

# **Qualitative models in support of understanding environment-aquaculture relationships**

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<sup>1</sup>Washington Sea Grant

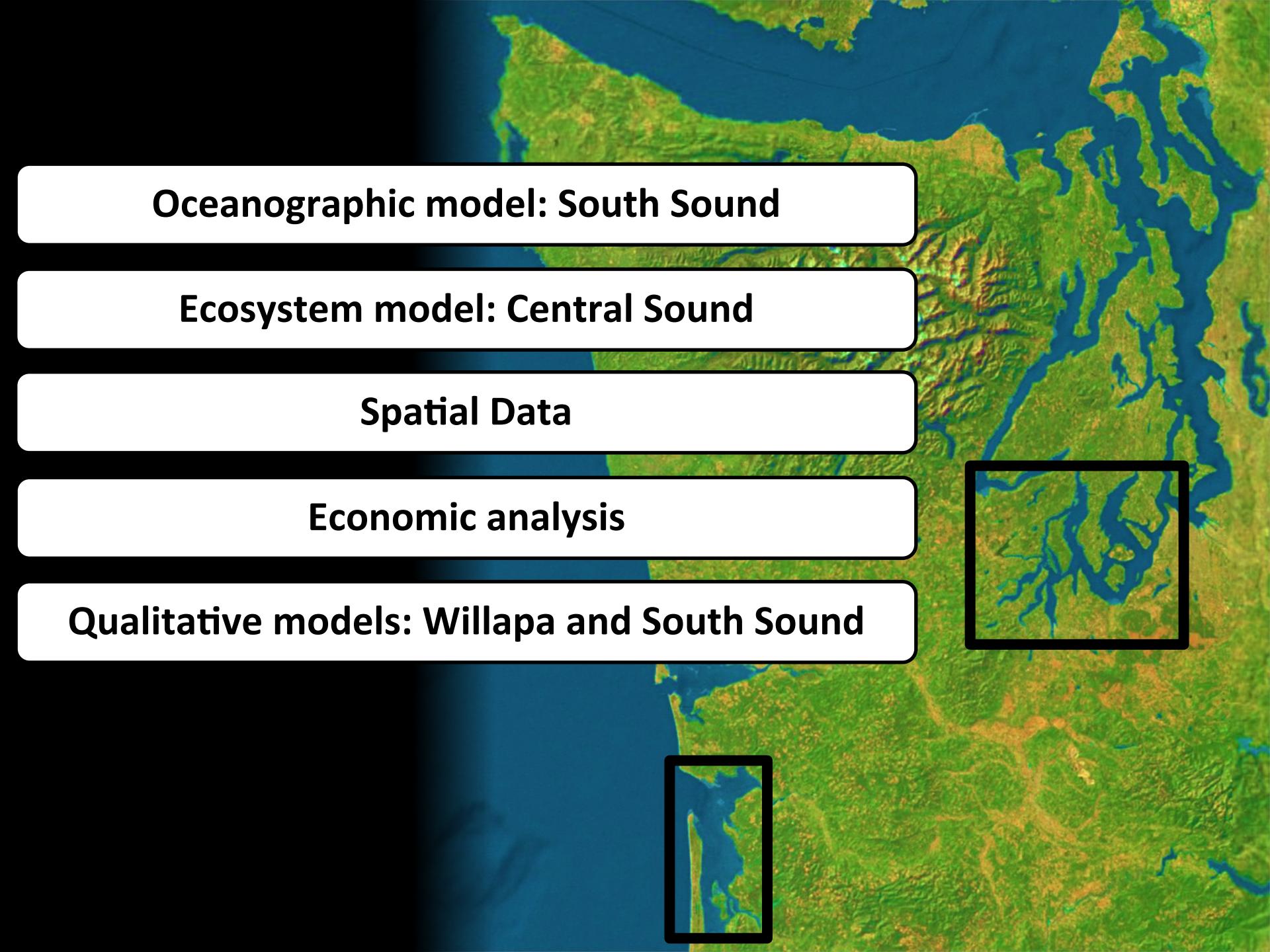
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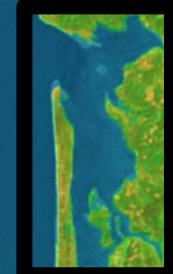
**Oceanographic model: South Sound**

**Ecosystem model: Central Sound**

**Spatial Data**

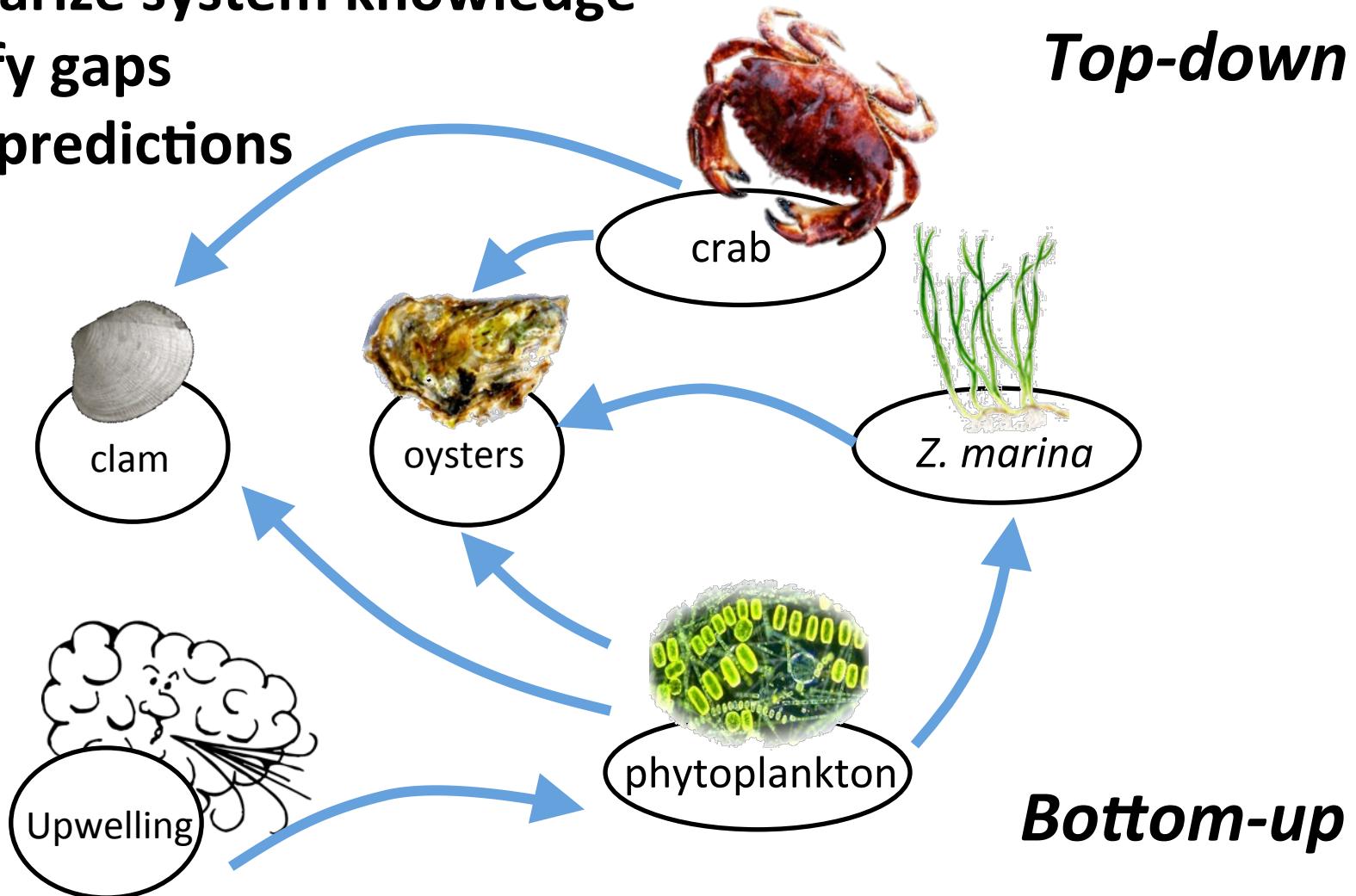
**Economic analysis**

**Qualitative models: Willapa and South Sound**

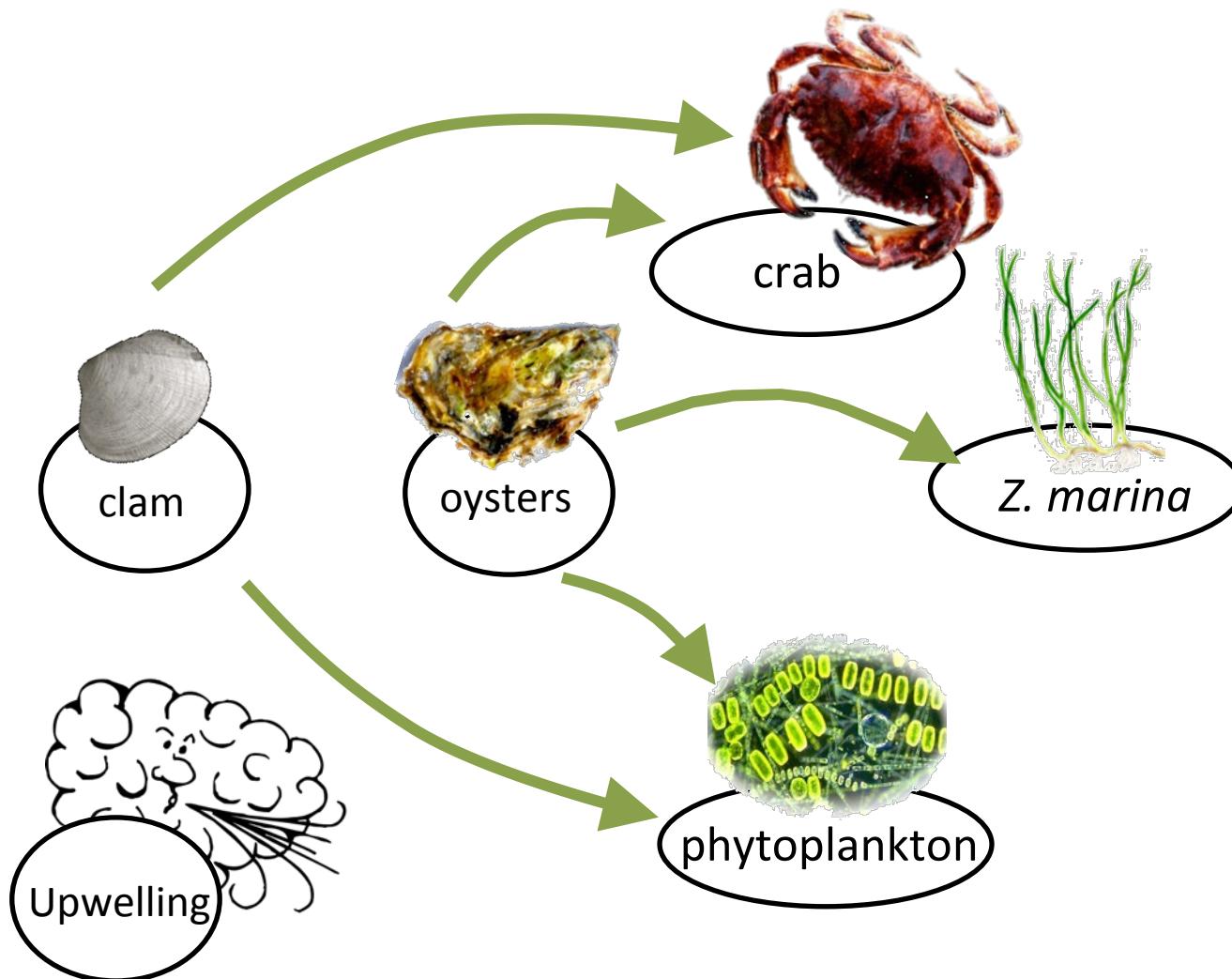


# Environmental Qualitative Models

- Summarize system knowledge
- Identify gaps
- Make predictions



# Cultured bivalves → Environment

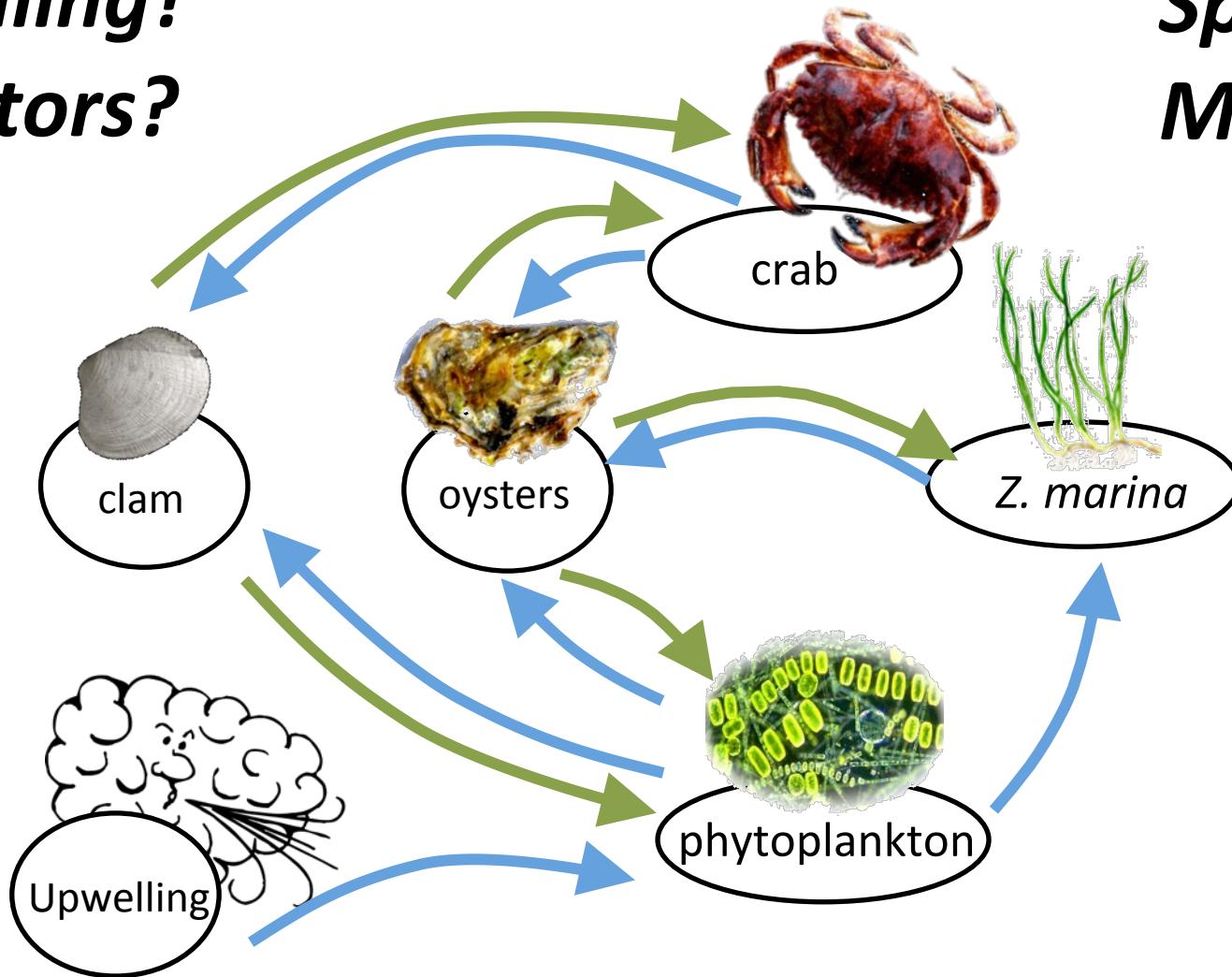


Cultured bivalves

Environment

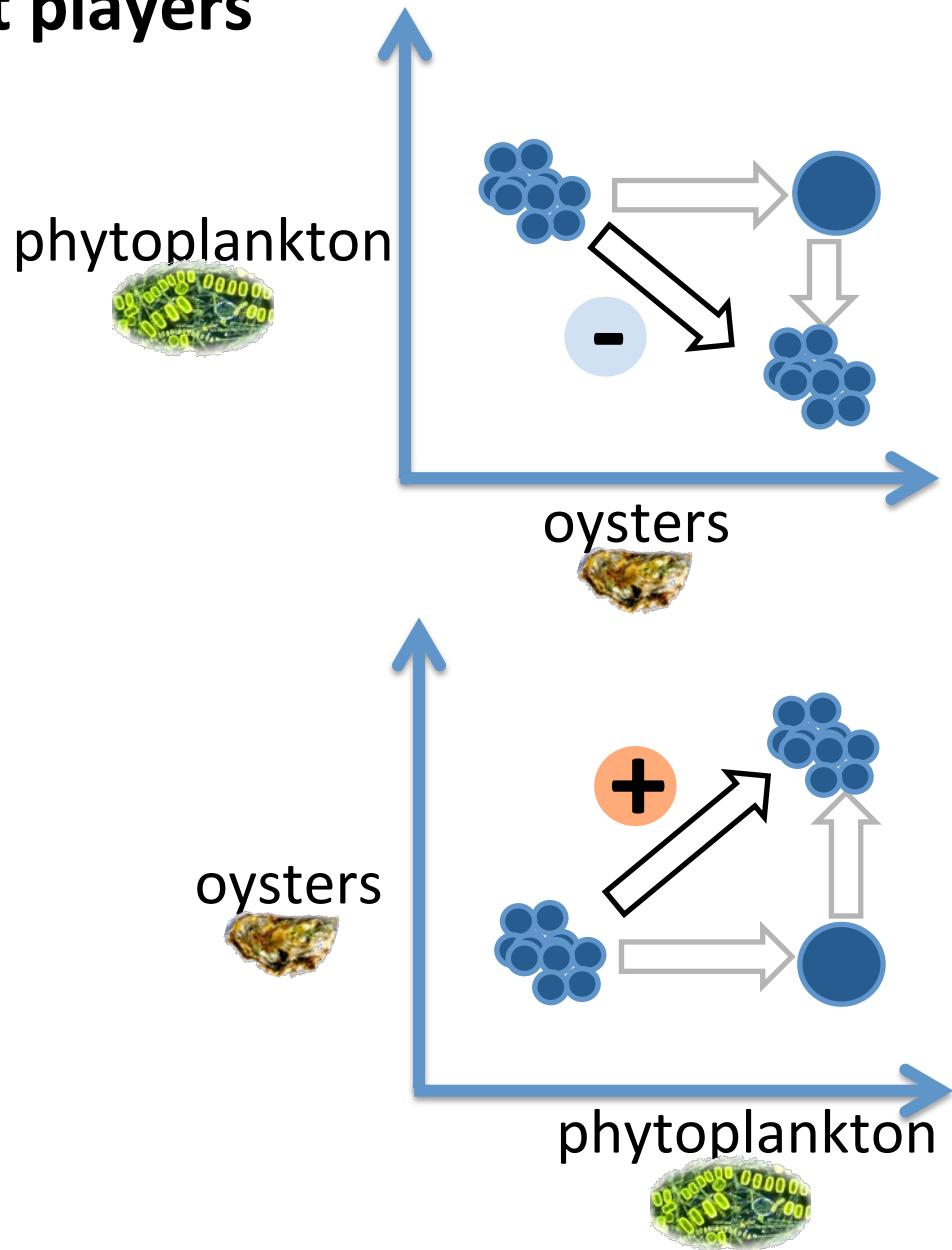
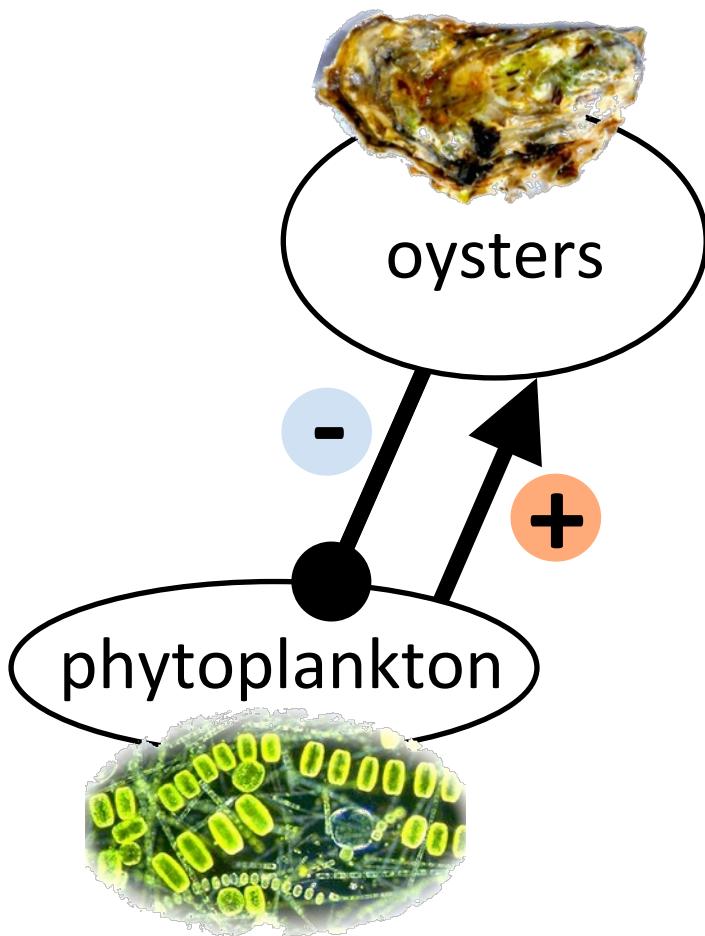
*Upwelling?*  
*Predators?*

*Species?*  
*Method?*



# Building Qualitative Network Models:

## Start with the important players



# Building Qualitative Models:

## Start with the important players

-

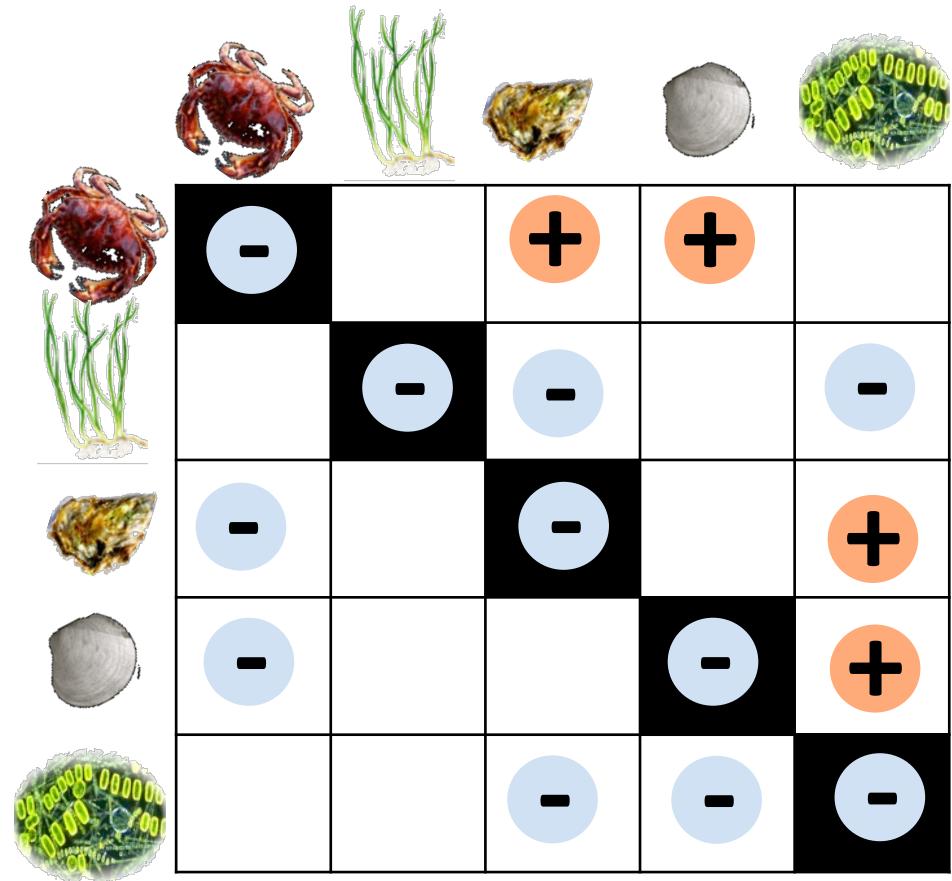
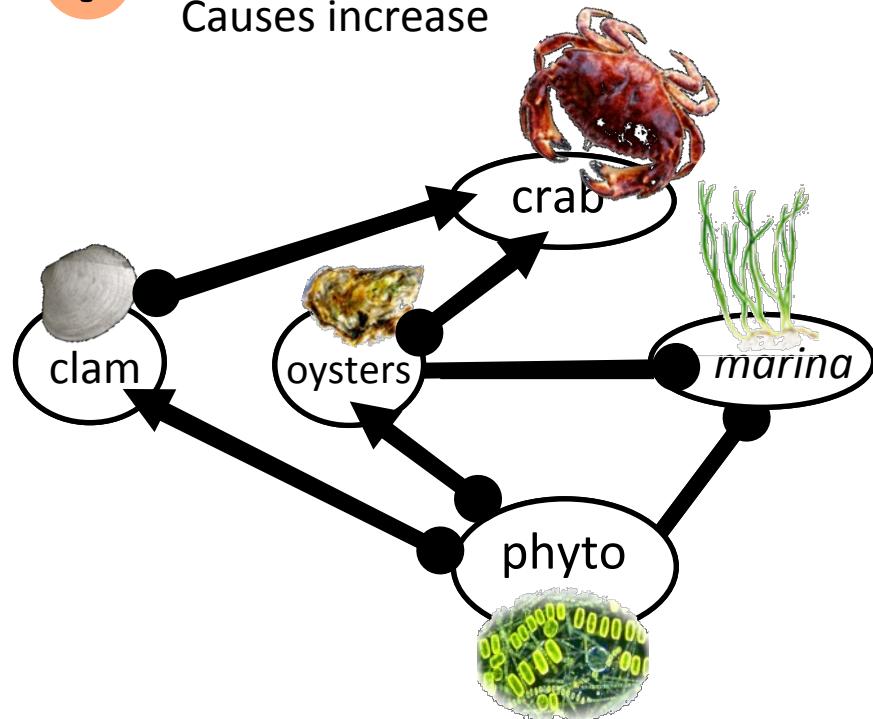


Causes reduction

+



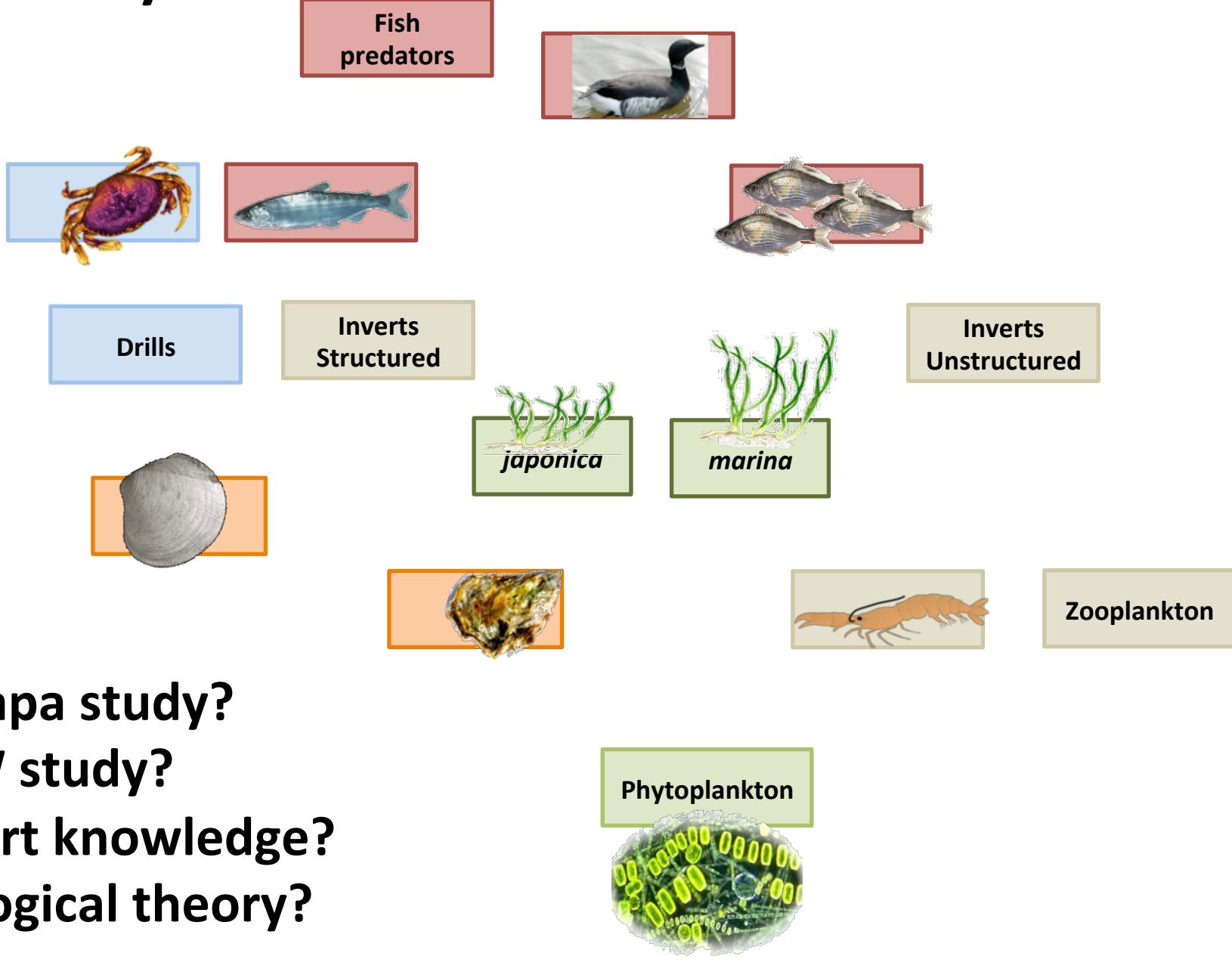
Causes increase



# Qualitative model: Willapa Bay

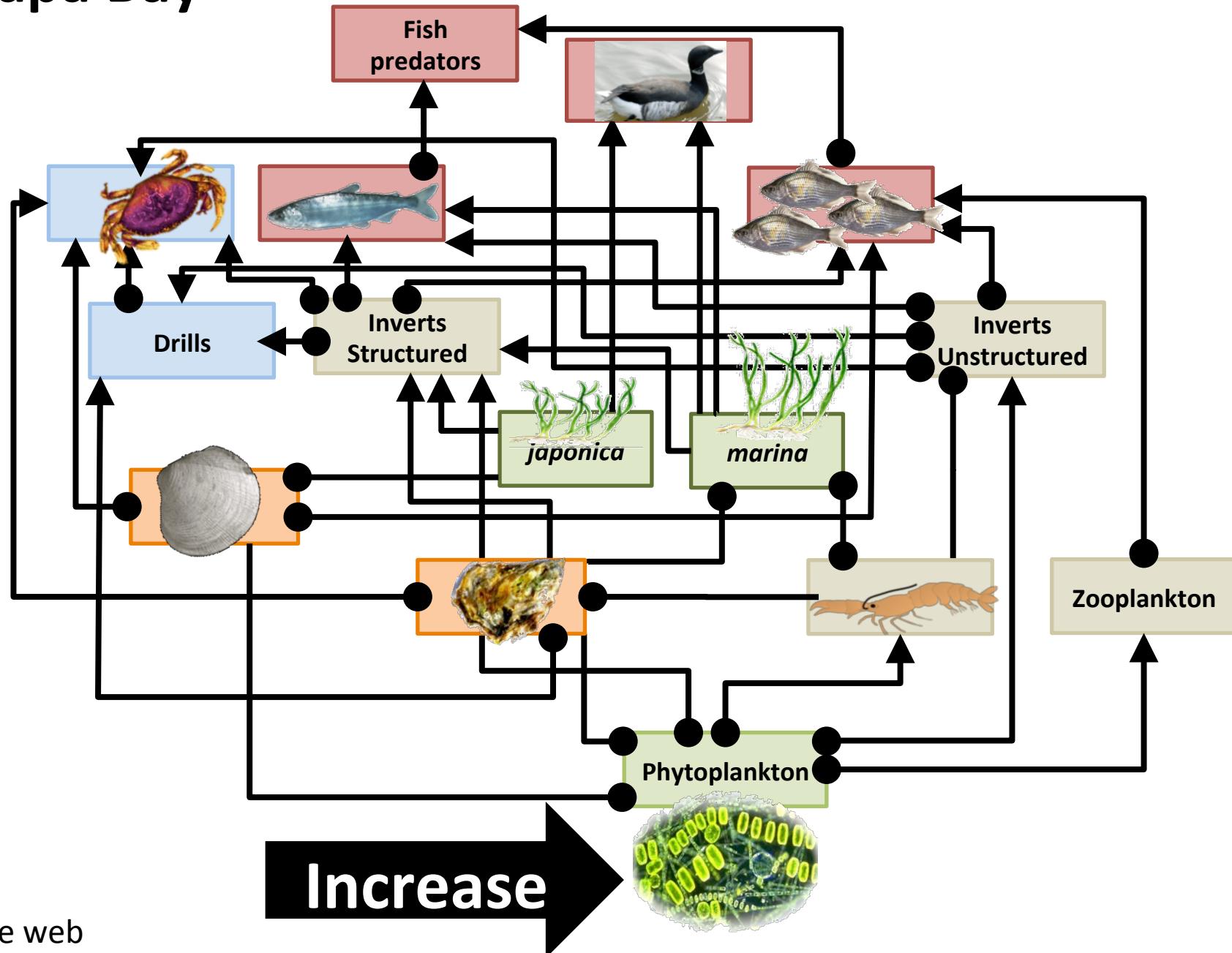


# Willapa Bay

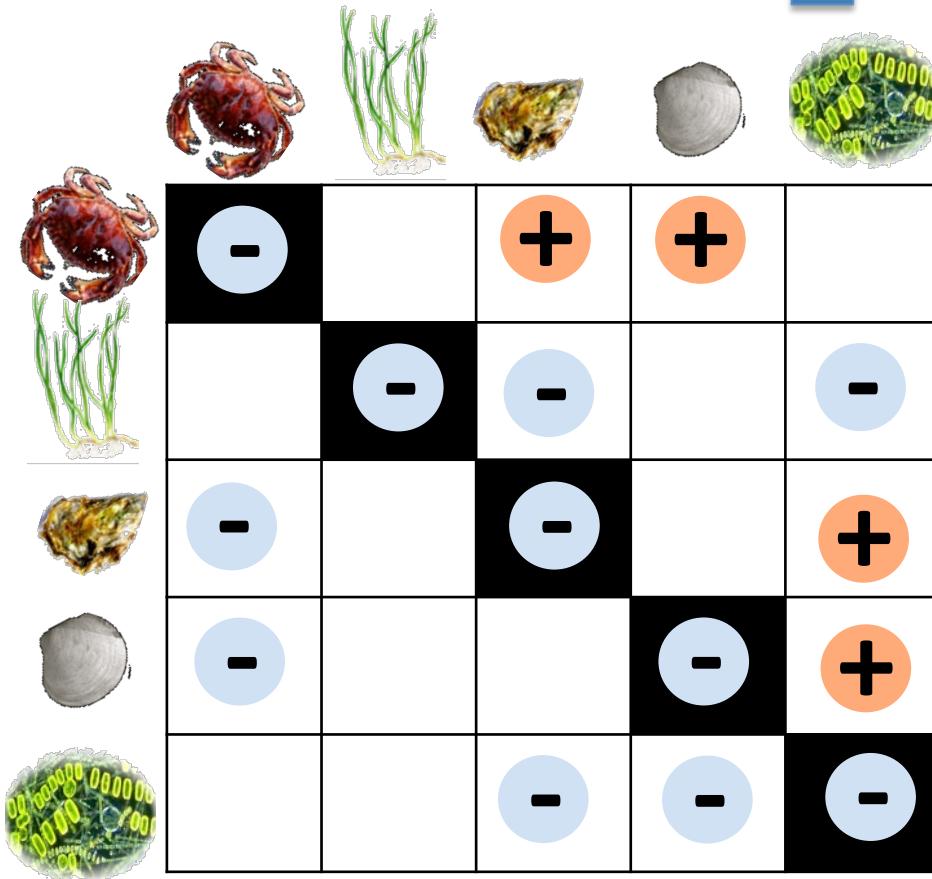


- Willapa study?
- PNW study?
- Expert knowledge?
- Ecological theory?

# Willapa Bay



# 1. Assign random interaction strengths



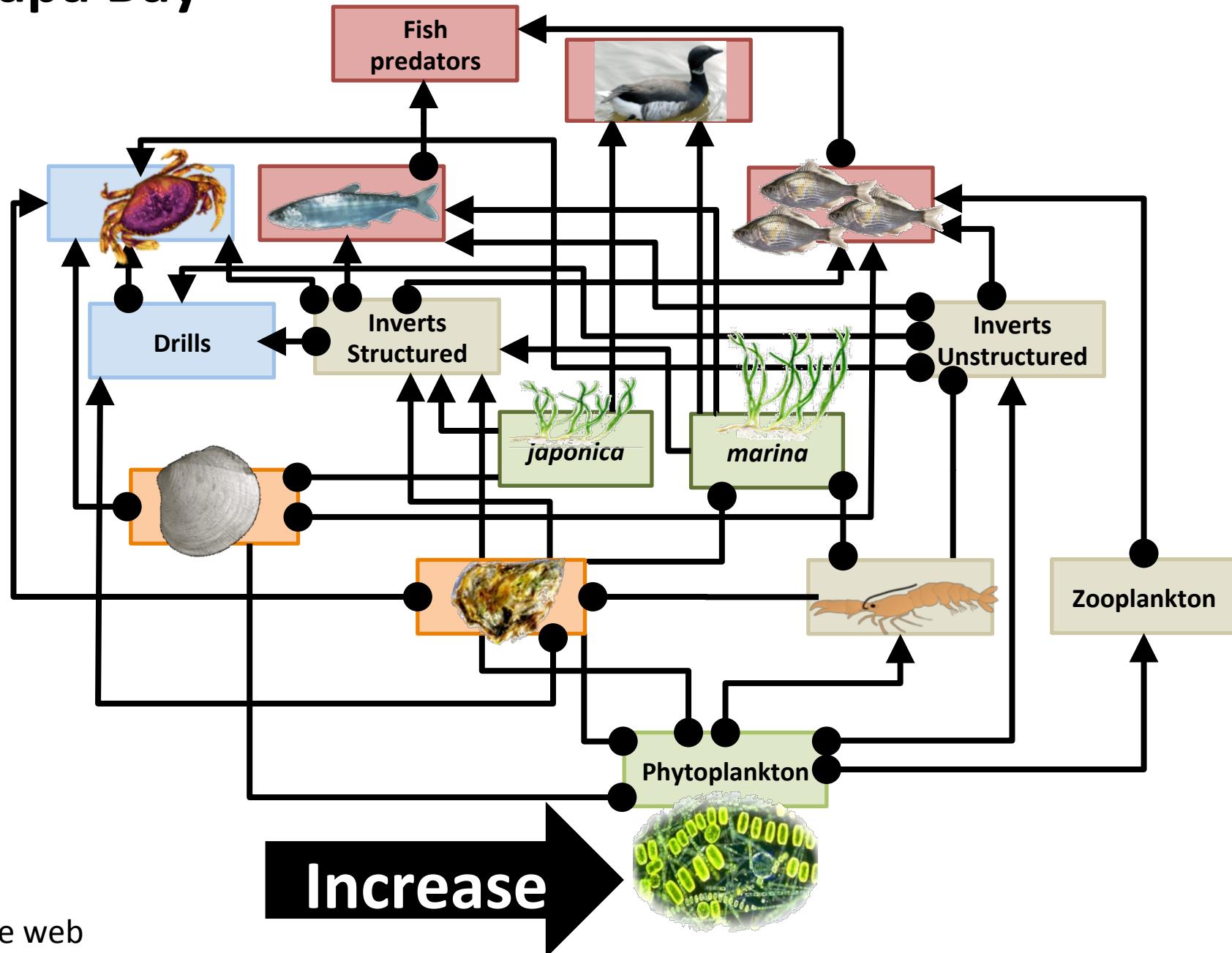
-0.20	12	65		
-0.30	.04	.15		
-0.97	.40	.61		
1.00	0.2	15		
-0.20	.12	.41		
-.	-0.90		.12	.05
-.	-0.1			-0.42
-.	-0.6	-0.42		
-0.8	-0.97		-0.21	.17
-.	-0.3			
-0.10			-0.01	.07
		-0.47	-0.67	-0.81

2. Stable?

3. Calculate sign response of X to increase in Y

4. Repeat!

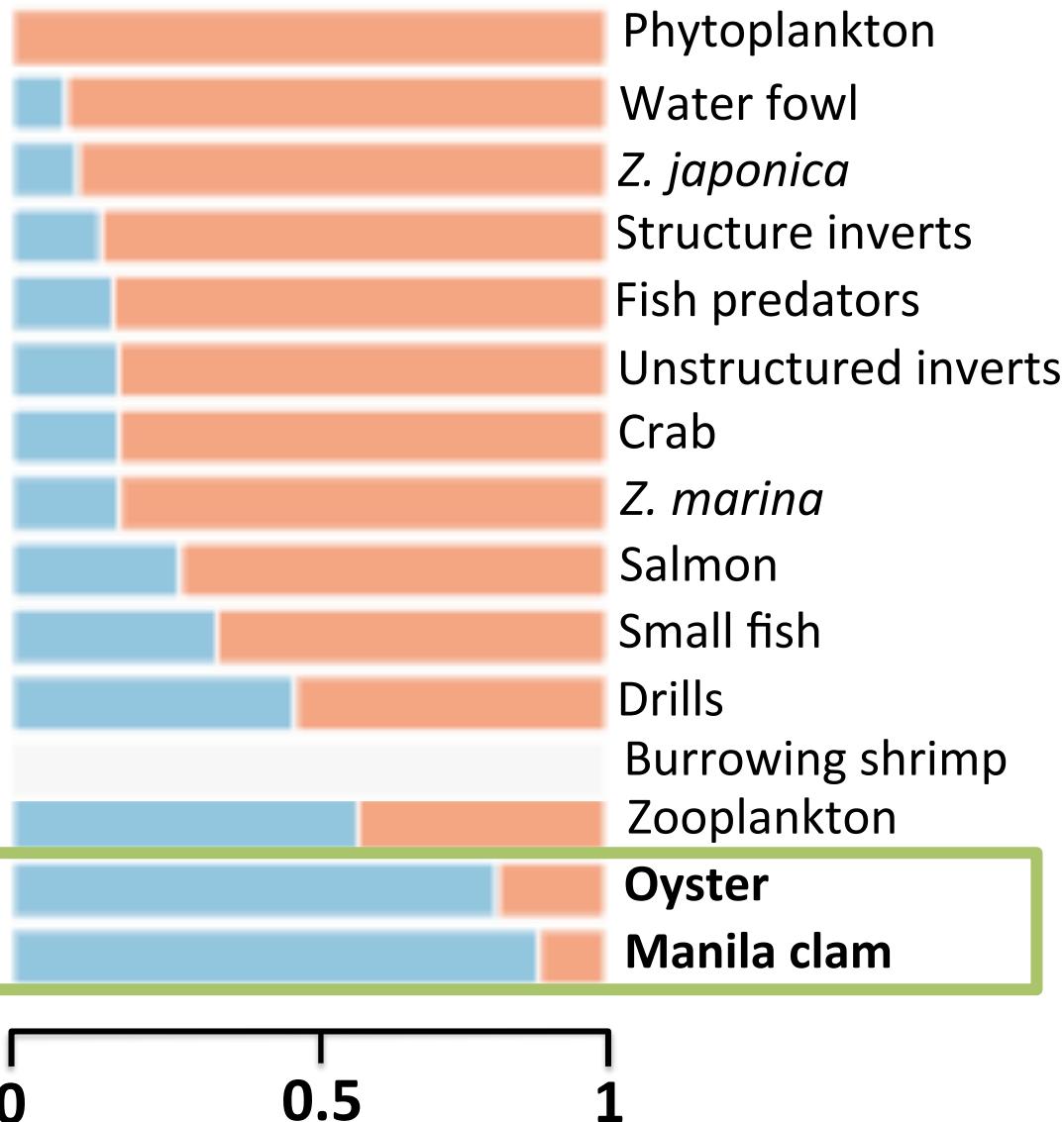
# Willapa Bay



\*Example web

Increase

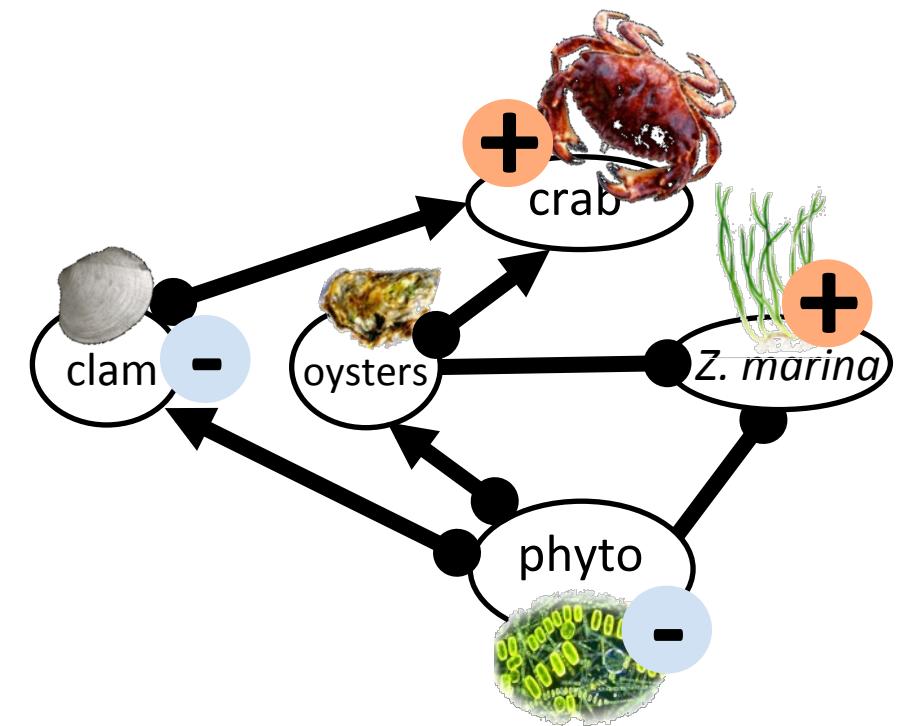
Response



Proportion of simulations

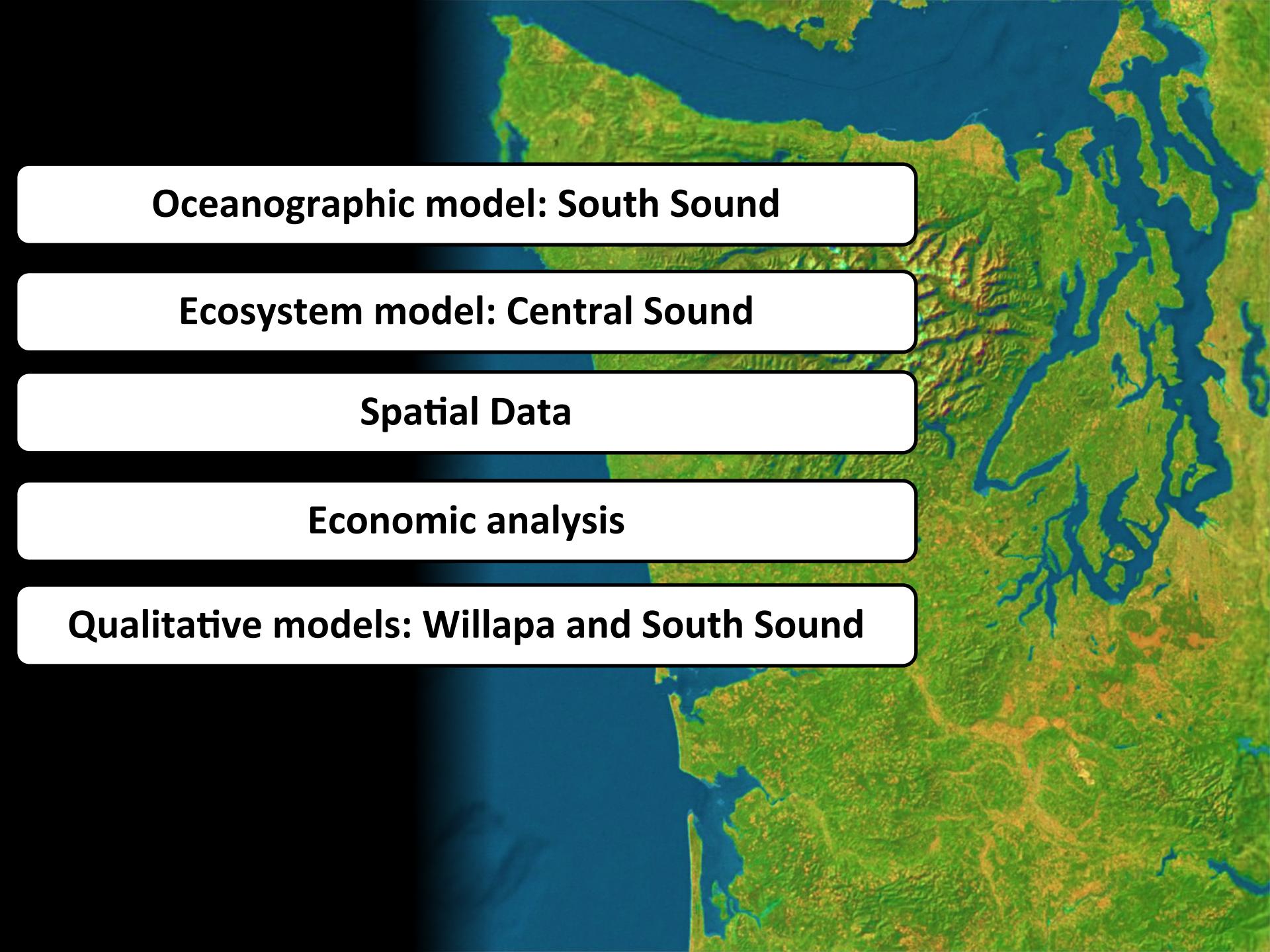
\*Example predictions

- Summarizes system knowledge
- Formalizes thinking
- Future research
- Ecological monitoring
- Qualitative predictions



# Next step... South Puget Sound



The background of the slide is a satellite-style aerial photograph of the Puget Sound region in Washington state. The image shows the complex network of inlets and islands characteristic of the sound, with various shades of blue representing different depths of the water and green and brown representing the surrounding forested land.

**Oceanographic model: South Sound**

**Ecosystem model: Central Sound**

**Spatial Data**

**Economic analysis**

**Qualitative models: Willapa and South Sound**

# Acknowledgements

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- Jen Ruesink, Greg Williams, Brett Dumbauld, Tessa Francis, Phil Levin, Jessica Melbourne-Thomas, and many more.

