

1 **Consequences of spatially variable ocean acidification in the California Current: lower pH**  
2 **drives strongest declines in benthic species in southern regions while greatest economic**  
3 **impacts occur in northern regions**

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31

32 **Abstract**

33 Marine ecosystems are experiencing rapid changes driven by anthropogenic stressors  
34 which, in turn, are affecting human communities. One such stressor is ocean acidification, a  
35 result of increasing carbon emissions. Most research on biological impacts of ocean acidification  
36 has focused on the responses of an individual species or life stage. Yet, understanding how  
37 changes scale from species to ecosystems, and the services they provide, is critical to managing  
38 fisheries and setting research priorities. Here we use an ecosystem model, which is forced by  
39 oceanographic projections and also coupled to an economic input-output model, to quantify  
40 biological responses to ocean acidification in six coastal regions from Vancouver Island, Canada  
41 to Baja California, Mexico and economic responses at 17 ports on the US west coast. This model  
42 is intended to explore one possible future of how ocean acidification may influence this  
43 coastline. Outputs show that declines in species biomass tend to be larger in the southern region  
44 of the model, but the largest economic impacts on revenue, income and employment occur from  
45 northern California to northern Washington State. The economic consequences are primarily  
46 driven by declines in Dungeness crab from loss of prey. Given the substantive revenue generated  
47 by the fishing industry on the west coast, the model suggests that long-term planning for  
48 communities, researchers and managers in the northern region of the California Current would  
49 benefit from tracking Dungeness crab productivity and potential declines related to pH.

50

51 Key words: Atlantis; California Current; Dungeness crab; food web modeling; input-output  
52 modeling; ocean acidification.

53

54 **1. Introduction**

55           The oceans are experiencing warming, acidification, eutrophication, and other changes  
56 that are modifying marine ecosystems (Halpern *et al.* 2008; Ekstrom *et al.* 2015); these  
57 modifications have consequences for human communities that rely on living marine resources.  
58 Much of the research focused on the impacts of novel stressors has investigated the responses of  
59 individual species (e.g., Cooley *et al.* 2015; Dueri *et al.* 2016; Vanderplanke *et al.* 2015).  
60 However, understanding how these changes scale up to impact ecosystems and ecosystem  
61 services, such as fisheries catch and revenue, is critical to setting research priorities and making  
62 strategic marine resource management decisions. Ecosystem scale research has begun to identify  
63 broad geographic regions most at risk from modifications of the environment (Kaplan *et al.*  
64 2010; Ainsworth *et al.* 2011; Cheung *et al.* 2011; Barange *et al.* 2014). However, impacts on  
65 human communities often depend on localized ecological change, making it critical to  
66 understand changes at a finer geographic scale (Ekstrom *et al.* 2015).

67           Human communities are place-based and benefit from distinct sets of species. Thus,  
68 spatially heterogeneous variation in climate change impacts on those species can have socio-  
69 economic consequences that vary across communities. Methods to understand the consequences  
70 of marine ecosystem change require an interdisciplinary approach (Bai *et al.* 2016) that includes  
71 oceanographic conditions (such as temperature and/or pH) at high resolution, spatially explicit  
72 responses of the ecosystem to those conditions and the dependencies of local human  
73 communities on marine resources (Allison *et al.* 2009).

74           Ocean acidification (OA) caused by increasing global carbon emissions is a stressor with  
75 both spatial and temporal variability that has the potential to restructure marine systems (Griffith  
76 *et al.* 2011; Branch *et al.* 2012; Le Quesne and Pinnegar 2012; Marshall *et al.* 2017). Both

77 calcifying and non-calcifying species have been shown to respond directly to changing pH  
78 (Branch *et al.* 2012; Kroeker *et al.* 2013; Busch and McElhany 2016). Ocean carbonate  
79 chemistry varies globally (Orr *et al.* 2005; Friedrich *et al.* 2012) and some regions are more at  
80 risk from OA than others because of a natural occurrence of low pH water from upwelling that is  
81 expected to be exacerbated by the effects of OA (Feely *et al.* 2016). Such regions include eastern  
82 boundary currents like the California Current large marine ecosystem (Feely *et al.* 2008; Gruber  
83 *et al.* 2012).

84         The California Current is an upwelling system with high spatial variability in  
85 oceanographic conditions (King *et al.* 2011) and seasonally low pH in nearshore environments  
86 (Feely *et al.* 2008; Gruber *et al.* 2012). Upwelling occurs in spring and summer, bringing up low  
87 pH waters that create a temporal window of exposure to low pH that is expected to worsen with  
88 OA (Hauri *et al.* 2013). Latitudinally, the California Current can be divided into three regions  
89 (King *et al.* 2011). The northern region, defined by the area north of Cape Mendocino (or Cape  
90 Blanco) is defined by strong winter storms and substantial freshwater inputs. The regions, south  
91 to Point Conception, California, and then beyond Point Conception, experience increasing levels  
92 of upwelling, as indicated by the Bakun Cumulative Upwelling Index. Feely *et al.* (2016) report  
93 the lowest surface pH in the central region and a model by Hauri *et al.* (2013) projected this  
94 region to have the most variable pH levels (range = 7.85 to 8.15;  $\sigma_{\text{pH}}=0.1$ ) and the lowest surface  
95 pH most months of the year. Though species in this system may have adapted to these  
96 heterogeneous conditions (Pespeni *et al.* 2013), the natural occurrence of low pH waters can be  
97 problematic because future declines may push pH beyond species' physiological tolerance  
98 thresholds (Fabry *et al.* 2008; Feely *et al.* 2008; Gruber *et al.* 2012). The oceanographic

99 heterogeneity in the California Current will lead to heterogeneous exposure to low pH waters,  
100 and thus spatial heterogeneity in ecosystem changes.

101         The California Current supports a diverse food web and a multi-million-dollar fishing  
102 industry. The direct ex-vessel revenue from fisheries in the US portion of the ecosystem was  
103 worth over \$450 million in 2012 (PacFIN 2013). Fisheries catches and species composition are  
104 localized in time and space (Kaplan *et al.* 2013b). For instance, fisheries in Washington State are  
105 dominated by Dungeness crab (*Metacarcinus magister*, Cancridae), sardine (*Sardinops sagax*,  
106 Clupeidae), Pacific hake (*Merluccius productus*, Merlucciidae), and shrimp (family Pandalidae),  
107 while ports off southern California catch market squid (*Doryteuthis opalescens*, Loliginidae),  
108 mackerel (family Scombridae), sardine, anchovy (*Engraulis mordax*, Engraulidae) and nearshore  
109 urchins (*Mesocentrotus* spp., Strongylocentrotidae) (PacFIN 2013). Given the variability of  
110 target species and total landings between ports in the California Current (Kaplan *et al.* 2013b)  
111 and heterogeneity of oceanographic conditions (King *et al.* 2011; Hauri *et al.* 2013; Feely *et al.*  
112 2016), changes in catch from ocean acidification are likely to be regionally different, based on  
113 localized changes in organism responses. Basin-wide impacts have been projected in the  
114 California Current (Kaplan *et al.* 2010; Marshall *et al.* 2017), the southeastern Australia marine  
115 ecosystem (Griffith *et al.* 2011) and for the UK (Fernandes *et al.* 2016). To our knowledge, no  
116 work has estimated how OA may impact fisheries at finer spatial scales, such as the port-level.

117         Here we explore spatially heterogeneous impacts of ocean acidification on species and  
118 fisheries in the California Current. We employ oceanographic predictions from a Regional  
119 Oceanographic Modeling System (ROMS) model, forced by an earth system model (GFDL-  
120 ESM2M) under climate scenario RCP8.5; an Atlantis end-to-end marine ecosystem model  
121 (Fulton *et al.* 2011); and an economic input-output model (Leonard and Watson 2011). We

122 projected the state of the ecosystem in the 2060s and described spatial variation in the marine  
123 species and human communities at risk. The value of ecosystem models such as this is in long  
124 term strategic management and planning (where path dependency means that actions now may  
125 influence the utility of measures into the future) as well as research prioritization; thus our work  
126 identifies where future research, monitoring and management focus is needed by exploring the  
127 potential consequences of pH changes and vulnerabilities for port revenue, income and  
128 employment in US west coast communities.

129

## 130 **2. Methods**

### 131 *2.1 Overview*

132 We used an ecosystem model to investigate the impacts of ocean acidification in the  
133 California Current and consequences for fishing communities along the US west coast. Outputs  
134 generated by a fine-scale ocean model provided physical forcing for the Atlantis ecosystem  
135 model for the present and 50 years in the future. Outputs from Atlantis were then passed to an  
136 economic input-output model developed for the west coast of the US (IO-PAC; Leonard and  
137 Watson 2011). A schematic diagram representing the modelling approach can be found in  
138 Appendix A (Figure A1). Because the IO-PAC model and high-resolution revenue data were  
139 only available for the US portion of the model, we focused our economic analysis on the US  
140 west coast (i.e., excluding Canada and Mexico). We focused on the 17 US port groups on the  
141 outer coast (excluding Puget Sound) used by the Pacific Fisheries Information Network (PacFIN)  
142 to aggregate data and avoid issues of disclosure of confidential information (Table 8-1 of  
143 Appendix A in PFMC 2004). For all 17 port groups we simulated changes in catch, revenue,  
144 income and employment.

145

## 146 *2.2 Summary of Atlantis model*

147         We used the spatially explicit end-to-end ecosystem model Atlantis (Fulton *et al.* 2011)  
148 to simulate food web dynamics and fisheries. Atlantis represents ecosystem dynamics with three  
149 components: (i) an oceanographic sub-model (ii) an ecological sub-model and (iii) a human  
150 dynamics sub-model (Fulton *et al.* 2004a; Fulton *et al.* 2004b). Extensive documentation of the  
151 Atlantis modeling framework, for both the California Current and other ecosystems, can be  
152 found in previous publications (Fulton *et al.* 2004a; Fulton *et al.* 2004b; Kaplan *et al.* 2010;  
153 Kaplan *et al.* 2013a). Therefore, we briefly summarize the most recent version of the Atlantis  
154 model developed for the California Current (Marshall *et al.* 2017), including all three sub-  
155 models, highlighting changes we made explicitly to investigate spatial impacts of OA.

156         The physical domain of the Atlantis model is represented by polygons, which are defined  
157 by depth ranges and by longitudinal and latitudinal breaks. Our model includes 88 spatial  
158 polygons that span the entire domain of the California Current, from the northern extent of  
159 Vancouver Island, Canada and south to Punta Eugenia, Baja California, Mexico. Longitudinal  
160 polygon boundaries were based on bathymetry with breaks at 50m, 100m, 200m, 550m and  
161 1200m and then finally at the 200 nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ; Figure 1).  
162 These breaks were chosen based on a mixture of bathymetric and biological information  
163 (representing: nearshore shelf, deeper shelf, shelf/slope break; see Appendix S1 in Marshall *et al.*  
164 2017). Depth ranges of boxes within the model match the depths used to define bathymetric  
165 breaks.

166

## 167 *2.3 Oceanographic model*



168           The Atlantis model was forced with oceanographic outputs from an implementation of  
169 ROMS version 3.7 (Haidvogel *et al.* 2008; Moore *et al.* 2011) with biogeochemistry (Fennel *et*  
170 *al.*, 2006, 2008), configured to predict oceanographic conditions (currents, pH, oxygen,  
171 temperature, salinity and nutrients) for the present decade (2011-2020) and for a decade 50 years  
172 in the future (2061-2070). From these two runs, we used a single year to represent current  
173 conditions (2013) and a single year to represent future conditions (2063), see further explanation  
174 below. The two decade-long runs were used as opposed to creating a full time series of  
175 downscaled oceanographic conditions between 2011-2070 because creating a 60 year time series  
176 of ROMS was too computationally intensive.

177           Our implementation of ROMS has 10x10 km horizontal grid resolution, includes tidal  
178 dynamics, and uses global model outputs from the NOAA Geophysical Fluid Dynamics  
179 Laboratory (GFDL) ESM2M model with biogeochemistry (TOPAZ) (Dunne *et al.* 2012; Dunne  
180 *et al.* 2013) to derive surface forcing, initial conditions, and boundary conditions for the two  
181 simulated time periods. The climate scenario used was RCP8.5 (Moss *et al.* 2010; van Vuuren *et*  
182 *al.* 2011), which assumes continuation of current emissions trajectories, in our case through the  
183 2060s. We force Atlantis with this RCP 8.5 scenario for two reasons. First, in comparison with  
184 our 2013 baseline scenario, this bounds the potential changes we expect on the biogeochemistry  
185 of the California Current by the 2060s. Second, global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions continue to rise (with no  
186 clear evidence of a rapid reversal being likely) locking in future change over the next few  
187 decades and approximating RCP 8.5 more closely than more moderate scenarios (USGCRP  
188 2017). The two time periods were run independently in ROMS. In each case the first year  
189 (January 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 and 2061, respectively) was initialized through interpolation of the global  
190 ocean simulation results (the ESM2M/TOPAZ simulation, scenario RCP8.5). This higher

191 resolution ROMS model of oceanography for the California Current was developed because  
192 upwelling in this region is not well resolved with global scale models (Orr *et al.* 2005) and  
193 upwelling plays an important role in the development and spatial extent of OA. This ROMS  
194 model does not represent nearshore environments (inshore of 50 meters) with high resolution,  
195 and therefore does not represent land-based run-off as a contributor to OA. Previous models for  
196 the southern California Current have found expected pH levels of around 7.8 in nearshore  
197 surface waters by 2050, with heterogeneity in space (by latitude and depth) and seasonally  
198 (Gruber *et al.* 2012). Thus, pH levels in this model are expected to be in a similar range. Further  
199 details on the ROMS implementation can be found in Marshall *et al.* (2017) and the associated  
200 appendices.

201         Oceanographic conditions were extracted from the decade-long ROMS runs and used to  
202 force Atlantis now and in the future. In each case a single year was taken from each ROMS run  
203 (2013 in the first instance and 2063 in the second because they were representative of the time  
204 period) and then looped 100 times to achieve quasi-stable forcing for the ecological model so as  
205 to achieve quasi-equilibrium ecological conditions in Atlantis. This looping of a single year, as  
206 opposed to implementing the full 10-year set of oceanographic conditions, helped control for  
207 inter-annual variability in ocean conditions.

208

#### 209 *2.4 Ecological model*

210         The Atlantis modeling framework is a C++ code base that simulates multi-species  
211 ecosystem dynamics in a spatial framework, using a simple forward-difference integration  
212 scheme typically on 12-hour time-steps (Fulton *et al.* 2004a; Fulton *et al.* 2004c; Horne *et al.*  
213 2010). Atlantis is 3-dimensional and spatially explicit, with vertebrate numbers-at-age and

214 weights-at-age tracked per polygon and invertebrates modeled as biomass pools per polygon.  
215 The model simulates processes including primary production, growth and reproduction, trophic  
216 dynamics, movement/migration, and habitat interactions within each polygon and depth layer.  
217 These processes can be directly impacted by environmental conditions such as pH, temperature,  
218 oxygen and water flux from ROMS or other oceanographic forcing. Predator-prey dynamics  
219 allow diet switching, predator starvation, and declines in predator weight-at-age if prey decline  
220 in abundance.

221         The most recent California Current Atlantis model includes 82 functional groups  
222 representing detritus (2 groups), primary producers (6 groups), benthic and pelagic invertebrates  
223 (25 groups), fishes (36 groups), marine mammals (10 groups) and seabirds (3 groups). This  
224 model is an update of the Marshall *et al.* (2017) model, which was developed to better represent  
225 groups that are known to respond to low pH, including: pteropods, Dungeness crab, coral,  
226 coccolithophores and market squid. All biological parameters used in the model reported in this  
227 manuscript, such as recruitment, mortality, diets and distributions, were the same as those used in  
228 Marshall *et al.* (2017), save for a few changes discussed below.

229         Model calibration for the Marshall *et al.* (2017) version of the model was achieved in two  
230 phases: initial simulations with no fishing, and then secondary calibration with constant fishing  
231 pressure. We followed best practices for calibration of this type of end-to-end model, as  
232 described previously (Kaplan & Marshall 2016). We evaluated Atlantis projections of seasonal  
233 and inter-annual biomass trends, spatial distribution, vertebrate numbers-at-age and weights-at-  
234 age, in a Pattern Oriented Modeling approach (Grimm et al. 2005). Iterative, manual calibration  
235 is the best possible current approach for these complex models, for which simulations require  
236 hours to days of computing time. Tests of fishing pressure involved comparing species

237 productivity, as measured by fishing rates sustainable in the model, to expected ‘rules of thumb’  
238 based on natural mortality rates (Kenneth et al. 2001; Walters & Martell 2002).

239 In the course of calibration, we made slight modifications to the model parameterization  
240 used by Marshall *et al.* (2017). With our focus on the spatial effects of OA on fisheries catch, we  
241 modified parameter values for five of the 11 groups that declined to low biomass levels in the  
242 previous model under a baseline simulation: (i) we made slight modifications to feeding  
243 efficiency parameters for Dungeness crab, nearshore sea urchins and an epibenthic predatory  
244 invertebrate group comprised of sea stars and large predatory snails; and (ii) both feeding  
245 efficiencies and quadratic mortality rates were modified for market squid and pandalid shrimp.  
246 Dungeness crab, pandalid shrimp and market squid are key invertebrate fishery species. Market  
247 squid in particular is a highly important fishery species in Southern California (making up over  
248 50% of the biomass of catch for 5 ports in 2013).

249 With these modifications we were able to ensure persistence of both market squid and  
250 pandalid shrimp and obtain more realistic biomass levels of Dungeness crab along the entire  
251 coast, however thirteen groups still declined to low biomass levels (<2% starting biomass).  
252 Groups declining which also declined in Marshall *et al.* (2017) included: deep demersal fish,  
253 Pacific ocean perch (*Sebastes alutus*, Sebastidae), Arrowtooth flounder (*Atheresthes stomias*,  
254 Pleuronectinae), large demersal predators, large pelagic predators, Chinook salmon  
255 (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*, Salmonidae), pelagic sharks, epibenthic predatory invertebrates,  
256 and large phytoplankton. Groups which declined in our model and not in Marshall *et al.* (2017)  
257 included: deep small rockfish, small demersal sharks, nearshore sea urchins, and  
258 coccolithophores. Though the groups declining made up 17% of the functional groups in the  
259 model, they represented only 2% of vertebrate biomass and <1% of consumer biomass, and

260 accounted for 7.5% of 2013 US west coast catch. Additionally, crangon shrimp were found to  
261 have unrealistic increases in biomass and were removed from economic analyses (they accounted  
262 for 0.1% of 2013 catch). Similar challenges with persistence in complex ecosystem models have  
263 been reported by others (Gaichas *et al.* 2012; Thorpe *et al.* 2015) and remain a substantial  
264 challenge in large multi-species models. With our primary focus on effects on fisheries catch, the  
265 declining groups were not expected to greatly impact outputs, though future modeling efforts can  
266 work to increase persistence across groups.

267

## 268 *2.5 Fisheries parameterization*

269 Fishing mortality for each functional group was set at a constant rate (e.g., 0.05 yr<sup>-1</sup>) such  
270 that the catch (metric tonnes) in the first year of the model would match the 2013 catch data from  
271 PacFIN. Our US catches were allocated spatially to 17 port groups (hereafter called ‘ports’)  
272 along the coast, with one additional fishery each for Canada and Mexico (Figure 1). Spatially  
273 explicit fishing mortality rates per port (or country) and functional group were then applied as  
274 constant fishing rates (see Appendix A). This assumes no management responses or shifts in  
275 regimes and/or fishery behavior in the future; while this is unrealistic, it allows for consideration  
276 of OA effects without the confounding socioeconomic dynamics which would make attribution  
277 incredibly difficult. US vessels were assumed to have access to coastal (nearshore) areas within  
278 200km of the homeport (the main city in the port), and equal access to areas offshore to 1200m  
279 depth. Canadian and Mexican fishing mortality rates were applied equally to all Canadian and  
280 Mexican areas in the model domain, respectively.

281 Though our Atlantis model projects port-level catches, each of these ports has catch from  
282 a mix of vessel types (Table 1). The categories used to classify vessels were originally defined in

283 Leonard and Watson (2011). The vessel categories have distinct target species, economic  
284 characteristics, and subsequent vulnerabilities to ocean acidification. The port-level catches were  
285 allocated to the vessel types based on the proportion of catches per vessel type reported in  
286 PacFIN in 2013. We report results for 10 vessel types that primarily harvest groups well  
287 represented by Atlantis biomass dynamics; nine other vessels types depend substantially on  
288 species that are poorly represented in the base Atlantis simulations (i.e., functional groups that do  
289 not persist) and these were aggregated into a ‘generic’ coast-wide fishery.

290 The catch (metric tonnes) landed at each port was converted to total revenue, using 2013  
291 price per pound data (PacFIN 2013). Prices were found for each functional group at the  
292 resolution of vessel type and port. These prices were multiplied by biomass to find total revenue  
293 by: (1) vessel type at each port and (2) functional group at each port.

294

## 295 *2.6 Input–Output models, IMPLAN, and IO-PAC*

296 We used an Input-Output (IO) model (Leontief 1951) to investigate changes in income  
297 and employment resulting from changes in ex-vessel fisheries revenue. Here, and in previous  
298 work (Kaplan and Leonard 2012), we use IO models to estimate direct, indirect, and induced  
299 effects. Direct effect refers to the change in production, such as impacts at the level of the vessel.  
300 Indirect effect refers to secondary activity caused by changing input needs of directly affected  
301 industries (e.g., changes in fleet revenue may cause a decline in output from shipyards that  
302 service those vessels). Induced effects are caused by changes in household spending from  
303 additional income generated by direct and indirect effects.

304 The Northwest Fisheries Science Center’s input-output model for Pacific Coast fisheries  
305 (IO-PAC) was designed to estimate the gross changes in economic contributions and economic

306 impacts resulting from policy, environmental, or other changes that affect fishery harvest  
307 (Leonard and Watson 2011). The IO-PAC was constructed by customizing Impact Analysis for  
308 Planning (IMPLAN) regional input-output (IO) software (IMPLAN Pro, 2012, MIG Inc. Hudson  
309 Wisconsin).

310 Development of IO-PAC included customizing IMPLAN with an addition of 19  
311 commercial fishing vessel types. The present application used a version of IO-PAC that was  
312 developed to include the 17 ports in the Atlantis model and the subset (10) of the 19 fishing  
313 vessel types for which spatial catches were tracked (Table 1). Economic impact estimates in IO-  
314 PAC include the effects of changes in fish harvest on income and employment by harvesting  
315 vessels and processors, at the scale of port and vessel type.

316 There are three major assumptions of IO-PAC: (1) Supply of outputs is not constraining.  
317 An increase in demand, such as demand by the fishing sectors for engine maintenance, is always  
318 met by an increase in supply for the commodity or service demanded. (2) Prices of commodities,  
319 such as processed fish, and factors of production, such as diesel fuel, are fixed, and here are  
320 denominated in 2013 dollars. (3) There is no substitution in either production or consumption,  
321 which means that a fishery sector will always require the same set of inputs (diesel, ice, etc.) to  
322 land a dollar's worth of fish. Similarly, households always purchase the same set of commodities  
323 in the same proportions.

324

### 325 *2.7 Functional group responses to pH*

326 For this analysis, 10 functional groups were assumed to respond directly to pH. Groups  
327 were chosen based on a review of 393 papers on sensitivity of species in temperate oceans to  
328 carbon chemistry and a tailoring of species sensitivity estimates to the California Current (Busch

329 and McElhany 2016) (Table 2). These were the same 10 groups affected by pH in the  
330 *Cumulative* scenario in Marshall *et al.* (2017) and had the strongest negative responses to ocean  
331 acidification according to the review by Busch and McElhany (2016). Functional group  
332 sensitivity was translated into species response through parameterizing pH-induced mortality  
333 (additional to any linear or quadratic mortality). All response curves were parameterized such  
334 that there was no pH-induced mortality above pH 8.0, and mortality linearly increased with  
335 declines in pH. Declines in pH would be felt by a species based on their spatial distribution  
336 (polygons in which they inhabit) and the pH in that region. The threshold of 8.0 was chosen  
337 because average pH in the region in present day conditions start just under 8.0 (at 7.95). The rate  
338 of decline (slope of the curve) was set such that the most sensitive group experienced an  
339 additional 10% total annual mortality rate for one unit change in pH (from 8.0 to 7.0; as depicted  
340 in Marshall *et al.* (2017) Figure S3). All other functional groups' pH response slopes were scaled  
341 against that group, using scaling parameters provided by Busch and McElhany (2016). Marshall  
342 *et al.* (2017) tested Atlantis model output sensitivity to mortality rates up to 10 times higher and  
343 found the directions of impact (either in the positive or negative direction) of species responses  
344 were largely insensitive to higher mortality rates.

345 Two sets of oceanographic outputs described above were used to run three 100-year  
346 Atlantis scenarios, isolating the effects of pH and removing the impacts that may have been  
347 caused by changes in temperature. The three Atlantis scenarios included: two baselines using  
348 2013 and 2063 oceanography (referred to as *2013Baseline* and *2063Baseline*), where no species  
349 responded to pH, and a third run with 2063 oceanography where species responded to pH  
350 (referred to as *2063pHmortality*). We calculated the effect size for each functional group as the  
351 difference in biomass for the scenario with 2063 conditions with and without pH mortality turned



352 on (*2063pHmortality* and *2063Baseline*, respectively), standardized by the biomass predicted in  
353 the 2013 runs (*2013Baseline*); using the following metric:

$$354 \quad E_i = \frac{B_{2063pHmortality,i} - B_{2063Baseline,i}}{B_{2013Baseline,i}} \quad [\text{eq.1}]$$

355 Biomass values used were an average over the final 10 years of the 100-year model run,  
356 representing quasi-equilibrium values under the oceanographic conditions used. This approach  
357 was used to remove the influence of other oceanographic changes (such as temperature) over the  
358 50 years, so that results are an indication of the sole influence of pH. Although biological  
359 responses to changes in temperature and oxygen levels are expected to be substantial (Shaffer *et al.*  
360 *2009*; Barange *et al.* *2014*; Fernandes *et al.* *2016*), they were not the focus of our analysis.

361 Revenue changes were calculated at the finest resolution of functional group by vessel  
362 type and port, multiplying biomass by price:

$$363 \quad R_{i,j,k,r} = P_{i,j,k} B_{i,j,k,r} \quad [\text{eq.2}]$$

364 where  $R_{i,j,k,r}$  is functional group revenue calculated directly as the total biomass landed at the  
365 port,  $B_{i,j,k,r}$ , multiplied by the price-per-unit biomass,  $P_{i,j,k}$ , for group  $i$ , at port  $j$  for vessel type  $k$   
366 and for model run  $r$  (where the run can be *2013Baseline*, *2063Baseline* or *2063pHmortality*). We  
367 investigated revenue outputs at three scales, 1) total port revenue ( $RP$ ), 2) revenue by port and  
368 vessel type ( $RF$ ), and 3) revenue by port and functional group ( $RS$ ). The effect size on revenue  
369 was calculated in the same way as for biomass, the difference between revenue under 2063  
370 conditions with and without pH mortality, standardized by 2013 revenue.

371 We report changes in biomass and revenue only for effect sizes greater than  $|0.2|$ . This is  
372 the convention with large ecosystem models, which are best used to reveal large vulnerabilities  
373 rather than fine-grained projections (Fulton *et al.* *2011*; Fulton *et al.* *2014*; Collie *et al.* *2016*) and

374 because a difference of less than 20% would be lost in the observation noise of most ecosystem  
375 processes.

376 Further economic analysis was performed using multipliers from the IO-PAC model, to  
377 consider direct, indirect and induced effects on income and employment. Multipliers for fisheries  
378 revenue and processor effect at each port were used. For example, income effects ( $I$ ) for a single  
379 port,  $j$ , were the product of revenue outputs by vessel type,  $k$ , and port, and the two multipliers:

$$380 I_{j,r} = \sum_{k=1}^{17} RF_{j,k,r} (M_{I,D,j} + M_{I,P,j}) \quad [\text{eq.3}]$$

381 where  $M_{I,D,j}$  is the economic multiplier for revenue for income at port  $j$  and  $M_{I,P,j}$  is the multiplier  
382 for the processor effect on income at port  $j$ . The employment produced,  $E_{j,r}$ , was calculated the  
383 same way, using  $M_{E,D,j}$  and  $M_{E,P,j}$ . The effect size on income and employment was calculated as  
384 the difference between scenarios in 2063 and standardizing by *2013Baseline*. Three ports do not  
385 have processors (Brookings, Crescent City and Bodega Bay), thus those ports only had  $M_{I,D,j}$  and  
386  $M_{E,D,j}$ .

387

### 388 **3. Results**

#### 389 *3.1 Changes in Biomass*

390 Demersal functional groups were most affected by changes in pH. Sixteen functional  
391 groups experienced biomass effect sizes of  $|0.20|$  or greater. Affected groups included  
392 invertebrates and demersal fishes (Figure 2). We categorize functional groups according to three  
393 classes of response: functional groups with substantial changes (magnitude  $> 0.2$ ) that varied  
394 regionally, groups with substantial but spatially consistent changes, and groups with no  
395 substantial change ( $< |0.2|$ ). We focus on functional groups with regional variability, and then  
396 briefly touch on the last two classes.

397 Most invertebrate responses varied by region, but the patterns of responses were unique  
398 to each functional group (excluding pandalid shrimp; Figure 2). For species directly responding  
399 to pH, the variation was largely driven by local pH values. On average, pH declined the most  
400 between Northern California and Vancouver Island, although species exposure to pH was  
401 dependent on the pH projected in the ROMS model within the species' latitudinal range and  
402 depth distribution. While Dungeness crab experienced the lowest pH in Canadian waters, other  
403 species (e.g., benthic herbivorous grazers and deposit feeders) experienced the lowest pH in  
404 southern California (Figure 2). As a result, species responses to lower pH values do not  
405 consistently match what might be expected from observations (Feely *et al.* 2016) that the lowest  
406 pH and most severe effects would occur between northern California and Oregon. Rather,  
407 proportional effects on some functional groups were more substantial in the southern portion of  
408 the model, with the size of response scaling with the slope of their pH mortality curve (Table 2).  
409 Notably, the crab group (excluding Dungeness) had heterogeneous responses across space, likely  
410 due to low biomass (near 7% of starting biomass) creating higher sensitivity to small differences  
411 between 2013 and 2063. Declines in benthic herbivorous grazers, bivalves, deposit feeders and  
412 benthic carnivores were not only from direct effects of changing pH, but also from indirect food  
413 web effects via changes in predator-prey dynamics (Appendix B, Table B1).

414 Other invertebrates indirectly responded to declines in pH in heterogeneous patterns,  
415 resulting primarily from changes in predator and prey biomass levels. Groups with indirect  
416 declines — meiobenthos, gelatinous zooplankton, microphytobenthos and black corals — all  
417 responded in limited geographical regions (southern portion of the model), with meiobenthos and  
418 gelatinous zooplankton experiencing changes in predation. Biomass increases for pandalid

419 shrimp and microzooplankton, neither of which responded directly to pH, resulted from a release  
420 from predation.

421 Dungeness crab were a unique case. They were parameterized to respond directly to  
422 declines in pH, but the realized impact resulted almost entirely from indirect effects of changes  
423 in prey availability (Appendix B, Table B1). This impact was most substantial off of Oregon and  
424 northern California (Figure 2), but also led to declines in Dungeness crab biomass off Canada  
425 and Washington State. Ninety percent of the Dungeness crab biomass in the model is in these  
426 northern regions, and we did not see the same substantial declines of Dungeness crab in southern  
427 regions.

428 Five functional groups exhibited consistent changes across the model domain. There were  
429 four declining fish groups: Petrale sole (*Eopsetta jordani*, Pleuronectinae), Dover sole  
430 (*Microstomus pacificus*, Pleuronectinae), cowcod (*Sebastes levis*, Sebastidae), and deep large  
431 rockfish, whereas pandalid shrimps increased (Figure 2). The four fish groups declined due to  
432 decreases in prey abundance that were substantial enough to create a consistent effect across all  
433 six regions. All four fish groups consumed benthic invertebrates that declined: benthic  
434 herbivorous grazers, bivalves and crangon shrimp (not shown in Figure 2, but had 19% decline).  
435 Pandalid shrimp are preyed upon by both Dover sole and deep large rockfish in the model such  
436 that biomass declines in these two fish groups may have caused release from predation on  
437 pandalid shrimp, making increases constant across space.

438 Groups that did not respond  $> |0.2|$  included four of the functional groups parameterized  
439 to respond directly to declines in pH (mesozooplankton, pteropods, shallow benthic filter feeders  
440 and crangon shrimp), as well as pelagic fishes, mammals, sharks and seabirds. It is likely that for  
441 groups parameterized to respond to pH that did not change substantially, a combination of high

442 productivity and release from predation were able to counteract direct effects from induced  
443 mortality.

444

### 445 3.2 Spatial Economic Impacts

446 Simulated revenue from catch in our base scenario (*2013Baseline*) mostly matched recent  
447 revenue composition for 2013 from the PacFIN records (15 of 17 ports) with exceptions driven  
448 by biomass trends in the simulations (Appendix C, Table C1). Port revenue from sablefish  
449 (*Anoplopoma fimbria*, Anoplopomitidae) and Pacific hake was consistently lower in our Atlantis  
450 simulations than in 2013 landings data. Atlantis projections for North Coast, WA, Fort Bragg,  
451 CA and San Diego, CA did not accurately represent 2013 landings, as all three ports have  
452 substantial landings of species that declined in abundance in baseline Atlantis simulations.

453 Simulated revenue per port (ratio of simulated revenue to revenue from PacFIN) ranged from 0.4  
454 – 1.48 (mean 1.07, SD 0.39, Appendix C, Table C2). Simulated revenue was lower than baseline  
455 records at ports between Crescent City and San Francisco, CA due to the model projecting lower  
456 Dungeness crab abundance in those regions. In comparison, simulated revenue was higher than  
457 2013 records in the southern California ports highly dependent on market squid, which were  
458 projected to increase in biomass over the course of the present day simulation.

459 Of the 16 major fishery target groups (i.e. groups which comprise 90% of the model port  
460 revenue), one quarter had a substantial change in revenue ( $RS > |0.2|$ ) in response to projected pH  
461 (Figure 3). Indirect food web effects drove these changes. Declines in revenue were dominated  
462 by declines in Dungeness crab, with effect sizes between -0.42 and -1.0+ at the nine U.S. ports  
463 north of Fort Bragg, CA (see Figure 2 caption for explanation of changes greater than 1.0+). A  
464 number of ports experienced an increase in revenue from pandalid shrimp (consistently a 0.3

465 effect size). Seven ports experienced an effect size of -0.27 from declines in Petrale sole, some in  
466 the southern region (Figure 3). Three ports in Oregon and Northern California experienced  
467 declines in revenue from Dover sole with an effect size of -0.39.

468 Substantial port-level revenue changes ( $RP > |0.2|$ ) occurred at ports north of Fort Bragg,  
469 CA that had a large proportional reliance on Dungeness crab and flatfish (Figures 3 and 4). The  
470 most substantial declines occurred where there was both large reliance on Dungeness crab (>  
471 50% of revenue), and where crab biomass declined most severely (Oregon and Northern  
472 California). Tillamook experienced the largest decline in revenue as a result of declines in pH  
473 due to Dungeness crab, which made up 97.3% of revenue in 2013 Baseline (see impacts by  
474 functional group in Figure 3). In PacFIN Dungeness crab made up 86.3% of revenue for  
475 Tillamook in 2013 (Appendix C, Table C1). Some ports experienced relief from Dungeness crab  
476 declines with increases in pandalid shrimp revenue (most notably for Coos Bay, Oregon with  
477 equivalent reliance on Dungeness crab and pandalid shrimp, Appendix C, Table C1). Though  
478 Dover and Petrale sole both declined, neither had a strong influence on port-level revenue  
479 changes, as they made up a smaller proportion of port revenue (5.0-8.5% and 4.0-19.8% reliance  
480 on Dover and Petrale sole, respectively). The eight ports that did not experience declines greater  
481 than  $|0.2|$  nonetheless experienced modest declines in catch and revenue (Appendix D, Table  
482 D1).

483 Income and employment impacts of OA reflected revenue impacts at the port-level, with  
484 the effect on employment at times more exaggerated than the effect on revenue and income  
485 (Figure 4). This exaggeration is a result of differences in the income versus employment  
486 multipliers by vessel type. For example, Crescent City has catch from four vessel types (Figure  
487 5). The income multipliers for these four vessel types are similar (Appendix D), whereas the

488 multipliers for employment are higher for Crabbers and Other groundfish fixed gear than for  
489 Large groundfish trawlers and Shrimpers. Therefore employment declined more strongly (0.71)  
490 than revenue and income (0.58 and 0.59; Appendix D) when revenue for Crabbers was reduced.  
491 Eureka, in contrast, had similar impacts across revenue (-0.37) income (-0.36) and employment  
492 (-0.37) because multipliers were similar across vessel types landing catch at this port.

493 Parsing port-level revenue to vessel type suggests that nine of the ten vessel types will  
494 experience a decline  $> |0.2|$  in at least one port (Figure 5). The widespread impacts across vessel  
495 types reflect the fact that each vessel type fishes for many species throughout the year, thereby  
496 enhancing the likelihood that the catch composition of any single vessel type will include one or  
497 more species that is adversely affected by OA. For instance, hake trawlers, sablefish fixed gear  
498 vessels and crabber vessels all catch a mixture of species, with Dungeness crab making up a  
499 substantial proportion of revenue in our model. With Pacific hake and sablefish both declining  
500 over the 100-year spinup of 2063 conditions, hake trawlers and sablefish fixed gear vessels relied  
501 more strongly on Dungeness crab than might be expected. Nonetheless, in Oregon and  
502 Washington (from Brookings north), these three vessel types and large trawlers show the most  
503 detrimental effects from ocean acidification, despite crabber vessels experiencing some relief  
504 from increases in pandalid shrimp. In the south, Diver vessels experienced declines in a variety  
505 of targeted species (Appendix C, Table C3, ); however, this outcome may be confounded by the  
506 difficulty we had in maintaining initial densities of nearshore urchins during baseline model  
507 calibration (see Methods, section 2.4).

508

#### 509 **4. Discussion**

510            Though increasing focus has been placed on understanding the economic consequences  
511 of climate change (Cooley and Doney 2009; Barange *et al.* 2014; Punt *et al.* 2014; Falkenberg  
512 and Tubb 2017), or the resulting vulnerability of species and human communities (Ekstrom *et al.*  
513 2015; Hare *et al.* 2016), such work is frequently at the ecosystem scale, which is a coarser spatial  
514 scale than is relevant for many stakeholders and managers. Here, our modeling framework used a  
515 meaningful spatial resolution to project regionally varying biological and economic impacts of  
516 ocean acidification within the California Current. The model projects that the largest economic  
517 consequences may occur for central and northern west coast ports that rely on demersal species  
518 for a large portion of fisheries catch, in particular Dungeness crab. Short of immediate global  
519 actions to dramatically reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, highly vulnerable ports and fisheries will need to  
520 consider resilient responses such as establishment of marine reserves, reductions in nutrient  
521 loading (Washington State Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification 2012), or an emphasis on  
522 robust management, flexible and diversified fisheries, and increased monitoring (Pinsky and  
523 Mantua 2014; Schindler and Hilborn 2015).

524            The Atlantis model is best suited to questions of strategic management and exploration of  
525 ecosystem dynamics (Fulton *et al.* 2011). We use the model in the spirit of scenario analysis, a  
526 common approach used by businesses and organizations to explore possible future pathways  
527 with a recognition that there are large uncertainties when projecting forward in time (Postma and  
528 Liebl 2005; Amer *et al.* 2013) – the value of taking this approach is discussed further below. The  
529 geographic variability of impacts found here resulted from the high resolution in the three  
530 components of our modeling framework: the ROMS model, the spatially explicit ecosystem  
531 model, and the spatially resolved fishing revenues used in an IO model. Additional scenarios,  
532 either through different models, different configuration of this same model, or other types of



533 scenario assessment will more fully scope vulnerable species and communities (Peterson *et al.*  
534 2003).

535 Indirect food web effects that varied with space reflect the complex predator-prey  
536 interactions and detailed species distributions that the Atlantis model can represent. Large-scale  
537 analyses of the effects of climate change frequently include either food web dynamics  
538 (Ainsworth *et al.* 2011; Barange *et al.* 2014), or high spatial resolution (Cheung *et al.* 2010;  
539 Cheung *et al.* 2011; Fernandes *et al.* 2016), but not both. Atlantis provides the ability to consider  
540 spatially variable indirect food web effects from changing oceanographic conditions. This high  
541 spatial resolution has often not been fully utilized in previously published Atlantis analyses that  
542 have summarized findings at a coarser resolution (Kaplan *et al.* 2010; Fulton 2011; Griffith *et al.*  
543 2011; Marshall *et al.* 2017). While some users within management agencies may directly utilize  
544 some of the finer scale information, existing publications tend to remain at the broad spatial  
545 scale.

546 Model outputs presented here support results from Griffith *et al.* (2011) suggesting that  
547 demersal species are most at risk from OA. Griffith *et al.* (2011) using an Atlantis modeling  
548 framework found substantial indirect impacts of OA on demersal fishes, including demersal  
549 sharks, shallow macrozoobenthos, cephalopods and benthic filter feeders. In the California  
550 Current, Kaplan *et al.* (2010) found very strong indirect effects on flatfish, namely English sole  
551 (*Parophrys vetulus*), yellowtail rockfish (*Sebastes flavidus*) and arrowtooth flounder. Unlike  
552 Kaplan *et al.* (2010), where most of the indirect effects appeared to be on demersal fishes,  
553 Marshall *et al.* (2017) and this paper found strong indirect effects on Dungeness crabs. These  
554 differences in model outcomes are not unexpected, given that the Kaplan *et al.* (2010) and the  
555 present model had different functional group structures. In contrast to the demersal community,

556 consumers in the pelagic community (pelagic fishes, marine mammals and seabirds) experienced  
557 only small indirect effects in our model, consistent with previous results.

558         Our work and that of Marshall *et al.* (2017) highlight the importance of integrating  
559 vulnerability information for an individual species from a variety of methodologies to understand  
560 potential impacts across ecological scales, from physiological to population responses. For  
561 instance, previous work on Dungeness crab has provided mixed results regarding OA. Lab  
562 studies have shown that lowered pH reduces larval survival and slows development rates (Miller  
563 *et al.* 2016). In contrast, a population vulnerability assessment integrating across life stages  
564 showed that the overall population may have low vulnerability, even with high larval  
565 vulnerability (Hodgson *et al.* 2016). Here, we see that although direct effects from pH-induced  
566 mortality are insubstantial in our model, indirect food web effects (loss of prey) made Dungeness  
567 crab populations quite vulnerable. That declines in fishery revenue are so dependent on this  
568 species warrants future attention on details of Dungeness crab vulnerability and vulnerability of  
569 their primary prey resources.

570         Finally, the variability in pH conditions and resulting ecological impacts was driven in  
571 part by the oceanographic model (ROMS). There are a number of methods simpler than  
572 computationally intensive dynamical downscaling through ROMS, however, each alternative  
573 method has limitations. For instance, initial insights into the ecosystem impacts from OA using  
574 Atlantis employed a uniform mortality rate for groups assumed to be impacted by declines in pH  
575 (Kaplan *et al.* 2010; Griffith *et al.* 2011). Alternatively, direct use of global circulation models  
576 (GCMs) is possible but has limited utility in the California Current because they currently do not  
577 resolve upwelling regions from eastern boundary currents (Gruber *et al.* 2012) nor tidal forces on  
578 the continental shelf (Ådlandsvik and Bentsen 2007). Thus, using these models directly for

579 projections of OA in the California Current is not yet ideal. Statistical downscaling is an  
580 alternative option, but is limited in the number of oceanographic variables produced and assumes  
581 that relationships between current climate conditions (correlations between oceanographic  
582 variables) hold under future climate conditions, which may or may not occur (Ekström *et al.*  
583 2015). Given these varying limitations, ROMS was used here as it provides high-resolution  
584 output that resolves upwelling and includes numerous oceanographic parameters. The drawback  
585 to this approach was that it necessitated considering potential end point outcomes rather  
586 transitory effects.

587

#### 588 *4.1 Management Applications*

589         While this initial analysis was constrained by available inputs to considering a single  
590 scenario, it does form a solid basis for identifying vulnerable species and ports that warrant  
591 further scientific and management focus. As evidenced by some of the counter intuitive results  
592 and the high heterogeneity found here, simply relying on “common sense” mental extrapolation  
593 is not appropriate in path dependent instances (such as natural resource management and  
594 planning). Consequently, even uncertain results can provide useful insights and starting points  
595 for discussions, planning and strategic research prioritization.

596         Output from other Atlantis ecosystem models has been used to inform strategic  
597 management questions, and outputs from the present work have the potential to fit into existing  
598 management efforts within the U.S. For example, in Australia Atlantis has been used as part of  
599 management strategy evaluation exercises to compare different management levers in the  
600 process of restructuring south-eastern Australian federal fisheries (Fulton *et al.* 2011). It has also

601 been used (alone or in combination with other models) to inform the Australian government of  
602 ecosystem responses to climate change (Fulton and Gorton 2014; Fulton et al 2018).

603         Within the U.S. there has been an increasing focus on both developing climate change  
604 strategies and understanding risk to different regions of the coastline to improve resilience and  
605 reduce the impact of forthcoming change. One of the seven objectives in the NOAA/National  
606 Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Climate Science Strategy is to develop future projections,  
607 specifically at regional scales that are relevant to management (Busch et al. 2016). Similarly, The  
608 West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Panel note the importance of both higher  
609 spatial resolution in model outputs, and the need for coupling biophysical and ecosystem models  
610 to improve our understanding of potential outcomes (Chan et al. 2016). Thus, outputs from this  
611 work can feed into these management priority areas and can be used in conjunction with  
612 alternative methodologies, such as the NMFS Climate Vulnerability Assessments (NOAA 2016).

613         Within this advisory context, it is important to recognize that the results presented here  
614 represent a single instance of how ocean acidification may impact the biology and economics of  
615 the coastline bordering the California Current. As with any highly parameterized and complex  
616 ecosystem model, it is important to consider the results in conjunction with an ensemble of other  
617 models that use different assumptions and modeling frameworks. We are hopeful that in future  
618 ensemble projections will build on this current work, and provide alternative scenarios and  
619 projections so that we can gain a fuller picture of possible future vulnerabilities within the  
620 system. However, the reality that more models are needed does not diminish the utility of this  
621 approach, because in taking steps towards understanding vulnerability within the California  
622 Current to ocean acidification there is a need to go beyond mental extrapolation and tangibly  
623 build on past information.

624

## 625 4.2 Uncertainties and Limitations

626           Given the constrained nature of the work presented here it is important to be explicit  
627 about the associated uncertainties and limitations. While model complexity is useful in providing  
628 higher resolution outputs and more explicitly dealing with a broader range of specific processes,  
629 it also introduces uncertainty (Cheung *et al.* 2016). A number of elements regarding model  
630 uncertainty as defined by Hawkins and Sutton (2009) and Cheung *et al.* (2016) were addressed in  
631 Marshall *et al.* (2017), thus we focus on uncertainties as they pertain to influencing spatial  
632 impacts of OA.

633           The ROMS model used for present day and future oceanographic predictions was forced  
634 by a single realization of a global earth system model (GFDL-ESM2M) run under a single  
635 emissions scenario (RCP 8.5). Both of these simplifications should be addressed in future efforts.  
636 Future work would benefit from downscaling of multiple realizations and multiple global earth  
637 system models to quantify both intrinsic (natural) and model (structural) uncertainty related to  
638 physics and biogeochemistry. This could be substantially addressed by adding two or three  
639 different downscaling studies and does not necessarily require dozens of computationally  
640 intensive model iterations. Additionally, alternative emissions scenarios should be considered  
641 (Hawkins and Sutton 2009; Hollowed *et al.* 2009).

642           In our Atlantis ecosystem model, a substantial structural uncertainty was the  
643 representation of vertebrate spatial movements. Vertebrate biomass was distributed using  
644 prescribed seasonal shifts, with the daily distribution interpolated linearly from one season to the  
645 next. More complex movement patterns have been applied in some other Atlantis models (Fulton  
646 *et al.* 2014), including effects such as thermal tolerances, but these add substantially to model

647 calibration. Consequently, we used prescribed seasonal movement, which effectively handles  
648 large model domains under historic conditions, but limits the evolution of spatial variability in  
649 future projections. There are two potential consequences of our approach. If a vertebrate  
650 functional group only experiences a decline in one region (e.g., -0.6 off Washington state), that  
651 effect will be smoothed out across all regions reducing the extent to which we will observe  
652 heterogeneous impacts on vertebrate species. In addition, it masks the potential for strong spatial  
653 rearrangement of species distributions in response to environmental conditions. Such  
654 redistribution might mean coastwide biomass shifts different to those seen here (e.g. a group may  
655 not have an impact exceeding our reporting threshold effect size of  $> |0.2|$  as it has moved to  
656 more hospitable areas). The economic effects of a shift may also differ to what is seen here,  
657 particularly if a fleet components is unable to match the distributional shift (regardless of the  
658 realized biomass levels).

659 Predator diet compositions are notoriously challenging to estimate (Baker *et al.* 2014),  
660 and in Atlantis diets evolve dynamically based on shifts in prey abundance and spatial overlap  
661 between predators and prey. For example, starting conditions allowed Dungeness crab to prey  
662 upon many functional groups, but realized Dungeness crab diets were relatively simple and  
663 consisted of mostly bivalves, benthic herbivorous grazers and Dungeness crab (which are known  
664 to cannibalize (Fernández 1999)). With decreases in two of their main prey resources,  
665 cannibalism increased, likely driving declines in biomass (Figure 2). However, it is possible that  
666 this was an oversimplification of true crab diets, making them more sensitive to changes in the  
667 model than they would be to changes in the natural environment.

668 In the economic analysis we assumed fixed prices from present day through to the 2060s  
669 and did not include substitution between fisheries inputs (fisheries always use the same amount

670 of diesel, food, etc. per dollar of revenue). These are both characteristics of IO models (Seung  
671 and Waters 2006) which have been used previously for moderate future forecasts (15 years;  
672 Kaplan and Leonard 2012), and long-term forecasts over 50 years (Fernandes *et al.* 2016). There  
673 is presently no alternative for analyzing port-level outputs for the US west coast. In the future,  
674 long term projections of economic responses may be better forecasted with techniques such as a  
675 Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) model (e.g., (Finnoff and Tschirhart 2003) which  
676 factors in changing prices and input substitutions. We note that IO model estimates of impacts on  
677 employment and income did not substantially differ from changes in revenue (Figure 5); our  
678 economic outputs are most useful for identifying ports with higher relative vulnerability.

679 In addition to these primary limitations are a few key biological assumptions that could  
680 affect our results. We looked at ocean acidification as a single stressor, when it is well  
681 established that the California Current experiences a variety of anthropogenic impacts (Halpern  
682 *et al.* 2008). Thus future analyses would benefit from investigating cumulative effects,  
683 particularly regarding temperature which is highly correlated to observed pH (Reum *et al.* 2014).  
684 Our work assumes pH only affects mortality, though additional physiological processes have  
685 been included in other recent modeling efforts (Fernandes *et al.* 2016). Finally, we do not include  
686 the evolution of species responses or changes in species distributions given future climate  
687 conditions, and both of these are possible, if not likely (Cheung *et al.* 2010; Sunday *et al.* 2011;  
688 Lohbeck 2012; Pinsky *et al.* 2013).

689

#### 690 *4.3 Conclusions*

691 Ocean acidification has the potential to restructure marine ecosystems and strongly  
692 impact human communities dependent on marine resources (Le Quesne and Pinnegar 2012;

693 Ekstrom *et al.* 2015). It is critical to assess risks to prioritize research and make strategic  
694 management decisions. The California Current is already experiencing the consequences of  
695 regional variations in pH, and here we identify functional groups that are most likely to change  
696 in response to declines in pH within the region, and the ports that may experience the largest  
697 economic impacts from these changing conditions. Substantial biological impacts were projected  
698 to occur for benthic invertebrate and fish species. Economic consequences were most severe  
699 where declines in Dungeness crab biomass resulted in lost fisheries catch. Dungeness crab is a  
700 major fishery resource on the US West Coast, making up between 40-89% of revenue for 8 of  
701 the 17 ports (43% on average across all ports; Appendix C). Our results highlight the value of  
702 methods that integrate physical, ecological and economic consequences of climate change at a  
703 spatial resolution compatible with human communities and management decisions. The  
704 outcomes can prioritize further research and adaptive management approaches from state and  
705 tribal agencies in the face of these climatic changes.

706

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716

717

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958 **Tables**

959

960 Table 1. US west coast vessel types, as categorized by IO-PAC, with the designation use in this

961 model: “Spatial” if the catch from the fleet was tracked by each port and “Generic” if the fleet’s

962 catch was lumped into the generic coastwide fishery.

<b>IO-PAC Fleet</b>	<b>Atlantis Designation</b>
Pacific whiting trawler	Spatial
Large groundfish trawler	Spatial
Small goundfish trawler	Spatial
Sablefish fixed gear	Spatial
Other groundfish fixed gear	Spatial
Pelagic netter	Generic
Migratory netter	Generic
Migratory liner	Generic
Shrimper	Spatial
Crabber	Spatial
Salmon troller	Generic
Salmon netter	Generic
Other netter	Generic
Lobster vessel	Generic
Diver vessel	Spatial
Other, more than 15K	Generic
Other, less than 15K	Generic

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964

965 Table 2. Ten functional groups directly responding to pH in our *2063pHmortality* scenario, the  
 966 species making up each group, their relative survival scalar (proportional mortality for one unit  
 967 decline in pH), realized pH exposure in the *2063pHmortality* scenario. Effect size for each  
 968 species ( $E_i$ ) was calculated for the whole model domain weighted by biomass within each  
 969 polygon, and the min and max effect across regions. Effect sizes stronger than |0.2| are bold.

<b>Functional Group Name</b>	<b>Example species</b>	<b>Relative survival scalar</b>	<b>Realized Exposure</b>	<b>OA effect size: mean (min, max)</b>
Benthic herbivorous grazers	sea urchins ( <i>Allocentrotus fragilis</i> , Strongylocentrotidae), snails	0.1	7.670	<b>-0.74 (-0.80, -0.55)</b>
Mesozooplankton	copepods	0.099	7.726	-0.07 (-0.16, -0.04)
Bivalves	bivalves	0.089	7.768	<b>-0.29 (-0.42, -0.24)</b>
Pteropods	thecosome pteropods	0.081	7.714	-0.09 (-0.16, -0.05)
Crabs	crabs (excluding Dungeness crab)	0.070	7.669	<b>-0.09 (-0.82, 0.99)</b>
Shallow benthic filter feeders	tunicates, sponges	0.055	7.770	0.11 (0.07, 0.13)
Crangon shrimp	shrimps (excluding pandalids)	0.045	7.745	-0.19 (-0.19, -0.19)
Dungeness crab	Dungeness crab	0.041	7.770	<b>-0.47 (-1+, -0.03)</b>

Benthic carnivores	polychaetes, nematodes	0.039	7.805	<b>-0.23 (-0.24, -0.16)</b>
Deposit feeders	amphipods, isopods	0.037	7.658	<b>-0.27 (-0.35, -0.17)</b>

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974 **Figures**

975 Figure 1. Atlantis polygons showing entire model domain. Ports are identified in the inset for US  
976 West Coast ports only.

977

978 Figure 2. Change in biomass for species that were found to have  $>|0.20|$  change in biomass in  
979 any of the six regions, where changes are effect sizes and are therefore unit-less. Changes  $<|0.20|$   
980 are grey, and changes  $>|0.20|$  (either positive or negative) are colored according to the color bar.  
981 White indicates that there is no biomass for the specified functional group in the region (e.g.,  
982 there are no Dungeness crab and pandalid shrimp off of Mexico). Numbers along the top of the  
983 plot indicate the change in pH within the region between 2013 and 2063 (averaged across all  
984 depths and months). Numbers in boxes are the realized exposure to pH, provided only for groups  
985 responding directly to pH. Realized exposure is the weighted mean pH species experienced  
986 based on their realized distributions in the model, weights were the relative biomass experiencing  
987 each pH. Note that the changes greater than 1.0 are possible due to the response metric which  
988 standardizes the decline in biomass (numerator) by *2013Baseline* (denominator), and in some  
989 cases the 2013 baseline had lower biomass than the *2063Baseline*.

990

991 Figure 3. Functional groups making up (in sum) a minimum of 90% of port-level fishery revenue  
992 for the base 2013 run and their change in revenue under future ocean acidification levels. Any  
993 species on the x-axis which was part of the groups making up 90% of catch for each port has a  
994 square, where the number in the square signifies the proportion of revenue from that functional  
995 group in the model. The squares are then colored according to change in biomass from our  
996 response metric, legend provided.



997

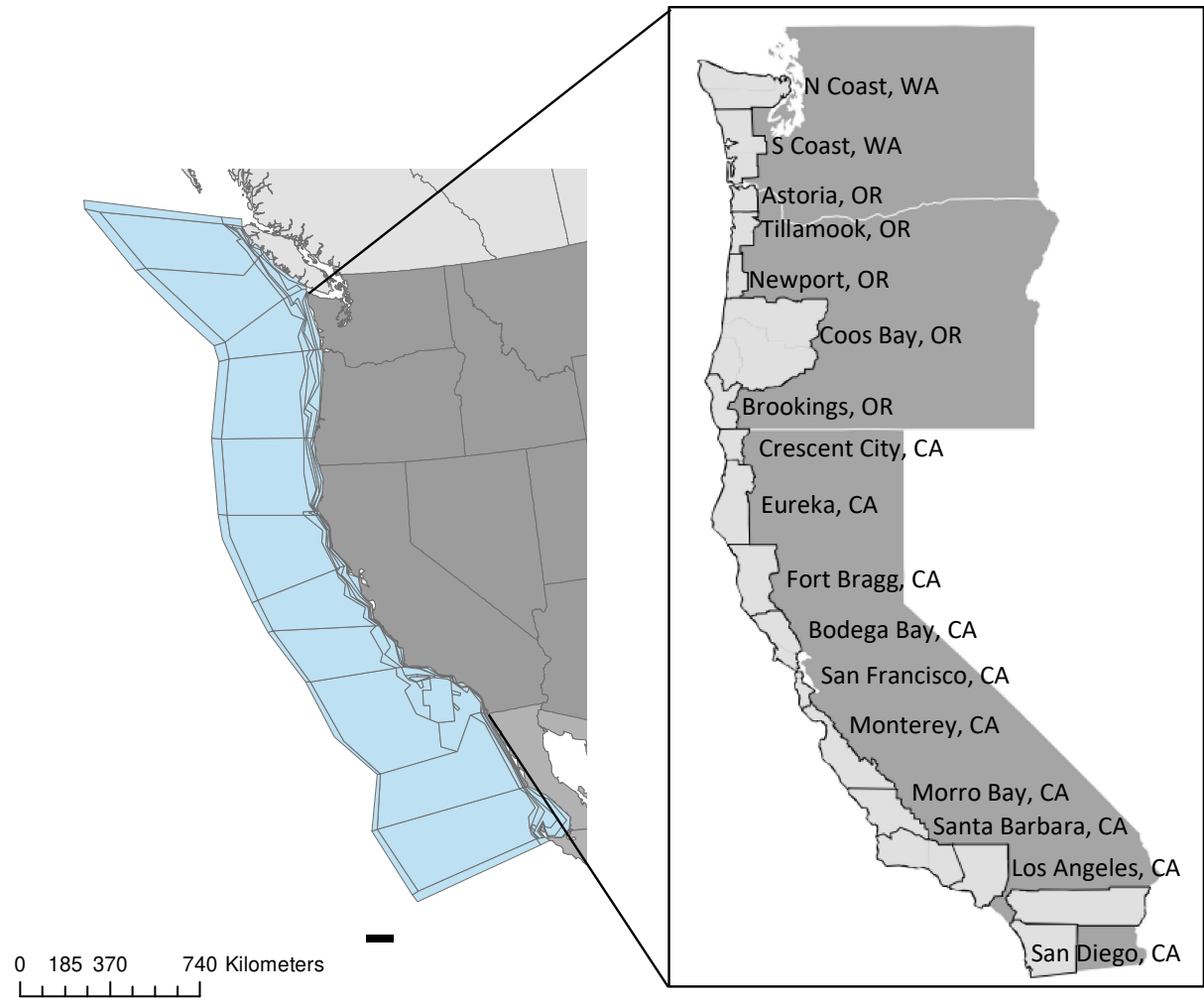
998 Figure 4. Change in revenue (A), income (B) and employment (C) by port. Changes with an  
999 absolute value less than 0.20 are grey, and changes greater than 0.20 (either positive or negative)  
1000 are colored according to the color bar binned by 0.10. Port groups are labeled in Figure 1.

1001

1002 Figure 5. Change in fleet-specific revenue driving port-level revenue changes. Changes with an  
1003 absolute value less than 0.20 are grey, and changes greater than 0.20 (either positive or negative)  
1004 are colored according to the color bar binned by 0.10. White indicates that the fleet did not land  
1005 any species at the identified port in 2013.

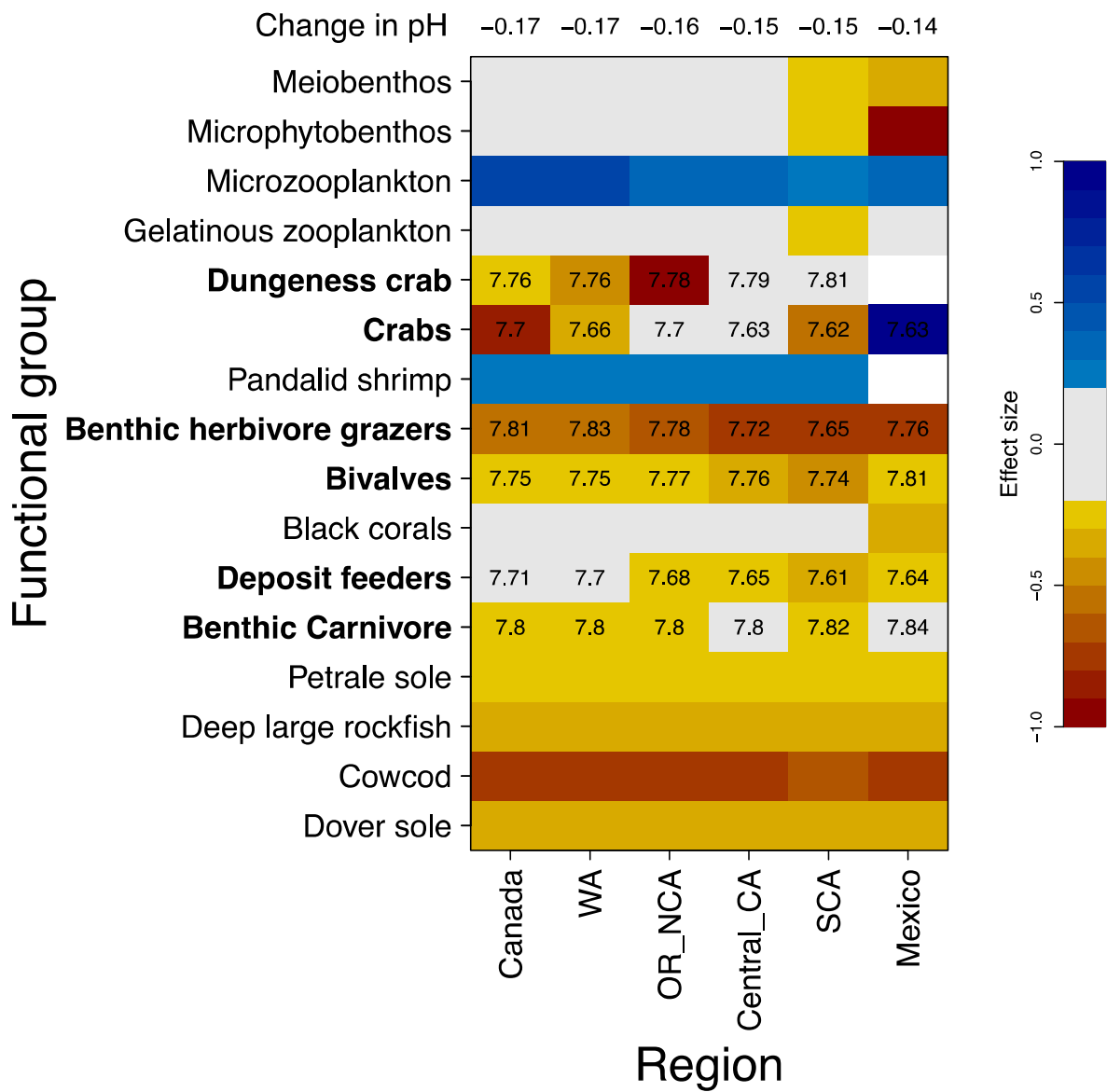
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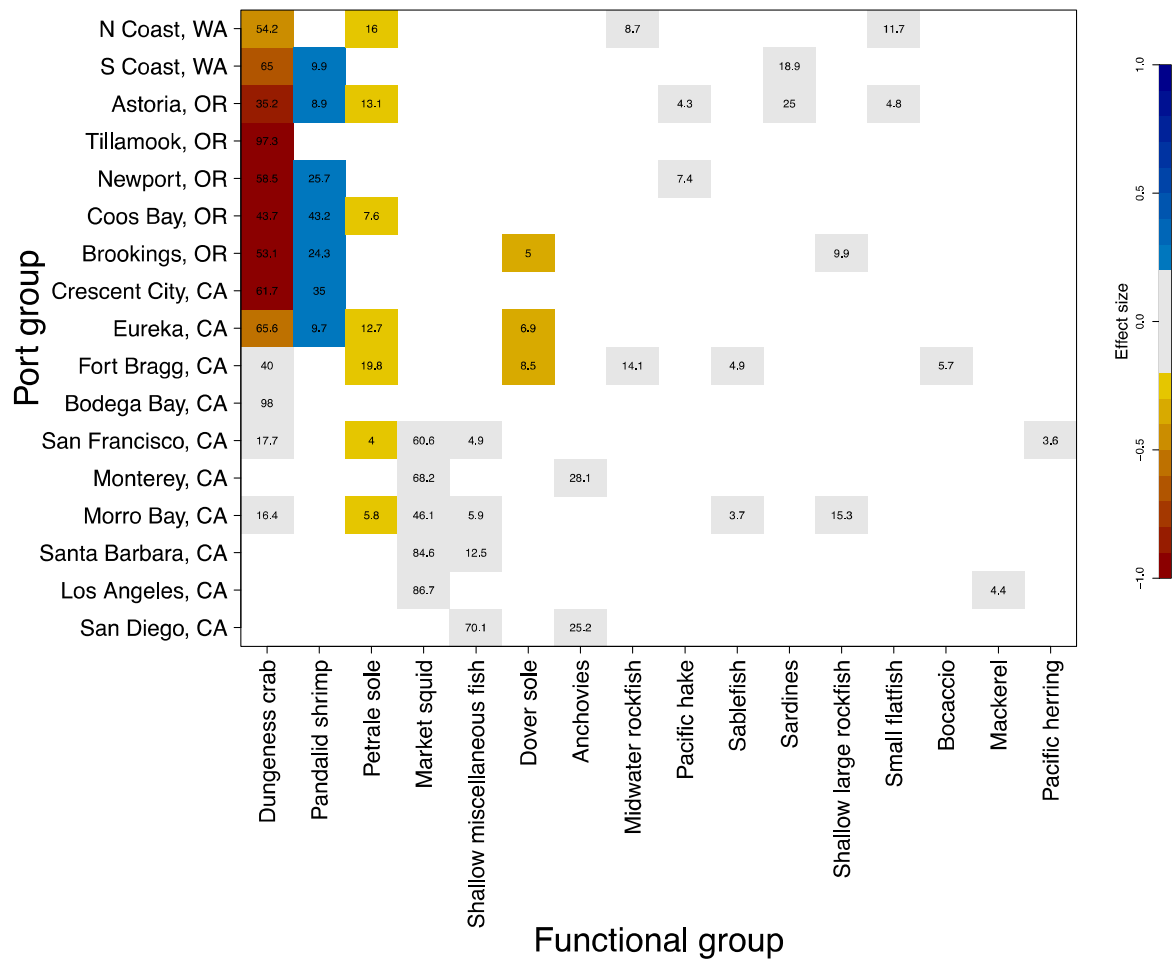
1009 Figure 1.



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1011 Figure 2.

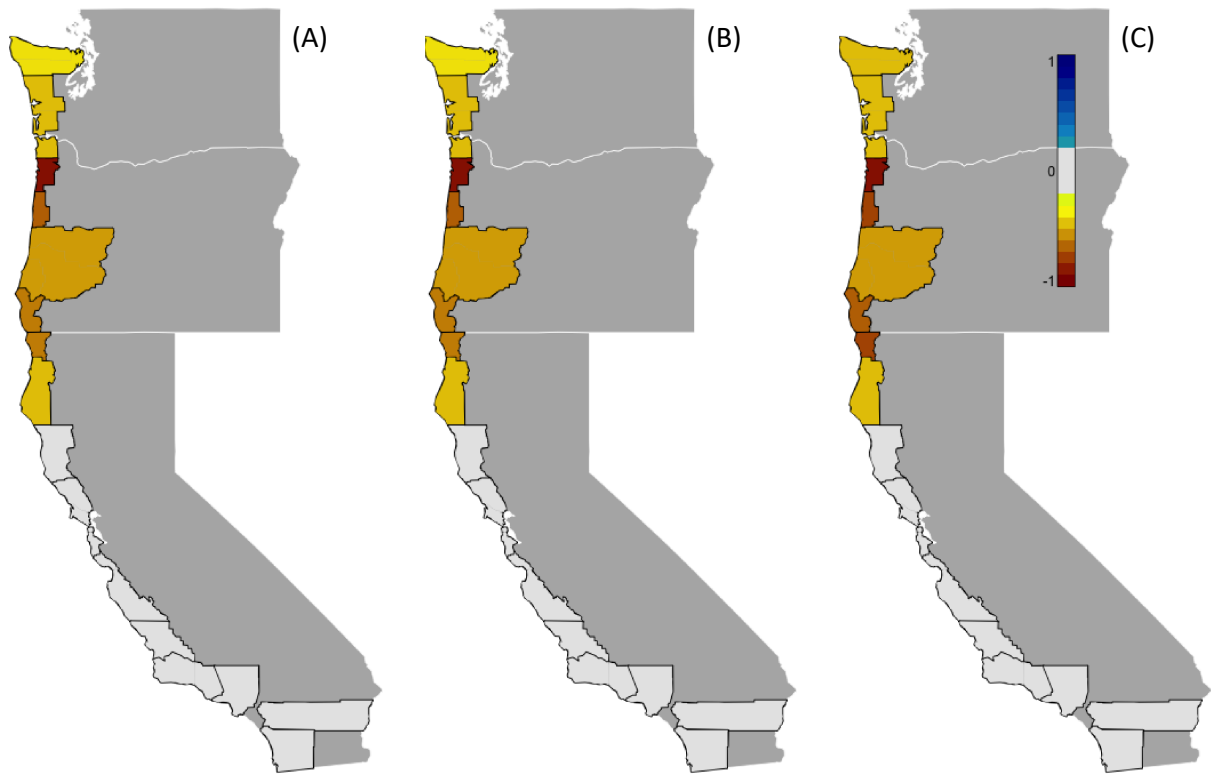
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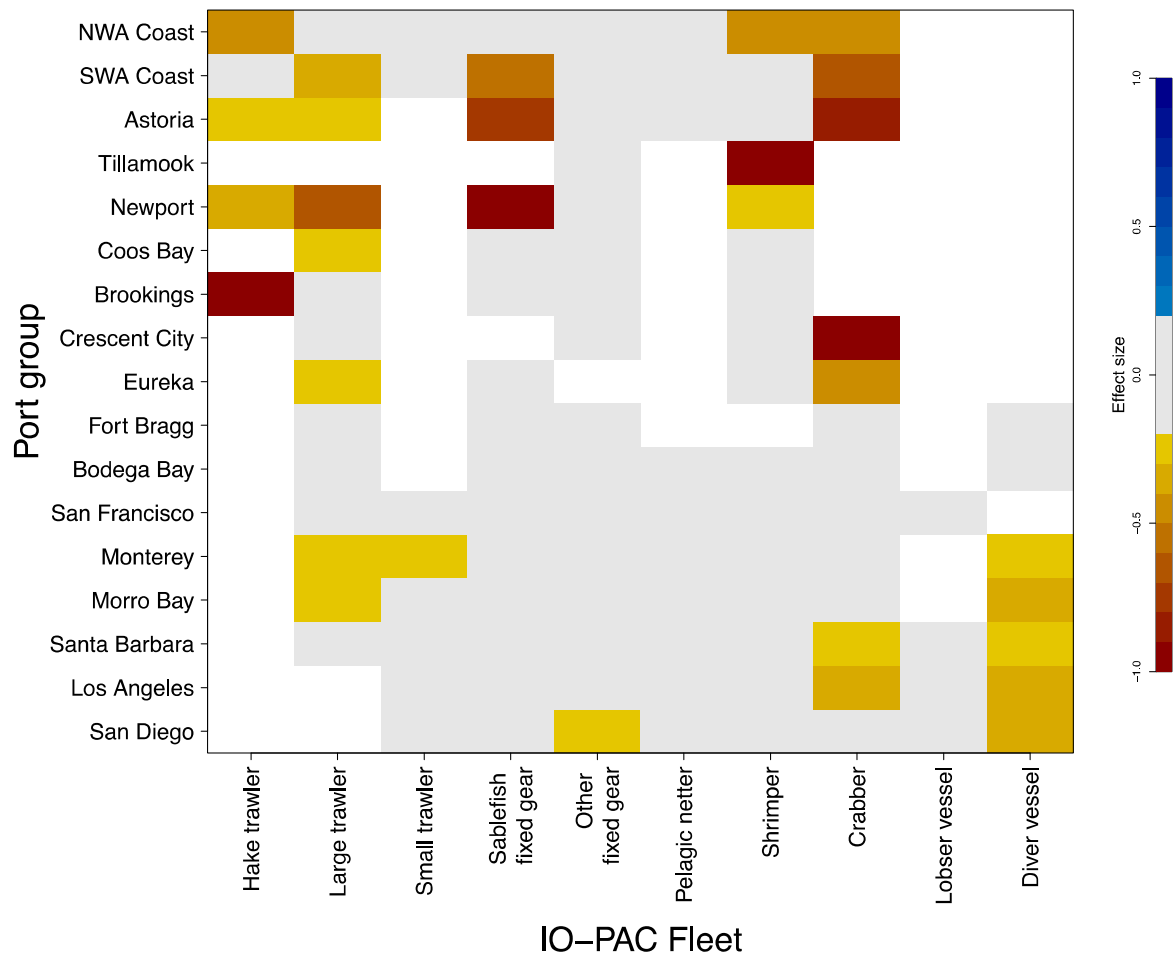
1014 Figure 3.

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1017 Figure 4.



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1019 Figure 5.