Modelling Arctic oceanographic connectivity to further develop PAME's MPA toolbox – *Progress report* 

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# **Dispersal & Connectivity**



PAME MPA-network tool

# How can *connectivity* information aid in design & management of MPAs?

- Self-recruitment within an MPA
- Import/export from other areas
- Design criterion for MPA networks



## How to estimate connectivity?

### **Direct measurements**



# How to estimate connectivity?

### Indirect measurements





# Modelling oceanographic connectivity

### Circulation model





www.aoml.noaa.gov

## **Biophysical model**

#### **Circulation model**





Spawning timeLarval durationVertical behavior

#### Depth position





## The Connectivity Matrix

#### The probability to disperse: from area

	1	2	3	4	5
1	40	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	52	0	10
3	9	27	0	22	0
4	0	17	0	0	20
5	45	47	42	63	0



to area

# Limitations with biophysical modelling

- Only relevant for species with free-drifting larvae (ca 70% of all marine species)
- Circulation models only approximate water transport
- Knowledge of larval behaviour often poor
- Estimating only potential connectivity, especially if habitat is not well mapped

# Why choosing this approach?

- High coverage in space & time
- Can cover a broad range of species
- Inexpensive if circulation model is available
- Results can suggest areas for more detailed investigations, *e.g.* genetic studies

## Progress of project

Modelling Arctic oceanographic connectivity to further develop PAME's MPA toolbox

Start: January 2019 End: July 2020

## Selection of circulation model

- TOPAZ 4 (official model in Copernicus)
- ROMS ARCTIC 4



## Review of dispersal traits

- Spawning season?
- Larval duration?
- Vertical behaviour?

	A	В	с	D	E	F	G	H	- I	J	к	Larra	M	N	
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2						%					season from	a season to	season from	season to	P
Е	Phylum/Clas	Order/Famil	Species/Stag	Pelagic/Berr	thic	0-20	20-50	50-100	100-200	>200	(month)		(month)	(month)	(r
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6	Bivalvia	Adepodonta	Hiatella orcti	P	0-65		· · · · · · · ·		1				5	10	
7	Bivalvia	Myida	Mys truncate	P	0-65	/							5	10	
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ARTICLE II

Article hstory: Received 22 March 2016 Received in revised form 2 Acceptel 7 December 201 Available online 9 Decemb Reproductive strategies of benthic invertebrates in the Kara Sea (Russian Arctic): adaptation of reproduction modes to cold water

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ABSTRACT: Many benthic invertebrates in the boreo-Atlantic region reproduce via pelagic larvae. Past investigations in polar areas suggested a greater predominance of species lacking a pelagic

### Poorly known!!

Published March 18

# Input from, *e.g.* CAFF and WWF

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### Setting up particle tracking model



Particle sources covering the entire area with a depth above 500 m 40893 release points

### Production of particle trajectories



## Production of particle trajectories

- Particle release every day and summarised every month
- Larval positions after 5, 10, 20, 30, 50, 70,100 days
- Larval drift depth: 0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 50, 100, 150, 200 & 300 m
- Repeated for 10 (25) years
- Model simulations performed on a computer cluster



## The connectivity matrix

 Calculating connectivity matrices (trait and habitat dependent)



#### One connectivity matrix



#### 40893 sites

# A database of connectivity matrices

- Every month
- Larval positions after 5, 10, 20, 30, 50, 70,100 days
- Larval drift depth: 0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 50, 100, 150, 200 & 300 m
- Averaged over all years



#### 12 x 7 x 11 = 924 matrices

## Examples of results

#### Heat-maps of dispersal probability from 7 release points



# Maps of dispersal distance and direction



## Mapping dispersal barriers



Nilsson Jacobi et al. (2012)

# How can connectivity contribute to MPA design?

Area of influence after 10 days of transport





## Self recruitment in MPAs



# Identification of optimal MPA networks



### Optimal extension of MPA networks



# Remaining tasks

- Quality control of dispersal simulations
- Continue to summarise dispersal simulations into connectivity matrices
- Initial analysis of connectivity patterns and identification of barriers
- Technical report (July 2020)
- Scientific report

## Discussions with Marine Protected Areas Expert Group

- A general interest to include connectivity in the MPA toolbox
- A test case as demonstration would be useful



- Limited availability of habitat maps is a bottleneck
- This approach is not suitable for most migratory species, e.g. some fish & marine mammals

Thank you!