

Marine Ecosystems and Climate Change:

It's more complex (and worse) than you might think

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ConservationBytes.com

- Ecosystem services
- Damaged oceans
- Marine climate change in Australia
- It's the pace, not magnitude
- It's the tail, not the peak
- Synergies
- Emergent properties





- Reduce desertification
- Maintain soils
- Crop pollination
- Seed dispersal
- Food provision
- Water purification
- Fuel provision
- Fibre provision
- Climate regulation
- Flood regulation
- Disease regulation
- Waste decomposition/detoxification
- Nutrient cycling
- Soil formation
- Primary production
- Pharmaceutical sources
- Cultural appreciation (aesthetic, spiritual, educational, recreational...)

→ €153 billion/year

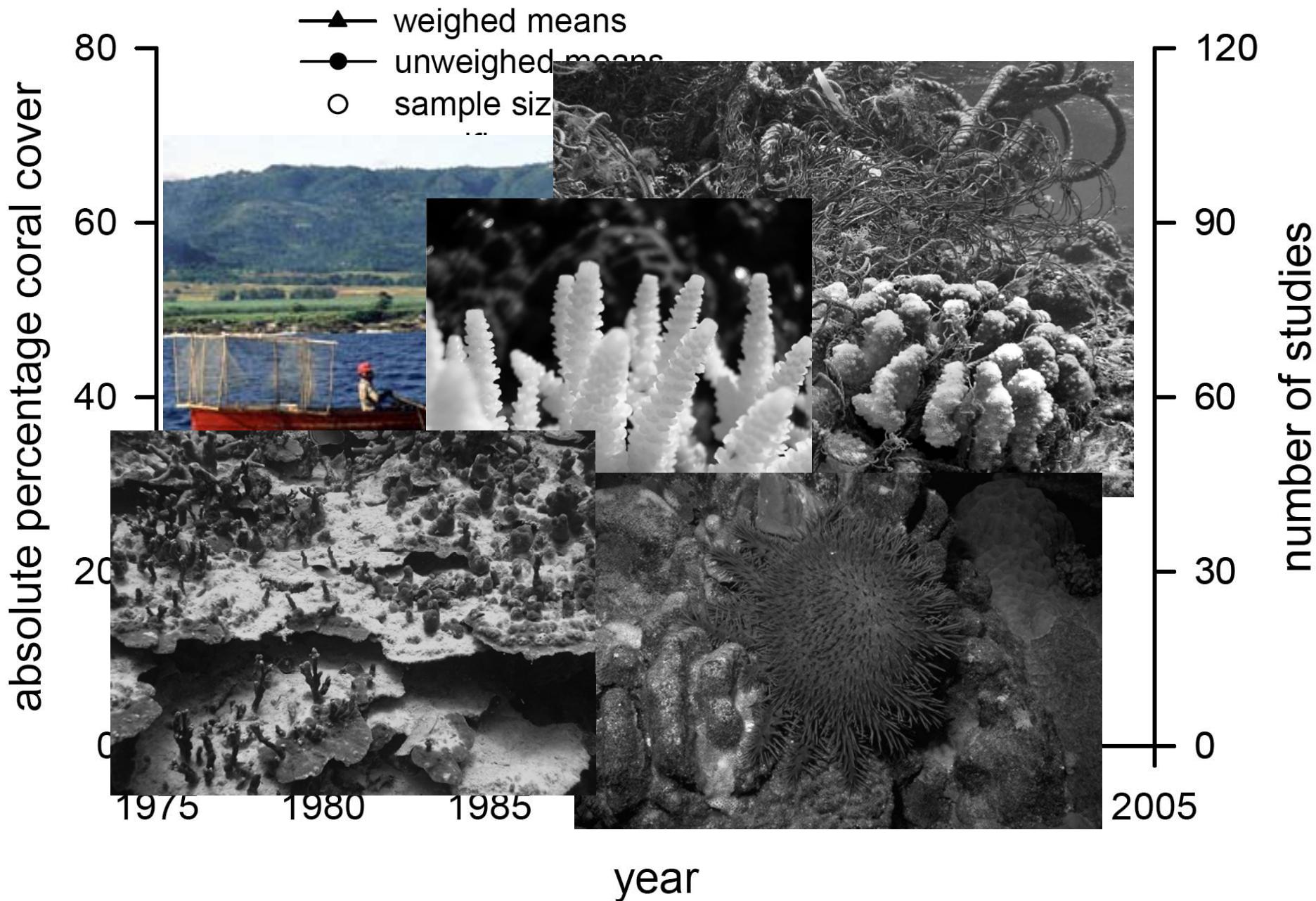
→ fisheries: €50 billion/year

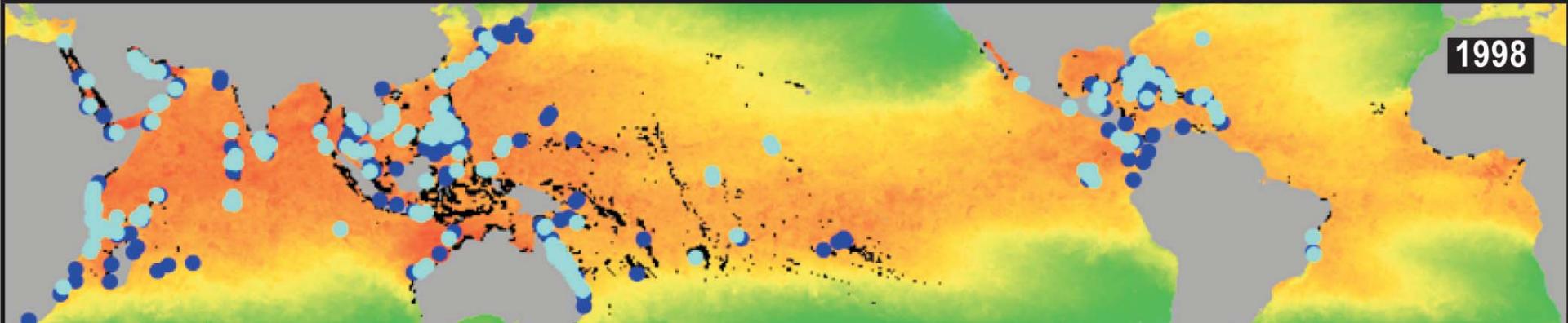
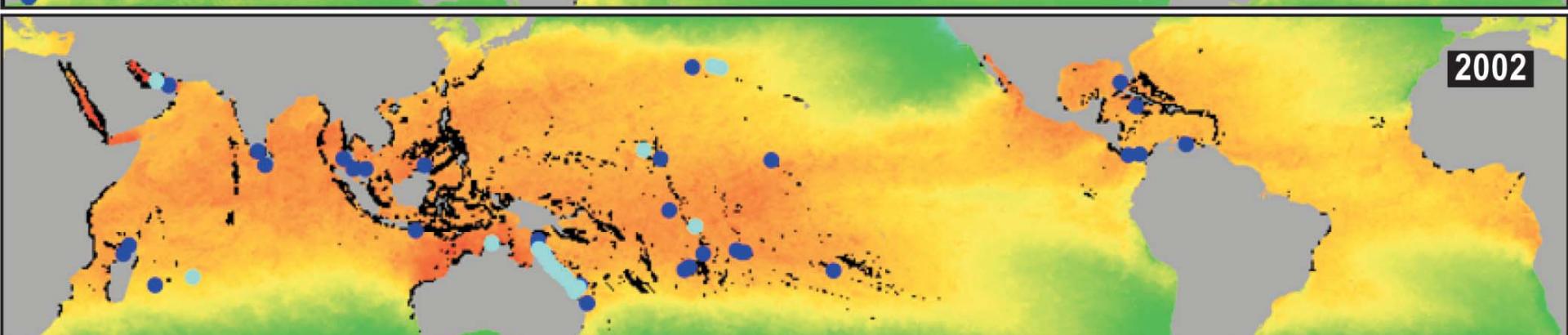
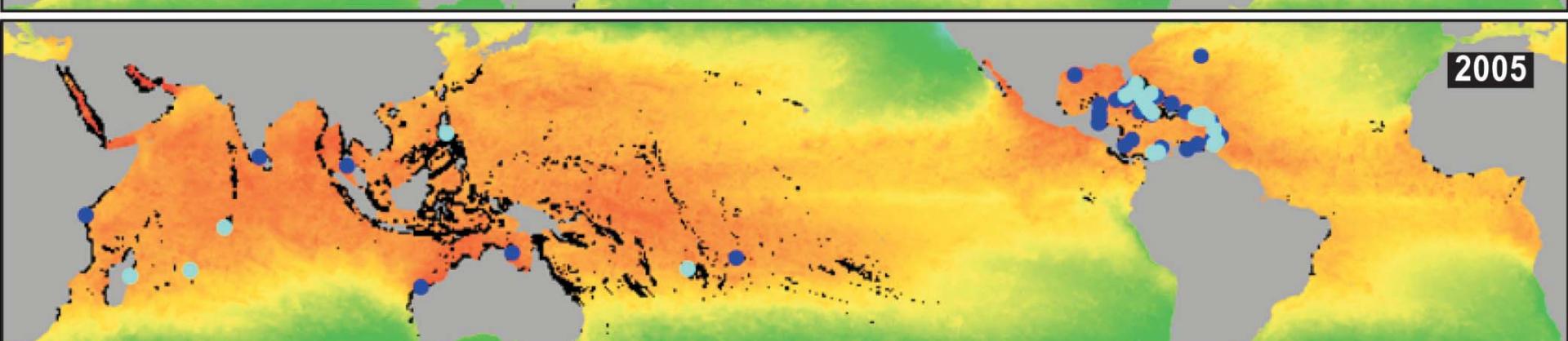
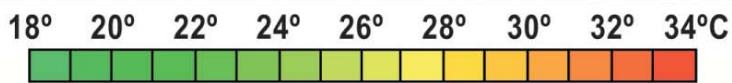
- €50 billion lost/year
- Land-based ecosystem loss €545 billion by 2010
- > €14 trillion/year lost by 2050

Cost of Policy Inaction (COPI):
The case of not meeting the 2010 biodiversity target.
European Commission





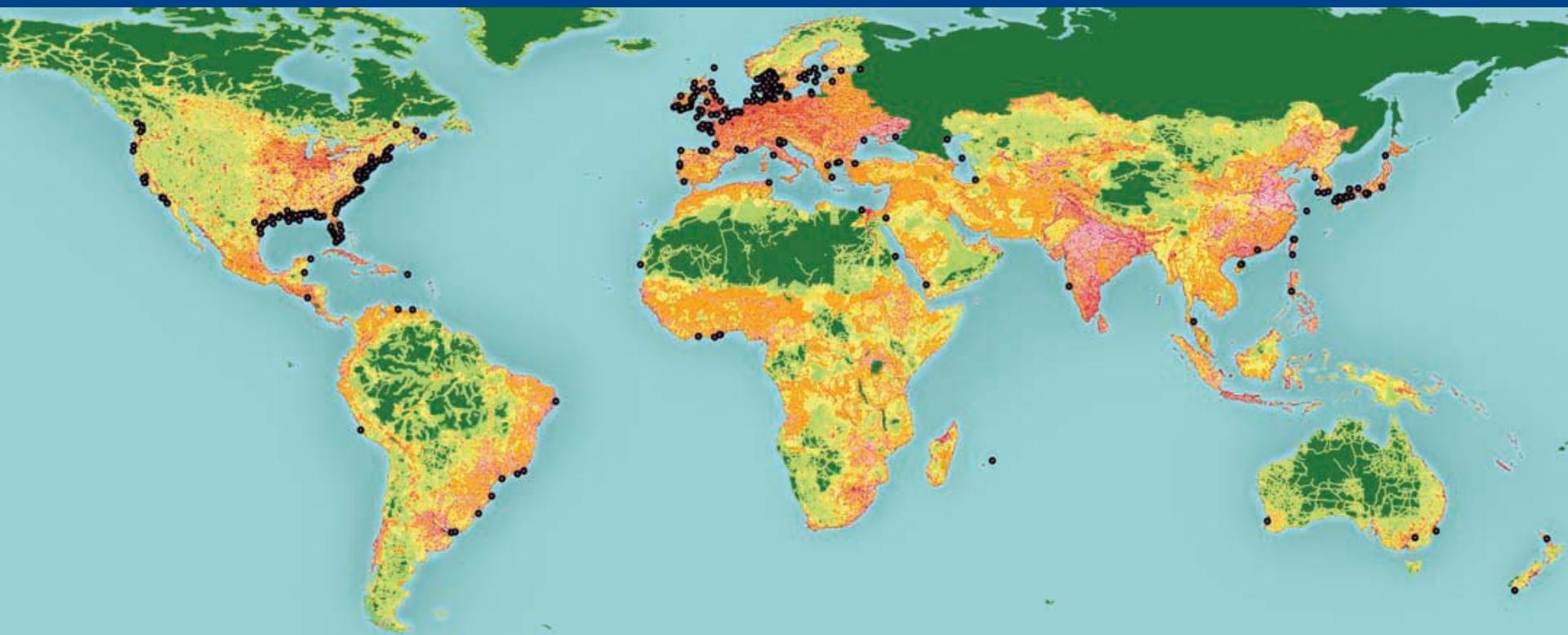


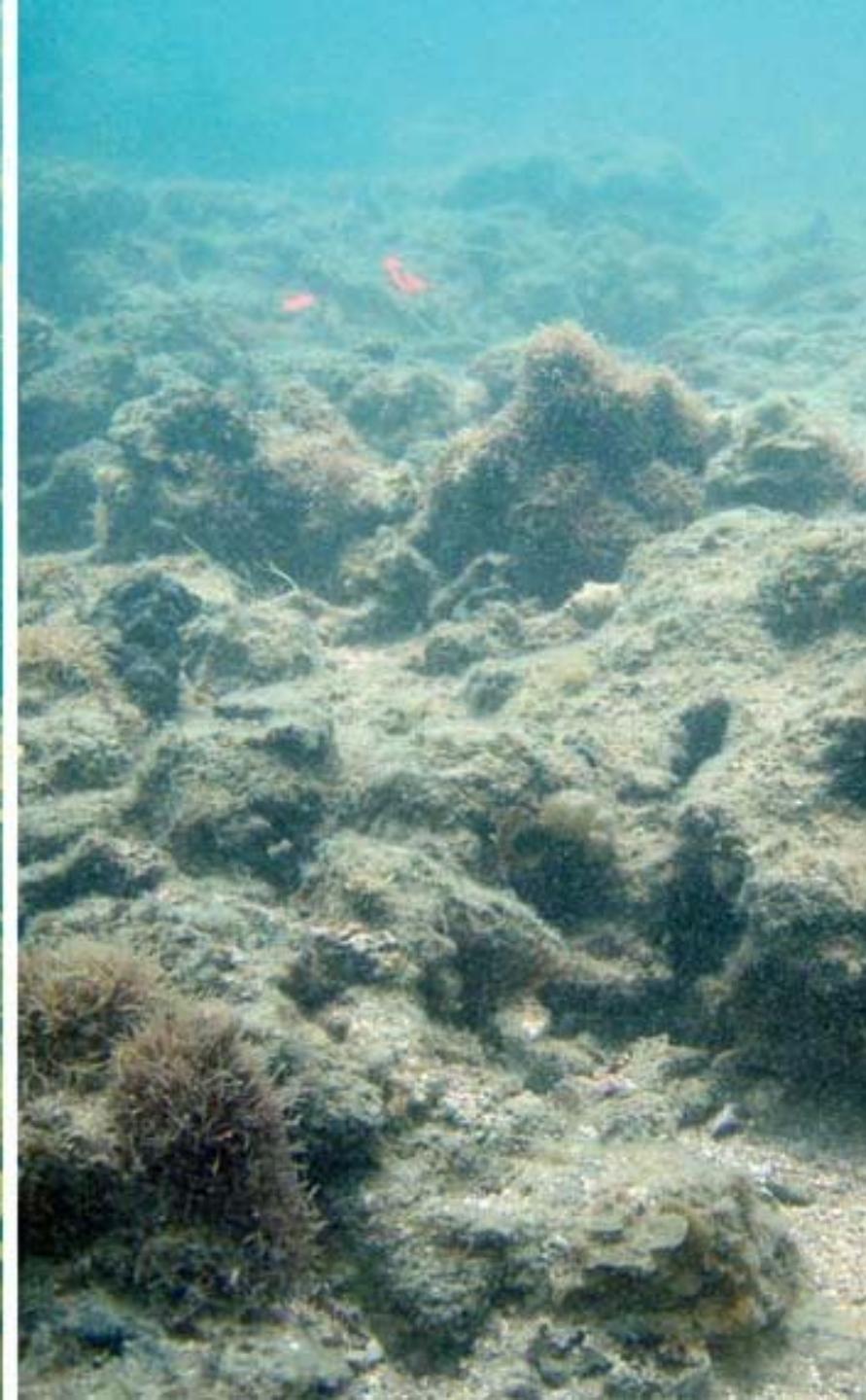
**1998****2002****2005**

● Severe bleaching

● Low to medium bleaching

Marine Dead Zones



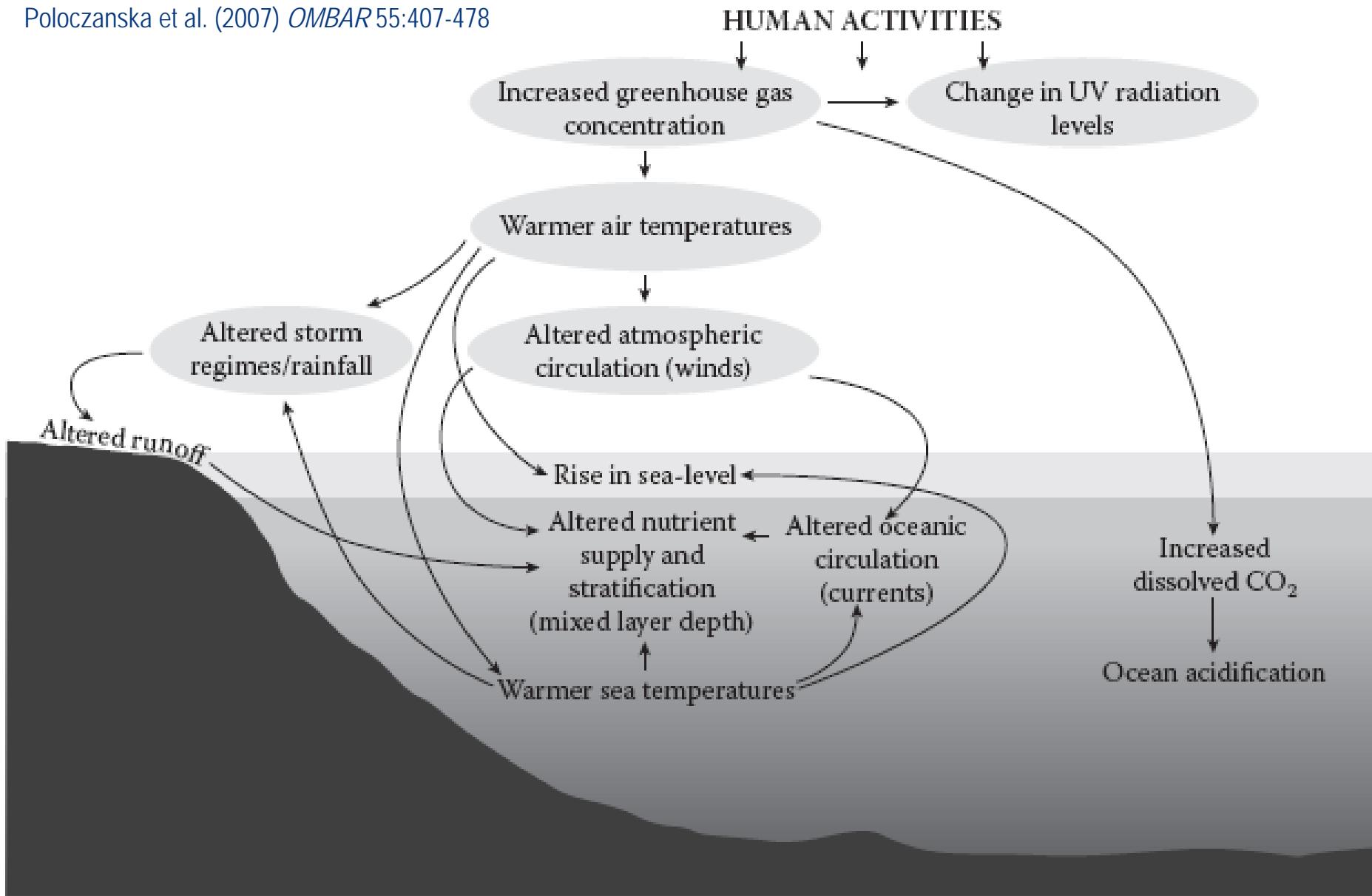


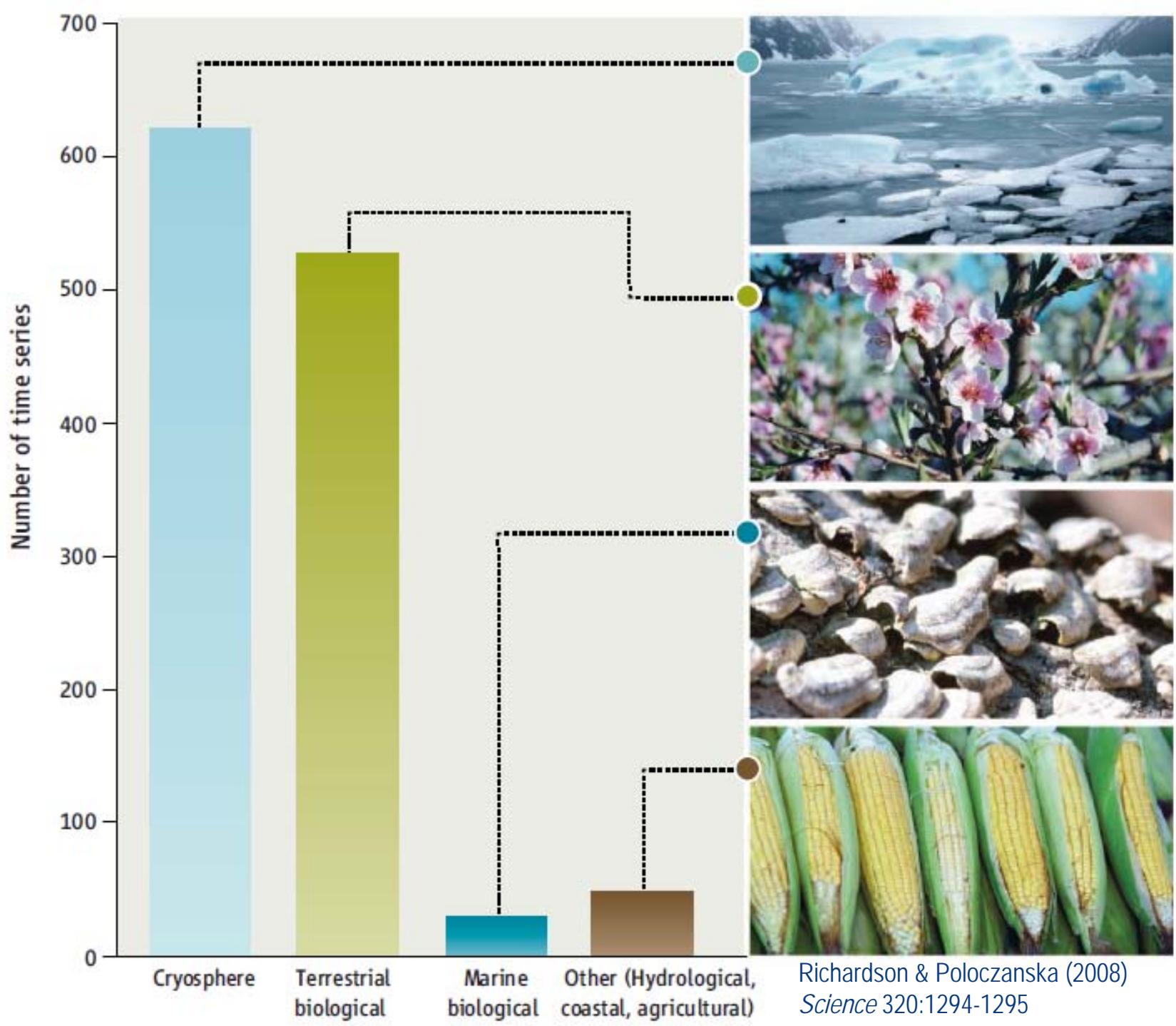
Connell et al. (2008) *Mar Ecol Prog Ser* 360:60-72





Ocean Damage Tour



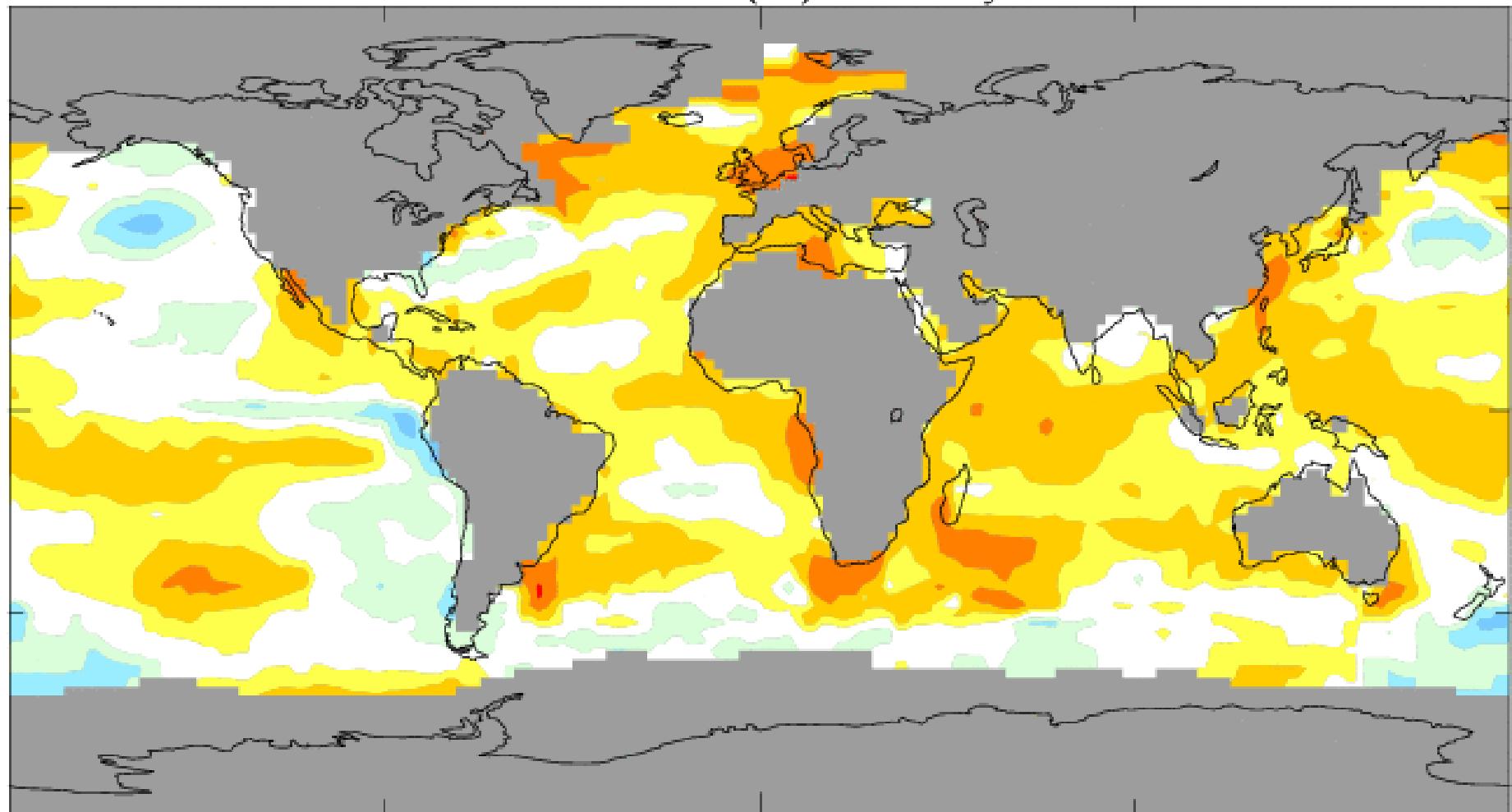


Note: Gray areas signify missing data.

Nov–Oct 2007

Tocn(°C) Anomaly vs 1951–1980

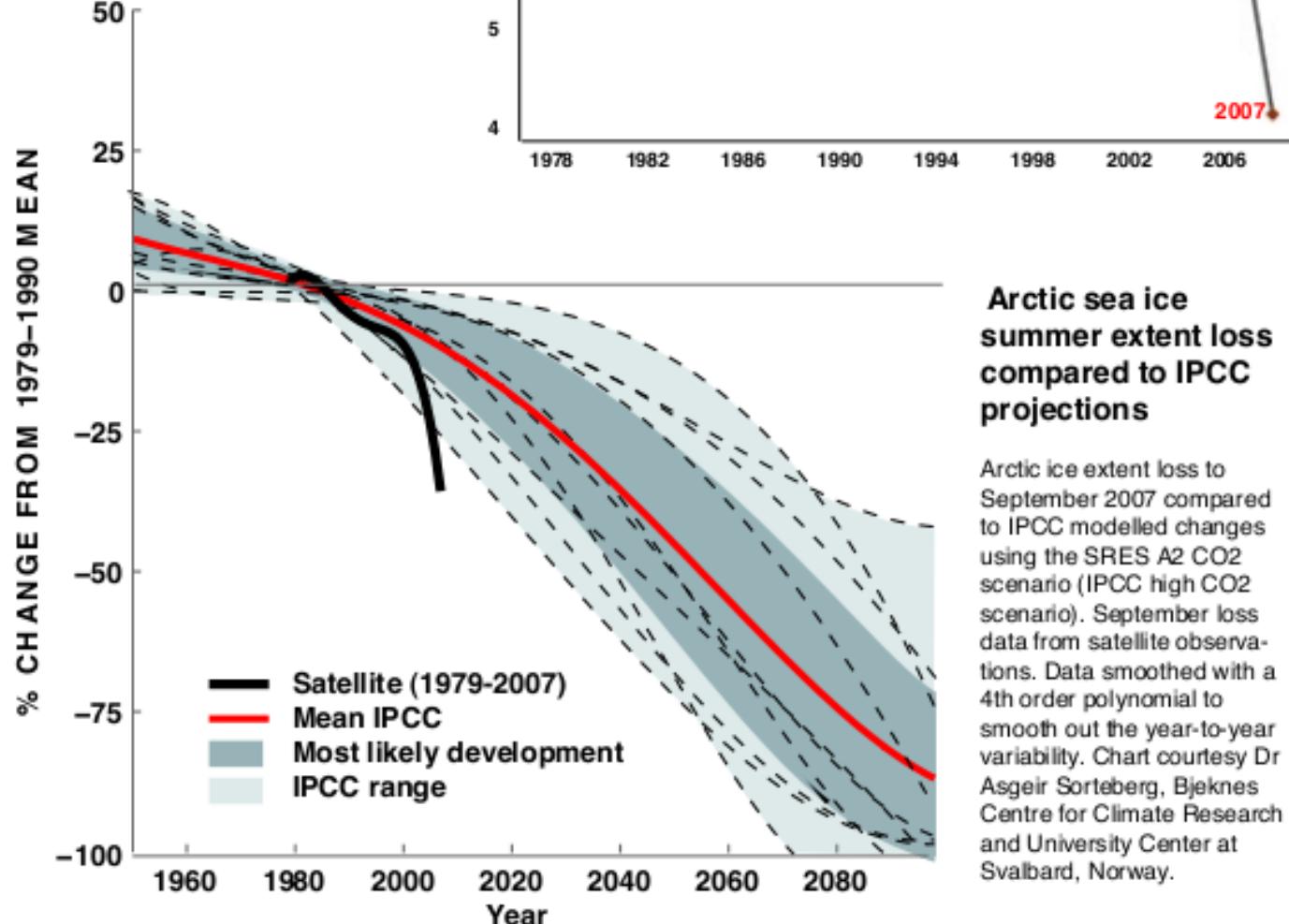
.31



Arctic sea ice extent 1978-2007

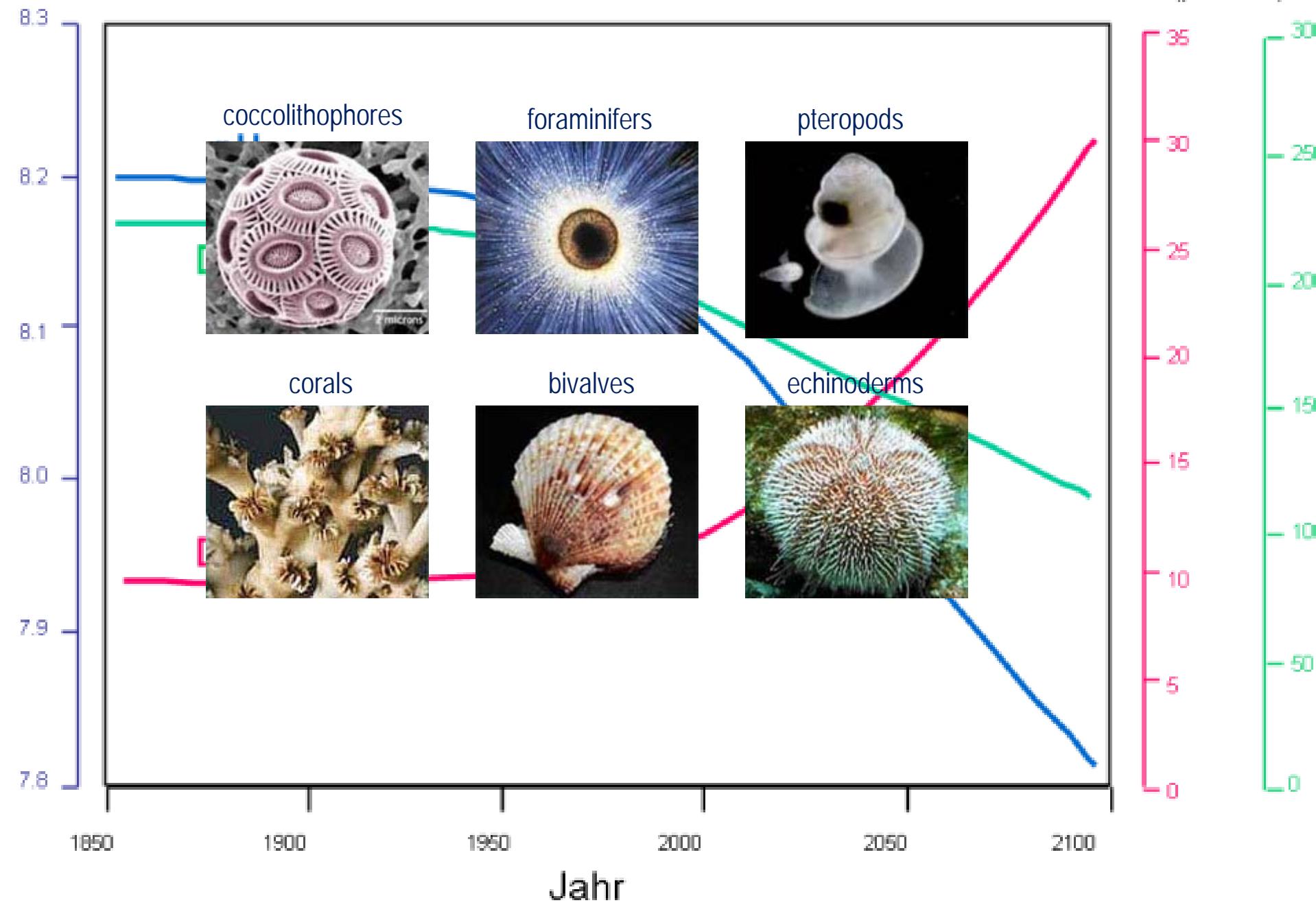
in millions of km²

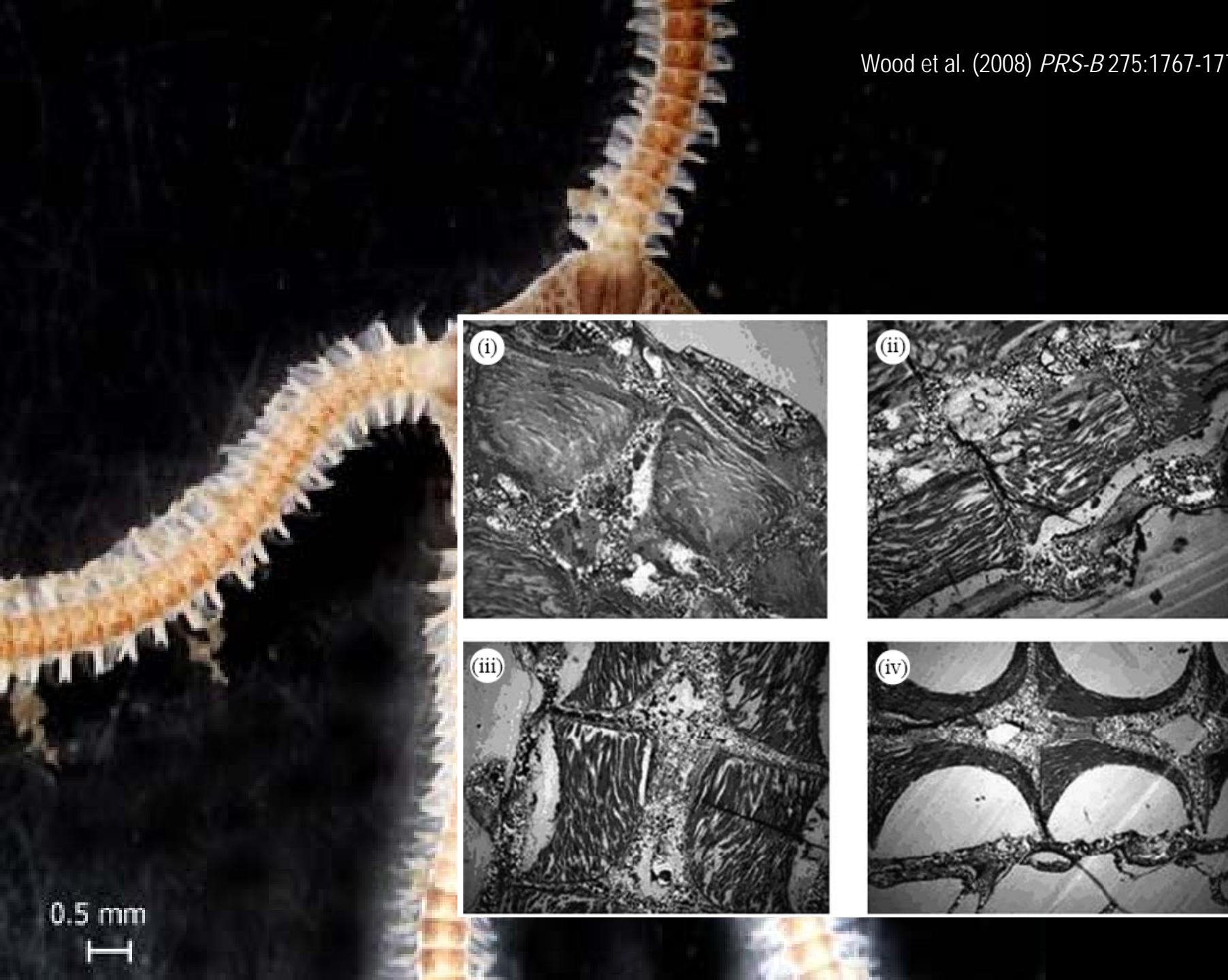
(National Snow and Ice Data Center)

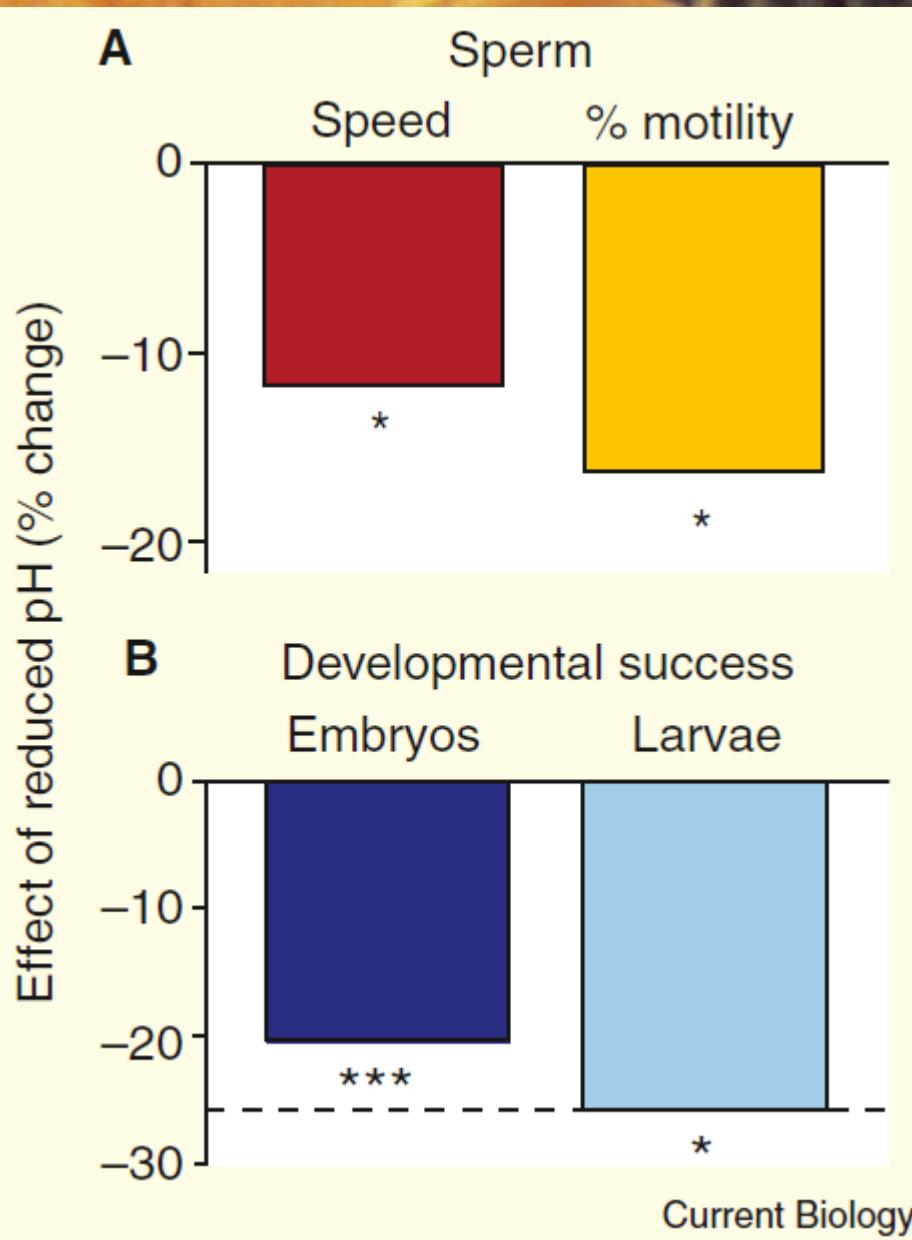


pH

[CO₂] [CO₃]
(μmol l⁻¹)



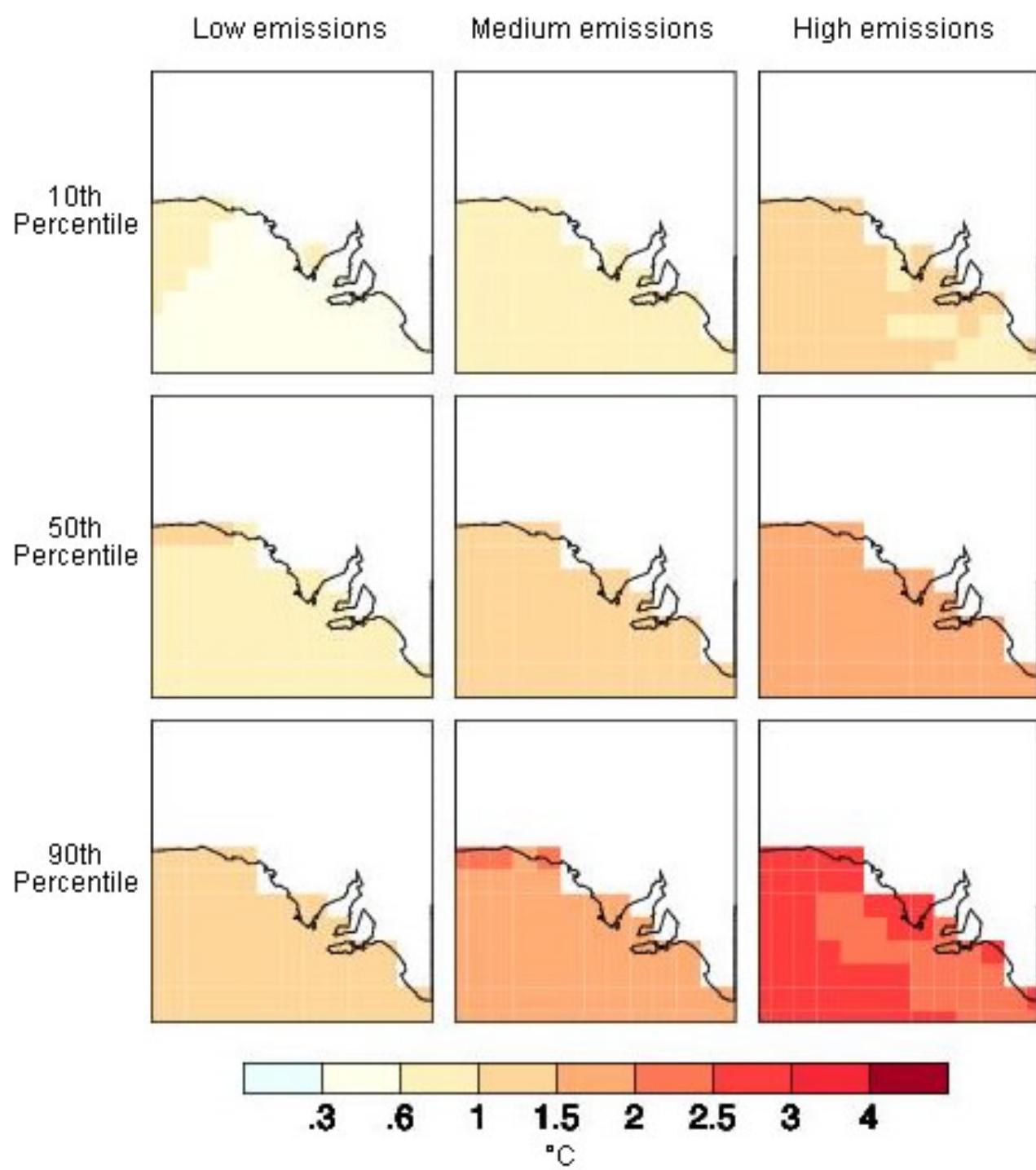




Current Biology



- warming by 1–2 °C by 2030s; 2–3 °C by 2070s
- CSIRO climate model projects greatest warming off southeast Australia
- area of greatest warming this century in Southern Hemisphere
- strengthening of EAC; increased southward flow
- greater upwelling (e.g., Bonney Coast)
- decreasing pH by 0.2
- mass coral bleaching events
- seagrass die-offs/contraction of kelp ranges
- poleward shift in phytoplankton/zooplankton/fish (e.g., long-spined sea urchin, 36 spp Tasmanian marine fish)

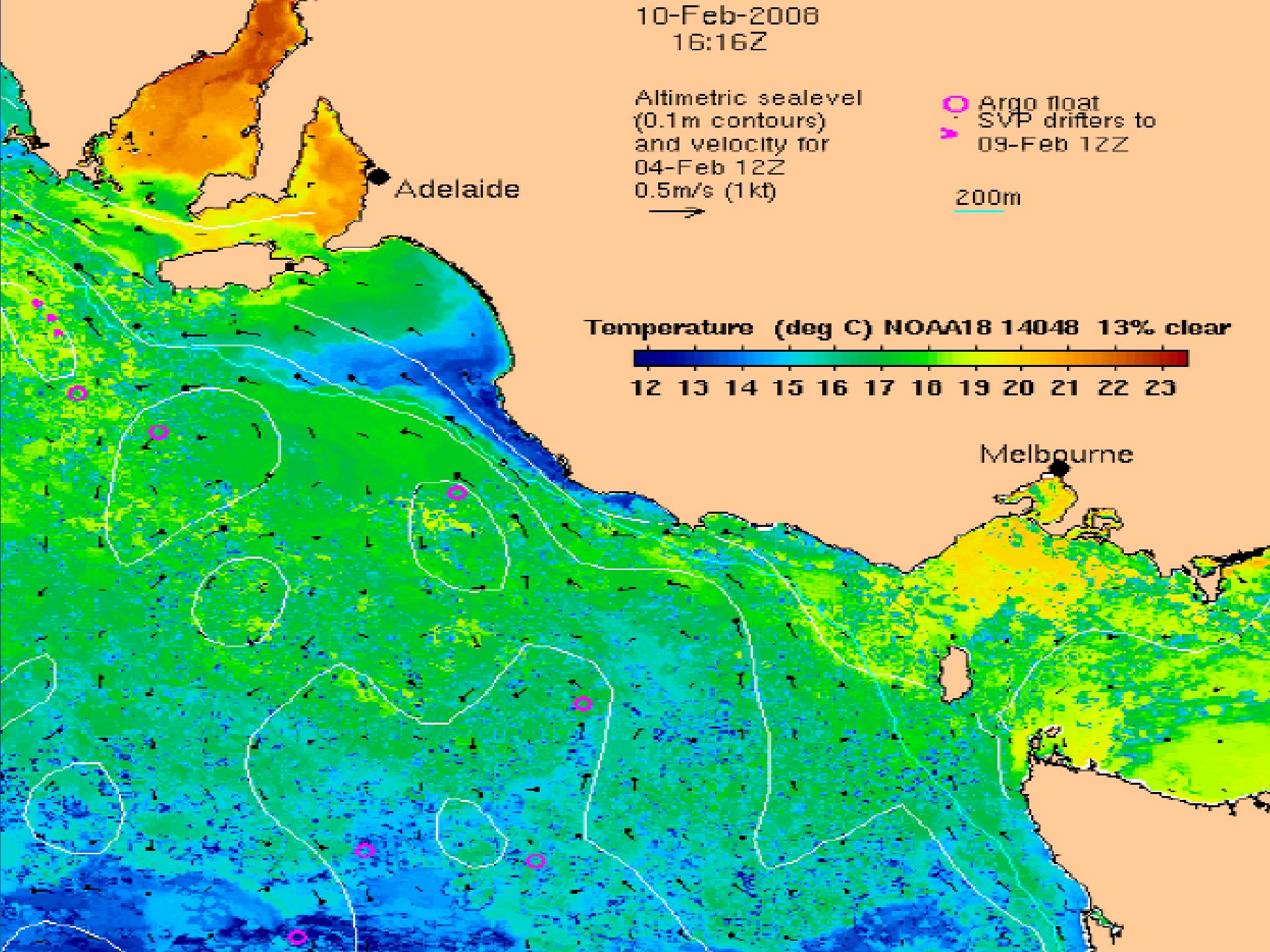


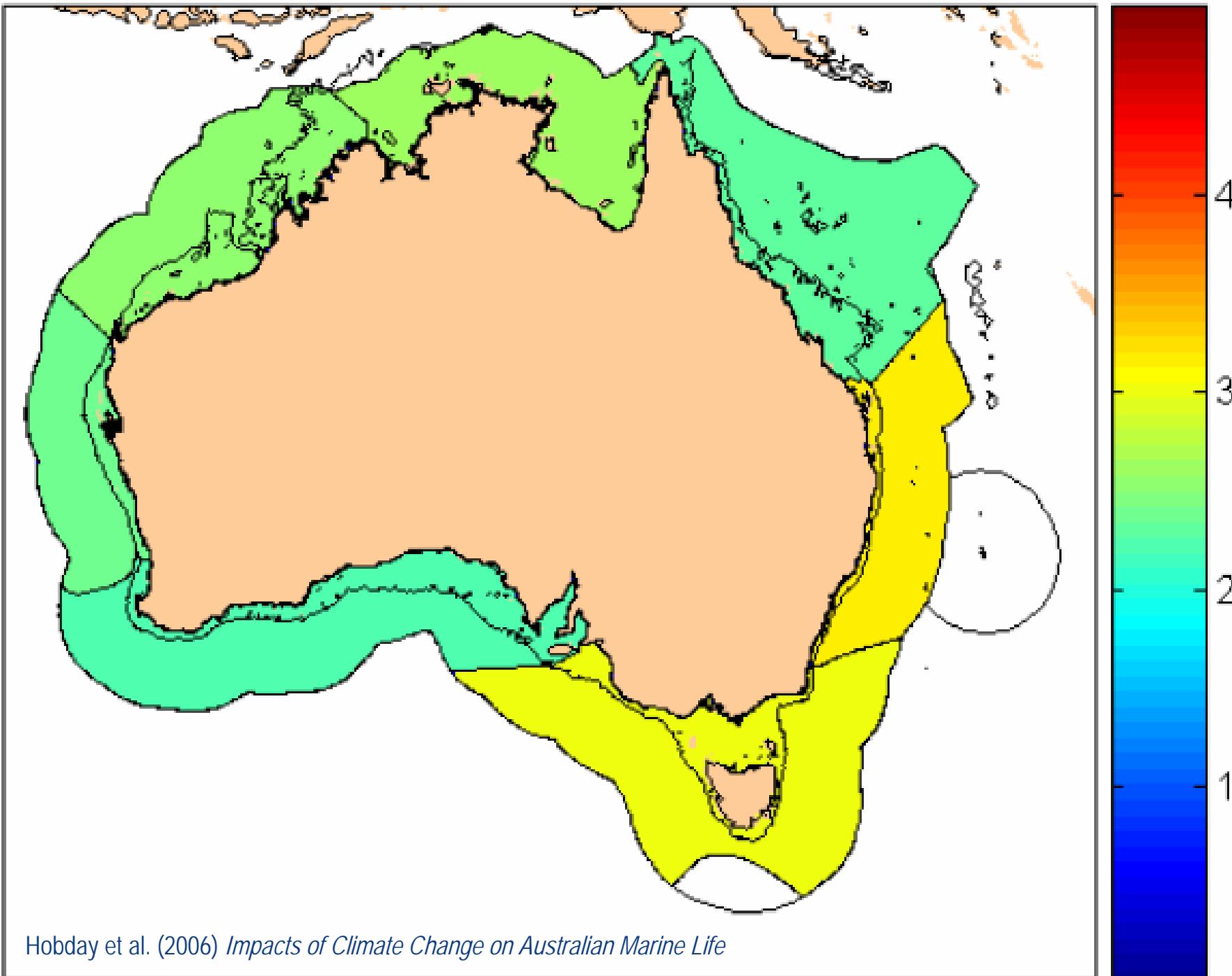
10-Feb-2008
16:16Z

Altimetric sealevel
(0.1m contours)
and velocity for
04-Feb 12Z
0.5m/s (1kt)

○ Argo float
▼ SVP drifters to
09-Feb 12Z

200m

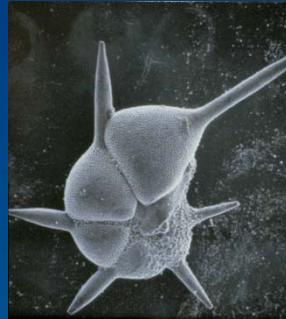
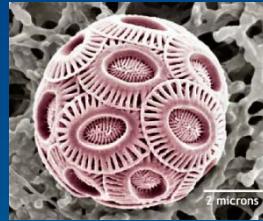




Hobday et al. (2006) *Impacts of Climate Change on Australian Marine Life*

Phytoplankton & Zooplankton

- ↑ SST & EAC flow → southward movement
- ↑ abundance already, including toxic blooms
- ↓ abundance of calcareous species (e.g., coccolithophores)
- earlier phenology
- likely community changes through mixing
- ↑ jelly swarms



Seagrasses & Kelp

- ↑ biomass through ↑ CO₂
- shifts distribution southward
- △ timing reproduction
- ↑ destruction from ↑ storms
- ↓ UV-intolerant species
- △ rainfall → species △



Benthic & Demersal Fishes

- ↑ southward shifts (already)
- ↑ temperature will change abundance & distribution
- ↓ ranges where bounded in south
- synergies with fishing

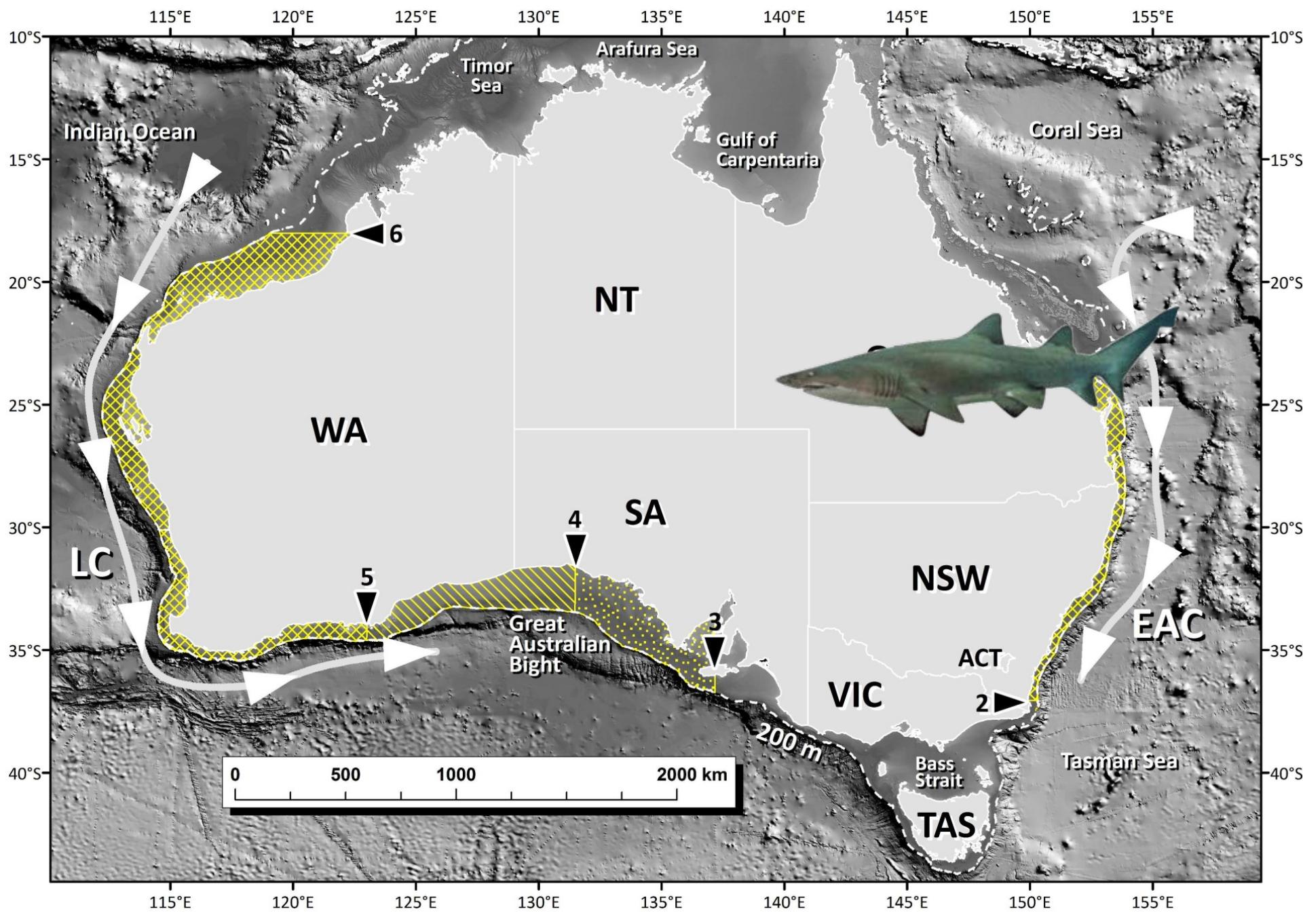


Pelagic Fishes

- ↑ southward movement
- △ upwelling intensity affect mid-trophic pelagics (e.g., anchovy)
- larval transport







**Months/year
with SST > 14 °C**

- 7 - 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12

A



NT

WA

SA

QLD

NSW

VIC

TAS

2007

10°S
15°S
20°S
25°S
30°S
35°S
40°S
45°S

0 500 1000 2000 km

2030

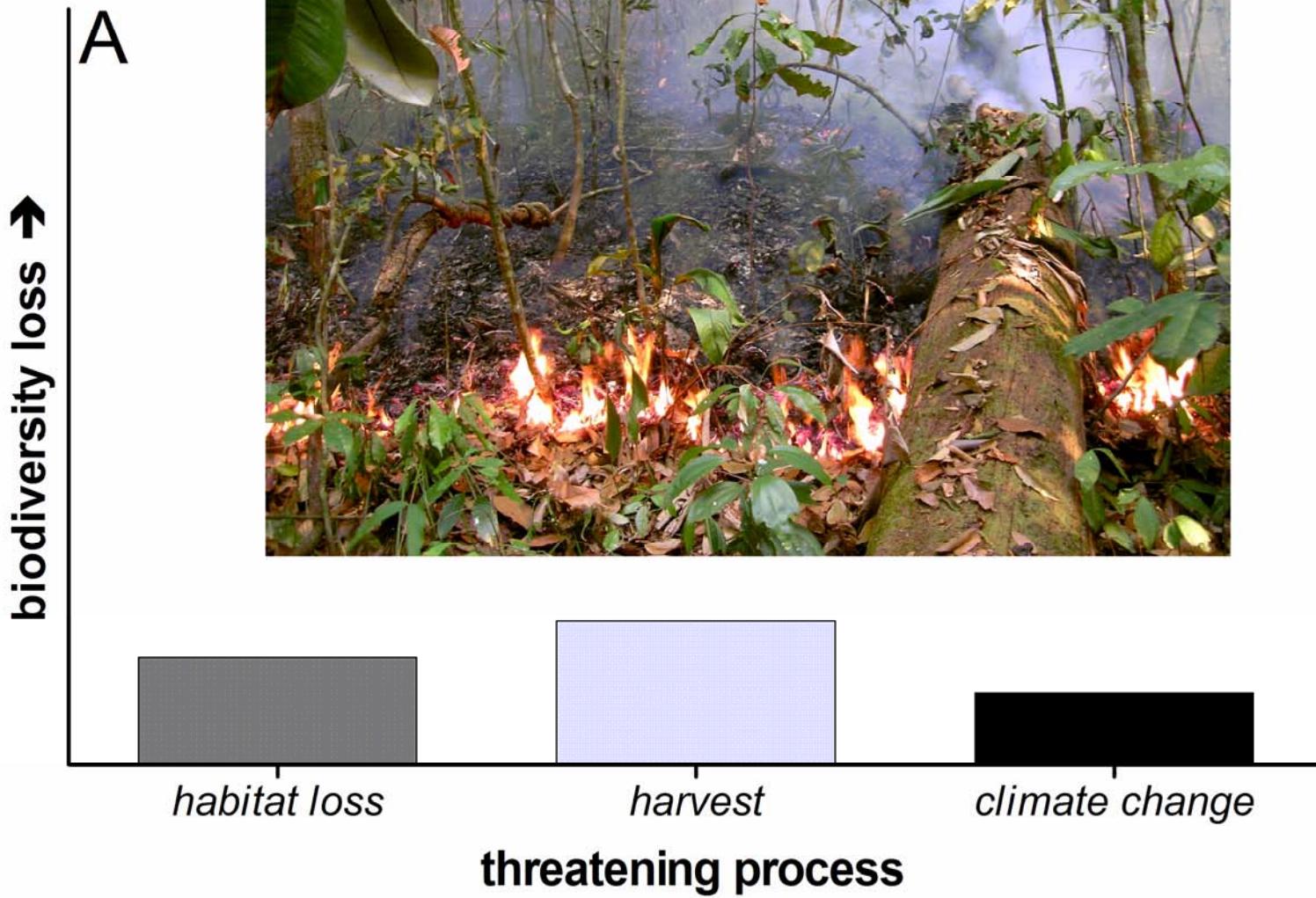
10°S
15°S
20°S
25°S
30°S
35°S
40°S

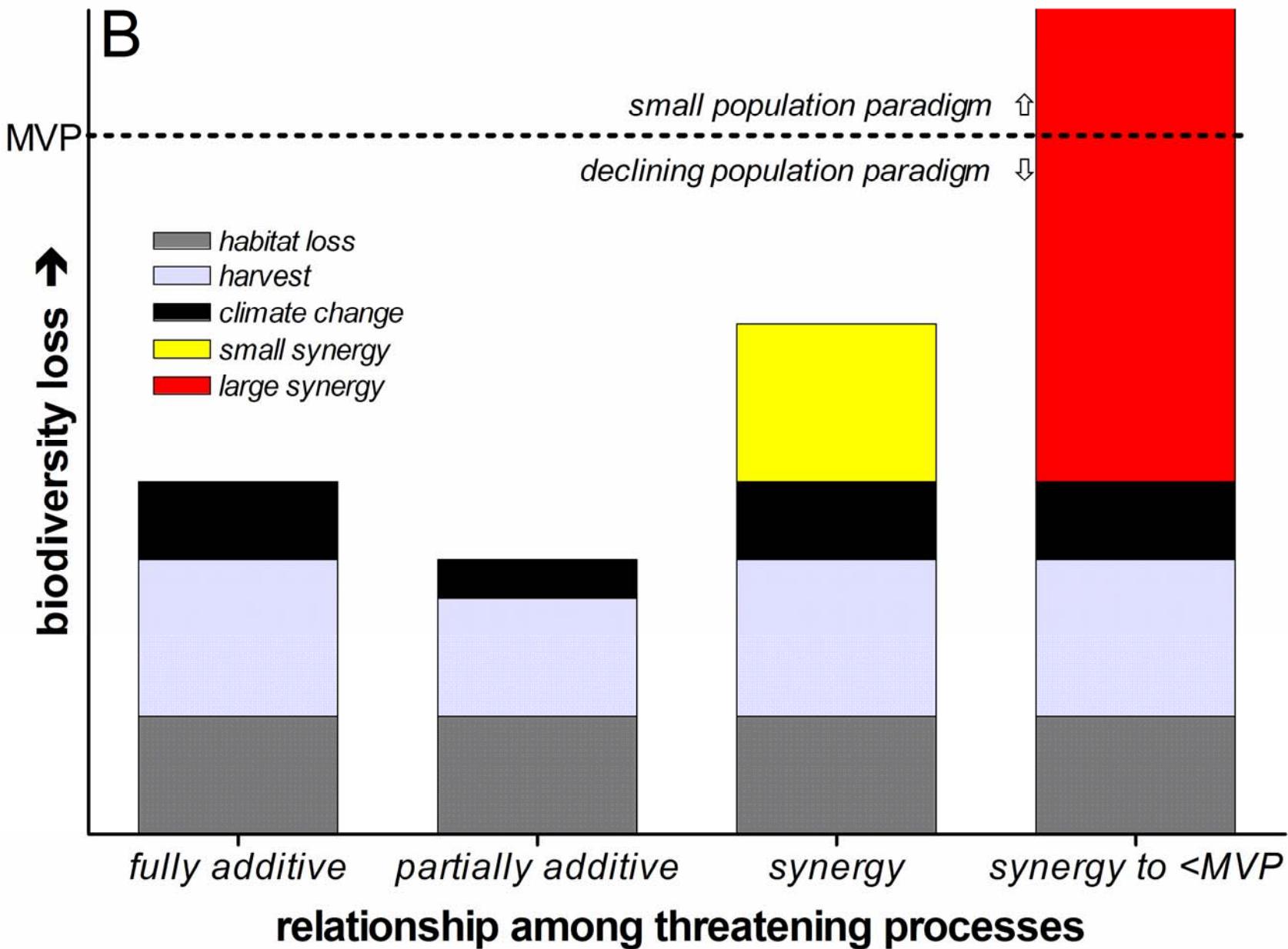
B

115°E 120°E 125°E 130°E 135°E 140°E 145°E 150°E 155°E 160°E

<i>Inflation of current reported fishing rates</i>	<i>No connectivity MVP_{40G99}</i>	<i>No connectivity $Pr(r < 0)_{40G}$</i>	<i>Connectivity MVP_{40G99}</i>	<i>Connectivity $Pr(r > 0)_{40G}$</i>
R1 ×	4250	0.014	3750	0.015
R2 ×	6000	0.030	5350	0.054
R4 ×	7550	0.185	7200	0.227







(a)



(b)



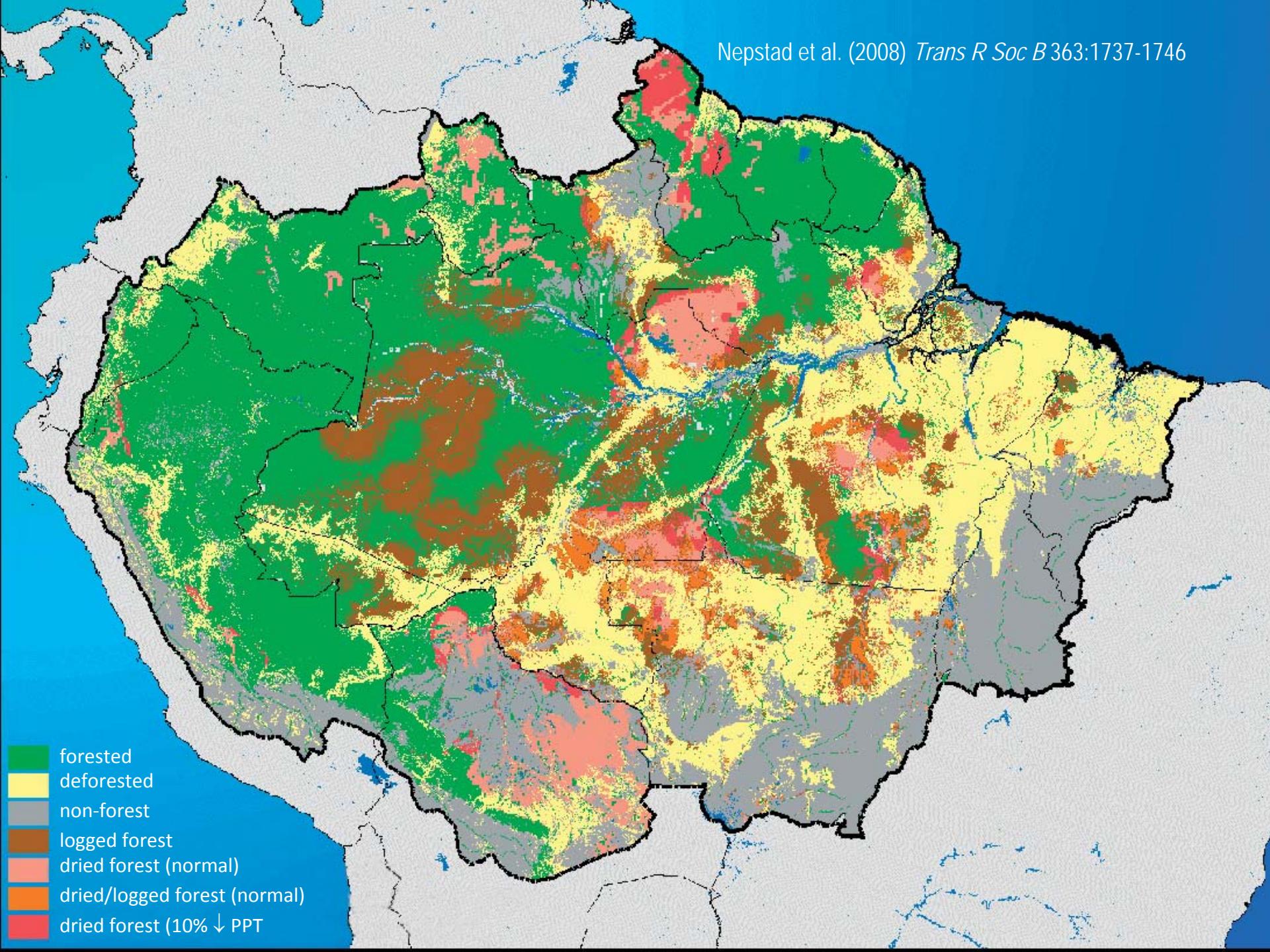
(c)



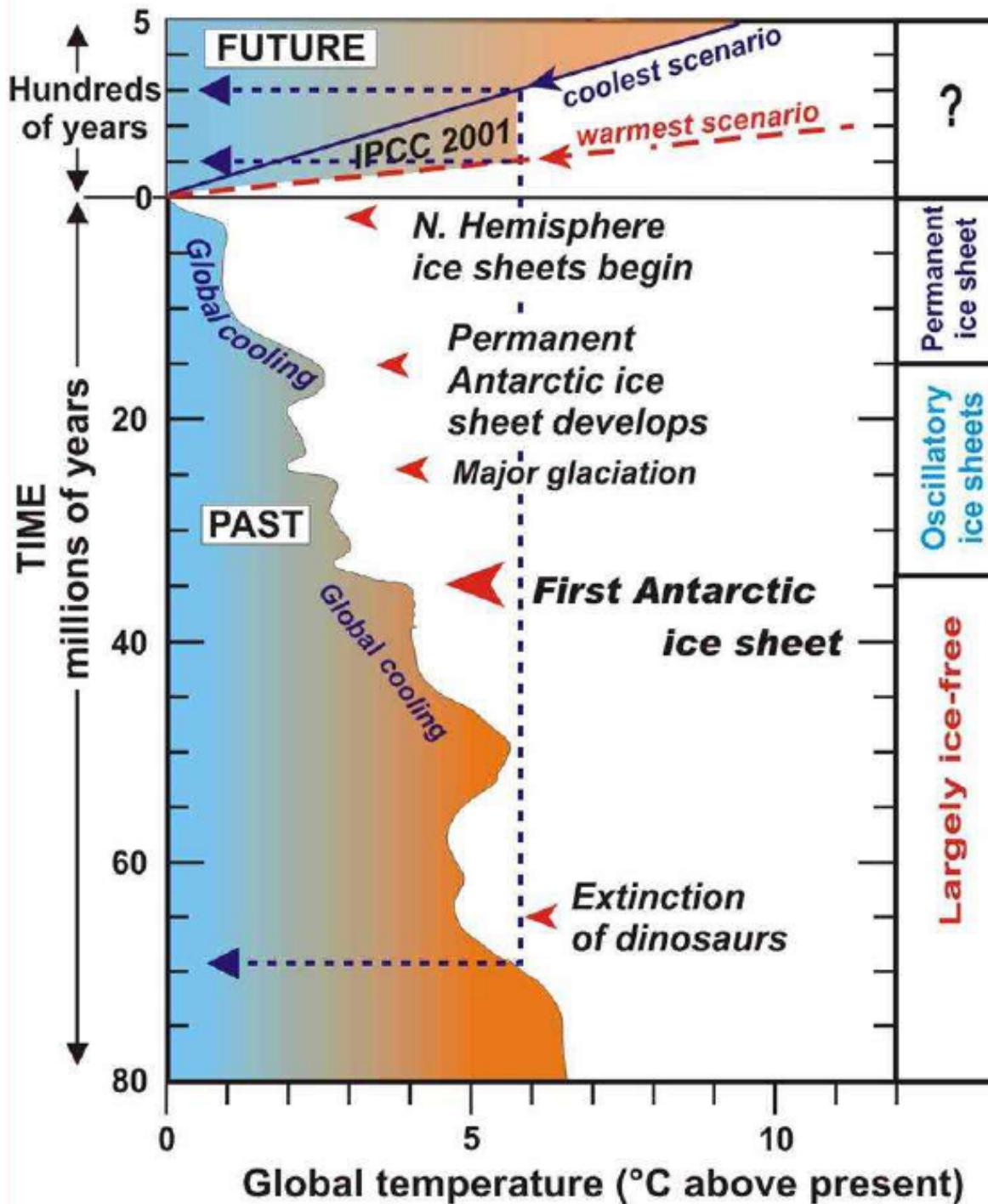
no fire

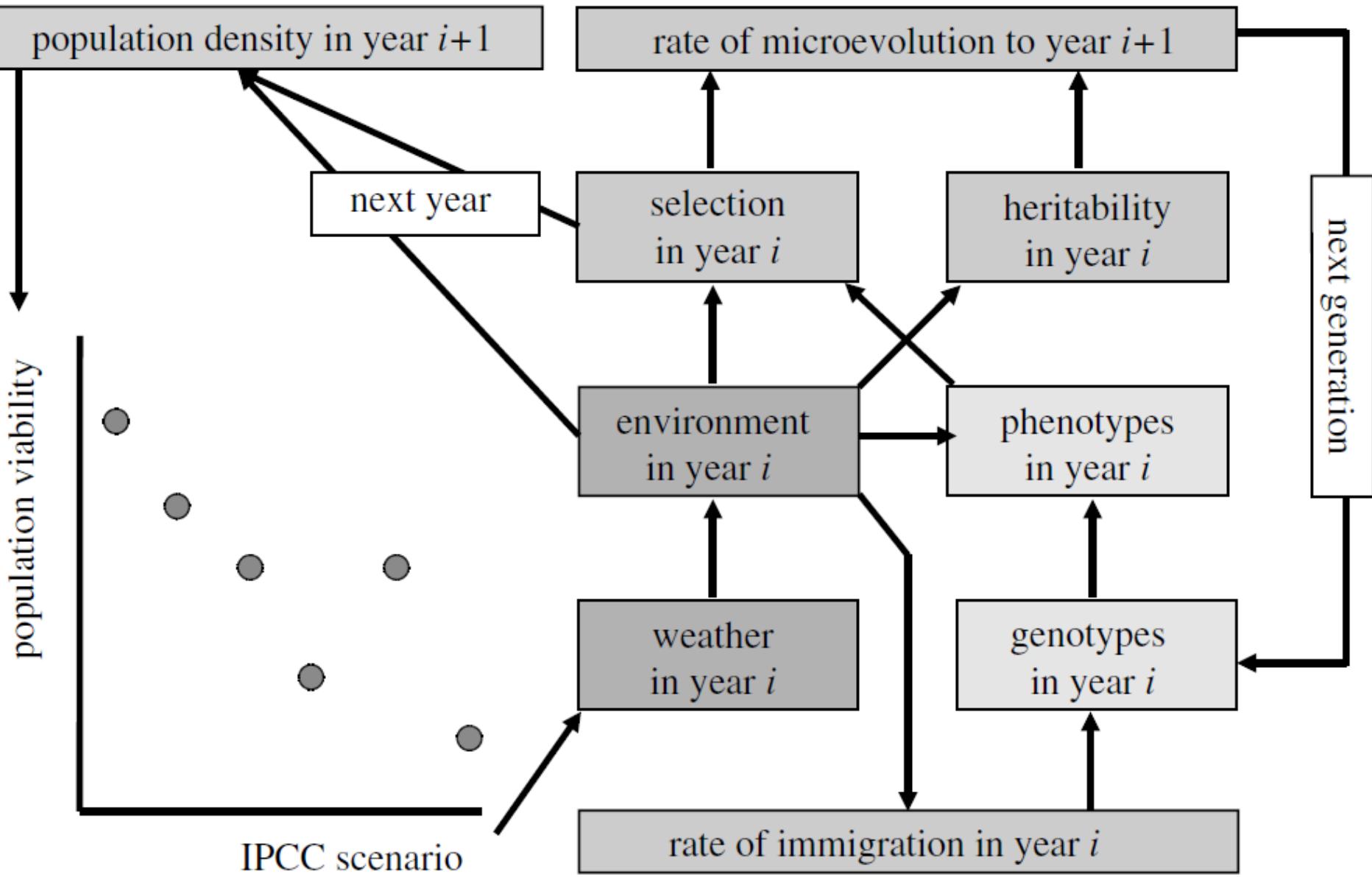
1 fire

≥ 3 fires

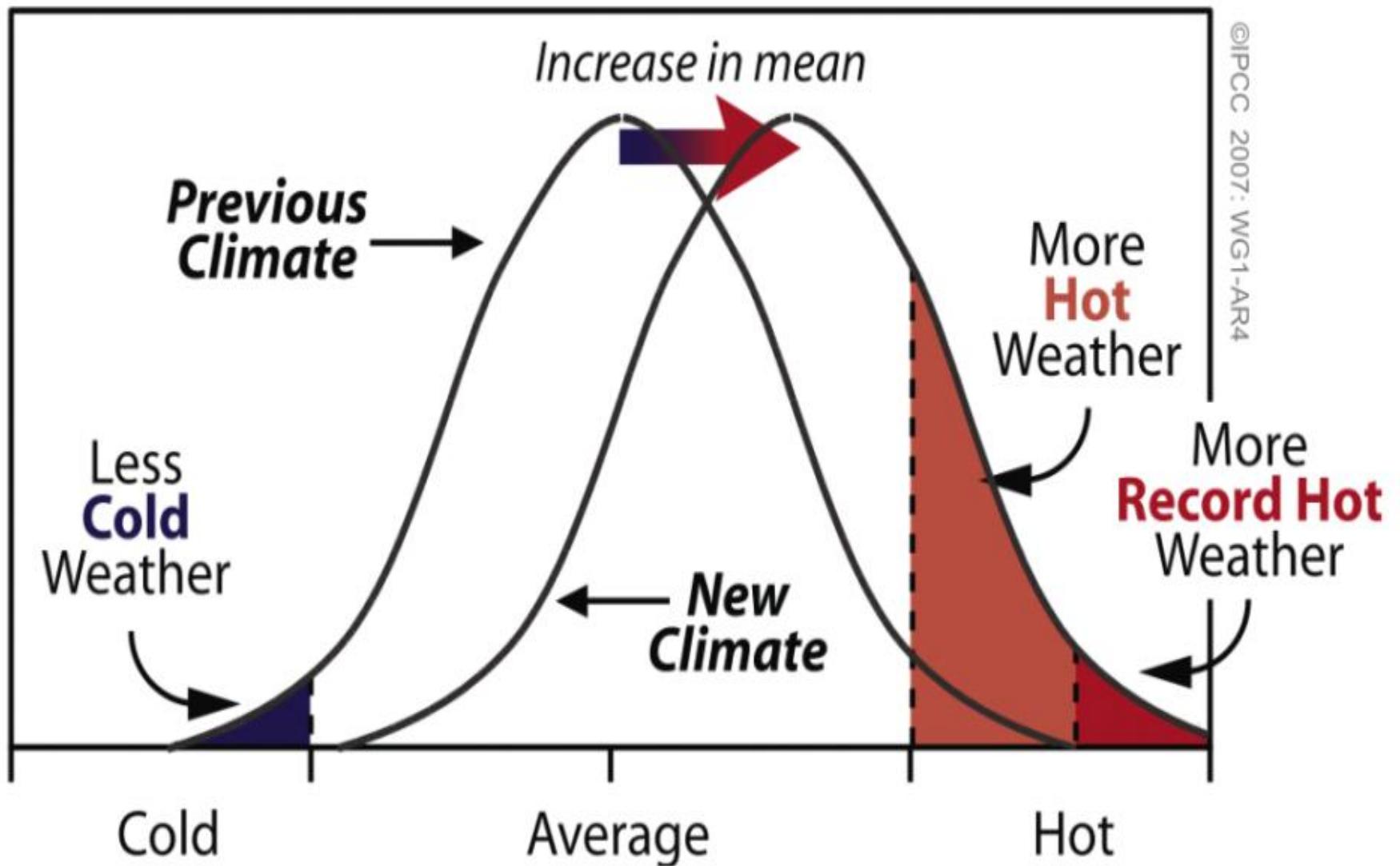


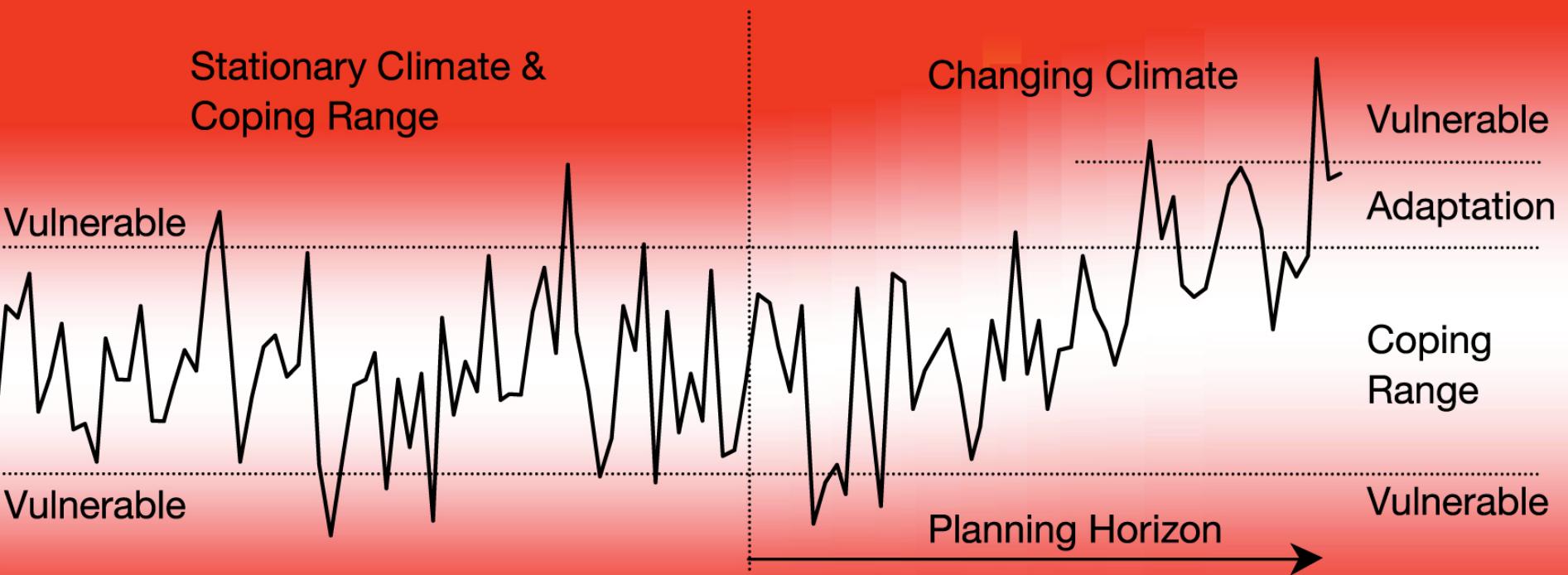
- forested
- deforested
- non-forest
- logged forest
- dried forest (normal)
- dried/logged forest (normal)
- dried forest (10% ↓ PPT)

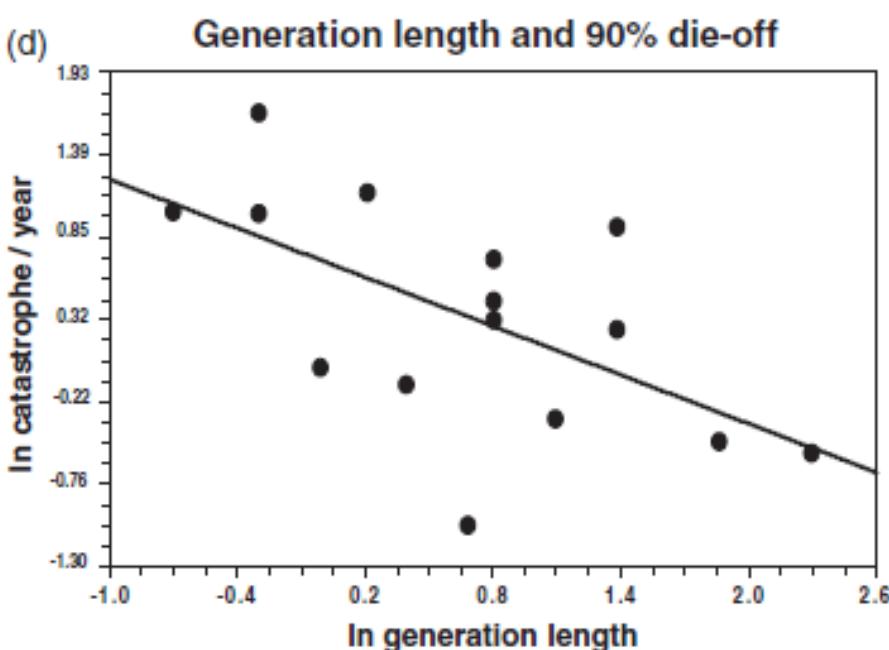
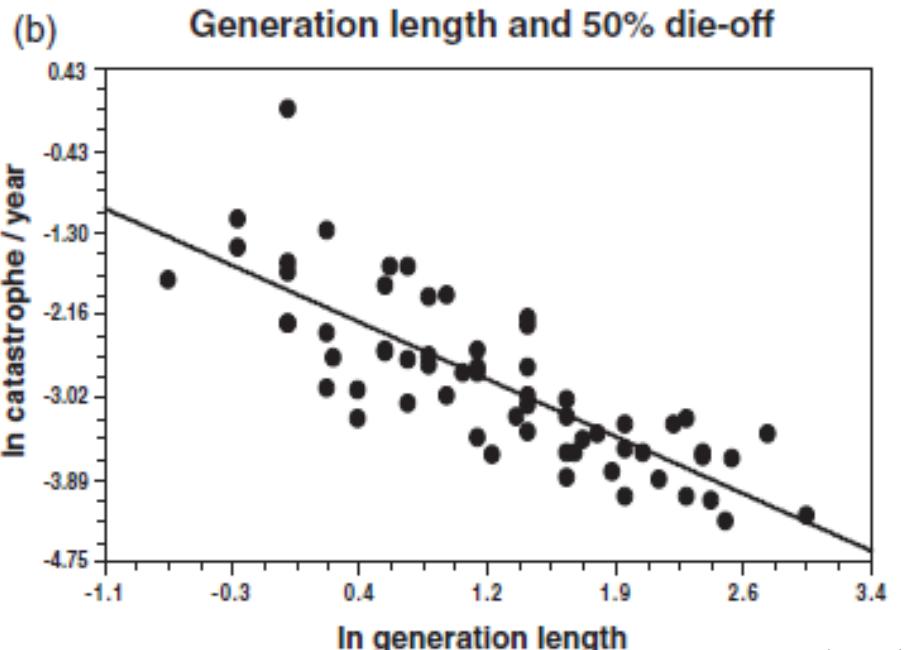
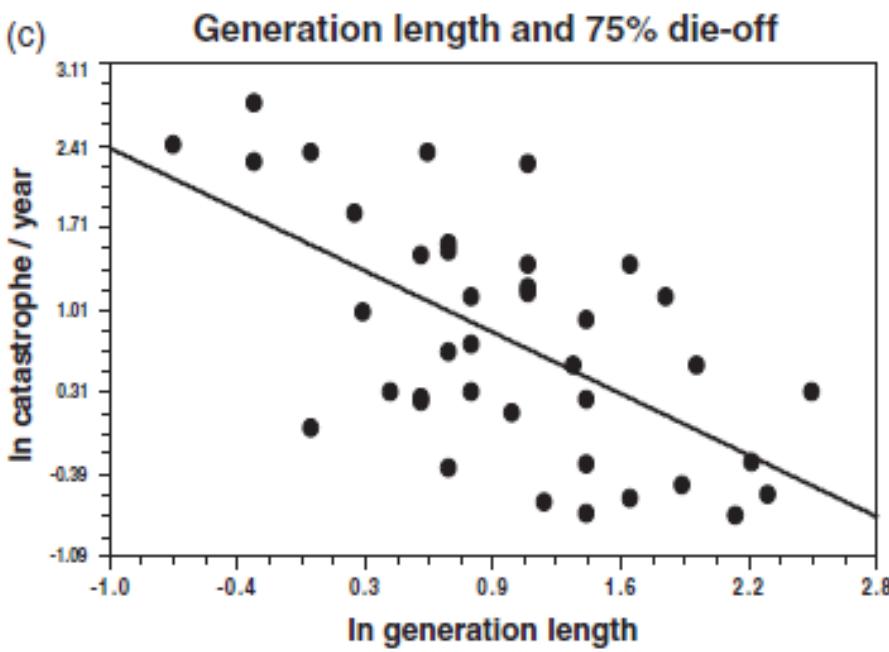
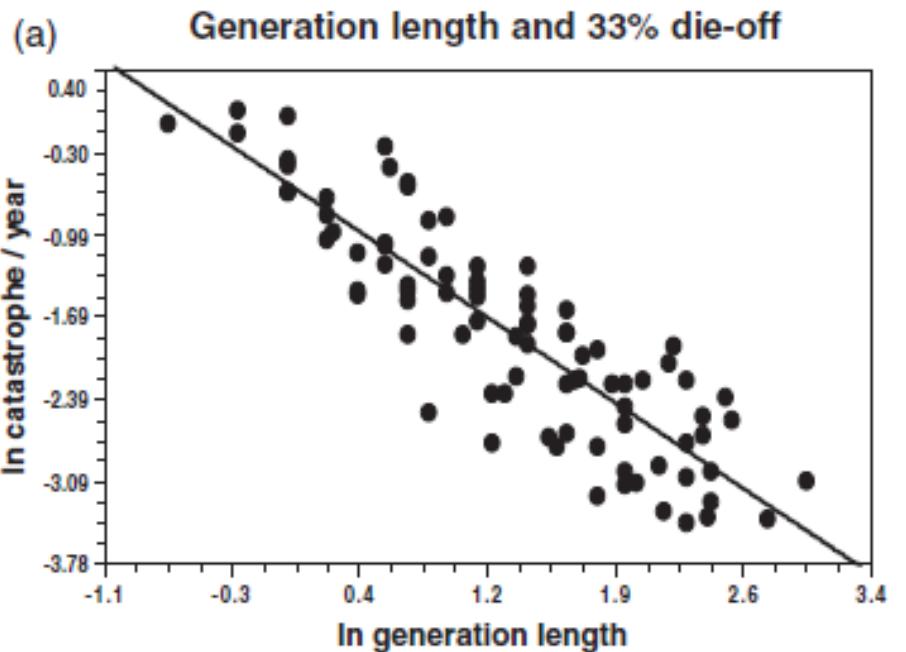




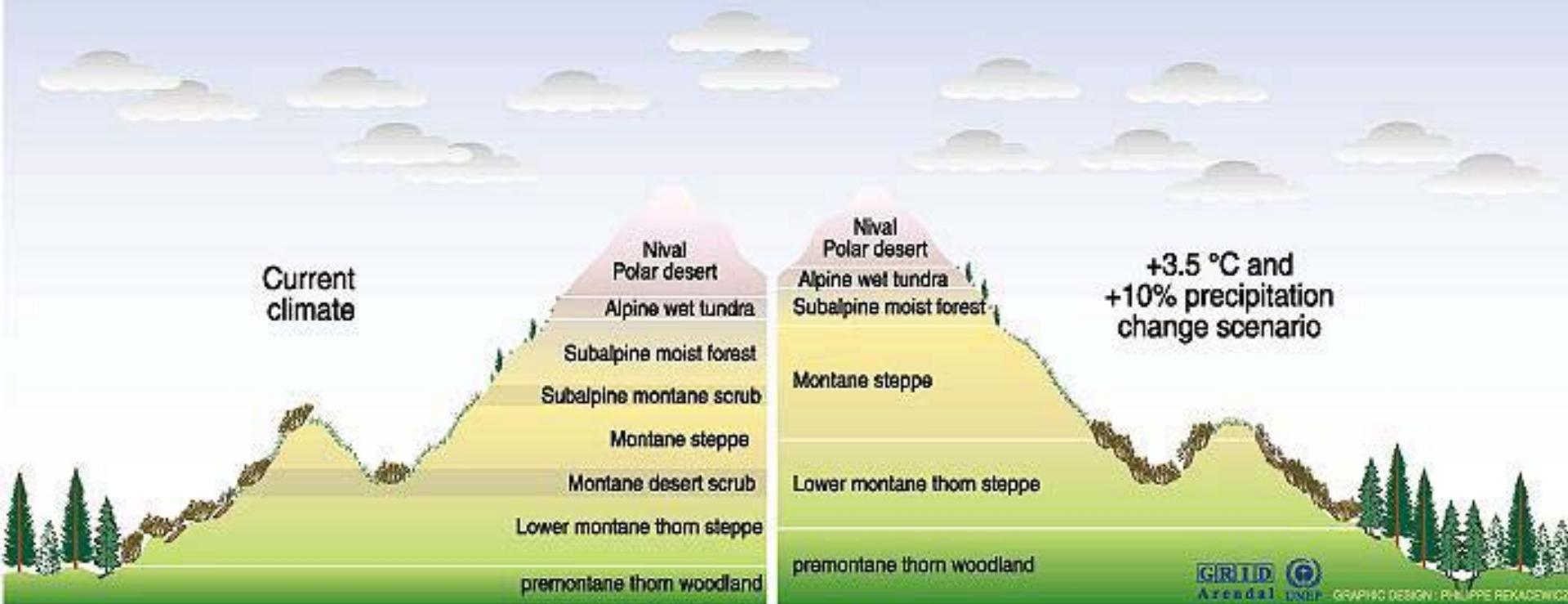
Probability of occurrence







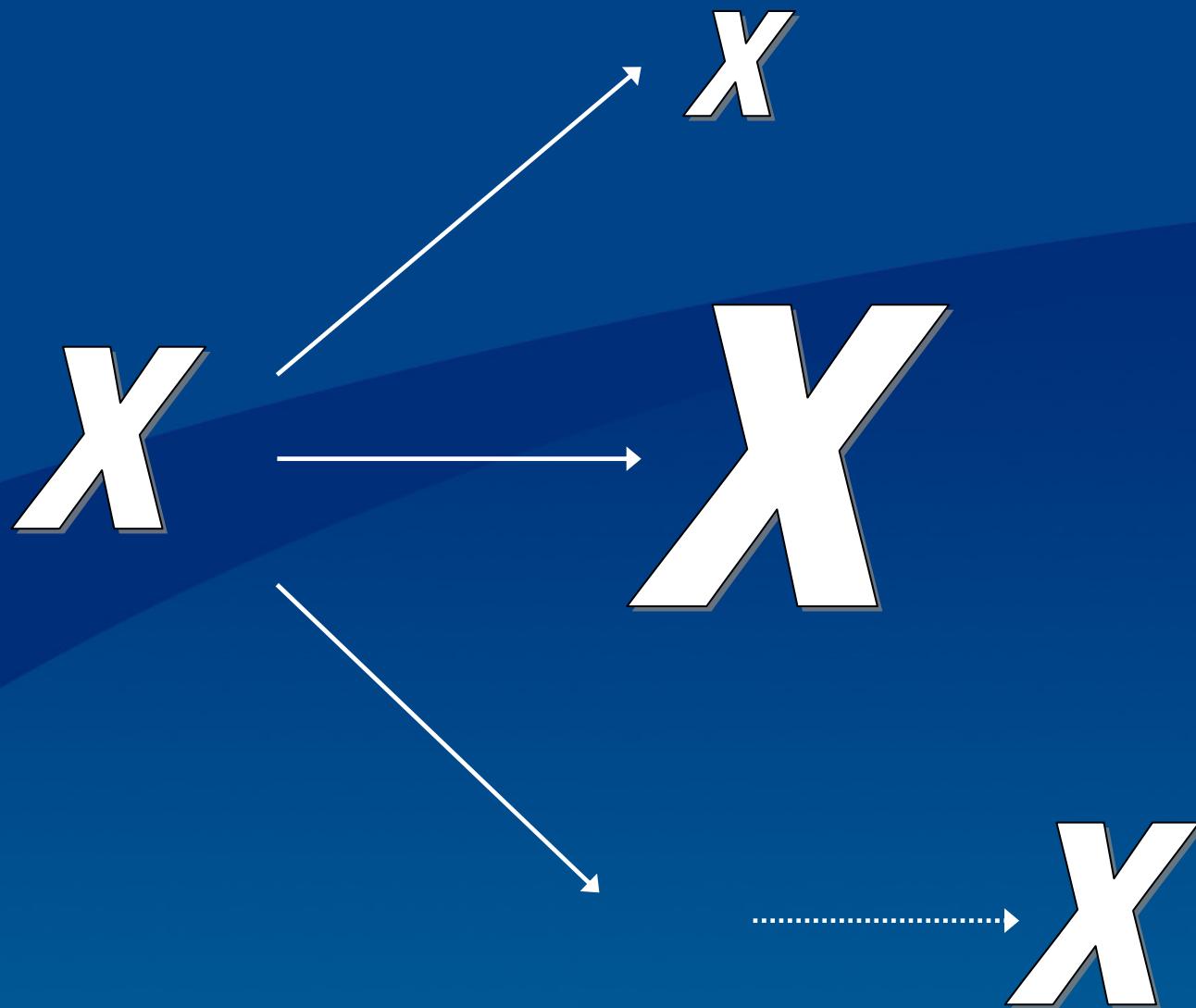
Impact on mountain vegetation zones

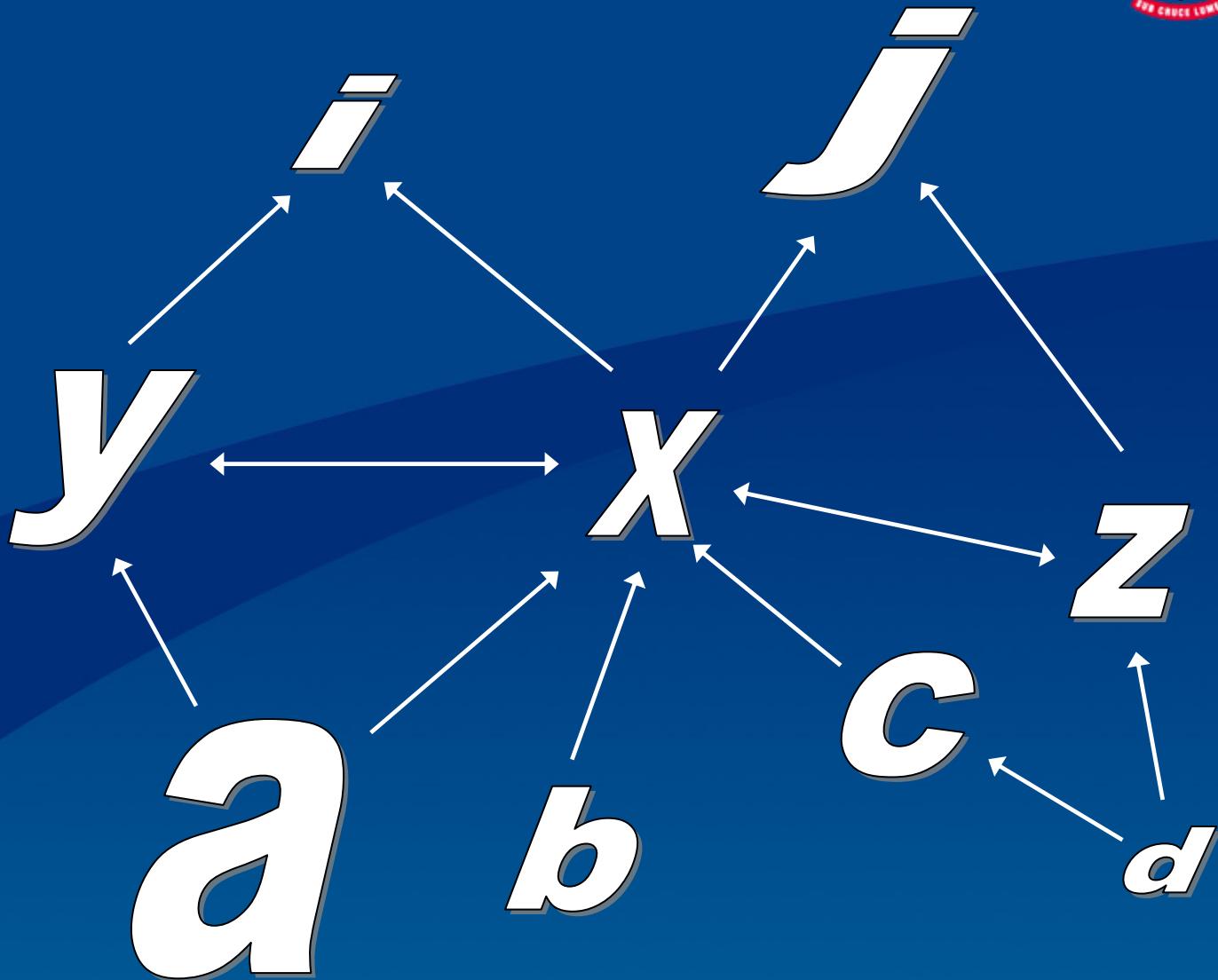


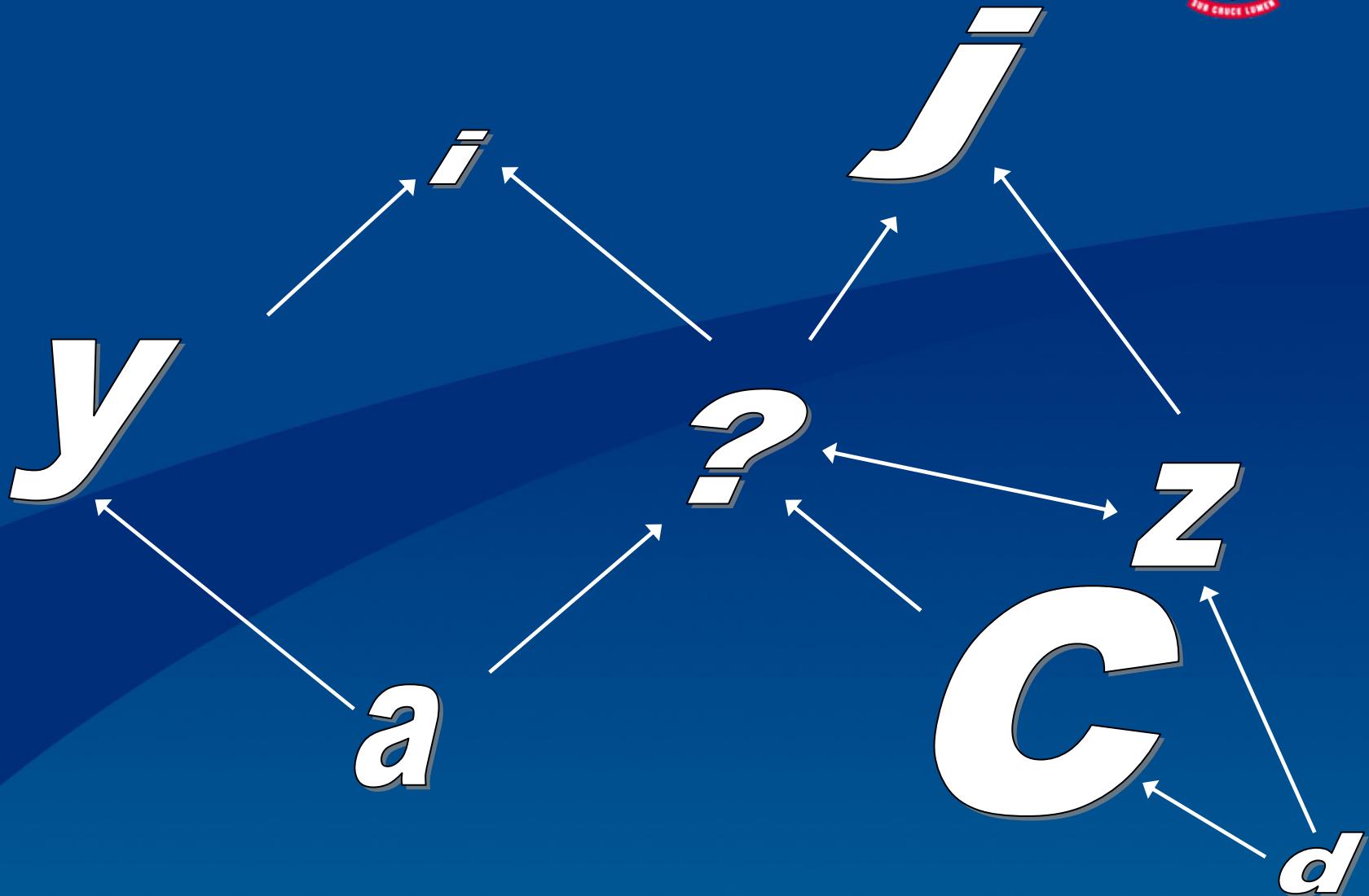
Sources: Martin Beniston, Mountain environments in changing climates, Routledge, London, 1994; Climate change 1995, Impacts, adaptations and migration of climate change, contribution of working group 2 to the second assessment report of the Intergovernmental panel on climate change (IPCC), UNEP and WMO, Cambridge press university, 1996.

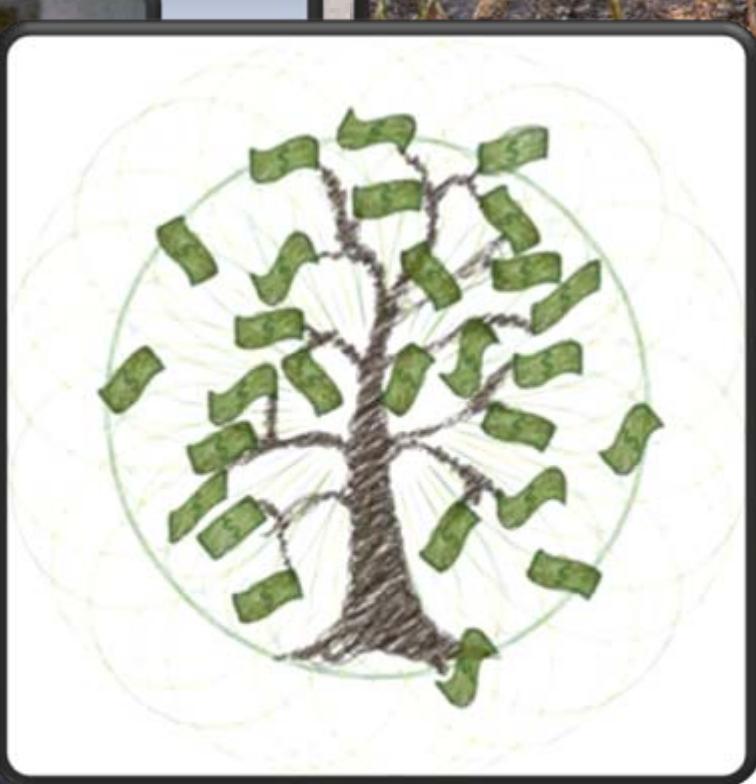


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