

# Long-term trends in the biomass of commercial fish in the North Sea *fishing impacts, predator-prey interactions and temperature change*

**S10 Forecasting climate change impacts on fish populations and fisheries**  
**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

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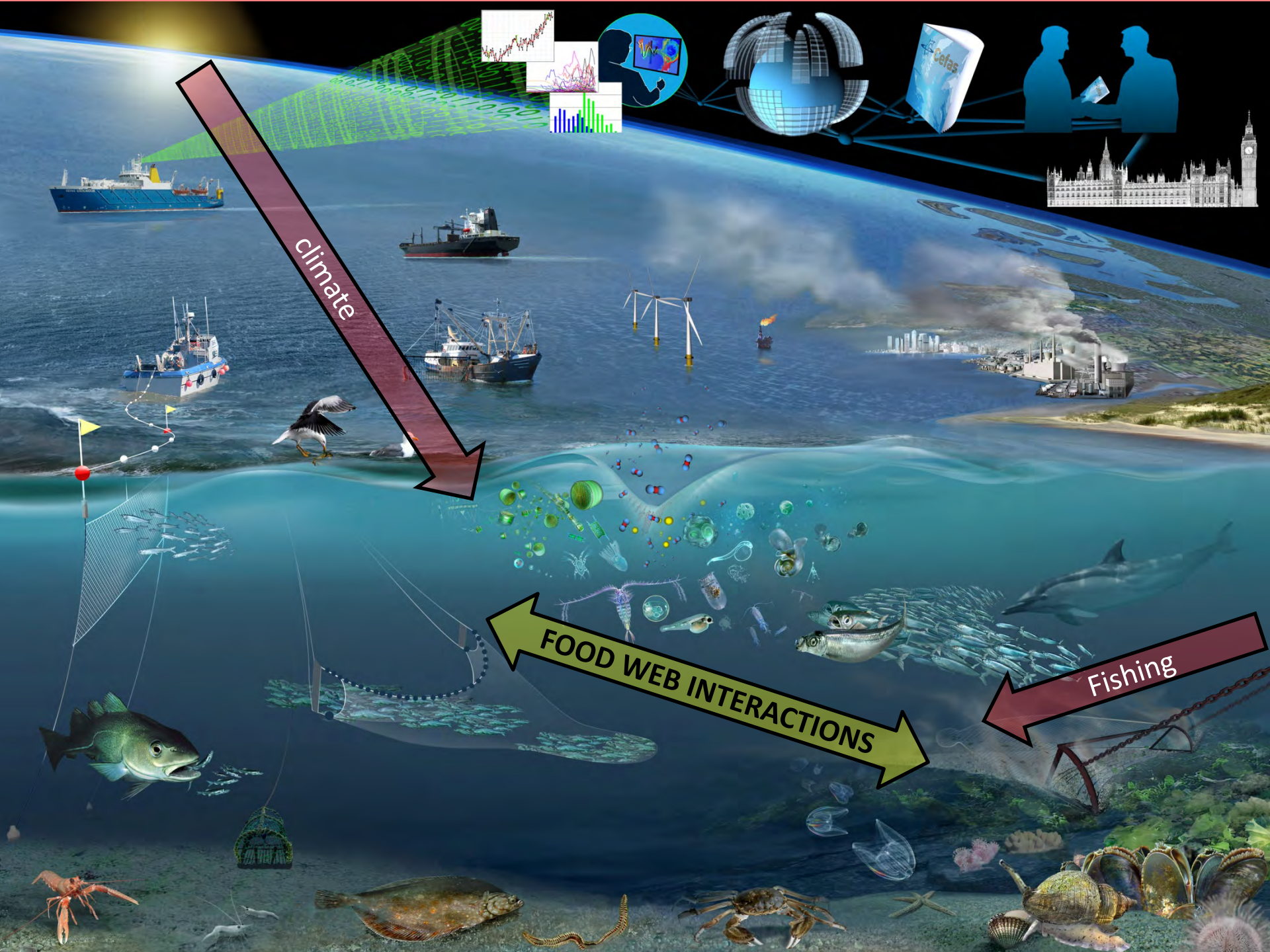
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Science





climate

FOOD WEB INTERACTIONS

Fishing

*“Forecasting climate change impacts on fish populations & fisheries”*

Requires a strong understanding about the dynamics of the system

*Why?*

- To give strategic advice on potential response of the system to pressure (climate, fishing, ...)
- Evaluate potential management strategies
- Explore trade-offs and sensitivities

*How ?*

- Modelling – which can take a number of forms



Empirical - data driven combined with expert guidance

Use evidence to determine key signals in the data and capture the temporal dynamics of the system

- Bottom-up control (driven by temperature)
- Top-down control (fishing pressure down)

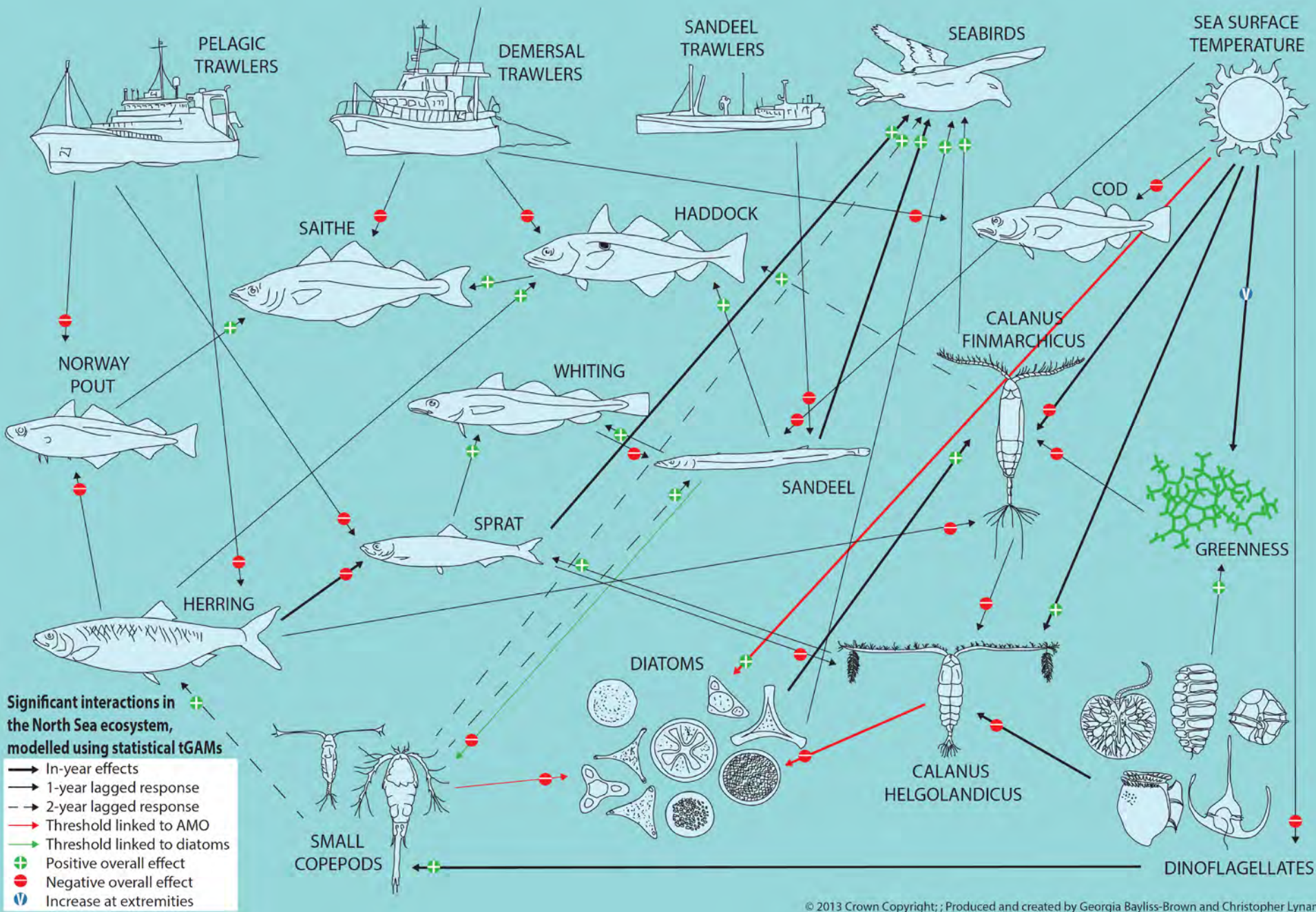


# Requires a lot of data

- Long time-series data (1964-2010)
  - Sea surface temperature (Hadley centre plus AMO)
  - Phytoplankton abundance (SAHFOS)
  - Zooplankton abundance (SAHFOS)
  - Fish stock biomass and fishing mortality (ICES)
  - Marine bird breeding success (JNCC, 1989-2010)
- Statistical modelling:
  - Generalised Additive Model (GAM)
  - threshold-Generalised Additive Model (tGAM)
- Expert knowledge of the system



# interaction web



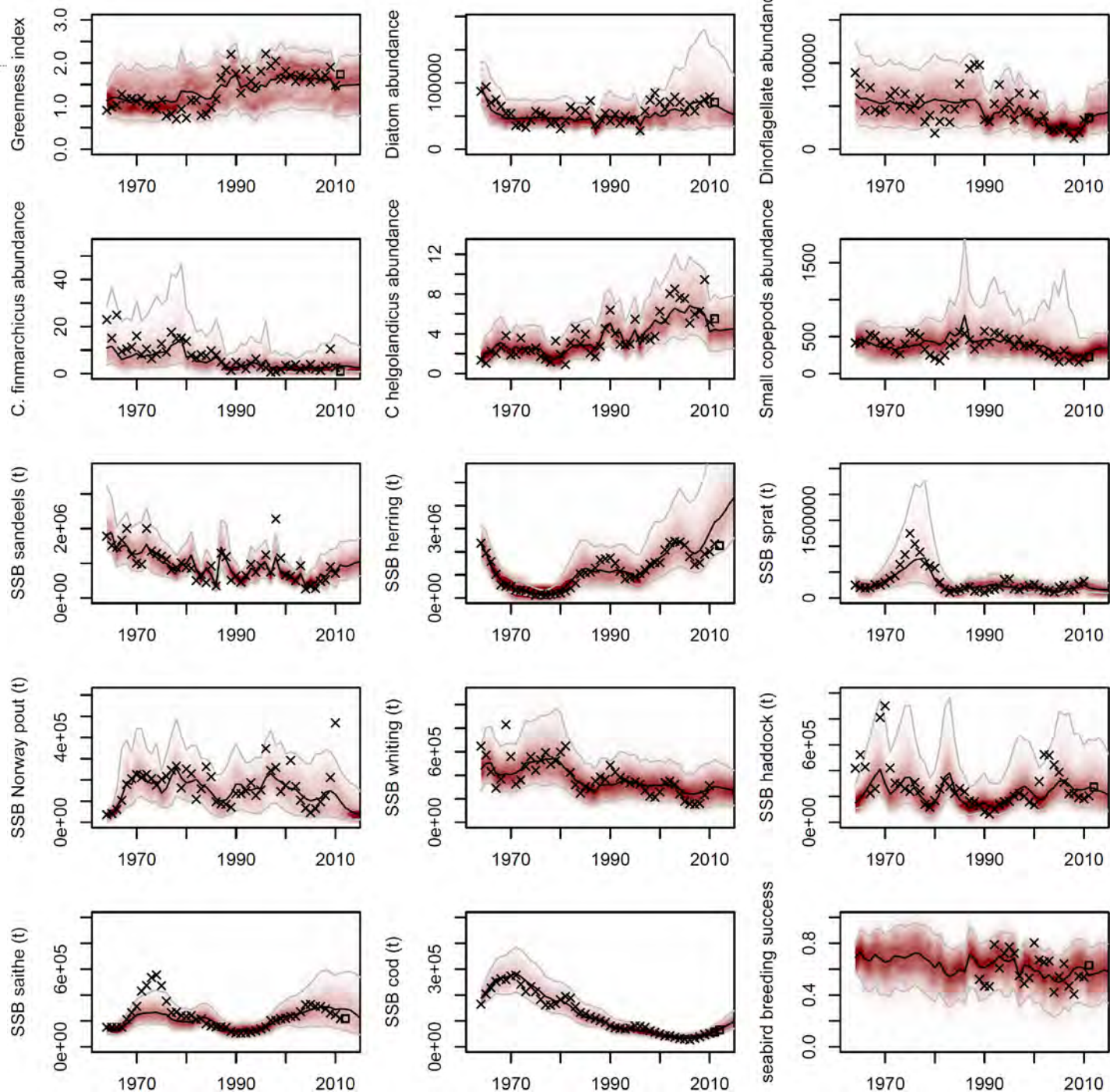
# simulations

Recreated solely from initial conditions for plankton and fish in 1964

+ time-series of fishing mortality by stock

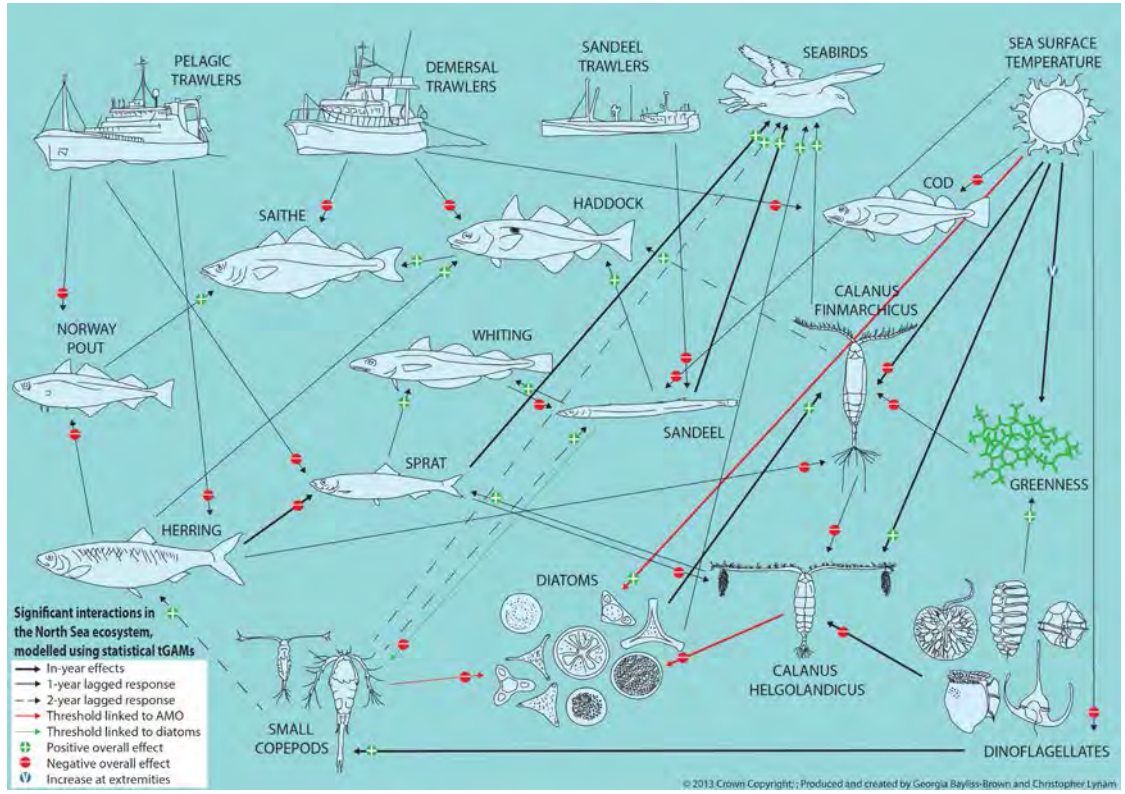
+ SST

+ AMO



# How generate simulations non-mechanistically?

- Behind each arrow in the interaction web is a significant relationship modelled using either GAM/tGAM





# Example – GAM fitting to the SSB of saithe

saithe in year  $z$

$\sim$  *intercept*

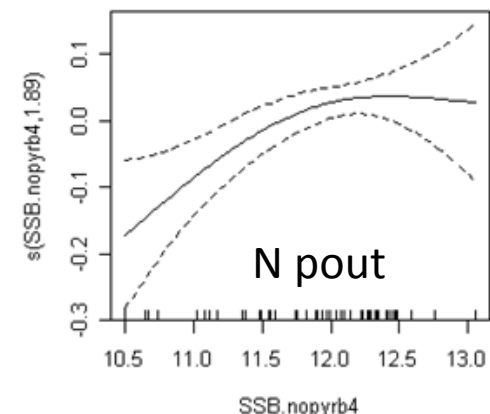
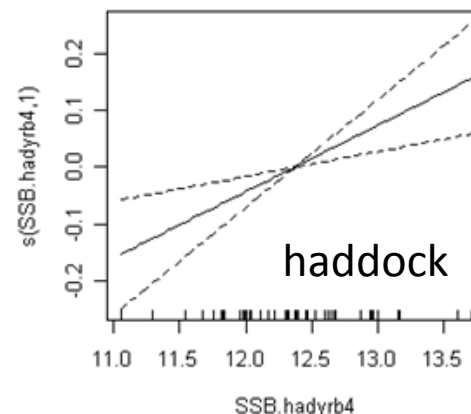
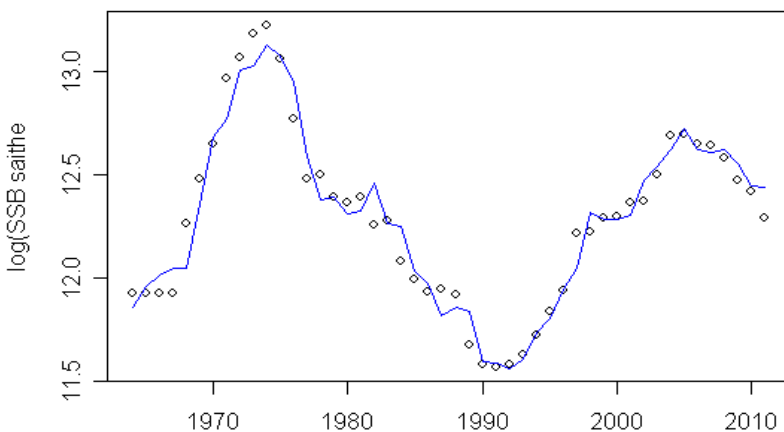
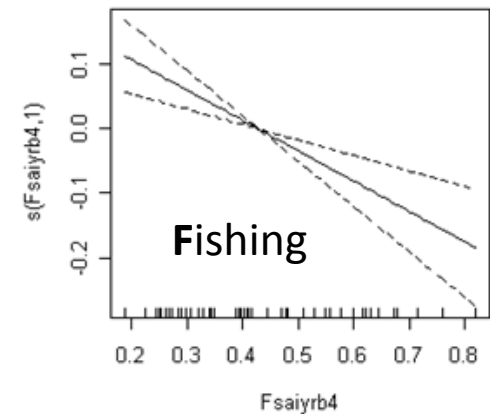
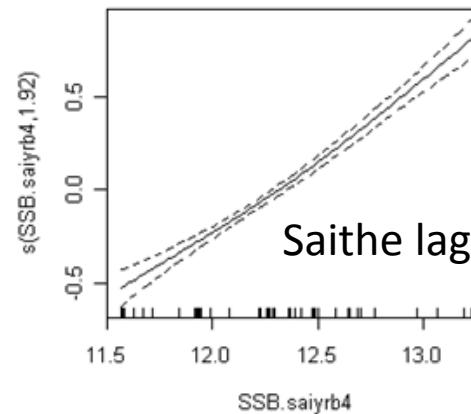
+  $s(\text{Fishing mortality year } z-1)$

+  $s(\text{saithe year } z-1)$

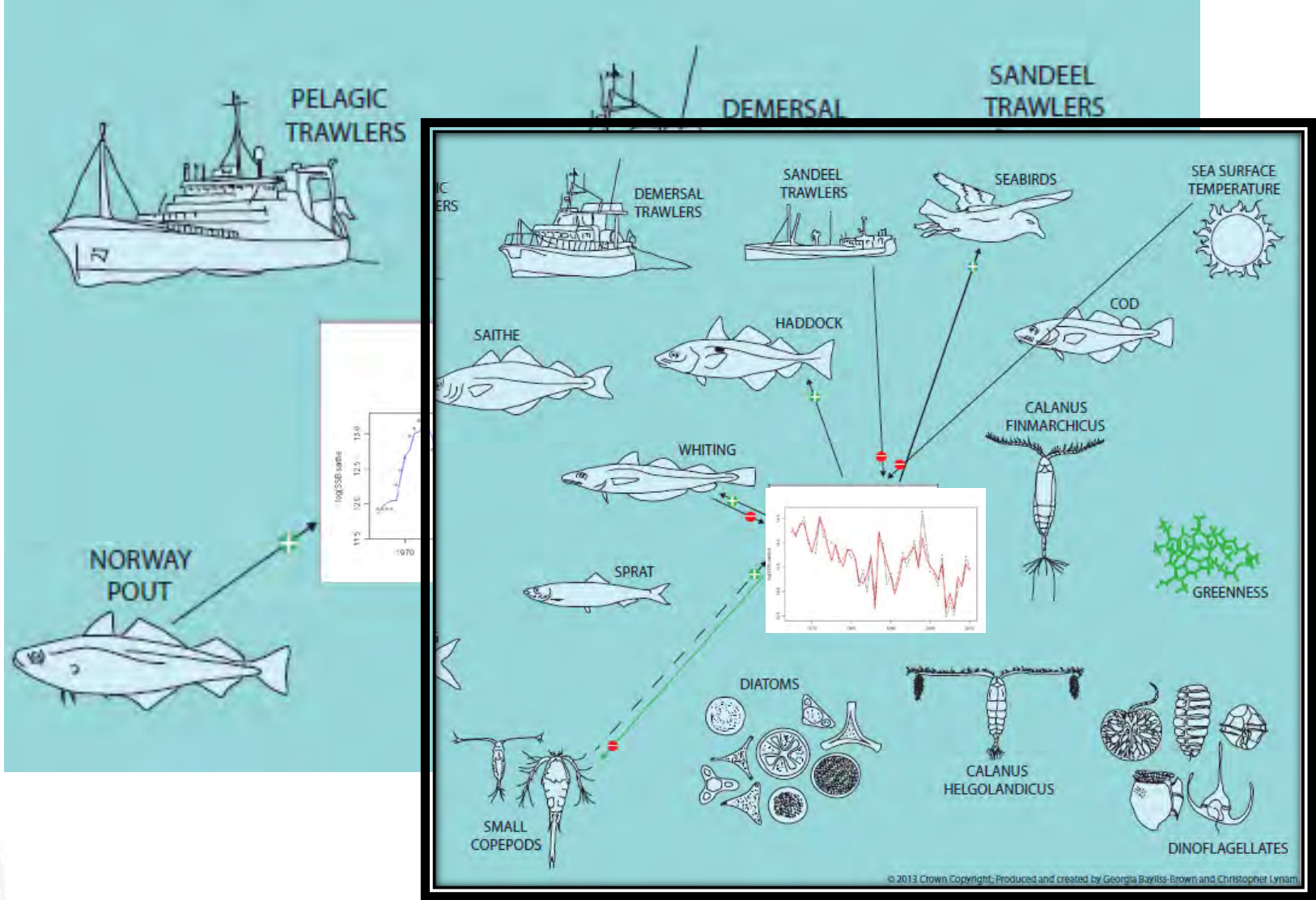
+  $s(\text{haddock year } z-1)$

+  $s(\text{N. pout year } z-1)$

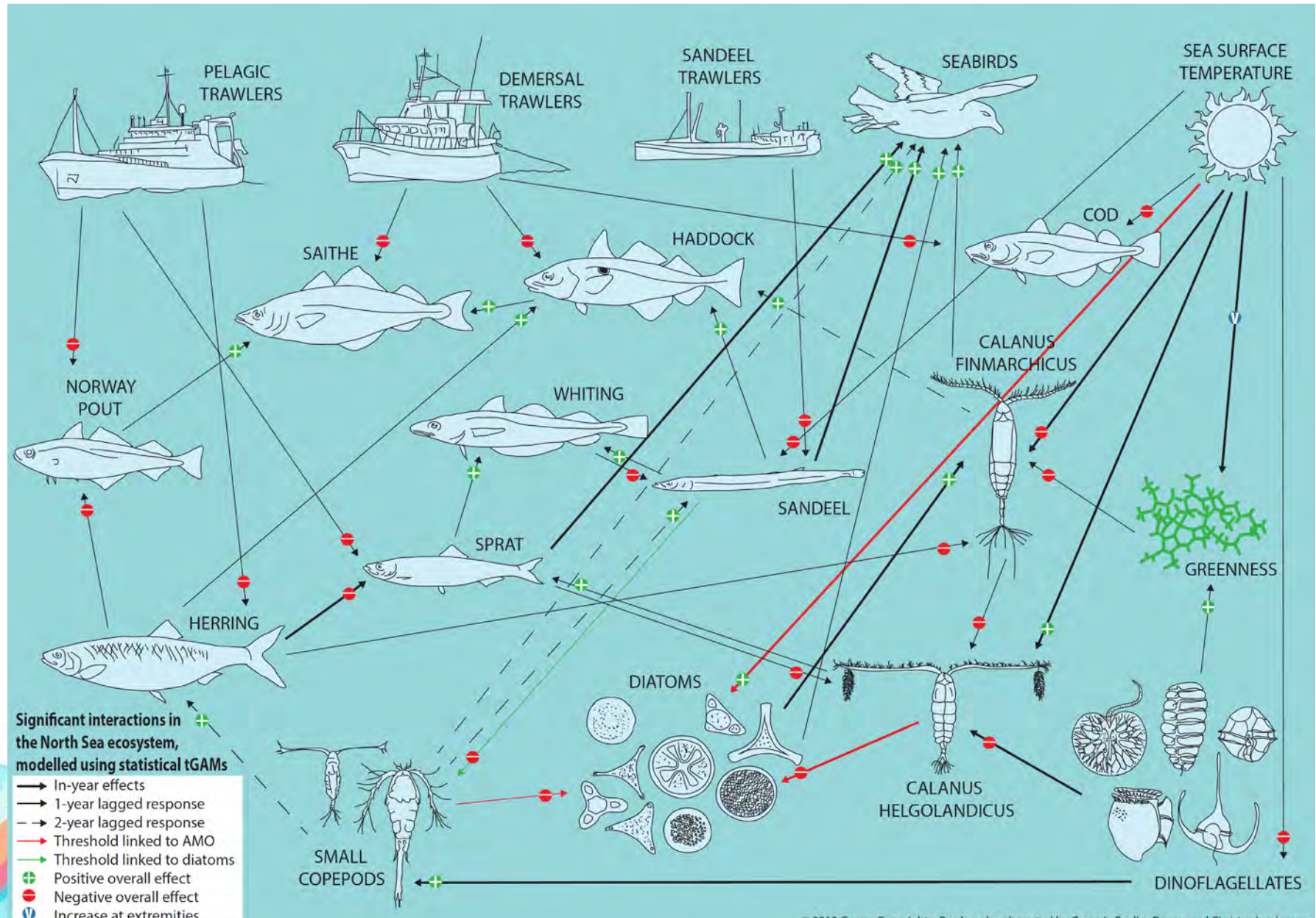
+  $\varepsilon(0,1)$



Repeat previous step separately for each component  
e.g. sandeels



# How important are indirect effects/cascades?



# Proportion of deviance explained by groups

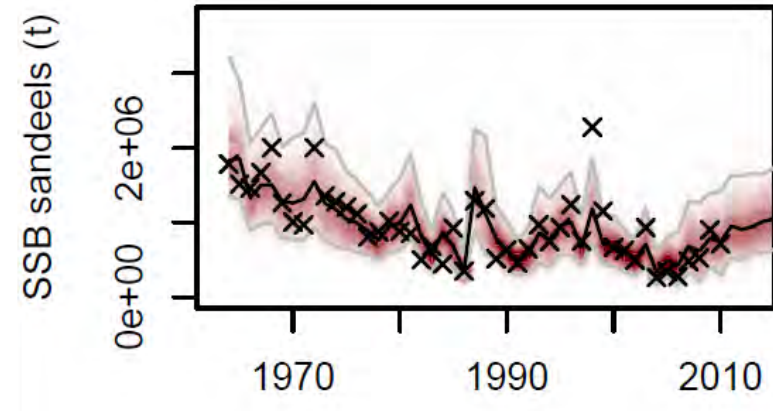
Response variable	% deviance explained by regression and % split by groups in the model						
	All terms	Pop-lag	Climate (SST)	Phyto-plankton	Zoo-plankton	Fish species	Fishing mortality
Greenness	81	49	29	2	-	-	-
Diatoms	67	42	11	-	14	-	-
Dinoflagellates	54	29	25	-	-	-	-
<i>C. helgolandicus</i>	79	-	28	10	29	12	-
<i>C. finmarchicus</i>	70	-	22	37	-	11	-
Small copepods	79	33	-	39	-	8	-
<b>Key species</b>							
Sandeel	87	17	18	-	11	4	37
<b>Key species</b>							
Herring	97	75	-	-	2	-	20
Sprat	87	38	-	-	4	39	6
Norway pout	76	44	-	-	-	26	6
Haddock	83	55	-	-	4	15	10
Saithe	95	55	-	-	-	28	12
Whiting	77	41	-	-	-	36	-
Cod	99	66	26	-	-	-	6
Seabirds	80	-	-	7	51	22	-

Bottom up

Top down



*submodels (regressions) should be linked sufficiently to form a web*



- Starting from the initial conditions 1964
- use F, SST and AMO values to predict 1965 values
  - include noise from residuals from GAMS/tGAMS (resampling)
- For the next time step (1966), use set of predictions from above plus new F, SST and AMO values ....
- Repeat for length of drivers  
(observed data / scenario)

**saithe in year z**

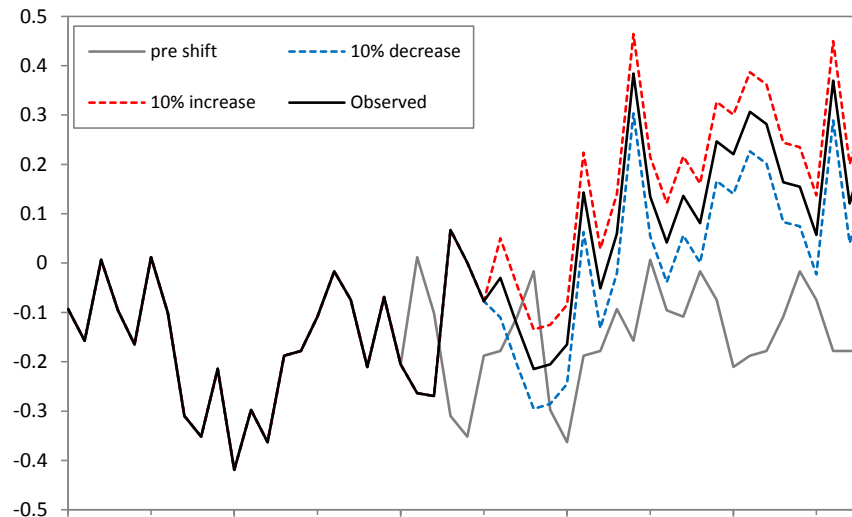
~ *intercept*

- + s(Fishing mortality year z-1)
- + s(saithe year z-1)
- + s(haddock year z-1)
- + s(N. pout year z-1)
- +  $\varepsilon(0,1)$

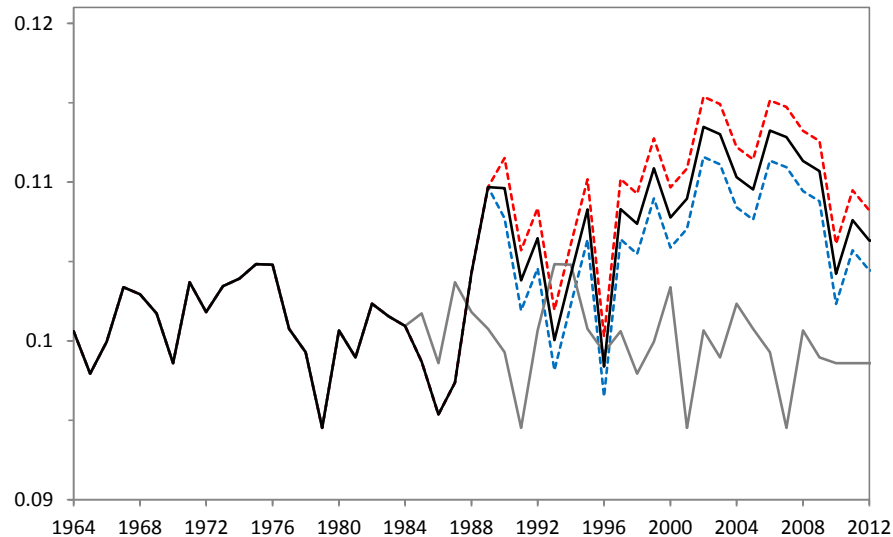


# Temperature scenarios to explore

## Atlantic Multi-decadal Oscillation anomalies



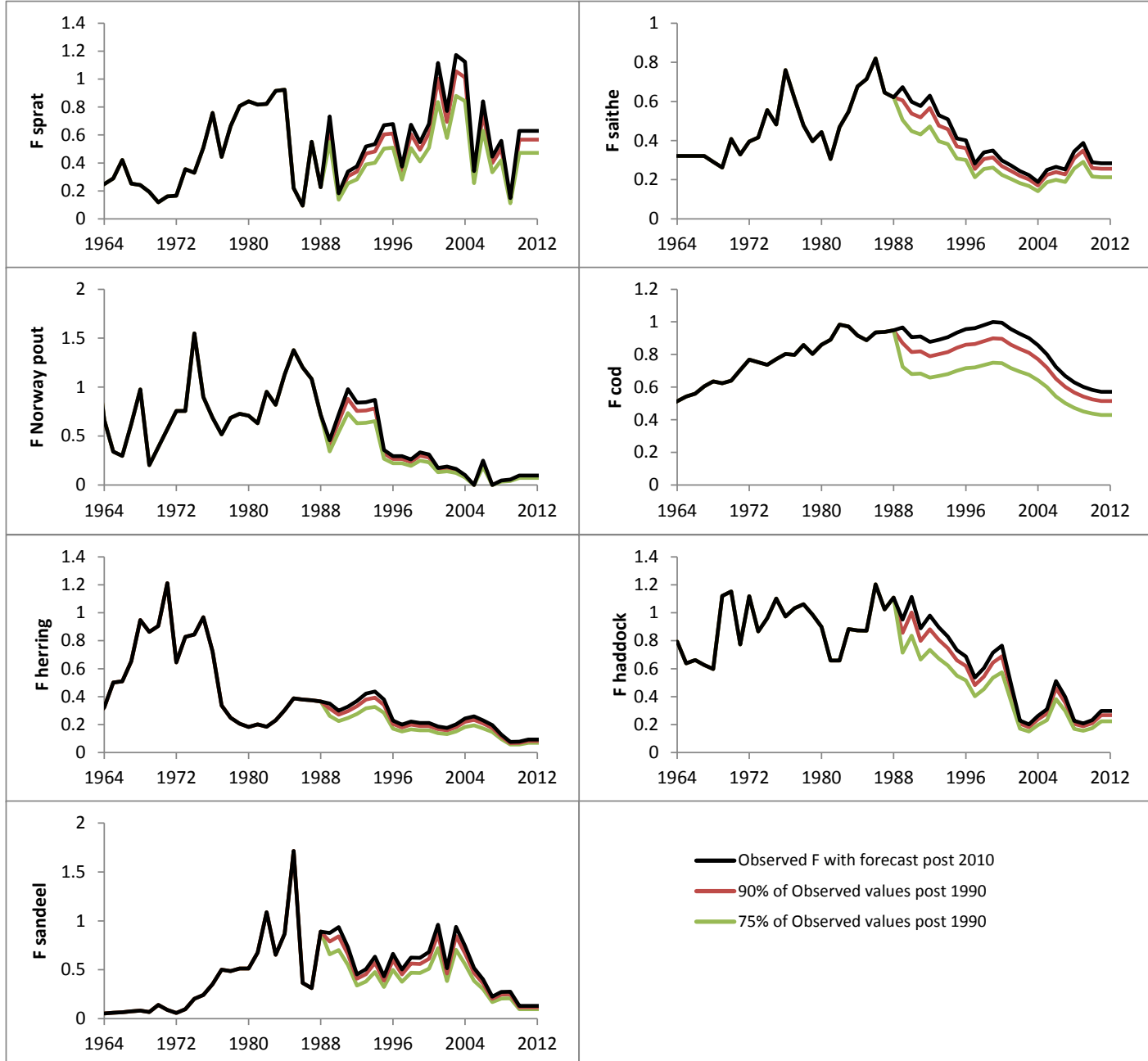
## North Sea SST anomalies



shift 1984 - 1990



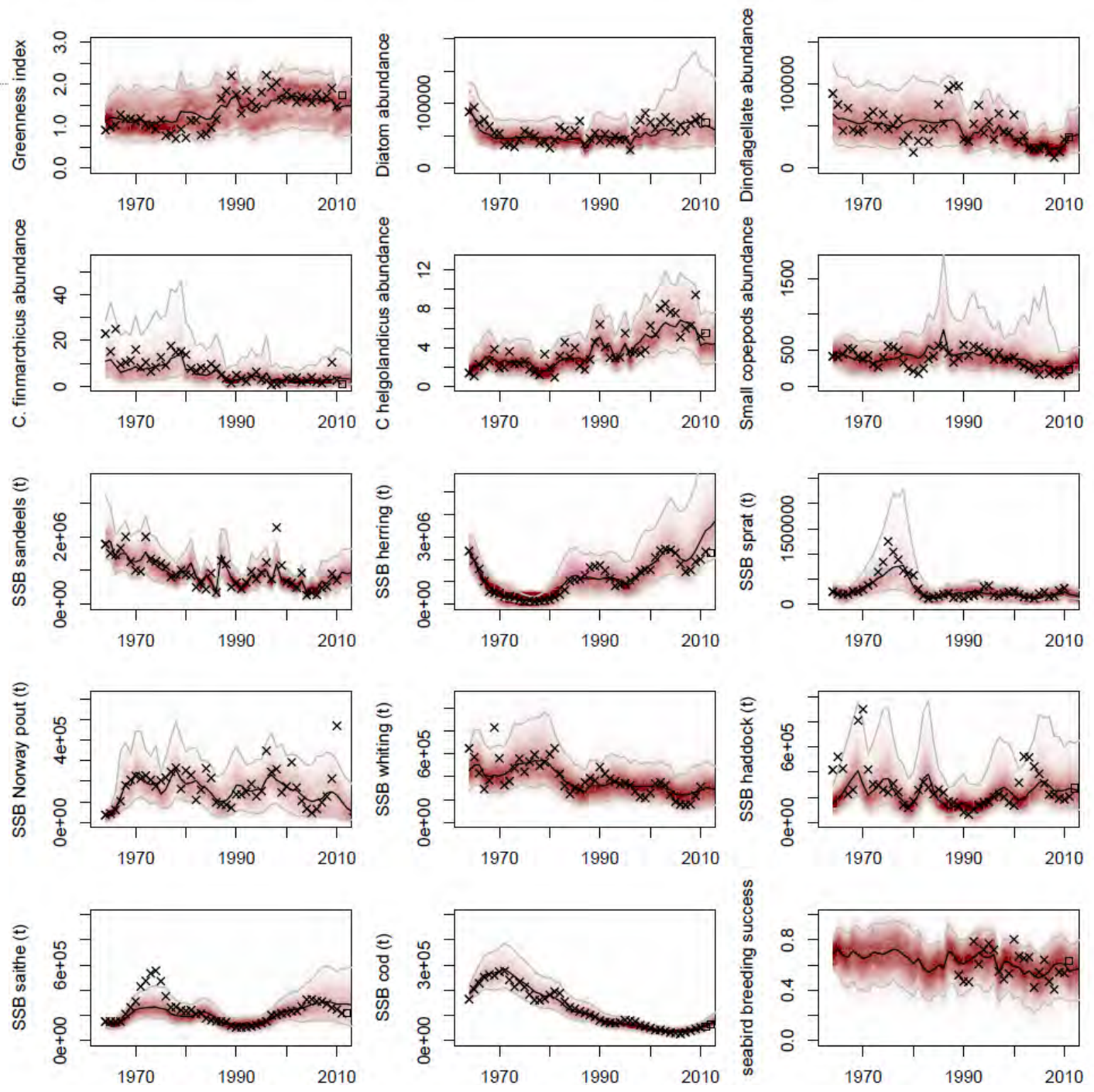
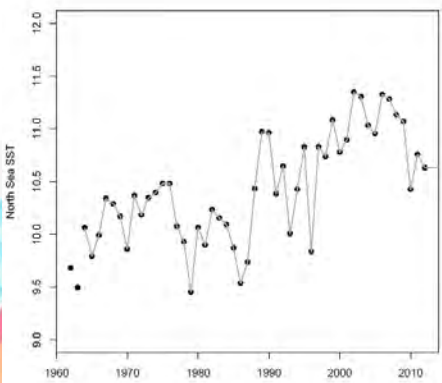
# Fishing scenarios to explore



# Simulations

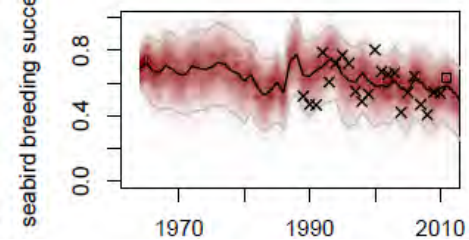
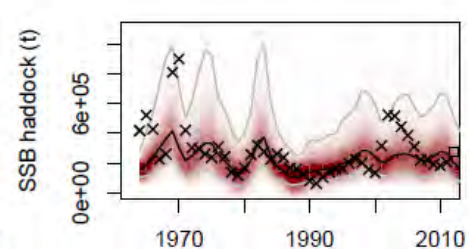
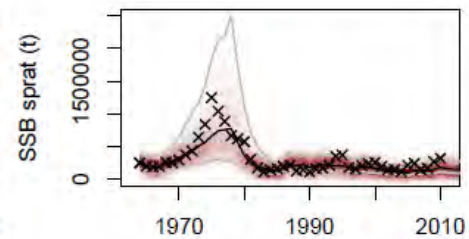
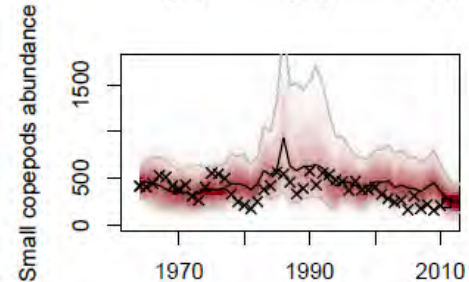
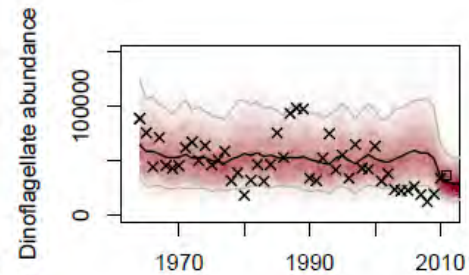
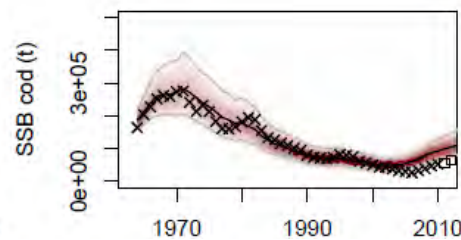
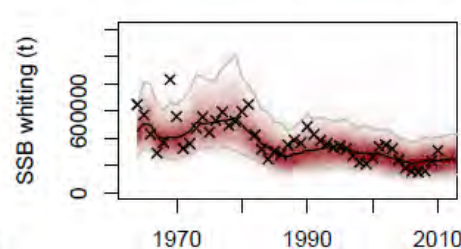
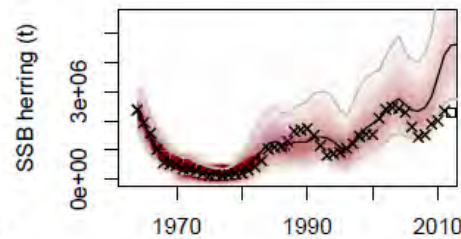
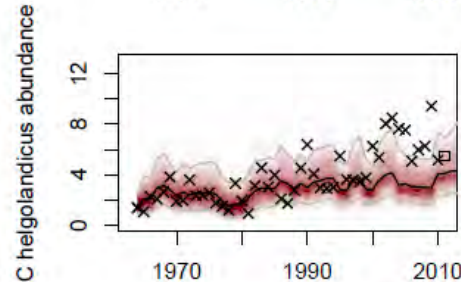
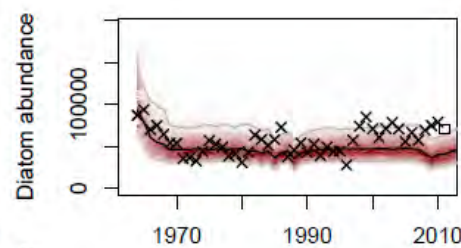
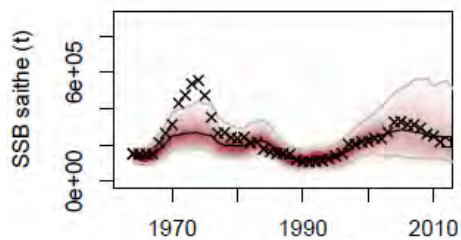
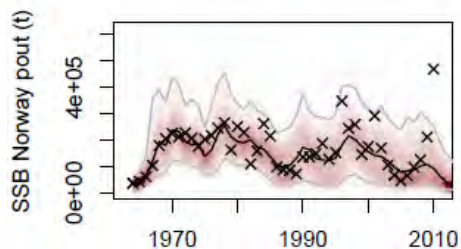
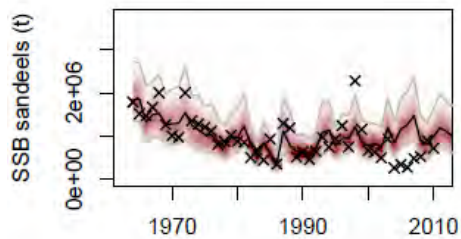
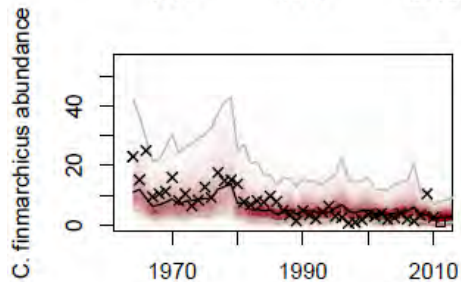
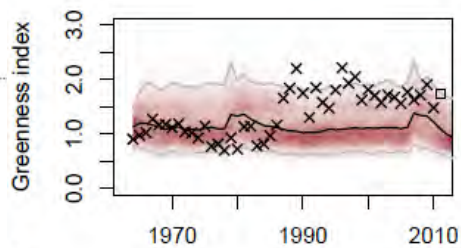
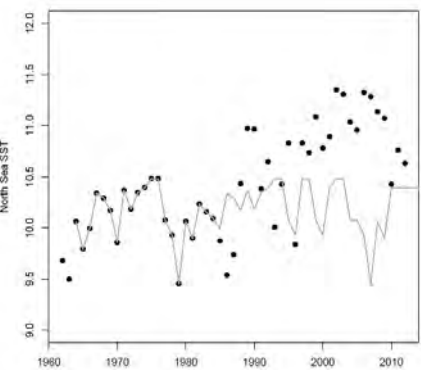
Recreated solely from initial conditions for plankton and fish in 1964

+ time-series of F  
+ SST + AMO

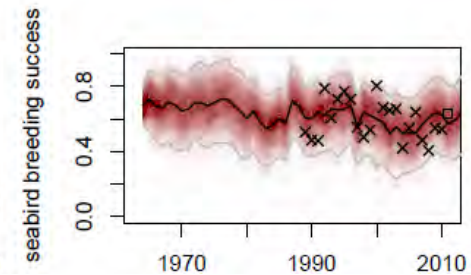
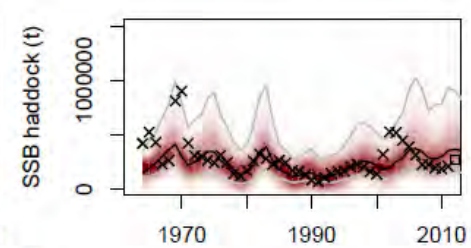
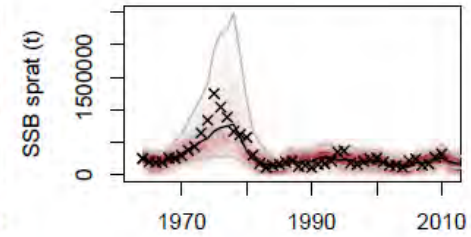
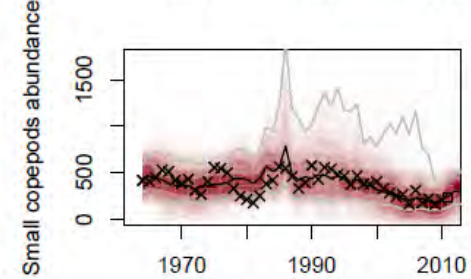
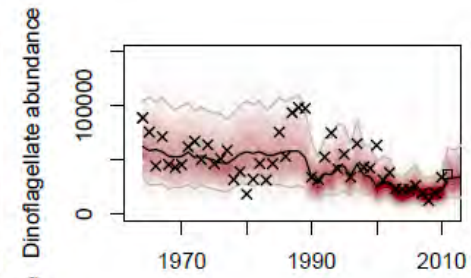
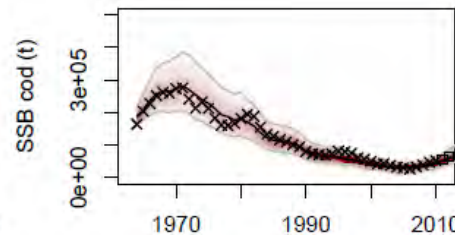
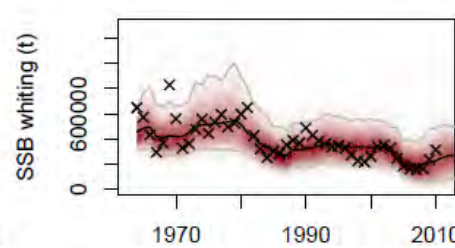
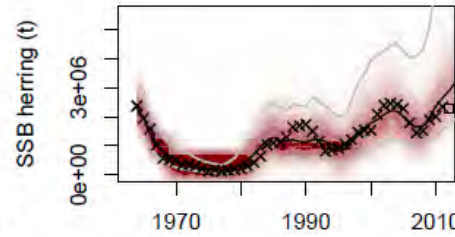
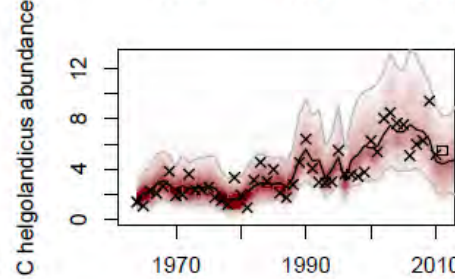
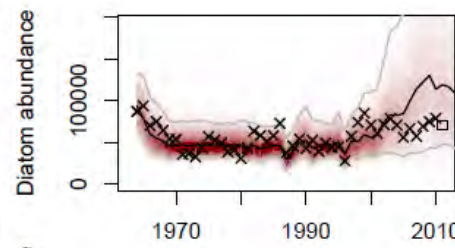
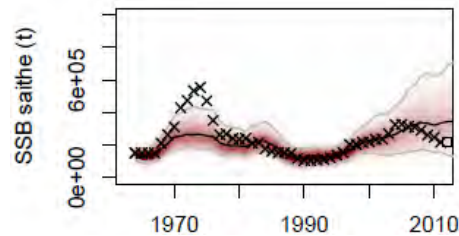
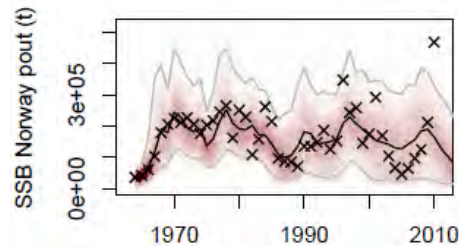
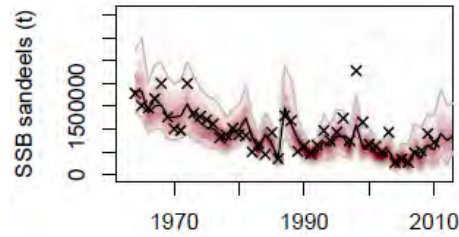
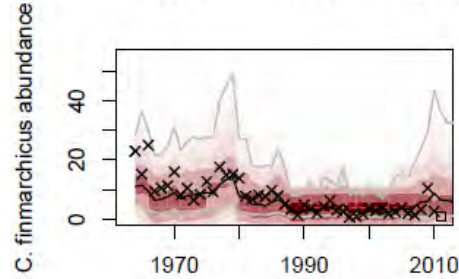
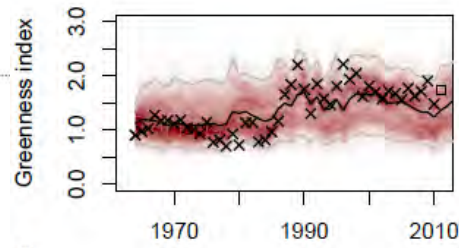
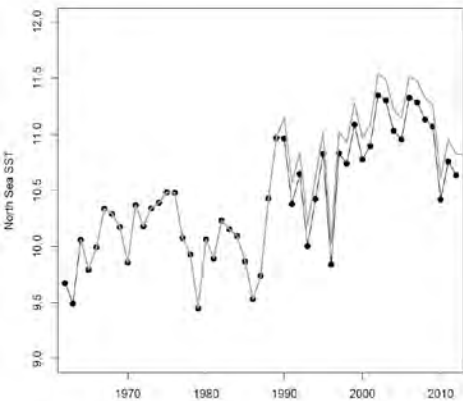




# Simulation without SST rise since 1984



# Simulation with 10% SST rise (1990 on)

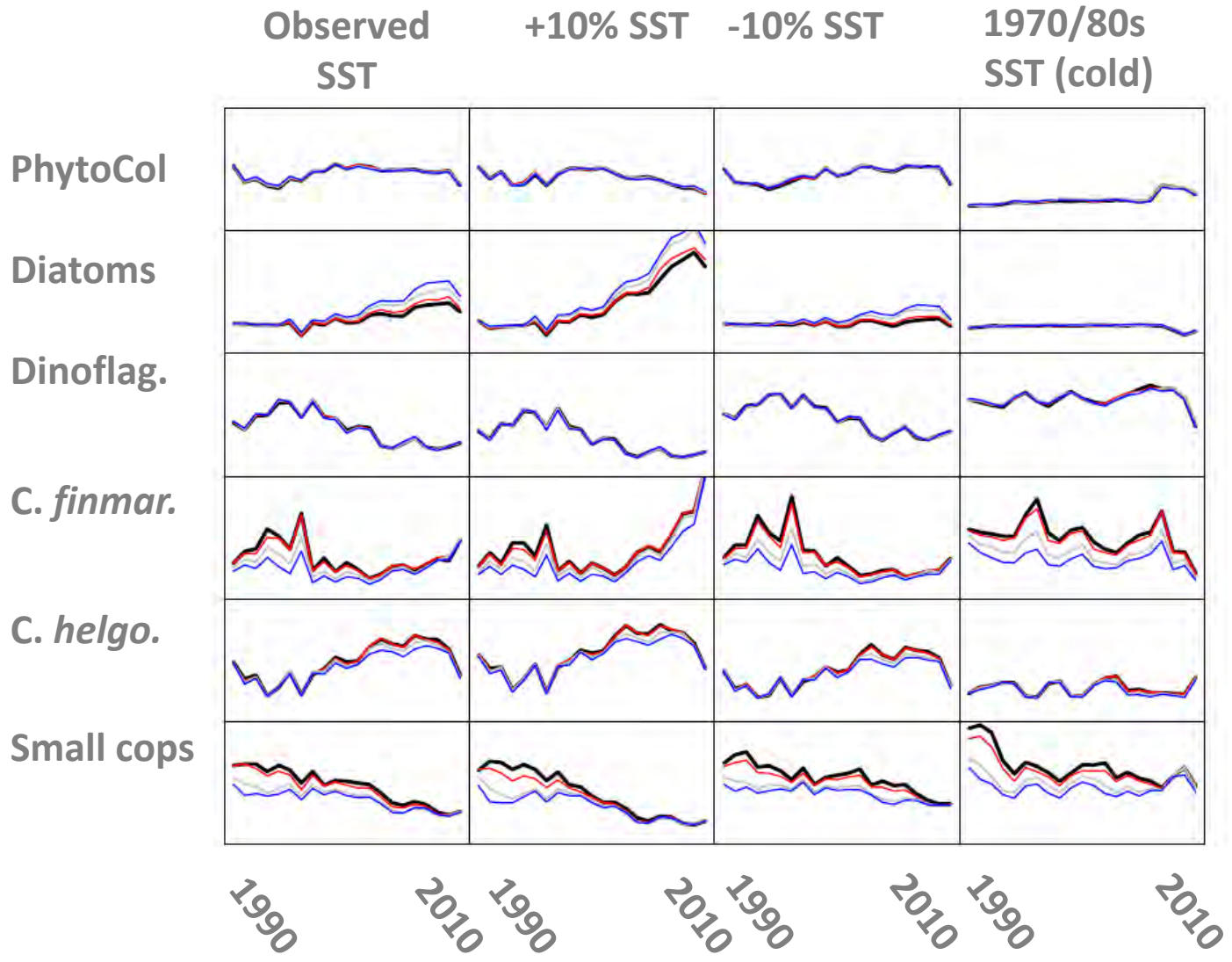


*Some effect of climate, but fishing has been such a strong effect that it has masked the full impact on the North Sea system*

*What would happen if we reduced fishing?  
More sensitive to climate?*



CPR  
abundance

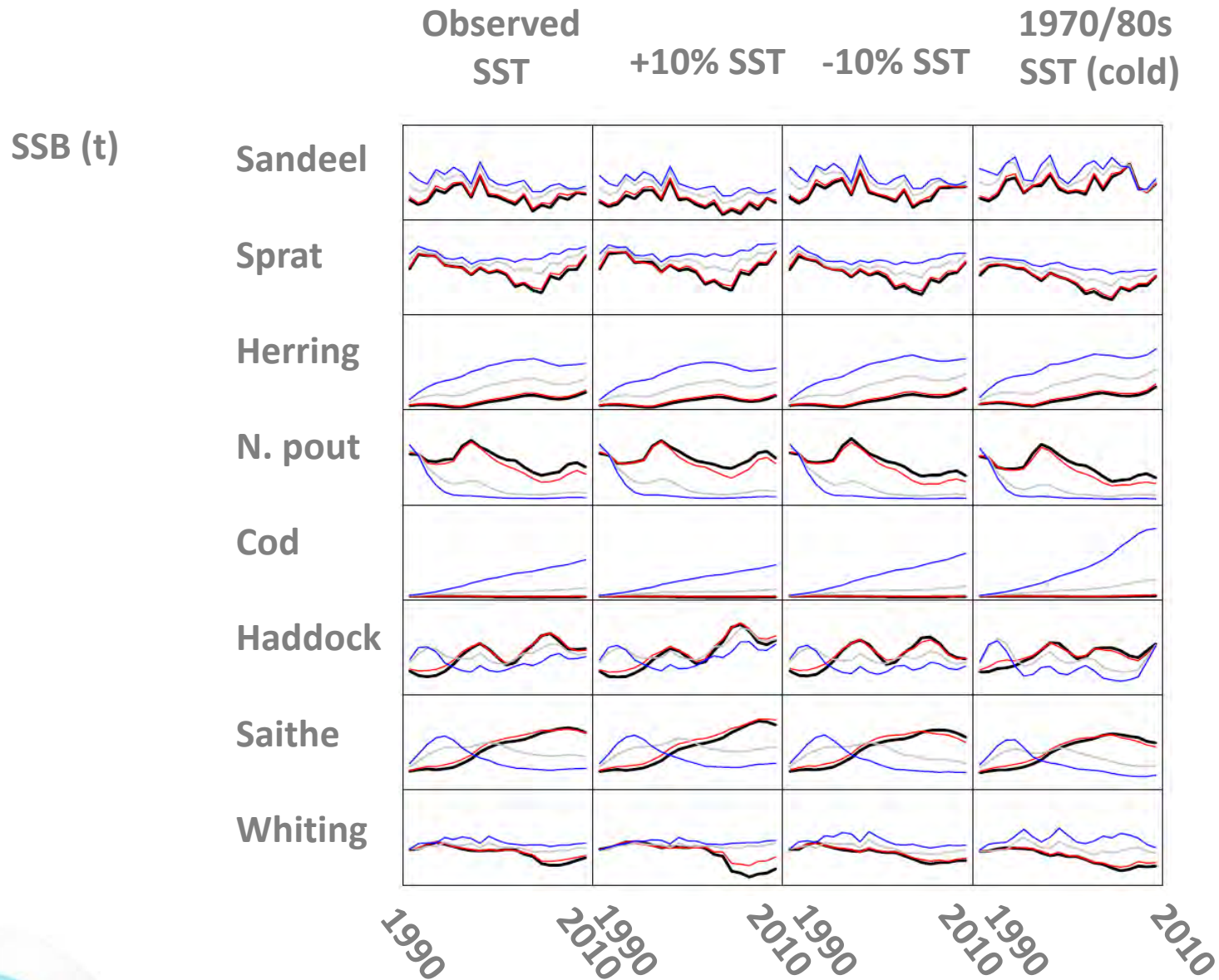


**Blue: 80% reduction in F**   **Red: 10% decrease in F**  
**Grey: 50% decrease in F**   **Black: observed F**



- Diatoms benefit in warm temperatures
- *C. helgolandicus* benefit from warm temperatures
- *C. finmarchicus* benefit from warm *if* diatoms increase
- Dinoflagellates decline when warm, increase with cold
- *C. finmarchicus* benefit during cold temperatures
- Small copepods (*Acartia*, *Temora*, *Para-pseudocalanus*) benefit from cold
- Zooplankton decline as fishing pressure lowered
- Diatoms increase as fishing pressure lowered **if warm**





**Blue: 80% reduction in F**   **Red: 10% decrease in F**  
**Grey: 50% decrease in F**   **Black: observed F**



## Cold preference

- Dinoflagellates
- Sandeel
- Herring
- Cod

## Warm preference

- Diatoms
- *C. helgolandicus*
- Sprat, Norway pout, saithe

## Key interactions during warm period

- *C. finmarchicus* benefit if diatoms increase
- Haddock benefit when both diatoms and *C. finmarchicus* do
- Whiting – mixed response – decrease if sandeel decrease (greater than sprat increase)





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***'Effects of climate change on the world's oceans' Santos City, Brazil, 23-27 March 2015***  
***S10 Forecasting climate change impacts on fish populations and fisheries***