



# Including regime shifts in fisheries assessments and harvest recommendations using Markov switching models

## Acknowledgements

Jim Thorson (NOAA-NWFSC)

Cody Szuwalski (UC Santa Barbara)

Curry Cunningham (U Washington)

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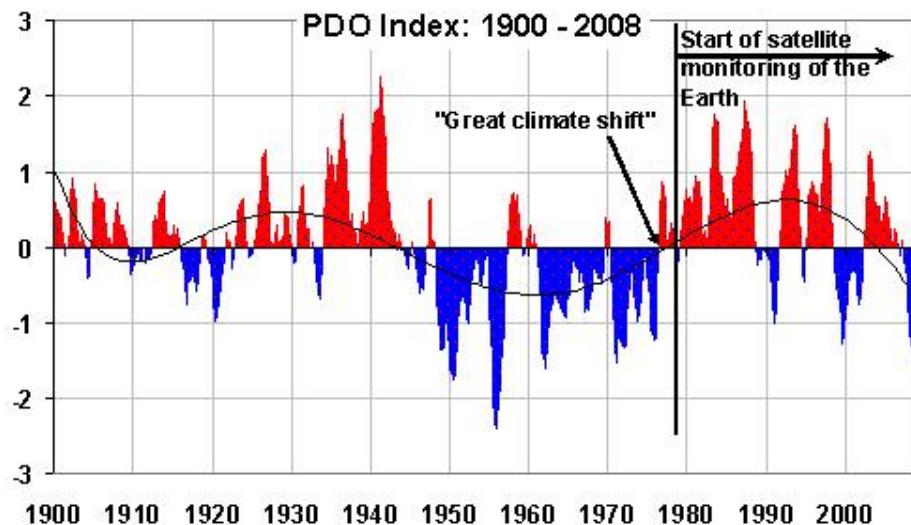
[www.thefaylab.com](http://www.thefaylab.com)

# Seminar outline

- Regime shifts in Marine Ecosystems
- Providing management advice with regimes
- Markov switching models (or HMMs)
- Estimating regime shifts using HMMs
- Application to New England fisheries
- Extensions to the approach
- Further work

# Regime Shifts

Ubiquitous in the ecological and fisheries literature



Pergamon

Progress in Oceanography 47 (2000) 103–145

Progress in  
Oceanography

[www.elsevier.com/locate/pocean](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/pocean)

Empirical evidence for North Pacific regime shifts in 1977 and 1989

Steven R. Hare <sup>a,\*</sup>, Nathan J. Mantua <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> International Pacific Halibut Commission, P.O. Box 95009, Seattle, WA 98145-2009, USA  
<sup>b</sup> Joint Institute for the Study of the Atmosphere and Oceans, University of Washington, Box 354235, Seattle, WA 98195-4235, USA



**Photographs from  
small net trawl  
surveys NMFS, Kodiak Alaska  
(Paul Anderson)**



**Long-Term Changes  
in the Gulf of Alaska  
Marine Ecosystem**

# Regime Shifts and Weakened Environmental Gradients in Open Oak and Pine Ecosystems

Brice B. Hanberry<sup>1\*</sup>, Dan C. Dey<sup>2</sup>, Hong S. He<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Forestry, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, United States of America

ICES Journal of Marine Science, 62: 1205–1215 (2005)  
doi:10.1016/j.icesjms.2005.04.024



Newly discovered landscape traps produce regime shifts in wet forests

David B. Lindenmayer<sup>a,1</sup>, Richard J. Hobbs<sup>b</sup>, Gene E. Likens<sup>a,c,1</sup>, Charles J. Krebs<sup>d</sup>, and Samuel C. Banks<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Fenner School of Environment and Society, Australian National University, Canberra ACT 0200, Australia; <sup>b</sup>School of Plant Biology, University of Western Australia, Crawley, Western Australia 6009, Australia; <sup>c</sup>Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Millbrook, NY, 12545; and <sup>d</sup>Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6T 1Z4

Contributed by Gene E. Likens, August 4, 2011 (sent for review May 28, 2011)



Ecological Economics

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/ecoecol](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ecoecol)

## Synchronous ecological regime shift and the North Sea in the late 1980s

Annu. Rev. Ecol. Evol. Syst. 2004. 35:557–81  
doi: 10.1146/annurev.ecolsys.35.021103.105711  
Copyright © 2004 by Annual Reviews. All rights reserved  
First published online as a Review in Advance on August 5, 2004

## REGIME SHIFTS, RESILIENCE, AND BIODIVERSITY IN ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

Carl Folke,<sup>1,2</sup> Steve Carpenter,<sup>2,3</sup> Brian Walker,<sup>4</sup>  
Marten Scheffer,<sup>5</sup> Thomas Elmqvist,<sup>1</sup> Lance Gunderson,<sup>1</sup>  
1,2,3,4,5,6,7

648

Review

TRENDS in Ecology and Evolution Vol.18 No.12 December 2003

## Catastrophic regime shifts in ecosystems: linking theory to observation

Marten Scheffer<sup>1</sup> and Stephen R. Carpenter<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Aquatic Ecology and Water Quality Management, Wageningen University, PO Box 8080, 6706 GL Wageningen, The Netherlands

<sup>2</sup>Center for Limnology, University of Wisconsin, 680 North Park Street, Madison, WI 53706, USA

Survey

## Regime shifts and management

Anne-Sophie Crépin<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Reinette Biggs<sup>b</sup>, Stephen Polasky<sup>a,c</sup>, Max Troell<sup>a,b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>The Beijer Institute of Ecological Economics, Sweden

## Interacting regime shifts in ecosystems: implication for early warnings

W. A. BROCK<sup>1</sup> AND S. R. CARPENTER<sup>2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Economics, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706, USA

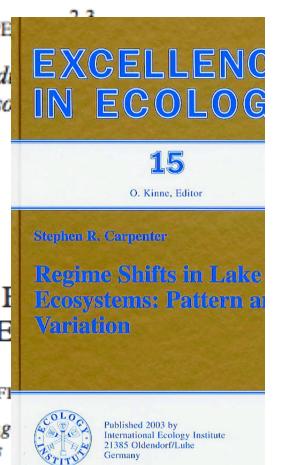
<sup>2</sup>Center for Limnology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706, USA

*Ecology*, 86(7), 2005, pp. 1797–1807  
© 2005 by the Ecological Society of America

## IMPLICATIONS OF SPATIAL HETEROGENEITY FOR REGIME SHIFTS IN ECOSYSTEMS

EGBERT H. VAN NES<sup>1</sup> AND MARTEN SCHEFFER<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Aquatic Ecology and Water Quality Management, Wageningen University, PO Box 8080, NL-6700 DD Wageningen, The Netherlands





**Easter Island**, (Polynesia), a famous historical example of regime shift (and collapse)



**Rust Belt**, (US), a region affected by the decline (collapse) of steel industry and heavy manufacturing



July - September, 1989

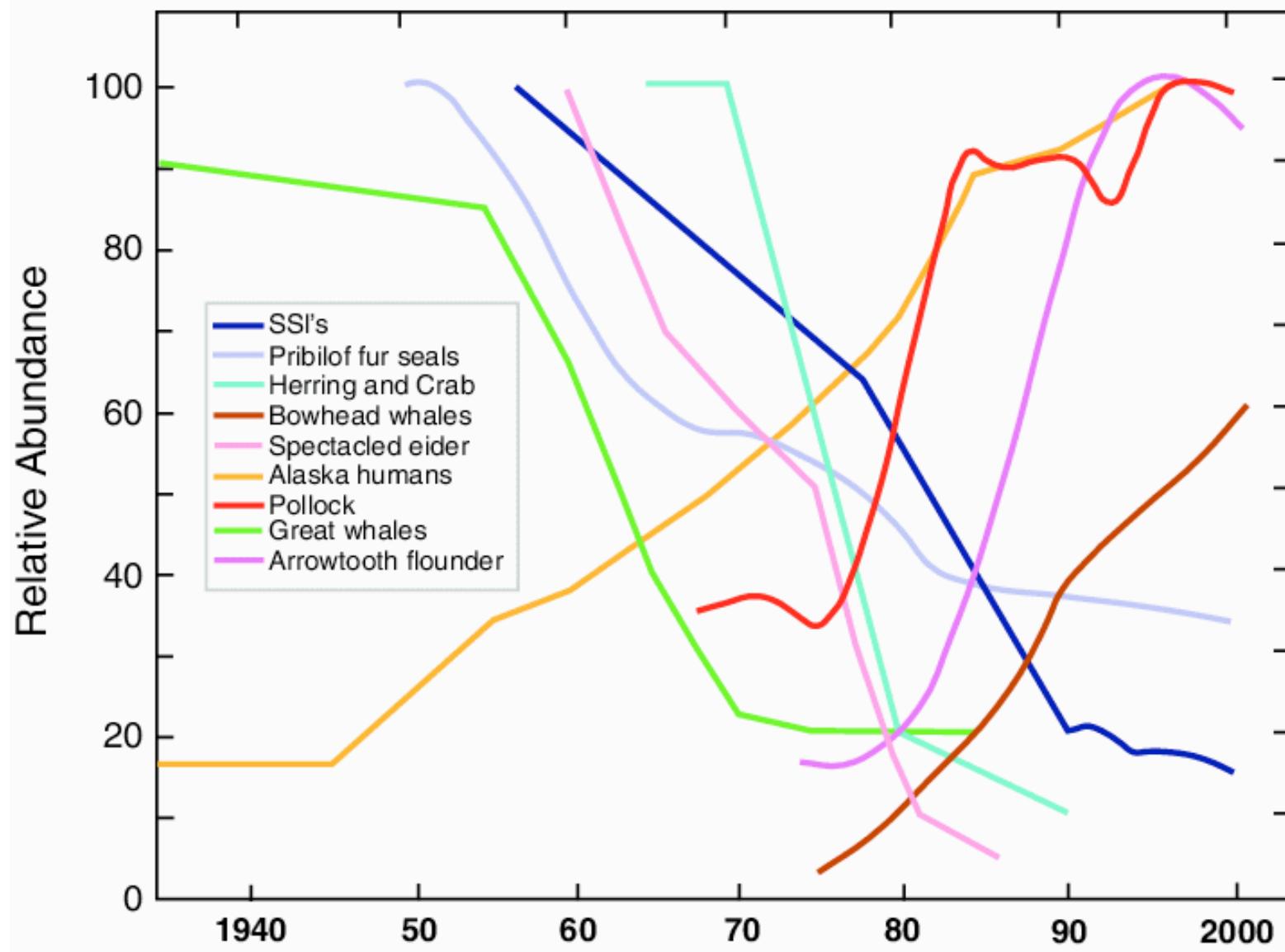


October 5, 2008



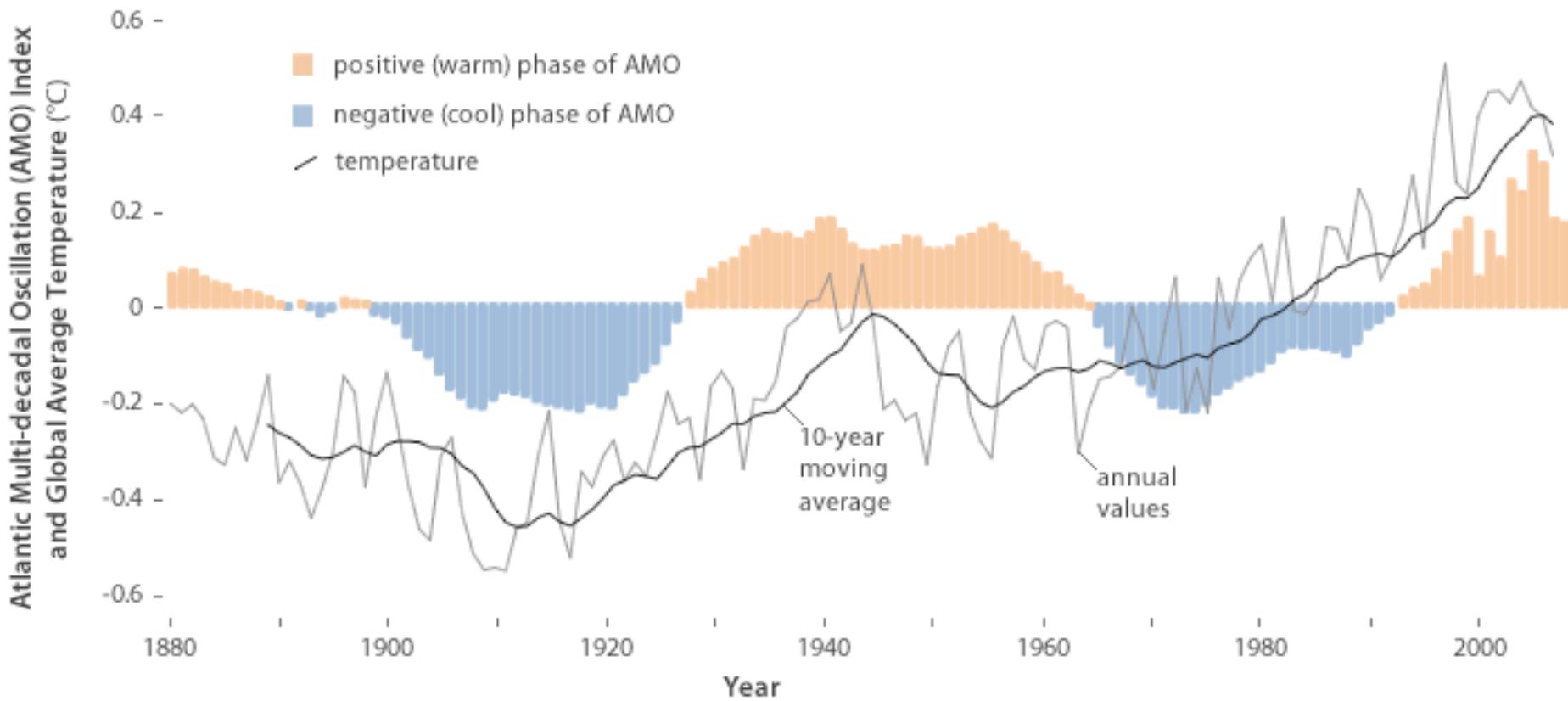
**Aral Sea**, (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan), now biological desert after crossing a threshold

## Bering Sea / Aleutian Islands Ecosystem Trends 1945 - 2001



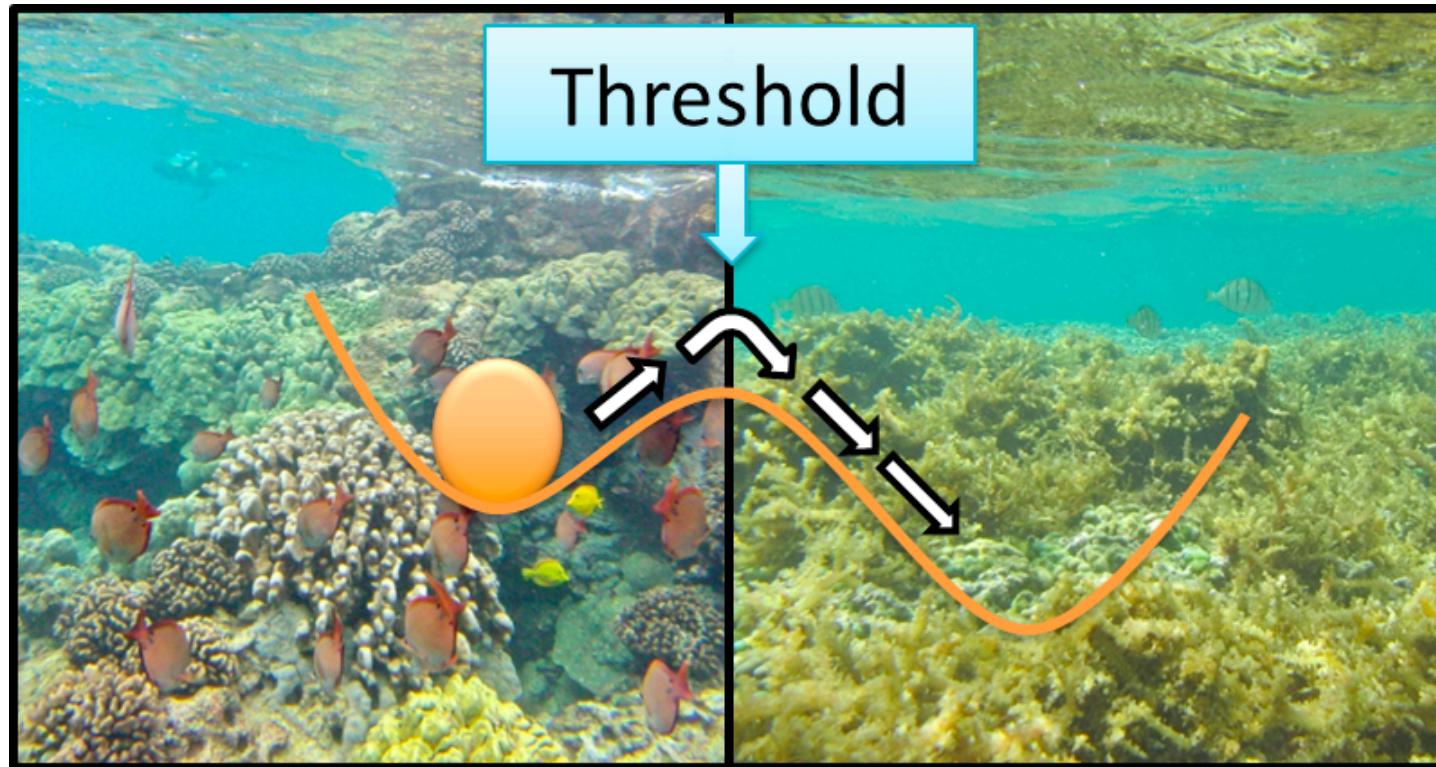
[Stabeno et al. 2005, after NRC 2003](#)

# Atlantic Multi-decadal Oscillation



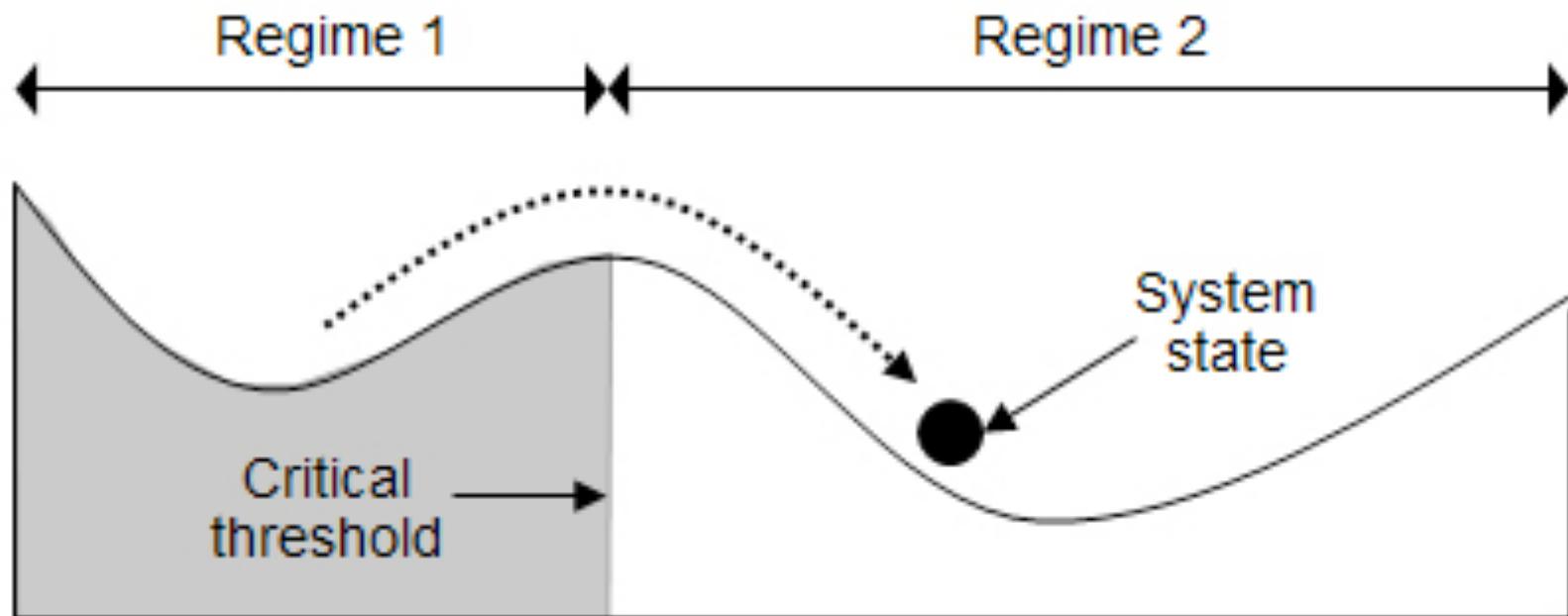
# What is a regime shift?

**Regime shift:** Rapid reorganization of a system from one relatively unchanging state to another.  
(Carpenter and Folke 2006)

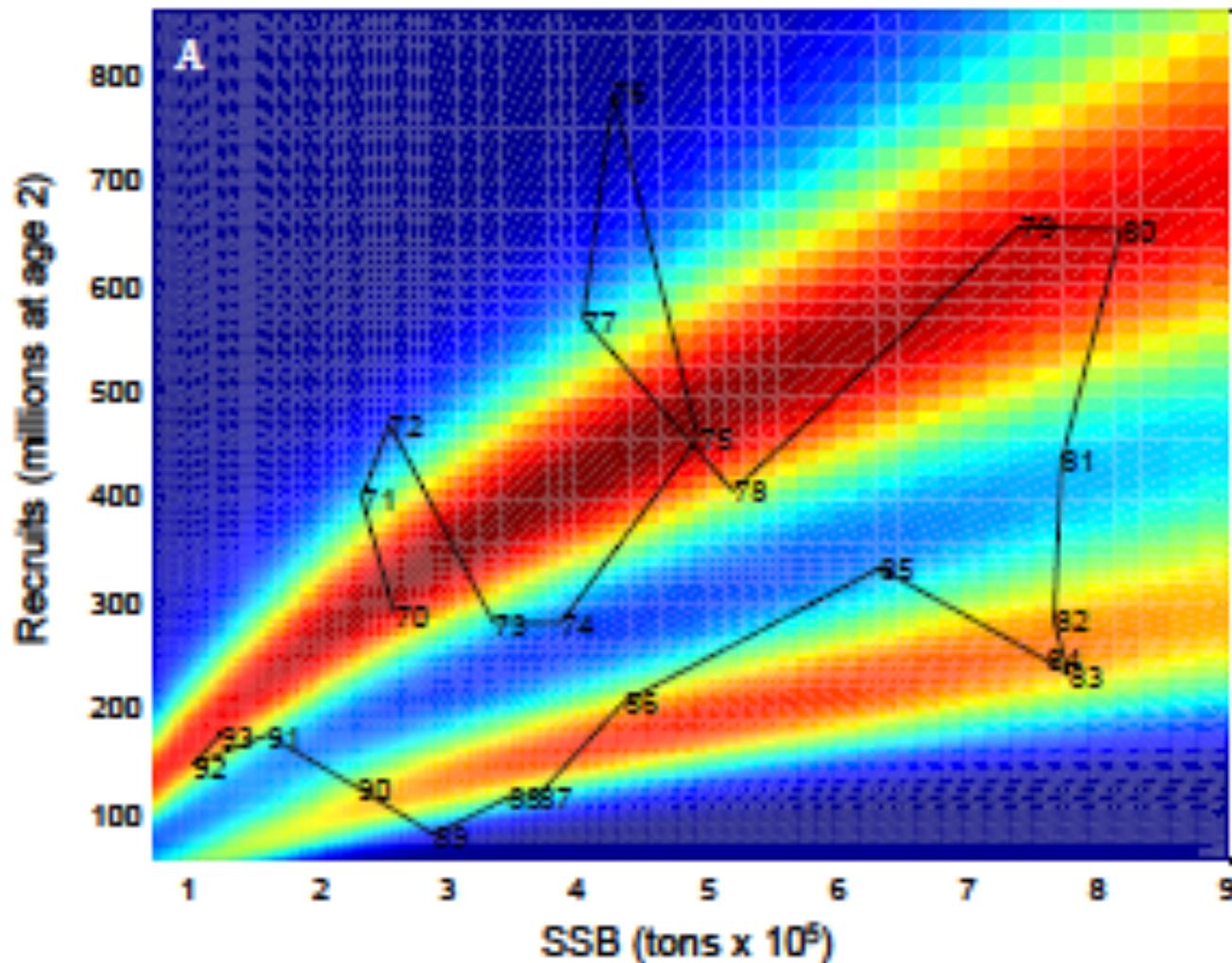


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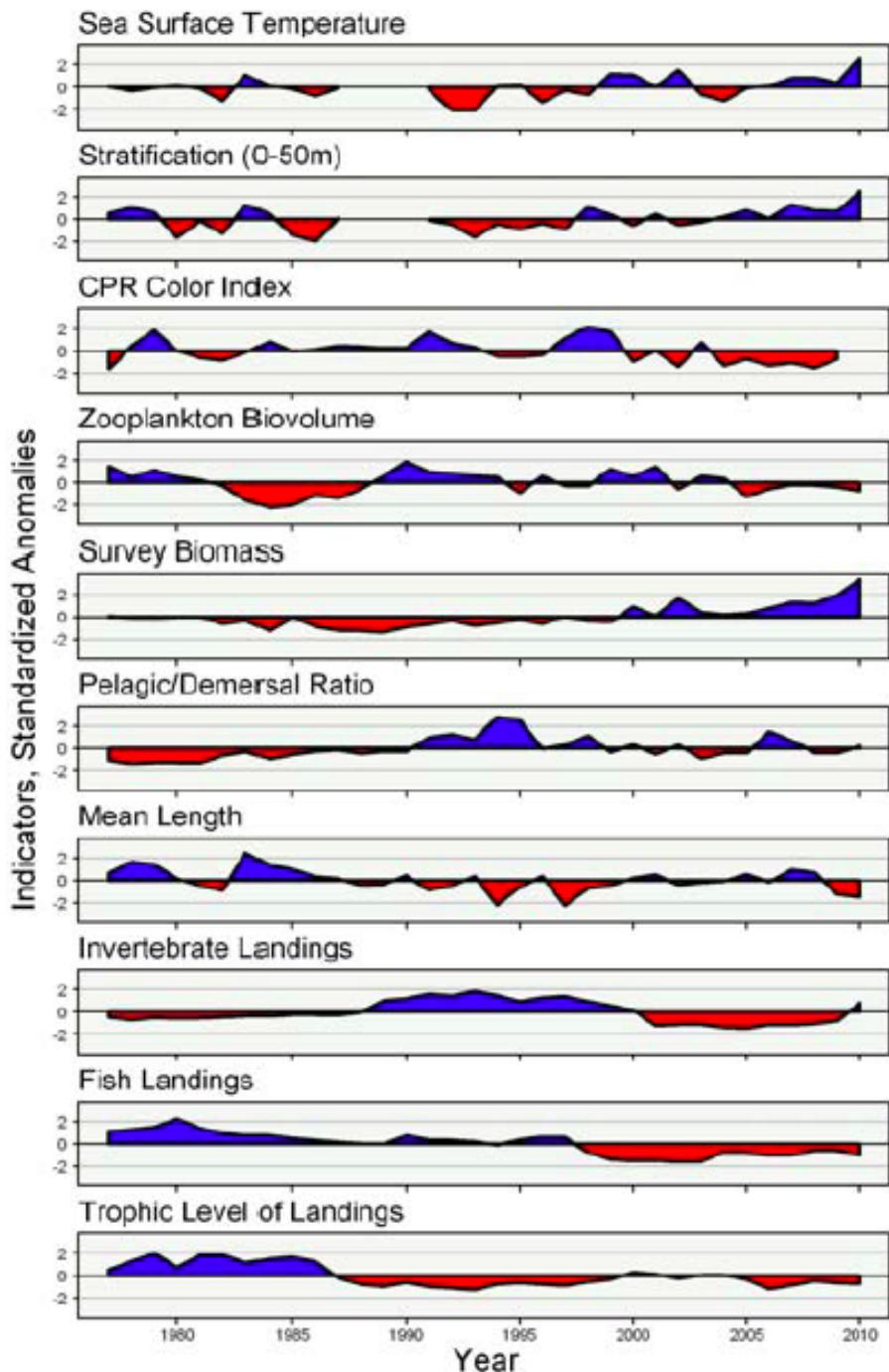


# Pacific Sardine recruitment

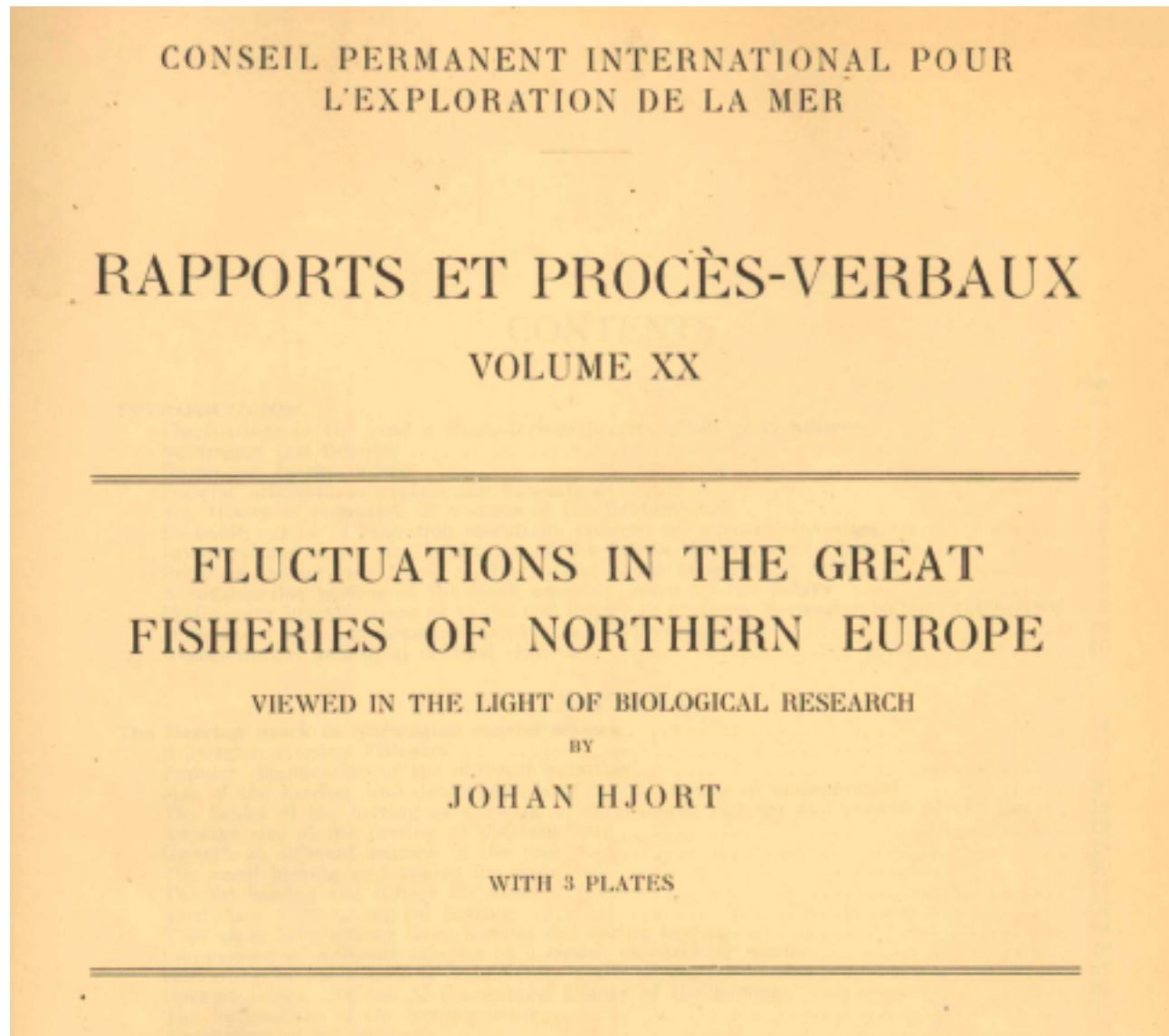


Munch et al. Environmental regimes and density-dependence: a Bayesian modeling approach for identifying recruitment regimes.

# Gulf of Maine Ecosystem indicators



# Productivity shifts in marine fish

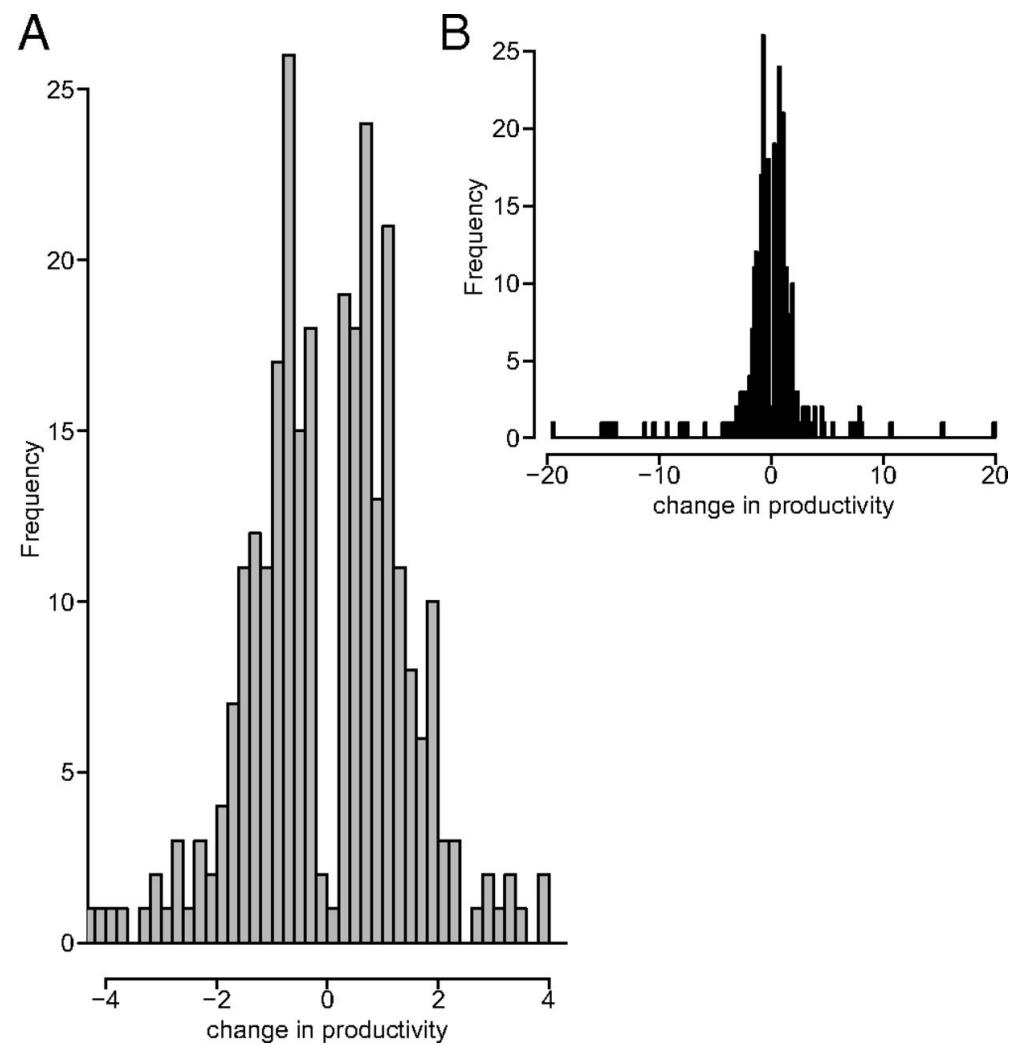


Hjort 1914

# Productivity shifts in marine fish

Common

High in magnitude



Vert-pre K A et al. PNAS 2013;110:1779-1784

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## Including regime Shifts in fisheries management

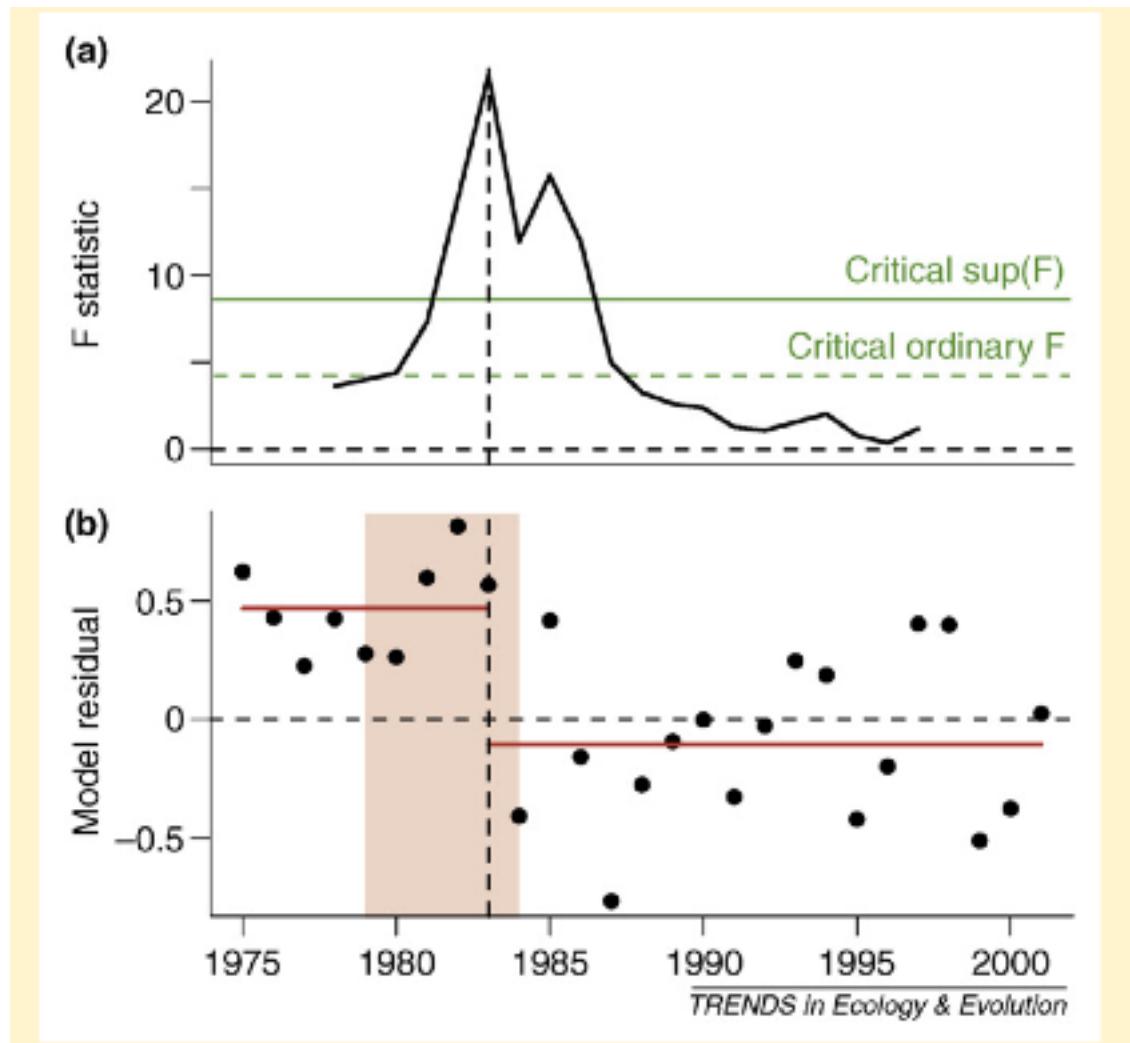
Less ubiquitous

Changes in productivity associated with regimes

Challenges for management:

- (a) how to allocate regime membership for forecast years,
- (b) whether to specify regime-driven changes in biological reference points, and
- (c) how to determine catch advice for forecast years.

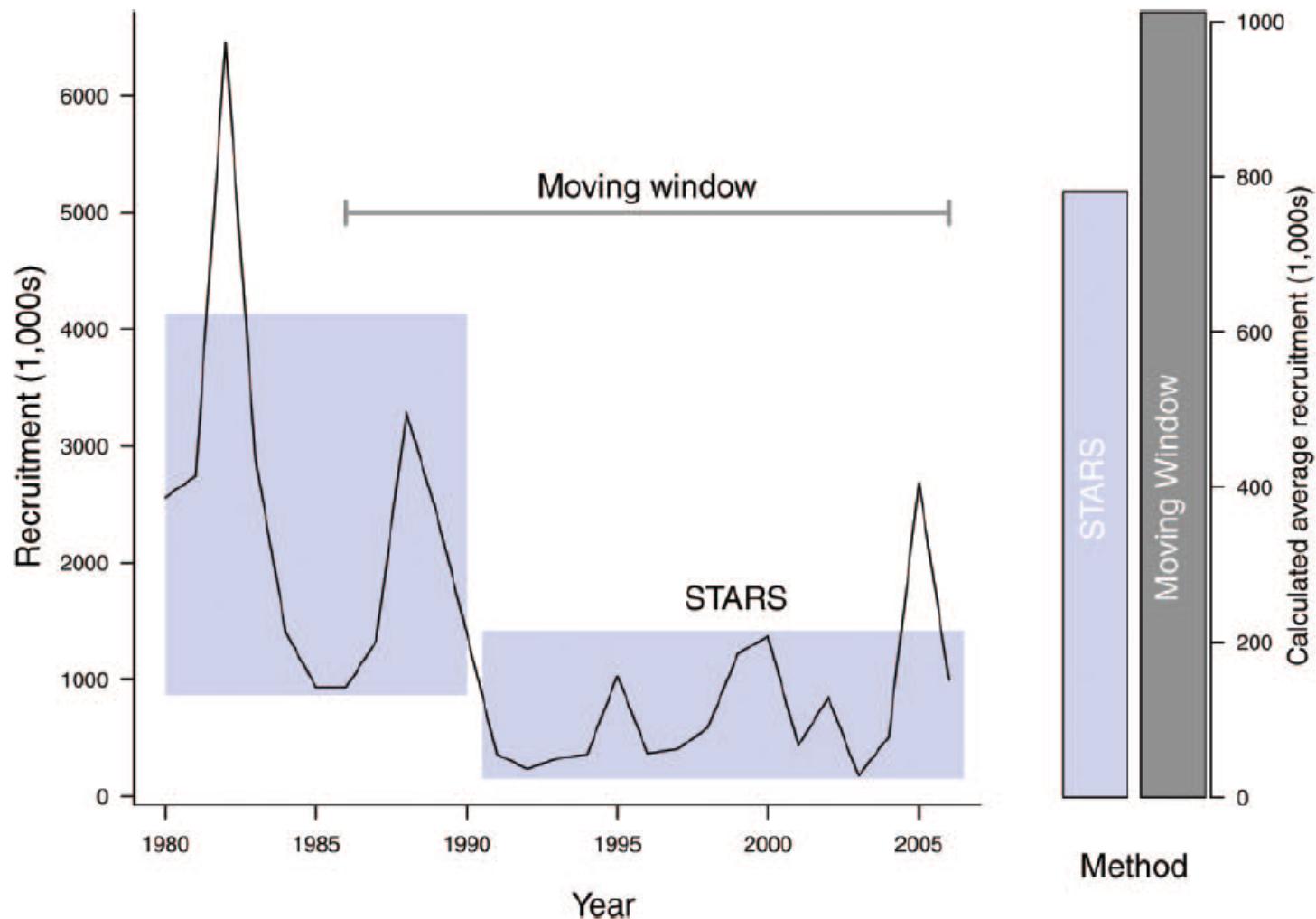
# Change-point analysis to identify regime shifts



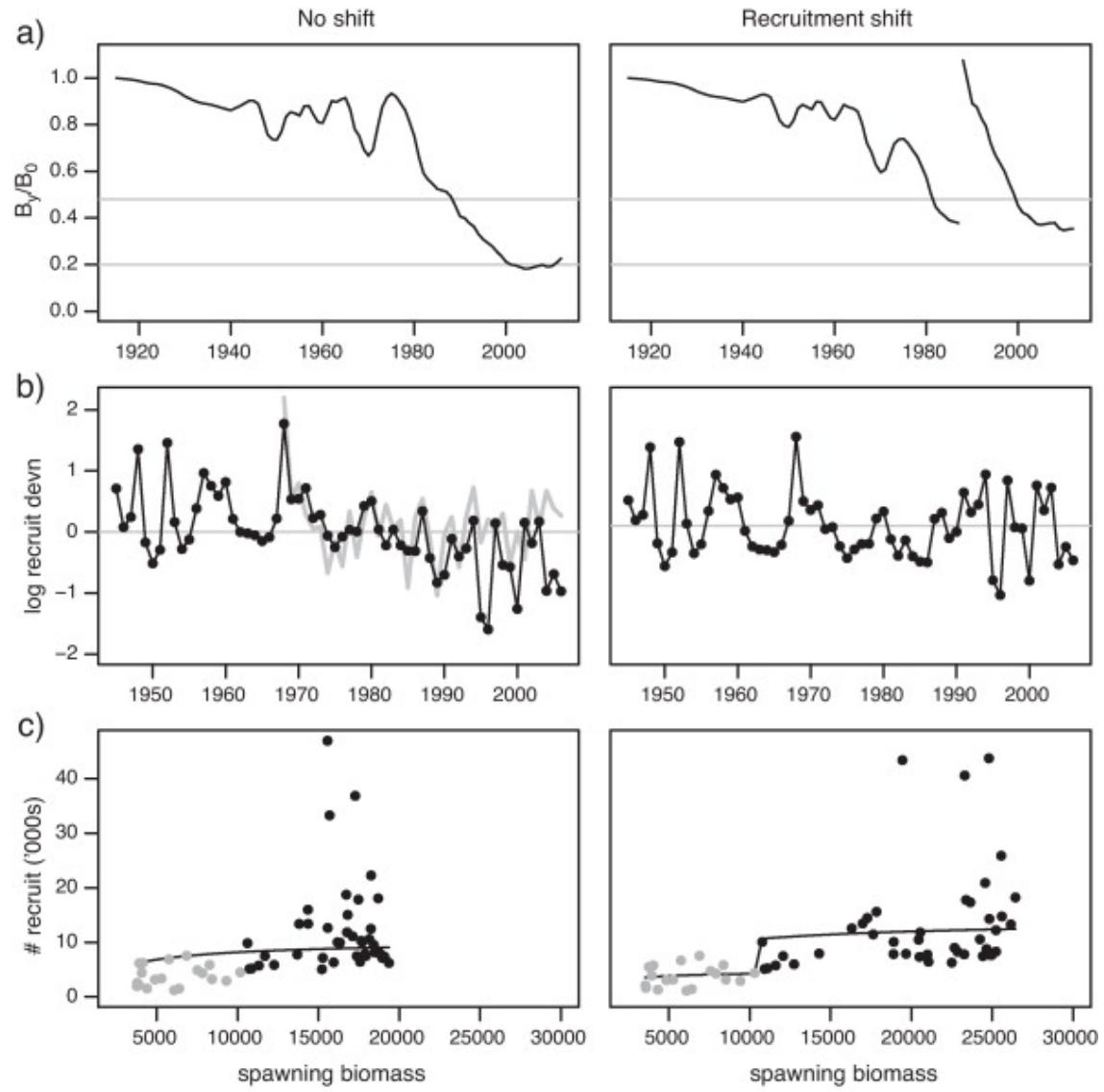
## Ecological thresholds and regime shifts: approaches to identification

Tom Andersen<sup>1</sup>, Jacob Carstensen<sup>2</sup>, Emilio Hernández-García<sup>3</sup> and Carlos M. Duarte<sup>4</sup>

*Trends in Ecology and Evolution* Vol.24 No.1



**Figure 2.** Application of the moving window and STARS approaches for calculating the mean recruitment. The moving window approach in this example always sets the mean recruitment using the most recent 20 years of recruitment estimates, whereas the STARS approach would set the mean recruitment to the mean of the most recent shaded set of recruitments or a new block of recruitments if a new recruitment regime is detected. Note that the recruitments and the average recruitments are on different scales.



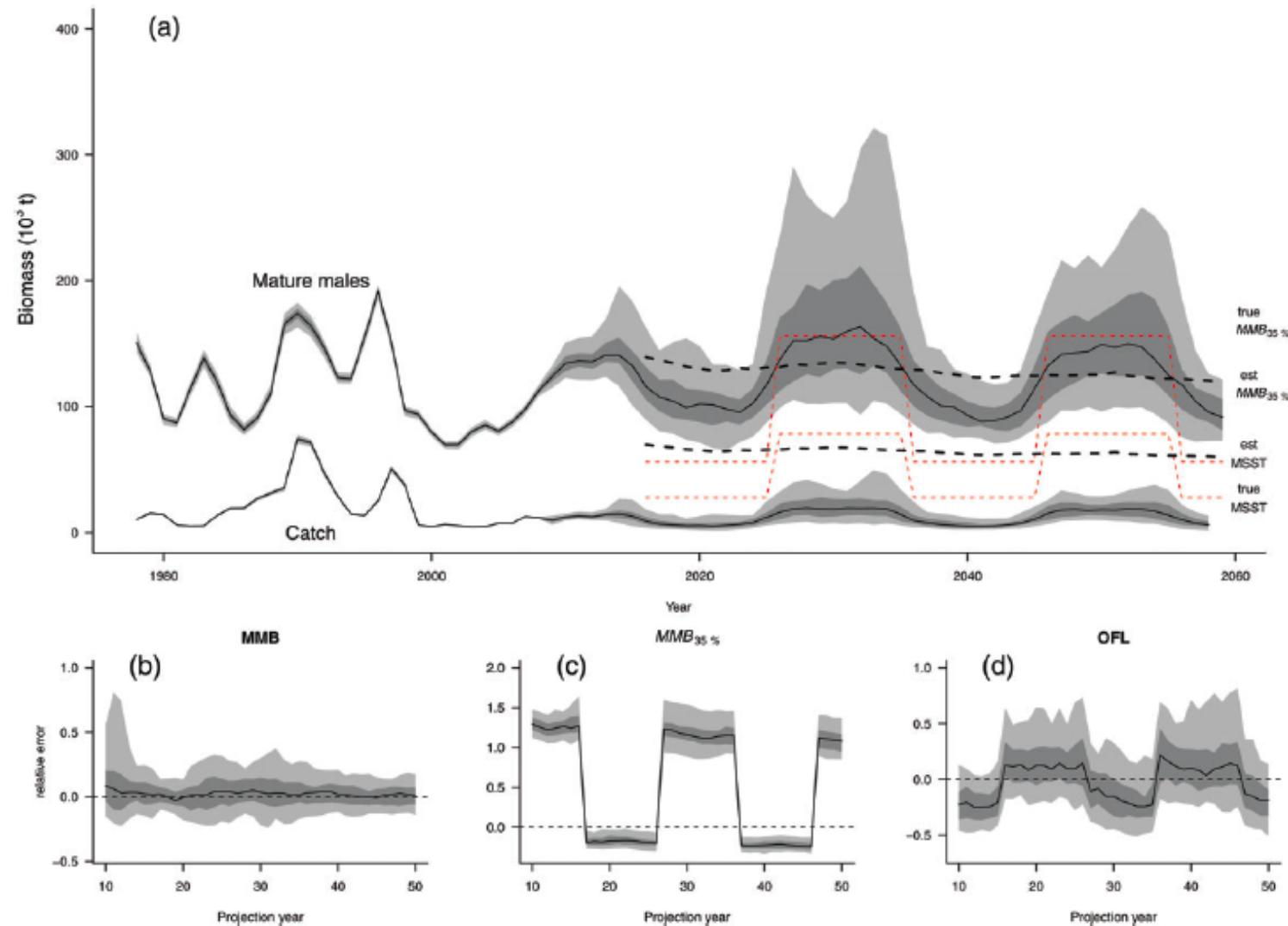
Sally E. Wayte

**Management implications of including a climate-induced recruitment shift in the stock assessment for jackass morwong (*Nemadactylus macropterus*) in south-eastern Australia**

Fisheries Research, Volume 142, 2013, 47 - 55

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.fishres.2012.07.009>

# Bering Sea snow crab: evaluating regime-based control rules



Szuwalski, C., and Punt A. E. 2013. Fisheries management for regime-based ecosystems: a management strategy evaluation for the snow crab fishery in the eastern Bering Sea. – ICES Journal of Marine Science, 70: 955–967.

# Some thoughts ....

- Regime determination often post-analysis (not part of estimation)
- Management advice determined based on whether to accept one regime or not.  
(i.e. you know which regime you will be in).
- Unless the control rule includes regime allocation, when do you make a decision to adopt the new regime?
- Does your policy allow for going back?

# More thoughts....

- Can we account for uncertainty in regime membership for advice years?
- Do state-transition models such as Markov switching models (or Hidden Markov models) offer a solution?
- Assume regime dynamics evolve over time according to Markov chain.
  - estimate probabilities for transition among regimes,
  - productivity parameters associated with each regime,
  - estimate probabilities for regime membership for the terminal year, determine catch advice.

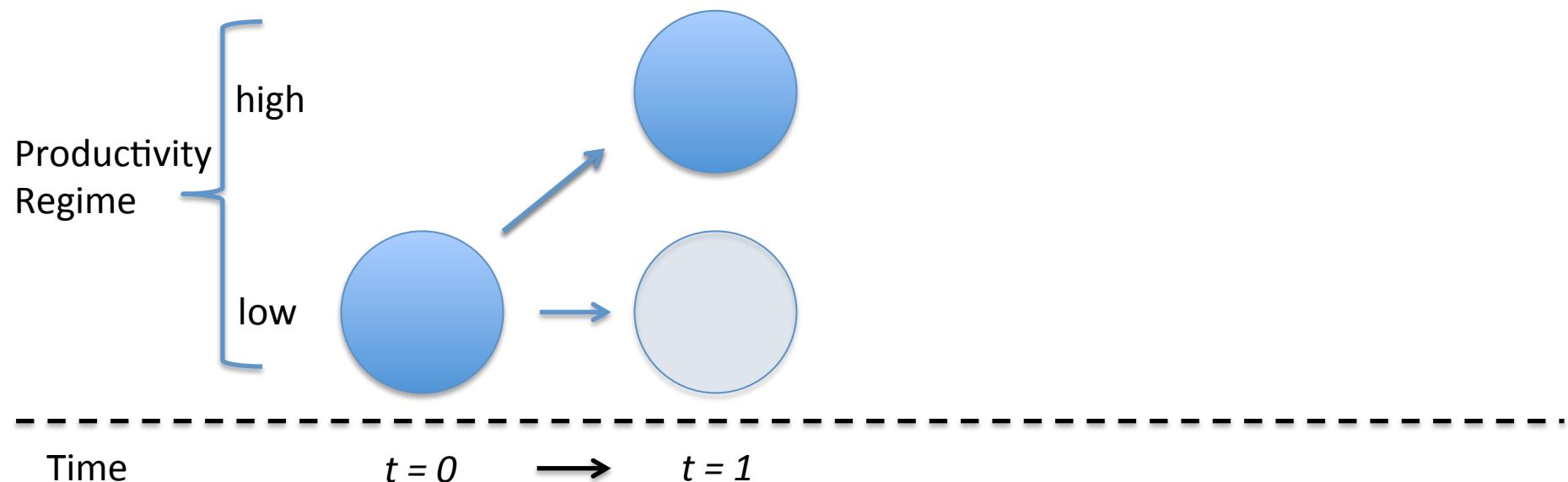
# Markov switching models (HMMs)

- Developed for speech recognition, used in finance and econometrics.
- Application in ecology largely associated with movement and behavioral modeling
- Same dependence structure as state-space models.

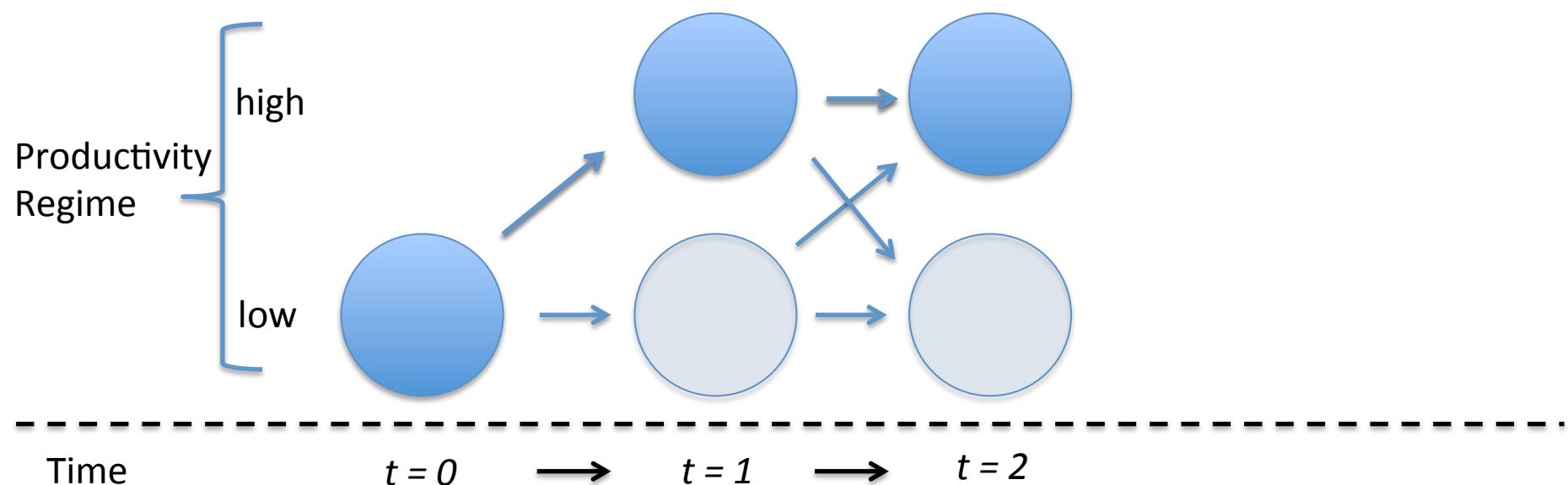
# Hidden Markov Modeling



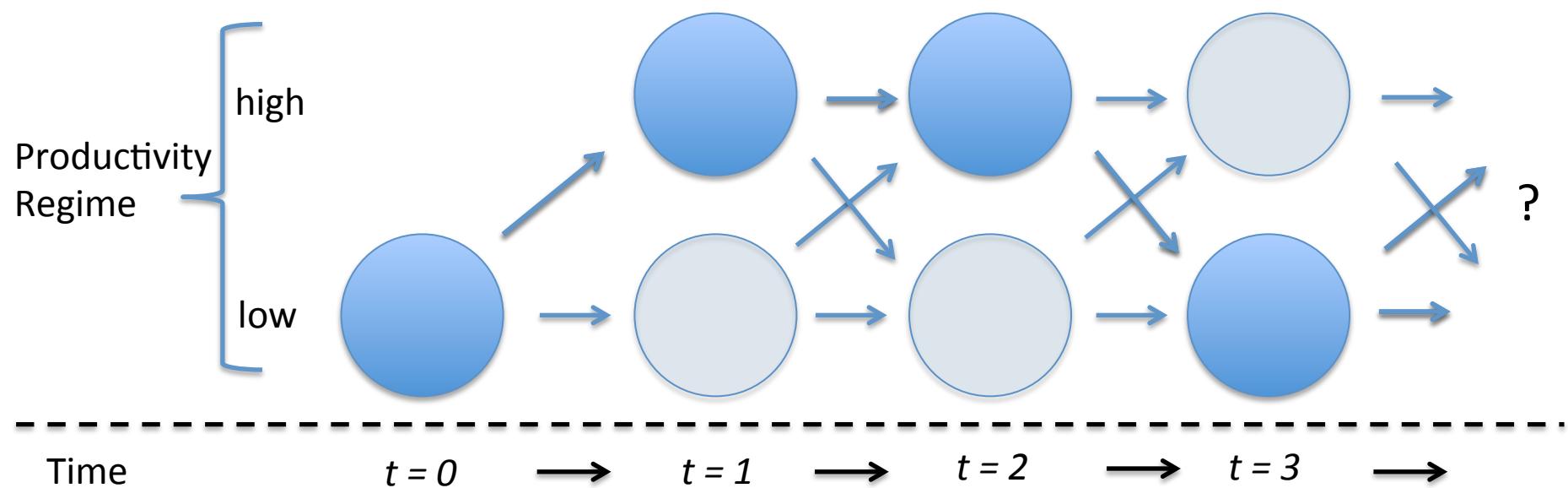
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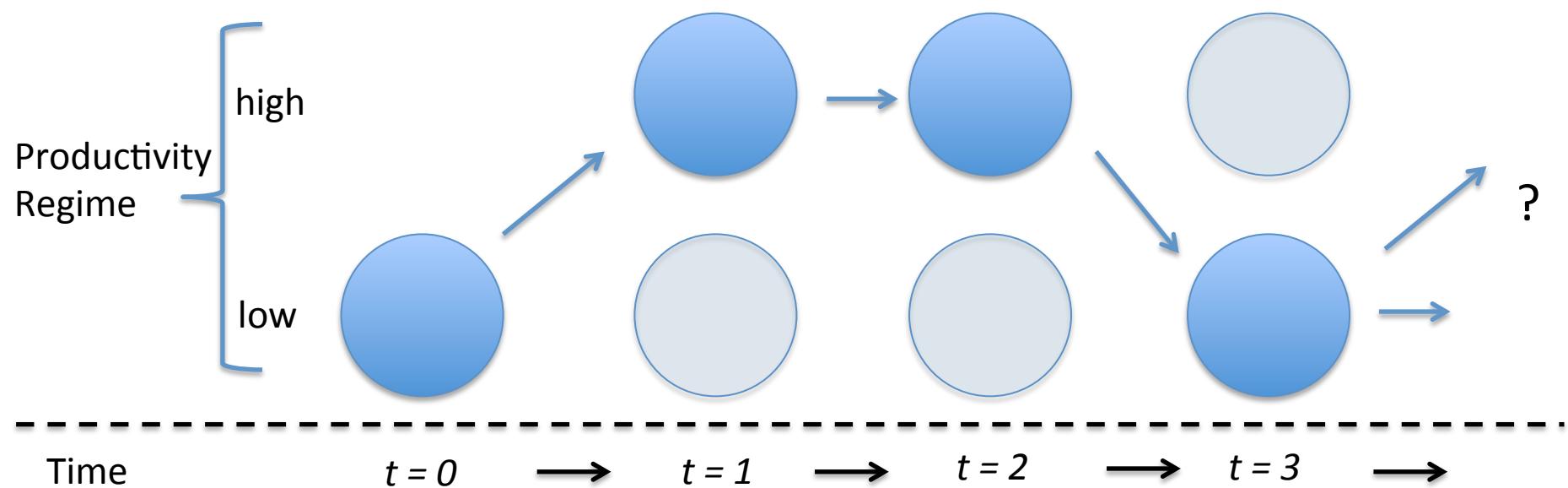
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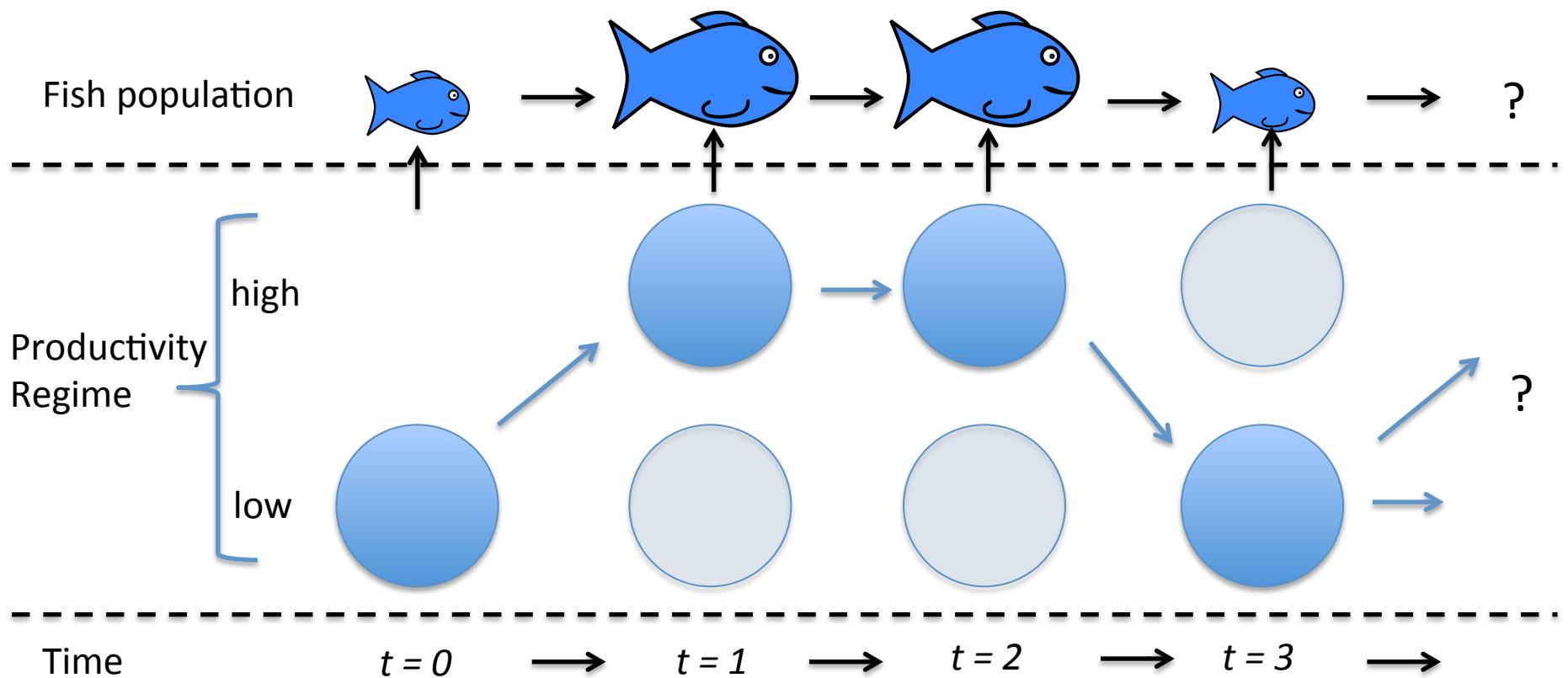
# Hidden Markov Modeling



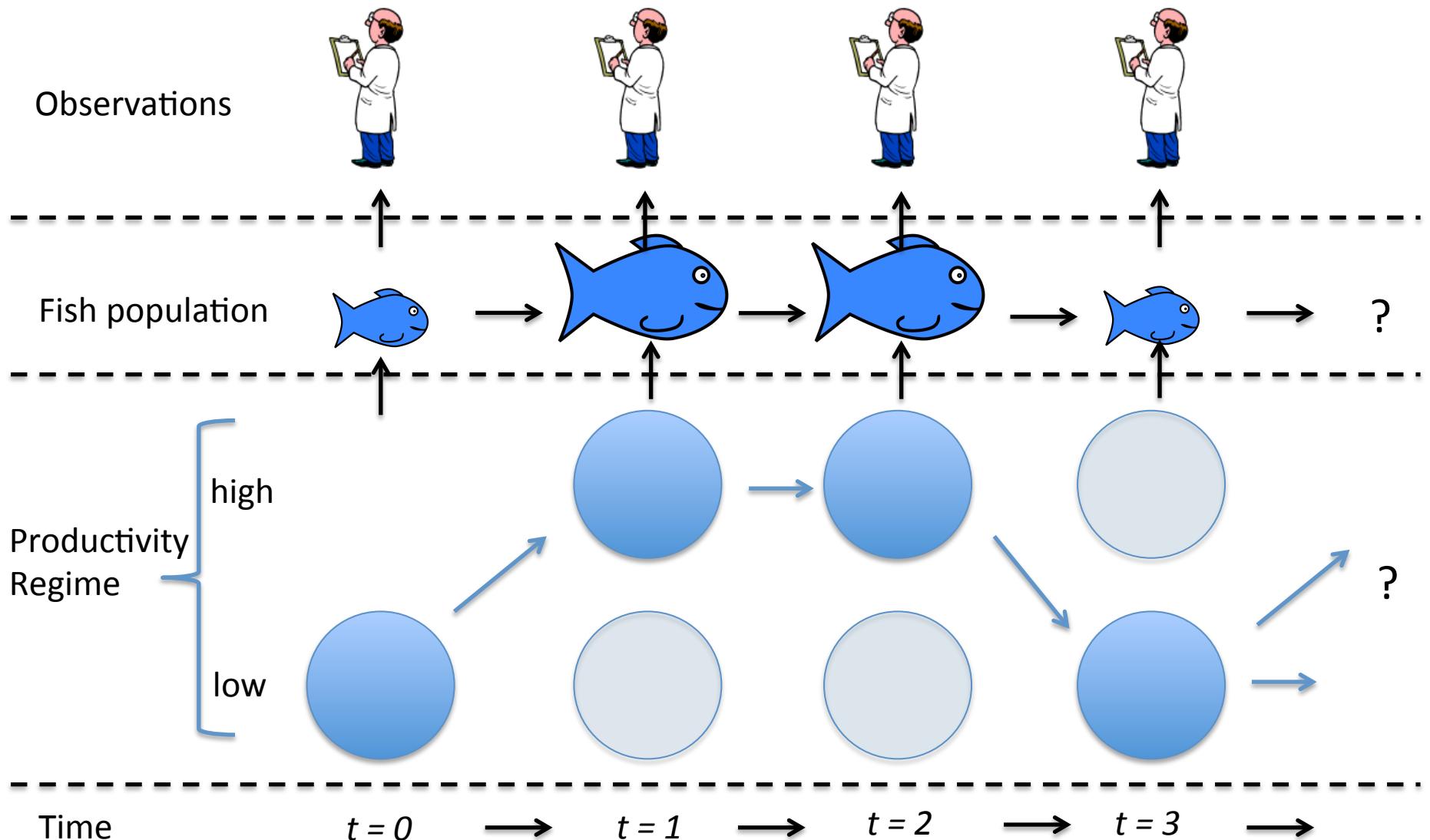
# Hidden Markov Modeling



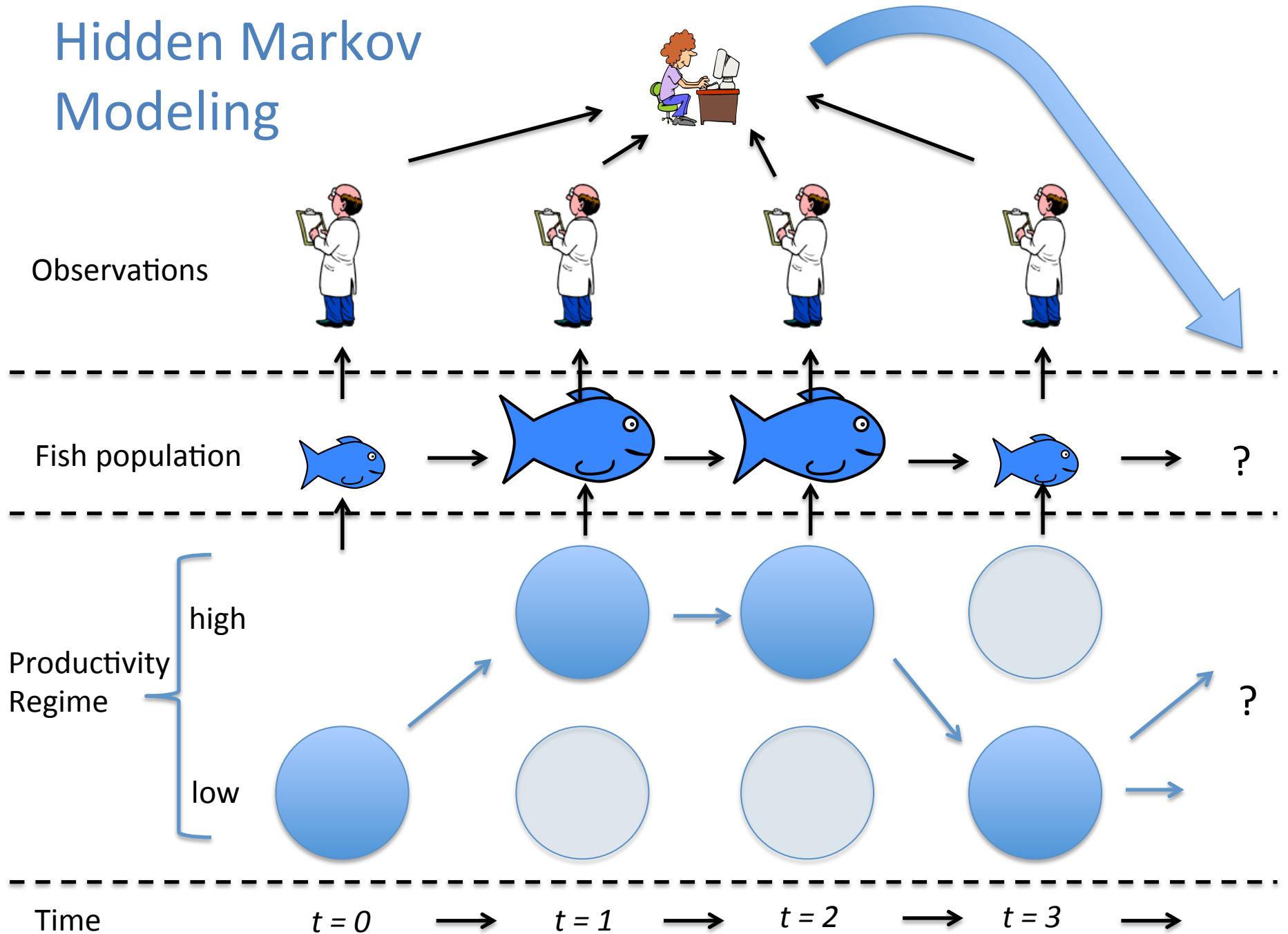
# Hidden Markov Modeling



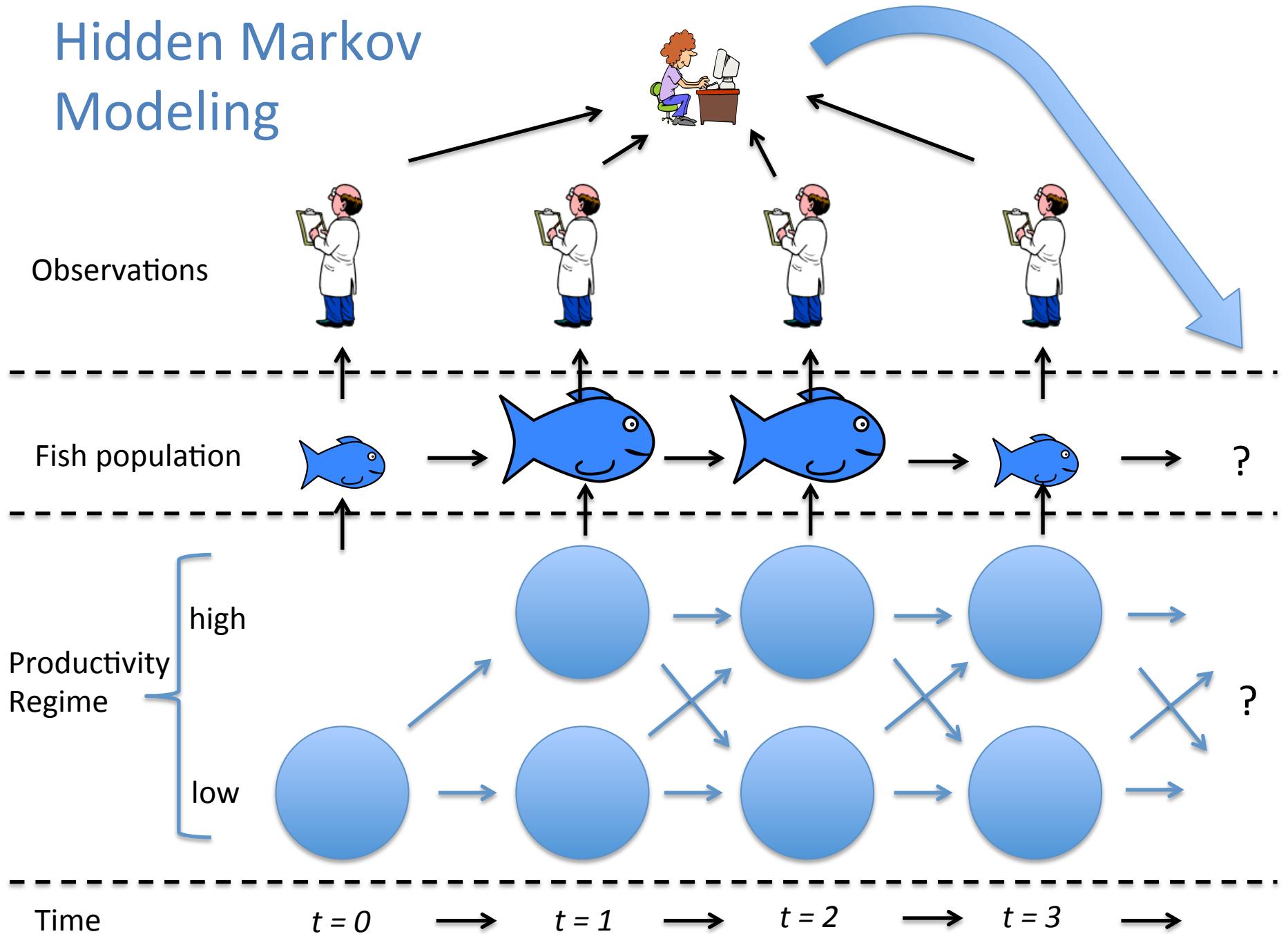
# Hidden Markov Modeling



# Hidden Markov Modeling

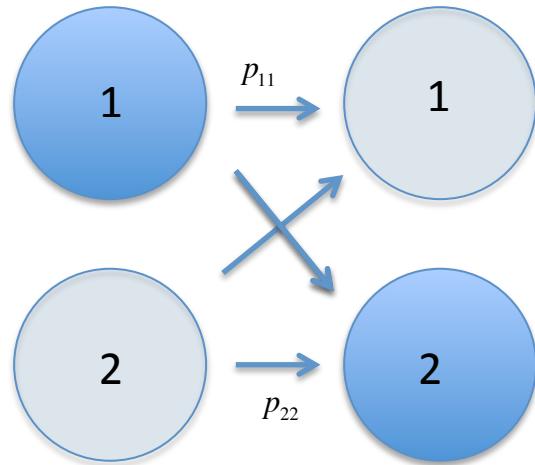


# Hidden Markov Modeling



# Estimate probability of regime membership over time

State at  $t+1$  dependent on state at time  $t$  and the transition probabilities



$$\Gamma = \begin{pmatrix} p_{11} & p_{12} \\ p_{21} & p_{22} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{where } p_{12} = 1 - p_{11}$$

$$P(\text{Regime}_{t+1} = 1) = \frac{\sum_{m=1}^M P(\text{Regime}_t = m) \Gamma(m \rightarrow 1)}{\sum_{m=1}^M \sum_{n=1}^N P(\text{Regime}_t = m) \Gamma(m \rightarrow n)}$$

# Management advice

- Project Markov chain for an additional year
- Calculate posterior distribution for  $u_{MSY}$  given probabilities of membership in each regime.
- Apply to model biomass estimate to obtain next year's catch under the regime-dependent MSY exploitation rate.

## Application: biomass dynamic model with regime switching in population growth rate

- Assume intrinsic growth rate follows regimes

$$B_{y+1} = \left( B_y + r_y (1 - B_y / K) - C_y \right) e^{\varepsilon_y}$$

$$r_y = \tilde{r}(\text{Regime}_y)$$

$$\text{Regime}_y \sim dcat(\Gamma[, \text{Regime}_{y-1}])$$

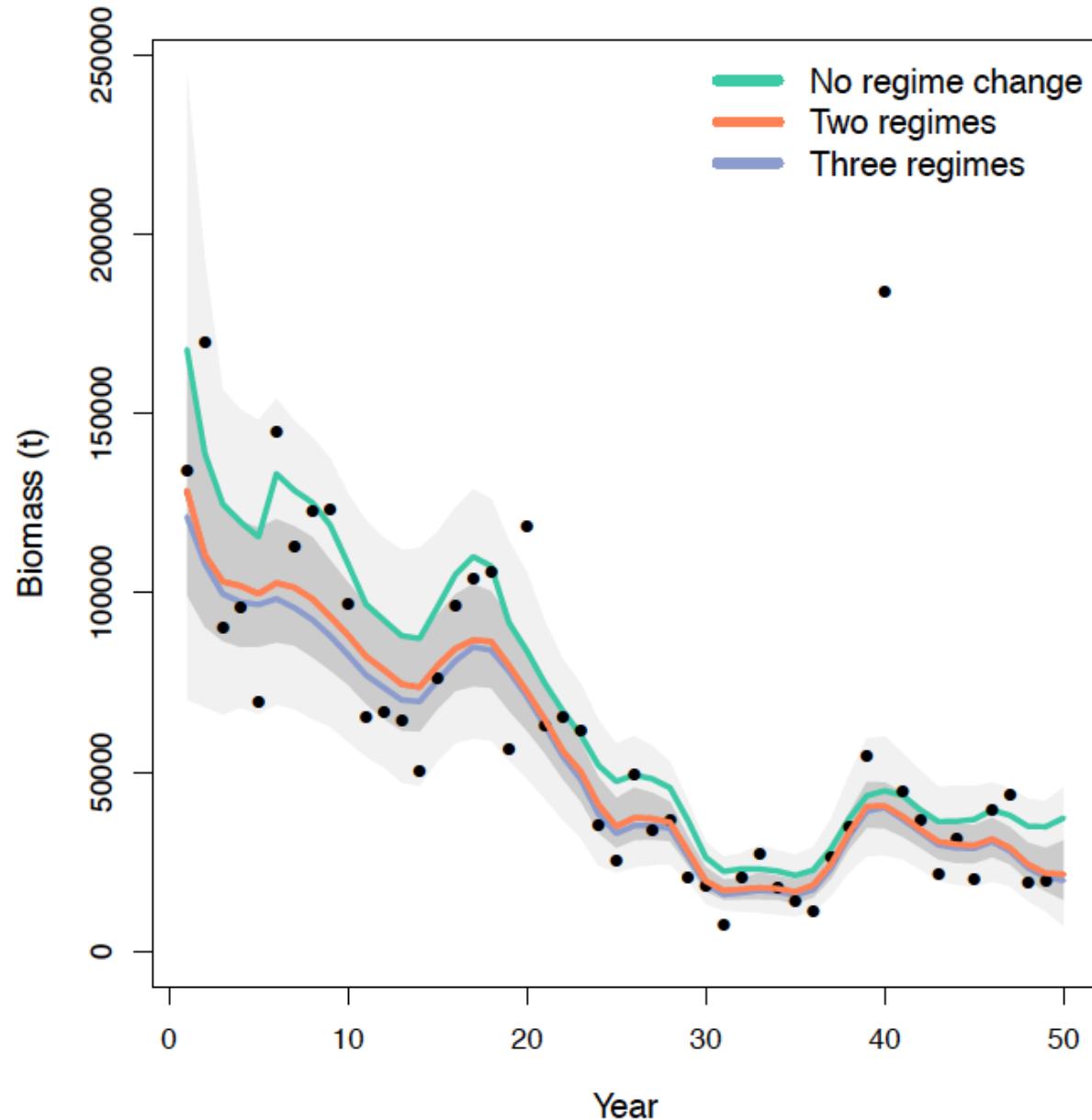
$$I_y = q B_y e^{\eta_y}$$

- Additional parameters: extra  $r$ 's, transition probabilities, regime state distribution in initial year.

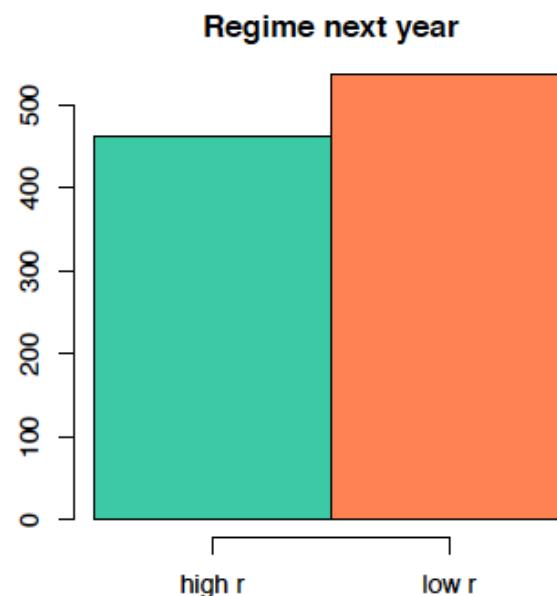
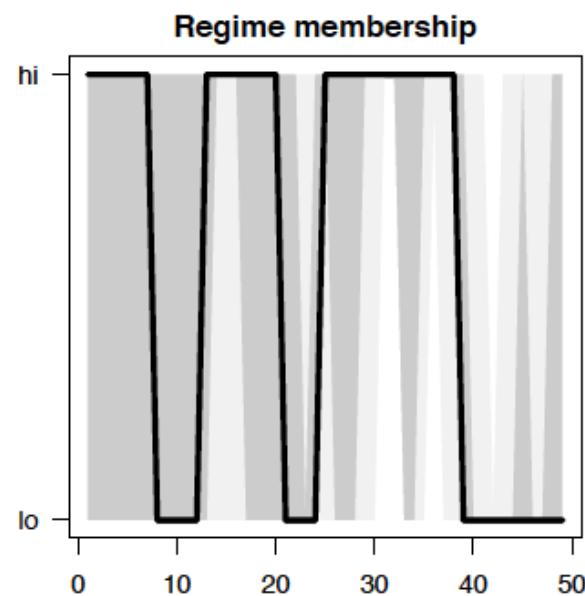
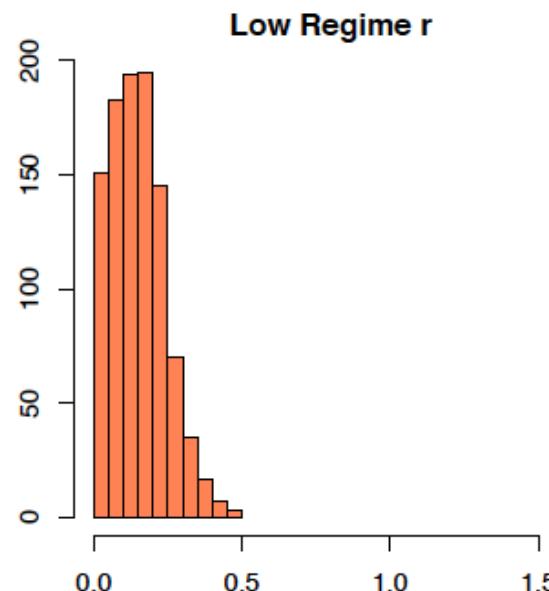
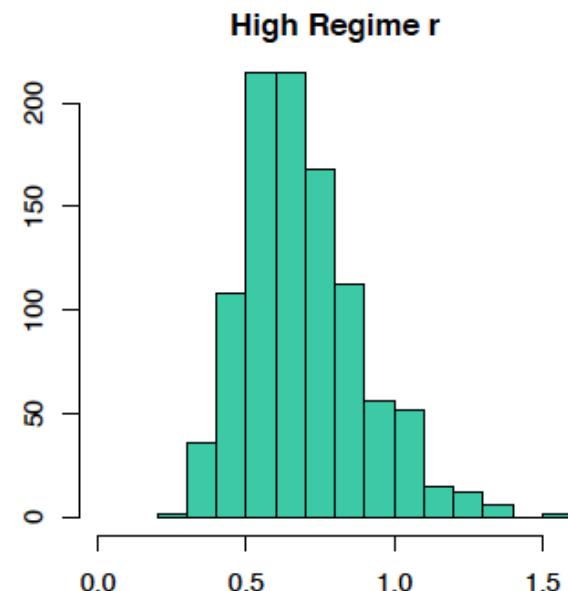
# Application: New England groundfish

- Models fit using JAGs
- Fit to fall survey biomass data (1963-) and catches  
(totals from most recent assessment docs)
- Fit models with no regimes, and 2 or three regimes.

# Gulf of Maine cod: fit to fall biomass survey

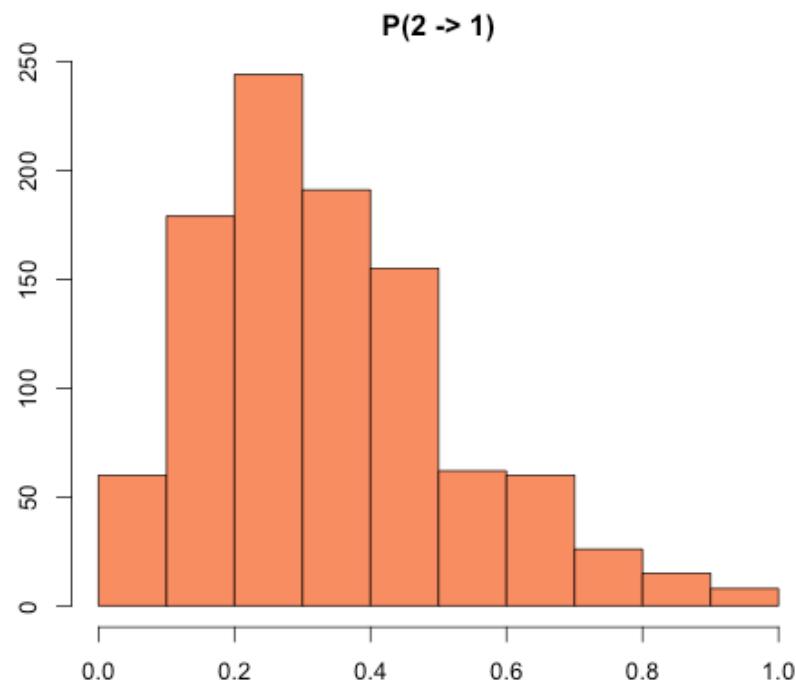
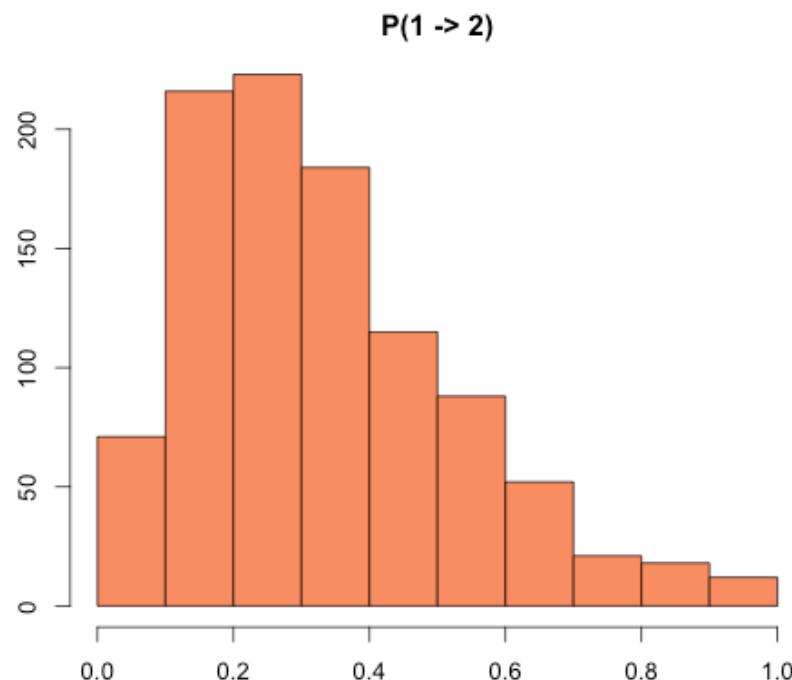


# Gulf of Maine cod: Two regimes



# Regime transition probabilities

## Gulf of Maine cod



# Model selection: DIC results

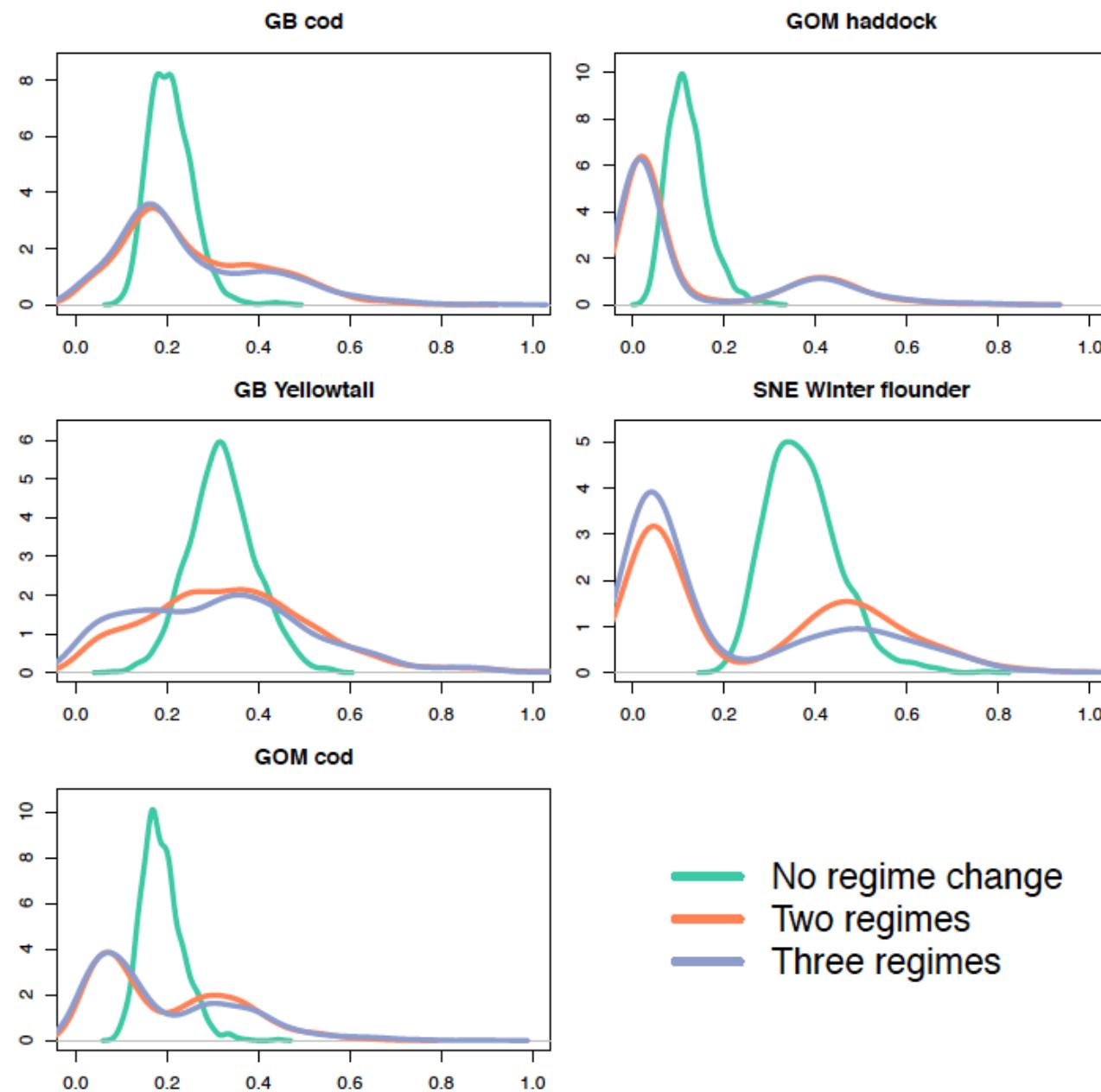
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	No regimes	2 regimes	3 regimes
GB cod	259.39	251.50	<b>250.09</b>
GOM haddock	<b>183.43</b>	189.68	189.17
GB Yellowtail flounder	589.43	587.51	<b>587.03</b>
SNE Winter flounder	102.48	<b>82.65</b>	82.66
GOM cod	337.75	<b>224.44</b>	343.29

DIC references:

1. Gelman, Andrew; Carlin, John B.; Stern, Hal S.; Rubin, Donald B. (2004). *Bayesian Data Analysis: Second Edition*. Texts in Statistical Science. CRC Press. ISBN 1-58488-388-X.
2. Spiegelhalter, David J.; Best, Nicola G.; Carlin, Bradley P.; van der Linde, Angelika (October 2002). "Bayesian measures of model complexity and fit (with discussion)". *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Series B* **64** (4): 583–639. doi: 10.1111/1467-9868.00353.

# MSY exploitation rate next year

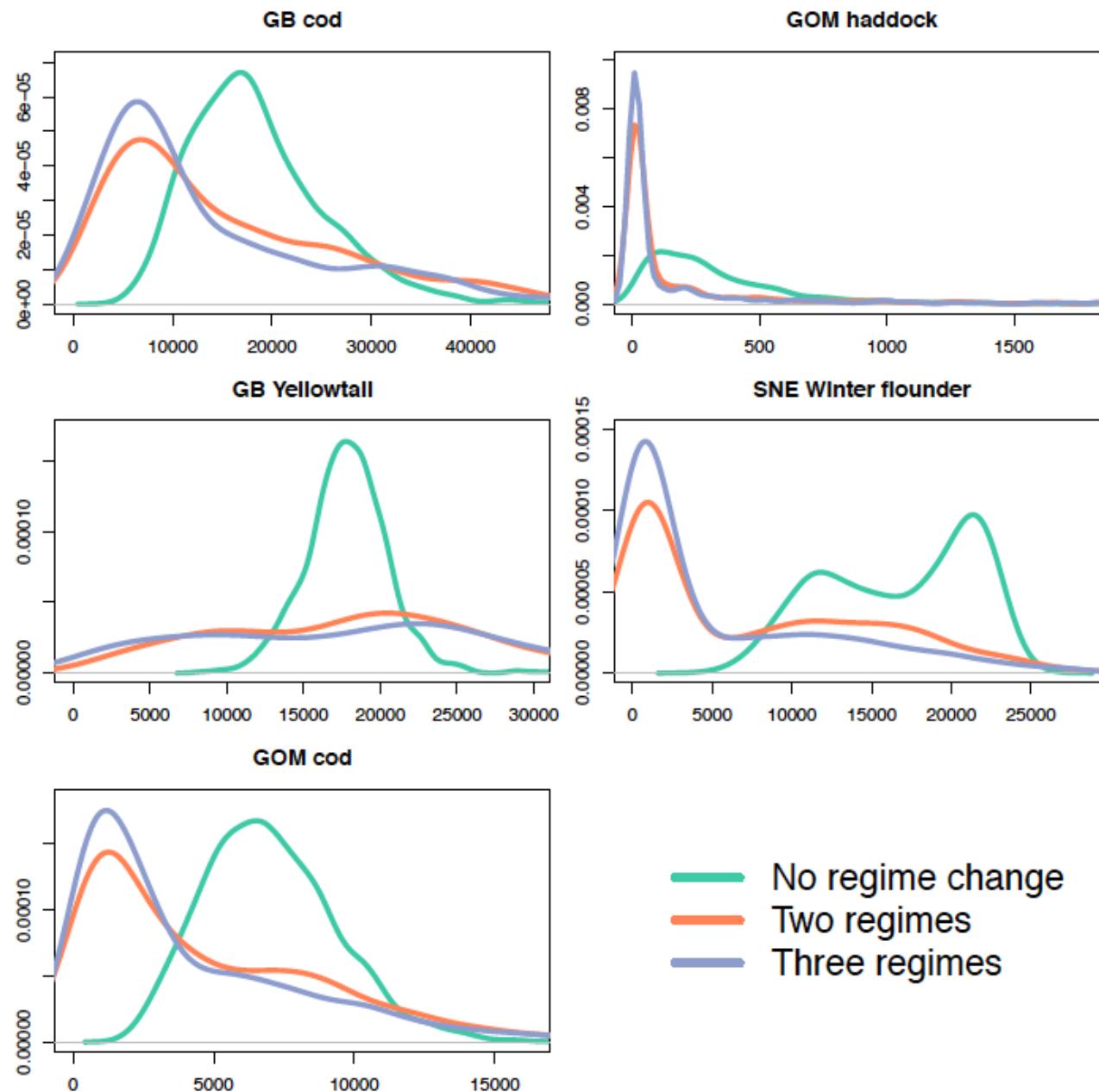


# Catch ( $t$ ) next year under $u_{MSY}$ [posterior median]

---

	No regimes	2 regimes	3 regimes
GB cod	17,523	11,702	<b>9,543</b>
GOM haddock	<b>248</b>	22	15
GB Yellowtail flounder	17,799	19,239	<b>19,639</b>
SNE Winter flounder	17,568	<b>3,829</b>	1,497
GOM cod	6,778	<b>3,304</b>	2,478

# $u_{MSY}$ catch next year



# Results summary

- Models with regime switches better fits in some cases.
- Ability to distinguish among # of regimes challenging.
- Including regimes can substantially change harvest recommendations.

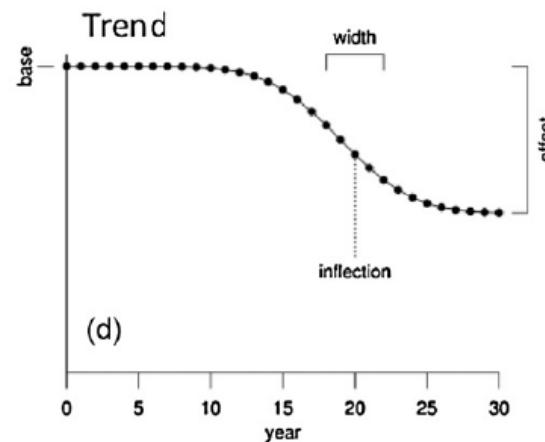
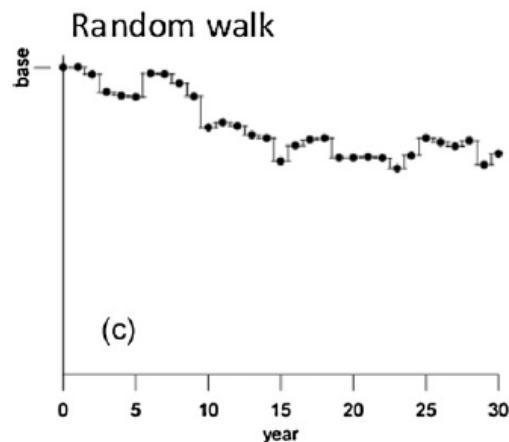
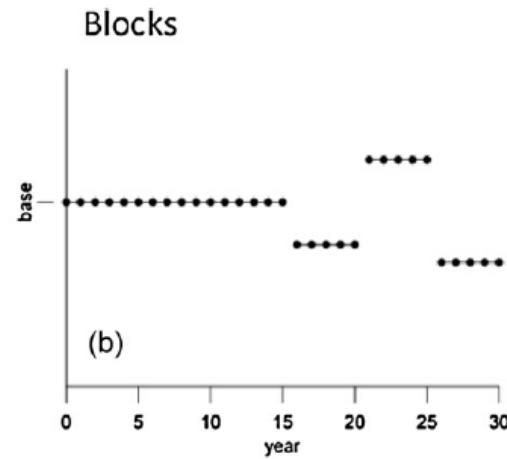
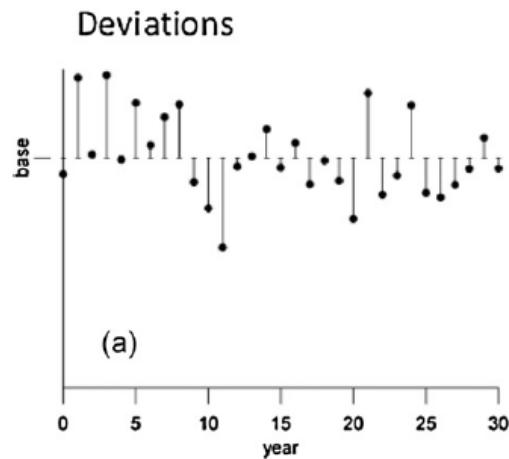
# Extensions & Further work

- Include HMM in age-structured models
- Multi-species
- Time-dependent transition probabilities
- Simulation testing
  - What happens when we fit a model with regimes to data generated from a model without regime shifts?
- Compare with alternatives (STARS-based HCRs, dynamic B0), e.g. through MSE

# Time-varying parameters in stock assessment

Markov switching just one example to implement time-varying process

R.D. Methot Jr., C.R. Wetzel / *Fisheries Research* 142 (2013) 86–99



# Take Home Messages

- Regime shifts are common, we need to understand how robust our scientific and management tools are to them.
- Markov Switching models provide a pathway for estimating regimes and integrating uncertainty into fisheries policy.
- Harvest policy will differ when based on regime shifts: important to understand consequences of adopting these approaches.

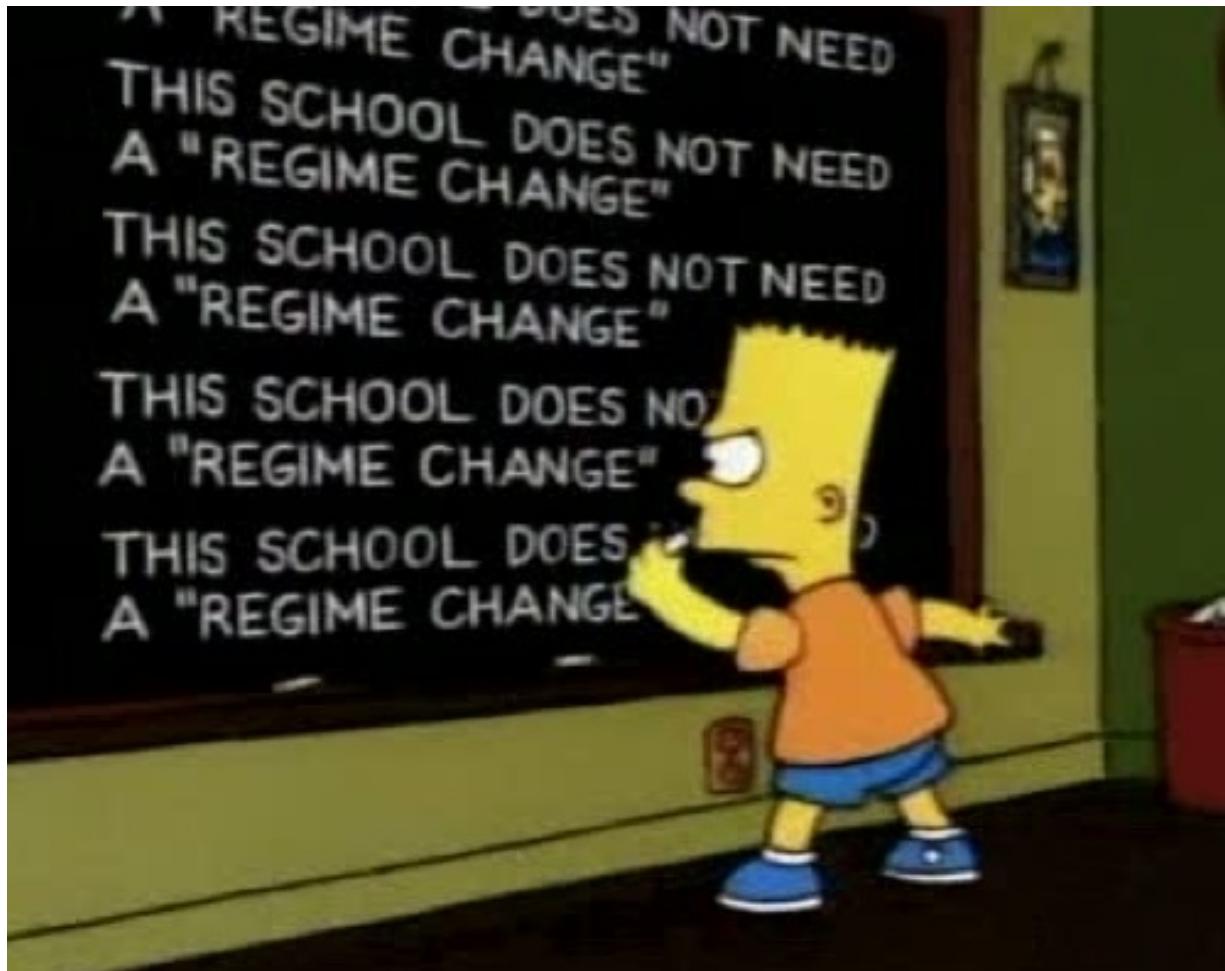
# Thank you

gfay@umassd.edu

[github.com/gavinfay/regimeswitch](https://github.com/gavinfay/regimeswitch)

[www.thefaylab.com](http://www.thefaylab.com)

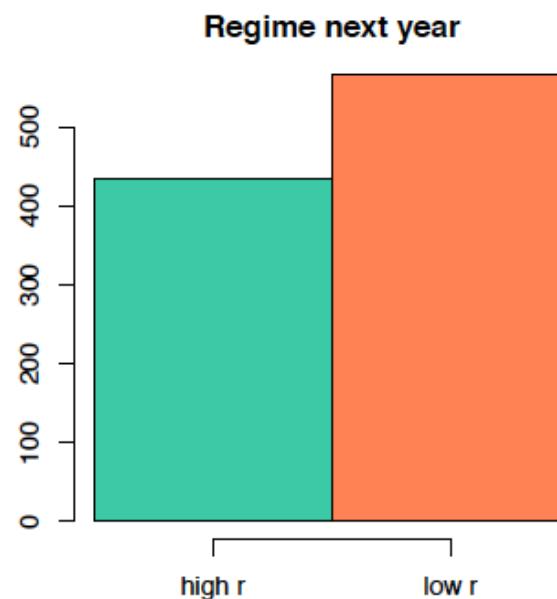
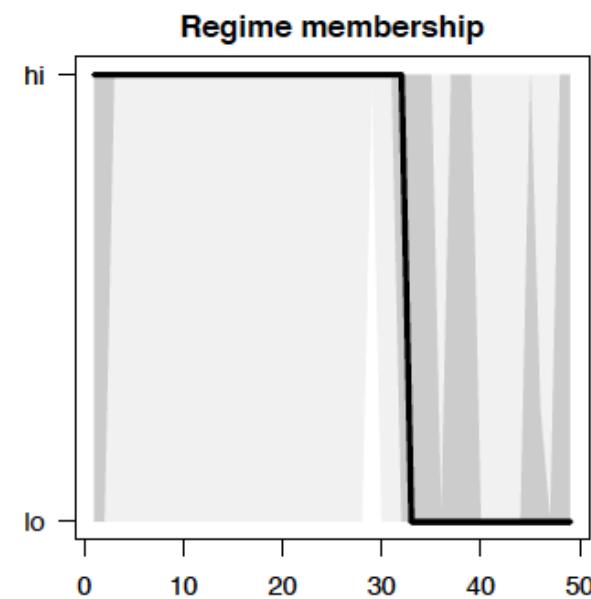
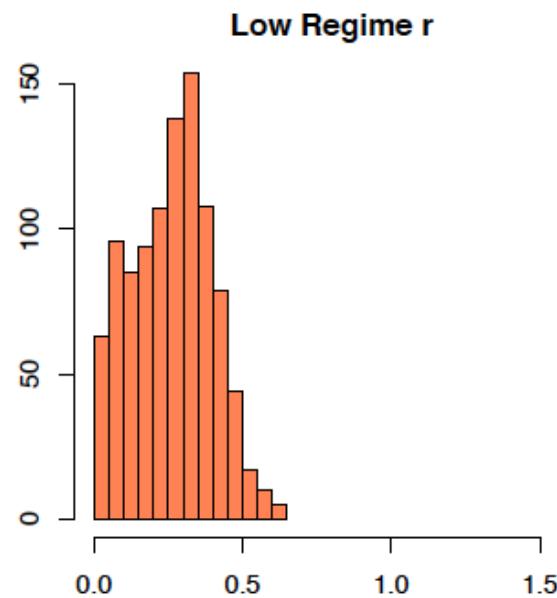
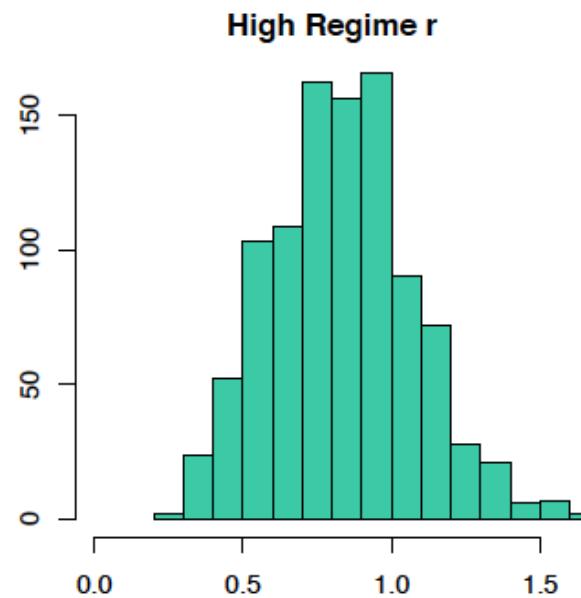
@gavin\_fay



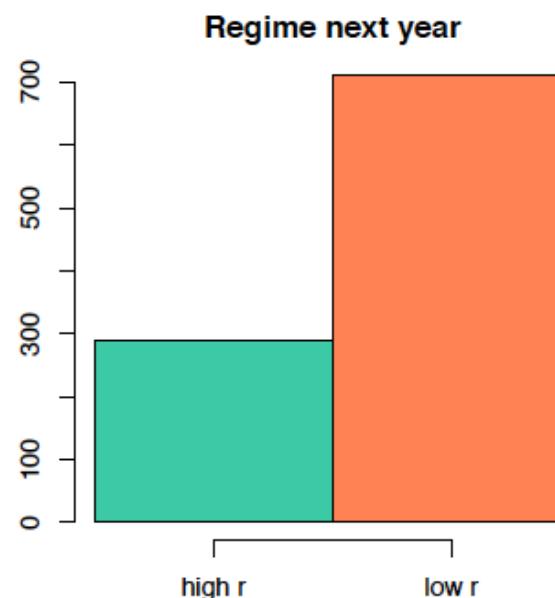
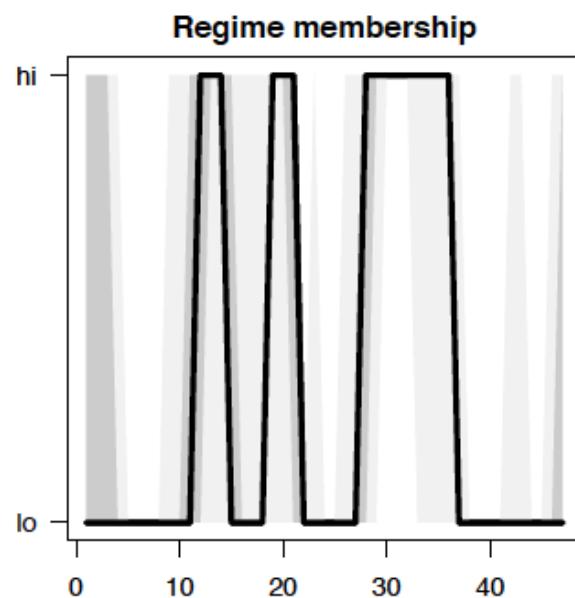
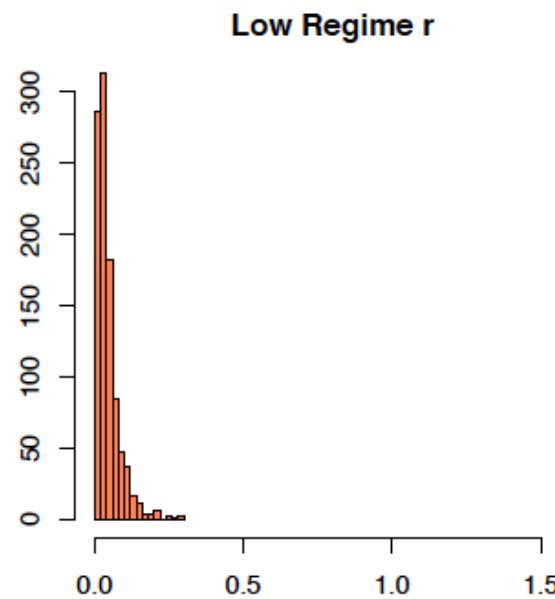
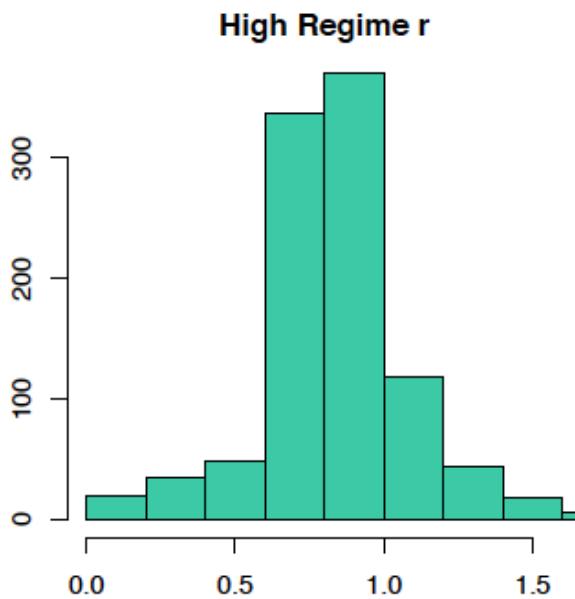
# Some suggested reading

- A'mar, Z. T., Punt, A. E., & Dorn, M. W. (2009). The impact of regime shifts on the performance of management strategies for the Gulf of Alaska walleye pollock (*Theragra chalcogramma*) fishery. *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*, 66(12), 2222-2242.
- Biggs, R., Blenckner, T., Folke, C., Gordon, L.J., Norström, A., Nyström, M., Peterson, G.D., 2012. Regime shifts. In: Hastings, A., Gross, L. (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Theoretical Ecology*. University of California Press.
- Punt, A. E., A'mar, T., Bond, N. A., Butterworth, D. S., de Moor, C. L., De Oliveira, J. A. Fisheries management under climate and environmental uncertainty: control rules and performance simulation. – ICES Journal of Marine Science, doi:10.1093/icesjms/fst057.. A., Haltuch, M. A., Hollowed, A. B., and Szuwalski, C
- Szuwalski, C., and Punt A. E. 2013. Fisheries management for regime-based ecosystems: a management strategy evaluation for the snow crab fishery in the eastern Bering Sea. – ICES Journal of Marine Science, 70: 955–967.
- Szuwalski, C. S., Vert-Pre, K. A., Punt, A. E., Branch, T. A., & Hilborn, R. (2014). Examining common assumptions about recruitment: a meta-analysis of recruitment dynamics for worldwide marine fisheries. *Fish and Fisheries*.
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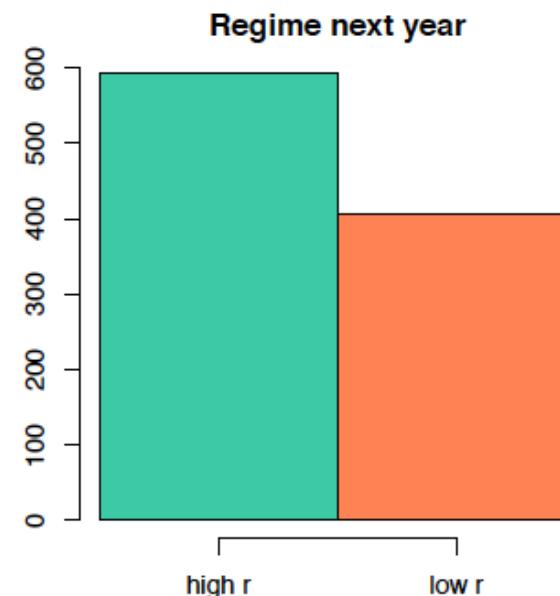
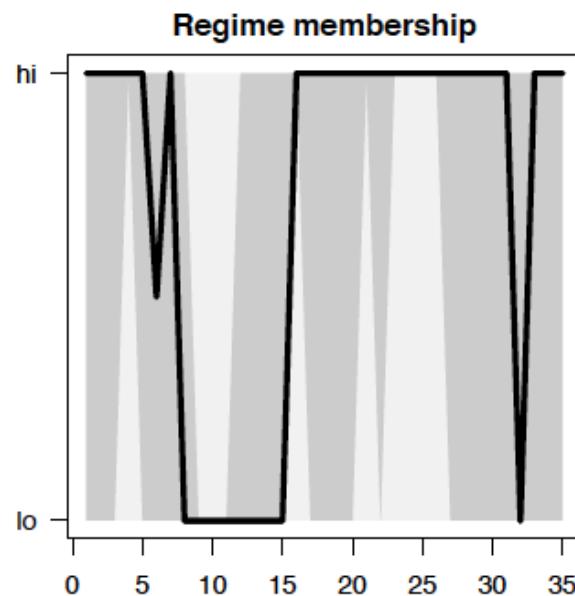
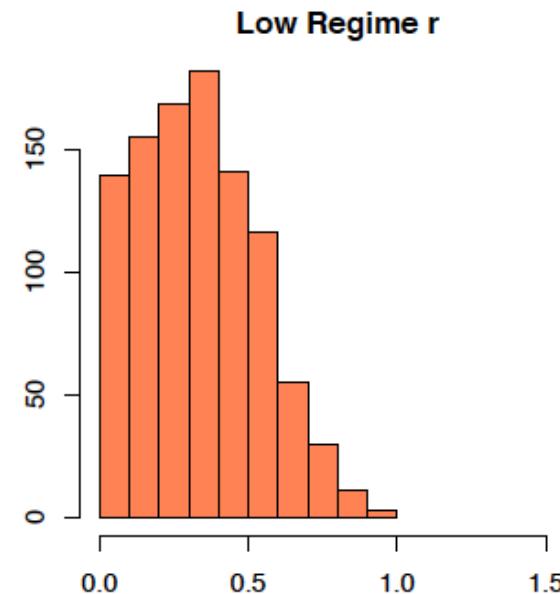
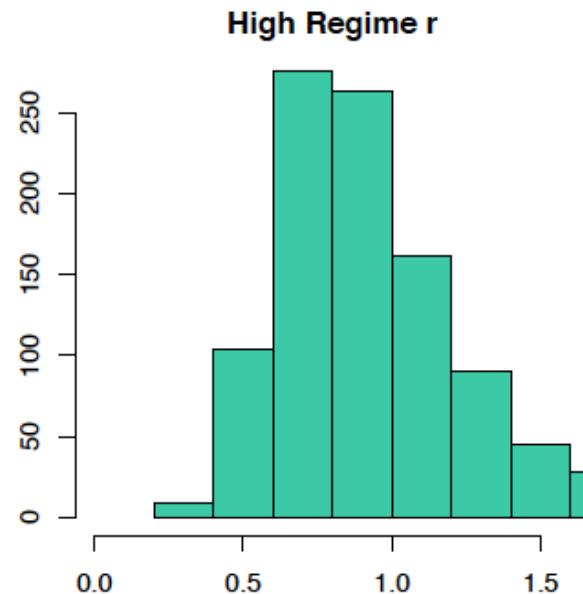
# Georges Bank cod: Two regimes



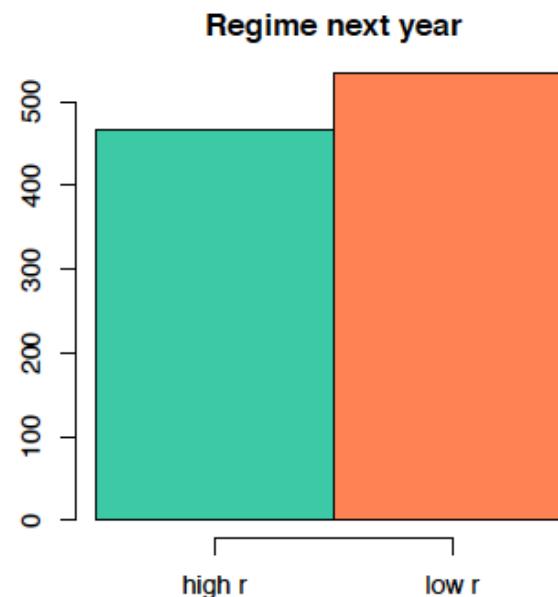
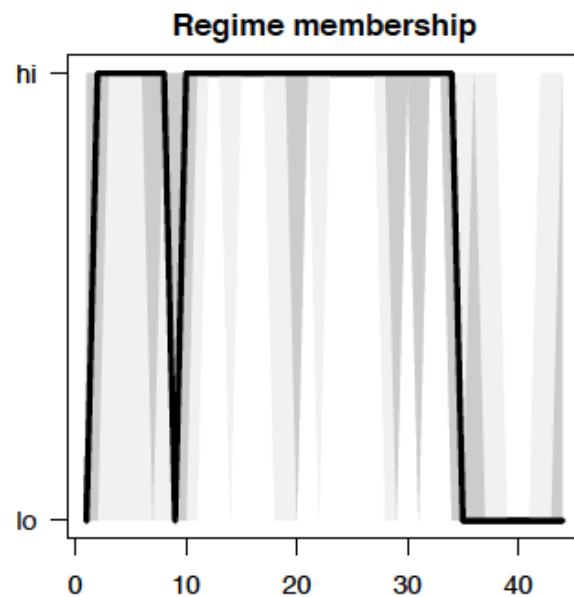
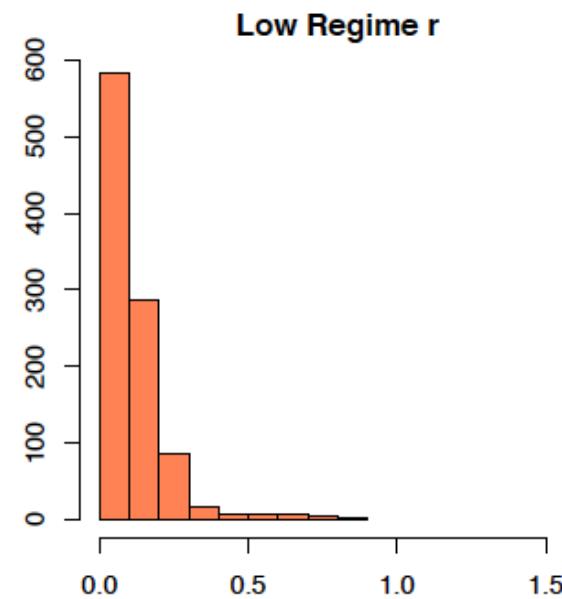
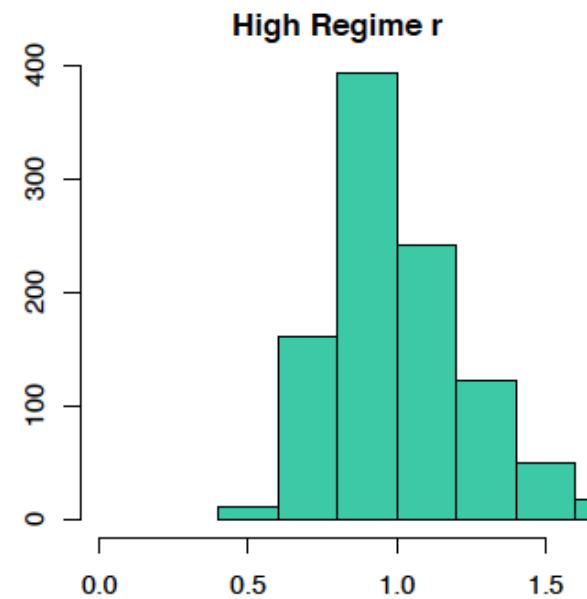
# Gulf of Maine haddock: Two regimes



# Georges Bank Yellowtail: Two regimes



# SNE winter flounder: Two regimes



# Estimation

$$L(D_t | \underline{\theta}) = \sum_{m=1}^M (D_t | \text{Regime}_t = m) P(\text{Regime}_t = m)$$

- $P(\text{Regime}=m)$  can be decomposed into prior information both forwards and backwards in time ('forwards-backwards' algorithm).
- Not trivial when also coinciding with evolution of a continuous state variable.
- Other ML options, Kalman filter approximation, EM algorithm.
- Or, treat the states as discrete parameters

## Application: Schaefer model with regimes in $r$

- Assume intrinsic growth rate follows regimes

$$B_{y+1} = \left( B_y + r_y (1 - B_y / K) - C_y \right) e^{\varepsilon_y}$$

$$r_y = \tilde{r}(\text{Regime}_y)$$

$$\text{Regime}_y \sim dcat(\Gamma[, \text{Regime}_{y-1}])$$

$$I_y = q B_y e^{\eta_y}$$

- Additional parameters: extra  $r$ , transition probabilities (2), Regime state distribution in initial year.

# Marginal state-space / HMM likelihood

$$L(\underline{\theta} | D) = \int_e \prod_{t=1}^{T-1} \sum_{m=1}^R L(D_t | \underline{\theta}, \text{Regime}_t = m) P(\text{Regime}_t = m) de$$