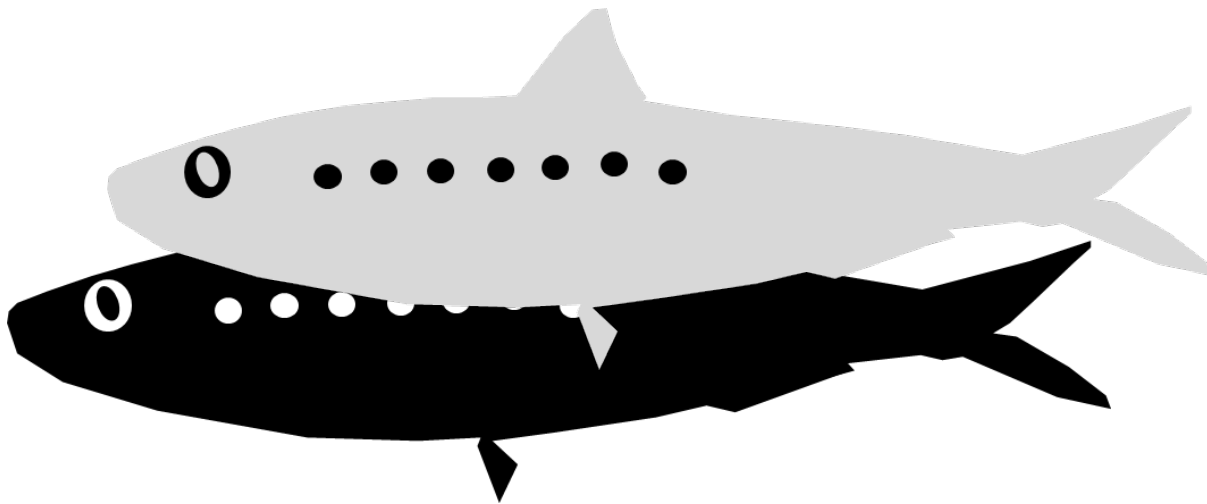


# Contrasting life-history responses to climate variability in eastern and western North Pacific sardine populations



Basic ideas of...

nature communications



Article

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## Contrasting life-history responses to climate variability in eastern and western North Pacific sardine populations

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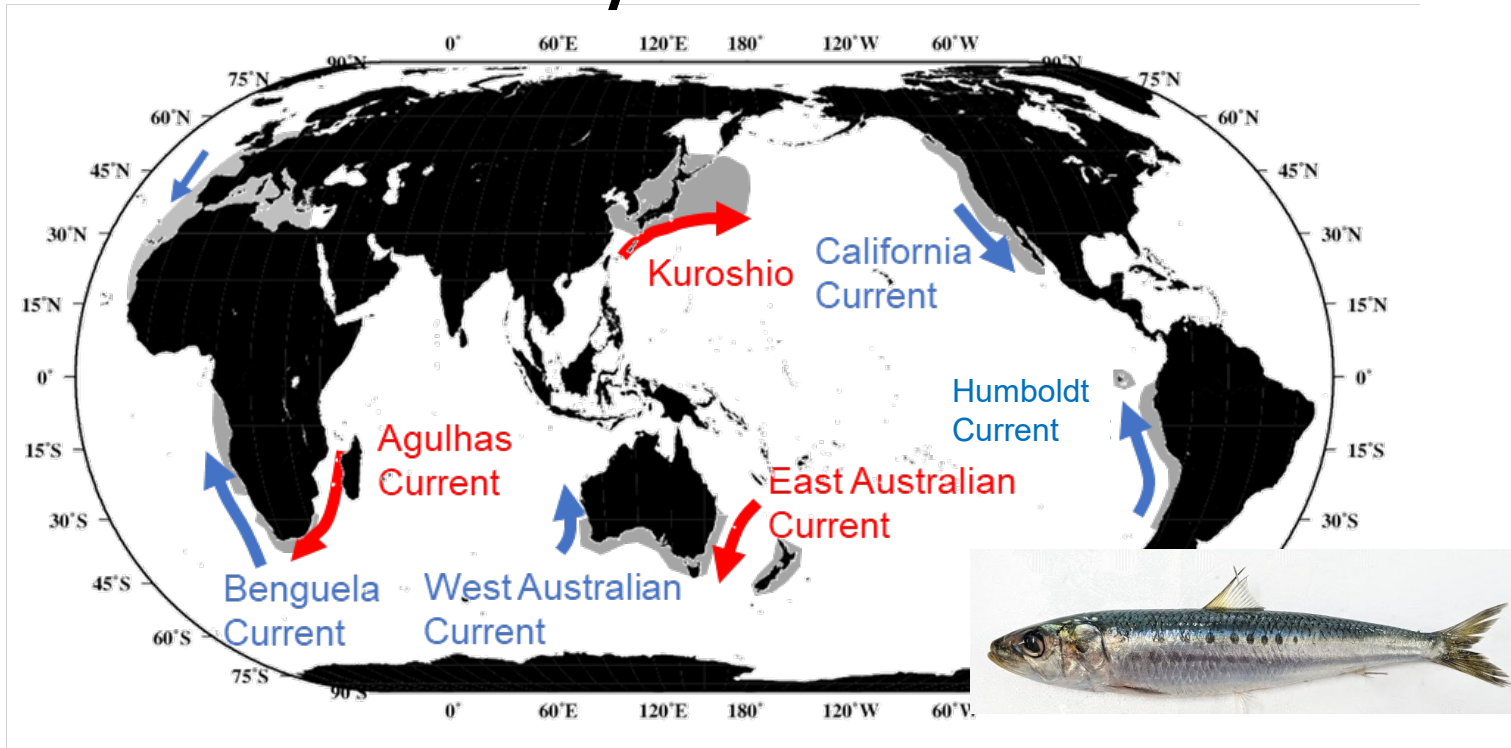
Published online: 16 October 2022

Tatsuya Sakamoto<sup>1</sup>✉, Motomitsu Takahashi<sup>1</sup>, Ming-Tsung Chung<sup>2,3</sup>,  
Ryan R. Rykaczewski<sup>4,5</sup>, Kosei Komatsu<sup>6,2</sup>, Kotaro Shirai<sup>2</sup>,  
Toyoho Ishimura<sup>7,8</sup> & Tomihiko Higuchi<sup>2</sup>

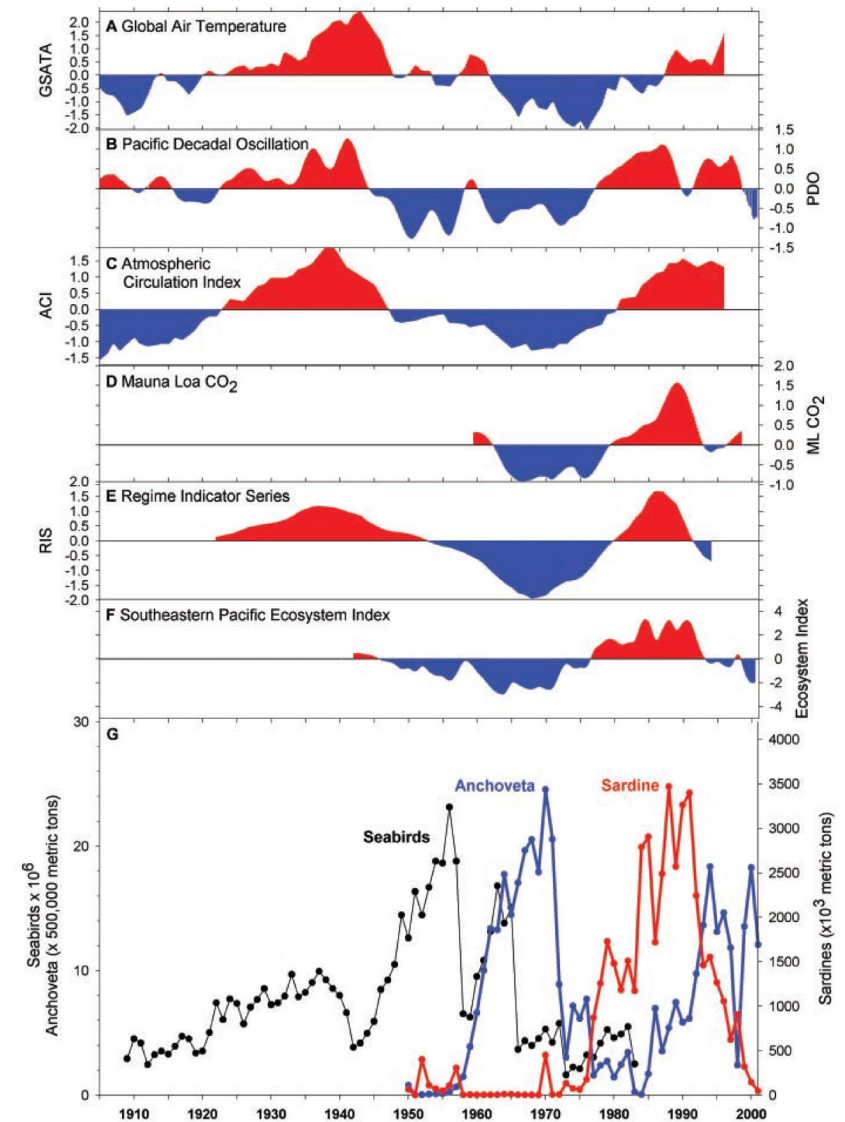
Tatsuya Sakamoto<sup>\*</sup>, Motomitsu Takahashi, Ming-Tsung Chung, Ryan R. Rykaczewski, Kosei Komatsu, Kotaro Shirai, Toyoho Ishimura, Tomihiko Higuchi  
(\*Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera (IPMA), Portugal)

# Sardine populations worldwide

## *Sardinops* and *Sardina* distributions



- Are distributed near **Western** or **Eastern** boundary currents
- Show intense population fluctuation likely driven by environmental variability... **but how?**



Chavez et al., 2003

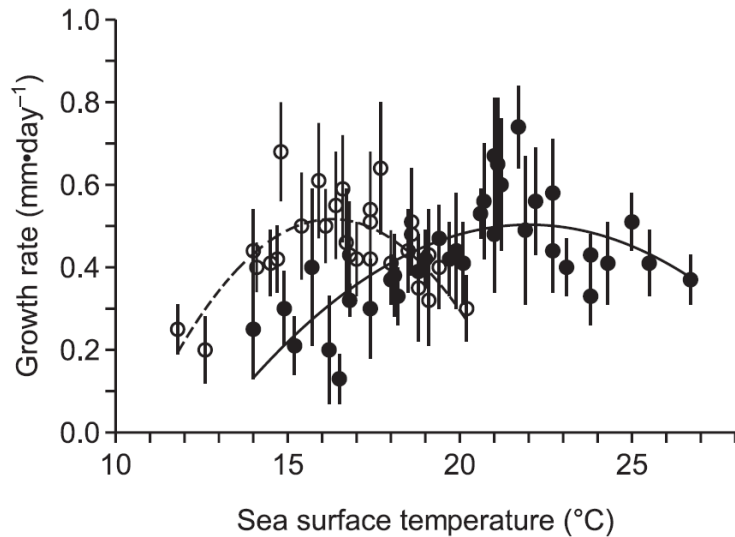
# Puzzle: East vs West

Sardine population tends to increase during...

cooler periods

in **western** North Pacific

(e.g., Yatsu et al., 2005; Nakayama et al., 2018)



**Optimal temperature hypothesis** (Takasuka et al., 2007)

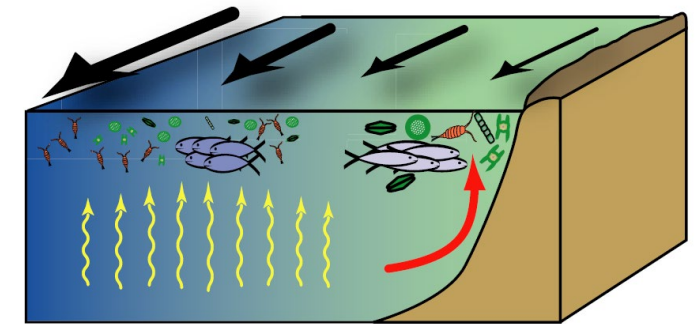
warmer periods

in **eastern** North Pacific + other upwelling regions

(e.g., Chavez et al., 2003; Lindegren et al., 2013)



**Trophodynamics hypothesis** (van der Lingen et al., 2006)



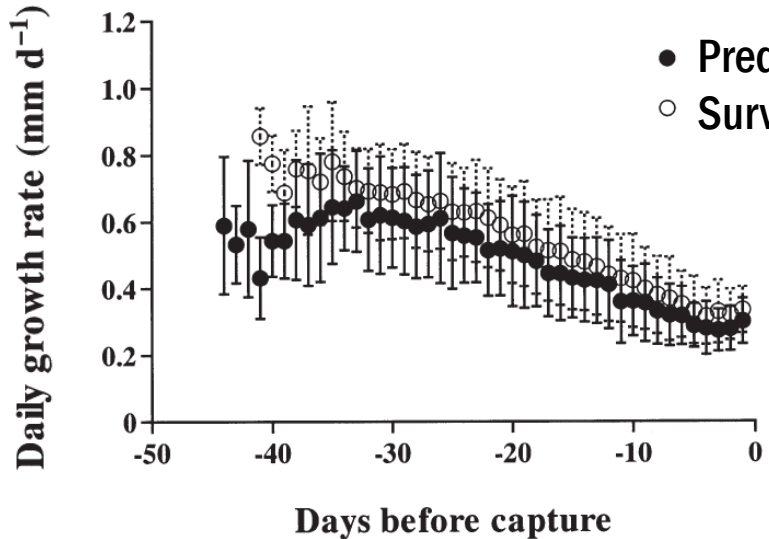
**Wind-stress curl upwelling intensity**  
(Rykaczewski and Checkley 2008)

**Is it possible to make a theory to explain both comprehensively?**

**What are the key differences between **E** and **W** populations?**

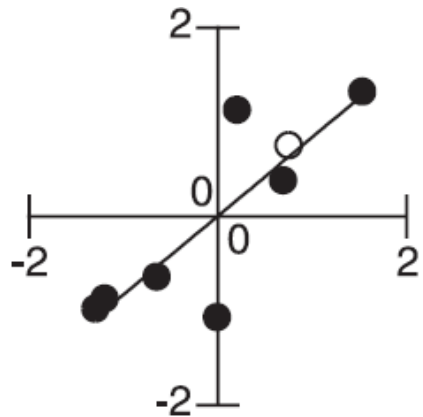
# Variation of early life growth

**Faster growths likely improve survival and recruitment**

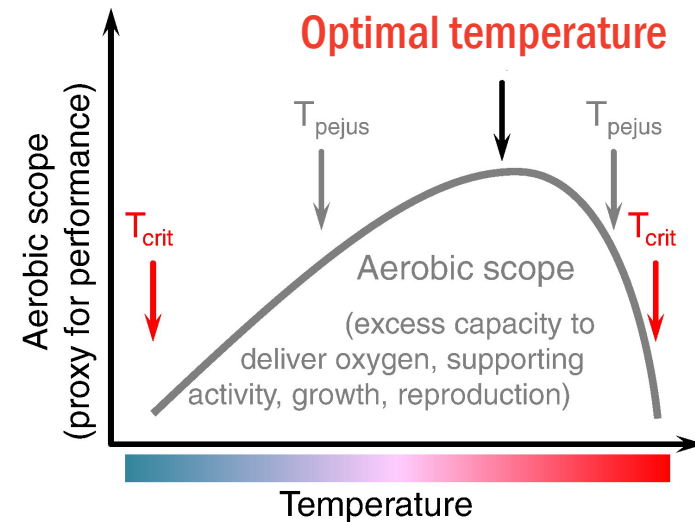
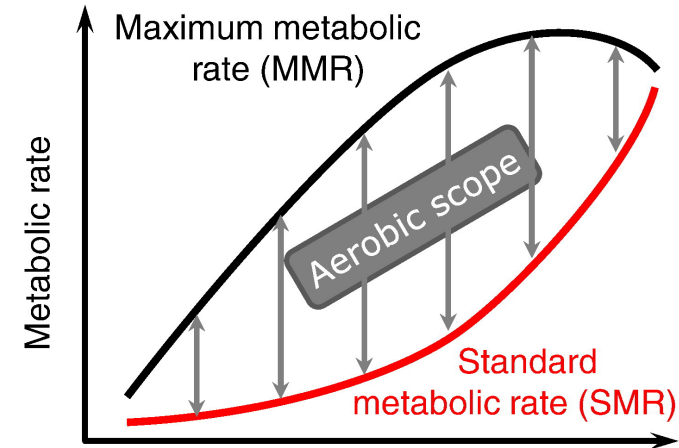


Slower growth to higher mortality (Takasuka et al., 2003)

Juvenile growth-recruitment for Japanese sardine (Takahashi et al., 2008; Takasuka et al., 2019)



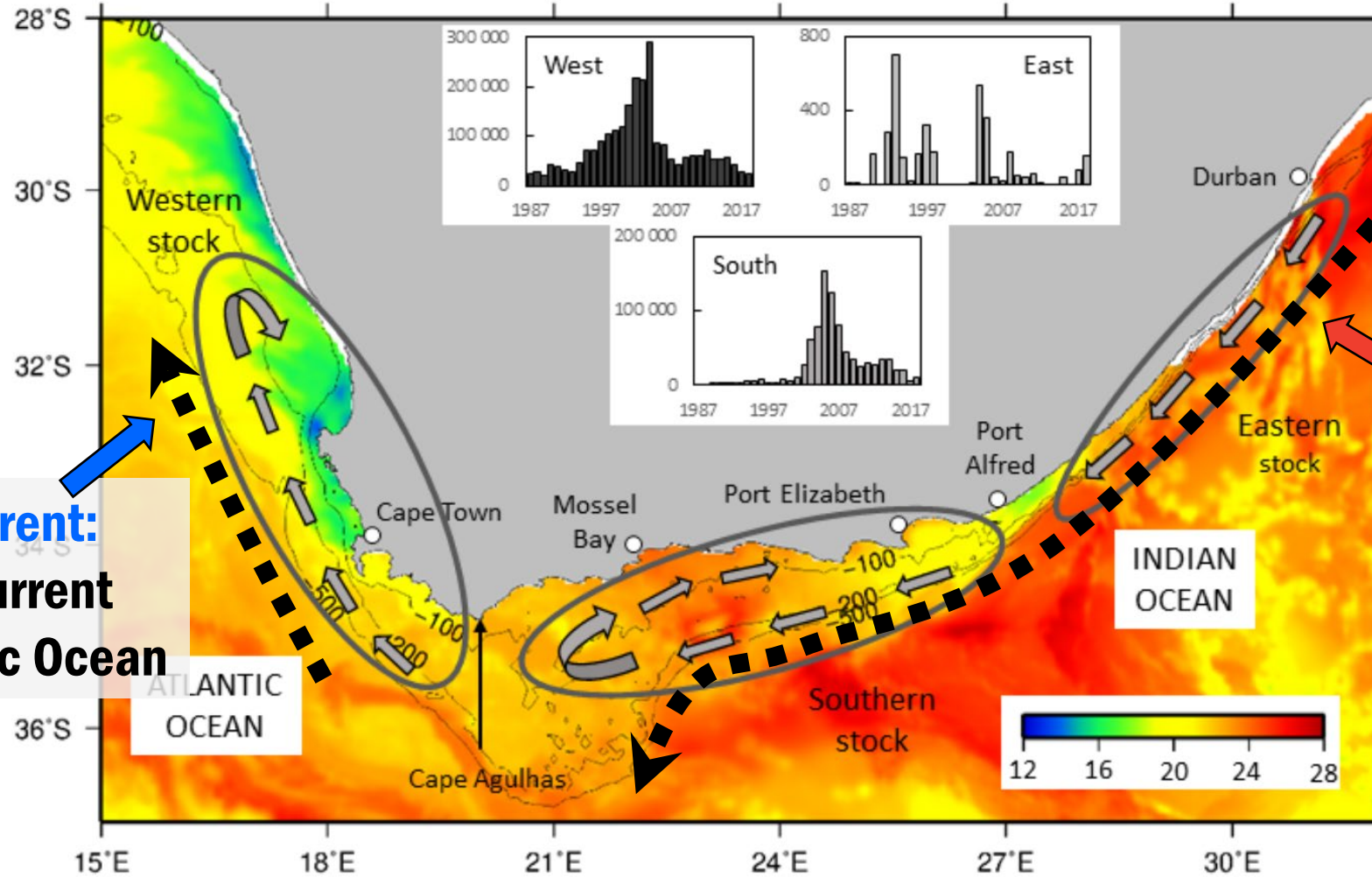
**Temperature can affect growth through prey availability and fish physiology**



(Verberk et al., 2016)

# South Africa: where the east meets the west

Sakamoto, van der Lingen et al., ICES journal of Marine Science (2020)



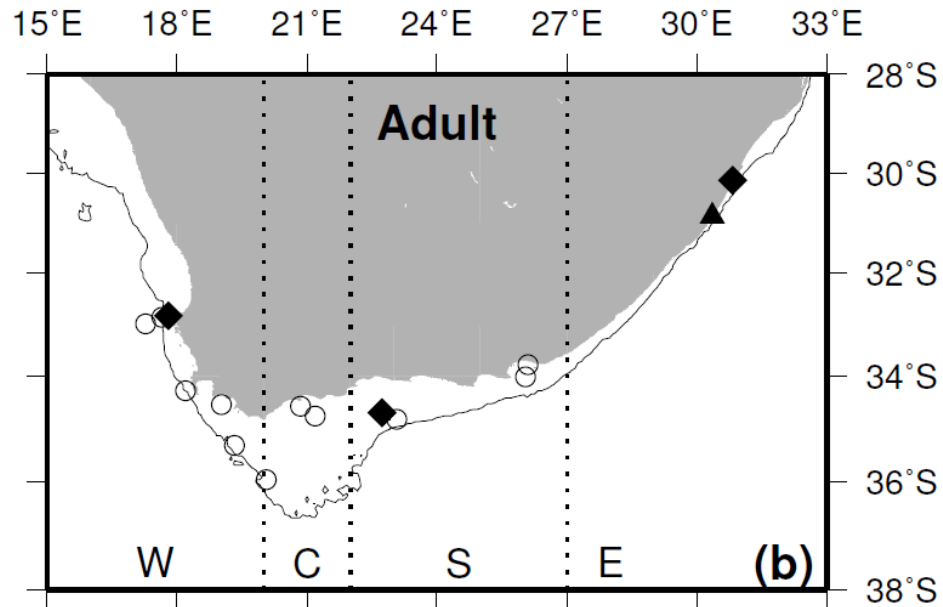
**Benguela Current:**  
**E** boundary current  
of the Atlantic Ocean

**Agulhas Current:**  
**W** boundary current  
of the Indian Ocean

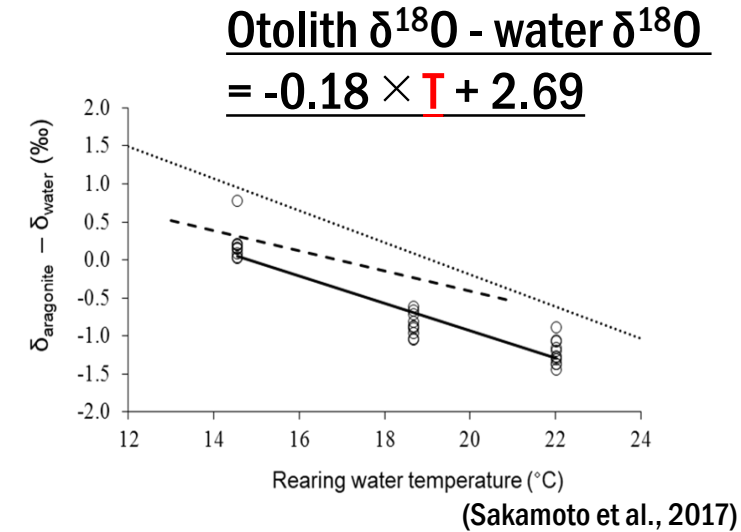
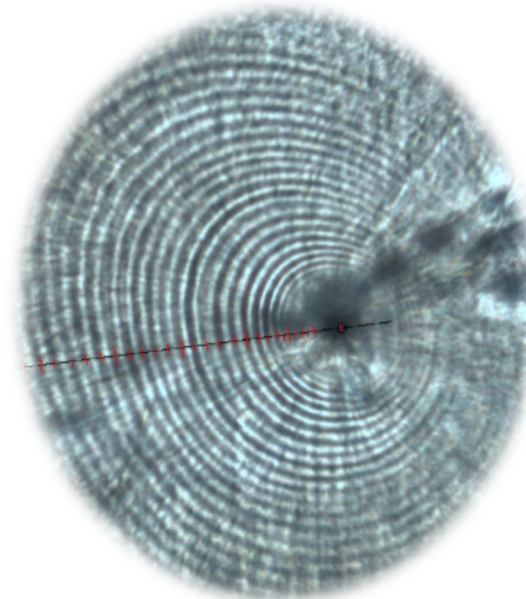
Several subpopulations?

# Otolith analyses

Are nursery environment different by regions?



367 otoliths from adults and juveniles in 2015-17



Microstructure analysis

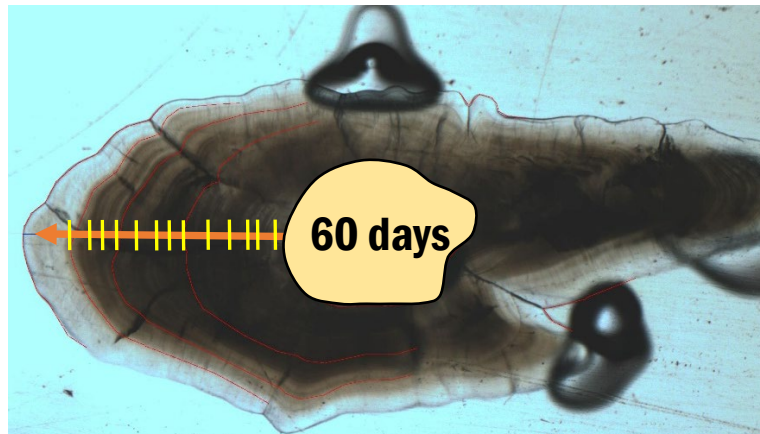
Growth proxy

Oxygen stable isotope ratio ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ) analysis (0-60 dph)

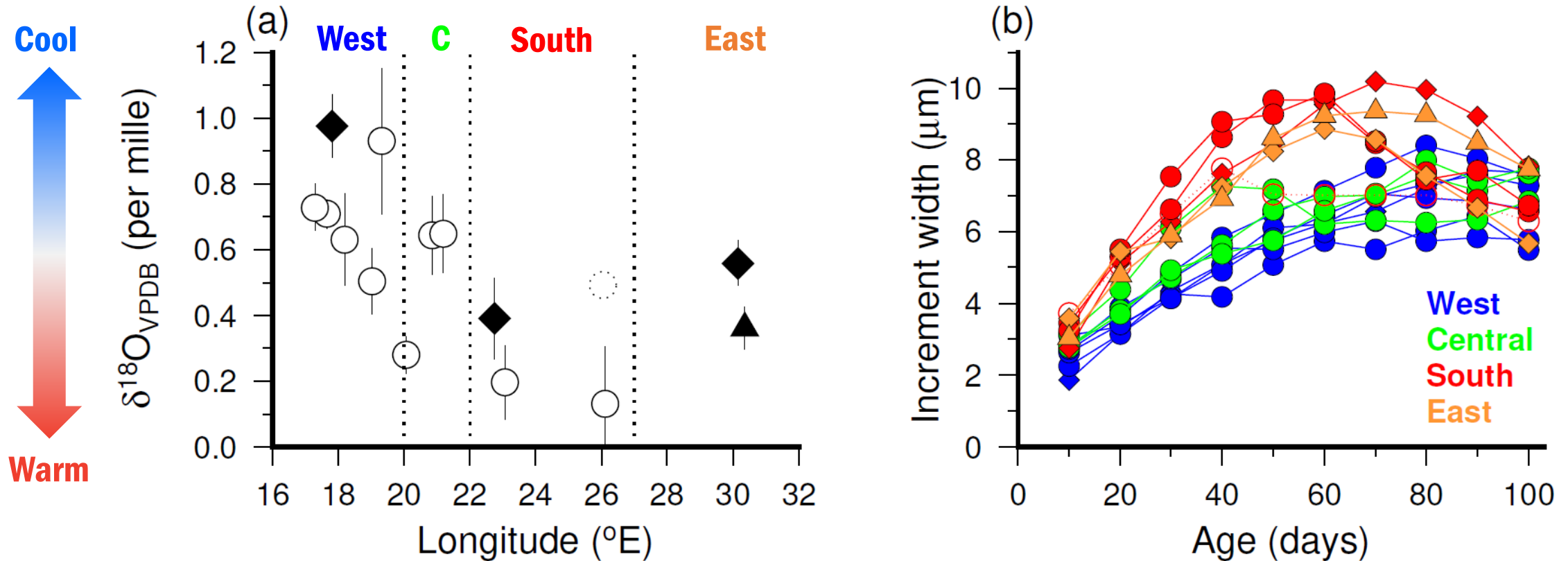
Temperature proxy



Dr. van der Lingen



# Different nursery temperature and growth



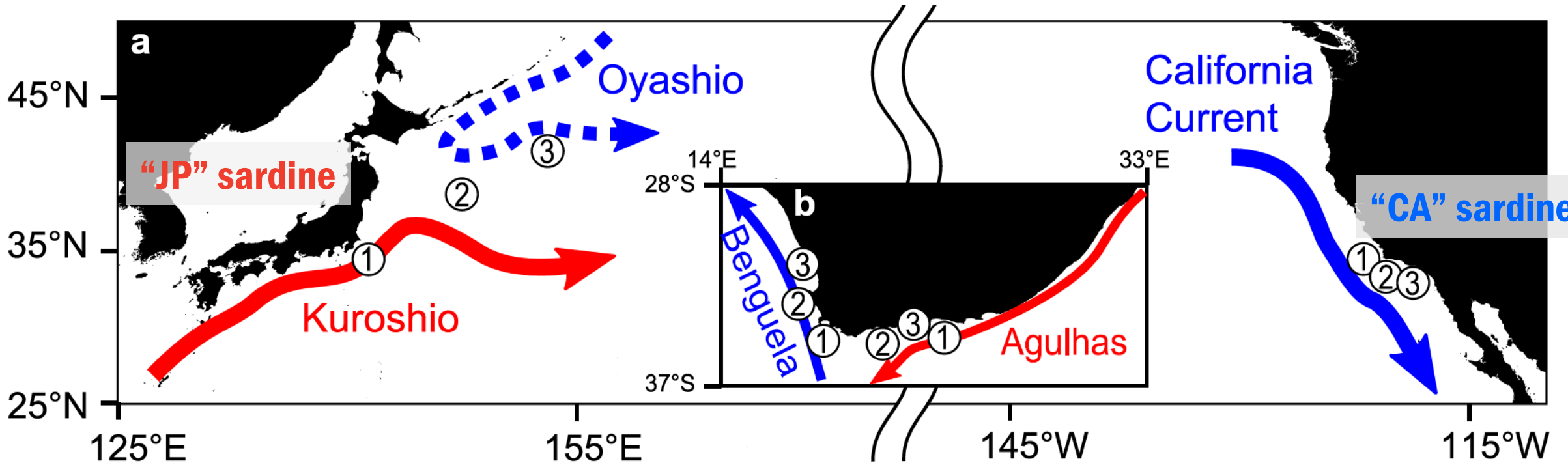
Nursery temperature (0-60 dph): **South (+ East) > West (+ Central)**

Otolith growth (0-100 dph): **South + East > West + Central**

Nursery environments may significantly differ between **W** and **E** boundary current systems

# To the North Pacific

Typical distributions of 1: Larvae (< 35mm SL), 2: Early Juvenile (35-60mm) and 3: Late Juvenile (60-85mm)



- Pacific subpopulation of Japanese sardine: **“JP” sardine**
- Northern subpopulation of Pacific sardine: **“CA” sardine**
- Rich literature suggesting opposite responses of population to temperature anomalies (JP ↑ in cooler and CA ↑ in warmer regimes)

**How do early life growths respond to temperature variations?**



# Materials and Methods

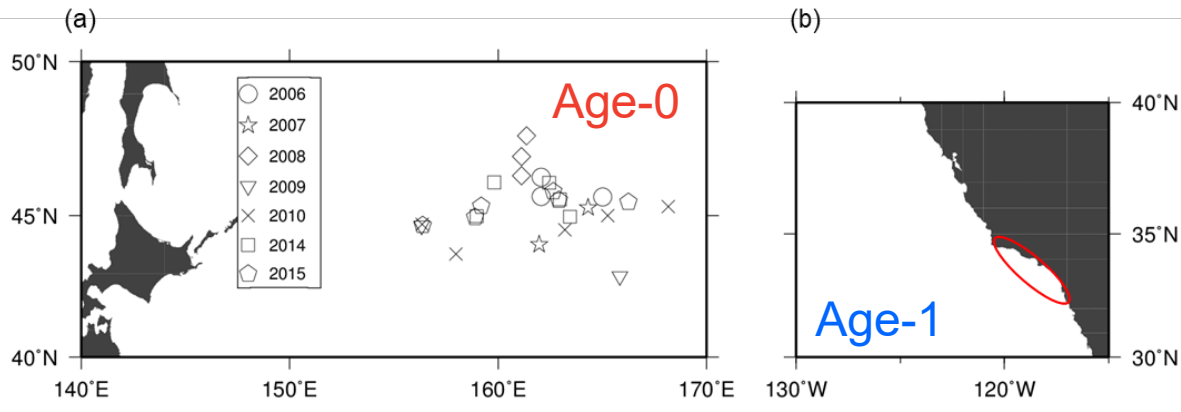
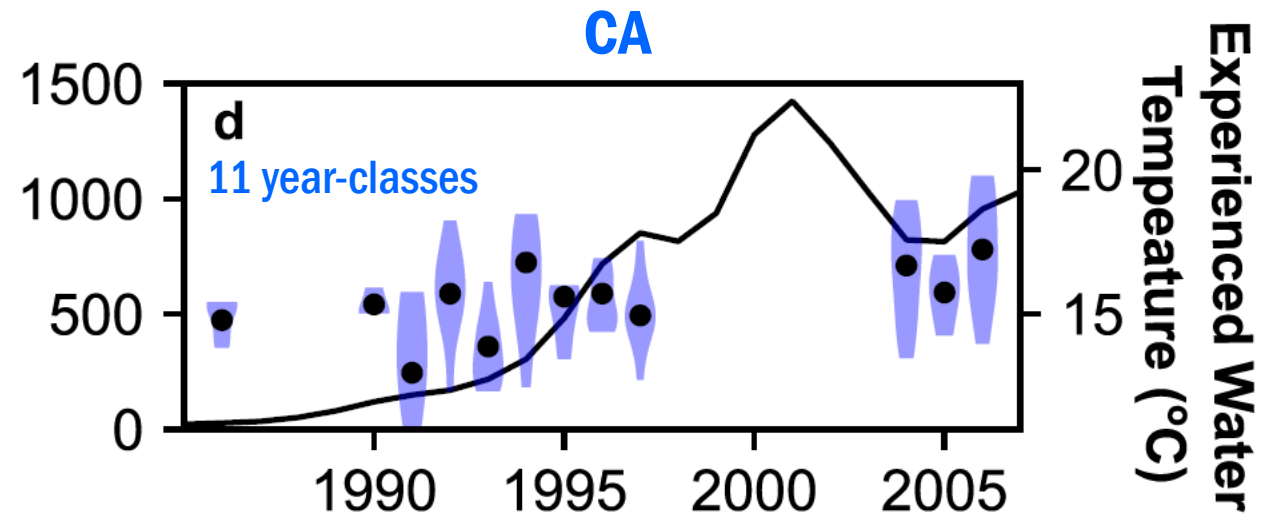
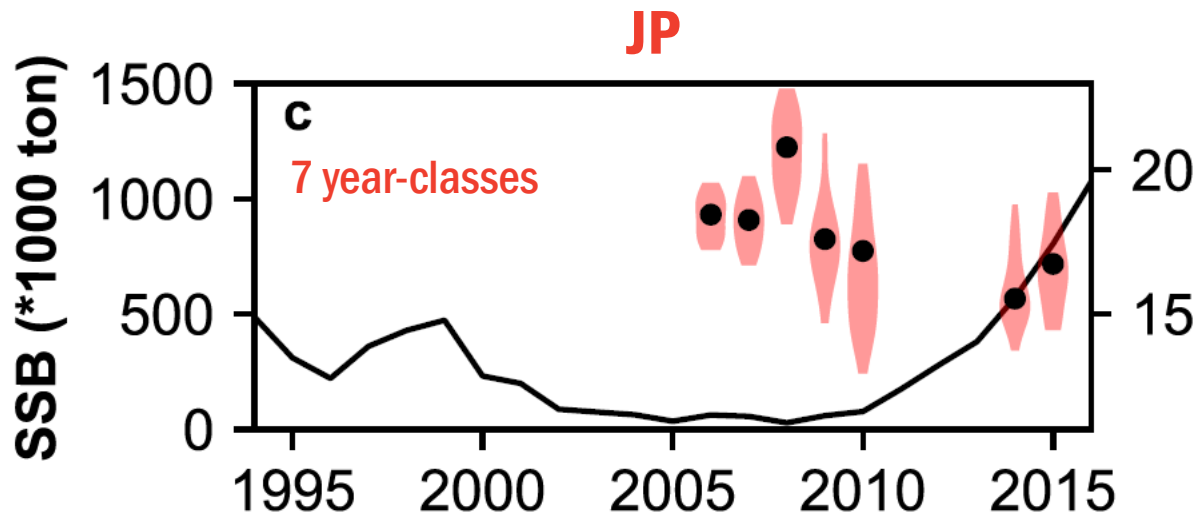
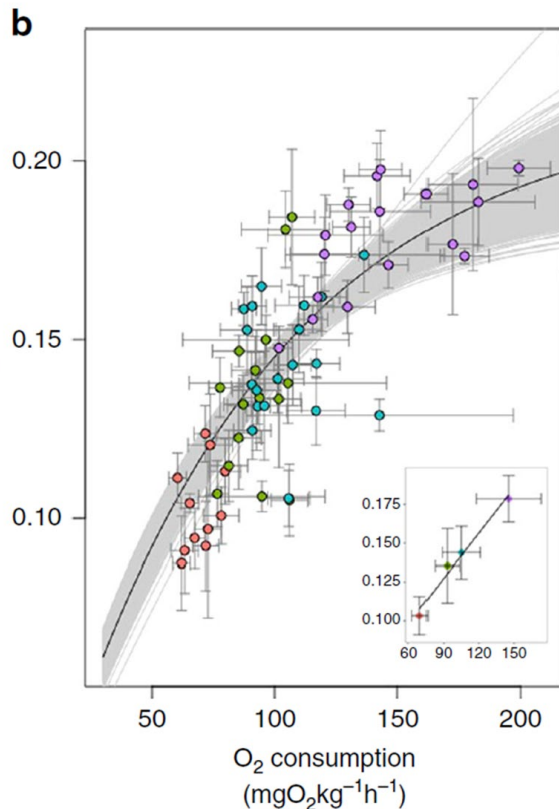
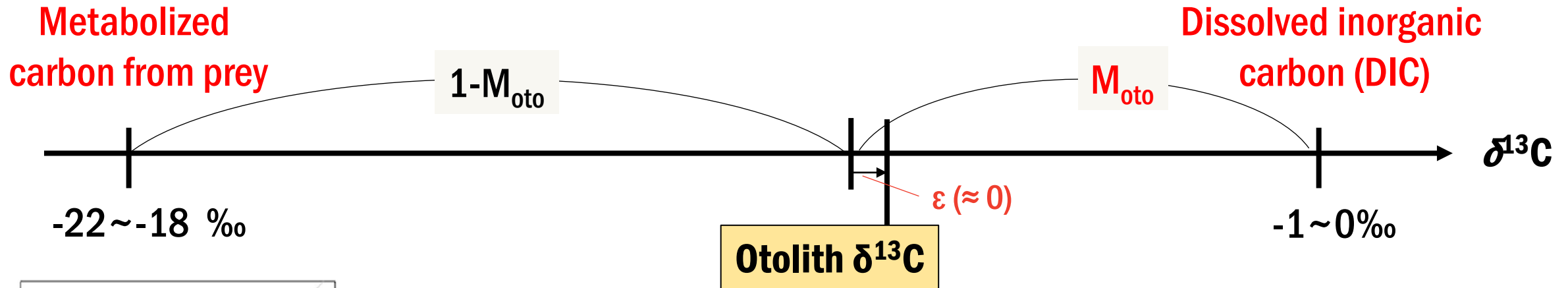


Figure 3. Sampling location for (a) the Japanese sardine and (b) the Californian sardine. The Californian sardine fished in red area was used in this study.



- Otoliths of **JP**: 156 age-0, **CA**: 100 age-1 recruits (10~16 cm SL)
- Microstructure (growth)+ **Oxygen (temp.) and carbon** stable isotope analysis  
**JP**: 15-30 days, **CA**: 30 days resolution  
 for 4-5 months from hatch

# Otolith carbon isotope ratio: metabolic proxy



$M_{\text{oto}} = (\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{oto}} - \delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}) / (\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{prey}} - \delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}})$  (used literature values)

: proportion of metabolically derived carbon  
 can be used a proxy of **field metabolic rate** (Chung et al., 2019)

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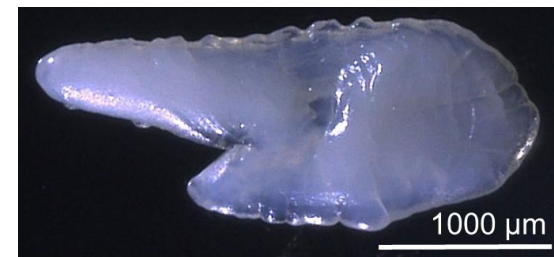
ARTICLE

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s42003-018-0266-5>

OPEN

Field metabolic rates of teleost fishes are recorded in otolith carbonate

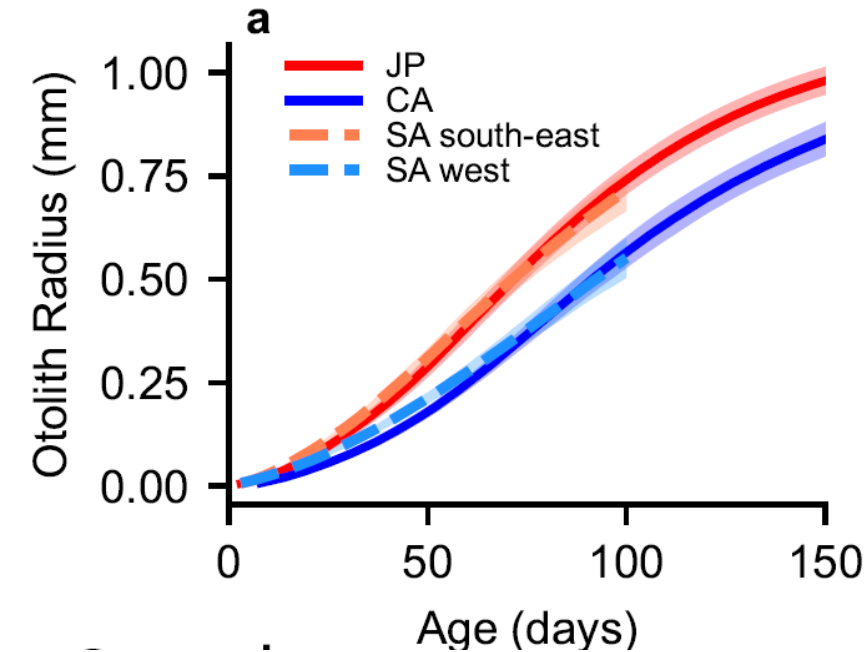
Ming-Tsung Chung<sup>1</sup>, Clive N. Trueman<sup>2</sup>, Jane Aanstad Godiksen<sup>3</sup>, Mathias Engell Holmstrup<sup>1</sup> & Peter Grønkvær<sup>1</sup>



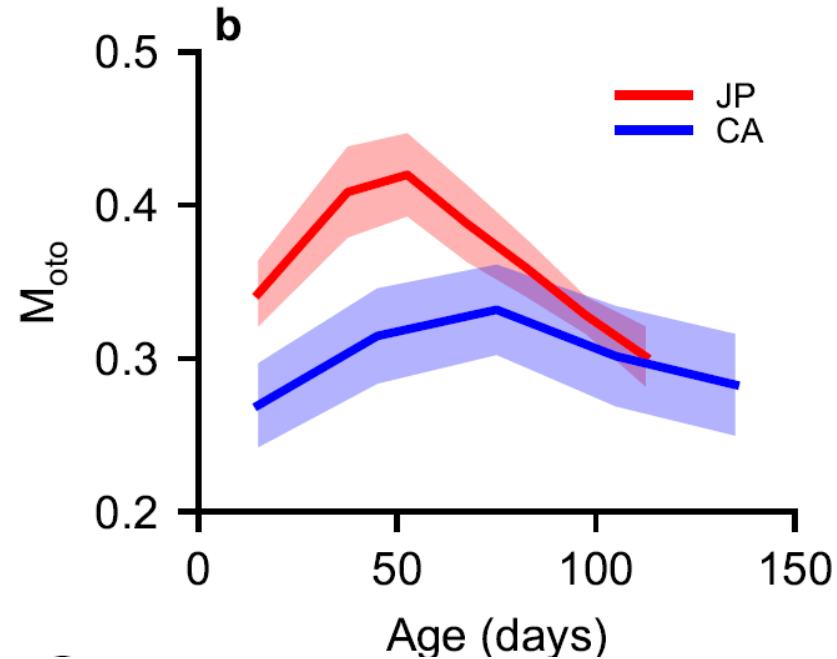
Histories of growth, temperature and metabolic rate can be extracted from an otolith

# Life history traits

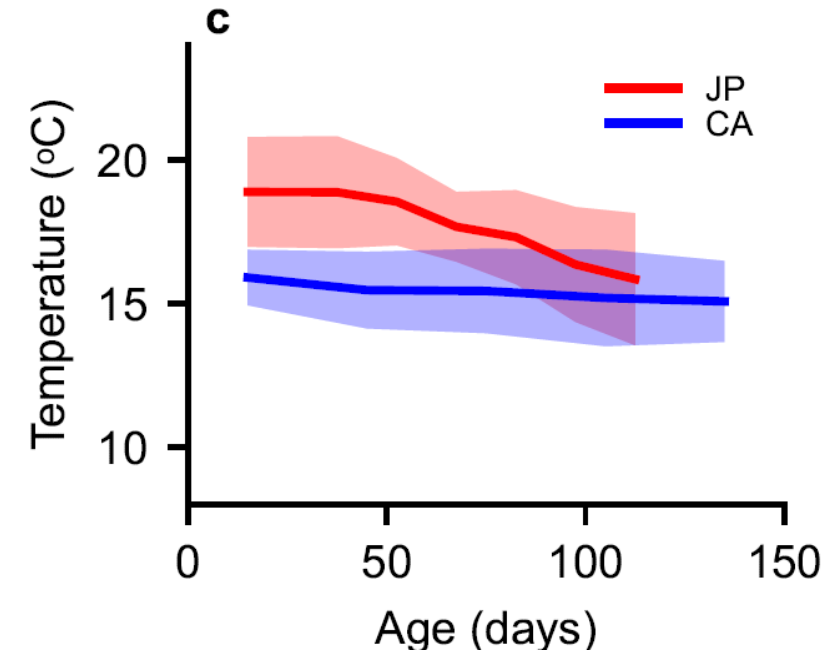
## Otolith growth



## Metabolic proxy

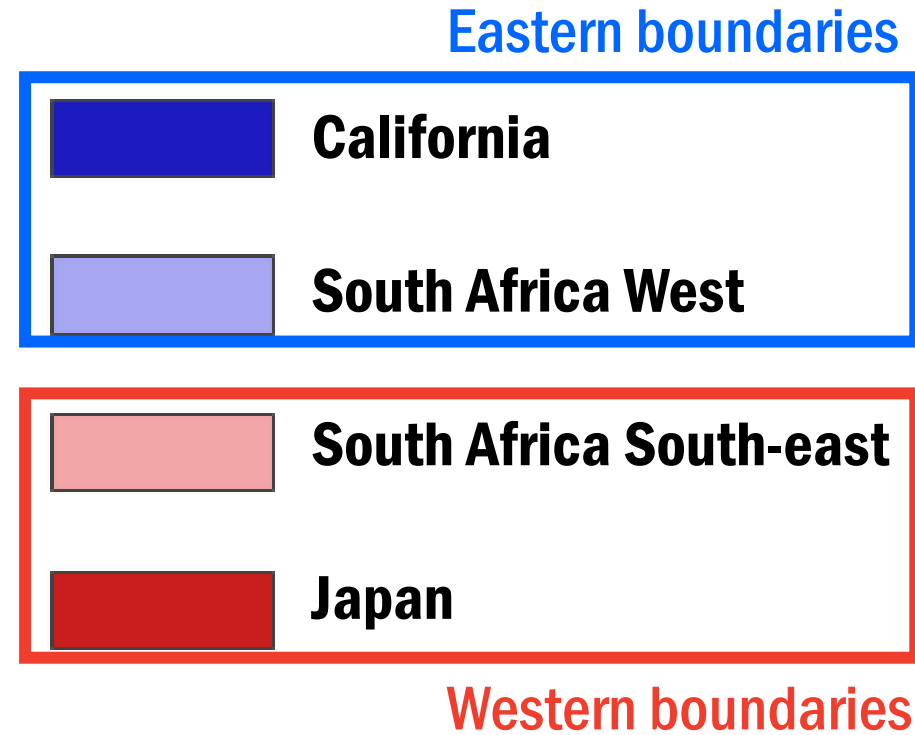
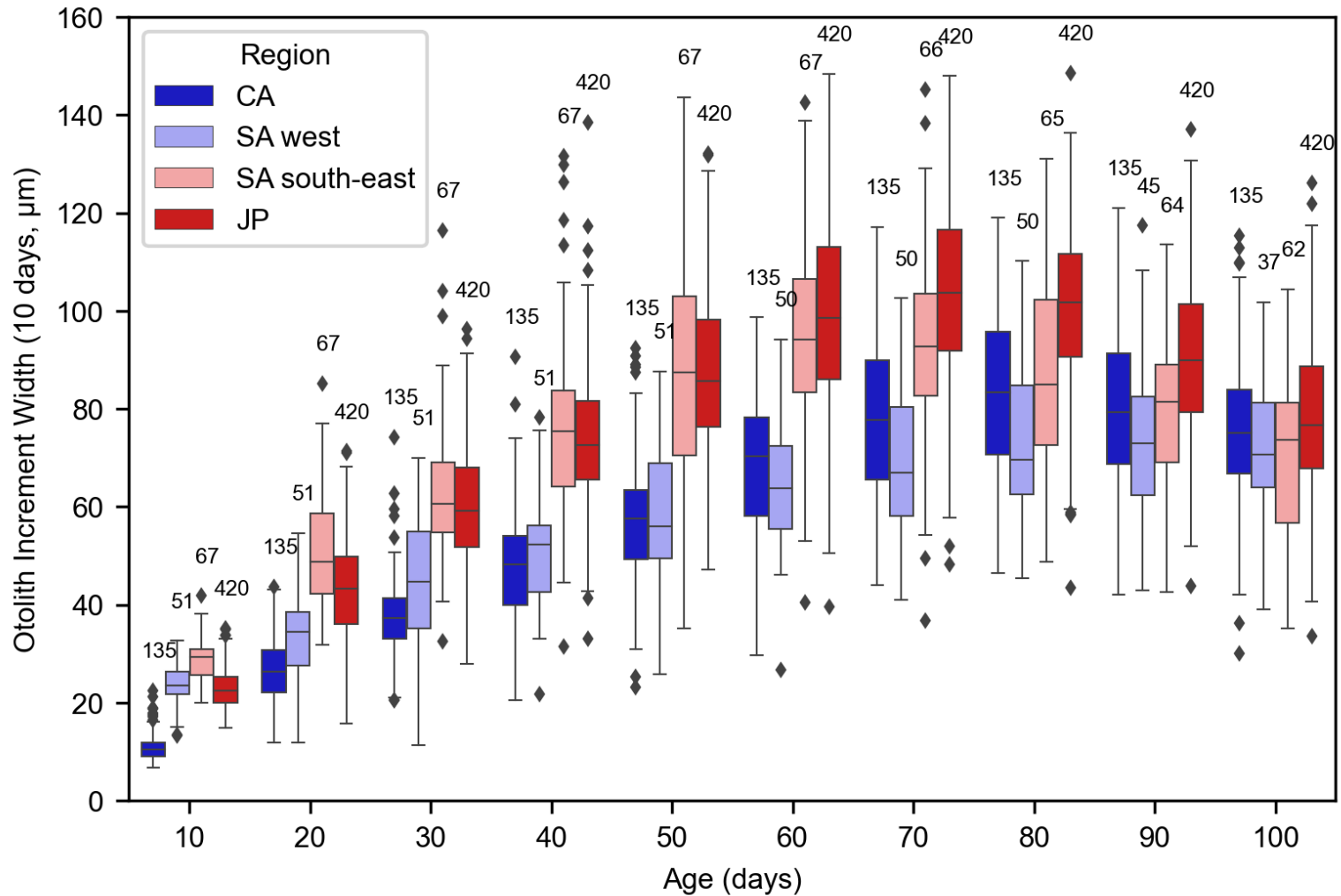


## Experienced Temperature



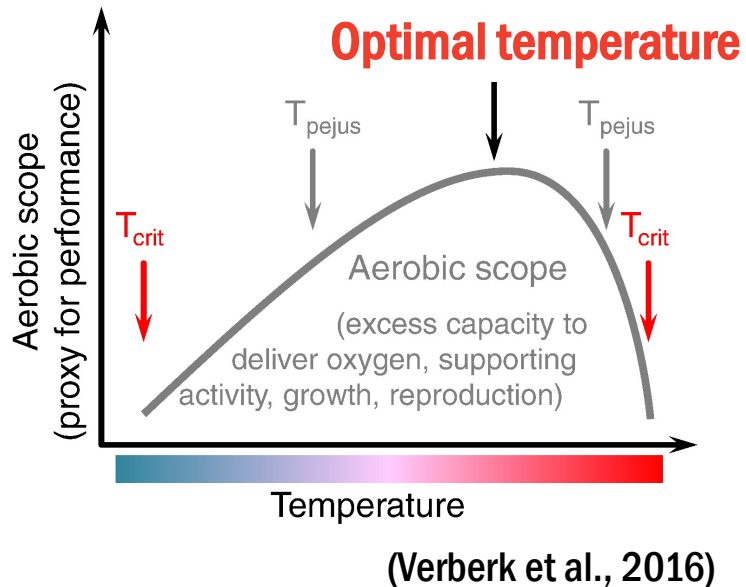
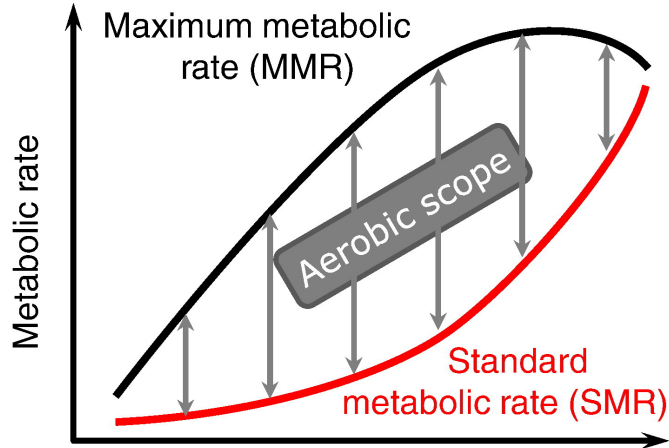
- Early life growth, metabolic rate ( $M_{oto}$ ) and temperature: **JP** > **CA**
- **JP** mean temperature declining from ~19 to ~16 °C: northward migration
- **CA** mean temperature staying around 15-16 °C: residency around upwelling fronts

# Similarity of otolith growth trajectories

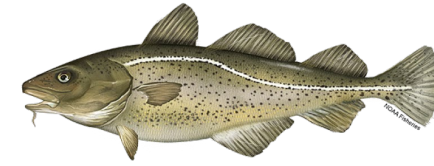
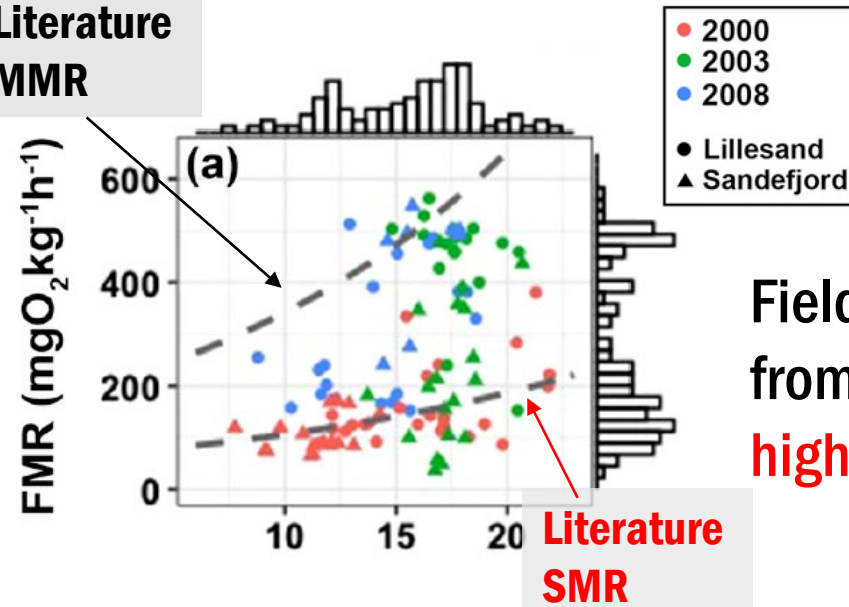


**Oceanographic structures strongly affect basic sardine nursery environments and growths**  
**W** populations have warmer nursery and higher metabolic and growth rates than **E** populations

# Field metabolic rate and optimal temperature

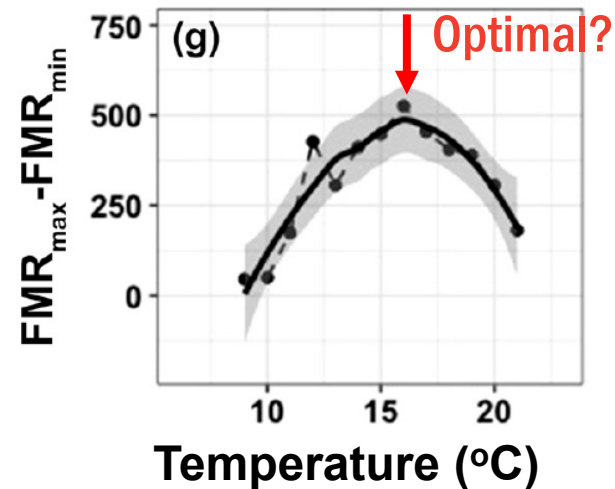


Literature MMR



In Norway

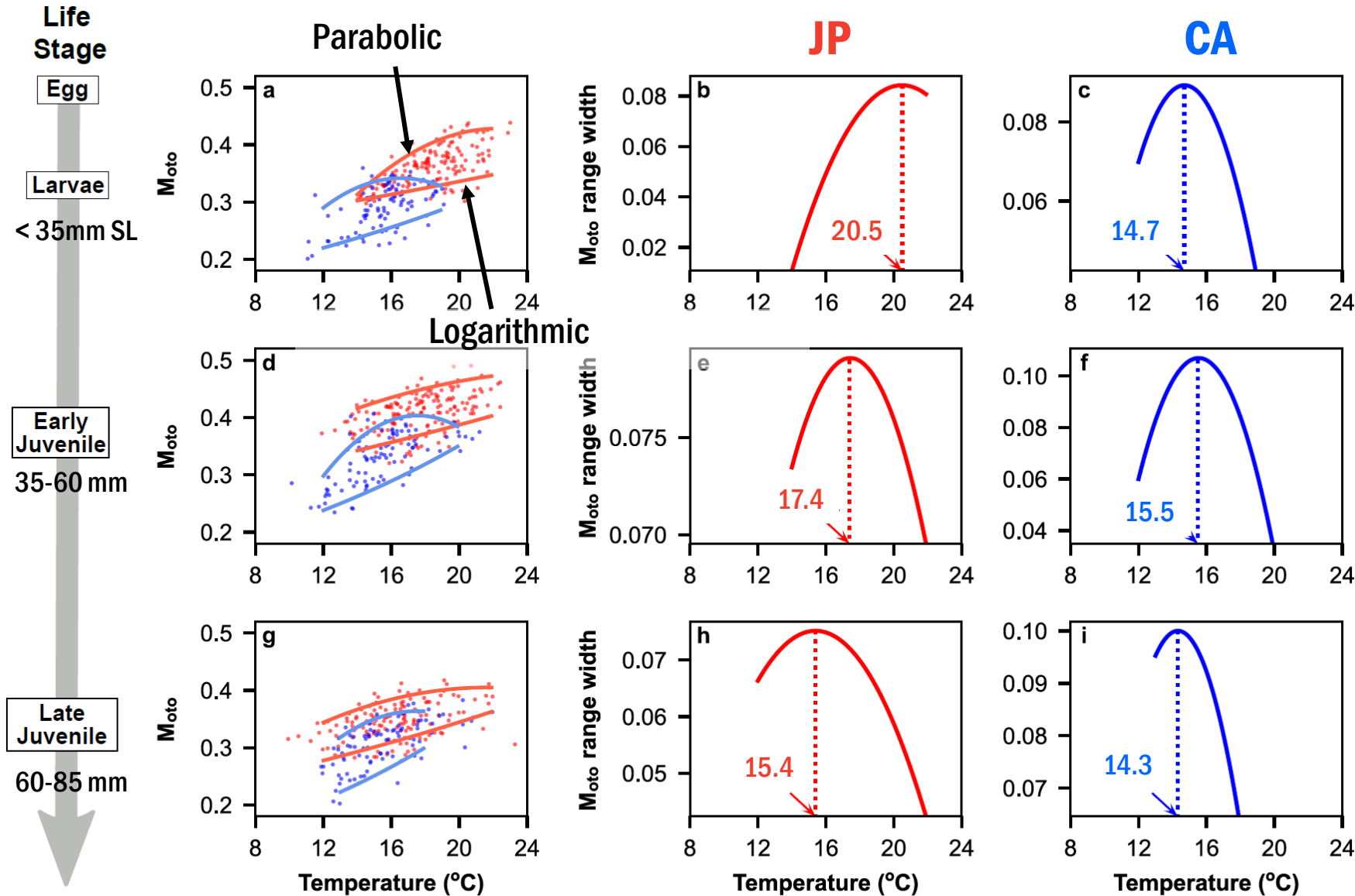
Field metabolic rates of cods in Norway from multiple years are highly variable between MMR and SMR



(Chung et al., 2020)

The gap between upper and lower limits of field metabolic rates provide an analogue of aerobic scope

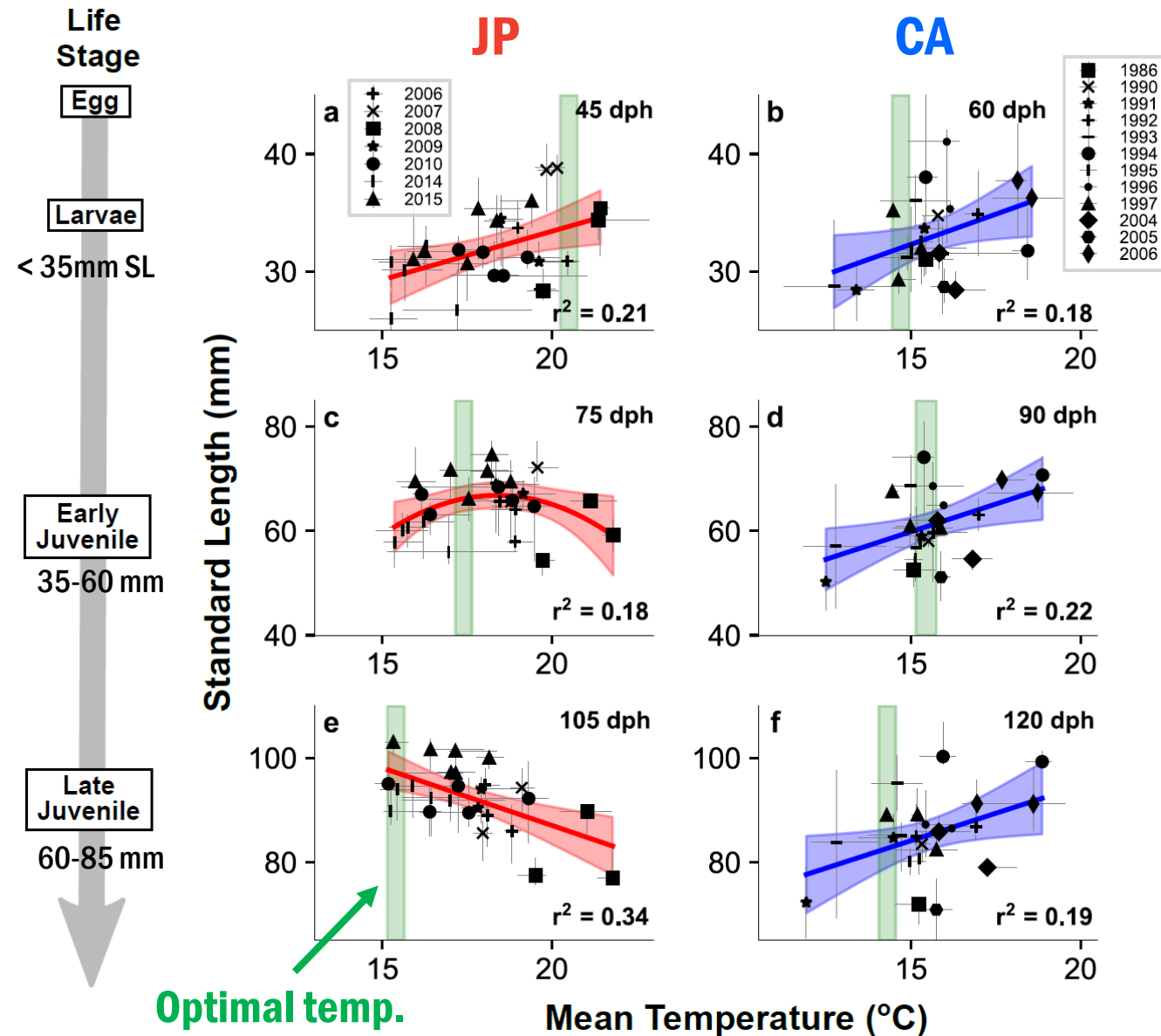
# M<sub>oto</sub> distributions and optimal temperatures



- $M_{oto}$  higher in warmer temp.  
Lower in **CA**
- Parabolic fit for 5<sup>th</sup> percentile  
Logarithmic fit for 95<sup>th</sup> percentile  
to assess the  $M_{oto}$  range width
- Optimal temperature ( $M_{oto}$  range width maximum) at  
**JP**: 20.5 → 17.4 → 15.4°C  
**CA**: 14.7 → 15.5 → 14.3°C

**Different thermal preferences and metabolic responses**

# Size-temperature relationships



Size at each age and mean temp. until the age

- Larvae: **JP** positive, **CA** positive
- Early juvenile: **JP** dome-shape, **CA** positive
- Late juvenile: **JP** negative, **CA** positive



Previous studies suggested...

- larvae abundance did not determine recruitment
- juvenile growth was related to recruitment

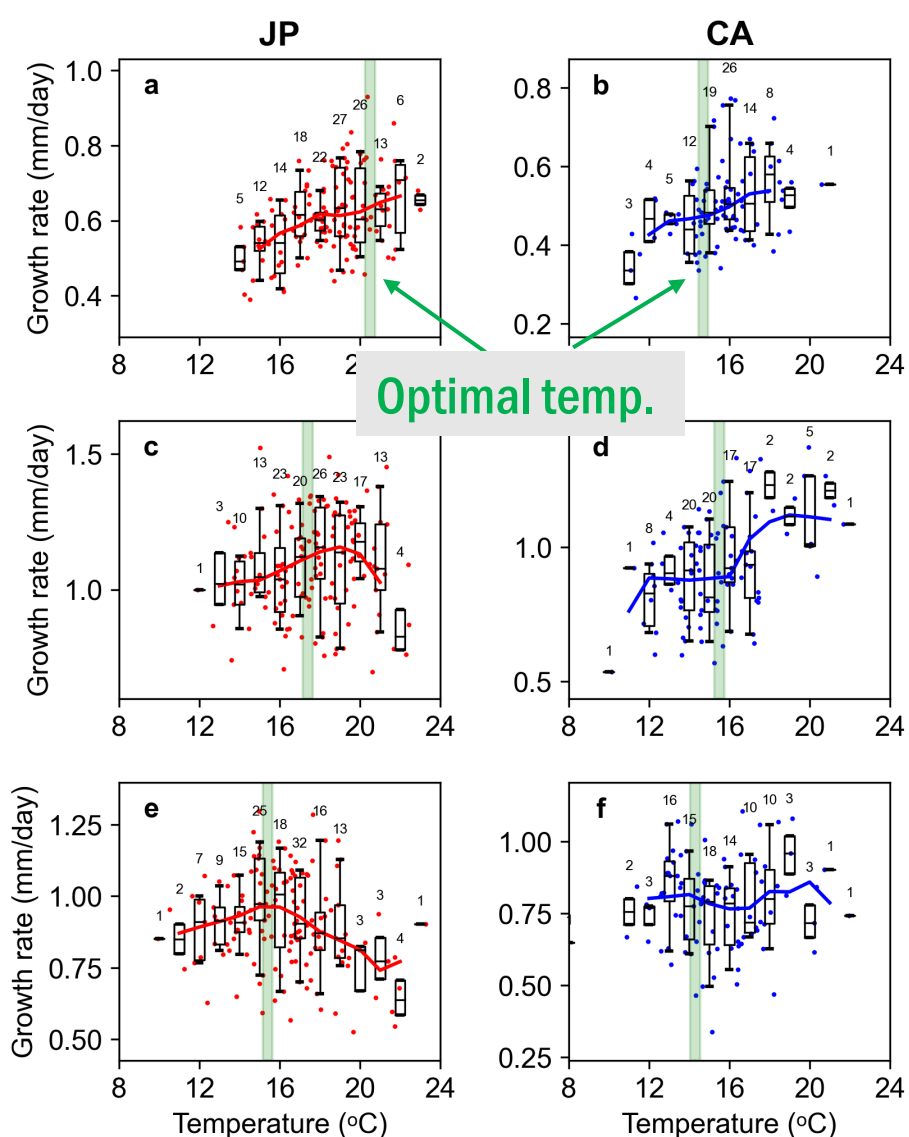
(Butler 1987; Watanabe et al., 1995; Takahashi et al., 2008; Furuichi et al., 2020)



The responses of growth throughout larvae and juvenile may explain the opposite population responses (**JP** ↑ in **cooler** and **CA** ↑ in **warmer** regimes)

# Why opposite?

## Growth rate and temp. in each stage



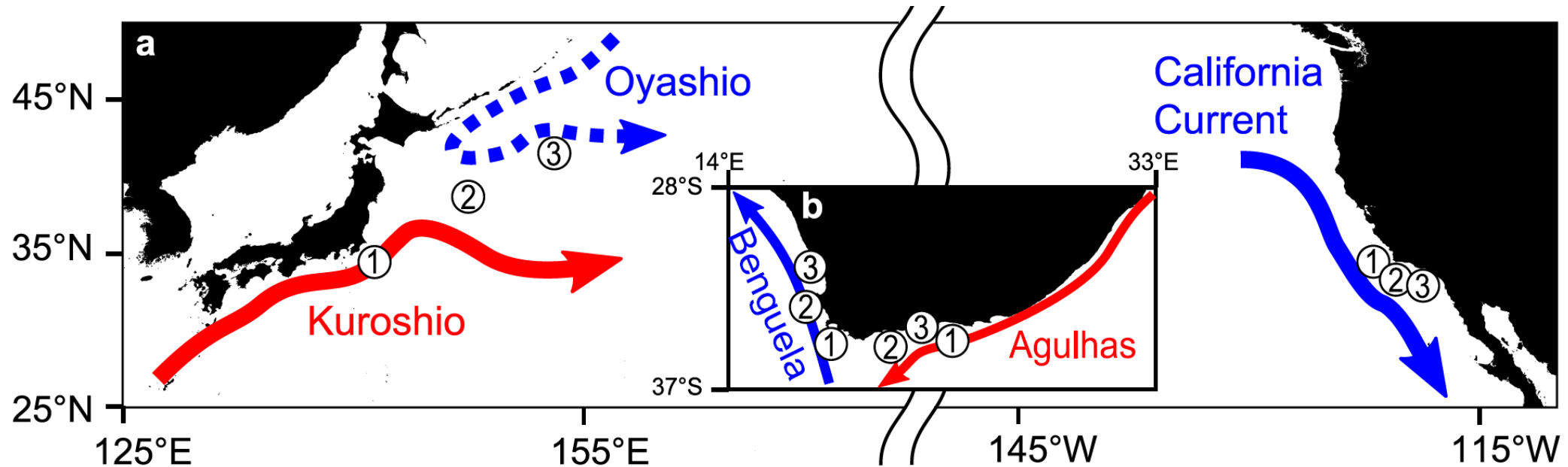
- **JP**: Growth maximized around optimal temperature in each stage
  - ▶ Physiological control under rich energy resources?
- **CA**: Growth maximized in temperatures higher than optimal temperature
  - ▶ Potential ecological disadvantages in cooler waters (e.g., prey size (van der Lingen et al., 2006), low oxygen (Bertrand et al., 2011)?)

Temperature sets the capacity of energy expenditure, actual use may depend on ecological processes

**Important is the interaction**



# Conclusion



In **E** and **W**, nursery environment, early life metabolic rate and growth rate are different, and so were the responses the rates to temperature variation, which can explain the population responses

**Developing new techniques to divide difficulties into pieces is important to solve fish population puzzles**

# Acknowledgements

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**Noriko Izumoto** for contributions to the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  analysis of otolith powders

**Yasuhiro Kamimura, Chikako Watanabe, Barbara Javor, and Dianna Porzio**  
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**Jennifer Rodgers-Wolgast, Ralf Goericke, and David Wolgast**

for providing seawater samples in the California Current system.