Conceptual Model

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## Recovery times and syncronized spatial management of Fisheries

#### Motivation

Marine reserves are used widely to meet a myriad of objectives including biodiversity protection and fisheries management. One advantage of marine reserves over traditional fishery management is that reserves protect not only target species but also habitat and non-target species (Micheli et al., 2004). However, marine reserve theory has largely focused on single species recovery. Few studies have focused on the effects of marine reserves on multi-species interactions and how these interactions can affect population recovery time and maximize fishery benefits (Baskett, Micheli & Levin, 2007; Shamhouri et al., 2017). We chose to focus on predator-prey interaction as “fishing down the foodweb” is a common phenomnenon in fisheries. As abundances of organisms in higher tropic levels are reduced (in many cases due to fishing), effort is then focused on lower trophic levels gradually moving down the food web (Pauly et al. 1998).

*Our guiding question:* How does taking predator-prey interactions into account in marine reserve thoery influence their recovery times and thus fishery benefits? How do these results compare to other single species management measures (such as single species closures)? We re-create models presented in Samhouri et al. 2017 as a basis and introduce marine reserves as an additional management intervention.

*Our main goal:* Identifying how biomass of predators and prey will react to managment interventions in the form of various sizes of marine reserves and single speices closures. The output will include a table and graphs with prey abdunance (#individuals), predator abundance (# individuals), size of reserve (% of total area), and time (year).

*Target audience:* This model will be beneficial to resource mangaers and planners who use marine reserves with the main goal of multi-species fisheries recovery.

#### Sub models

##### 1. Predator-prey model

To simulate interaction between predator and prey, including growth, harvest and competition among species. This model will be lumped, dynamic, stochastic and abstract. Inputs will include biological parameters such as intrinsic growth rate, carrying capcity and competition coefficients, as well as, harvest rates (Table 1). The model will utliize generalist predator-prey variables, thus sensitivity analysis will be conducted for intrinsic growth rates.

Interactions of generalist predator prey dynamics are mathematicaly described as follows (Samhouri et al., 2017):

Table 1. List of Parameters

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Varible | Description | Units |
| P | Predator | # individuals |
| X | Focal prey | # individuals |
| Y | Non-dynamic prey | # individuals |
| rx | Growth rate prey | y^-1 |
| dp | Predator mortality rate | y^-1 |
| kp | Predator carrying capacity | # individuals |
| ax | Predation rate on focal prey | # individuals^-1\*y^-1 |
| ay | Predation rate on non-dynamic prey | # individuals^-1\*y^-1 |
| hp | Predator harvest rate | y^-1 |
| hx | Focal prey harvest rate | y^-1 |

##### 2. Marine reserve model

A patch model to simulate predator-prey interactions given spatial closures. Space will be represented by a series of vectors. Sensitivity analysis will be consucted on the size of the closure, represented by number of patches closed where harvest of prey and predator = 0. The model will be spatial, static, stocastic and abstract.

##### 3. Economic Model

To generate net present value generated by harvest of predator and prey. Inputs to this model will include price of species ($/individual), amount harvested (# of individuals), disocunt rate (%) and time (years). The model will be determinitic.

Net present value (NPV) of harvest from predator and prey will be calcualted using the following equation:

Where P is the market price, H is harvest, D is the discount rate and t represent time in years.

##### 4. Wrapper of these three models

A wrapper function will be used to simulate predator-prey dynamics given the marine reserve model implementation and calculate economic returns. The function will also output relevant graphs over projected time.

Model simulations will follow the following steps:  
1. Allow the system to run until equilibrum with no intervention  
2. Siulate trophic downgrading by harvesting the predator until equilibrium and then harvesting the prey until a new equilibrium is reached.  
3. Implement one of the following management strategies:  
+i) Harvest of both species is reduced due to marine reserve implementation at various sizes, where a marine reserve of 100% of the area results in harvesting of both species be equal to 0 and thus stopped completely.  
+ii) Harvest of predator stops (i.e. hp = 0) until new eqilibrium is reached, and then harvest of prey stops (i.e. hx = 0)  
+iii)Harvest of prey stops (i.e. hx = 0) until new eqilibrium is reached, and then harvest of predator stops (i.e. hp = 0)