

# Individual based modeling of small pelagic fish migration and distribution

An underwater photograph showing two small pelagic fish, likely Atlantic herring, swimming in clear blue water. The fish in the foreground is larger and more prominent, showing its silver scales and dark lateral stripe. The second fish is slightly behind and to the right. The background is a deep, clear blue, suggesting an open ocean environment.

Geir Huse

*ICES/PICES symposium: Drivers of Dynamics of Small  
Pelagic Fish Resources, Victoria, 6-11 March*

# Outline

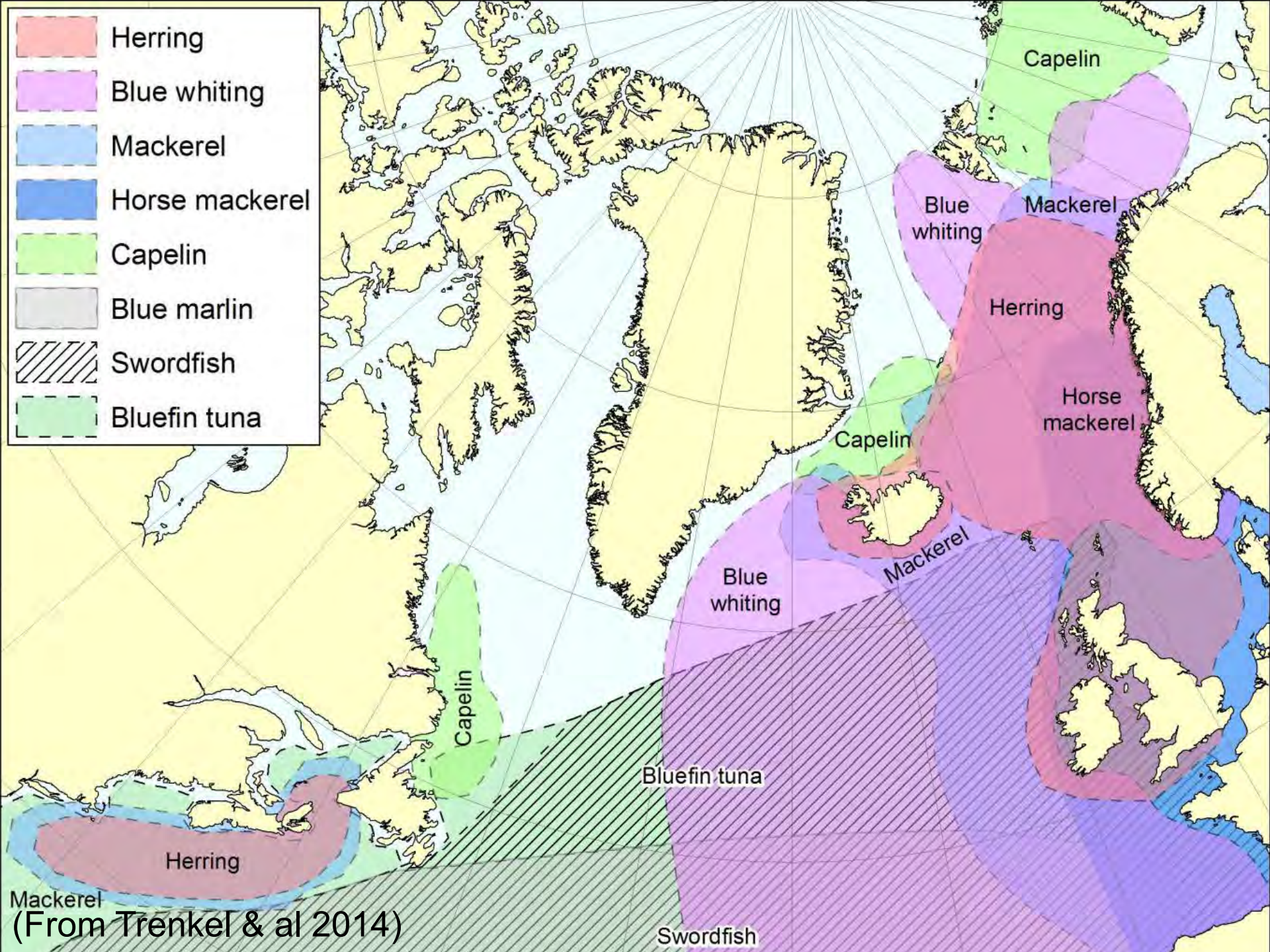
- **WHY?**
  - Motivation for modelling fish migration and distribution
- **HOW?**
  - Introduction to some key concepts
- **WHAT?**
  - Presenting four case studies
- **WHERE?**
  - Suggestions about where to go next



# WHY?

- Improve understanding of fish distribution and migration and responses to the environment including climate change





Capelin

Blue whiting

Mackerel

Herring

Horse mackerel

Capelin

Blue whiting

Mackerel

Capelin

Bluefin tuna

Herring

Mackerel  
(From Trenkel & al 2014)

Swordfish

# WHY?

- Improve understanding of fish distribution and migration and responses to the environment including climate change
- Study species interactions, predator-prey dynamics
- Parameterisation of ecosystem models
- Plan surveys
- ..



# HOW?

- Introducing some key concepts as basis for modelling migration and distribution
- Introduction to super-individual approach for simulating migration and distribution
- Assumptions & emergence



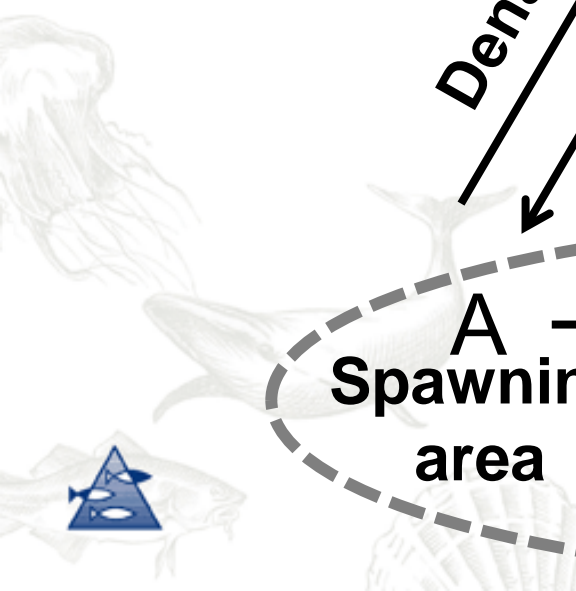
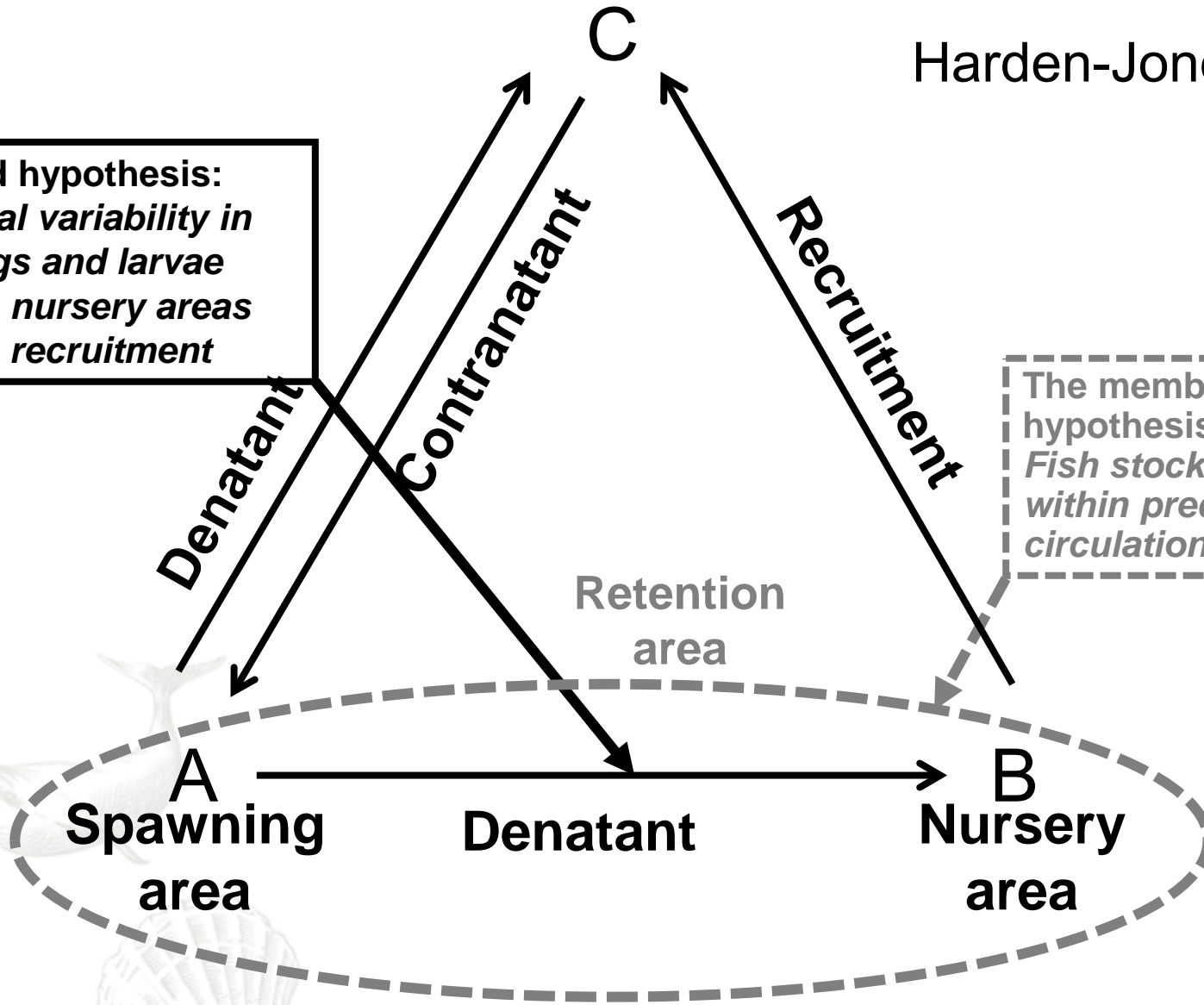
# Key concepts in fish stock migration

Adult stock

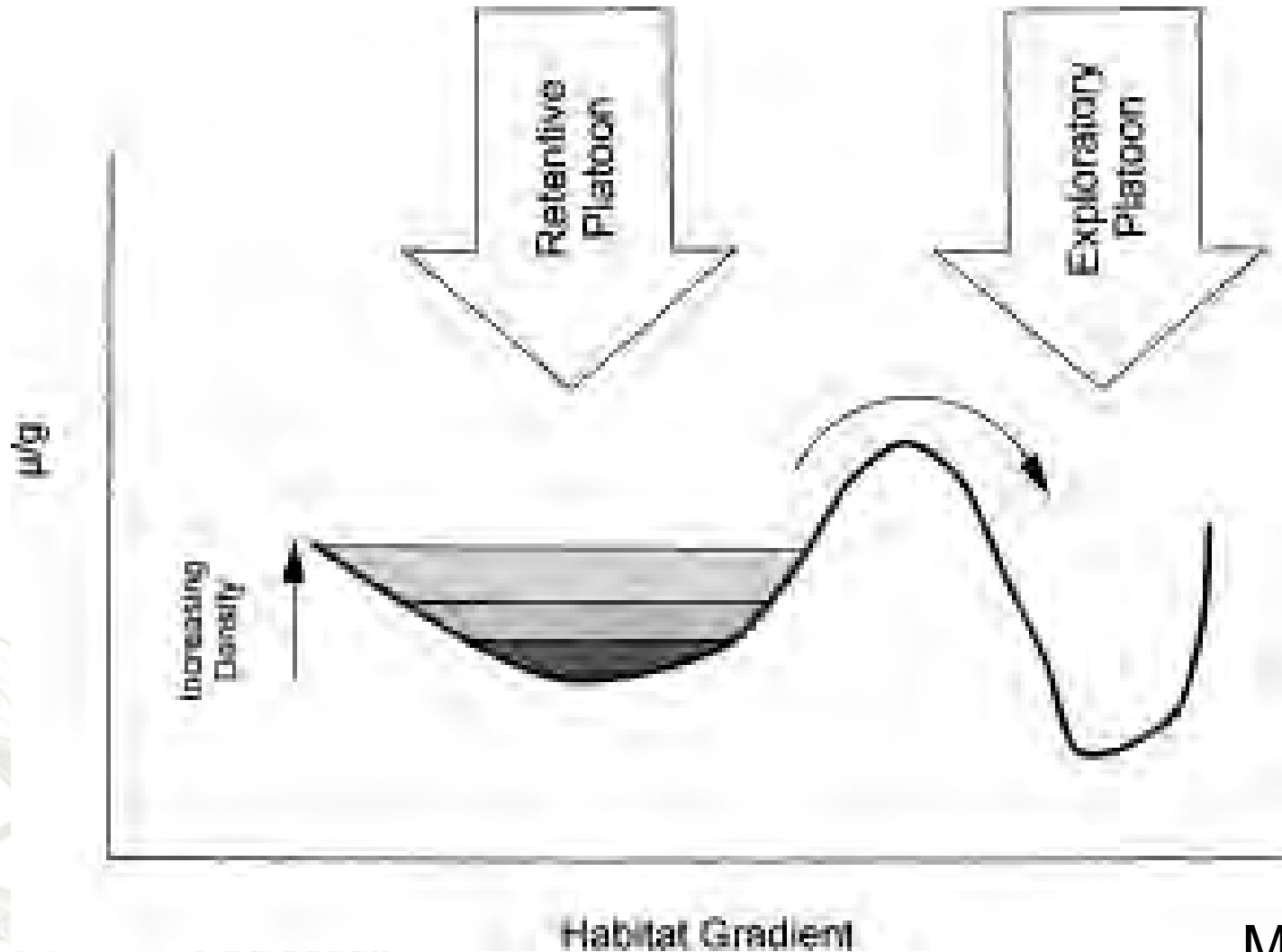
Harden-Jones 1968

Hjort's 2nd hypothesis:  
*Inter annual variability in drift of eggs and larvae away from nursery areas influences recruitment*

The member-vagrant hypothesis:  
*Fish stocks spawn within predictable circulation features*



# Key concept i fish stock distribution



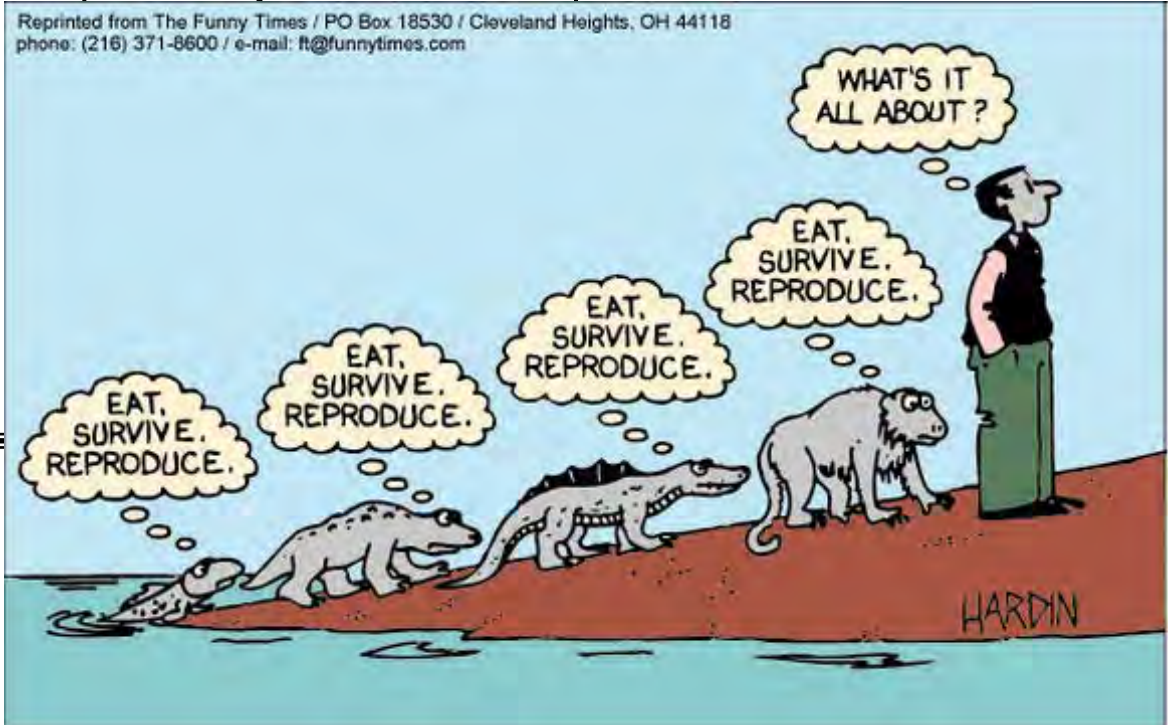


# Capabilities

*Sensory  
Navigation*

## Forcing factors

*Currents, Smell,  
Salinity, Light  
Pressure,  
Sound, Oxygen,  
Temperature,  
Prey, Predators,  
Competition,  
Collectives*



*Evolution  
Phenotypic plasticity  
Individual learning  
Social learning & tradition*

*Eat  
Survive  
Reproduce*

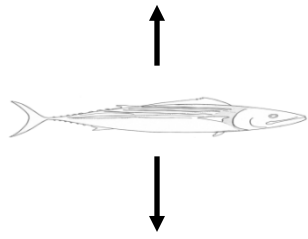
## Ultimate causes

## Adaptation

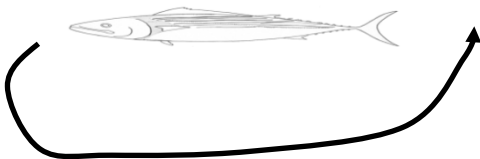


## Larvae

*Vertical migration*

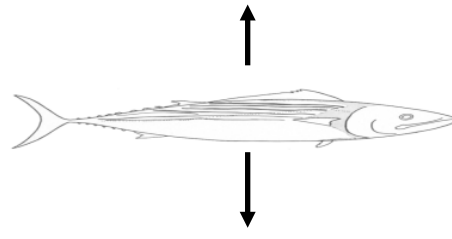


*Natal homing*

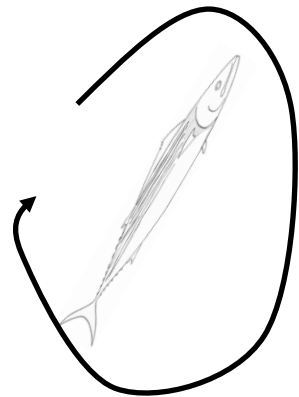


## Juveniles

*Vertical migration*

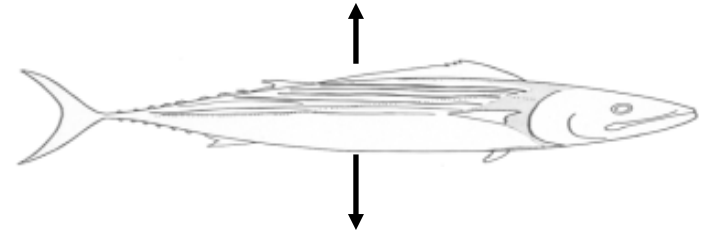


*Small scale movement*

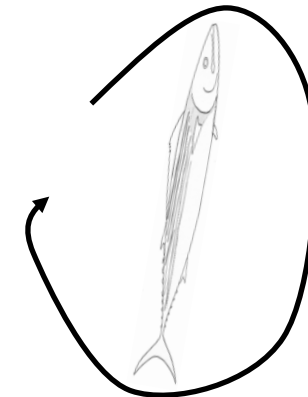


## Adults

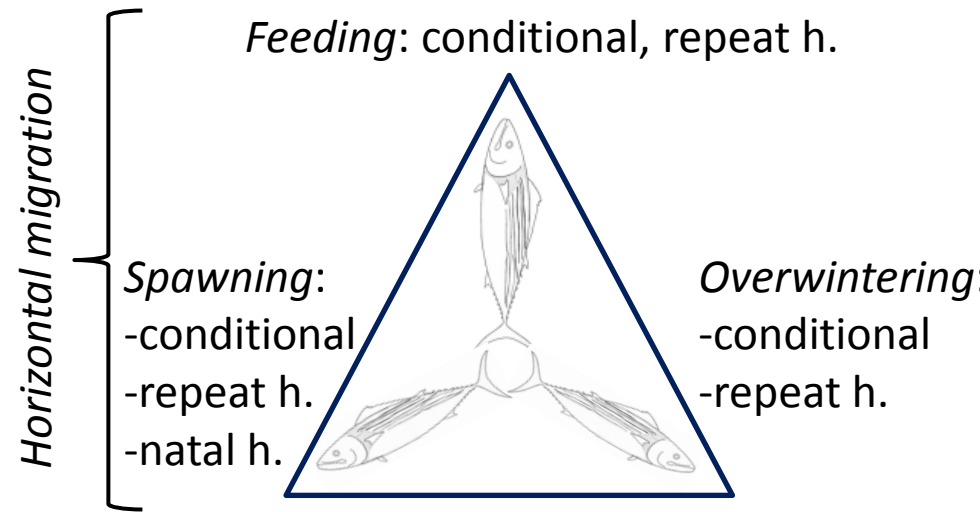
*Vertical migration*



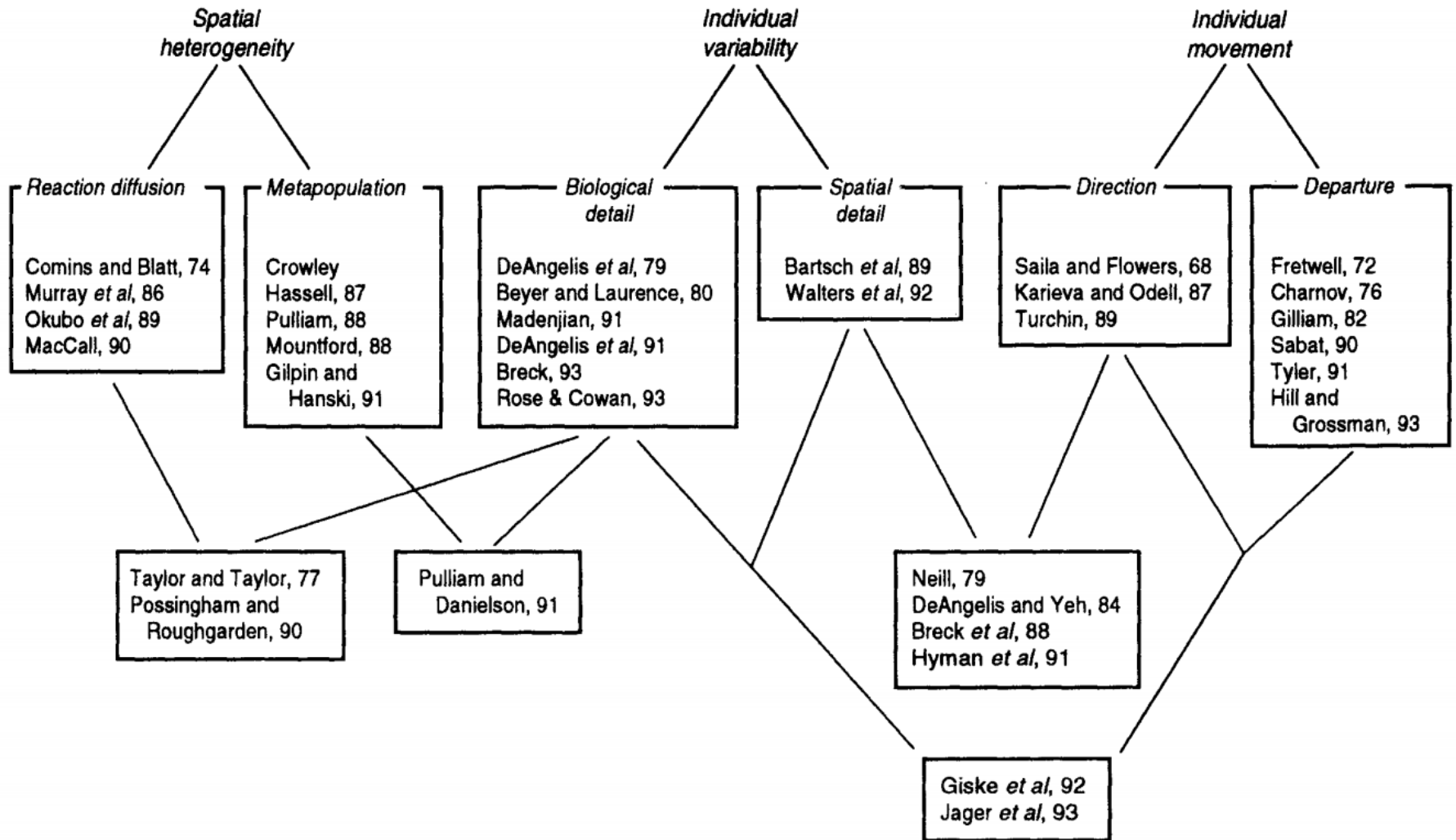
*Small scale movement*



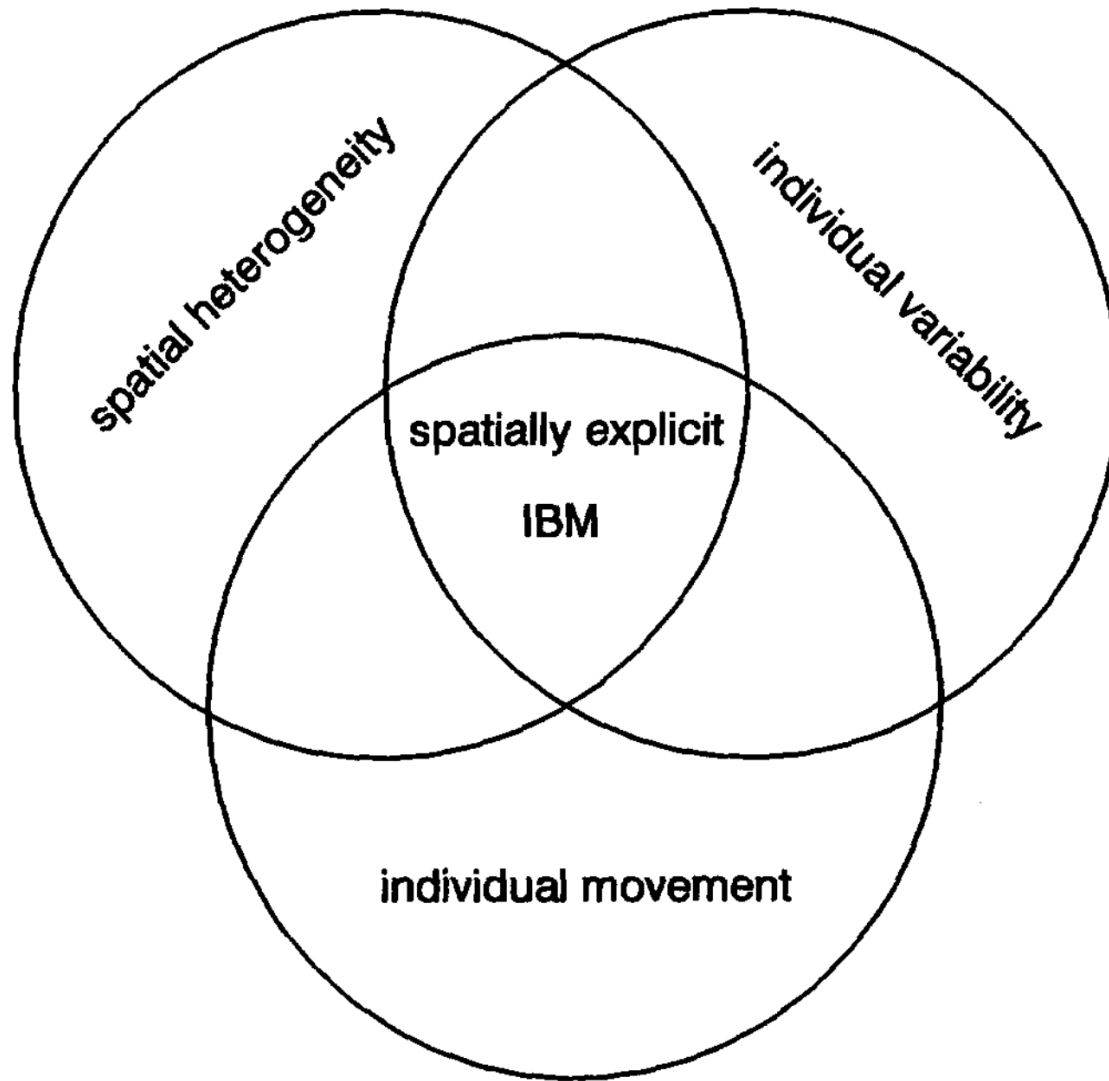
# Movement repertoire of fish in different life stages



# Classifying spatial fish models



# Classifying spatial fish models



## INDIVIDUALS

Behaviour  
Phen. Plast  
Lifecycle

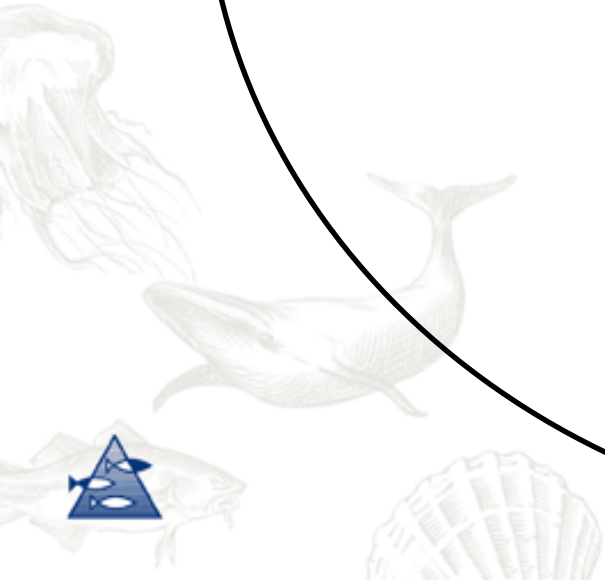
## POPULATION

Abundance  
Survival  
Geography  
Genetics

## ECOSYSTEM

Composition  
Trophic Interactions  
Productivity

Individual based modeling



# Specifying individuals in IBMs:

**Attribute vector  $A_i$ :** (Chambers 1993)

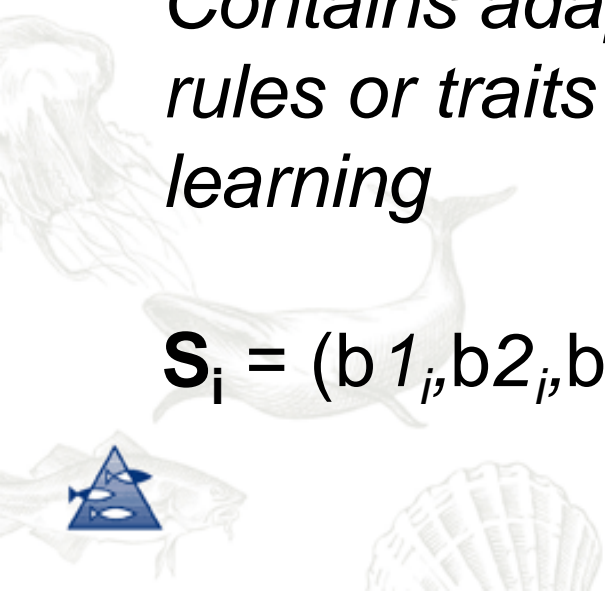
*Contains all the "book keeping" characters of an individual such as weight, age, length, position*

$$A_i = (\alpha 1_i, \alpha 2_i, \alpha 3_i, \dots, \alpha m_i, x_i, y_i, z_i, t)$$

**Strategy vector  $S_i$ :**

*Contains adaptive characters – may be fixed rules or traits for optimization by evolution or learning*

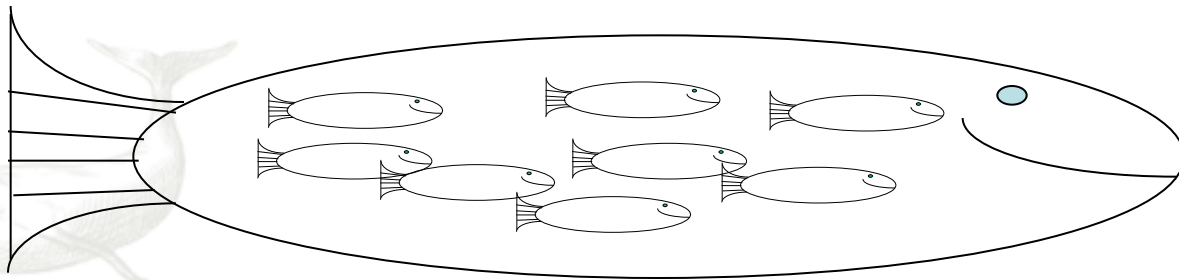
$$S_i = (b 1_i, b 2_i, b 3_i, \dots, b m_i)$$



# Representation of fish populations: Super individuals *(Scheffer et al. 1995)*

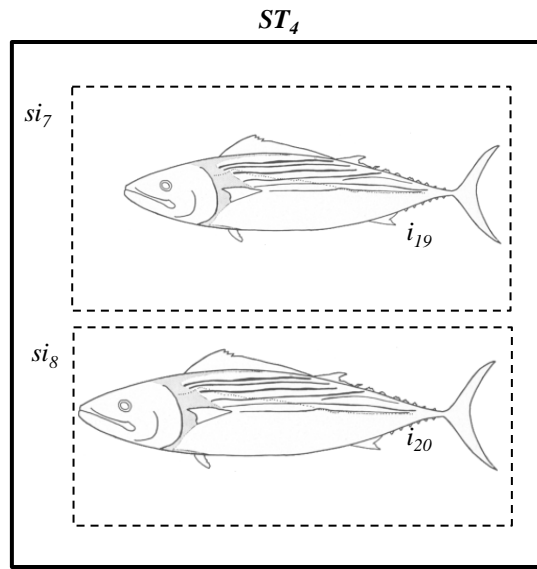
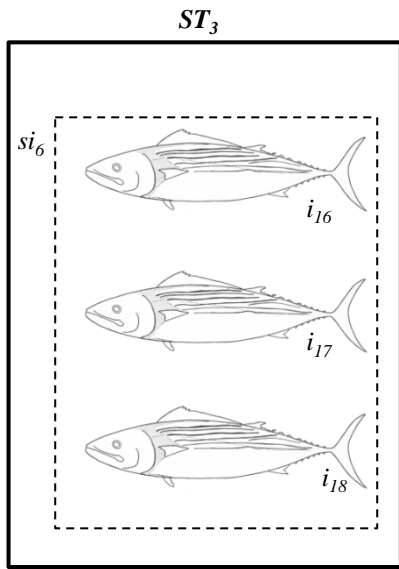
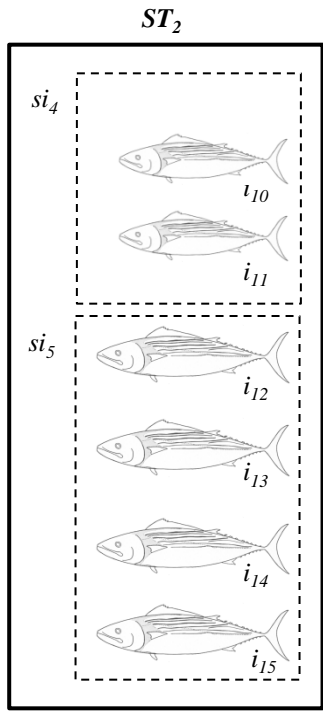
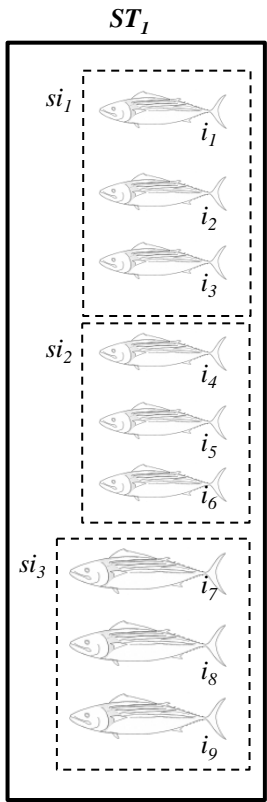
A super individual represents many identical individuals and in this case the number of such identical siblings ( $n_s$ ) thus becomes an attribute of the super individual:

$$A_s = (\alpha 1_s, \alpha 2_s, \alpha 3_s, \dots, \alpha m_s, x_s, y_s, z_s, n_s, t)$$



# Structuring of population modelling

N

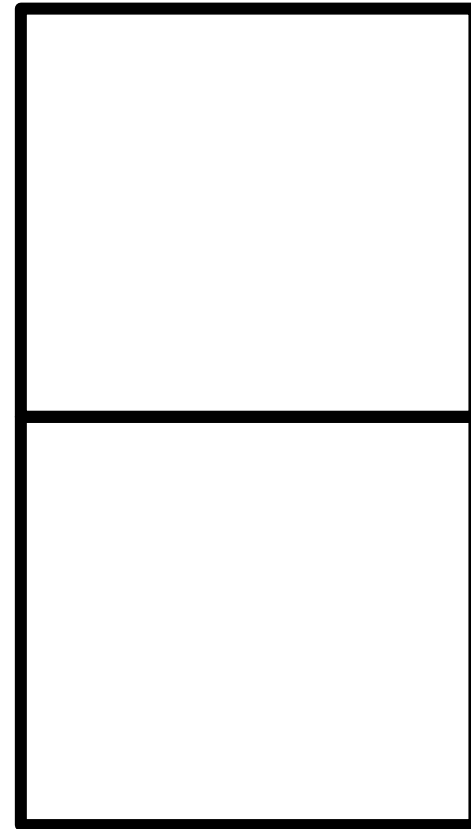
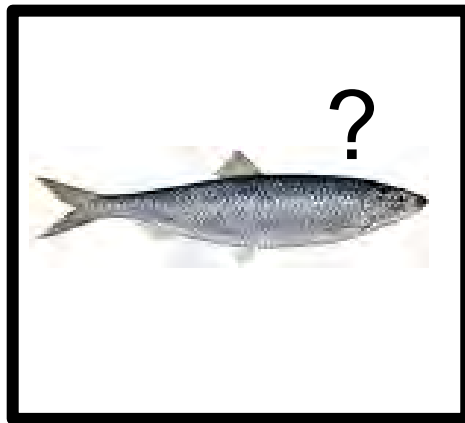




# Movement rules

Destination rule  
*Where to go?*

Departure rule  
*When to leave?*



**Two approaches for migration modelling:**

- Pattern matching – fitting observations
- Process based – fitness max., rules etc.



# Movement rules

Departure rule  
*When to leave?*

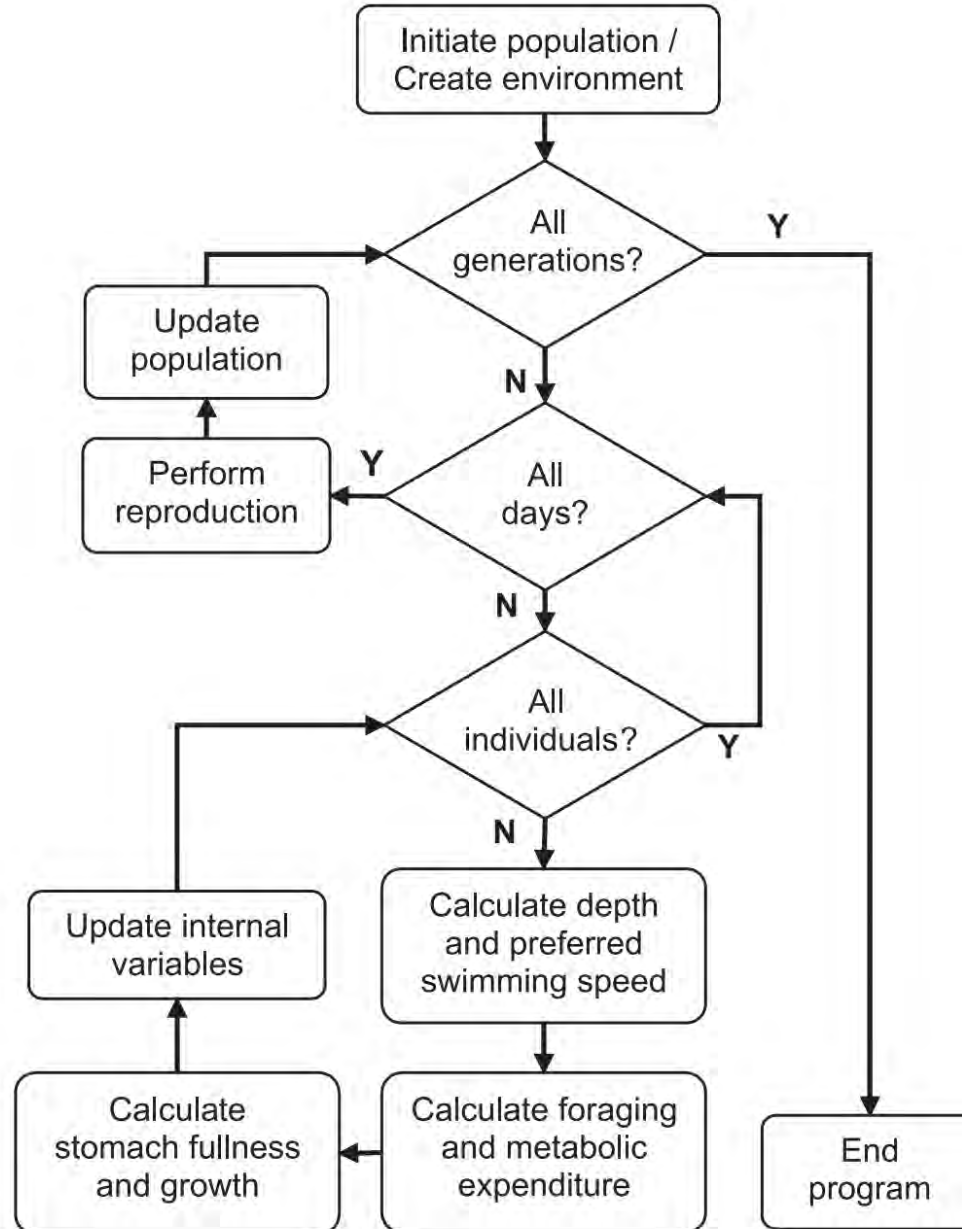
- **Life history rules**
  - Minimize  $\mu/g$
  - Marginal value theorem
  - Unified Foraging Theory
  - Growth  $< T$
  - Mortality  $> T$
  - ..

Destination rule  
*Where to go?*

- **Life history rules**
  - Minimize  $\mu/g$
  - Unified Foraging Theory
- **Ethological rules**
  - Taxis
  - Kinesis
- **Environmental "rules"**
  - Borders for movement
- **Pattern matching**
  - Using observations to "tune" movement
- **Integrated approaches**
  - SDP
  - ANNs & Gas
  - Predictive & reactive



# IBM Flowchart

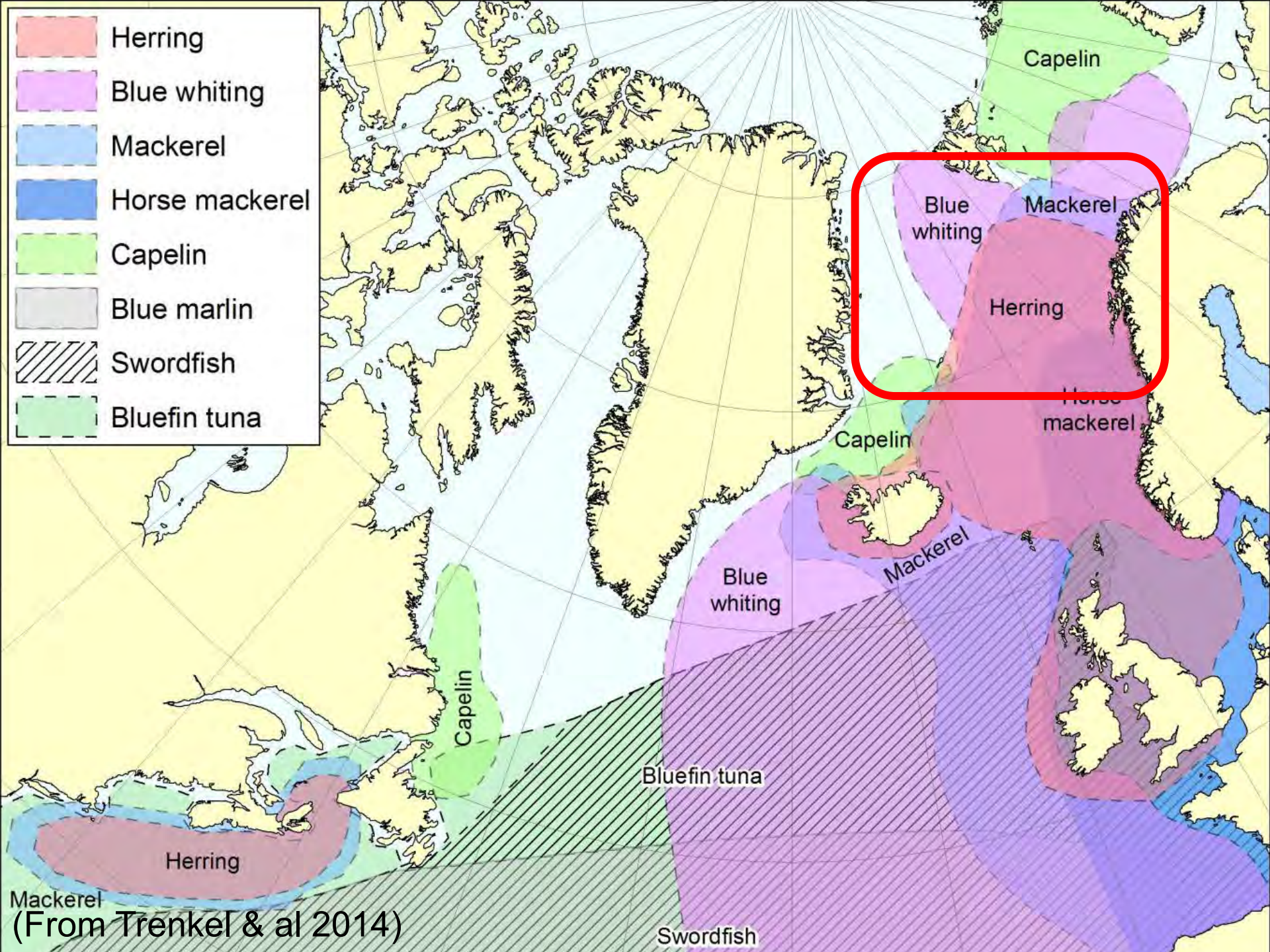


# WHAT?

## Four case studies:

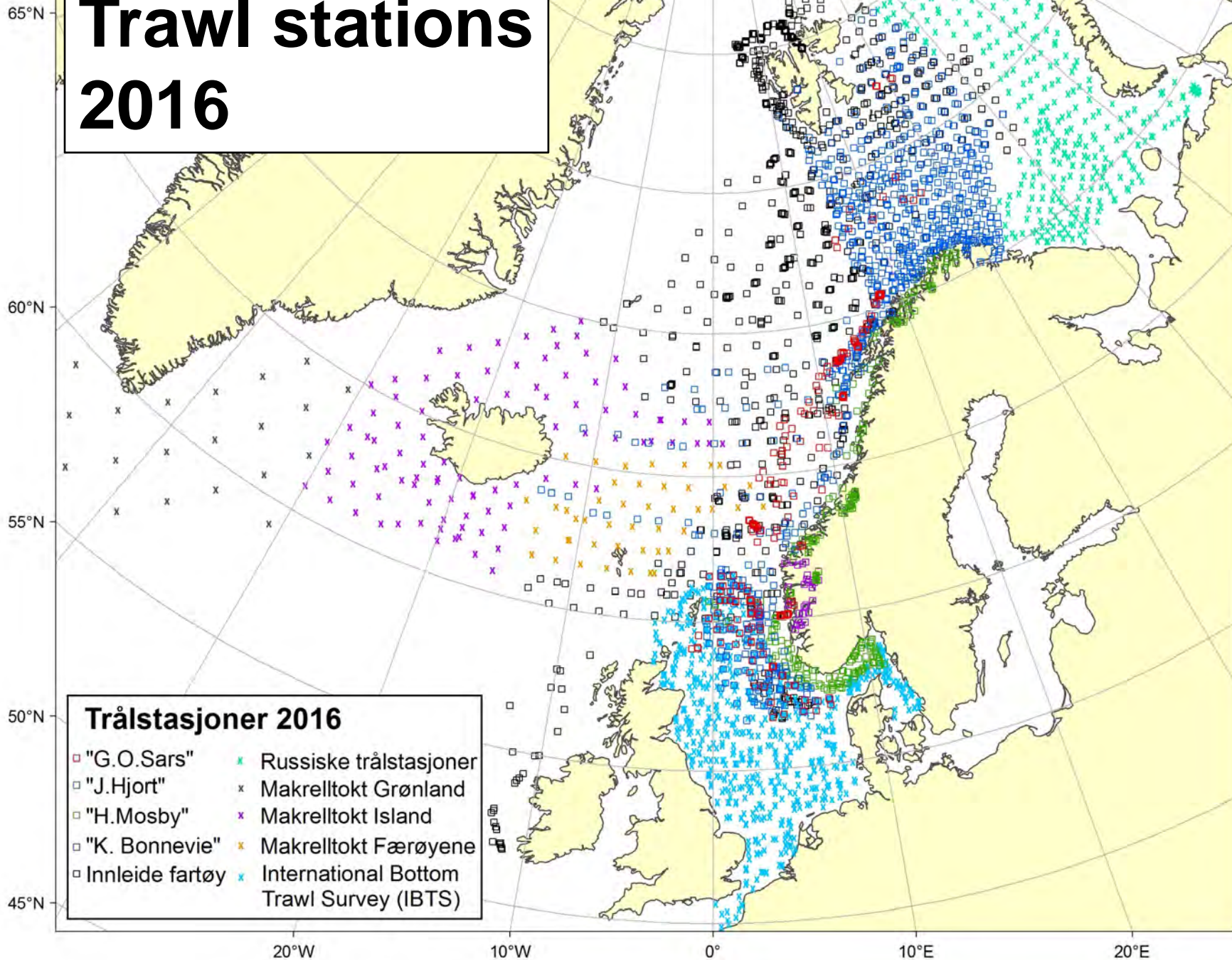
1. The migrations of the pelagic complex in the Norwegian Sea
2. Cod-capelin interactions in the Barents Sea
3. An analysis of capelin responses to climate change
4. Using migration models to test monitoring surveys





Mackerel  
(From Trenkel & al 2014)

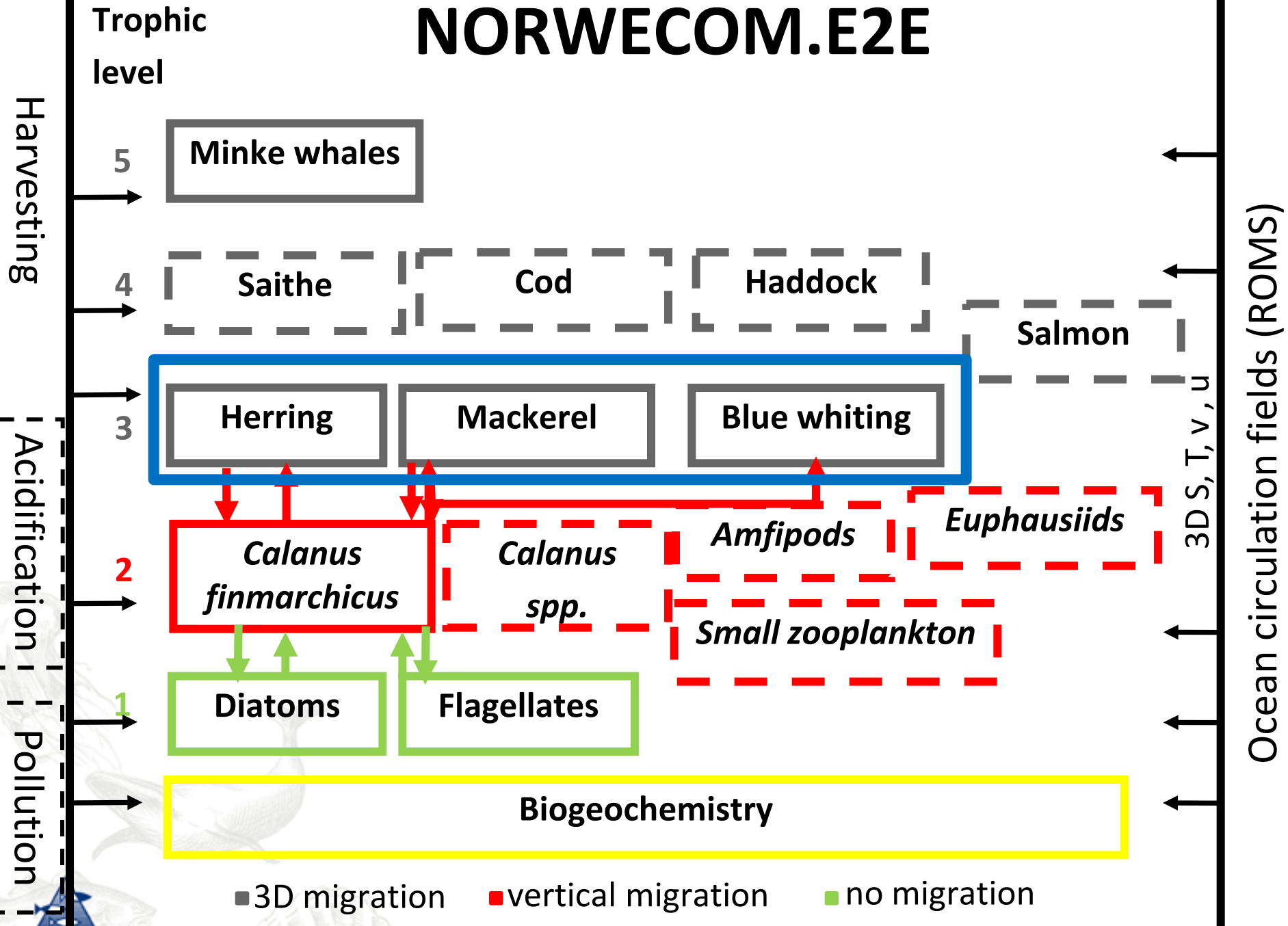
# Trawl stations 2016



## Trålstasjoner 2016

- |                   |                                            |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| □ "G.O.Sars"      | ✱ Russiske trålstasjoner                   |
| □ "J.Hjort"       | ✕ Makrelltokt Grønland                     |
| □ "H.Mosby"       | ✕ Makrelltokt Island                       |
| □ "K. Bonnevie"   | ✕ Makrelltokt Færøylene                    |
| □ Innleide fartøy | ✱ International Bottom Trawl Survey (IBTS) |

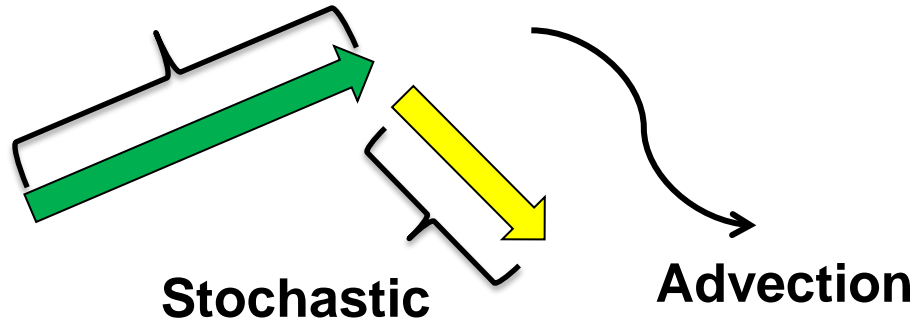
# NORWECOM.E2E



# Migration model

Individual movement – own decision and currents

**Directive**

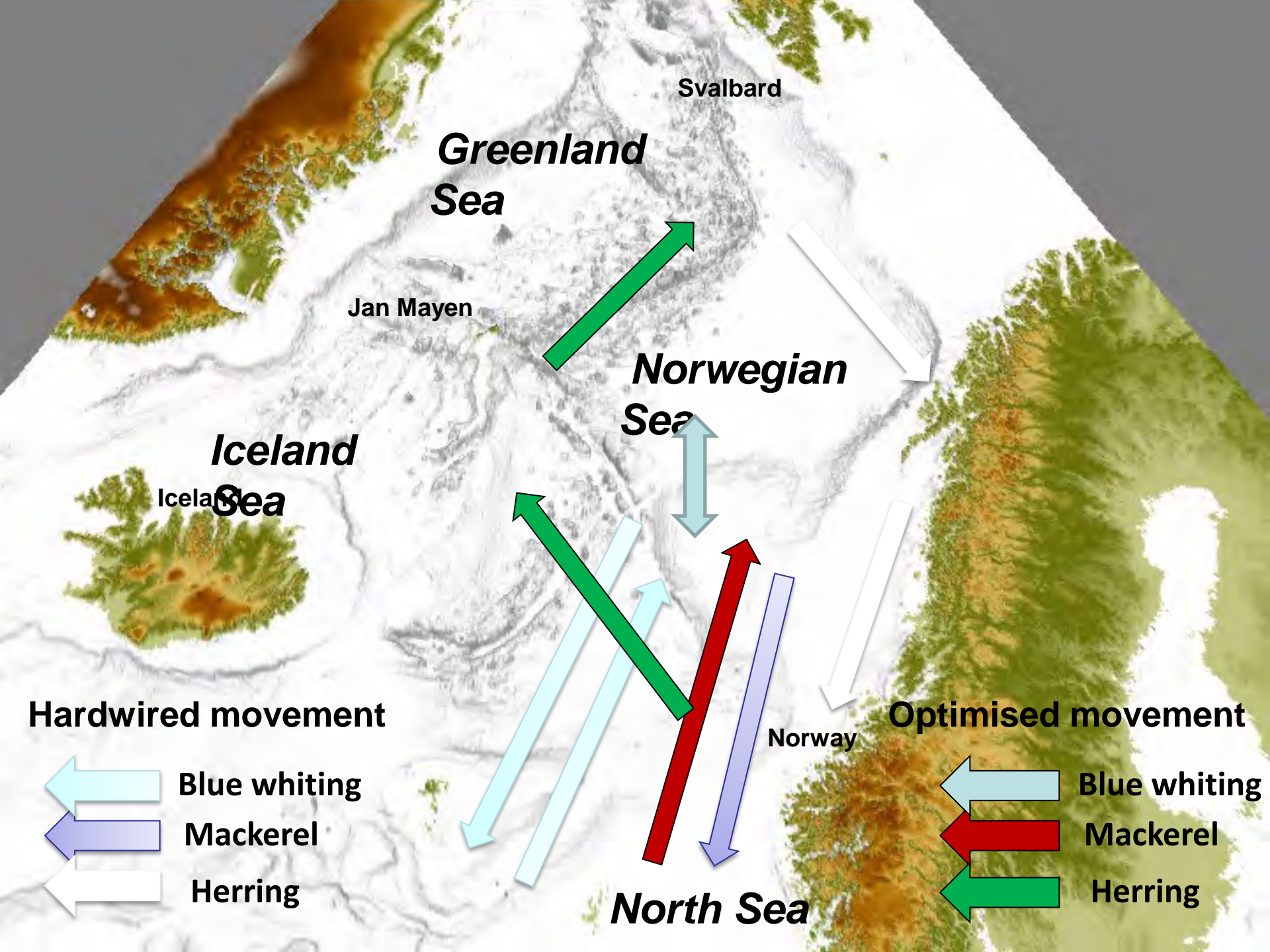


- The fish cannot migrate into water masses colder than 2 (her and bw) or 8° C (mac).

- The simulations are a combination of modelling fish movement and hardwired movement.







Svalbard

**Greenland Sea**

Jan Mayen

**Norwegian Sea**

**Iceland Sea**

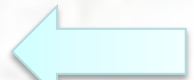
Iceland

Norway

**North Sea**

**Hardwired movement**

**Optimised movement**



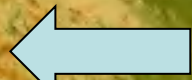
Blue whiting



Mackerel



Herring



Blue whiting



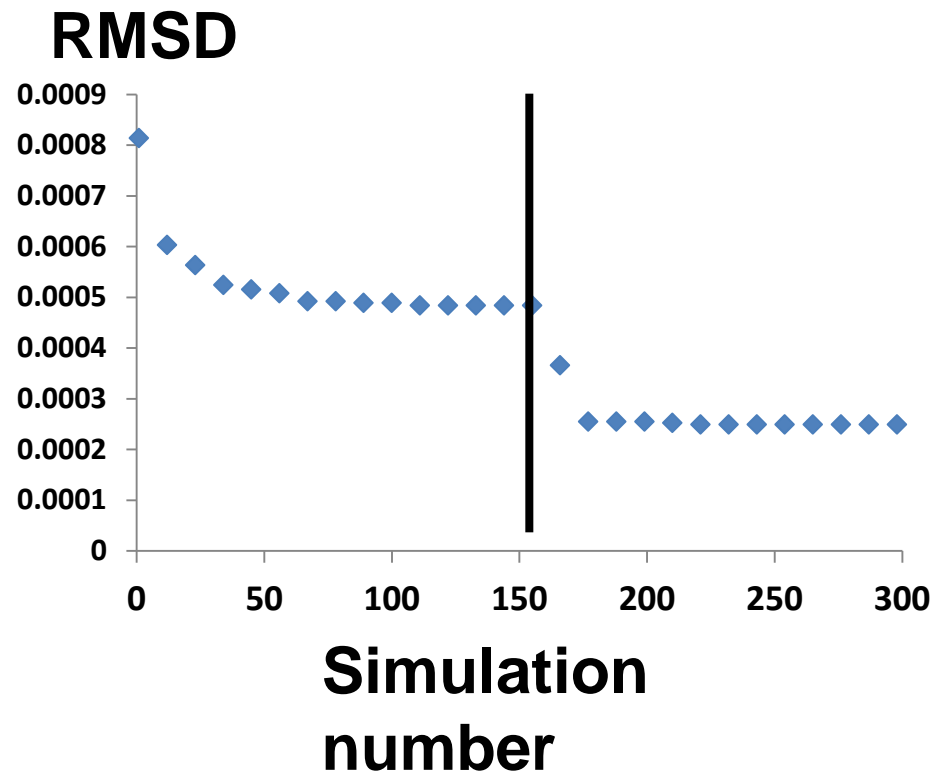
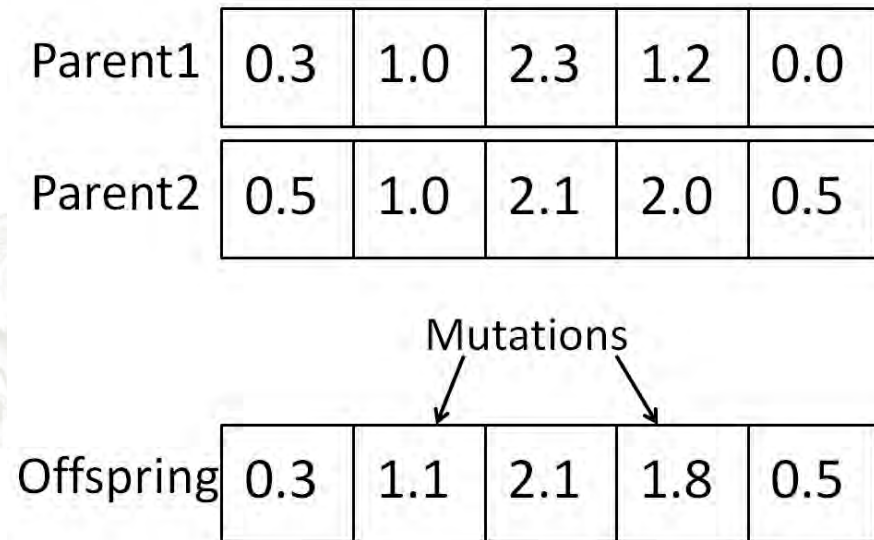
Mackerel



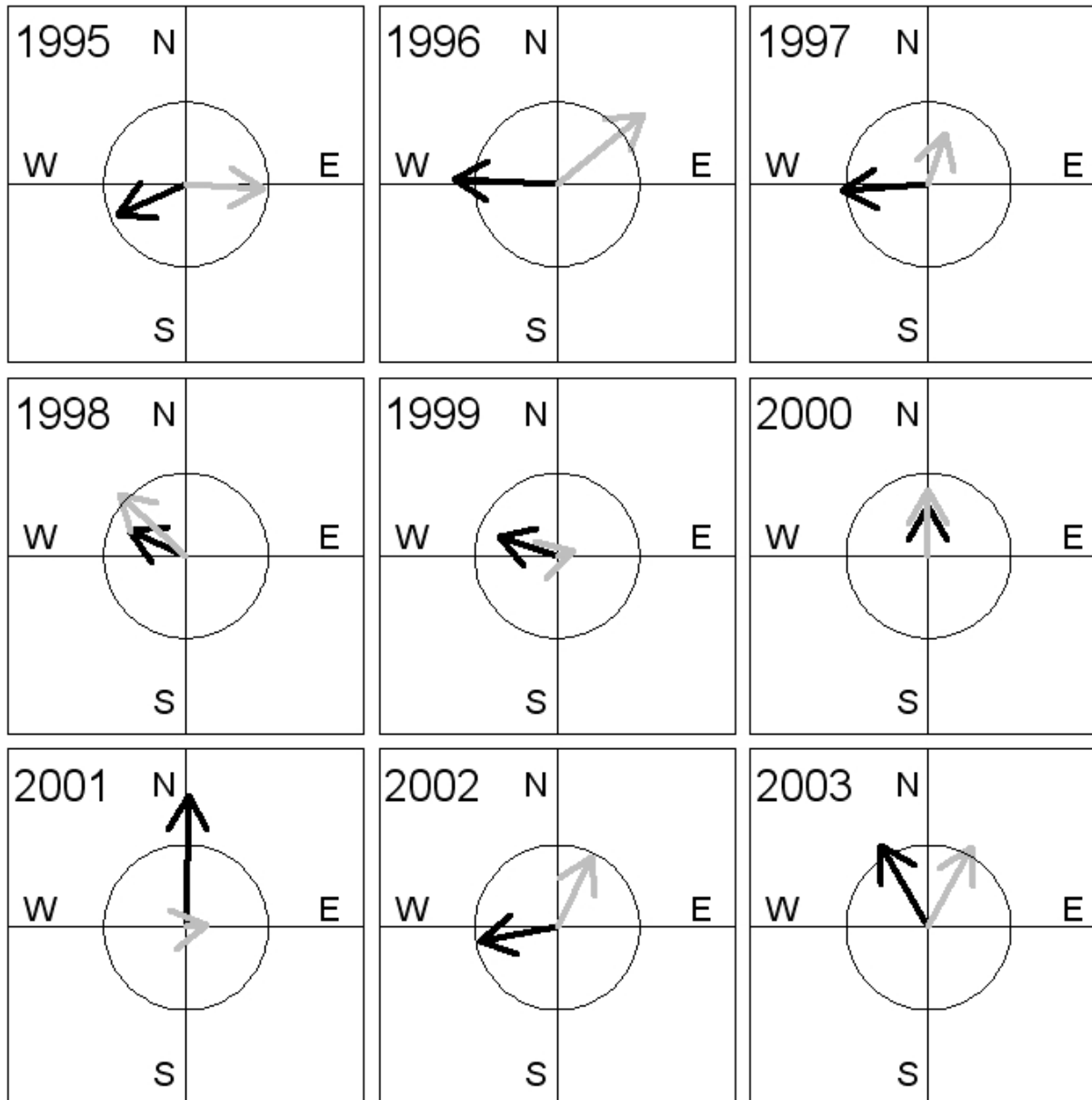
Herring

# Optimize migrations parameters

- Migration speed, direction and randomness
- Survey observations
- Genetic Algorithm (GA)
- 10 simulations, keep 2, 30 generations



# Herring migration vectors

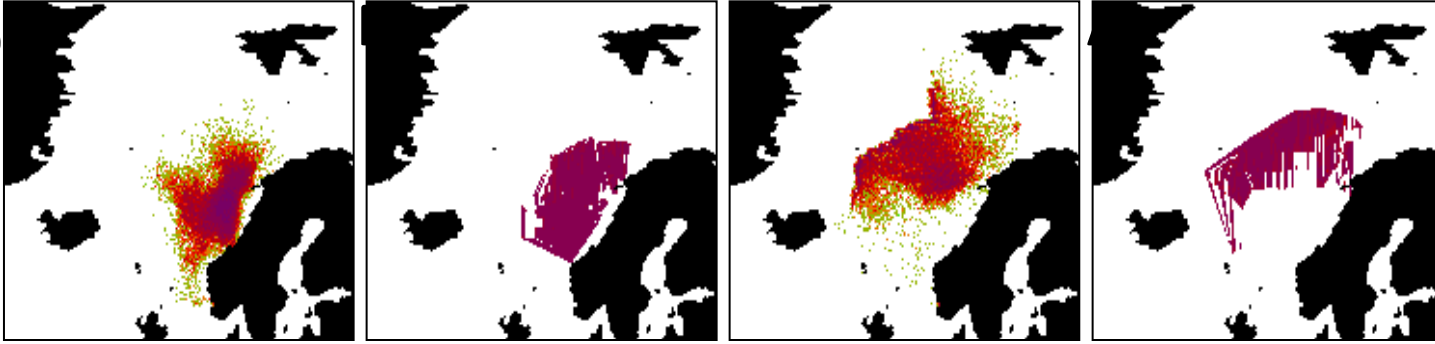


**Black arrows**  
**Early summer**

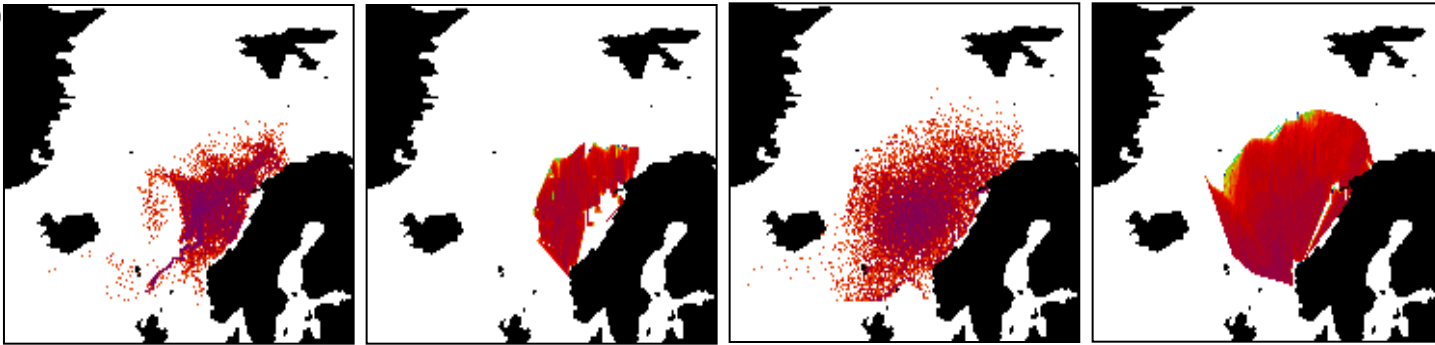
**Gray arrows**  
**Late summer**

Predictions Observations Predictions Observations

Herring

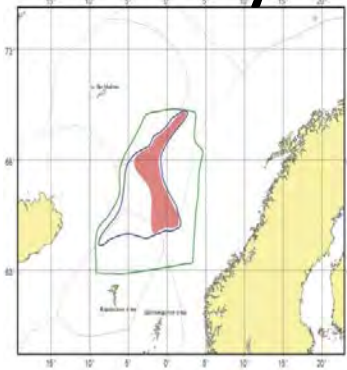


Blue whiting

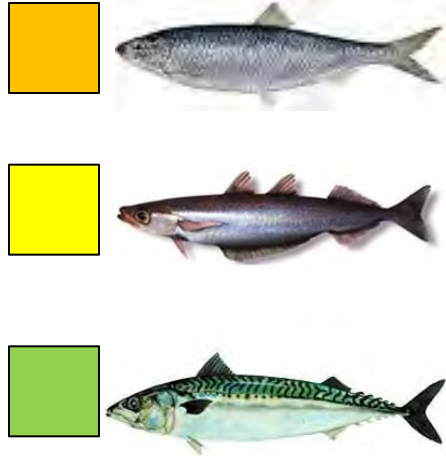


Mackerel

Predictions July Obs. July/Aug Obs. July

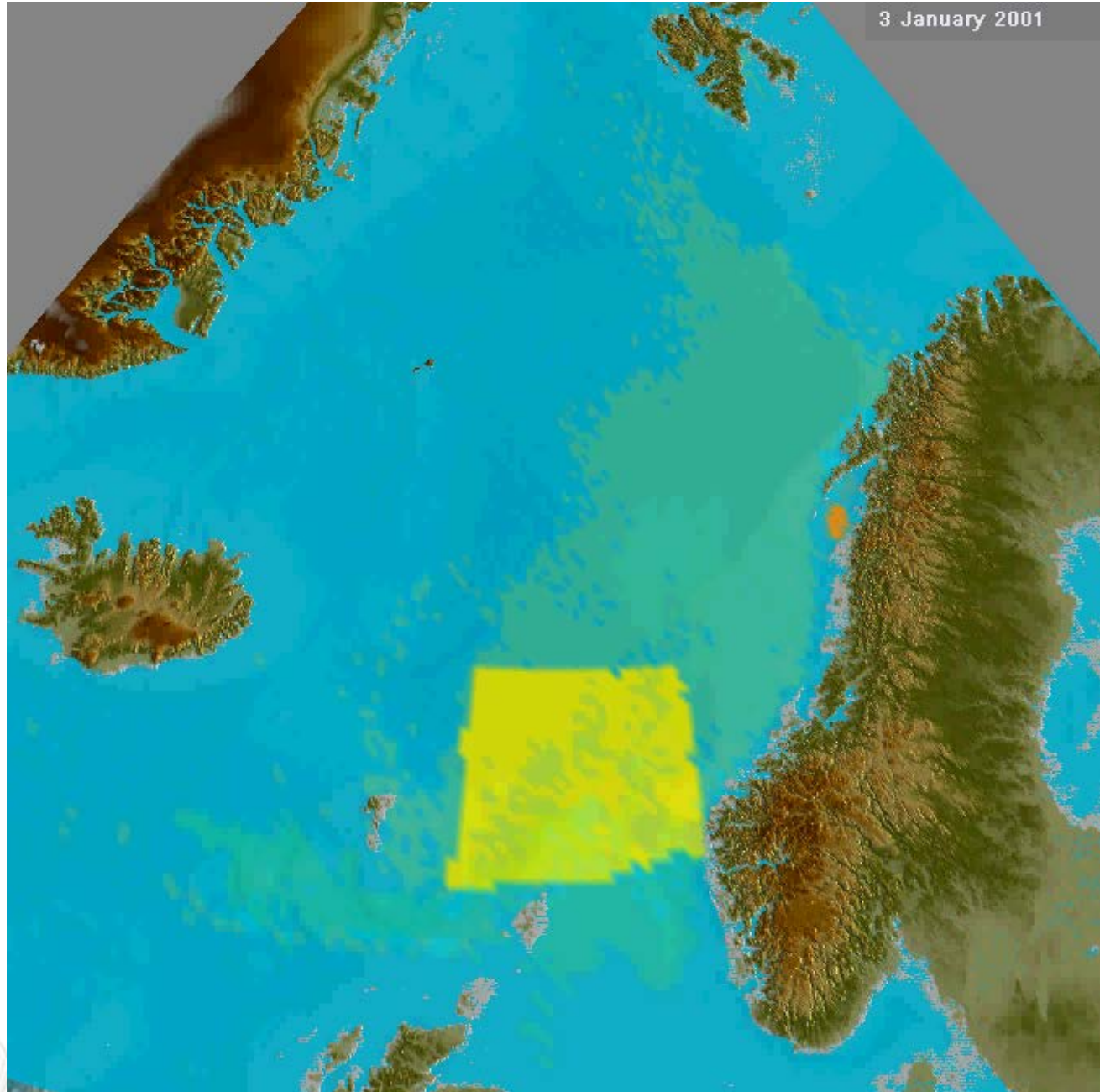


# Simulated seasonal migrations of pelagic fish



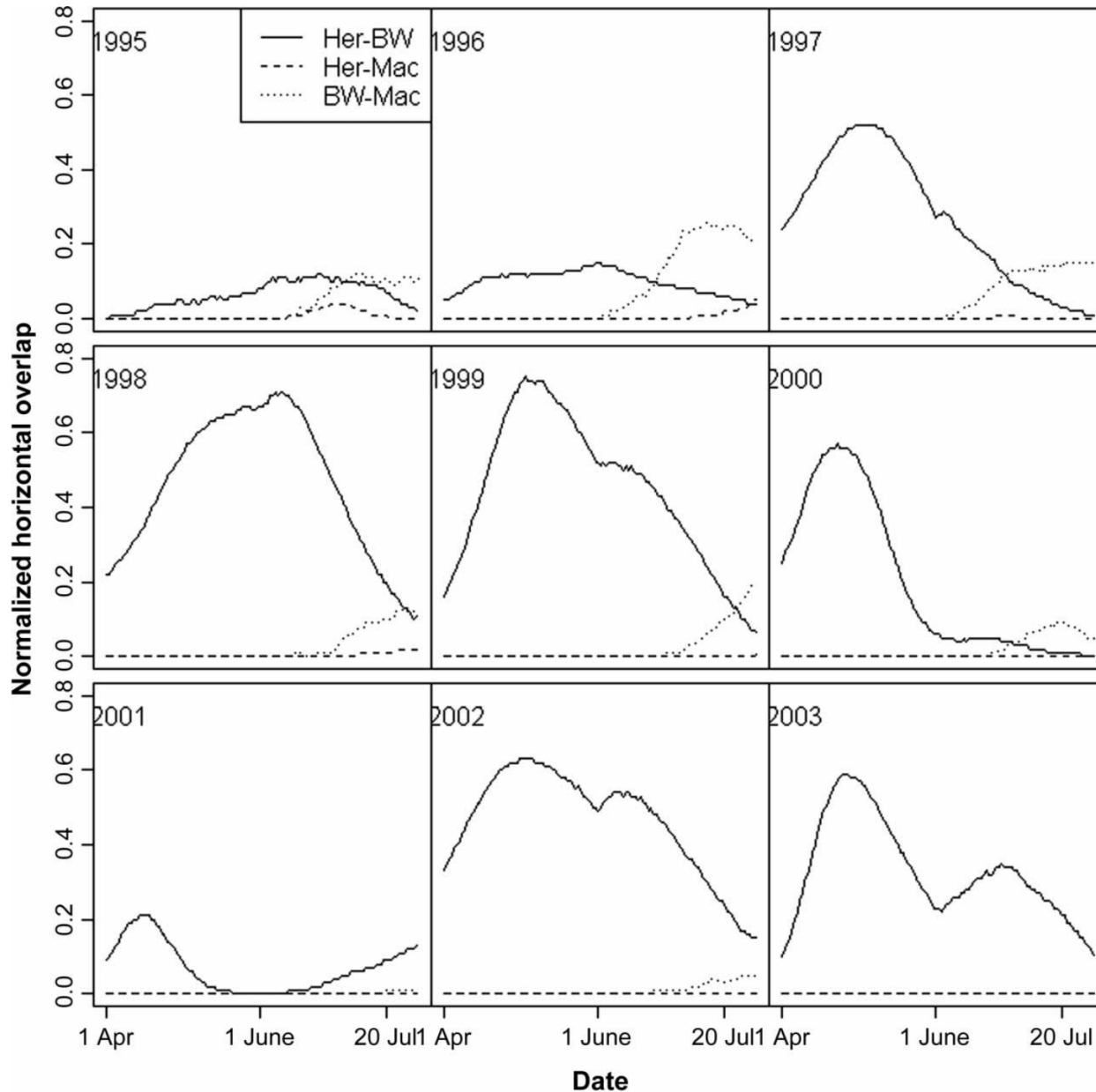
Blue square: Overlap between two species

Red square: Overlap between three species

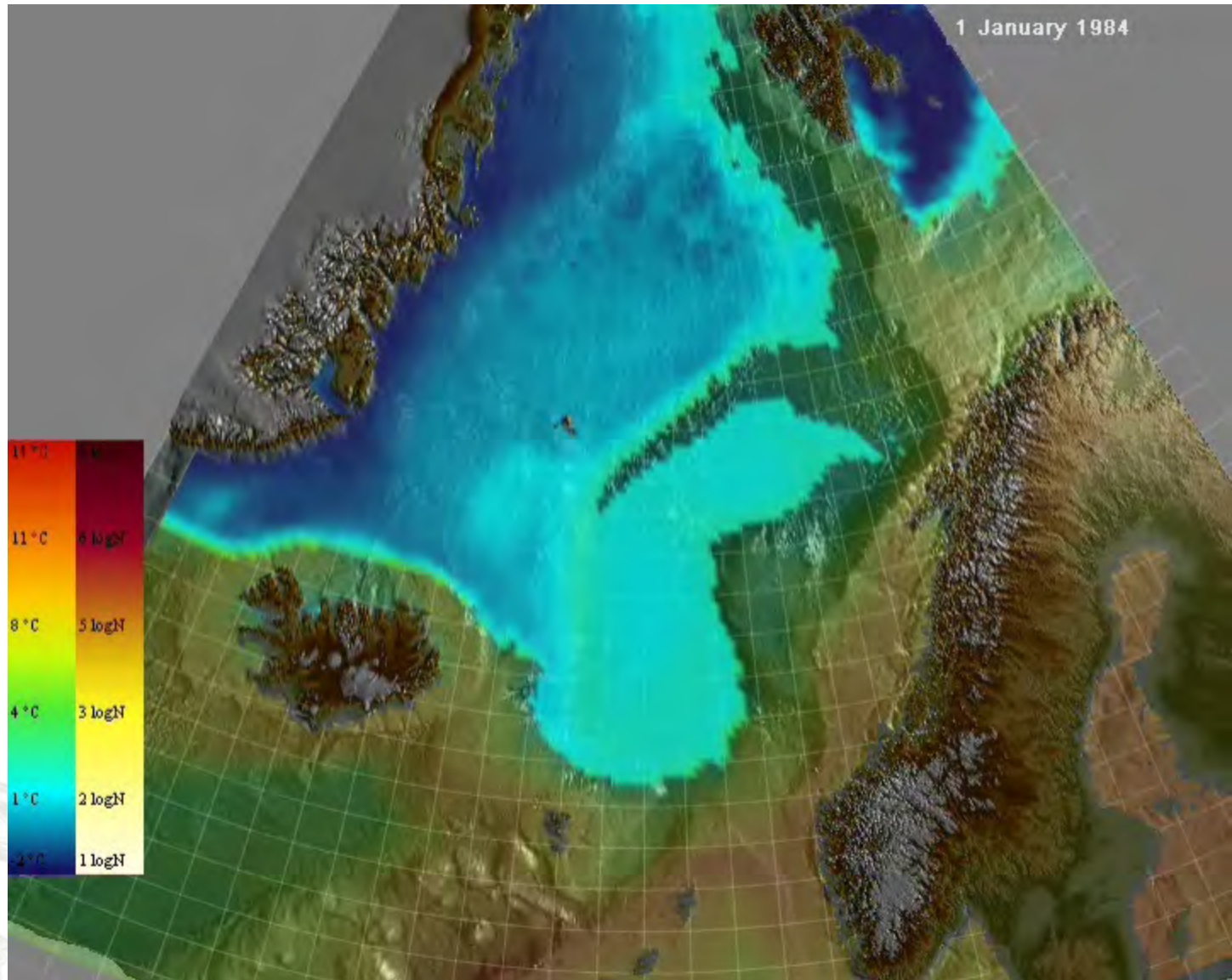


(Utne & al. 2012)

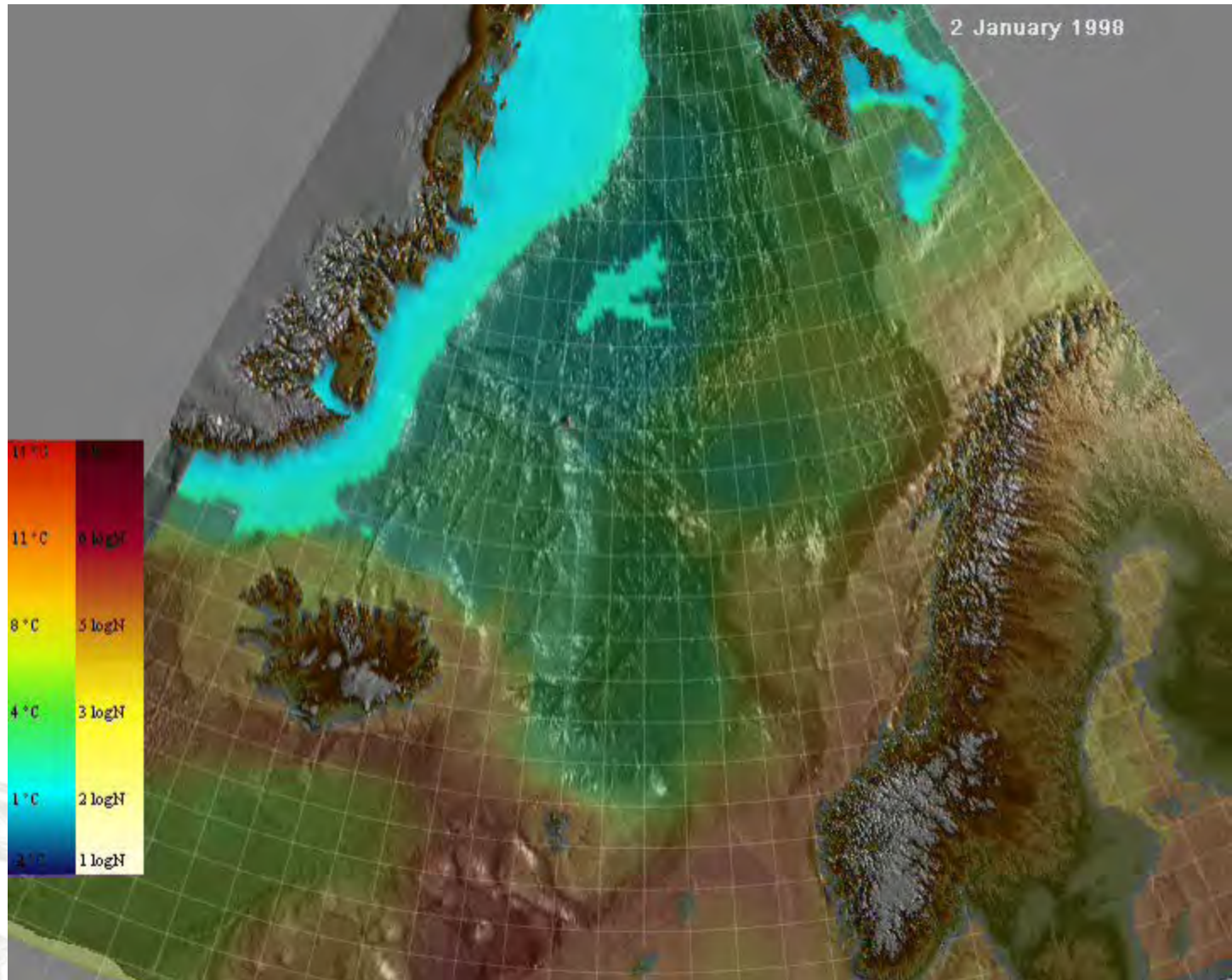
# Horizontal overlap between herring, blue whiting and mackerel



# Herring migrations - cold climate



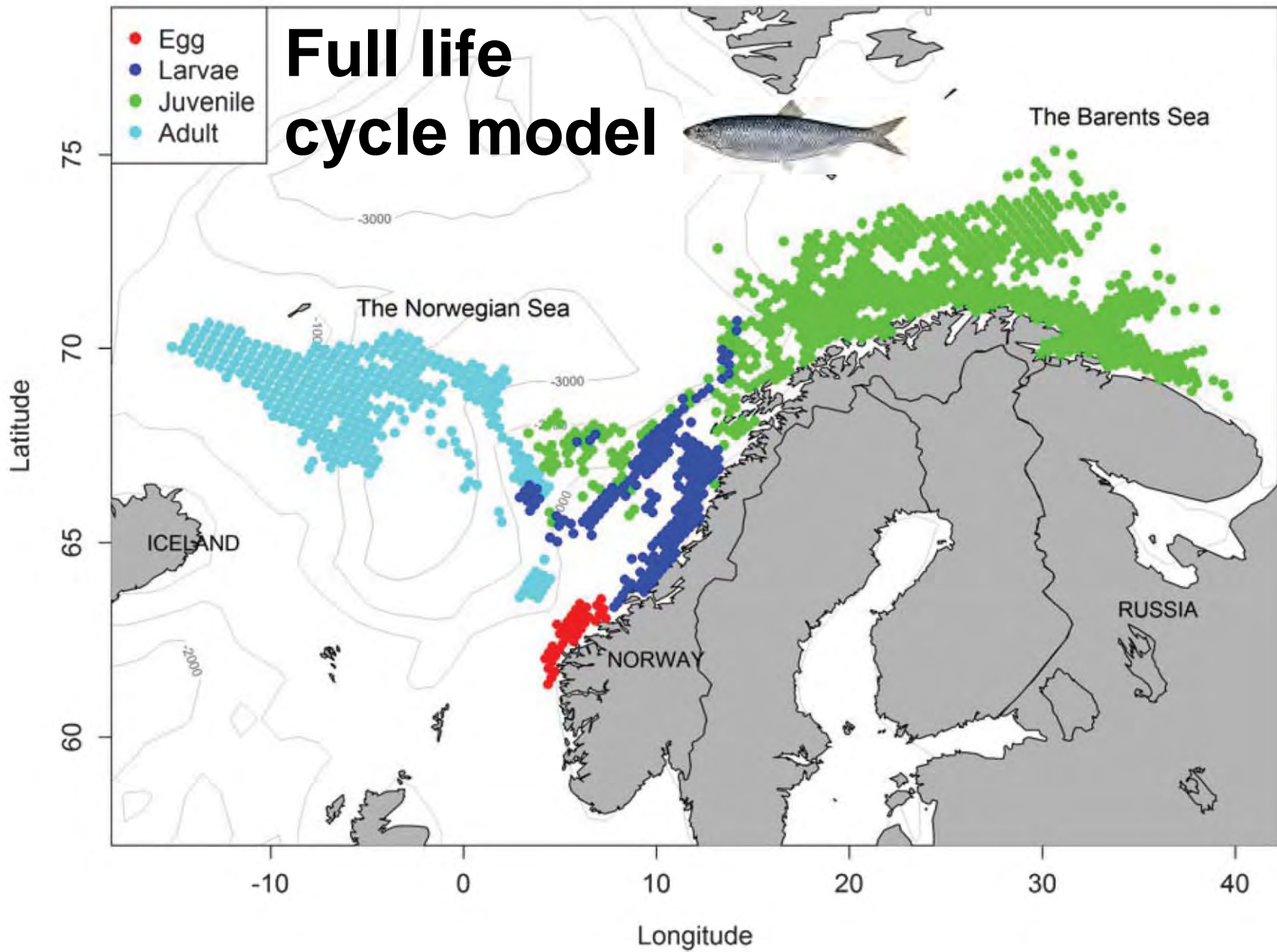
# Herring migrations – warm climate

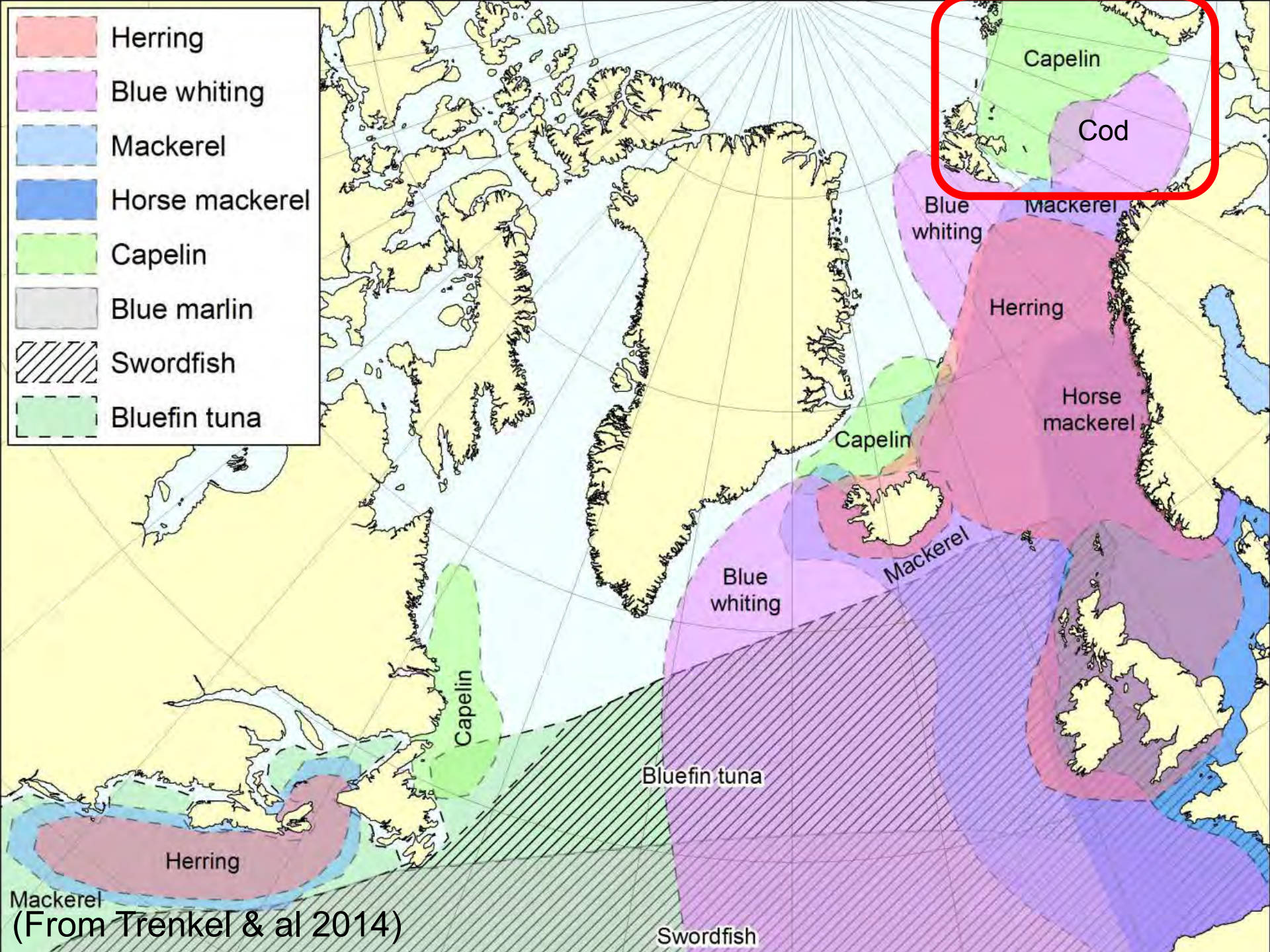




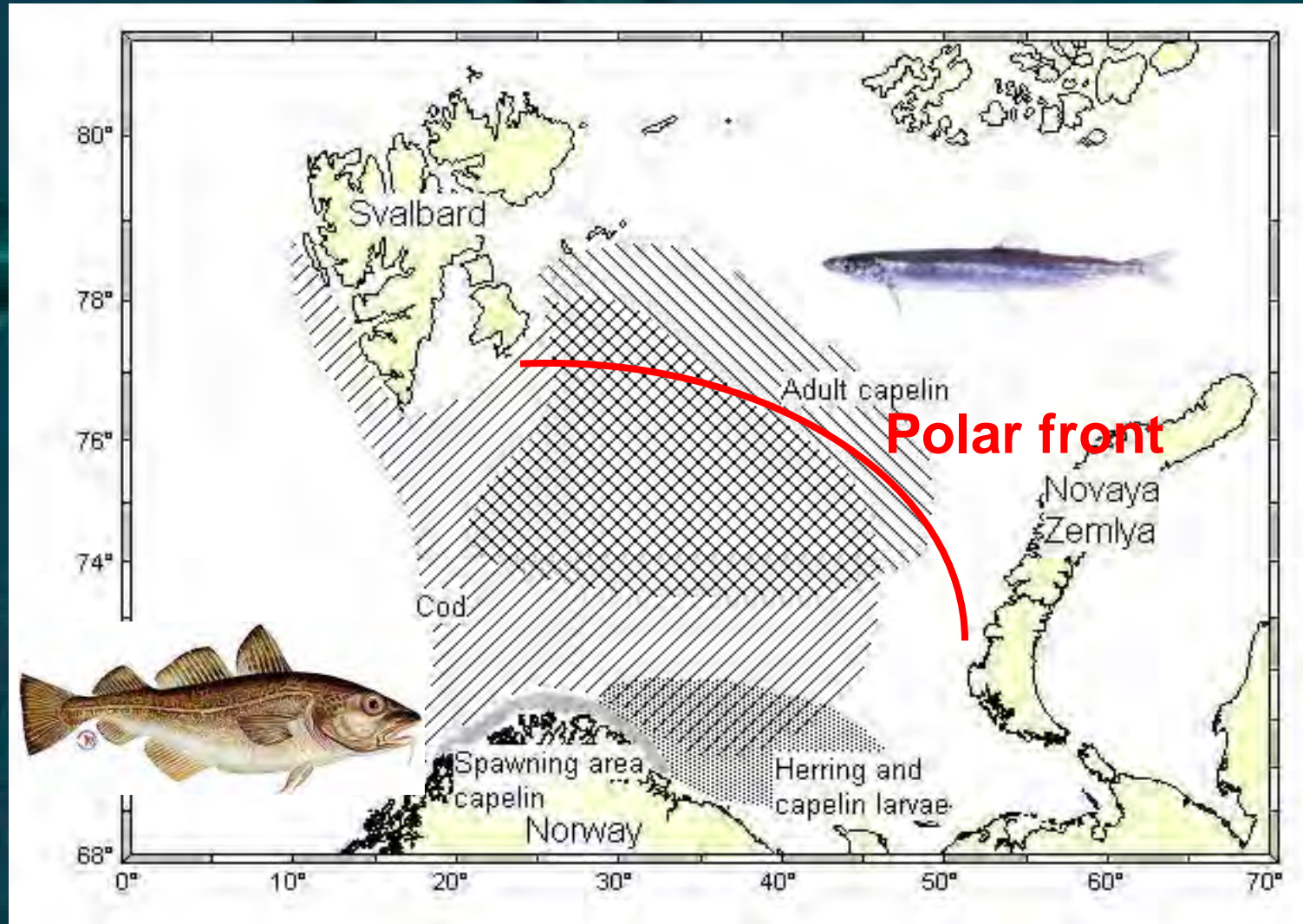
# Full life cycle model

- Egg
- Larvae
- Juvenile
- Adult





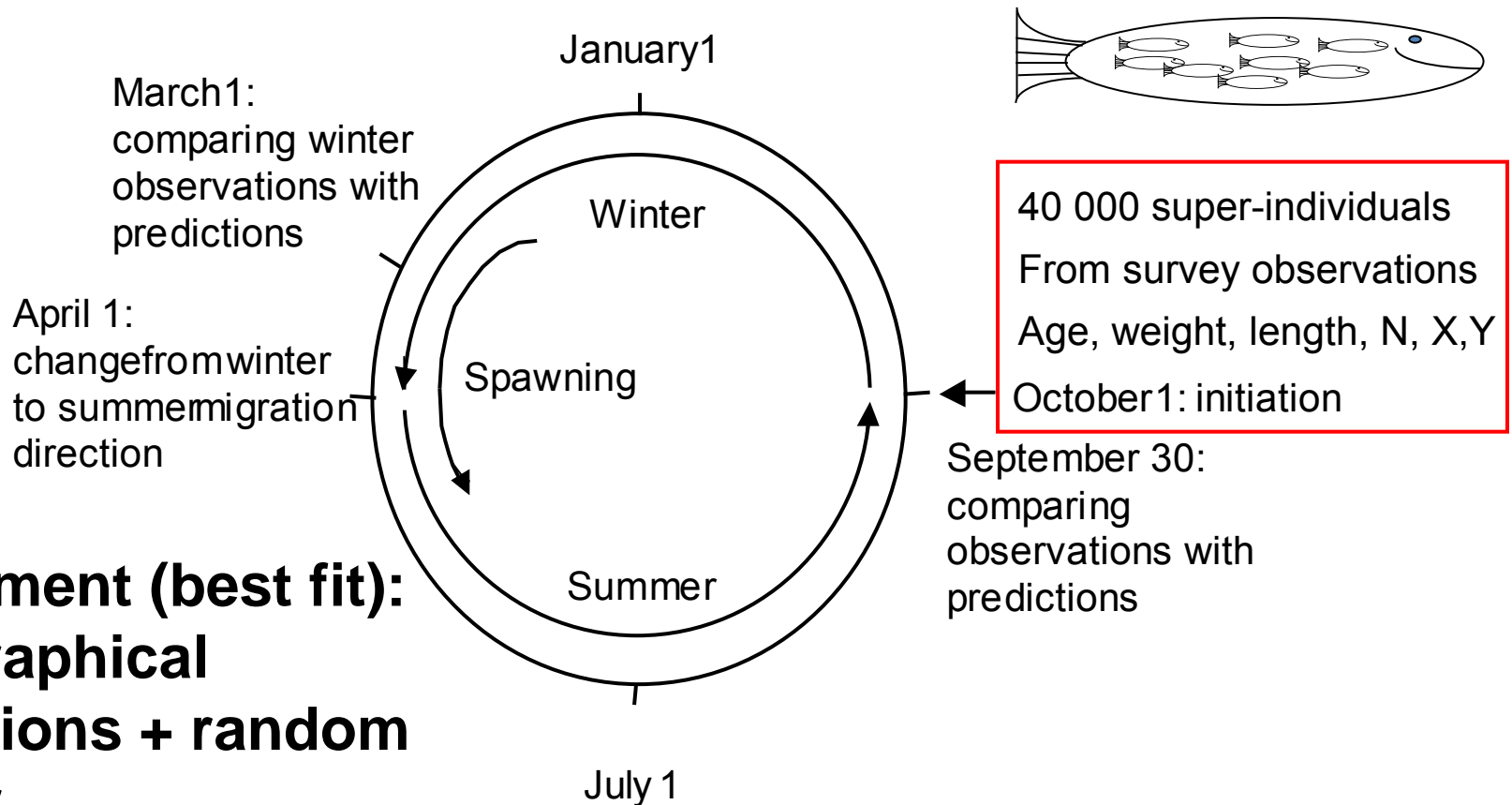
# The impact of movement rules in modelling of cod-capelin interactions



# The model

- 2D model - Domain: 90x100 squares, 20 km length
- Temperature fields for the Barents Sea generated by linear interpolation of measurements in fall and winter
- Currents from an ocean circulation model
- Zooplankton fields generated from temperature and seasonal components
- Encounter based cod-capelin interactions
- Bioenergetics growth models
- Study period 1990-1996

# Model structure

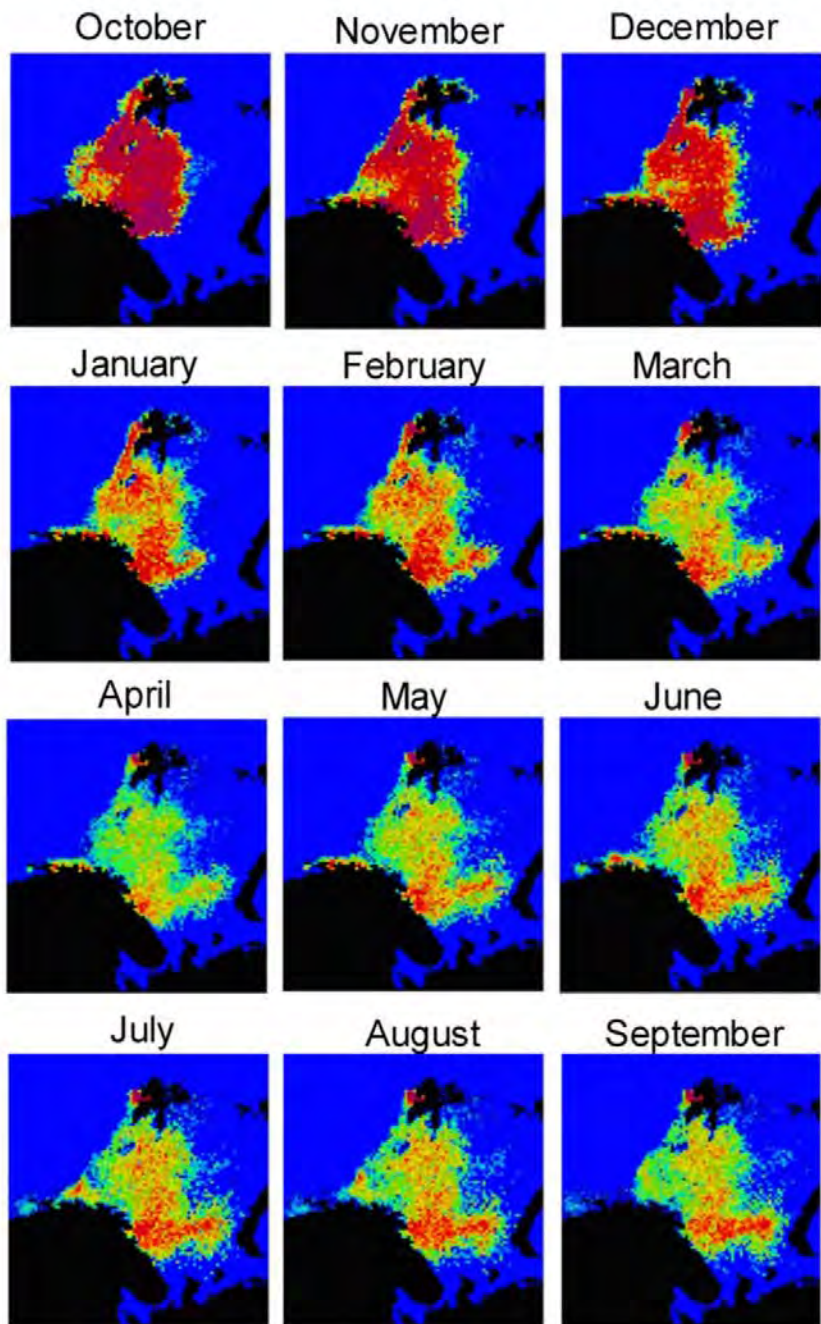


**Movement (best fit):  
geographical  
directions + random  
factor**

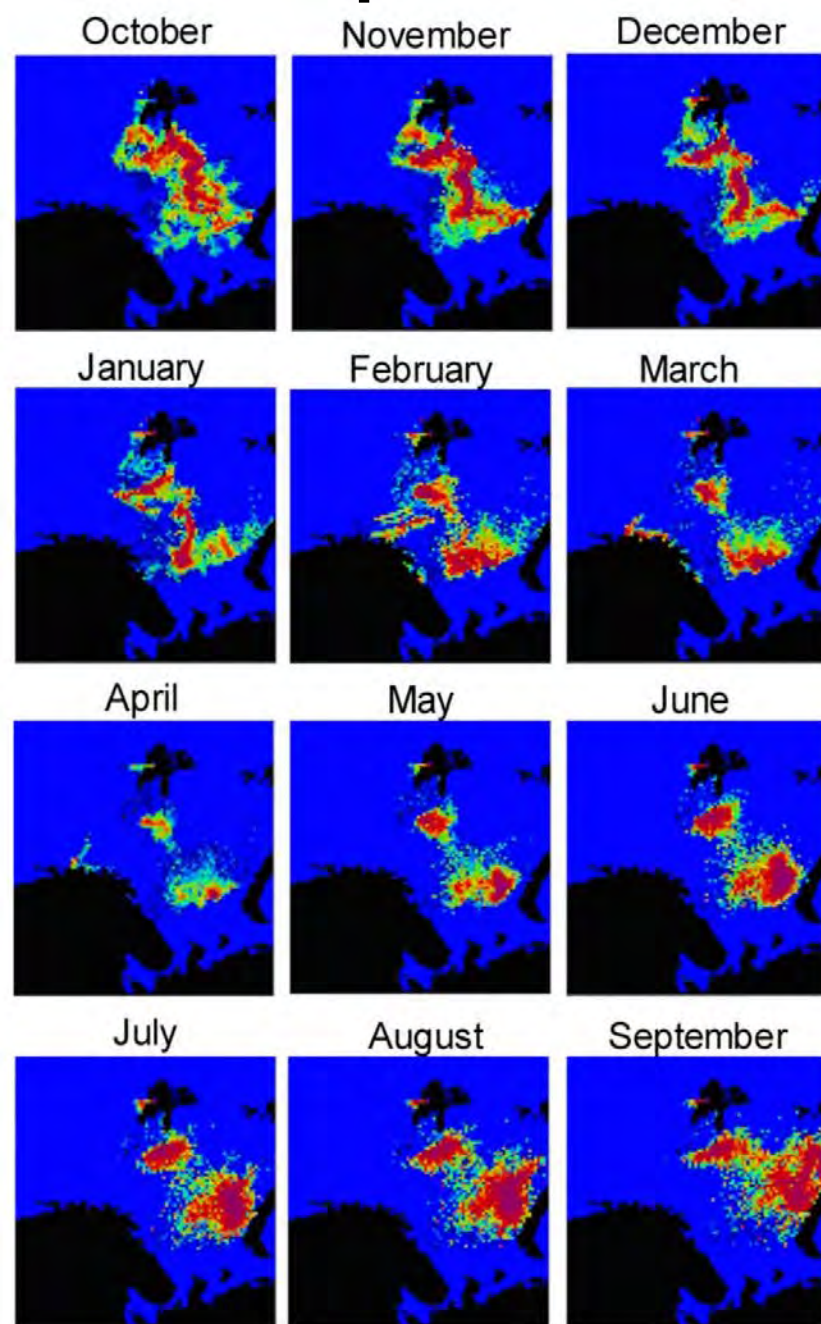
Spatial distribution was  
validated using root mean  
square (RMS):

$$RMS = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{i_{\max}} \sum_{j=1}^{j_{\max}} (P_{ij} - O_{ij})^2}$$

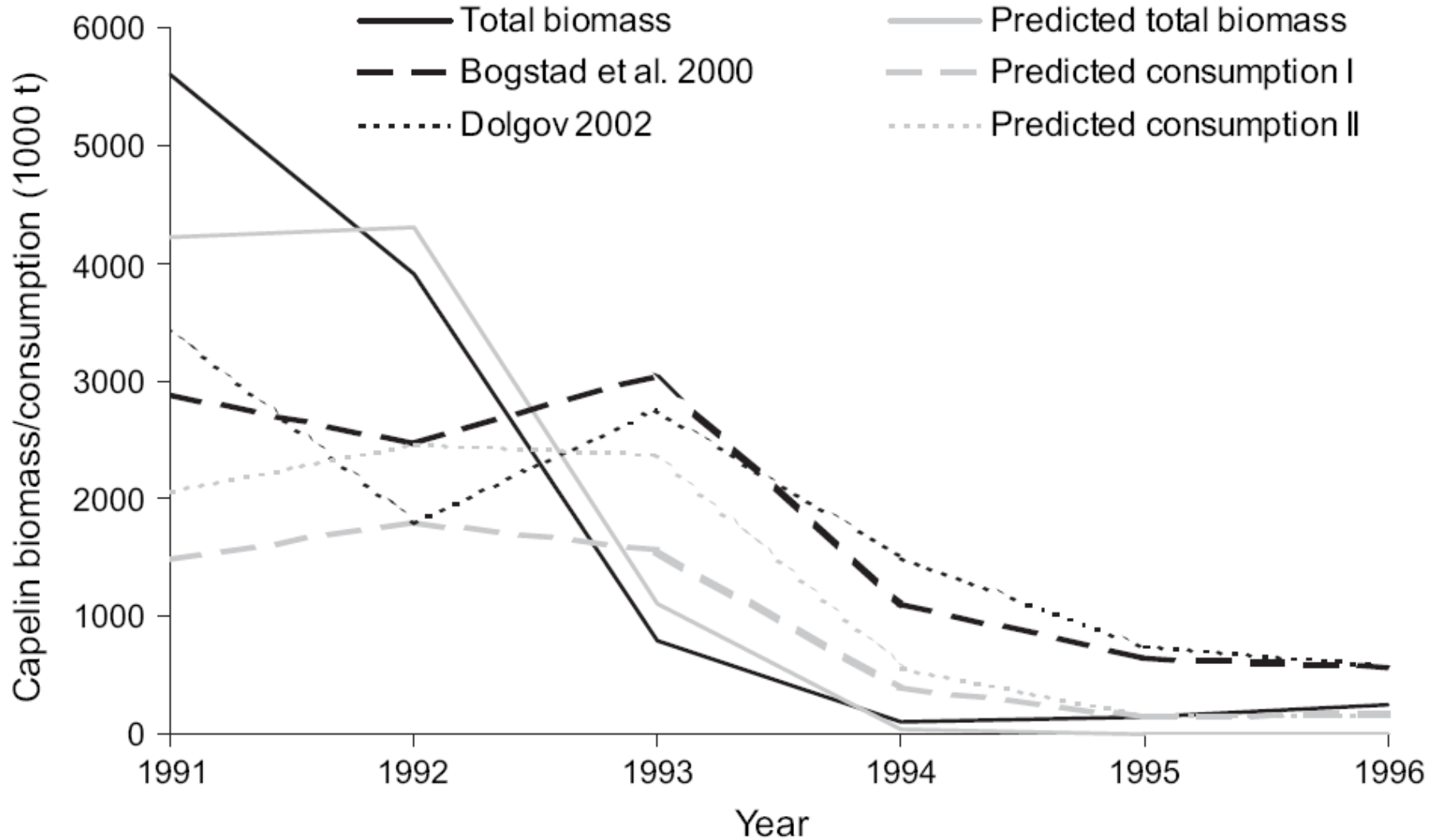
# Cod



# Capelin



# Biomass and consumption



# Movement rules

## Rule #

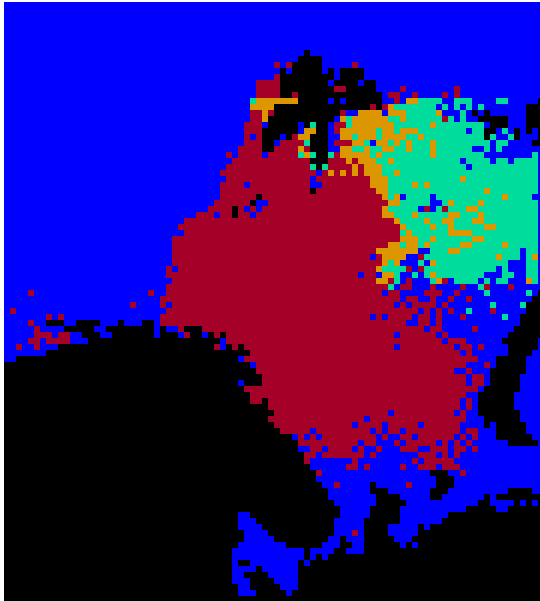
- 0 Default - from observations (*Huse et al. 2004*)
- $1_{cap}$  Move towards northeast if  $B_{cod} > T_{cod}$  else use 0
- $1_{cod}$  Move towards northeast if  $B_{cap} = 0$  else use 0
- 2 Move towards "fittest" square in neighbourhood
- 3 Same as 2 if  $\Delta Fitness > FitnessT$  else 0
- 4 Stay if  $Fitness > average\ Fitness$  else 0



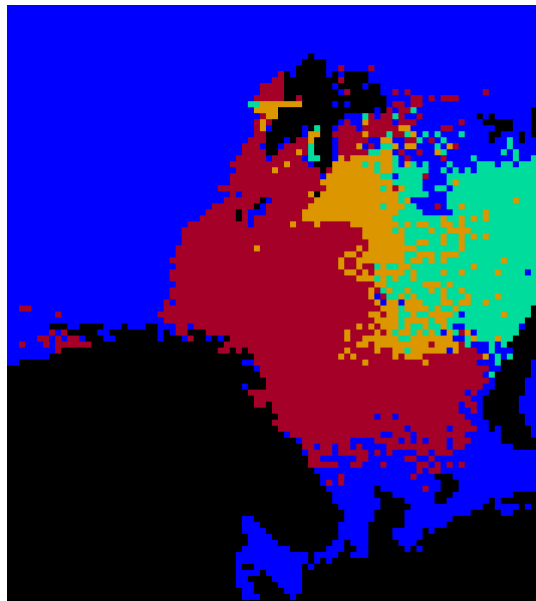


# Modifying threshold for capelin risk acceptance

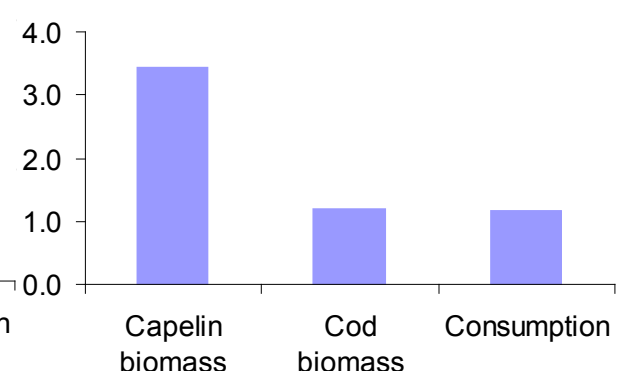
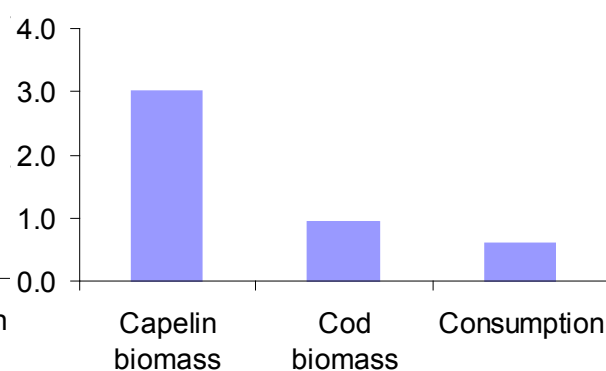
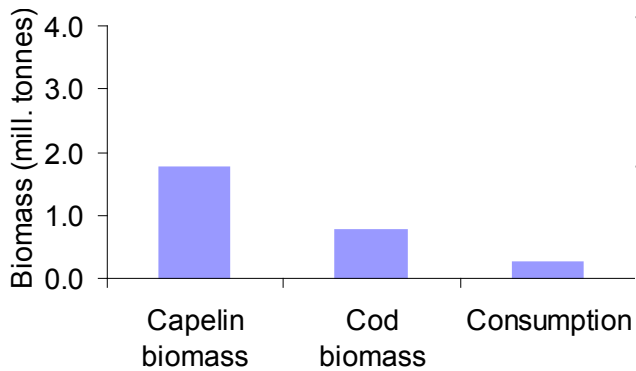
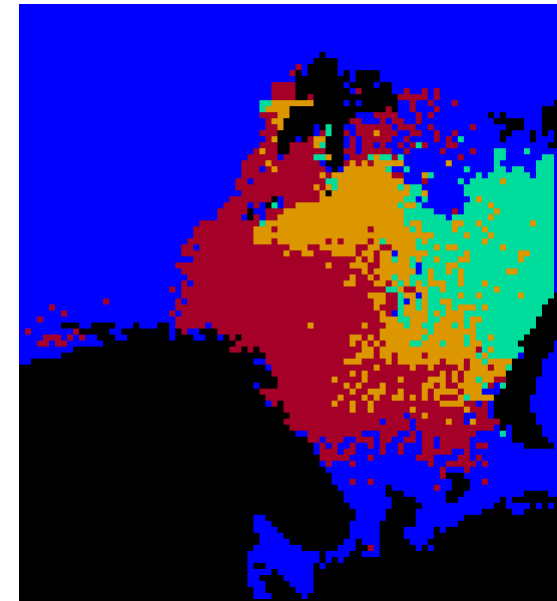
$$T_{\text{cod}} = 1 \times 10^5$$



$$T_{\text{cod}} = 5 \times 10^5$$

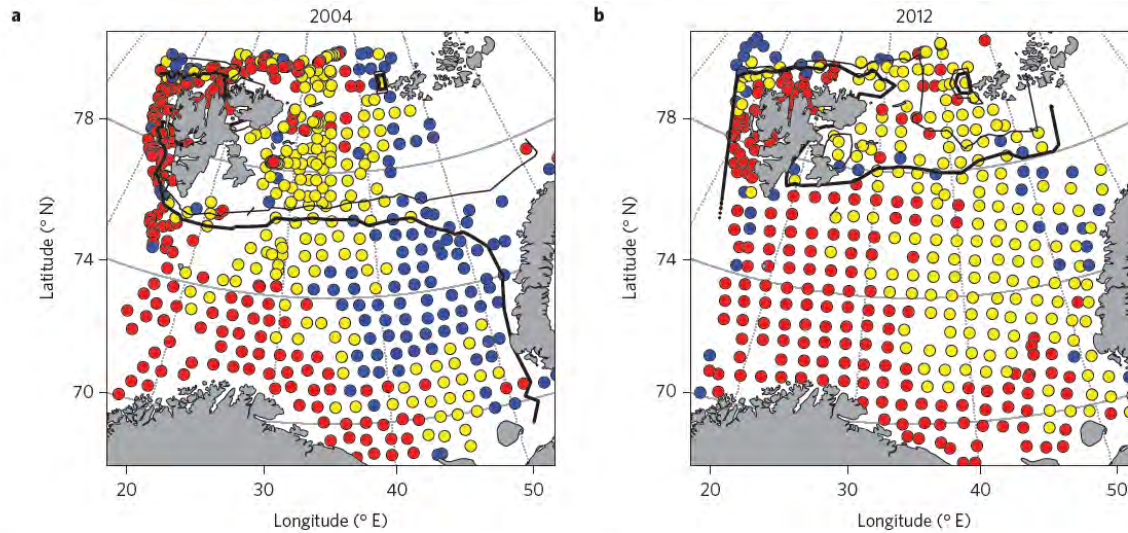


$$T_{\text{cod}} = 1 \times 10^6$$



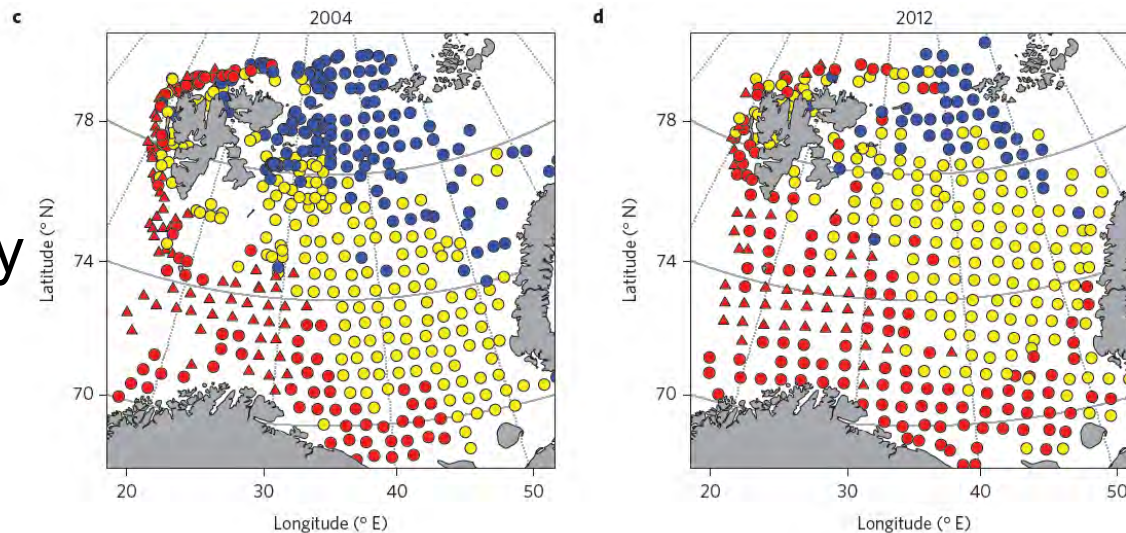
# Recent warming leads to a rapid borealization of fish communities in the Arctic

Water masses



- Atlantic
- Mixed/central
- Arctic

Fish community



# Capelin migrations and climate change – a modelling analysis (Huse & Ellingsen 2008)

Capelin (*Mallotus villosus*)



Small (13 cm), short lived, planktivorous, migratory

*“The quick and consistent response of **capelin** to temperature change, its importance to the North Atlantic foodweb, and established monitoring methods suggest this species as a **sea "canary"** for northern boreal marine ecosystem responses to climate variability and Change”.*

Rose 2005

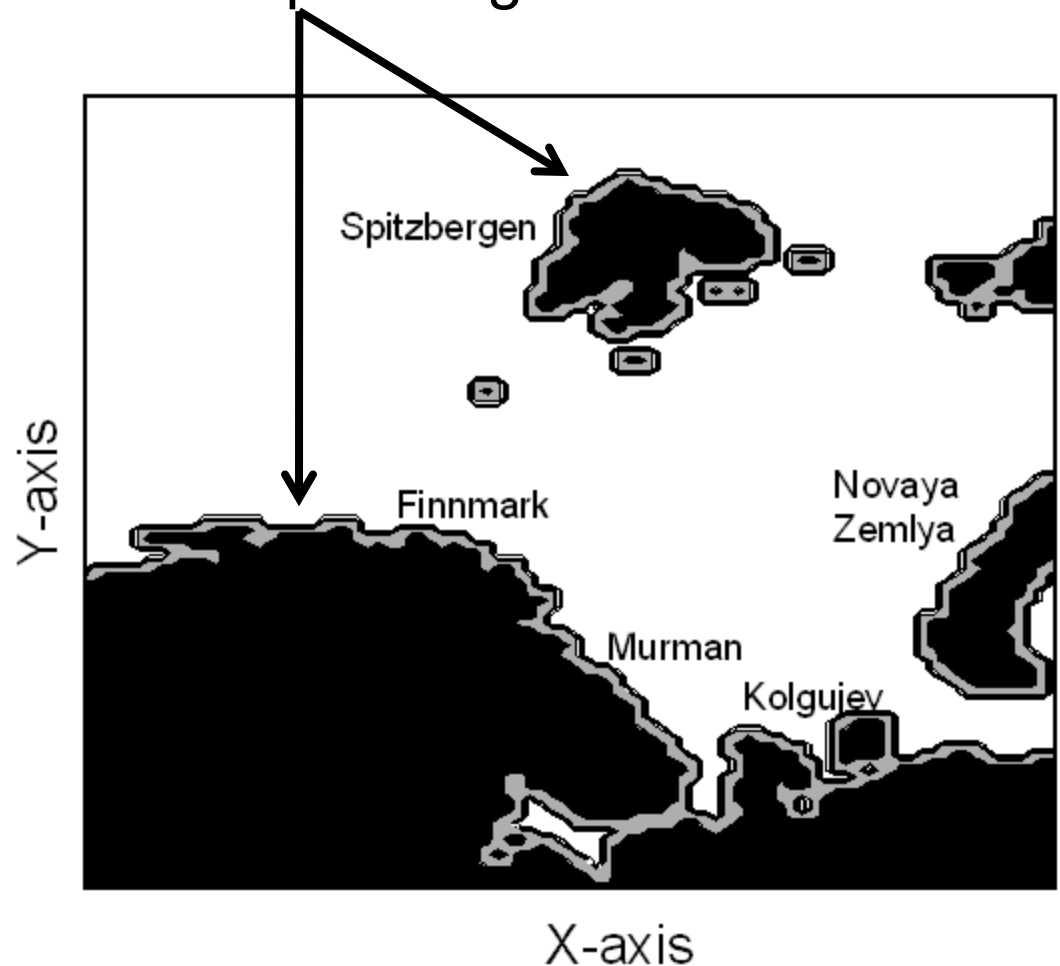
# Spawning

## Reproduction if:

- Individual  $\geq 4$  years
- In a spawning square
- Date  $\pm 30$  days of spawning date
- If so a batch of eggs proportional to body length and energy level is laid

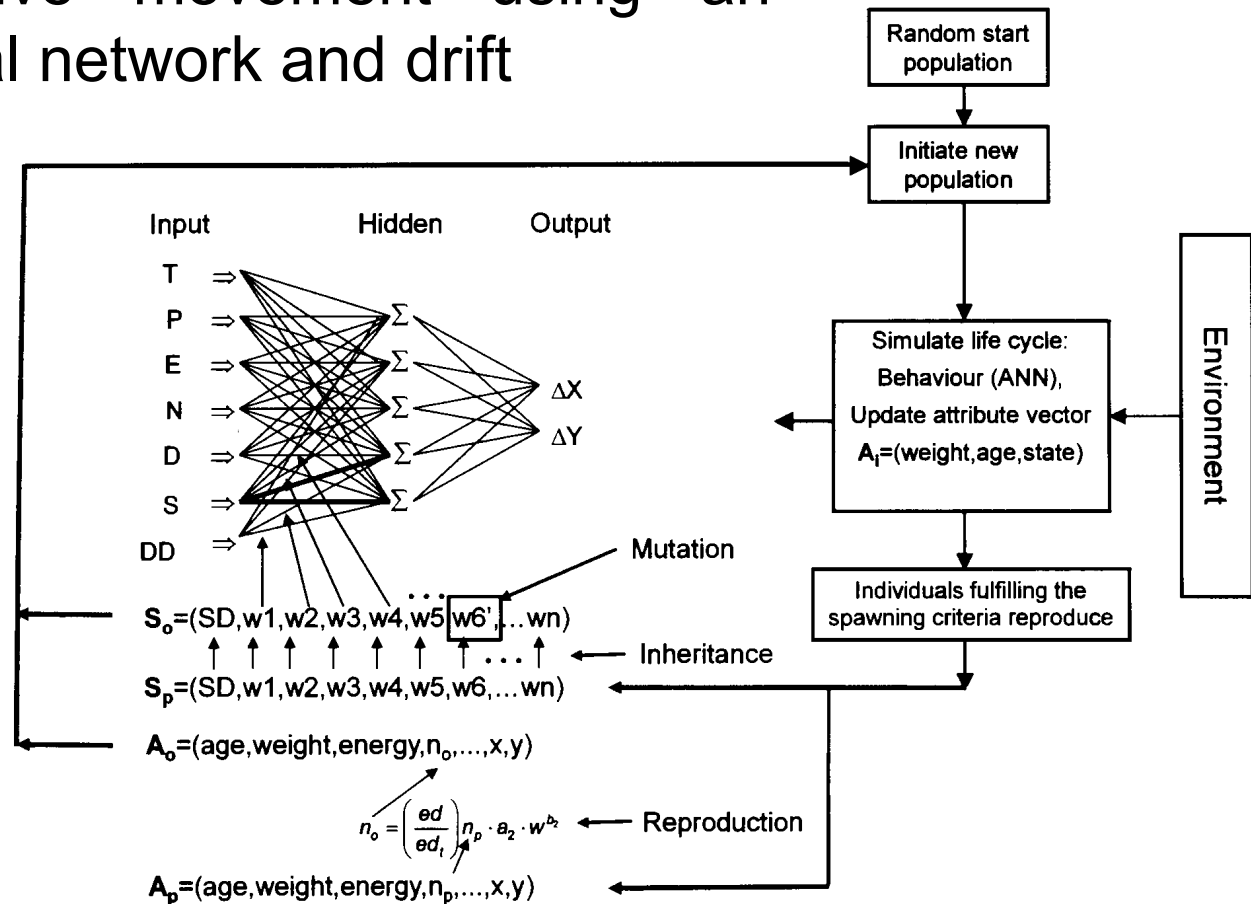
• *Batch survival to the end of the year is the fitness criterion*

- Capelin is known to spawn near shore
- All squares next to shore (grey) were allowed spawning areas



# Individual Based Model (IBM) - Movement

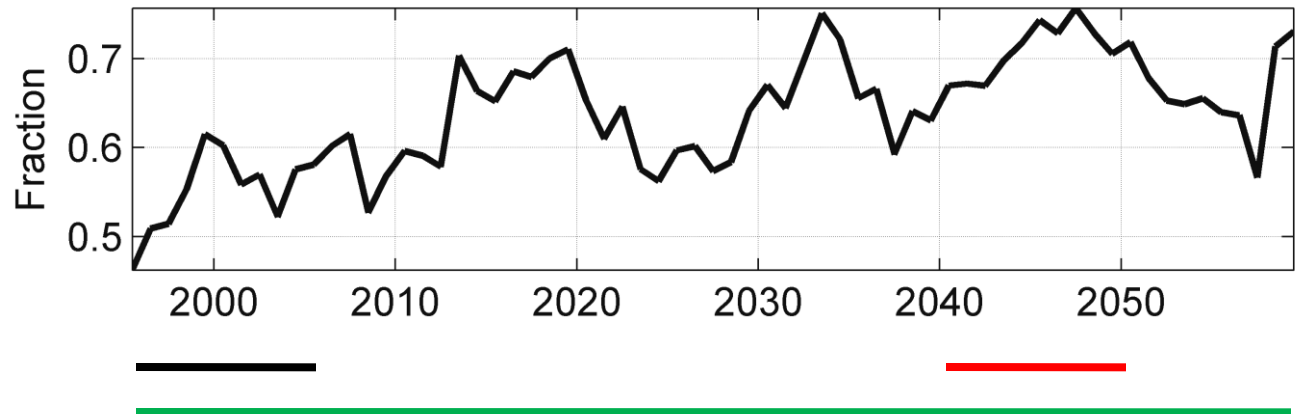
- **Eggs:** Benthic
- **Larvae:** Drift
- **Adults:** Active movement using an Artificial neural network and drift



# Simulations

Three simulations were performed, each over 300 years (four replicates) based on:

1. Present day climate (1996-2005)
2. Future (warmer) climate (2040-2049)
3. Entire period simulated (1996-2059)



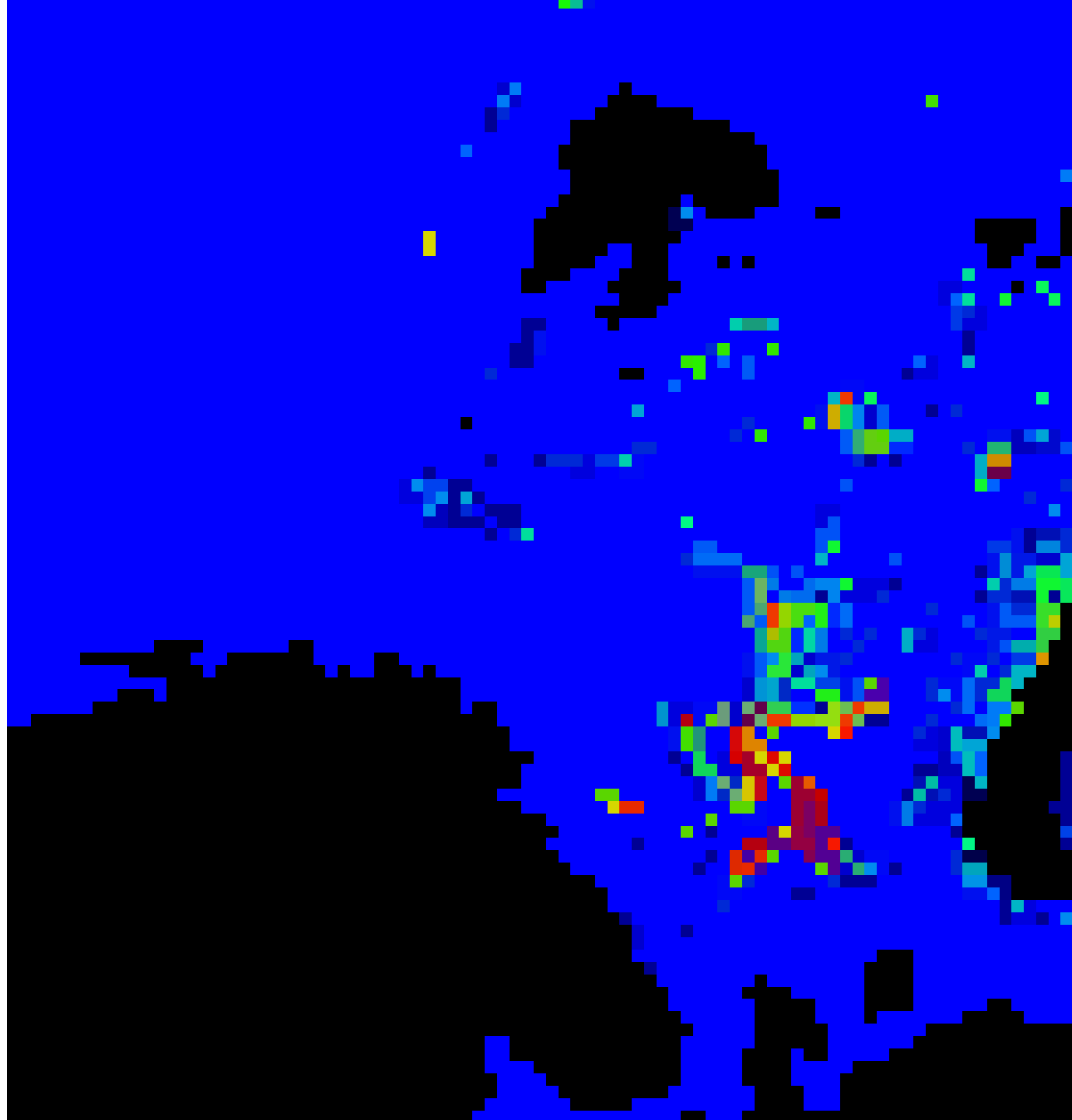
Fraction of water warmer than 1C

Sim1:  
Present  
climate

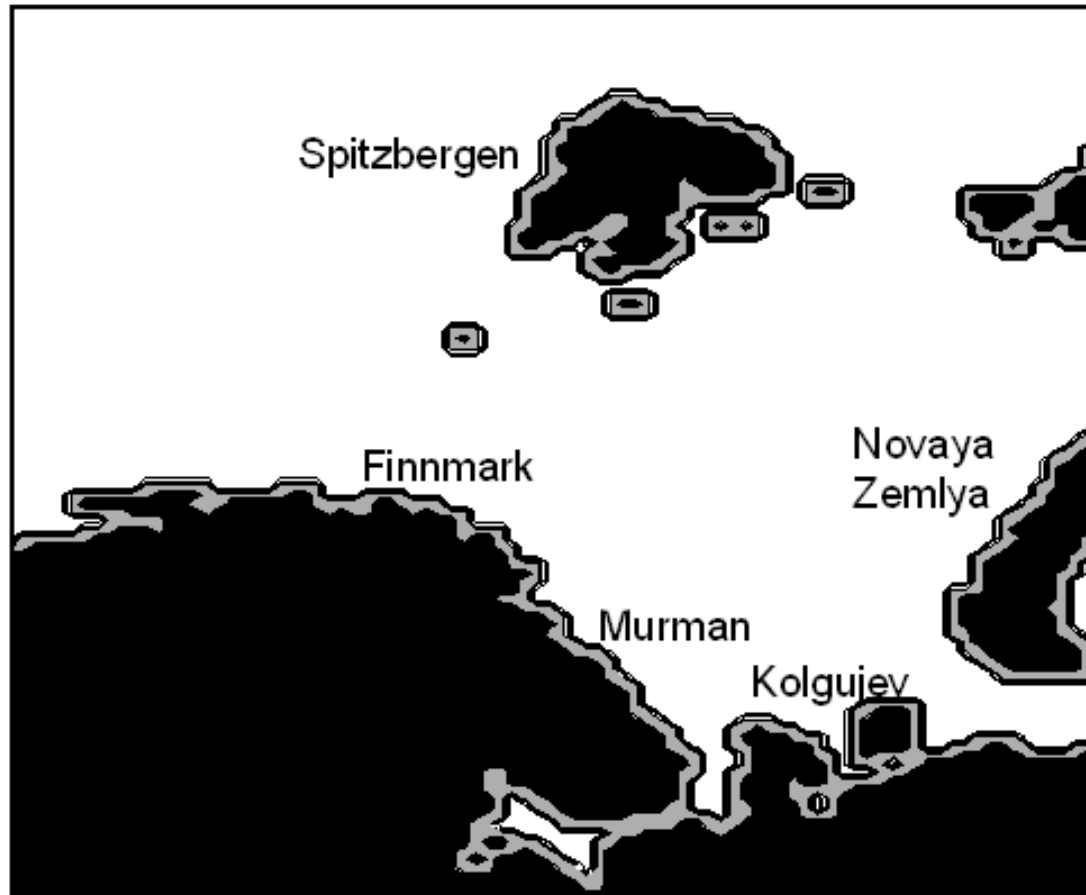




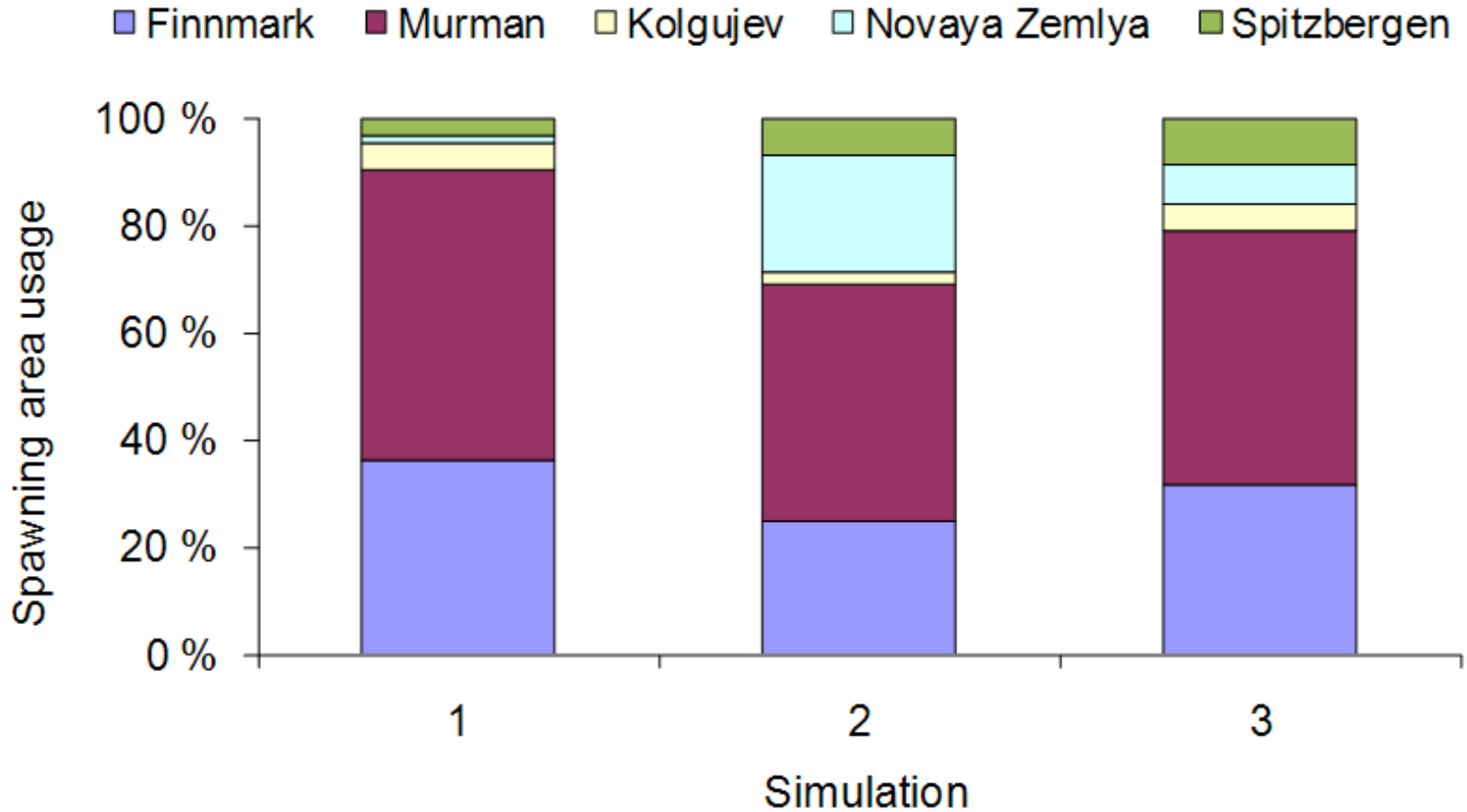
Sim2:  
Future  
warmer  
climate



# Spawning divided into five sub-areas



# Average spawning area usage (all replicates)



# PELagic Fish Observation System Simulator (PELFOSS)

Project leader:  
Morten Skogen

Test monitoring  
strategy



Develop simulation  
system

Tagging data

IMR survey data

Catches in real  
time

Data from fishing  
fleet  
(acoustics, AIS)

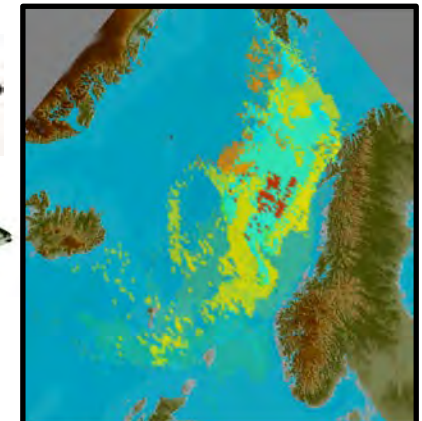
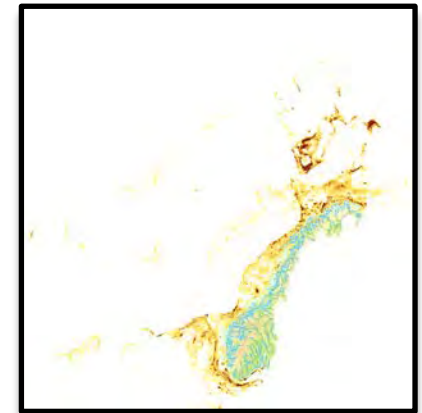
Other platforms  
(Stationary  
systems, SOP)

IMR surveys

Data from fishing fleet  
(acoustics, catches)

PELFISH  
SIMULATOR

EVALUATOR



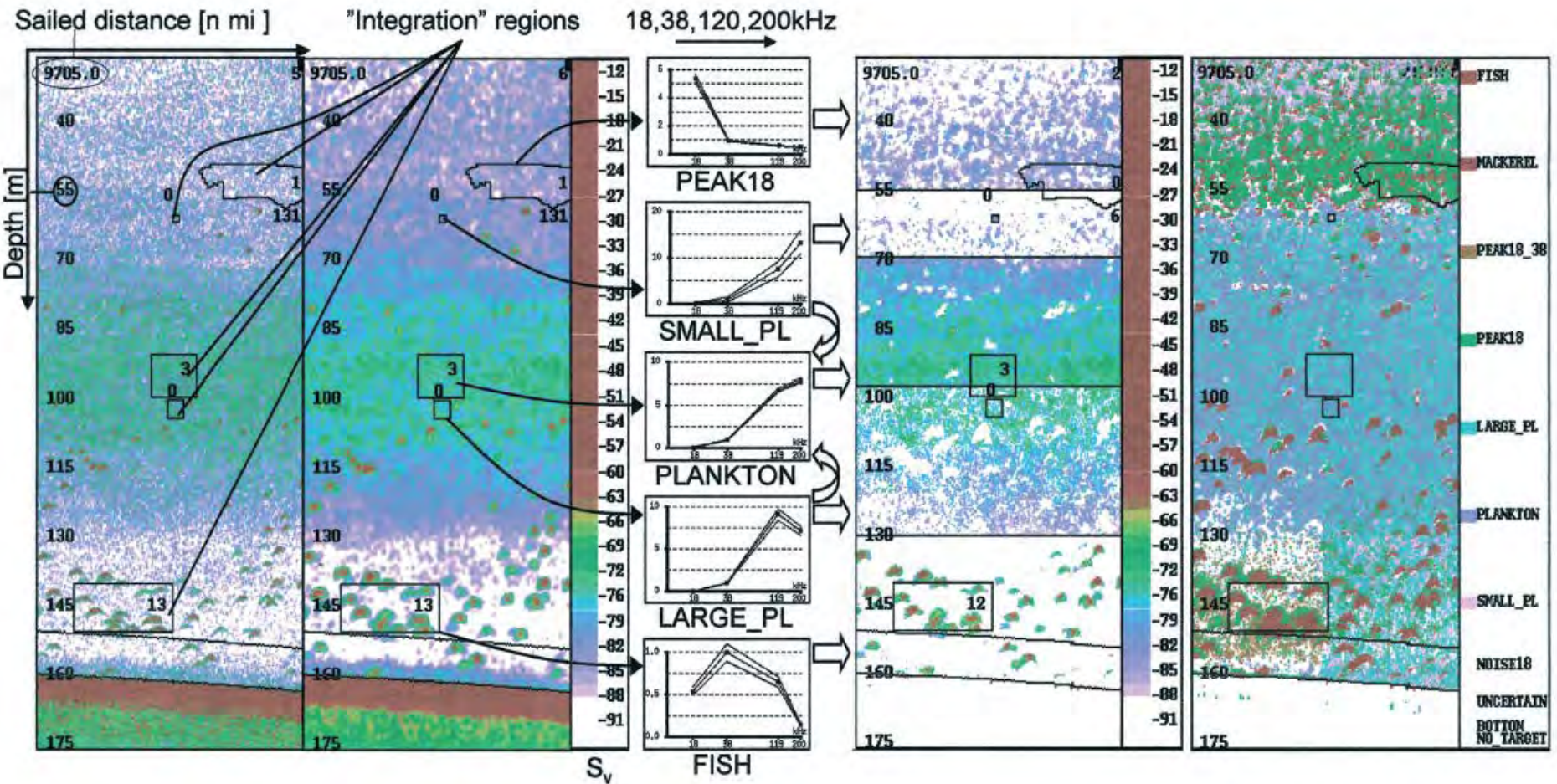
# WHERE?

- More code sharing and community effort (WGIPeM trying to achieve this)
- Standardise test cases for comparing efficiency of movement algorithms
- Develop approaches for using available data most efficiently in achieving realistic models of fish
- Local processing and machine learning





# Scrutiny of acoustics with machine learning



a) 200 kHz (original)

b) 200 kHz (smoothed)

c)  $\langle r(f) \rangle = \langle s_v / s_{v,38} \rangle$   
 Mean  $r(f)$  of region.  
 Dominating  
 category denoted.

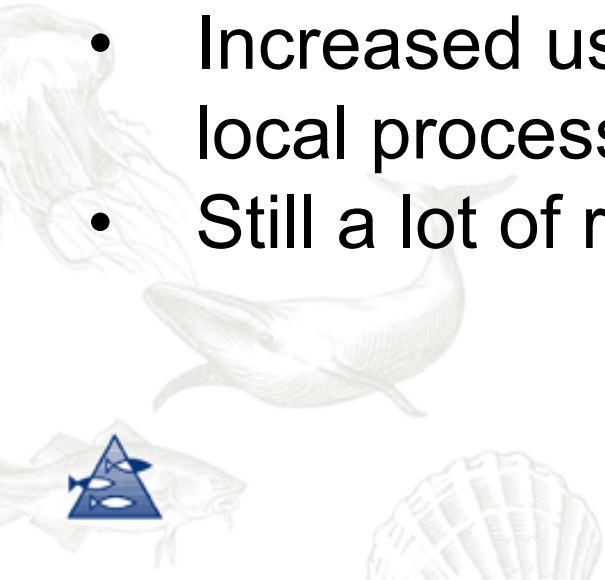
d) 200 kHz smoothed  
 data masked with  
 acoustic category

e) Acoustic categories  
 in artificial colours



# WHERE?

- More code sharing and community effort (WGIPeM trying to achieve this)
- Standardise test cases for comparing efficiency of movement algorithms
- Develop approaches for using available data most efficiently in achieving realistic models of fish
- Increased usage of data from various sources – local processing and machine learning
- Still a lot of remaining issues..





# Issues with Super-individual modelling..

## Bookeeping

- Representing populations as super-individuals
- Spatial representation of SI
- Creation of new SI
- Scaling from SI to population output

## Process representation

- Super individuals feeding in Eularian fields
- Interactions between super individuals
- Mortality & growth

## Computational issues

- Keeping the number of super-individuals manageable
- Ensuring numerical convergence of results for different number of simulated SI
- Implications of using super-individuals with parallel computing or ways to speed up calculations?
- Uncertainty

From Huse & Rose in prep.

# Thanks for your attention!

