4th International Symposium – The Effects of Climate Change on the World's Oceans
Washington DC
Session 13 - June 5, 2018

Detecting catastrophic transitions – the case of North Atlantic herring

Clupea harengus

Herring ©Scandinavian Fishing Year book

Leonie Färber
l.a.farber@ibv.uio.no
@leonie_farber

Camilla Sguotti, Joël M. Durant, Øystein Langangen, Saskia Otto, Christian Möllmann

UiO : Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Synthesis
University of Oslo

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 and Innovation programme under the Marie Sklodowska-Curie grant agreement no. 675997. The content of this presentation reflects only the author's view and the Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.

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4 Norwegian spr. sp. herring

1 Central Baltic herring

2 Western Baltic spr. sp. herring

Iceland sum sp. herring

8

3 North Sea aut. sp. herring

7

Celtic/West of Scotland herring

6 N Irish Sea herring

5 S Irish Sea herring

14 herring (*Clupea harengus*) stocks are used for the analysis:

Objectives:

1. **Find abrupt shifts in time series**
2. **Test if stocks show discontinous behavior with fishing pressure and temperature or cod abundance as drivers**

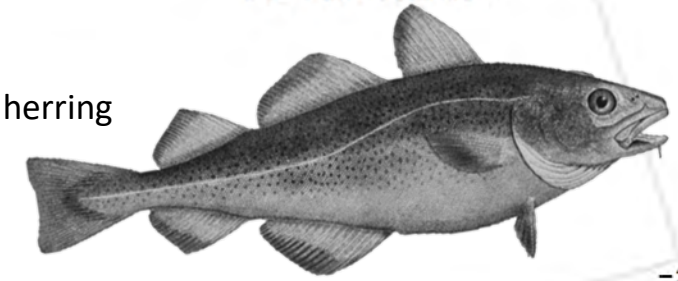
50° N Gulf of St. Lawrence aut. & spr. sp. herring

14

12 13 11

S Gulf of St. Lawrence aut. & spr. sp. herring

North Atlantic



0°

9 Scotian Shelf herring

10

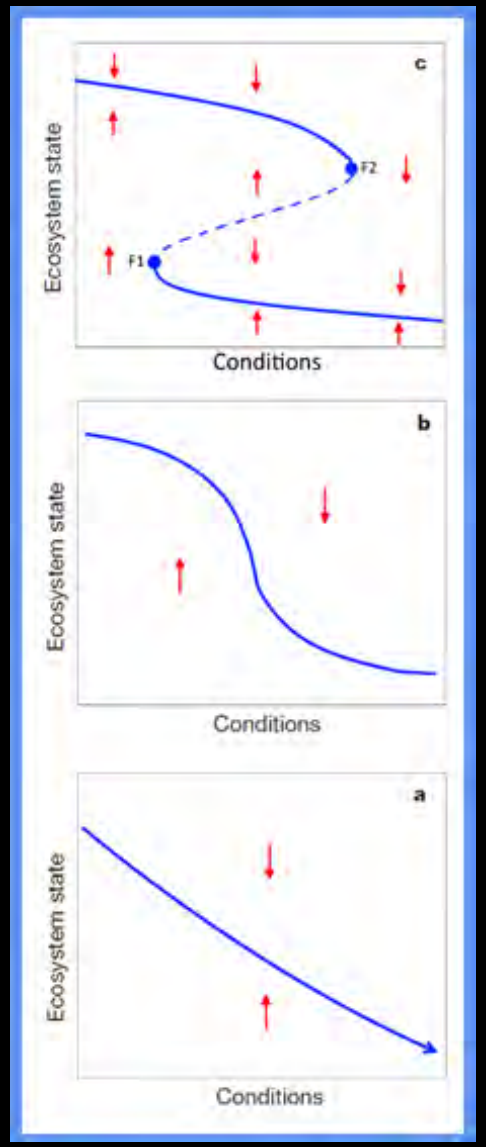
40°

Georges Bank/Gulf of Maine herring

-25°

N

The ecosystem can display different behaviors to changing conditions.



- Catastrophic transition, critical transition, regime shift, discontinuity, collapse, abrupt change, prolonged stable states, hysteresis
- Continuous, abrupt change, regime shift, reversible
- Continuous, linear change, reversible

Modified from Scheffer et al. 2001

“Decision tree” for an abrupt change in the time series of the SSB of herring.

Prolonged stability (> 10 years)

Yes

No

Based on IUCN Red list critieria of endangered species

Mean biomass ≤ 30% of prior biomass or
mean biomass ≥ 170% of prior biomass
within 10 years

Continuous change

Fluctuations

Yes

No

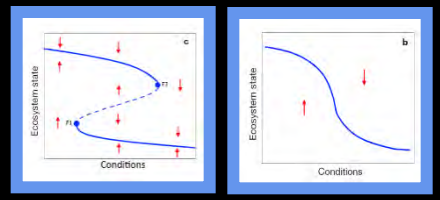
Change in mean or variance: *changepoint* (Killick and Eckley 2014)

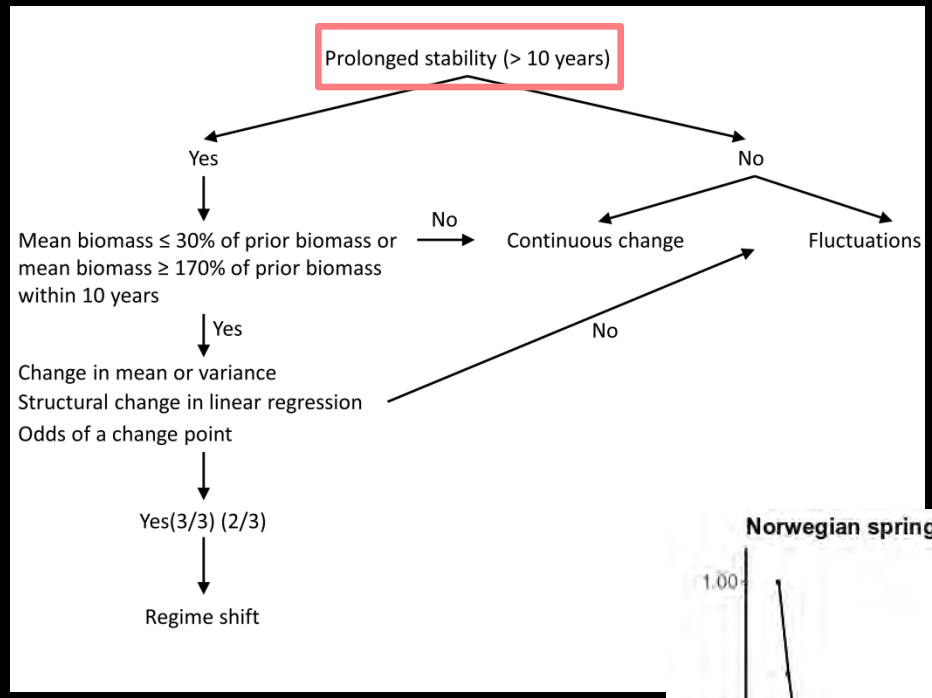
Structural change in linear regression: *strucchange* (Zeileis et al. 2002)

Odds of a change point: Bayesian Analysis of Change Point Problems *bcp* (Erdman and Emerson 2007)

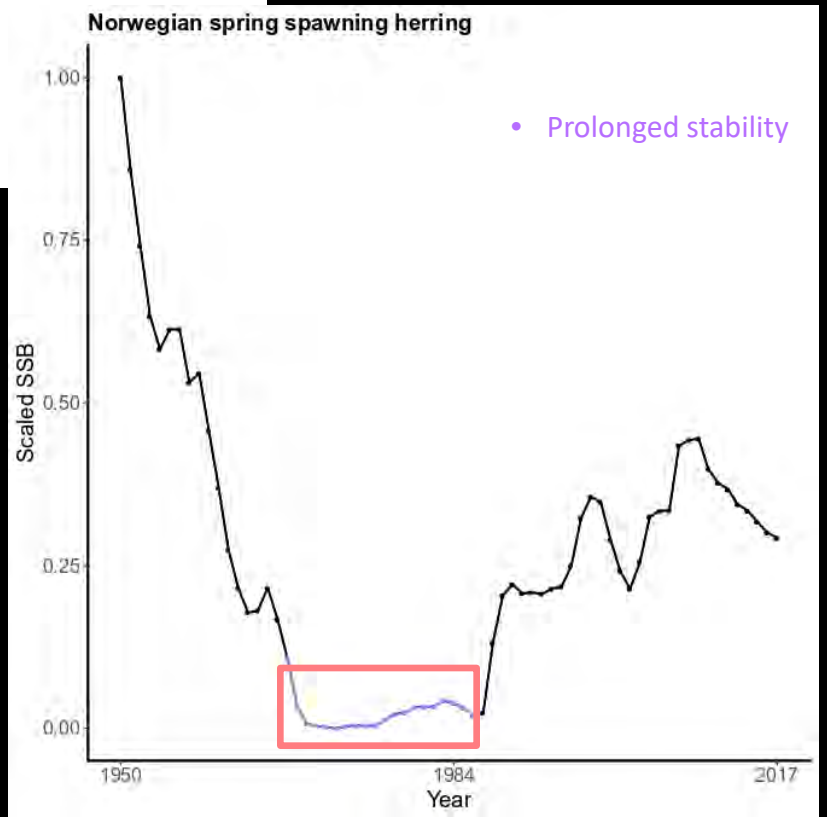
Yes(3/3) (2/3)

Regime shift

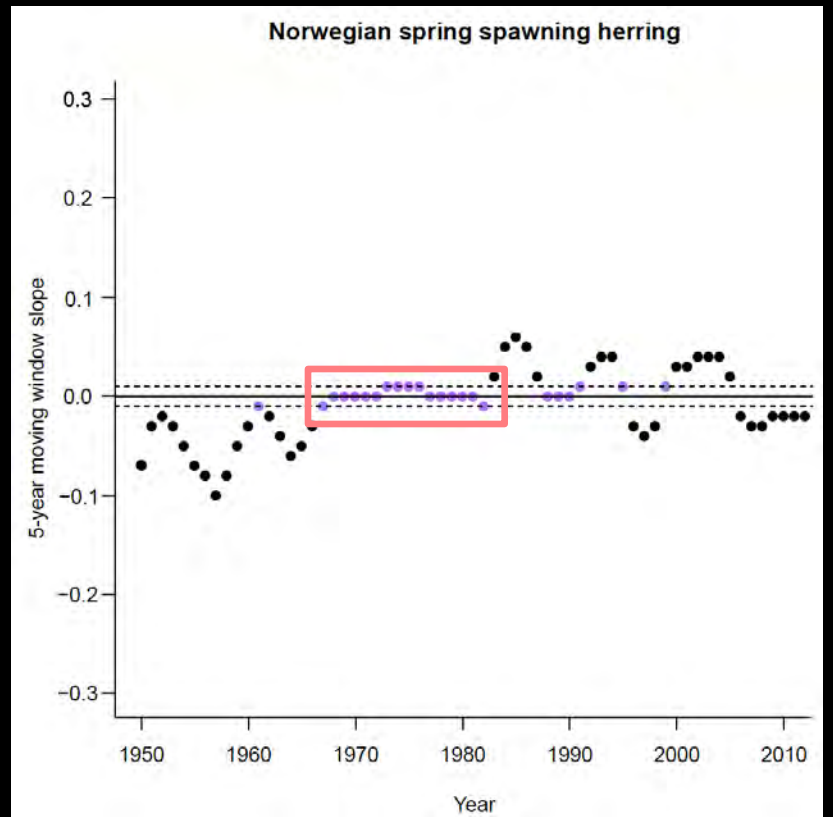


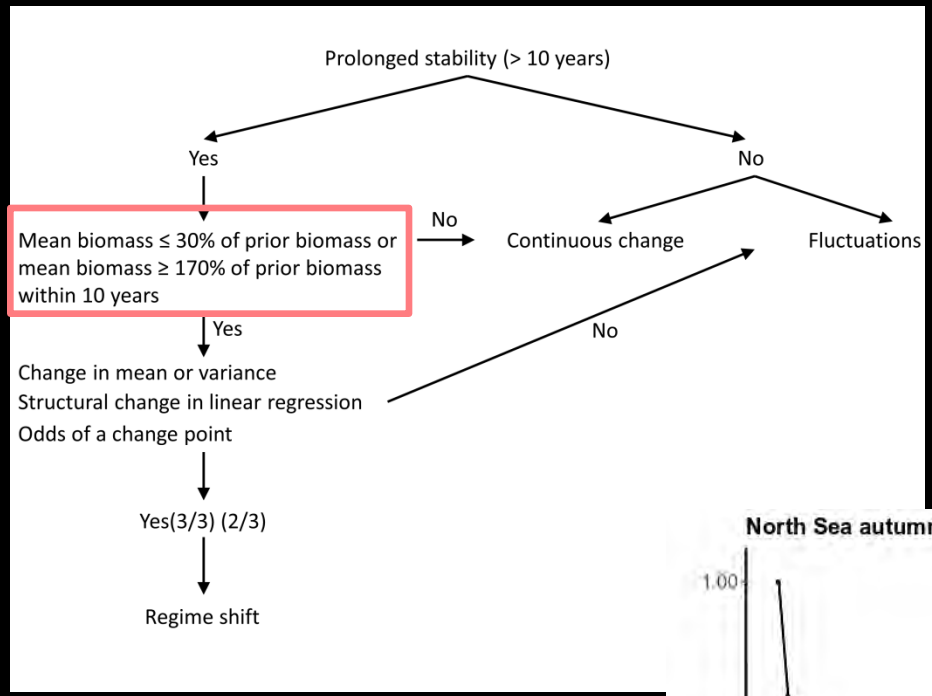


5-year moving window linear regression on median-filtered scaled biomass
⇒Assessing stable slope

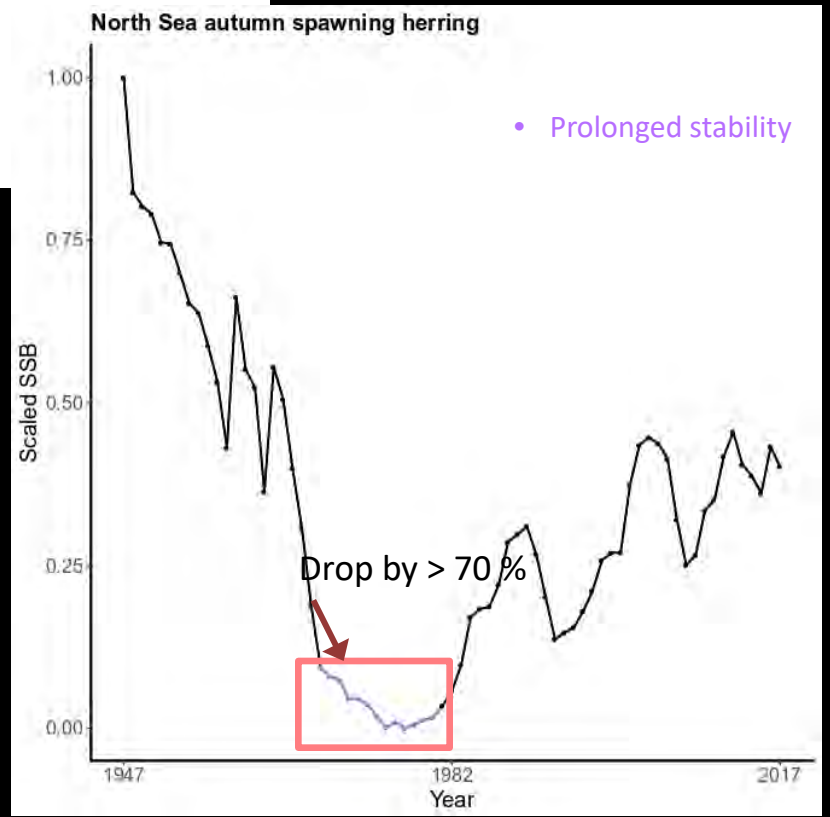


- Prolonged stability

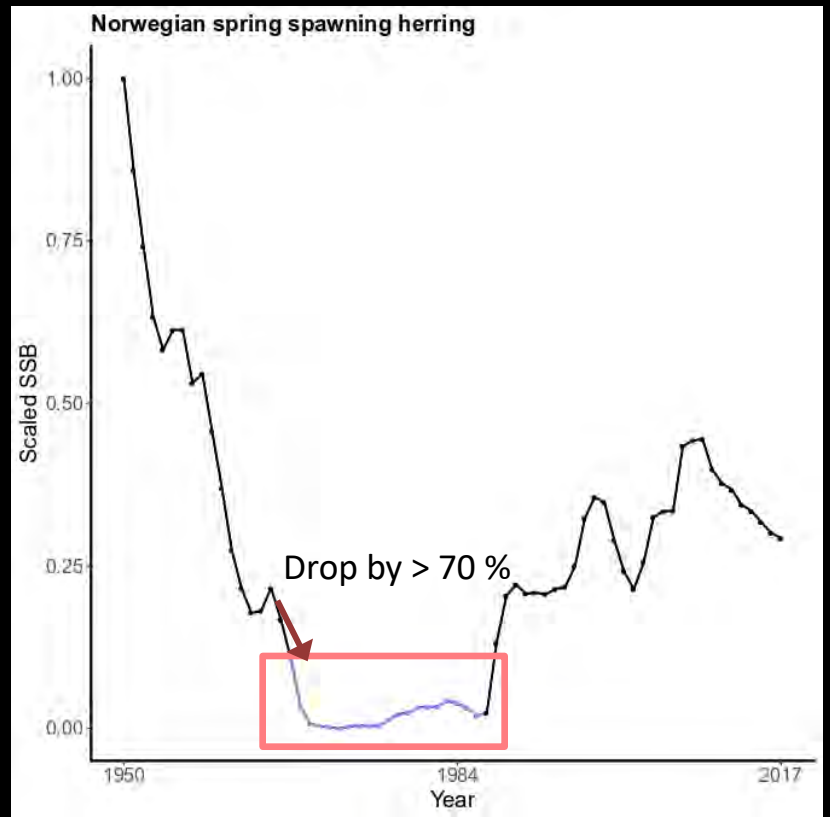


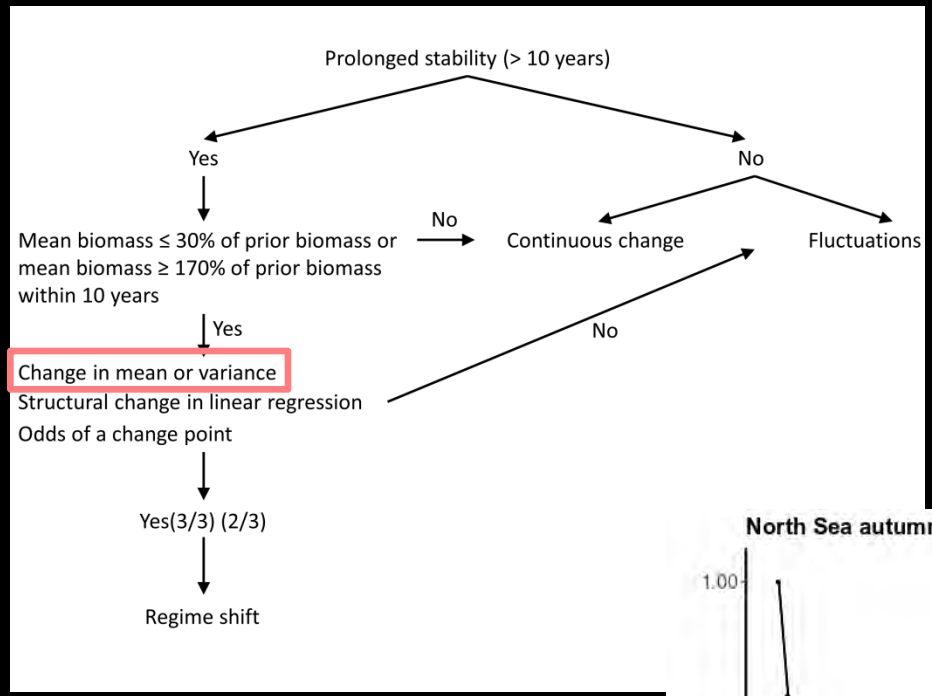


Average of stable years and calculating proportion compared to the previous years
⇒Measuring drop in biomass

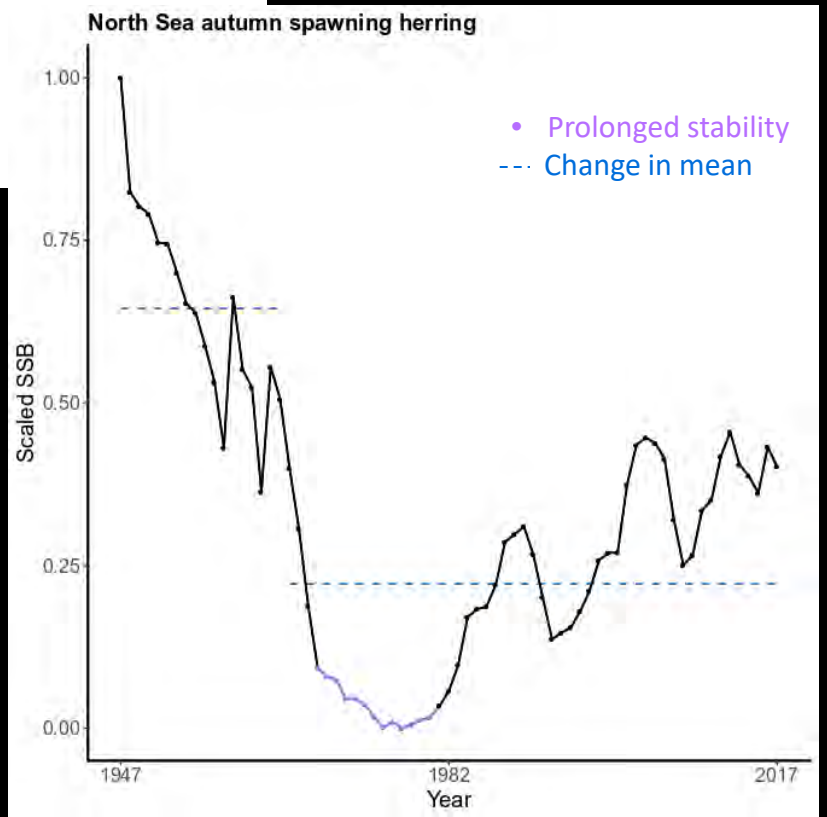


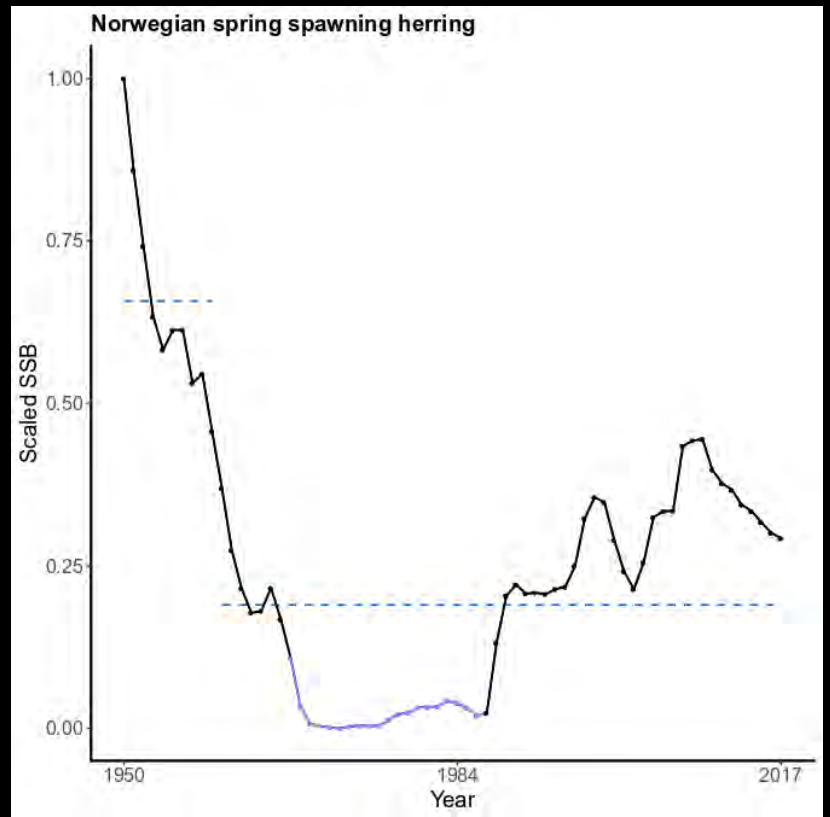
- Prolonged stability

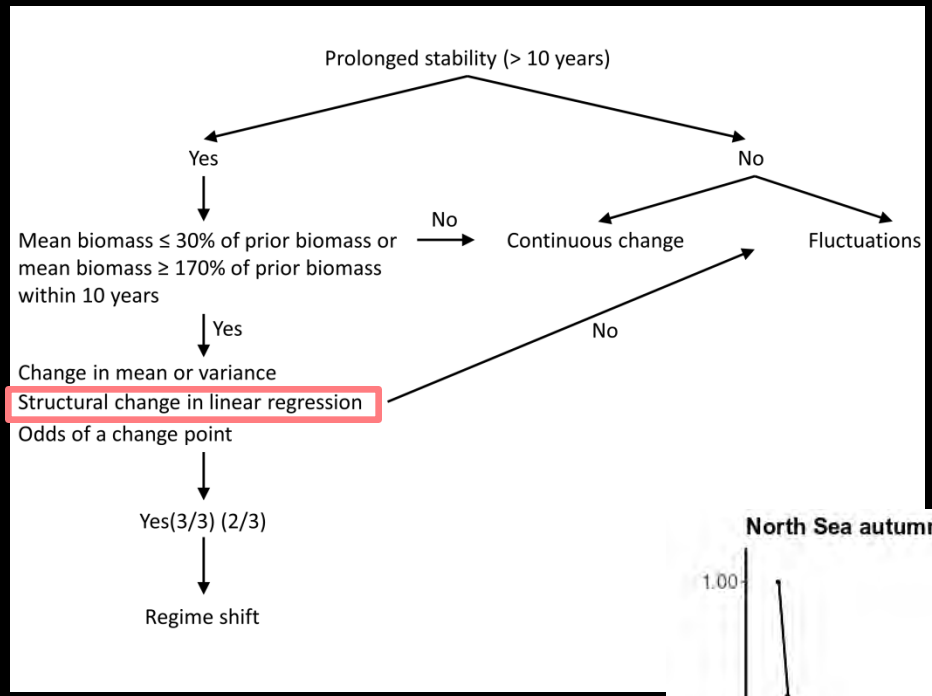




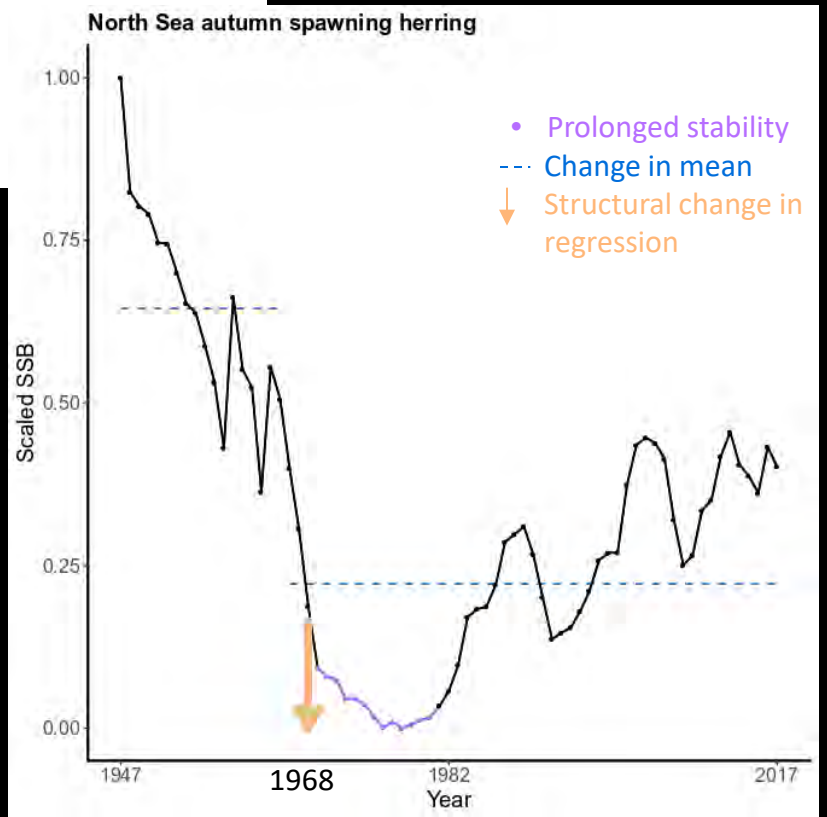
Binary segmentation
⇒Changes in mean of SSB

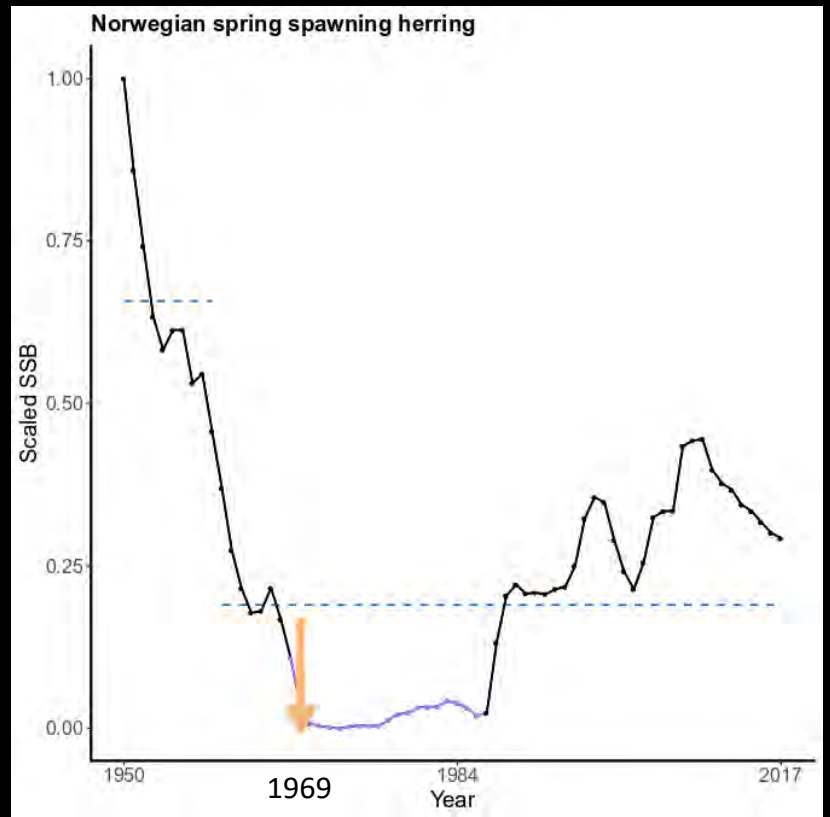


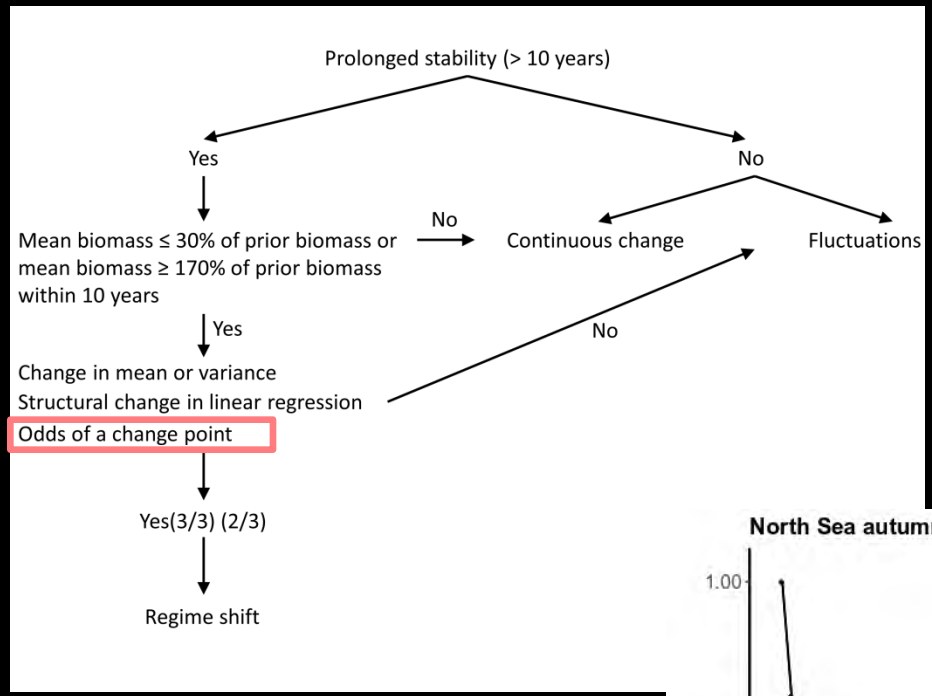




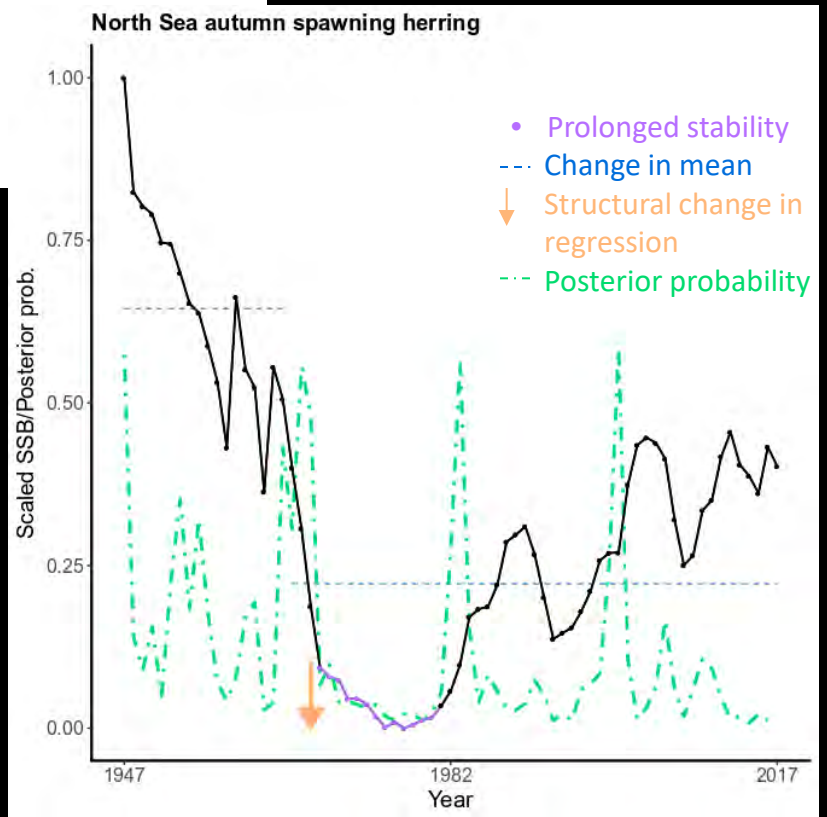
Structural changes in linear regression on differenced time series.

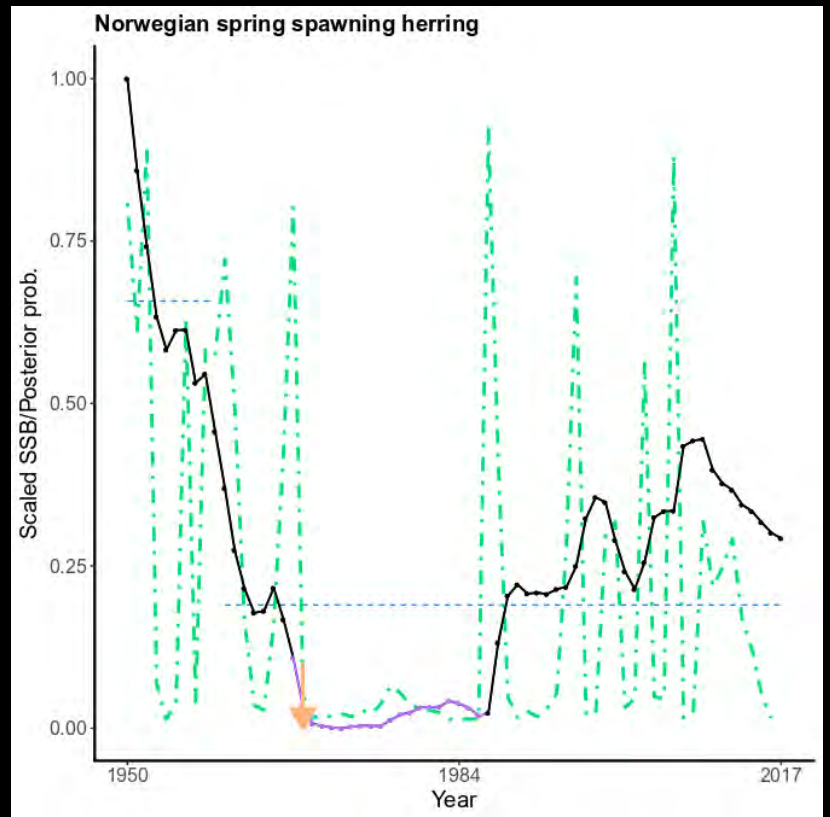


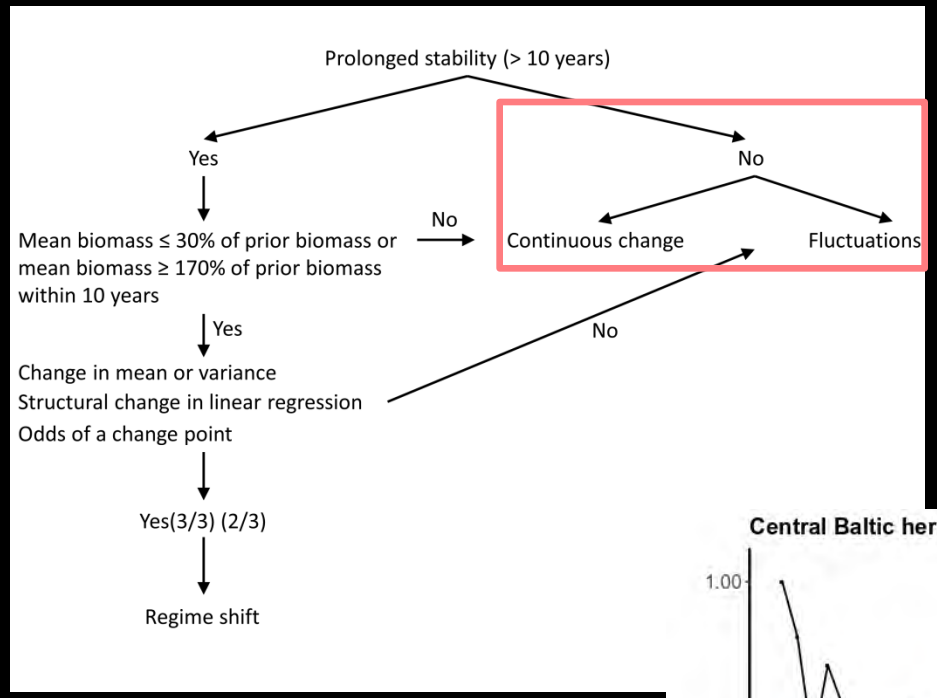




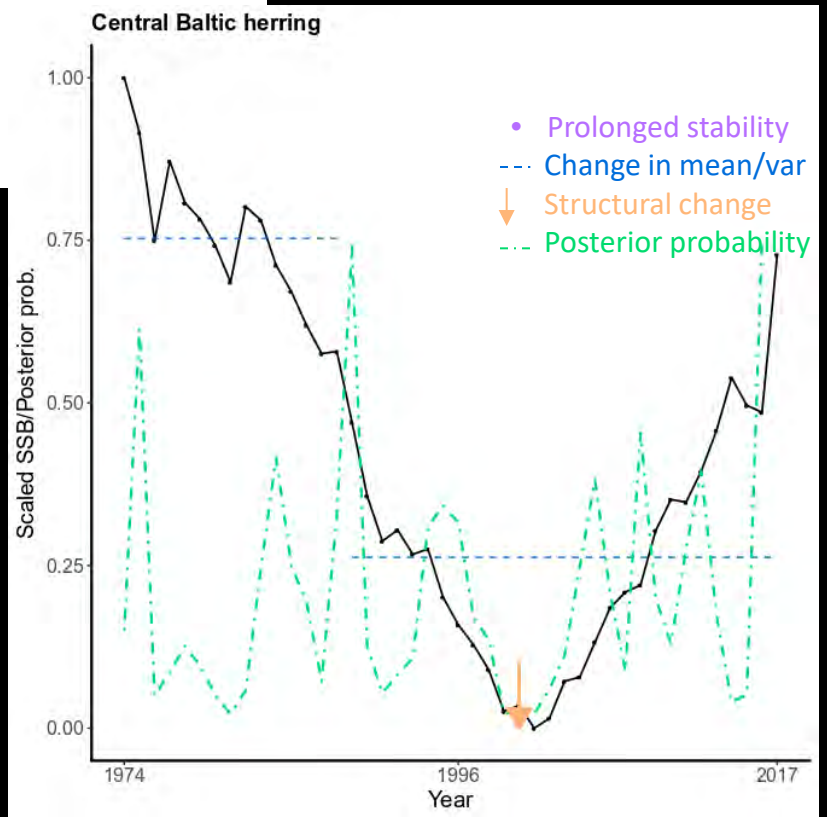
Bayesian posterior probability distribution of a change point.

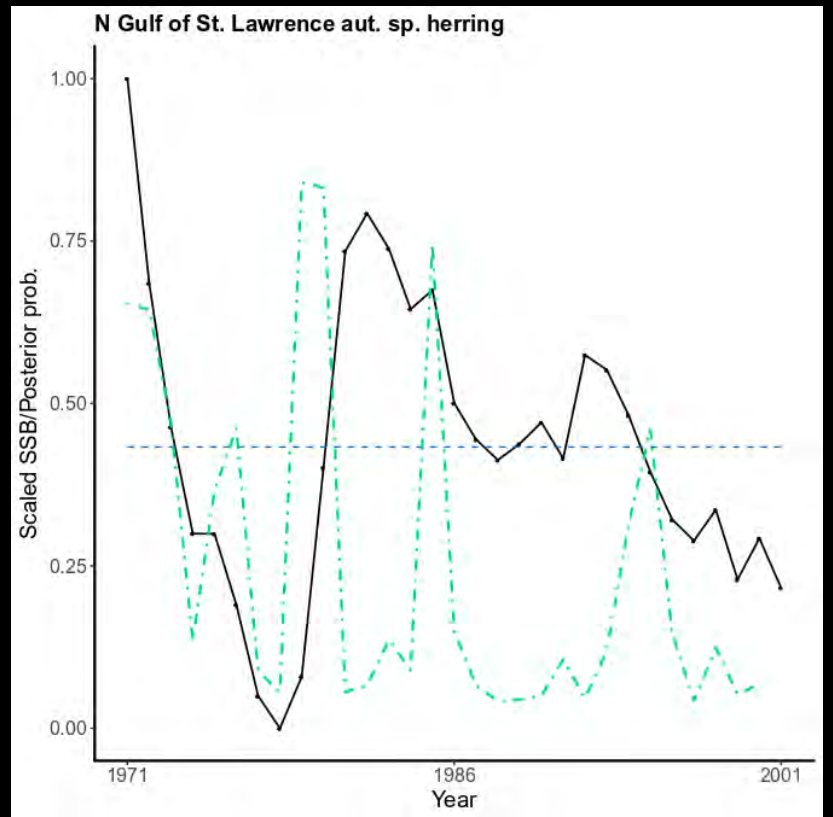




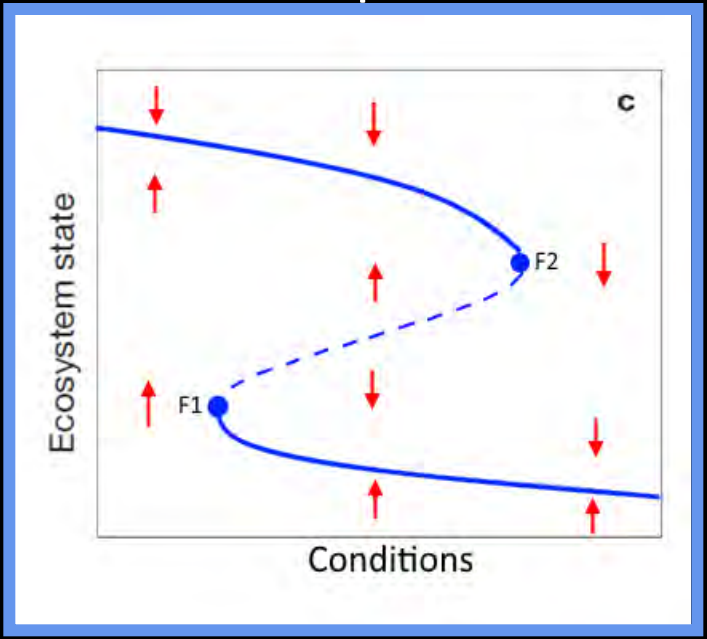


No prolonged stability and abrupt jump in the time series.

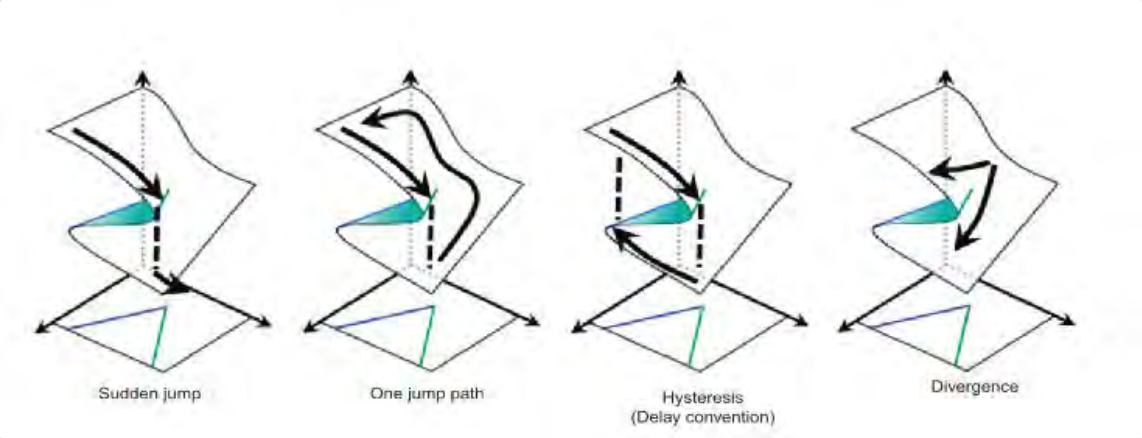




Fold catastrophe

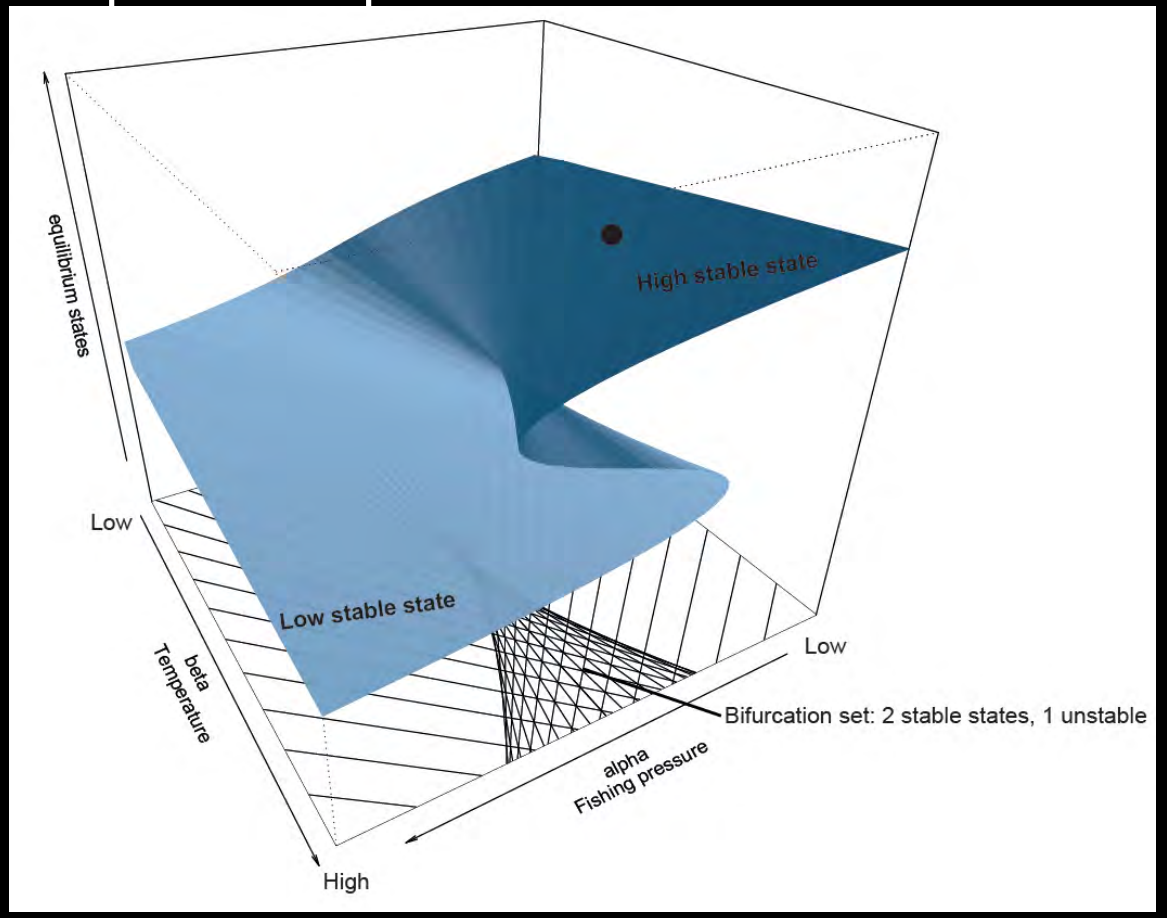


Scheffer et al. 2001



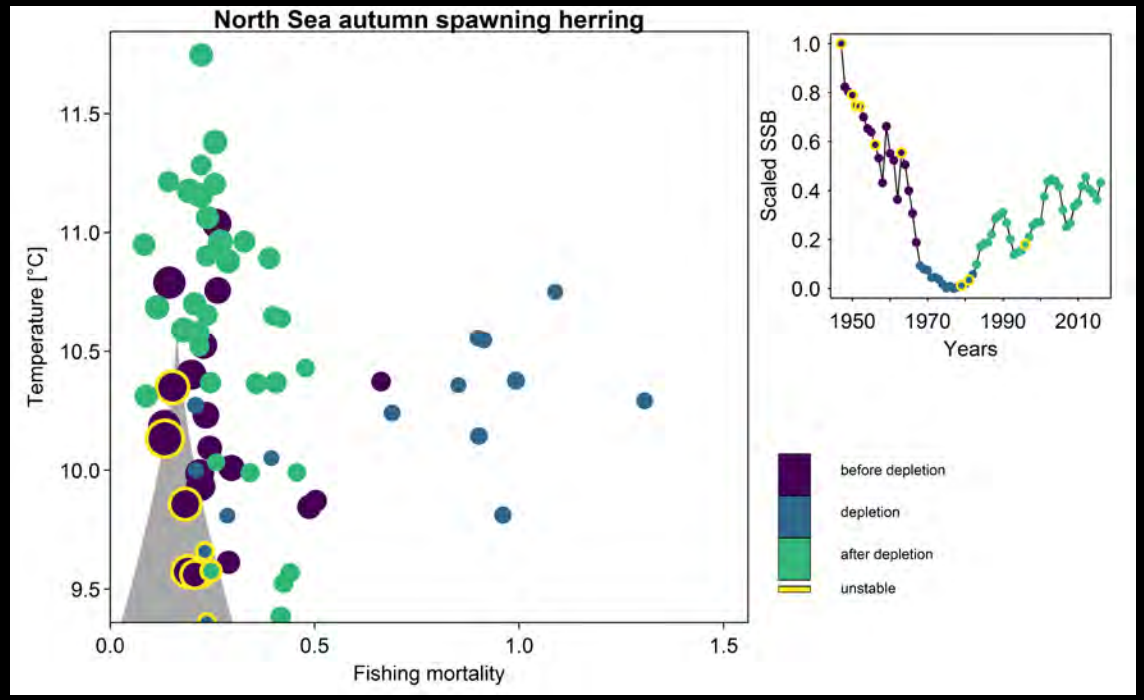
Modified from Petraitis & Dudgeon 2016

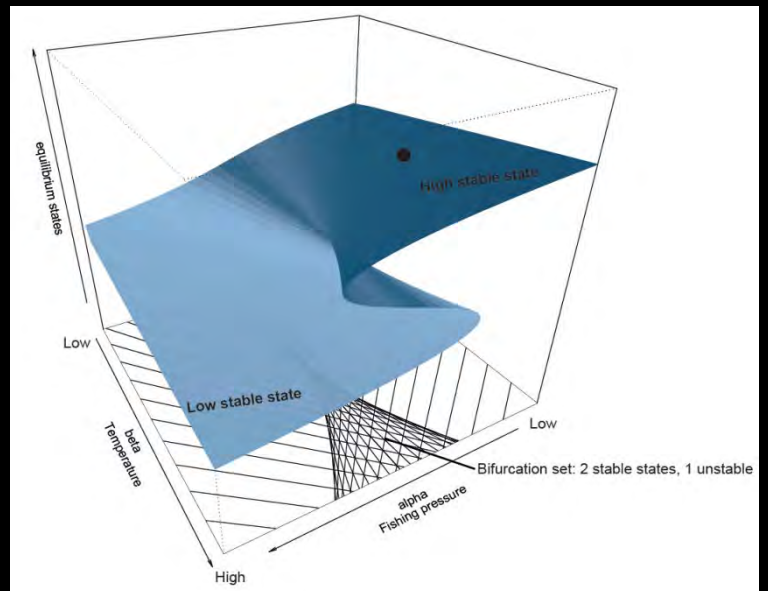
Cusp catastrophe

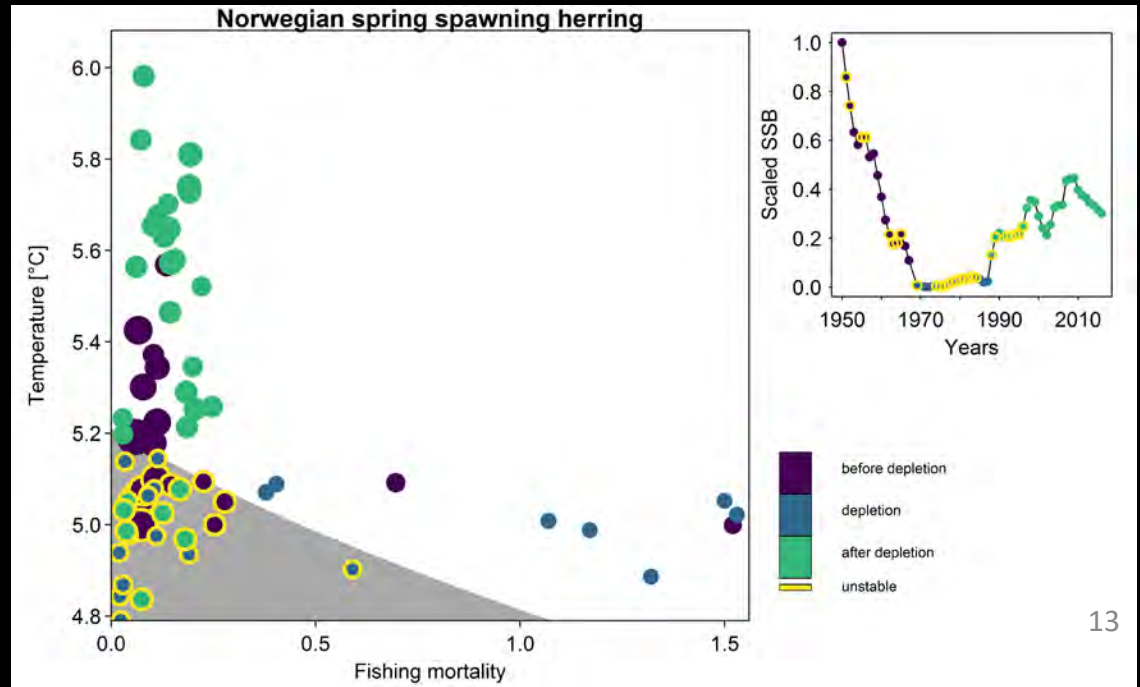


Modified from Grasman et al. 2009

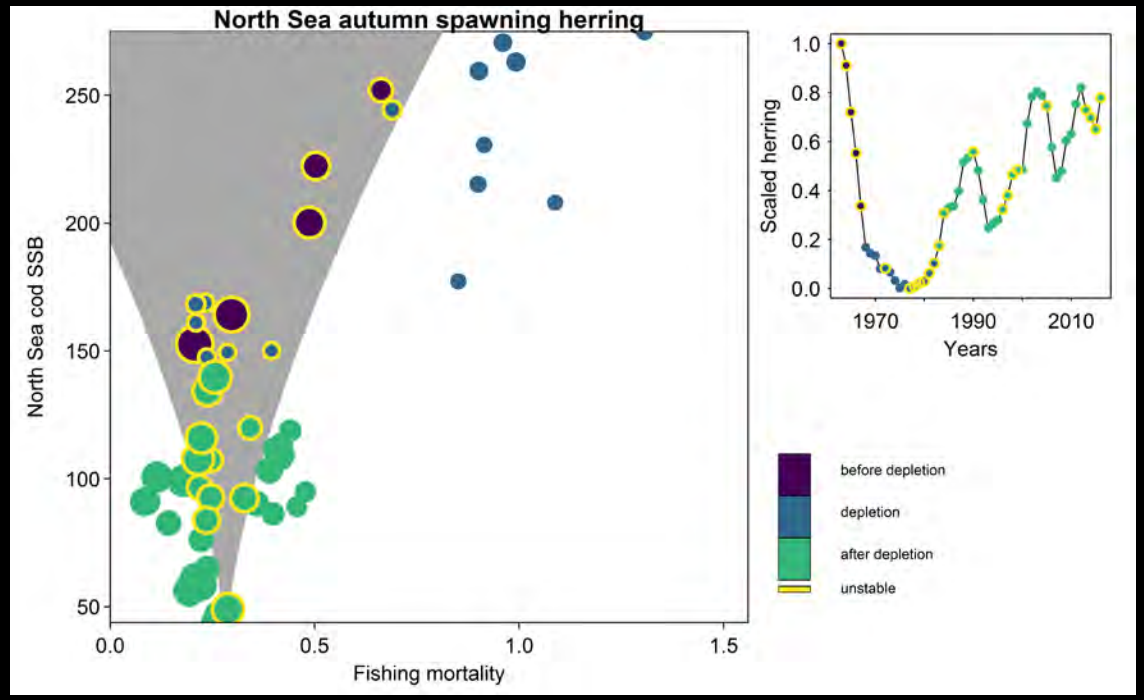
Fishing and temperature as drivers.

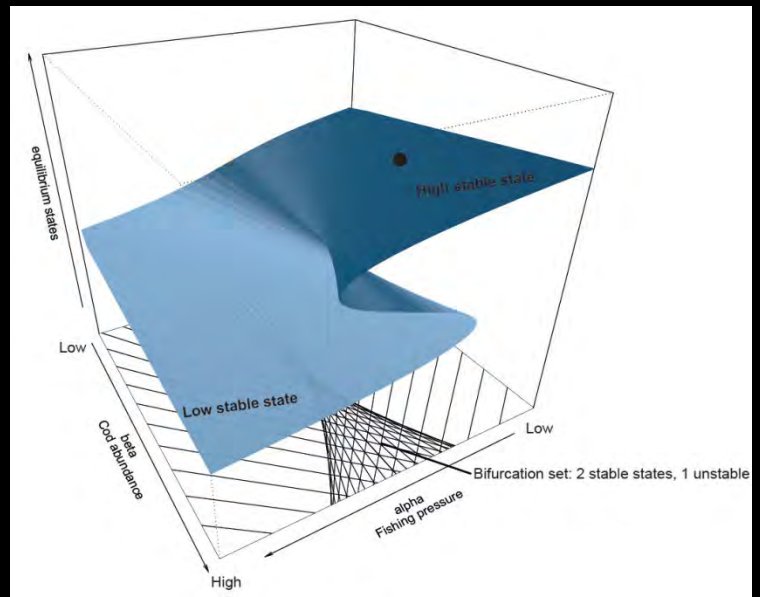


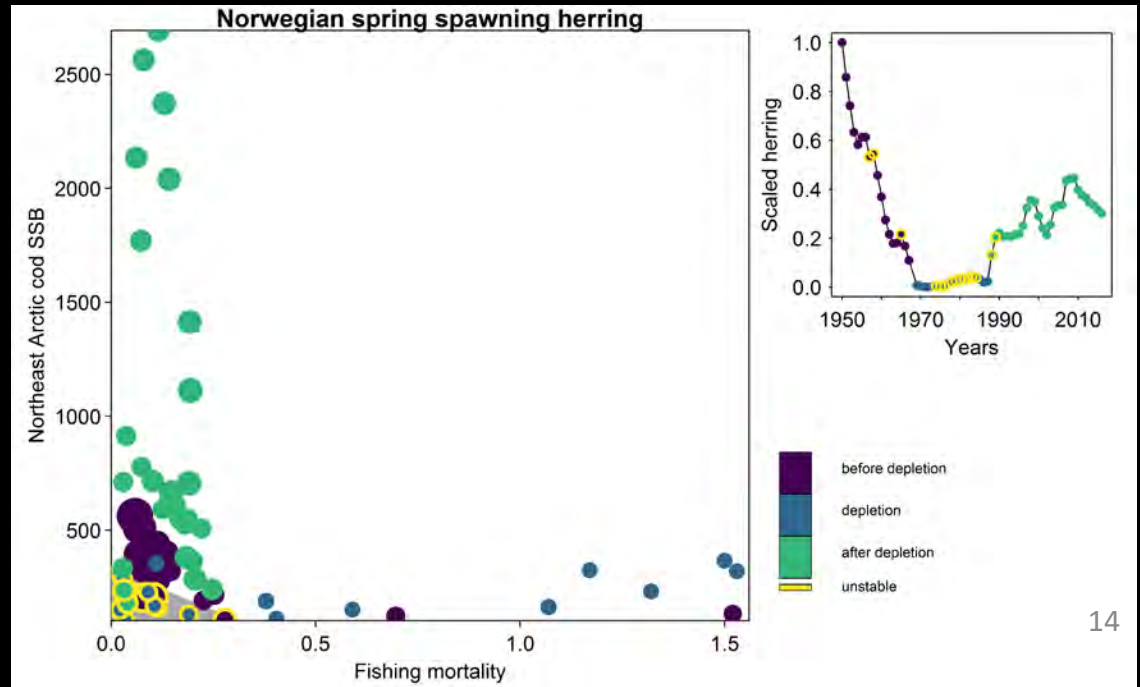




Fishing and abundance of cod as drivers.







Conclusion

- Most herring stocks show no prolonged stability, thus no regime shift with changing conditions

- Most stocks are not moving over the cusp area and show a smooth transition, thus continuous behavior.

- Temperature and abundance of cod are not important variables influencing herring SSB
- Mostly driven by fishing

⇒sustainable fishing to prevent undesirable state

⇒cusp might indicate reference points for management