



Influence of environmental variability on the distribution of silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) caught in the Eastern Pacific Ocean

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# Introduction

## Eastern Pacific Ocean EPO



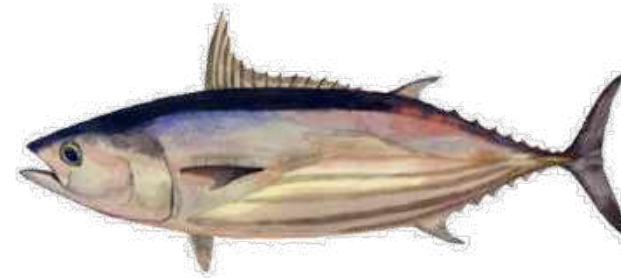
Bigeye tuna  
(*Thunnus obesus*)



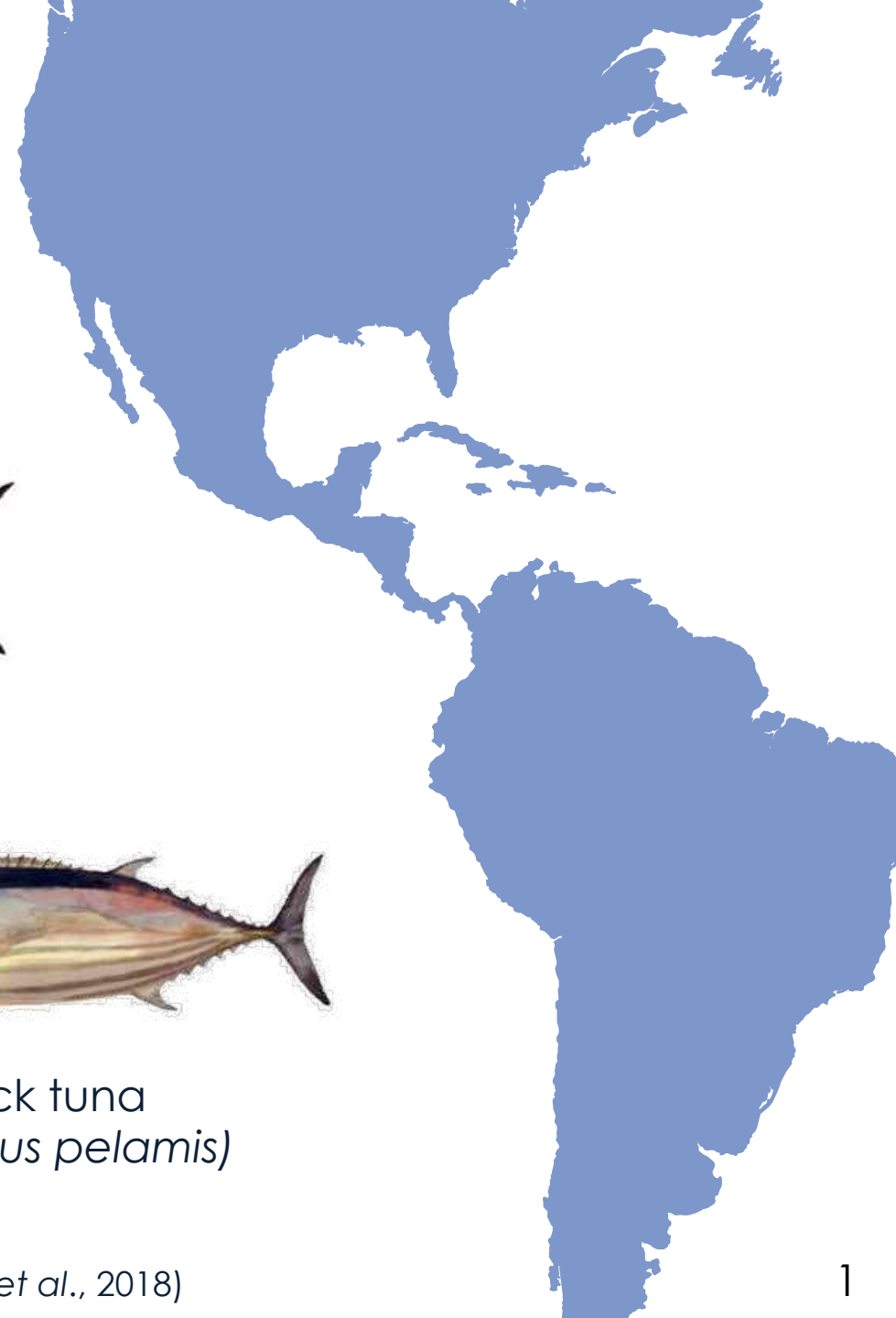
Bluefin tuna  
(*Thunnus orientalis*)



Yellowfin tuna  
(*Thunnus albacares*)



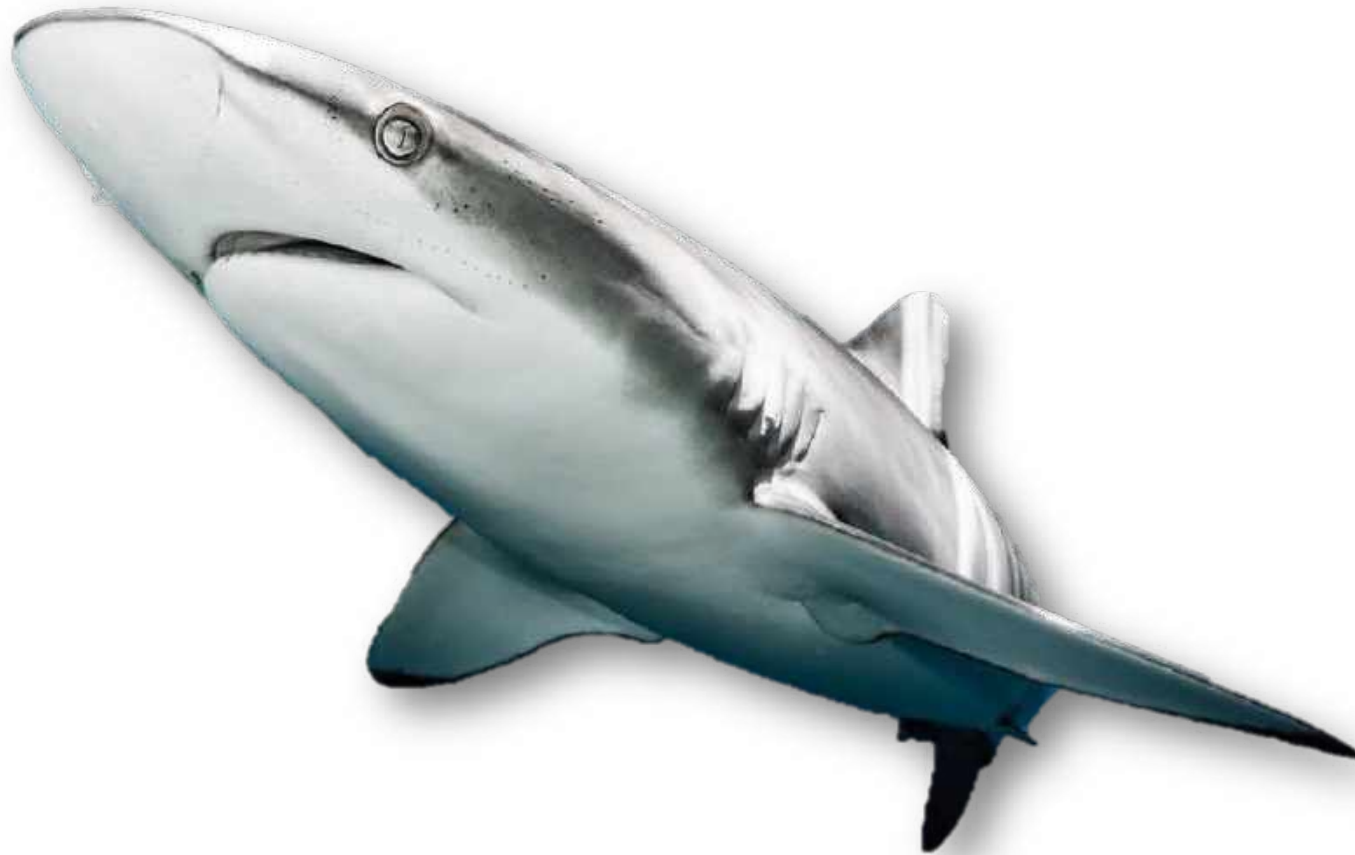
Skipjack tuna  
(*Katsuwonus pelamis*)



# Introduction

## Silky shark

*Carcharhinus falciformis*



Bycatch species

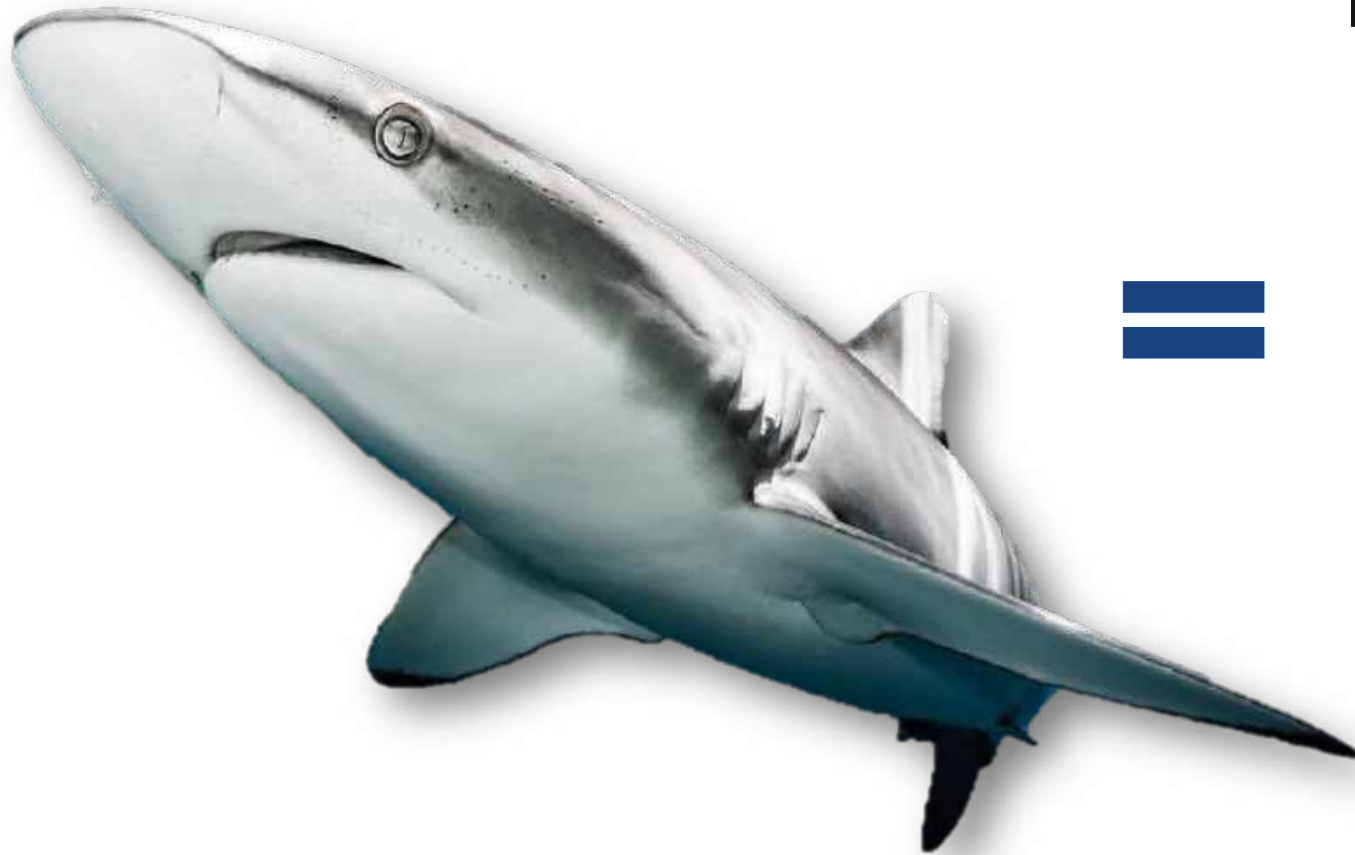
- Gillnets
- Longline
- Purse-seine



# Introduction

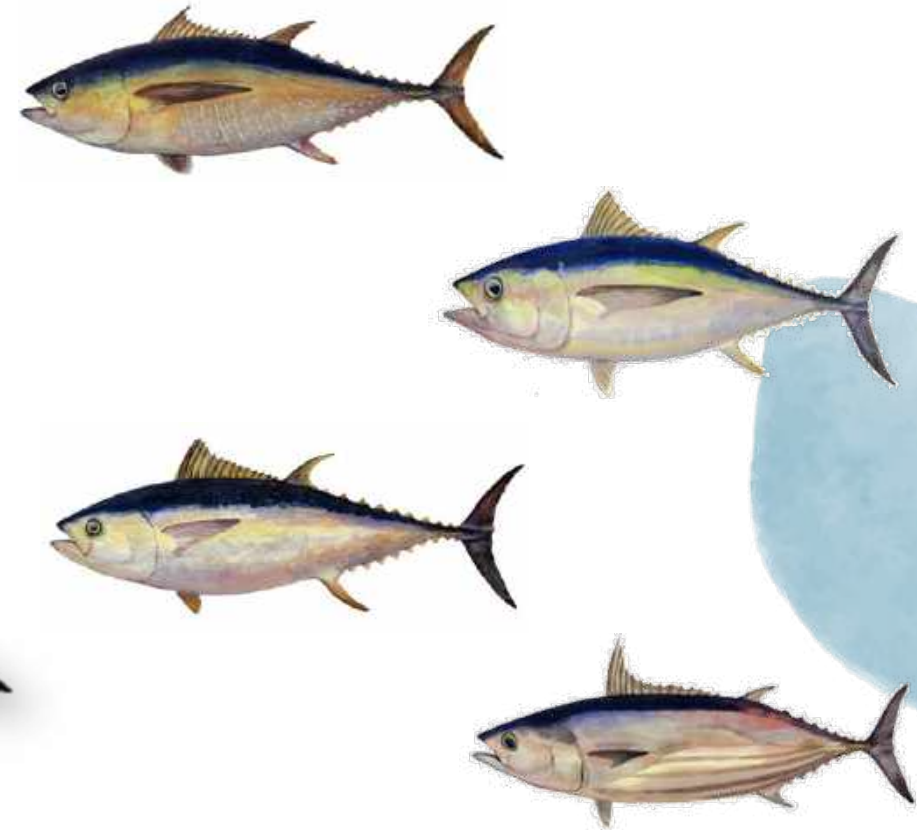
## Silky shark

*Carcharhinus falciformis*



=

**Similar** thermal and depth preferences to tuna



# Introduction

## Silky shark

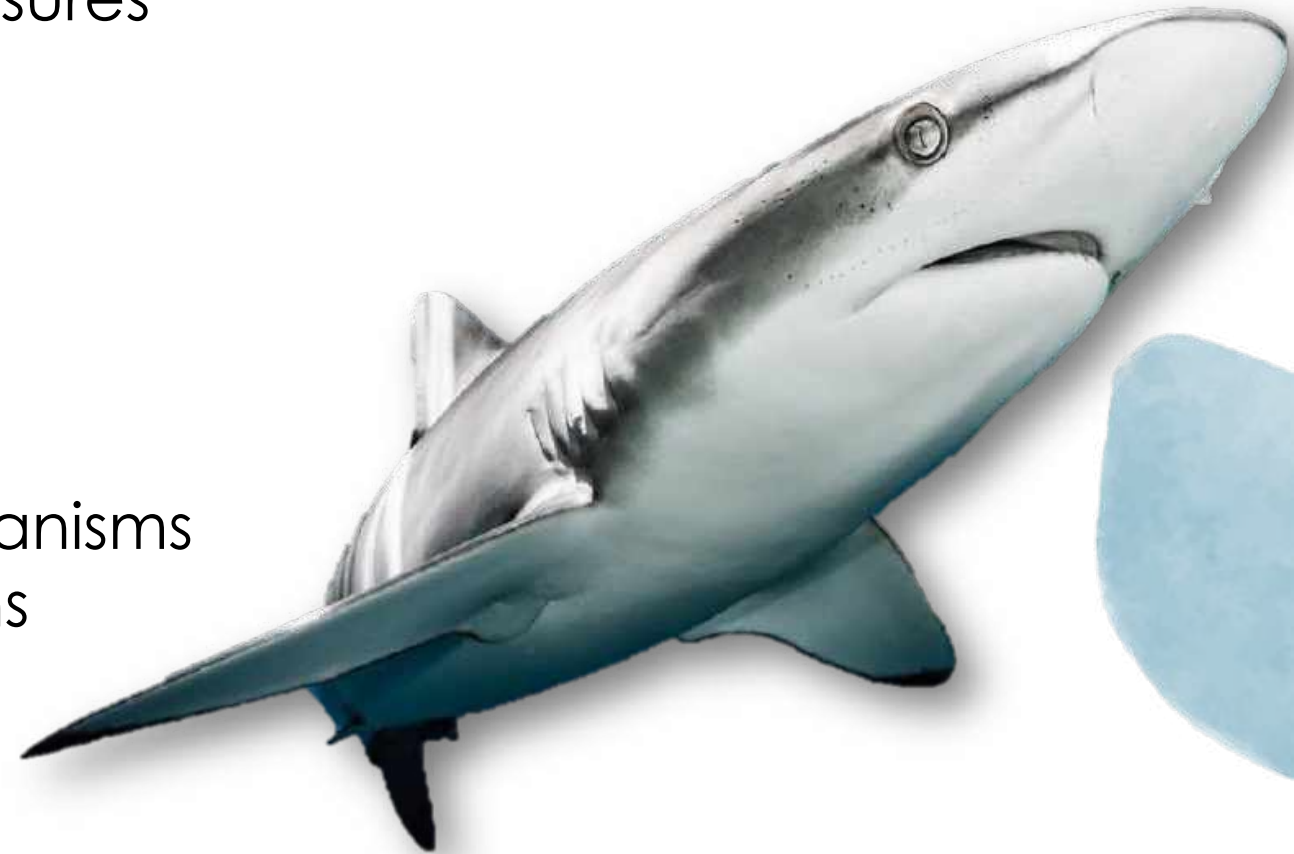
*Carcharhinus falciformis*

Conservation and mitigation measures

Bycatch species

Predict their distribution

Relationship between pelagic organisms  
and environmental conditions



# Introduction

## *Environmental variables*

Sea Surface  
Temperature  
(SST)

Chlorophyll *a*  
(Chl-*a*)

Winds

Primary  
productivity

Salinity

# Introduction

+ Species richness and diversity

Lezema-Ochoa *et al.*  
(2018)

**SST y salinity**

Sharks distribution

López *et al.* (2017)

**Upwelling events**

**Atlantic  
Ocean**





Western Pacific Ocean



*Carcharhinus falciformis*

Kindong *et al.* (2022)  
**SST, primary  
productivity, and  
winds**



# Introduction

*Carcharhinus falciformis*

Hutchinson *et al.* (2021)

**SST, depth**

Brenes *et al.* (2000)

**Thermal fronts**

Melgar-Martínez *et al.*  
(2024)

**Chl-*a*, Sea Surface  
Height**



**Eastern Pacific  
Ocean**

# Introduction

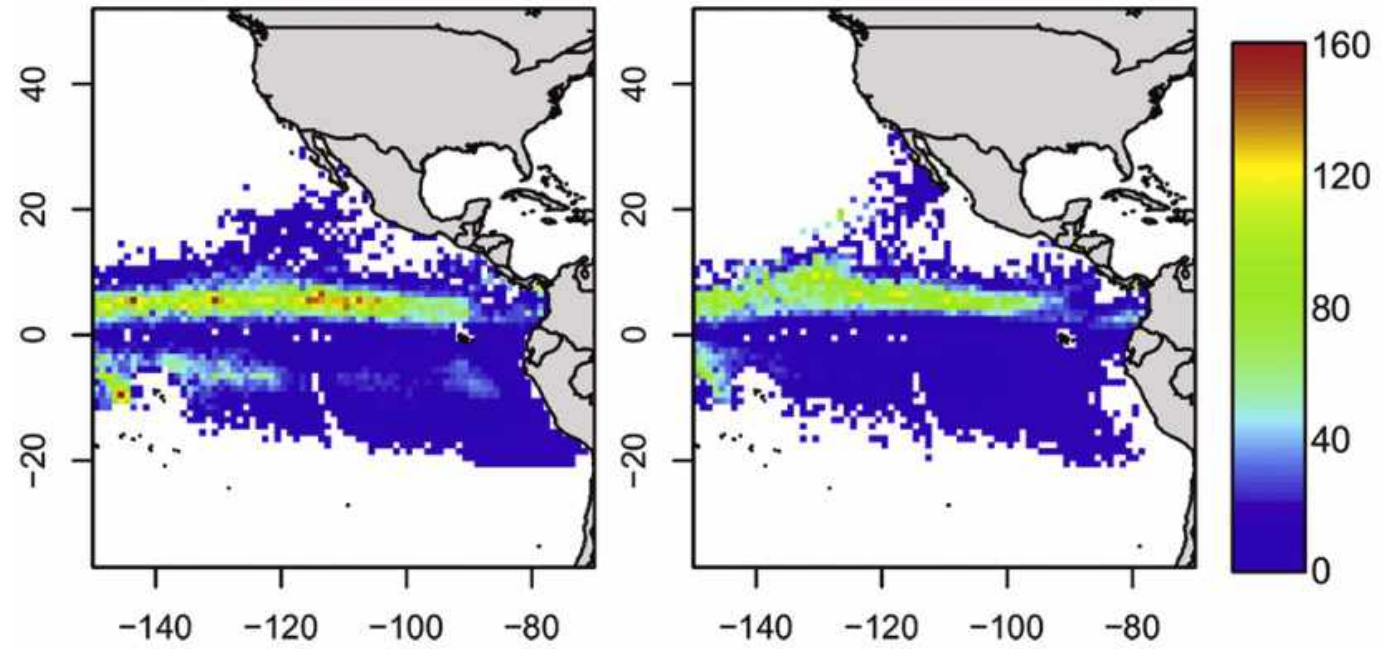


## *Carcharhinus falciformis*

FAD's

Spring

Summer



Díaz-Delgado *et al.* (2021)  
**SST ~ Chl-a**

Spring and summer

Equatorial tongue  
**(FAD's)**

# Introduction

## Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)



“Stock condition assessments of the silky shark population in the EPO”

**Correlation** with environmental variables

Development of improved models

# Goal

**Identify the environmental conditions** that influence silky shark bycatch and **determine the areas of greatest probability of bycatch** by tuna purse seine vessels in the Eastern Pacific Ocean.



# Specific aims

1. **Determine the spatiotemporal distribution** of sharks bycaught by purse-seine in the EPO.
2. **Estimate bycatch per unit effort (BPUE)** as an index of the relative abundance of silky sharks.
3. **Model the presence** of silky shark bycatch by purse seiners with oceanographic variables.

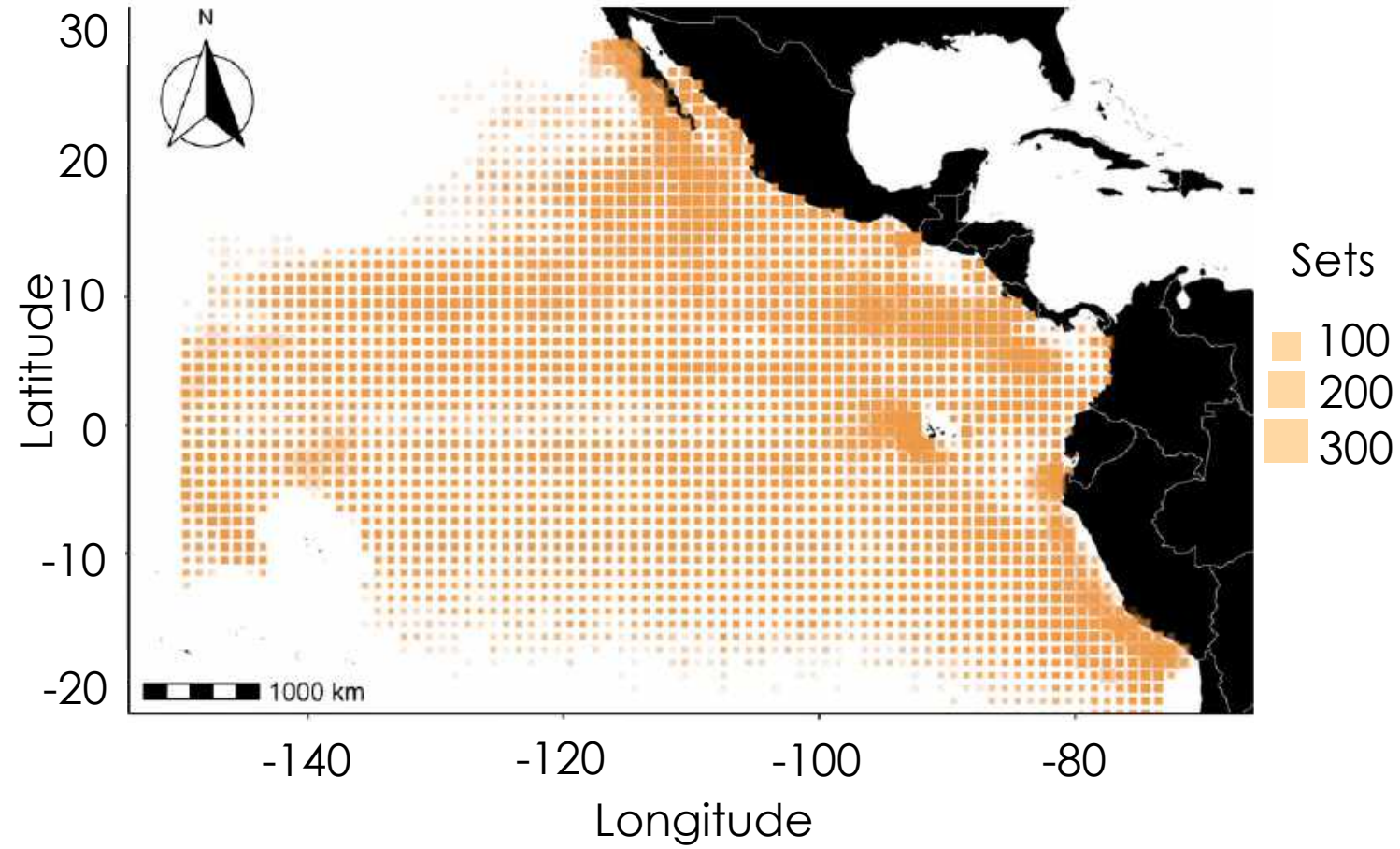


# Methods

## Bycatch data in the EPO *IATTC*

2009-2019

Purse seine  
(1° x 1°)



# Methods

## Bycatch data in the EPO *IATTC*

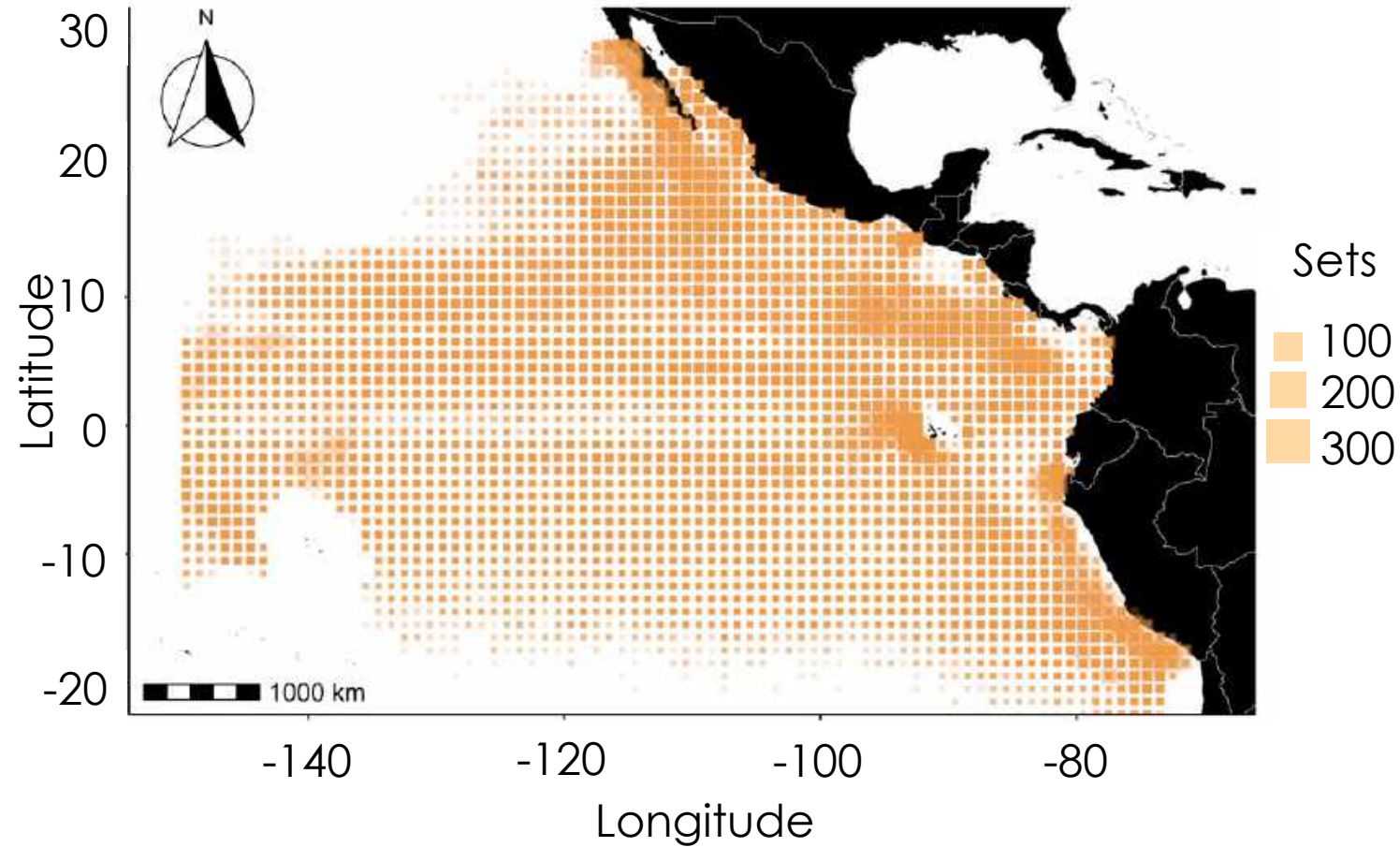
2009-2019

Purse seine  
(1° x 1°)

**OBJ:** associated with floating objects

**NOA:** unassociated schools of tunas

**DEL:** associated with dolphins



Year, month, geographic position, type of fishing, number of organisms  
bycaught, number of sets

# Methods

## Bycatch data in the EPO IATTC

2009-2019

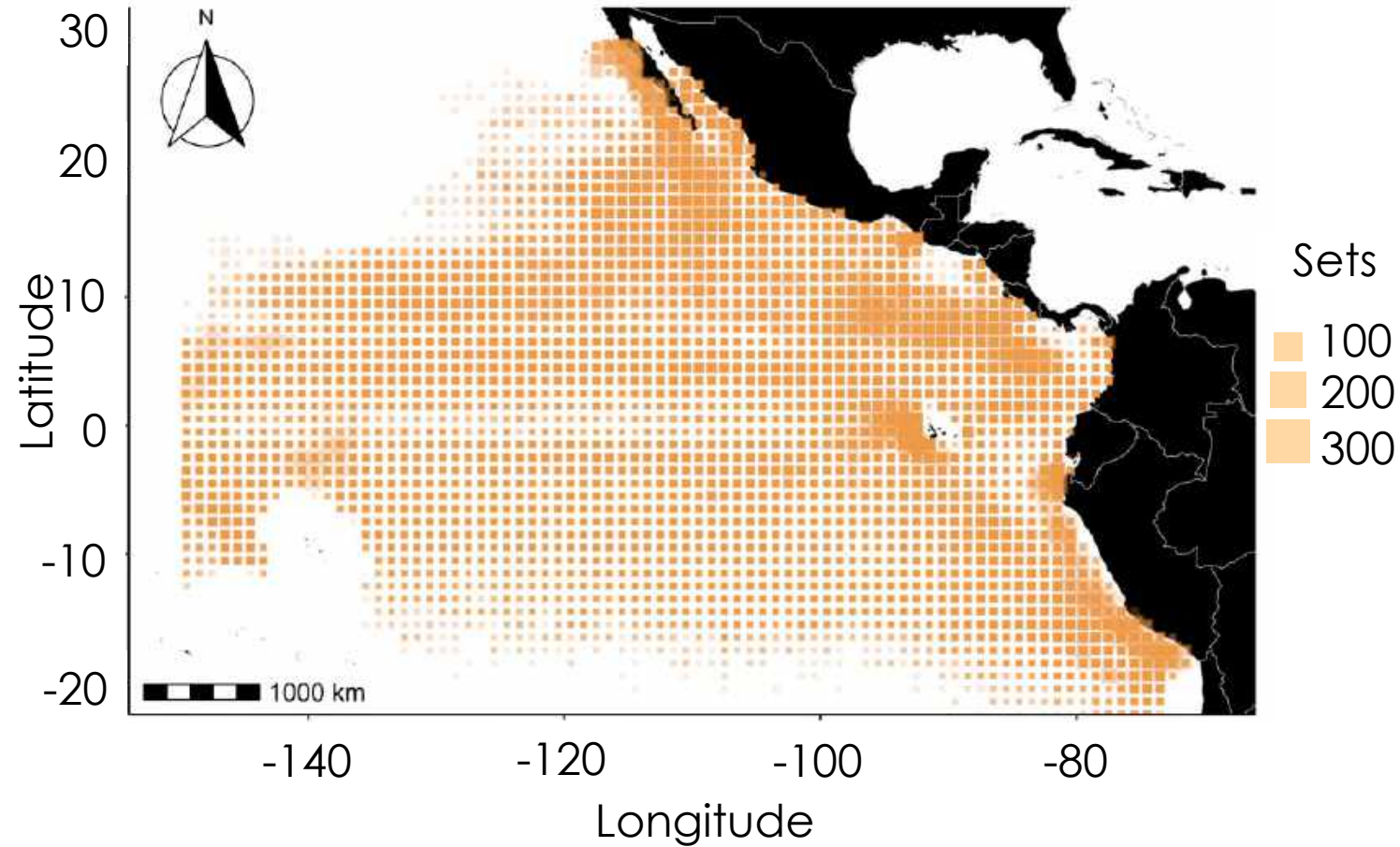
Purse seine  
(1° x 1°)

**OBJ:** associated with floating objects

**NOA:** unassociated schools of tunas

**DEL:** associated with dolphins

$$BPUE = \frac{\text{No. organisms}}{\text{Set}}$$



Year, month, geographic position, type of fishing, number of organisms bycaught, number of sets

## Environmental variables

- ✓ Sea Surface Temperature (°C)
- ✓ Chlorophyll-*a* concentration (mg\*m<sup>3</sup>)
- ✓ Sea Surface Height (m)
- ✓ Mixed Layer Depth (m)
- ✓ Dissolved Oxygen Molar Concentration (mmol\*m<sup>3</sup>)

**SST**

**Chl-*a***

**SSH**

**MLD**

**DO**

Monthly, resolution 0.083°, 0.25°



## Bayesian Additive Regression Trees (BART)

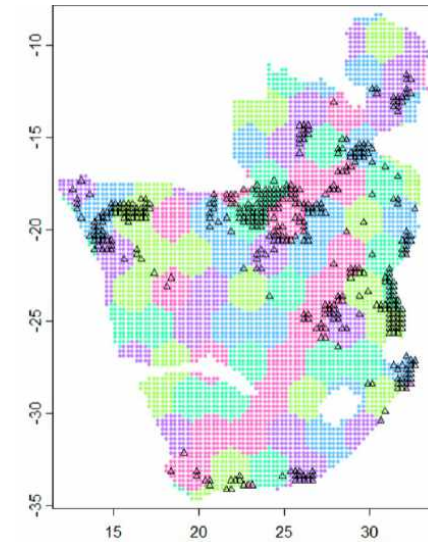
**Presence ~ environmental variables** (SST, SSH, MLD, DO, Chl- $\alpha$ )

### Evaluation:

Discrimination and Calibration

	<b>Range</b>
<i>Sensibility</i>	0 - 1
<i>Specificity</i>	0 - 1
<i>Precision</i>	-1 - 1
<i>TSS</i>	-1 - 1
<i>Miller calibration</i>	~ 1

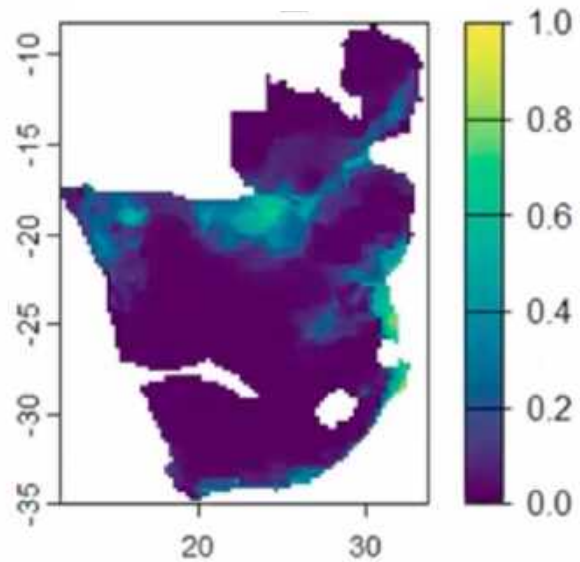
Cross-validation



(AUC, TSS, Miller)



### Predictions



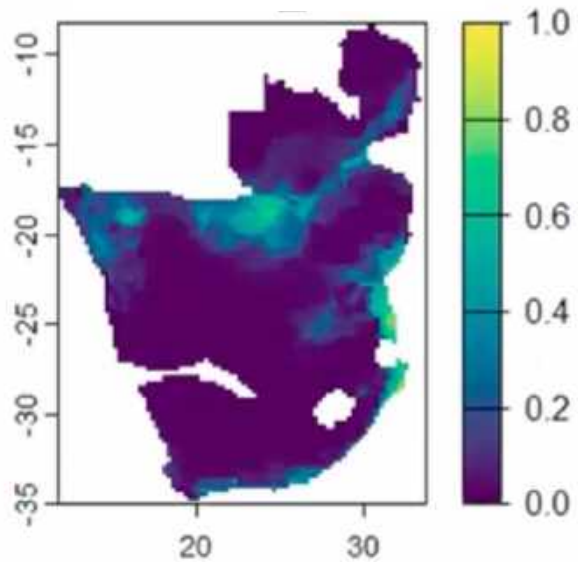
Values between 0 – 1



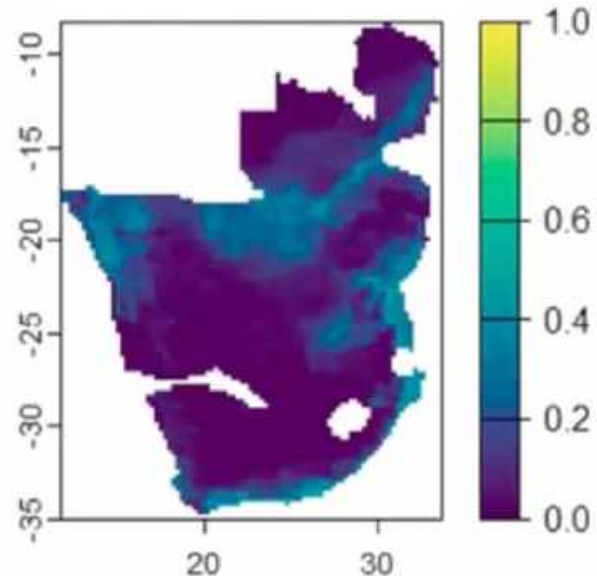
- fuzzySim
- embarcadero

## Bayesian Additive Regression Trees (BART)

### Predictions



### Uncertainty (Confidence interval)



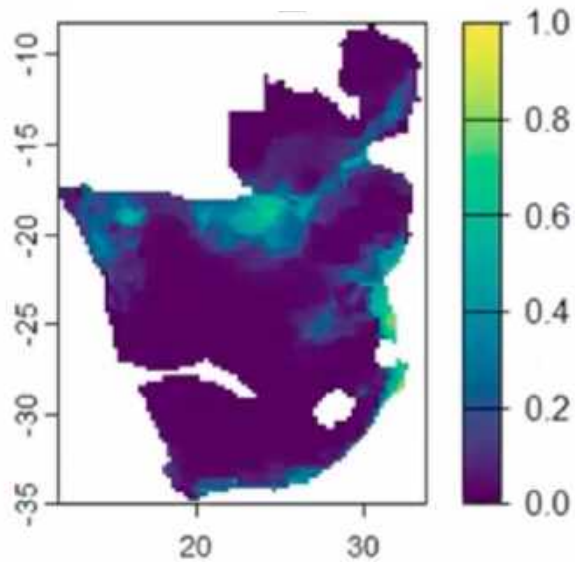
Values between 0 – 1



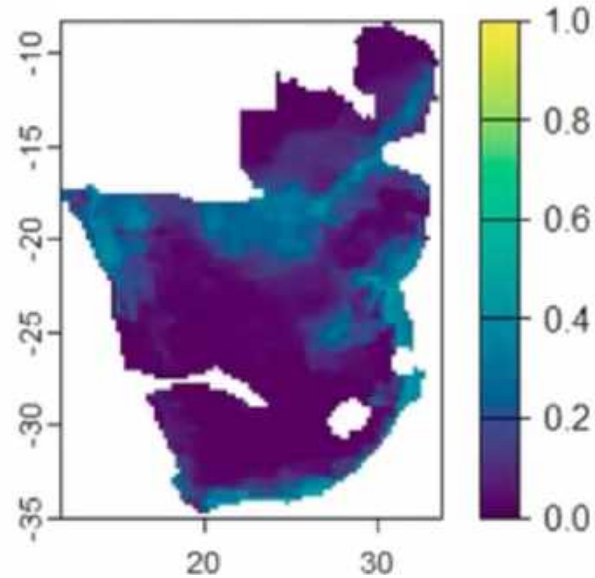
- fuzzySim
- embarcadero

## Bayesian Additive Regression Trees (BART)

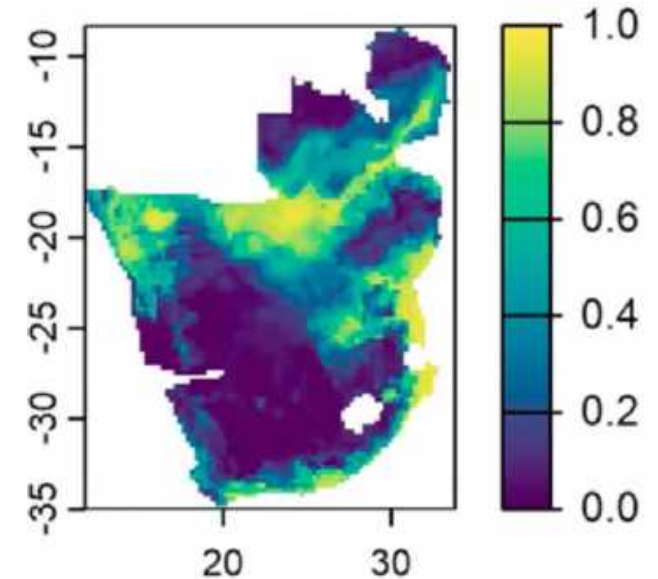
### Predictions



### Uncertainty (Confidence interval)



### Favourability

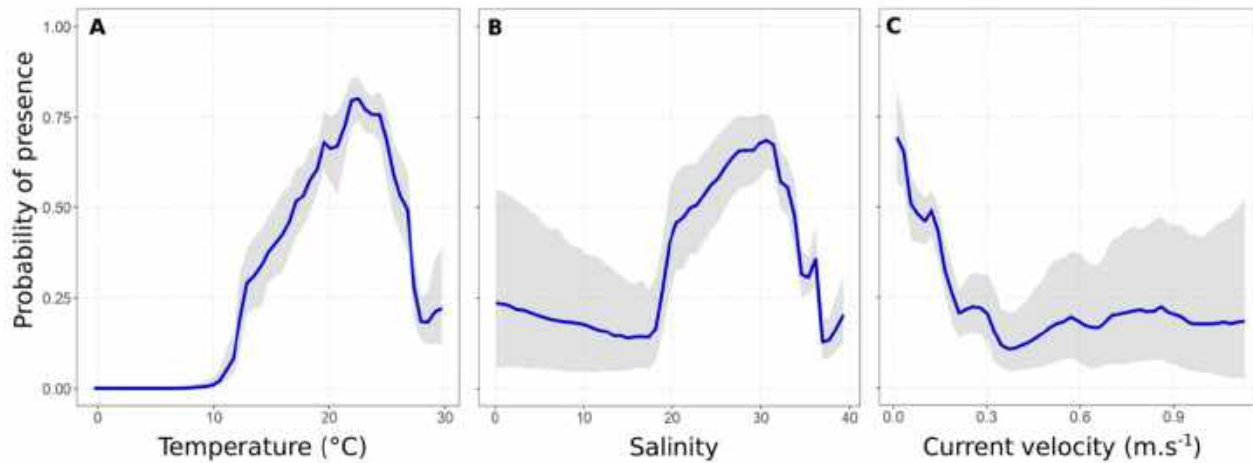


Values between 0 – 1

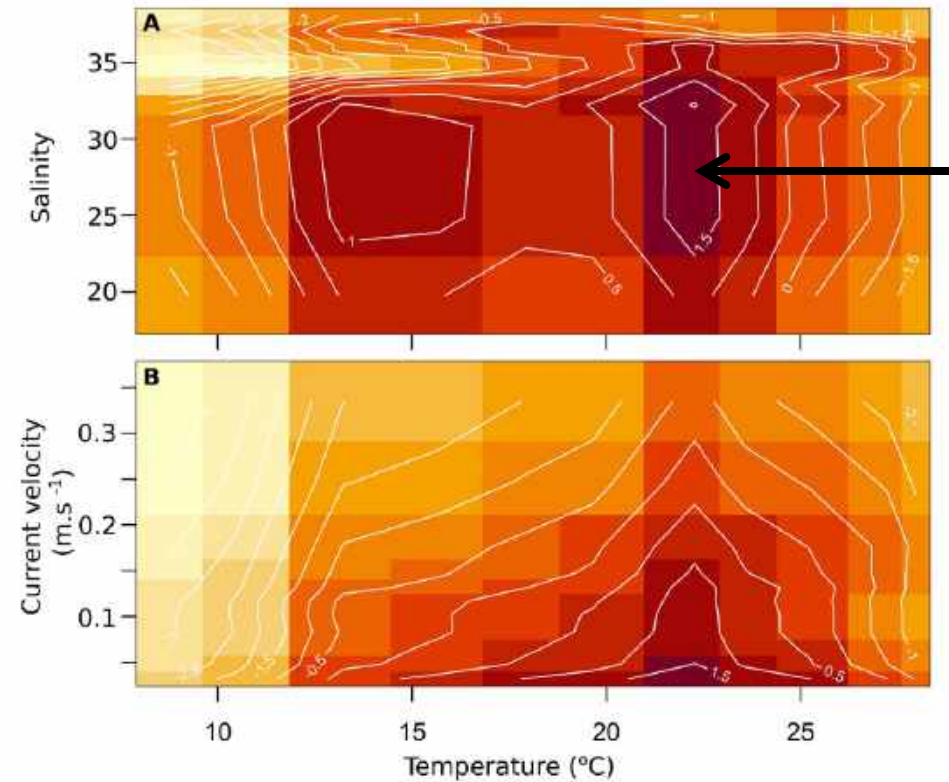
- fuzzySim
- embarcadero

## Bayesian Additive Regression Trees (BART)

Partial effects



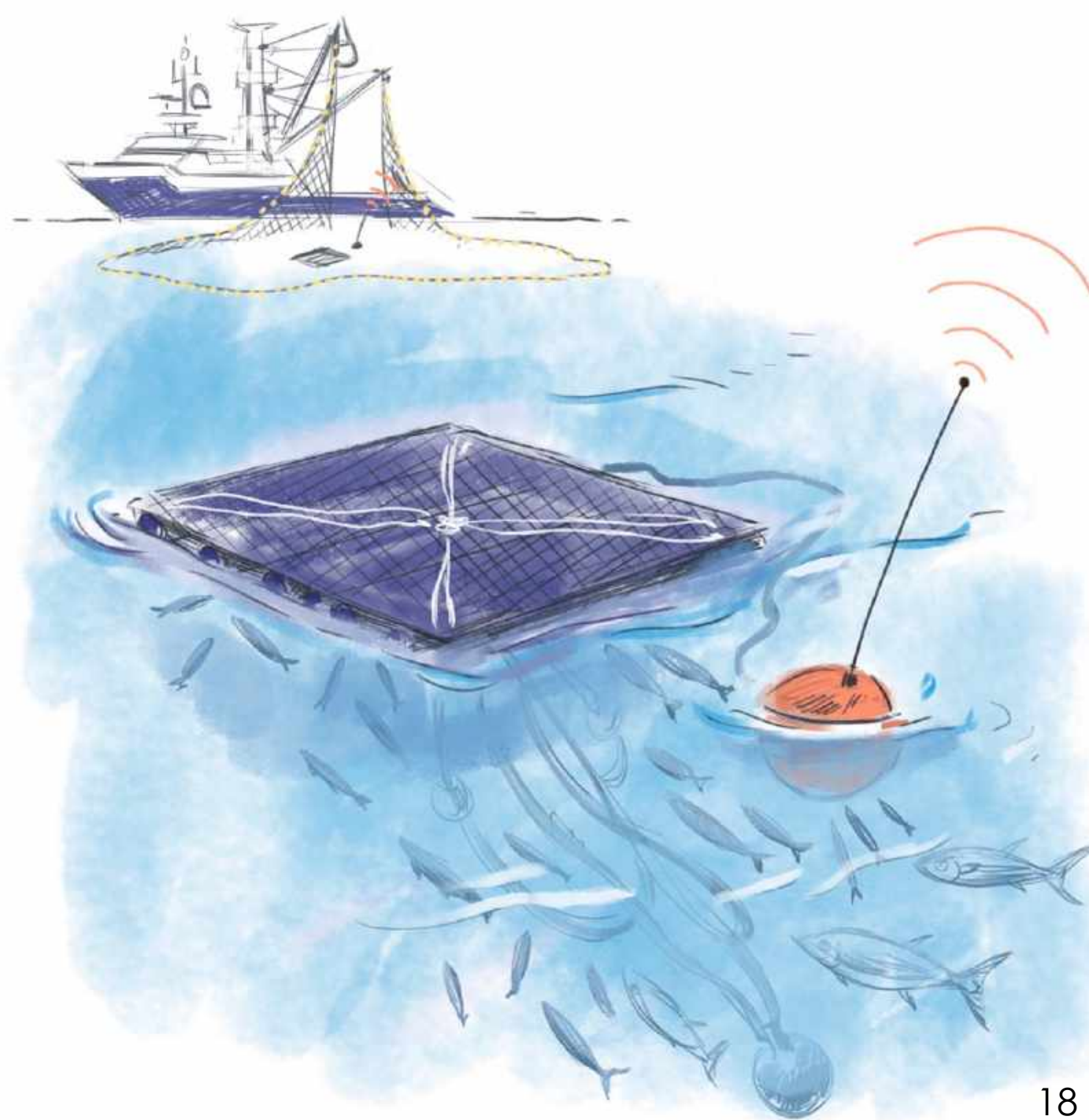
Bidimensional partial dependence plots



- dbarts
- embarcadero



# Results

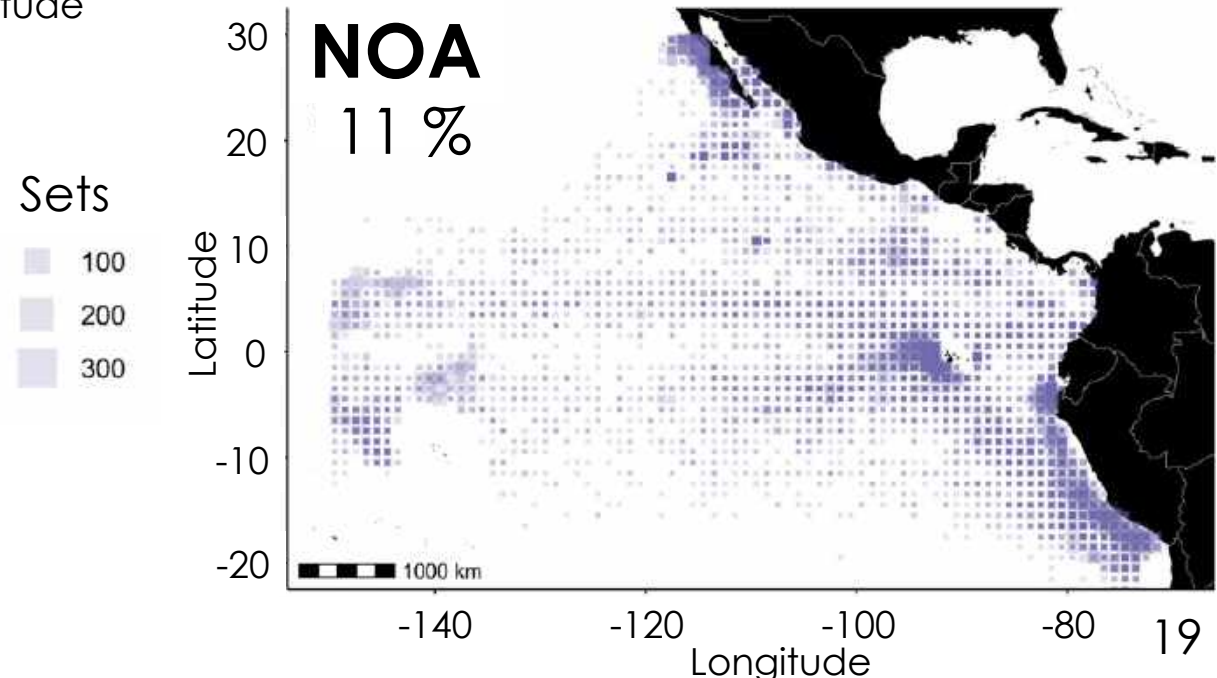
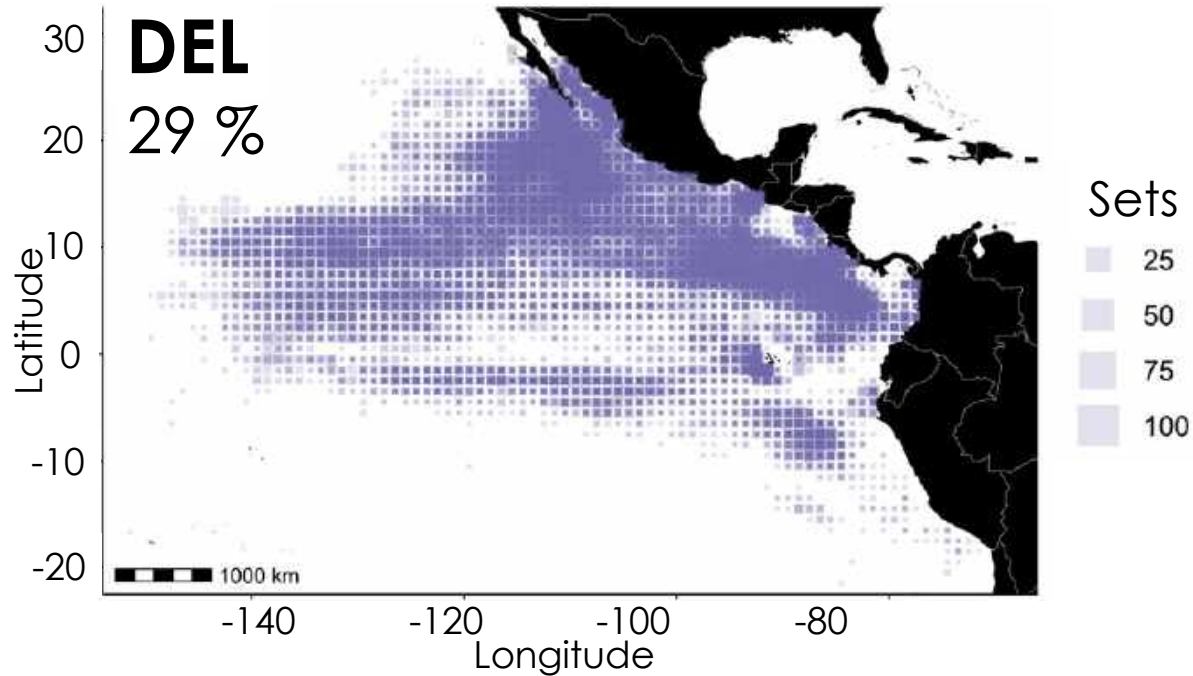
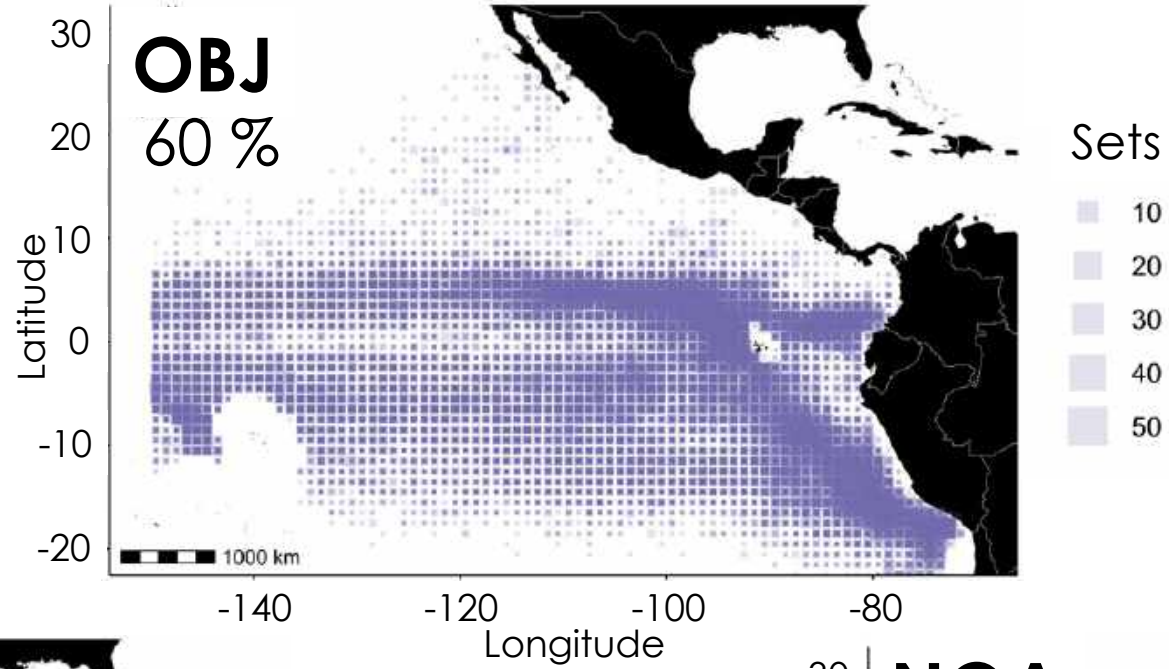




# PURSE-SEINE

Number of sets per set type during 2009 - 2019

**93,820 sets**

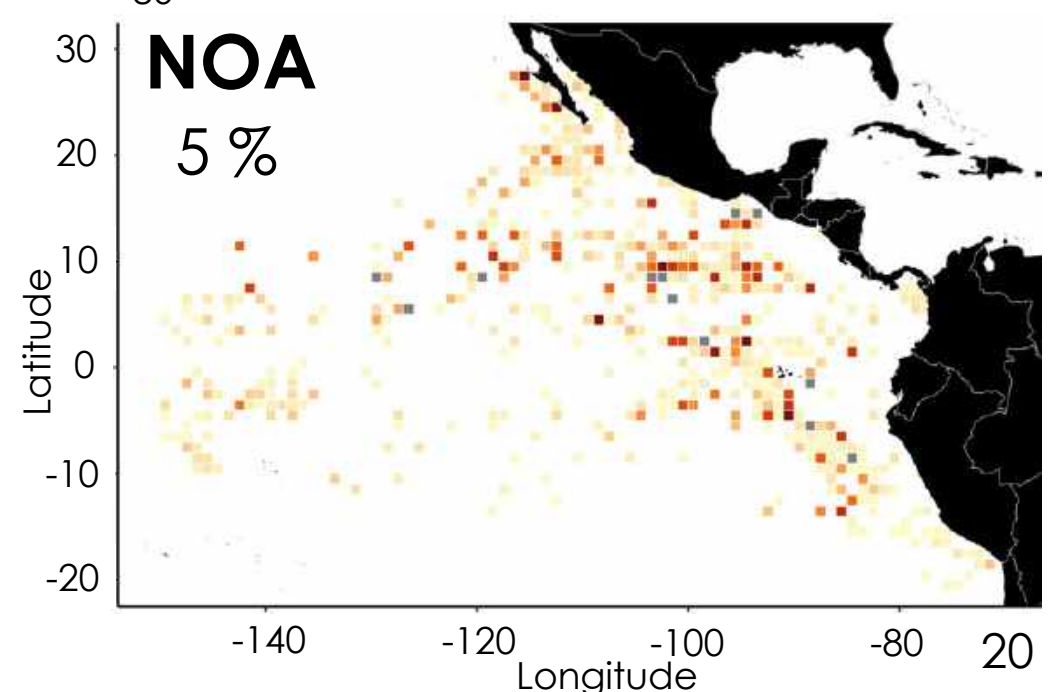
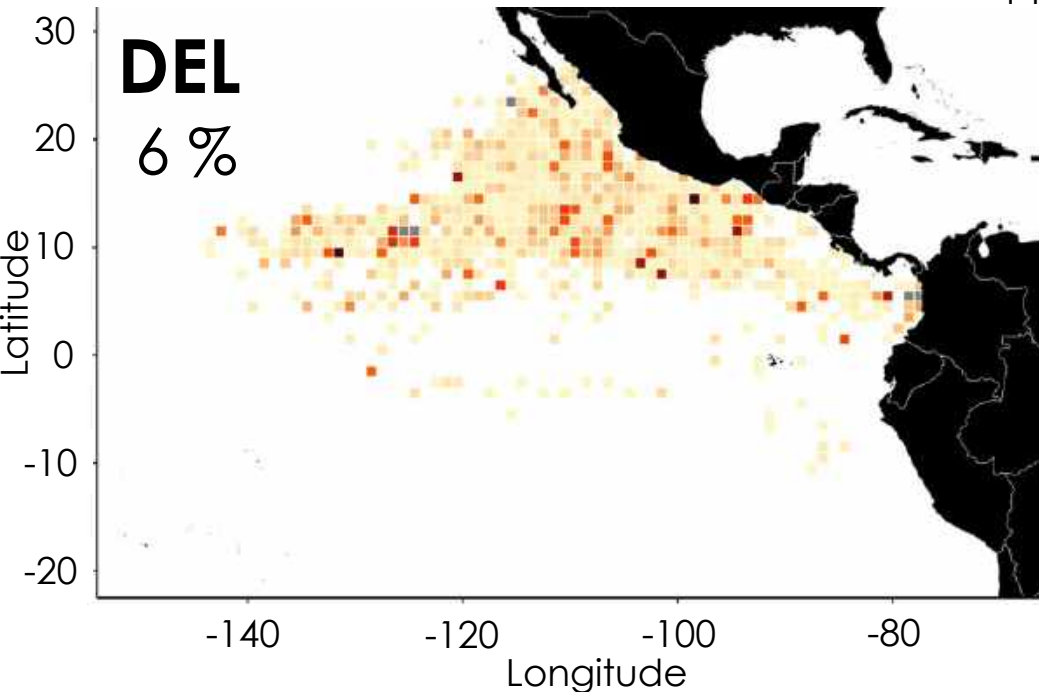
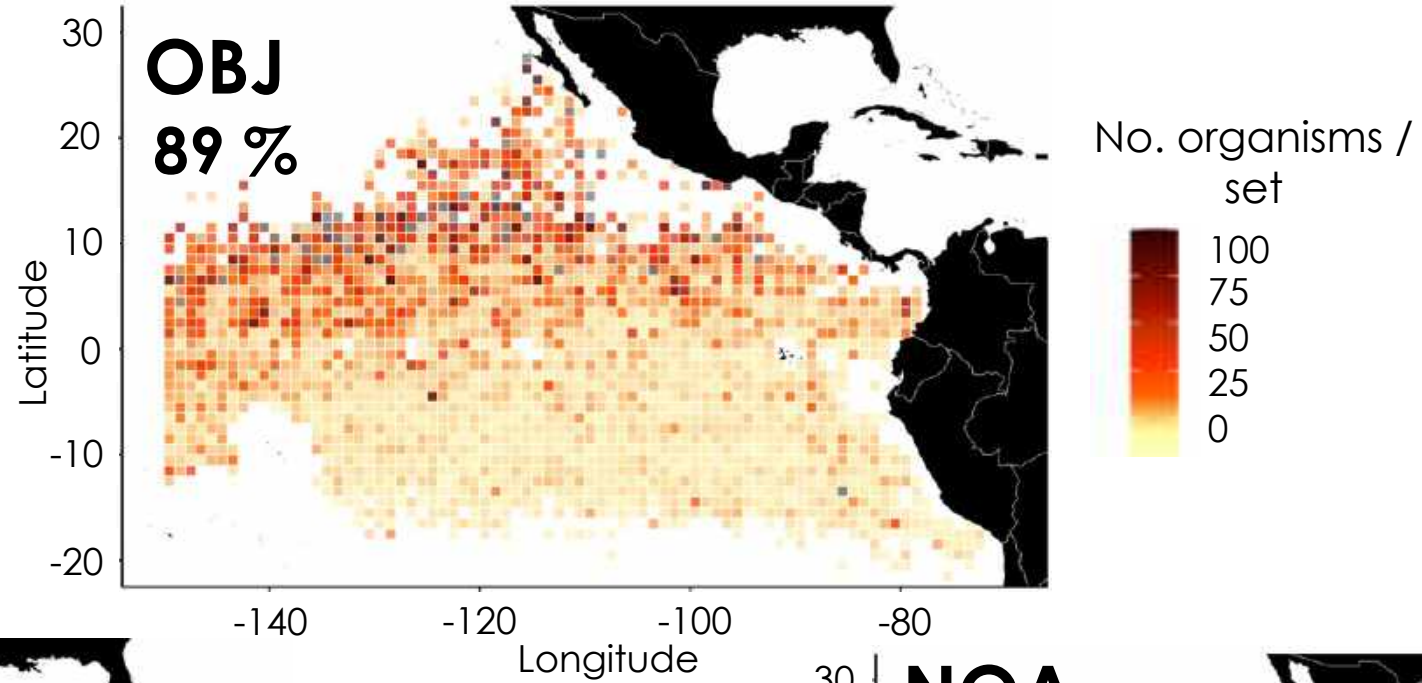


# PURSE-SEINE

No. of bycaught organisms per set type during 2009 - 2019

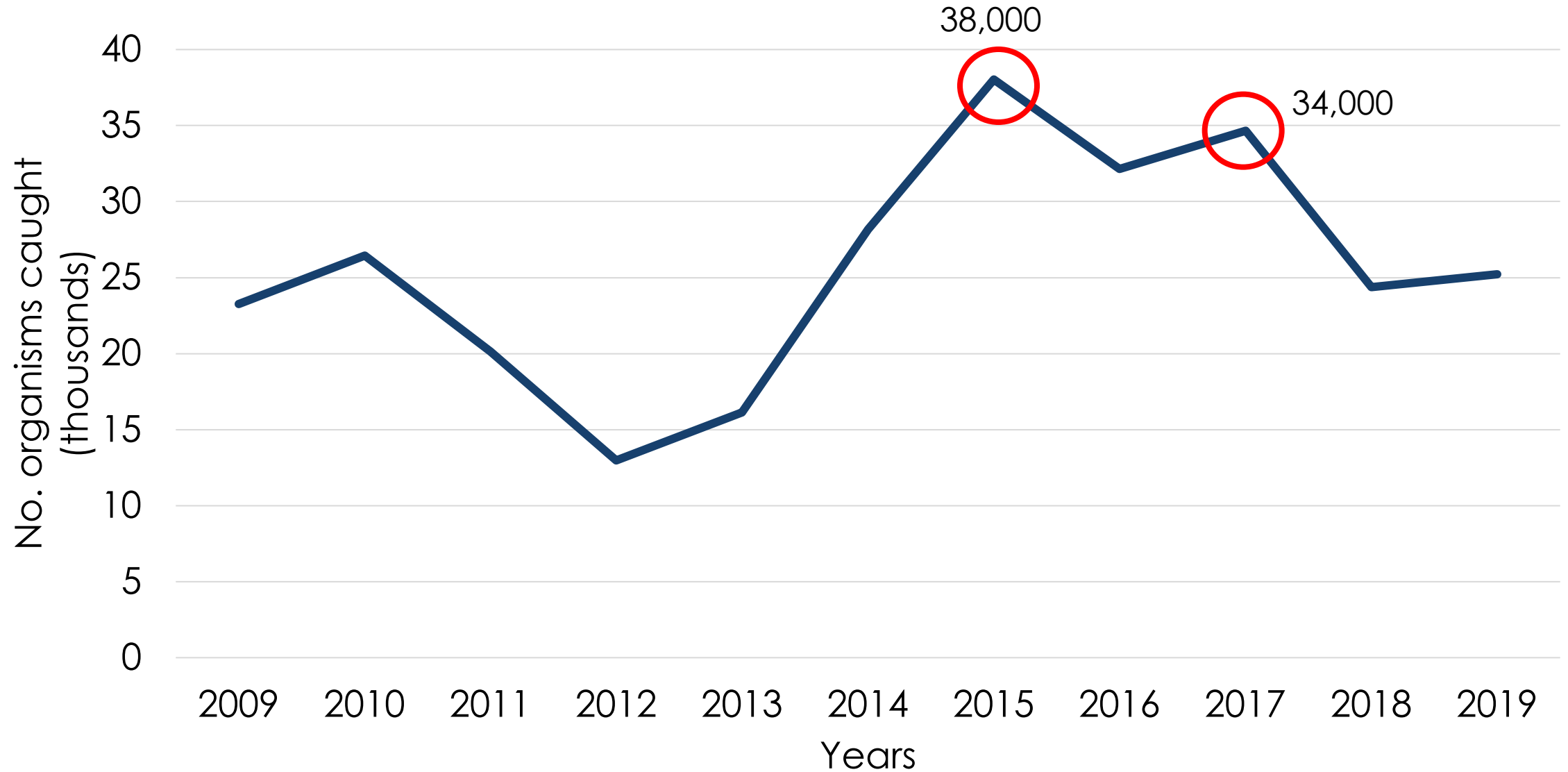
**281,621 organisms**

**2 org/set**



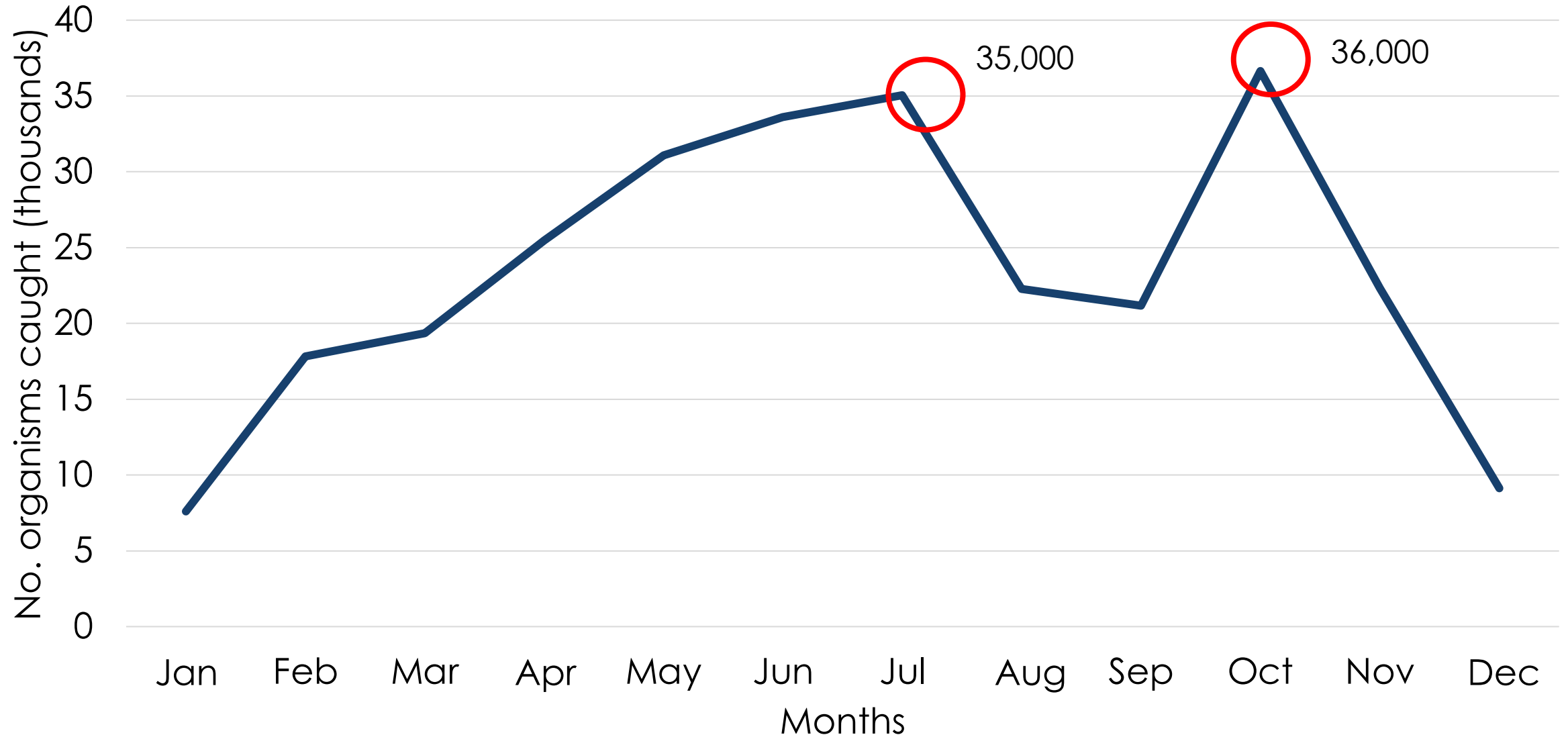
# PURSE-SEINE

## Interannual variability



Annual mean: **25,598**

$H = 768.37, p = <2.2e-16$  21



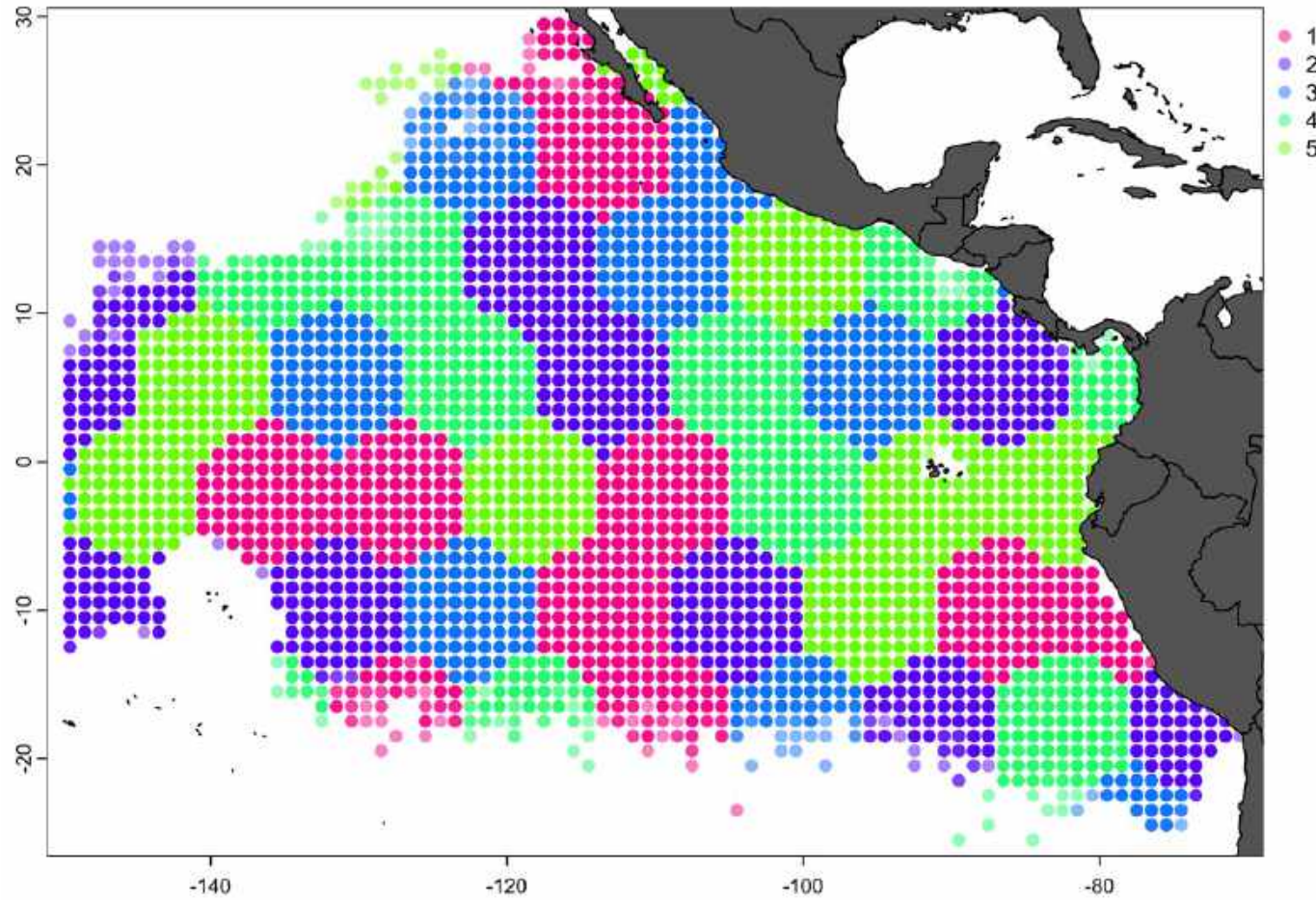
$H = 638.17, p = <2.2e-16$

**Model:** Presence ~ MXL, Chl- $\alpha$ , SSH

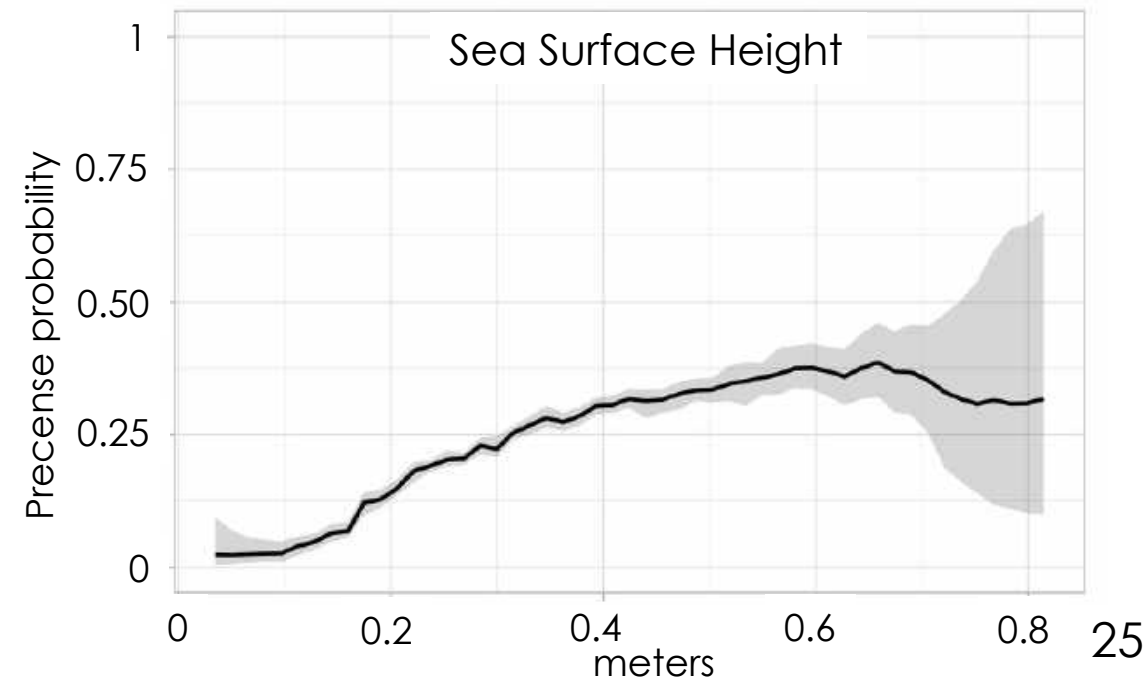
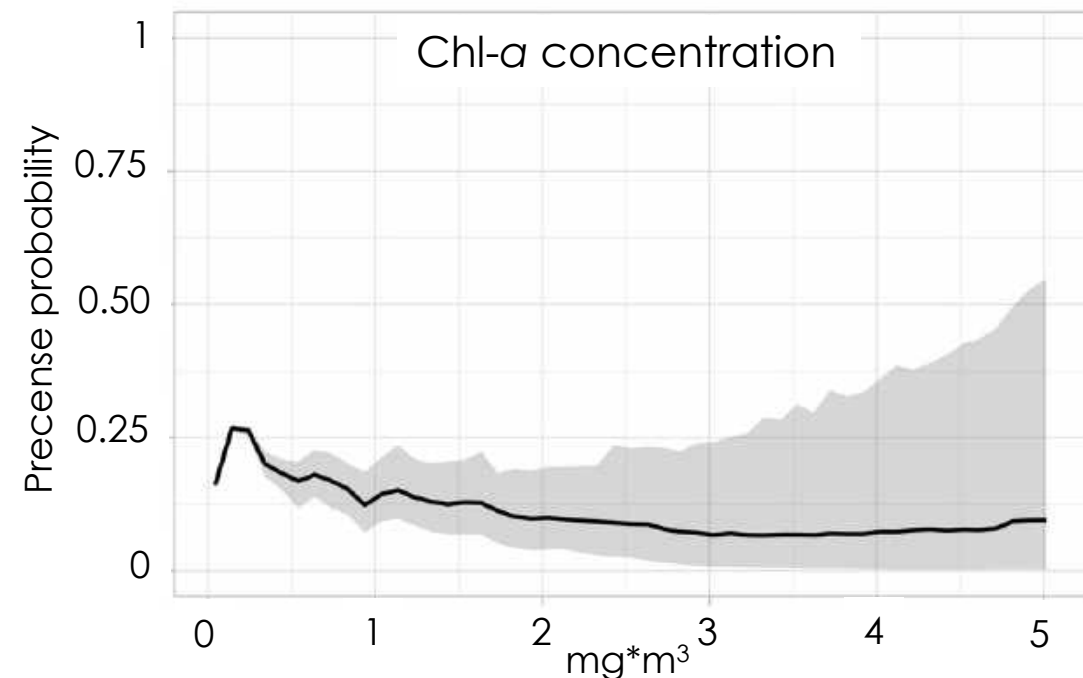
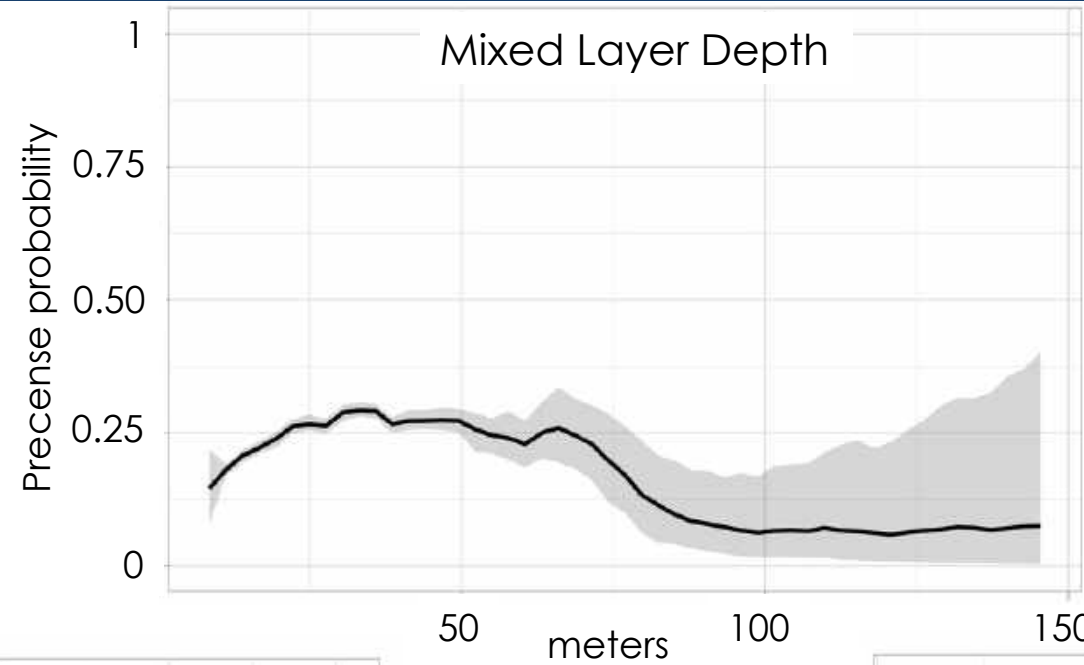
Variable	Importance	
<b>MLD</b>	<b>0.338</b>	} + 95 %
Chl- $\alpha$	0.332	
SSH	0.3289	

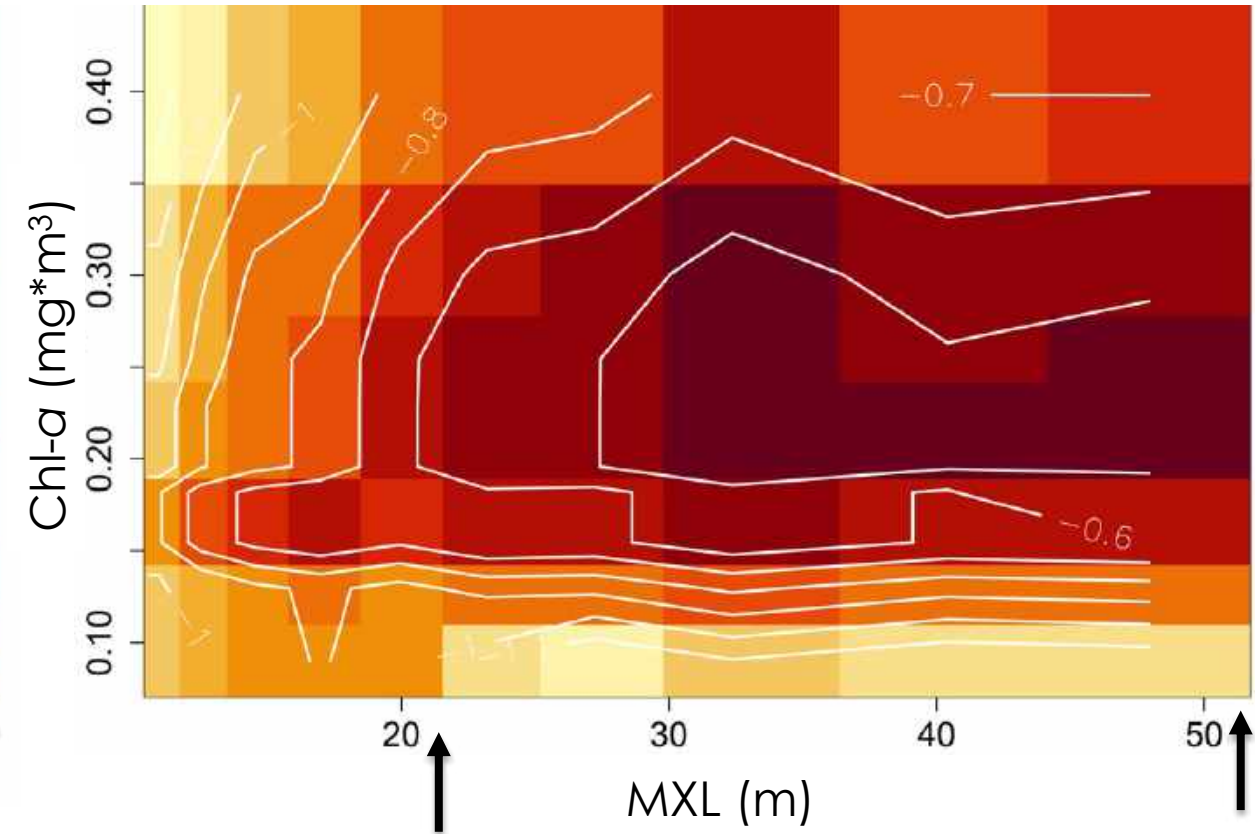
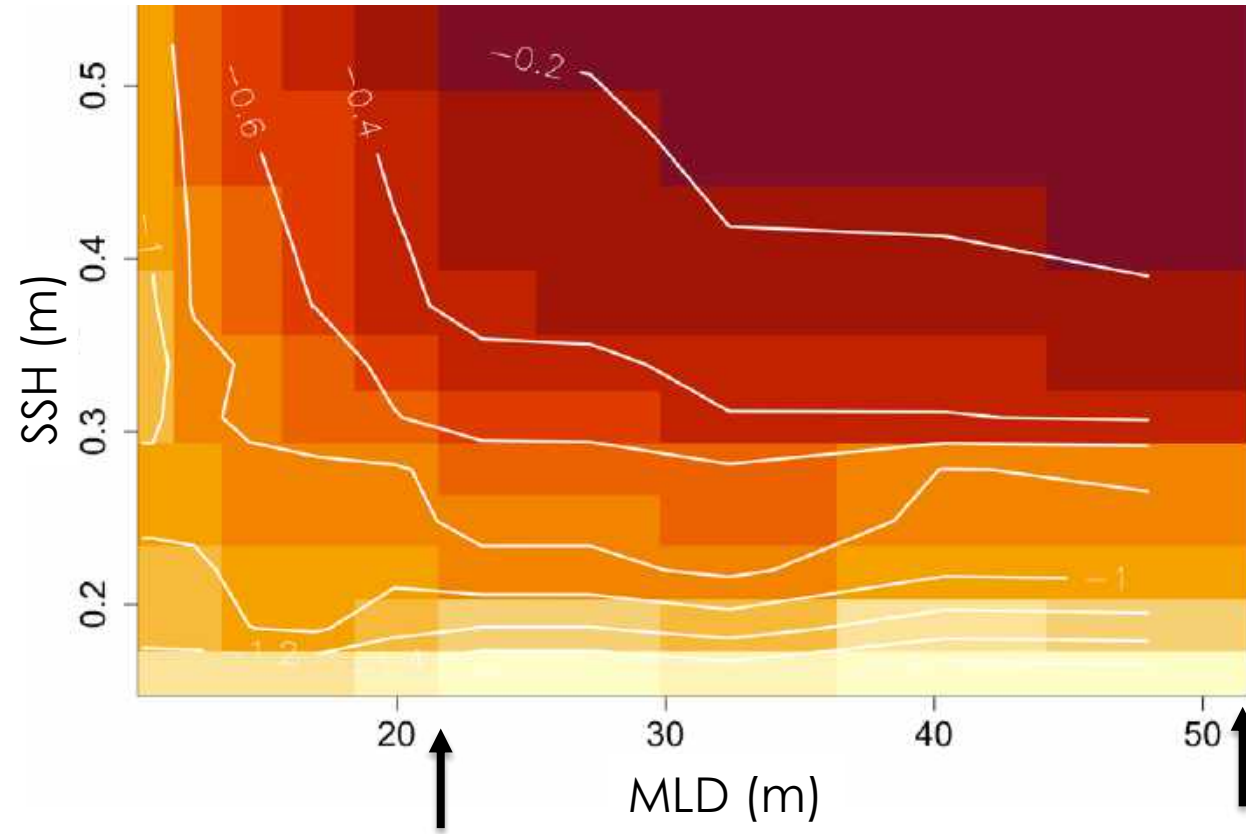
	Value	Range
<i>Sensibility</i>	<b>0.70</b>	0 - 1
<i>Specificity</i>	<b>0.60</b>	0 - 1
<i>Precision</i>	<b>0.38</b>	-1 - 1
<i>TSS</i>	<b>0.65</b>	-1 - 1
<i>Miller calibration</i>	<b>1.03</b>	~1



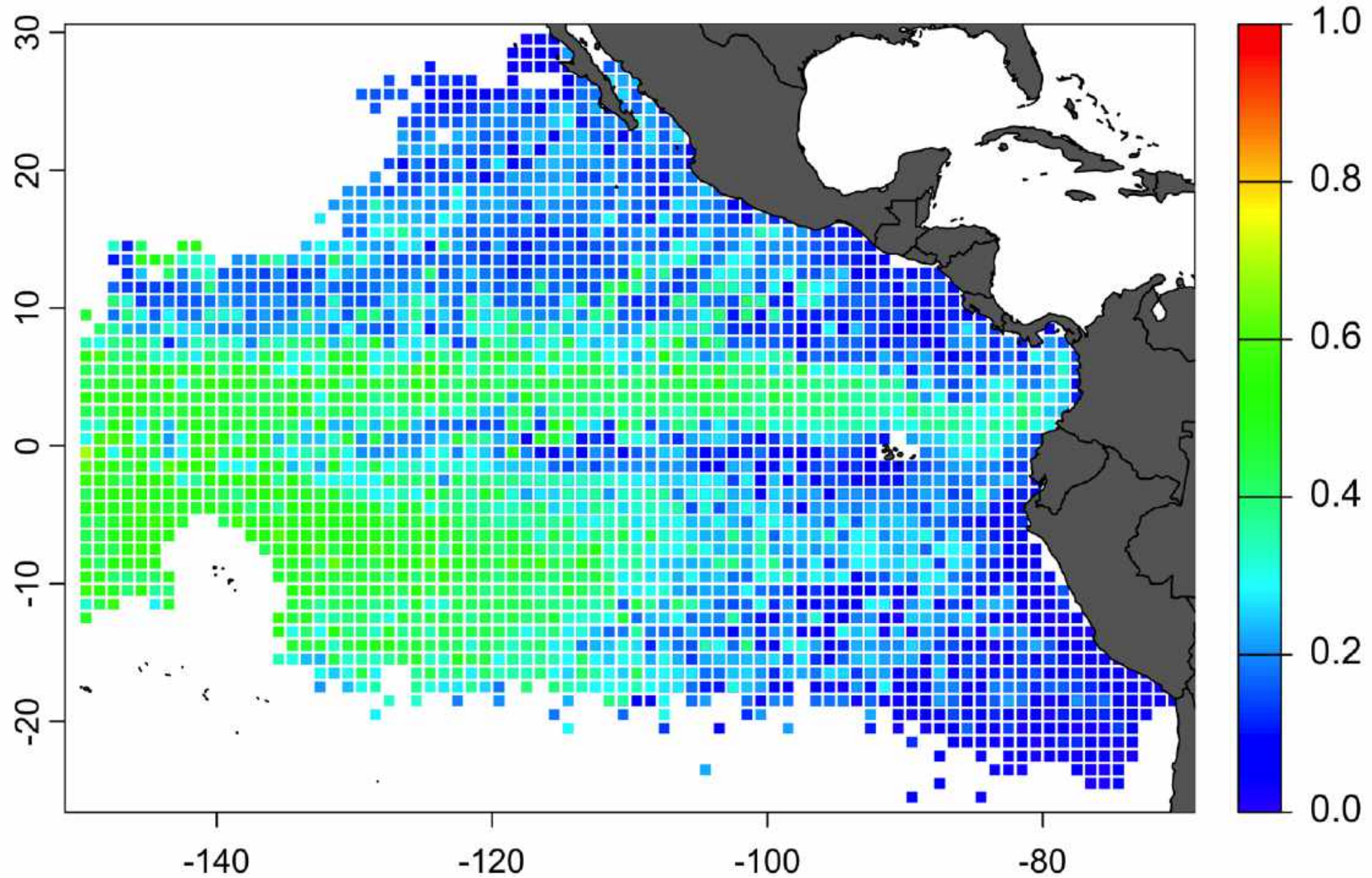


	<b>AUC</b>	<b>Miller</b>	<b>TSS</b>
<i>Block 1</i>	0.67	0.81	0.25
<i>Block 2</i>	0.71	1.11	0.32
<i>Block 3</i>	0.66	0.91	0.26
<i>Block 4</i>	0.68	0.89	0.27
<i>Block 5</i>	0.70	1.01	0.31



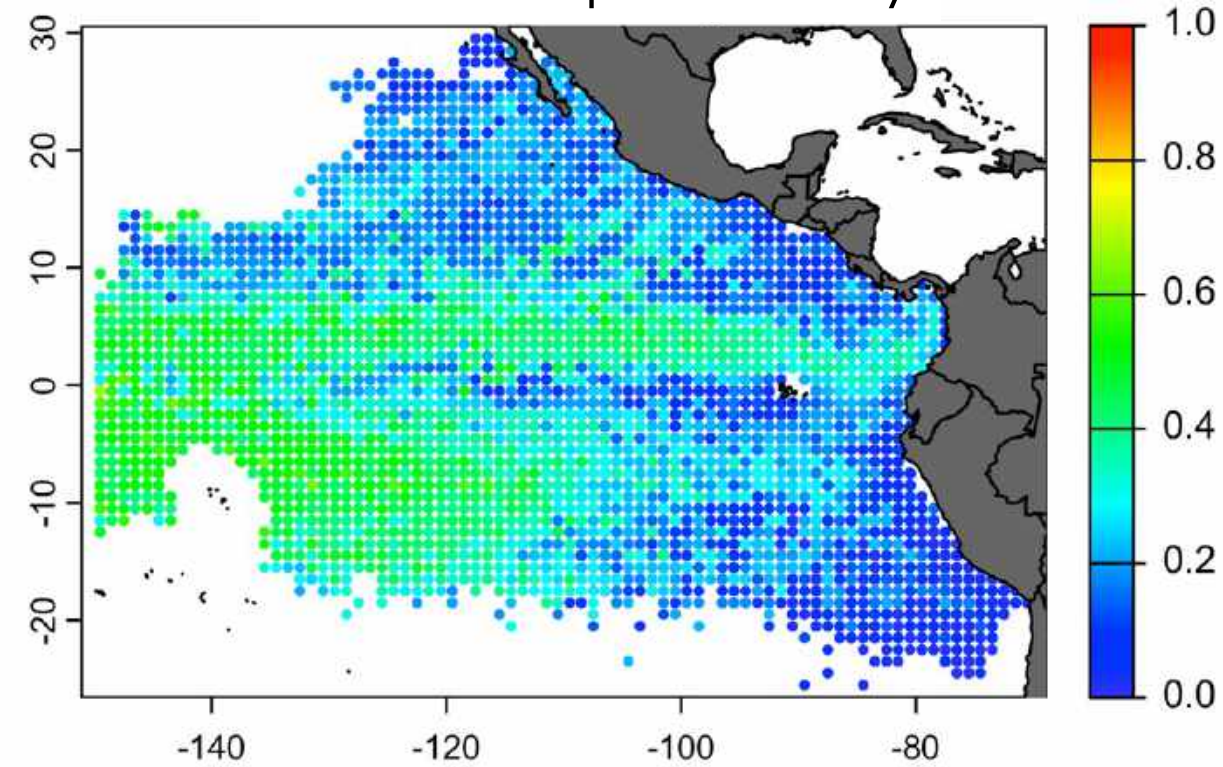




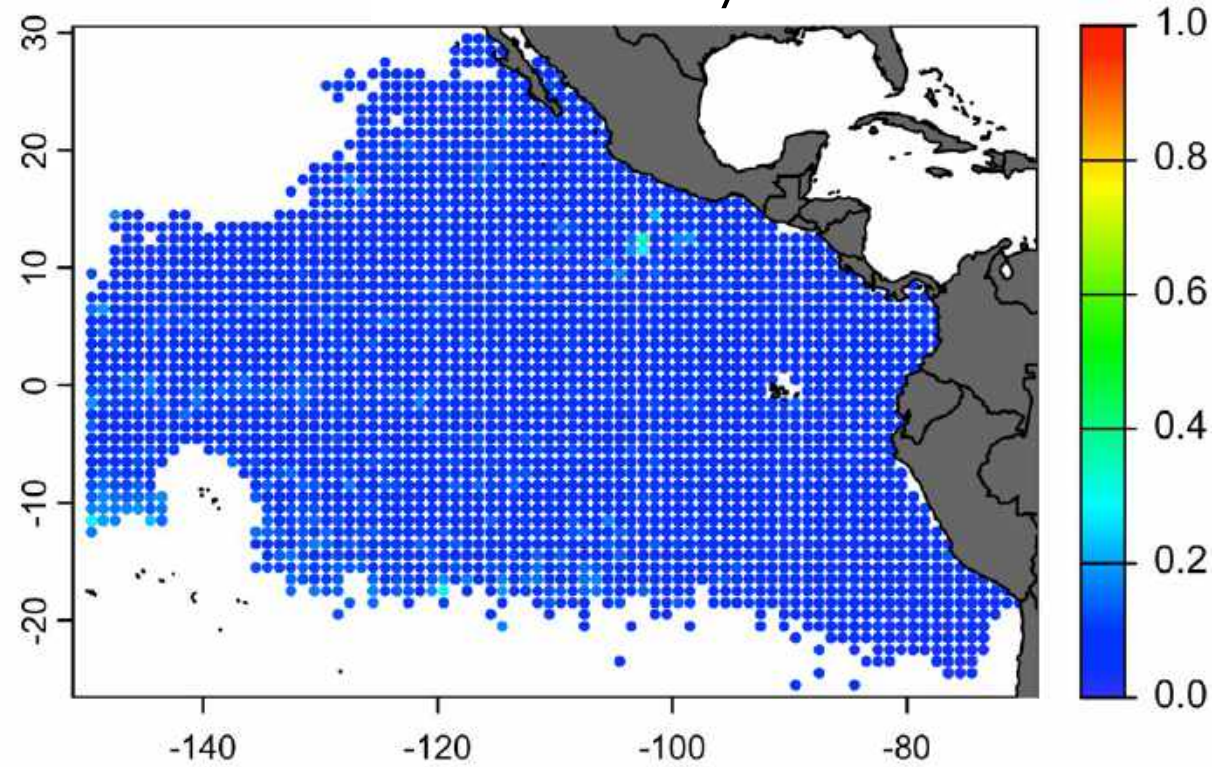




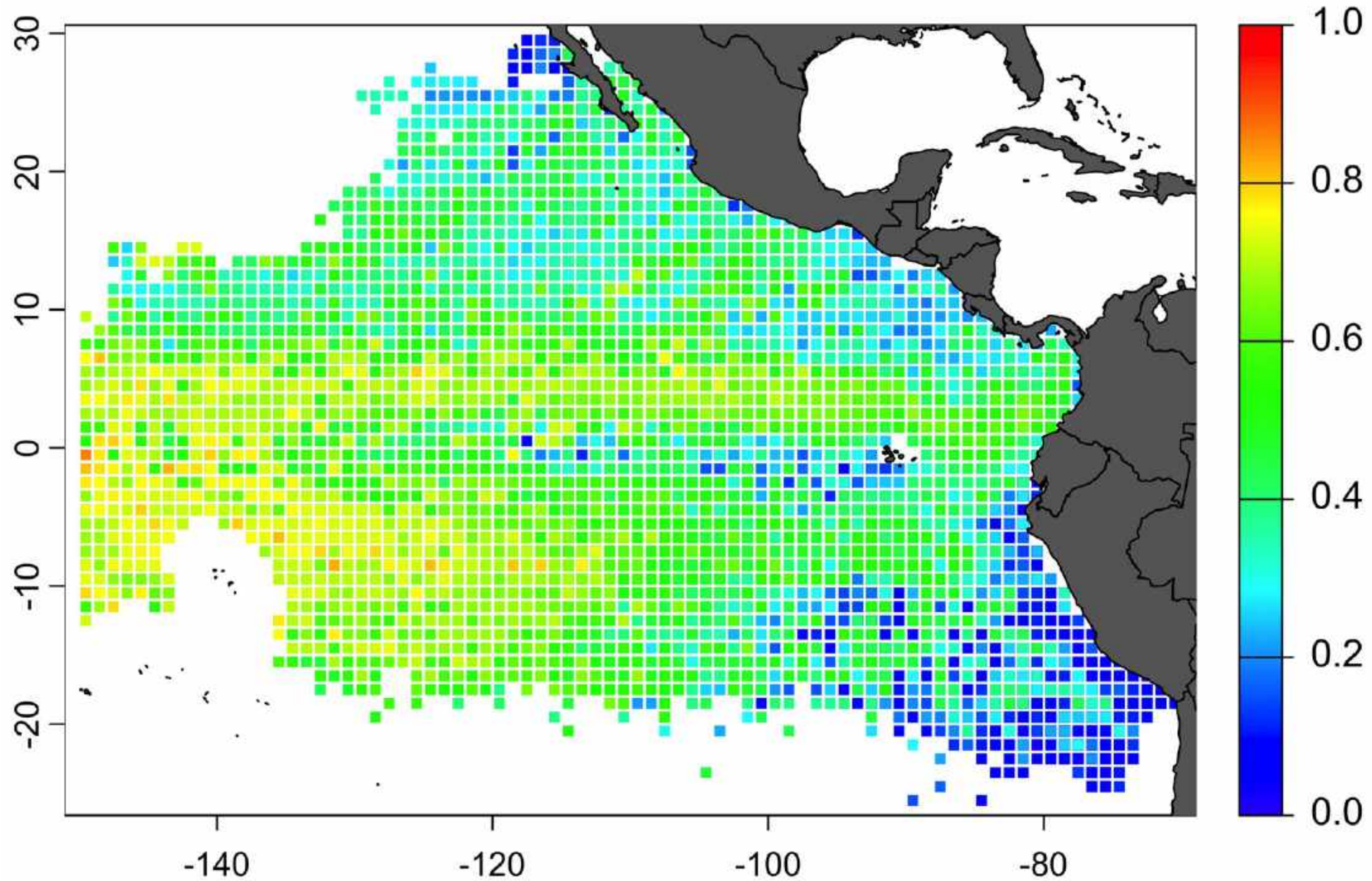
### Precense probability



### Uncertainty

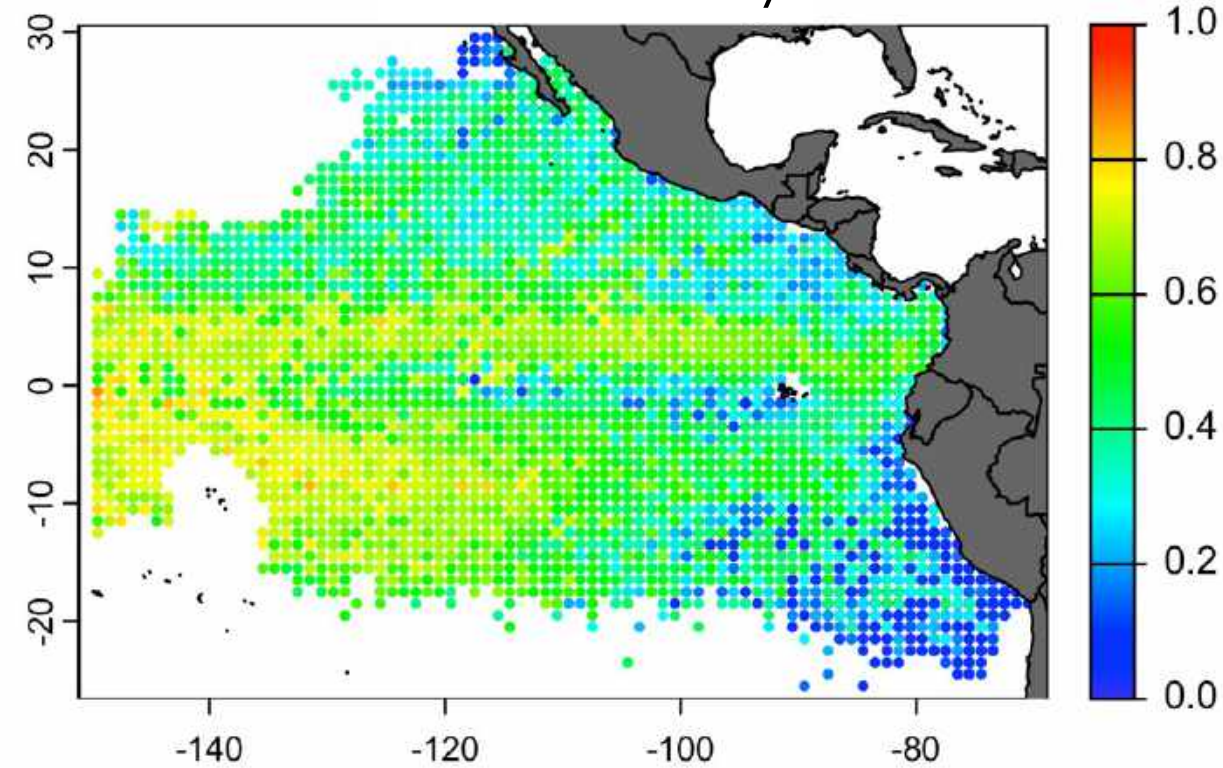




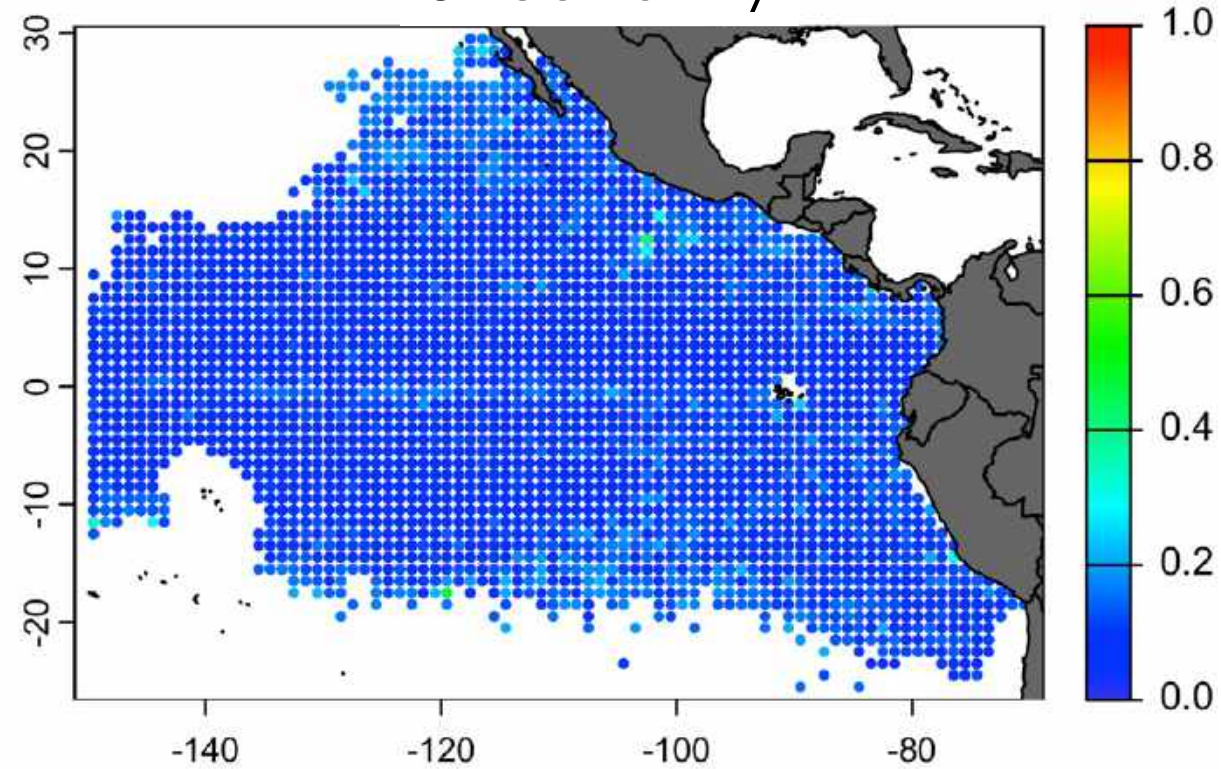




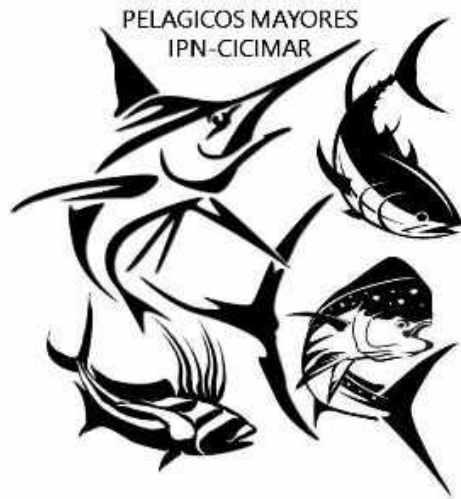
### Favourability




### Uncertainty



# Aknowledgments



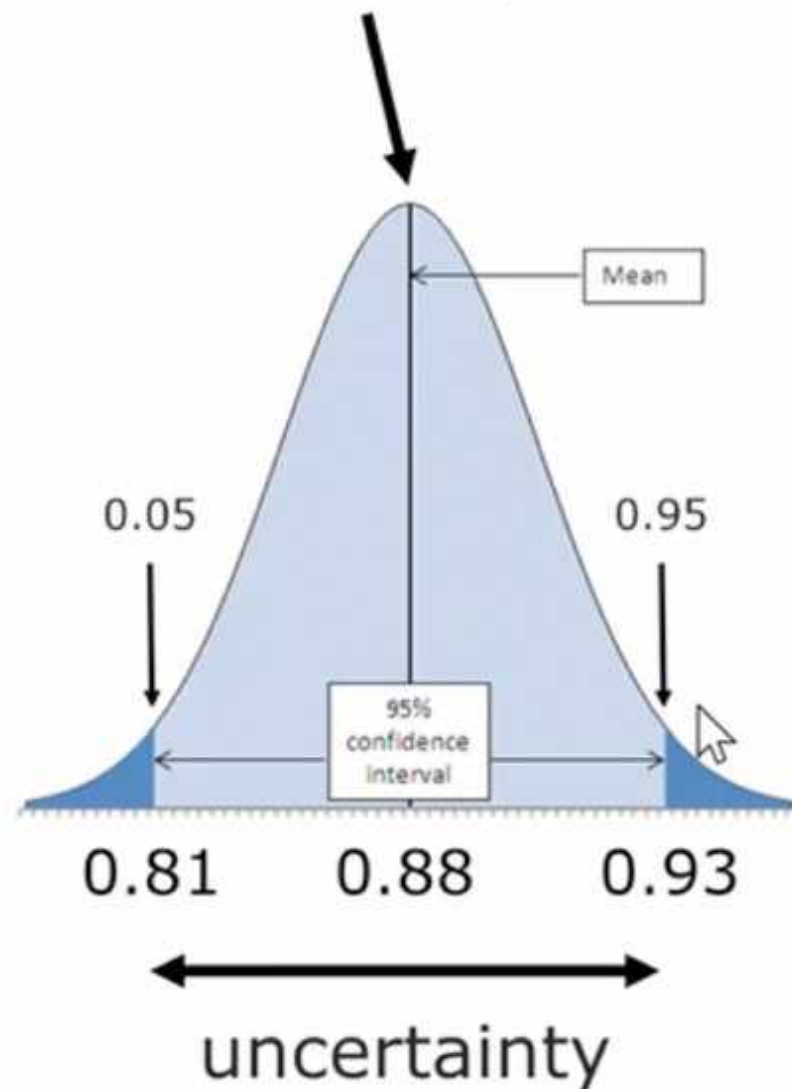


# Supplementary material

## Bayesian Additive Regression Trees (BART)

posterior mean probability

**Uncertainty**  
(Confidence interval)



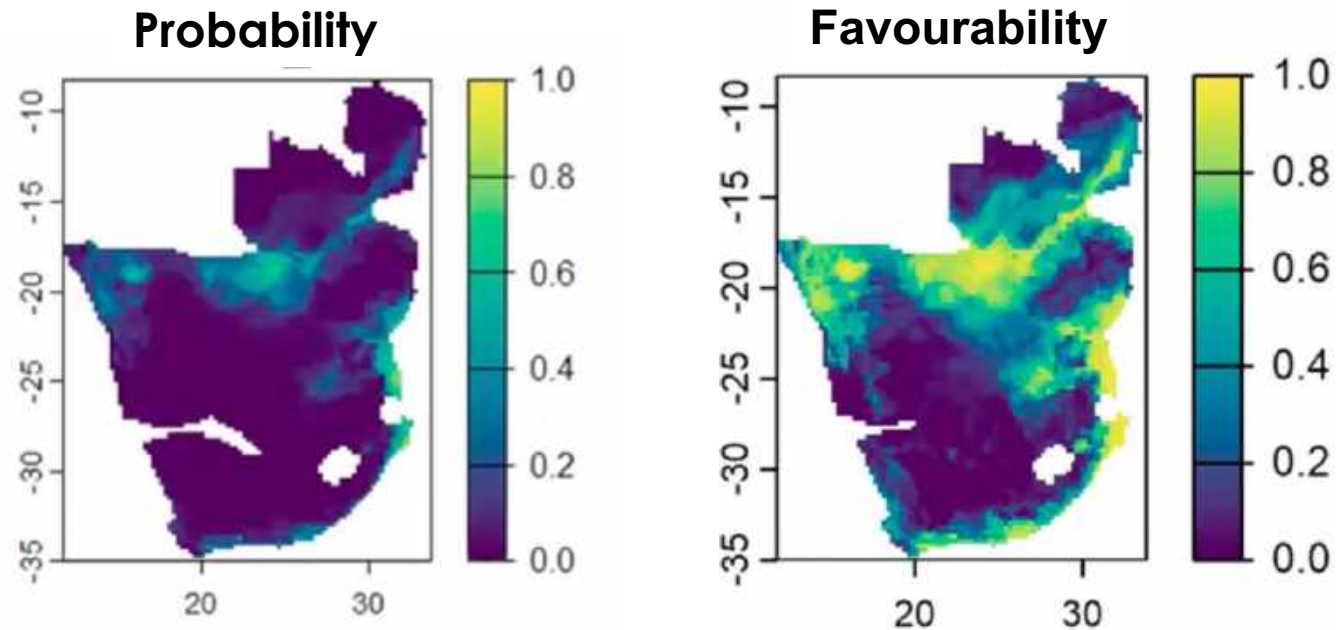
- predict\_bart\_df
- embarcadero



## Bayesian Additive Regression Trees (BART)

### Favourability

How much does the environment favor the presence of the species?



## Bayesian Additive Regression Trees (BART)

1 Model

Presence ~ environmental variables

2 Correlation between variables

3 Variable selection

4 New model

5 Variable importance

6 Discrimination and Calibration

7 Cross validation

## Bayesian Additive Regression Trees (BART)

1 Model

2 Correlation between variables

$> 0.7$

3 Variable selection

4 New model

5 Variable importance

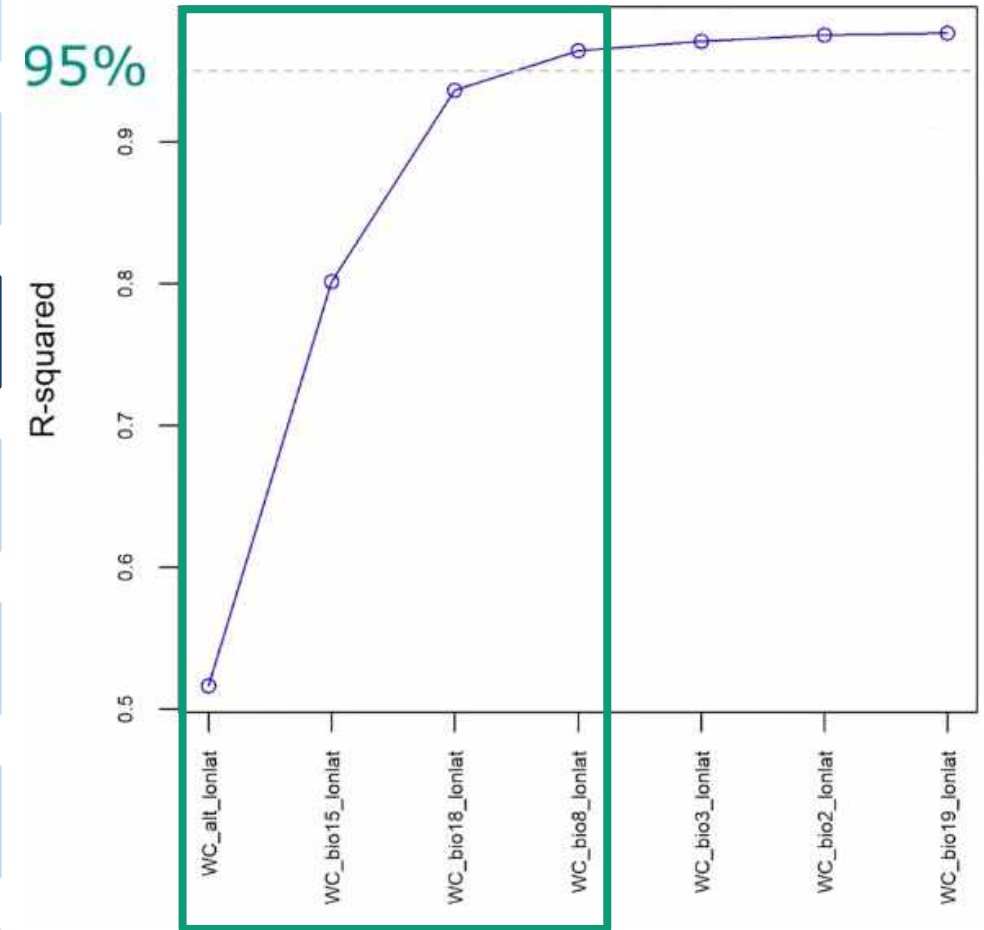
6 Discrimination and Calibration

7 Cross validation

○ collinear

## Bayesian Additive Regression Trees (BART)

- 1 Model
- 2 Correlation between variables
- 3 Variable selection
- 4 New model
- 5 Variable importance
- 6 Discrimination and Calibration
- 7 Cross validation



o embarcadero

## Bayesian Additive Regression Trees (BART)

1 Model

2 Correlation between variables

3 Variable selection

4 New model

5 Variable importance

6 Discrimination and Calibration

7 Cross validation

Presence ~ environmental variables



## Bayesian Additive Regression Trees (BART)

1 Model

2 Correlation between variables

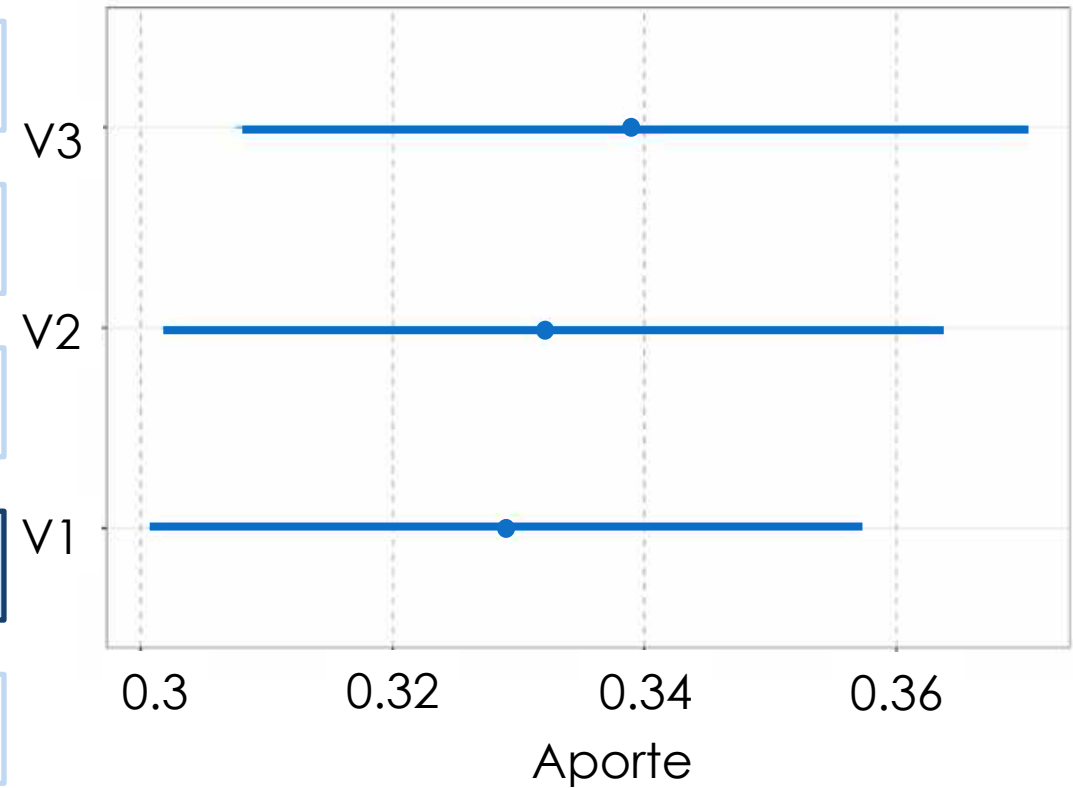
3 Variable selection

4 New model

5 Variable importance

6 Discrimination and Calibration

7 Cross validation



○ embarcadero

## Bayesian Additive Regression Trees (BART)

1 Model

2 Correlation between variables

3 Variable selection

4 New model

5 Variable importance

6 **Discrimination** and Calibration

7 Cross validation

➤ Ability to distinguish between locations with and without presence

	<b>Range</b>
<i>Sensitivity</i>	0 - 1
<i>Specificity</i>	0 - 1
<i>Precision</i>	-1 - 1
<i>TSS</i>	-1 - 1

○ modEvA

## Bayesian Additive Regression Trees (BART)

1 Model

2 Correlation between variables

3 Variable selection

4 New model

5 Variable importance

6 Discrimination and **Calibration**

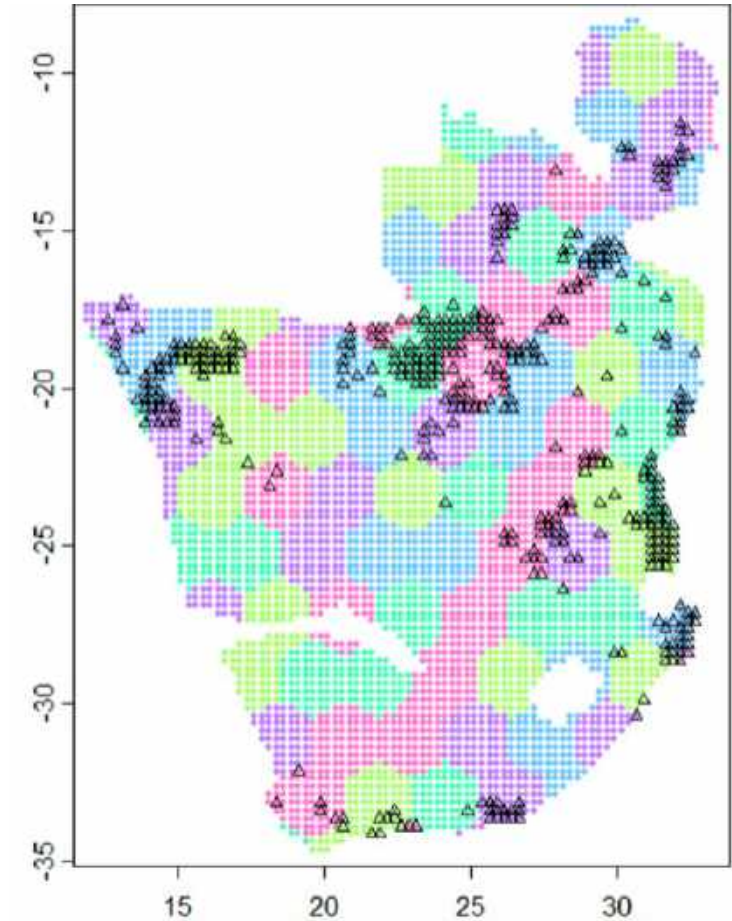
7 Cross validation

- Ability of the predicted values to reflect the frequency with which the species occurs and its variation over time

*Miller Calibration (~1)*

## Bayesian Additive Regression Trees (BART)

- 1 Model
- 2 Correlation between variables
- 3 Variable selection
- 4 New model
- 5 Variable importance
- 6 Discrimination and Calibration
- 7 Cross validation



(AUC, TSS, Miller) ○ BlockCv  
○ crossval