# "Kalman-filter reconstructions of temporal variation in productivity of Northeastern Pacific salmon"

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# <u>Outline</u>

- 1. Research objective: Understand variation in productivity of Pacific salmon
- 2. Past results
  - Spatial scale of positive covariation in ...
    - -- Salmon productivity
    - -- Environmental variables
- 3. New results
  - Do we get same conclusions when we account for observation error in salmon data using a Kalman filter?

# **1. Research objective**

What are the key environmental sources of variation in salmon productivity (~ recruits/spawner)?

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#### <u>1st step</u>

Identify spatial extent of positive correlation in productivity of salmon stocks

Data on 120 salmon stocks

# **1. Research objective**

What are the key environmental sources of variation in salmon productivity (~ recruits/spawner)?

<u>1st step</u>	2nd step: Screening
Identify spatial extent of positive correlation in productivity of salmon stocks	Identify environmental variables with similar spatial scale to that of salmon productivity
Data on 120 salmon stocks	Data on environmental variables: coastal SST, coastal salinity, upwelling

2. Results of past research

What is the spatial scale (extent) of positive correlation in productivity among salmon stocks?

- Abundance data (1950s to 2001)
  - Spawners (S), catch, adult recruits (R)

# 120 salmon stocks; averaging 31 years of S-R data



#### Sockeye salmon











# Pairwise correlations in productivities among 43 pink salmon stocks

# Correlation



### **Distance between stocks (km)**

Mueter et al. 2002 Fish. Oceanog.



# Average correlations in productivities among 43 pink salmon stocks





# Regions of positive correlation in productivity of pink salmon stocks



Pyper et al. (2001) CJFAS



Mueter et al. (2002) Fish. Oceanog.



Mueter et al. (2002) Fish. Oceanog.



Mueter et al. (2002) Fish. Oceanog.

# **Conclusion on spatial scale**

- <u>Regional-scale</u> (~ 500 to 800 km)
  - Positive correlation in productivity among stocks -- pinks, chum, sockeye

# Mechanisms, part 1

At which life stage does most covariation arise?

Late freshwater or early ocean life stages

- Sockeye salmon (Peterman et al. 1998)
- Pink salmon (Pyper et al. 2001)
- Chum salmon (Pyper et al. 2002)

# Mechanisms, part 2

# What is driving spatial covariation in productivities?

- Which environmental variable(s) have a similar (i.e. regional) spatial scale to that of salmon productivities (~ 500 to 800 km)?
  - Upwelling?
  - Coastal sea-surface temperature (SST)?
  - Coastal sea-surface salinity?

• Result:

Summer sea-surface temperature spatial scale ~ 500 km, same as salmon productivity

- Added summer SST as explanatory variable to models of salmon productivity
  - Regional SST was <u>specific to each stock's</u> <u>location of ocean entry</u>
- 16 models that *included* summer SST fit much better than 8 models *without* SST

Mueter et al. (2002a,b) Fish. Oceanog. and CJFAS, and Su et al. 2004 CJFAS

- Repeated analyses with PDO (large-scale index)
   PDO was less important than regional SST
- Therefore, environmental processes at the regional scale are the most important

- Larger, ocean-basin scale processes reflected by PDO, AOI, etc. may drive large-scale forcing, but there are different responses in different regions.

#### Mueter et al. (2002) CJFAS



# PDO, ALPI, NPI, AOI, ...





# 3. New results that account for observation errors

 Errors in estimation of abundance of spawners and recruits (observation error = "noise")



- Interested in process variation (="signal"), not in "noise"
- Used Kalman filter method
  - From engineering
  - Helps detect "signal" amid "noise"





Peterman et al. 2000 *CJFAS* 

- Brian Pyper's (*in prep.*) comparisons of Kalman filter versions of Ricker stock-recruitment model
- Found time-varying Ricker 'a' model was best for most salmon populations

Do we draw same conclusions as before when we use Kalman filter estimates of productivity ?

#### Standard method (least squares)

$$Ln(R_t / S_t) = a - bS_t + u_t$$

R = adult recruits S = spawners

Constant a and b parameters

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#### Kalman filter method



"System" equation

$$a_{t} = a_{t-1} + w_{t}$$
 "random walk"

• Estimates at each year

Peterman et al. (2000) *CJFAS* 

#### Independent testing of methods is rarely done

We tested via simulations:

- Standard method
- Kalman filter method
- Specified hypothetical "true" change in Ricker a<sub>t</sub> parameter, then:
  - Generated population dynamics stochastically
- 2. Estimated underlying parameters from simulated data
- 3. Compared estimates with "true" values



Peterman et al. (2000) *CJFAS* 







#### <u>Therefore, used a Kalman filter to reconstruct</u> historical time series of productivity

Peterman et al. (2000) *CJFAS* 

#### **Standardized time series**

i.e., Transformed <u>each</u> reconstructed data series: mean = 0 and SD = 1.0

- Made different time series data sets comparable

#### **Productivity of 8 Bristol Bay, Alaska sockeye stocks**



Peterman et al. 2003 CJFAS

#### **Productivity of 8 Bristol Bay, Alaska sockeye stocks**



#### **Productivity of 8 Bristol Bay, Alaska sockeye stocks**



Kalman filtering reduces "noise" and increases correlation





#### Cook Inlet & Kodiak chum salmon



#### Inside Washington chum salmon







Yakutat, Prince Wm. Sound, Lower Cook pink salmon



#### Chignik, Alaska Peninsula pink salmon





Standardized productivity (Ricker 'a' parameter) from Kalman filter

Brood year (year of spawning)

### Average correlation between Bristol Bay sockeye



Average correlation among stocks in productivity (Ricker 'a' parameter from Kalman filter)



## Average correlation between Washington pinks

#### and pinks in other regions



Average correlation among stocks in productivity (Ricker 'a' parameter from Kalman filter)



# **Conclusions from Kalman filter results**

- 1. Kalman filter estimates show clearer "signal" (variation in historical biological processes)
- 2. Clearer evidence that salmon productivity is highly positively correlated among stocks within regions
- 3. Still have smaller or negative correlations between regions

 Kalman filter code and worked examples in Excel and S-Plus:

Available from Simon Fraser University:

e-mail: peterman@sfu.ca

### Relevant publications (www.rem.sfu.ca/fishgrp)

# Kalman filter models: e-mail: peterman@sfu.ca

- Peterman et al. (2003) CJFAS 60: 809
- Peterman et al. (2000) CJFAS 57: 181

# Salmon productivity:

- Pyper et al. (2005) Trans. Amer. Fish. Soc. 134: 86
- Mueter et al. (2002) CJFAS 59:456, plus 60: 757
- Pyper et al. (2002) Tr. Am. Fish. Soc. 131: 343 chums
- Pyper et al. (2001) CJFAS 58: 1501 pinks
- Peterman et al. (1998) CJFAS 55: 2503 sockeye

# **Oceanographic variables**:

- Mueter et al. (2005) Trans. Amer. Fish. Soc. 134: 105
- Mueter et al. (2002) Fisheries Oceanography 11: 205