

# Quantifying the distribution and dynamics of forage fish using a size-based ecosystem model

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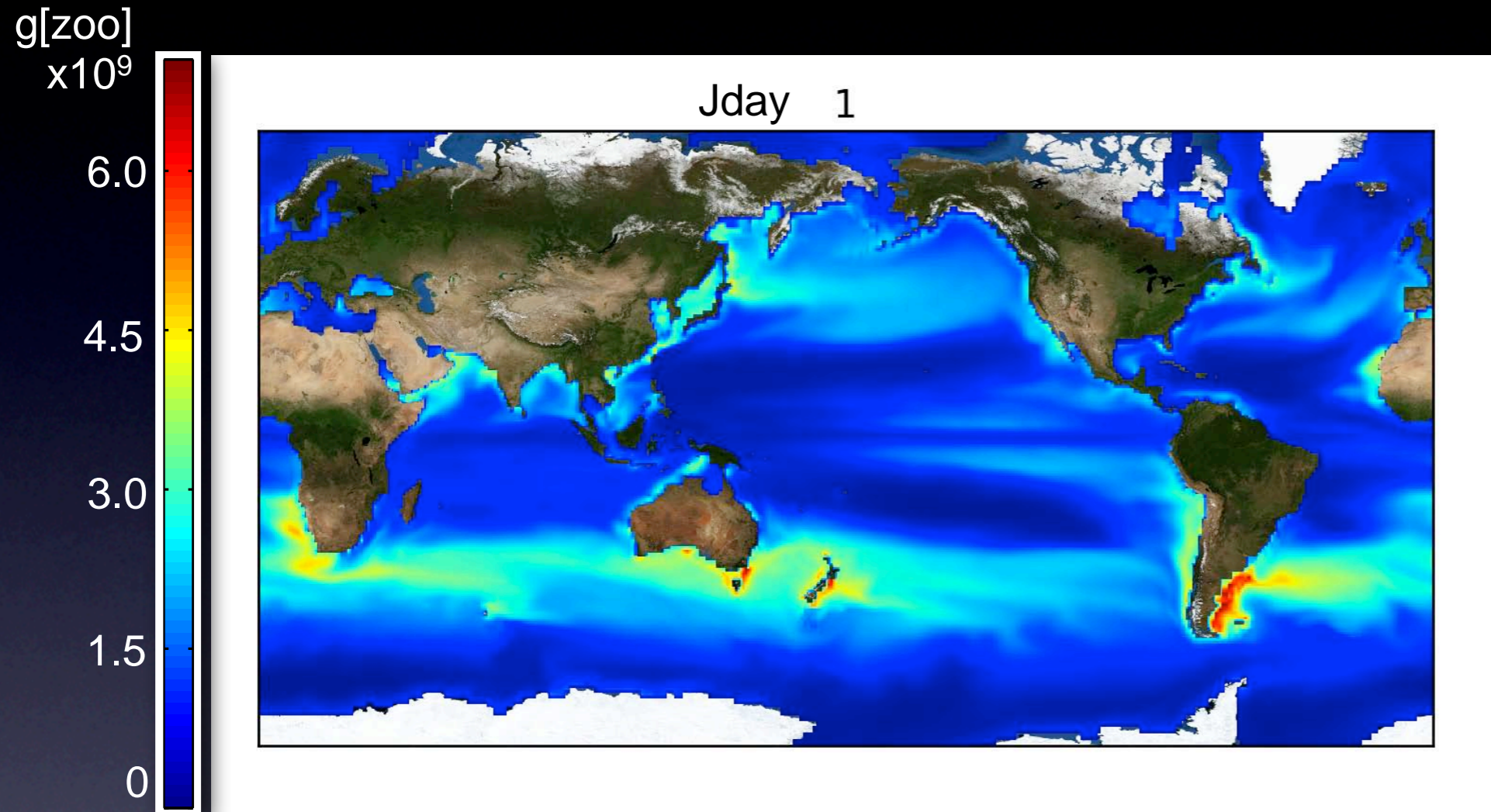
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PICES meeting, May 2012



# Earth System Models



COBALT (Carbon, Ocean Biogeochemistry and Lower Trophics)

1 deg horizontal, 50 vertical layers

Climatology  
1948 - present hindcast

Large Zoo (2-20 mm ESD)  
Med Zoo (200-2000  $\mu$ m ESD)  
Small Zoo (<200  $\mu$ m ESD)

Zooplankton mass and loss terms to higher predators

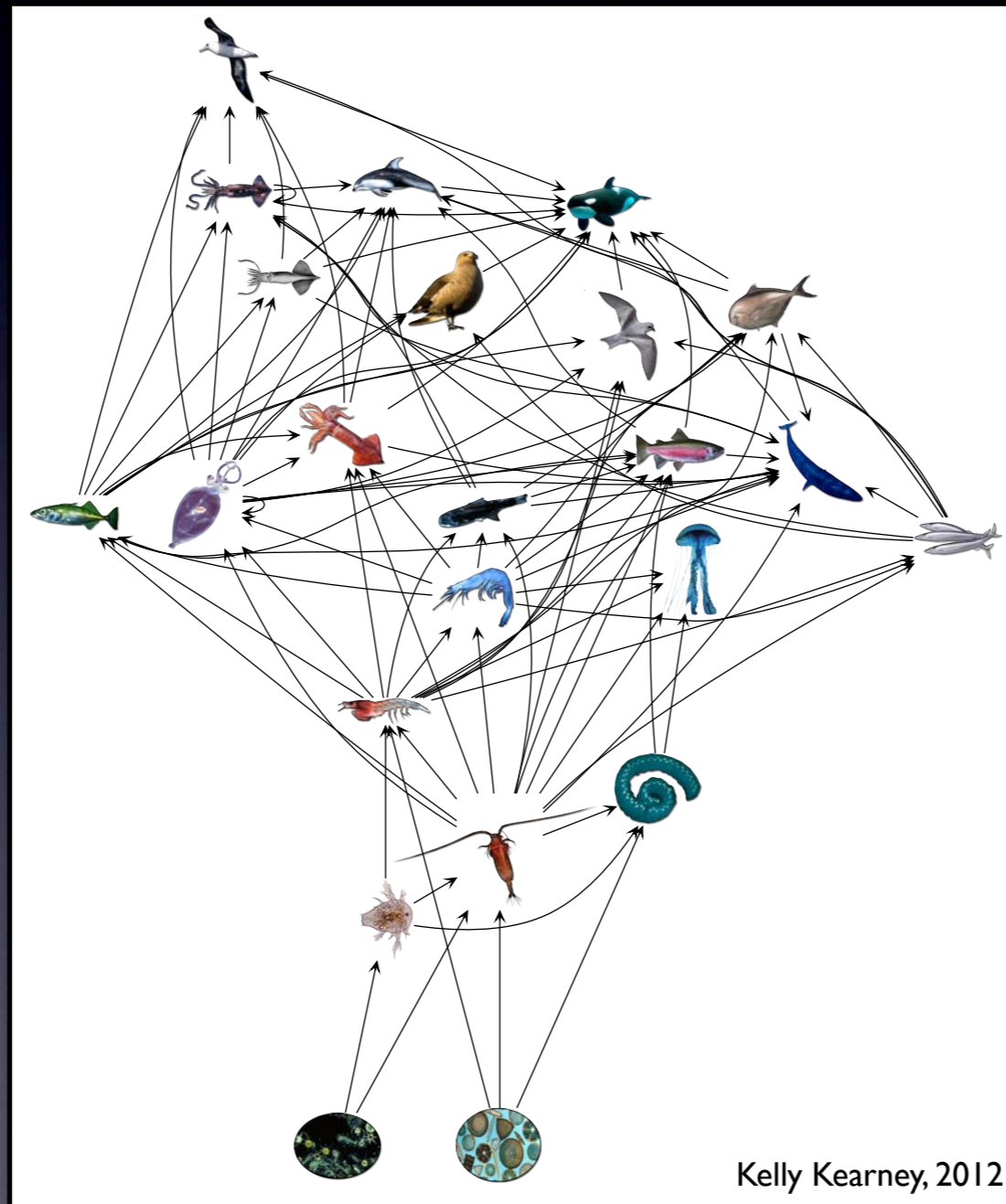
Large zooplankton daily climatology  
Charles Stock, John Dunne, Jasmine John

## Goal:

- use the earth system model output (i.e. zoo) to estimate the abundance and distribution of high trophic pelagic species
- over global spatial scales and long time scales

# Upper Trophic Level Models

- **NEMURO.fish, Ecosim/Ecopath/Ecospace, Osmose, Apecosm...**
  - Fisheries models (specific to certain species, a specific place)

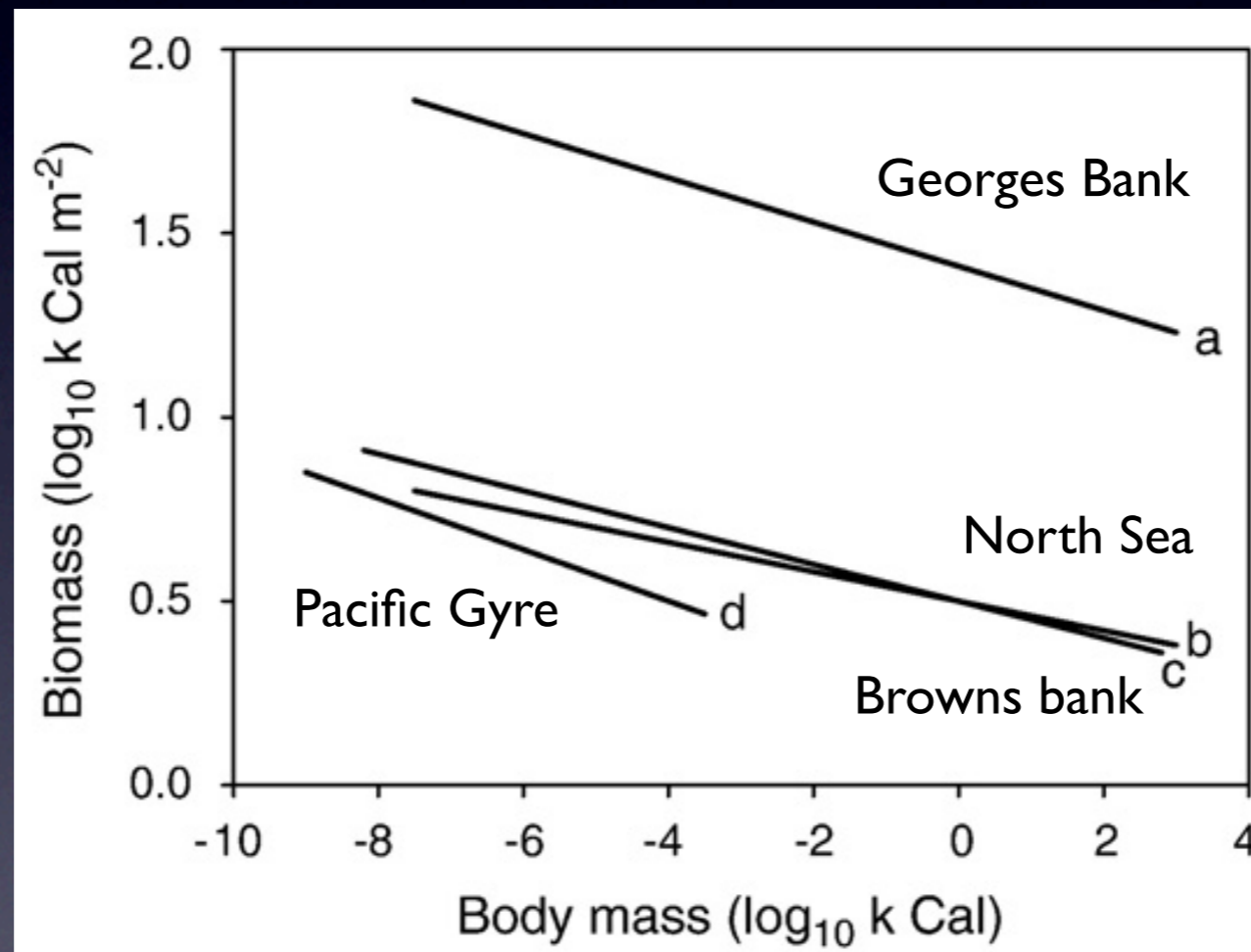


Appropriate for understanding specific systems and interactions

but...

# Upper Trophic Level Models

- **An alternative**
  - general across species, across different systems
  - an ecological model based on size



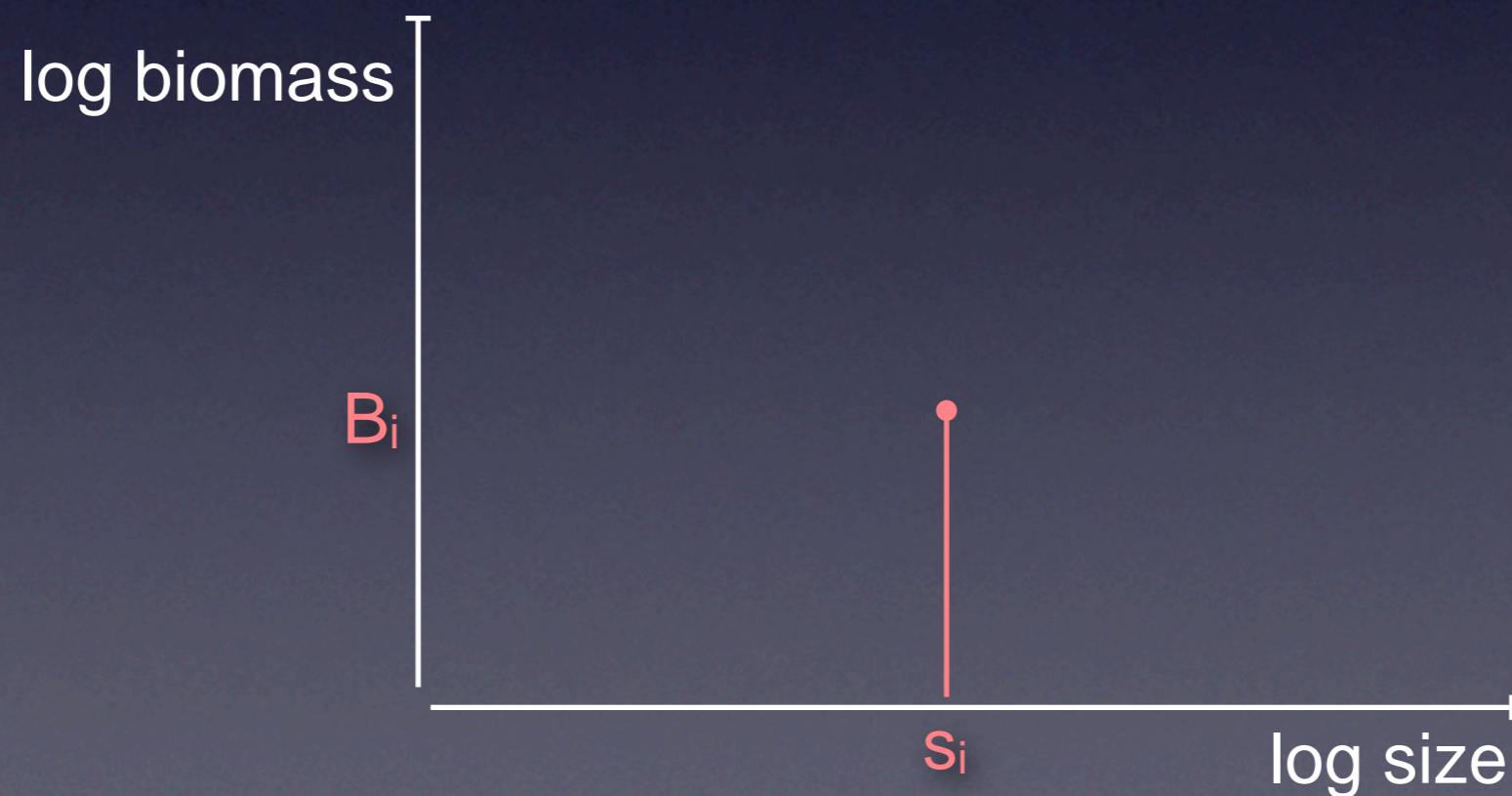
A general feature of marine systems around the globe

Jennings & Brander 2010,  
originally from Boudreau & Dickie 1992

# Size spectra

- **Goal:** reproduce marine size spectra
- **Challenge:** build the simplest model...

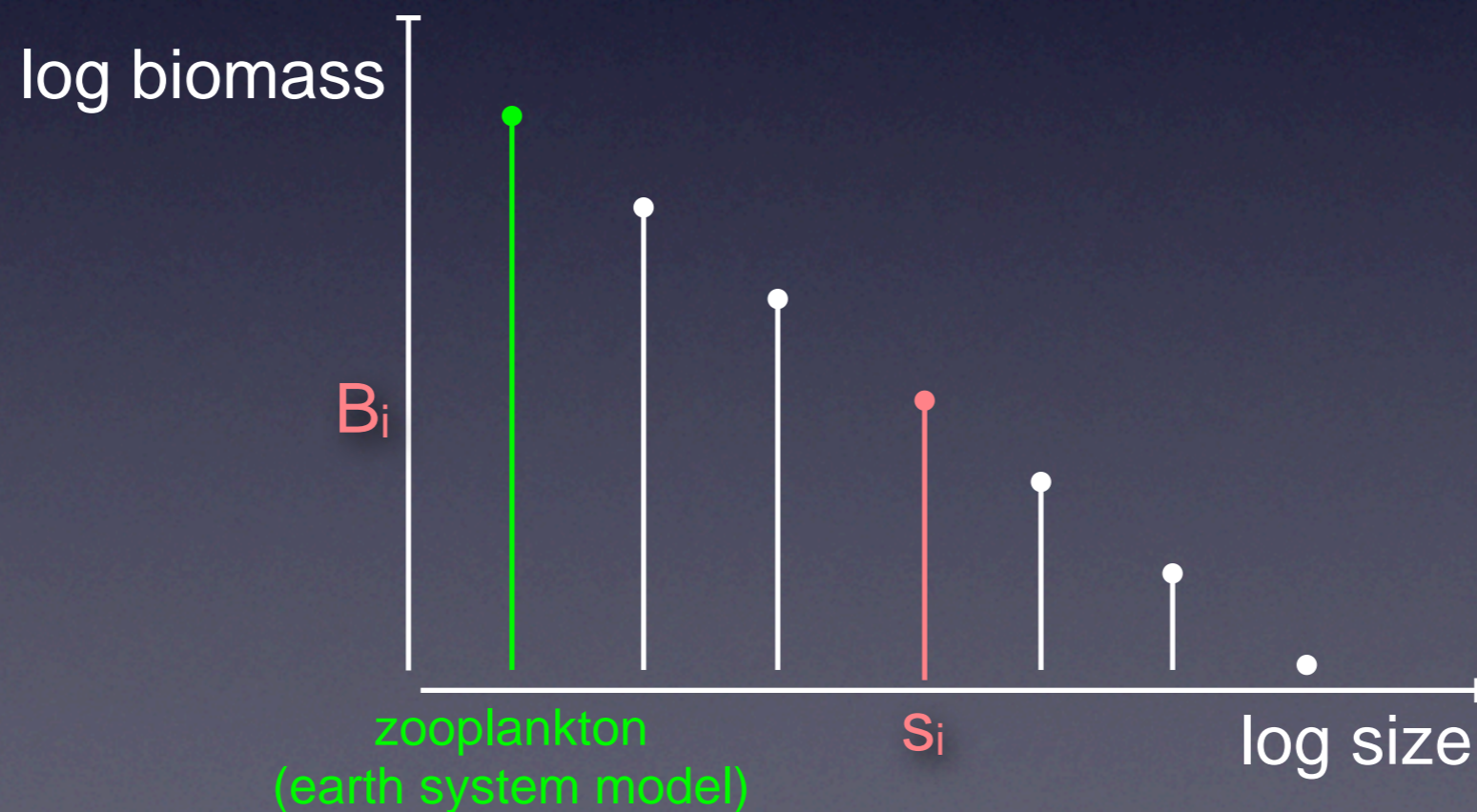
$$\frac{dB_i}{dt} =$$



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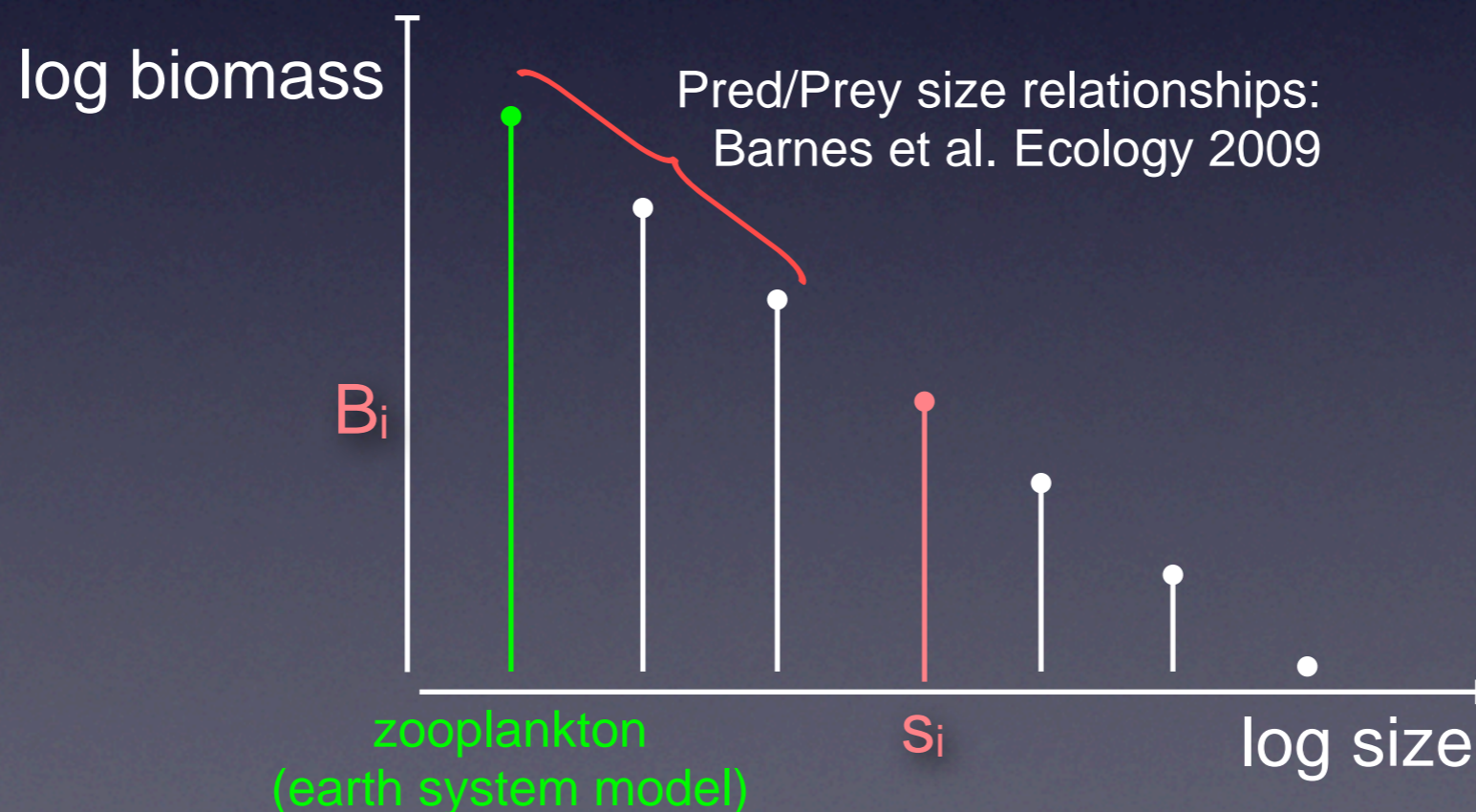
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# Size spectra

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$$\frac{dB_i}{dt} = \underbrace{B_i C_{ij}}_{\text{I eat}} - \underbrace{B_i M}_{\text{I metabolize}} - \underbrace{B_j C_{ji}}_{\text{I get eaten}}$$





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**A bioenergetics-based population dynamics model of Pacific herring (*Clupea harengus pallasii*) coupled to a lower trophic level nutrient-phytoplankton-zooplankton model: Description, calibration, and sensitivity analysis**

Bernard A. Megrey<sup>a,\*</sup>, Kenneth A. Rose<sup>b</sup>, Robert A. Klumb<sup>c</sup>, Douglas E. Hay<sup>d</sup>, Francisco E. Werner<sup>e</sup>, David L. Eslinger<sup>f</sup>, S. Lan Smith<sup>g</sup>

Nemuro.Fish

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Other theoretical  
eco/evo research

Ecology Letters, (2012)

doi: 10.1111/j.1461-0248.2012.01777.x

LETTER

**Mechanistic theory and modelling of complex food-web dynamics in Lake Constance**

Alice Boit,<sup>1\*</sup> Neo D. Martinez,<sup>2</sup> Richard J. Williams<sup>3,4</sup> and Ursula Gaedke<sup>1</sup>

**Abstract**

Mechanistic understanding of consumer-resource dynamics is critical to predicting the effects of global change on ecosystem structure, function and services. Such understanding is severely limited by mechanistic models' inability to reproduce the dynamics of multiple populations interacting in the field. We surpass this limitation here by extending general consumer-resource network theory to the complex dynamics of a specific ecosystem

# Size spectra

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Discrete size  
classes:

versus

Continuous  
size classes

McKendrick-Von Foerster Equation

# Size spectra

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Discrete size classes: I swim  $\left\{ -J_i \left( \frac{\partial B_j}{\partial x} \right) \right.$  Mass flux by taxis (follow the gradient of prey)

VOL. 151, NO. 2 THE AMERICAN NATURALIST FEBRUARY 1998

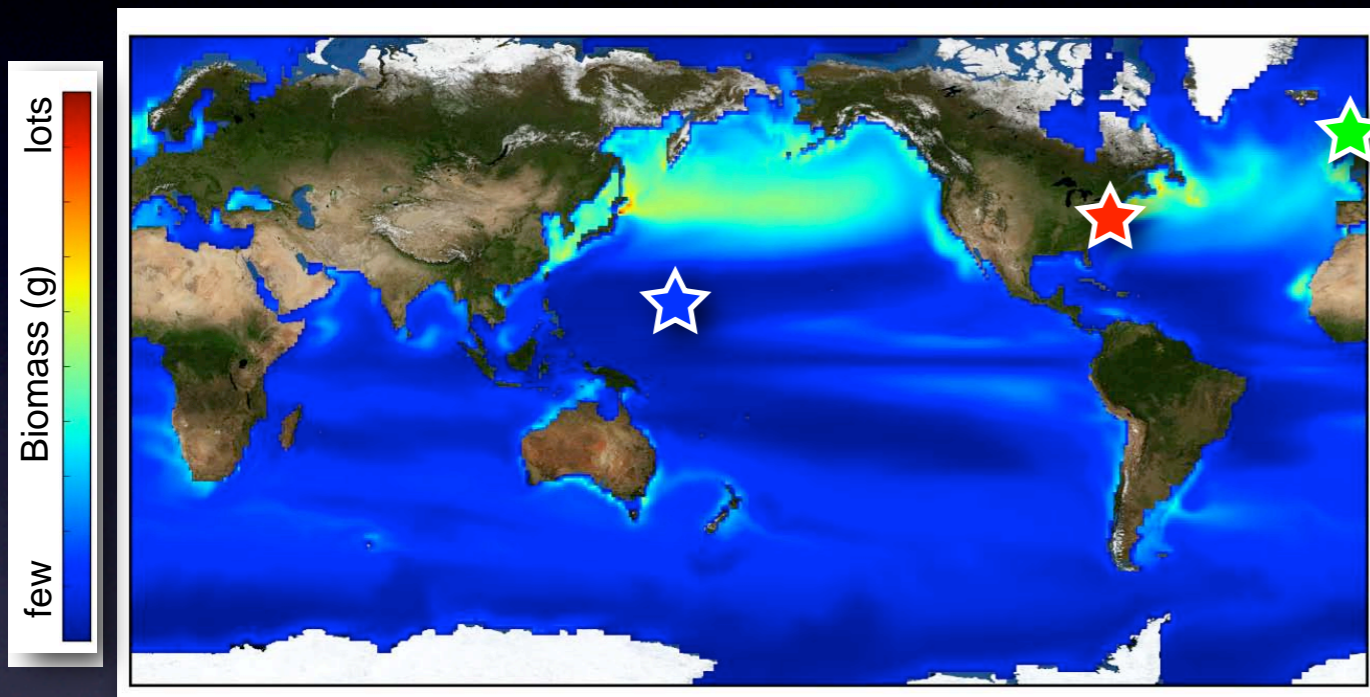
## Using Spatially Explicit Models to Characterize Foraging Performance in Heterogeneous Landscapes

Daniel Grünbaum\*

# Global distribution of Biomass...

- ... based on size

- use zooplankton climatology (i.e. daily averages looped over a year)



- 2 dimensional
- integrate top 200m of zooplankton
- pelagic
- offline size-based model

Large



Small

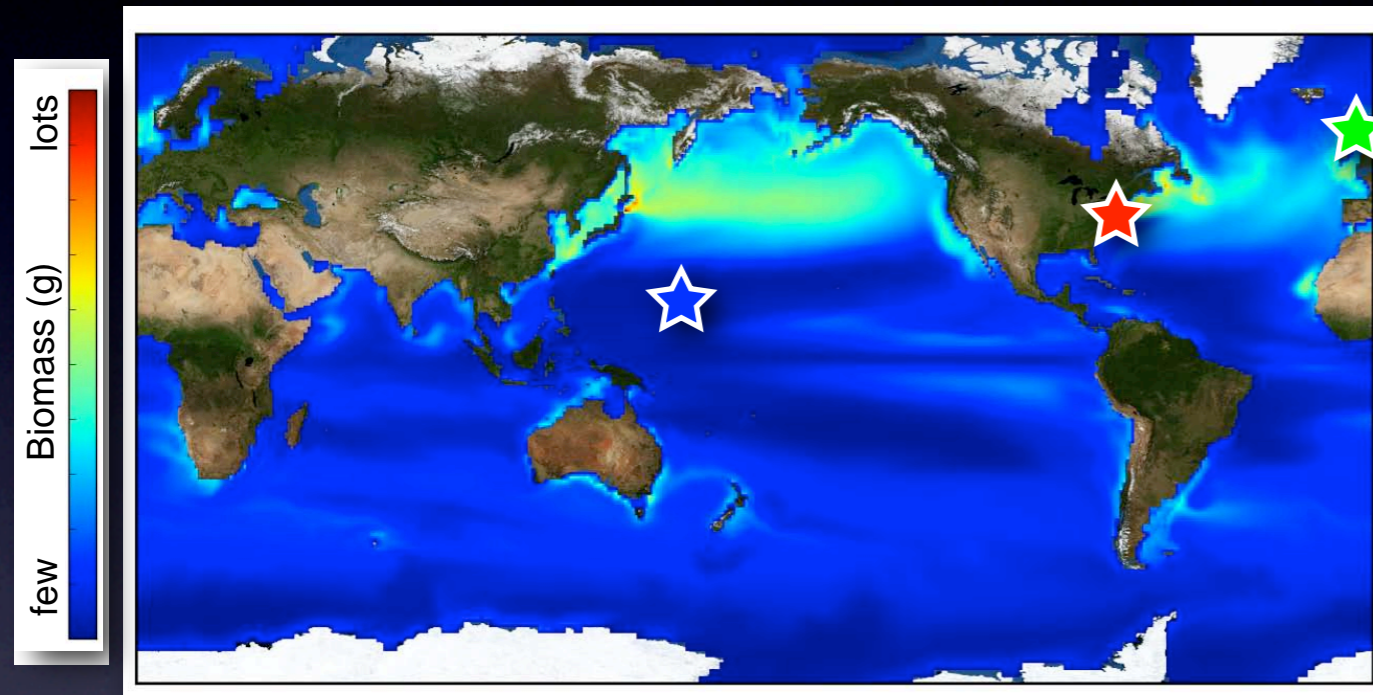
Many size classes

Large and small zooplankton

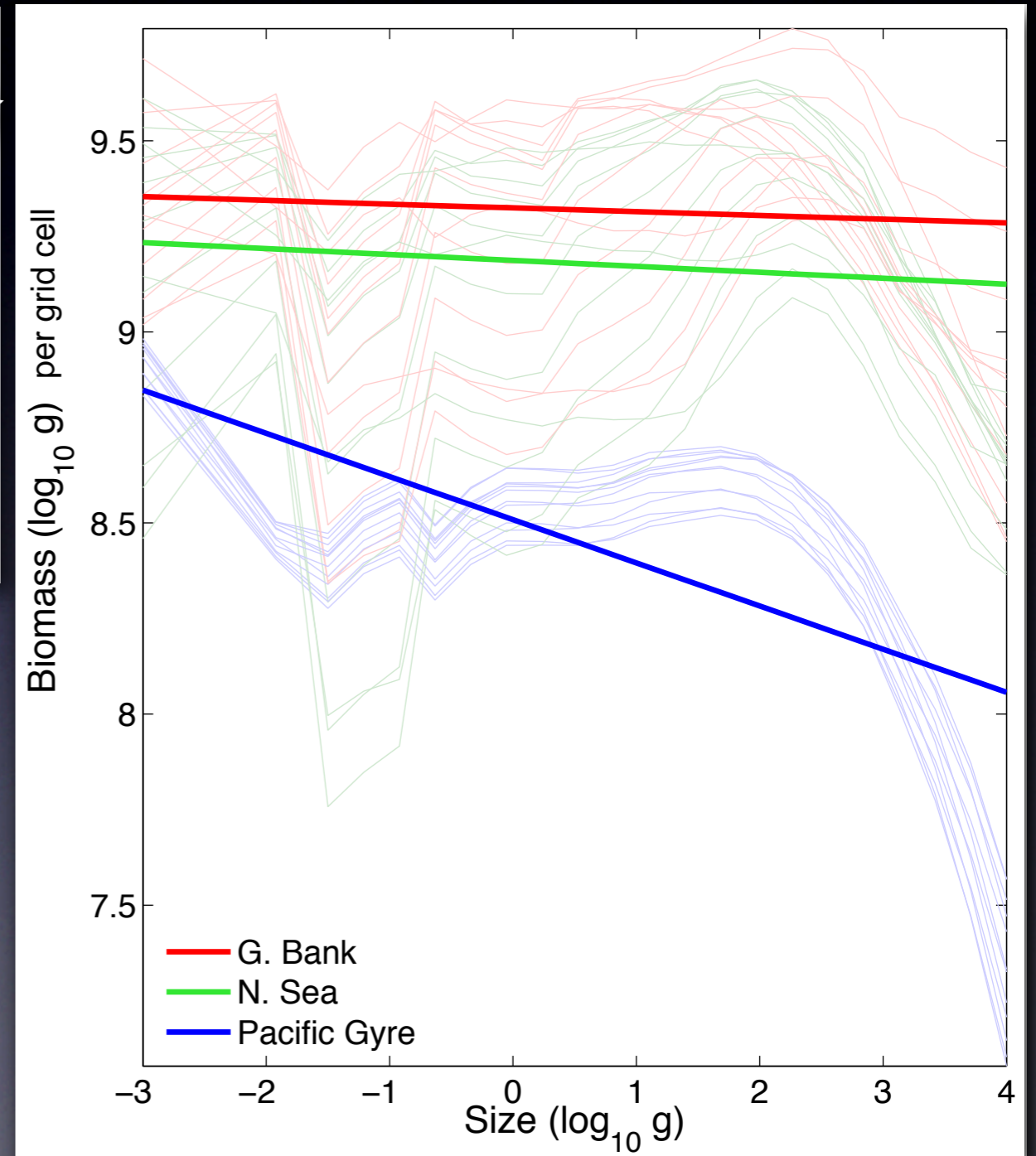
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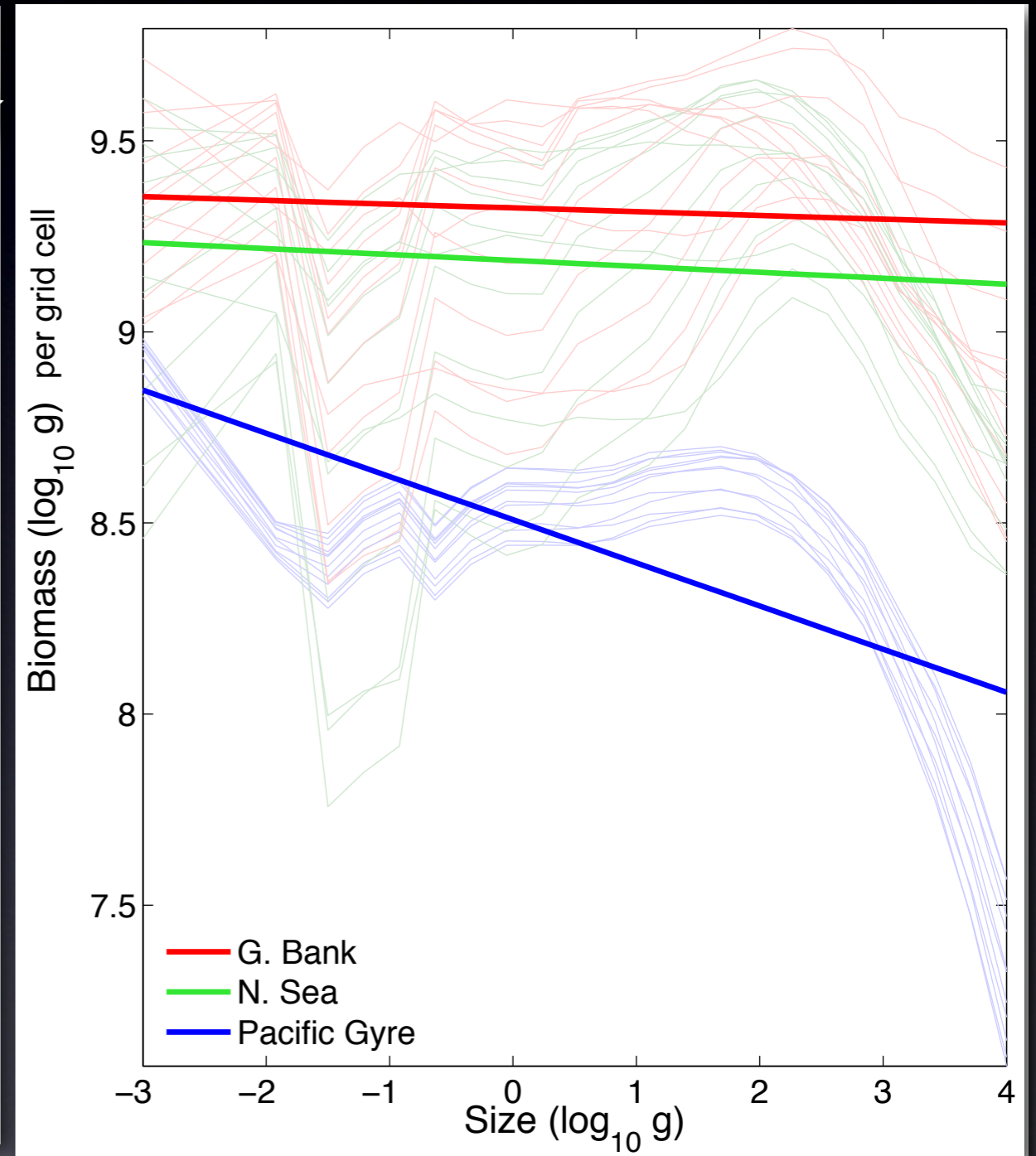
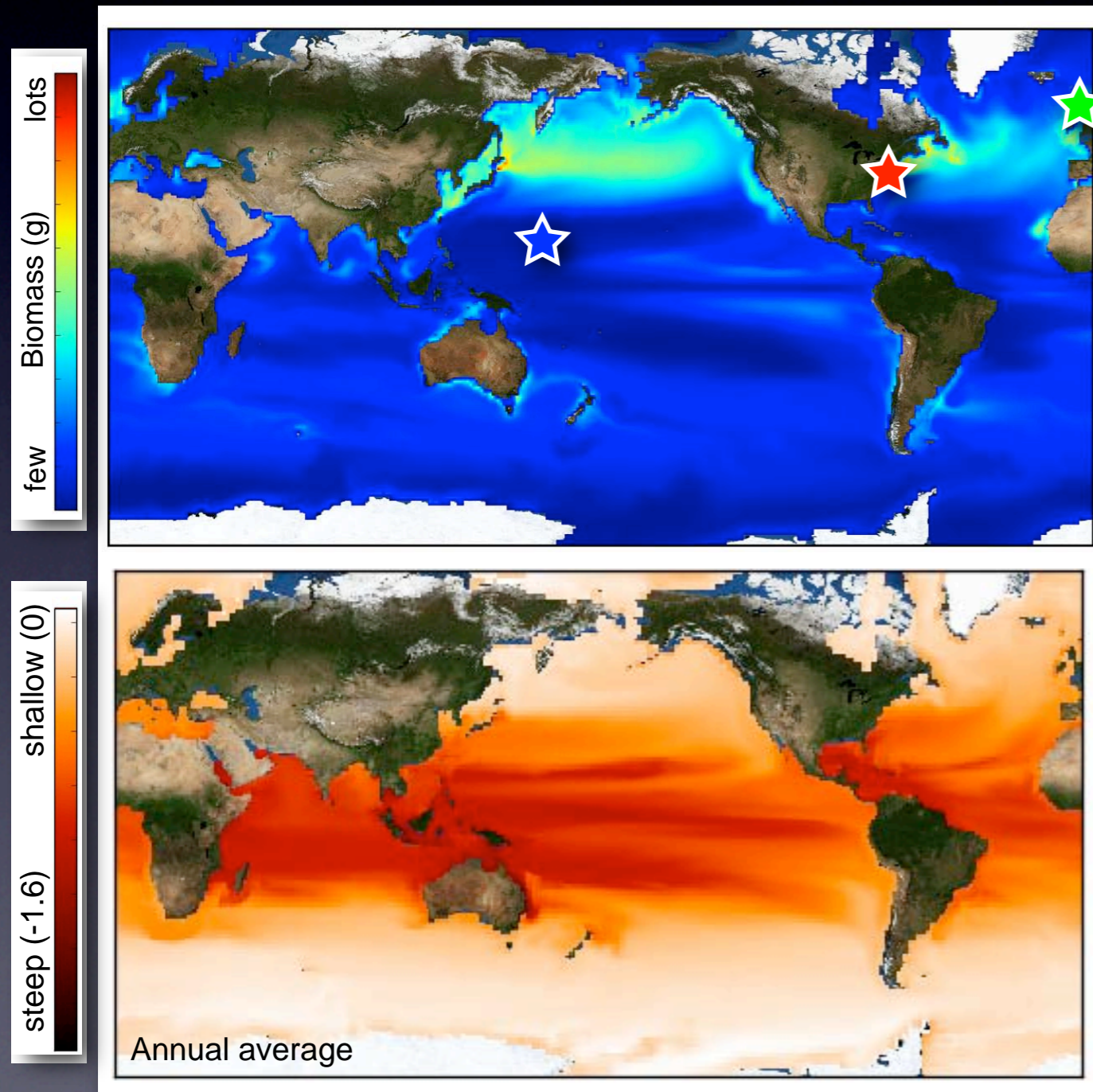
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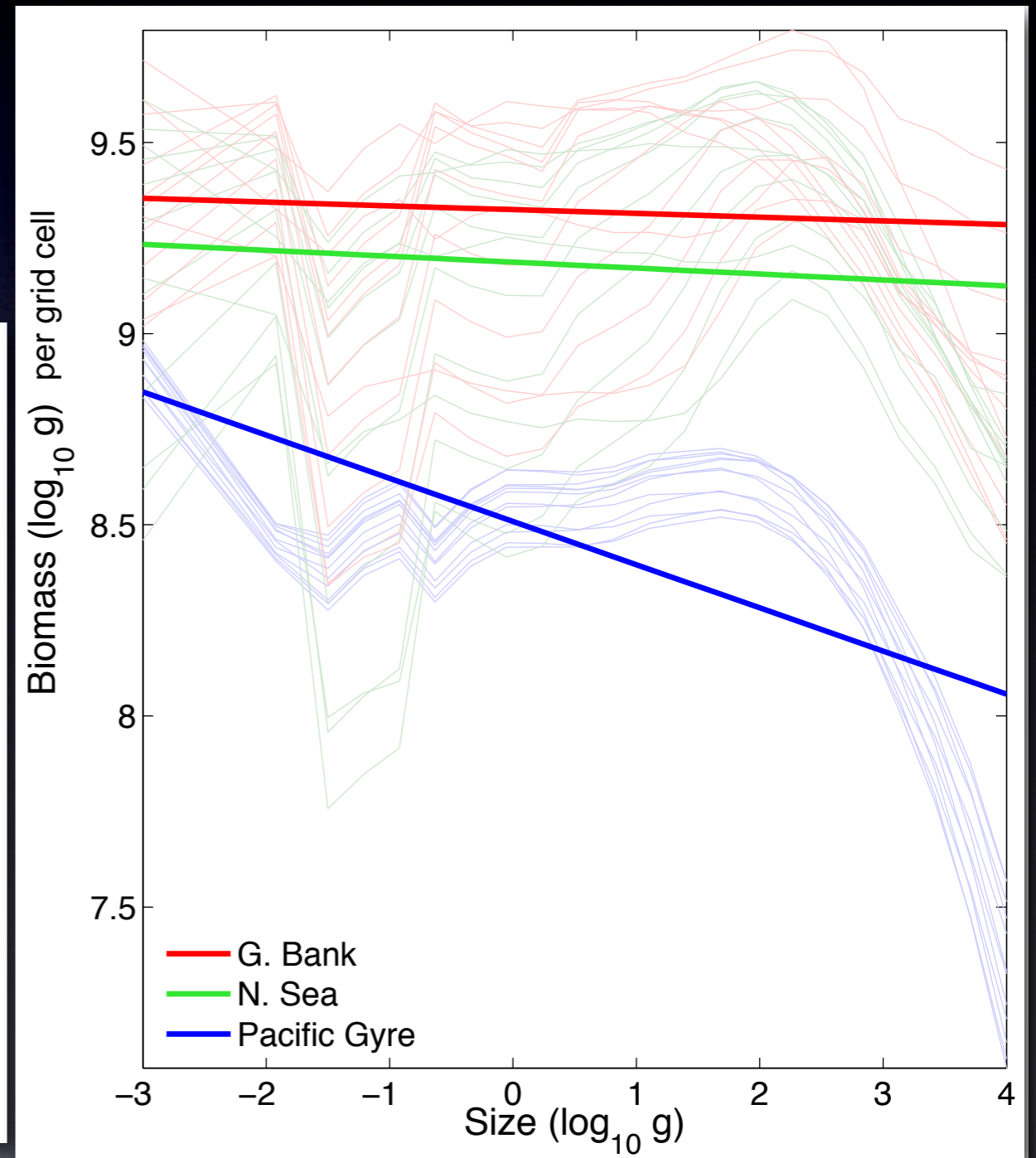
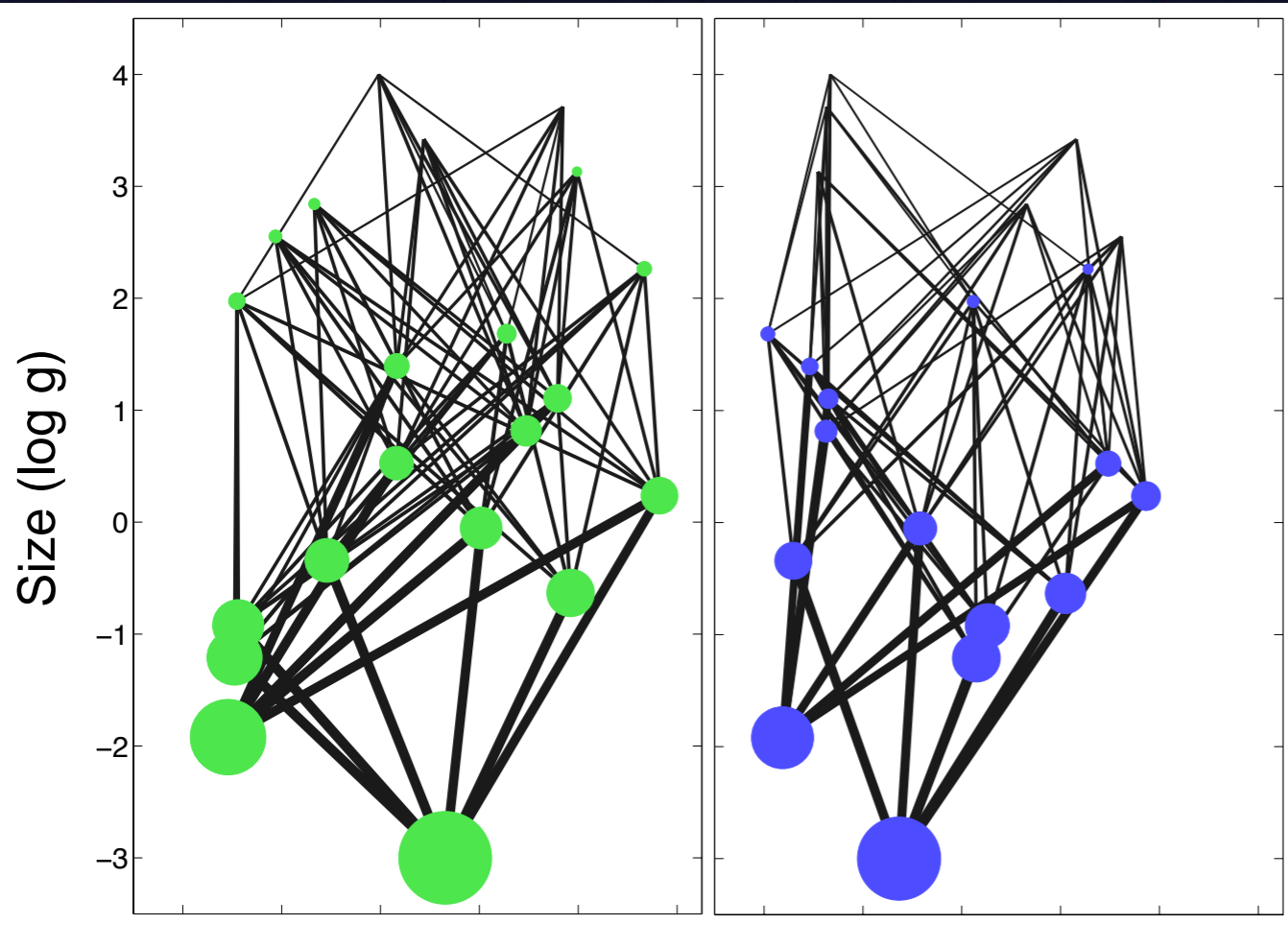
# Global distribution of Biomass...

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Consumption kernel

$$\frac{dB_i}{dt} = B_i C_{ij} - B_i M - B_j C_{ji}$$

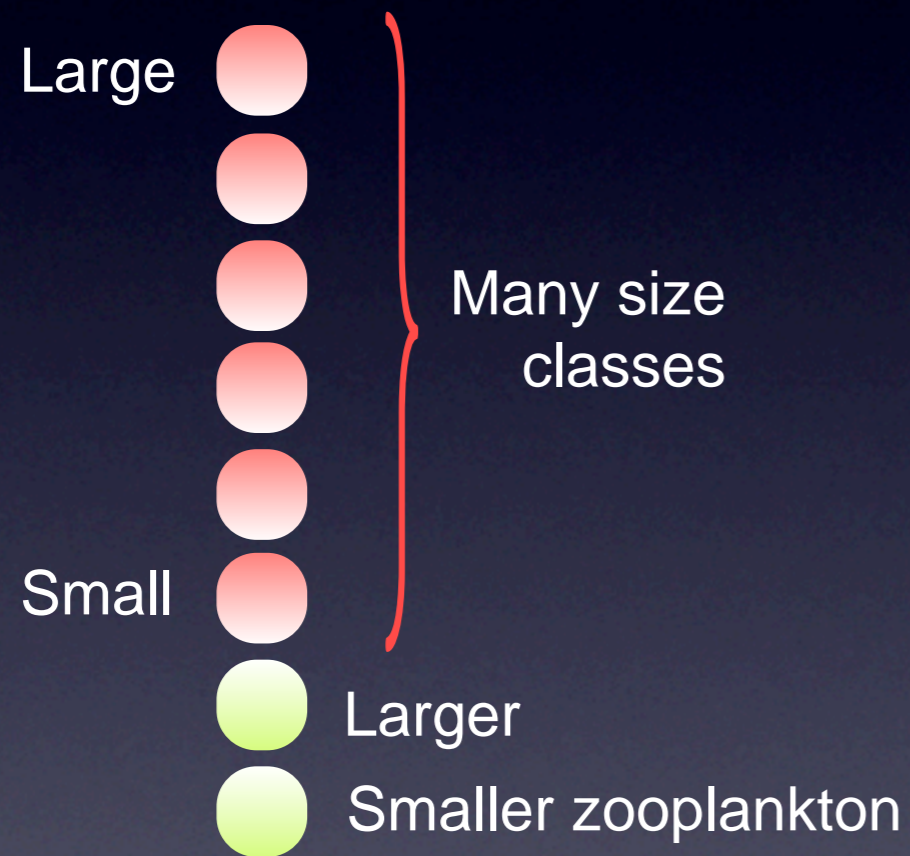




# Forage Fish Dynamics

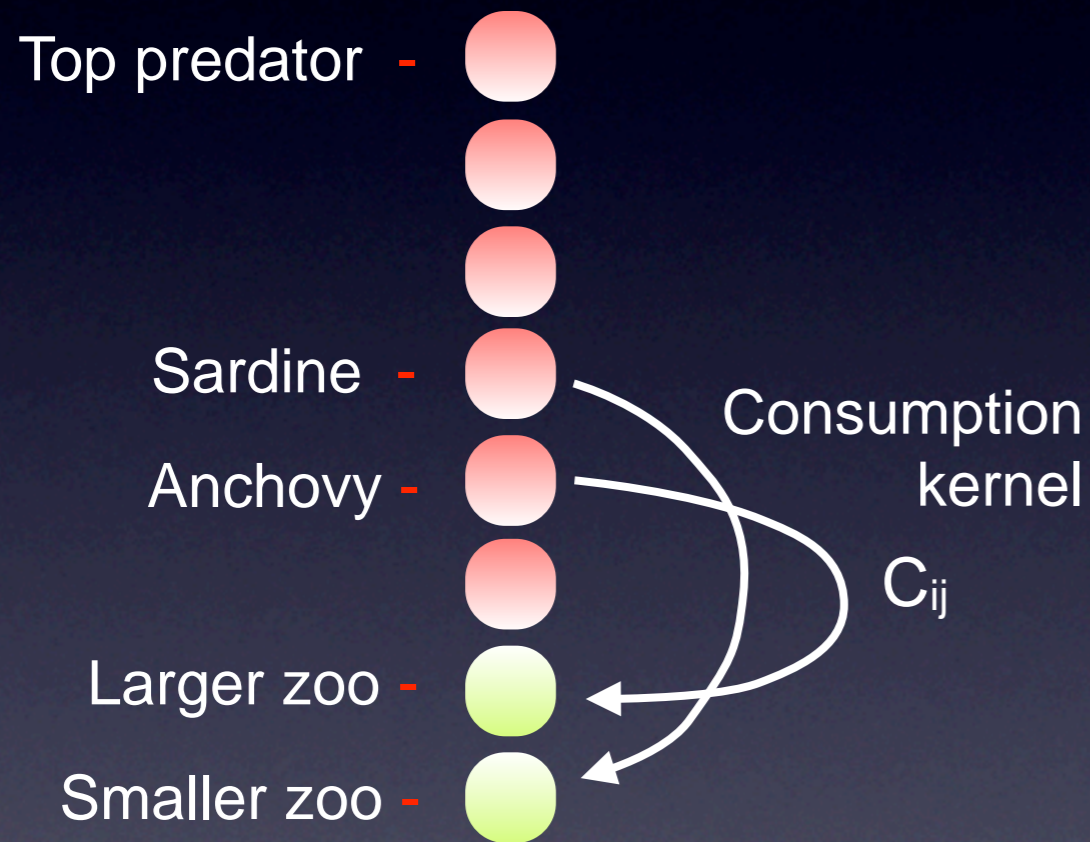
- **General model**

- produced global size spectra



# Forage Fish Dynamics

- Now focus on particular size classes
  - sardine, anchovy, sprat... etc



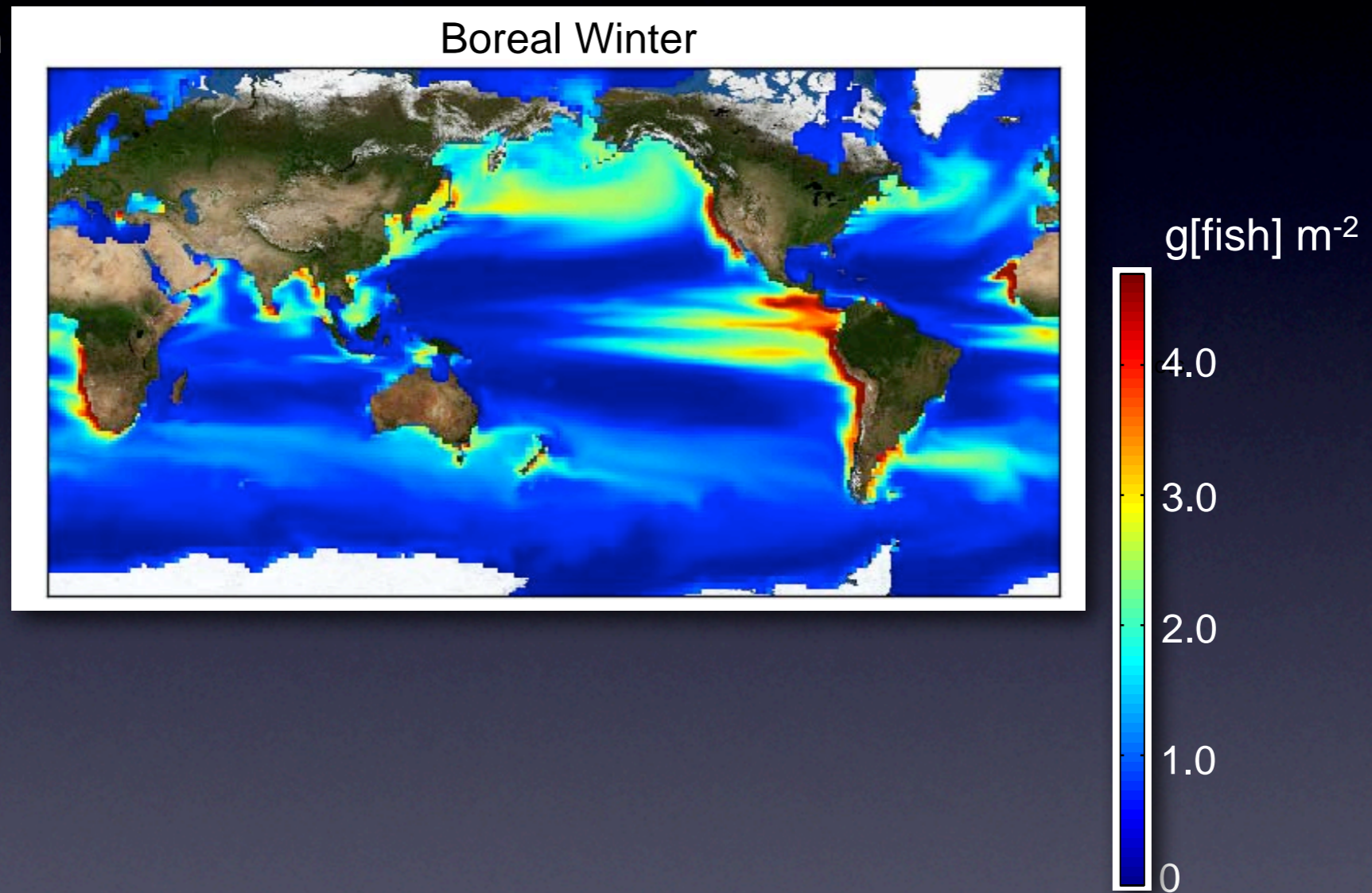
- ~ 30% of global fisheries production
- ~ 10-20% of landings consumed directly
- important for global food security
- Peruvian anchovy contributes ~ 50% of global landings in fishmeal

# Dynamics of Forage Fish

- Abundance and distribution of forage fish

Anchovy sized fish

Anchovy



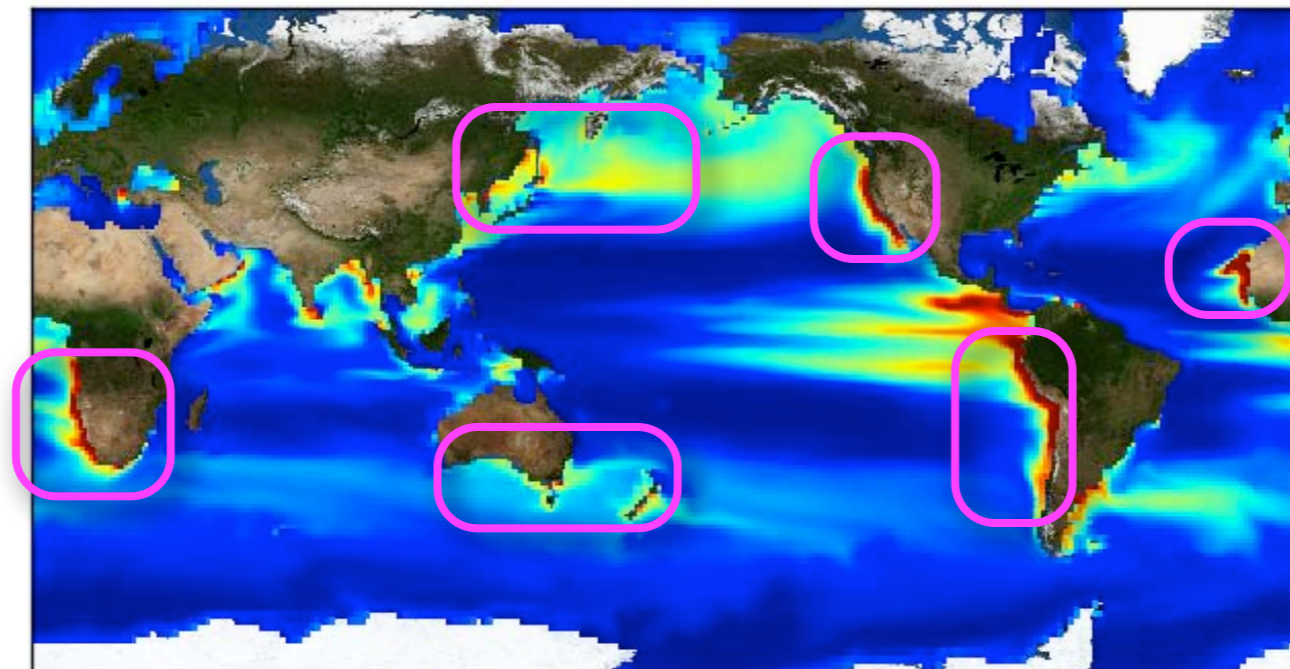
# Dynamics of Forage Fish

- Global locations of major forage fish fisheries

Anchovy sized fish

Anchovy

Boreal Winter



g[fish] m<sup>-2</sup>

4.0

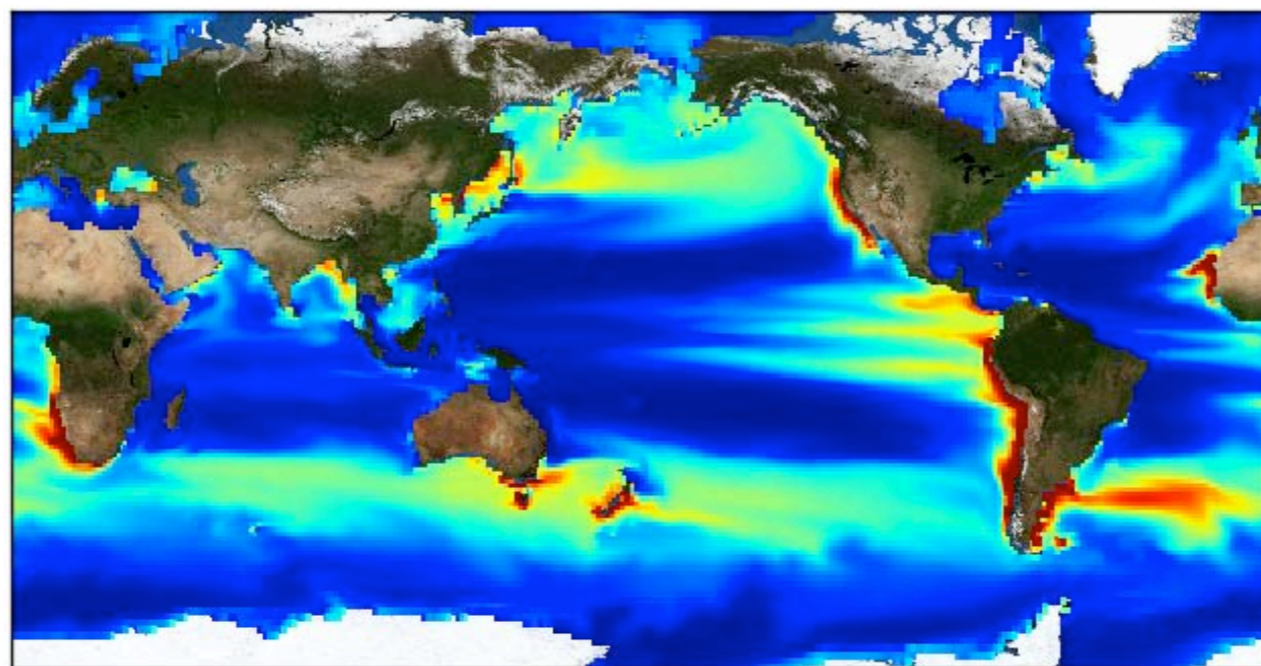
3.0

2.0

1.0

0

Sardine sized fish



Its still highly experimental

# Summary

- **A size-based ecosystem model**
  - from small to large
  - general, mechanistic (pred/prey, allometric), spatial (movement)
  - captures general features of fish production (distribution, size spectra)

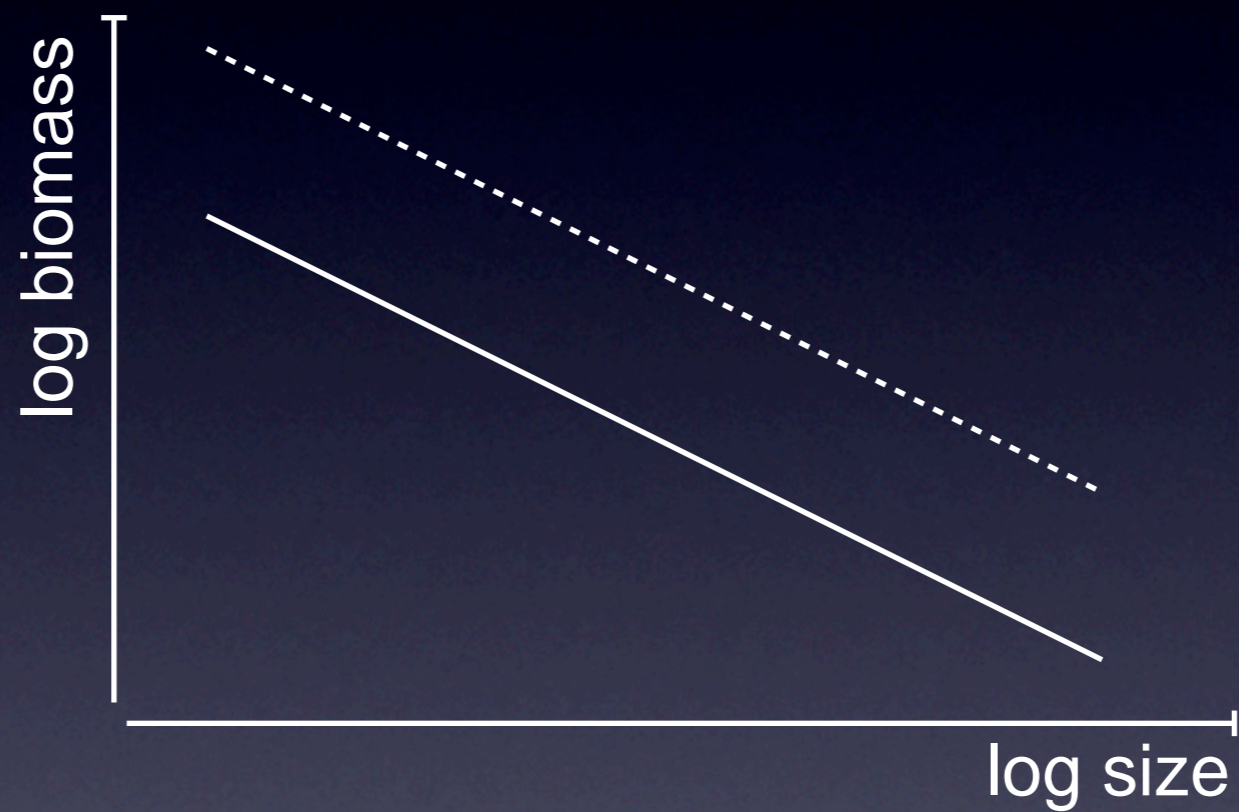
# Summary

- **Questions we want to address...**
  - how will (did) size spectra change in the future (past)?
  - how much biomass is there in the pelagic ocean (intercept and slope)?
  - explore regional dynamics
  - compare dynamics between regions

# Summary

- **Future directions**

- parameterize with data (i.e. slope and magnitude of size spectra)





# Summary

- **Future directions**

- parameterize with data (i.e. slope and magnitude of size spectra)
- fishing
- 3D; vertical migration, mesopelagics
- different traits (go beyond size)



**James Watson**  
[jrwatson@princeton.edu](mailto:jrwatson@princeton.edu)

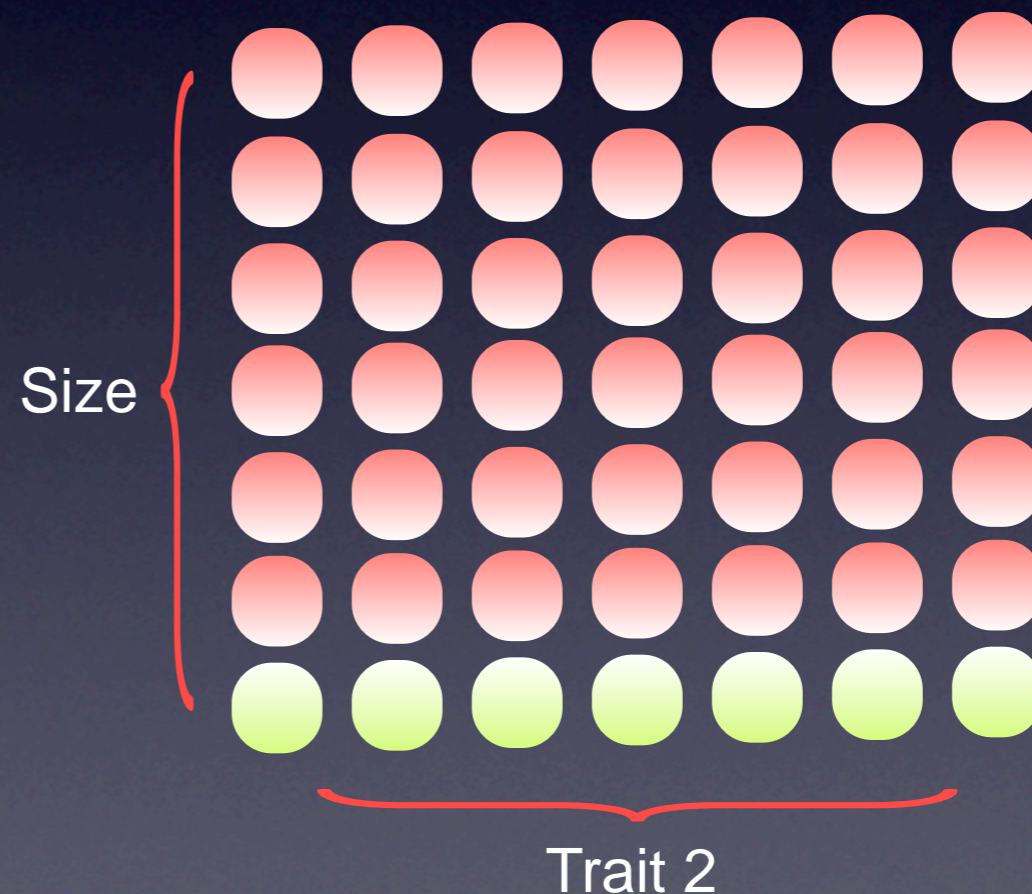
**Nippon Foundation - Nereus Fellowship**  
**Princeton University - Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences Program**

**Thank You**

# Summary

- **Future directions**

- parameterize with data (i.e. slope and magnitude of size spectra)
- fishing
- ontogeny (production into larval pool)
- different traits
  - large competition



(e.g. consumption kernel, movement rule,  
metabolic parameters)

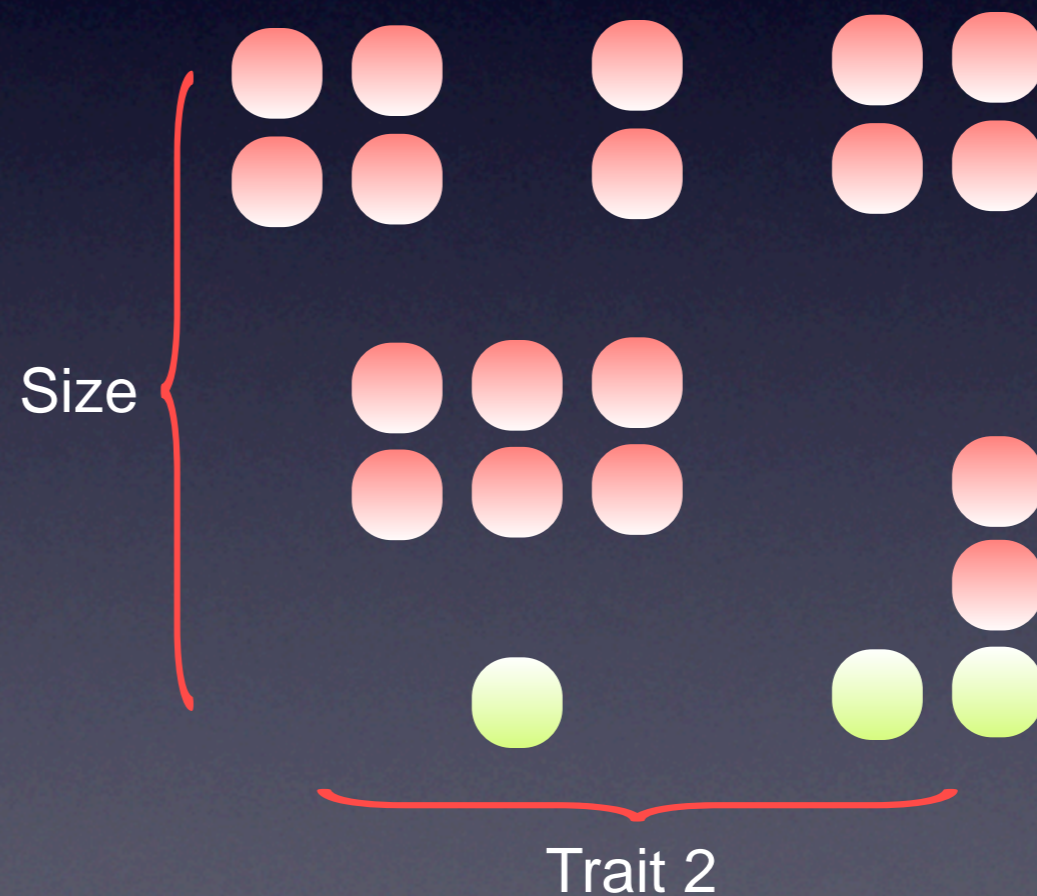
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- different traits

- large competition

- the environment selects

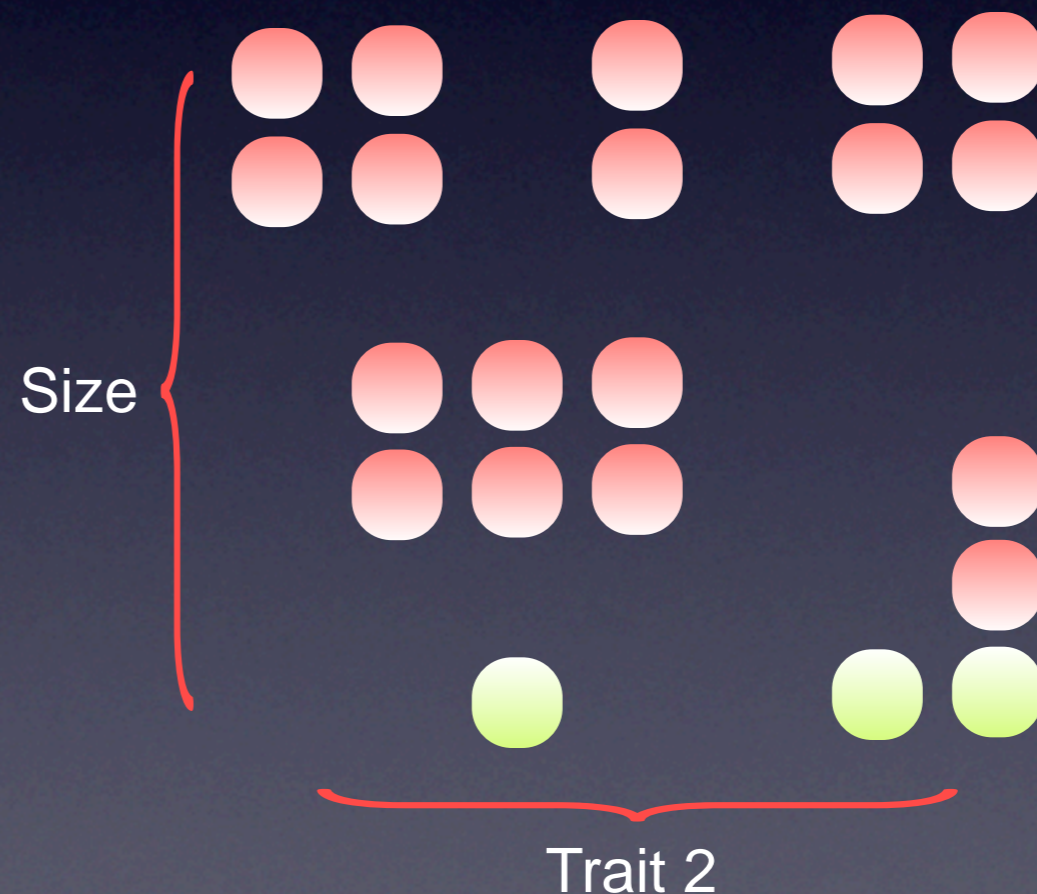


(e.g. consumption kernel, movement rule, metabolic parameters)

# Summary

- **Future directions**

- parameterize with data (i.e. slope and magnitude of size spectra)
- fishing
- ontogeny (production into larval pool)
- different traits
  - large competition
  - **the environment selects**
  - Follows, Bruggeman
- Future projections



(e.g. consumption kernel, movement rule, metabolic parameters)