

An aerial photograph of a coastal town and harbor. The harbor is filled with numerous sailboats, and the town is nestled along the shoreline with many houses and buildings. The surrounding area is lush with green trees and vegetation. The text "Climate Conversations: How the natural world is changing around us." is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Climate Conversations: How the natural world is changing around us.

Jameson F. Chace
Salve Regina University

In North America, 2.9 billion breeding adult birds have been lost since 1970, including birds in every ecosystem

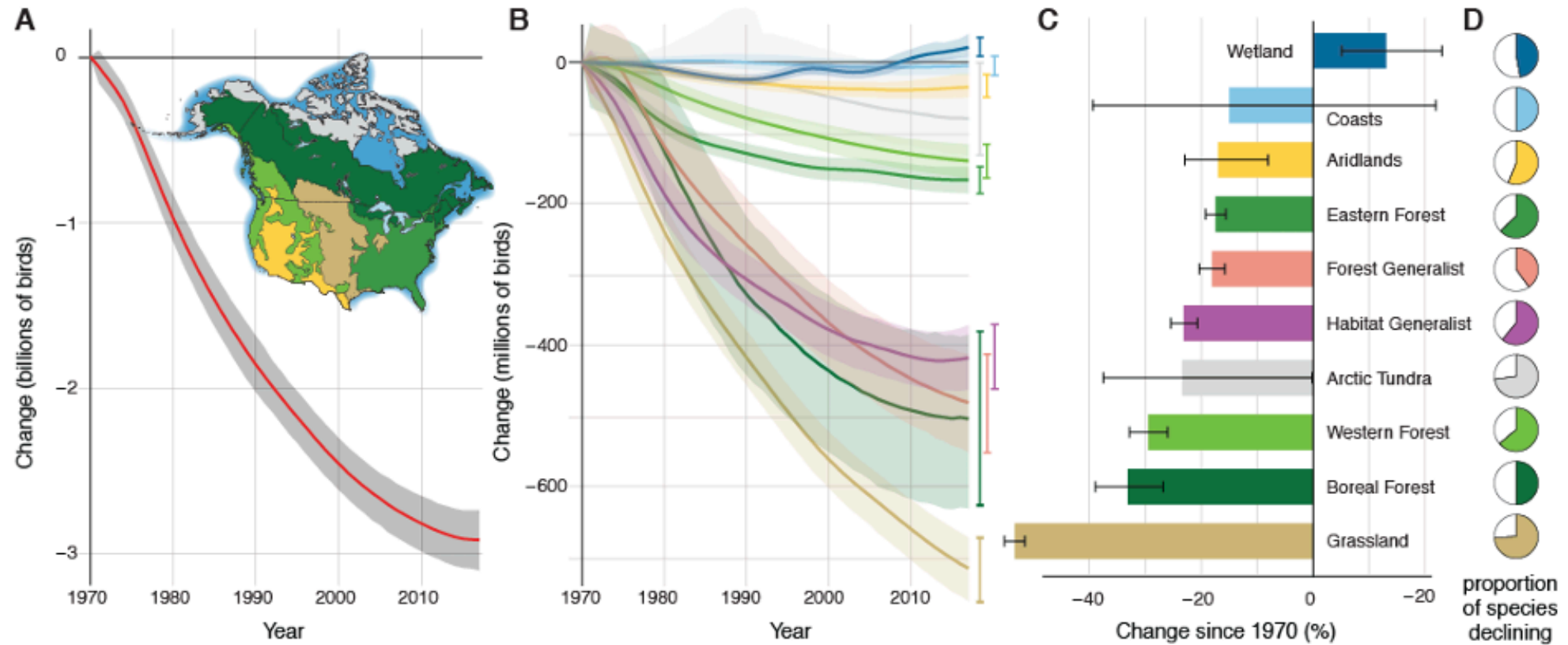
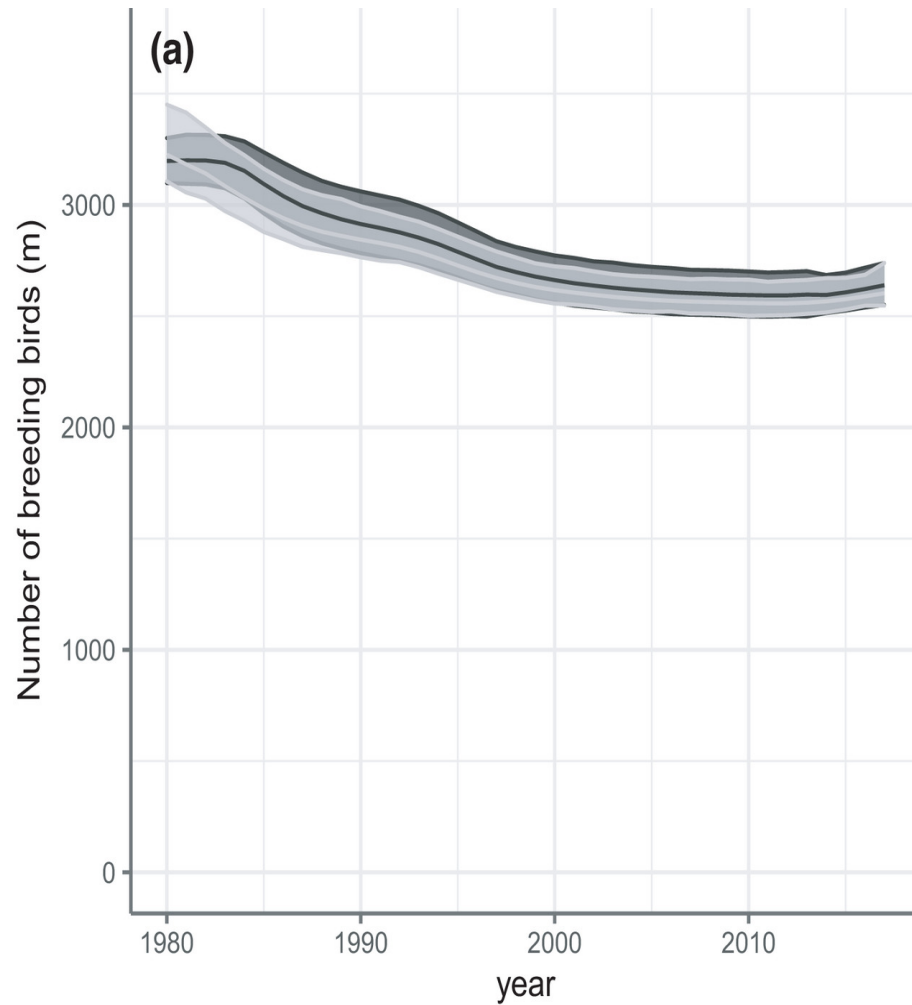


Fig. 1. Net population change in North American birds. (A) By integrating population size estimates and trajectories for 529 species (18), we show a net loss of 2.9 billion breeding birds across the continental avifauna since 1970. Gray shading represents $\pm 95\%$ credible intervals

Estimate a decline of 17–19% in the overall European breeding bird abundance since 1980: a loss of 560–620 million individual birds.



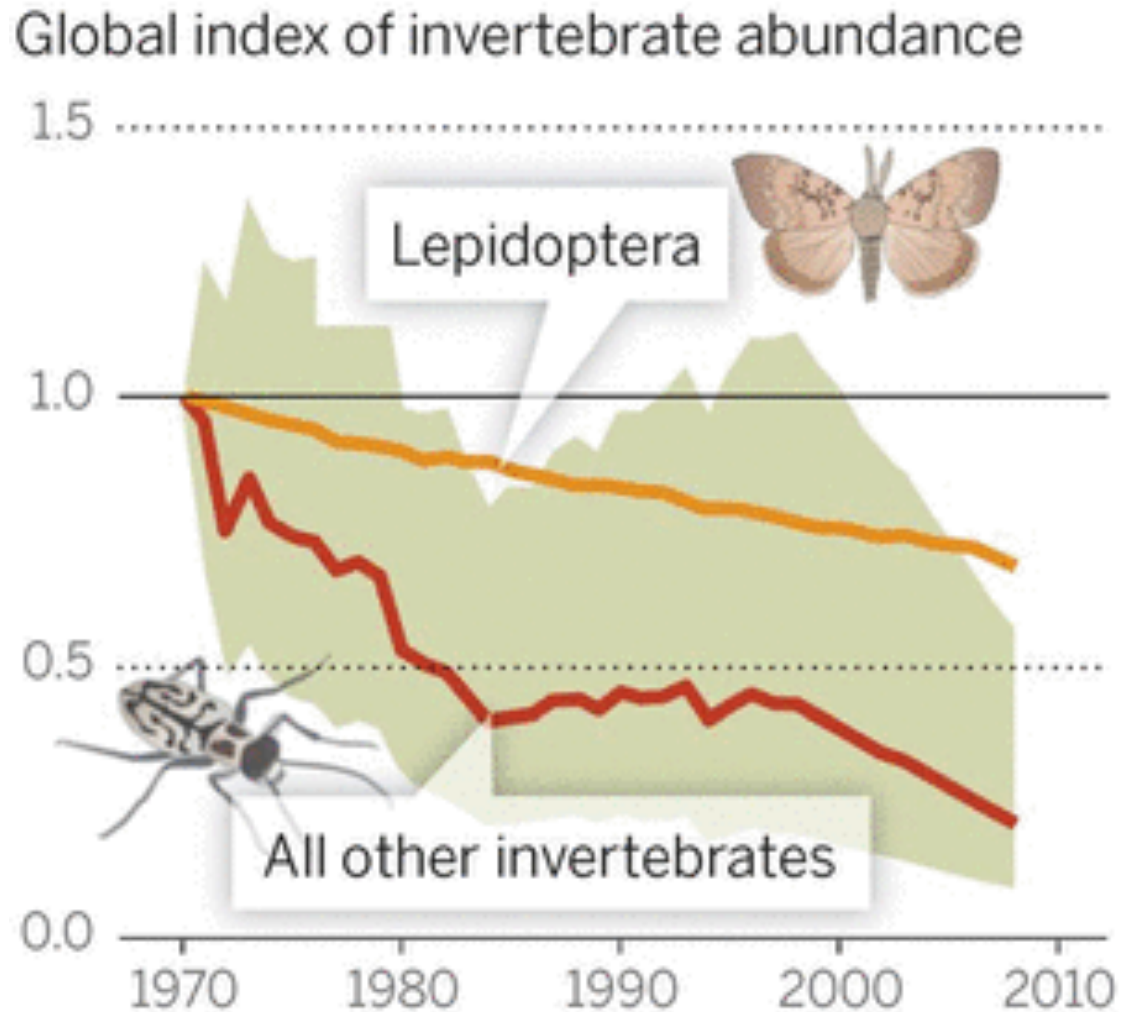
Grey Partridge, 82% decline



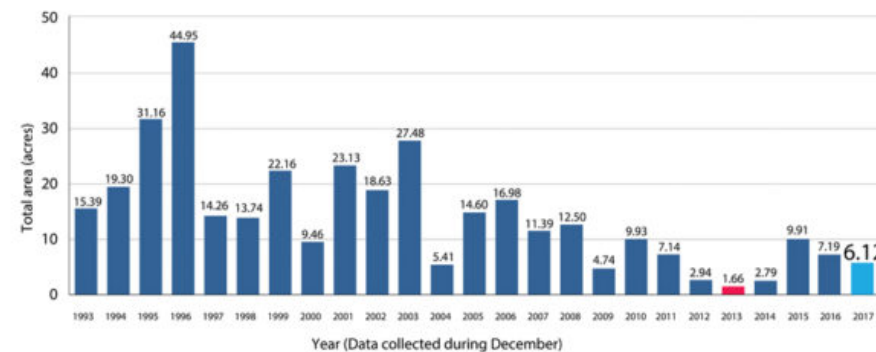
Meadow Pipit, 63% decline

Burns et al. 2021. Abundance decline in the avifauna of the European Union reveals cross-continental similarities in biodiversity change. *Ecology and Evolution* 11:16647-16660

According to global monitoring data for 452 species, there has been a 45% decline in invertebrate populations over the past 40 years.



Area of forest occupied by monarch butterflies hibernating in Mexico



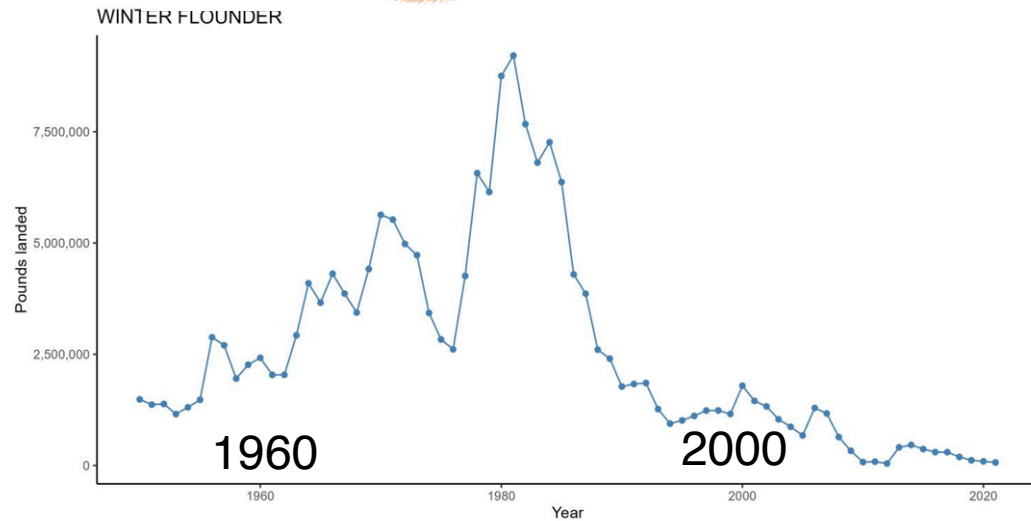
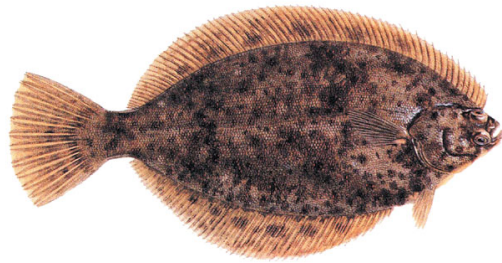


FIGURE 17. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS OF WINTER FLOUNDER FROM 1950 TO 2021

Juvenile flounder avoid hypoxic conditions (<4 mg DO/L) and warm water temperatures (>25 °C).

Taylor et al. 2016. Estuaries and Coasts 39: 1505–1525

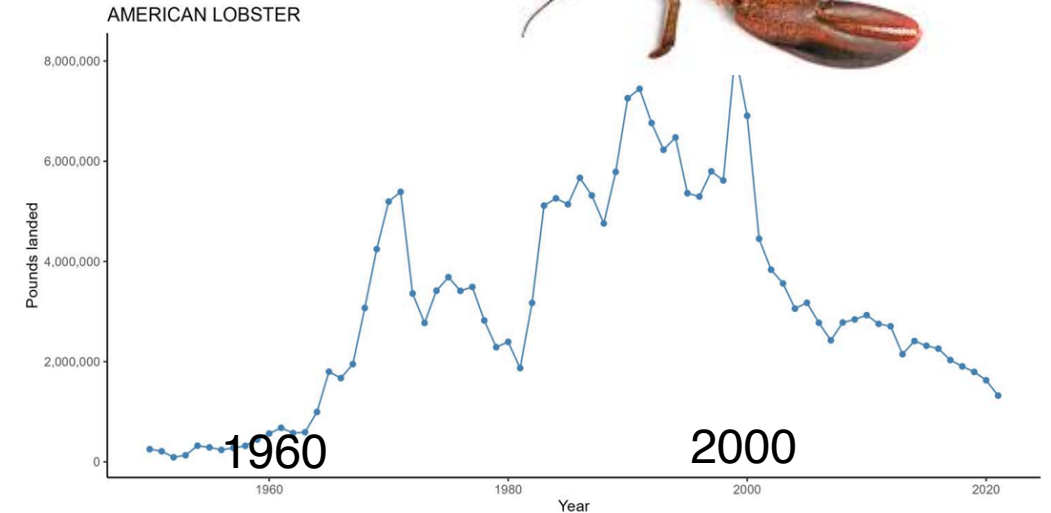
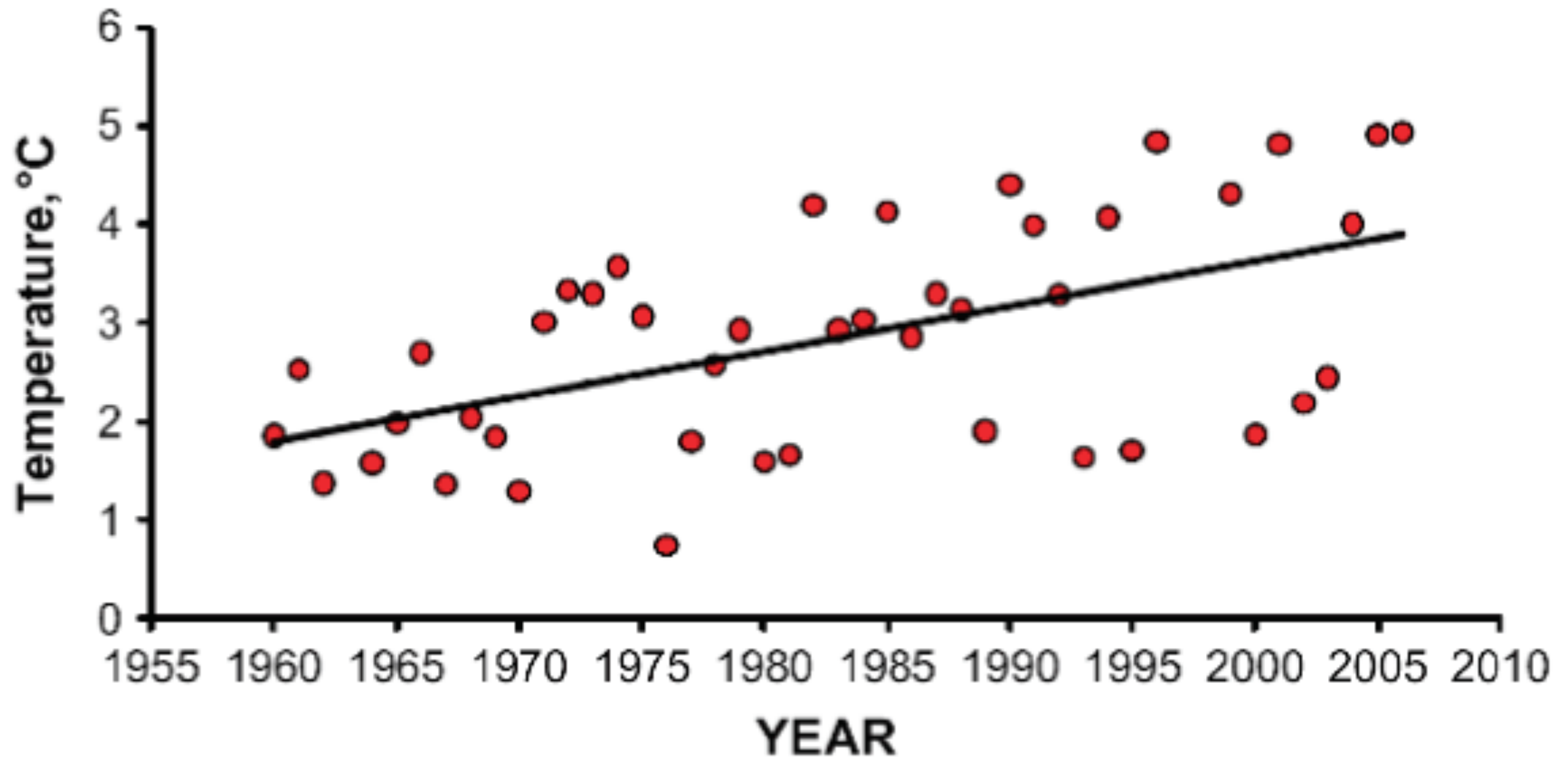


FIGURE 20. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS OF AMERICAN LOBSTER FROM 1950 TO 2021

Larvae are stressed or die at temperatures ≥ 24 – 36 °C, which will be more frequent in the future.

Moulting, growth, hatching, and settlement of larvae may be reduced or stop above 20 – 24 °C.

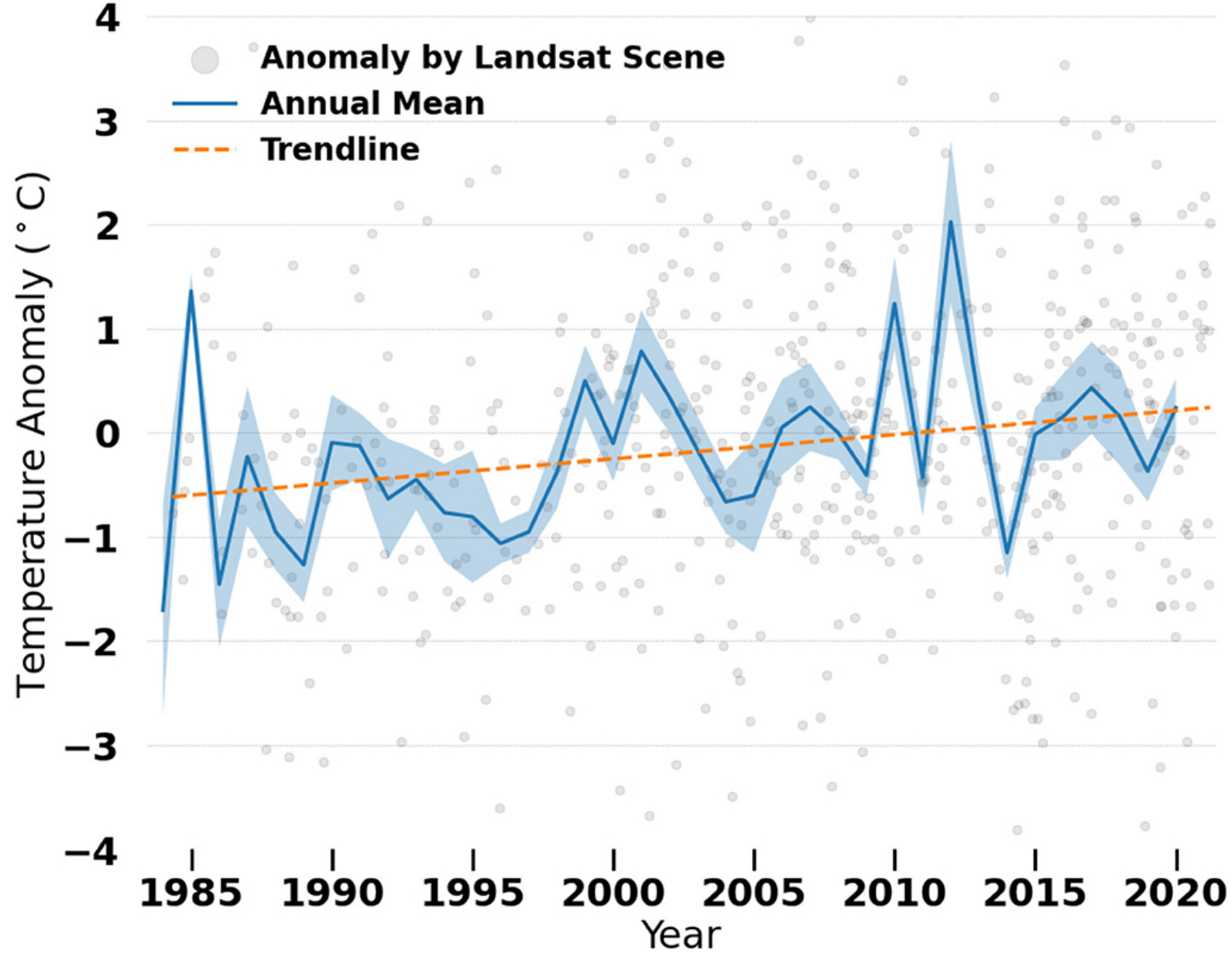
Quinn. 2017. Fisheries Research, 186: 383-396.



Mean surface winter water temperatures in the mid West Passage of Narragansett Bay, R.I.

0°C = 32°F and 6°C = 43°F ([make more conversions](#))

(During December, January, and February near Fox Island). (Source: Nixon et al. 2009)



Benoit and Fox-Kemper (2021) Front. Mar. Sci. Time series of seasonally-detrended surface temperature anomaly over Narragansett Bay with the annual mean and a linear trendline taken before averaging.

The Lobster's Shifting Range

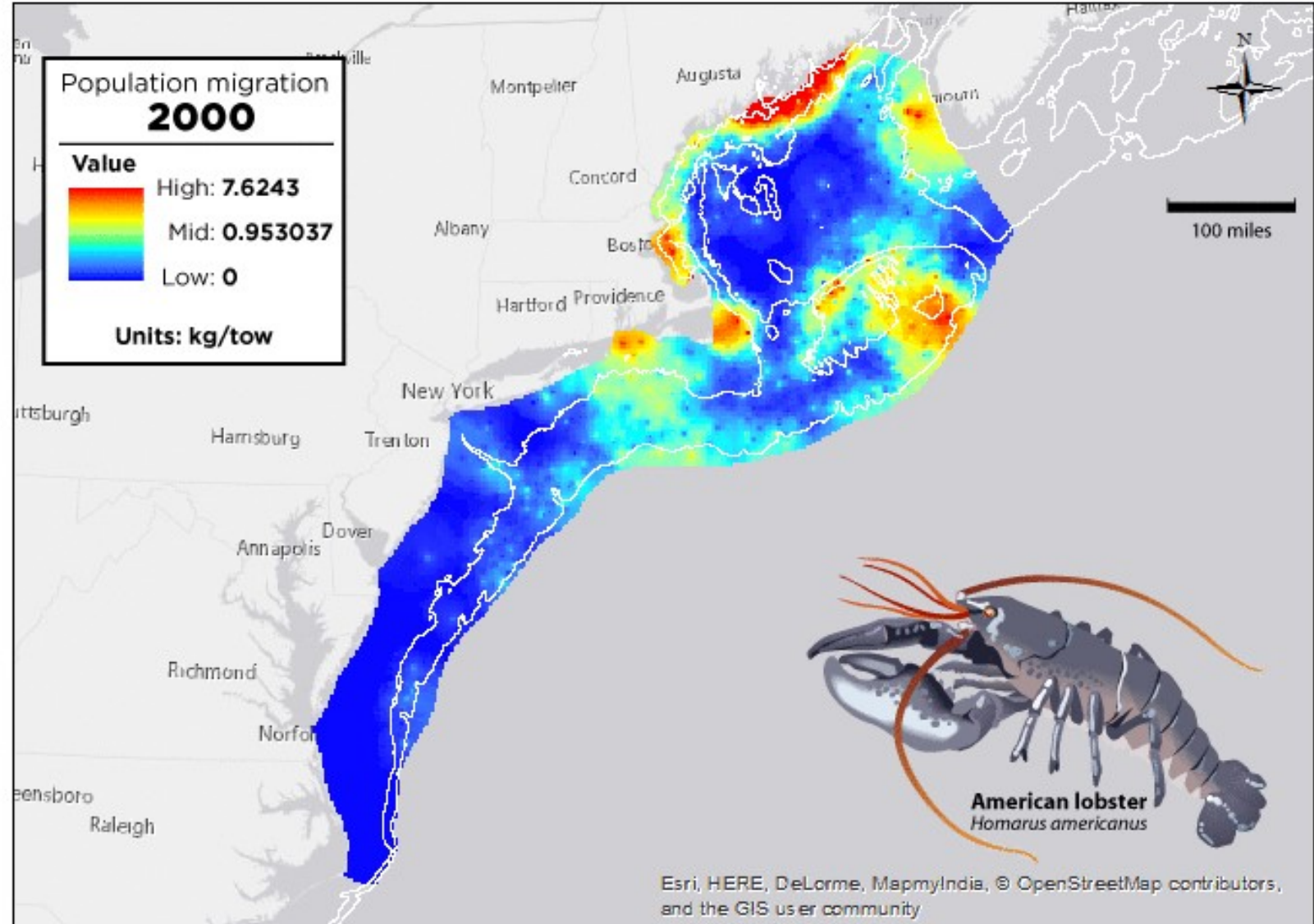
Since the late 1960s, the American lobster's range has already shifted substantially.

Options:
Acclimation

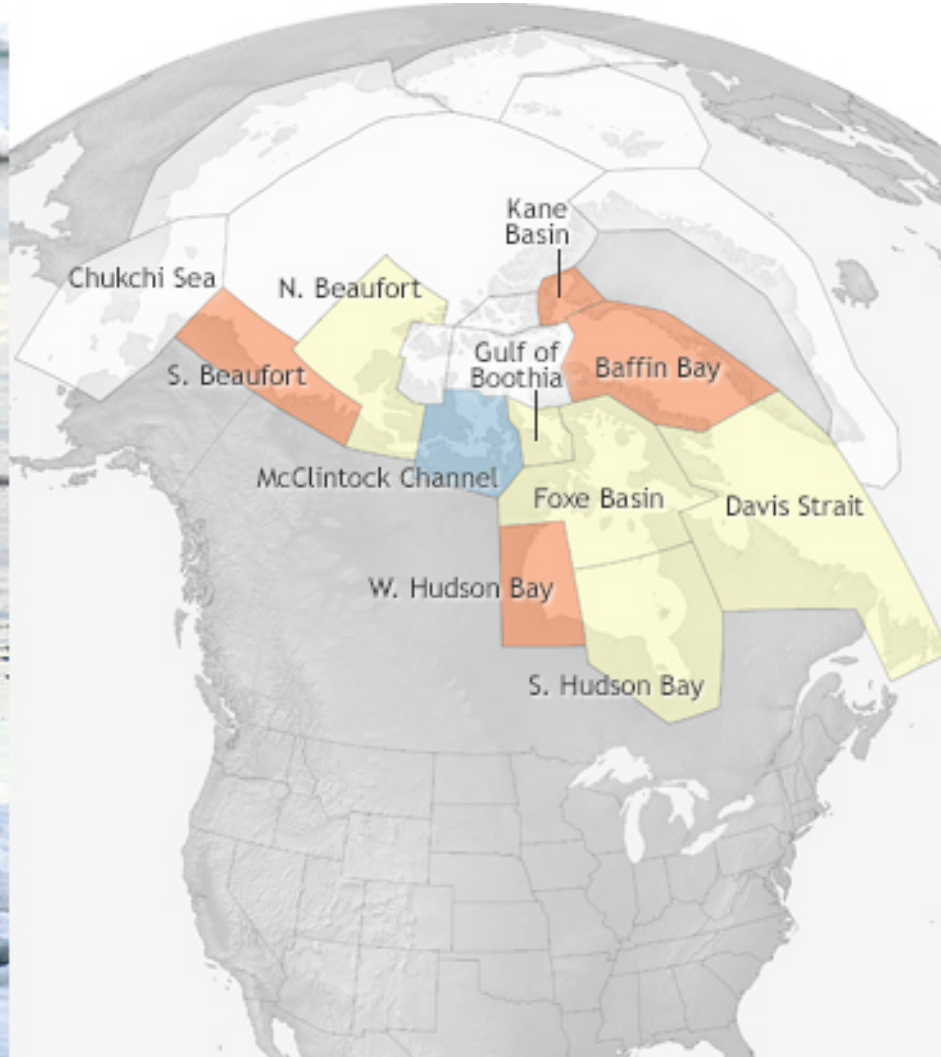
Adaptation

Migrate

Locally
Extinct



Climate Change – Dead Ends: no where to go



Polar bear population trends as of 2013



Longer foraging bouts leads to population declines

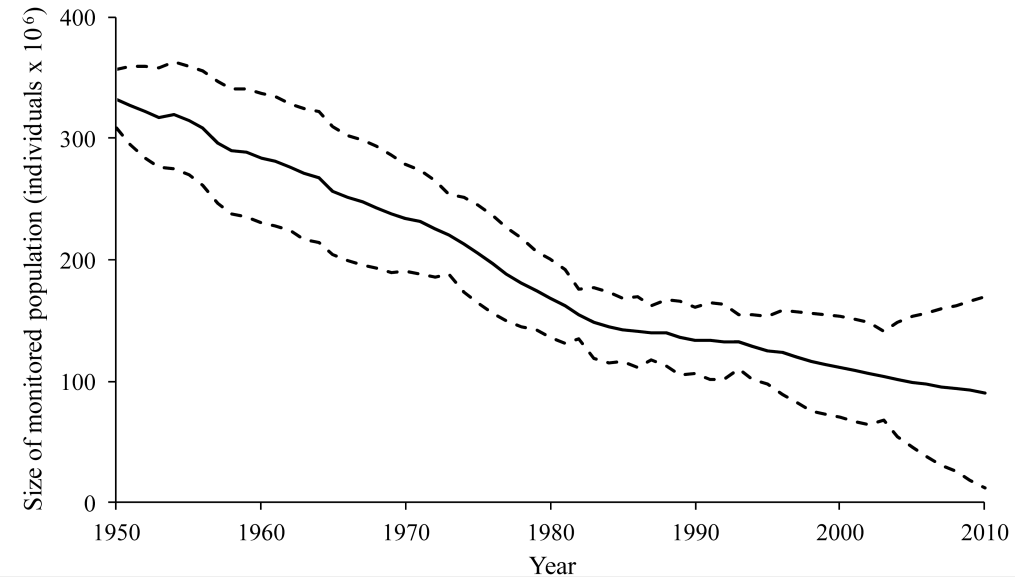
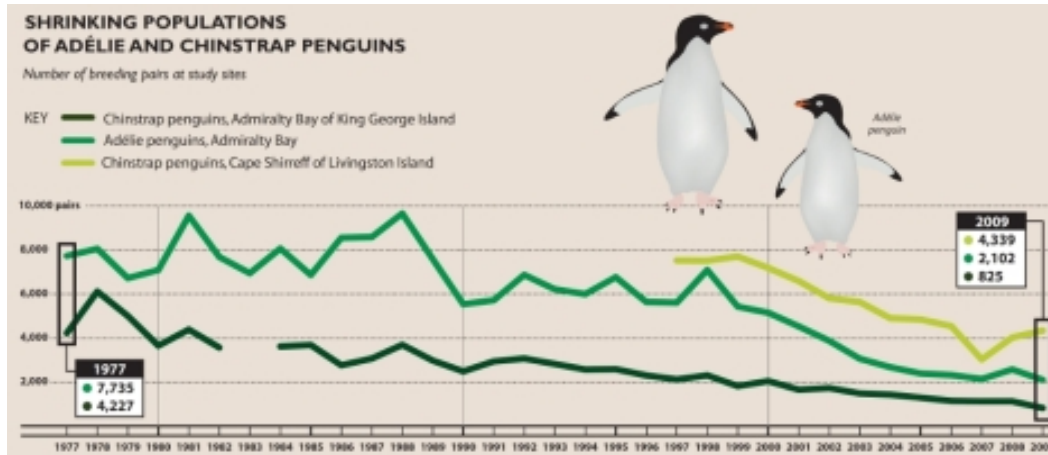
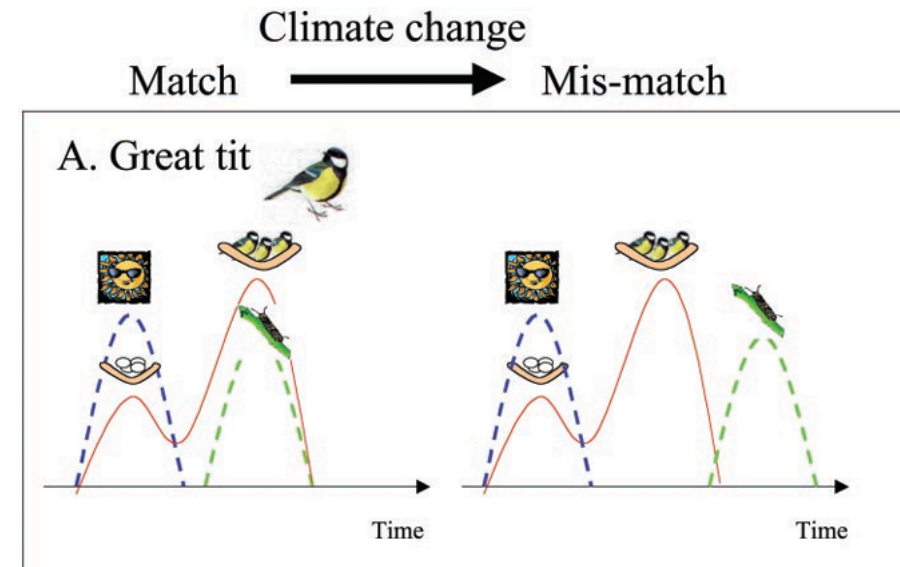


Fig 2. Population trend, 1950–2010, of the world's monitored seabirds, estimated by multivariate autoregressive state-space (MARSS) modeling.

Paleczny et al. 2015. Population Trend of the World's Monitored Seabirds, 1950-2010. PLoS ONE 10(6): e0129342.



Phenological Mismatch



Stenseth and Mysterud. 2002. Climate, changing phenology, and other life history traits: Nonlinearity and match–mismatch to the environment. PNAS 99(21): 13379–13381

Climate Change – When there is no vertical migration available

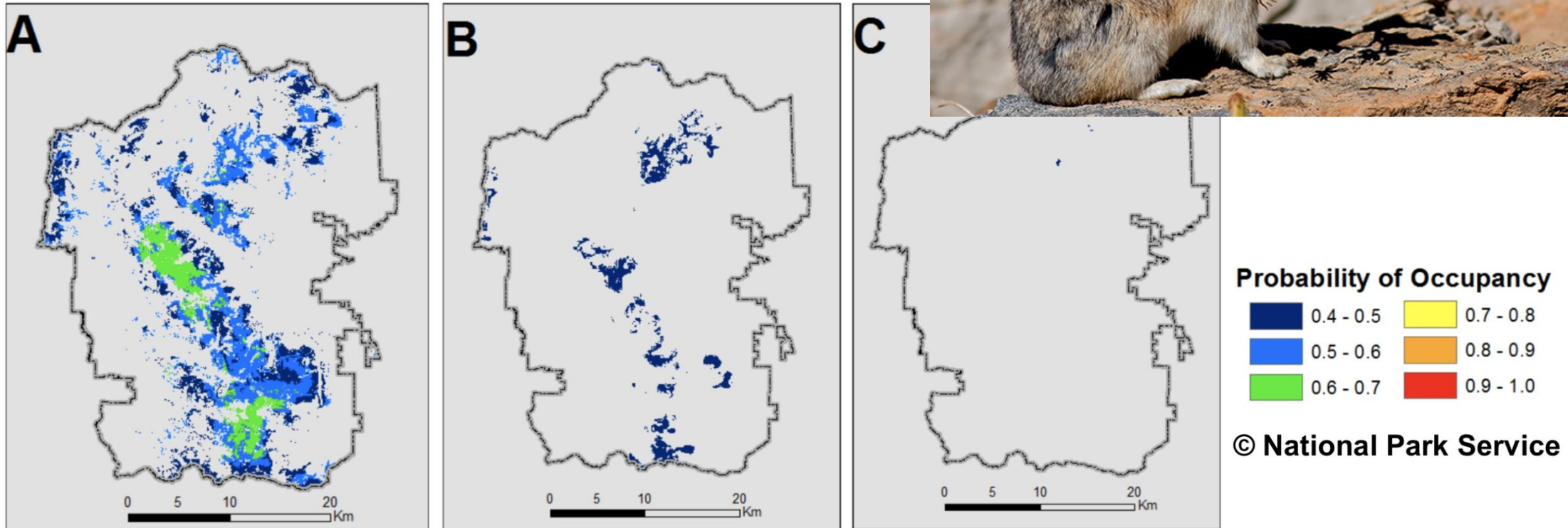


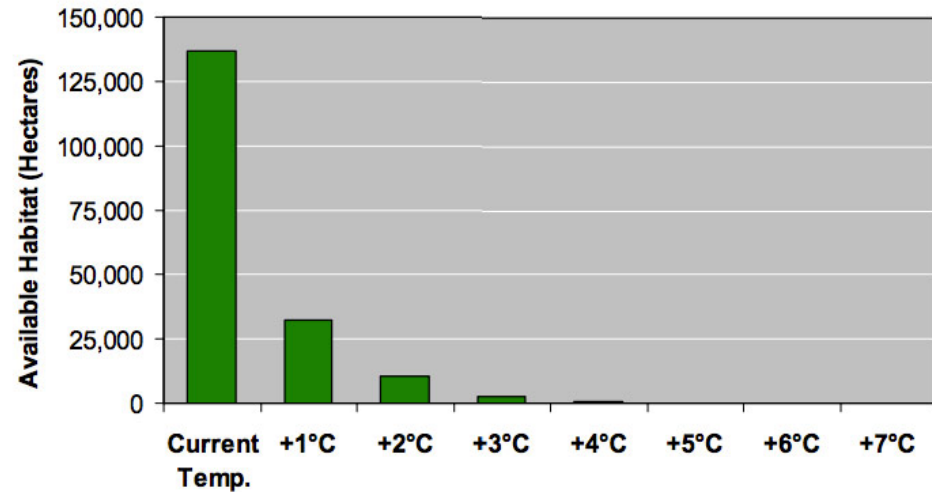
Figure 2. Current occupancy (A) and two future (2071-2099) occupancy scenarios (B, C) in Rocky Mountain National Park. Future scenarios are based on two different models of potential human-driven carbon emissions. The pika population shows precipitous declines in both distribution and occupancy probability. By 2099, pika are predicted to be restricted to less than 20% of their current distribution (B) or nearly extirpated (C).

Climate Change – Northeast – no vertical migration available for Bicknell's Thrush



POTENTIAL LOSS OF BICKNELL'S THRUSH HABITAT

Rising global temperatures and predicted habitat loss across the Northeast

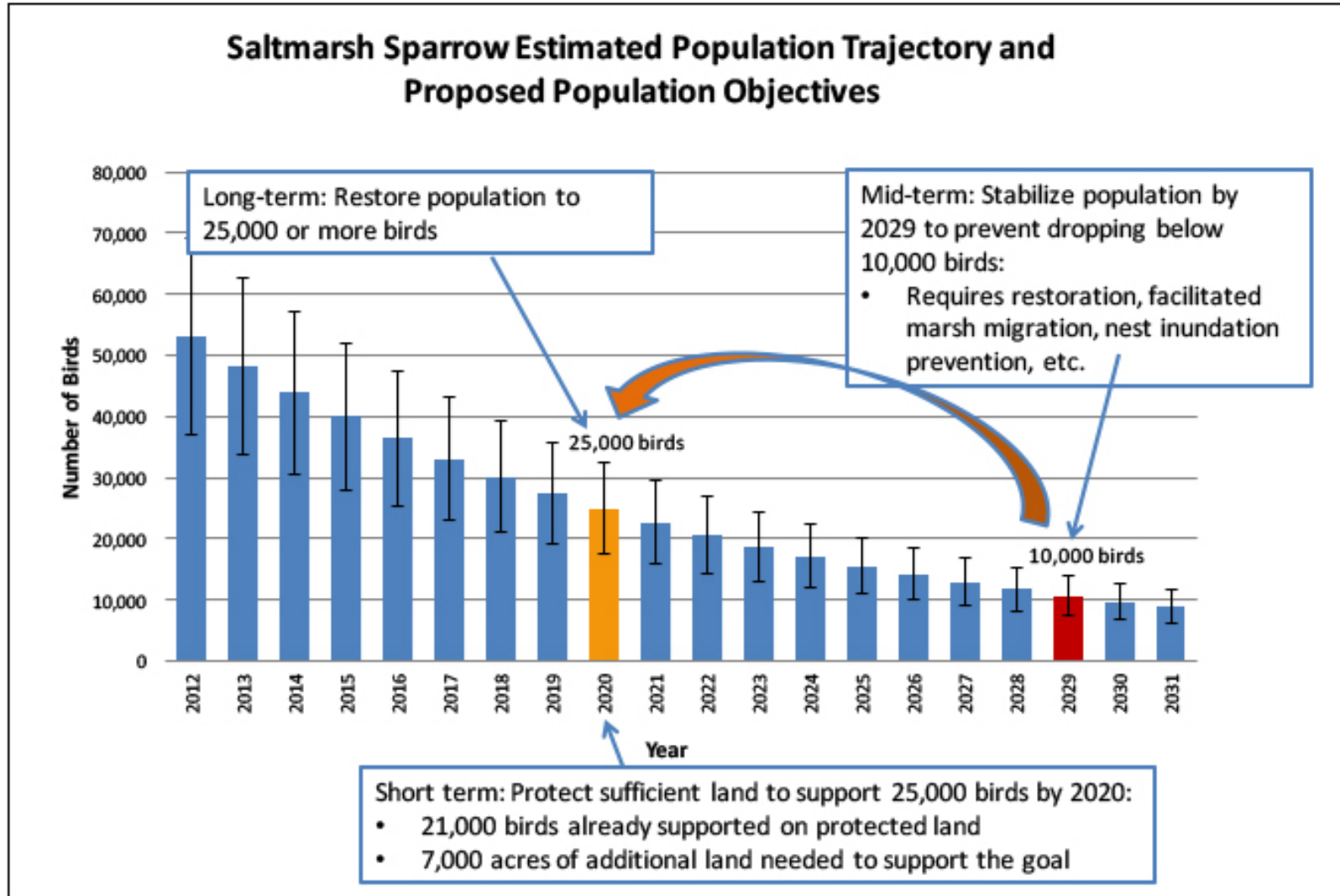


Source: Rodenhouse, N.L., S.N. Matthews, K.P. McFarland, J.D. Lambert, L.R. Iverson, A. Prasad, T.S. Sillett, and R.T. Holmes. 2008. Potential effects of climate change on birds of the Northeast. *Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global Change*.

Saltmarsh Sparrow

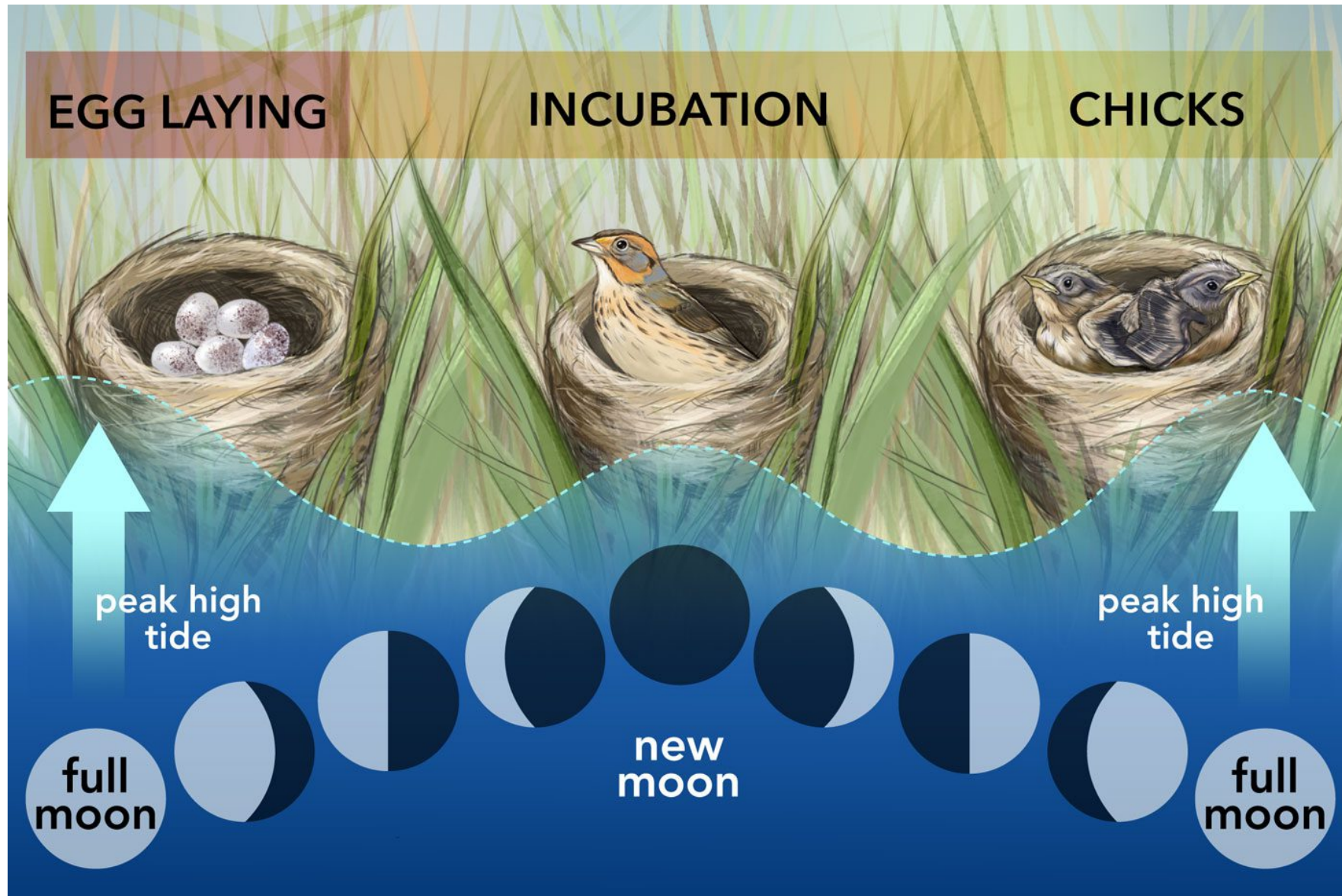


Saltmarsh Sparrow

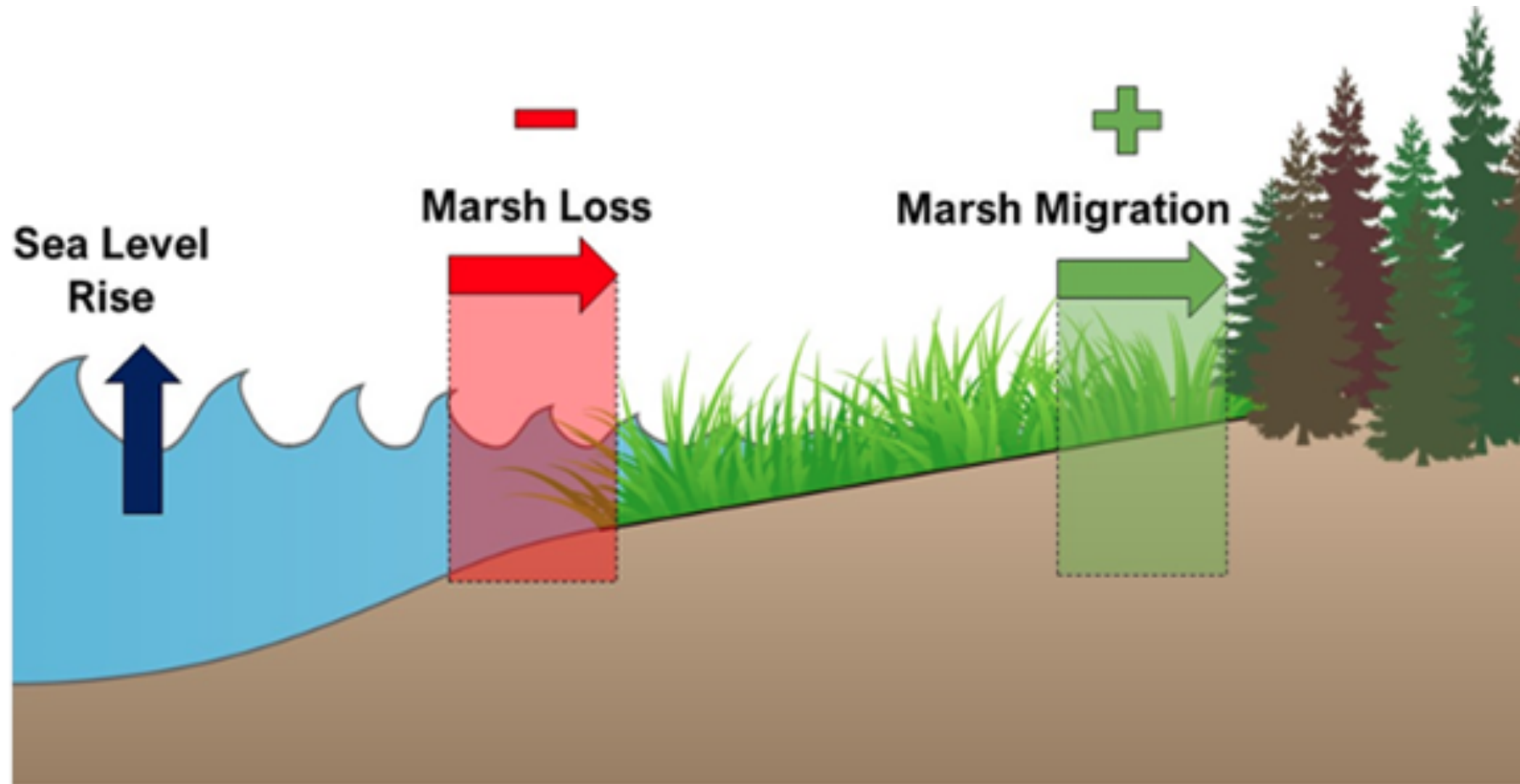




Great Bay
National
Estuarine
Research
Reserve

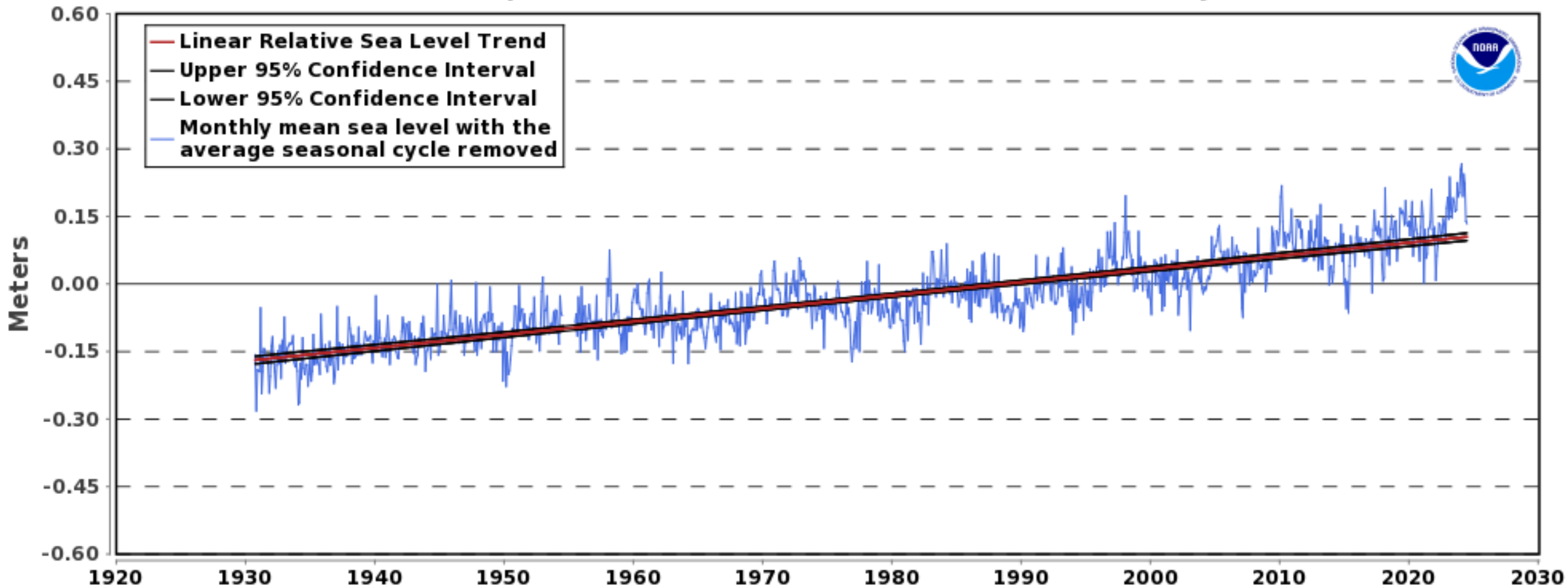


Vertical Migration of Marshes



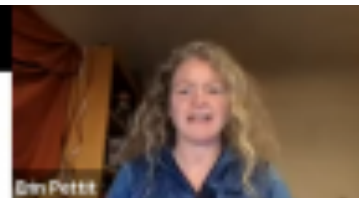
8452660 Newport, Rhode Island

2.92 +/- 0.15 mm/yr



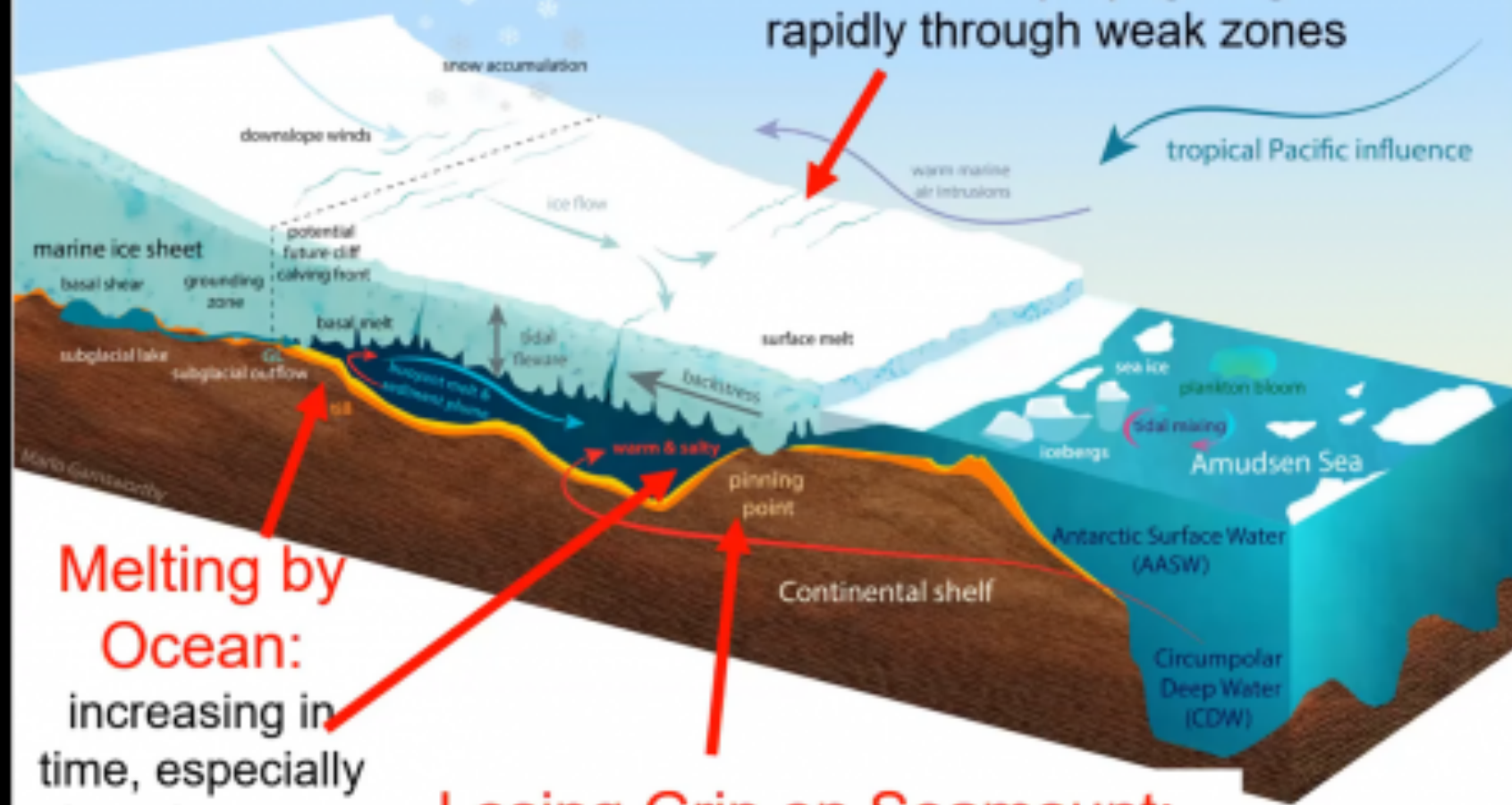
TARSAN Team
Led by Pettit and Heywood

Shattering of Ice:
Fractures propagating rapidly through weak zones



INTERNATIONAL
**THWAITES
GLACIER**
COLLABORATION

**Three
Drivers for
Collapse of
the
Thwaites
Eastern Ice
Shelf
by 2030**



**Melting by
Ocean:**
increasing in
time, especially
where ice meets
rock.

Losing Grip on Seamount:
initiated in ~2004, will be gone by 2030



Other Marsh
Species trapped
between a rising
sea level and
urban development



Beyond conversations

- Support Climate Mitigation Efforts
- Protect Habitat, especially where we support marsh migration.
 - Support your land trusts
- Keep common birds (and other species) common
 - Windows
 - Cats Indoors
 - Habitat – native plants
 - Avoid Pesticides

