## Outline

- 1. Motivations: Large-scale models vs. small-scale heterogeneity
- 2. Observations: Statistics of movement at the individual level
- 3. Derivations: Spatially-explicit models of populations
- 4. Approximations: Large-scale effects of unresolved heterogeneity

#### Interactions between consumers and heterogeneous resources





Key mechanisms: resource patch dynamics, movement, reproduction, consumption

#### Key parameters:

Organism-level		Landscape-level	
parameter	interpretation	parameter	interpretation
С	consumer speed	Т	resource time scale
τ	consumer turning interval	L	resource length scale
$\sigma_z$	max. intrinsic rate of growth of consumer	r	char. resource density
η	max. specific consumption rate of consumer	z	char. consumer density
$\mu$	mortality rate of consumer		

#### Interactions between consumers and heterogeneous resources





Key mechanisms: resource patch dynamics, movement, reproduction, consumption

Key timescales:

Resource patch duration timescaleTConsumer motility timescale $T_{search} = \frac{L^2}{c^2 \tau}$ Consumer reproduction timescale $T_{reprod} = \frac{1}{\sigma_z}$ Resource consumption timescale $T_{consumpt} = \frac{\bar{r}}{\eta \bar{z}}$ 

#### Interactions between consumers and heterogeneous resources

#### Putative ecological indices:

Definition	Name	interpretation
$\mathscr{F}r = \frac{T}{T_{search}} = \frac{c^2 T \tau}{L^2}$	Frost number	Relative importance <b>movement</b> in <i>z</i>
$\mathscr{S}tr = \frac{T}{T_{reprod}} = T\sigma_z$	Strathmann number	Relative importance <b>reproduction</b> in <i>z</i>
$\mathcal{L}e = \frac{T}{T_{consumpt}} = \frac{\eta \bar{z}T}{\bar{r}}$	Lessard number	Relative importance of <b>consumption</b> of $r$ by $z$

#### Interpreting marine ecological dynamics with non-dimensional indices



## An ecological modeling framework

r(t,x) = resource density, z(t,x) = consumer density



Demography-dominated Str >> 1, Fr << 1, Le << 1 Motility-dominated Str << 1, Fr >> 1, Le << 1



#### Interpreting ecological dynamics with non-dimensional indices Grünbaum 2002

# Frost Number:

$$Fr = \frac{C^2 T \tau}{L^2}$$

Characteristic values: c ~ forager speed τ ~ forager turning interval L ~ resource length scale T ~ resource time scale







Aggregation of consumers to resources – time series



Aggregation of consumers to resources – time average



## **Characterizing Ecological Dynamics in the Marine Environment**

# Frost Number:

$$Fr = \frac{C^2 T \tau}{L^2}$$

#### Characteristic values:

- c ~ forager speed
- $\tau \sim$  forager turning interval
- *L* ~ resource length scale
- $T \sim \text{resource time scale}$



$$T_{critical} = \frac{L^2}{C^2 \tau}$$

#### Distinguishing available from unavailable resources



# An ecological modeling framework

$$\frac{\partial r}{\partial t} = \underbrace{\nabla \left( D_e \nabla r - \mathbf{U} r \right)}_{\text{Phys. diffusion, advection of } r} + \underbrace{Q(t, \mathbf{x}, r)}_{\text{Production of } r} - \underbrace{\mathcal{L}e \ \hat{H}(t, \mathbf{x}, r, z)z}_{\text{Consumption of } r}$$

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial t} = \underbrace{\mathcal{F}r \ \nabla \left( \hat{D}(r) \nabla z - \hat{\chi}(r) \nabla rz \right)}_{\text{Behav.+Phys. diffusion, migration of } z} - \underbrace{\nabla \left( \mathbf{U}z \right)}_{\text{Advection of } z} + \underbrace{\mathcal{S}tr \ \hat{S}(t, \mathbf{x}, r, z)z}_{\text{Demographics of } z}$$

#### Non-dimensional indices and their interpretations

Definition	Name	interpretation	
$\mathcal{F}r = \frac{c^2 T \tau}{L^2}$	Frost number	patch duration search time	
$\mathcal{S}tr = T\sigma$	Strathmann number	patch duration consumer generation time	
$\mathcal{L}e = \frac{\eta \bar{z}T}{\bar{r}}$	Lessard number	<u>patch</u> duration consumption time	

#### Spatially and temporally averaged resource and consumer populations



Lessard No. Le << 1 (weak impacts of consumers on resources)

0

Spatially and temporally averaged resource and consumer populations



Lessard No. Le >> 1 (strong impacts of consumers on resources)

0

## How valuable is a patchy resource?

Normalized, time-averaged total resource & consumer abundance



resource distributions relative to uniform distributions of the same resources.