

# Ecological Network Analysis: Example Applications

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# Dominance of Indirect Effects

## Hypothesis

Indirect flows dominate direct flows in ecosystems

Indirect > Direct

Indirect / Direct > 1

Higashi & Patten 1989

## Consequences

Alter species roles and who controls resources

Hidden relationships

Impact assessment and management implications

Conservation

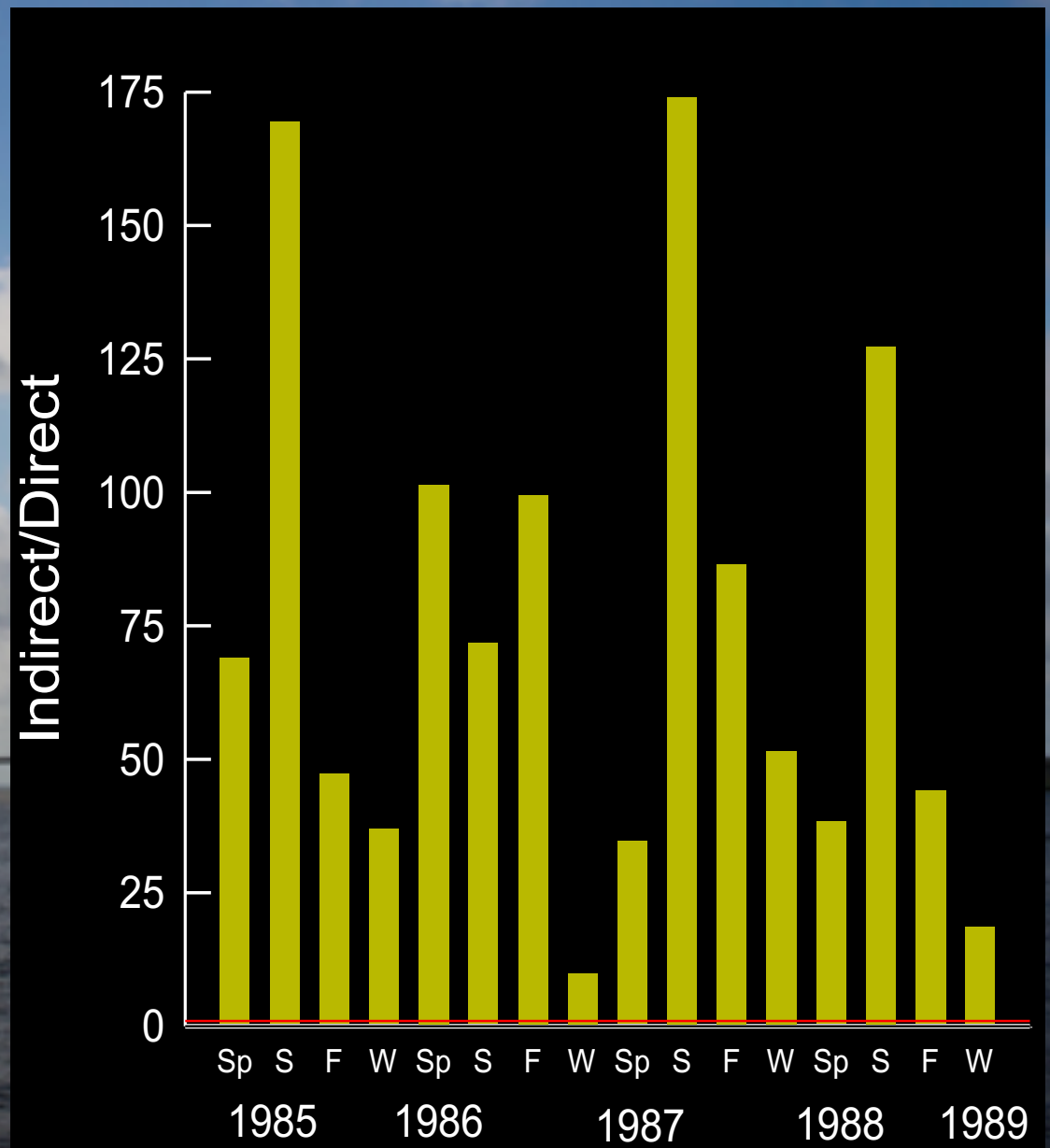
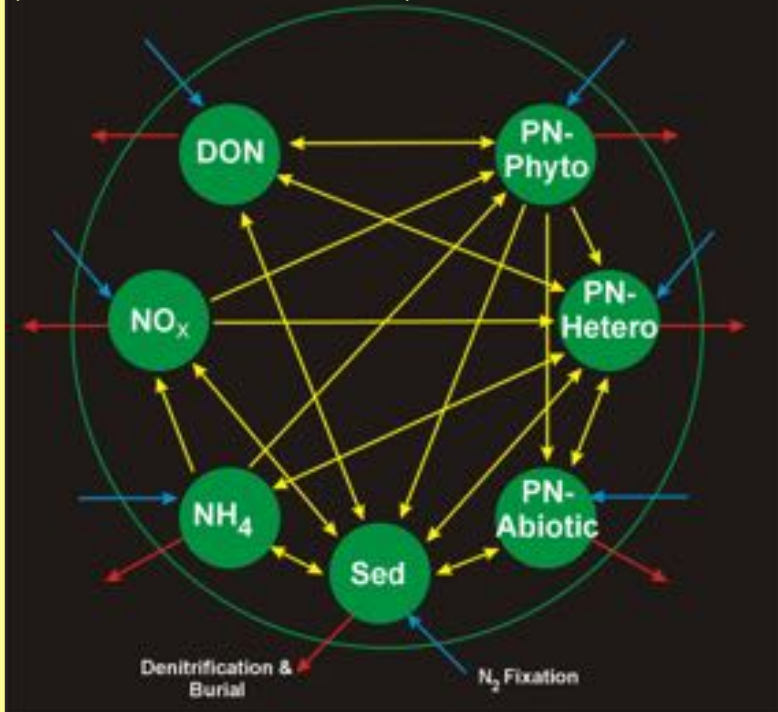
Borrett et al., 2006. Indirect effects and distributed control in ecosystems: temporal variation of indirect effects in a seven-compartment model of nitrogen flow in the Neuse River Estuary, USA—time series analysis. *Ecological Modelling*, 194(1-3), pp.178-188.

# Temporal Dynamics in the Neuse

Indirect Effects

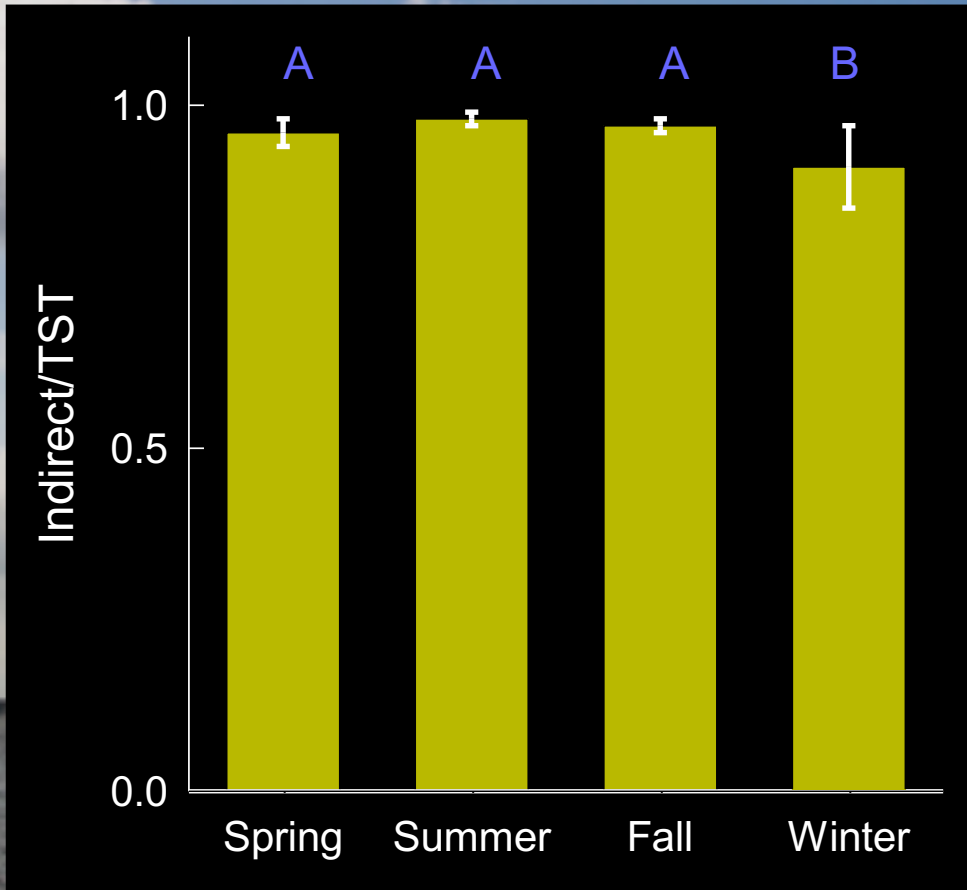
## N Cycling Model

(Christian and Thomas 2003)

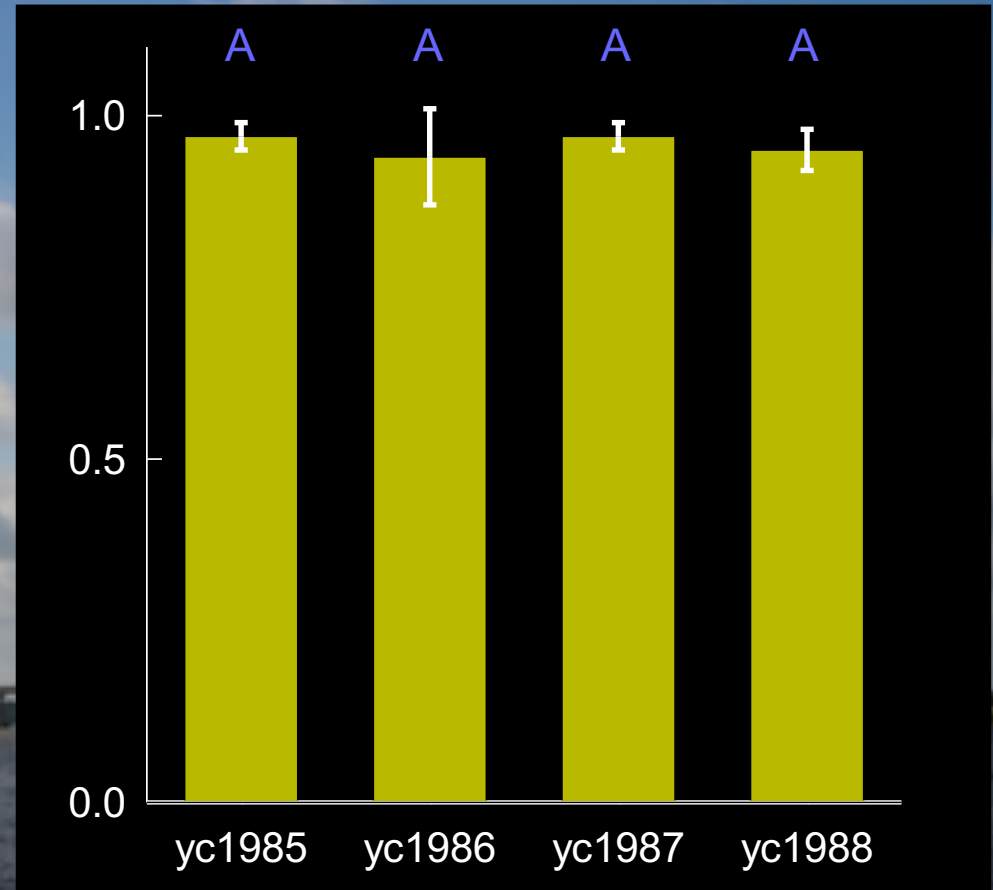


**Indirect Flows Dominate ( $I > D$ )**

### Seasons



### Years



**Little Temporal Variation**  
**Stable organization driven by internal processes**

# Cape Fear River Estuary

Hines et al. 2012, 2015



## Ecosystem Services

### Fisheries



### Recreation & Tourism



### Nutrient Removal



Watershed: 23,734 km<sup>2</sup>

River: 325 km

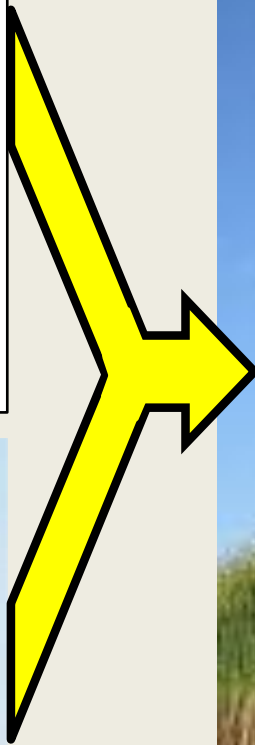
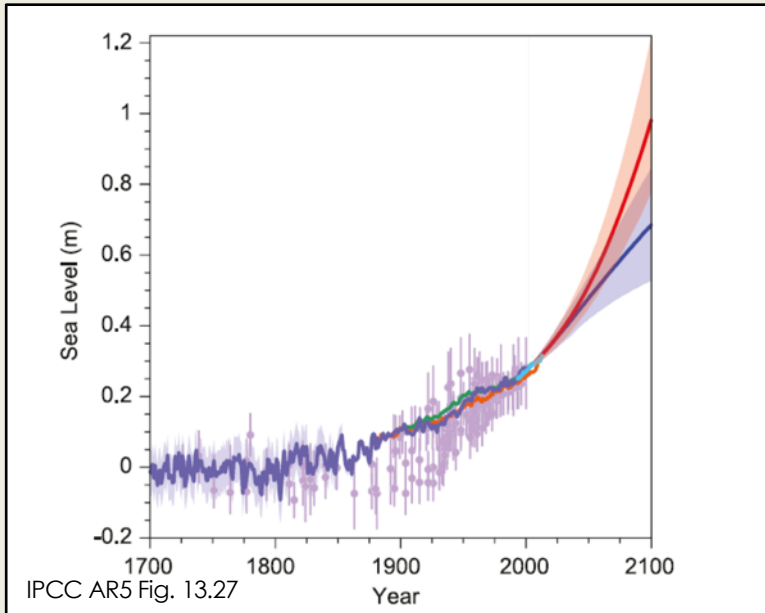
Estuary: 56 km

Black water = high CDOM



# Changes in the Estuary

## Sea level rise



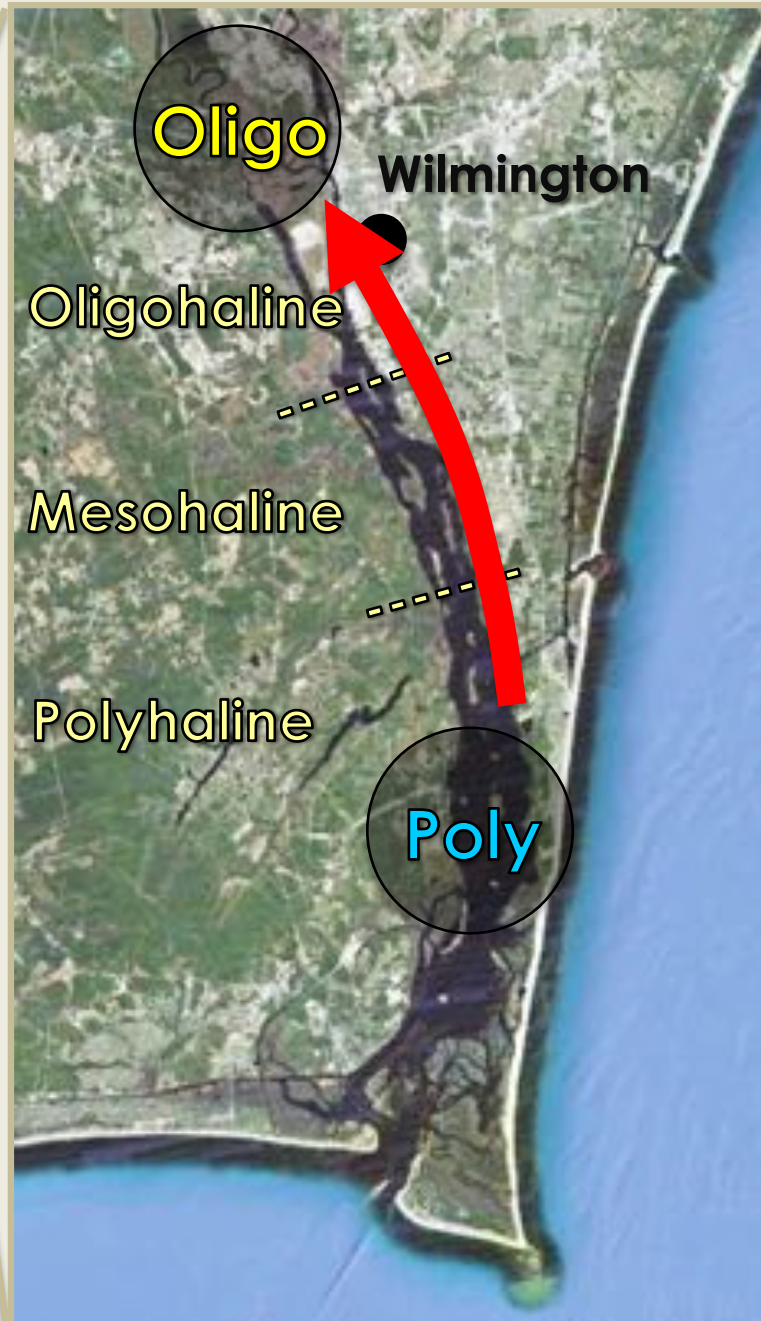
## Dredging



## Seawater intrusion

Stuart Borrett

# Compare Nitrogen Cycle



# Hypotheses



When compared to the polyhaline site, ....

H<sub>1</sub>: Coupled nitrification-denitrification will be higher at the oligohaline site

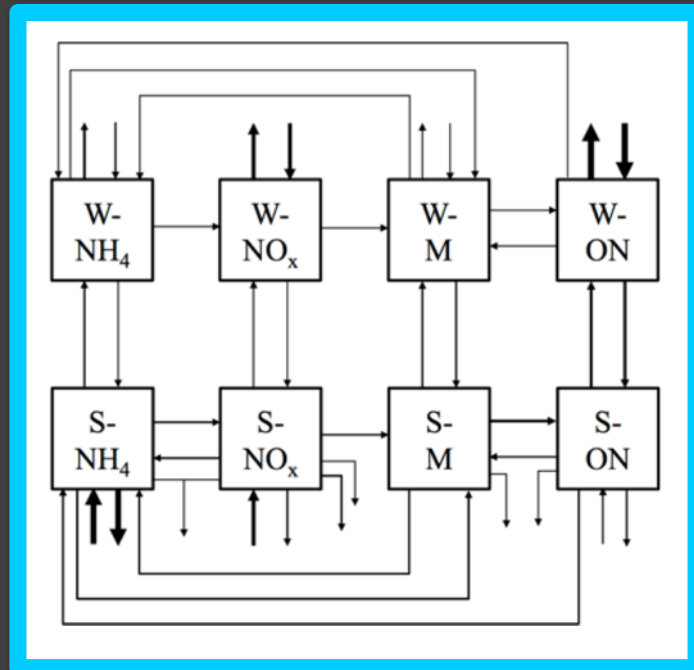
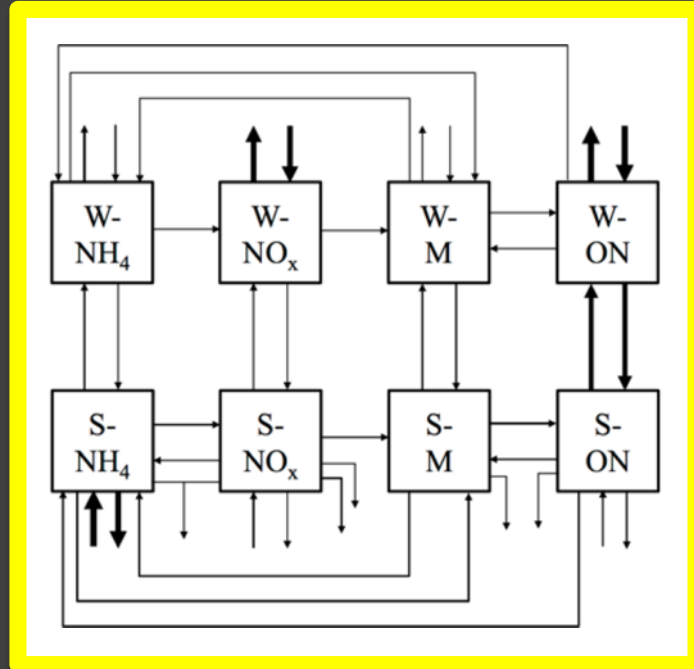
H<sub>2</sub>: Coupled nitrification-anammox will be higher at the oligohaline site

H<sub>3</sub>: Coupled DNRA-anammox will be lower at the oligohaline site

H<sub>4</sub>: Microbial nitrogen removal capacity will be higher in the oligohaline sites



# Network Models & Analysis



Ecosystem  
Network  
Analysis

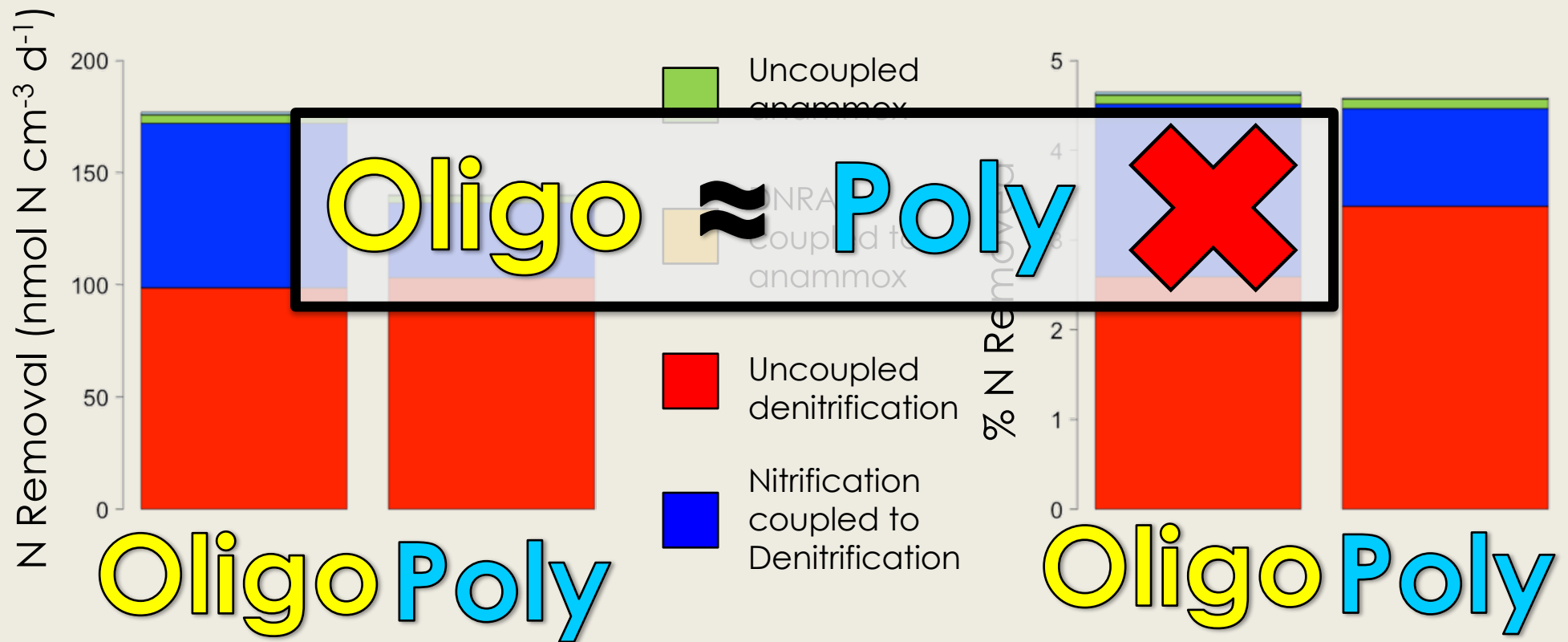
Environ Analysis

Patten et al. 1976;  
Patten 1982, 1983

Estimate  
N Removal  
% Coupling

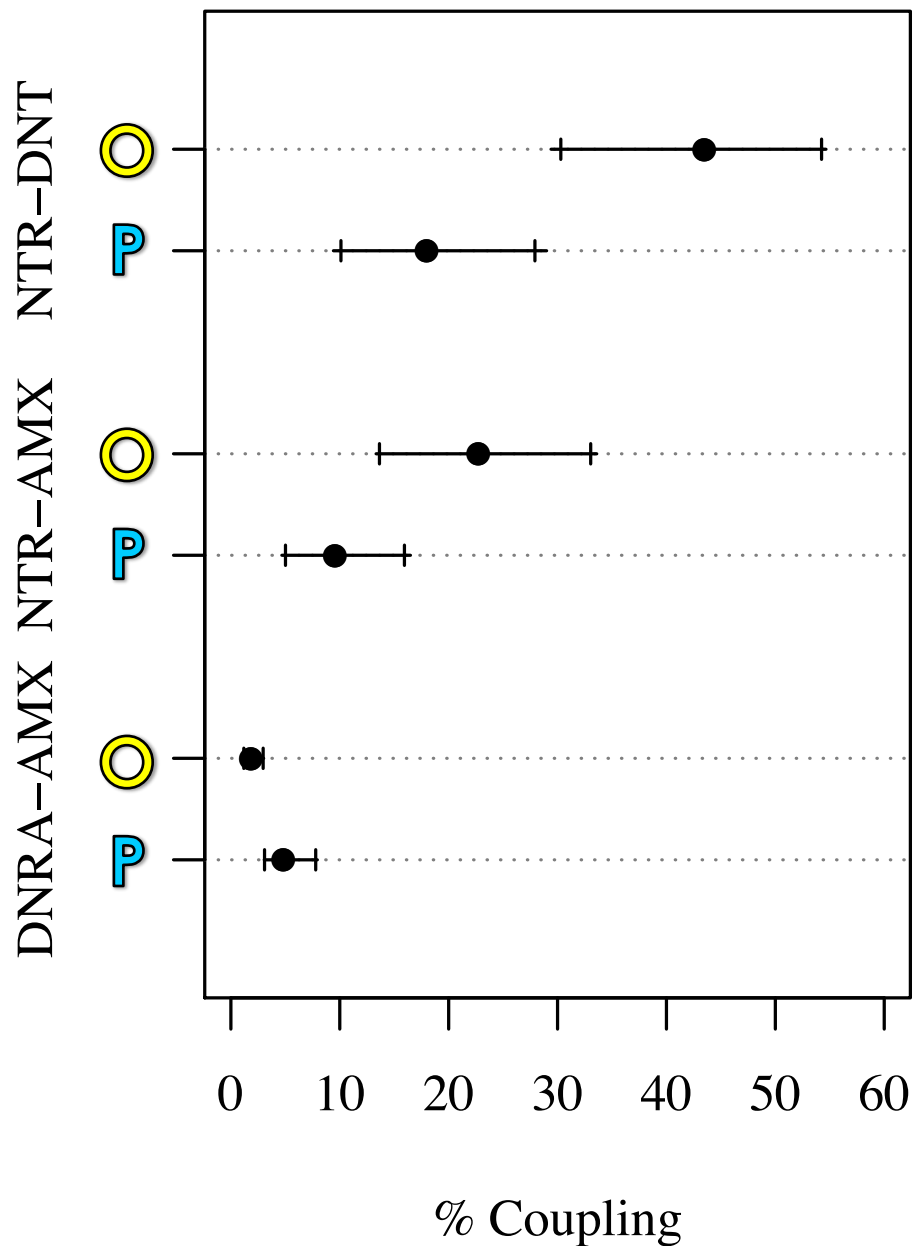
# Hypothesis Testing

$H_4$ : Microbial **nitrogen removal capacity** will be higher in the oligohaline portion of the estuary compared to polyhaline sites



# Inference Under Uncertainty

95% Range of coupling estimations



Linear Inverse Modeling  
10,000 Plausible Models

**Nitrification -  
Denitrification**



No overlap

**Nitrification -  
Anammox**



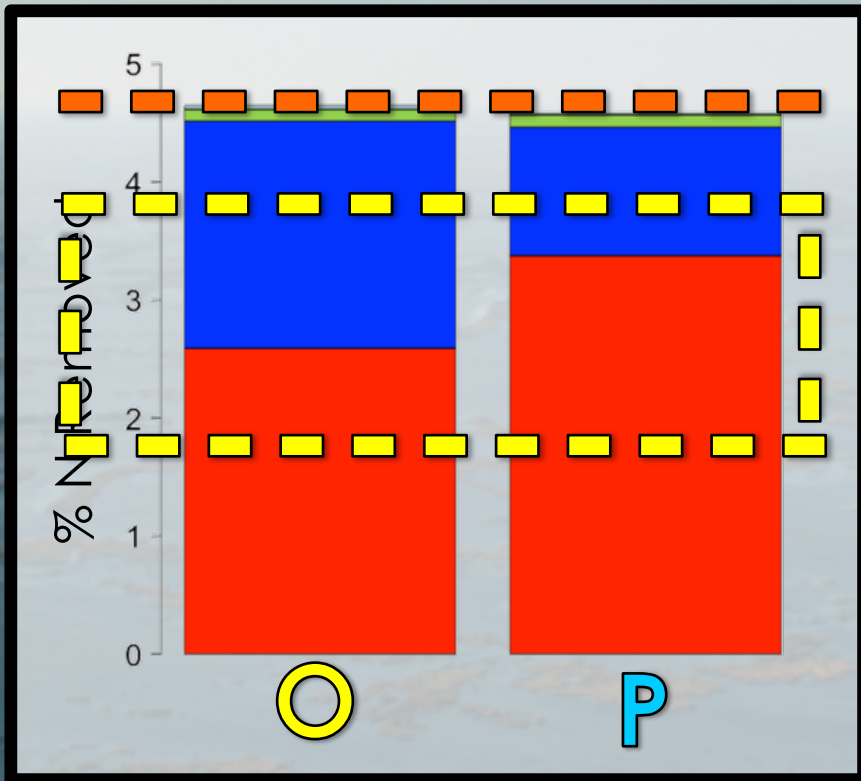
16% overlap

**DNRA -  
Anammox**



No overlap

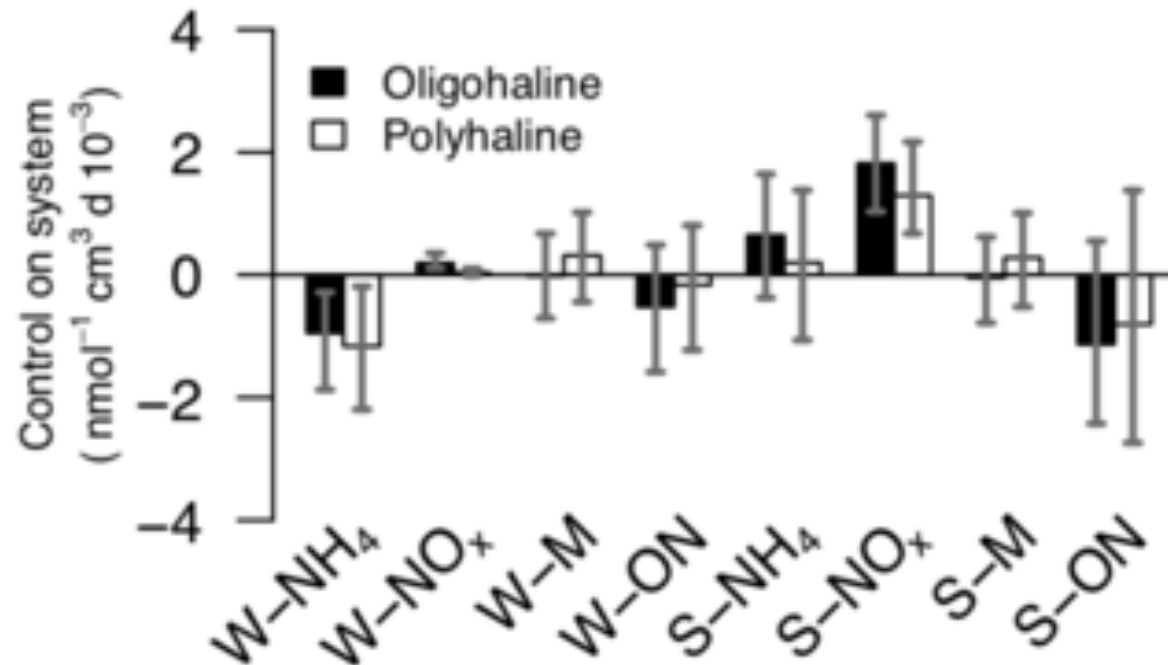
# Conclusions



**Little change** in microbial  $N_2$  production capacity

May **alter the pathways** that contribute to  $N_2$  production

# Control Analysis



**Fig. 3.** Comparison of SC vectors ( $\bar{s}\bar{c}$ ) for the oligohaline (black) and polyhaline (white) networks. Gray error bars show 95% distribution of system control values for the 10,000 plausible models produced by the uncertainty analysis for each site. Positive values indicate that a component exerts control on the system, while negative values indicate that this component is controlled by the system. Note that all values have been multiplied by  $10^3$ .

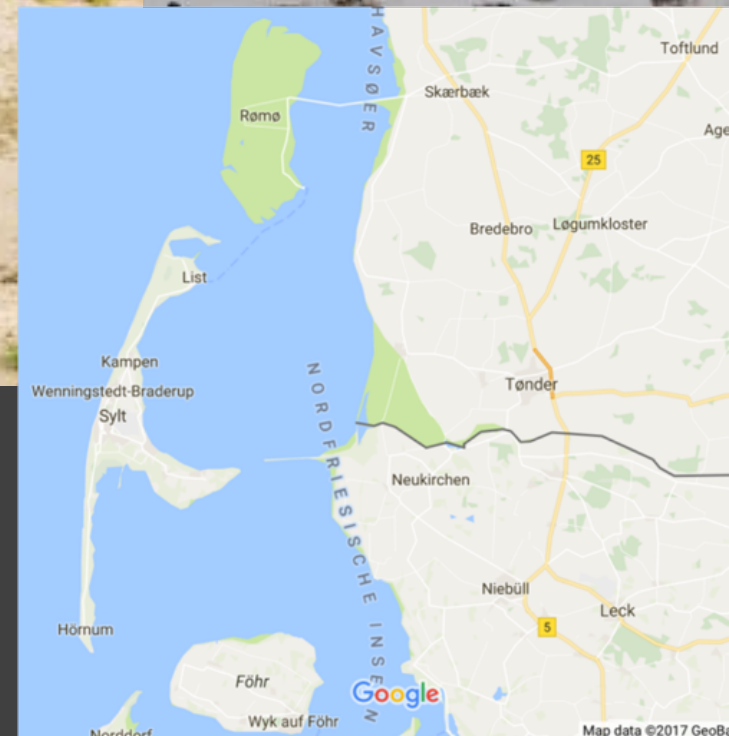
# Seasonal dynamics and functioning of the Sylt-Rømø Bight, Northern Wadden Sea

Camille de la Vega<sup>1\*</sup>, Sabine Horn<sup>1</sup>, Dan Baird<sup>2</sup>, David Hines<sup>3</sup>, Stuart Borret<sup>3,4</sup>, Lasse Jensen<sup>5</sup>, Philipp Schwemmer<sup>6</sup>, Ragnhild Asmus<sup>1</sup>, Ursula Siebert<sup>7</sup>, Harald Asmus<sup>1</sup>

## Sylt-Rømø Bight

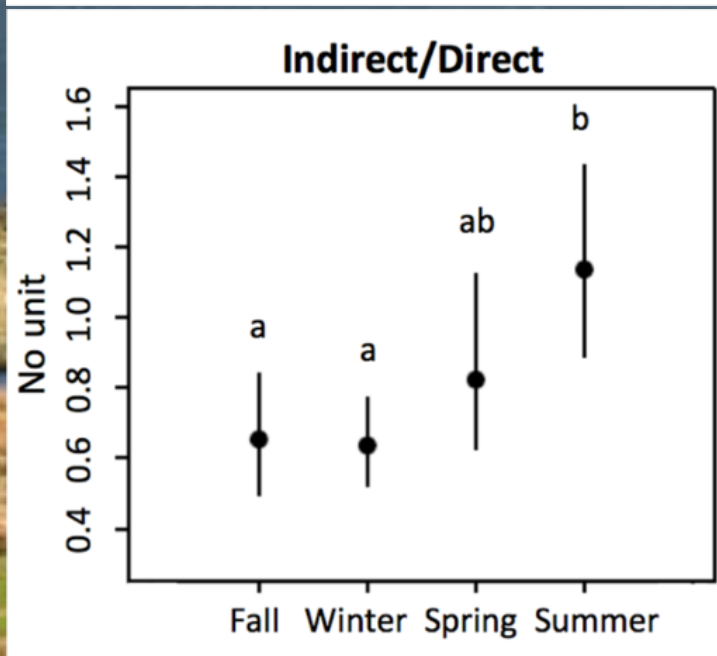
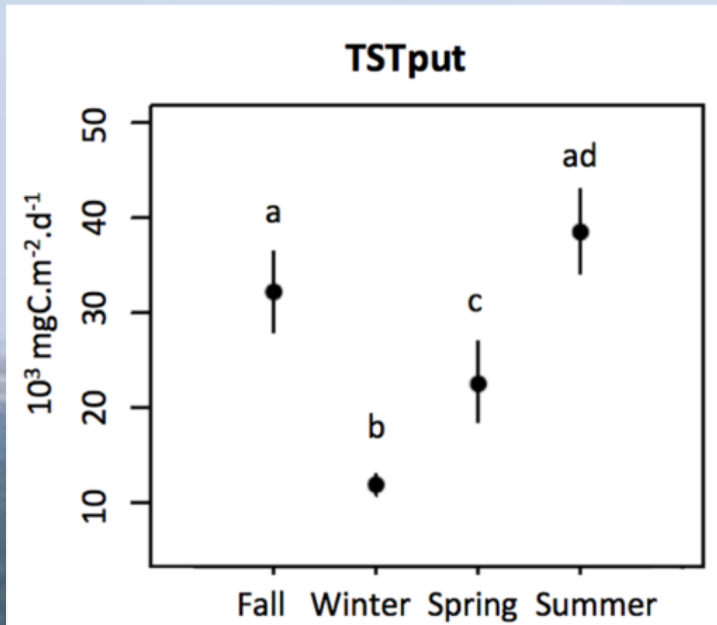


Seasonal ecosystem variability  
Impact of migratory waterfowl



# Seasonal dynamics and functioning of the Sylt-Rømø Bight, Northern Wadden Sea

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## TST shows a seasonal cycle

## Indirect < Direct !!!

Some 95% CI includes 1.0

De la Vega et al. 2018



# Bibliometric Review of ENA

2010 – 2016



## Guiding Questions

Key **topics**?

Ecosystem types, questions, applications, methods

Structure of **scientific collaboration**?



# Bibliometric Approach

Given: publications are core of scientific production

Approach: **INFER** the field from publication records

## Search

- ISI Web of Science & Scopus (2010–2016)

TS = (“Ecological Network Analysis” OR  
“Network Environ Analysis” OR  
“Ecosystem Network Analysis” )

- Exclusion Phrases

TS = ("Business Ecosystems Network Analysis" OR  
"molecular ecological network analysis")

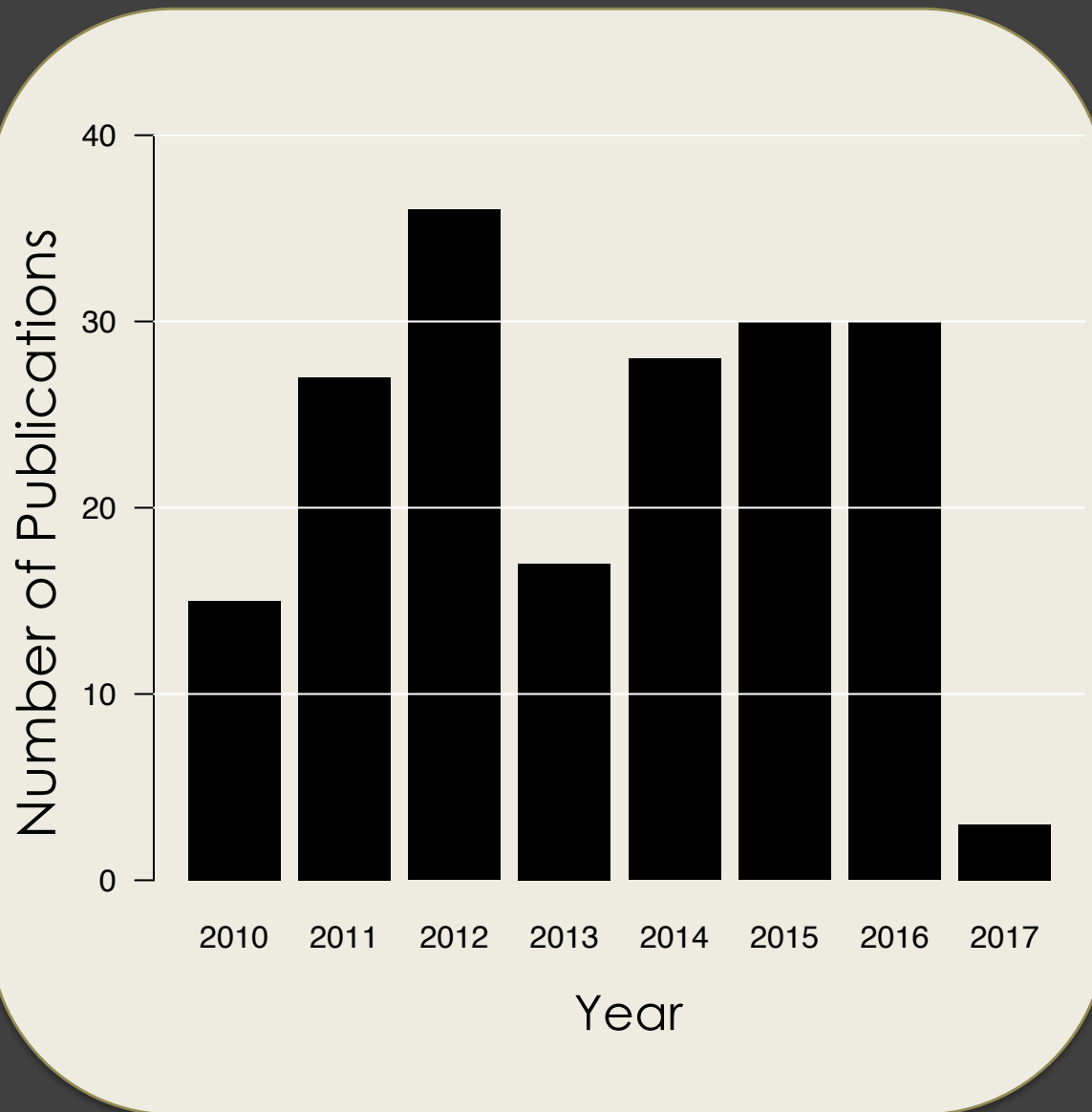
Construct network models: terms & coauthorship

Apply Network Analysis (SAS, Pajek, UCINet, R)

Feature Analysis

# Publications

## Publication Rate



**n = 186**

**26 pubs yr<sup>-1</sup> ( $\pm$  2.7 SD)**

## Sources

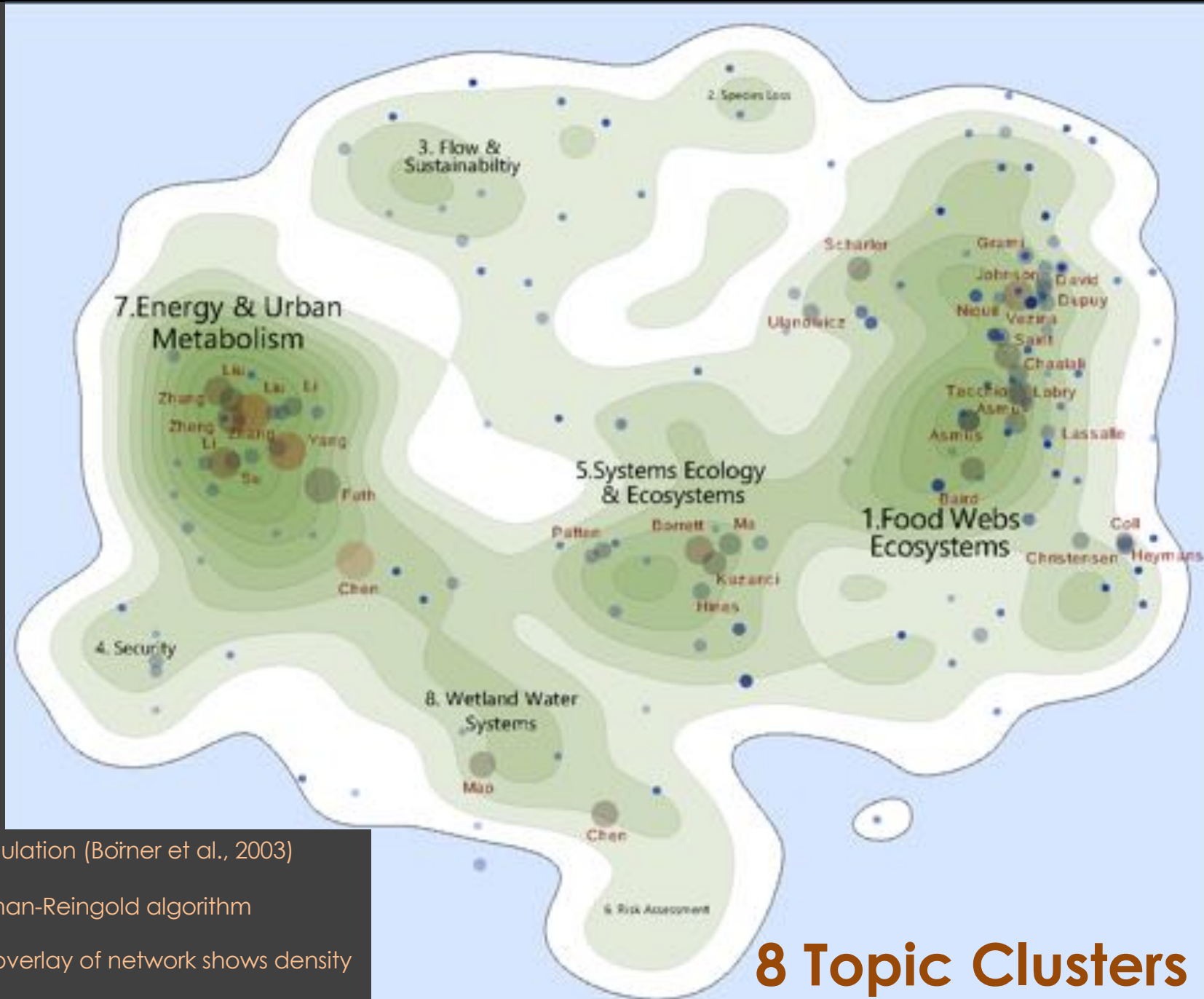
60 unique sources  
centralization = 94%

### Top Journals

Ecological Modelling	22%
Ecological Indicators	5%
Estuarine Coast Shelf Sci	4%
J Cleaner Production	4%
Environ Sci Tech	4%
Applied Energy	3%
Mar Ecol Prog Ser	3%
Sci Total Environ	3%

# ENA Topics

Node = Publication, Edge = co-term similarity



tf-idf formulation (Börner et al., 2003)

Fruchterman-Reingold algorithm

Contour overlay of network shows density

Common Authors Identified

## 8 Topic Clusters

# ENA Topic Clusters (1/2)

## Food Webs & Ecosystems (n = 55)

Key terms: food web, trophic, estuary, biomass, flow

### Examples

Assessing coastal/marine food webs

Sylt-Rømø (Baird, 2012; Baird et al., 2012, 2011)

Baltic Sea (Tomczak et al., 2013)

Humboldt Current (Neira et al. 2014)

SA Open-Closed Estuaries (Scharler 2012)

Indicator use – Good Ecosystem Status

(Bocci et al., 2016; Brigolin et al., 2014; Chaalali et al., 2015)

Assess negative impacts of toxin

(Taffi et al. 2014, 2015)



## Energy & Urban Metabolism (n = 46)

Key terms: energy, metabolism, utility, economic sectors, relationships

### Examples

Assess Urban Metabolism (Chen and Chen, 2015; Liu et al., 2011, Zhang et al., 2016)

Compare Socio-Economic Systems (Zhang et al., 2016d)

Success of Eco-Industrial Parks (Lu et al., 2015, 2012, Zhang et al., 2015a, 2015b)

## Systems Ecology & Ecosystems (n = 26)

Systems Theory, Environs, General ecosystem properties (Indirect Effects)

(Borrett et al., 2010; Ma and Kazanci, 2013; Yong Min et al., 2011; Salas and Borrett, 2011)

Software: NCNA (Min et al., 2011), EcoNet (Schramski et al., 2011), enaR (Borrett and Lau, 2014)

# ENA Topic Clusters (2/2)

## Flow, Sustainability (n = 22)

Theory, Method Development, Applications

Key terms: sustainability, performance, indicators, information, diversity

Example Applications

Resiliency of the  
Heiha River Basin  
(Kharrazi et al. 2016)

Crop & Livestock System, N flow perspective  
(Stark et al. 2016)

Industrial System Design, Industrial Parks as Ecosystem  
(Layton et al. 2016)



## Wetlands & Water Systems (n = 19)

Physical water exchanges in wetlands (e.g. Baiyangdian Basin) (Mao et al., 2015, 2010; Yang and Mao, 2011)

Virtual water trade (Fang and Chen, 2015; Mao and Yang, 2012; Yang et al., 2012)

Energy-water nexus (Duan and Chen, 2017; Wang and Chen, 2016; Yan and Chen, 2016)

## Risk Assessment (n = 8)

## Energy Security, supply, stability (n = 7)

## Species Loss (Rate, Remove, Lake; n = 4)

# Summary of Key Findings

## Development of ENA

New analyses & metrics (describe system state)

Software tools – model construction, analysis

Methods for sensitivity & uncertainty analyses

Indicator – empirical testing (Luong et al. 2014), comparative

## Diverse applications of ENA

Food Webs (marine)

Urban, Socio-Economic

Creative applications

Growing  
fastest

