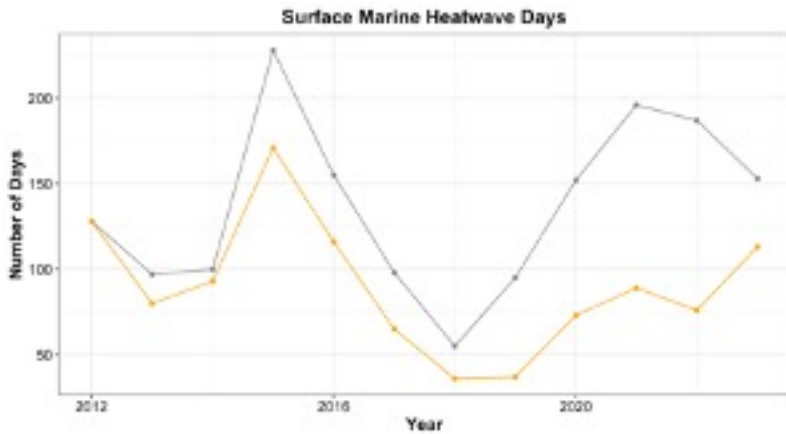
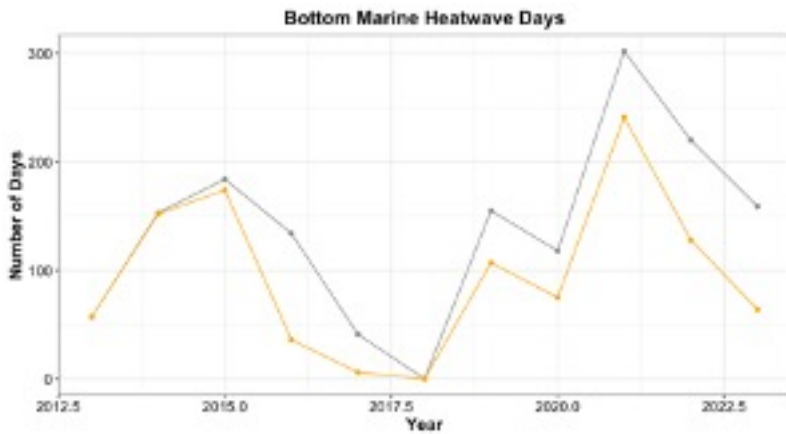


A Marine Heatwave Controversy



● Fixed Baseline ● Shifting Baseline



Within the community that studies marine heatwaves, a debate has erupted concerning how these extreme events are defined. Broadly, a marine heatwave occurs when the ocean temperature is significantly above normal for some time of the year. At the center of the controversy is the definition of 'normal' (Amaya et. al., 2023). Is normal some fixed time period in the past (surface 1982-2021, bottom 1993 - 2012; black line)? Or should this time period shift, to account for widely increasing temperatures as climate change progresses (shifting one year later annually; orange line)? The answer to this question is still unresolved.