Spatio-Temporal Persistence in Mesoscale/Regional Zooplankton Communities in the Eastern North Pacific

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¹ Farallon Institute; ² Continuous Plankton Recorder Survey; ³ Earth and Space Research Photo credit:World Meteorological Association

Northeast Pacific (NEP): A complicated place



Hypothesis & Methods...

HYPOTHESIS: Zooplankton communities in Northeast Pacific (NEP) are spatially persistent across years of varying condition

APPROACH: Analysis of 17 years' (2000 - 2016) of zooplankton assemblage data in the NEP (May 16 – August 15), provided by Continuous Plankton Recorder Survey (CPR).





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Continuous Plankton Recorder

- South-North & East-West transects
- Summer: May 15 Aug. 16



CPR transects: 2000 - 2016

Zooplankton data summarized within 40 two * two degree grid cells



Processing Data

18 dominant zooplankton taxa retained from 100+ identified taxa



Таха	Functional group
N. plumchrus flemingeri	
E. bungii	
N. cristatus	Large, cold-water grazing
M. pacifica	copepods
C. marshallae	
A. longiremis	Small peritic copenade
C. abdominalis	Smail Hentic copepous
C. pacificus	Medium widespread copepods
Pseudocalanus spp.	Small widespread copepods
Oithona spp.	
Clione spp.	Dterrerede
L. helicina	Pteropods
Salpidae	
Appendicularia	Gelatinous filter-feeders
Siphonophores	
Euphausiacea	Large diel migrators
Hyperiidae	Amphipods
Chaetognaths	Arrow worms, predators of small copepods

Methods to Determine Community Spatial Patterns

- Binning the data in spatial grid
- Initial detrending using Principle Component Analysis
 Hierarchical cluster analysis applied to first 2 PC loadings (HCPC)







Baseline Spatial Pattern in Communities











60°N

55°N

50°N -

De

Latitude

COAST A. longiremis; C. abdominalis

SHELF *Pseudocalanus* Euphausiids salps

DEEP BASIN

GOA

Cluster 1

Cluster 2

Cluster 3

Cluster 4 Cluster 5

Cluster 6 Cluster 7 0.3

0.2

0.1

0.0

Current speed (m/s)

IN

Other explanations: Current Positioning?

SSH2 MayJunJul 2015

Are Community Patterns Persistent? Defining Temperature Anomalies

< 0.5°C <u>COLD</u> - 2007 - 2008 - 2009 - 2012

<u>COLD</u>

- 3 clusters, little variation.
- Unique clusters are in Unimak and coastal sites.

<u>WARM</u>

- Aleutian signal spreads
- More pronounced coastal effect
- Additional cluster in the Bering Sea and the south GOA

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RESULTS:

1) Spatial shifts in coastal communities associated with thermal anomalies

2) Spatial persistence in central gyre

3) No study wide thermal effect on community assemblage, but significant structuring effects of Region (Bering vs. GOA; *p* = 0.012) and Temp. * Region (*p* = 0.04)

Acknowledgements

Cluster Traits

UNIMAK: medium SST, strong current, high variance

COASTAL: high SST, med. current, low variance

COASTAL: wide SST, highcurrent, mid-high variance

DEEP BASIN: wide SST, wide current, wide variance

GOA: wide SST, wide current, wide variance,

E. bungii; L. helicina

A. longiremis; C. abdominalis; C. marshallae

Pseudocalanus spp; euphausiids; salps

Clione spp; Oithona; chaetognaths; C. pacificus N. plumchrus/flem.

Decreased abundance of most common taxa, only *Clione* spp. show sig. increase.