

# Towards trait-based modeling for albacore tuna predator-prey interactions under climate change in the NE Pacific

Dr. Natasha Hardy

Postdoc in Biological Sciences @ U Alberta, AB, Canada  
& Hopkins Marine Station @ Stanford, CA, USA

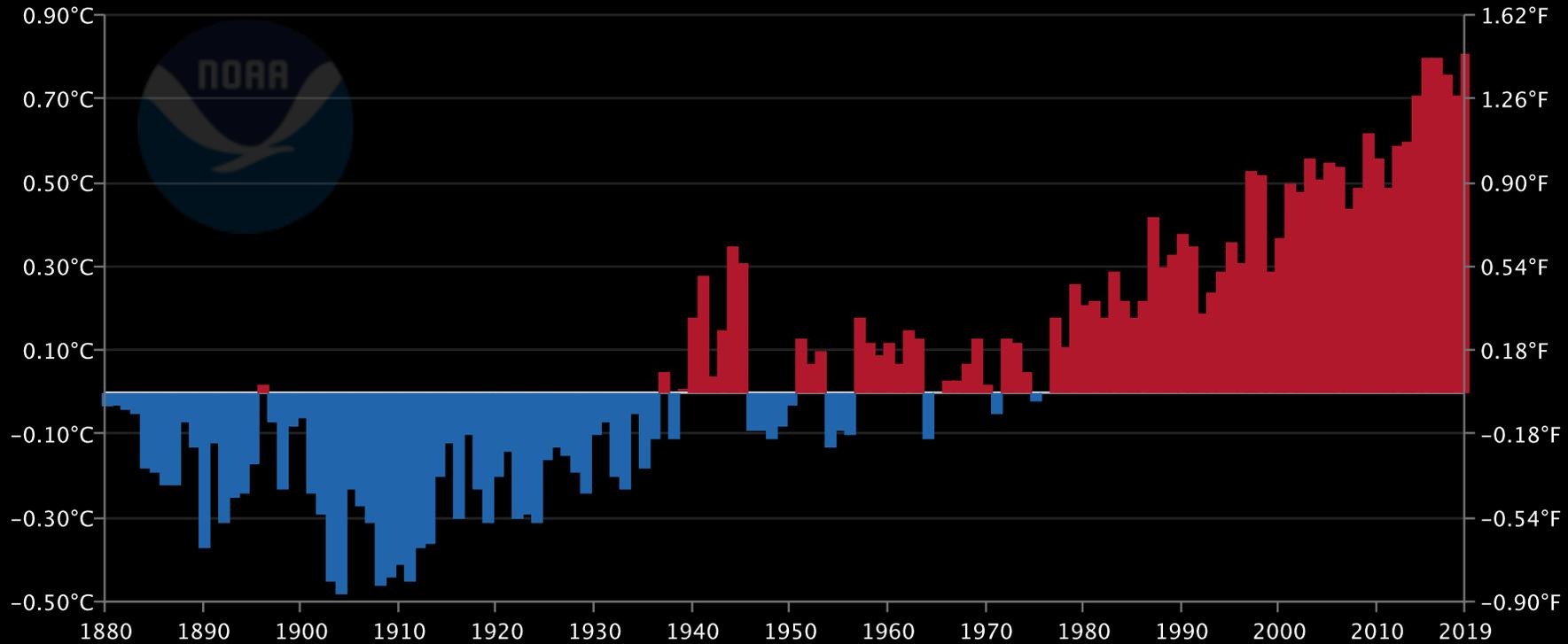
Collaboration with NOAA Environmental Research Division  
@ Monterey, CA, USA



# Within a context of increasing climatic variability and warming mean climate states...

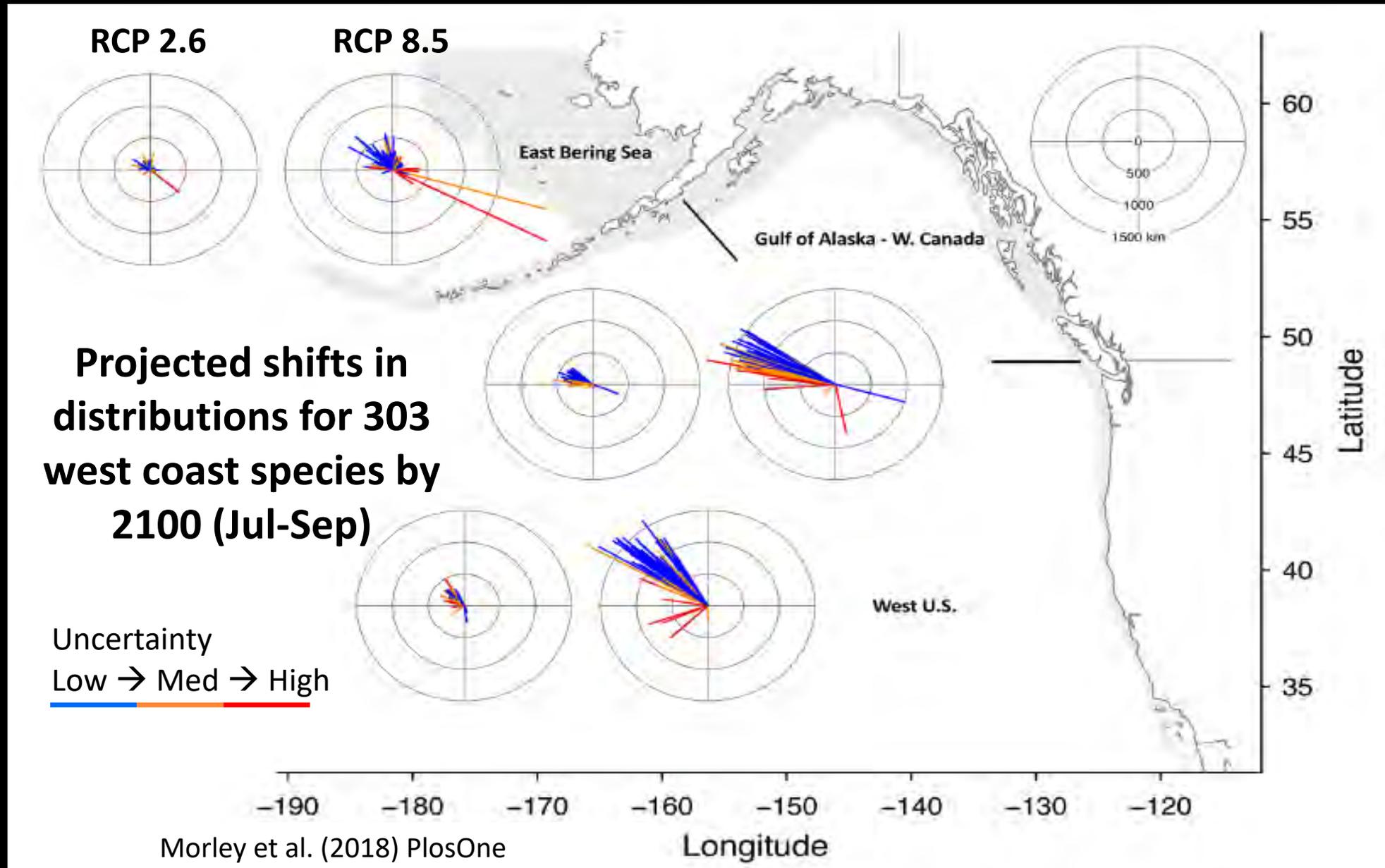
## Global Ocean

### July–September Temperature Anomalies

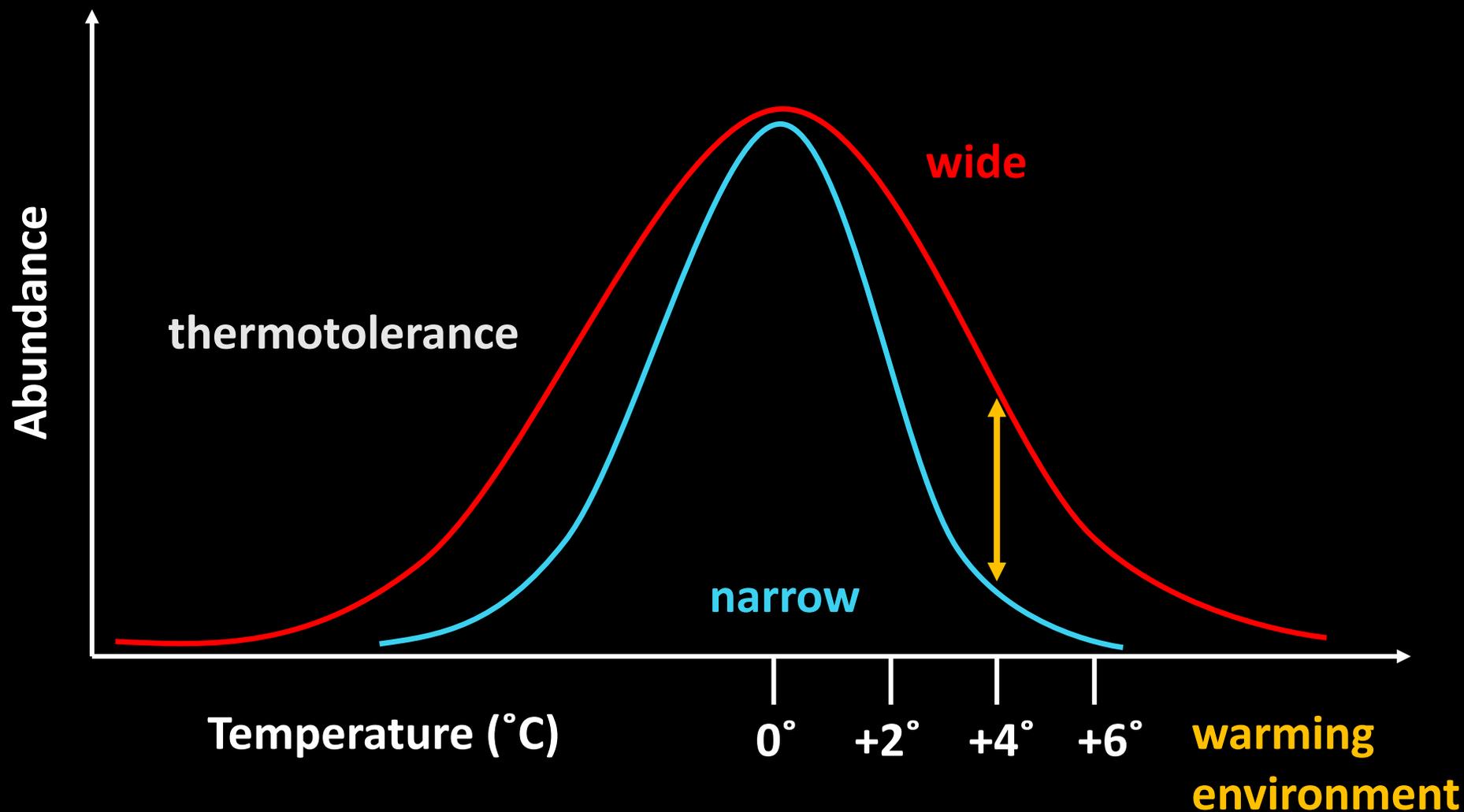


NOAA > Global climate series > Climate at a glance > Jul–Sep

# ...and shifts in thermal habitat causing species redistributions



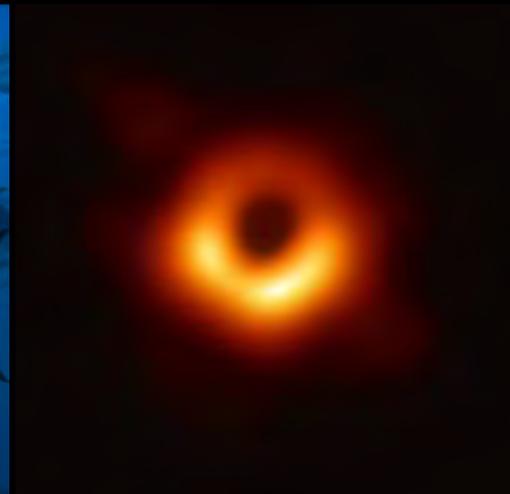
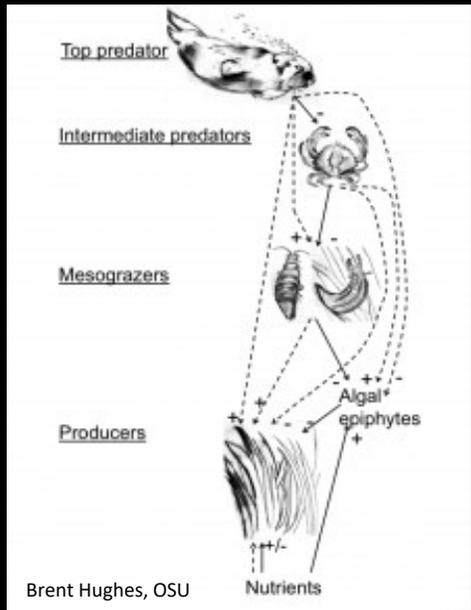
# Use of traits to model species' vulnerability to climate change



# But what about species effects on each other?



# Predator-prey interactions from the coast to the open ocean





## Albacore tuna as indicators for climatic & ecological change



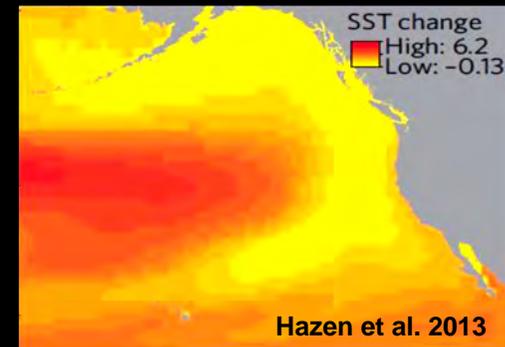
- ❑ Albacore tuna as **ecosystem samplers**
- ❑ Move beyond **taxonomy**
- ❑ Identify **trait-based parameters** for diet shifts vs. environmental gradients
- ❑ Apply those parameters to **project for future ecological & environmental change**



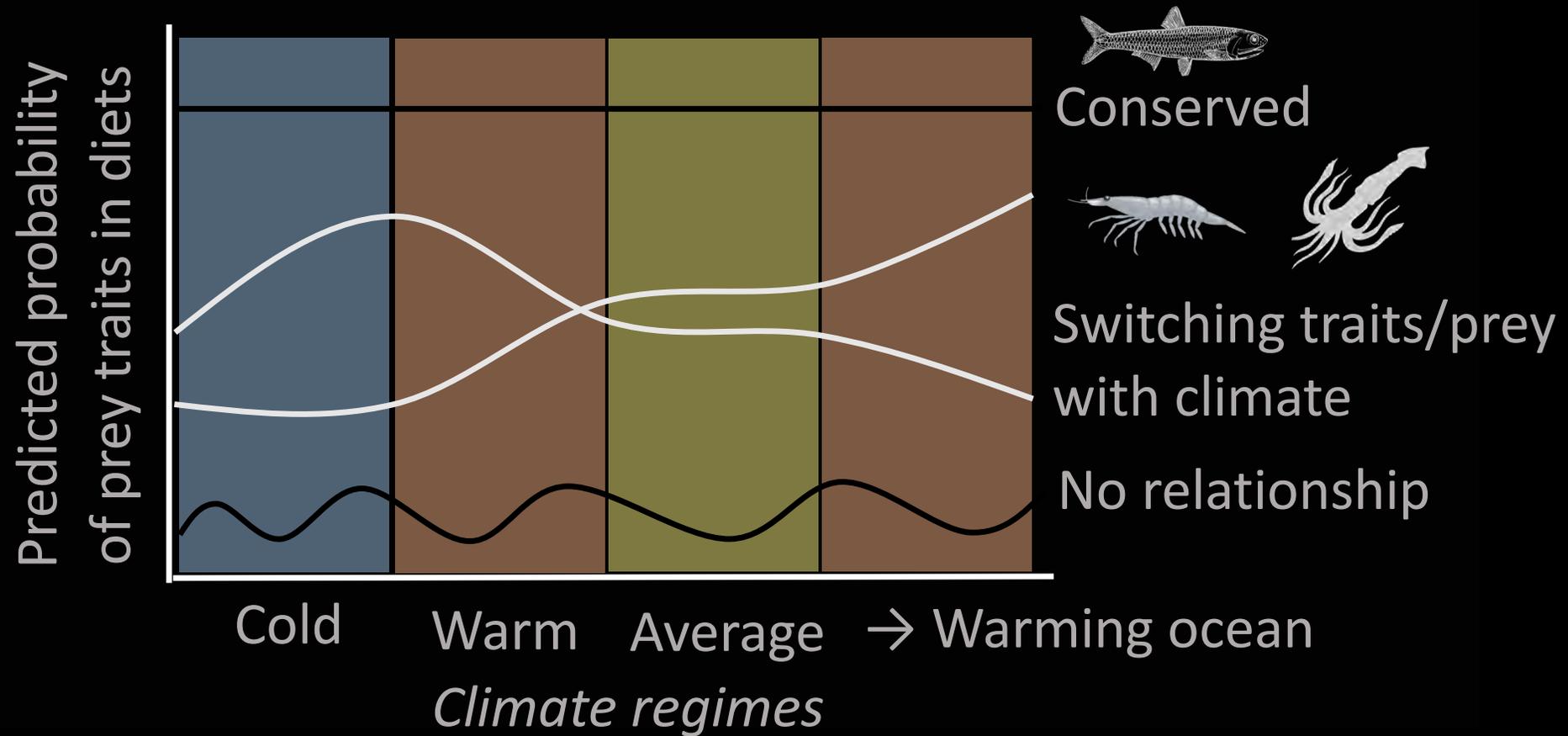
## Albacore tuna as indicators for climatic & ecological change



- ✓ Broad & **variable diet** composition across environmental gradients
- ✓ HMS – **tracking change** in thermal habitats
- ✓ Commercially **valuable** – NE Pacific with cross-jurisdictional CAN-US Treaty



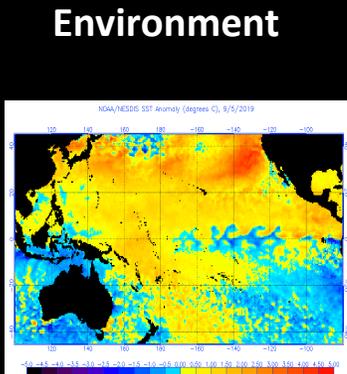
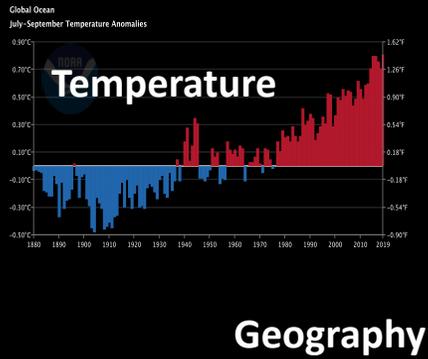
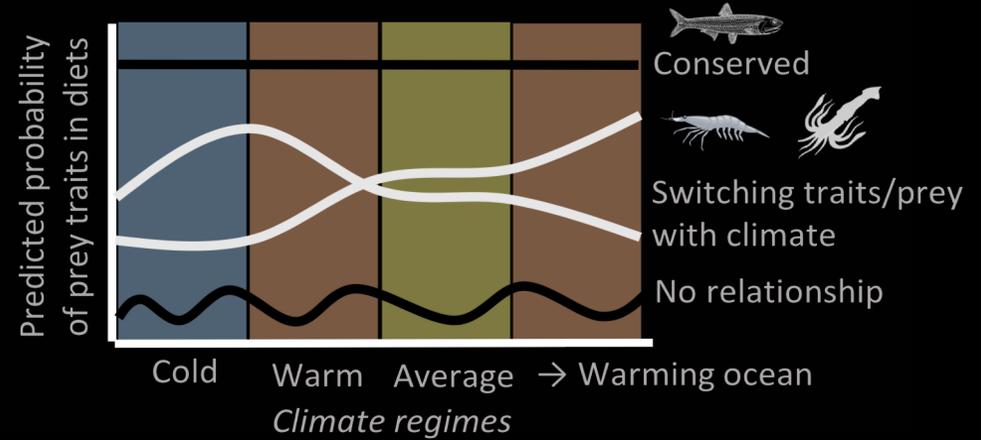
# Trait-based predictions for future change



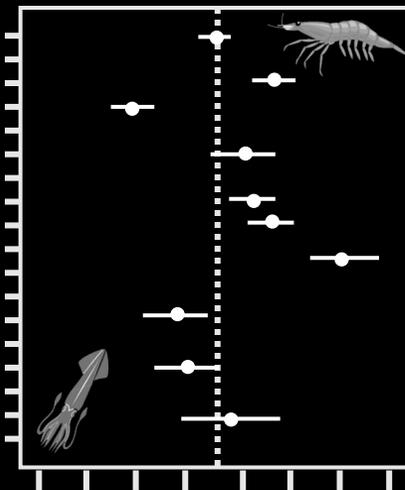
# Towards trait-based predictions for future change



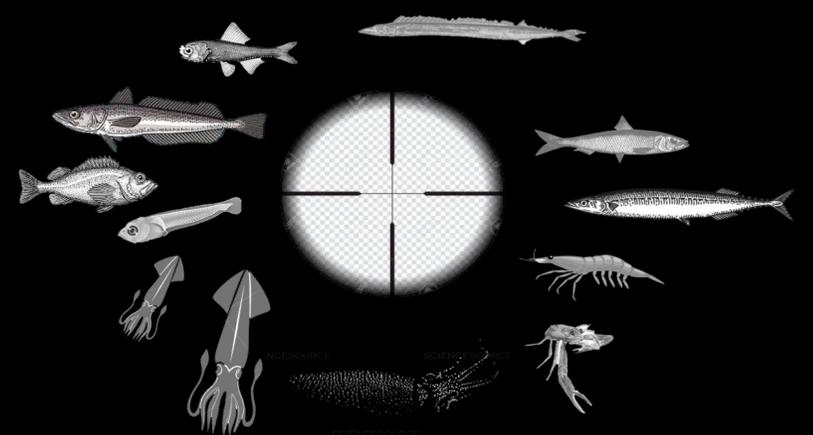
## trait \* environment relationship



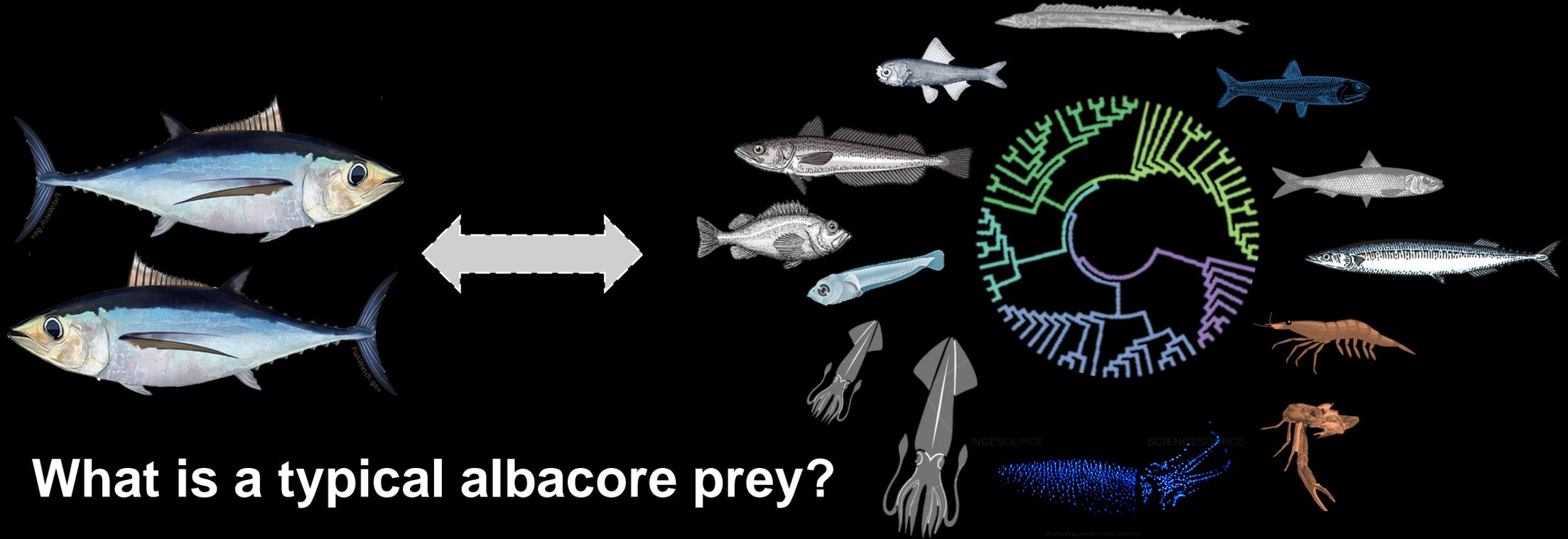
## Predictive traits



## Taxonomic diet information



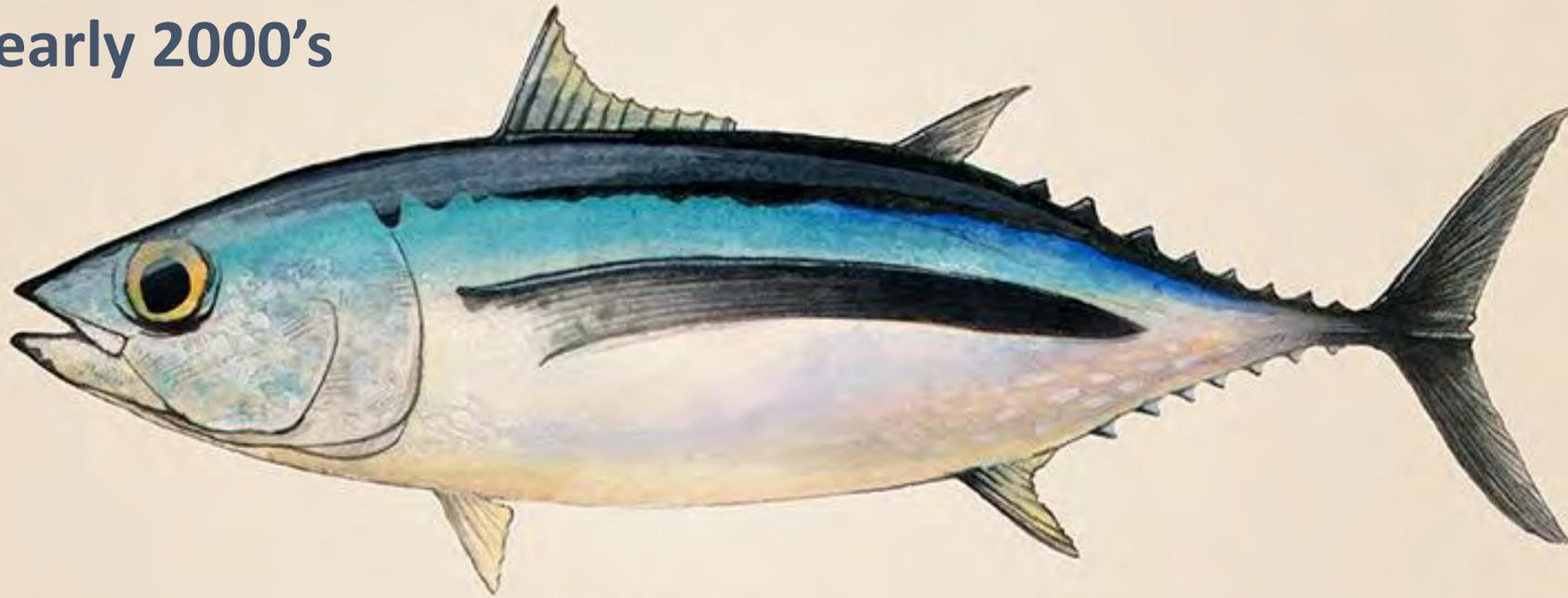
Not so fast...



- **What is a typical albacore prey?**
- **Which strong predictors for diet shifts?**

# What is a typical albacore prey?

Global, historical review of albacore diets from late 1880's to early 2000's



Fish Plate 112

*Albacore Tuna*  
*Thunnus alalunga* Found in the open waters of all tropical and temperate oceans.

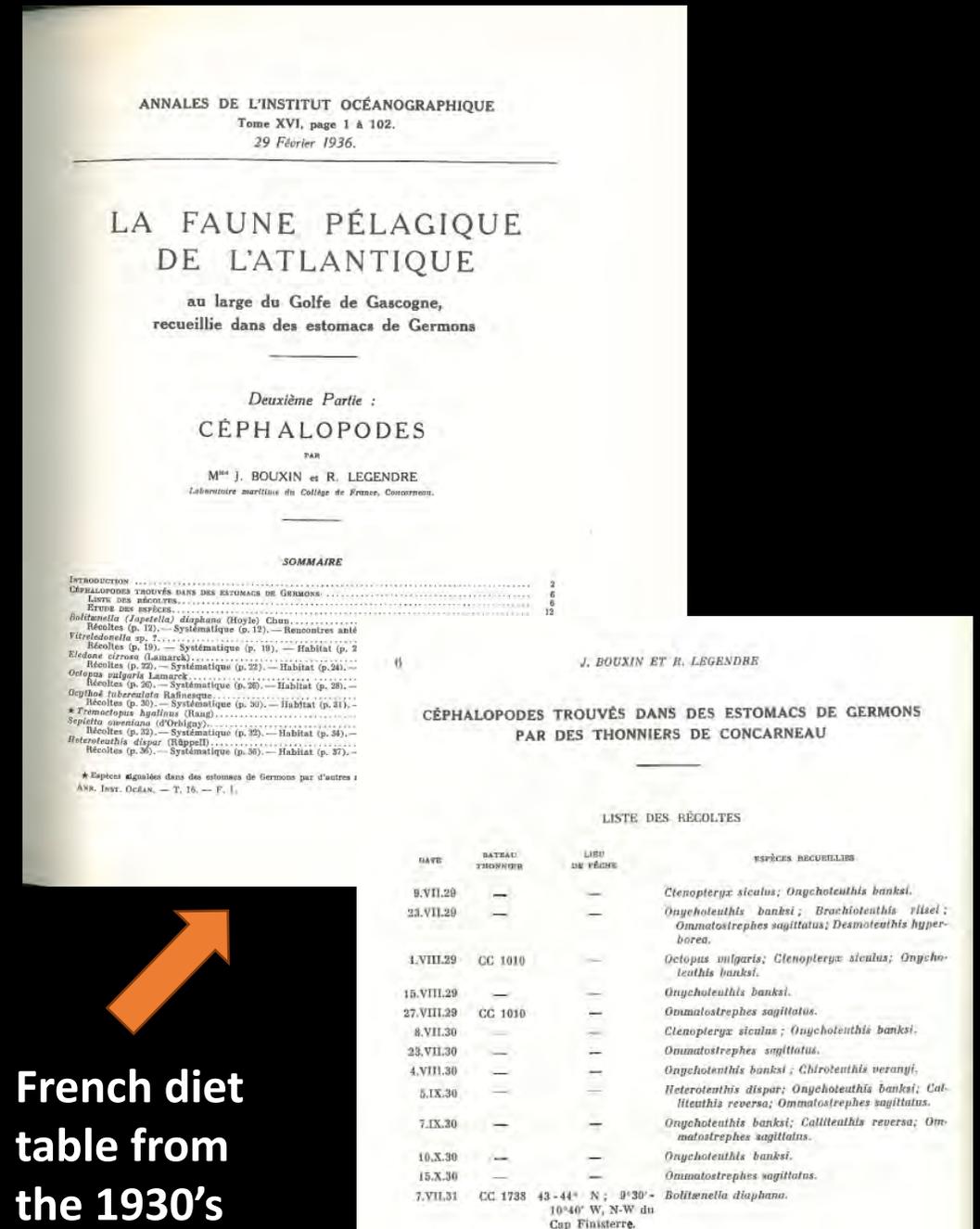
Head & Body 1888

**Table S5.** Metrics showing prey species found in 86 albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) stomachs in 2008, 2009, and 2010. Metrics are as follows: N is abundance, %N is relative abundance, FO is frequency of occurrence by stomach, %FO is % of stomachs containing that food item. Total mass is mass of prey items estimated from length, otolith size (fish), or beak metrics (cephalopods), and total kJ is estimated from mass using energy density values from Glaser *et al.*(7). IRI is shown for the 4 most prevalent prey items. A hyphen (-) indicates that metric(s) could not be calculated because species were unidentified; 'nd' ('no data') indicates that conversion algorithms were not available for mass and kJ for that species.

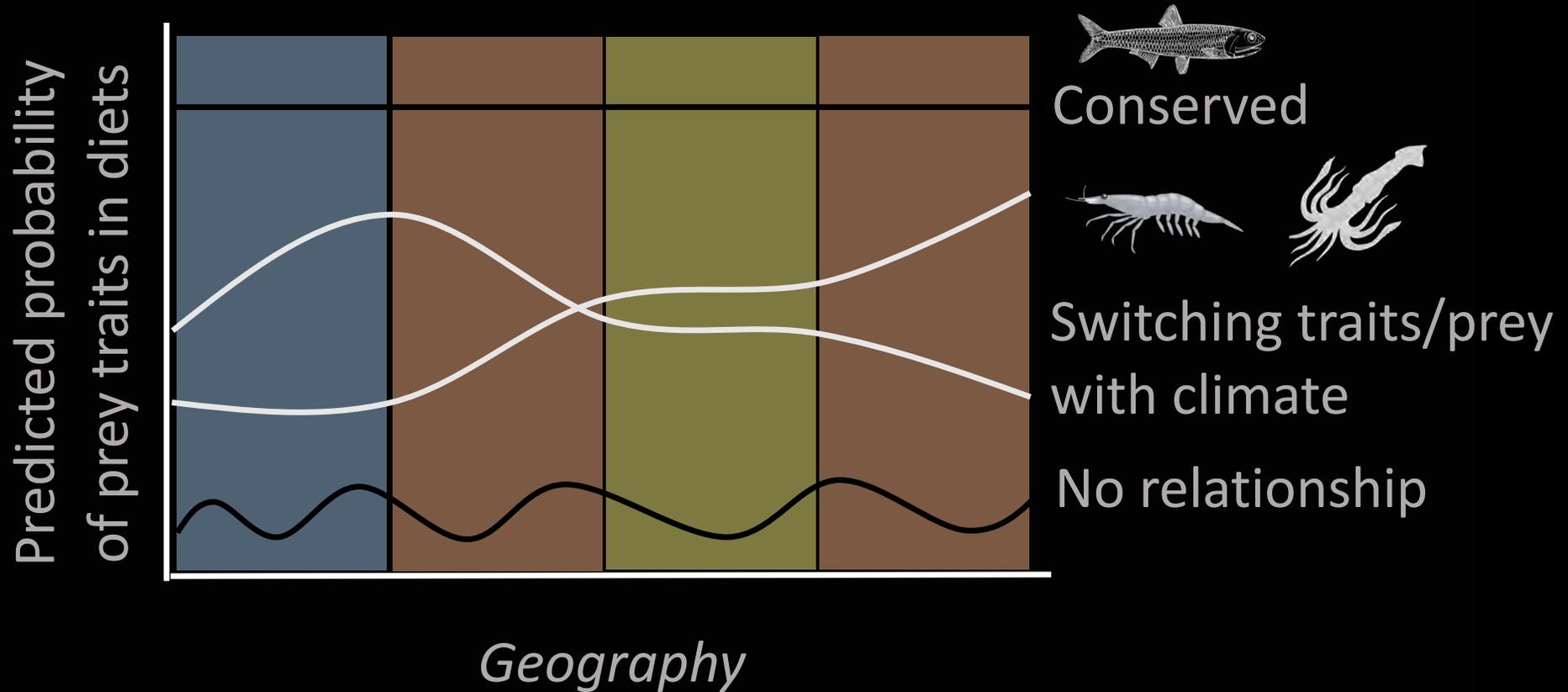
Order/Family	Prey Category	N	%N	FO	%FO	Total mass (g)	Total kJ	IRI
<b>FISHES</b>								
Carangidae	<i>Trachurus symmetricus</i>	179	11	35	41	452	2894	23.44
Clupeidae	<i>Sardinops sagax</i>	51	3	25	29	122	887	4.97
Engraulidae	<i>Engraulis mordax</i>	6	<1	2	2	16	105	
Kyphosidae	<i>Medialuna californiensis</i>	1	<1	1	1	nd	nd	
Myctophidae	<i>Triphoturus mexicanus</i>	6	<1	6	7	nd	nd	
Scomberosocidae	<i>Cololabis saira</i>	7	<1	5	6	<1	3	
Scombridae	<i>Scomber japonicus</i>	4	<1	2	2	0.1	1	
Sebastidae	<i>Sebastes</i> spp.	29	2	9	10	21	90	
Fishes unid.		111	7	30	35	-	-	
<b>CEPHALOPODS</b>								
Argonautidae	<i>Argonauta argo</i>	13	1	8	9	nd	nd	
Enoploteuthidae	<i>Abraliopsis affinis</i>	1	<1	1	1	0.1	0.5	
	<i>Abraliopsis felis</i>	19	1	11	13	35	155	
Gonatiidae	<i>Gonatus</i> spp.	176	11	44	51	154	678	13.50
Loliginidae	<i>Doryteuthis opalescens</i>	79	5	3	3	372	1639	
Octopodidae	<i>Octopus bimaculatus</i>	24	2	10	12	3	11	
Octopoteuthidae	<i>Octopoteuthis sicula</i>	19	1	7	8	10	46	
	<i>Octopoteuthis</i> spp.	2	<1	1	1	1	6	
Ocythoidae	<i>Ocythoe tuberculata</i>	1	<1	1	1	nd	nd	
Ommastrephidae	<i>Dosidicus gigas</i>	1	<1	1	1	55	240	
Onychoteuthidae	<i>Onychoteuthis borealijaponica</i>	17	1	4	5	13	59	
Ceph. unid.		143	9	31	36	-	-	
<b>CRUSTACEA</b>								
Amphipoda	<i>Hyperidea</i> unid	20	1	6	7	nd	nd	
Decapoda	<i>Pleuroncodes planipes</i>	2	<1	1	1	3	10	
Euphausiacea	<i>Euphausiid</i>	540	33	45	52	384	1190	35.88
Crust. unid.		35	2	5	6	-	-	

Diet table

French diet table from the 1930's

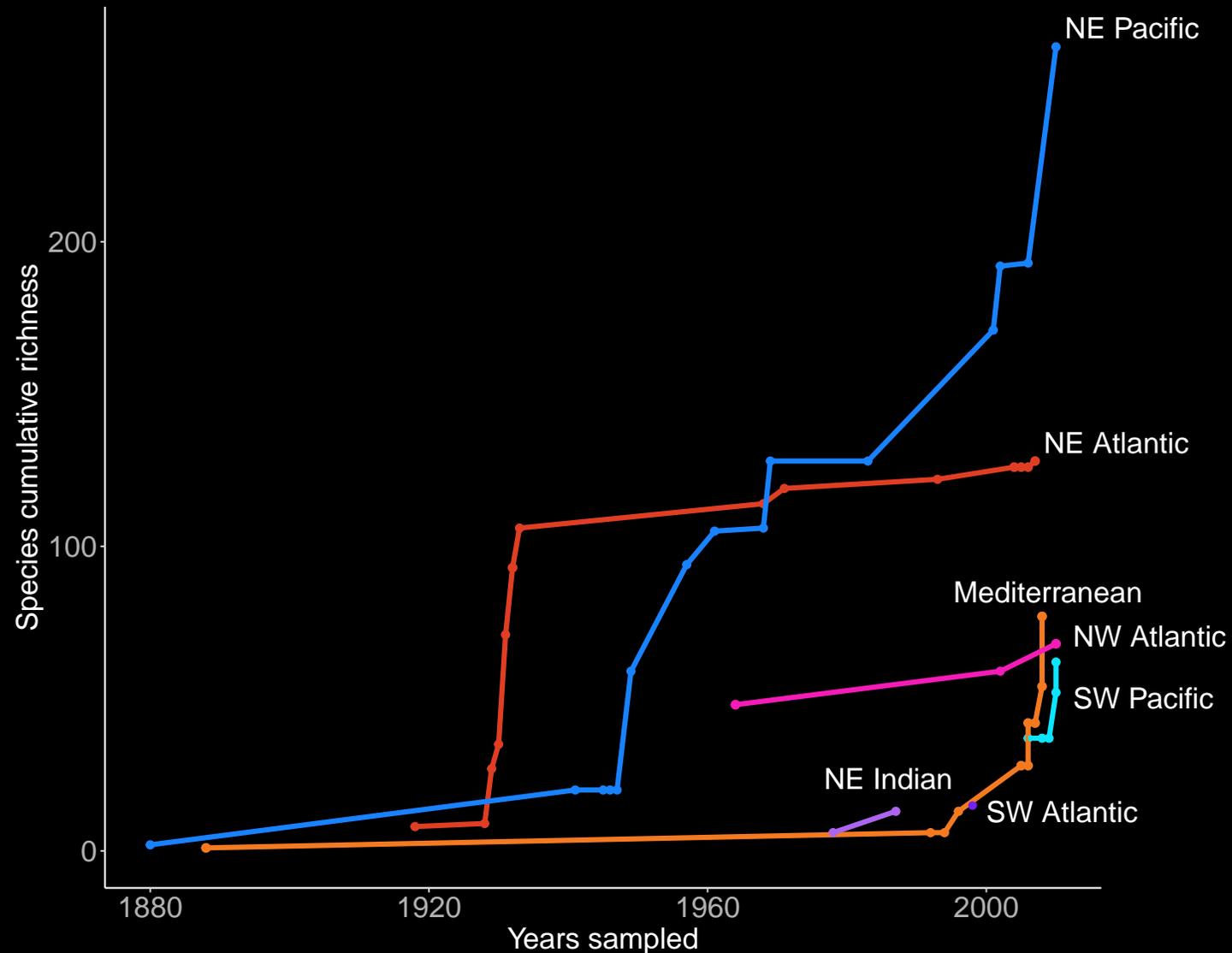


# Trait-variation in albacore diets across geography



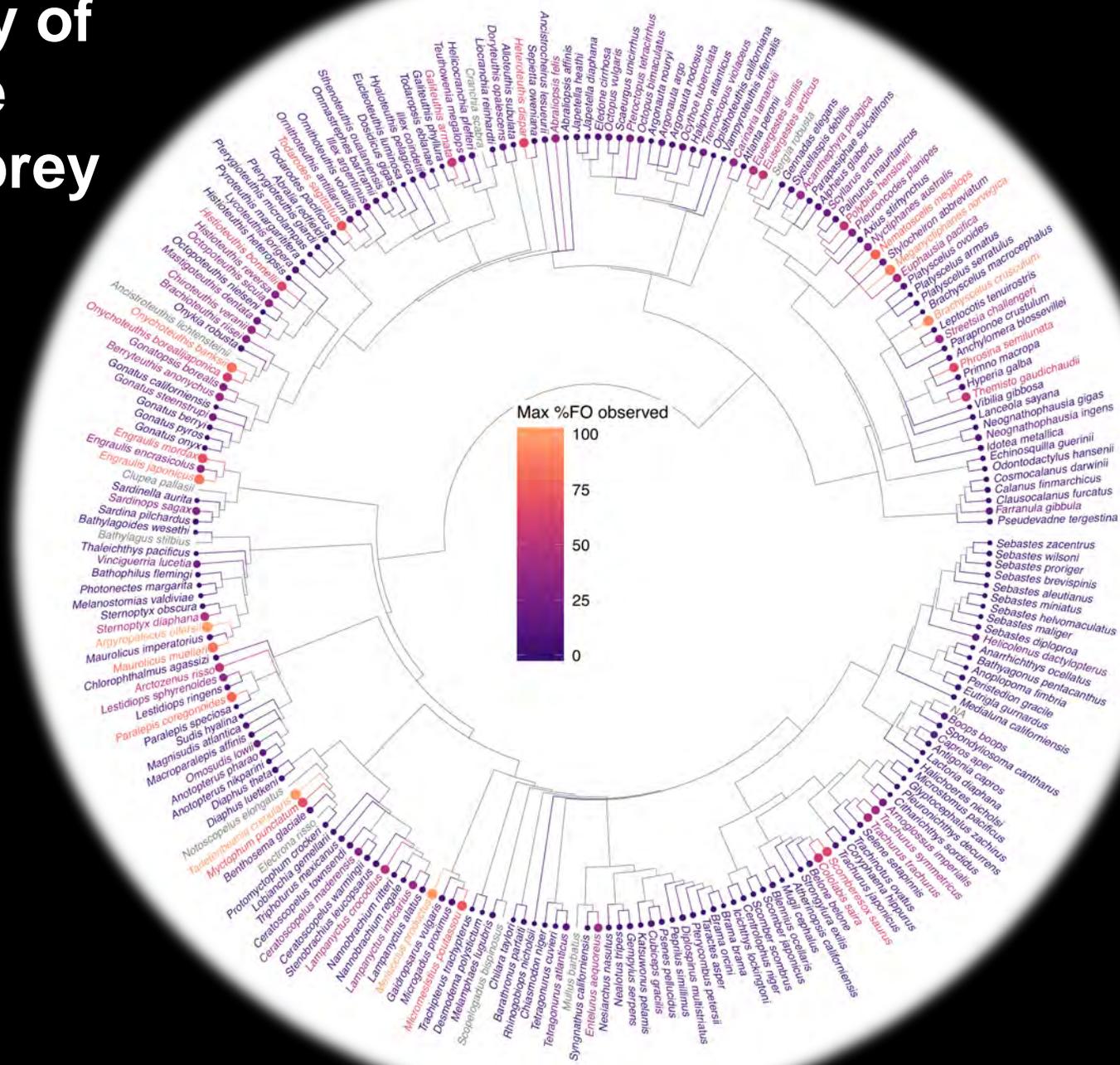
# Global historical review of albacore tuna diets

- 31 published papers from 1880's to 2000's
- 50 unique observations of albacore diet composition





# Max frequency of occurrence observed for prey species

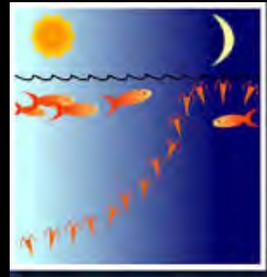
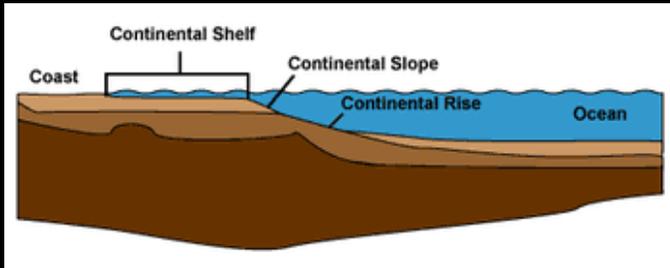




A circular phylogenetic tree diagram, also known as a radial tree, is centered on the page. The tree is composed of numerous branches radiating from a central point towards the outer edge, forming a dense, circular structure. The branches are thin and light gray, creating a complex web of lines. The overall shape is roughly circular, with some branches extending slightly beyond the main circular boundary.

**There is a need to **model change** in  
complex ecological communities using  
**generalisable traits****

# Traits for mediating predator-prey interactions



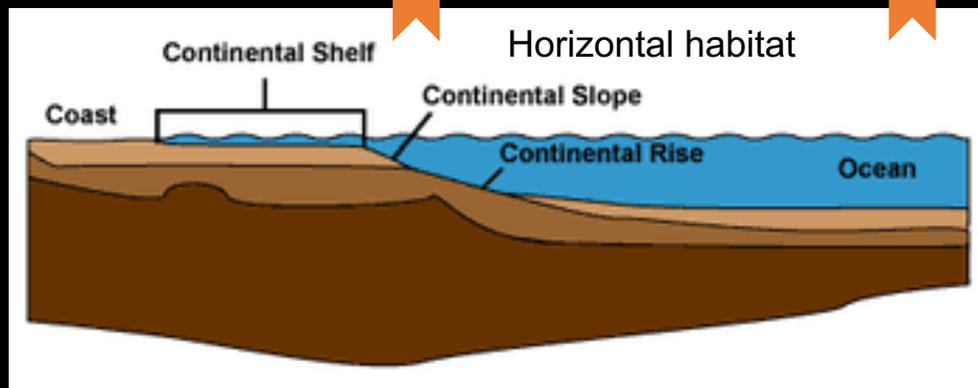
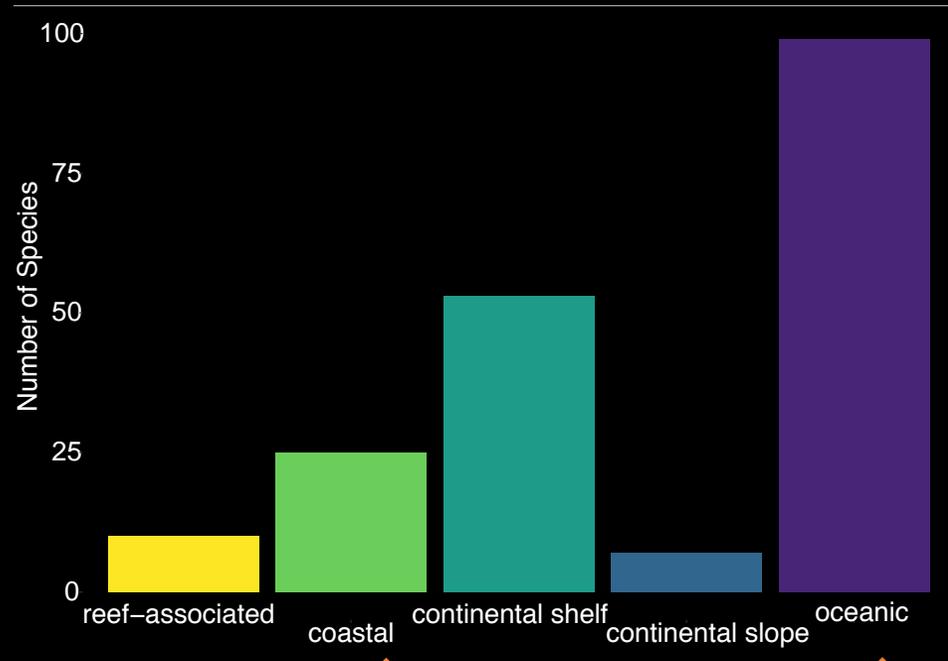
**Habitat  
position & diel migration**

**Refuge/  
avoidance  
behaviour**

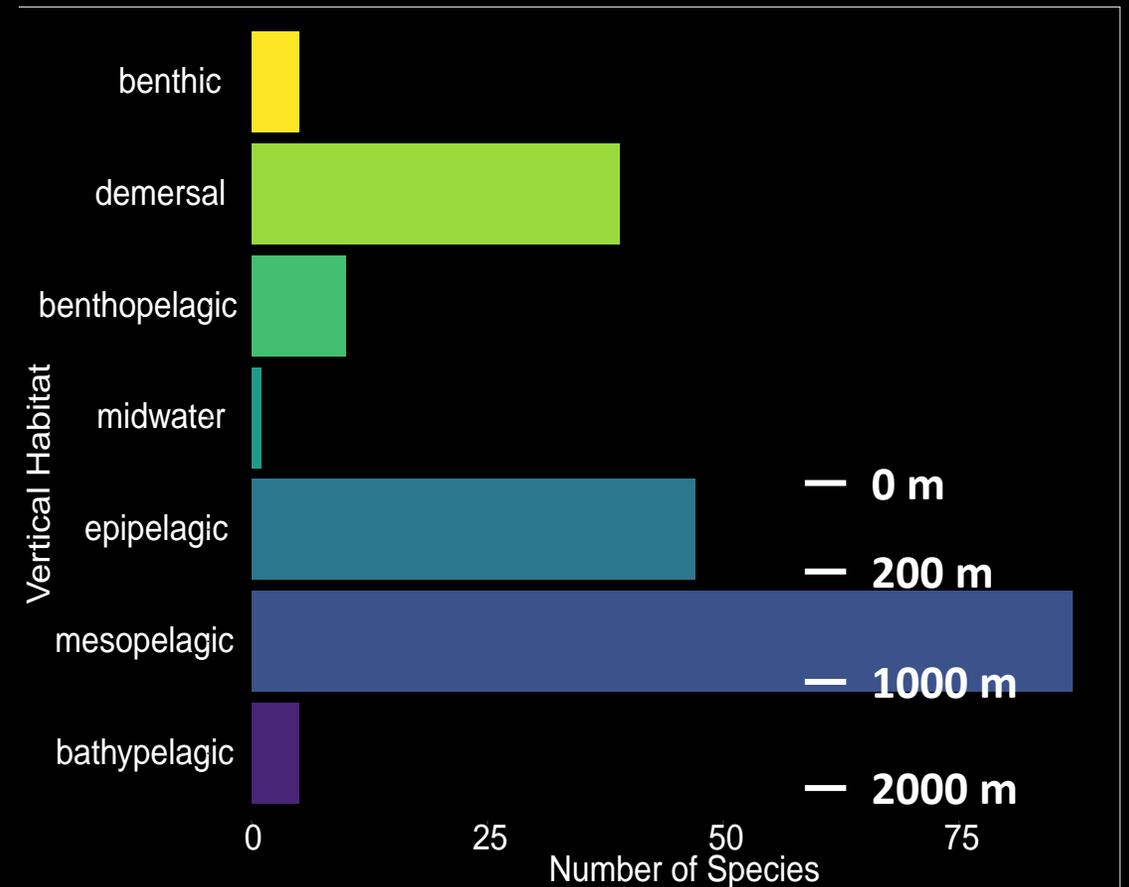
**Physical  
defense**

**Body  
shape**

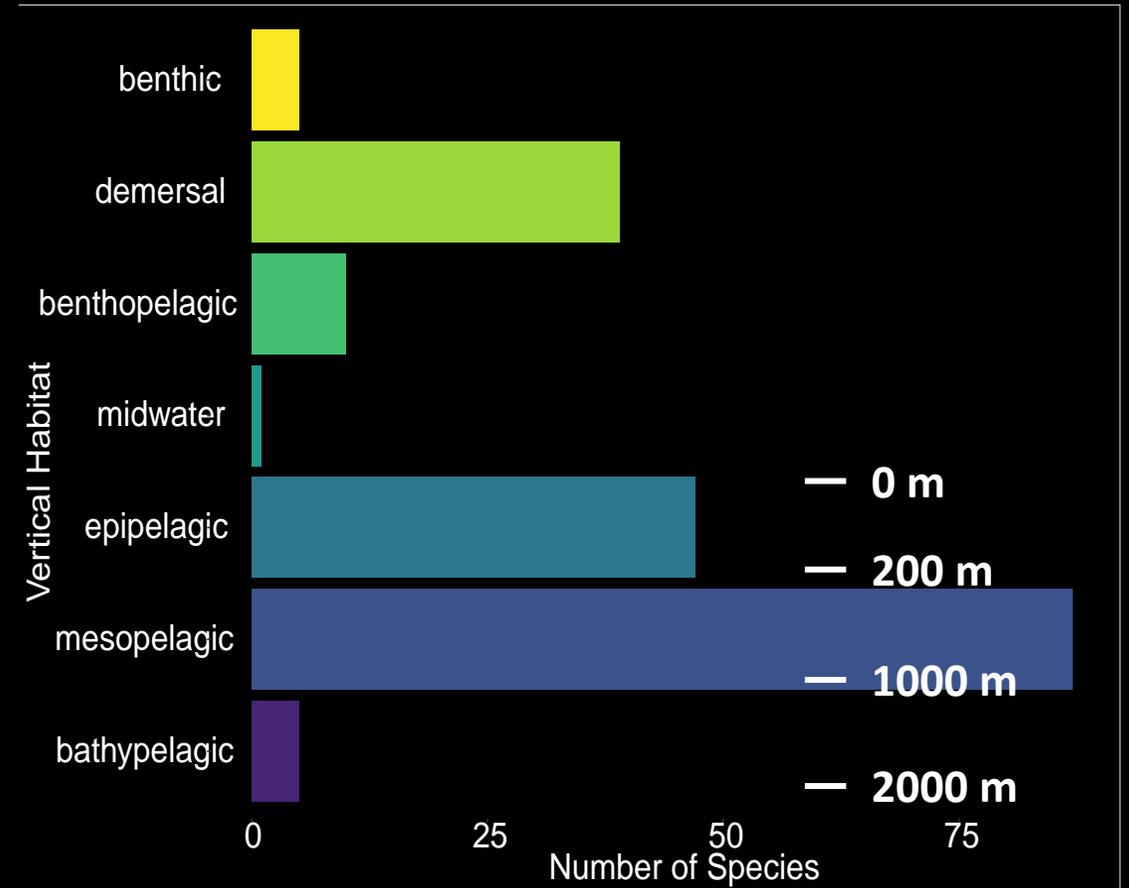
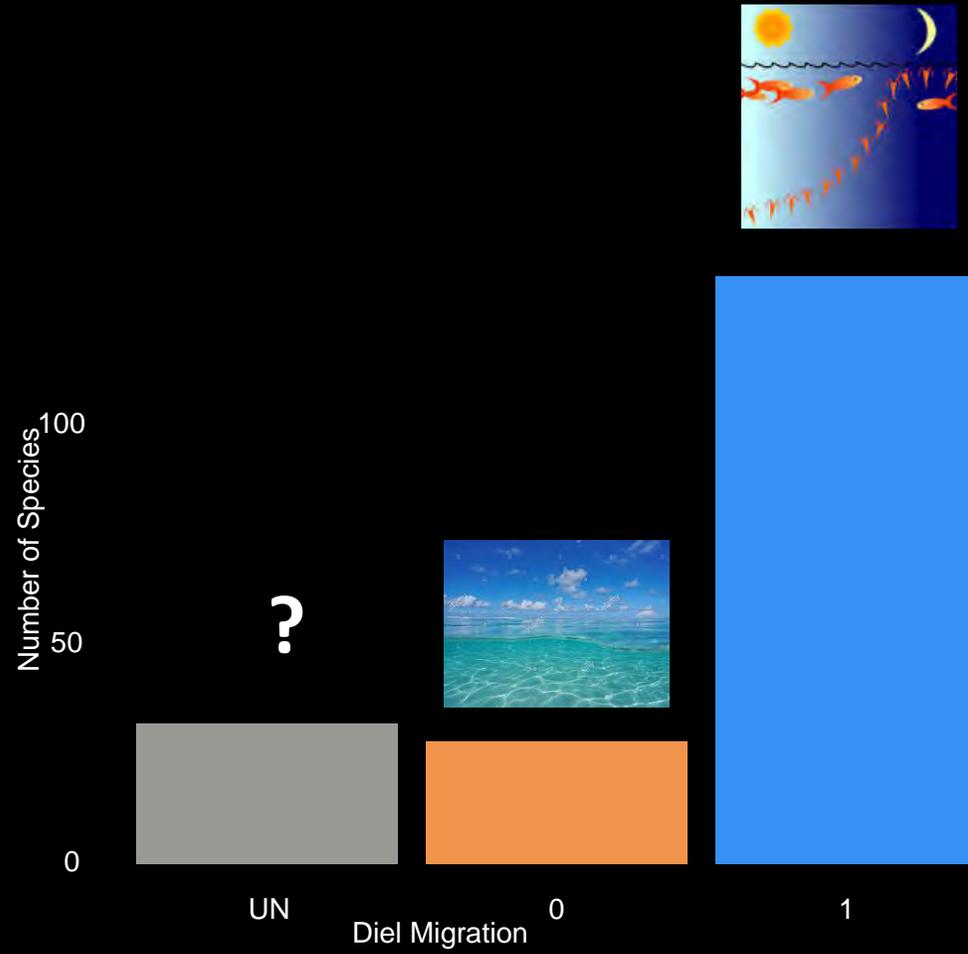
Using published, grey literature & FishBase + SeaLifeBase (Froese & Pauly 2000)



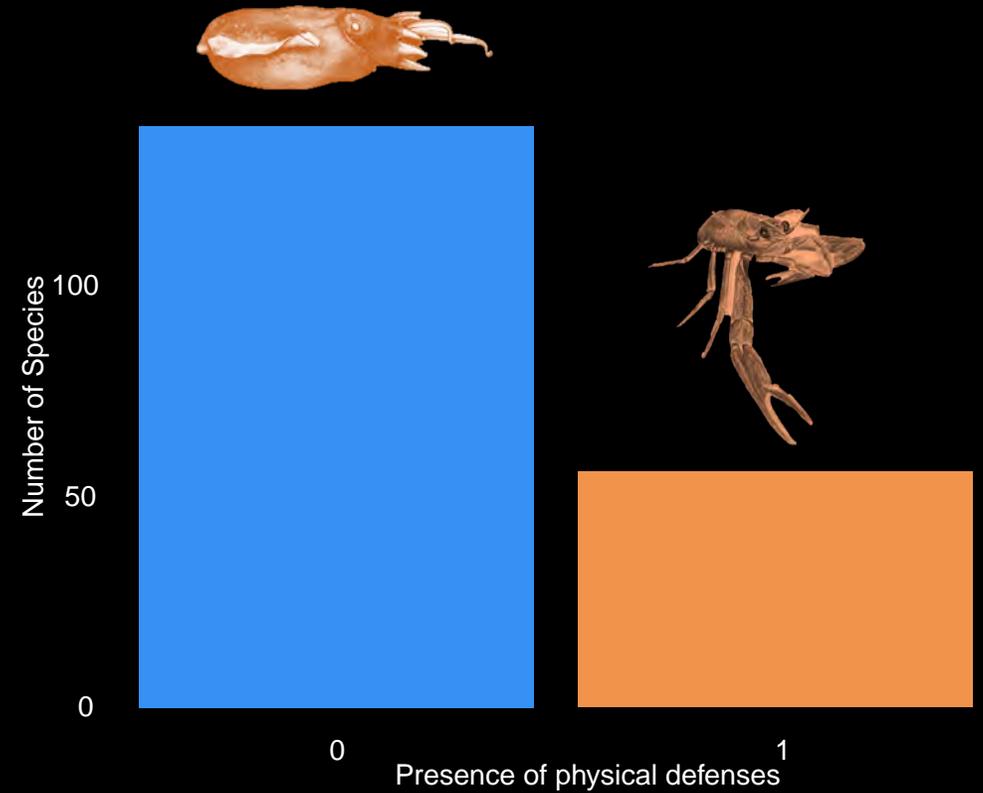
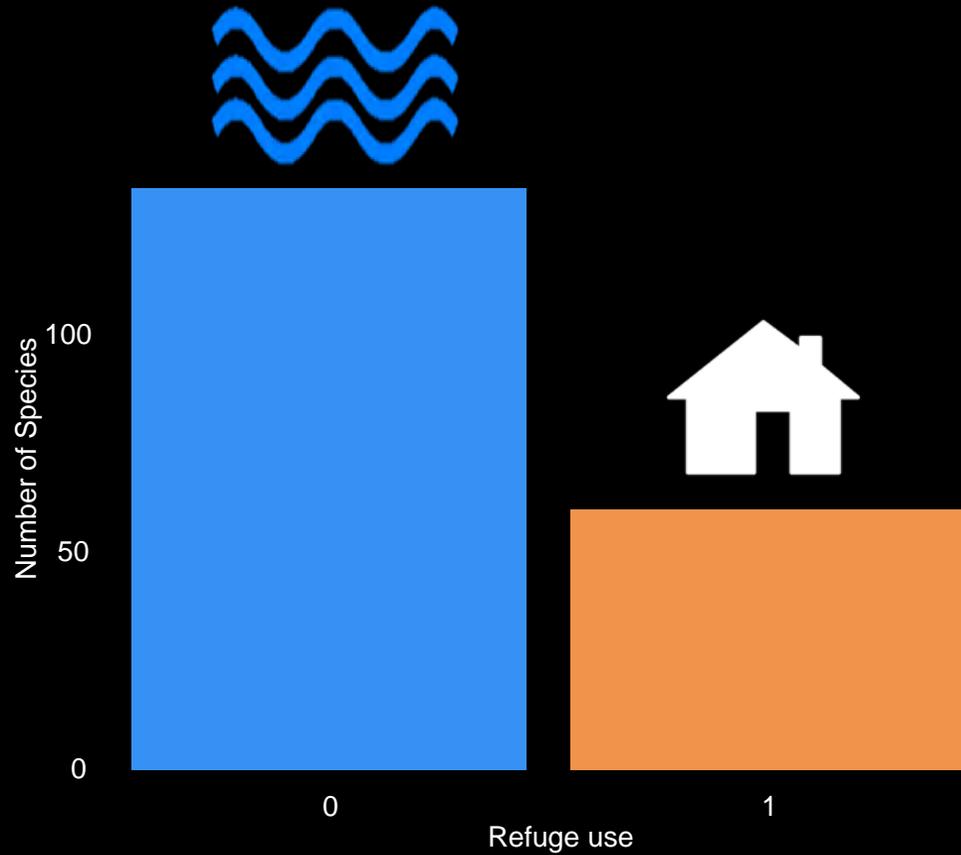
# Habitat attributes



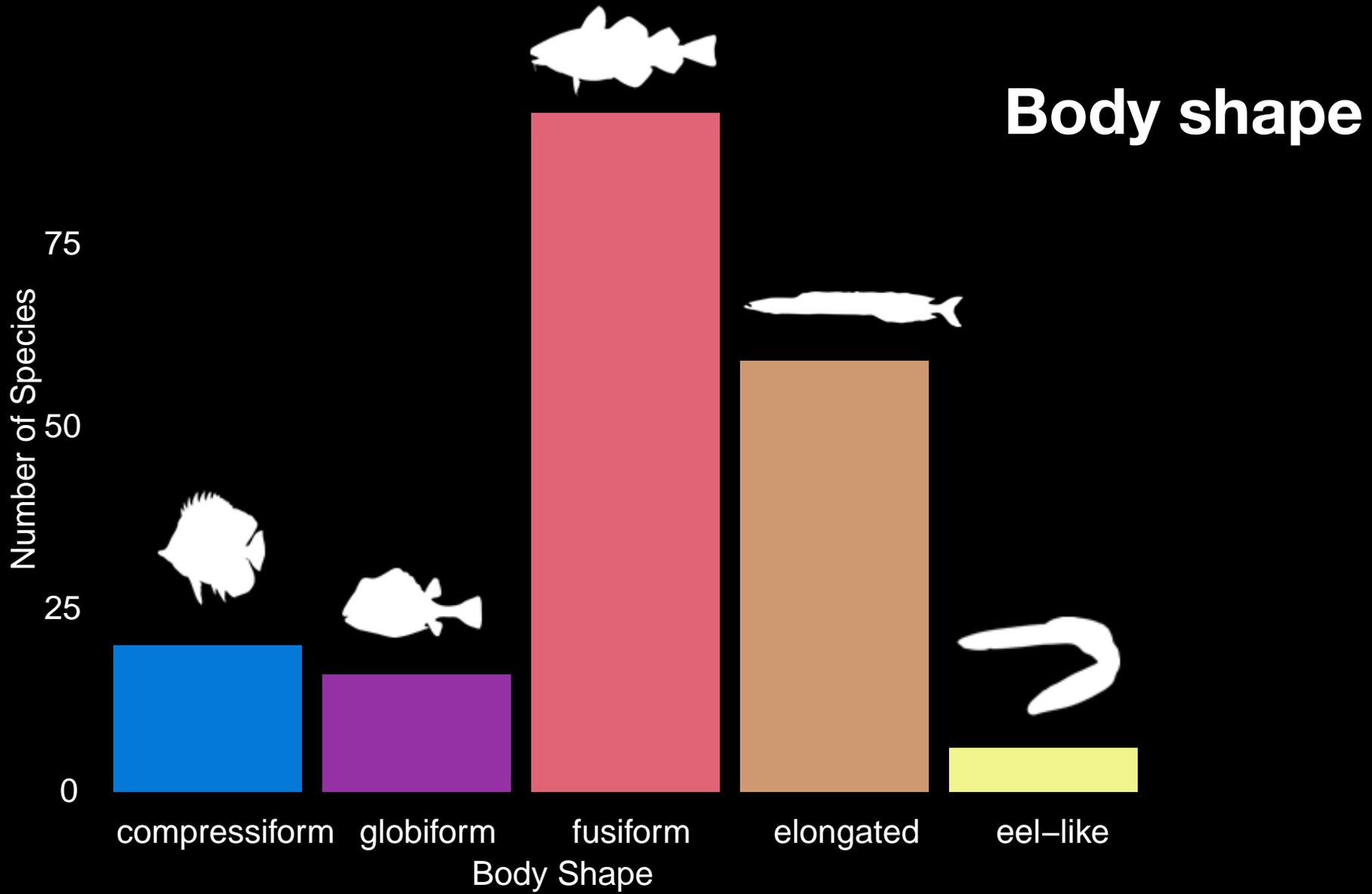
# Habitat attributes



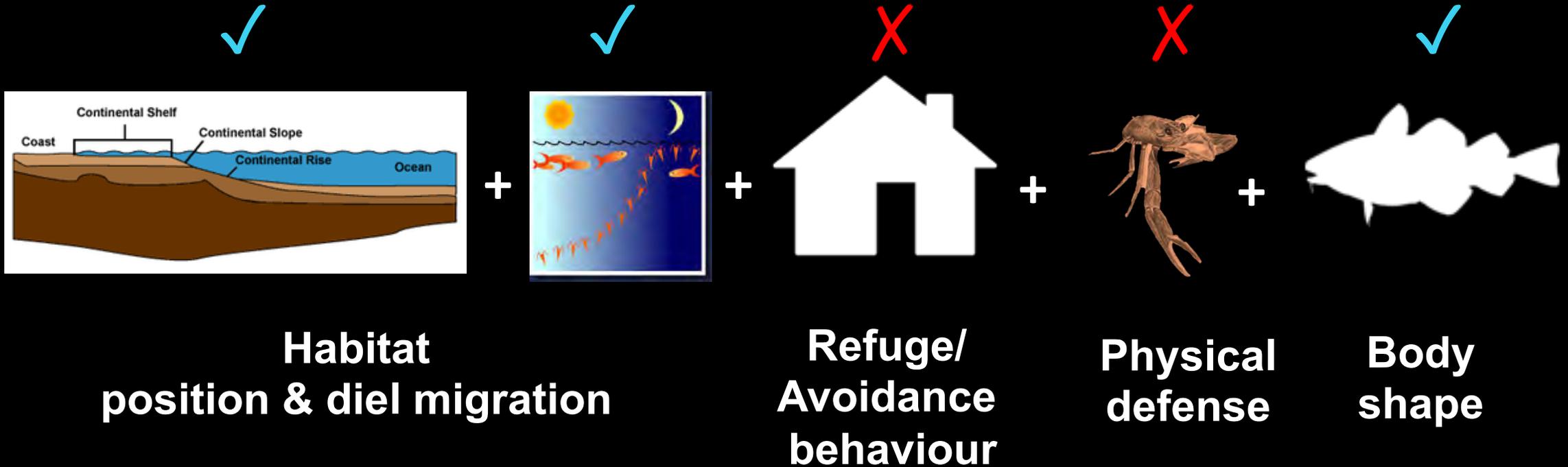
# Physical defenses



**Predator avoidance/Refugia use**

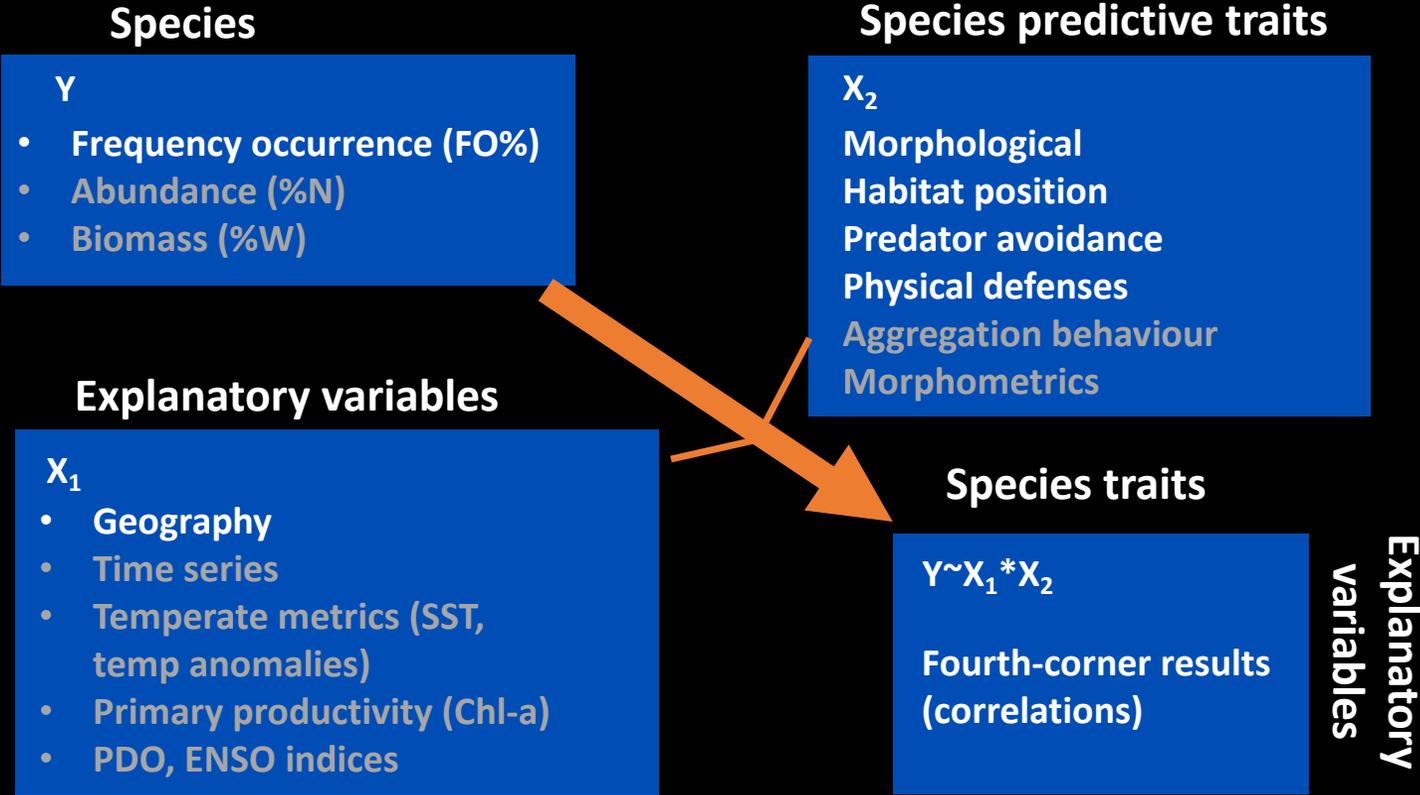


# Traits for mediating predator-prey interactions

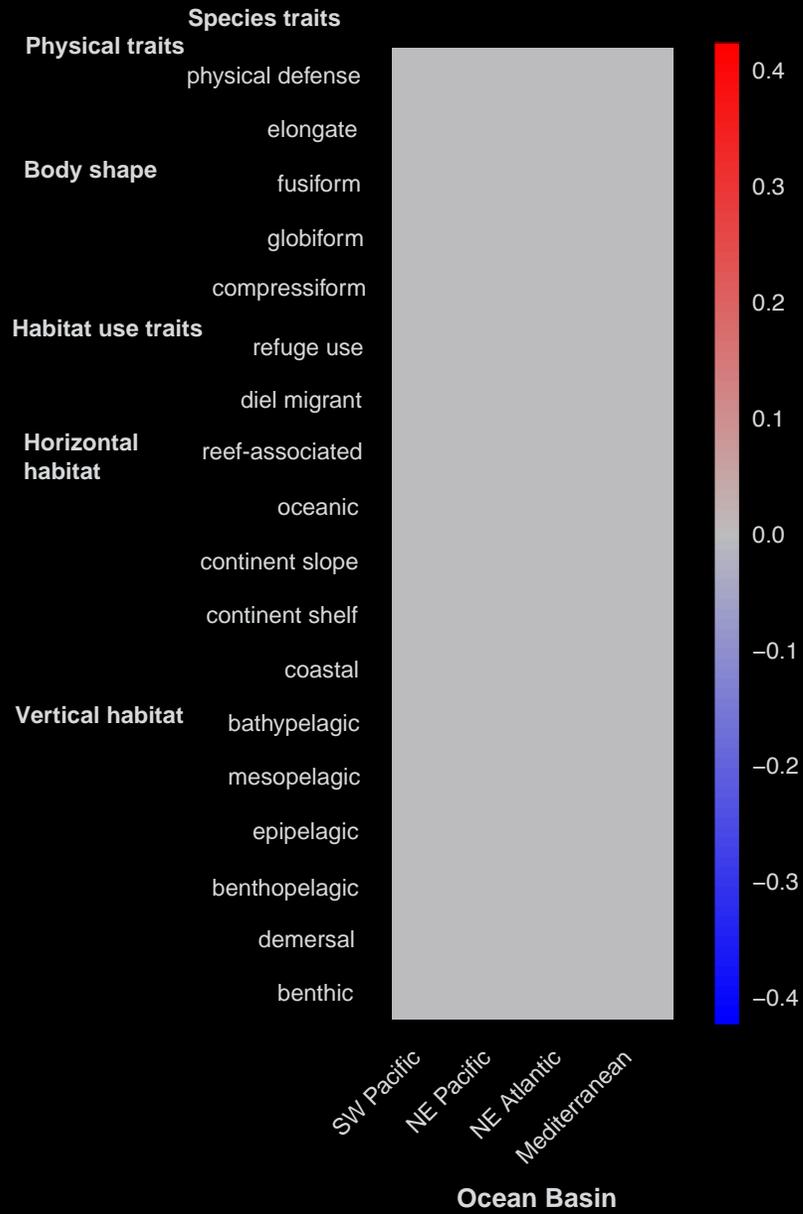


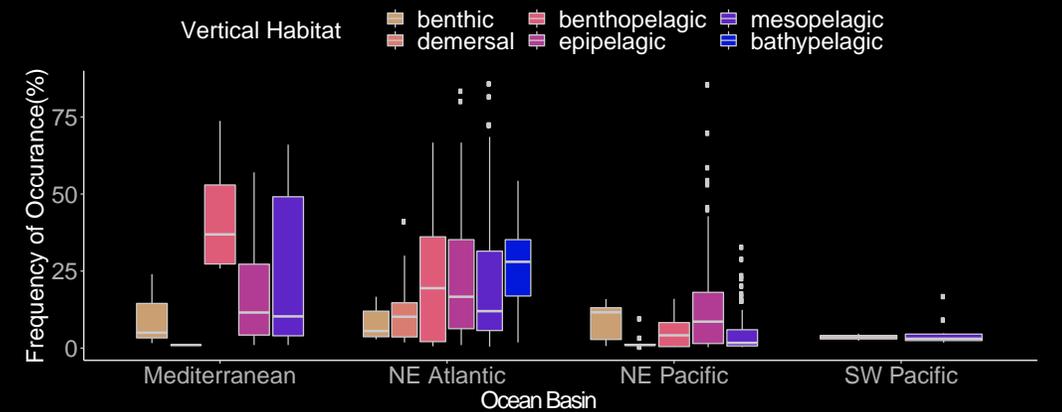
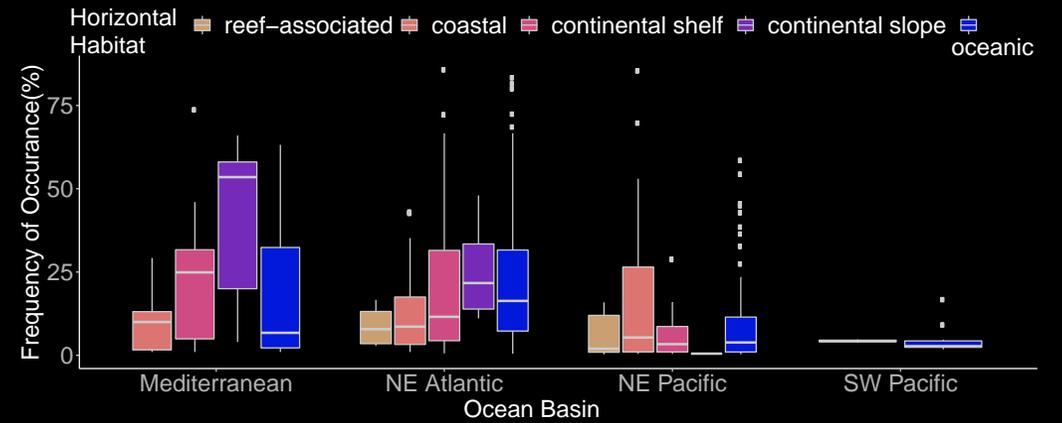
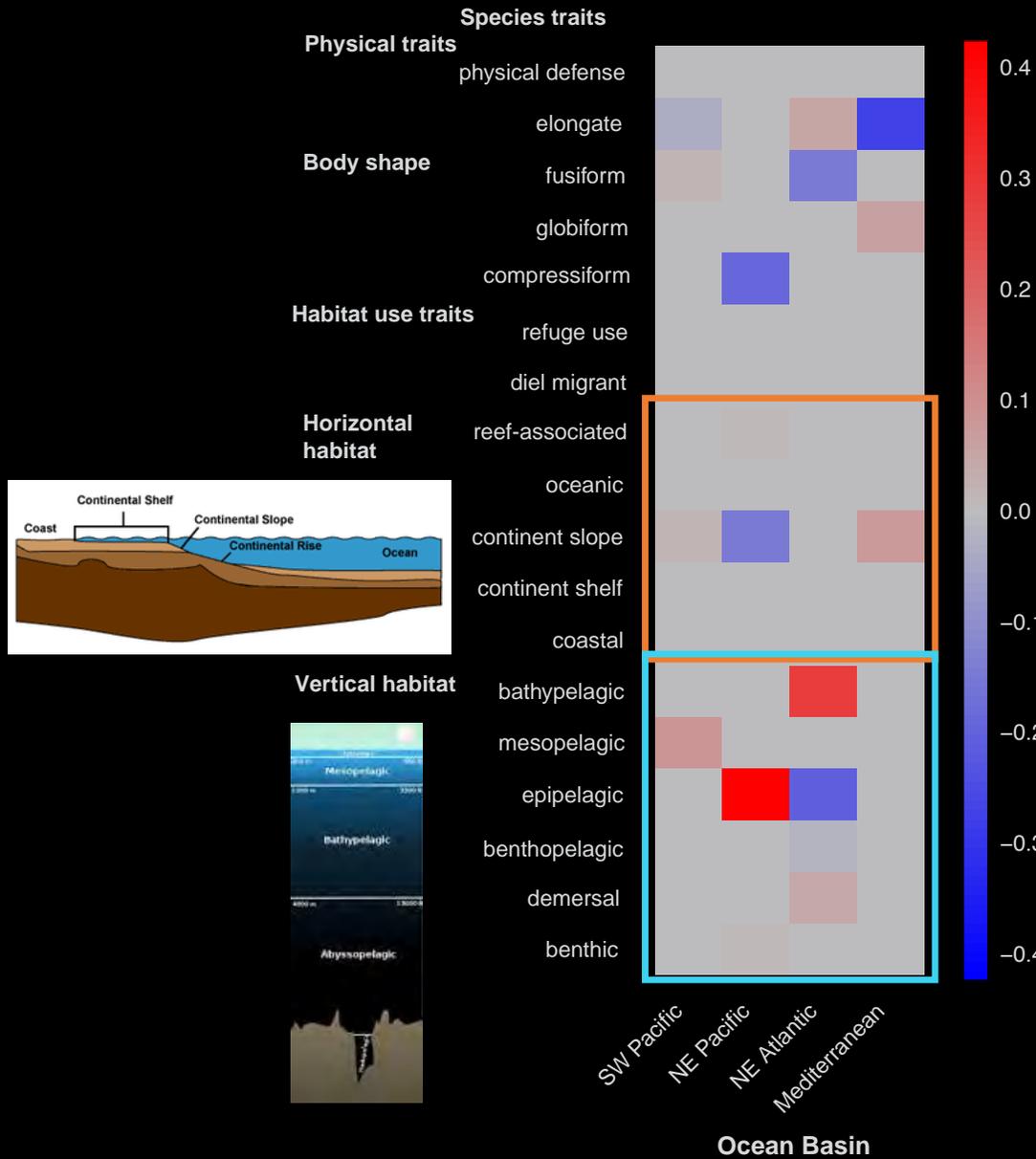
# Multivariate trait-based analyses of tuna diets

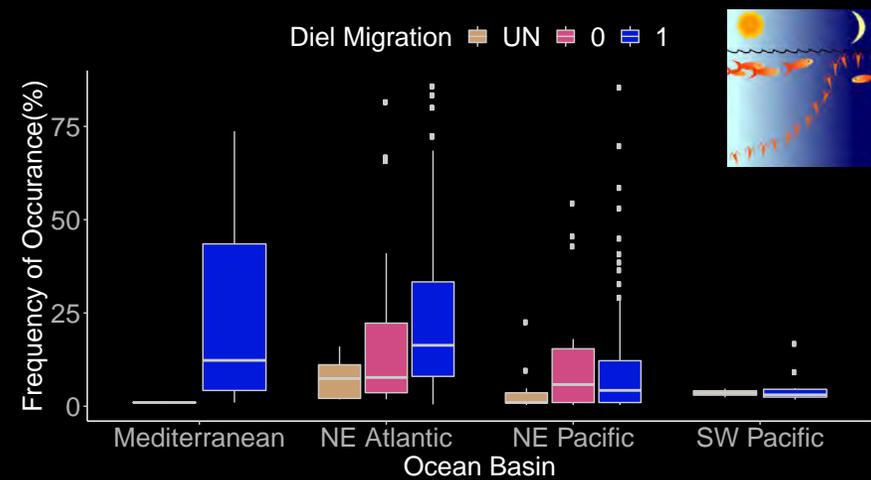
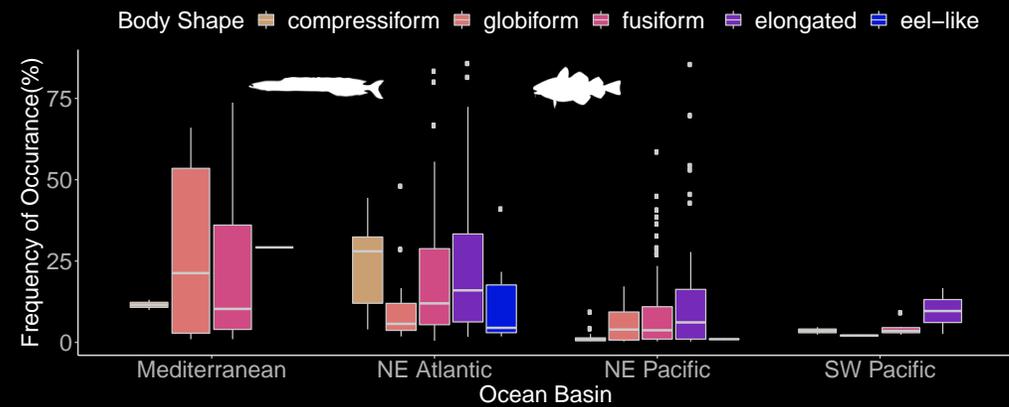
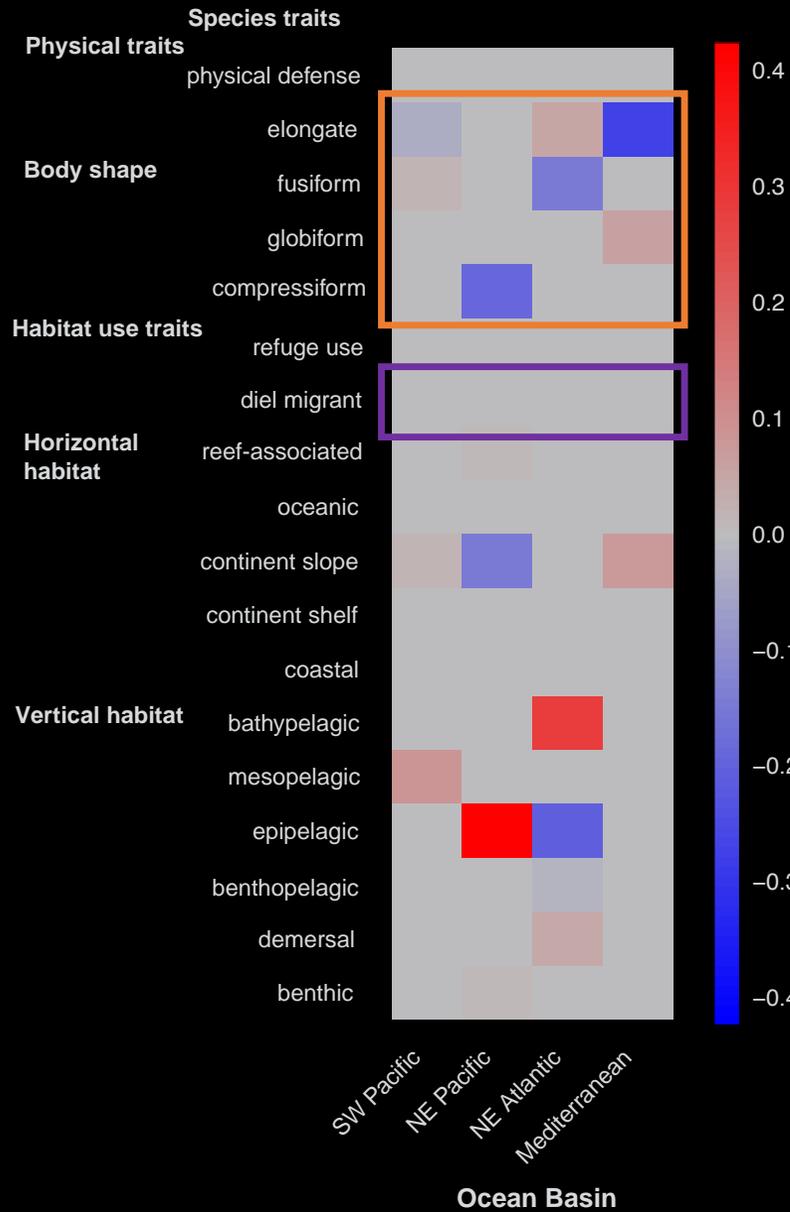
## How much variation is explained by traits?

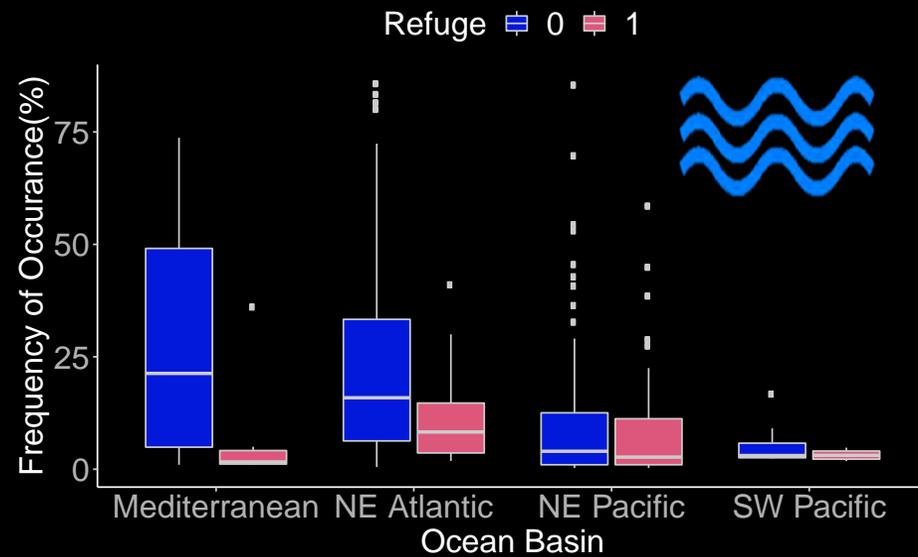
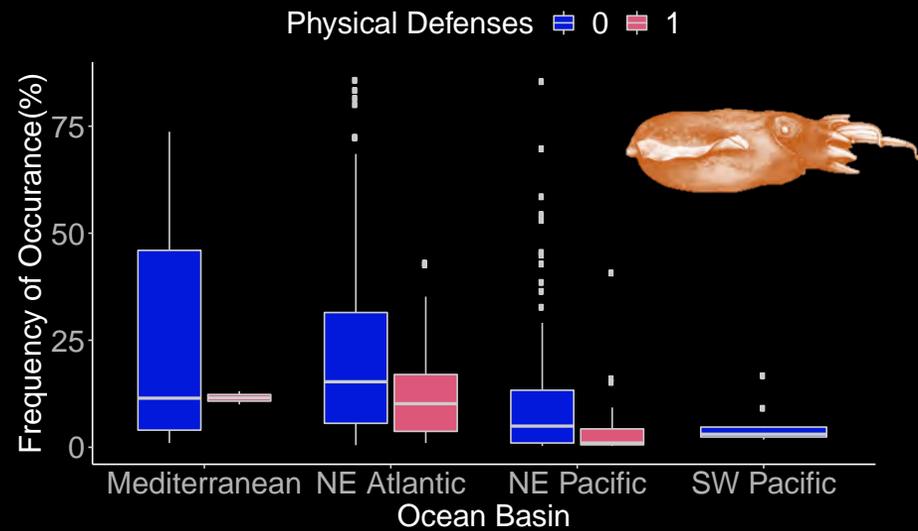
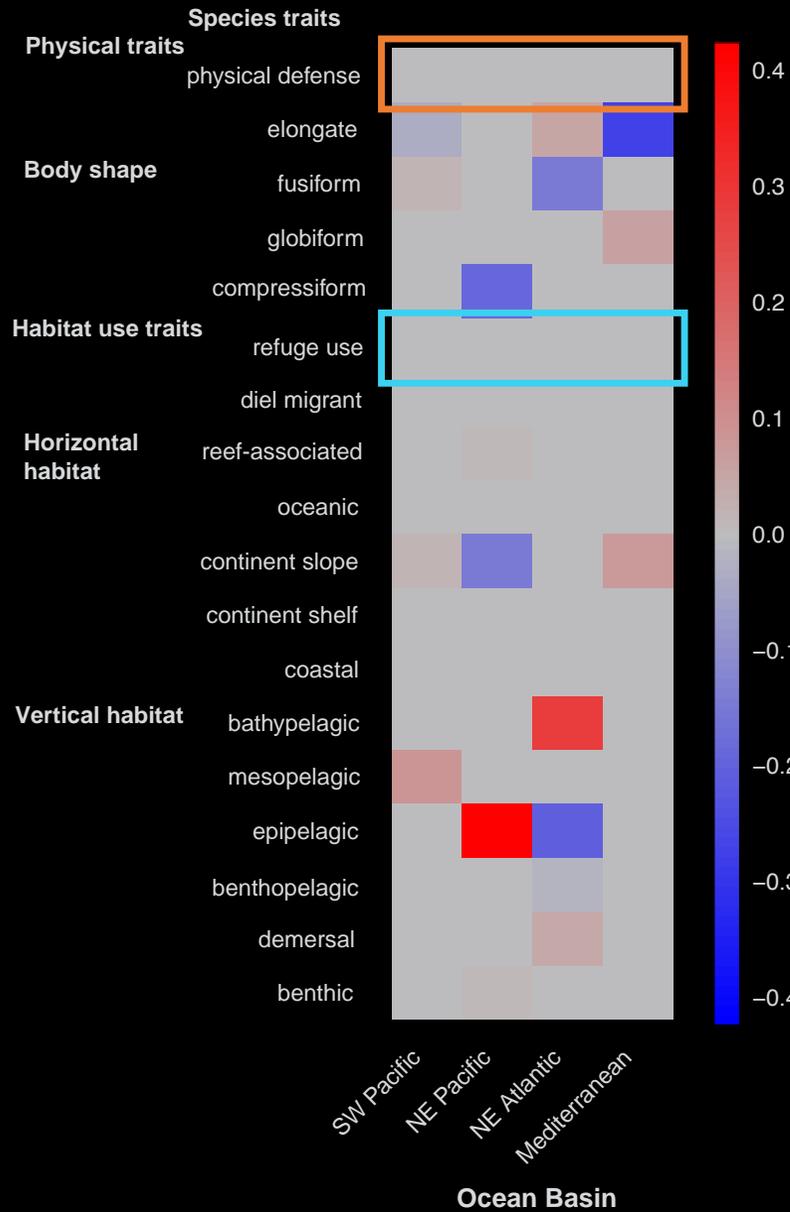


Fourth corner analyses using *mvabund* in R – Brown et al. (2014) *Methods Ecol Evol*

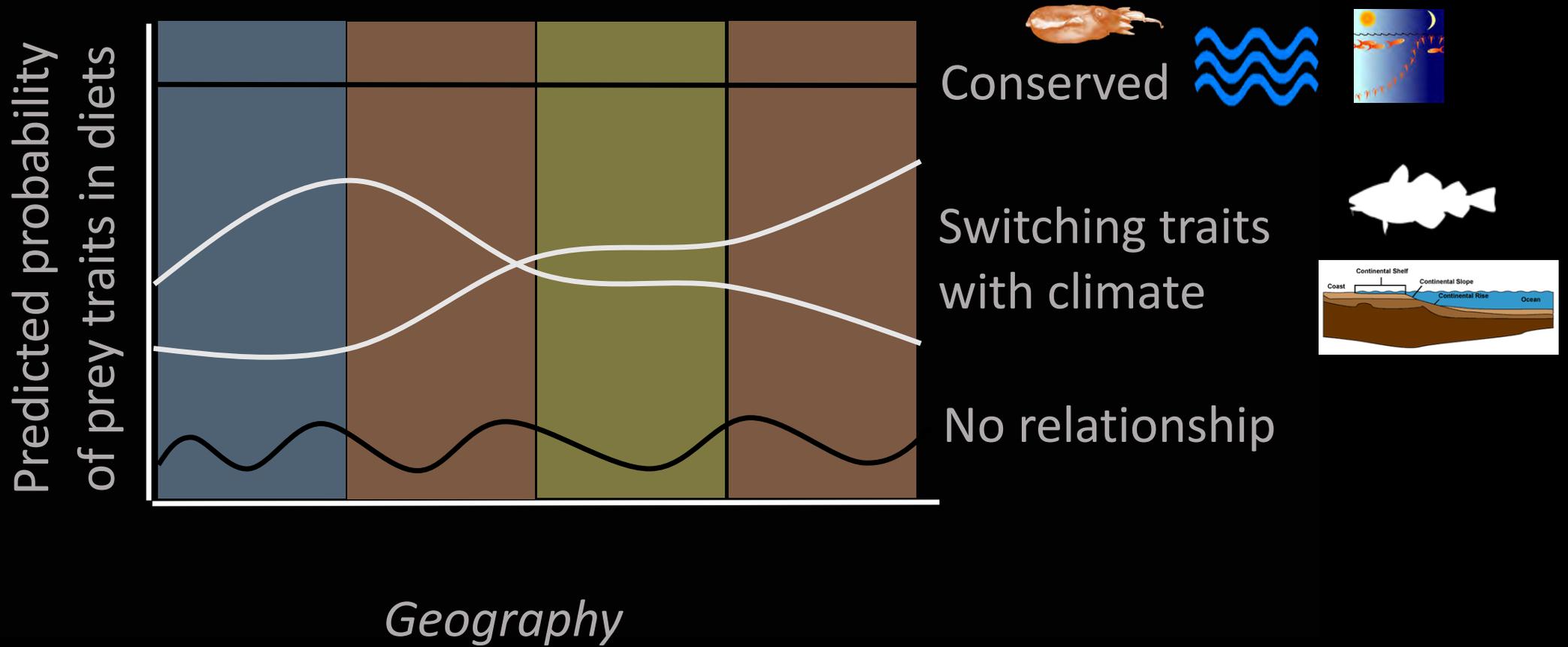




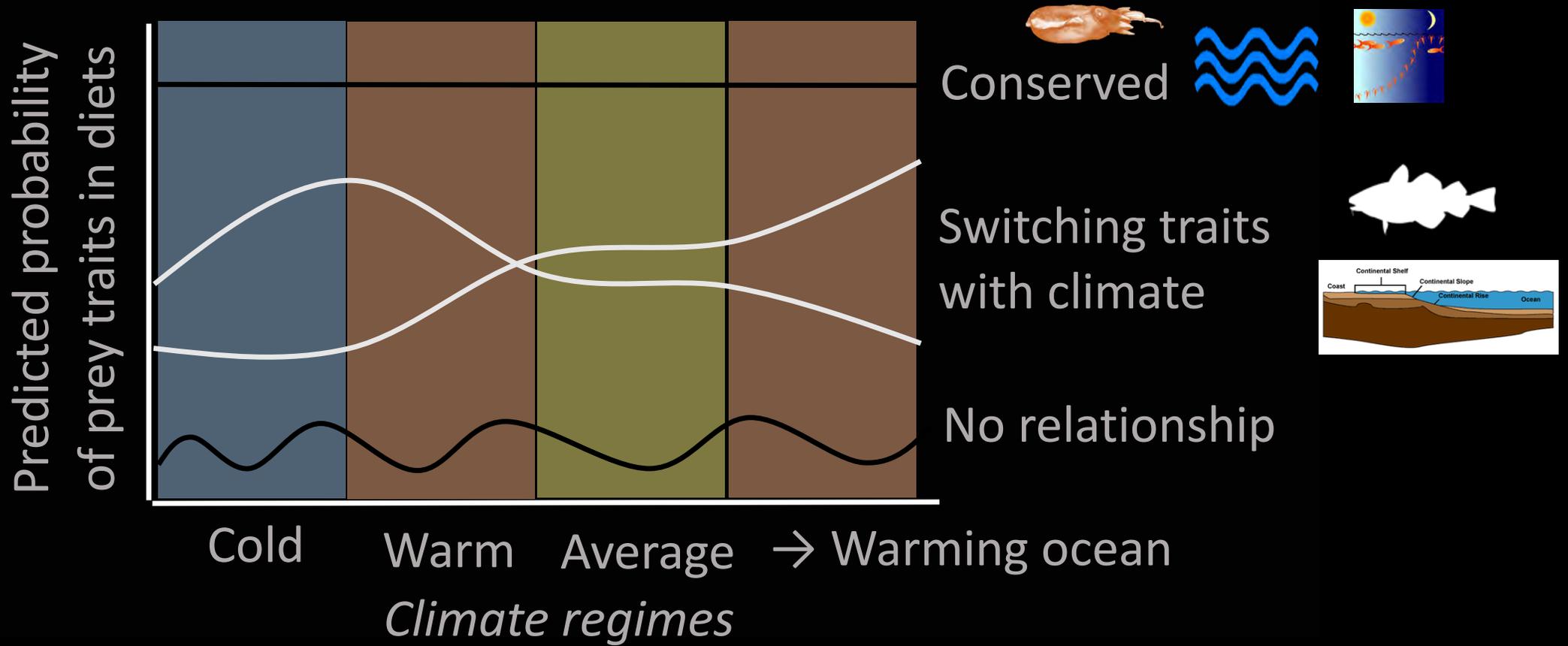




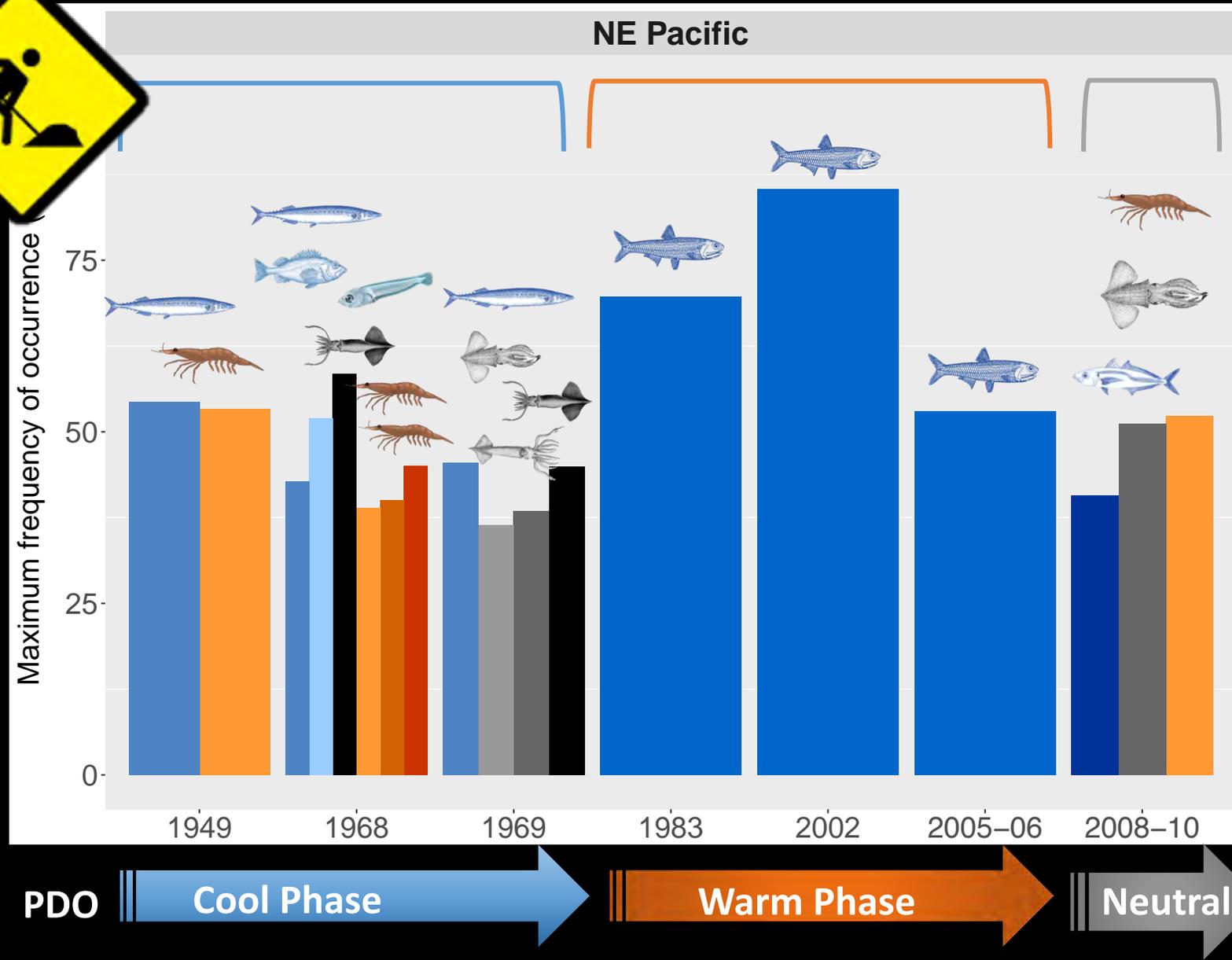
# Trait-based predictions for future change



# Trait-based predictions for future change



# Next steps: trait-mediated diet shifts in the NE Pacific



## Take home points

- ❑ Trait-based diet assessment can be done for **tuna**
- ❑ Numerous **complementary models** to add to our analytical framework
- ❑ Requires **diet data** at the level of inference
- ❑ Ongoing effort for **trait database** on which to build analyses



Larry Crowder  
@ Hopkins  
Marine Station



Stephanie Green  
& Cole Brookson  
@ U Alberta



Michael Jacox, Elliott Hazen & Steven Bograd  
@ NOAA Environmental Research Division

**Poster session tonight @ 6pm**

**Cole Brookson → on**

trait-based mechanistic models  
for predator-prey interactions



## Questions?



Piglet squid (*Helicocranchia pfefferi*)  
*E/V Nautilus*



Black swallower (*Chiasmodon niger*)  
*NOAA Okeanos Explorer Program*



Vampire squid (*Vampyroteuthis infernalis*)  
*MBARI*

Photograph by Kim R. Reisenbichler, MBARI. ©1996



Diaphanous hatchet fish (*Sternopyx diaphana*)  
*Arturo Angulo, Research Gate*