1 2	Building bridges between global information systems on marine organisms and ecosystem models
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## 57 ABSTRACT

- 58 To facilitate the wider implementation of ecosystem modeling platforms and, thereby, to help
- advance ecosystem-based fisheries management (EBFM) worldwide, tools delivering a large
- 60 quantity of inputs to ecosystem models are needed. We developed a web application
- 61 providing OSMOSE ecosystem models with values for trophic, growth and reproduction
- 62 parameters derived from data from two global information systems (FishBase and
- 63 SeaLifeBase). Our web application guides the user through simple queries to extract
- 64 information from FishBase and SeaLifeBase data archives, and it delivers all the
- 65 configuration files necessary for running an OSMOSE model. Here, we present our web
- application and demonstrate it for the West Florida Shelf ecosystem. Our software
- architecture can serve as a basis for designing other advanced web applications using
- 68 FishBase and SeaLifeBase data in support of EBFM.
- 69

# 70 Keywords:

- 71 Web application
- 72 FishBase
- 73 SeaLifeBase
- 74 Ecosystem model
- 75 OSMOSE
- 76 Web application programming interface

### 77 **1. Introduction**

Ecosystem-based fisheries management (EBFM), which recognizes the importance of 78 non-target marine organisms, trophic dynamics, the abiotic environment and socio-economic 79 factors in fisheries systems, has emerged as a key concept (Pikitch et al., 2004; Link, 2010; 80 Harvey et al., 2016). Because they can simulate the effects of fishing, environmental stressors 81 and management measures at multiple spatial and temporal scales, ecosystem models have 82 become central tools for informing EBFM (Christensen and Walters, 2011; Collie et al., 2016; 83 Grüss et al., 2017a). Major breakthroughs have been achieved in the field of ecosystem 84 85 modeling over the past 25 years, resulting in the emergence of a diversity of modeling 86 platforms, which allow tackling the numerous questions associated with EBFM (Plagányi, 87 2007; Fulton, 2010; Espinoza-Tenorio et al., 2012). O'Farrell et al. (2017) updated Plagányi (2007)'s seminal terminology and distinguished between six types of ecosystem models, 88 89 based on their structure. These six types of ecosystem models are, in order of complexity: conceptual and qualitative models, extensions of single-species models, dynamic multispecies 90 91 models, aggregated (or whole ecosystem) models, biogeochemical-based end-to-end models, 92 and coupled and hybrid model platforms (O'Farrell et al., 2017).

Three of the most commonly used ecosystem modeling platforms belong to the most 93 sophisticated types of ecosystem models: the aggregated (or whole ecosystem) modeling 94 platform Ecopath with Ecosim (EwE) (Walters et al., 1997; Pauly et al., 2000; Christensen 95 and Walters, 2004), the biogeochemical-based end-to-end modeling platform Atlantis (Fulton 96 et al., 2004, 2007, 2011), and the individual-based, multispecies modeling platform 97 98 OSMOSE, which belongs to the coupled and hybrid model platforms' type (Shin and Cury, 2001a, 2004; Grüss et al., 2016c). During the last decade, the trio EwE-Atlantis-OSMOSE has 99 been increasingly employed to address EBFM questions such as the impacts of exploiting low 100 trophic level species on marine ecosystems (Smith et al., 2011), the consequences of fishing 101 scenarios on the structure of the Southern Benguela ecosystem (Smith et al., 2015), the 102 103 performance of trophic level-based indicators for tracking fishing effects (Reed et al., 2017), the specificity of ecological indicators to fishing (Shin et al., 2018), and the synergistic 104 105 impacts of fishing and environmental changes on marine ecosystems (Fu et al., 2018).

Despite the broad interest in EwE, Atlantis and OSMOSE for assisting EBFM,
progress towards the wide use of these ecosystem modeling platforms (particularly Atlantis
and OSMOSE) has been impeded by their large data requirements. Because they represent
many of the components of marine ecosystems, from primary producers to large marine

predators and humans, EwE, Atlantis and OSMOSE require an extremely large number of 110 inputs (Fulton et al., 2007; Steele et al., 2013; Grüss et al., 2016a). As a result, the 111 parameterization of EwE, Atlantis and OSMOSE models takes a relatively long time, while 112 their calibration, which comes next before ecosystem models can be employed for 113 simulations, is even more time-demanding (Oliveros Ramos, 2014; Ainsworth et al., 2015; 114 Oliveros-Ramos et al., 2017). Therefore, to facilitate the wider implementation of 115 sophisticated ecosystem modeling platforms such as EwE, Atlantis and OSMOSE and, 116 thereby, to help advancing EBFM worldwide, there is a need for tools providing ecosystem 117 118 models with a large quantity of inputs of reasonable quality (Grüss et al., 2016a; Coll and Steenbeek, 2017). Recent years have seen the creation of such tools. For example, 119 120 probabilistic methods using maximum likelihood estimation have been developed for generating diet matrices for EwE and Atlantis models in a robust and relatively rapid manner 121 122 (Ainsworth et al., 2010; Masi et al., 2014; Sagarese et al., 2016; Tarnecki et al., 2016; Morzaria-Luna et al., 2018). Another example are the statistical habitat methods that were 123 124 designed for producing annual and seasonal distribution maps in bulk for Atlantis and OSMOSE models (Grüss et al., 2017b, 2018a, 2018b, 2018c, 2019). However, none of these 125 126 recently-created tools are user-friendly, and they do not cover many of the important trophic (e.g., Ecopath's consumption rates, OSMOSE's predator/prey size ratios), growth and 127 reproduction parameters required by EwE, Atlantis and OSMOSE. 128

The most efficient way to provide the largest possible number of inputs of reasonable 129 quality to EwE, Atlantis and OSMOSE models would be to create a tool for querying large 130 global information systems on marine organisms, namely FishBase (http://www.fishbase.org; 131 Froese and Pauly, 2018) and SeaLifeBase (http://www.sealifebase.org/; Palomares and Pauly, 132 2018). FishBase is the world's largest database on fish on the web; it supplies taxonomic, 133 ecological, morphological and metabolic information on 34,000 species and subspecies as of 134 June 2018 (Froese and Pauly, 2018). SeaLifeBase is a large global information system similar 135 136 to FishBase, which covers all types of marine organisms apart from fish; as of June 2018, it includes information for 75,100 non-fish species (Palomares and Pauly, 2018). In the "Tools" 137 138 section of FishBase, a routine provides some EwE parameters for aquatic ecosystems and national waters within Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) areas. However, this routine 139 140 is basic and supplies only a couple of inputs for the Ecopath component of EwE (e.g., trophic levels (TLs), consumption rates) on a webpage. Also, this routine assigns species to functional 141 142 groups (i.e., groups of species sharing similar life history traits and ecological niches), based

on their maximum body length, habitat and depth range, but also based on their family, which 143 results in the definition of many more functional groups than usually defined in EwE models. 144 Lastly, this routine focuses on fish, while many other types of marine organisms, including 145 invertebrates, marine mammals, sea turtles and seabirds, are usually represented in EwE 146 models. Therefore, it would be advantageous to develop more sophisticated tools establishing 147 bridges between both FishBase and SeaLifeBase and ecosystem modeling platforms like 148 EwE, Atlantis and OSMOSE, so as to provide the largest possible number of trophic, growth 149 and reproduction parameters of reasonable quality to these ecosystem modeling platforms. 150

In this study, we present the web application we developed for providing OSMOSE 151 models with values for trophic, growth and reproduction parameters derived from FishBase 152 and SeaLifeBase data. Our web application combines a web user interface (web UI)<sup>1</sup> guiding 153 154 the user through simple queries with a web application programming interface (web API)<sup>2</sup> and data archives for retrieving and managing FishBase and SeaLifeBase data, and it 155 ultimately delivers a zip file containing all the information necessary for running an OSMOSE 156 model. Although our initial intent was to create a web application for helping the 157 158 parameterization of OSMOSE models, we developed a framework that is as generic as possible, so as to enable its future use for designing web applications capable of processing 159 FishBase/SeaLifeBase data to produce parameter values for other sophisticated ecosystem 160 models (e.g., Atlantis applications). In the following, we first describe the OSMOSE 161 modeling platform, its inputs, and its requirements. Then, we provide an overview of our web 162 application, before presenting the different steps that are followed to ultimately deliver 163 OSMOSE inputs to the user. Next, we demonstrate our web application for the West Florida 164 Shelf, an ecosystem located within the Gulf of Mexico. Finally, we discuss the strengths and 165 limitations of our web application in its current form and provide avenues for future research. 166

167

#### 168 2. Material and methods

### 169 2.1. The OSMOSE modeling platform

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> A web user interface (web UI) is a shared boundary between a web application and humans, designed to facilitate the exchange of information between the two entities.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> A web application programming interface (web API) is an ensemble of routine definitions, protocols and tools for implementing a web application.

OSMOSE (Object-oriented Simulator of Marine ecoSystEms) is a two-dimensional, 170 individual-based, multi-species modeling platform created around 20 years ago (Shin, 2000; 171 Shin and Cury, 2001a, 2004; http://www.osmose-model.org). OSMOSE models simulate the 172 entire life cycle of (typically 10 to 15) "focal functional groups" and their trophic interactions. 173 In addition, OSMOSE models are forced by the biomass of a second type of functional groups 174 called "biotic resources" (usually plankton and benthos groups), which only serve to provide 175 extra food to the modeled system (Grüss et al., 2016b, 2016c). OSMOSE was initially 176 developed for simulating the life cycle of individual focal species rather than that of focal 177 178 functional groups (Shin, 2000; Shin and Cury, 2001a, 2004). Existing OSMOSE applications represent focal species (e.g., Marzloff et al., 2009; Halouani et al., 2016), focal functional 179 180 groups (e.g., Brochier et al., 2013; Grüss et al., 2015), or a mix of the two (e.g., Oliveros-Ramos et al., 2017; Xing et al., 2017). Our web application initially defines focal functional 181 182 groups for the user, but let the user the possibility to define only focal species for their OSMOSE model if they wish (see Subsection 2.3.2). 183

The focal functional groups and biotic resources considered in OSMOSE models are 184 185 usually only fish and invertebrate groups. An exception to this usual pattern is the focal marine mammal group (harbor seal, Phoca vitulina) represented in the OSMOSE model of the 186 Strait of Georgia in British Columbia, Canada (Fu et al., 2012, 2013). However, the processes 187 currently represented in OSMOSE are not well suited for simulating the biology and ecology 188 of marine mammals and other organisms such as sea turtles and seabirds, which are, in many 189 aspects, different from the biology and ecology of fish and invertebrates. Therefore, it is 190 191 recommended to focus on fish and invertebrates in OSMOSE applications, and those are the two types of marine organisms for which our web application currently provides input 192 parameters. 193

194 The key difference between OSMOSE and EwE and Atlantis is that OSMOSE does not use a diet matrix as input, but rather relies on the tenet that predation is an opportunistic 195 and size-based process. Thus, OSMOSE lets diet compositions emerge from simulated trophic 196 interactions (Shin and Cury, 2001a, 2004; Grüss et al., 2016c). In OSMOSE, the predation 197 process is conditioned by three types of input: (1) spatial distribution maps, which, along with 198 the random walk movements simulated for focal functional groups, define the annual or 199 200 seasonal spatial distributions of marine organisms and, consequently, patterns of spatial overlap between predators and their potential prey; (2) minimum and maximum predator prey 201 size ratios, which govern size adequacy between predators and their potential prey; and (3) 202

accessibility coefficients, which determine if potential prey items are accessible to the
predators, because of implicit, underlying factors such as distribution in the water column and
animal morphology (e.g., presence of spikes) (Grüss et al., 2016c).

The basic units of OSMOSE models are "schools", namely individuals of a given focal 206 functional group, which have the same age, body size, body weight, and, at a given time step, 207 the same geographical location (Shin and Cury, 2001a, 2004). At each time step, schools 208 undergo a series of processes: spatial distribution and random walk movement, then mortality 209 processes (predation, starvation and fishing mortalities, and other mortality due to causes not 210 explicitly modeled in OSMOSE), then growth in size and weight, and, finally, reproduction, 211 which results in the production of age-0 schools for the next time step (Appendix A; Grüss et 212 al., 2016c). The individual-based structure of OSMOSE allows one to track ecological 213 214 information at different hierarchical levels: school, cohort (age class), focal functional group, and ecological community (Shin et al., 2004; Grüss et al., 2015; Travers-Trolet et al., 2014a). 215

OSMOSE has gone through three versions, and the last version itself has gone through 216 217 two updates ("OSMOSE v3u1" and ("OSMOSE v3u2") (Table 1). OSMOSE has served to 218 address various EBFM questions, including the consequences of fishing scenarios on the structure and functioning of marine ecosystems (Shin et al., 2004; Marzloff et al., 2009; 219 Travers et al., 2010; Smith et al., 2011, 2015), the effects of marine protected areas (MPAs) 220 (Shin and Cury, 2001b; Yemane et al., 2009; Brochier et al., 2013), the impacts of 221 222 environmental changes in fisheries systems (Fu et al., 2012, 2013; Travers-Trolet et al., 2014b), the sensitivity of ecological indicators and their specificity to fishing (Reed et al., 223 224 2017; Fu et al., 2018; Shin et al., 2018; Halouani et al., 2019), the estimation of predation mortality rates (Travers and Shin, 2010; Travers et al., 2009; Grüss et al., 2015, 2016c; Fu et 225 226 al., 2017; Xing et al., 2017), and management strategy evaluation (MSE) in an ecosystem 227 context (Grüss et al., 2016b).

228

#### 229 Table 1

230 Versions of the OSMOSE modeling platform and their applications.

<b>OSMOSE</b> version	Applications
OSMOSE v1	Theoretical ecosystems (Shin and Cury, 2001a, 2001b; Vergnon et al., 2008), Southern
	Benguela ecosystem for the 1980s period (Shin et al., 2004; Travers et al., 2006;
	Yemane et al., 2009)

OSMOSE v2	Southern Benguela ecosystem for the 1990s period (Travers and Shin, 2010; Travers et
	al., 2009, 2010; Travers-Trolet et al., 2014a, 2014b), Humboldt for the period 2000-
	2006 (Marzloff et al., 2009), Bamboung Bolong in Senegal for the 2000s period
	(Brochier et al., 2013), Strait of Georgia in Canada for the 2000s period (Fu et al., 2012,
	2013)
OSMOSE v3	West Florida Shelf ecosystem for the 2000s period (Grüss et al., 2015)
OSMOSE v3u1	West Florida Shelf ecosystem for the 2000s period (Grüss et al., 2016c)
OSMOSE v3u2	West Florida Shelf ecosystem for the 2000s period (Grüss et al., 2016b), Gulf of Gabes
	in Tunisia for the 2000s period (Halouani et al., 2016, 2019), Humboldt for the period
	1992-2008 (Oliveros-Ramos et al., 2017), west coast of Canada for the period 1950-
	2014 (Fu et al., 2017), Jiaozhou Bay in China for the 2000s period (Xing et al., 2017)

The version of OSMOSE considered in the present study is the latest one, i.e. 232 233 OSMOSE v3u2, which is available for download from http://www.osmose-234 model.org/downloads. The two main characteristics of OSMOSE v3u2 are that: (1) it employs a "stochastic mortality algorithm" to compute mortality rates, which assumes that all types of 235 236 mortalities are simultaneous processes and that there is competition and stochasticity in the predation process; and (2) it implements a "seeding process", which helps guarantee 237 238 population persistence at the initialization of the modeled system (Appendix A; Grüss et al., 2016b). A user guide (https://documentation.osmose-model.org/) and GitHub repositories 239 240 (https://github.com/osmose-model) are currently being developed for OSMOSE. The programming language used for implementing OSMOSE is Java (Gosling, 2000). An 241 242 Integrated Development Environment (IDE) such as the free, open-source IDE NetBeans (https://netbeans.org/) can be utilized to compile OSMOSE models. OSMOSE models can 243 also be run within the R environment with R package "osmose", which is now available on 244 CRAN. 245 Two types of input files ("configuration files") are fed into OSMOSE: CSV (comma-246 247 separated value) and netCDF files (http://www.osmose-model.org). The CSV and netCDF

files provided to the template version of OSMOSE v3u2 (i.e., the version that can be

249 downloaded from <u>http://www.osmose-model.org/downloads</u>) are detailed in Table 2 and

250 Appendix B. The template version of OSMOSE v3u2 is based on the OSMOSE model for the

251 Southern Benguela ecosystem for the 1990s period (Travers and Shin, 2010; Travers et al.,

252 2009, 2010; Travers-Trolet et al., 2014a, 2014b). The great majority of OSMOSE

configuration files use the key-value system to inform OSMOSE parameterization (e.g.,

254 "simulation.nspecies" is the key for the number of focal functional groups represented, and

255 "15" is a potential value for this parameter; Appendix B). Numerous inputs are needed for

focal functional groups, because their entire life cycle is modeled explicitly. In contrast, since

biotic resources only serve to provide additional food to the modeled system, only a limited

- number of inputs are required for them, *viz*: biomass fields for the different time steps within a
- 259 year considered in the OSMOSE model, minimum and maximum body sizes, TL, and
- availability and theoretical accessibility coefficients (Table 2 and Appendix B). Usually, two
- types of OSMOSE inputs are estimated during the calibration process of OSMOSE: the larval
- 262 mortality rates of focal functional groups, and the availability coefficients of biotic resources
- 263 (Travers-Trolet et al., 2014a; Grüss et al., 2015).
- 264
- 265 Table 2
- 266 Details about the CSV (.csv) and netCDF (.nc) configuration files supplied to the template version of OSMOSE
- v3u2. Details about the parameters provided by these CSV and netCDF files are given in Appendix B. n =
- 268 number of focal functional groups represented in the OSMOSE model.

Configuration file name	Description
osm_all-parameters.csv	Main OSMOSE configuration file, where general OSMOSE
	parameters, such as the number of time steps per year and the
	number of focal functional groups and biotic resources considered,
	are provided
osm_param-species.csv	File defining the basic parameters (e.g., growth parameters,
	longevity) of focal functional groups
osm_param-ltl.csv	File defining the parameters of biotic resources (e.g. minimum and
	maximum body sizes)
osm_param-grid.csv	File providing information about the spatial grid of the OSMOSE model
grid-mask.csv	Spatial grid of the OSMOSE model
osm ltlbiomass.nc	File providing biomass fields for biotic resources for the different
—	annual time steps represented in the OSMOSE model
osm param-fishing.csv	File defining the exploitation patterns of focal functional groups
osm param-init-pop.csv	File providing the initial biomasses (i.e., the biomasses at time step
	0) of focal functional groups
osm_param-movement.csv	File defining the spatial distribution and movement patterns of focal
	functional groups
osm_param-natural-mortality.csv	File defining the larval mortality rate of focal functional groups and
	their non-larval mortality due to causes unrepresented in OSMOSE
osm_param-predation.csv	File defining the trophic parameters of focal functional groups (e.g.,
	their minimum and maximum predator/prey size ratios)
osm_param-reproduction.csv	File providing the names of the CSV files defining the seasonal
	patterns of reproduction of focal functional groups
osm_param-starvation.csv	File defining the maximum annual starvation mortality rate of focal
	functional groups
predation-accessibility.csv	File providing the accessibility coefficients of focal functional
	groups and the theoretical accessibility of biotic resources; all these
	coefficients define the accessibility of potential prey items to
	individual predators
reproductionseasonality-sp <sub>i</sub> .csv,	Files defining the seasonal patterns of reproduction of focal
with $i = 0, 1,, n-1$	functional groups
fishing/fishing-seasonality-name <sub>i</sub> .csv,	Files (located within a "fishing" folder) that define the seasonal
with $i = 0, 1,, n-1$	patterns of exploitation of focal functional groups
maps/name <sub>i</sub> _j.csv,	Files (located within a "maps" folder) that define the spatial
with $i = 0, 1,, n-1$ and where j is an	distribution patterns of focal functional groups, possibly at different
integer	seasons $(1 \text{ f } j > 1)$

osm param-output.csv

269

Due to its ability to track ecological information at different hierarchical levels, 270 OSMOSE can deliver a large number of outputs, at different levels of aggregation. Thus, for 271 example, OSMOSE models can inform one about biomasses and body sizes at the cohort, 272 focal functional group and ecological community levels (Shin et al., 2004; Marzloff et al., 273 274 2009; Grüss et al., 2015; Travers-Trolet et al., 2014a). The template version of OSMOSE v3u2 can provide up to 31 different types of basic outputs, such as biomasses, mean body 275 276 sizes in the catch or TLs (Appendix B). However, a diversity of more complex outputs (e.g., Shannon-Wiener index, Fishing-in-Balance index, net present value of discounted fisheries 277 revenues) can be obtained from OSMOSE, either by modifying OSMOSE Java code or 278 through a post-processing of OSMOSE basic outputs (e.g., Travers et al., 2006; Grüss et al., 279 2016b; Reed et al., 2017). 280

OSMOSE models are stochastic, because they: (1) distribute limited numbers of schools over space based on the distribution maps provided as input; (2) employ random walk movement to simulate the movements of schools within their distribution areas; and (3) use a "stochastic mortality algorithm" to compute mortality rates (Grüss et al., 2016b, 2016c). Consequently, OSMOSE outputs are analyzed on the basis of several OSMOSE replicates (generally 10 or 20; Marzloff et al., 2009; Travers et al., 2010; Grüss et al., 2015; Halouani et al., 2016).

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290

#### 289 2.2. Overview of the web application

Our web application relies on interactions between a web UI

291 (https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1418543) and a web API

292 (<u>https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1411483</u>) (Fig. 1). The user starts interacting with the web

application by querying the web UI, which utilizes JavaScript and the JQuery library

294 (Osmani, 2012). After the user has defined the study region, the web UI queries information

stored in JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) data archives to define functional groups for the

296 OSMOSE model. Then, the web UI offers the possibility to the user to redefine functional

- 297 groups and the user is also requested to indicate the number of time steps per year of their
- 298 OSMOSE model. Next, the information resulting from the interactions between the user and
- the web UI is passed to the web API. The web API queries the required FishBase and

- 300 SeaLifeBase data (Table 3 and Appendix C) from TSV (tab-separated value) data archives
- and processes these data to generate OSMOSE input parameters, which are communicated to
- the web UI. The web API is coded in the Java programming language (Gosling, 2000) and is
- deployed on the Heroku platform (<u>https://www.heroku.com/</u>). Finally, the web UI delivers a
- zip file ("osmose\_config.zip") to the user, which contains OSMOSE configuration files filled
- with information, as well as a "README" file and a CSV file listing the species making up
- the focal functional groups and biotic resources defined for the OSMOSE model. We employ
- 307 GitHub to share, document and discuss our web application and the tools on which our web
- 308 application relies (see <u>https://github.com/osmose-model.github.io</u>,
- 309 <u>https://github.com/osmose-model/osmose-web-api</u>, and <u>https://github.com/osmose-</u>
- 310 <u>model/osmose-web-api-js</u>). The second of three aforementioned GitHub repositories archives
- all of the Java code of the web API, and it keeps track of the issues faced during the
- development and use of our web API, as well as reflections on future improvements or
- developments. The repository <u>https://github.com/osmose-model/osmose-web-api-js</u> provides
- the JavaScript library necessary for running our web API
- 315 (<u>https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1411481</u>).
- 316



- **Fig. 1.** Schematic of the different steps followed to obtain OSMOSE configuration files via the web application
- 319 presented in this study. (1) The user starts interacting with the web user interface (web UI) and defines the study
- 320 region. (2) The web UI queries data from JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) data archives to define functional
- 321 groups and their species breakdown. (3) The defined functional groups are communicated to the web UI. (4) The
- 322 user interacts with the web UI to redefine functional groups and to define the number of time steps per year in
- the OSMOSE model. (5) All the information resulting from the interactions between the user and the web UI is
- 324 passed to the web application programming interface (web API). (6) The web API queries FishBase/SeaLifeBase
- data from TSV (tab-separated value) data archives. (7) The web API retrieves FishBase/SeaLifeBase data. (8)
- 326 The web API processes the FishBase/SeaLifeBase data to generate OSMOSE input parameters. (9) The
- 327 OSMOSE input parameters and auxiliary information are passed to the web UI. (10) The web UI communicates
- 328 OSMOSE input parameters and auxiliary information to the user.

#### 329 Table 3

**330** FishBase/SeaLifeBase's data used to derive OSMOSE parameters. Further details are provided in Appendix C.  $X = 0, 1, ..., n_X$ -1, where  $n_X$  is the number of focal functional

331 groups represented in the OSMOSE model.  $Y = 0, 1, ..., n_Y-1$ , where  $n_Y$  is the number of biotic resources represented in the OSMOSE model. \* = FishBase/SeaLifeBase

332 parameter used for calculating the "data richness" metric (see the main text for details on this metric).

OSMOSE parameter	OSMOSE parameter key	FishBase/ SeaLifeBase	FishBase/ SeaLifeBase column(s)
Longevity (years)	species lifespan spX	species	LongevityWild*
Instantaneous growth rate at small size (year <sup>-1</sup> )	species.K.spX	popgrowth	K*
Maximum size (cm)	species.IInf.spX	popgrowth	Loo*
Theoretical age of zero length (years)	species.t0.spX	popgrowth	to*
Constant of proportionality of the allometric length-weight relationship	species.length2weight.condition.factor.spX	poplw	a*
Exponent of the allometric length-weight relationship	species.length2weight.allometric.power.spX	poplw	b*
Body size at sexual maturity (cm)	species.maturity.size.spX	maturity	Lm*
Age at sexual maturity (years)	species.maturity.age.spX	maturity	tm*
Threshold age below which a linear growth model	species.vonbertalanffy.threshold.age.spX	poplw	LengthMin*
is used to calculate mean length increase (years)		popgrowth	to*, Loo*, K*
		estimate	AgeMin, AgeMax
		species	LongevityWild*
Annual number of eggs per g of mature female	species.relativefecundity.spX	fecundity	SpawningCycles*,
			RelFecundityMean*
Sex ratio, defined as the proportion of females in	species.sexratio.spX	spawning	SexRatiomid*
the population			
Egg size (cm)	species.egg.size.spX	eggs	Eggsdiammod*
Egg weight (g)	species.egg.weight.spX	eggs	Eggsdiammod*
Trophic level	plankton.TL.plkY	estimate	Troph*
Minimum body size (cm)	plankton.size.min.plkY	popll	LengthMin*
Maximum body size (cm)	plankton.size.max.plkY	popll	LengthMax*
Natural mortality rate due to causes unrepresented	mortality.natural.rate.spX	popqb	mortality*
in OSMOSE			D oD+
Maximum annual ingestion rate (g of food per g of individual and per year)	predation.ingestion.rate.max.spX	popqb	PopQB*
Critical predation efficiency	predation.efficiency.critical.spX	popqb	MaintQB*, PopQB*
Minimum predator/prey size ratios	predation.predPrey.sizeRatio.max.spX	estimate	PredPreyRatioMin

Maximum predator/prey size ratios	predation.predPrey.sizeRatio.min.spX	estimate	PredPreyRatioMax
Body size threshold that separates the predator/prey	predation.predPrey.stage.threshold.spX	maturity	Lm*
size ratios for juvenile individuals from those for			
adult individuals (cm)			
Accessibility coefficients and theoretical	Content of the "predation-accessibility.csv"	ecology	Benthic
accessibility coefficients	file		
Age threshold that separates the accessibility	predation.accessibility.stage.threshold.spX	maturity	tm*
coefficients of the juvenile and adult stages of focal			
functional groups (years)			
Reproduction seasonality	Content of the "reproduction-seasonality-spX"	spawning	Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Jul,
	files		Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec

## 333 2.3. Steps followed to provide OSMOSE inputs to the user

## 334 *2.3.1. Definition of the study region*

335	To access the web UI, the user needs to go to the FishBase ( <u>http://www.fishbase.org</u> )
336	or SeaLifeBase website (http://www.sealifebase.org/), and to select the "OSMOSE
337	parameters" radio button in the "Tools" section (Step 1 in Fig. 1). Then, the user reaches a
338	first webpage, requesting them to select a marine ecosystem or a combination of a country
339	and FAO area (Fig. 2). For some countries, it is also possible to select a given state (e.g.,
340	Louisiana in the U.S.) or province (e.g., Queensland in Australia). Once the study region has
341	been defined, the user can press the "Proceed" button. Note that the web UI is also available
342	at the following address: <u>http://config.osmose-model.org</u> .

343

about to query parame	ter estimates for your OSMOSE	model.
arted, please select an	ecosystem or a combination of	a country and FAO area.
Ecosystem	Select	▼ * Required
Country	Select	* Required
State/Province	Select <b>▼</b>	
FAO Area	Select V * Required	

**Fig. 2.** Snapshot of the first page of the web user interface.

346

344

## 347 2.3.2. Definition of functional groups and of the number of time steps per year

348 To work on a first definition of functional groups and their species breakdown for the

349 marine region defined by the user, the web UI queries information stored in JSON data

- 350 archives we compiled (located in <u>https://github.com/osmose-model/osmose-</u>
- 351 <u>model.github.io/tree/master/data</u>) (Step 2 in Fig. 1). To populate the JSON data archives, we
- 352 employed an existing routine<sup>3</sup> to define functional groups for each of the marine regions
- 353 (marine ecosystems and combinations of a country, FAO area and state/province) that can

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> This (unpublished) routine is the routine used to provide some EwE parameters for aquatic ecosystems and national waters within FAO areas in the "Tools" section of FishBase (mentioned in the Introduction).

potentially be selected by the user. This routine considers: (1) the species inhabiting the 354 marine region of interest, according to FishBase and SeaLifeBase; and (2) the information 355 stored in FishBase/SeaLifeBase's tables about the habitat (e.g., demersal, benthopelagic), 356 depth range, body size and high order (e.g., sharks, rays) of these species. The JSON data 357 358 archives also store the following information: (1) additional, related species (i.e., species that belong to a related genus or family) for each of the functional groups defined for each of the 359 marine regions that can potentially be selected by the user (see Subsection 2.3.3); (2) the 360 maximum body size, habitat and depth range of all the species included in the JSON data 361 archives; and (3) "data richness" for all the species included in the JSON data archives (see 362 below). The JSON data archives created for our web application are automatically updated 363 every time changes are made in FishBase and SeaLifeBase (e.g., whenever mirror updates of 364 FishBase and SeaLifeBase are performed). 365

After the web UI has queried information from the JSON data archives, the first 366 367 definition of functional groups is displayed on a new webpage, along with two additional generic functional groups ("phytoplankton" and "zooplankton", which are both defined as 368 369 biotic resources) and instructions for the user (Step 3 in Fig. 1 and Fig. 3). Functional groups are detailed in a table. A default name is assigned to them. Moreover, the class, Latin name, 370 maximum body size, habitat and depth range of the species comprising the functional groups 371 are provided. By default, all focal functional groups are defined as focal functional groups, 372 except the generic phytoplankton and zooplankton groups, which can both only be defined as 373 374 biotic resources.

_				Reorgania	ze ti	unctional groups				
Back	Proceed									
ishBa	se/SealifeBase defined f	unctional	groups for	r you						
Please feel free to:										
1) Indicate whether each functional group is a focal functional group or a biotic resource, using dedicated radio buttons. 🕠										
2) Remove species from some functional groups. 🚺										
) Red	istribute species betwee	n functior	nal groups	. 🕤						
) Ren	nove functional groups fr	om the ta	ble. 🕥							
Cre	ate functional groups									
		A								
) Ren	ame functional groups.									
autior	: The name of the functi	onal grou	ps should	not include space	es no	r underscores. For examp	le, "Sm	allPelagics" i	s a valid function	al group nan
it not	"Small pelagics" nor "Sn	nall_pelag	jics".							
Select/	Functional Group	Focal Functional	Biotic Resource	Class		Species		Maximum length (cm)	Habitat	Depth
Select/ eselect	Functional Group	Focal Functional Group	Biotic Resource	Class	Ø	Species	Ø	Maximum length (cm) 46	Habitat pelagic-oceanic	Depth           400
select/ eselect	Functional Group fishpelagicmd Ø fishdemeralsm Ø	Focal Functional Group	Biotic Resource	Class		Species		Maximum length (cm) 46 27.21	Habitat pelagic-oceanic demersal	Depth           400           85-510
elect/ eselect	Functional Group fishpelagicmd fi fishdemeralsm fi fishdemersalmd fi	Focal Functional Group	Biotic Resource	Class ✓ Actinopterygii ✓ Actinopterygii ✓ Actinopterygii		Species		Maximum length (cm)           46           27.21           30.5	Habitat pelagic-oceanic demersal demersal	Depth           400           85-510           50-900
Select/ eselect	Functional Group       fishpelagicmd     Ø       fishdemeralsm     Ø       fishdemersalmd     Ø       fishbathypelagicmd     Ø	Focal Functional Group	Biotic Resource	Class ✓ Actinopterygii ✓ Actinopterygii ✓ Actinopterygii ✓ Actinopterygii		Species Decapterus macarellus Hime japonica Antigonia capros Grammicolepis brachiusculus		Maximum length (cm)           46           27.21           30.5           64	Habitat pelagic-oceanic demersal demersal bathypelagic	Depth           400           85-510           50-900           300-1026
Select/ eselect I	Functional Group       fishpelagicmd     Ø       fishdemeralsm     Ø       fishdemersalmd     Ø       fishbathypelagicmd     Ø       fishbenthopelagicmd     Ø	Focal Functional Group	Biotic Resource	Class ✓ Actinopterygii ✓ Actinopterygii ✓ Actinopterygii ✓ Actinopterygii ✓ Actinopterygii ✓ Actinopterygii ✓ Actinopterygii		Species Decapterus macarellus Hime japonica Antigonia capros Grammicolepis brachiusculus Beryx splendens Pentaceros wheeleri Zenopsis nebulosa		Maximum length (cm)           46           27.21           30.5           64           70           44           70	Habitat pelagic-oceanic demersal demersal bathypelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic	Depth           400           85-510           50-900           300-1026           25-1300           146-800           30-800
Select/ eselect I	Functional Group         fishpelagicmd       Ø         fishdemeralsm       Ø         fishdemersalmd       Ø         fishbathypelagicmd       Ø         fishbenthopelagicmd       Ø         fishbenthopelagiclg       Ø	Focal Functional Group © © © © © ©	Biotic Resource	Class Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii		Species Decapterus macarellus Hime japonica Hime japonica Antigonia capros Grammicolepis brachiusculus Beryx splendens Pentaceros wheeleri Zenopsis nebulosa Etelis carbunculus Revetus prefiosus Ruvetus prefiosus		Maximum length (cm)           46           27.21           30.5           64           70           44           70           140.97           300	Habitat pelagic-oceanic demersal demersal bathypelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic	Depth           400           85-510           50-900           300-1026           25-1300           146-800           30-800           90-400           80-800
ielect/ eselect V V V V V V V	Functional Group       fishpelagicmd     Image: Comparison of the second	Focal Functional Group (*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*)	Biotic Resource	Class Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii		Species  Decapterus macarellus  Hime japonica  Antigonia capros  Grammicolepis brachiusculus  Pentaceros wheeleri Zenopsis nebulosa  Etelis carbunculus Promethichtys prometheus Ruvettus pretiosus  Squalus blainville		Maximum length (cm)           46           27.21           30.5           64           70 44 70           40.97 122 300           100	Habitat pelagic-oceanic demersal demersal bathypelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic	Depth           400           85-510           50-900           300-1026           25-1300           146-800           30-800           90-400           80-800           100-800
Select/ Select Selec	Functional Group         fishpelagicmd       Image: Comparison of the second	Focal Functional Group (*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*)	Biotic Resource	Class Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii		Species  Decapterus macarellus  Hime japonica  Antigonia capros  Antigonia capros  Grammicolepis brachiusculus  Beryx splendens Pentaceros wheeleri Zenopsis nebulosa Etelis carbunculus Ruvettus pretiosus Ruvettus pretiosus Squalus blainville		Maximum length (cm)           46           27.21           30.5           64           70           44, 70           140.97           122           300           100	Habitat pelagic-oceanic demersal demersal bathypelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic	Depth           400           85-510           50-900           300-1025           25-1300           146-800           30-800           90-400           80-800           100-800
Select/ leselect	Functional Group         fishpelagicmd       Image: Comparison of the second	Focal Functional Group (*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*) (*)	Biotic Resource	Class Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii		Species  Decapterus macarellus  Hime japonica  Antigonia capros  Antigonia capros  Grammicolepis brachiusculus  Beryx splendens Pentaceros wheeleri Zenopis nebulosa Etelis carbunculus Ruvettus pretiosus Ruvettus pretiosus Squalus blainville		Maximum length (cm)           46           27.21           30.5           64           70 44 70           140.97 122 300           100	Habitat pelagic-oceanic demersal demersal bathypelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic	Depth           400           85-510           50-900           300-1025           25-1300           146-800           30-800           90-400           80-800           100-800
select/ select	Functional Group         fishpelagicmd       Ø         fishdemeralsm       Ø         fishdemersalmd       Ø         fishbathypelagicmd       Ø         fishbenthopelagicmd       Ø         fishbenthopelagicmd       Ø         fishbenthopelagiclg       Ø         fishbenthopelagichg       Ø         fishbenthopelagichg       Ø         fishbenthopelagichg       Ø         poplankton       phytoplankton	Focal Functional Group ® ® ® ® ® ® ®	Biotic Resource	Class Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Elasmobranchii		Species  Decapterus macarellus  Hime japonica  Antigonia capros  Grammicolepis brachiusculus  Pentaceros wheeleri Zenopsis nebulosa Etelis carbunculus Ruvettus pretiosus Squalus blainville		Maximum length (cm)           46           27.21           30.5           64           70           44           70           140.97           300           100	Habitat pelagic-oceanic demersal demersal bathypelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic	Depth           400           85-510           50-900           300-1026           25-1300           146-800           90-400           80-800           100-800
ielect/ iselect 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	Functional Group         fishpelagicmd       Ø         fishdemeralsm       Ø         fishdemersalmd       Ø         fishbathypelagicmd       Ø         fishbenthopelagicmd       Ø         fishbenthopelagiclg       Ø         fishbenthopelagiclg       Ø         fishbenthopelagichg       Ø         fishbahrypelagichd       Ø         fishbenthopelagichg       Ø         poplankton       P	Focal Functional Group	Biotic Resource	Class Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Actinopterygii Elasmobranchii		Species  Decapterus macarellus  Hime japonica  Antigonia capros  Grammicolepis brachiusculus  Pentaceros wheeleri Zenopsis nebulosa  Etelis carbunclus Ruvettus pretiosus  Squalus blainville		Maximum length (cm)           46           27.21           30.5           64           70 44 70           40.97 122 300           100           0	Habitat pelagic-oceanic demersal demersal bathypelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic benthopelagic demersal	Depth           400           85-510           50-900           300-1026           25-1300           146-800           30-800           90-400           80-800           100-800

Fig. 3. Snapshot of the second page of the web user interface for the Academician Berg, a seamount ecosystembelonging to the Hawaiian-Emperor seamount chain, which is located in the North Pacific.

379

The species composition of the functional groups defined in the JSON data archives 380 and displayed on the second page of the web UI was determined using a "data richness" 381 metric. Data richness was calculated on the basis of 18 FishBase/SeaLifeBase parameters 382 (Table 3). For each species that could potentially be included in a functional group, it was 383 384 determined whether a value is available (1) or not (0) for each of the 18 385 FishBase/SeaLifeBase parameters to estimate data richness. For example, if, for a given species, 10 parameter values were available, the data richness of this species was equal to 10. 386 For each functional group, the species that could potentially be included were ranked based on 387 their data richness and those whose data richness was smaller than 2 were dropped. Then, 388 some other species with the lowest data richness values were eventually dropped so as to keep 389

the number of species per functional group to a maximum of 30, for the sake of computationalefficiency.

In the case of the generic phytoplankton and zooplankton groups, species are not 392 defined and, therefore, data richness is not calculated. Instead, pre-specified parameter values 393 for phytoplankton and zooplankton (i.e., which are the same for all marine regions; Table 4) 394 are provided in the OSMOSE configuration files. These parameter values are those that are 395 usually defined in existing OSMOSE applications (e.g., Travers-Trolet et al., 2014a; Grüss et 396 al., 2015; Halouani et al., 2016; Fu et al., 2017). The rationale behind the definition of generic 397 phytoplankton and zooplankton groups is that preliminary results revealed that data richness 398 is equal to 1 for the great majority of the zooplankton species included in SeaLifeBase and for 399 all the phytoplankton species included in SeaLifeBase. However, for some marine regions, the 400 401 web application may define specific zooplankton groups in addition to the generic zooplankton group. This possibility was allowed, because, in addition to representing 402 403 zooplankton groups as biotic resources, some existing OSMOSE models (Travers-Trolet et 404 al., 2014a; Fu et al., 2013, 2017) represented euphausiids (order Euphausiacea, class 405 Malacostraca) as a focal functional group.

406

#### 407 Table 4

408 Parameter values for the generic phytoplankton and zooplankton groups defined by the web application for any409 marine region. Both the generic phytoplankton and zooplankton groups are defined as "biotic resources" by the

410 web application.

OSMOSE parameter	OSMOSE parameter key	Value for	Value for zooplankton
		phytoplankton	
Minimum body size (cm)	plankton.size.min.plk	0.0002	0.002
Maximum body size (cm)	plankton.size.max.plk	0.02	0.3
Trophic level	plankton.TL.plk	1	2
Theoretical accessibility	Content of the "predation-	1	1
coefficients	accessibility.csv" file		

411

The user has the possibility to redefine functional groups (Step 4 in Fig. 1 and Fig. 3). First, a check box allows the user to select/deselect functional groups. Second, the user can modify the name of functional groups and redefine some focal functional groups as biotic resources. Third, check boxes are provided to the left of class names and Latin species names, which enable the user to deselect some classes or species if they wish. Fourth, "Edit" tools are

provided to the right of class names and Latin species names, which allow the user to add 417 classes or species to functional groups; suggestions are provided to the user as they start 418 typing something. Lastly, a "Plus" button at the bottom of the table enables the user to add 419 420 new functional groups to the table. A new functional group then needs to be defined either as a focal functional group, in which case the user needs to fill in the "Species" column, or as a 421 biotic resource, in which case the user needs to fill in "Class" column; here, again, 422 suggestions are provided to the user as they start typing something<sup>4</sup>. The check boxes, "Edit" 423 tools and "Plus" button allow the user to define only focal species (i.e., focal functional 424 425 groups all comprising one unique species) for their OSMOSE model if they wish. The redefined functional groups are for the local user only and are not saved in the JSON data 426 427 archives.

Once the user is satisfied with the (re)definition of functional groups, they need to press "Proceed" to reach another webpage. This webpage offers the user the possibility to reorder focal functional groups. Then, the user needs to press "Proceed" to reach another, similar webpage, where they are invited to re-order biotic resources before proceeding to next webpage.

The next webpage requests the user to indicate the number of time steps per year of their future OSMOSE model (e.g., 12 if their future OSMOSE model has a monthly time step). Afterwards, the user needs to press "Proceed".

436

### 437 2.3.3. Data query in TSV data archives

In addition to the species comprising the defined functional groups that the user can see on the second page of the web UI, additional, related species (i.e., species that belong to a related genus or family) are included in each of the defined functional groups. We implemented this so as to maximize one's chances to obtain non-default values for the largest possible number of OSMOSE input parameters. For each functional group defined for each marine region that could be potentially selected by the user, potential additional species were added to the JSON data archives and ranked based on their data richness, similarly to what is

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> A workaround to fill in the "Species" column for an additional biotic resource consists of: (1) temporarily defining the biotic resource as a "focal functional group"; (2) filling in the "Species" column"; and (3) redefining the functional group as a "biotic resource"; this workaround is mentioned by one of the "information buttons" of the web user interface.

described in Subsection 2.3.2. Potential additional species whose data richness was smaller
than 2 were dropped. Then, some other potential additional species were eventually dropped
so as to keep the total (i.e., original plus additional) number of species per functional group to
a maximum of 30, for the sake of computational efficiency. In the final list of species making
up a functional group in JSON data archives, the ranked list of original species precedes the
ranked list of additional species.

The list of the species (i.e., original plus additional) comprising the functional groups 451 and the number of time steps of the OSMOSE model are communicated to the web API via a 452 JSON file (Step 5 in Fig. 1). The web API then queries FishBase and SeaLifeBase data from 453 TSV data archives we compiled (compressed TSV files located in https://github.com/FiN-454 FBSLB/fishbase-sealifebase-archive; https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1418646) (Steps 6 and 7 455 456 in Fig. 1). The TSV data archives were created from the information stored in the JSON data archives, using the "rOpenSci FishBase API", which is the API to the backend Structured 457 Query Language (SQL) database behind FishBase and SeaLifeBase (Boettiger et al., 2012). 458 The TSV data archives are automatically updated every time changes are made in FishBase 459 460 and SeaLifeBase (e.g., whenever mirror updates of FishBase and SeaLifeBase are performed).

461

### 462 *2.3.4. Generation of OSMOSE parameters*

The web API employs the data queried from the TSV data archives to derive values 463 for OSMOSE parameters (Step 8 in Fig. 1). For each functional group, to generate a value for 464 a given OSMOSE parameter, the web API deals with the species comprising the functional 465 group in turn, based on their rank. The web API first considers the first-ranked species and, if 466 467 FishBase/SeaLifeBase data are available for this species, then a value is calculated for the OSMOSE parameter. The web API then considers the second-ranked species and, if 468 469 FishBase/SeaLifeBase data are available for this species, then a value is calculated for the OSMOSE parameter. This process continues until the web API reaches the last-ranked species 470 471 of the functional group. If no FishBase/SeaLifeBase data are available for all of the species 472 making up the functional group (i.e., original plus additional), then the OSMOSE parameter 473 under consideration is set to its default value (Appendix C). NA (not available) is the default value of 11 of the OSMOSE parameters for which our web application provides estimates 474 475 (Appendix C).

The web API either determines the value of an OSMOSE parameter directly from a 476 FishBase/SeaLifeBase parameter (e.g., longevity from the FishBase/SeaLifeBase parameter 477 "LongevityWild"), or it generates an estimate for the OSMOSE parameter from calculations 478 performed from several FishBase/SeaLifeBase parameters (e.g., critical predation efficiency 479 is estimated from the FishBase/SeaLifeBase parameters "PopQB" and "MaintQB") (Table 3). 480 It was necessary to add new columns to FishBase/SeaLifeBase tables to enable the estimation 481 of some OSMOSE parameters. For example, we added the columns "PredPreyRatioMin" and 482 "PredPreyRatioMax" to the FishBase/SeaLifeBase table "estimate" to enable the production 483 484 of minimum and maximum predator/prey size ratio estimates for OSMOSE. When, for a given species, the web API encounters several values (usually originating from studies 485 486 conducted in different regions) for a given FishBase/SeaLifeBase parameter in the TSV data archives, it generates a median estimate for that FishBase/SeaLifeBase parameter before 487 488 doing any computations to derive an OSMOSE parameter estimate. Details about the generation of OSMOSE parameter values with the web API are given in Appendix C. All 489 490 OSMOSE parameter values are entered by the web API into OSMOSE configuration files.

491

## 492 2.3.5. Delivery of OSMOSE configuration files to the user

Once the web API is done with the production of OSMOSE configuration files, an 493 "osmose config.zip" file is passed to the web UI, which contains the OSMOSE configuration 494 495 files, as well as a CSV file listing the species making up the functional groups defined for the 496 OSMOSE model ("functional groups.csv") and a "README" file (Step 9 in Fig. 1). The README file is a spreadsheet, whose individual tabs describe the content of each OSMOSE 497 498 configuration file. In each tab of the README file, information is provided about the 499 individual OSMOSE parameters, their default value, whether and how they were estimated by the web application, and how they could be estimated if they are not covered by the web 500 501 application (similarly to Appendix B).

At the time the web API delivers the "osmose\_config.zip" file to the web UI, the user reaches a final webpage. This webpage informs the user that the configuration files for their OSMOSE model are ready, and it also provides information on where to download OSMOSE v3u2 and where to obtain technical assistance for OSMOSE. The user is instructed to press the "Submit" button to obtain the "osmose\_config.zip" file (Step 10 in Fig. 1).

## 508 **3. Results**

509 To demonstrate our web application, let us query OSMOSE configuration files for the West Florida Shelf region, which is located within the Gulf of Mexico Large Marine 510 511 Ecosystem. The West Florida Shelf region is a marine ecosystem under strong and increasing 512 anthropogenic and environmental pressures (Brand and Compton, 2007; Chagaris, 2013; Karnauskas et al., 2013, 2017). An OSMOSE model depicting the structure of the West 513 Florida Shelf ecosystem in the 2000s, referred to as "OSMOSE-WFS", was developed in 514 Grüss et al. (2015). The OSMOSE-WFS model was later updated in Grüss et al. (2016b, 515 516 2016c). OSMOSE-WFS has a monthly time step, explicitly considers 12 focal functional groups, and is forced by the biomass of seven biotic resources (Table 5). The two latest 517 versions of the OSMOSE-WFS model (Grüss et al., 2016b, 2016c) used the parameter values 518 defined in Grüss et al. (2015), except for the following parameters: (1) the minimum and 519 maximum predator/prey size ratios of focal functional groups, which were redefined; and (2) 520 521 the larval mortality rates of focal functional groups and the availability coefficients of biotic 522 resources, which were re-estimated during the calibration process of OSMOSE. The parameter values employed in OSMOSE-WFS papers usually came from regional studies, or 523 524 they were established based on experts' opinion (the accessibility coefficients of focal functional groups and the theoretical accessibility coefficients of biotic resources). Here, we 525 526 compare the parameter values and functional relationships defined by our web application to the parameter values and functional relationships used in OSMOSE-WFS papers (Grüss et al., 527 528 2015, 2016b, 2016c).

#### 529 Table 5

530 Functional groups represented in the OSMOSE model of the West Florida Shelf ("OSMOSE-WFS"). These functional groups include focal functional groups, whose entire

531 life cycle is simulated in the OSMOSE-WFS model, and biotic resources, whose biomass is used to force OSMOSE-WFS. Species of a given focal functional group exhibit

- 532 similar life history characteristics, body size ranges, diets and exploitation patterns. Some individual species constitute their own focal functional group, as they are
- 533 emblematic to the West Florida Shelf and of high economic importance. \* = Classes for which there is currently no information available in SeaLifeBase.

Functional group	Focal functional group or biotic resource?	Species making up the functional group
King mackerel	Focal functional group	King mackerel (Scomberomorus cavalla)
Amberiacks	Focal functional group	Greater amberiack (Seriola dumerili), lesser amberiack (Seriola fasciata), almaco jack (Seriola rivoliana)
Red grouper	Focal functional group	Red grouper ( <i>Epinephelus morio</i> )
Gag	Focal functional group	Gag (Mycteroperca microlepis)
Red snapper	Focal functional group	Red snapper (Lutjanus campechanus)
Sardine-herring-scad complex	Focal functional group	Scaled sardine ( <i>Harengula jaguana</i> ), Spanish sardine ( <i>Sardinella aurita</i> ), Atlantic thread herring ( <i>Opisthonema oglinum</i> ), round scad ( <i>Decapterus punctatus</i> ), finescale menhaden ( <i>Brevoortia gunteri</i> ), Gulf menhaden ( <i>Brevoortia patronus</i> ), Atlantic menhaden ( <i>Brevoortia tyrannus</i> )
Anchovies and silversides	Focal functional group	Bay anchovy (Anchoa mitchilli), striped anchovy (Anchoa hepsetus), inland silverside (Menidia beryllina), Alabama shad (Alosa alabamae)
Coastal omnivores	Focal functional group	Pinfish ( <i>Lagodon rhomboides</i> ), orange filefish ( <i>Aluterus schoepfii</i> ), fringed filefish ( <i>Monacanthus ciliatus</i> ), orangespotted filefish ( <i>Cantherhines pullus</i> ), honeycomb filefish ( <i>Acanthostracion polygonius</i> ), Atlantic spadefish ( <i>Chaetodinterus faber</i> ) scrawled cowfish ( <i>Acanthostracion auadricornis</i> ) bandtail puffer ( <i>Sphoeroides spengleri</i> )
Reef carnivores	Focal functional group	(Chaetoupterus Jaber), setawied cownsn (Acumnostration quaaricornis), bandan purier (Spinoerotaes spengieri) White grunt (Haemulon plumierii), black sea bass (Centropristis striata), belted sandfish (Serranus subligarius), butter hamlet (Hypoplectrus unicolor), creole fish (Paranthias furcifer), splippery dick (Halichoeres bivittatus), yellowhead wrasse (Halichoeres garnoti), bluehead (Thalassoma bifasciatum), reef croaker (Odontoscion dentex), jackknife-fish (Equetus lanceolatus), littlehead porgy (Calamus proridens), jolthead porgy (Calamus bajonado), saucereye progy (Calamus calamus), whitebone progy (Calamus leucosteus), knobbed progy (Calamus nodosus), French grunt (Haemulon flavolineatum), Spanish grunt (Haemulon macrostomum), margate (Haemulon album), bluestriped grunt (Haemulon sciurus), striped grunt (Haemulon striatum), sailor's grunt (Haemulon parra), porkfish (Anisotremus virginicus)
Reef omnivores	Focal functional group	Doctorfish (Acanthurus chirurgus), blue tang (Acanthurus coeruleus), blue angelfish (Holacanthus bermudensis), gray angelfish (Pomacanthus arcuatus), rock beauty (Holacanthus tricolor), yellowtail damselfish (Microspathodon chrysurus), bridled goby (Coryphopterus glaucofraenum), Bermuda chub (Kyphossus sectarix), combtooth blenny (Chasmodes saburrae), banded blenny (Paraclinus fasciatus), twospot cardinalfish (Apogon maculatus), dusky jawfish (Opistognathus whitehursti), ocean surgeon (Acanthurus bahianus), banded butterfly (Chaetodon striatus), foureye butterfly (Chaetodon capristratus), reef butterfly (Chaetodon sedentarius), spotfin butterfly (Chaetodon ocellatus), French angel (Pomacanthus paru), queen angel (Holacanthus ciliaris), sergeant

		major damsel ( <i>Abudefduf saxatilis</i> ), blue parrot ( <i>Scarus coeruleus</i> ), queen parrot ( <i>Scarus vetula</i> ), rainbow parrot ( <i>Scarus guacamaia</i> ), redband parrot ( <i>Sparisoma aurofrenatum</i> ), spotlight parrot ( <i>Sparisoma viride</i> ), midnight parrotfish ( <i>Scarus coelestinus</i> ), princess parrotfish ( <i>Scarus taeniopterus</i> ), yellow chub ( <i>Kyphosus incisor</i> ), redtail parrotfish ( <i>Sparisoma chrysonterum</i> ) bucktooth parrotfish ( <i>Sparisoma radians</i> )
Shrimps	Focal functional group	Pink shrimp ( <i>Farfantepenaeus duorarum</i> ), white shrimp ( <i>Litopenaeus setiferus</i> )
Large crabs	Focal functional group	Blue crab ( <i>Callinectes sapidus</i> )
Meiofauna	Biotic resource	Hexanauplia spp.*, Secernentea spp.*, Dorylaimida spp.*, Enoplea spp.*, Maxillopoda spp., Macrodasyida spp.*,
		Chaetonotida spp.*, Bdelloidea spp.*, Monogonta spp.*
Small infauna	Biotic resource	Aplacophora spp.*, Polychaeta spp.
Small mobile epifauna	Biotic resource	Ostracoda spp.*, Turbellaria spp.*, Cladocera spp.*, Brachiopoda spp.*
Bivalves	Biotic resource	Bivalvia spp.
Echinoderms and gastropods	Biotic resource	Asteroidea spp., Echinoidea spp., Gastropoda spp., Holothuroidea spp.
Zooplankton	Biotic resource	Zooplankton
Phytoplankton	Biotic resource	Phytoplankton

To obtain OSMOSE parameter estimates for the West Florida Shelf ecosystem with 535 our web application, we proceeded as follows. First, in the first page of the web UI, we 536 selected the Gulf of Mexico (Fig. 2). Second, in the second page of the web UI, we employed 537 538 the different tools available (i.e., the check boxes, the Edit tools and the Plus button; Fig. 3) to define focal functional groups and biotic resources according to Table 5. With respect to 539 biotic resources, there was at the time of writing (September 2018) no information available 540 in SeaLifeBase for some of the classes comprising the meiofauna and small infauna groups 541 and all of the classes comprising the small mobile epifauna group; this entails that we were 542 543 unable to define a small mobile epifauna group for the West Florida Shelf ecosystem with the web application. Third, we re-ordered focal functional groups and biotic resources according 544 545 to Table 5. Fourth, we indicated to the web UI that the OSMOSE model for the West Florida Shelf has a monthly time step, i.e., we set the number of time steps per year to 12 in the fifth 546 547 page of the web UI. Finally, we pressed the "Submit" button in the last page of the web UI to obtain an "osmose config.zip" file containing all the OSMOSE configuration files populated 548 549 by the web API. The entire process took around 15 minutes with a laptop with a 2.6 GHz Intel Core i5-6440HQ processor. 550

To compare the information provided by our web application to the information used 551 in OSMOSE-WFS papers (Grüss et al., 2015, 2016b, 2016c), we examined the following: (1) 552 the length-at-age relationship of focal functional groups; (2) the weight-at-age relationship of 553 focal functional groups; (3) the longevity (i.e., maximum age), body size at sexual maturity, 554 relative fecundity (i.e., annual number of eggs per g of mature female), reproduction 555 556 seasonality, minimum and maximum predator/prey size ratios, accessibility coefficients, 557 annual natural mortality rate due to marine organisms and events (e.g., harmful algal blooms) that are not explicitly considered in OSMOSE, critical predation efficiency, maximum annual 558 ingestion rate, proportion of females, egg size, and egg weight of focal functional groups; and 559 (4) the theoretical accessibility coefficients, minimum and maximum sizes, and TL of biotic 560 561 resources.

We first examine the length-at-age relationship of the 12 focal functional groups represented in the OSMOSE-WFS model (Fig. 4). In OSMOSE, schools are assumed to grow in size only when the amount of food they ingested fulfills maintenance requirements, and, if that condition is met, the growth in length of schools is calculated as a function of predation efficiency and the mean length increase from the von Bertalanffy growth model (Appendix A). The length-at-age relationships we examine here were established outside of OSMOSE

- 568 (i.e., ignore predation efficiencies) from the values of the following parameters: (1)
- instantaneous growth rate at small size (*K*, in year<sup>-1</sup>); (2) asymptotic size ( $L_{\infty}$ , in cm); (3)
- 570 theoretical age of zero length ( $t_0$ , in years); and (4) the age below which a linear function is
- employed, and above which a von Bertalanffy growth function is employed, to model body
- growth ( $A_{thres}$ , in years) (Appendix A). The length-at-age relationships established from the
- 573 parameter estimates provided by the web application and from the parameter estimates used in
- 574 OSMOSE-WFS papers are similar (Fig. 4). The largest discrepancies between OSMOSE-
- 575 WFS and our web application were observed for reef carnivores and shrimps (Fig. 4).



Fig. 4. Comparison of the length-at-age relationships used in previous papers (Grüss et al., 2015, 2016b, 2016c;
gray curves) and predicted by our web application (black curves) for the 12 focal functional groups represented
in the OSMOSE model of the West Florida Shelf ("OSMOSE-WFS"). The vertical lines indicate the age below
which a linear function is employed, and above which a von Bertalanffy growth function is employed, to model
body growth.

583

577

584 We next examine the weight-at-age relationship of the 12 focal functional groups 585 represented in OSMOSE-WFS (Fig. 5). In OSMOSE, the body weight of a school is 586 estimated from its body length using a classic allometric function, while the body length of

the school is itself estimated based on von Bertalanffy parameters and predation efficiency, as 587 explained earlier. The weight-at-age relationships we examine here were also established 588 outside of OSMOSE (i.e., they also ignore predation efficiencies), from the values of the 589 following parameters: (1) the von Bertalanffy parameters K,  $L_{\infty}$  and  $t_0$ ; (2) the A<sub>thres</sub> parameter; 590 and (3) the constant of proportionality (c) and exponent (b) of the allometric length-weight 591 relationship (Appendix A). The weight-at-age relationships established from the parameter 592 estimates provided by the web application and from the parameter estimates used in 593 OSMOSE-WFS papers tend to be similar (Fig. 5). However, the individual body weights of 594 red snapper (Lutjanus campechanus), the sardine-herring-scad complex, the anchovies and 595 silversides' group and shrimps are noticeably larger when employing the parameter estimates 596 used in OSMOSE-WFS papers, while the individual body weights of reef omnivores and 597 large crabs are generally markedly larger when employing the parameter estimates provided 598 by the web application (Fig. 5). Yet, these differences usually do not alter the rankings of the 599 maximum individual body weights of focal functional groups (computed outside of 600 601 OSMOSE, i.e., ignoring predation efficiencies; Table 6). An exception to this usual pattern is observed for coastal omnivores, whose maximum individual body weight is greater than that 602 603 of large crabs when employing the parameters used in OSMOSE-WFS papers, while the opposite is observed when the parameters provided by the web application are employed 604 605 (Table 6).



Fig. 5. Comparison of the weight-at-age relationships used in previous papers (Grüss et al., 2015, 2016b, 2016c;
gray curves) and predicted by our web application (black curves) for the 12 focal functional groups represented
in the OSMOSE model of the West Florida Shelf ("OSMOSE-WFS").

607

#### 612 Table 6

- 613 Comparison of the maximum individual body weights of the 12 focal functional groups represented in the
- 614 OSMOSE-WFS ecosystem model computed outside of OSMOSE (i.e., ignoring predation efficiencies) when
- using the parameter estimates employed in previous studies (Grüss et al., 2015, 2016b, 2016c) vs. the parameter
- estimates provided by our web application. Some of the mean individual weights are in kg, while the others are
- 617 in g.

Focal functional group	Maximum individual body weight when using the parameter estimates from previous studies	Maximum individual body weight when using the parameter estimates from the web application
Amberjacks	44.1 kg	28.2 kg
Gag	26.2 kg	26.0 kg
King mackerel	20.0 kg	16.0 kg
Red snapper	17.9 kg	13.7 kg
Red grouper	9.4 kg	11.2 kg
Reef carnivores	1,109.3 g	909.6 g
Reef omnivores	440.6 g	572.7 g
Coastal omnivores	278.8 g	224.7 g
Large crabs	239.2 g	393.2 g
Sardine-herring-scad complex	81.8 g	56.8 g
Shrimps	70.3 g	38.8 g

We now compare the longevity and body size at sexual maturity  $(L_{mat})$  estimates 619 provided by the web application to those used in OSMOSE-WFS papers (Figs. 6A and B). In 620 621 general, there are no marked differences between the longevity and  $L_{mat}$  estimates delivered by the web application and those used in OSMOSE-WFS papers. Exceptions to this general 622 pattern include: (1) king mackerel (Scomberomorus cavalla), whose longevity is set to 14 623 years by the web application vs. 27 years in OSMOSE-WFS papers; (2) gag (Mycteroperca 624 *microlepis*), whose  $L_{mat}$  is set to a larger value by the web application (63.2 cm vs. 46.8 cm in 625 OSMOSE-WFS papers); and (3) reef omnivores, whose longevity is set to 31 years by the 626 web application vs. 17 years in OSMOSE-WFS papers, and whose  $L_{mat}$  is set to a larger value 627 by the web application (24.7 cm vs. 15.5 cm in OSMOSE-WFS papers). 628

629



(A) Longevity



**631** Fig. 6. Comparison of the (A) longevity, (B) body length at sexual maturity and (C) relative fecundity estimates

632 used in previous papers (Grüss et al., 2015, 2016b, 2016c; gray bars) and provided by our web application (black

bars) for the 12 focal functional groups represented in the OSMOSE model of the West Florida Shelf

634 ("OSMOSE-WFS"). Relative fecundities are expressed as the annual number of eggs per g of mature female.

Black crosses indicate when the web application was unable to provide a relative fecundity estimate. The relative

636 fecundity of reef omnivores estimated by our web application (58 eggs per g of mature female per year) is

637 pointed out by an arrow. The focal functional groups represented in OSMOSE-WFS include: KM = king

 $638 \qquad \text{mackerel; AJ = amberjacks; RG = red grouper; G = gag; RS = red snapper; SHS = the sardine-herring-scad}$ 

640 large crabs.

641

Next, we compare the relative fecundity and reproduction seasonality estimates 642 643 delivered by the web application to those used in OSMOSE-WFS papers (Figs. 6C and 7). The web application was able to produce a relative fecundity estimate for only five of the 12 644 focal functional groups represented in the OSMOSE-WFS model: the sardine-herring-scad 645 complex; anchovies and silversides; coastal omnivores; reef carnivores; and reef omnivores 646 (Fig. 6C). For these five focal functional groups, the web application provided a relative 647 fecundity estimate that is considerably smaller than the estimate employed in OSMOSE-WFS 648 papers. Moreover, the web application was able to define reproduction seasonality patterns for 649 only six of the 12 focal functional groups represented in OSMOSE-WFS: amberjacks; red 650 grouper (*Epinephelus morio*); gag; red snapper; the sardine-herring-scad complex; and large 651 crabs (Fig. 7). For these six focal functional groups, the web application and OSMOSE-WFS 652 653 papers defined similar reproduction seasonality patterns. When the web application was 654 unable to define reproduction seasonality patterns for a given focal functional group, it assumed that this functional group had a probability of 1/12 to reproduce each month of the 655 656 year (Fig. 7).



658

Fig. 7. Comparison of the reproduction seasonalities used in previous papers (Grüss et al., 2015, 2016b, 2016c;
gray bars) and estimated by our web application (black bars) for the 12 focal functional groups represented in the
OSMOSE model of the West Florida Shelf ("OSMOSE-WFS").

We now compare the minimum predator/prey size ratio  $((L_{pred}/L_{prey})_{min})$  and maximum 663 predator/prey size ratio  $((L_{pred}/L_{prey})_{max})$  estimates provided by the web application to those 664 used in OSMOSE-WFS papers (Figs. 8 and 9). For each focal functional group, the 665 OSMOSE-WFS papers relied on four predator/prey size ratio estimates: one (Lpred/Lprey)min 666 estimate for juveniles; one  $(L_{pred}/L_{prev})_{min}$  estimate for adults; one  $(L_{pred}/L_{prev})_{max}$  estimate for 667 juveniles; and one  $(L_{pred}/L_{prev})_{max}$  estimate for adults. In contrast, for each focal functional 668 group, the web application delivers one  $(L_{pred}/L_{prev})_{min}$  estimate for all life stages combined 669 and one  $(L_{pred}/L_{prey})_{max}$  estimate for all life stages combined. In general, the web application 670 and OSMOSE-WFS papers defined very similar (*L<sub>pred</sub>/L<sub>prey</sub>*)<sub>min</sub> estimates (Figs. 8 and 9). 671 672 Exceptions to these general patterns occurred for three focal functional groups, for which the web application defined a markedly smaller  $(L_{pred}/L_{prey})_{min}$  estimate: the sardine-herring-scad 673 674 complex; anchovies and silversides; and coastal omnivores (Figs. 9A-C). On the other hand, there are marked differences between the  $(L_{pred}/L_{prey})_{max}$  estimates delivered by the web 675 application and those employed in OSMOSE-WFS papers (Figs. 8 and 9). In general, the web 676 application defined larger  $(L_{pred}/L_{prev})_{max}$  values than OSMOSE-WFS papers. Exceptions to 677

- this general pattern included: (1) large crabs and shrimps, for which the web application
- provided a smaller  $(L_{pred}/L_{prey})_{max}$  estimate (Figs. 8F and 9F); and (2) the sardine-herring-scad
- 680 complex, for which the web application delivered a  $(L_{pred}/L_{prey})_{max}$  estimate much larger than
- the estimate defined for juveniles in OSMOSE-WFS papers, but substantially smaller than the
- estimate defined for adults in OSMOSE-WFS papers (Fig. 9A).





Fig. 8. Comparison of the minimum and maximum predator/prey size ratios used in previous papers (Grüss et al., 2015, 2016b, 2016c) and estimated by our web application
for six of the 12 focal functional groups represented in the OSMOSE model of the West Florida Shelf ("OSMOSE-WFS"): (A) king mackerel; (B) amberjacks; (C) red
grouper; (D) gag; (E) red snapper; and (F) large crabs. Previous papers defined minimum and maximum predator/prey size ratios for the juvenile and adult stages of focal
functional groups (PP-JUV and PP-ADU, respectively), while our web application estimated minimum and maximum predator/prey size ratios for all the life stages of focal
functional groups combined (WEB APP).





690 Fig. 9. Comparison of the minimum and maximum predator/prey size ratios used in previous papers (Grüss et al., 2015, 2016b, 2016c) and estimated by our web application



692 anchovies and silversides; (C) coastal omnivores; (D) reef carnivores; (E) reef omnivores; and (F) shrimps. Previous papers defined minimum and maximum predator/prey

693 size ratios for the juvenile and adult stages of focal functional groups (PP-JUV and PP-ADU, respectively), while our web application estimated minimum and maximum

694 predator/prey size ratios for all the life stages of focal functional groups combined (WEB APP).

We now compare the accessibility coefficients of focal functional groups and the 695 theoretical accessibility coefficients of biotic resources that are provided by the web 696 application to the coefficients that are used in the OSMOSE-WFS papers (Appendix D). 697 These two types of coefficients describe the accessibility of a potential prey item (the age 698 699 class of a focal functional group or a biotic resource) to a potential predator (a given age class 700 of a focal functional group). The web application set accessibility coefficients to 0.8 much 701 more often than OSMOSE-WFS papers (Appendix D). The web application set accessibility coefficients to 0.4 only when there was limited overlap in the water column between the 702 703 potential prey item and the potential predator (e.g., the accessibility of adults of anchovies and silversides, which are pelagic, to adult large crabs, which is benthic, was set to 0.4). With 704 705 respect to the generic phytoplankton and zooplankton groups, the web application automatically sets all of their theoretical accessibility coefficients to 1, while OSMOSE-WFS 706 707 papers set some of their accessibility coefficients to 0 (e.g., their theoretical accessibility to adult red snapper; Appendix D). With respect to the other biotic resources defined with the 708 709 web application (i.e., meiofauna, small infauna, bivalves, and echinoderms and gastropods), their theoretical accessibility coefficients were usually set to 0.4, reflecting their limited 710 711 overlap in the water column with the great majority of the focal functional groups represented 712 in the OSMOSE-WFS model (Appendix D).

Next, we compare the annual natural mortality rates due to marine organisms and 713 events not explicitly considered in OSMOSE that are provided by the web application to those 714 that are used in the OSMOSE-WFS papers (Table 7). These types of mortality rates are 715 716 referred to as "diverse natural mortality rates". The web application was able to deliver an estimate different from the 0.2 year<sup>-1</sup> default value for only four of the 12 focal functional 717 groups represented in OSMOSE-WFS: red snapper; the sardine-herring-scad complex; 718 anchovies and silversides; and reef carnivores (Table 7). The diverse natural mortality rates of 719 red snapper and of the sardine-herring-scad complex delivered by the web application and 720 721 those employed in OSMOSE-WFS papers are similar. By contrast, the diverse natural mortality rate of anchovies and silversides used in OSMOSE-WFS papers is ca. twice larger 722 723 than that provided by the web application, while the diverse natural mortality rate of reef 724 carnivores delivered by our web application is around twice larger than that employed in 725 OSMOSE-WFS papers (Table 7).

#### 727 Table 7

- 728 Comparison of the "diverse natural mortality rate" estimates used in previous papers (Grüss et al., 2015, 2016b,
- 2016c) and provided by our web application for the 12 focal functional groups represented in the OSMOSE
- 730 model of the West Florida Shelf ("OSMOSE-WFS"). "Diverse natural mortality" is the mortality due to marine
- organisms and events (e.g., harmful algal blooms) that are not explicitly considered in OSMOSE.

Focal functional group	Diverse natural mortality estimate in OSMOSE-WFS papers (year <sup>-1</sup> )	Diverse natural mortality estimate provided by our web application (year <sup>-</sup>
King mackerel	0.28	0.2
Amberjacks	0.01	0.2
Red grouper	0.02	0.2
Gag	0.01	0.2
Red snapper	0.19	0.25
Sardine-herring-scad complex	1.43	1.09
Anchovies and silversides	2.29	1.05
Coastal omnivores	1.1	0.2
Reef carnivores	0.35	0.64
Reef omnivores	0.55	0.2
Shrimps	1.58	0.2
Large crabs	0.74	0.2

732

We now consider five parameters that are usually set to their default value for all focal 733 functional groups in OSMOSE models: (1) critical predation efficiency (default value: 0.57); 734 (2) maximum annual ingestion rate (default value: 3.5 year<sup>-1</sup>; but see Brochier et al. (2013)); 735 (3) proportion of females (default value: 0.5; but see OSMOSE-WFS papers); (4) egg size 736 (default value: 0.1 cm; but see Halouani et al. (2016)); and (5) egg weight (default value: 737 0.00053669 g; but see Halouani et al. (2016)). Regarding critical predation efficiency, the web 738 application was able to provide an estimate different from the 0.57 default value for only two 739 of the 12 focal functional groups represented in the OSMOSE-WFS model: red snapper; and 740 reef carnivores (Table 8). The web application was able to deliver a maximum annual 741 ingestion rate estimate different from the 3.5 year<sup>-1</sup> default value for five of the 12 focal 742 functional groups represented in OSMOSE-WFS: red snapper; the sardine-herring-scad 743 complex; anchovies and silversides; reef carnivores; and reef omnivores (Table 8). The web 744 745 application set the proportion of females of four of the 12 focal functional groups represented in OSMOSE-WFS to a value different from 0.5: red snapper; anchovies and silversides; reef 746 carnivores; and reef omnivores (Table 8). Finally, the web application set egg size and weight 747 748 to their default values for all the focal functional groups represented in the OSMOSE-WFS 749 model.

### 751 Table 8

- 752 Estimates of critical predation efficiency, maximum annual ingestion rate and proportion of females provided by
- vor web application for the 12 focal functional groups represented in the OSMOSE model of the West Florida

754 Shelf ("OSMOSE-WFS"). \* = The web application set the parameter to its default value, because too little or no

755 information was available in FishBase/SeaLifeBase to produce an estimate.

Focal functional group	Critical predation	Maximum ingestion	<b>Proportion of females</b>
	efficiency	rate (year ')	
King mackerel	0.57*	3.5*	0.5*
Amberjacks	0.57*	3.5*	0.5*
Red grouper	0.57*	3.5*	0.5*
Gag	0.57*	3.5*	0.5*
Red snapper	0.64	5.24	0.49
Sardine-herring-scad complex	0.57*	8.1	0.5*
Anchovies and silversides	0.57*	10.1	0.49
Coastal omnivores	0.57*	3.5*	0.5*
Reef carnivores	0.23	7.98	0.74
Reef omnivores	0.57*	3.21	0.82
Shrimps	0.57*	3.5*	0.5*
Large crabs	0.57*	3.5*	0.5*

756

757	Finally, we consider the minimum size, maximum size and TL of biotic resources. The
758	web application and OSMOSE-WFS papers usually provided identical minimum size,
759	maximum size and TL estimates for phytoplankton and zooplankton. The exception to this
760	usual pattern was the TL of zooplankton, which was set to a slightly higher value in
761	OSMOSE-WFS papers than in the configuration files delivered by the web application (2.19
762	vs. 2). The web application was unable to supply any minimum size and maximum size
763	estimates for meiofauna, small infauna, bivalves, and echinoderms and gastropods. It was also
764	unable to supply a TL estimate for meiofauna. The TL values provided by the web application
765	and OSMOSE-WFS papers for small infauna and bivalves were similar (web application: 2
766	for both biotic resources; OSMOSE-WFS papers: 2.25 for small infauna, and 2 for bivalves),
767	while the TL of echinoderms and gastropods was set to a larger value in the configuration
768	files delivered by the web application than in OSMOSE-WFS papers (3.3 vs. 2.5).

769

## 770 **4. Discussion**

In the present study, we introduced a web application we created, which generates
configuration files for applications of an ecosystem modeling platform, OSMOSE, from
FishBase and SeaLifeBase data. Our web application is user-friendly and entirely relies on an
openly accessible API and free technologies. We provided a demonstration of this tool by

- 775 querying OSMOSE configuration files for the West Florida Shelf ecosystem. This
- demonstration showed the potential of our web application, but also highlighted research
- avenues for enhancing it (see Subsection 4.1). Our web application and its associated
- resources (its associated GitHub repositories, and Appendix A of the present paper) contribute
- to the "toolkit for OSMOSE users" (Table 9).
- 780
- 781 Table 9
- 782 Resources of the toolkit for OSMOSE users.

Resource	Comments
User guide	This resource is currently being developed ( <u>https://documentation.osmose-</u>
	model.org). Its dedicated GitHub repository is: https://github.com/osmose-
	model/user_documentation.
Reference paper on	This resource is currently being developed. Meanwhile, Appendix A of the
OSMOSE	present paper is a useful resource.
OSMOSE Java code	The Java code of the latest version of OSMOSE (considered in the present
	paper), i.e. OSMOSE v3u2, is available for download from
	http://www.osmose-model.org/downloads.
Template OSMOSE	The template configuration files for OSMOSE v3u2 can be downloaded from
configuration files	http://www.osmose-model.org/downloads.
Our web application	The web application introduced in the present paper provides OSMOSE
	configuration files for any marine region that is of interest to the user. The
	Github repositories dedicated to this tool are: <u>https://github.com/osmose-</u>
	model/osmose-model.github.io, https://github.com/osmose-model/osmose-
	web-api and https://github.com/osmose-model/osmose-web-api-js.
Calibration guidelines	This resource is currently being developed and can be found in its
	preliminary form in OSMOSE user guide ( <u>https://documentation.osmose-</u>
	model.org). Oliveros-Ramos (2014), Oliveros-Ramos and Shin (2016) and
	Oliveros-Ramos et al. (2017) are other useful resources.
Postprocessing of OSMOSE	A R package called "osmose", which is now available on CRAN, was
outputs	primarily developed for OSMOSE output post-processing. The Github
	repository dedicated to this R package is: <u>https://github.com/osmose-</u>
	<u>model/osmose</u> .
OSMOSE user forum	OSMOSE users can ask questions to other users and OSMOSE developers on
	the following webpage: <u>http://www.osmose-model.org/forum</u> .

- A key resource for our web application are its dedicated GitHub repositories
- 785 (https://github.com/osmose-model.github.io, https://github.com/osmose-
- 786 model/osmose-web-api and https://github.com/osmose-model/osmose-web-api-js). Among
- other purposes, these GitHub repositories intend to keep track of the issues faced by the
- developers and users of the web application and to find solutions to these issues and, more
- generally, ways to continuously enhance the web application. We strongly encourage the
- vulues values users of our web application to remain critical towards the OSMOSE parameter values
- provided by the web application and to accept or reject these values based on their expertise

of their study marine region. Users are strongly encouraged to create new issues in the GitHub repositories: (1) to indicate critical missing parameter values (e.g., parameter values missing for species that are emblematic to a marine region or of high economic importance to that region); (2) to indicate problematic parameter values; but, also: (3) to provide suggestions as to how the web application could come up with better estimates for the parameters it currently covers and with non-default values for the parameters it currently does not cover.

In our demonstration, we simply examined the parameter estimates for the West 798 Florida Shelf delivered by the web application and did not attempt to re-calibrate the 799 OSMOSE-WFS model. In brief, the calibration of OSMOSE is a process which, usually: (1) 800 ensures that, on average, the biomasses of focal functional groups predicted by OSMOSE are 801 within realistic intervals; and (2) enables the estimation of two types of parameters, the larval 802 803 mortality rates of focal functional groups and the availability coefficients of biotic resources (Oliveros-Ramos and Shin, 2016). In general, the calibration process of OSMOSE also 804 805 involves refining the minimum and maximum predator/prey size ratios of focal functional groups to help the biomasses of focal functional groups predicted by the OSMOSE model to 806 807 be, on average, within realistic intervals (Grüss et al., 2015, 2016c). The calibration of an OSMOSE model is the most difficult process that OSMOSE users have to go through and can 808 easily take several months (Oliveros Ramos, 2014; Grüss et al., 2016c). For this reason, we 809 did not try to re-calibrate the OSMOSE-WFS model for the present study. This endeavor was 810 also beyond the scope of the present study. However, the evaluation of our web application 811 did not require a calibrated OSMOSE model and it was possible to conduct this evaluation 812 directly from the OSMOSE configuration files provided by the web application. 813

In the following, we first discuss the insights provided by our demonstration for the West Florida Shelf ecosystem and identify attendant avenues for future research. Then, we identify other avenues for future research. The sets of research recommendations we are providing below are certainly not exhaustive and, again, we strongly encourage the users of our web application to suggest other research recommendations as they see fit by opening new issues in our GitHub repositories (<u>https://github.com/osmose-model/osmosemodel.github.io</u> and <u>https://github.com/osmose-model/osmose-web-api</u>).

4.1. Insights from the demonstration for the West Florida Shelf and attendant avenues for
future research

Overall, the issues we raised earlier during our demonstration for the West Florida Shelf are not worrisome. We discuss below how each of the issues raised can be addressed, and we also identify the OSMOSE parameters that should be the main focus of future research efforts.

A result that was unexpected was the relatively low longevity of king mackerel defined by the web application (14 years vs. 27 years in OSMOSE-WFS papers). This result can be explained by the fact that the web API derives OSMOSE parameters from global median estimates, while the king mackerel longevity estimate used in OSMOSE-WFS models came from a regional study (SEDAR 5, 2004).

833 The web application was able to provide a relative fecundity estimate for only five of the 12 focal functional groups represented in the OSMOSE-WFS model, and the resulting 834 estimates were all substantially smaller than the relative fecundity estimates used in 835 OSMOSE-WFS papers. Nevertheless, relative fecundity is the most uncertain OSMOSE 836 parameter (Shin et al., 2004; Travers, 2009; Grüss et al., 2015), so that it is not possible to 837 state whether the relative fecundity estimates derived from the results of regional studies or 838 839 those derived from FishBase/SeaLifeBase data are more reliable. For example, the web application and OSMOSE-WFS papers established that the relative fecundity of the sardine-840 841 herring-scad complex was 445 and 2,640 eggs per g of mature female per year, respectively; the estimate used in OSMOSE-WFS papers came from a Gulf of Mexico study on scaled 842 843 sardine (Harengula jaguana) (Houde, 1976). However, the relative fecundity of Sardinops sagax in the OSMOSE model of the Humboldt ecosystem was 8,000 eggs per g of mature 844 845 female per year (Marzloff et al., 2009) and that of S. sagax in the OSMOSE model of the 846 Southern Benguela was 2,400 eggs per g of mature female per year (Travers-Trolet et al., 847 2014a), while the relative fecundity of Sardina pilchardus in the OSMOSE model of the Gulf 848 of Gabes was only 360 eggs per g of mature female per year (Halouani et al., 2016). Another example is that of the anchovies and silversides' group, for which the web application and 849 OSMOSE-WFS papers established a relative fecundity of 366 and 3,313 eggs per g of mature 850 female per year, respectively; the estimate used in OSMOSE-WFS papers came from a study 851 on bay anchovy carried out in Cheasapeake Bay, in the mid-Atlantic region (Wang and 852 Houde, 1995). However, the relative fecundity of Engraulis rigens in the OSMOSE model of 853 854 the Humboldt ecosystem was 13,200 eggs per g of mature female per year (Marzloff et al., 2009) and that of Engraulis encrasicolus in the OSMOSE model of the Southern Benguela 855 was 8,000 eggs per g of mature female per year (Travers-Trolet et al., 2014a), while the 856

relative fecundity of *E. encrasicolus* in the OSMOSE model of the Gulf of Gabes was only
444.6 eggs per g of mature female per year (Halouani et al., 2016). An important avenue for
future research is to populate FishBase/SeaLifeBase tables so that the web application is
capable of providing a relative fecundity estimate for as many species/functional groups as
possible. More specifically, the literature should be screened to fill in gaps in the columns
"SpawningCycles" and "RelFecundityMean" of FishBase/SeaLifeBase table "fecundity"
(Table 10).

Overall, the web application delivered satisfactory  $(L_{pred}/L_{prev})_{min}$  and  $(L_{pred}/L_{prev})_{max}$ 864 estimates, even if the  $(L_{pred}/L_{prey})_{max}$  estimates delivered tended to be larger than the 865  $(L_{pred}/L_{prey})_{max}$  estimates employed in OSMOSE-WFS papers. For the present study, 866 generalized additive models (GAMs) were fitted to the (Lpred/Lprey)min's and (Lpred/Lprey)max's 867 used in existing OSMOSE models to predict the  $(L_{pred}/L_{prev})_{min}$  and  $(L_{pred}/L_{prev})_{max}$  of the 868 species included in FishBase and SeaLifeBase (see Appendix C). The (Lpred/Lprey)min and 869  $(L_{pred}/L_{prey})_{max}$  estimates employed in published OSMOSE papers were established based on 870 experts' opinion or on the limited diet data for which one had both predator length and prey 871 872 length information (e.g., Travers, 2009; Grüss et al., 2015; Halouani et al., 2016). Furthermore, as mentioned earlier, the  $(L_{pred}/L_{prey})_{min}$  and  $(L_{pred}/L_{prey})_{max}$  estimates initially 873 defined for an OSMOSE model are, in general, tweaked during the calibration process of 874 OSMOSE;  $(L_{pred}/L_{prey})_{min}$  estimates tend to be increased, while  $(L_{pred}/L_{prey})_{max}$  estimates tend to 875 be decreased, so as to help the biomasses of focal functional groups to be, on average, within 876 realistic intervals (Grüss et al., 2015, 2016c). Therefore, the fact that two of the (Lpred/Lprey)min 877 878 estimates provided by the web application were markedly smaller than those used in OSMOSE-WFS papers, and the fact that the  $(L_{pred}/L_{prev})_{max}$  estimates provided by the web 879 application tended to be larger than those used in OSMOSE-WFS papers, are not an issue. 880 Nonetheless, an important avenue for future research is to enhance our web application so that 881 it can deliver potentially differing  $(L_{pred}/L_{prev})_{min}$  and  $(L_{pred}/L_{prev})_{max}$  estimates for the juvenile 882 883 and adult stages of focal functional groups; to enable this, individual statistical models (not necessarily GAMs) should be developed for juvenile and adult fish and juvenile and adult 884 885 invertebrates. Moreover, to allow  $(L_{pred}/L_{prev})_{min}$  and  $(L_{pred}/L_{prev})_{max}$  estimates to be more accurate (e.g., to allow  $(L_{pred}/L_{prev})_{max}$  estimates to be lower for species like king mackerel, red 886 887 grouper and gag; Fig. 8), the statistical models developed should be more flexible (i.e. their degree of freedom should be as little restrained as possible), and these models should also 888

ideally not be sensitive to correlated continuous predictors so as to be able to integrate asmany continuous predictors as possible.

The accessibility coefficients of focal functional groups and the theoretical 891 accessibility coefficients of biotic resources, along with distribution maps and  $(L_{pred}/L_{prev})_{min}$ 892 and  $(L_{pred}/L_{prev})_{max}$  estimates, influence predation mortalities and diet compositions in 893 OSMOSE (Grüss et al., 2016c; Fu et al., 2017). However, the great majority of the 894 accessibility coefficients of focal functional groups and of the theoretical accessibility 895 coefficients of biotic resources other than phytoplankton and zooplankton are set to 0.8 in 896 OSMOSE, so as to let diet compositions be determined primarily from the degree of spatial 897 overlap between predators and their potential prey (determined by distribution maps) and size 898 adequacy between predators and their potential prey (determined by  $(L_{pred}/L_{prey})_{min}$  and 899 900 (Lpred/Lprey)max estimates) (Travers, 2009; Grüss et al., 2015). Thus, the accessibility coefficients of focal functional groups and the theoretical accessibility coefficients of biotic 901 902 resources other than phytoplankton and zooplankton defined by the web application, which are most often equal to 0.8, are satisfactory. Yet, we envision two avenues for future research 903 904 with respect to accessibility coefficients and theoretical accessibility coefficients. First, for increased ecological realism in the OSMOSE model, the web API should be able to set the 905 theoretical accessibility of phytoplankton and zooplankton to the adult stages of some focal 906 functional groups to 0 (Travers, 2009; Grüss et al., 2015). Second, still to increase ecological 907 realism in OSMOSE, ecological information should be used by the web API to set some of 908 accessibility coefficients to 0 when predator-prey interactions are not possible (e.g., when the 909 910 potential prey have spikes that dissuade the predator from attacking them; Fu et al., 2013).

The web application provided a diverse natural mortality rate estimate different from 911 912 the 0.2 year<sup>-1</sup> default value for only four of the 12 focal functional groups represented in the 913 OSMOSE-WFS model. This result highlights the need to screen the literature to fill in gaps in the column "mortality" of FishBase/SeaLifeBase table "popqb" (Table 3), so as to enable the 914 web application to set the diverse natural mortality rate of the largest possible number of focal 915 functional groups to a value other than the 0.2 year<sup>-1</sup> default value. In general, the diverse 916 natural mortality rate of a focal functional group represented in an OSMOSE model is 917 assumed equal to the total predation mortality rate of that functional group in an Ecopath 918 919 model of the same ecosystem that is due to the marine organisms that are represented in the Ecopath model but not in the OSMOSE model (e.g., Marzloff et al., 2009; Travers-Trolet et 920 al., 2014a; Grüss et al., 2015; Halouani et al., 2016). Recently, a large repository called 921

"EcoBase" was constructed to gather a very large fraction of the EwE models published
around the world (Colléter et al., 2015). Thus, we envision building upon the EcoBase
repository to develop a database gathering predation mortality rate estimates for the species
included in FishBase and SeaLifeBase for various marine regions. It would then be possible
for the web API to query this new database to derive diverse natural mortality rate estimates
for an OSMOSE model, given the ultimate focal functional groups defined for that OSMOSE
model via the interactions between the web UI and the user.

The web application was able to deliver a non-default estimate for only two of the 12 929 OSMOSE-WFS focal functional groups with respect to critical predation efficiency, five 930 OSMOSE-WFS focal functional groups with respect to maximum annual ingestion rate, and 931 four OSMOSE-WFS focal functional groups with respect to proportion of females. An avenue 932 933 for future research is to screen the literature to fill in gaps in relevant FishBase/SeaLifeBase tables, so as to enable the web application to provide non-default estimates of critical 934 935 predation efficiency, maximum annual ingestion rate and proportion of females for as many species/functional groups as possible (Table 10). However, because critical predation 936 937 efficiency, maximum annual ingestion rate and proportion of females are usually set to their default value for all focal functional groups in OSMOSE models (but see Brochier et al. 938 939 (2013) and OSMOSE-WFS papers), the above-mentioned research recommendation is 940 secondary compared to others (Table 10).

941 In addition to relative fecundity and diverse natural mortality rate, the following OSMOSE parameters should be the primary focus of future research efforts: (1) the 942 943 reproduction seasonality of focal functional groups, given that the web application was able to 944 define reproduction seasonality patterns for only six of the 12 focal functional groups 945 represented in OSMOSE-WFS; and (2) the minimum and maximum sizes and TL of biotic 946 resources, given that the web application was generally unable to provide values for all these parameters for the biotic resources other than phytoplankton and zooplankton that are 947 represented in OSMOSE-WFS. For all these OSMOSE parameters, efforts should be made to 948 screen the literature to fill in gaps in relevant FishBase/SeaLifeBase tables, so as to maximize 949 950 the chances of the web application providing non-default estimates for them (Table 10). By contrast, we do not recommend more emphasis on the egg size and egg weight of focal 951 952 functional groups. The web application set these parameters to their default values for all the focal functional groups represented in OSMOSE-WFS. However, these parameters, which 953 have usually been set to their default values in published OSMOSE-WFS models (but see 954

- Halouani et al. (2016)), have virtually no impact on OSMOSE predictions and, therefore, do
- 956 not deserve further consideration compared to parameters such as the relative fecundity and
- 957 reproduction seasonality of focal functional groups (Table 10).
- 958

#### 959 Table 10

- 960 OSMOSE parameters for which efforts should be made to screen the literature to fill in gaps in relevant
- 961 FishBase/SeaLifeBase tables, so as to maximize the chances of our web application providing a non-default
- 962 estimate for these parameters.

OSMOSE parameter	Priority for future research efforts?	FishBase/SeaLifeBase fields that need to be populated
Relative fecundity of focal	Yes	SpawningCycles, and RelFecundityMean
functional groups		(FishBase/SeaLifeBase table: fecundity)
Reproduction seasonality of focal	Yes	Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct,
functional groups		Nov, and Dec (FishBase/SeaLifeBase table: spawning)
Diverse natural mortality rate of focal functional groups	Yes	mortality (FishBase/SeaLifeBase table: popqb)
Minimum size of biotic resources	Yes	LengthMin (FishBase/SeaLifeBase table: popll)
Maximum size of biotic resources	Yes	LengthMax (FishBase/SeaLifeBase table: popll)
Trophic level of biotic resources	Yes	Troph (FishBase/SeaLifeBase table: estimate)
Critical predation efficiency of	No	MaintQB, and PopQB (FishBase/SeaLifeBase
focal functional groups		table: popqb)
Maximum annual ingestion rate of	No	PopQB (FishBase/SeaLifeBase table: popqb)
focal functional groups		
Proportion of females of focal	No	SexRatiomid (FishBase/SeaLifeBase table:
functional groups		spawning)

963

### 964 *4.2. Other avenues for future research*

965 We also envision the following additional improvements: (1) introducing new invertebrate classes in SeaLifeBase and populating SeaLifeBase tables for these new classes; 966 (2) allowing the web API to derive OSMOSE parameter values from the regional estimates 967 available in FishBase/SeaLifeBase rather than from median estimates; (3) improving the 968 969 computational efficiency of our web application so that there is no restriction on the total (i.e., original plus additional) number of species per functional group included in the JSON data 970 archives; (4) enhancing our web application so that it covers more OSMOSE parameters; (5) 971 allowing the web application to also define "background functional groups" for OSMOSE 972 973 models; and (6) building upon the generic software architecture on which our web application relies to develop other web applications delivering a diversity of products needed to advance 974 EBFM. 975

The demonstration for the West Florida Shelf ecosystem revealed that a number of 976 small invertebrate classes are not covered by SeaLifeBase (Table 5). Importantly, because 977 there is currently no information on the Ostracoda, Turbellaria, Cladocera and Brachiopoda 978 classes in SeaLifeBase, it was impossible to define a small mobile epifauna group for the 979 980 West Florida Shelf ecosystem. The literature on small invertebrate species is scarce. Yet, if small invertebrate species are considered in an OSMOSE model, they will be represented as 981 biotic resources, for which OSMOSE only needs a limited number of parameters, of which 982 the great majority could be defined somehow. In particular, we suspect that it will be possible 983 984 to define the minimum and maximum sizes and TL of most of the species belonging to small invertebrate classes. Therefore, we encourage efforts to populate SeaLifeBase tables for 985 986 species belonging to small invertebrate classes.

987 There are cases where, for a given species, several values (usually generated by studies conducted in different regions) are available for a given FishBase/SeaLifeBase parameter. In 988 these cases, the web API produces a median estimate for the FishBase/SeaLifeBase parameter 989 before doing any calculations to derive an OSMOSE parameter estimate. However, two 990 991 populations of the same species inhabiting different regions can differ in many traits (e.g., Branstetter et al., 1987; Carlson et al., 2006; Cope, 2006; Alheit and Pitcher, 2012), notably 992 their body size, which is usually a function of temperature (Pauly, 2010). Therefore, it would 993 be advantageous to improve the web API so that it can select the most appropriate regional 994 995 estimate for a given FishBase/SeaLifeBase parameter and species rather than relying on a median estimate for that FishBase/SeaLifeBase parameter and species. 996

For the sake of computational efficiency, the total number of species (i.e., original plus
additional) per functional group in JSON data archives is restricted to 30 currently. In the
future, this restriction should be abandoned to enable the web API to set the maximum
possible number of OSMOSE parameters to their non-default values. However, for this to
happen and, also, because our web application will need to be continuously enhanced, it will
be necessary to first find a way to improve the computational efficiency of our web
application.

1004 There are a couple of OSMOSE parameters that our web application does not cover 1005 currently. For example, the web API does not attempt to estimate the maximum annual 1006 starvation mortality rate of focal functional groups, which is set to a default value instead (0.3 1007 year<sup>-1</sup>), as is the case in all existing OSMOSE applications. As previous studies (e.g., Shin and

Cury, 2001a; Shin et al., 2004; Travers, 2009), we were unable to establish a method for 1008 estimating a maximum annual starvation mortality rate for individual species; however, we 1009 feel that developing such a method is not a priority for future research efforts. In contrast, it 1010 1011 would be interesting to enhance our web application so that it provides a spatial grid for the 1012 OSMOSE model and distribution maps for focal functional groups. For example, a page could 1013 be added to the web UI to query additional information to the user, including the desired 1014 longitudinal and latitudinal ranges of the OSMOSE spatial grid and the desired resolution of that grid. This information would then be handled by a geographic information system (GIS) 1015 1016 tool. The GIS tool would produce distribution maps for focal functional groups in the form of 1017 CSV files (Appendix B), based on the depth ranges of the species making up the focal 1018 functional groups entered in FishBase/SeaLifeBase tables. Finally, the CSV files generated by the GIS tool would be passed to the web API, which would include them in the 1019 1020 "osmose config.zip" file delivered to the user.

1021 The latest version of OSMOSE (OSMOSE v3u2) and our web application consider two types of functional groups: focal functional groups, and biotic resources. However, it is 1022 1023 planned to introduce a third type of functional groups in the template version of OSMOSE: "background functional groups". The concept of background functional groups was 1024 1025 introduced in Fu et al. (2017). Background functional groups are functional groups that are of secondary importance for the study envisioned by the user, but that have the potential to be 1026 non-negligible predators or prey items of focal functional groups. As the full life cycle of 1027 background functional groups is not modeled (contrary to focal functional groups), the 1028 1029 number of inputs needed for background functional groups is less important than that needed for focal functional groups, but more important than that needed for biotic resources (Fu et al., 1030 2017). Once the next version of OSMOSE that integrates background functional groups is 1031 released, we will modify the web application so that it can also deliver parameter estimates 1032 for this new type of functional groups. 1033

1034 The software architecture used to build our bridge between FishBase/SeaLifeBase and 1035 the OSMOSE ecosystem modeling platform can serve as a basis for designing other advanced 1036 web applications processing FishBase/SeaLifeBase data to produce parameter values for other 1037 EBFM tools. A logical future use of this software architecture would be the development of 1038 web applications producing parameter estimates for Atlantis and EwE ecosystem models from 1039 FishBase/SeaLifeBase data. Such web applications would consider not only the information 1040 on fish compiled in FishBase and the information on invertebrates compiled in SeaLifeBase,

but also the information on other marine organisms compiled in SeaLifeBase. The generic 1041 framework we designed could also be used in many other ways, for example, to develop a 1042 simple web application defining functional groups for any marine region, or to derive 1043 parameter estimates from FishBase/SeaLifeBase data for dynamic multispecies models 1044 1045 (Kinzey and Punt, 2009; Holsman et al., 2016). However, it is important to emphasize that the web application bridging FishBase/SeaLifeBase and OSMOSE does not allow for quality 1046 control at the species level. Yet, many modelers employ FishBase and SeaLifeBase as starting 1047 points for finding parameter values for individual species, which they then possibly alter or 1048 1049 replace using available regional information. Thus, we recommend that some of the future versions of our framework do not aggregate species into functional groups and rather provide 1050 1051 parameter values for individual species; users will then have the possibility to gauge parameter values for individual species, eventually alter or replace some of these parameter 1052 1053 values using regional information, and group some individual species into groups as they see 1054 fit.

1055

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## 1068 Supplementary data

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found in the online version of themanuscript.

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