Another Problem Fish Don’t Need: A Probabilistic Exploration of Present and Future Pharmaceutical Mixture Risk to Fish

Sam A Welch, Merete Grung, Knut Erik Tollefsen, Jannicke Moe

# Introduction

* Introduction of state of the art
* Pharmaceutical ERA severely hampered by collapsing uncertainty to thresholds
* Big plans for toxic-free environment, but a big question mark over how ERA will change to account for this

# Methods

* Exposure prediction of 2-6 well-studied APIs with sales data for Norway~~, Prescription data for the UK~~
  + Big question mark over how historically rich this data may be, if poor we may not be able to predict future risk
  + Avoid messing about with population, demographic scenarios to save time
* Joanke’s WWTP removal rates used to construct upgrade scenarios (percentage of pop with access to infrastructure X removal rate)
* Toxicity data (ideally DRCs) from the literature, probably just for fish (with APIs chosen based on fish toxicity)
* Prediction of Sum RQ, Sum TU, joint probability of exceedance under various scenarios

Diagram, schematic

Description automatically generated

Figure : Will use modified, expanded version of SETAC poster BN

# Results

* I don’t really know how to present the results, but I’m sure some ideas will present themselves as I work more intently on this

# Discussion

* Probably at least some scenarios will suggest unacceptably high risk to fish, and recommendations can be made based on the ones that don’t
* Can have some discussion of cost here, but nothing seriously quantitative
* Shockingly, a paper using probabilistic risk assessment will talk about how good it is, and how it permits more nuanced risk management by stakeholders than just a good/bad thresholds
* RQs hard to put in context really, but can tie in to conservation/management goals for NO and UK water bodies
* None of our measures of combined risk are really great, here are some other options proposed in the EU/used in the US

# Conclusions

* BN/PERA is good for predicting nuanced risk
* Fish are in trouble, possibly, under various scenarios
* We could do so much more cool stuff if I had the time
  + Spatially explicit BNs
  + Proper inclusion of population, climate, demographic, etc. scenarios
  + And so on