

# In this session, we will

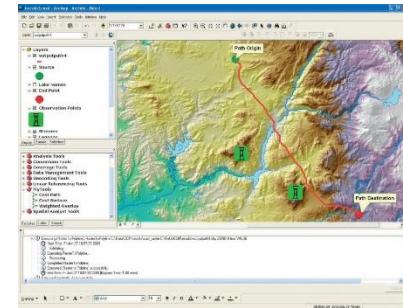
- Go over computer lab logistics and software
- Introduce our practical modeling exercise and the line transect survey data we will use for it
- Discuss strategies for using ArcGIS and R together
- Move our survey sightings from CSV → ArcGIS → R

# Software

# Our needs

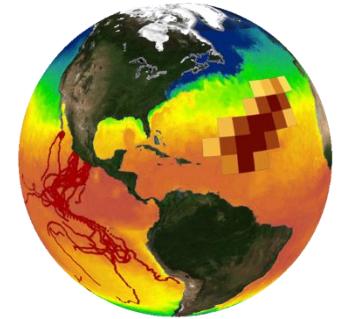
- Explore and manipulate tabular and geospatial data
- Download, visualize, project, and sample gridded environmental data
- Make maps
- Perform general statistical exploration and analysis
- Fit and utilize detection functions
- Fit and utilize generalized additive models (GAMs)

# ArcGIS



- First and foremost, a graphical user interface (ArcMap)
  - + Excellent for making maps
  - + Excellent for manipulating spatial data
    - Without programming, via Model Builder diagrams
    - With programming, via Python and other languages
  - Poor for statistical analysis or plots, except for specific scenarios, unless you program it yourself
  - Has difficulty with scientific data formats (HDF, netCDF, OPeNDAP) and is not very “time-aware”
    - Both of these have been improving with recent releases
  - ArcGIS Desktop runs only on Microsoft Windows (currently)
  - Closed source, costs a lot of money

# Marine Geospatial Ecology Tools (MGET)



- Collection of 300 geoprocessing tools that plugs into ArcGIS
- Can also be invoked from Python
- Requires Windows + ArcGIS
- Free, open source
- Many tools not marine-specific
- In this workshop, we will mainly use tools related to acquiring and manipulating environmental data for use in our density modeling exercise



<http://mget.env.duke.edu/mget> (or Google “MGET”)

R



- First and foremost, a programming language
  - + Cross platform, open source, free (as in freedom)
  - + Excellent for statistical analysis and plots
  - + Excellent for manipulating tabular data
    - Once you get the data loaded into R
  - ± Excellent for manipulating raster data, less so for vector
  - High learning curve, even for seasoned programmers
  - Very tedious for making maps, relative to GIS software
    - But can produce excellent results, with programming

# Distance R packages



- R packages for distance sampling include:
  - ***mrds*** - fits detection functions to point and line transect distance sampling survey data, for both single and double observer surveys.
  - ***Distance*** - a simpler interface to *mrds* for single observer distance sampling surveys.
  - ***dsm*** - fits density surface models to spatially-referenced distance sampling data. Count data are corrected using detection functions fitted using *mrds* or *Distance*. Spatial models are constructed using generalized additive models.
- We will spend much of our time with these

<http://distancesampling.org>

# Other R packages



- ***mgcv*** – for fitting generalized additive models (GAMs). We will spend a lot of time with this package, although functions from *Distance* and *dsm* will wrap it for us.
- ***rgdal, raster*** – for reading and writing geospatial data
- ***ggplot2, viridis*** – for nice plots
- ***plyr, reshape2*** – for manipulating tabular data, especially R data.frames

# RStudio Desktop



- Powerful integrated development environment for R
- Free, open source

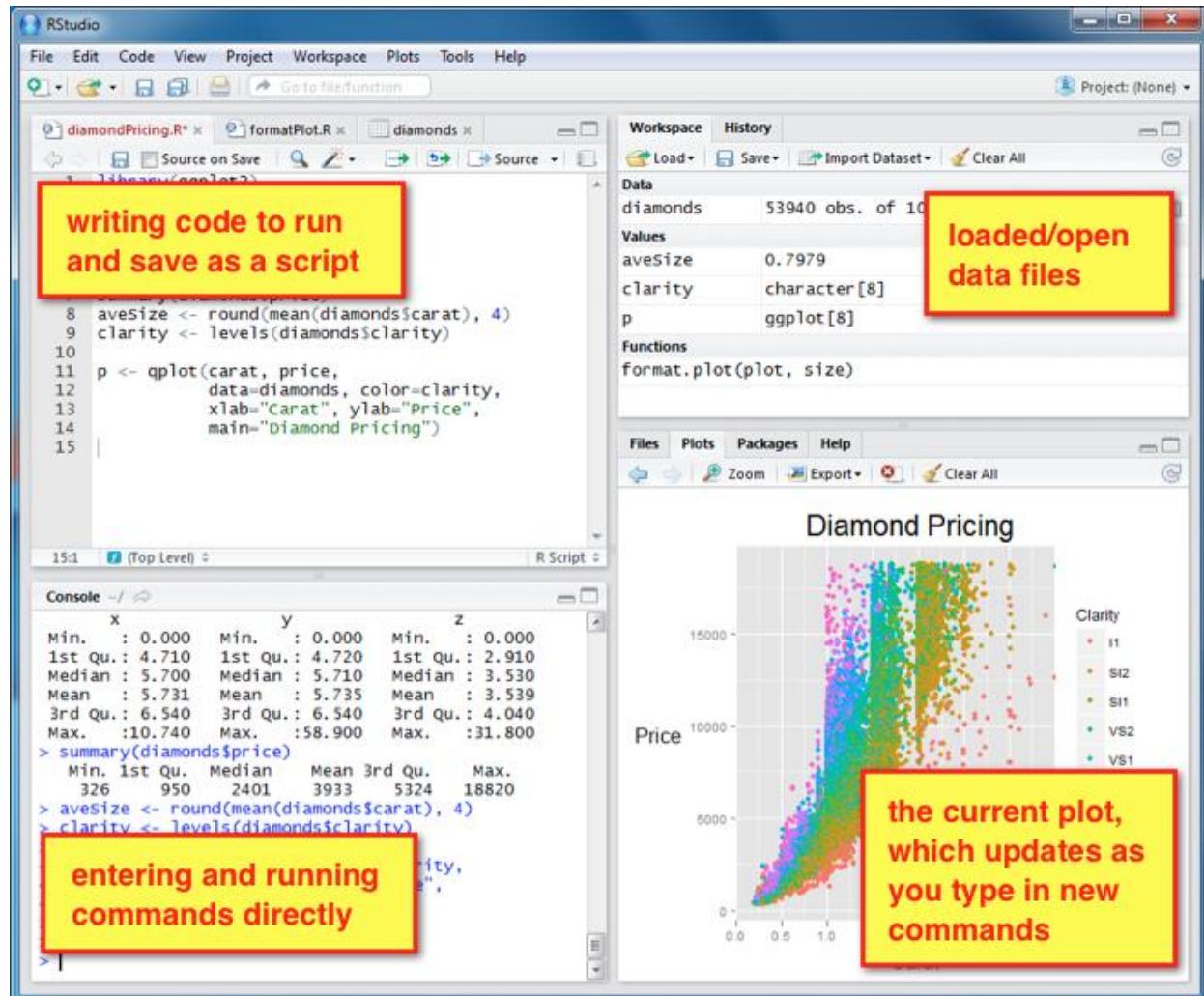
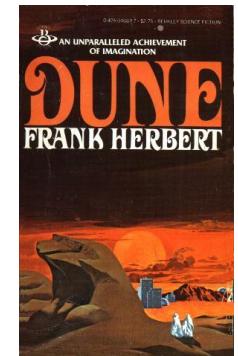


Image: <http://www.rstudio.com> and <http://clasticdetritus.com>



“The people I distrust most are those who want to improve our lives but have only one course of action.”

— Frank Herbert



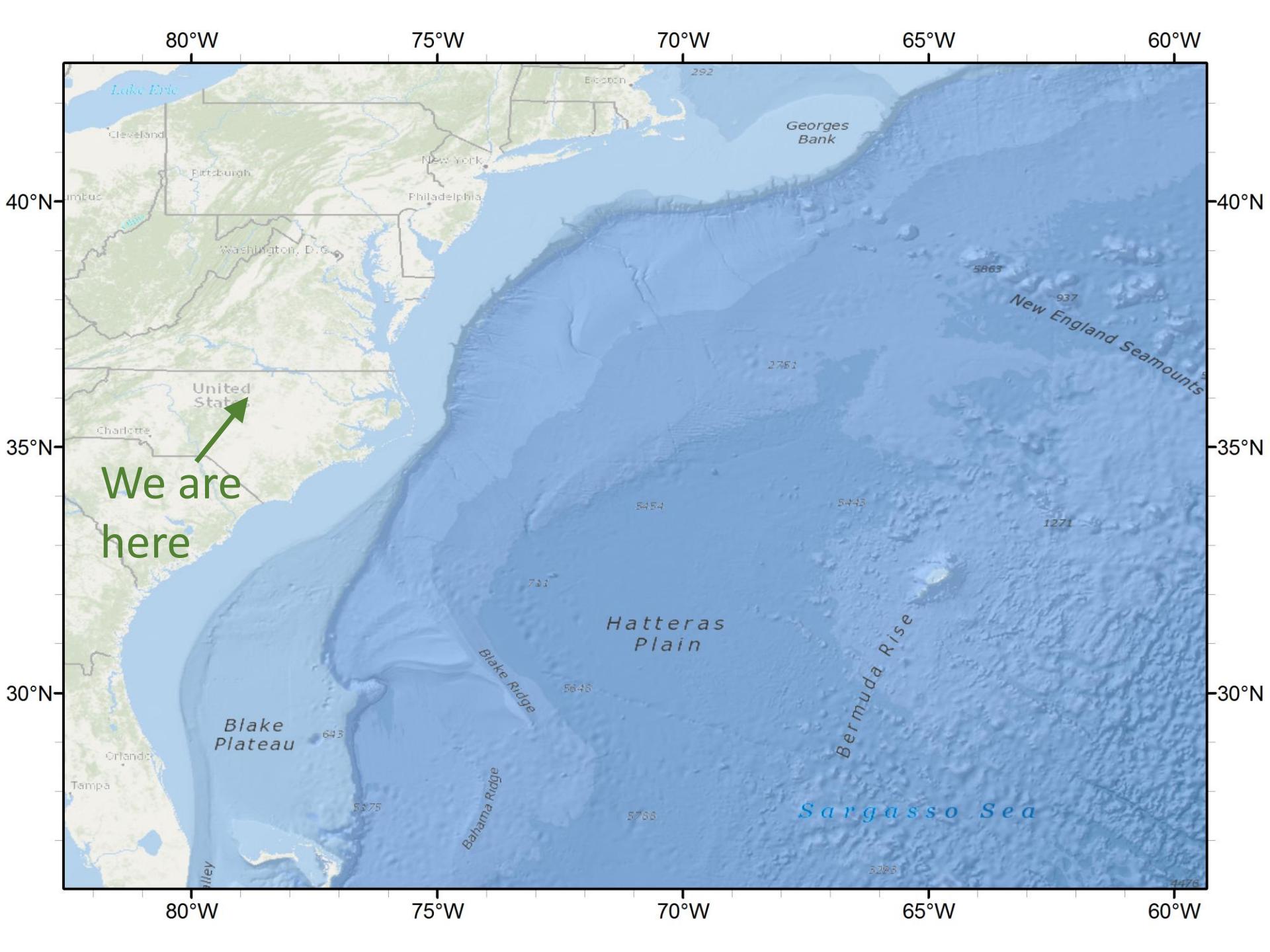
# Computer lab software setup

1. In your browser, open

<http://distancesampling.org/workshops/duke-spatial-2015/>

2. Go to **Course Materials** and click on **Slides**
3. Open the **Software Setup** PDF and follow the instructions

# Practical modeling exercise



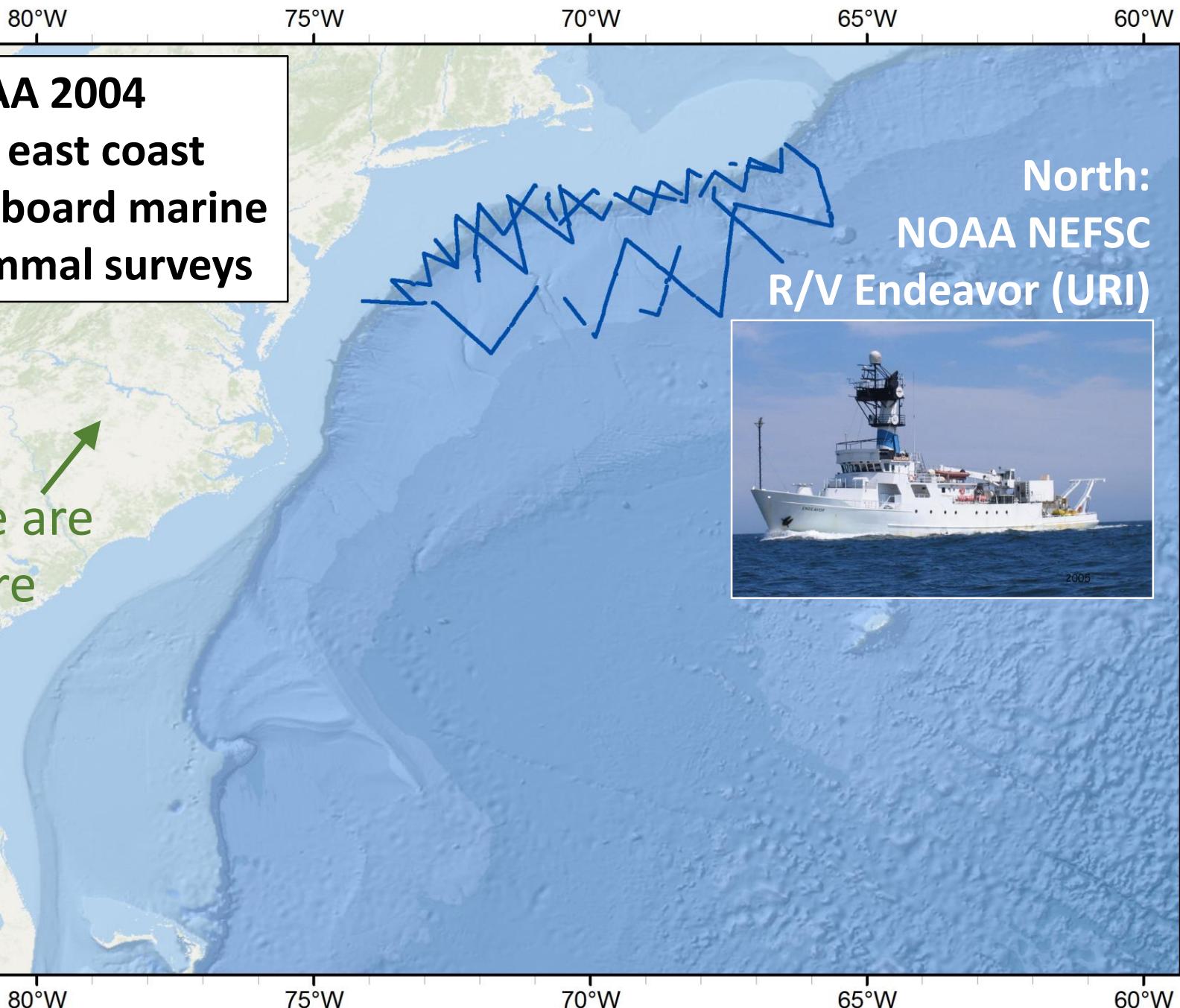
**NOAA 2004  
U.S. east coast  
shipboard marine  
mammal surveys**

We are here

North:  
**NOAA NEFSC  
R/V Endeavor (URI)**



2005



80°W

75°W

70°W

65°W

60°W

**NOAA 2004  
U.S. east coast  
shipboard marine  
mammal surveys**

We are  
here

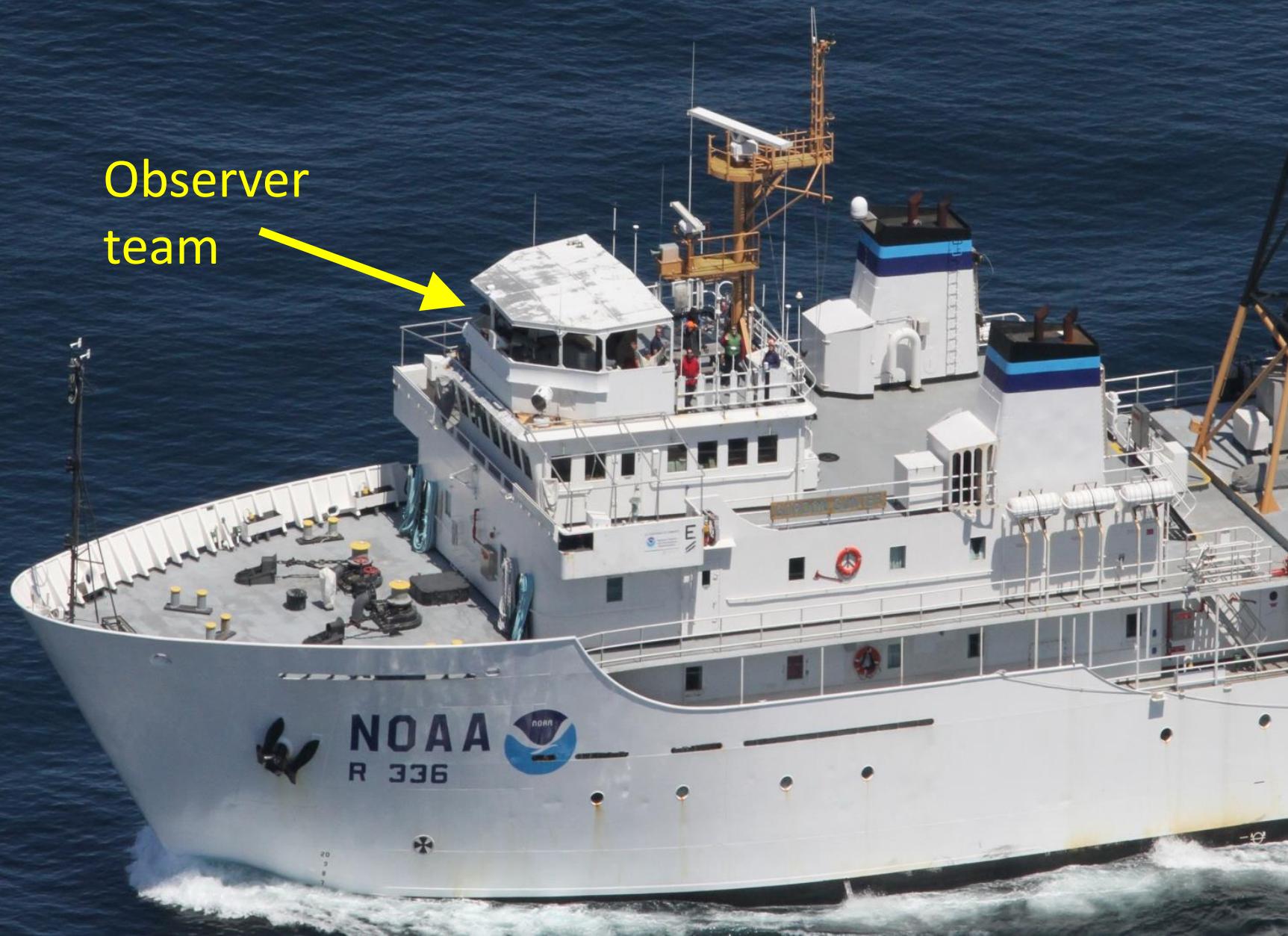


**South:  
NOAA SEFSC  
R/V Gordon Gunter**



**North:  
NOAA NEFSC  
R/V Endeavor (URI)**

# Observers on the R/V Gordon Gunter



# Observers on the R/V Gordon Gunter

25 x 150  
“bigeye”  
binoculars

Left  
observer

Right  
observer

Data  
recorder

Photo:  
Kimberly Gogan

MARINE MAMMAL SIGHTING FORM  
\*DO NOT FILL IN BOXES PRECEDED BY AN ASTERISK

1. OBSERVER NAME LEW CONSIGLIERI RECORD ID • 186070  
VESSEL NAME MILLER FREEMAN

2. DATE (Yr./Mo./Day) & TIME (local) OF SIGHTING 860314 1040  
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

3. LATITUDE (degrees/minutes/10ths)-N/S 57 54 N  
18 19 20 21 22 23

4. LONGITUDE (degrees/minutes/10ths)-E/W 154 14 W  
24 25 26 27 28 29 30  
22 23 24 25 26 27 28  
35

5. SPECIES Sperm Whale Physeter Macrocephalus  
Common name Scientific name P.M. TENATIVE

6. NUMBER SIGHTED 3 ± 0 \* C.I. 0 0003  
36 37 38 39 40

7. INITIAL SIGHTING CUE Blows through binoculars \* 01

8. ANGLE FROM BOW 030 9. INITIAL SIGHTING DISTANCE 1000 m  
47 48 49

10. VISIBILITY 15 NM 11. SEA STATE (Beaufort) 1 12\* VIS CODE 2  
53

13. WEATHER Ptly Cloudy 14. SURFACE WATER TEMP.(°C) ± +05  
54 55 56

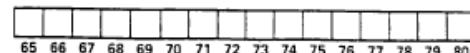
15. PLATFORM CODE \* 1000 16. TIME ZONE ± +10  
57 58 59 60 61 62 63

17. How did you identify animal(s)? Sketch and describe animal; associated organisms; behavior (include closest approach); comments.

Animals came within 1/2 Km of vessel. Clearly able to see square head + wrinkled skin. Blows were oblique. Two animals were around 35' long; the other larger (~50').



Figure 1.--Marine mammal sighting form (front).



To aid in your identification of whales and porpoises, circle the characteristics corresponding to the features you observed.

Body length (estimation): < 10 feet  10-25 feet  25-50 feet  50-80 feet

Dorsal fin? Yes  No

Shape of dorsal fin:

Porpoises/dolphins  0 2 feet

Whales  0 5 feet



Prominent blow?

Yes

No

Number of blows before a long dive:

1-3

4-7

8-15

10-20 minutes

or longer -  
they dove &  
we lost sight of  
them.

Length of dive:

≤ 2 minutes

5-7 minutes

Shape of blow:



Showed flukes upon dive?

Yes

No

Other behavior characteristics:

No specific behavior

Following vessel

Breaching

Stern riding

Bow riding

Slow rolling

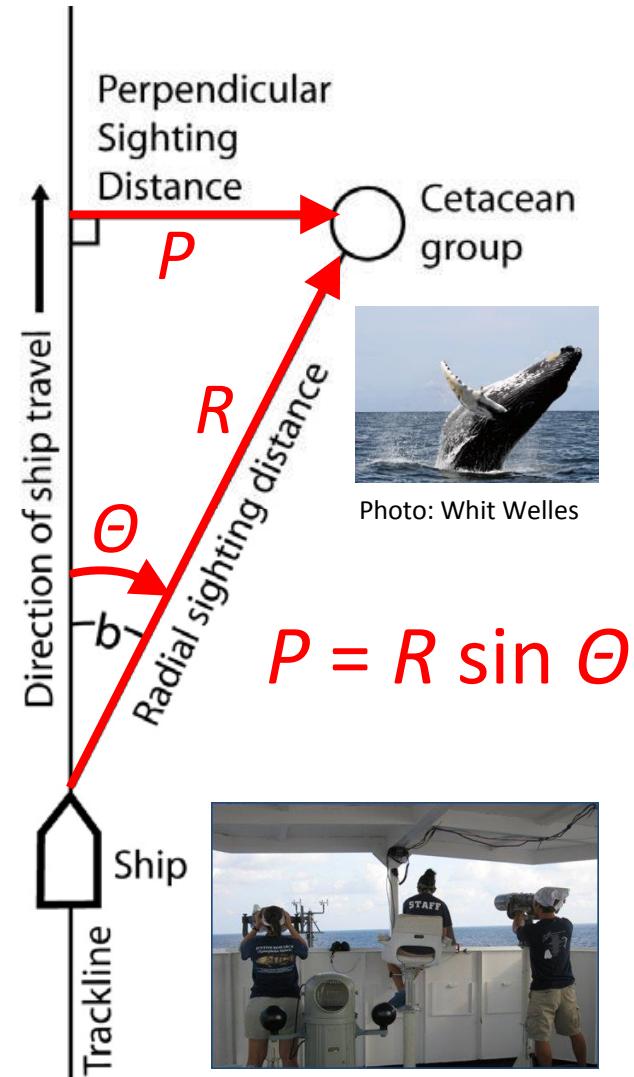
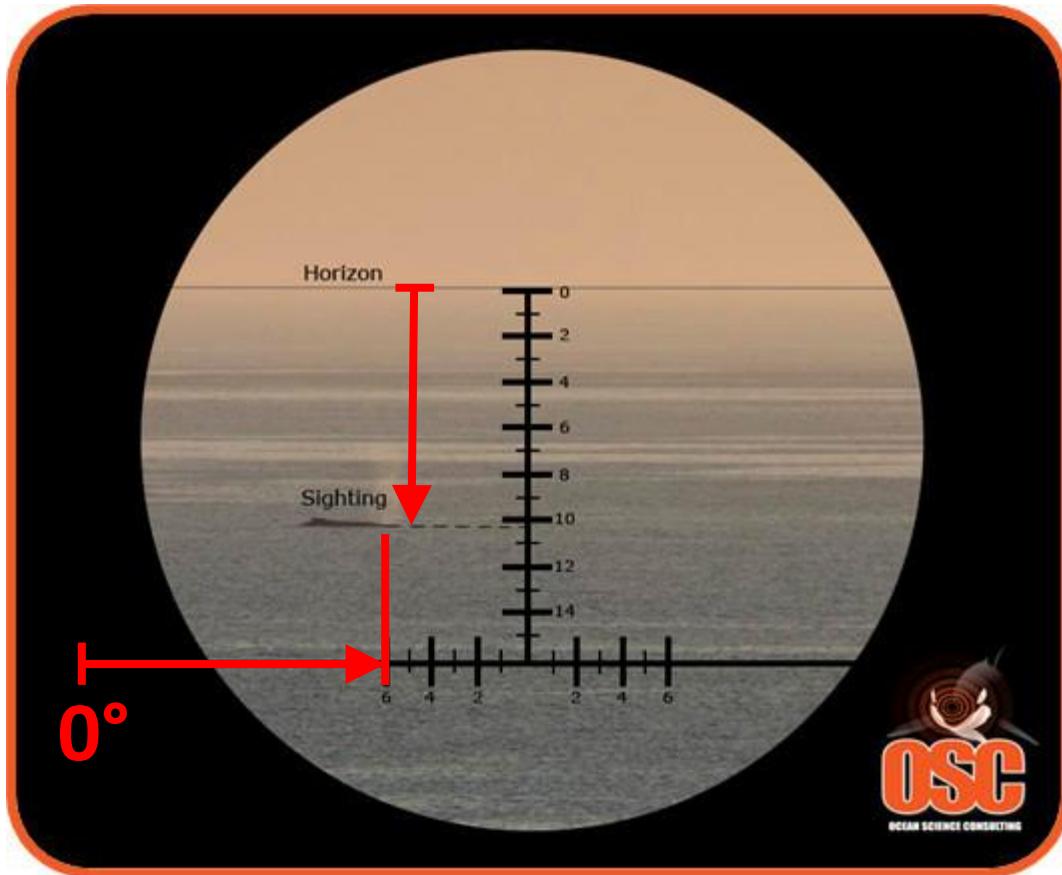
Porpoising

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Distinctive markings (scarring, white patches, etc.):

Figure 2.--Marine mammal sighting form (back).

# Perpendicular distances to sightings using binocular reticles

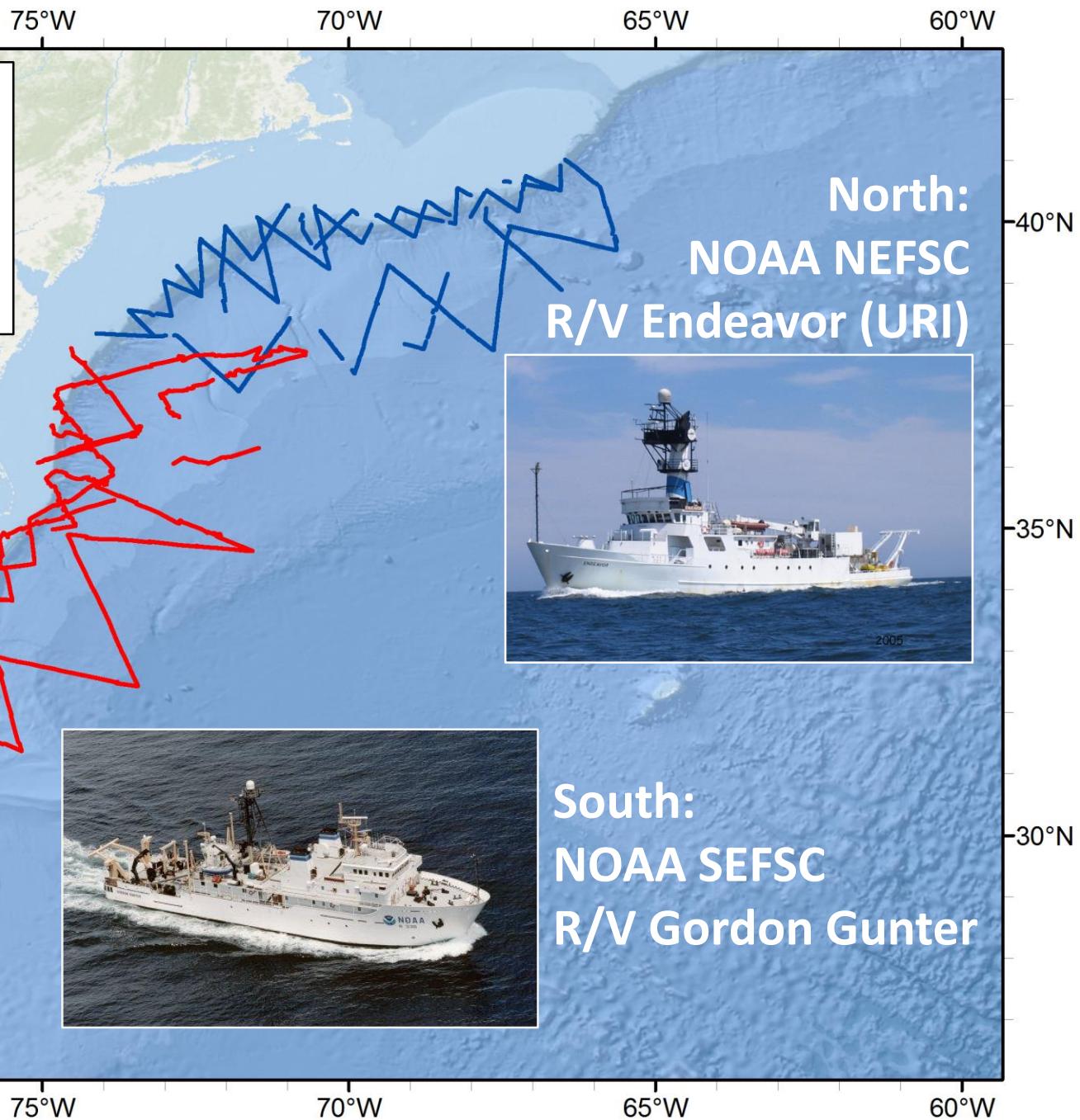




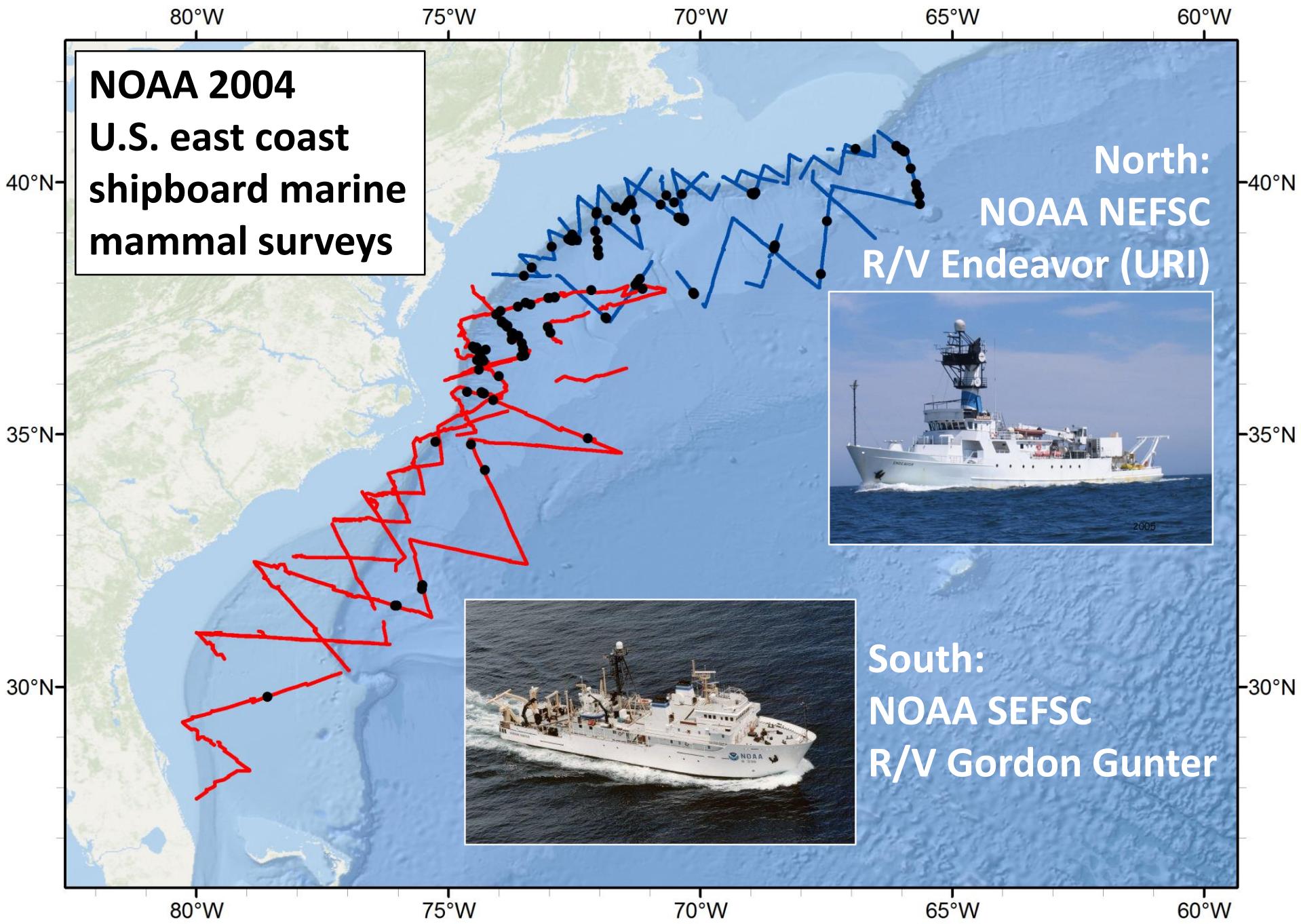
Our species of interest:  
Sperm whale  
*Physeter macrocephalus*

Photo: Franco Banfi

**NOAA 2004  
U.S. east coast  
shipboard marine  
mammal surveys**



**NOAA 2004  
U.S. east coast  
shipboard marine  
mammal surveys**



# NOAA's abundance estimates (Waring et al. 2007):

Table 1. Summary of abundance estimates for the western North Atlantic sperm whale. Month, year, and area covered during each abundance survey, and resulting abundance estimate ( $N_{best}$ ) and coefficient of variation (CV).

Month/Year	Area	$N_{best}$	CV
Jun-Aug 2004	Maryland to the Bay of Fundy	2,607	0.57
Jun-Aug 2004	Florida to Maryland	2,197	0.47
Jun-Aug 2004	Bay of Fundy to Florida (COMBINED)	4,804	0.38

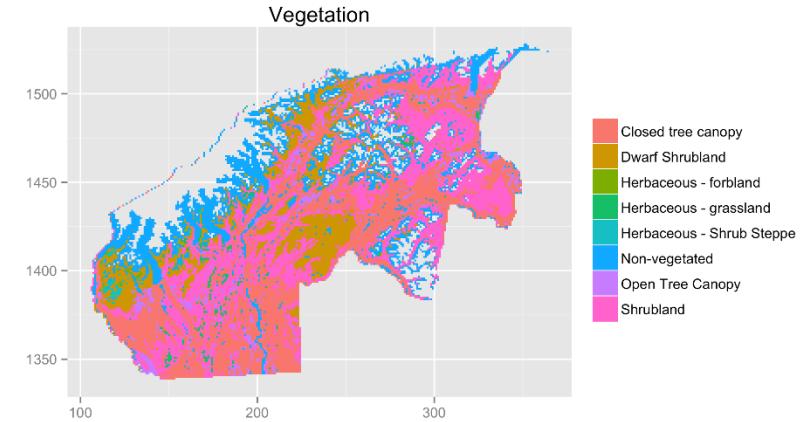
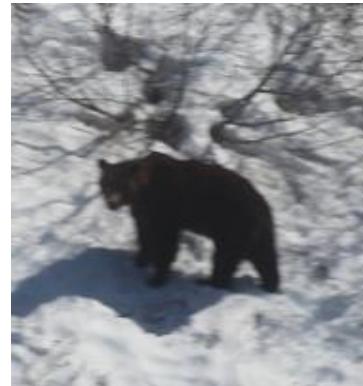
Waring GT, Josephson E, Fairfield-Walsh CP, Maze-Foley K (2007) U.S. Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Marine Mammal Stock Assessments -- 2007. NOAA Tech Memo NMFS NE 205. 415 p.

## Our goals:

- Produce our own abundance estimates from NOAA's data
- Go beyond this: produce a density surface (animals km<sup>-2</sup>)

# This methodology is generic!

- We're teaching a marine example because one of us works mainly on marine species
- The methodology and most of the tools are generic
- If you are a terrestrial ecologist, please feel free to speak up, raise terrestrial questions and examples, and represent land-dwellers with pride!



Photos and figure: David L Miller and colleagues

Let's explore the data...

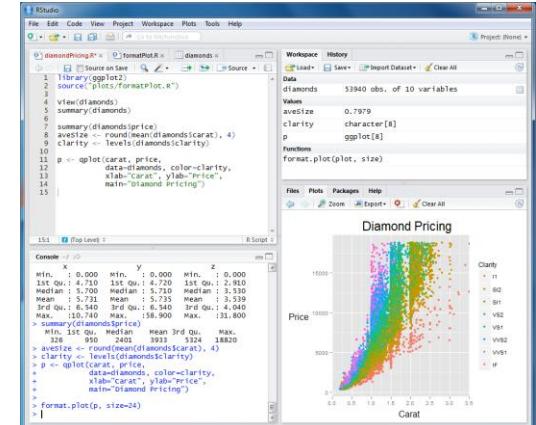
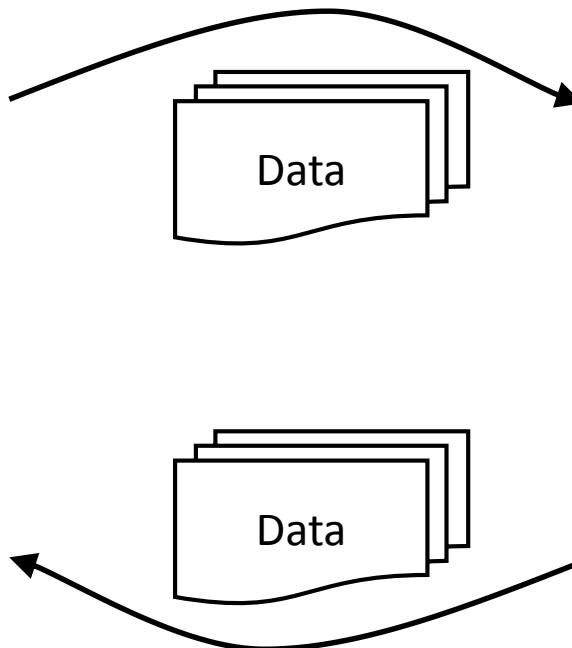
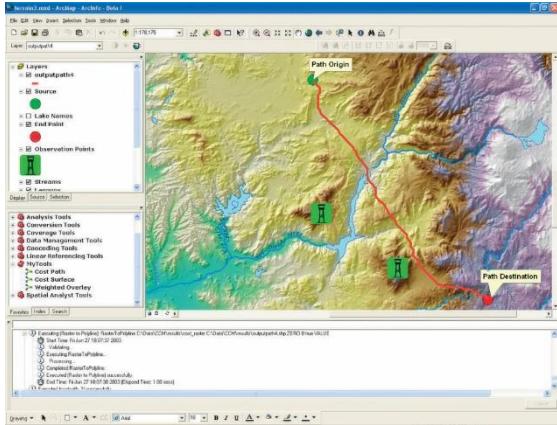
Using ArcGIS and R  
together

# Two main approaches

- ***Exchange data*** - run both programs interactively and manually move data back and forth between them
  - We will do this in our workshop
- ***Automation*** - execute one program from within the other, or both from a third program, to coordinate their execution from an automated workflow
  - We will not do this, but I can discuss it at the end of the session, if there is time and interest

# Exchanging data by writing files

ArcGIS writes, R reads



R writes, ArcGIS reads

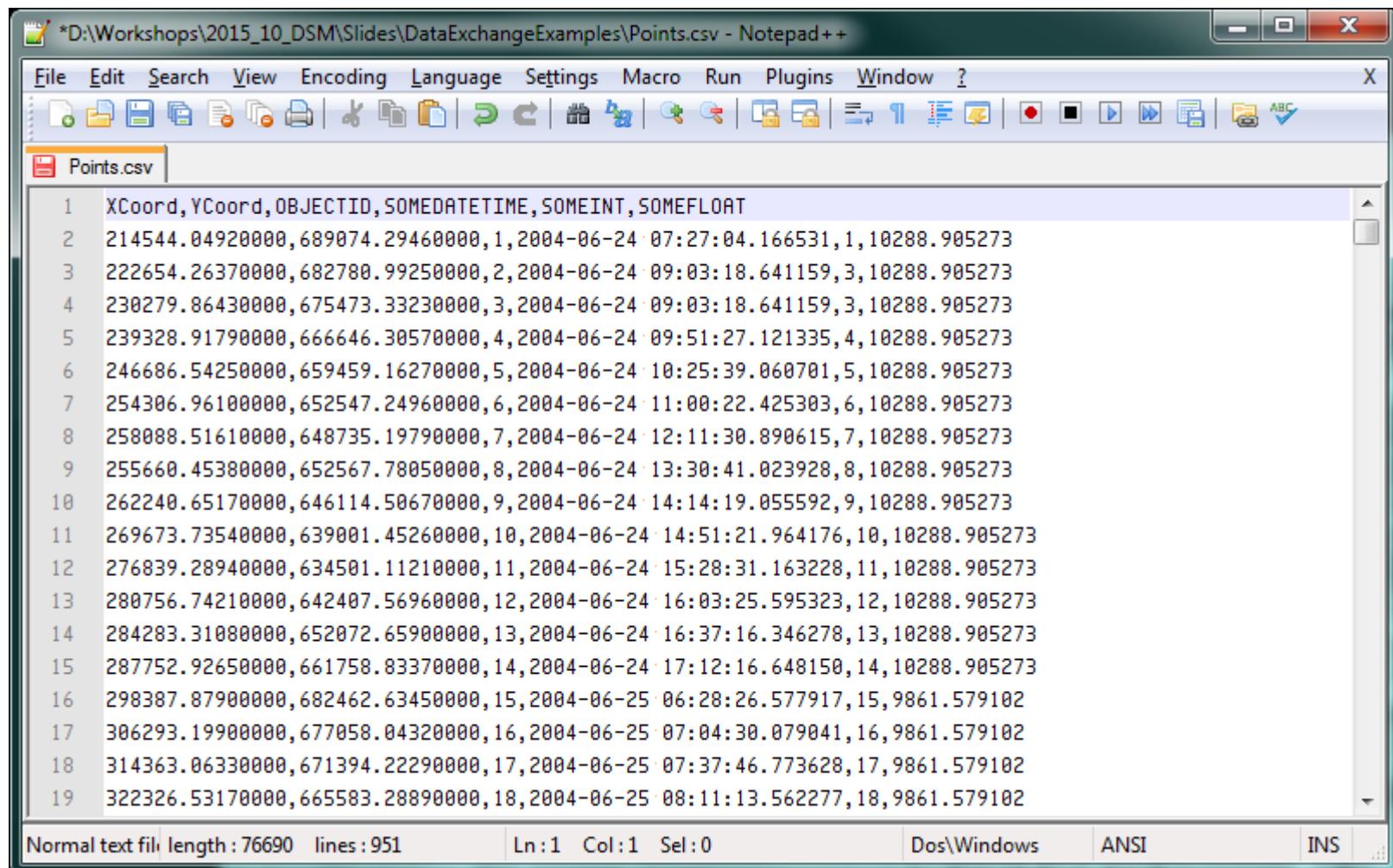
# Formats for exchanging data

For tabular data—tables and feature classes in ArcGIS—there are several common alternatives:

- Comma-separated values (CSV) files
- DBF files and shapefiles
- Personal and file geodatabases

For rasters, you can leave them in the formats you already use in ArcGIS (GeoTIFF, IMG, etc.)

# Comma-separated values (CSV) files



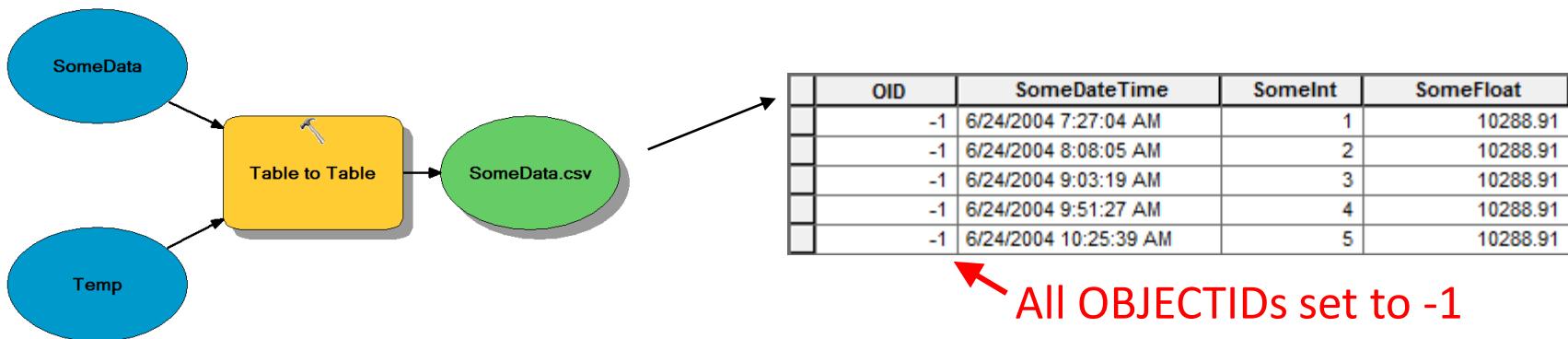
The screenshot shows a Notepad++ window displaying a CSV file named "Points.csv". The file contains 19 rows of data, each consisting of six fields separated by commas. The first row is a header with column names: XCoord, YCoord, OBJECTID, SOMEDATETIME, SOMEINT, and SOMEFLOAT. The subsequent rows contain numerical values for these fields. The Notepad++ interface includes a menu bar, toolbar, status bar at the bottom, and a scroll bar on the right.

	XCoord	YCoord	OBJECTID	SOMEDATETIME	SOMEINT	SOMEFLOAT
1	214544.04920000	689074.29460000	1	2004-06-24 07:27:04.166531	1	10288.905273
2	222654.26370000	682780.99250000	2	2004-06-24 09:03:18.641159	3	10288.905273
3	230279.86430000	675473.33230000	3	2004-06-24 09:03:18.641159	3	10288.905273
4	239328.91790000	666646.30570000	4	2004-06-24 09:51:27.121335	4	10288.905273
5	246686.54250000	659459.16270000	5	2004-06-24 10:25:39.060701	5	10288.905273
6	254306.96100000	652547.24960000	6	2004-06-24 11:00:22.425303	6	10288.905273
7	258088.51610000	648735.19790000	7	2004-06-24 12:11:30.890615	7	10288.905273
8	255660.45380000	652567.78050000	8	2004-06-24 13:30:41.023928	8	10288.905273
9	262240.65170000	646114.50670000	9	2004-06-24 14:14:19.055592	9	10288.905273
10	269673.73540000	639001.45260000	10	2004-06-24 14:51:21.964176	10	10288.905273
11	276839.28940000	634501.11210000	11	2004-06-24 15:28:31.163228	11	10288.905273
12	280756.74210000	642407.56960000	12	2004-06-24 16:03:25.595323	12	10288.905273
13	284283.31080000	652072.65900000	13	2004-06-24 16:37:16.346278	13	10288.905273
14	287752.92650000	661758.83370000	14	2004-06-24 17:12:16.648150	14	10288.905273
15	298387.87900000	682462.63450000	15	2004-06-25 06:28:26.577917	15	9861.579102
16	306293.19900000	677058.04320000	16	2004-06-25 07:04:30.079041	16	9861.579102
17	314363.06330000	671394.22290000	17	2004-06-25 07:37:46.773628	17	9861.579102
18	322326.53170000	665583.28890000	18	2004-06-25 08:11:13.562277	18	9861.579102

# CSV files for tables

- Just text; no way to specify data types of columns
- Due to that and other limitations of ArcGIS, CSV is not an appropriate default format when using ArcGIS
- Export from ArcGIS messes up certain columns

***Send a table from ArcGIS to R with a CSV:***



```
> somedata <- read.csv("C:/Temp/SomeData.csv", stringsAsFactors=FALSE)
```

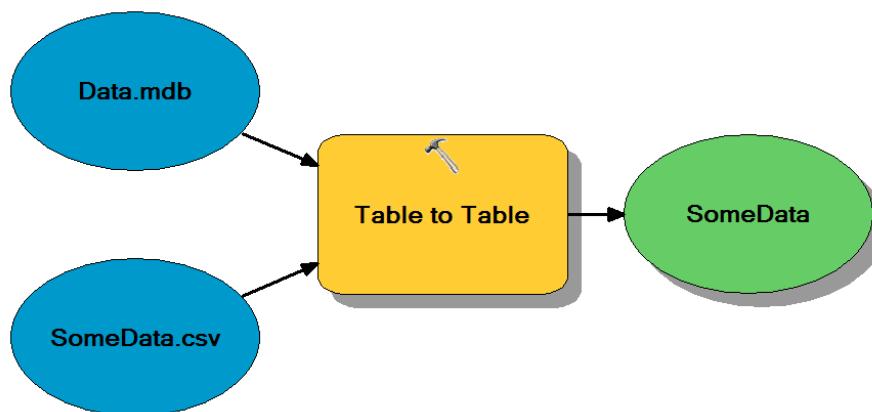
For date columns, use `colClasses` parameter to specify data type

# CSV files for tables

## ***Send a table from R to ArcGIS with a CSV:***

```
> write.csv(somedata, "C:/Temp/SomeData.csv", row.names=FALSE, na="")
```

CSVs may be used directly in ArcGIS for certain tasks. But often it is necessary to convert them to more structured format, such as a geodatabase table or DBF file:



# CSV files for feature classes

- Same limitations as with tables
- Cannot easily handle geometries other than points

***Send points from ArcGIS to R with a CSV:***



From the  
Spatial Stats  
toolbox!?



www.PHDCOMICS.COM

	Points.csv
1	XCoord,YCoord,OBJECTID,SOME DATETIME,SOMEINT,SOMEFLOAT
2	214544.04920000,689074.29460000,1,2004-06-24 07:27:04.166531,1,10288.905273
3	222654.26370000,682780.99250000,2,NULL,NULL,NULL
4	230279.86430000,675473.33230000,3,2004-06-24 09:03:18.641159,3,10288.905273
5	239328.91790000,666646.30570000,4,2004-06-24 09:51:27.121335,4,10288.905273

NULL values written as  
"NULL"; R converts  
column to character  
data type!

```
> points <- read.csv("C:/Temp/Points.csv", stringsAsFactors=FALSE)
```

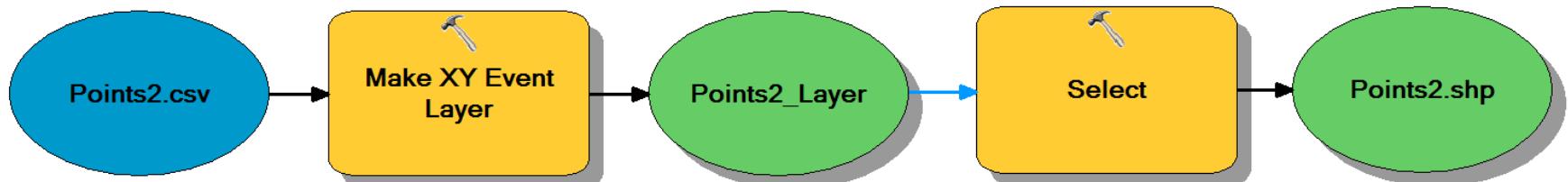
For date columns, use colClasses parameter to specify data type

# CSV files for feature classes

***Send points from R to ArcGIS with a CSV:***

```
> write.csv(points, "D:/Temp/Points2.csv", row.names=FALSE, na="")
```

Make sure points has columns for x and y coordinates



Makes an in-memory  
feature layer

Only needed if you wish  
to save the layer

# DBF files for tables

- + Suitable as default format in ArcGIS, but:
- Significant limitations: 10 char column names; date fields do not have times; little support for NULL values

## *Read a DBF file into R:*



```
> library(foreign)
> somedata <- read.dbf("C:/Temp/SomeData.dbf", as.is=TRUE)
```

## *Write a DBF file from R:*

```
> write.dbf(somedata, "C:/Temp/SomeData2.dbf", factor2char=TRUE)
```

# Shapefiles for vector data

- + Suitable as default format in ArcGIS
- Same limitations as DBF: 10 char column names; date fields do not have times; little support for NULL values

## *Read a shapefile into R:*



For DATE columns, readOGR creates a character column in the returned data.frame. We must parse it, e.g. using as.POSIXct().

```
> library(rgdal)
> points <- readOGR("D:/Temp", "Points", stringsAsFactors=FALSE)
> points$SomeDateTime <- as.POSIXct(points$SomeDateTime)
```

## *Write a shapefile from R:*

```
> writeOGR(points, "D:/Temp", "Points", driver="ESRI Shapefile")
```

For POSIXct (etc.) columns, writeOGR creates a TEXT column in the shapefile.

# Personal and file geodatabases

- + Multiple tables and feature classes in single file or dir.
- + Avoids archaic limitations of CSV, DBF, and shapefile
- Different R packages needed depending on scenario

## **Personal geodatabase (.mdb file)**

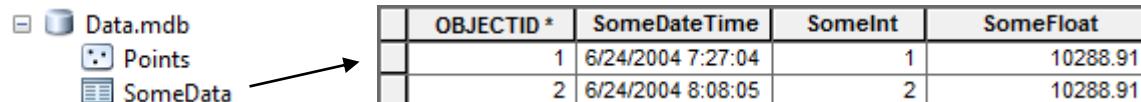
- ± MS Access format; can open in many tools; can be hard on Linux
- Total file size limited to 2 GB
- ESRI is depreciating this format

## **File geodatabase (.gdb directory)**

- + No size limitation
- Proprietary ESRI format; limited interoperability

# With the RODBC package:

***Read a table from a personal GDB (or other Access DB):***

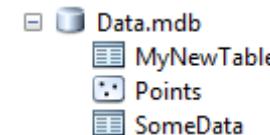


```
> library(RODBC)      # May not be available on all Linux distros  
> conn <- odbcConnectAccess("D:/Temp/Data.mdb")    # odbcConnect on Linux  
> data <- sqlQuery(conn, "SELECT * FROM SomeData", stringsAsFactors=FALSE)  
> close(conn)
```

Neither works with file GDBs!

***Write a table to a personal GDB (or other Access DB):***

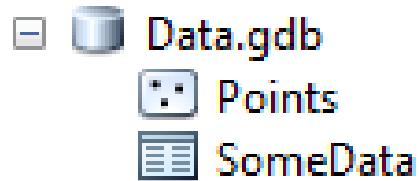
```
> library(RODBC)  
> conn <- odbcConnectAccess("D:/Temp/Data.mdb")  
> sqlwrite(conn, data, "MyNewTable", rownames=FALSE,  
           varTypes=c(SomeDateTime="datetime"))  
> close(conn)
```



Necessary for ArcGIS to add or recognize the table's OBJECTID

# With the rgdal package:

## *Read a feature class from a personal or file GDB:*

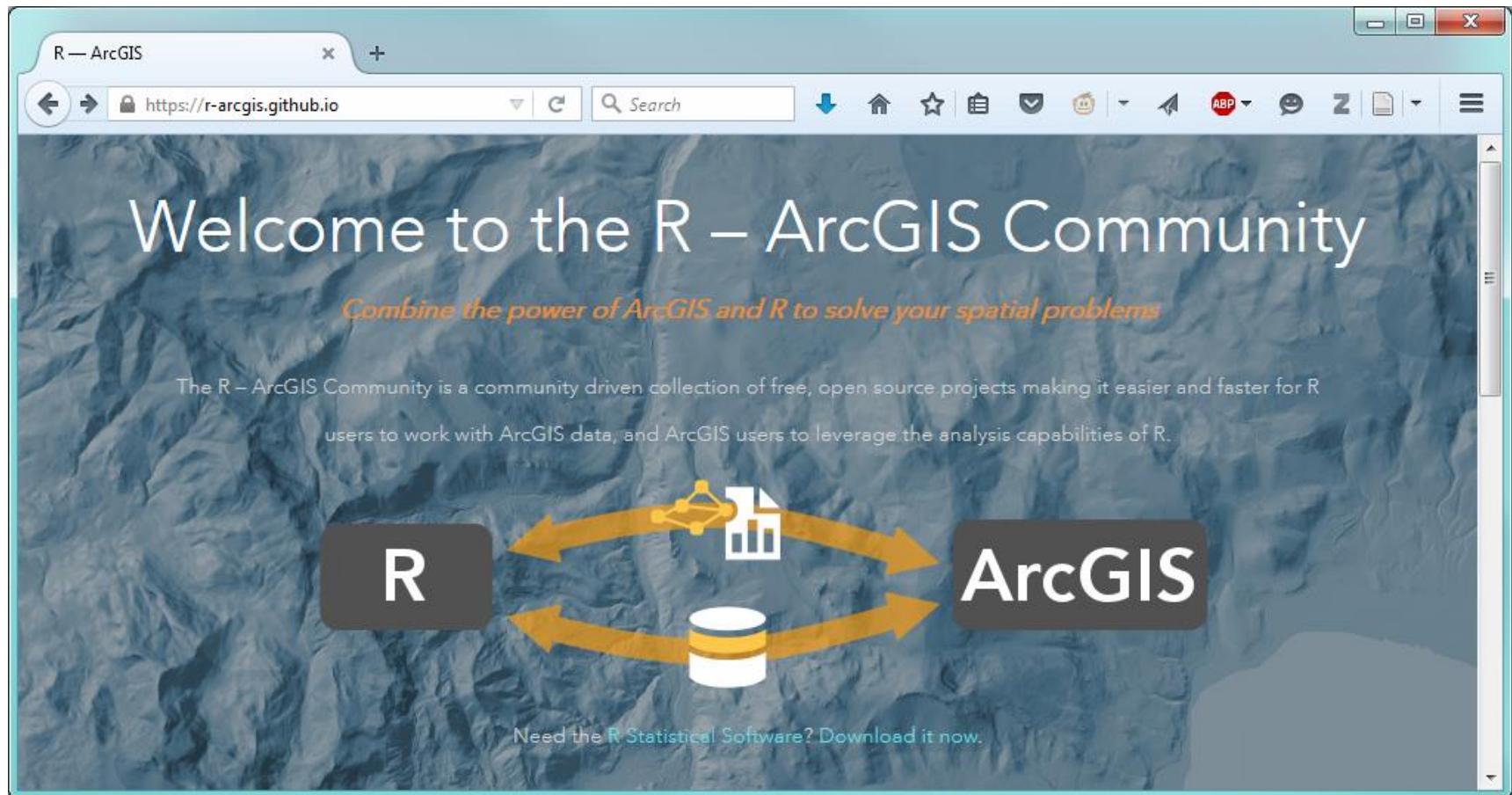


As with shapefiles, for DATE columns, readOGR creates a character column in the returned data.frame. Must parse, e.g. using as.POSIXct().

```
> library(rgdal)
> points <- readOGR("D:/Temp/Data.gdb", "Points", stringsAsFactors=FALSE)
> points$SomeDateTime <- as.POSIXct(points$SomeDateTime)
```

- You cannot write to geodatabases with rgdal at this time
- In the future, it may be possible to write to file geodatabases if some technical and licensing issues are worked out on CRAN (but this looks pretty unlikely)

# ESRI's new initiative



<https://r-arcgis.github.io/>

# R-bridge for ArcGIS

- Enables R to read and write any tables or feature classes that are accessible through ArcGIS
- Brand new: July 2015
- Requires ArcGIS 10.3.1+, R 3.1.0+, MS Windows
- Requires administrator rights to install
  - Instructions: <https://github.com/R-ArcGIS/r-bridge-install>
- Installs the `arcgisbinding` R library
  - Cannot be installed from CRAN (at least right now)
  - Only works if ArcGIS is installed; checks your license
  - Core implemented with C++, COM, ATL, ArcObjects
  - Open source (!) Apache License 2.0

# With the arcgisbinding package:

## ***Initialize the ArcGIS license:***

```
> library(arcgisbinding)
*** Please call arc.check_product() to define a desktop license.
>
> arc.check_product()
product: ArcGIS Desktop
license: Advanced
build number: 10.3.1.4959
binding dll: rarcproxy
>
```

# With the arcgisbinding package:

## *Read a table into R:*



OBJECTID *	SomeDateTime	SomeInt	SomeFloat	SomeString
1	6/24/2004 7:27:04 AM	1	10288.91	aaa
2	<Null>	<Null>	<Null>	<Null>
3	6/24/2004 9:03:19 AM	3	10288.91	bbb
4	6/24/2004 9:51:27 AM	4	10288.91	ccc

```
> dataset <- arc.open("D:/Temp/Data.mdb/SomeData") # Open the dataset  
> arcdf <- arc.select(dataset) # Get an arc.data instance of data.frame  
> summary(arcdf)
```

OBJECTID	SomeDateTime	SomeInt	SomeFloat	SomeString
Min. : 1	Min. :38162	Min. :-2.147e+09	Min. : 8395	Length:949
1st Qu.:238	1st Qu.:38171	1st Qu.: 2.380e+02	1st Qu.: 9862	Class :character
Median :475	Median :38180	Median : 4.750e+02	Median :10011	Mode :character
Mean :475	Mean :38184	Mean : -2.262e+06	Mean :10009	
3rd Qu.:712	3rd Qu.:38194	3rd Qu.: 7.120e+02	3rd Qu.:10155	
Max. :949	Max. :38211	Max. : 9.490e+02	Max. :11274	
NA's :1			NA's :1	

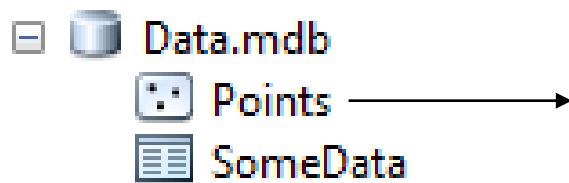
Strings not automatically converted to factors (good, in my opinion)

NULL integers converted to -2147483647

Datetime values converted to floating point (number of days since 1899-12-30?)

# With the arcgisbinding package:

*Read a feature class into R:*



	OBJECTID *	Shape *	SomeDateTime	SomeInt	SomeFloat
	1	Point	6/24/2004 7:27:04	1	10288.91
	2	Point	<Null>	<Null>	<Null>
	3	Point	6/24/2004 9:03:19	3	10288.91
	4	Point	6/24/2004 9:51:27	4	10288.91

```
> dataset <- arc.open("D:/Temp/Data.mdb/Points") # Open the dataset
> arcdf <- arc.select(dataset) # Get an arc.data instance of data.frame
> points <- arc.data2sp(arcdf) # Convert to SpatialPointsDataFrame object
> library(sp) # Necessary to access sp functions
> summary(points)
```

Object of class SpatialPointsDataFrame

Coordinates:

	min	max
coords.x1	-703555.8	633107.0
coords.x2	-663940.9	793006.7

Is projected: TRUE

proj4string :

[+proj=aea +lat\_1=38 +lat\_2=30 +lat\_0=34 +lon\_0=-73 +x\_0=0 +y\_0=0 +datum=WGS84 +units=m +no\_defs +ellps=WGS84 +towgs84=0,0,0]

Number of points: 949

Data attributes:

OBJECTID	SomeDateTime	SomeInt	SomeFloat	SomeString
Min. : 1	Min. :38162	Min. :-2.147e+09	Min. : 8395	Length:949
1st Qu.:238	1st Qu.:38171	1st Qu.: 2.380e+02	1st Qu.: 9862	Class :character
Median :475	Median :38180	Median : 4.750e+02	Median :10011	Mode :character
Mean :475	Mean :38184	Mean : -2.262e+06	Mean :10009	
3rd Qu.:712	3rd Qu.:38194	3rd Qu.: 7.120e+02	3rd Qu.:10155	
Max. :949	Max. :38211	Max. : 9.490e+02	Max. :11274	
NA's :1			NA's :1	

# With the arcgisbinding package:

***Write a table or feature class from R:***

```
> summary(df)
   OBJECTID      SomeDateTime          SomeInt      SomeFloat      SomeString
Min.   : 1   Min.   :2004-06-24 07:27:04   Min.   : 1.0   Min.   :8395   Length:949
1st Qu.:238  1st Qu.:2004-07-03 11:28:26  1st Qu.:238.8  1st Qu.:9862   Class :character
Median  :475  Median  :2004-07-11 13:18:43  Median  :475.5  Median  :10011   Mode   :character
Mean    :475  Mean    :2004-07-15 14:40:21  Mean    :475.5  Mean    :10009
3rd Qu.:712  3rd Qu.:2004-07-26 11:06:12  3rd Qu.:712.2  3rd Qu.:10155
Max.   :949  Max.   :2004-08-11 18:58:50  Max.   :949.0  Max.   :11274
NA's    :1           NA's    :1           NA's    :1           NA's    :1
```

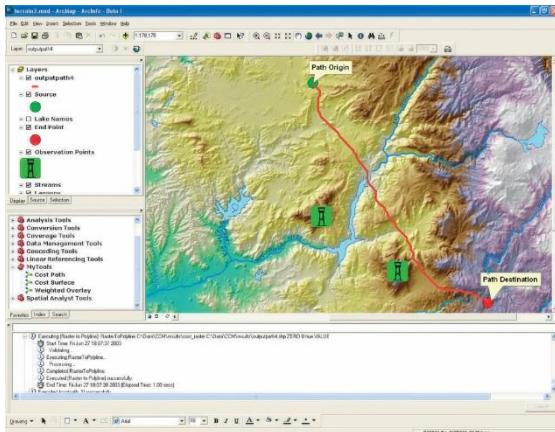
```
> arc.write("D:/Temp/Data.mdb/SomeData2", df)
```

OBJECTID *	OBJECTID_1	SomeDateTime	SomeInt	SomeFloat	SomeString
1	1	1088062024.166531	1	10288.905273	aaa
2	2	<Null>	<Null>	<Null>	<Null>
3	3	1088067798.641159	3	10288.905273	bbb
4	4	1088070687.121335	4	10288.905273	ccc

Assigned new OBJECTID,  
renamed our column

Converted POSIXct values to floating point  
(number of seconds since 1970-01-01?)

# Recommended approach



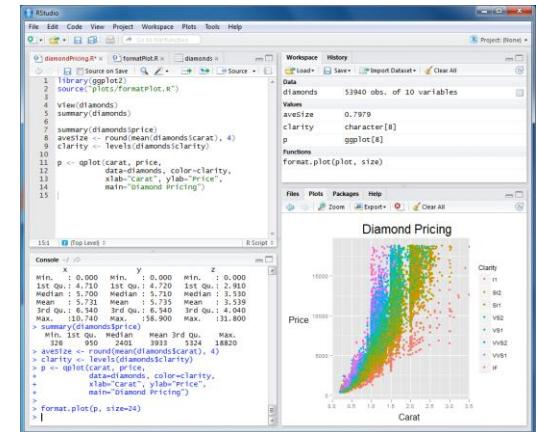
Write

Tables, vectors  
in geodatabase

Read

Read:

- For tables in personal GDB, use RODBC
- Otherwise use rgdal or arcgisbinding

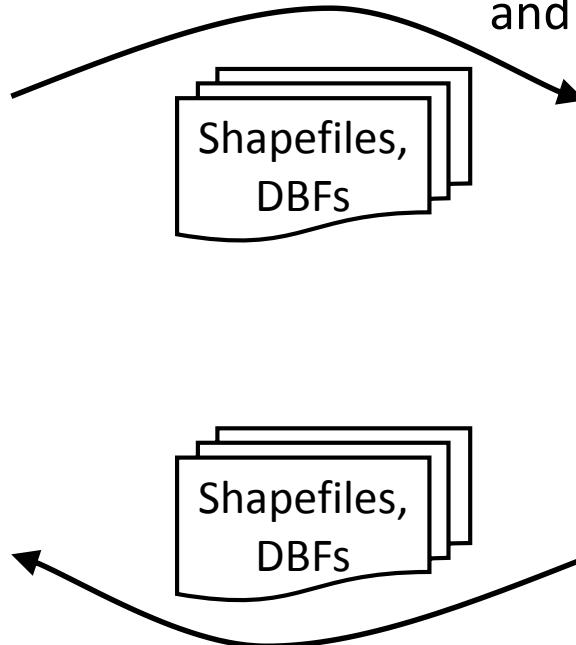
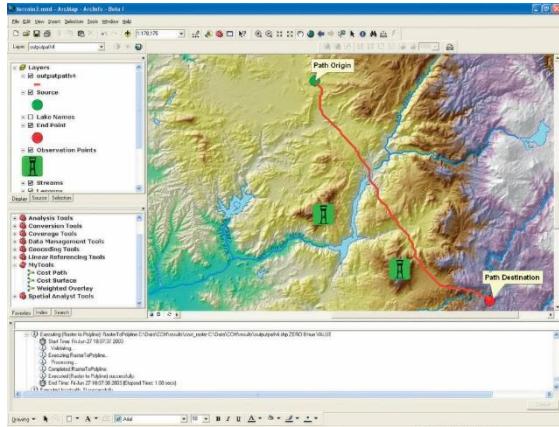


Write:

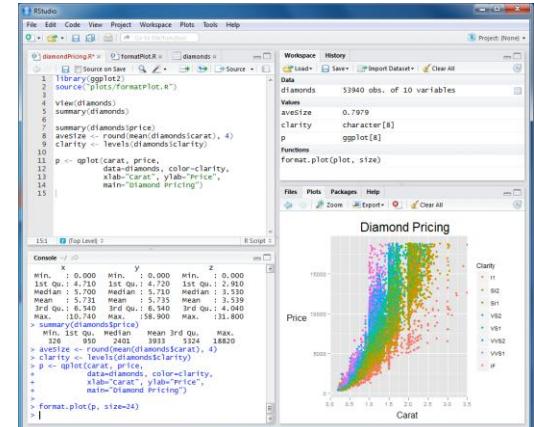
- For tables in personal GDB, use RODBC
- Otherwise use arcgisbinding

# Alternative approach:

If you can tolerate the limitations of shapefile and DBF



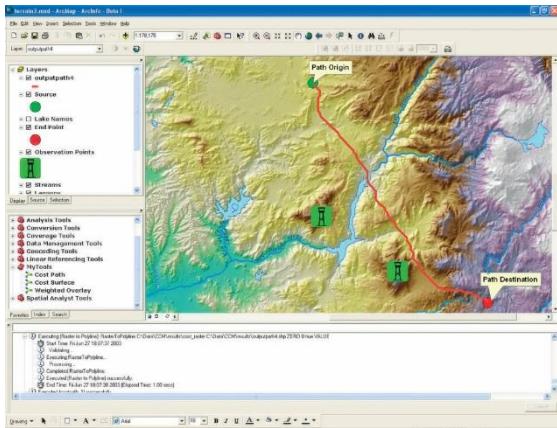
Use readOGR (from rgdal)  
and read.dbf (from foreign)



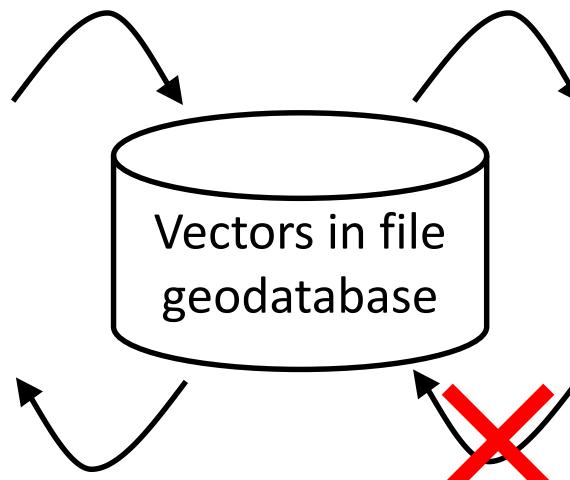
Use writeOGR (from rgdal)  
and write.dbf (from foreign)

# In this workshop

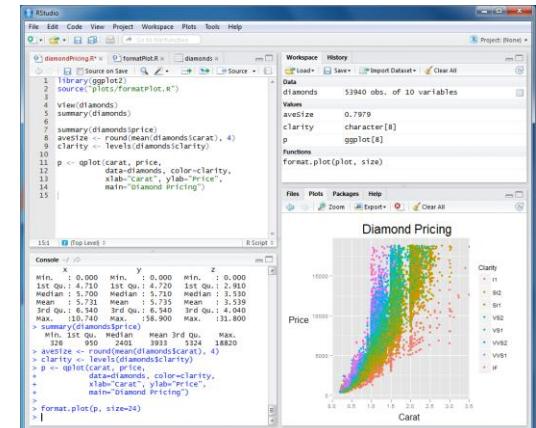
We only need to send vector data from ArcGIS to R. We will use a file GDB to facilitate cross-platform use and read from it with rgdal.



Write



Read



In our exercise, we do not need to send tables or vector data from R back to ArcGIS.

# Rasters

## ***Reading a raster into R:***

```
> library(raster)
> r <- raster("D:/Temp/Depth.img")
> r
class       : RasterLayer
dimensions   : 1260, 1200, 1512000 (nrow, ncol, ncell)
resolution   : 0.01666667, 0.01666667 (x, y)
extent       : -82, -62, 24, 45 (xmin, xmax, ymin, ymax)
coord. ref.  : +proj=longlat +datum=WGS84 +no_defs +ellps=WGS84 +towgs84=0,0,0
data source  : D:\Temp\Depth.img
names        : Depth
values       : 0, 6282 (min, max)
```

## ***Writing a raster from R:***

```
> writeRaster(r, "D:/Temp/Depth2.img") # Options for data type, compression, etc.
```

## **For raster data, I recommend .IMG format**

- Supports all pixel types, raster attribute tables, statistics, compression, and very large dimensions
- GeoTIFF is an acceptable alternative, but less flexible, in my experience

Let's read our sightings  
into R...