#### Using pelagic fish movement data to estimate, predict and model CPUEs

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# A novel approach to predict fish abundance using thermocline depth and animal movement data

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# A novel approach to predict fish abundance using thermocline depth and animal movement data

- How can we use movement data to better understand and predict CPUE fluctuations of pelagic species?
- The general context is the integration of satellite tag information into population dynamics modeling using simple stochastic processes, ecological and evolutionary principles.

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- Hierarchical statistical models have proved useful towards achieving such goal.
- These models incorporate variability in parameters that otherwise is treated as fixed and
- they incorporate multiple layers of uncertainty.

#### **Hierarchical models in Ecology**

 $\begin{array}{ll} \mathbf{Y} & \sim & f(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{X}, \phi) \\ \mathbf{X} & \sim & g(\mathbf{x}|\theta) \end{array}$ 

it is known that the likelihood is

$$L(\theta, \phi) = \int f(\mathbf{y} | \mathbf{X}, \phi) g(\mathbf{x} | \theta) d\mathbf{X}.$$

A few examples include:

- Stochastic population models with added observation error (De Valpine and Hastings 2002, Clark and Bjornstad 2004, Newman et al. 2006, Dennis et al 2006)
- Stochastic models of species abundance distributions (Etienne and Olff 2005)
- Capture-recapture models with uncertain capture probabilities (George and Robert 1992)

#### Non-linear, non-Gaussian SSM

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- Maximum likelihood was known to be very difficult for these models.
- Bayesian solutions to the study of hierarchical population models were much easier to implement until recently.
- However, it can be very difficult to specify non-informative priors to do "objective bayesian statistics" for hierarchical models (Nancy Reid, 2008):
  - Bayesian hierarchical Poisson models, (Gelman et al 2007)
  - Heinrich 2005, Proceedings of Phystat05 (Poisson ( $\epsilon s + b$ ), s of interest, additional Poisson measurements of b and  $\epsilon$ )
  - Bayesian probit regression (Jones 2008, Siddhartha and Chib 1984)

#### A persistent problem: non-Identifiability

Non-identifiability of a parameter: the value of the likelihood function evaluated at the data is unchanged when two different sets of parameters are used (Rannala 2002, Lele et al 2010). But need to consider 3 cases

- Model Non-Identifiability (MNI): model written in such a way that two or more parameters are non-separable.
  - Can inadvertently be introduced while formulating a Hidden Markov model or a state space model (McCullogh and Searle 2001, Yang and Rannala 2006)
- Sampling Non-Identifiability (SNI): by pure chance, sample contains 0 information about the parameter of interest.
  - In phylogenetics: all sampled loci contain no mutations in a section of the topology where a real branching event is present.
- Weak Estimability (WE): Data simply does not contain enough information to estimate the parameters of interest and the profile likelihood of certain parameters lacks a strong curvature.

#### An example in Fisheries, Meyer and Millar 1999



#### Are the model parameters identifiable?

- Identifiability of model parameters is indeed very important!
- Accumulating evidence keeps telling us about the need to integrate different, independent levels of information to carry reliable statistical inference
- MCMC won't do miracles for us!!
- Dennis, B., J. M. Ponciano, S. R. Lele, M. L. Taper, and D. F. Staples. (2006) Estimating density dependence, process noise, and observation error. Ecological Monographs
- Lele S., Nadeem K., Schmuland B.(2010). Estimability and likelihood inference for generalized linear mixed models using data cloning. JASA
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- Lebreton, J.-D. and O. Gimenez (2012). Detecting and estimating density-dependence in wildlife populations. Journal of Wildlife Management.
- Ponciano, J.M., Burleigh, G., Braun, E. and M. L. Taper (2012) Assessing Parameter Identifiability in Phylogenetic Models Using Data Cloning. Systematic Biology.

# This talk: it's not about arguing about a statistical problem. It's about offering potential solutions

- Blue Shark Satellite data: A large project involving many institutions -including MADEacross different countries
  - Charlene Da Silva, responsible for part of the movement data from South Africa
  - Fabio Hazin and Paulo Travassos, Recife, Brazil: responsible for the research design, implementation and funds allocation for the tags.
  - Mariana Travassos, data analysis and logistics of the project in Brazil
- Sharks tagged with a satellite device: 10 males, 18 females, mature and immature, up to 180 days of tracking, across 4 areas of the Atlantic Ocean

#### Study area



#### Tag and Pop-off locations: Brazil and South-Africa



#### Subset of data analyzed in this study

From

- 19 quadrants of 111 by 111 nautical miles.
- 4 female, tagged blue shark.

For each quadrant, we have available time series of length 16 time units t of

- The number of tagged sharks present in each quadrant at time t.
- DML values during time (t, t + 1)
- CPUEs in the same time interval.

Finally, each time interval consisted of 3 days (for a total of 48 days). Interval chosen matches the minimum interval size for which presence/absence, DMLs and CPUE values are all simultaneously available.

#### Location of subset of data








































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•  $\alpha = Pr(\text{an individual shark stays from time } t - 1 \text{ to time } t)$ ,  $\alpha \star X_{t-1} = \sum_{i=1}^{X_{t-1}} B_i(\alpha)$  and

$$B_i(\alpha) = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} 1 \ \text{w. prob.} & \alpha \\ 0 \ \text{w. prob.} & 1-\alpha \end{array} \right.$$

If I specify a probabilistic model for X<sub>t-1</sub> (say X<sub>t-1</sub> ~ Pois(θ)), then I can find the distribution of α ★ X<sub>t-1</sub> (Pois(αθ) in this case).

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- And if I specify a model for the arrivals (say  $\epsilon_t \sim \text{Pois}((1-\alpha)\theta)$ ), then I can find the exact distribution of the process ( $X_t \sim \text{Pois}(\theta)$  in this case) and
- the conditional transition distribution of the process,  $P(X_t = x_t | X_{t-1} = x_{t-1})$

For a given time series of observations  $x_0, x_1, \ldots, x_q$ , maximizing the joint probability of the observations, given the model and data at hand *i.e* -the likelihood function-

$$P(X_0 = x_0, X_1 = x_1 \dots, X_q = x_q) = P(X_0 = x_0) \prod_{i=1}^q P(X_i = x_i | X_{i-1} = x_{i-1})$$

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- do not model the probability of staying or arriving to a particular location as a function of the environmental conditions (DML's, for instance).
- does not connect movement to CPUEs.

General idea: using the derivation of the Negative Binomial as a conditional Poisson distribution where the rate is itself a random variable (gamma distributed) (Corbert, Fisher and Williams, 1943), and averaged over all possible rates.

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It turns out that  $X_t$  is a stationary Markov Chain if we assume that the total size of each arrival results from a random no. of arrival waves between (t - 1, t) and a random no. of animals coming at each arrival wave, *i.e.*, if

$$\epsilon_t = \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha^{U_i} \star Y_i = \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^{Y_i} B_j(\alpha^{U_i}), \text{ where }$$

 $N \sim \text{Poi}(-\gamma \ln \alpha)$ ,  $Y_i \sim \text{Geo}(1, \beta)$ ,  $\beta = \gamma/m$ , and  $U \sim \text{Unif}(0, 1)$ .

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- 1. Use the traditional -yet phenomenological- function  $\pi(w) = 1/(1 + \exp^{-f(w)})$ , where f(w) is a linear function of the covariate w,
- 2. Use a novel approach about niche modeling from ecological and evolutionary ideas.

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- How does the function of how good a species fares as a function of a covariate has to look like?
- How does the shape of such function can arise from simple ecological principles (*i.e.* compatible with Hutchinsons niche concept)?

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and an estimate of the probability that m individuals survive under w is then

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• Likewise, letting  $\overline{\psi(w)} = \int \psi(w) h_1(\psi(w)) d\psi(w)$  be the average probability of not reproducing given the value of w and that survival has occurred, we get that  $e^{-\sum_{i=1}^{m} \psi_i(w)}$  can be taken as an estimate of the probability that m individuals actually reproduce given the value of w.

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- Without loss of generality, we can write

$$\sum_{i=1}^{m} \phi_i(w) = \delta(w) = \delta_0 + \delta_1 w \text{ and } \gamma(w) = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 w \approx \sum_{i=1}^{m} \psi_i(w)$$

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Hence, the covariate-dependent maximum growth rate a(w) could be written as

$$\begin{array}{ll} a(w) &=& {\rm constant} \times P({\rm surviving})P({\rm reproducing}|{\rm survival\ has\ occurred}) \\ &=& \lambda\left(1-e^{-\delta(w)}\right)e^{-\gamma(w)}. \end{array}$$

#### The two hypotheses regarding quadrant suitability



### Estimated suitabilities using only movement and DML data



## CPUES: a random sample from a distribution with mean proportional to suitability

Once we have an estimate (and CI's) of the suitability modeled as a function of the depth of the thermocline, we model the CPUEs as random samples from a delta-lognormal distribution whose mean is proportional to these suitabilities. *i.e.* we let the CPUEs  $Y_i$ 

$$Y_i \sim \delta \log \operatorname{Norm}(\delta, \mu = \ln(c.\pi(w_i)) - \frac{\tau^2}{2}, \tau^2),$$
 so it follows that  
 $\operatorname{E}[Y_i] = \delta \exp\left\{\mu + \frac{\tau^2}{2}\right\}$ 

# Modeling the CPUEs with a $\delta$ -lognormal with mean proportional to the suitability


## Re-scaled estimated suitabilities from movement data overlaid to 10-year span CPUEs



## Acknowledgments

