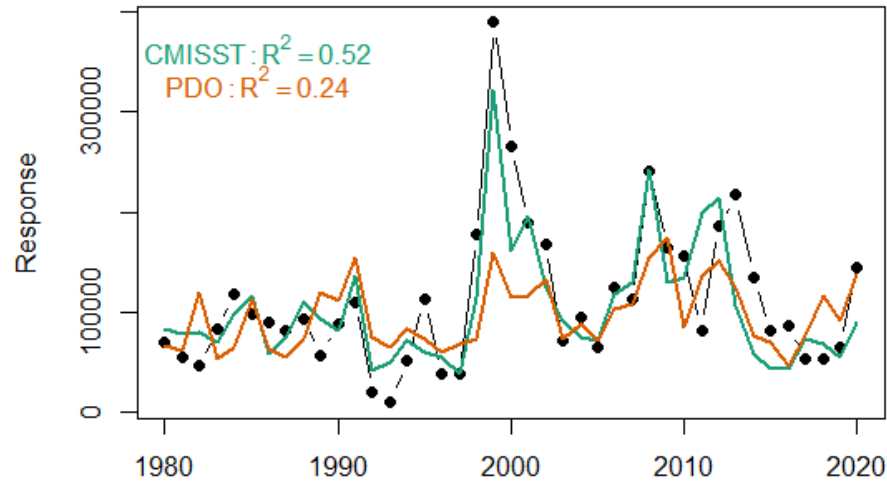
Spring Chinook



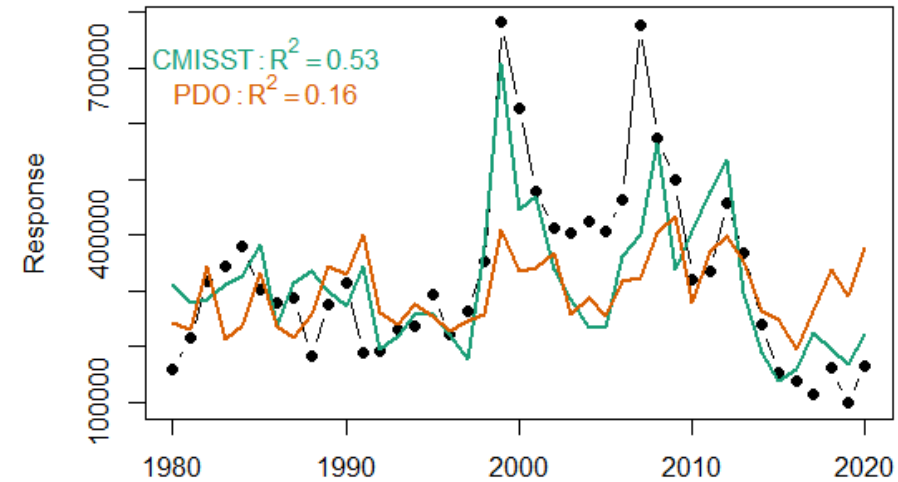
Fall Chinook



Spring Chinook jacks

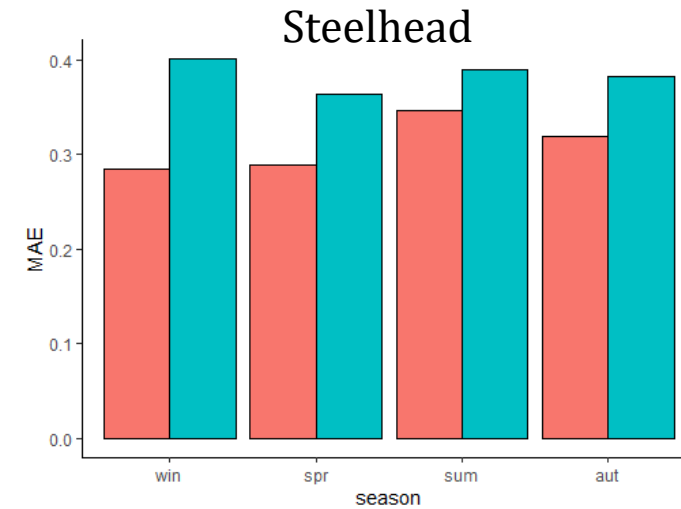
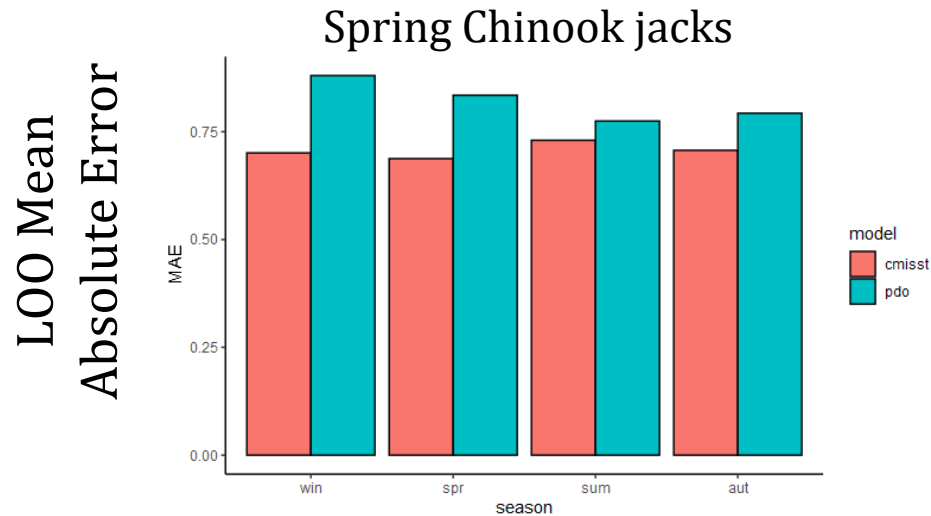
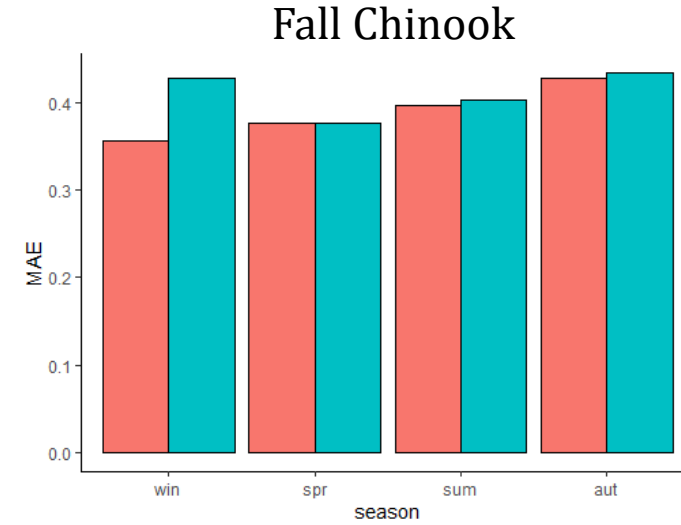
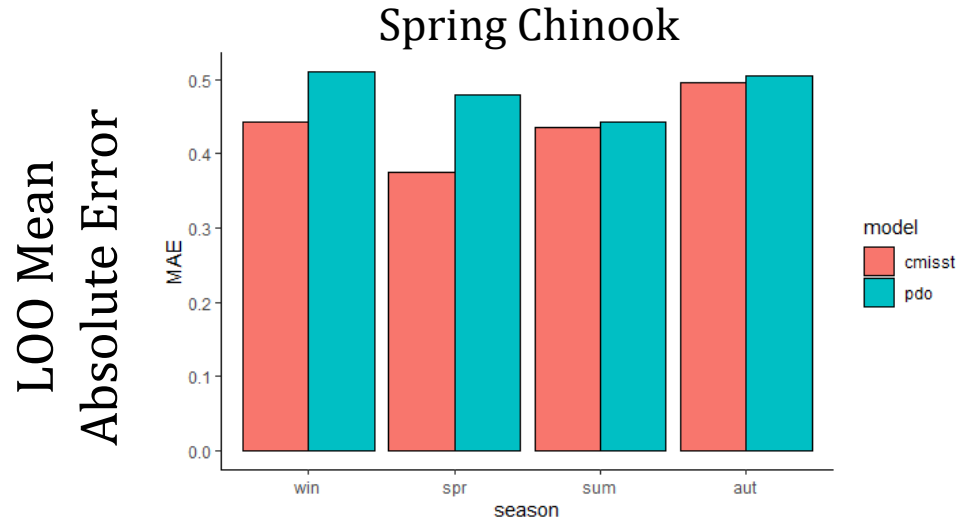


Steelhead



Methods

If you're thinking "but you used the response variable to create the Index, creating a circular relationship"...



Shiny App

CMISST

Controls

Spatial Data

- SST
- SSH (higher res, will take longer)

Select Response

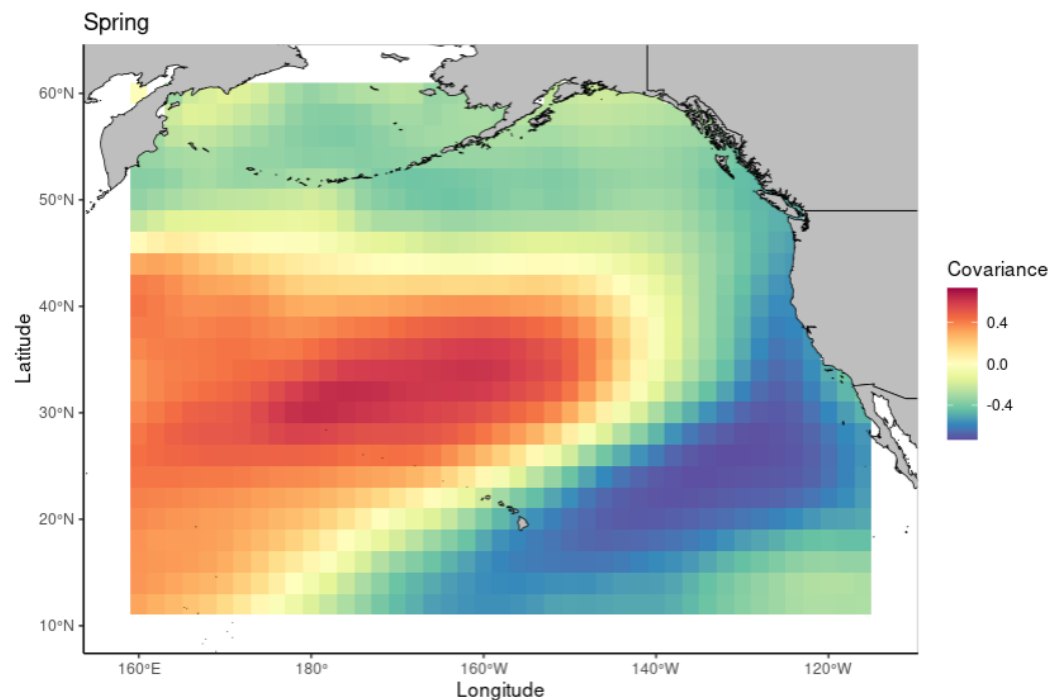
Spring Chinook

Or choose your own CSV file

Browse... No file selected

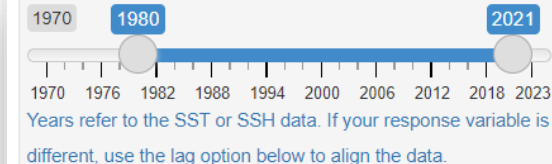
CSV file should have 2-columns (year and response) with headers. Year should be adult return year (specify lags below). To reset the file to null, refresh the webpage

Covariance Map of Sea Surface Temperature



Log response?

Years:



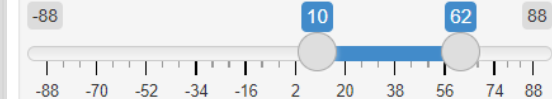
Lag Response:

2 years

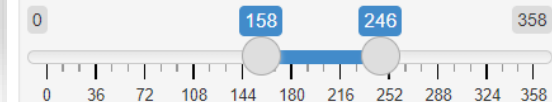
Index Prediction Year:

Enter a single year to predict. The response for this year will be left out of the calculations and the seasonal indices will be calculated for that year (to reset this to null, reload the webpage)

Latitude Range:

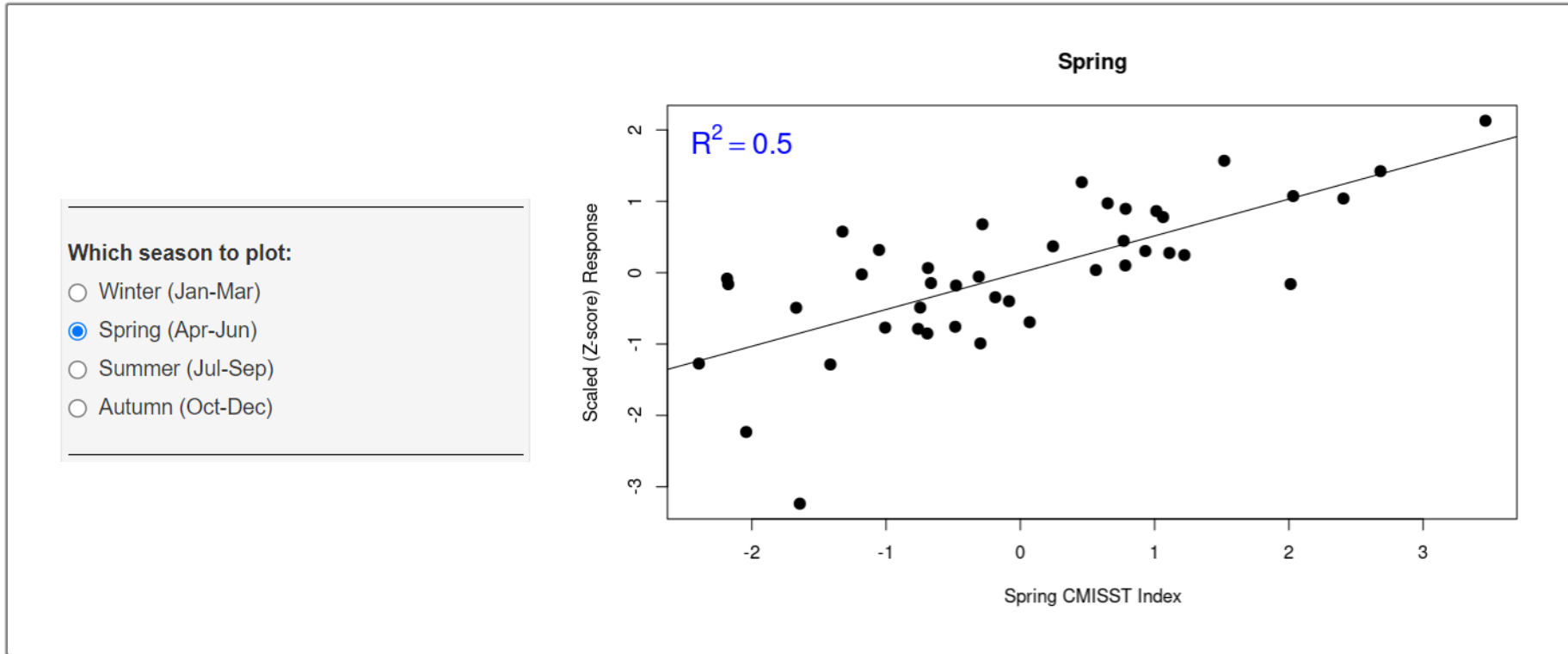


Longitude Range (0 and 360 are the Prime Meridian):



<https://connect.fisheries.noaa.gov/content/9df237ec-ec94-4c71-8782-8f1c7332fd77>

Shiny App (cont.)



year	win.cov	spr.cov	sum.cov	aut.cov	response
1980	-2.08	-0.08	0.21	0.60	-0.40
1981	-0.86	-0.49	-0.37	-0.54	-0.76
1982	-0.89	-0.30	-0.73	-0.46	-0.99
1983	-1.19	-0.67	-0.12	0.15	-0.15
1984	-0.54	0.24	-0.13	0.30	0.37
1985	0.12	0.78	-0.55	-0.46	0.10
1986	-1.82	-1.18	-1.49	-2.29	-0.02
1987	-0.73	-0.48	-1.50	-1.70	-0.18
1988	0.10	0.56	0.67	1.24	0.04
1989	2.00	0.07	0.11	-0.33	-0.69
1990	0.15	-0.31	-0.38	-0.39	-0.06
1991	-1.52	1.11	0.72	-1.36	0.28
1992	-0.61	-2.04	-2.20	-2.54	-2.23
1993	-1.69	-1.64	-1.90	-2.21	-3.24
1994	-1.56	-0.69	-0.40	-0.13	-0.85
1995	-0.53	-1.05	-1.14	-0.12	0.32
1996	-1.68	-1.41	-0.55	-1.31	-1.29
1997	-1.59	-2.39	-2.27	-1.80	-1.27
1998	-0.95	0.65	1.32	1.89	0.97
1999	3.14	3.46	3.06	3.30	2.13
2000	2.96	1.52	1.36	1.99	1.57
2001	2.13	2.03	1.71	1.33	1.07
2002	1.75	0.78	0.85	-0.08	0.89
2003	-0.75	-0.19	-0.50	-0.59	-0.34
2004	0.31	-0.69	-0.60	-0.26	0.06
2005	-1.12	-0.75	0.20	1.72	-0.49
2006	0.85	0.77	0.35	-0.50	0.45
2007	1.47	0.93	0.73	2.76	0.30
2008	3.22	2.68	2.72	2.42	1.42
2009	1.50	1.01	-0.31	0.20	0.86

<https://connect.fisheries.noaa.gov/content/9df237ec-ec94-4c71-8782-8f1c7332fd77>

Next Steps

- Apply to more situations (more species, more independent data)
- Interpret Covariance Maps?
- Investigate non-stationarity and non-linearity
- Management applications (please provide feedback!)



Questions?



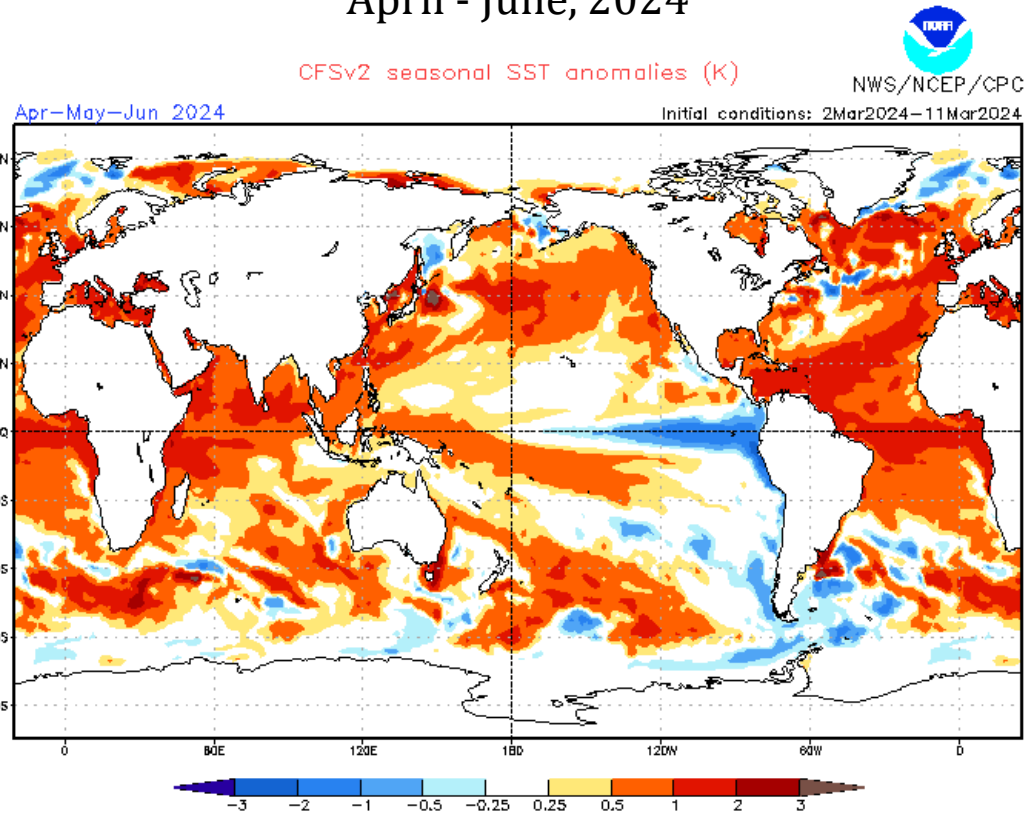
brian.burke@noaa.gov



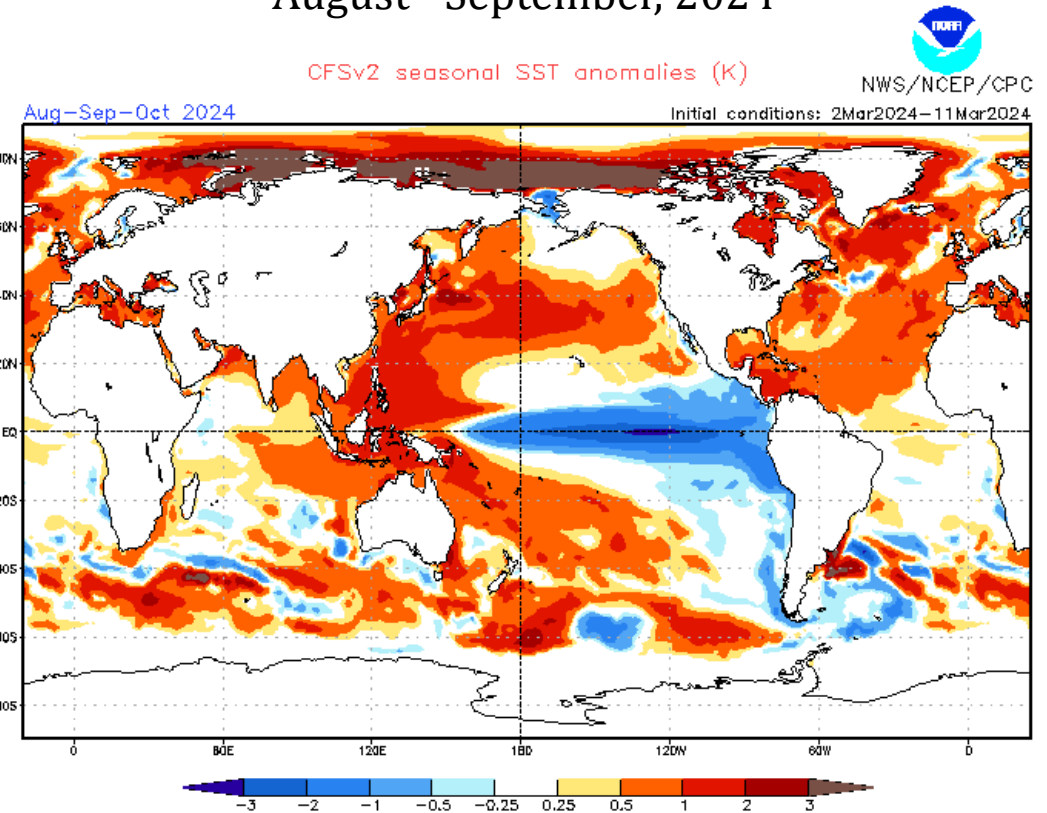
NOAA
FISHERIES

Heading towards a La Niña?

April - June, 2024



August - September, 2024



<https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/CFSv2/CFSv2seasonal.shtml>

