

# PICES 2012

## Environmental windows for small pelagic fish in the western North Pacific: How do their vital parameters respond to climate variability and change?

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PICES 2012 Annual Meeting

Hiroshima, Japan, October 12–21, 2012

Invited talk, Session 3 (S3-8802), October 18 (Thursday)

# Role of this talk

## S3 POC Topic Session Challenges in understanding Northern Hemisphere ocean climate variability and change

Co-Sponsored by CLIVAR and ICES

*Co-Convenors: Jürgen Alheit (ICES/Germany), Emanuele Di Lorenzo (PICES/USA), Michael Foreman (PICES/Canada), Shoshiro Minobe (PICES/Japan), Hiroaki Saito (PICES/Japan) and Toshio Suga (CLIVAR/Japan)*

Physical climate variability and change exert substantial impacts on marine ecosystems, particularly on longer timescales because of the longer ocean memory compared with the atmosphere, and the cumulative effects on marine ecosystems. On a centennial scale, climate changes due to anthropogenic forcings may dominate over natural variability, but variations on decadal or shorter timescales may be mainly due to natural climate variability. Furthermore, natural climate variability can be modified via climate changes. Therefore, a correct understanding of the mechanisms underlying climate variability and change should be the basis for understanding and predicting future conditions of the North Pacific and North Atlantic. For the North Pacific there is no widely accepted consensus on the mechanisms governing decadal-to-multidecadal climate variability, and this mainly reflects the uncertainty of how, or even whether, the mid-latitude ocean influences the atmosphere. Some linkages between processes, such as oceanic memory due to Rossby wave propagation, are generally accepted, and predictability associated with these processes may also be important for understanding marine ecosystem impacts. It is also unclear if teleconnection dynamics between the North Pacific, North Atlantic and the Arctic exert an important control on the ocean's decadal climate state. This session brings together researchers of marine ecosystems, physical oceanography and climate to share ideas about what physical parameters and processes are important in understanding and predicting the response of specific marine ecosystems to climate forcing. Through collaboration among PICES, CLIVAR and ICES, this session invites contributions exploring important developments in the research field of the North Pacific climate variability and change, including physical environmental variations and their predictability, teleconnection dynamics between oceanic basins, such as the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, and linkages between physical conditions and marine ecosystems.

“This session brings together researchers of marine ecosystems, physical oceanography and climate to share ideas about what physical parameters and processes are important in understanding and predicting the response of specific marine ecosystems to climate forcing.”

# Role of this talk

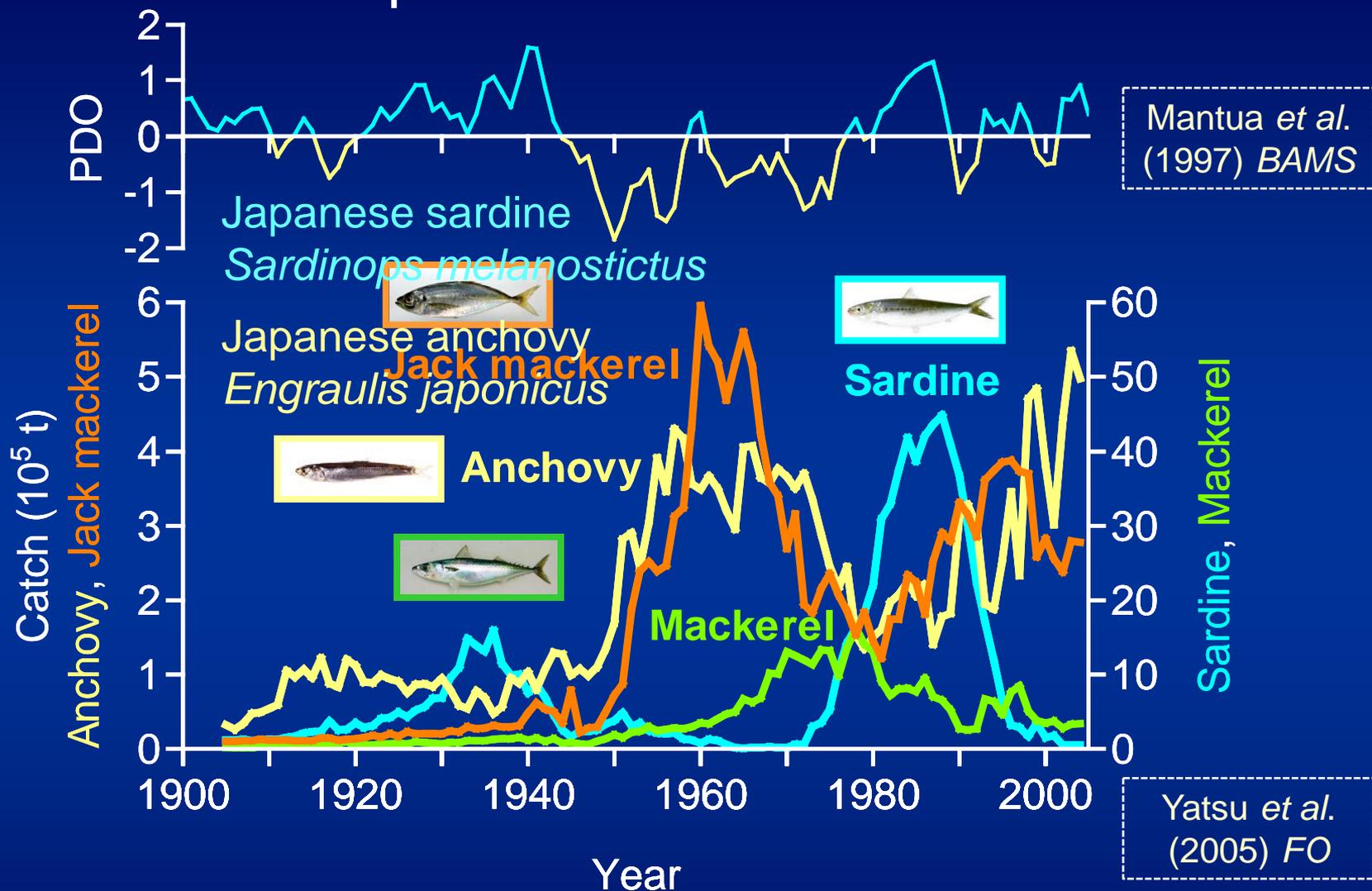
## Environmental windows for small pelagic fish in the western North Pacific: How do their vital parameters respond to climate variability and change?

### Objective is to show ...

1. How dramatically environmental variability could regulate survival probability of small pelagic fish
  - Introducing the “growth–survival” paradigm
2. How differently the similar environmental condition could affect the population dynamics of different species.
  - Reviewing several hypotheses
  - Comparing responses of vital parameters to environmental factors among multi-species

Small pelagic fish in the  
Kuroshio Current system

# Species alternations

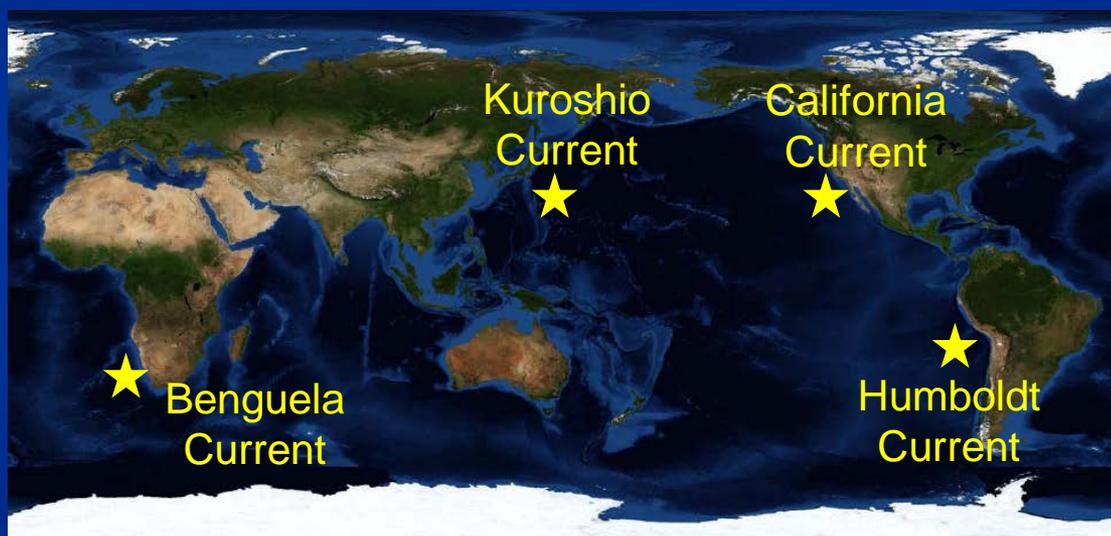


Long-term landing histories of small pelagic fish in waters around Japan in response to Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO).

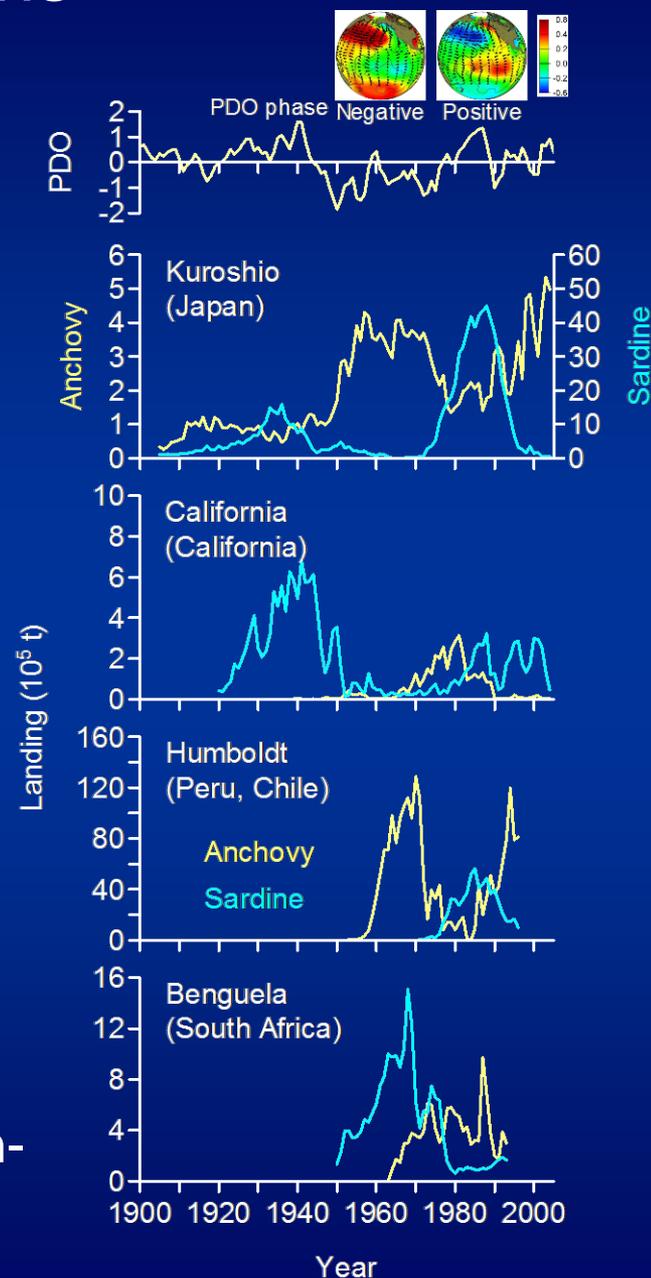
# Species alternations

## Four different current systems

Anchovy *Engraulis* spp.  
Sardine *Sardinops* spp.



- The patterns of species alternations tended to be synchronous among the Pan-Pacific regions and asynchronous between the Pan-Pacific regions and the Benguela region.



# Key questions

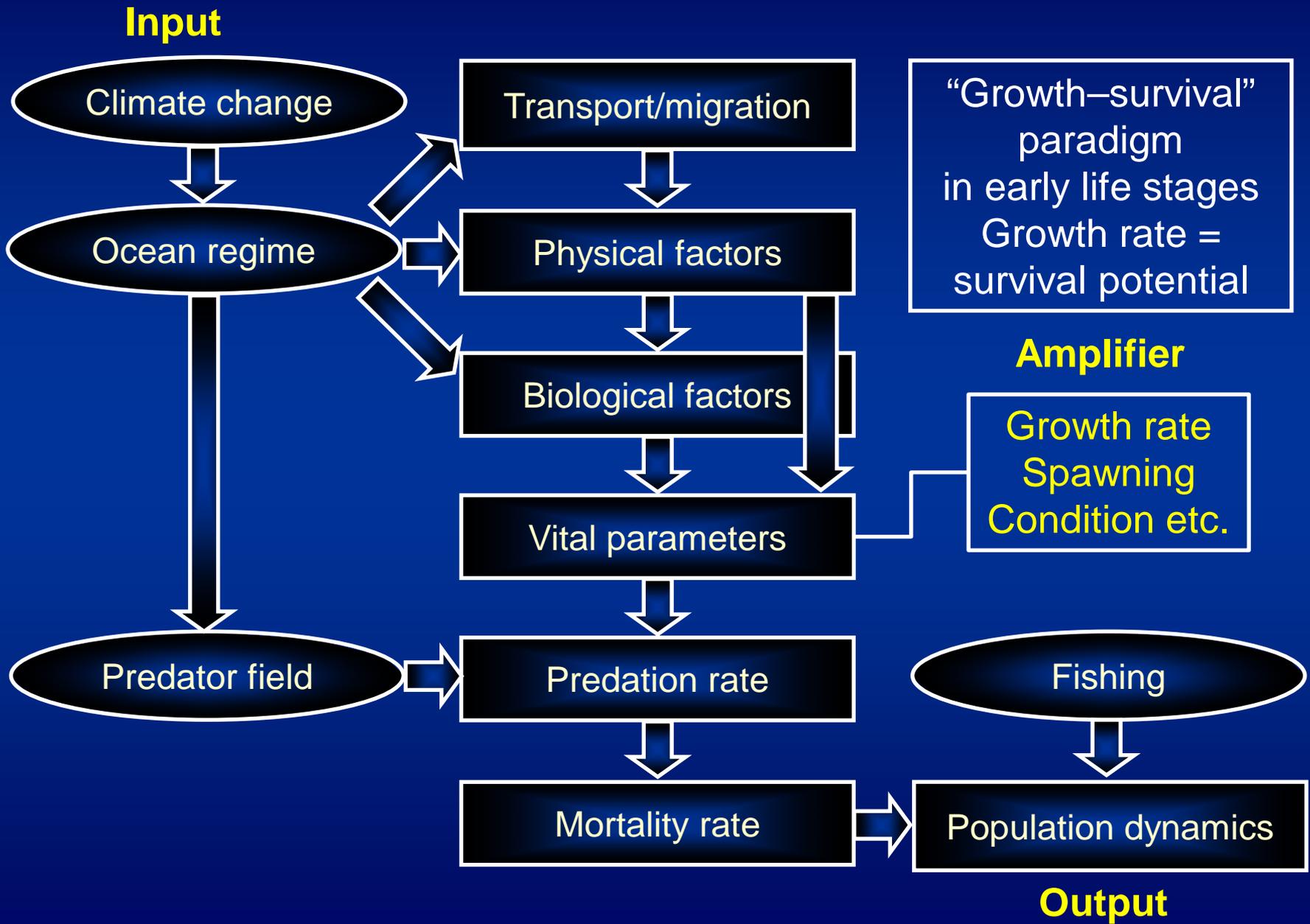
Why do even subtle environmental changes sometimes trigger dramatic alternations?

Why do anchovy flourish and sardine collapse or *vice versa* under the same ocean regime?

Concept:

Differential responses of vital parameters to environmental factors constitute a key to understand biological processes linking climate variability to species alternations

# Cascade



# Role of this talk

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# Paradigm/mechanisms

## “Growth–survival” paradigm in early life stages

Larger and/or faster growing individuals are more likely to survive than smaller and/or slower growing conspecifics.

### Functional mechanisms      Why do they survive better?

#### I. “Bigger is better” (Miller *et al.* 1988)

Growth rate determines somatic size influencing survival advantages.

#### II. “Stage duration” (Chambers & Leggett 1987, Houde 1987)

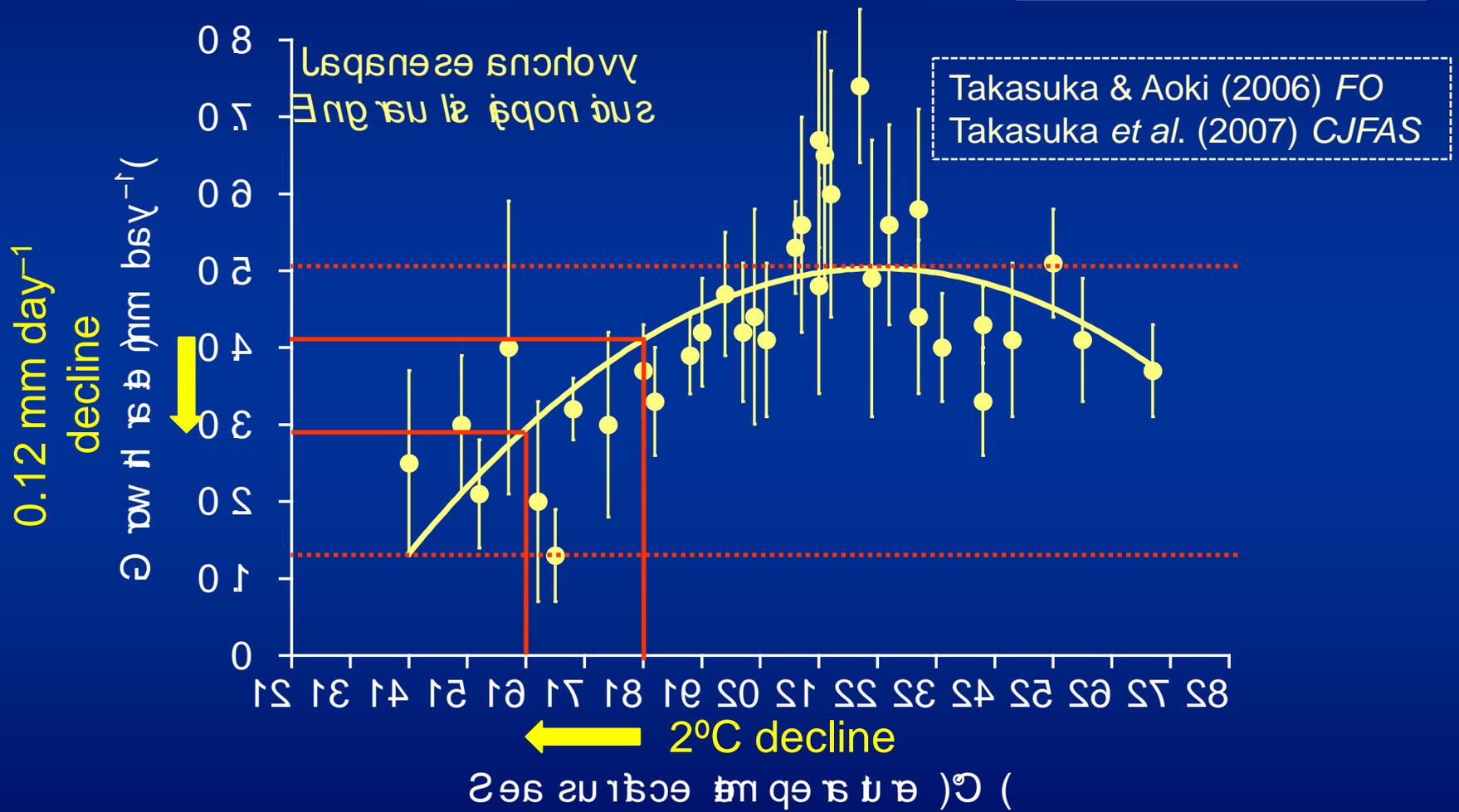
Growth rate determines high mortality larval stage duration.

#### III. “Growth-selective predation” (Takasuka *et al.* 2003, 2004, 2007)

Growth rate *per se* exerts direct impacts on predation mortality.

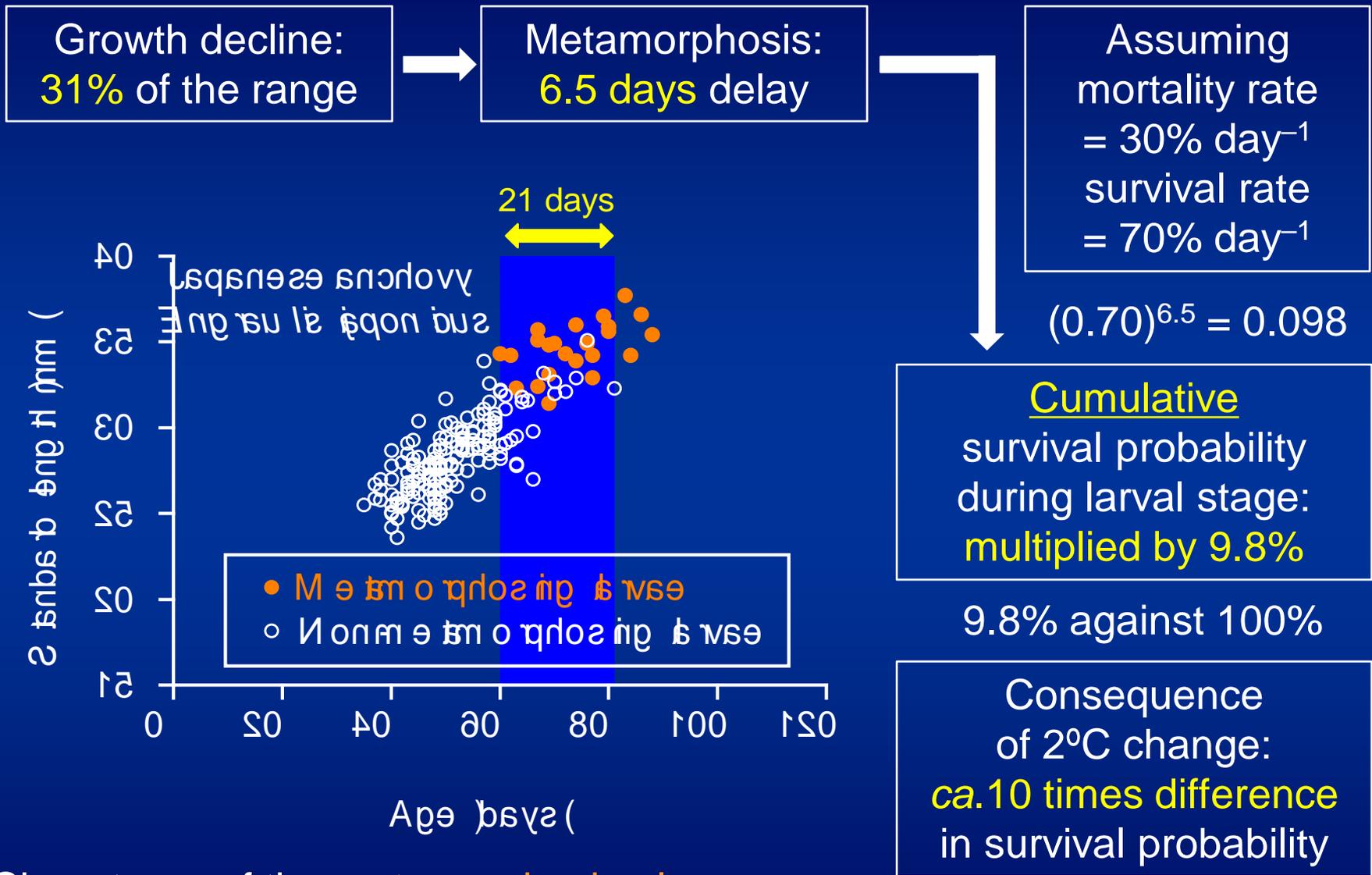
What’s the consequence of environmental variability?

# Consequence of 2°C change



Relationship of growth rate to temperature for Japanese anchovy larvae.

# Stage duration mechanism



Size-at-age of the metamorphosing larvae vs non-metamorphosing larvae of Japanese anchovy.

Takasuka et al. (2004) MEPS

# Growth-selective predation

## Field sampling

Takasuka et al. (2003, 2004a,b, 2007) MEPS

- Japanese anchovy larvae and their potentially predatory fish were captured simultaneously by the same tows of a trawler in a coastal fishing ground.



## Growth comparison

Ingested larvae



The larvae actually ingested by the predators



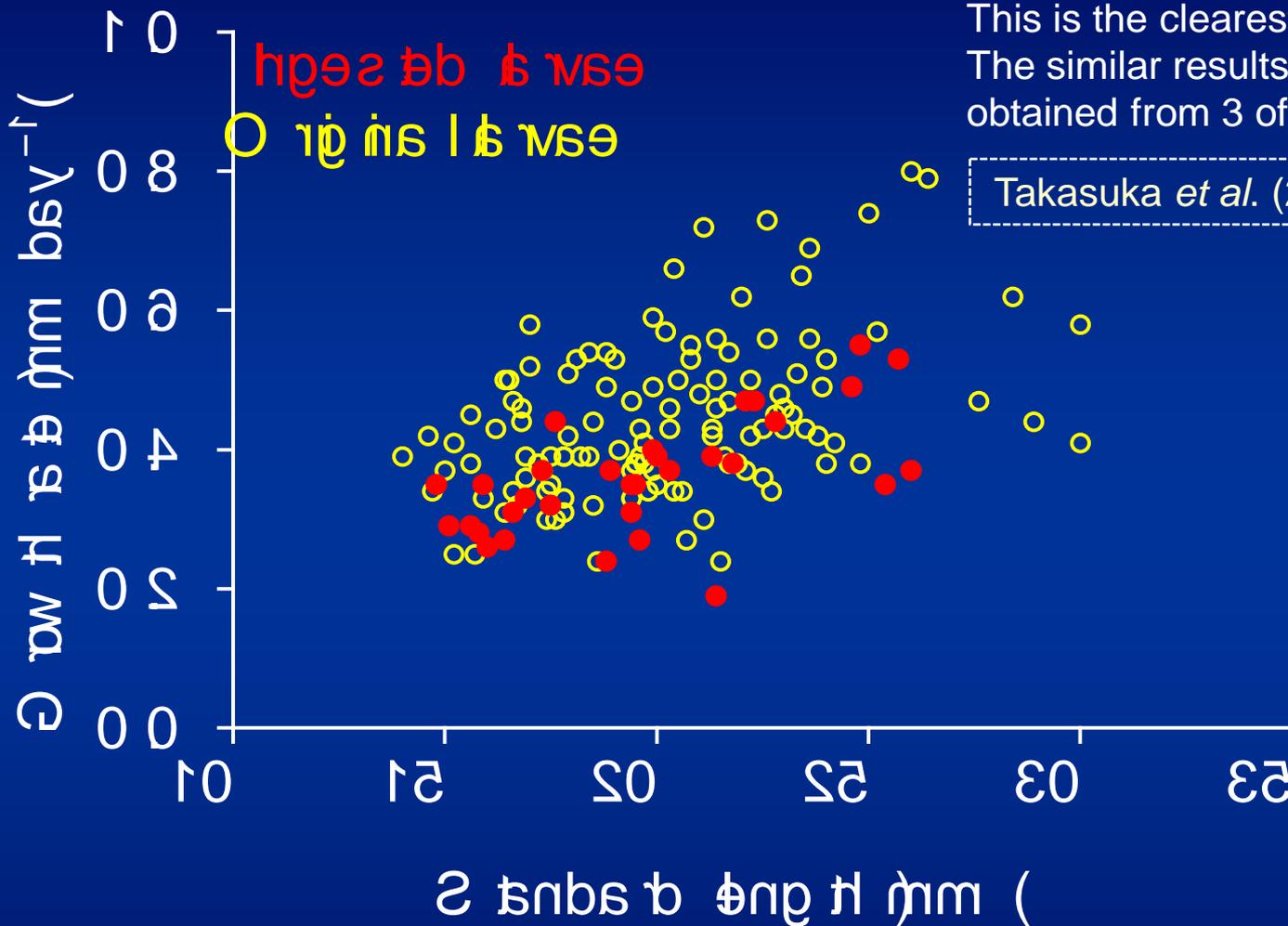
Otolith microstructure analysis

Original larvae



The surviving larvae from the original populations

# Growth-selective predation



This is the clearest example. The similar results were obtained from 3 of 5 samples.

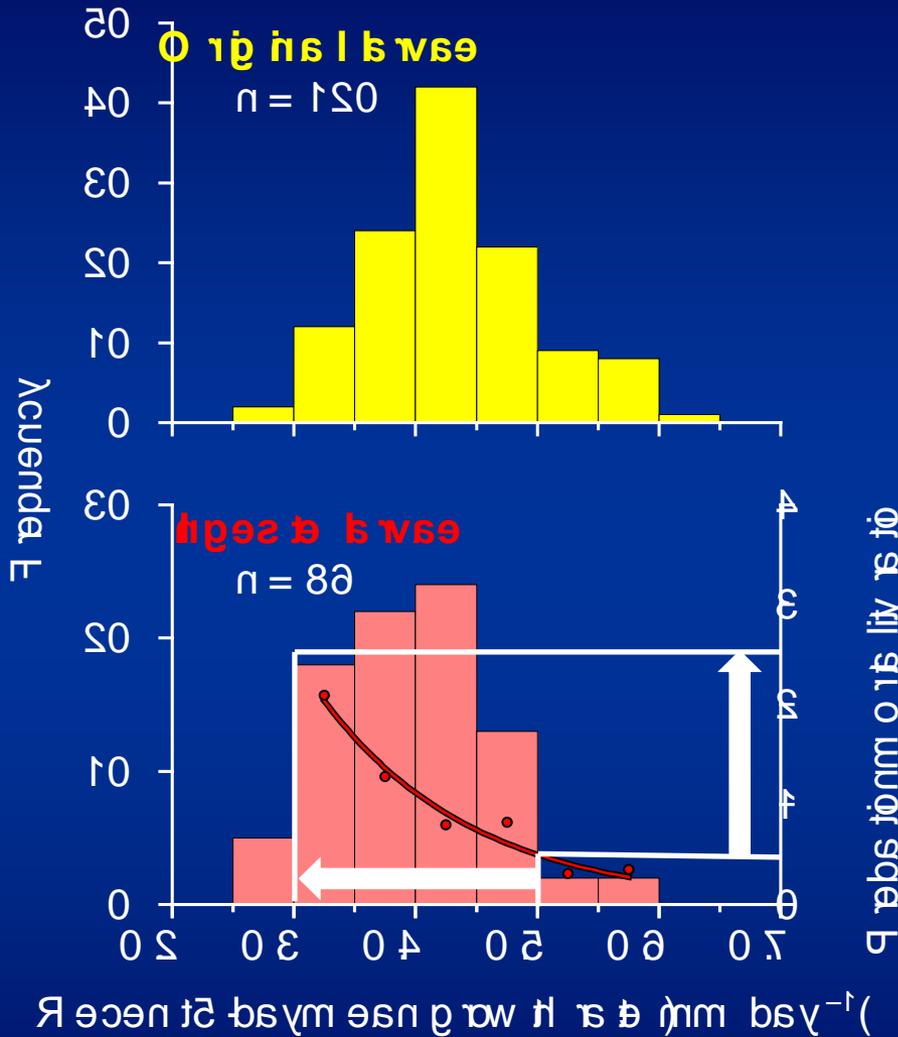
Takasuka et al. (2003) MEPS

Example of comparison of growth rate on standard length between **ingested larvae** and **original larvae**.

# Relative predation mortality

Takasuka et al.  
(2007) MEPS

Predators:  
Pacific round herring  
Japanese jack mackerel



Growth decline:  
 $0.20 \text{ mm day}^{-1}$   
( $0.50$  to  $0.30 \text{ mm day}^{-1}$ )



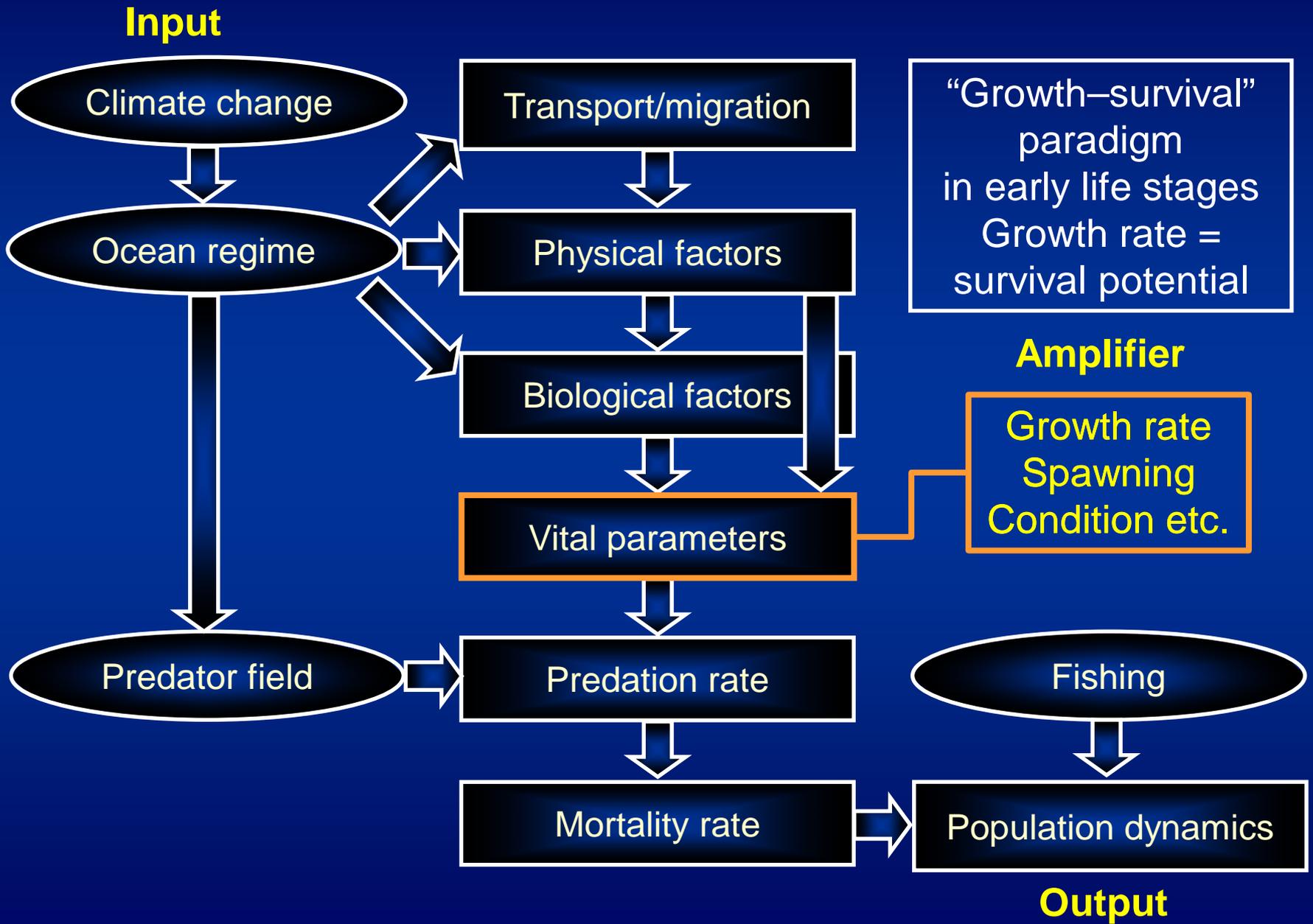
Predation mortality ratio increased from  $0.5$  to  $2.5$



Instantaneous predation mortality multiplied by ca.  $5$  times

Frequency distributions of growth rate compared between **ingested larvae** and **original larvae** with an index of relative predation mortality.

# Cascade



# Role of this talk

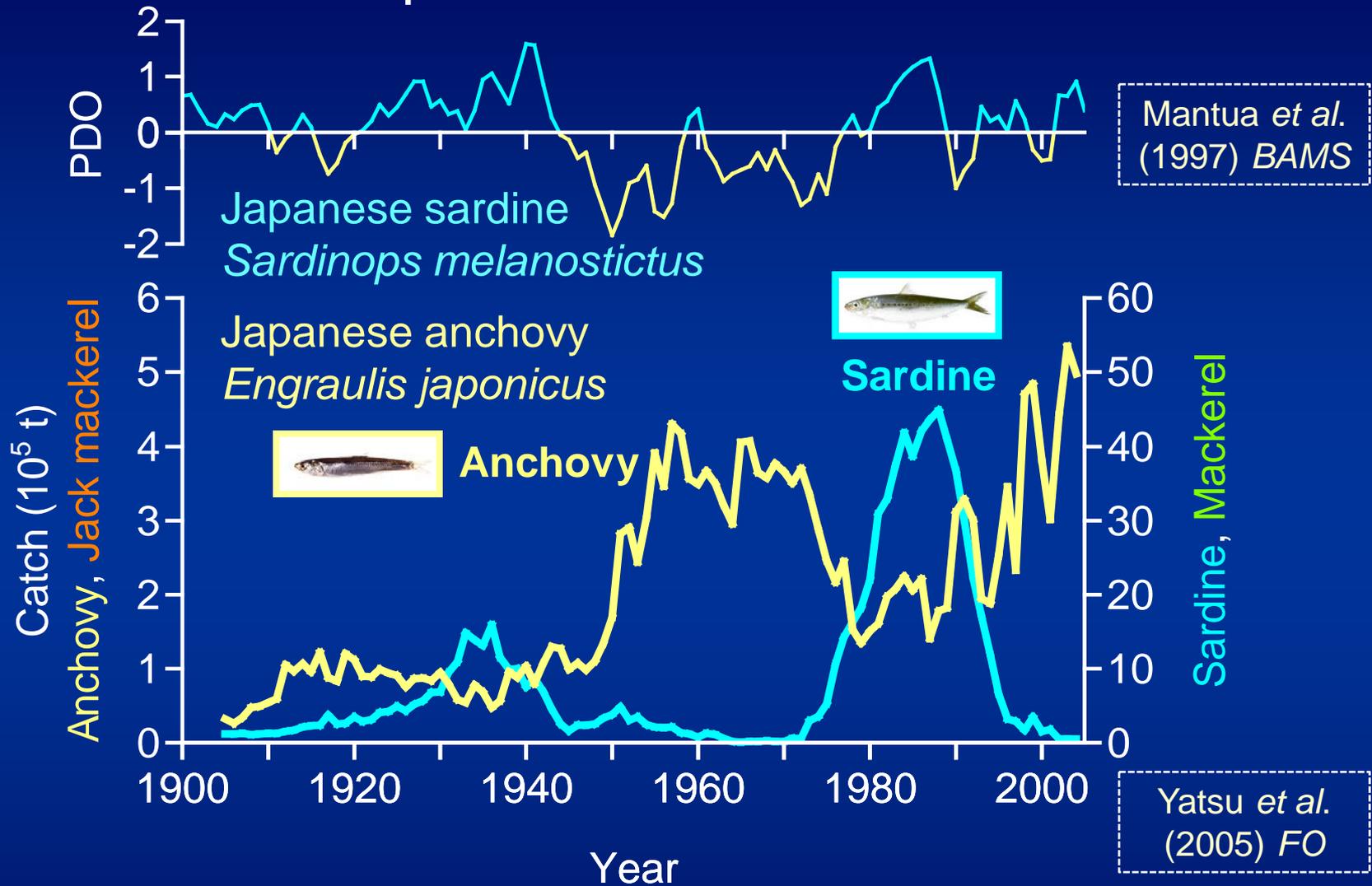
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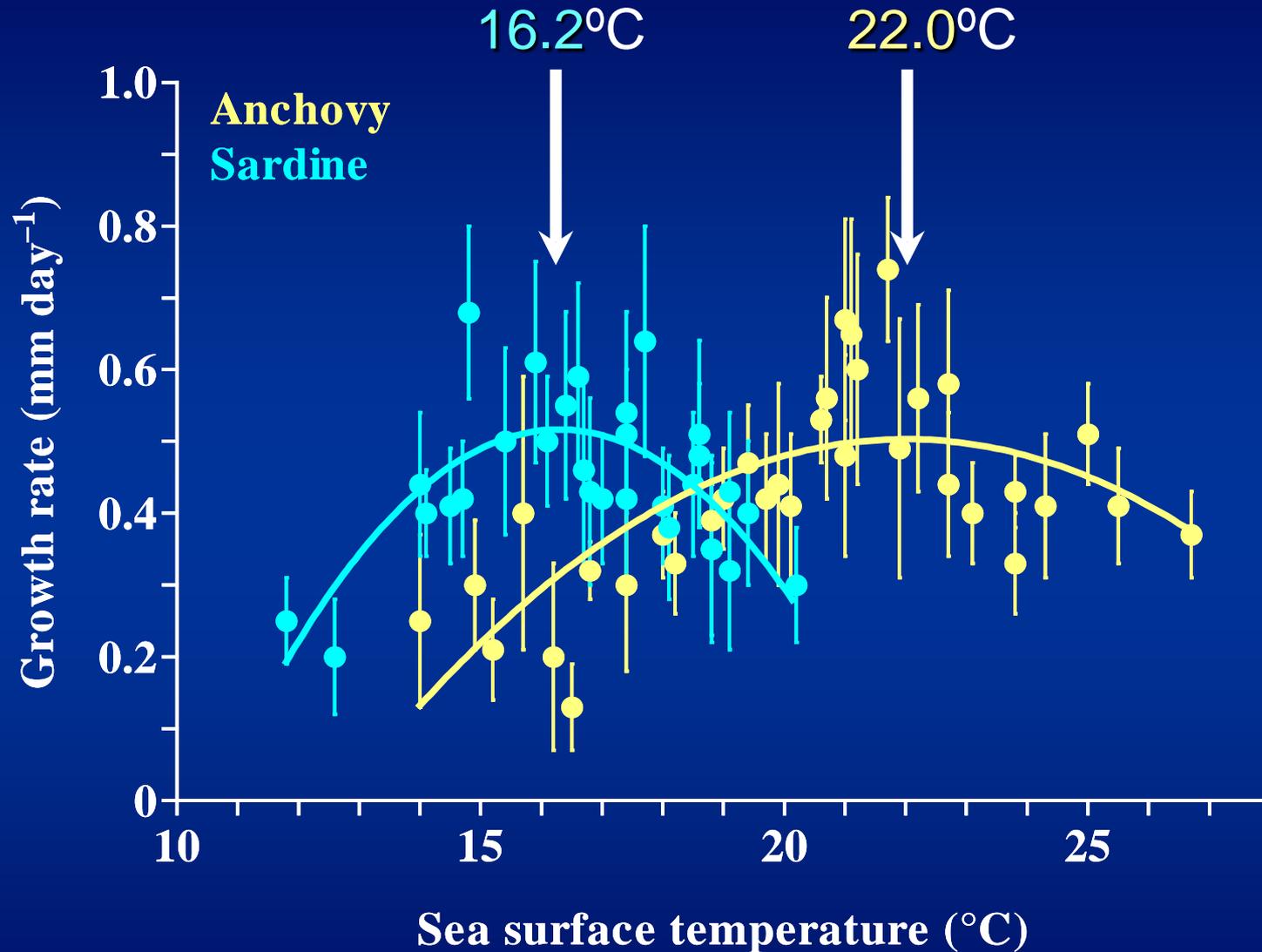
Small pelagic fish in the  
Kuroshio Current system

# Species alternation



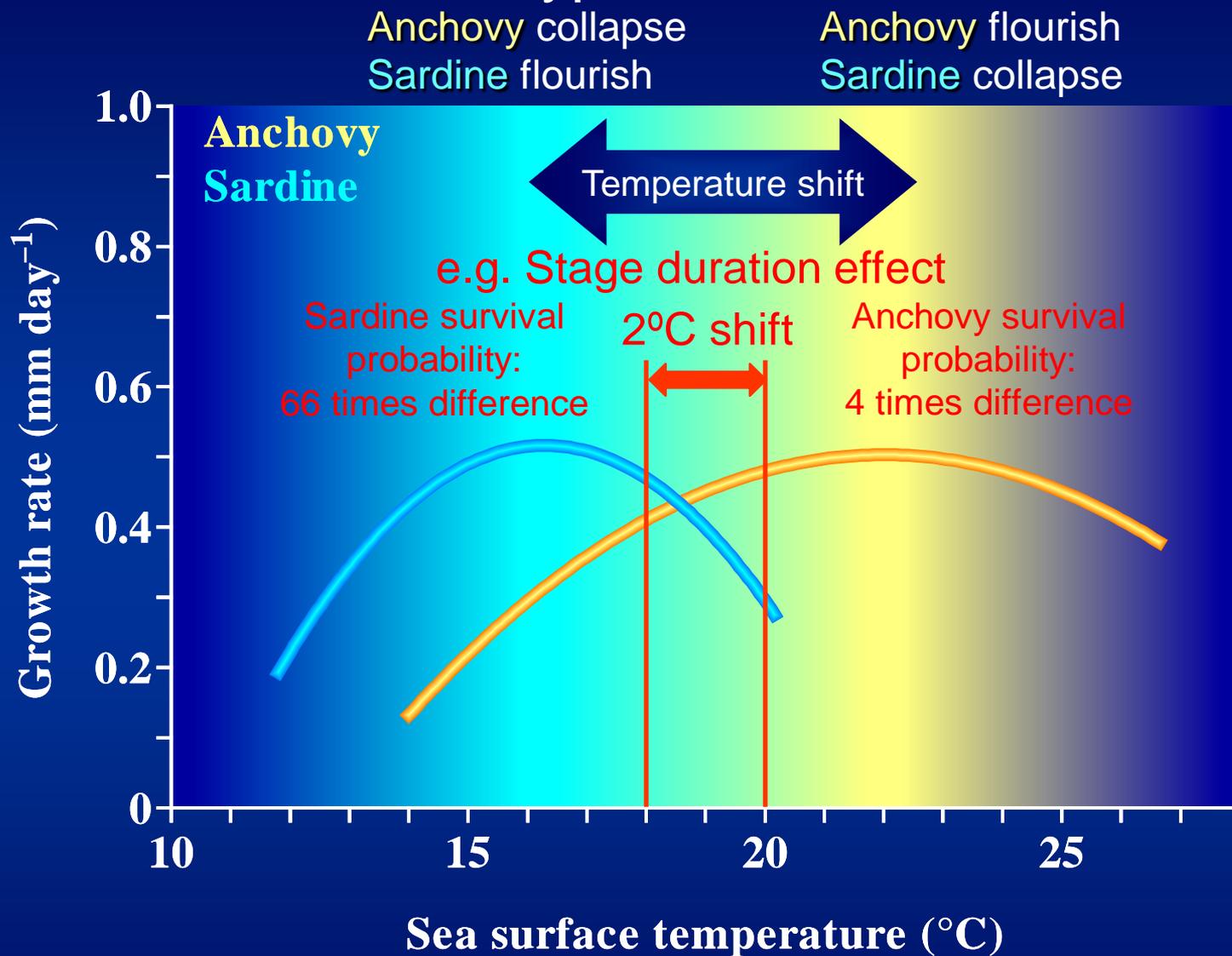
Long-term landing histories of small pelagic fish in waters around Japan in response to Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO).

## Optimal growth temperatures



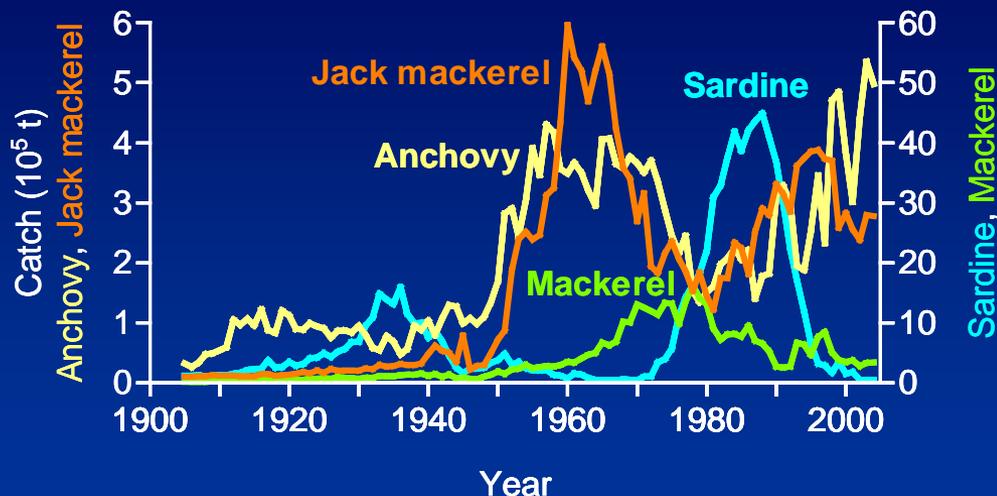
Relationship between recent 3-day mean growth rates and sea surface temperature for anchovy and sardine larvae (Takasuka *et al.* 2007 *CJFAS*).

# Hypothesis



Conceptual framework of the “optimal growth temperature” hypothesis (Takasuka *et al.* 2007 *CJFAS*).

# Spawning temperatures



Anchovy



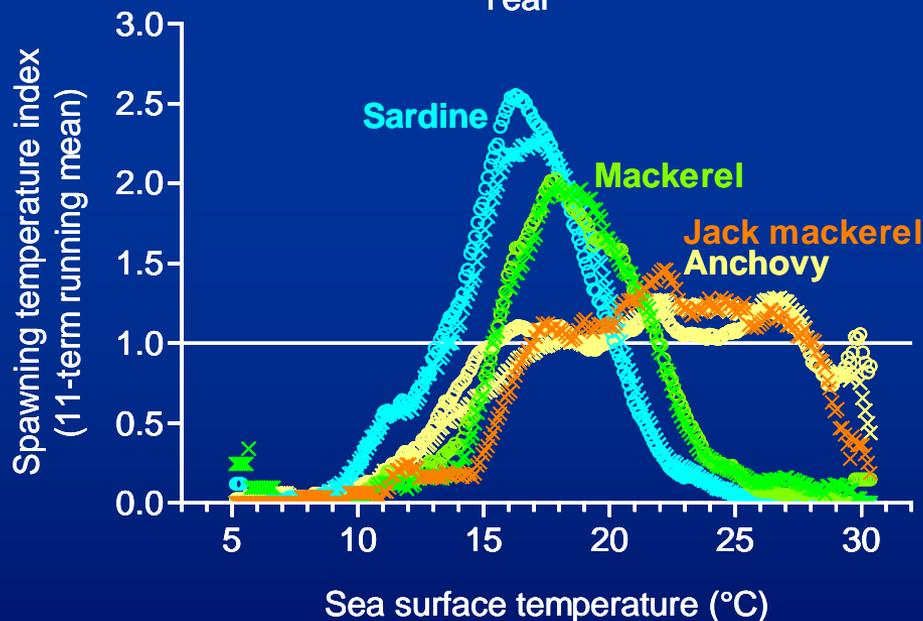
Sardine



Mackerel



Jack mackerel



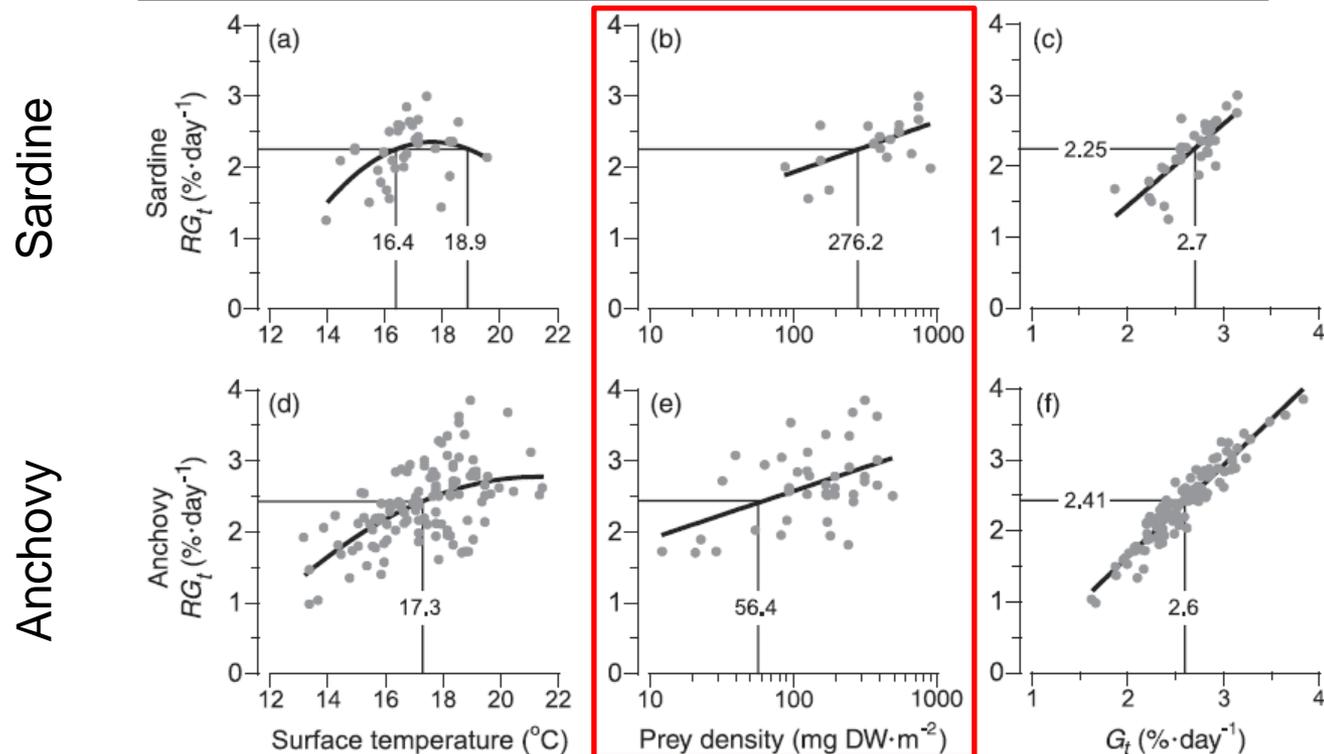
Similarities and differences in spawning temperature patterns represent those in the long-term population dynamics (Takasuka *et al.* 2008 *MEPS*).

# Temperature & Food

## Contrasting responses in larval and juvenile growth to a climate–ocean regime shift between anchovy and sardine

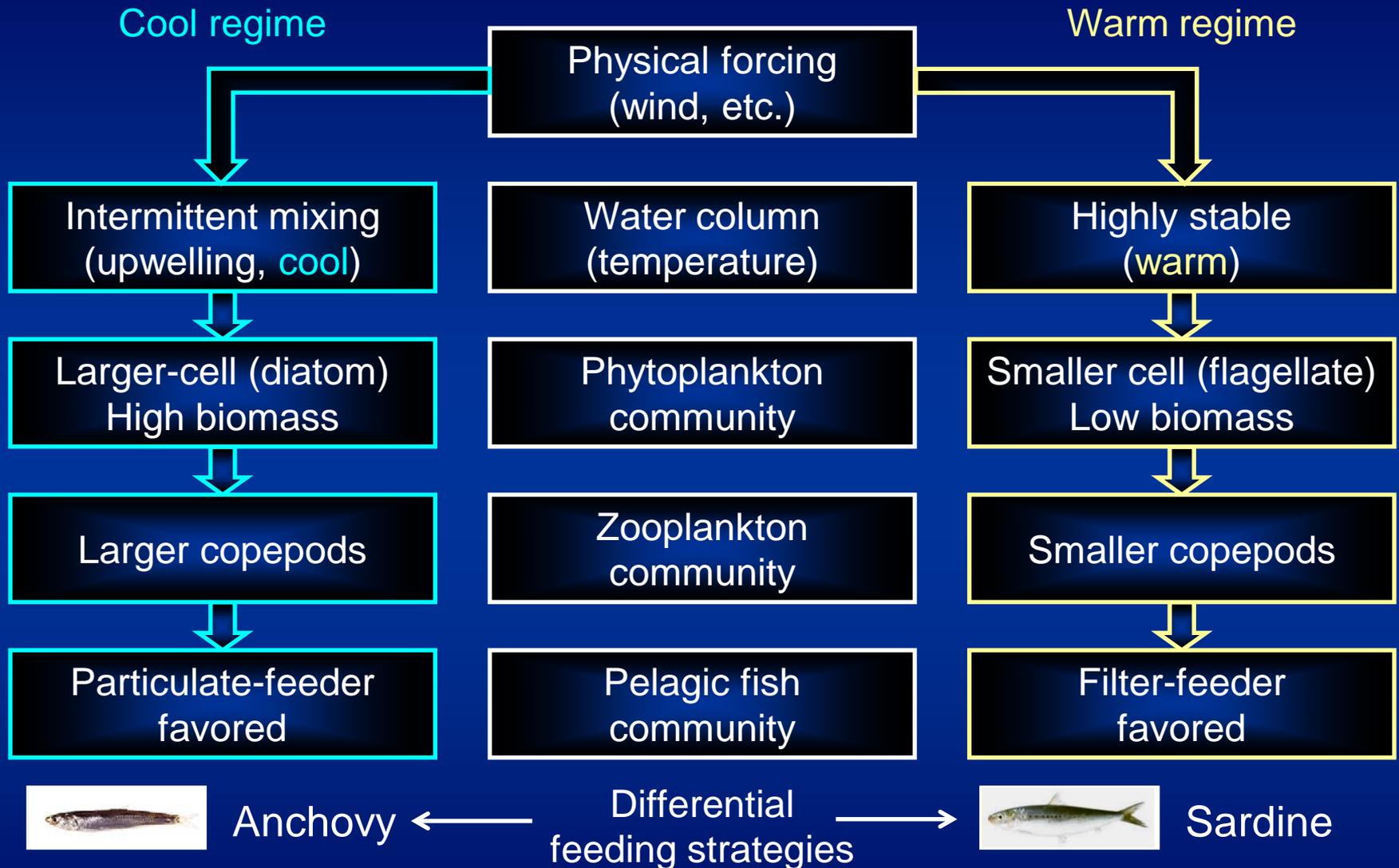
2009 in *CJFAS*

Motomitsu Takahashi, Yoshiro Watanabe, Akihiko Yatsu, and Hiroshi Nishida



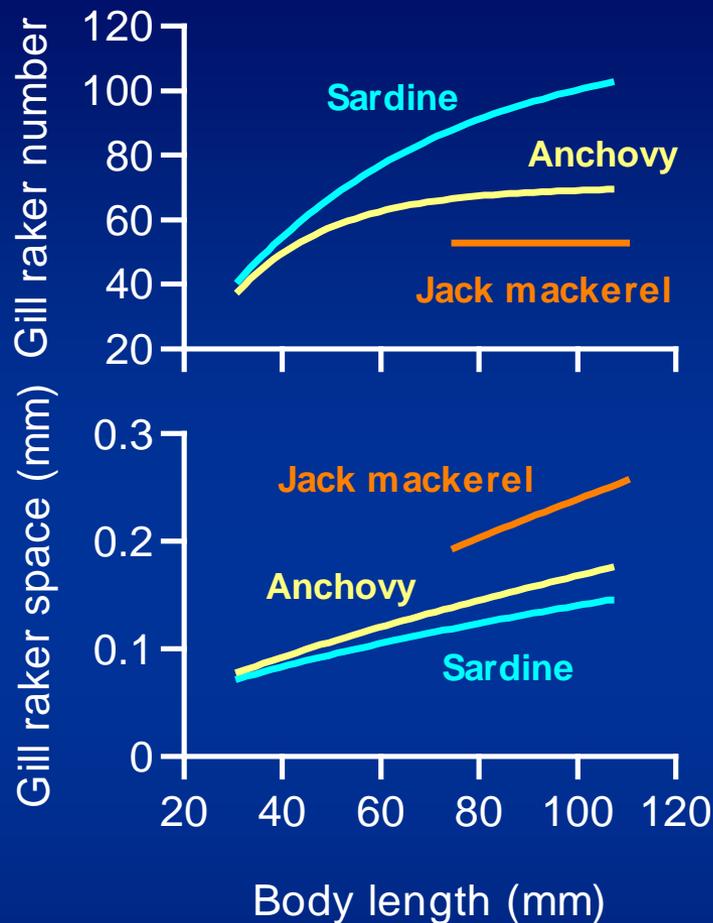
Relationships of growth rates to temperature and prey density for **anchovy** and **sardine** larvae and early juveniles in the Kuroshio–Oyashio transition region (Takahashi *et al.* 2009 *CJFAS*).

# Trophic dissimilarity



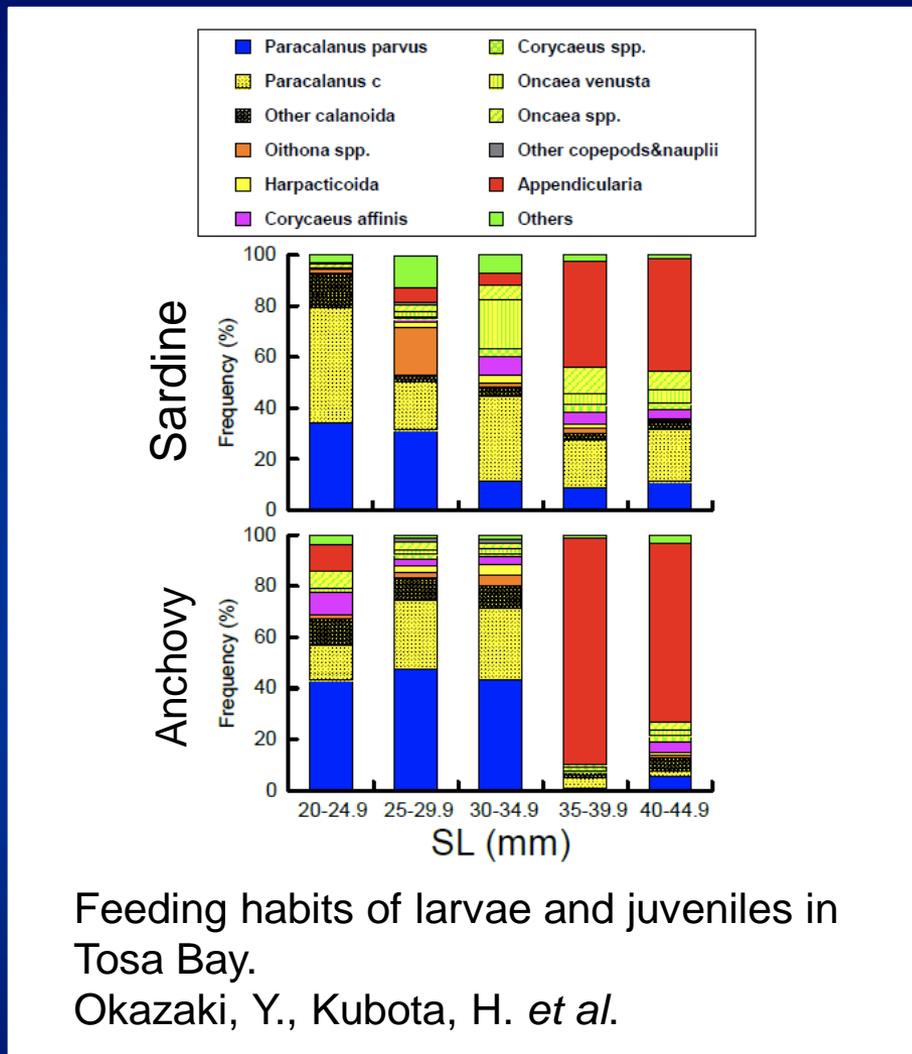
Conceptual framework of the “trophic dissimilarity” hypothesis from the Benguela Current system (van der Lingen *et al.* 2006 *AJMS*).

# Feeding habits



Tanaka *et al.* (2006) *JFB*  
 van der Lingen *et al.* (2009) *SPACC book*

Gill raker morphology also differed between anchovy and sardine in the Kuroshio Current system. However, there were not great differences in feeding habit during the early life stages.

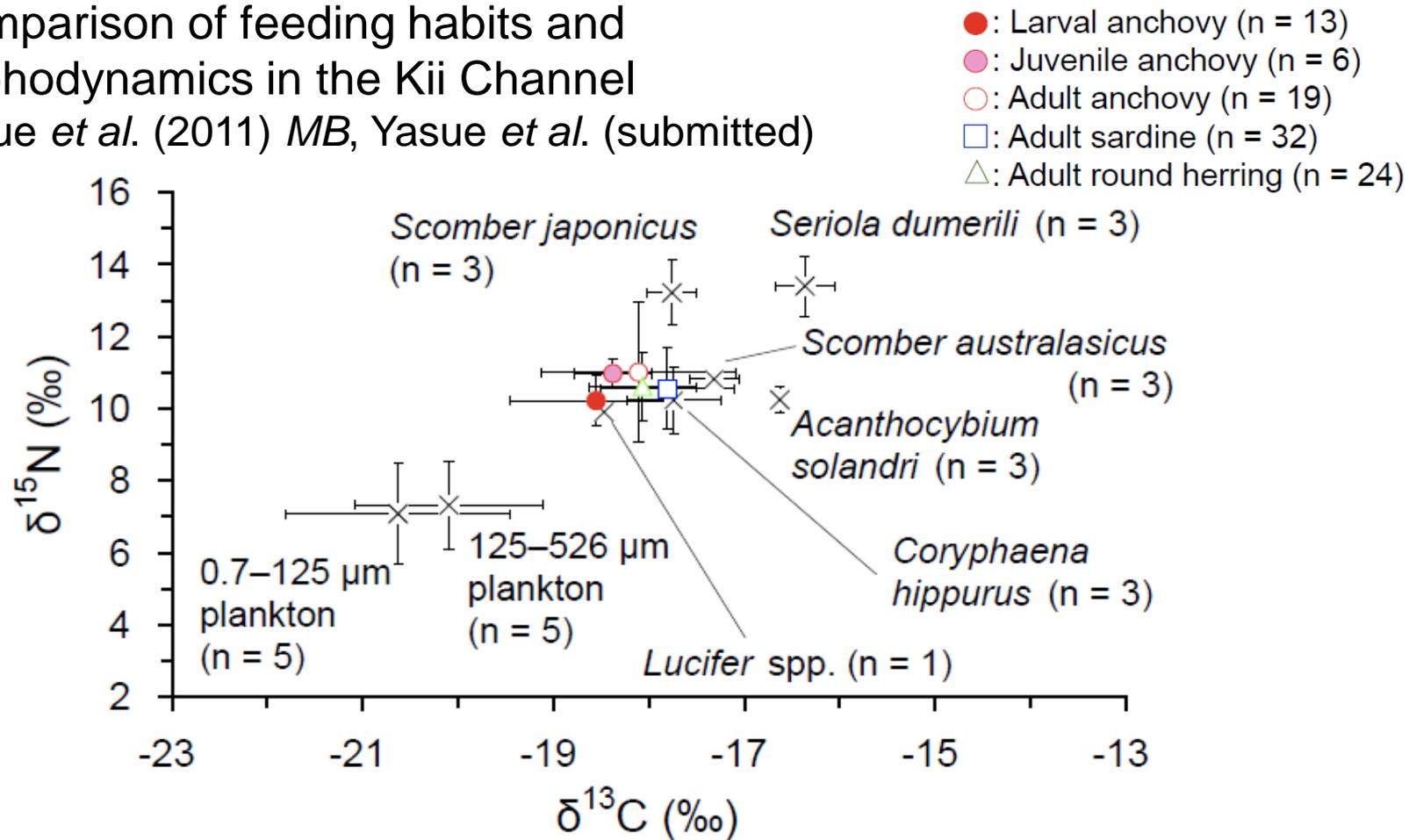


Feeding habits of larvae and juveniles in Tosa Bay.  
 Okazaki, Y., Kubota, H. *et al.*

# Trophic similarity?

## Comparison of feeding habits and trophodynamics in the Kii Channel

Yasue et al. (2011) MB, Yasue et al. (submitted)

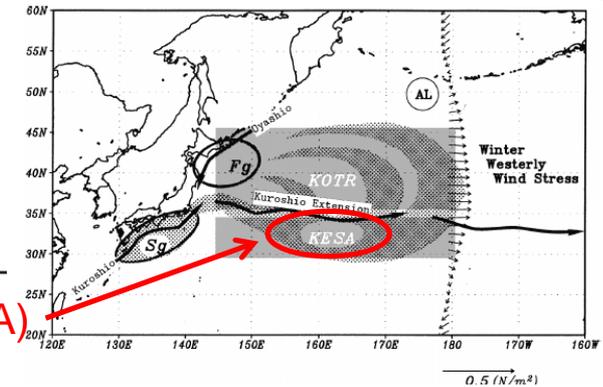


- Strong trophic overlaps throughout the life histories among the species.
- We conclude that anchovy and sardine are ecologically congeneric species in terms of trophic position in this region.

# Winter SST in KESA

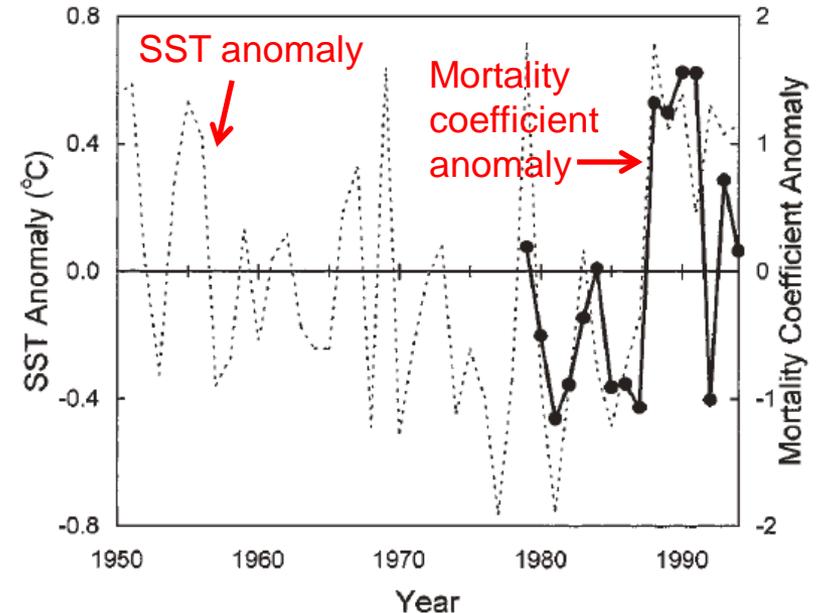
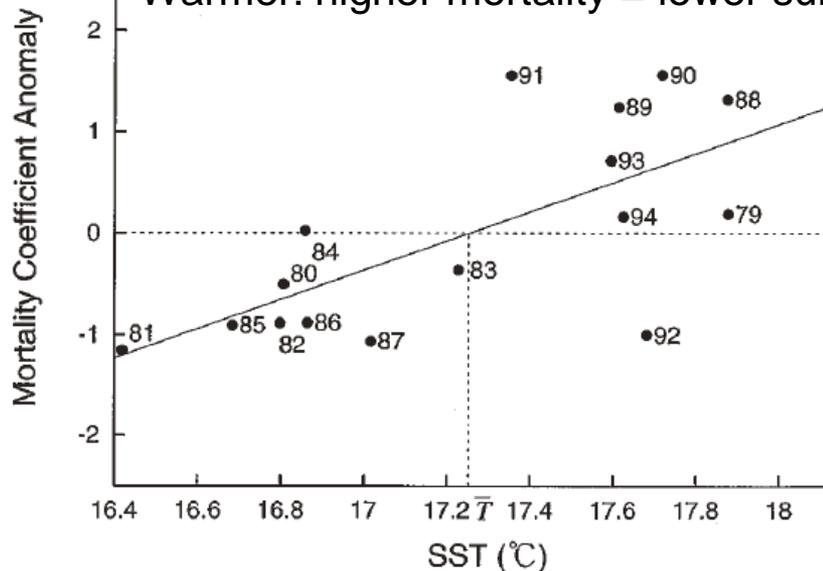
## Population decline of the Japanese sardine, *Sardinops melanostictus*, in relation to sea surface temperature in the Kuroshio Extension

Masayuki Noto and Ichiro Yasuda

1999 in *CJFAS*

Kuroshio Extension and its southern recirculation area (KESA)

Cooler: lower mortality = higher survival  
Warmer: higher mortality = lower survival



Relationships of natural mortality coefficient anomaly from postlarva to age 1 to February SST (left) and February SST anomaly (right) in KESA for Japanese sardine (Noto & Yasuda 1999 *CJFAS*).

# Winter mixed layer depth

## FISHERIES OCEANOGRAPHY

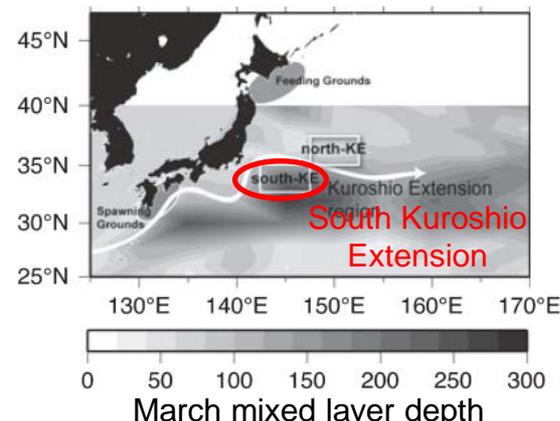
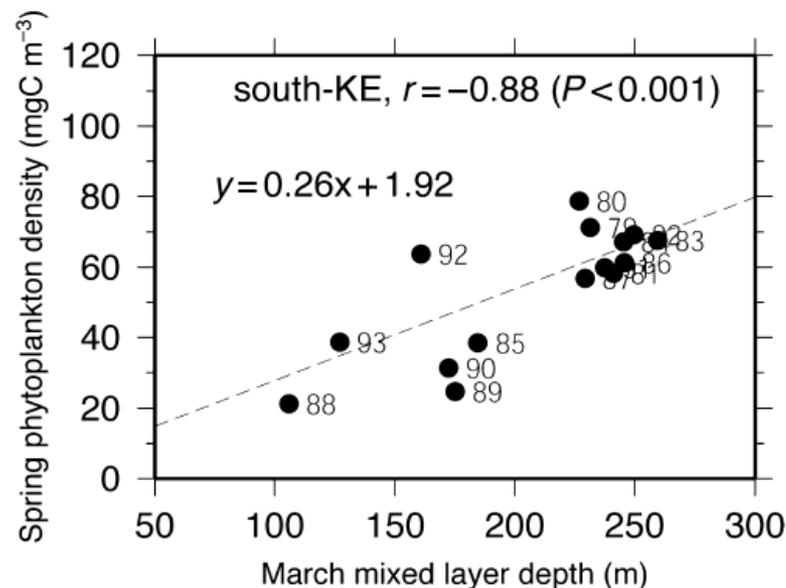
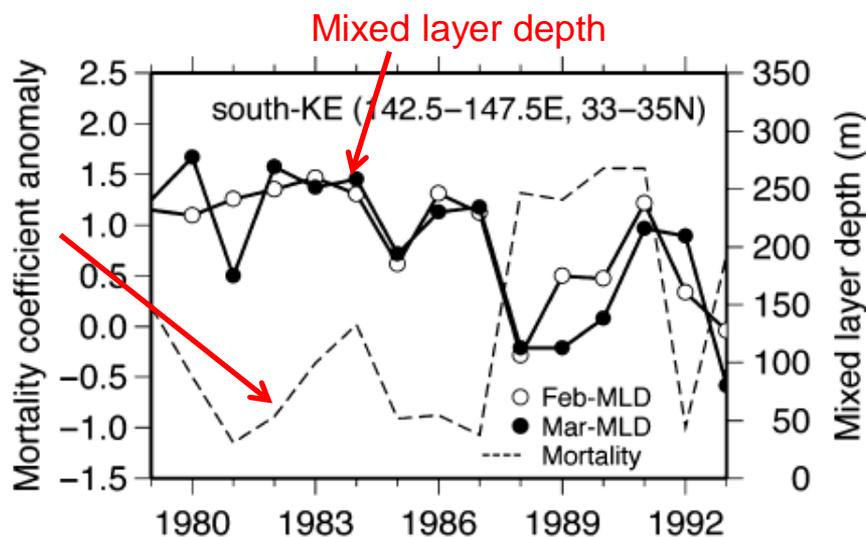
FISHERIES OCEANOGRAPHY

Fish. Oceanogr. 17:5, 411-420, 2008

Japanese sardine (*Sardinops melanostictus*) mortality in relation to the winter mixed layer depth in the Kuroshio Extension region

HARUKA NISHIKAWA\* AND ICHIRO YASUDA

2008 in FO



Natural mortality coefficient anomaly from postlarva to age 1 of **Japanese sardine** vs February/March mixed layer depth, and spring phytoplankton density vs March mixed layer depth (Nishikawa & Yasuda 2008 FO).

# Winter mixed layer depth

FISHERIES  
OCEANOGRAPHY

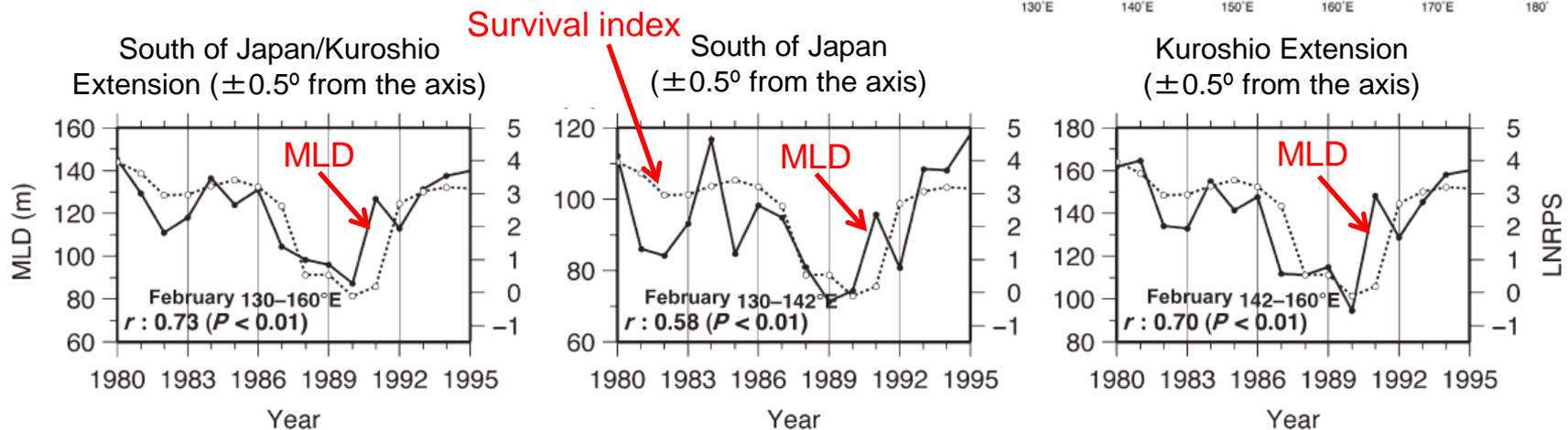
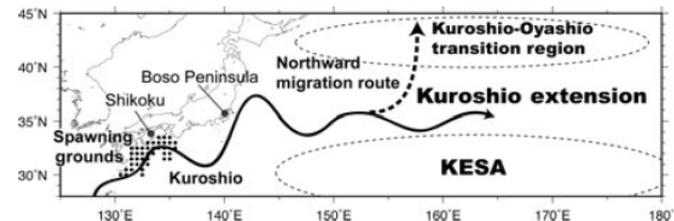
FISHERIES OCEANOGRAPHY

Fish. Oceanogr. 20:6, 570–582, 2011

Impact of winter-to-spring environmental variability along the Kuroshio jet on the recruitment of Japanese sardine (*Sardinops melanostictus*)

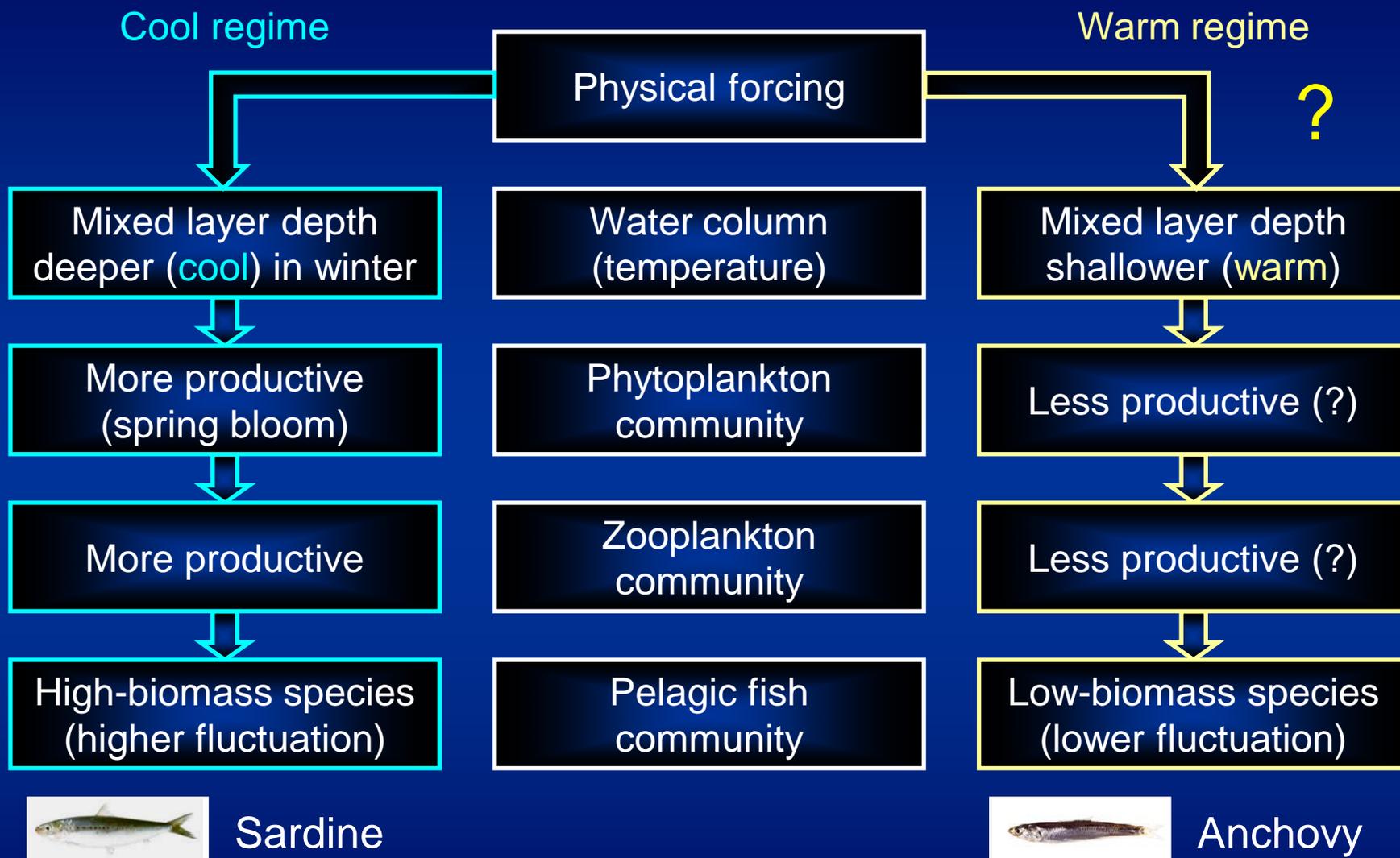
HARUKA NISHIKAWA,\*† ICHIRO YASUDA 2011 in FO  
AND SACHIIHIKO ITOH

- Ocean general circulation model for the Earth Simulator (OFES)
- “Kuroshio axis coordinates”



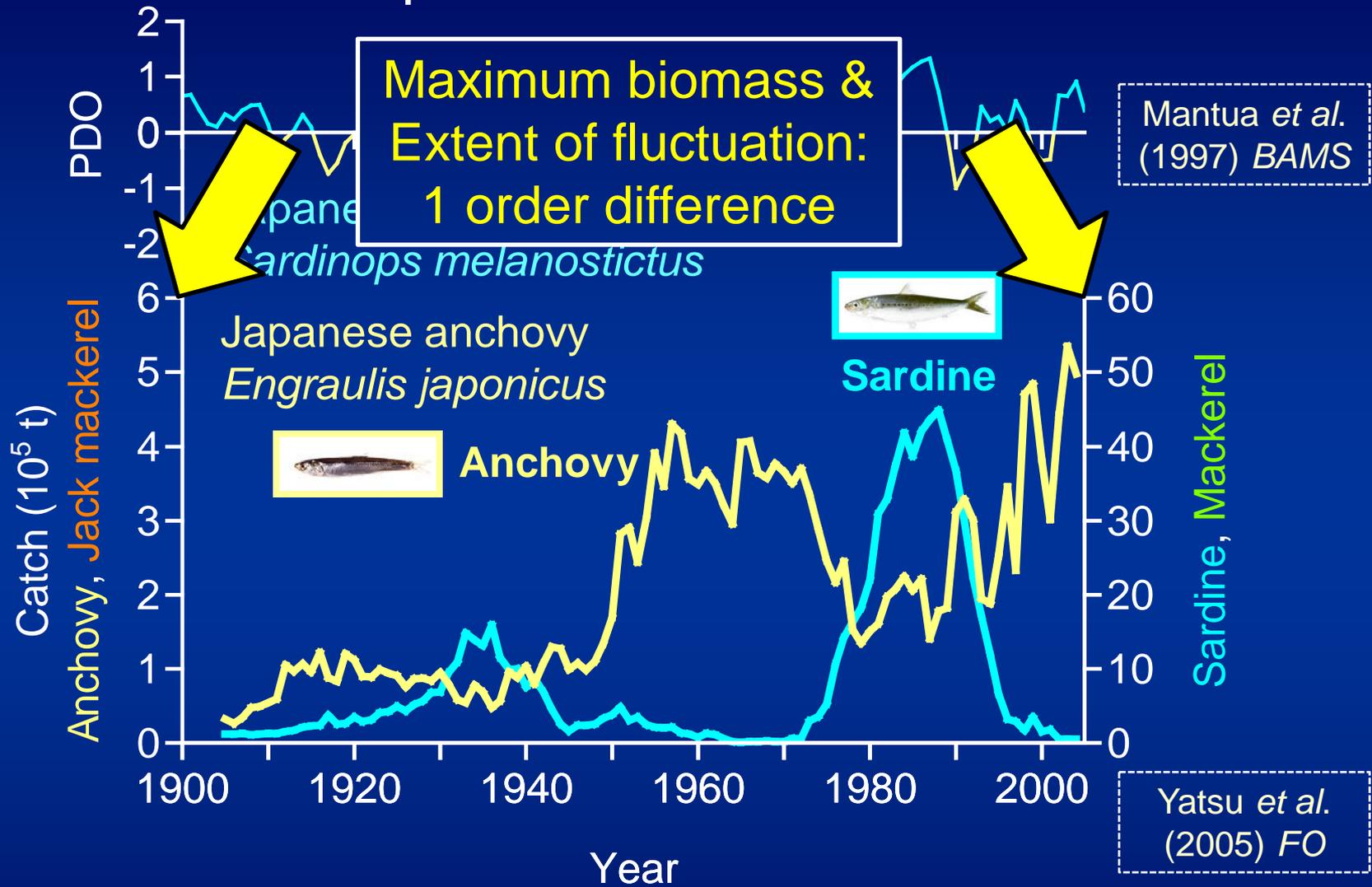
Time series data of survival index (ln-transformed recruitment per spawning stock biomass: LNRPS) for Japanese sardine and February mixed layer depth around the Kuroshio axis (Nishikawa et al. 2011 FO).

# Trophodynamics



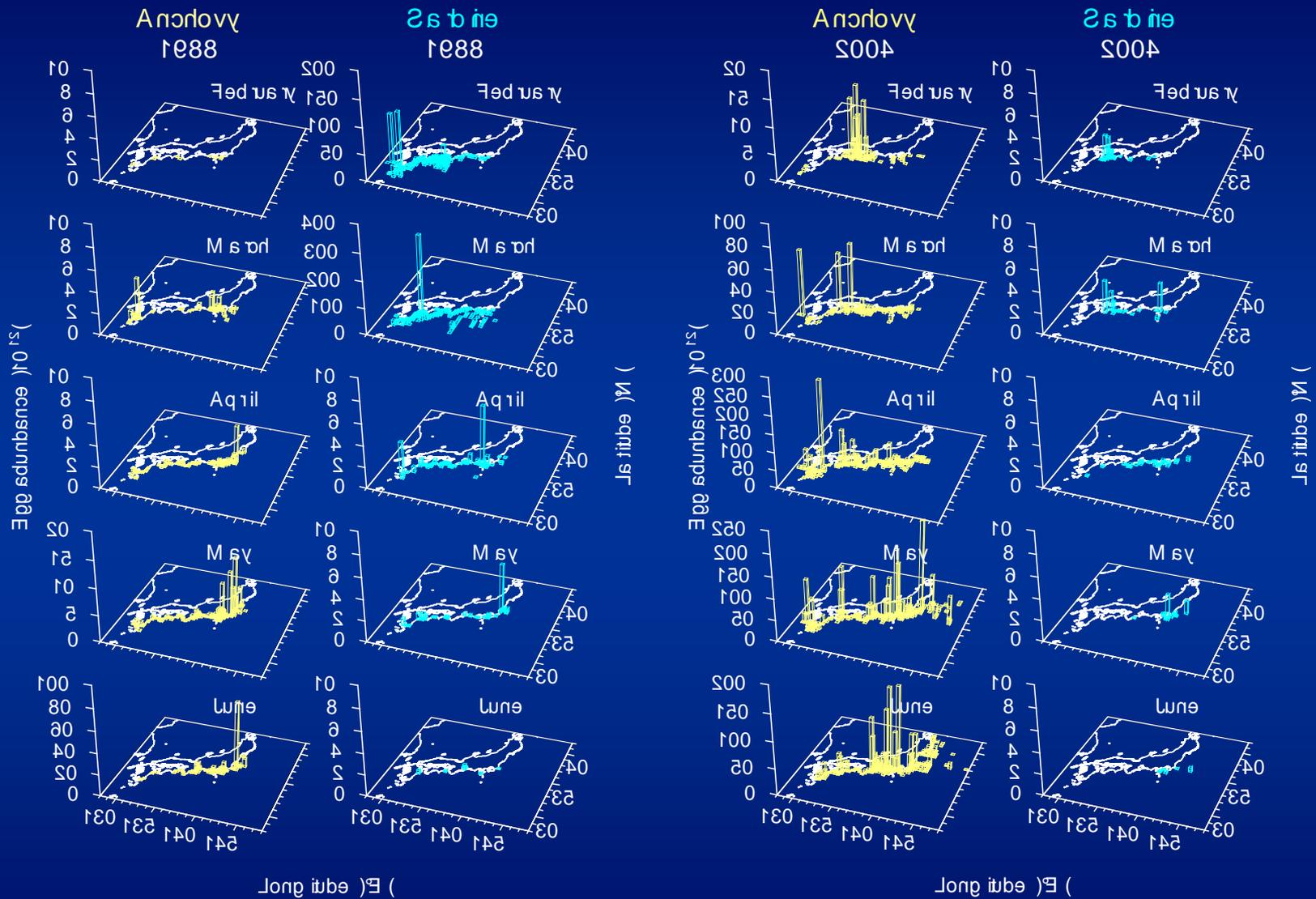
Trophodynamics hypothesis in the Kuroshio Current system (keys: winter mixed layer depth & spring plankton bloom in the nursery grounds).

# Species alternation



Long-term landing histories of small pelagic fish in waters around Japan in response to Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO).

## Spawning separation/overlap



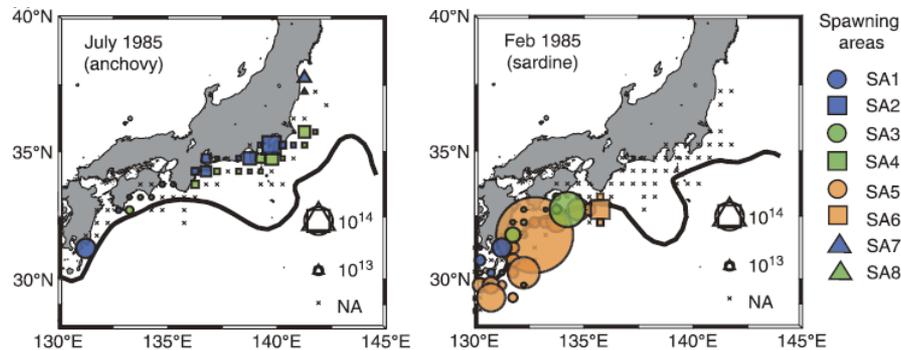
Examples of monthly egg abundance distributions of anchovy and sardine in the western North Pacific (Takasuka *et al.* 2008 MEPS).

# Transport and environments

Transport and environmental temperature variability of eggs and larvae of the Japanese anchovy (*Engraulis japonicus*) and Japanese sardine (*Sardinops melanostictus*) in the western North Pacific estimated via numerical particle-tracking experiments

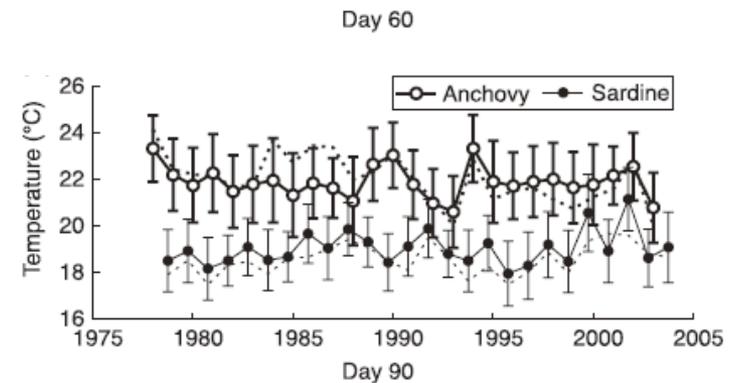
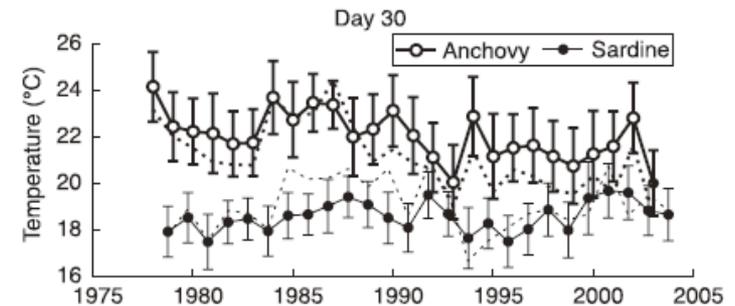
SACHIHIKO ITOH,<sup>1,\*</sup> ICHIRO YASUDA,<sup>1</sup>  
HARUKA NISHIKAWA,<sup>1</sup> HIDEHARU  
SASAKI,<sup>2</sup> AND YOSHIKAZU SASAI<sup>3</sup>

2009 in *FO*



Considering differences in spawning seasons/grounds

- Ocean general circulation model for the earth simulator (OFES)
- Observed distributions of eggs from 1978 to 2004



Interannual variations of mean temperatures experienced during the transport processes

Numerical particle-tracking experiments to examine the transport and variability in environmental temperature experienced by eggs and larvae of anchovy and sardine (Itoh *et al.* 2009 *FO*).

# Role of this talk

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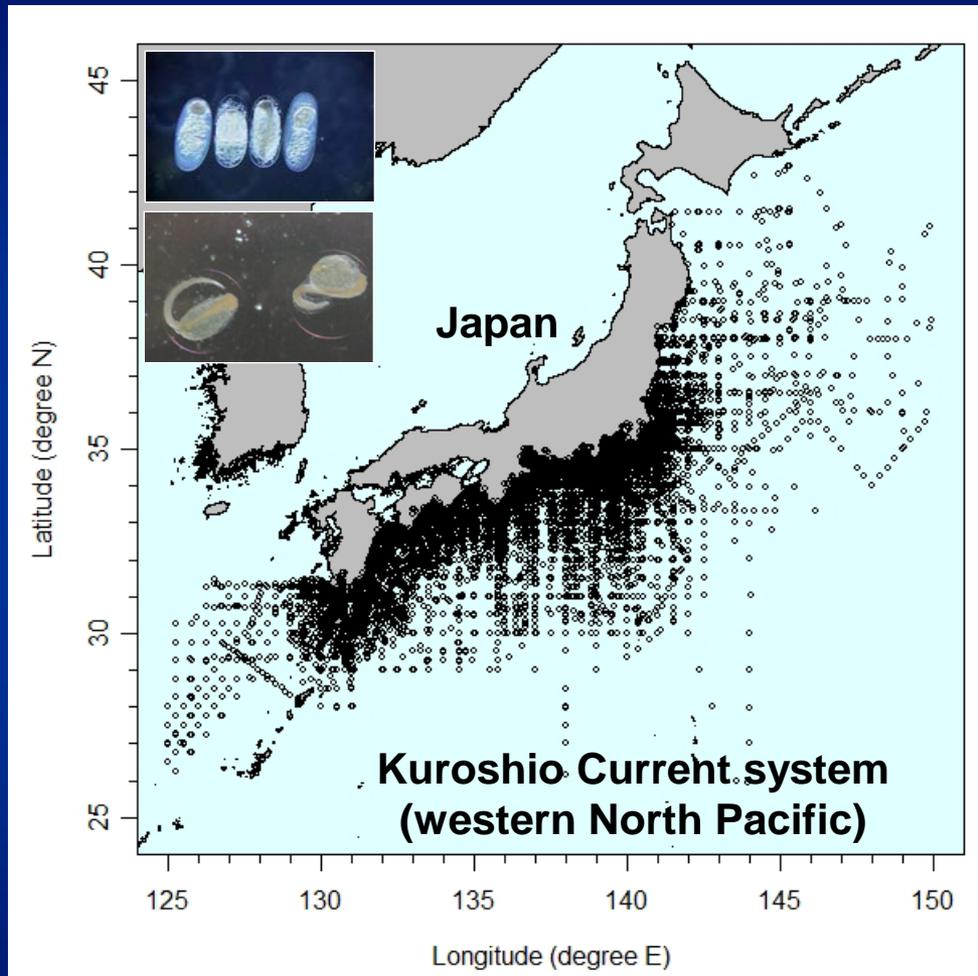
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Small pelagic fish in the  
Kuroshio Current system

# Egg survey data set

A long-term data set of monthly egg surveys



- Off the Pacific coast of Japan
- Last 30 years (1978–2007)
- Vertical tows of NORPAC net
- 114,130 samples



Sampling stations in the monthly egg surveys off the Pacific coast of Japan from 1978 to 2007 (Oozeki *et al.* 2007 *CalCOFI*, Takasuka *et al.* 2008 *MEPS*).

# GAMs

## Spawning responses to multiple environmental factors

Generalized additive models (GAMs) were fitted to egg presence/absence (1/0) data with multiple variables.

### *Physical factors*

- Sea surface temperature (°C): *SST*
- Sea surface salinity: *SSS*

### *Biological factors*

- Zooplankton volume (ml m<sup>-2</sup> or μg m<sup>-3</sup>): *PL*
- Chlorophyll-a concentration (mg m<sup>-3</sup>): *CH*

GAMs with multiple explanatory variables:

$$y = \alpha + s(SST) + s(SSS) + s(\ln(PL)) \text{ or } s(\ln(CH))$$

$y$ : the estimated probability of egg occurrence from 0 to 1

$\alpha$ : an intercept term

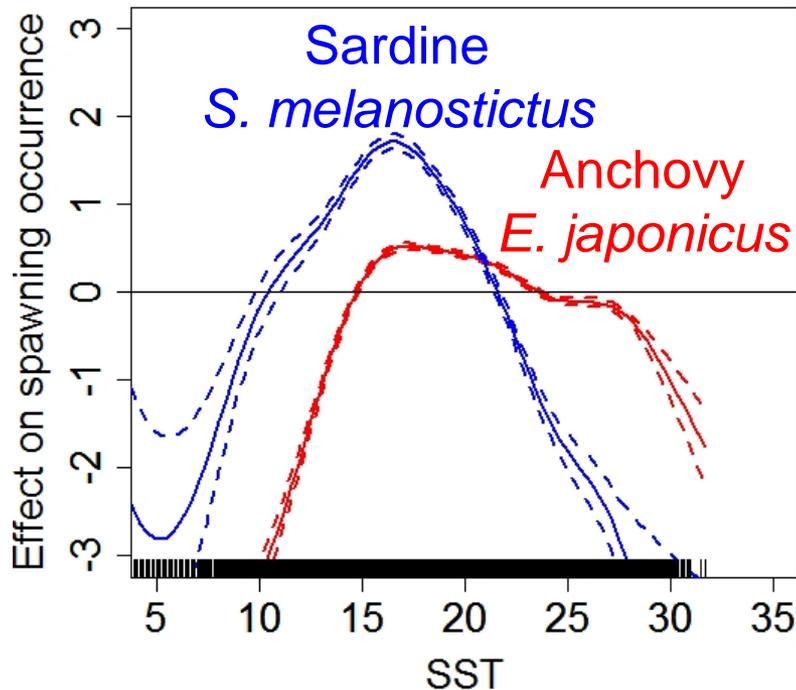
“ $s$ ”: an unique smooth term of thin plate regression spline base

# Spawning responses

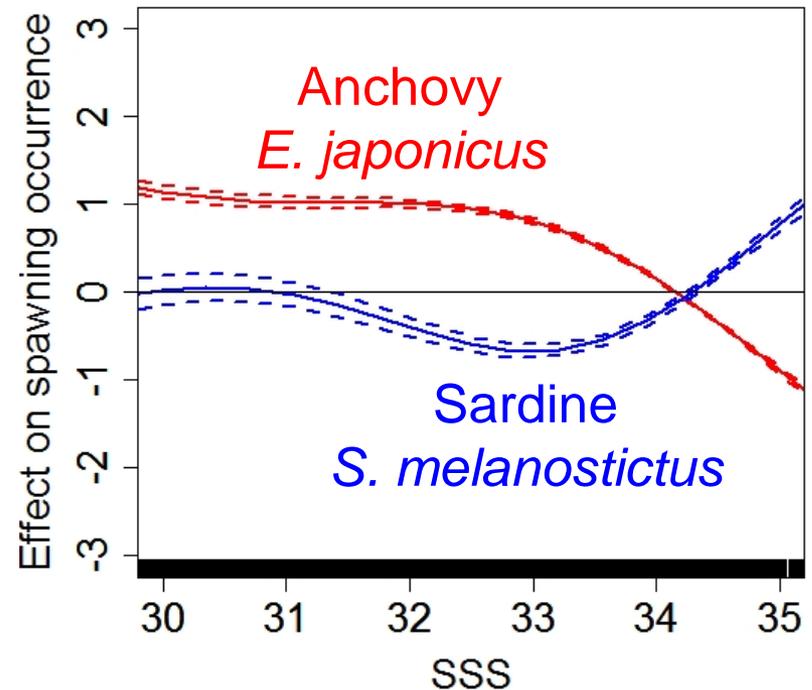
## Kuroshio Current system

All areas and seasons included

### Sea surface temperature



### Sea surface salinity

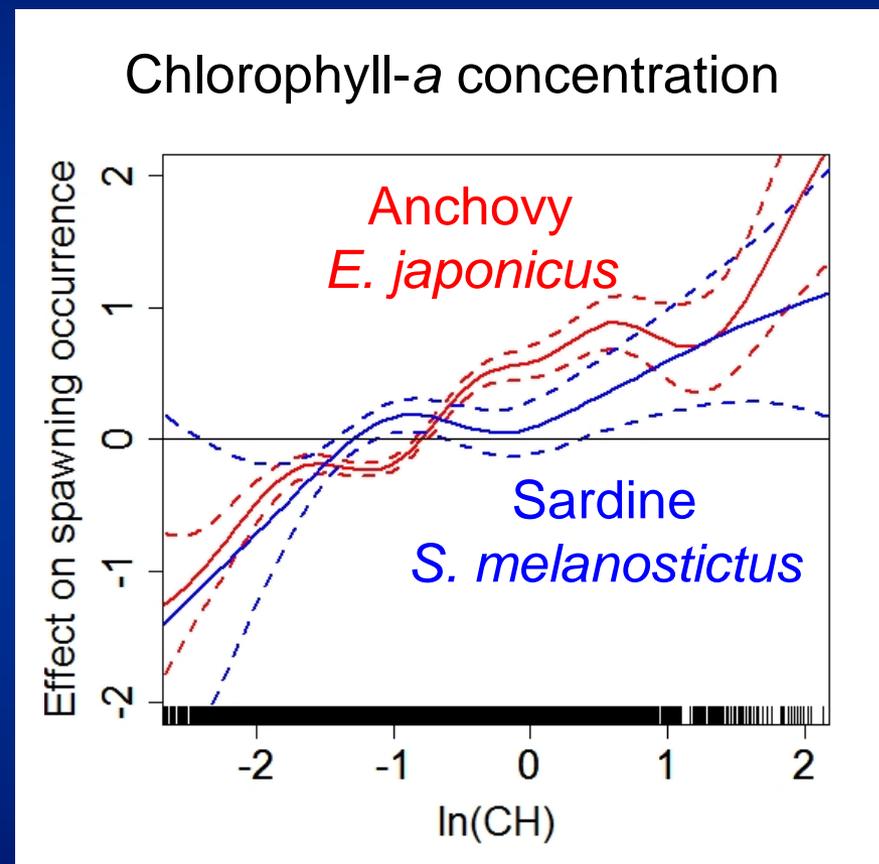
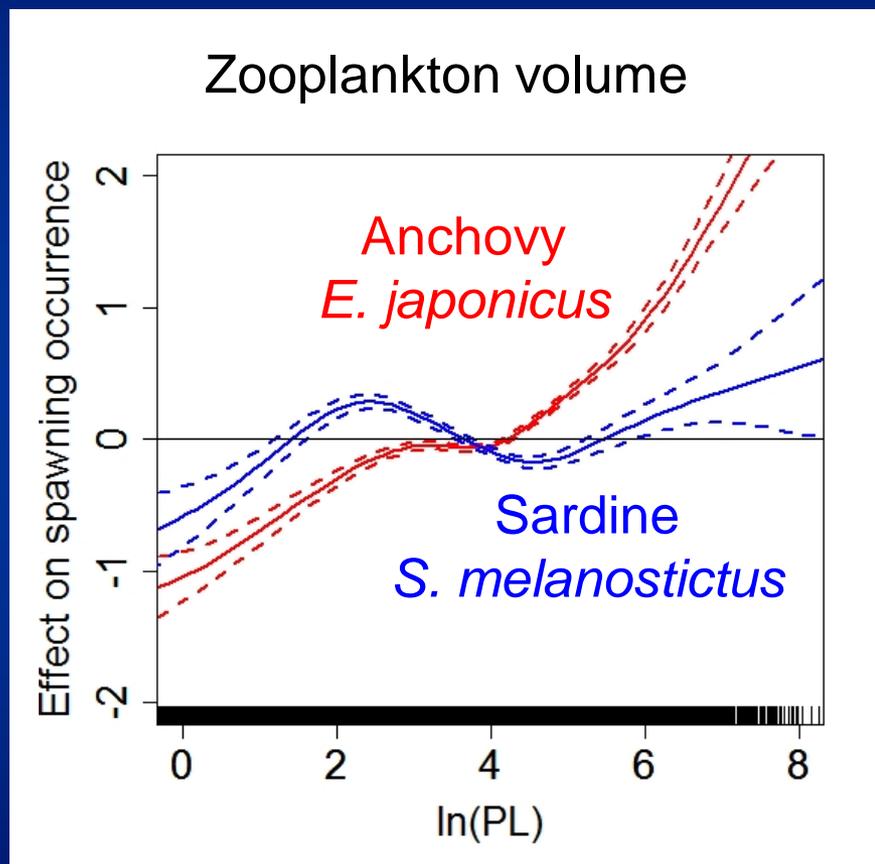


Effects of **physical** factors on spawning probability by the GAMs applied to egg occurrence data (1/0).

# Spawning responses

## Kuroshio Current system

All areas and seasons included



Effects of **biological** factors on spawning probability by the GAMs applied to egg occurrence data (1/0).

# Income vs capital

Energy allocation strategies for reproduction are viewed as a continuum between “income” and “capital” breeders.

## “Income breeders”

- Expend **energy recently acquired** for reproduction
- During spawning, ...
  - Spawn more with food
  - Keep feeding
  - Conditions do not dramatically change

## “Capital breeders”

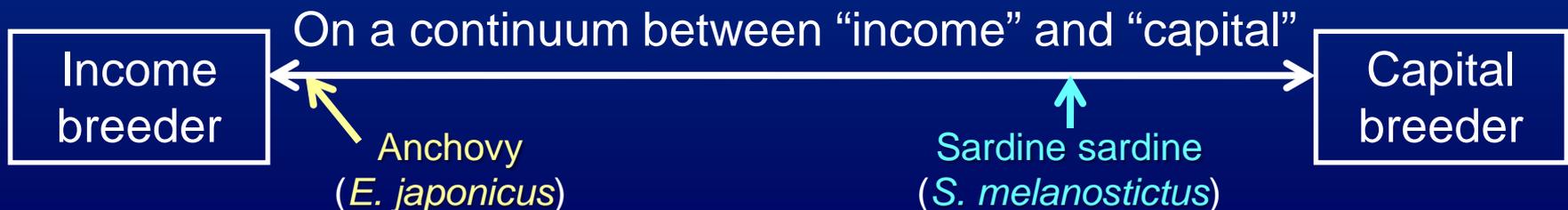
- Expend **energy stored** over long periods for reproduction
- During spawning, ...
  - Spawn irrespective of food
  - Stop feeding
  - Conditions dramatically decline

## Anchovy (*E. japonicus*)

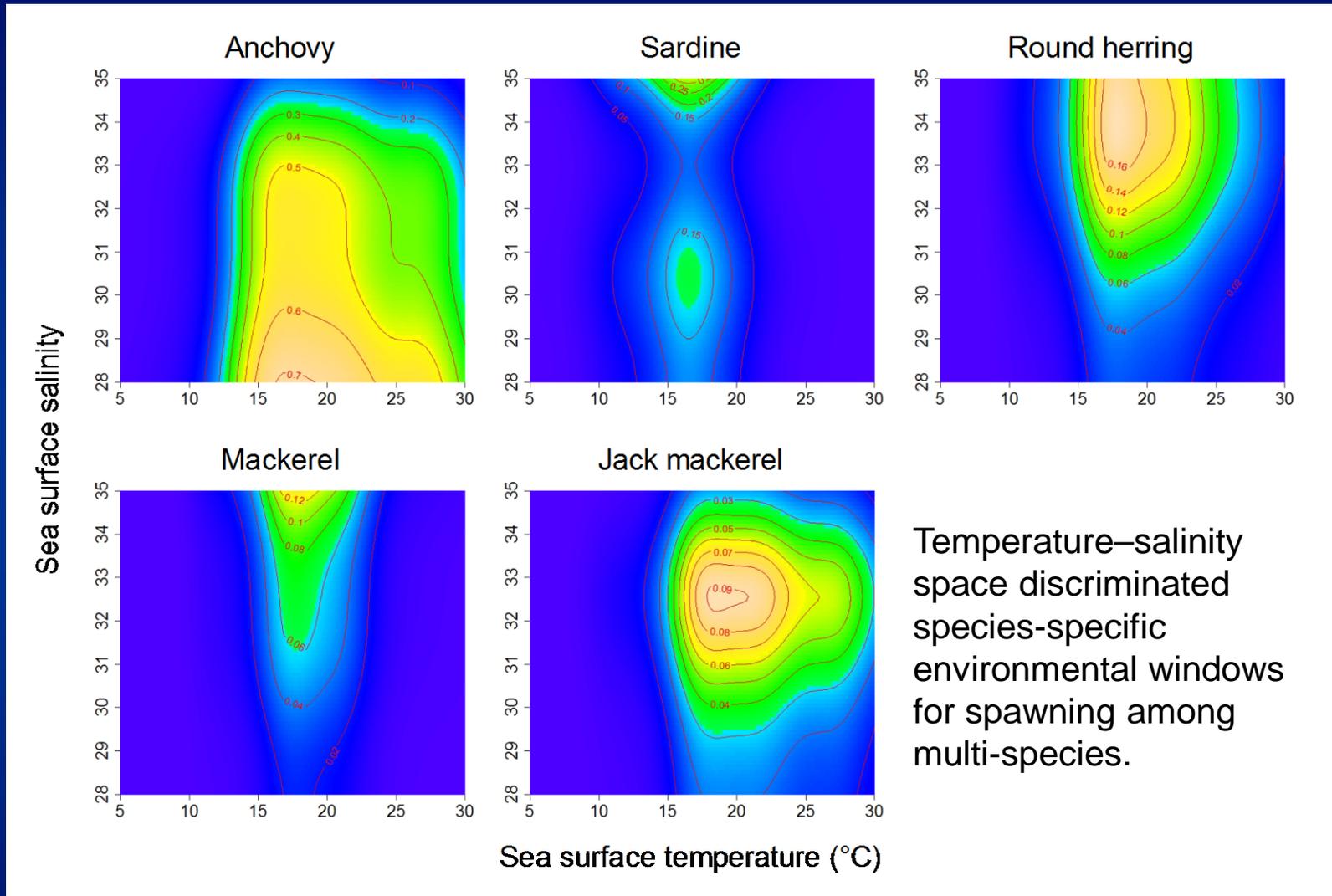
- Spawning probability increased monotonically with food availability.

## Sardine (*S. melanostictus*)

- Spawning probability increased with food availability up to some extent but not at higher values.

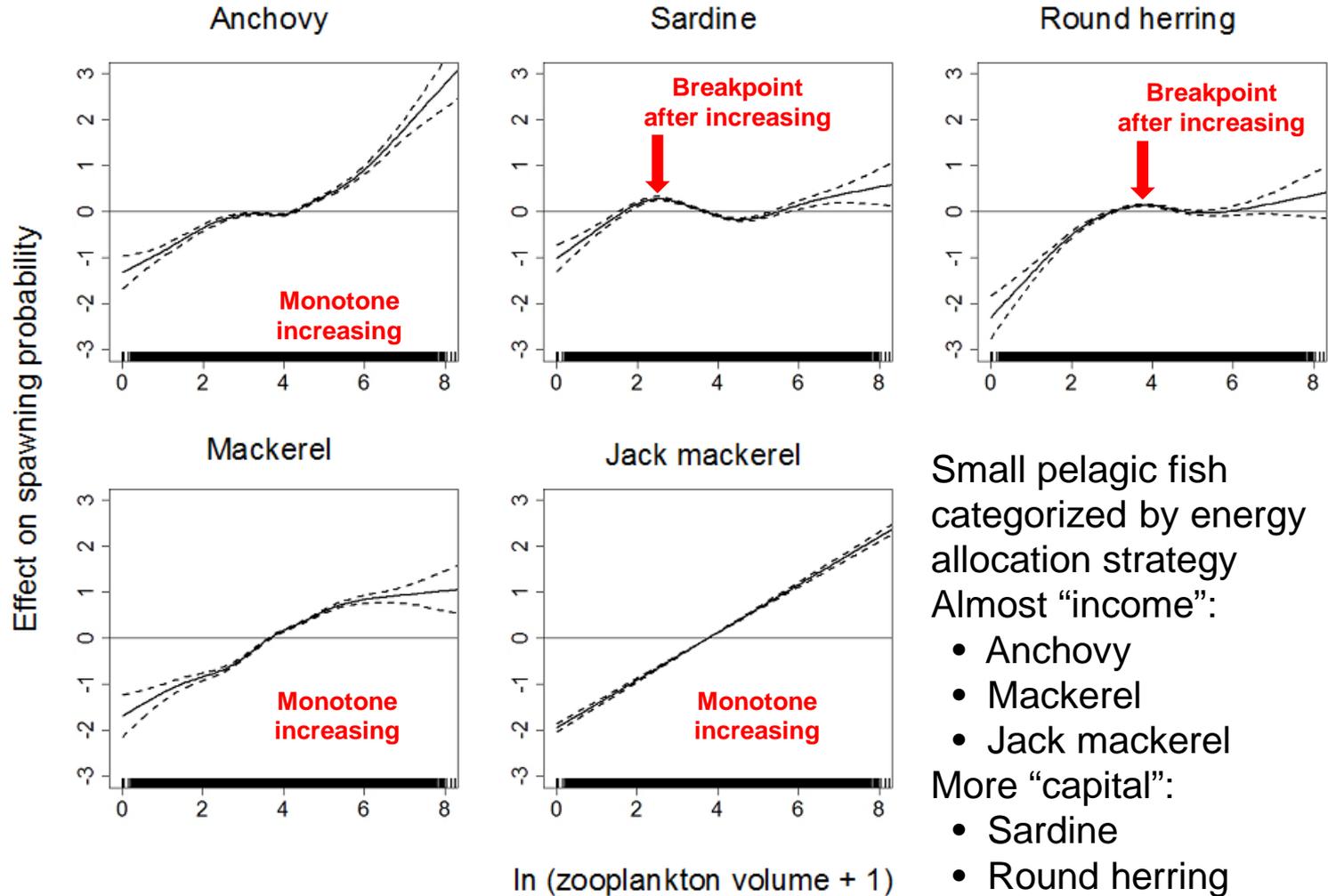


# Temperature–salinity space



Effects of **physical** factors on spawning probability by the GAMs applied to egg (or larval) occurrence data (1/0).

# Energy allocation strategy



Effects of **zooplankton volume** on spawning probability by the GAMs applied to egg occurrence data (1/0).

# Summary & Future

## Summary

1. How dramatically environmental variability could regulate survival probability of small pelagic fish
  - Vital parameters serve as an amplifier linking environmental variability to dramatic survival variability.
2. How differently the similar environmental condition could affect the population dynamics of different species
  - Species-specific environmental windows would constitute a key to understand mechanisms of species alternations through differential climate effects on different species.

## Future

- Different hypotheses should be synthesized in the future.
- Interspecific and intersystem comparisons
- Interdisciplinary collaboration

# SUPRFISH

**POMAL** Population Outbreak of Marine Life Japanese

**Study for the prediction and control of the population outbreak of the marine life in relation to environmental change**

**What is POMAL?**

- SUPRFISH
- STOPJELLY
- What's new
- Member
- Project leader
- Publications

**SUPRFISH**  
Studies on Prediction and Application of Fish Species Alternation

It has been known the relationship between climate regime shift and the fish species alternation between sardine and anchovy. In recent years, the recruitment of Japanese sardine suddenly decreased in 1988 and its stock collapsed thereafter. The rapid decline in the recruitment was related to the SST increase in the southern region of the Kuroshio Extension (KEX, Fig. 1).

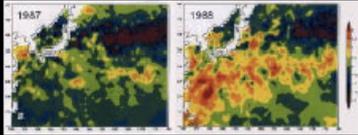


Fig. 1. SST anomaly in February (Noto & Yasuda 1999)

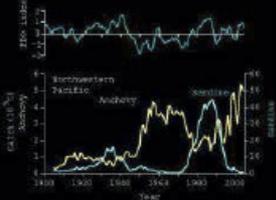


Fig. 2. Annual change in PDO and the catch in Japanese sardine and Japanese anchovy.

In long term, the sardine-anchovy alternation is related to PDO (Fig. 2). However, it is unknown the processes how do the climate regime shift induce the fish species alternation.

The fish species alternation is induced by natural forcing and is uncontrollable phenomenon. However, the development of the forecasting ability by understanding the mechanisms of the fish species alternation make it possible to advice to managers and fishermen for the sustainable use of marine resources based on the understanding of the socioeconomic impact of the fish species alternation.

SUPRFISH programme is structured around the 4 major research themes, which are:

1. Physical oceanographic variations inducing the marine ecosystem regime shift.
2. Changing mechanisms of the lower food web structure responded to the environmental change.
3. Physiological and ecological factors of fish related to the fish species alternation.
4. Development of the mathematical model representing fish species alternation and its application for the fisheries management.

More than 60 scientists including 19 PIs started the SUPRFISH sciences in spring 2007. SUPRFISH includes several kinds of studies, which are: 1) retrospective data analysis, 2) climate and physical oceanographic modeling, 3) field observation, 4) laboratory incubation study for plankton and fish, 5) ecosystem modeling, 6) socioeconomical study.

We set the target study region to waters around KEX and will carry out the field campaign in 2008 using several research vessels with newly developed remote sensing apparatus, i.e. GLIDER, ARGO+Chl float, mooring, satellites.



## Studies on Prediction and Application of Fish Species Alternation (SUPRFISH)

Leader: Saito, H. (FRA)  
Period: 2007–2012

- Interdisciplinary project including 60 scientists
- 4 major themes

  1. Physical oceanographic variations
  2. Lower food-web structure
  3. Physiological and ecological factors of fish
  4. Modeling approaches to species alternations and fisheries management.

# Upcoming ICES/PICES Symposium

FACTS - Forage Fish Interactions



## Forage fish interactions: Creating the tools for ecosystem based management of marine resources

**November 12–14, 2011, Nantes, France**

**Conveners: Stefan Neuenfeldt (DK), Myron Peck (DE), Tim Essington (US), Niels Vestergaard (DK), and Vladimir Radchenko (RU)**

The overall key note will be given by Jake Rice, Canada, on Challenges and Opportunities for forage fish management in the first half of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Five theme sessions will be convened that will open with an invited, keynote presentation:

**Climatic and biotic mechanism forcing on forage fish population recruitment**

(Key note: Akinori Takasuka, Japan )

**Post recruitment predator-prey dynamics in ecosystems world-wide**

(Key note: Geir Huse, Norway)

**Linking biology and economics**

(Key note: Røgnvaldur Hanesson, Norway)

**Ecosystem-based management**

(Key note: Jason Link, USA)

**Comparisons between ecosystems and generic properties**

(Key note: Jeremy Collie, USA)

<http://www.facts-project.eu/Symposium2012.aspx>



**FACTS**

Forage Fish Interactions

The FACTS project  
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Programme



