

# How eastern Bering Sea climate variability affects the distribution of walleye pollock early life stages

# Colleen Petrik

Janet T. Duffy-Anderson, Franz Mueter, Katherine Hedstrom, Seth Danielson, Enrique Curchitser, Steven Barbeaux

PICES ASC 2013 Nanaimo

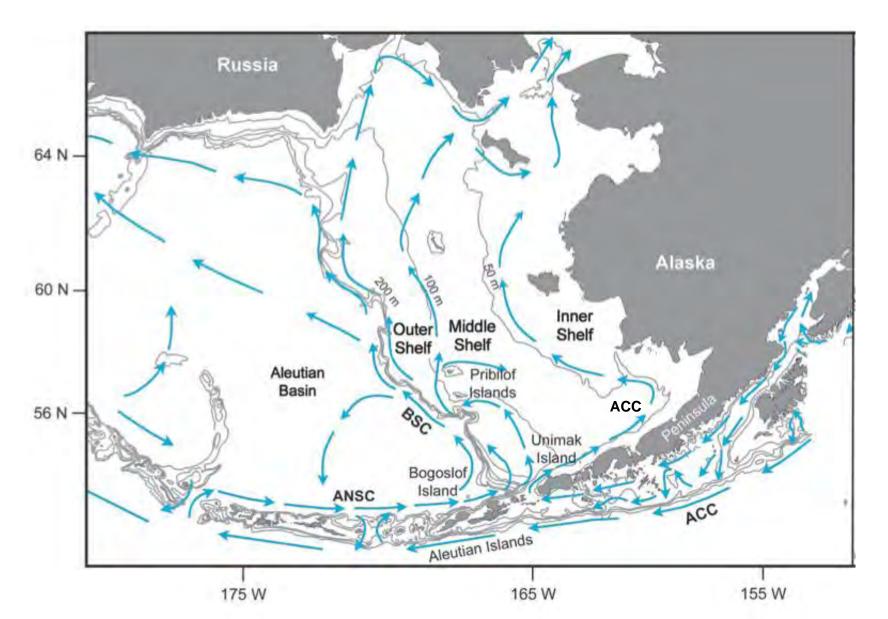






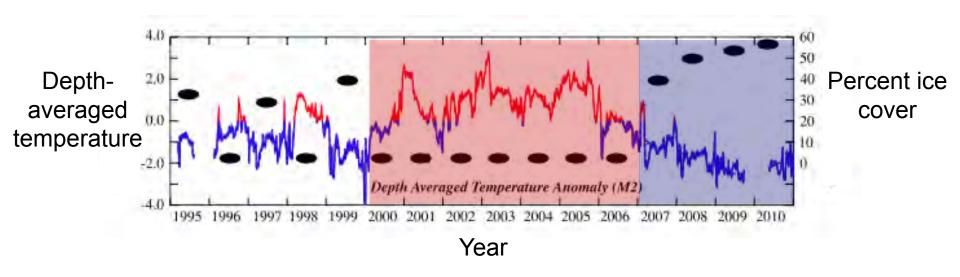


# **EASTERN BERING SEA**





## **SEA ICE AND WATER TEMPERATURE**

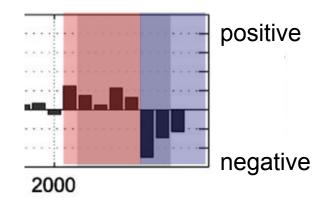




# WINDS AND CURRENTS

Oct-May wind direction anomaly

Winter cross-shelf Ekman transport



Danielson et al. 2011



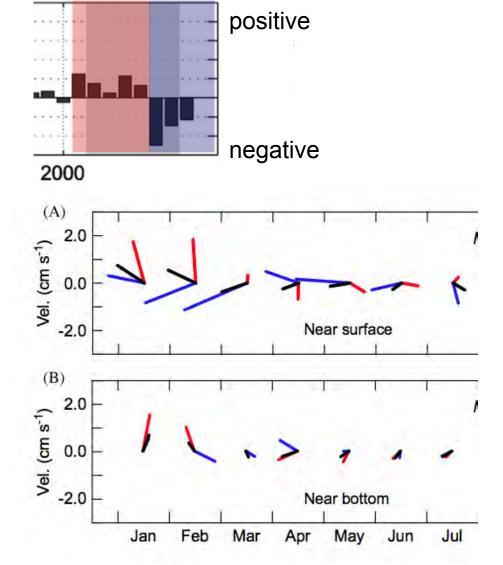
## WINDS AND CURRENTS

Oct-May wind direction anomaly

Winter cross-shelf Ekman transport

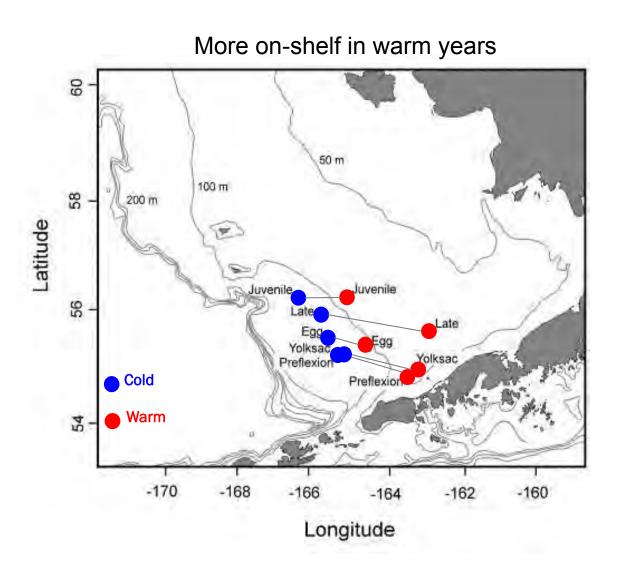
Danielson et al. 2011

Monthly averaged currents at M2



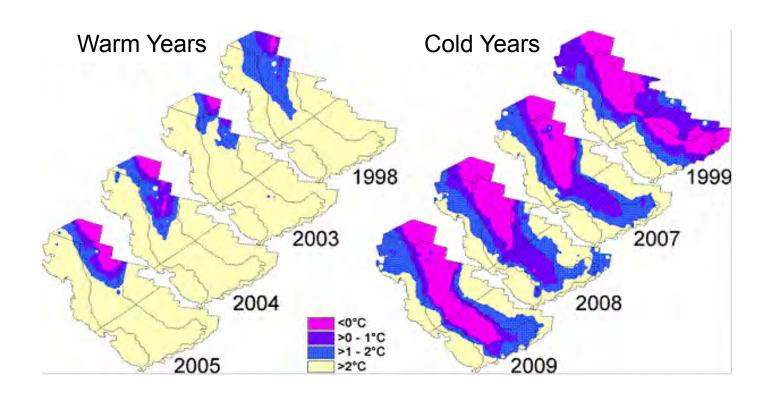


# POLLOCK ELS DISTRIBUTION



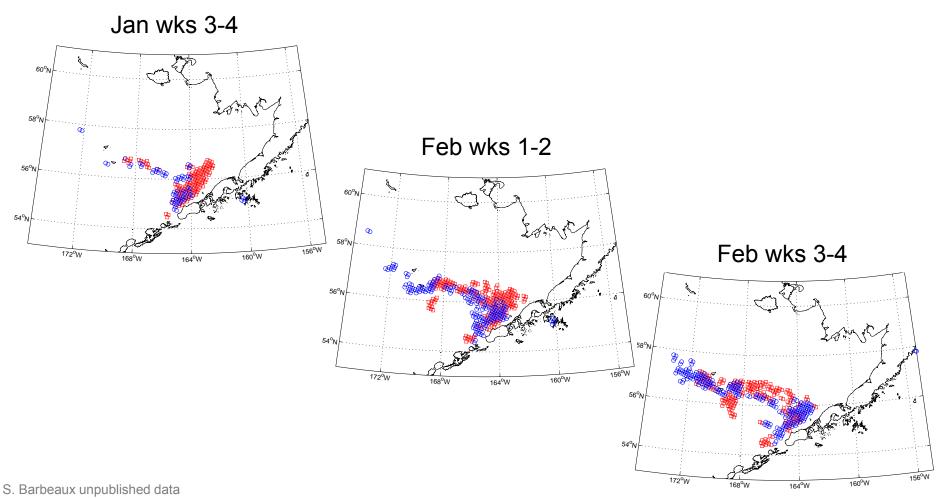


Adults avoid cold water → Change in spawning areas



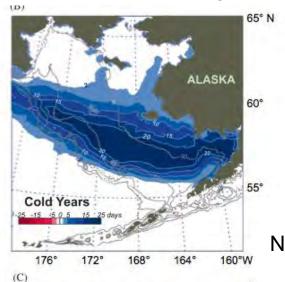


#### More on-shelf in warm years

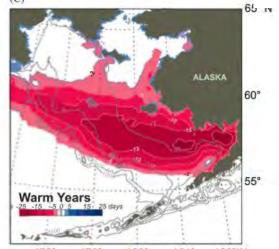




Adults avoid cold water → Change in spawning time



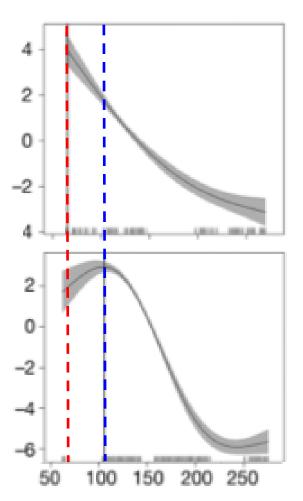
Number of days +/- avg with sea ice in Mar and Apr





Egg count anomaly

Later in cold years



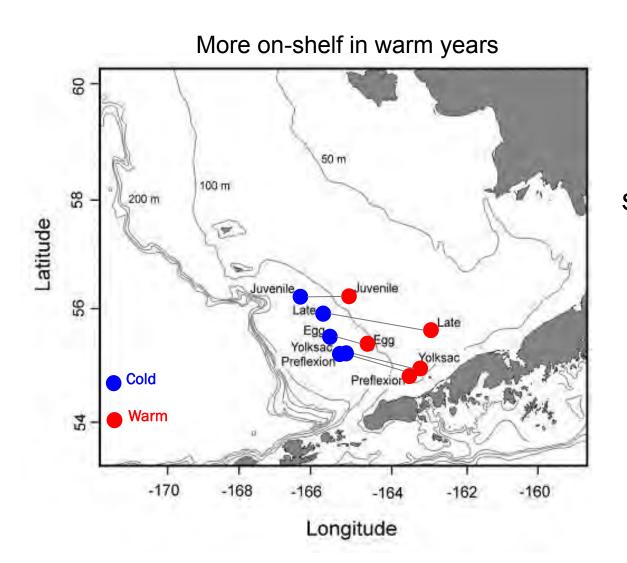
Warm

Cold

Smart et al. 2012 Julian Day



## POLLOCK ELS DISTRIBUTION



Similar to: Currents Spawning



# **POLLOCK QUESTIONS**

Does interannual climate variability result in different distributions of pollock early life stages?

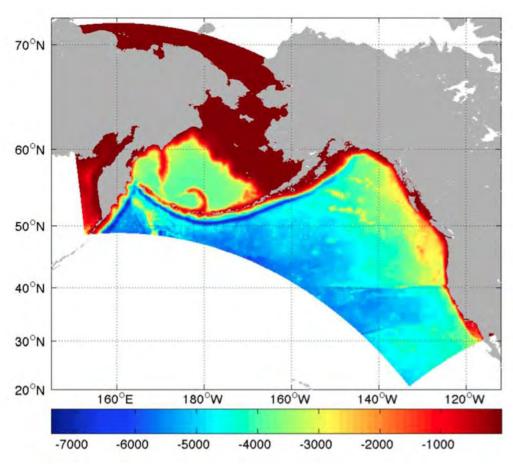
What are the dominant physical mechanisms responsible for the different distributions?

- Wind effects on transport
- Temperature/ice effects on spawning location
- Temperature/ice effects on spawning time



## **COUPLED MODELS**

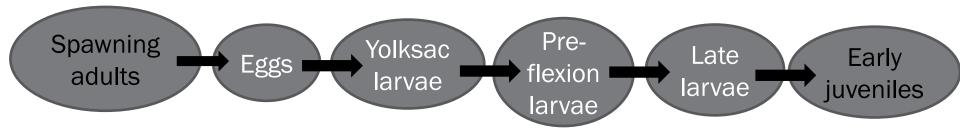
- ROMS NEP-6
  - Velocities
  - Vertical Diffusivity
  - Light
  - Temperature
- Tracmass
  - Offline particle tracking
  - Diffusion
  - Biological model
    - Development/Growth
    - Vertical behavior



NEP-6 domain with bathymetry (m)



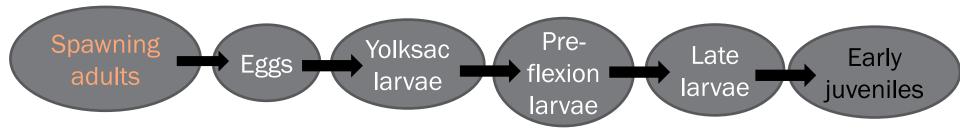
#### POLLOCK BIOLOGICAL MODEL



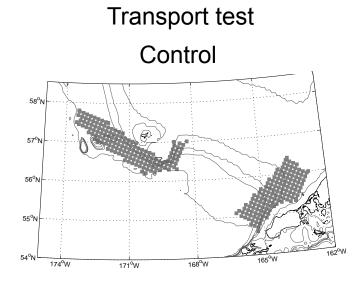
- Development/Growth
  - Function of temperature
- Vertical behavior
  - Eggs and yolksac passive (neutrally buoyant)
  - Preflexion and late restricted to mixed layer



#### POLLOCK BIOLOGICAL MODEL



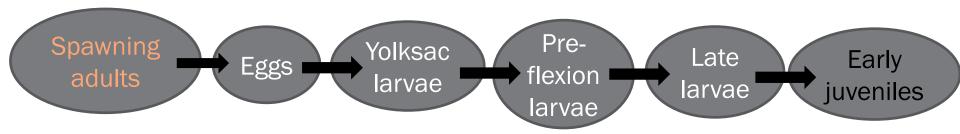
Spawning polygons for 2 wk periods based on spawning climatology (e.g. Mar wks 1-2)



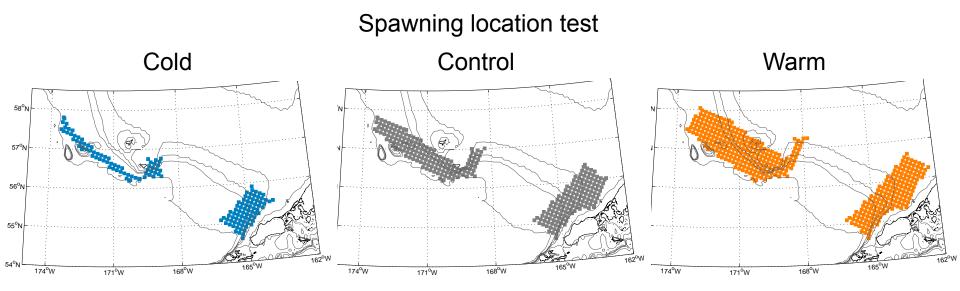
Same spawning locations in warm and cold years



## POLLOCK BIOLOGICAL MODEL



Spawning polygons for 2 wk periods based on spawning climatology (e.g. Mar wks 1-2)



Contracted off-shelf

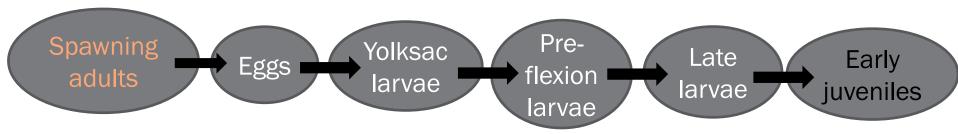
Expanded on-shelf



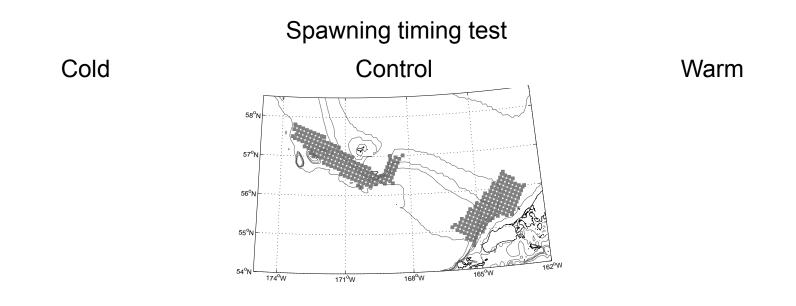
Date = Mar 1

#### POLLOCK BIOLOGICAL MODEL

Date = Apr 10



Spawning polygons for 2 wk periods based on spawning climatology (e.g. Mar wks 1-2)

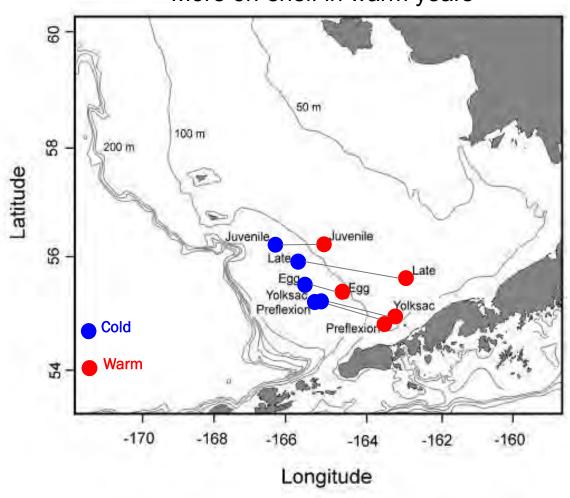


Date = Mar 1



# **OBSERVED PATTERN**



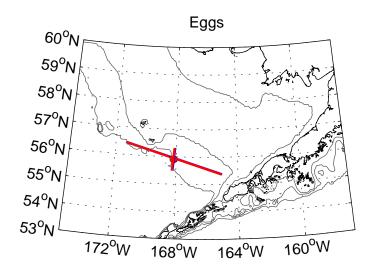


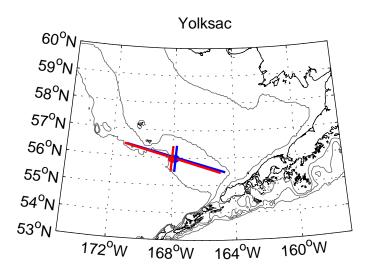


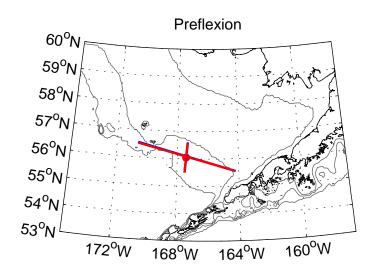
## **EFFECT OF TRANSPORT**

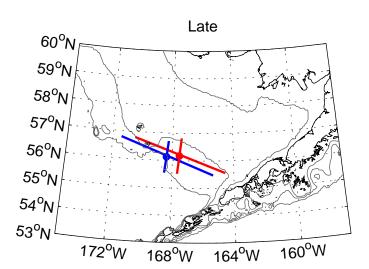
-cold

— warm







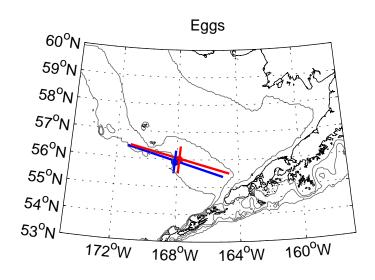


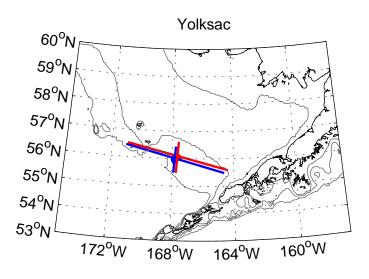


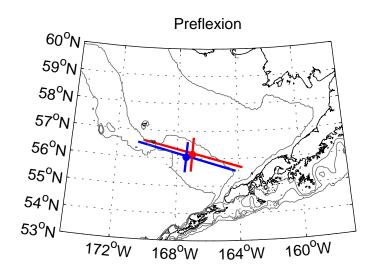
## **EFFECT OF SPAWNING EXPANSION**

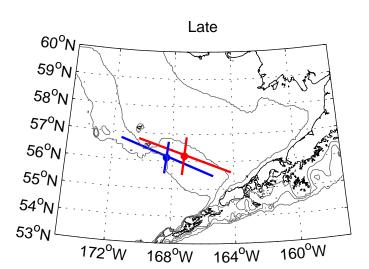
cold

— warm





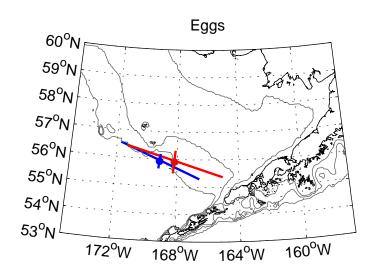


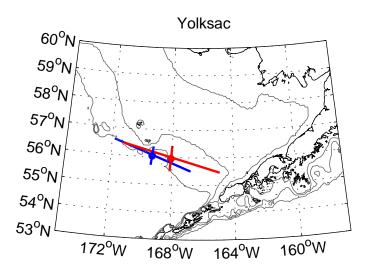


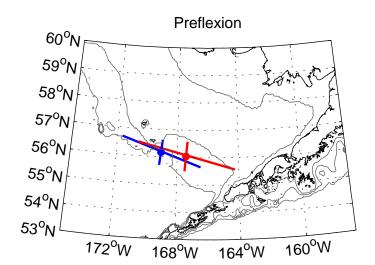


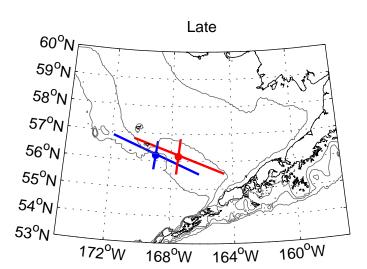
## EFFECT OF SPAWNING CONTRACTION — cold









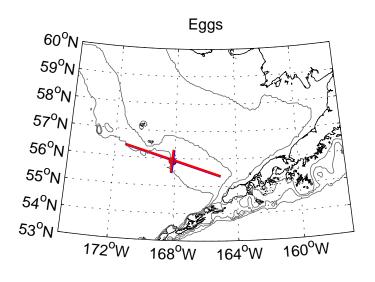


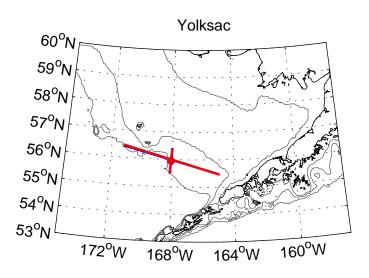


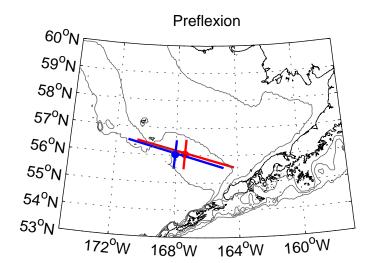
## **EFFECT OF SPAWNING DELAY**

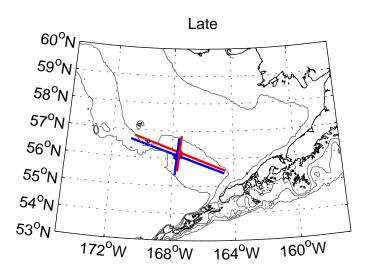
-cold

— warm











#### POLLOCK MODEL RESULTS

Does interannual climate variability result in different distributions of pollock early life stages?

Yes

What are the dominant physical mechanisms responsible for the different distributions?

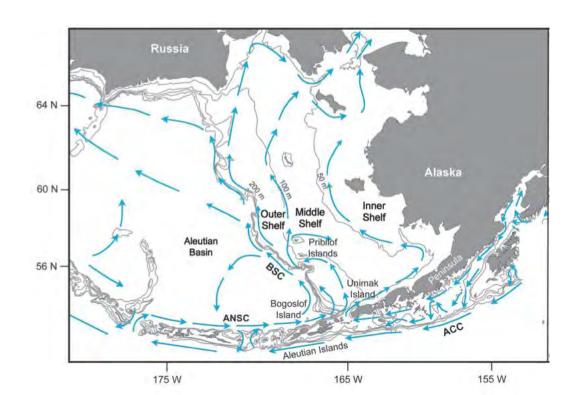
- Wind effects on transport
  - Small
- Temperature/ice effects on spawning location
  - Contraction > Expansion
- Temperature/ice effects on spawning time
  - Small



• Why does contraction of spawning areas result in more offshore centers of gravity?

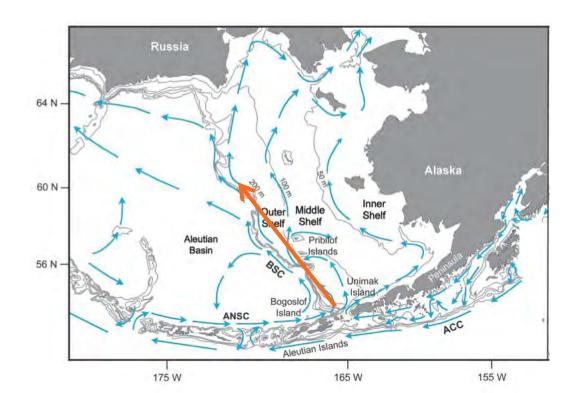


- Why does contraction of spawning areas result in more offshore centers of gravity?
- Related to currents



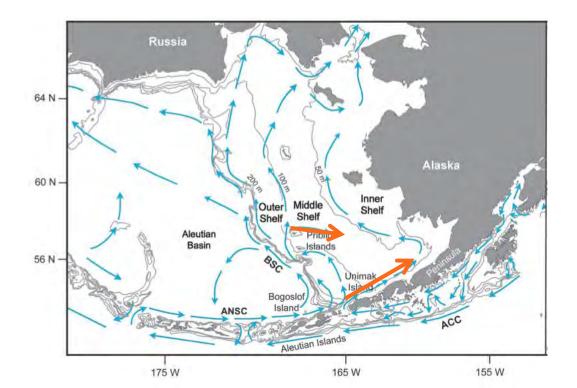


- Why does contraction of spawning areas result in more offshore centers of gravity?
- Related to currents
  - Outer shelf currents more alongshelf

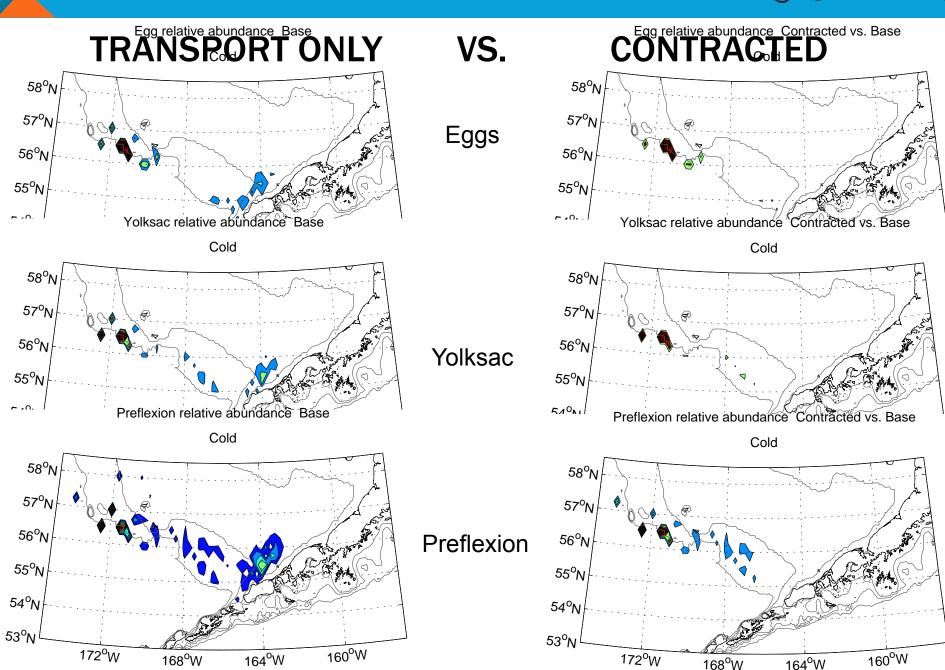




- Why does contraction of spawning areas result in more offshore centers of gravity?
- Related to currents
  - Outer shelf currents more along-shelf
  - Middle and shelf currents more across-shelf



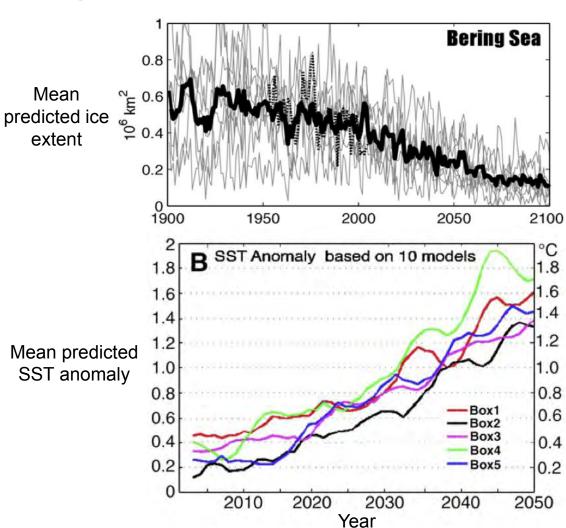






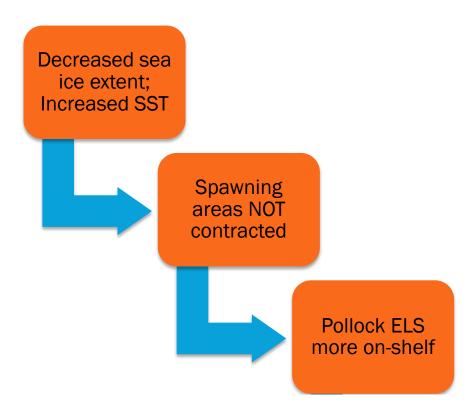
Expectations with climate change

Decreased sea ice extent; Increased SST





Expectations with climate change





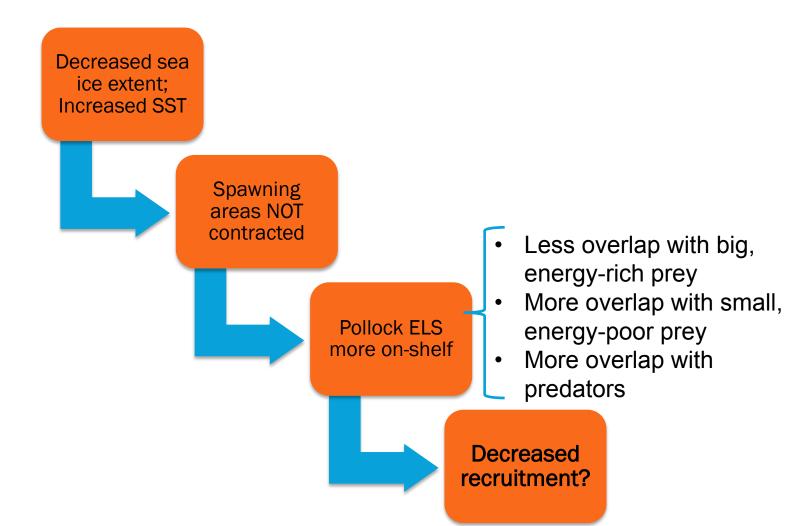
Expectations with climate change Zooplankton wet weight (mg m<sup>-3</sup>) Decreased sea 2000 ice extent: **Increased SST** 1000 Spawning 1950 1980 2000 areas NOT YEAR contracted Less overlap with big, energy-rich prey More overlap with small, Pollock ELS energy-poor prey more on-shelf



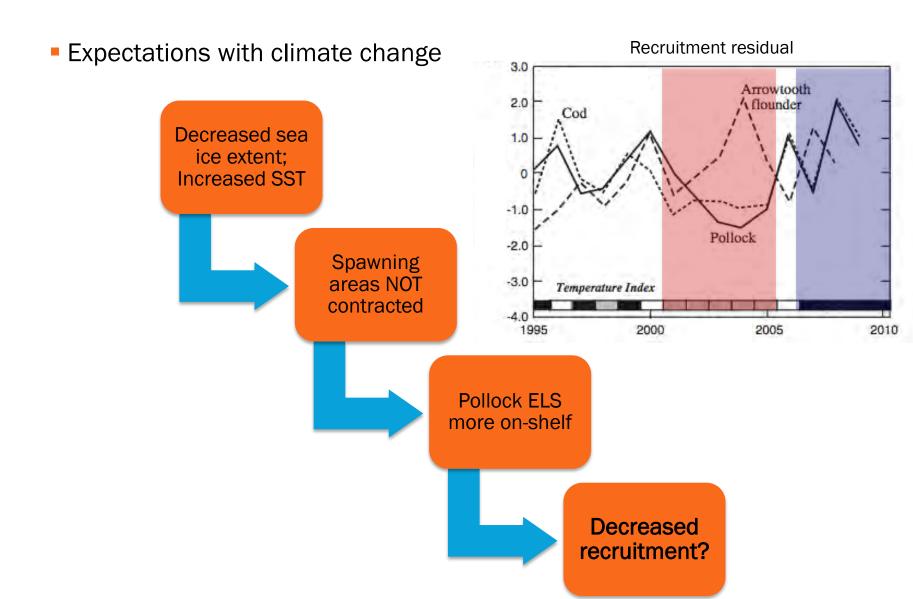
Adult pollock Expectations with climate change Decreased sea ice extent: **Increased SST** Spawning areas NOT contracted Less overlap with big, energy-rich prey More overlap with small, Pollock ELS energy-poor prey more on-shelf More overlap with predators



Expectations with climate change













## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

#### **BEST Synthesis**

- NSF
- Janet Duffy-Anderson
- Franz Mueter
- Kate Hedstrom

**FOCI & AFSC** 

**UAF** 

