

# Exploring MHW effects on fish abundance in trawl surveys

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## Exploring marine heatwaves

### North America

#### Characterizing MHWs in North America

How frequent and severe have heatwaves been in North America since 1982 (the start of the MHW data)?

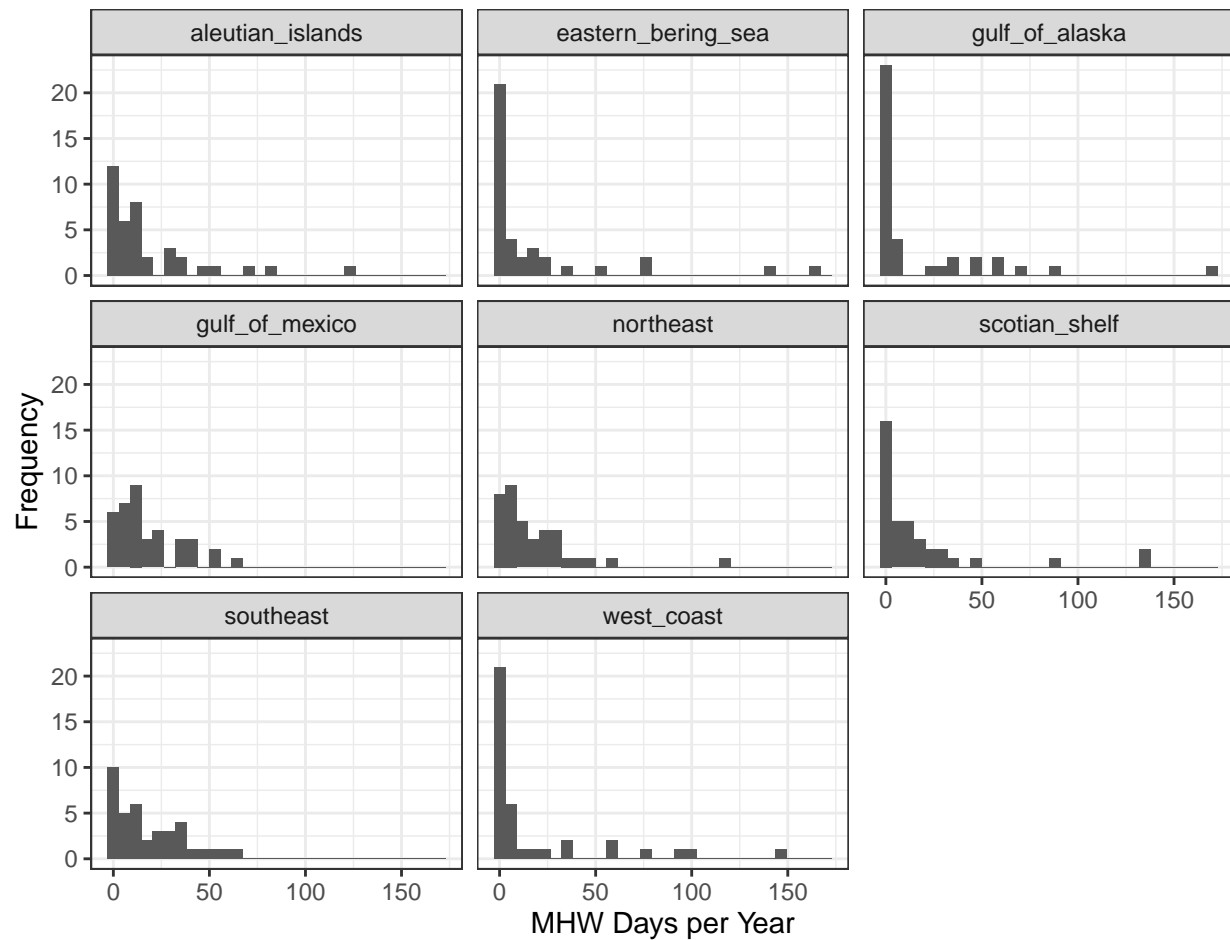


Figure 1: Frequency of MHW Events in North America

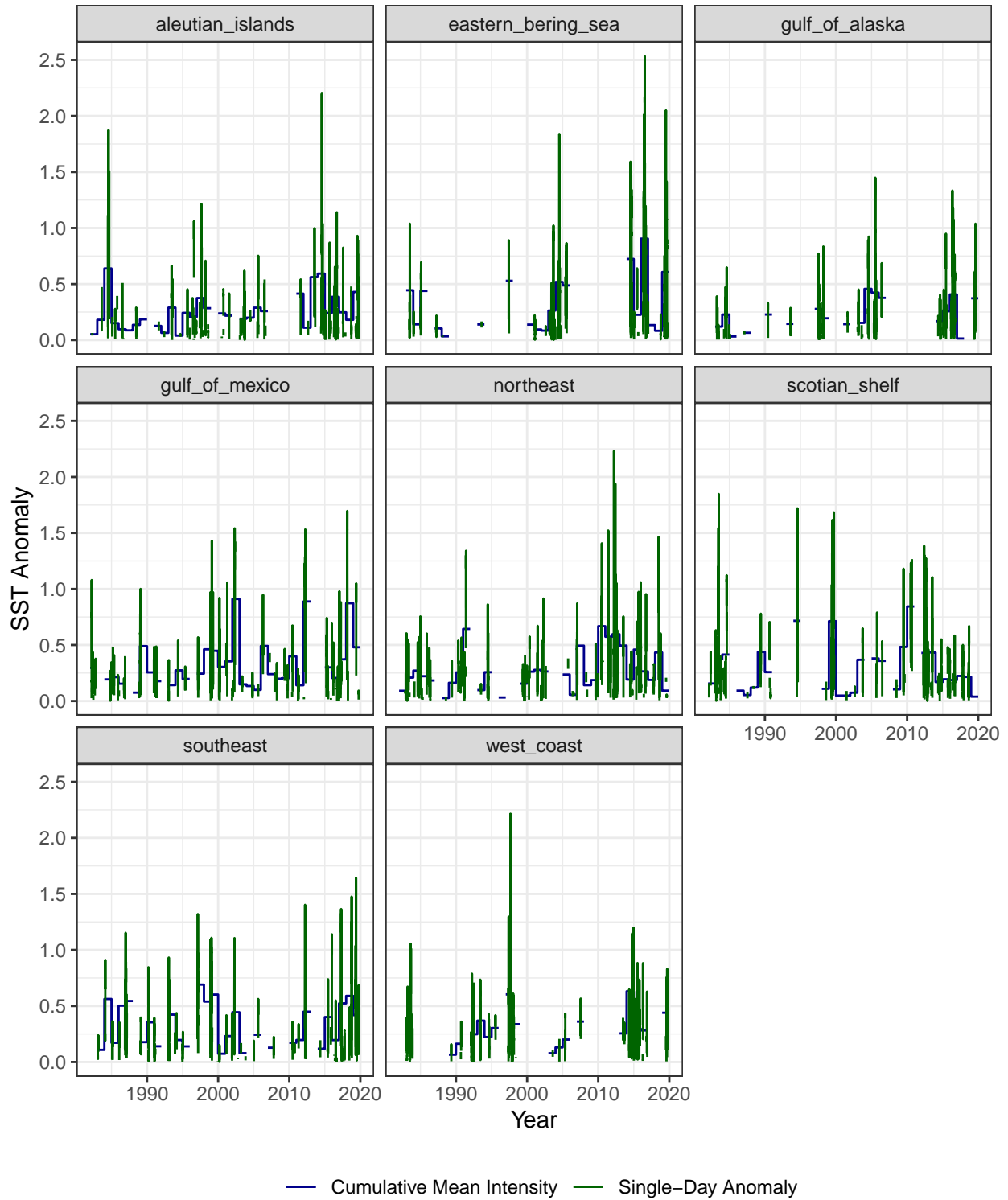


Figure 2: Anomaly of MHW Events in North America

### MHWs vs. CPUE

Let's look at annual cumulative mean intensity (sum of SST anomalies in the calendar year / number of MHW-days in the calendar year) vs. trends in aggregate abundance (total CPUE across all species) for the

whole region. The two metrics of CPUE change used are proportion change CPUE vs. last year  $((\text{cpueThisYear} - \text{cpueLastYear})/\text{cpueLastYear})$ , and proportion change CPUE relative to the long-term mean  $((\text{cpueThisYear} - \text{cpueSeriesMean})/\text{cpueSeriesMean})$ .

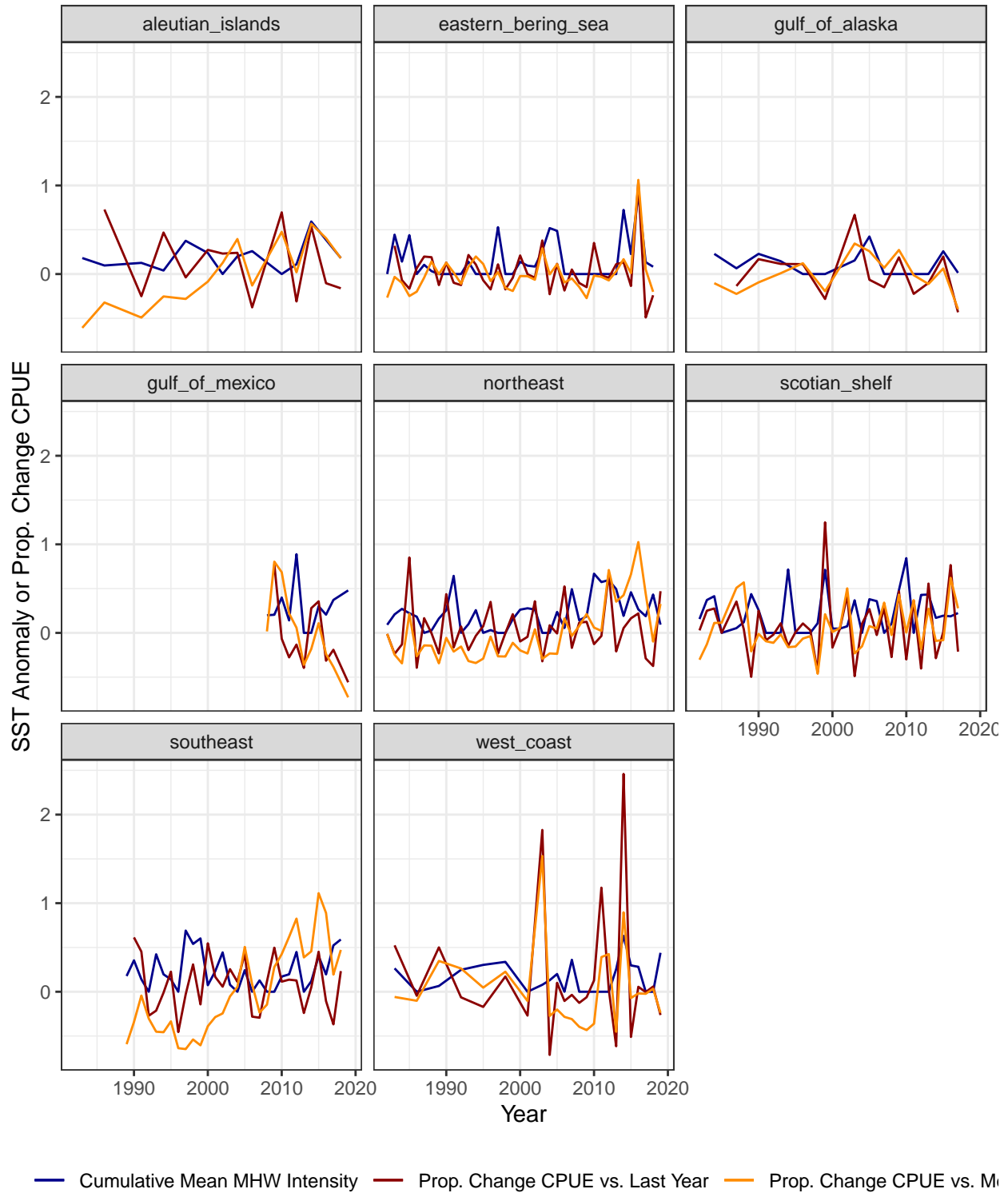


Figure 3: MHW Cumulative Mean Intensity and Change in Total CPUE Over Time

Rather than comparing both MHW intensity and CPUE trends over time, we can just plot cumulative mean intensity against the CPUE trend in that year:

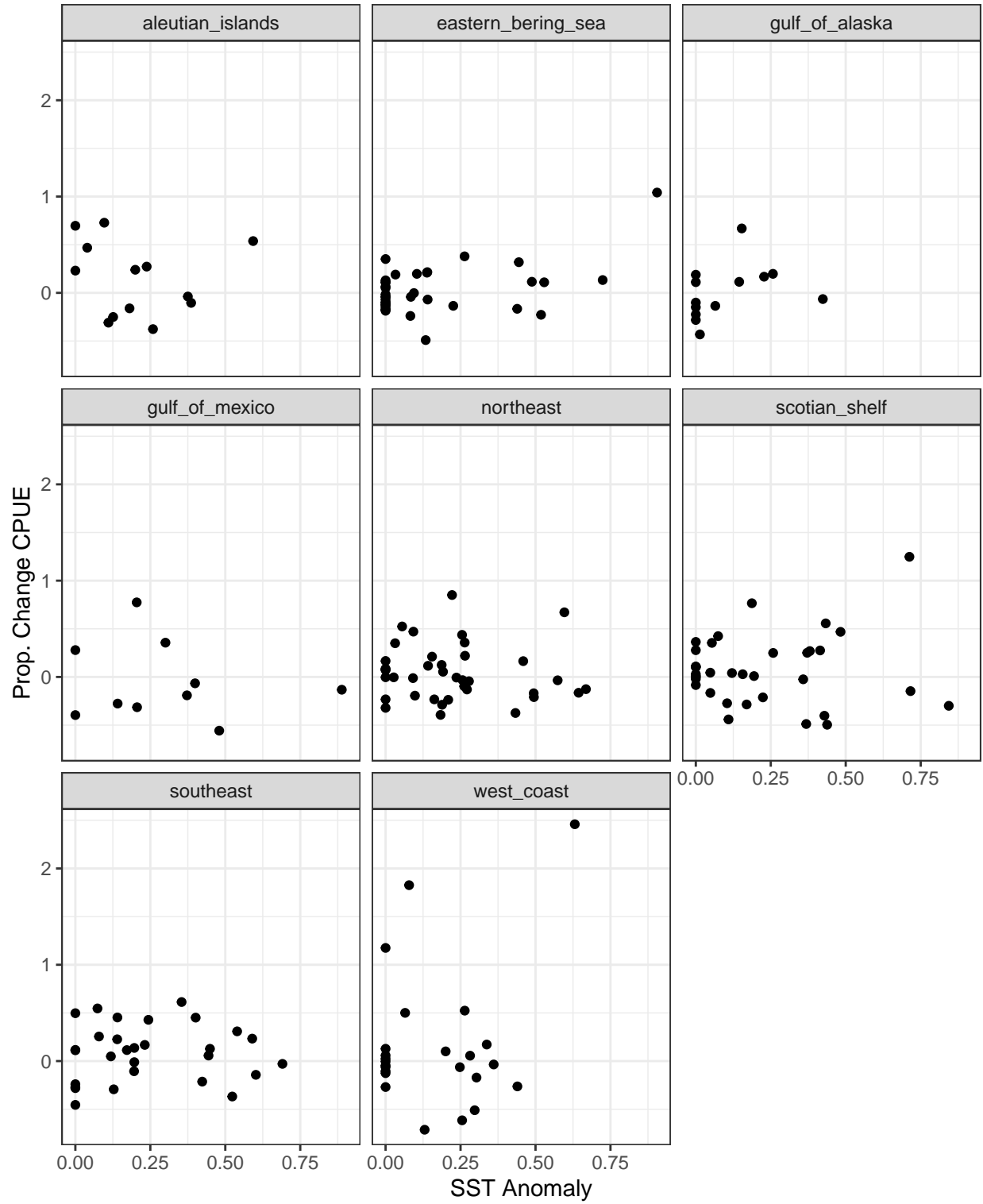


Figure 4: MHW Cumulative Mean Intensity vs. Change in Total CPUE

Let's look at the five species with the most biomass in each region. For plotting purposes, I omitted points with more than a 5x change in CPUE, which happened occasionally (up to 50x change, which is unlikely to be real).



Figure 5: MHW Cumulative Mean Intensity vs. Single-Species Change in Total CPUE