Assessing Ecosystem Restoration Effects on Fish and Shellfish

Necessary, Messy, Doable

Kenneth Rose University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Horn Point Laboratory



Chesapeake Bay is not alone!





The National Academies of SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINI REPORT

Effective Monitoring to Evaluate Ecological Restoration in the Gulf of Mexico



A \$50 BILLION INVESTMENT DESIGNED TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN LAND, REDUCE FLOOD RISK TO COMMUNITIES, AND PROVIDE HABITATS TO SUPPORT ECOSYSTEMS





Evaluation of the Predictive Ecological Model for the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan: An Interim Report as Part of Phase 2

Committee to Review the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan

Water Science and Technology Board

Division on Earth and Life Studies

The National Academies of SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE









Question: Spending billions but everyone is unhappy







CÔMPASS CAN WE MAKE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION MORE EFFECTIVE?

Emergent Patterns

- Tightening resources ("bang for the buck") and tradeoffs
- Convolution of hypoxia, warming, acidification, coastal development, agriculture, and habitat
- Increasing knowledge and savvy of stakeholders
- Critical (controversial) role of increasingly complex and complicated coupled models
- Increasing demands for linkage to living resources ("fish")
 Title: State of the Science → Gap Analysis → Assessment?

Chesapeake Bay

Good News

- You are not alone
- We know how to do this
- Chesapeake is well studied
- Long history of monitoring, modeling, and process studies

Bad News

- Some have gone sour
- Answers may not satisfying; false negatives
- Major effort
- Other management occurring to promote stability

Technical Issues (cautions)

- Which models to use (looks arbitrary or convenient)
- A lot of work on coupling models (loss of information)
- Validation (physics people need to relax)
- Uncertainty (I prefer certainty)
- Multiple and ensemble modeling (confusion)
- Domain of application (not defined)
- {Active/passive} Adaptive Management (delay difficult decisions)
- Coupled human-natural systems (disappointing in fisheries)



Some Examples (Doable)

1. Bay anchovy in Chesapeake Bay Shows it can be done

- 2. Croaker in Gulf of Mexico (ongoing) Specific to reducing nutrients and effects of water quality
- 3. Atlantis model More complex
- 4. Bay anchovy larvae Much simpler – small part of life cycle

5. Habitat analyses Very simple

All involve linking water quality to fish and using coupled modeling

1. Bay Anchovy in Chesapeake Bay





Adamack, A.A., K.A. Rose, and C. Cerco. 2017. Simulating the effects of hypoxia on bay anchovy in the Chesapeake Bay using coupled hydrodynamic, water quality, and individual-based fish models. In: *Modeling Coastal Hypoxia*, Springer, New York, NY





2. Croaker in GOM



- Idealized 300 x 800 cell grid (1 km resolution)
- Bottom elevation for each cell is truncated beyond 100 m

Rose, K.A., Creekmore, S., Justić, D., Thomas, P., Craig, J.K., Neilan, R.M., Wang, L., Rahman, M.S. and Kidwell, D., 2018. Modeling the population effects of hypoxia on Atlantic croaker (*Micropogonias undulatus*) in the northwestern Gulf of Mexico: part 2—realistic hypoxia and eutrophication. *Estuaries and Coasts* 41: 255-279.

Model Overview

- Spatially explicit, IBM
 - Follows 7 stages to age 8
 - September 1 birthday
 - Model year begins Sept. 1
 - Each year 365 days long
- Hourly processes
 - Growth
 - Mortality
 - Reproduction
 - Movement



25% Reduction in Nutrients PD: benefit?; Normoxia: best can be expected





O = Obenour et al. (2012); R = Rabotyagov et al. (2014); T = Turner et al. (2012); K = Kling et al. (2014); ROMS = Laurent and Fennel (2014)



Is the GOM ahead of CB?



3. Atlantis – Food Web

Design and Parameterization of the Chesapeake Bay Atlantis Model: A Spatially Explicit End-to-End Ecosystem Model

Thomas F. Ihde¹, Isaac C. Kaplan², Elizabeth A. Fulton³, Iris A. Gray², Mejs Hasan⁴, David Bruce⁴, Ward Slacum⁵, and Howard M. Townsend⁴

¹NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, 410 Severn Avenue, Suite 207A, Annapolis, MD 21403; Tom.Ihde@noaa.gov

²Conservation Biology Division, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, 2725 Montlake Blvd E, Seattle, WA 98112

³Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, Marine and Atmospheric Research, GPO Box 1538, Hobart, Tasmania 7001, Australia

⁴NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office/Cooperative Oxford Laboratory, 904 South Morris Street, Oxford, MD 21654

⁵Oyster Recovery Partnership, 1805A Virginia Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-F/SPO-166 September 2016



The Atlantis Model

Provided by Tom Ihde

Biological environment ✓ Primary production

✓ Trophic interactions
✓ Recruitment relationships
✓ Age structure
✓ Size structure
✓ Life History
✓ Refuge Habitat

Fisheries ✓ Multiple sectors ✓ Gears ✓ Seasons ✓ Spatially explicit



Physical environment

- ✓Geology
- ✓Chemistry
- ✓Circulation & currents
- ✓Temperature
- ✓Salinity
- ✓ Water clarity
- ✓Climate variability

Nutrient Inputs

- ✓Currency is Nitrogen
- ✓Oxygen
- ✓Silica
- ✓3 forms of detritus
- ✓Bacteria-mediated recycling

CAM Design: 3-Dimensional Box Model:

Provided by Tom Ihde



Salinity





Ecological Groups: Federal fisheries, Forage, Protected, Habitat

Finfish

- Alosines (Amer.Shad, Hickory Shad, Alewife & Herring)
- Atlantic Croaker
- Bay anchovy
- Black drum
- Bluefish
- Butterfish, harvestfish ("Jellivores")
- Catfish
- Gizzard shad
- Littoral forage fish: silversides, mummichog
- Menhaden
- Striped bass
- Summer flounder
- Other flatfish (hogchoker, tonguefish, window pane, winter flounder)
- Panfish:
 - Euryhaline: Spot, silver perch; FW to 10ppt: yellow perch, bluegill
- Reef assoc. fish: spadefish, tautog, black seabass, toadfish
- Spotted hake, lizard fish, northern searobin
- Weakfish
- White perch

Elasmobranchs

- Cownose ray
- Dogfish, smooth
- Dogfish, spiny
- Sandbar shark

Birds

- Bald Eagle
- Piscivorous birds (osprey, great blue heron, brown pelican, cormorant)
- Benthic predators (diving ducks)
- Herbivorous seabirds (mallard, redhead, Canada goose, & swans)

Mammals

- Bottlenose dolphin

Reptiles

- Diamond-back Terrapin
- Seaturtles

Invertebrates

- Benthic feeders: (B-IBI "CO"+"IN") ...,
- Benthic predators: (B-IBI "P") ...,
- Benthic suspension feeders: (B-IBI "SU")
- Blue crab YOY
- Blue crab adult
- Brief sauid
- Macoma clams: (B-IBI)
- Meiofauna: copepods, nematodes, ...,
- Oysters

Primary Producers

- Benthic microalgae ("microphytobenthos" benthic diatoms, benthic cyanobacteria, & flagellates)
- "Grasses:"
 - **SAV** type varies with salinity

- Marsh grass

- Phytoplankton Large: diatoms & silicoflagellates (2-200um)
- Phytoplankton Small: nannoplankton, ultraplankton, aka "picoplankton" or "picoalgae" (0.2-2um), cyanobacteria included (2um)
- Dinoflagellates (mixotrophs) (5-2,000um)

ZooPlankton

- Ctenophores
- Sea nettles
- Microzooplankton (.02-.2mm): rotifers, ciliates, copepod nauplii
- Mesozooplankton (.2-20mm): copepods, etc.

- ²Carrion
- Carrion (sediment)
- Labile
- Labile (sediment)
- Refractorv
- Refractory (sediment)

Bacteria (.2-2 um [.002 mm] - feed microzooplankton food chain)

- Benthic Bacteria (sediment)
- Pelagic Bacteria: (free-living)

Provided by Tom Ihde

Striped Bass

Provided by Tom Ihde

Temperature increase & Habitat Loss



Sensitivity To Environmental Factors

Selected Group Effects of Interest to Management



4. Larvae



Adamack, A.T., K.A. Rose, D.L. Breitburg, A.J. Nice, and W.S. Lung. 2012. Simulating the effect of hypoxia on bay anchovy egg and larval mortality using coupled watershed, water quality, and individual-based predation models. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 155: 141-160.



5. Habitat

2017 Coastal Master Plan: Modeling



Figure 120: Coast Wide Habitat Suitability for Adult Spotted Seatrout at Years 25 and 50 of the Medium FWOA Scenario. Dark red indicates areas of highest suitability.

Sable et al. 2017 Coastal Master Plan: Attachment C3-16: Spotted Seatrout Habitat Suitability Index Model. CPRA.

Habitat

- Data-based so some people hate it less than others
- Long history started with hydro-licensing
- Sum over spatial cells to get WUA
- New maps under management scenarios
- Not abundance but capacity
- Interpretation is tricky

"Familiar Situation in Louisiana"

- Two food web models and habitat suitability
- Did not know how to use them stalemate
- Asked us (Rose, Ainsworth,

and Brady) to help them













Non-technical Issues

- Terms: fish, fisheries, habitat hindcast, forecast, prediction, projection, relative vs absolute sustainable, resilience uncertainty, sensitivity, validation
- Answers to simple questions
- Managing expectations
- Role of stakeholders
- Unified voice



Multidisciplinary team science and engaged {-raged} stakeholders: Two often neglected aspects of coupled human-natural systems

- Communication of models, uncertainty, risk
- Ultimately, trust

Terms

- Fishing or fisheries is "the industry or occupation devoted to the catching, processing, or selling of fish, shellfish, or other aquatic animals"
- Habitat always say what aspects and processes you mean
- Prediction, projection, forecasting
 - Look at the x-axis and y-axis
- Sustainable, etc.
 - Always give units and scales
- Uncertainty
 - We love the methods
 - Issue is proper interpretation of the "error bars"



Year

Simple Questions



Environ Monit Assess (2018) 190: 530 https://doi.org/10.1007/s10661-018-6912-z



-20.0

2005

2010

17.6

17.2

Applying spatiotemporal models to monitoring data to quantify fish population responses to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico

Eric J. Ward () · Kiva L. Oken · Kenneth A. Rose · Shaye Sable · Katherine Watkins · Elizabeth E. Holmes · Mark D. Scheuerell

Managing Expectations

- Lags in water quality, LAGS in living resources
- Costs a lot of money, 4-year political cycle
- Detection challenge within the variation caused by other factors
- Interpreting modeling products
- False negatives



Klamath controversy continues

An agreement to remove four dams has been reached, but barriers remain

Klamath Propaganda: Who do you believe?

Independent Peer Review Says Klamath Dam Removal Science "Sound" and "Reliable" Klamath River: A Big Dam Controversy Finally Resolved

Whistleblower is taking his case to the public



ATKINS



Paul Houser, the Bureau of Reclamation's former scientific integrity adviser, says he was fired for voicing concerns that the decision to remove four

Klamath River dams is being based on politics and money not science. He spoke at a Tea Party meeting Sunday in Klamath Falls.



Preparation documents sent to review panel members for the Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper stock assessment



Technical & Non-technical Issues + Lessons Learned



Scheme for Fish and Restoration

- 31 steps
 - Specific situation
 - Some not relevant, others done already
- 13 concepts
 - "framework"
- Proposed best practices
 - Tried to call it "Pretty Good Practices"

13 Concepts

- 1. Life cycles and strategies
- 2. Variability, uncertainty, stochasticity
- 3. Generality-precision-realism
- 4. Nonequilibrium theory
- 5. Scaling
- 6. Explicit versus implicit representations
- 7. Population definition
- 8. Density-dependence
- 9. Verification, calibration, validation
- 10. Sensitivity and uncertainty analysis
- 11. Multiple models
- 12. Food web dynamics
- 13. Hidden assumptions



13 Concepts – (1) Life Cycles



Delta Smelt Resiliency Strategy. California Natural Resources Agency, July 2016.

13 Concepts – (4) Nonequilibrium Theory



13 Concepts – (5) Scaling



13 Concepts – (6) Explicit vs Implicit

- Process rates depend on a variable
- Formulations
 - Relationship within the model
 - Implied in the model so can still answer questions
 - Limited domain for further variation
 - Bridge calculations

• Do not believe labels



Going Forward – Checklist

- We know the question(s) pretty well
- Extensive data and database
- Process-level knowledge
 - Physics to water quality
 - Water quality to fish
- Complex life cycles with multiple factors
- Existing models
- Conclusion: Necessary, Messy, and Doable