

advancing Ecosystem-Based Management

a decision support toolkit for marine managers

marine biodiversity and fisheries: case study in the Pacific Northwest



PICES
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www.marineebm.org

The Nature Conservancy 
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

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Global Marine Initiative

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Ecosystem-Based Management

Decision Support

Multi-Objective Case Studies

Resources



Ecosystem-Based Management

An overview of marine ecosystem-based management from new approaches.



Decision Support

A description of tools for assessing marine ecosystems, gaps in protection, and opportunities to enhance their management.



Multi-Objective Case Studies

Approaches to common management objectives for conservation, fisheries, and hazard mitigation.

marine diversity and human benefits

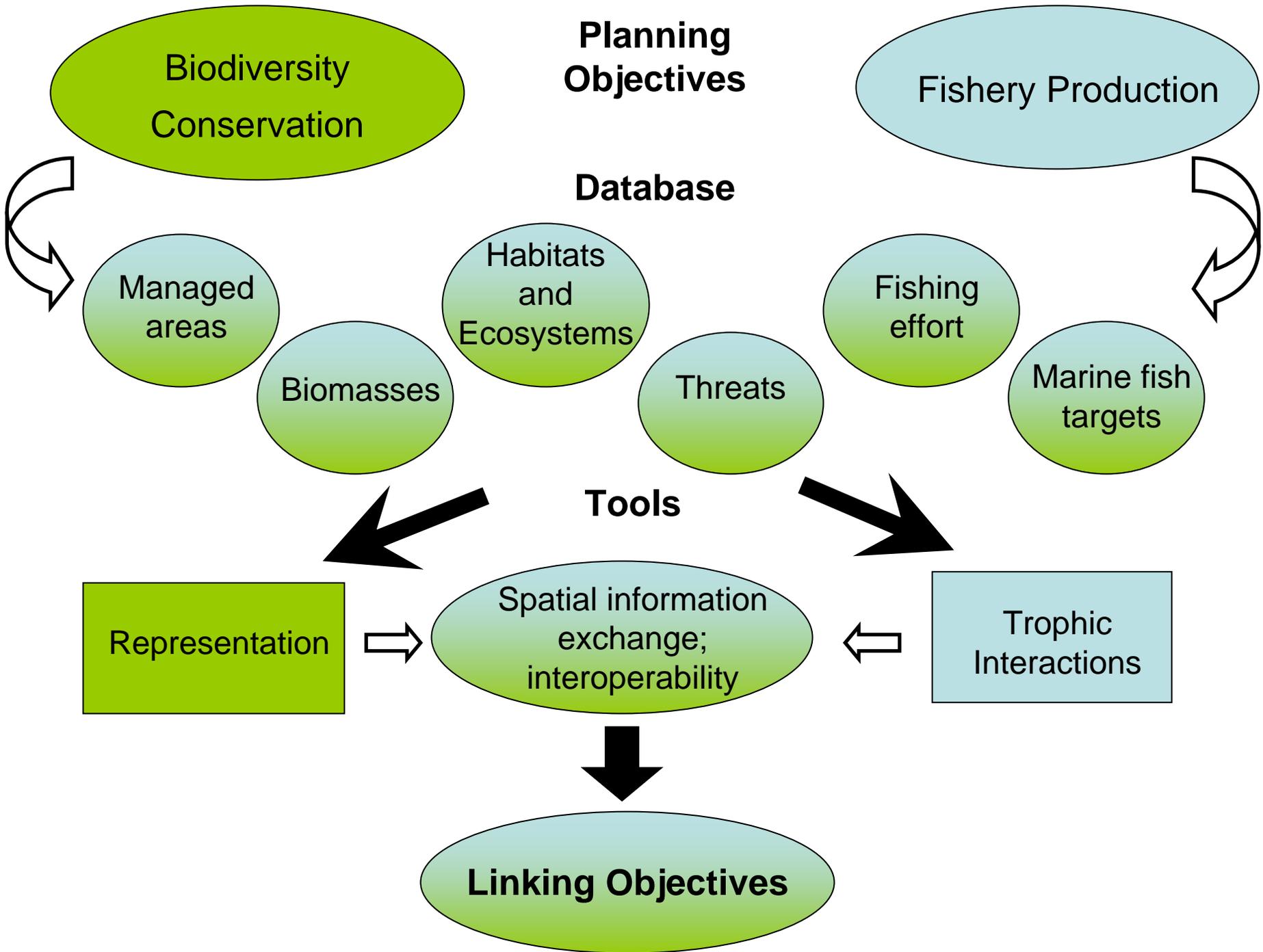
The world's coasts and oceans support an enormous amount of marine biodiversity and provide substantial services to

The aim of this toolkit is to guide managers and practitioners in the use of common tools for regional planning and to illustrate through case studies approaches to advance ecosystem-based management by jointly addressing multiple objectives in conservation, fisheries and coastal hazards.



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- I. Background: conservation and fisheries-related planning approaches and tools
- II. Case 1: incorporating fisheries-related information in regional planning
- III. Case 2: linking decision support tools to account for multiple objectives
- IV. Key messages moving forward



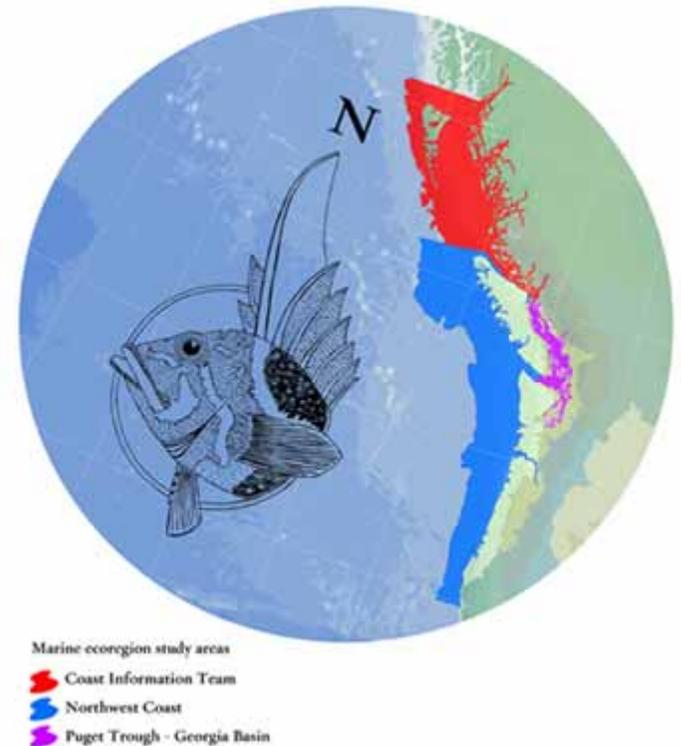
Ecoregional Planning and E-BM

terms of reference

Marine Ecoregional Planning -- to identify a set of high priority areas which, if conserved and effectively managed, will protect a representative subset of the marine biodiversity in an ecoregion

Marine Ecosystem-Based Management – an integrated approach to management that considers the entire ecosystem, including humans...it considers the cumulative impacts of different sectors (e.g., multiple species, multiple objectives) *

* McLeod et al. 2005



Pacific Northwest Coast ecoregion

marine ecoregional assessment process

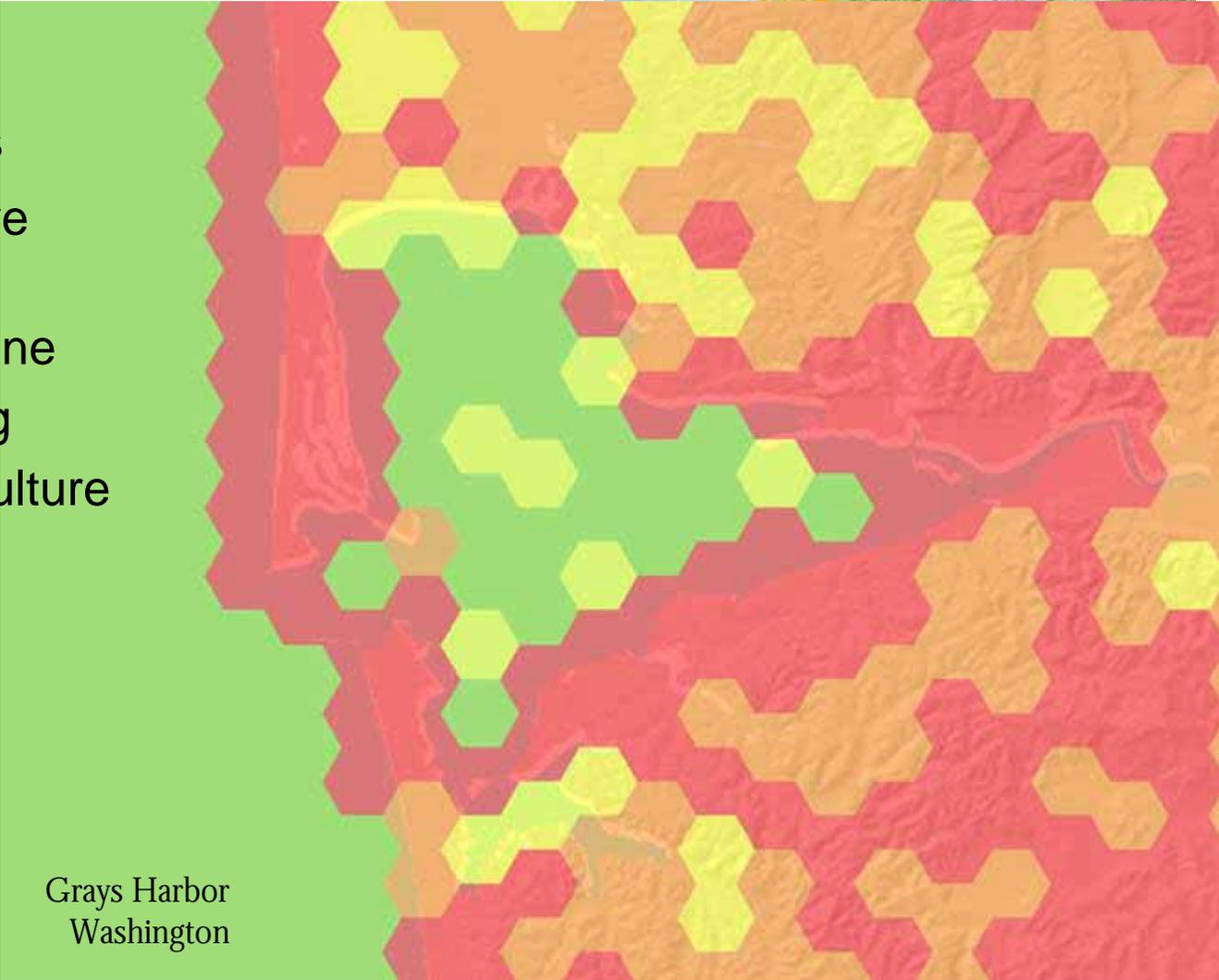
Terrestrial Impacts

- Logging
- Agriculture
- Urban density
- Road density

Marine Impacts

- Invasive species
- Shoreline armoring
- Aquaculture leases

Grays Harbor
Washington



Credible, transparent, flexible: building a decision support system

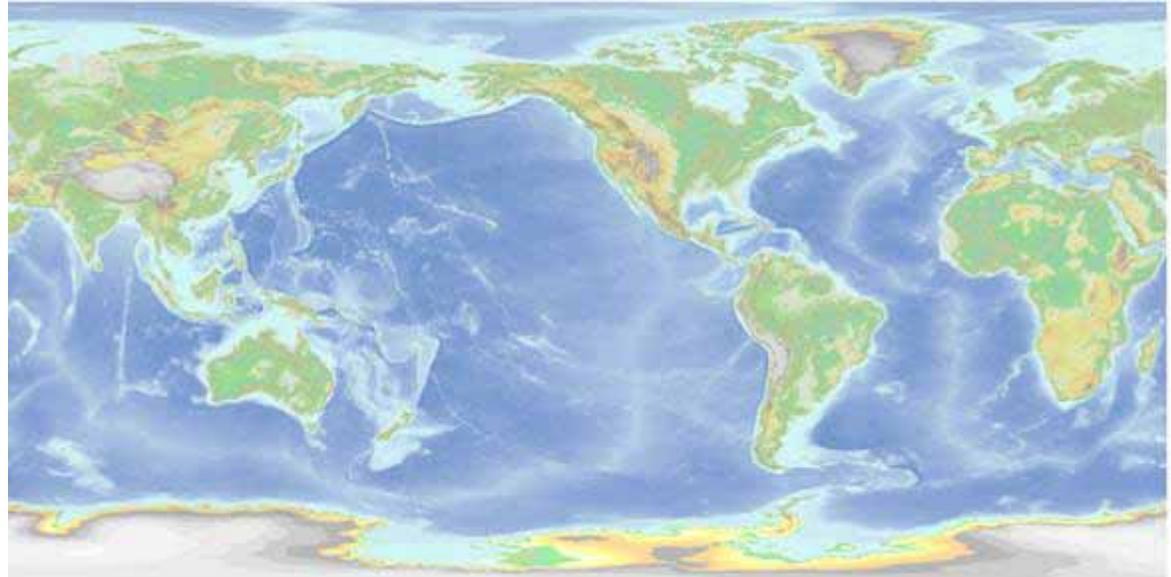
tools

Marxan:

Site selection algorithm
University of Queensland
(www.ecology.uq.edu.au)

- optimized scenarios
- irreplaceability analyses
- combined spatial databases
- interoperability

The algorithm attempts to minimize the total cost of an alternative scenario determined by cumulative impacts, representative goals, and spatial configuration

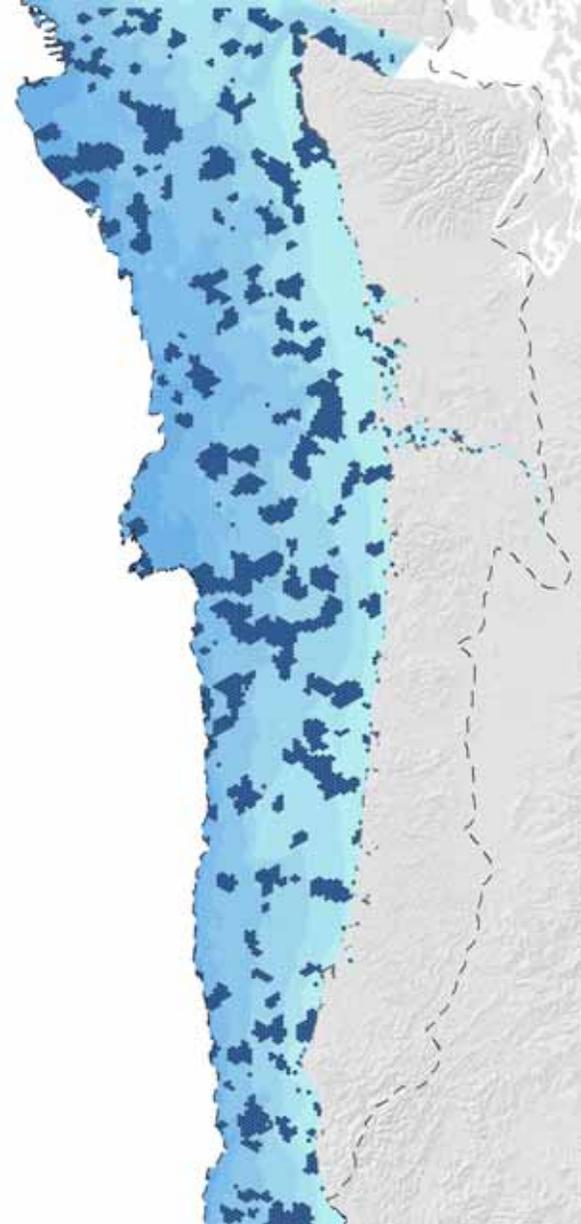


Marxan selection tool: without fisheries information

Pacific Northwest Coast

Without marine fish targets
or fishing effort

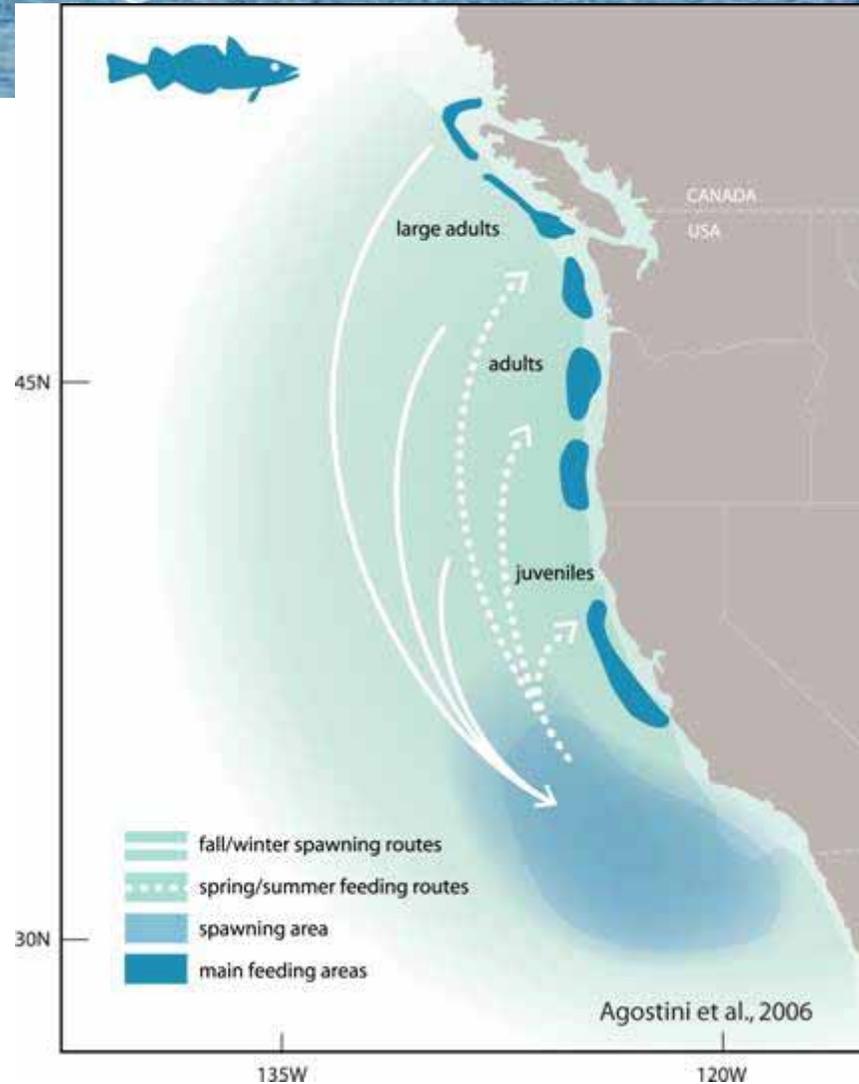
- 588 targets
- 98% goals met



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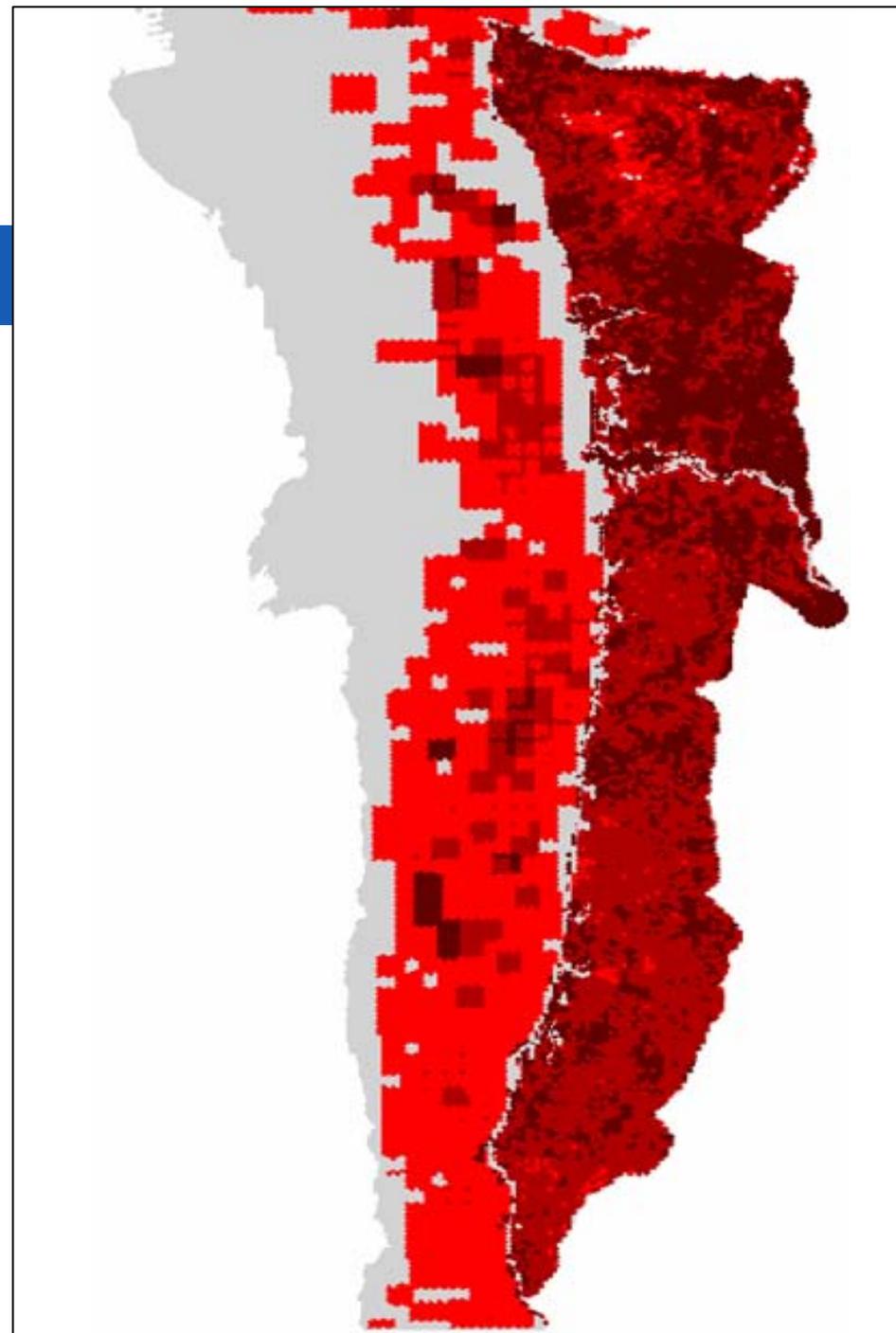
II. Case 1: incorporating fisheries-related information in regional planning



NMFS' Trawl Surveys

Fish and fishing

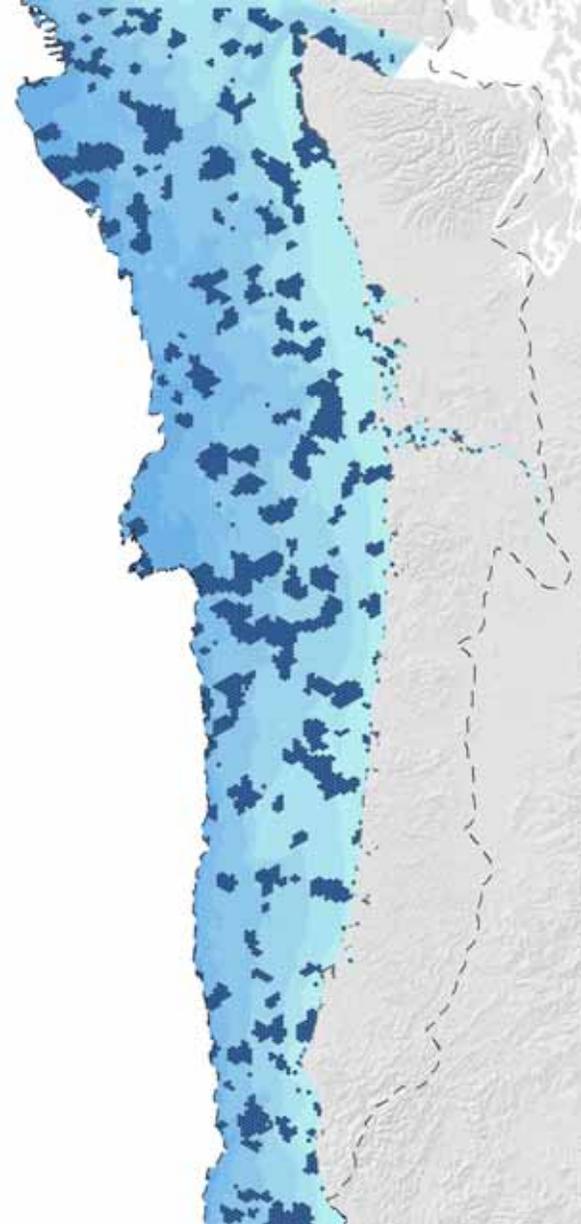
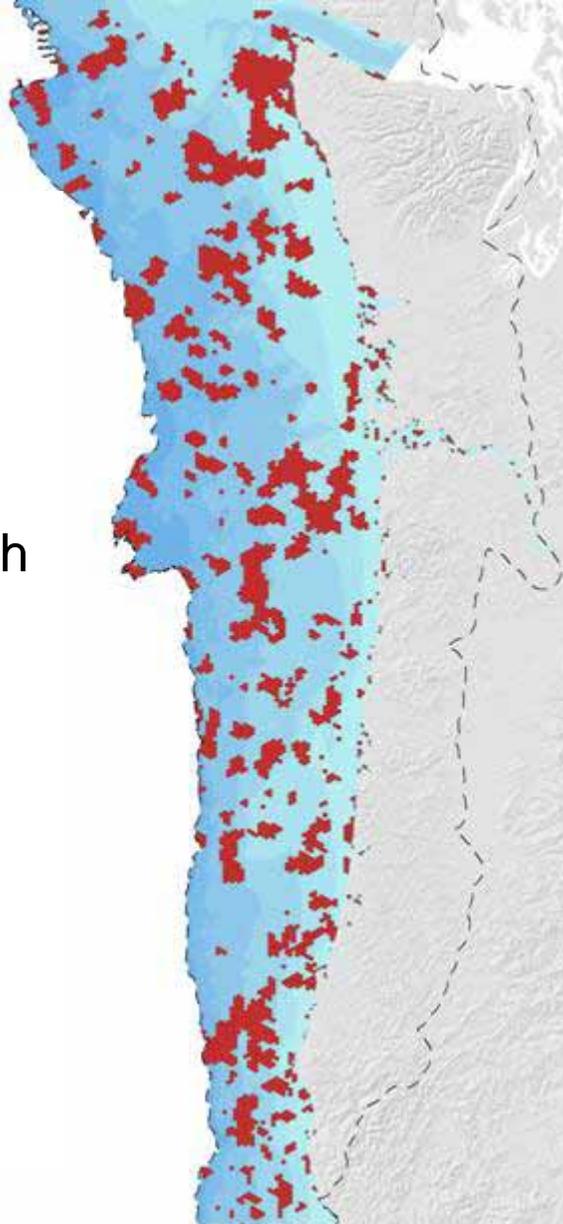
- Total Hauls (WA/OR): 5,489
- Years: 1977 – 2004
- Depths: 50 m – 1280 m
- 47 of TNC's 58 target species
- Only species represented in >10% of hauls
- Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) =
weight (kg) / trawl area swept (ha)
- Mean CPUE / 100 km² for each of
17 species



Marxan: with and without fisheries information

Implications

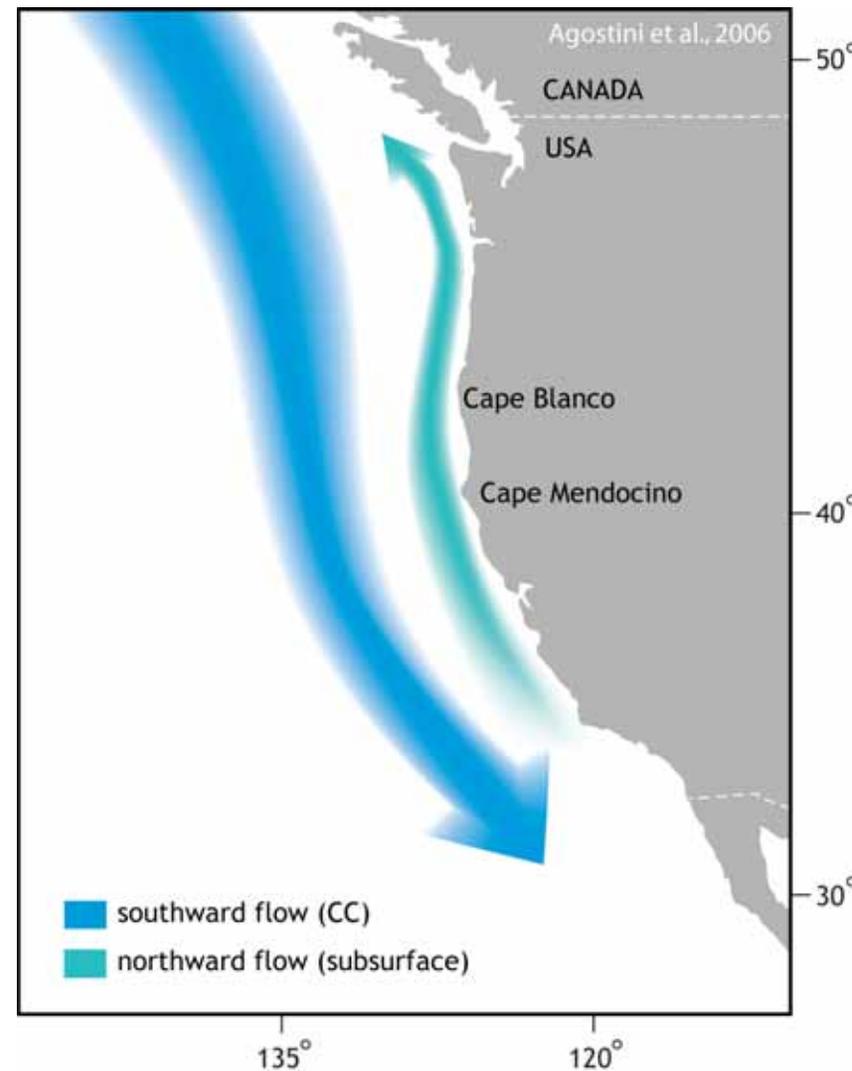
- Olympic peninsula contains high biodiversity value
- Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary contains high marine fish diversity and lower fishing effort
- Need for appropriate management in OCNMS

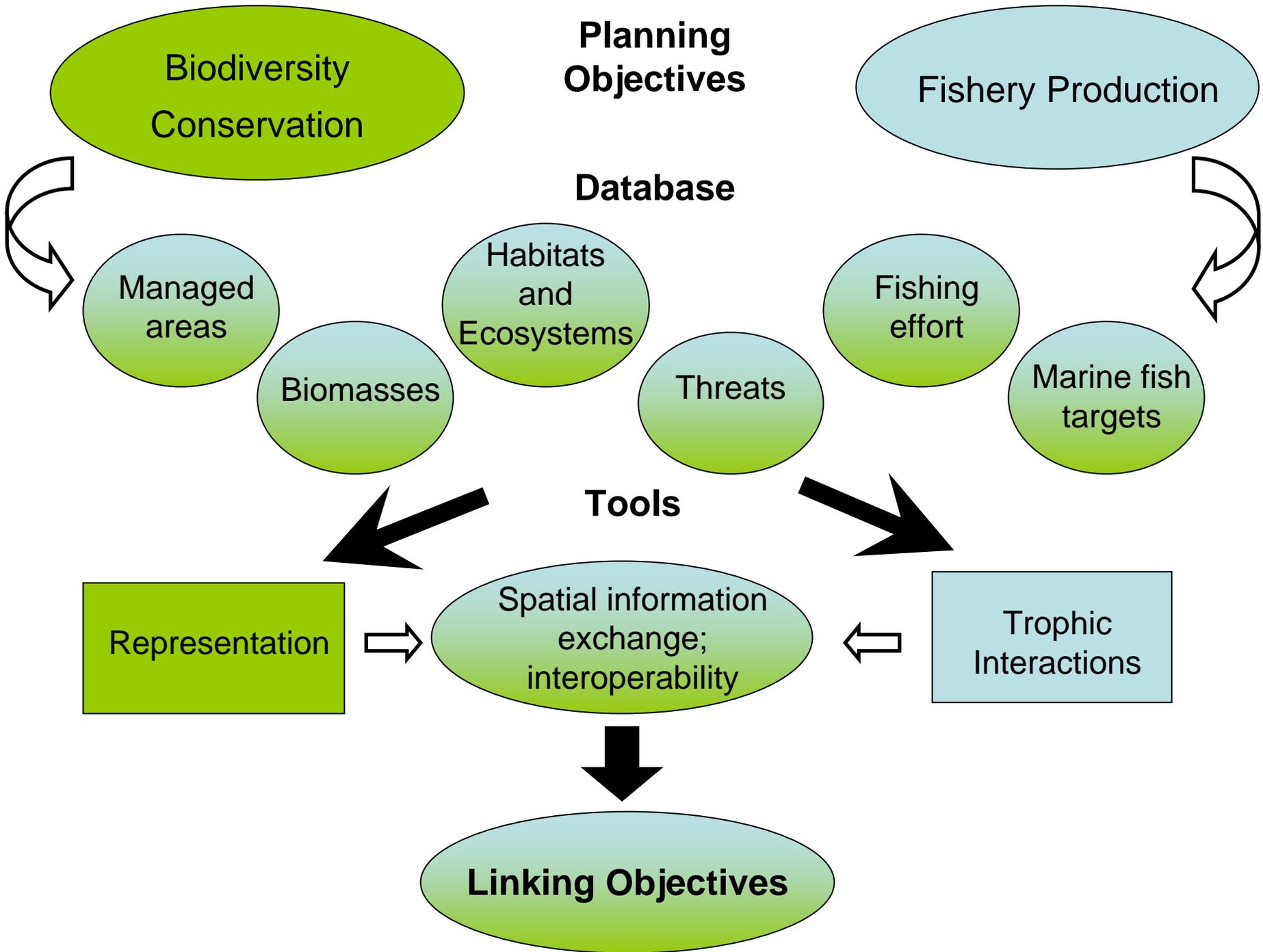


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III. Case 2: linking decision support tools to account for multiple objectives





Whose eating whom, when, where?

Ecopath with Ecosim

UBC fisheries (Pauly, Christensen, Walters)

A. Ecosystem trophic mass balance analysis (ecopath)

$$B_i \left(\frac{P}{B} \right)_i EE_i + IM_i + BA_i = \sum_j \left(B_j \frac{Q}{B} DC_{ij} \right) + EM_i + C_i$$

- Biomasses, production/biomass and consumption/biomass ratios

B. Dynamic modeling of past and future biomasses and catch (ecosim)

$$\frac{dB_i}{dt} = g_i \sum_j Q_{ji} - \sum_j Q_{ij} + I_i - (M0_i + F_i + e_i)B_i$$

- Fishing impacts and environmental disturbances

C. Ecosim models replicated over a spatial grid (ecospace)

$$f_i = \frac{g_i \sum_j C_{ij} - \sum_j C_{ji}}{P_i}$$

- Exploration of policies, spatial dispersal, advection, migration

Modeling the ecosystem

Ecopath model of the Northern California Current

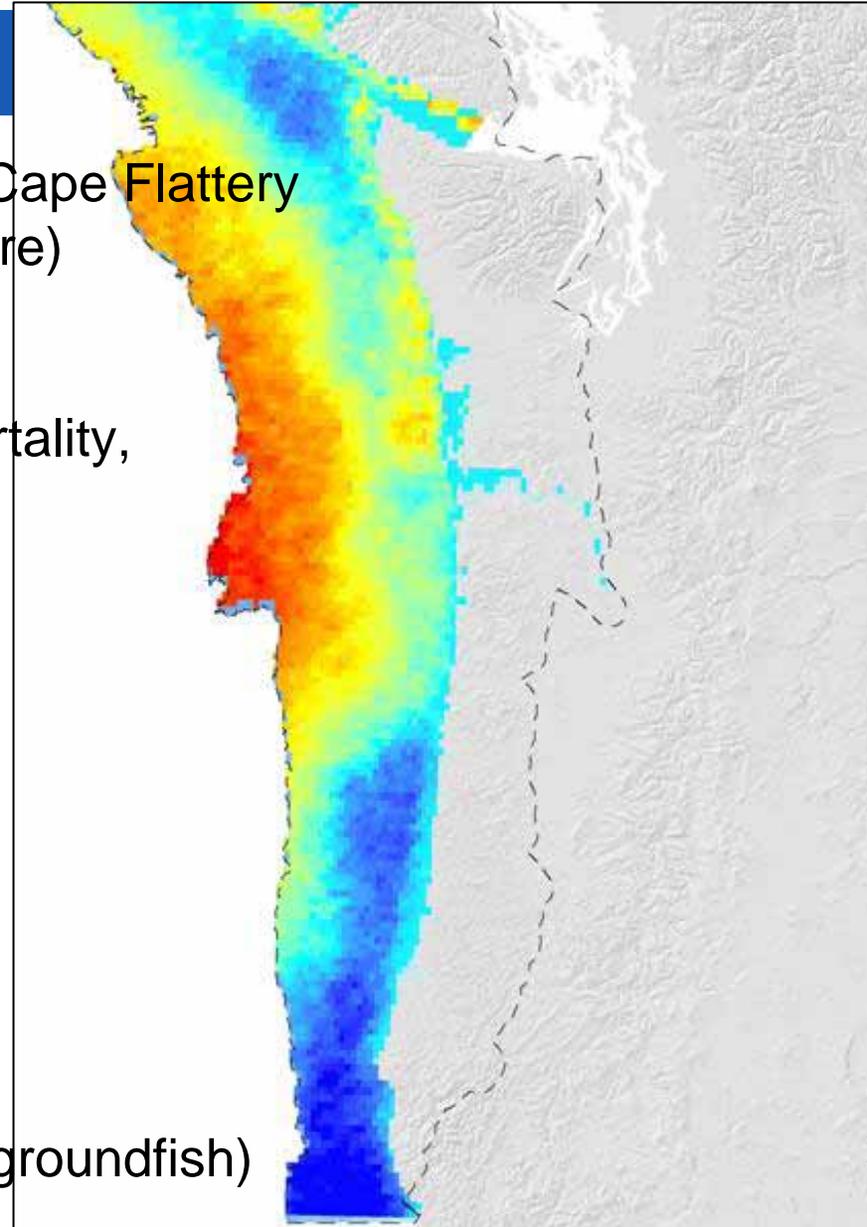
Model extends from Cape Mendocino to Cape Flattery
(1,280 meters depth or 20 – 80 km offshore)

Based on historic estimates of fishing mortality,
relative fishing effort, and climate forcing

63 components:

- 21 species of fish or shellfish
- 8 aggregations (i.e., genus)
- 11 functional groups (i.e., seabirds)
- 4 producers (i.e., phytoplankton)
- 19 broad aggregates (i.e., zooplankton)

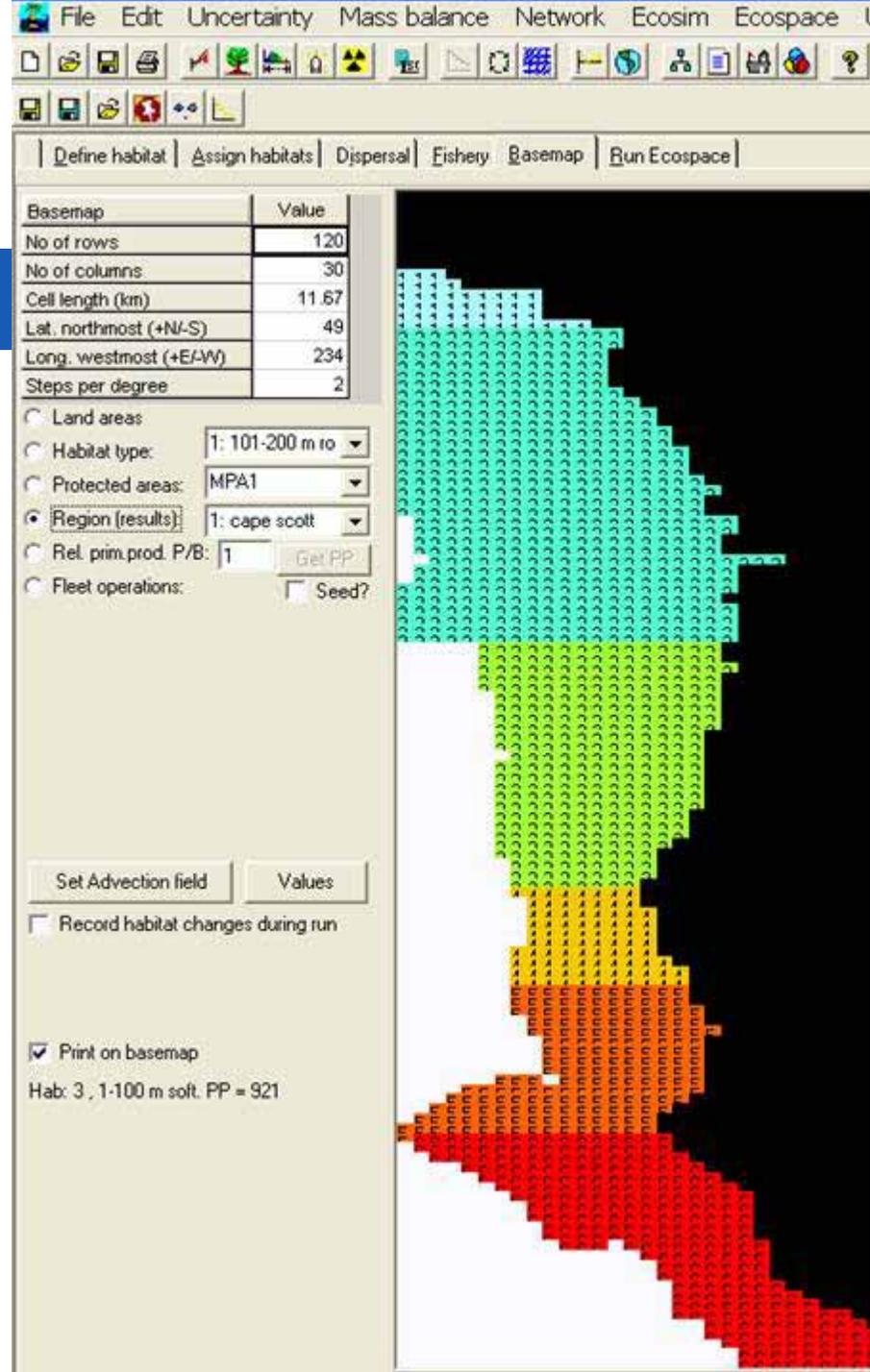
Emphasizes mid-trophic level predators (groundfish)



Ecospace model

a spatial, mesoscale version of Ecosim

- Spatial grid of homogeneous cells
- Assigns species-habitat preferences and allocation of fishing effort
- Movement of species through cells driven by rates of dispersal, feeding and predation
- Allows for placement of different marine management scenarios

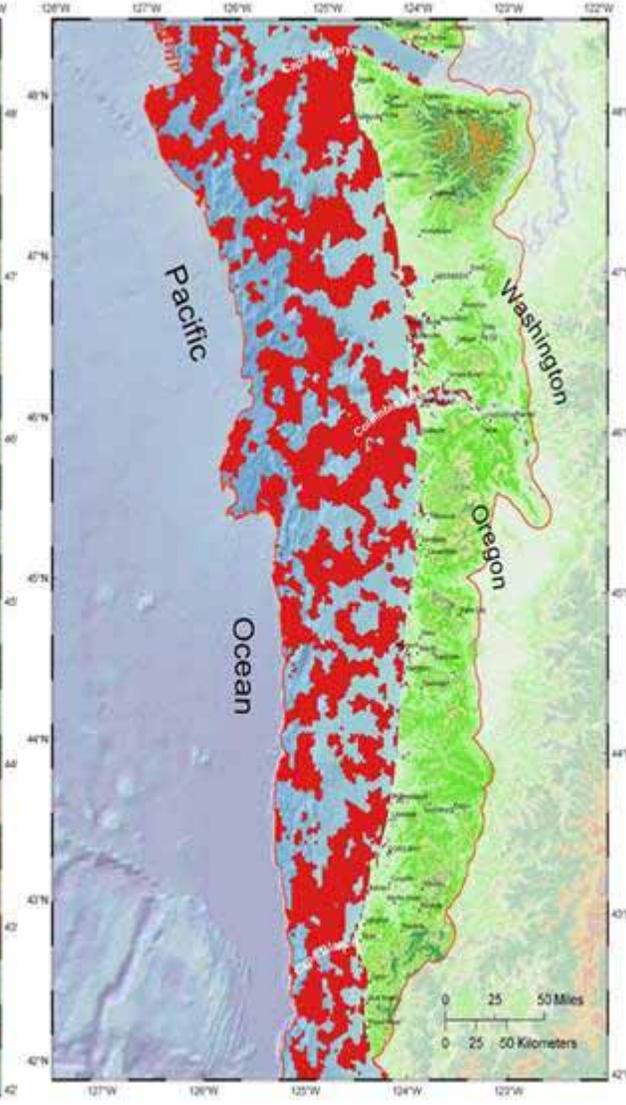
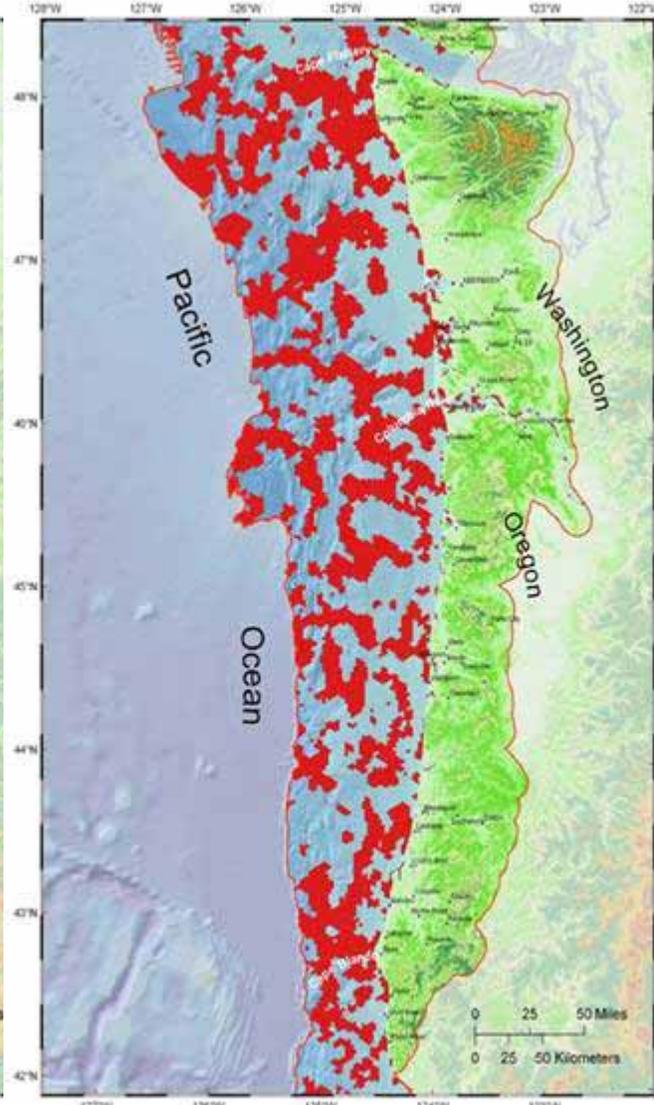


Designing effective decision support systems: transparent, flexible, credible

37% of total area

40%

44%

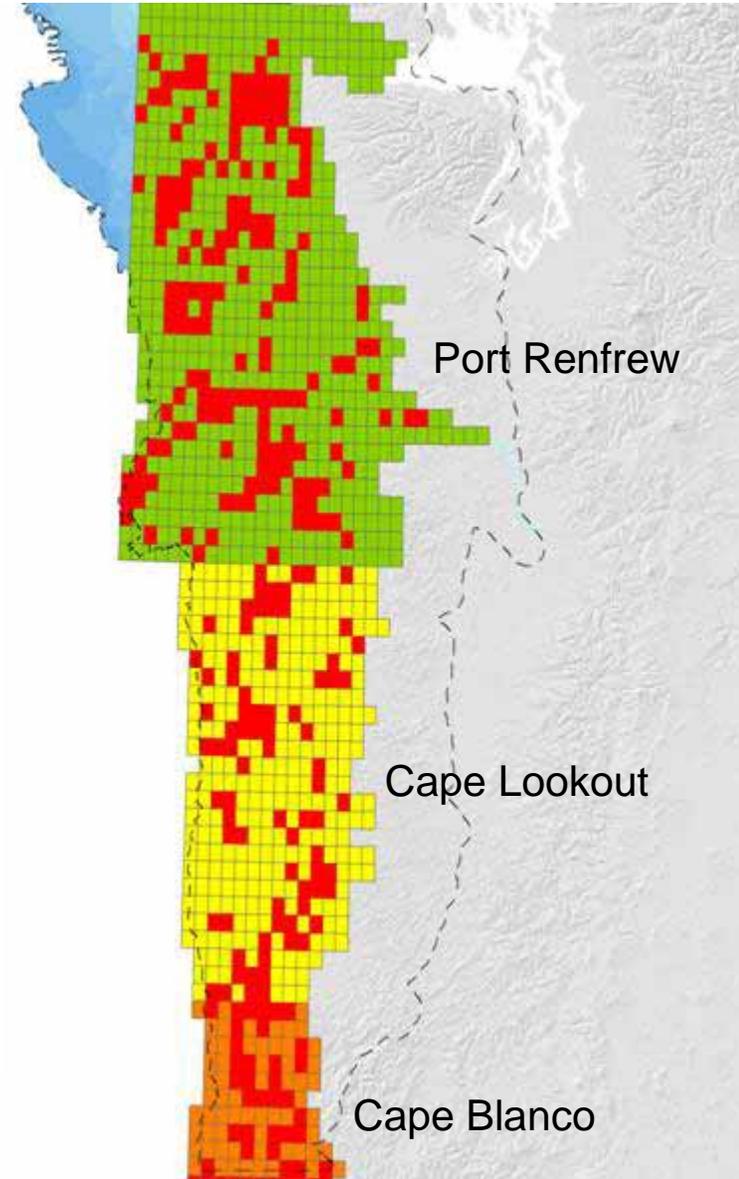


Linking tools linking objectives

Marxan solutions imported in Ecospace

indicators and implications

- Importing solutions implies representative spatial efficiency
- Lingcod and Dover Sole show more production inside priority areas than outside in most cases
- Why did fishery production for English Sole decline after 25% total conservation area in the Cape Blanco subregion?
- Accounts for species-habitat preferences and fishery production in and outside of priority conservation areas



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IV. Key messages moving forward

- Ecoregional planning framework
 - Ecosystem approach
 - Accommodates multiple objectives
- Accounting for marine fish species
 - Conservation and fisheries-related planning
- Enhancements
 - Better exchange of information between planning tools

