

Persistence of a reef fish metapopulation via network connectivity: theory and data

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Abstract

Determining metapopulation persistence requires an understanding of both demographic parameters and connectivity among patches, which is well understood by theory but has proved challenging to test empirically. Here we assessed persistence for a network of patches along a coastline in a metapopulation of yellowtail anemonefish (*Amphiprion clarkii*) using seven years of annual sampling data. We found that this metapopulation produced enough surviving offspring to replace itself but was unlikely to persist in isolation, despite stable abundances through time and replacement of recruits when we included immigration. To persist in isolation, the metapopulation would need to have higher production or different dispersal so as to retain essentially all of the recruits it produced. Increased habitat density alone did not ensure persistence. These results show that stable abundance alone is not an indicator of network persistence and emphasize the necessity of untangling demographic and connectivity processes to understand metapopulation dynamics. (148/150 words)

Introduction

Metapopulation dynamics and persistence depend both on connectivity among patches and on demographic rates in each patch (Hastings and Botsford, 2006; Hanski, 1998). Assessing levels of connectivity and demographic parameters has been particularly challenging for marine species, where much of the movement happens in larval stages when individuals are hard to track and able to travel long distances with ocean currents (White et al., 2019). Driven by both fundamental questions and applied needs (Botsford et al., 2001b; White et al., 2010), a large body of theory has developed to describe how marine metapopulations might persist (Botsford et al., 2019). Testing this theory, however, has been substantially more difficult.

For any population to persist, individuals must on average replace themselves during their lifetime. Assessing replacement must include the demographic processes across the life cycle, including how likely individuals are to survive to the next age or stage, their expected fecundity at each stage, and the survival to recruitment of any offspring produced. In a spatially structured population, we must also consider how the offspring are distributed across space (Hastings and Botsford, 2006).

A metapopulation can persist in two ways: 1) at least one patch achieves replacement in isolation, or 2) patches receive enough recruitment to achieve replacement through multi-generational loops of connectivity with other patches in the metapopulation (Hastings and Botsford, 2006; Burgess et al., 2014). In the first case (termed self-persistence), enough of the reproductive output produced at one patch is retained at the patch for it to persist. In the second (network persistence), closed loops of

connectivity among at least some of the patches - where individuals from one patch settle at another and eventually send offspring back to the first in a future generation - provide the patches with enough recruitment to persist within the network. Theory predicts that habitat patches that are large relative to the mean dispersal distance are likely to be self-persistent (White et al., 2010).

New ways of identifying individuals and determining their origins now allow better measurements of connectivity (Almany et al., 2017; D'Aloia et al., 2013). Additionally, a better appreciation of the relevant population dynamic theory has led to measurement of the appropriate demographic factors necessary to assess persistence in real metapopulations (Carson et al., 2011; Hameed et al., 2016). To date, research has suggested that populations on isolated islands can be self-persistent, which might be expected given that they lack nearby populations with which to exchange larvae and would go locally extinct if they did not achieve replacement Salles et al. (2015). In contrast, small habitat patches spread across a larger reef metapopulation appear to rely on outside input for persistence (Johnson et al., 2018). Persistence, however, has yet to be assessed in the field for an entire continuous marine metapopulation, such as all of the patches along a coastline.

Here, we further our understanding of metapopulation dynamics in a network of patches along a coastline through a study of yellowtail anemonefish (*Amphiprion clarkii*) in the Philippines. We assess persistence for all patches of habitat within a 30 km stretch of coastline, a distance greater than estimates of the mean dispersal distance for this species (Pinsky et al., 2010), suggesting the network may operate as a contained metapopulation. With seven years of annual sampling data, we estimate

long-term persistence metrics and replacement and investigate abundance through time to compare with persistence metrics. We find that even large collections of populations with stable abundances through time are unlikely to persist as an isolated metapopulation and require immigration from outside patches to persist.

Methods

Persistence theory and metrics

We considered four primary metrics to assess whether and how the metapopulation was persistent: 1) lifetime recruit production (LRP) to assess whether the metapopulation had enough offspring that survived anywhere to achieve replacement, 3) self-persistence (SP) to assess whether any individual patch could persist in isolation without input from other patches, 3) network persistence (λ_c) to assess whether the metapopulation was persistent as a connected unit, and 4) local replacement (LR) to assess whether a sufficient number of recruits were retained anywhere within the metapopulation to achieve replacement, without explicitly estimating dispersal. We explain each metric below in detail. To represent the uncertainty in our estimates, we calculated each metric 1000 times, sampling each input parameter from a distribution representing the uncertainty in the empirical estimate (details in A.12). In our results, we show best estimates of each metric with the range of uncertainty values.

Lifetime recruit production

LRP_i is the expected number of recruits a recruit will produce in its lifetime,

$$LRP_i = LEP_i \times S_e, \quad (1)$$

where LEP_i (lifetime egg production) is the patch-specific number of eggs a recruit produces in its lifetime and S_e (egg-recruit survival) is the fraction of eggs that survive to become recruits (Fig. D.1).

If $LRP \geq 1$, individuals produced enough surviving offspring, before considering dispersal, to potentially achieve replacement. If $LRP < 1$, the population could not persist without input from outside patches. We considered all recruits produced by adults in our metapopulation to estimate LRP_i , regardless of where they settled.

Self-persistence

SP_i is the number of offspring a recruit produces that survive to recruitment and settle in the natal patch,

$$SP_i = LRP_i \times p_{i,i}, \quad (2)$$

where $p_{i,i}$ is the probability of dispersal.

A patch i is self-persistent if $SP_i \geq 1$. If at least one patch is self-persistent, the metapopulation as a whole persists as well (Hastings and Botsford, 2006; Burgess et al., 2014).

Network persistence

Network persistence is the largest real eigenvalue λ_C of the realized connectivity matrix C ,

$$C_{i,j} = \text{LRP}_i \times p_{i,j}, \quad (3)$$

which we created by multiplying lifetime recruit production by dispersal probabilities among pairs of patches ($p_{i,j}$) (Burgess et al., 2014). The diagonal entries of C are the self-persistence values for each individual patch.

Network persistence explicitly considers dispersal of individuals among patches in addition to the reproduction and survival at each patch and λ_C must be at least 1 for the network to persist without outside input (Hastings and Botsford, 2006; White et al., 2010; Burgess et al., 2014).

Local replacement

Local replacement (LR) is the number of recruits a recruit produces that return to settle within the focal metapopulation (while LRP considers recruits that settle anywhere),

$$\text{LR} = \text{LEP} \times R_e, \quad (4)$$

where LEP is lifetime egg production averaged across sites and R_e is the proportion of eggs that survived and returned to recruit at our patches. R_e is a modification

of egg-recruit survival (S_e) that implicitly includes dispersal.

If $LR \geq 1$, enough offspring were locally retained to achieve replacement if they were evenly spread among patches, but the actual dispersal patterns among the metapopulation patches may still prevent replacement. LR and λ_c both assess the ability of our patches to persist as an isolated group but LR treats the network as one large homogenous patch while λ_c explicitly accounts for the struture and connectivity across patches.

Study species

We focused on a tropical metapopulation of yellowtail anemonefish (*Amphiprion clarkii*, Fig. 1c). Like many anemonefish species, yellowtail anemonefish have a mutualistic relationship with anemones that house small colonies of fish (Buston, 2003b; Fautin et al., 1992). Yellowtail anemonefish are protandrous hermaphrodites and maintain a size-structured hierarchy; within an anemone, the largest fish is the breeding female, the next largest is the breeding male, and any smaller fish are non-breeding juveniles. The fish move up in rank to become breeders only after the larger fish have died. In the tropical patch reef habitat of the Philippines, yellowtail anemonefish primarily spawn from November to May, laying clutches of benthic eggs that the parents protect and tend (Ochi, 1989; Holtswarth et al., 2017). Larvae hatch after about six days and spend 7-10 days in the water column before returning to reef habitat to settle in an anemone (Fautin et al., 1992).

Anemonefish are well-suited to metapopulation studies because dispersal only occurs during the larval phase and adults have limited movement on discrete habitat

patches (anemones) (e.g. Buston and DAloia, 2013; Salles et al., 2015; Almany et al., 2017). Yellowtail anemonefish tend to behave more like larger reef fishes, with wider-ranging territories and stronger swimming abilities (Hattori and Yanagisawa, 1991; Ochi, 1989), than the smaller *A. percula* commonly used in metapopulation studies (e.g. Buston et al., 2011; Salles et al., 2015). As we show later, survival in yellowtail anemonefish is also lower than *A. percula* and more similar to other damselfishes.

Field data collection

We focused on a set of nineteen reef patches spanning 30 km along the western coast of Leyte island facing the Camotes Sea in the Philippines (Fig. 1a). The habitat patches covered approximately 20% of the sampling region and consisted of rocky patches of coral reef separated by sand flats (Fig. 1a,b). To the north, the patches were isolated from nearby habitat with no substantial reef habitat for at least 20 km. Located near a populated coastline, the region experienced anthropogenic effects including fishing, pollution, and runoff from agriculture and a nearby riverbed gravel mine as well as reef-destroying storms like Typhoon Haiyan in 2013.

From 2012-2018, we annually sampled fish and habitat at most patches (Table A3). Divers using SCUBA and tethered to GPS readers swam the extent of each patch and visited anemones inhabited by yellowtail anemonefish. We noted but did not include in analysis anemones inhabited by other anemonefish species. At each anemone, the divers caught fish 3.5 cm and larger, took a small tissue sample, measured fork length, and noted tail color as an indicator of life stage. Starting in 2015, fish 6.0 cm and larger were also tagged with a passive integrated transponder

(PIT) tag unless already tagged. Divers also looked for eggs around each anemone and measured and photographed any clutches found. In total, we took fin clips from and genotyped 2407 fish and PIT-tagged 1930 fish across all years and patches combined, marking 3053 individual fish.

Estimating demographic and dispersal parameters from empirical data

Parentage analysis and dispersal kernel

Over seven years of sampling, we genotyped 1719 potential parents and 785 juveniles and found 62 parent-offspring matches (Catalano et al., in prep). We used a distance-based dispersal kernel fit from the parent-offspring matches (Catalano et al., in prep; Bode et al., 2018), where the relative dispersal $p(d)$ is a function of distance d in kilometers and parameters $\theta = 1.19$ and $z = e^{k_d=-2.33}$ that control the shape and scale of the kernel (Table A1): $p(d) = ze^{-(zd)^\theta}$. The dispersal kernel estimates the relative dispersal by distance for fish that have survived and recruited so does not separately estimate pre-settlement mortality. To find the probability of fish dispersing among our patches, we numerically integrated the dispersal kernel using the distance from the middle of the origin patch (i) to the closest (d_1) and farthest (d_2) edges of the destination patch (j):

$$p_{i,j}(d) = \int_{d_1}^{d_2} ze^{-(zd)^\theta} dd. \quad (5)$$

Growth and survival: mark-recapture analyses

Fish marked through genetic samples and PIT tags allowed us to estimate growth and survival through mark-recapture. In total, we had 3053 marked fish with size and stage data for each capture time.

For growth, we estimated the parameters of a von Bertalanffy growth curve in the growth increment form relating the length at first capture L_t to the length at a later capture L_{t+1} (Hart and Chute, 2009), where L_∞ is the average asymptotic maximum size across the metapopulation and K is the growth rate:

$$\begin{aligned} L_{t+1} &= L_t + (L_\infty - L_t)[1 - e^{(-K)}] \\ &= e^{(-K)}L_t + L_\infty[1 - e^{(-K)}]. \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

From the slope $m = e^{(-K)}$ and y-intercept $b = L_\infty[1 - e^{(-K)}]$, we calculated the von Bertalanffy parameters, such that $K = -\ln m$ and $L_\infty = \frac{b}{(1-m)}$ (Hart and Chute, 2009). We used the first and second capture lengths for fish that were recaptured after a year (within 345 to 385 days) to estimate L_∞ and K . For fish recaptured more than once, we randomly selected only one recapture period from each to use to estimate the von Bertalanffy parameters and repeated the random selection and estimate 1000 times. We found the mean estimates ($L_\infty = 10.70$ cm, $K = 0.864$) and mean standard error of those fits, then sampled from within that range to generate a set of von Bertalanffy growth curves to use in our LEP calculations (Fig. 2b, Table A1, A.3).

We used the full set of marked fish to estimate annual survival ϕ and probability of recapture p_r using the mark-recapture program MARK implemented in R through the package **RMark** (Laake, 2013). We fit several models with year, size, and patch effects on the probability of survival on a log-odds scale (see full list in Table A2), and the best fit had an effect of patch and a positive effect of size (Table A1, Figs. 2c, D.5, A.3).

Fecundity

Fecundity was size-dependent, based on field data, with larger females producing more eggs (eqn. A.1, A.2).

Lifetime egg production

We used an integral projection model (IPM) (Ellner et al., 2016) with size as the continuous structuring trait z to estimate lifetime egg production (LEP). We initialized the IPM with one recruit-sized individual (recruit defined in A.1) at the initial annual time step ($t = 0$), then projected forward for 100 years. We used the size-dependent survival (eqn. B.1) and growth (eqn. 6) functions as the probability density functions in the kernel to project the individual into the next time step. The size distribution (v_z) at each time step represents the probability that the individual has survived and grown into each of the possible size categories, ranging from a minimum of $L_s = 0$ cm to a maximum of $U_s = 15$ cm divided into 100 equal size bins.

We then multiplied the size-distribution v_z at each time by the size-dependent fecundity f_z (eqn. A.1) to get the total number of eggs produced at each time step.

We only considered reproductive effort once the fish was female and used the average size of first female observation for recaptured fish as the transition size ($L_f = 9.32$ cm). Integrating across time and size gave the total number of eggs one recruit produced in its lifetime (details in A.4):

$$\text{LEP} = \int_{t=0}^{100} \int_{z=L_s}^{z=U_s} v_{z,t} f_z dz dt. \quad (7)$$

Survival from egg to recruit

We estimated survival from egg to recruit (S_e) (recruit defined in A.1) using parentage matches to find the number of surviving recruits produced by genotyped parents (similar to Johnson et al., 2018). We scaled the number of offspring we assigned back to parents ($R_m = 62$) to account for offspring missed by our sampling (P_h , P_c , P_d , and P_s , described below and in Fig. D.2), then divided by the number of eggs produced by genotyped parents:

$$S_e = \frac{\frac{R_m}{P_h P_c P_d P_s}}{N_g \text{LEP}_p}, \quad (8)$$

where N_g (=1719) was the number of genotyped parents and LEP_p was the expected lifetime egg production for a fish that has survived to parent size p (=6.0cm) rather than for a new recruit, so it does not include survival from recruit to parent sizes. P_h (=0.41) was the proportion of habitat in our patches that we sampled over time (details in A.6), P_c (=0.56) was the probability of capturing a fish if we sampled its anemone (see A.7 for details), P_d (=0.57) was the proportion of the total dispersal

kernel area from each of our patches covered by our sampling region (see A.8), and P_s ($=0.20$) was the proportion of suitable habitat in our sampling region (see A.9).

To estimate the survival and retention of recruits back to our patches (needed for local replacement, LR eqn. 4), we scaled only by P_h and P_c : $R_e = \frac{R_m}{N_g \text{LEP}_p} \cdot \frac{P_h P_c}{P_s}$.

Accounting for density-dependence

Ideally we would assess persistence metrics when the population is at low abundance and not limited by density dependence because persistence is defined as having positive population growth at low density; at high density the growth rate will slow to zero. Density dependence is particularly clear in anemonefish, which have strong social hierarchies; juveniles on an anemone will prevent others from settling there as well (seen in *A. percula*, Buston, 2003a). Each anemone, therefore, can house only one recently settled anemonefish. This density-dependent mortality artificially reduces the apparent survival of new recruits, biasing persistence metrics. We accounted for this effect by scaling up our estimate of recruits (the numerator of eqn. 8) by the proportional increase (DD) in unoccupied anemones if all of the anemones occupied by yellowtail anemonefish were unoccupied, where p_A is the proportion of anemones occupied by yellowtail anemonefish and p_U is the proportion of unoccupied anemones: $\text{DD} = \frac{(p_U + p_A)}{p_U} = 1.71$. We present results with this density-dependence modification in the main text and without in the appendix (with subscript DD, Figs. D.8, D.9).

Estimated abundance over time

We examined trends in abundance of breeding females at each patch over time ($F_{i,t}$) to compare to our replacement-based persistence estimates. As with offspring, we scaled up the number of females caught (F_c) at each patch i in each sampling year t by the proportion of habitat sampled in that patch and year ($P_{h_{i,t}}$) and by the probability of capturing a fish P_c :

$$F_{i,t} = \frac{F_{c_{i,t}}}{P_{h_{i,t}} P_c} \quad (9)$$

We fit a mixed effects model to estimate the number of fish in each year as a Poisson variable λ_a with effect m_t of year t and with patch as a random effect m_i using the package `lme4` in R (Bates et al., 2015):

$$\begin{aligned} F_{i,0} &\sim Poisson(\lambda_a) \\ F_{i,t} &= (\lambda_a + m_i)m_t. \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

We estimated λ_a for an average patch as well as the individual patches.

Sensitivity to percent habitat, region width, and larval navigation

We tested the sensitivity of metapopulation persistence to patch width and the proportion of region that is habitat as they affect persistence expectations. We varied the proportion of habitat and the overall width of the region using 19 equally sized

and spaced patches with average adult survival. We created connectivity matrices using the new distances between patches and otherwise used the original parameter values and uncertainty sets.

We also tested sensitivity to the ability of larvae to navigate to habitat by adding a buffer to the edges of the destination patches when integrating the dispersal kernel and adjusting the scaling parameter P_s (eqn. 8) to account for fewer larvae being lost between patches (details in A.11.0.1).

Results

For demographic inputs to the persistence metrics, we found that average asymptotic maximum size (L_∞) was 10.70, and annual survival increased with fish size and varied across patches (Figs. 2c, D.5). We estimated average lifetime recruit production (LRP) across patches to be 1.45 with uncertainty bounds of 0.62-7.78 (Fig. 3c) and best estimates of LRP_i at individual patches ranging from 0 to 3.5. Averaged across patches, 94% of LRP estimates were ≥ 1 . This means that individuals produced enough surviving offspring to be able to replace themselves. However, LRP does not tell us whether those offspring settled within our sample patches and contributed to persistence.

Considering retention of larvae at individual patches, we did not find any patches with a best estimate of $\text{SP}_i \geq 1$ (Fig. 4a), suggesting that no patch could persist in isolation. The patch Haina ($\text{SP}_i = 0.047$ [9.5e-05, 0.60]) had the largest SP, but none of the estimates had uncertainty bounds that included or exceeded 1. The large uncertainty at Caridad Cemetery stems from the lack of recaptures of marked fish

and therefore the high uncertainty in adult survival.

Most of the connectivity in the metapopulation occurred among the patches in the northern and southern areas, from Palanas to Caridad Cemetery and from Tomakin Dako to Sitio Baybayon (Fig. 4b), where the patches tended to be larger, have higher abundances, and have higher survival (Fig. D.5). The patches with the highest abundances were at the edges of the sampling region and had higher than average LRP so could have exported a substantial fraction of their offspring away the sampling region.

For network persistence, our best estimate of λ_c was 0.15 [0.064, 1.54], with only a 0.5% chance $\lambda_c \geq 1 = 0.005$ (Fig. 4c). Network persistence for this metapopulation was therefore highly unlikely but not impossible. Our estimate of local replacement LR was 0.16 [0.07, 0.88], also suggesting lack of independent persistence of our group of patches and very similar to our λ_c estimate. While both LR and λ_c provide information on the ability of our patches to persist as an isolated group, they differ in their assumption of the structure of the population. LR estimates the number of recruits individuals at our patches produced that settled within our patches, assuming the network of patches was a single well-mixed unit, while λ_c incorporates the spatial structure and multi-generation dynamics.

Our estimated abundance of females over time had a slight positive trend for the average patch ($m_t = 1.08$, Fig. 3a), suggesting a slight increase in population size through time. Most individual patches also showed a slight positive trend in female abundance through time, though one large patch showed declines (Figs. 3a, D.7s). Therefore, though the metapopulation did not appear to be network persistent, it

also did not appear to be going extinct.

We then examined what conditions could allow this metapopulation to reach persistence. With our existing patch configuration and dispersal kernel, we would need $LRP \geq 8.8$ to reach network persistence. In turn, this would require egg-recruit survival (S_e) ≥ 0.012 or LEP ≥ 4406 . Including all arriving recruits as offspring, not just those originating within the metapopulation, LRP would be 10.43, sufficient for persistence. Similarly, our estimate of LR using all recruits arriving to the patches gave a best estimate > 1 (2.08 with 99.8% estimates ≥ 1), also suggesting there was recruit-recruit replacement for the metapopulations when immigrants were included.

Another route to persistence would be with a different dispersal matrix. If essentially all recruits produced from our patches landed on one of the outer patches (i.e., none lost to sandy areas between patches or to habitat beyond our study region), the metapopulation would be network persistent because $LRP \geq 1$. With observed dispersal, however, retaining all recruits is difficult to achieve. The coastline had a low fraction of habitat (20%), but increasing this even to 100% did not achieve network persistence with certainty ($\lambda_c = 0.95$, with only 59% of the estimates ≥ 1 , Fig. 5a). Essentially all of the offspring produced by the metapopulation need to be retained for a best estimate of persistence, and even with 100% habitat, many were exported outside of the region. Widening the region at the same habitat density also did not contribute to persistence (Fig. 5b), but persistence became likely for a wider region of 100% habitat (best estimate > 1 at about 33 km, Fig. 5c). Allowing for larval navigation hardly changed our persistence estimates (Fig. 5d), as the larger effective area of each patch was essentially offset by removing that area from the

scaling that accounted for larval losses to non-habitat (P_s in eqn. 8).

Discussion

In this first assessment of demographic persistence of a coastal marine metapopulation, we did not find strong evidence for either self-persistence of an individual patch or network persistence of the entire 30 km area as an isolated region. This inability to persist as an isolated region does not mean that the metapopulation was declining, however. Population trends - both abundance over time and replacement of recruits with immigrants included - found that population levels were stable or increasing slightly. Taken together, these metrics suggest that the region had a stable population on average but required input of immigrants to persist. Despite encompassing a distance larger than mean dispersal, the coastline only persisted as part of a larger metapopulation.

From theory for predicting persistence within marine protected areas, we expect persistence in patches with a length at least twice the mean dispersal distance (e.g. Lockwood et al., 2002) or from a network of patches when at least 35% of the coastline is habitat (Botsford et al., 2001a). Our individual patches were likely too small for self-persistence but the 30 km region we sampled was more than twice the mean dispersal distance of yellowtail anemonefish estimated from previous genetic work (9 km, Pinsky et al., 2010) and our samples (8.2 km, Catalano et al., in prep). Rather than a continuous patch, however, the region was only about 20% habitat and experienced declines in habitat extent and quality in recent decades (fishers noticed habitat changes when asked in the early 2000s, Jennifer Selgrehth, pers. comm.). Poor

habitat quality limited persistence; even 100% habitat did not guarantee network persistence in our sensitivity test, unless the region was also larger. Low production means that the area required for the larger persistent metapopulation (like Johnson et al., 2018, estimated in their system) depends on the production and connectivity of outside patches. If surrounding patch populations had a similar LRP and level of connectivity as our patches, increasing the area of the network to include them would not achieve network persistence, as seen in our simulation of a wider region with the sampling region habitat density and quality. If nearby patches had higher egg production or survival, however, a small increase in area could create a persistent network. Nearby reef patches such as Cuatro Islas, for example, with higher coral cover and less silt, could have had higher survival and contributed recruits to our patches.

Our finding of lack of isolated persistence of this region differs markedly from persistence findings of other reef fish metapopulations. On isolated reefs surrounding Kimbe Island, Salles et al. (2015) found self-persistence of anemonefish subpopulations in lagoons similarly sized to our individual patches, as well as network persistence of the overall metapopulation. Additionally, Johnson et al. (2018) estimated that four reefs of a combined area equivalent to a coastline section shorter than our sampling region would be sufficient for network persistence of a reef fish metapopulation across multiple islands in the Bahamas. To persist, these metapopulations either had much higher retention of recruits or higher LRP than our coastline patches. Though lack of sufficient connectivity and retention is thought to inhibit network persistence in other systems (e.g., insufficient retention of offspring within

reserves for eastern oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) in North Carolina; Puckett and Eggleston, 2016), low production of surviving recruits seems the likelier explanation in our system. Production was higher in the Kimbe Island populations, where estimates of lifetime reproductive success that included dispersal to the natal reef (Salles et al., 2020) were higher than our estimates of LRP without dispersal losses. Lower LRP at our sites could be due to demographic differences such as lower egg production, slower growth, or lower adult survival, all likely affected by habitat quality (e.g. Salles et al., 2020; Hayashi et al., 2019). Our study system was near a populated coastline and experienced anthropogenic effects, including pollution and silt from a riverbed gravel mine, that can reduce demographic rates. Adult survival, for example, was lower at the two patches just downstream of the gravel mine (N. and S. Magbangon in Fig. B.3) and even at our higher-survival sites was lower than estimates from the populations at Kimbe Island (85% annual survival, Salles et al., 2015). Metapopulation studies in other reef fish (e.g. Figueira, 2009) and marine species more broadly (Carson et al., 2011) are highly sensitive to adult survival and other demographic parameters.

Temporal variability in demographic or dispersal parameters on a time scale longer than our sampling alternatively could have enabled persistence of our patches in isolation (similar to the storage effect, Warner and Chesson, 1985) rather than as part of a larger metapopulation. Successful recruitment events on the decadal scale, for example, sustain rockfish populations on the west coast of the United States through the intervening weak recruitment years (e.g. Tolimieri and Levin, 2005). Our study could have missed a particularly strong recruitment event driven

by variable ocean connectivity (simulations suggest that 20 years are necessary to capture the full extent of ocean variability in the Coral Triangle region surrounding our patches; Thompson et al., 2018). Strong recruitment would need to occur at least once a generation to maintain patch populations without switching to colonization and extinction dynamics, however, which we do not see. Our study likely spans the generation time of a yellowtail anemonefish (roughly 5 years) so variable strong recruitment, while possible, is unlikely to sustain our populations.

Understanding our region in the context of broader metapopulation theory requires reconciling replacement-based persistence analysis with classic colonization-extinction and source-sink dynamics. At the patch level, many marine metapopulations do not exhibit the colonization-extinction dynamics (or do only on a decades to centuries timescale, Smedbol et al., 2002) more common in terrestrial metapopulations (e.g. in butterflies and pikas; Hanski, 1998; Moilanen et al., 1998) and instead consist of continuously occupied patches connected by dispersal (Kritzer and Sale, 2006) that are not necessarily easily classified as sources or sinks. Despite being unable to persist in isolation, our region is not technically a sink (Pulliam, 1988) because $LRP > 1$. For these metapopulations, lack of self-persistence can have two causes: reproduction does not balance mortality losses within a patch (as in a sink) or sufficient recruits are produced but not retained (as we see in our region). Dispersal that leads to demographic exchange rather than colonization is not commonly considered in classic metapopulation dynamics, though there have been some attempts to include all successful offspring from a patch and not just those retained locally when classifying sources and sinks (Figueira and Crowder, 2006). Many metapopulations

likely lie on a continuum between extinction-colonization dynamics and exchange among populated patches (Kritzer and Sale, 2006), and bridging these metapopulation views could lead to a more complete understanding of persistence in patchy and variable environments.

Our sampling on patchy coral reefs was designed for mark-recapture analysis rather than a comprehensive habitat or abundance census, so though we accounted for uneven sampling, we could have missed population declines if the underlying habitat was shifting. We used tagged anemones to account for unvisited patch habitat, but tags with missing anemones are harder to find. If anemones disappeared over time at our patches, we could have overestimated the number of fish and missed population declines indicating lack of persistence even with outside input. These scaling challenges are not unique to our study: few ecological studies are full censuses through time, and marine metapopulations tend to be patchy and heterogeneous (e.g. coral reefs, the intertidal zone, and kelp forests; Saenz-Agudelo et al., 2011; Johnson, 2001; Castorani et al., 2015), where individuals are not well-mixed across space or time. In these cases, carefully considering how sampling interacts with distribution, properly accounting for such uncertainties, and characterizing uncertainty in parameter estimates, is an important part of persistence estimation.

Density-dependence also presents a sampling challenge. Persistence criteria (Hastings and Botsford, 2006; Burgess et al., 2014) ask whether a population at low abundance can grow and recover rather than going extinct. Density-dependence is often ignored at low abundances (Botsford et al., 2019) so is not explicitly considered in persistence metrics. In real populations, however, it can be challenging to estimate

density-independent demographic rates, as density-dependence is occurring in the population as it is sampled in processes such as dispersal (e.g. in butterflies, Nowicki and Vrabec, 2011) and fecundity (e.g. in warblers, Rodenhouse et al., 2003). In yellowtail anemonefish, density-dependence is likely most important immediately post-settlement, as it is for many species (e.g. corals, trees, and butterflies; Vermeij and Sandin, 2008; Harms et al., 2000; Nowicki et al., 2009), but could continue to be important throughout the life history due to social hierarchies in anemonefish colonies (e.g. Buston and Elith, 2011). To avoid competition within the colony, fish in the pre-reproductive queue may have lower growth and survival than fish alone on an anemone (seen in *A. percula*, Buston, 2003b,a), suggesting higher growth and survival, and therefore LRP, in the absence of density-dependence.

Understanding persistence is critical for the management of spatial populations, such as siting marine protected areas (e.g. Kaplan et al., 2009), assessing habitat fragmentation risks (e.g. Smith and Hellmann, 2002; Fahrig, 2001) and conserving species in the face of climate change (e.g. Coleman et al., 2017; Fuller et al., 2015). Though models and theory provide us with expectations, we are only recently beginning to be able to tackle these questions of persistence empirically in model systems such as anemonefish and other sedentary tropical reef fish (e.g. Salles et al., 2015; Johnson et al., 2018). With parentage analyses now being extended to temperate marine species (e.g. Baetscher et al., 2019) and a better understanding of how bio-physical models compare to larval dispersal patterns (Bode et al., 2019), we are beginning to move beyond model species and investigate persistence in harvested and spatially-managed systems (e.g. Garavelli et al., 2018). Our study shows the

importance of long term sampling and careful consideration of the different demographic processes that affect our metric calculations, such as density-dependence and sampling biases, to distinguish persistence ability from population trajectories and understand marine population dynamics in empirical systems.

Figures

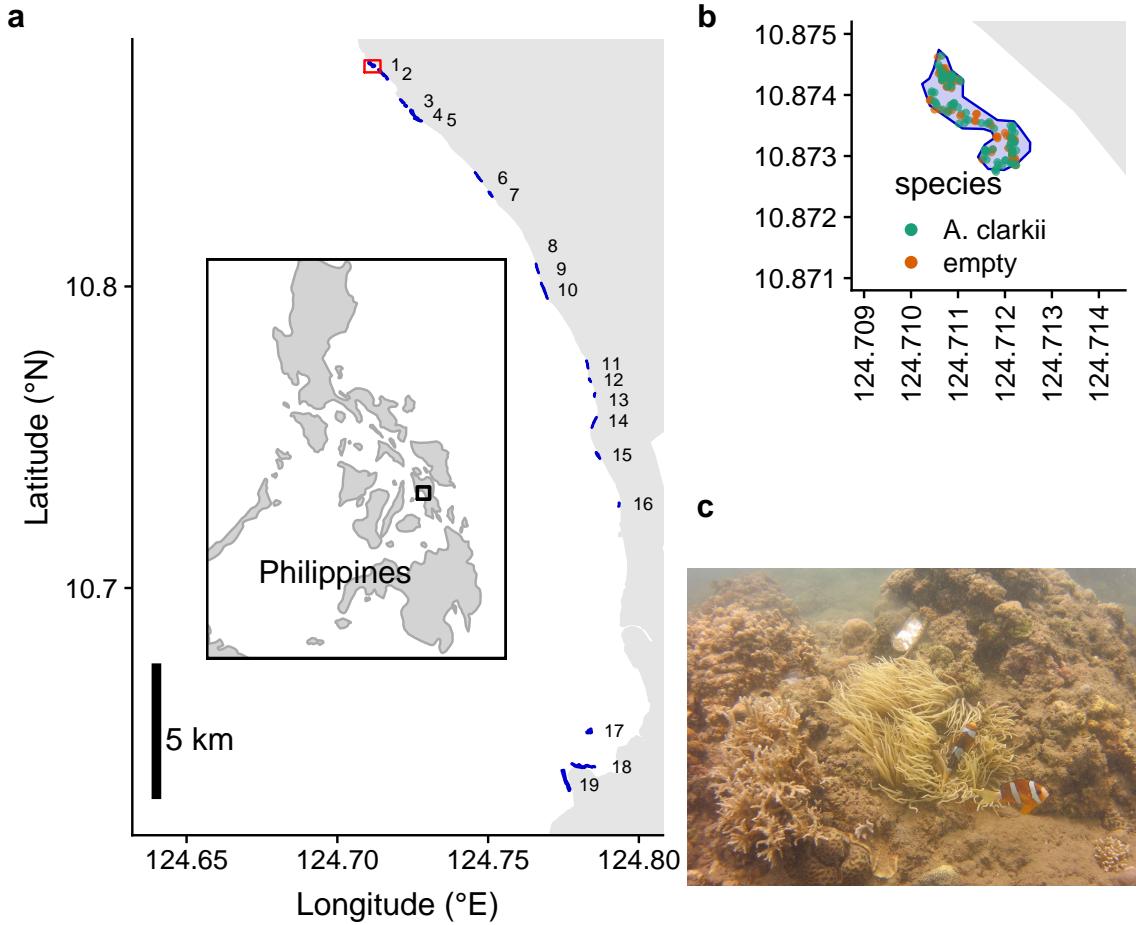


Figure 1: a) Map of the patches along the coast of Leyte in the Philippines. From north to south, the patches are: 1) Palanas, 2) Wangag, 3) North Magbangon, 4) South Magbangon, 5) Cabatoan, 6) Caridad Cemetery, 7) Caridad Proper, 8) Hicgop South, 9) Sitio Tugas, 10) Elementary School, 11) Sitio Lonas, 12) San Agustin, 13) Poroc San Flower, 14) Poroc Rose, 15) Visca, 16) Gabas, 17) Tomakin Dako, 18) Haina, and 19) Sitio Baybayon. b) Zoomed-in map of the northern-most patch, Palanas, to show anemone arrangement with anemones colored as occupied by *A. clarkii* (green) or unoccupied by anemonefish (orange). c) An example anemone occupied by *A. clarkii* in a typical habitat at the patches. The metal anemone tag is visible just above the anemone on the rock.

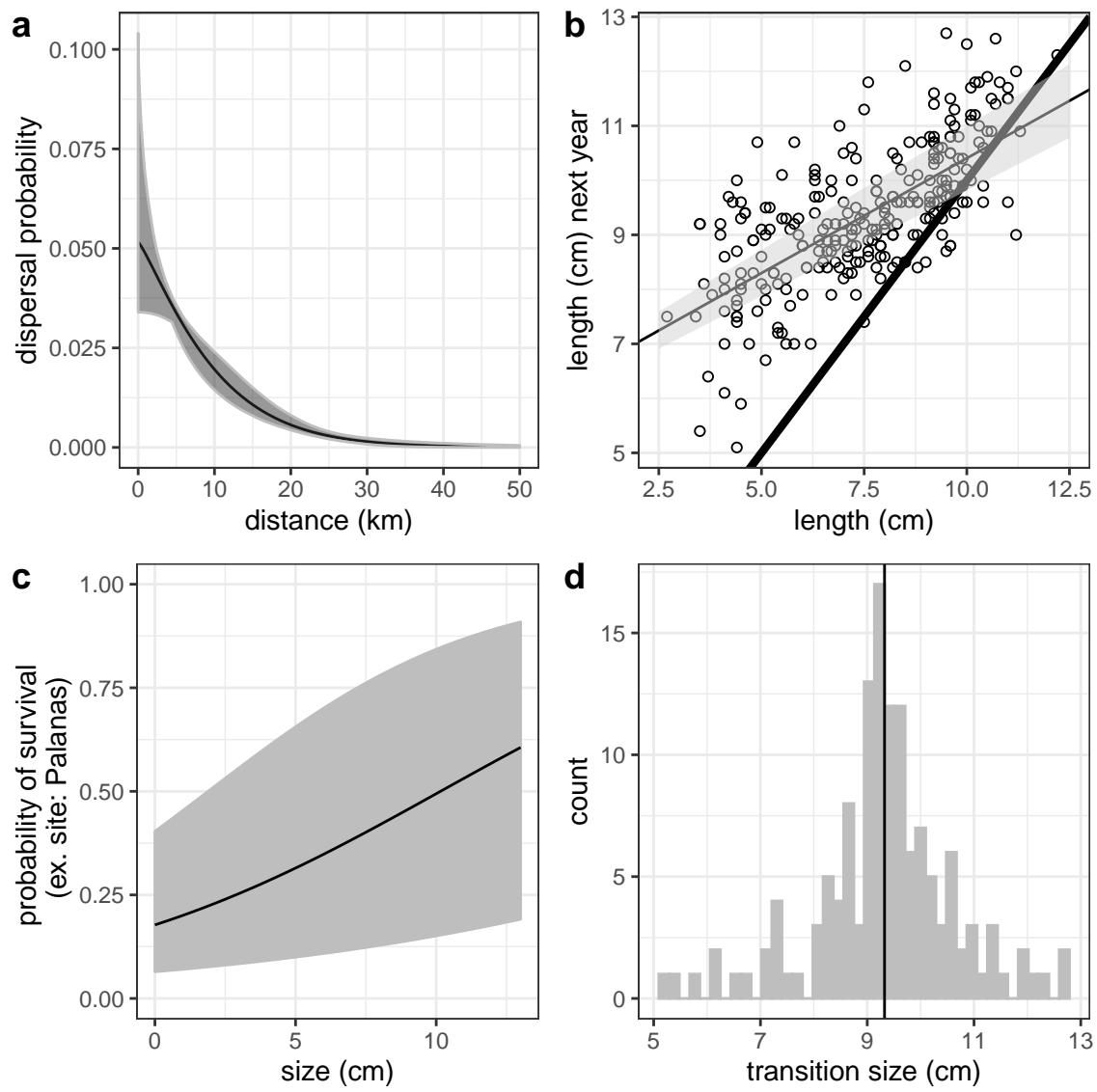


Figure 2: Best estimates (solid black line) and uncertainty (grey) for a) dispersal, b), growth, including the 1:1 line in thick black, c) post-recruit annual survival at Palanas as an example patch, and d) size at female transition parameters.

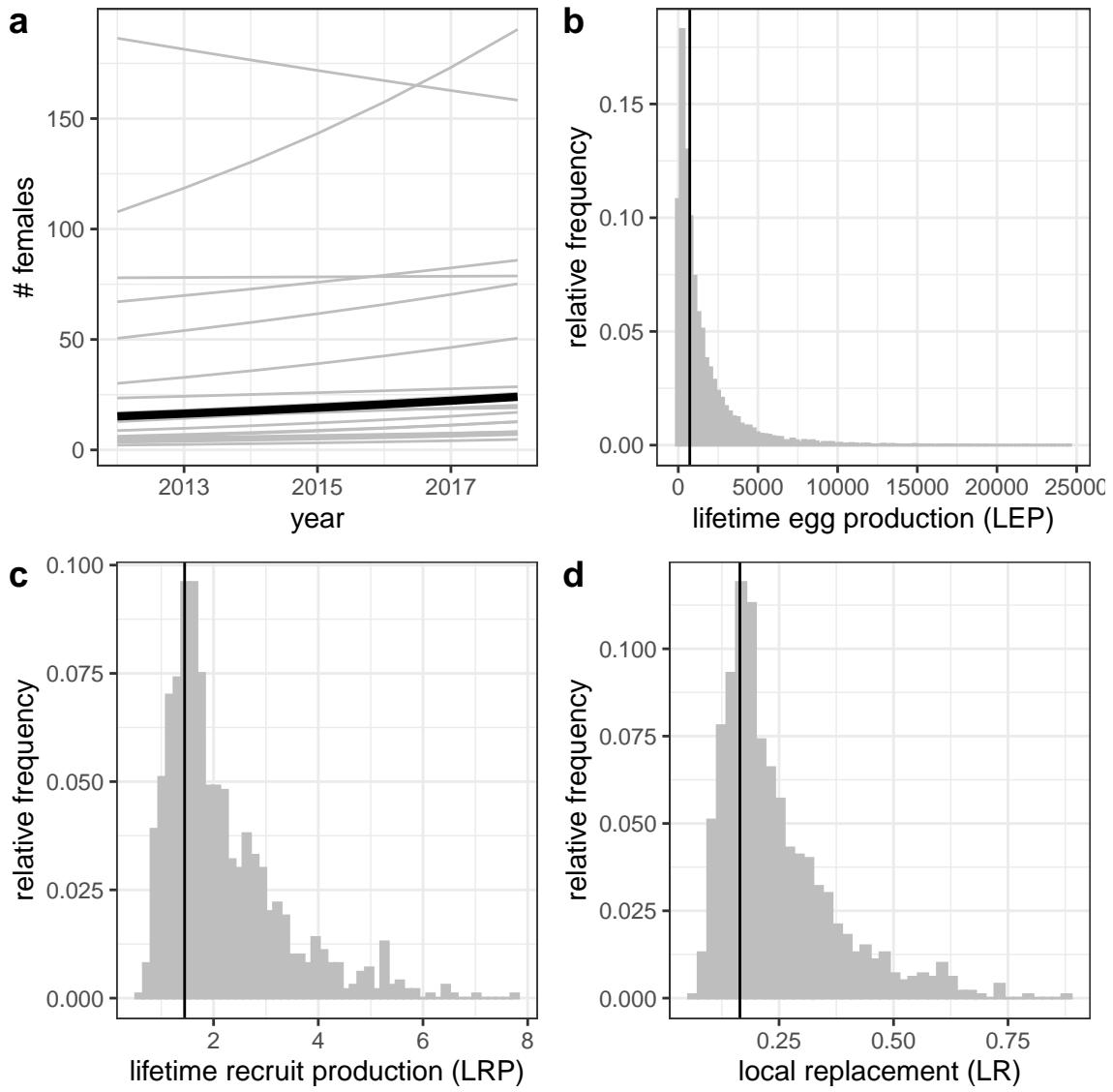


Figure 3: Estimates of a) estimated abundance of females over time at each individual patch (grey lines) and for an average patch (black line), b) individual-patch LEP_i for all patches with the best estimate averaged across patches (black line), c) average LRP across patches, and d) local replacement, showing the best estimate (black solid line) and range of estimates considering uncertainty in the inputs (grey). Estimates of LRP and LR include compensation for density-dependent mortality in early life stages.

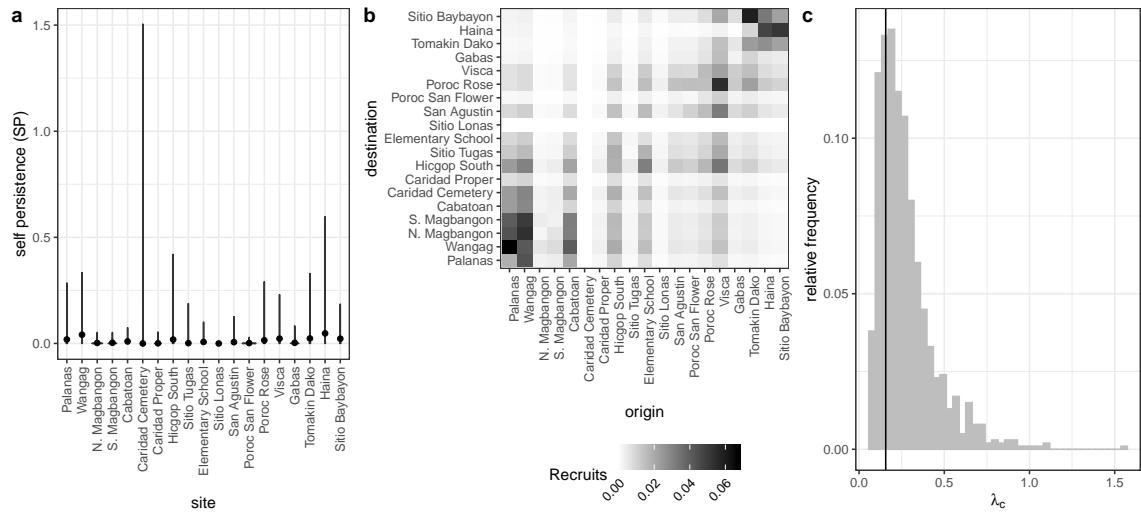


Figure 4: Values of a) self-persistence, b) realized connectivity among patches, and c) network persistence. All estimates include compensation for density-dependence in early life stages. For self-persistence (a) and network persistence (c), the best estimate is shown with in black (point for (a), line for (c)) and the range of estimates considering uncertainty is shown in grey.

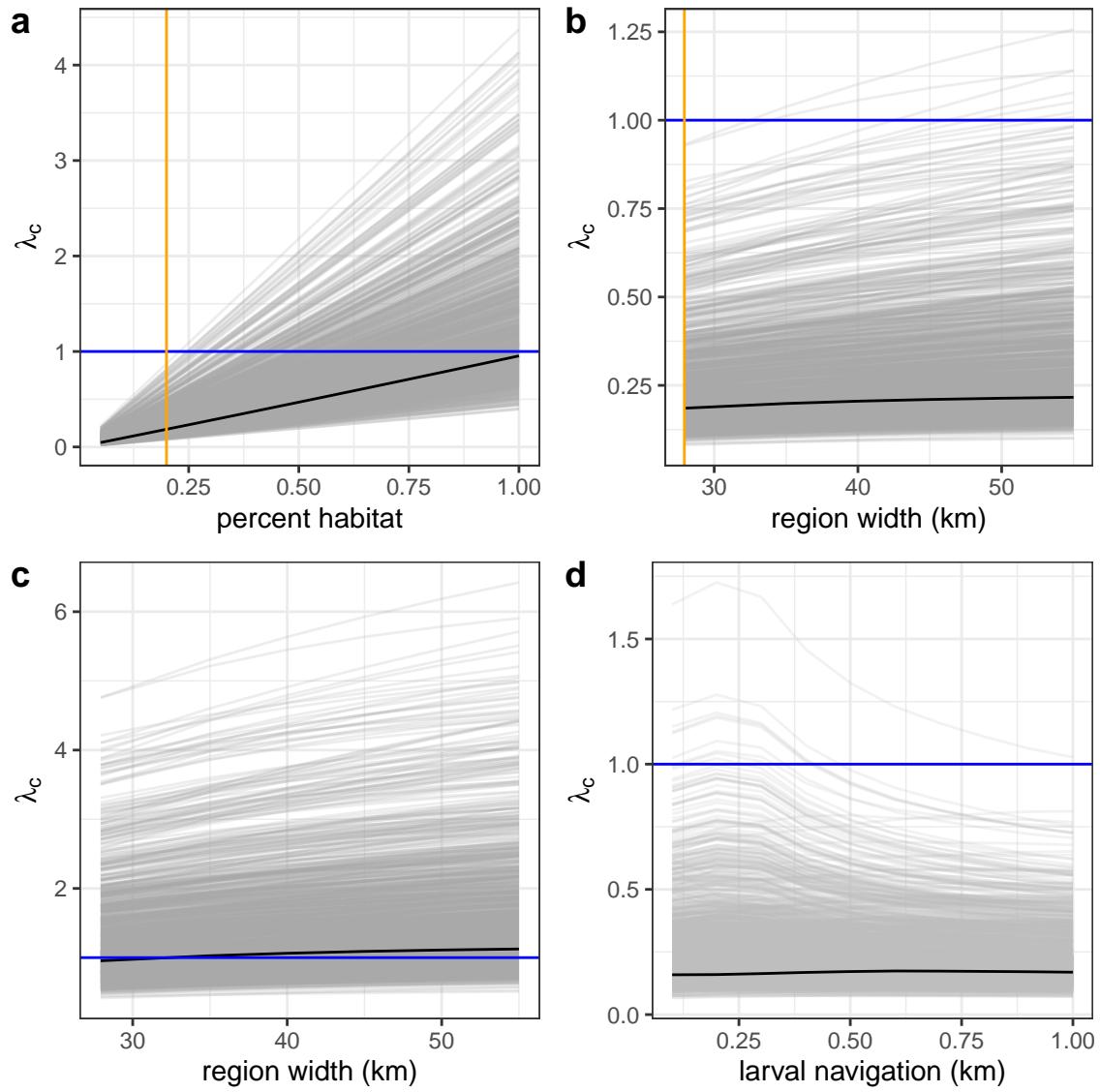


Figure 5: Sensitivity of network persistence to a) the proportion of the sampling region that is habitat, b) the width of the region maintaining the same proportion habitat (20%), c) the width of the region when 100% of the region is habitat, and d) larval navigation, where a buffer is added to the patch edges. Each metric calculation is a grey line and the best estimate is in black. The orange line shows the real proportion habitat and the blue line shows the persistence threshold.

Appendix

A Supplemental Methods

A.1 Defining recruit and census stage

When assessing persistence, we must consider mortality and reproduction that occurs across the entire life cycle to determine whether an individual is replacing itself with an individual that reaches the same life stage (Burgess et al., 2014). We defined a recruit to be a juvenile individual that has settled on the reef within the previous year, which also encompasses the size we were first able to sample (3.5-6.0 cm for parentage studies) (Fig. D.1). In theory, it does not matter how we defined recruit as long as we used that definition in our calculations of both egg-recruit survival and LEP. In our system, however, while it is straightforward to calculate LEP from any size, we did not have enough tagged recruits to reliably estimate survival to different recruit sizes. Instead, we chose the mean size of offspring matched in the parentage study as our best estimate of the size of a recruit ($\text{size}_{\text{recruit}}$) and tested sensitivity to different recruit sizes by sampling from a uniform distribution over the sizes the recruit stage covers (3.5-6 cm, Table A1).

A.2 Fecundity

We used a size-dependent fecundity relationship determined using photos of egg clutches and females (Yawdoszyn, in prep), where the number of eggs per clutch (E_c) is exponentially related to the length in cm of the female (L) with size effect

$\beta_l = 2.388$, intercept $b = 1.174$, and egg age effect $\beta_e = -0.608$ dependent on if the eggs were old enough to have visible eyes. We multiplied the number of eyed eggs per clutch by the number of clutches per year $c_e = 11.9$ (estimate from Holtswarth et al., 2017) to get total annual fecundity f for a female of length L :

$$f = c_e * e^{\beta_l \ln(L) + \beta_e [\text{eyed}] + b}. \quad (\text{A.1})$$

A.3 Growth and survival

To include size in the mark-recapture model for survival, we used the growth model (eqn. 6) and the size recorded or estimated in the previous year to estimate the size of fish not recaptured in a particular year. Fish are not well-mixed at our patches and divers needed to swim near an anemone to have a reasonable chance of capturing the fish on it so we also included a distance effect on recapture probability (Table A2). We used diver GPS tracks to estimate the minimum distance between a diver and the anemone where the fish was first caught for each tagged fish in each sample year.

We compared the fit of the models using a modified version of the Akaike information criterion that reduces the potential for overfitting with small sample sizes (AICc) and selected the model with the lowest AICc value (Table A2).

A.4 LEP

To compute LEP, we discretized time and size (in eqn. 7) and summed across the matrix. When entering the starting individual into the matrix, we used 0.1 as the

standard deviation of size to spread out the starting individual across size bins. To account for differences in growth rates across fish, we used the size determined by the growth curve (eqn. 6) as the mean along with an estimate of spread (size_{sd}) when projecting the size distribution of the fish in the next year. We used our recapture data to estimate the standard deviation (size_{sd}) of the distribution of sizes in the next year of fish starting from one size (Table A1).

A.5 Scaling up recruits

To estimate the total number of offspring produced by genotyped parents that survived to recruitment, we scaled up the number of matched offspring caught during sampling (R_m) to account for recruits we could have missed (Fig. D.2). We scaled up by 1) the cumulative proportion of habitat we sampled at our patches over time (P_h) to account for recruits at anemones we did not sample (details in A.6), 2) the probability of capturing a fish if we sampled its anemone (P_c) to account for fish that escaped during sampling (details in A.7), 3) the proportion of the dispersal kernel from our patches covered within our sampling region (P_d) to account for fish that dispersed outside of our sampling area (details in A.8), and 4) the proportion of our sampling region that was habitat (P_s) to avoid counting mortality of fish dispersing to non-habitat within our region twice (in both the estimate of total recruits and in the integrated dispersal kernel) (details in A.9).

A.6 Proportion of habitat sampled

We used tagged anemones to estimate the proportion of habitat we sampled within our patches. We tagged each anemone that was home to yellowtail anemonefish with a metal tag, which is relatively permanent and easy to re-sight (the anemone tag is visible above the anemone in Fig. 1c). We therefore considered the total number of metal-tagged anemones at a patch to be the habitat present. We used proportion of anemones rather than proportion of total patch area because anemones, and therefore habitat quality, were unevenly distributed across each patch; areas we did not visit likely had a lower anemone density than the areas we did sample.

To scale the number of tagged recruited offspring to account for areas of our patches we did not sample, we used the overall proportion habitat sampled across all patches and sampling years (P_h). We summed the metal-tagged anemones we visited across all patches and years, then divided by the number of anemones we could have sampled (the sum of total metal-tagged anemones across all patches multiplied by the number of sampling years).

A.7 Probability of capturing a fish, from recapture dives

To estimate the probability of capturing a fish given that we sampled its anemone (P_c), we used mark-recapture data from recapture dives done within a sampling season. During some of the sampling years, portions of the patches were sampled again within a few weeks of the original sampling dives. We assumed that the probability of recapturing a fish on a recapture dive was the same as capturing a fish

on a sampling dive, assuming there was no mortality in the weeks between dives and that the fish did not alter their behavior towards divers. For each recapture dive, we used GPS tracks of the divers to identify the anemones covered in the recapture dive and the set of PIT-tagged fish encountered on those anemones during the original sampling dives. We estimated the probability of capture P_c as the number of tagged fish re-caught during the capture dive m_2 divided by the total number of fish caught on the recapture dive n_2 : $P_c = \frac{m_2}{n_2}$.

We used the mean P_c across all 14 recapture dives, covering XX patches in 3 sampling seasons (2016, 2017, 2018), as our best estimate. To consider uncertainty in P_c , we represented the probability of capture as a beta distribution, using the mean μ_{P_c} and variance V_{P_c} of the set of 14 values to find the appropriate α_{P_c} and β_{P_c} parameters, where

$$\alpha_{P_c} = \left(\frac{1 - \mu_{P_c}}{V_{P_c}} - \frac{1}{\mu_{P_c}} \right) \mu_{P_c}^2 \quad (\text{A.2})$$

$$\beta_{P_c} = \alpha_{\mu_{P_c}} \times \frac{1}{\mu_{P_c} - 1}. \quad (\text{A.3})$$

The mean of the individual capture probability values was $\mu_{P_c} = 0.56$, with variance $V_{P_c} = 0.069$, giving beta distribution parameters $\alpha_{P_c} = 1.44$ and $\beta_{P_c} = 1.13$. We sampled 1000 values from the beta distribution, then truncated the sample to include only values larger than the lowest value of P_c estimated from an individual dive (0.20), to avoid unrealistically low values randomly sampled from the distribution. We then sampled with replacement from the truncated set to get a vector of

1000 values.

A.8 Proportion of dispersal kernel area sampled

To account for recruits that dispersed outside our sampling region, we found the proportion of the dispersal kernels from all parents that fell within our sampling region. For each of the nineteen patches, we found the area under the kernel (A_i) from the center of the patch to the north edge of the sampling area (d_N) (northern-most tagged anemone at Palanas, the northern-most patch) and the center of the patch to the south edge of the sampling area (d_S) (southern-most tagged anemone at Sitio Baybayon, the southern-most patch), then multiplied by the number of genotyped parents at that patch (N_{g_i}). We added the areas together, then divided by the sum of the total area under the dispersal kernel in both directions (1 when the kernel was normalized to 0.5) multiplied by the total number of genotyped parents (N_g) to get the proportion of the total dispersal kernel area covered by our sampling region (P_d):

$$A_i = N_{g_i} \left(\int_0^{d_N} z e^{-(zd)^{\theta}} dd + \int_0^{d_S} z e^{-(zd)^{\theta}} dd \right), \quad (\text{A.4})$$

$$P_d = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{19} A_i}{N_g}. \quad (\text{A.5})$$

A.9 Proportion habitat in sampling area

To avoid counting mortality due to larvae settling on non-habitat twice - once in scaling up our matched recruits, which only included those who settled on habitat, and once in integrating the dispersal kernel - we scaled the estimate of total surviving recruits from our patches by the proportion of our sampling region that was habitat (P_s). We found P_s by summing the lengths of all the patches, which run approximately north-south, and dividing by the total north-south distance of our sampling region, giving $P_s = 0.20$. We assumed that larvae were unable to navigate to habitat if they dispersed to an unsuitable area but relaxed that assumption in our sensitivity tests (A.11.0.1) as anemonefish larvae do likely have some ability both to sense good settlement areas, either by detecting host anemones (Elliott et al., 1995; Arvedlund et al., 1999) or conspecifics (e.g. Lecchini et al., 2005, for coral reef fish more broadly), and to swim in a particular direction (e.g. Bellwood and Fisher, 2001; Fisher, 2005).

A.10 Self persistence

Our equation for SP is a modification of that used in Burgess et al. (2014), which uses LEP to represent offspring produced and uses local retention (the number of surviving recruits that disperse back to the natal patch divided by the number of eggs produced by the natal patch) to capture egg-recruit survival and dispersal combined: LEPlocal retention 1. We modify this to include egg-recruit survival in the offspring term instead, using LRP in place of LEP.

A.11 Sensitivity tests

A.11.0.1 Larval navigation

In our sensitivity test to larval navigation and swimming, we added a buffer representing navigation ranging from 0 - 1 km to the edges of the destination patches when determining probability of dispersal between patches. To avoid the shadows of effective patch area from overlapping, we added no more than half the distance between two adjacent patches to each patch. The buffers changed the proportion of the sampling region that is habitat (A.9), as we considered the buffer areas to be habitat as well, which affected the scaling of recruits in egg-recruit survival.

A.12 Characterizing uncertainty

A.12.0.1 Growth

We used the first and second capture lengths for fish that were recaptured after a year (within 345 to 385 days) to estimate L and K (using eqn. 6). For fish recaptured more than once, we randomly selected only one recapture period from each to use to estimate the von Bertalanffy parameters and repeated the random selection and estimate 1000 times. We found the mean estimates ($L = 10.70$ cm, $K = 0.864$) and mean standard error of those fits, then sampled from within that range to generate a set of von Bertalanffy growth curves to use in our LEP calculations (Fig. 2b, Table A1).

A.12.0.2 Size of transition to female

To incorporate uncertainty in the size at which male fish transition to female (and reproductive output is counted in eqn. 7), we sampled directly from the sizes at which recaptured fish were first captured as female (5.2 cm - 12.7 cm) (Fig. 2d).

A.12.0.3 Egg-recruit survival

We considered uncertainty in the number of offspring assigned to parents (R_m) and in the probability of capturing a fish (P_c). We generated a set of values for the number of assigned offspring using a random binomial, with the number of genotyped offspring (745) as the number of trials and the assignment rate from the parentage analysis (0.079) as the probability of success on each trial (Catalano et al., in prep). For the probability of capturing a fish, we sampled values from a beta distribution that captured the mean and variance of capture probabilities across recapture dives (details in A.3).

A.12.0.4 Dispersal kernel

To account for uncertainty in the dispersal kernel, we used sets of the shape parameter θ and the scale parameter k_d that represented the span of the 95% confidence interval when k_d and θ were estimated jointly (Table A1, Catalano et al., in prep).

B Supplemental Results

B.1 Growth

From the mark-recapture analysis of tagged and genotyped fish, we estimated mean values of $L_\infty = 10.70$ cm (with uncertainty bounds 9.81-11.65) and $K = 0.864$ (0.80-0.91) for the von Bertalanffy growth curve parameters (eqn. 6, Fig. 2b, Table A1).

B.2 Survival

The best model for post-recruitment annual survival ϕ on a log-odds scale had a positive size effect ($b_a = 0.15 \pm 0.029$ SE) with intercepts b_{ϕ_i} varying by patch (eqn. B.1, Fig. D.5). The accompanying best model for recapture probability p_r on a log-odds scale had a negative effect of size ($b_1 = -0.16 \pm 0.09$ SE) and a negative effect of diver distance from anemone ($b_2 = -0.15 \pm 0.02$ SE), with intercept $b_{p_r} = 2.14 \pm 0.87$ SE (eqn. B.2, Fig. D.6). This suggests divers were less likely to recapture larger fish, which are stronger swimmers and more likely to flee when divers approach, and those at anemones far from areas sampled:

$$\log\left(\frac{\phi}{1-\phi}\right) = b_{\phi_i} + b_a \text{size}. \quad (\text{B.1})$$

$$\log\left(\frac{p_r}{1-p_r}\right) = b_{p_r} + b_1 \text{size} + b_2 d. \quad (\text{B.2})$$

B.3 Lifetime egg production (LEP)

We calculated an average value of LEP across patches of 721 eggs with uncertainty bounds [82, 31657] (Fig. 3b), with best estimate values at individual patches that ranged from 0 to 1754 eggs. Uncertainty in adult survival had the largest effect on LEP (Fig. D.10), which corresponds to longer-surviving individuals having more opportunities to reproduce at larger sizes.

B.4 Egg-recruit survival (S_e)

We estimated egg-recruit survival S_e to be 0.002 [3.5e-05, 0.014] when we corrected for density-dependence in our data. Uncertainty in the size of transition to breeding female L_f had the largest effect on egg-recruit survival (Fig. D.12); the larger the transition size to female, the fewer tagged eggs we estimated were produced by our genotyped parents and the higher the estimate of egg-recruit survival. This differs from our finding above that adult survival had the largest effect on LEP because the starting size of the individual considered is lower when we estimate LEP for a recruit (4.37 cm, 3.5-6.0cm range) than for a parent (6.0cm). Fish considered parents in our parentage analysis have already survived one or more years since recruiting so the transition to breeding female plays a larger role in the number of eggs they are likely to produce than for fish who have just recruited.

B.5 Abundance trends by patch

We used the number of females captured at each patch in each sampling year, scaled by the proportion of habitat sampled at that patch in that year and by the prob-

ability of capturing a fish, to estimate abundance trends for each patch (Fig. D.7). Seventeen of the patches showed positive abundance trends (Fig. D.7a-q), while the two southern-most patches showed declines (Haina and Sitio Baybayon, Fig. D.7r,s).

B.6 Persistence metrics without compensation for density-dependence

Estimating persistence metrics without compensating for density-dependence in our data gave us an understanding of whether individuals at our patches were able to replace themselves and whether our patches would persist in isolation at the current abundance levels, rather than at low abundance. Without compensation for early life density-dependence, all of our metrics showed that the set of patches we sampled is less likely to persist as an isolated network than the metrics for low abundance. We estimated egg-recruit survival (S_e) to be 0.0012 with uncertainty bounds [2.04e-05, 0.008] and average lifetime recruit production (LRP) across patches to be 0.84 [0.36, 4.54], with 55% of LRP estimates ≥ 1 . (Fig. D.8c). Our estimate of local replacement (LR), which estimates replacement for recruits from our patches returning to our patches implicitly including dispersal, was 0.10 [0.04, 0.52].

When we calculated LR using all arriving recruits to our patches, however, rather than just those originating there, the best estimate was > 1 (1.22, with 89% of values with uncertainty ≥ 1), suggesting that there was recruit-recruit replacement at our patches when we included immigrant recruits, even at current population levels when density-dependence was present.

We did not find any patches with a best estimate of SP ≥ 1 or with uncertainty

bounds that reached or exceeded 1 (Figs. D.9a). Our best estimate of the dominant eigenvalue of the realized connectivity matrix λ_c was 0.09 [0.04, 0.90] with 0% of estimates where $\lambda \geq 1$ (Fig. D.9c).

C Supplemental Tables

Table A1: Summary of parameter symbols, definitions, and values.

Parameter	Description	Best estimate [uncertainty bounds]	Notes
k_d	scale parameter in dispersal kernel	-2.33 [-2.81 to -1.22]	eqn. 5, estimated using methods in Bode et al. (2018) in Catalano et al. (in prep)
θ	shape parameter in dispersal kernel	1.19 [0.63 to 2.02]	eqn. 5, estimated using methods in Bode et al. (2018) in Catalano et al. (in prep)
L_∞	average asymptotic size (cm) in von Bertalanffy growth curve	10.70 cm [9.81 to 11.65]	eqn. 6
K	growth coefficient in von Bertalanffy growth curve	0.864 [0.80 to 0.91]	eqn. 6
$b_{\phi_{Cabatoan}}$	intercept for adult survival at 0 cm at Cabatoan	-1.78 ± 0.33 standard error	on a log-odds scale, eqn. B.1
$i_{\phi_{CardidadCemetery}}$	addition to intercept for survival at Cari-dad Cemetery	-19.61 ± 2994 standard error	on a log-odds scale, eqn. B.1
$i_{\phi_{ElementarySchool}}$	addition to intercept for survival at Elementary School	-0.11 ± 0.41 standard error	on a log-odds scale, eqn. B.1

$i_{\phi_{Gabas}}$	addition to intercept for survival at Gabas	-0.42 ± 0.58 standard error	on a log-odds scale, eqn. B.1
$i_{\phi_{Haina}}$	addition to intercept for survival at Haina	0.12 ± 0.35 standard error	on a log-odds scale, eqn. B.1
$i_{\phi_{HicgopSouth}}$	addition to intercept for survival at Hicgop South	-0.06 ± 0.46 standard error	on a log-odds scale, eqn. B.1
$i_{\phi_{N.Magbangon}}$	addition to intercept for survival at N. Magbangon	-1.31 ± 0.38 standard error	on a log-odds scale, eqn. B.1
$i_{\phi_{Palanas}}$	addition to intercept for survival at Palanas	0.24 ± 0.26 standard error	on a log-odds scale, eqn. B.1
$i_{\phi_{PorocRose}}$	addition to intercept for survival at Poroc Rose	-0.19 ± 0.44 standard error	on a log-odds scale, eqn. B.1
$i_{\phi_{PorocSanFlower}}$	addition to intercept for survival at Poroc San Flower	-0.52 ± 0.48 standard error	on a log-odds scale, eqn. B.1
$i_{\phi_{SanAgustin}}$	addition to intercept for survival at San Agustin	-0.47 ± 0.50 standard error	on a log-odds scale, eqn. B.1
$i_{\phi_{Sitiobaybayon}}$	addition to intercept for survival at Sitio Baybayon	0.02 ± 0.26 standard error	on a log-odds scale, eqn. B.1
$i_{\phi_{S.Magbangon}}$	addition to intercept for survival at S. Magbangon	-1.08 ± 0.48 standard error	on a log-odds scale, eqn. B.1

$i_{\phi_{TomakinDako}}$	addition to intercept for survival at Tomakin Dako	0.39 ± 0.33 standard error	on a log-odds scale, eqn. B.1
$i_{\phi_{Visca}}$	addition to intercept for survival at Visca	0.33 ± 0.35 standard error	on a log-odds scale, eqn. B.1
$i_{\phi_{Wangag}}$	addition to intercept for survival at Wangag	0.35 ± 0.25 standard error	on a log-odds scale, eqn. B.1
b_a	size effect for adult survival	0.15 ± 0.03 standard error	on a log-odds scale, eqn. B.1
β_e	coefficient for eyed eggs	-0.608	eqn. A.1, Yawdoszyn et al. (in prep)
β_l	size effect in eggs-per-clutch relationship	2.39	eqn. A.1, Yawdoszyn et al. (in prep)
b	intercept in eggs-per-clutch relationship at female size 0 cm	1.17	eqn. A.1, Yawdoszyn et al. (in prep)
c_e	egg clutches per year	11.9	eqn. A.1, Holtswarth et al. (2017)
$\text{size}_{\text{recruit}}$	size (cm) of recruited offspring	mean of size of offspring in parentage analysis = 4.37 cm [3.5 to 6.0 cm]	drawn from uniform distribution across range
$\text{size}_{\text{recruit},sd}$	standard deviation of size of a recruit	0.1	used in discretization of IPM for LEP

size_{sd}	standard deviation distribution of sizes of a fish in the next year	1.45	used in discretization of IPM for LEP, estimated from range of sizes for fish starting at 7.4-7.6 cm and recaptured a year later
L_s	minimum size in LEP IPM	0 cm	eqn. 7
U_s	maximum size in LEP IPM	15 cm	eqn. 7
L_f	size at transition to female	9.32 cm [5.2 to 12.7 cm]	drawn from distribution in data
R_m	number of offspring matched to parents	62 offspring	eqn. 8
N_g	number of genotyped parents	1719 fish	eqn. 8
P_h	proportion of patches sampled cumulatively across time	0.41	eqn. 8, details in A.6
P_d	proportion of dispersal kernel area from each patch covered by our sampling region	0.57	eqn. 8, details in A.8
P_c	probability of capturing a fish	0.56 [drawn from beta distribution with parameters $\alpha_{P_c} = 1.44$ and $\beta_{P_c} = 1.13$]	eqn. 8, details in A.7

P_s	proportion of our sampling region that is habitat	0.20	eqn. 8, details in A.9
DD	proportion of habitat that would be available without density-dependence at settlement	1.71	eqn. 8
p_U	proportion of anemones unoccupied by clownfish	0.53	used to estimate DD
p_A	proportion of anemones occupied by <i>A. clarkii</i>	0.38	used to estimate DD

Table A2: Table showing the set of models considered in MARK for survival (ϕ) and recapture (p_r) probability, including effects of size (S), minimum distance from diver to anemone during surveys (D), time (t), and patch (i), and their relative AICc scores.

Model	Model description	AICc	dAICc
$\phi \sim S + i, p_r \sim S + D$	survival size+patch, recapture size+distance	3104.1	0
$\phi \sim i, p_r \sim D$	survival patch, recapture size+distance	3127.1	23
$\phi \sim i, p_r \sim D$	survival patch, recapture distance	3127.2	23
$\phi \sim S, p_r \sim S + D$	survival size, recapture size+distance	3139.9	35.8
$\phi \sim S, p_r$	survival size, recapture distance	3141.6	37.5
$\phi, p_r \sim S + D$	survival constant, recapture size+distance	3168.3	64.2
$\phi, p_r \sim D$	survival constant, recapture distance	3169.3	65.2
$\phi \sim t, p_r$	survival time, recapture constant	3243.9	139.7
$\phi \sim i, p_r$	survival patch, recapture constant	3254.4	150.3
$\phi, p_r \sim t$	survival constant, recapture time	3274.0	169.9
$\phi \sim S, p_r \sim S$	survival size, recapture size	3345.2	241.0
ϕ, p_r	survival constant, recapture constant	3382.7	278.5

Table A3: Table showing the percent of anemones surveyed at each patch, ordered from north to south, in each sampling year.

		% Habitat surveyed							
Patch	# Total anems	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Palanas	138	29	57	48	61	85	86	86	
Wangag	291	18	33	42	35	27	49	69	
N. Magbangon	105	5	12	40	63	63	0	5	
S. Magbangon	34	41	56	32	0	65	0	71	
Cabatoan	26	42	58	58	65	73	0	62	
Caridad Cemetery	4	0	75	50	0	50	50	50	
Hicgop South	18	0	67	28	28	56	83	78	
Elementary School	7	0	100	43	100	100	86	100	
San Agustin	18	89	61	72	61	100	89	72	
Poroc San Flower	11	100	82	73	73	55	82	64	
Poroc Rose	13	100	100	69	31	23	69	69	
Visca	13	100	100	23	38	62	85	62	
Gabas	9	0	0	0	44	44	67	0	
Tomakin Dako	48	0	25	23	38	36	60	69	
Haina	104	0	6	13	13	10	56	80	
Sitio Baybaon	259	0	14	30	34	30	41	81	
Overall	1098	16	31	37	39	42	48	68	

D Supplemental Figures

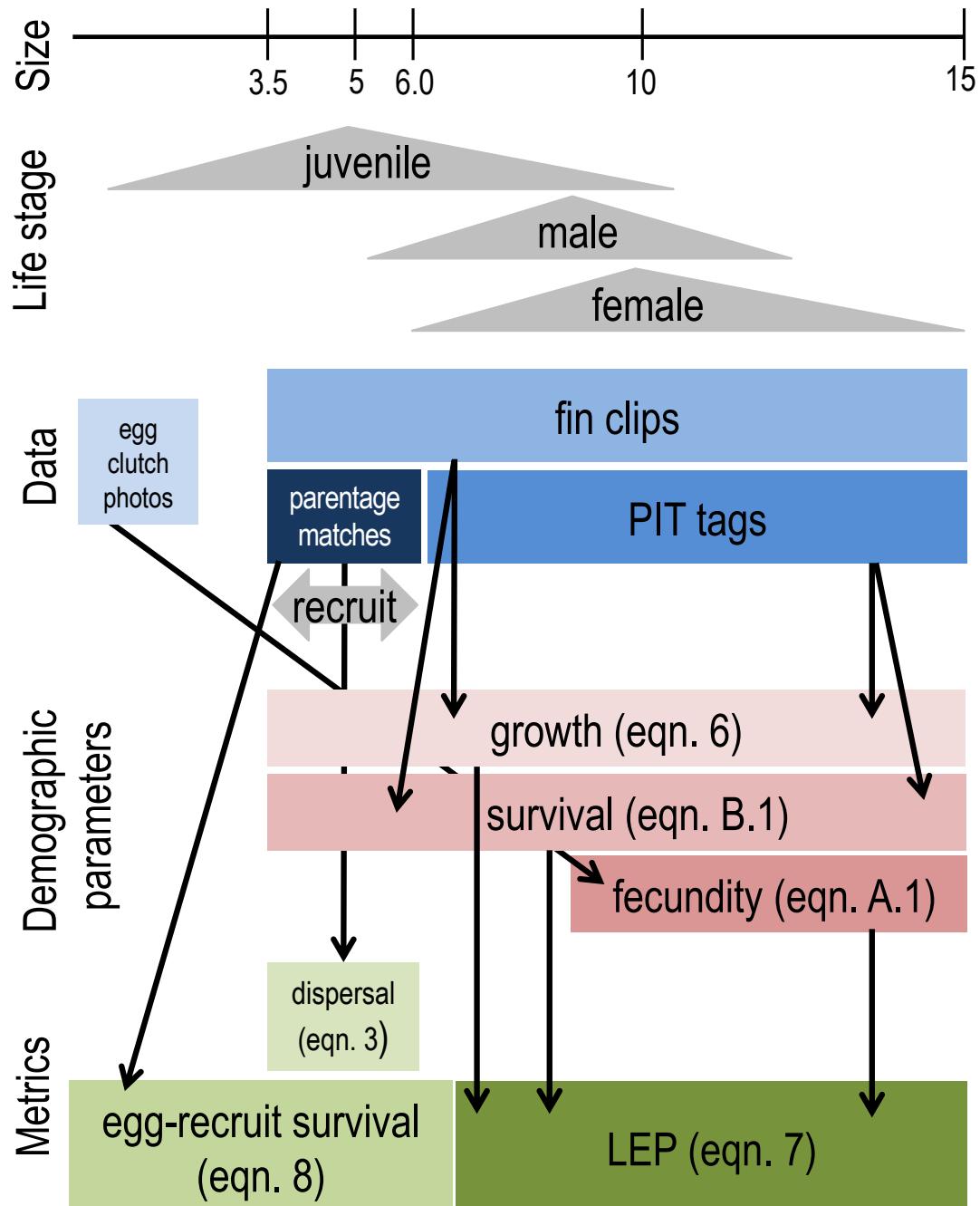


Figure D.1: The data collected for fish at each life stage and how they match to the equations and metrics estimated. We considered recruits to be offspring in their first year of settlement, represented by the 3.5-6.0 cm range.

How could we have missed potential recruits originating from our patches?

- 1) Failed to catch recruit when sampling (P_c)
- 2) Missed sampling some habitat areas within our patches (P_h)
- 3) Recruit dispersed outside our study region (P_d)
- 4) Recruit dispersed to non-habitat within our region (P_s)
- 5) Recruit died due to density-dependent competition with other settlers (DD)

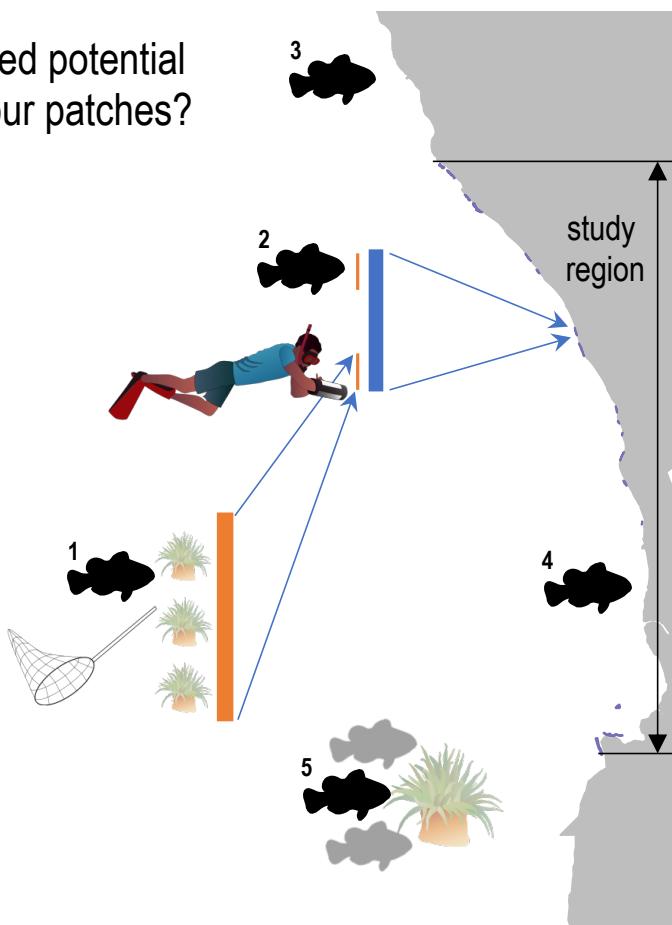


Figure D.2: Schematic of five ways we could have missed recruits while sampling and used to scale up our raw estimate of recruits from matched offspring.

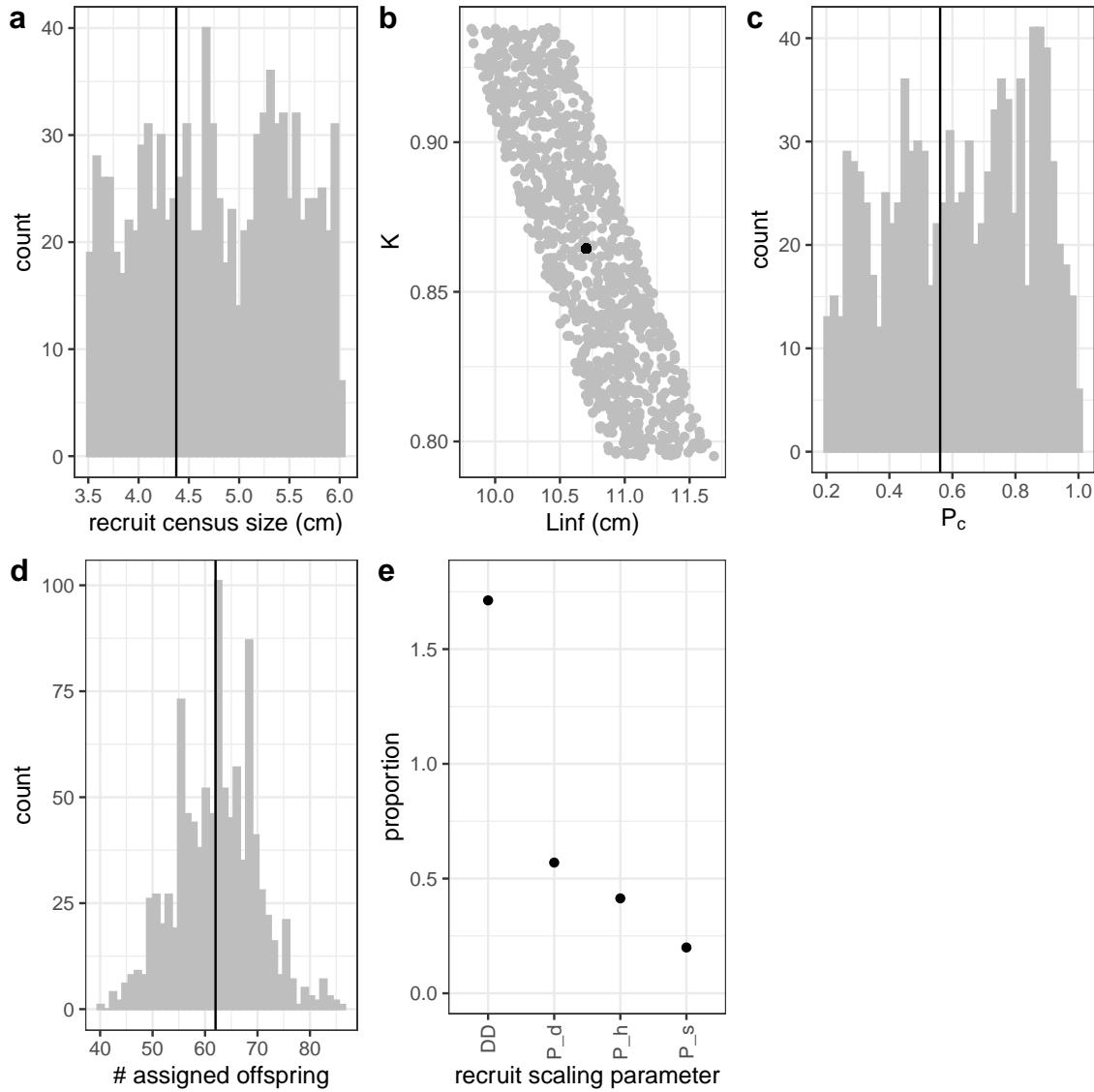


Figure D.3: Range of parameter inputs for uncertainty runs with all uncertainty included, where the black line or point is the value used for the best estimate: a) $\text{size}_{\text{recruit}}$, the census size for recruits after egg-recruit survival; b) the parameters L_∞ and K of the von Bertalanffy growth model; c) P_c , the probability of capturing a fish; d) number of offspring assigned back to parents in the parentage analysis; e) factors that scale the number of estimated recruits from our patch based on density-dependence in settler success (DD), proportion of the dispersal kernel captured by our sampling region (P_d), the cumulative proportion of our patches we sampled over time (P_h), and the proportion of our sampling area that was habitat (P_s).

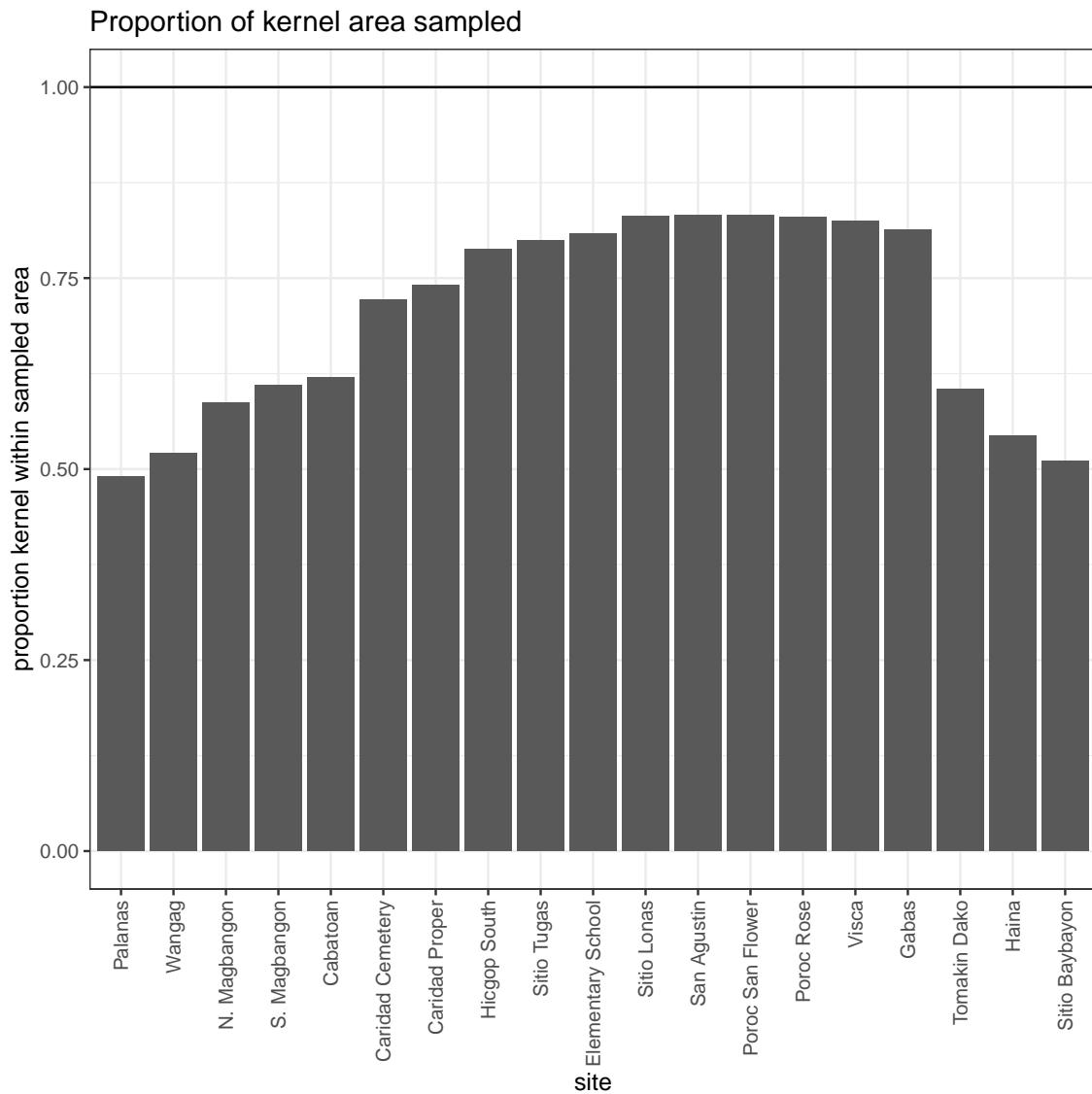


Figure D.4: Proportion of the dispersal kernel area from the center of each patch covered by our sampling region. The overall proportion (P_d) is weighted by the number of parents at each patch.

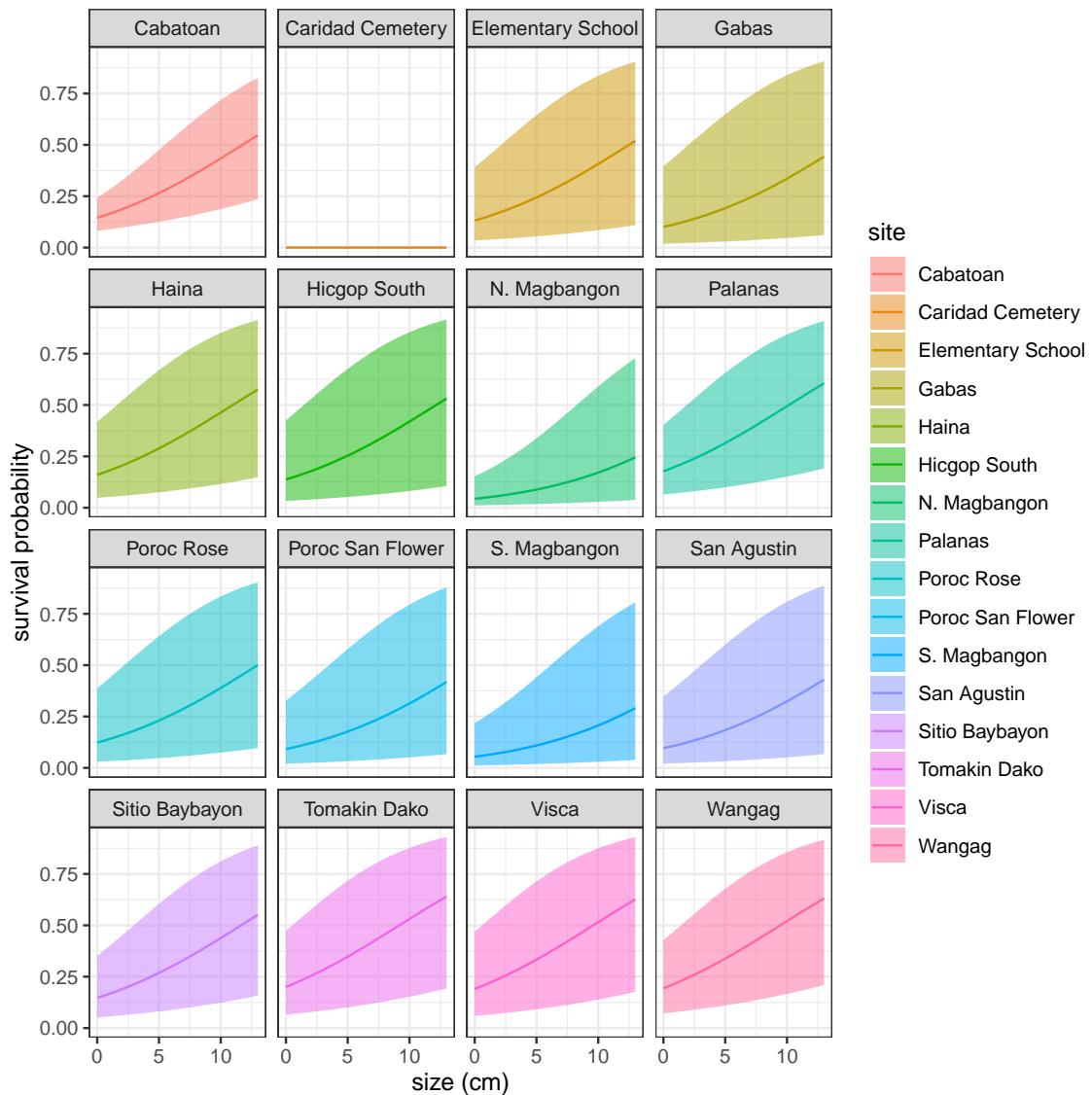


Figure D.5: Annual survival by size at each patch.

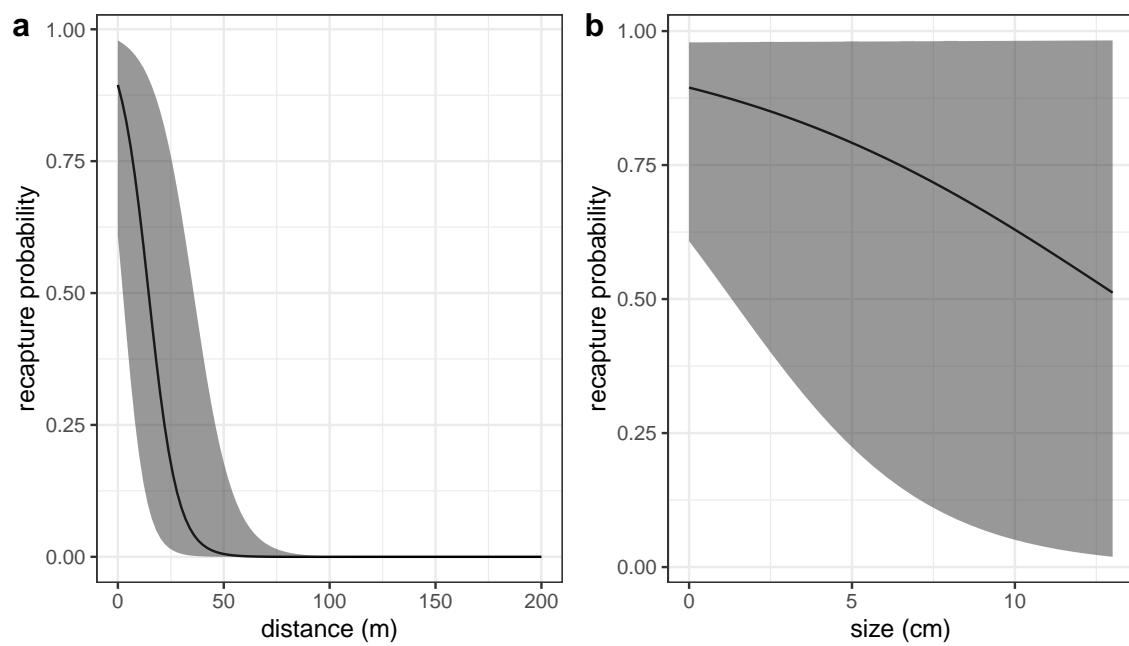


Figure D.6: Effects of a) minimum distance between divers and the anemone where the fish was first caught and b) fish size on recapture probability, estimated along with survival in a mark-recapture analysis.

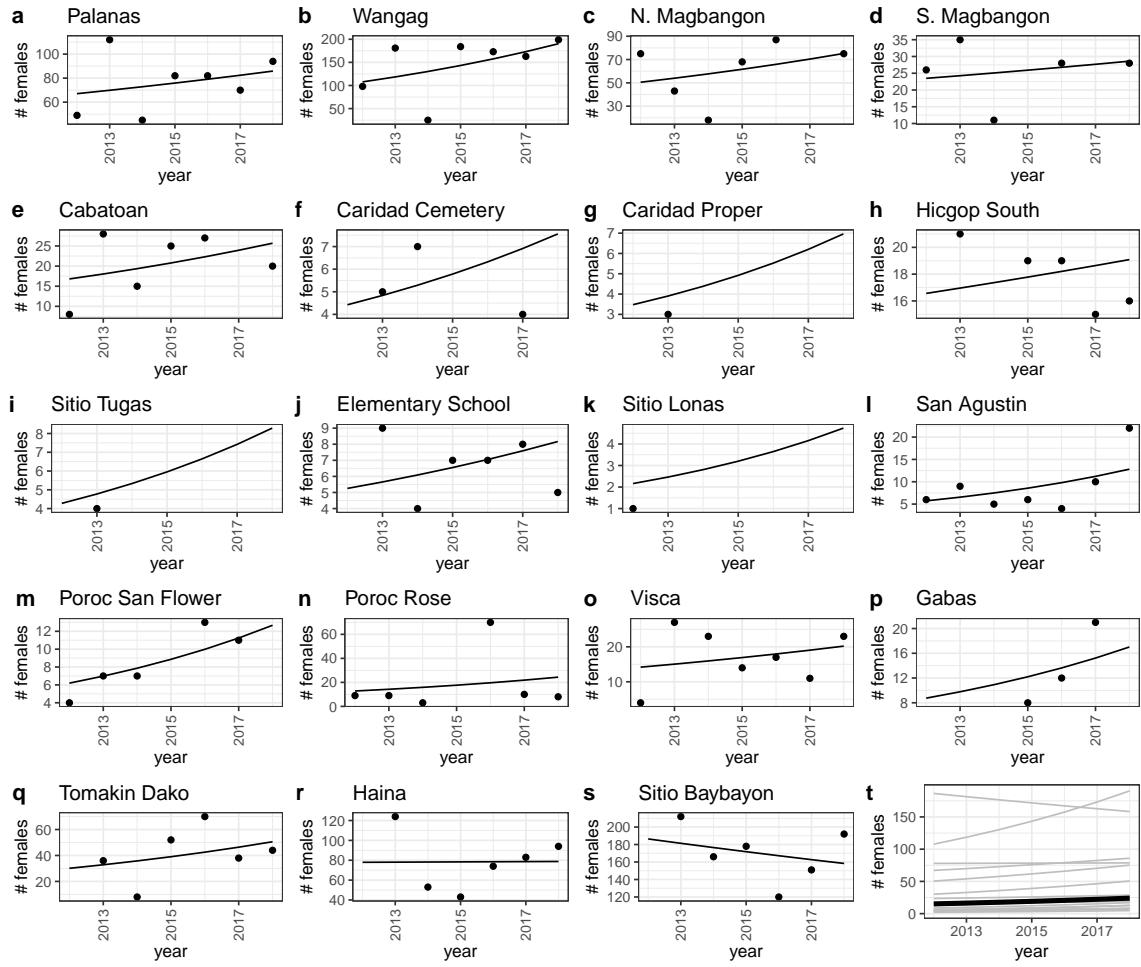


Figure D.7: Scaled number of females captured (black dots) and abundance trends (black lines) by patch from a mixed effects model with patch as a random effect.

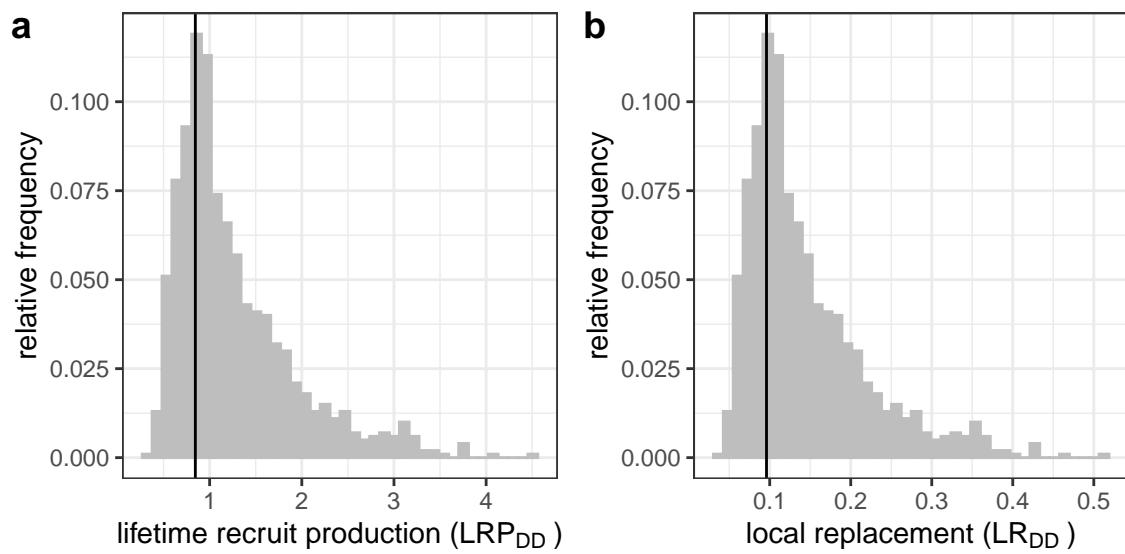


Figure D.8: Estimates of a) LRP, and b) local replacement without compensating for density dependence in early life stages in our data, showing the best estimate (black solid line) and range of estimates considering uncertainty (grey) in the inputs. These estimates compare to those in 3c,d, where we corrected for additional mortality in early life due to density dependence.

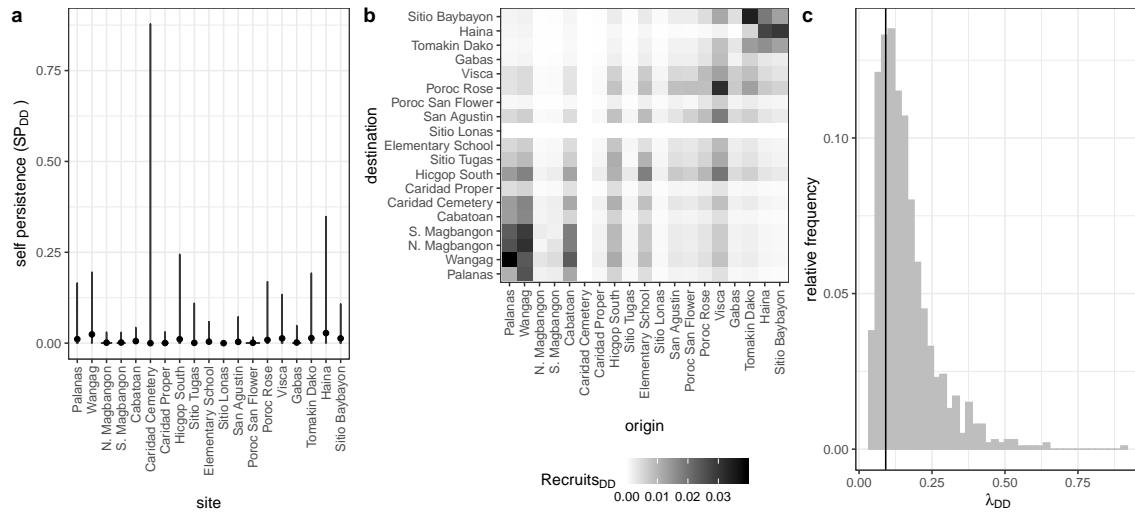


Figure D.9: Values of a) self-persistence, b) realized connectivity among patches, and c) network persistence without compensation for density-dependence in early life stages in our data. For self-persistence (a) and network persistence (c), the best estimate is shown with in black (point for (a), line for (c)) and the range of estimates considering uncertainty is shown in grey. These estimates compare to those in 4 where we compensated for density dependence in early life stages.

Here we show the contribution of uncertainty of each input to the overall uncertainty in the values of LEP (Fig. D.10), LRP (Fig. D.11), egg-recruit survival S_e (Fig. D.12), and network persistence λ_c (Fig. D.13). We calculated the metrics using best estimates for all inputs except the one shown and show the results as violin plots, which show vertical probability densities of the metrics across a range of values.

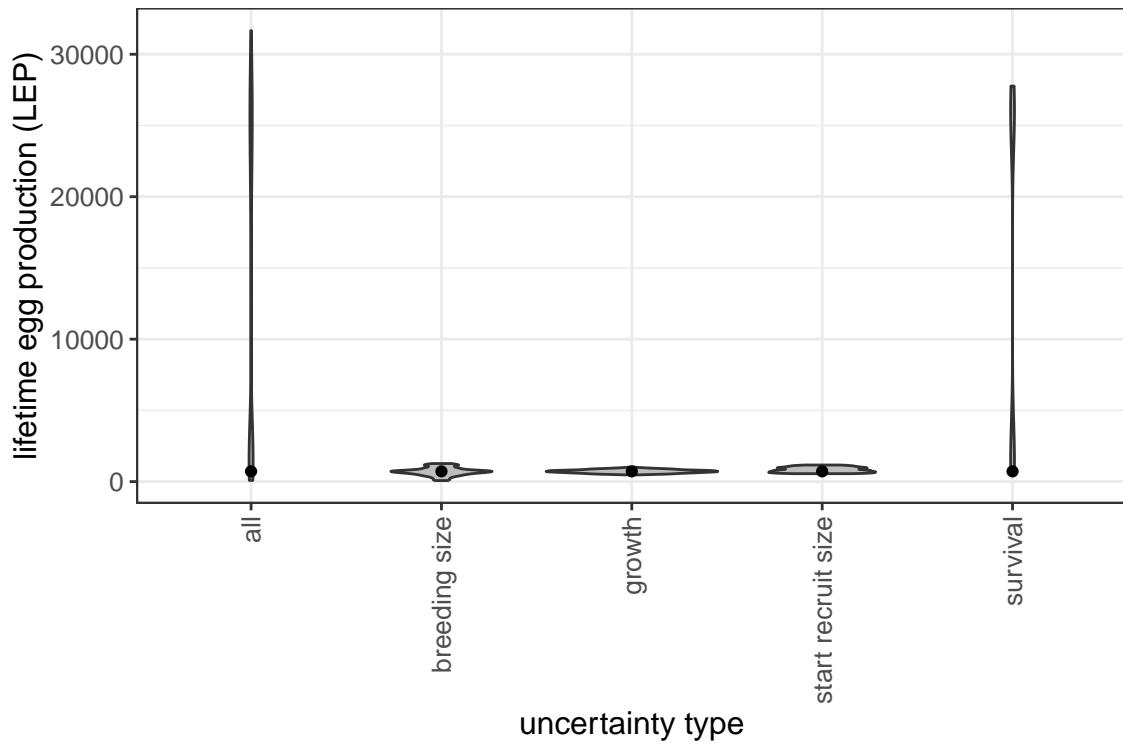


Figure D.10: The contribution of different sources of uncertainty in LEP.

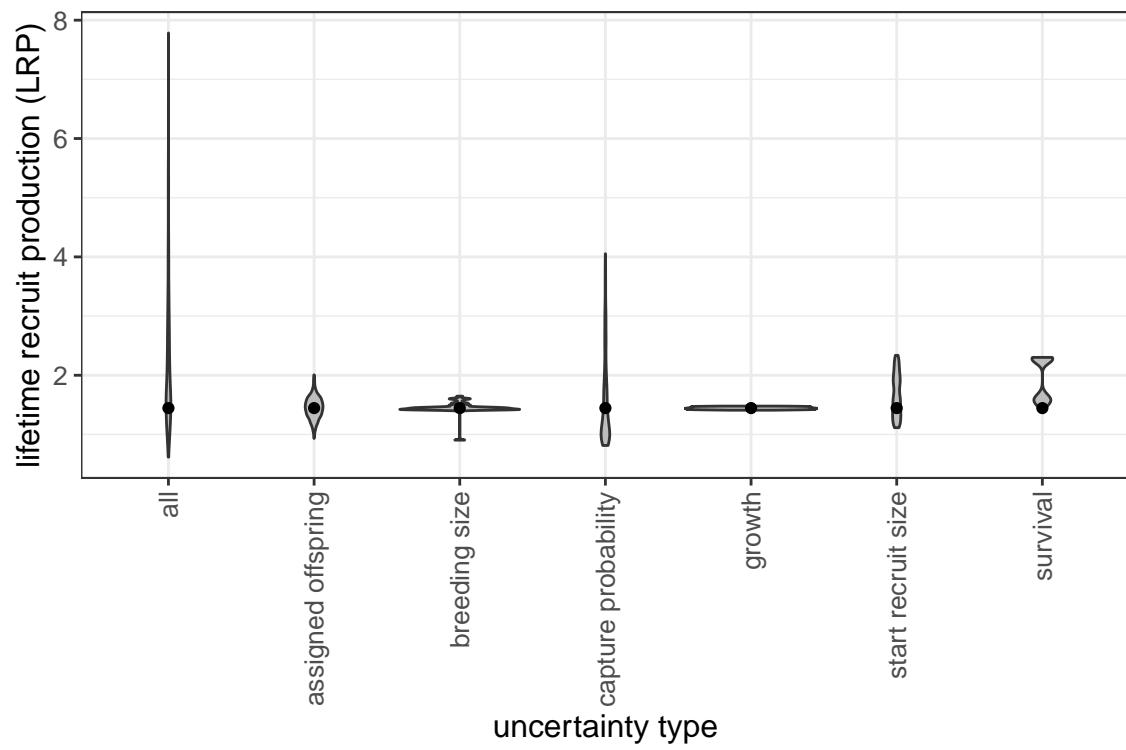


Figure D.11: The contribution of different sources of uncertainty in LRP.

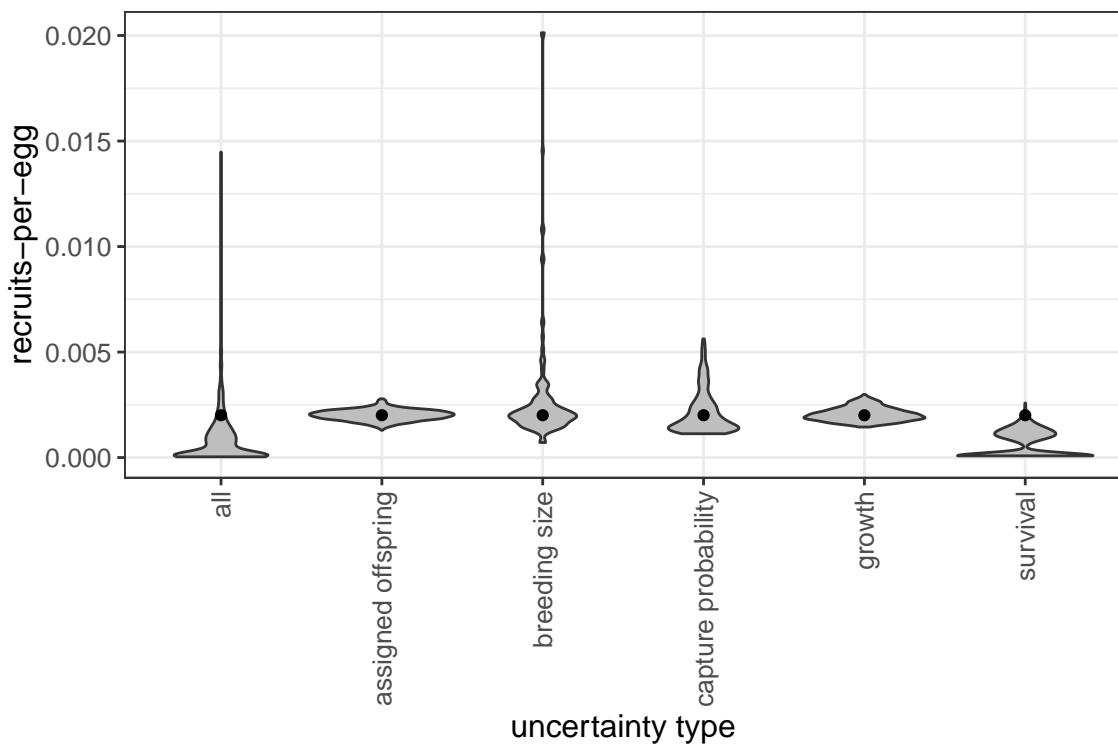


Figure D.12: The contribution of different sources of uncertainty in egg-recruit survival.

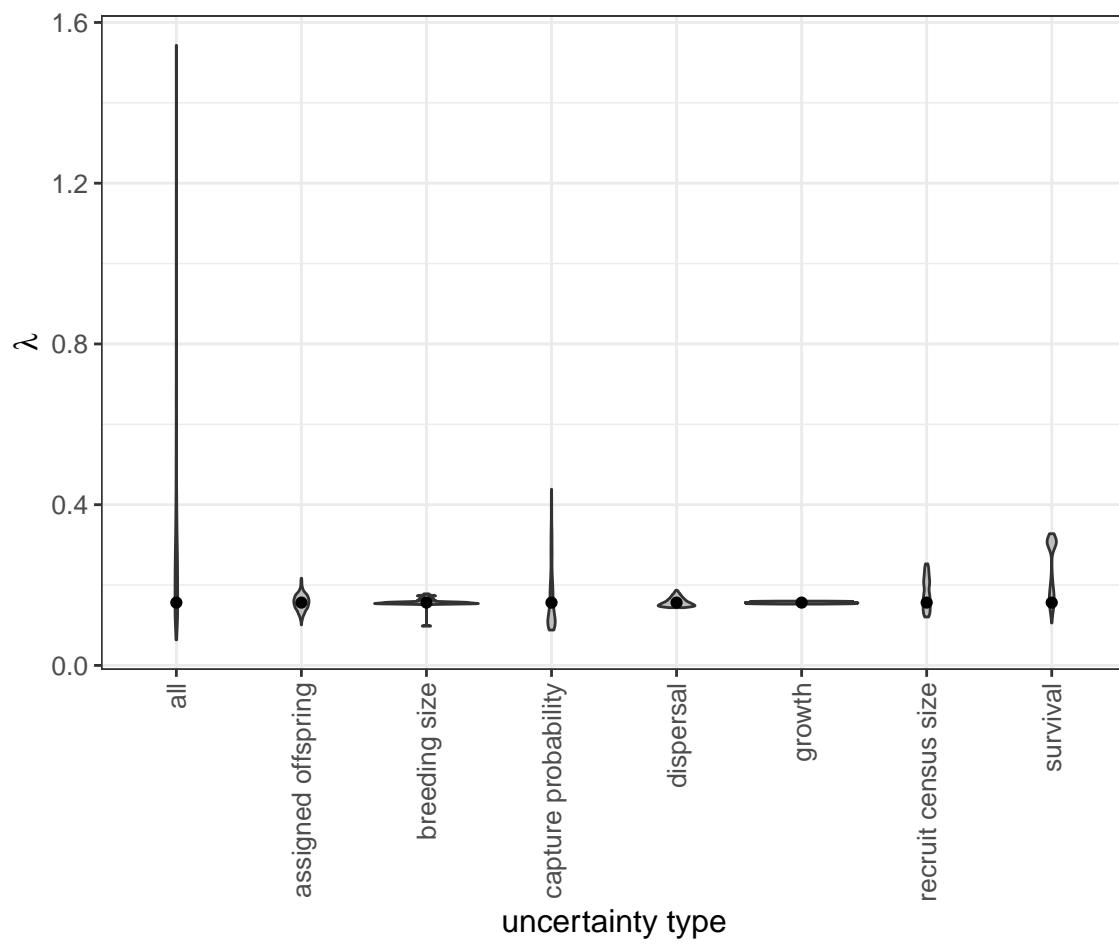


Figure D.13: The contribution of different sources of uncertainty in NP.

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