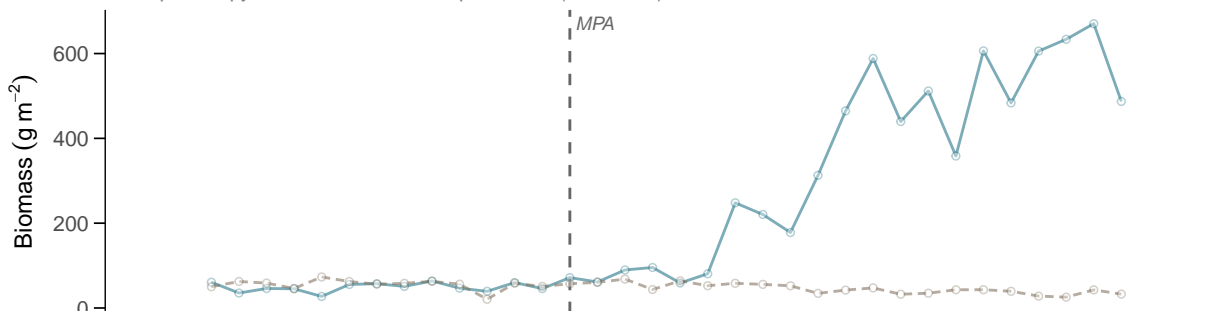**MPAs increase kelp biomass via post-establishment divergence**
Illustrative example: M. pyrifera at Scorpion SMR (simulated data modeled on observed patterns)
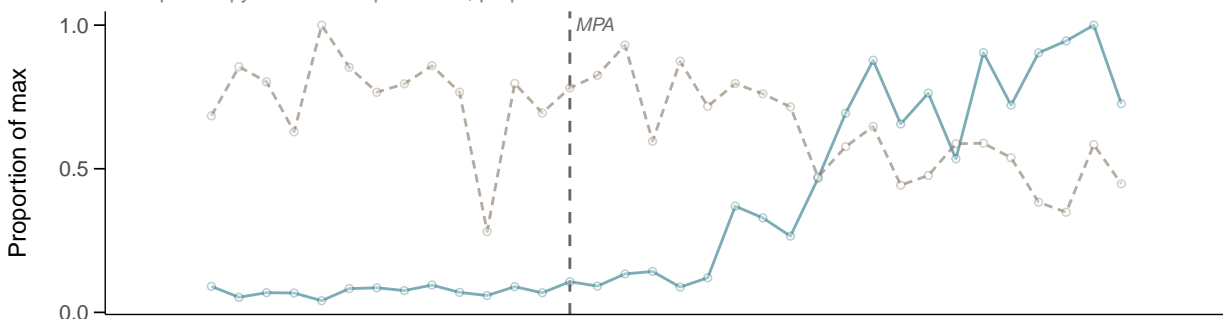
(a) Raw kelp biomass
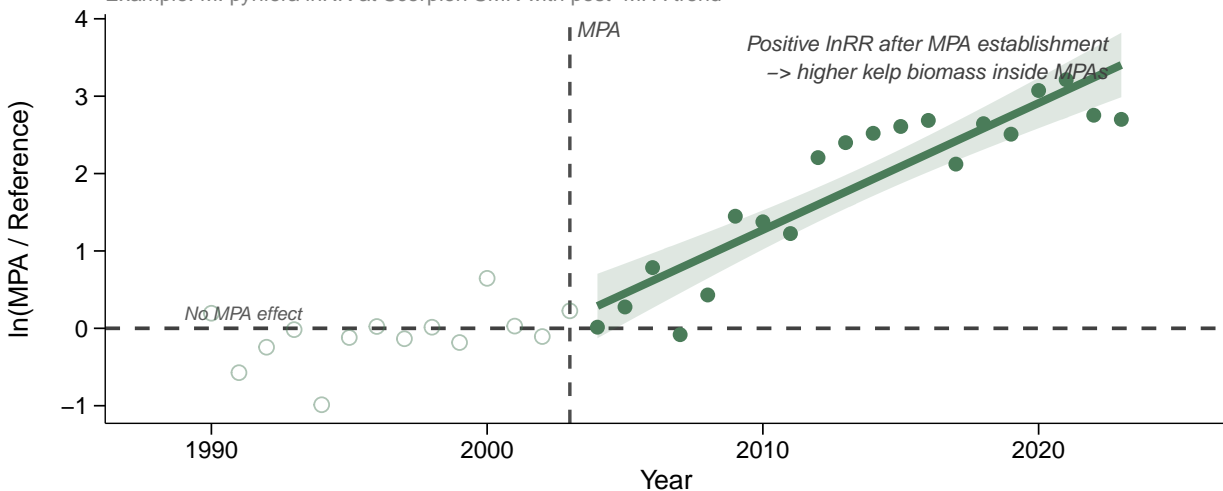Example: M. pyrifera biomass at Scorpion SMR (simulated)

MPA

Biomass (g m^{-2})

(b) Standardized
Example: M. pyrifera at Scorpion SMR, proportion of site maximum

MPA

Proportion of max

(c) Estimated MPA effect
Example: M. pyrifera lnRR at Scorpion SMR with post-MPA trend

MPA

*Positive lnRR after MPA establishment
-> higher kelp biomass inside MPAs*

No MPA effect

ln(MPA / Reference)

Year

1990   2000   2010   2020

Site — Inside — Outside   Period ○ Before ● After