

Using imperfect ecosystem knowledge to inform management

Sarah Cooley

2018 ECCWO Symposium, June 5, 2018



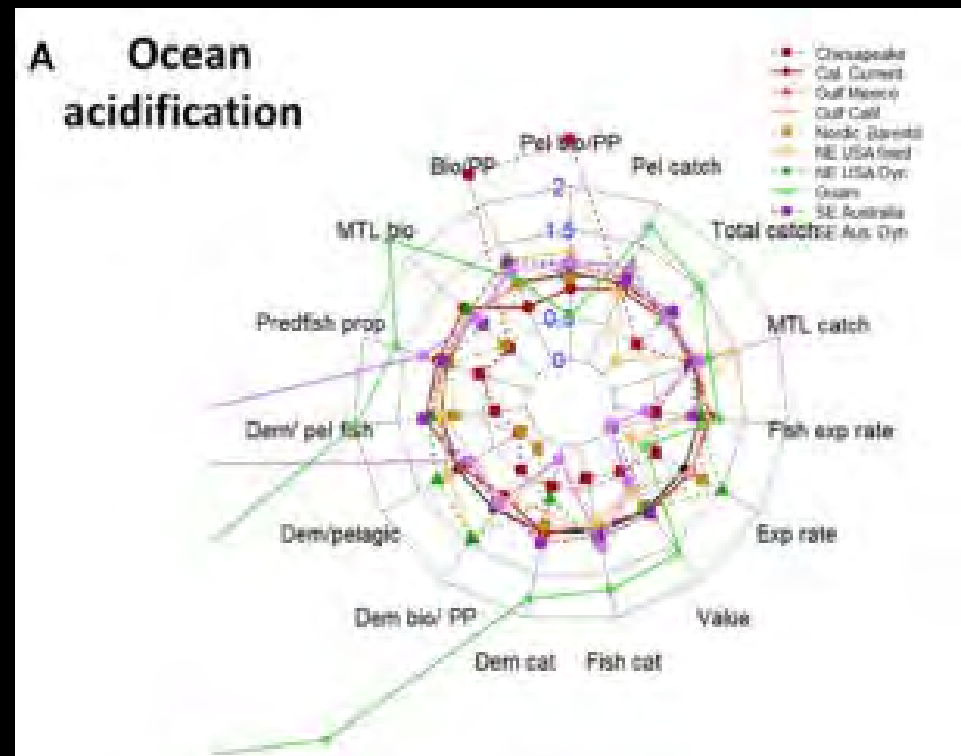
Ocean Conservancy



- What can ecosystem models tell us?
- What are they less able to tell us?
- What policy questions remain?
- How can we put knowledge to work now?
- Where can model improvements be made?

What can ecosystem models tell us?

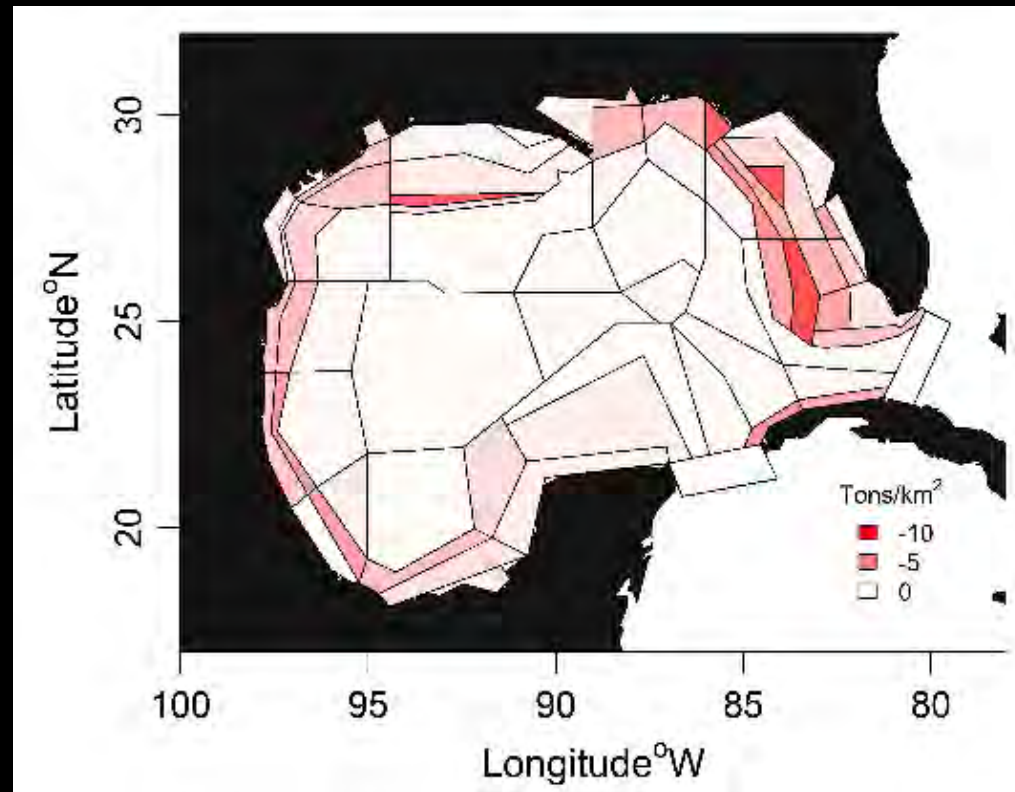
- **Progressive change**
- Sudden change
- BGC, physical controls
- Pollutant movement
- Identity/function



Olsen et al. 2018 Frontiers

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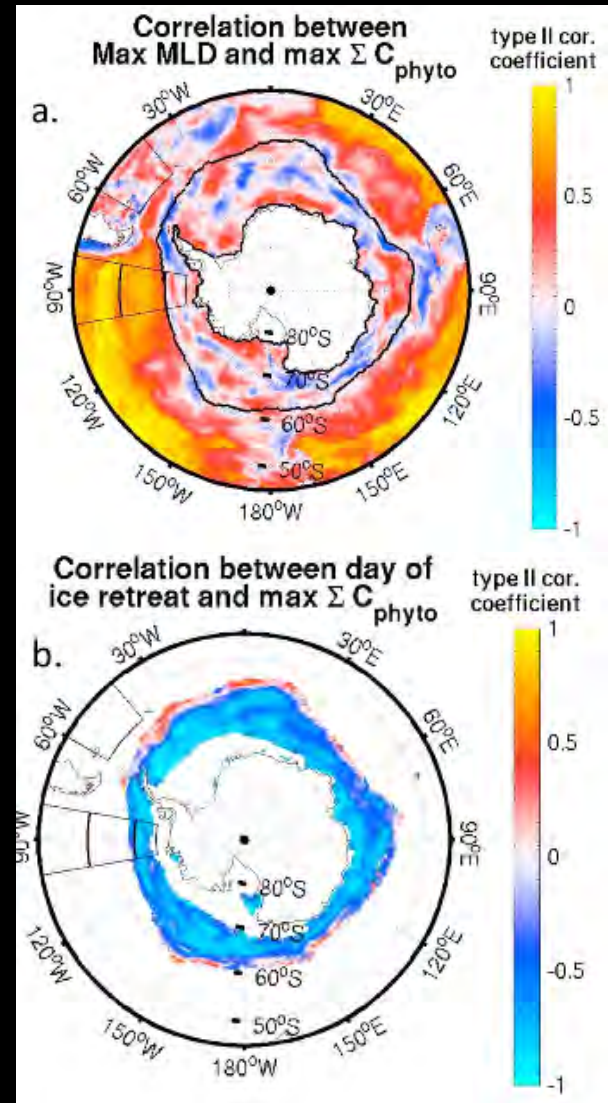
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Ainsworth et al. 2018 PLOS One

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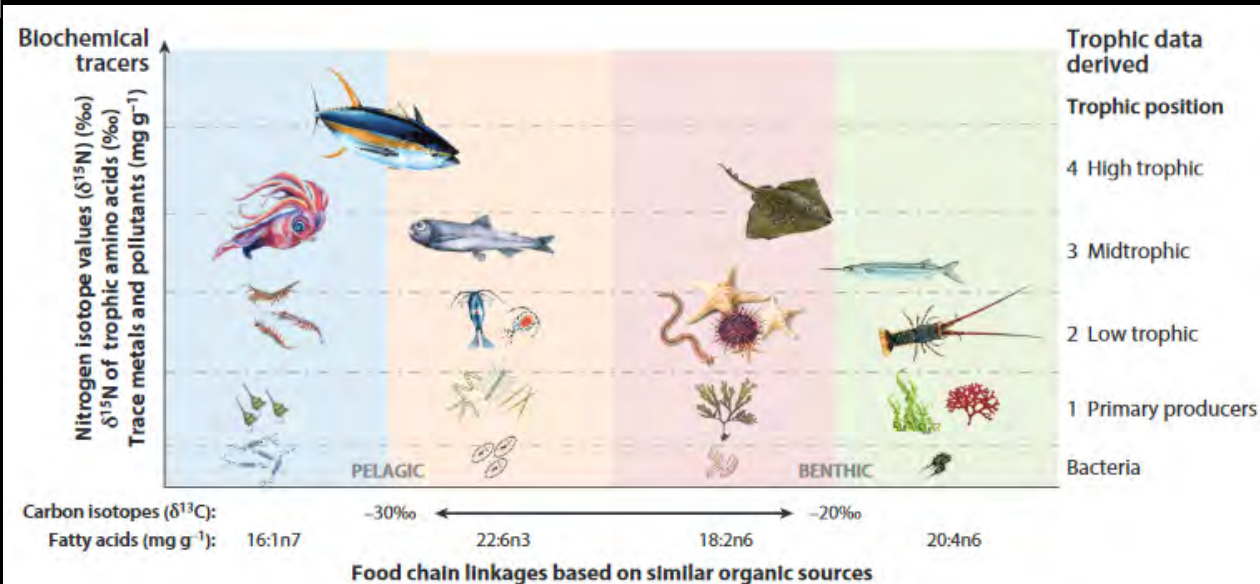
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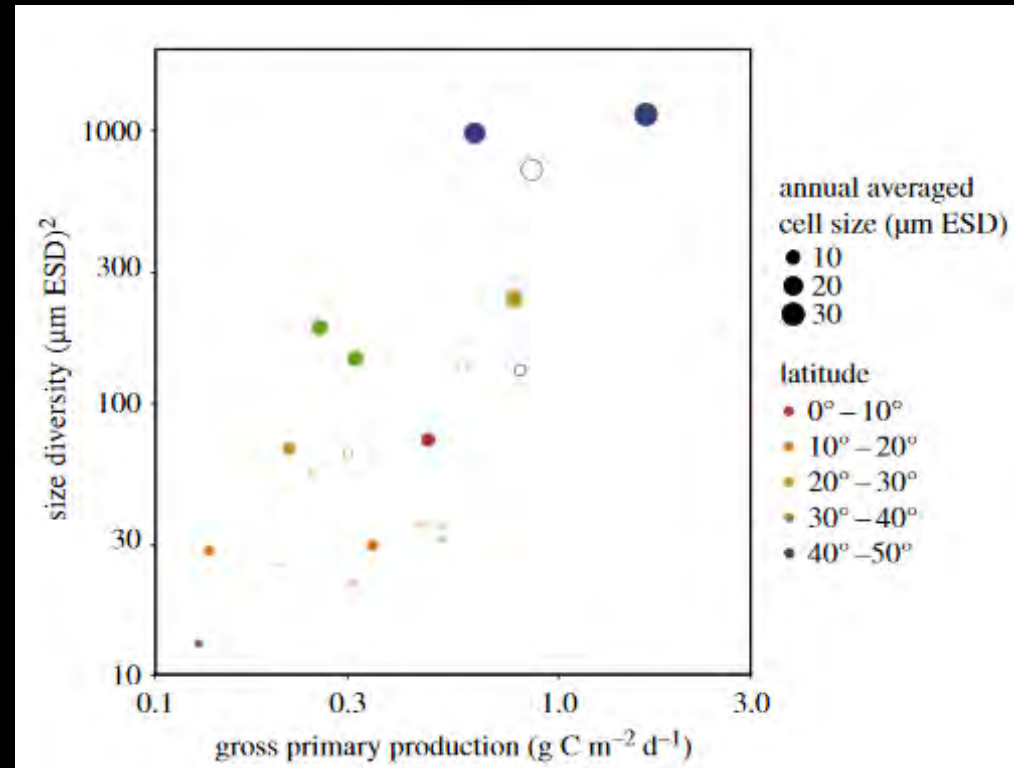
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Pethybridge et al. 2018 Ann Rev.



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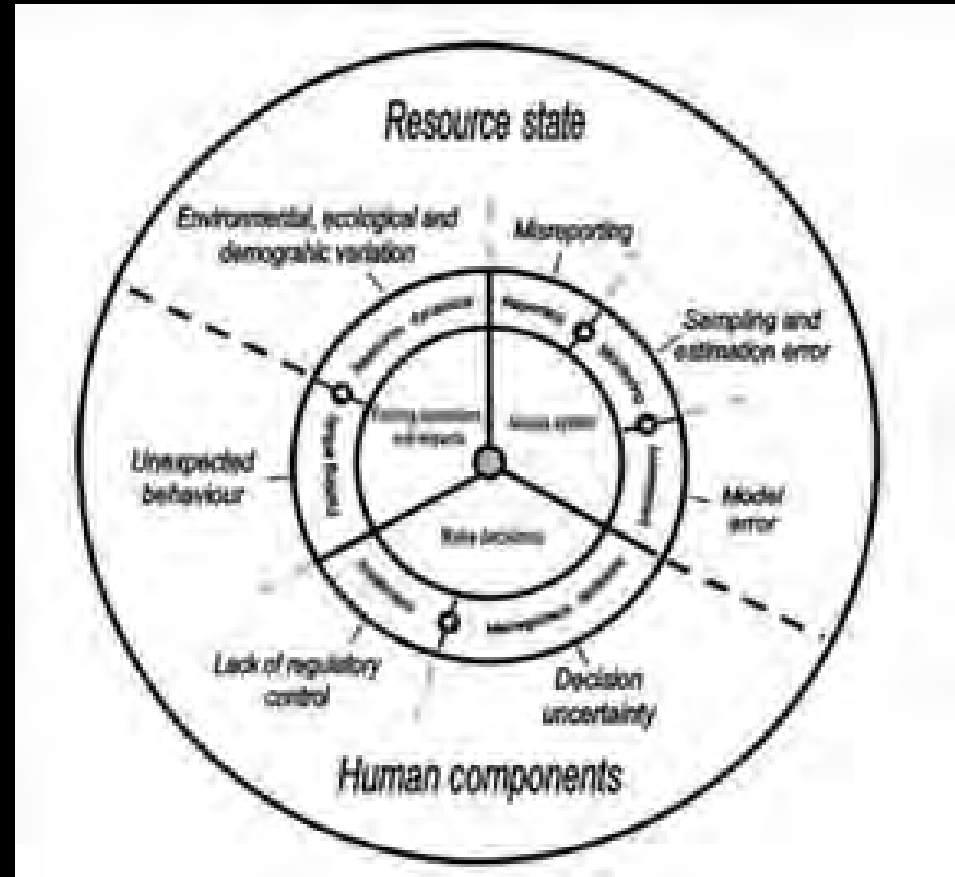
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Acevedo-Trejos et al. 2018 Proc R Soc B

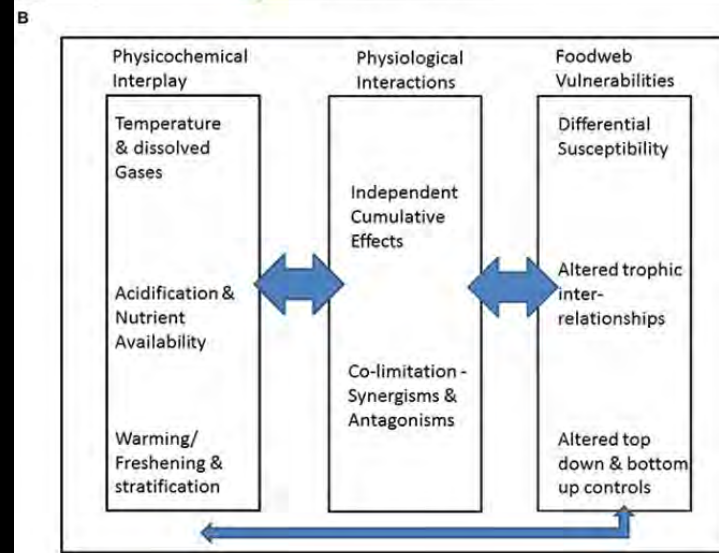
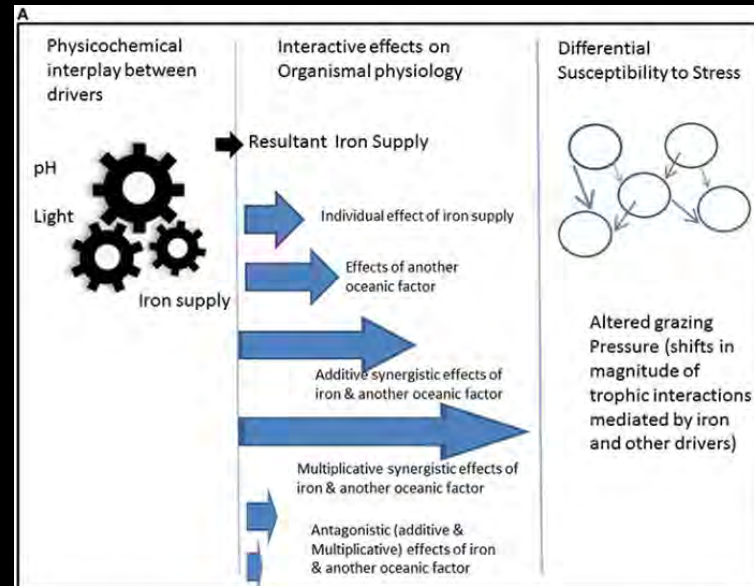
Things that ecosystem models are (currently) less capable of determining

- Human decisions
- Synergies
- Tipping points
- Uncertainty estimates
- Behavior switching



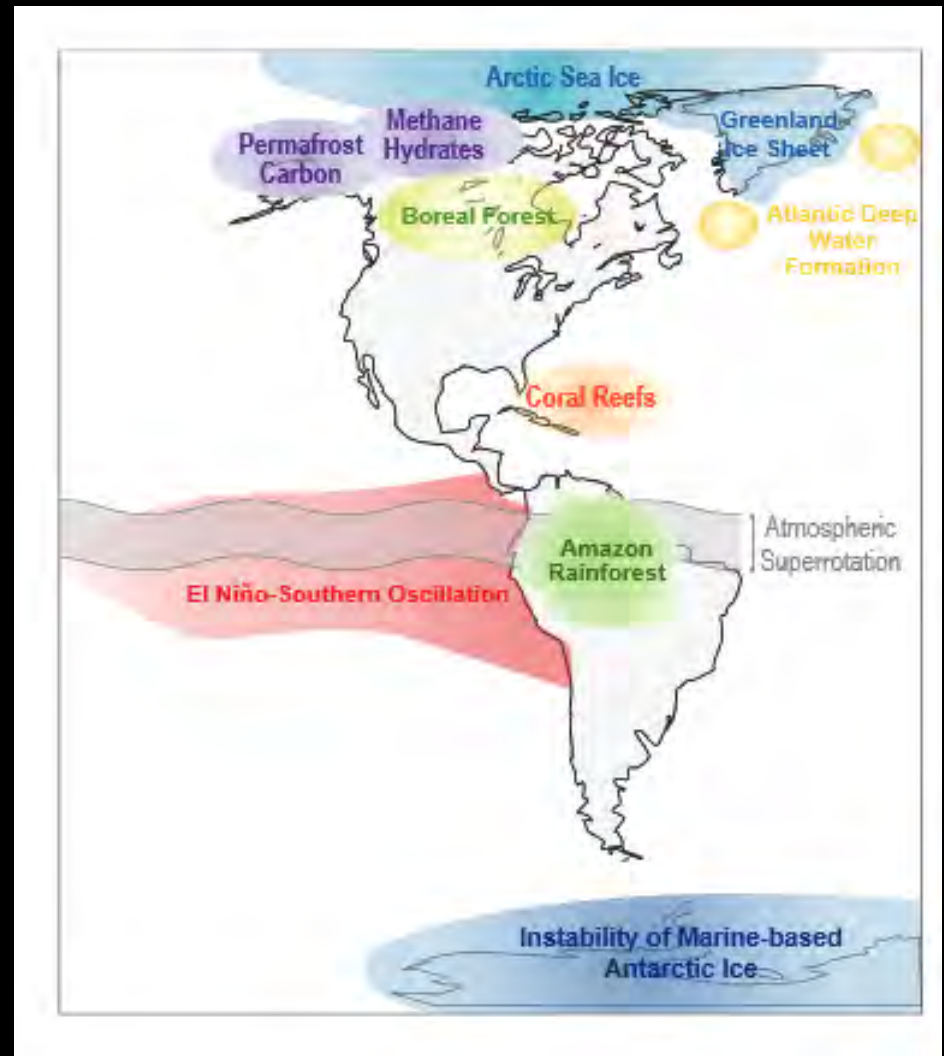
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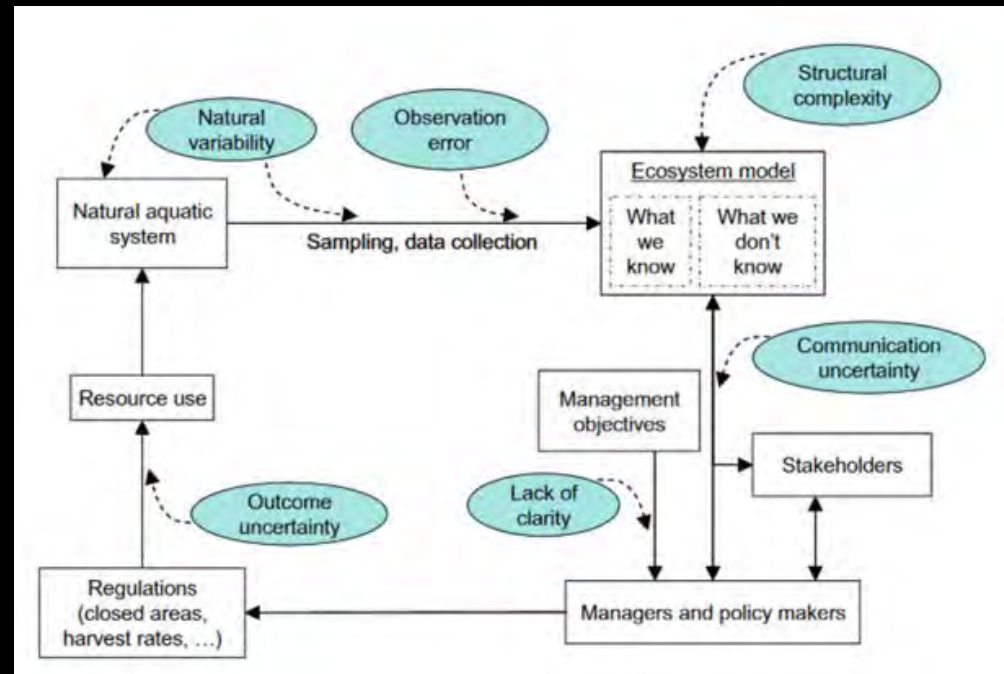
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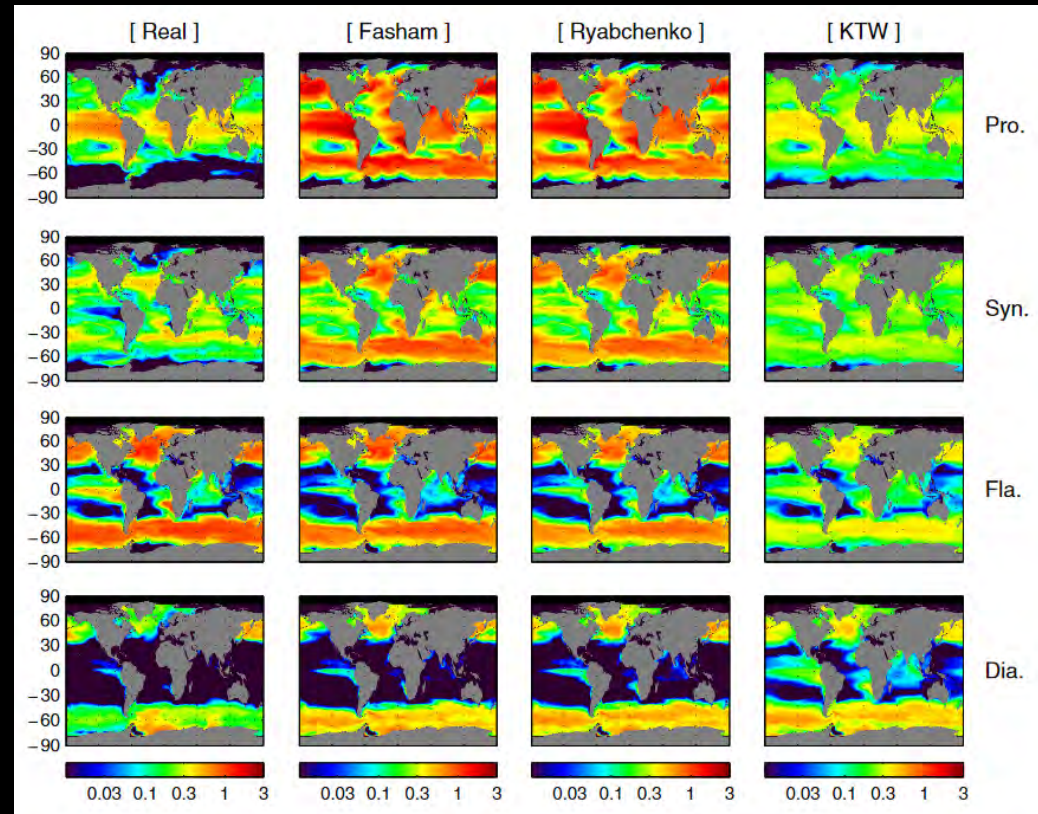
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Link et al. 2012 PIO

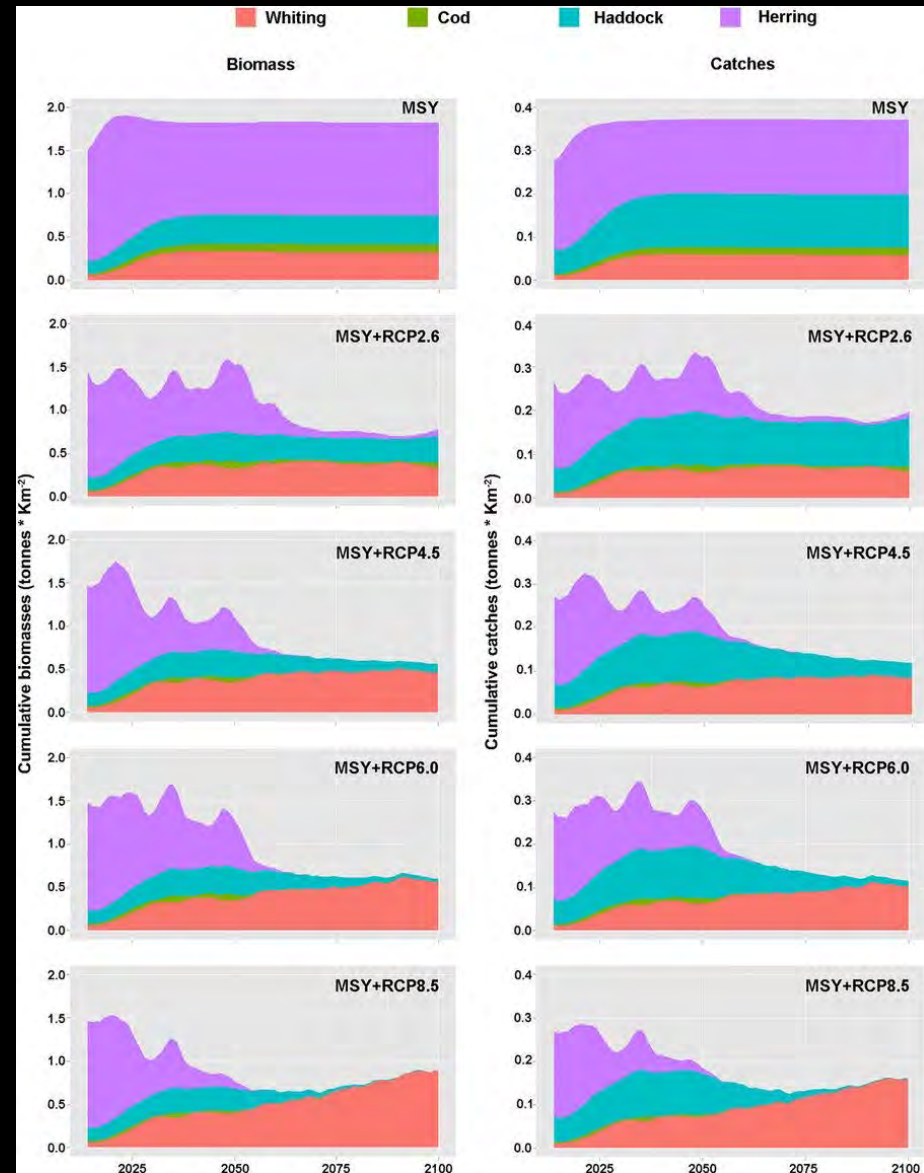
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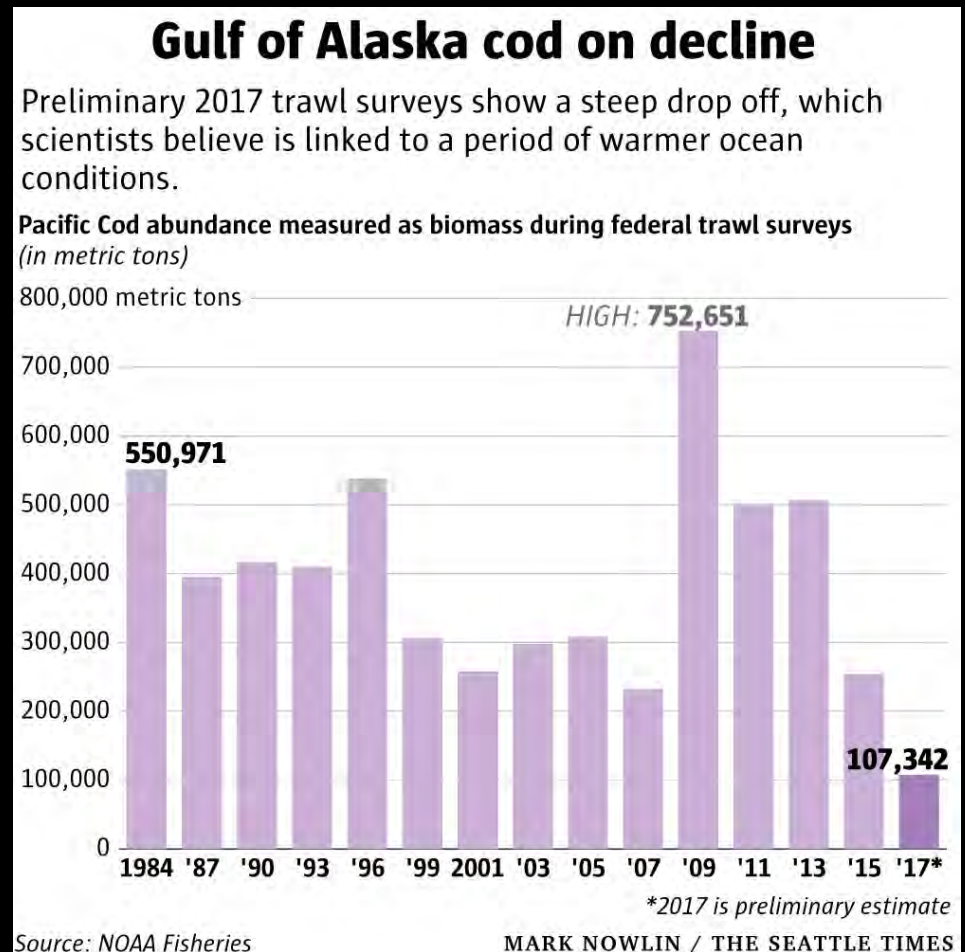
Policy questions remain

- Catch levels under growing environmental change & variability
- Placement of closed areas
- Water quality
- Risk & cost of (in)action
- Options to preserve ecological function



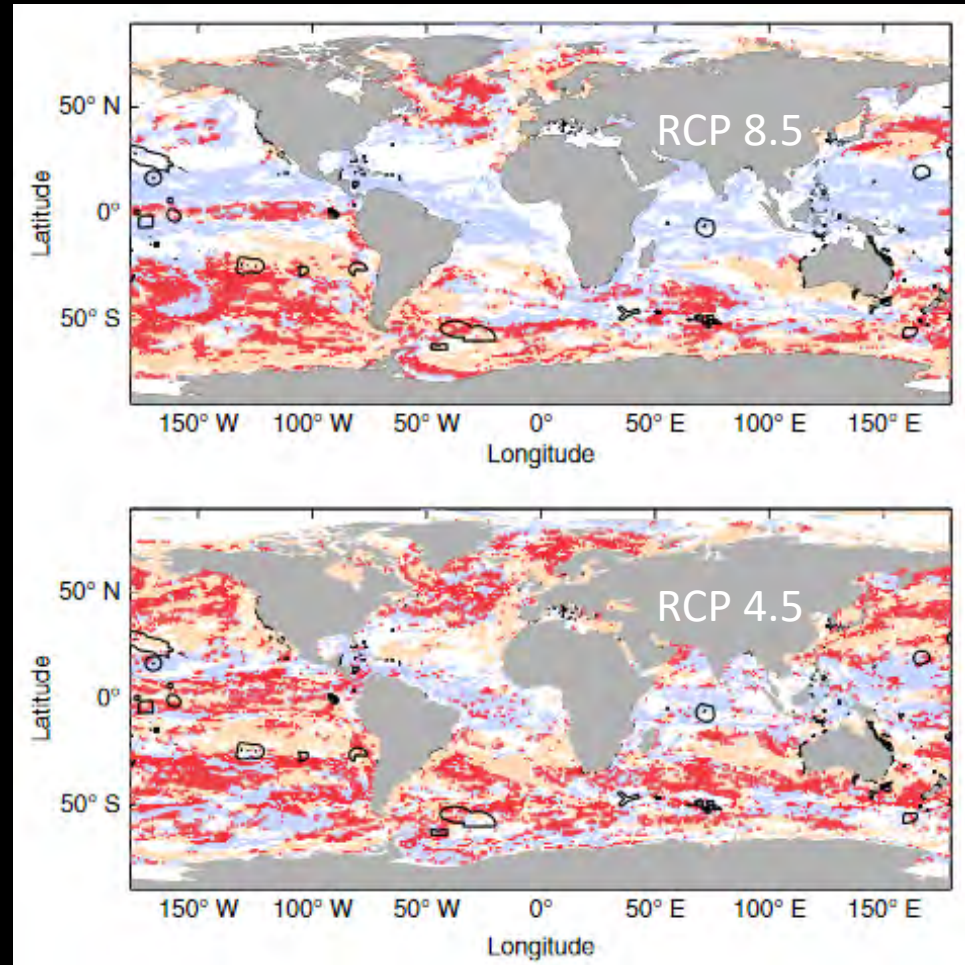
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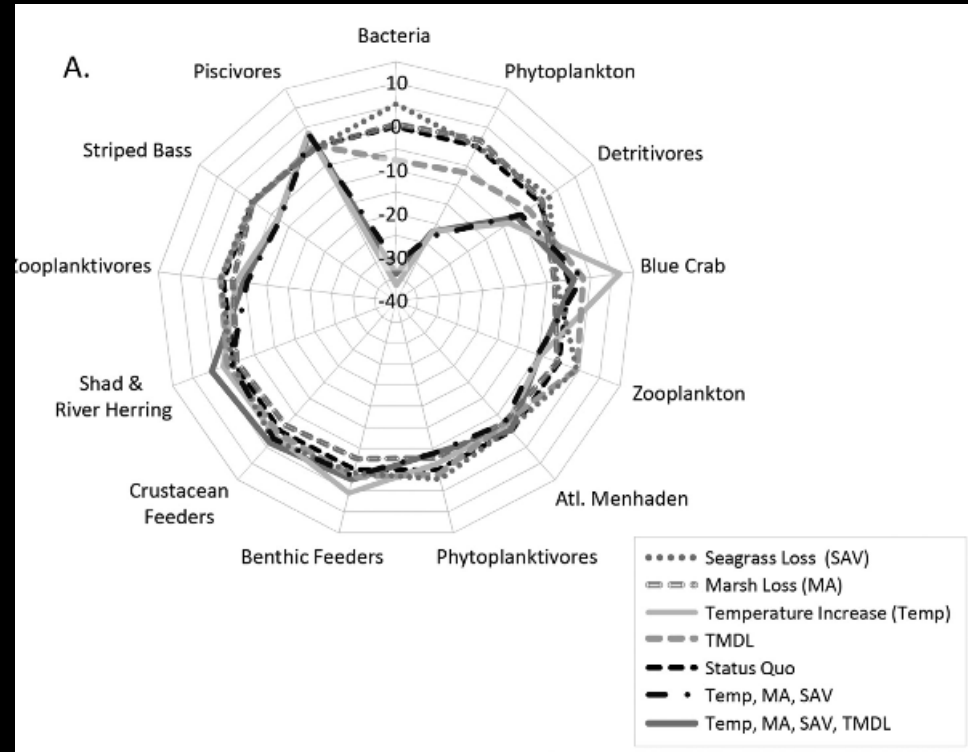
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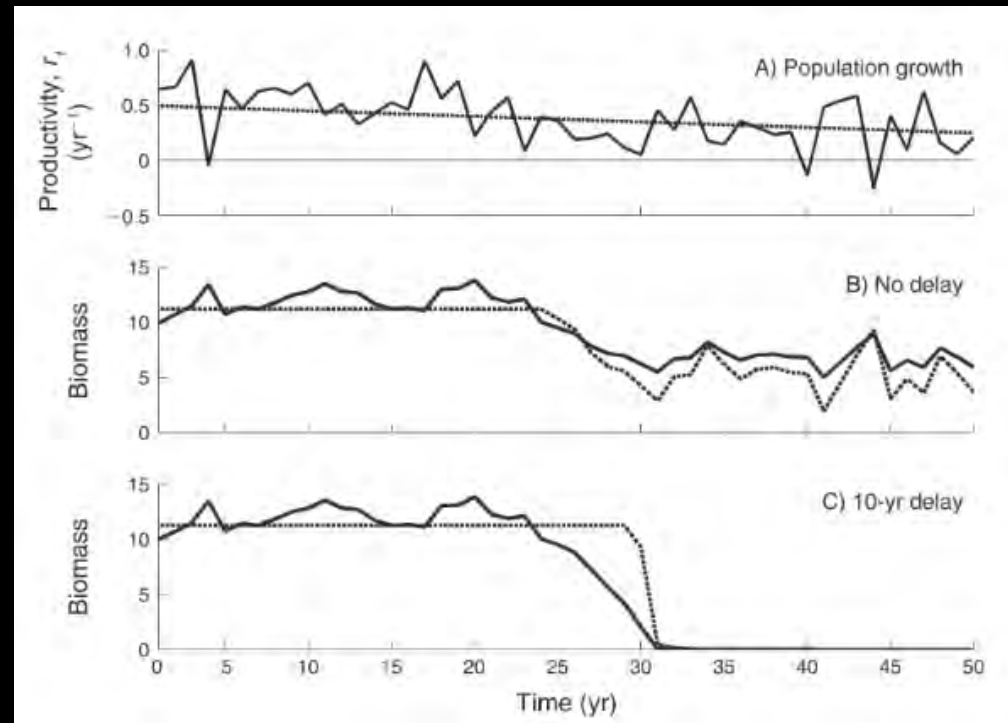
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Ihde & Townsend, 2017 Ecol Model.

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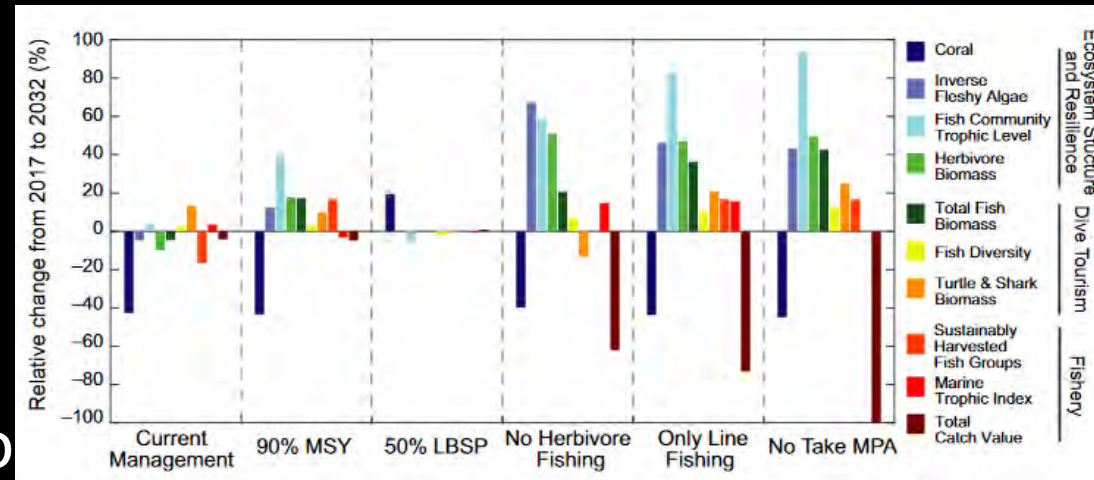
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Brown et al. 2012, Ecol Appl

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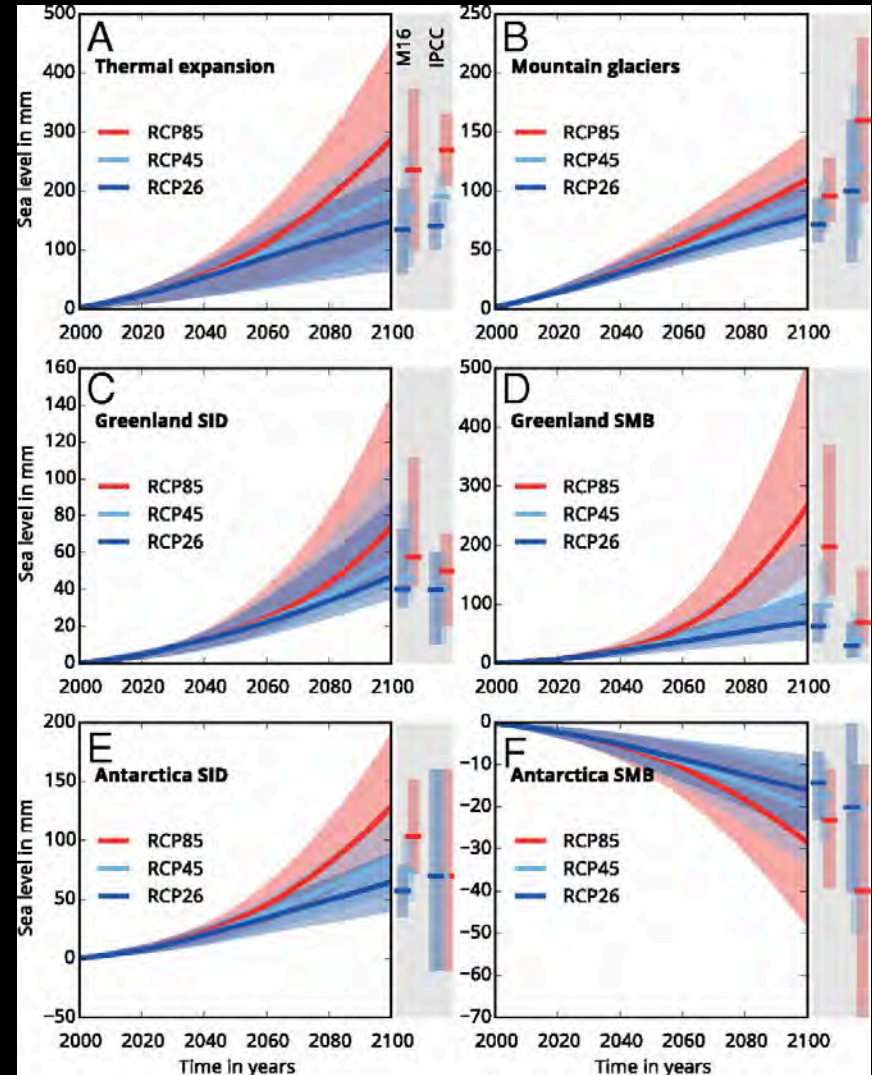
Put knowledge to work now

1. Strategic use of models

2. Process is critical

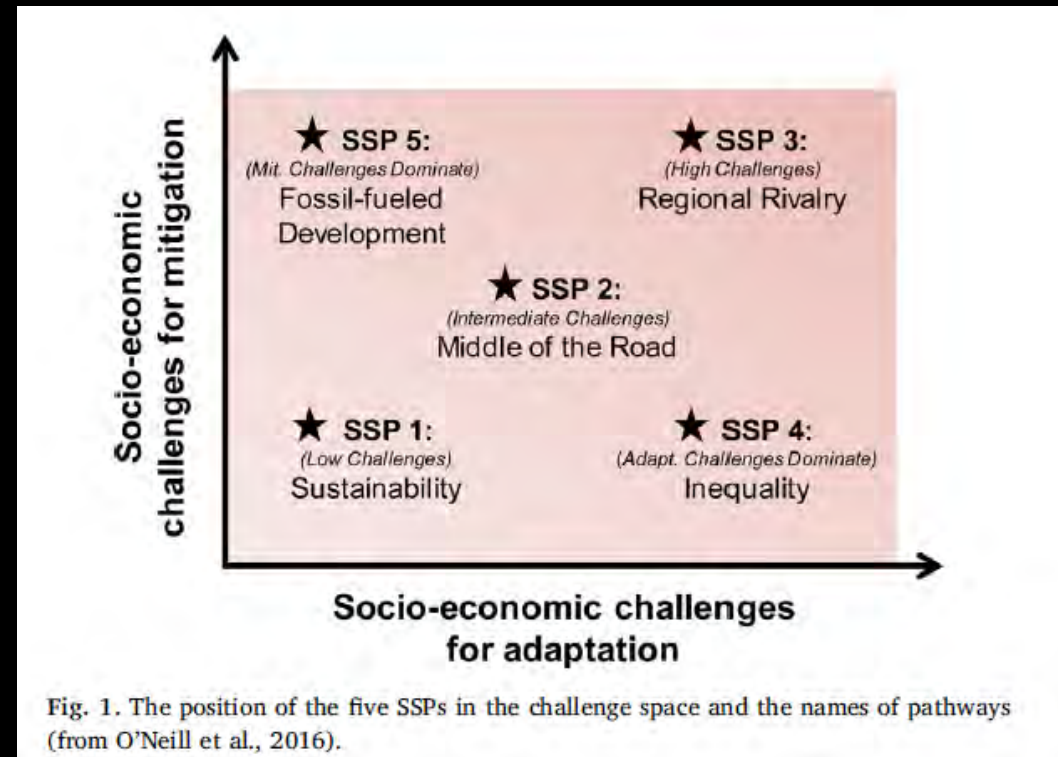
Strategic use of models

- Undesirable futures
- Scenario analysis
- Landscape of outcomes



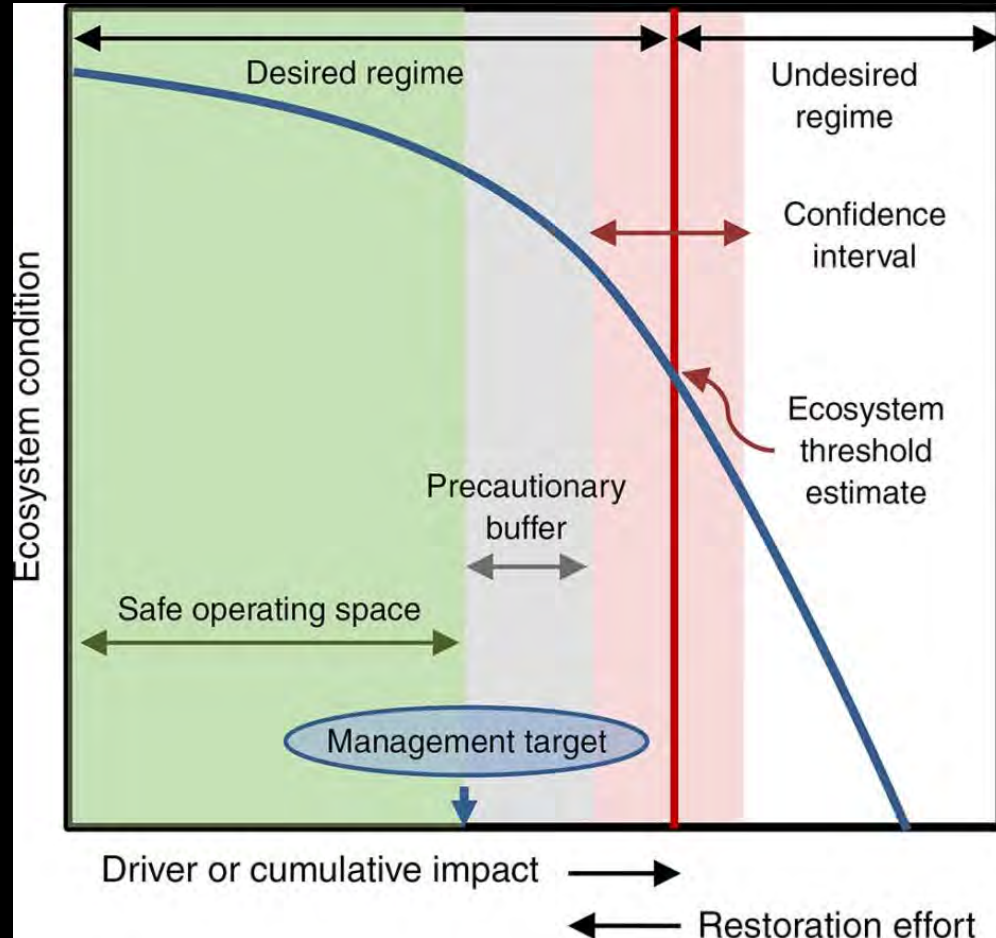
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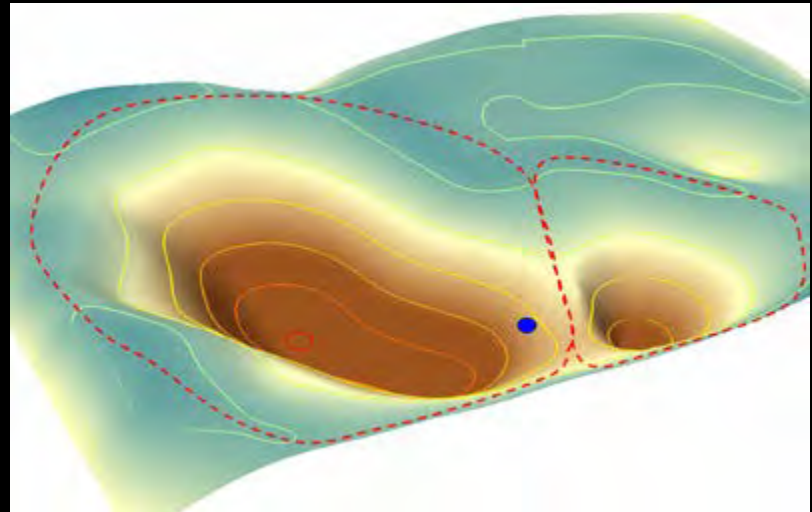
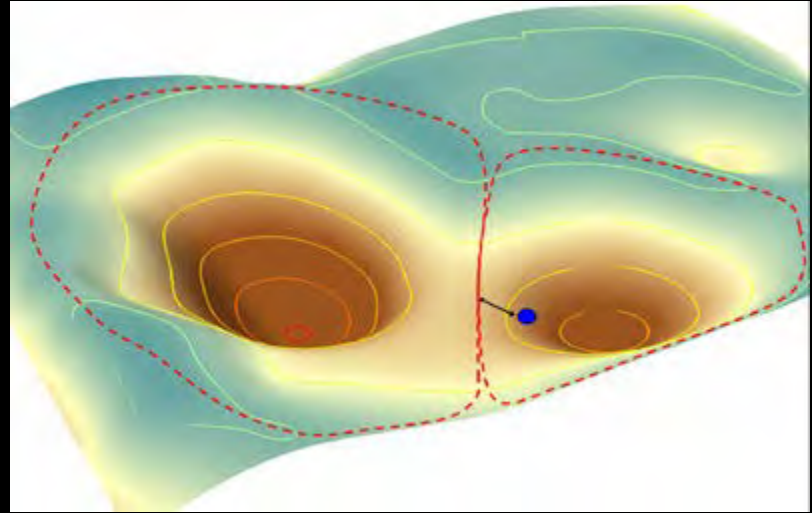
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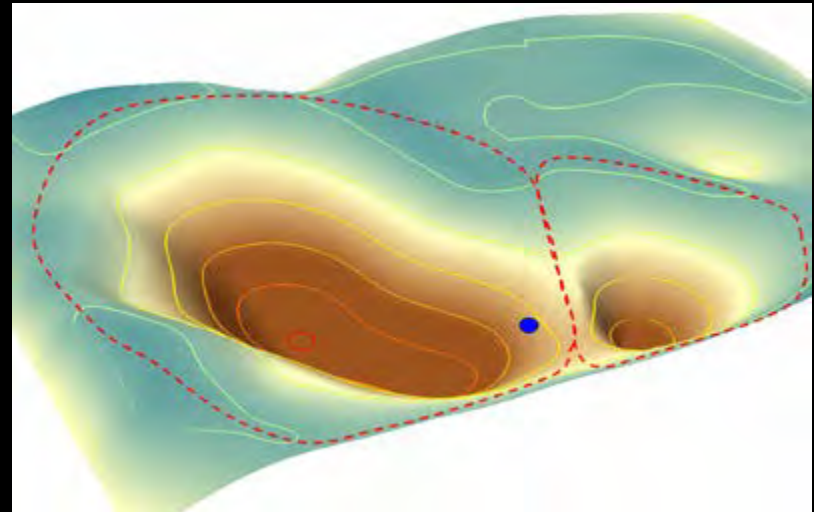
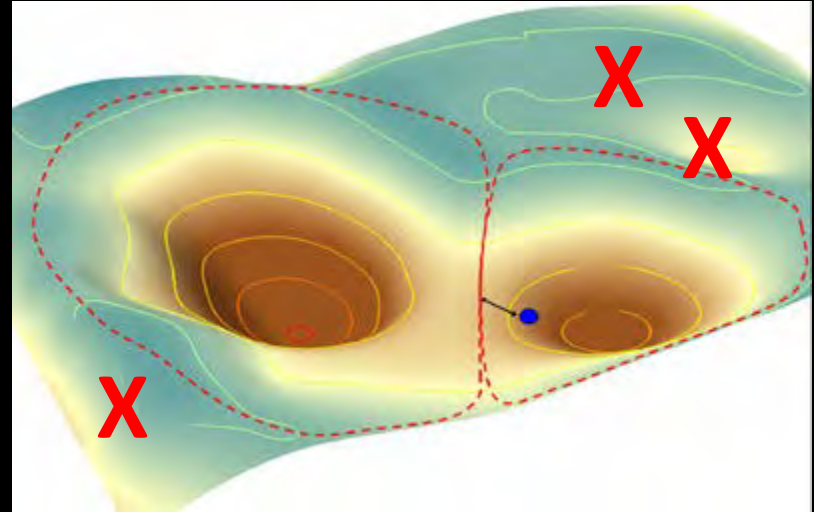
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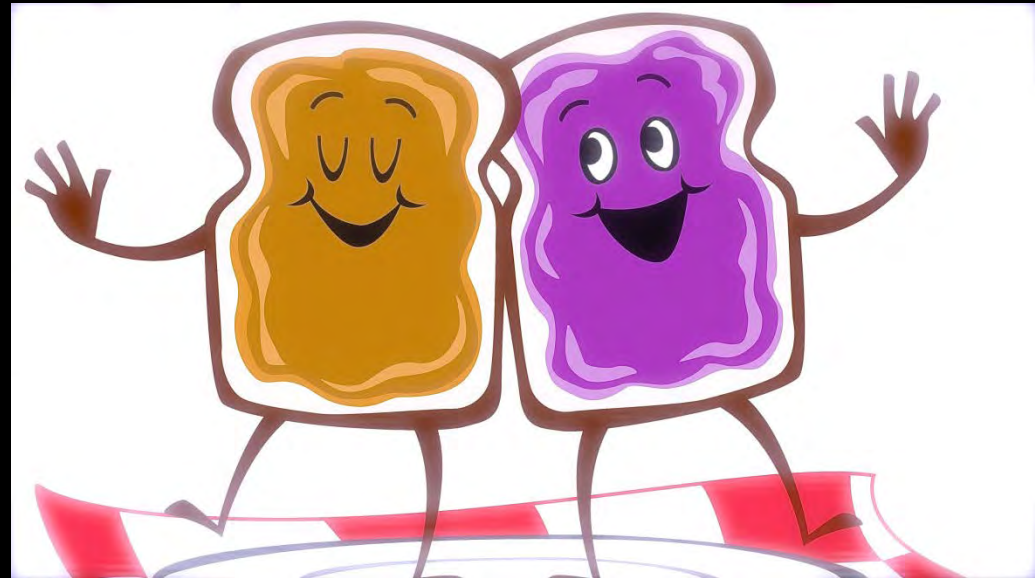
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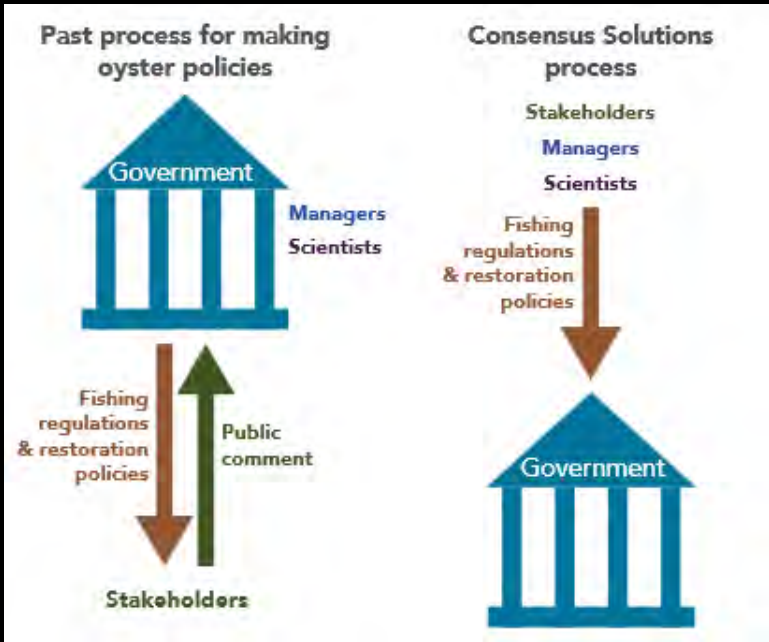


Process is critical

- Models
+ Inclusive process
solid policy progress
- Multiple rounds



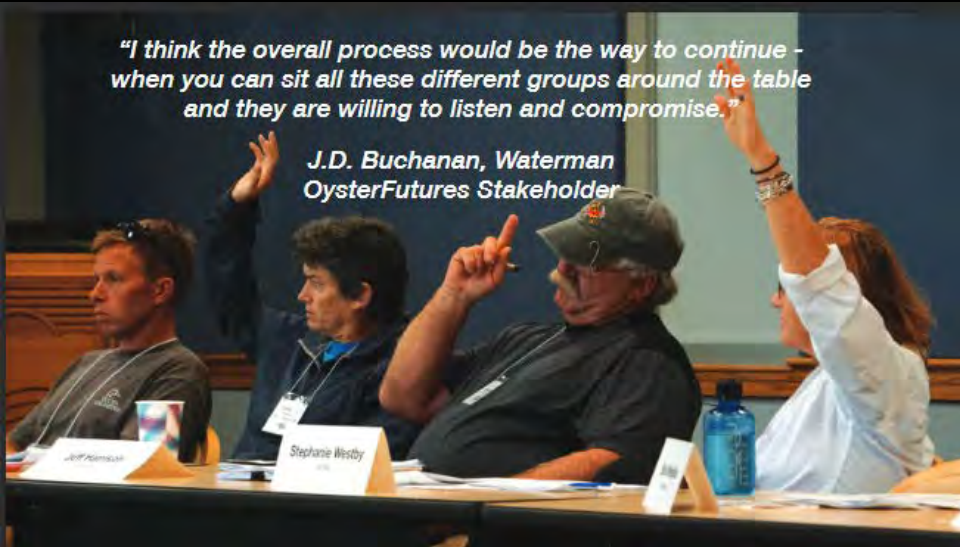
Oyster Futures



OysterFutures: how the table was set

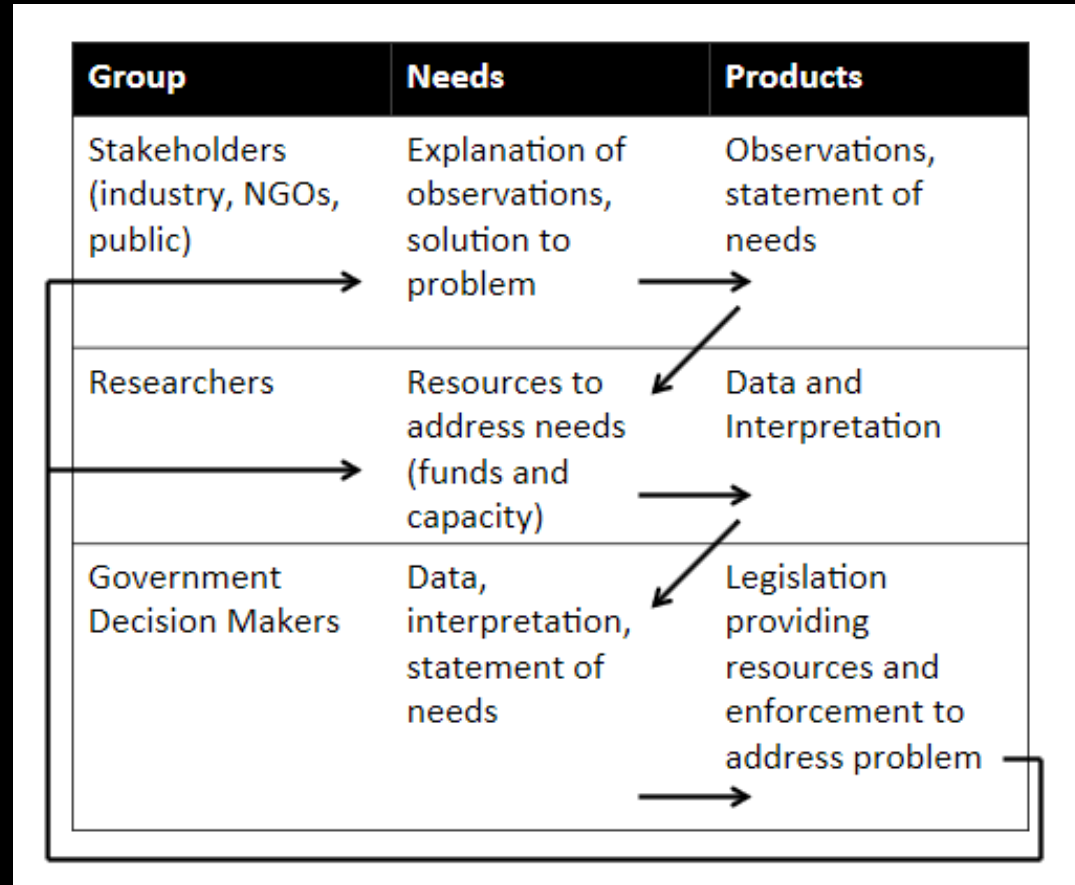
State	Key Points	Industry (waterman)
Industry (waterman)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consensus-driven • Facilitated • 60% Industry • 75% agreement • Science-based 	Industry (buyer)
Environment NP		Restoration NP
Industry (waterman)		Industry (waterman)
Recreational fishing NP		Industry (aquaculture)
Industry (waterman)		Federal
Industry (aquaculture)		Environment NP
Environment NP		Industry (waterman)
Scientist		Scientist

Facilitators (blue icon) Research Team (purple icon) Stakeholders (brown icon) NP = Non Profit



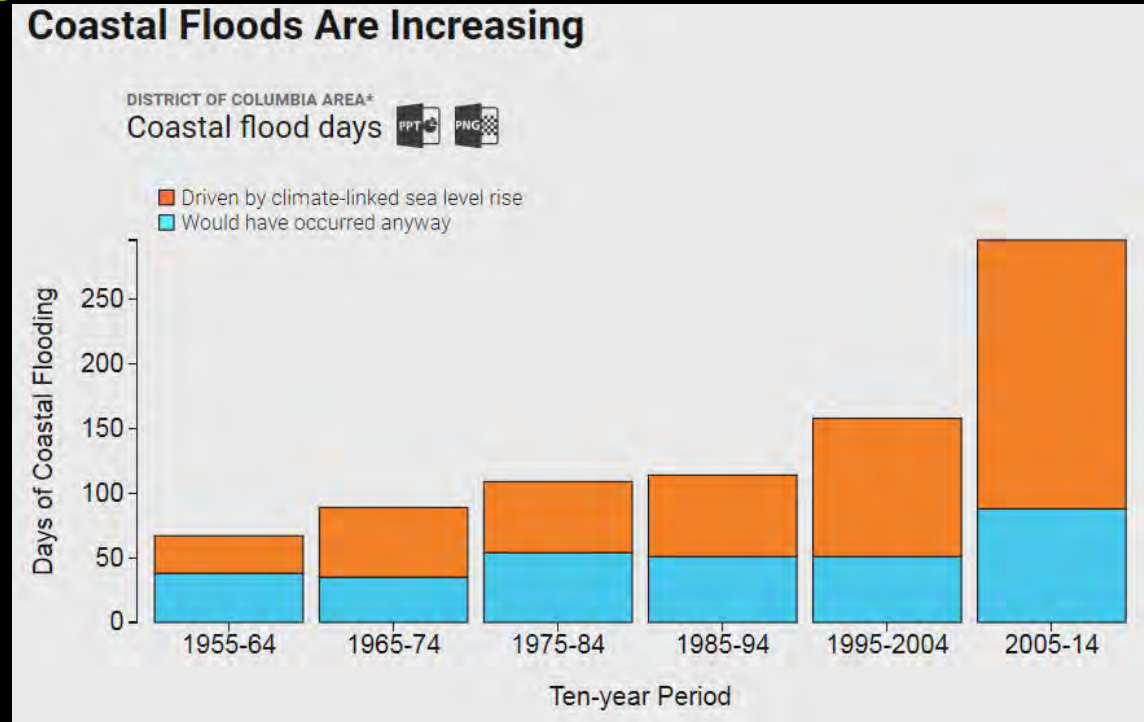
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Improvements can be made

- Probabilistic framing
- New techniques
- End-to-end views
- Sustained use of products

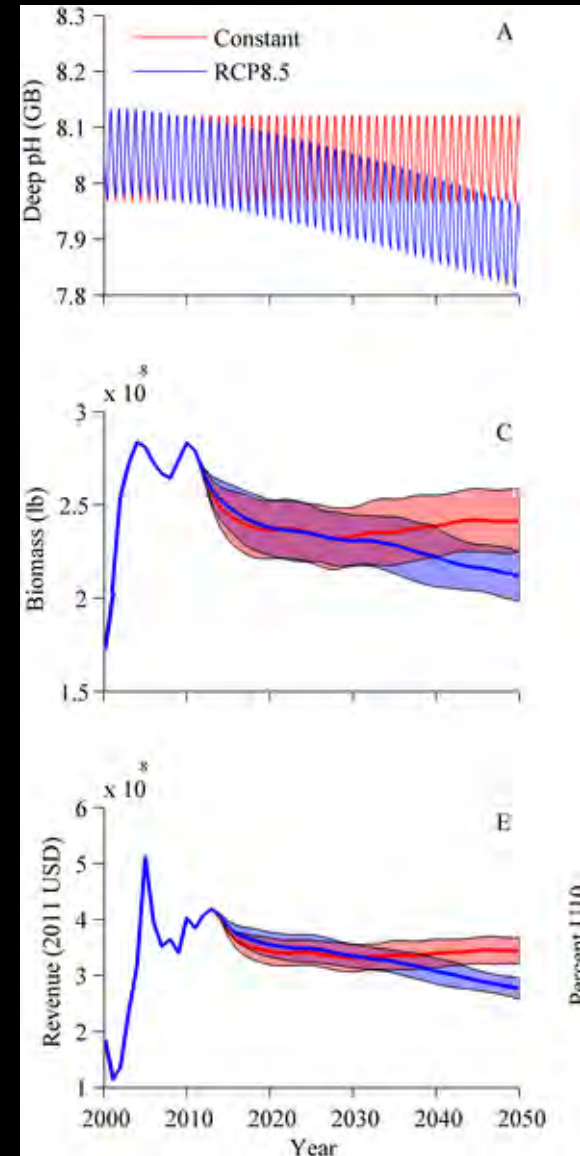


Improvements can be made

- Probabilistic framing
 - **New techniques**
 - End-to-end views
 - Sustained use of products
- Bayesian
 - Monte Carlo
 - Network
 - Data assimilation/
big data mining
 - Risk/tradeoff analyses

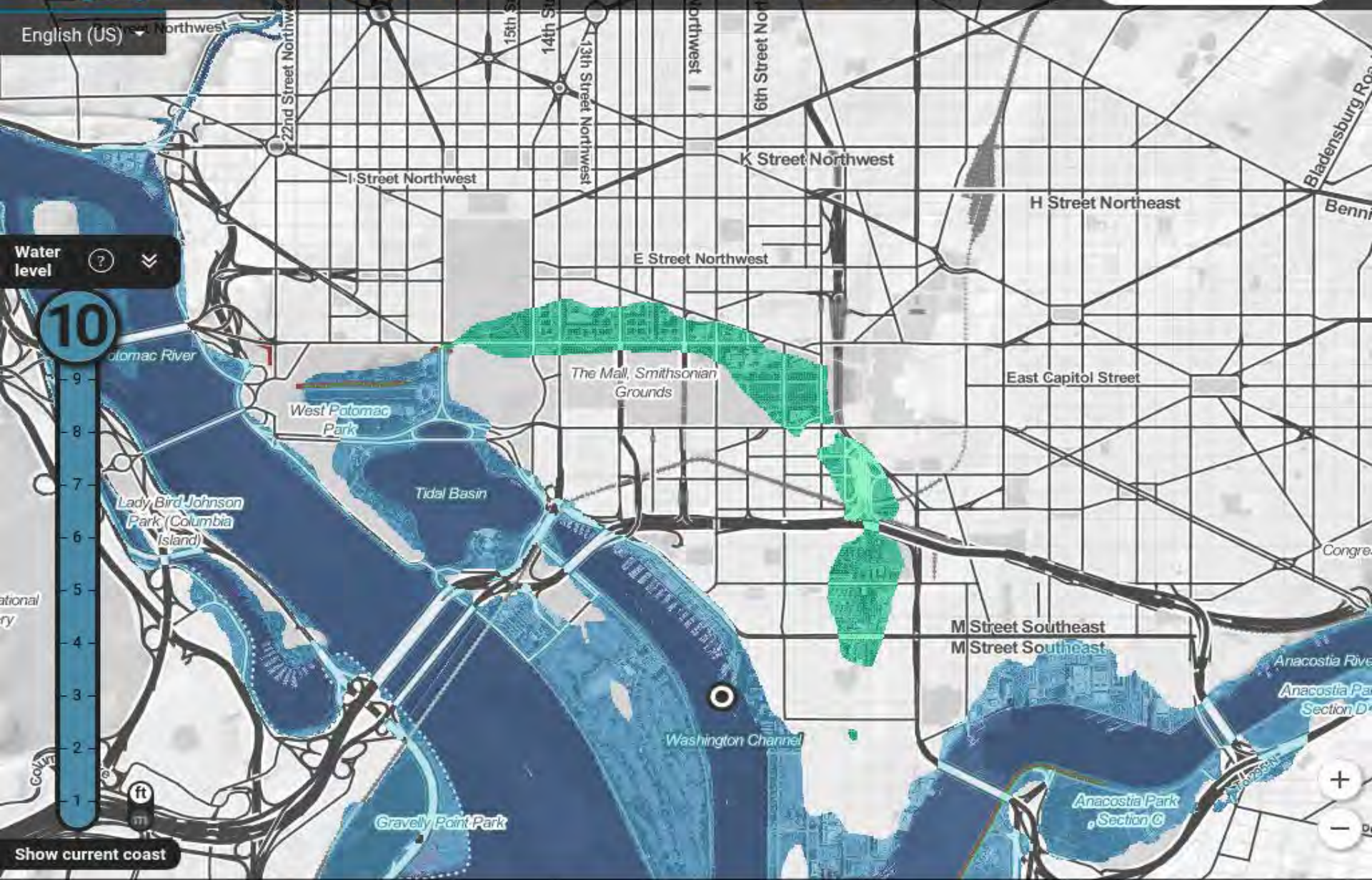
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Surging Seas RISK ZONE MAP

English (US) Northwest



Water level

10

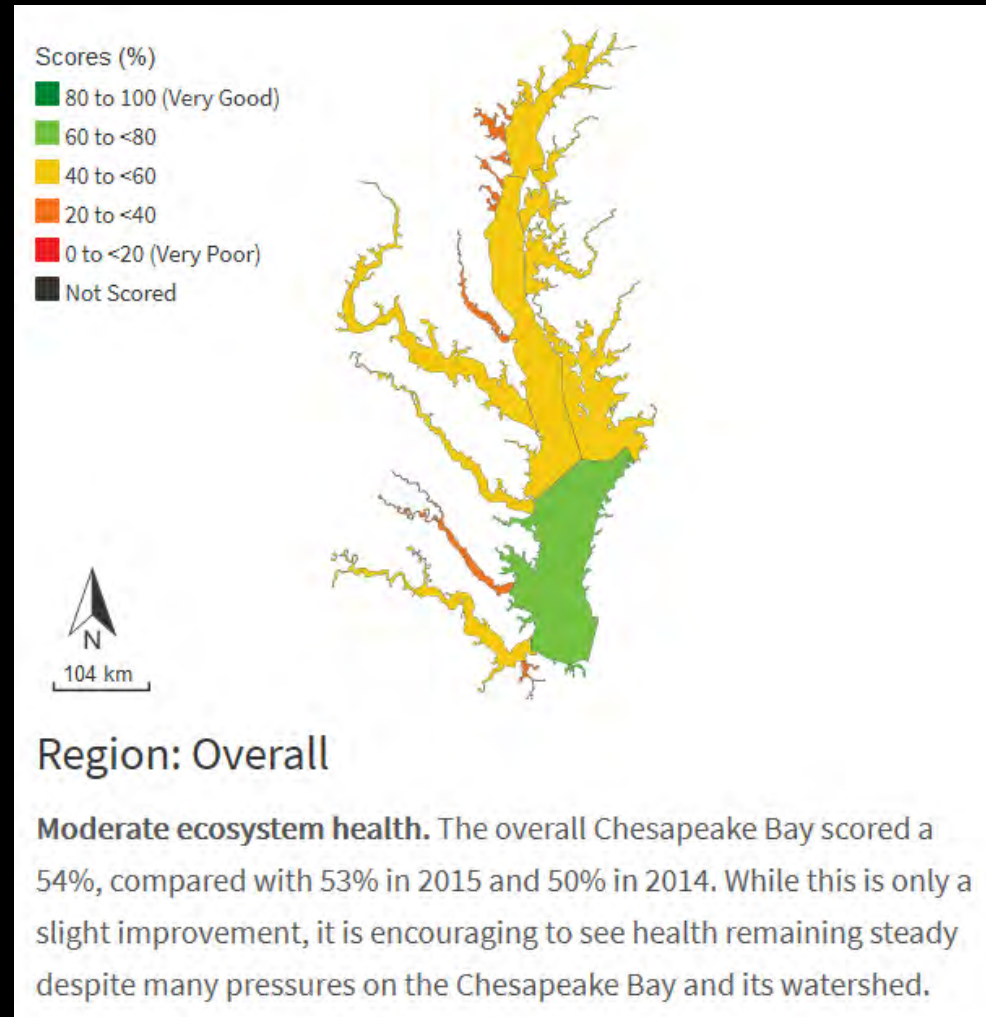
Show current coast

- See projections
- Legend
- Social vulnerability
- Population
- Ethnicity
- More...

Elevation data courtesy of NOAA

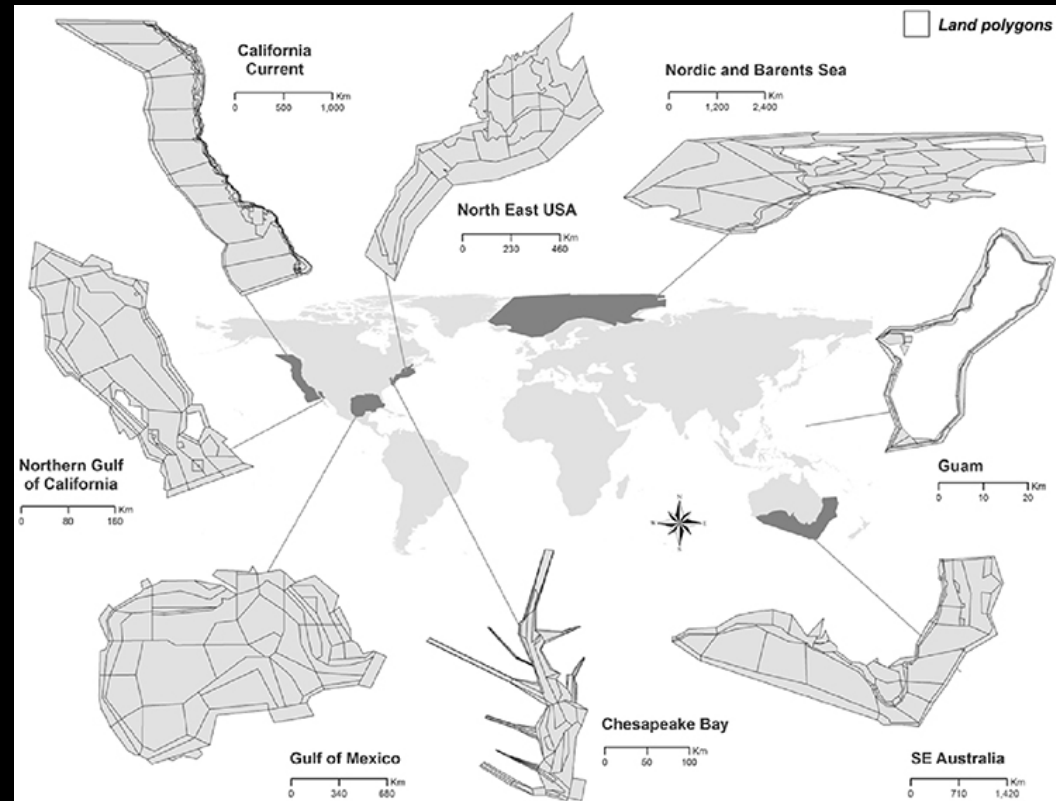
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But process continues to be important

- Inclusive deliberation and goal setting
 - What management futures exist?
 - What are our community/resource-wide priorities?
 - What outcomes can we live with?
- Co-management successes in small scale fisheries

Hoped-for outcomes from joint approach

- By narrowing in on outcomes, ID parts of the science -> policy cycle that need attention.
 - Prioritize which science uncertainties should be addressed to inform policy
- By approaching policy work collaboratively, get more realistic policy that has buy-in from all groups

Thank you!

- Get in touch:
 - scooley@oceanconservancy.org
 - Twitter: @co2ley