

# Working title: Highly resolved spatiotemporal simulations for exploring mixed fishery dynamics

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## Abstract

To understand how data resolution impacts inference on mixed fisheries interactions we developed a highly resolved spatiotemporal discrete-event simulation model incorporating: i) delay-difference population dynamics, ii) population movement using Gaussian Random Fields to simulate patchy, heterogeneously distributed populations, and iii) fishery dynamics for multiple fleet characteristics based on population targeting under an explore-exploit strategy. This is implemented via a mix of correlated random walk movement (for exploration) and learned behaviour (for exploitation) phases of the fisheries.

Fifty years of sub-daily fishing activity was simulated and used to draw inference on the underlying community structures. We compared inferences based on: commercial catch, a simulated fixed-site sampling survey design and the true underlying populations. We i) establish the potential limitations of fishery-dependent data in providing a robust picture of spatiotemporal distributions; and then ii) simulated an area closure based on areas defined from the different data sources at a range of temporal and spatial resolutions.

Our framework allows users to explore the assumptions in modelling observational data and evaluate the underlying dynamics of such approaches at a fine

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spatial and temporal scale. In application to a mixed fishery exploiting four different populations we found different spatial patterns were evident and that the effectiveness of the spatial closure reduced when data were aggregated across larger spatial areas. However, aggregation across time periods has less of a negative impact on the closure success and while not as effective as when based on the true population, closures based on high catch rates observed in commercial data could still reduce fishing on a protected species.

We conclude from our example framework application that commercial data, while containing bias, provide a useful tool for managing catches in mixed fisheries if applied at the correct spatiotemporal scale.

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## 1. Introduction

Fishers exploit a variety of fish populations that are heterogeneously distributed in space and time with varying knowledge of species distributions. As fishers do not have full control over what species they select when fishing in ‘mixed fisheries’ it can result in catch of low quota or protected species. If over-quota catch of a species for which they have no quota is discarded without being accounted for it limits our ability to control fishing mortality (Alverson et al., 1994; Crowder et al., 1998; Rijnsdorp et al., 2007) and the ability to manage fisheries for the biological and economic sustainability (Ulrich et al., 2011; Battlesler et al., 2015).

There is increasing interest in technical solutions such as gear and spatial closures as measures to reduce unwanted catch (Kennelly and Broadhurst, 2002; Catchpole and Revill, 2008; Bellido et al., 2011; Cosgrove et al., 2019) and adaptive spatial management strategies have been proposed as a way of reduc-

16 ing over-quota discards (Holmes et al., 2011; Little et al., 2014; Dunn et al.,  
17 2014). However, if fisheries are to reduce unwanted catch through spatial avoid-  
18 ance, an in-depth understanding of spatiotemporal fishery dynamics is required.

19  
20 Understanding the correct scale for spatial management measures to be effec-  
21 tive is crucial as it enables implementation of effective solutions which minimise  
22 economic impact (Dunn et al., 2016). For example, the problem can be to iden-  
23 tify a scale that promotes species avoidance for vulnerable or low quota species  
24 while allowing continuance of sustainable fisheries for available quota species.  
25 Identifying the correct spatial scale remains a challenge because data on fish  
26 location at high temporal and spatial resolutions is expensive and difficult to  
27 collect and proxies are usually inferred from scientific surveys or commercial  
28 catches with limited spatial and temporal resolution. Thus, implementation of  
29 spatial measures is hampered by a lack of knowledge of fish and fishery spa-  
30 tiotemporal dynamics and understanding of the scale at which these processes  
31 become important for management.

32  
33  
34 Identifying appropriate spatial scales for fisheries closures has been a high-  
35 lighted as crucial to their success (Costello et al., 2010; Dunn et al., 2016).  
36 Inference on fisheries spatial dynamics is hampered where spatial information  
37 is coarse due to low resolution reporting of fisheries catch which is aggregated  
38 across larger gridded areas (Branch et al., 2005). Further, if data does not allow  
39 identification of spatial features it may lead to poorly sited closures which are  
40 ineffectual or have unintended consequences. For example, increased benthic  
41 impact on previously unexploited areas from the cod closure in the North Sea  
42 were observed without the intended effect of reducing cod exploitation (Rijns-  
43 dorp et al., 2001; Dinmore et al., 2003)).

44  
45 More refined spatiotemporal information has since become available through  
46 the combination of logbook and Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data (Lee

et al., 2010; Bastardie et al., 2010; Gerritsen et al., 2012; Mateo et al., 2016) and more real-time spatial management has been possible (e.g. Holmes et al., 2011). However, fishers establish favoured fishing grounds through an explore-exploit strategy (Rijnsdorp et al., 2011; Bailey et al., 2018) where they search for areas with high catches and then use experience to return to areas where they’ve experienced high catch in the past. This leads to an inherently biased sampling where target species are over-represented in the catch as fishers exploit areas of high abundance. There is a need to understand the influence of these biases on any spatial management measures which are implemented based on inference from commercial landings or catch data.

To understand the effect of spatiotemporal aggregation of data and fishery targeting on our perception of spatial abundance of different fish populations we ask two fundamental questions regarding inference derived from observational data:

1. Do different source of sampling-derived fisheries data reflects the underlying community structure?
2. How does data aggregation and data source impact on the success of spatial fisheries management measures?

To answer these questions we i) develop a simulation model where population dynamics are highly-resolved in space and time, using a Gaussian spatial process to define suitable habitat for different populations. As the precise locations of the fish are known directly rather than inferred from sampling or commercial catch, we can use the population model to validate how inference from fisheries-dependent and fisheries independent sampling relates to the real community structure in a way we could not with real data. We ii) compare, at different spatial and temporal aggregations, the real (simulated) population distributions to samples from fisheries-dependent and fisheries independent catches to test if these are a true reflection of the relative density of the populations.

76 We then iii) simulate a fishery closure to protect a species based on different  
77 spatial and temporal data aggregations.

78

79 We use these evaluations to draw inference on the utility of commercial data  
80 in supporting management decisions.

## 81 2. Materials and Methods

82 A Discrete-event simulation (DES) model of a hypothetical fishery was de-  
83 veloped as a software package (*MixFishSim*). The modular approach enabled  
84 efficient computation by allowing for sub-modules implemented on time-scales  
85 appropriate to capture the characteristic of the different processes (Figure 1).  
86 The following sub-modules were included to capture the full system: 1) Popu-  
87 lation dynamics, 2) Recruitment dynamics, 3) Population movement, 4) fishery  
88 dynamics.

89

90 Population dynamics operate on a daily time-step, while population move-  
91 ment occurs on a weekly time-step, with the fishing module operating on a  
92 tow-by-tow basis (i.e. multiple events a day).

### 93 2.1. Population dynamics

94 The basic population level processes were simulated using a modified two-  
95 stage Deriso-Schnute delay difference model which models the fish populations in  
96 terms of aggregate biomass of recruits and mature components rather than keep-  
97 ing track of individuals (Deriso, 1980; Schnute, 1985; Dichmont et al., 2003). A  
98 daily time-step was chosen to discretise continuous population processes on a bi-  
99 ologically relevant and computationally tractable timescale. Population biomass  
100 growth was modelled as a function of previous recruited biomass, intrinsic pop-  
101 ulation growth and recruitment functionally linked to the adult population size.  
102 Biomass for each cell  $c$  was incremented each day  $d$  as follows (the full parameter

list is detailed in Table 1):

$$\begin{aligned}
B_{c,d+1} = & \\
& (1 + \rho) B_{c,d} \cdot e^{-Z_{c,d}} - \rho \cdot e^{-Z_{c,d}} \times \\
& (B_{c,d-1} \cdot e^{-Z_{c,d-1}} + Wt_{R-1} \cdot (\alpha_{d-1} \cdot R_{\tilde{y}(c)})) + \\
& Wt_R \cdot (\alpha_d \cdot R_{\tilde{y}(c)})
\end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

where  $\rho$  is Brody's coefficient, shown to be equal to  $e^{-K}$  when  $K$  is the growth rate from a von Bertalanffy logistic growth model (Schnute, 1985).  $Wt_{R-1}$  is the average weight of fish prior to recruitment, while  $Wt_R$  is the average recruited weight.  $\alpha_d$  represents the proportion of fish recruited during that day for the year, while  $R_{c,\tilde{y}(c)}$  is the annual recruits in year  $y$  for cell  $c$ .

Mortality  $Z_{c,d}$  can be decomposed to natural mortality,  $M_{c,d}$ , and fishing mortality,  $F_{c,d}$ , where both  $M_{c,d}$  and  $F_{c,d}$  are instantaneous rates with  $M_{c,d}$  fixed and  $F_{c,d}$  calculated by solving the Baranov catch equation (Hilborn and Walters, 1992) for  $F_{c,d}$ :

$$C_{c,d} = \frac{F_{c,d}}{F_{c,d} + M_{c,d}} \cdot \left(1 - e^{-(F_{c,d} + M_{c,d})}\right) \cdot B_{c,d} \tag{2}$$

where  $C_{c,d}$  is the summed catch from the fishing model across all fleets and vessels in cell  $c$  for the population during the day  $d$ , and  $B_{c,d}$  the daily biomass for the population in the cell. Here, catch is the sum of those across all fleets and vessels,  $C_{c,d} = \sum_{fl=1}^{FL} \sum_{v=1}^V E_{fl,v,c,d} \cdot Q_{fl} \cdot D_{c,d}$  with  $fl$  and  $FL$  the fleet and total number of fleets,  $v$  and  $V$  the vessel and total number of vessels respectively and  $E_{fl,v,c,d}$  and  $Q_{fl}$  fishing effort and catchability of the gear, and  $D_{c,d}$  is the density of the population at the location fished.

## 2.2. Recruitment dynamics

Recruitment is modelled as a function of adult biomass. In *MixFishSim*, it can either take the form of a stochastic Beverton-Holt stock recruitment relationship, or a stochastic Ricker stock recruitment relationship. The Beverton-Holt

relationship is defined as (Beverton and Holt, 1957):

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{R}_{c,d} &= \frac{(\alpha \cdot S_{c,d})}{(\beta + S_{c,d})} \\ R_{c,d} &\sim \log N[(\log(\bar{R}_{c,d}), \sigma^2)]\end{aligned}\tag{3}$$

where  $\alpha$  is the maximum recruitment rate,  $\beta$  the spawning stock biomass (SSB) required to produce half the maximum stock size,  $S$  current stock size and  $\sigma^2$  the variability in the recruitment due to stochastic processes. The stochastic Ricker form (Ricker, 1954) is:

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{R}_{c,d} &= B_{c,d} \cdot e^{(\alpha - \beta \cdot B_{c,d})} \\ R_{c,d} &\sim \log N[(\log(\bar{R}_{c,d}), \log(\sigma^2))]\end{aligned}\tag{4}$$

where  $\alpha$  is the maximum productivity per spawner and  $\beta$  the density dependent reduction in productivity as the SSB increases.

### 2.3. Population movement dynamics

Population movement is a combination of directed (advective) movement where at certain times of year the population moves towards spawning grounds by increasing the probabilities of moving into the spawning grounds from adjacent cells, and random (diffusive) movement, governed by a stochastic process where movement between adjacent cells is described by a set of probabilities.

To simulate fish population distribution in space and time a Gaussian spatial process was employed to model habitat suitability for each of the populations on a 2d grid. We first defined a Gaussian random field process,  $\{S(c) : c \in \mathbb{R}^2\}$ , where for any set of cells  $c_1, \dots, c_n$ , the joint distribution of  $S = \{S(c_1), \dots, S(c_n)\}$  is multivariate Gaussian with a *Matérn* covariance structure, where the correlation strength weakens with distance controlled by two parameters, with  $\nu$  a scale parameter in the units of distance and  $\kappa$  a shape parameter which determines the smoothness of the process. This enables us to model the spatial autocorrelation observed in animal populations where density is more similar in nearby locations (Tobler, 1970; F. Dormann et al., 2007; Poos and

150 Rijnsdorp, 2007b) and we change the parameters to implement different spa-  
 151 tial structures for the different populations using the *RandomFields* R package  
 152 (Schlater et al., 2015). We define a stationary habitat field with an anisotropic  
 153 pattern (to simulate a depth gradient) and combine it with a temporally dy-  
 154 namic thermal tolerance field to imitate two key drivers of population dynamics  
 155 without modelling the processes explicitly. Each population was initialised at a  
 156 single location, and subsequently moved across the entire space according to a  
 157 probabilistic distribution based on habitat suitability (represented by the nor-  
 158 malised values from the GRFs), temperature and distance from current cell:

$$159 \quad Pr(C_{wk+1} = J | C_{wk} = I) = \frac{e^{-\lambda \cdot d_{I,J}} \cdot (Hab_{J,p}^2 \cdot Tol_{J,p,wk})}{\sum_{c=1}^C e^{-\lambda \cdot d} \cdot (Hab_{c,p}^2 \cdot Tol_{c,p,wk})} \quad (5)$$

160 Where  $d_{I,J}$  is the euclidean distance between cell  $I$  and cell  $J$ ,  $\lambda$  is a given  
 161 rate of decay,  $Hab_{c,p}^2$  is the squared index of habitat suitability for cell  $c$  and  
 162 population  $p$ , with  $Tol_{c,p,wk}$  the temperature tolerance for cell  $c$  by population  
 163  $p$  in week  $wk$  (see below).

164  
 165 During pre-defined weeks of the year the habitat suitability is modified with  
 166 user-defined spawning habitat locations, resulting in each population having  
 167 concentrated areas where spawning takes place. The populations then move to-  
 168 wards these cells in the weeks prior to spawning, resulting in directional move-  
 169 ment towards the spawning grounds.

170  
 171 A time-varying temperature covariate changes the interaction between time  
 172 and suitable habitat on a weekly time-step. Each population  $p$  was assigned a  
 173 thermal tolerance with mean,  $\mu_p$  and variance,  $\sigma_p^2$  so that each cell and popula-  
 174 tion temperature suitability is defined that:

$$Tol_{c,p,wk} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi \cdot \sigma_p^2)}} \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{(T_{c,wk} - \mu_p)^2}{2 \cdot \sigma_p^2}\right) \quad (6)$$

175 Where  $Tol_{c,p,wk}$  is the tolerance of population  $p$  for cell  $c$  in week  $wk$ ,  $T_{c,wk}$  is  
 176 the temperature in the cell given the week and  $\mu_p$  and  $\sigma_p^2$  the mean and standard



177 deviation of the population temperature tolerance.

178

179 The final combined process results in a population structure and movement  
180 pattern unique to each population, with population movement occurring on a  
181 weekly basis. The decision to model population movement on a weekly timescale  
182 was to reflect that fish tend to aggregate in species specific locations that have  
183 been observed to last around one to two weeks (Poos and Rijnsdorp, 2007b).  
184 Therefore this process approximated the demographic shifts in fish populations  
185 throughout a year with seasonal spawning patterns (Figure S5).

#### 186 2.4. Fleet dynamics

187 Fleet dynamics can be broadly categorised into three components: fleet tar-  
188 geting - that determined the fleet catch efficiency and preference towards a  
189 particular population; trip-level decisions, that determines the initial location  
190 to be fished at the beginning of a trip; and within-trip decisions, that determines  
191 movement from one fishing spot to another within a trip. An explore-exploit  
192 type strategy was implemented in the model that combined these three compo-  
193 nents for individual vessels to maximise their catch from an unknown resource  
194 distribution (Bailey et al., 2018). The decision to use an individual based model  
195 for fishing vessels was taken because fishers are heterogeneous in their location  
196 choice behaviour due to different objectives, risk preference and targeting prefer-  
197 ence (Van Putten et al., 2012; Boonstra and Hentati-Sundberg, 2015). Therefore  
198 fleet dynamics are emergent from individual dynamics rather than pre-defined  
199 group dynamics.

##### 200 2.4.1. Fleet targeting

201 Each fleet of  $n$  vessels was characterised by both a general efficiency,  $Q_{fl}$ ,  
202 and a population specific efficiency,  $Q_{fl,p}$  which are each bound by  $[0,1]$ . The  
203 product of these parameters  $[Q_{fl} \cdot Q_{fl,p}]$  affects the overall catch rates for the fleet  
204 and the preferential targeting of one species over another. This, in combination  
205 with the parameter choice for the step-function defined below (as well as some

206 randomness from the exploratory fishing process) determined the preference of  
207 fishing locations for the fleet.

#### 208 *2.4.2. Decision about where to fish at the start of a trip*

209 Several studies (for a review see Girardin et al., 2016) have confirmed past  
210 activity and past catch rates are strong predictors of fishing location choice.  
211 For this reason, the fleet dynamics sub-model included a learning component,  
212 where a vessel’s initial fishing location in a trip was based on selecting from  
213 previously successful fishing locations. This was achieved by calculating an  
214 expected revenue based on the catches from locations fished in the preceding  
215 trip as well as the same month periods in previous years and the travel costs  
216 from the port to the fishing grounds. Then a vessel chooses randomly from the  
217 top 70 % of fishing events (defined as the ‘threshold’) in terms of expected profit  
218 within that season.

#### 219 *2.4.3. Decision about where to fish within a trip*

220 Fishing locations within a trip are initially determined by a modified ran-  
221 dom walk process. As the simulation progresses the within-trip decision become  
222 gradually more influenced by experience gained from past fishing locations (as  
223 per the initial trip-level location choice), moving location choice towards areas  
224 of higher perceived profit. A random walk was chosen for the exploratory fishing  
225 process as it is the simplest assumption commonly used in ecology to describe  
226 optimal animal search strategy for exploiting heterogeneously distributed prey  
227 about which there is uncertain knowledge (Viswanathan et al., 1999). In a ran-  
228 dom walk, movement is a stochastic process through a series of steps. These  
229 steps have a length, and a direction that can either be equal in length or take  
230 some other functional form. The direction of the random walk was also cor-  
231 related (known as ‘persistence’) providing some overall directional movement  
232 (Codling et al., 2008).

233

234 For our implementation of a random walk directional change is based on a

negatively correlated circular distribution where a favourable fishing ground is likely to be “fished back over” by the vessel returning in the direction it came from. The step length (i.e. the distance travelled from the current to the next fishing location) is determined by relating recent fishing success, measured as the summed value of fish caught (revenue,  $Rev$ );

$$Rev_{c,d} = \sum_{p=1}^P L_{c,d,p} \cdot Pr_p \quad (7)$$

where  $L_{c,d,p}$  is landings of a population  $p$ , and  $Pr_p$  price of a population. All population prices were kept the same across fleets and seasons. Here, when fishing is successful vessels remain in a similar location and continue to exploit the local fishing grounds. When unsuccessful, they move some distance away from the current fishing location. The movement distance retains some degree of stochasticity, that can be controlled separately, but is determined by the relationship:

$$Le = e^{\log(\beta_1) + \log(\beta_2) - \left(\log\left(\frac{\beta_1}{\beta_3}\right)\right) \cdot Rev} \quad (8)$$

Where  $\beta_1$ ,  $\beta_2$  and  $\beta_3$  are parameters determining the shape of the step function in its relation to revenue, so that, a step from  $(x_t, y_t)$  to  $(x_{t+1}, y_{t+1})$  is defined by:

$$\begin{aligned} (x_{t+1}, y_{t+1}) &= x_t + Le \cdot \cos\left(\frac{\pi \cdot Br_{t+1}}{180}\right), \\ y_t + Le \cdot \sin\left(\frac{\pi \cdot Br_{t+1}}{180}\right) \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

$$when \quad Br_t < 180, Br_{t+1} = 180 + \sim vm[(0, 360), k]$$

$$Br_t > 180, Br_{t+1} = 180 - \sim vm[(0, 360), k]$$

where  $Le$  is the step length,  $Br_t$  is the bearing at time  $t$ ,  $k$  the concentration parameter from the von Mises distribution that we correlate with the revenue so that  $k = (Rev + 1/RefRev) \cdot max_k$ , where  $max_k$  is the maximum concentration value,  $k$ , and  $RefRev$  is parametrised as for  $\beta_3$  in the step length function.

#### 254 2.4.4. Local population depletion

255 Where several fishing vessels exploit the same fish population competition is  
256 known to play an important role in local distribution of fishing effort (Gillis and  
257 Peterman, 1998). If several vessels are fishing on the same patch of fish, local  
258 depletion and interference competition will affect fishing location choice of the  
259 fleet as a whole (Rijnsdorp, 2000; Poos and Rijnsdorp, 2007a). To account for  
260 this behaviour, the fishing sub-model operates spatially on a daily time-step so  
261 that for future days the biomass available to the fishery is reduced in the areas  
262 fished. The cumulative effect is to make heavily fished areas less attractive as a  
263 future fishing location choice as reduced catch rates will be experienced.

#### 264 2.5. Fisheries independent survey

265 A fisheries-independent survey is simulated where fishing on a regular grid  
266 begins each year at the same time for a given number of stations (a fixed station  
267 survey design). Catches of the populations at each station are recorded but not  
268 removed from the population (catches are assumed to have negligible impact  
269 on population dynamics). This provides a fishery independent snapshot of the  
270 populations at a regular spatial intervals each year, similar to scientific surveys  
271 undertaken by fisheries research agencies.

272

#### 273 2.6. Software: R-package development

274 The simulation framework is implemented in the statistical software package  
275 R (R Core Team, 2017) and available as an R package from the author’s github  
276 site ([www.github.com/pdolder/MixFishSim](http://www.github.com/pdolder/MixFishSim)).

277

### 278 3. Parameterisation

279 We parameterise *MixFishSim* to investigate the influence of data aggregation  
280 on spatial inference.

### 281 3.1. Population models

282 We parametrised the simulation model for four example populations with  
283 different demographics, growth rates, natural mortality and recruitment pa-  
284 rameters (Table 4). Habitat preference (Figure S1) and temperature tolerances  
285 (Figures S3, S4) were defined to be unique to each population resulting in dif-  
286 ferently weekly distribution patterns (Figures S5-S7). In addition, each of the  
287 populations was assumed to have two defined spawning areas that result in the  
288 populations moving towards these areas in pre-defined weeks (Figure S2) with  
289 population-specific movement rates (Table 4).

### 290 3.2. Fleet parametrisation

291 The fleets were parametrised to reflect five different characteristic fisheries  
292 with unique exploitation dynamics (Table 5). By setting different catchability  
293 parameters ( $Q_{fl,p}$ ) we create different targeting preferences between the fleets  
294 and hence spatial dynamics. The learned random walk process implies that  
295 within a fleet different vessels have different spatial distributions based on indi-  
296 vidual experience. The step function was parametrised dynamically within the  
297 simulations as the maximum revenue obtainable was not known beforehand.  
298 This was implemented so that vessels take smaller steps when fishing at a loca-  
299 tion that yields landings value in the top 90th percentile of the value experienced  
300 in that year so far (as defined per fleet in Table 5).

301  
302 Fishing locations were chosen based on random search and, with increasing  
303 proportion as time progressed, experience of profitable catches built up in the  
304 same month from previous years and from the previous trip. 'Profitable' in  
305 this context was defined as the locations where the top 70 % of expected profit  
306 would be found given revenue from previous trips and cost of movement to the  
307 new fishing location. This probability was based on a logistic sigmoid function  
308 with a lower asymptote of 0 and upper asymptote of 0.95, and a growth rate  
309 that ensures the upper asymptote (where decisions are mainly based on past

310 knowledge) is reached approximately halfway through the simulation.

311

### 312 3.3. Survey settings

313 The survey simulation was set up with a fixed gridded station design with  
314 100 stations fished each year, starting on day 92 and ending on day 112 (5  
315 stations per day) with same catchability parameter ( $Q_p = 1$ ) for all populations  
316  $p$ . This approximates a real world survey design with limited seasonal and  
317 spatial coverage.

### 318 3.4. Example research question

319 To illustrate the capabilities of *MixFishSim*, we investigate the influence of  
320 the temporal and spatial resolution of different data sources on the reduction in  
321 catches of a population given spatial closures. To do so, we set up a simulation  
322 to run for 50 years based on a  $100 \times 100$  square grid (undetermined units), with  
323 five fleets of 20 vessels each and four fish populations. Fishing takes place four  
324 times a day per vessel and five days a week, while population movement is every  
325 week.

326

327 *How does sampling-derived fisheries data reflect the underlying population*  
328 *structure?*

329

330 To answer this question we compare different spatial and temporal aggrega-  
331 tions of the true population distributions to:

- 332 a) **fisheries-independent data:** the inferred population density from a  
333 fixed-site sampling survey design as commonly used for fisheries monitor-  
334 ing purposes;
- 335 b) **fisheries-dependent data:** the inferred population density from our  
336 fleet model that includes fishery-induced sampling dynamics.

337 We allow the simulation to run unrestricted for 30 years, then implement  
338 spatial closed areas for the last 20 years of the simulation based on data (either  
339 derived from the commercial catches, fisheries-independent survey or the true  
340 population used at different spatial and temporal scales.

341

342 The following steps are undertaken to determine closures:

- 343 1. Extract data source (true population, commercial or survey),
- 344 2. Aggregate according to desired spatial and temporal resolution,
- 345 3. Interpolate across entire area at desired resolution using simple bivariate  
346 interpolation using the *interp* function from the R package *akima* (Akima,  
347 2006). This is intended to represent a naive spatial model of catch rates,  
348 without knowledge of the spatial population dynamics.
- 349 4. Close area covering top 5 % of catch rates

350 In total 28 closure scenarios were run that represent combinations of:

- 351 • **data types:** commercial logbook data, survey data and true population,
- 352 • **temporal resolutions:** weekly, monthly and yearly closures,
- 353 • **spatial resolutions:** 1 x 1 grid, 5 x 5 grid, 10 x 10 grid and 20 x 20 grid,
- 354 • **closure basis:** highest 5 % of catch rates for the protected population

355 Survey closures were on an annual basis only, as this was the most temporally  
356 resolved survey data available.

## 357 4. Results

### 358 4.1. Emergent simulation dynamics

359 Individual habitat preferences and thermal tolerances result in different spa-  
360 tial habitat use for each population (Figure 2) and consequently different sea-  
361 sonal exploitation patterns (Figure 3).

It can be seen from a single vessels movements during a trip that the vessel exploits three different fishing grounds, each of them multiple times (Figure 4(A)), while across several trips fishing grounds that are further apart are fished (Figure 4 (B)). These different locations relate to areas where the highest revenue were experienced, as shown by Figure 4 (D), where several vessels tracks are overlaid on the revenue field, i.e.

$$Rev_c = \sum_{p=1}^P B_{c,p} \cdot Q_{fl,p} \cdot Pr_p$$

362 Vessels from the same fleet (and therefore targeting preference) may exploit  
 363 some shared and some different fishing grounds depending on their own personal  
 364 experience during the exploratory phase of the fishery (Figure 4 (C)). This  
 365 results from the randomness in the correlated random walk step function, with  
 366 distance moved during the exploitation phase and the direction stochastically  
 367 related to the revenue experienced on the fishing ground (Figure 4 (D)).

#### 368 4.2. *How does sampling-derived fisheries data reflect the underlying population* 369 *structure?*

370 The aggregated catch composition from each of the data sources over a ten-  
 371 year period (which shows average seasonal patterns) at different spatial resolu-  
 372 tions highlights different patterns in perceived community structure depending  
 373 on the data source and aggregation level (Figure 5). The finer spatial grid for  
 374 the true population (top left) and commercial data (top middle) show visually  
 375 similar patterns, though there are large unsampled areas in the commercial data  
 376 from a lack of fishing activity (particularly in the lower left part of the sam-  
 377 pling domain). The survey data at this spatial resolution displays very sparse  
 378 information about the spatial distributions of the populations. The slightly ag-  
 379 gregated data on a 5 x 5 grid shows similar patterns and, while losing some of  
 380 the spatial detail, there remains good consistency between the true population  
 381 and the commercial data. Survey data starts to pick out some of the similar  
 382 patterns as the other data sources, but lacks spatiotemporal coverage. The spa-  
 383 tial catch information on a 10 x 10 and 20 x 20 grid lose a significant amount



384 of information about the spatial resolutions for all data sources, and some dif-  
385 ferences between the survey, commercial and true population data emerge.

386

387 Different perceptions of the proportion of each stock in an area are seen when  
388 we aggregate the data over a smaller geographical region at different timescales,  
389 with weekly (top), monthly (middle) and yearly (bottom) catch compositions  
390 from across an aggregated 20 x 20 area (Figure 6). In the true population, the  
391 monthly aggregation captures the major patterns of composition seen in the  
392 weekly data with the percentage of different populations in the catch having  
393 similar mean and standard deviations. In the weekly data population 1 = 9.36  
394 (3.99), population 2 = 83.2 (5.60), population 3 = 3.57 (1.23), population 4 =  
395 3.91 (1.59); in the monthly data population 1 = 9.23 (3.87), population 2 = 83.3  
396 (5.52), population 3 = 3.62 (1.15), population 4 = 3.86 (1.52). While means  
397 were similar some of the variation was lost when aggregated to an annual level;  
398 population 1 = 9.90 (0.173), population 2 = 82.2 (0.308), population 3 = 3.82  
399 (0.119), population 4 = 4.03 (0.0502).

400

401 The commercial data on a weekly basis shows some of the same patterns as  
402 the true population, though the population 1 (in red) is less well represented  
403 and some weeks are missing catches from the area. Here, weekly and monthly  
404 compositions were nearly identical, with monthly composition of population 1  
405 = 0.0472 (0.0139), population 2 = 94.4 (1.47), population 3 = 3.12 (1.47), pop-  
406 ulation 4 = 2.40 (0.444). Again, yearly values head a similar mean but smaller  
407 standard deviation.

408

409 The survey data was only available on an annual basis, and showed again a  
410 slightly different composition; population 1 = 0.372 (0.00473), population 2 =  
411 87.7 (0.193), population 3 = 0.729 (0.0200), population 4 = 11.2 (0.172).

412 *4.3. How does data aggregation and source impact on spatial fisheries manage-*  
413 *ment measures?*

414 We implemented a spatial closure using the different data sources and spatial  
415 and temporal aggregations as outlined in the protocol in Section 3.4. We used  
416 this to assess the efficacy of a closure in reducing fishing mortality on popula-  
417 tion 3, given availability of data and its use at different resolutions in order to  
418 evaluate the trade-offs in data sources.

419 The trend in fishing mortality for each species show that in most cases the  
420 fishery closure was successful in reducing fishing mortality on the species of in-  
421 terest (population 3; Figure 7), though interestingly the largest reductions in  
422 fishing mortality happened immediately after the closures, following which the  
423 fisheries “adapted” to the closures and fishing mortality increased again some-  
424 what. The exception to the success was the closures implemented based on the  
425 coarsest spatial (20 x 20) and temporal resolution (yearly) that was ineffective  
426 with all data sources. As expected, closures based on the “known” population  
427 distribution were most effective, with differing degrees of success using the com-  
428 mercial data. Fishing mortality rates on the other species changed in different  
429 proportions, depending on whether the displaced fishing effort moved to areas  
430 where the populations were found in greater or lesser density.

431  
432 A regression tree (using the R package REEMtree (Sela and Simonoff, 2012))  
433 highlights that the factor most contributing to differences in fishing mortality  
434 before and after the closure was the population (72 % showing that the closures  
435 were effective for population 3), followed by data resolution (21 %), data type  
436 (7 %) with the least important factor the timescale (< 1 %). In general the finer  
437 the spatial resolution of the data used the greater reduction in fishing mortality  
438 for population 3 after the closures (Figure 8). The notable outliers are the com-  
439 mercial data at the coarsest spatial resolution (20 x 20) at a yearly and weekly  
440 timescale, where closures were nearly as effective as the fine-scale resolution. In  
441 this case the closures were sufficiently large to protect a core area of the habitat  
442 for the population, but this was achieved in a fairly crude manner by closing a

large area - including area where the species was not found (Figure 9) that may have consequences in terms of restricting the fishery in a much larger area than necessary.

## 5. Discussion

Our study presents a new highly resolved fisheries simulation framework, evaluates the importance of data scaling and considers potential bias introduced through data aggregation when using fisheries data to infer spatiotemporal dynamics of fish populations. Understanding how fishers exploit multiple heterogeneously distributed fish populations with different catch limits or conservation status requires detailed understanding of the overlap of resources; this is difficult to achieve using conventional modelling approaches due to species targeting in fisheries resulting in preferential sampling (Martínez-Minaya et al., 2018). Often data are aggregated or extrapolated which requires assumptions about the spatial and temporal scale of processes. Our study explores the assumptions behind such aggregation and preferential sampling to identify potential impacts on management advice. With modern management approaches increasingly employing more nuanced spatiotemporal approaches to maximise productivity while taking account of both the biological and human processes operating on different time-frames (Dunn et al., 2016), understanding assumptions behind the data used - increasingly a combination of logbook and positional information from vessel monitoring systems - is vital to ensure measures are effective.

### 5.1. Simulation dynamics

We employ a simulation approach to model each of the population and fishery dynamics in a hypothetical ‘mixed fishery’, allowing us to i) evaluate the consequences of different aggregation assumptions on our understanding of the spatiotemporal distribution of the underlying fish populations, and ii) evaluate

471 the effectiveness of a spatial closure given those assumptions.

472

473 Our approach is unique in that it captures fine scale population and fish-  
474 ery dynamics and their interaction in a way not usually possible with real data  
475 and thus not usually considered in fisheries simulations. While other simulation  
476 frameworks seek to model individual vessel dynamics based on inferred dynam-  
477 ics from VMS and logbook records (Bastardie et al., 2010), or as a system to  
478 identify measures to meet particular management goals (Bailey et al., 2018), our  
479 framework allows users to explore the assumptions in modelling observational  
480 data and evaluate the underlying dynamics of such approaches at a fine spatial  
481 and temporal scale. This offers the advantage that larger scale fishery patterns  
482 are emergent properties of the system and results can be compared to those  
483 obtained under a statistical modelling framework.

484

485 Typically, simulation models that treat fish as individuals are focussed on  
486 exploring the inter- and intra- specific interactions among fish populations (e.g.  
487 OSMOSE; Shin et al. (2004)) in order to understand how they vary over space  
488 and time. Our focus was on understanding the strengths and limitations of in-  
489 ference from catch data obtained through commercial fishing activity with fleets  
490 exploiting multiple fish populations and realising catch distributions that may  
491 differ from the underlying populations, as identified by Gillis et al. (2008). As  
492 such, we favoured a minimum realistic model of the fish populations (Plagányi  
493 et al., 2014) taking account of environmental but not demographic stochas-  
494 ticity, while incorporating detailed fishing dynamics that take account of different  
495 drivers in a mechanistic way.

496

497 Demographic stochasticity arises due to individual-level variability in time to  
498 reproduction and death. This form of stochasticity is often modelled by drawing  
499 random time intervals from a given distribution (Gillespie, 1977). The impact  
500 of demographic stochasticity depends on the population size, with the effects  
501 expected to decrease with increasing population size (Lande et al., 2010). This

502 contrasts with environmental stochasticity, which affects all population sizes  
503 and is present at the population level in our model by variability in recruitment.

504

505 We take account of heterogeneity in fleet dynamics due to different prefer-  
506 ences and drivers similarly to other approaches (Fulton et al., 2011), but at an  
507 individual vessel rather than fleet level. We do not explicitly define fleets as  
508 rational profit maximisers at the outset, but consider there are several stages  
509 to development of the fishery; information gathering through search where the  
510 resource location is not known, followed by individual learnt behaviour of prof-  
511 itable locations. This provides a realistic model of how fishing patterns are  
512 established and maintained to exploit an uncertain resource through an explore-  
513 exploit strategy (Mangel and Clark, 1983; Bailey et al., 2018).

## 514 *5.2. How does sampling-derived fisheries data reflect the underlying population* 515 *structure?*

516 Our results demonstrate the importance of considering data scale and resolu-  
517 tion when using observational data to support management measures. We find  
518 that understanding of the community composition dynamics will depend on the  
519 level of data aggregation and its important to consider the scale of processes;  
520 including population movement rates, habitat uniformity and fishing targeting  
521 practices if potential biases in data are to be understood and taken into account  
522 (Figures 2, 4).

523

524 Our simulation shows that, despite biases introduced through the fishing  
525 process, the commercially derived data could still inform on the key spatial  
526 patterns in the community structures where the fisheries occurred, which was  
527 spatially limited due to the “hotspots” of commercially valuable species be-  
528 ing fished. Similarly, despite the even spatial coverage the survey was able to  
529 capture some of the same spatial patterns as the true population, but missed  
530 others due to gaps between survey stations limiting spatial and temporal cov-  
531 erage (Figure 5). This provides a challenge when modelling unsampled areas in

532 inferring species distribution maps, though these limitations may be overcome  
533 by understanding the relationship between the species and habitat covariates  
534 where these are known at unsampled locations (Robinson et al., 2011).

535

### 536 *5.3. How does data aggregation and source impact on spatial fisheries manage-* 537 *ment measures?*

538 From our simulations spatial disaggregation was more important than the  
539 temporal disaggregation of the commercial data. This reflects the fact that there  
540 was greater spatial heterogeneity over the spatial domain than experienced in  
541 individual locations over the course of the year (Figure 2).

542

543 The yearly data assumes the same proportion of each population caught at  
544 any time of the year due to the data aggregation. This assumption introduces  
545 ‘aggregation bias’ as the data may only be representative of some point (or no  
546 point) in time. The monthly data shows some consistency between the real pop-  
547 ulation and commercial data for population 2 - 4, though population 1 remains  
548 under-represented. On an annual basis, interestingly the commercial data un-  
549 der represents the first species (in red) while the survey over represents species  
550 1. This is likely due to the biases in commercial sampling, with the fisheries  
551 not targeting the areas where population 1 are present and the survey sampling  
552 areas where population 1 is more abundant than on average. This indicates that  
553 fixed closures, at the right resolution, when based on commercially derived data  
554 have the potential to reduced fishing mortality. The likely cost of poor spatial  
555 and temporal resolution is associated with reduced effectiveness and potentially  
556 closing fishing opportunities for other fisheries.

557

558 Two contrasting real world approaches in this respect were the spatial clo-  
559 sures to protect cod in the North Sea. In one example, large scale spatial closures  
560 were implemented with little success due to effort displacement to previously  
561 unfished areas (Dinmore et al., 2003), while in another small scale targeted

562 spatiotemporal closures were considered to have some effect in reducing cod  
563 mortality without having to disrupt other fisheries significantly (Needle and  
564 Catarino, 2011). These examples emphasise the importance of considering the  
565 right scale and aggregation of data when identifying area closures and the need  
566 to consider changing dynamics in the fisheries in response to such closures.

567

568 Our study showed that fishing rates on other populations also changed (both  
569 up and down) as a side-effect of closures to protect one species. This indicates  
570 the importance in considering fishing effort reallocation following spatial clo-  
571 sures, and our simulation allows us to consider the spatiotemporal reasons for  
572 these changes.

#### 573 *5.4. Model assumptions and caveats*

574 We model the population and fleet dynamic processes to draw inference on  
575 the importance of data scale and aggregation in understanding and managing  
576 mixed fisheries and their impact on multiple fish populations. In doing so, we  
577 have necessarily had to make a number of simplifying assumptions.

578

579 Fish populations in our simulations move in pre-defined timescales and ac-  
580 cording to fixed habitat preferences and temperature gradients (Figures S1, S3).  
581 Our assumptions in parameterising the model (movement rates, temperature  
582 tolerances) will have a direct impact on our conclusions on the relative impor-  
583 tance of spatial and temporal processes. These assumptions could be explored  
584 in a future study by varying the parameters and assessing the robustness of our  
585 conclusions. For our example application we have chosen movement rates to re-  
586 flect aggregation periods observed in past studies (Poos and Rijnsdorp, 2007b).

587

588 In addition, we have assumed that fishing vessels are not restricted by quota  
589 and therefore discarding of species for which vessels have no quota or that are  
590 unwanted is not taken into account. This is likely to be a significant source of  
591 bias in any inference using commercial data and should also be explored. For

example, *MixFishSim* could be altered to allow for spatiotemporal appraisal of the impact of discarding on fisher behaviour and underlying populations via inclusion as discarding behaviour, or through move-on rules or cessation of fishing activity when quota is exhausted.

### 5.5. Future applications of *MixFishSim*

We consider that the increased availability of high resolution catch and locational information from commercial fisheries will require it to be a key source of data for ensuring management is implemented at the right scale in future. For example, identifying hot-spots for bycatch reduction or identifying spatial overlaps in mixed fisheries (Dolder et al., 2018; Gardner et al., 2008; Little et al., 2014; Dedman et al., 2015; Ward et al., 2015). Our simulation model has the potential to test some of the assumptions behind the modelling approaches in identifying such hotspots and indeed behind spatiotemporal modelling in general (e.g. comparing GAMs, GLMMs, Random Forests and geostatistical models under different data generation processes as exemplified by Stock et al. (2019)).

Other novel applications of our framework could be: testing different survey designs given multiple species and data generating assumptions (Xu et al., 2015); commercial index standardisation methods and approaches and understanding of appropriate scales and data aggregations and non-proportionality in catch rate and abundance (Harley et al., 2001; Maunder and Punt, 2004); exploring assumptions about the distribution of natural mortality and fishing mortality throughout the year and importance of capturing in-year dynamics in estimating stock status (Liu and Heino, 2013); at sea sampling scheme designs to deliver unbiased estimates of population parameters (Cotter and Pilling, 2007; Kimura and Somerton, 2006); adaptive management (Walters, 2007; Dunn et al., 2016); testing the ability of commonly employed fleet dynamics models such as Random Utility Models to capture fine scale dynamics and understand their importance (Girardin et al., 2016); and as a detailed operating model in a



management strategy evaluation (Mahévas and Pelletier, 2004).

## 6. Conclusions

*MixFishSim* provides a detailed simulation framework to explore the interaction of multiple fisheries exploiting different fish populations. The framework enables users to evaluate assumptions in modelling commercially derived data through comparison to the true underlying dynamics at a fine spatial and temporal scale. Understanding these dynamics, the limitations of the data and any potential biases that may be introduced when making inference on spatiotemporal interactions will enable users to identify weaknesses in modelling approaches and identify where data collection is needed to strengthen inference.

Our application shows that inference on community dynamics may change depending on the scale of data aggregation. There is an important balance in ensuring that the data are sufficiently spatially and temporally disaggregated that the main features of the data are captured, yet maintaining enough data coverage that the features can be distinguished. We found in our application that there was greater spatial heterogeneity than temporal heterogeneity and that when using aggregated data to define spatial closures coarser temporal resolution (months instead of weeks) could still achieve the same results in reducing exploitation rates of a vulnerable species at the highest temporal resolution data. Conversely, reducing the spatial resolution had a negative effect on the effectiveness of the measures (though importantly, there was still some benefit even with coarse spatial resolution).

While any findings are likely to be case specific, our findings emphasise the need to understand population demographics, habitat use and movement rates in designing any closure scenario based on observational sampling. This information can then be used to set the bounds on data aggregation used in modelling

651 studies aimed at informing the management measures.

652

653 *MixFishSim* has numerous potential additional applications as it enables  
654 the user to apply methods to a fisheries system where there is detailed under-  
655 standing of underlying spatiotemporal dynamics. This enables identification of  
656 weaknesses or limitations which would not be possible otherwise. In future, we  
657 recommend use of the framework to test hypothesis that are otherwise unable  
658 to be analysed using real world data due to limitations of data collection. That  
659 way the knowledge gained through simulation can inform the future design of  
660 management measures.

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## 665 **Appendices**

Table 1: Description of variables for population and recruitment dynamics sub-modules.

Variable	Meaning	Units
<b>Population dynamics</b>		
<i>Delay-difference model</i>		
$B_{c,d}$	Biomass in cell $c$ and day $d$	kg
$Z_{c,d}$	Total mortality in cell $c$ for day $d$	-
$R_{c,\bar{y}}$	Annually recruited fish in cell	yr <sup>-1</sup>
$\rho$	Brody's growth coefficient	yr <sup>-1</sup>
$Wt_R$	Weight of a fully recruited fish	kg
$Wt_{R-1}$	Weight of a pre-recruit fish	kg
$\alpha_d$	Proportion of annually recruited fish recruited during day $d$	-
<i>Baranov catch equation</i>		
$C_{c,d}$	Catch from cell $c$ for day $d$	kg
$F_{c,d}$	Instantaneous rate of fishing mortality in cell $c$ on day $d$	-
$M_{c,d}$	Instantaneous rate of natural mortality in cell $c$ on day $d$	-
$B_{c,d}$	Biomass in cell $c$ on day $d$	kg
<b>Recruitment dynamics</b>		
$\tilde{R}_{c,d}$	is the recruitment in cell $c$ for day $d$	$d^{-1}$
$B_{c,d}$	biomass in cell $c$ for day $d$	$d^{-1}$
$\alpha$	the maximum recruitment rate (Beverton Holt) or maximum productivity per spawner (Ricker)	kg
$\beta$	the stock size required to produce half the maximum rate of recruitment (Beverton Holt) or density dependent reduction in productivity per capita of SSB	kg

Table 2: Description of variables for population movement sub-module.

Variable	Meaning	Units
<i>Thermal tolerance</i>		
$T_{c,wk}$	Temperature for cell $c$ in week $wk$	$^{\circ}\text{C}$
$\mu_p$	Mean of the thermal tolerance for population $p$	$^{\circ}\text{C}$
$\sigma_p^2$	Standard deviation of thermal tolerance for population $p$	$^{\circ}\text{C}$
<i>Population movement model</i>		
$\lambda$	Decay rate for population movement	-
$Hab_{c,p}$	Habitat suitability for cell $c$ and population $p$	-
$Tol_{c,wk,p}$	Thermal tolerance for in cell $c$ at week $wk$ for population $p$	-
$d_{I,J}$	Euclidean distance between cell $I$ and cell $J$	-

Table 3: Description of variables for fleet dynamics sub-module.

Variable	Meaning	Units
$Rev$	Revenue from fishing tow	$\text{€}$
$L_p$	Landings of population $p$	kg
$Pr_p$	Average price of population $p$	$\text{€ kg}^{-1}$
$Le$	Step length for vessel	-
$Br$	Bearing	degrees
$k$	Concentration parameter for von mises distribution	-
$\beta_1$	shape parameter for step function	-
$\beta_2$	shape parameter for step function	-
$\beta_3$	shape parameter for step function	-

Table 4: Population dynamics and movement parameter settings.

Parameter	Pop 1	Pop 2	Pop 3	Pop 4
Habitat quality				
Matérn $\nu$	1/0.015	1/0.05	1/0.01	1/0.005
Matérn $\kappa$	1	2	1	1
Anisotropy	1.5,3,-3,4	1,2,-1,2	2.5,1,-1,2	0.1,2,-1,0.2
Spawning areas (bound box)	40,50,40,50; 80,90,60,70	50,60,30,40; 80,90,90,90	30,34,10,20; 60,70,20,30	50,55,80,85; 30,40,30,40
Spawning multiplier = 10				
Movement $\lambda = 0.1$				
Population dynamics				
Starting Biomass	1e5	2e5	1e5	1e4
Beverton-Holt Recruit $\alpha$	6	27	18	0.3
Beverton-Holt Recruit $\beta$	4	4	11	0.5
Beverton-Holt Recruit $\sigma^2$	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.6
Recruit week	13-16	12-16	14-16	16-20
Spawn week	16-18	16-19	16-18	18-20
$K = 0.3$				
$wt = 1$				
$wt_{d-1} = 0.1$				
M (annual)	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1
Movement dynamics				
$\mu$	12	15	17	14
$\sigma^2$	8	9	7	10

Table 5: Fleet dynamics parameter setting.

Parameter	Fleet 1	Fleet 2	Fleet 3	Fleet 4	Fleet 5
Targeting preferences	pop 2/4	pop 1/3	-	pop 4	pop 2/3
Price $Pr_p1 = 100$					
Price $Pr_p2 = 200$					
Price $Pr_p3 = 350$					
Price $Pr_p4 = 600$					
$Q_p$	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01
$Q_p$	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.03
$Q_p$	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02
$Q_p$	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.05	0.01
Exploitation dynamics					
step function $\beta_1$	1	2	1	2	3
step function $\beta_2$	10	15	8	12	7
step function $\beta_3$ , the land-ings value $n$ th quantile	90	90	85	90	80
step function $rate$	20	30	25	35	20
Past Knowledge = TRUE					
Threshold	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Fuel Cost	3	2	5	2	1

Table 6: Fishing mortality effects of the closure scenarios on population 3 (ordered by most effective first). The fishing mortality rate before the closure was 1.08.

Scenario No	F after closure	% F change	data type	timescale	resolution
9	0.29	-73.47	true Population	weekly	1.00
10	0.29	-72.94	true Population	monthly	1.00
11	0.35	-68.04	true Population	yearly	1.00
45	0.58	-46.70	commercial	yearly	20.00
1	0.58	-46.21	commercial	weekly	1.00
23	0.59	-45.27	true Population	weekly	5.00
2	0.59	-45.06	commercial	monthly	1.00
7	0.60	-44.48	survey	yearly	1.00
24	0.61	-43.20	true Population	monthly	5.00
3	0.64	-40.82	commercial	yearly	1.00
25	0.65	-39.94	true Population	yearly	5.00
17	0.67	-38.11	commercial	yearly	5.00
15	0.71	-34.38	commercial	weekly	5.00
43	0.71	-34.31	commercial	weekly	20.00
16	0.73	-32.58	commercial	monthly	5.00
51	0.78	-27.92	true Population	weekly	20.00
37	0.78	-27.76	true Population	weekly	10.00
39	0.79	-26.98	true Population	yearly	10.00
38	0.81	-25.47	true Population	monthly	10.00
21	0.81	-25.21	survey	yearly	5.00
35	0.81	-25.05	survey	yearly	10.00
44	0.87	-19.91	commercial	monthly	20.00
52	0.88	-18.39	true Population	monthly	20.00
30	0.96	-11.06	commercial	monthly	10.00
29	0.98	-9.80	commercial	weekly	10.00
31	1.03	-4.36	commercial	yearly	10.00

53	1.06	-1.64	true Population	yearly	20.00
49	1.07	-1.01	survey	yearly	20.00



Table 7: Mean and standard deviation of proportions of each species at different levels of temporal aggregation

Data type	Timescale	Population 1	Population 2	Population 3	Population 4
commercial	monthly	0.047(0.014)	94.435(1.47)	3.122(1.468)	2.396(0.444)
commercial	weekly	0.047(0.016)	94.426(1.514)	3.117(1.563)	2.411(0.498)
commercial	yearly	0.051(0.001)	94.388(0.205)	3.021(0.175)	2.539(0.046)
True Population	monthly	9.225(3.872)	83.287(5.522)	3.624(1.151)	3.864(1.519)
True Population	weekly	9.358(3.992)	83.165(5.596)	3.567(1.233)	3.91(1.592)
True Population	yearly	9.899(0.173)	82.25(0.308)	3.821(0.119)	4.031(0.05)
survey	yearly	0.372(0.005)	87.667(0.193)	0.729(0.02)	11.232(0.172)



Figure 1: Schematic overview of the simulation model. Blue boxes indicate fleet dynamics processes, the green boxes population dynamics processes while the white boxes are the time steps at which processes occur;  $t = \text{tow}$ ,  $t_{max}$  is the total number of tows; (Rec), (Pop Movement), (Pop Dynamics) logic gates for recruitment periods, population movement and population dynamics for each of the populations, (Past Knowledge) a switch whether to use a random (exploratory) or past knowledge (exploitation) fishing strategy.

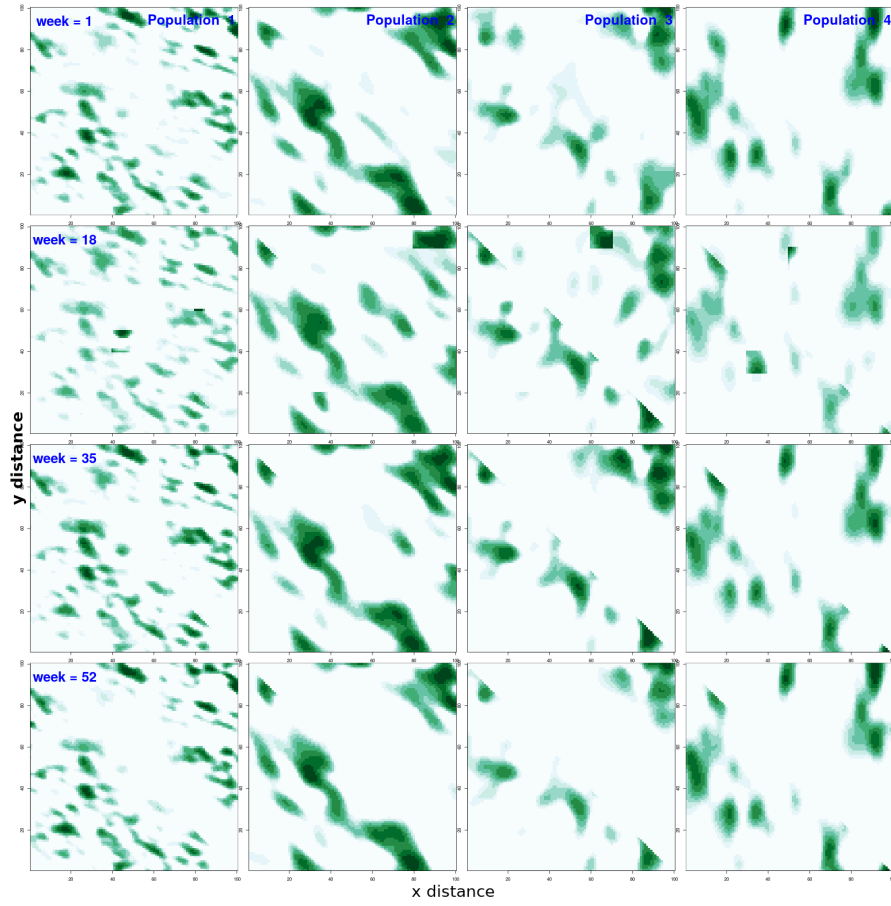


Figure 2: Spatial density (log abundance) for each of the four populations at four time steps. The darker the colour the greater the density of the population. Note that a diagonal anisotropic pattern (mimicking a depth gradient) can be clearly seen in populations 2 and 3. The concentrated spawning areas are also visible in the second row of the panels ( $t=18$ ).

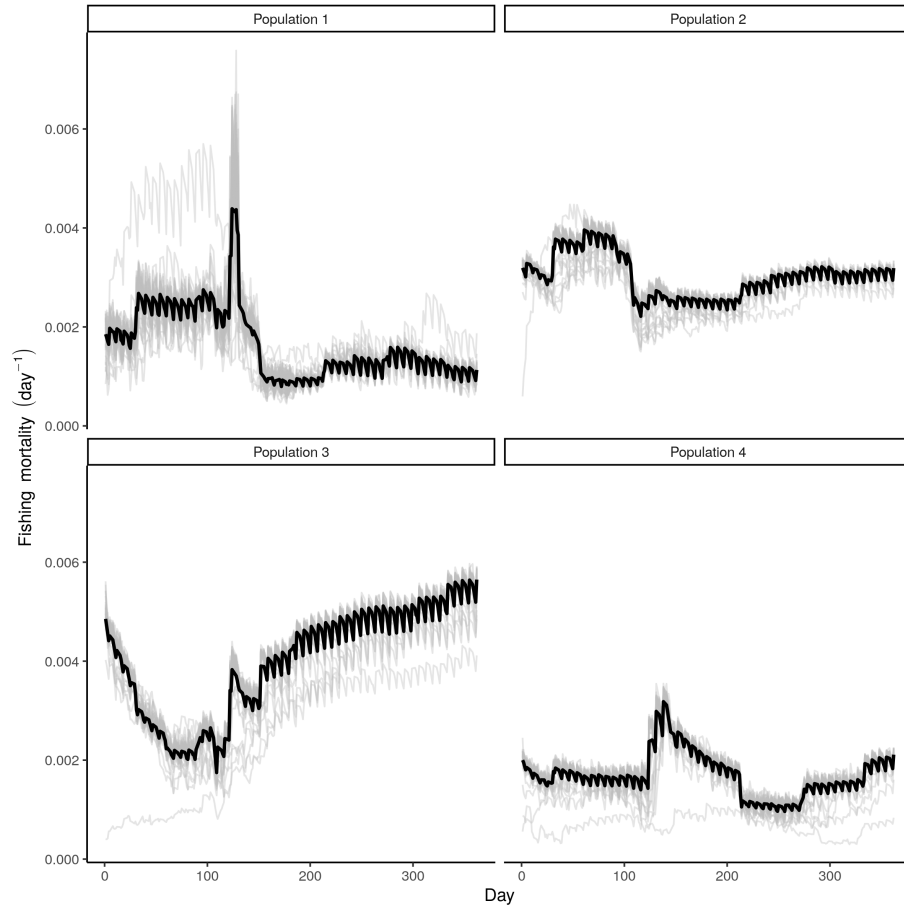


Figure 3: Fishing mortality dynamics - the daily fishing mortalities across the entire spatial domain showing weekly and seasonal patterns in exploitation. Individual years and the light grey lines, the mean of all years the thick black line.

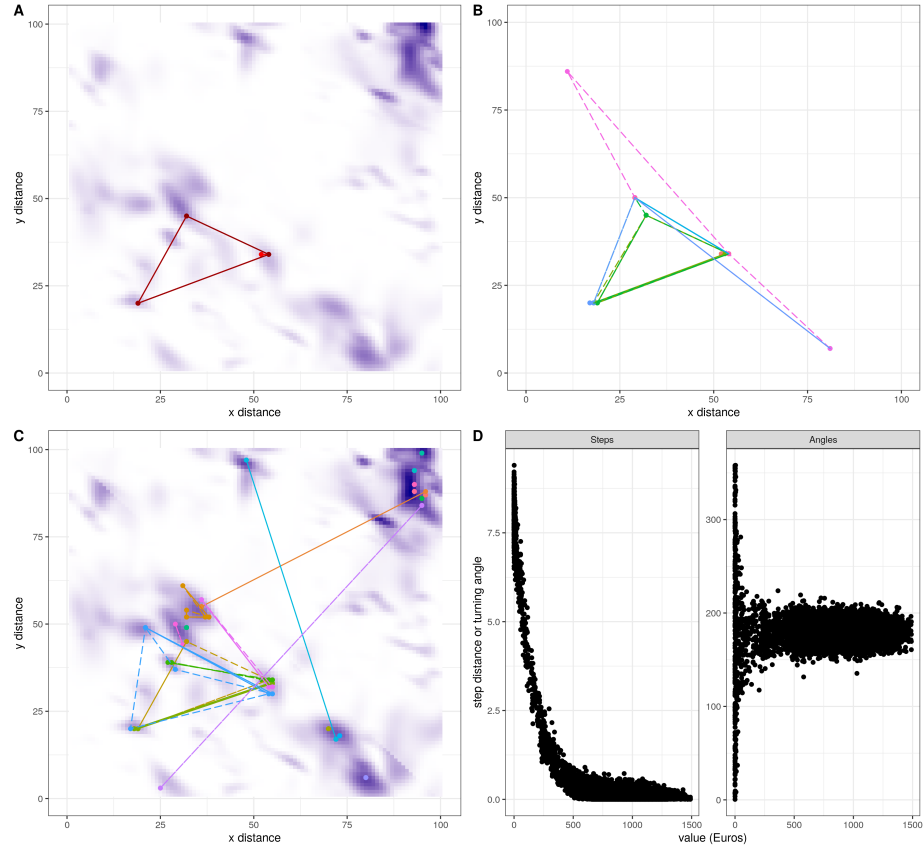


Figure 4: (A) The fishing locations (points) and movements (lines) of a single vessel during a trip overlaid on the revenue of a fishing site (landings  $\times$  price); (B) the fishing locations of the vessel over several trips (value field changes over the period so not shown). Note that movements are a mixture of correlated random walk (solid lines) and experience-based (dashed lines), and that the field is wrapped on a torus so that opposite sides of the spatial domain are considered next door; (C) the locations of multiple vessels from the same fleet overlaid on the value field, (D) the realised step distance and turning angles for a single vessel over the simulation.

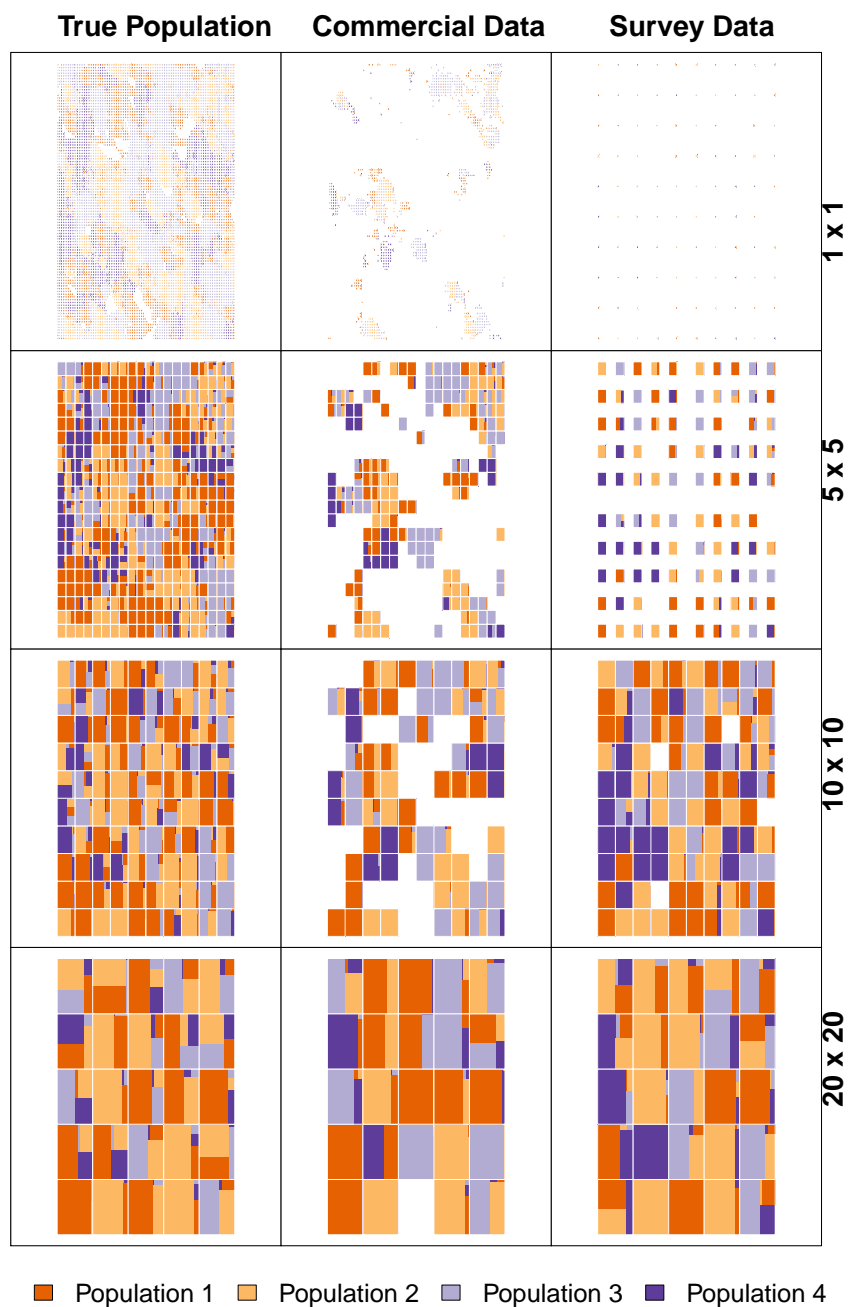


Figure 5: Data aggregation at different spatial resolutions over a ten year period.



Figure 6: Proportion of each population (y axis) for data aggregated at different temporal resolutions. Data is aggregated over a ten-year period for an area 20 x 20. Each bar represents either a week, month or year respectively.

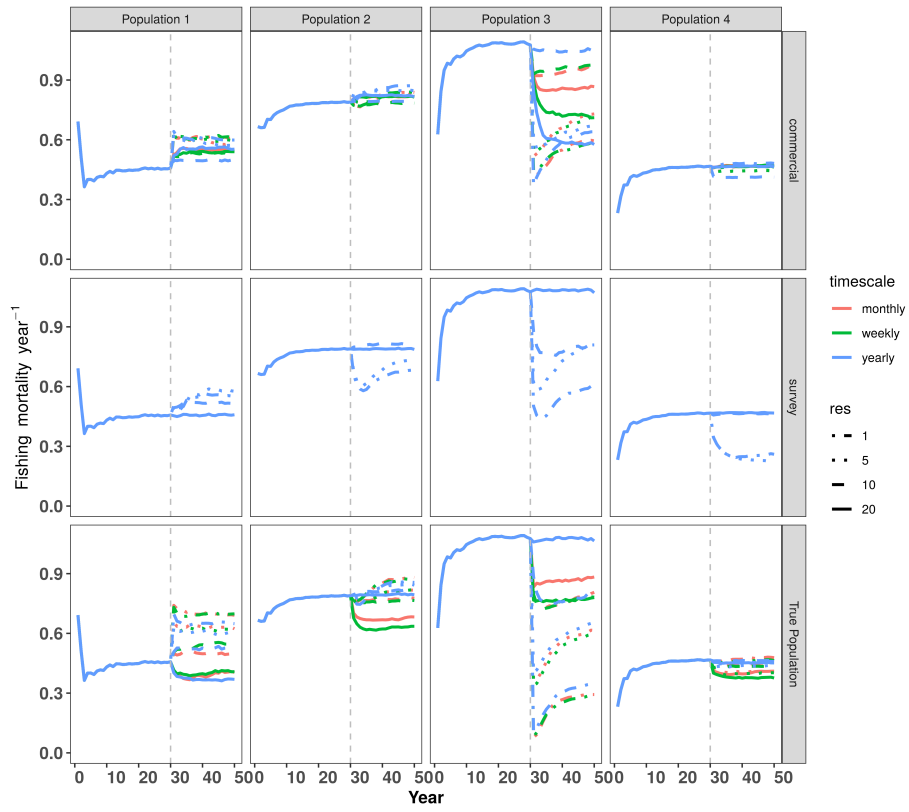


Figure 7: Comparison of closure scenarios effect on fishing mortality trends. Line colour denotes timescale, while linestyle denotes spatial resolution. The vertical dashed line indicates the onset of the spatial closures.





Figure 8: Comparison of closure scenario effectiveness based on different spatial and temporal resolutions.



Figure 9: Closure fishing locations based on annual closures with a coarse spatial resolution. Closure location can be seen in red box in relation to a) before the closure fishing locations, b) after the closure fishing locations, c) population 3 habitat distribution.

## 666 **References**

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