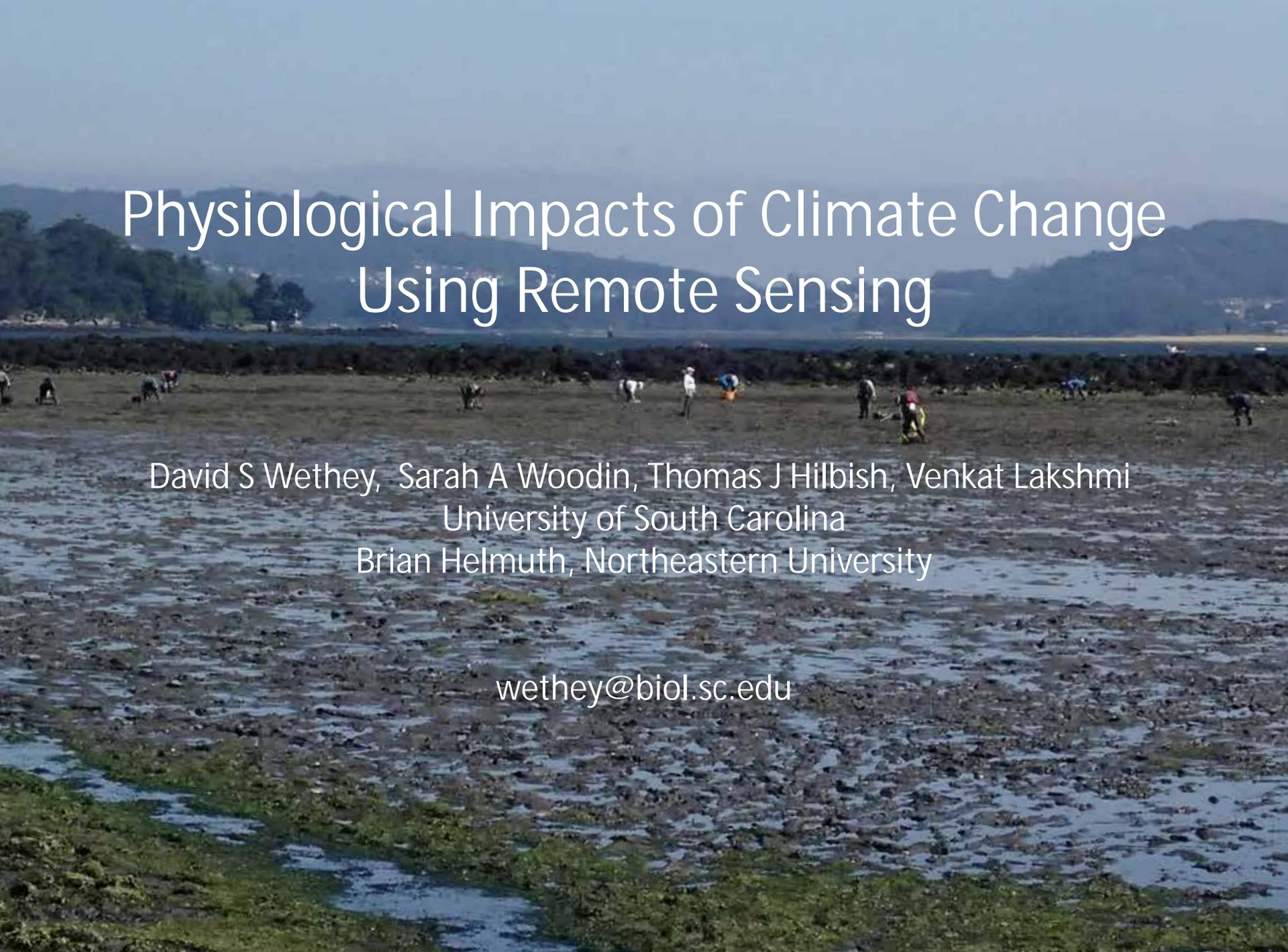


# Physiological Impacts of Climate Change Using Remote Sensing



David S Wethey, Sarah A Woodin, Thomas J Hilbish, Venkat Lakshmi  
University of South Carolina  
Brian Helmuth, Northeastern University

[wethey@biol.sc.edu](mailto:wethey@biol.sc.edu)

# Forecasting Effects of Extreme Events on Shellfisheries as a Management Tool

- Mass mortality due to heat waves in summer
- Mass mortality due to low salinity in winter
- Losses can be as high as 100%
- Hindcasting – assign blame for crop losses due to low salinity events
- Forecasting – provide time for harvesters and depuration operations to move shellfish to rafts at mouth of estuaries

www.farodevigo.es ◀  
**FARO DE VIGO**

Un estudio pionero en España para alertar sobre eventos climáticos extremos

## Biólogos de Vigo desarrollan un sistema de predicción de olas de calor e inundaciones en bancos marisqueros

Elsa Vázquez lidera un proyecto del plan nacional que permitirá pronosticar con varios días de antelación los cambios en la temperatura o la salinidad y evitar mortandades -Colaboran las cofradías de Redondela, Carril, Campelo y Cambados

Sandra Penelas | 04.10.2015 | 09:06

Vigo lidera un proyecto pionero en España para determinar los riesgos y efectos que el cambio climático ya está ocasionando en los bancos marisqueros gallegos y cuyo objetivo último es desarrollar un sistema de predicción que alerte a las cofradías ante la llegada de olas de calor e inundaciones para que puedan tomar medidas y evitar mortandades. El estudio cuenta con financiación nacional -177.870 euros hasta 2017- y está coordinado por la catedrática de Zoología Elsa Vázquez. También colaboran dos expertos de la universidad estadounidense de South Carolina y cinco cofradías de la provincia -Redondela, Carril, Campelo y Cambados-, además de contar con el respaldo de la Consellería do Mar.



Las cajas de los experimentos. // J. Santomé

Fotos de la noticia

## Partnership with U Vigo and Fisheries Coops

### Vigo biologists develop prediction system for heat waves and floods in shellfish beds

Elsa Vázquez leads a nationally funded project for predicting changes in temperature and salinity several days in advance in order to mitigate mortality risks.



# Three primary clam species harvested in NW Spain



[www.mariscosdelortegal.com](http://www.mariscosdelortegal.com)

*Venerupis corrugata*

Ameixa babosa

Burrow depth ~8 cm

Avg 13€/kg Max 52€/kg in shell at dock

Total dock sales 2015 **13.7 million euros**



*Ruditapes decussatus*

Ameixa fina

Burrowing depth 15-20 cm

Avg 24€/kg Max 80€/kg in shell at dock

Total dock sales 2015 **13.3 million euros**



*Ruditapes philippinarum*

Ameixa xaponesa

Burrowing depth ~4 cm

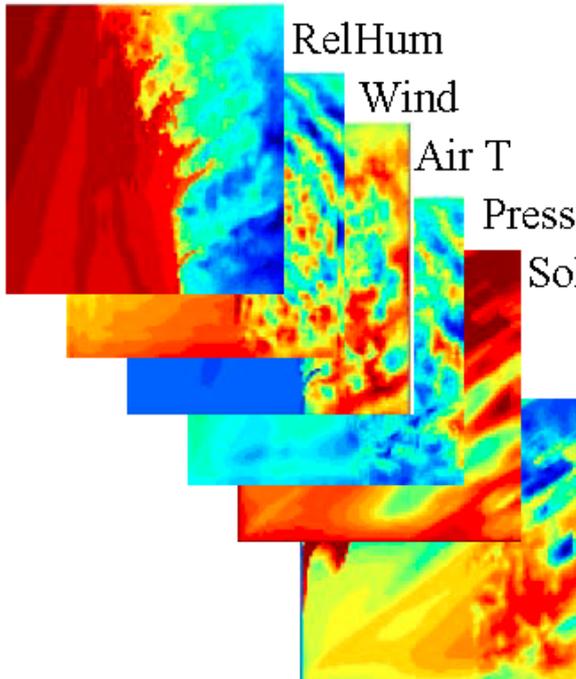
Avg 7.5€/kg Max 27€/kg in shell at dock

Total dock sales 2015 **13.7 million euros**

# MARISCO Temperature, Salinity, and Mortality Forecasting

Meteo Galicia

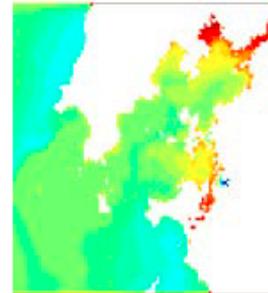
WRF Meteo Forecast



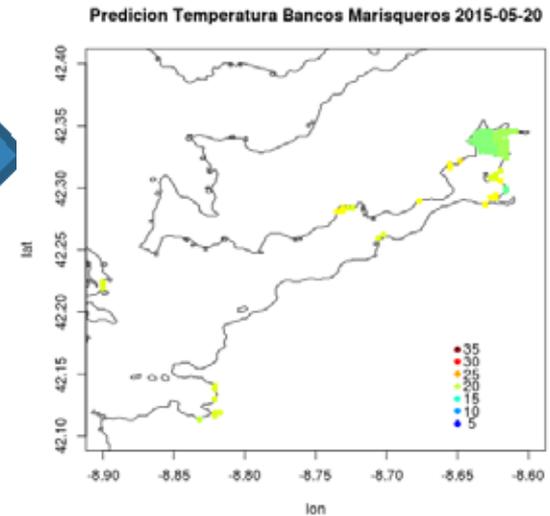
NOAH Sandflat Model



MeteoGalicia  
MOHID Forecast SST

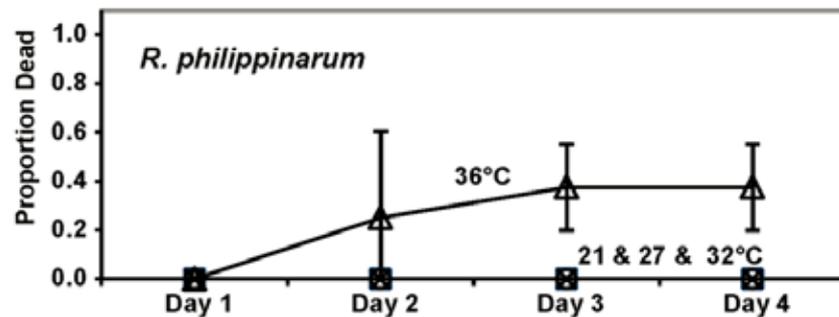
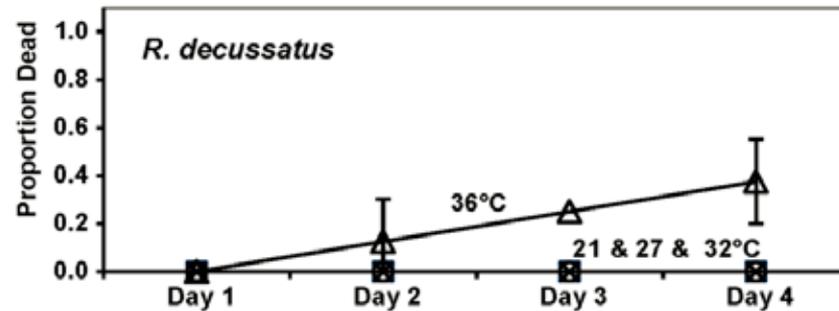
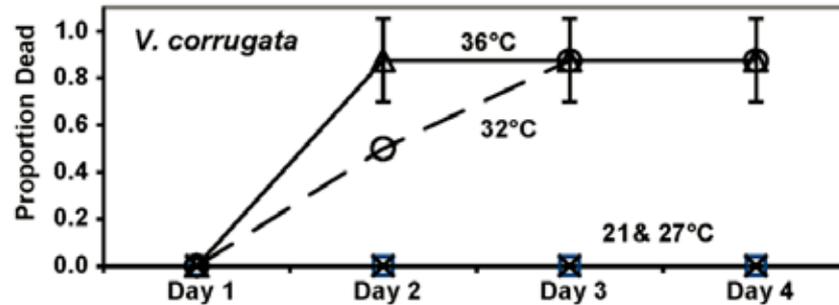


Shellfish Temperature Forecast



Forecasts at 250 m spatial scale within shellfish beds

# Mortality from High Temperature Exposure



## Effects of Extreme Events – Mortality due to Low Salinity

Date	<i>Cerastoderma edule</i>	<i>Venerupis senegalensis (corrugata)</i>	<i>Tapes decussatus</i>	<i>Tapes philippinarum</i>	Type	Identifier
28/02/77	T (Total)	T	T	T	SM	Sev0277
22/12/78	T	T	T	T	SM	Sev1278
31/12/81	PT (Practically Total)	PT	PT	PT	SM	Sev1281
23/10/87	T	T	T	T	SM	Sev1087
28/12/89	90%	99%	10%	0%	SM	Sev1289
14/01/91	0%	80%	0%	0%	MM	Mod0191
04/01/94	0%	0%	0%	0%	MB	Morb0194
12/01/94	17%	87%	0%	0%	MM	Mod0194
19/01/96	60%	96%	5%	43%	SM	Sev0196
27/04/00	0%	80%	0%	0%	MM	Mod0400
07/12/00	0%	95	0%	0%	MM	Mod1200
27/11/02	0%	0%	0%	0%	NM	NoMort1102
16/01/03	PT	PT	PT	PT	SM	Sev0103
29/03/06	71%	50%	45%	78%	SM	Sev0306
25/11/06	0%	10%	2%	5%	MB	Mod1106
07/03/07	33%	97%	2%	6%	MM	Mod0307
05/02/09	30%	30%	7%	14%	MM	Mod0209

# Salinity Stress Experiments



## 4 salinity combinations

5 – 20 (low tide – hi tide)

10 – 25

15 – 30

30 – 30

## 4 species

V corrugata )

R decussatus )clams

R philippinarum )

C edule ) cockle

## Multiple Metrics

Respiration rate )scope

Feeding rate )for

Defecation rate )growth

N excretion rate

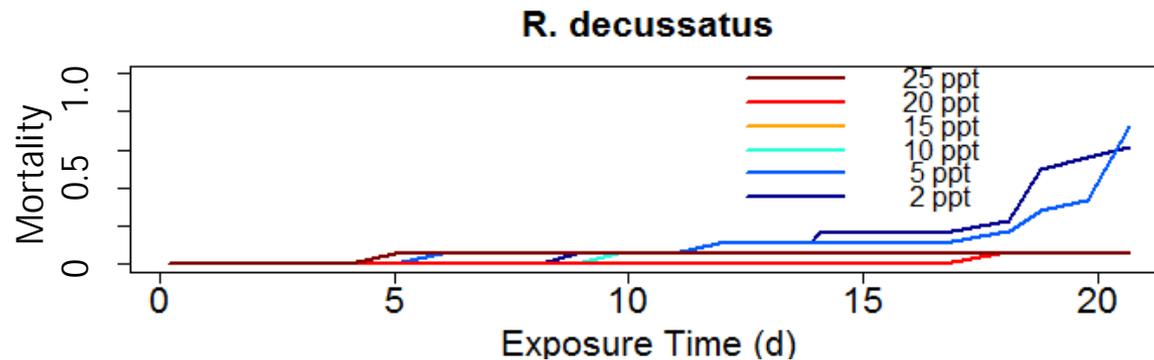
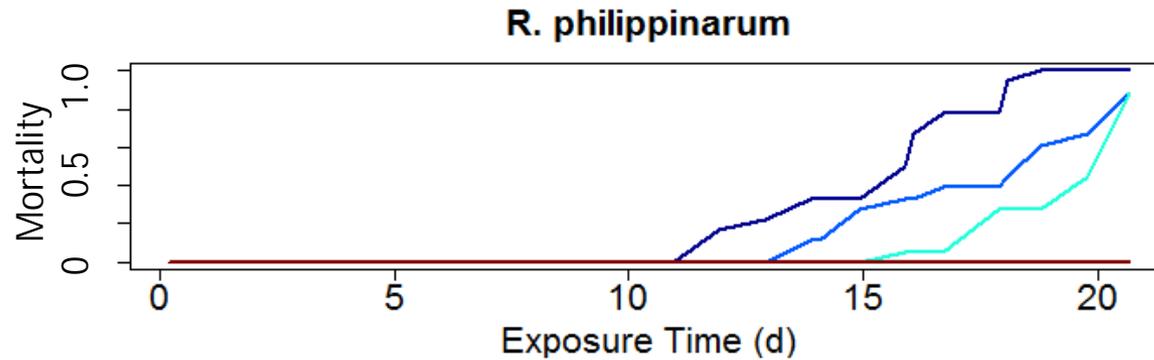
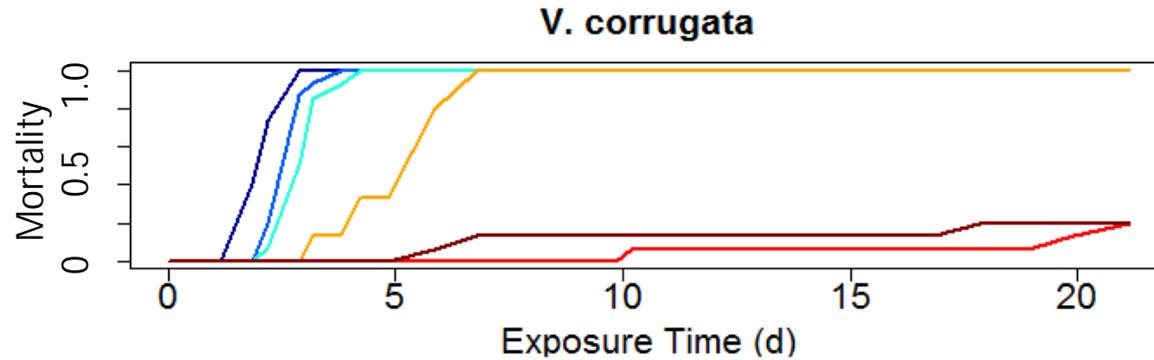
Gonad index

Burrowing rate

Subsurface activity

Mortality rate

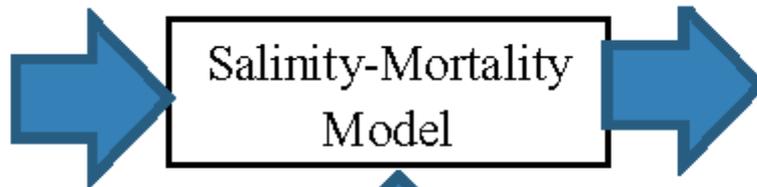
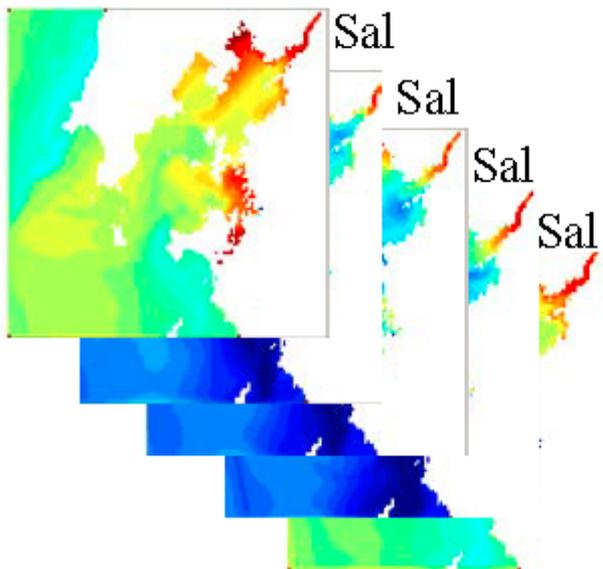
# Mortality from Low Salinity Exposure



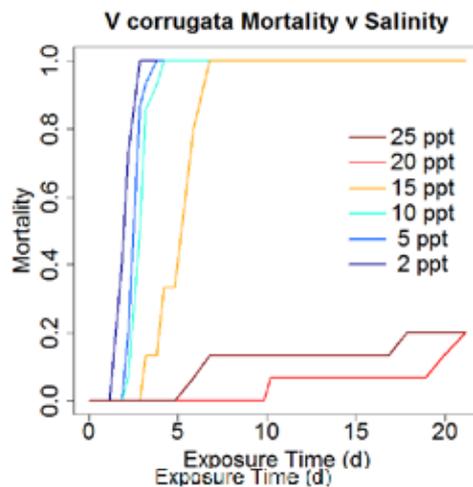
# Forecasting Low Salinity Exposure Effects in Sandflats: Mortality

MeteoGalia

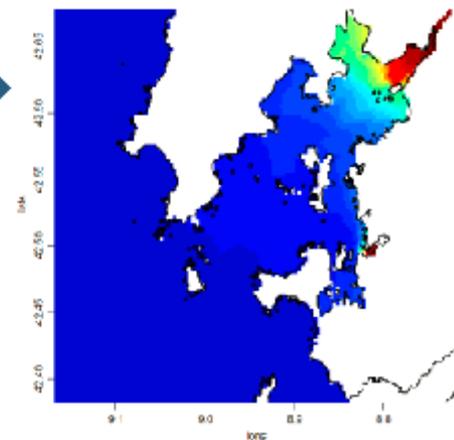
MOHID Ocean Forecast



Laboratory Experiments

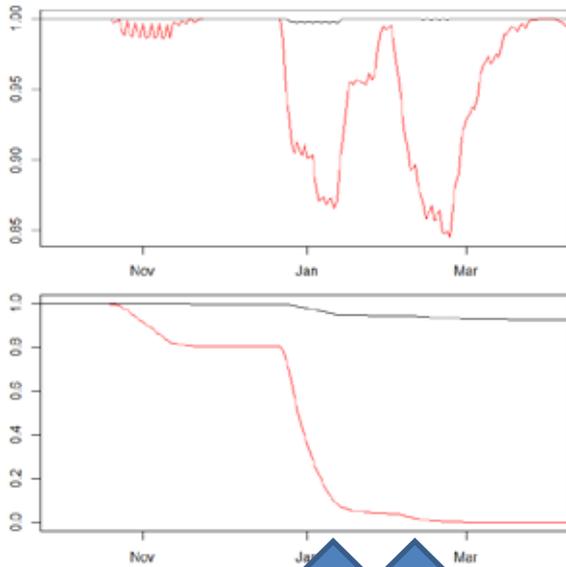


Shellfish Mortality Forecast



Forecasts at 250 m spatial scale within shellfish beds

# V corrugata Mortality



Catastrophic harvest losses in winter 2013-2014:  
heavy rains caused low salinity in upper Ría de Arousa

Our model predicted high mortality in the upper estuary at time of reports of mass mortality (RED)

Also predicted low mortality in the mid estuary where low mortality was observed (BLACK)

Diario de Arousa.com

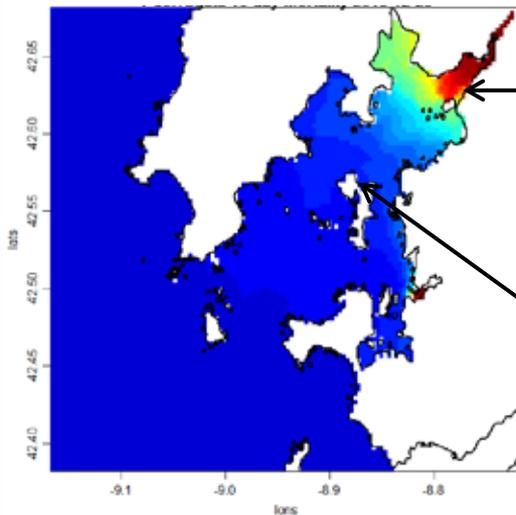
Los arenales se llenan de almejas muertas que confirman pérdidas millonarias en Carril

S. L. Vilagarcía | 08 de Febrero de 2014

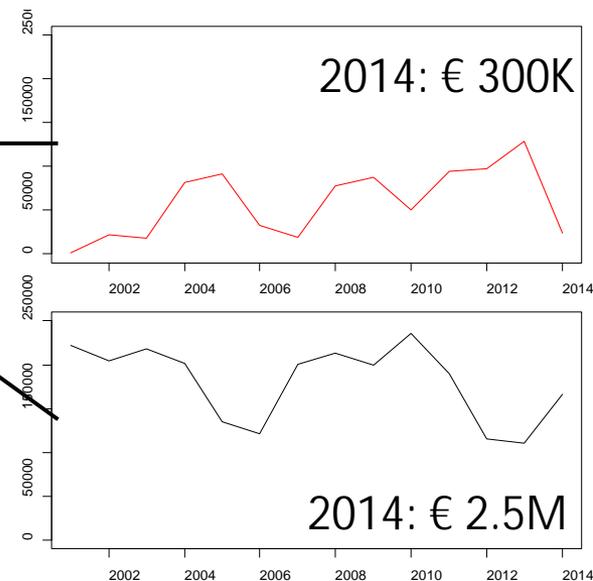


Cochas y almejas muertas por la baja salinidad del agua llenan ya las playas U. Salgado

## V corrugata Mortality

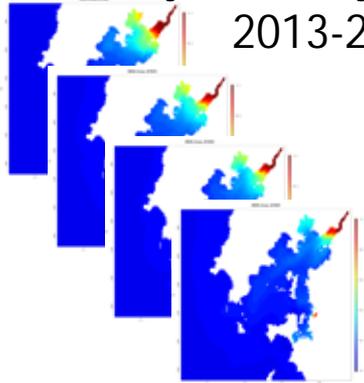


## V corrugata Harvest

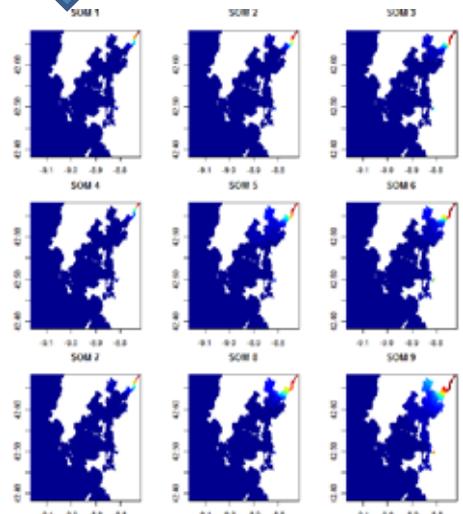


# Self-Organizing Maps for Hindcasting and Forecasting without running a coupled atmosphere / ocean model

MOHID Mortality Model  
600 daily mortality maps  
2013-2014

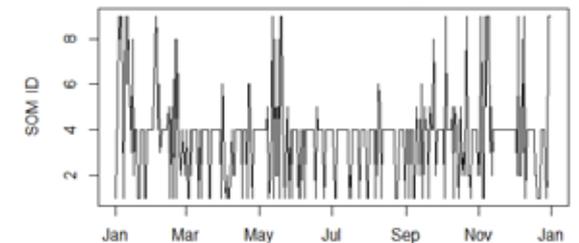


SOM calculation

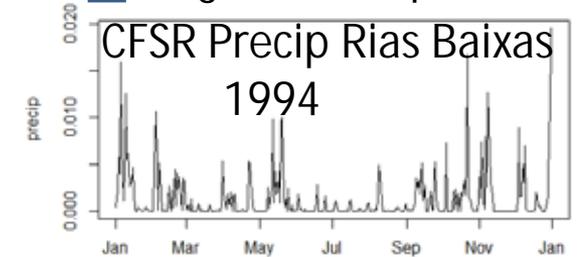


9 mortality categories

SOM Category No

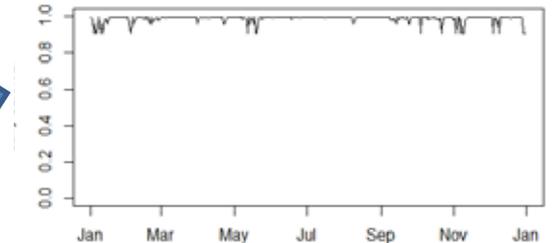


Predict SOM ID from Regression equation

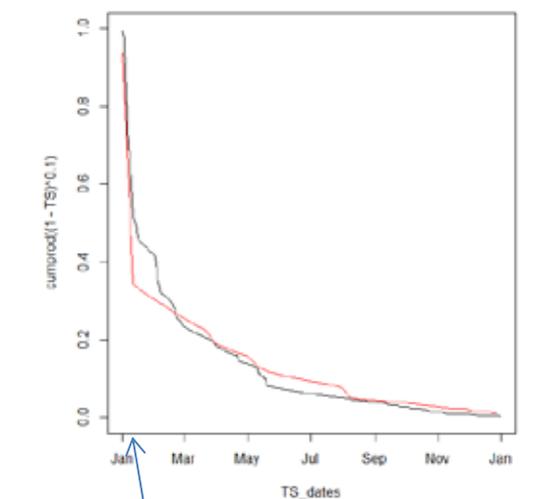


$R^2=0.55$   
Regression  
SOM Category No  
vs  
CFSR precipitation  
2013-2014

Daily Survival



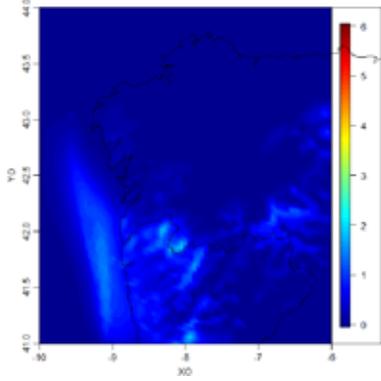
Cumulative Survival  
LombosDeUlla 1994



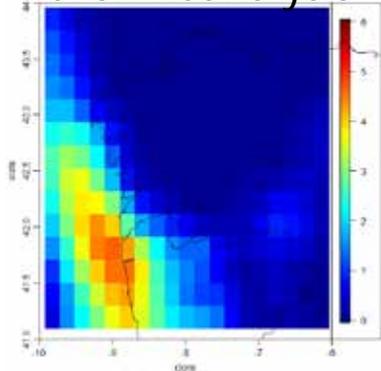
Parada et al 2012  
87% Mort 1994-01-12

# Rainfall/Salinity Hindcasts for Recovery of Financial Losses

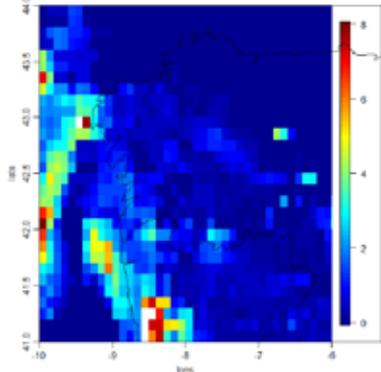
WRF model forecast



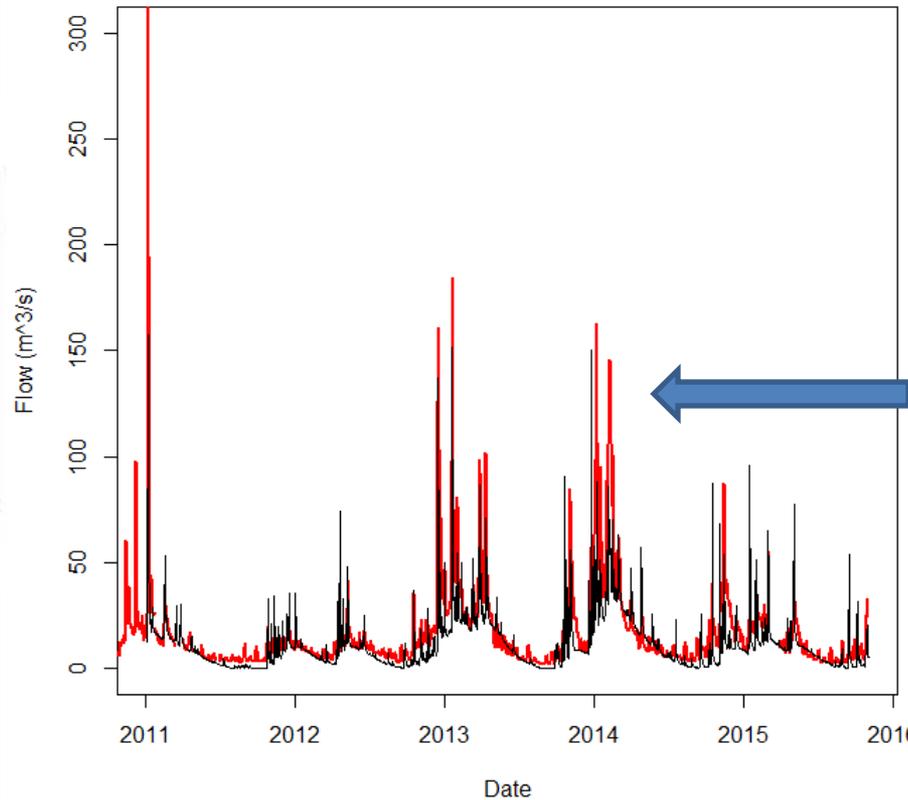
CFSR Reanalysis



NASA GPM



Umia SWAT Model (B) vs Flow Gauge (R)



Dam operations not included in SWAT model

Hydroelectric dams used for peaking power generation in winter when consumers use electric heat.

During peaking power generation, river flow is higher than expected from SWAT rainfall-runoff relationship.

SWAT and Flow data: MeteoGalicia

Coops can sue the power companies if they are to blame for low salinity and associated crop losses

# Forecasting Low Salinity Exposure Effects in Sandflats: Growth

