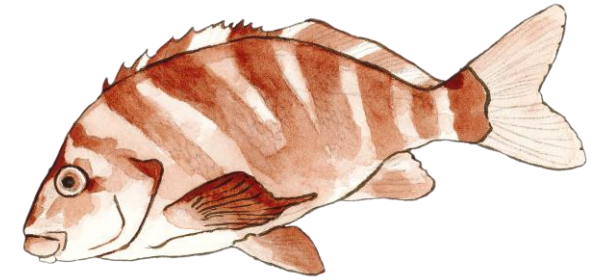
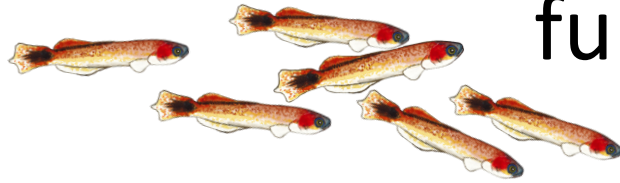
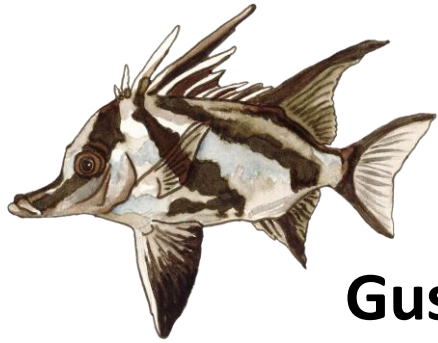


# Size based Tasmanian rocky reef model shows importance of benthic production for reef ecosystem functioning



**Asta Audzijonyte &**

**Gustav Delius, Rick Stuart-Smith, Camilla Novaglio, Graham Edgar, Neville Barrett, Julia Blanchard**

*Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies &  
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**UNIVERSITY of  
TASMANIA**



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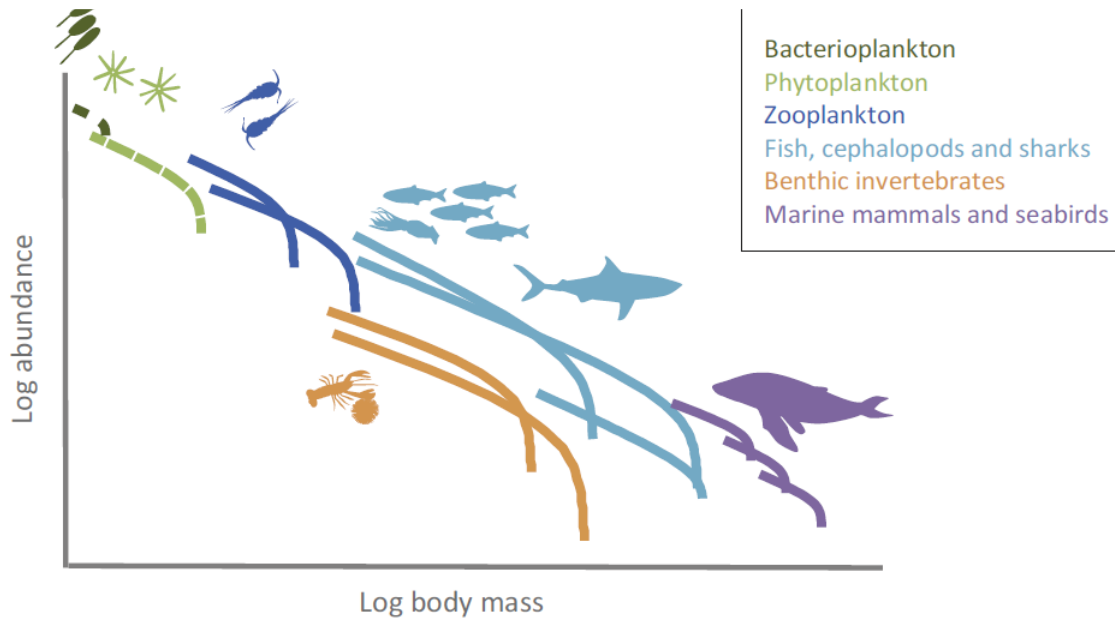
**CMS**  
CENTRE FOR MARINE SOCIOECOLOGY

# Size based models are very useful and increasingly popular

## Review

From Bacteria to Whales:  
Using Functional Size Spectra  
to Model Marine Ecosystems

Julia L. Blanchard,<sup>1,\*</sup> Ryan F. Heneghan,<sup>2</sup> Jason D. Everett,<sup>3,4</sup>  
Rowan Trebilco,<sup>5</sup> and Anthony J. Richardson<sup>2,6</sup>



## How much fish is out there?

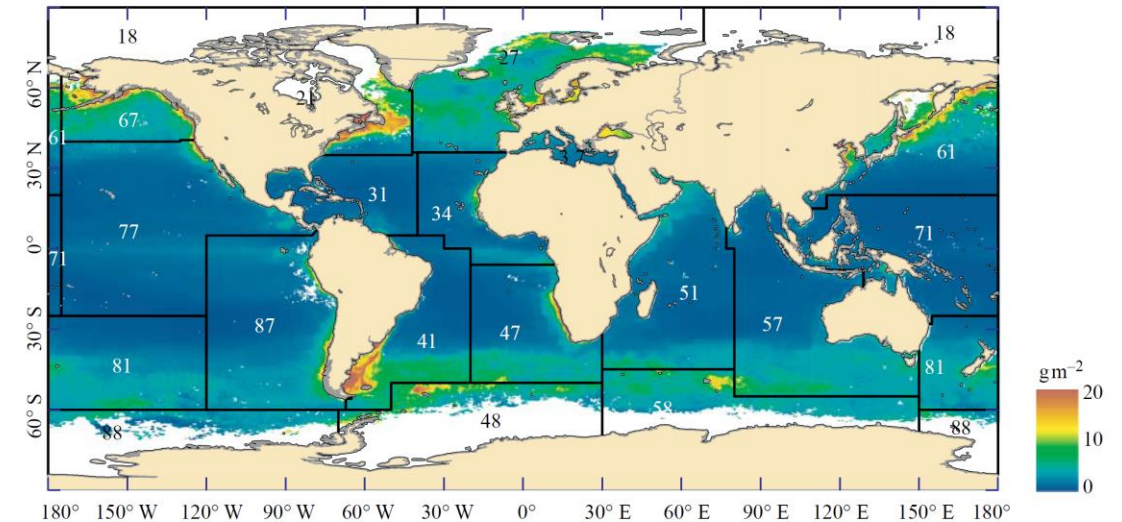
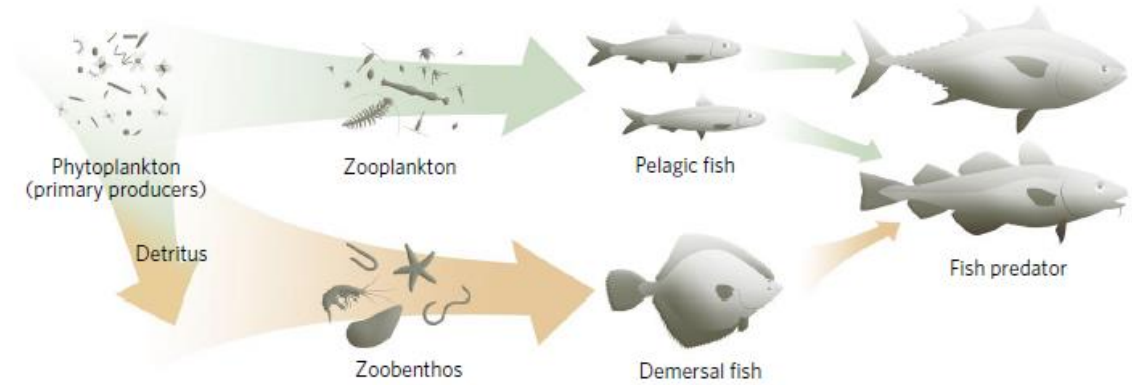
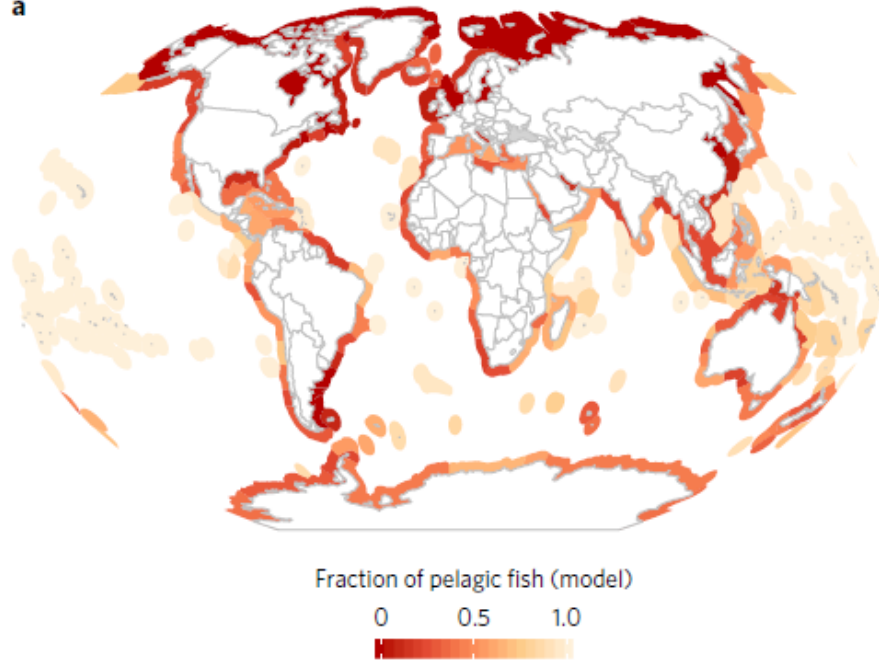


Figure 3. The distribution of teleost biomass. The overlays show the FAO fishing areas and their corresponding codes (see electronic supplementary material for further details). PP estimates were not available for the areas shown in white.

# Why are fisheries dominated by large pelagic predators (tunas) or large benthic predators (cod)?

a



nature  
ecology & evolution

ARTICLES

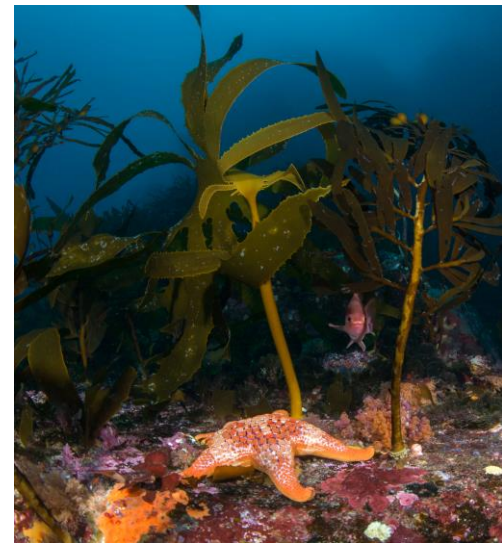
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41559-017-0388-z>

## Global patterns in marine predatory fish

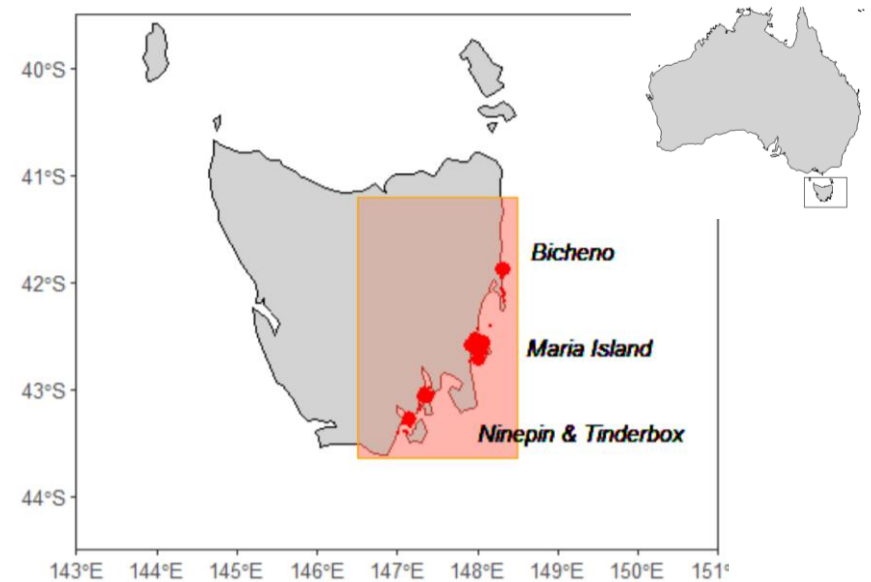
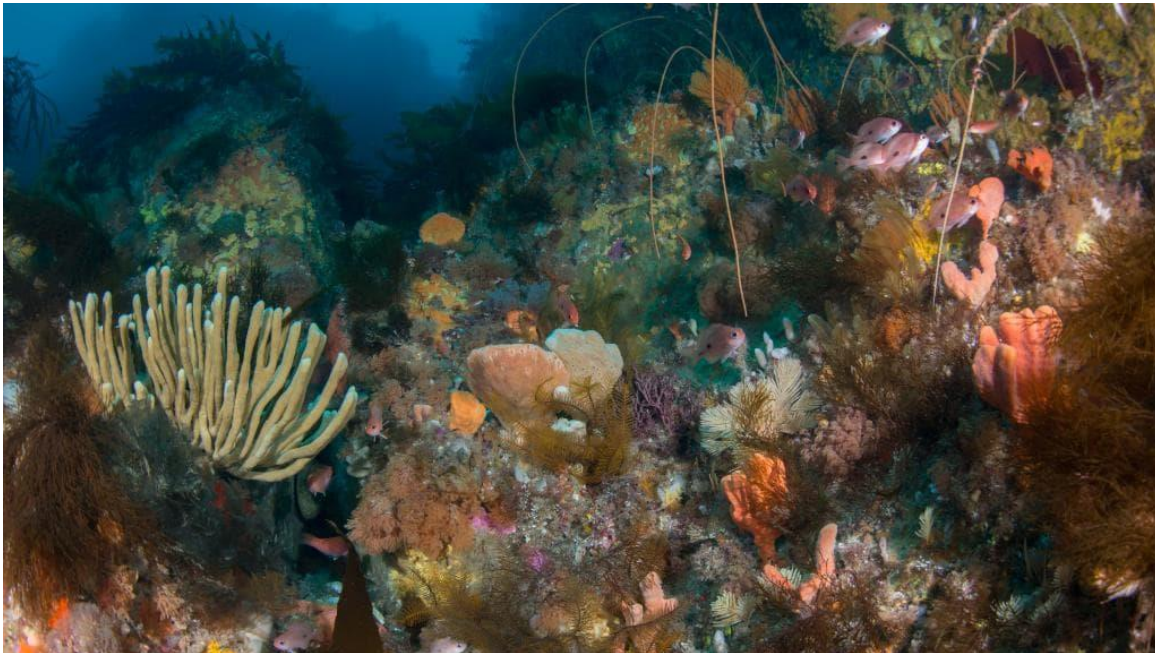
P. Daniël van Denderen<sup>1\*</sup>, Martin Lindegren<sup>1</sup>, Brian R. MacKenzie<sup>1</sup>, Reg A. Watson<sup>2,3</sup>  
and Ken H. Andersen<sup>1</sup>



## Size based models for coastal ecosystems with high complexity



*Photography by Rick Stuart-Smith*  
[www.mostlyfish.com](http://www.mostlyfish.com)



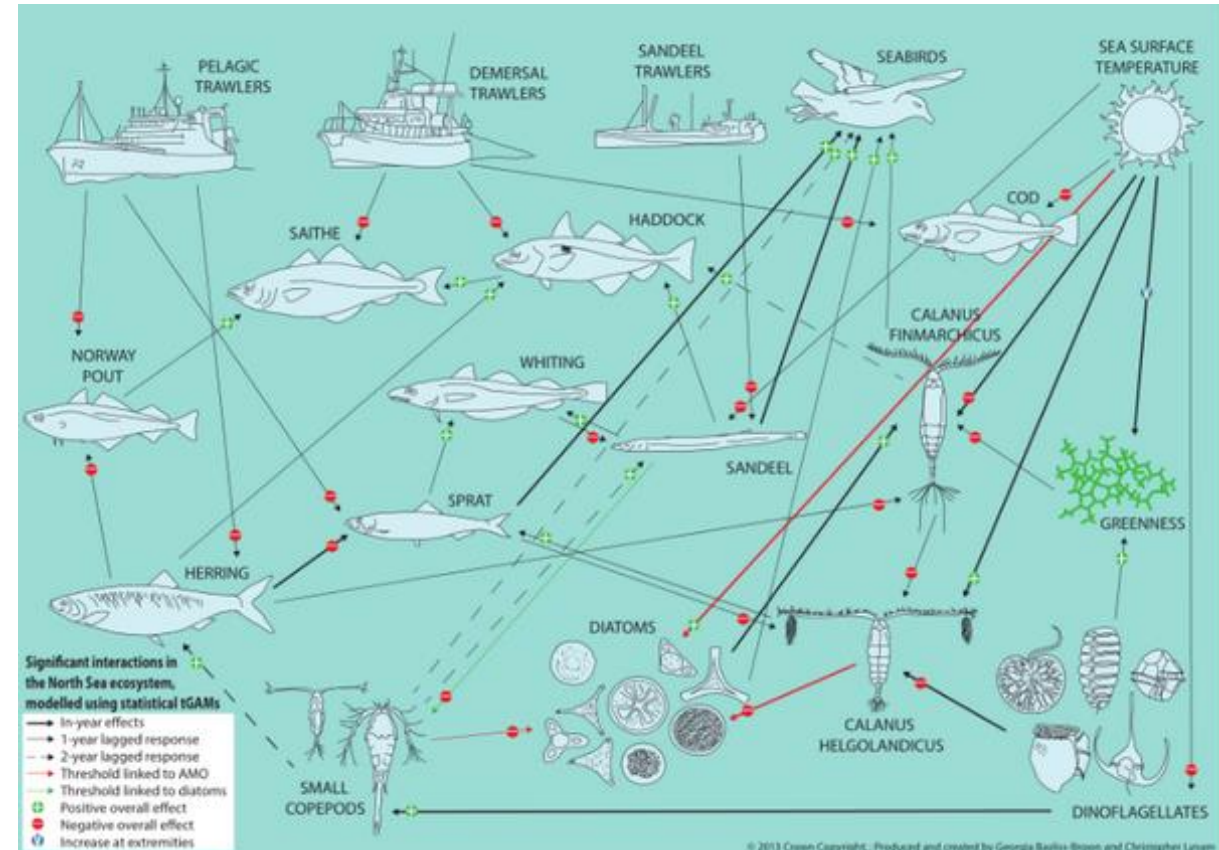
# How are coastal ecosystems different?

1. Importance of both pelagic and benthic production

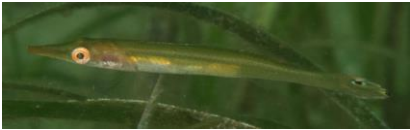
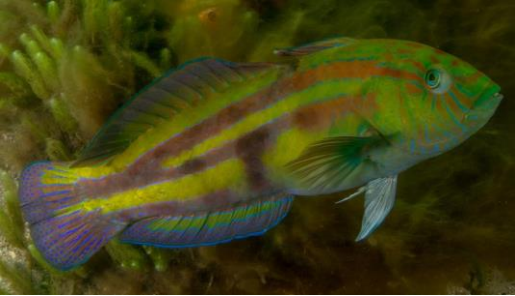


2. In pelagic systems most species seem to eat each other (“big fish eat small fish”), and the largest species typically are predators (except whales)

Significant interactions in the North Sea ecosystem modelled using statistical tGAMS  
Georgia Bayliss Brown



Most coastal fish don't eat each other!

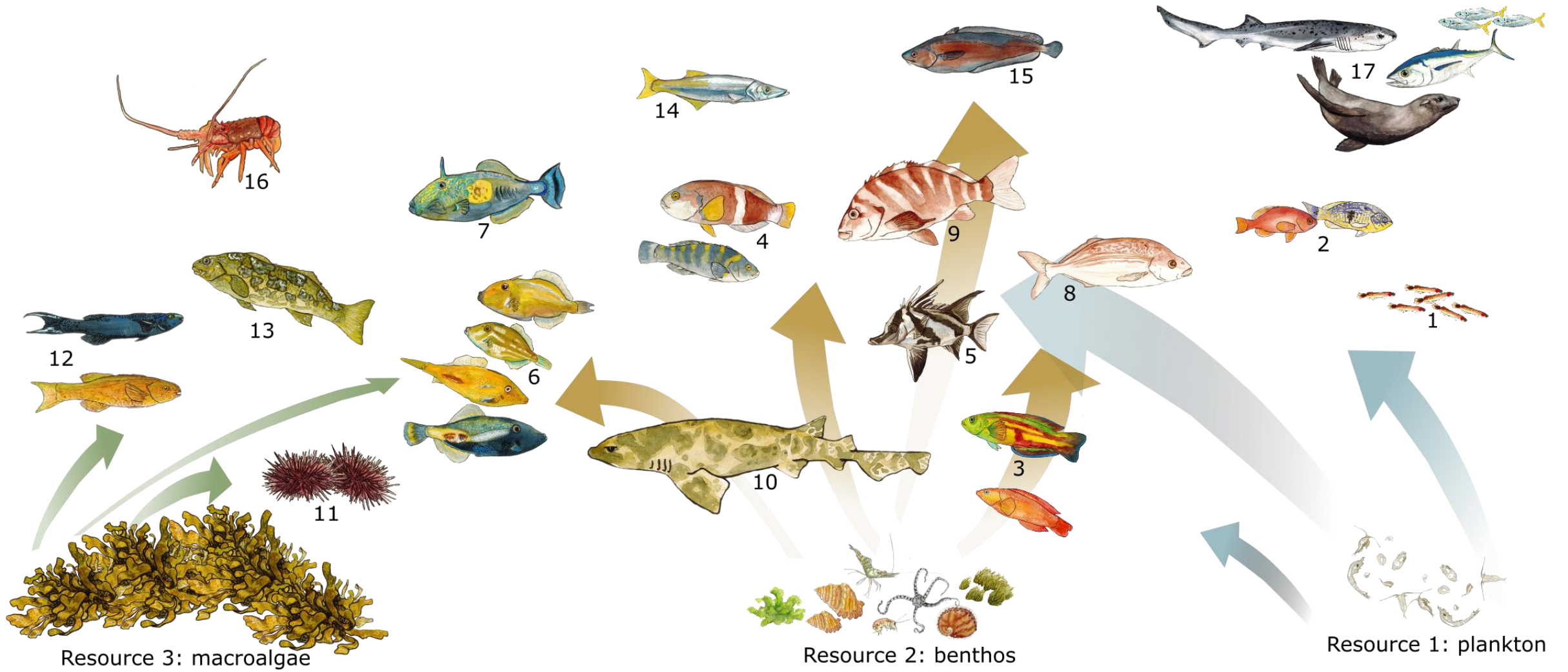


# Largest fishes typically are not predators

3. For pelagic systems **predator-prey mass ratio (PPMR)** is often assumed to be around 100 or 1000, but is much higher in coastal species

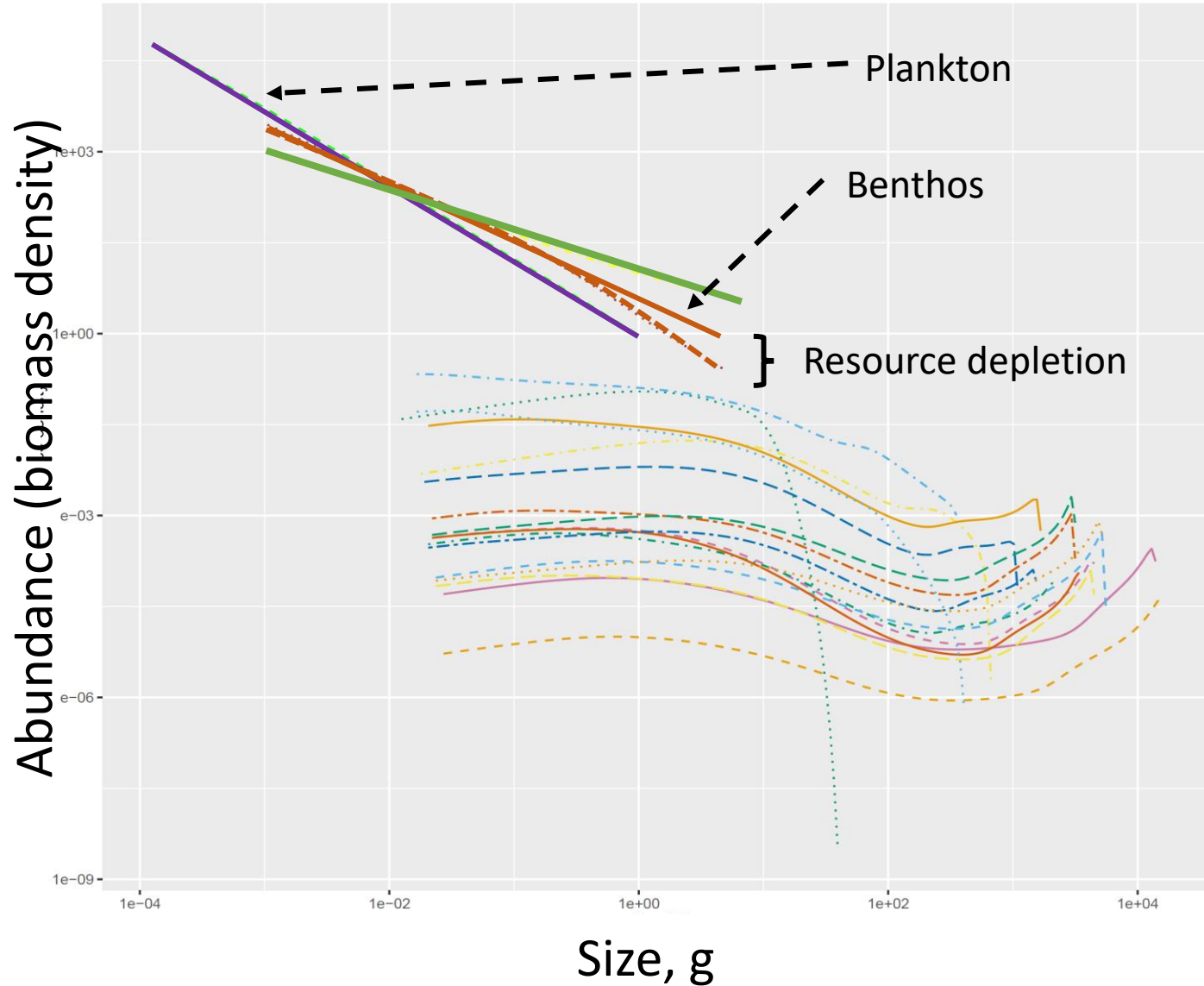
**Coghlan** et al. 2022:  
community level  
realised PPMR values  
of **15-30K**







# Adapting size spectrum models for coastal ecosystems: multiple resources



Add two additional background resource spectra: benthos & macroalgae

<https://github.com/sizespectrum/mizerMR>

pkgdown/favicon	Use mizer style on website	last year
tests	Renamed <code>plotResource()</code> into <code>plotResourceLevel()</code> as in main mizer.	4 months ago
.Rbuildignore	Wrote a README outlining the plan. Some more work. Not yet functional.	last year
DESCRIPTION	Renamed <code>plotResource()</code> into <code>plotResourceLevel()</code> as in main mizer.	4 months ago
LICENSE.md	Package skeleton. Not functional yet.	last year
NAMESPACE	Renamed <code>plotResource()</code> into <code>plotResourceLevel()</code> as in main mizer.	4 months ago
NEWS.md	Renamed <code>plotResource()</code> into <code>plotResourceLevel()</code> as in main mizer.	4 months ago
README.Rmd	Make clear that this package is about size-structured resources. Addi...	last year
README.md	updated package description	10 months ago
_pkgdown.yml	Make clear that this package is about size-structured resources. Addi...	last year
mizerMR.Rproj	Package skeleton. Not functional yet.	last year

☰ README.md ✎

## mizerMR

lifecycle experimental






This extension package for mizer allows you to work with multiple size-structured background resources in the same way in which you work with multiple species in mizer. Modelled species can have different preferences for different resources, defined though maximum availability of resource available to species, in a similar way as setting species interaction matrix. Each background resource can have different minimum and maximum sizes, and different size spectrum slopes ( $\lambda$ ) or abundances ( $\kappa$ ). This allows the user to reproduce emergent onto-genetic dietary shifts, where a species feed in a plankton spectrum when it is small, then switches to benthic spectrum, and later to other fish species.

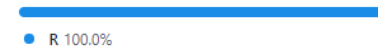
### Installation

```
remotes::install_github("sizespectrum/mizerMR")
library(mizerMR)
```

#### Contributors 3

-  **gustavdelius** Gustav W Delius
-  **baldrech** Romain Forestier
-  **astaaudzi** Asta Audzi

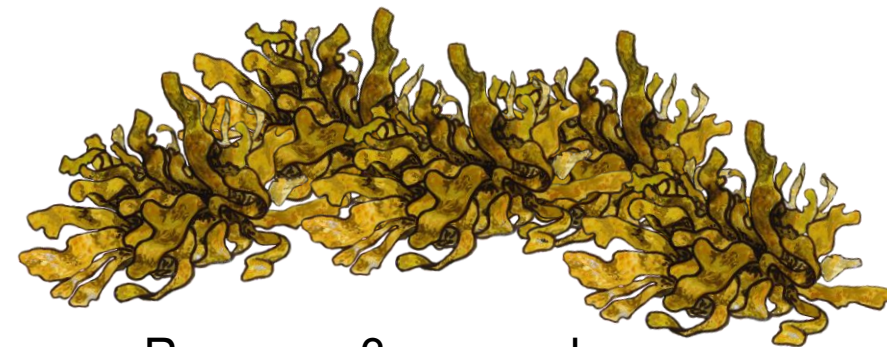
#### Languages



Resource 1: plankton

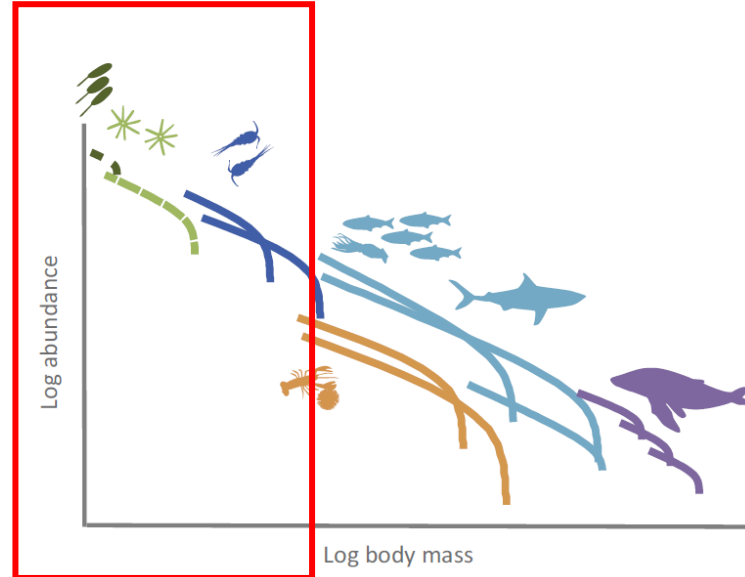
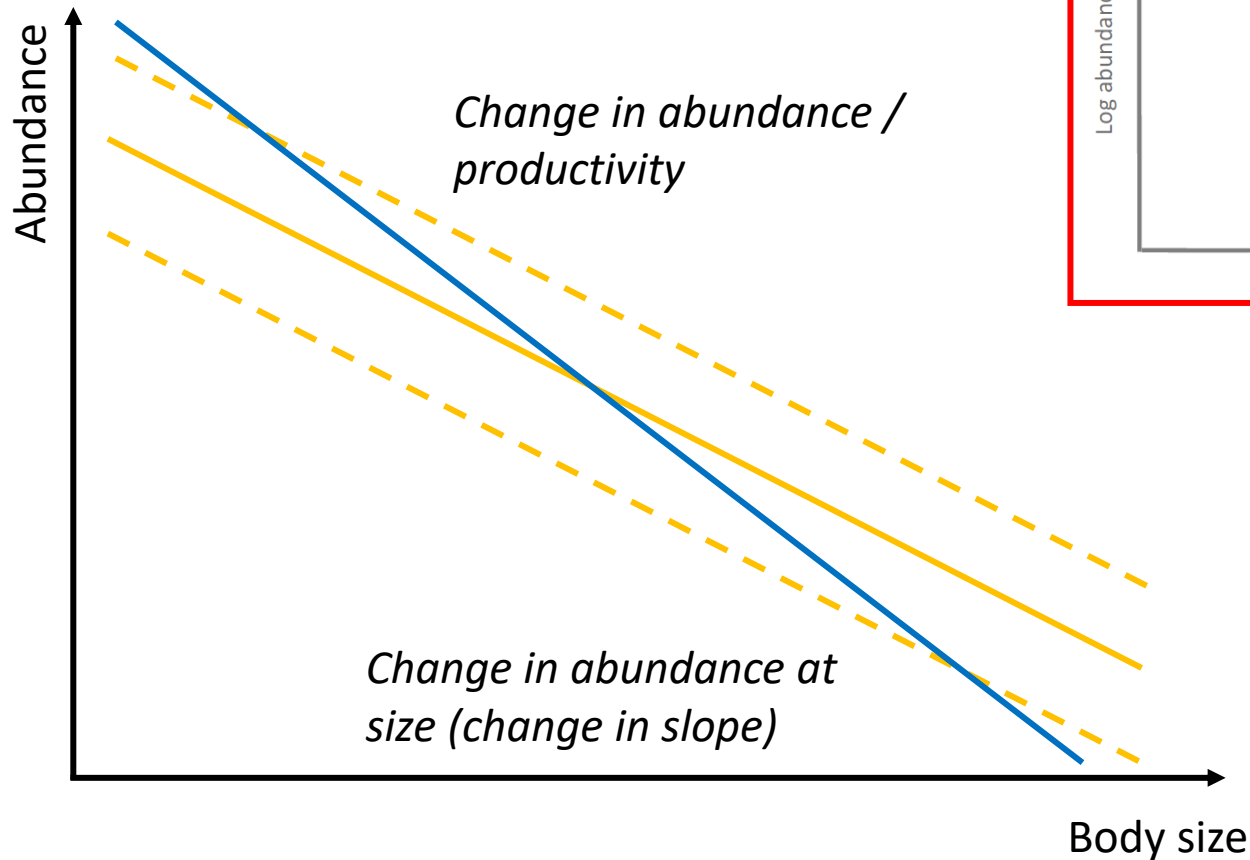


Resource 2: benthos

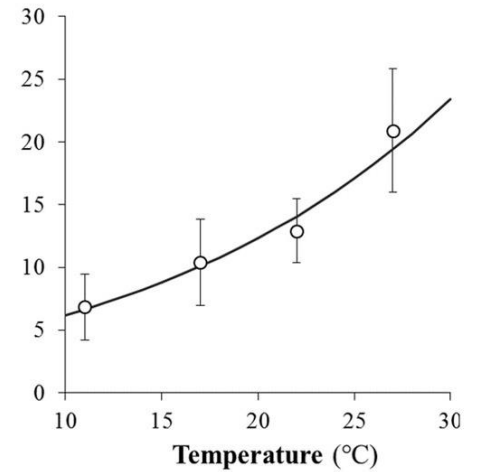


Resource 3: macroalgae

# Climate change impacts: role of productivity & temperature



*Blanchard et al. 2017 TREE*



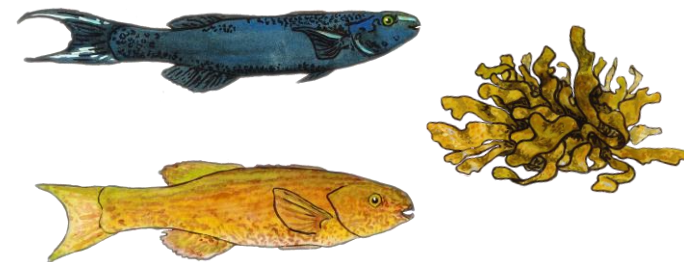
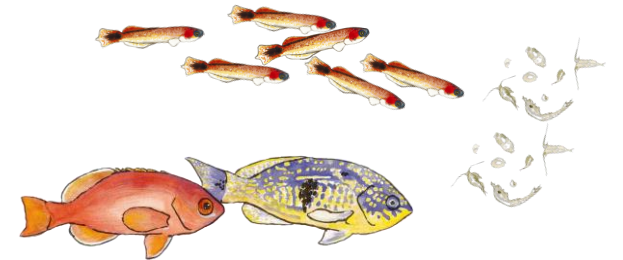
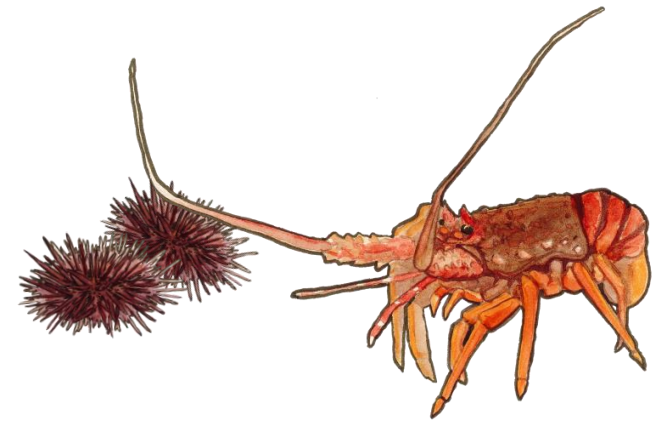
Temperature scaling of metabolism and intake

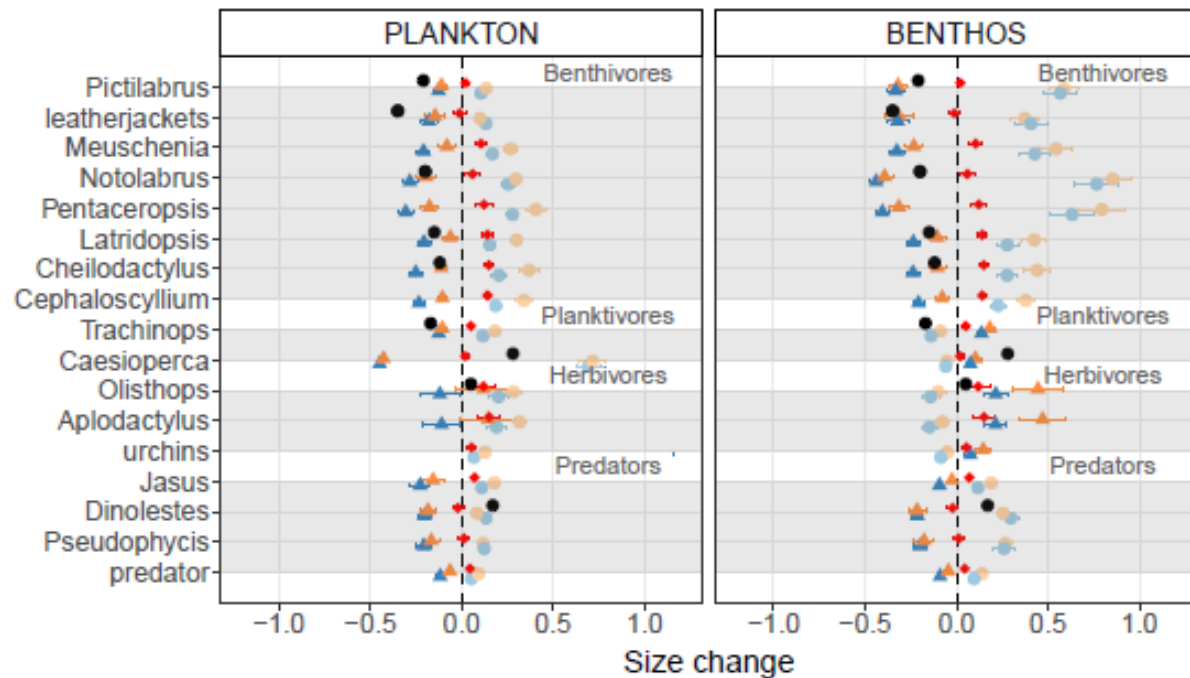
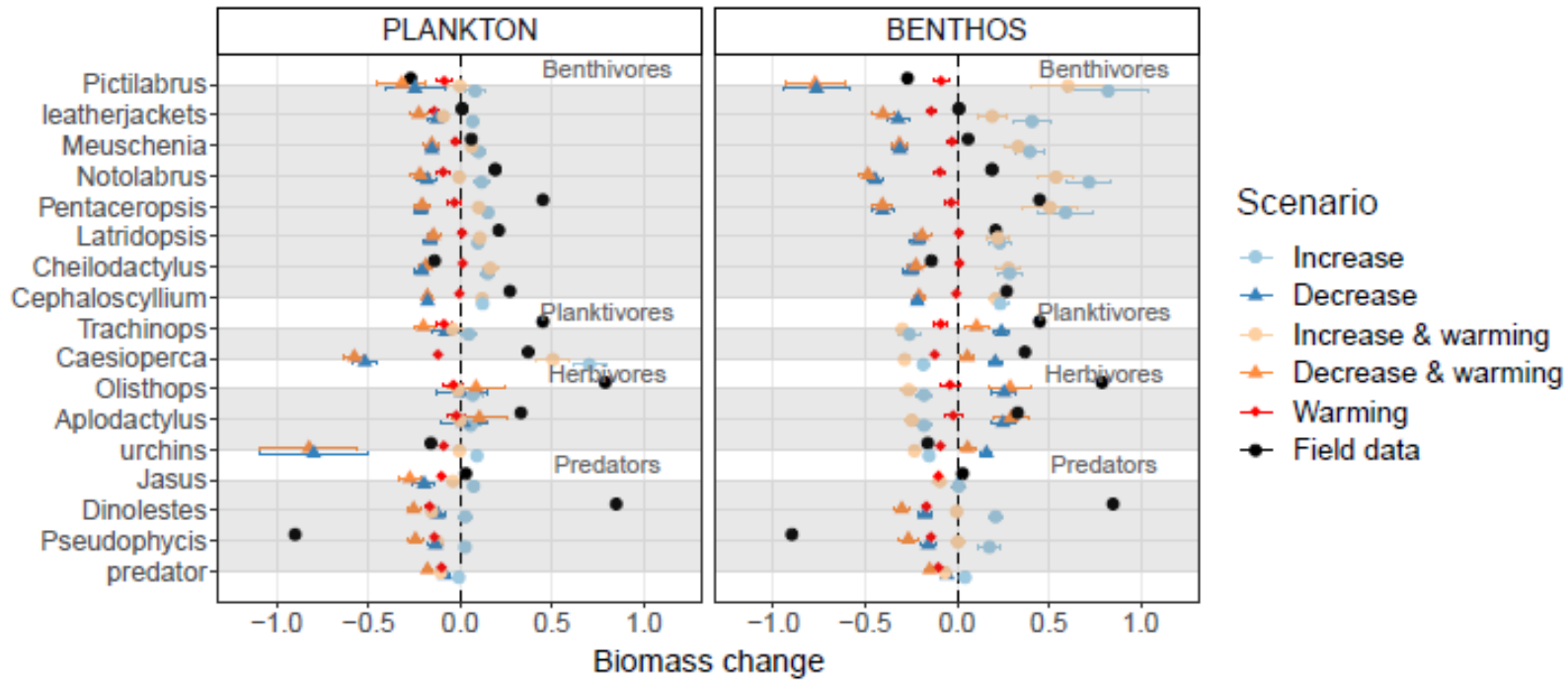
# Parameter uncertainty evaluation – approximate Bayesian computation style

- **37 uncertain parameters** defining species interactions  
and recruitment

- **2.2mln.** parameter combinations tested against  
emergent model properties

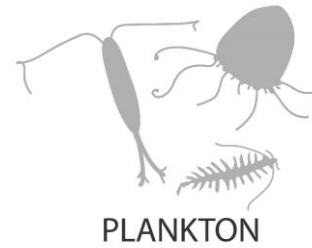
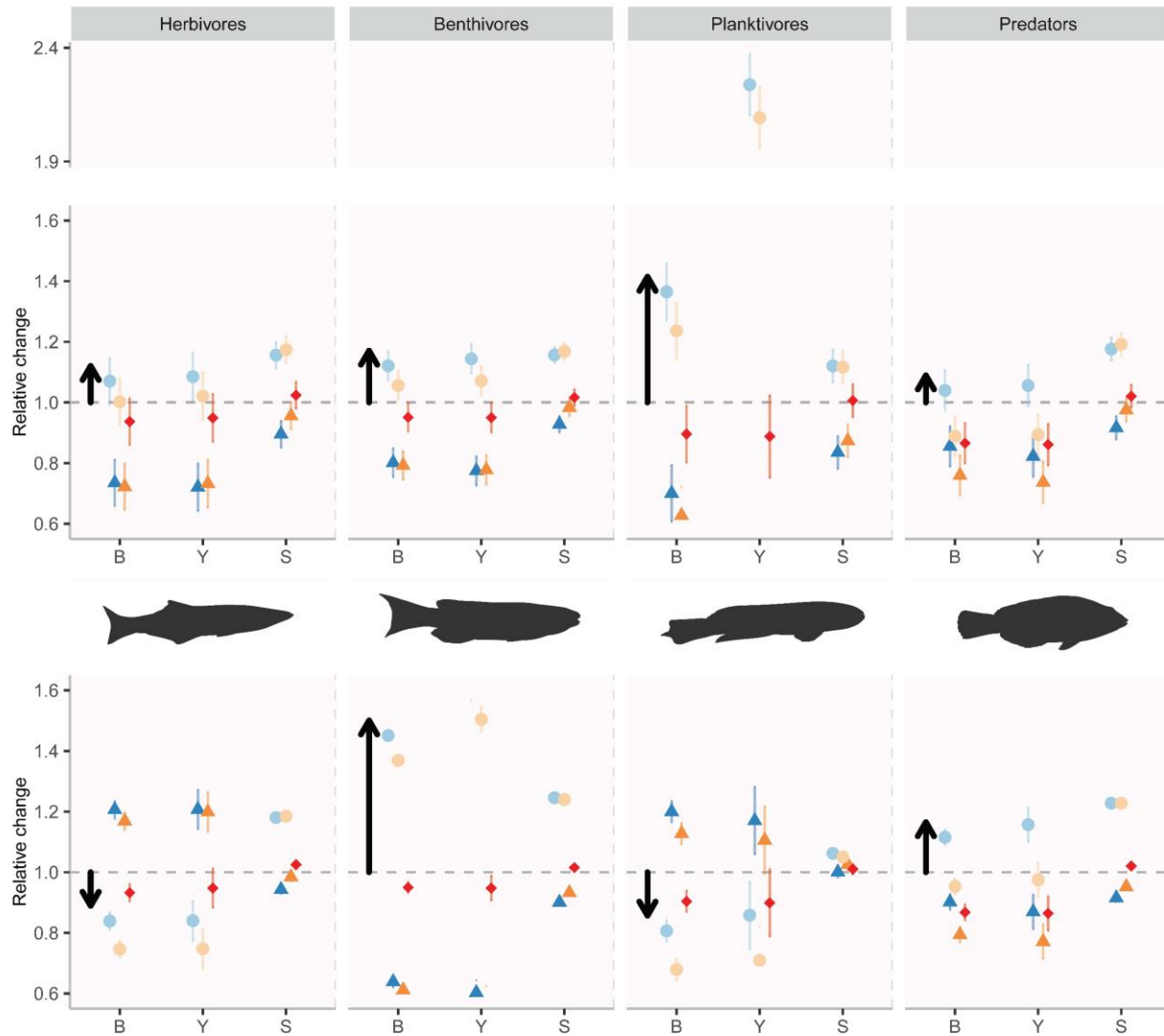
- Final set of **29 parameter combinations** that satisfied  
all criteria used to run all productivity and temperature  
scenarios





## Results:

1. Changes in benthos abundance or size structure had major impacts on coastal fish species biomasses and yields
2. Changes in productivity had larger impacts than physiological responses to temperature alone



Scenario

- Increase
- ▲ Decrease
- Increase & warming
- ▲ Decrease & warming
- ◆ Warming

B Biomass  
Y Yield  
S Size



## Results:

3. Changes in plankton caused similar biomass responses across trophic groups, but changes in benthos led to opposite responses

# Benthic size spectrum simulator

Scenario

1 2 3 4

Temperature

8°C 12°C 16°C

Plankton

Abundance ( $\kappa$ )

Slope ( $\lambda$ )

Benthos

Abundance ( $\kappa$ )

Slope ( $\lambda$ )

Run Scenario 1 Reset

About Methods and assumptions Biomass Yield Mean size

## Exploring climate change scenarios using south-east Tasmanian rocky reef ecosystem model

This application allows you to explore some outputs of the size-based Tasmanian rocky reef ecosystem model under different plankton and benthos abundance and temperature change scenarios. The model was built using the size spectrum modelling framework mizer (<http://sisespectrum.org/mizer/>).

In order to represent coastal communities more accurately, in this study the mizer modelling framework has been modified to allow for multiple size-structured background resources. These modifications are available as a mizer add-on tool (<https://github.com/sisespectrum/mizerMR>).

### How to run the model

To explore how changes in temperature, as well as plankton and benthos abundance ( $\kappa$ ) and size spectrum slope ( $\lambda$ ) affect model species biomasses, yields and mean sizes, adjust the slider to a new value(s) and click run scenario. You can plot up to four different scenarios at a time. Results are displayed as a difference between the baseline scenario with default values for the five environmental parameters.



<https://fishsize.shinyapps.io/BenthicSizeSpectrum/>

# Benthic size spectrum simulator

## Scenario

1
2
3
4

Temperature

8°C 11.1°C 16°C

Plankton

Abundance ( $\kappa$ )

1 2.2 3

Slope ( $\lambda$ )

1.8 2.2 2.5

Benthos

Abundance ( $\kappa$ )

3 6.55 9

Slope ( $\lambda$ )

1.5 2 2.3

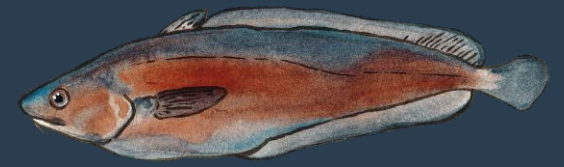
Run Scenario 2
Reset

Copy Scenario 1



Selected Parameters:

Plankton		Benthos	
Abundance	Slope	Abundance	Slope
2.2	2.2	6.55	2

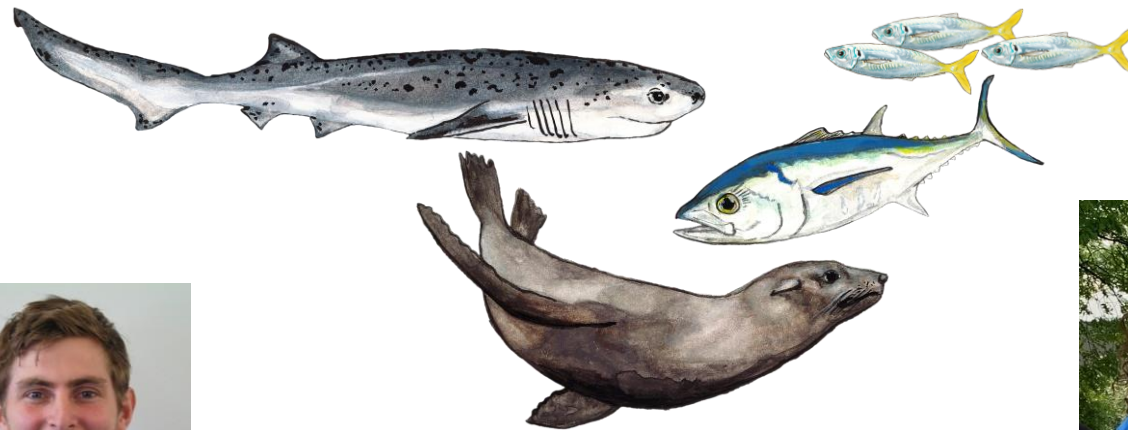




# Thanks

Australian Research Council

Pew Fellows Program in Marine Conservation at  
The Pew Charitable Trusts



Dr Freddie Heather: R Shiny application



Dr Amy Coghlan: amazing drawings

Julia Blanchard, Rick Stuart-Smith



Gustav Delius, Camilla Novaglio



Graham Edgar, Neville Barrett

