

An introduction to SPM

A short course in using SPM

Two sessions

- 11 December 2020

- 18 December 2020

Dunn, A.; Rasmussen, S.; Mormede, S. (2020). Spatial Population Model User Manual, SPM 2.0.3-2020-08-29.
Ocean Environmental Technical Report. Ocean Environmental Ltd. Wellington, New Zealand. 235 p.

# An introduction to SPM Session 1

The Spatial Population Model

Alistair Dunn December 2020



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### Introduction

- What is SPM
  - Where to get SPM
  - Version control and maintenance
  - Using the package
- The C++ codebase
- The config file
  - Model structure and general approach to the package



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### What is SPM

### SPM (the Spatial Population Model)

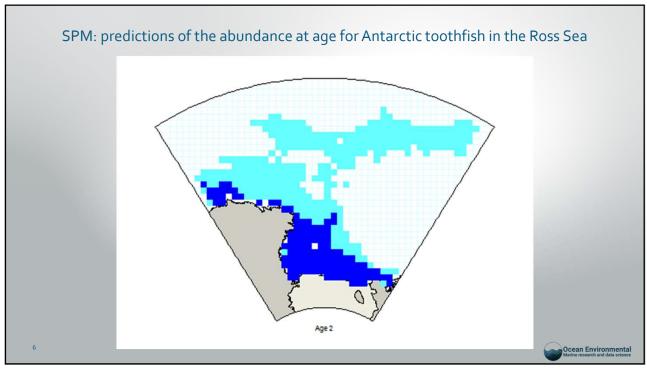
SPM (Spatial Population Model) is a generalised spatially explicit age-structured population dynamics and movement model.

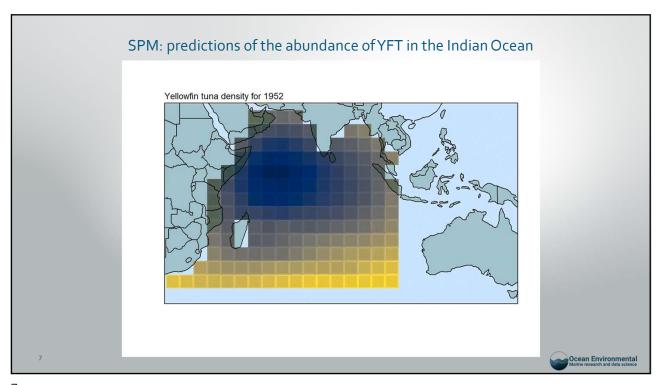
SPM can model population dynamics and movement parameters for an age-structured population using a range of observations, including tagging, relative abundance, and age/length frequency data.

SPM implements an age-structured population within an arbitrary shaped spatial structure, which can have user defined categories (e.g., immature, mature, male, female, etc.), and age range.

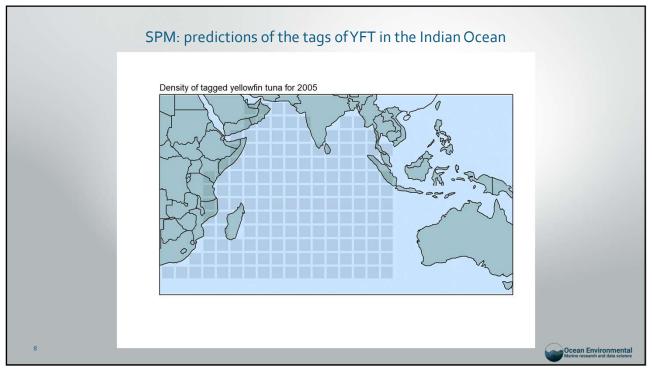
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### Modular code and object based

- SPM is built around the idea of object orientated approach
  - Modula models are built by combining individual components
    - Processes, Observations, etc.
  - Model size only limited by time and memory (and can be 10 000's of cells in size)
- Flexible and extendable
  - Code base uses modern C\_++ and is relatively easy to add new functionality
- But .. some parts are a bit old
  - it would be nice to update these one day
- It can be a bit slow 😊



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### **Getting SPM**

- Most recent version (binaries and Windows installer)
  - https://github.com/alistairdunn1/SPM/releases/tag/v2.0.3-2020-08-26
- GitHub repository
  - https://github.com/alistairdunn1/SPM
- Older (NIWA) version available at
  - <a href="https://github.com/NIWAFisheriesModelling/SPM">https://github.com/NIWAFisheriesModelling/SPM</a>





### **About SPM**

- Developed at NIWA in mid-2000s to investigate biases with the use of tagging data for the assessment of Antarctic Toothfish in the Ross Sea
- Written in C++. Source code is on GitHub
- Minor development recently to fix issues and add functionality
- Allows generalised structures, with a range of observations types and can
  - **Estimate** a wide range of free parameters
    - Profile, point estimates, and MCMC using Maximum Likelihood and Bayes
  - **Simulate** observations from a given set of parameters and model structure
  - Flexible, generalised model structure, model years, annual cycle, processes, and observations

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### **SPM license**

Open source (Common Public License v1.0)

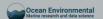
This program and the accompanying materials are made available under the terms of the Common Public License v1.0 which accompanies this software

• Pretty much allows you to do anything with the code or program (including sell it!)

### See the manual:

Dunn, A.; Rasmussen, S.; Mormede, S. (2020). Spatial Population Model User Manual, SPM 2.0.3-2020-08-29. Ocean Environmental Technical Report. Ocean Environmental Ltd. Wellington, New Zealand. 235 p.

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### **Using SPM**

- SPM is available for Windows and Linux
- Runs from the terminal (command line) there is no GUI
- Simple command line calls to "do" something
- Multiple command line options -h -c -e -p -q -m -g etc. depending on what you want to do (we'll cover this later)
- spm -h gives short help of the command line options

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### Typical command lines

- A "run" (without estimation): spm -r
- An "estimate" (with estimation): spm -e
- "Simulate" observations: spm -s n sims
- Do an MCMC (you probably shouldn't though): spm -m
- Etc.

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### Versions and reports

- SPM prints to std::out and std::err (although you don't really need to know this)
- std::out gets sent to a file (or many files). This is the output you want to look at
- std::err gets sent to the screen (typically logging of what its doing)
- Almost all output files have a standard header, e.g.,

```
C:\Users\alist>spm -h
SPM (Spatial Population Model)
Call: spm -h
Date: Fri Dec 04 15:19:19 2020
v2.0.3-2020-08-29 (rev. 2020-08-29 03:48:00 UTC). Copyright (c) 2008-2020, NIWA
User name: alist
Machine name: DELL-9020 (Windows_NT, PID=6572)
```



## Redirecting output and standard error

- Modern operating systems allow redirection of std::out and std::err
- Windows

```
spm [arguments] > output_file 2> error_file
```

Linux

```
(spm [arguments] > output_file) > & error_file &
```

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## The config file

- SPM uses a specific text file and format to specify the model, observations, estimation parameters, and the reports (output)
- These live in the *input parameter configuration* file (the *config* file for short)

```
e.g., spm -c myconfig.spm
```

- The default name for this file is config.spm
- Other names are allowed but if not the default, then it must be specified

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### Config command syntax

- SPM config files contain commands and subcommands.
- Commands are always specified by a leading @ symbol
- Subcommands must follow after the @command
- The order of commands and subcommands does not matter
  - Except that subcommands for a command must occur after the command, and before the next command
  - The config file can include other files (which can also include other files) if you want to use multiple files to define the model (see @include filename)

this can be useful to manage the files (e.g., the YFT config file is 100 000 lines long!)

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### Example of commands and subcommands

# Model Structure

@model

nrows 6

ncols 10

layer Base

categories immature mature

min\_age 1

max\_age 30

 $age\_plus\_group\ True$ 

initialisation\_phases Phase1 Phase2

initial\_year 1995

current\_year 2007

cell length 100

time\_steps one two

age\_size none none



### Documentation is in the manual

- The manual (SPM.pdf) is split into 3 main parts...
  - Introduction and how to use SPM (at the beginning), and summary information (at the end)
  - Descriptions for the model components (split into 4 sections)
    - Population structure, estimation, observations, reports
  - Syntax for commands and subcommands (also split into the same 4 sections)
    - Population structure, estimation, observations, reports
- Its quite long!

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### Commands and subcommands from the manual

### 8. Population command and subcommand syntax

8.1. Model structure

@model Define the spatial structure, population structure, annual cycle, and model years

nrows The number of rows nrows in the spatial structure

Type: Integer

Default: No default

Value: A positive integer, nrows > 0

ncols The number of columns ncols in the spatial structure

Type: Integer

Default: No default

Value: A positive integer, ncols  $\geq 0$ 

layer The label for the base layer

Default: No default

Value: Must be a label of a numeric layer defined by @layer

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### Brief overview: Population section

- Model structure
- Initialisation
- Time steps and processes
- Preference functions (<– a means of moving fish, see later)
- Biological information
- Ancillary information (layers, derived parameters, etc.)

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### Brief overview: Estimation section

- Estimation methods (and associated parameters)
  - Point estimates, profiles, and MCMCs
- Defining estimated parameters
- Constraints and penalties

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### Brief overview: Observation section

- Definitions of observations
  - Observed values
  - Likelihoods and variance/sample sizes
- Proportions-at-age
- Proportions-at-length
- Proportions-by-category
- Proportions-by-category-at-length
- Abundance
- Biomass
- Presence/absence

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## Brief overview: Report section

- Determines the information that is written to output
  - Defines the file or files where the get written
- WARNING

If there are NO @report commands, then SPM will produce NO output!

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### Now for some more detail...

- Population section
- Estimation section
- Observation section
- Report section

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## Population section (recap)

- Model structure
- Initialisation
- Time steps and processes
- Preference functions (<– a means of moving fish, see later)
- Biological information
- Ancillary information (layers, derived parameters, etc.)

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### Population section

# Model Structure
@model
nrows 6
ncols 10
layer Base
categories immature mature
min\_age 1
max\_age 30
age\_plus\_group True
initialisation\_phases Phase1 Phase2
initial\_year 1995
current\_year 2007
cell\_length 100
time\_steps one two
age\_size none none

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### Model structure

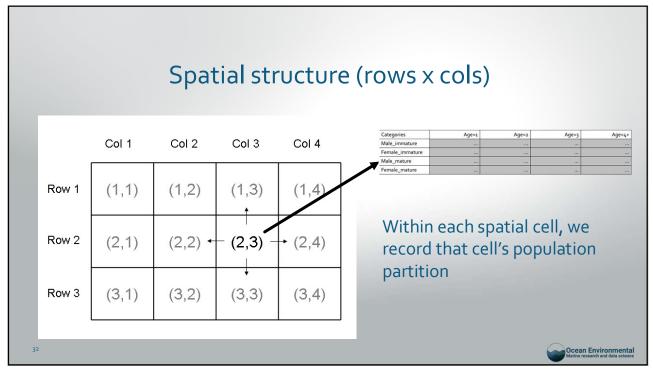
- The partition: SPM models a matrix of categories by ages, inside each spatial cell
  - This can take a lot of memory and time!
- Categories are user-defined
  - Species, stocks, sexes, maturity, etc. are all possible
  - Call these categories what you want (e.g., male, female, tagged, mature, bob, kate, etc.)
- Updates of the partition occur via processes (population or movement)
- Observations reference the partition to calculate the 'expected' values

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# Partition structure (categories x ages) Categories | Age=1 | Age=2 | Age=3 | Age=4+ | Male\_immature | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Male\_mature | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Female\_mature | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |

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### Population section

- The "action" in the model occurs from of processes
- Two types of processes: Population dynamics and movement dynamics
- Population dynamics
  - Biological processes
    - natural mortality, fishing, ageing, recruitment, maturation, etc.
  - Movement processes
    - Preference movement, migration movement, diffusion movement
- We can also include predator-prey interactions, density-dependent processes, etc...

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### Population processes

- Similar to other models
  - Recruitment: adds individuals to the "age 1" column in the partition for each spatial cell
  - Ageing: Shifts individuals one column to the right in the partition for each spatial cell
  - Mortality: Removes individuals from the partition for each spatial cell
  - Category transitions: Moves individuals from one (or more) categories, to another for each spatial cell
  - Etc...
- Population processes can be modified for each cell, use selectivities, etc as for a standard model
- Population processes *never* move fish from one spatial cell to another

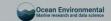


### Population processes

- There are many sub-types of population process ... see the manual
- E.g., for the mortality processes
  - Constant mortality rate (i.e., in y<sup>-1</sup>)
  - Age specific mortality rate
  - Constant exploitation rate (i.e., as a proportion)
  - Annual mortality rate
  - Layer-varying mortality rate
  - Event (abundance) and biomass-event mortality (i.e., fishing)
  - Holling mortality rate (density dependant dynamics using the Michaelis-Menten equation)
  - Prey-suitability mortality rate (predator prey dynamics, Jurado-Molina et al., 2005)

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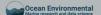
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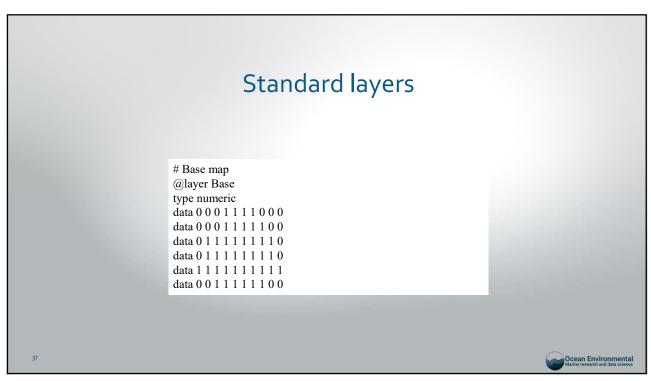


### A quick diversion: Layers

- Layers are a key concept in SPM
  - They specify attributes of each cell
  - They must have the same dimensions as the nrows x ncols as the model
  - Most layers are fixed in time, but
    - meta-layers can be used to vary layers over time
    - biomass and abundance layers can be derived (for density dependant processes)
    - layers can be numeric or categorical
    - some layers are compulsory (e.g., the base layer)
  - The base layer
    - Defines locations where the population can live or not (and each cell can be non-negative number) e.g., water or land for fish
  - Other layers are used as required (e.g., processes and observations)....

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# Meta-layers (the way of adding annually varying layers) @layer sst type numeric meta default layer sst mean years 1-256 layers sst, 1 sst, 2 sst, 3 sst, 4 sst, 5 sst, 6 sst, 7 sst, 8 sst, 9 sst, 10 sst, 11 sst, 12 sst, 13 sst, 14 sst, 15 sst, 16 sst, 17 sst, 18 sst, 19 sst, 20 sst, 21 sst, 22 sst, 23 sst, 24 sst, 25 sst, 26 sst, 27 sst, 28 sst, 29 sst, 30 sst, 31 sst, 32 sst, 33 sst, 34 sst, 35 sst, 36 sst, 37 sst, 38 sst, 39 sst, 60 sst, 61 sst, 62 sst, 65 st, 65 st, 65 st, 65 st, 65 st, 57 sst, 58 sst, 95 sst, 60 sst, 61 sst, 62 sst, 65 st, 65 st, 68 st, 65 st, 65 st, 65 st, 65 st, 65 st, 75 sst, 58 sst, 95 sst, 60 sst, 61 sst, 62 sst, 65 st, 65

# Other special types of layers @layer SSB type biomass categories mature selectivities one @layer distance type distance

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# Movement processes • Movement processes move individuals from one cell to another • Movement processes never change the categories or age of individuals • Three types of movement • Preference based movement (see next slides) • Migration (specify the source and the sink cell) • Diffusion ("diffuses" fish to a neighbourhood cell)

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### Preference movement

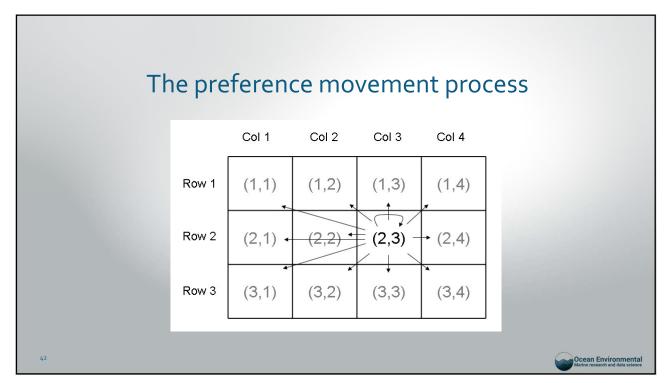
- A tricky concept to explain...
  - Based on the idea that movement is driven by underlying environmental (or other) layers
  - Movement can be 'near' or 'far'
    - Attempt to reduce the problem that cell 'size' is a factor that determines rates of movement
    - Preference movement is a product of many interactions from individual preference functions

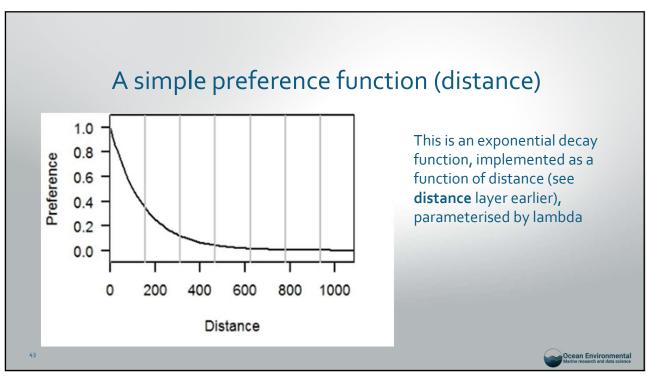
$$P_{x} = f_{1}(\theta_{1}, P_{1}(x))^{\alpha_{1}} \times f_{2}(\theta_{2}, P_{2}(x))^{\alpha_{2}} \times f_{3}(\theta_{3}, P_{3}(x))^{\alpha_{3}} \times \dots \times f_{n}(\theta_{n}, P_{n}(x))^{\alpha_{n}}$$

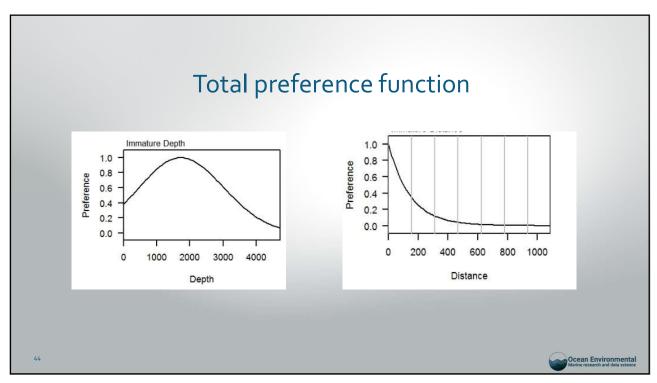
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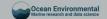




### Preference function

- The total preference function is the product of many individual preference functions
- Individual preference functions are functions of a layer (or layers)
  - E.g., we evaluate the relative preference of cells based on the total product of the individual preference functions evaluated at each cell, using the parameters and the value of layers in those cells
- Movement from a cell is defined by the relative preference of each cell according to the total preference function value
- It can apply to a specific age group or range of ages (via a selectivity) and to one or more categories

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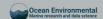


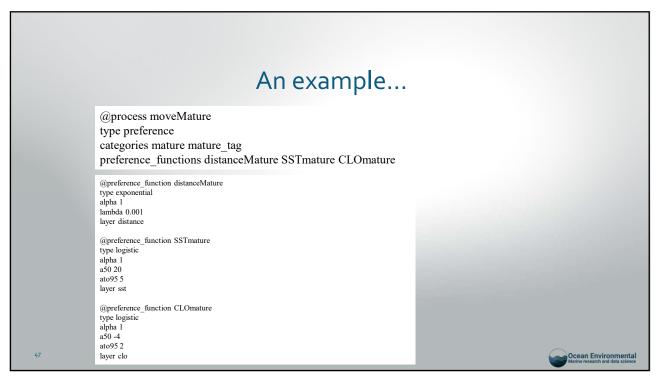
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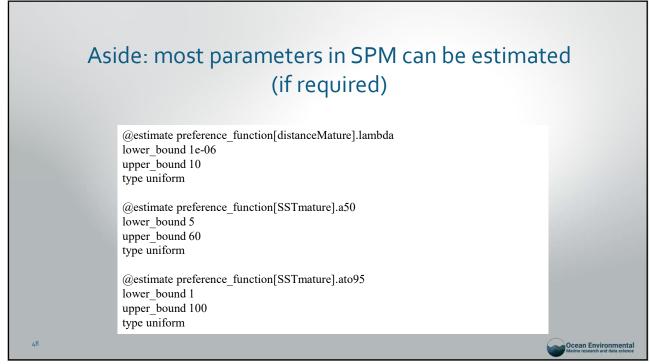
### Preference functions available

- A range of functions are available
  - Constant
  - Normal
  - Double normal
  - Logistic
  - Inverse-logistic
  - Exponential
  - Threshold
  - Knife-edge
  - Categorical
- Copula preference also available to include a dependence between two variables

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### Annual cycle and time-steps

- Flexible start and final year (i.e., user defined)
- Flexible *annual cycle* with discrete *time steps* 
  - Defines the processes that occur, in what order, and when observations are evaluated
- Note the initialisation annual cycle and time steps can be different (handy for phased initialisation to improve speed)

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## Example of the annual cycle and time steps

@time\_step one

@time\_step two

processes BHrecruitment Maturation M Fishing

processes MoveImmature MoveMature Ageing

# Model Structure

@model

nrows 6

ncols 10

layer Base categories immature mature

min\_age 1

max age 30

age\_plus\_group True

initialisation phases Phase1 Phase2

initial\_year 1995

current\_year 2007

cell length 100

time steps one two

age\_size none none

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### Initialisation

- Iterative initialisation
- Can be
  - Multiphase: iteratively resolve one part of the problem, before adding in others
  - Can have a different annual cycle during each phase of initialisation
    - But be careful here!
- Can have early 'stopping' rules if the iterative process resolved more quickly than anticipated

@initialisation\_phase Phase1 years 100 time\_steps one two three lambda 1e-10 lambda\_years 50 60 70 80 90 100

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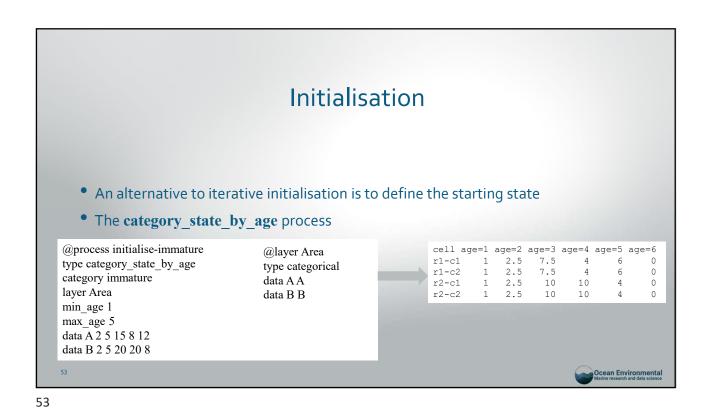
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### Initialisation

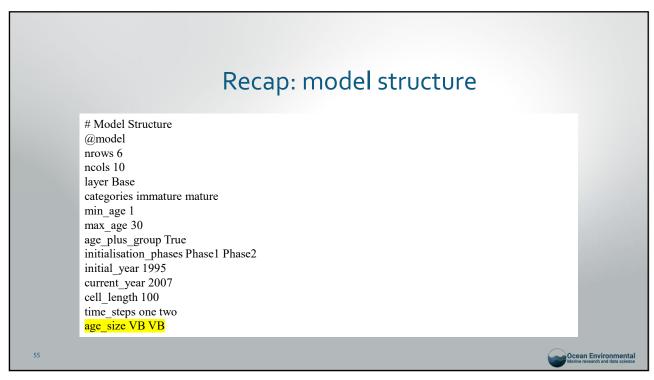
- An alternative to iterative initialisation is to define the (starting) state
- The category\_state\_by\_age process

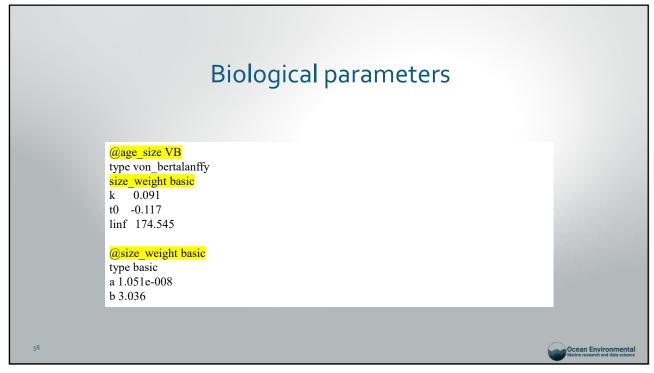
@process initialise-immature type category\_state\_by\_age category immature layer Area min\_age 1 max\_age 5 data A 2 5 15 8 12 data B 2 5 20 20 8 @layer Area type categorical data A A data B B

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**Biological** processes @process Maturation @process M type category\_transition\_rate type constant\_mortality\_rate from immature categories immature mature m 0.13 0.13 to mature proportions 1.0 selectivities One One selectivities Maturation @selectivity One @selectivity Maturation type constant type logistic\_producing c 1 15 h 30 a50 12.2 ato95 2.8 Ocean Environmental





### **Derived quantities**

• Some processes require a "derived quantity". These can be a 'total' (or a value by cell). E.g., SSB is a derived quantity needed for the Beverton-Holt stock recruit relationship

### @derived\_quantity SSB

type biomass
time\_step step\_one
initialisation\_time\_steps step\_one step\_one
categories mature
selectivities One
layer spawning\_ground

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### Derived quantities by cell

- Useful for
  - "Local" recruitment process (i.e., benthic organisms)
  - Density dependent processes, predator prey interactions, etc.
- The same as a derived quantity, but 'recorded' for each cell, rather than the total overall

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### Selectivities

- A range of selectivity ogives are available
  - Constant
  - Knife-edge
  - All-values (a vector or values by age)
  - All values-bounded (a vector of values by age, but for a subset of ages)
  - Increasing
  - Logistic (and inverse logistic and logistic producing)

@process MoveMature

- Double normal (and double exponential)
- Splines (a variety of types)



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Putting the population section together # Example 2: 10x6 spatial model with @include "layers/Fishing\_2007.spm" @include "layers/Latitude.spm" @time\_step\_initial\_step\_one preference movement processes @preference function ImmatureDistance @time\_step initial\_step\_two @include "layers/Recruitment.spm" # Model Structure @include "layers/SSRU.spm" @preference\_function ImmatureDepth @model nrows 6 ncols 10 # Annual Cycle  $@preference\_function\ Immature Latitude$ @layer Distance @time\_step one # Summer layer Base @preference function MatureDistance @layer Abundance categories imn @time\_step two # Winter min\_age 1 max\_age 30 age\_plus\_group True initialisation\_phases Phase1 Phase2 @preference\_function MatureDepth @layer Abundance-density # Derived quantities @preference\_function MatureLatitude initial\_year 1995 current\_year 2007 cell\_length 100 @derived\_quantity SSB # Definition of selectivities @selectivity One # Definition of layers time\_steps one two age\_size none none @include "layers/Base.spm" @include "layers/Cell.spm" # Population processes @selectivity Maturation @process Ageing @include "layers/Constant.spm" @include "layers/CPUE.spm" @include "layers/Depth.spm" @selectivity FishingSel @age size none @process BHrecruitment @process M @include "layers/Fishing\_1998.spm" # Catchability @size\_weight none @include "layers/Fishing\_1999.spm" @catchability CPUEq @include "layers/Fishing\_2000.spm" @process Fishing @include "layers/Fishing\_2001.spm" @include "layers/Fishing\_2002.spm" @include "layers/Fishing\_2003.spm" @include "layers/Fishing\_2004.spm" @include "estimation.spm"
@include "observations.spm" @process Maturation @initialisation\_phase Phase1 # Movement processes @include "report.spm" @initialisation\_phase Phase2 @include "layers/Fishing\_2005.spm" @include "layers/Fishing\_2006.spm"

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### Observation section

- Definitions of observations
  - Observed values
  - Likelihoods and variance/sample sizes
- Types of observation
  - Proportions-at-age
  - Proportions-at-length
  - Proportions-by-category
  - Proportions-by-category-at-length
  - Abundance
  - Biomass
  - Presence/absence

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## Observations (1)

- Each observation is an observation of *something* in a year, at a time step, across a number of spatial cells
- Observations can

contribute to the likelihood, or

be included as pseudo-observations, or

be included as observations for the purposes of simulation

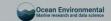
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### Observations (2)

- Observations are supplied as observations at an instance in time (possibly over some spatially aggregated area)
- Time series of observations can be supplied as separate observations for each year or point in time
- Observations are evaluated at the end of a time step
  - But the expected values can be inferred at any point in time between the start and the end of a time step. Seep proportion\_method in each observations class

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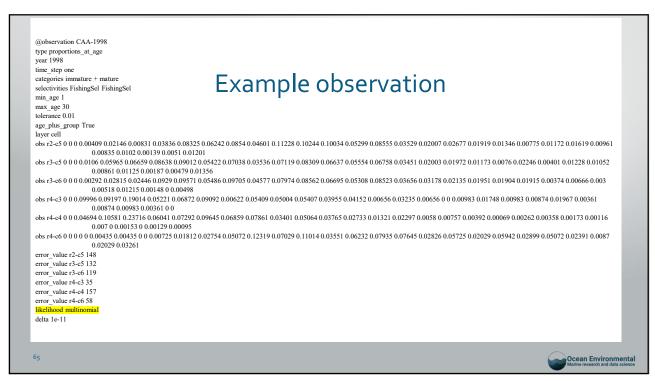
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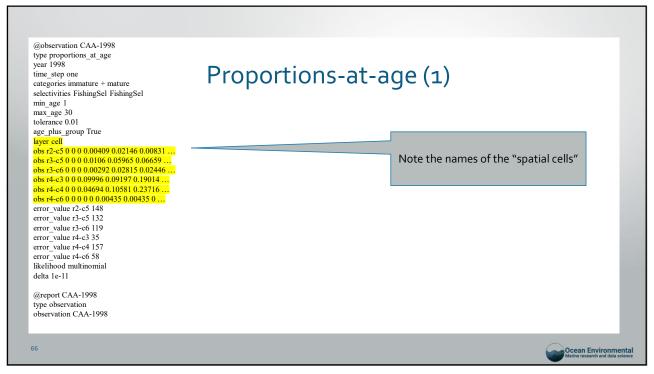
### Observation section

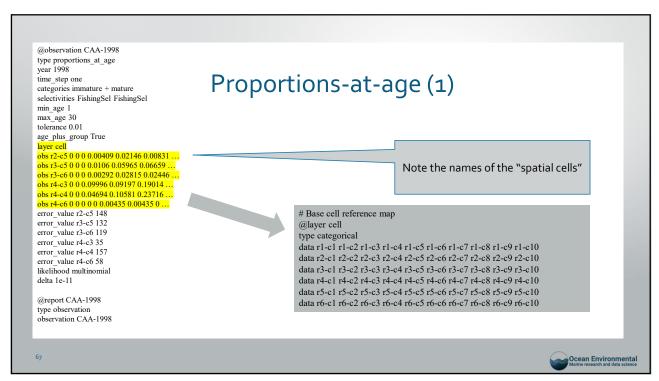
- Composition frequencies
  - Proportions-at-age: Observations of proportions at age within categories
  - Proportions-at-length: Observations of proportions at length bin within categories
- Proportions between categories (i.e., proportions mature)
  - Proportions-by-category: Observations of proportions by categories within age classes
  - Proportions-by-category-at-length: Observations of proportions by categories within age classes
- Biomass and abundance observations (CPUE, surveys, etc)
  - Abundance: Relative and absolute abundance (number of fish)
  - Biomass: Relative and absolute biomass (biomass of fish)
- Other
  - Presence/absence: relative proportions present

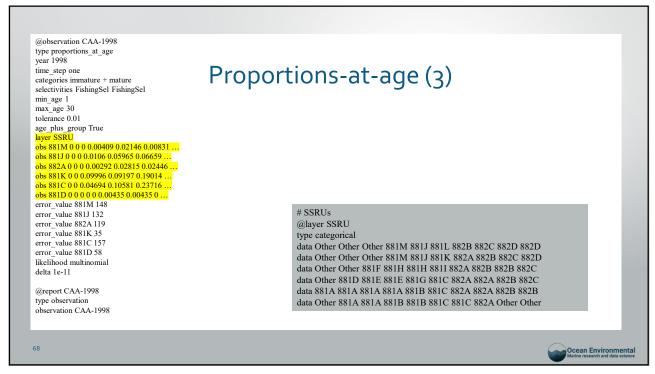
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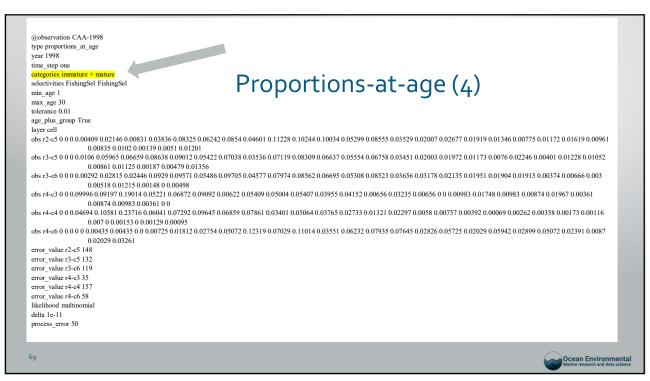


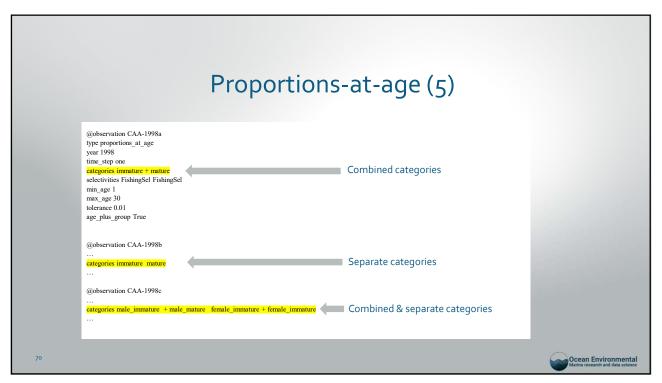


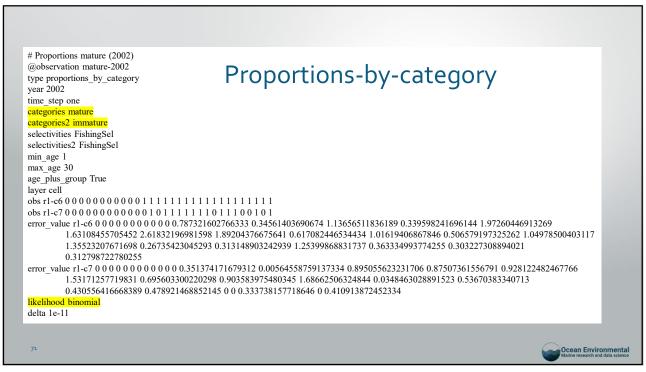












# Likelihoods • Different likelihoods available (and depending the observation) • Does allow likelihood modifiers Likelihood (defines the likelihood for the observation) process\_error (modifies the c.v.s or the N) likelihood\_multiplier (scaler on the likelihood) simulation\_likelihood (define the likelihood for simulations, if different)

### Other observations

- Other observations
  - Proportions-at-length
  - Proportions-by-category-at-length
  - Abundance
  - Biomass
  - Presence/absence
- Slightly different syntax (as required for the different types)

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### Next week

- Recap on the population section
- More on the observation, estimation, and report sections
  - Tag data
- Additional SPM command line arguments
- The R library (for reading and writing)
- Examples
- Issues and questions

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