

# Suivi de l'arrivée des larves de poissons en phase d'installation en Méditerranée NW

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Laboratoire de Villefranche-sur-Mer  
Responsable données : Jean-Olivier Irisson



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# Laboratoire d'Océanographie de Villefranche (LOV)

40 professors/researchers + 30 science staff + ~60 PhD, post-docs, fixed-term jobs

## 3 teams

Marine optics and biogeochemistry (remote sensing, floats, gliders, ...)

Biodiversity and biogeochemistry (ocean acidification, toxic algae, microplastics, ...)

Processes in pelagic ecosystems (plankton, imagery, carbon pump, Tara ...)



The image shows a screenshot of a web browser displaying the homepage of the Laboratoire d'Océanographie de Villefranche (LOV). The browser's address bar shows the URL [www.lov.obs-vlfr.fr](http://www.lov.obs-vlfr.fr). The website header features the LOV logo on the left and navigation links (Contacts, Plan du site, Annuaire, Plan d'accès) on the right. The main content area includes the text "Laboratoire d'Océanographie de Villefranche" and "Unité Mixte de Recherche 7093 – CNRS/UPMC". Below this, a blue banner reads "Bienvenue au Laboratoire d'Océanographie de Villefranche-sur-Mer". A sidebar on the left contains a menu with "Accueil", "Le laboratoire", and "Activités scientifiques". The main text block describes the laboratory's history and current mandate. A red banner at the bottom right features the text "SCIENCE : Le LOV à l'honneur" and the Science magazine logo.

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LOV

Contacts | Plan du site | Annuaire | Plan d'accès

Laboratoire d'Océanographie de Villefranche  
Unité Mixte de Recherche 7093 – CNRS/UPMC

Bienvenue au Laboratoire d'Océanographie de  
Villefranche-sur-Mer

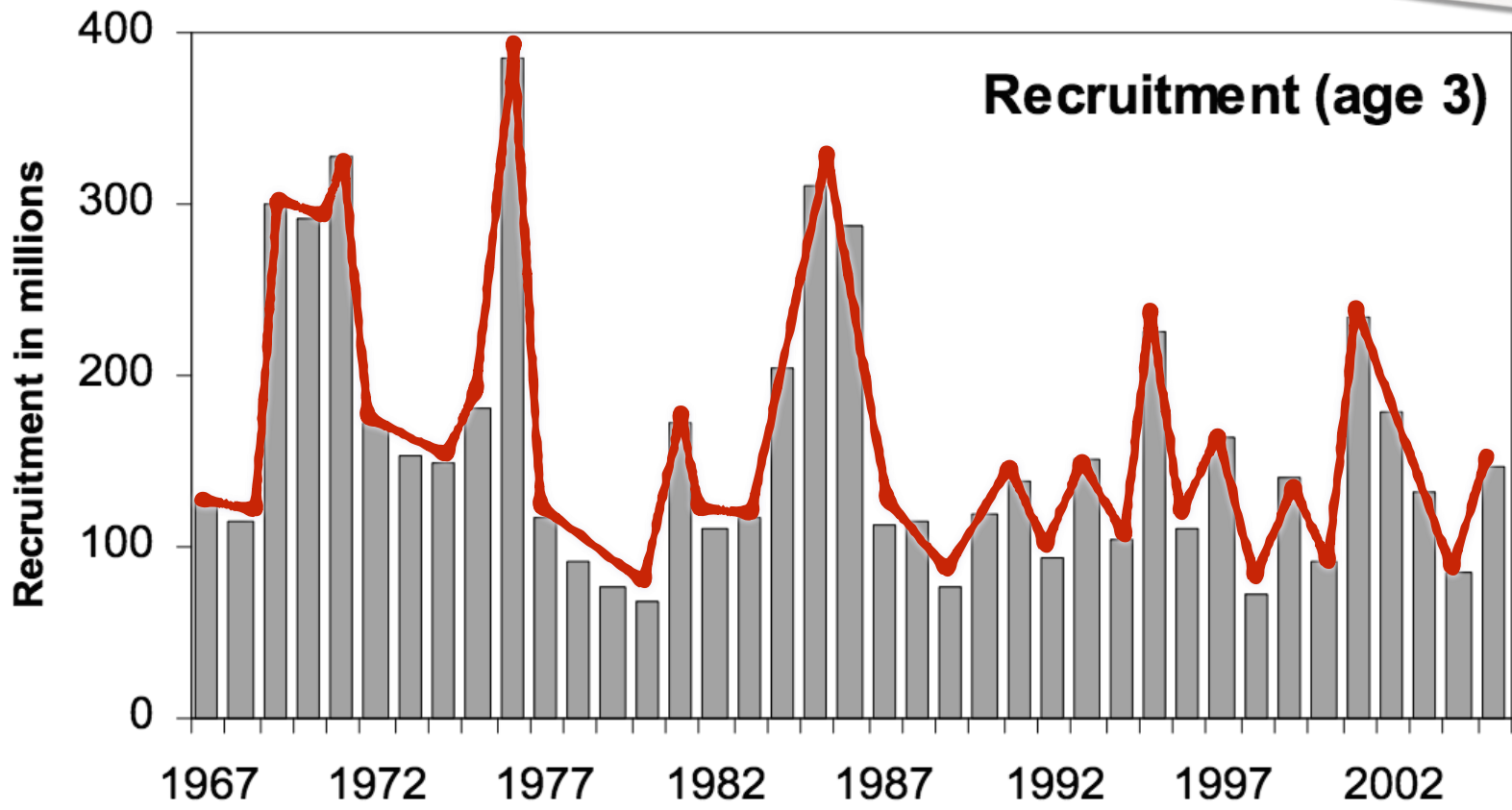
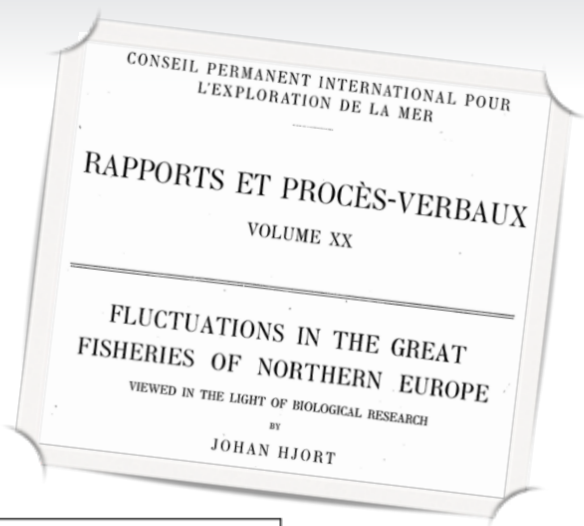
Accueil  
Le laboratoire  
Activités scientifiques

Le **Laboratoire d'Océanographie de Villefranche-sur-Mer (LOV)**, créé en janvier 2001, est le fruit de la fusion du Laboratoire d'Océanographie Biologique et Écologie du Plancton Marin (LOBEPM) et de la composante villefranchoise du Laboratoire de Physique et Chimie Marines (LPCM), [voir historique](#). Son mandat actuel (2014-2018) s'effectue sous la double tutelle de l'Université Pierre et Marie Curie (UPMC) et du Centre

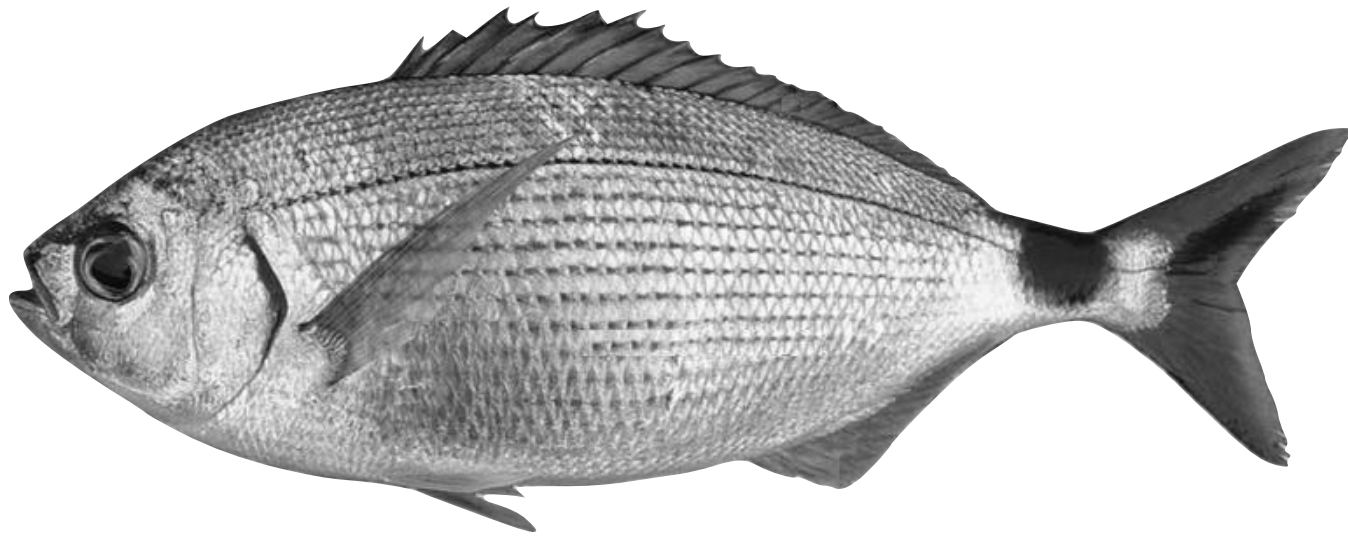
SCIENCE : Le LOV à l'honneur

Science

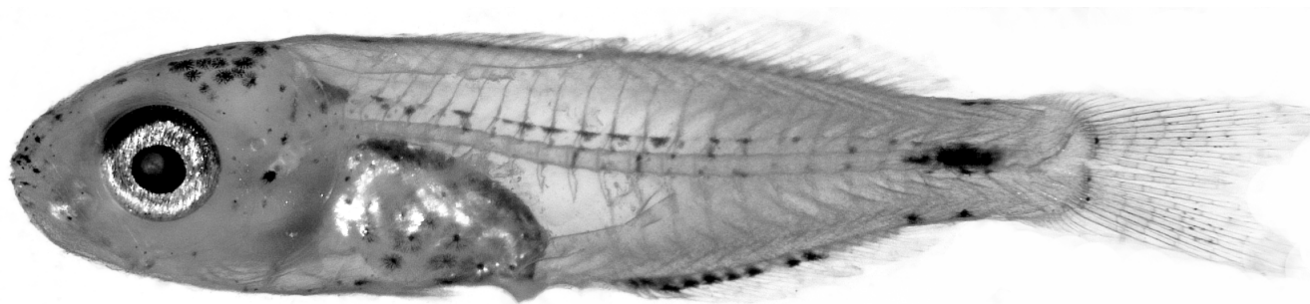
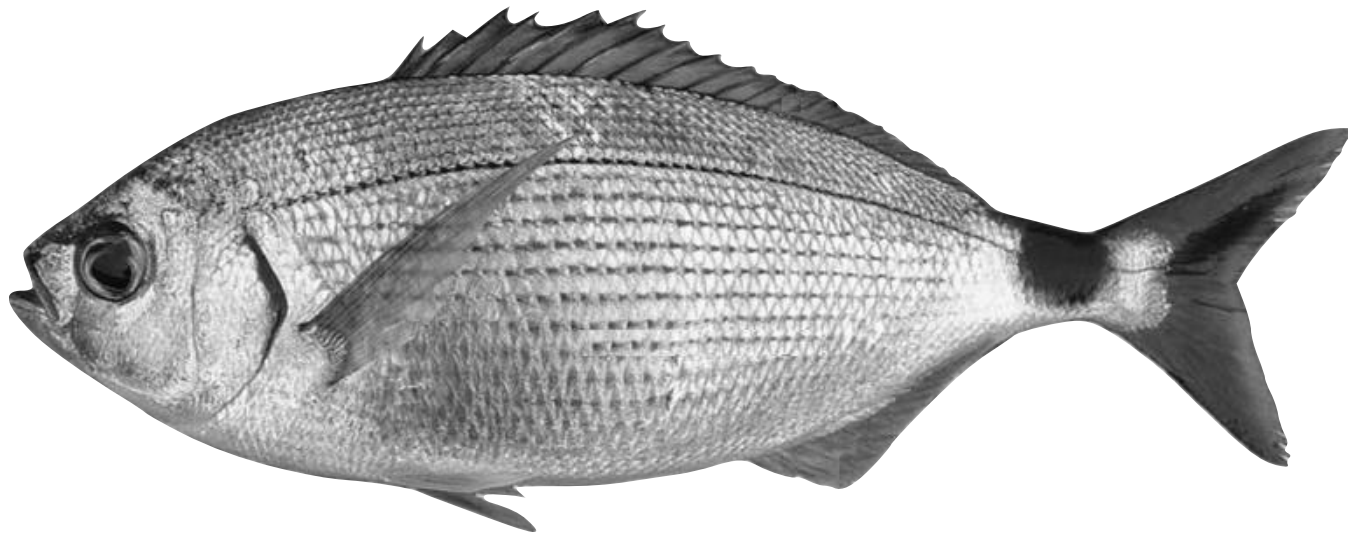
# Why studying fish larvae? Fish stock fluctuate



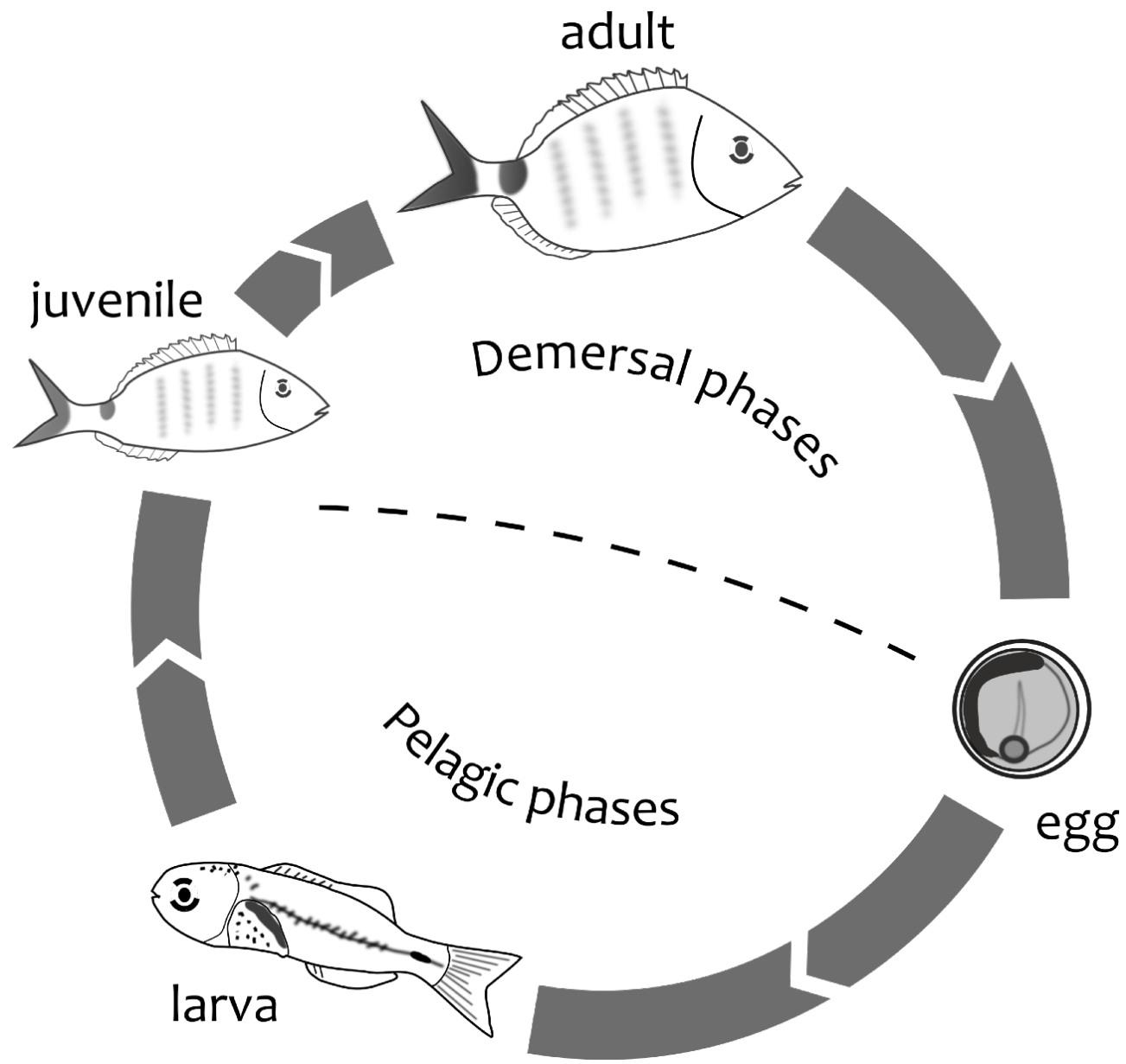
What is a fish larva ?



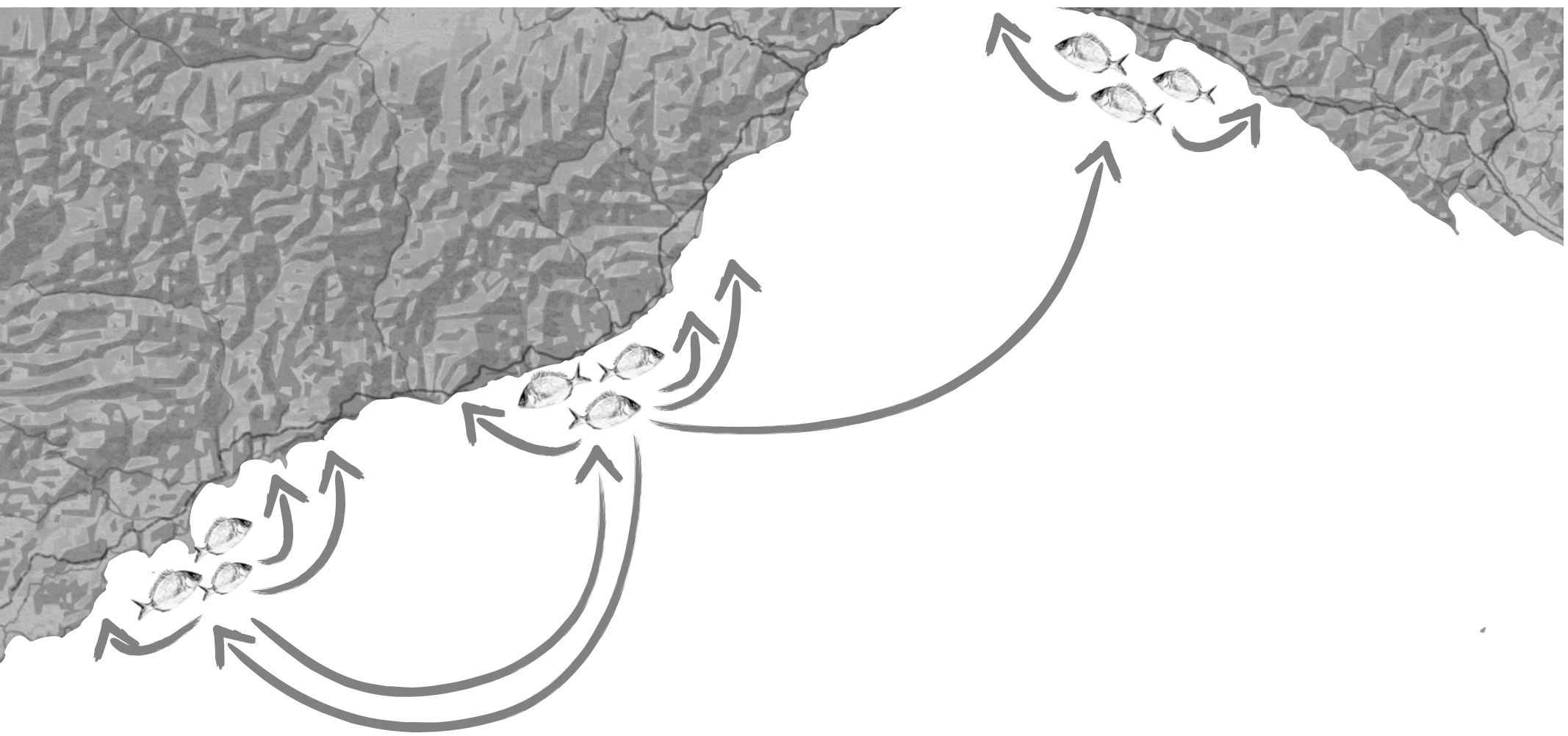
What is a fish larva ?



# Complex life cycle







# Connectivity

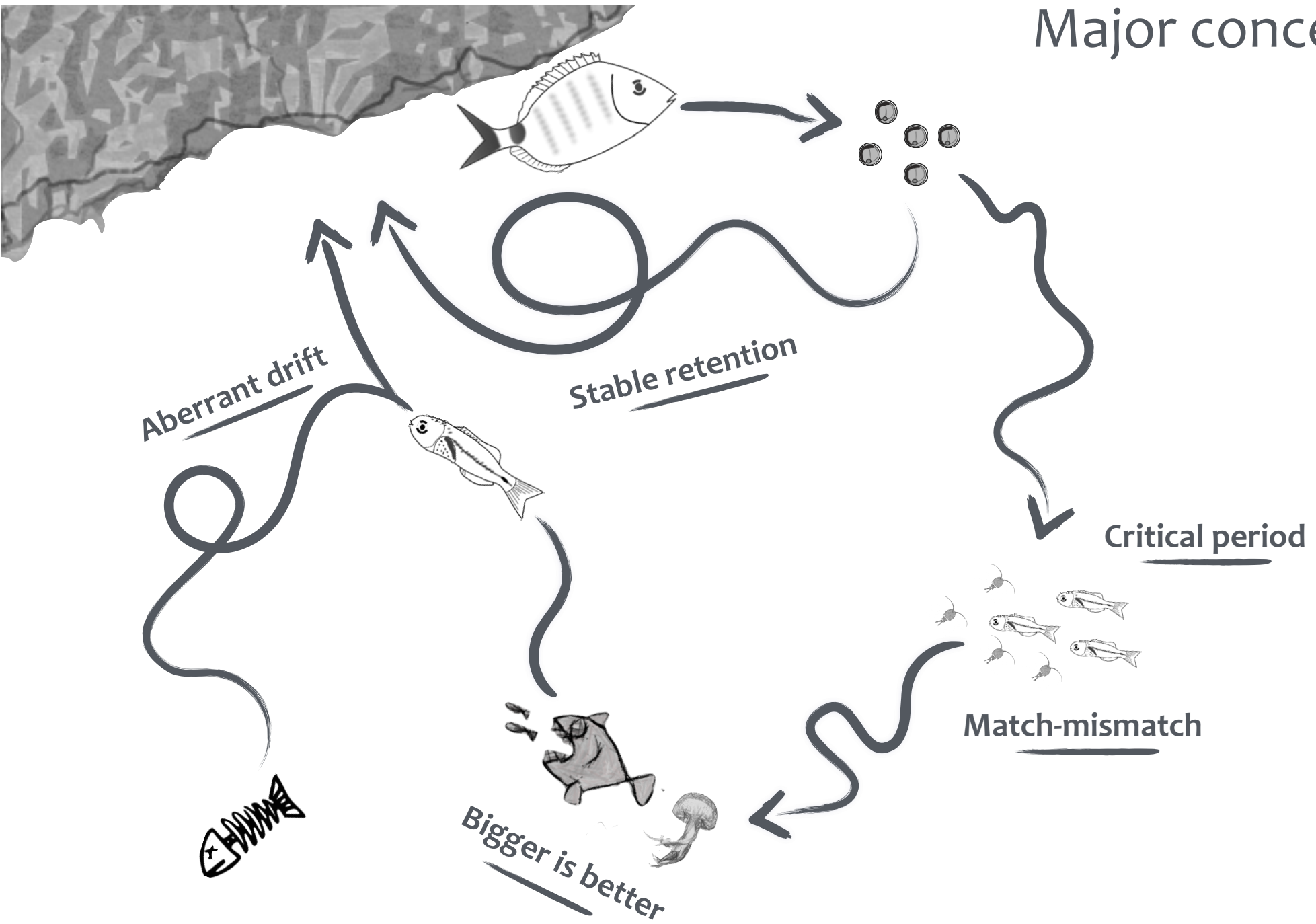
Demography

Genetics

Distribution

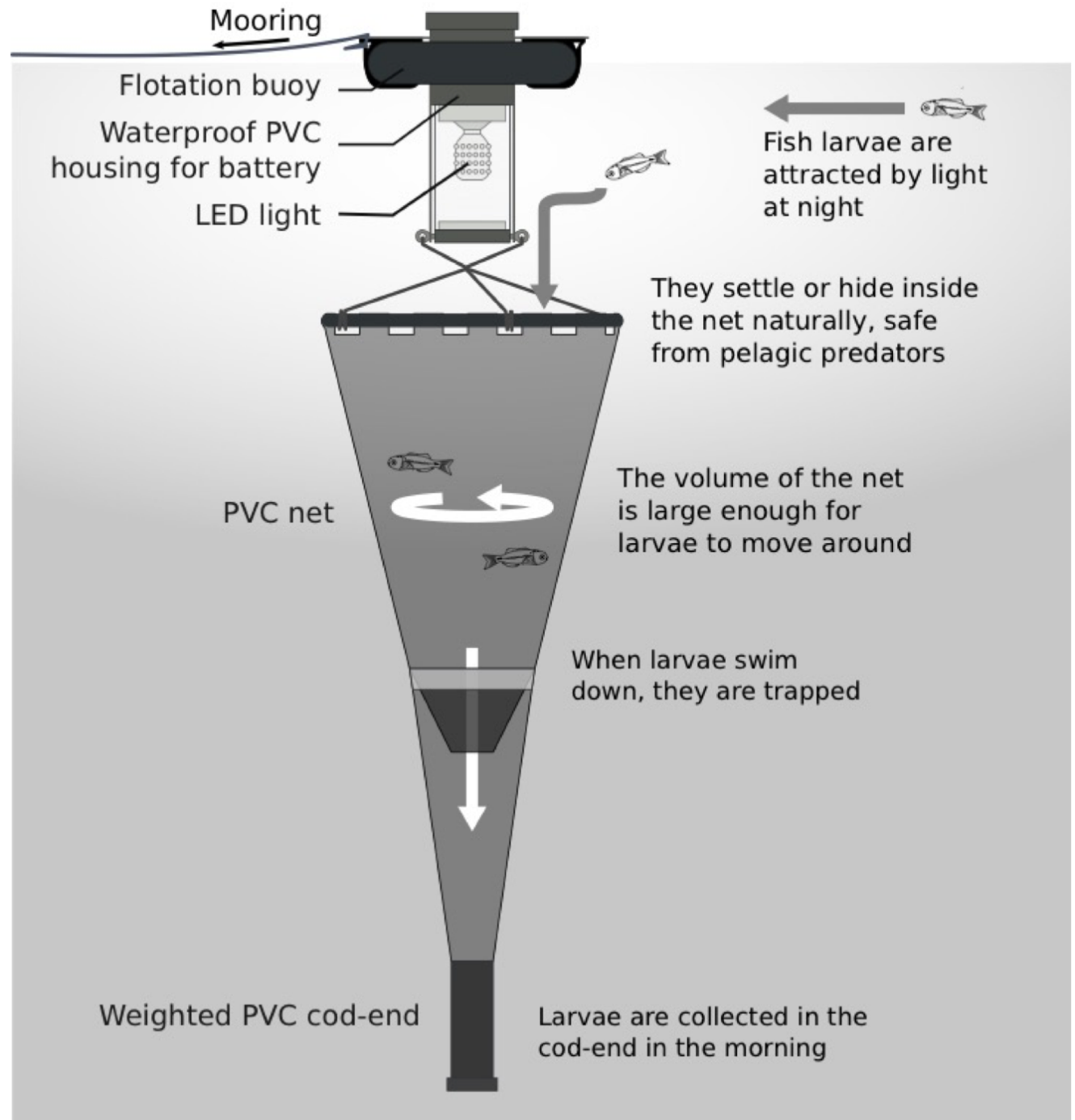


# Major concepts



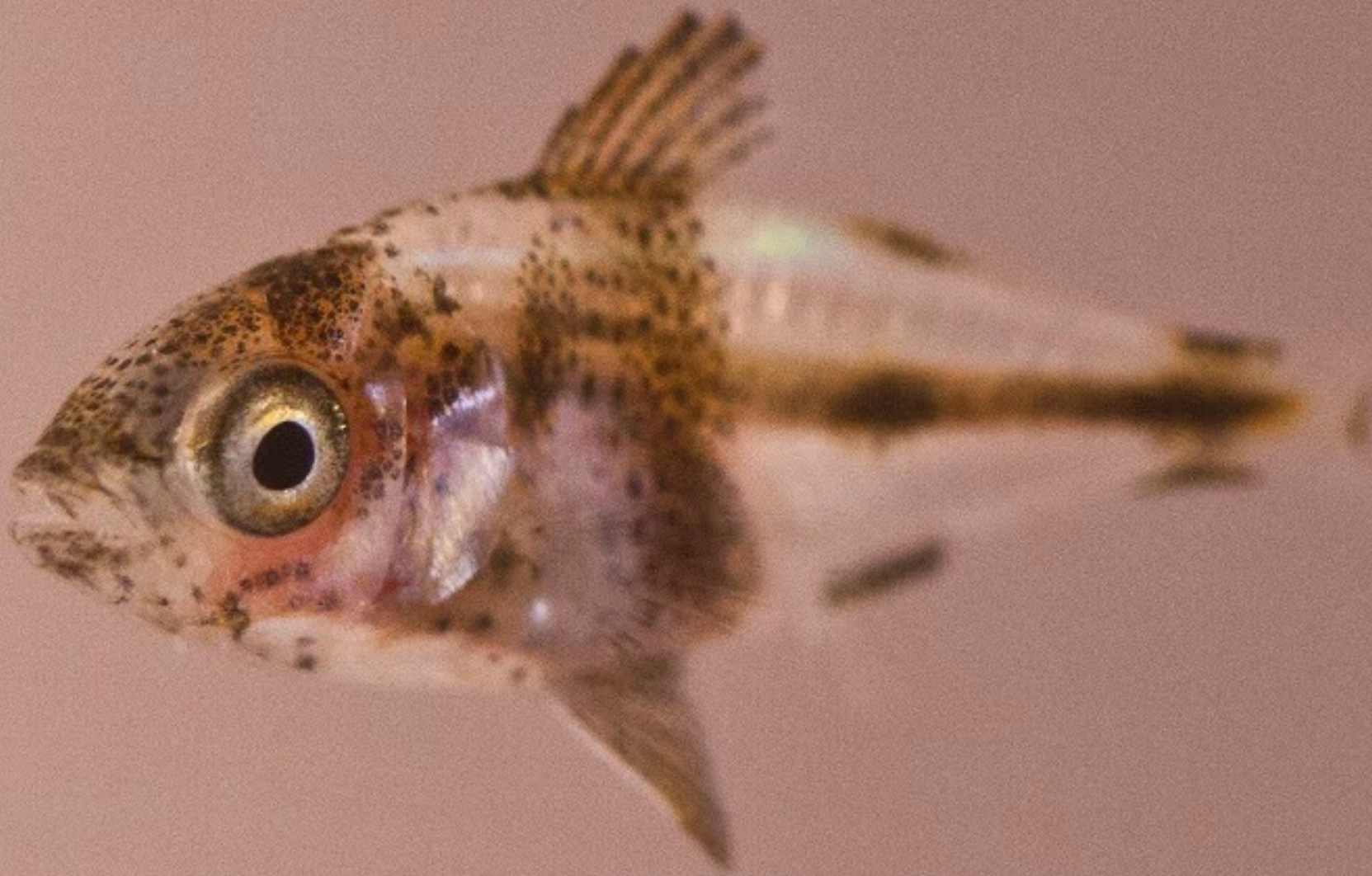
# Sampling settlement-stage fish larvae with light-traps

- ◆ Selective gear
- ◆ Easy to set and retrieve
- ◆ Relatively cheap

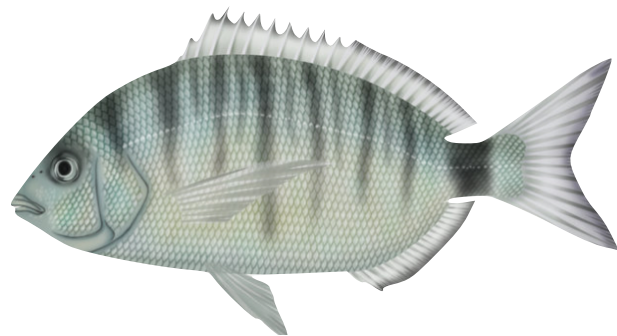




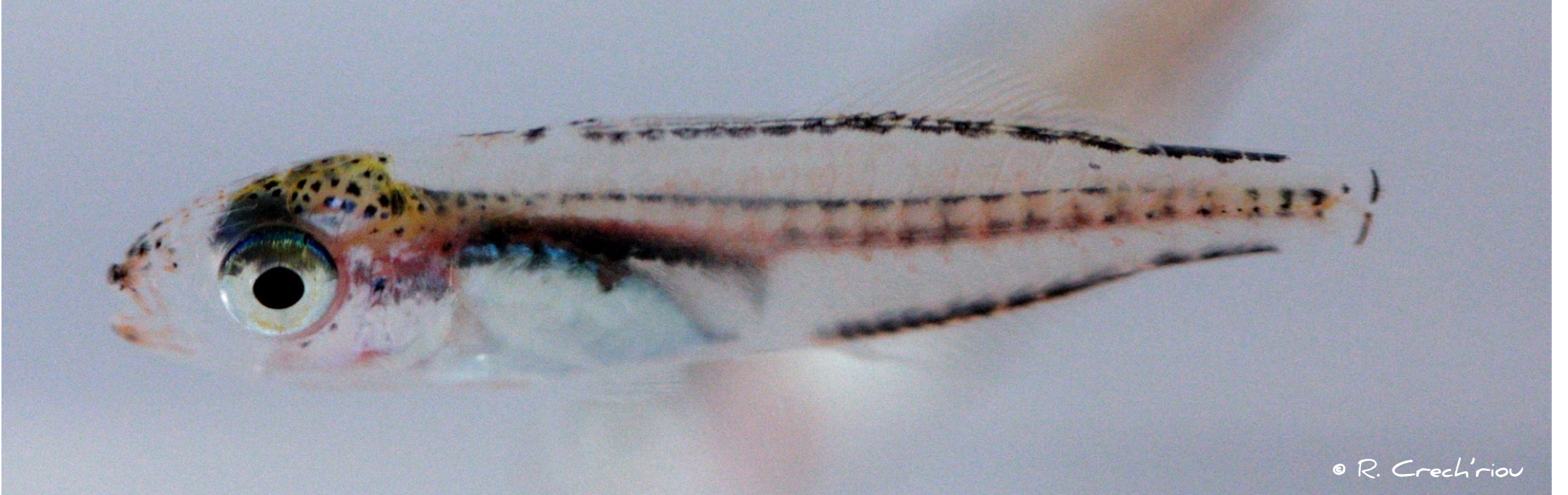
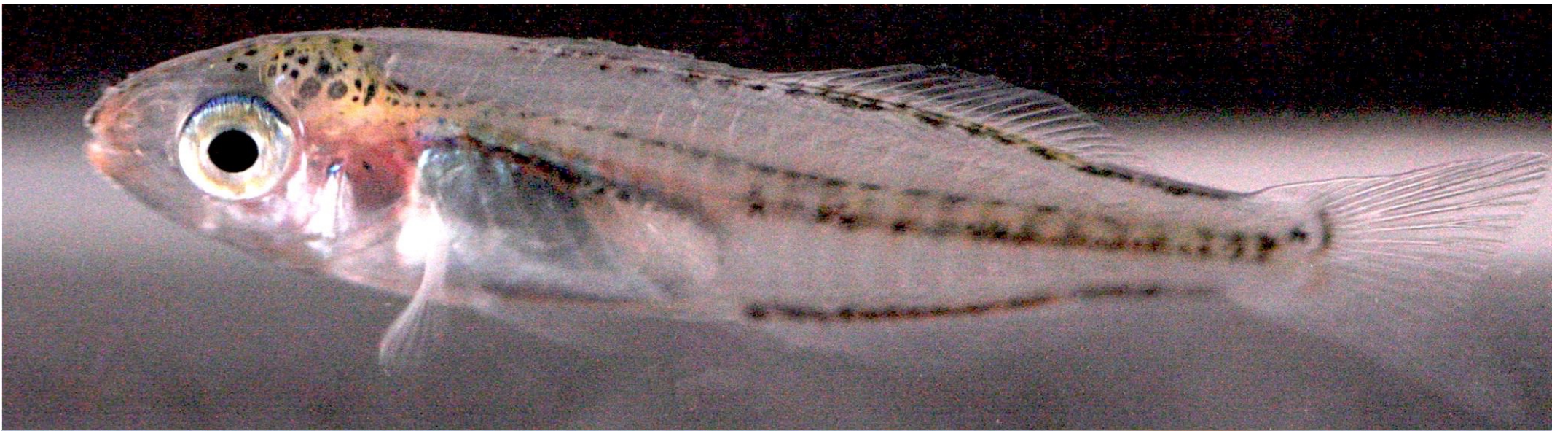




c.a. 12mm



*Diplodus puntazzo*



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c.a. 12mm



*Sarpa salpa*

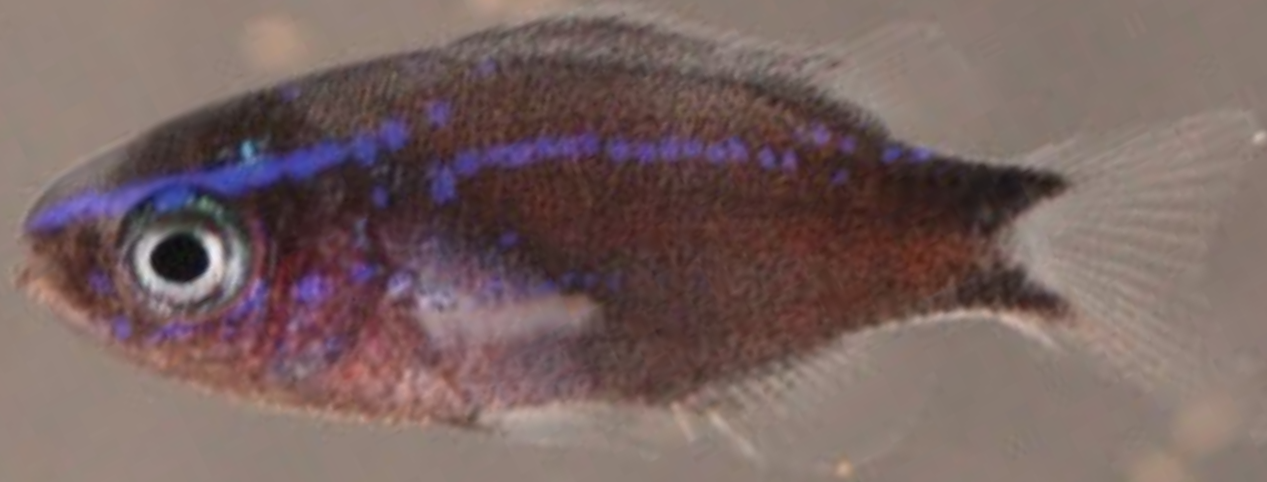


c.a. 13mm

Mugilidae

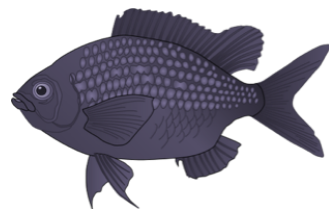
© R. Crehíciav



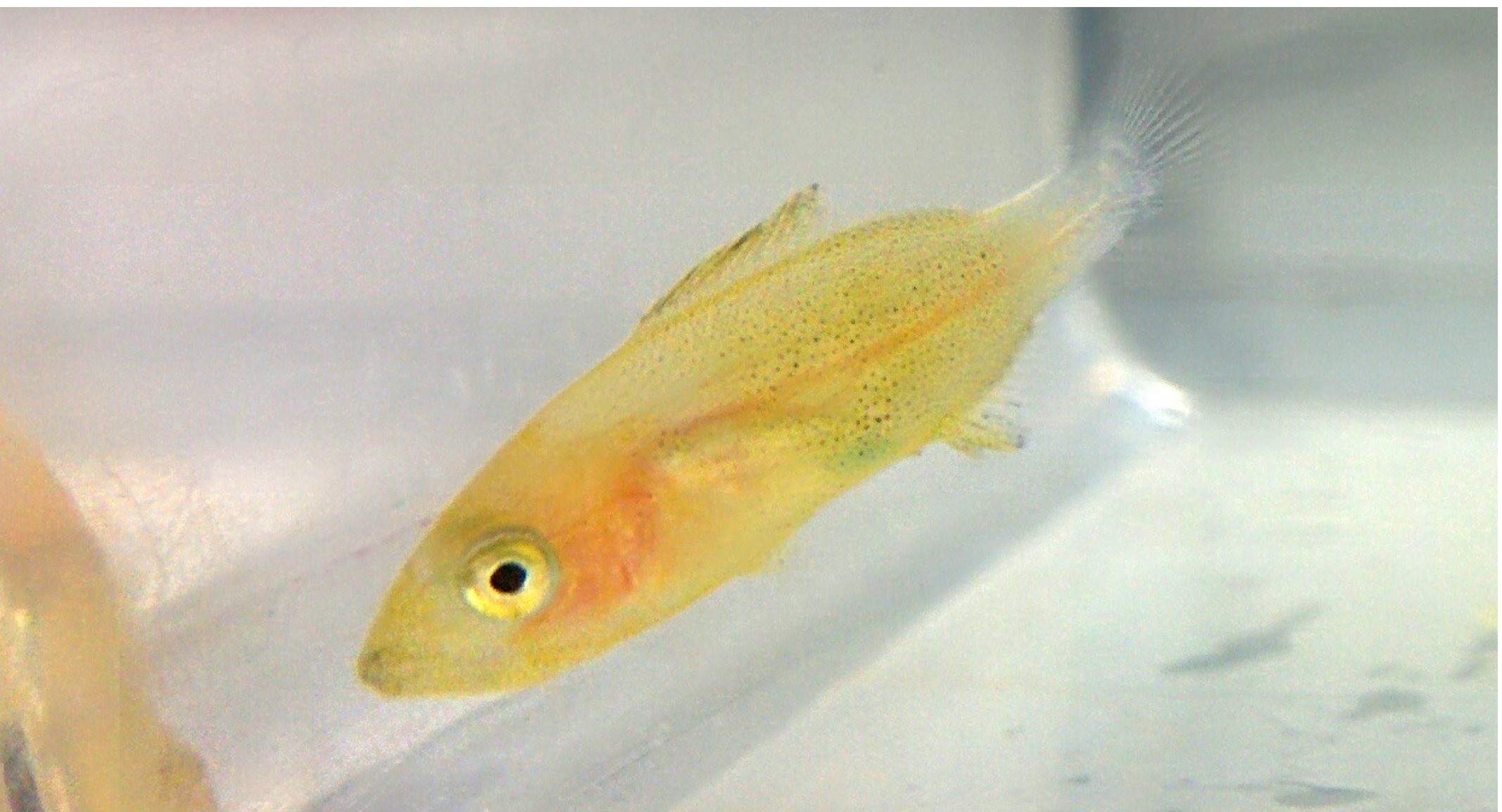


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c.a. 10mm



*Chromis chromis*



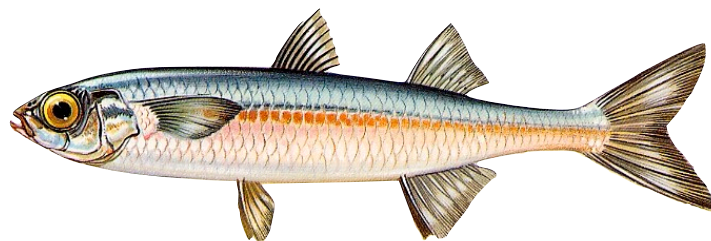
c.a. 15mm



*Dentex dentex*



c.a. 12mm



*Atherina hepsetus*

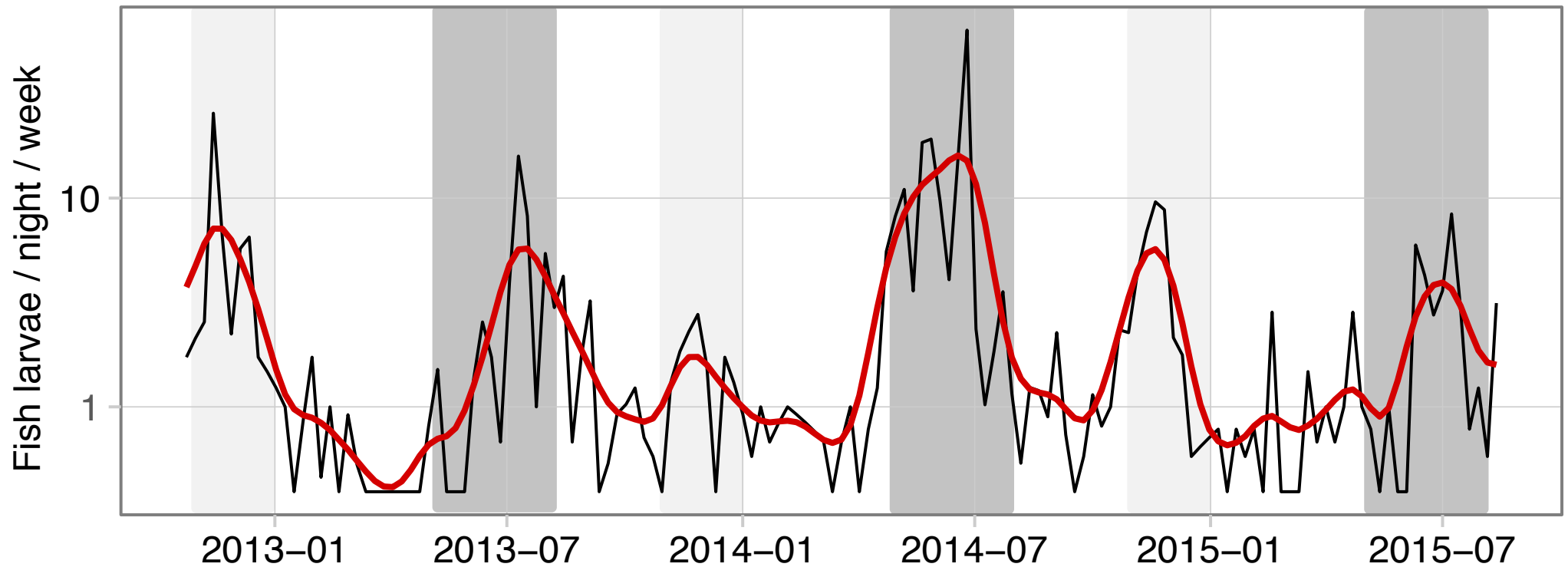


c.a. 25mm

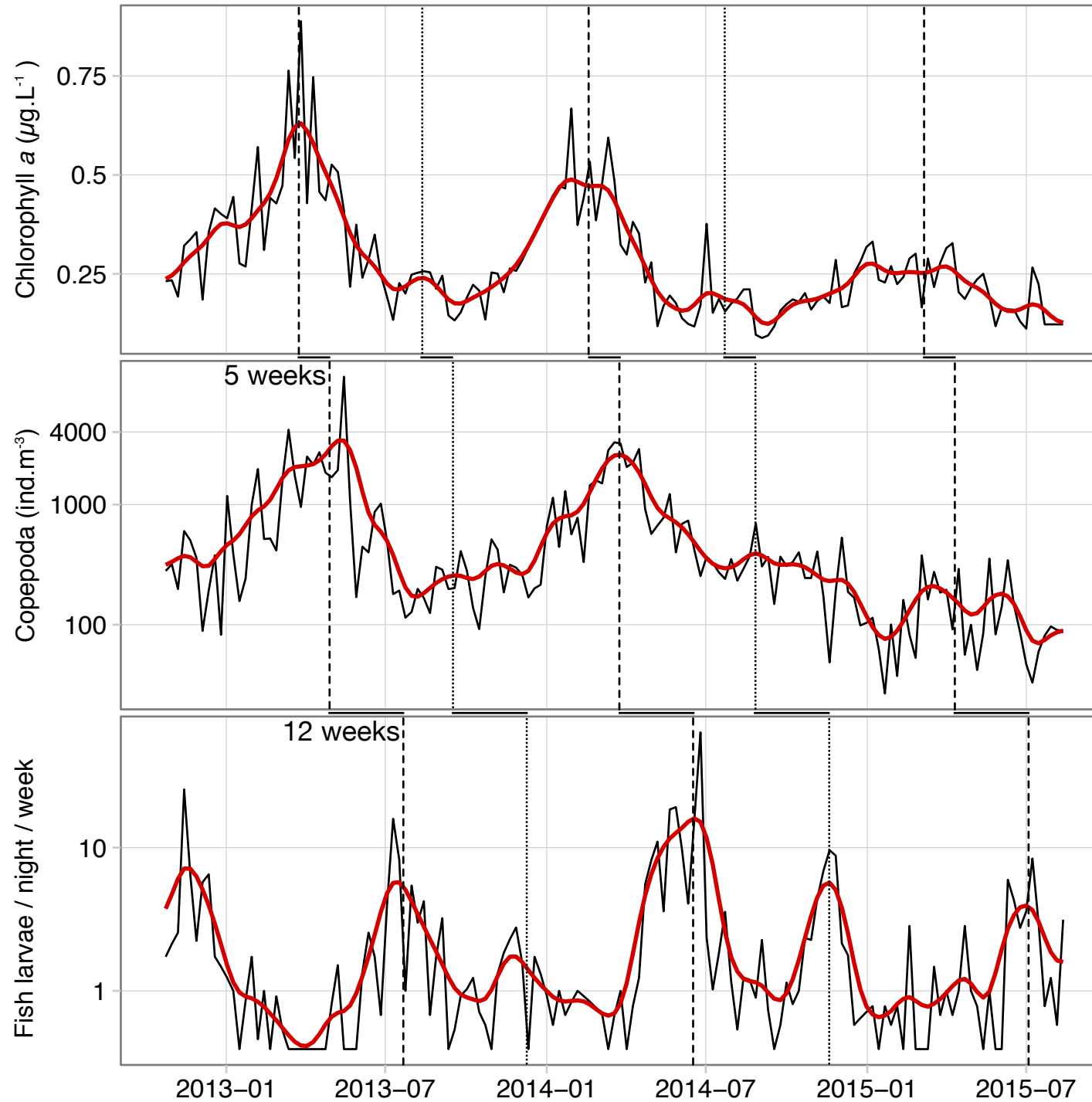
*Ephinephelus marginatus*

# Fluctuations in abundance and link with environmental variability

- ◆ Strong seasonality
- ◆ High abundance : early summer and autumn

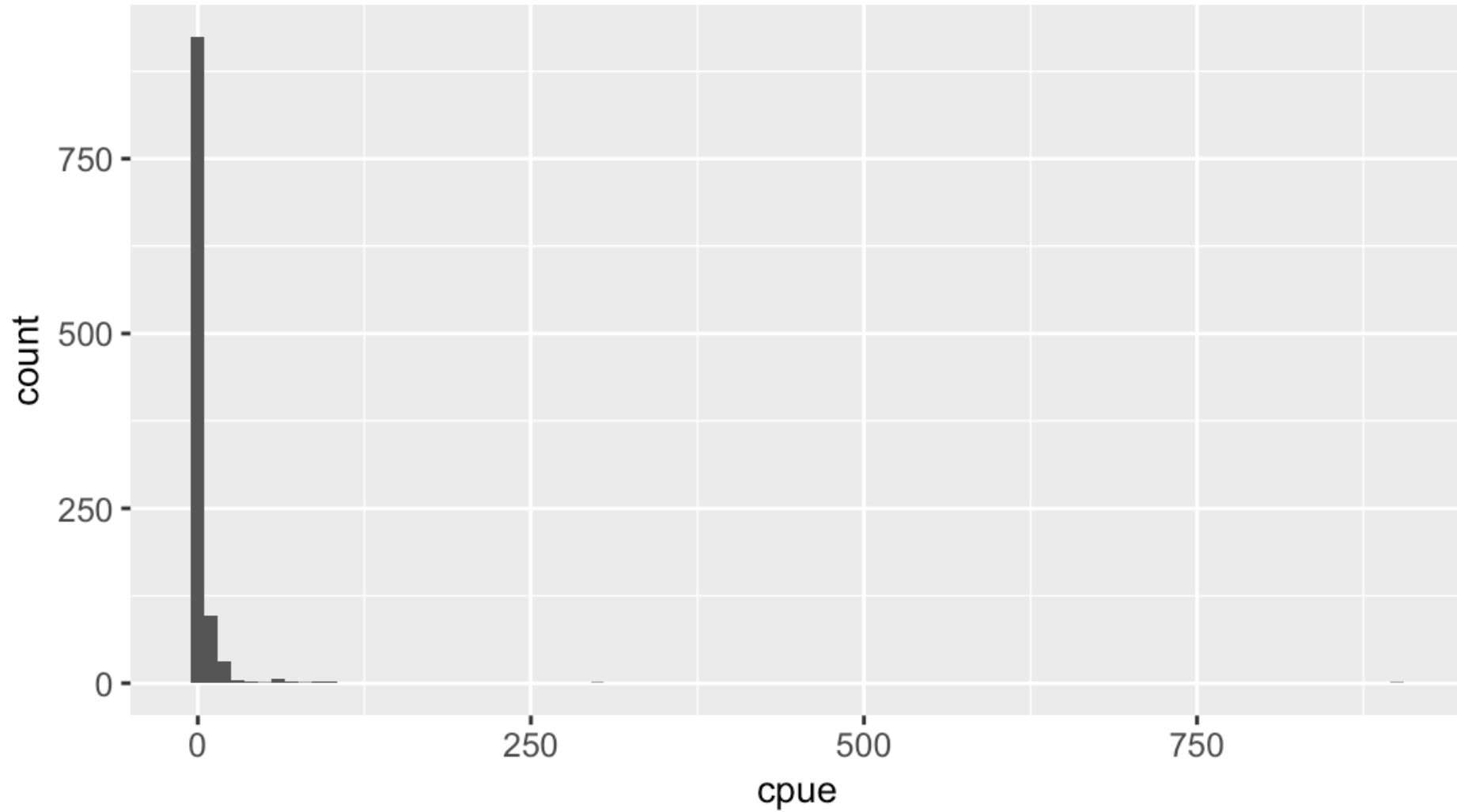


# Fluctuations in abundance and link with environmental variability



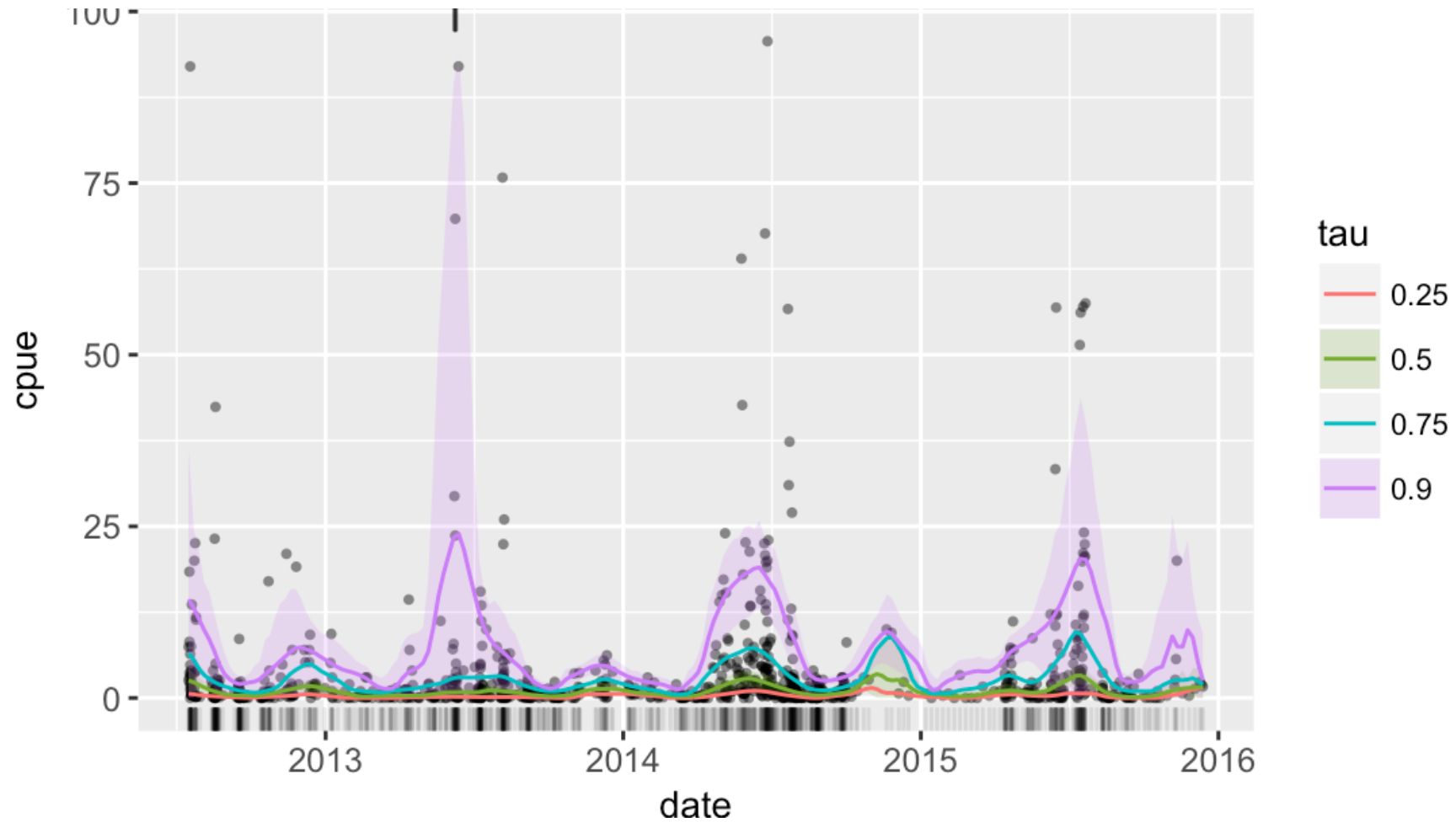
# Fluctuations in abundance

- ◆ Median CPUE = 0
- ◆ Statistical analyses based on **quantiles** (qANOVA, quantile regressions)



# Fluctuations in abundance

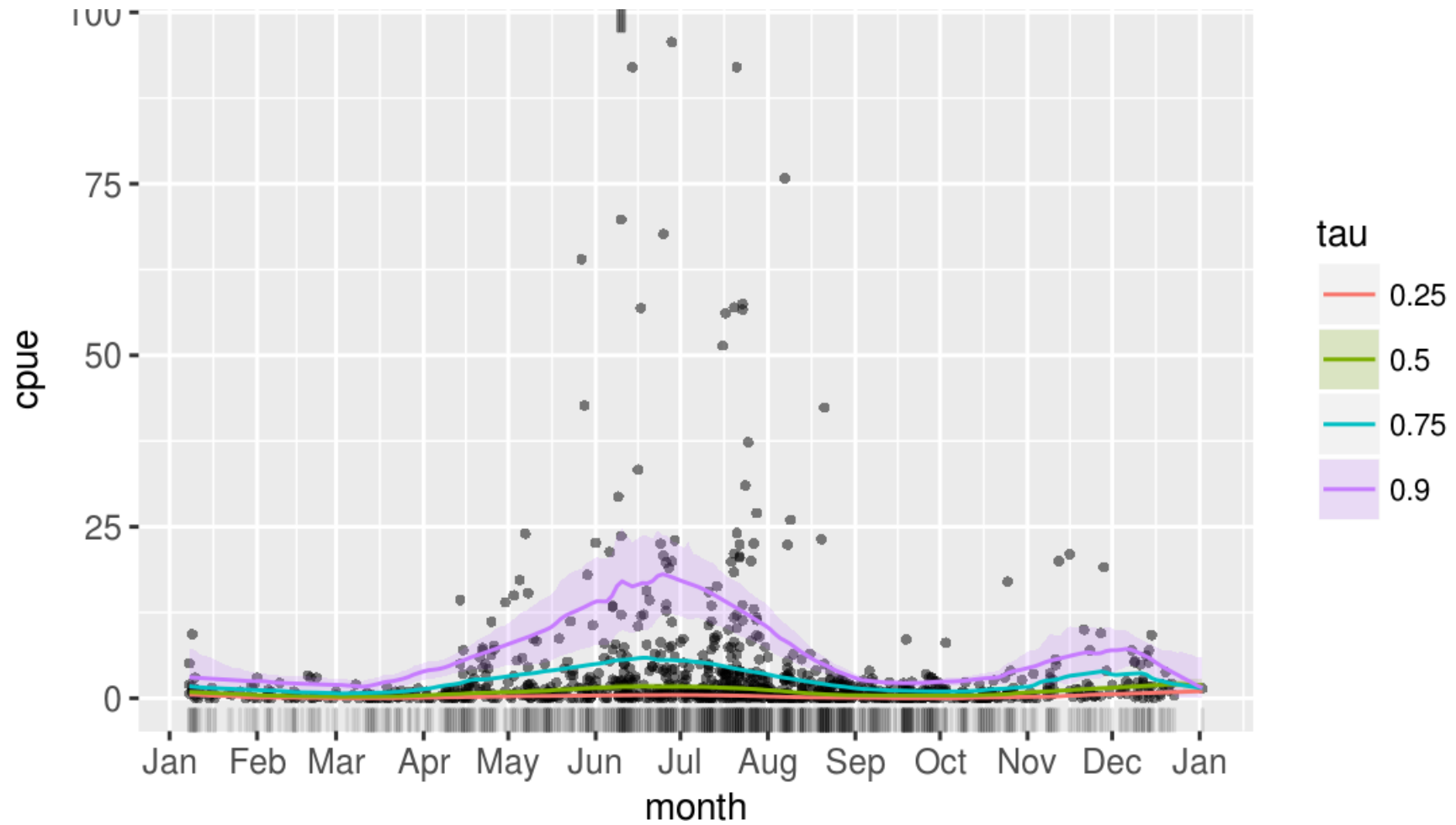
- ◆ Statistical analyses based on **quantiles**  
(qANOVA, quantile regressions)



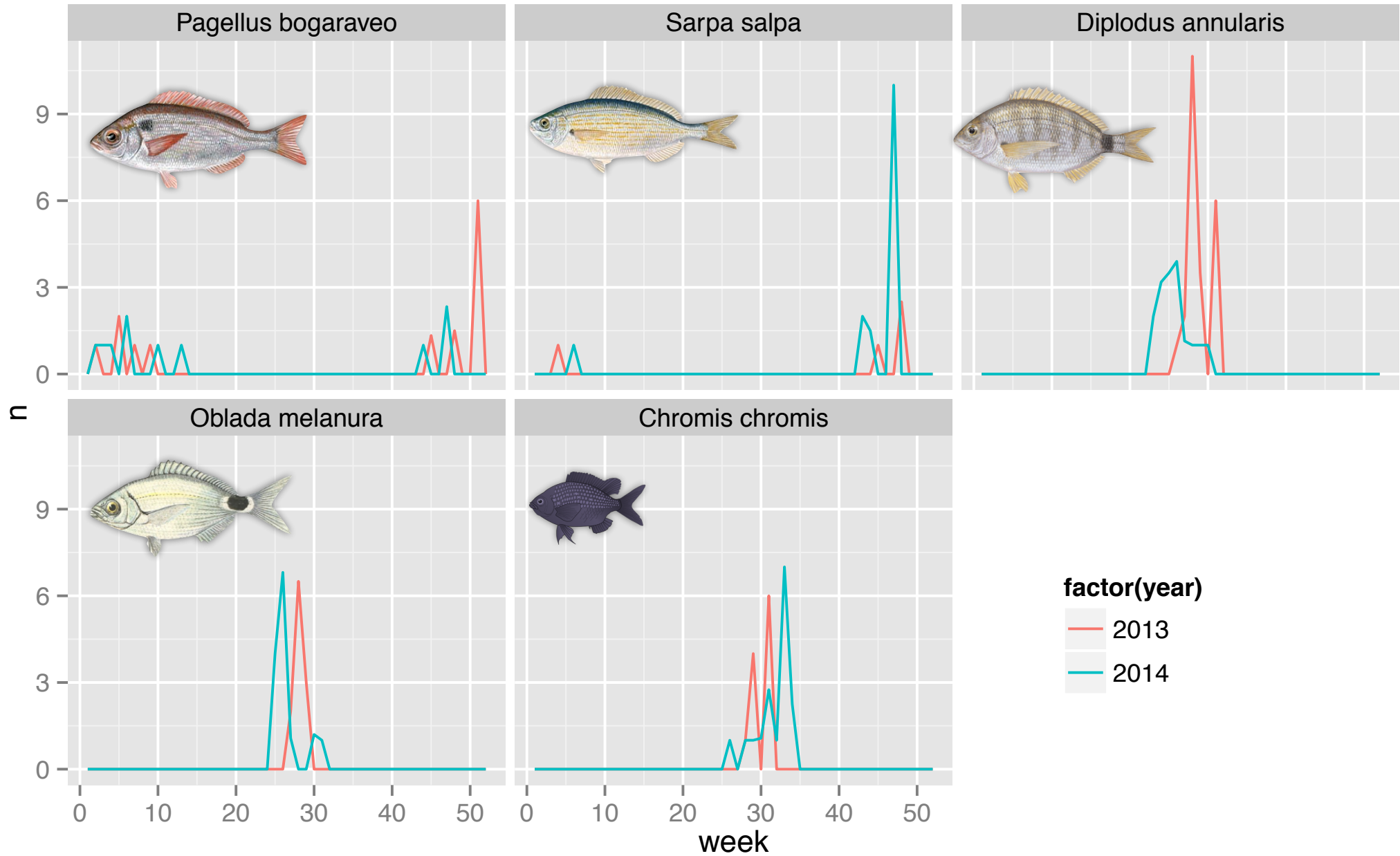


# Fluctuations in abundance

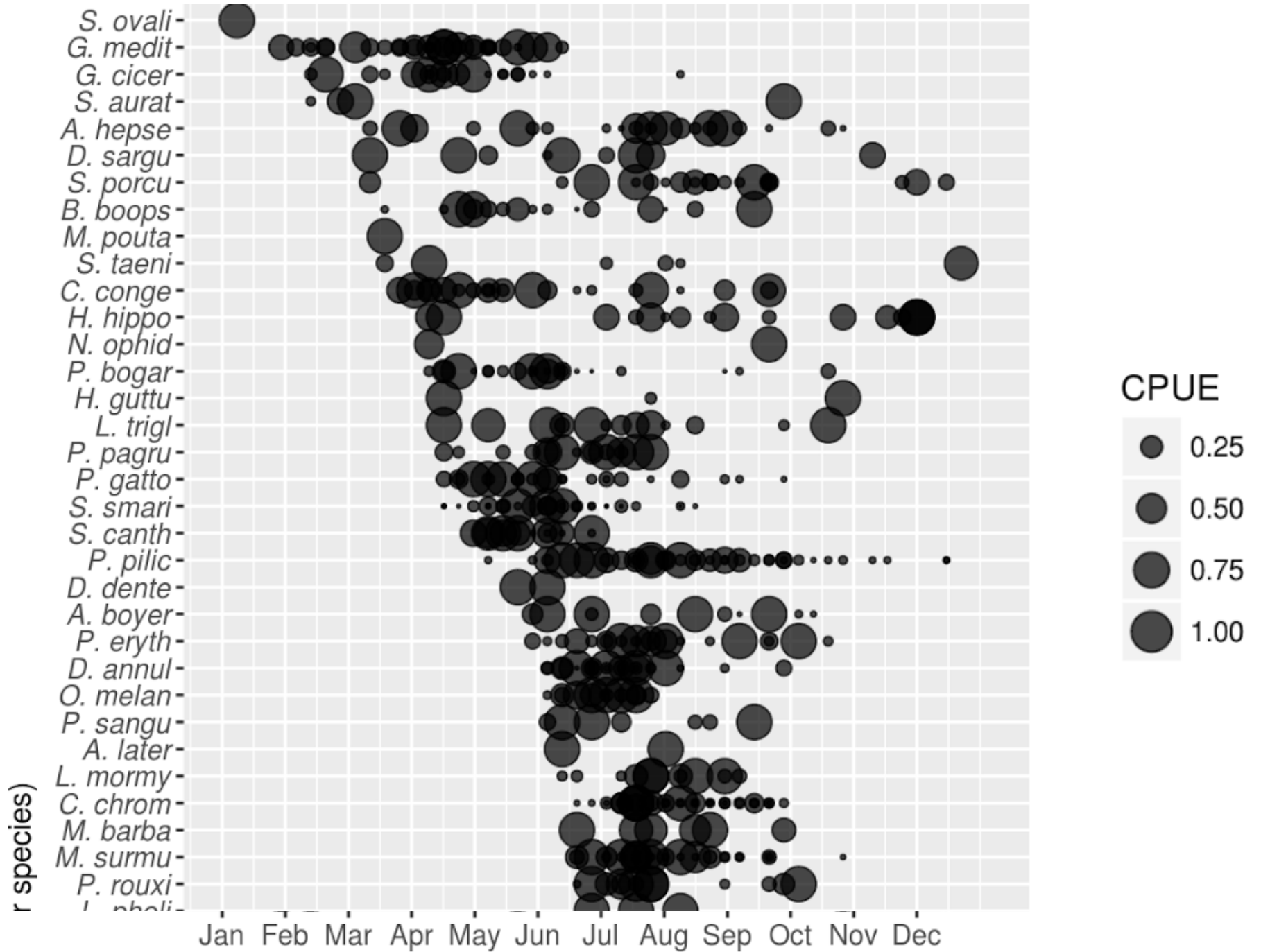
- ◆ Statistical analyses based on **quantiles**  
(qANOVA, quantile regressions)



# Strong seasonality among years

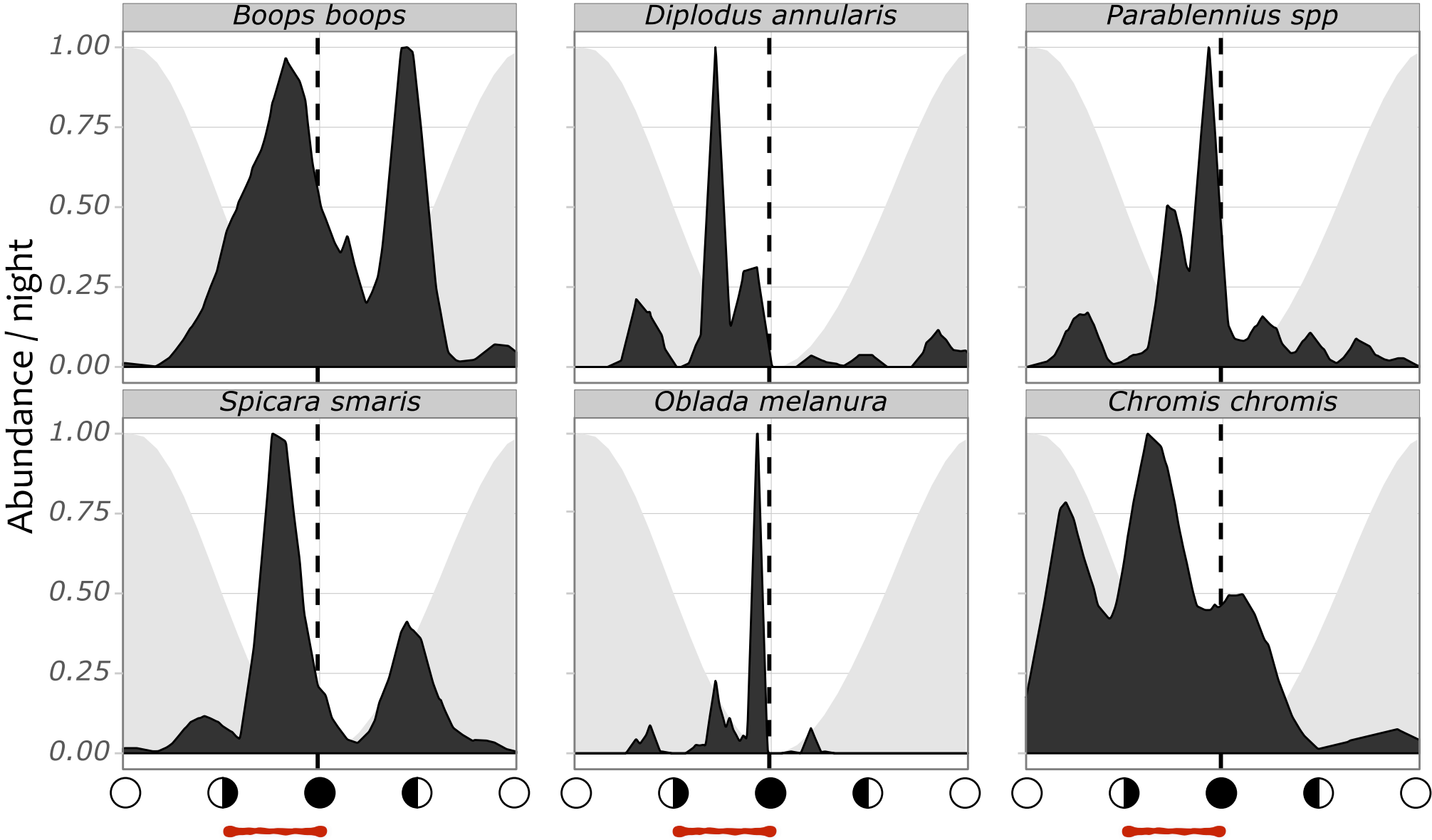


# Strong seasonality per species



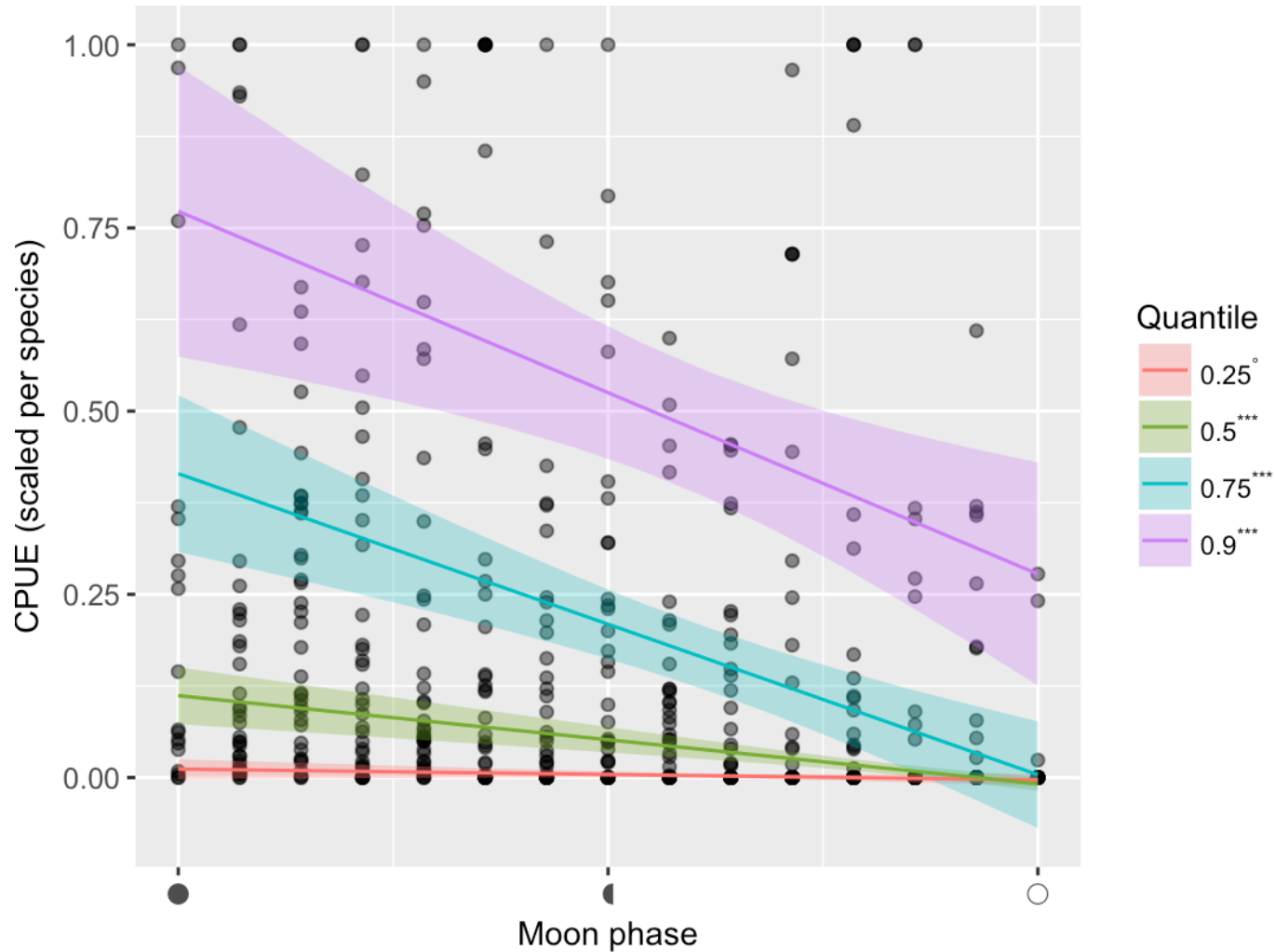


# Month-scale timing of settlement: before the new moon

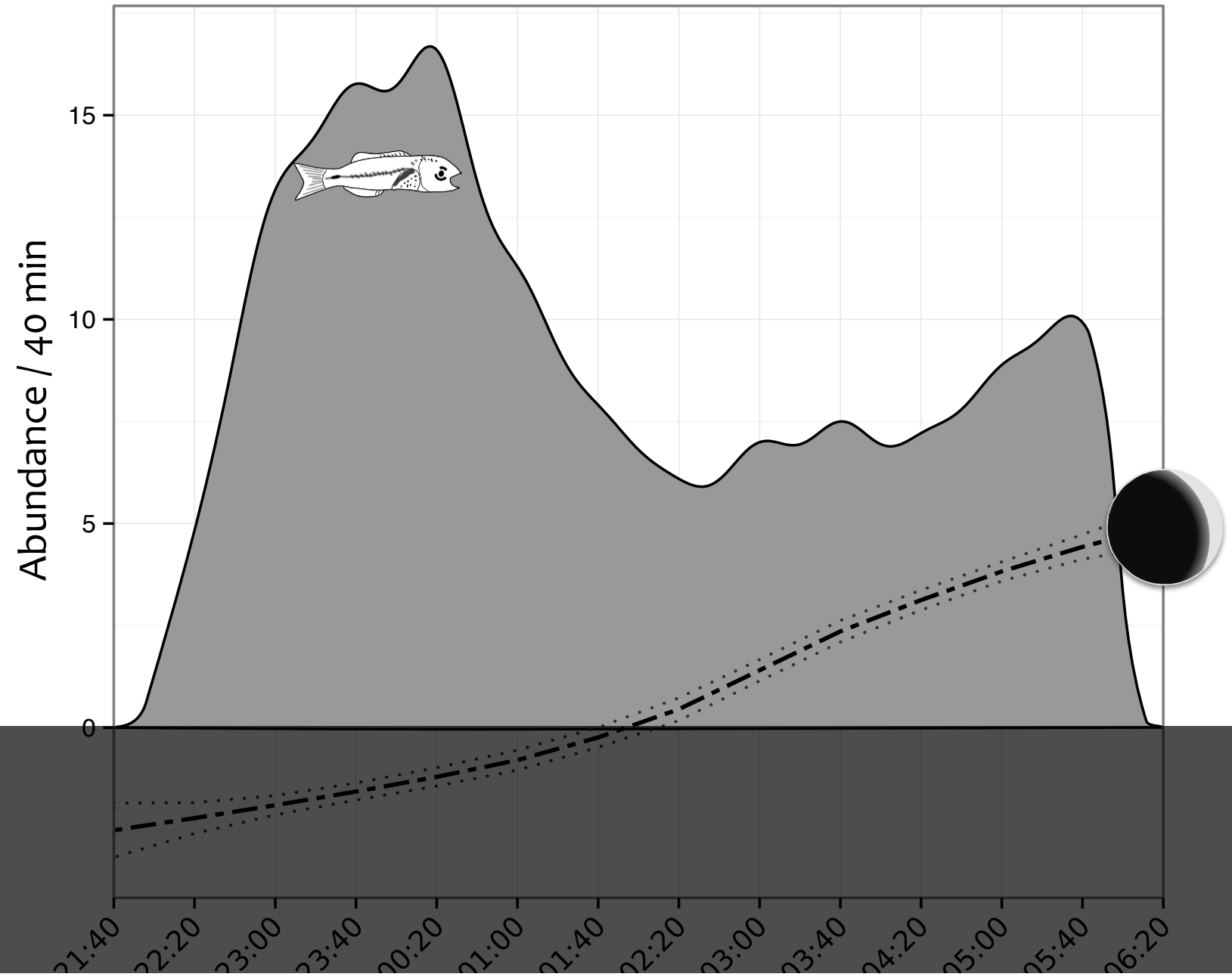


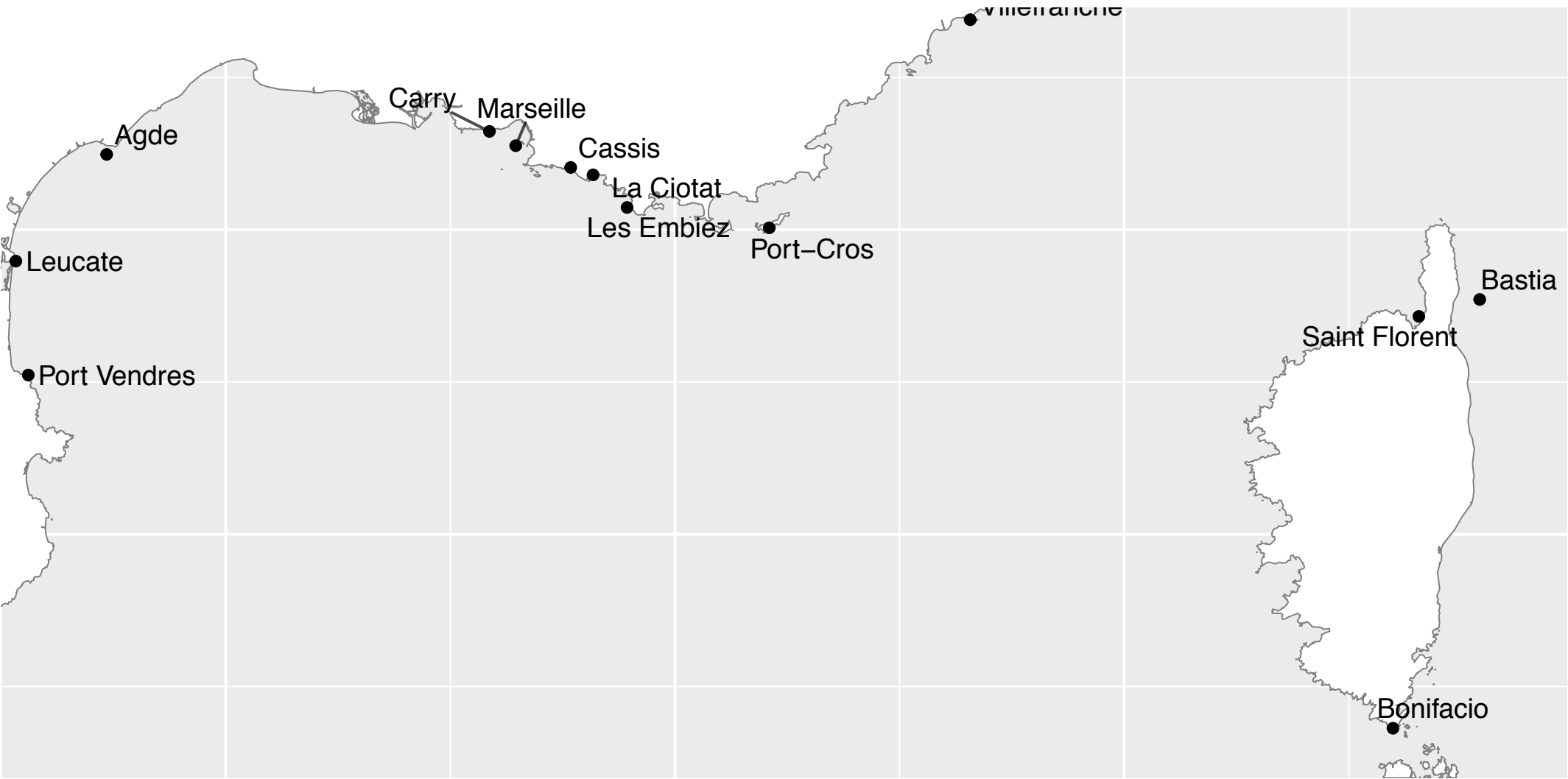
# Analyses quantiles

- ◆ Analyses statistiques basées sur les **quantiles**  
(qANOVA, regressions quantiles)



# Night-scale timing of settlement: during darkest hours



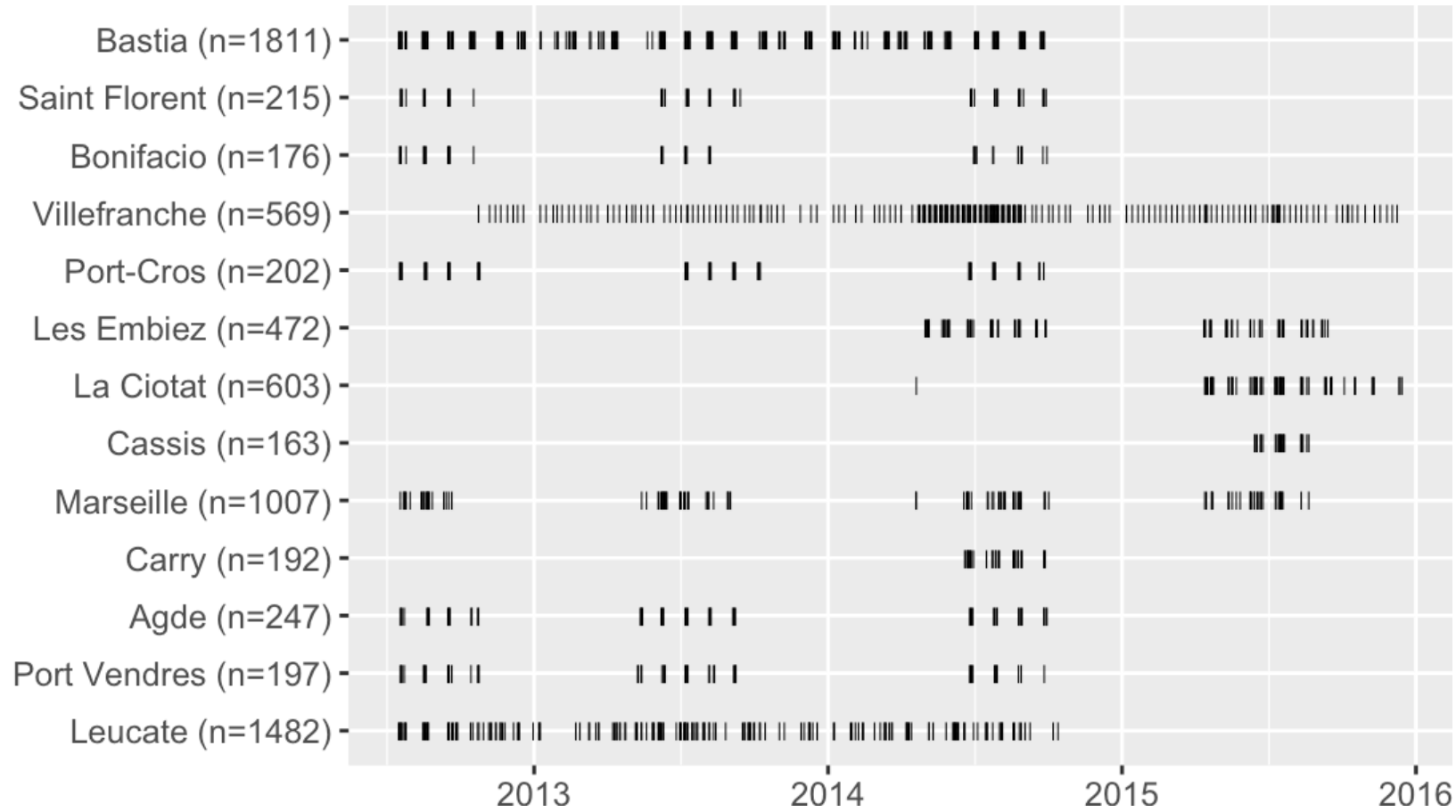


- ◆ Université Pierre et Marie Curie - Paris 6
- ◆ Université de Corse
- ◆ Université de Perpignan
- ◆ ECOCEAN





# Sampling effort



- ◆ Université Pierre et Marie Curie - Paris 6
- ◆ Université de Corse
- ◆ Université de Perpignan
- ◆ ECOCEAN



# Species richness

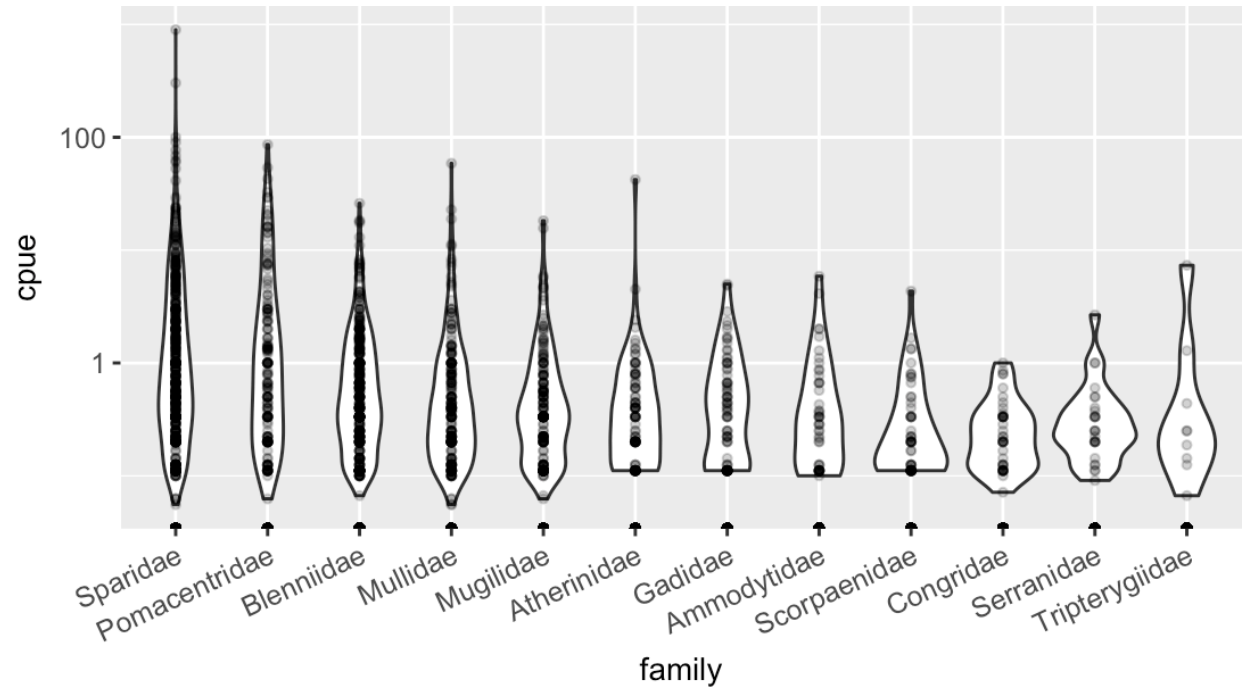
## Comparison with **adults diversity in the Mediterranean**

- ◆ 40% of families
- ◆ 31% of genera
- ◆ 30% species

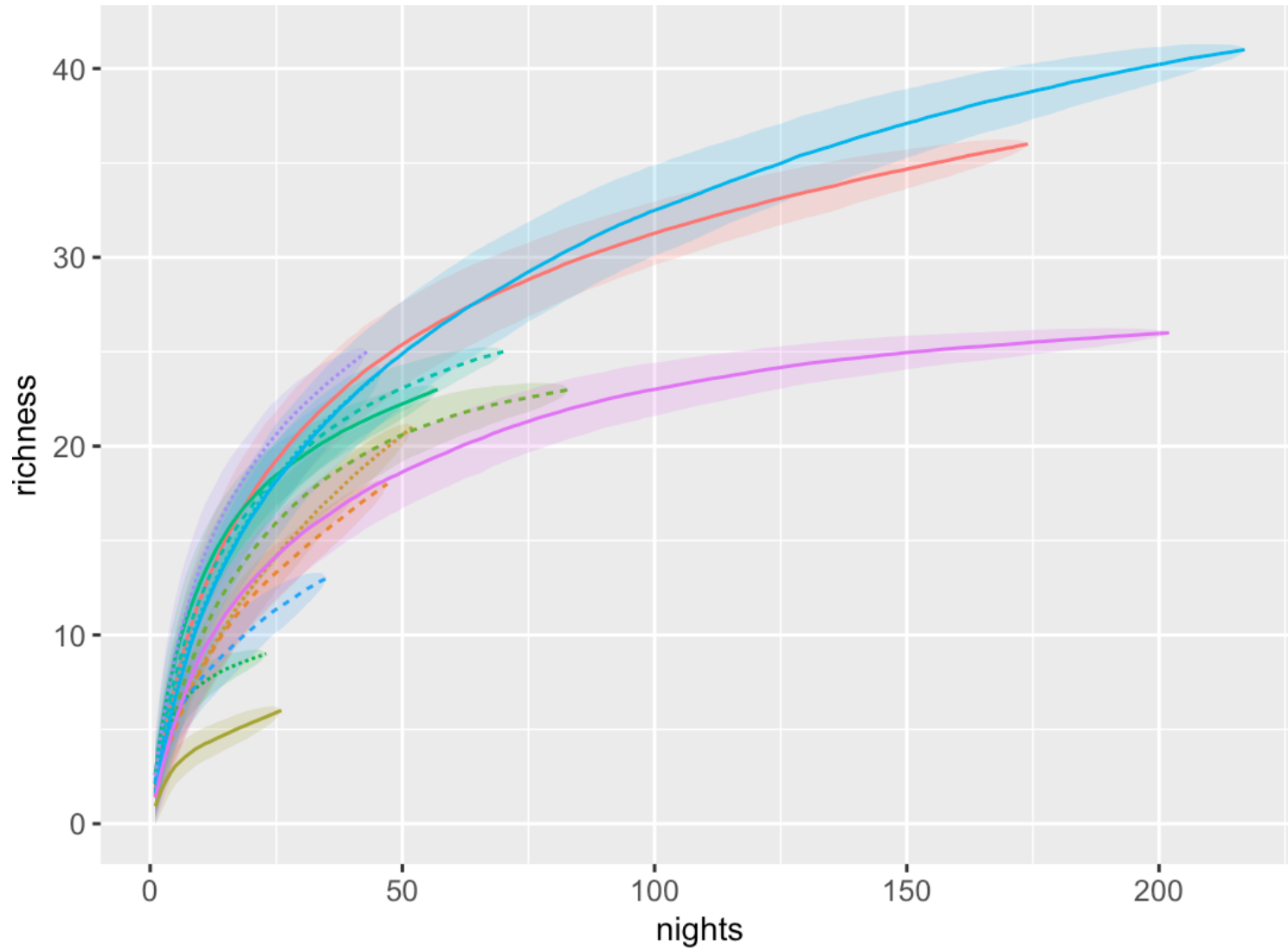
## and with **demersal fishes diversity**

- ◆ 57% of families
- ◆ 39% of genera
- ◆ 33% of species

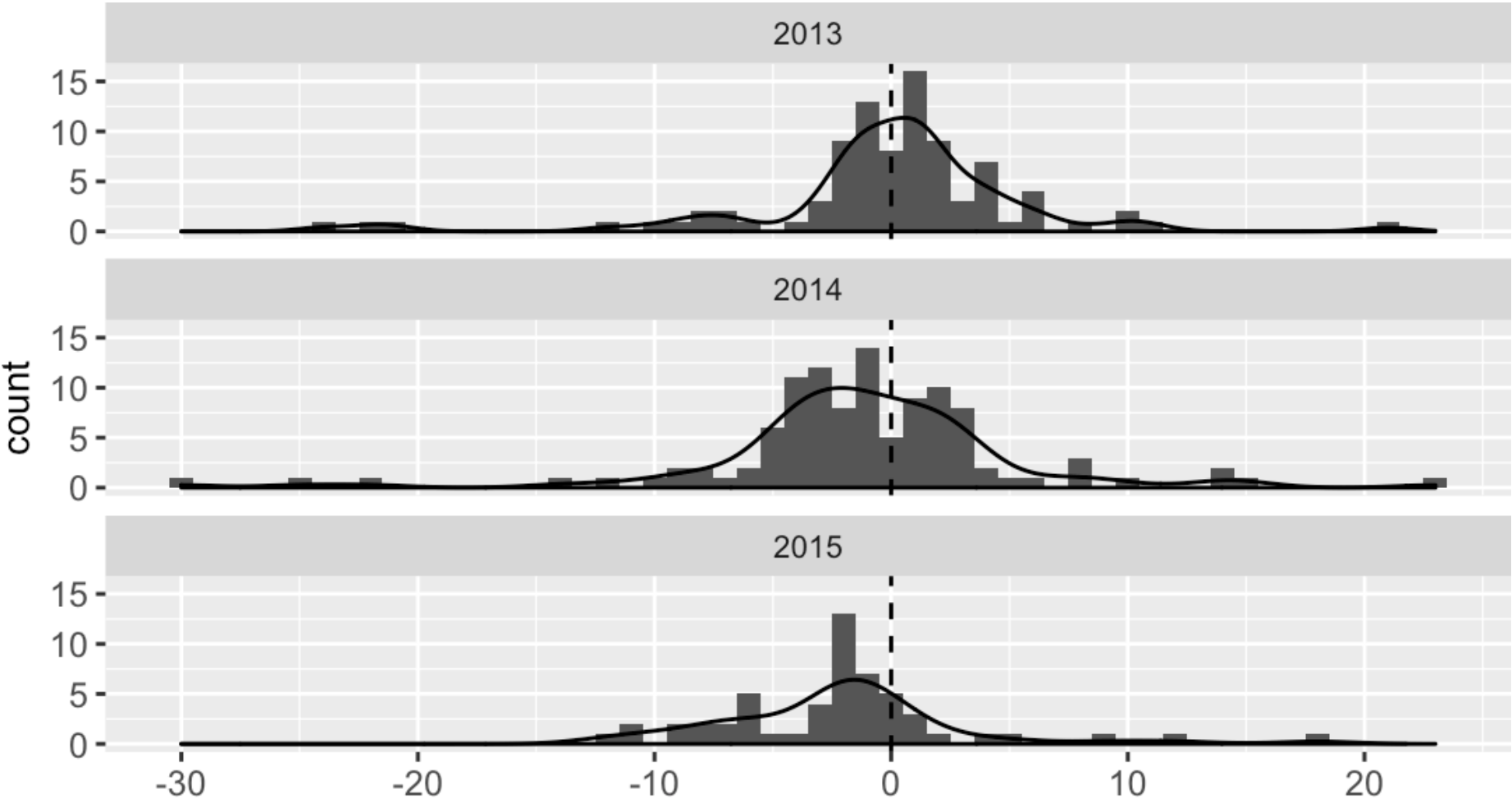
family	rel. abund. %	cum. abund. %
Sparidae	57.86	58
Pomacentridae	15.53	73
Blenniidae	10.04	83
Mullidae	6.42	90
Mugilidae	4.29	94
Atherinidae	1.68	96
Gadidae	1.47	97
Ammodytidae	0.83	98
Scorpaenidae	0.36	98
Congridae	0.27	99



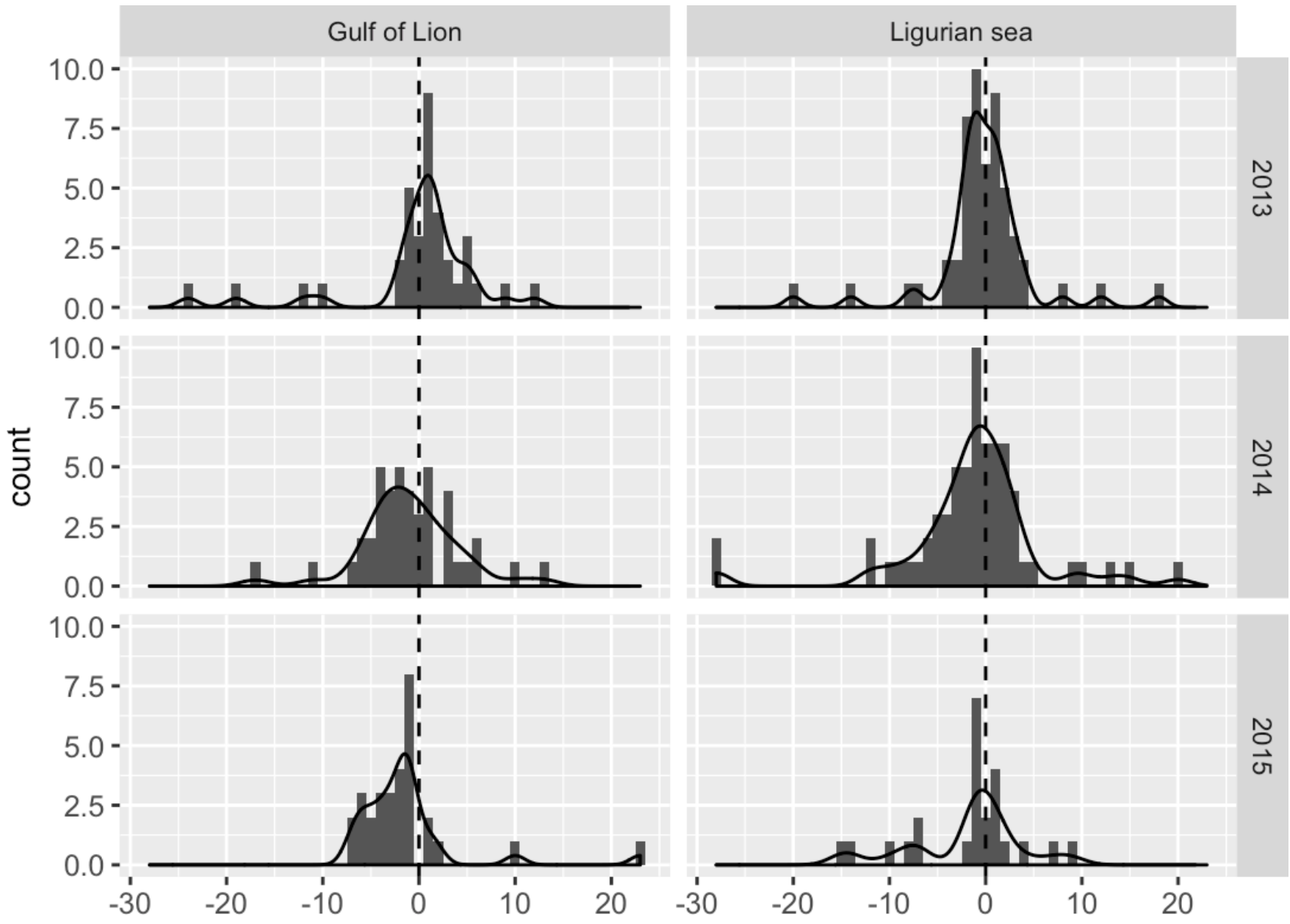
# Species richness



# Among year anomalies in the timing of settlement



# Among year anomalies in the timing of settlement



# Discussion

- ◆ Generally consistent with the available literature
  - ▶ Time of settlement within a 1-2 month window around observed spawning dates in the Mediterranean
  - ▶ Large patterns comparable to Felix-Hackart *et al.*
- ◆ Strong influence of the moon on settlement
  - ▶ Comparable with patterns observed in the tropics
  - ▶ But not lunar-tides related (as no tides here)
- ◆ Gregarious behavior?
- ◆ Regular sampling required

## Discussion

- ◆ Provides information on the success of the pelagic phase
- ◆ Regular sampling required (1 night / week)
- ◆ Easy to set up
- ◆ Relatively cheap

# Point B time series : Larval Fish Conference 2013

## DRIVERS OF TEMPORAL VARIABILITY OF LARVAL FISH ABUNDANCE IN VILLEFRANCHE BAY (NORTHWESTERN MEDITERRANEAN SEA) OVER A 7-YEAR TIME SERIES (2006-2012)

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### OBJECTIVES

EXPLORE A PART OF THE 50-YEAR POINT B TIME SERIES TO STUDY LARVAL FISH ABUNDANCE



## INTRODUCTION

Understanding the dynamics of larval fish has been of major interest in the past century, but temporal patterns are still difficult to predict. Few studies have tackled larval abundance in the Mediterranean Sea, all of them short term. We extracted a 7-year time series (2006-2012) with plankton and physical-chemical data from the work of the SO-RADE at point B station in the bay of Villefranche-sur-Mer, France, where zooplankton is sampled daily since 1966.

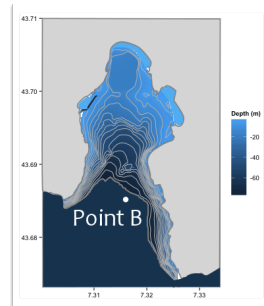


Figure 1: Location of Point B in Villefranche bay, France. This station allows the capture of both coastal and pelagic influences, since it is close to the shore while remaining in the pelagic environment because of the absence of continental shelf.

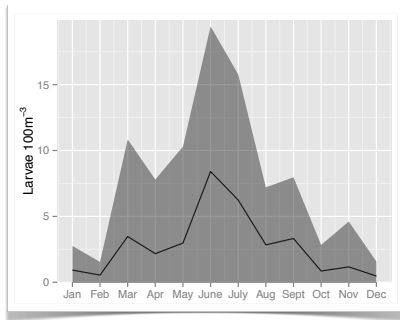


Figure 3: Monthly averaged larval fish abundance (black)  $\pm$  standard deviation (gray area).

## TEMPORAL PATTERNS

The time series showed strong seasonality, with higher abundances during late spring and early summer (highest captures in June with  $8.8 \pm 10.7$  individuals  $100\text{ m}^{-3}$ ; Fig. 3). Then, larval fish abundance tended to decrease throughout summer. A second peak was observed in early fall, which may suggest two main spawning periods. Yet, this data did not highlight any temporal pattern of larval size.

In 2008, 2010 and 2012 an early increase of abundance (March or earlier) has been observed and related to environmental parameters.

## DATASET

Zooplankton data were obtained from daily samples with Régent net (opening 1 m, mesh  $680\ \mu\text{m}$ ), pooled by week and analyzed using computer-assisted identification (ZooScan; Gorsky et al., 2003). Even though this sampling does not target ichthyoplankton, fish larvae were caught in 185 of the 364 samples (42.6%). Yet, no taxonomical resolution was available.

Data were regularized with a 7-day time step with a constant interpolation. This resulted in a 364 data point time series.

## COMPARISON WITH ENVIRONMENTAL VARIABLES

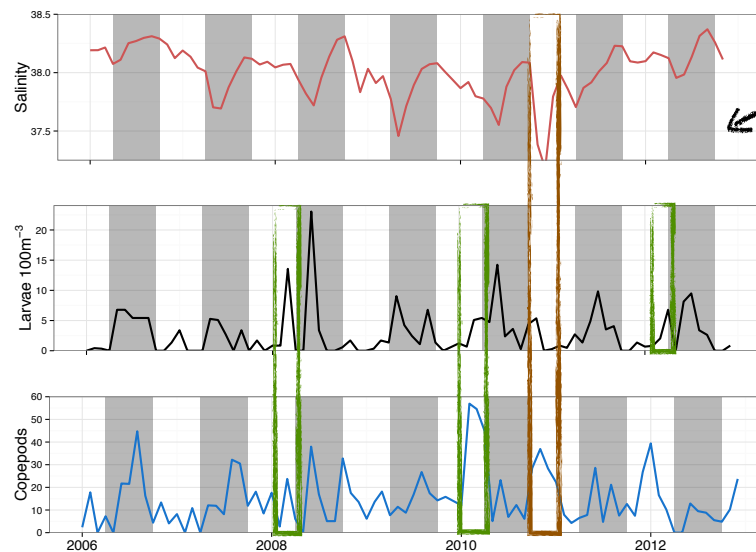


Figure 5: Time series of the variables significantly correlated to larval fish abundance between 2006 and 2012 (Pearson's correlation test,  $p < 0.05$ ,  $r_{\text{salinity}} = -0.23$ ,  $r_{\text{copepods}} = 0.12$ ). Larval fish abundance is in black; copepods (in blue) are *Candacia* spp, potential prey for fish larvae; salinity is in red. Gray bands correspond to the theoretically favorable spawning period in the Northwestern Mediterranean Sea, ranging from April to October. Rectangles highlight the main events that occurred outside this period and that were observed in other variables (green: earlier, orange: later).

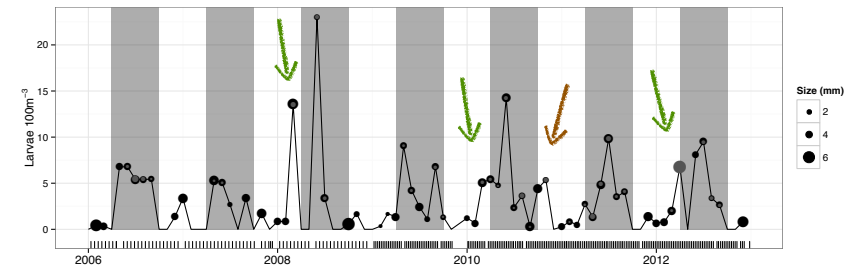


Figure 2: Complete time series of monthly averaged larval fish abundance. Original dates of processed samples are shown as the x-axis. Gray bands correspond to the theoretically favorable spawning period in the Northwestern Mediterranean Sea, from April to October. Arrows highlight the main peaks that occurred outside this period (green: earlier, orange: later). Dots are proportional to larval size averaged per month; gray dots inside black dots are larval size standard deviation.

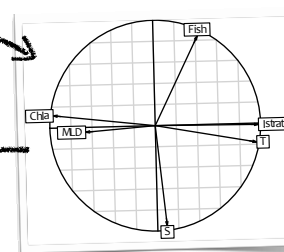


Figure 4: Principal Component Analysis with larval fish abundance and environmental data (Chla: Chlorophyll a; MLD: Mixed Layer Depth; S: Salinity; T: Temperature; Istrat: Stratification index) between 2006 and 2012.

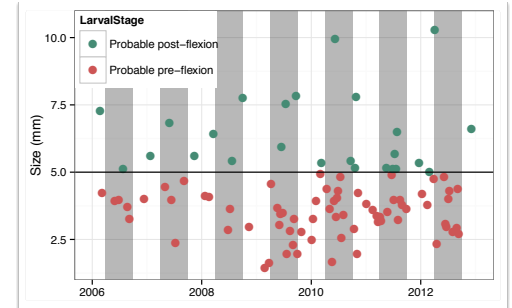


Figure 6: Larval fish size distribution between 2006 and 2012. Gray rectangles correspond to summer. Red dots are larvae  $< 5\text{mm}$  (potentially pre-flexion) and green dots larvae  $> 5\text{mm}$  (potentially post-flexion).

## TAKE HOME MESSAGE

LARVAL FISH ABUNDANCE OF THIS 7-YEAR TIME SERIES PRESENTED INTERESTING PATTERNS

- Strongly seasonal
- Inversely correlated to salinity
- Correlated to copepods abundance
- Doesn't seem to be related to moon phase

- ➔ SMALL LARVAE: REPRODUCTION DYNAMICS
- ➔ LARGER LARVAE: RECRUITMENT DYNAMICS

NO TAXONOMICAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE NOR ON SMALL TEMPORAL SCALES, BUT...

MORE THAN 40 YEARS OF WEEKLY SAMPLES ARE AVAILABLE THAT WILL BE ADDED TO STUDY LONG TERM ICHTHYOPLANKTON DYNAMICS

