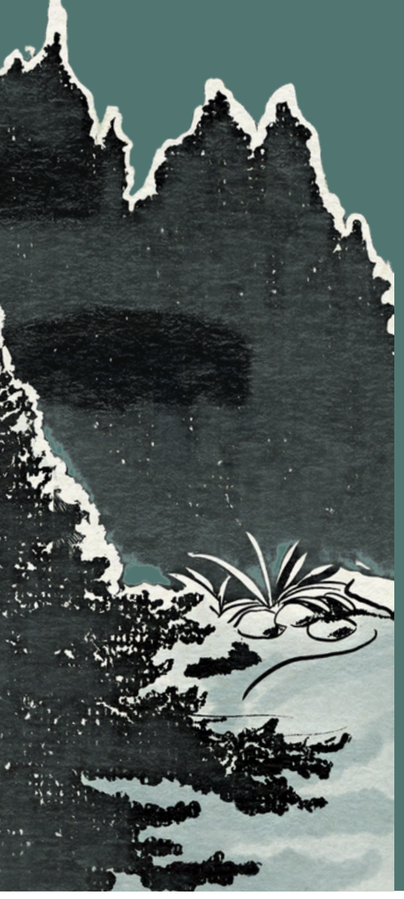


OLD FORESTS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR WILD SALMON

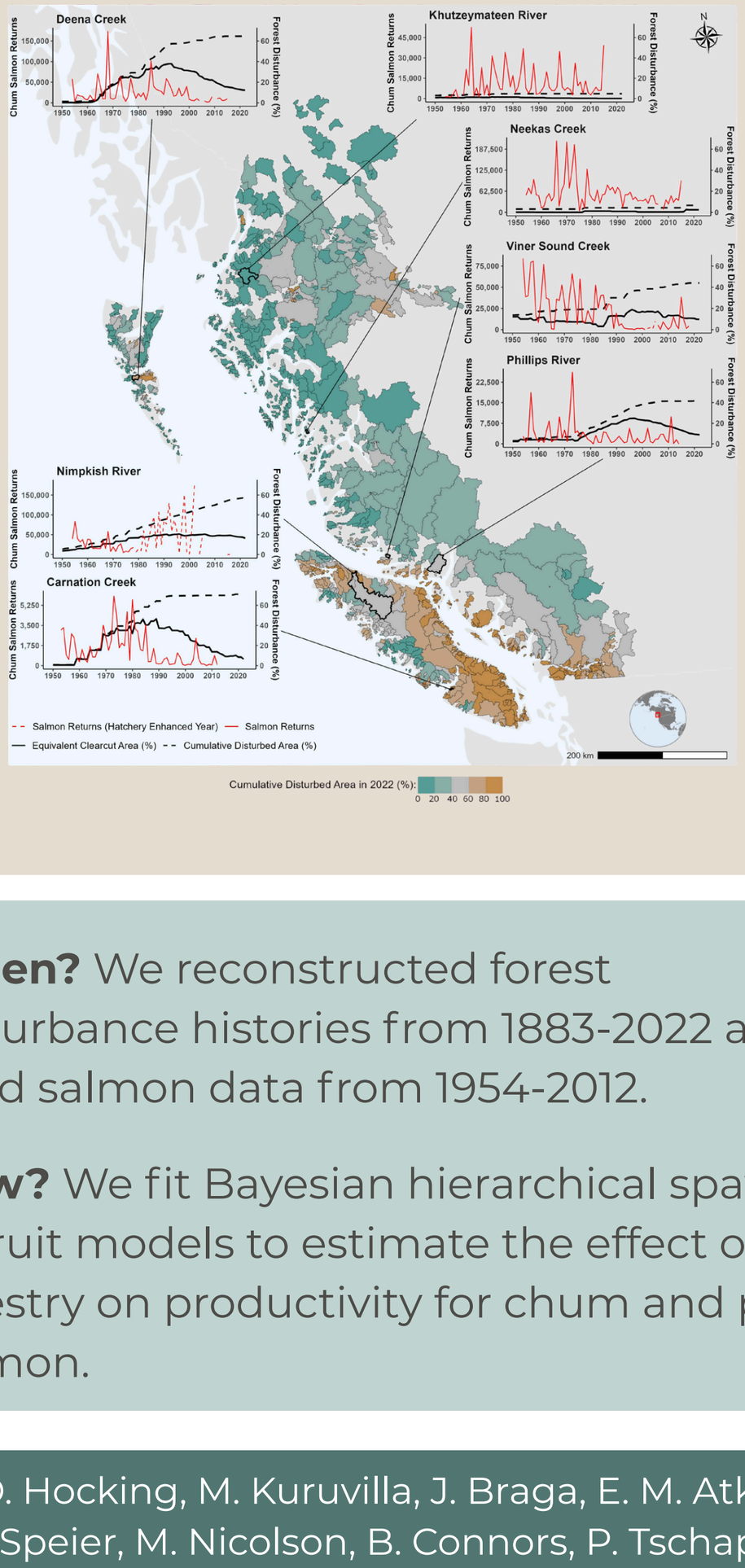


Maria Kuruvilla
Postdoctoral Fellow
University of Victoria



Cumulative effects of forest harvesting on Pacific salmon

Where? 1,745 watersheds in coastal British Columbia, Canada.



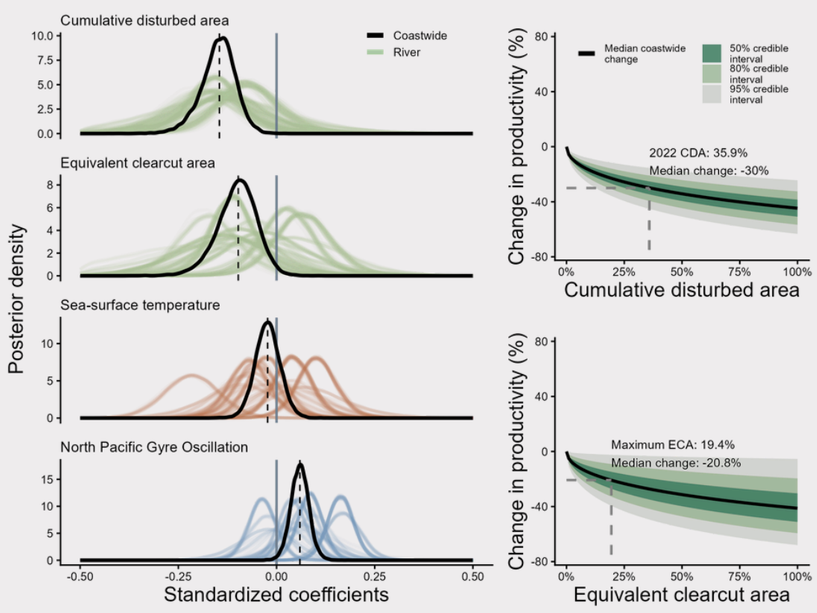
When? We reconstructed forest disturbance histories from 1883-2022 and used salmon data from 1954-2012.

How? We fit Bayesian hierarchical spawner-recruit models to estimate the effect of forestry on productivity for chum and pink salmon.

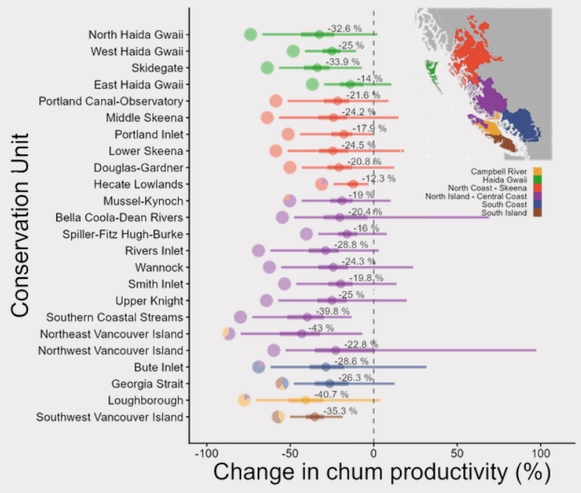
Why do we care? Industrial logging has degraded watersheds that support wild Pacific salmon.

What did we find?

We estimated a negative effect of forestry on chum salmon productivity.



We estimated declines of ~ 12% - 43%.



Who?: D. Hocking, M. Kuruvilla, J. Braga, E. M. Atkinson, D. A. Greenberg, O. Cornies, L. Krichel, A. Kamarainen, C. Glass, J. Speier, M. Nicolson, B. Connors, P. Tschaplinski, A. D. Buren, A. W. Bateman, F. J. A. Lewis, M. A. Lewis, M. Krkosek

Illustration by Leila Krichel