

# Application of Climate Predictions to Marine Ecosystem Management

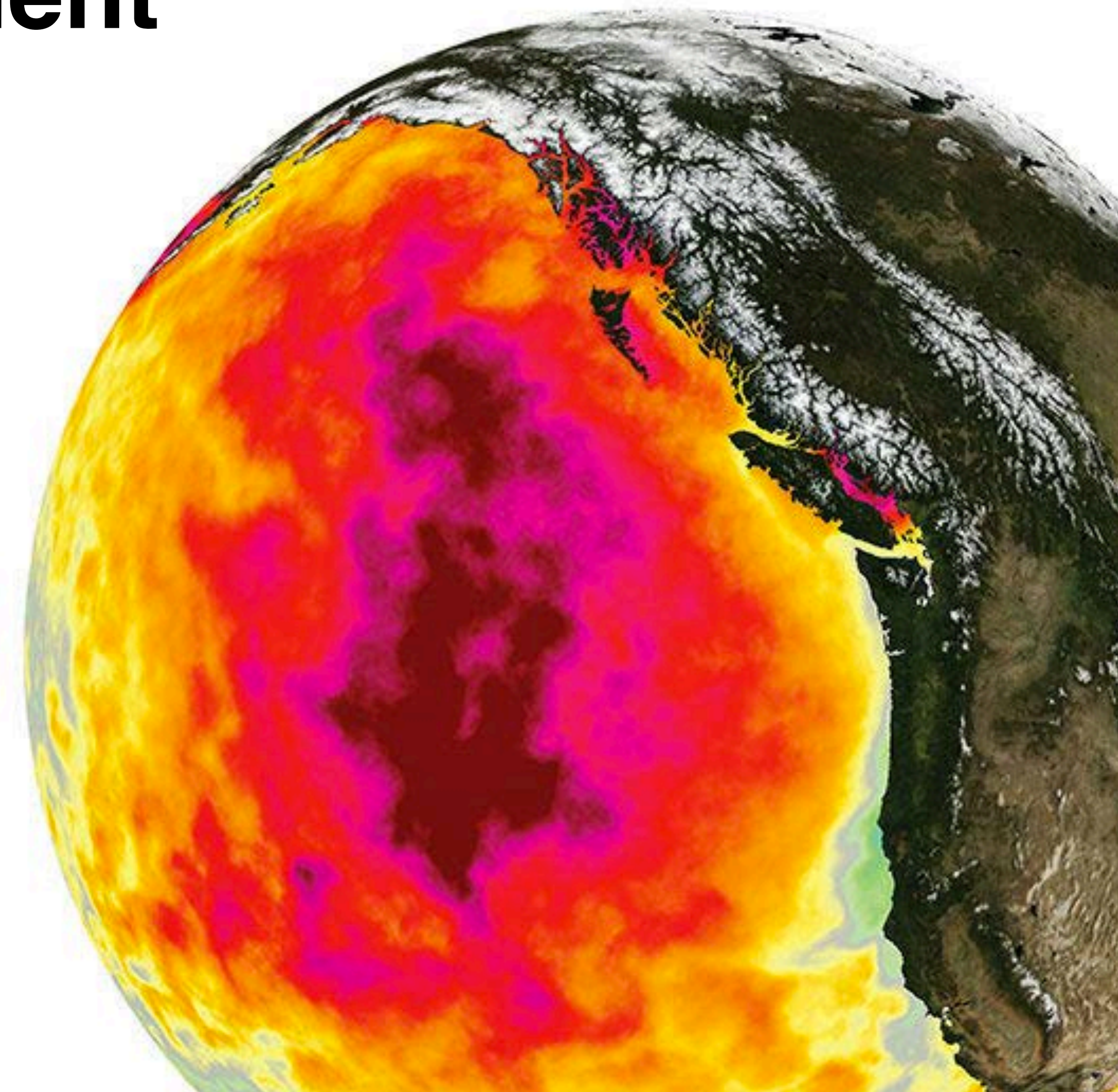
Mike Jacox

NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center  
NOAA Physical Sciences Laboratory

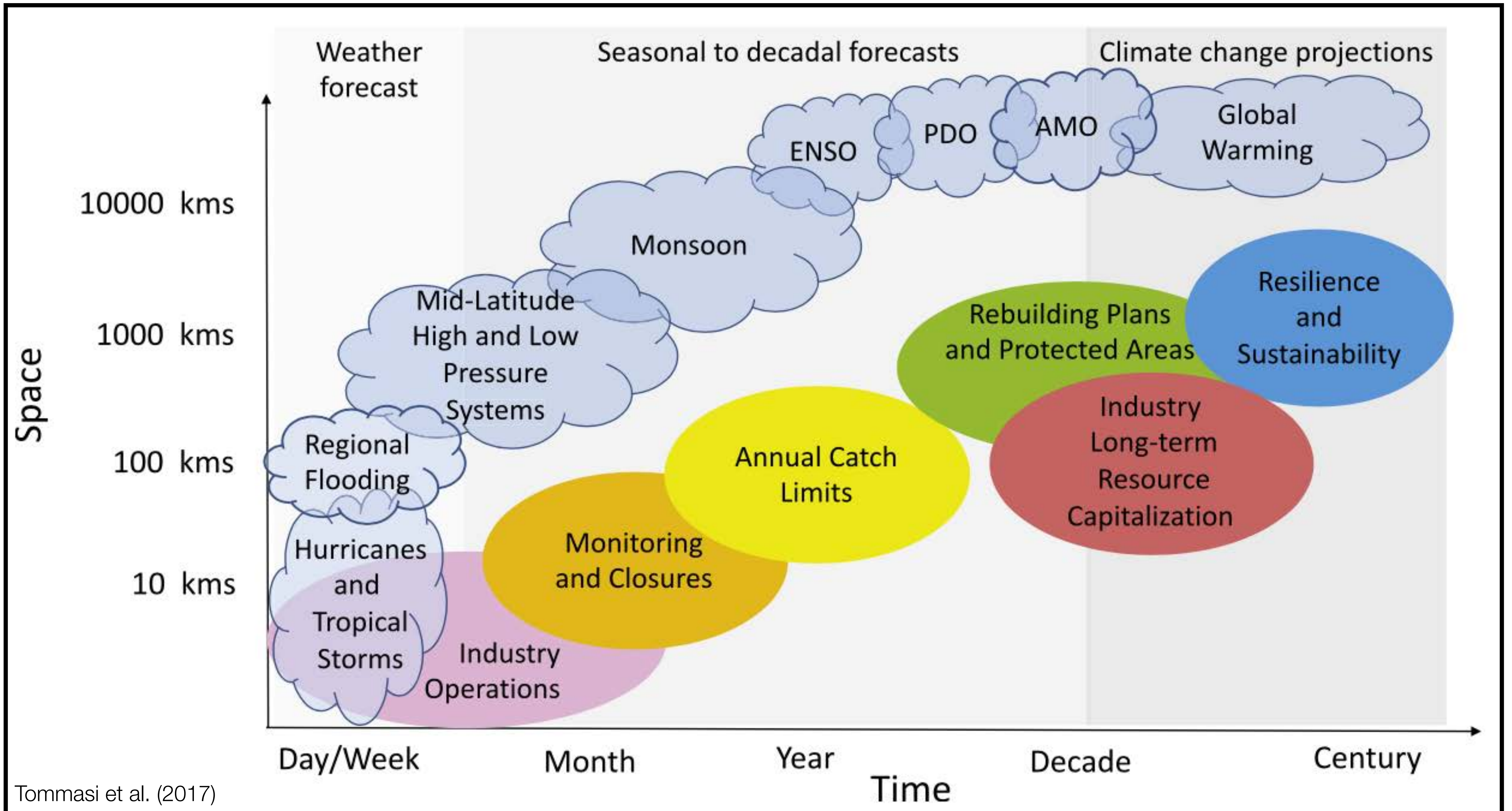
March 28, 2023

WCRP Symposium

Frontiers in Seasonal to Decadal Prediction

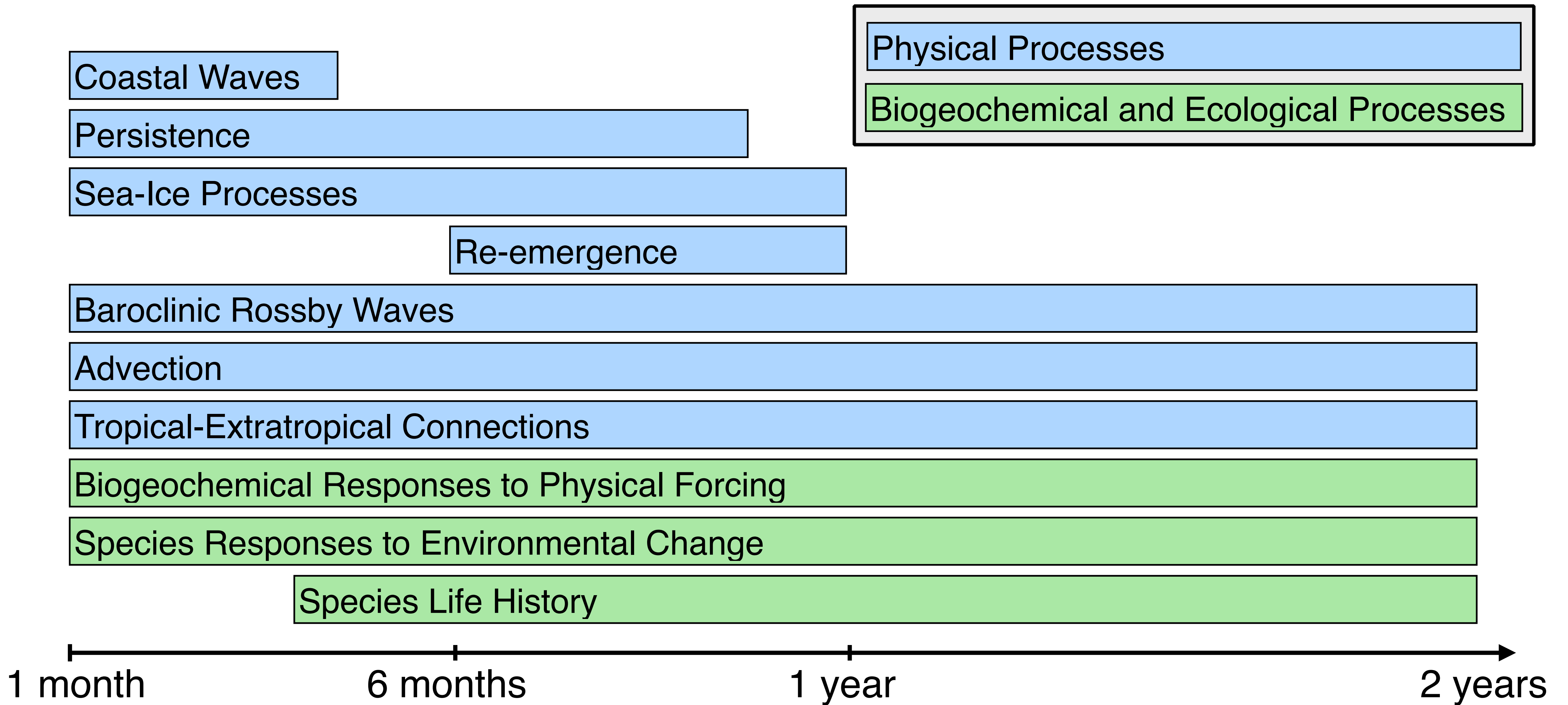






Tommasi et al. (2017)

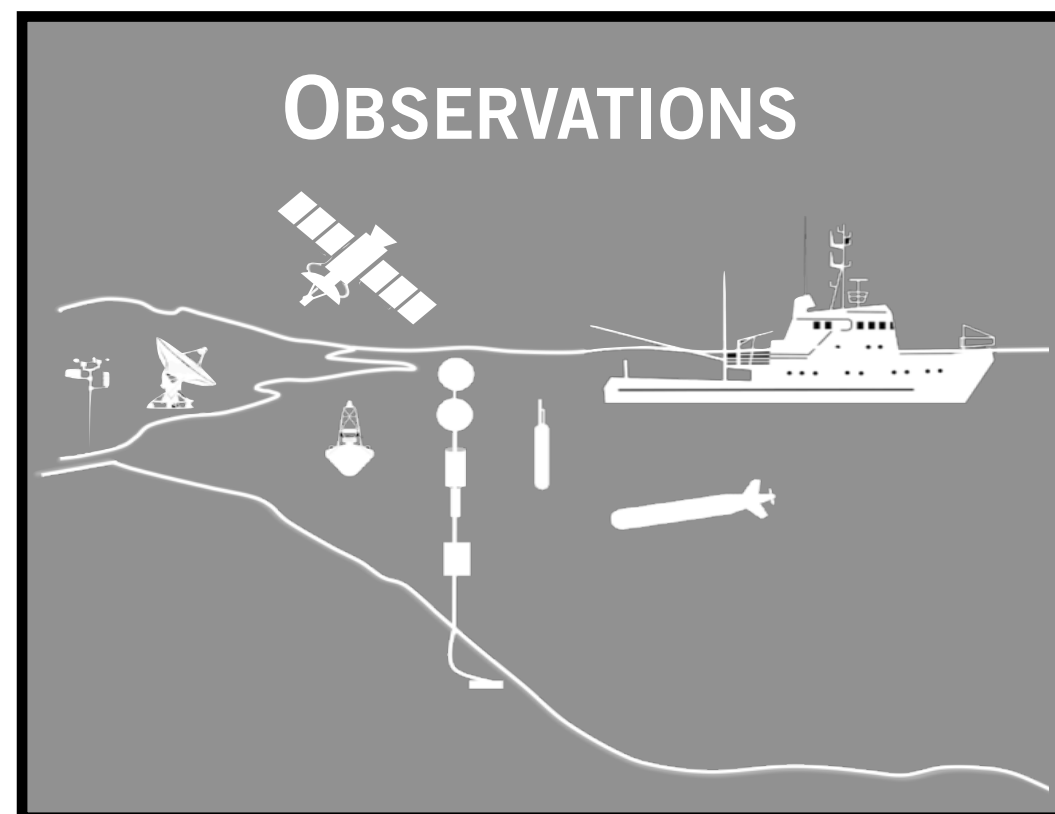
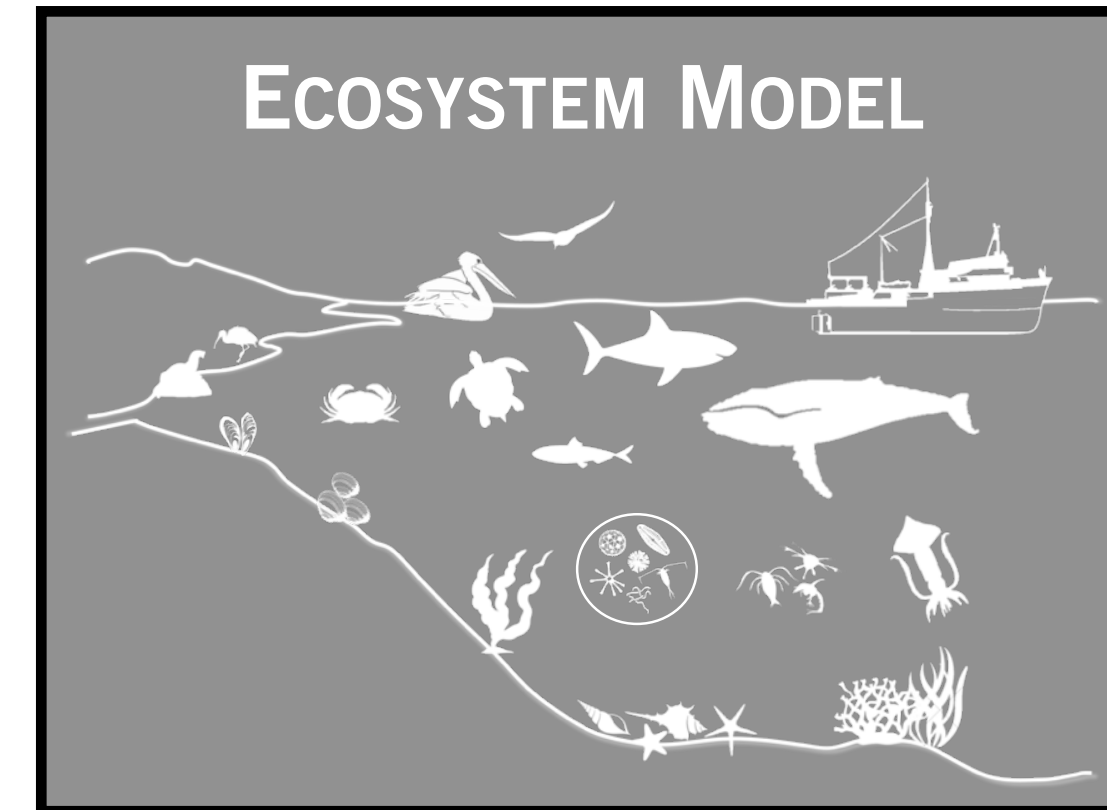
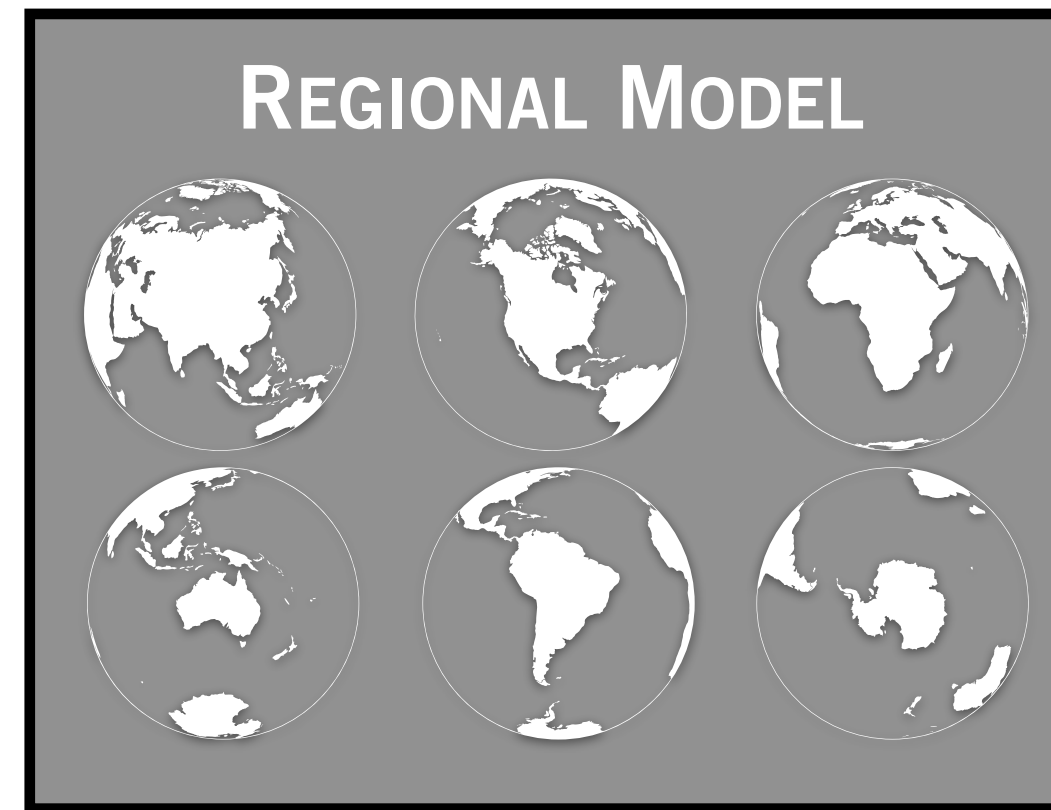
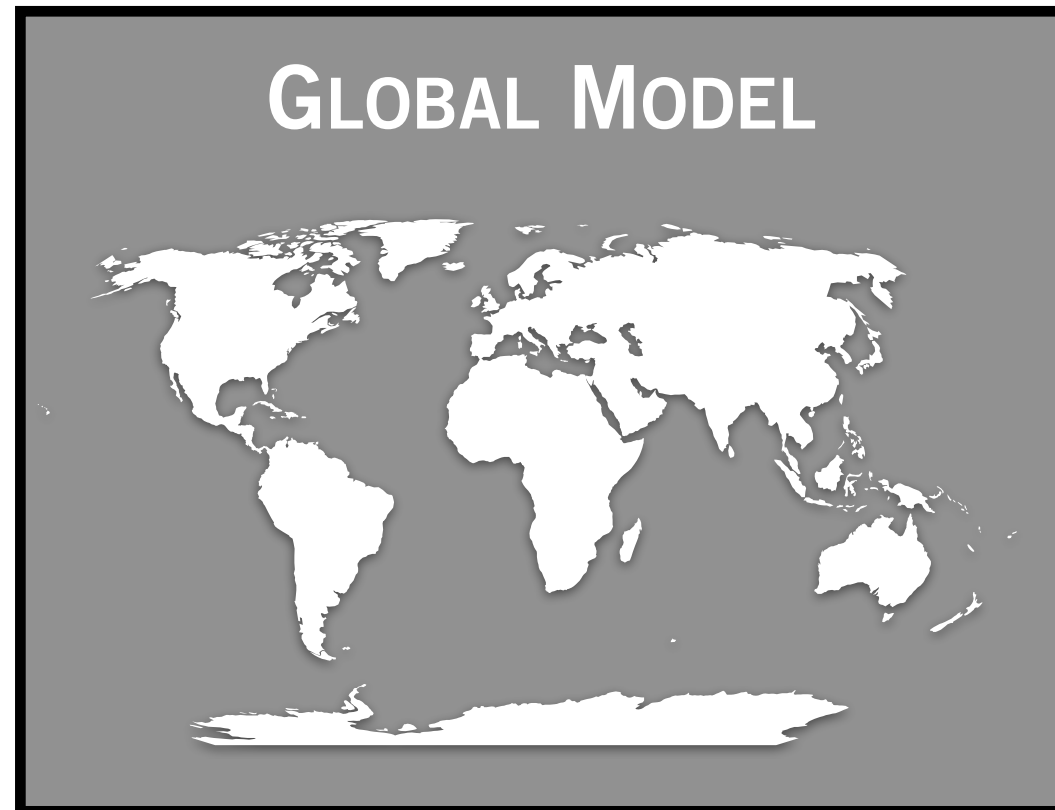
# Mechanisms of predictability



Jacox et al. (2020)



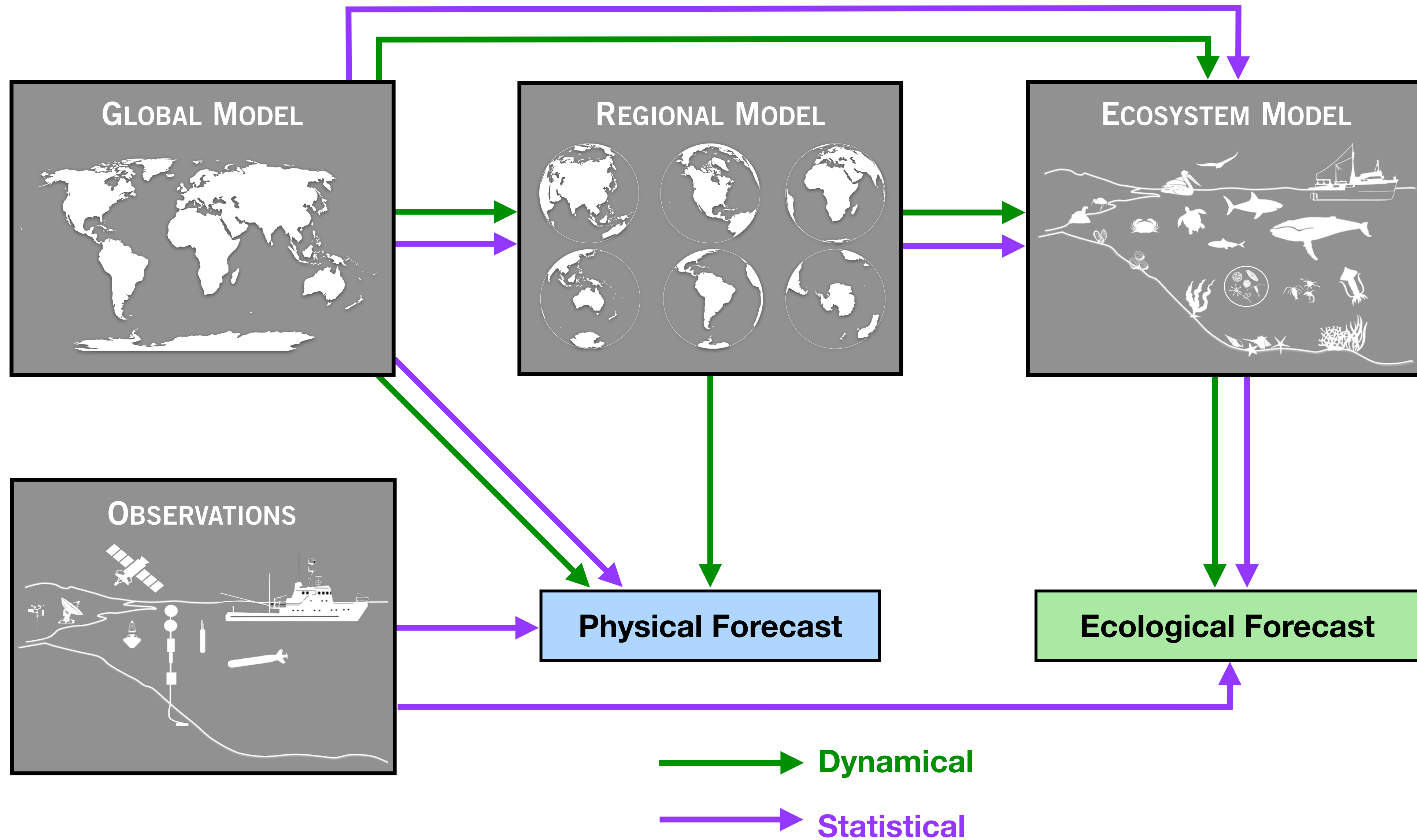
# Forecast tools and methods



**Physical Forecast**

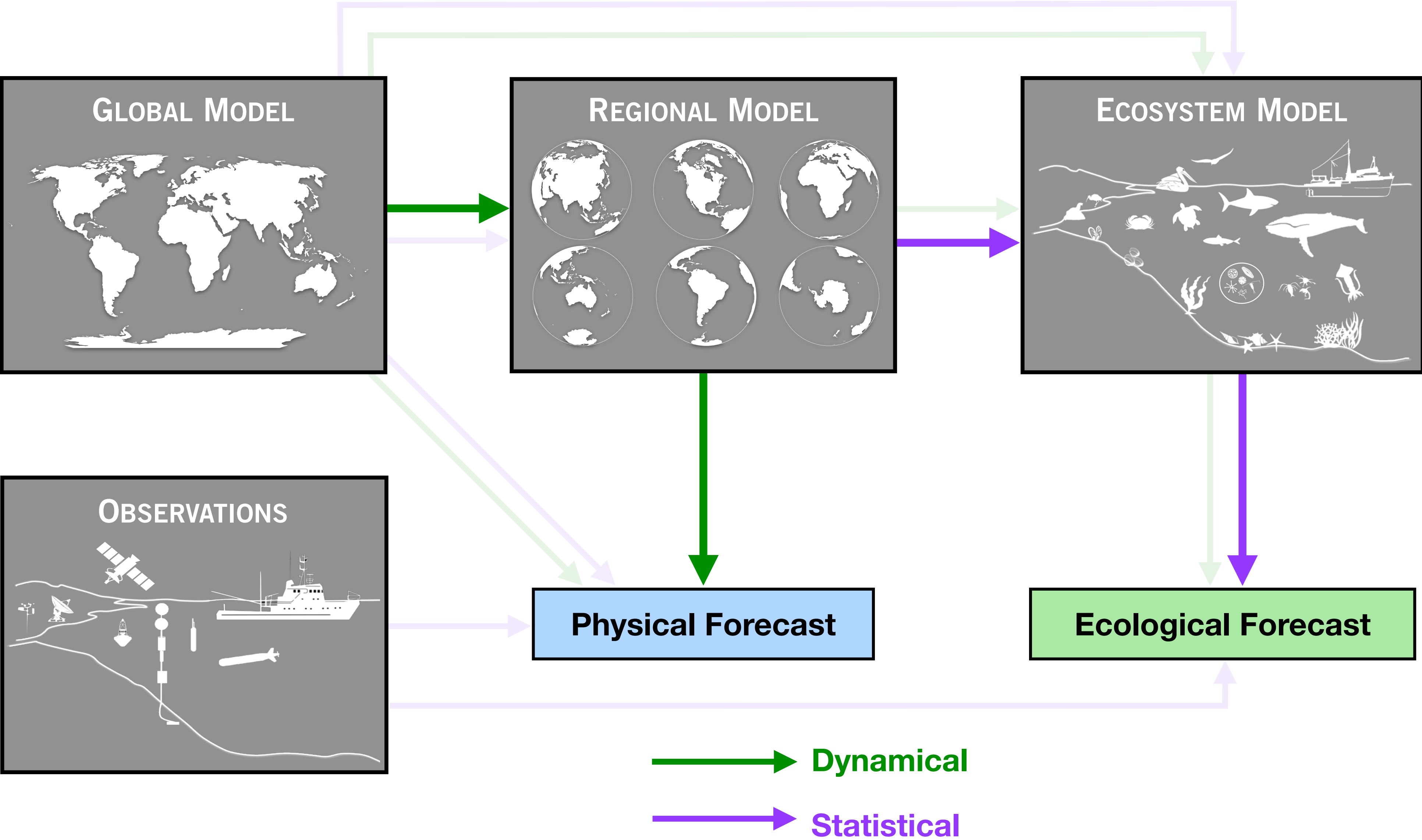
**Ecological Forecast**

# Forecast tools and methods



Jacox et al. (2020)

# Forecast tools and methods

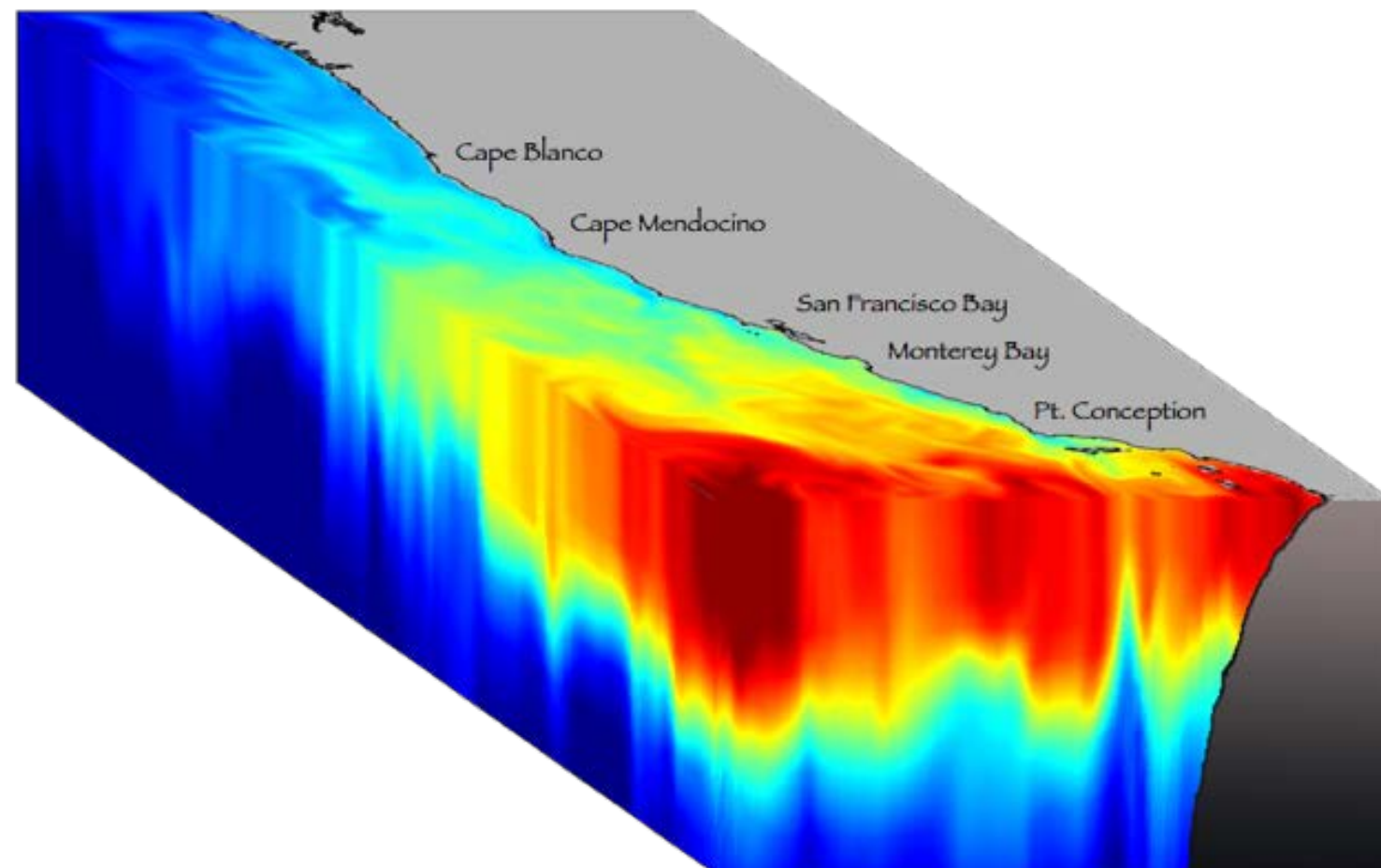
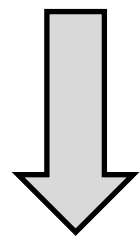
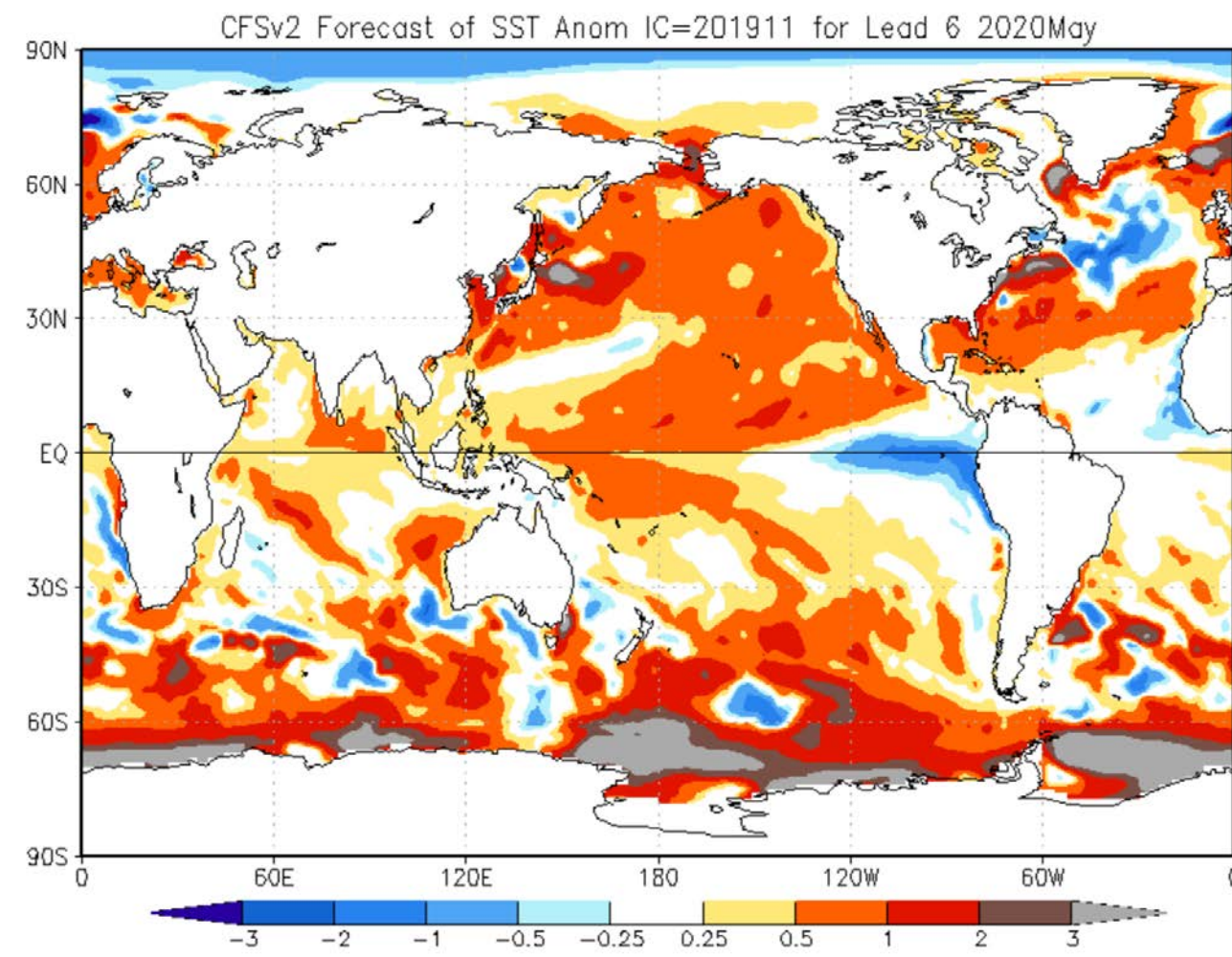


Jacox et al. (2020)



# Regional forecasts for the California Current System

## Global climate forecasts

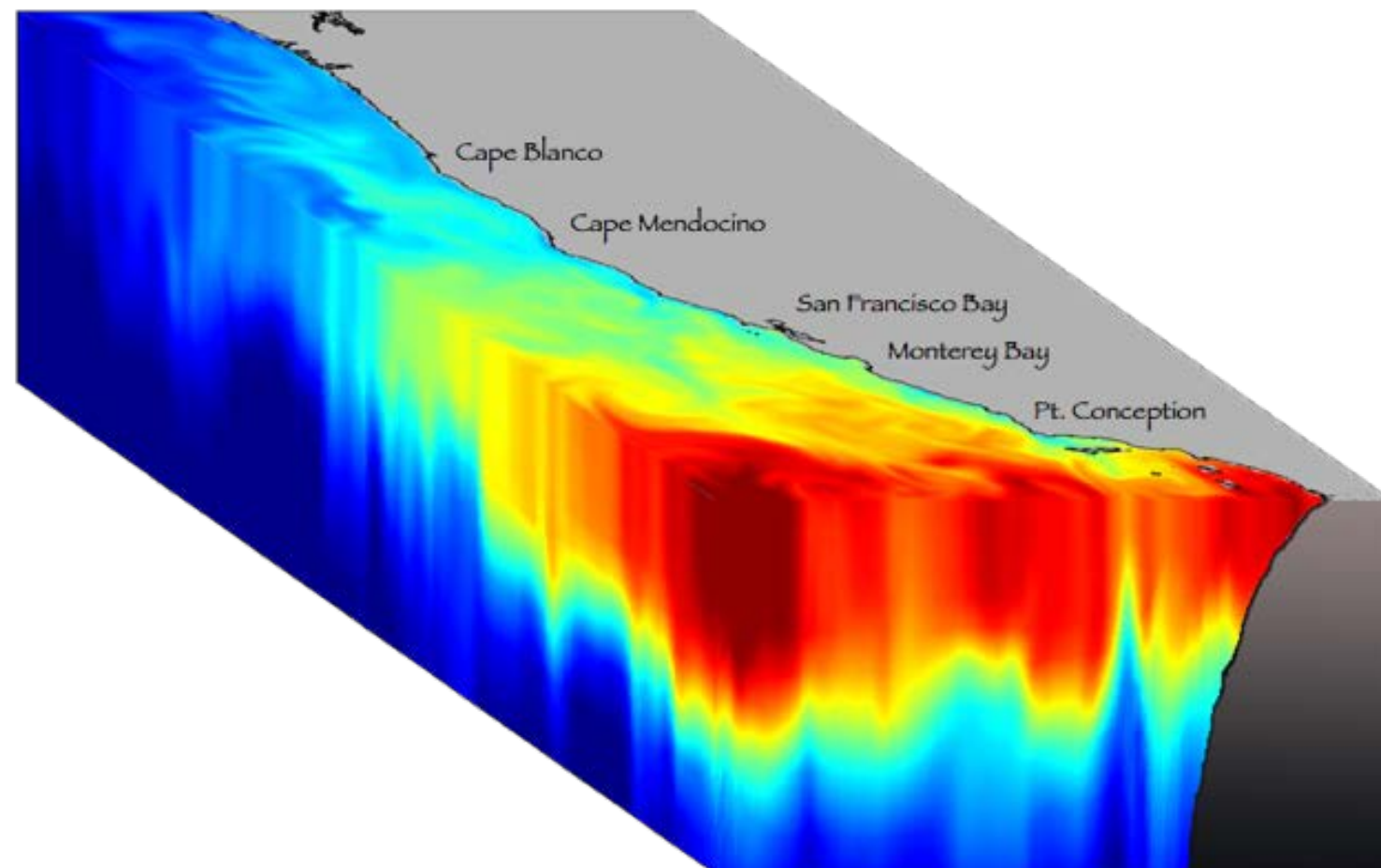
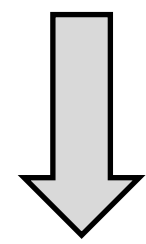
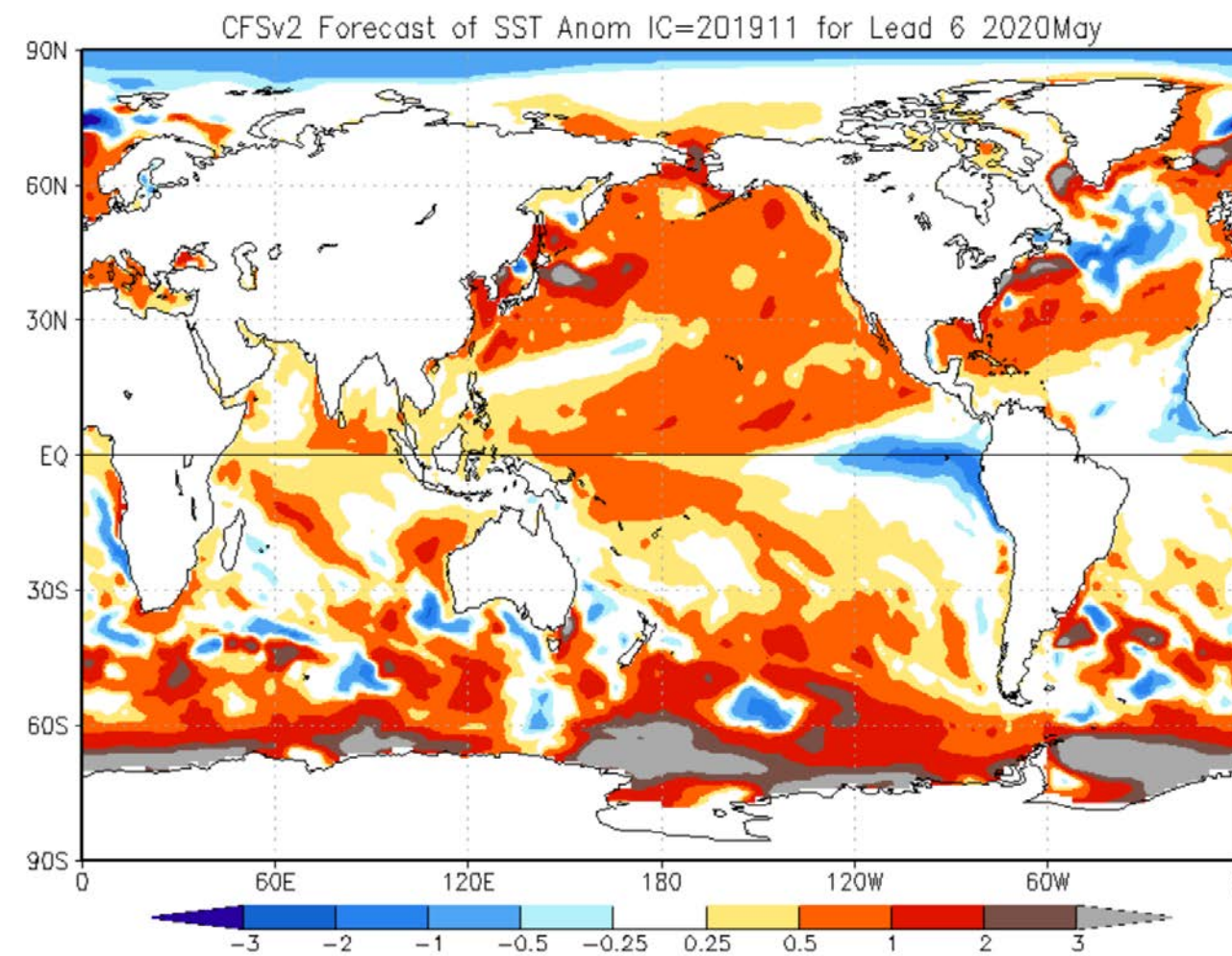


## Regional ocean forecasts



# Regional forecasts for the California Current System

## Global climate forecasts



## Forecast configuration

Forcing from CanCM4

ROMS California Current domain ( $0.1^\circ$  resolution;  $\sim 10$  km)

Forecasts initialized twice per year (January and July)

1982 to 2010

12-month forecasts

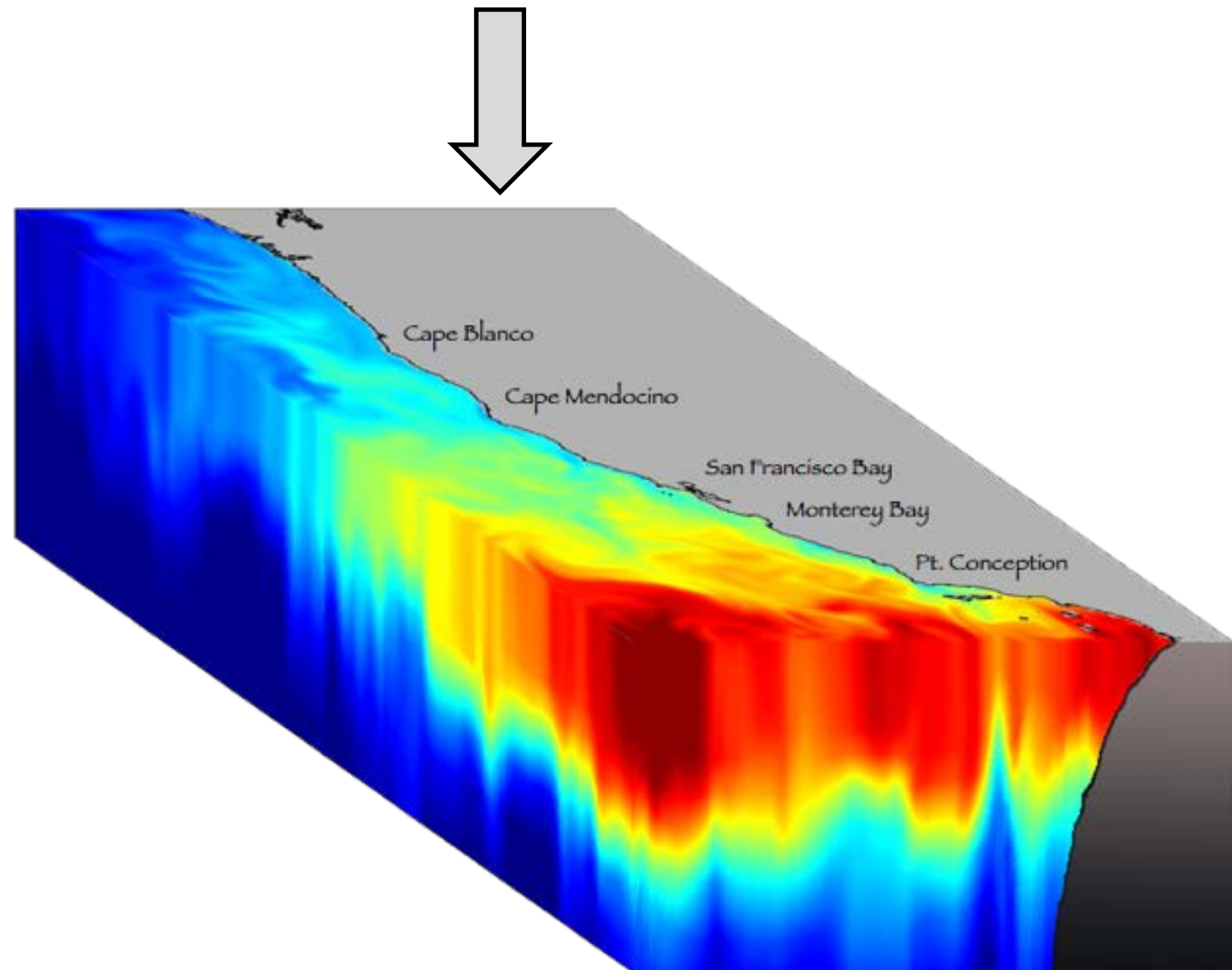
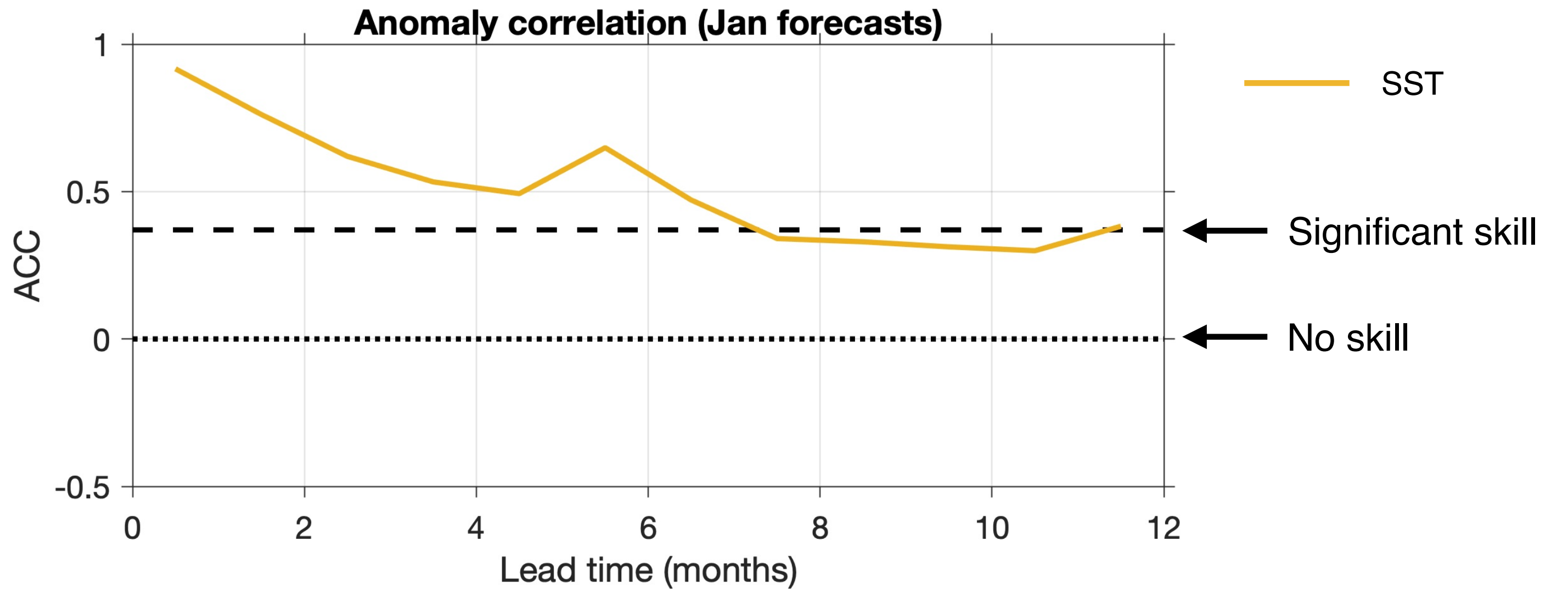
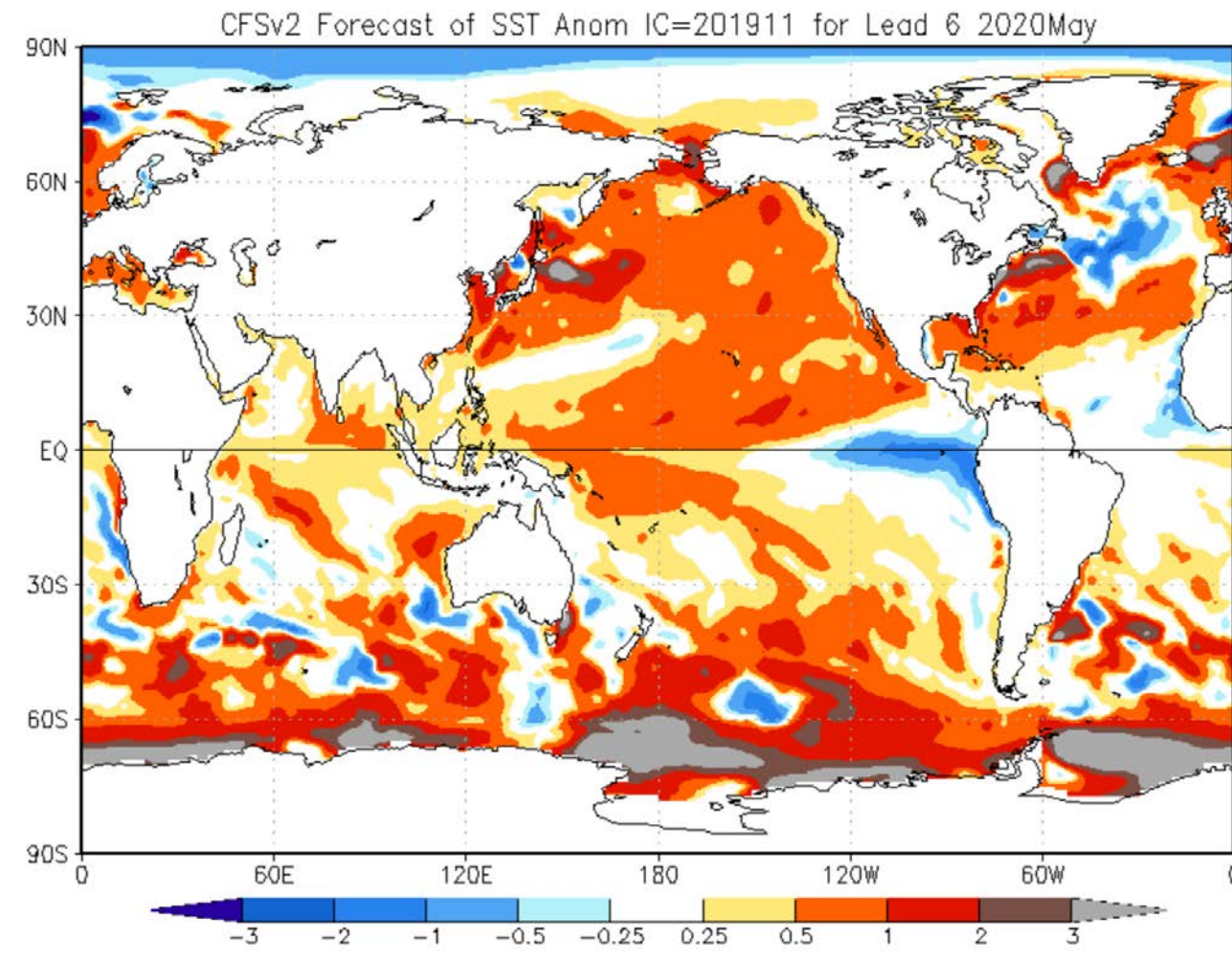
Three ensemble members

## Regional ocean forecasts



# Regional forecasts for the California Current System

## Global climate forecasts



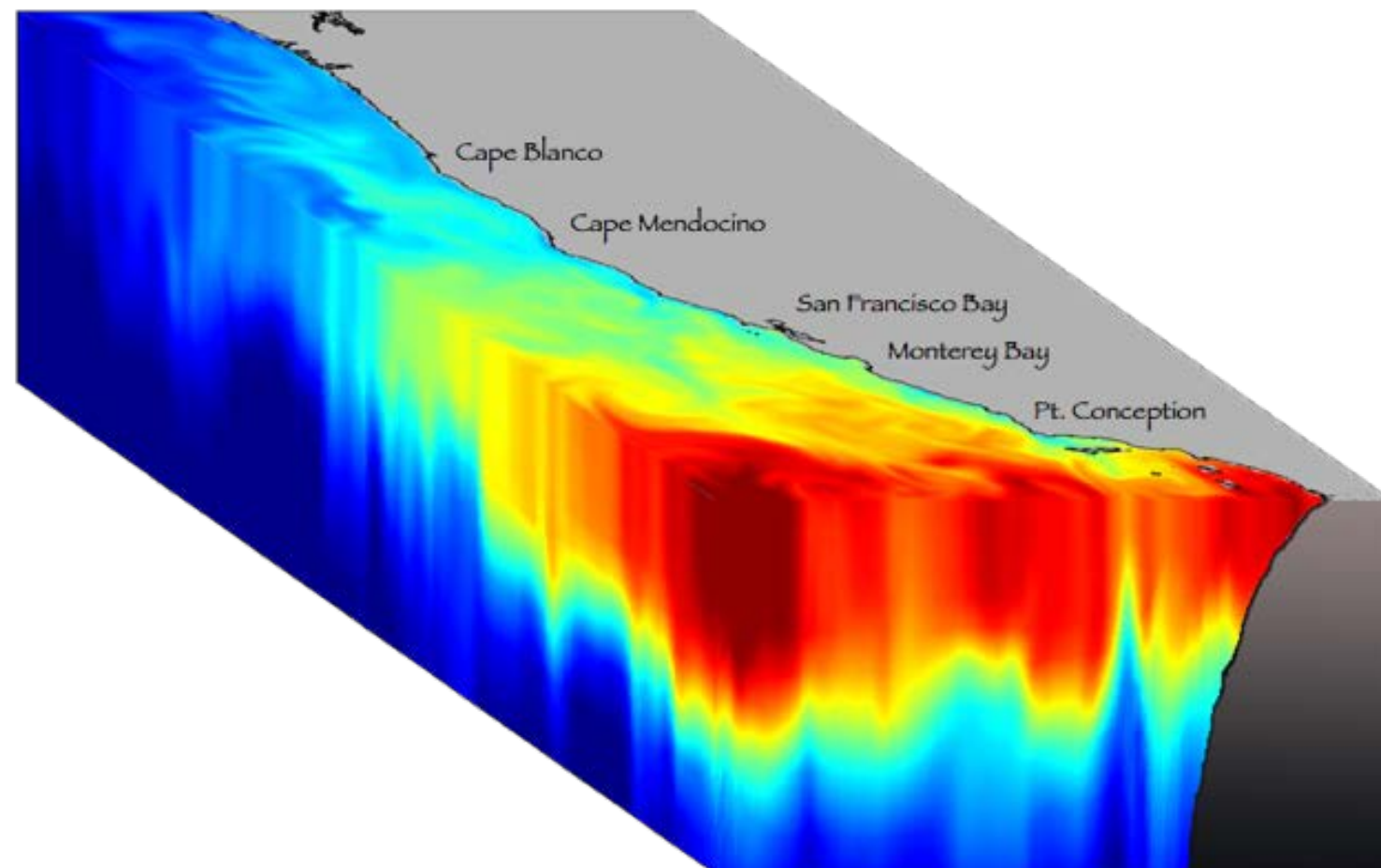
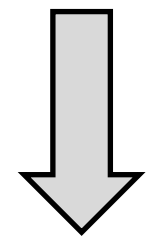
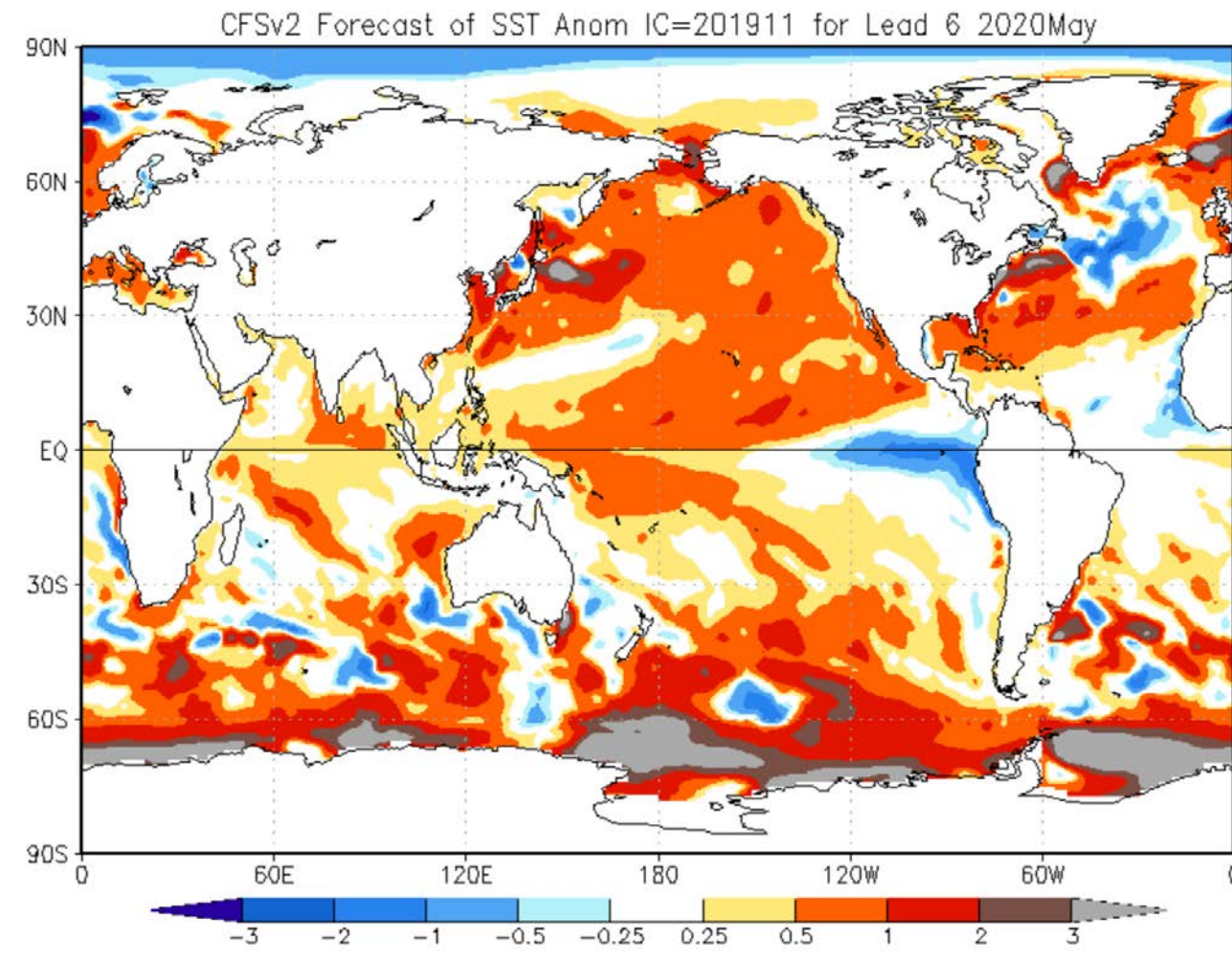
## Regional ocean forecasts

Jacox et al. (in review)

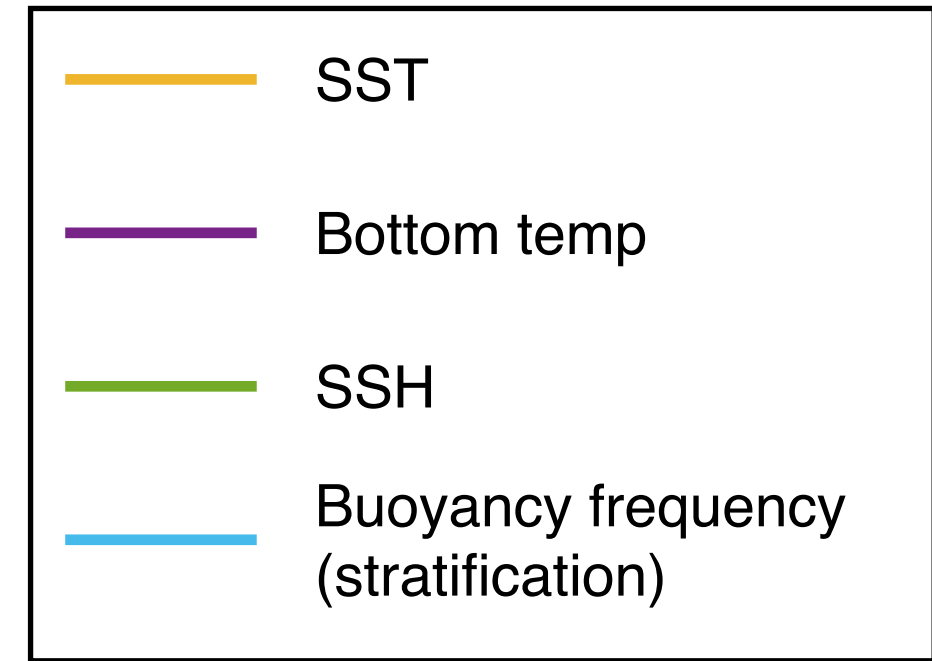
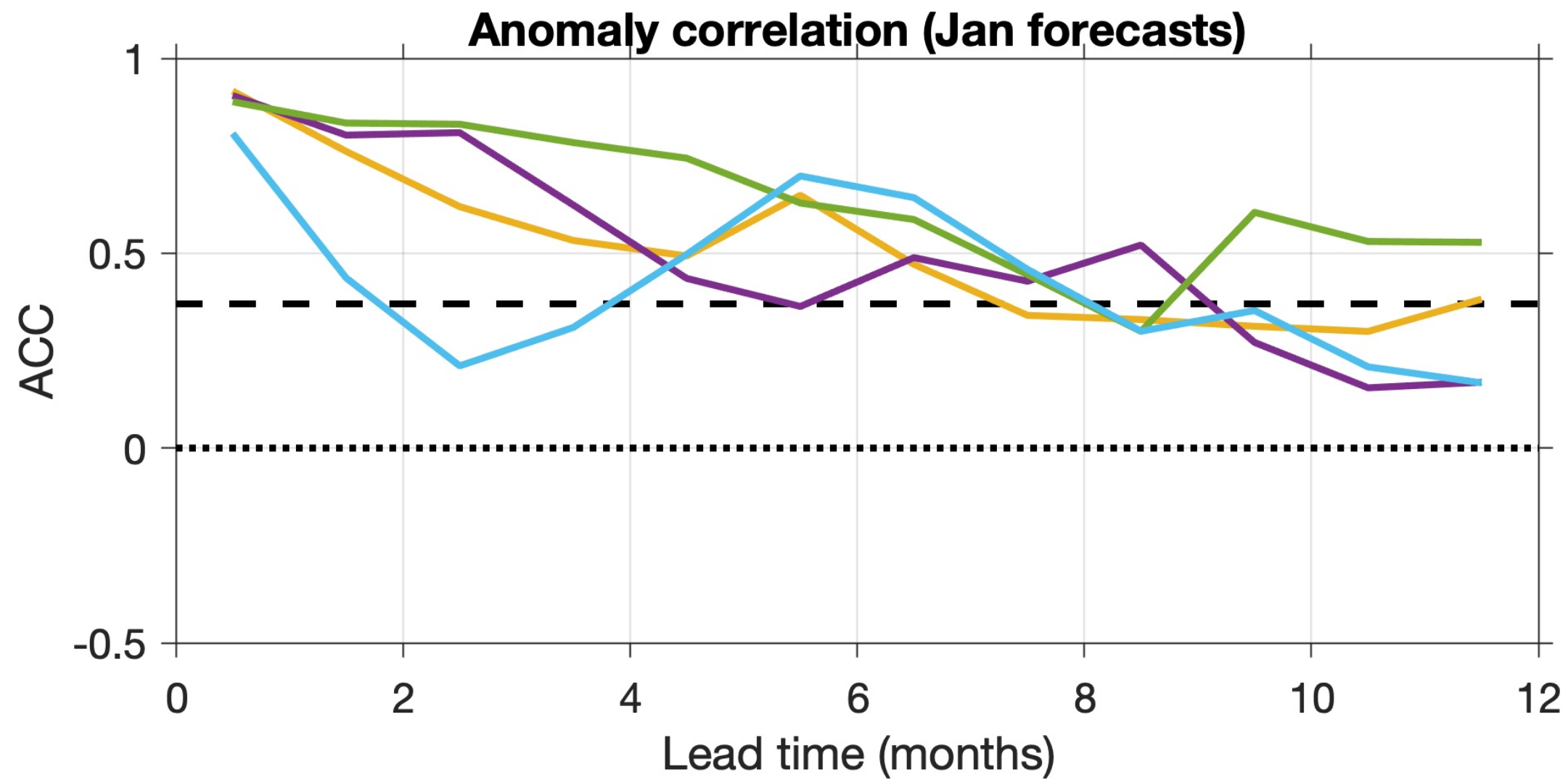


# Regional forecasts for the California Current System

## Global climate forecasts



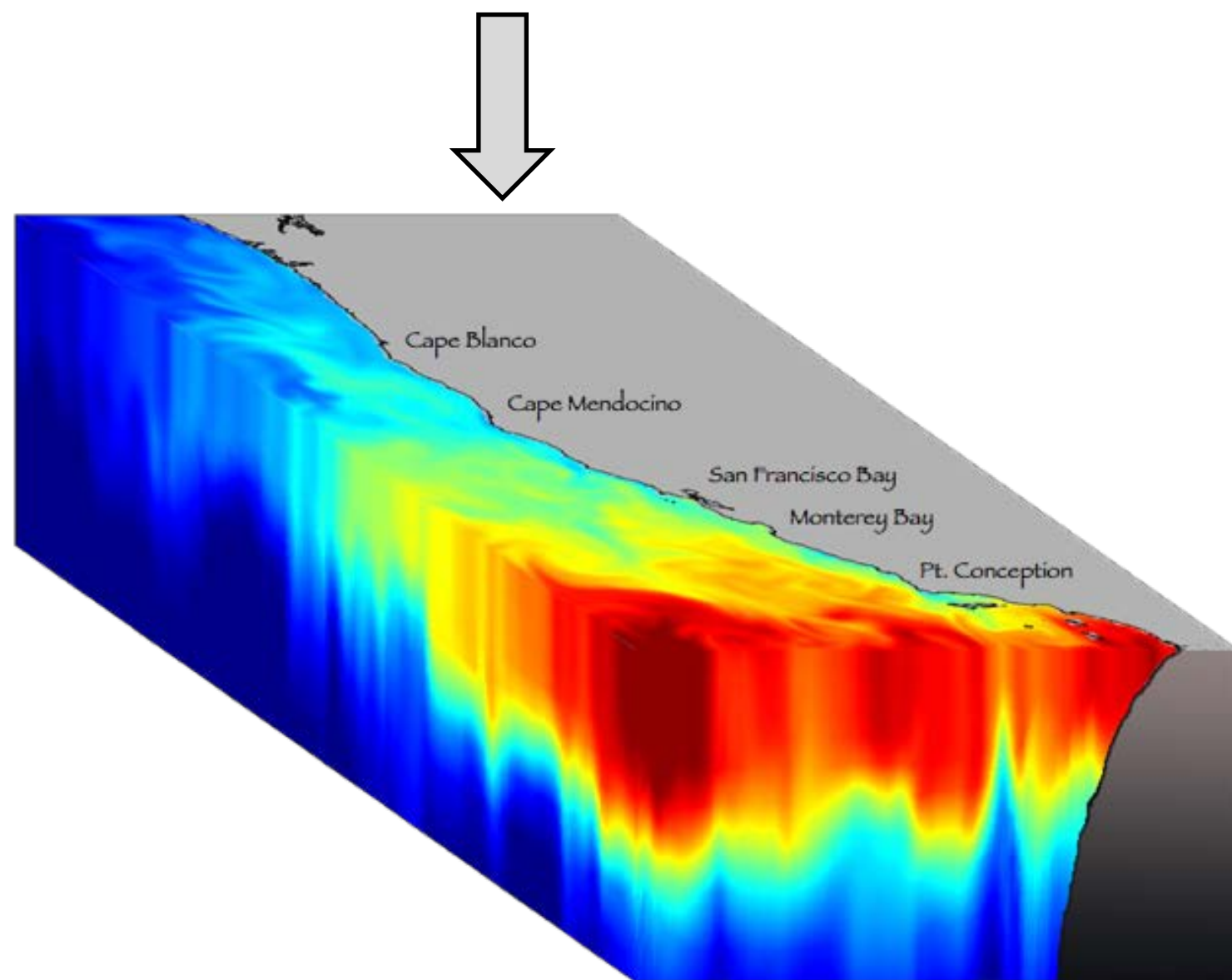
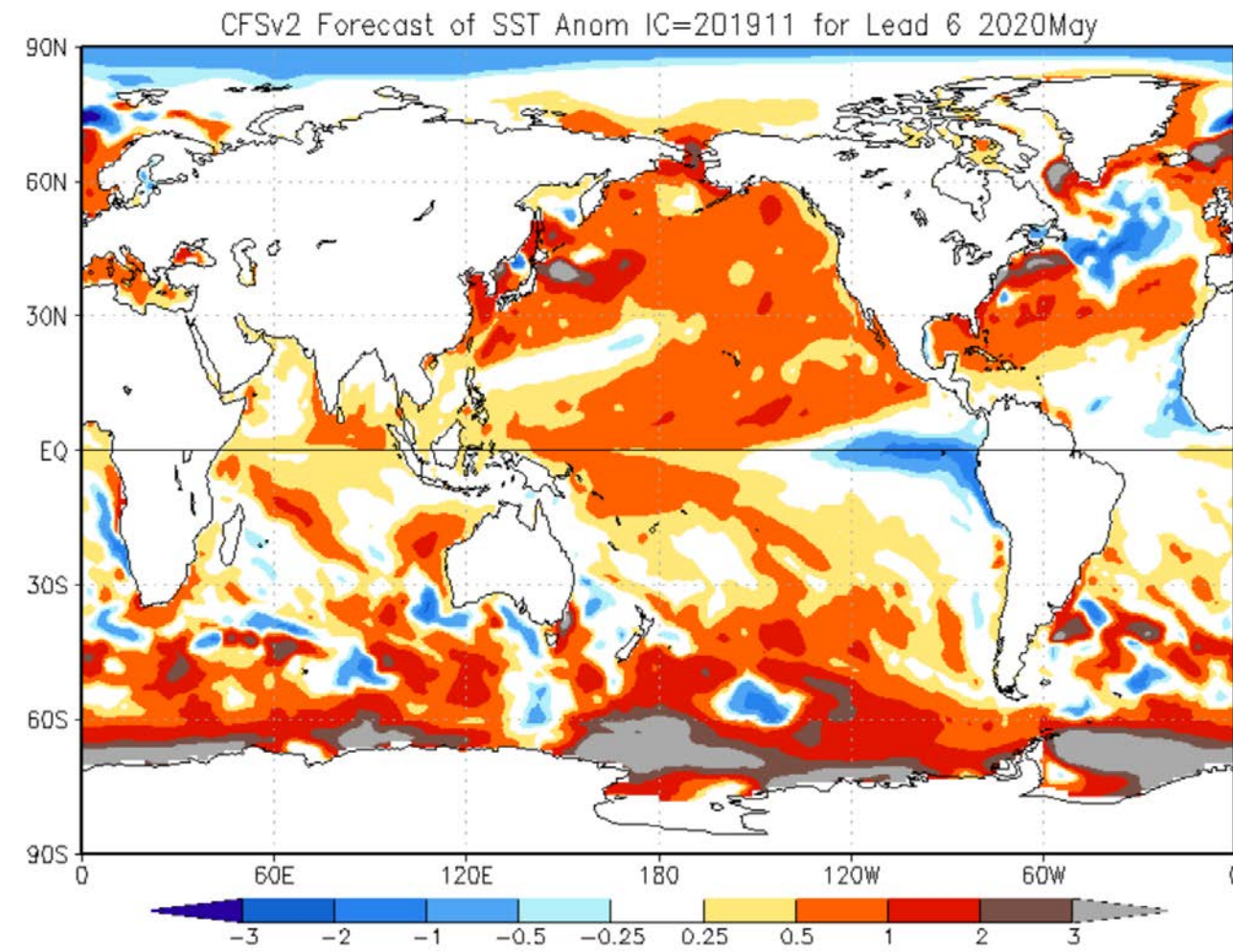
## Regional ocean forecasts



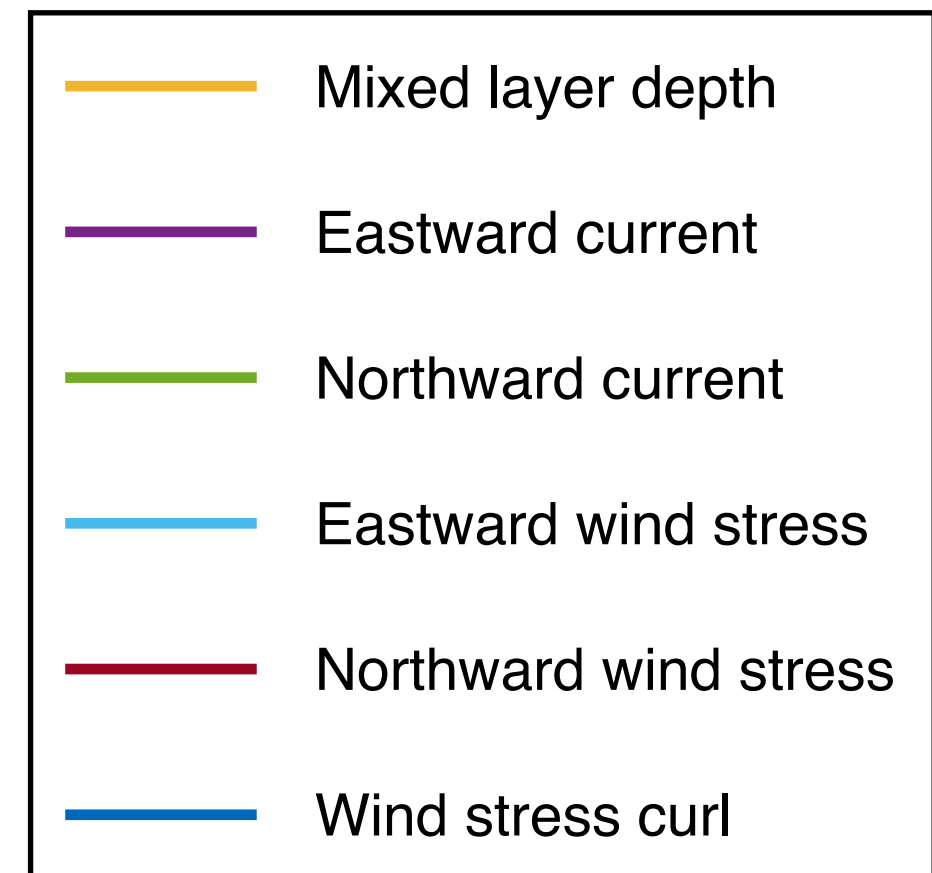
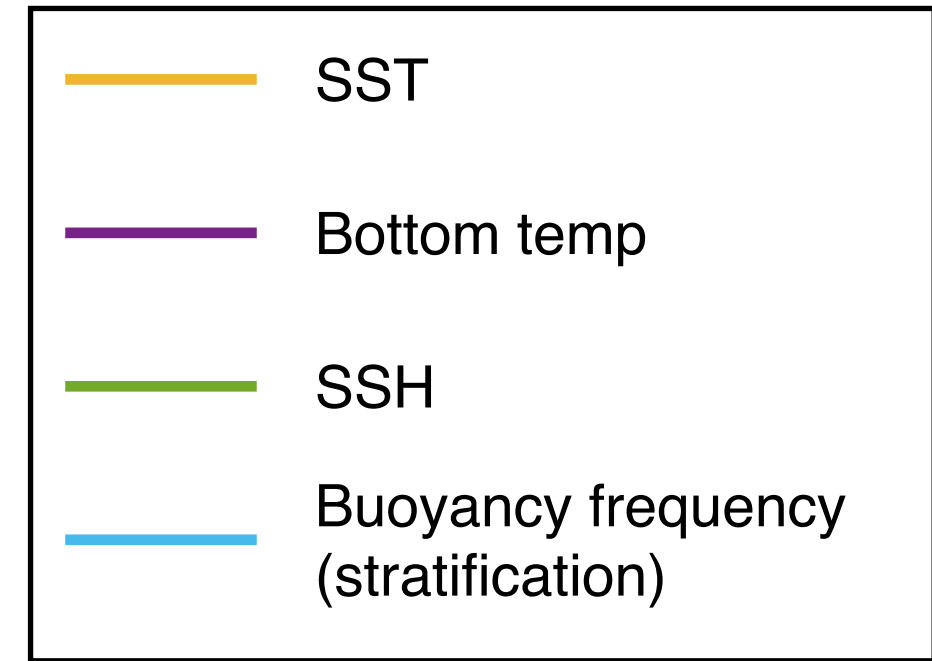
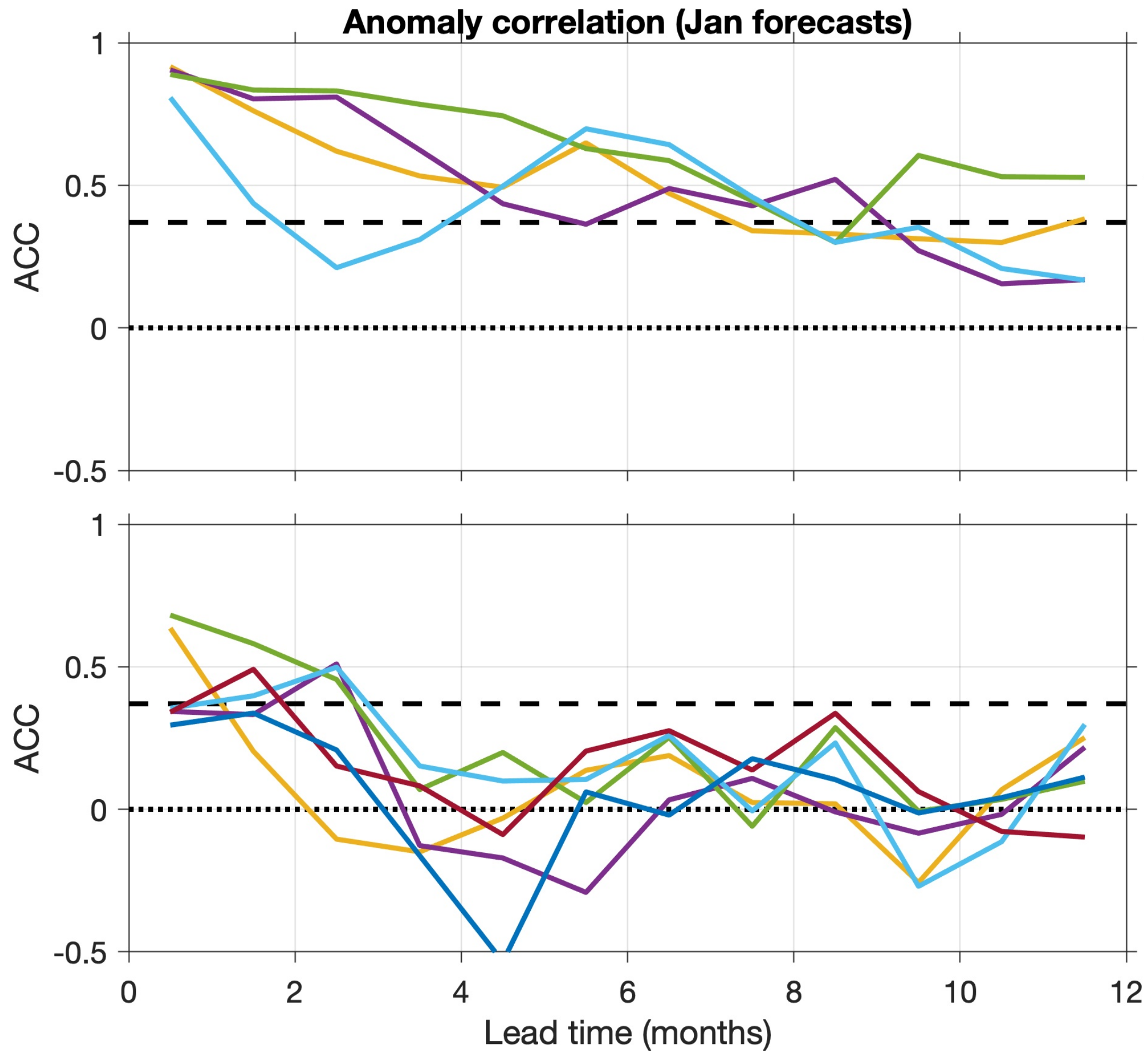


# Regional forecasts for the California Current System

## Global climate forecasts



## Regional ocean forecasts

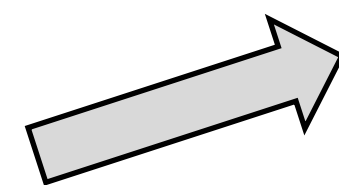
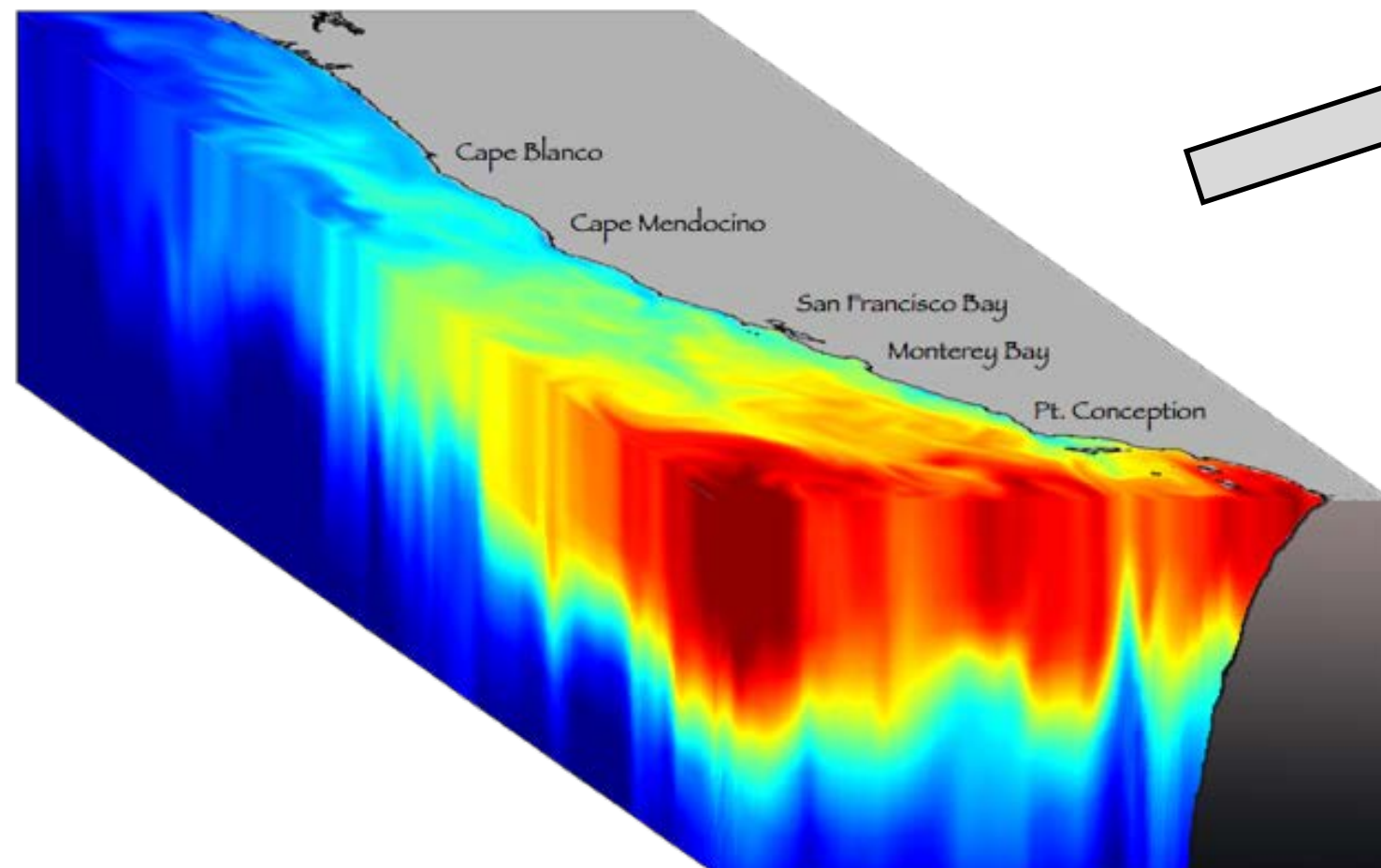
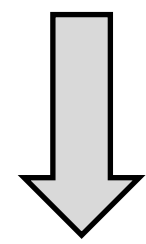
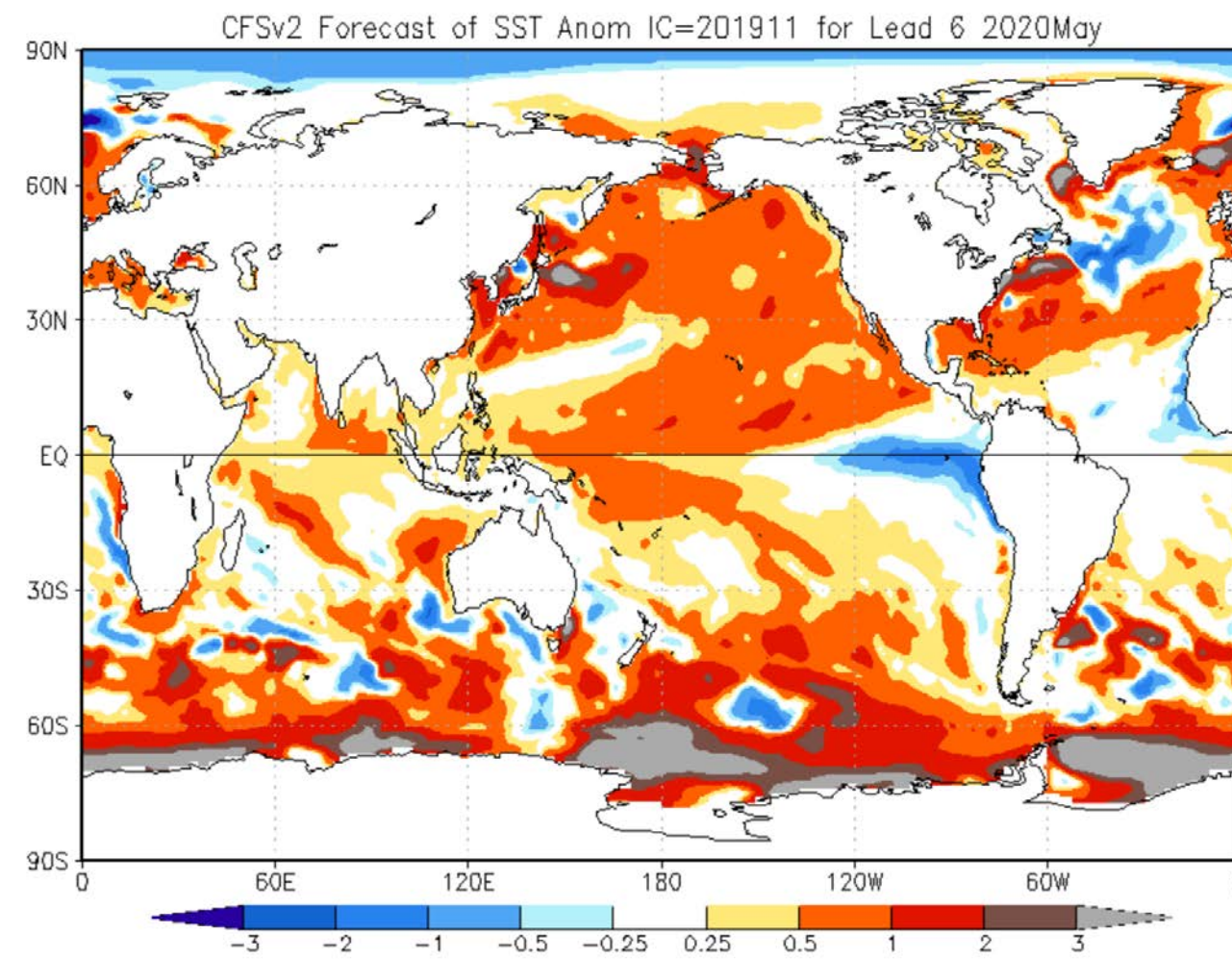


Jacox et al. (in review)



# Connecting physical forecasts to ecological forecasts

## Global climate forecasts



## Regional ocean forecasts

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

**Ecological Indicators**

royalsocietypublishing.org/journal/rspb

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/ecolind](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ecolind)

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Original Articles

**Environmental indicators to reduce loggerhead turtle bycatch offshore of Southern California**

Heather Welch<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Elliott L. Hazen<sup>a,b</sup>, Dana K. Briscoe<sup>a,c</sup>, Steven J. Bograd<sup>a,b</sup>, Michael G. Jacox<sup>b,d</sup>, Tomoharu Eguchi<sup>e</sup>, Scott R. Benson<sup>f,g</sup>, Christina C. Fahy<sup>h</sup>, Toby Garfield<sup>e</sup>, Dale Robinson<sup>a,1</sup>, Jeffrey A. Seminoff<sup>e</sup>, Helen Bailey<sup>l</sup>

Received: 21 December 2018 | Revised: 15 April 2019 | Accepted: 5 May 2019

DOI: 10.1111/ddi.12940

**BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH** | WILEY Diversity and Distributions

**Dynamic ensemble models to predict distributions and anthropogenic risk exposure for highly mobile species**

Briana Abrahms<sup>1</sup> | Heather Welch<sup>1,2</sup> | Stephanie Brodie<sup>1,2</sup> | Michael G. Jacox<sup>1,3</sup> | Elizabeth A. Becker<sup>2,4</sup> | Steven J. Bograd<sup>1,2</sup> | Ladd M. Irvine<sup>5</sup> | Daniel M. Palacios<sup>5</sup> | Bruce R. Mate<sup>5</sup> | Elliott L. Hazen<sup>1,2</sup>

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**Ecological Indicators**

royalsocietypublishing.org/journal/rspb

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/ecolind](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ecolind)

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**Habitat compression indices for monitoring ocean conditions and ecosystem impacts within coastal upwelling systems**

Isaac D. Schroeder<sup>a,b</sup>, Jarrod A. Santora<sup>c,d,\*</sup>, Nate Mantua<sup>c</sup>, John C. Field<sup>b,c</sup>, Brian K. Wells<sup>c</sup>, Elliott L. Hazen<sup>a,b</sup>, Michael Jacox<sup>a,b</sup>, Steven J. Bograd<sup>a,b</sup>

**PROCEEDINGS B**

royalsocietypublishing.org/journal/rspb

**An anchovy ecosystem indicator of marine predator foraging and reproduction**

H. William Fennie<sup>1,2</sup>, Rachel Seary<sup>1,3</sup>, Barbara A. Muhling<sup>1,2</sup>, Steven J. Bograd<sup>3</sup>, Stephanie Brodie<sup>1,3</sup>, Megan A. Cimino<sup>1,3</sup>, Elliott L. Hazen<sup>3</sup>, Michael G. Jacox<sup>3,4</sup>, Elizabeth A. McHuron<sup>5</sup>, Sharon Melin<sup>6</sup>, Jarrod A. Santora<sup>7,8</sup>, Justin J. Suca<sup>1,3</sup>, Julie A. Thayer<sup>1,9</sup>, Andrew R. Thompson<sup>2</sup>, Pete Warzybok<sup>10</sup> and Desiree Tommasi<sup>1,2</sup>

SCIENCE ADVANCES | RESEARCH ARTICLE

**ECOLOGY**

**A dynamic ocean management tool to reduce bycatch and support sustainable fisheries**

Elliott L. Hazen<sup>1,2,3\*</sup>, Kylie L. Scales<sup>2,4</sup>, Sara M. Maxwell<sup>5</sup>, Dana K. Briscoe<sup>2</sup>, Heather Welch<sup>2</sup>, Steven J. Bograd<sup>1,2</sup>, Helen Bailey<sup>6</sup>, Scott R. Benson<sup>1,7</sup>, Tomo Eguchi<sup>1</sup>, Heidi Dewar<sup>1</sup>, Suzy Kohin<sup>1</sup>, Daniel P. Costa<sup>2</sup>, Larry B. Crowder<sup>8</sup>, Rebecca L. Lewison<sup>9</sup>

MUHLING ET AL.: DYNAMIC HABITAT USE OF ALBACORE AND THEIR PRIMARY PREY SPECIES IN THE CALIFORNIA CURRENT SYSTEM  
CalCOFI Rep., Vol. 60, 2019

**DYNAMIC HABITAT USE OF ALBACORE AND THEIR PRIMARY PREY SPECIES IN THE CALIFORNIA CURRENT SYSTEM**

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STEPHANIE SNYDER  
Thomas More University,  
Crestview Hills, KY



# Connecting physical forecasts to ecological forecasts

Application	Region	Key physical variables	Forecast months
Habitat compression (whale entanglement)	Central/Northern California	SST	Mar-Nov
TOTAL (loggerhead bycatch)	Southern California	SST	Dec-Jul
WhaleWatch (ship strike risk)	Southern California	Full suite *	May-Nov
Sardine spawning habitat and recruitment	Southern California	SST, SSH	Mar-May
EcoCast (bycatch risk)	Entire Coast	Full suite *	Aug-Jan
Albacore distribution	Oregon/Washtington	Full suite *	Jun-Nov
Anchovy Ecosystem Indicator (top predator foraging and reproduction)	Central/Northern California	Full suite *	Apr-Jul

\*Full suite  
 SST  
 SSH  
 Surface currents (u,v)  
 Wind Stress (u,v,curl)  
 Mixed layer depth  
 Stratification

Jacox et al. (in review)

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\*Full suite

SST

SSH

Surface currents (u,v)

Wind Stress (u,v,curl)

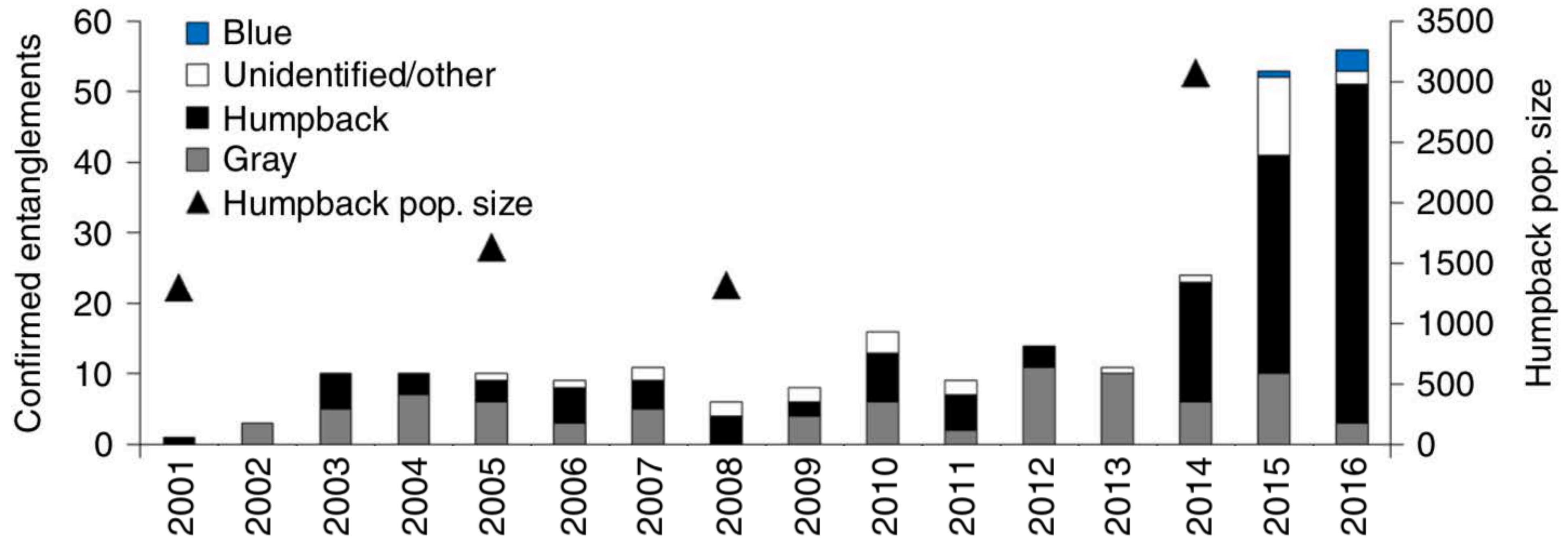
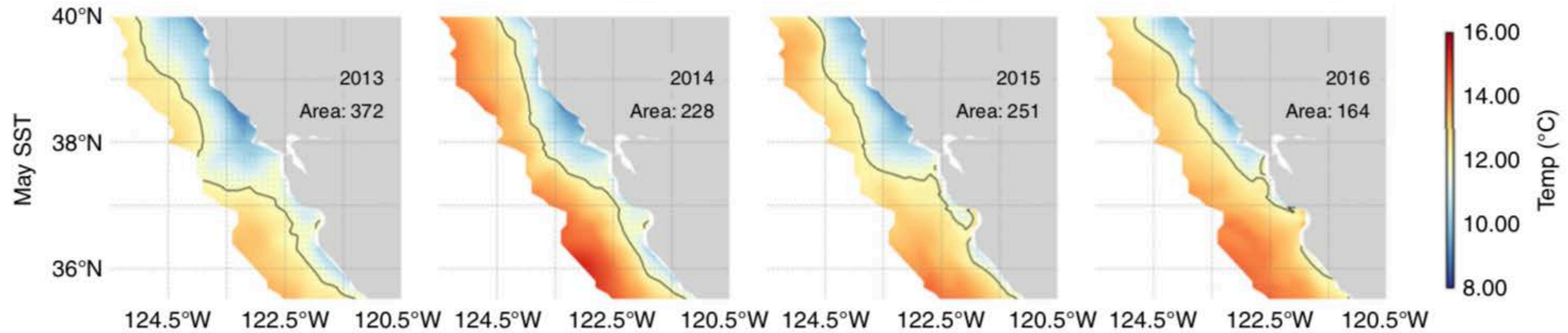
Mixed layer depth

Stratification

Jacox et al. (in review)



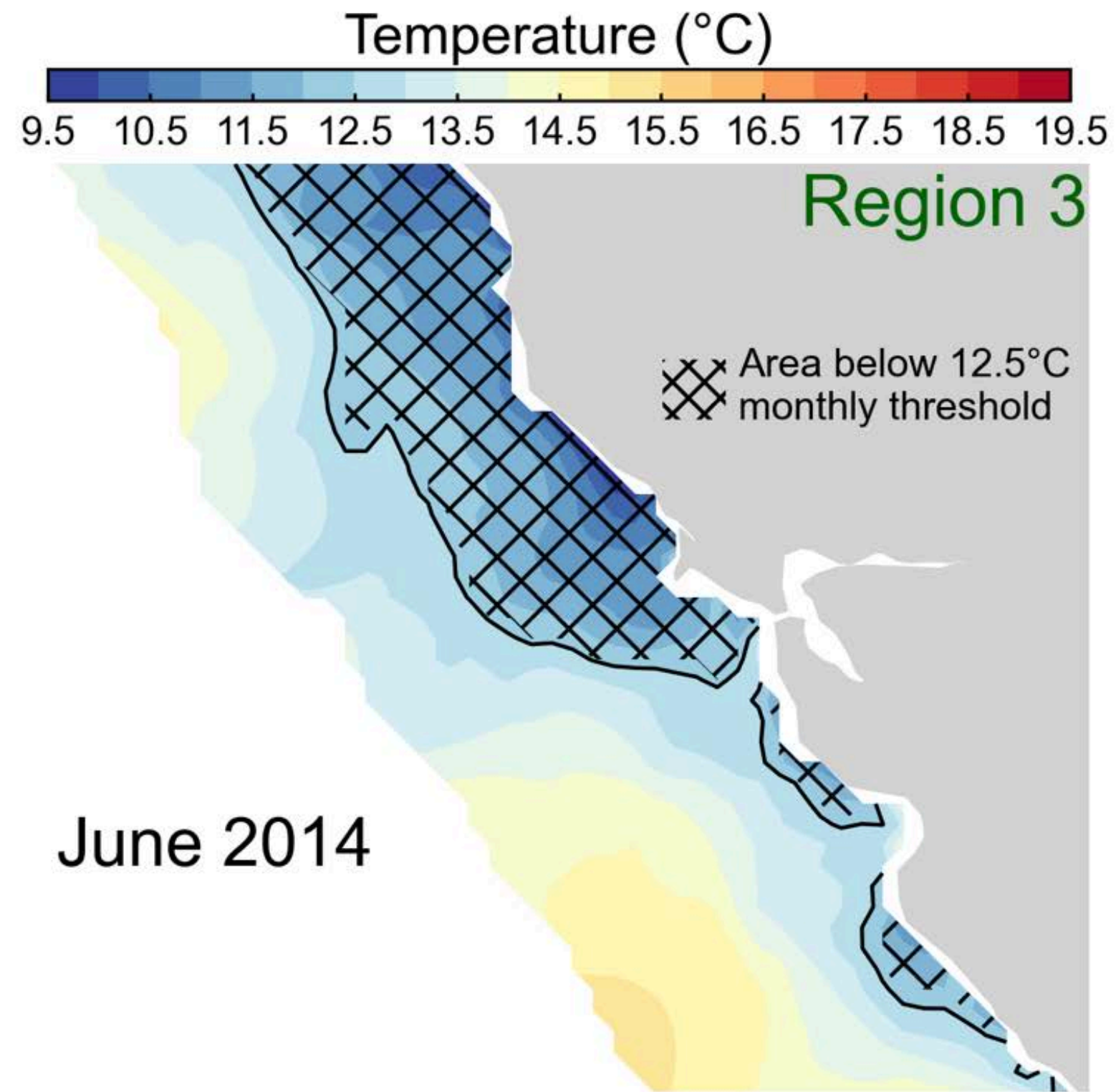
# Habitat compression index (HCI)



Santora et al. (2020)



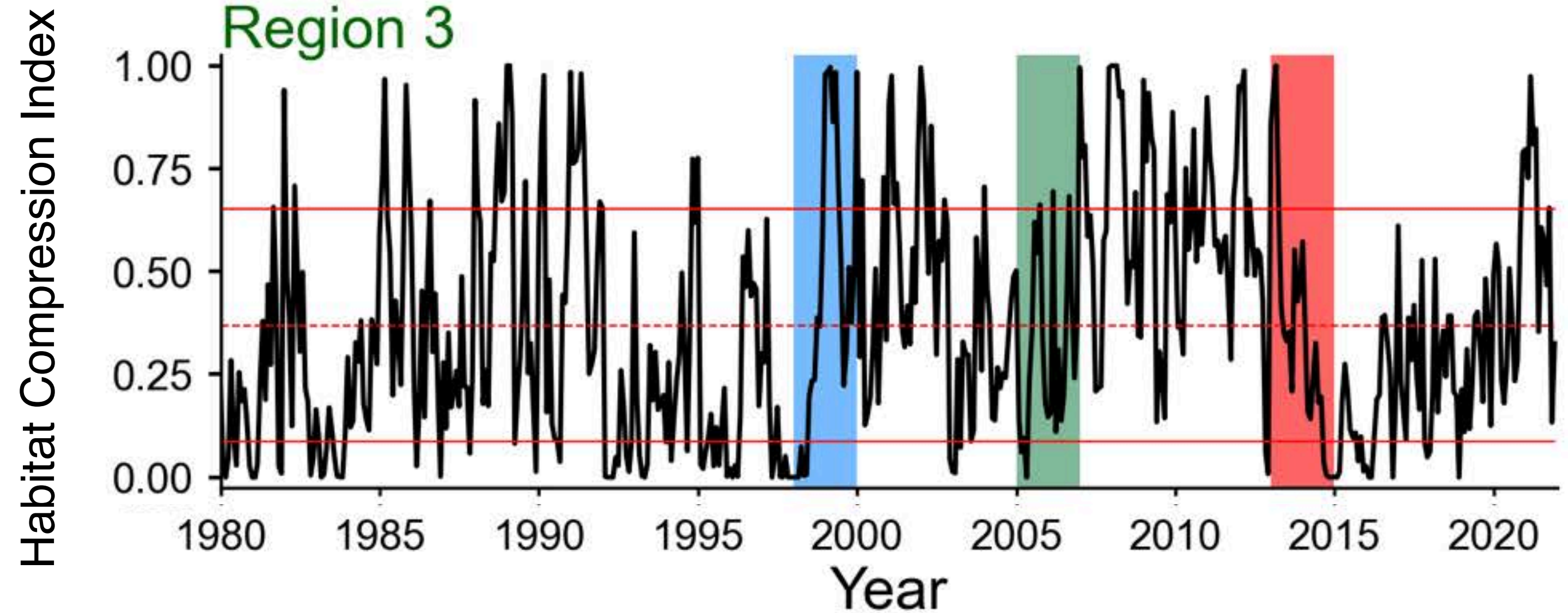
# Habitat compression index (HCI)



Area below threshold = 29177 km<sup>2</sup>

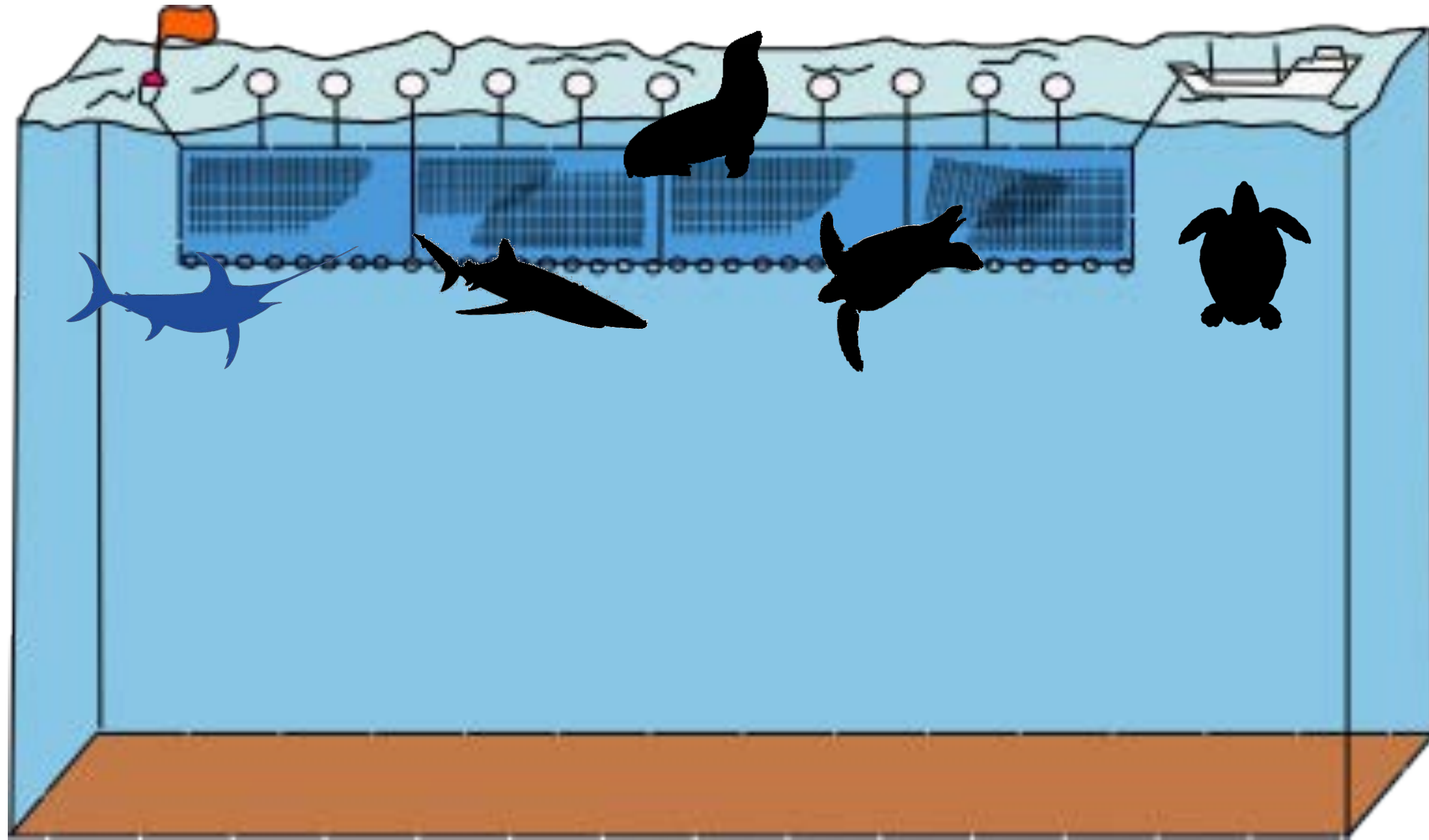
Total area = 89418 km<sup>2</sup>

$$\text{HCI} = \frac{29177 \text{ km}^2}{89418 \text{ km}^2} = 0.33$$



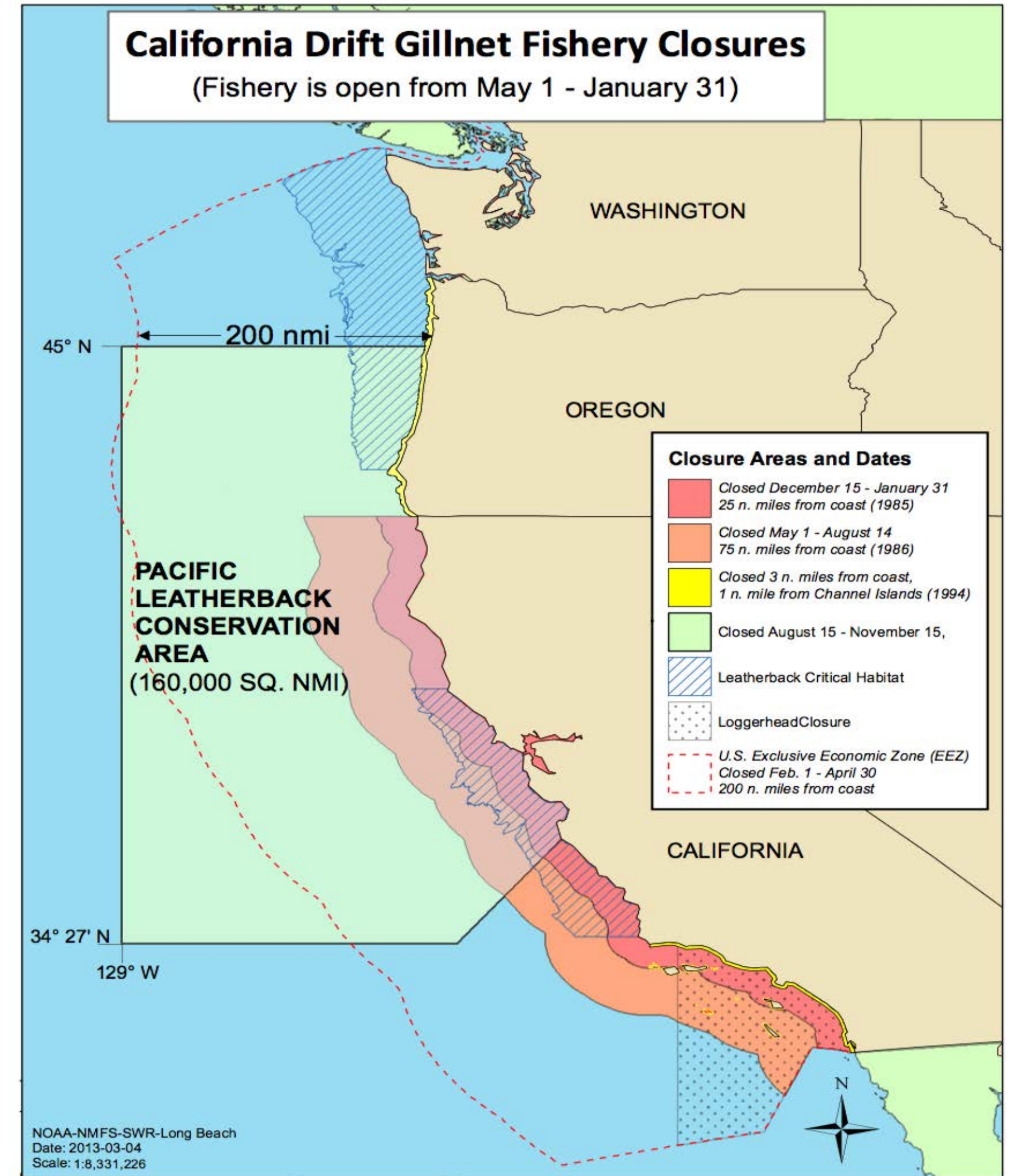
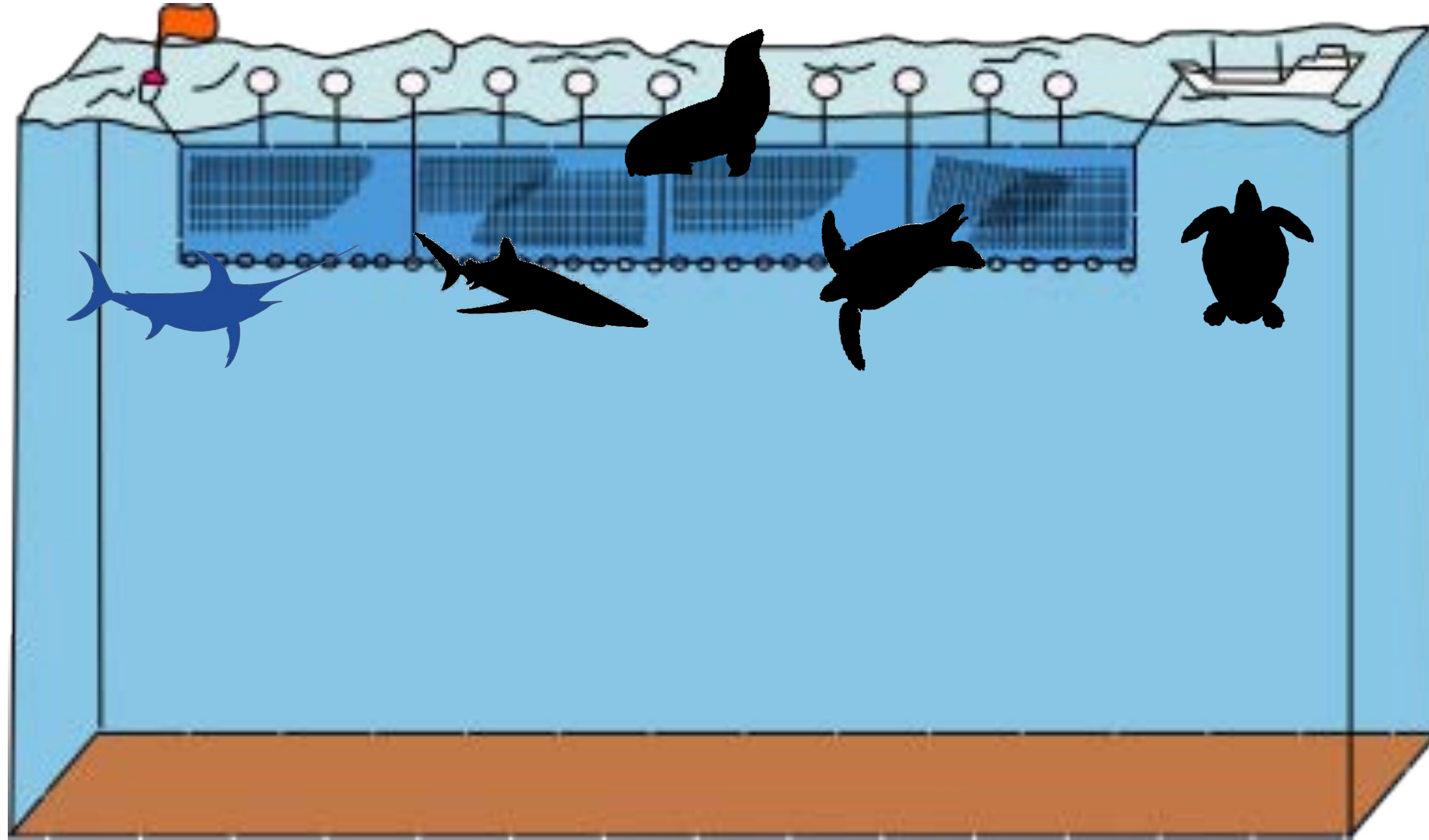


# Temperature observations to avoid loggerheads (TOTAL) tool





# Temperature observations to avoid loggerheads (TOTAL) tool



Bycatch dropped significantly, but at large **economic cost** to the fishery



# Temperature observations to avoid loggerheads (TOTAL) tool

Loggerhead Conservation | Coastwatch

coastwatch.pfeg.noaa.gov/loggerheads/

HOME DATA ACCESS TOOLS & TRAINING ABOUT PROJECTS QUICK LINKS

NOAA COASTWATCH WEST COAST REGIONAL NODE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

TOTAL

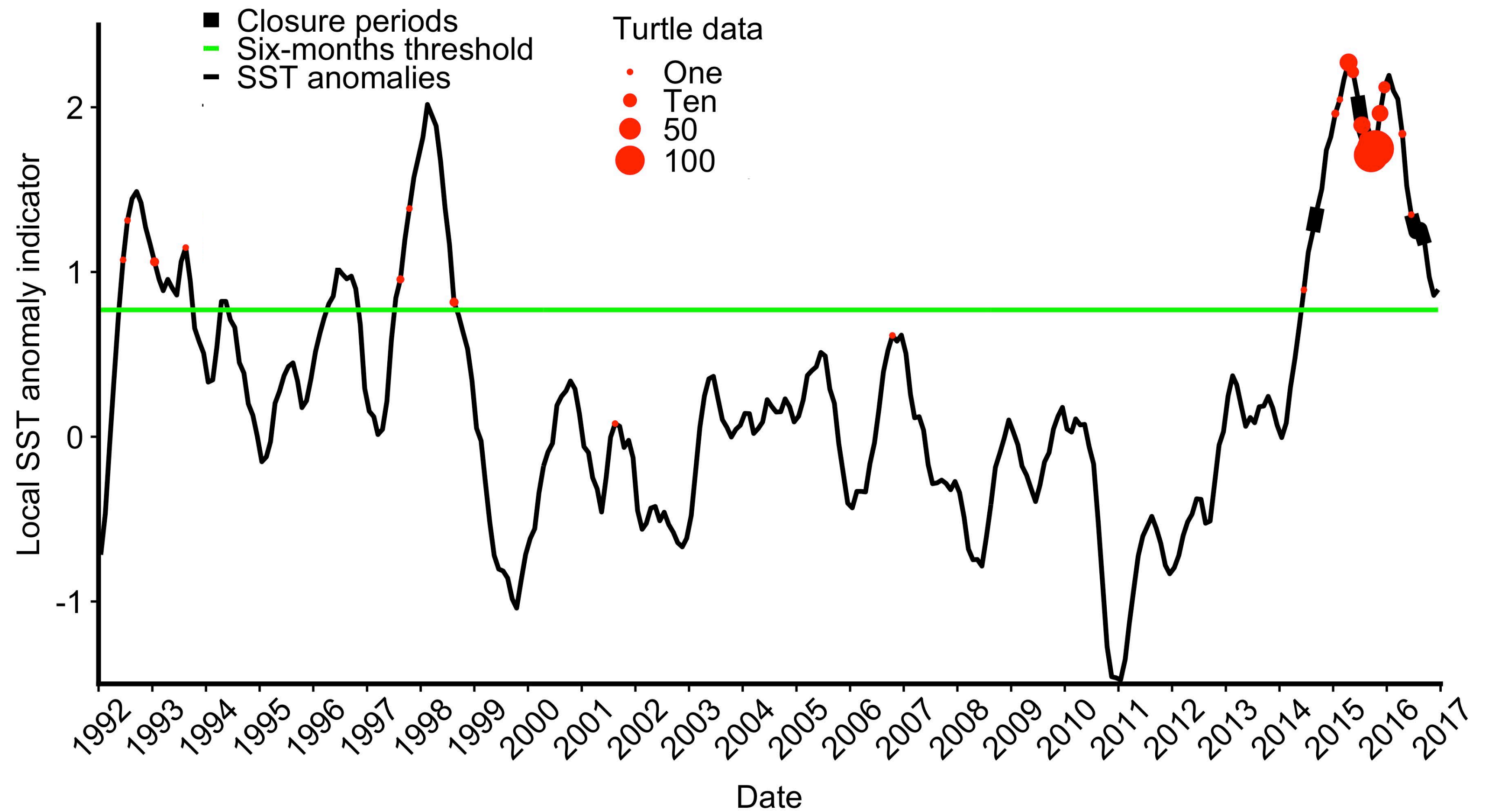
Background Closure Rules Conservation Area Status Data Dashboard

Supporting turtle conservation and sustainable fisheries with dynamic ocean management

**Turtle Bycatch Overview**  
Loggerhead turtles from the endangered North Pacific population migrate to the waters off California and Mexico. Higher than normal sea temperatures during spring and summer can bring loggerheads close to the California coast, where they are more likely to be unintentionally captured by commercial fishing vessels. The

**Conservation Area Status**  
In an effort to reduce loggerhead bycatch, the Pacific Loggerhead Conservation Area was established off the Southern California coast. The area is subject to closure to drift gillnet fishing when environmental conditions bring loggerheads into commercial fishing grounds. The [Closure Rules](#) page provides backgrounds to the

**Historical Data Dashboard**  
View historical environmental observations for the Southern California coast and the closure status for the Pacific Loggerhead Conservation Area going back to 2003, when the Conservation Area was established. Observation such as sea surface temperature, large temperature deviations, and El Niño status are available.



Welch et al. (2018)

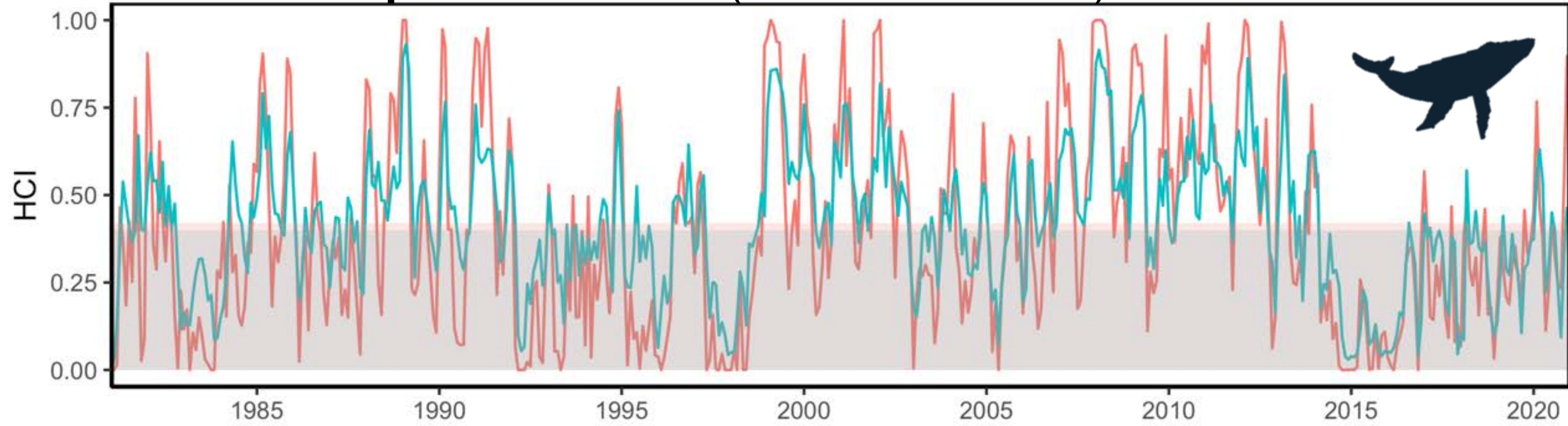
<https://coastwatch.pfeg.noaa.gov/loggerheads/>



# Moving TOTAL and HCI from nowcast to forecast

Observed  
Forecast

## Habitat Compression Index (1-month forecast)



High compression in 2005 could have been predicted 1-2 months in advance.

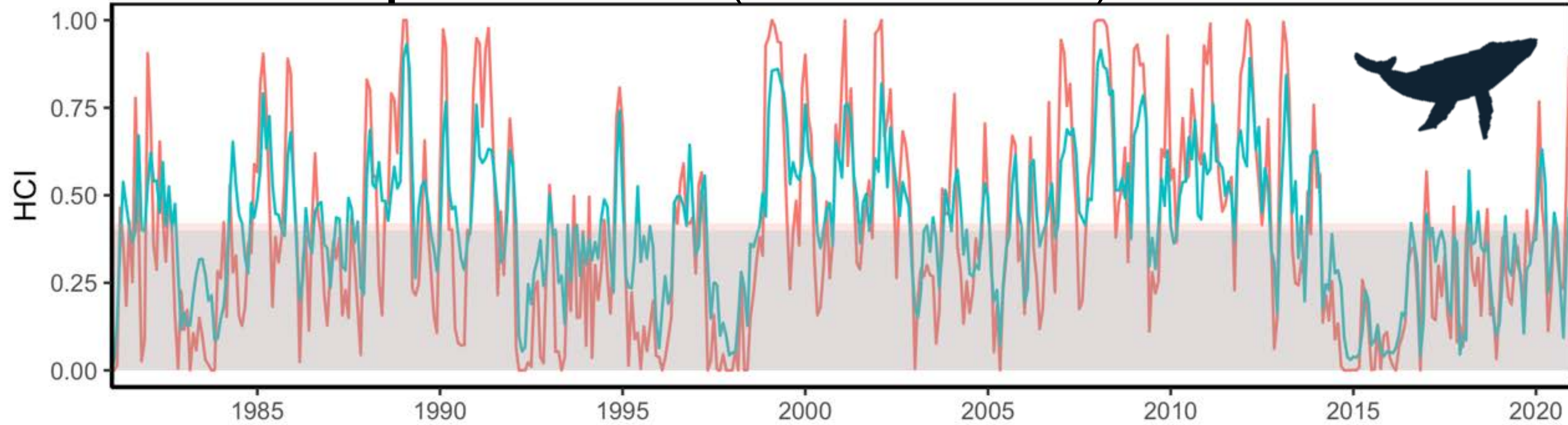
Persistent habitat compression 2014-2016 was predictable months in advance.



# Moving TOTAL and HCI from nowcast to forecast

Observed  
Forecast

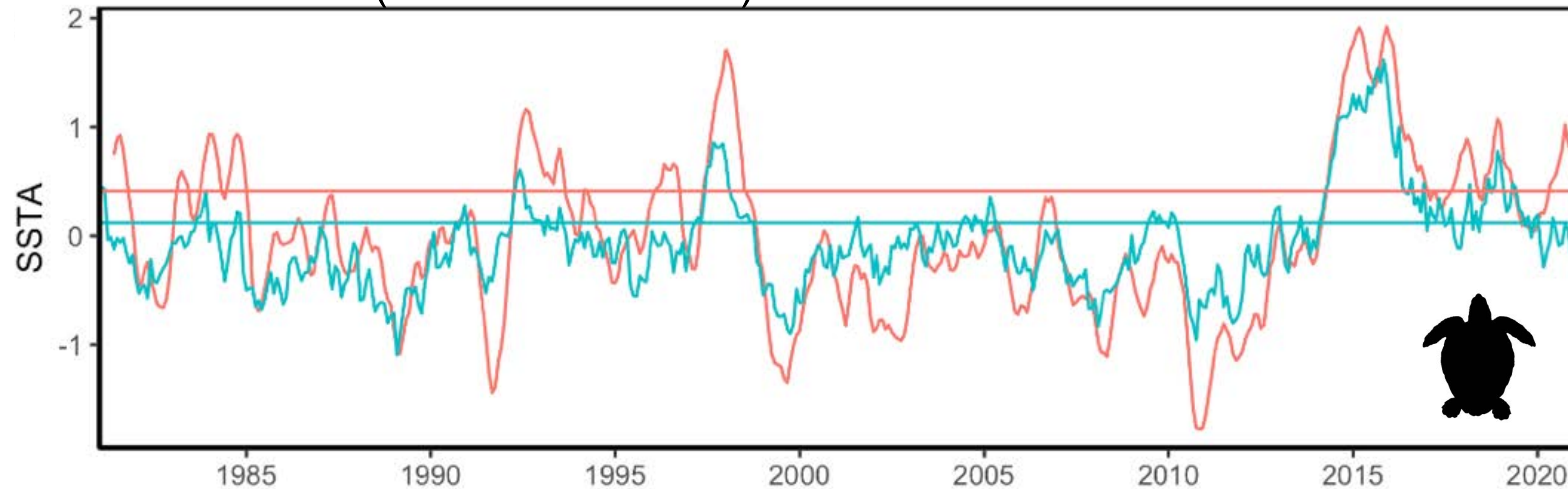
## Habitat Compression Index (1-month forecast)



High compression in 2005 could have been predicted 1-2 months in advance.

Persistent habitat compression 2014-2016 was predictable months in advance.

## TOTAL Tool (6-month forecast)

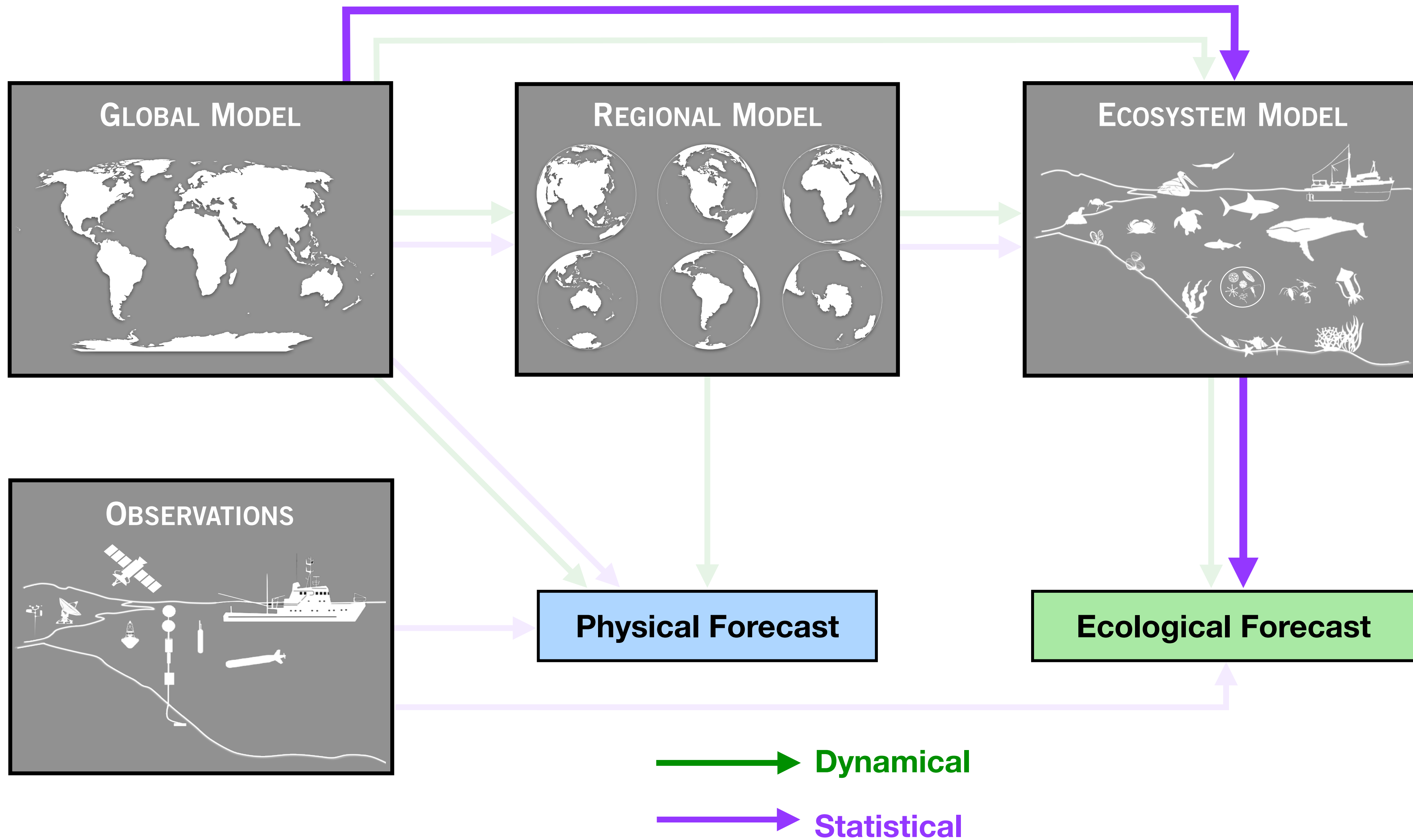


Closures were enacted in the summers of 2015 and 2016.

These closures could have been predicted at least 6 months in advance.



# Moving TOTAL and HCI from nowcast to forecast

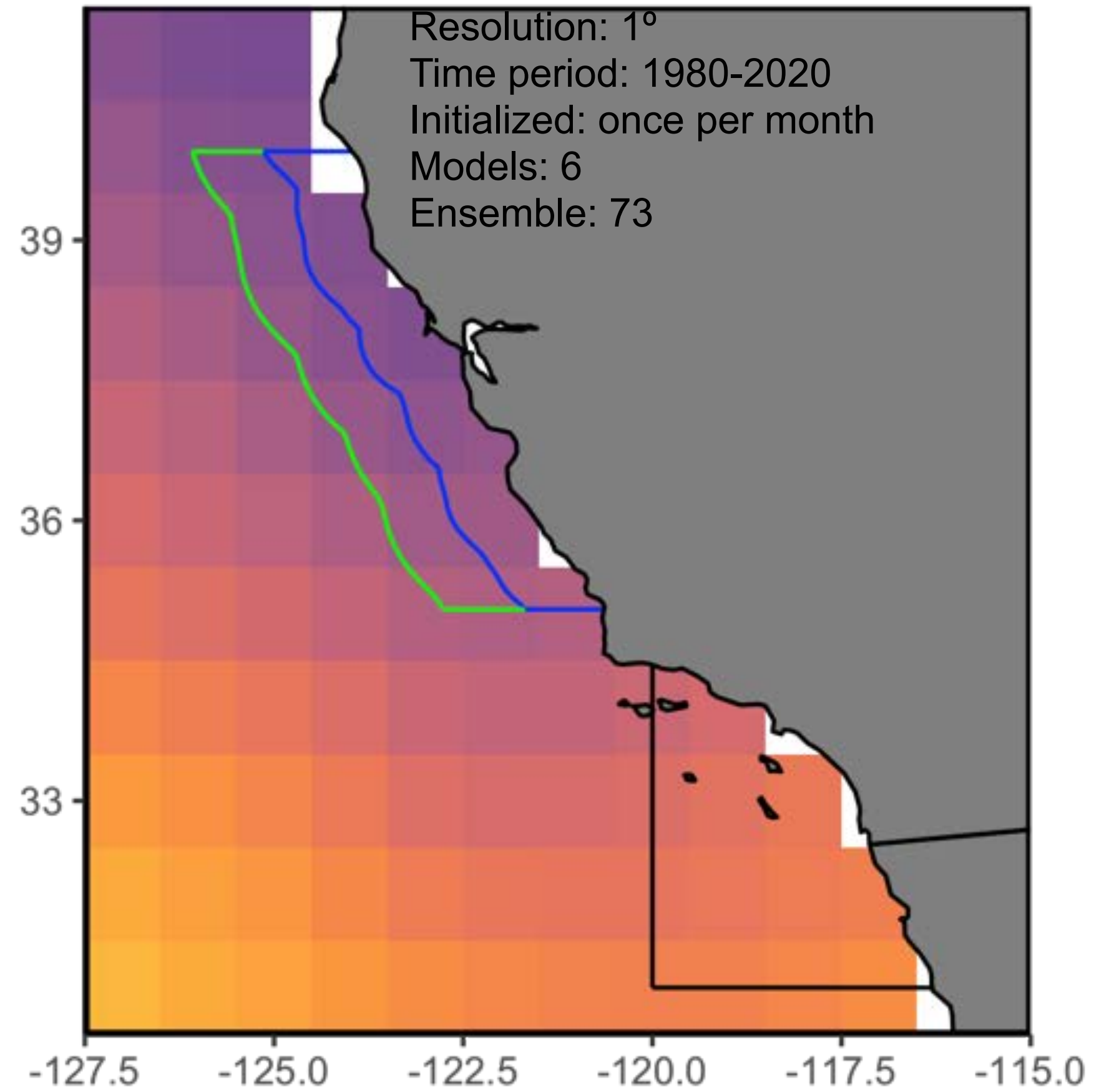


Jacox et al. (2020)

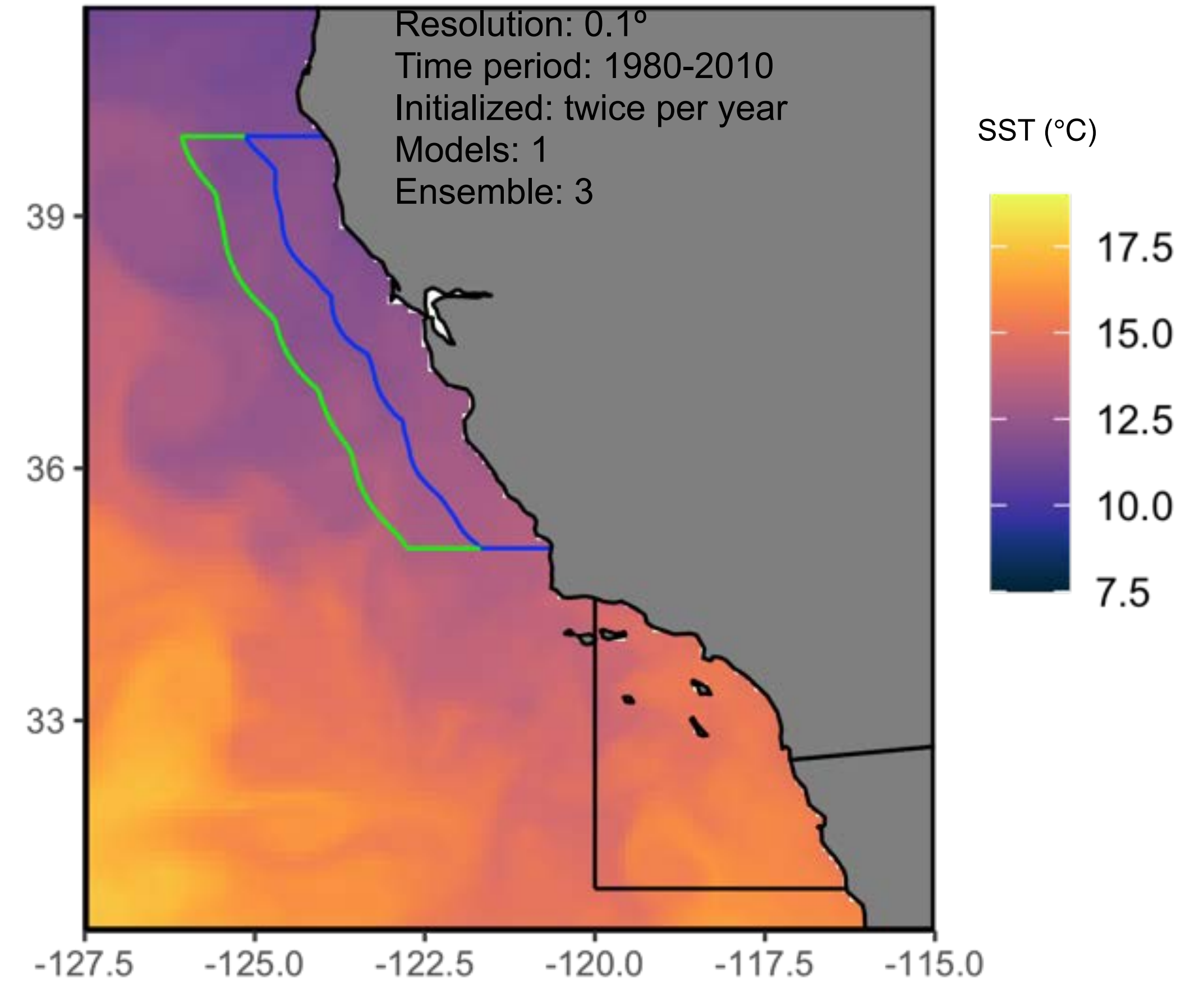


# Comparing global and regional forecasts

## Global SST Forecast

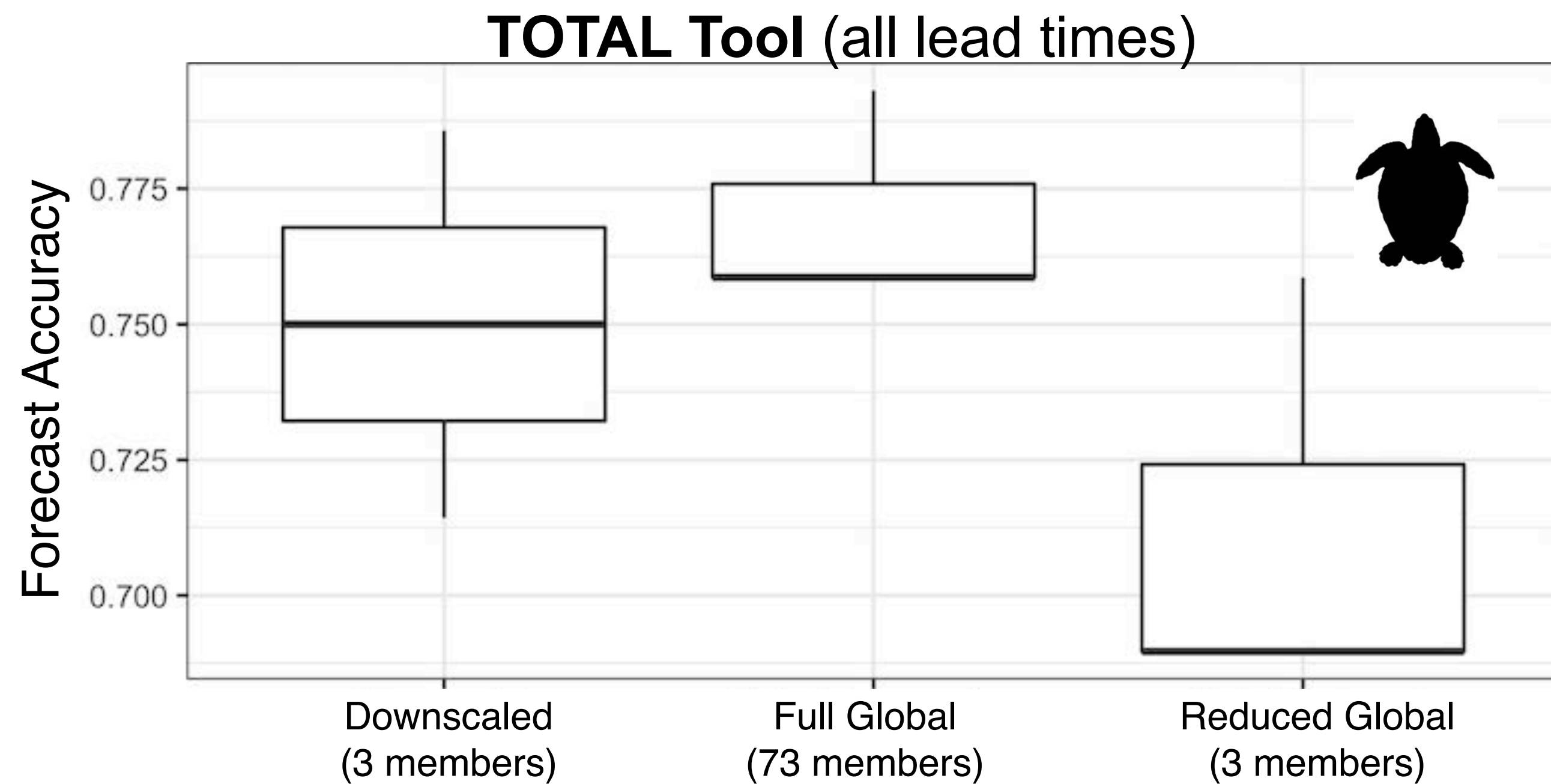
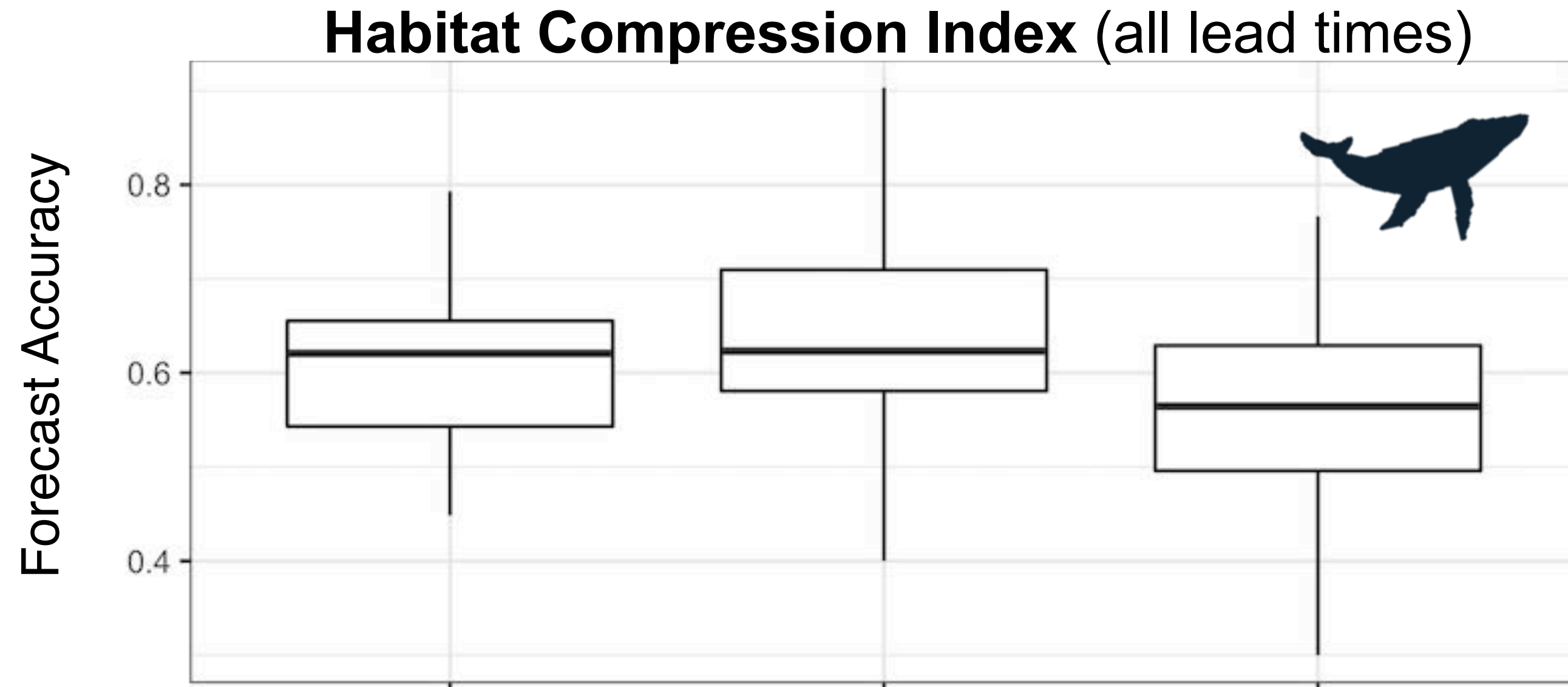


## Downscaled SST Forecast





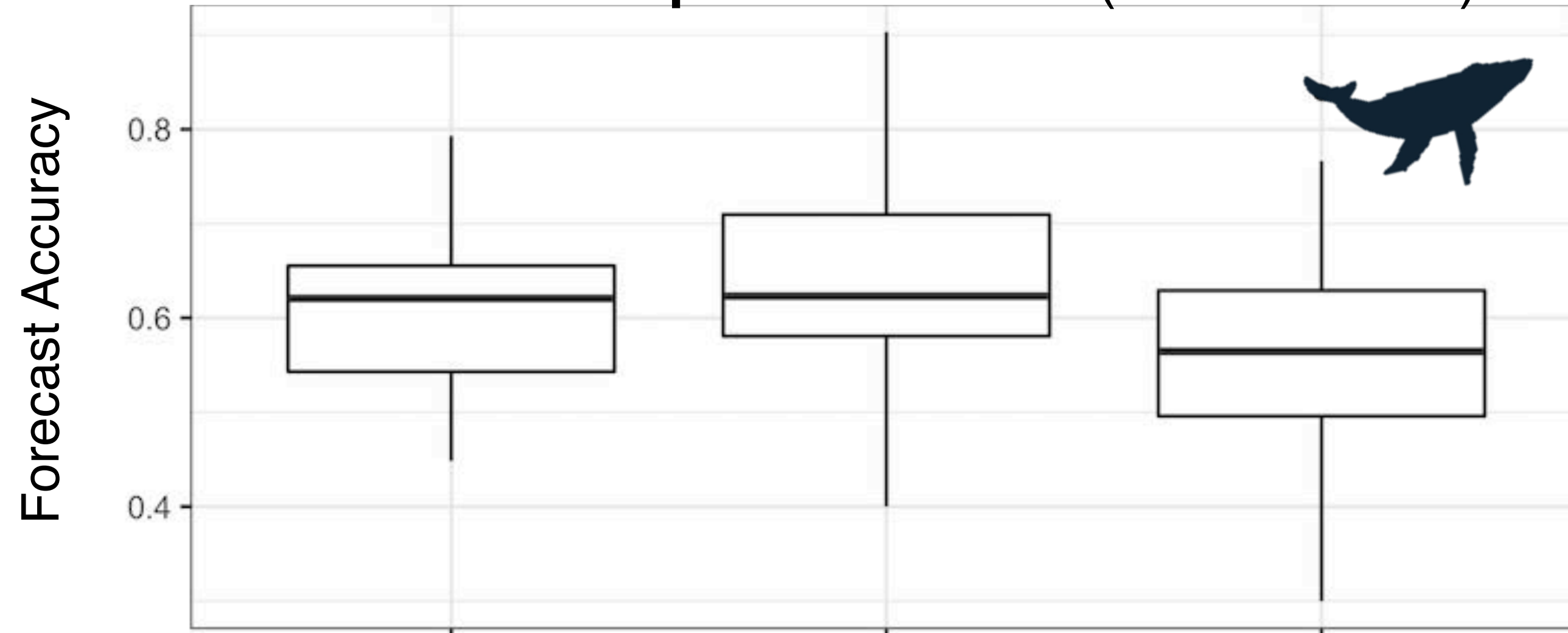
# Comparing global and regional forecasts





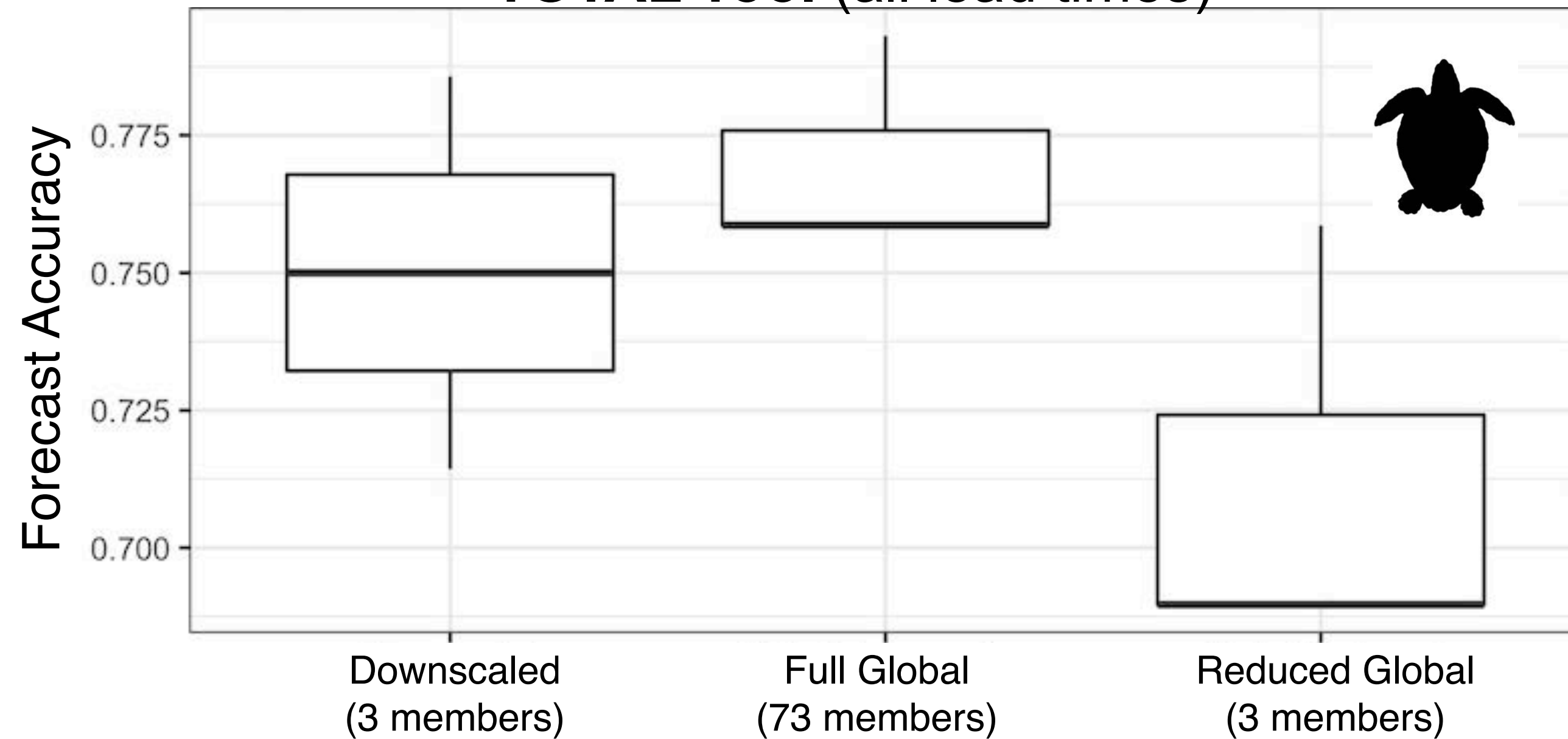
# Comparing global and regional forecasts

## Habitat Compression Index (all lead times)

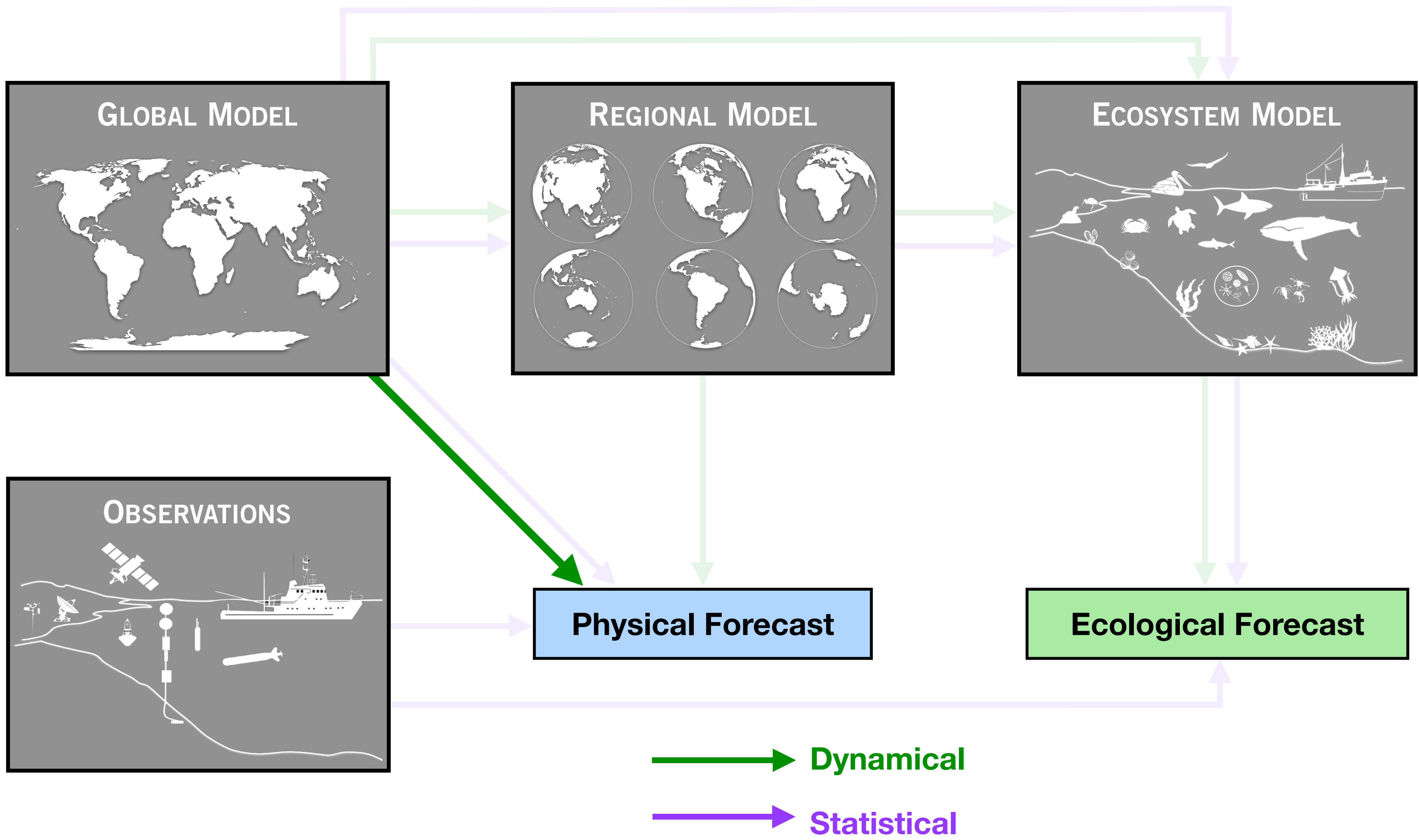


Downscaling improves skill,  
BUT global forecasts are also skillful  
and can even be better due to  
availability of much larger ensembles.

## TOTAL Tool (all lead times)



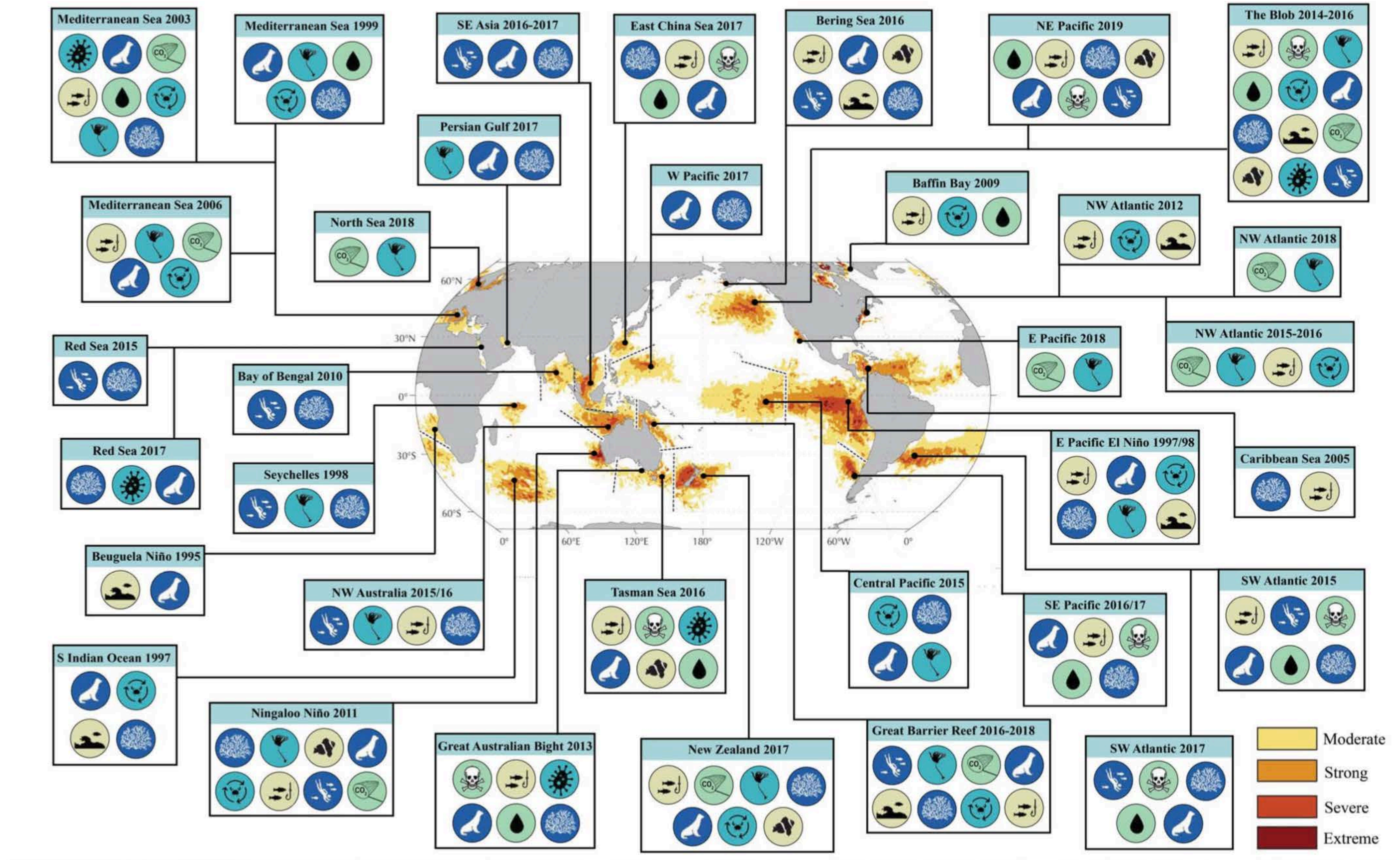




Jacox et al. (2020)

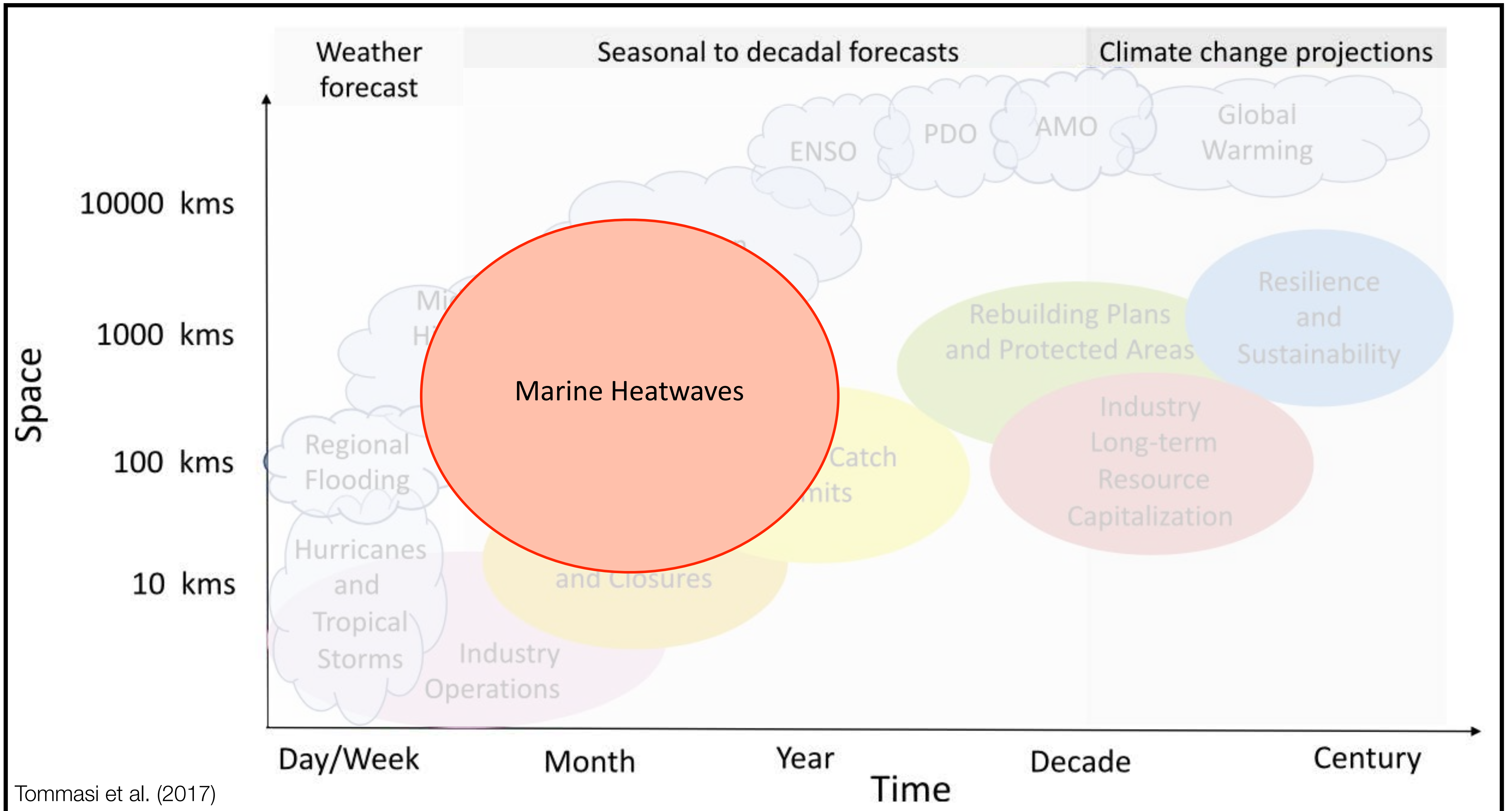


# Widespread impacts of marine heatwaves



Smith et al. (2021)

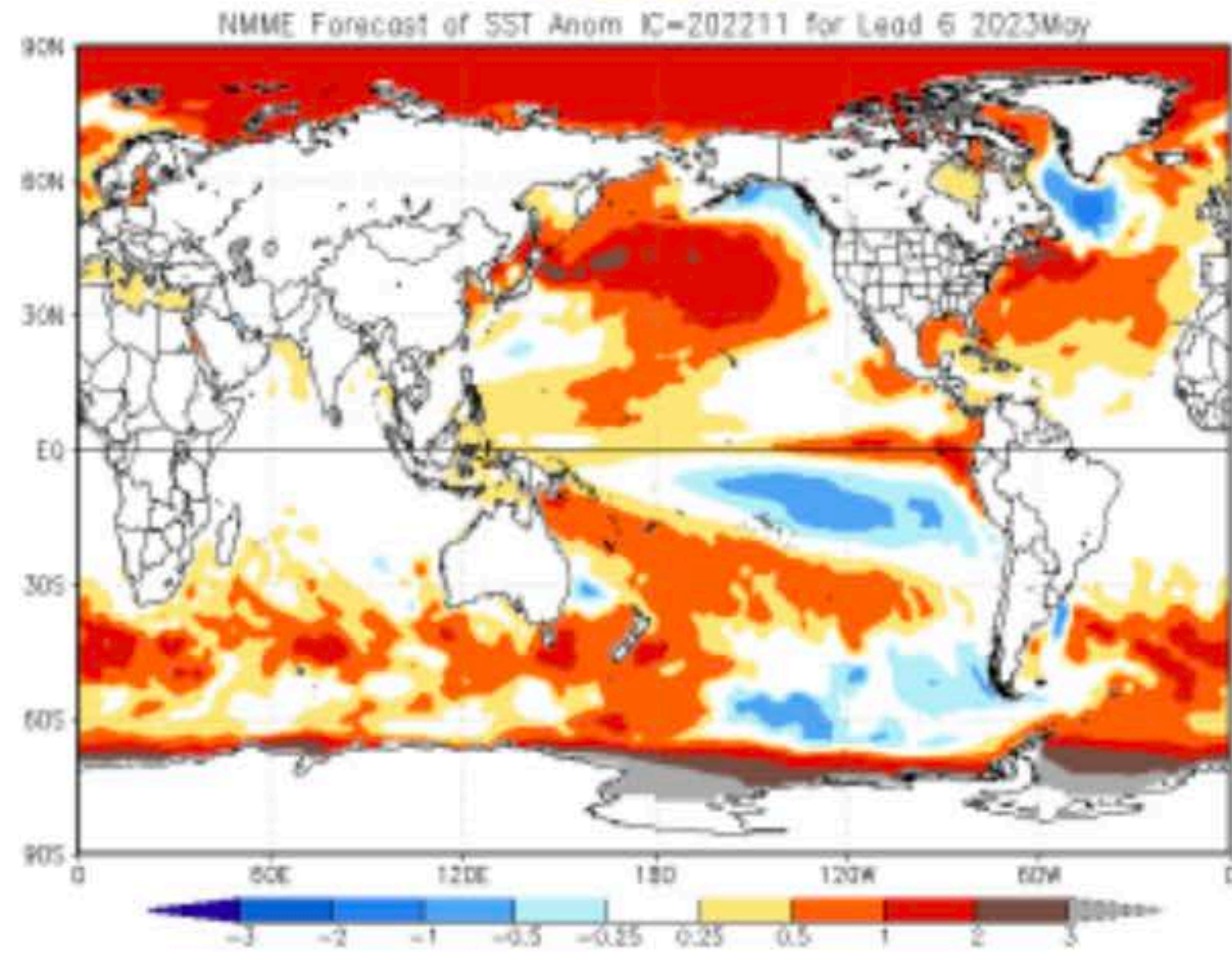




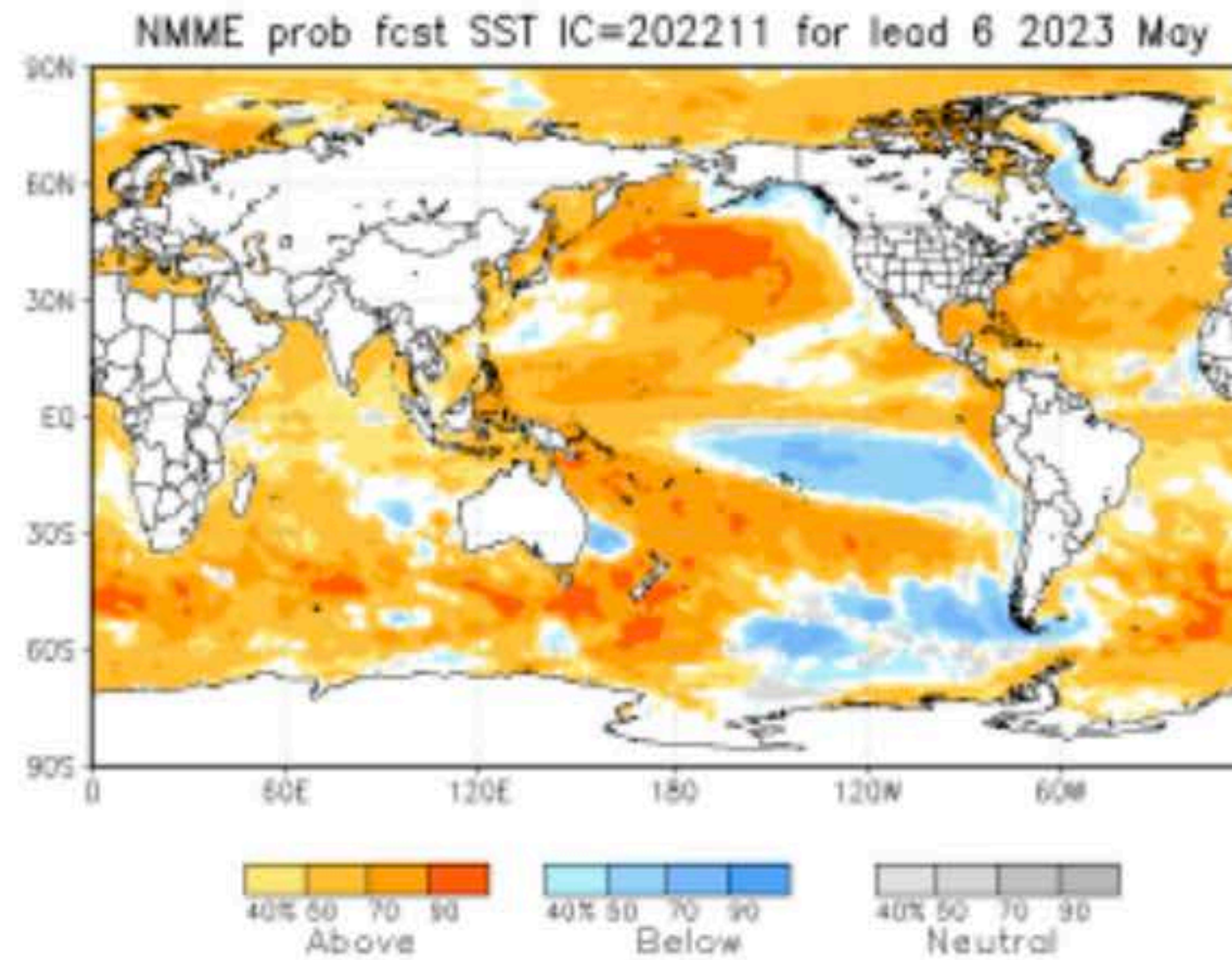


# Leveraging forecasts in the North American Multimodel Ensemble...

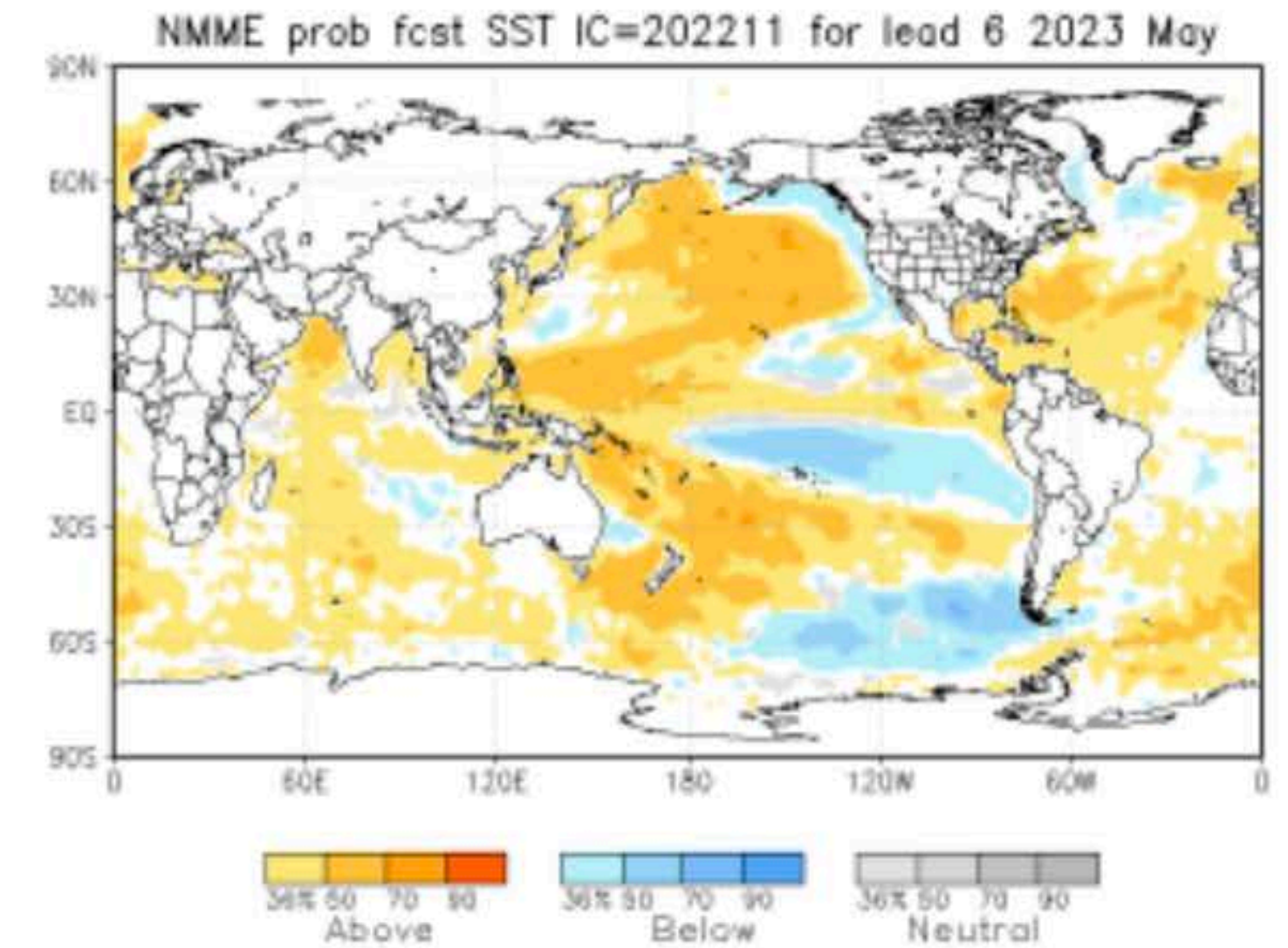
**NMME**



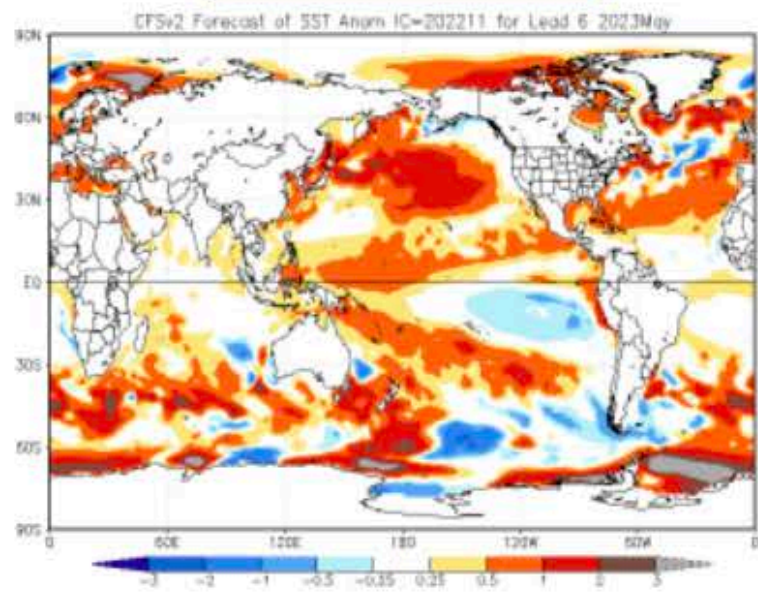
**Prob fcst**



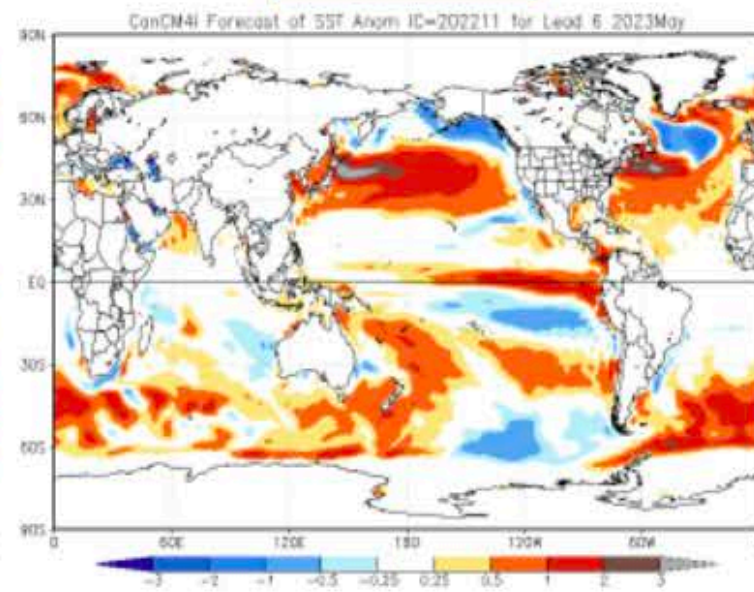
**PAC calib. prob fcst**



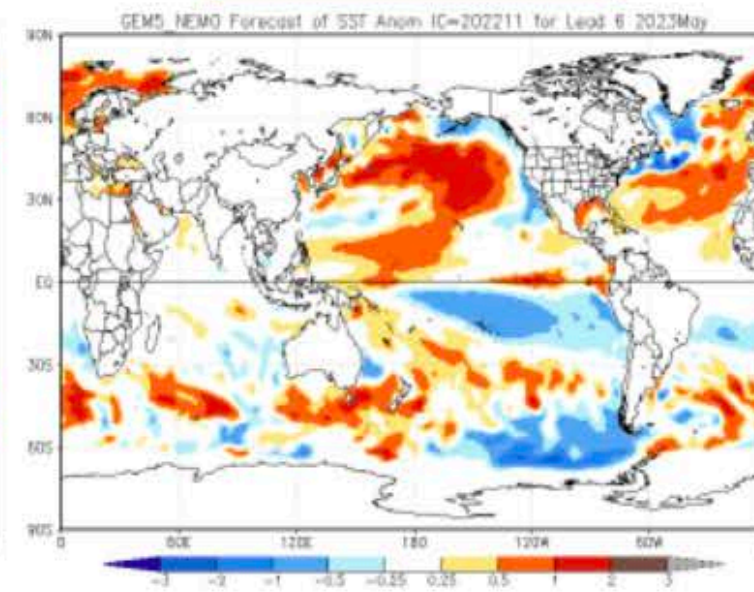
**NCEP CFSv2**



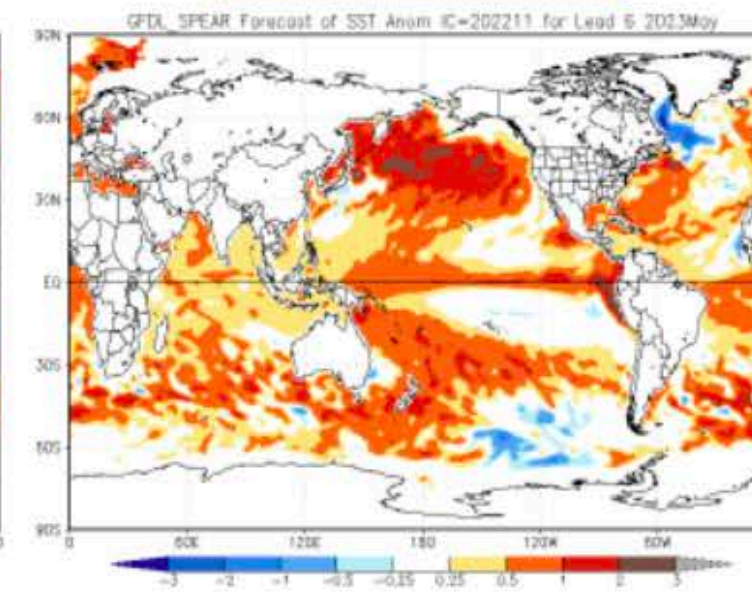
**CanCM4i**



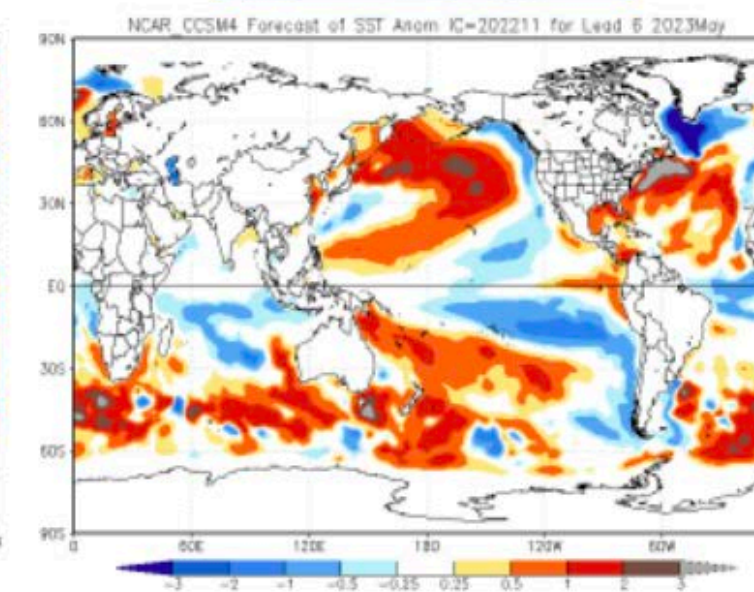
**GEM5 NEMO**



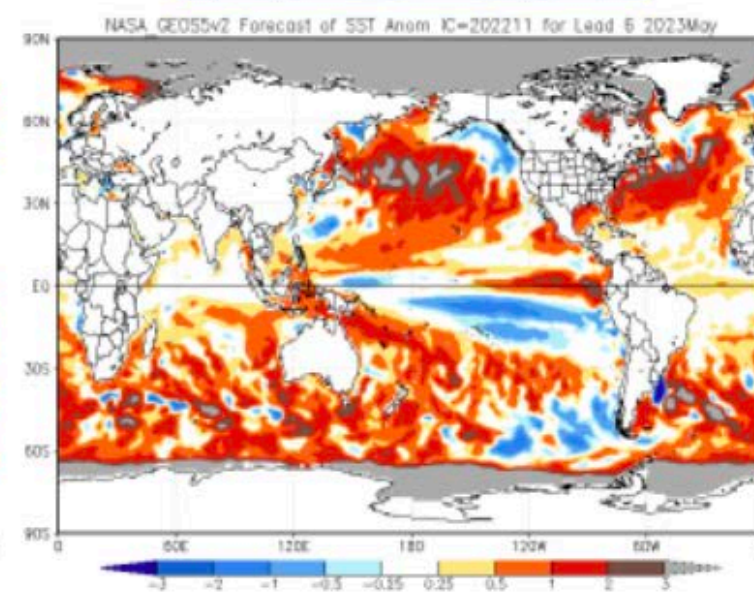
**GFDL SPEAR**



**NCAR CCSM4**



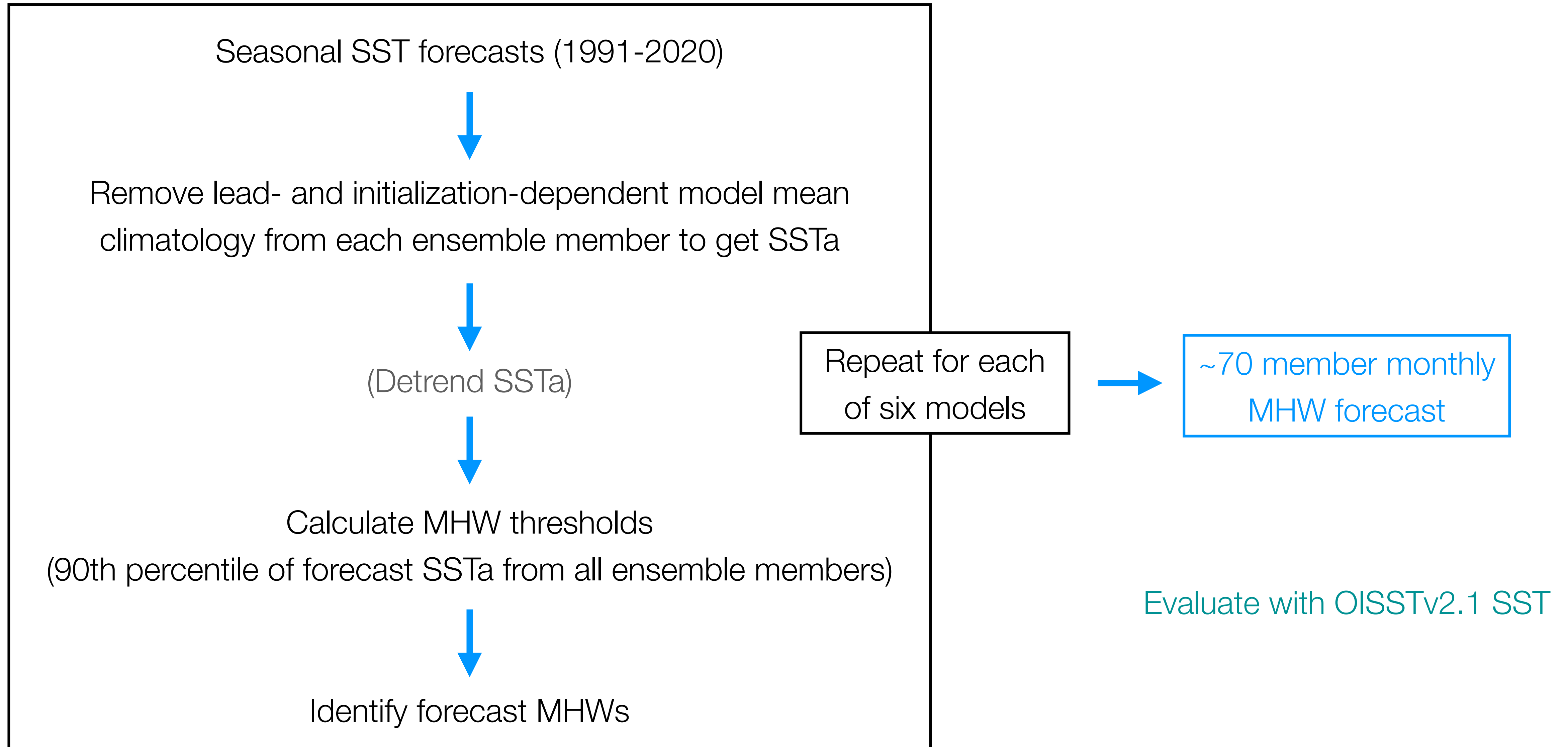
**NASA GEOS5v2**



<https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/NMME/>



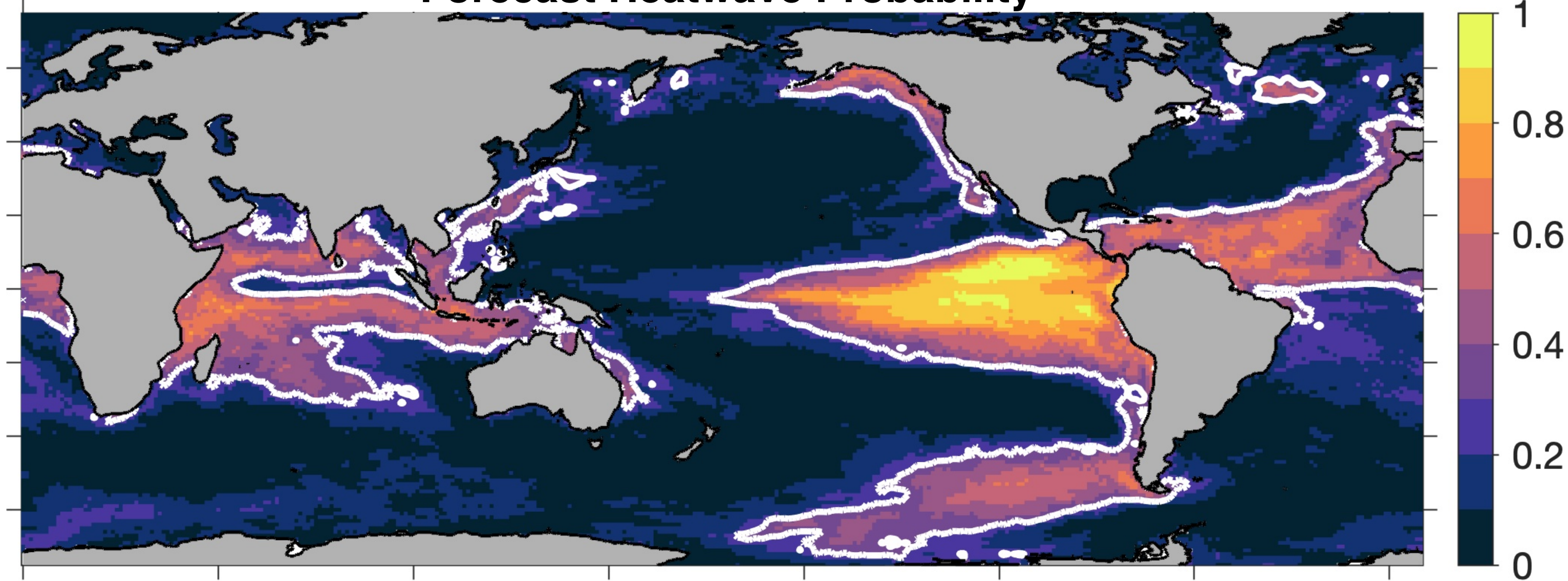
## ...to create seasonal marine heatwave forecasts





## Example forecasts

Forecast Heatwave Probability



July 1997 forecast

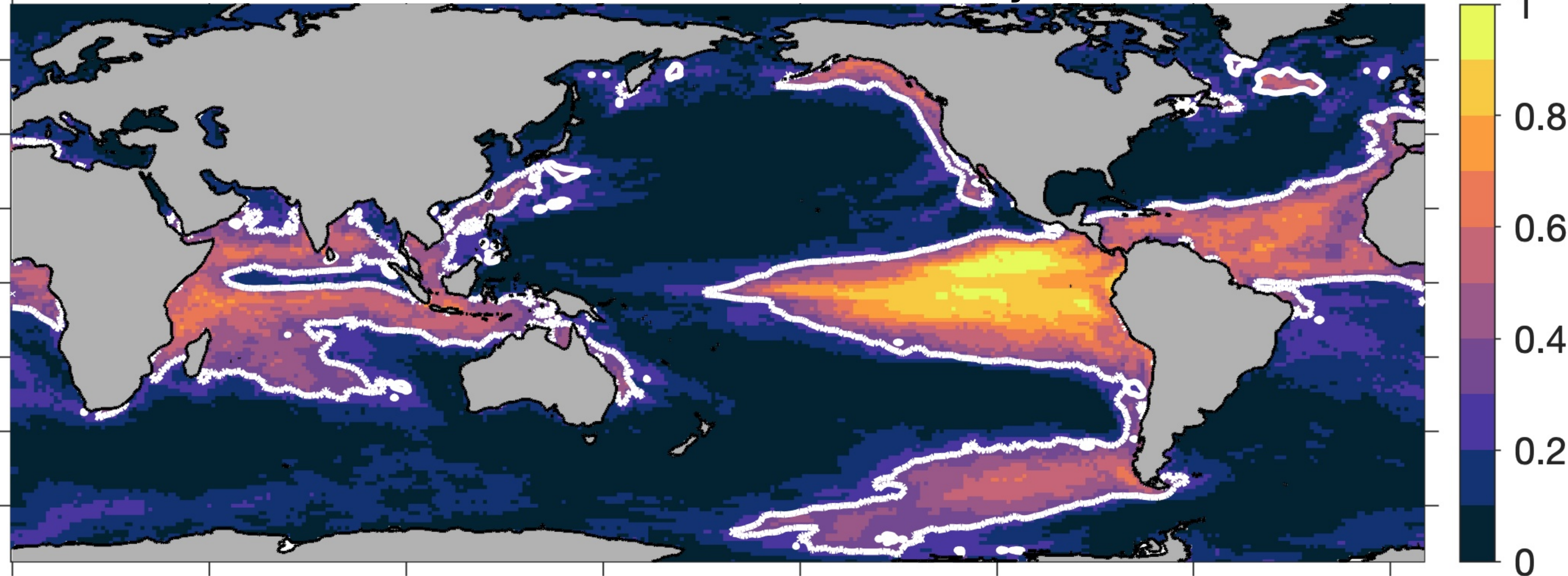
8.5 month lead time

March 1998 heatwaves

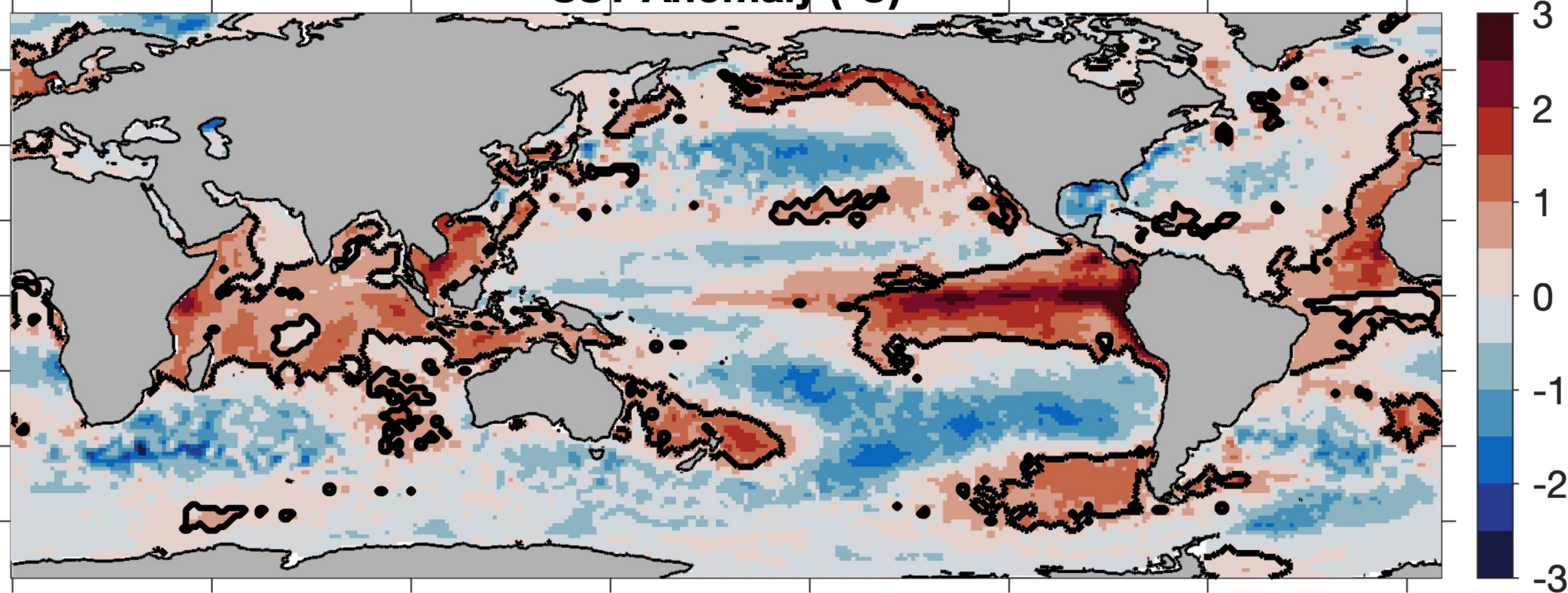


# Example forecasts

Forecast Heatwave Probability



SST Anomaly (°C)



July 1997 forecast

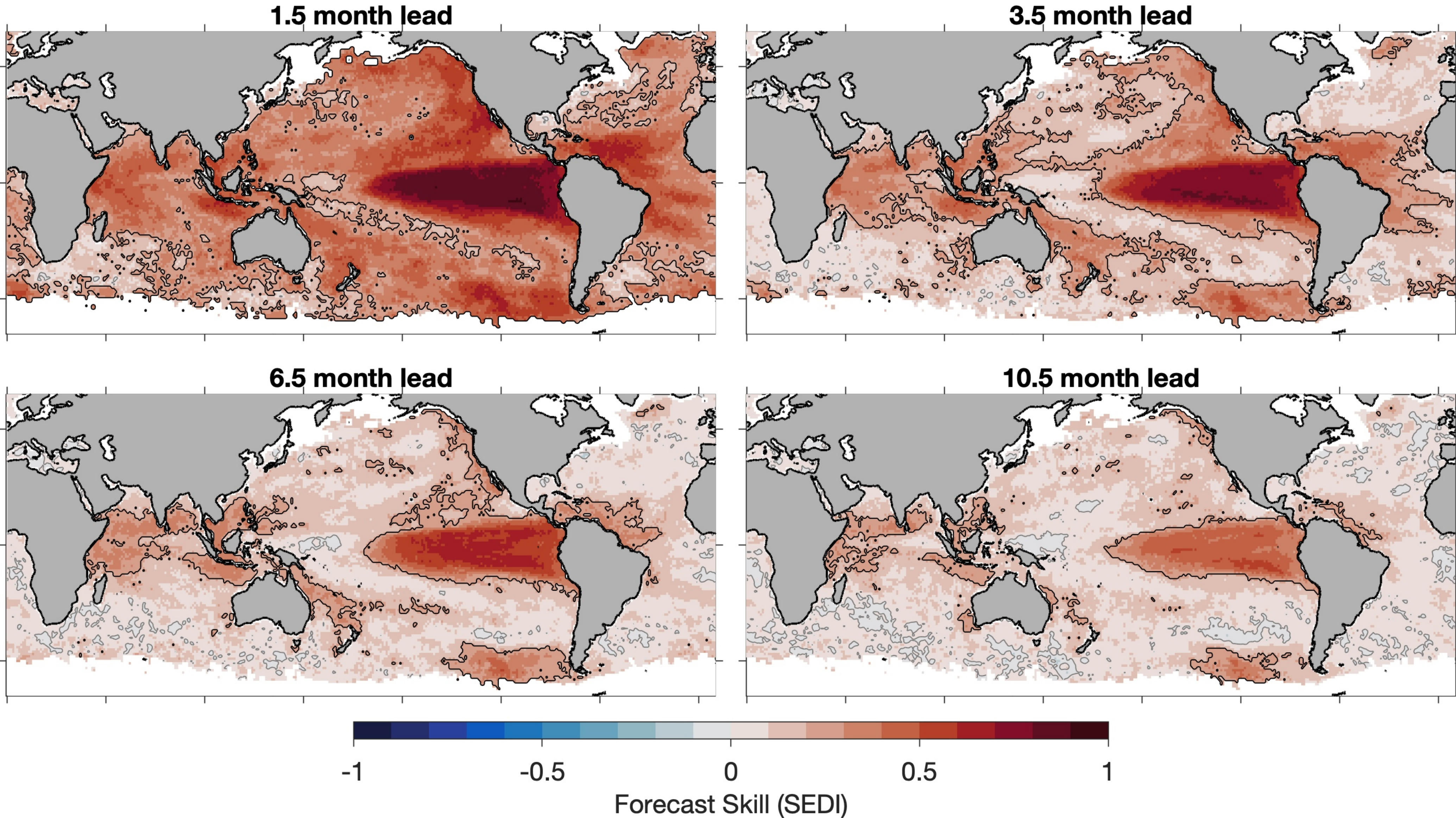
8.5 month lead time

March 1998 heatwaves

Jacox et al. (2022)



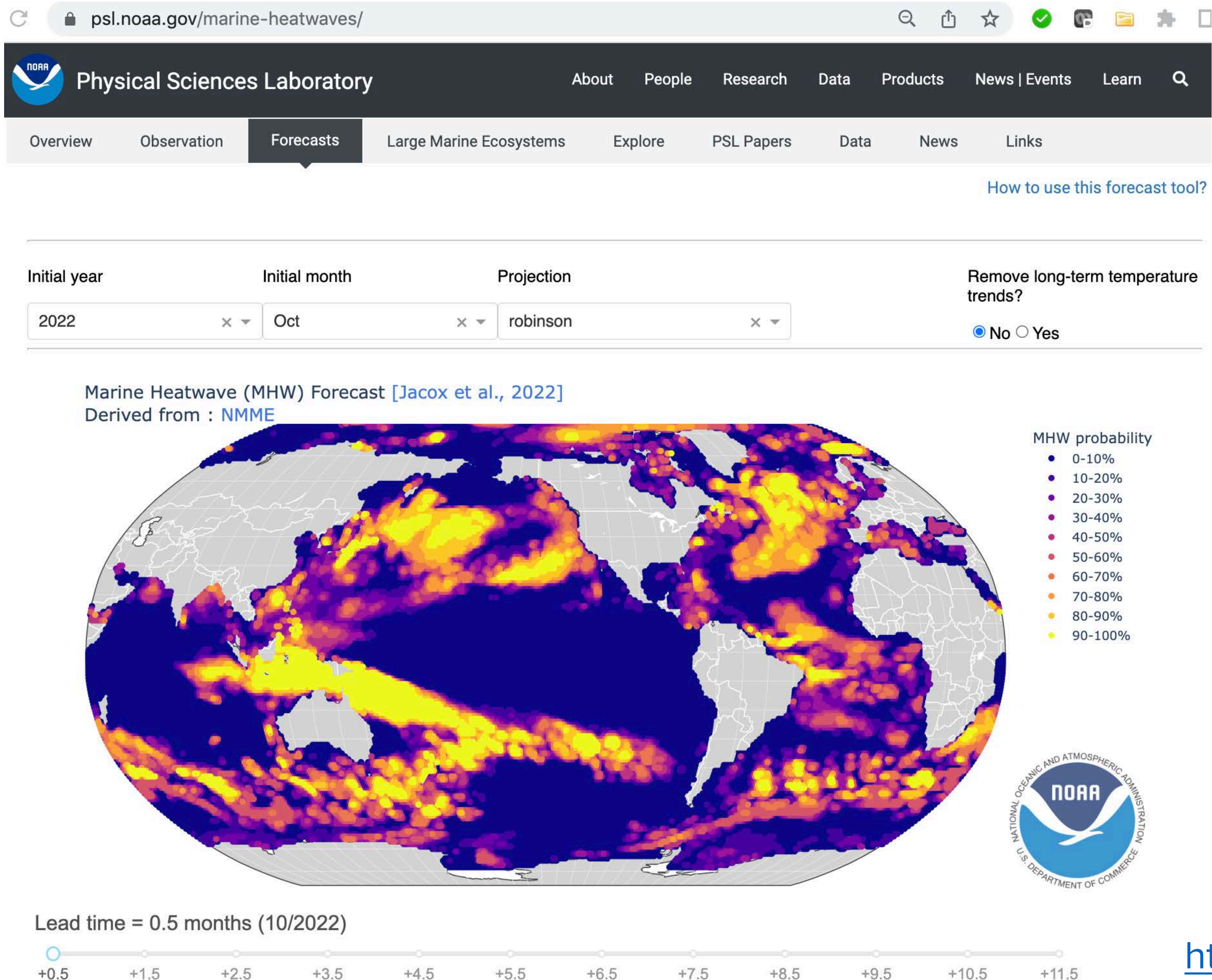
# Marine heatwave forecast skill



Jacox et al. (2022)



# Web-based marine heatwave forecasts



Built on output from the North American Multi-model Ensemble

>70-member ensemble, using six global climate models

Forecasts issued monthly

Lead times up to one year

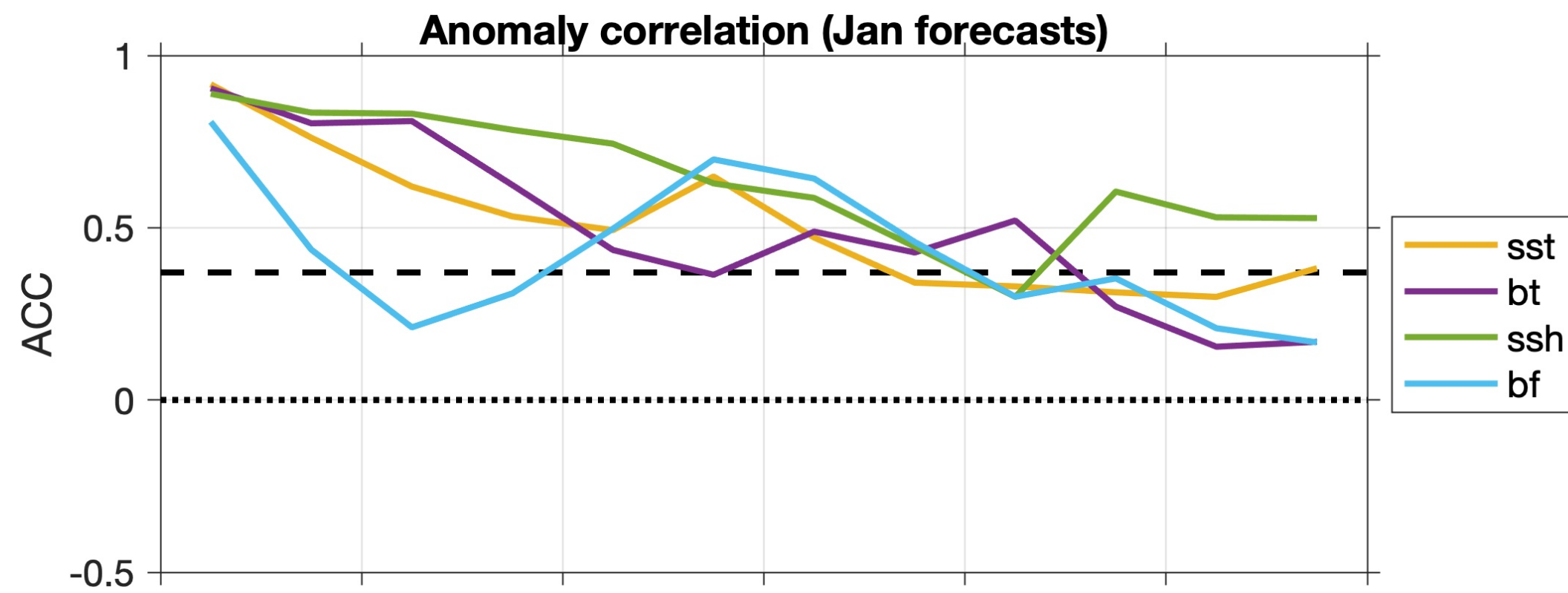
Current and past forecasts online

<https://psl.noaa.gov/marine-heatwaves/#forecasts>

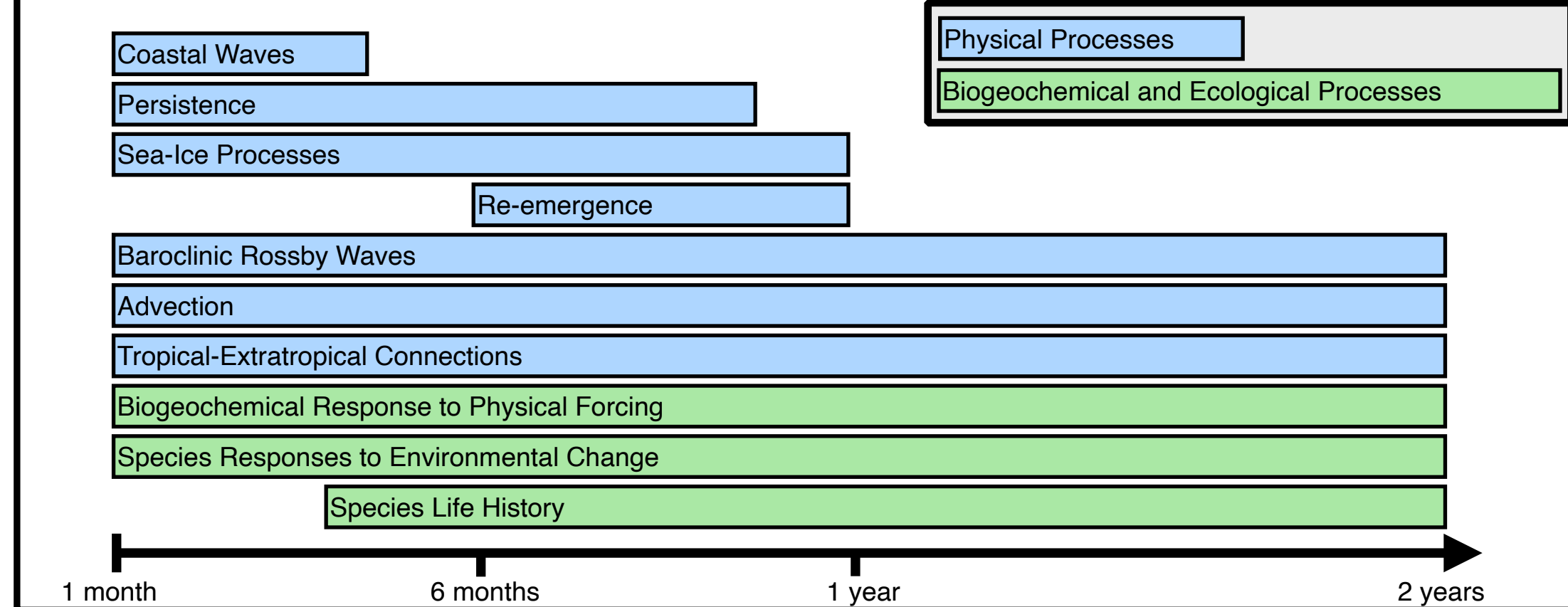


# Priority advancements in forecasting for marine ecosystem management

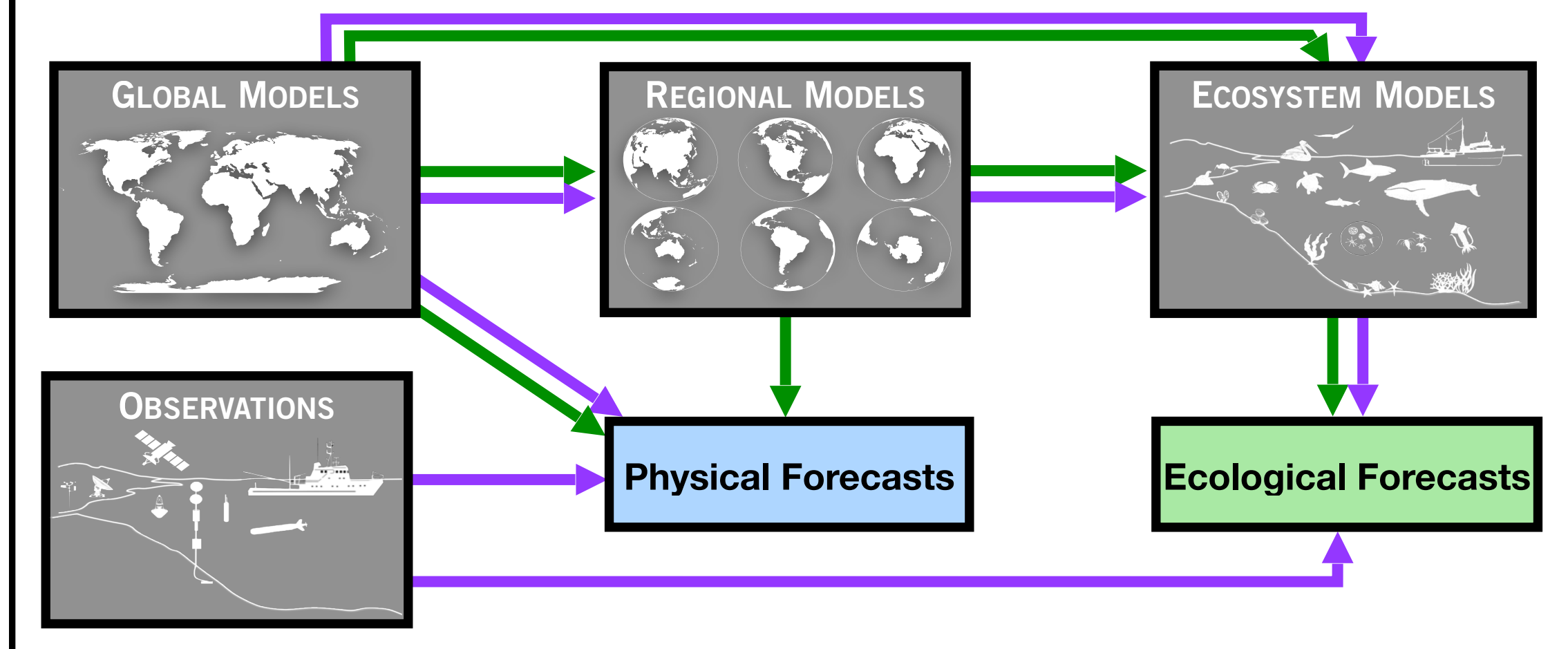
## Evaluate forecast skill and uncertainty



## Improve mechanistic understanding



## Develop and improve forecasts



## Facilitate uptake of climate information

