Potential assessment methods: simple, complex, and everything in between

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**Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission** 

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### Main considerations

#### Objectives

- Maximize yield (target species)
- Prioritize species for management
- Evaluate rebuilding
- Available information and data
- Applicable methods



### Data

#### Biological

- Growth (growth increment or age-length)
- Length-weight
- Mortality
- Maturity/fecundity
- Movement

#### • Fishery/survey

- Catch
- Effort
- Index of abundance (survey/CPUE)
- Composition (age/size/stage)
- Tagging
- Spatial





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#### Assessment methods

# Indicators

- Data
  - Catch
  - Effort
  - CPUE
  - Mean length
- Model based
- How to use
  - Don't optimize yield
  - Direction (i.e recovery)
  - Reference points
    - Mean length > Lmat
  - Limits
    - Percentiles of historical data

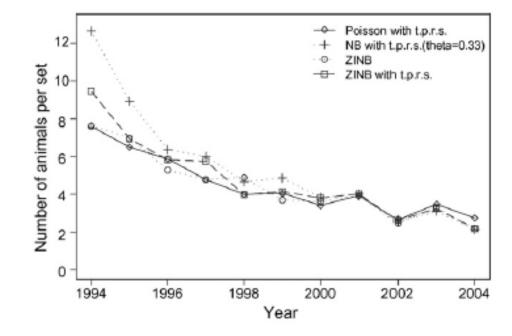


Fig. 6. Estimates of the trend in the standardized average silky shark bycatch per set.

Minami et al. ( 2007) Fisheries Research 84: 210–221

See skipjack later in the week

#### Productivity Susceptibility analysis

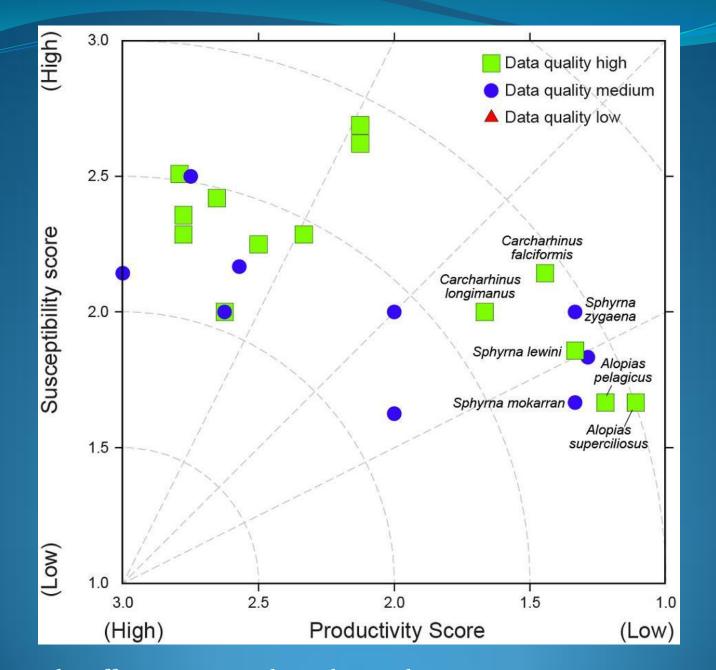
- Includes both biological and fishery information
- Qualitative ranking system
- Triage system
- Productivity
  - Growth rate
  - Longevity/natural mortality
  - Fecundity/breeding strategy/age at maturity
  - 1

#### Susceptibility

- Overlap with fishery
- Aggregation behavior
- Desirability
- Survival after discarding



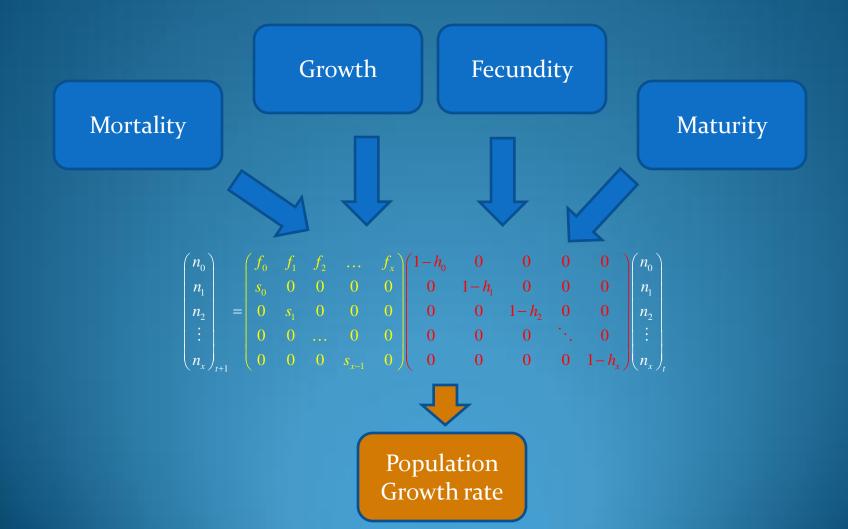




From Olson and Duffy presentation later this week

### Demographic analysis

- States



### Catch free analysis

C. Com

#### • Data

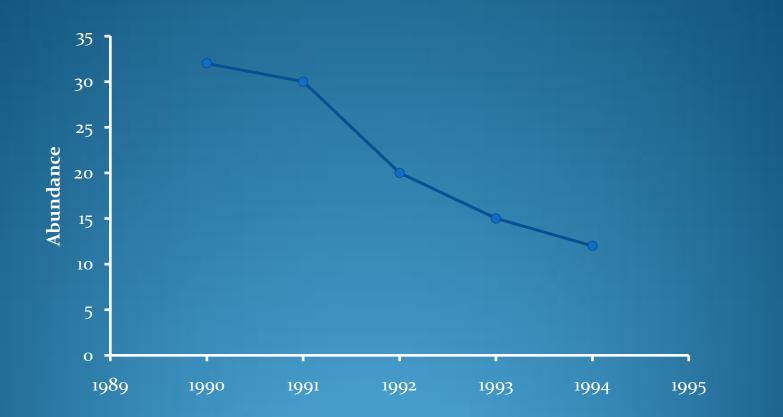
- Index of abundance
  - Total biomass
  - Recruitment
  - Age specific
- Essentially smoothes abundance index based on theory/assumptions
  - Population dynamics theory
  - Fishing mortality separability: year and age
  - Random effects
- Relative only
- Estimates fishing mortality

Mesnil et al. (2009) Aquatic Living Resources 22: 207-216.

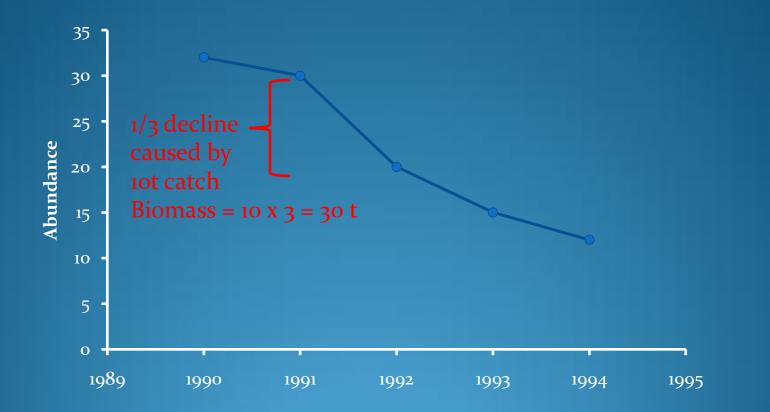
# Simple population dynamics

- Data
  - Catch
  - Index of abundance
- Concept

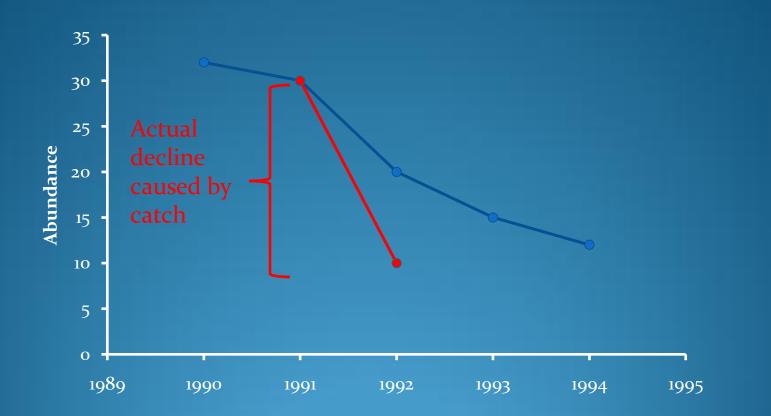
 Use change in relative abundance index caused by known catch used to scale absolute abundance



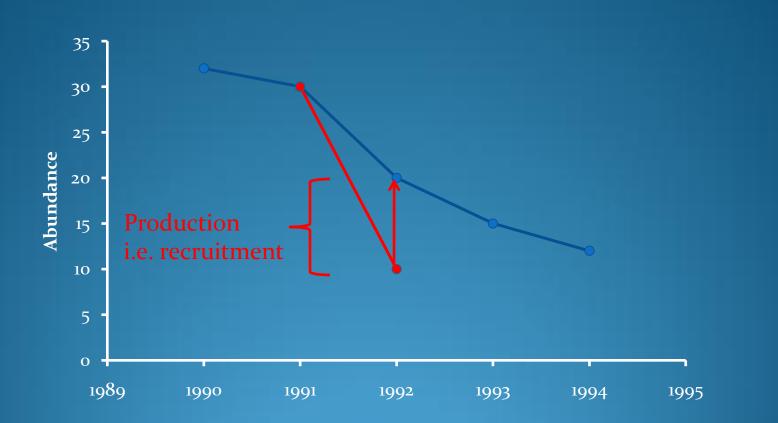
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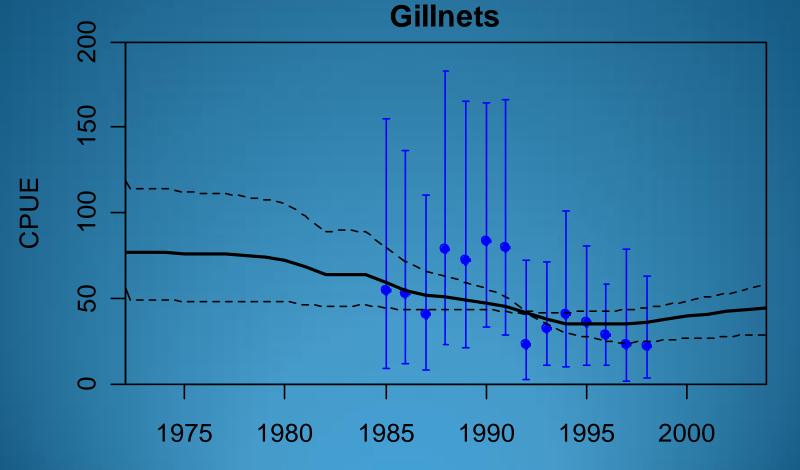
- Carton



# Simple population dynamics

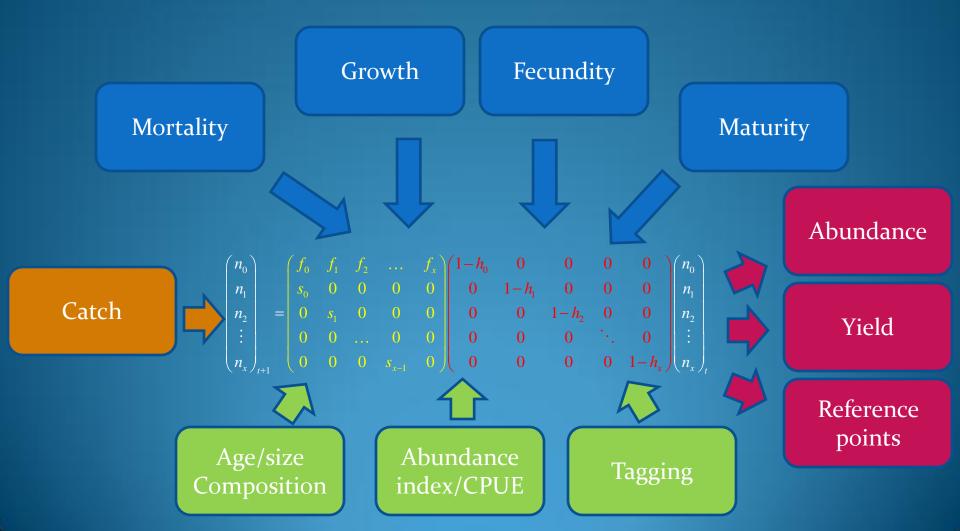
- Surplus production
  - Production function
  - Weakly demographic based
- Delay difference
  - Semi demographic based
- Age-structured production
  Fully demographic based

#### Estimating unknown parameters

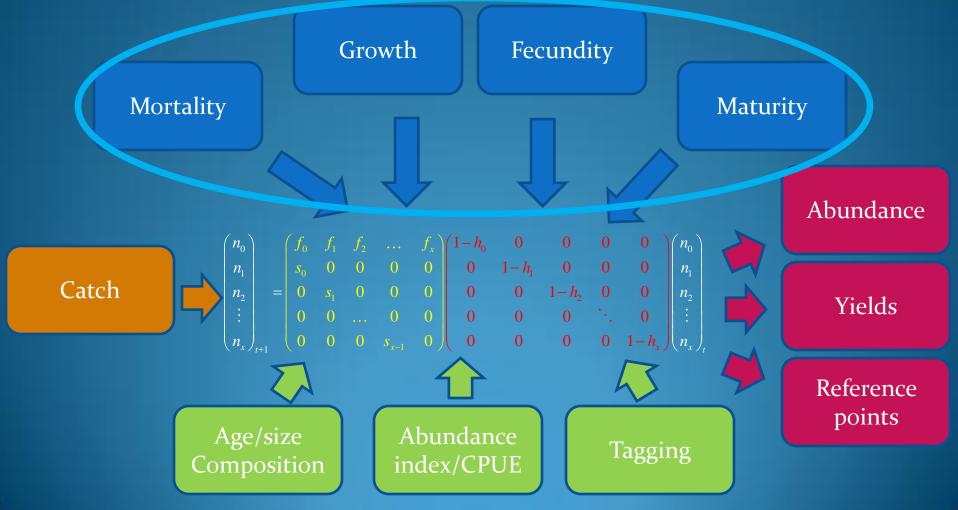


Kitefin shark: Aires da Silva and Taylor

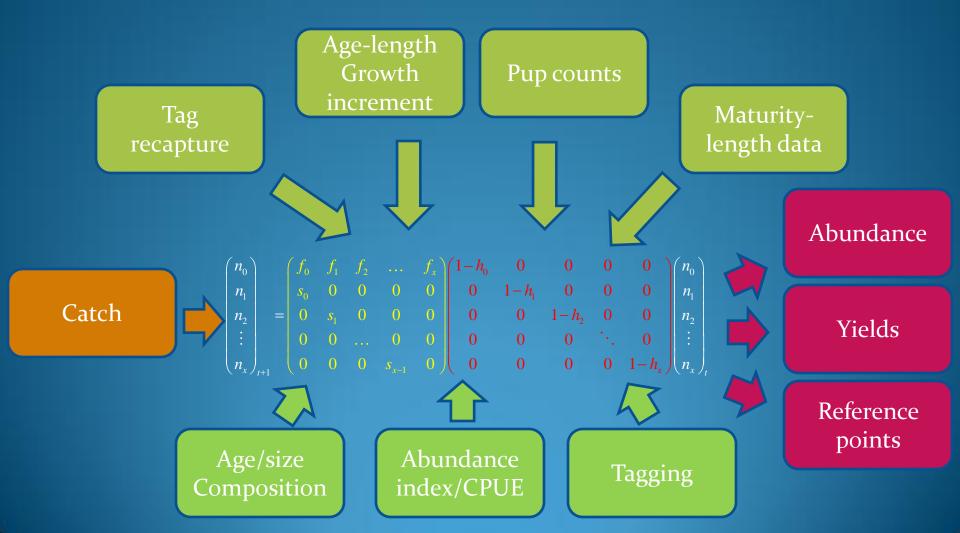
### Integrated models



#### Bayesian Integrated models Priors



## Fully Integrated models



#### Biological information (growth, mortality, recruitment)

Fishery data (catch, effort, composition)

Simple, data poor, qualitative

#### Productivity Susceptibility

Indicators (catch, effort, CPUE, mean length)

Production models (catch, CPUE)

Demographic (Growth, mortality, recruitment) Yield per recruit (Growth, mortality, Recruitment, selectivity)

Catch free (Growth, mortality, Recruitment, CPUE)

Age structured production Models (growth, mortality, recruitment, catch, CPUE)

Integrated model (growth, mortality, recruitment, catch, CPUE, composition, tagging)

Complex, data rich, quantitative

#### Biological information (growth, mortality, recruitment)

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Complex, data rich, quantitative

### Issues for shark assessments

- Missing biological information
- Missing data
- Stock-recruitment relationship
- Spatial structure

# Missing biological information

#### • Priors

- Share information from other species
- Empirical or theoretical relationships among life history parameters

## Missing data

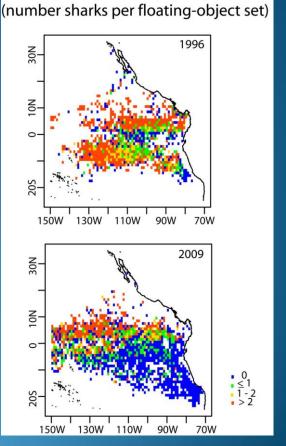
- Statistical models deal with most missing data
  - Abundance index/CPUE
  - Composition
- Catch
  - Use effort to estimate catch within model
  - Integrate catch-free methods into integrated analysis

# Stock-recruitment relationship

- Different from standard fisheries stock-recruitment relationships
- Limited number of pups
- Density dependence
  - Litter size
  - Pup survival
  - Pregnancy rates

## Spatial structure

- Create separate fisheries by area with different selectivity and catchability
- Model separate populations
- Model interacting populations
- Fine scale spatial models



Average silky shark bycatch per set

# Summary

- Integrated analysis
  - Uses all the theory, knowledge, biological information, and fishery data
  - Encapsulates the other models and can be made as simple or complex as desired
  - Provides a flexible framework that is consistent in its treatment of information and assumptions
  - Provides outputs that are directly relevant to management