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Anne Beaudreau, UAF



Martin Dorn, AFSC



Kirstin Holsman, AFSC



Franz Mueter, UAF



to assess trophic stability in the Gulf of Alaska



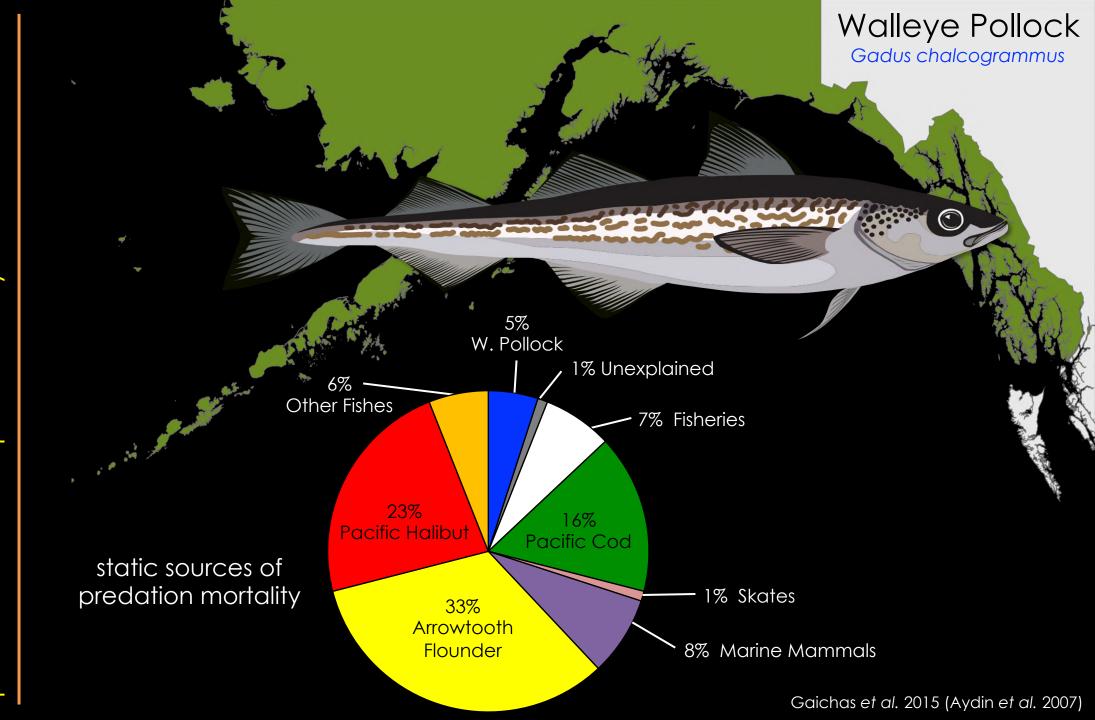
**RASMUSON FISHERIES RESEARCH CENTER** 

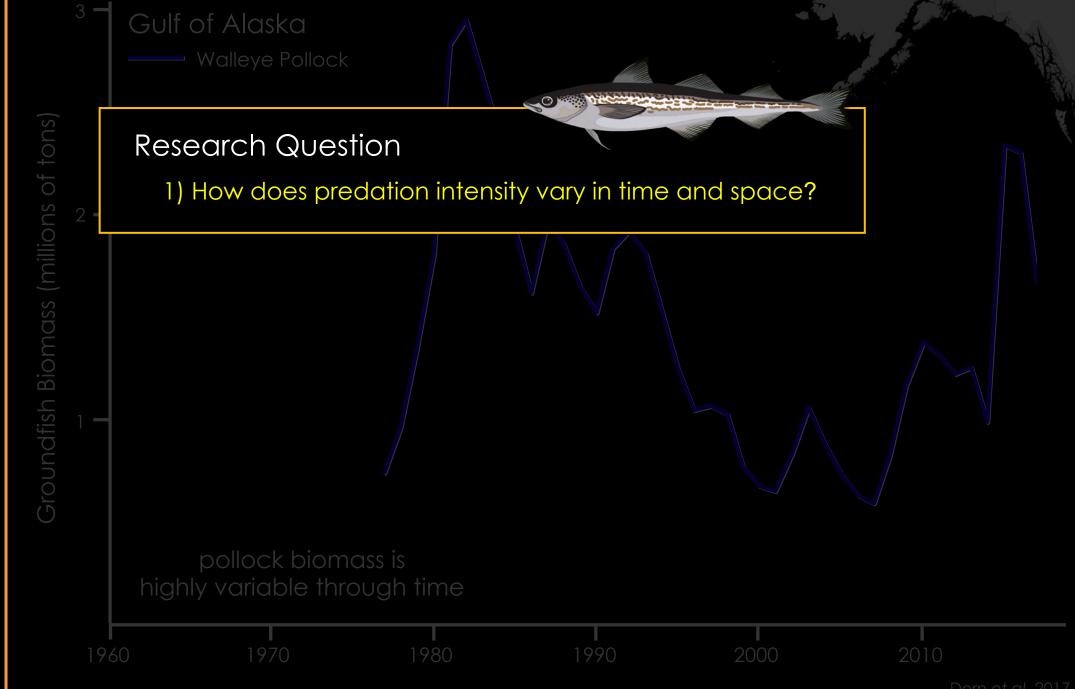


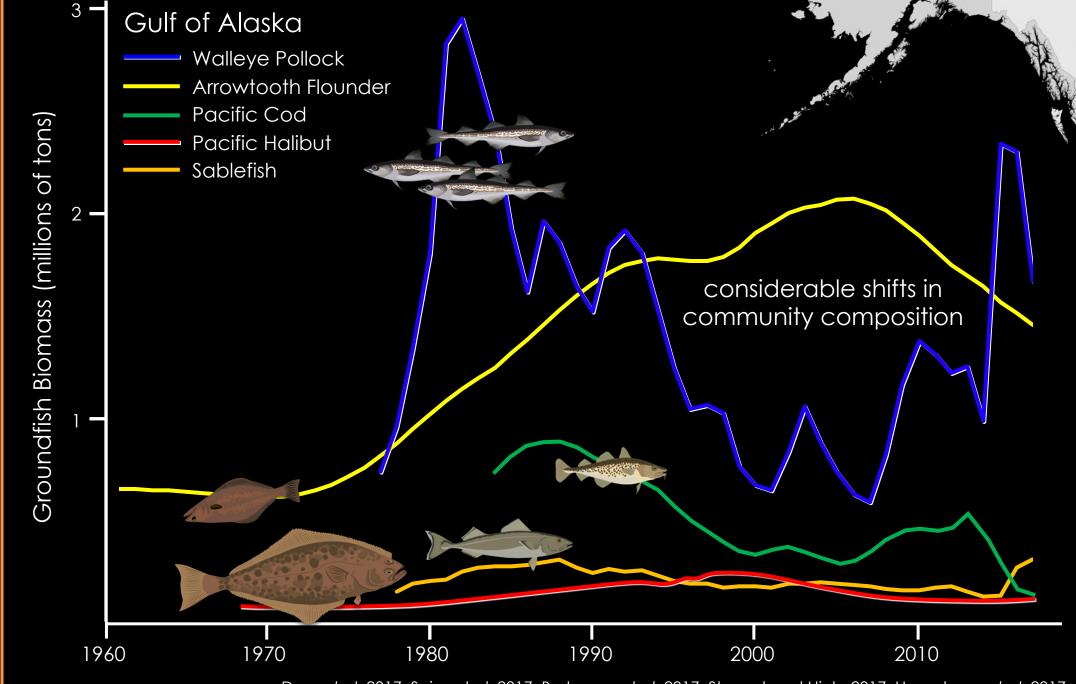
University of Alaska Fairbanks



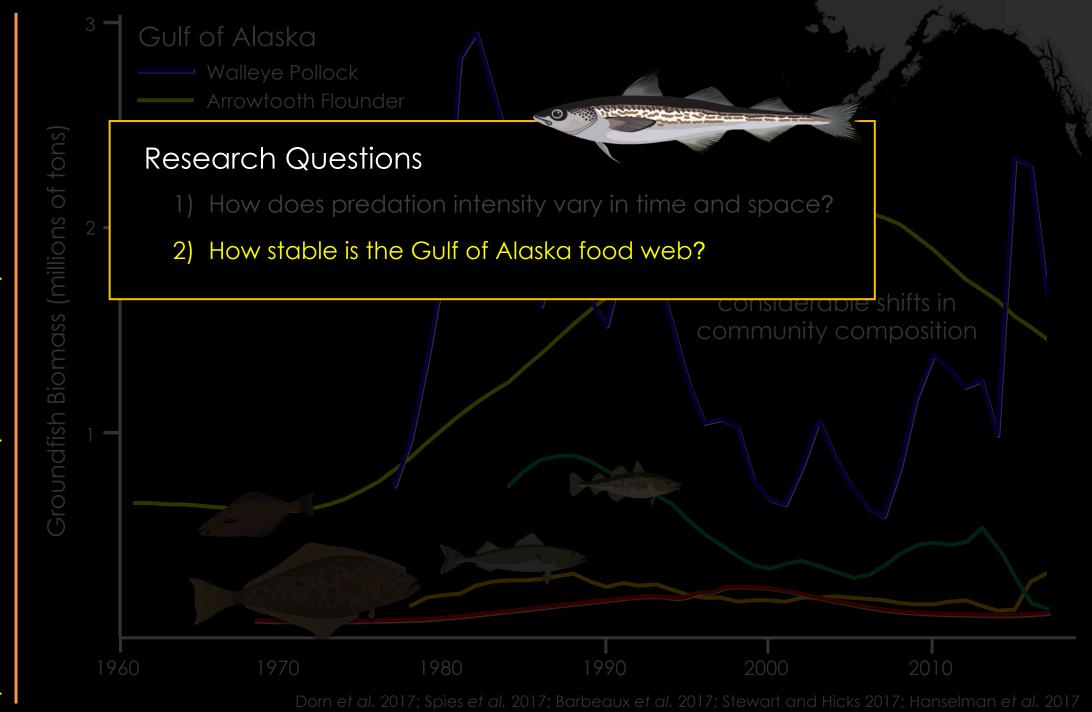
- N. Gulf of Alaska Applied Research Award -

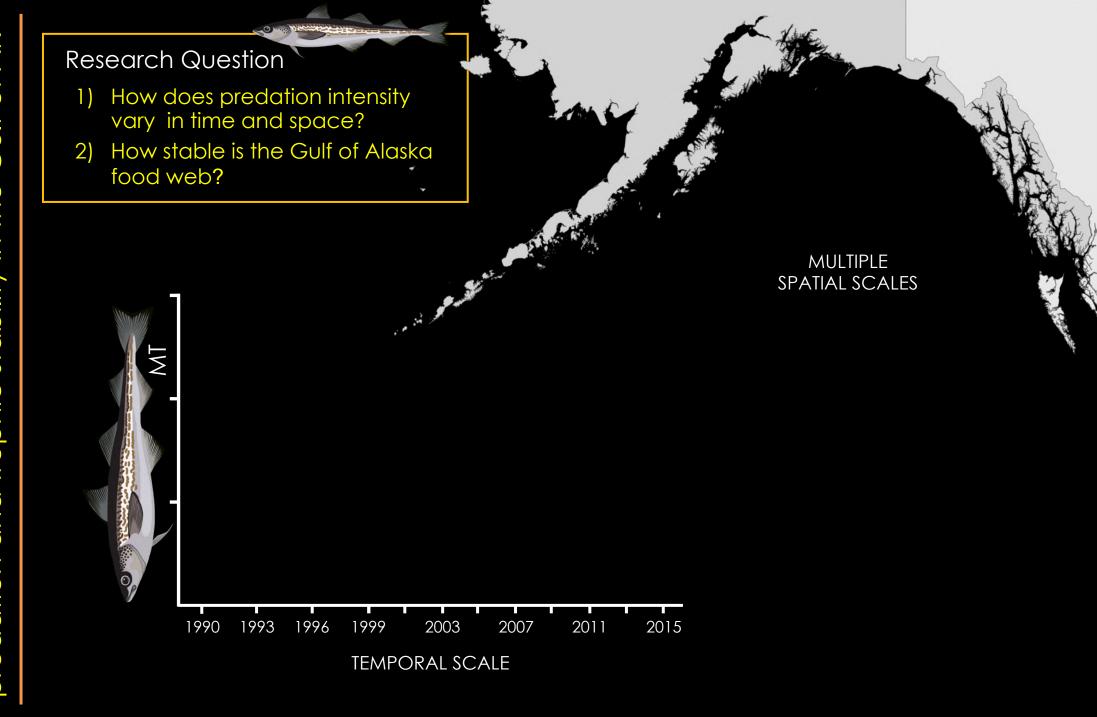


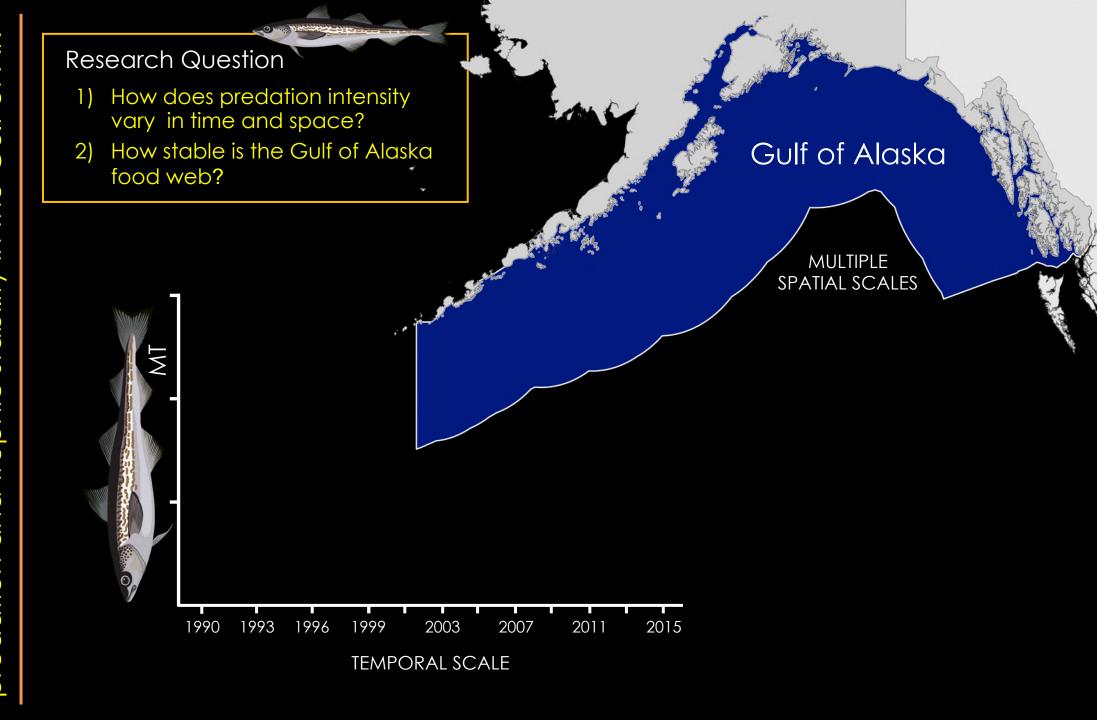


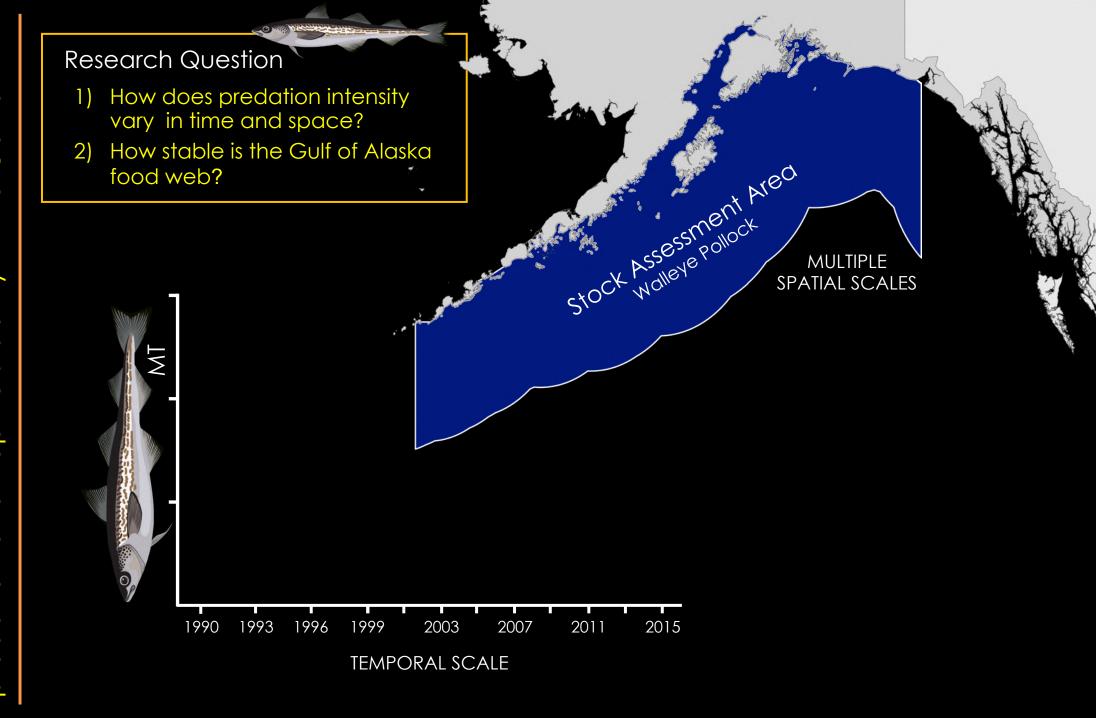


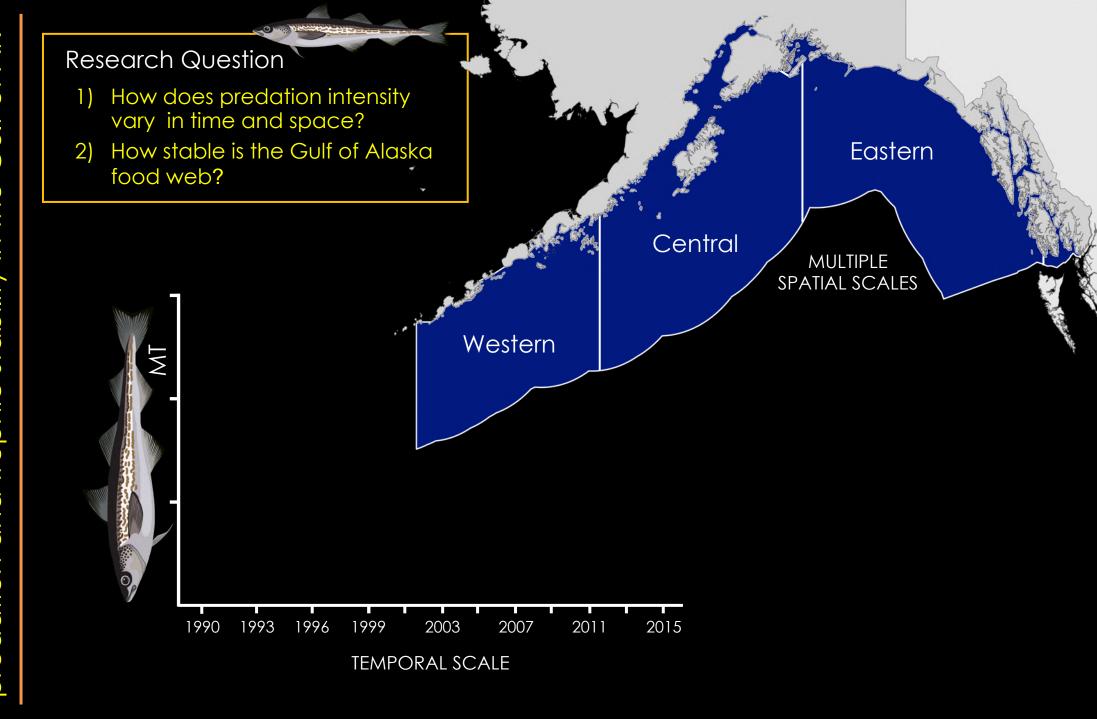
Dorn et al. 2017; Spies et al. 2017; Barbeaux et al. 2017; Stewart and Hicks 2017; Hanselman et al. 2017

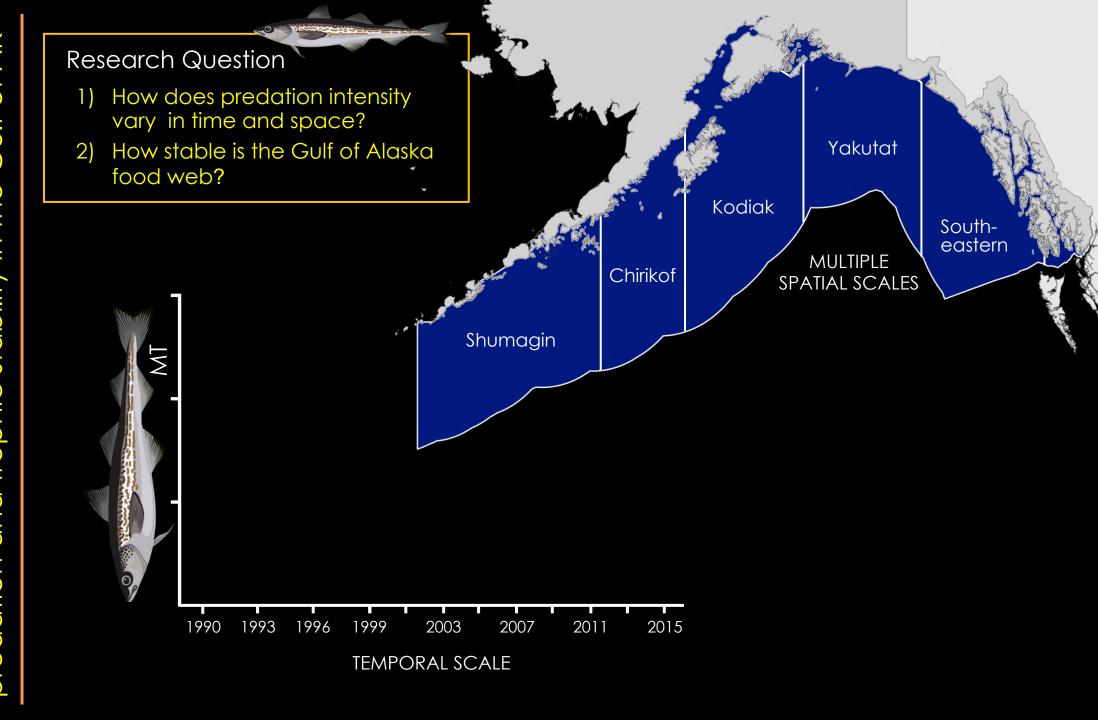




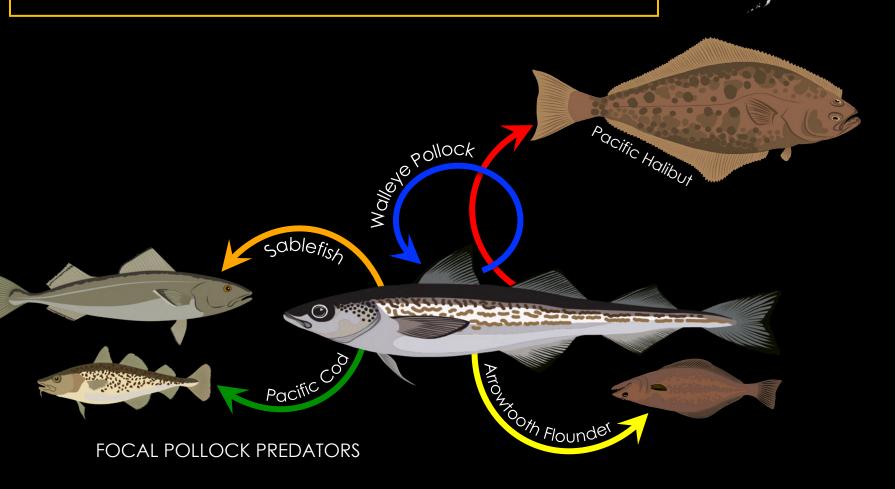




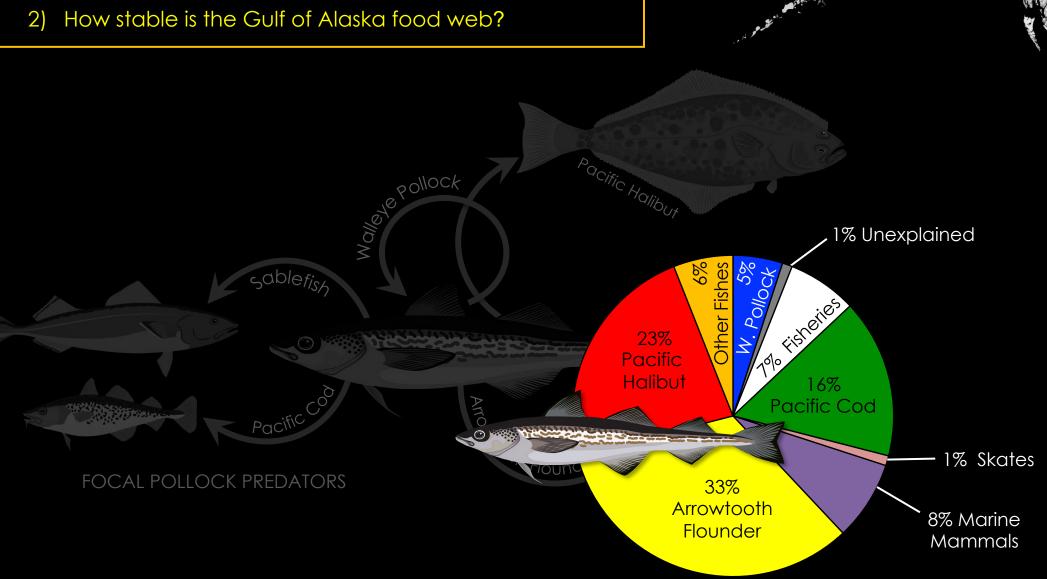




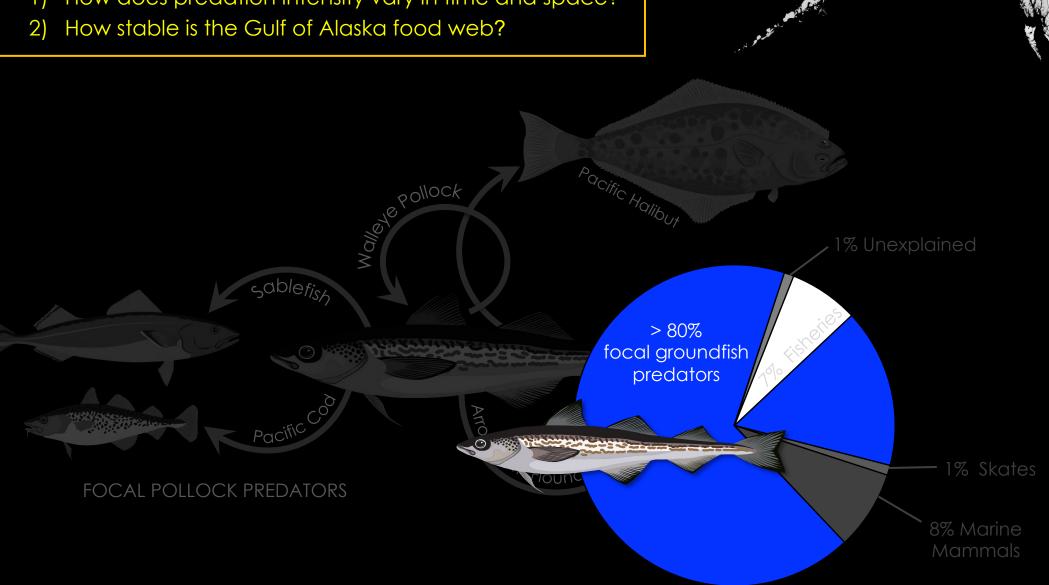
- 1) How does predation intensity vary in time and space?
- 2) How stable is the Gulf of Alaska food web?



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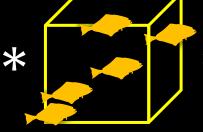
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$$P_{s,a,i,j} = B_{s,i} * rD_{s,i,j} * \bar{C}_{s,i,j} * p_{s,i,j} * a_{s,i}$$





total predator biomass,  $B_{s,i}$ 



relative predator density,  $rD_{s,i,j}$ 



mean annual ration,  $\bar{C}_{s,i,j}$ 



proportions pollock consumed,  $p_{s,i,j}$ 



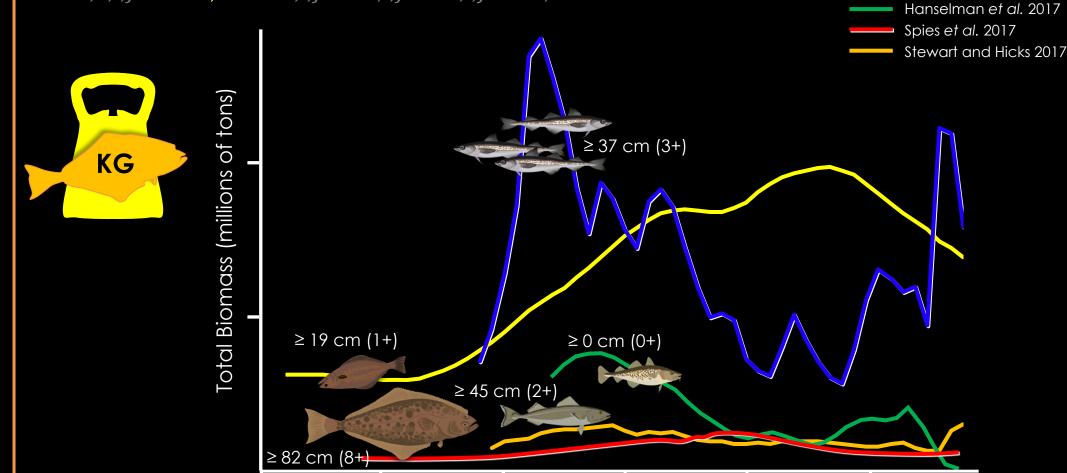
ages pollock consumed,  $a_{s,i}$ 

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1960

1970



1980

STOCK ASSESSMENTS

2000

1990

2010

Barbeaux et al. 2017

Dorn et al. 2017

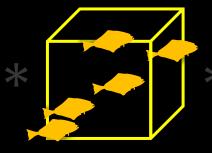
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relative predator density,  $rD_{s,i,j}$ 



mean annual ration,  $\bar{C}_{si}$ 

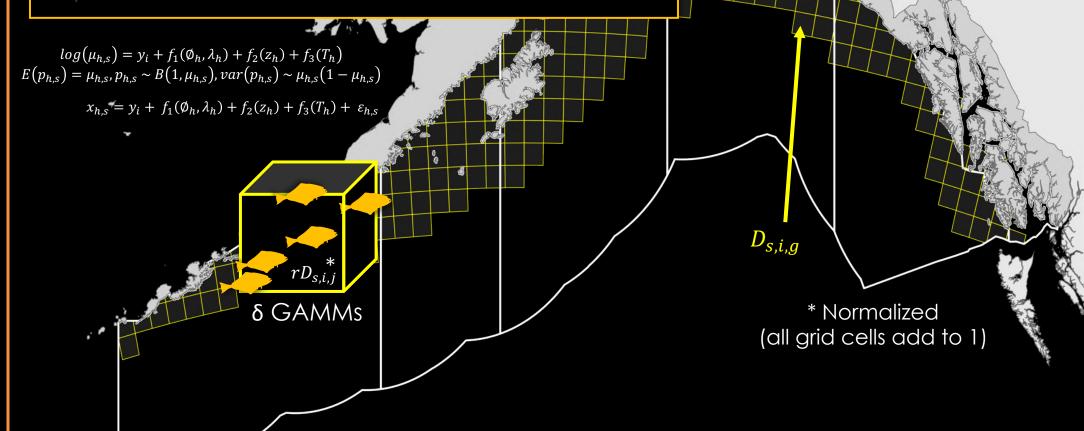


proportions pollock consumed,  $p_{s,i,j}$ 



ages pollock consumed,  $a_{s,i}$ 

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#### STANDARDIZED SURVEY DATA

- Resource Assessment and Conservation Engineering Division, AFSC
- International Pacific Halibut Commission
- Marine Ecology and Stock Assessment Program, AFSC

# Research Question How does predation intensity vary in time and space? How stable is the Gulf of Alaska food web? predator biomass in area j KG $rD_{s,i,j}$ δ GAMMs STANDARDIZED SURVEY DATA Resource Assessment and Conservation Engineering Division, AFSC International Pacific Halibut Commission Marine Ecology and Stock Assessment Program, AFSC

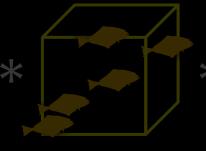
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$$P_{s,a,i,j} = B_{s,i} * rD_{s,i,j} * \overline{C}_{s,i,j} * p_{s,i,j} * a_{s,i}$$





total predator biomass,  $B_{s.i}$ 



relative predata density,  $rD_{s,i,j}$ 



mean annual ration,  $\bar{C}_{s,i,j}$ 



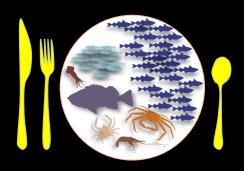
proportions pollock consumed,  $p_{s.i.i}$ 



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$$P_{s,a,i,j} = B_{s,i} * rD_{s,i,j} * \overline{C}_{s,i,j} * p_{s,i,j} * a_{s,i}$$



Wisconsin Bioenergetics Models ^ Maximum Daily Consumption (g-1g-1d-1)



$$C_{max} = C_A * W^{C_B} * f(T)$$

ATF: Holsman and Aydin 2015 Fonds et al. 1992

PC: Holsman et al. (in prep)

PH: Holsman et al. 2018 Hurst 2004; Paul et al. 1994

SBL: Harvey 2009

WEP: Holsman and Aydin 2015 Smith et al. 1986, 1988

#### **FOOD HABITS DATA**

- Resource Ecology and Ecosystem Modeling Program, AFSC

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relative predato density,  $rD_{s,i,j}$ 



mean annua ration,  $ar{\mathcal{C}}_{s.i.i}$ 

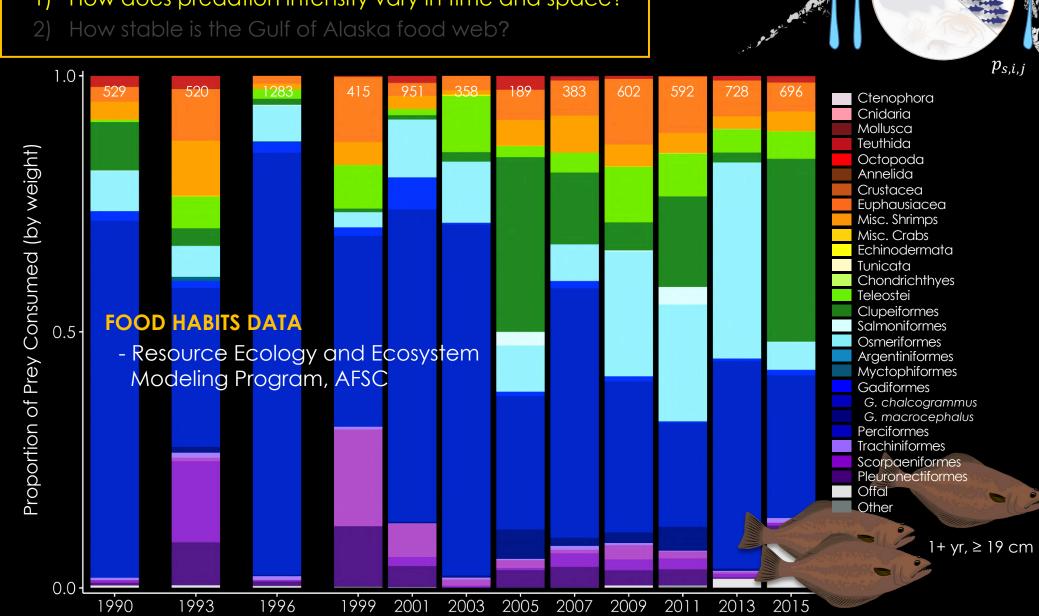


proportions pollock consumed,  $p_{s,i,j}$ 

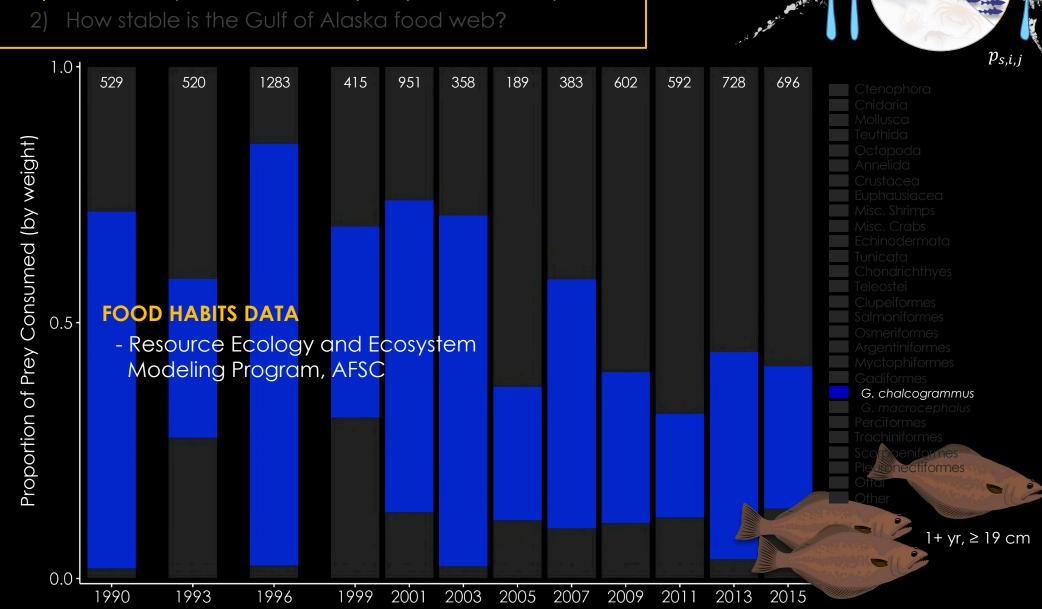


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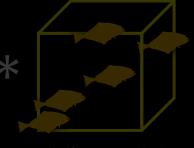
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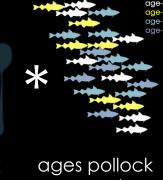
relative predata density,  $rD_{s.i.i}$ 



mean annual ration,  $\bar{C}_{s.i.i}$ 



proportions pollock consumed,  $p_{s.i.i}$ 



ages pollock consumed,  $a_{s,i}$ 

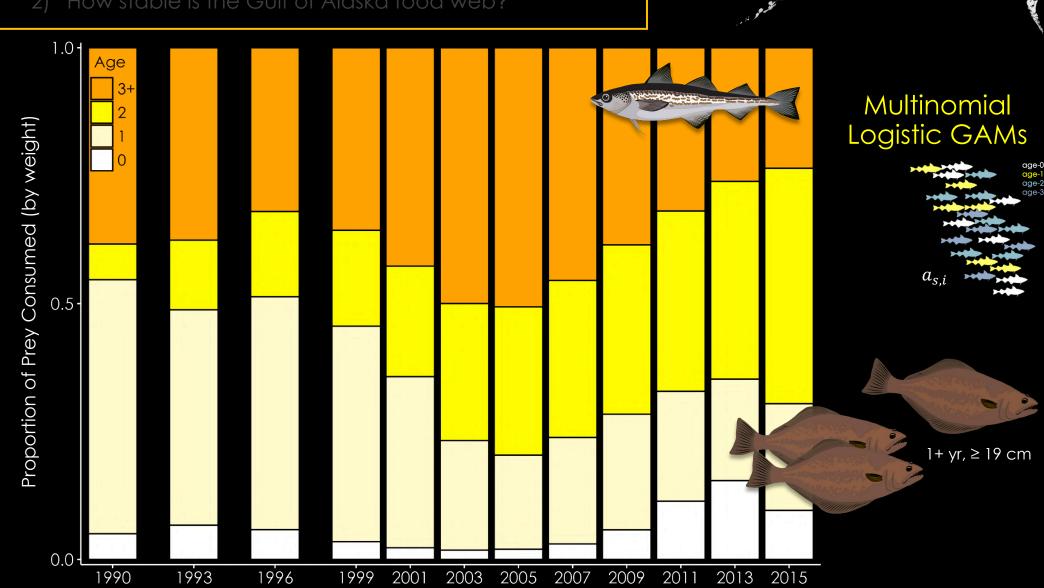
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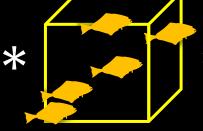
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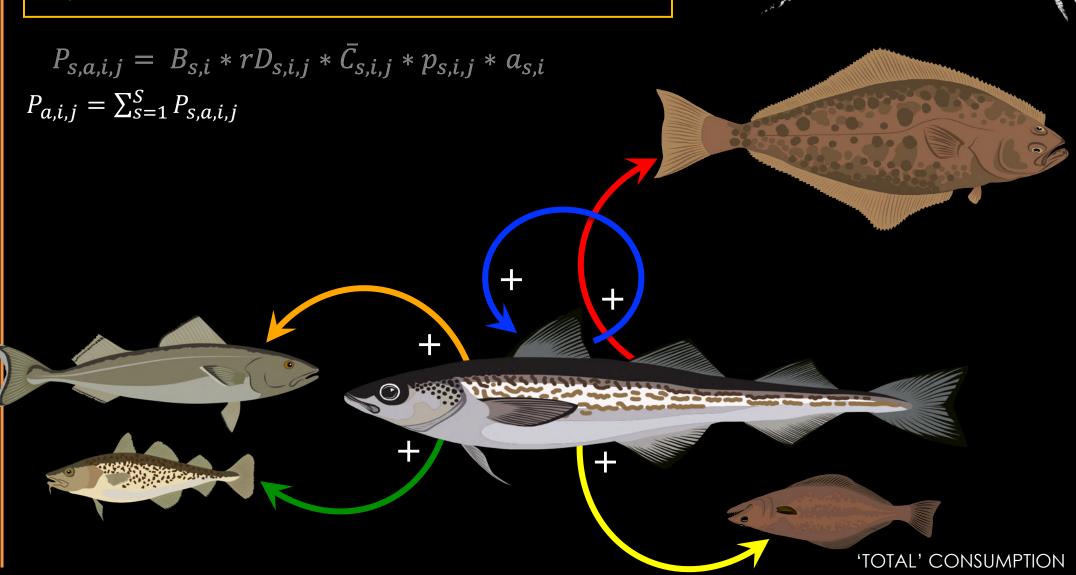


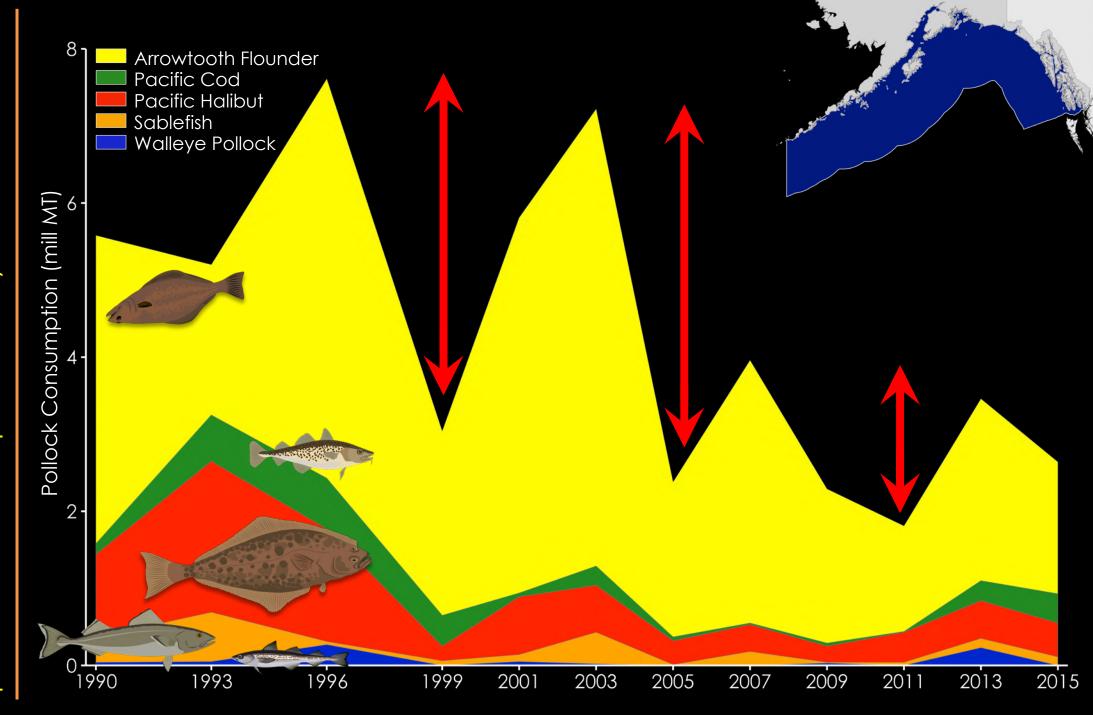
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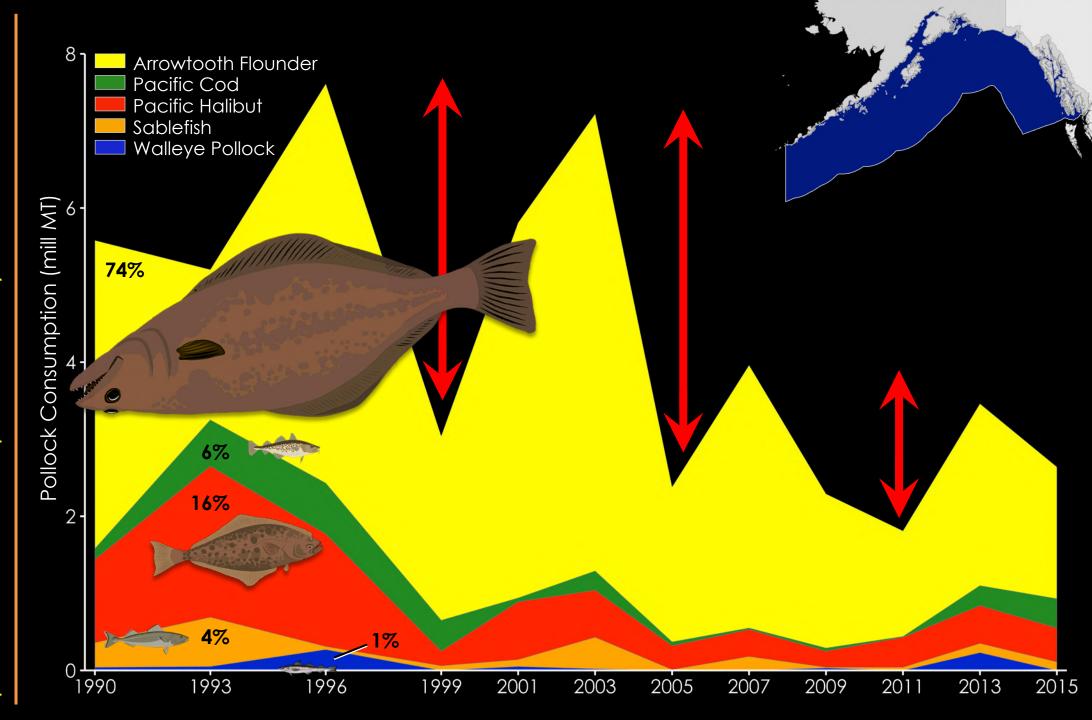


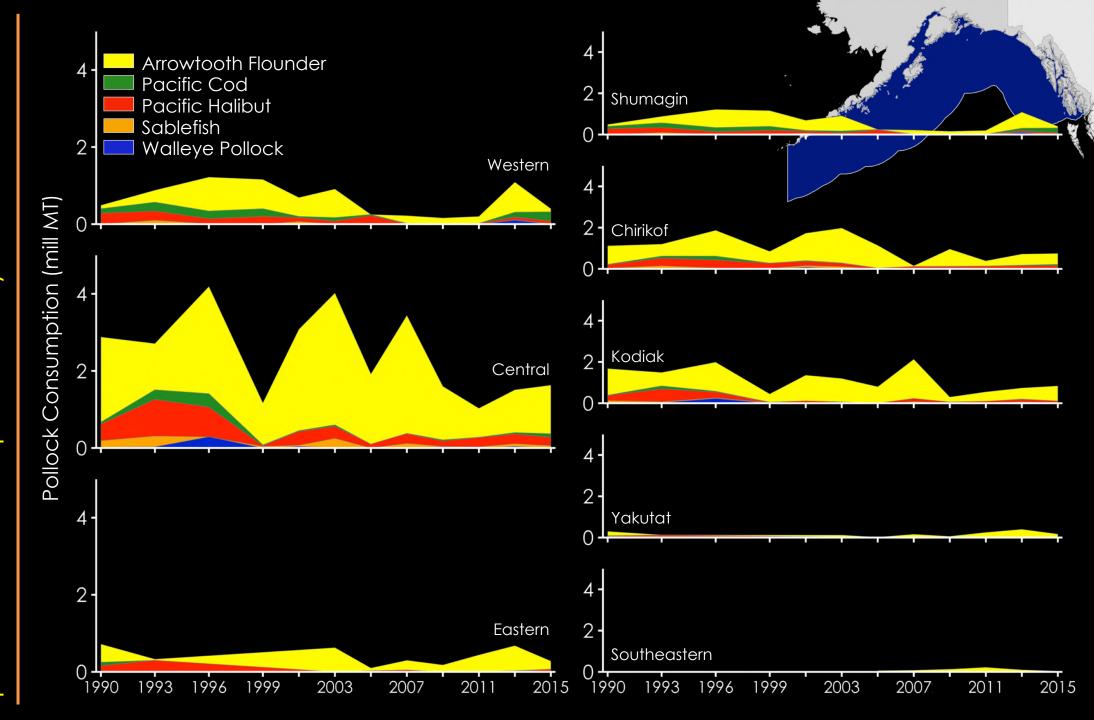
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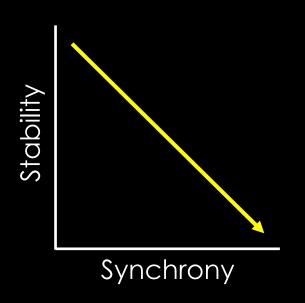




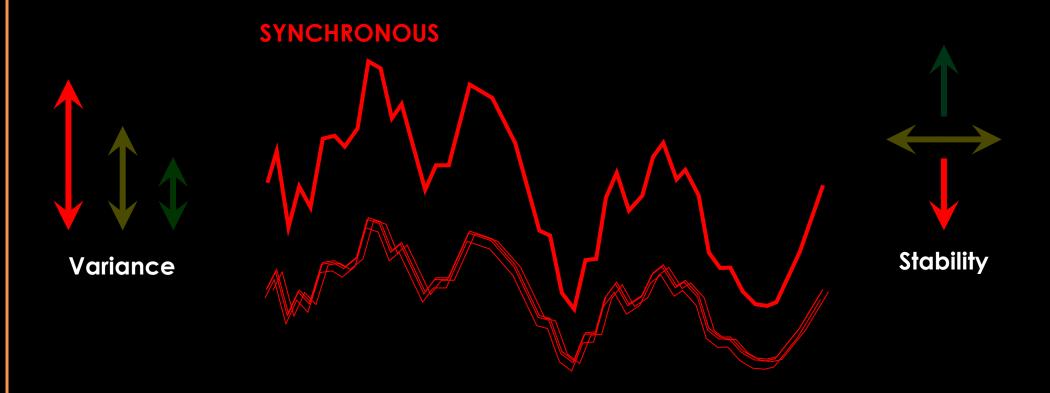




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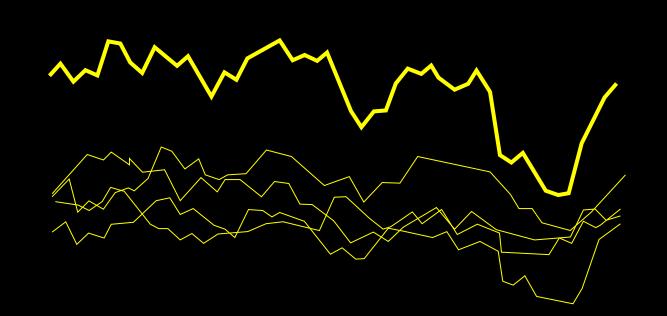
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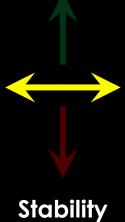


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## STATISTICALLY INDEPENDENT

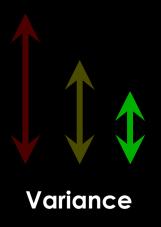


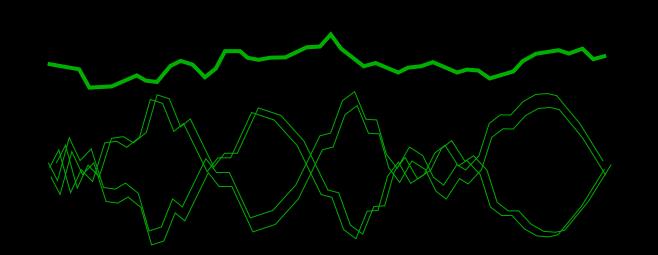


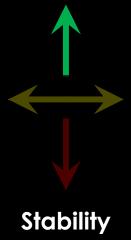


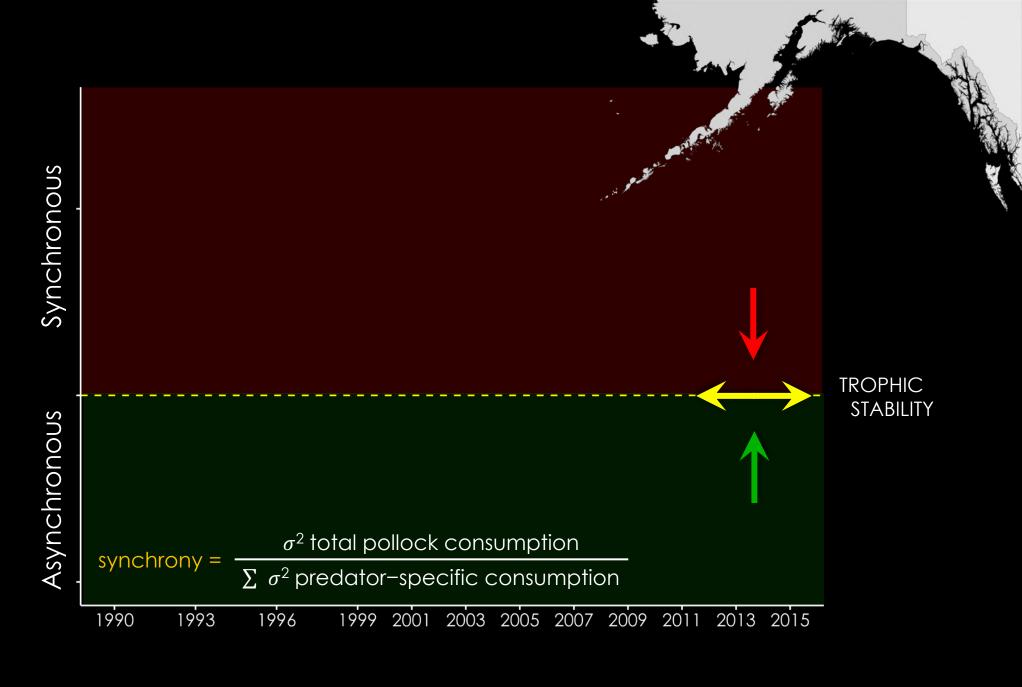
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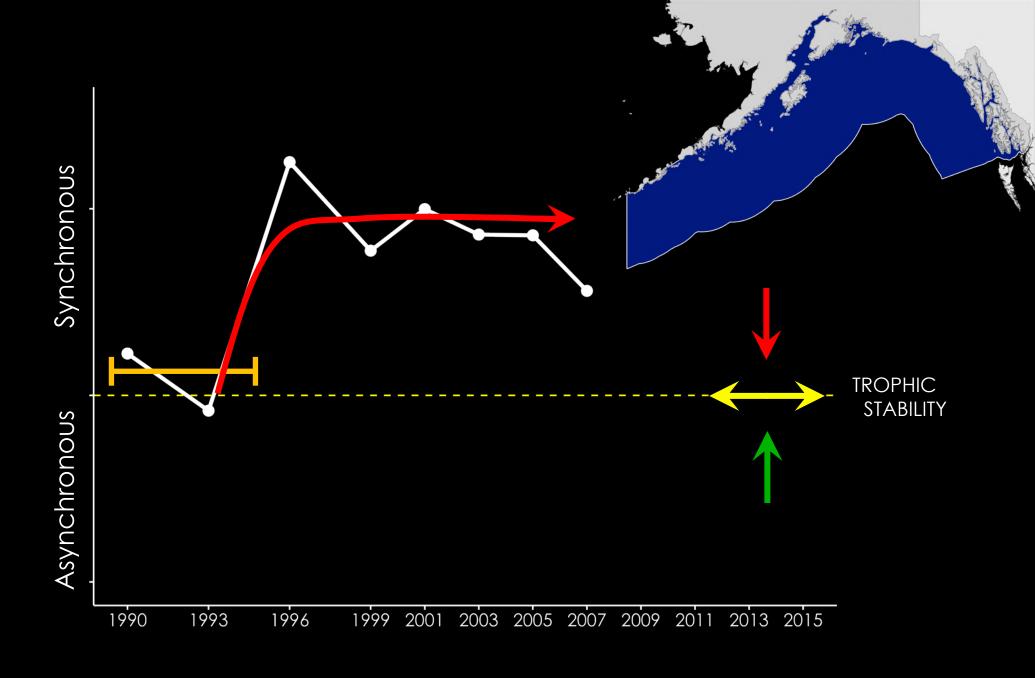
## **ASYNCHRONOUS**

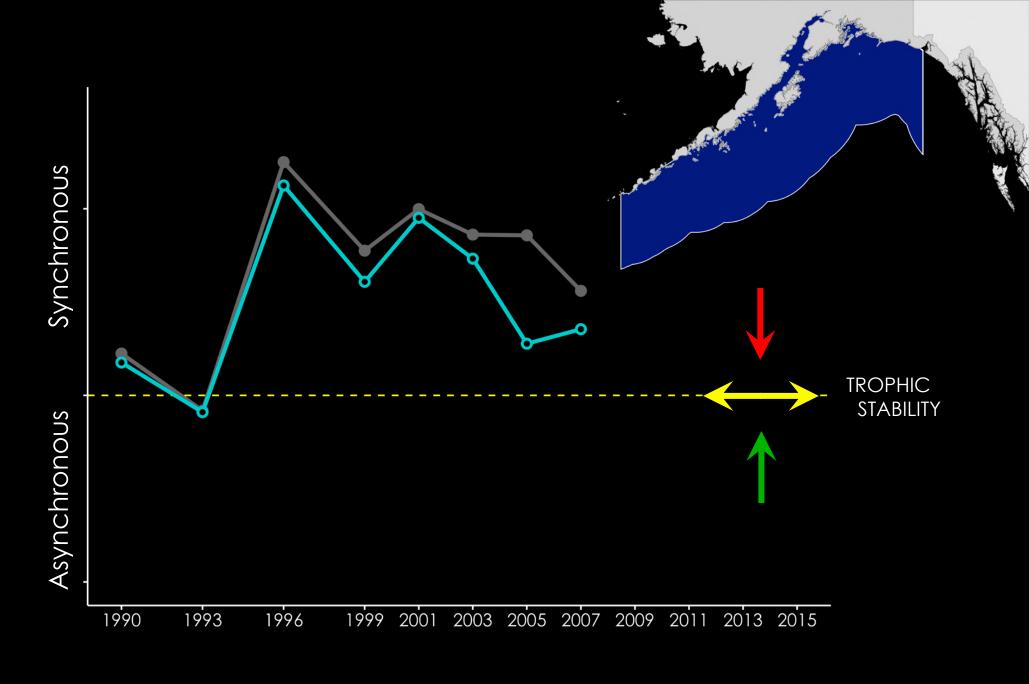


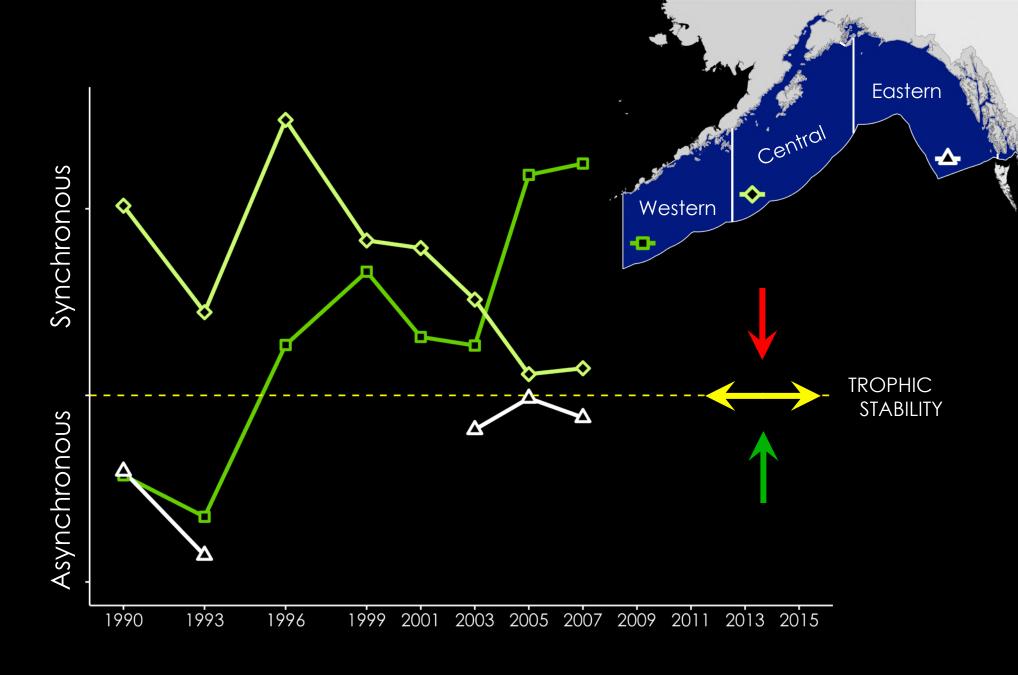


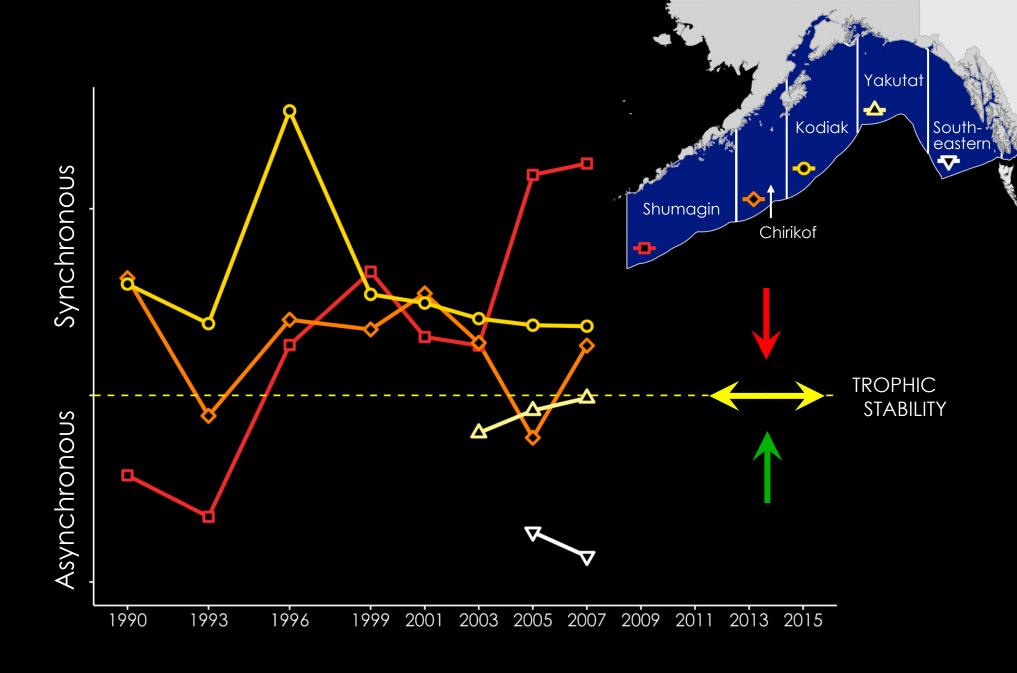






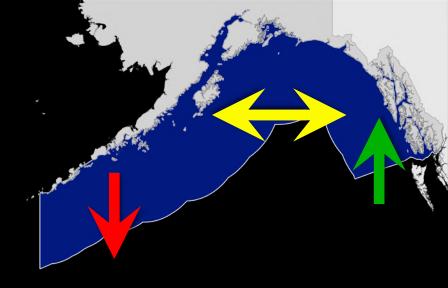






### Key Findings

- intense and highly-variable predation
- Arrowtooth Flounder = dominant predator
- synchronous consumption dynamics
  - dependent on scale/location

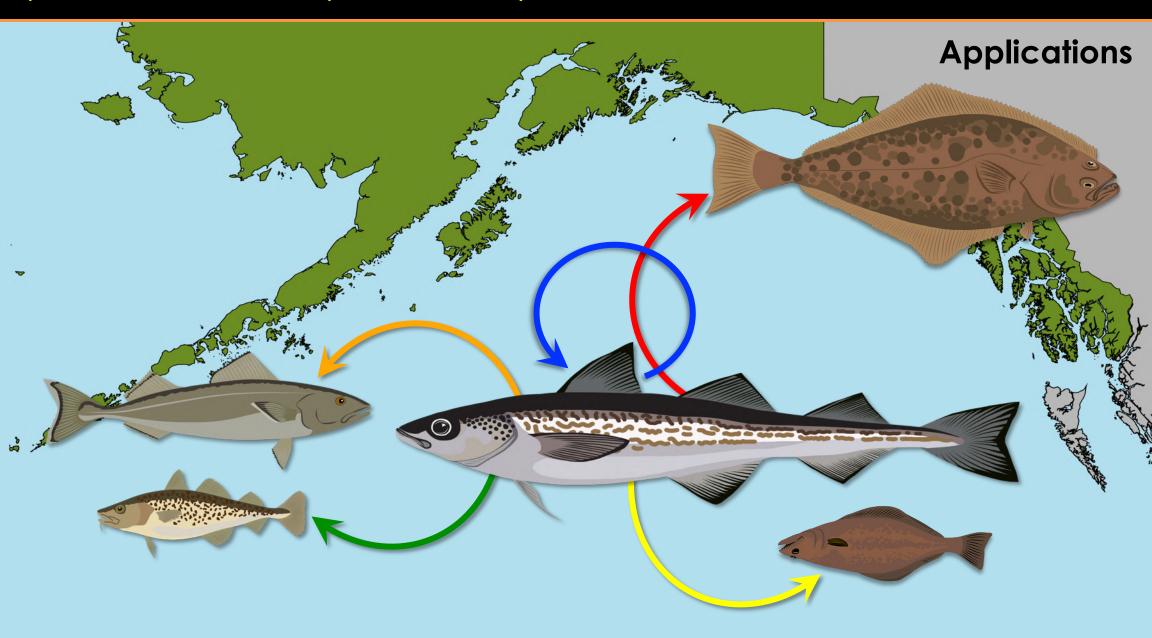


# Ecological Inferences trophic instability in the Gulf of Alaska

• potential for strong top-down control e.g., Gaichas et al. 2015



# predation and trophic stability in the Gulf of Alaska

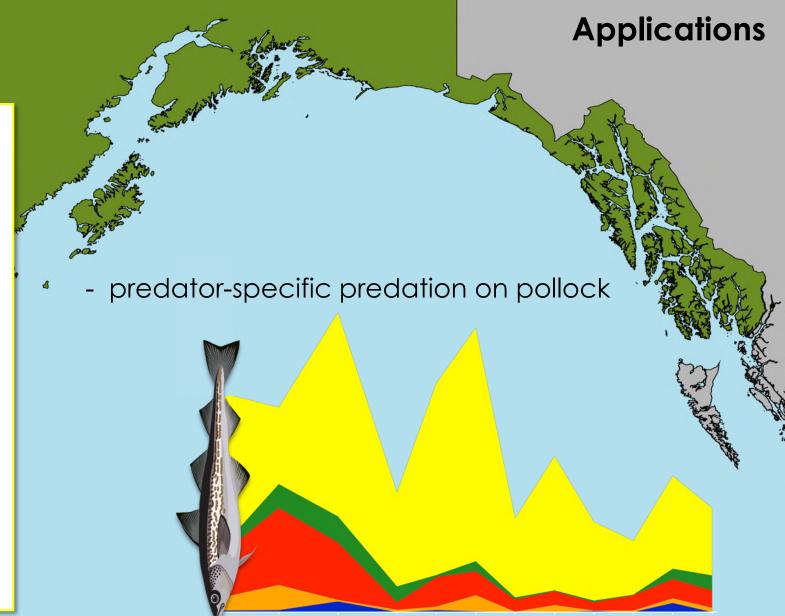


# predation and trophic stability in the Gulf of Alaska



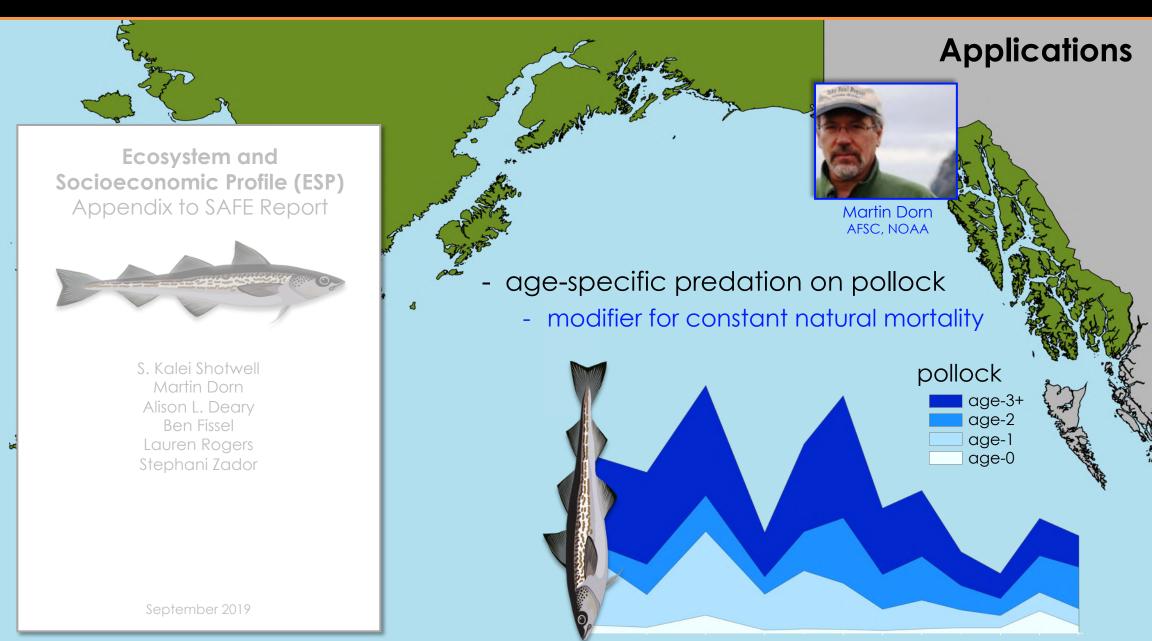


S. Kalei Shotwell Martin Dorn Alison L. Deary Ben Fissel Lauren Rogers Stephani Zador



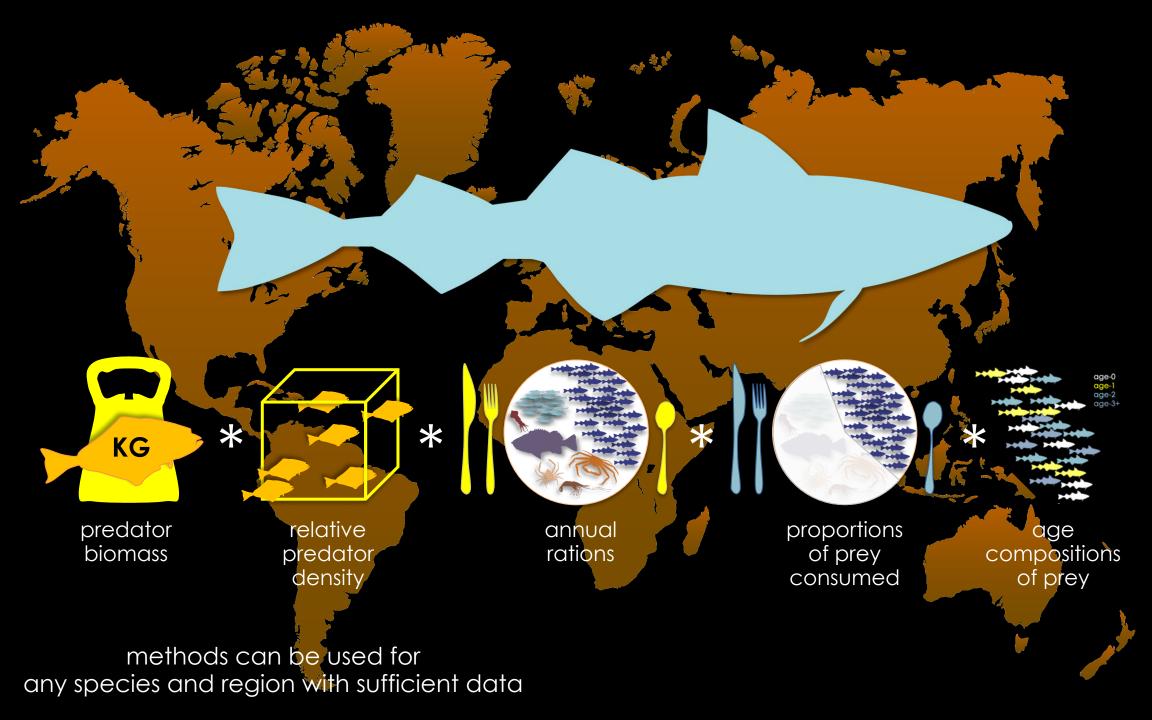
September 2019

# predation and trophic stability in the Gulf of Alaska





case study focused on pollock in the Gulf of Alaska





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Development of a predation index to assess trophic stability in the Gulf of Alaska

## Acknowledgments

#### Committee & Co-Authors

Anne Beaudreau
Martin Dorn
Kirstin Holsman
Mary Hunsicker
Franz Mueter
Terrance J. Quinn, II

#### UAF

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Kerim Aydin Steve Barbeaux Dana Hanselman Geoff Lang Wayne Palsson Nancy Roberson Mark Zimmerman

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Ian Stewart
Thomas Kong

#### Funding:



RASMUSON FISHERIES RESEARCH CENTER

N. Gulf of Alaska Applied Research Award (2018, 2019)

# COLLEGE OF FISHERIES AND OCEAN SCIENCES

University of Alaska Fairbanks



#### Fish Art:

W. Pollock, P. Halibut, and Arrowtooth Flounder Nick Ingram



P. Cod and Sablefish Madison Kosma

#### Data provided by:





