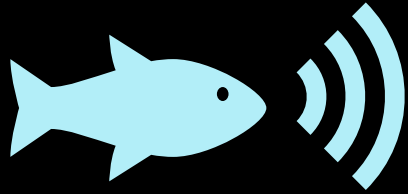


# The Ecological Importance and Management Applications of Underwater Sounds

Audrey Looby

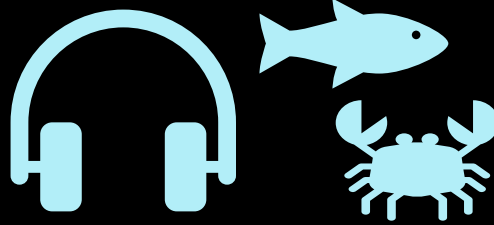


# The Ecological Importance and Management Applications of Underwater Sounds



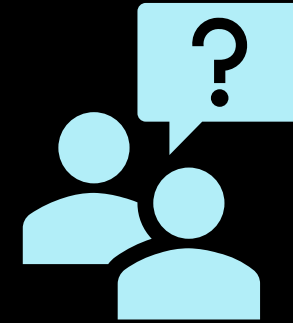
## Background

Underwater Soundscapes  
Passive Acoustics



## Local Examples

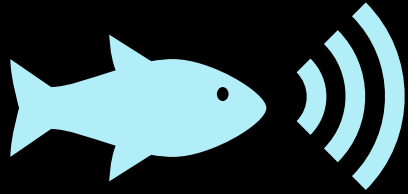
Fish Monitoring  
Ecological Monitoring



## Overview

What We Know  
What We Don't Know

# The Ecological Importance and Management Applications of Underwater Sounds



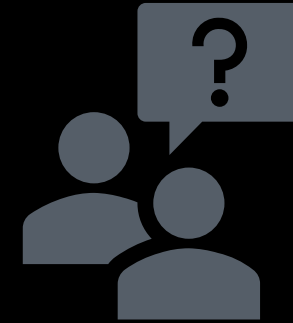
## Background

Underwater Soundscapes  
Passive Acoustics



## Local Examples

Fish Monitoring  
Ecological Monitoring

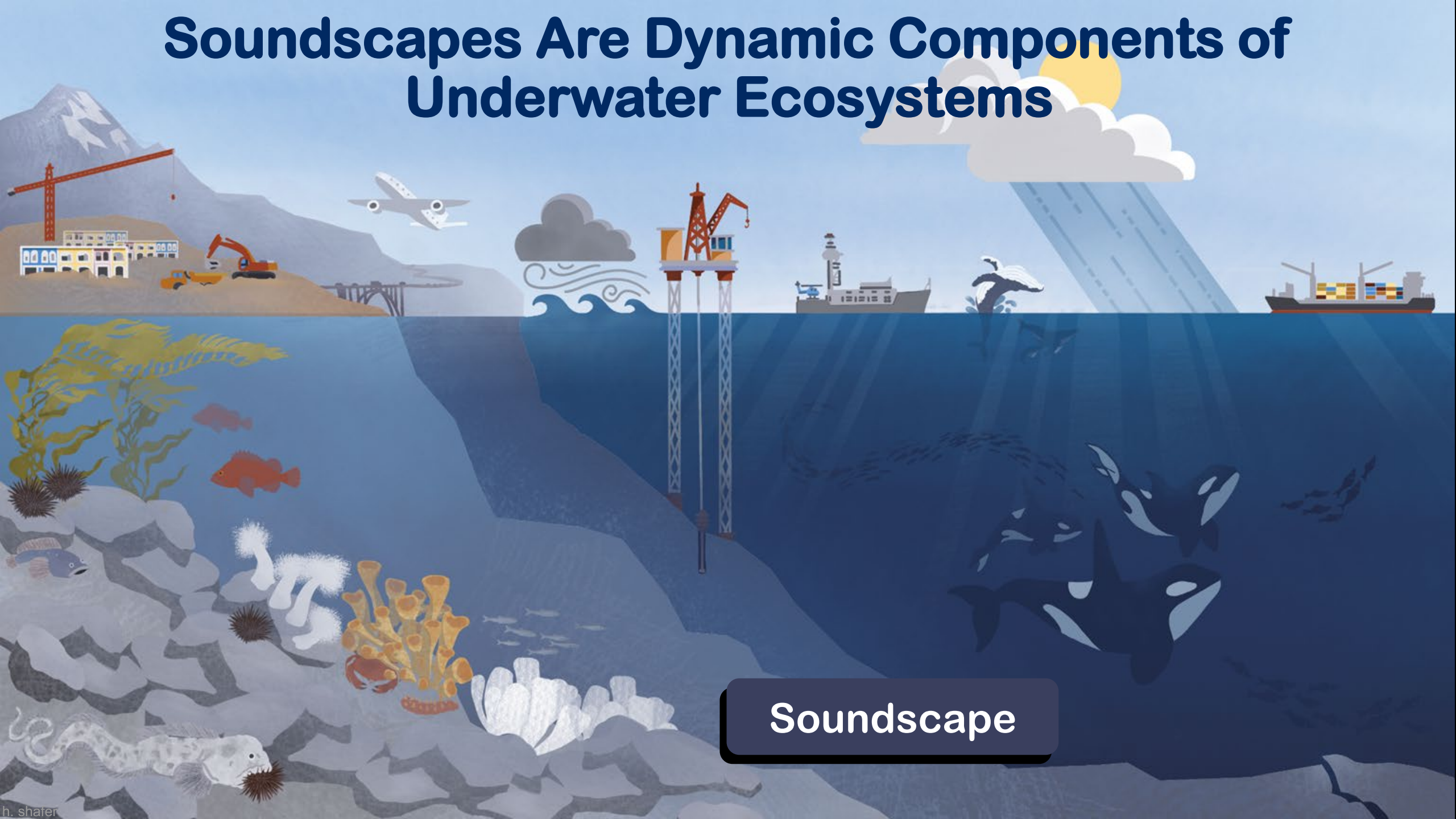


## Overview

What We Know  
What We Don't Know



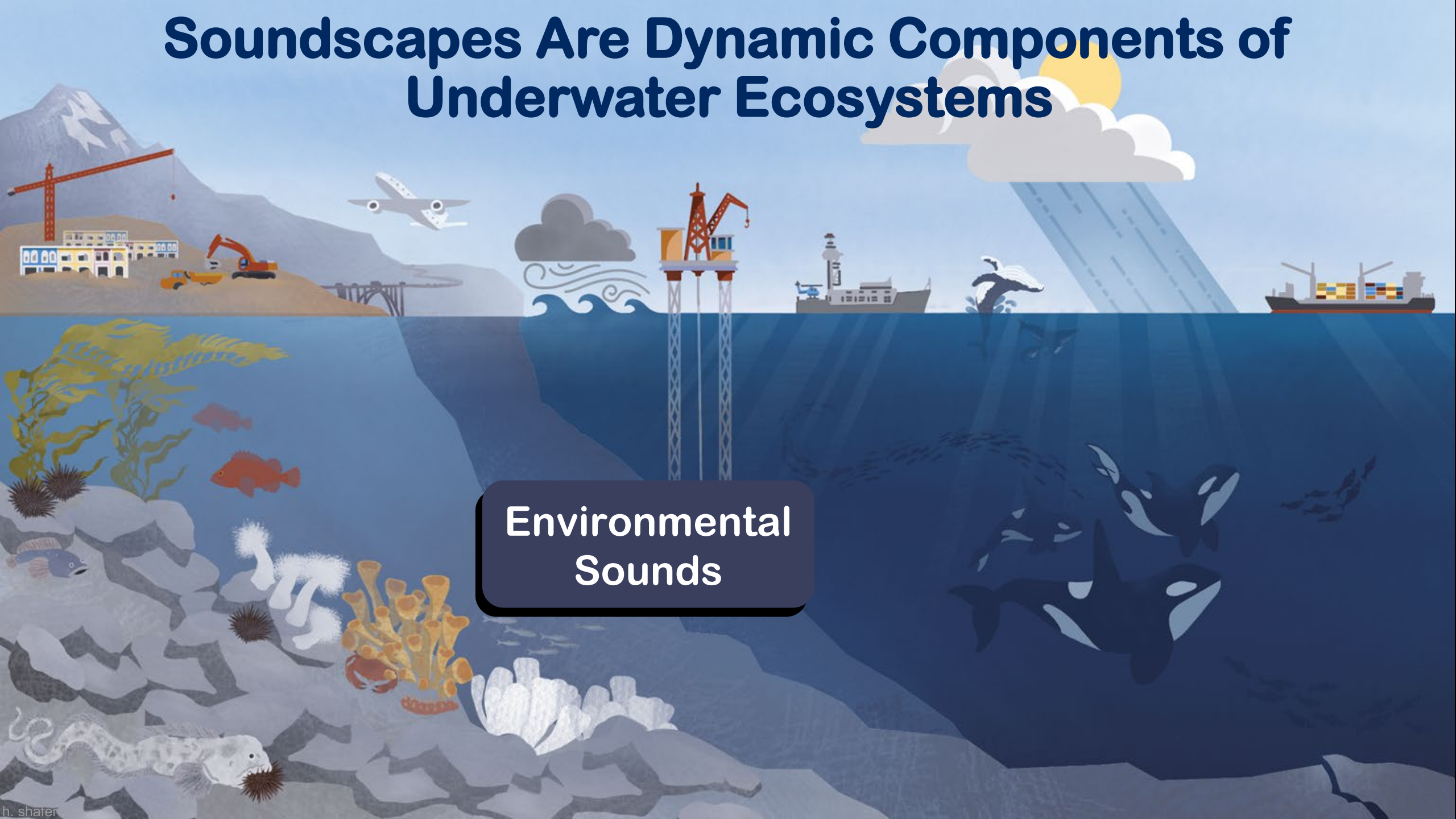
# Soundscapes Are Dynamic Components of Underwater Ecosystems



Soundscape

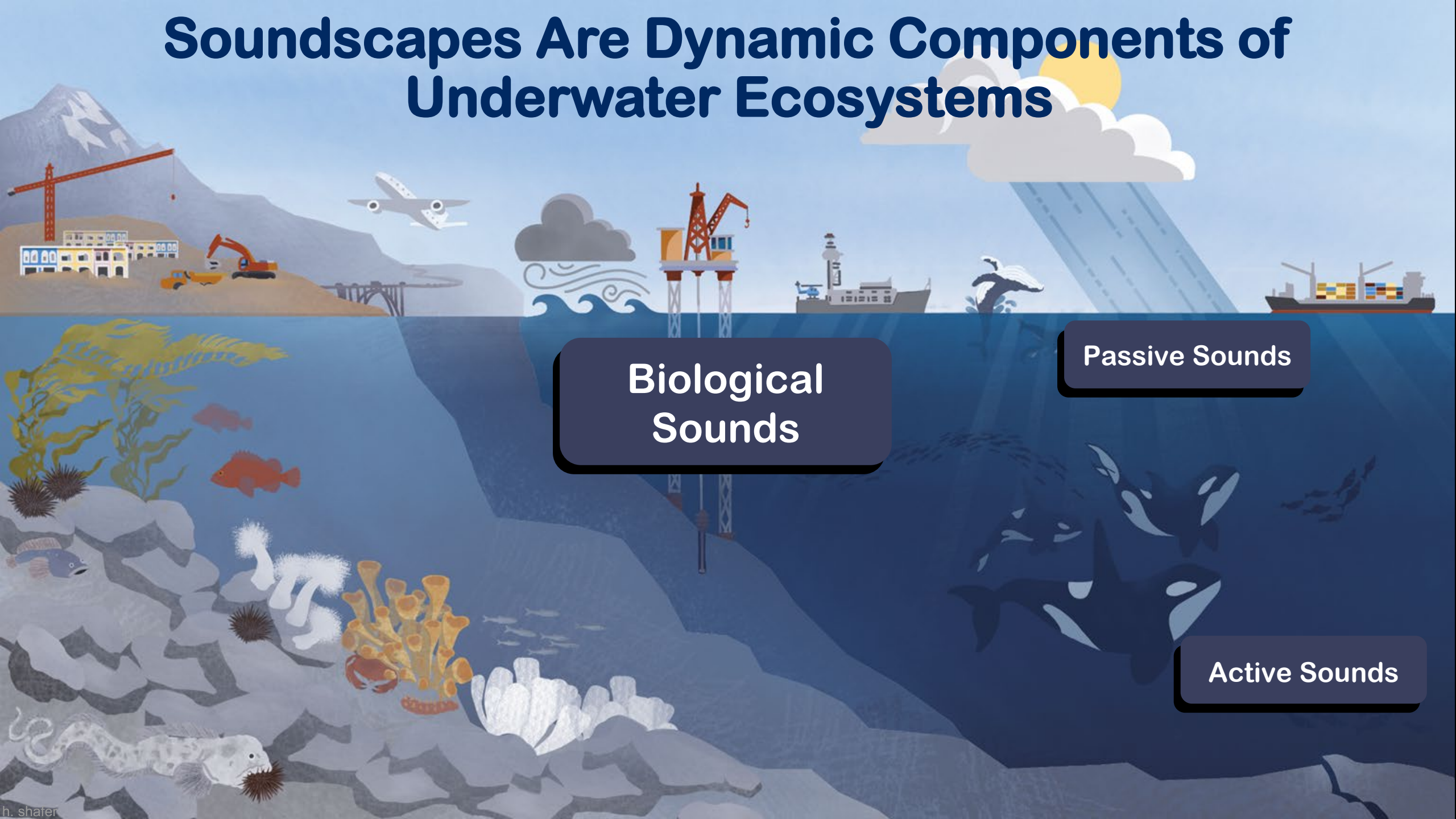


# Soundscapes Are Dynamic Components of Underwater Ecosystems



Environmental  
Sounds

# Soundscapes Are Dynamic Components of Underwater Ecosystems



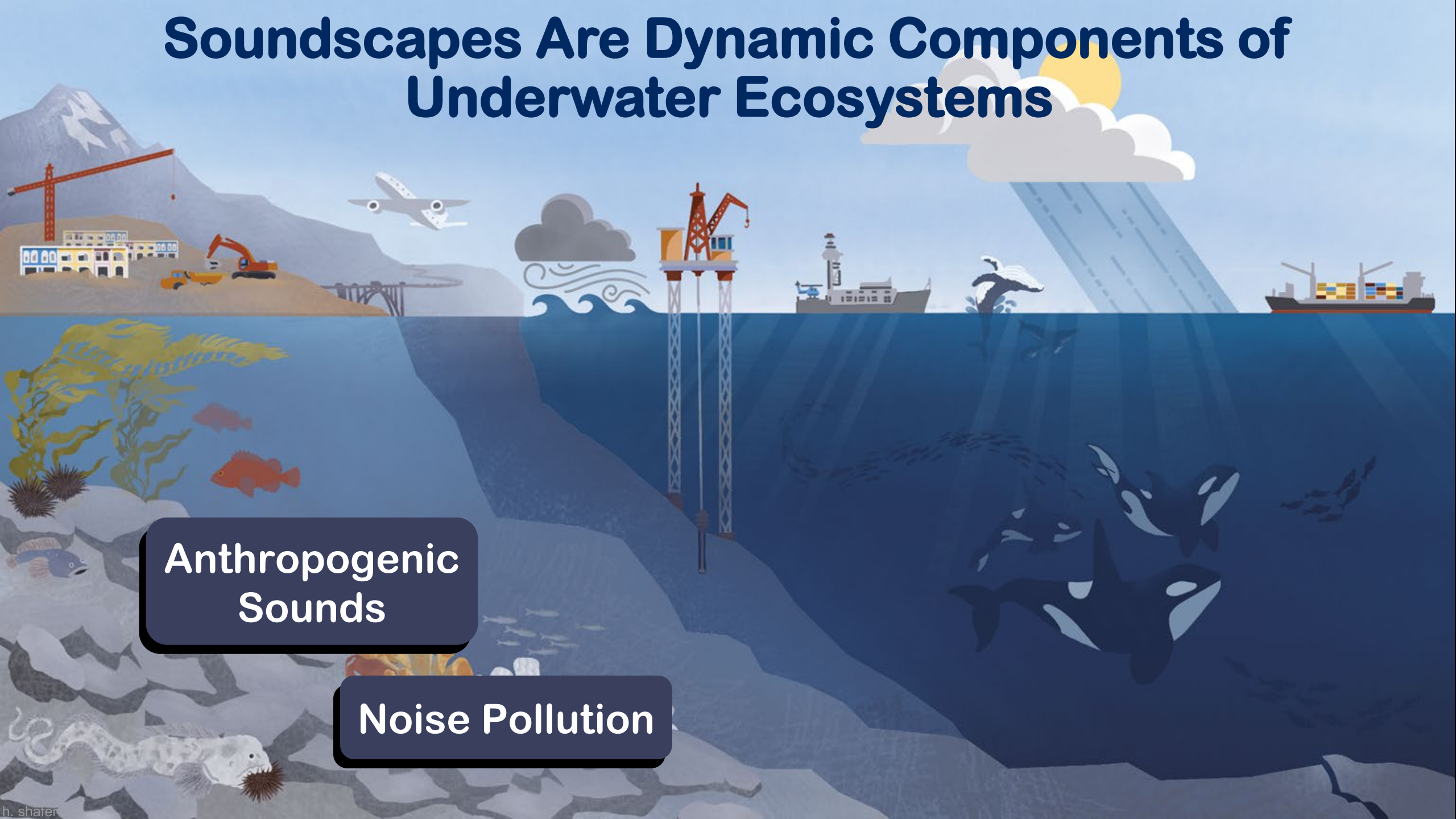
**Biological  
Sounds**

**Passive Sounds**

**Active Sounds**



# Soundscapes Are Dynamic Components of Underwater Ecosystems

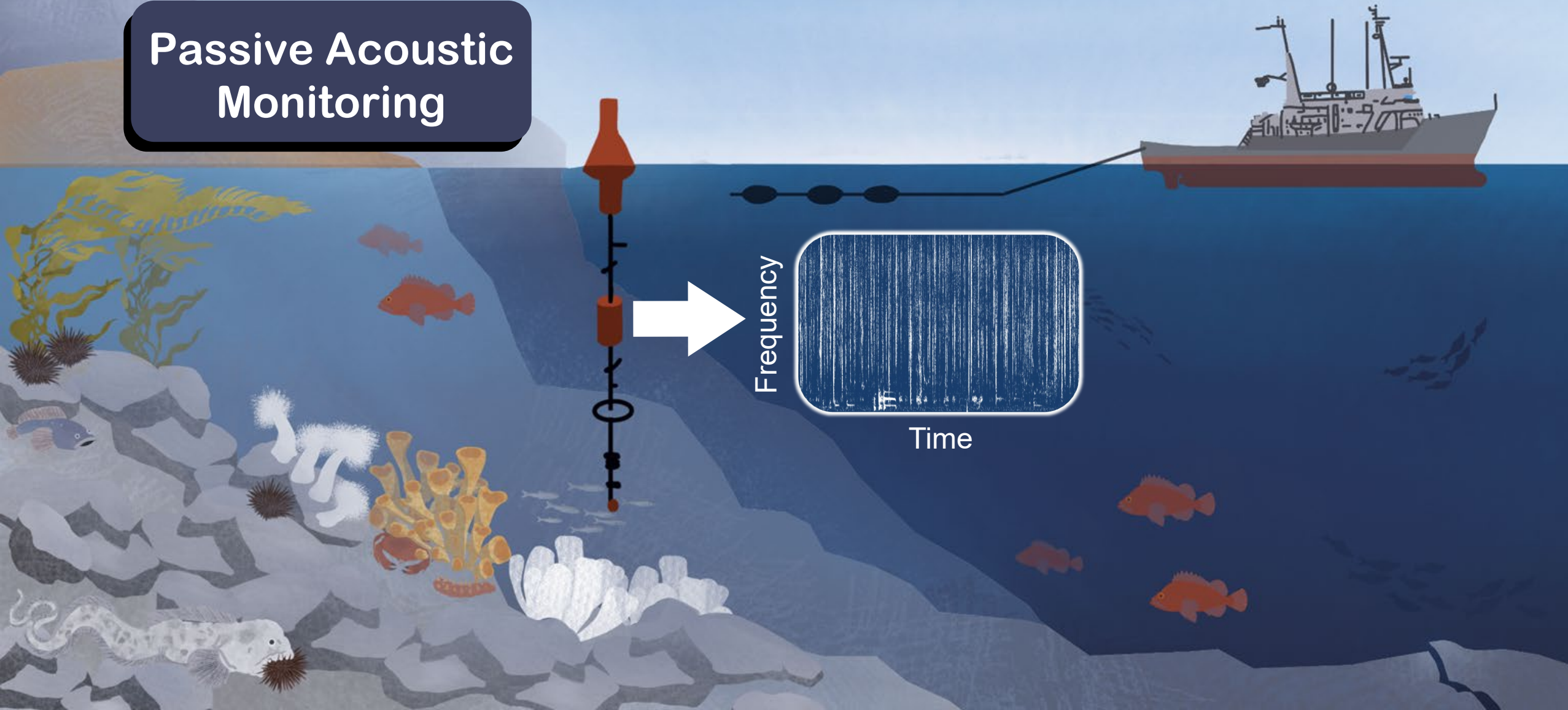


**Anthropogenic  
Sounds**

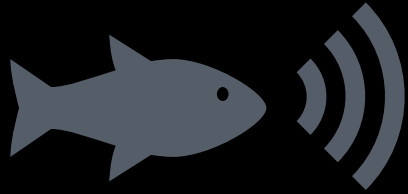
**Noise Pollution**

# Eavesdropping on Underwater Soundscapes for Ecological Research and Monitoring

## Passive Acoustic Monitoring

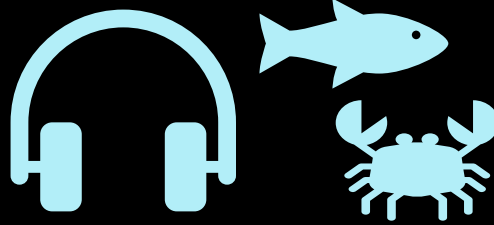


# The Ecological Importance and Management Applications of Underwater Sounds



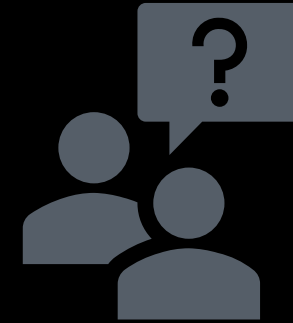
## Overview

Underwater Soundscapes  
Passive Acoustics



## Local Examples

Fish Monitoring  
Ecological Monitoring



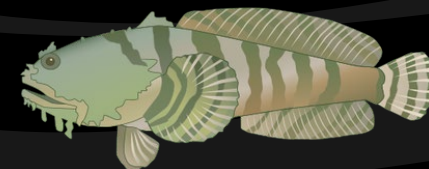
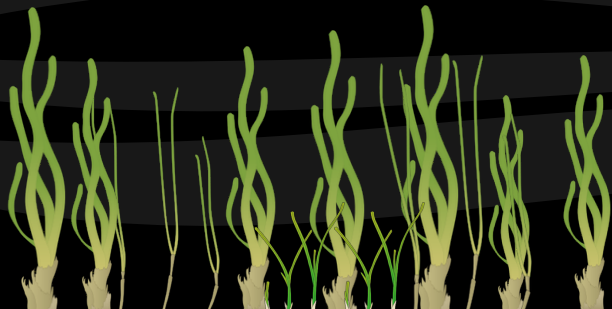
## Takeaways

What We Know  
What We Don't Know



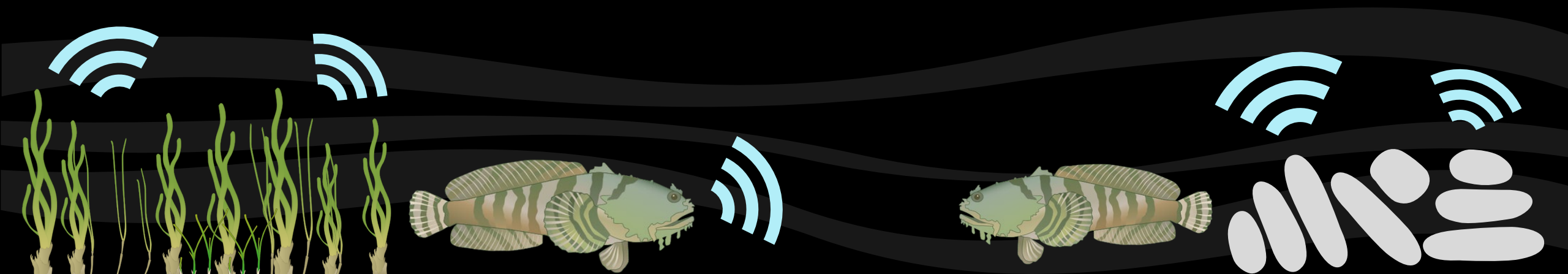
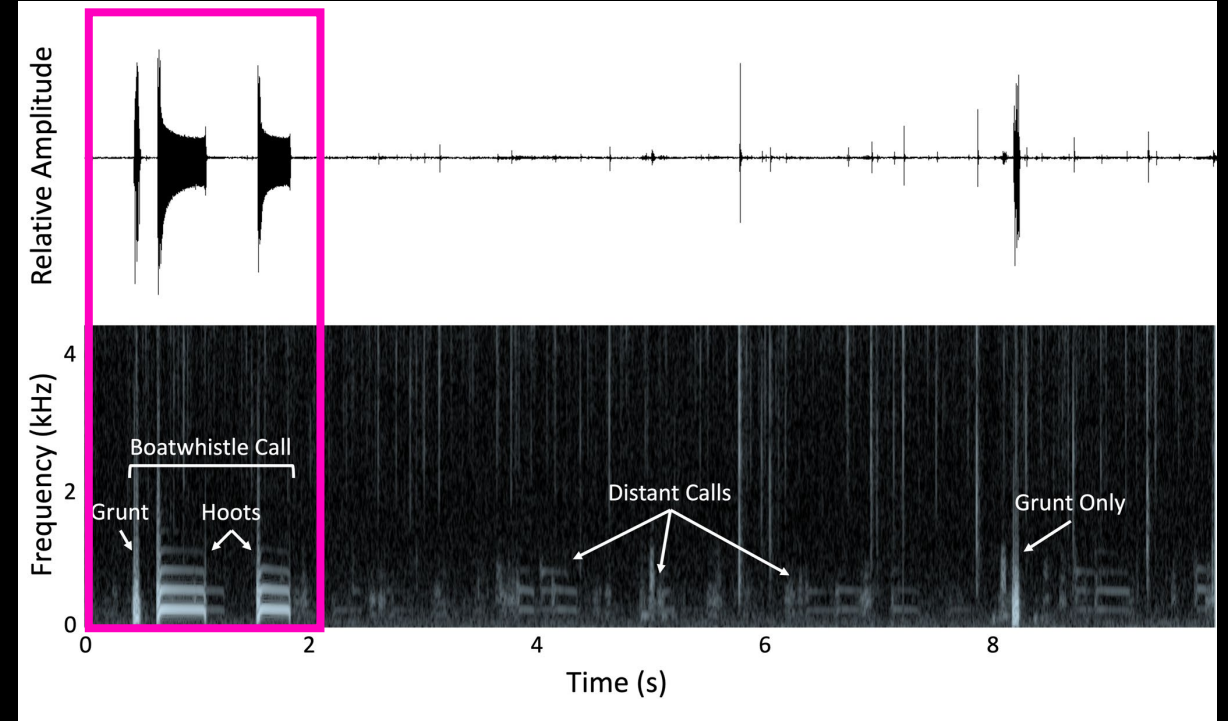
# Meet the Gulf Toadfish!

(*Opsanus beta*)





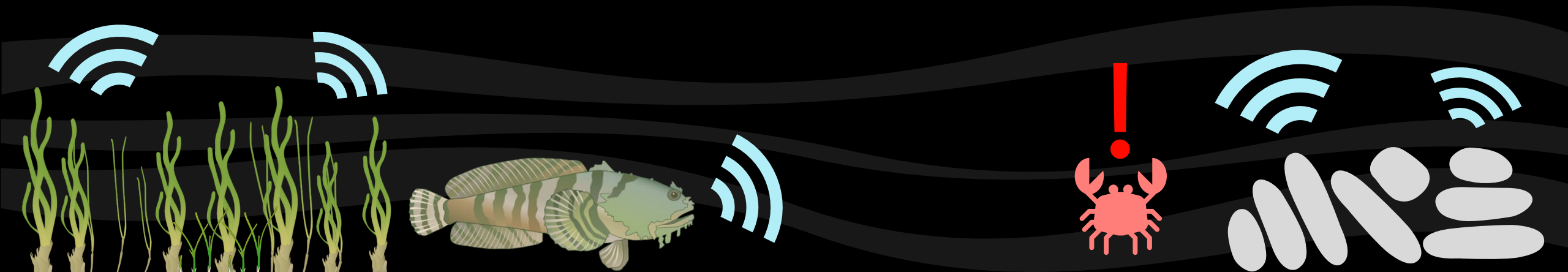
# Gulf Toadfish Produce Complex Calls



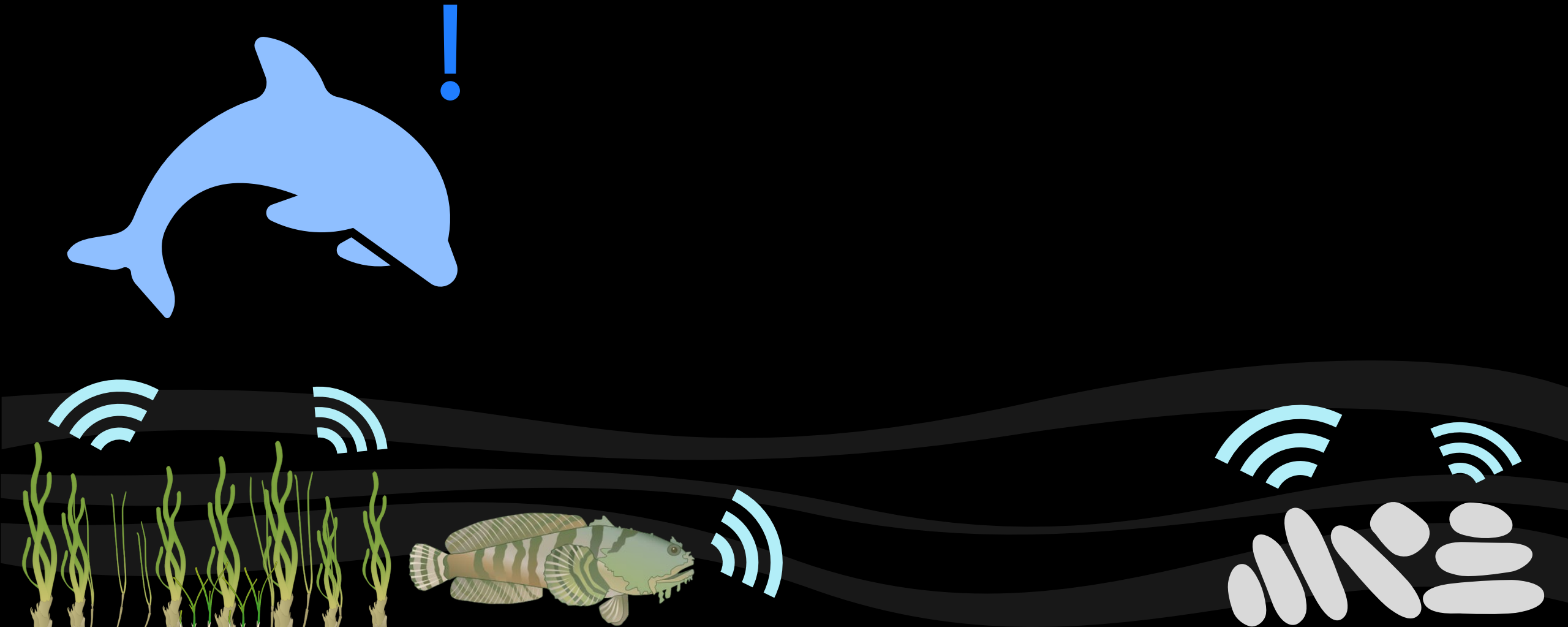
# Toadfish Calls Can Inform Reproduction



# Toadfish Calls Can Inform Predator Avoidance

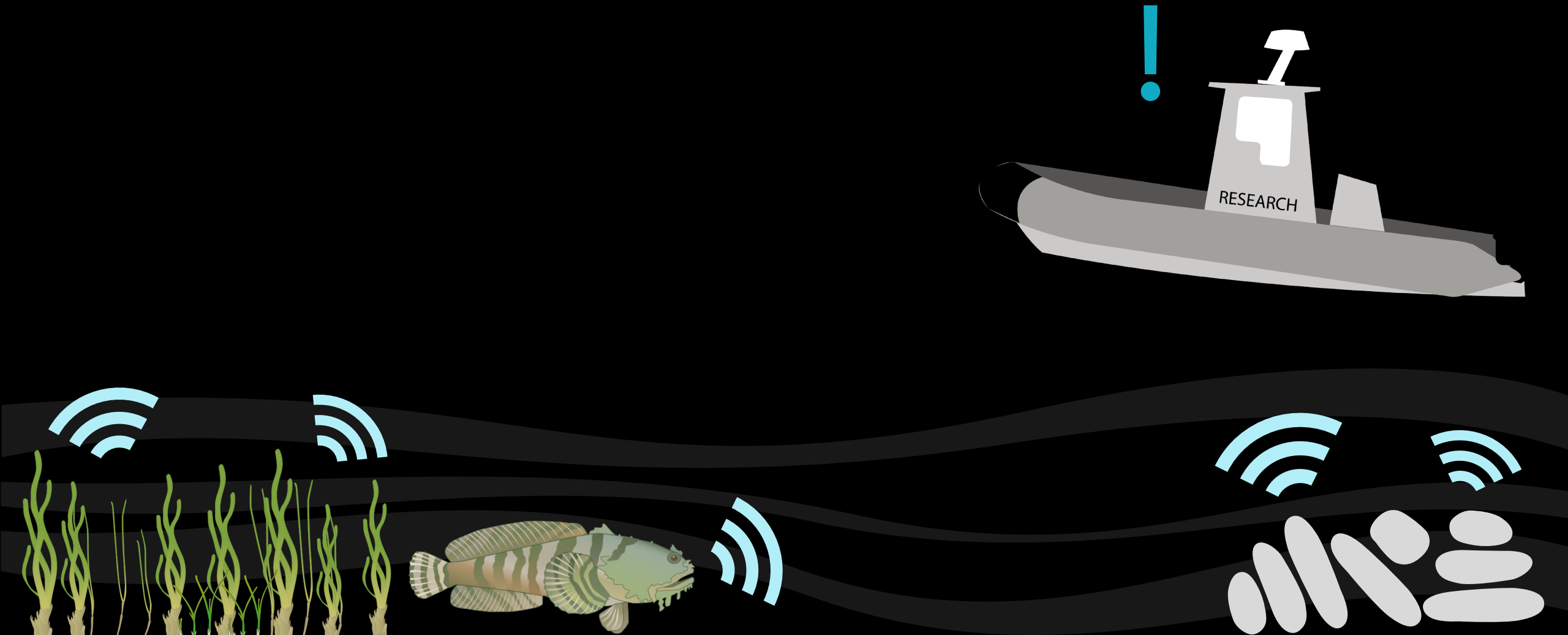


# Toadfish Calls Can Inform Prey Detection

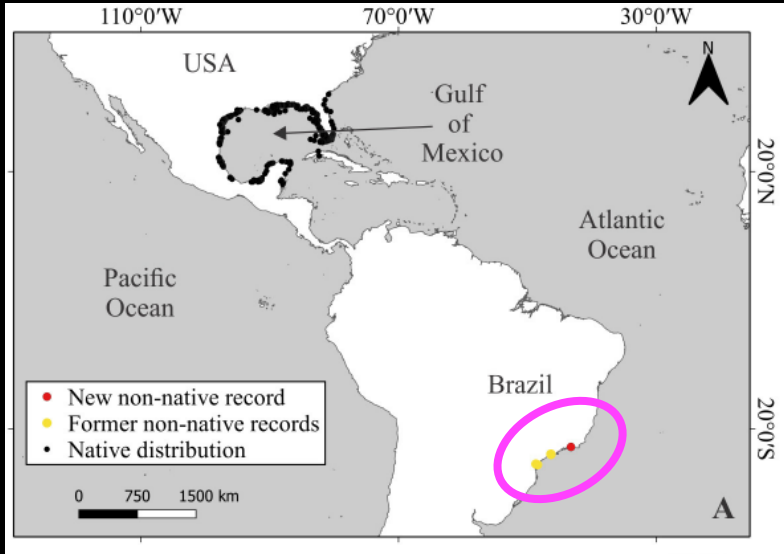




# Toadfish Calls Can Inform Ecological Monitoring



# Toadfish Calls Can Inform Invasive Species Monitoring

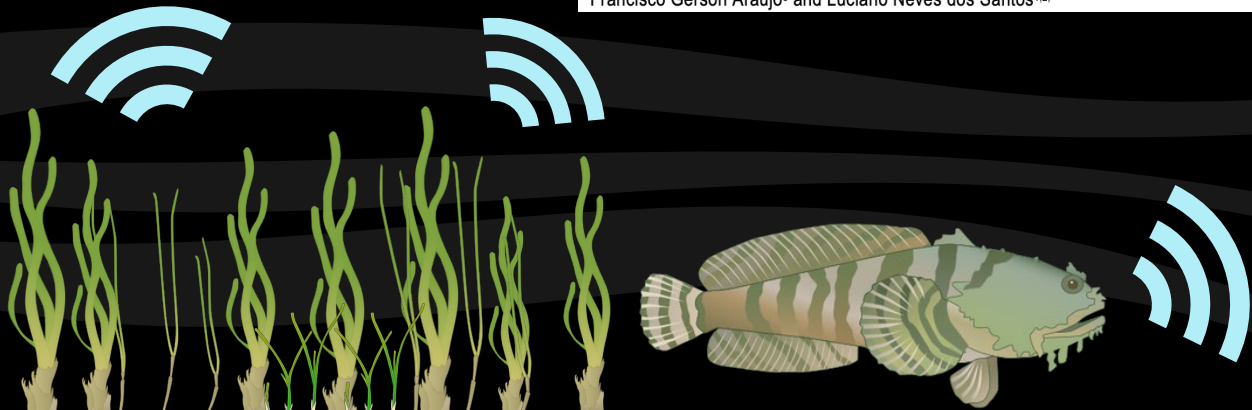
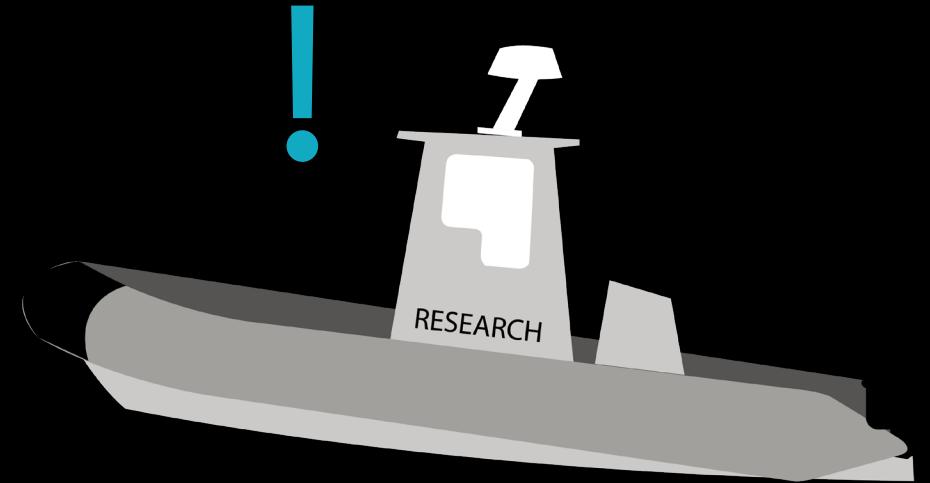


BioInvasions Records (2020) Volume 9, Issue 2: 279–286

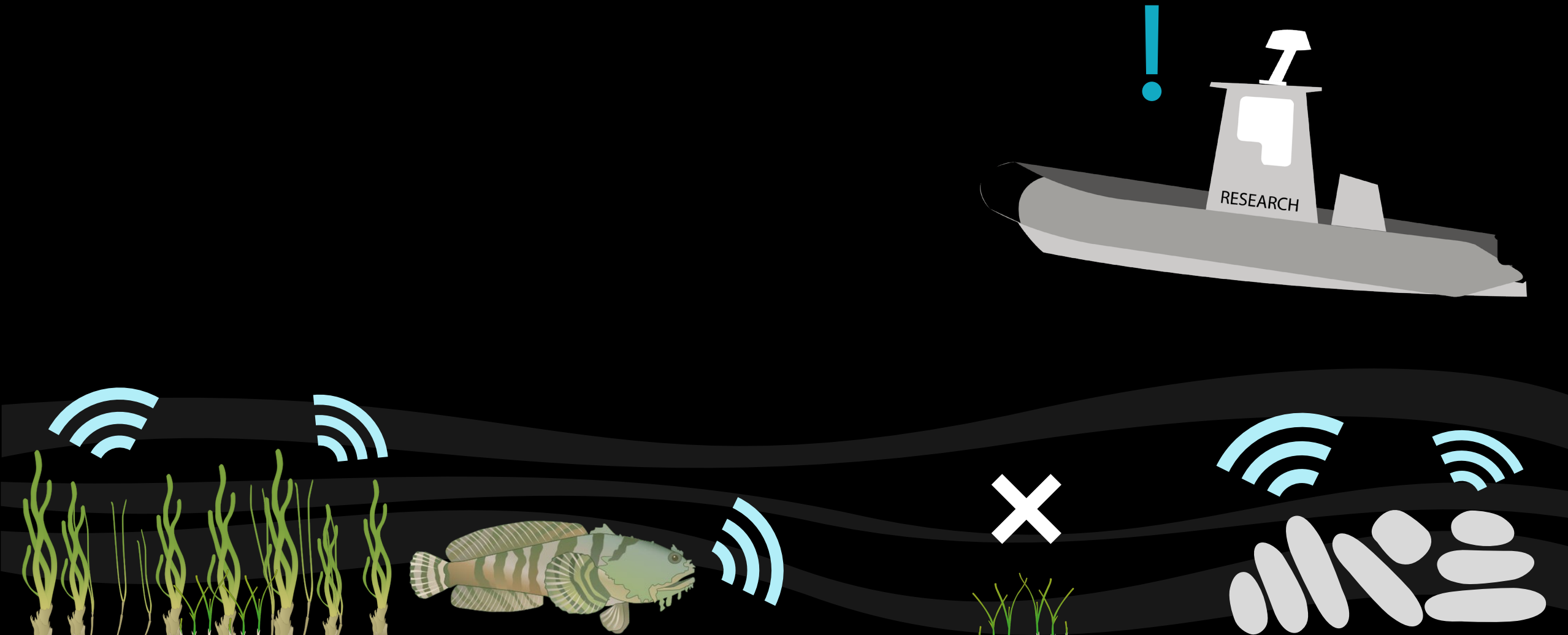
## Rapid Communication

### First report of the non-native gulf toadfish *Opsanus beta* (Goode & Bean, 1880) on the coast of Rio de Janeiro – Brazil

Bruno Damasceno Cordeiro<sup>1,2</sup>, Athila Andrade Bertoncini<sup>1,2</sup>, Felipe Eloy Abrunhosa<sup>2</sup>, Luana Santos Corona<sup>2</sup>, Francisco Gerson Araújo<sup>3</sup> and Luciano Neves dos Santos<sup>1,2,\*</sup>



# Toadfish Calls Can Inform Environmental Monitoring

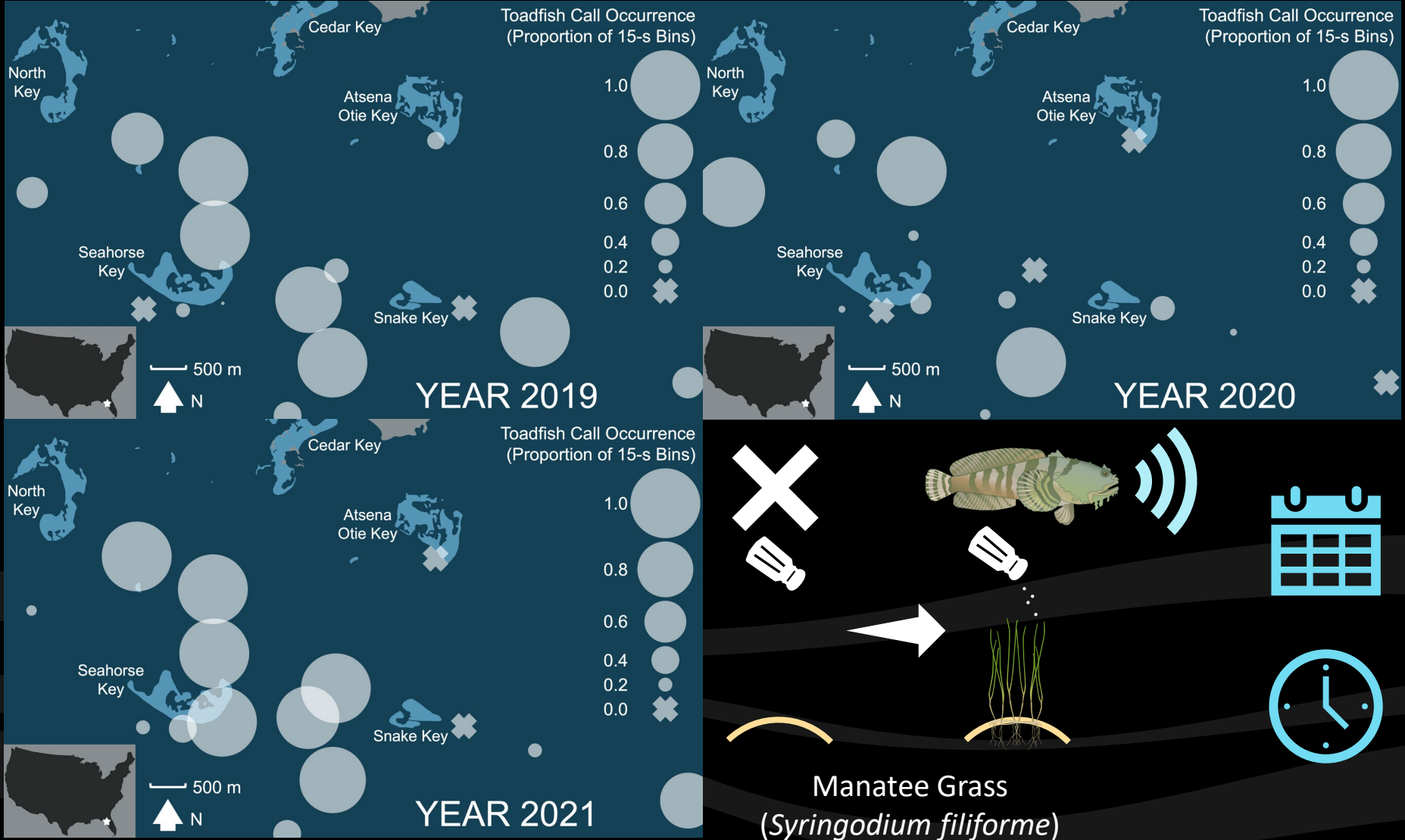




# How Effective Are They For Monitoring?

A stylized illustration of an underwater scene. The background is a gradient of light blue to white, suggesting sunlight filtering through the water. In the foreground, there are dark blue silhouettes of coral and seaweed. Several fish are depicted in various colors (yellow, orange, blue, green) and sizes, swimming in the water. Some fish are near the bottom, while others are higher up. There are also some small, white, circular shapes that look like bubbles or small organisms. In the top right corner, the text "Looby et al. 2024. Estuaries Coast" is written in a black, sans-serif font.

# Gulf Toadfish Calls Were Heterogeneously Distributed Across Seagrass Meadows





# Passive Acoustics Was More Effective Than Trawling at Detecting Gulf Toadfish

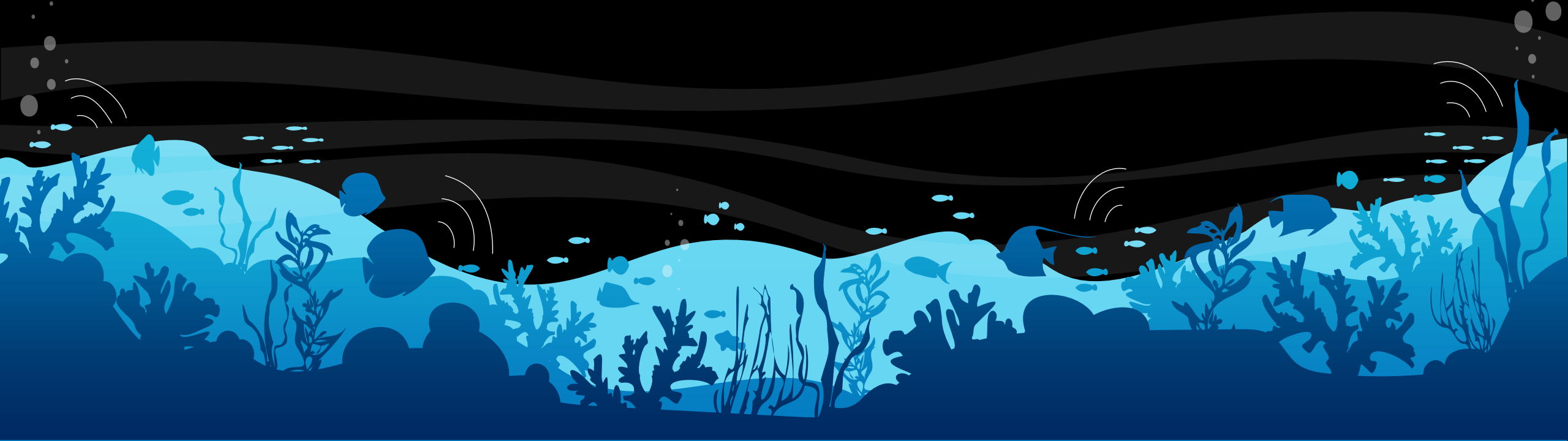


37 / 45

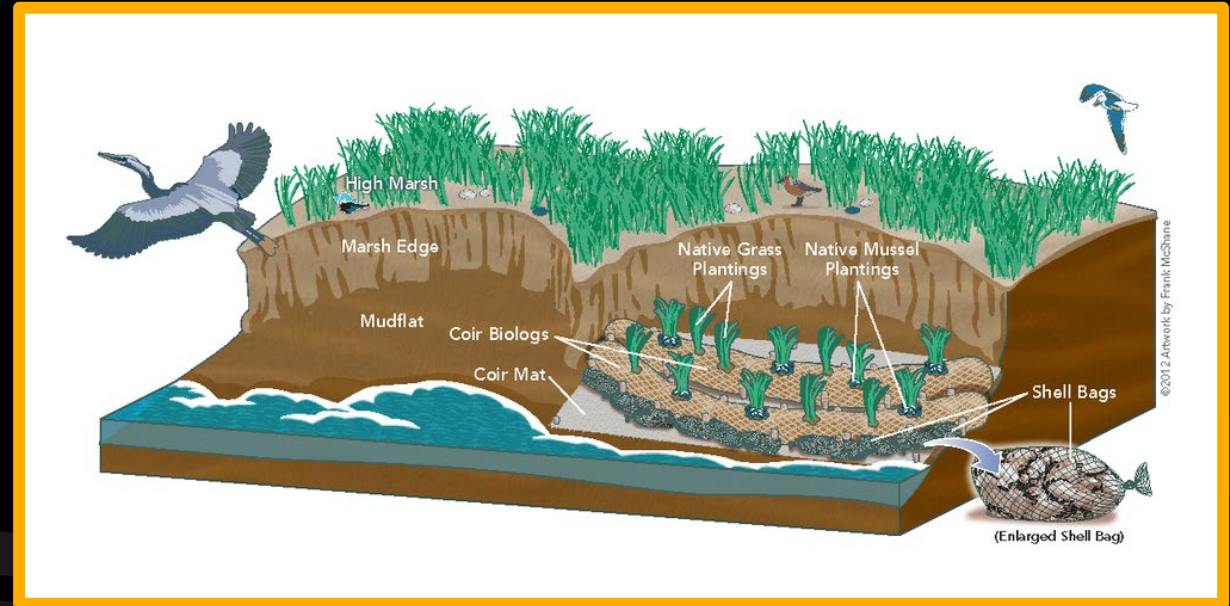
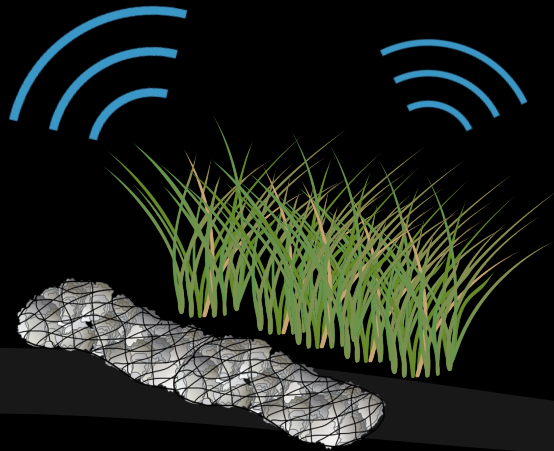


5 / 45

**Gulf toadfish calls can reflect habitats  
and passive acoustics performed better  
than a traditional sampling method**

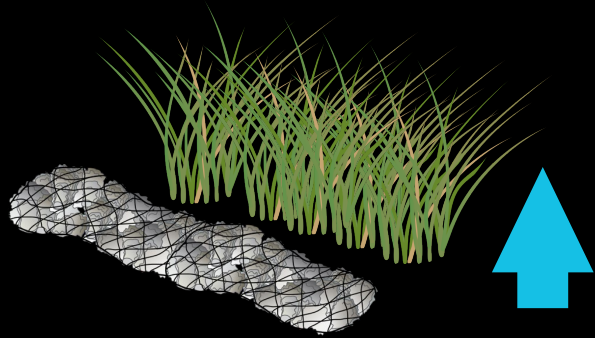


# What Impact Does a Living Shoreline Have on Its Underwater Soundscape?



Looby et al. 2024. Aquat Conserv: Mar Freshw Ecosyst

# With an Increase in Habitat Structure...

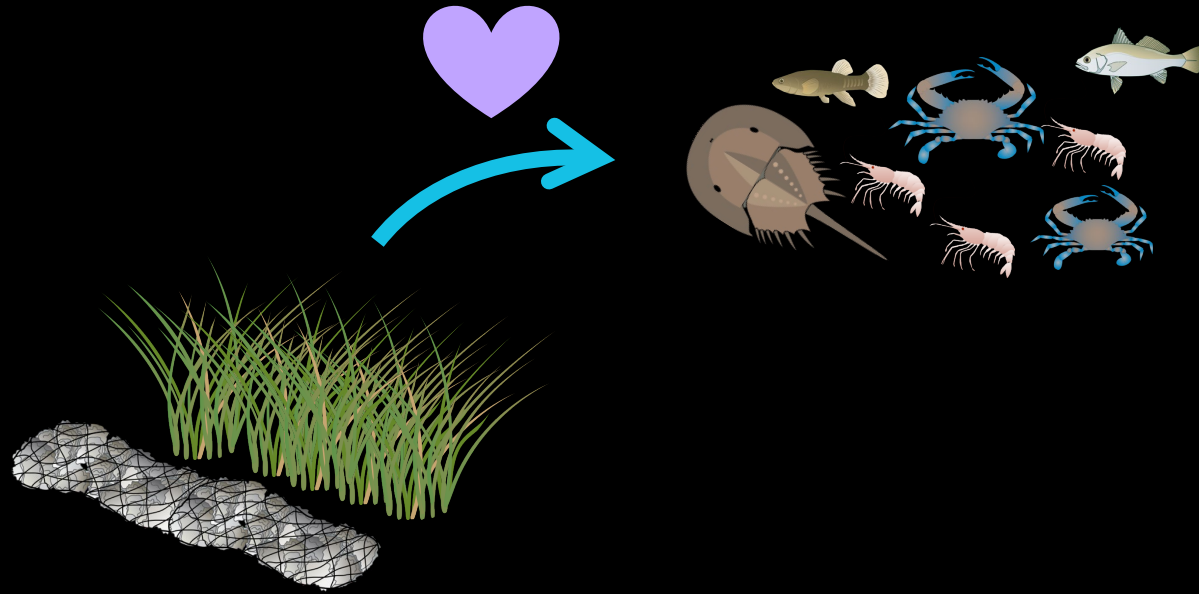


Arrow Key

Beneficial

Detrimental

# ...Intertidal Organisms Would Increase, Which Would...



Arrow Key

Beneficial

Detrimental

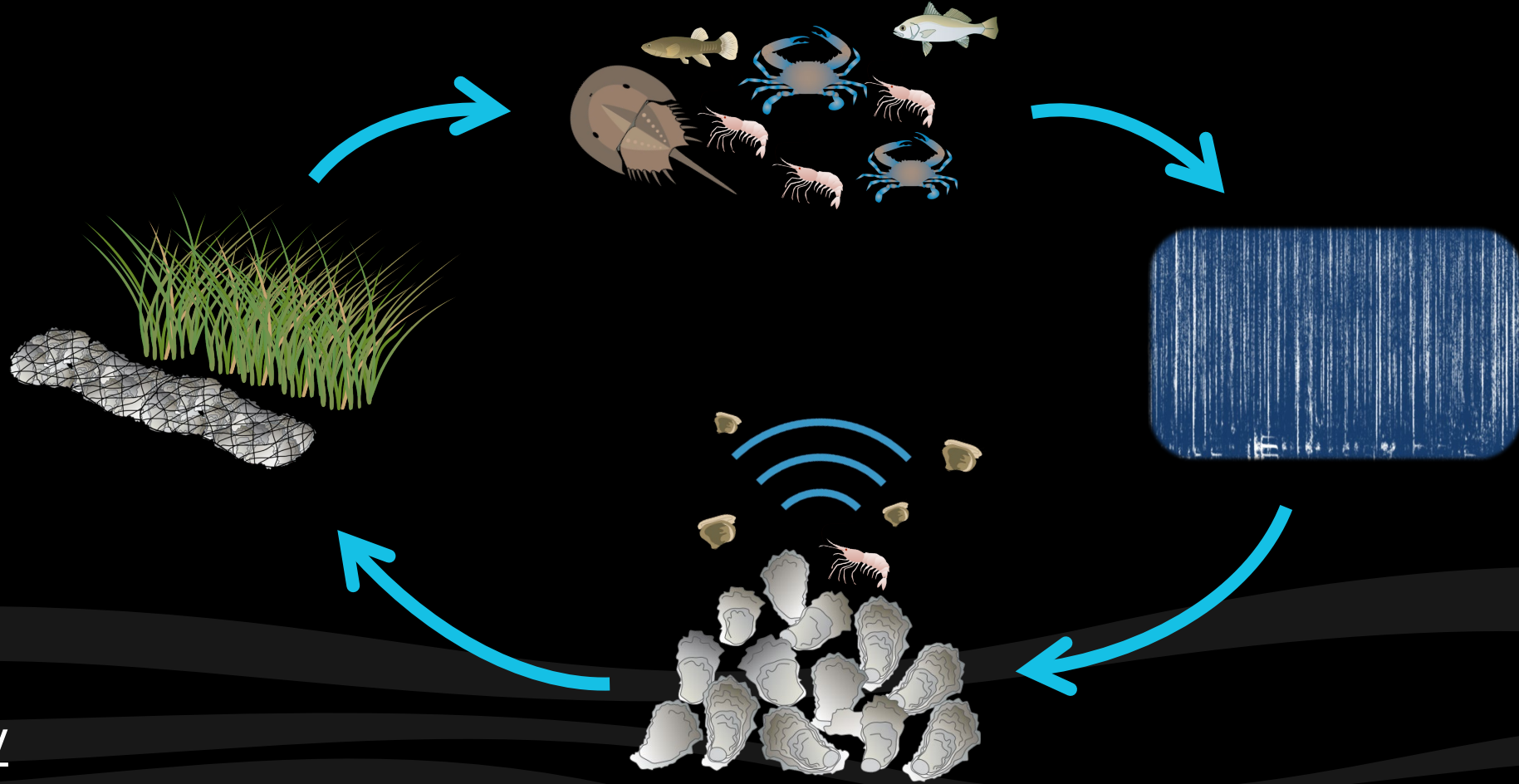


# ...Lead to More Sounds, Which Would...



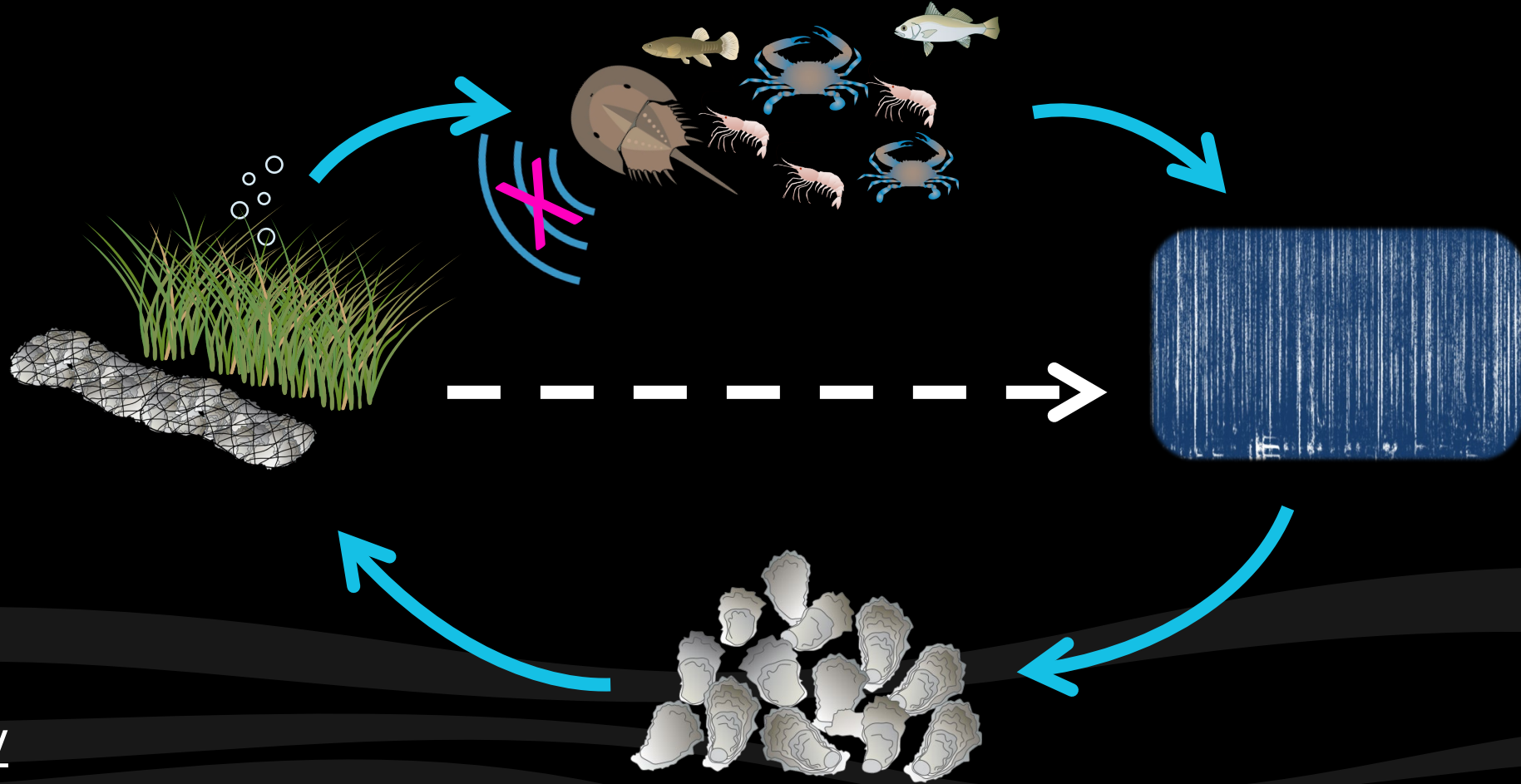
Arrow Key  
Beneficial  
Detrimental

# ...Lead to More Oyster Settlement and Habitat Structure



Arrow Key  
Beneficial  
Detrimental

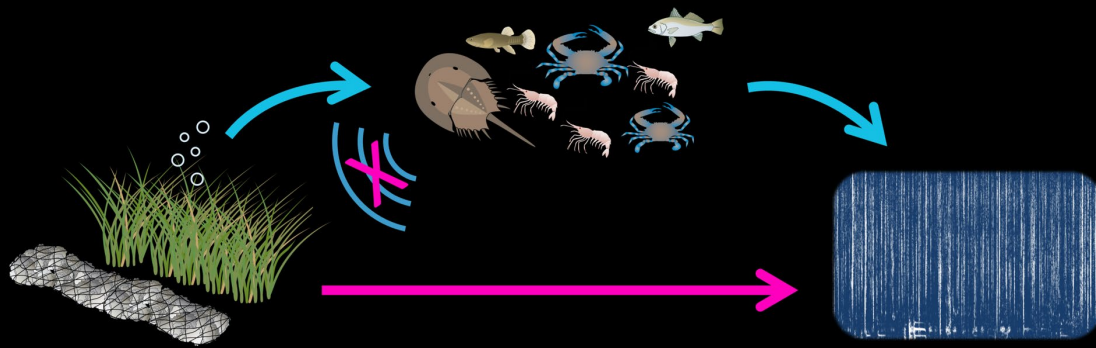
# Salt Marsh Plants Would Increase Attenuation



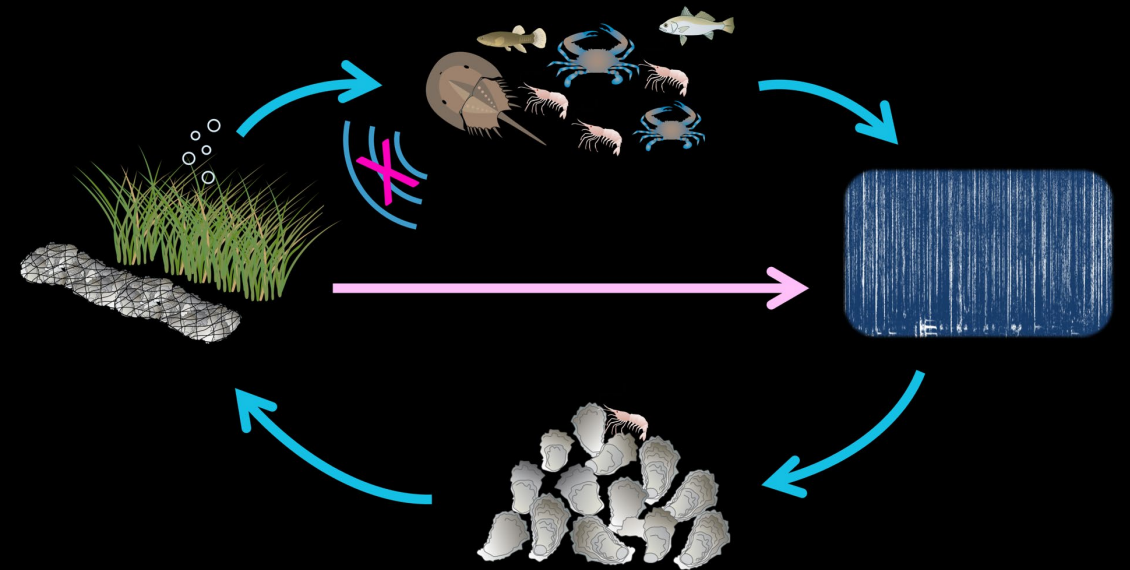
Arrow Key  
Beneficial  
Detrimental

# Salt Marsh Plants Would Increase Attenuation

Salt Marsh Plants Lead to the Same or Less Sound



Salt Marsh Plants Have Limited Effects on Sound



Arrow Key  
Beneficial  
Detrimental



# Field Sampling at Hardened and Living Shorelines in Cedar Key, FL



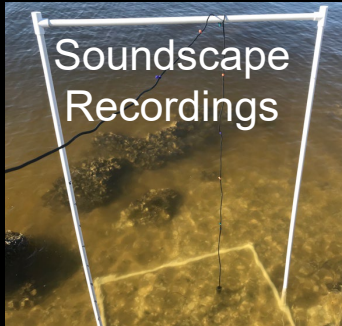


# Field Data Supported the Existence of Soundscape-Habitat Interactions

Before-After-  
Control-Impact

A Year Following Construction

Seasonal



Soundstage  
Recordings

Fyke Nets



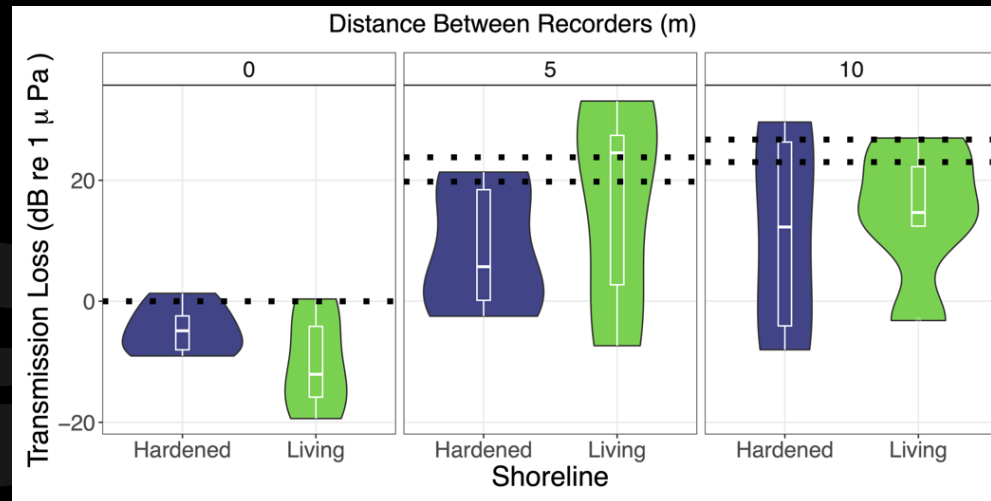
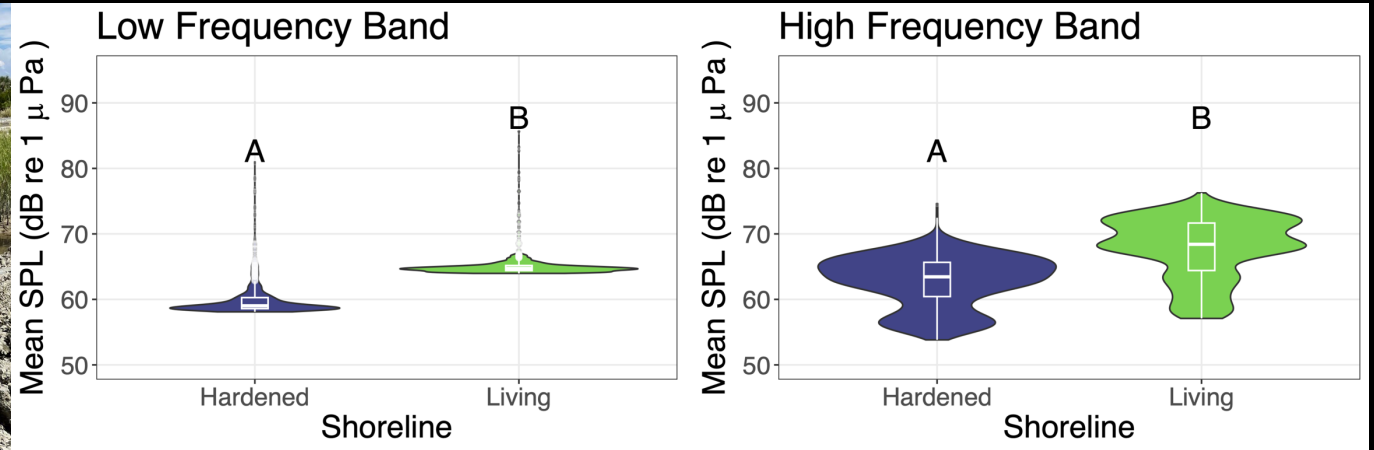
Inconclusive



Minnow Traps

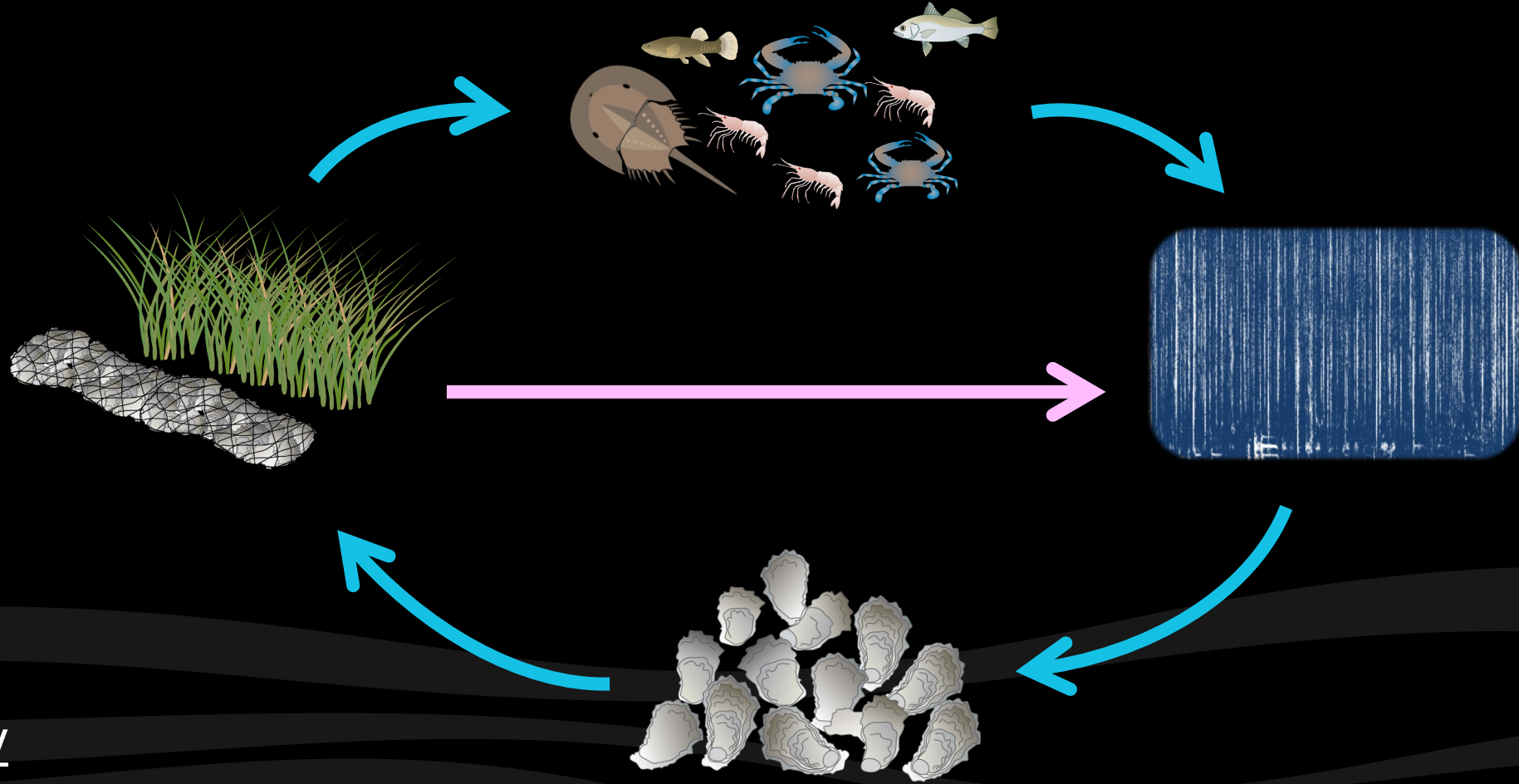


Soundstage  
Recordings



Attenuation  
Measurements

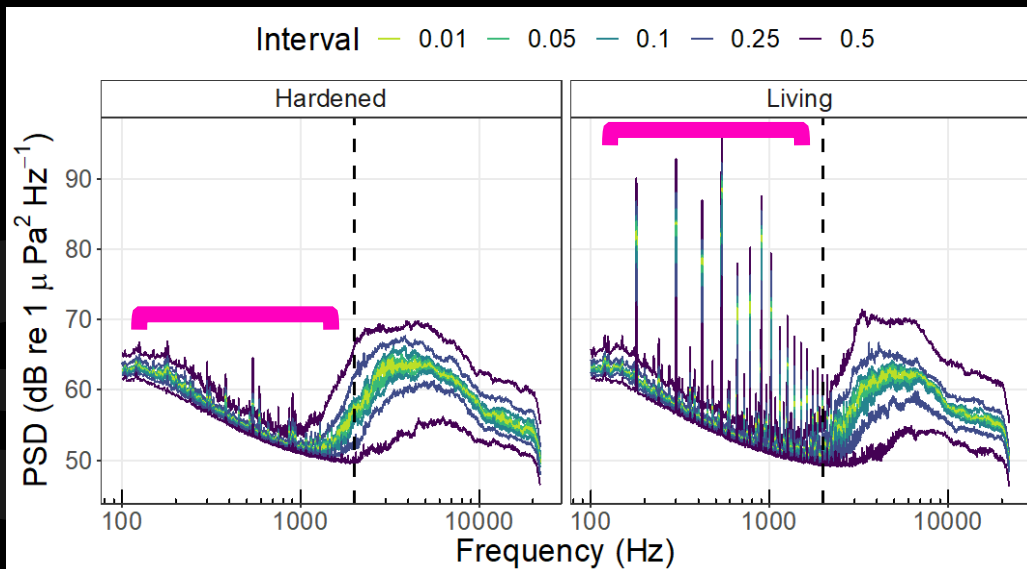
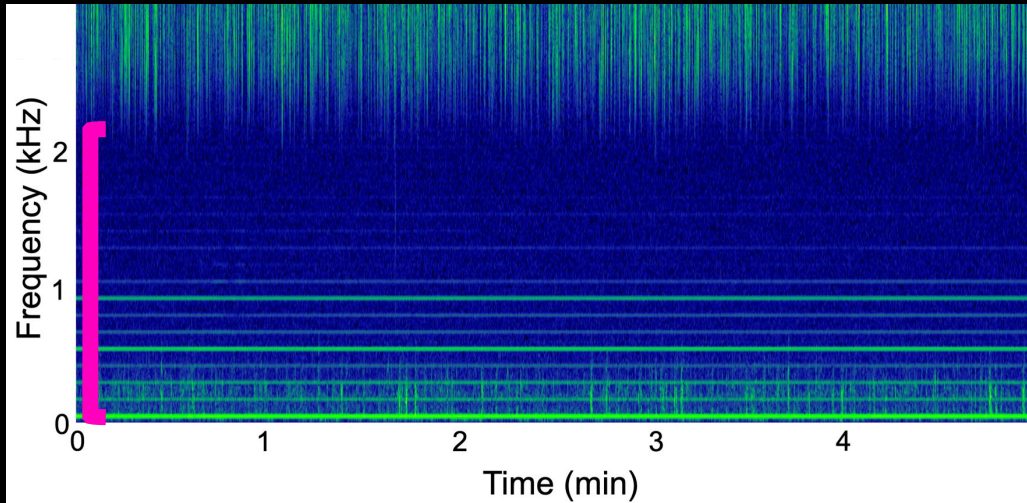
# Soundscape Changes Support Living Shoreline Enhancement



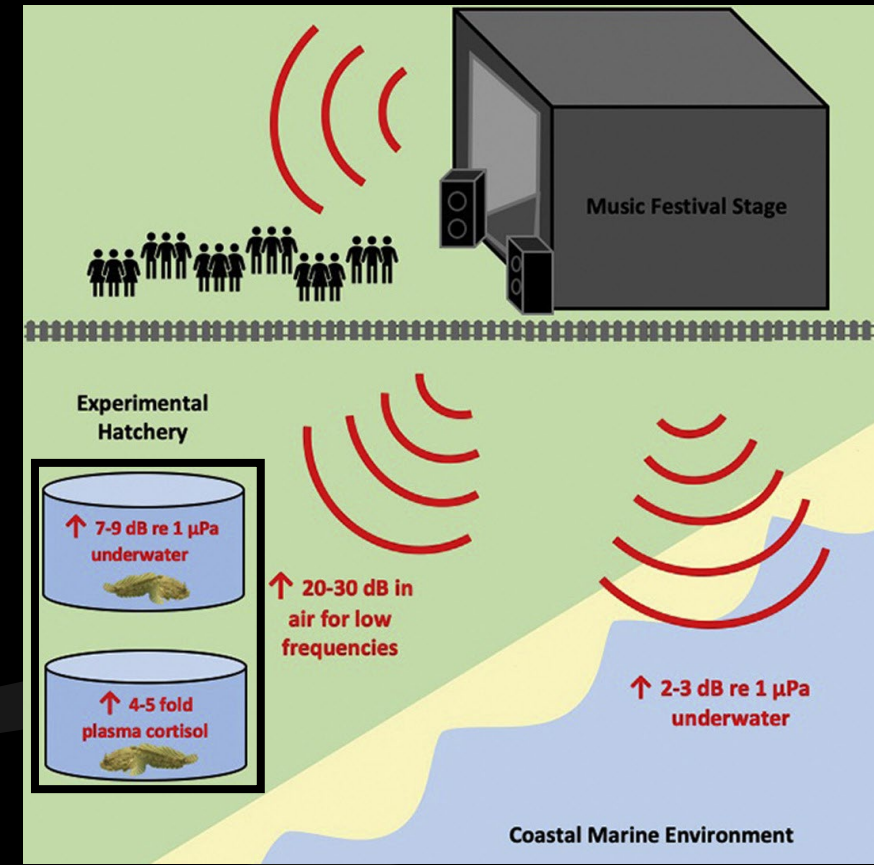
Arrow Key  
Beneficial  
Detrimental



# The Low Frequency Band Was Often Dominated by a Loud, Chronic, Human-Made Sound

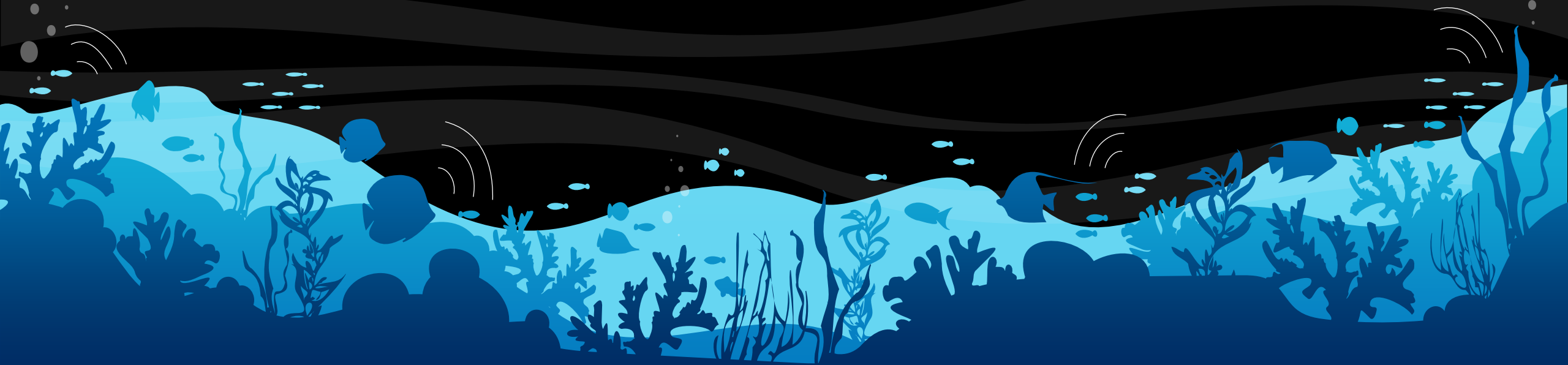


Cartolano et al. 2020. Environ Pollut

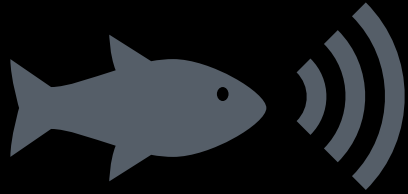




**Passive acoustics can supplement  
traditional monitoring methods  
and soundscape-habitat interactions  
may support habitat enhancement**



# The Ecological Importance and Management Applications of Underwater Sounds



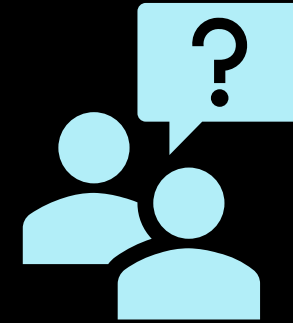
## Background

Underwater Soundscapes  
Passive Acoustics



## Local Examples

Fish Monitoring  
Ecological Monitoring

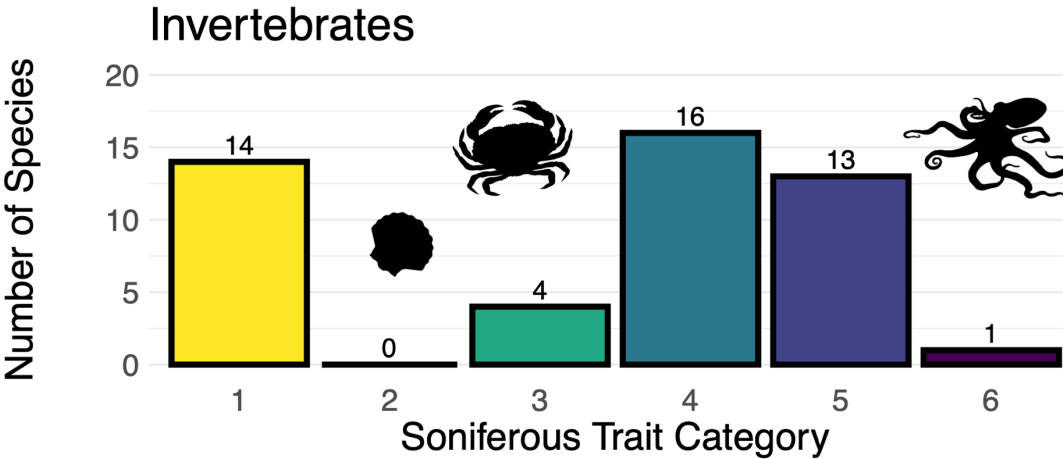
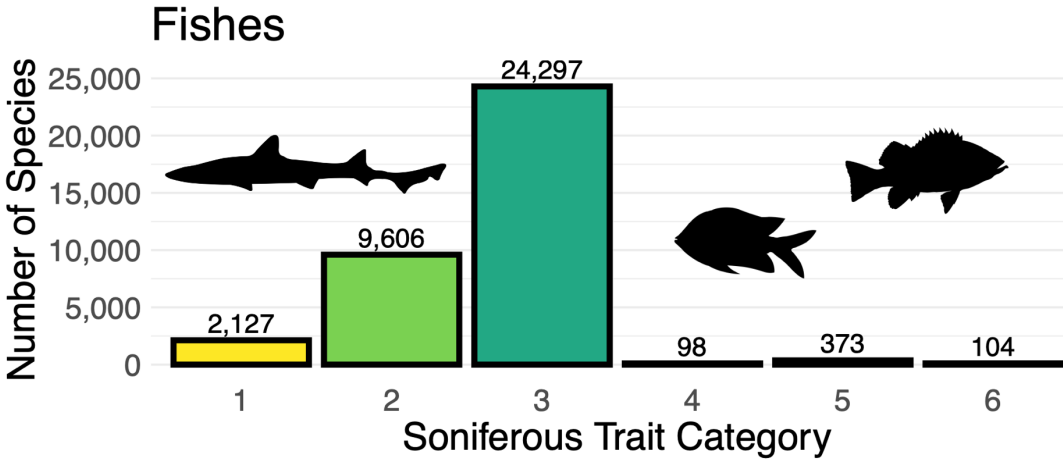
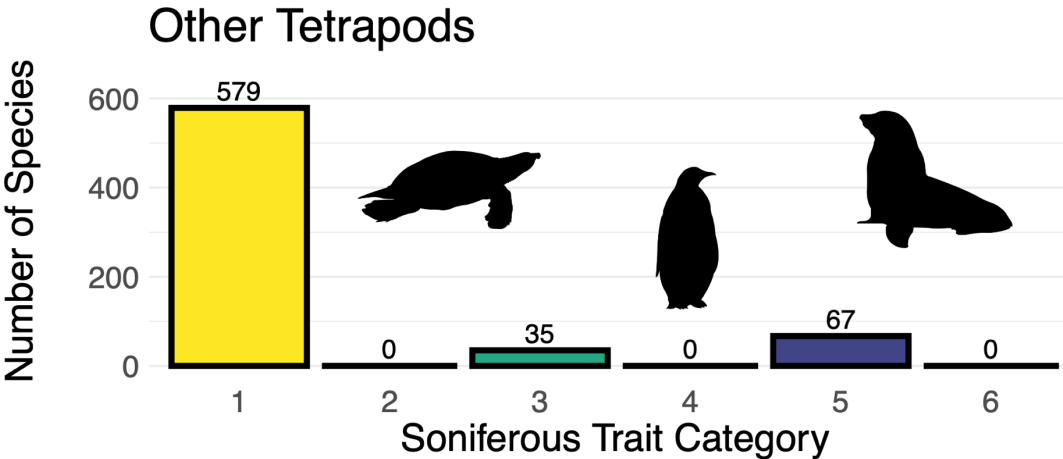
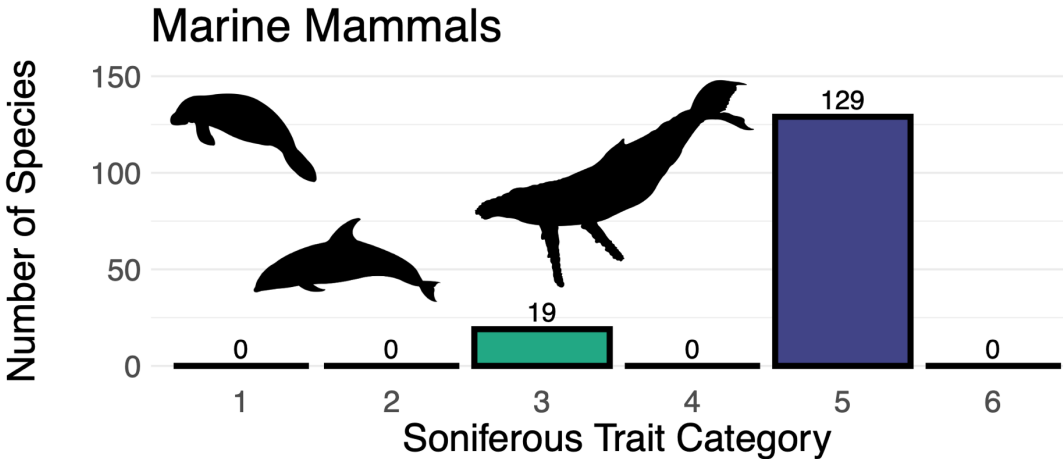
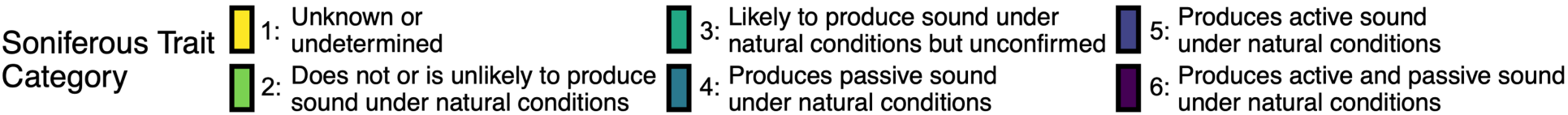


## Overview

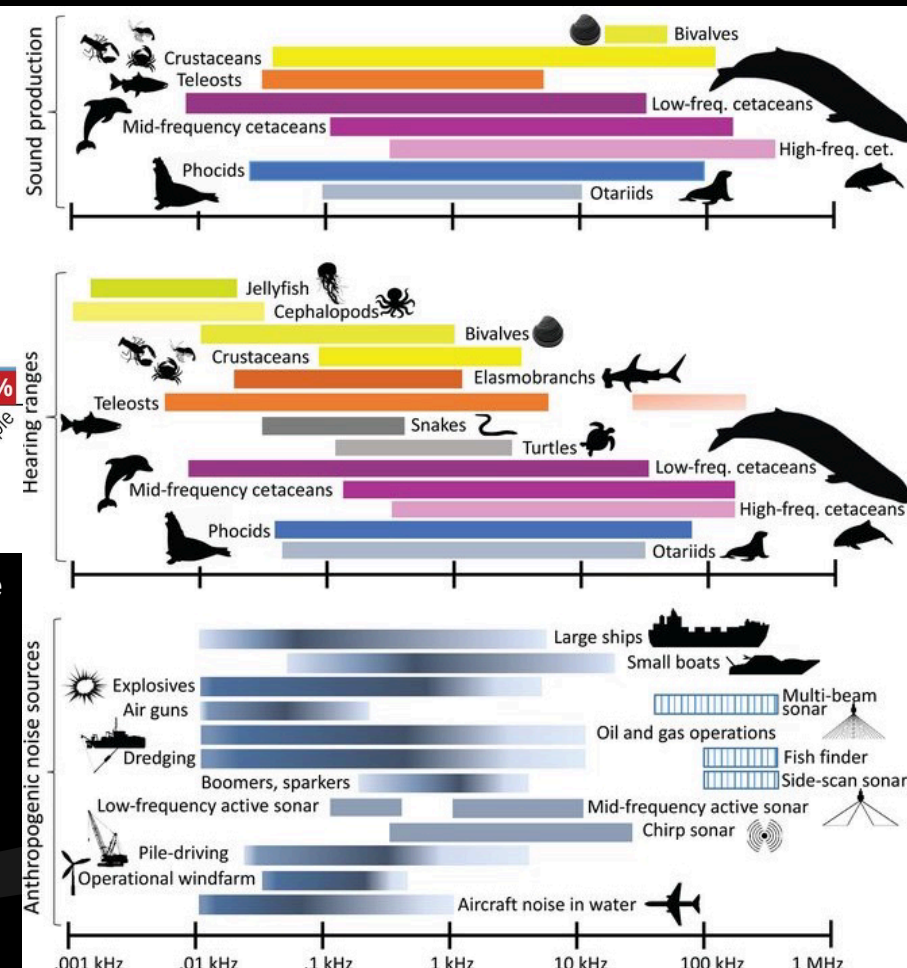
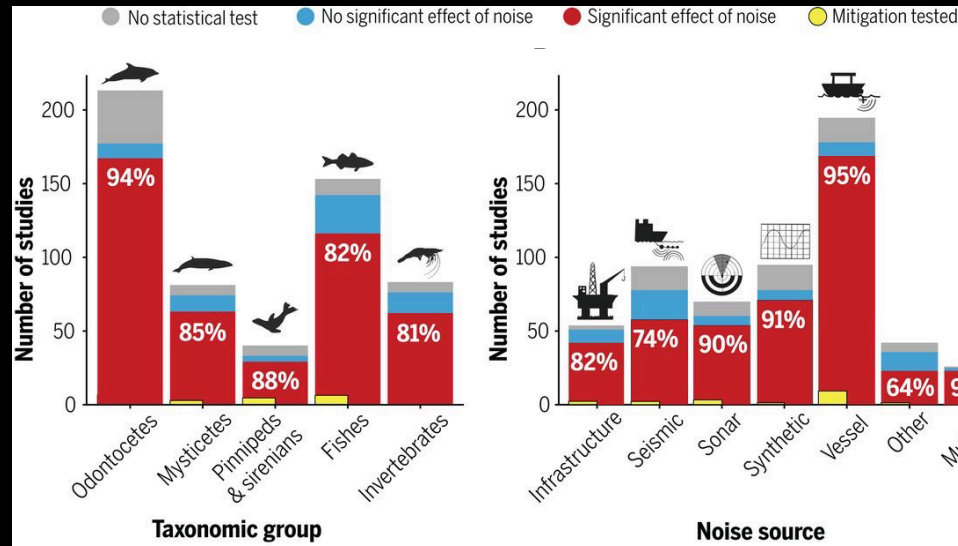
What We Know  
What We Don't Know

# Underwater Sound Production is Widespread Among Species

Looby et al. 2023. Sci Data

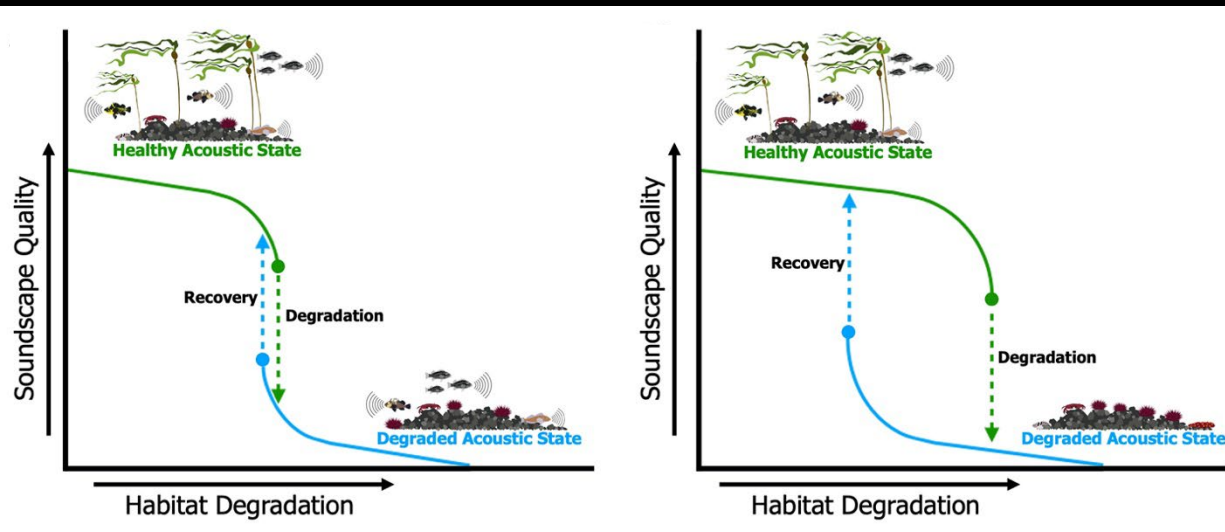


# Noise Pollution Has Broad and Varied Impacts



Cox et al. In press. Front Ecol Environ

Duarte et al. 2021. Science






# Passive Acoustic Monitoring is Becoming Operationalizable

 Ecological Informatics  
Volume 74, May 2023, 101953

## FishSounds Version 1.0: A website for the compilation of fish sound production information and recordings

Audrey Looby<sup>a,b</sup>, Sarah Vela<sup>c,d</sup>, Kieran Cox<sup>e</sup>, Amalis Riera<sup>f</sup>, Santiago Bravo<sup>g</sup>, Hailey L. Davies<sup>f</sup>, Rodney Rountree<sup>f,h</sup>, Laura K. Reynolds<sup>i</sup>, Charles W. Martin<sup>a</sup>, Stan Matwin<sup>c,j,k</sup>, Francis Juanes<sup>f</sup>

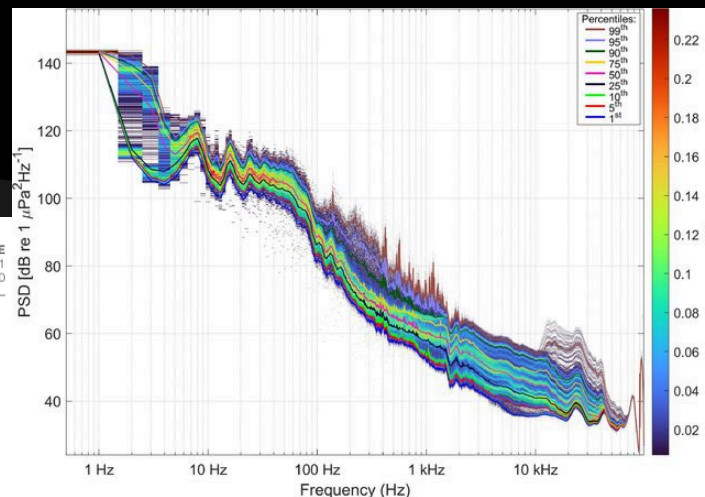


 frontiers  
in Marine Science

TECHNOLOGY AND CODE  
published: 19 August 2021  
doi: 10.3389/fmars.2021.703650

## Ocean Sound Analysis Software for Making Ambient Noise Trends Accessible (MANTA)

Jennifer L. Miksis-Olds<sup>1\*</sup>, Peter J. Dugan<sup>2</sup>, S. Bruce Martin<sup>3</sup>, Holger Klinck<sup>2,4</sup>, David K. Mellinger<sup>5</sup>, David A. Mann<sup>6</sup>, Dimitri W. Ponirakis<sup>2</sup> and Olaf Boebel<sup>7</sup>



Remote Sensing in Ecology and Conservation  
Open Access

ZSL  
LET'S WORK FOR WILDLIFE

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

## HydroMoth: Testing a prototype low-cost acoustic recorder for aquatic environments

Timothy A. C. Lamont<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Lucille Chapuis<sup>1\*</sup>, Ben Williams<sup>1</sup>, Sasha Dines<sup>3,4</sup>, Tess Gridley<sup>3,4</sup>, Guilherme Frainer<sup>4,5</sup>, Jack Fearey<sup>4,5</sup>, Permas B. Maulana<sup>6</sup>, Mochyudho E. Prasetya<sup>6</sup>, Jamaluddin Jompa<sup>7,8</sup>, David J. Smith<sup>2,9</sup> & Stephen D. Simpson<sup>1,10</sup>

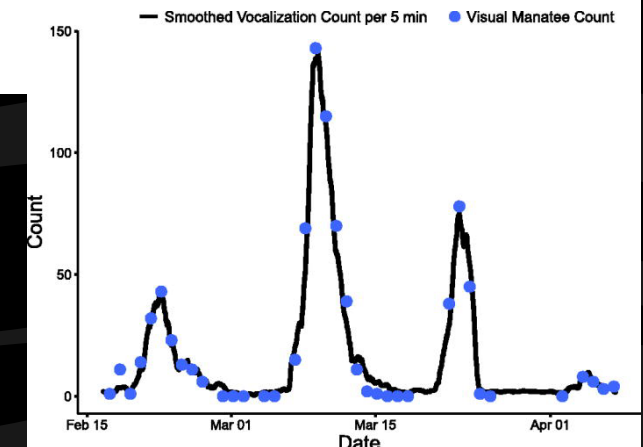
## Estimating Florida manatee (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*) abundance using passive acoustic methods

Athena M. Rycyk, Cora Berchem, Tiago A. Marques

Check for updates

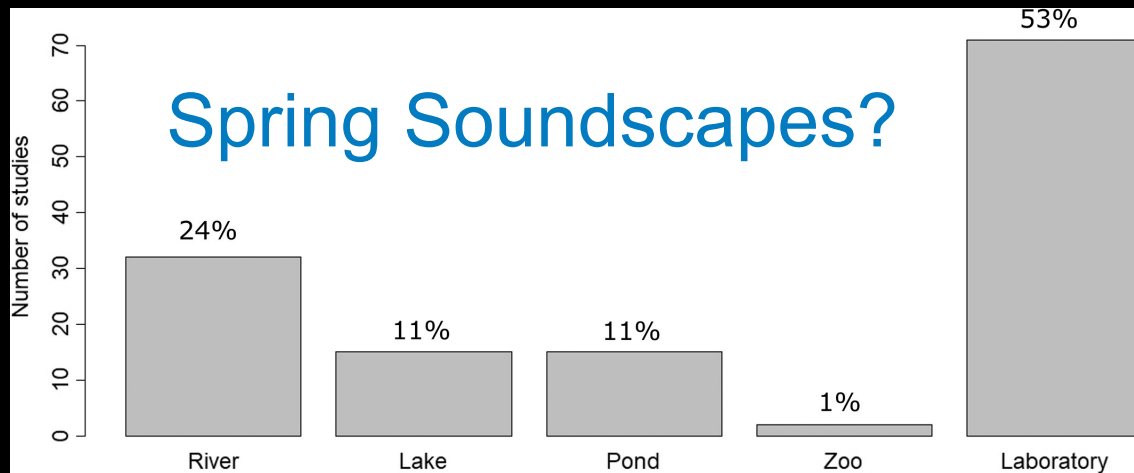
+ Author & Article Information

JASA Express Lett. 2, 051202 (2022)

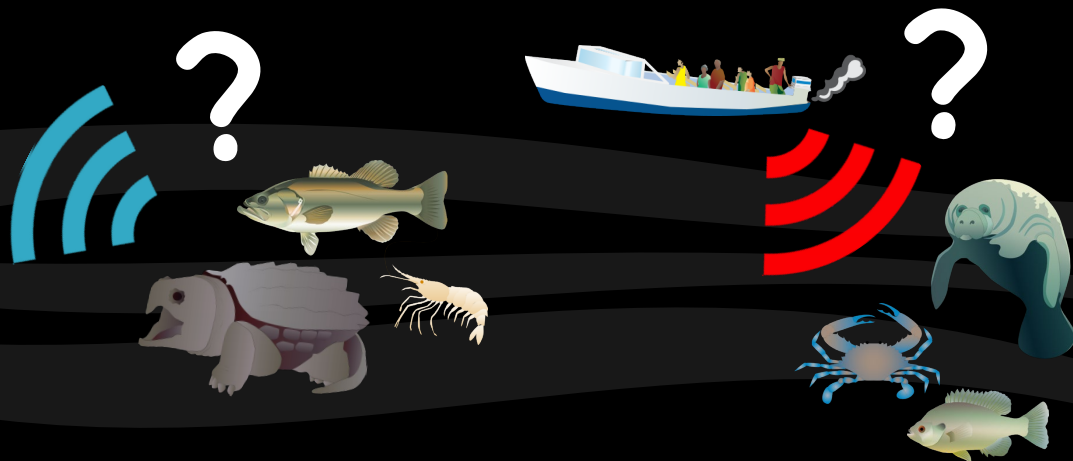


# A Lot Remains Unknown or Unstudied

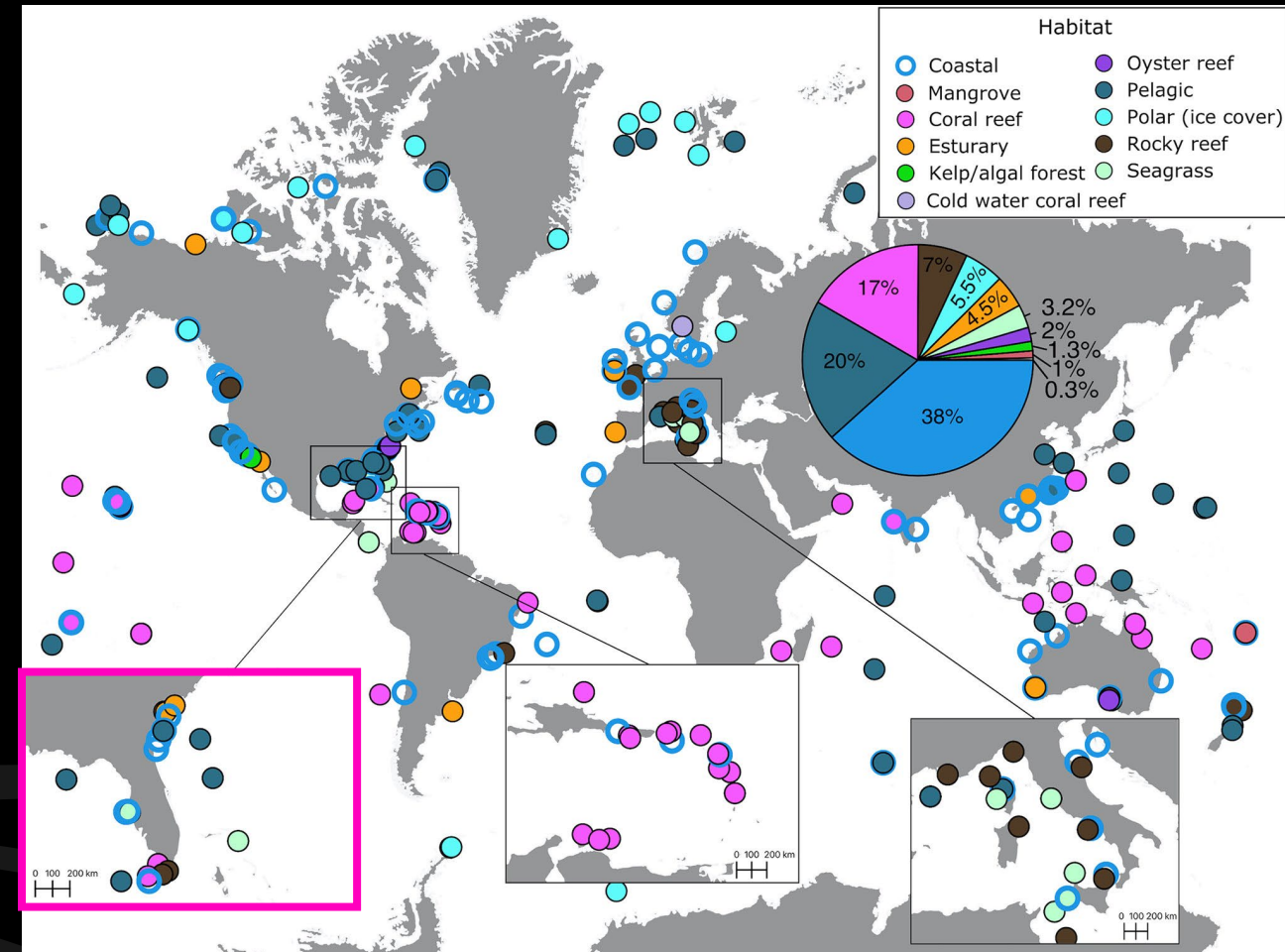
## 52 Freshwater Passive Acoustics Studies



Greenhalgh et al. 2020. WIREs Water

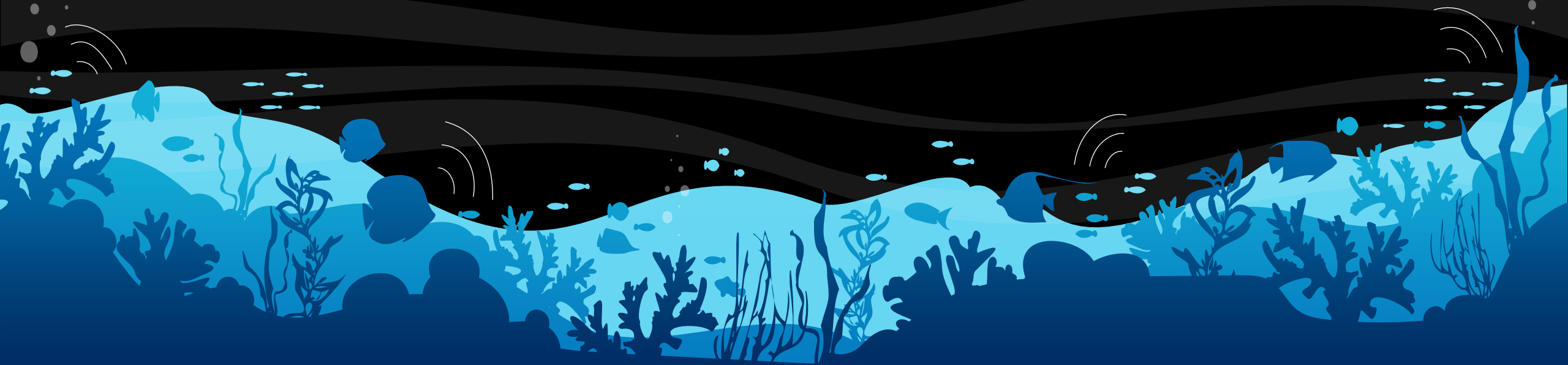


## 200 Marine Soundscape Studies



Havlik et al. 2022. Front Mar Sci

**Underwater sounds are likely important,  
but there's still a lot to learn**

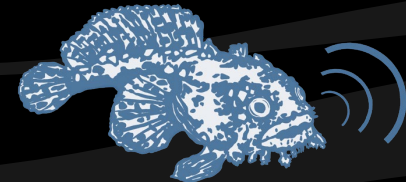




# Thank You to My Collaborators and Supporters!



- My advisors and committee
- My collaborators and co-authors
- Martin, Reynolds, Juanes, Côté, GLUBS, Smithsonian, and FishSounds research groups
- Numerous others who have provided advice and assistance
- Image credits: IAN Image Library, Google, Canva, Hailey Shafer, Hailey Davies, Kieran Cox, Em Lim, and FL Aquarium





# Questions?



Audrey Looby

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@FishSoundsWeb

FishSounds.net