

# Evaluating the Consequences of Misspecifying Population Structure within Spatially Explicit Stock Assessments?

CAPAM - SWFSC  
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Brian Langseth (NOAA-PIFSC)

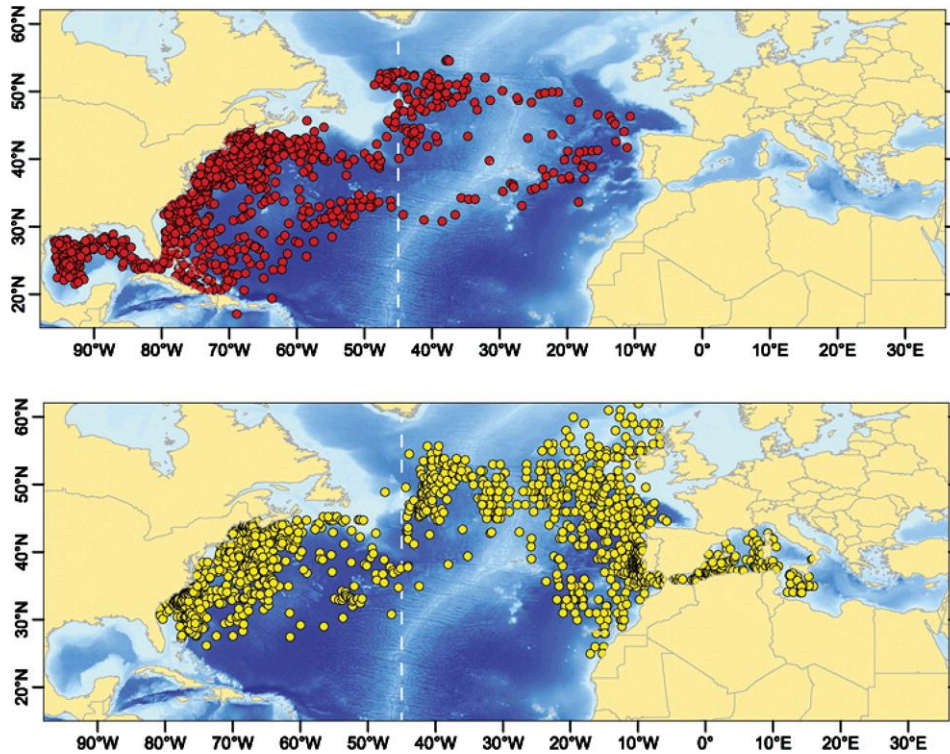


Sablefish (*Anoplopoma fimbria*)

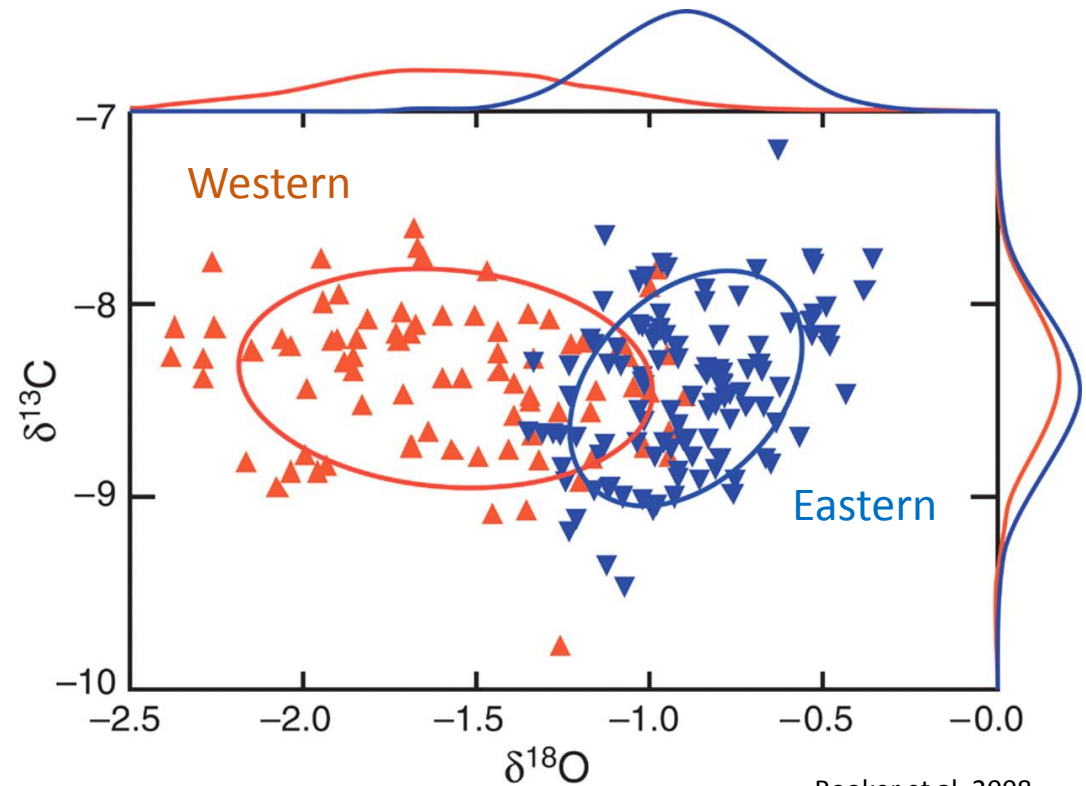


# BACKGROUND

- Increasing evidence that marine species are spatially structured
  - *Tagging-studies, morphometrics, genetic stock identification, etc.*



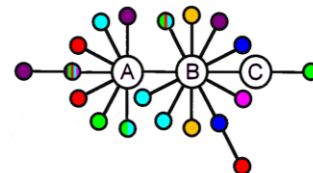
Rooker et al. 2007



Rooker et al. 2008



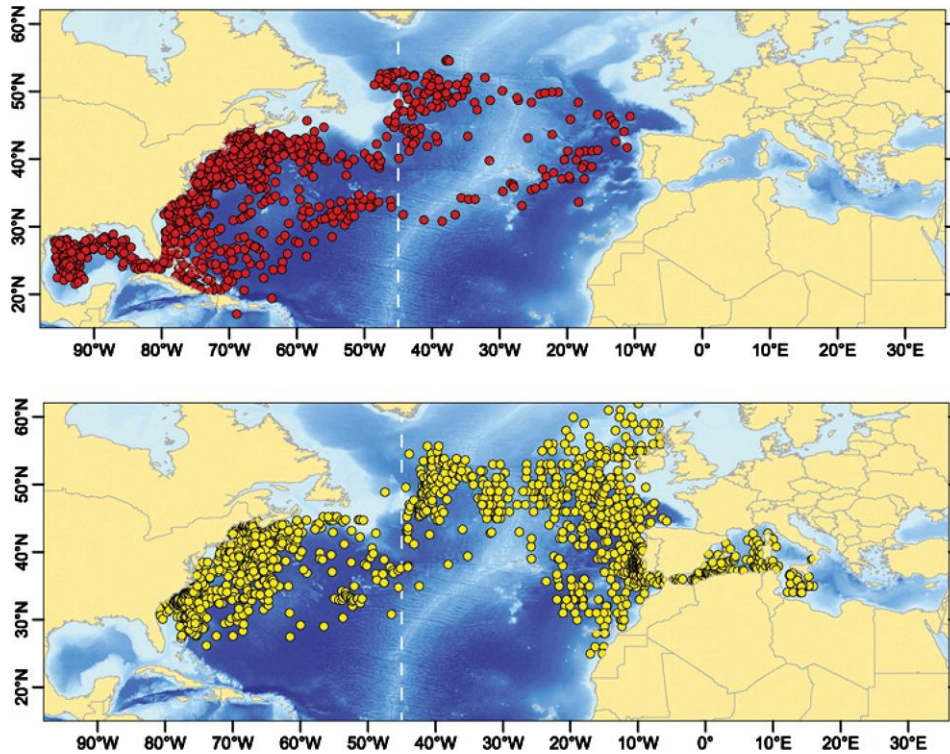
**Atlantic bluefin tuna** (*Thunnus thynnus*)



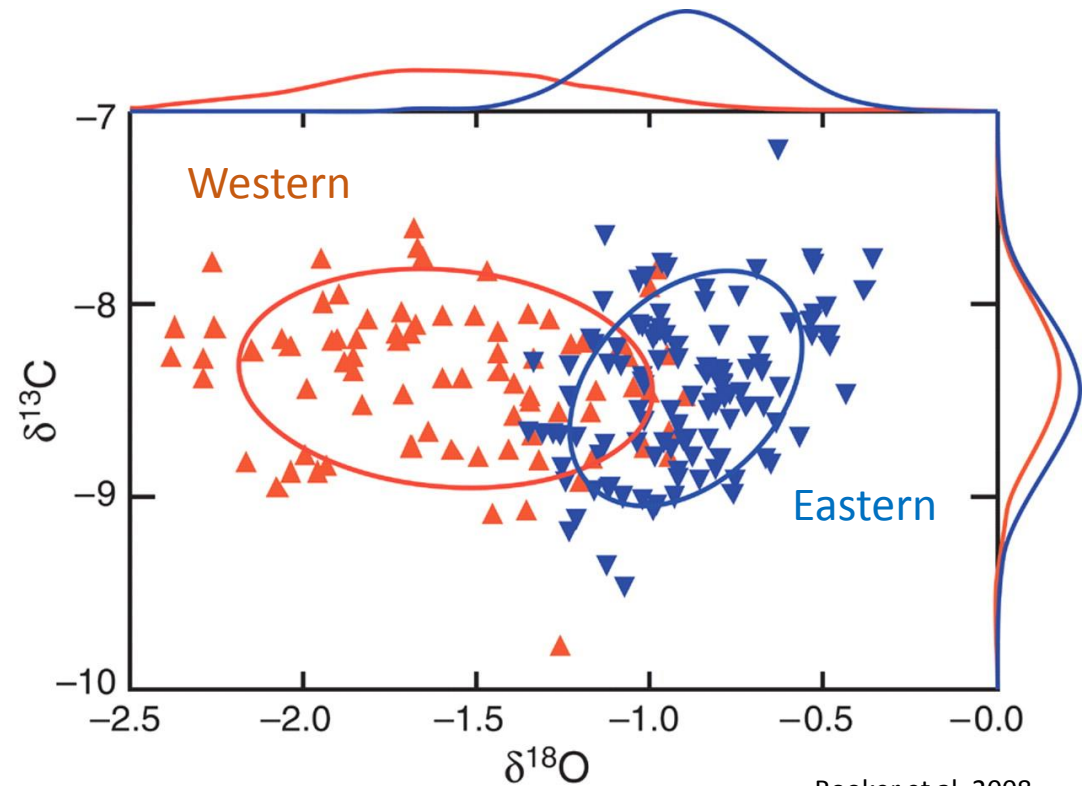


# BACKGROUND

- When data suggest a spatially structured stock, what happens if the assumptions made within a stock assessment regarding stock structure are **WRONG**?



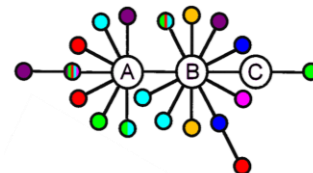
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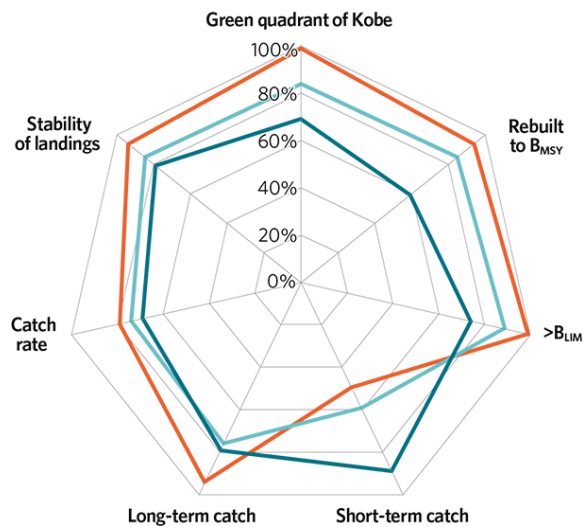
**Atlantic bluefin tuna** (*Thunnus thynnus*)



# Spatial Processes And Stock Assessment Methods

## PROJECT OBJECTIVE

Evaluate and identify situations where accounting for spatial processes **improves the ability for management actions to achieve desired conservation and management goals**



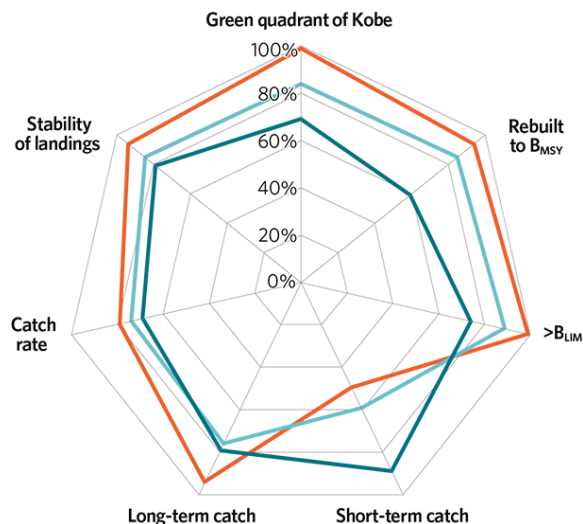
# Spatial Processes And Stock Assessment Methods

## PROJECT OBJECTIVE

Evaluate and identify situations where accounting for spatial processes **improves the ability for management actions to achieve desired conservation and management goals**

### *Many HYPOTHESES to explore*

- Optimal spatial quota allocation
- **Misdiagnosis of population structure**
- Variation in life-history characteristics
- Reference points
- Data quality/quantity (*Goethel*)
- Management & regulations (*Berger*)

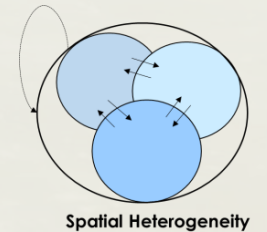
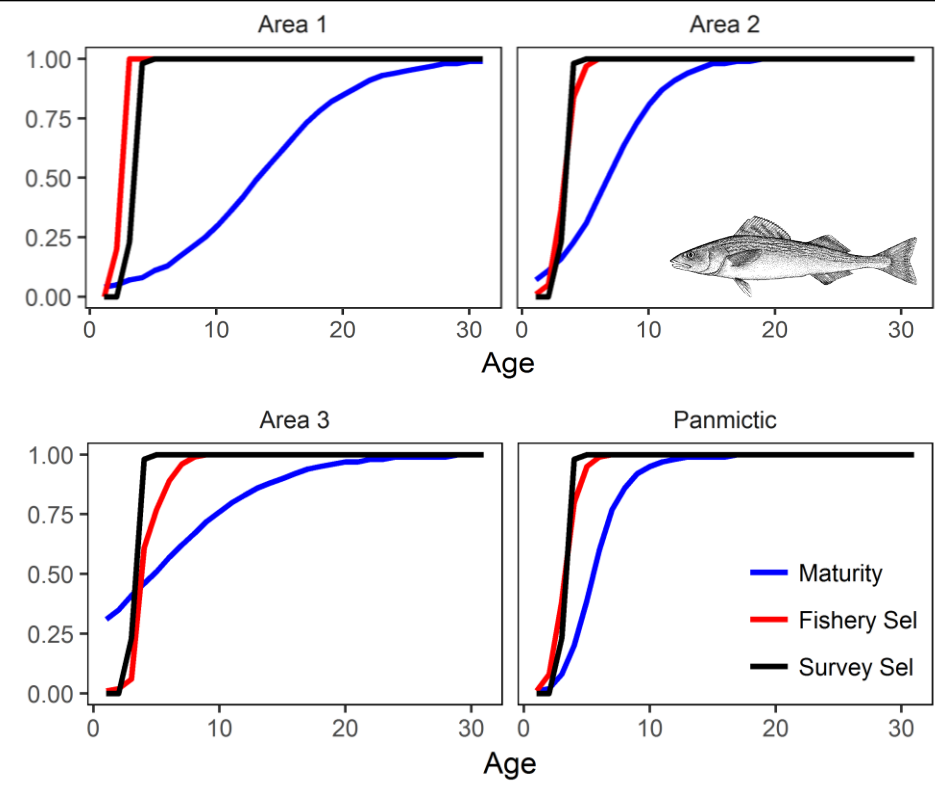


## THE SPASAM MODELS (“The TIM”)

- **Spatially-explicit, tag-integrated models**
- Simulation Model & Assessment Model
- HIGHLY flexible!!

### Model Features:

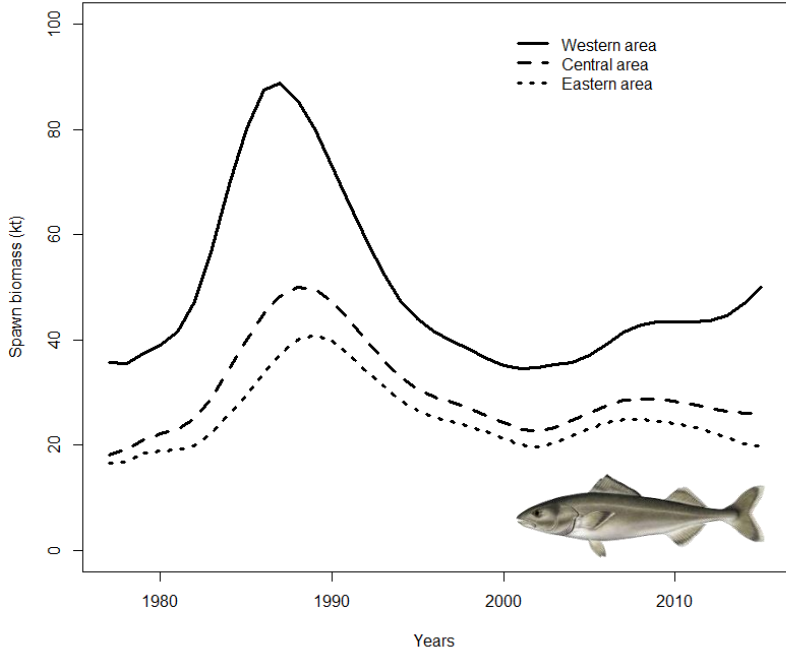
- Generalized, Age-structured
- Several population structures
- Allows for user to specify number of populations, regions, and fleets
- **Spatially-varying biological and fishery parameters**
  - *Recruitment, movement, maturity, growth, natural mortality, fishery selectivity*
- Stochastic and density-dependent parameterizations
- Simulates observed data with error



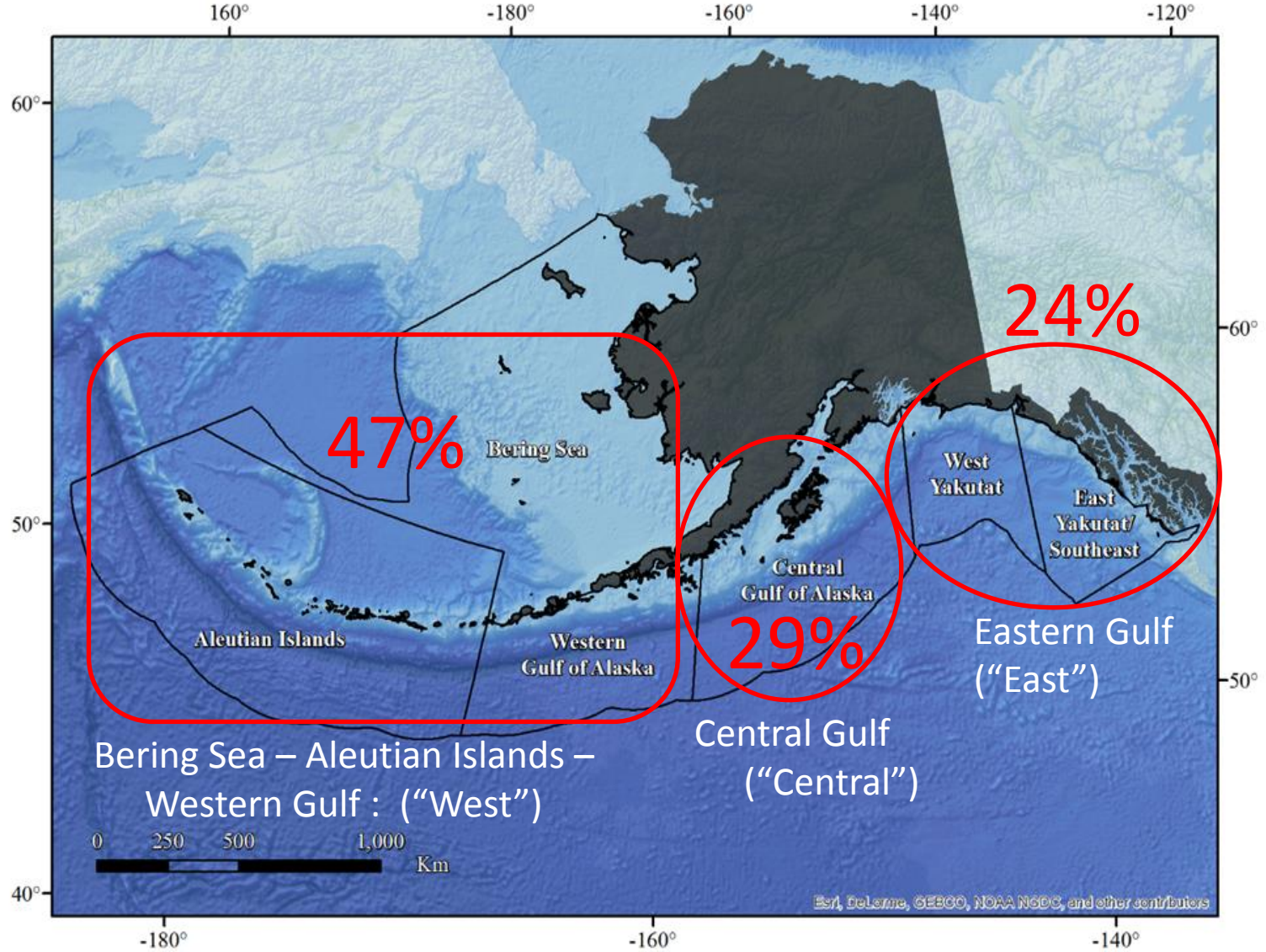
Spatial Heterogeneity



# MODEL APPLICATION: OUR CASE STUDY



Fenske et al., in prep



40+ year time series of tagging data to inform movement



Plenty of evidence that suggests that a stock exhibits some degree of spatial heterogeneity & connectivity...now what?

### Research questions:

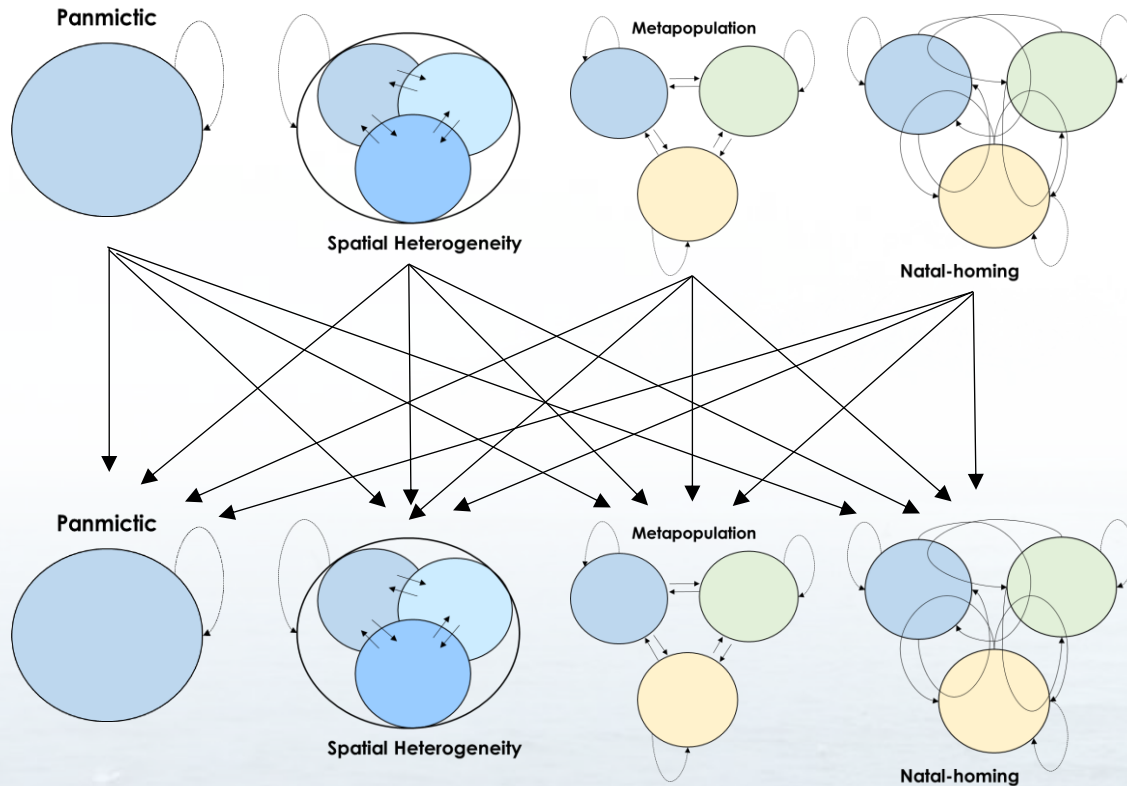
- 1) Can we obtain **improved estimates for stock productivity** by taking into account the spatial structure of spawning components and connectivity among them?
- 2) What are the **consequences of misdiagnosing the underlying population structure within a stock assessment**
  - *Do wrong assumptions regarding population structure really matter when providing management advice?*





# MODEL APPLICATION: MODEL MISSPECIFICATION EXPERIMENT

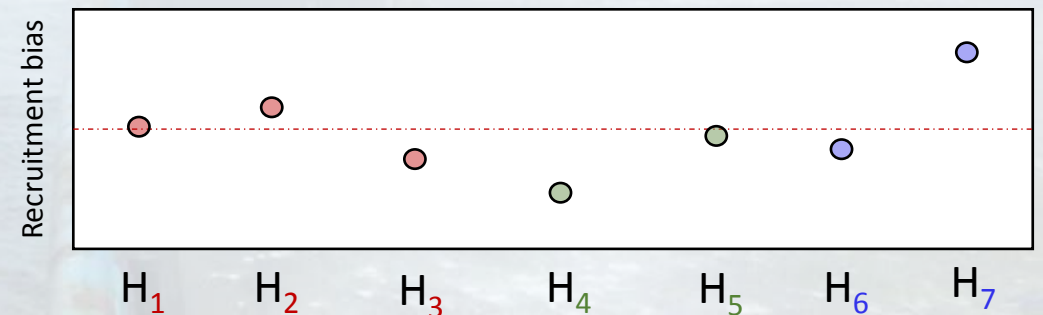
## “True” population dynamics



## Assumed population dynamics

## OUR APPROACH:

- 1) Simulate population dynamics for all spatial structures
  - *Sablefish “like” parameters*
- 2) Conduct assessments when true underlying dynamics **match/mismatch** assumed
- 3) Compare performance of model in estimating parameters



# MODEL APPLICATION: MODEL MISSPECIFICATION EXPERIMENT

## Model Details:

- Assume data rich
- Observed data are summed for panmictic assessment
- Model inputs are abundance weighted averages
- $R_{ave}$  estimated
- Initial abundance assumed to be equilibrium unfished abundance-at-age
- Recruitment apportionment is estimated for multi-area models
- Age-invariant annual movement estimated

NO MOVEMENT  
↓

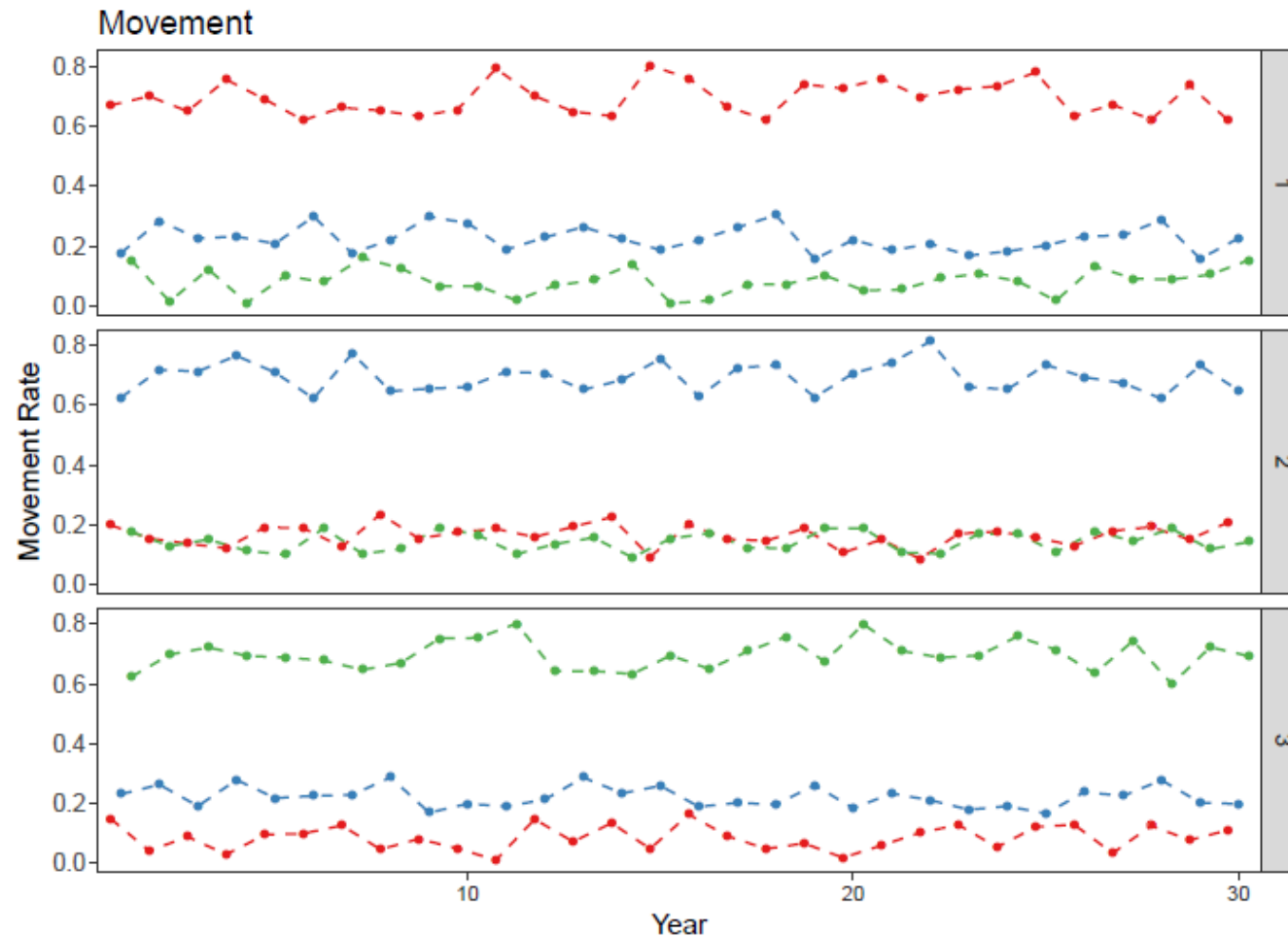
**Simulation Model**

	Uniform	Multiple Areas	Metapopulation	Natal Homing
	Panmictic	Panmictic	Panmictic	Panmictic
		Fleet-as-Areas	Fleets-as-Areas	Fleets-as-Areas
	Uniform Multi-Area	Tag-Integrated Multi-Area	Tag-Integrated Multi-Area	Tag-Integrated Multi-Area
	Metapopulation	Tag-Integrated Metapopulation	Tag-Integrated Metapopulation	Tag-Integrated Metapopulation
	Natal Homing	Tag-Integrated Natal Homing	Tag-Integrated Natal Homing	Tag-Integrated Natal Homing

**Assessment Model**

# MODEL APPLICATION: MODEL MISSPECIFICATION EXPERIMENT

- Age-invariant random movement patterns centered around a mean rate
- Varies by region
- Tag releases 1% of the abundance-at-age in each area





# MODEL APPLICATION: MODEL MISSPECIFICATION EXPERIMENT

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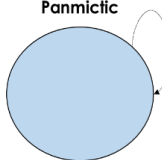
NO MOVEMENT  
↓

**Simulation Model**

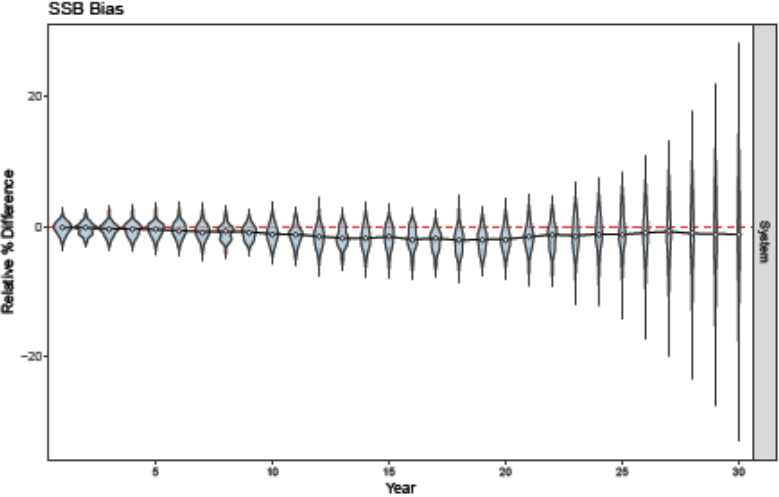
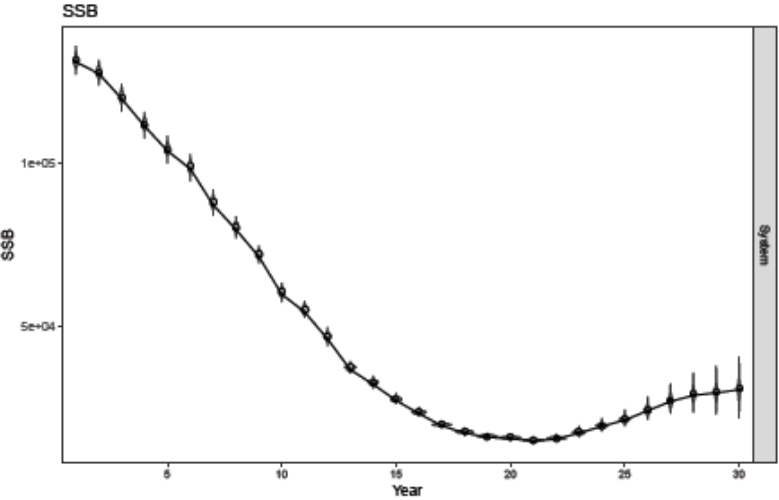
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**Assessment Model**

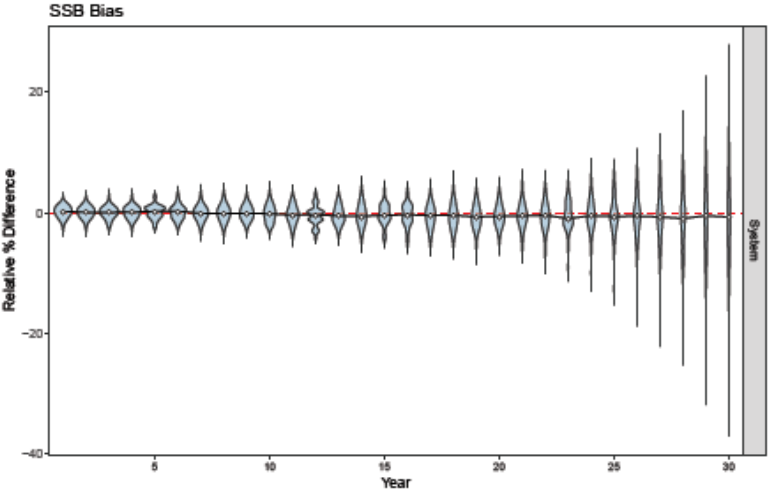
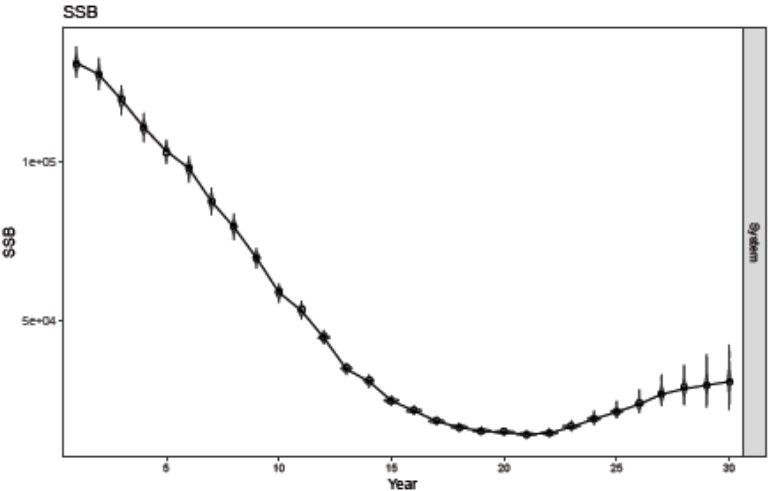
## Spawning Stock Biomass



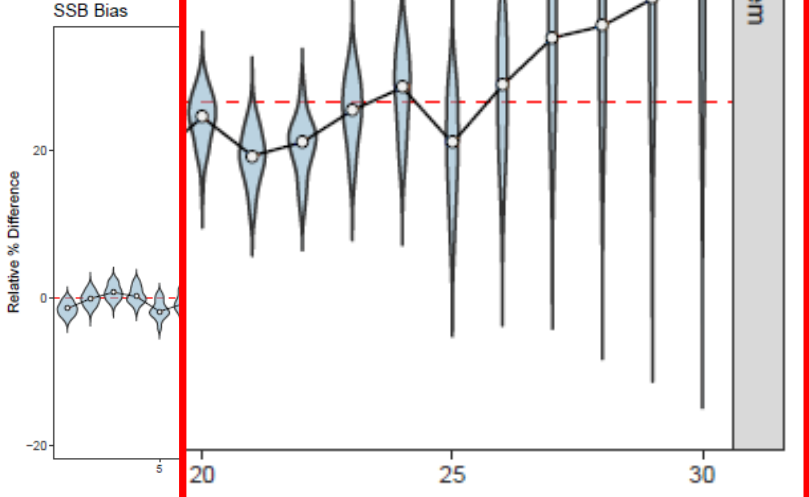
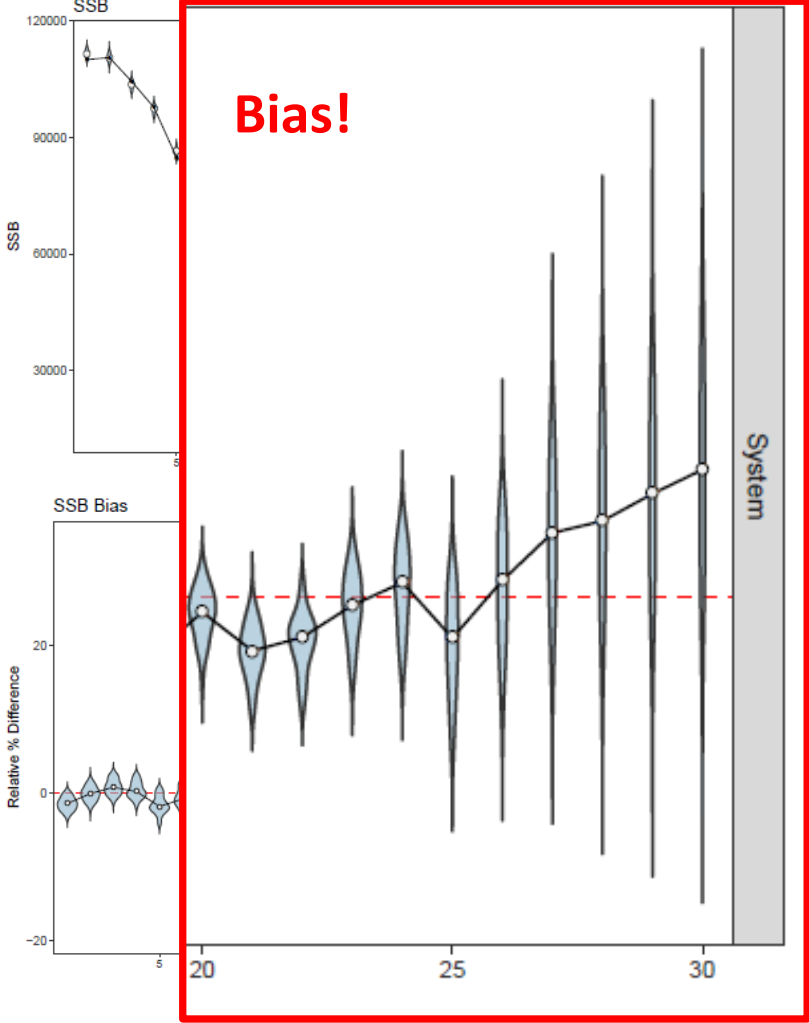
### Uniform



### Multiple Areas



### Metapopulation



# MODEL APPLICATION: MODEL MISSPECIFICATION EXPERIMENT

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**Simulation Model**

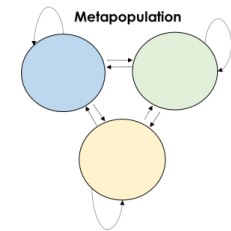
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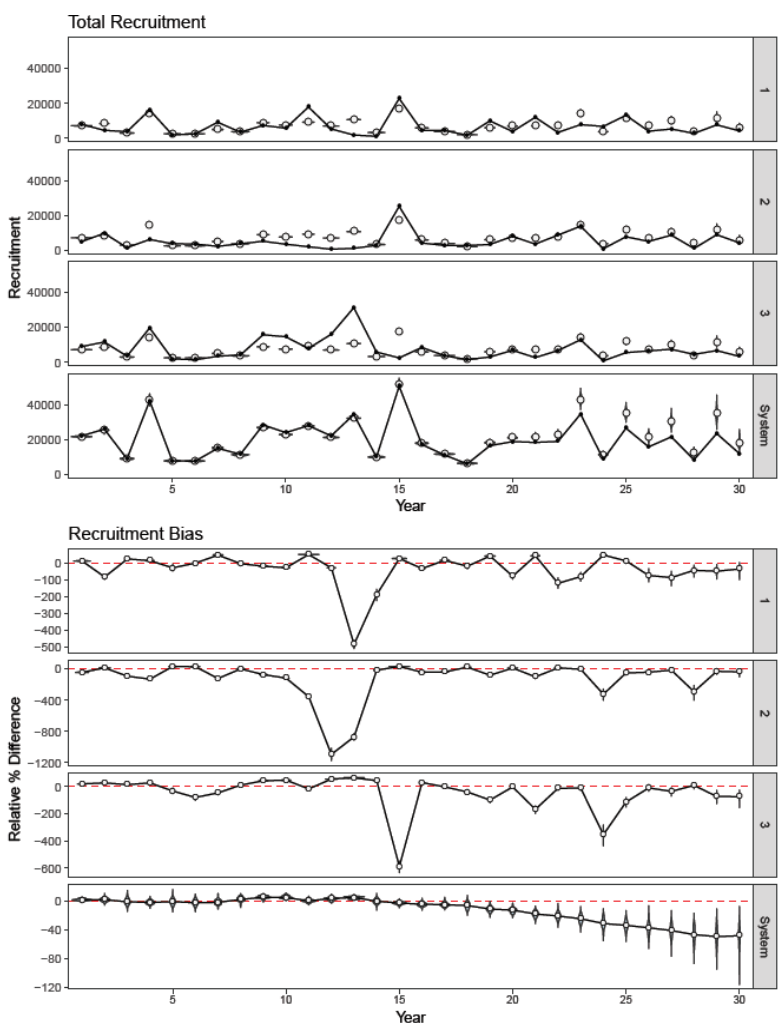


# MODEL APPLICATION: MODEL MISSPECIFICATION EXPERIMENT

## Recruitment Estimation

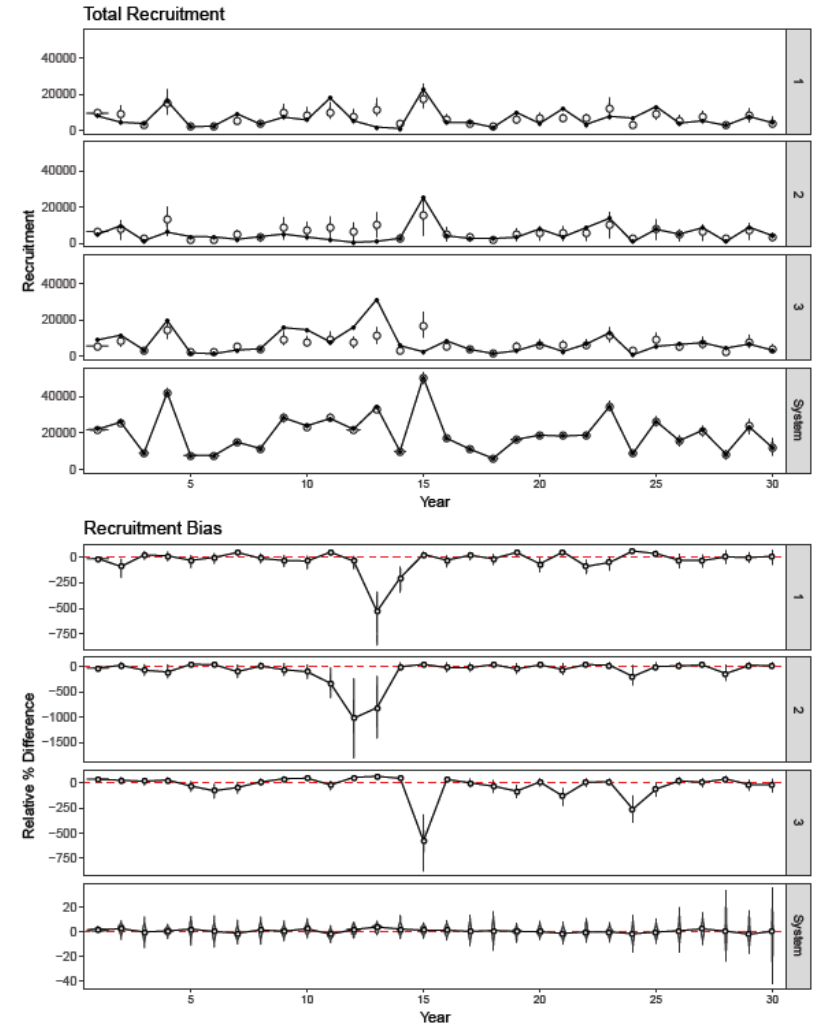


### Fleets-as-Areas

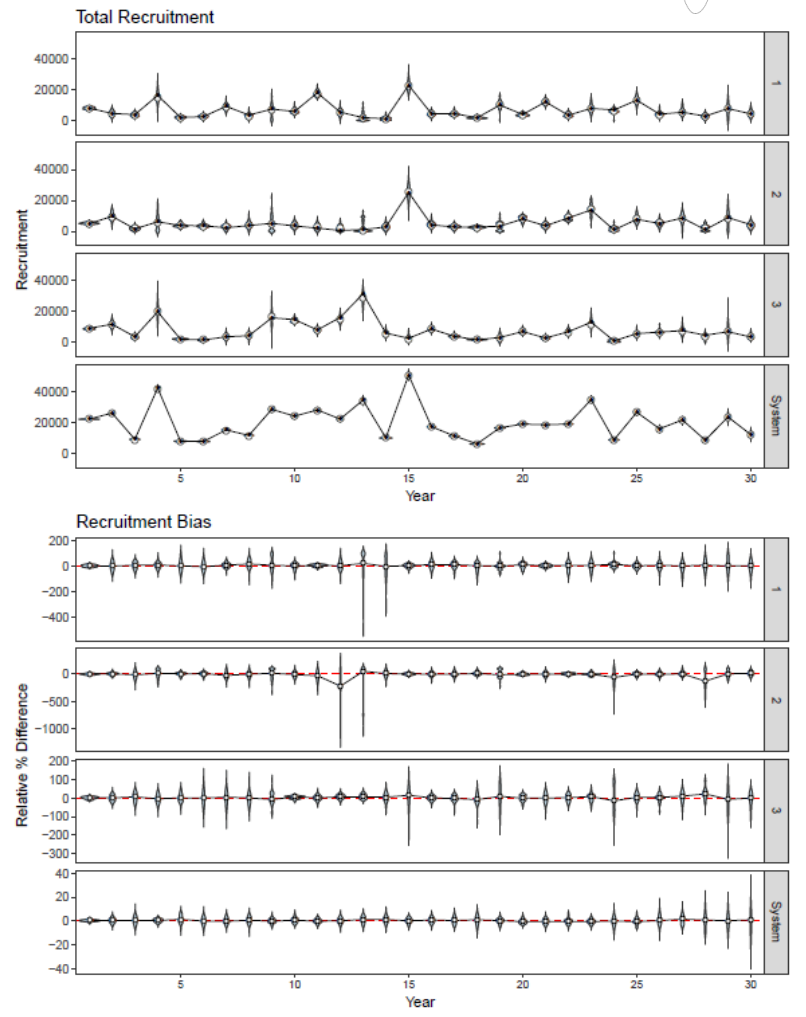


### Multiple Areas

54%  
convergence

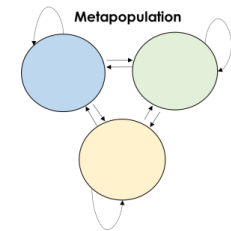


### Metapopulation

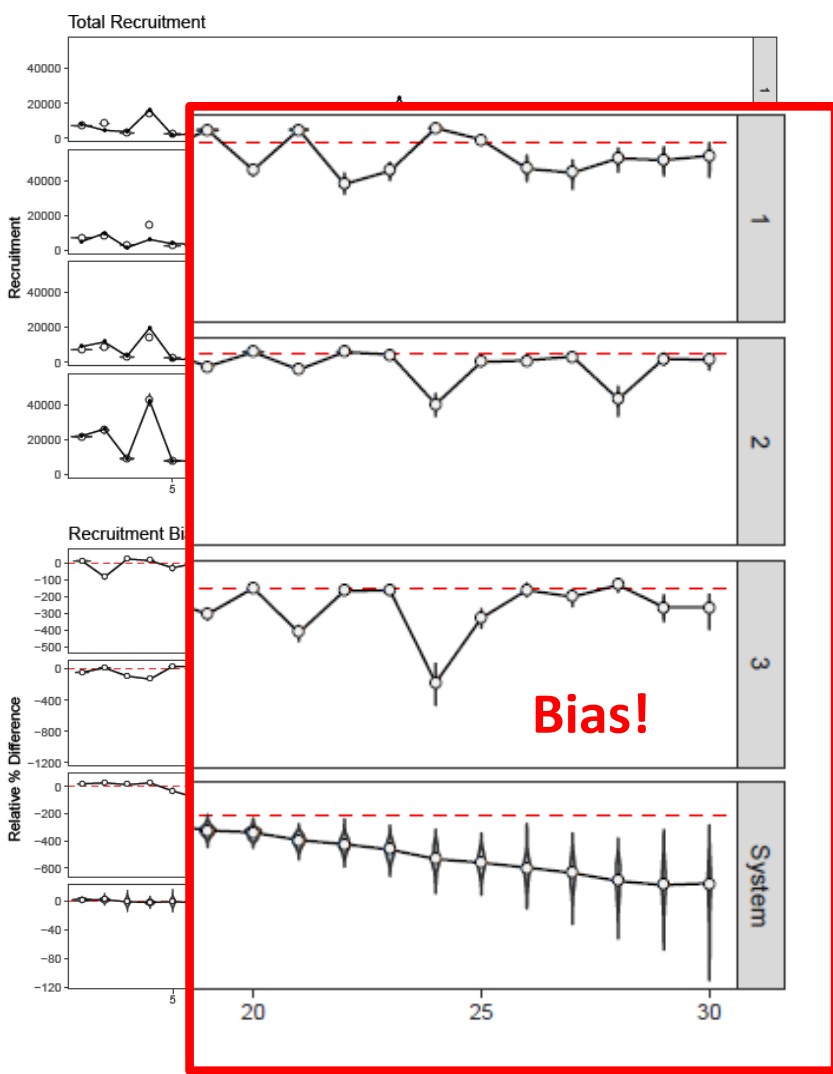


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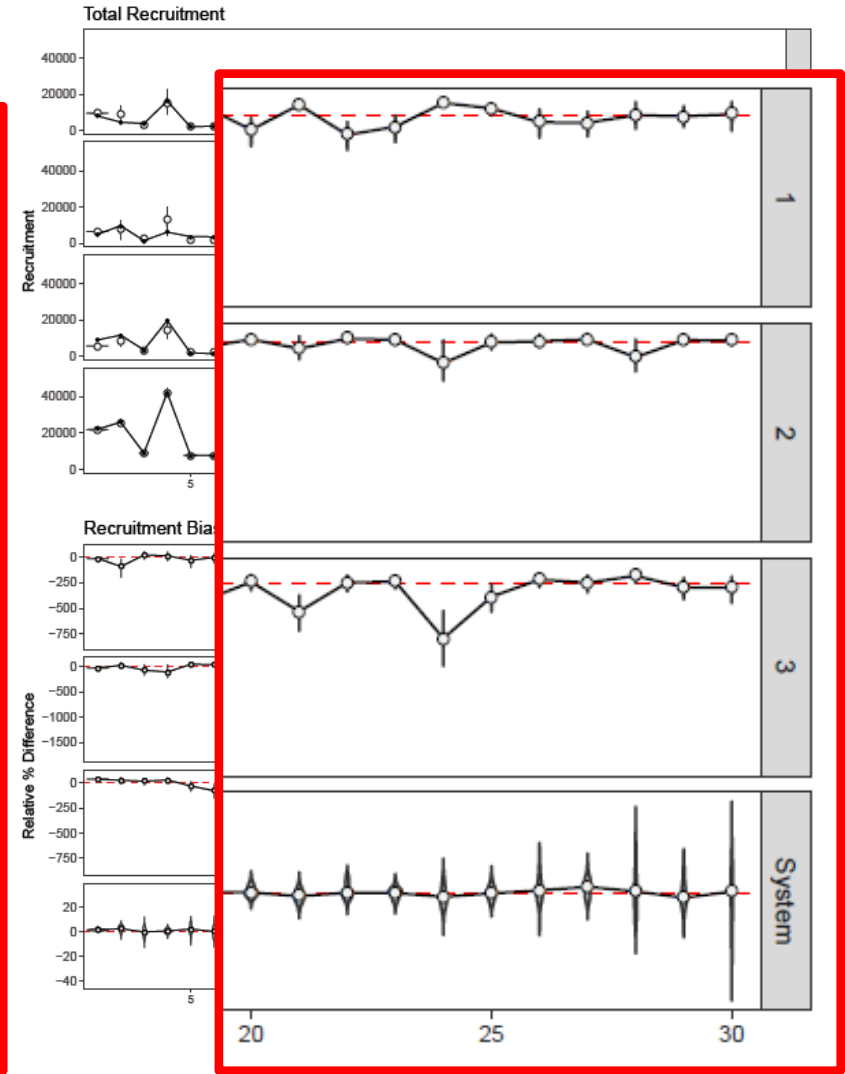


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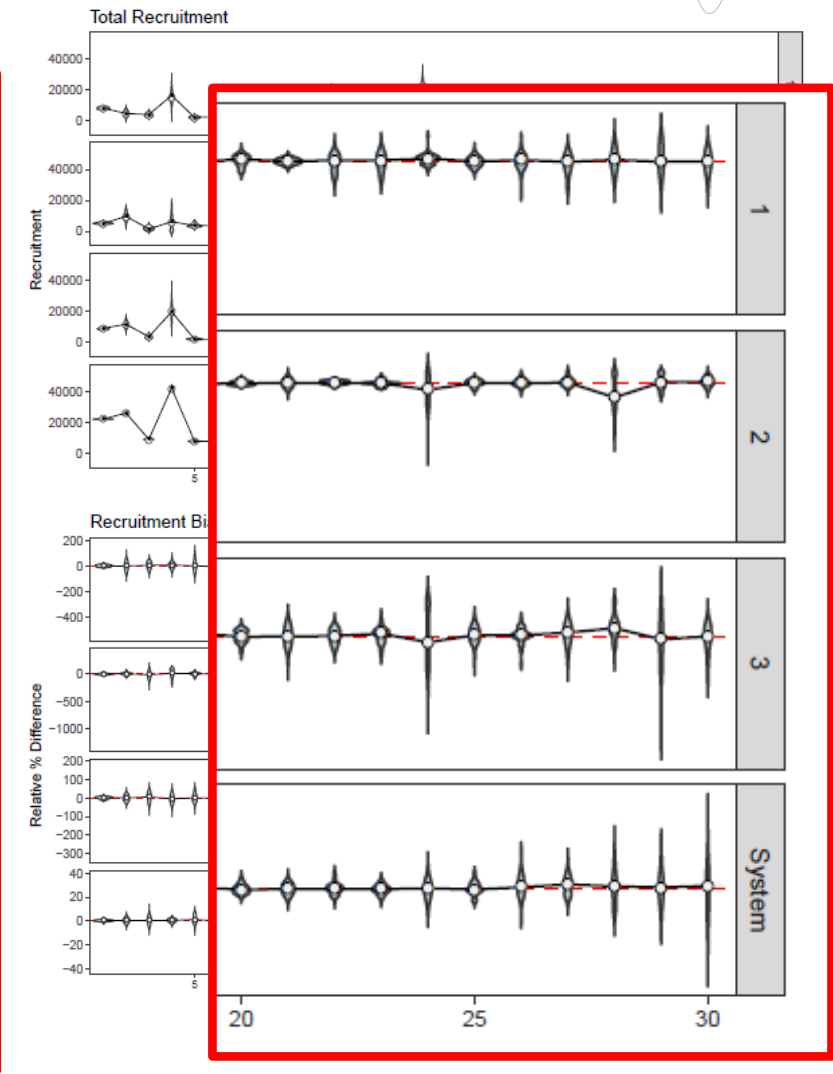


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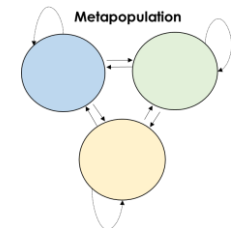


### Metapopulation

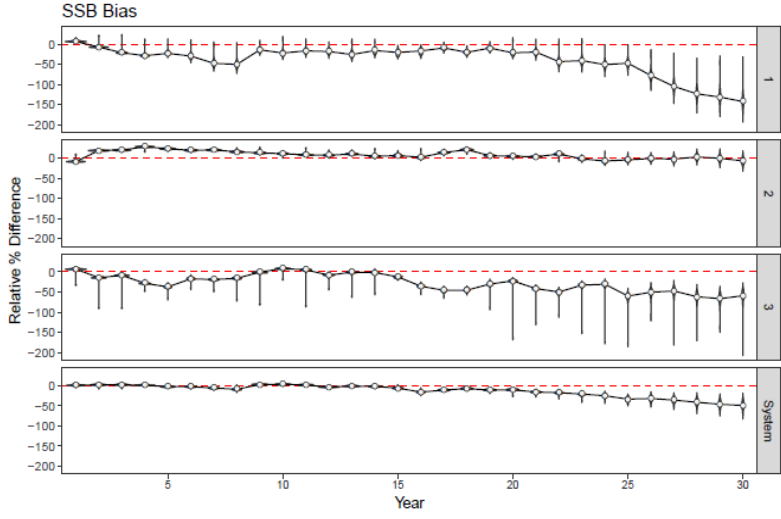
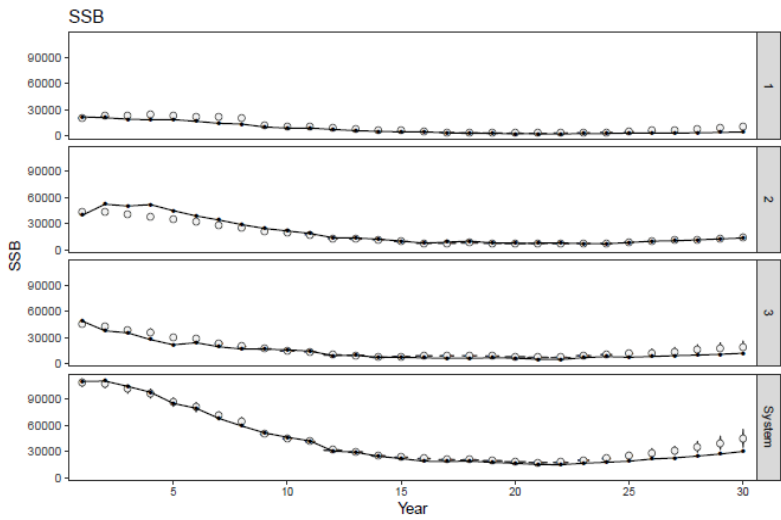


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## Spawning Stock Biomass

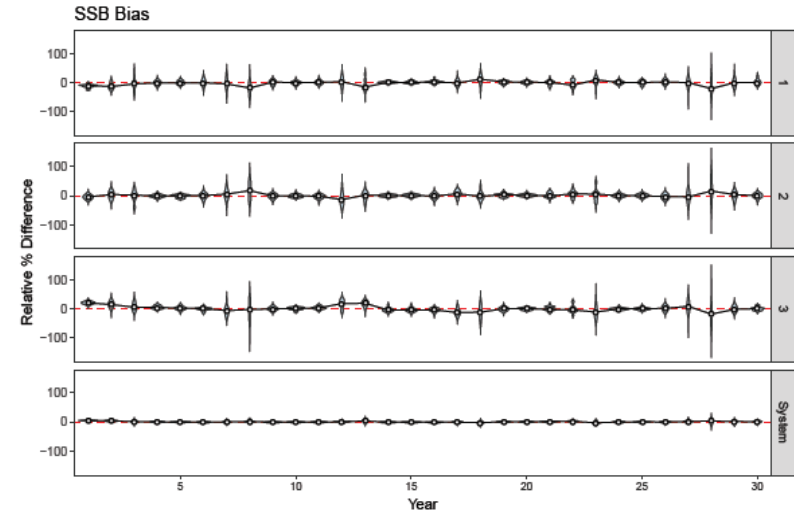
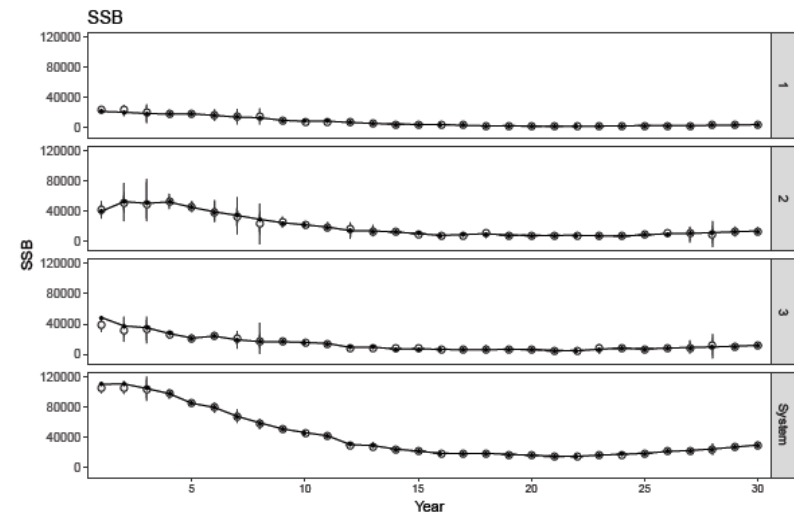


### Fleets-as-Areas

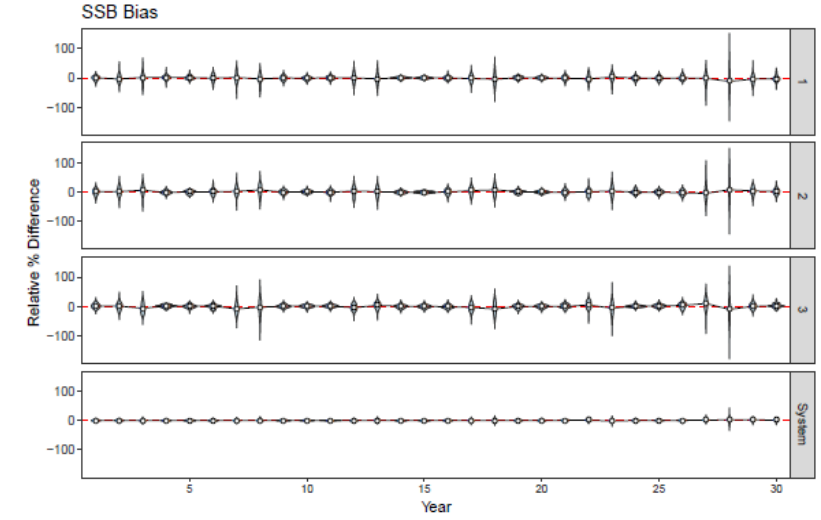
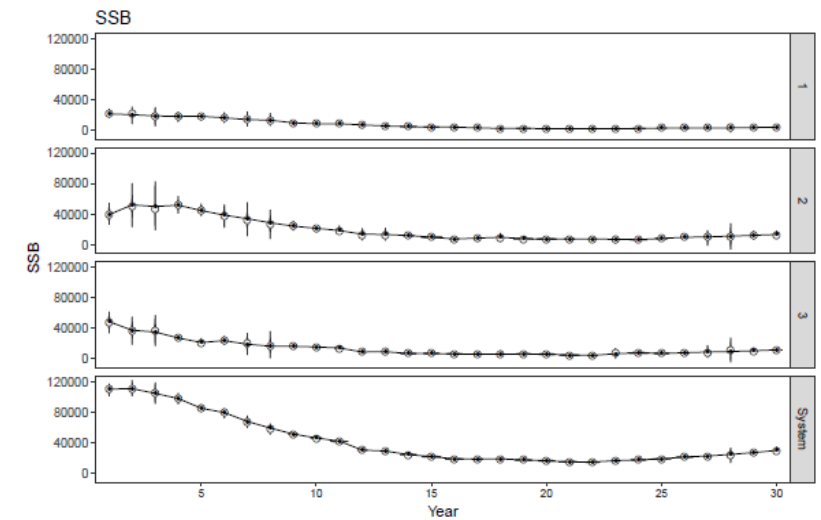


### Multiple Areas

54%  
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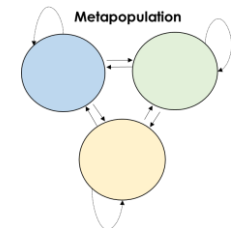


### Metapopulation

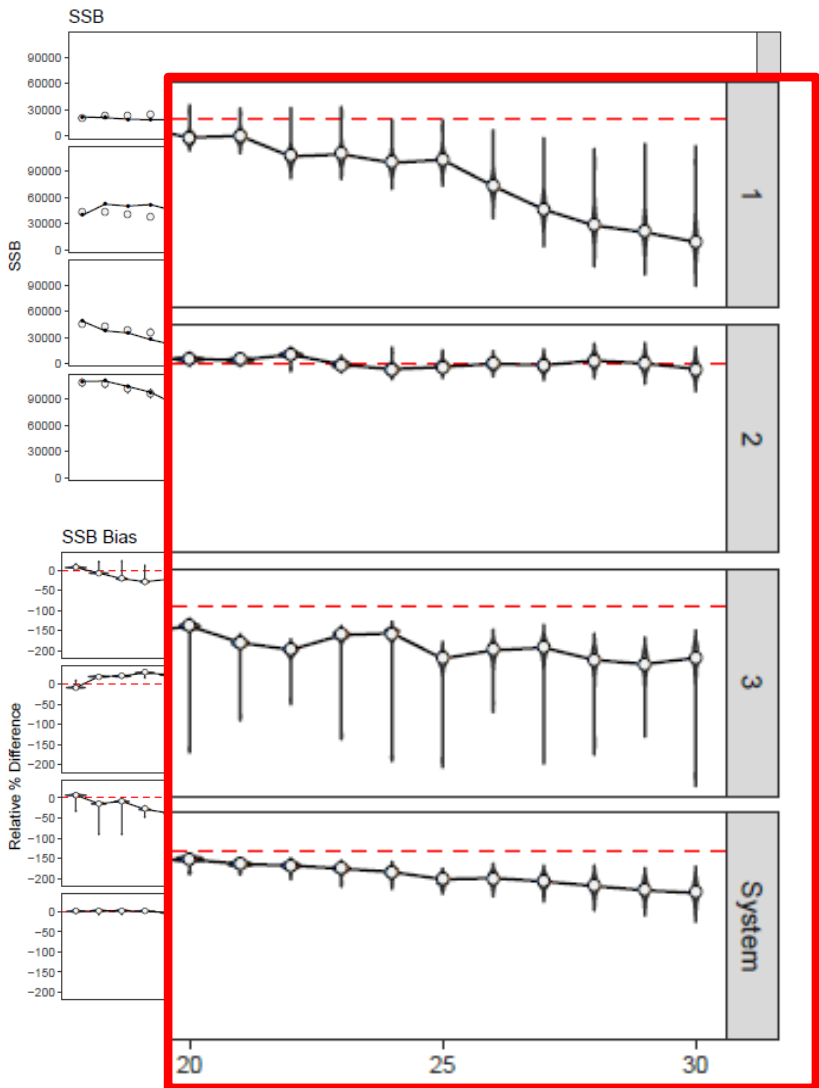




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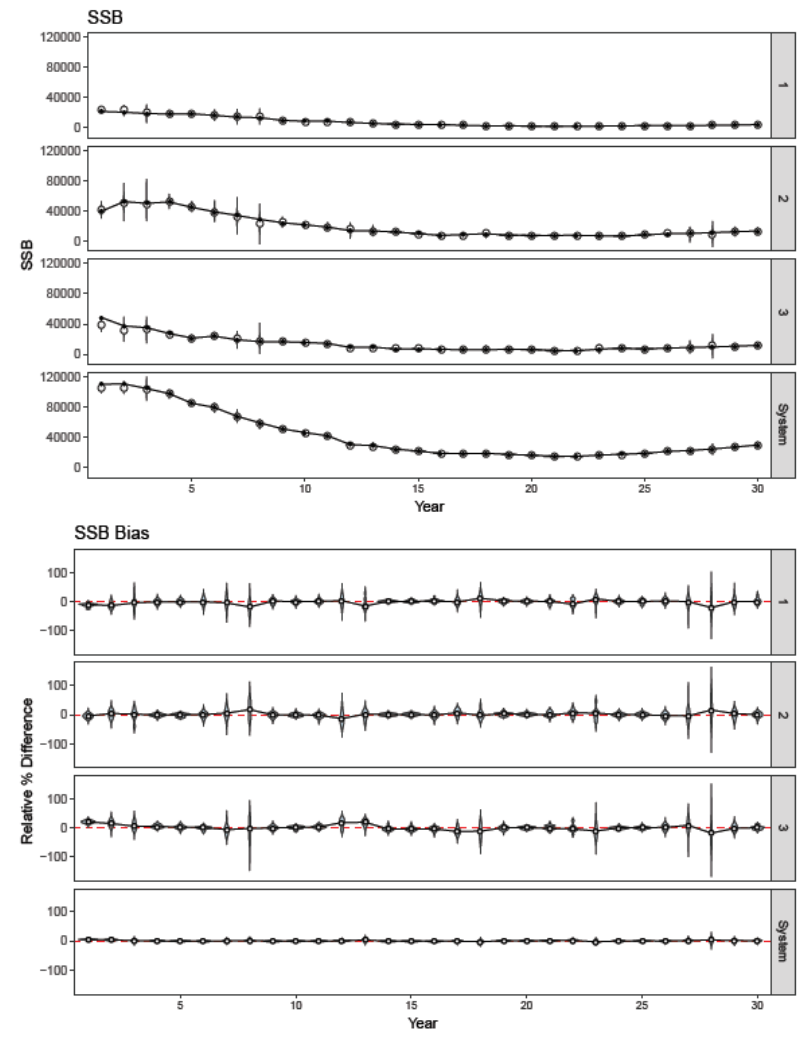


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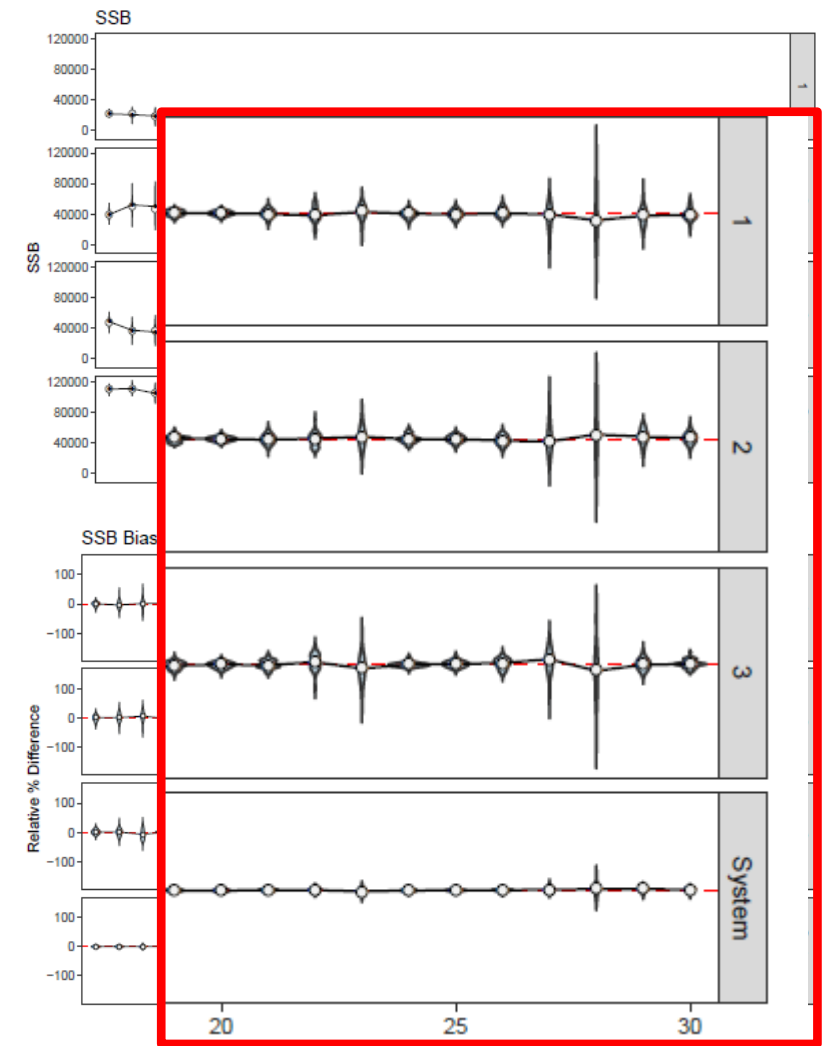


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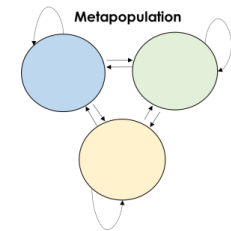
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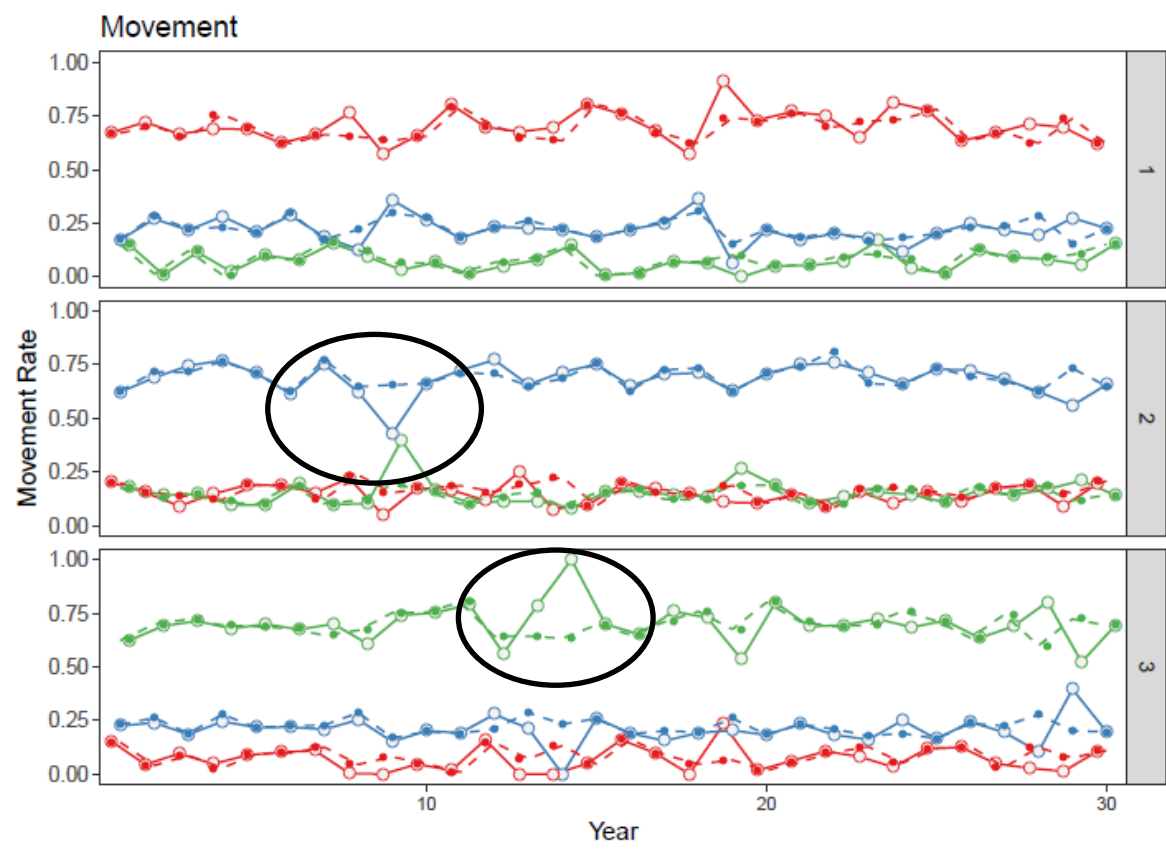
### Metapopulation



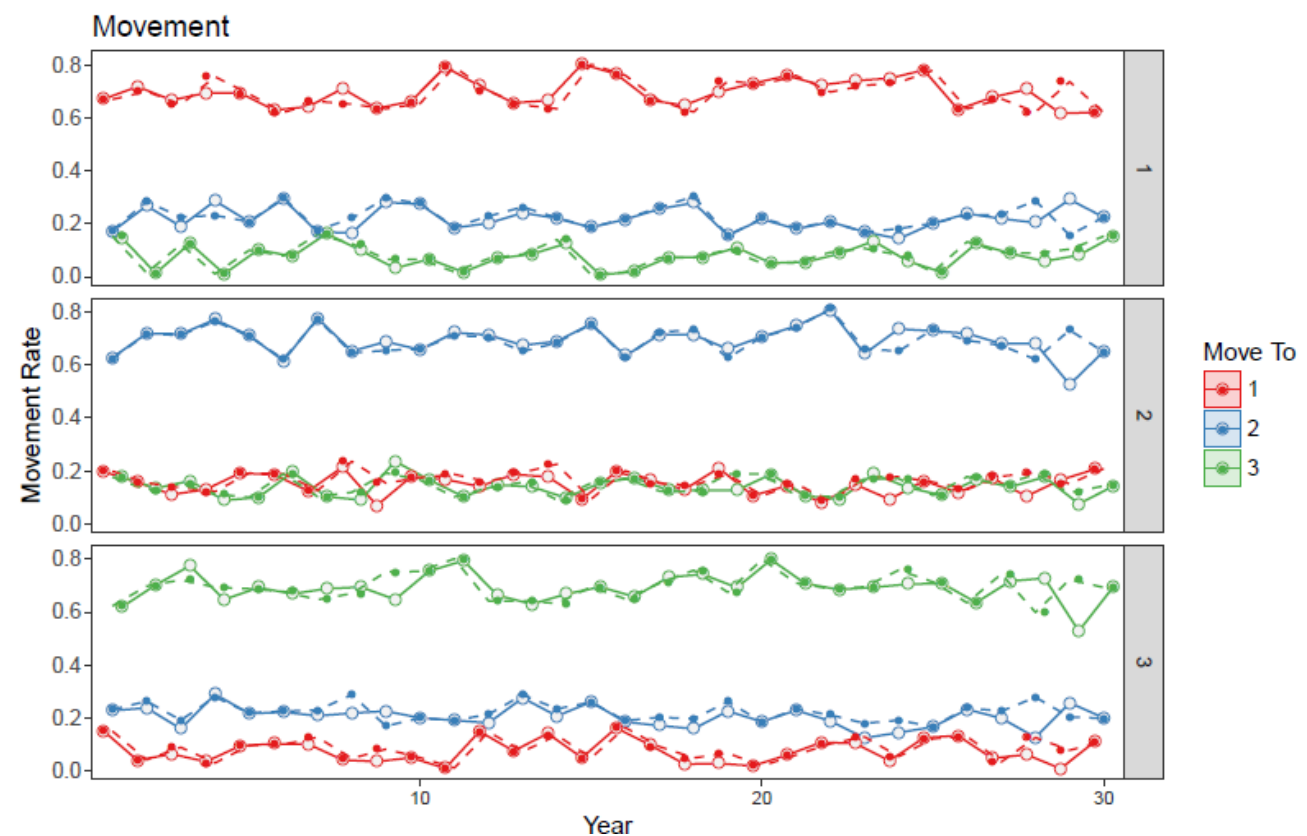
## Movement Estimation



### Multiple Areas

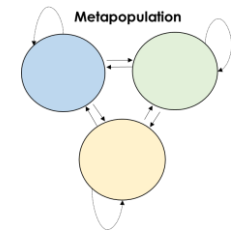


### Metapopulation

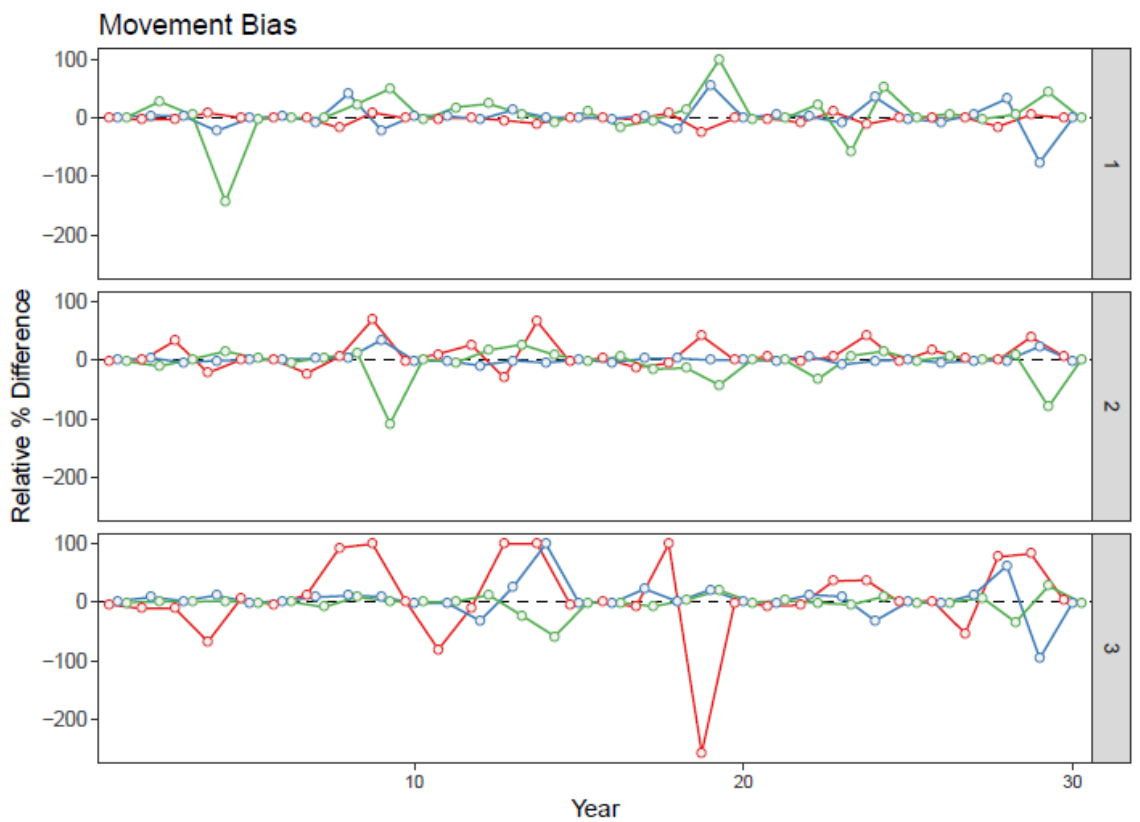


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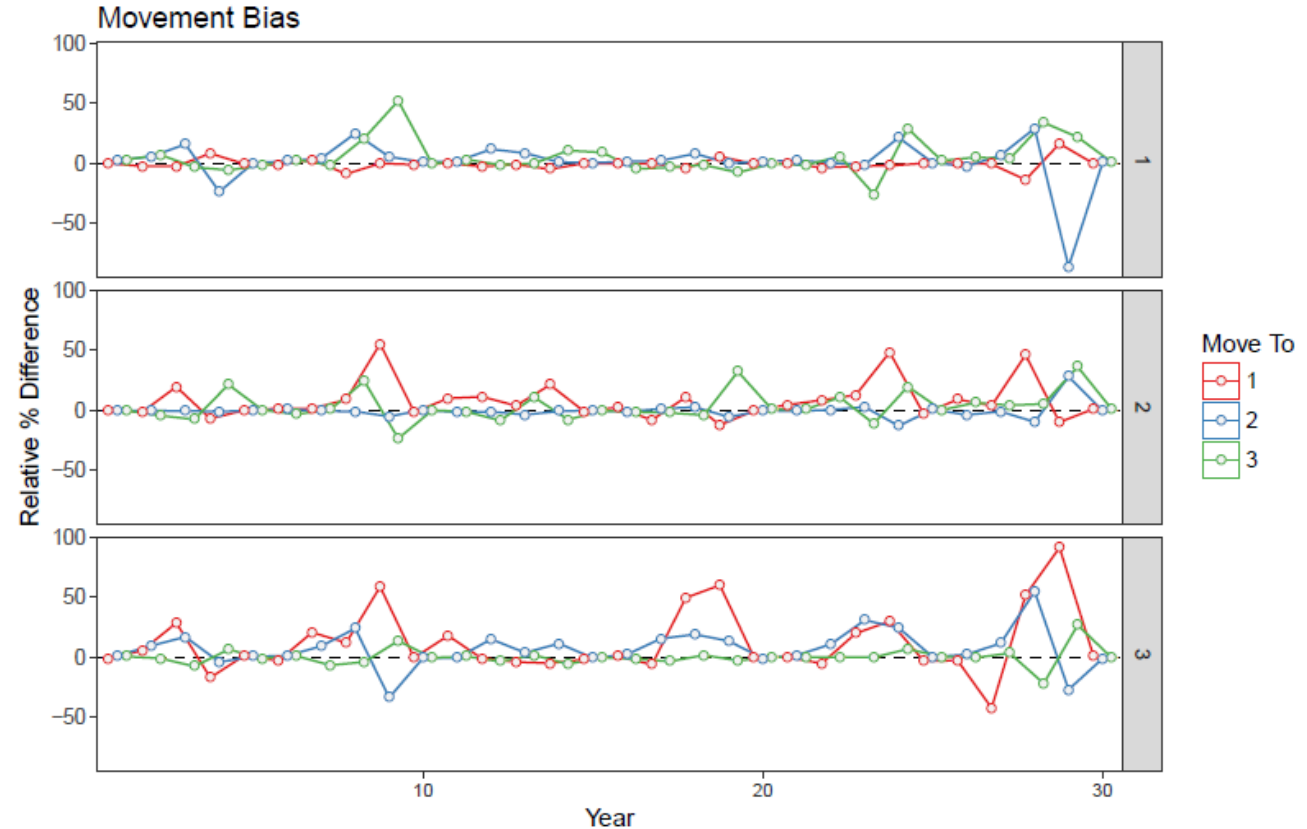
Greater precision when the TRUE and ASSUMED population structures MATCH



### Multiple Areas



### Metapopulation



### ~~Conclusions:~~ Looks like...

- Incorrect assumptions of population structure and movement may not lead to biased estimates in productivity IF the true and assumed recruitment dynamics match (*i.e. a single stock recruit function vs multiple*), but this may not be true of all scenarios...these results are PRELIMINARY
- **Precision** in estimation of MOVEMENT greatly improves when true and assumed population structures match
- If metapopulation dynamics are suspected, it may be beneficial to assume a spatial model with connectivity



### Technical Challenges

- High dimensional arrays (7D arrays!)
- HUGE number of parameters with complex models
- **Computation time!!!** *0.2 min to 1+ hour each sim*
- Operating model parameterizations – some result in poor estimation
- Initialization of ‘equilibrium’ dynamics
- Low convergence rate with mismatched dynamics

### NEXT STEPS:

- Apply the model!
- Number of papers planned using the SPASAM framework
- Finish the natal homing component of the models

# Acknowledgements

- Kari Fenske (NOAA-AFSC)
- Jim Miller (NOAA-NWFSC)
- Hatfield Marine Science Center

## Funding sources

- NOAA Office of Science and technology
- National Research Council
- Stock Assessment Analytical Methods RFP

```
UNCTION get_vitals
//POSSIBLE ADDITIONS:
//random walk in apportionment or random to give time-varying
//switch for input recruitment devs by year to recreate a given population
R_ave=ln_R_ave; ///this is annoying...//a quick fix
```

```
for (int p=1;p<=npops;p++)
{
  for (int j=1;j<=npops;j++)
  {
    for (int r=1;r<=nregions(j);r++)
    {
      for (int y=1;y<=nyrs;y++)
      {
        for (int a=1;a<=nages;a++)
        {
          for (int z=1;z<=nfleets(j);z++)
          {
            weight_population(j,r,y,a)=input_weight(j,r,a);
            weight_catch(j,r,y,a)=input_catch_weight(j,r,a);
```

```
if(maturity_switch_equil==0) // for SPR calculations when maturity across areas is equal or if want a straight ave
{
  if(SSB_type==1) //fecundity based SSB
```

Development models can be found at...

<https://github.com/KatelynBosley/SPASAM>

```
ave_mat_temp(j,a,r)=prop_fem(j,r)*fecundity(j,r,a)*maturity(j,r,a); //rearranging for summing
ave_mat(j,a) = sum(ave_mat_temp(j,a))/nregions(j); //average maturity across regions
wt_mat_mult(j,y,a)=ave_mat(j,a); //for SPR calcs
```

```
if(SSB_type==2) //weight based SSB
{
  ave_mat_temp(j,a,r)=prop_fem(j,r)*weight_population(j,r,y,a)*maturity(j,r,a); //rearranging for summing
  ave_mat(j,a) = sum(ave_mat_temp(j,a))/nregions(j); //average maturity across regions
  wt_mat_mult(j,y,a)=ave_mat(j,a); //for SPR calcs
}
}
```

```
if(maturity_switch_equil==1)
{ // calculates the weighted average maturity based on equilibrium apportionment of SSB
  if(SSB_type==1) //fecundity based SSB
```

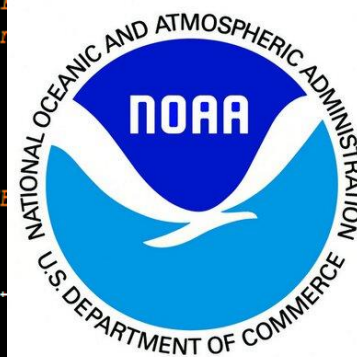
```
ave_mat_temp(j,a,r)=prop_fem(j,r)*fecundity(j,r,a)*maturity(j,r,a)*equil_apport
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```

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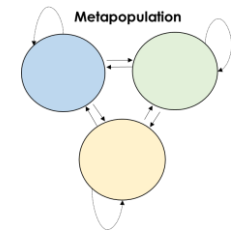
## Photo credits:

- [http://pacificrichresources.com/site/assets/files/1417/black\\_cod.jpg](http://pacificrichresources.com/site/assets/files/1417/black_cod.jpg)
- <http://www.alaskabroker.com/listings/sablequota.html>

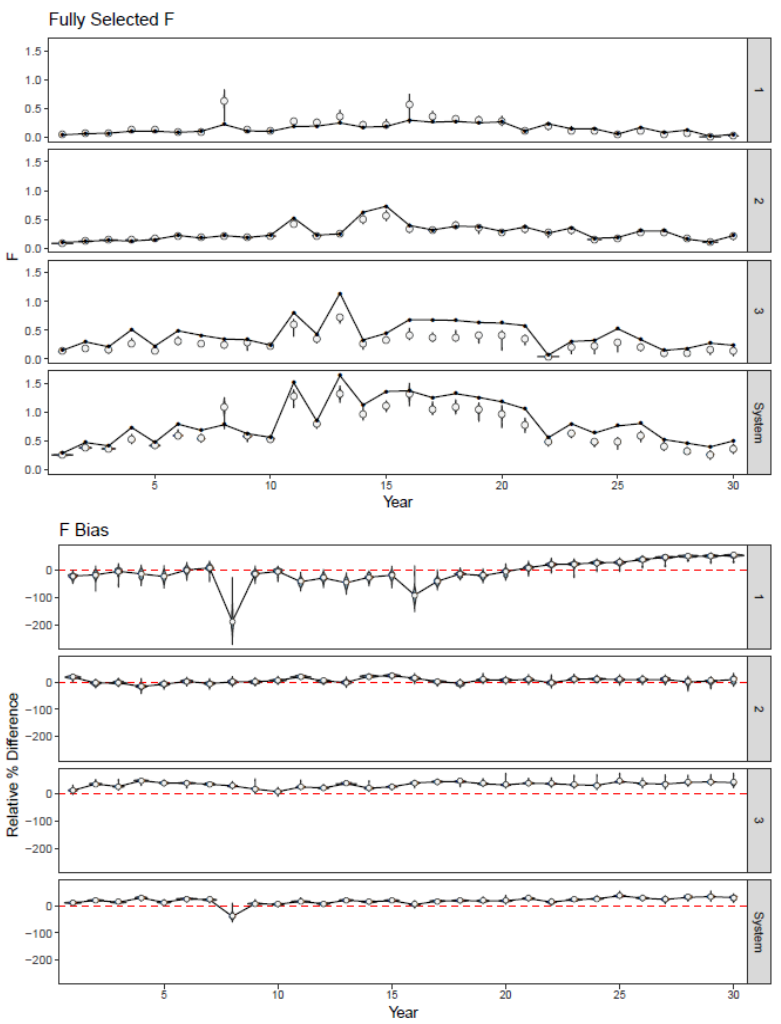


# MODEL APPLICATION: MODEL MISSPECIFICATION EXPERIMENT

## Fishing Mortality

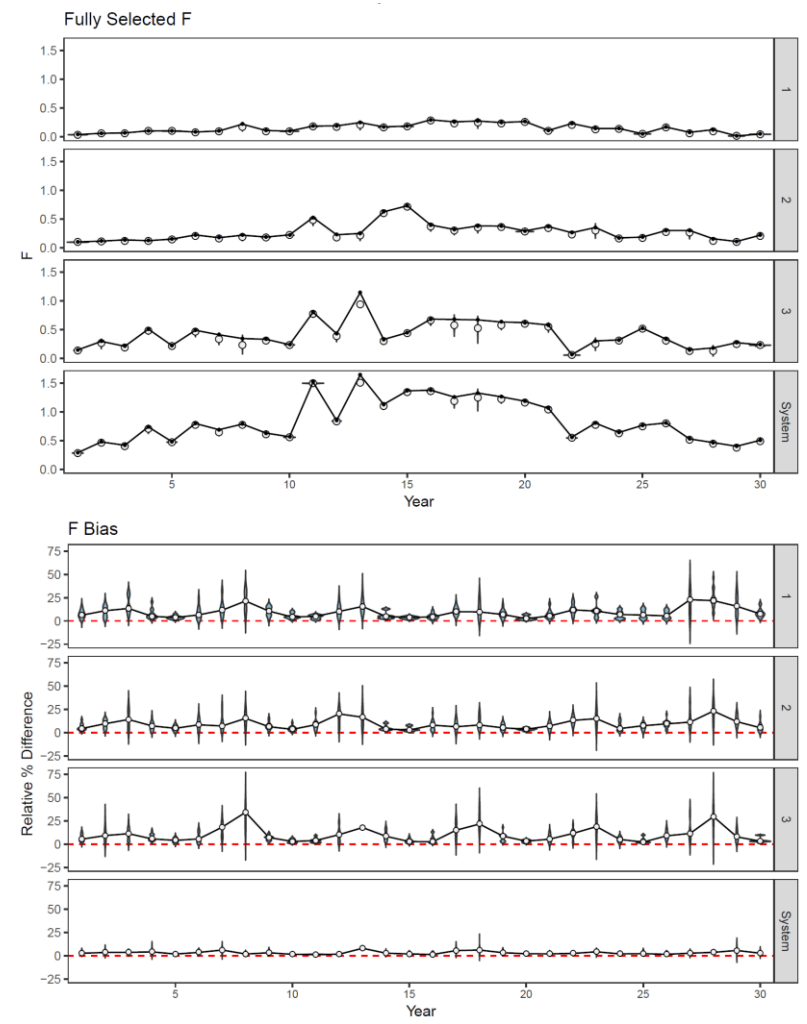


### Fleets-as-Areas

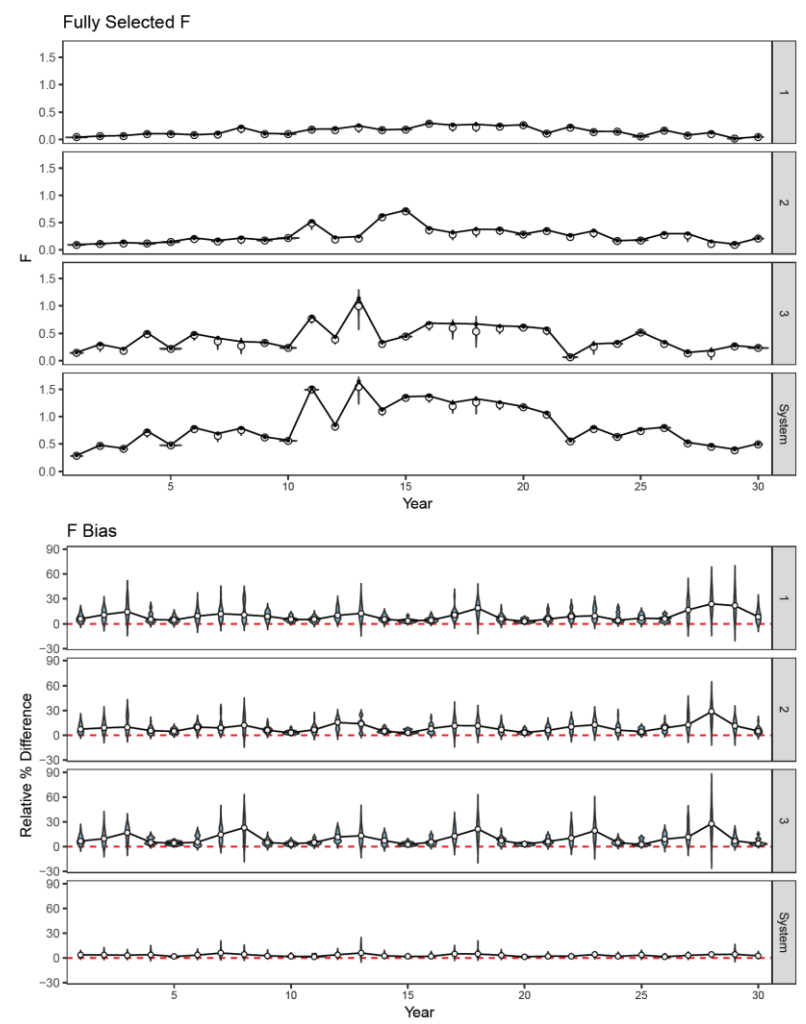


### Multiple Areas

54% convergence

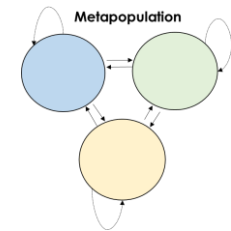


### Metapopulation

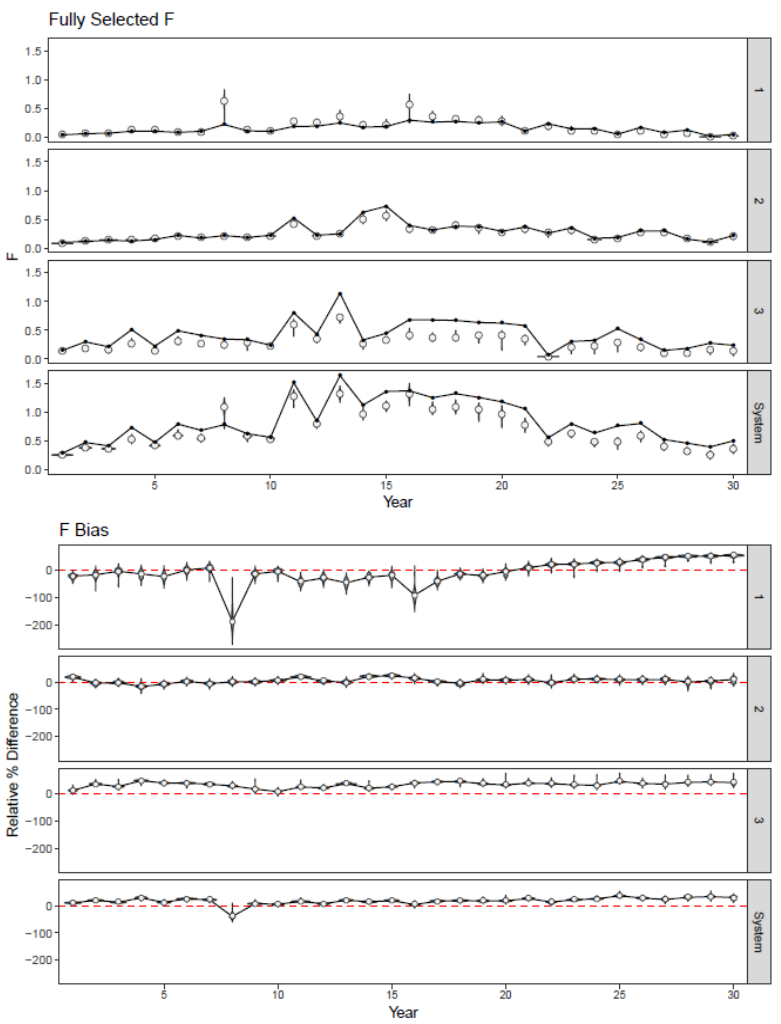


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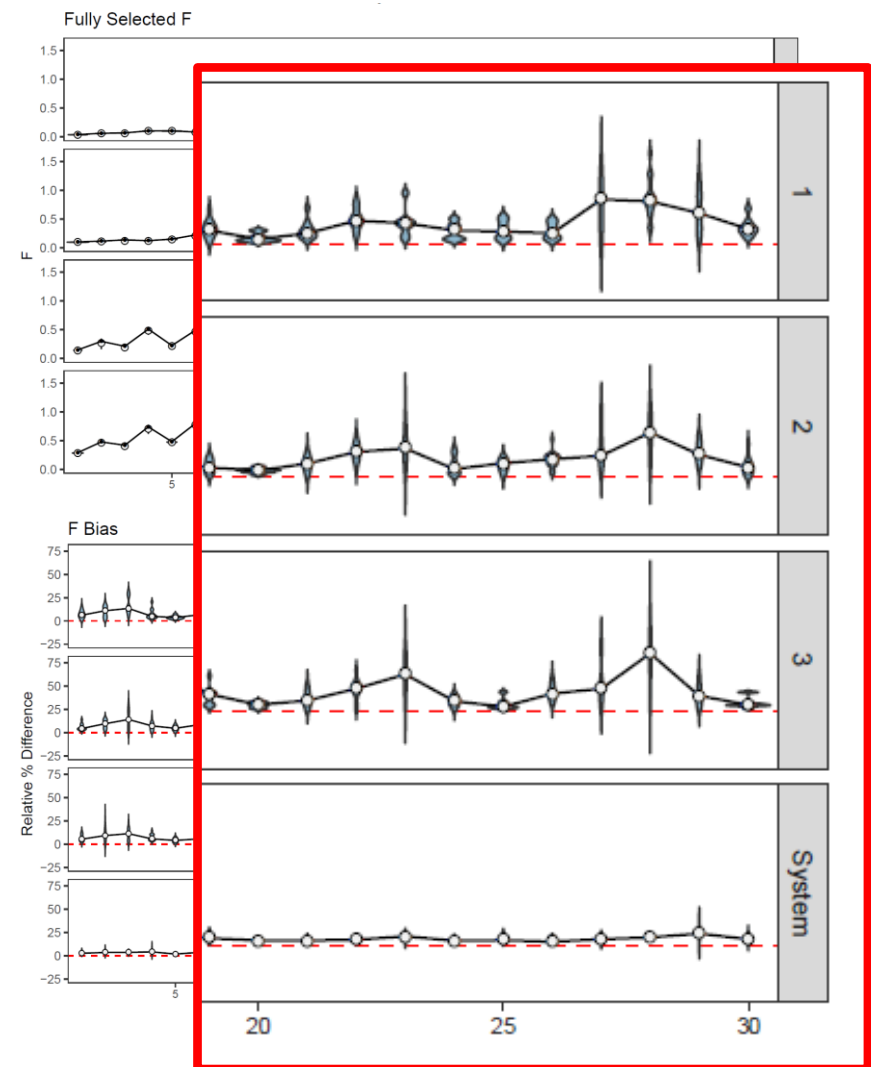


### Fleets-as-Areas

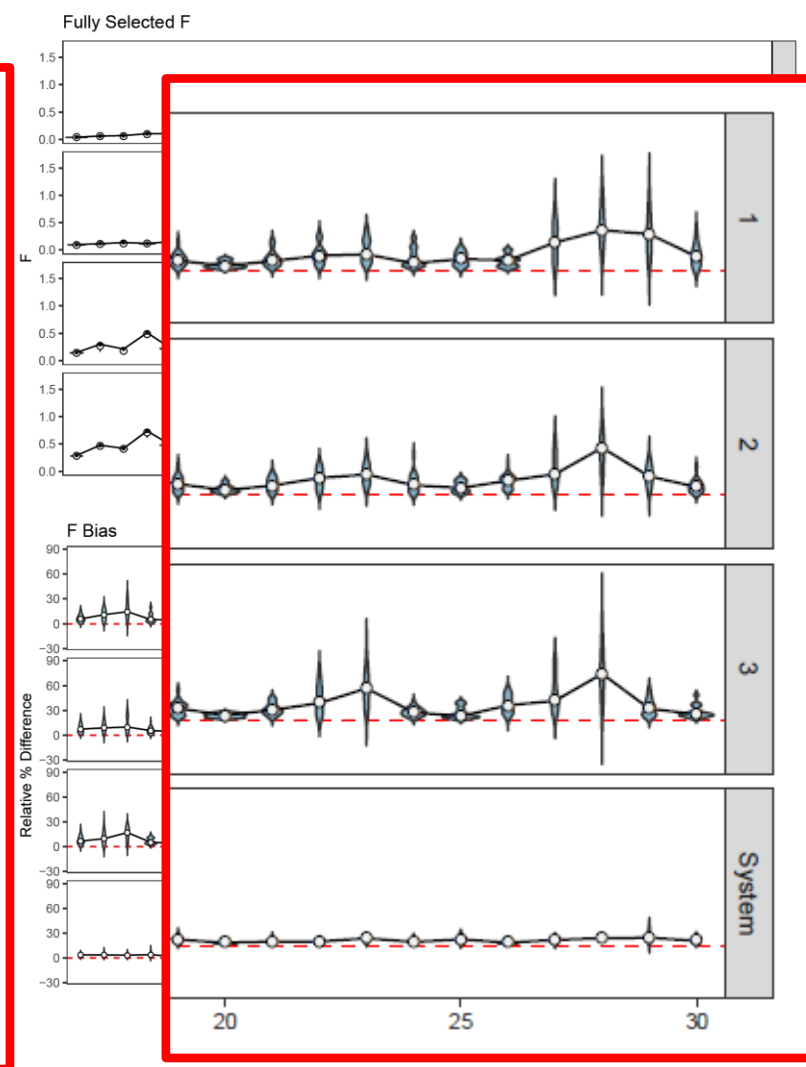


### Multiple Areas

54%  
convergence



### Metapopulation





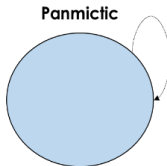
## Estimation Model Specifics

Population dynamics equations are identical to Operating Model

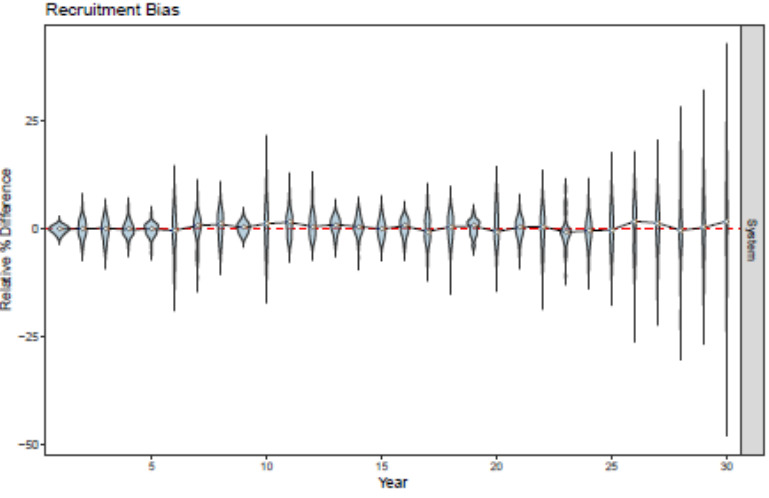
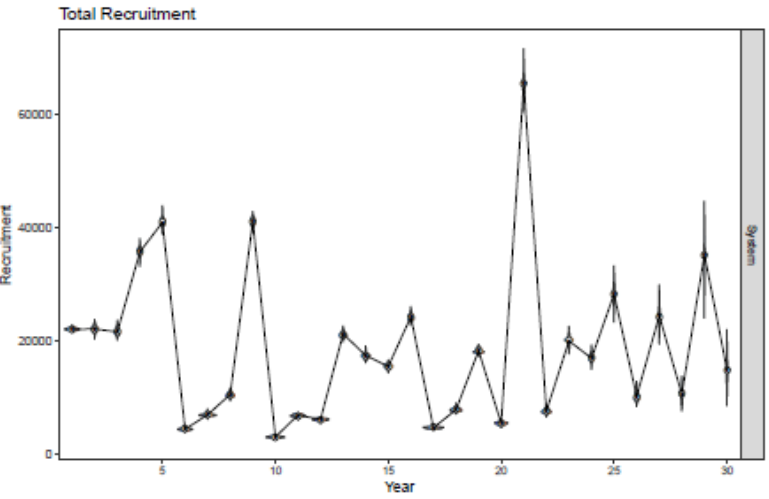
ESTIMATED PARAMETERS
R0/R average
Recruit deviations/apportionment
Initial Abundance
Fishery Selectivity
Survey Selectivity
Catchability ( $q$ )
Fishing Mortality
Movement
Tag Reporting Rate
Mortality

- **Generalized spatially explicit**
  - *Populations/Regions/Fleets*
- **Fit to observed data with error**
  - *Age composition, indices, tag recoveries*
- **Incorporates process error**
  - *Recruitment, movement, population structure*
- **Multiple movement parameterizations**
  - *Constant, time-varying, age-based*

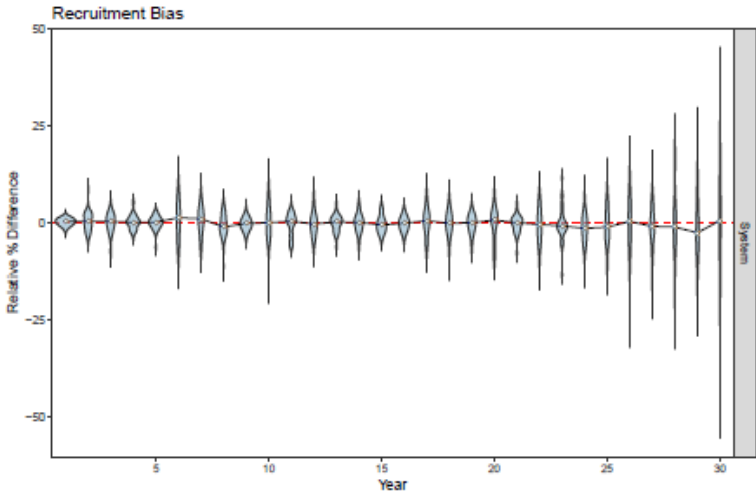
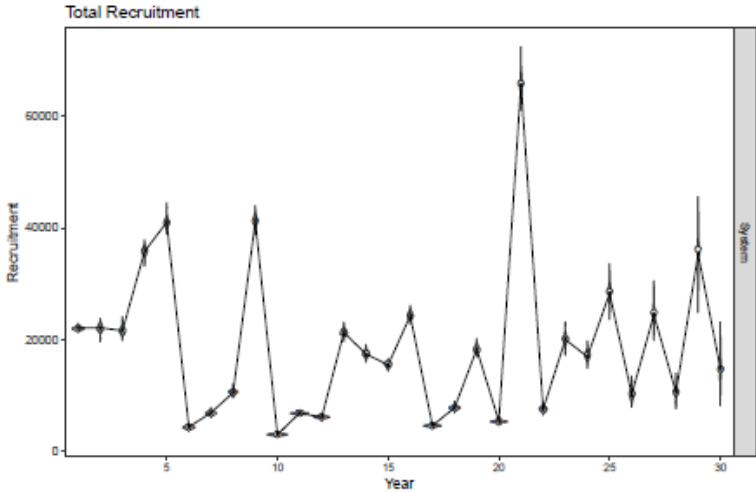
## Recruitment Estimation



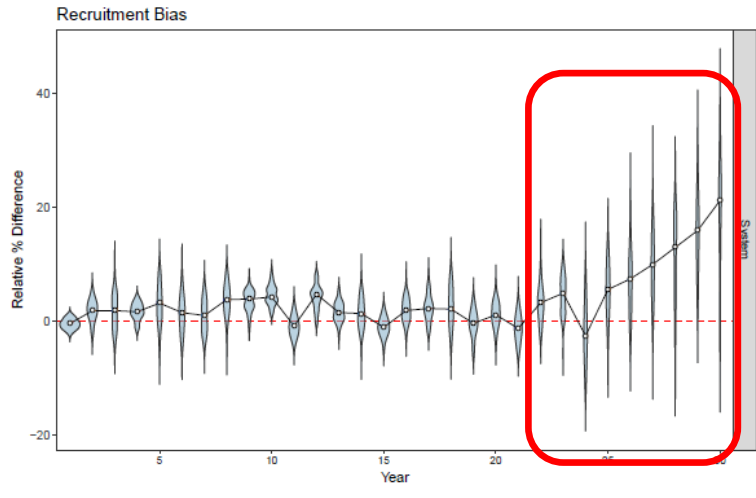
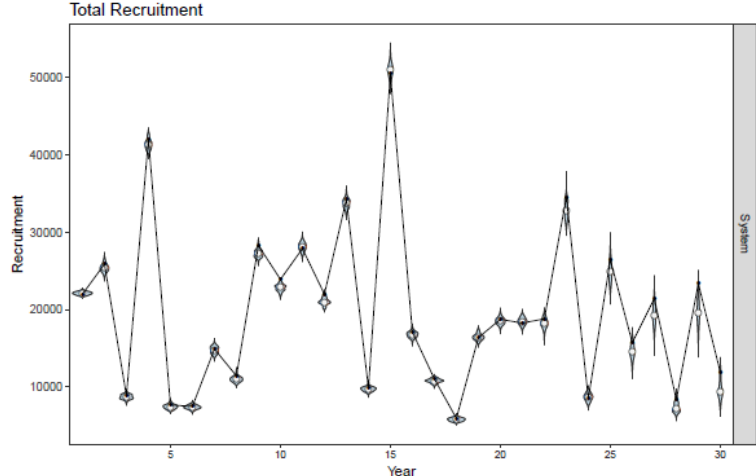
### Uniform



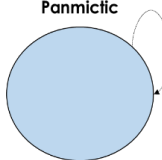
### Multiple Areas



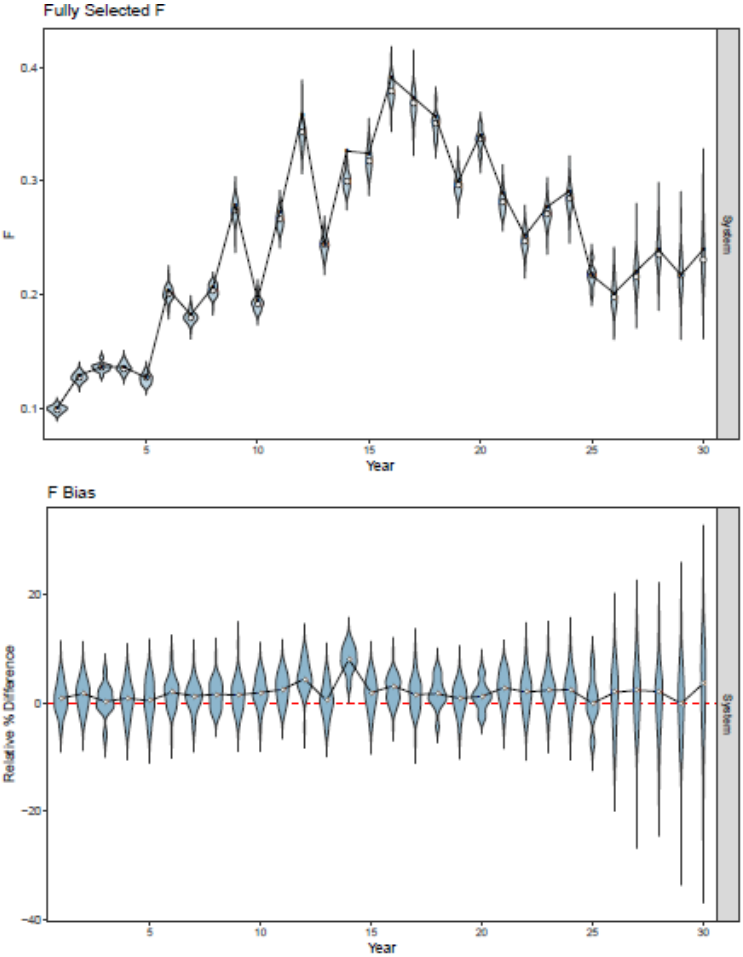
### Metapopulation



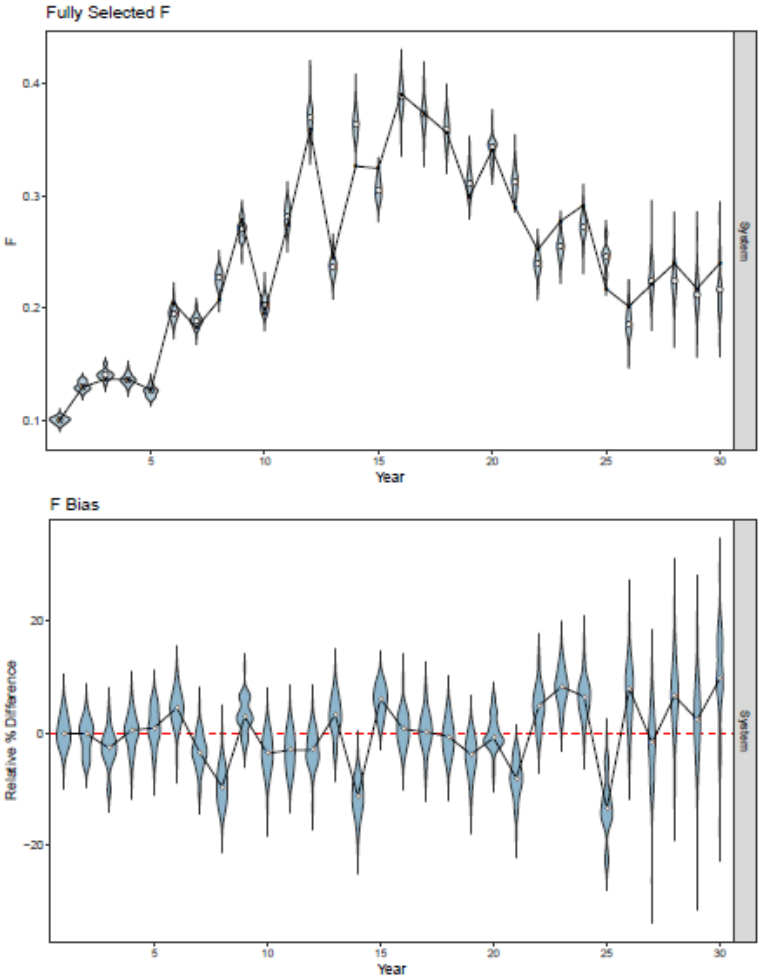
## Fishing Mortality



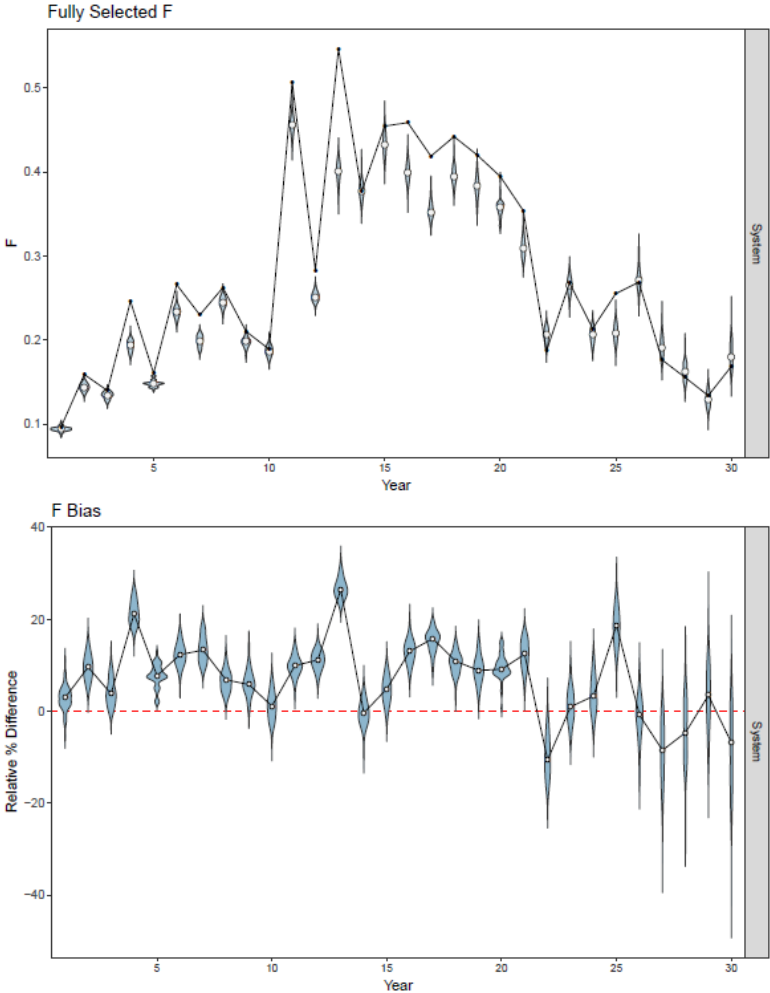
### Uniform



### Multiple Areas



### Metapopulation



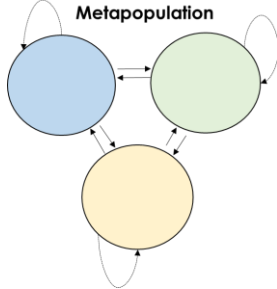
# MODEL APPLICATION: MODEL MISSPECIFICATION EXPERIMENT

Recruitment Average ( $R_0$ )

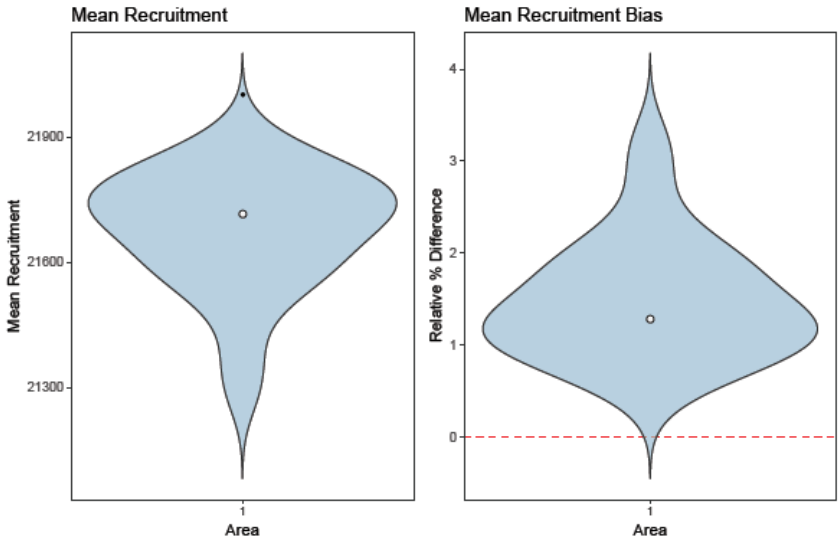
## Panmictic



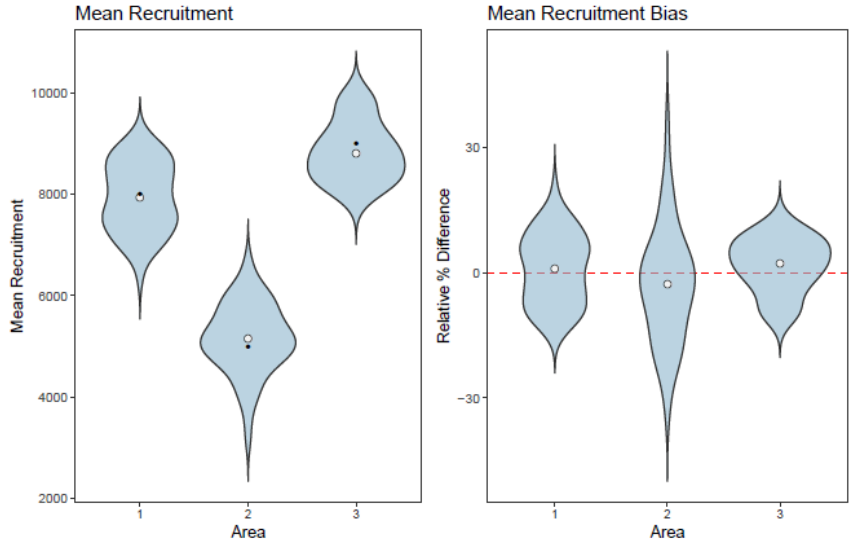
## Fleets-as-Areas



## Multiple Areas



## Metapopulation





## NOAA Sablefish Tagging Program

### Annual longline survey (June-August)

- T-bar anchor tags on ~1500-3500 sablefish per year (**5%** of catch); Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands in alternating years, Gulf of Alaska every year
- Tagging time series early 1970s – present (**40+years!**)
- ~370,000+ tagged fish released to date
- Recaptured through survey and fishery (**33,000+ recoveries**); 650-750/year
- Also some satellite tagging occurs on large (80+ cm) fish for special projects

**Gold Standard** for the application  
of spatial models

