

# Gone, but not forgotten

## The blob and the ocean environment off of Washington and Oregon

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*NWPCC Ocean Forum  
October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017*



Photo by Pacific Drone

Brian Burke, Antonio Baptista, Brian Beckman, Paul Bentley, Ric Brodner, Cindy Bucher, Ed Casillas, Elizabeth Daly, Bob Emmett, Jennifer Fisher, Kurt Fresh, Abby Fuhrman, Susan Hinton, David Huff, Mary Hunsicker, Kym Jacobson, Meredith Journey, Jesse Lamb, Marisa Litz, Jessica Miller, Cheryl Morgan, Thomas Murphy, Bill Peterson, Beth Phillips, David Teel, Tom Wainwright, Laurie Weitkamp, Jen Zamon, Sam Zeman

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Supported by:



# Juvenile Salmon & Ocean Ecosystem Surveys

## Juvenile salmon sampling:

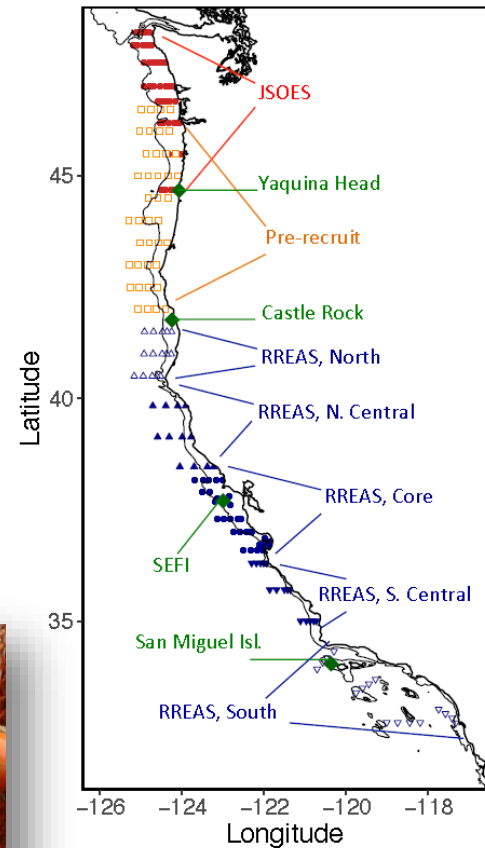
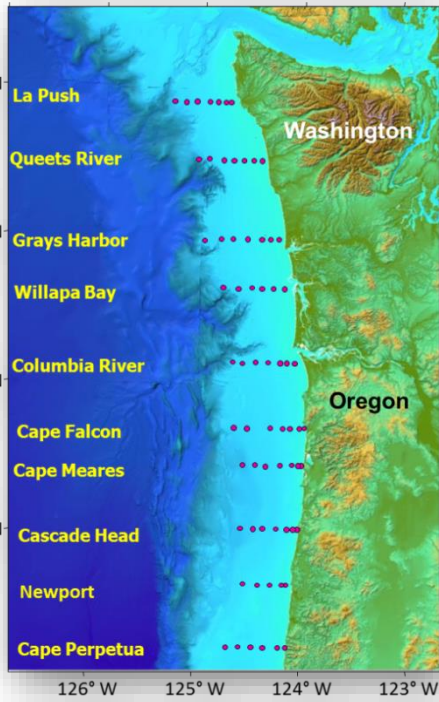
- May (2006 – 2012, 2015 - present)
- June (1998 – present)
- September (1998 – 2012, 2015)

## Newport Line

- Biweekly (1996-present)

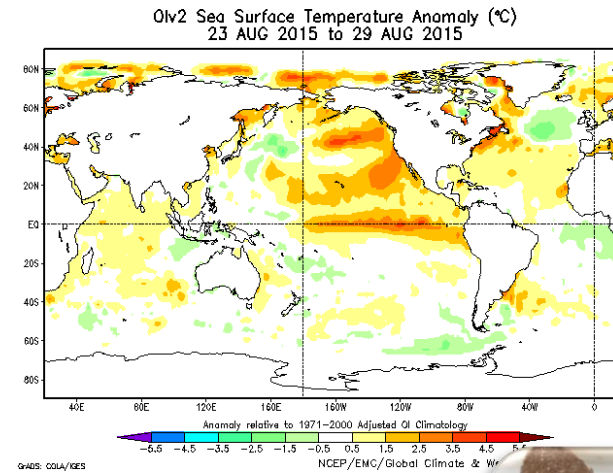
## Micronekton Survey, 30 m

- June (2011, 2013 - 2017)



# Today's topics

- The physical processes in the coastal ocean
- The biological responses to ocean dynamics
- Salmon growth and survival

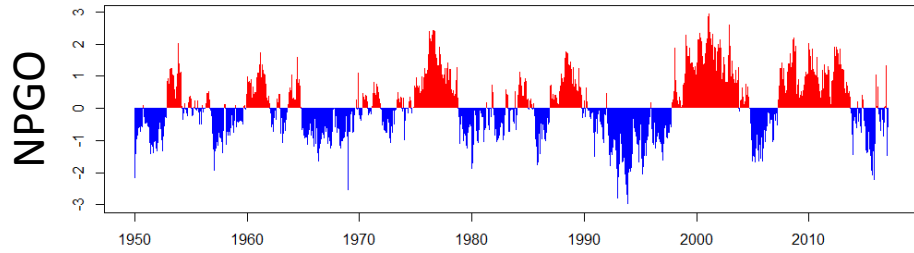




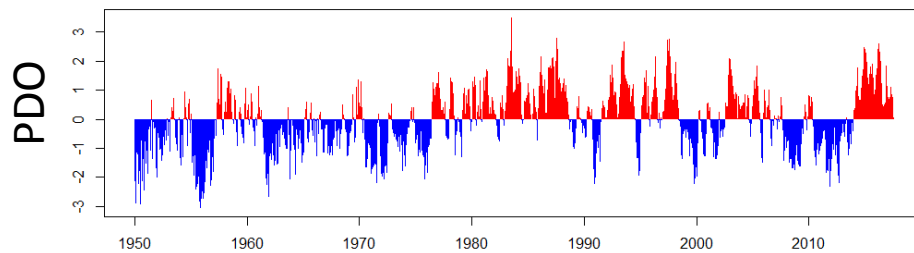
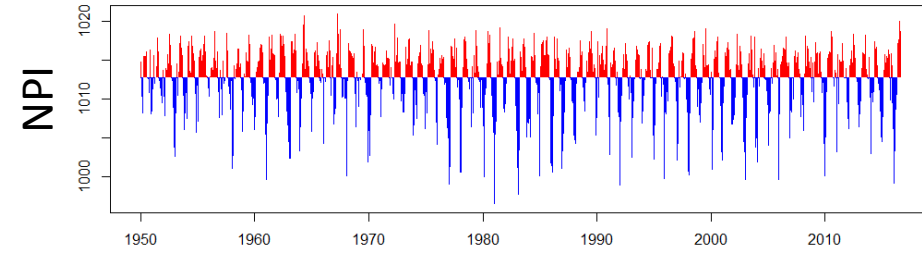
# Physical Drivers Act on Different Temporal Scales

(and biological responses work on different scales, with different lags)

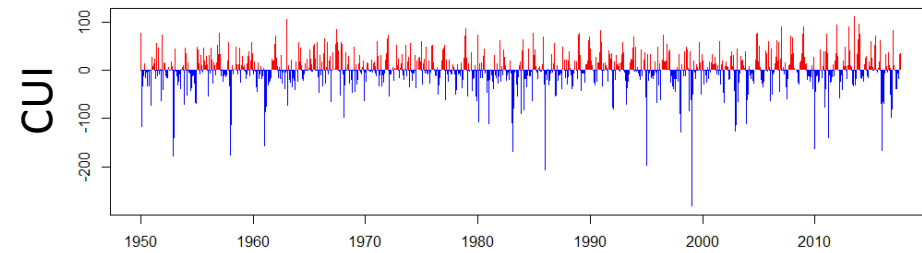
**Decadal**



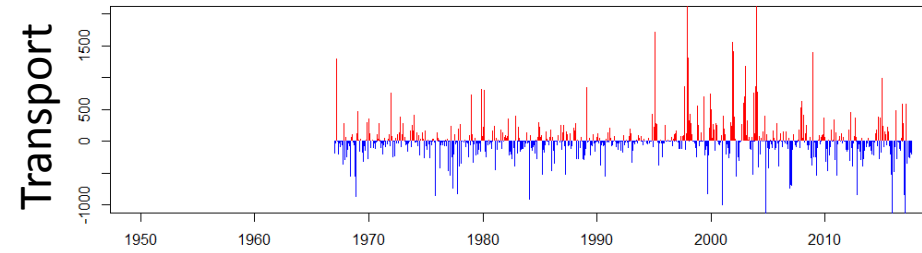
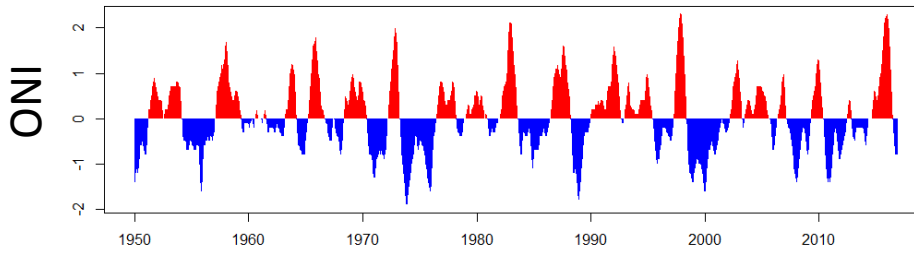
**Annual**



**Sub-Seasonal**



**3-7 year**



# The biological responses to ocean dynamics



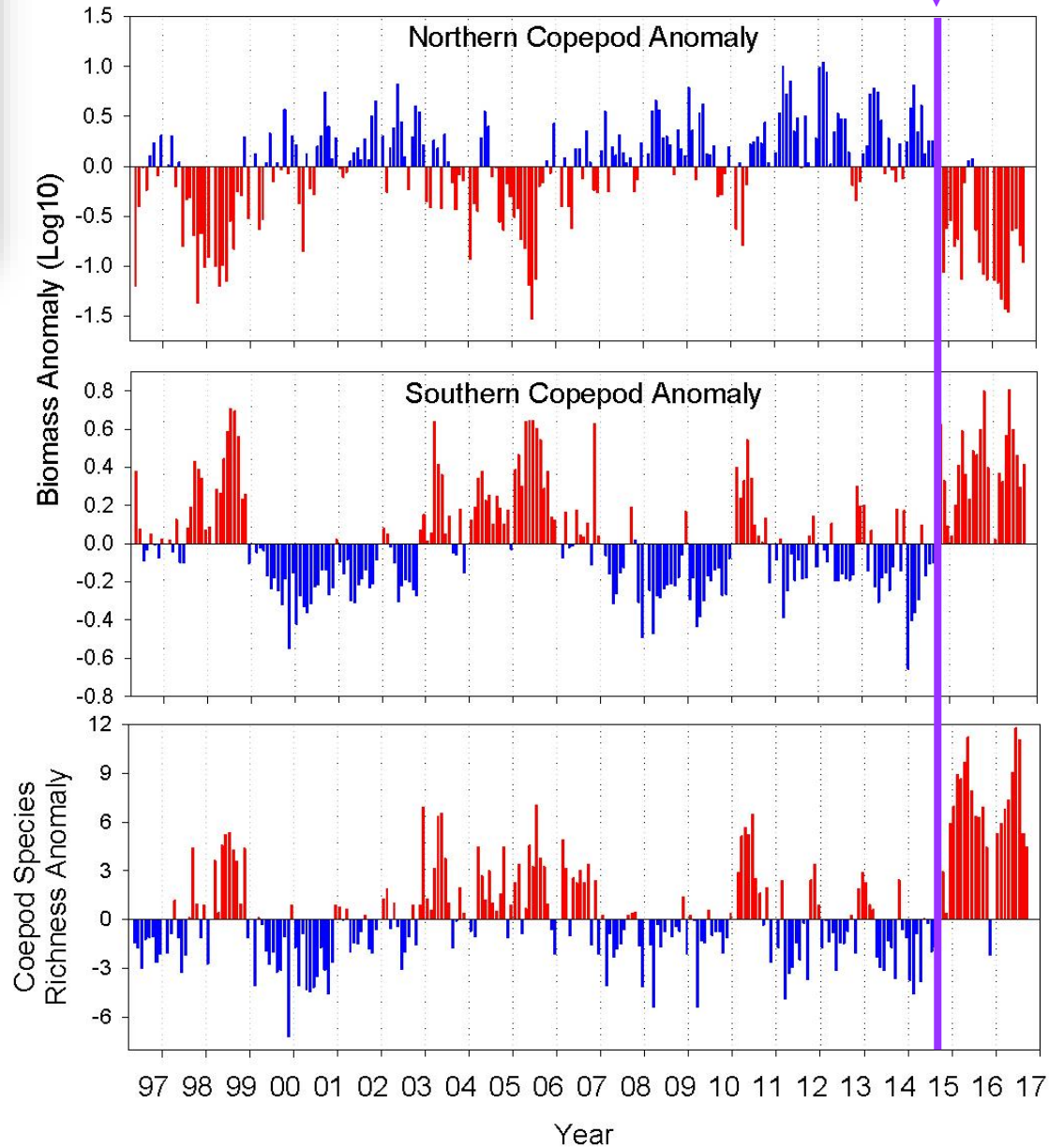


Bill Peterson

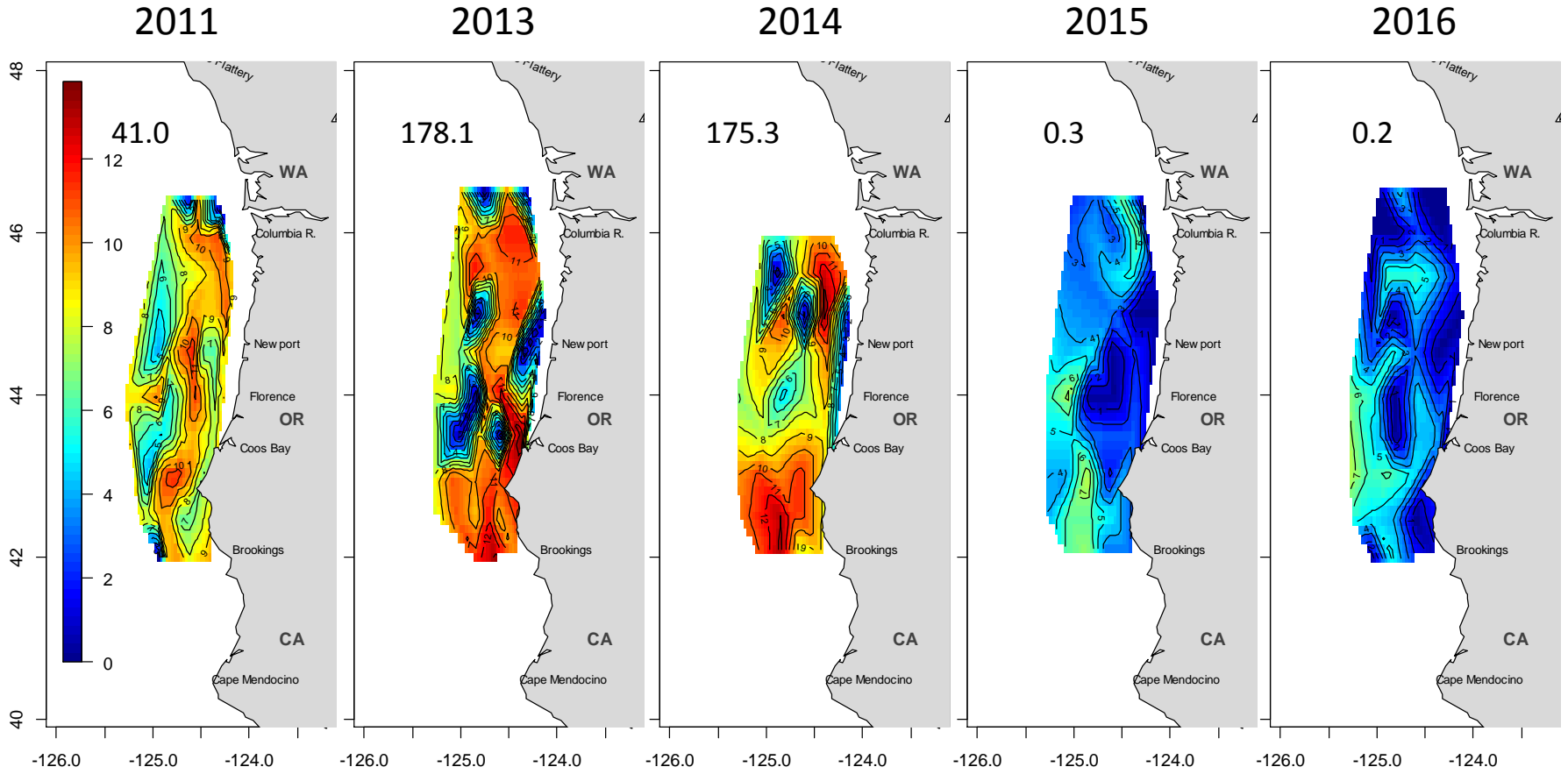


# Zooplankton

The blob came onshore



# Total Krill Euphausiidae





# Pyrosomes (*Pyrosoma atlanticum*)



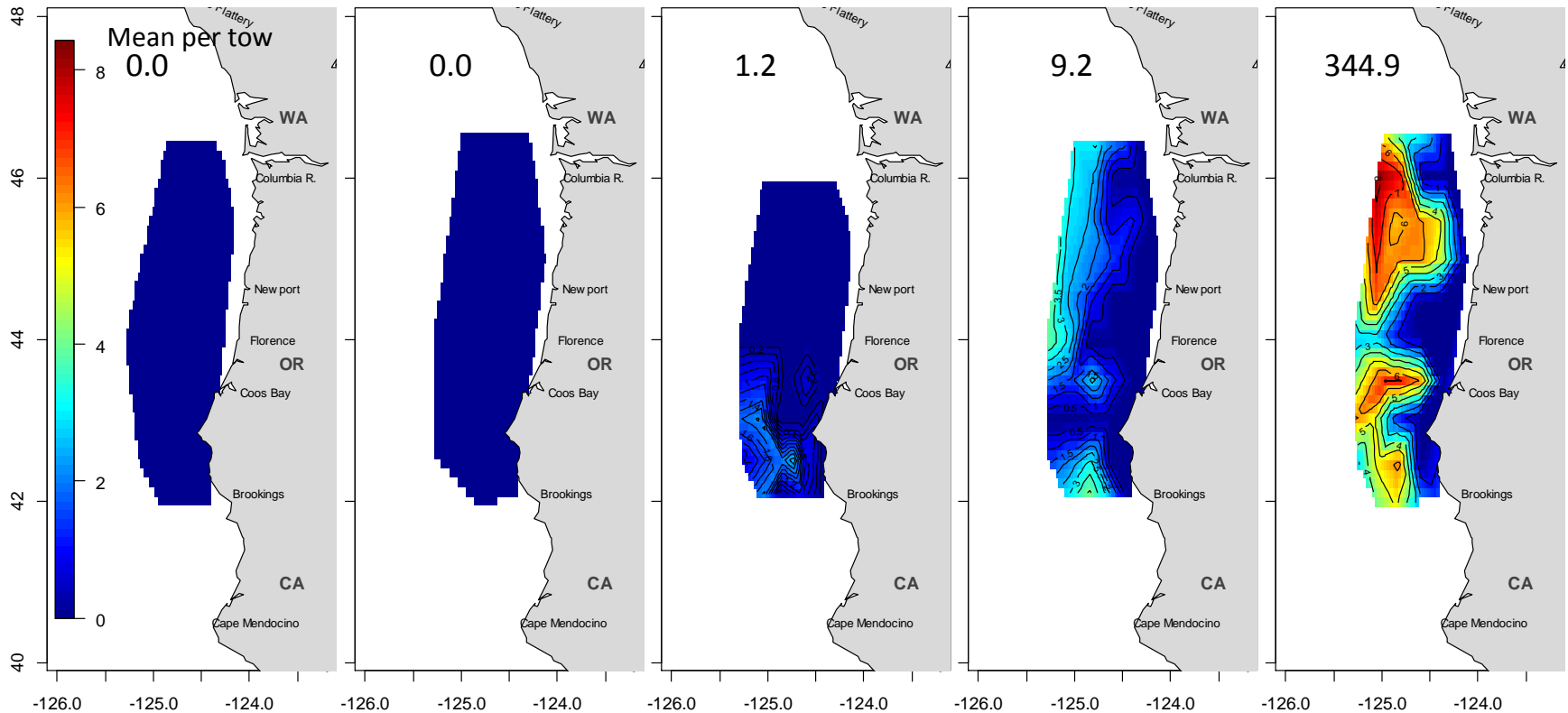
2011

2013

2014

2015

2016

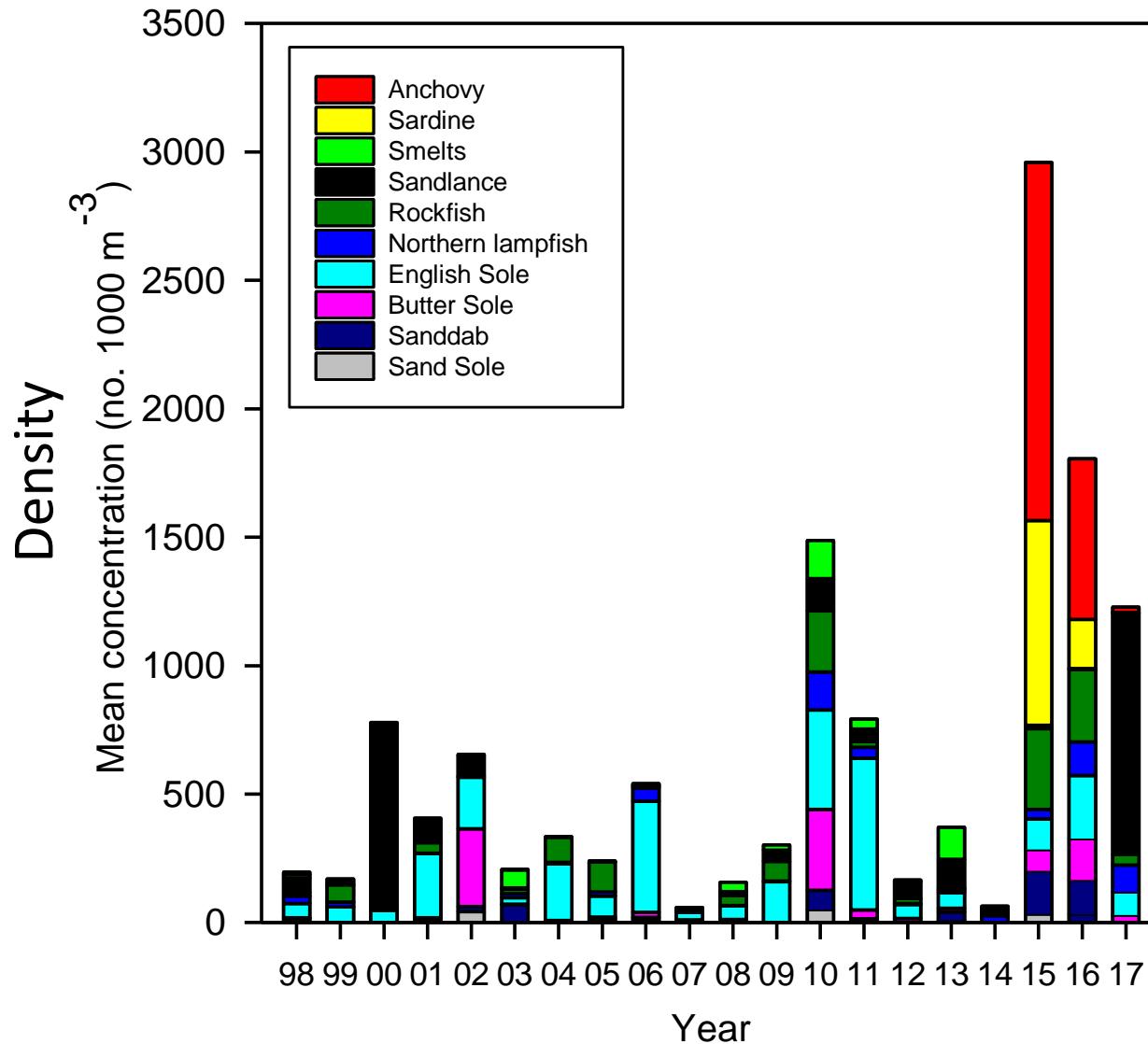


Mean number of pyrosomes per tow in 2017 = **11,752!**



# Dramatic Increase in 3 Species of Ichthyoplankton

## NH Line in Winter (Jan-Mar)

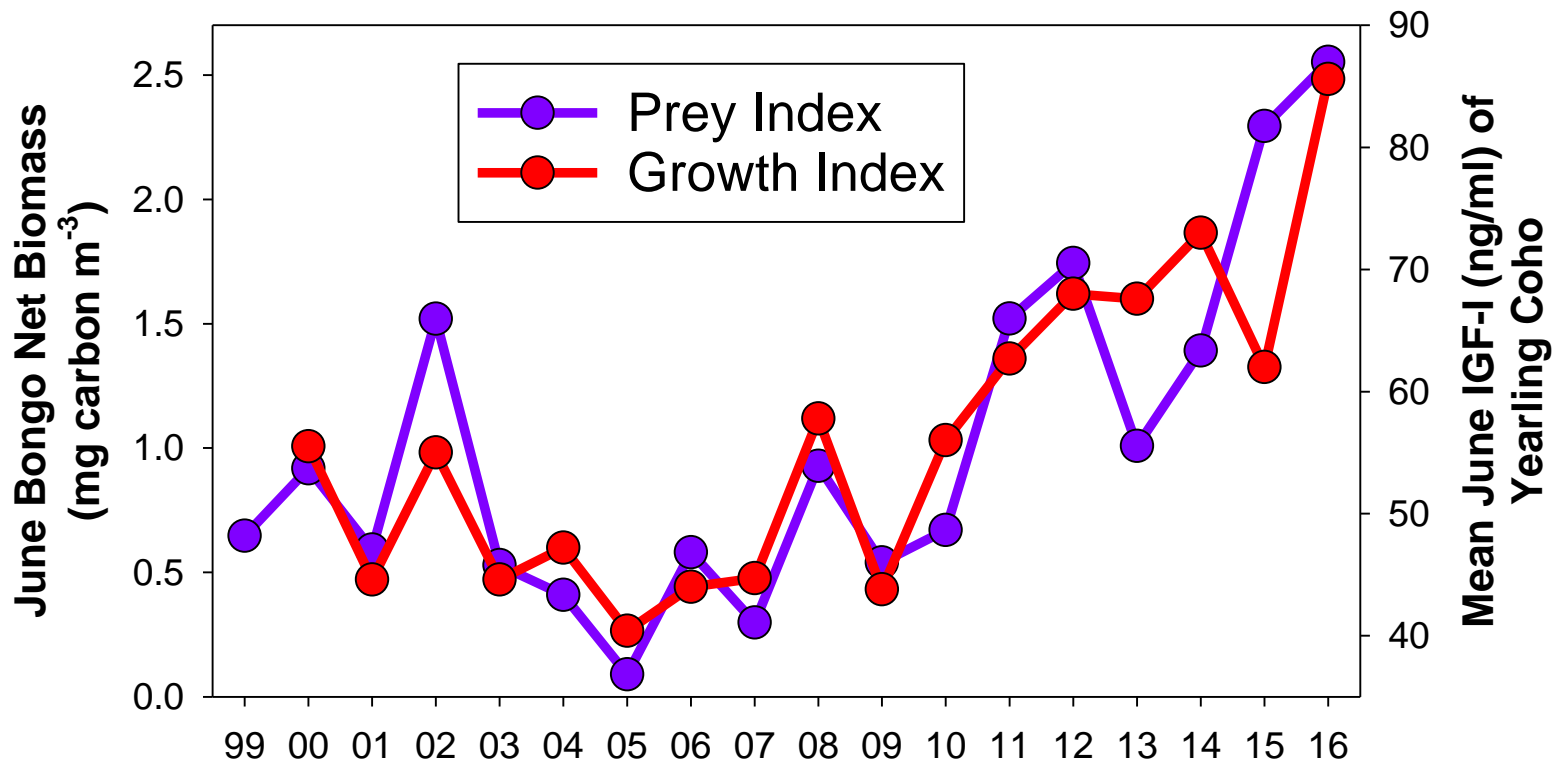


An aerial photograph of a salmon fishing boat in the open ocean. The boat is positioned in the upper center of the frame, leaving a white wake behind it. In the foreground, two long, narrow fishing nets are being towed, each featuring a series of colorful floats (red, green, and orange) that create a white, foamy trail in the dark blue water. The horizon is visible in the distance under a clear, light blue sky.

# Salmon growth and survival



# Prey abundance and estimated growth were both high



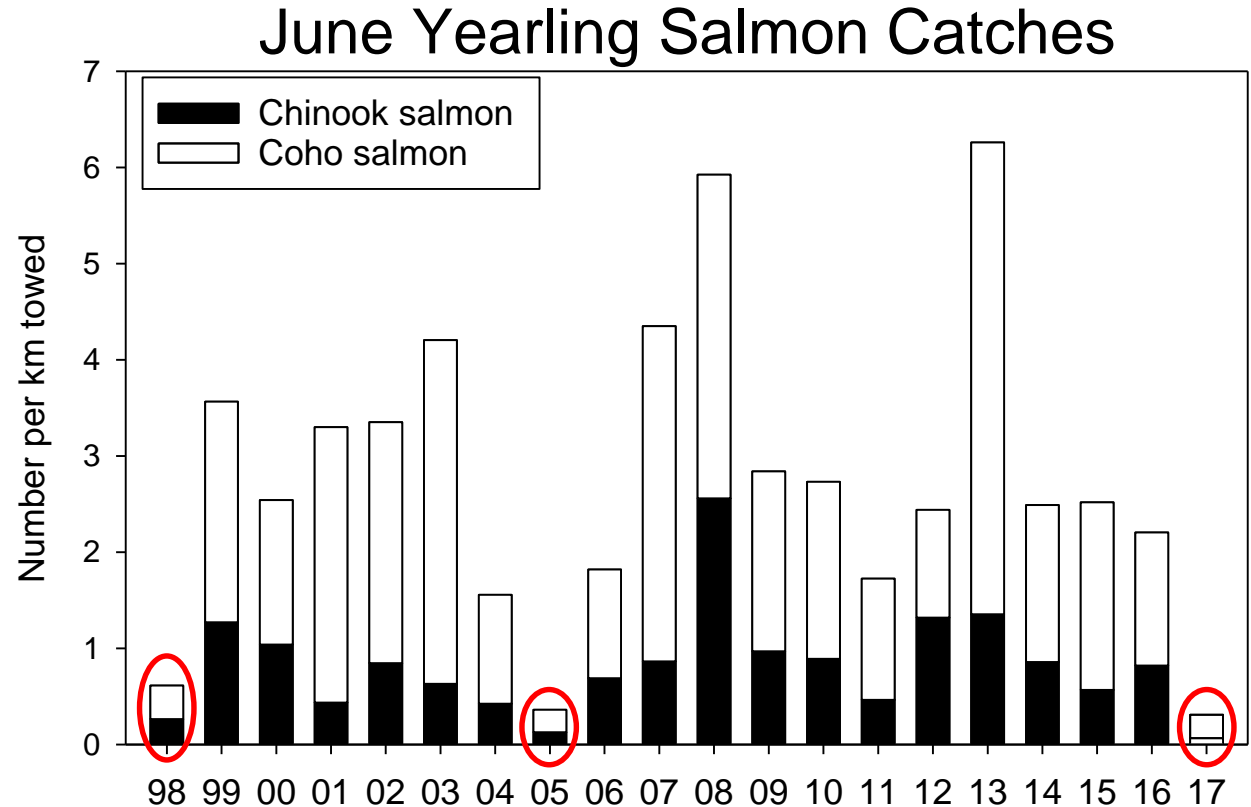
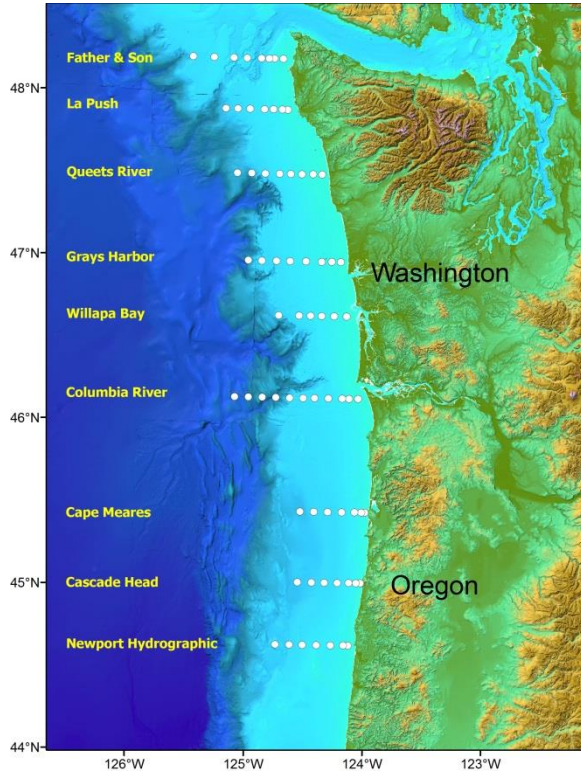
Our project represents more than just the Fish Ecology Division

- Growth data from Brian Beckman, EFS Division, NWFSC
- Prey data from Cheryl Morgan, CIMRS, OSU

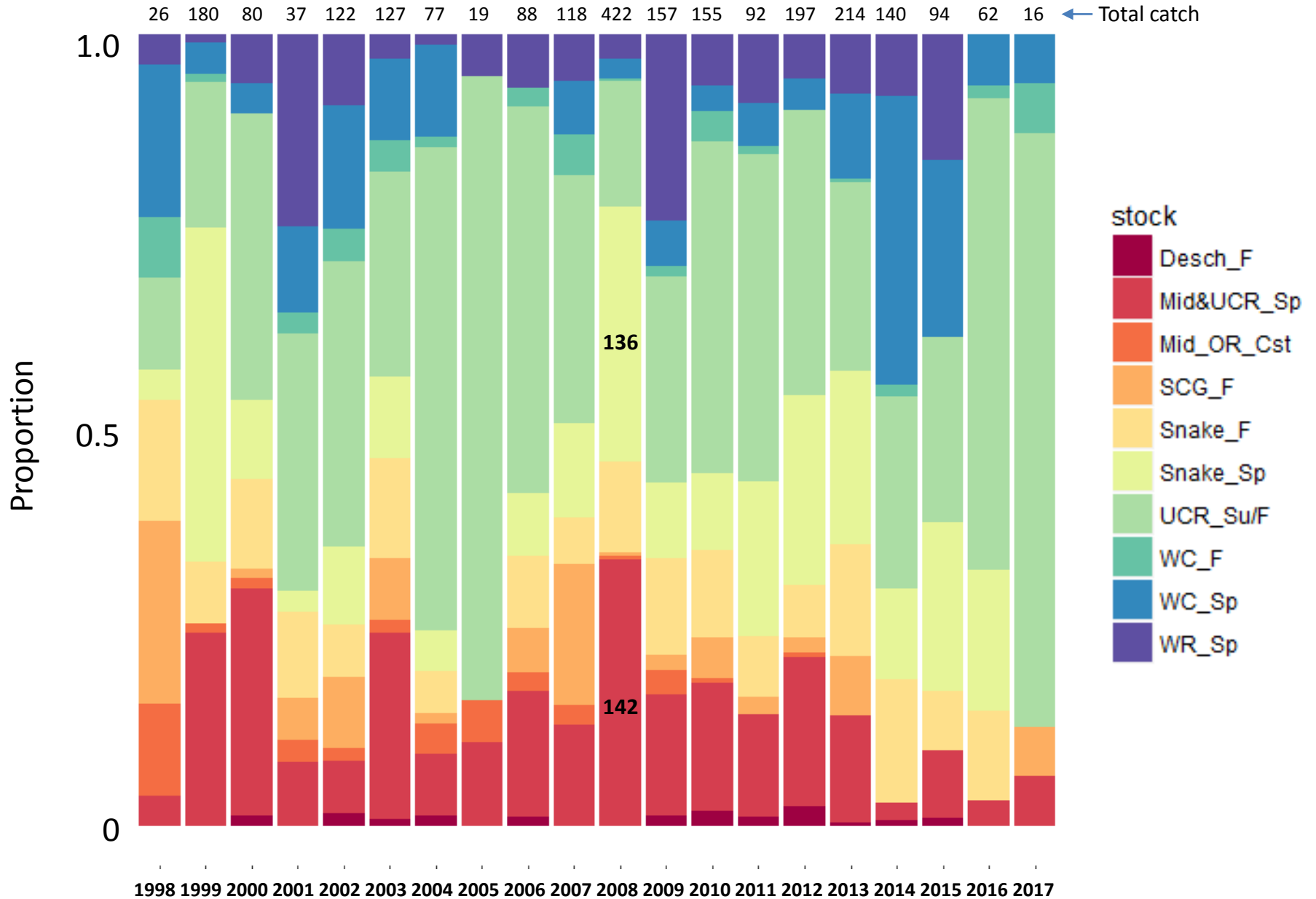




# Extremely Low Salmon Abundance



# Yearling Chinook Stock Composition in June





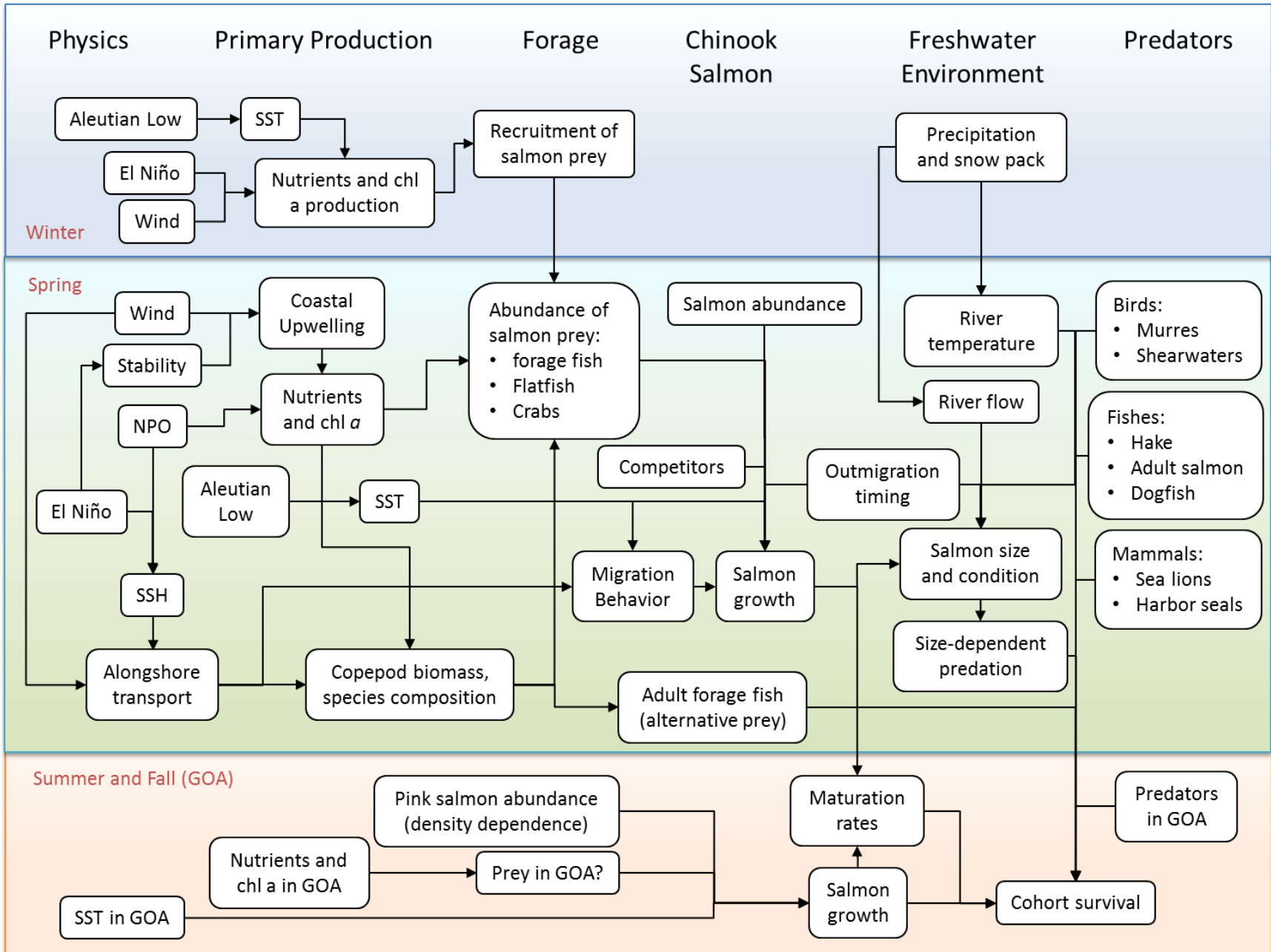
# Good – Fair – Poor

		Year																			
Ecosystem Indicators		1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Basin-scale physical indices	PDO (Sum Dec-March)	17	6	3	12	7	19	11	15	13	9	5	1	14	4	2	8	10	20	18	16
	PDO (Sum May-Sept)	10	4	6	5	11	16	15	17	12	13	2	9	7	3	1	8	18	20	19	14
	ONI (Average Jan-June)	19	1	1	6	13	15	14	16	8	11	3	10	17	4	5	7	9	18	20	12
Regional physical indices	4605 SST (°C; May-Sept)	16	9	3	4	1	8	20	15	5	17	2	10	7	11	12	13	14	19	18	6
	Upper 20 m T (°C; Nov-Mar)	19	11	8	10	6	14	15	12	13	5	1	9	16	4	3	7	2	20	18	17
	Upper 20 m T (°C; May-Sept)	16	12	14	4	1	3	20	18	7	8	2	5	13	10	6	17	19	9	15	11
	Deep temperature (°C; May-Sept)	20	6	8	4	1	10	12	16	11	5	2	7	14	9	3	15	19	18	13	17
	Deep salinity (May-Sept)	19	3	9	4	5	16	17	10	7	1	2	14	18	13	12	11	20	15	8	6
Regional biological indices	Copepod richness anom. (no. species; May-Sept)	17	2	1	7	6	13	12	16	14	10	8	9	15	4	5	3	11	18	19	
	N. copepod biomass anom. (mg C m <sup>-3</sup> ; May-Sept)	17	13	9	10	3	15	12	18	14	11	6	8	7	1	2	4	5	16	19	
	S. copepod biomass anom. (mg C m <sup>-3</sup> ; May-Sept)	19	2	5	4	3	13	14	18	12	10	1	7	15	9	8	6	11	16	17	
	Biological transition (day of year)	17	11	6	7	8	12	10	16	15	3	1	2	14	4	9	5	13	20	20	20
	Ichthyoplankton biomass (log (mg C 1000 m <sup>-3</sup> ); Jan-Mar)	20	11	3	7	9	18	17	13	16	15	2	12	4	14	10	8	19	5	6	1
	Ichthyoplankton community index (PCO axis 1 scores; Jan- Mar)	9	13	1	6	4	10	18	16	3	12	2	14	15	11	5	7	8	17	20	19
	Chinook salmon juvenile catches (no. km <sup>-1</sup> ; June)	18	4	5	15	8	12	16	19	11	9	1	6	7	14	3	2	10	13	17	20
	Coho salmon juvenile catches (no. km <sup>-1</sup> ; June)	18	7	12	5	6	2	15	19	16	4	3	9	10	14	17	1	11	8	13	20
Mean of ranks	16.9	7.2	5.9	6.9	5.8	12.3	14.9	15.9	11.1	8.9	2.7	8.3	12.1	8.1	6.4	7.6	12.4	15.8	16.3	13.8	
Rank of the mean rank	20	6	3	5	2	13	16	18	11	10	1	9	12	8	4	7	14	17	19	15	

Expand our summaries of ocean conditions  
to include stock-specific analyses

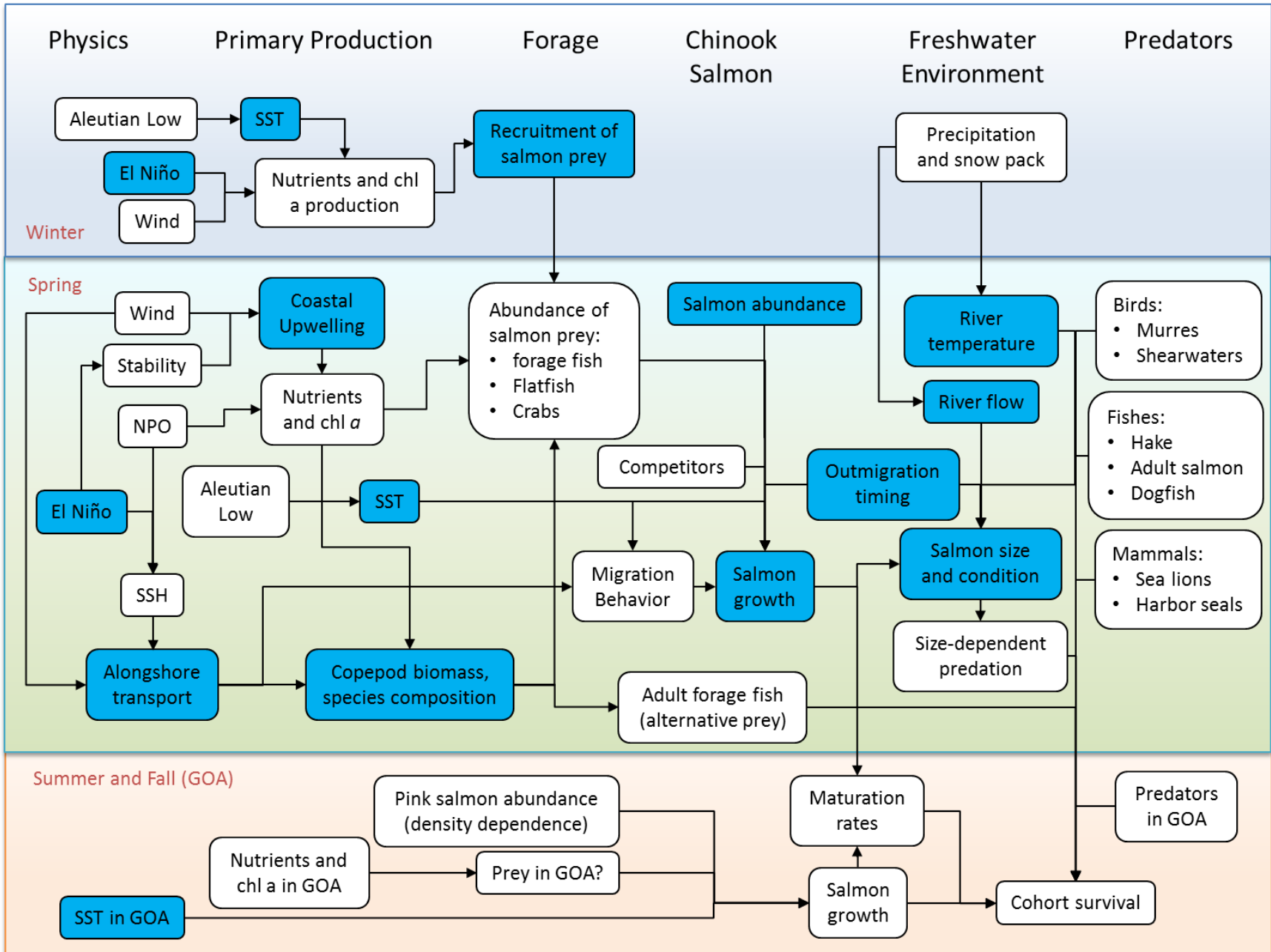
Caution: A modeler's view of the ocean coming up next...

# Hypothesized Mechanistic Links to Salmon Survival

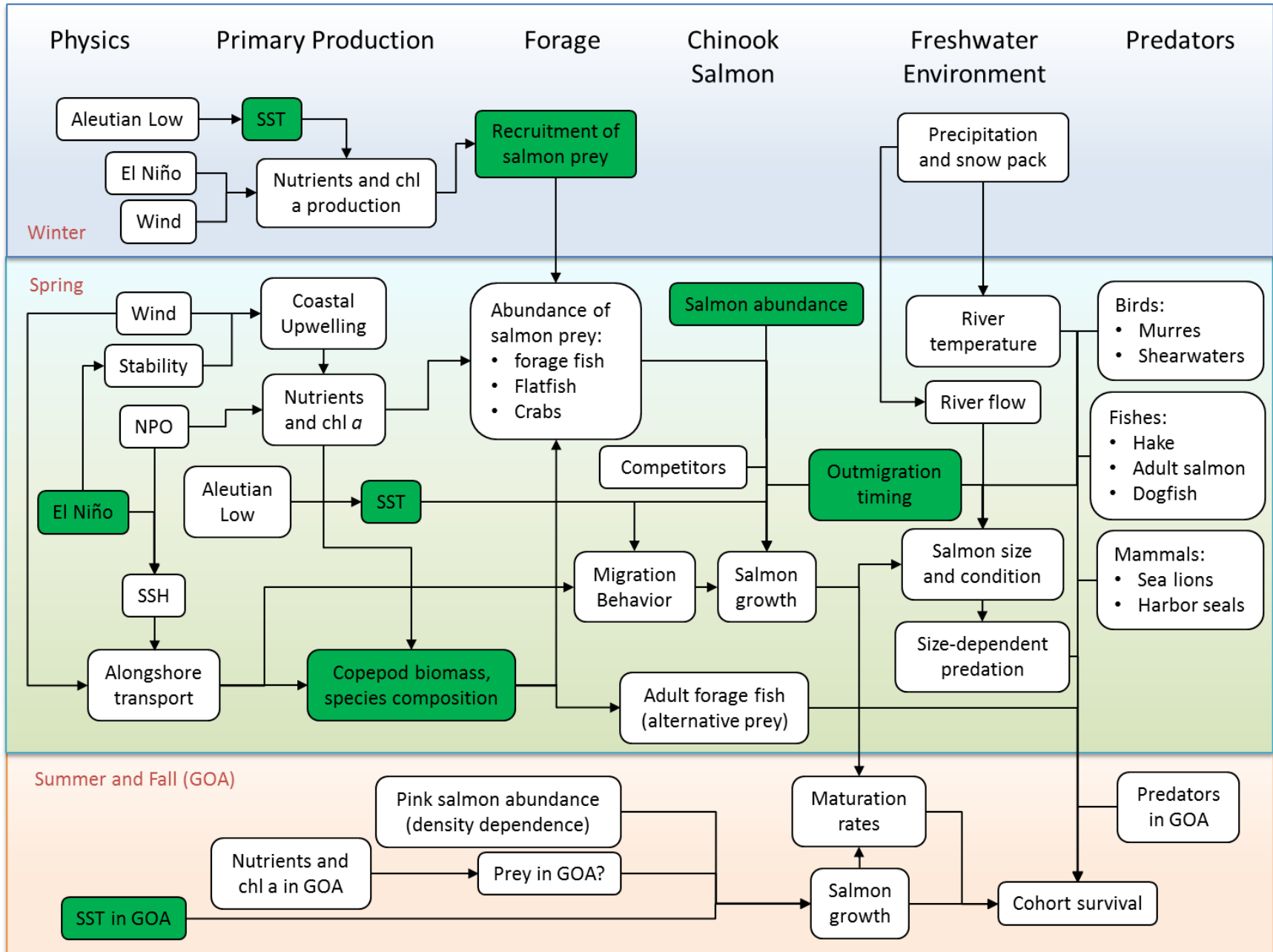




# Subset of variables *for which we have data*



# Subset of variables *important in our model*



# Spring Chinook

Good – Fair – Poor

Indicators	Year																		
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
PDO (winter)	16	6	1	13	7	18	12	11	15	9	5	3	14	4	2	8	10	19	17
PDO (spring)	16	5	10	9	6	14	13	17	11	8	2	1	12	4	3	7	15	18	19
PDO (summer)	11	5	8	6	10	17	13	15	12	14	1	9	7	3	2	4	16	19	18
NPGO (fall)	8	15	18	17	13	9	6	2	3	10	19	12	14	11	16	4	5	1	7
ONI (spring)	18	1	2	6	14	12	13	16	8	10	2	10	15	4	5	7	8	17	19
SST (WA, spring)	18	4	10	6	2	14	15	16	11	9	1	3	12	5	7	7	13	17	19
SST (WA, summer)	15	6	8	5	4	9	19	11	10	18	1	3	2	13	6	14	11	17	16
SST (coastwide, spring)	14	1	9	6	8	13	15	16	12	5	2	3	11	7	4	10	17	19	18
SST (coastwide, winter)	17	6	4	10	8	16	12	13	14	7	1	3	11	9	2	5	15	19	18
Ichthyo. Biomass	19	10	2	6	8	17	16	12	15	14	1	11	3	13	9	7	18	4	5
S. Cop. Biomass	19	1	4	4	1	13	14	18	12	10	1	7	15	9	7	6	11	16	17
Biological Trans	17	11	6	7	8	12	10	16	15	3	1	2	14	4	9	5	13	19	19

Up next: fall Chinook, coho, and steelhead

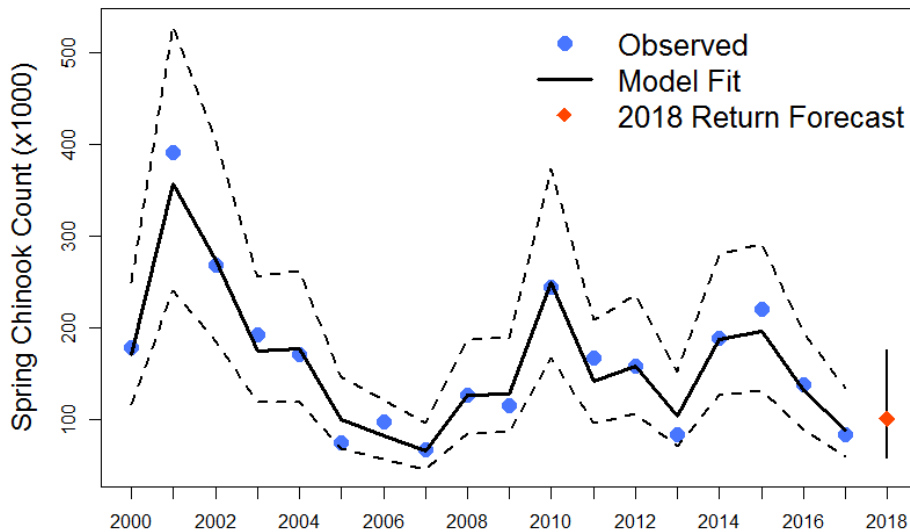
# Spring Chinook at Bonneville Dam

## Dynamic Linear Models

Sibling Regression and the first Principal Component of the stoplight chart

### Spring Chinook

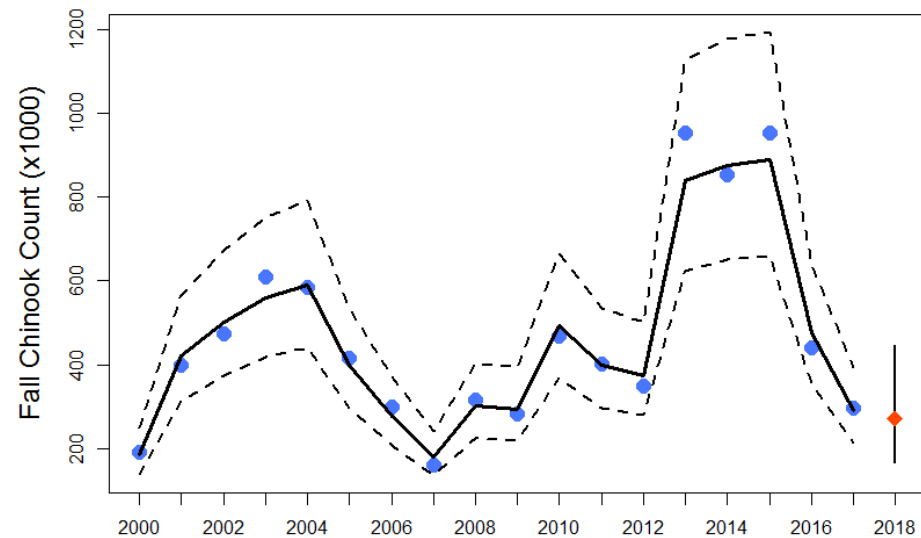
March 15 – May 31



Outlook for 2018: **100K (57-175)**

### Fall Chinook

Aug 1 – Nov 15

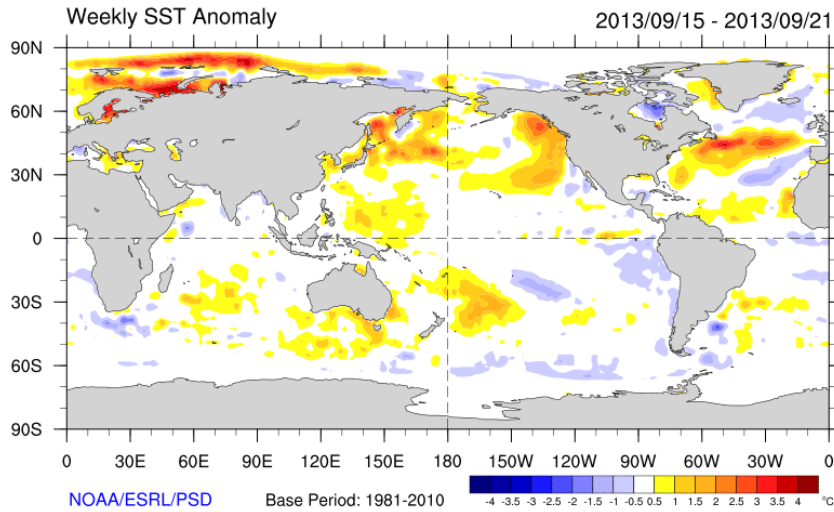


Outlook for 2018: **272K (166-448)**

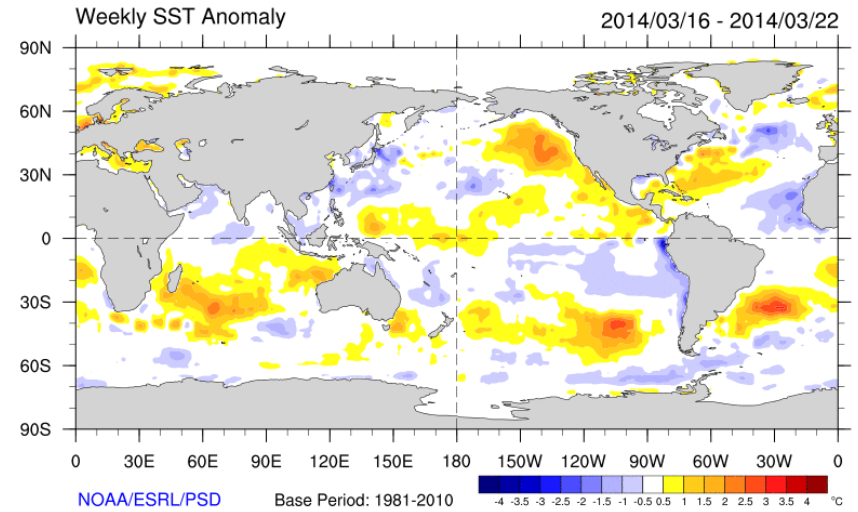




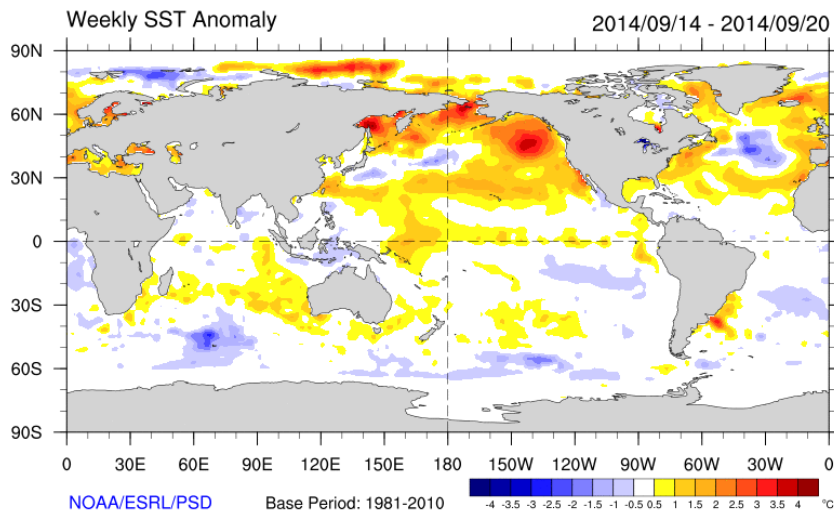
## September 2013



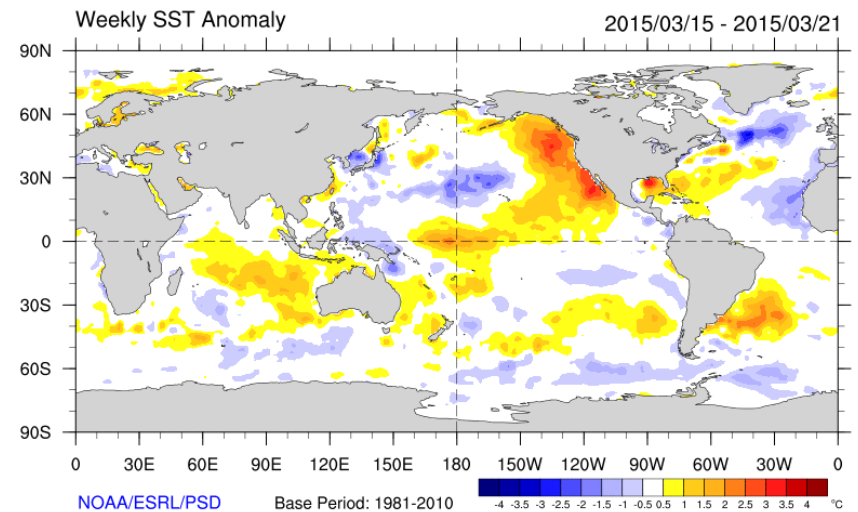
## March 2014



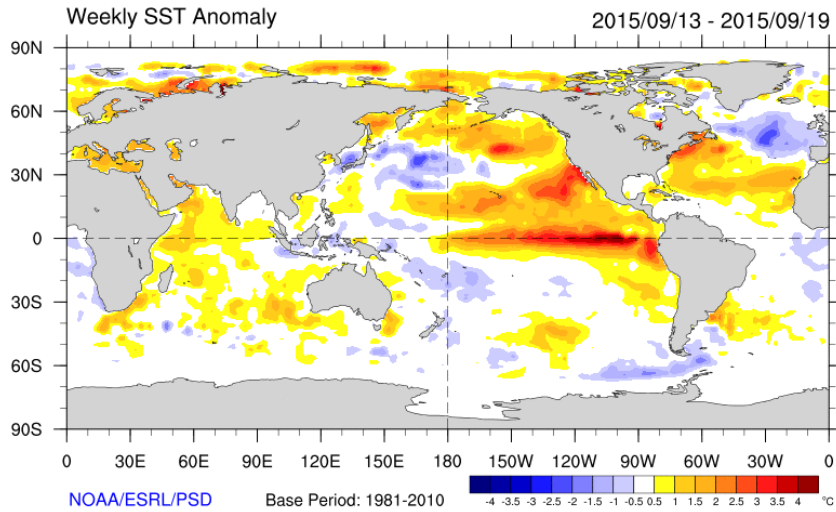
## September 2014



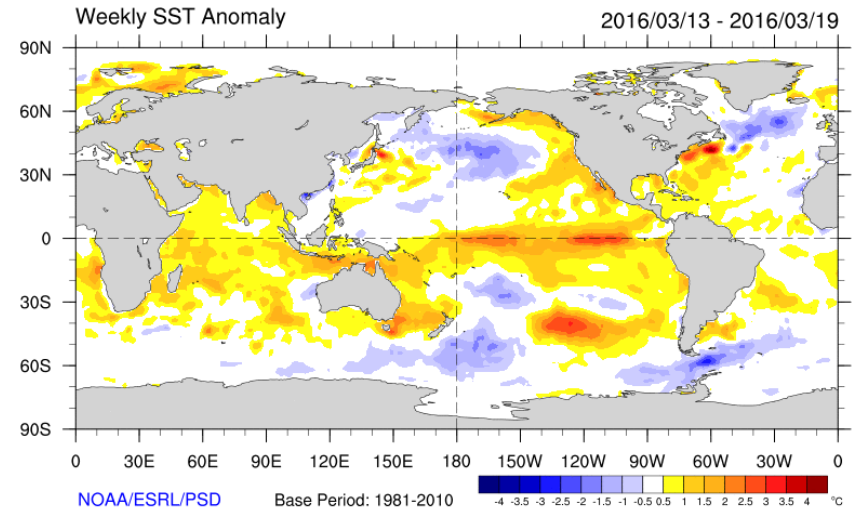
## March 2015



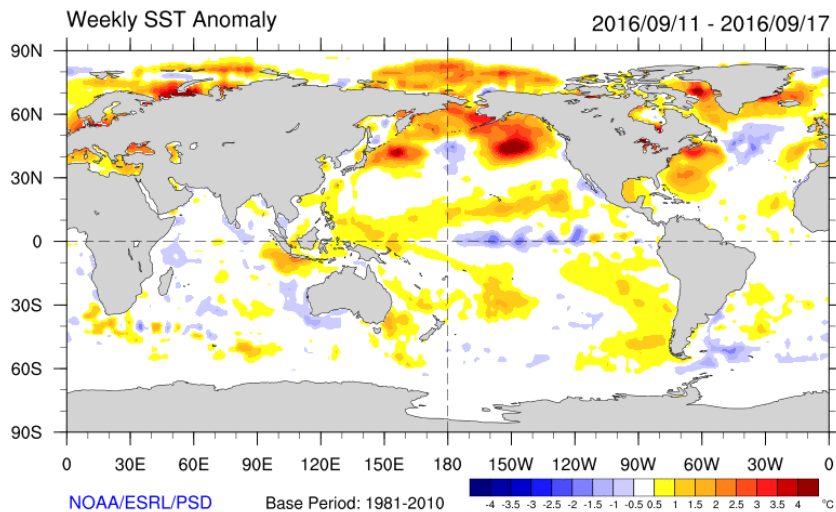
## September 2015



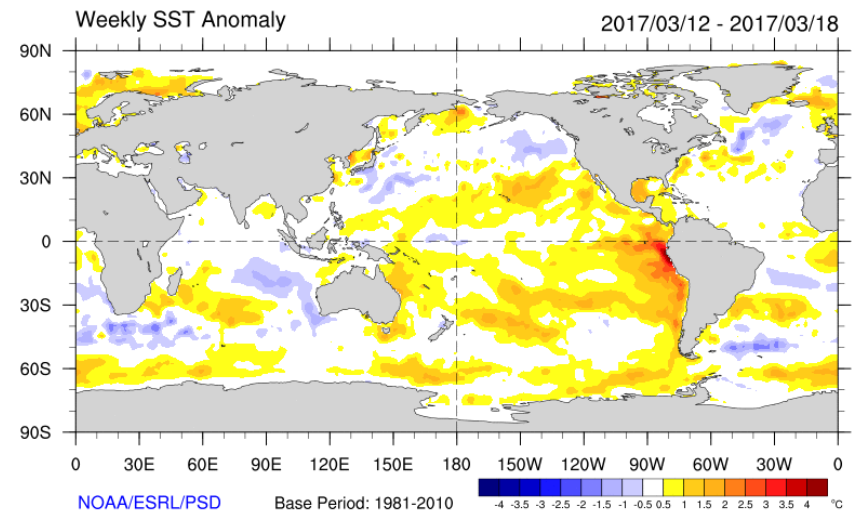
## March 2016



## September 2016

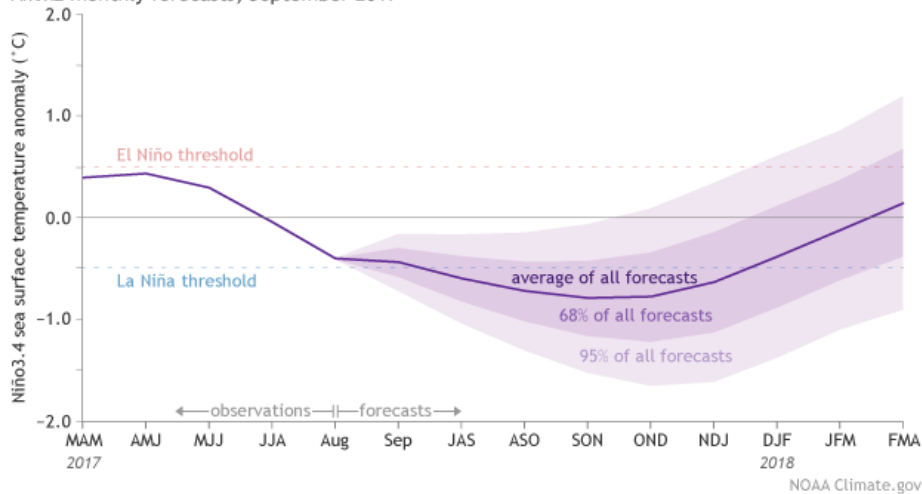


## March 2017

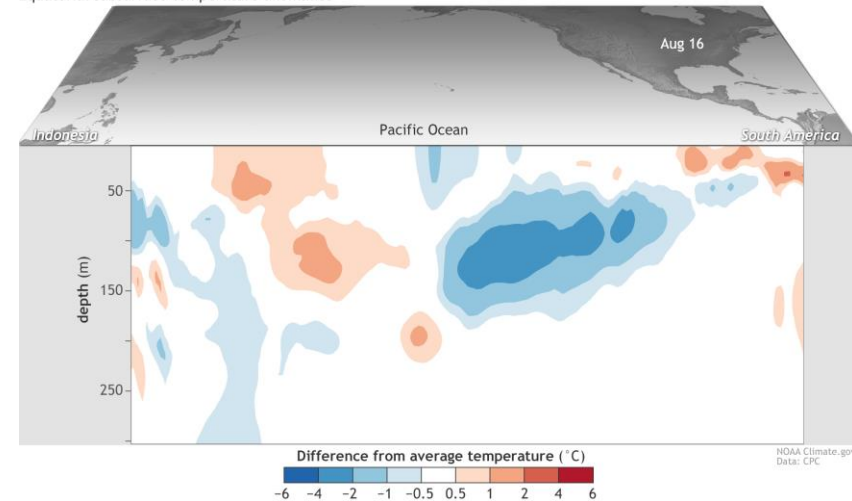


# Possible La Niña?

NMME monthly forecasts, September 2017



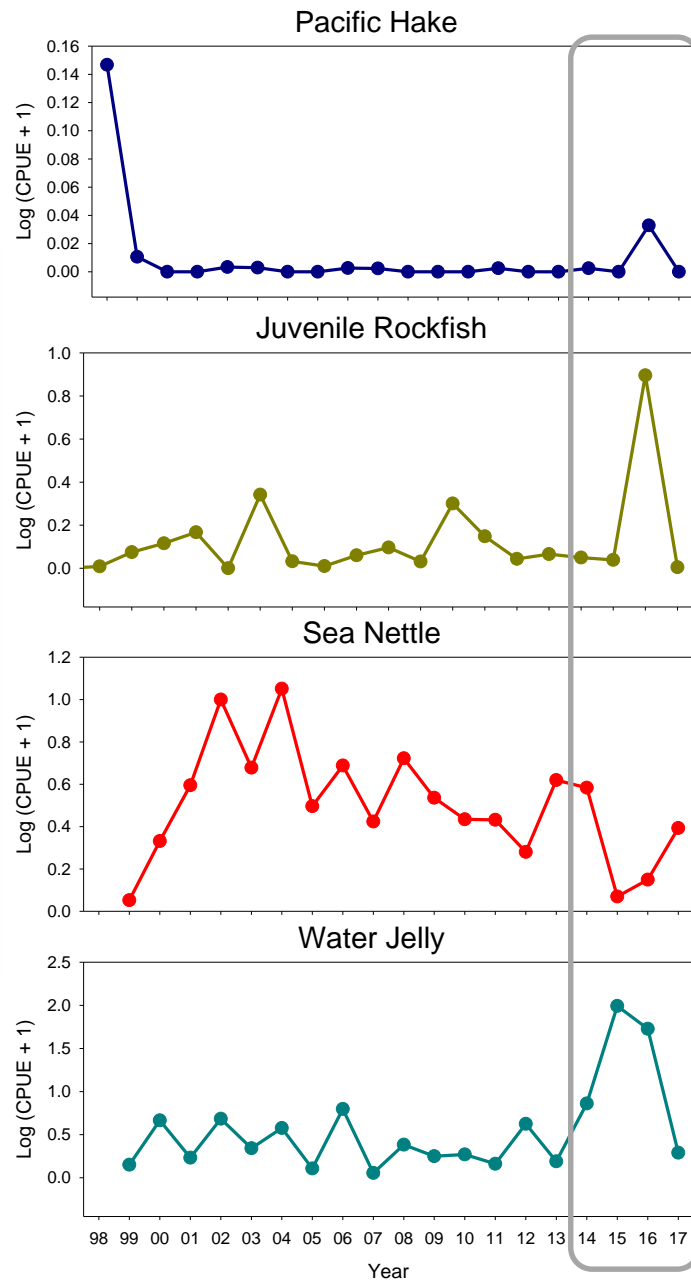
Equatorial subsurface temperature anomalies



Climate model forecasts for the Niño3.4 Index, from the [North American Multi-Model Ensemble \(NMME\)](#). Darker purple envelope shows the range of 68% of all model forecasts; lighter purple shows the range of 95% of all model forecasts. NOAA Climate.gov image from CPC data.



# Unusual patterns of abundance across multiple species



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