

## Methods to characterize risk of Alaskan marine habitats to multiple stressors and establish ecosystem reference points

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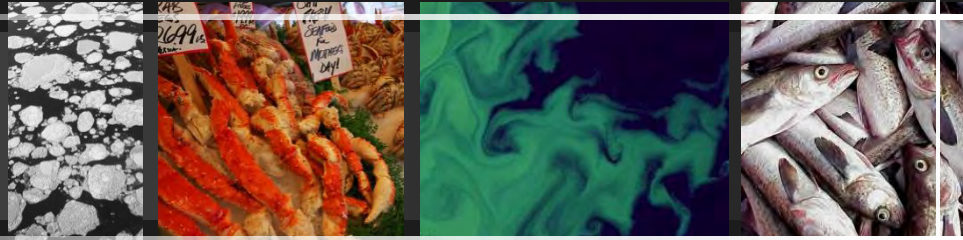
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# Risk Assessment

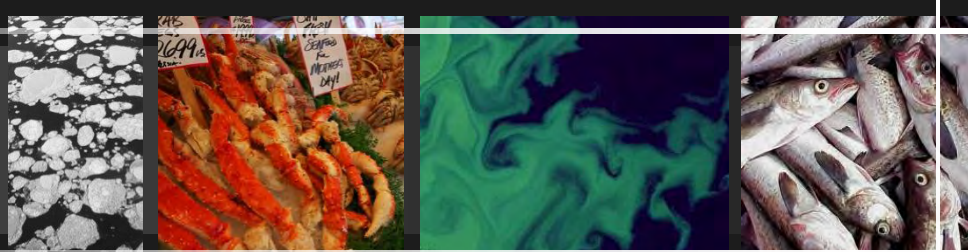


“The goal of these risk analyses is to **qualitatively** or **quantitatively** determine the probability that an ecosystem indicator will reach or remain in an undesirable state (i.e., breach a reference limit).”

Levin et al. 2013 “*IEA: Guidance for implementation*”

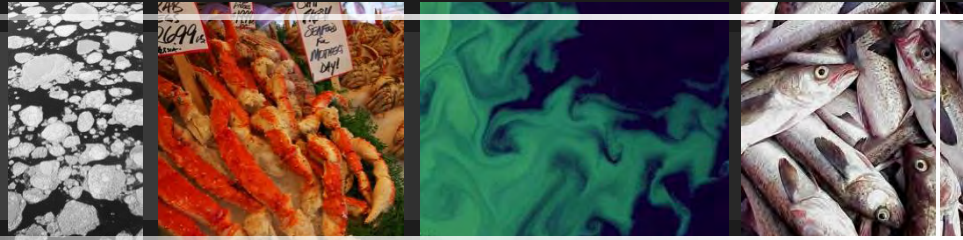
***Risk analysis allows managers to “quickly” prioritize & balance tradeoffs in management actions / objectives***

# Risk Assessment



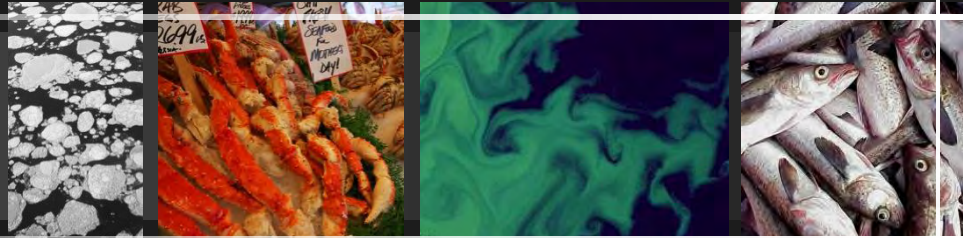
- **Use ecosystem models/analysis** to determine changes in indicators in response to changes in human-induced pressures
- Risk analysis must explicitly **consider uncertainties** involved in understanding and quantifying ecosystem dynamics and their positive and negative impacts on social systems
- Must **include pressures** that occur on **land** (e.g., coastal development, etc.), in the **air** (e.g., weather, climate), and in the **ocean** itself (e.g., shipping, fishing) (Halpern et al. 2009)
- “Need to be conducted relatively **quickly**, adaptable to **data limitations**, and **easy to update** (Astles et al., 2009)” From Samhuri & Levin 2012

# Levels (Hobday et al. 2011)



- A level 1 analysis for each pressure **qualitatively** scores each human activity or natural perturbation for its impact on the focal ecosystem components of the IEA. Those pressures receiving a high impact score move onto level 2 analyses.
- A level 2 analysis considers the **exposure** of an ecosystem component to a **pressure**, and the **sensitivity** of the component to that pressure.
- The Level 3 analysis takes a **quantitative** approach such as is used in stock assessments & population viability analyses

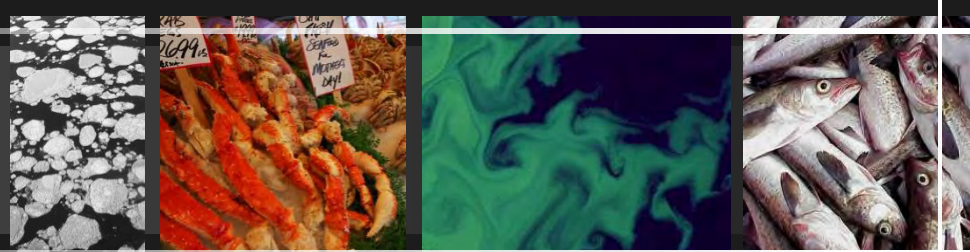
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# Habitat Risk



## Samhuri and Levin (2012)

Biological Conservation 145 (2012) 118–129



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### Linking land- and sea-based activities to risk in coastal ecosystems

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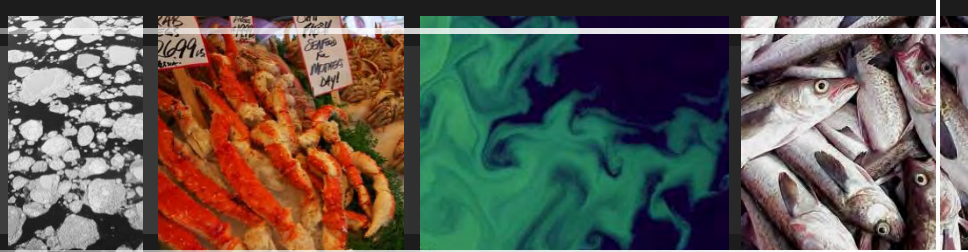
Marine ecosystem-based management (EBM)

Integrated ecosystem assessment

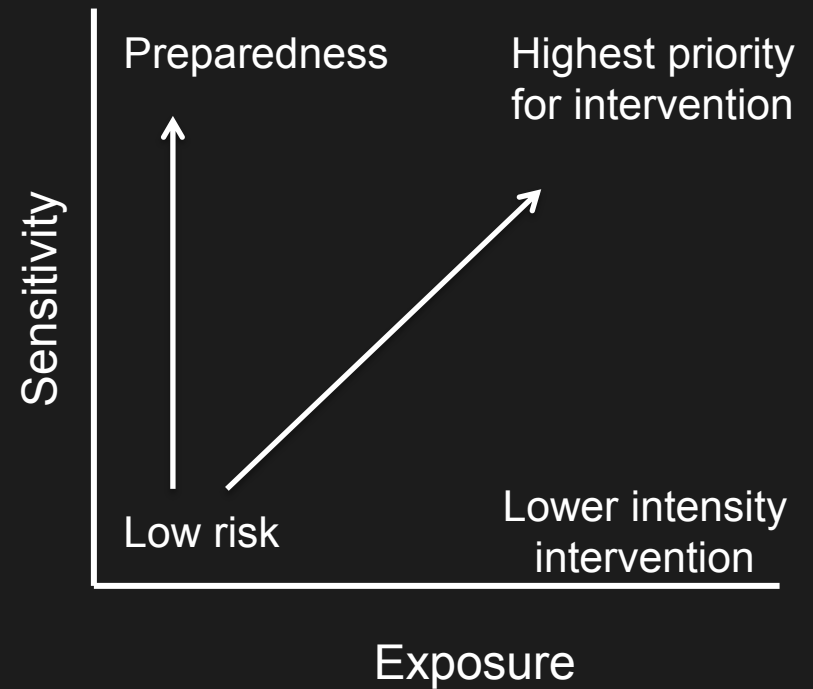
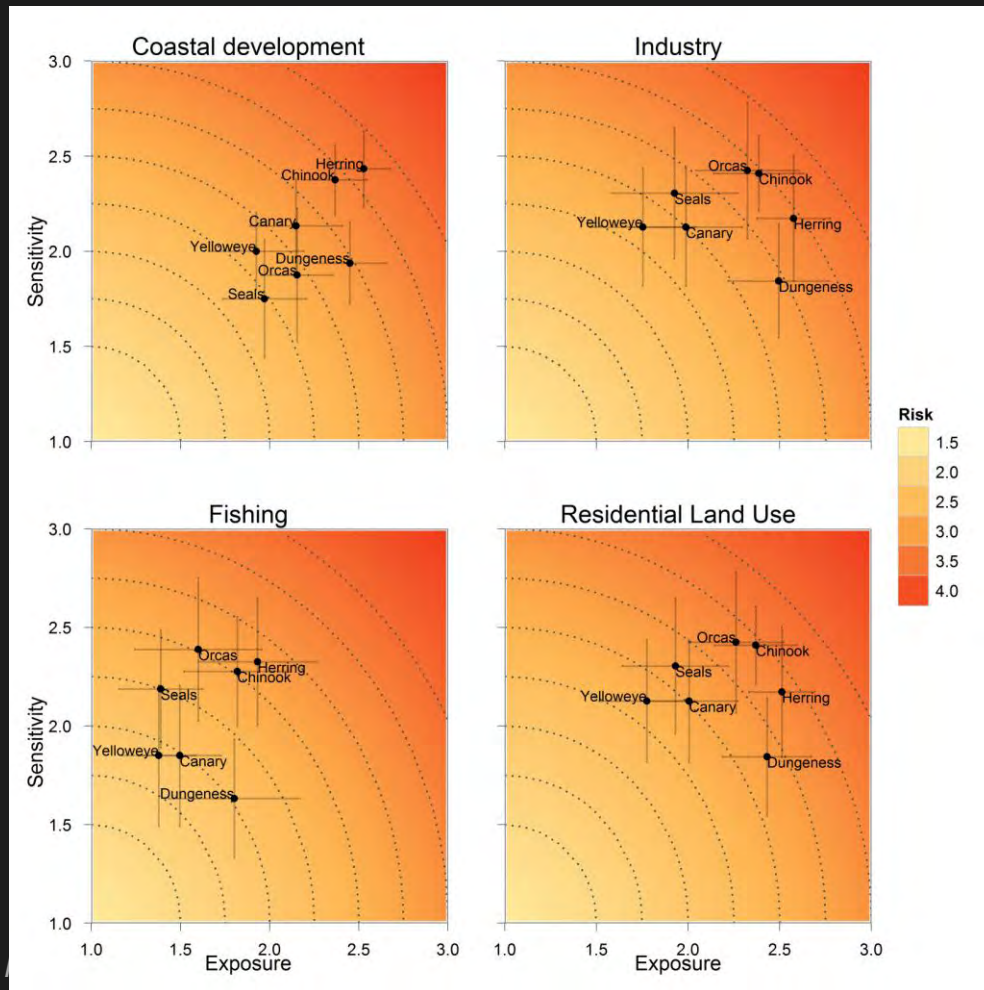
#### ABSTRACT

The emerging science and policy arena of marine ecosystem-based management is beset with the challenging question of how to assess the urgency of problems influencing different ecosystem components. In this paper, we introduce a synthetic and efficient framework to identify land- or sea-based activities that pose the greatest risk to valued members of marine ecosystems, including mammals, fishes, and invertebrates. Ecosystem-based risk is scored along two axes of information: the **exposure** of a population to an activity, and the **sensitivity** of the population to that activity, given a particular level of exposure. Risk is illustrated in a variety of ways, including two-dimensional contour plots and maps showing regional variation in risk. We apply this risk assessment framework to regional populations of indicator species in Puget Sound, WA, USA. This case study provides insight into how risk varies for particular activity–

# Habitat Risk



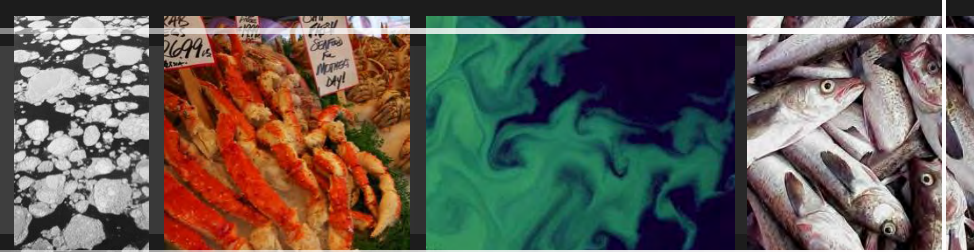
## Samhouri and Levin (2012)



Adapted from Dawson et al. 2011



# Habitat Risk



$$K_h = \frac{V_h}{R_h}$$

where,

$$V_h = \sum^p V_{ph}$$

$$R_h = \sum^p R_{ph}$$

$$V_{ph} = X_{ph} \cdot \left( \frac{\sum V_{phi}}{n_V} \right)$$

$$R_{ph} = X_{ph} \cdot \left( \frac{\sum R_{phi}}{n_R} \right)$$

$$q_p = 100 \cdot \frac{q_p' - q_{min}}{q_{max} - q_{min}}$$

where,

$$q_p' = \left[ \sum^{n_h} \left( \frac{A_h \cdot X_{ph}}{\sum A_h \cdot X_{ph}} \right) \cdot q_{ph} \right]^{-1}$$

$$q_{ph} = \left( \frac{\sum V_{phi}}{n_V} + \frac{\sum R_{phi}}{n_R} \right) \cdot \frac{1}{2}$$

$$V_{phi} = I_{V_{phi}} \cdot e^{(1 - \alpha_{c_{phi}})}$$

$$R_{phi} = I_{R_{phi}} \cdot e^{(1 - \alpha_{c_{phi}})}$$

Parameter	Definition
$c$	Certainty
$p$	Pressure
$h$	Habitat
$v_h$	Habitat specific vulnerability
$r_h$	Habitat specific resiliency
$V_p$	Pressure specific vulnerability
$R_p$	Pressure specific resiliency
$A_h$	Habitat specific area
$n_R$	Number of resiliency categories
$n_V$	Number of vulnerability categories
$n_h$	Number of habitats
$n_p$	Number of pressures
$I_{V_{phi}}$	Vulnerability index for each category $i$ of $p \times h$ interaction (1-4; L to H)
$I_{R_{phi}}$	Resiliency index for each category $i$ of $p \times h$ interaction (1-4; H to L)
$I_{c_{phi}}$	Certainty index for each category $i$ of $p \times h$ interaction (1-4; L to H)
$\alpha_{c_{phi}}$	Uncertainty penalty for each index $I_{c_{phi}}$ [0.15, 0.5, 0.75, 1.0]
$X_{ph}$	$h$ X $p$ interaction value (0 or 1)
$K_h$	Habitat-specific risk score
$q_p$	Pressure-specific ecosystem condition





**2) Vulnerabilities Matrix**

Now that you have populated 1) Habitats & Stressors you are now ready to fill out the following stressor x habitat matrix, which represents the scoring for the 5 vulnerability measures for each stressor x habitat interaction.

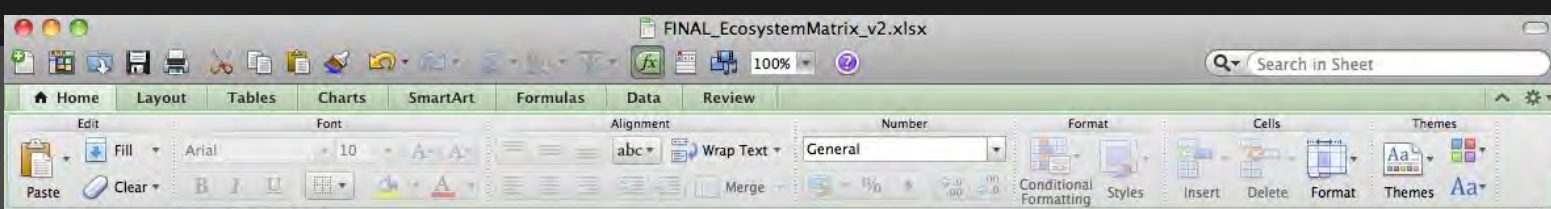
For more info see: Halpern, B., et al. 2007. Conservation Biology 20(5): 1301-1315; Teck et al. 2010. Ecological Applications 20(5): 1402-1416.

For all of the blue shaded cells:  
 Enter 1-4 according to the definition (column B) for each vulnerability (x) AND include the decimal value in each cell corresponding to how certain you are of this value:  
 (x.1) best guess  
 (x.2) some evidence of interaction from other systems  
 (x.3) some evidence of interaction from this system  
 (x.4) evidence of interaction from this specific habitat in this system (e.g., published paper).  
 If there is no interaction just leave the cell blank.

For example: a value of 3.2 would represent moderate certainty seasonal changes in freshwater flow affect intertidal mud habitats based on studies from other systems.

Human activity or natural stressor	Definition	Intertidal				Coastal				Shelf				Oceanic									
		Rocky intertidal	Intertidal mud	Beach	Salt marsh	Seagrass	Kelp forest	Rocky reef	Suspension-feeder reef (e.g. oysters)	Sub-tidal soft bottom	Pelagic water column	Soft bottom shelf (30-200 m)	Hard bottom shelf (30-200 m)	Ice	Soft bottom slope (200-2000 m)	Hard bottom slope (200-2000 m)	Soft bottom benthic (>2000 m)	Deep seamount	Vent	Soft bottom canyon	Hard bottom canyon	Upper (near surface) pelagic water column	Deep pelagic water column
<i>Example Habitat</i>		<i>Pribilofs</i>	<i>Kuskokwim River Delta</i>	<i>Nearshore</i>	<i>Nelson lagoon</i>	<i>Nelson lagoon</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>ERS seafloor</i>	<i>ERS</i>	<i>ERS seafloor</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>ERS sea ice</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>NA</i>
<b>Changes in Freshwater input (Increasing or decreasing)</b>	<i>affects nearshore community composition, for shelf communities this would be from changes in sea ice</i>	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Spatial scale</b>	Affects (1) <15% of the habitat (2) 15-50% of the habitat; (3) 50-85% of the habitat; and (4) >85% of the habitat		2.2	4.2	4.2	4.2				4.1	4.1	4.1		4.1									
<b>Frequency</b>	1 = rare, e.g. once every >5 yrs; 2 = occasional, e.g. once every >1-5 yrs; 3 = seasonal, e.g. every season to once a year; 4 = persistent, e.g. daily or continual.		3.2	3.2	4.2	4.2				3.3	3.4	3.3		3.2									
<b>Trophic Impact (Direct)</b>	1 = species (single or multiple); 2 = single trophic level; 3 = >1 trophic level; 4 = entire community		4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2				4.3	4.4	4.3		3.1									
<b>Resistance</b>	1 = activity/stressor has a positive impact; 2 = high resistance to change (i.e. little significant negative change in biomass); 3 = moderate resistance to negative change; 4 = low resistance to negative change (i.e. significant negative biomass changes result from small stresses).		2.2	2.2	2.2	3.2				3.1	4.4	3.2		3.1									
<b>Recovery time</b>	1 = <1 year; 2 = 1-10 years; 3 = 10-100 years; 4 = >100 years.		2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2				2.1	1.1	2.1		2.1									
<b>Changes in Sediment input (Increasing or decreasing)</b>	<i>turbidity, sediment deposition, drift cell - assuming an input from terrestrial system (rivers, landslides)</i>	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Spatial scale</b>	Affects (1) <15% of the habitat (2) 15-50% of the habitat; (3) 50-85% of the habitat; and (4) >85%		4.2	4.2	3.2	4.2																	





### 1) Habitat & Stressors:

This worksheet represents an overview of stressors that affect each habitat. After populating both the spatial extent row (green) and the subsequent stressor x habitat matrix (blue) below you will then proceed to the next worksheet: 2) Vulnerabilities matrix, which represents the scoring for the 5 vulnerability measures for each stressor x habitat interaction.

For more info see: Halpern, B., et al. 2007. Conservation Biology 20(5): 1301-1315; Teck et al. 2010. Ecological Applications 20(5): 1402-1416.



Name: John Doe  
 Who do you work for? NOAA AFSC  
 Where do you work? Seattle, WA  
 Your contact Email: John.Doe@noaa.gov  
 Your expertise: fisheries manager  
 Ecosystem Name: Eastern Bering Sea Shelf, northern boundary 60°/st. matthews.

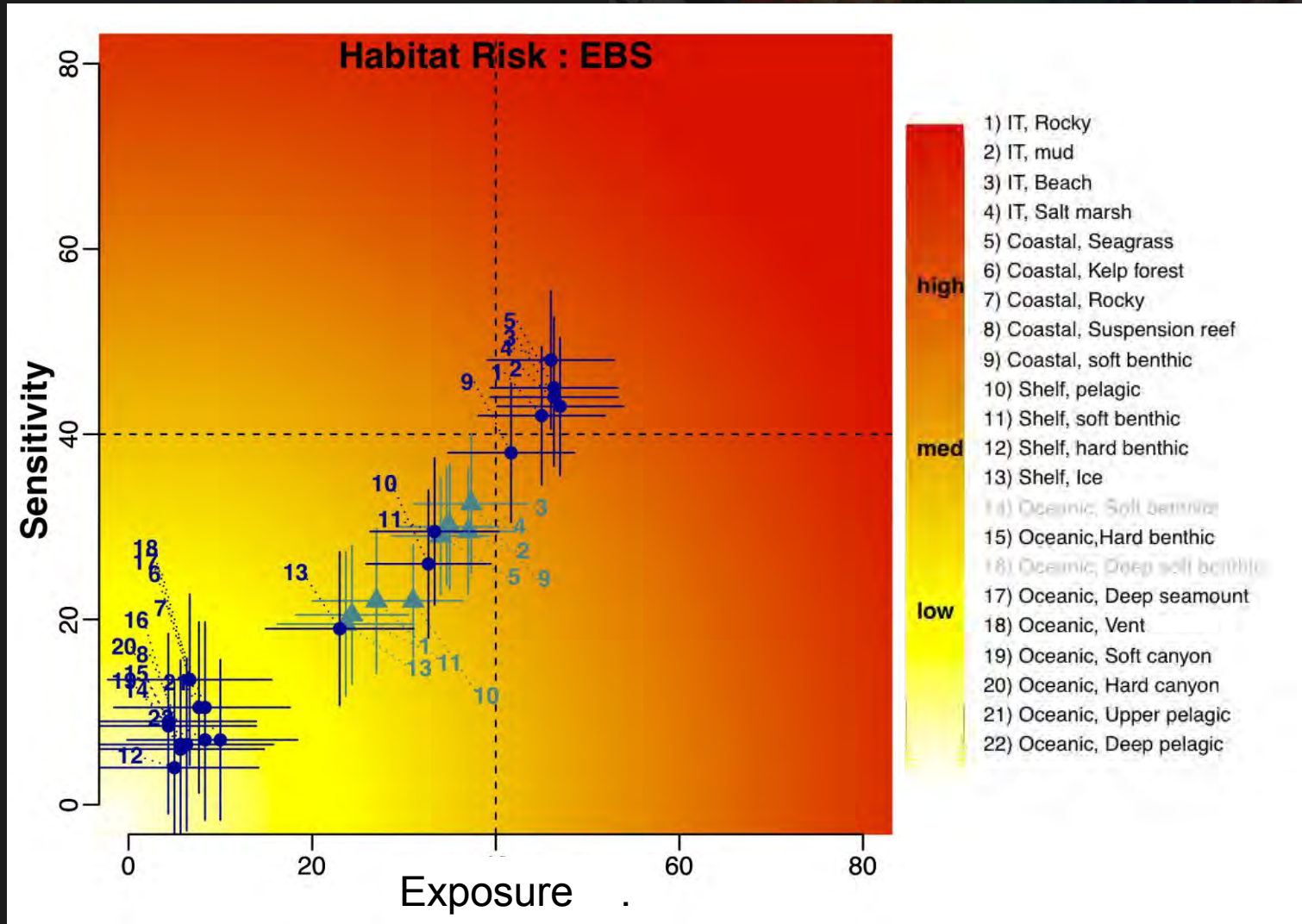
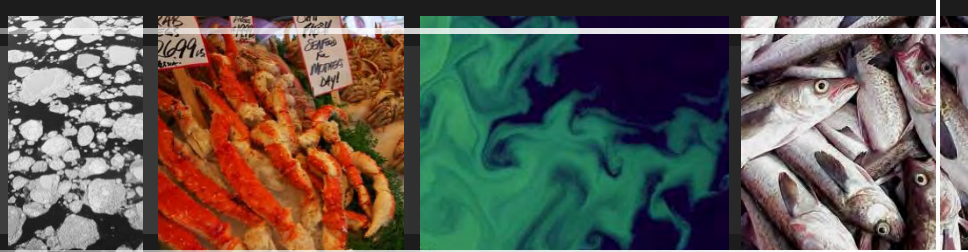
Please fill out the following information about yourself

	Definition	Intertidal				Coastal				Shelf				Oceanic									
		Rocky intertidal	Intertidal mud	Beach	Salt marsh	Seagrass	Kelp forest	Rocky reef	Bottom	lumin	(30-100-2000 m)	if	Sea Ice	Soft bottom slope (200-2000 m)	Hard bottom slope (200-2000 m)	Soft bottom benthic (>2000 m)	Deep seamount	Vent	Soft bottom canyon	Hard bottom canyon	Upper (near surface) pelagic water column	Deep pelagic water column	
Human activity or natural stressor	Definition																						
Example Habitat		Pribilofs	Kachikwim River Delta	Nearshore	Nelson lagoon	Nelson lagoon	NA	NA					ERS sea ice	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Spatial Extent	% of total areal extent of the ecosystem (not mutually exclusive): (1) minimal (<15%); (2) small (15-50%); (3) large (50-85%); and (4) majority (>85%)	1	1	1	1	1			3	4	3		2										
Changes in Freshwater input (increasing or decreasing)	affects nearshore community composition, for shelf communities this would be from changes in sea ice	0	1	1	1	1					1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Changes in Sediment input (increasing or decreasing)	turbidity, sediment deposition, drift cell -- assuming an input from terrestrial system (rivers, landslides)	0	1	1	1	1					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Changes in Nutrient inputs (increasing or decreasing)	can include upwelling	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inputs of Pollution and Contaminants from land sources	urban and mine run-off, pcbs	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coastal engineering	seawalls, piers, jetties, sand mining	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coastal development	landfill, reclamation, dredging	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Enter 0-4 in this row corresponding to the % of areal extent of the whole ecosystem represented by each habitat (note habitats can overlap so these are not mutually exclusive).  
 Enter 0 if the habitat does not occur in the ecosystem.

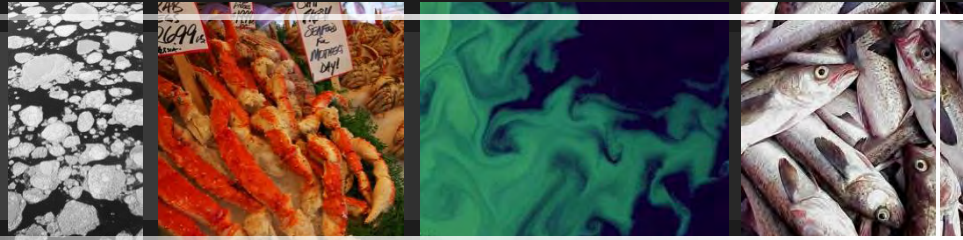
For each row of the blue matrix (stressor), enter 0 if interaction does not occur or is NA or 1 if it does occur.

# Habitat Risk



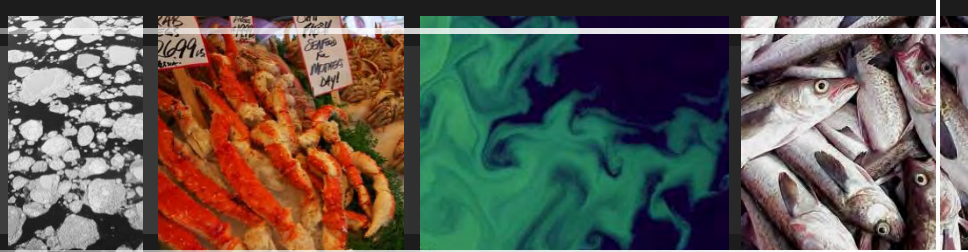


# Levels (Hobday et al. 2011)



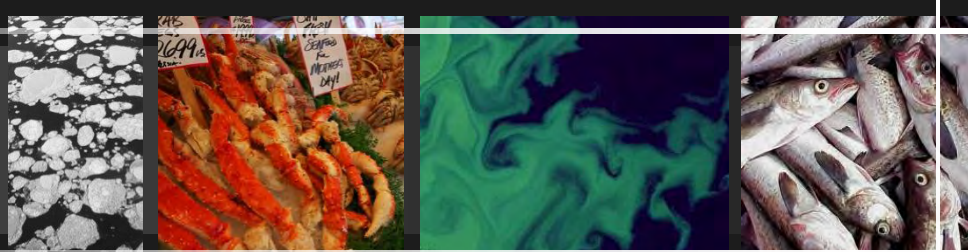
- A level 1 analysis for each pressure qualitatively scores each human activity or natural perturbation for its impact on the focal ecosystem components of the IEA. Those pressures receiving a high impact score move onto level 2 analyses.
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# EBM GOALS



- Fishery management plan goals for AK groundfish (2004)
  1. Prevent overfishing
  2. Promote sustainable fisheries & fishing communities
  3. Preserve the food web
  4. Manage incidental catch & reduce bycatch & waste
  5. Avoid impacts to seabirds & marine mammals
  6. Reduce and avoid impacts to habitat
  7. Promote equitable & efficient use of fishery resources
  8. Increase Alaskan native consultation
  9. Improve data quality monitoring & assessment

# EBM ACTIONS

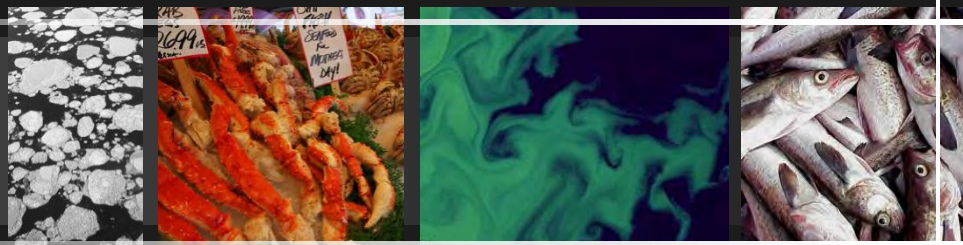


- EAM/EBM actions

1. Implement conservative exploitation rates
2. Limit bycatch & discards
3. Implement habitat protection measures
4. Consider endangered & protected species
5. Consider humans as part of the ecosystem

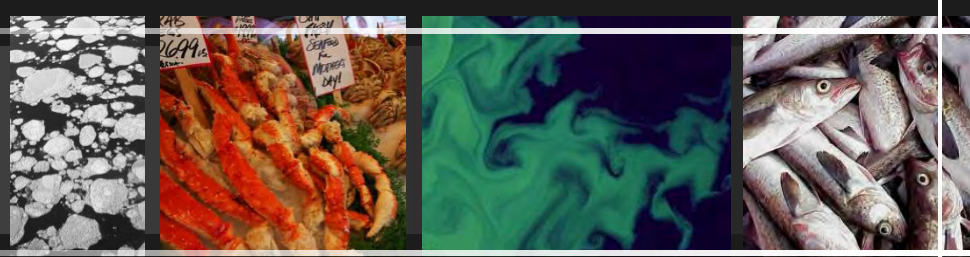


# Ecosystem Reference Point (ERP)



Do EBM actions have effect on ecosystem indices?

# Ecosystem considerations chapter & report card



- Ecosystem Considerations report (~200 p)
- Produced annually by NOAA ecosystem scientists
- Goal: to provide an overview of marine ecosystems in Alaska for the North Pacific Fishery Management Council
- Stock assessment recommendations are evaluated within an ecosystem context (EBFM, qualitative)

December 2011

Ecosystem Considerations

## APPENDIX C

### Ecosystem Considerations for 2012

*Edited by:*  
Stephani Zador

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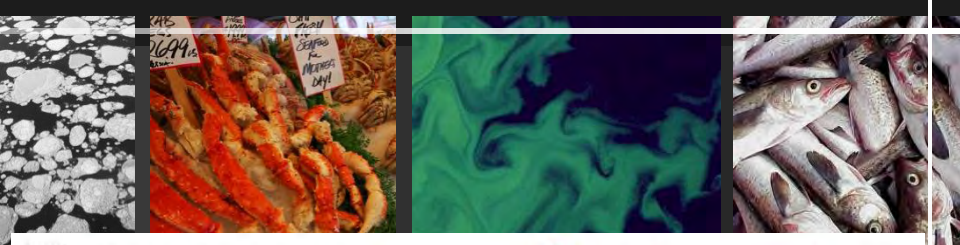
*With contributions from:*

Alex Andrews, Kerim Aydin, Steve Barbeaux, Sonia Batten, Jennifer Boldt, Nicholas Bond, Greg Buck, Troy Buckley, Kristin Ciciel, Ken Coyle, Martin Dorn, Lisa Eisner, Jim Estes, Diana Evans, Ed Farley, Emily Fergusson, Shannon Fitzgerald, Robert Foy, Dave Fraser, Lowell Fritz, Sarah Gaichas, Jeanette Gann, Angie Greig, Lisa Guy, Amber Himes-Cornell, Gerald Hoff, Jim Ianelli, W. James Ingraham, Jr., Stephen Jewett, Carol Ladd, Robert Lauth, Mike Litzow, Pat Livingston, Elizabeth Logerwell, Sandra Lowe, Michael Martin, Ellen Martinson, Sue Moore, Jamal Moss, Franz Mueter, Jeff Napp, John Olson, Joe Orsi, Ivonne Ortiz, Jim Overland, John Piatt, Patrick Ressler, Chris Rooper, Sigrid Salo, Stacy Shotwell, Phyllis Stabeno, William Stockhausen, Molly Sturdevant, Todd TenBrink, Dan Urban, Paul Wade, Jason Waite, Muyin Wang, Jon Warrenchuk, Francis Weise, Alex Wertheimer, Tom Wilderbuer, Jeff Williams, Carrie Worton, and Stephani Zador

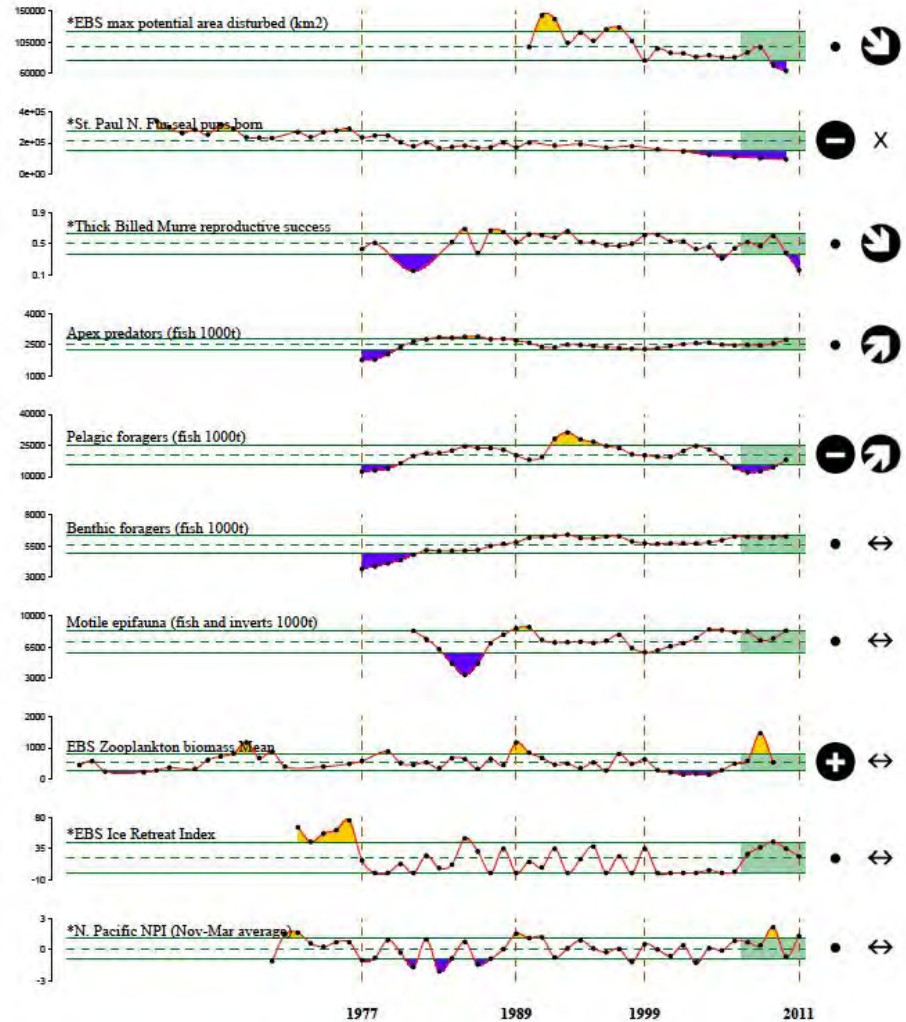
*Reviewed by:*

The Plan Teams for the Groundfish Fisheries of the  
Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, and Gulf of Alaska

# Ecosystem considerations chapter & report card



- Ecosystem Considerations report (~200 p)
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### 2007-2011 Mean

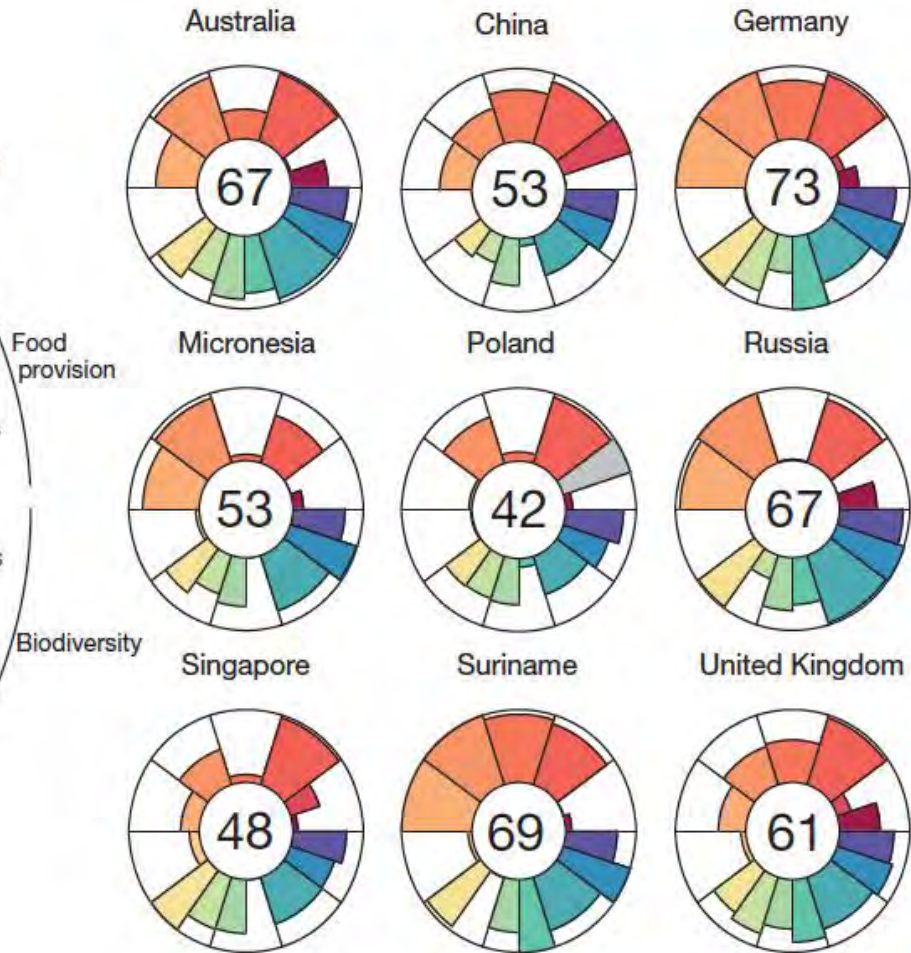
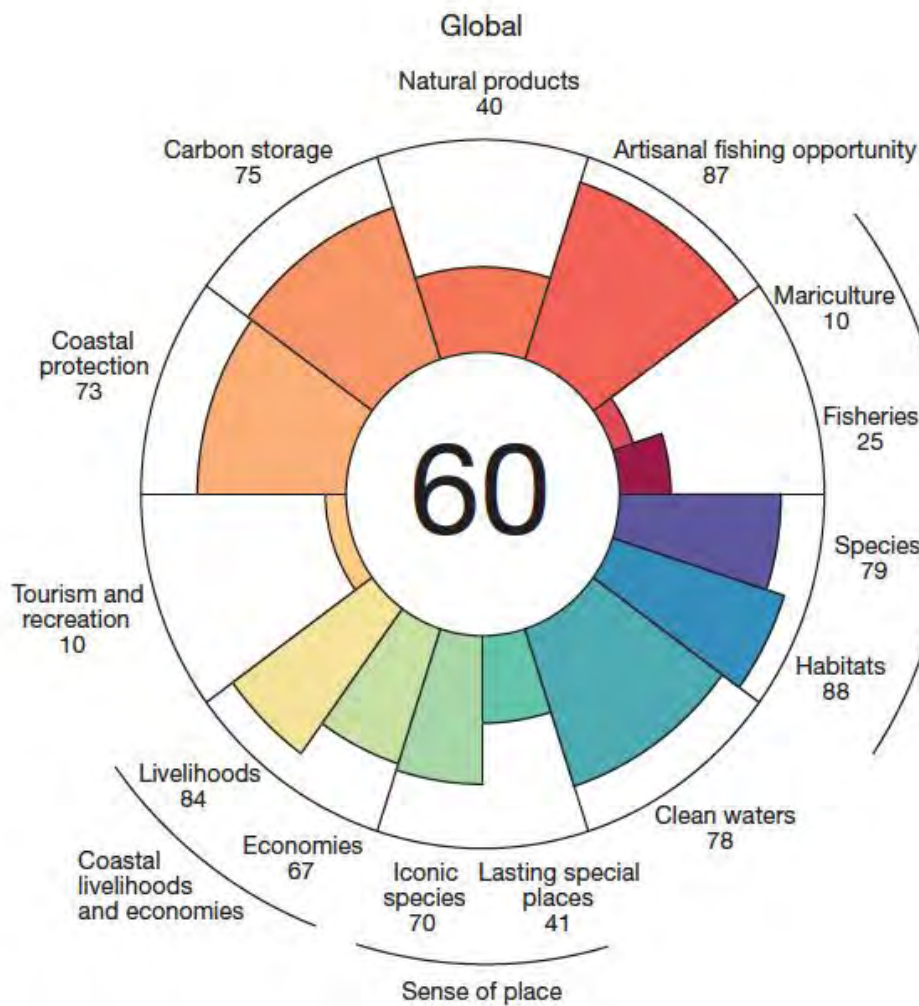
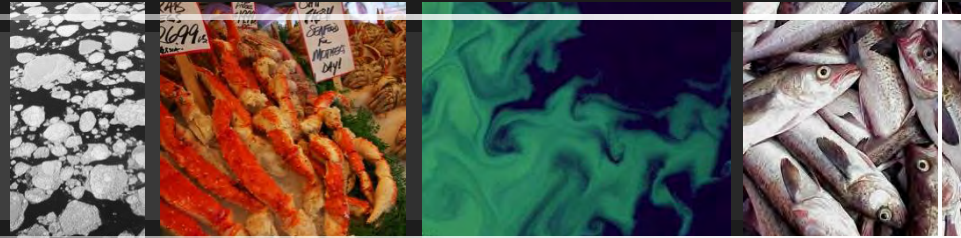
- + 1 s.d. above mean
- - 1 s.d. below mean
- within 1 s.d. of mean
- X fewer than 2 data points

### 2007-2011 Trend

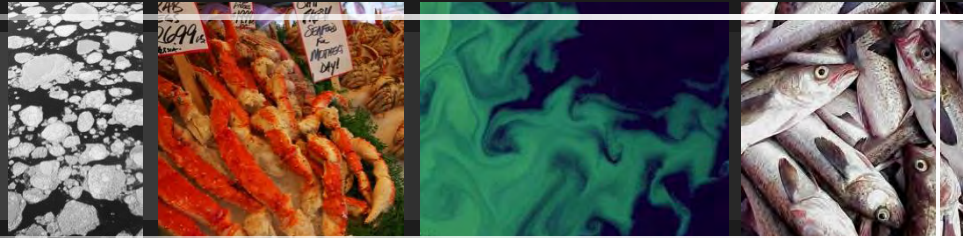
- ↻ increase by 1 s.d. over time window
- ↺ decrease by 1 s.d. over time window
- ↔ change <1 s.d. over window
- X fewer than 3 data points



# Ocean Health Index



# Ocean Health Index

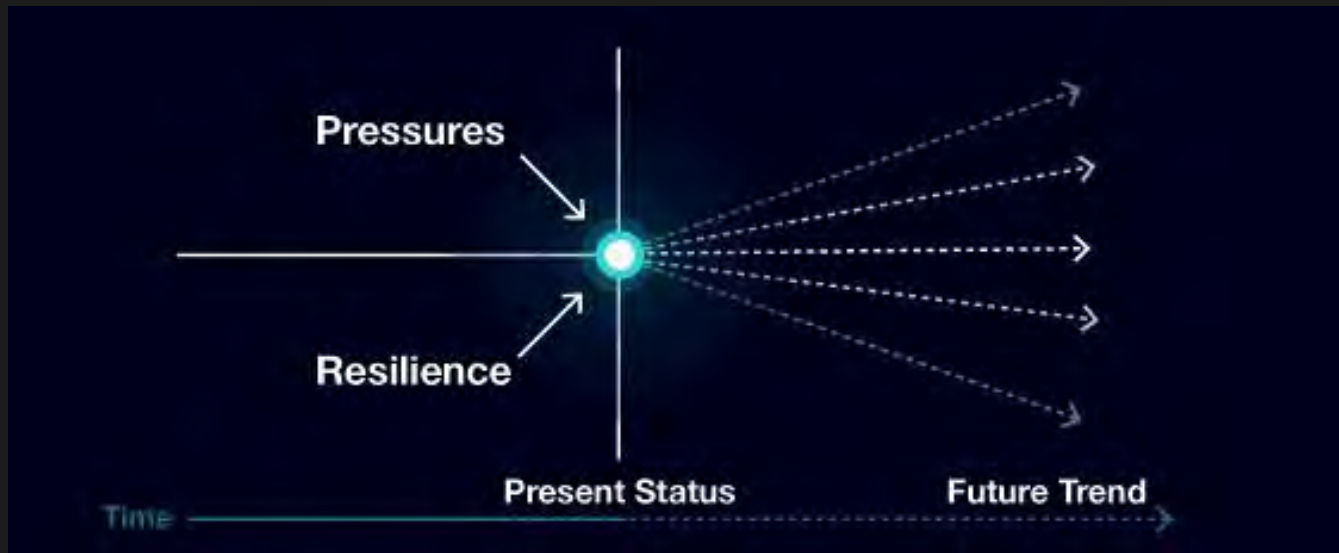


[www.oceanhealthindex.org/](http://www.oceanhealthindex.org/)

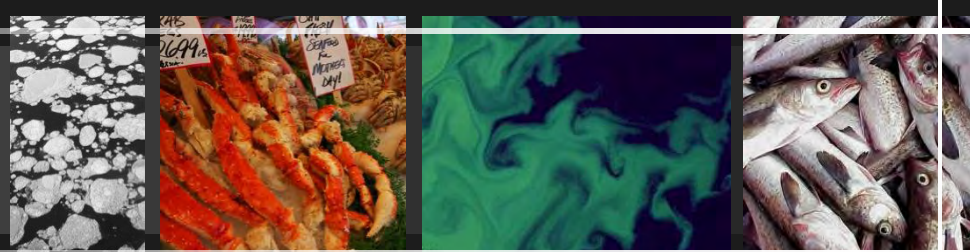
$$\text{OHI} = \text{sum} (\text{Goal Score} * \text{Weight})$$

$$\text{Goal Score} = (\text{Present Status} + \text{Likely Future Status}) / 2$$

$$\text{Likely Future Status} = 1 + 2/3 * \text{Trend} + 1/3 * (\text{Resilience} - \text{Pressure})$$



# Ecosystem Reference Point (ERP)



$$Score_y = \sum_{i=1}^{n_i} S_{i,y} W_i$$

$$S_{i,y} = \frac{S_{i,y} + S_{i,fut}}{2}$$

$$S_{i,fut} = S_{i,y} \left( 1 - \frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{\beta_{i,y}}{100} \right) + \frac{2}{3} (R_i - P_i)$$

$$\beta_{i,y} = (S_{i,y} - S_{i,y-n_y}) / n_y$$

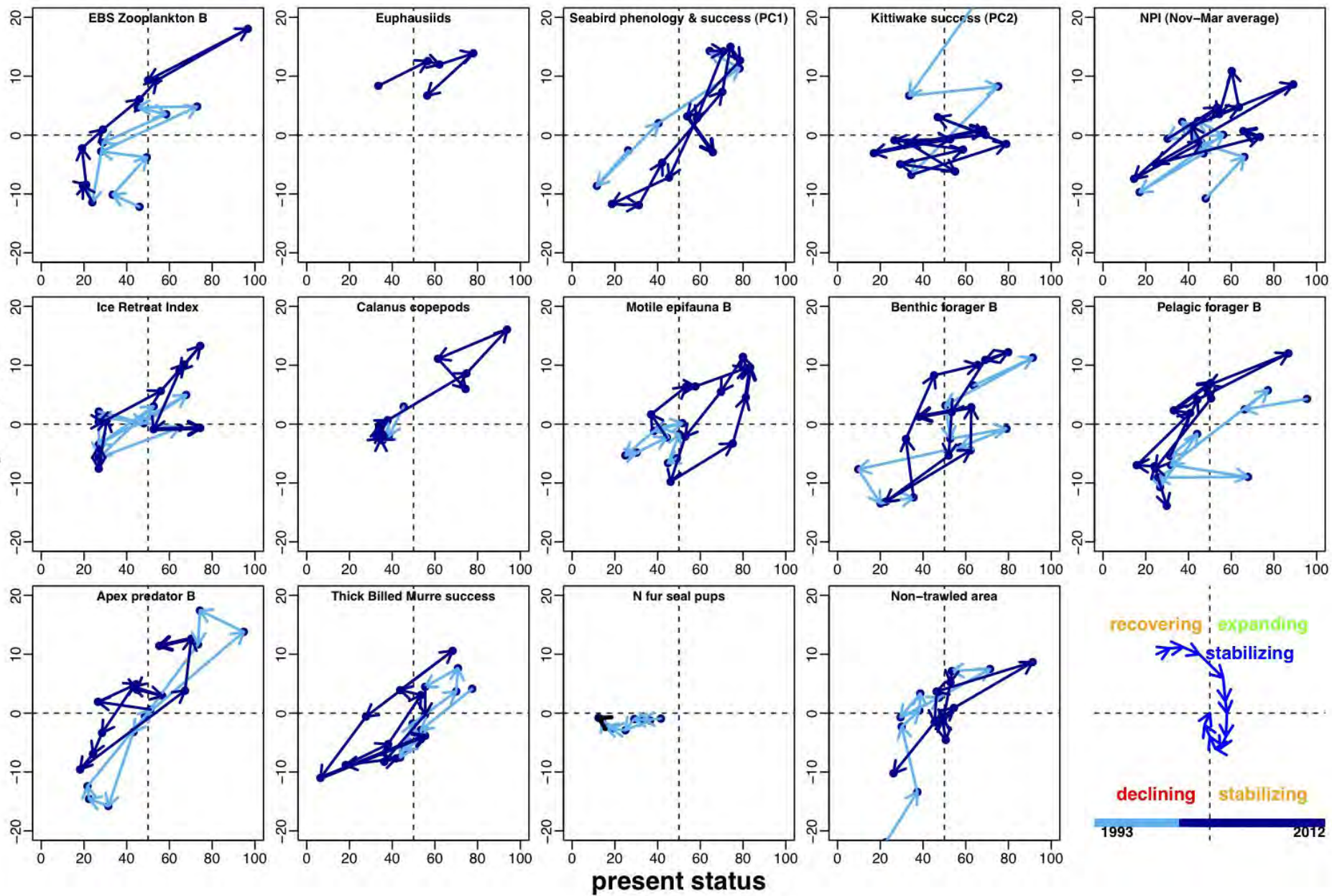
$$S_{i,y} = 100 \cdot \frac{e^{x_{i,y}}}{(1 + e^{x_{i,y}})}$$

$$x_{i,y} = (\Delta x_{i,y} - \overline{\Delta x_i}) / sd(\Delta x_{i,y})$$

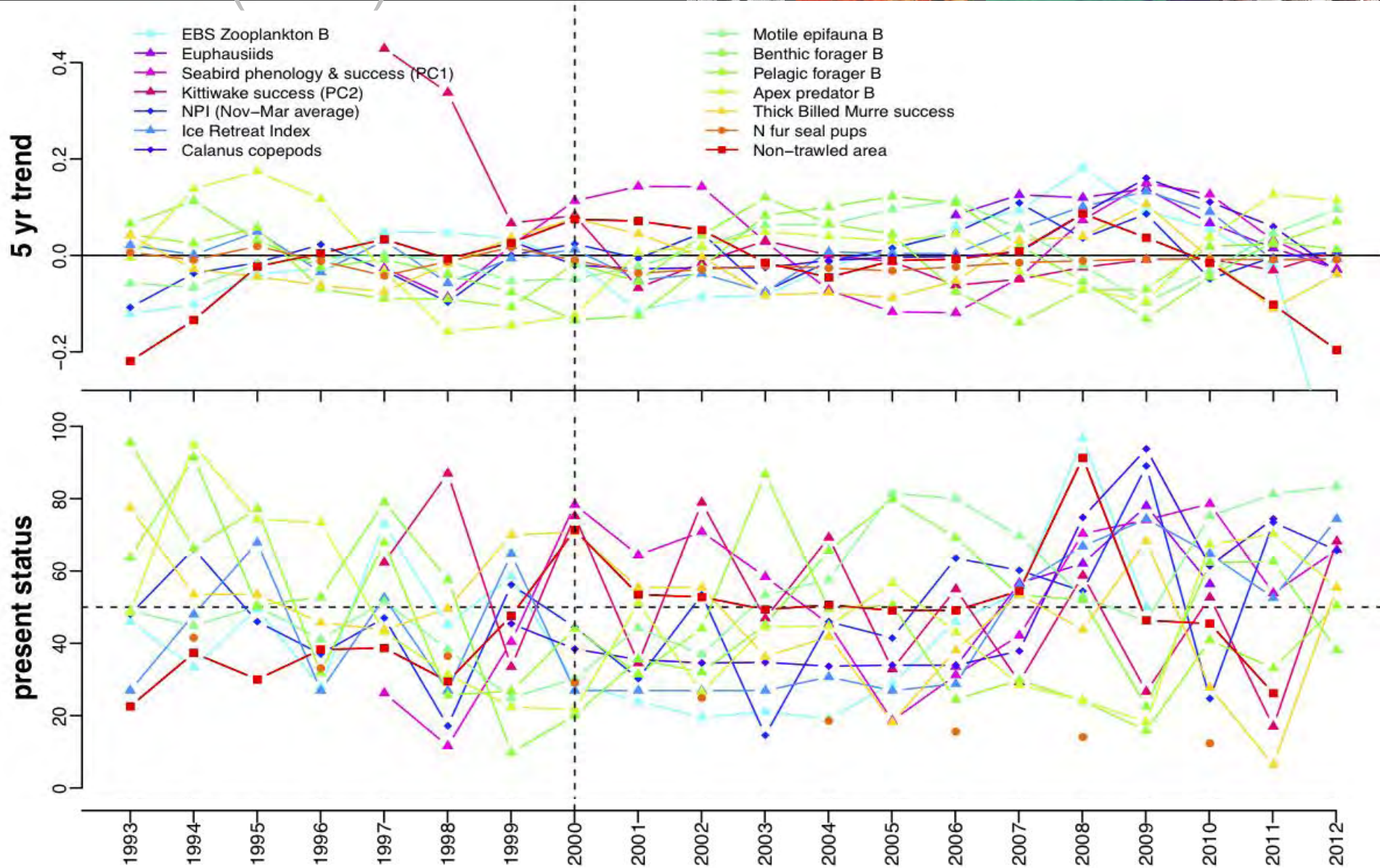
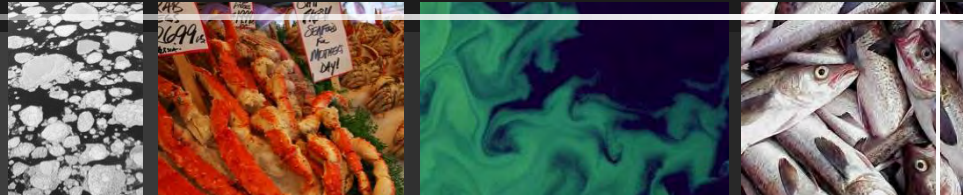
$$\Delta x_{i,y} = (v_{i,y} - a_i)$$

$y$	Year
$i$	Index
$v_{i,y}$	Annual value
$a_i$	Target value
$x_{i,y}$	Z-scored value
$S_{i,y}$	Present status
$S_{i,fut}$	Likely future status
$R_i$	Resiliency
$P_i$	Pressure
$W_i$	Weight
$\beta_{i,y}$	Trend
$n_y$	Number of trend yrs
$n_i$	Number of indices



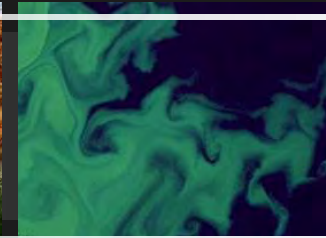
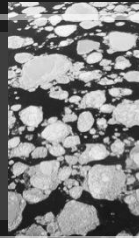


# Ecosystem Reference Point (ERP)

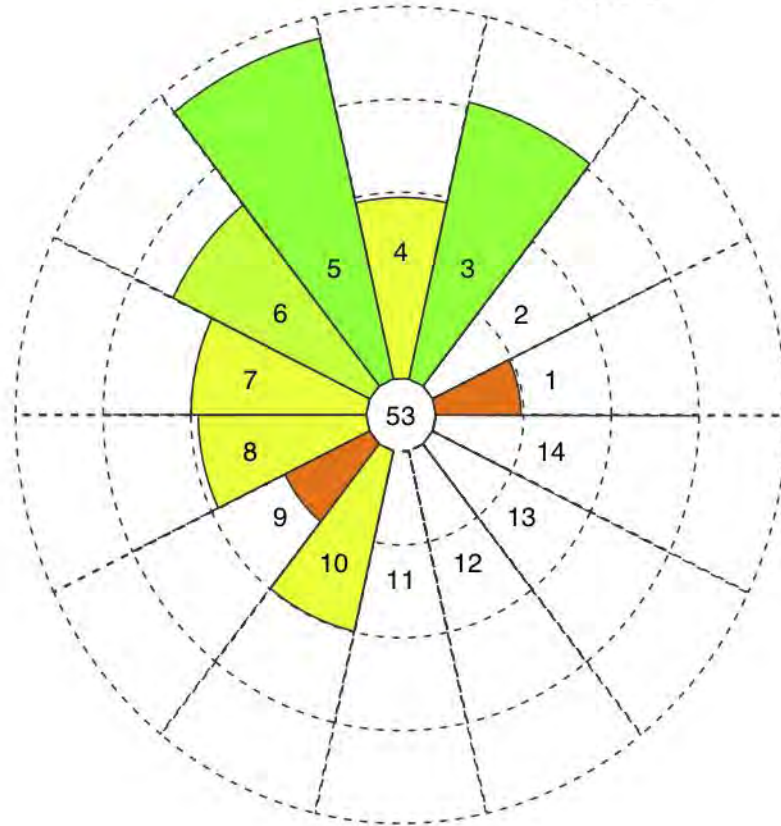




# Ecosystem Reference Point (ERP)

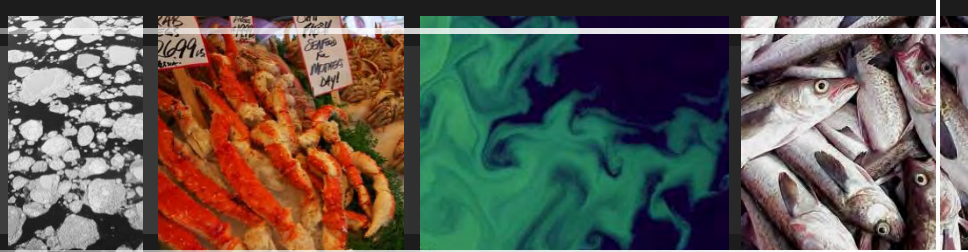


1993



- 1) Non-trawled area
- 2) N fur seal pups
- 3) Thick Billed Murre success
- 4) Apex predator B
- 5) Pelagic forager B
- 6) Benthic forager B
- 7) Motile epifauna B
- 8) EBS Zooplankton B
- 9) Ice Retreat Index
- 10) NPI (Nov-Mar average)
- 11) Calanus copepods
- 12) Euphausiids
- 13) Seabird phenology & success
- 14) Kittiwake success (PC2)

# Ecosystem Reference Point (ERP)



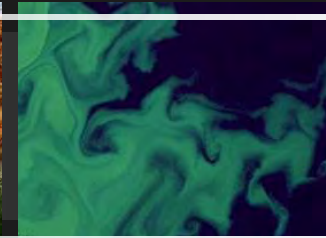
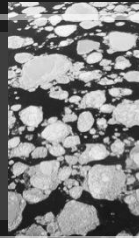
2008



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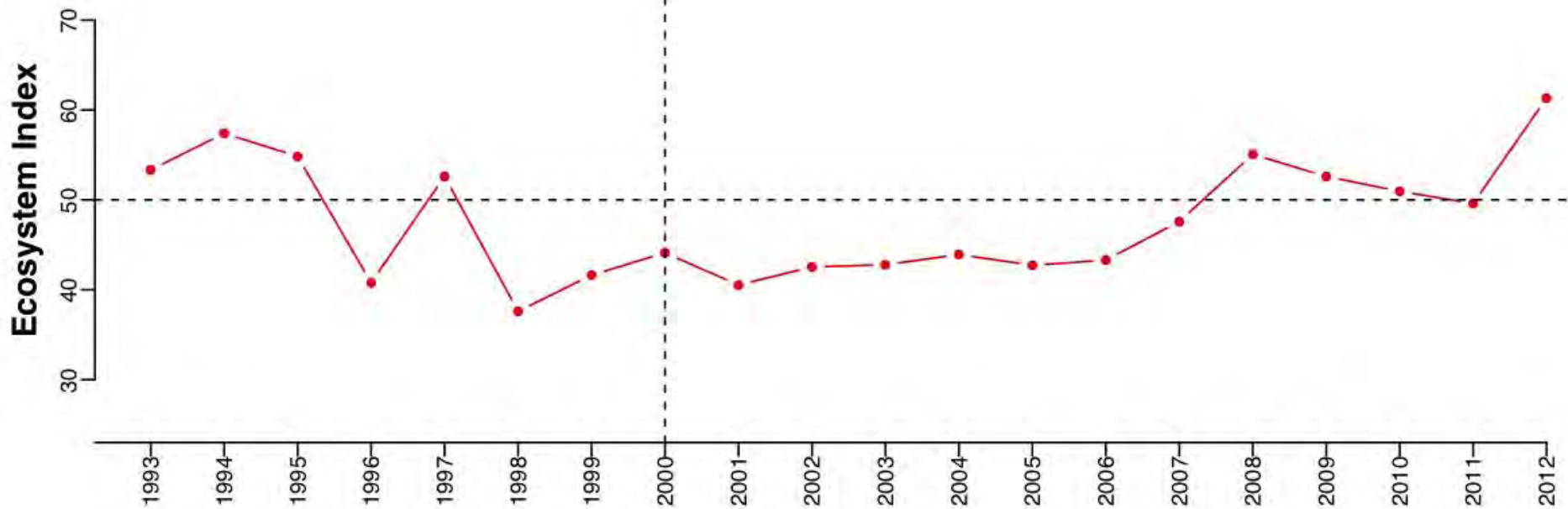
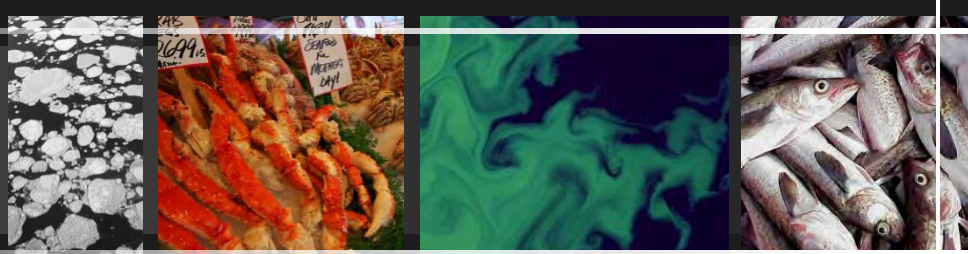


2011

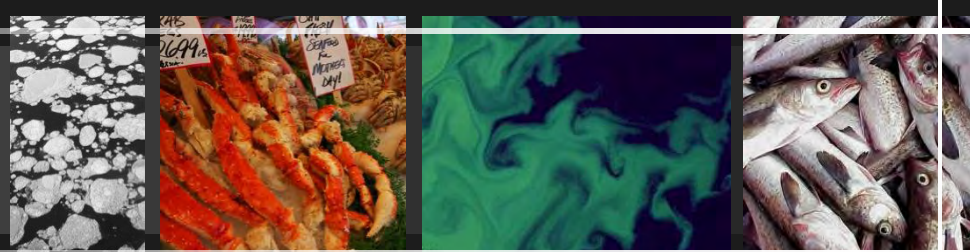


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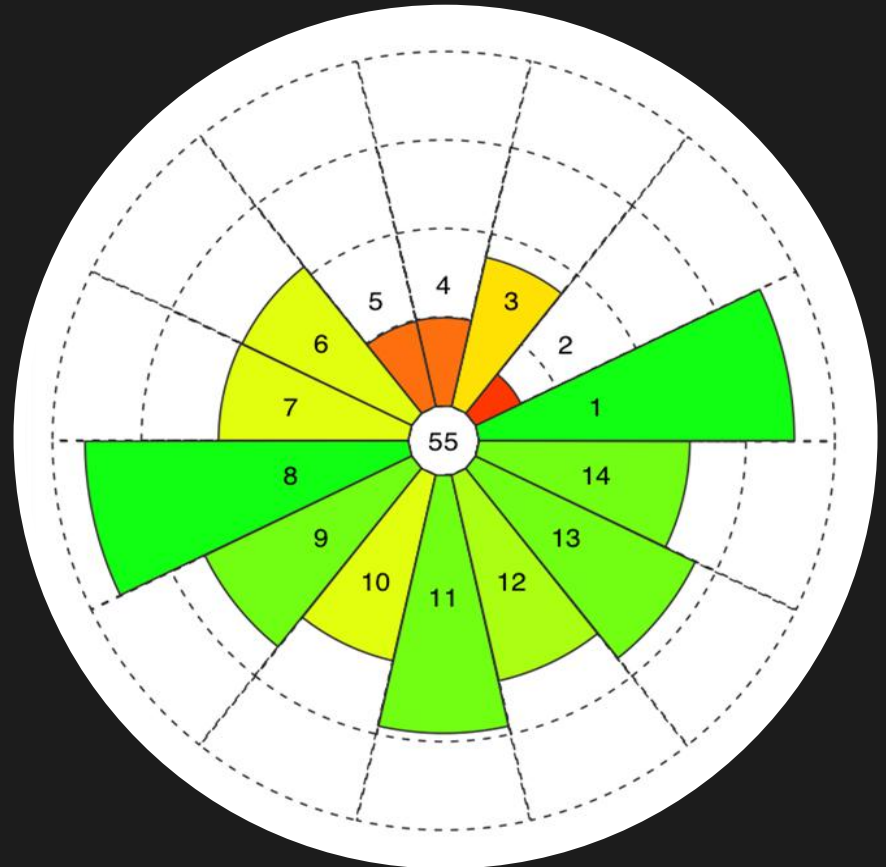
# Ecosystem Reference Point (ERP)



# Next Steps

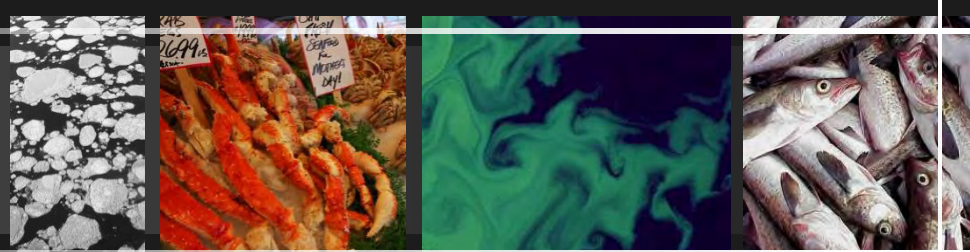


- Add uncertainty penalty to future status
- Run sensitivity analysis on scores
- Evaluate risk under various management actions (MSE)





# THANKS!

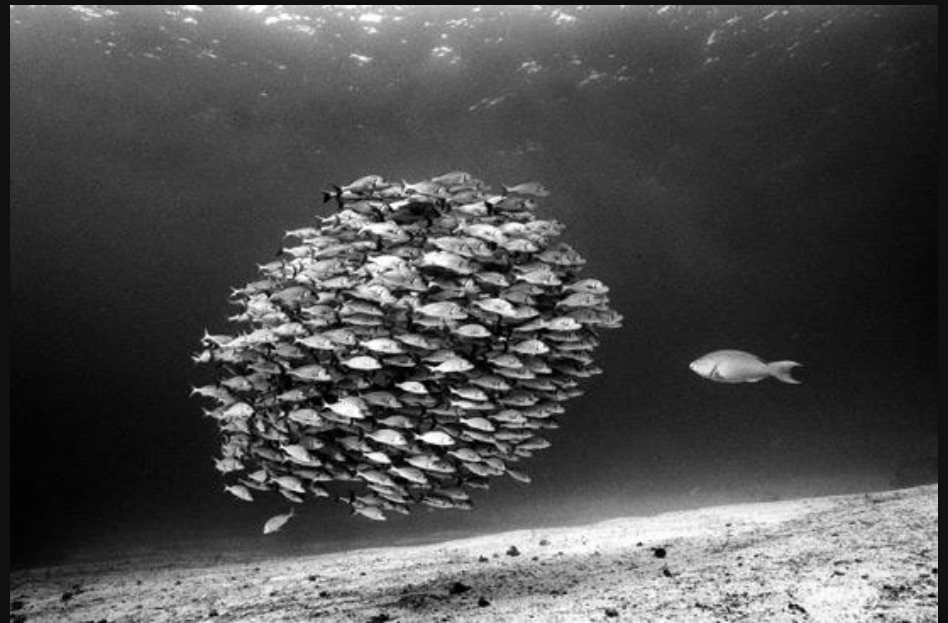


## Collaborators

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NOAA, AFSC, UW, FATE, PICES