

# Long-term variability of the large marine ecosystems in Southwest Atlantic and its responses to climatic regime shifts

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## Introduction

### Climate Change

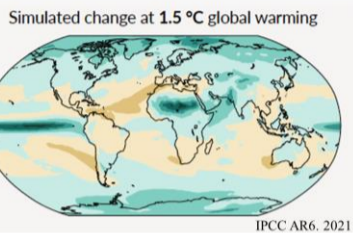


Fig. 1 Simulated change at 1.5°C global warming.

- **Climate change**, habitat destruction, marine pollution, and overfishing are frequently occurring in global marine ecosystems and have an impact on ecosystems and the services and functions they provide.
- **Climate change plays a crucial role in changing the dynamics of marine ecosystems.**
- **Climate change** may lead to the reorganization of communities in both time and space, and **community reorganization** is one of the main consequences of climate change on ecosystems. Community restructuring may cause nutrient imbalance in ecosystems and further lead to changes in food relationships.

### Southwest Atlantic Ocean

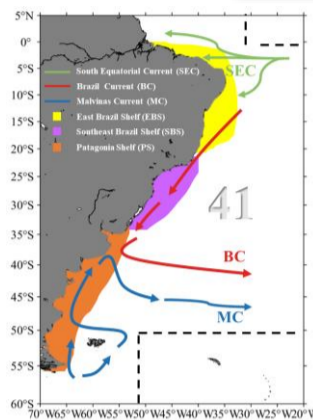


Fig. 2 Geographical Location and Overview of 41 Fishing Areas.

- The **Southwest Atlantic** is one of the most important fishing areas in the world, and the continental shelf and continental slope area connected to South America is one of the **highest primary productivity** areas in the world's oceans (Fig.2).

## Question: What are the impacts of climate change on the ecosystem?

### Methods

#### 1: Integrated Trend Assessment (ITA)

- Data sources:** Fishing data: <http://www.seaaroundus.org/>; Environmental data: <http://apdrc.soest.hawaii.edu/>; Climate data: <https://psl.noaa.gov/data/correlation/>.
- Principal Component Analysis (PCA):**
  - Applying PCA for dimensionality reduction processing of data.
  - Selecting n principal components that can represent data features for subsequent analysis according to Kaiser-Harris Criterion, Cattell Scree Test and Parallel Analysis.
- Sequential T-test Analyses of Regime Shifts (STARS):**
  - Using STARS to test the trend of time series and the occurrence nodes of regime shifts.
- Chronological Cluster Analysis (CCA)**
  - Applying CCA to Determine the year of regime shifts in the Southwest Atlantic ecosystem.
  - Perform sensitivity analysis on the above results using Bootstrap.

#### 2: The importance of environmental and climate

- Gradient Forest (GF):**
  - R<sup>2</sup> of importance and cross validation of variables indicates the degree of influence of different variables.
- Multiple Factor Analysis (MFA):**
  - Exploring the roles and interrelationships of different factors based on MFA.

### Results

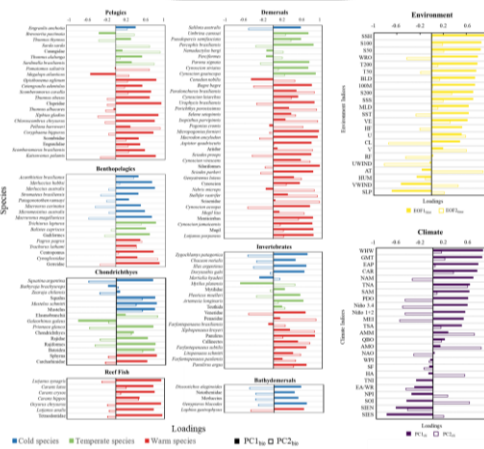


Fig.3 Loadings of PCA results for fishery data, environmental data, and climate data. PC1<sub>bio</sub> indicated the changing characteristics of most fishery resources in the ecosystem, while PC2<sub>bio</sub> indicated the changing characteristics of low latitude fishery resources.

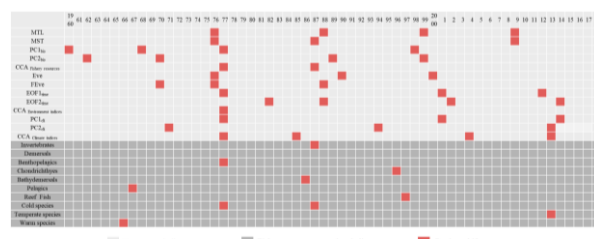


Fig. 4 Summarize the results and organize the years when the ecosystem undergoes regime shifts. The results showed that the regime shifts were mainly concentrated in 1976/1977, 1987/1988 and 1998/1999/2000/2001.

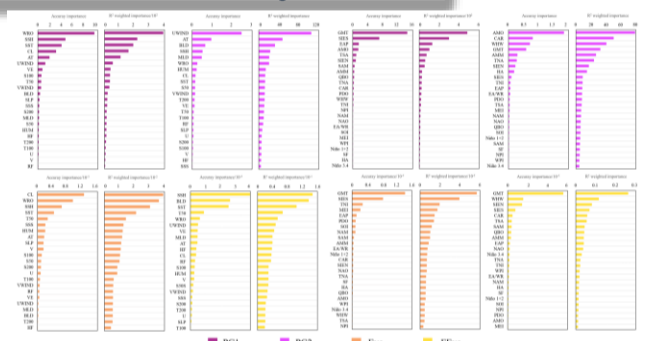


Fig. 5 The results of GF for environmental indices (A) and climate indices (B). For PC1<sub>bio</sub>, which represented the majority of fishery resources in the ecosystem, the importance of WRO and GMT were significantly higher than other environmental and climate indices, followed by SSH, CL, SST, and SIES. For PC2<sub>bio</sub>, which represented high suitable temperature and low nutrient level, UWIND and AMO were the most important, followed by AT, BLD, and SSH. In a word, WRO, SSH, SST, GMT and AMO were more important indices.

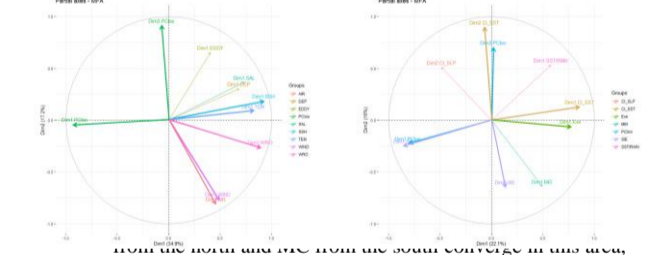


Fig. 6 The results of MFA for environmental indices (A) and climate indices (B). There was a significant negative correlation effect between Dim1. PC and WRO, SSH, TEM, Dim1. PC and Dim1. SIE. There was a significant negative correlation effect between Dim2. PC and AIR, Dim1. WIND, while there was a significant negative correlation effect between Dim2. PC and Dim2. CT, SST, Dim2. SIE.

## Conclusions: Changes in ecosystems under climate change.

- The extracted feature vectors of PCA can better represent the changes in the ecosystem.
- The years of regime shifts mainly occurred in 1976/1977, 1987/1988 and. 1998/1999/2000/2001.
- Environmental factors that had significant impacts on the Southwest Atlantic ecosystem include WRO, SSH, SST, and CL.
- Climate indices that had significant impacts on the Southwest Atlantic ecosystem include GMT, AMO, and SIES.

## Future work

### The impact mechanism of climate on the environment and the interaction between ocean and atmosphere

- Based on the results, an overview of the impact of ocean and atmosphere, environment and climate on the ecosystem of the Southwest Atlantic was integrated (Fig.7).
- The specific impact mechanism needs to be further explored in conjunction with the discipline of physical oceanography.

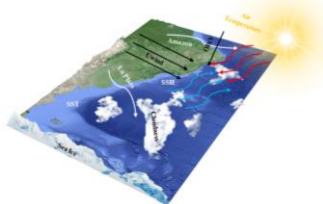


Fig.7 Overview of the impact of environment and climate on fishery resources in the southwest Atlantic ecosystem.

### Establishing an ecosystem-based fisheries management plan under climate forcing

- Exploring more ecosystem indicators under the impact of climate change based on results.
- Establish an ecosystem-based comprehensive evaluation index system under climate forcing to provide scientific basis for fisheries management.