## **Foodscapes in Action- Morning Session**

A Concurrent Session at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference Santa Cruz, California, April 29 - May 2, 2025

## **Session Coordinators:** Gabriel Rossi, Ph. D., Research Scientist, UC Berkeley and California Trout Coastal River Ecologist



Recent work in watersheds from Alaska to California has emphasized the central role of food in salmon resilience and recovery. A foodscape perspective expands our view of watershed management to consider the sources, phenology, and pathways of key food resources. It also focuses our attention on the conditions that allow salmon (and other mobile consumers) to track and exploit feeding opportunities across the riverscape. Like every aspect of salmon habitat, the foodscape has been (and continues to be) altered, simplified, and often severed. But unlike work on fish passage, water quality, or instream flow, we are only now beginning to realize the challenges and opportunities for recovering and maintaining healthy, functional foodscapes.

Join us as we examine "foodscapes in action" – specific projects and places where foodscape thinking is being applied to salmon conservation and recovery. This session will bring together stewards, managers, and researchers, who are developing methods to study, monitor, and restore foodscapes. We will consider foodscapes in relatively intact watersheds, which shed light on the key trophic pathways and spatiotemporal patterns of foraging and growth potential that support salmon populations. We will also consider foodscapes in heavily impacted systems, which provide a novel lens to consider how alternative restoration actions promote diverse and connected foraging and growth opportunities for fish. In both contexts, foodscape thinking reveals opportunities to find new and productive tools that can help move the needle on salmon population abundance, diversity, and resilience – opening new possibilities for watershed stewardship and bringing optimism in a time of ecological crisis.

## **Presentations**



•	Rediscovering Non-Natal Life Histories to Recover Salmon (On The Case of the Missing Life Histories) Stephanie Carlson, Ph.D., UC BerkeleySlide	e 4
•	• Modeling the Salmon Foodscape Ryan Bellmore, USFS Pacific Northwest Research StationSlide	9 35
•	Alternative Life-History Tactics Fueled By Warm Habitat: Coastal Cutthroat and Redband Trout Forego Thermal Refuges to Feed in Productive Riffles Jonny Armstrong, Ph.D., Oregon State UniversitySlide	e 88
•	<ul> <li>Foodscapes and Deathscapes in an Interior British Columbia Watershed</li> <li>Sean Naman, <i>Fisheries and Oceans Canada</i>Slide</li> </ul>	12/
•	<ul> <li>Location, Location, Location: Stream Type Promotes Variation in Oncorhynchus mykiss Life Histories</li> <li>with Implications for Future Climate Scenarios</li> </ul>	124
	Nicholas Corline, UC DavisSlide	156
•	<ul> <li>Rearing Habitat Alters the Juvenile Salmon Gut Microbiome</li> <li>Mattea Berglund, UC Davisin person</li> </ul>	only
•	<ul> <li>Wildfire Impacts Trophic Supply and Demand in a Coastal Salmonid Food Web</li> <li>Katie Kobayashi, Ph.D., UC Santa Cruz and Stillwater SciencesSlide</li> </ul>	9 179

## Recovering non-natal life histories to recover salmon (on the case of the missing life histories)

Stephanie Carlson<sup>1</sup>, J. Ryan Bellmore<sup>2</sup>, Mariska Obedzinski<sup>1,3</sup>, Henry Baker<sup>1</sup>, Rachael Ryan<sup>1</sup>, Avi Kertesz<sup>1</sup>, Amy Fingerle<sup>1</sup>, Phil Georgakakos<sup>1</sup>, Ted Grantham<sup>1</sup>, Gabe Rossi<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Environmental Science, Policy, and Management, UC Berkeley, California
 <sup>2</sup> USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Juneau, Alaska
 <sup>3</sup> California Sea Grant, Santa Rosa, California

#### PERSPECTIVE

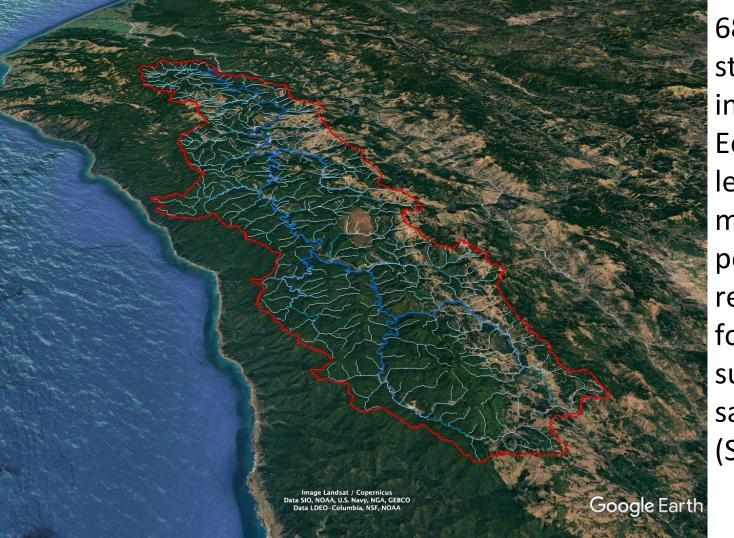
### Why Aren't Salmon Responding to Habitat Restoration in the Pacific Northwest?

Robert E. Bilby| Salmon Recovery Funding Board, 47230 153rd St, SE, North Bend, WA 98045. E-mail: rebilby@outlook.comKen P. Currens| Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Olympia, WAKurt L. Fresh| National Marine Fisheries Service, retired, Seattle, WADerek B. Booth| University of Washington, Seattle, WARobert R. Fuerstenberg| King County Dept. of Natural Resources and Parks, retired, Seattle, WAGino L. Lucchetti| King County Dept. of Natural Resources and Parks, retired, Seattle, WA

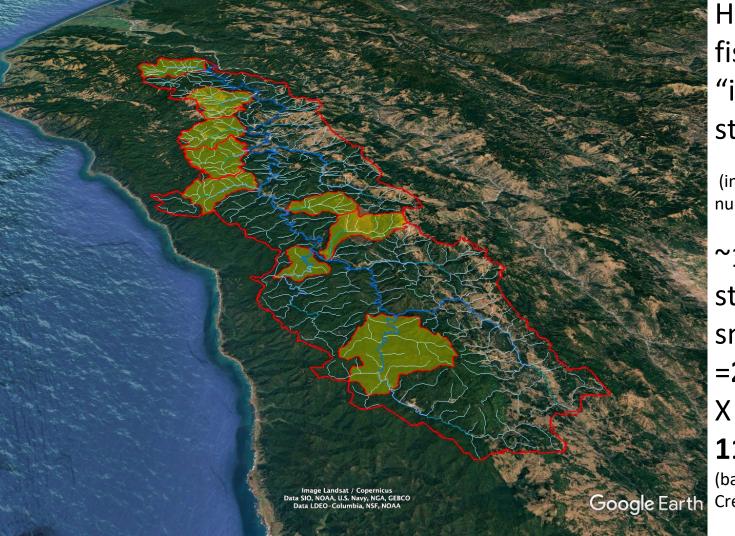
- Not enough restoration has been done
- We are not doing the right things in the right places at the right times
- Ongoing habitat restoration is offsetting restoration benefits
- Not enough time has passed
- Monitoring has been inadequate to detect changes in Pacific salmon abundance

# Back of the envelope calculation reveals something is missing

- Anecdotally, we observed that many river systems in which salmon were historically abundant do not appear to have the natal-stream capacity to produce enough juvenile salmon to support the historic adult populations.
- For example, the Eel River in California, near the southern extent of Pacific Salmon, supported runs of up to 150,000 adult coho salmon and 200,000 adult steelhead – and yet cool, perennial natal habitat that these juvenile salmonids depend on is quite limited in the Eel and likely was historically (SHaRP 2021; Dralle et al. 2023).



683 miles of stream channel in the South Fork Eel River; but less than 150 miles of cold, perennial, rearing habitat for over summering salmonids (SHaRP 2021).

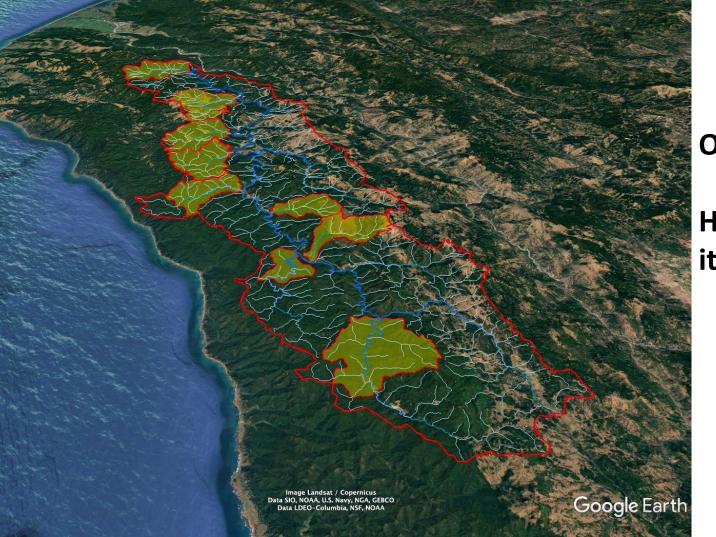


How many adult fish could these "ideal" rearing streams produce?

(inflated density and survival numbers!!)

~150 miles of stream X 1500 smolts per mile\* =**225,000 smolts** X 5% SAR = **11,250 adults.** 

(based on high end of Elder Creek 1+ density, pre-smolts)



#### **Our question:**

## How did they do it?

### Our hypothesis

They moved to non-natal habitat through an array of life histories that are no longer supported due to disproportionate loss of productive stop-over habitats

Recovering salmon requires recovering productive stop-pver habitats and access to it to recover the missing life histories

## Streams have carrying capacities which lead to density-dependent growth and survival

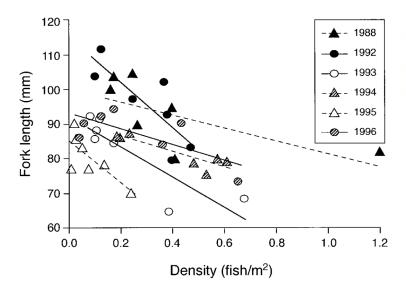


FIG. 2. Average fork length of underyearling brown trout relative to total trout density in seven sections of Mammoth Creek in 1988 and 1992–1996. Also shown are the lines of univariate linear regressions fitted to the data of each year (equations and statistics are given in Table 3A).

> Jenkins et al. 1999. Effects of population density on individual growth of brown trout in streams. Ecology 80: 941- 956.

	South Fork Sproul Creek steelhead emigrants (1999-2007)											
Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007			
0+ (raw)	15478	8945	1063	2316	4804	19783	2872	3260	11367			
1+ expanded	1191	1166	946	800	223	988	477	458	1059			
% 1+	8%	13%	89%	35%	5%	5%	17%	14%	9%			







Data from Harry Vaughn, 2008

ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT OF SUMMER STEELHEAD IN THE ROGUE RIVER Fishery Research Report Number 7 Oregon State Game Commission Corvallis, Oregon November 1973

Fred H. Everest

Documented fry migration, and postulated that migrants are offspring of late spawners, delayed emergence, and density-dependent movement

> 30,000 (!) fry migrants were captured and marked (fin clip). Recaptured fish were caught in the mainstem Rogue (near the tributary of origin), in nearby tributaries (suggesting habitat choice), and as large smolt yearlings

#### Downstream Movement of Rainbow Trout Fry in a Tributary of Sagehen Creek, Under Permanent and Intermittent Flow

DON C. ERMAN AND GEORGE R. LEIDY

Department of Forestry and Conservation, University of California, Berkeley, California 94720

#### ABSTRACT

Rainbow trout fry spawned in an intermittent stream had a diel periodicity in downstream movement that was highly correlated with discharge. Shortly after fry emerged in mid-July 1973, Kiln Meadow Tributary of Sagehen Creek began to dry up and fry began to move downstream, primarily during the day. After rains, when the water level remained high (5 to 8 liters/s) without diel fluctuations, few fry were captured in the trap.

In 1974 the tributary was permanent and fry exhibited a nocturnal downstream emigration. Many fry remained in the tributary where they were almost the only fish occupants.

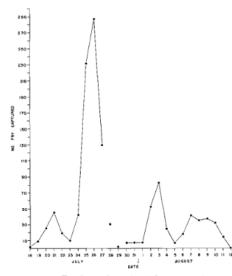
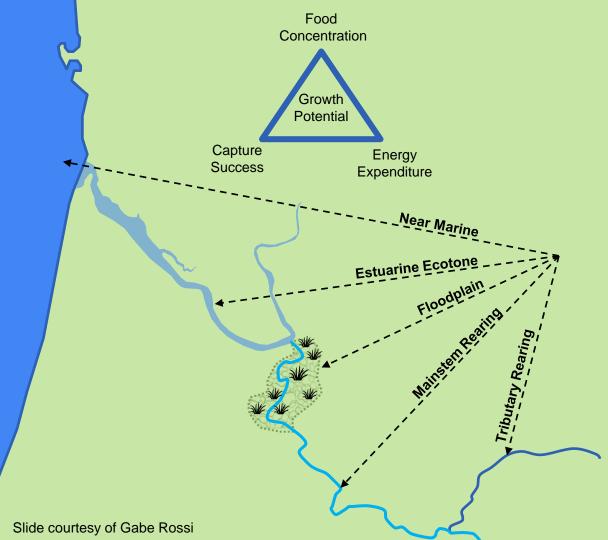


FIGURE 2.—Total number of rainbow trout fry captured by date in Kiln Meadow Tributary, July 18 through August 12, 1973. A freshet displaced the fish trap on July 28 and 29, and an incomplete record was obtained.



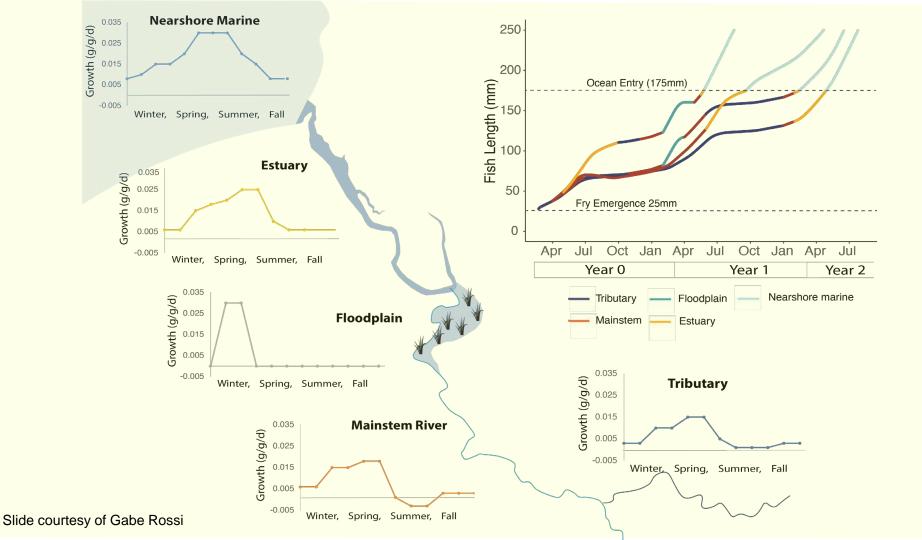
### Key messages

• Fish movement away from natal areas allows population to spread out on landscape and alleviates density dependence



#### Rossi et al., 2024

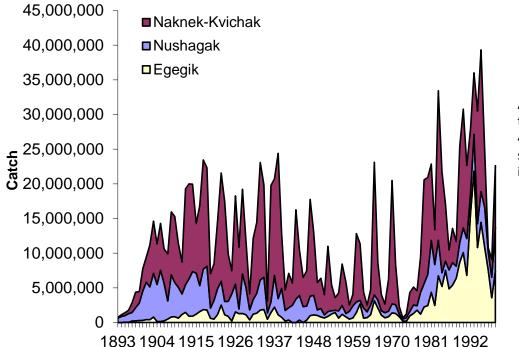
The "foodscape" is a mosaic of linked habitats with different growth potential phenologies that is exploited by mobile consumers and supports multiple life histories, often through asynchronies in resource availability.



### Key messages

- Fish movement away from natal areas allows population to spread out on landscape and alleviates density dependence
- When habitats differ in ways that influence growth (foodscape, temperature, etc.), individuals using different parts of the system will express different life histories

#### Population diversity gives rise to a "portfolio effect"



Aggregate returns to Bristol Bay were 41-77% more stable than individual stocks

Hilborn et al. 2003. PNAS 100: 6564-6568. Schindler et al. 2010. Nature 465: 609-612.

### Key messages

- Fish movement away from natal areas allows population to spread out on landscape and alleviates density dependence in the natal habitat
- When habitats differ in ways that influence growth (e.g., food, temperature, density dependence, etc), **individuals using different parts of the system will express different life histories**
- Life history diversity within and among populations **increases both abundance of adults and stability** via the portfolio effect

## Mounting evidence that non-natal rearers exist, and contribute to adult returns



"The downstream movement of coho salmon nomads (age 0), **conventionally considered surplus fry**, has been an accepted characteristic of juvenile coho salmon for the past 40 to 50 yr. The fate of these nomads, however, was not known and they were assumed to perish in the ocean." – Koski 2009

# Nomads no more – life history pathways exhibited by coho salmon

"There has been considerable research documenting the early migration of juvenile coho salmon to salt water, but until now, there has been little evidence that these fish contribute to the spawning population. In our study streams, juvenile coho exhibited a strongly bimodal emigration pattern, with a large peak in the fall/winter that contributed to nearly 37% of the adult return from 2004 to 2010.... This diversity of life history patterns essentially provides a portfolio effect to spread the risk of mortality for coho in these small streams."

Bennett et al. 2015. Ecology of Freshwater Fish 24: 264-275.

### Examples from Russian River – after lunch

- [1:55] Mariska Obedzinski et al. "Foodscape perspectives on salmon in the Russian River watershed"
- [2:20] Hank Baker et al. "Causes and consequences of variation in rearing strategies in juvenile Coho Salmon"

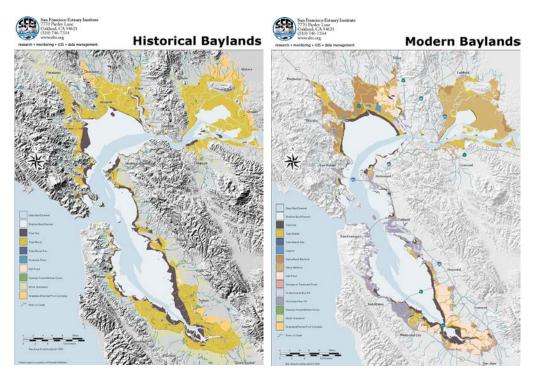
### Key messages

- Non-natal habitat and flow connectivity to exploit it allows population to spread out on landscape and **alleviates density dependence**
- When habitats differ in ways that influence growth (e.g., food, temperature, density dependence, etc), individuals using different parts of the system will express different life histories
- Life history diversity within and among populations increases both abundance of adults and stability via the portfolio effect
- **Non-natal life histories linger** on the landscape, and when they find suitable stopover habitat, non-natal life histories contribute to adult returns and stability

# Habitats that non-natal rearers relied/rely on have been disproportionately lost or degraded

• Key habitats have been degraded and lost (e.g., floodplains, tidal and freshwater marshes, estuaries, etc.).

## Downstream habitats that supported non-natal rearers have been lost or degraded..... This limits occupancy, growth, ...



#### Fish. Bull. 100:244-257 (2002).

Physiological ecology of juvenile chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) at the southern end of their distribution, the San Francisco Estuary and Gulf of the Farallones, California\*

R. Bruce MacFarlane Elizabeth C. Norton

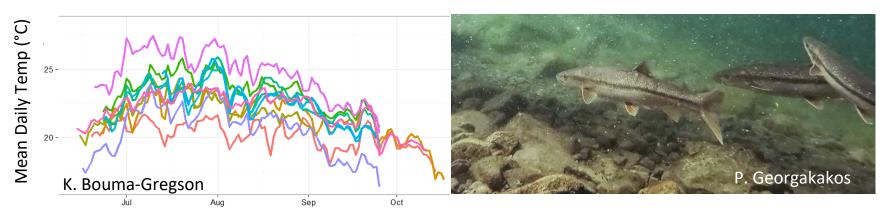


"The relatively short period of abundance in the San Francisco Estuary and emigration rates presented here suggest that juvenile chinook from the Central Valley may derive less benefit from estuarine residence than do more northerly populations."

https://www.sfei.org/content/ecoatlas\_habitats

# Habitats that non-natal rearers relied/rely on have been disproportionately lost or degraded

- Key habitats have been degraded and lost (e.g., floodplains, tidal and freshwater marshes, estuaries, etc.).
- Many river mainstems are warming, prone to disease outbreaks, and invaded by piscivores



# Habitats that non-natal rearers relied/rely on have been disproportionately lost or degraded

- Key habitats have been degraded and lost (e.g., floodplains, tidal and freshwater marshes, estuaries, etc.).
- Many river mainstems are warming, prone to disease outbreaks, and heavily invaded by piscivores
- Natal rearers that use non-natal habitat as a corridor (as opposed to stopover habitat) are likely favored in the contemporary riverscape

### Key messages

- Non-natal habitat and flow connectivity to exploit it allows population to spread out on landscape and **alleviates density dependence**
- When habitats differ in ways that influence growth (e.g., food, temperature, density dependence, etc), individuals using different parts of the system will express different life histories
- Life history diversity within and among populations increases both abundance of adults and stability via the portfolio effect
- Non-natal life histories linger on the landscape, and when they find suitable stopover habitat, non-natal life histories contribute to adult returns and stability
- Degradation of mainstems and stop-over habitats limits the success of non-natal rearers

#### Re-awakening the missing life histories

"Anecdotal evidence from Bear River and the Mattole are that there were deep holes in the lower rivers/estuary pre '54 and '64. We trapped Bear River just above the tide for a couple springs a while back. Just as the temps rose in June, thousands of YOY steelhead bailed. I couldn't help but go down to the estuary to see where they were rearing. Turns out they weren't there. The majority of the estuary was less than 2m deep, hot and barren. My sense at the time was that these animals were perishing. I wonder if the emigration was the 'ghost' of a life history strategy that no longer works." -- Seth Ricker CDFW personal communication 2022

# Restoring stop-over habitats to re-awaken life histories



"Rehabilitation of marshes through removal of levees, structures, and fill took decades (B—years refer to the timing of marsh rehabilitation), but resulted in the recovery of approximately 70% of original estuarine marsh habitat to natural tidal inundation regimes."

Flitcroft et al. 2016. Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems 26: 39-59.

#### Expect the unexpected: place-based protections can lead to unforeseen benefits

REBECCA L. FLITCROFT<sup>a,\*</sup>, DANIEL L. BOTTOM<sup>b</sup>, KAREN L. HABERMAN<sup>c</sup>, KEN F. BIERLY<sup>d</sup>, KIM K. JONES<sup>e</sup>, CHARLES A. SIMENSTAD<sup>f</sup>, AYESHA GRAY<sup>g</sup>, KAMI S. ELLINGSON<sup>h</sup>, ERIN BAUMGARTNER<sup>c</sup>, TREVAN J. CORNWELL<sup>e</sup> and LANCE A. CAMPBELL<sup>i</sup>

"The recovery of a large area of potential rearing habitat in the Salmon River estuary enabled a study of life-history re-emergence by Chinook and coho salmon populations, including documenting previously unknown estuary specific life-history strategies in this species....

Comparisons of recent and historical data... reveal that life-history variation in both Chinook and coho salmon populations has expanded since tidal connections to most of the estuarine wetlands were re-established"

Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems 26 (Suppl. 1): 39-59 (2016)

### Key messages

- Non-natal habitat and flow connectivity to exploit it allows population to spread out on landscape and **alleviates density dependence**
- When habitats differ in ways that influence growth (e.g., food, temperature, density dependence, etc), individuals using different parts of the system will express different life histories
- Access to diverse, productive, non-natal habitats **increases both abundance of adults and stability via** the portfolio effect
- Non-natal life histories linger on the landscape
- Degradation of mainstems and stop-over habitats limits success of non-natal rearers; past restoration actions have tended to support natal rearers
- Restoration actions at right places can re-awaken life histories and their contributions to adult returns and stability

## Modeling the Salmon Foodscape

42nd Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference, Santa Cruz, California, 2 May 2025

J. Ryan Bellmore<sup>1</sup>, Gabriel Rossi<sup>2</sup>, Stephanie Carlson<sup>2</sup>, Holly Harris<sup>1</sup>, Aimee Fullerton<sup>3</sup>, Avi Kertesz<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Juneau, AK <sup>2</sup>University of California at Berkeley, CA <sup>3</sup>NOAA Fisheries, Seattle, WA



# Salmon population models

•A lot of existing models developed to examine and predict salmon population dynamics. 1596

#### The Shiraz model: a tool for incorporating anthropogenic effects and fish-habitat relationships in conservation planning

Mark D. Scheuerell, Ray Hilborn, Mary H. Ruckelshaus, Krista K. Bartz, Kerry M. Lagueux, Andrew D. Haas, and Kit Rawson

North American Journal of Faheries Managemen: 43:203–230, 2023 © 2022 American Fisheries Society. ISSN: 0275-947 print / 1546-0575 online DOI: 10.1012/nefm.10554

ARTICLE

#### Life Cycle Model Reveals Sensitive Life Stages and Evaluates Recovery Options for a Dwindling Pacific Salmon Population

Neala W. Kendall\* Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, Washington 98501, USA

Julia Unrein and Carol Volk Seattle Public Utilities, 700 5th Avenue, Suite 4900, Past Office Box 34018, Seattle, Washington 98124, USA

David A. Beauchamp U.S. Geological Survey, Western Fisheries Research Center, 6505 Nebraska 65th Street, Searth



NOAA Contract Report NMFS-NWFSC-CR-2023-05

Kurt L. Fresh<sup>1</sup> National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, N Center, Seattle, Washington 98112, USA

Thomas P. Quint @ School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, University of Washington, 1122 Nebraska Boat Street, Washington 98105, USA



NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS

APRIL 2024

Habitat Assessment and Salmon Life-Cycle Models for the Chehalis Basin Aquatic Species Restoration Plan: Summary of Research Products

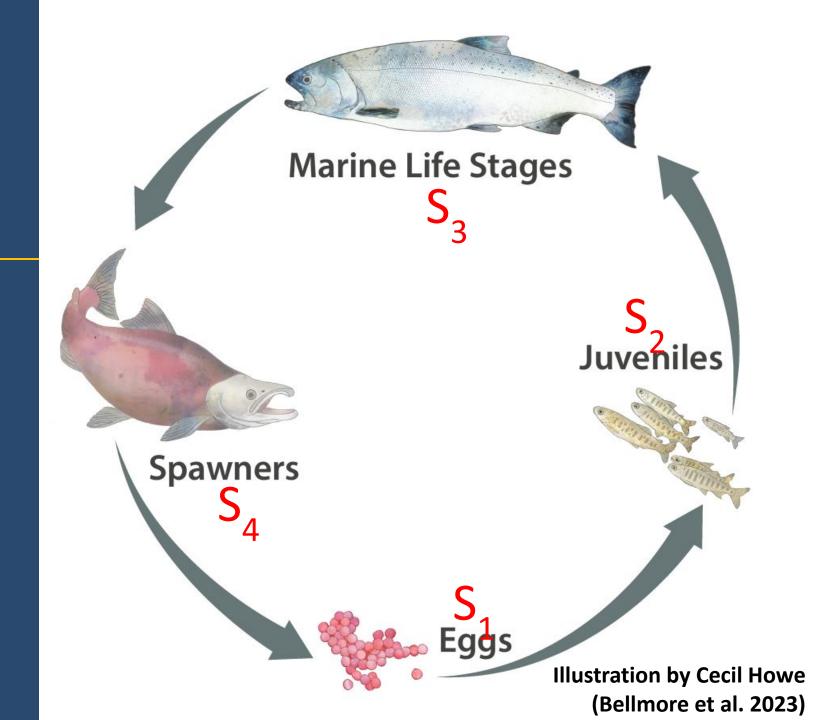
Contracts WDFW #15-03970 and RCO #17-1477

#### LIFE CYCLE MODELING FRAMEWORK FOR CHINOOK SALMON SPAWNING IN THE SACRAMENTO RIVER

Noble Hendrix<sup>1</sup>, Ann-Marie K. Osterback<sup>2</sup>, Sara John<sup>2</sup>, Miles Daniels<sup>2</sup>, Eva Dusek Jennings<sup>3</sup>, Eric Danner<sup>4</sup>, and Steve Lindley<sup>4</sup>

### Salmon life cycle models

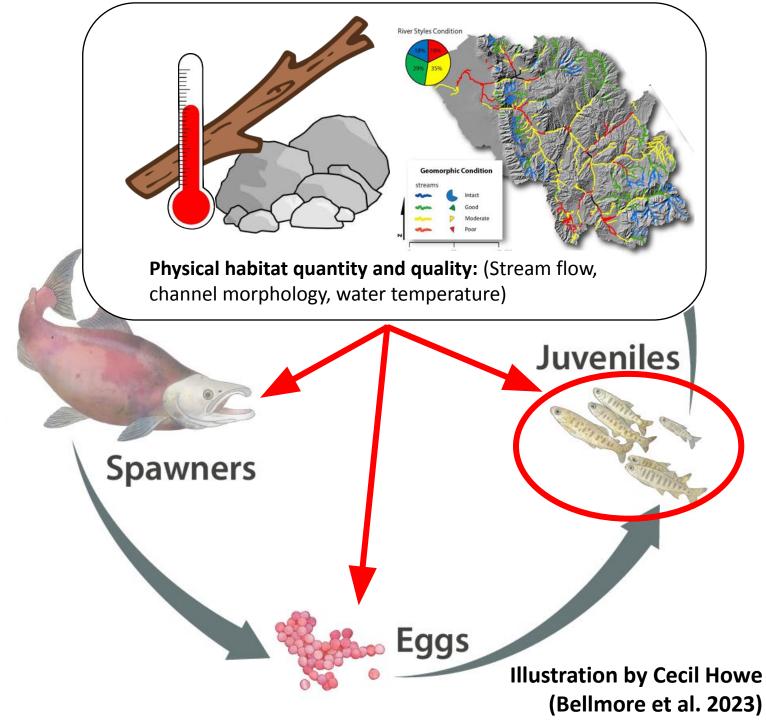
• Life cycle models are important tools for identifying population bottlenecks.



### Salmon life cycle models

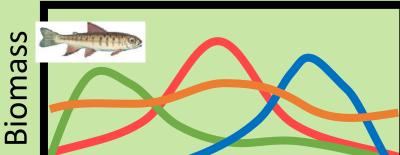
 Relate salmon survival to the quantity and quality of physical habitat (Scheuerell et al. 2006; Jorgensen et al. 2021)

• Often identify that *natal* rearing habitat is limiting



# What they leave out...

#### **Temporal Dynamics**



Div Develop a model to illustrate how fish n d movement between natal and non-natal g habitats influences salmon life history 2. b diversity and population abundance 3. Diversity of life histories Fish that this compliment of 50 Fry Emergence 25mm habitats supports 0

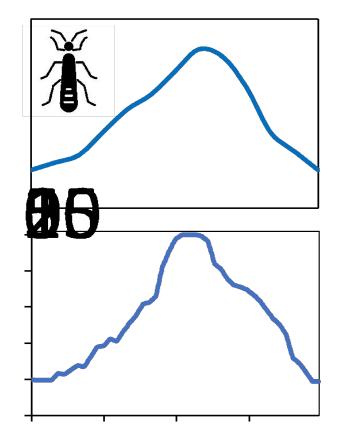
Apr

JulOctJanAprJulYear 0Year 1Year 2

#### Model Description

#### Individual based model that tracks growth, movement, and survival of juvenile salmon across watersheds (*sensu* Railsback et al. InStream; Fullerton et al. 2017; Bellmore et al. 2022)

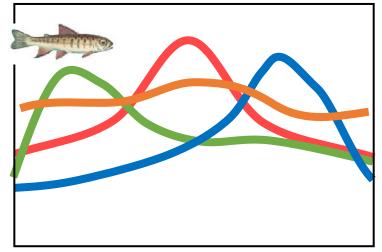
• **Growth:** function of seasonal food and temperature regimes, and competition



### Model Description

- Individual based model that tracks growth, movement, and survival of juvenile salmon across watersheds (*sensu* Railsback et al. InStream; Fullerton et al. 2017; Bellmore et al. 2022)
- **Growth:** function of seasonal food and temperature regimes, and competition
- **Movement:** function of difference in growth potential between connected habitats

#### **Growth Potential**



#### **Model Description**

### Individual based model that tracks growth, movement, and survival of juvenile

salmon

InStream; F

• Growth: regimes,

 Moveme between Hueristic model!

Start simple and build complexity

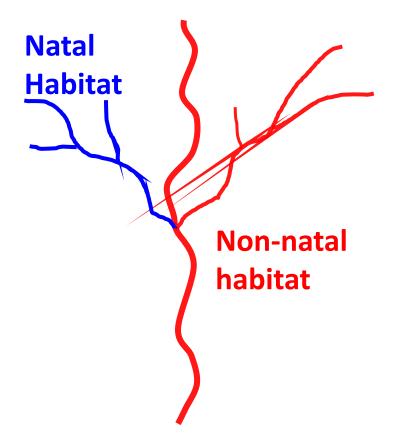
as necessary.

• Survival: function of tish size (more growth – greater survival)

Fish length

#### Objectives

1. Examine mechanisms by which accessible and diverse non-natal habitat promotes salmon life history diversity and population abundance.



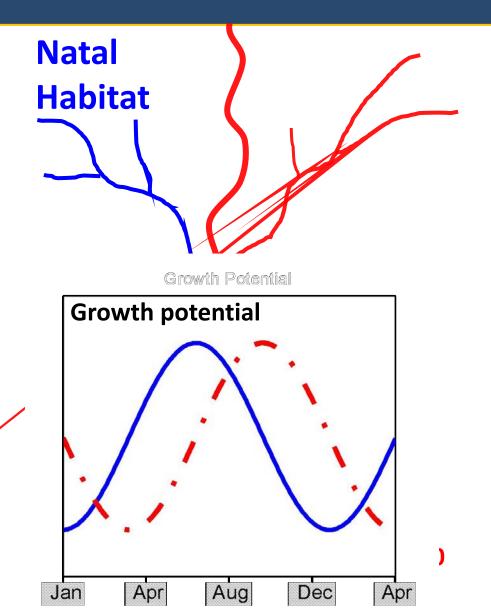
#### Objectives

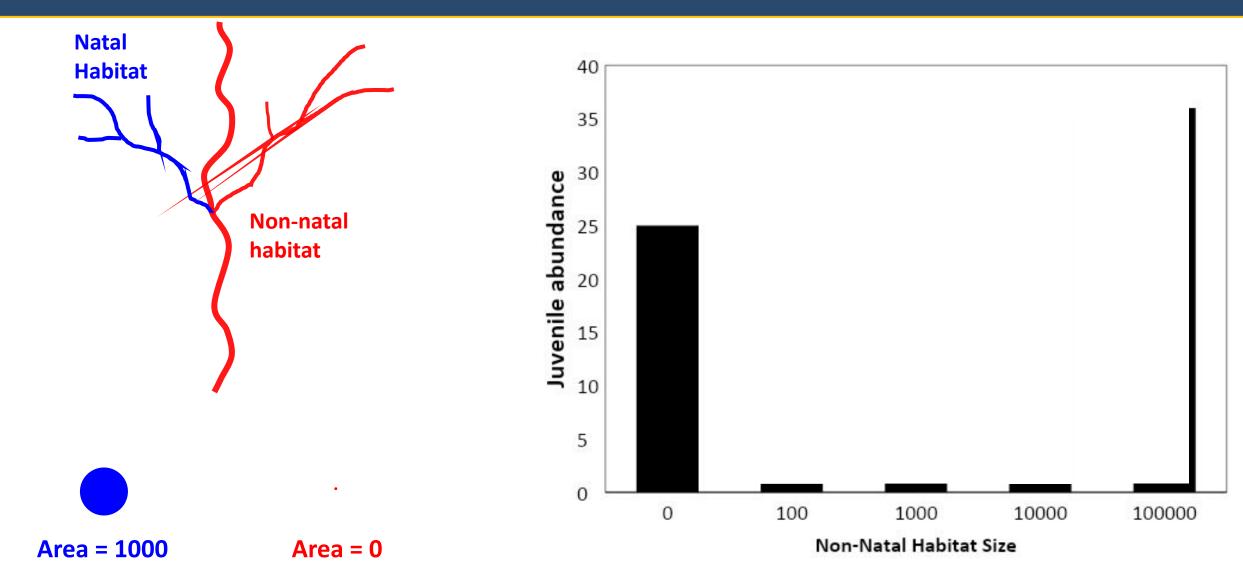
- 1. Examine mechanisms by which accessible and diverse non-natal habitat promotes salmon life history diversity and population abundance.
- 2. Illustrate how these mechanisms support healthy salmon populations in northern California coastal watersheds.

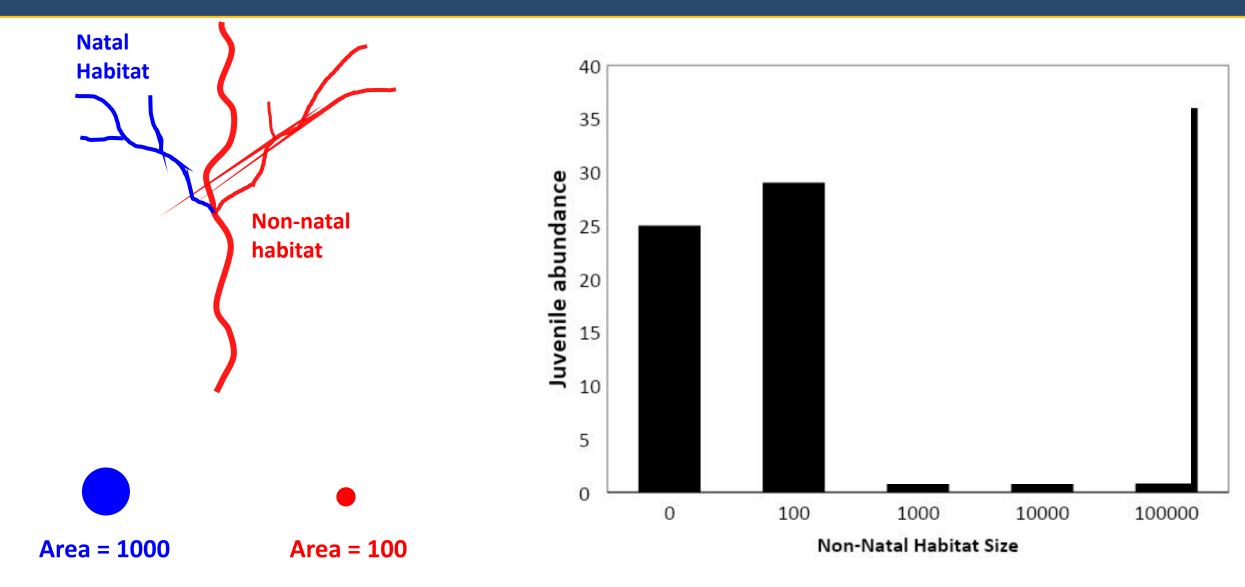


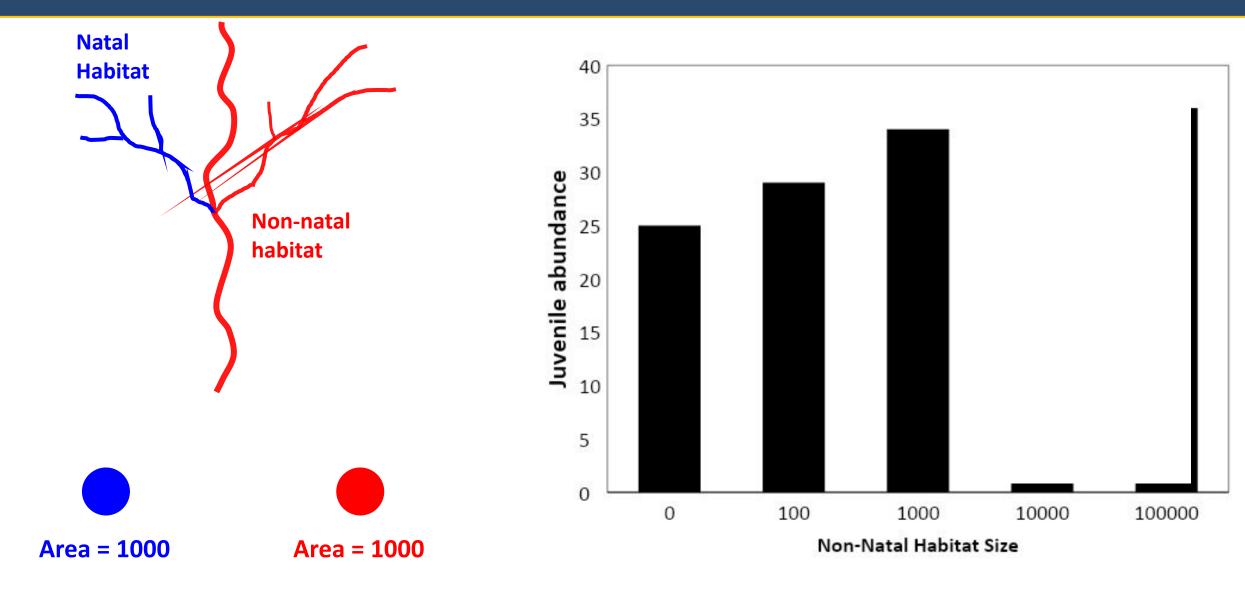
### Objectives

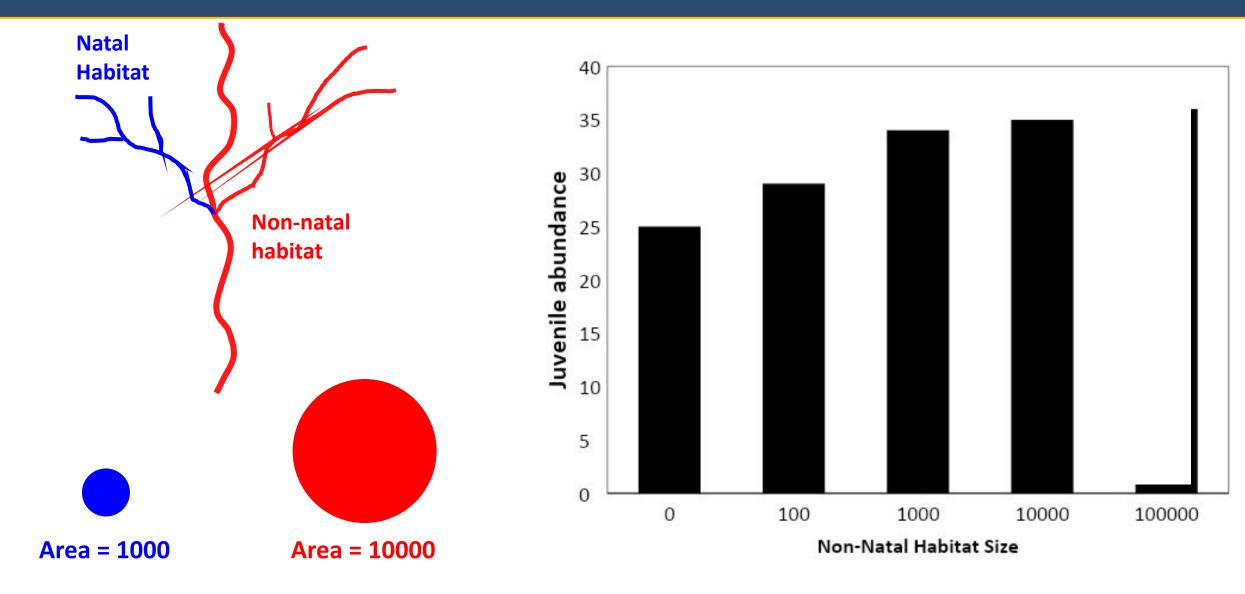
- •Simple 2 patch model
- •Manipulated:
  - 1. Non-natal habitat size
  - 2. Non-natal temperature and food availability regimes
- Initialized model with 1000 fry and tracked juvenile growth and survival for 365 day

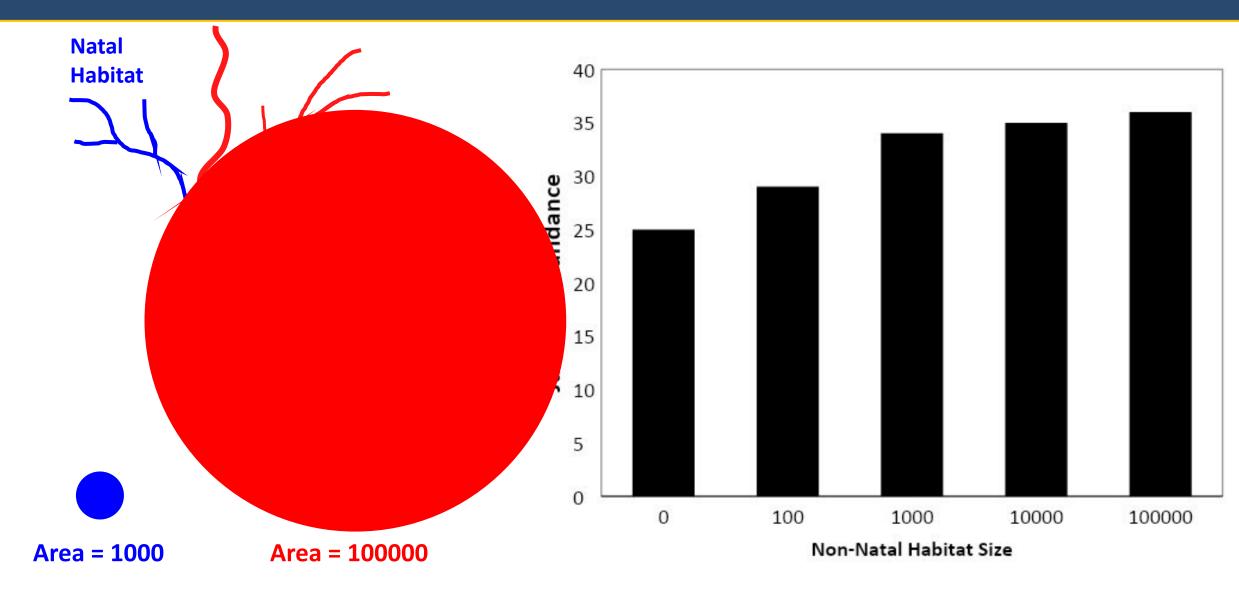






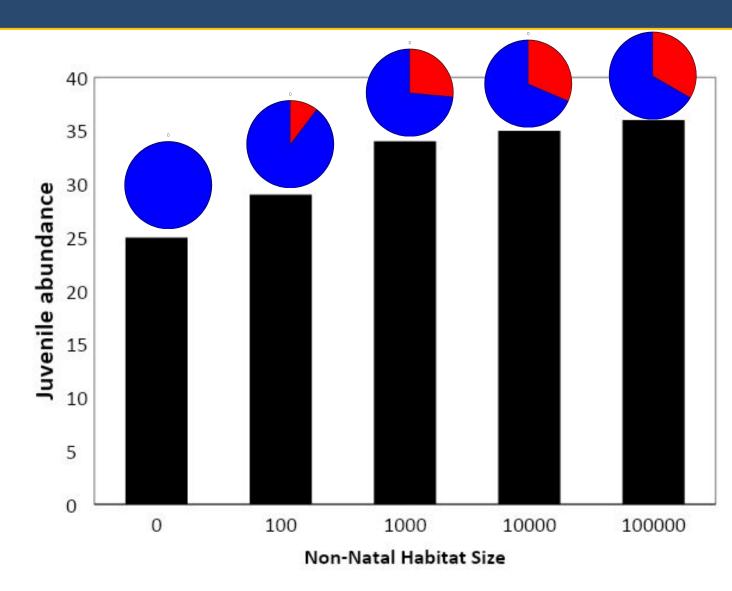


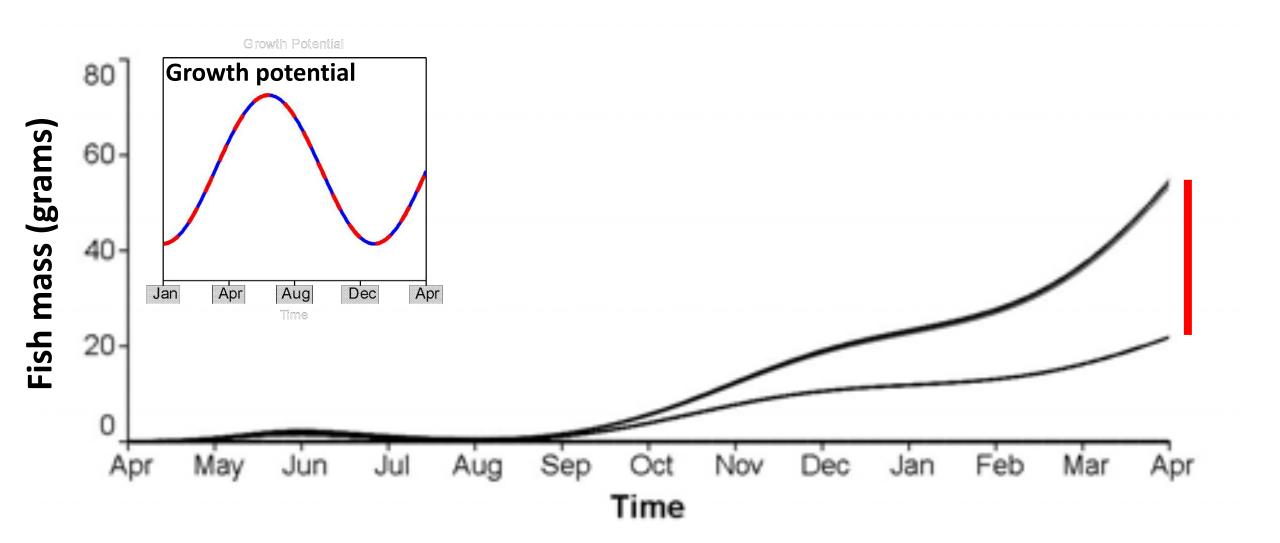


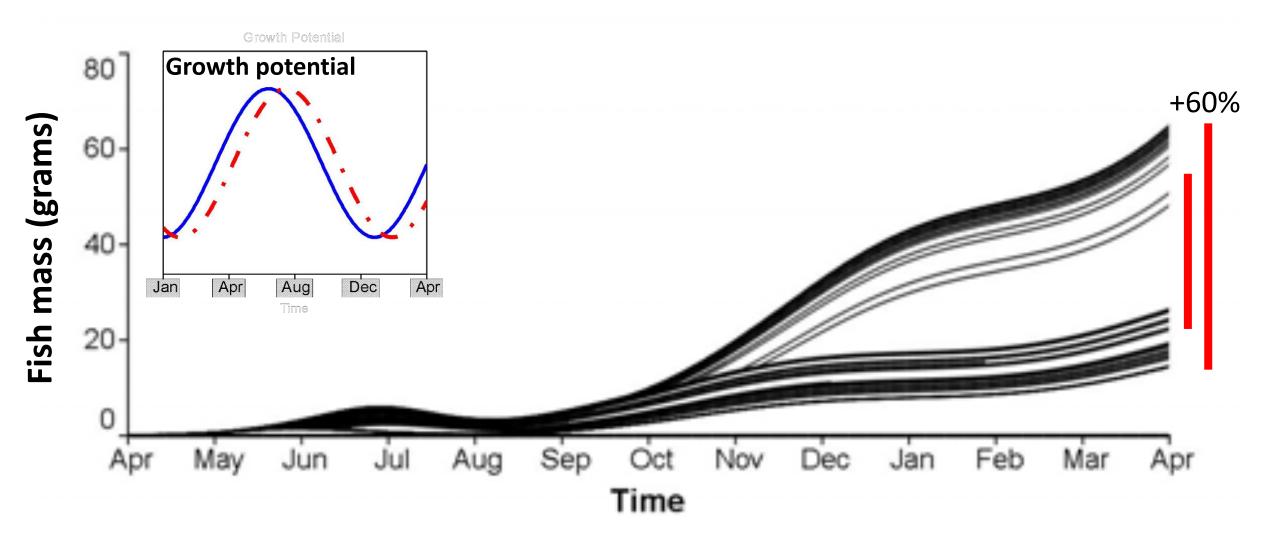


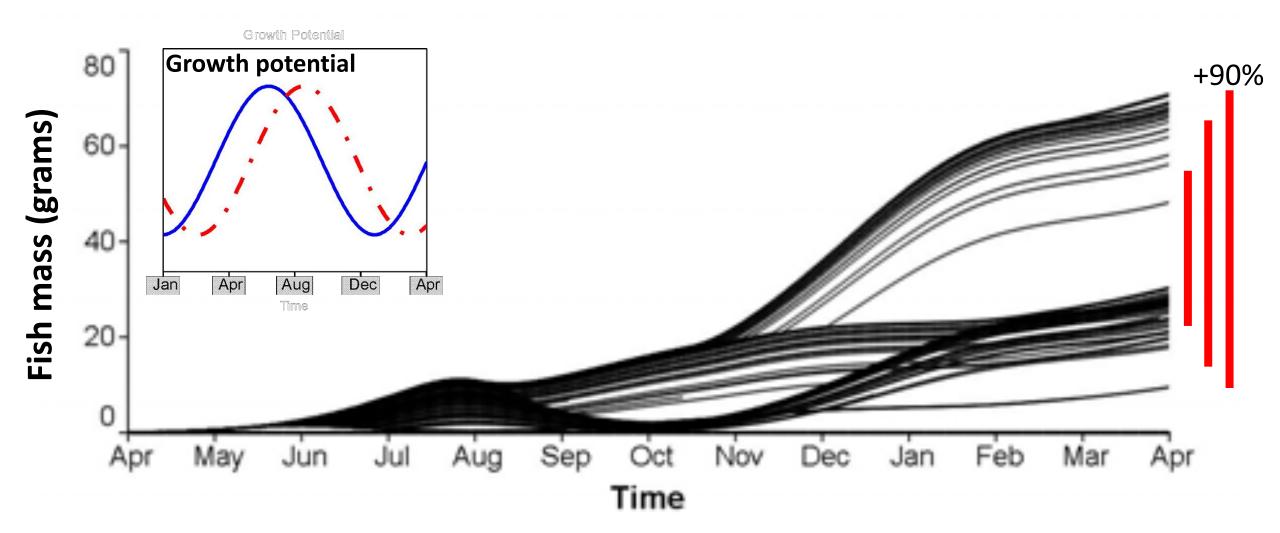
Mechanism: movement into non-natal habitat alleviates density dependence for fishes that move (non-natal fishes) and those that stay (natal fishes).

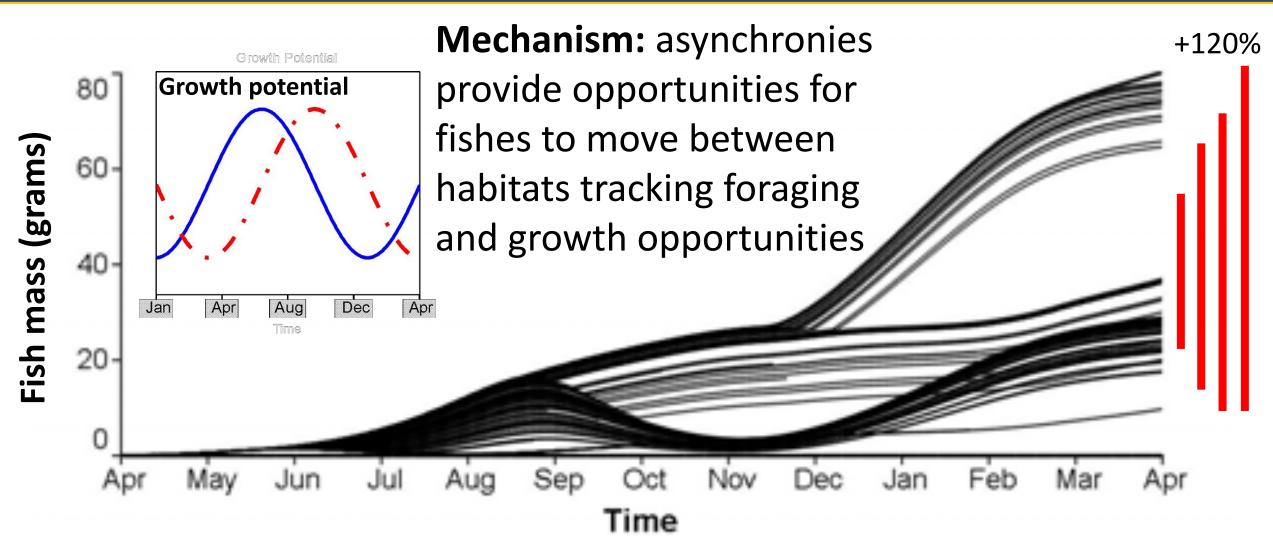
Non-natal habitats must be accessible and suitable!

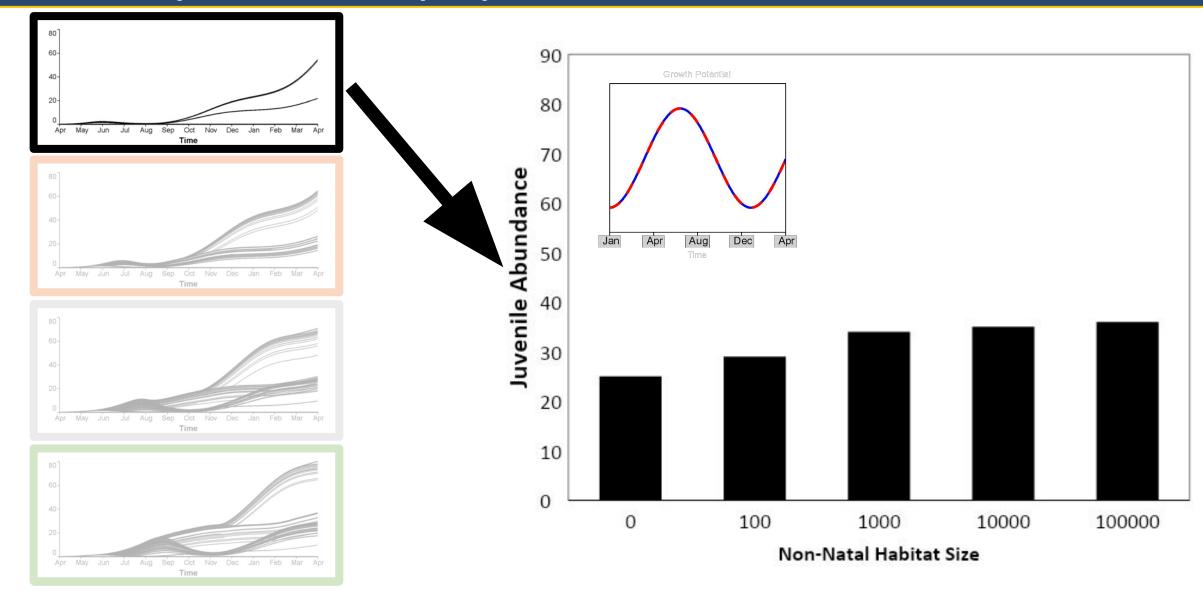


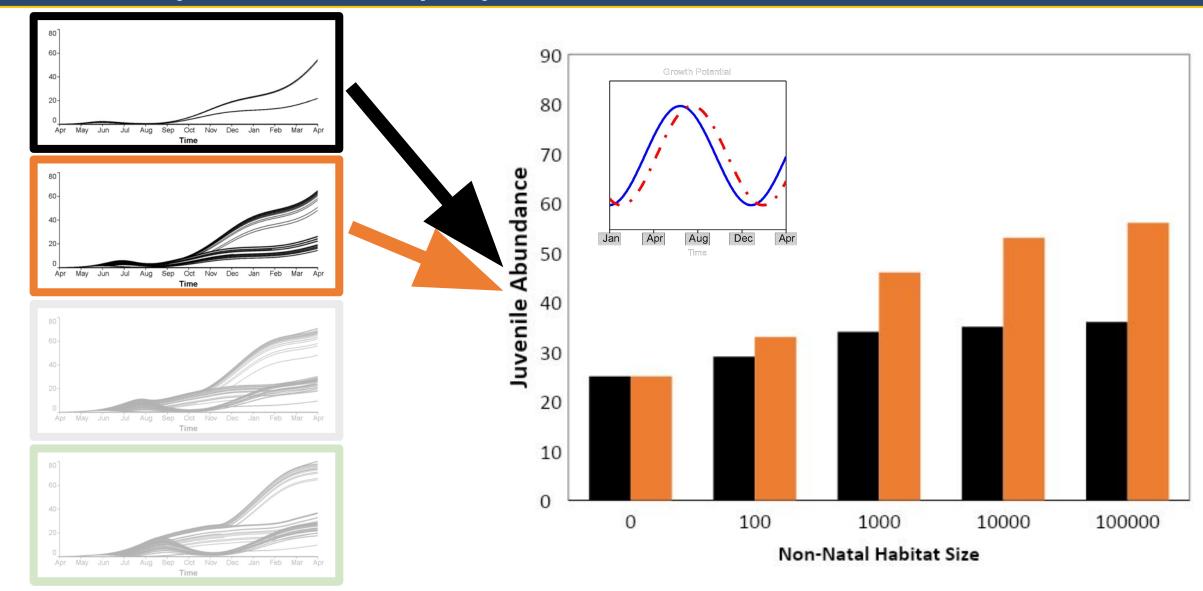


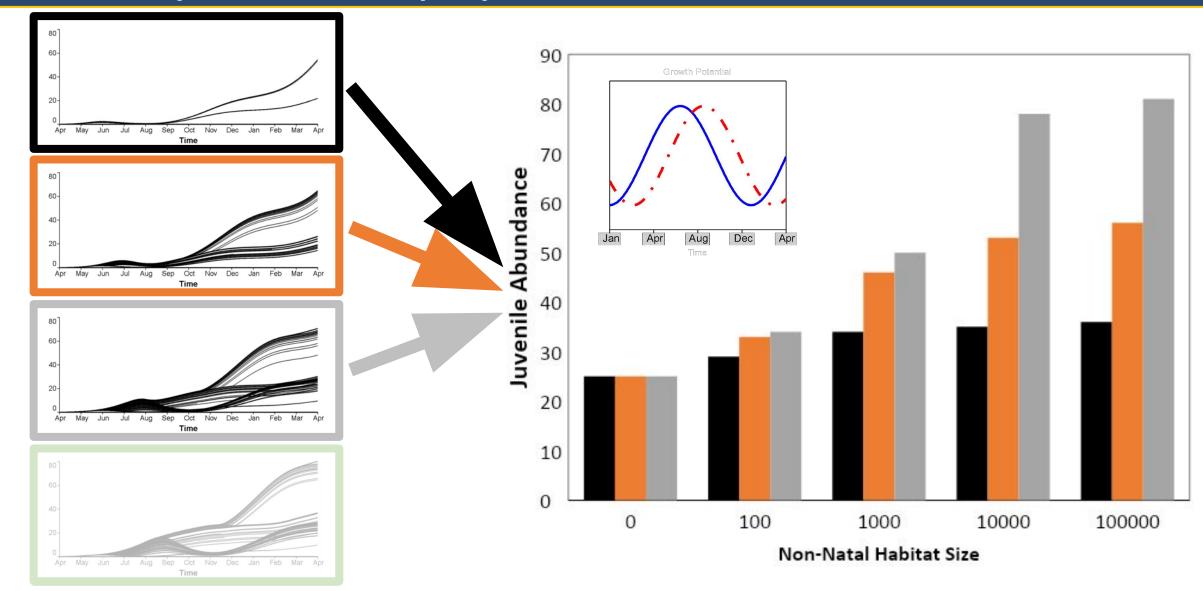


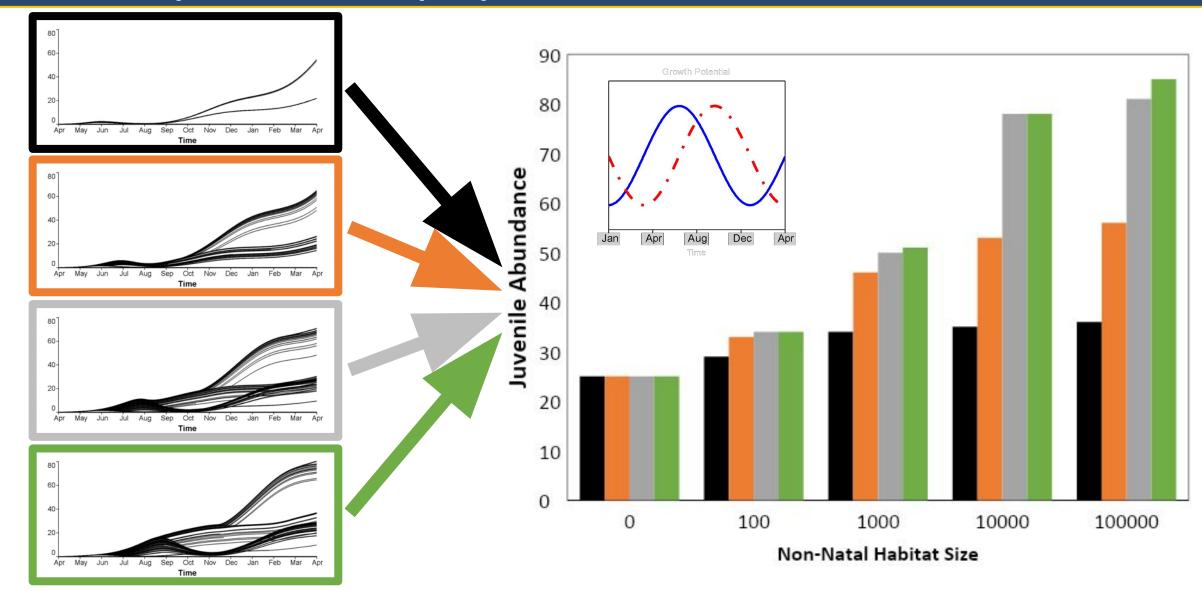




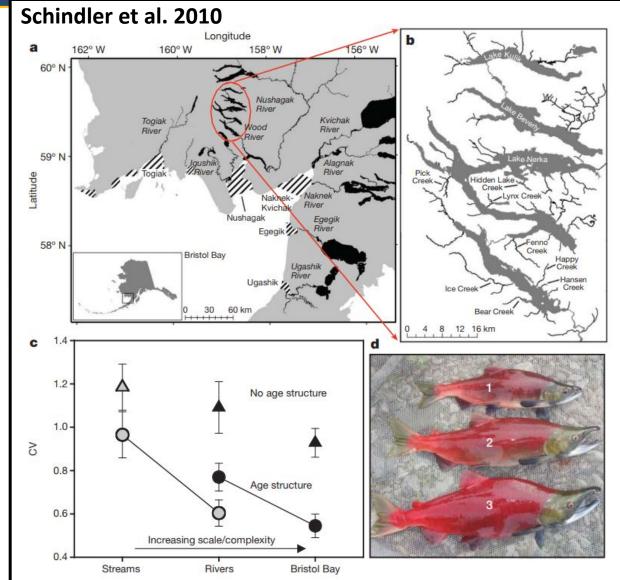




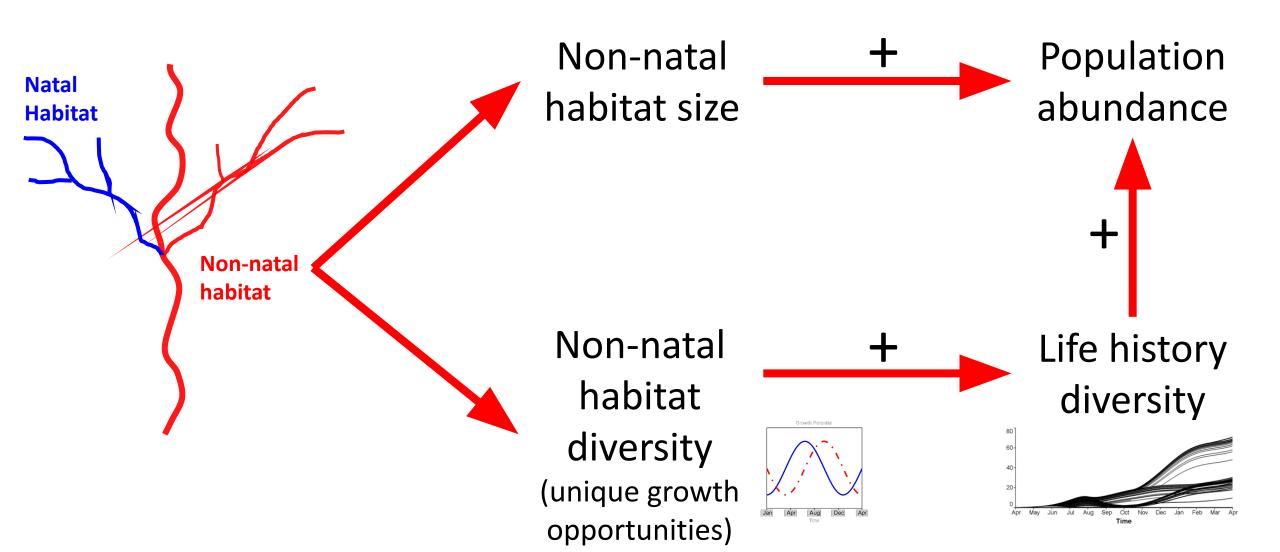




- Life history diversity begets population abundance!
- Mechanism: life histories that track favorable growth conditions grow larger and survive better.



# Increasing the SIZE and DIVERSITY of non-natal habitats increases population abundance

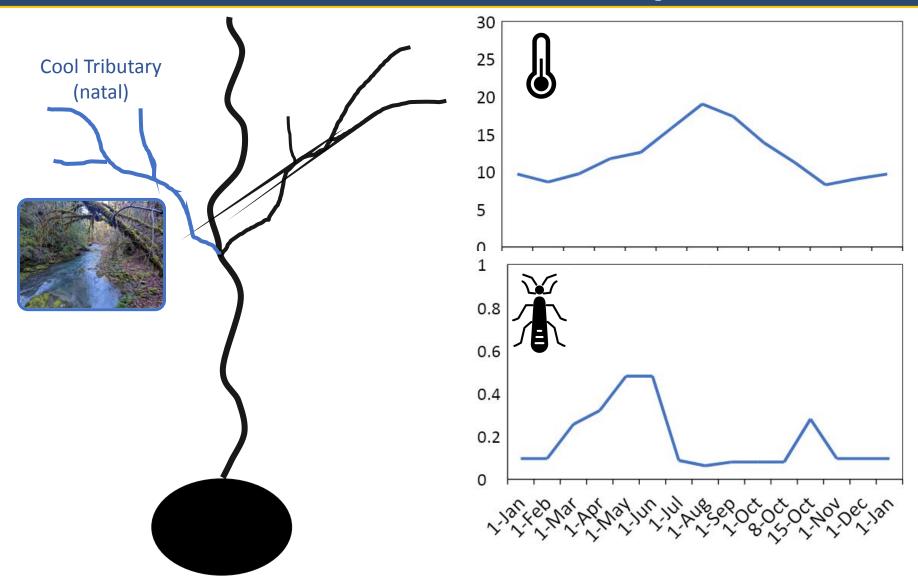


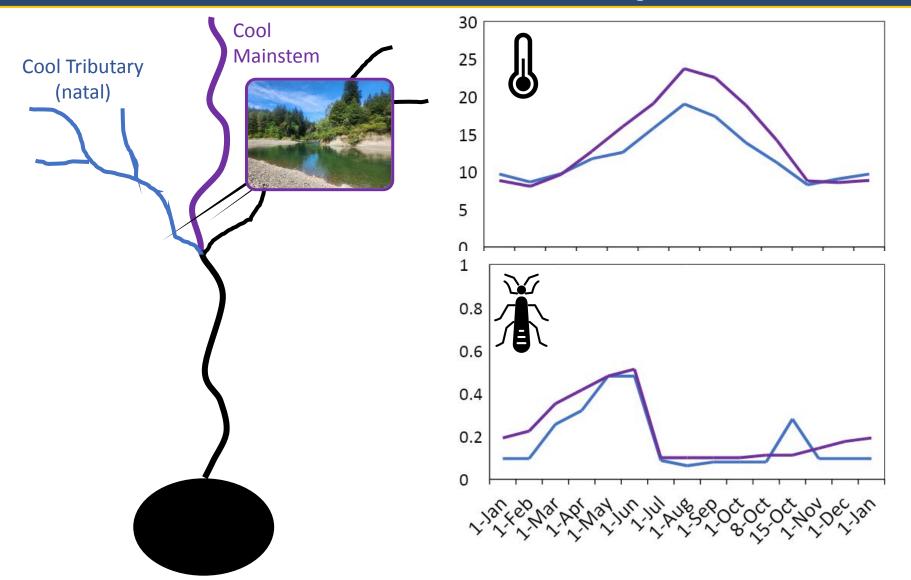
**Objective 2:** Illustrate how non-natal habitats may support healthy salmon populations in northern California coastal watersheds.

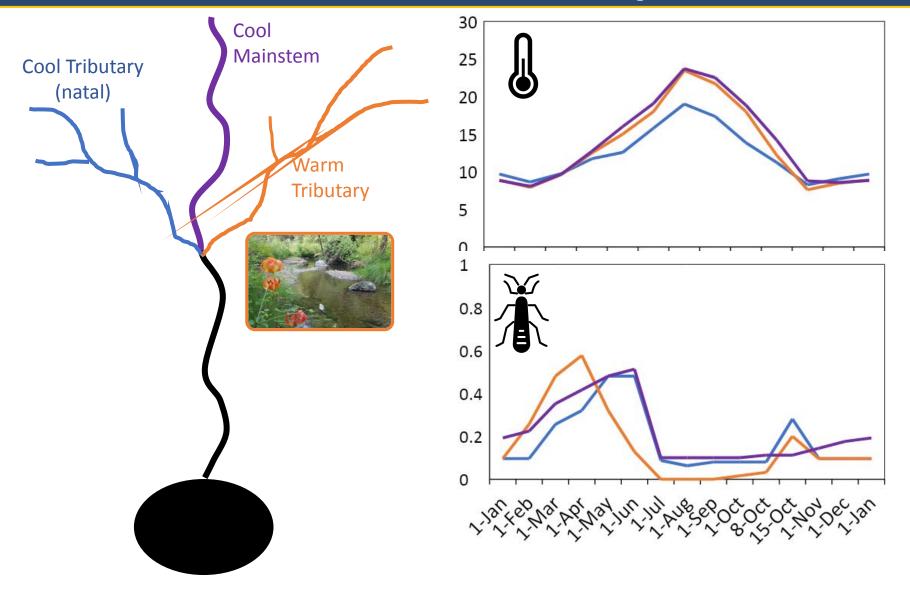
#### Parameterized model with realistic food and temperature regimes for natal and non-natal habitats found in northern California coastal watersheds.

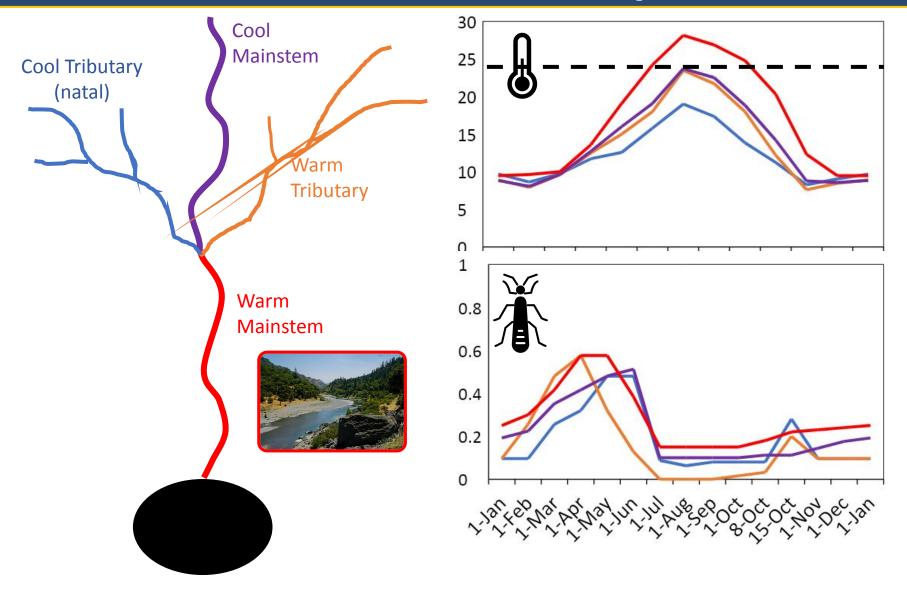
Inspired by the Eel River

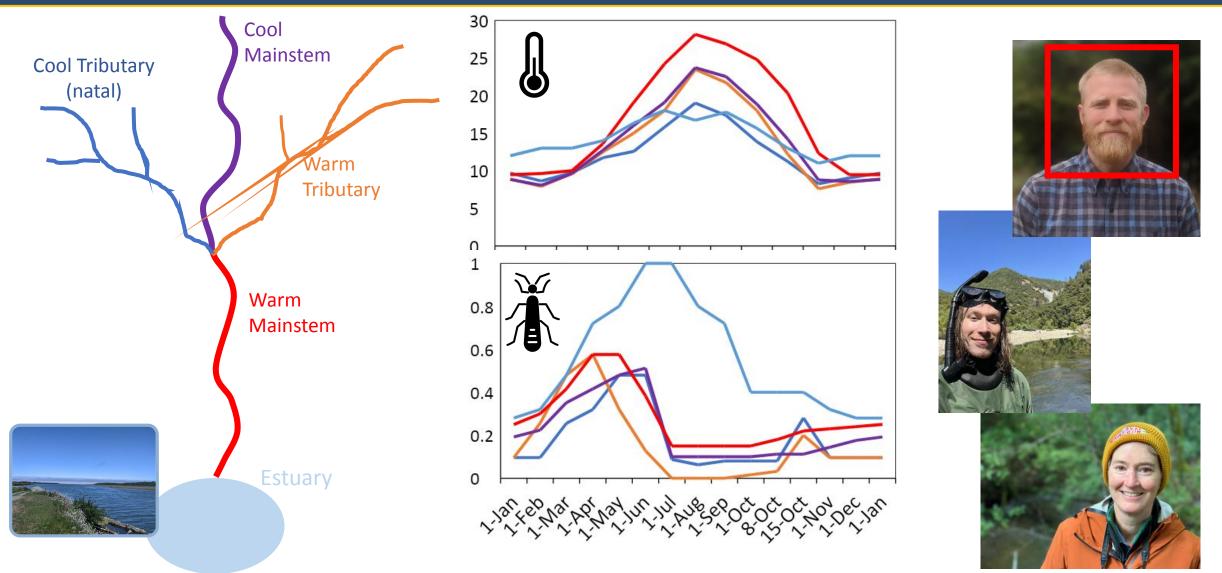












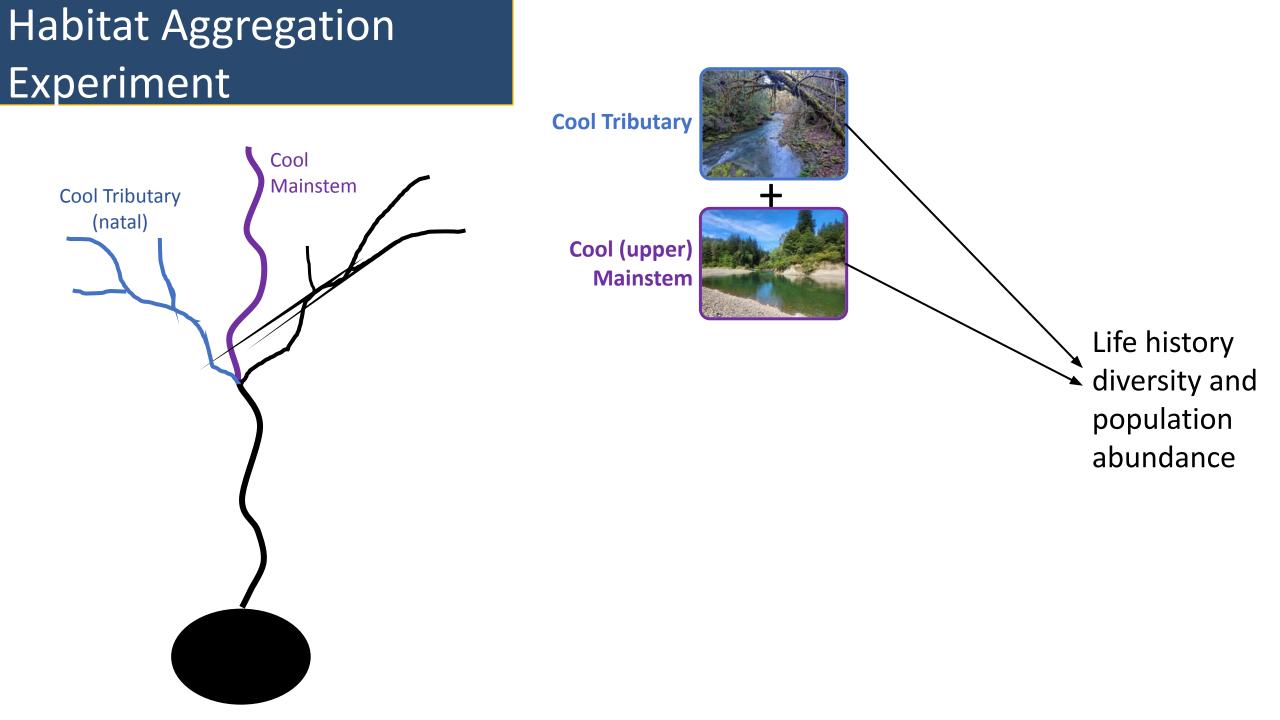
#### Habitat Aggregation Experiment

**Cool Tributary** 

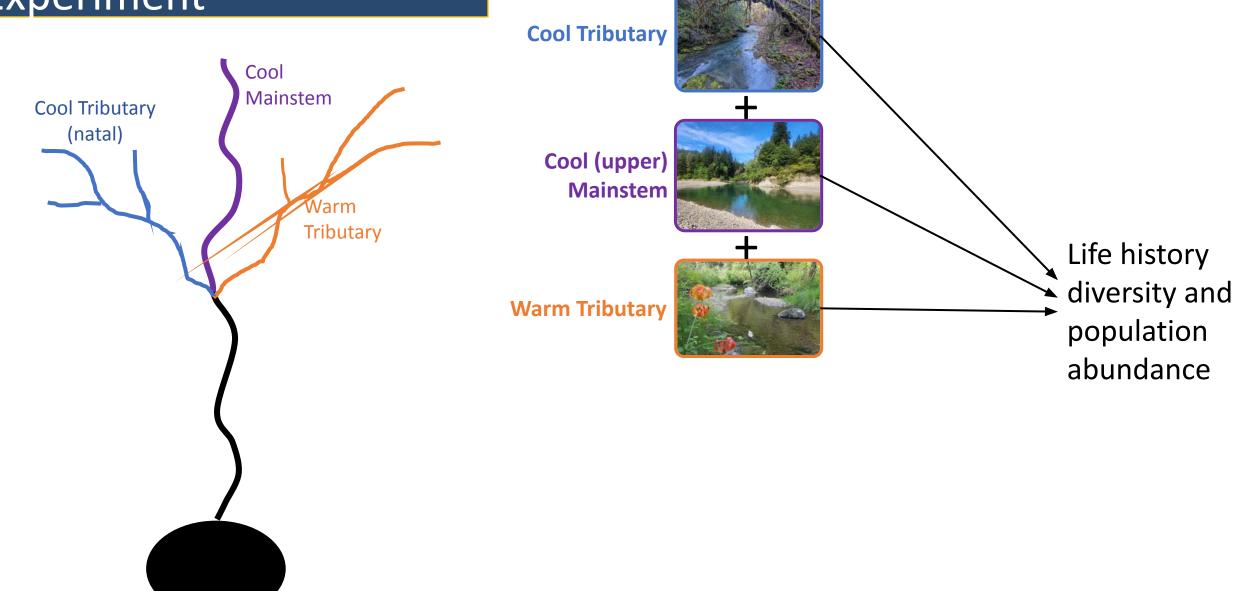


**Cool Tributary** (natal)

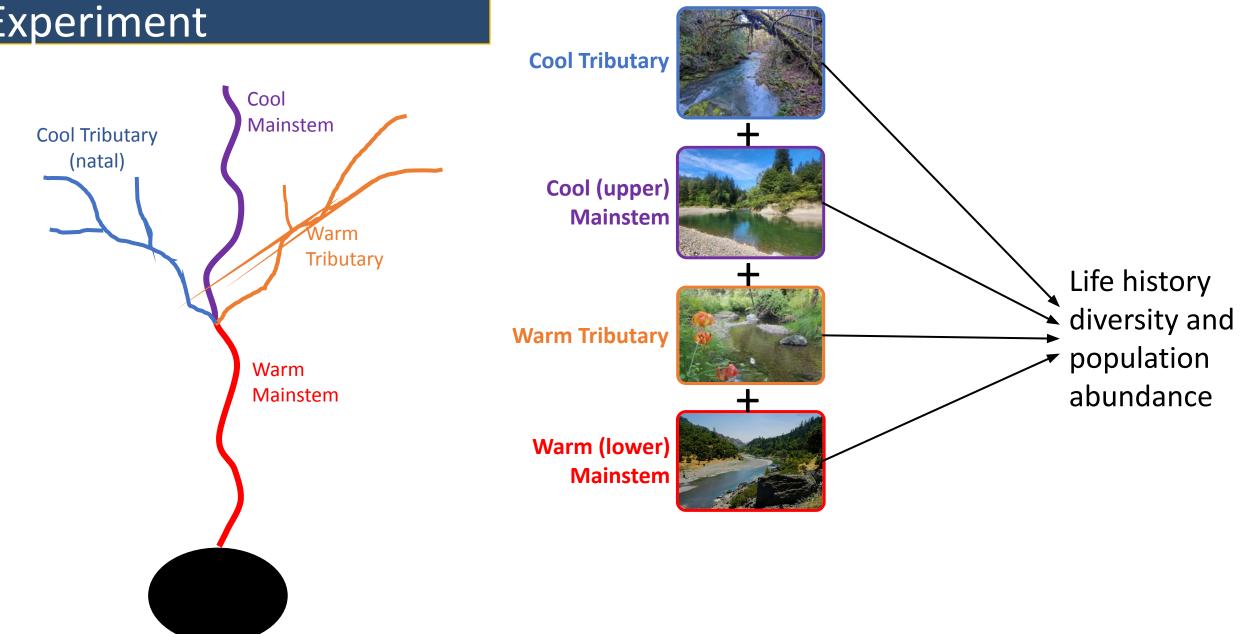
Life history diversity and population abundance



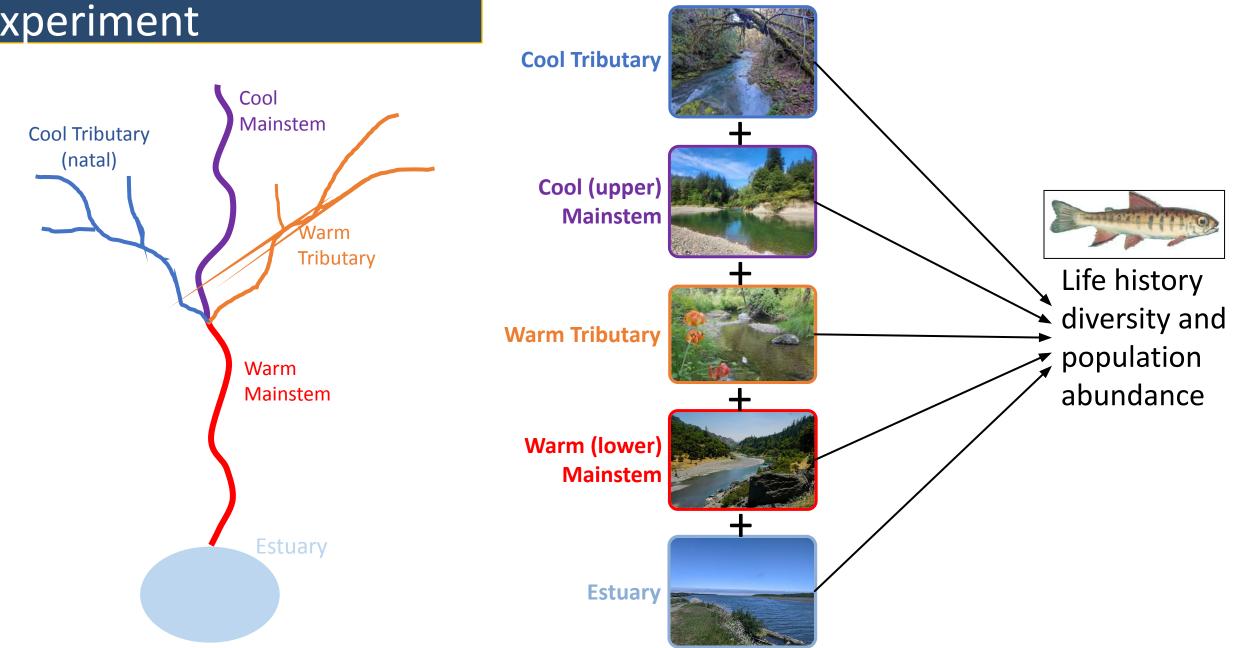
#### Habitat Aggregation Experiment

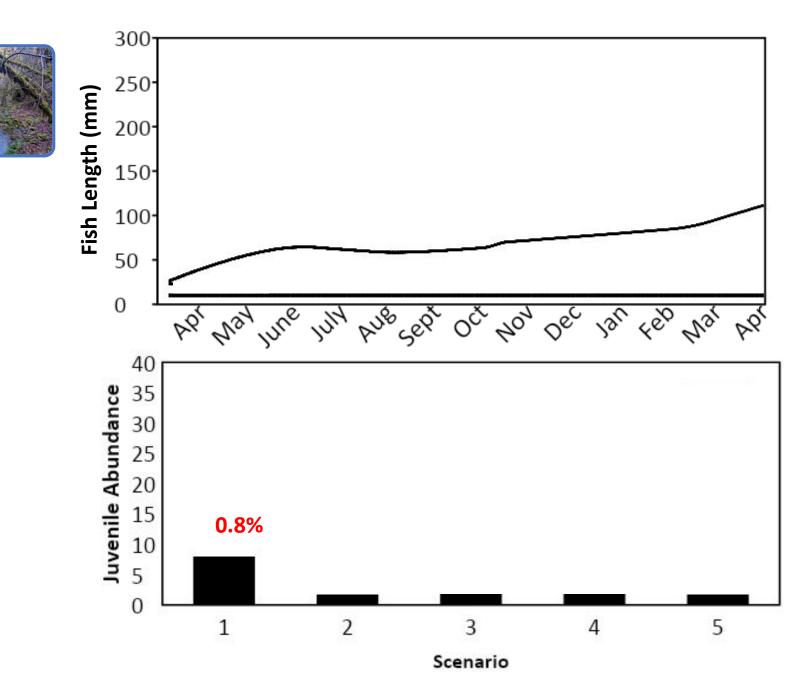


#### Habitat Aggregation Experiment

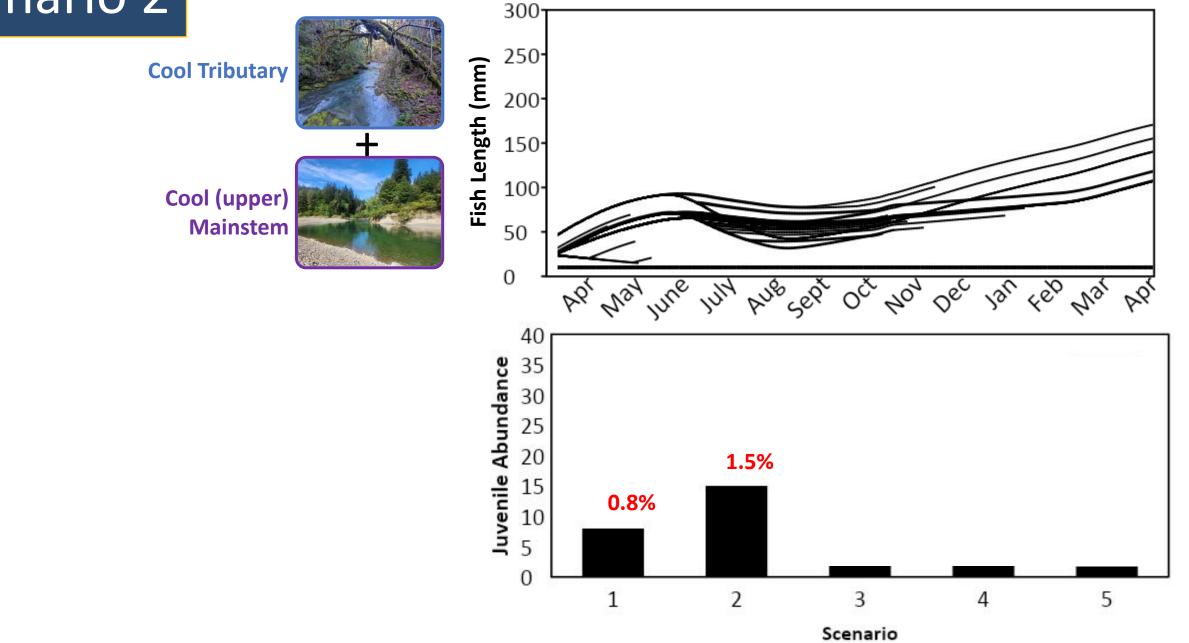


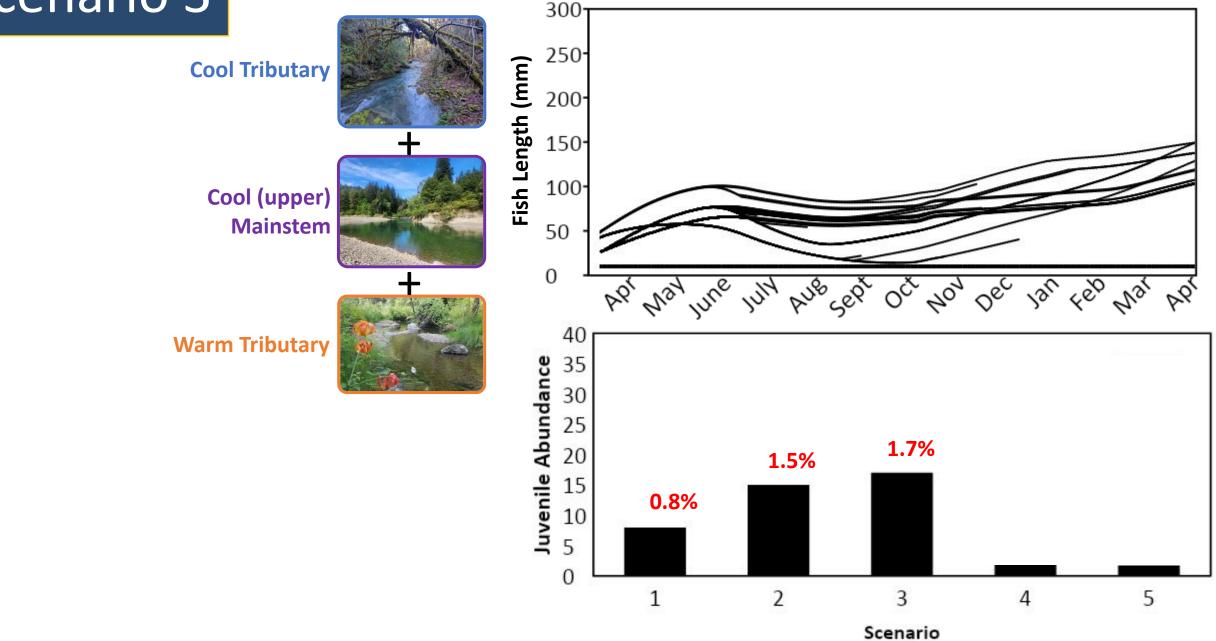
#### Habitat Aggregation Experiment

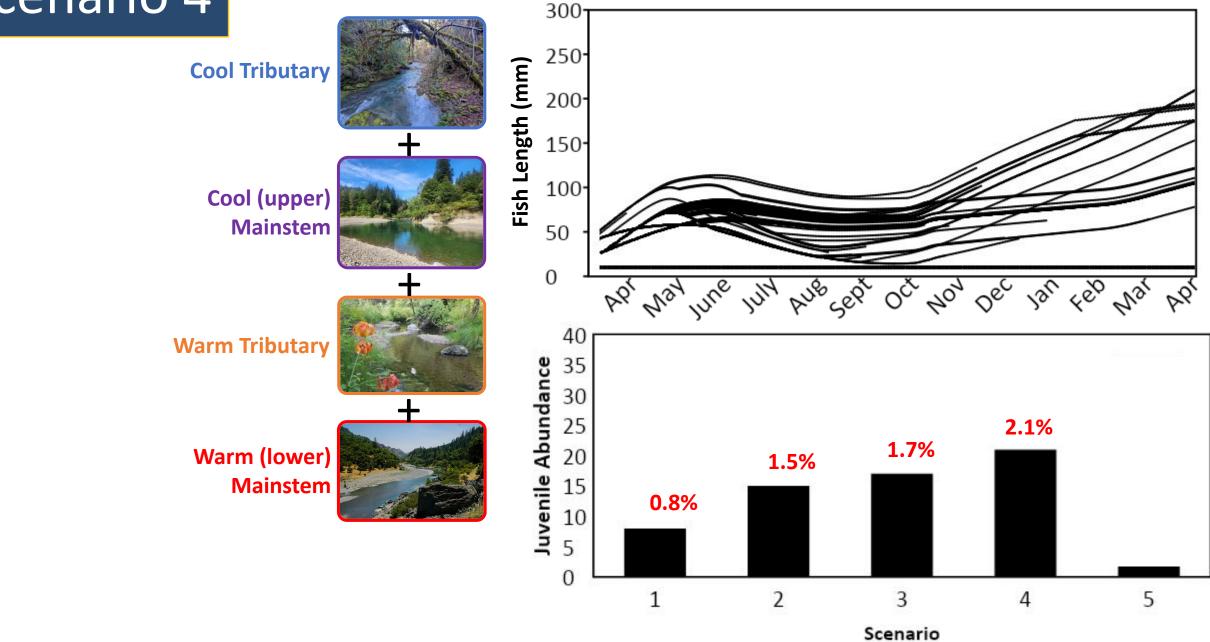


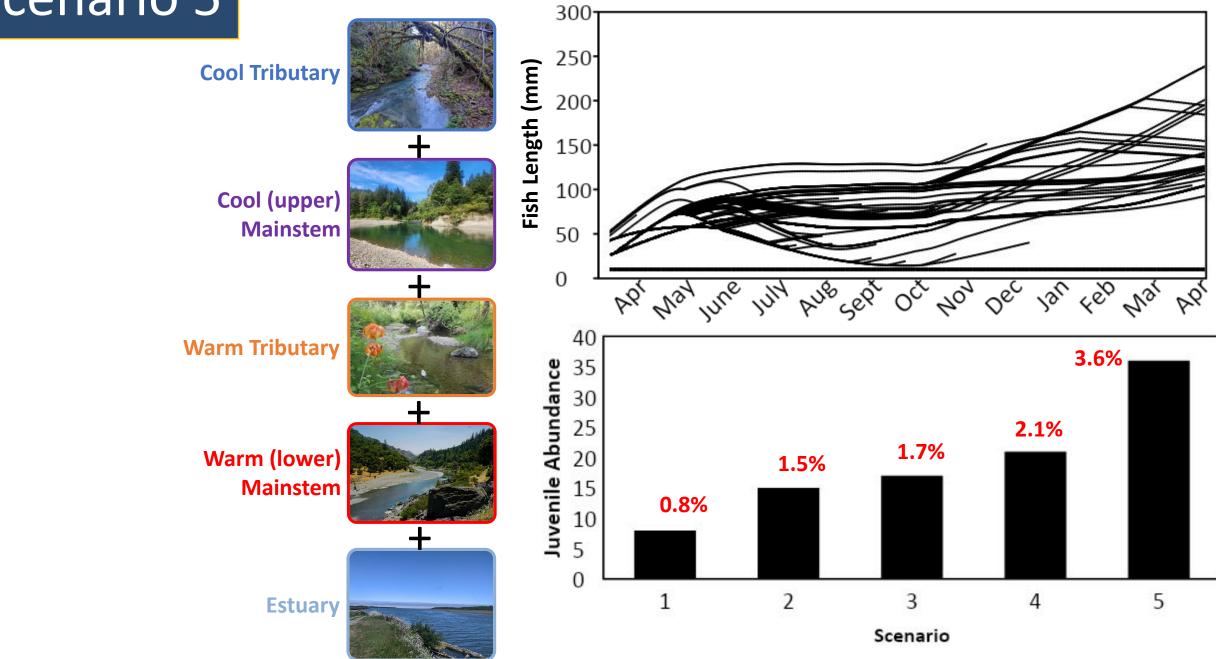


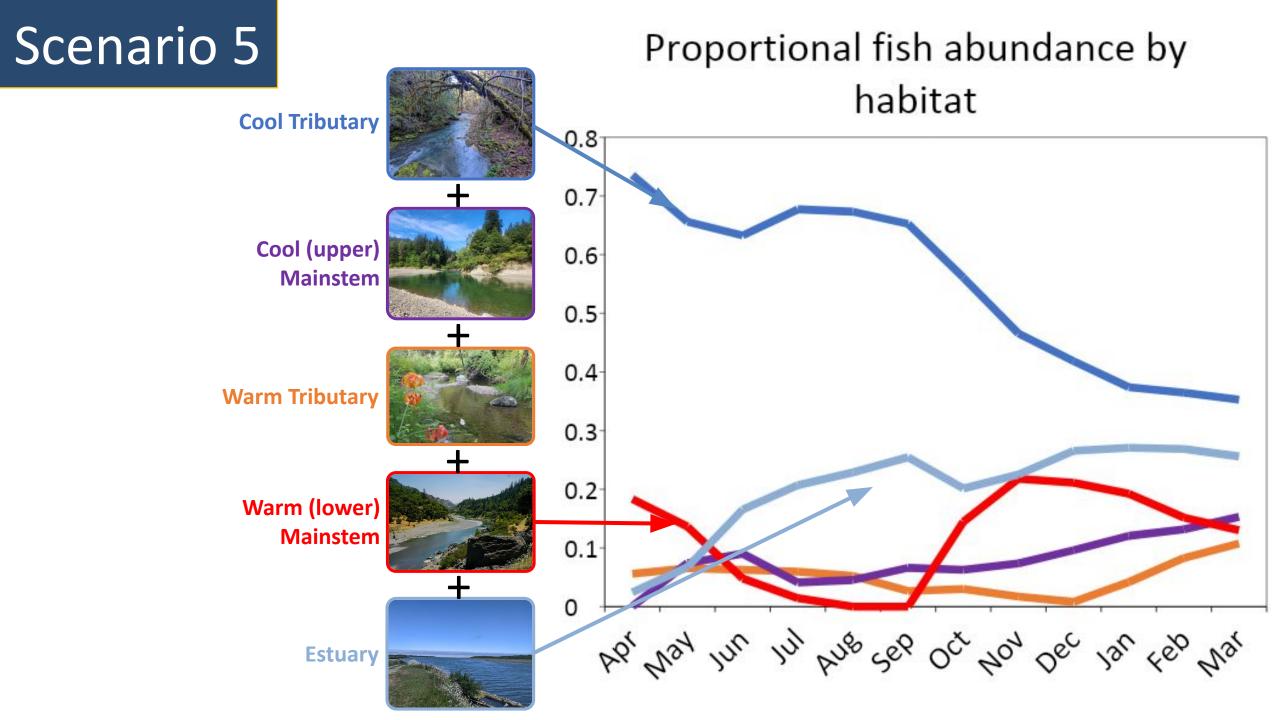
Cool Tributary









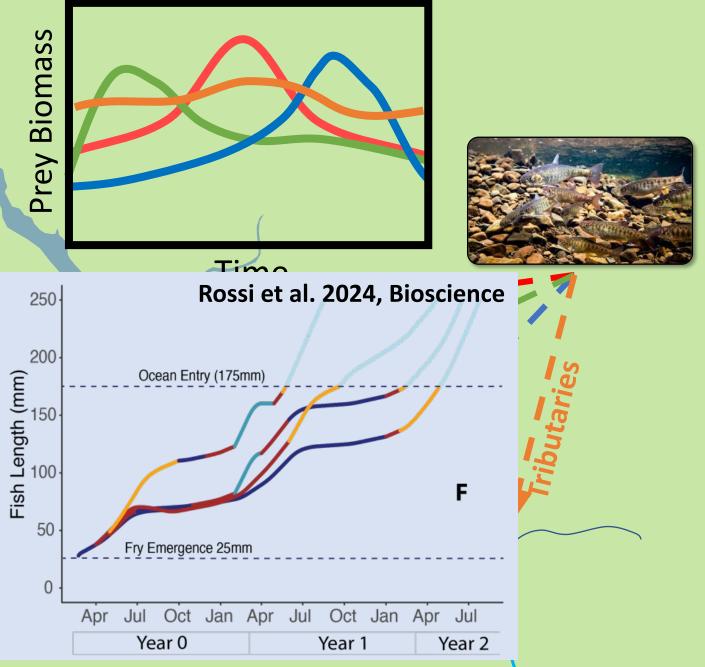


# Summary

 Accessible non-natal habitats can contribute substantially to population abundance

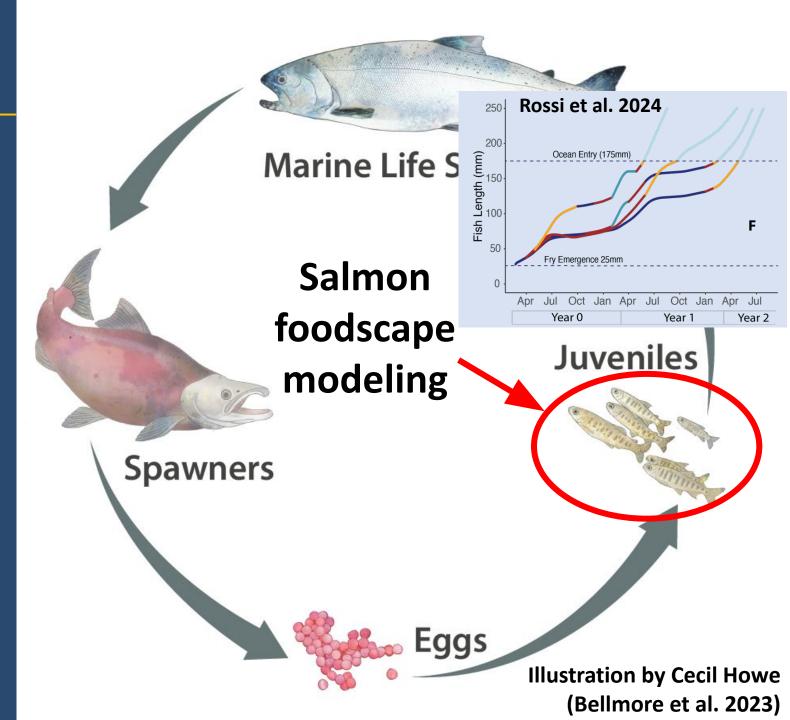
•Especially if those habitats host unique foraging and growth opportunities that promote life history diversity

#### **Temporal Dynamics**



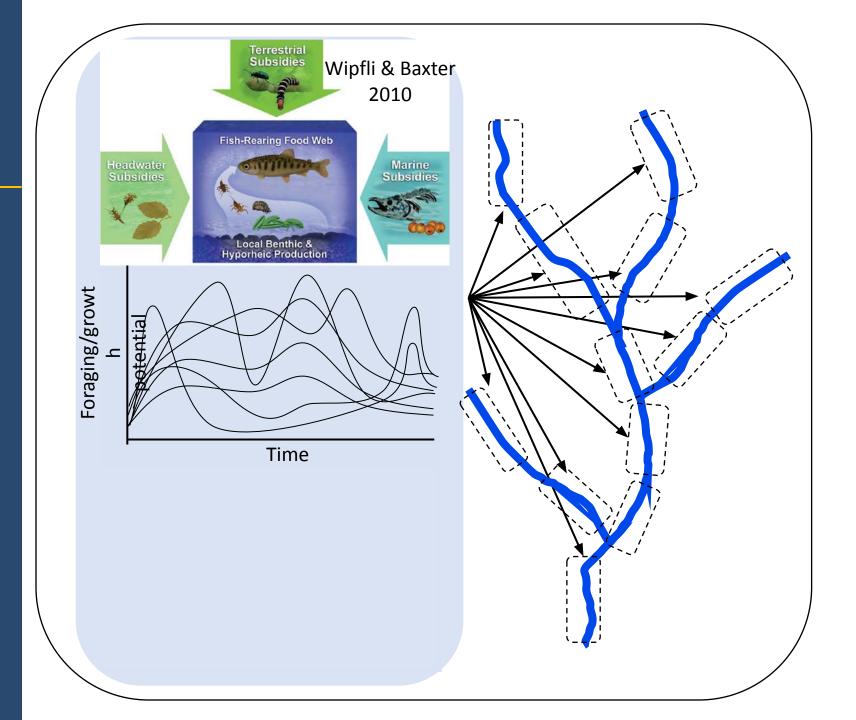
# Summary

We can integrate foodscape modeling into salmon life cycle models to envision how restoring healthy foodscapes promote healthy salmon populations.



## What did the foodscape used to look like?

- Develop a "reference foodscape" (Rossi et al. 2024)
- What are the potential trophic pathways, foraging/growth opportunities?
- What life histories a watershed could support?



## What did the foodscape used to look like?

- How does the current foodscape compare to "reference foodscape"
  What has been lost?
- •What are the opportunities for restoration?



Available online at www.sciencedirect.com



Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science 64 (2005) 79-93

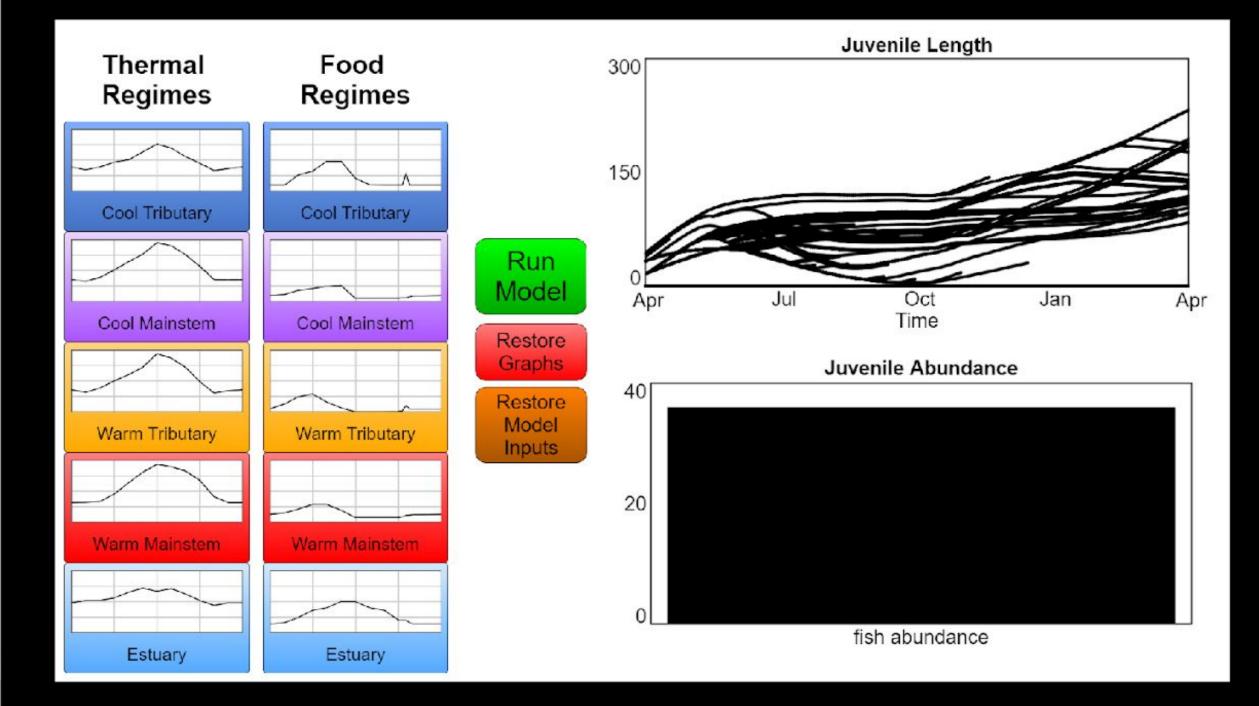
Patterns of Chinook salmon migration and residency in the Salmon River estuary (Oregon)

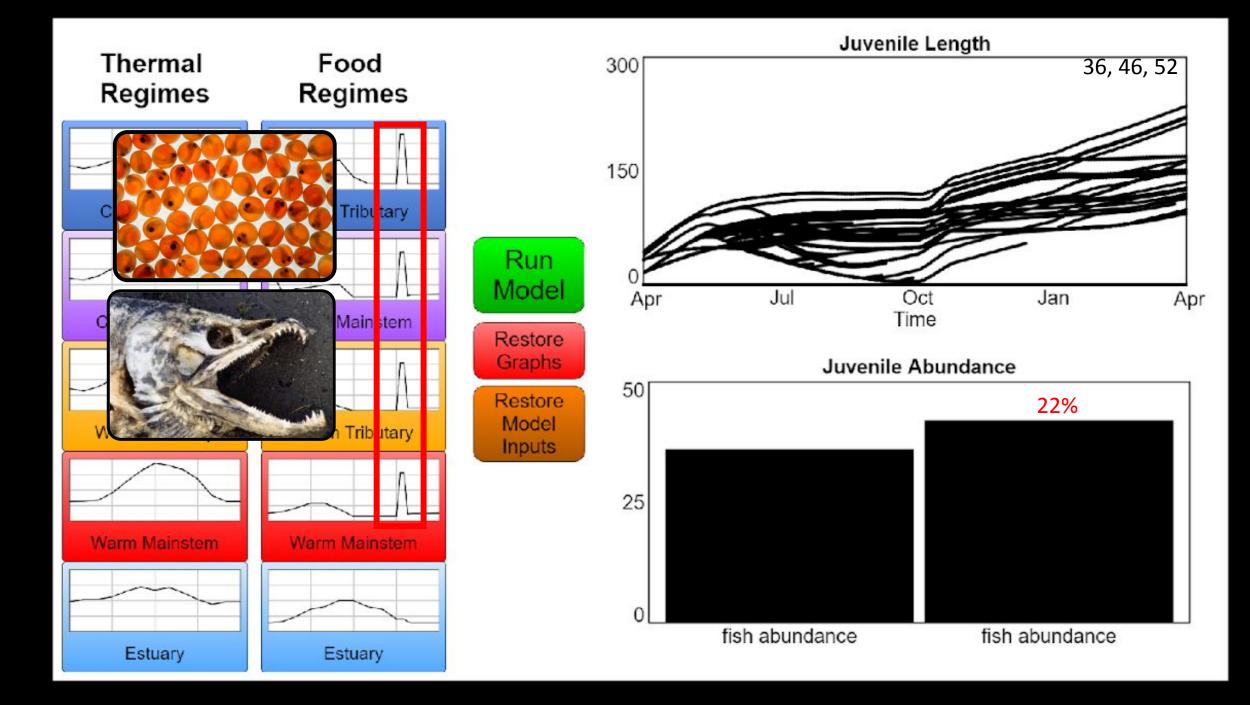
Daniel L. Bottom<sup>a,\*</sup>, Kim K. Jones<sup>b</sup>, Trevan J. Cornwell<sup>b</sup>, Ayesha Gray<sup>c</sup>, Charles A. Simenstad<sup>c</sup>

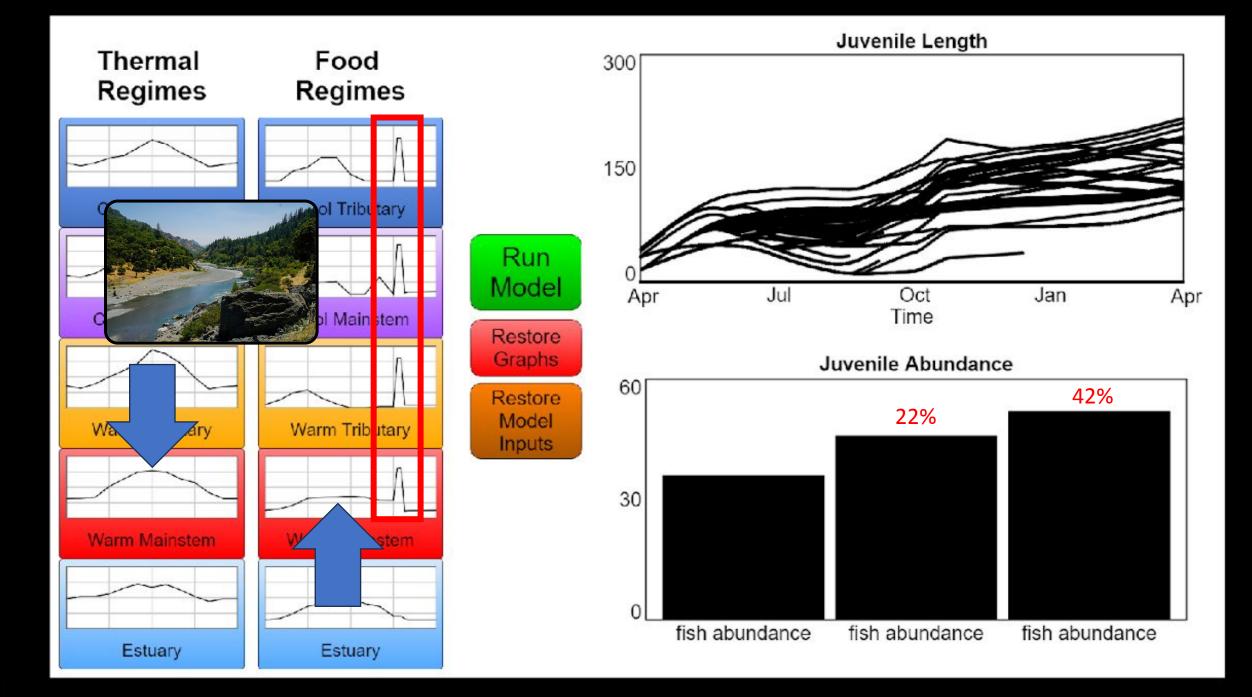
<sup>a</sup>NOAA-Fisheries, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, Newport, OR 97365, USA <sup>b</sup>Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Conservation and Recovery Program, Corvallis, OR 97333, USA <sup>c</sup>Wetland Ecosystem Team, School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-5020, USA

Accepted 1 February 2005









# Thank you!

#### **Foodscape Team**

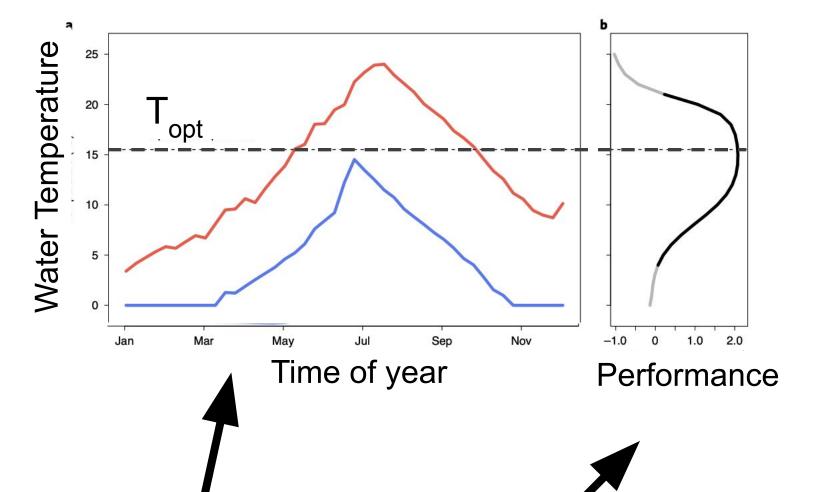
Jonathan Armstrong, David Beauchamp, Theodore Grantham, Carson Jeffres, Jacob Katz, Matthew Kaylor, Peter Kiffney, Martin Liermann, Sean Naman, Mary Power, Valerie Ouellet, Jordan Rosenfeld, Suzanne Rhoades, Beth Sanderson, Seth White

Alternative Life-History Tactics Fueled By Warm Habitat: Coastal Cutthroat and Redband Trout Forego Thermal Refuges to Feed in Productive Riffles

Jonny Armstrong<sup>1</sup>, Jordan Ortega<sup>1,2</sup>, Hannah Barrett<sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup> OSU FWCS <sup>2</sup> Klamath Tribes Ambodat











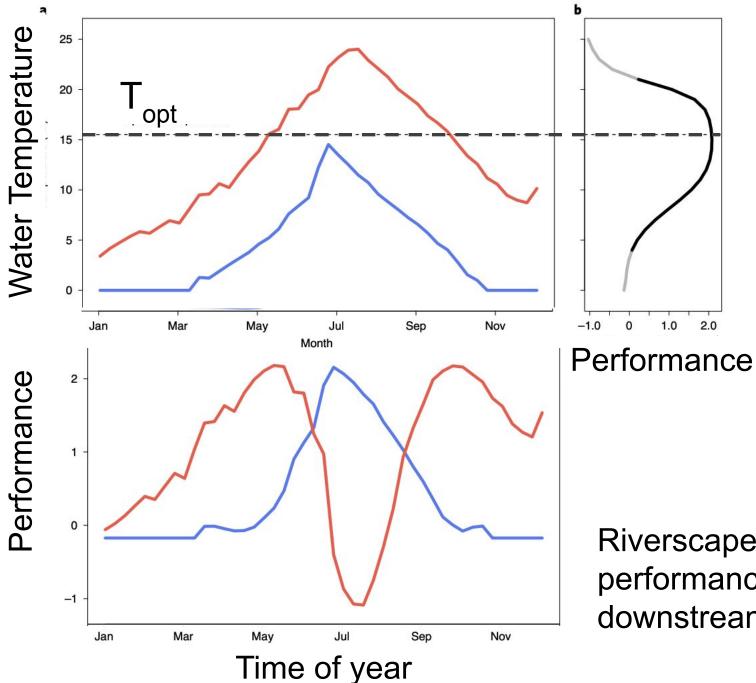
Thermal regime + Physiology = Growth regime



The importance of warm habitat to the growth regime of cold-water fishes

Jonathan B. Armstrong⊚<sup>1</sup>≅, Aimee H. Fullerton ©<sup>2</sup>, Chris E. Jordan ©<sup>2</sup>, Joseph L. Ebersole ©<sup>3</sup>, J. Ryan Bellmore <sup>©4</sup>, Ivan Arismendi <sup>©1</sup>, Brooke E. Penaluna <sup>©5</sup> and Gordon H. Reeves<sup>5</sup>

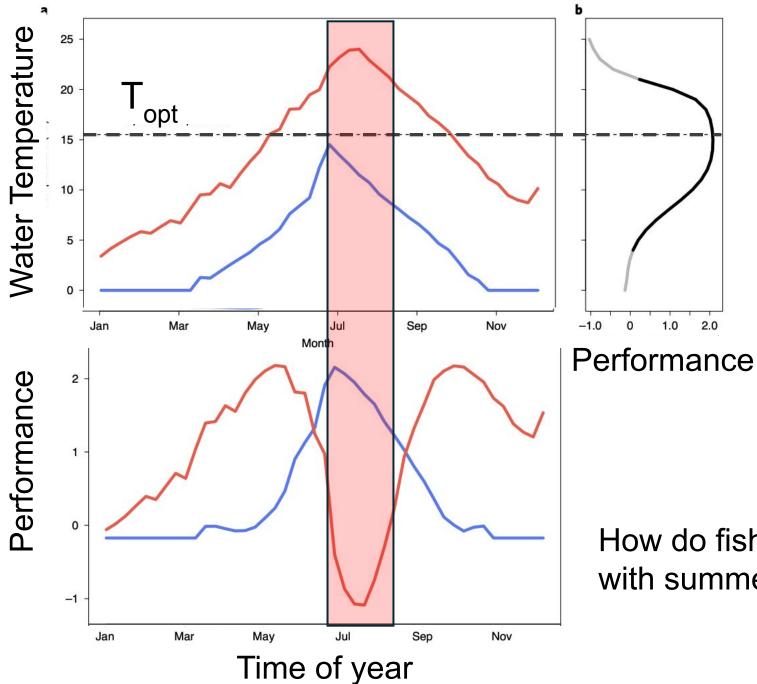
A seminar and of blatestest adaptation alonging is to identify, and established a setting that some is suitably, and during the suitably and suitably and during the suitably and suitably







Riverscapes exhibit 3 peaks of physiological performance and two of them occur downstream





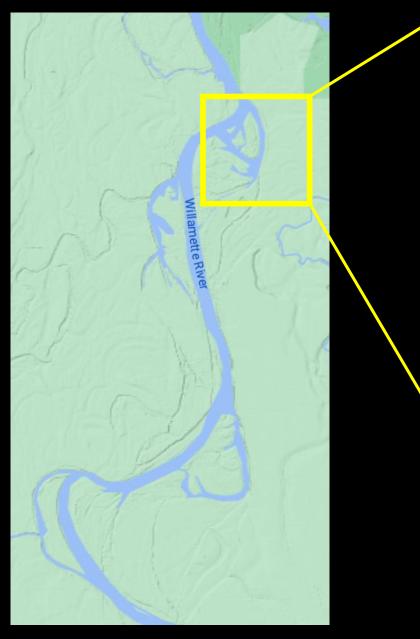


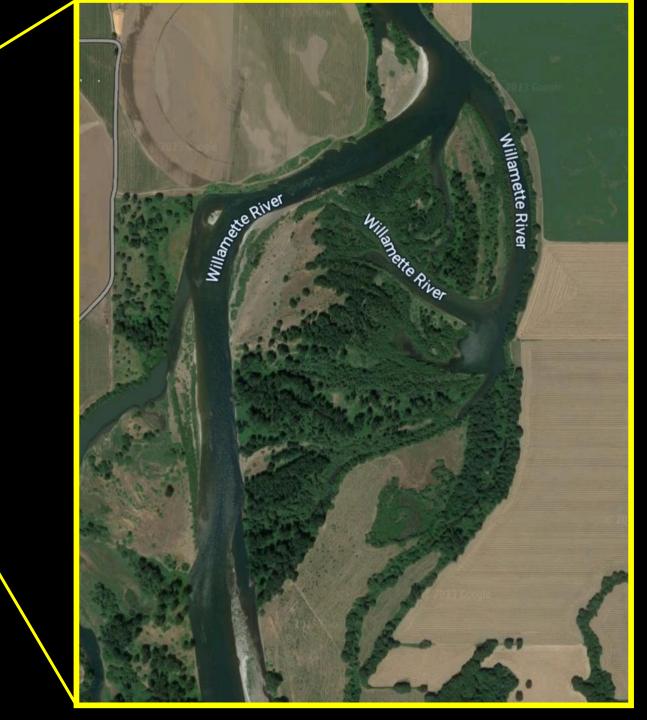
How do fish in downstream habitats cope with summer?

#### Coastal cutthroat trout, Willamette River

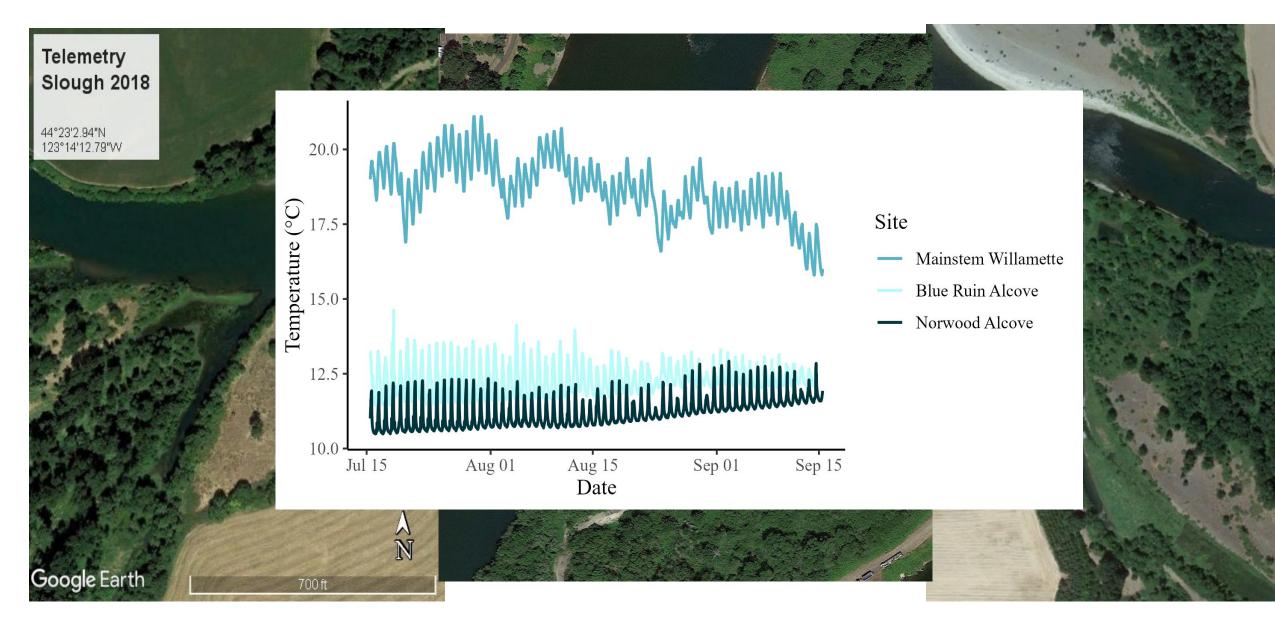


#### Floodplain alcoves



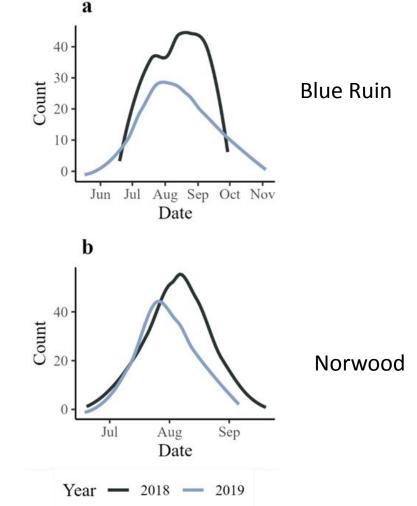


Alcoves with upwelling flows offer cool temperatures as mainstem reaches ~ 23C

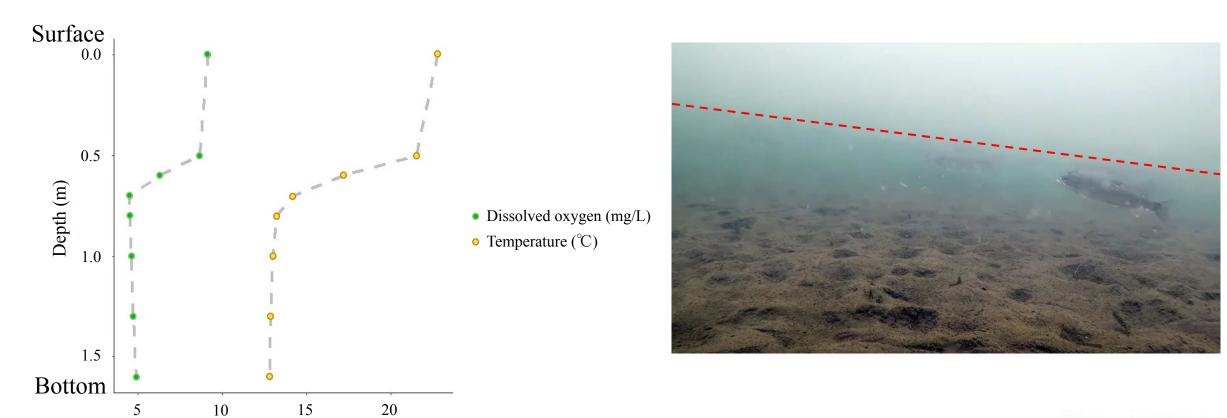


#### As the mainstem warms, cutthroat trout aggregate in floodplain alcoves









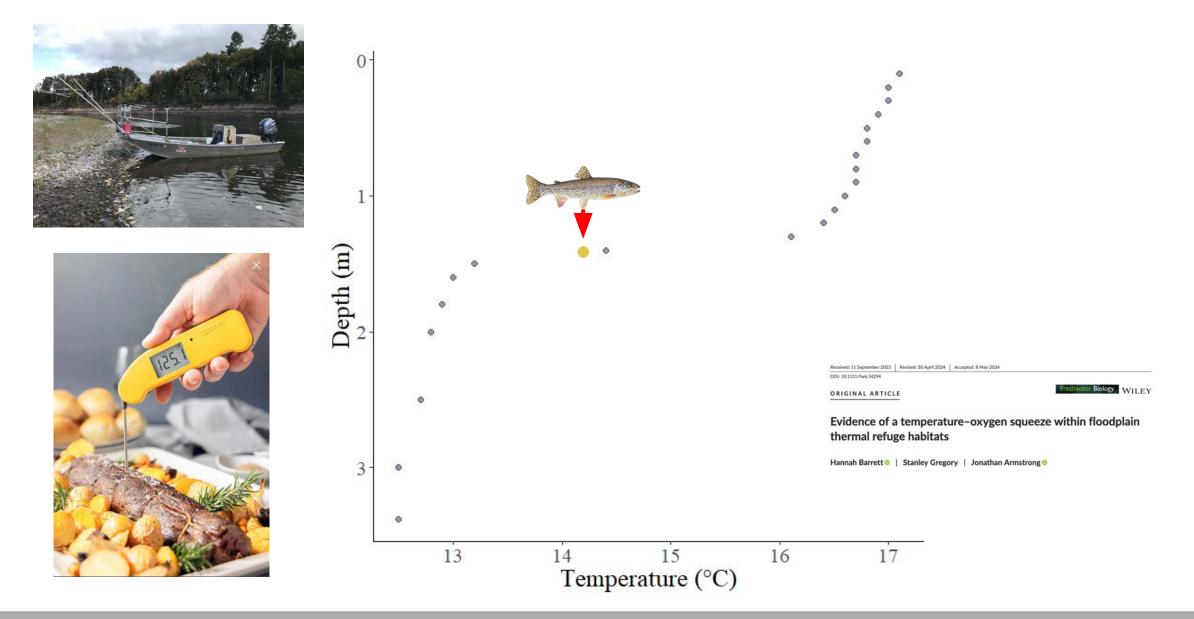
#### RESEARCH ARTICLE

#### 

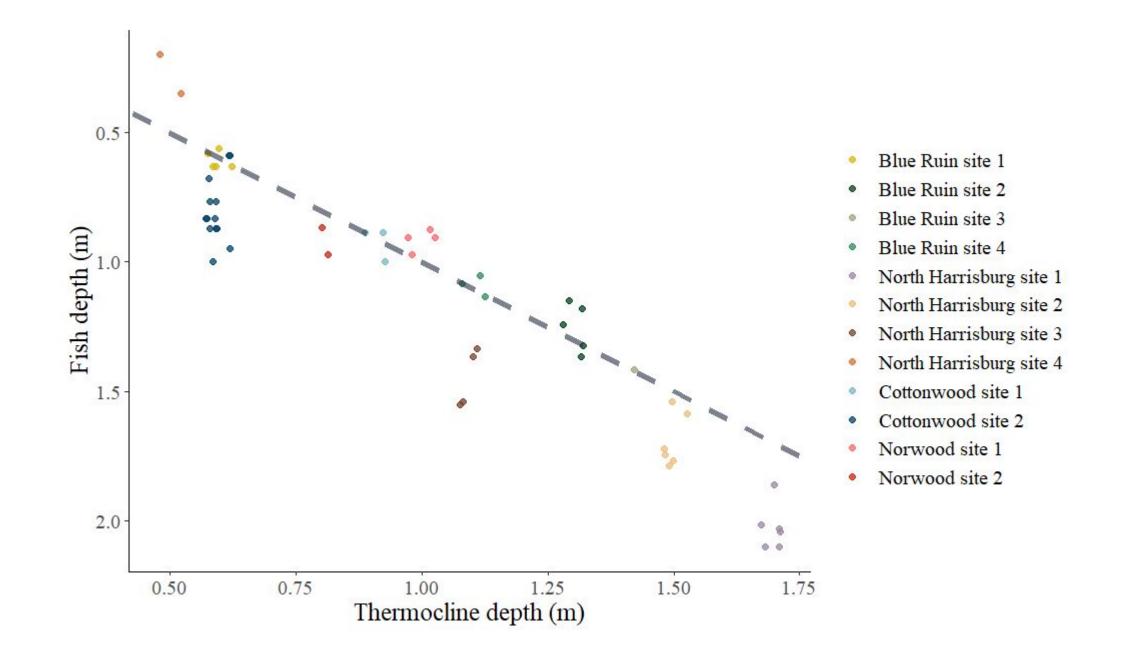
Novel dimensionless index for physically based assessment of thermal refugia characterizes off-channel habitat on gravel bed river

Carolyn E. Gombert<sup>1</sup> | Stephen T. Lancaster<sup>2</sup> | Gordon E. Grant<sup>3</sup> | Rebecca L. Flitcroft<sup>3</sup>

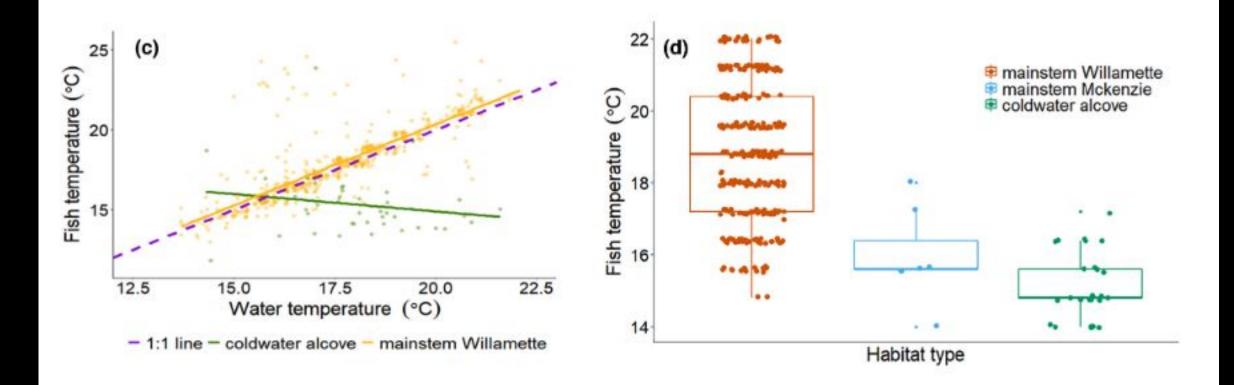








# What fraction of the population moves to floodplain thermal refuges?



<10% in an approximately average summer (2020)

Barret and Armstrong 2022 *Ecosphere* 

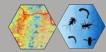
#### Mainstem Willamette (lotic)

- Warm
- High velocity
- Presumably prey rich

#### Cold-water alcove (lentic)

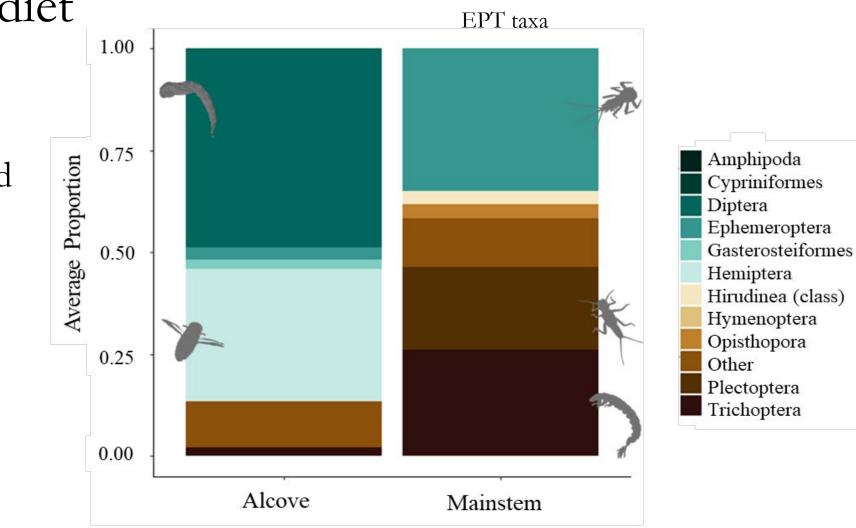
- Up to  $10^{\circ}$ C cooler
- Zero velocity
- Warm margins packed with invertebrates

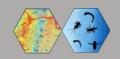




#### Characterizing diet

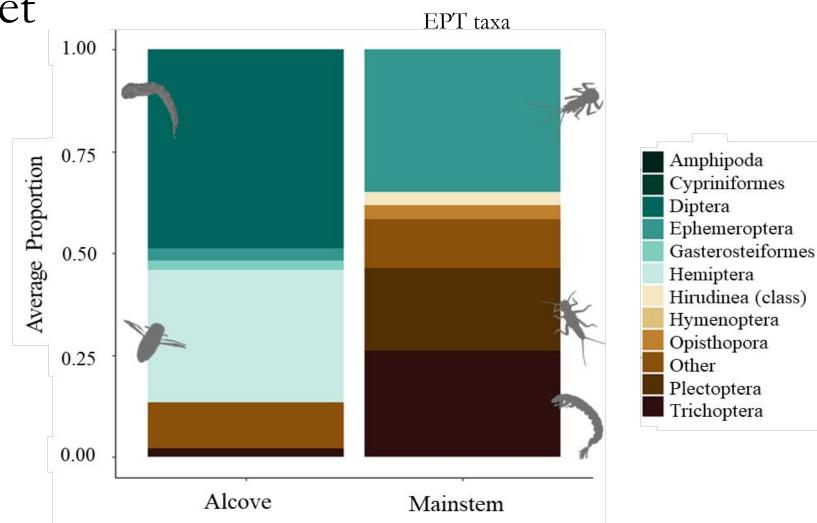
 Alcove fish eat chironomid pupae and diving water beetles

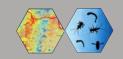




#### Characterizing diet

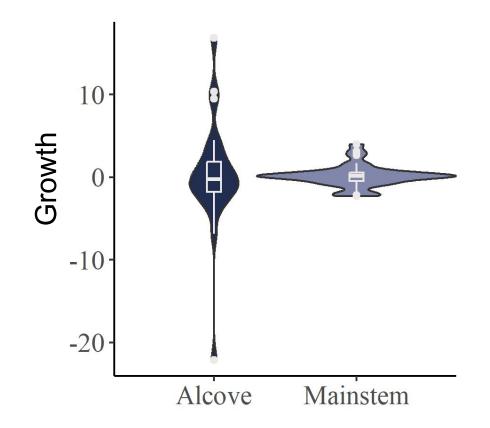
- Alcove fish eat chironomid pupae and diving water beetles
- Mainstem fish have >3x more energy in their diet

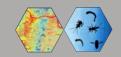


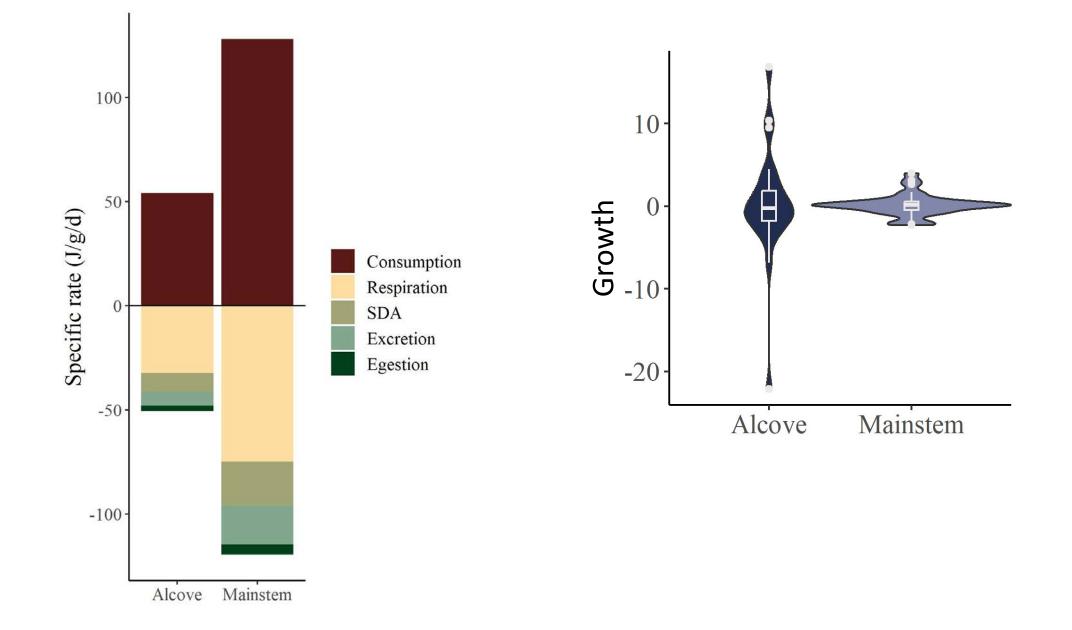


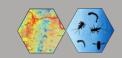
#### **Growth and bioenergetics**

- Median growth is approximately equal
- Solve for energy budget that produces observed growth when C riffle = 3\* C alcove









#### Gain Maximizing

- Higher basal metabolism
- Higher activity costs
- Higher energy gain



### Efficiency

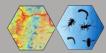
Maximizing

- Lower basal metabolism
- Lower activity
- Lower energy gain

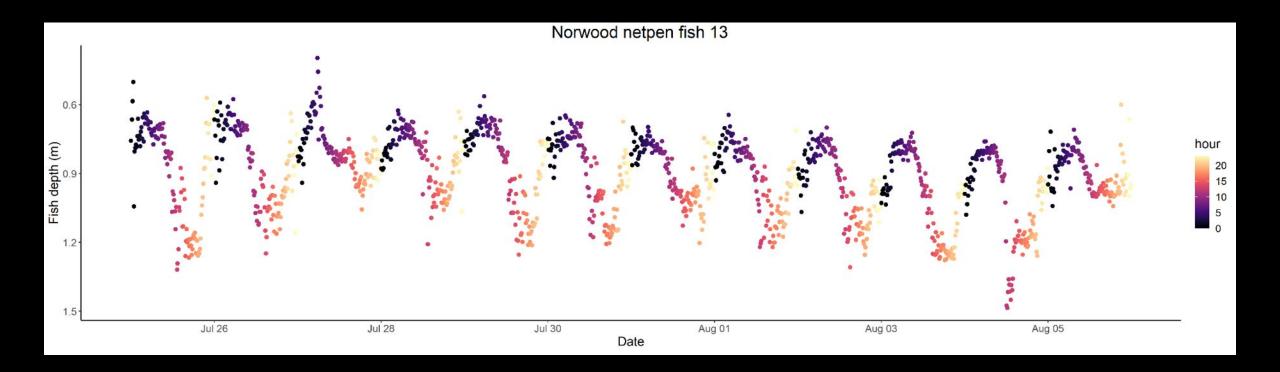


Gauthier Monnet<sup>1</sup> | Jordan S. Rosenfeld<sup>2,3</sup> | Jeffrey G. Richards<sup>1</sup>





#### Cutthroat trout exhibit DVM to balance Temperature and DO trade-off



- Fish avoid DO minimums (< 2mg/L)
- BUT they endure hypoxia (2-4 mg/L) in exchange for cold temperatures

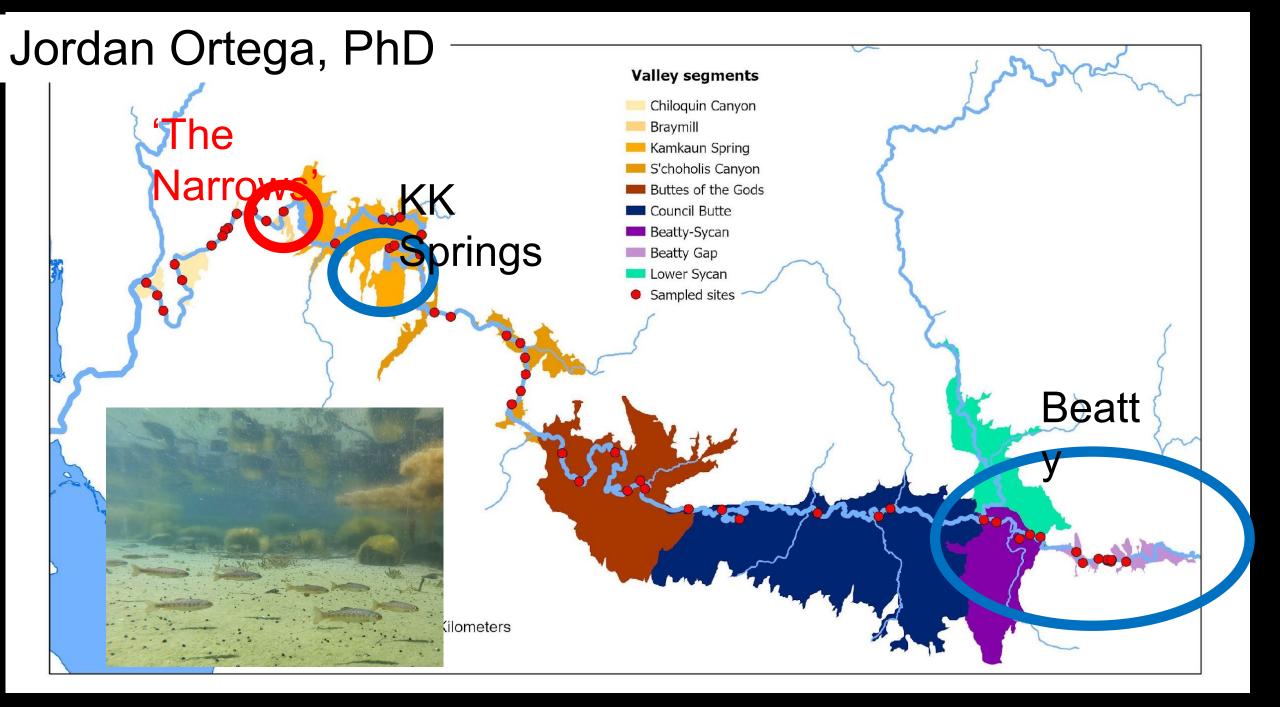
#### Part II: Klamath Redband trout



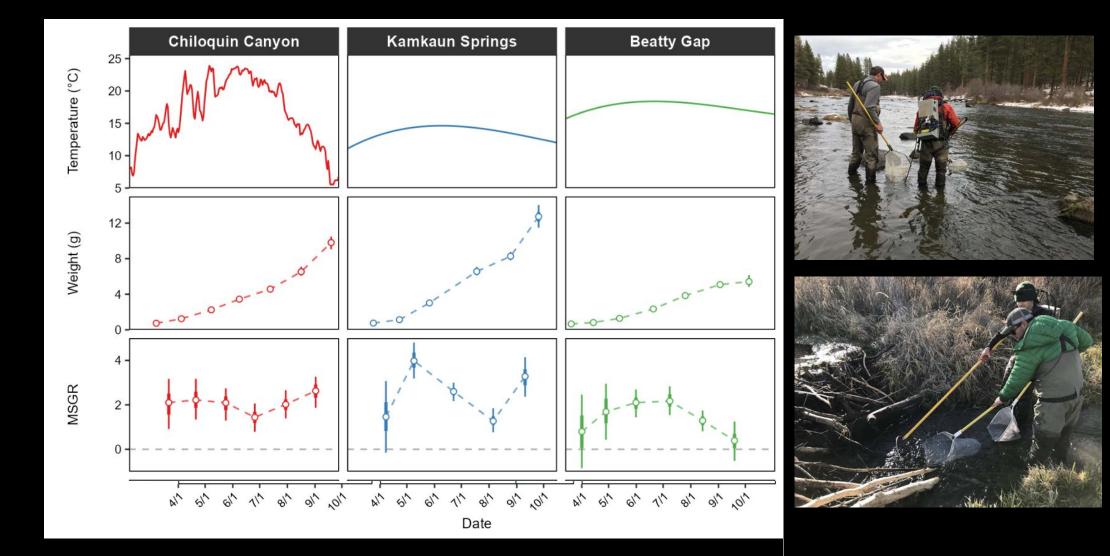




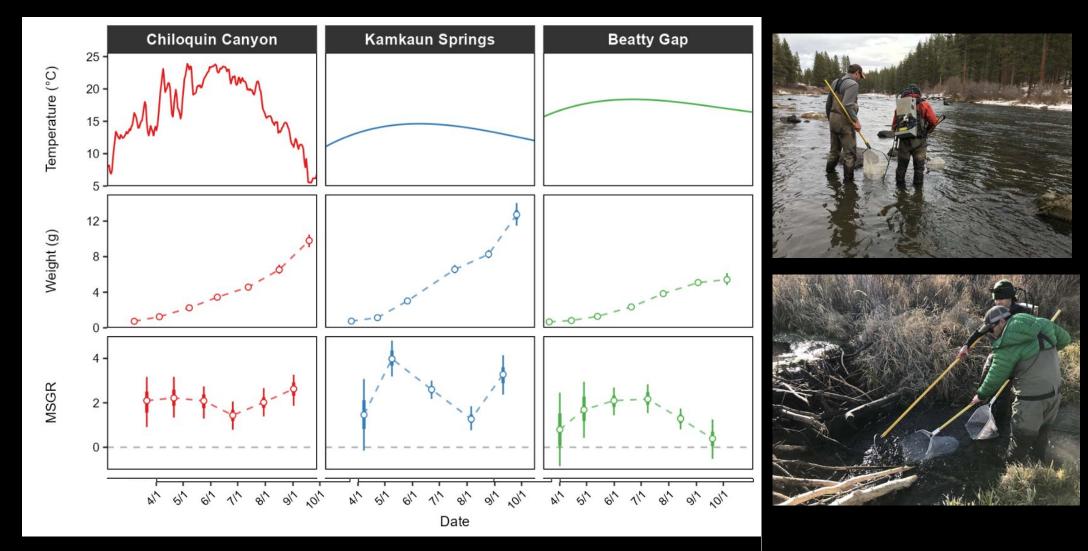




#### How do these 3 locations support fish through time?



### How do these 3 locations support fish through time?



How do food consumption rates compare among these sites?

#### Uncertainty over temperature vs. metabolic costs

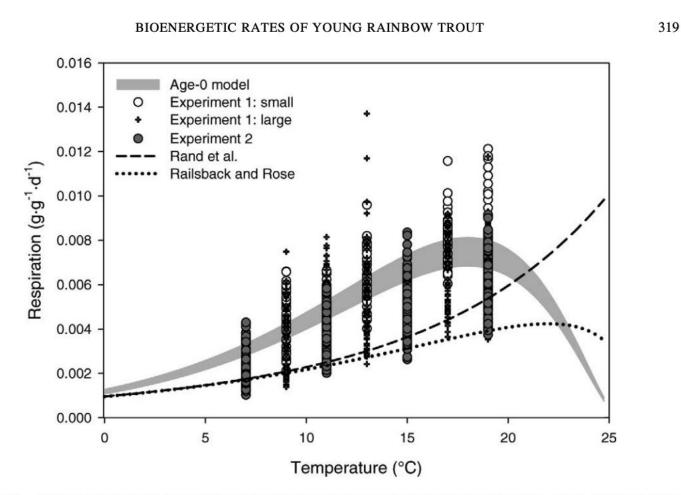
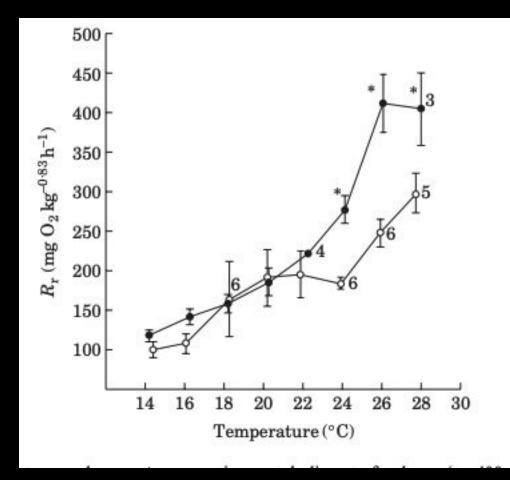


FIGURE 2.—Data and model predictions of the relationship between temperature and the respiration rate of age-0 rainbow trout. The data are shown as individual points. The shaded region shows the predictions from the new age-0 model over the range of weights determined by the mean weights of the small and large fish in experiment 1. The predictions from the models of Rand et al. (1993) and Railsback and Rose (1999) use the mean weight of all fish.

Tyler and Bolduc 2008 TAFS

#### What does T vs. R look like for Klamath redband trout?



Journal of Fish Biology (2004) 64, 310–335 doi:10.1046/j.1095-8649.2004.00292.x, available online at http://www.blackwell-synergy.com

Thermal tolerance and metabolic physiology among redband trout populations in south-eastern Oregon

K. J. RODNICK\*†, A. K. GAMPERL‡§, K. R. LIZARS‡, M. T. BENNETT†, R. N. RAUSCH‡ AND E. R. KEELEY†

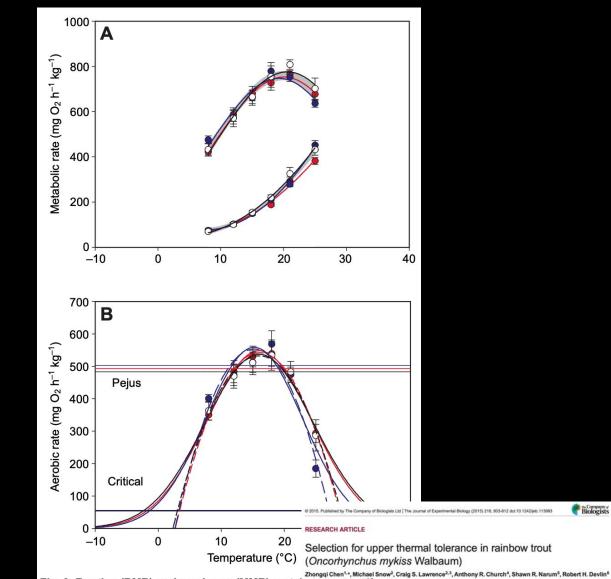
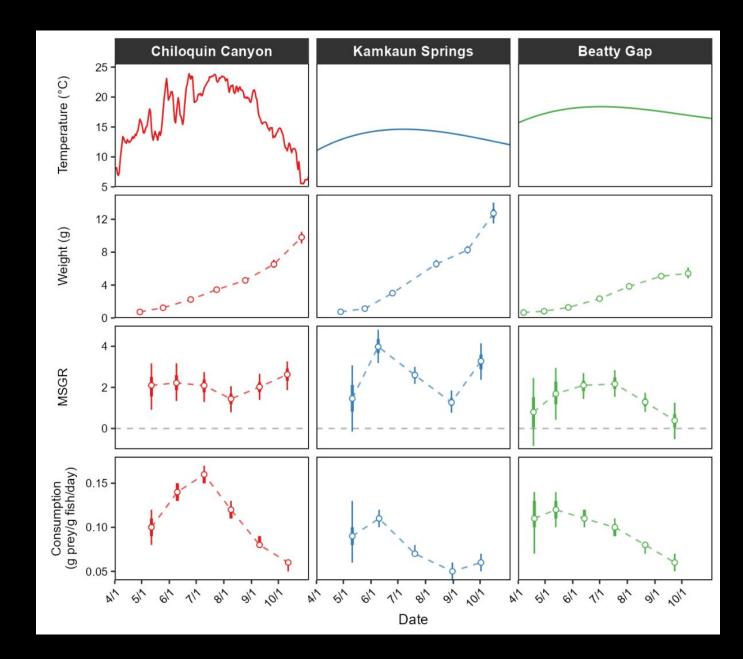


Fig. 3. Routine (RMR) and maximum (MMR) metal and Anthony P. Farrell<sup>17</sup> scope for three family groups of rainbow trout. (A) styles and with a styles of unless

- In the seasonally warm canyon fish consume ~50% more food during summer
- Phenology of consumption varies among sites



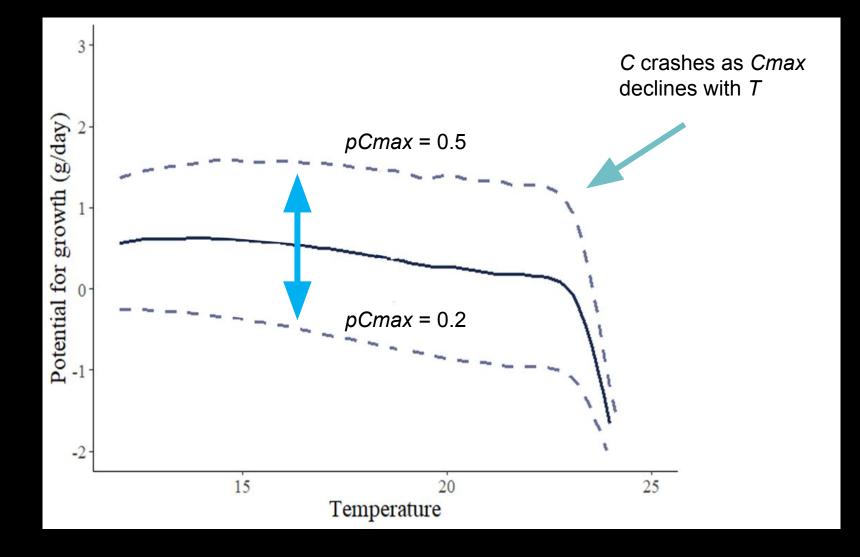


# How to cope with hot summers

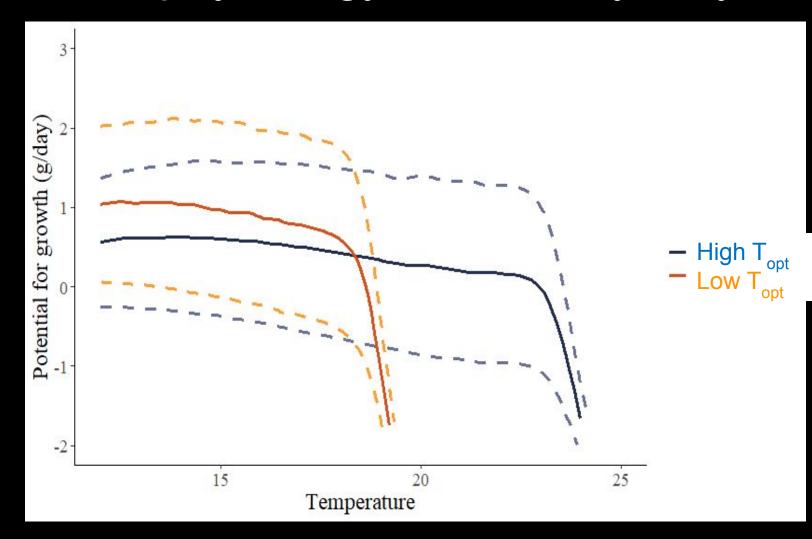
 Warm riffles support rate-maximizing strategies: big gains and big losses

• Thermal refuges support cost-minimizing strategies for adults, potentially different strategies for juveniles

# Can salmonids eat their way out of trouble?



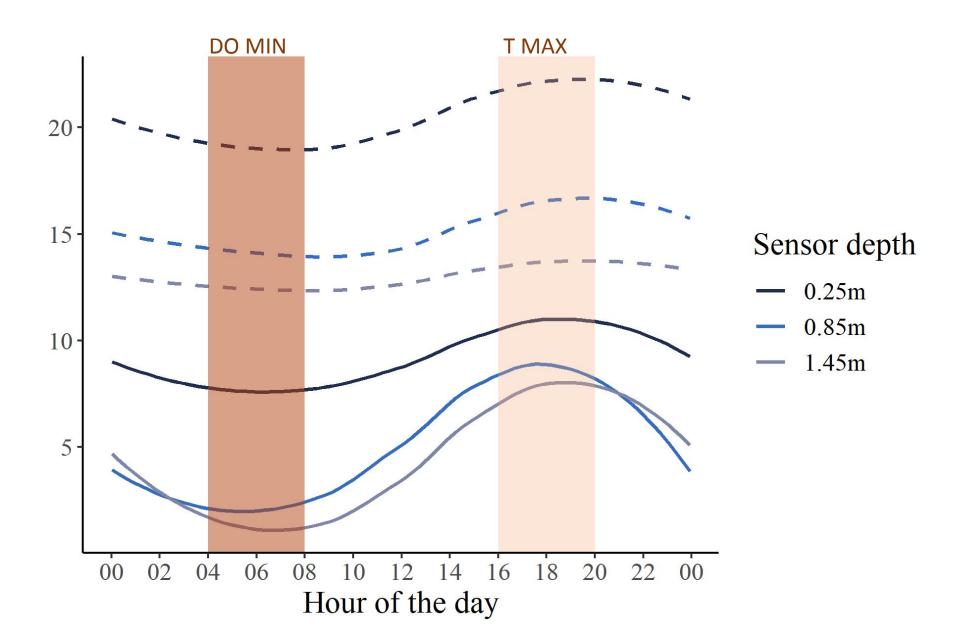
# Where growth crashes depends on thermal physiology, which may vary a lot



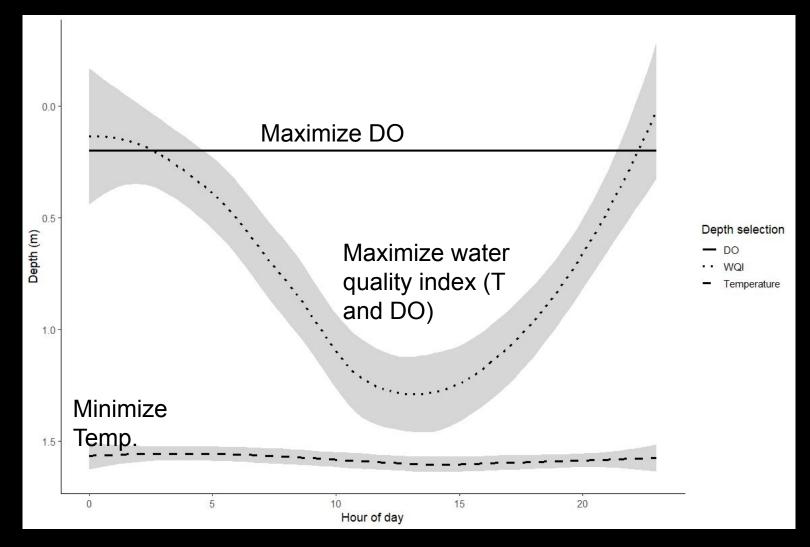
# Thanks!

- PhD students: Hannah Barrett and Jordan Ortega
- Many collaborators
- Funding: NW CASC, NSF GRF, ODFW, USFWS/NFWF
- Gabe Rossi and Foodscapes group

#### Diel variation: stressors occur asynchronously



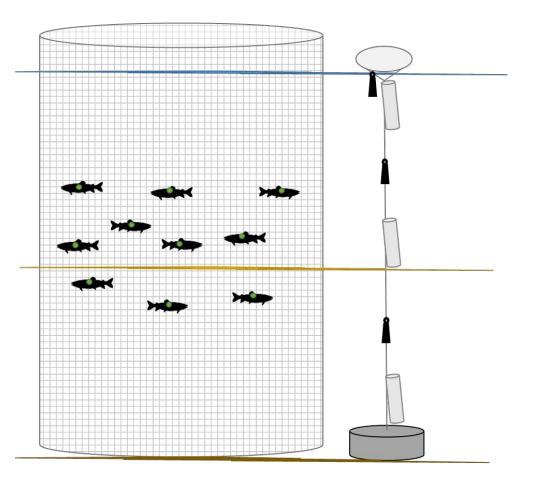
#### Emergent property: Diel vertical movement



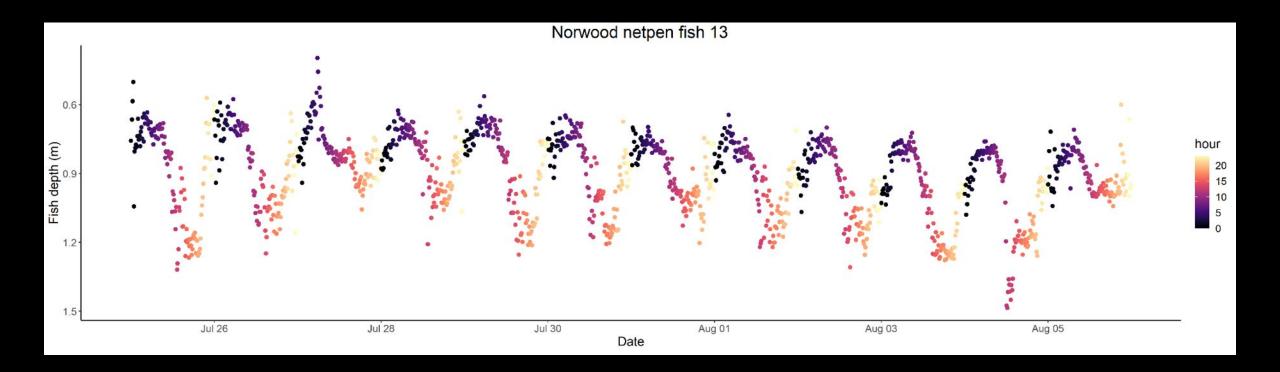
Simulated depth selection by fish experiencing observed conditions under different behavioral rules

#### Enclosure study in alcoves





#### Cutthroat trout exhibit DVM to balance Temperature and DO trade-off



- Fish avoid DO minimums (< 2mg/L)
- BUT they endure hypoxia (2-4 mg/L) in exchange for cold temperatures

# Foodscapes and Deathscapes in an Interior British Columbia Watershed

Sean Naman

**Freshwater Ecosystems Section** 

**Fisheries and Oceans Canada** 

Cultus Lake, BC



### Productivity

### Risk



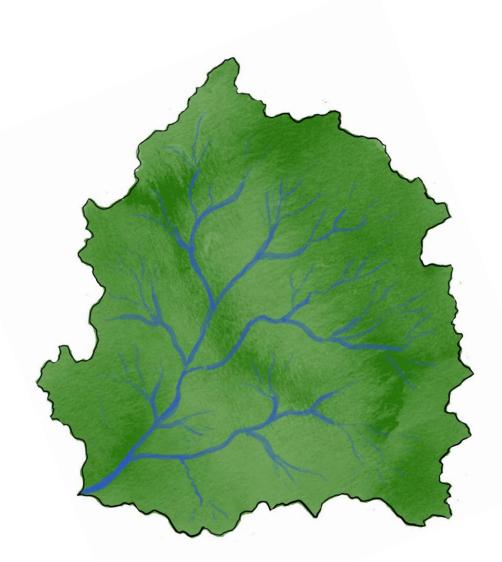


#### **Critical Questions**

• Where (and when) to protect?

• What to restore?

• How is this changing?



# North Thompson Salmon Ecosystem Research Program

- Identify important coho salmon habitats and their contribution to productivity
- Understand habitat vulnerability and responses to human impact





# North Thompson Salmon Ecosystem Research Program

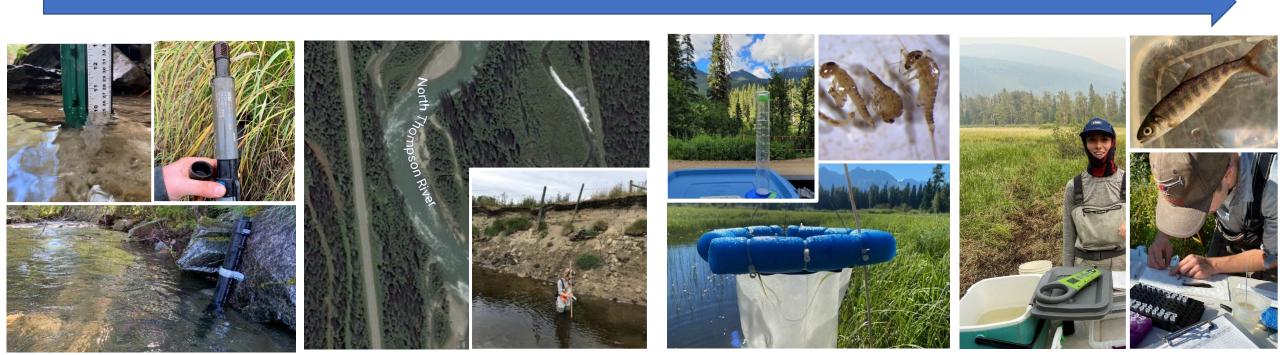
#### Team:

- Doug Braun
- Emma Hodgson
- Amanda Martens
- Julian Gan
- Sarah Hnytka
- Daniella Loscerbo
- Violaine Pemberton-Renaud
- Sheena Parsons
- **Brittany Milner**
- Dylan Cunningham
- Lindsey Boyd
- Wendy Fleming
- Mike Bradford



### Watershed Approach to Habitat Science

#### Extensive



Environmental Conditions Temperature Flow Dissolved Oxygen Water level

Physical Habitat In-stream habitat Landscape features Flood-inundation model Hydraulic model **Ecosystem** Water chemistry and nutrients Metabolism (GPP, respiration) Invertebrate abundance Stable isotopes and fish diets **Fish** Mark-recapture Movement (PIT telemetry) Size and age composition Physiology (IGF-1, Lipid density) Otolith microchemistry

Intensive

### Contrasting rearing habitats for coho





Tributary streams

**Off-channel wetlands** 

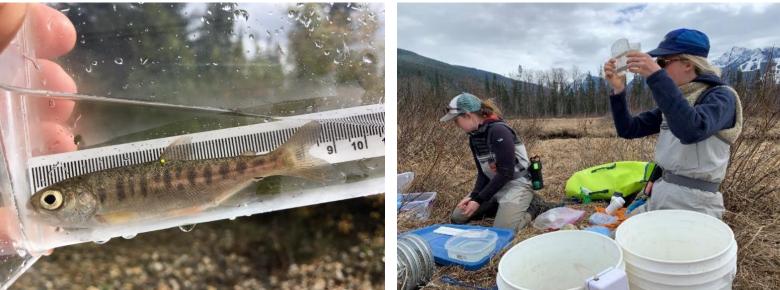
### **Fish Studies**



**OPEN ACCESS** | Research Article

# Seasonal dynamics of juvenile coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) in wetlands of the North Thompson River, British Columbia

Brittany L. Milner <sup>©ab</sup>, Douglas Braun <sup>©a</sup>, Jonathan W. Moore<sup>b</sup>, Amanda M. Martens<sup>c</sup>, Daniella LoScerbo<sup>a</sup>, and Sean Naman<sup>ac</sup>

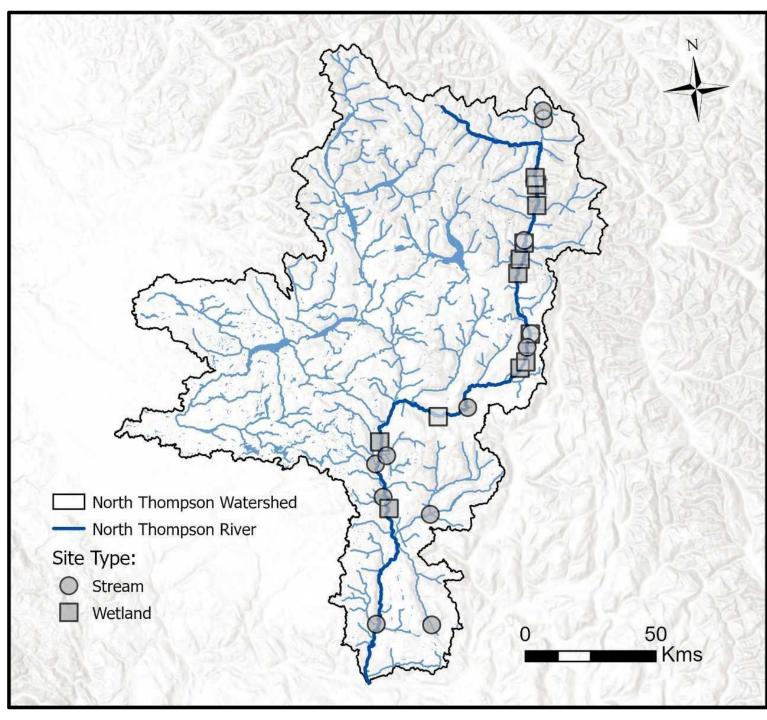




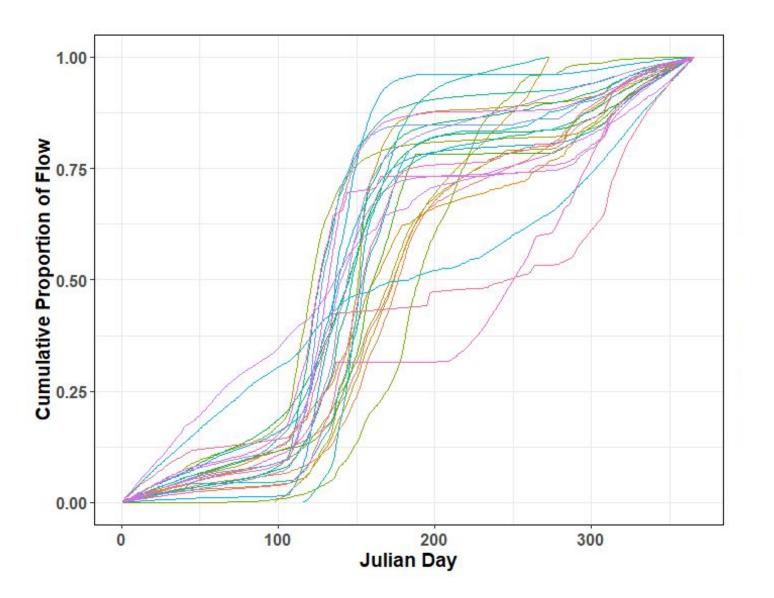
# Environmental Monitoring

- Continuous monitoring of temperature, water level (flow), DO, and conductivity
- 25 streams and 15 wetlands





### **Diverse Hydrology**

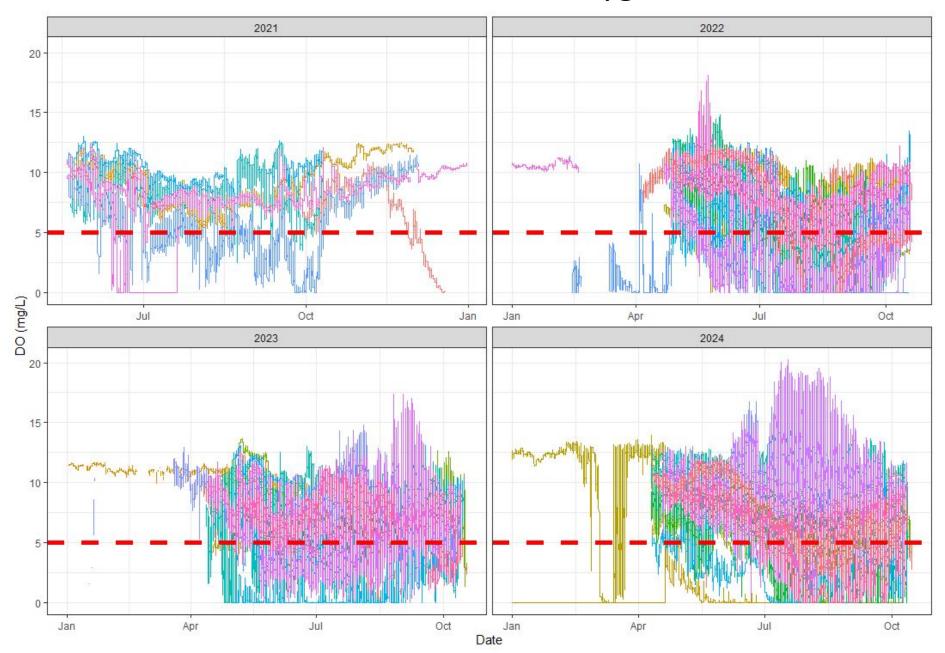




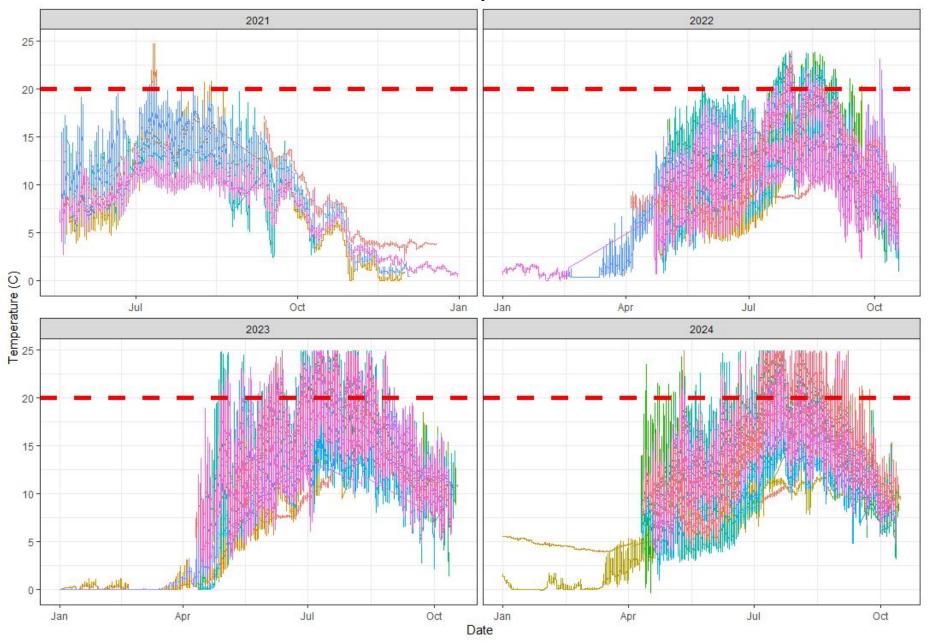




#### Wetland Dissolved Oxygen

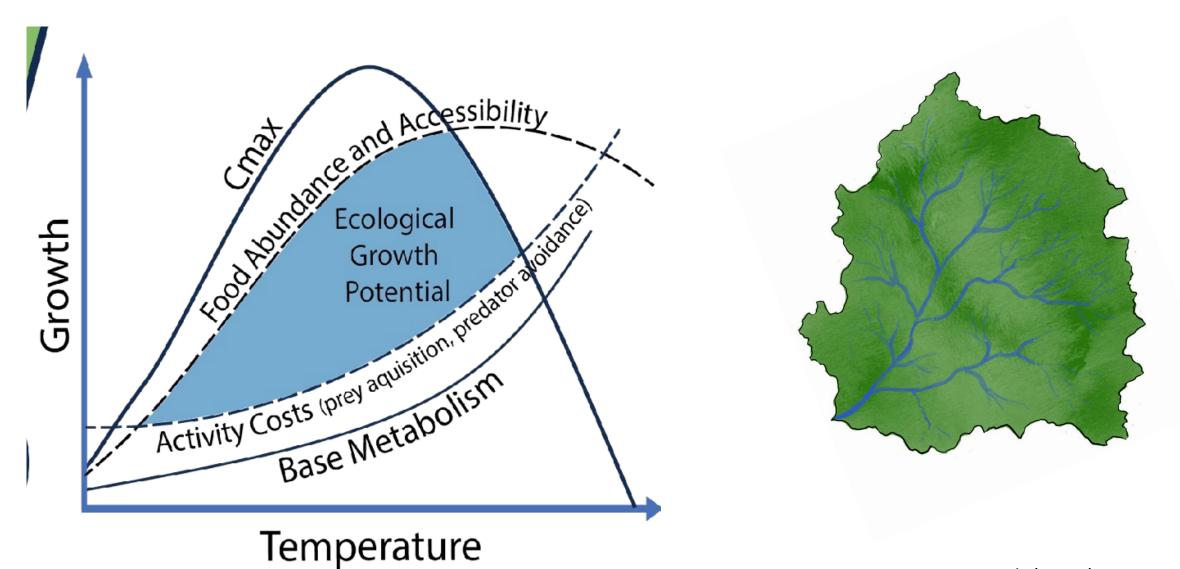


#### Wetland Temperature



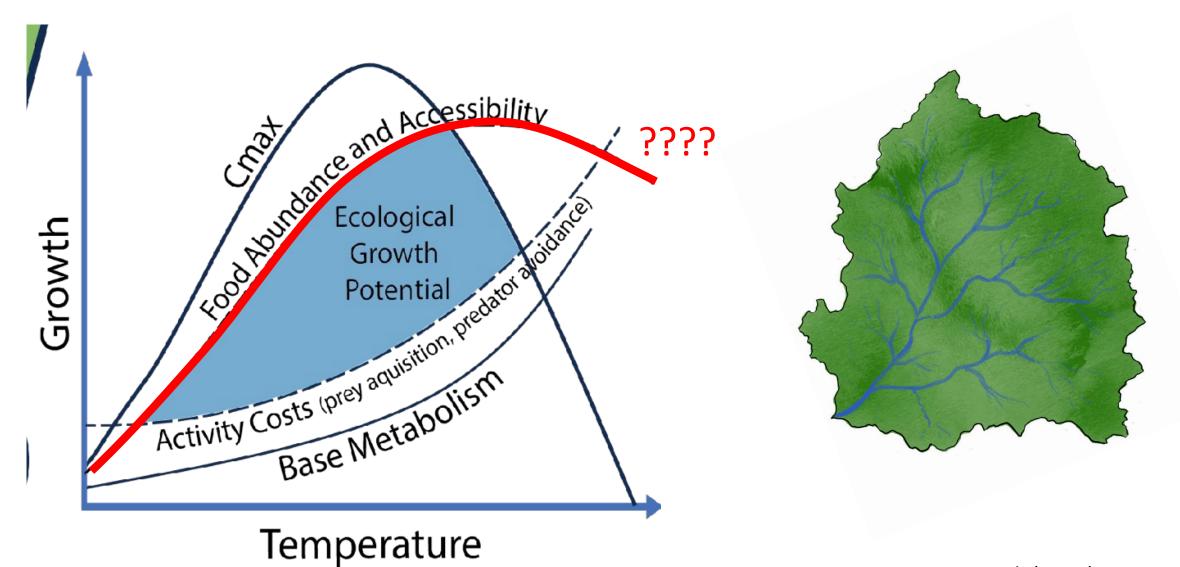


### Foodscapes



Rossi et al. (2024) Bioscience

### Foodscapes



Rossi et al. (2024) Bioscience

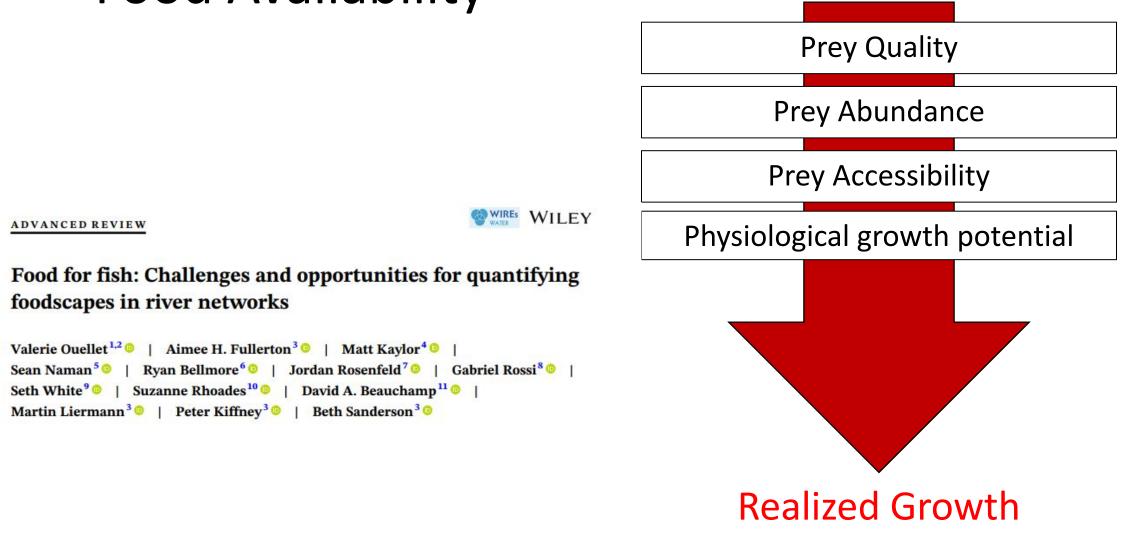
### Food Availability and Accessibility

 How does food availability vary spatially and temporally in streams and wetlands?



Sheena Parsons M.Sc. Student, SFU Biology

### Food Availability



Ouellet et al. (2025) WIREs Water

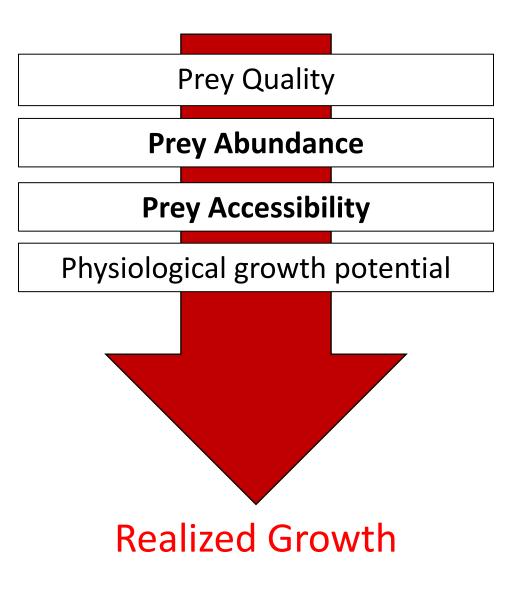
# Food Availability

#### Prey Abundance

Biomass concentration

#### **Prey Accessibility**

 Overlap with unsuitable abiotic conditions



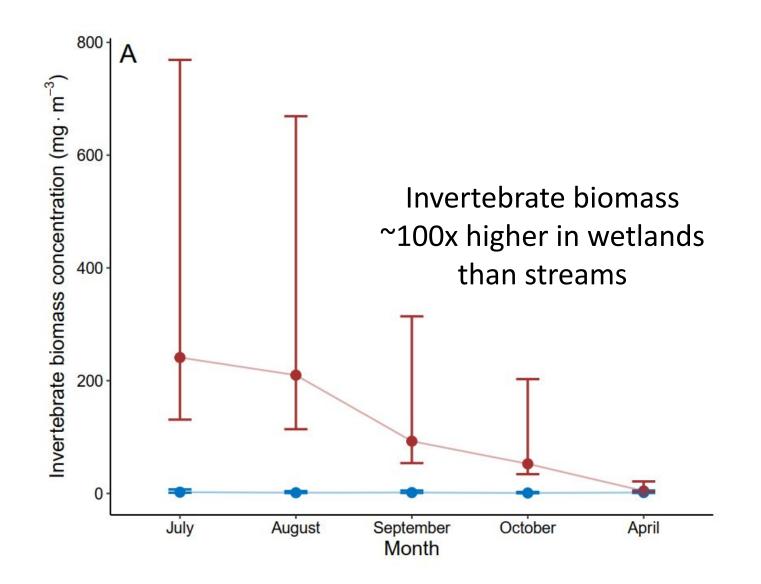
Ouellet et al. (2025) WIREs Water

# Sampling

- 12 sites (6 streams 6 wetlands)
- Monthly sampling 2022-2023

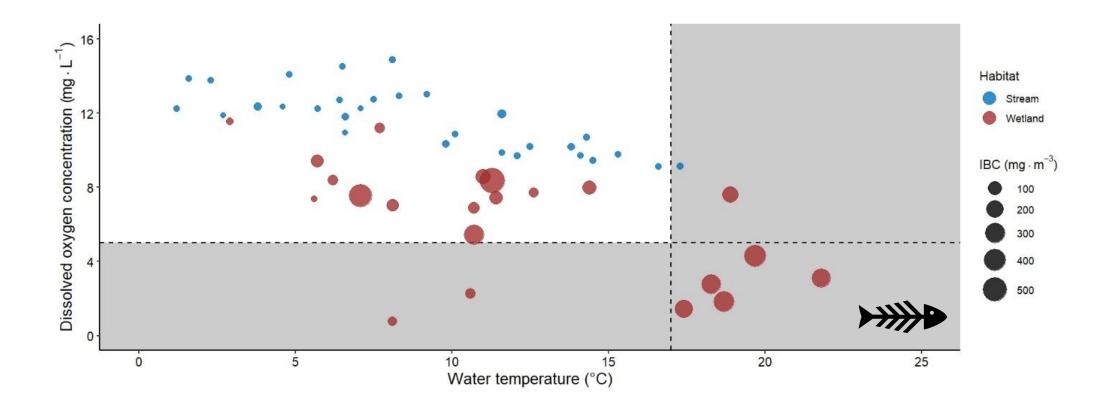


## **Prey Abundance**



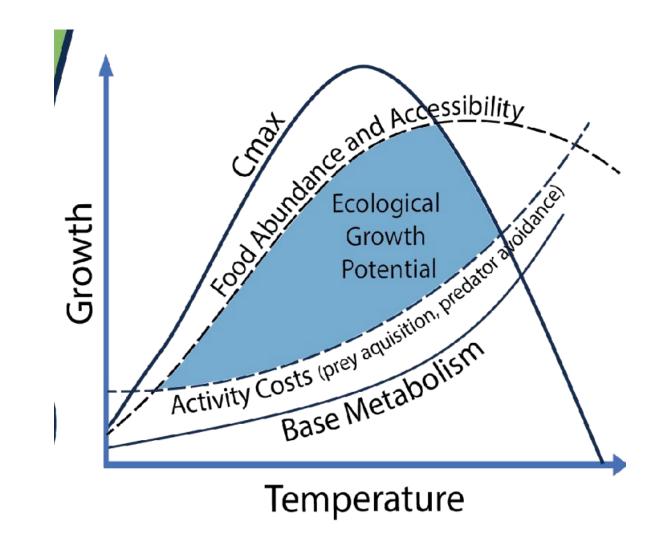
Parsons et al. (In Review)

## **Prey Accessibility**



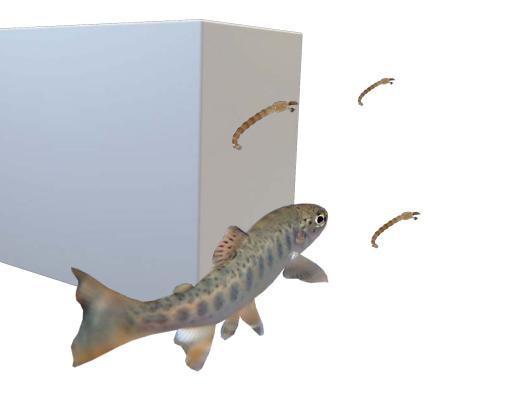
Parsons et al. (In Review)

## Building the Foodscape



Rossi et al. (2024) Bioscience

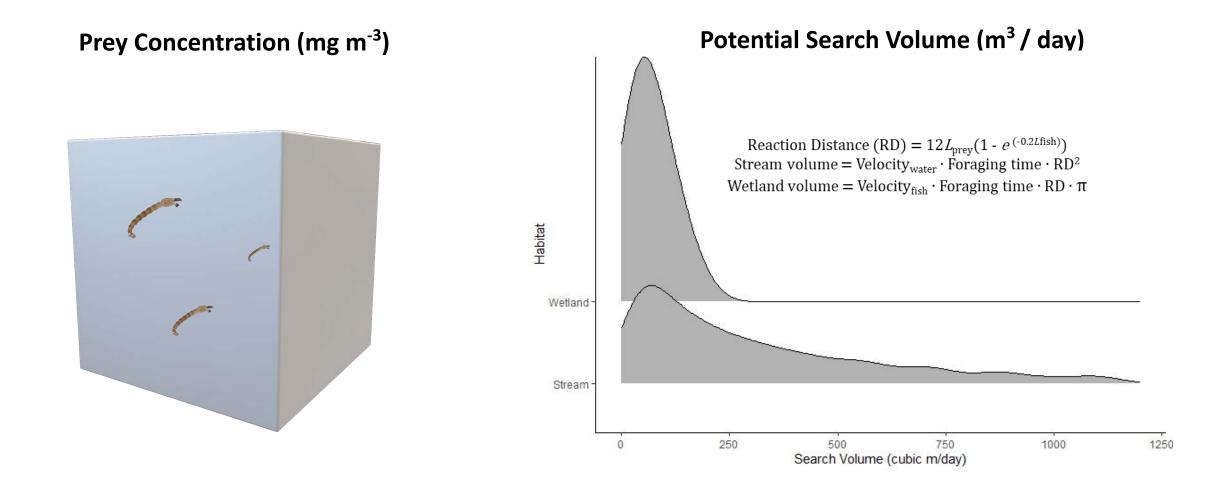
## **Prey Concentration**



(mg m<sup>-3</sup>)

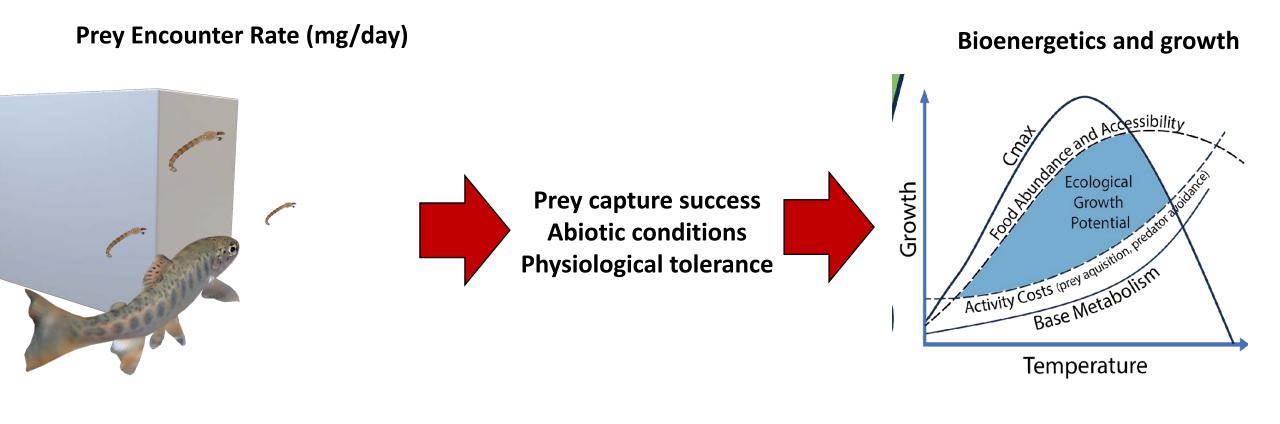


## Prey Encounter Rates



Hughes and Dill (1990) CJFAS, Beauchamp et al. (1999) TAFS, Murphy et al. (2018) CJFAS

## **Growth Potential and Risk**

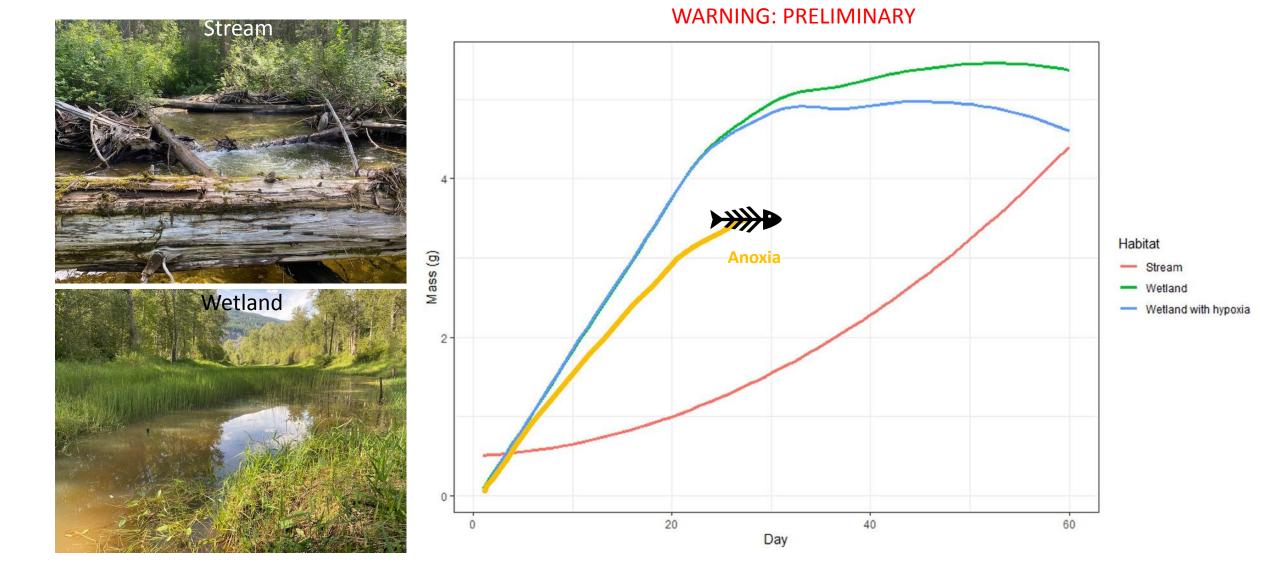


## Simulating Growth Regimes



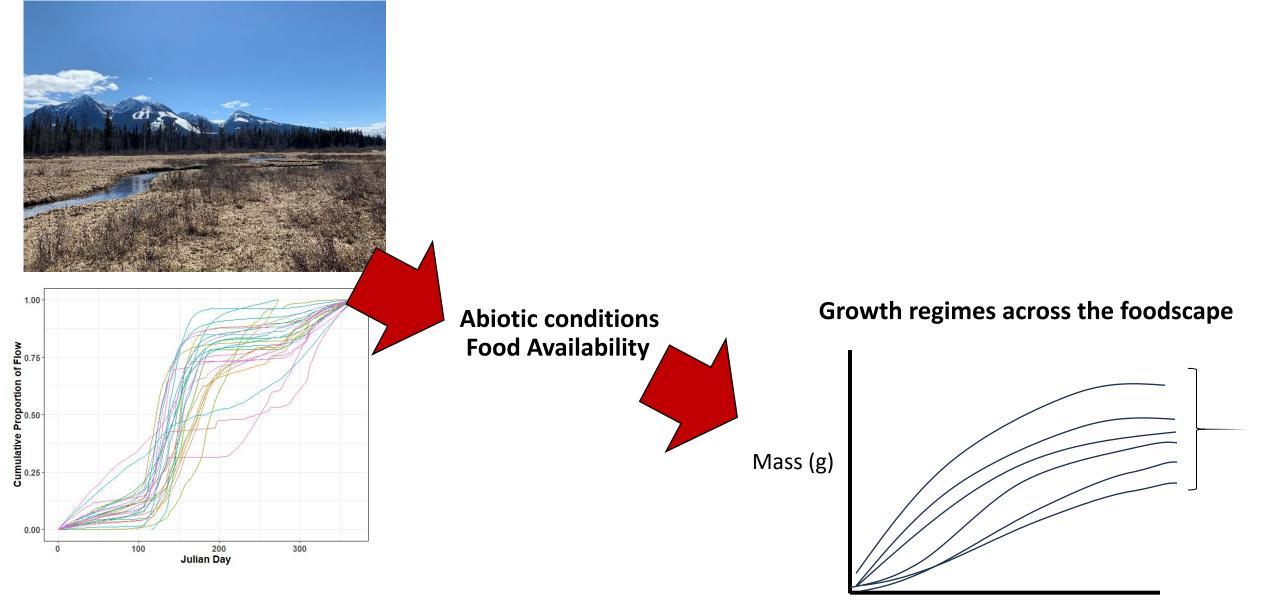
WARNING: PRELIMINARY

## Simulating Growth Regimes



### Climate and hydrologic variability

## Future Work

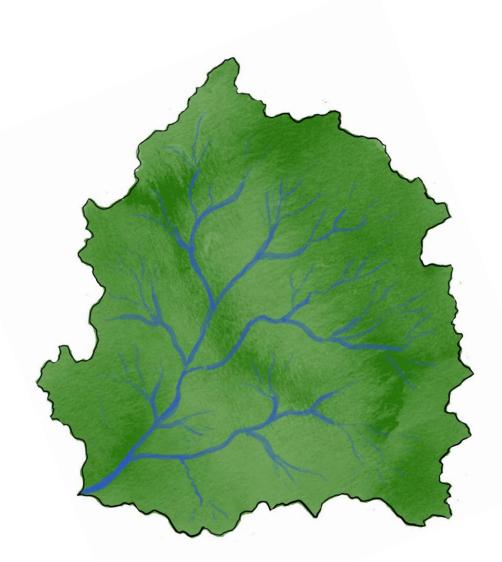


### **Critical Questions**

• Where (and when) to protect?

• What to restore?

• How is this changing?





Fisheries and Oceans Pêc Canada Can

Pêches et Océans Canada

## Thank You!

sean.naman@dfo-mpo.gc.ca



## Location, location, location: stream type promotes variation in *Oncorhynchus mykiss* life-histories with implications for future climate scenarios

Nicholas J. Corline<sup>1</sup>, Tyanna Blaschak<sup>3</sup>, Damon Goodman<sup>3</sup>, Ate Visser<sup>4</sup>, Jean Moran<sup>5</sup>, Emilio Grande<sup>5</sup>, Sarah Howe<sup>1</sup>, Amber Lukk<sup>1</sup>, and Robert A. Lusardi<sup>1,2</sup>

UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences<sup>1</sup>. UC Davis Department of Wildlife, Fish and Conservation Biology<sup>2</sup>, California Trout<sup>3</sup>, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory<sup>4</sup>, Cal State East Bay, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences<sup>5</sup>



Lodge pole pine- Mendocino Pygmy Forest

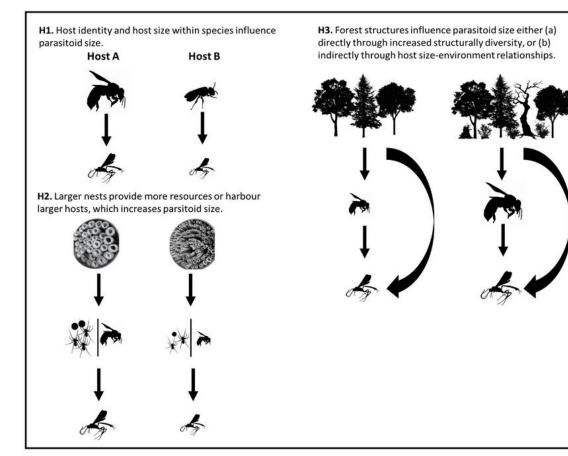


### Lodge pole pine- Sierra Nevada



Host identity, nest quality, and parasitism strategy: influences on body size variation in parasitoid bees and wasps.

Riko Fardiansah<sup>1</sup>, Finn Rehling<sup>1</sup>, Nolan Rappa<sup>2</sup>, Carsten Dormann<sup>1</sup>, and Alexandra-Maria Klein<sup>3</sup>



Lu et al. BMC Ecol (2018) 18:37 https://doi.org/10.1186/s12898-018-0194-8

**BMC Ecology** 

#### **RESEARCH ARTICLE**

Open Access

### Environmental causes of between-population difference in growth rate of a high-altitude lizard

Hong-Liang Lu<sup>1</sup>, Chun-Xia Xu<sup>2</sup>, Zhi-Gao Zeng<sup>2</sup> and Wei-Guo Du<sup>2\*</sup>



### Location determines size

Precipitation Driven Stream



Volcanic Spring-fed



stage

t

stage

## YOY rainbow trout in a volcanic springs were much larger than those in a precipitation driven stream

 Received: 30 August 2022
 Revised: 28 April 2023
 Accepted: 9 May 2023

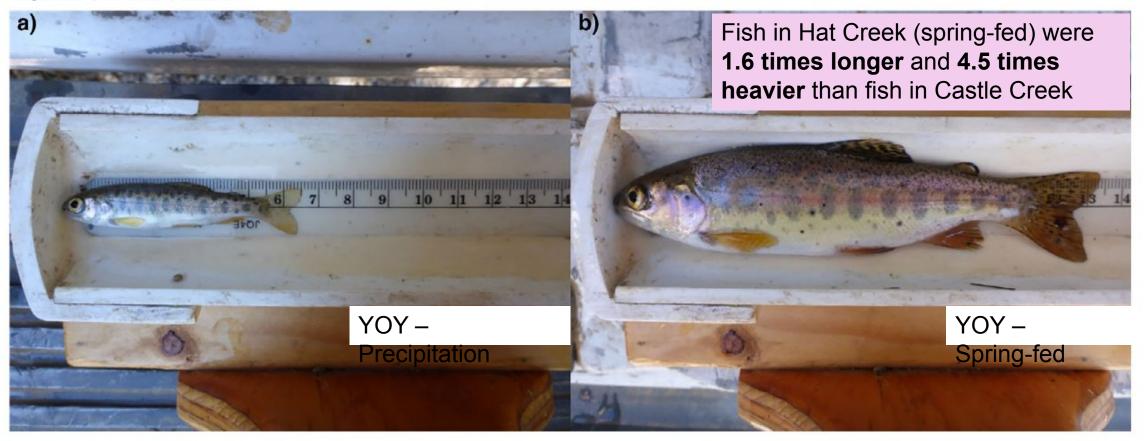
 DOI: 10.1002/ecy.4107

THE SCIENTIFIC NATURALIST

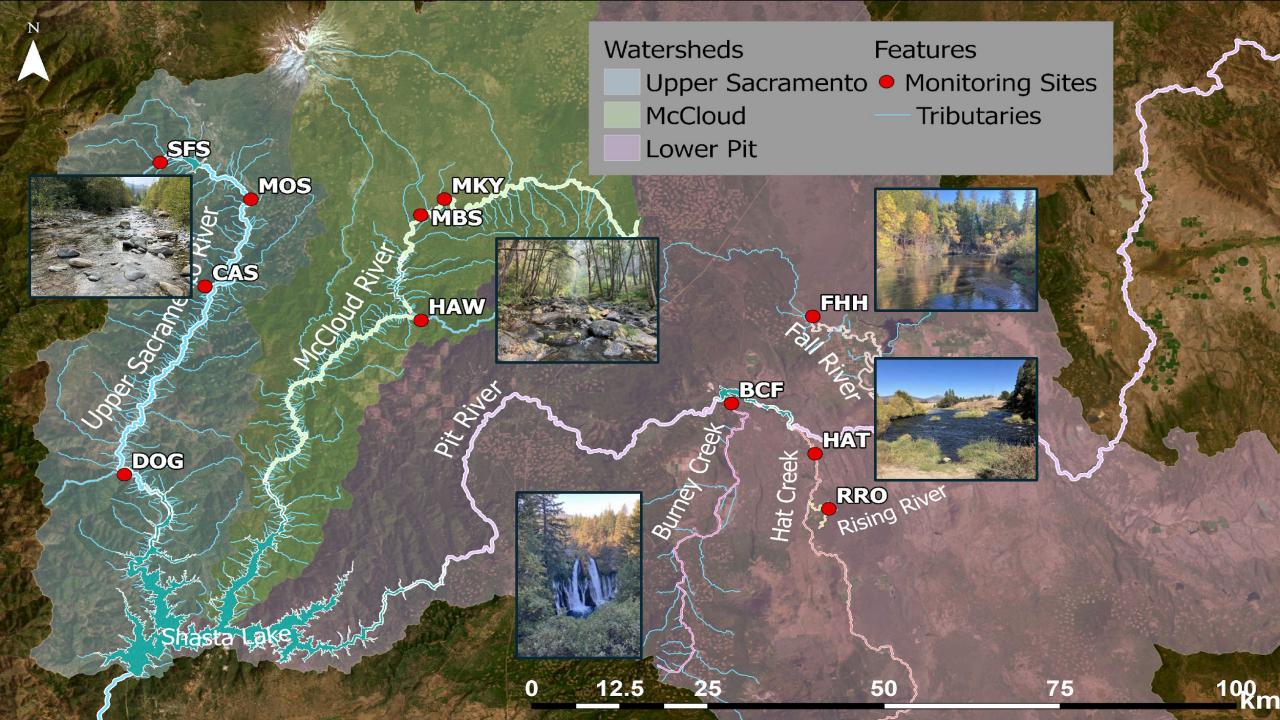
ECOLOGY

Does fine-scale habitat diversity promote meaningful phenotypic diversity within a watershed network?

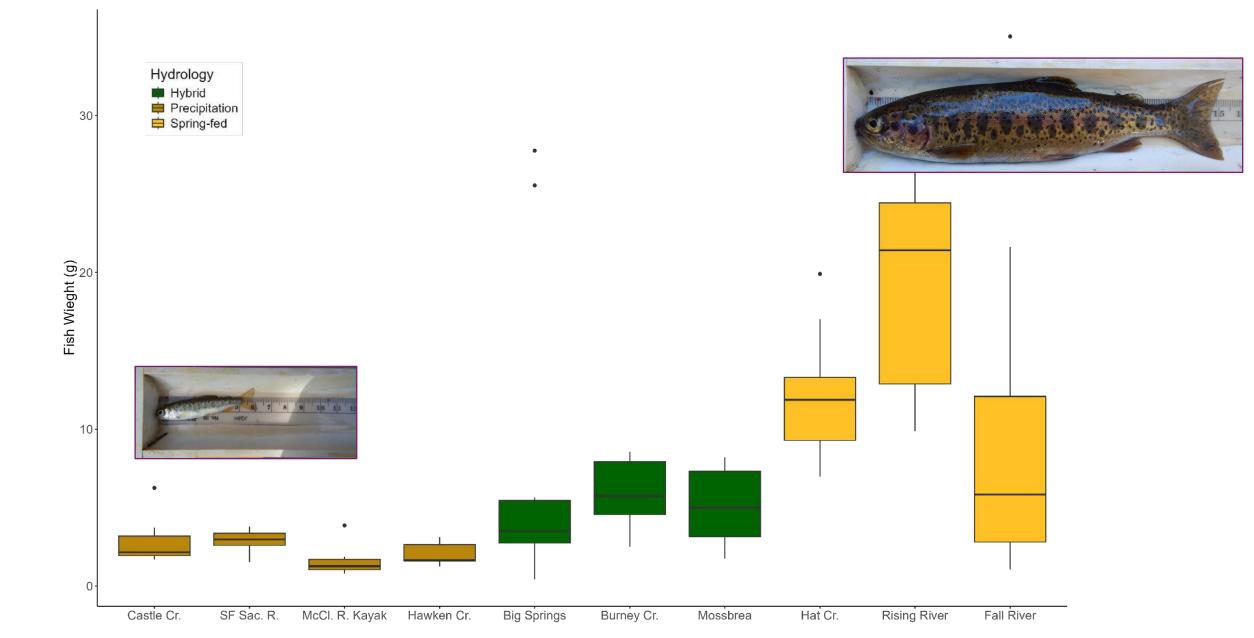
Robert A. Lusardi<sup>1,2</sup> | Randy Dahlgren<sup>2</sup> | Erwin Van Nieuwenhuyse<sup>3</sup> | George Whitman<sup>2</sup> | Carson Jeffres<sup>2</sup> | Rachel Johnson<sup>2,4</sup>



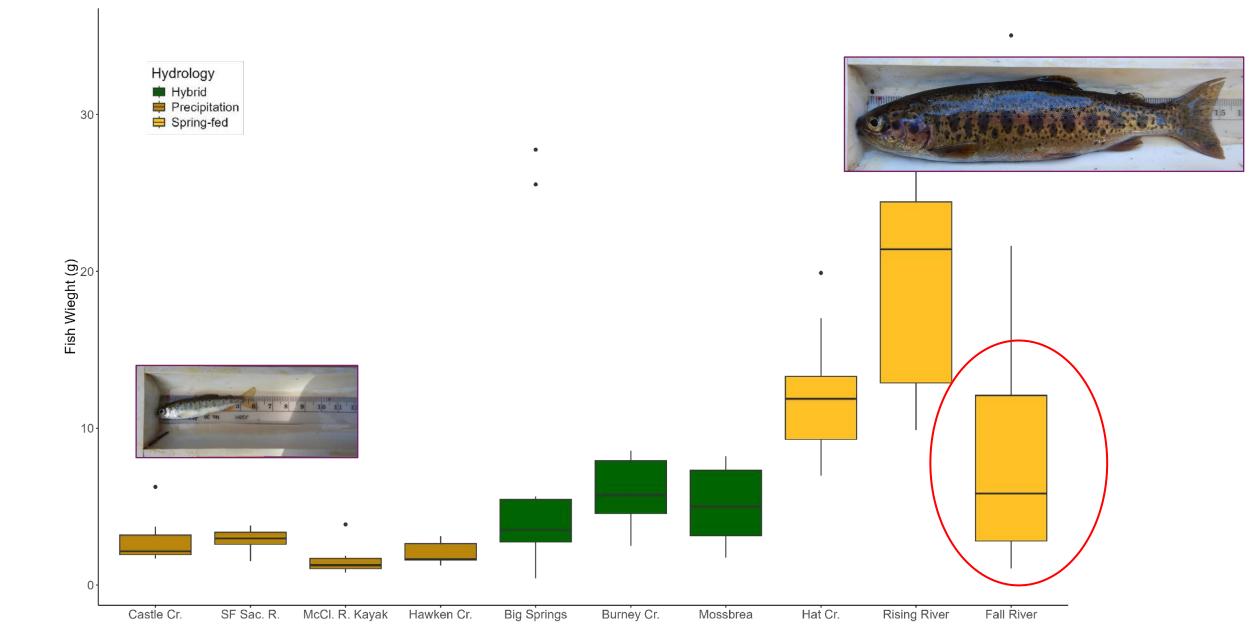
Are all spring-fed streams locations large young of the year rainbow trout? If so, why?



### YOY rainbow trout were larger in springs



### YOY rainbow trout were larger in springs

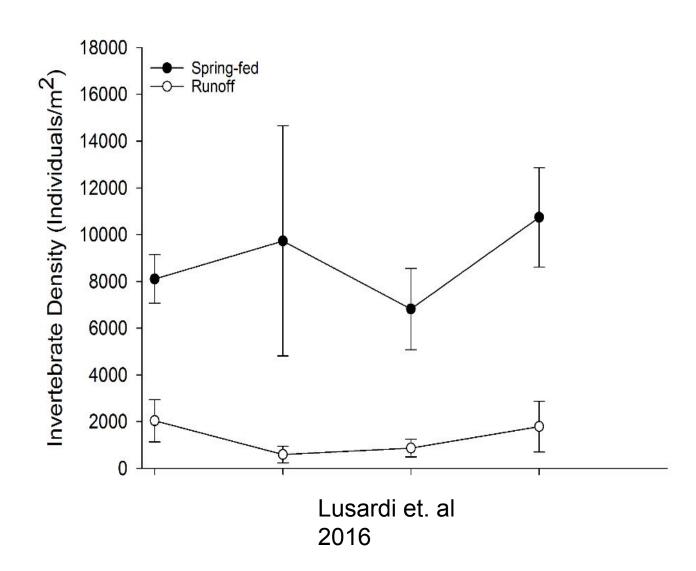


### YOY rainbow trout were larger in springs

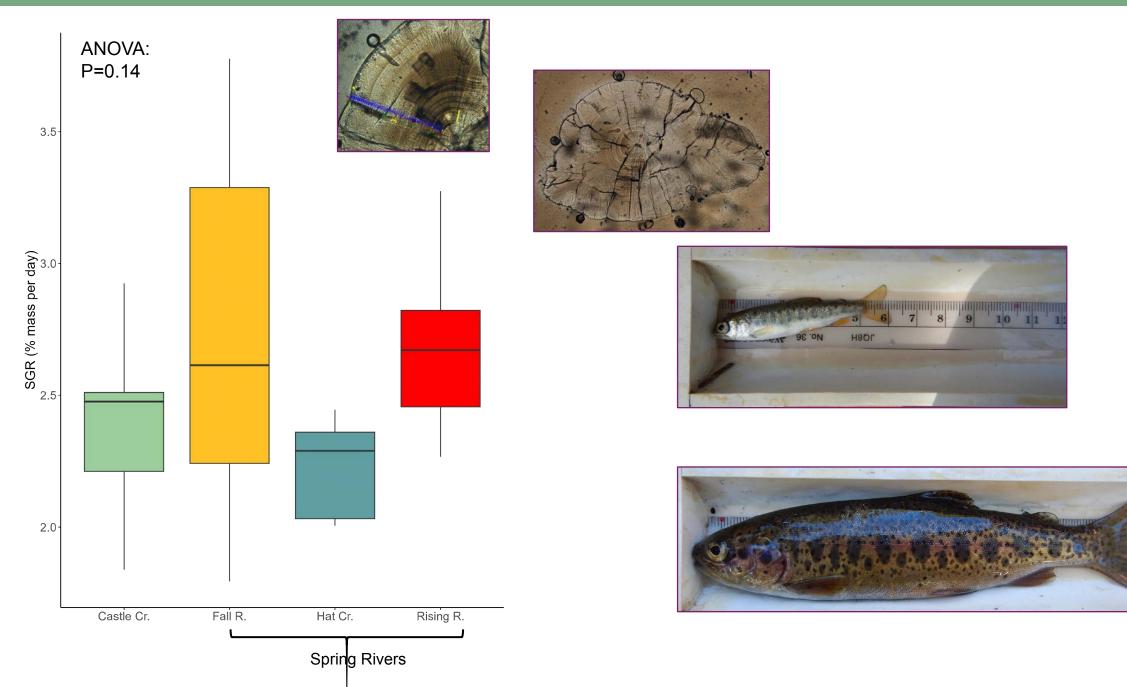


### Springs are locations high productivity



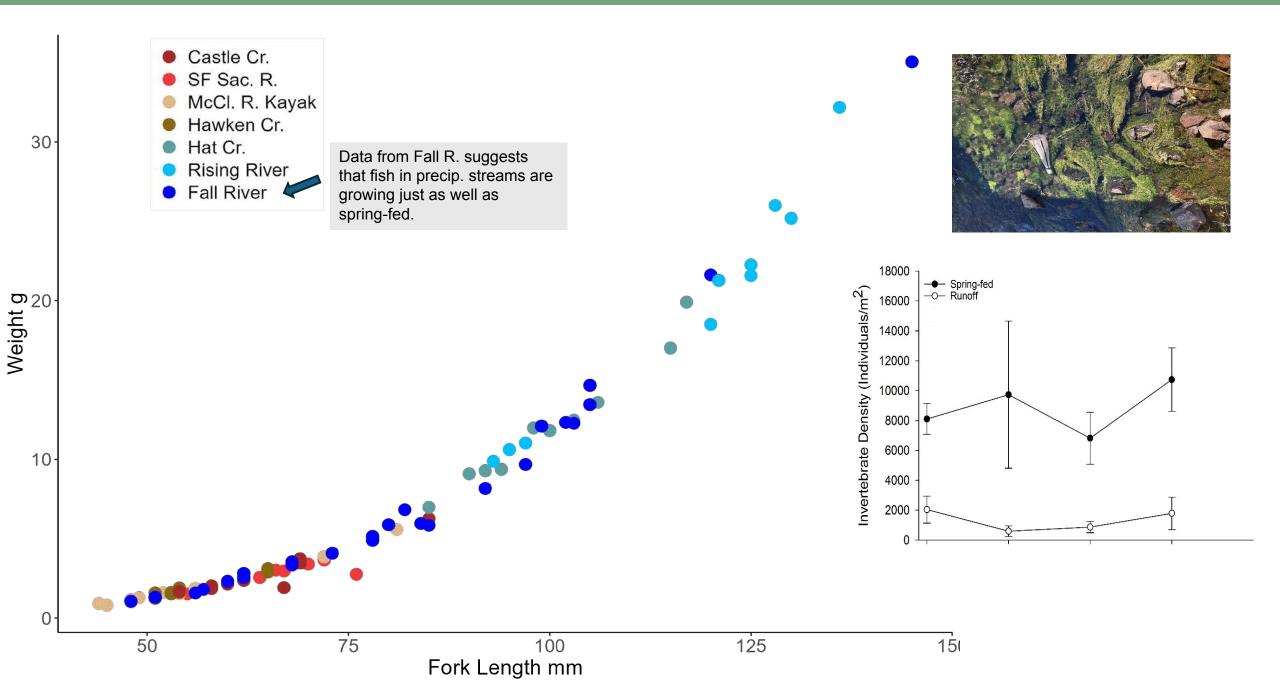


Specific growth rates suggest that although fish were larger in spring-fed rivers their growth rates were variable

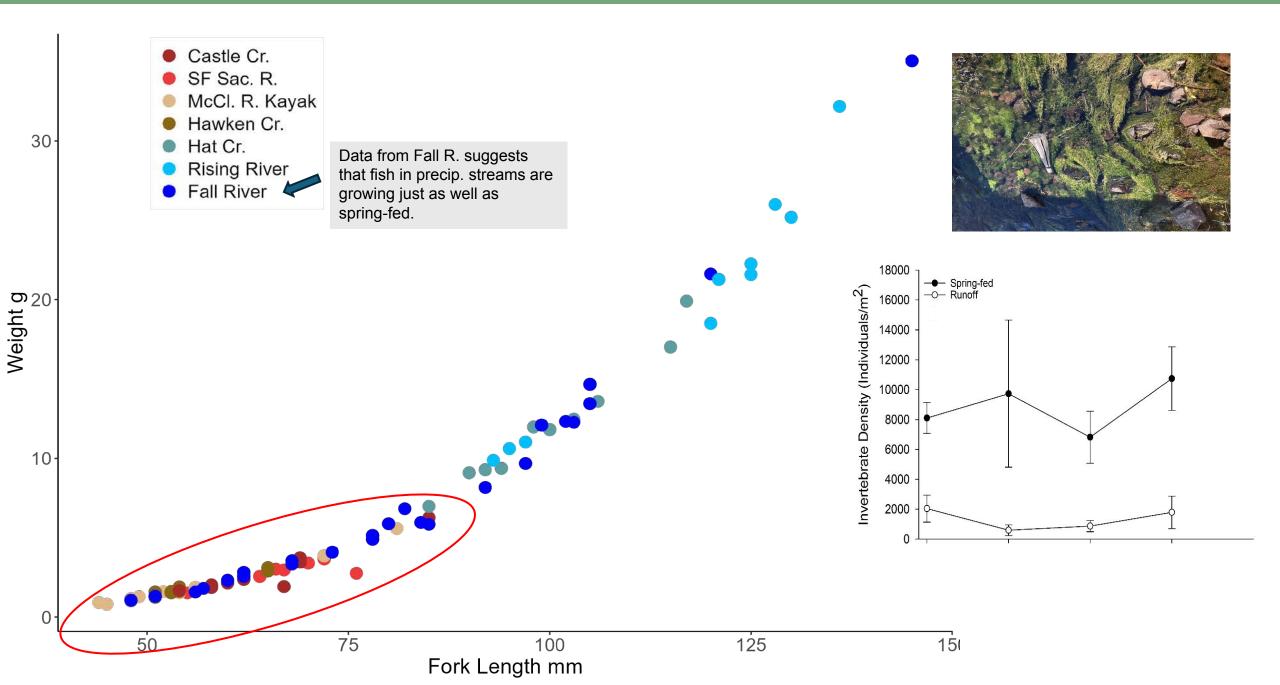


15

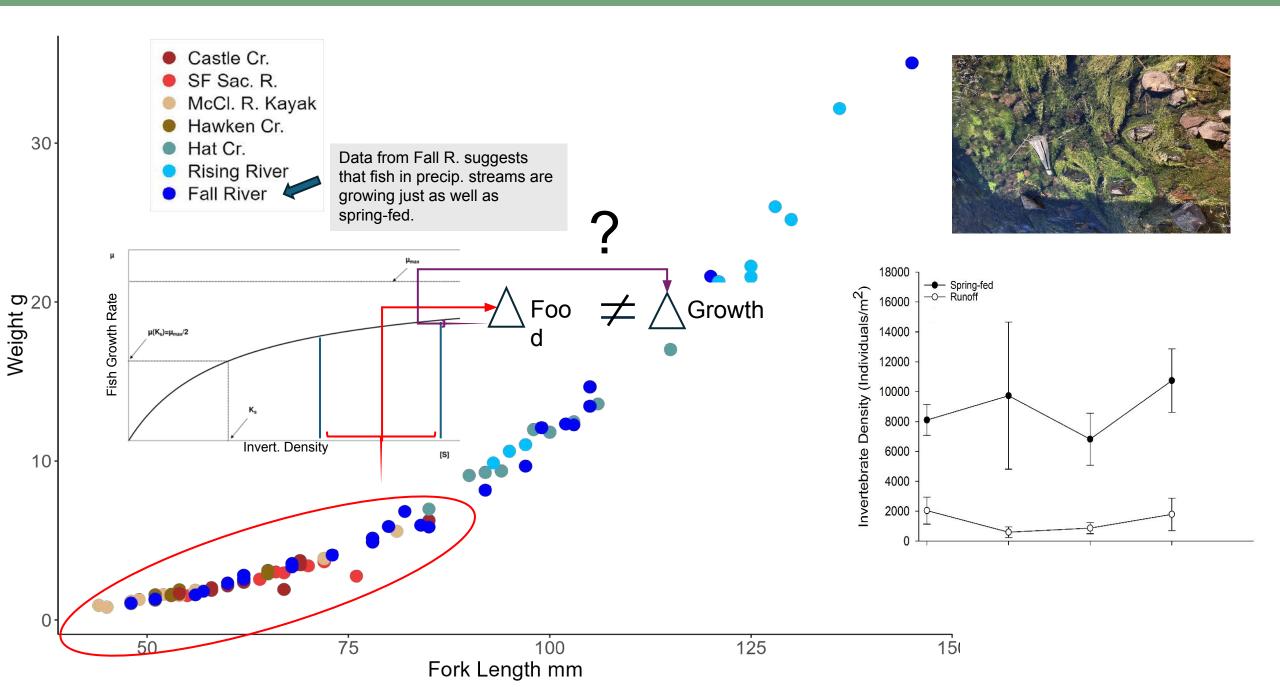
### Fish in precipitation rivers do not appear smaller for their size



### Fish in precipitation rivers do not appear smaller for their size



### Fish in precipitation rivers do not appear smaller for their size

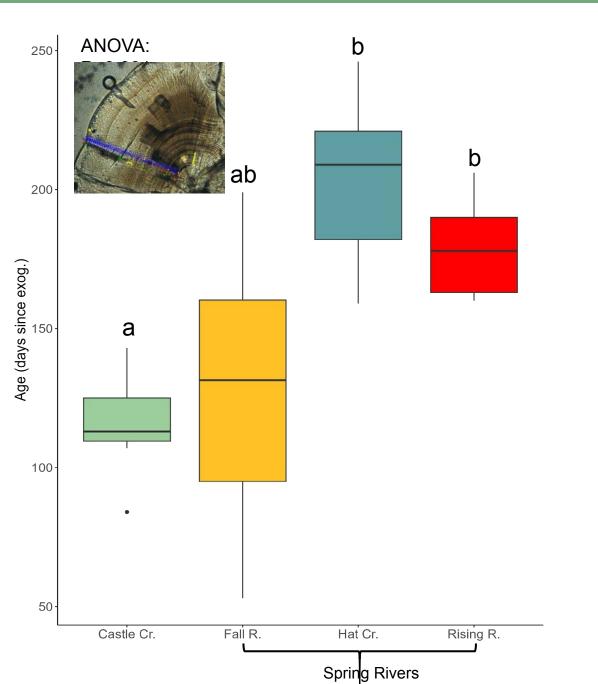


How can these fish be growing at similar rates, yet have such a large difference in size?

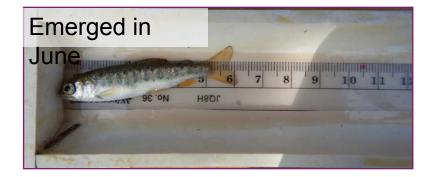




Specific growth rates suggest that although fish were larger in spring-fed rivers their growth rates were variable

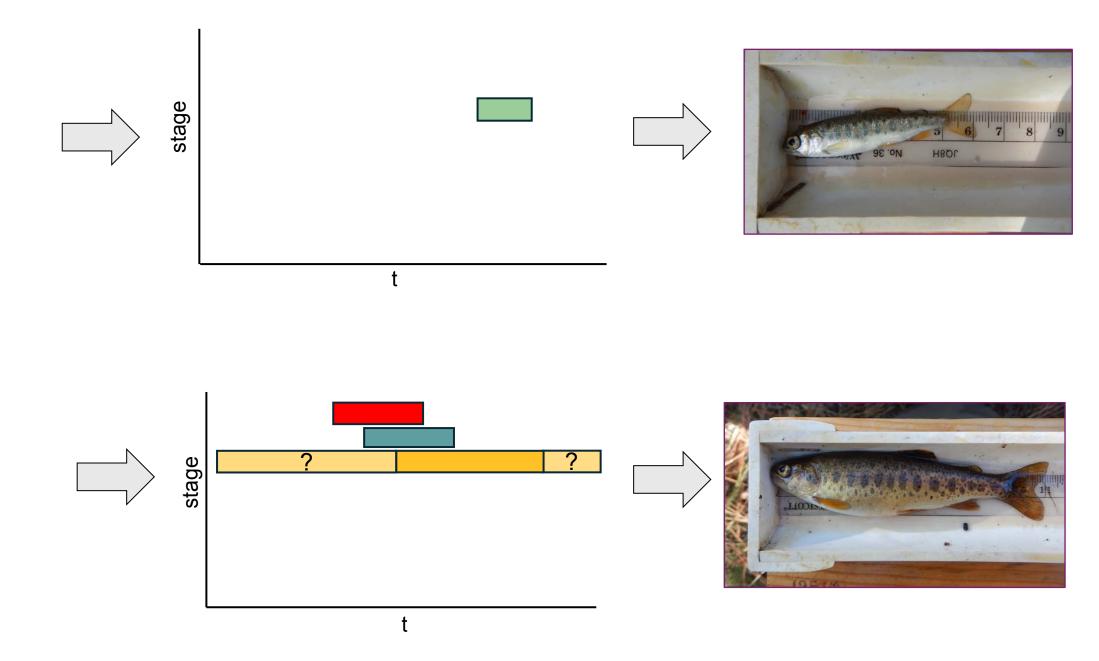


How can these fish be growing at similar rates, yet have such a large difference in size? **TIME** 





We often think about growth variation in terms of resources, here difference in size is likely due to ecosystem stability



Species in springs will often display continuous breeding or spawning, with lack of distinct age class structure



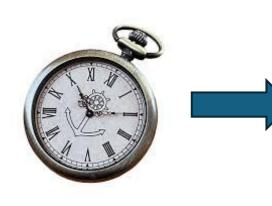


### How does this relate to foodscapes?



"...springs...are collectively a giant laboratory for the study of natural communities" - H.T Odum, 1957

Here, the natural laboratory, illustrates the importance of time for fish growth.





Fish growth = *f*(Temperature, Food)

Fish growth in first year of life = *f*(Temperature, Food, TIME)

#### Main take aways

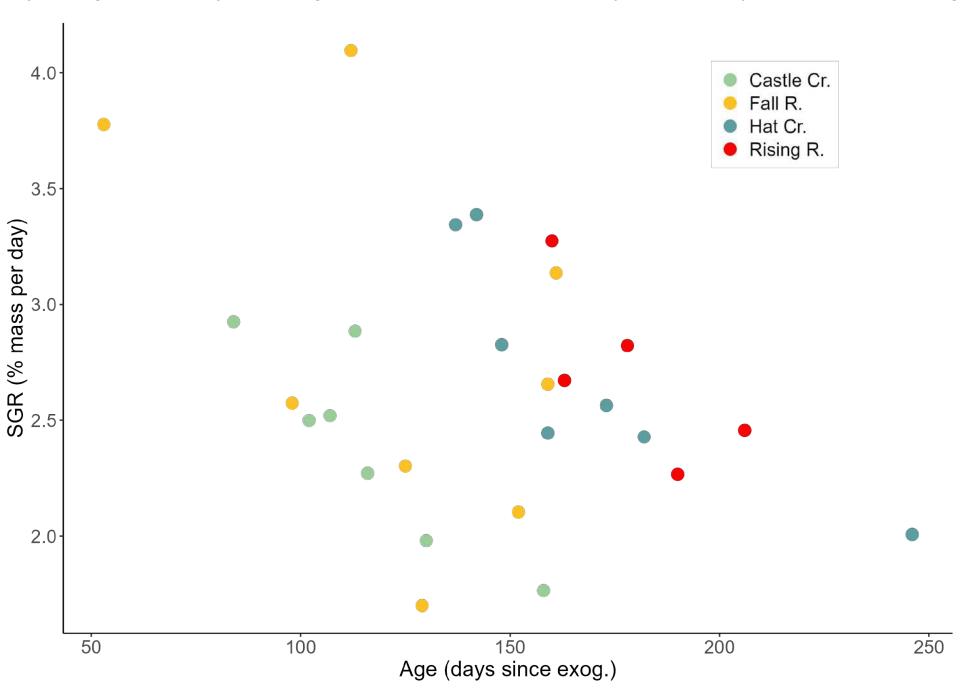
- Contrasting hydrology leads to variation in size of YOY fish
- This difference in size does not appear to be governed by productivity but time
- Fish in spring demonstrate an altered life history– due to ecosystem stability that leads to a longer growing window for YOY rainbow trout.

### **Next Steps**

- -Use otolith increment widths to further understand growth rates through time
- -Relate growth to temperature condition
- -Relate growth to hydrology and future climate conditions
- -Expand this research to other spring-fed rivers



Hydrological stability in springs-fed rivers alters life-history, specifically reproductive timing





# WILDFIRE IMPACTS TROPHIC SUPPLY AND DEMAND IN A COASTAL SALMONID FOOD WEB

Salmonid Restoration Federation | May 2, 2025

Katie M Universit

**Co-authors:** Raymond Hunter, David B. Herbst, Rosealea M. Bond, Joseph D. Kiernan, Eric P. Palkovacs



## Katie M. Kobayashi, PhD

University of California, Santa Cruz | Stillwater Sciences









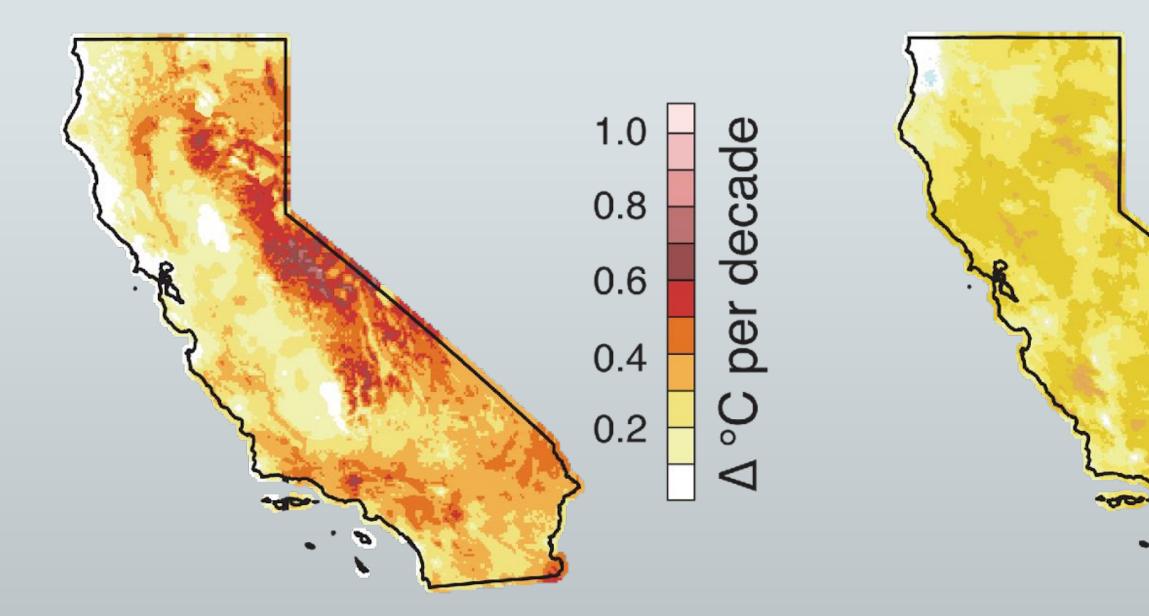
# **ESCALATING VULNERABILITY** OF COASTAL SALMOIDS TO A RAPIDLY CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

- Steelhead are ESA-listed as endangered and threatened throughout much of California
- Coastal watersheds provide critical habitat to anadromous salmonids
- Rearing juvenile salmonids are vulnerable to the effects of climate change (e.g. drought, temperature).



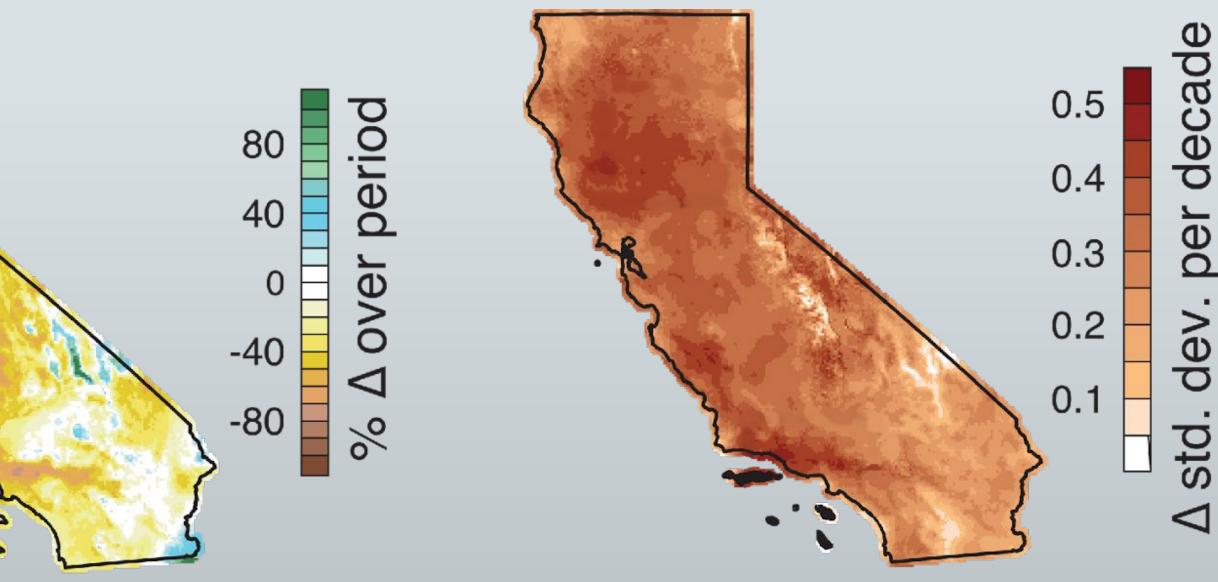
## **INTENSIFYING WILDFIRE REGIMES** POSE AN IMMEDIATE RISK TO VULNERABLE SALMONID POPULATIONS

#### TEMPERATURE TRENDS



PRECIPITATION CHANGE

#### **FIRE WEATHER INDEX TREND**



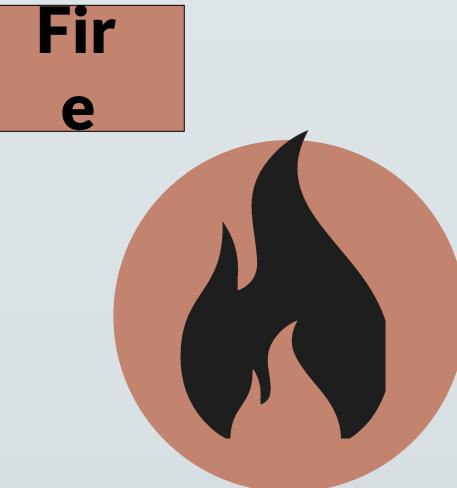
(Goss et al. 2020)







# **POTENTIAL THREATS OF WILDFIRE** FOR JUVENILE SALMONIDS



#### Salmonid Resilience



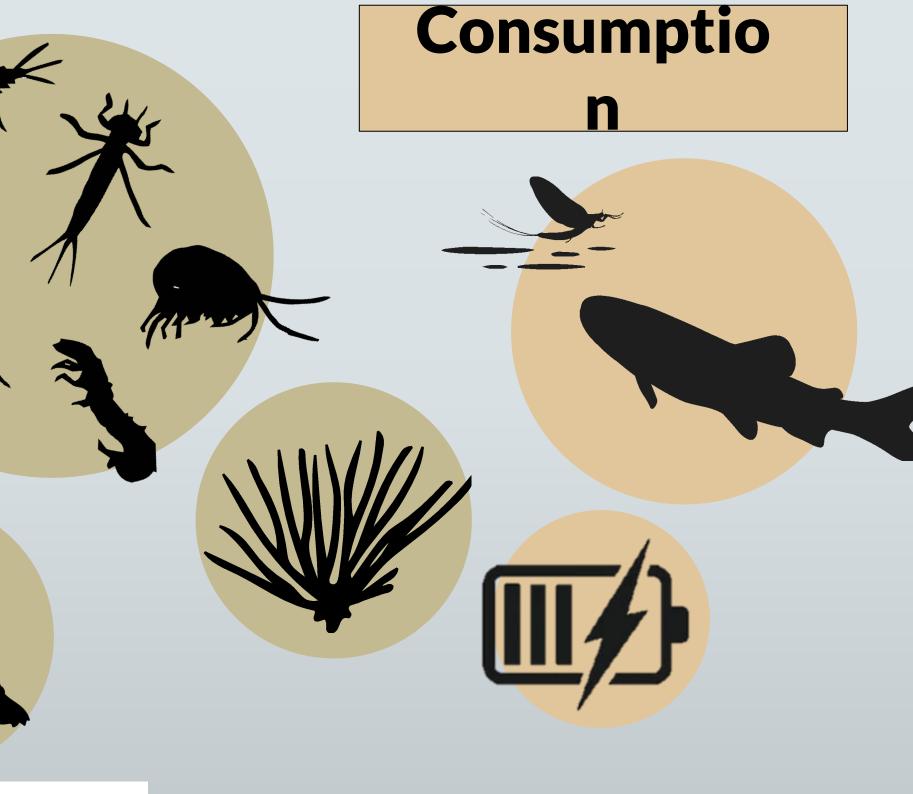


# FOR JUVENILE SALMONIDS

# **POTENTIAL THREATS OF WILDFIRE** FOR JUVENILE SALMONIDS Fir Productivit **e** كرر Physical Habitat



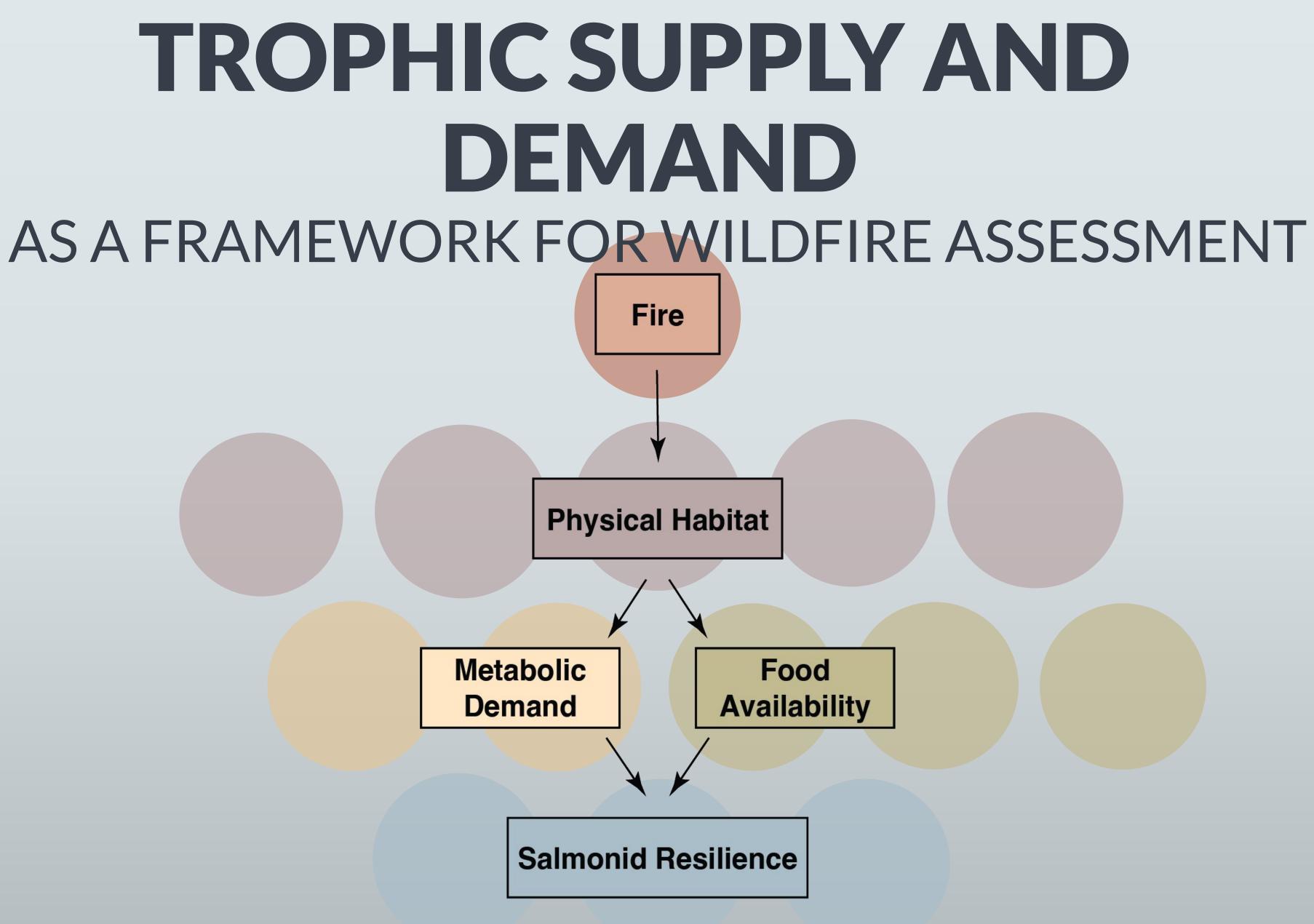
# **POTENTIAL THREATS OF WILDFIRE** FOR JUVENILE SALMONIDS Fir Consumptio Productivit **e** n كرر (Aleres Physical Habitat



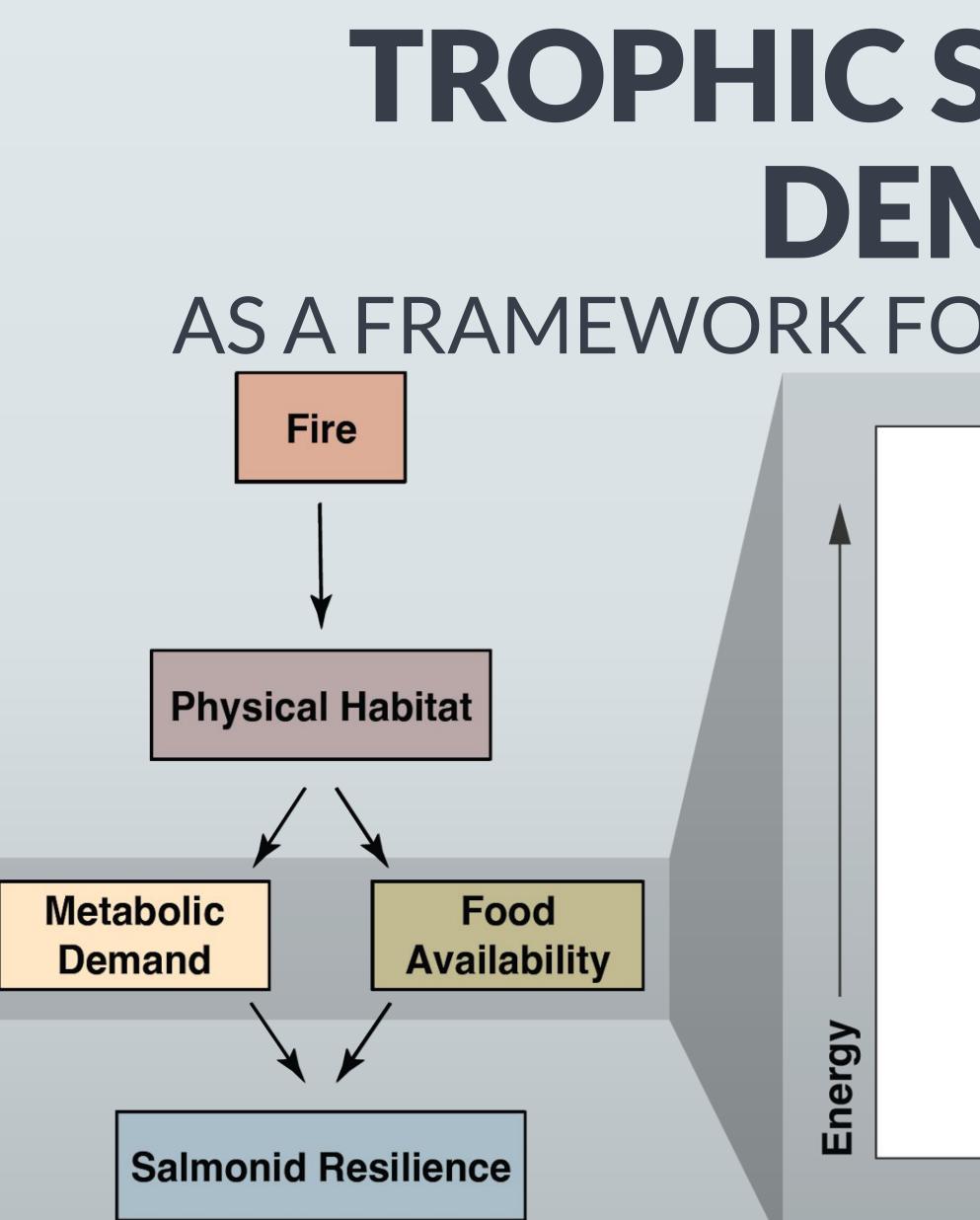


### **POTENTIAL THREATS OF WILDFIRE** FOR JUVENILE SALMONIDS Fir Consumptio Productivit **e** n N Se **Physical** Salmonid Habitat Resilience



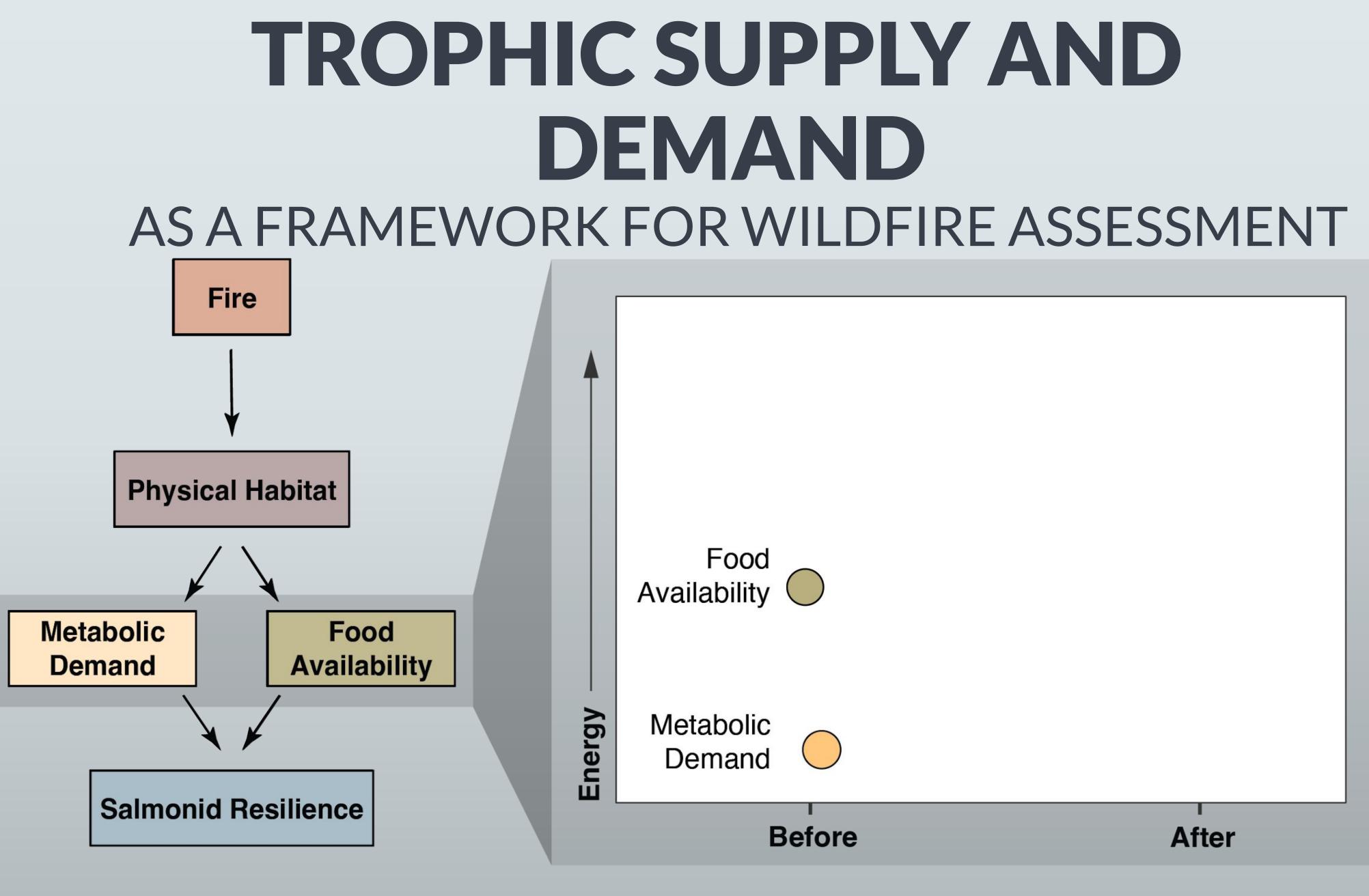


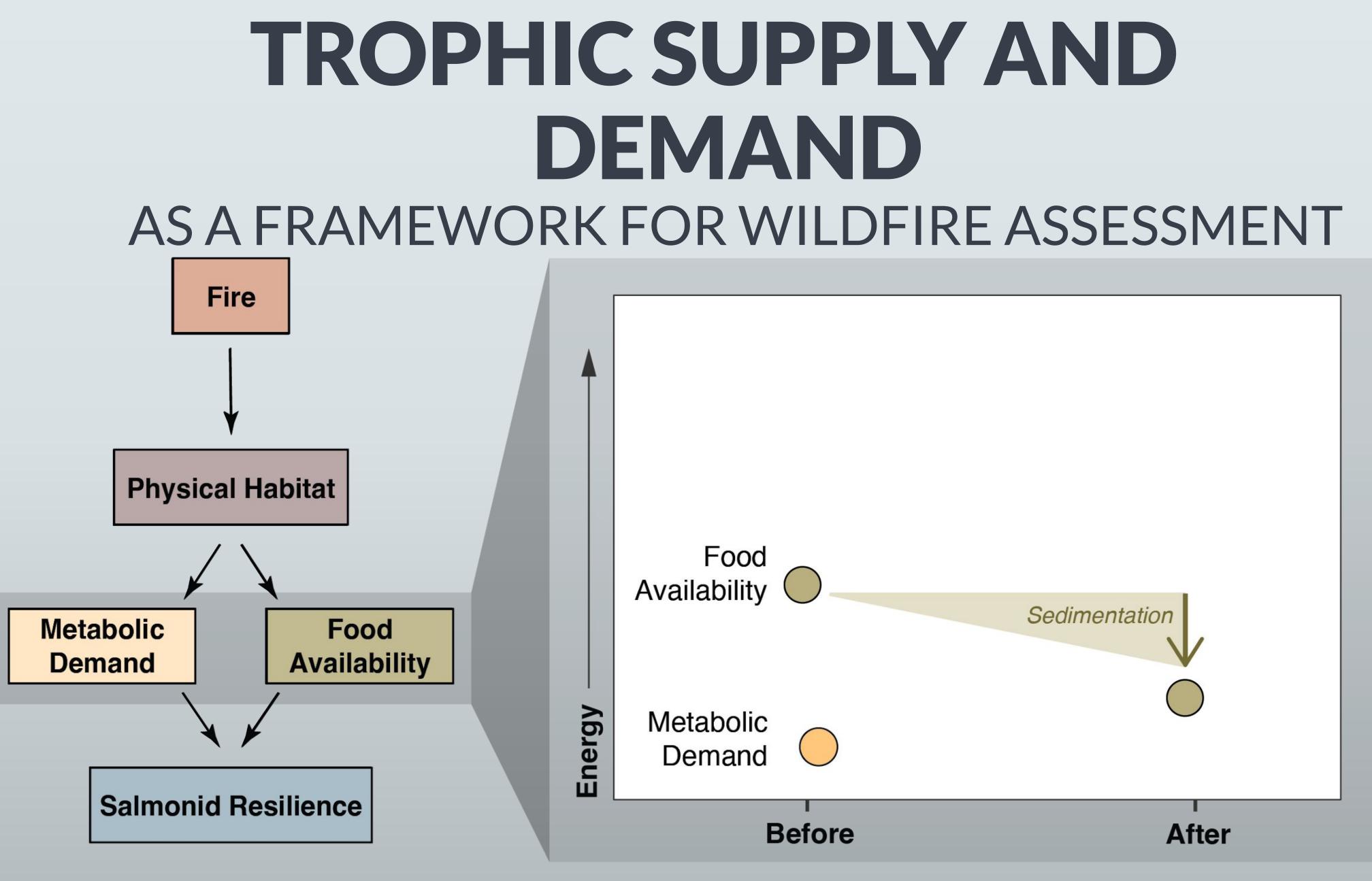
Metabolic Demand

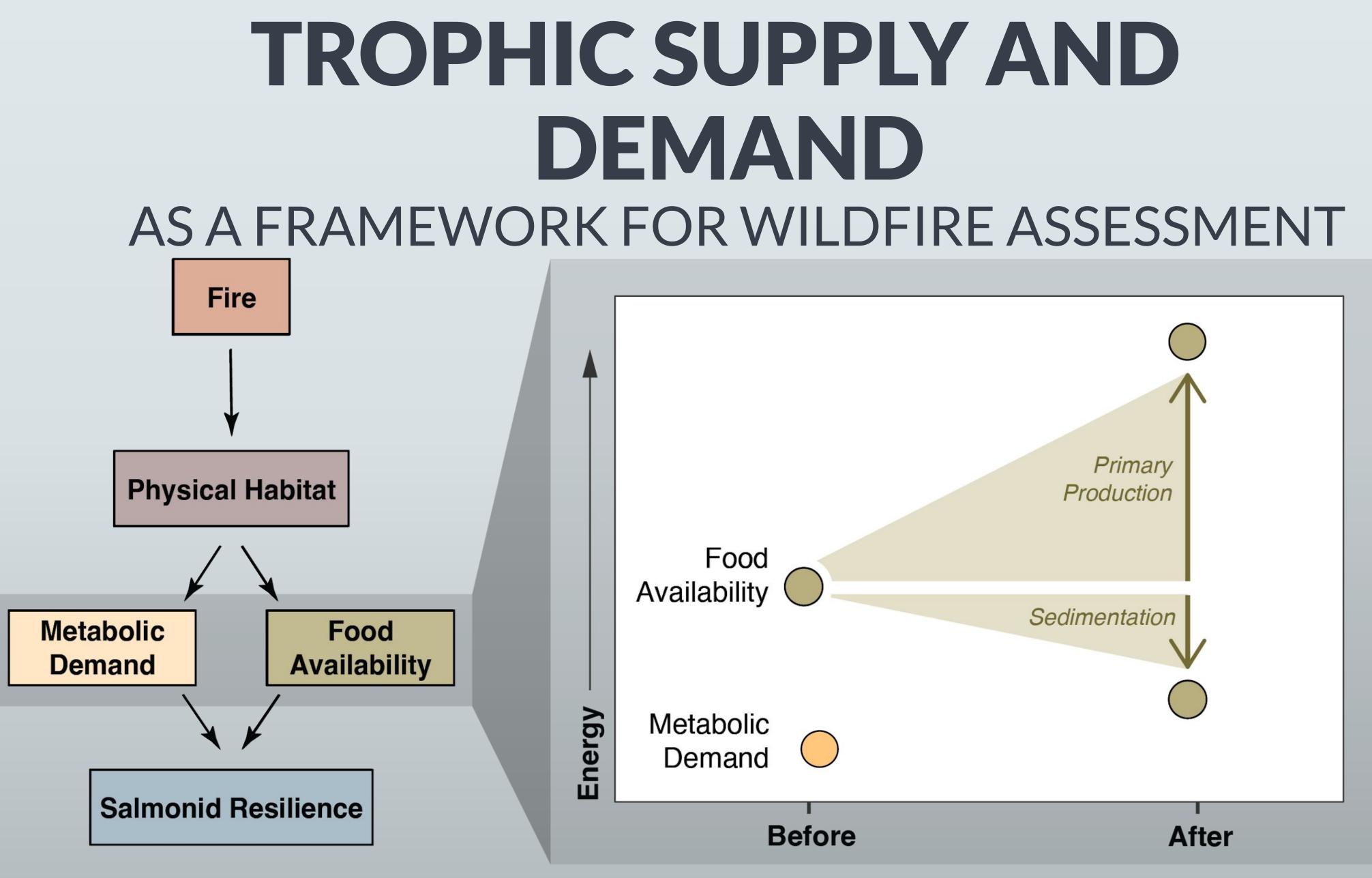


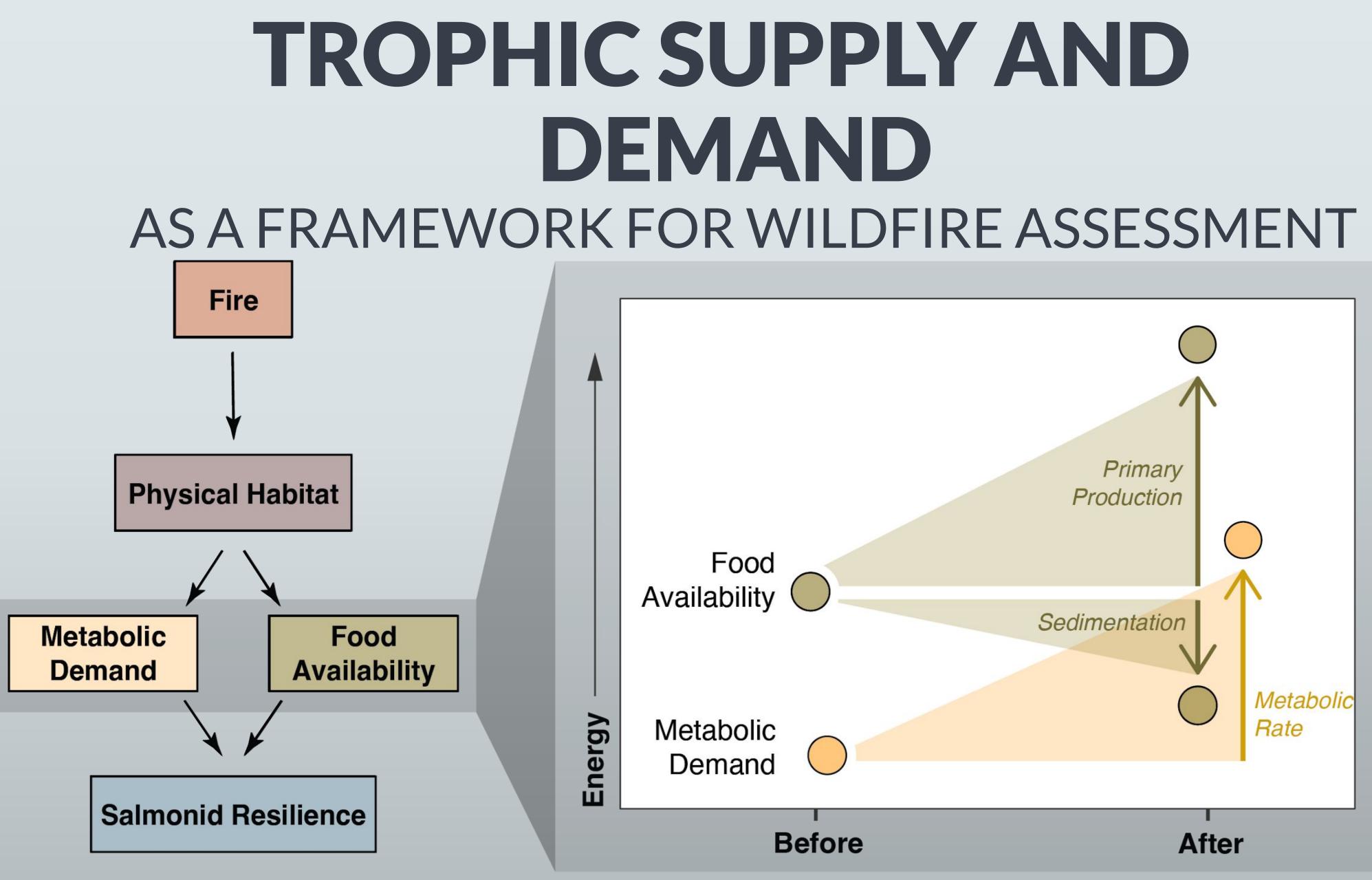
# **TROPHIC SUPPLY AND DEMAND** AS A FRAMEWORK FOR WILDFIRE ASSESSMENT

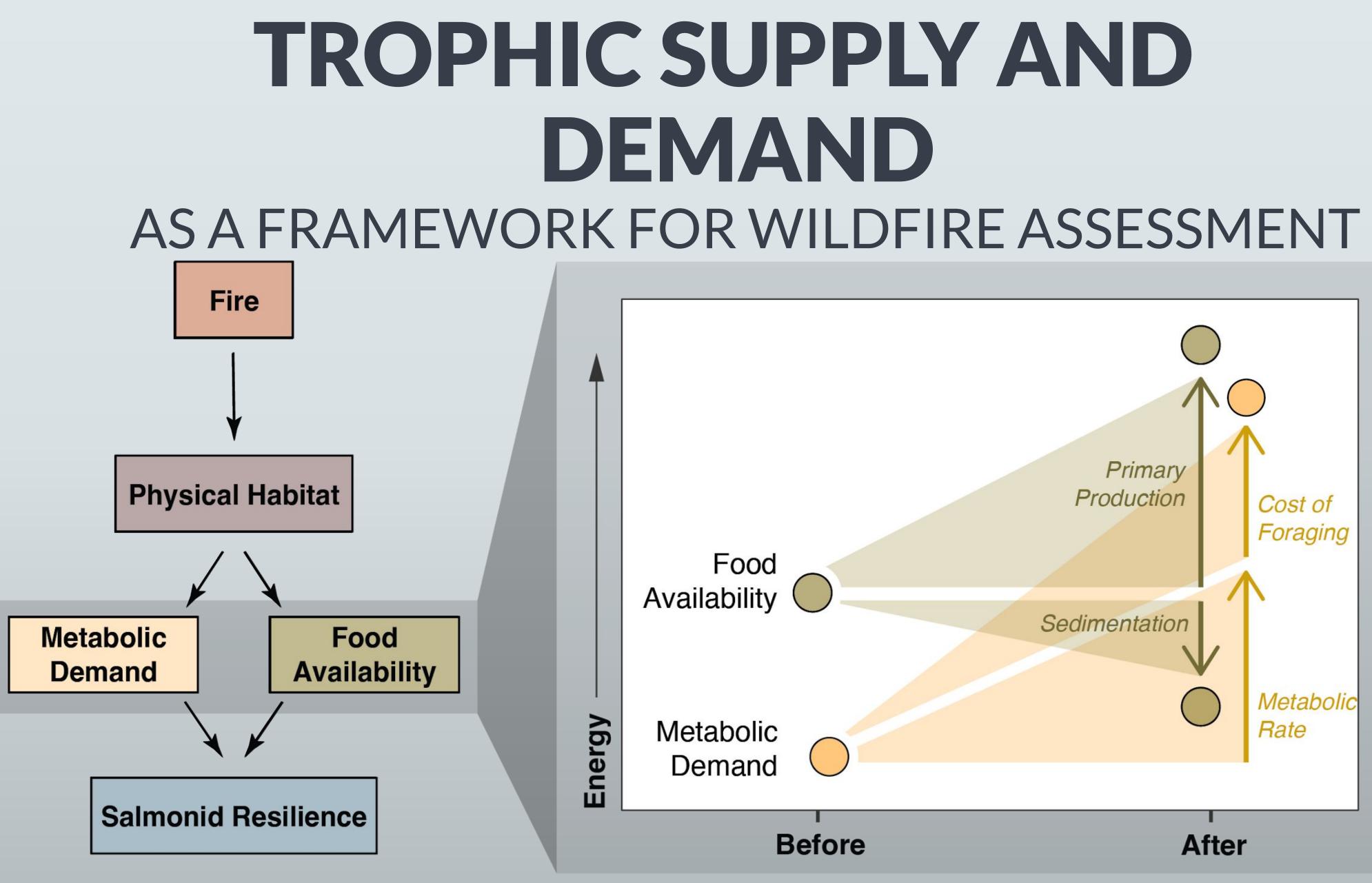
Before

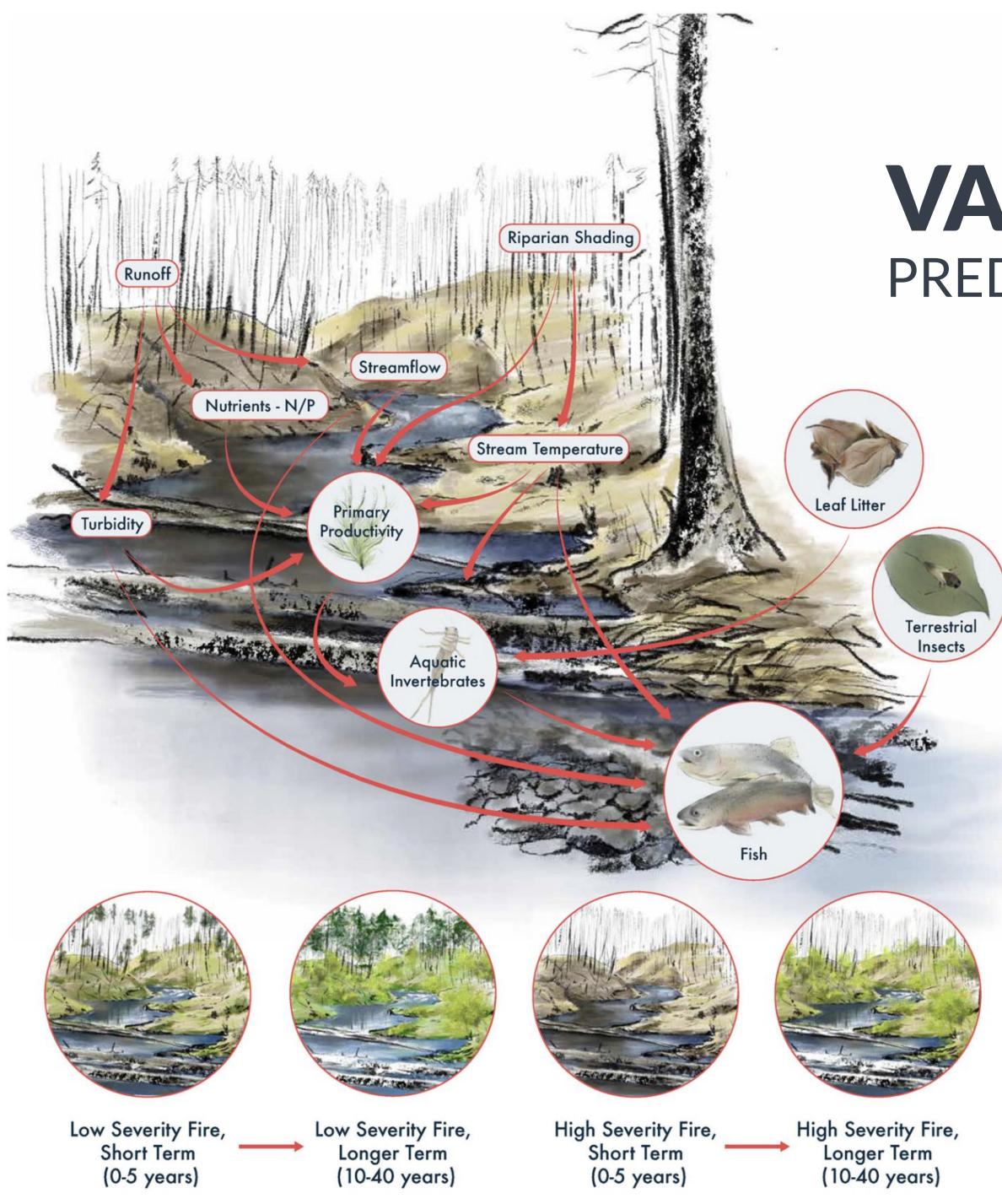












### **VARIABLE RESPONSES** PREDICTED BY FOOD WEB MODELING

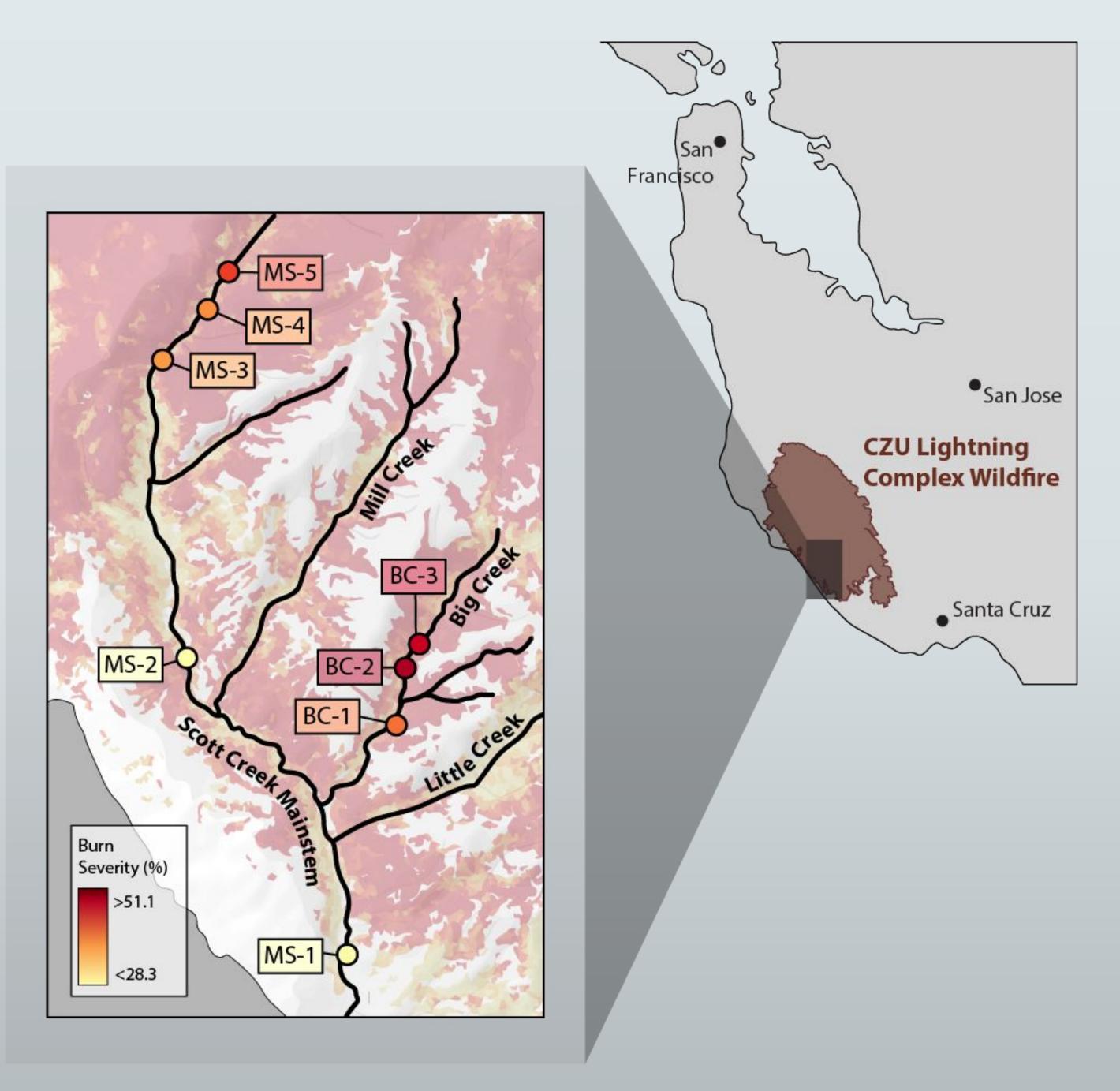
- Aquatic ecosystem response varies in direction, magnitude, and duration
- Dependent on fire severity, time since fire, trophic level
- Key drivers: water temperature, canopy cover, riparian shading, instream turbidity

#### (Roon et al. 2025)



### **SCOTT CREEK** A CASE STUDY FOR APPLYING A FOODSCAPES FRAMEWORK

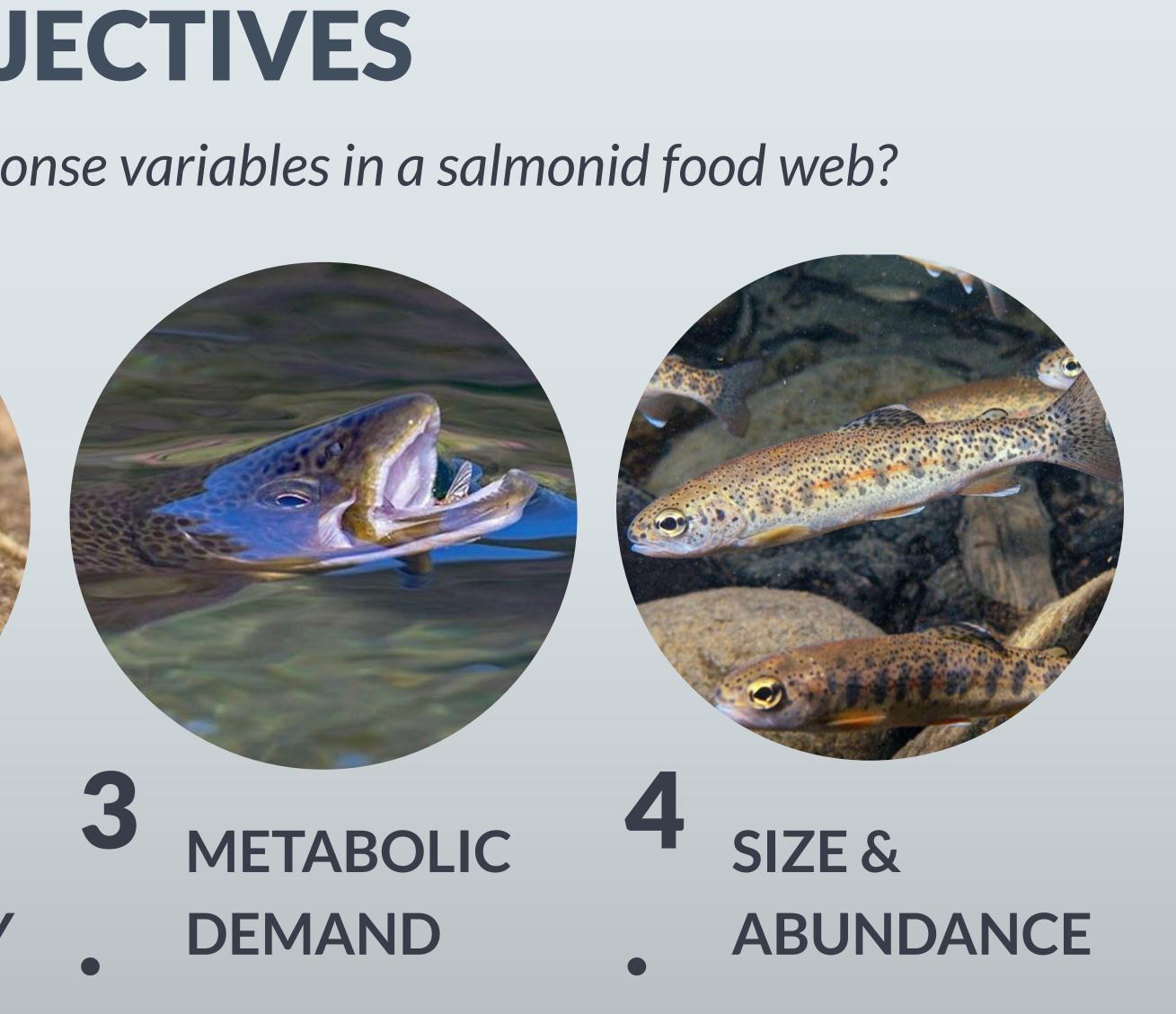
- CZU Lightning Complex Wildfire (August 2020) burned 86,509 acres across Santa Cruz Mountains
- Substantial heterogeneity in burn severity across landscape
- Provides a natural experiment to quantify the impacts of wildfire on salmonid foodscape



# **STUDY OBJECTIVES** How does wildfire affect key response variables in a salmonid food web?

# HABITAT

AVAILABILITY









# **STUDY OBJECTIVES** How does wildfire affect key response variables in a salmonid food web?



FOOD AVAILABILITY

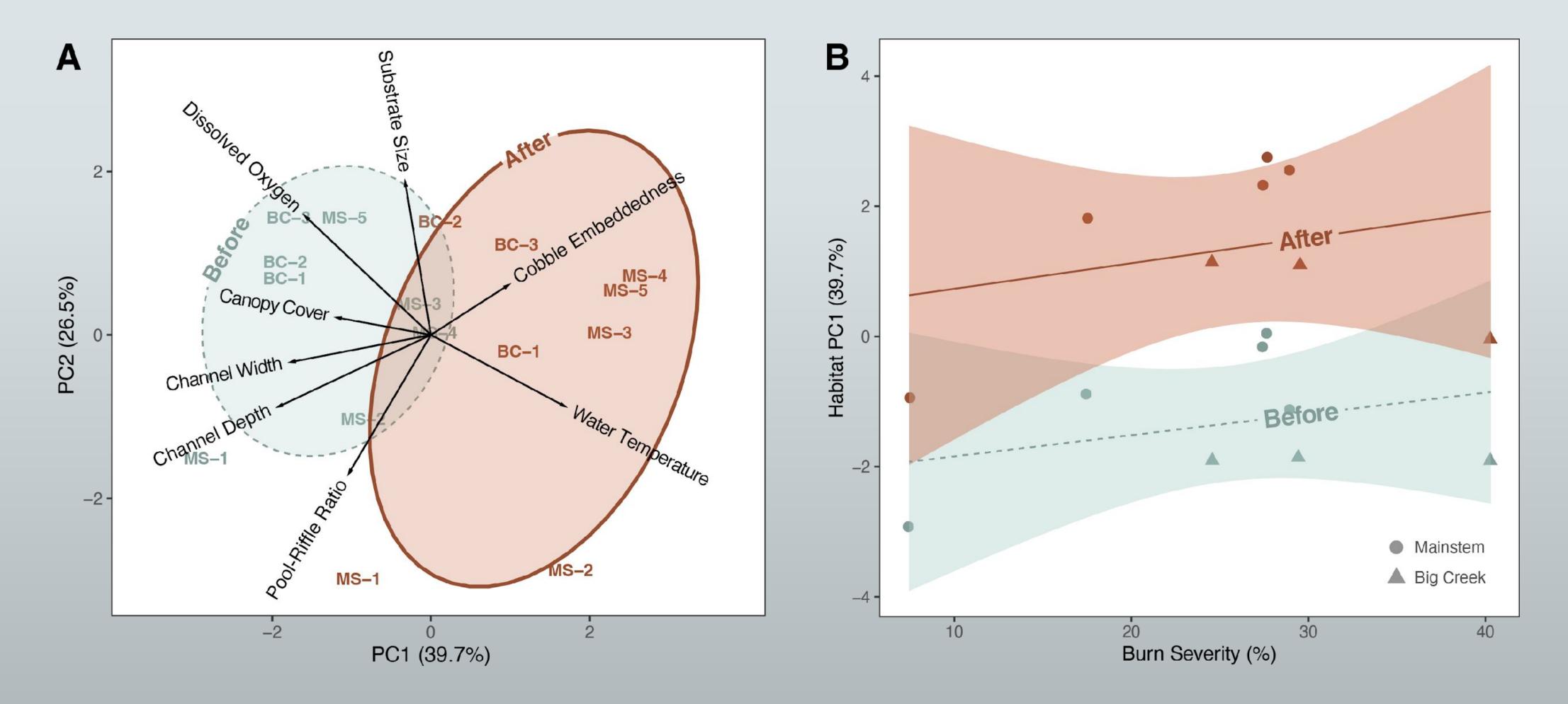




### **PHYSICAL HABITAT** RELATIVELY CONSISTENT CHANGES IN PHYSICAL HABITAT VARIABLES AFTER THE FIRE, REGARDLESS OF ESTIMATED BURN SEVERITY



### **PHYSICAL HABITAT** RELATIVELY CONSISTENT CHANGES IN PHYSICAL HABITAT VARIABLES AFTER THE FIRE, REGARDLESS OF ESTIMATED BURN SEVERITY





# **STUDY OBJECTIVES** How does wildfire affect key response variables in a salmonid food web?

# **1** PHYSICAL HABITAT

FOOD AVAILABILITY



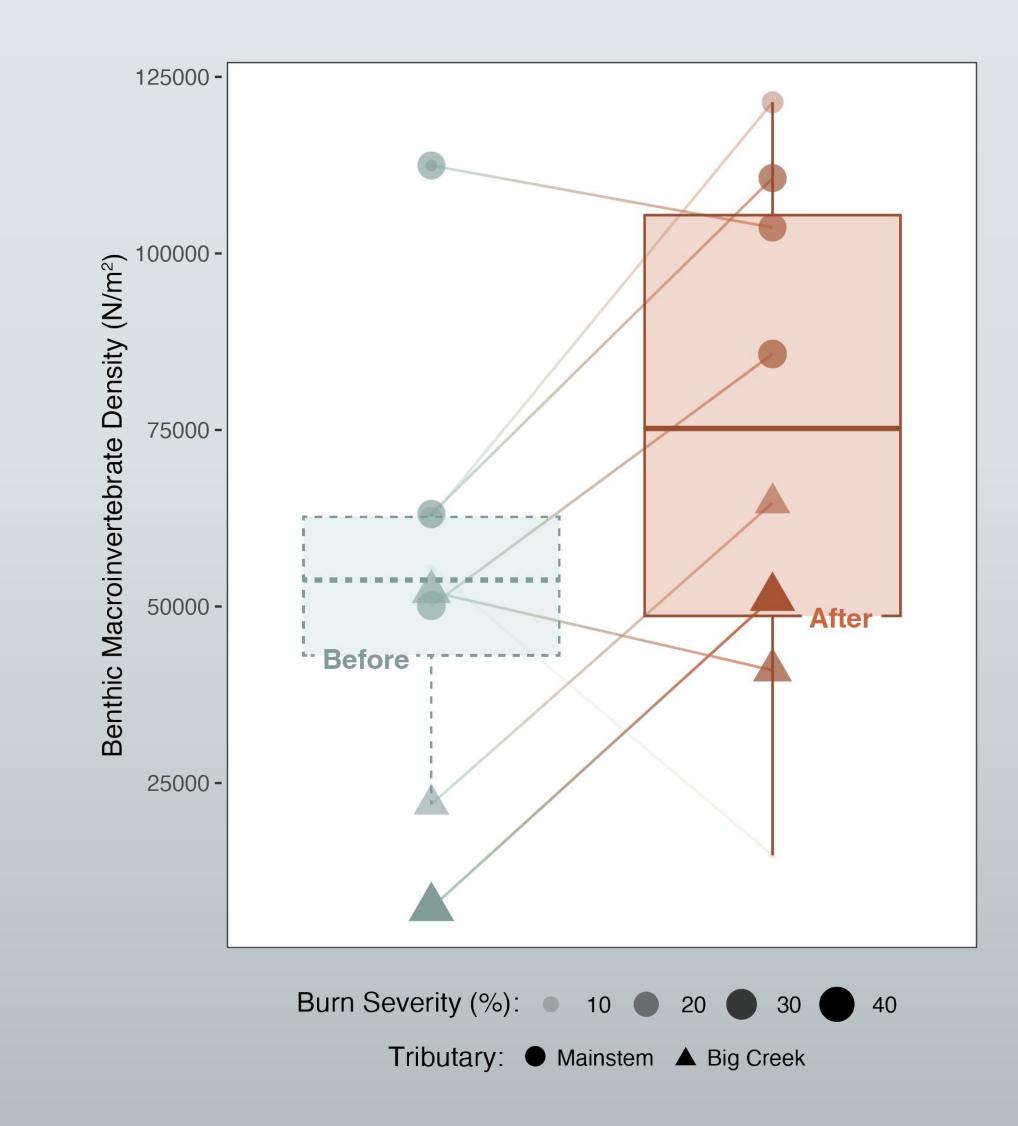


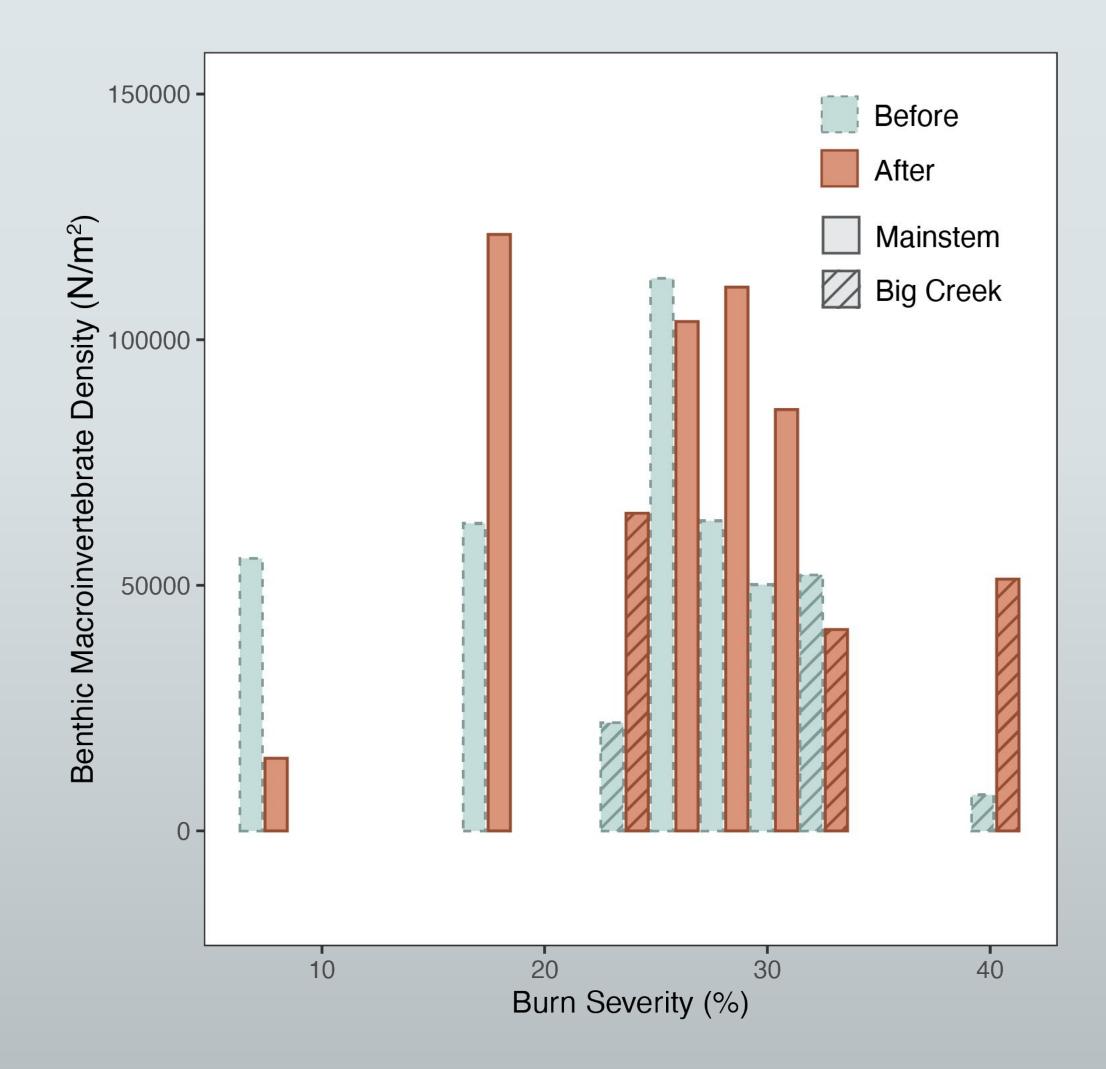


# FOOD AVAILABILITY



# FOOD AVAILABILITY





# **STUDY OBJECTIVES** How does wildfire affect key response variables in a salmonid food web?



FOOD AVAILABILITY

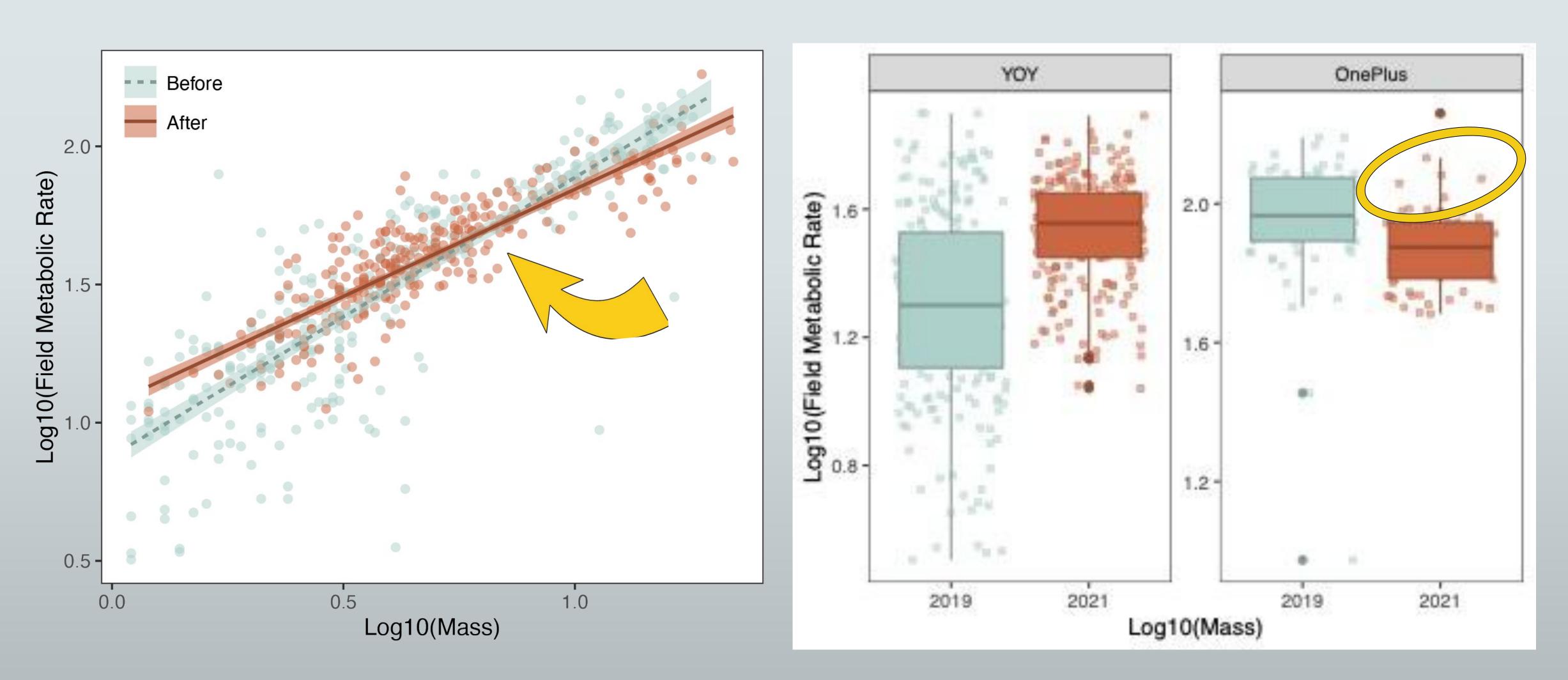
# 3 METABOLIC 4 SIZE & DEMAND ABUNDANCE



# FIELD METABOLIC RATE



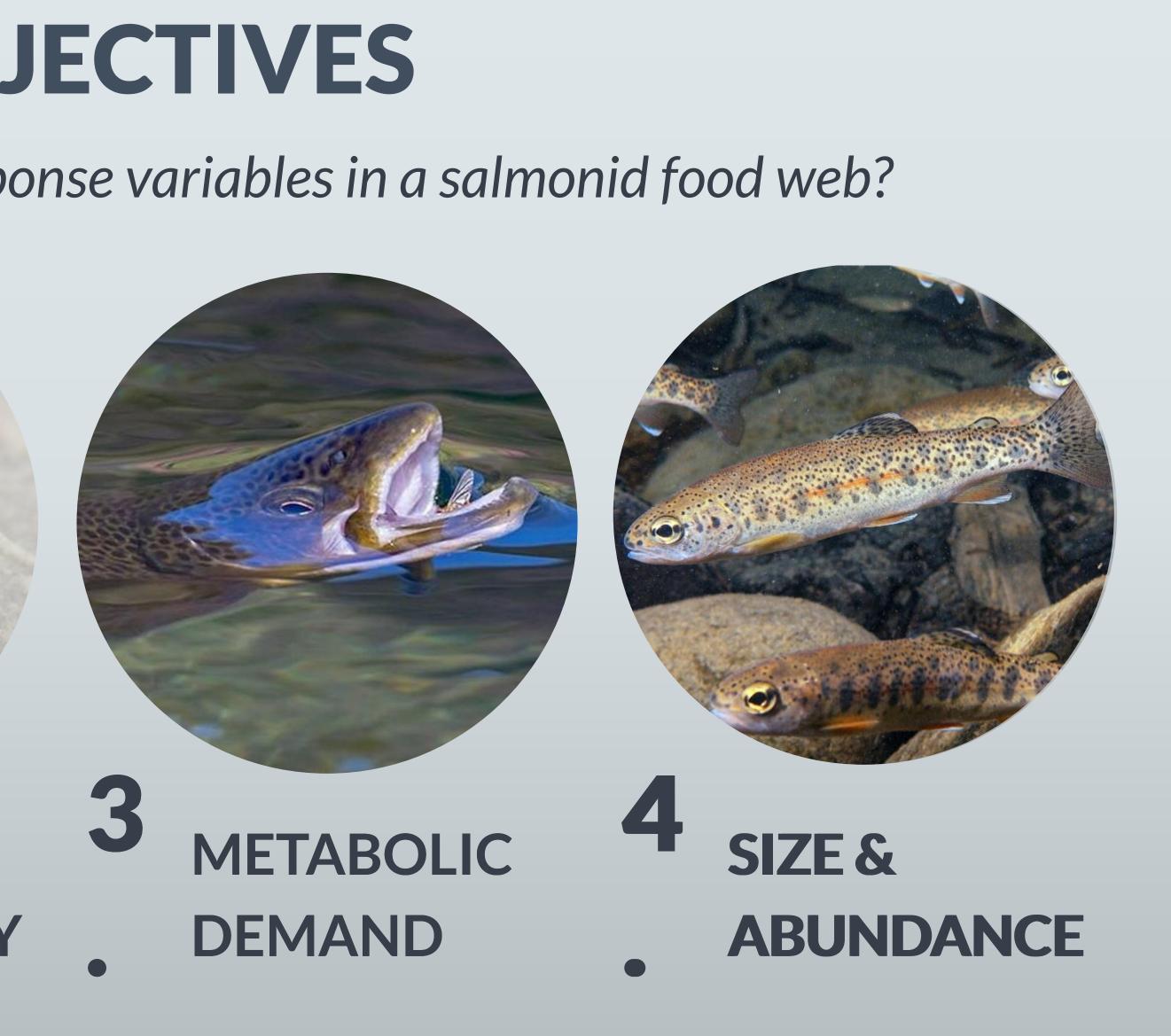
### SHIFTS IN FIELD METABOLIC RATE DIFFER AMONG SIZE CLASSES



# **STUDY OBJECTIVES** How does wildfire affect key response variables in a salmonid food web?



AVAILABILITY

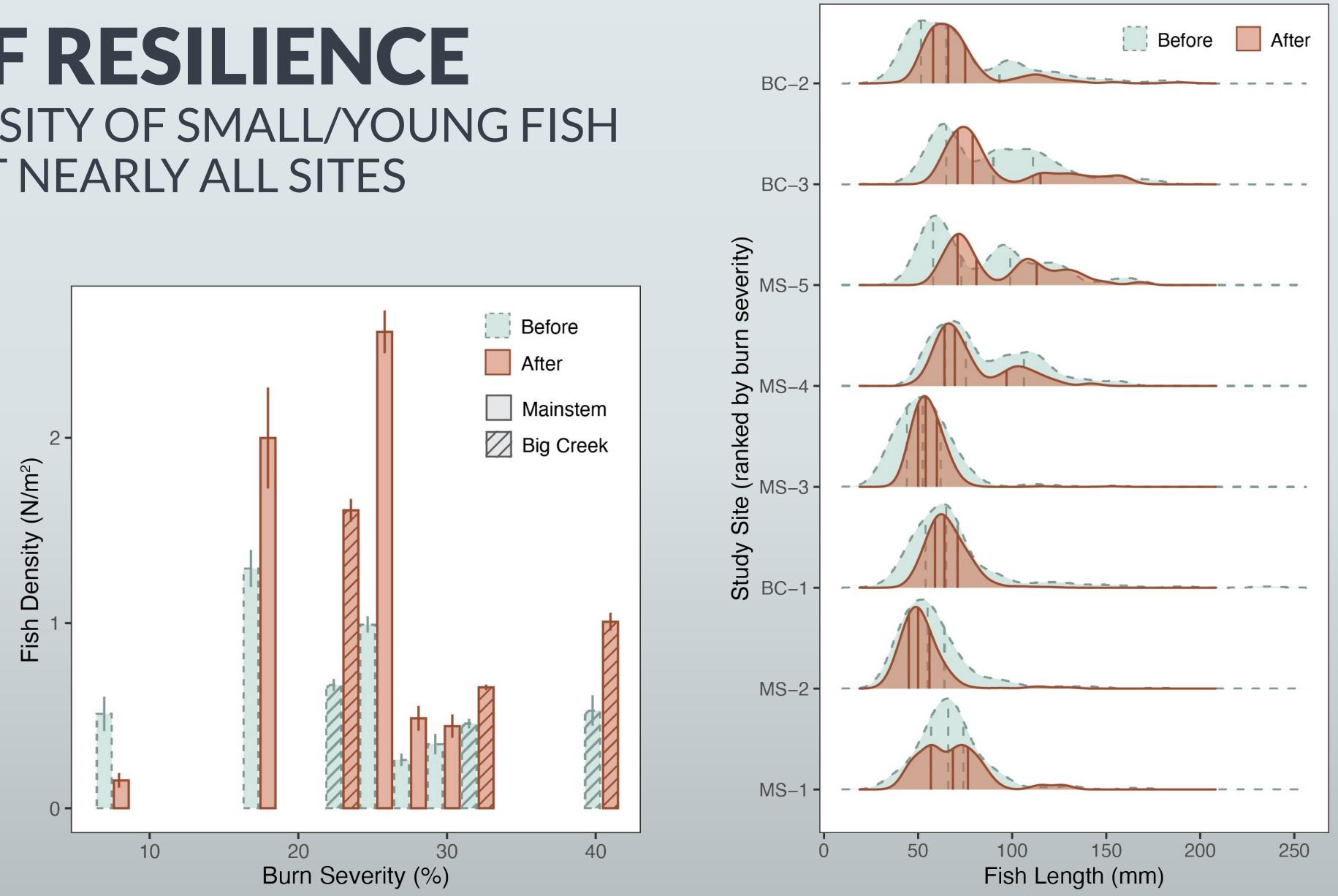




# SIZE & ABUNDANCE



### **SIGNS OF RESILIENCE** SIZE AND DENSITY OF SMALL/YOUNG FISH **INCREASED AT NEARLY ALL SITES**





2

# **KEY TAKEAWAYS**

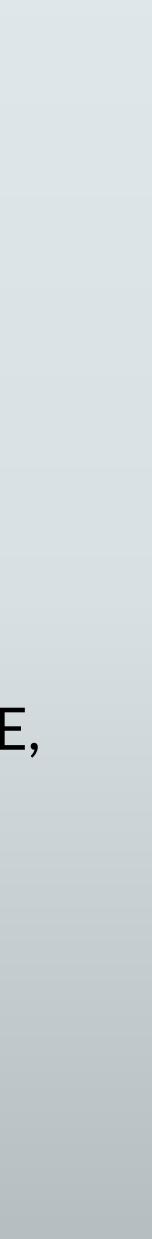
ASSESSING WILDFIRE IMPACTS FOR COASTAL CALIFORNIA SALMONIDS THROUGH A FOODSCAPES LENS

> **TROPHIC SUPPLY AND DEMAND** AS A FRAMEWORK FOR ASSESSMENT

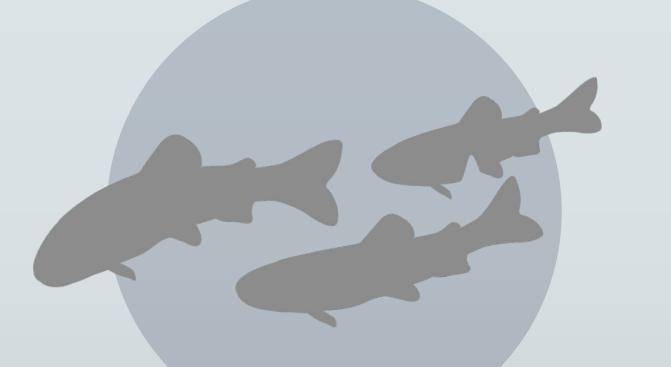
**KEY PHYSICAL VARIABLES:** CANOPY COVER, STREAM TEMPERATURE, CHANNEL DEPTH/WIDTH

**SIZE-SPECIFIC DIFFERENCES** IN FISH RESPONSE VARIABLES

**LANDSCAPE-SCALE HETEROGENEITY** SUPPORTS POPULATION RESLIENCE

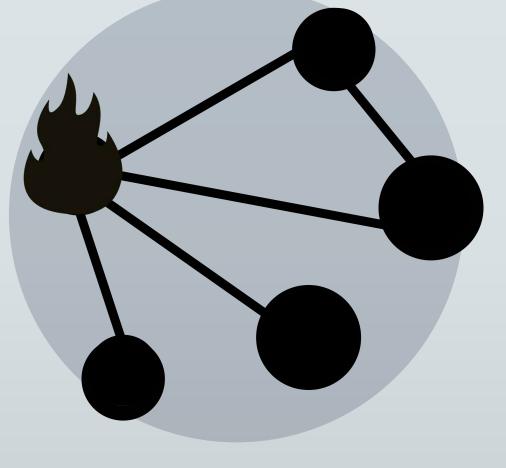


### **NEXT STEPS** IDENTIFYING AND ASSESSING WILDFIRE IMPACTS FOR COASTAL CALIFORNIA SALMONIDS



LONG-TERM MONITORING: EXPLORE IMMEDIATE RESPONSES AND LONG-TERM RECOVERY **COMMUNITY ANALYSIS:** SHIFTS IN SIZE-STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONAL FEEDING GROUPS





#### **FOOD WEB MODELING** FURTHER EXPLORE LINKAGES AND TESTING PREDICTIONS











Stillwater Sciences

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

#### **CO-AUTHORS** JOSEPH KIERNAN • ROSEALEA BOND • RAYMOND HUNTER • DAVID HERBST • ERIC PALKOVACS

#### STAFF, STUDENTS, AND VOLUNTEERS

Scott Creek Salmonid Research and Monitoring Program (NOAA/UCSC) Jeff Perez, Alex Hay, Joshua Meko, Cynthia Kern, Adrienne Chenette

#### Freshwater and Coastal Ecology Lab (UCSC) Moffett, Paul Carvalho, Jennifer Hoey, Morgan Abbott, Lance Takata

**Undergraduates and Volunteers** Pheobe Gross, Caroline Brandt, Razi Lederman, Litzia Galvan, Eleanor Harrington, Mac Lofquist, Adam Kagel, John Boyce, Ryan Cheung, Corey Stoesser, Althea Weber-Whitfield, Jake Hernandez, Mary Ciambrone, Michaela Martinez, Carlos Gutierez, Ellen Murphy, Dewey Dumont, Ellen Willis-Norton

Megan Sabal, Ben Wasserman, Liam Zarri, Rebecca Robinson, Doriane Weiler, Simone Des Roches, Emma