

# The Problem: ECOSYSTEMS, A STORY OF COMPLEXITY AND COLLAPSE

ecobuildergame.org | Imperial College London

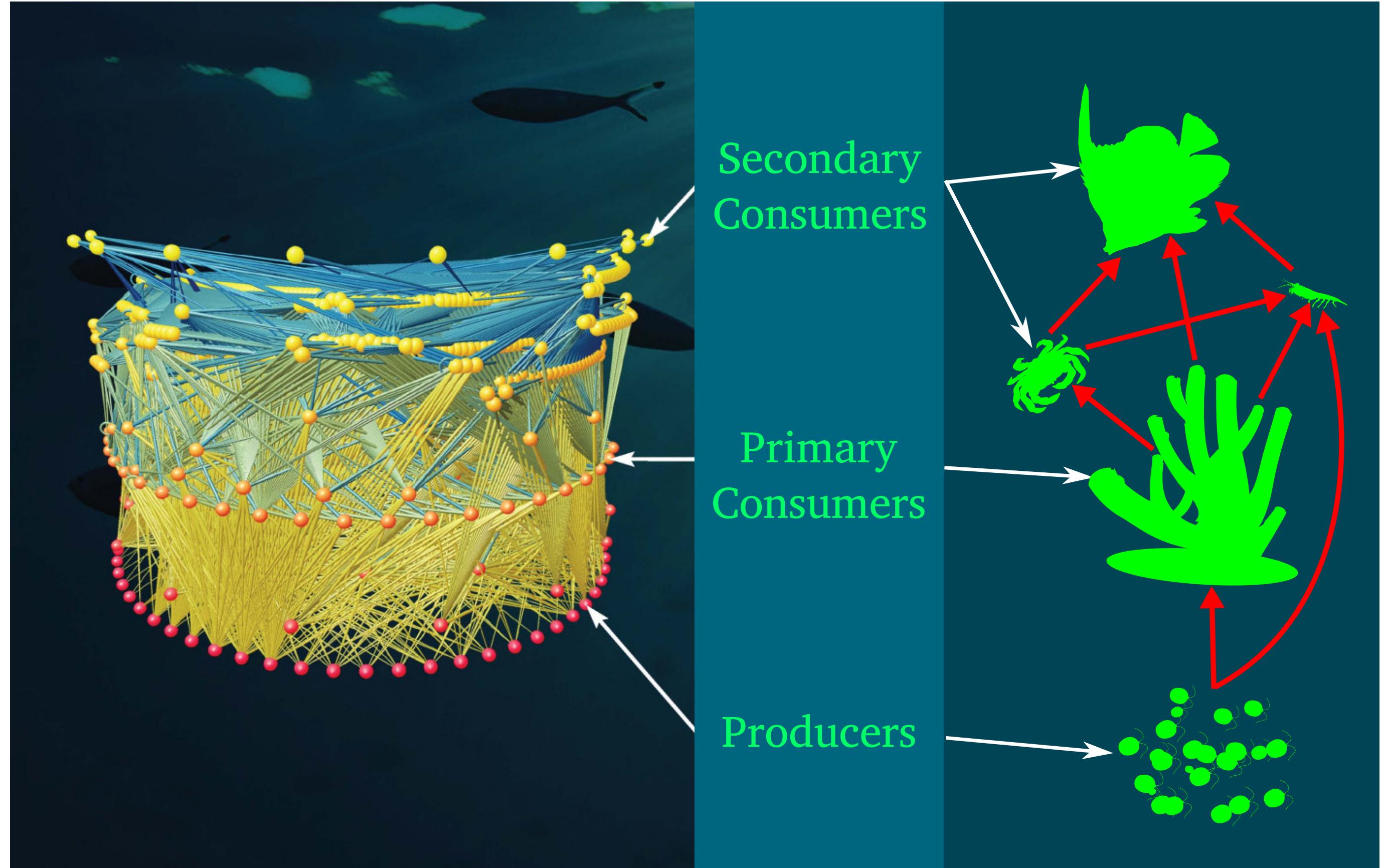
## Ecosystems



- Earth's **Ecosystems** generate the oxygen we breathe and recycle the water we drink.
- **Food-webs**, networks of who-eats-whom interactions, form the living "fabric" of Ecosystems.
- Ecosystems are **complex systems** that self-organize into a stable environment for **species** to flourish in.
- Ecosystems are under **severe stress** from pollution, species invasions, overexploitation, and climate change.



### Food webs are the living "fabric" of ecosystems



### Species interactions make food webs complex!

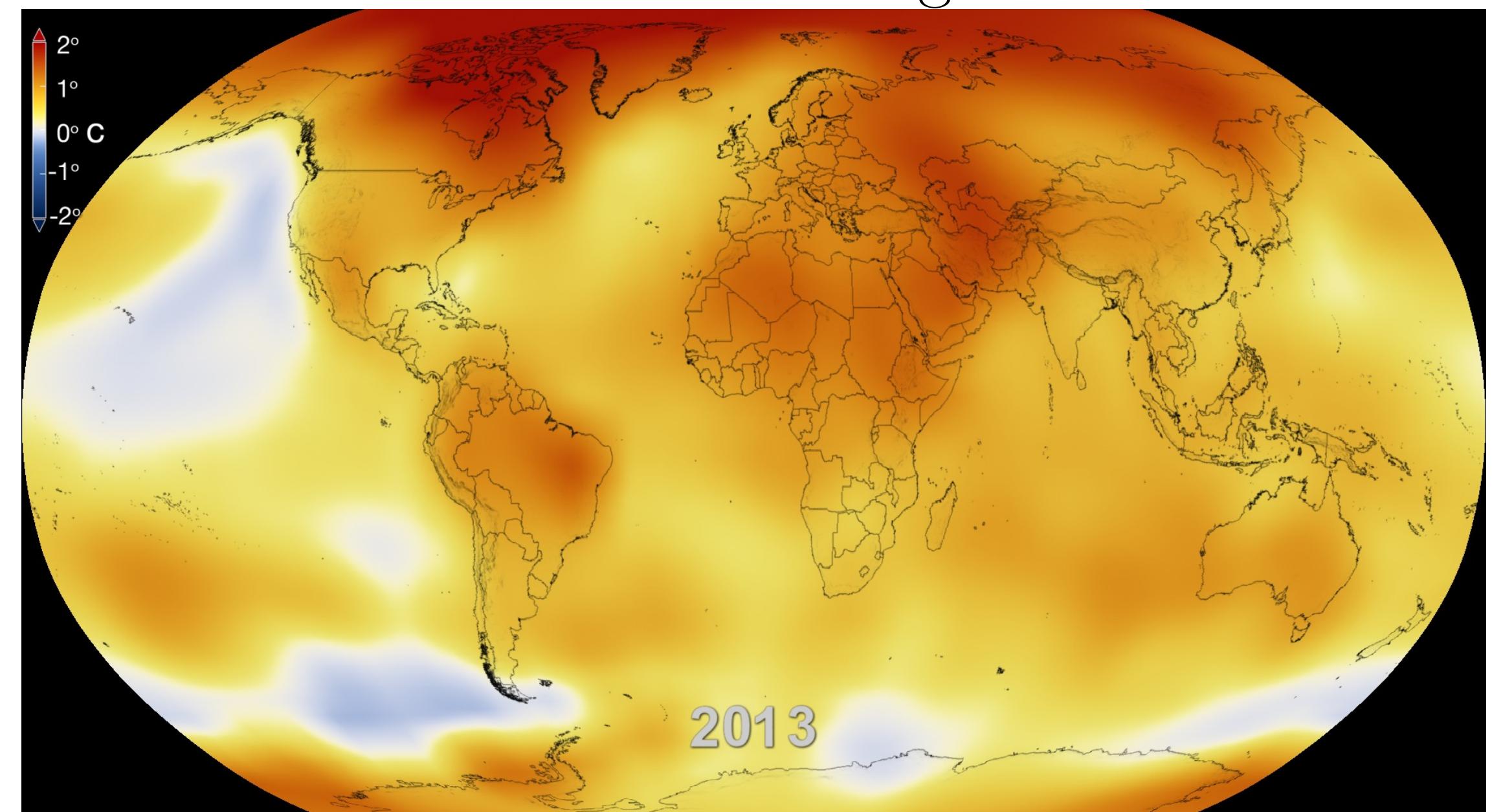


### Ecosystems are under stress globally

#### Species invasions



#### Climate change



### Ecosystems can and do collapse

#### Paleotemperatures and floral richness for the terminal Cretaceous and earliest Paleocene in North Dakota

