

Developing a BC Provincial Assessment of Coastal Cutthroat Trout Using a Cumulative Effects and Semi-Quantitative Risk Assessment Framework

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Sue Pollard, *Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC, Victoria BC*
Ron Ptolemy, *Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, BC Provincial Government*
Jordan Rosenfeld, *UBC Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries*

Coastal Cutthroat Trout in BC

- ▶ Distributed along the province's coastline, up to 200 km inland
- ▶ Experiencing population declines and range contractions
- ▶ “Blue-listed’ (vulnerable) in 1999 → no legal protections
- ▶ Last draft assessment was Costello & Rubidge 2005 → never finalized, never received federal review
- ▶ Risk assessment initiated by Coastal Cutthroat Working Group
- ▶ Intended to be the lead-up to a provincial management plan
- ▶ Funded by Habitat Conservation Trust Fund - in Year 2 of 3

Risk Assessments Through the Lens of Cumulative Effects



- ▶ Combined effects of multiple stressors (natural and anthropogenic)
 - 1) Effects of multiple stressors simultaneously
 - 2) Accumulation of stressors spatially and temporally

Cumulative Effects Assessments

Narrative Descriptions

- Data-deficient species
- Makes prediction and management difficult

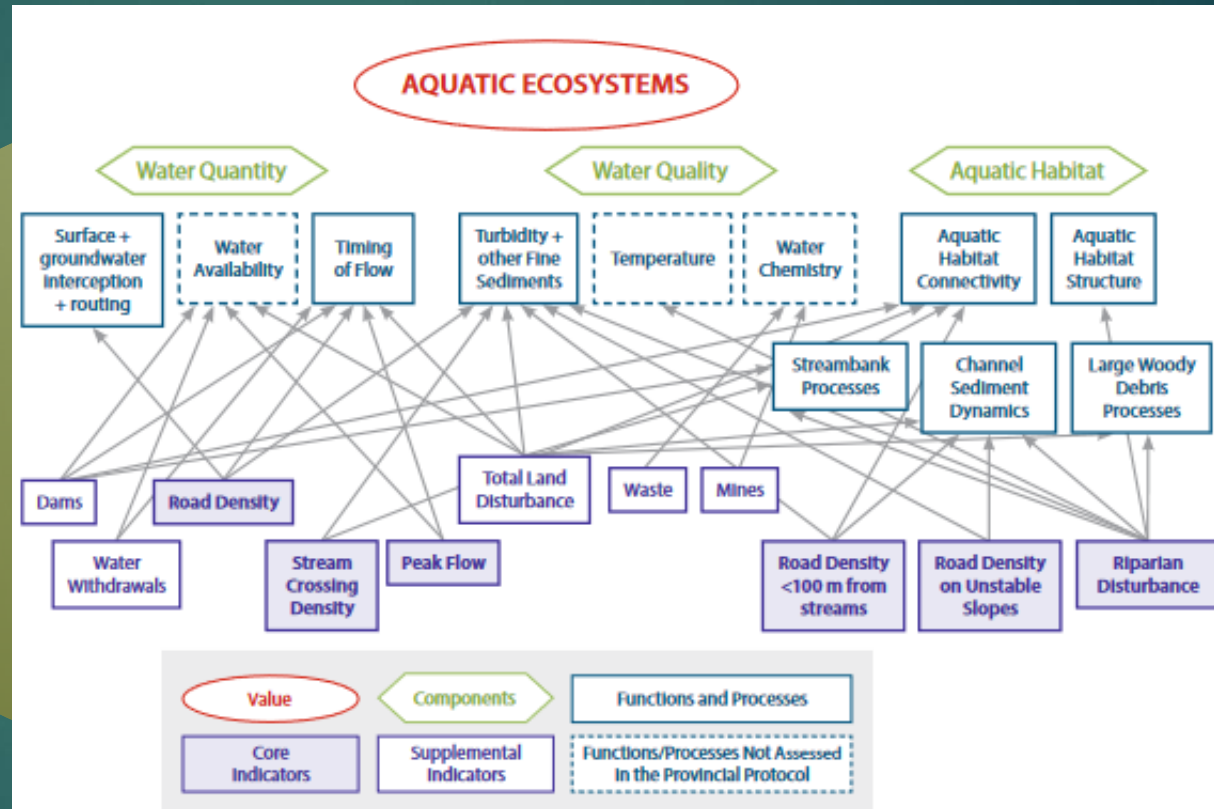
Qualitative

Quantitative

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Ranked Threats

- Ordered variables with severity of threats
- Lacks empirical biological linkage

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Barkley Sockeye Risk Assessment

1. Great Central Sockeye CU				2. Sproat Sockeye CU				3. Henderson Sockeye CU			
DESCRIPTION OF FACTOR		BIOLOGICAL RISK calculated for each factor limiting productive capacity		DESCRIPTION OF FACTOR		BIOLOGICAL RISK calculated for each factor limiting productive capacity		DESCRIPTION OF FACTOR		BIOLOGICAL RISK calculated for each factor limiting productive capacity	
Life History Requirement	Issue/Limiting factor & id number	Current Biol Risk category	Future Biol Risk category	Life History Requirement	Issue/Limiting factor & id number	Current Biol Risk category	Future Biol Risk category	Life History Requirement	Issue/Limiting factor & id number	Current Biol Risk category	Future Biol Risk category
A. Terminal Migration & Spawning				A. Terminal Migration & Spawning				A. Terminal Migration & Spawning			
2. Large volume of preferred water (VOPW, low temp, high O2) in estuary	LF2: Significant reductions of VOPW in inlet & estuary with chronic to impacts on adult "fitness".	Moderate	High	2. Large volume of preferred water (VOPW, low temp, high O2) in estuary	LF2: Significant reductions of VOPW in inlet & estuary with chronic to impacts on adult "fitness".	Moderate	High	9. Stable channel banks and stable coarse bedload transport	LF10: Riparian disturbance resulting in bank erosion, increased bedload.	Very High	Very High
4. Favorable temperatures for low stress passage	LF4: High temps slow or stop upstream migration	Moderate	Very High	4. Favorable temperatures for low stress passage	LF4: High temps slow or stop upstream migration	Moderate	Very High	11b. Spawning habitat quantity sufficient to fully "seed" fry rearing habitat. TRIB SPAWNERS ONLY	LF12B: Inadequate TRIB spawning habitat (i.e. CU production potential limited by initial fry recruitment).	High	Very High
11b. Spawning habitat quantity sufficient to fully "seed" fry rearing habitat. TRIB SPAWNERS ONLY	LF12B: Inadequate TRIB spawning habitat (i.e. CU production potential limited by initial fry recruitment).	Moderate	Moderate	11b. Spawning habitat quantity sufficient to fully "seed" fry rearing habitat. TRIB SPAWNERS ONLY	LF12B: Inadequate TRIB spawning habitat (i.e. CU production potential limited by initial fry recruitment).	Moderate	Moderate	11. Spawning habitat quantity sufficient to fully "seed" fry rearing habitat. BEACH SPAWNERS ONLY	LF12: Inadequate BEACH spawning habitat (i.e. CU production potential limited by initial fry recruitment).	Moderate	High

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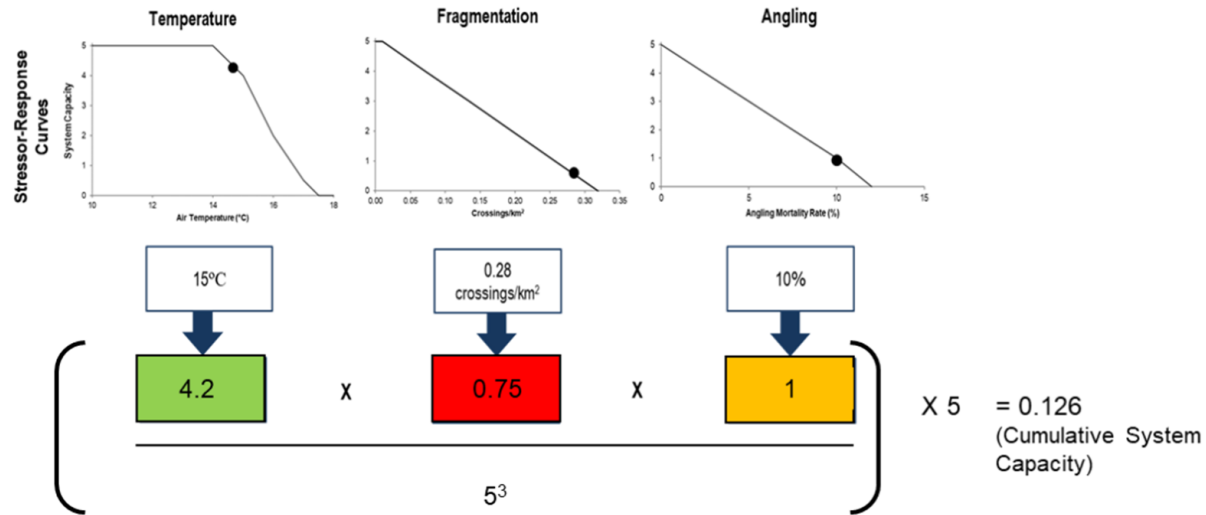
Stress-Response Models

- Threat directly linked to biological effect
- Data-rich or data deficient species

Qualitative

Quantitative

Cumulative Effects Assessments



Stress-Response Models

- Threat directly linked to biological effect
- Data-rich or data deficient species

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Quantitative

Figure 2. Illustration of the multiplicative effect of three hypothetical stressor-response curves on predicted total system capacity. 0.126 means a Very Low current adult density (see Table 2). Figure adapted from Reilly and Johnson (pers. comm.).

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Population Models

- Data-rich species
- System or population-specific

Qualitative

Quantitative

Cumulative Effects Assessments

All H Analyzer (AHA)			Program Background		Go To Dashboard		Enter values in yellow cells only. Green cells contain formulas (do not edit). Orange cells contain dropdown menus (click on cell & select from the options).									
Subbasin	Population	Species	Scenario 1		Scenario 2		Scenario 3		Scenario 4		Scenario 5					
Yakima	Yakima	Coho	Prevent extinction, preserve genetic diversity, restore habitat.		Restore and populate habitat.		Increase population fitness		Maintain viability		NA					
Population Designation: Stabilizing			Current Phase: Recolonization		Recovery Phase:		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Segregated Hatchery			
Program Goals			Natural Origin Escapement (NOS)		Effective pNOS <		pNOB >		PNI >		Total Harvest		Terminal Harvest			
Habitat			Adult Productivity		Adult Capacity		Smolt Productivity		Smolt Capacity		Adj. Productivity		Adj. Capacity			
Hydro and Ocean			Ocean Survival		Basin-to-Basin SAR - obs		Juv. Fish Passage Survival		Basin-to-Basin SAR - baseline		Ad. Fish Passage Survival		Vary SAR?			
Harvest			Ocean		NORs		HORs		Lower Columbia R.		NORs		HORs			
Hatchery			In-Hatchery		Pre-spawning Survival		% Females		Fecundity - HORs		Egg to Smolt Survival		Egg to Sub Survival			
					SAR (yearling)		SAR (subyearling)									

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Cumulative Effects Assessments

20 years +

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Ranked Threats

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Stress-Response Models

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- Data-rich or data-deficient species

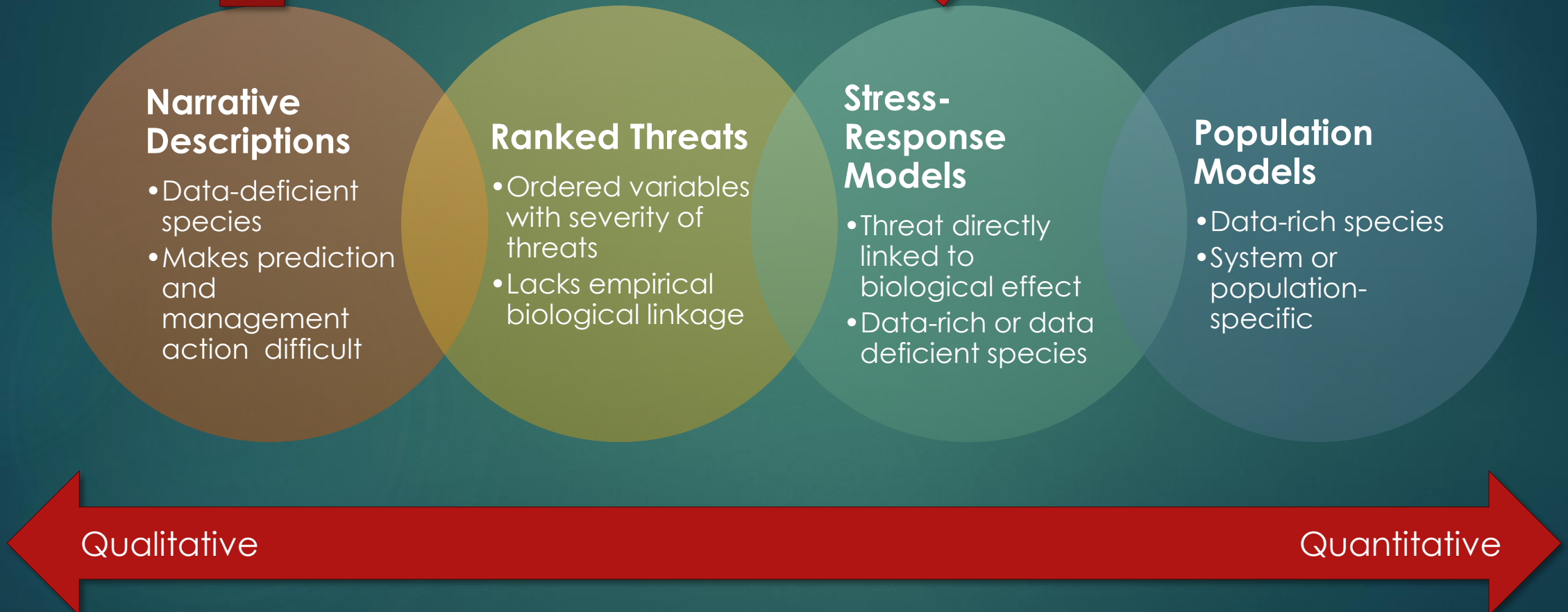
Population Models

- Data-rich species
- System or population-specific

Qualitative

Quantitative

Cumulative Effects Assessments



Stressor-Response Models

- ▶ Identify stressors
- ▶ Define stress-response curves based on empirical data
- ▶ Build a model that combines the functions

Application of Stress-Response Models

- ▶ Westslope Cutthroat Trout in Alberta
- ▶ Athabasca Rainbow Trout in Alberta
- ▶ Bull Trout in Alberta
- ▶ Plains Sucker in Saskatchewan
- ▶ Chinook Salmon in Nicola River, BC
- ▶ *(initiated)* Bull Trout in Williston Reservoir, BC
- ▶ *(initiated)* Arctic Grayling in Alberta
- ▶ *(proposed)* Nooksack Dace & Salish Sucker in BC

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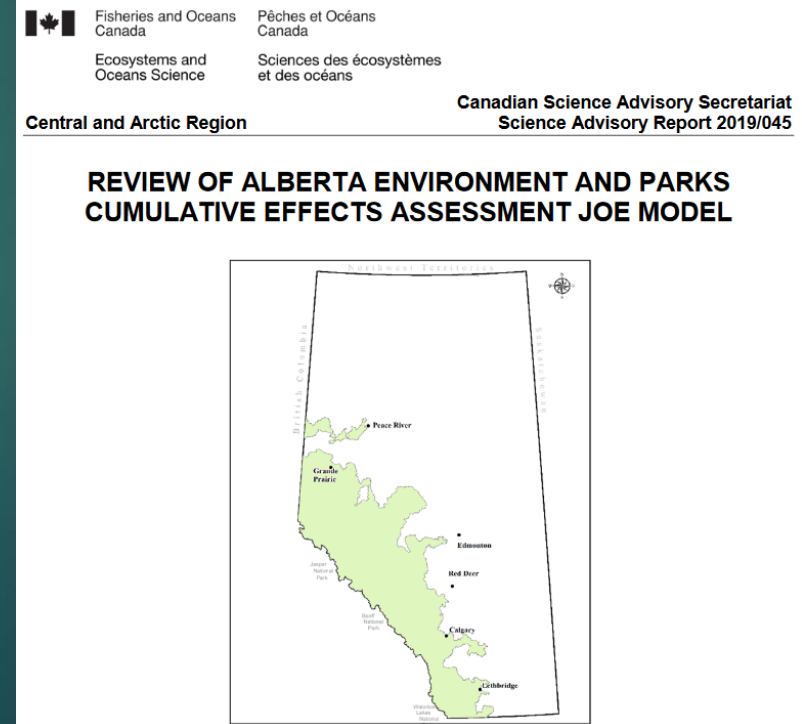
DOI: 10.1111/fme.12649

ARTICLE

Fisheries Management and Ecology WILEY

Prioritizing bull trout recovery actions using a novel cumulative effects modelling framework

Laura M. MacPherson¹ | Jessica R. Reilly² | Kenton R. Neufeld³ | Michael G. Sullivan⁴ | Andrew J. Paul⁵ | Fiona D. Johnston⁶



Stressors

- ▶ Stressor: **environmental driver** resulting in an observable **biological response** in a target population

(Pirotta et al. 2022, Rosenfeld et al. 2022, Jarvis et al. 2023)

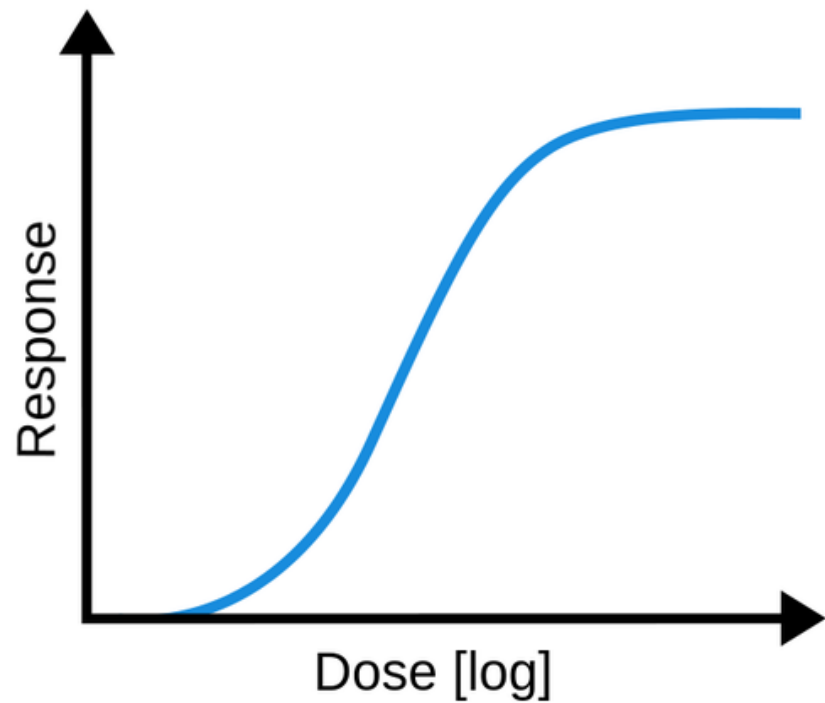
- ▶ Includes both natural & anthropogenic factors

Response

- ▶ Standardized response metric
- ▶ Population-level productivity, **system capacity**, density or total abundance of the adult population
- ▶ Specific **vital rates**
 - ▶ fecundity, spawning interval, stage-specific survival, age-at-maturity

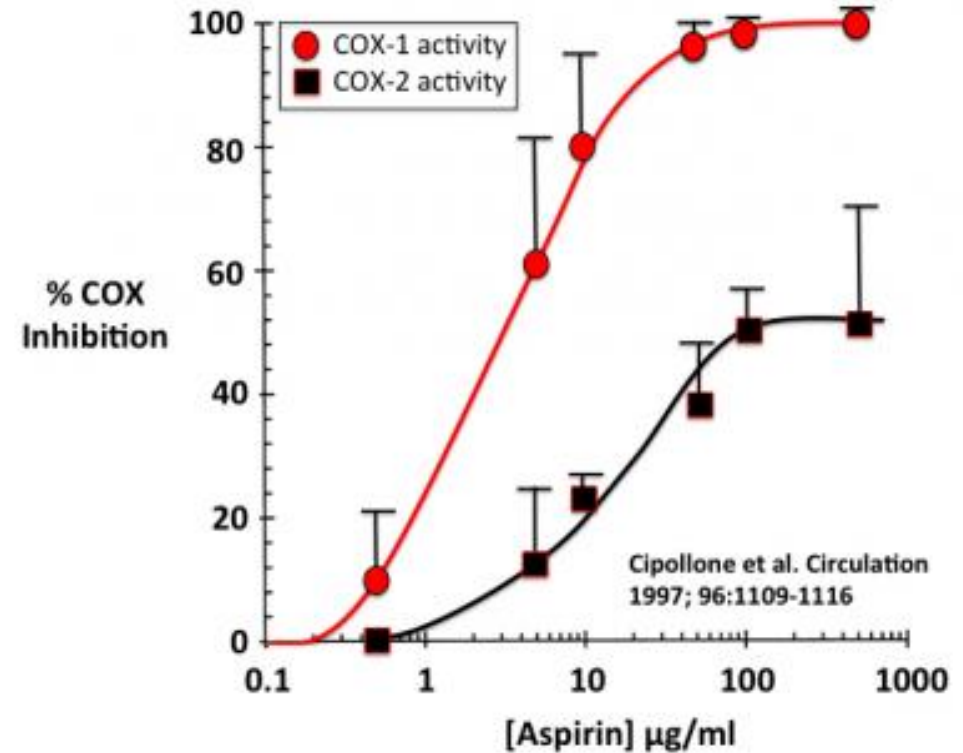
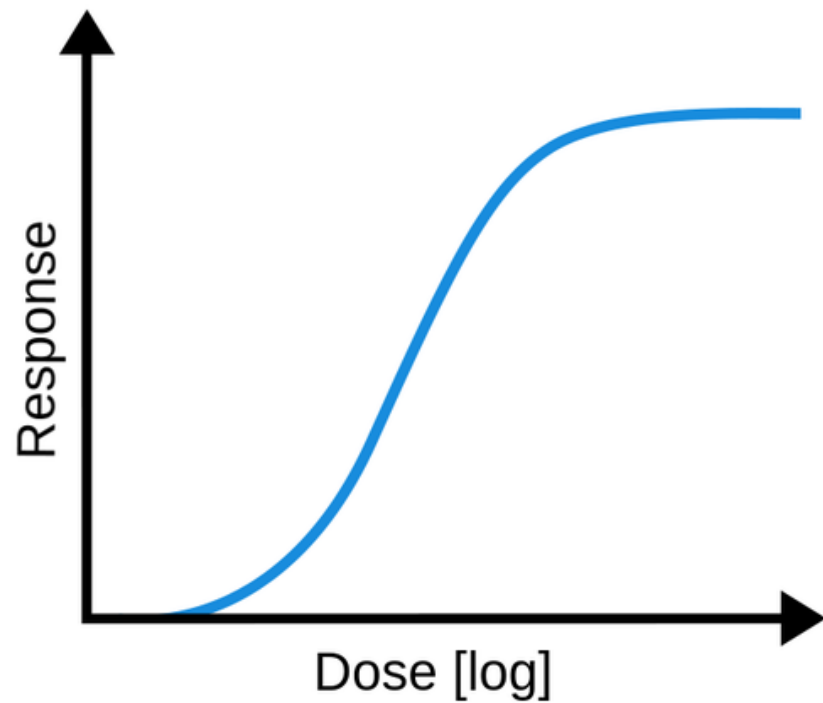
Stressor-Response Functions

Dose Response Curve

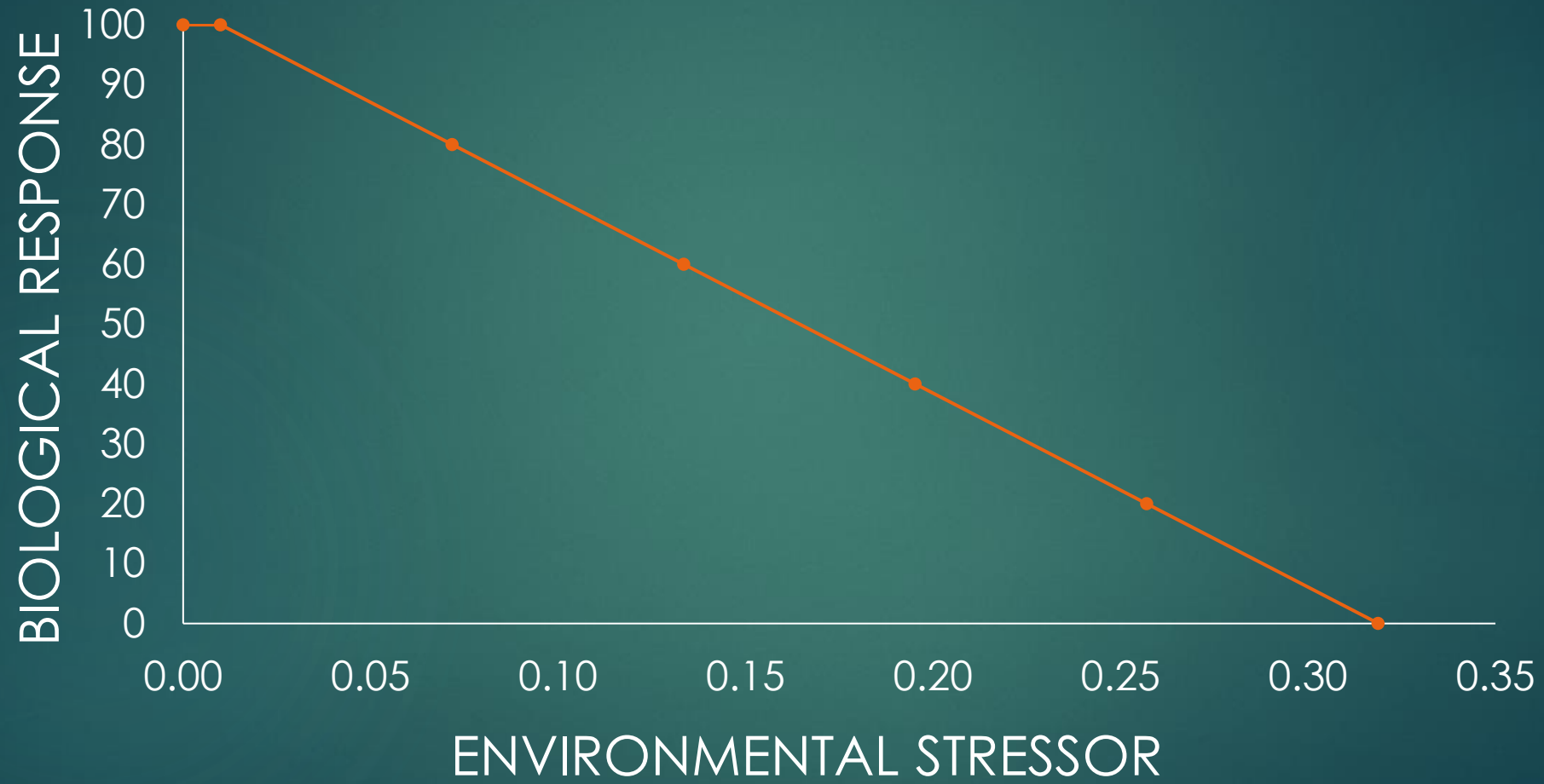


Stressor-Response Functions

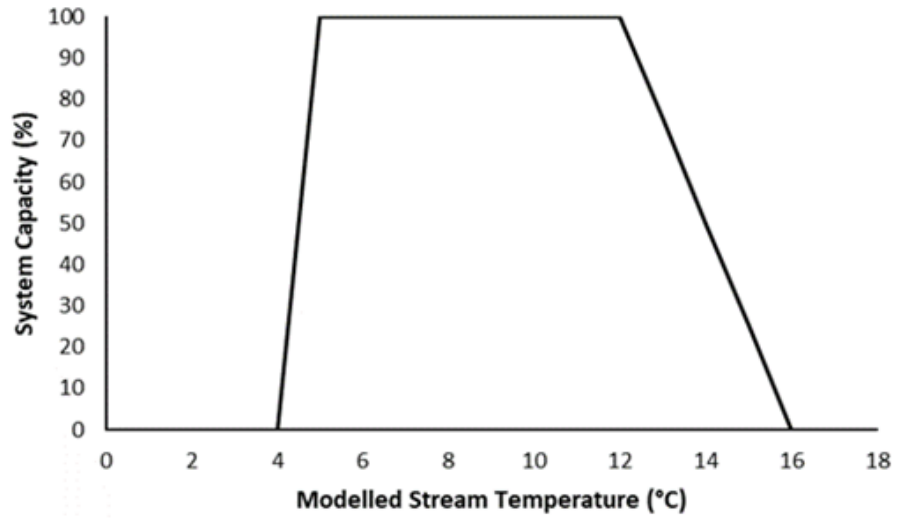
Dose Response Curve



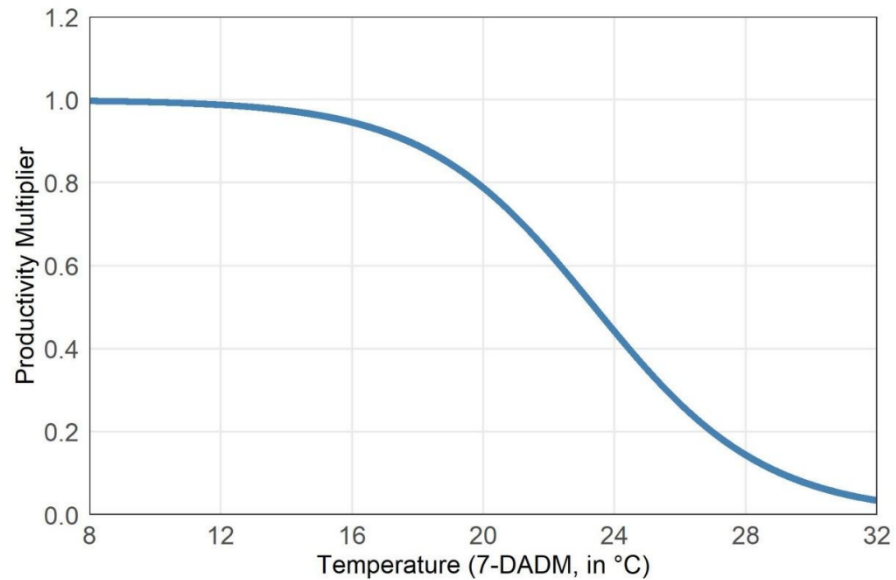
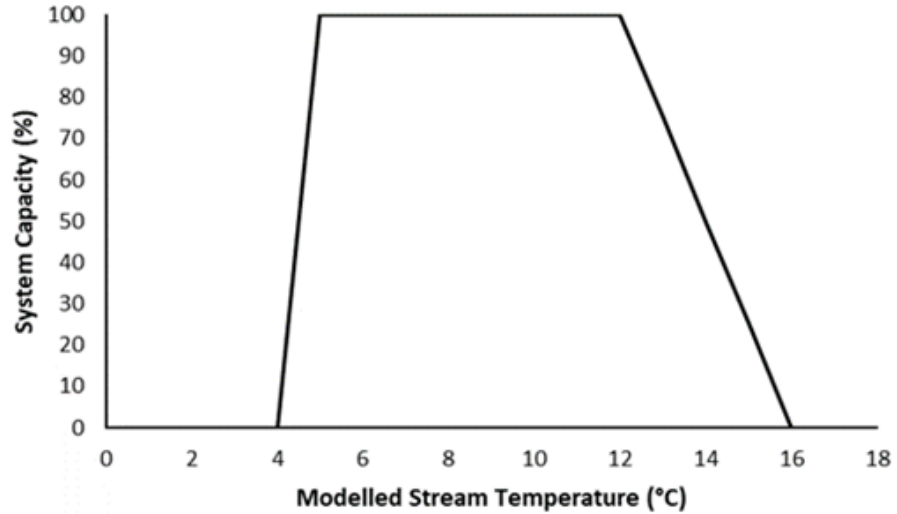
Stressor-Response Functions



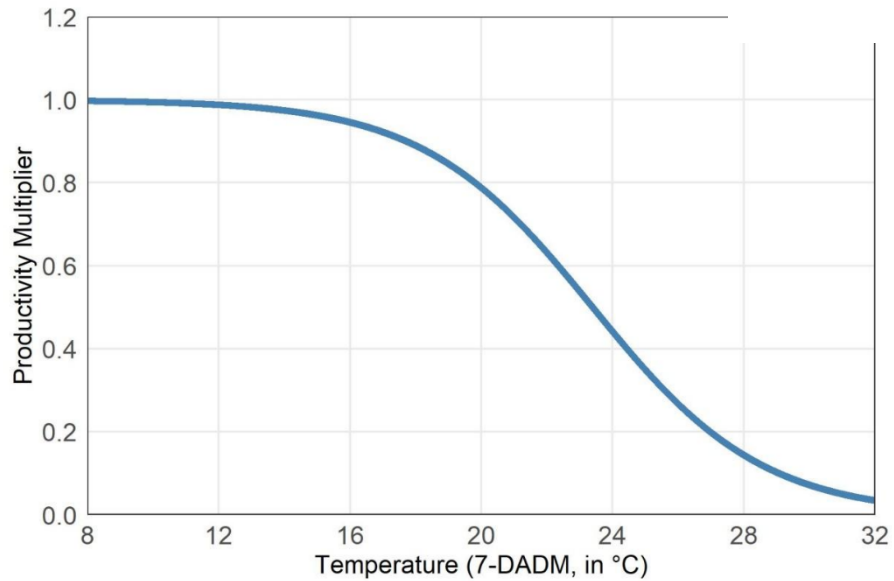
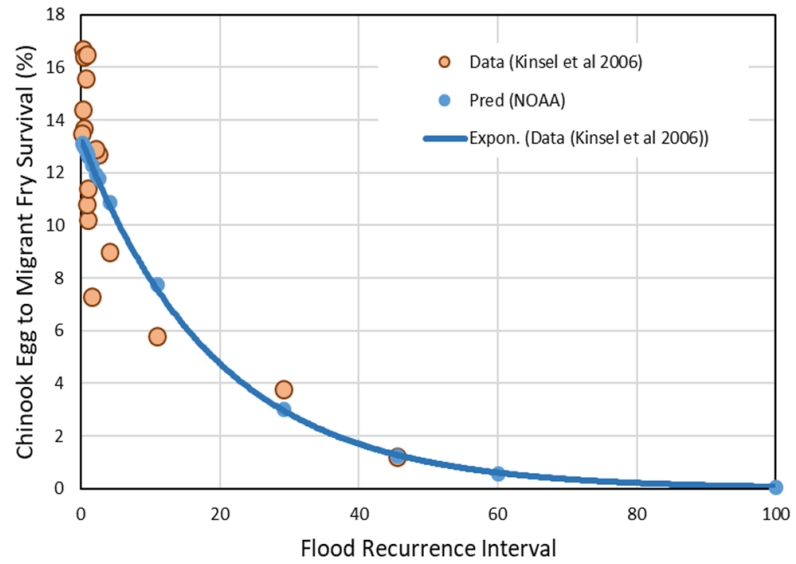
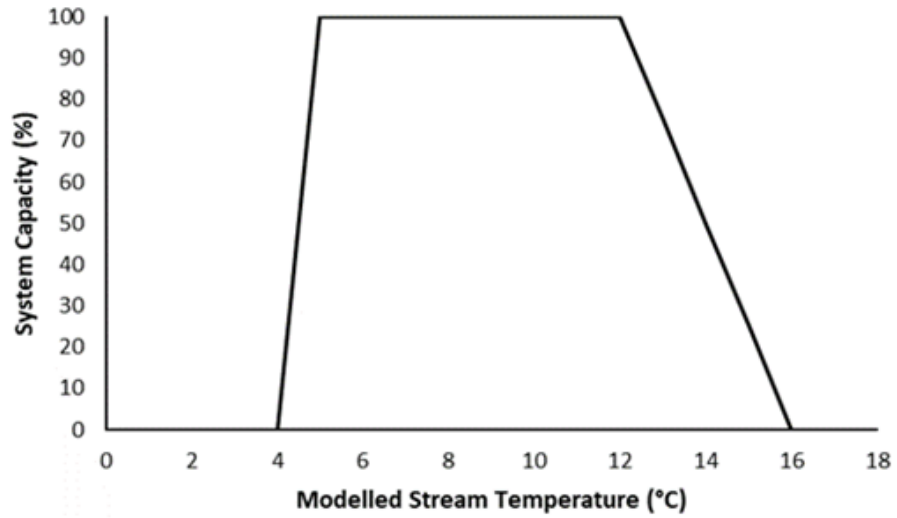
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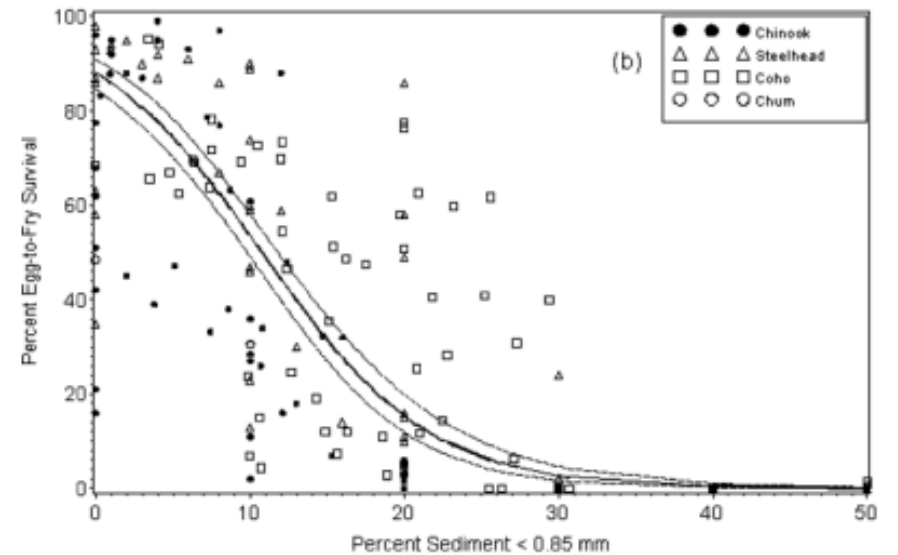
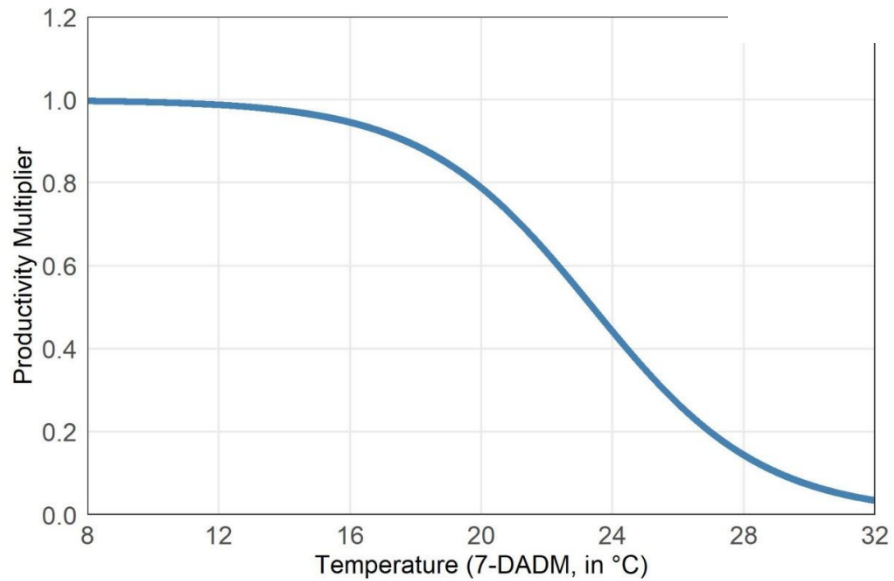
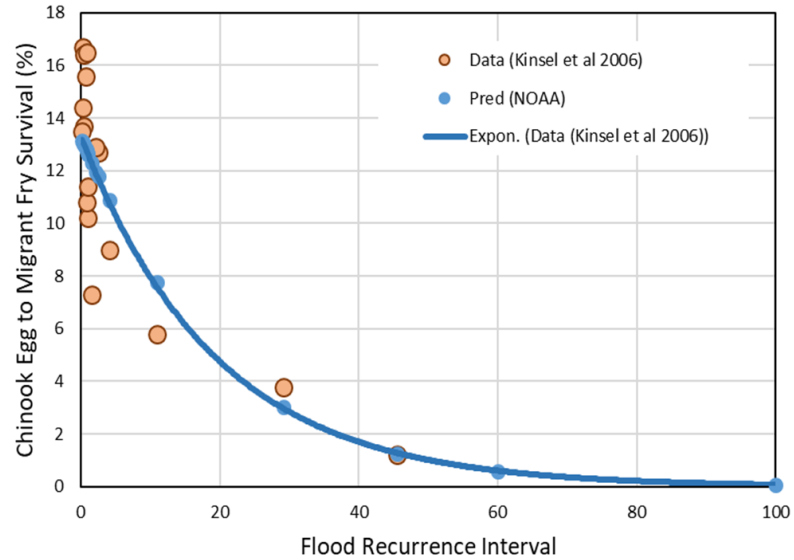
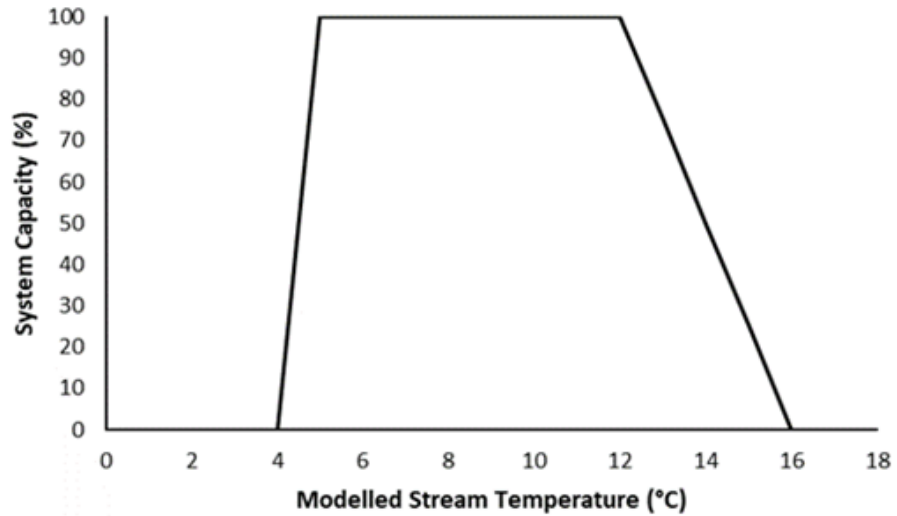
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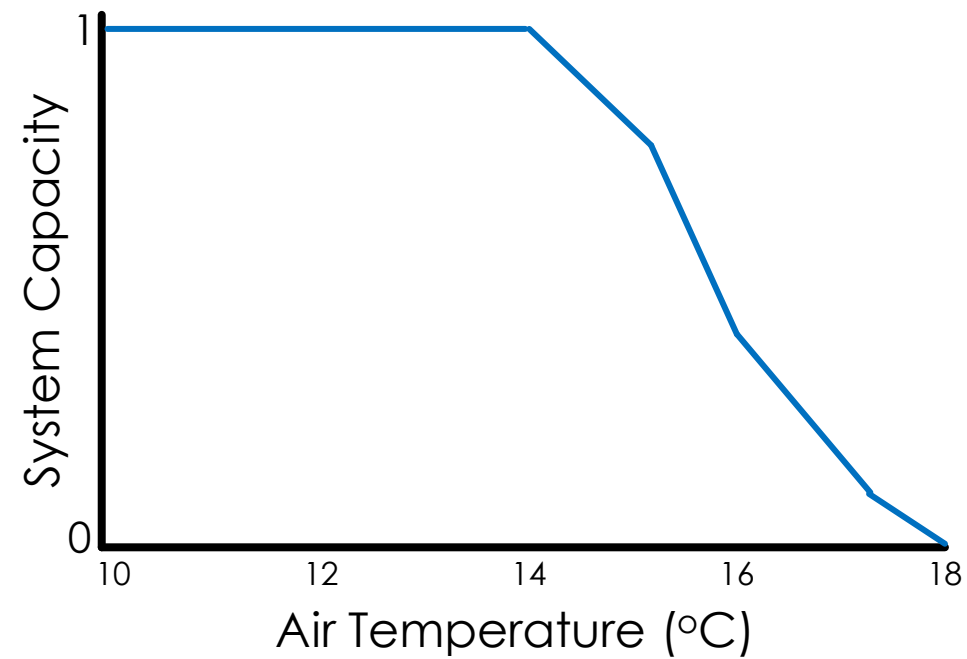
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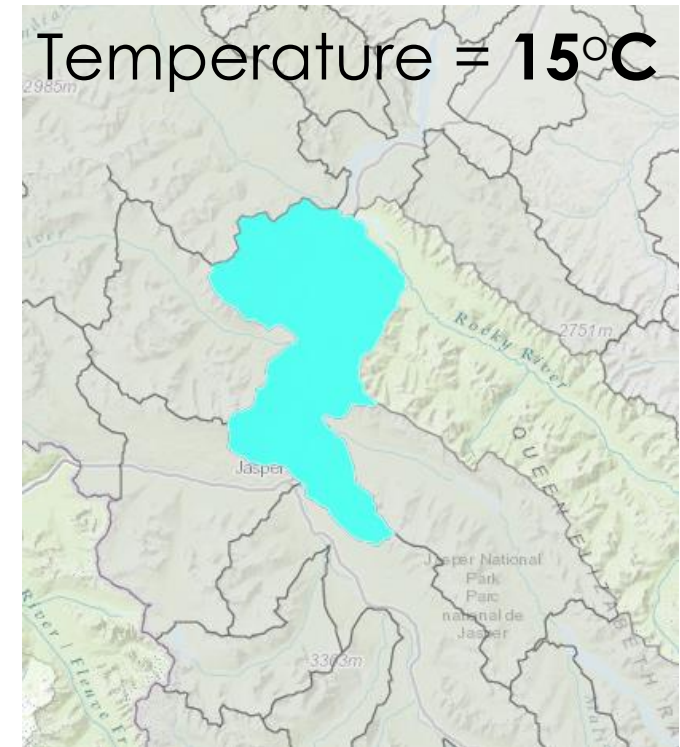
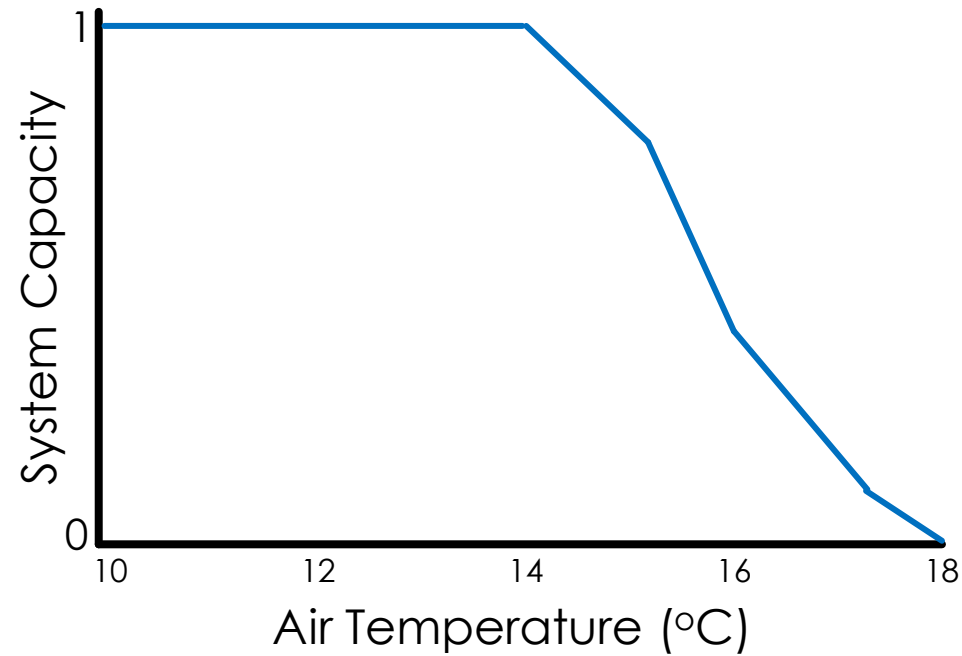
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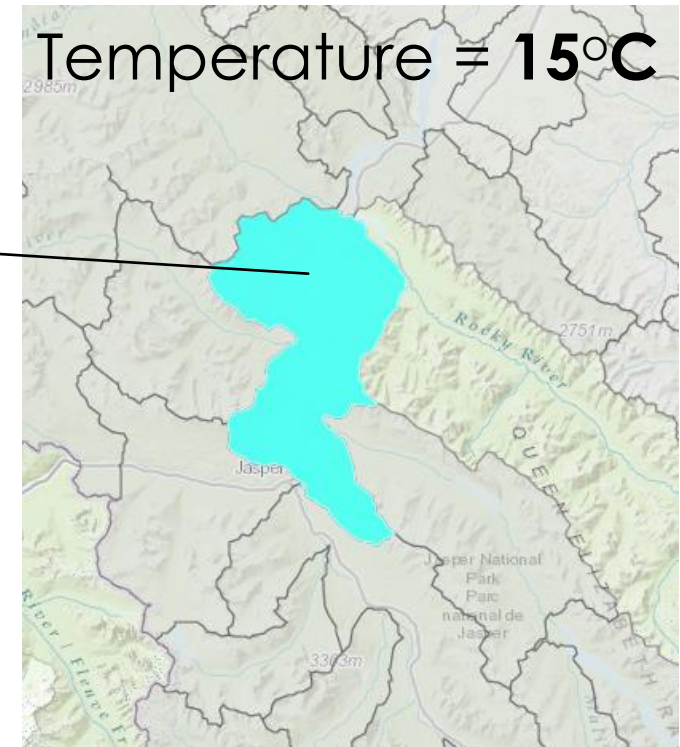
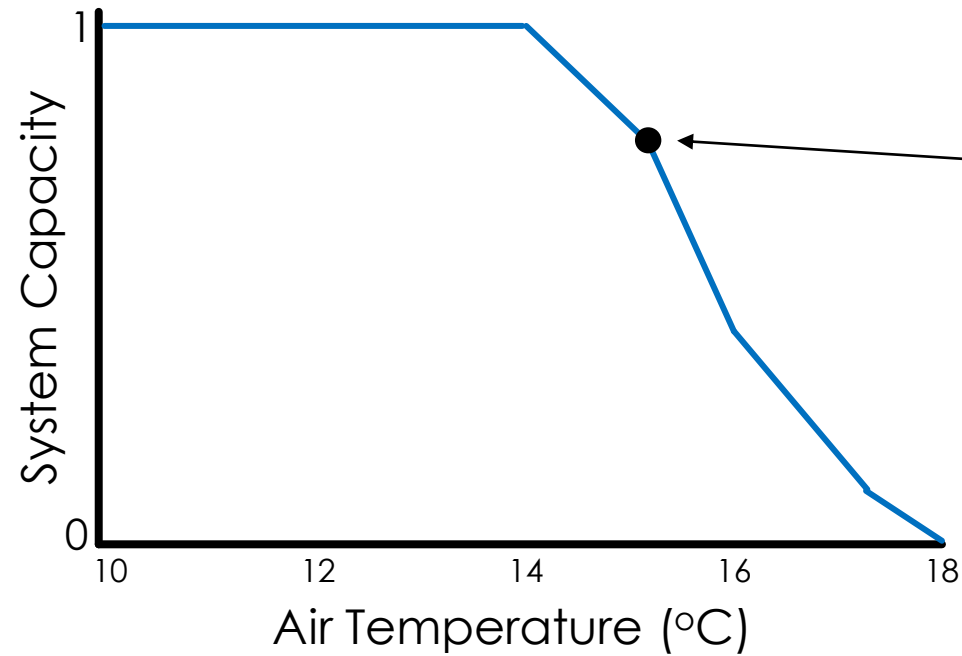
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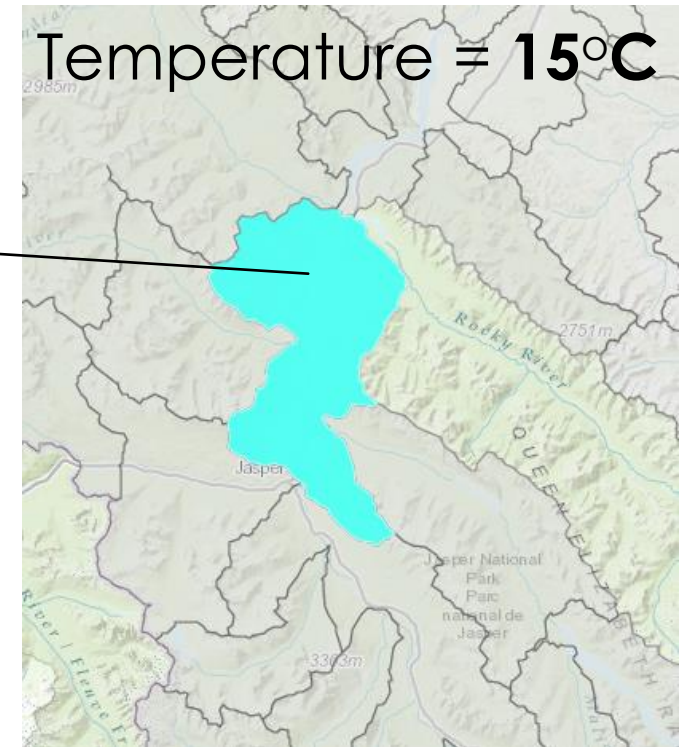
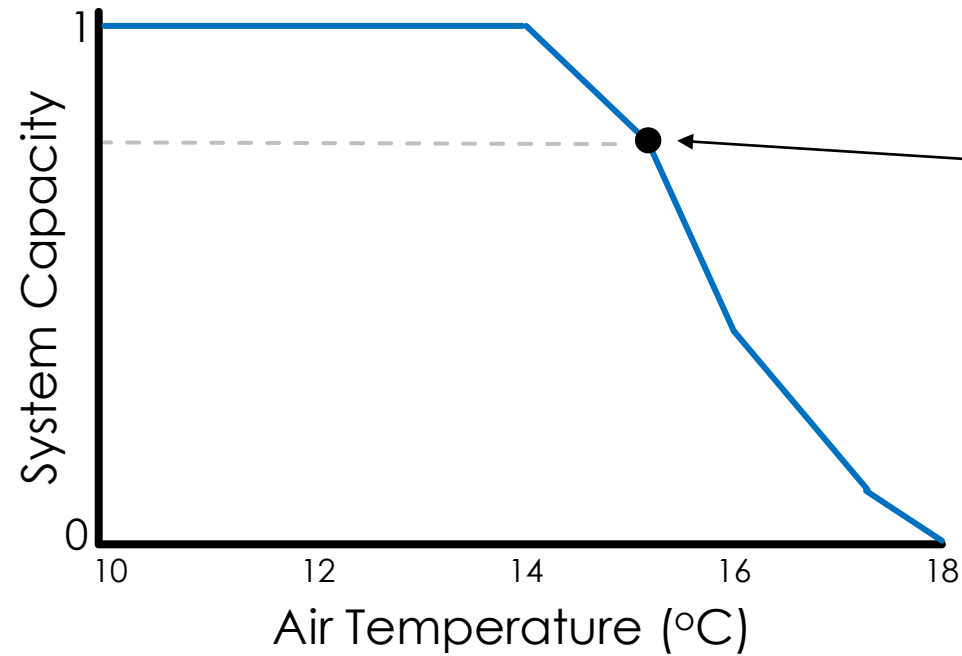


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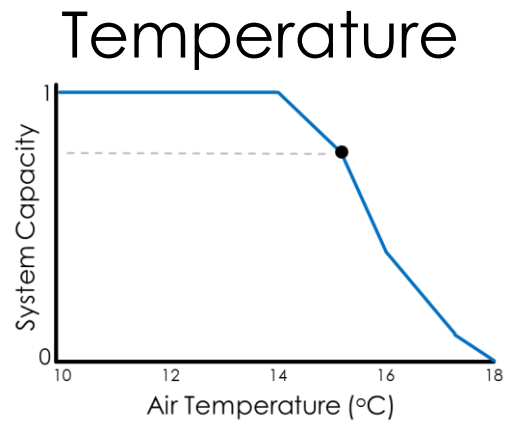


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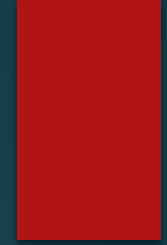
System
Capacity = **0.81**



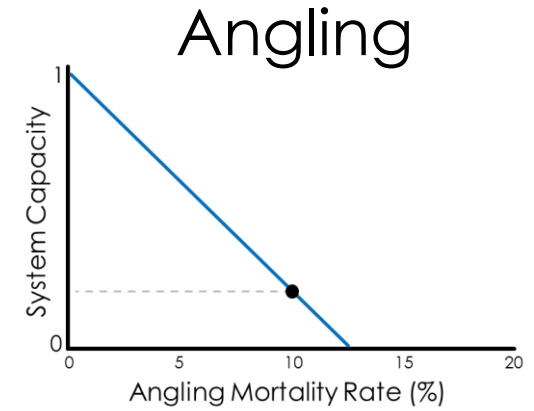
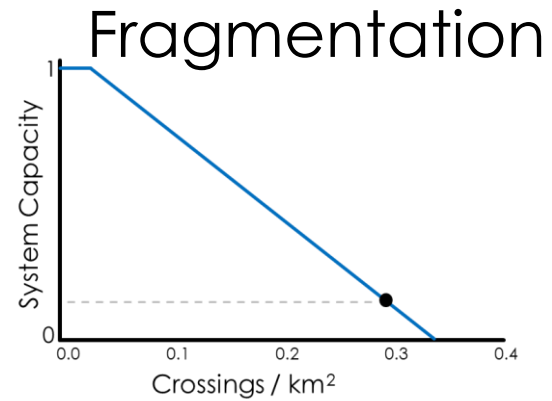
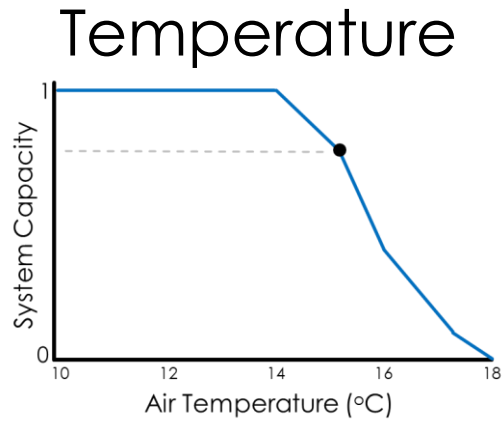
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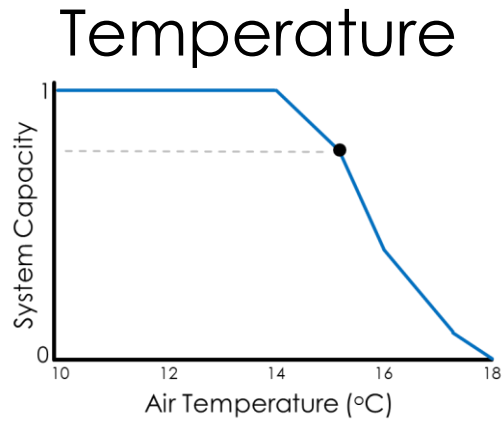
Stress-Response Functions



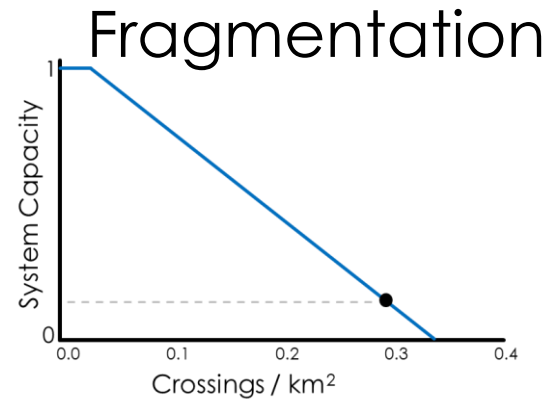
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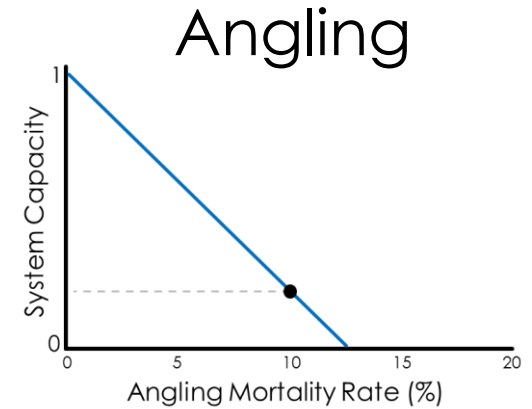
Stressor Magnitudes



15°C



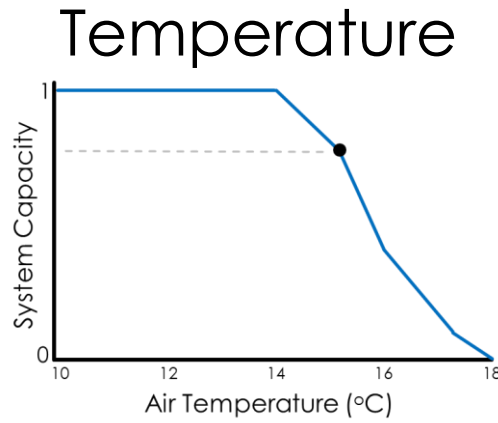
0.28
crossings/km²



10%

Stressor-Response Functions

Stress-Response Functions



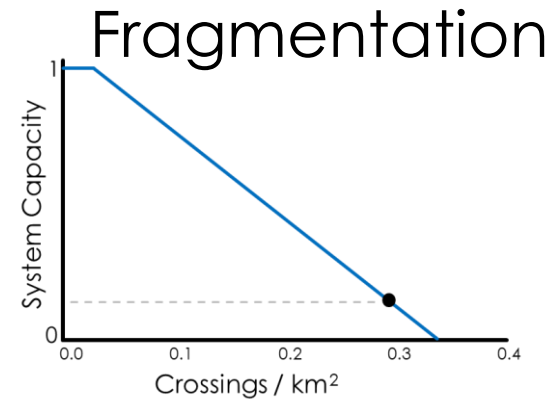
Stressor Magnitudes

15°C



System Capacity

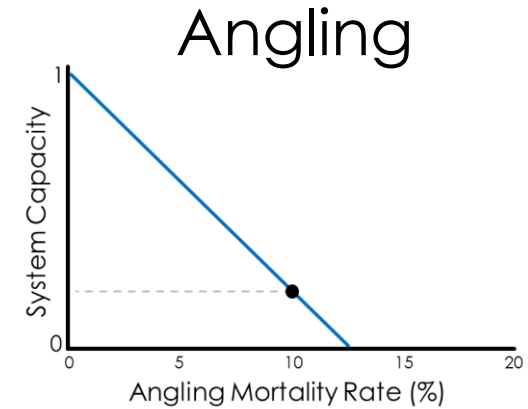
0.81



0.28
crossings/km²



0.13



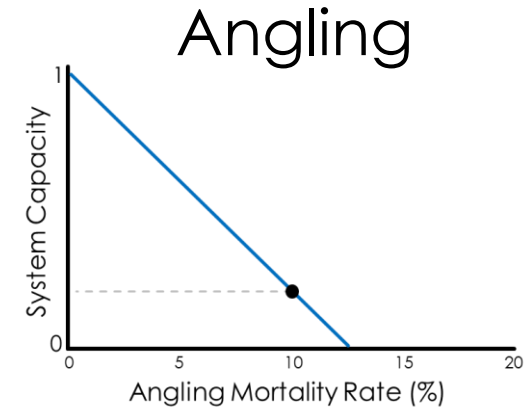
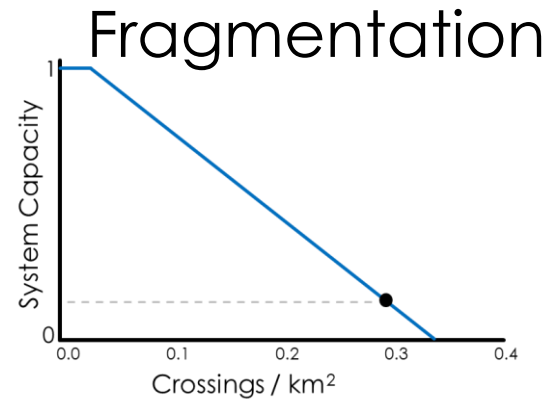
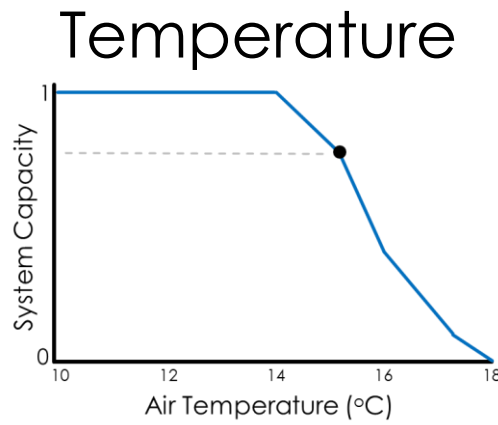
10%



0.20

Stressor-Response Functions

Stress-Response Functions



Stressor Magnitudes

15°C

0.28
crossings/km²

10%

System Capacity

0.81

X

0.13

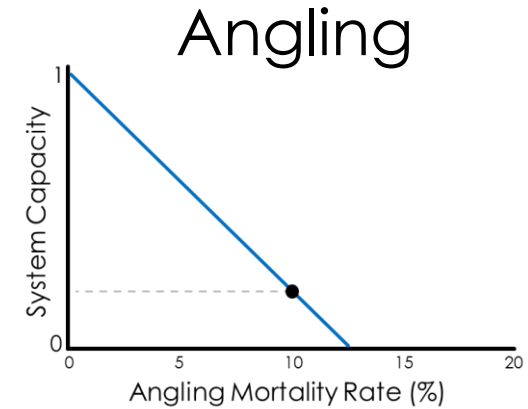
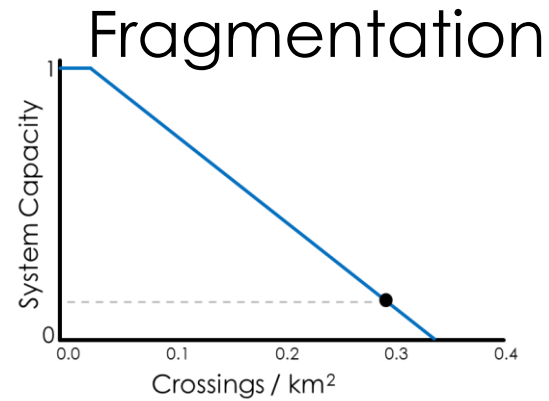
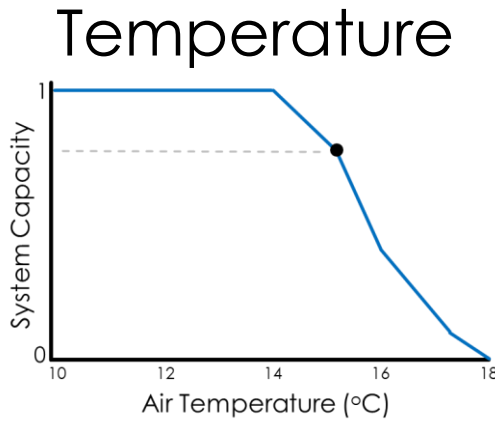
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Stressor-Response Functions

Stress-Response Functions



Stressor Magnitudes

15°C

0.28
crossings/km²

10%

**Cumulative
System
Capacity**

System Capacity

0.81

X

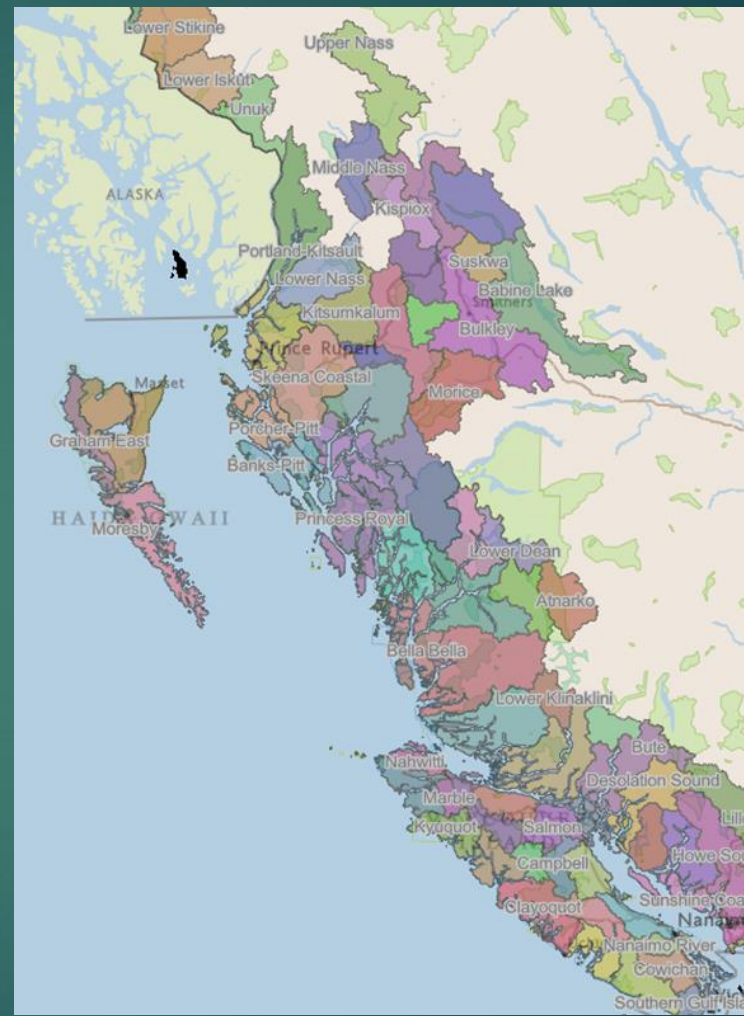
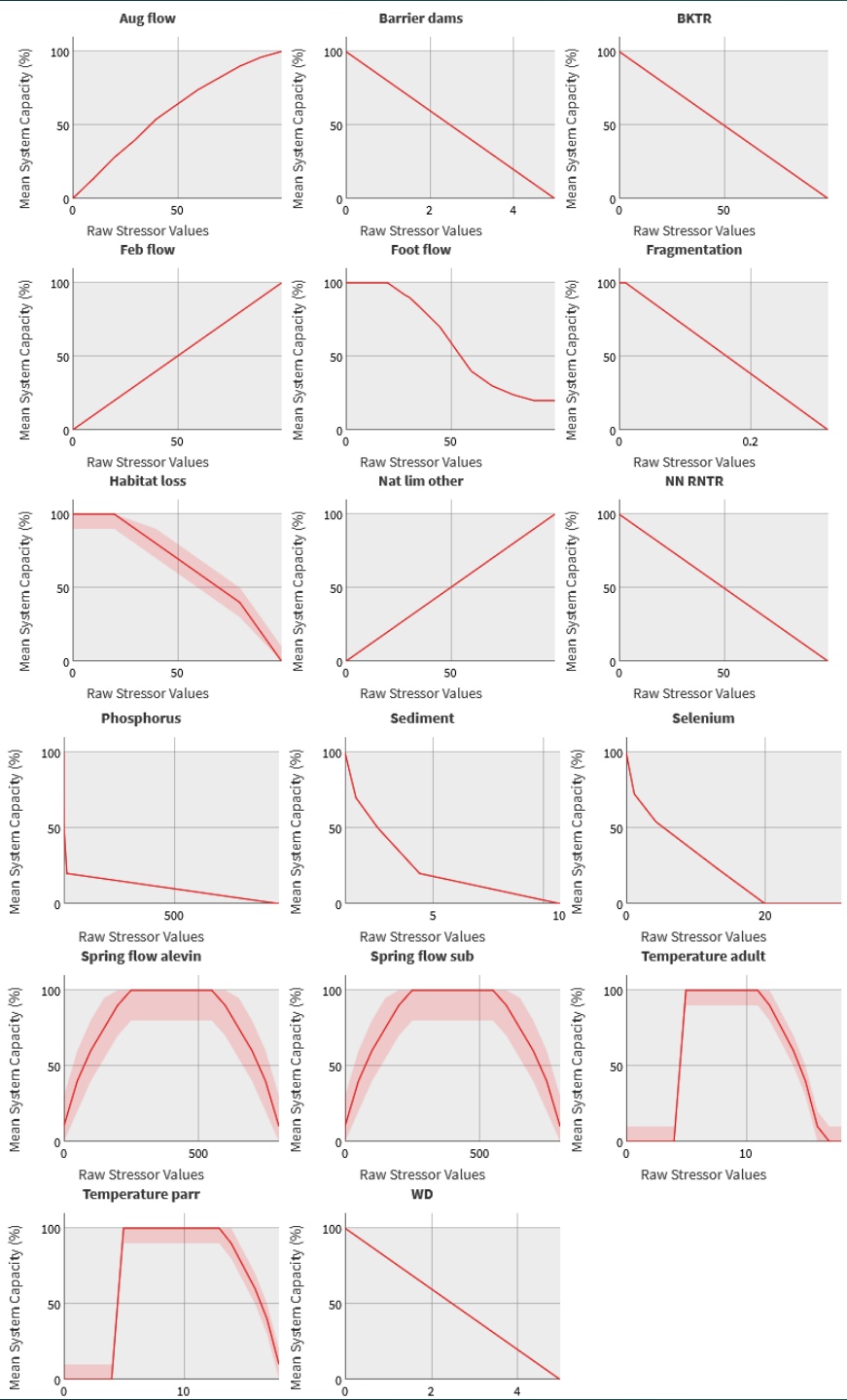
0.13

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0.20

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0.021



Cumulative Effects Model for Prioritizing Recovery Actions

CEMPRA - Cumulative Effects Model for Prioritizing Recovery Actions

i About

🗺 Map Overview

👤 Population Model

* Socio-Economic

📄 Upload Data

📄 Download Data

CEMPRA - Cumulative Effects Model for Prioritizing Recovery Actions R-Shiny Application

Contributors

Matthew Bayly, MJBA, Alexandra Tekatch, ESSA, Dr. Jordan Rosenfeld, UBC/BC-WLRS, Andrew Paul, AEP, Kyle Wilson, CCIRA, Dr. Eva Enders, INRS, Lauren Jarvis, DFO, Julian Heavyside, ESSA, Pedro Gonzalez, UBC, Laura MacPherson, AEP, Isuru Dharmasena, Marc Porter, ESSA

Project funded (in part) through the British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF).

Project Components

GitHub Repository for R-Package <https://github.com/essatech/CEMPRA>

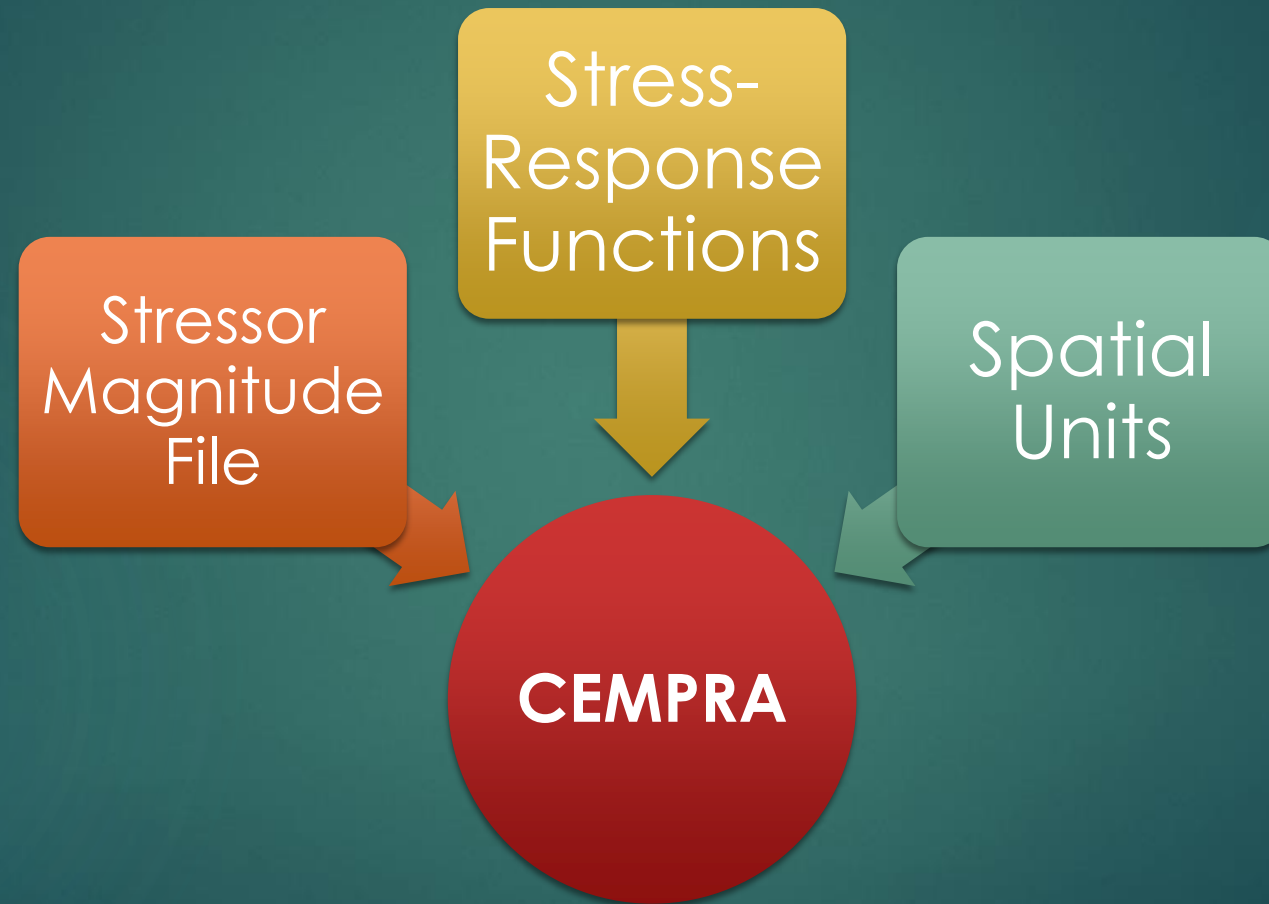
GitHub Repository for R-Shiny Application <https://github.com/essatech/CEMPRASHiny>

Guidance Document https://mattjbayly.github.io/CEMPRA_documentation/

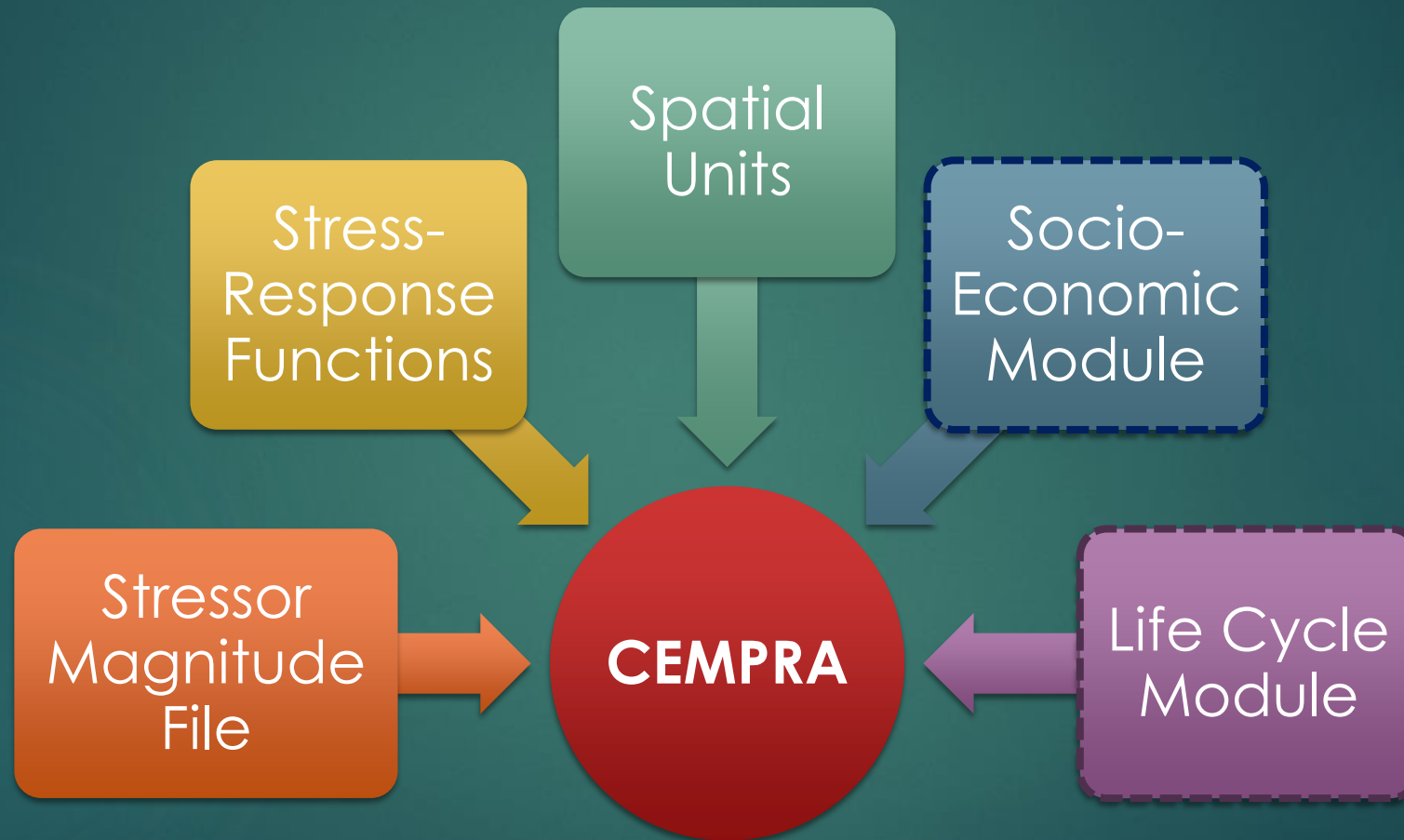
R-Package Tutorials <https://essatech.github.io/CEMPRA/index.html>

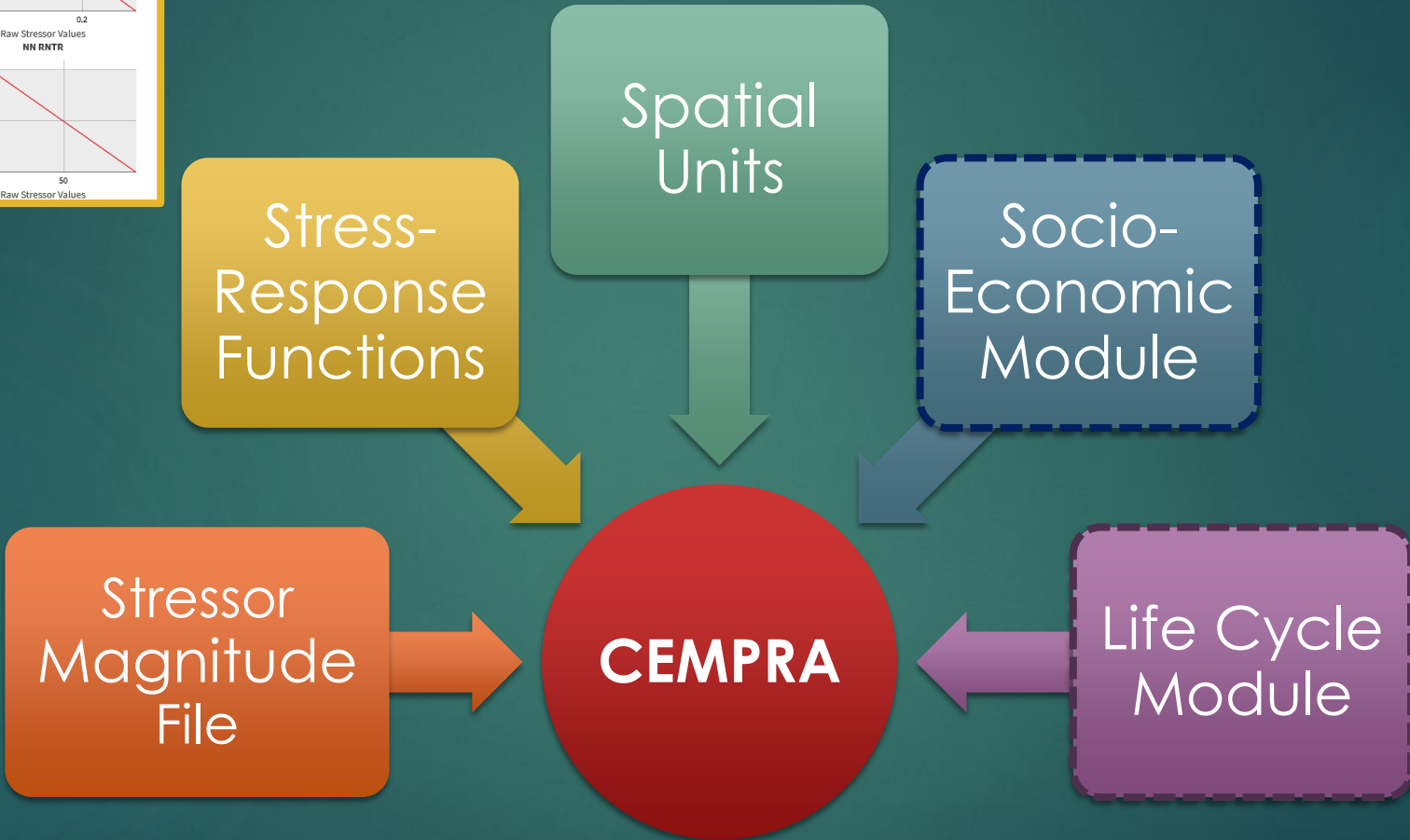
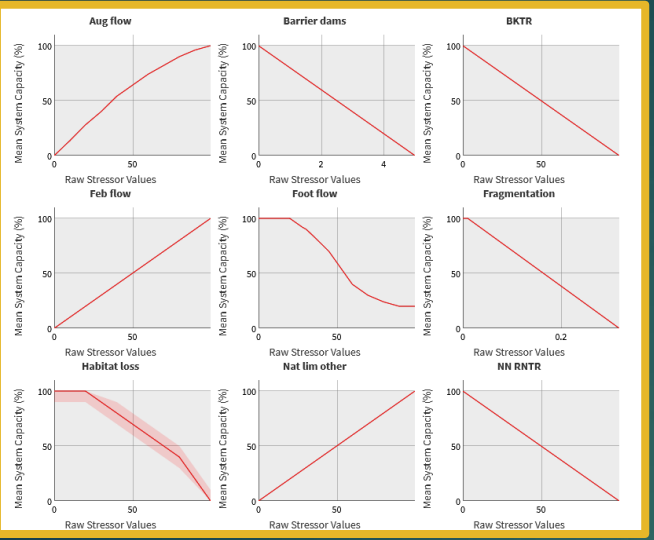
LIVE (online R-Shiny Application) <https://essa.shinyapps.io/CEMPRASHiny/>

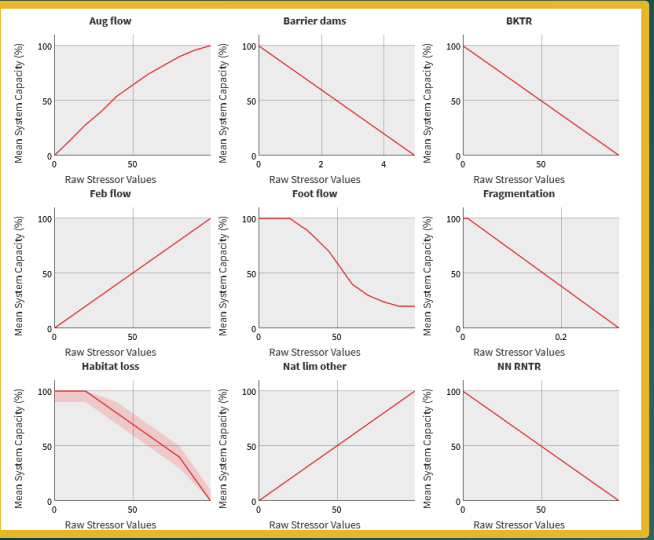
CEMPRA



CEMPRA







SR
Function
Library

Stress-
Response
Functions

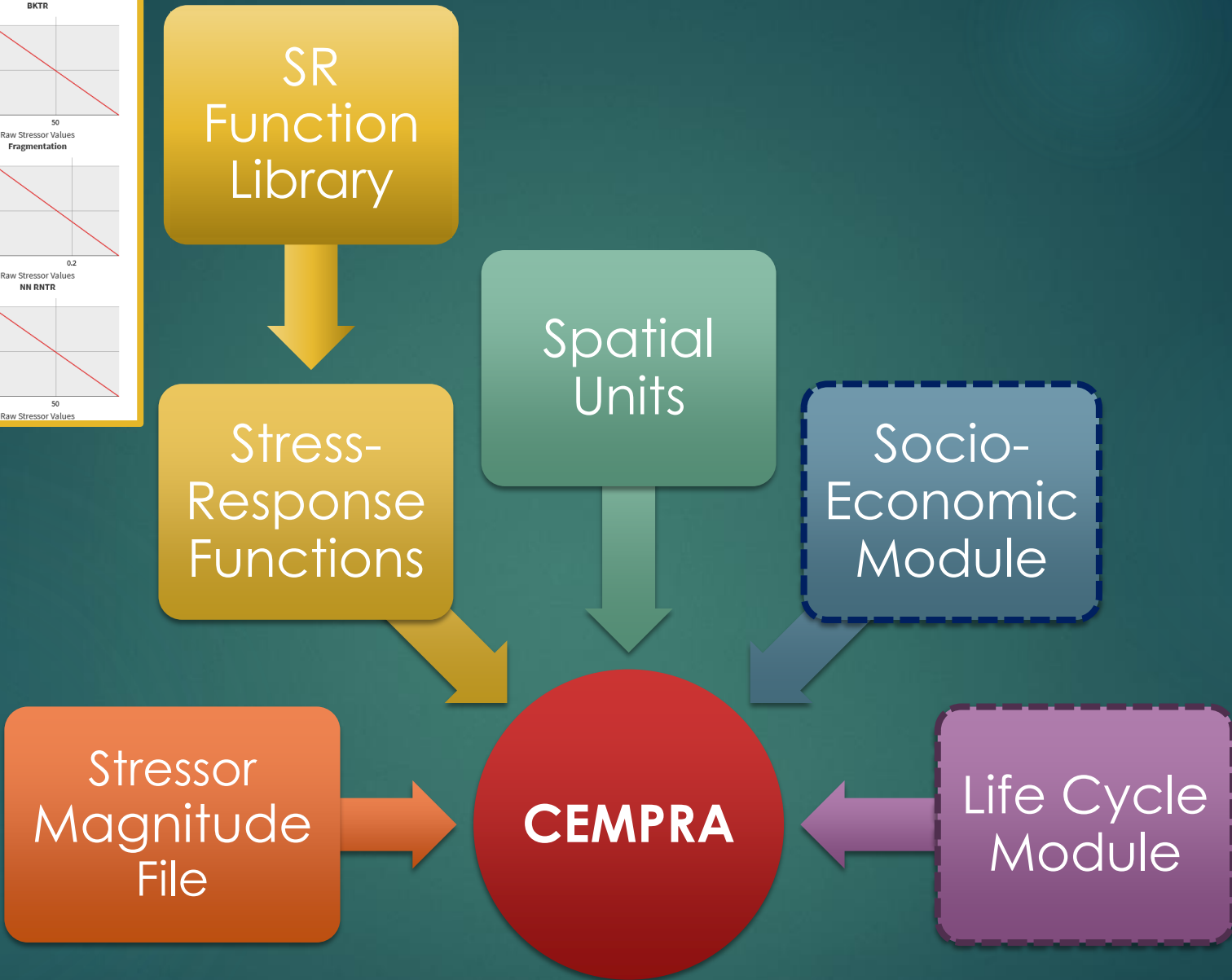
Spatial
Units

Socio-
Economic
Module

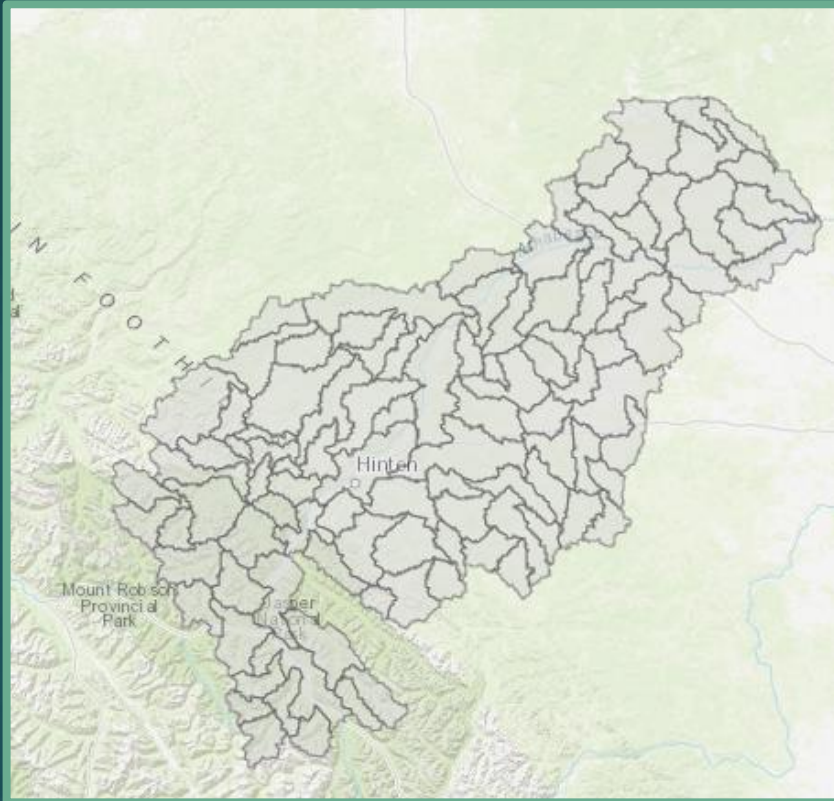
Stressor
Magnitude
File

CEMPRA

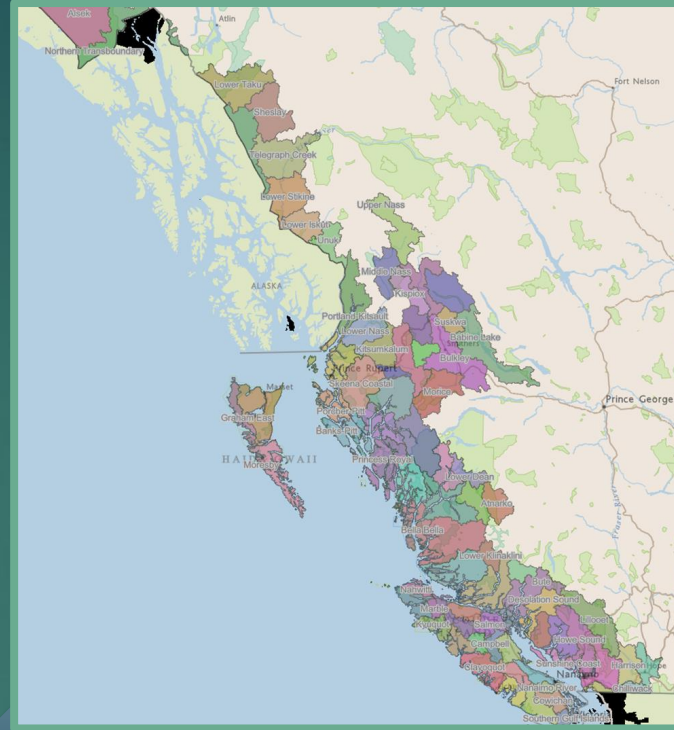
Life Cycle
Module



CEMPRA



Spatial
Units



CEMPRA

Life Cycle
Module

CEMPRA

E	F	G	H	I
HUC	NAME	Stressor	Sub Type	Mean
17	LICK CREEK	Temperature	N/A	6.174670012
17	LICK CREEK	Nat_lim_other	N/A	
17	LICK CREEK	Total_Mortality	Nat_mort	0.35
17	LICK CREEK	Total_Mortality	Angling	0
17	LICK CREEK	Total_Mortality	Indigenous	0
17	LICK CREEK	Total_Mortality	Entrainment	0
17	LICK CREEK	Total_Mortality	Research	0
17	LICK CREEK	Fragmentation	N/A	0
17	LICK CREEK	Barrier_dams	N/A	0
17	LICK CREEK	BKTR	N/A	0
17	LICK CREEK	NN_RNTR	N/A	0
17	LICK CREEK	Phosphorus	N/A	0.01
17	LICK CREEK	Sediment	N/A	1
17	LICK CREEK	Feb_flow	N/A	100
17	LICK CREEK	Aug_flow	N/A	100
17	LICK CREEK	Foot_flow	N/A	0
17	LICK CREEK	Selenium	N/A	0
17	LICK CREEK	WD	N/A	0
17	LICK CREEK	Habitat_loss	N/A	0
17	UPPER ATHABASCA ABOVE MIETTE RIVER	Temperature	N/A	9.263807047

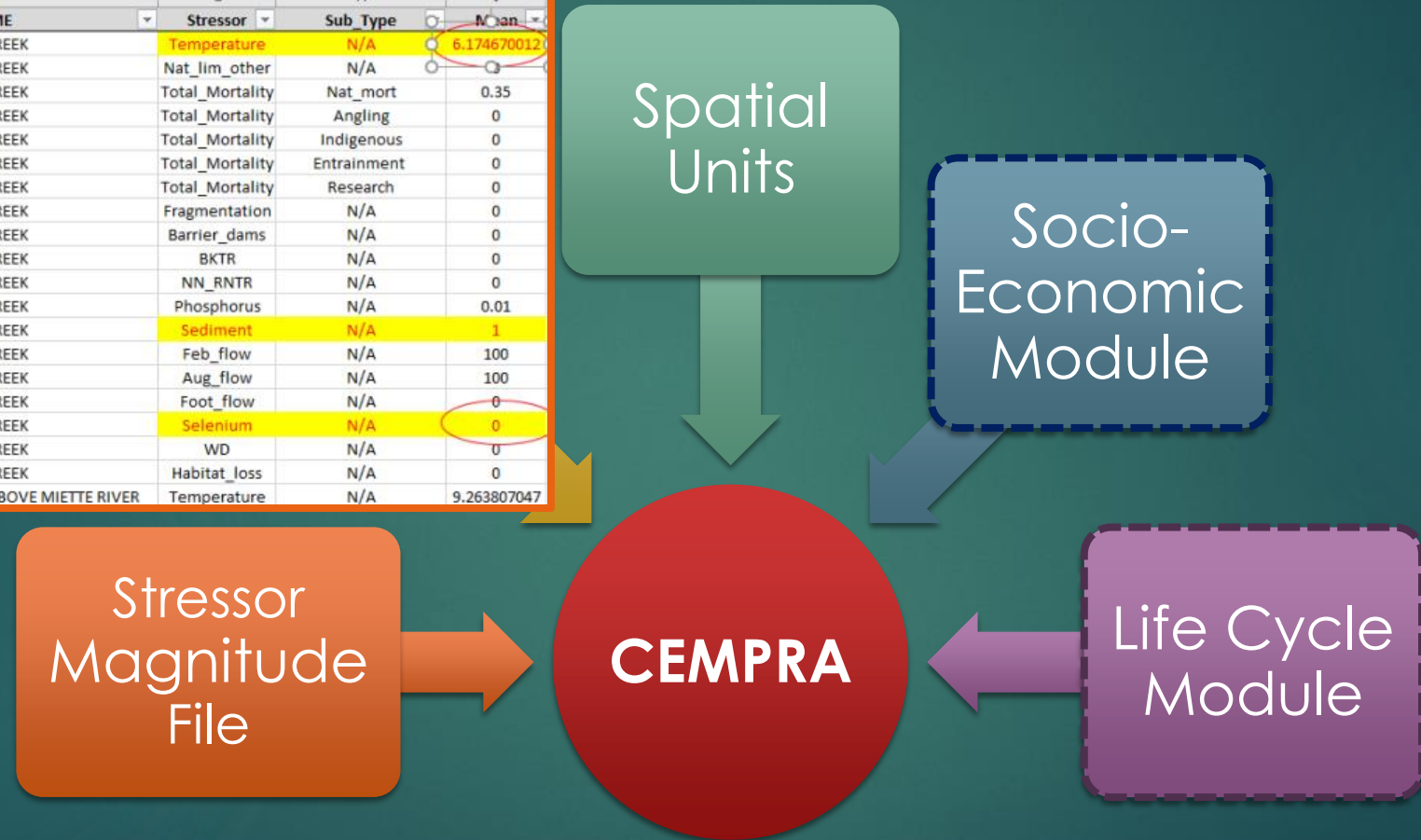
Spatial Units

Socio-Economic Module

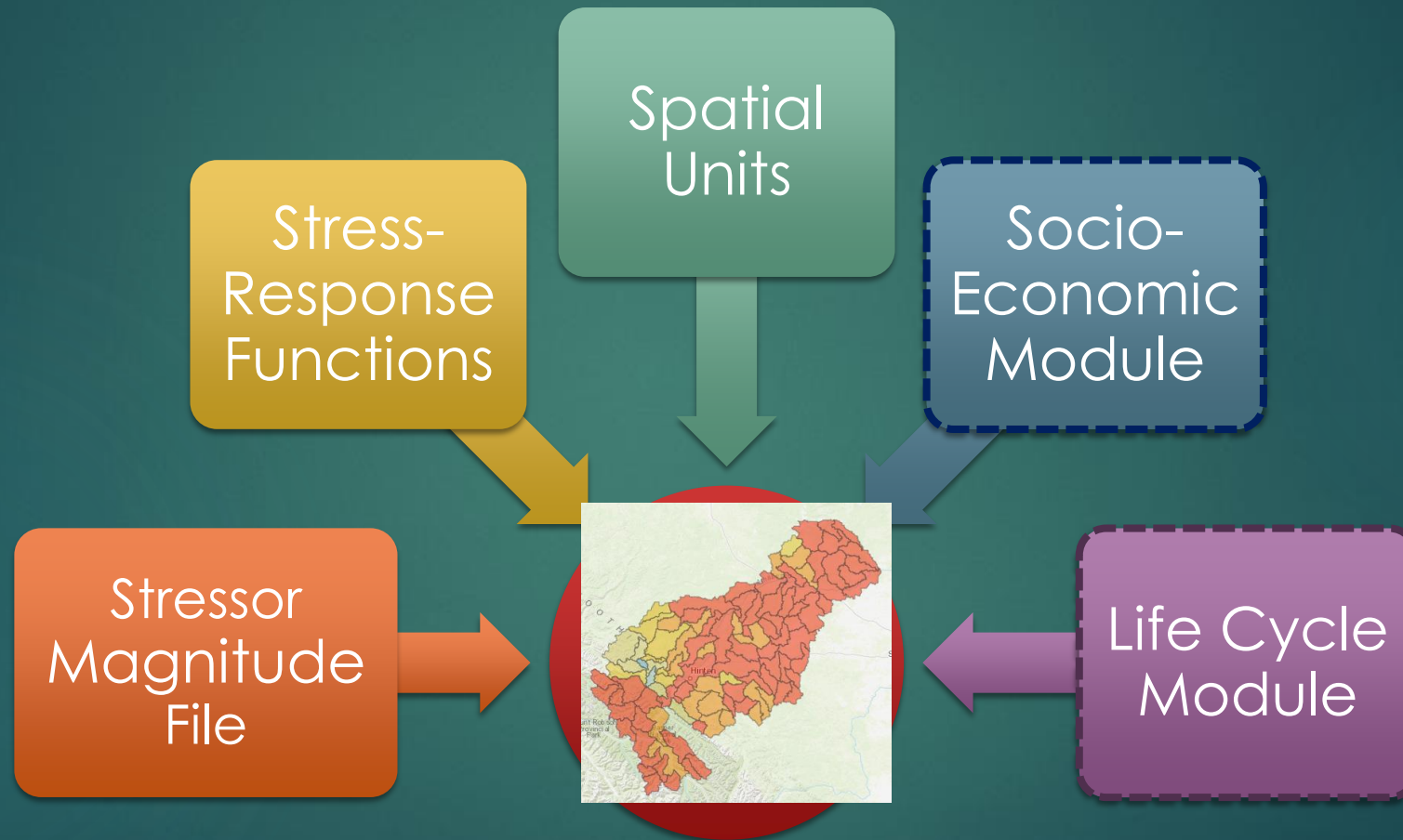
Stressor Magnitude File

CEMPRA

Life Cycle Module

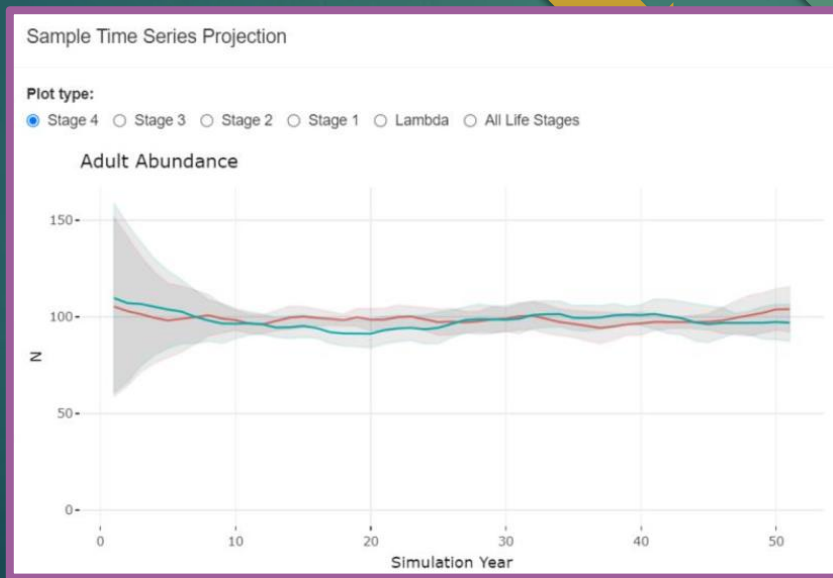
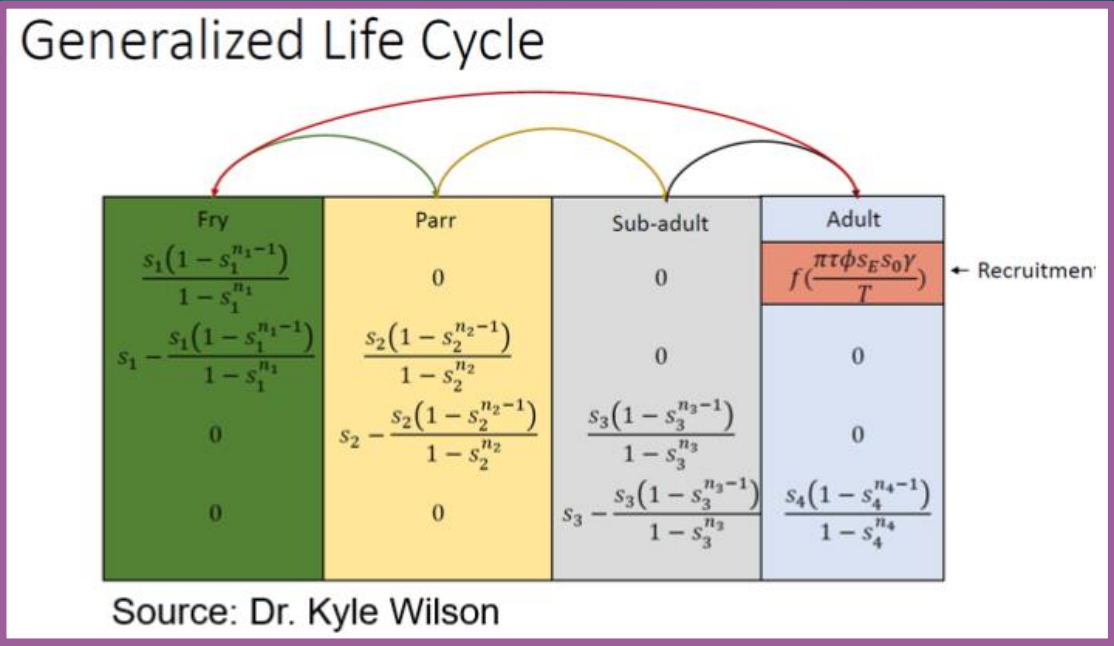


CEMPRA



CEMPRA

Stress-Response Functions




PRA

Life Cycle Module

Progress // Coastal Cutthroat Modelling

 Delineate Conservation Units + Assessment Units

 Establish Stressor List

 (in progress) Develop/Find Stress-Response Functions

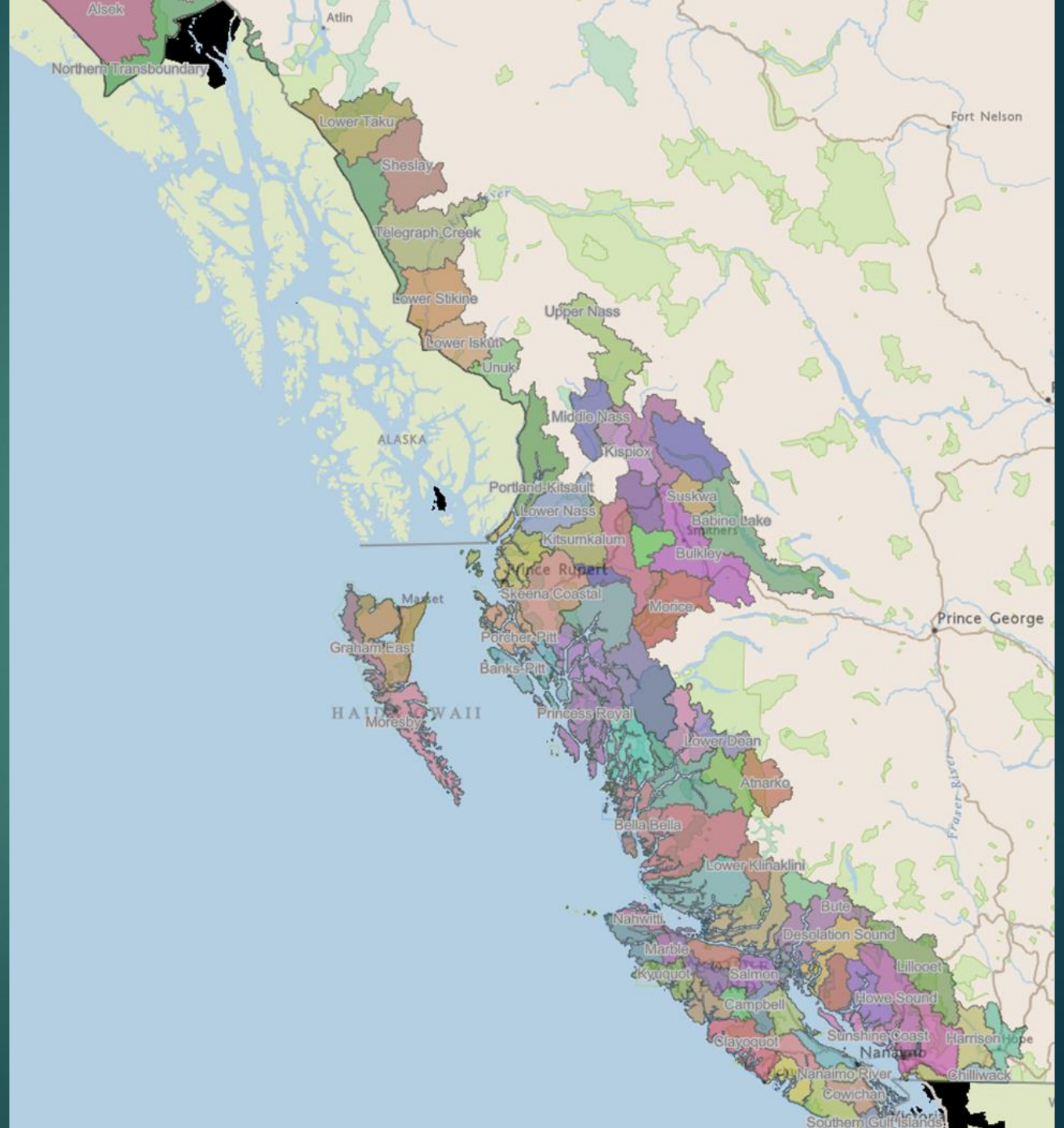
 Collect Stressor-Magnitude Data

 Run CEMPRA: Status Quo Scenario

 Run CEMPRA: Alternative Future Scenarios

BC Draft Conservation Units (CUs)

- ▶ N = 76 draft CUs
- ▶ Hypothesized to be demographically & genetically connected

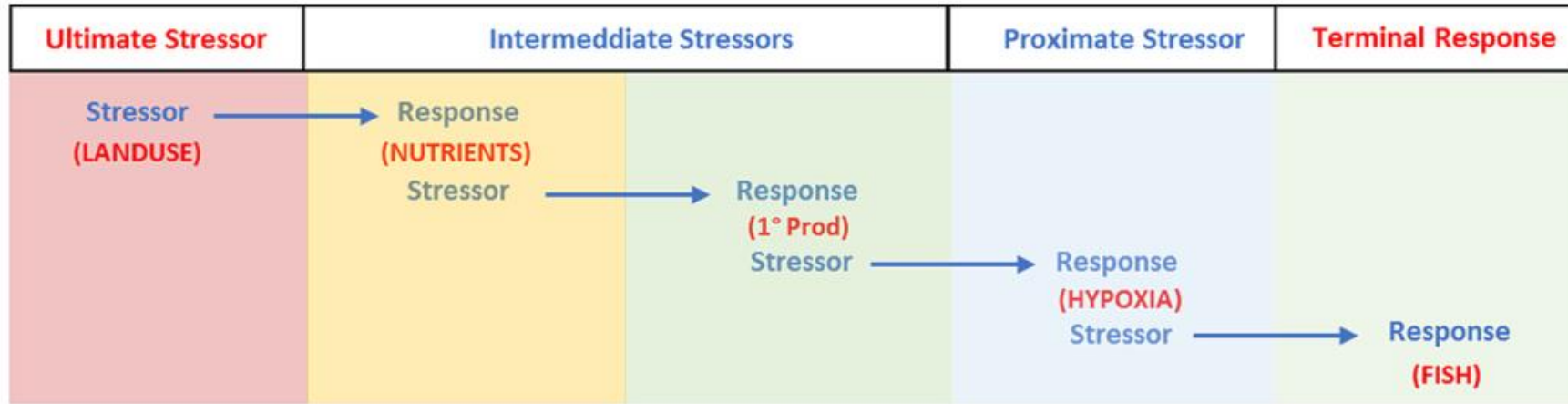


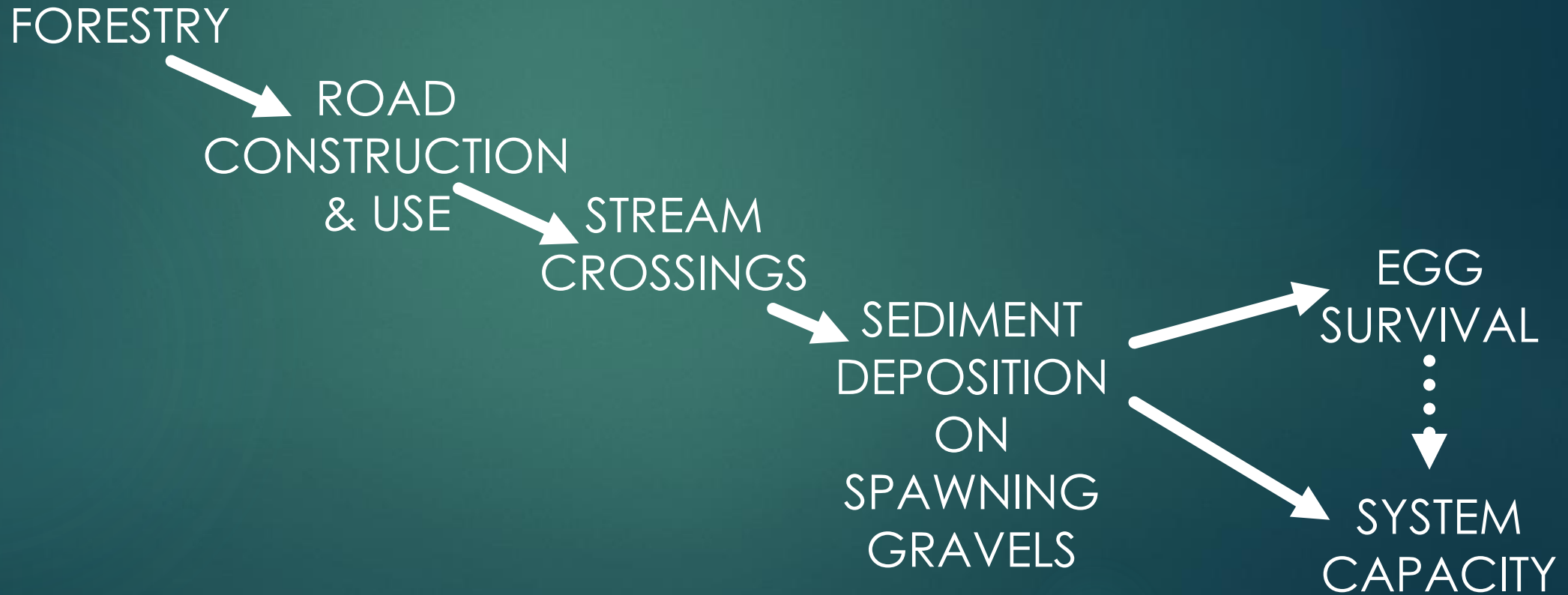
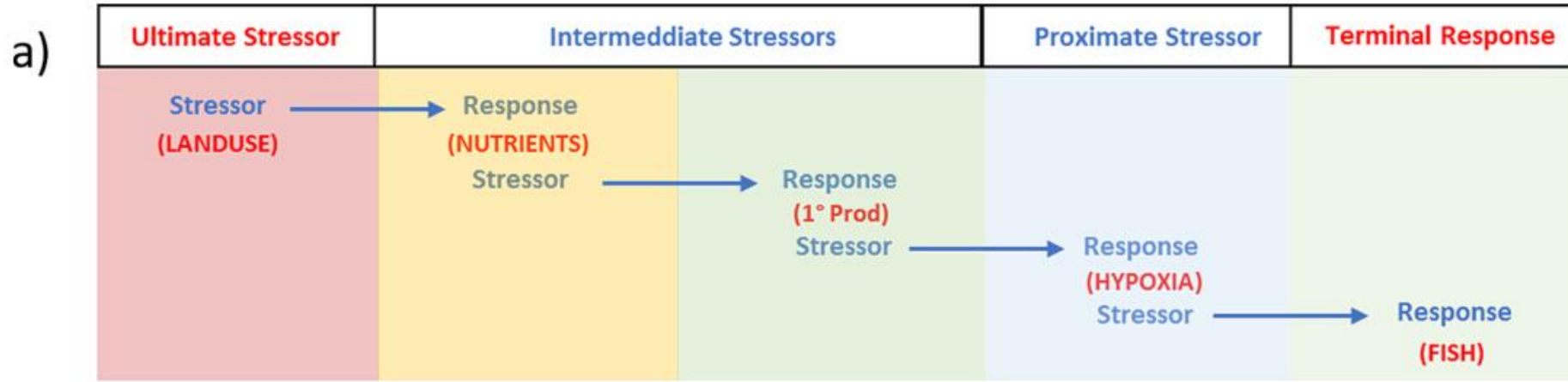
Establishing Stressor List

- ▶ Expert elicitation process conducted last week
- ▶ **Where are the BEST and WORST systems in BC?**
- ▶ **What stressors affect Coastal Cutthroat Trout populations there?**
- ▶ **What stressors are you MOST concerned about?**

- ▶ Direct habitat loss (paved over)
- ▶ **Hybridization** (stocking rainbows, steelhead, coastal cutts)
- ▶ Toxins (pesticides, herbicides, swimming pools, de-icing, petroleum products, solvents, 6ppd-quinone)
- ▶ Temperature
- ▶ **Land use (forestry, urbanization, agriculture)**
- ▶ Culverts
- ▶ Peak flow hazards (scouring)
- ▶ Riparian degradation
- ▶ Pinniped & cormorant predation
- ▶ Sedimentation
- ▶ Nutrient input (phosphates, nitrates)
- ▶ Invasives (bass, etc.)
- ▶ Barrier dams
- ▶ Hypoxia
- ▶ Heat waves
- ▶ Competing management objectives (recreation vs management)
- ▶ Illegal harvest (non-compliance)
- ▶ Lack of spawning gravel (human induced via scour export, lack of input due to dams, bank armouring reduced erosion)
- ▶ Forage fish abundance (stickleback, etc)
- ▶ Dewatering of streams (full loss)
- ▶ Storm water drainage / runoff
- ▶ Channelization / diking
- ▶ Drought
- ▶ **Competition from stocking** of coho, cutts, steelhead, rainbow
- ▶ Recreational fresh/saltwater fishing
- ▶ Estuarine/foreshore development
- ▶ Lack of LWD in small streams (removal, emigration of rotten wood, no recruitment)
- ▶ Productivity driver (salmon subsidies)
- ▶ Climate change
- ▶ **Summer low flows** (water withdrawals, water use)
- ▶ Whirling disease
- ▶ 5-6 hatchery diseases, parasites
- ▶ Impervious surfaces (urban)
- ▶ Loss of wetlands/recharge areas (infilling)
- ▶ Loss of spawning and rearing areas (off-channel habitat loss or disconnection)
- ▶ Waste water releases (nutrients, pH – Cowichan, Stony Ck)
- ▶ Tanning chemical release (mink farms – Nathan Ck)
- ▶ Water temperature
- ▶ Invertebrate pop'n changes (food sources)
- ▶ Entrainment due to water withdrawals (hydro/irrigation)
- ▶ **Fragmentation** (culverts, old water infrastructure, seasonal disconnection of habitats)
- ▶ Acid rock drainage
- ▶ pH
- ▶ Heavy metals (zinc, demossers in Craigflower, Oliver Ck, Colquitz, aluminum in Kitimat)
- ▶ Too many salmon projects getting funded
- ▶ Paint/milk spills into storm drains
- ▶ Forest fire suppressants
- ▶ Barrier removal
- ▶ Nutrient enrichment programs
- ▶ Stewardship groups
- ▶ **Marine survival**
- ▶ Agriculture

a)





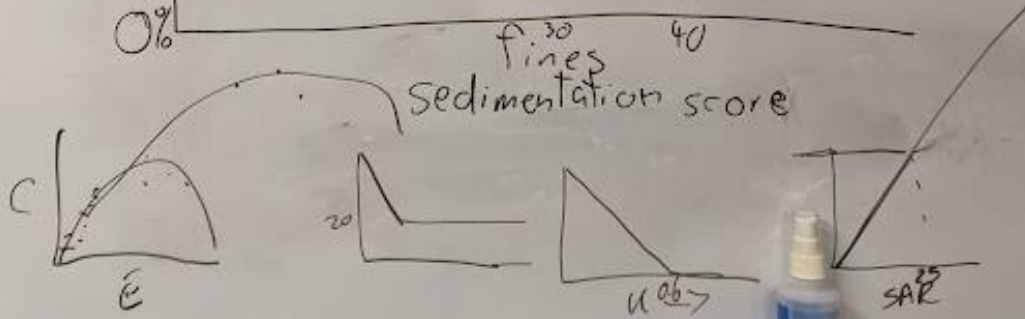
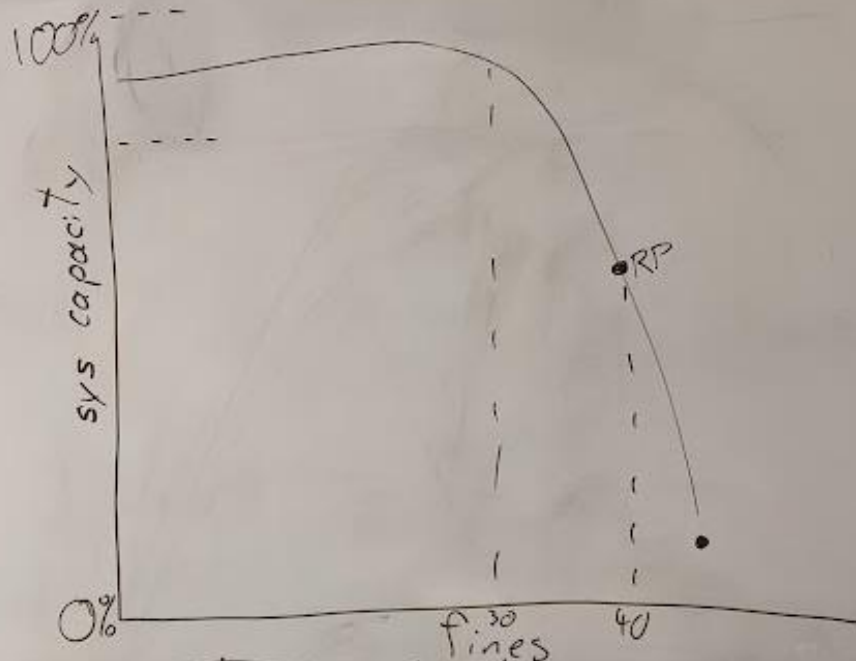
LANDUSE

PATHWAY OF EFFECTS

PROXIMATE STRESSOR

RESPONSE

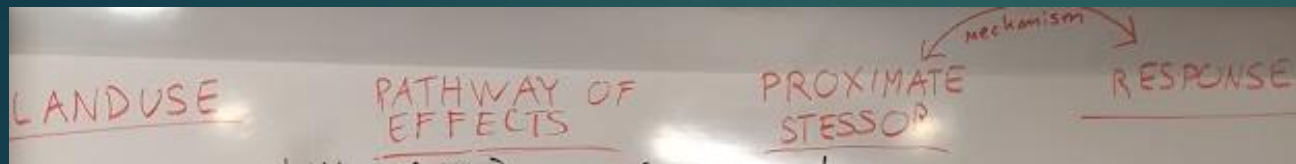
sed → little (<6mm) egg → fry survival
food supply



mechanism

Prepared by:

RONALD A. PTOLEMY, RPBio.
Fisheries Biologist
Fisheries Assessment and Improvement Unit
Fisheries Management Section

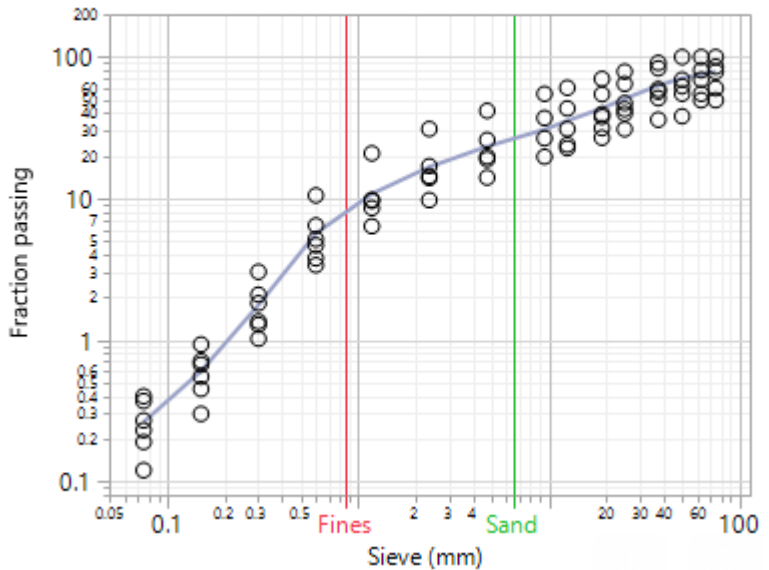


sed →

Year	Site Name	Number of Cores	Sample Depth (cm)	Fraction <0.85 mm	Fraction <6.4 mm	Fraction <9.5 mm	Narrative
1987	Lear	6	30	1	5	9	Good
1985	Lear	6	30	5	21	30	Bad
1980	Lear	6	30	10	30	40	Ugly

Recommended limit of sediment composition is <25% of fines ≤6.4 mm

Bivariate Fit of Fraction passing By Sieve (mm) Narrative=Bad




Protocol for
Evaluating the Condition
of Streams and Riparian
Management Areas
(Riparian Management
Routine Effectiveness Evaluation)

Progress // Coastal Cutthroat Modelling

 Delineate Conservation Units + Assessment Units

 Establish Stressor List

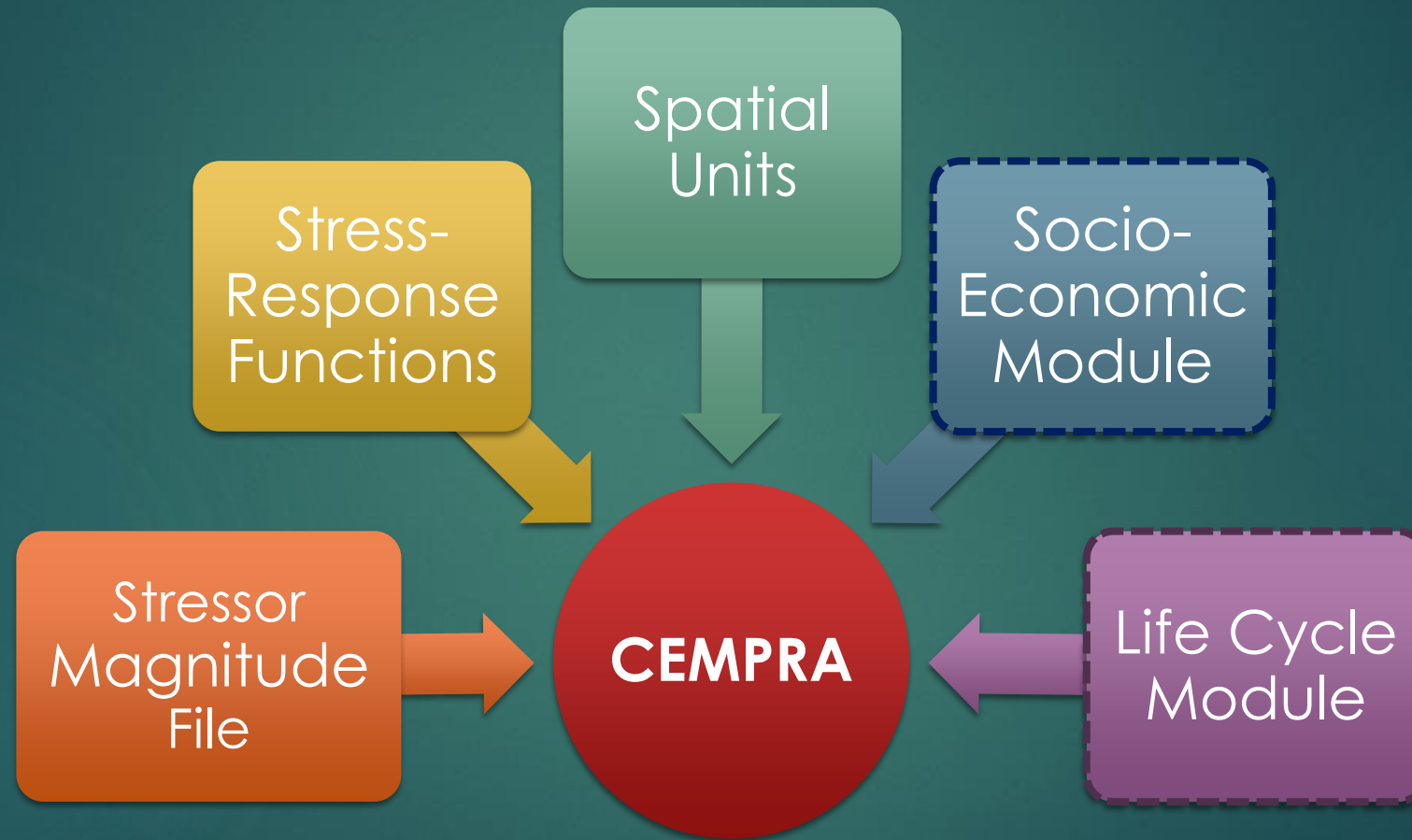
 (in progress) Develop/Find Stress-Response Functions

 Collect Stressor-Magnitude Data

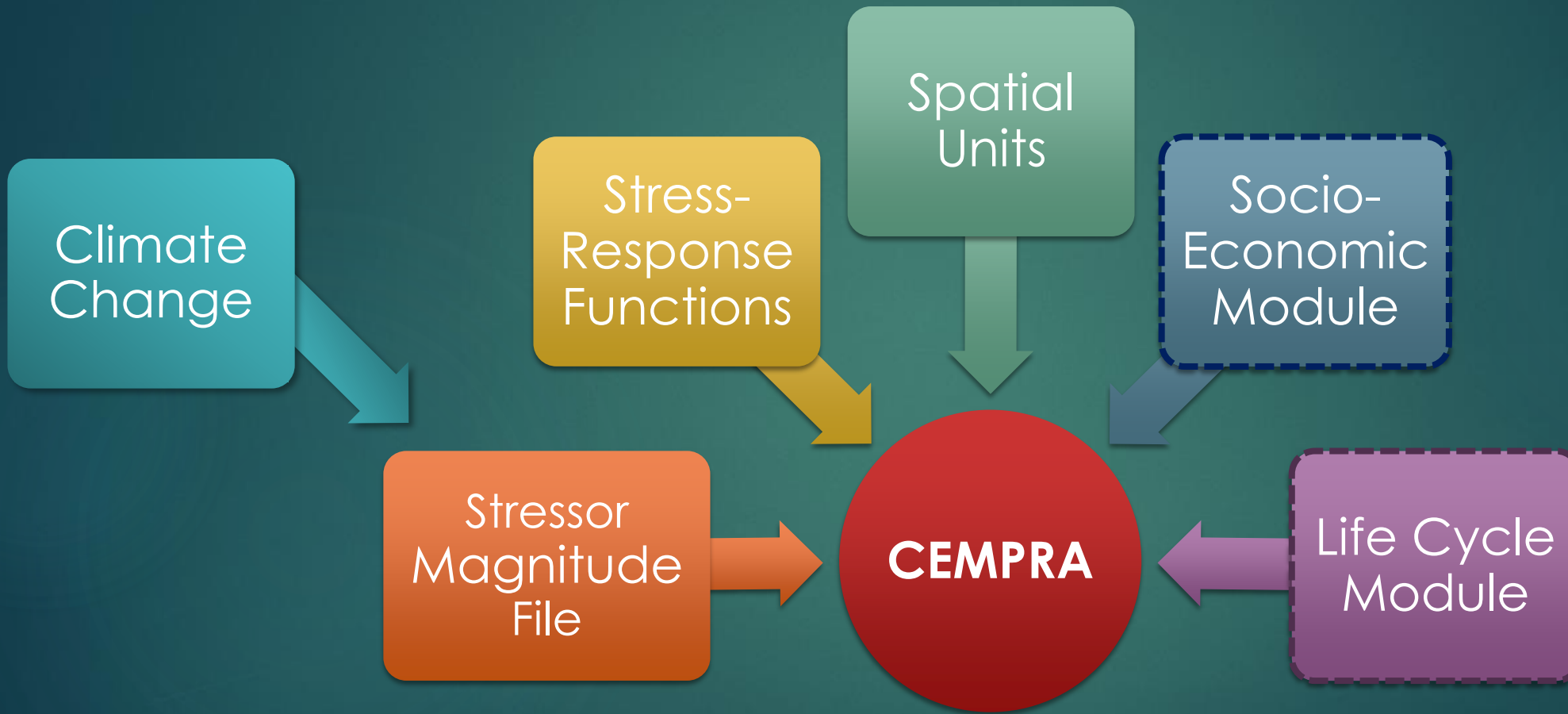
 Run CEMPRA: Status Quo Scenario

 Run CEMPRA: Alternative Future Scenarios

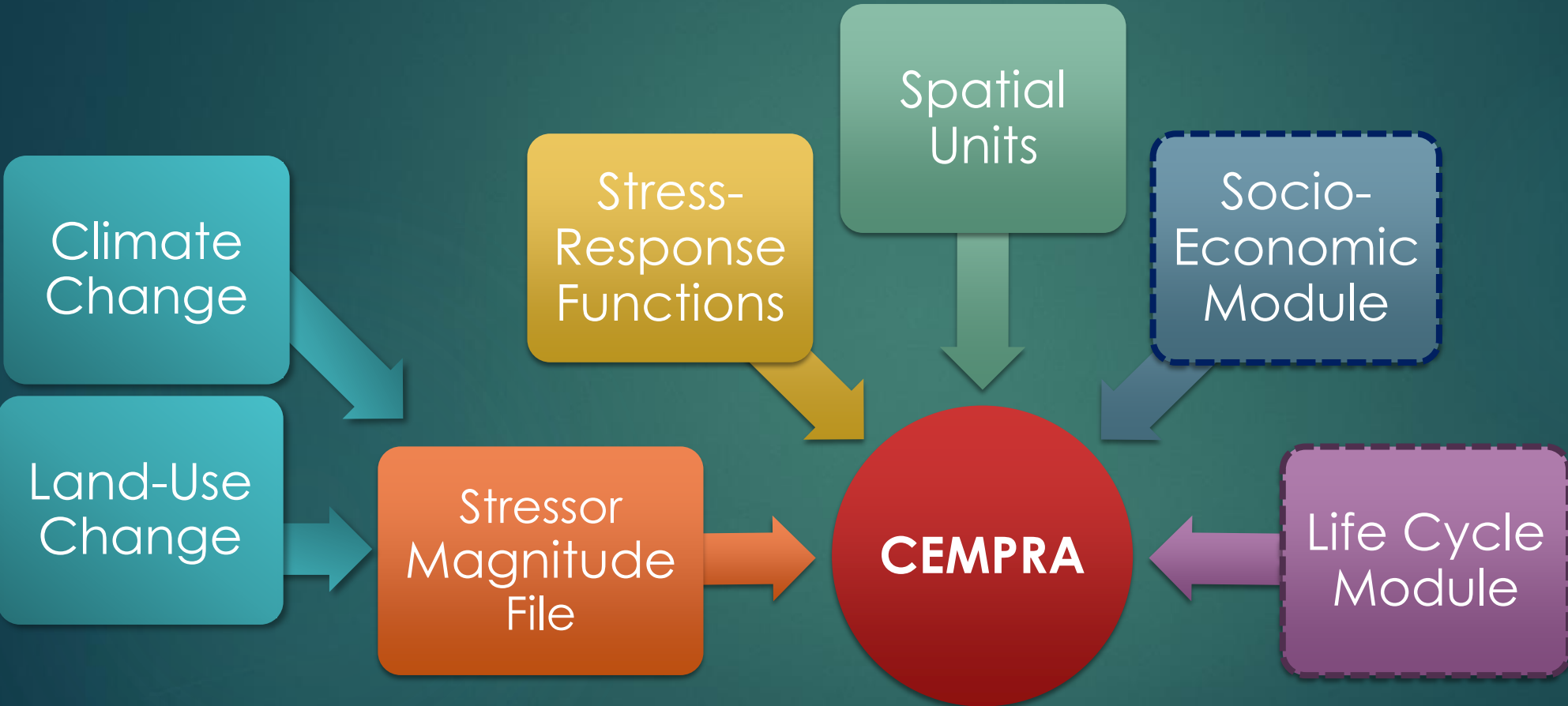
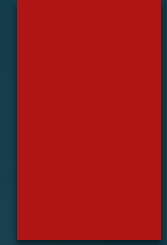
CEMPRA



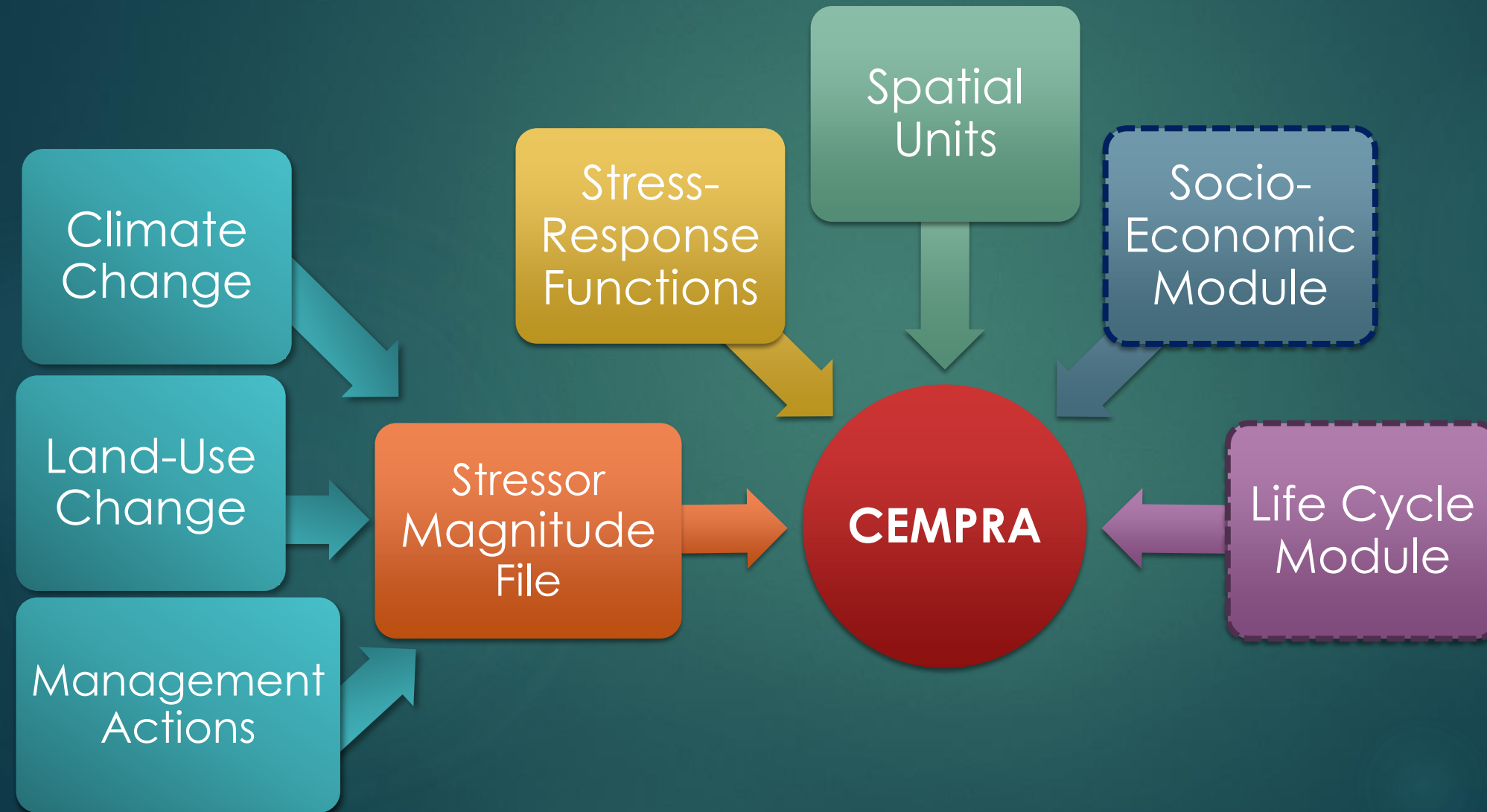
CEMPRA



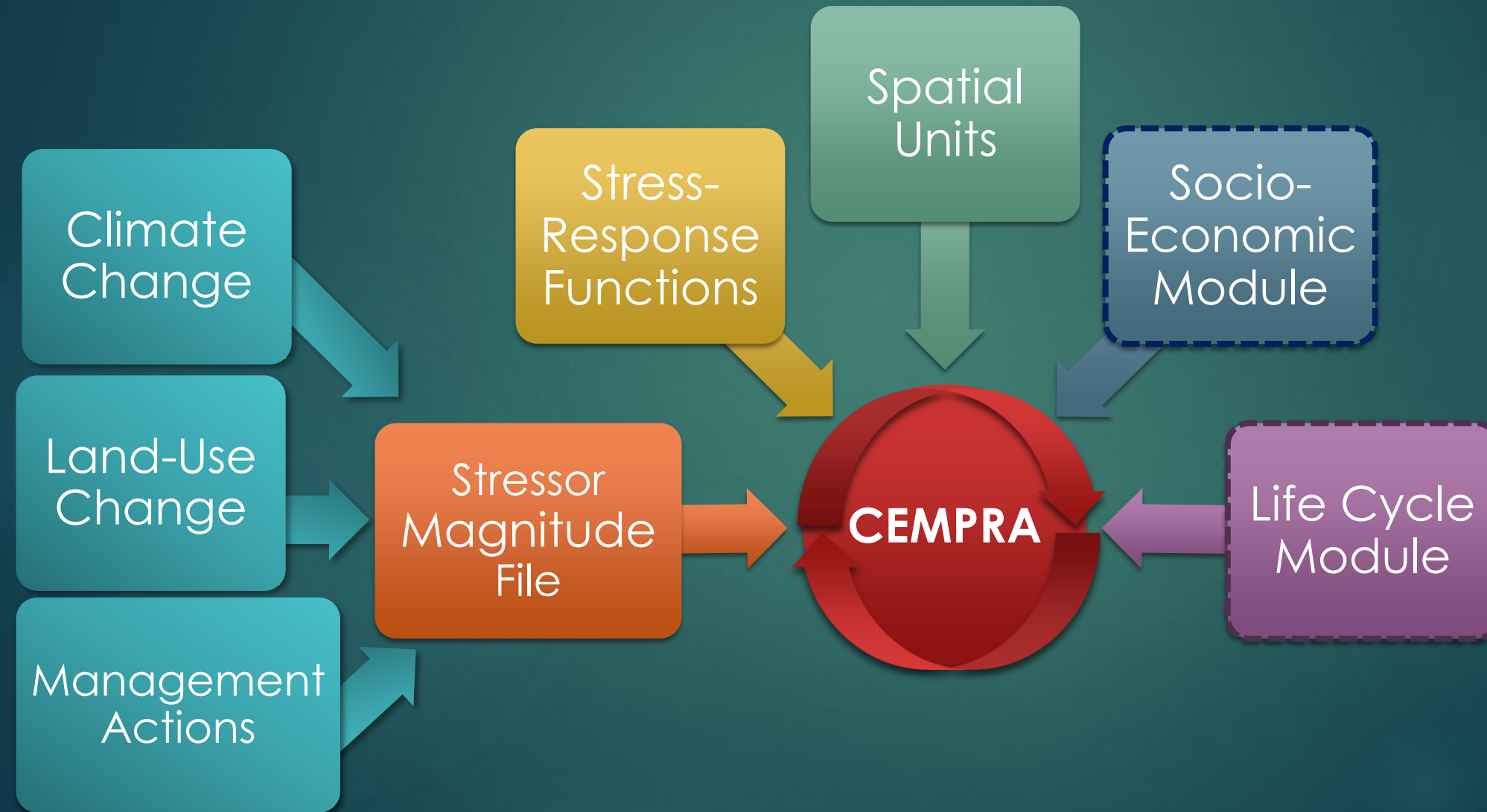
CEMPRA



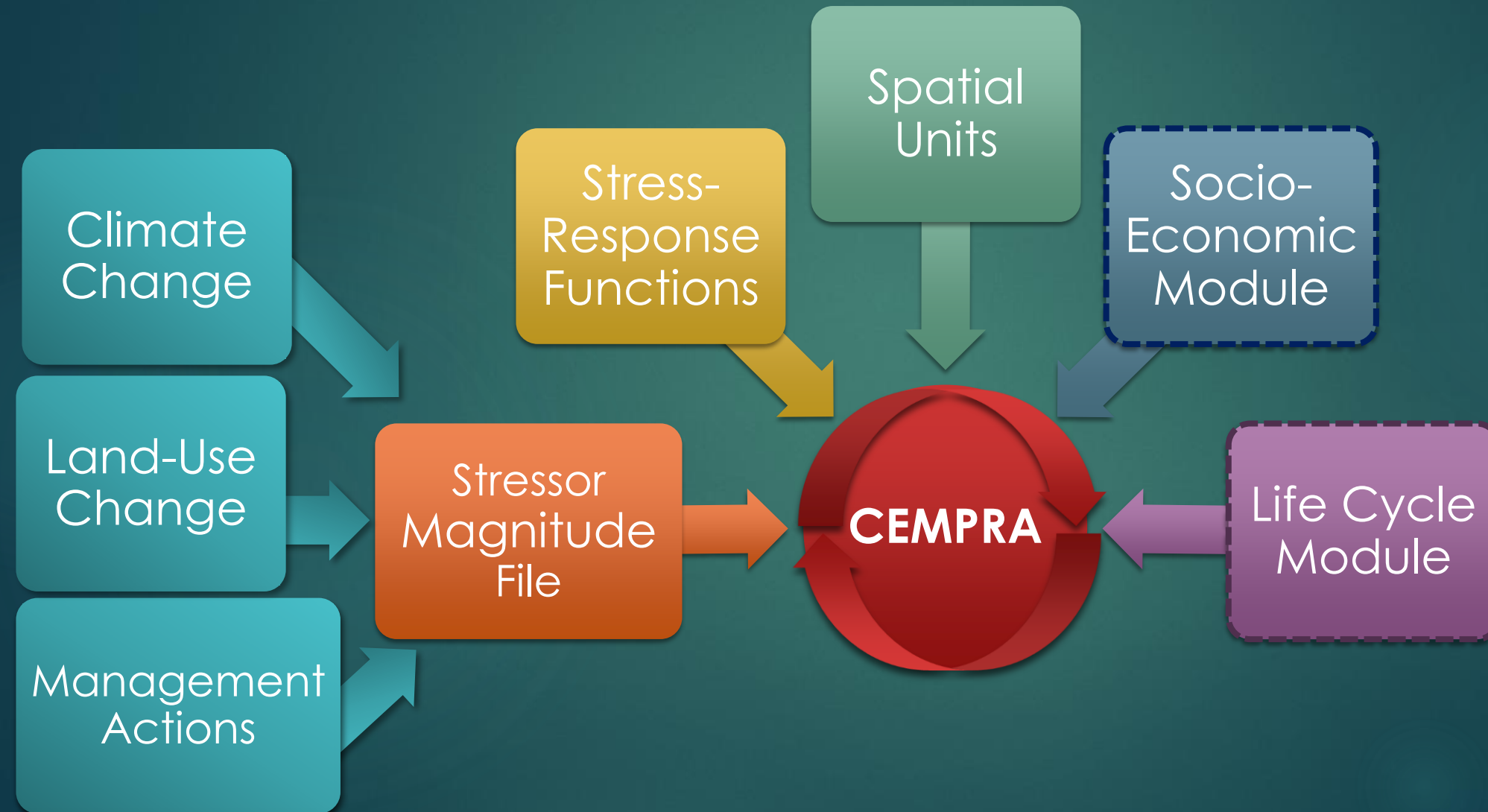
CEMPRA



CEMPRA



CEMPRA = Hypothesis Generator



Coastal Cutthroat Trout in BC

- ▶ Nearly 20 years since the last assessment
- ▶ No changes to legal protections and still data deficient
- ▶ CEMPRA framework allows for use to make hypotheses about threats on the landscape → where to prioritize efforts?
- ▶ Moving from risk descriptions to addressing risks on the landscape

Thank you!

John Hagen, *John Hagen and Associates, Prince George BC*

Brendan Anderson, *Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, BC Provincial Government*

Sue Pollard, *Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC, Victoria BC*

Ron Ptolemy, *Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, BC Provincial Government*

Jordan Rosenfeld, *UBC Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries*

Matthew Bayly, *MJBA, ESSA Technologies Ltd.*

Alexandra Tekatch, *ESSA Technologies Ltd.*

Eva Enders, *INRS*

Lauren Jarvis, *Department of Fisheries and Oceans*

Andrew Paul, *Alberta Environment and Protected Areas*

Kyle Wilson, *Central Coast Indigenous Resource Alliance*

Pedro Gonzalez, *University of British Columbia*

Laura MacPherson, *Alberta Environment and Protected Areas*

Jessica Reilly, *Alberta Environment and Protected Areas*

Michael Sullivan, *Alberta Environment and Protected Areas*