## Individual-based Methods for Simulation of WCPO Skipjack

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#### Individual-based Model of Tuna Movement and Distribution

SC11 recommendations included:

- "[regarding] information related to identifying changes in the spatial distribution of skipjack (including range contraction) in response to increase in fishing pressure... SC11 recommends that WCPFC12 take note of the analyses completed to date and that further work on this issue be undertaken, including:
  - more extensive skipjack tagging activities, including in sub-tropical and temperate regions to provide better information on stock connectivity and movement"

PTTP work plan also recommended that analyses of movement data from tagging should:

• *"provide external validation to [movement] estimates from within MFCL and SEAPODYM."* 

#### Individual-based Model of Tuna Movement and Distribution

Aims:

- Build a individual-based model of skipjack tuna distribution in the WCPO
- Use to quantify sensitivity of tuna distribution to:
  - Variable resolution ocean forcing fields
  - Alternative behaviours and foraging strategies
  - Effect of small and meso-scale interactions (tuna-prey, tunatuna, tuna-FAD etc.)
- Examine connectivity and movement estimates used in MULTIFAN-CL and SEAPODYM
- Not an ecosystem dynamics model!
- An "assumption analyser"

# SIMPODYM IBM -

- 'Spin-up' SEAPODYM interim-NEMO-PISCES
- Recruit single cohort at age 4-months, and use as initial conditions for biomass distribution
- Package biomass into schools of 'super-individual' particles
- Advect single cohort using same ocean forcing fields used in SEAPODYM and equivalent taxis behaviours
- Diffuse with individual behaviours in response to same prey field given by SEAPODYM
- Keep only natural mortality
- Run until final age-class and compare!



























- Compare particle densities with SEAPODYM biomass
- Examine differences across grid resolutions
- Use a baseline to begin deviating using alternative assumptions

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- Weak gradient -> move in direction slow
- Good habitat -> move slowly



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- Strong gradient -> move in direction fast
- Weak gradient -> move in direction slow
- Good habitat -> move slowly
- In real ocean, no gradient information
- Animals use clues and sample their environment
- We will use individuallevel gradient information







Individual-based Kinesis, Advettenend Movement of Ocean ANimAls

• Movement simulation tool for pelagic species



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- Use in analysis and design of tagging experiments





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- Eddy-resolving resolution ocean forcing





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