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# Ocean front metrics for understanding foraging locations of gannets and basking sharks

**Peter Miller** Kylie Scales, Simon Ingram, David Sims & Steve Votier



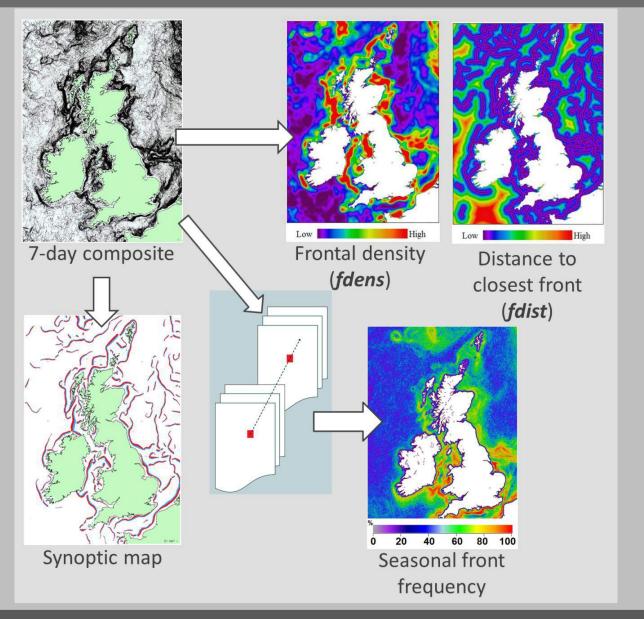




# **Oceanic fronts**



#### **Composite front mapping**



Miller, P.I. (2009) J. Mar. Sys. **78**, 327-366.

# **Key Questions - gannets**

Ocean front metrics for understanding foraging locations of gannets and basking sharks

#### **Key Questions - gannets**

# Do gannets respond to contemporaneous thermal or chl-a fronts as foraging cues?

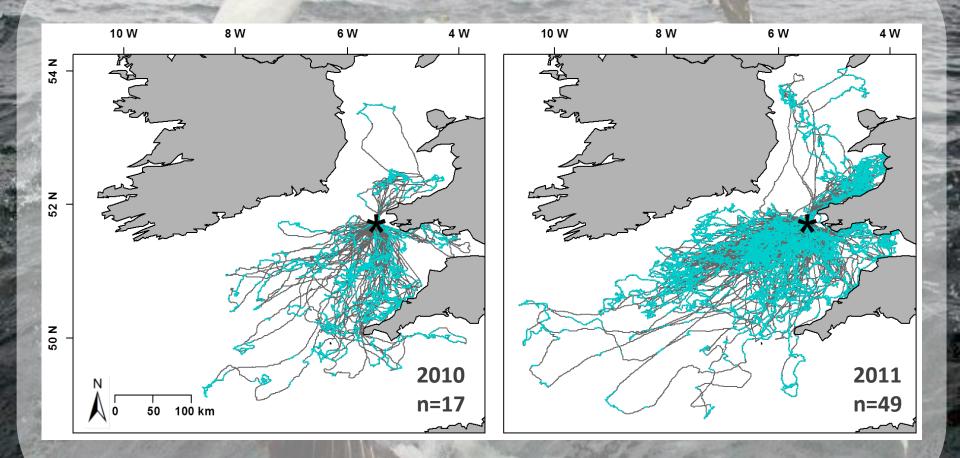
#### **Key Questions - gannets**

Do gannets respond to contemporaneous thermal or chl-a fronts as foraging cues?

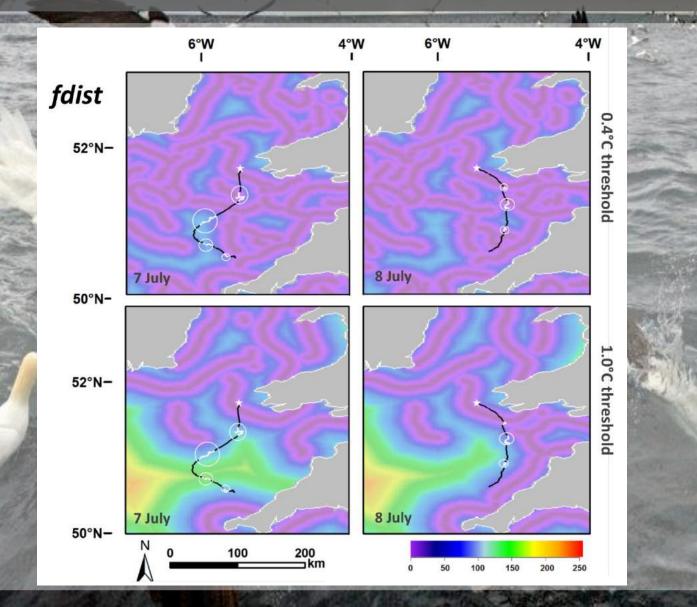
 Are broad-scale, seasonally persistent frontal zones preferred foraging habitats?

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#### **Foraging: Area-Restricted Search**



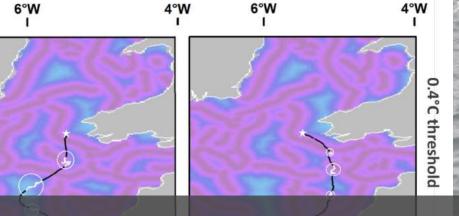
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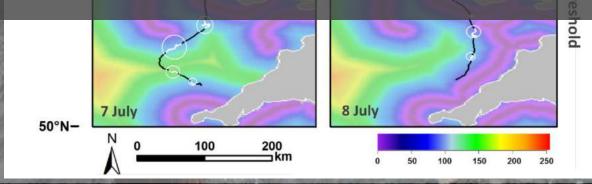
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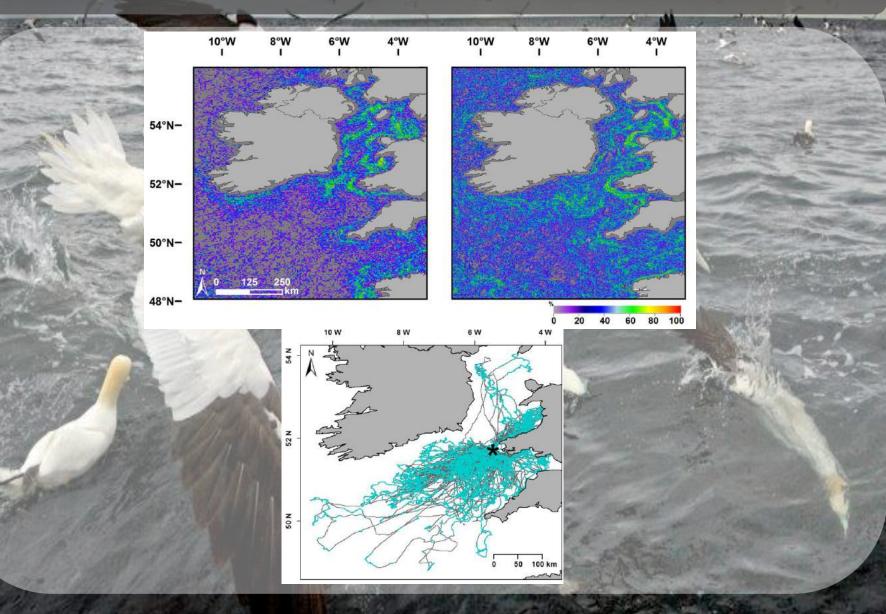
52°N-



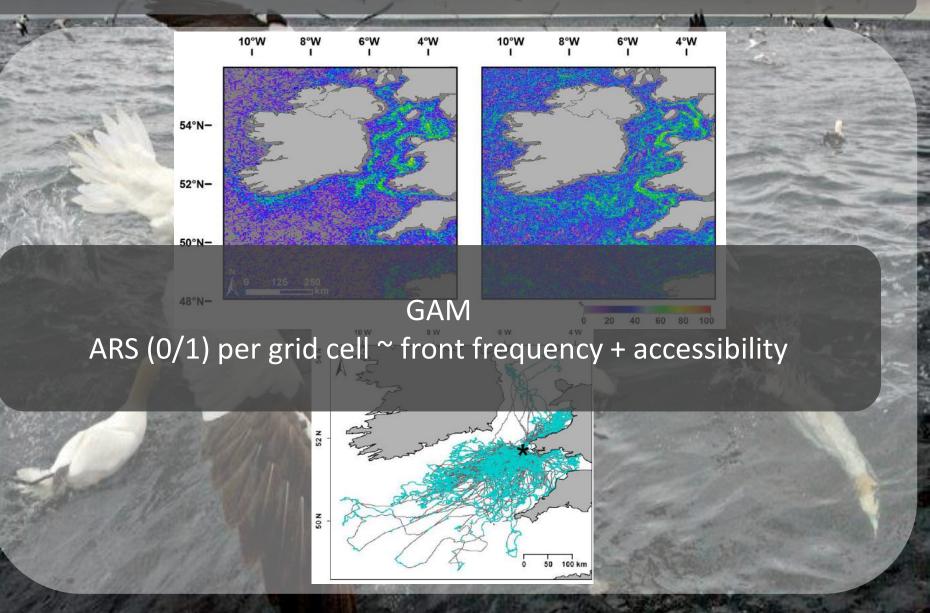
# No population-level signal of ARS in association with contemporaneous thermal or chl-a fronts.



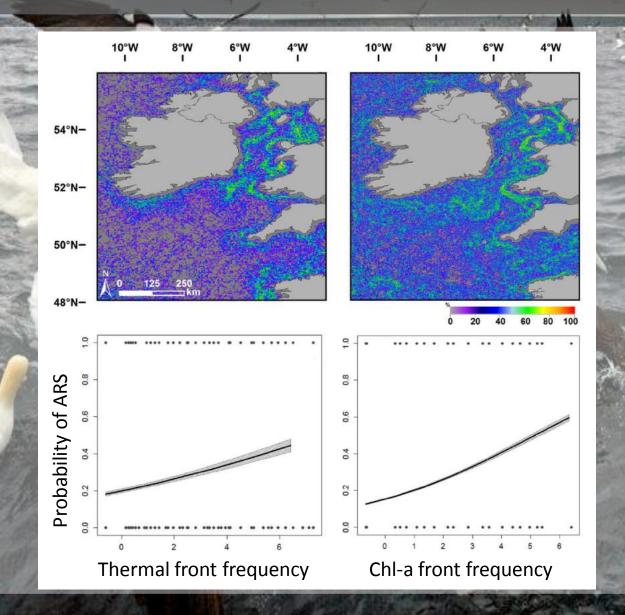
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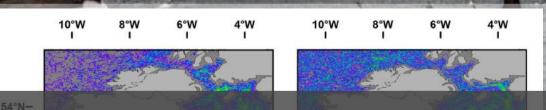
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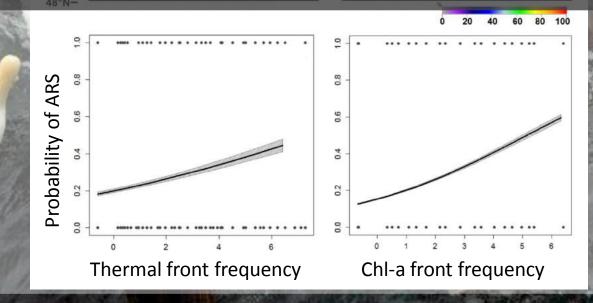
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# ARS more likely within seasonally persistent frontal zones (thermal and chl-a) than in other accessible regions of habitat



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# Summary - gannets

Northern gannets in the Celtic Sea forage preferentially within spatially predictable, persistent frontal zones, but responses to contemporaneous fronts vary learning and memory



Mesoscale fronts as foraging habitats: composite front mapping reveals oceanographic drivers of habitat use for a pelagic seabird

Kylie L. Scales, Peter I. Miller, Clare B. Embling, Simon N. Ingram, Enrico Pirotta and Stephen C. Votier

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# **Basking sharks**

#### Basking sharks & fronts: what we know

#### Selective foraging behaviour of basking sharks on zooplankton in a small-scale front

#### David W. Sims & Victoria A. Quayle

Department of Biological Sciences and Plymouth Environmental Research Centre, University of Plymouth, Plymouth PL4 8AA, UK

> Sims & Quayle (1998) Nature 393, 460-464 Sims et al. (2000) Proc Roy Soc B 267 (1455), 1897-1904 Sims, DW et al. (2003) MEPS 248, 187-196

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#### Basking sharks & fronts: what we know

#### Selective foraging behaviour of basking sharks on zooplankton in a small-scale front

#### Departr Departr Univers associated with coastal front areas

David W. Sims<sup>1\*</sup>, Emily J. Southall<sup>2</sup>, Victoria A. Quayle<sup>2</sup> and Adrian M. Fox<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Dep artment of Zoology, University of Aberdeen, Tillydrone Avenue, Aberdeen AB24 2TZ, UK <sup>2</sup>Dep artment of Biological Sciences, University of Plymouth, Drake Circus, Plymouth PL4 8AA, UK

> Sims & Quayle (1998) Nature 393, 460-464 Sims et al. (2000) Proc Roy Soc B 267 (1455), 1897-1904 Sims, DW et al. (2003) MEPS 248, 187-196

Ocean front metrics for understanding foraging locations of gannets and basking sharks

#### Basking sharks & fronts: what we know

#### Selective foraging behaviour of basking sharks on zooplankton in a small-scale front

#### David Annual social behaviour of basking sharks Univers associated with coastal front areas

David W. Sims<sup>1\*</sup>, Emily J. Southall<sup>2</sup>, Victoria A. Quayle<sup>2</sup> and Adrian M. Fox<sup>1</sup>

#### Seasonal movements and behaviour of basking sharks from archival tagging: no evidence of winter hibernation

David W. Sims<sup>1,\*</sup>, Emily J. Southall<sup>1</sup>, Anthony J. Richardson<sup>2</sup>, Philip C. Reid<sup>2</sup>, Julian D. Metcalfe<sup>3</sup>

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# **Basking sharks and satellite fronts**



Short communication

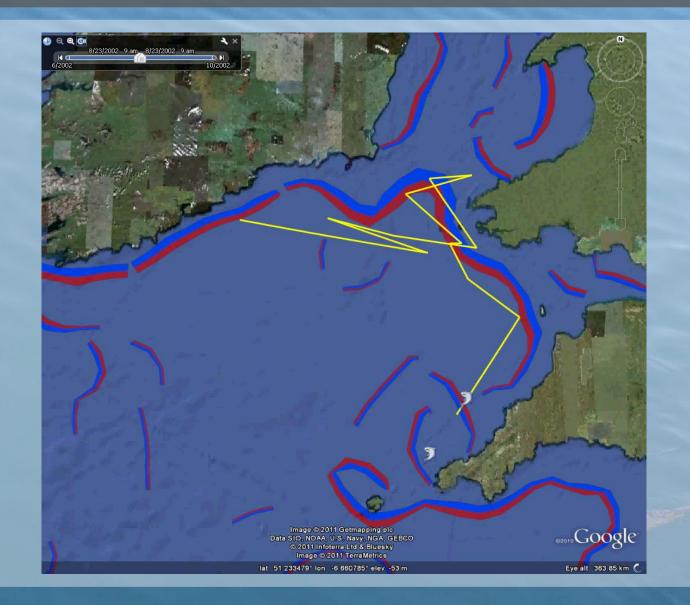
A basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) tracked by satellite together with simultaneous remote sensing II: New analysis reveals orientation to a thermal front



# Basking sharks and oceanographic fronts: quantifying associations in the north-east Atlantic

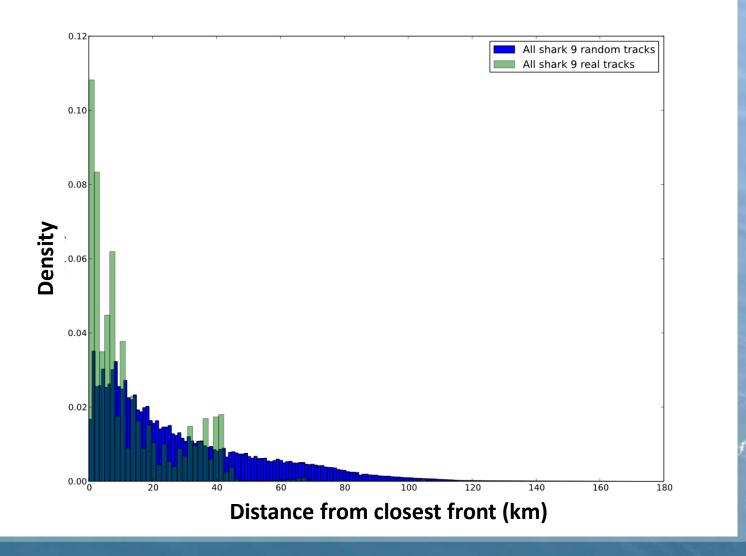
Peter I. Miller<sup>\*,1</sup>, Kylie L. Scales<sup>\*,†,1,2</sup>, Simon N. Ingram<sup>3</sup>, Emily J. Southall<sup>4</sup> and David W. Sims<sup>4,5,6</sup>

#### Basking shark tracked with GLS tag vs. fronts



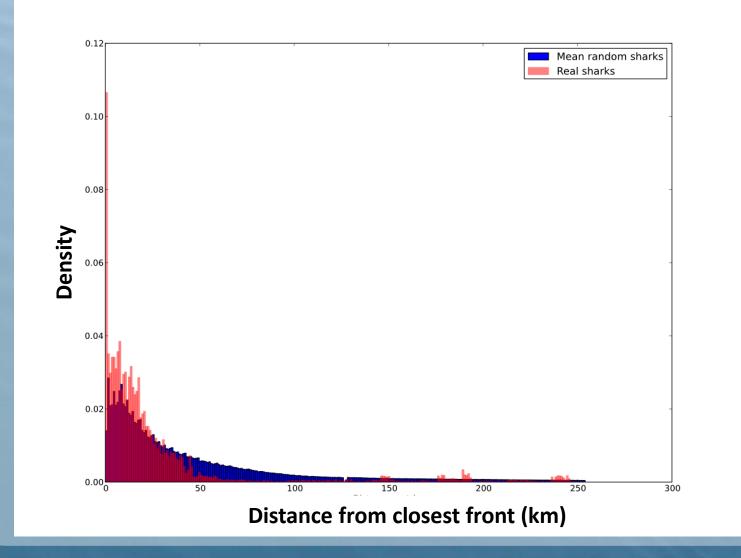
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# Our favourite shark stays close to the front



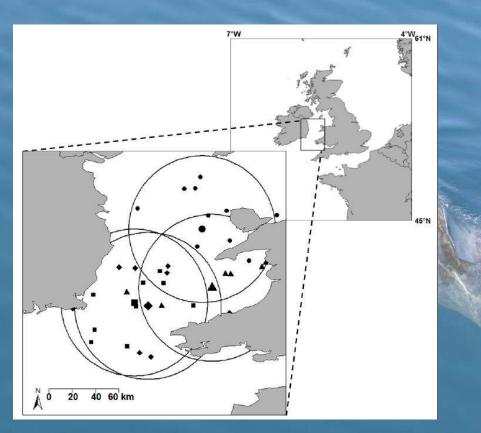
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#### Do sharks forage near fronts generally?

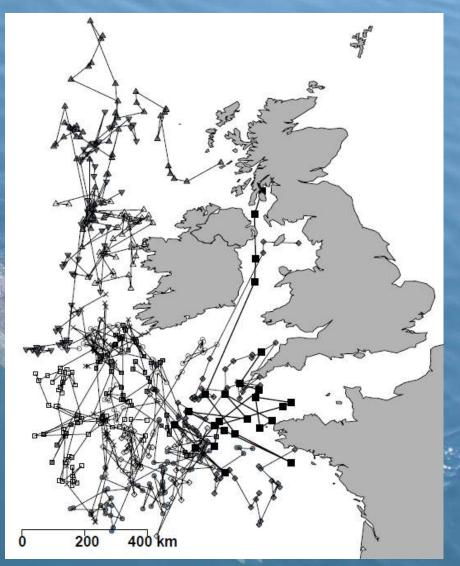


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#### Modelling real and random sharks



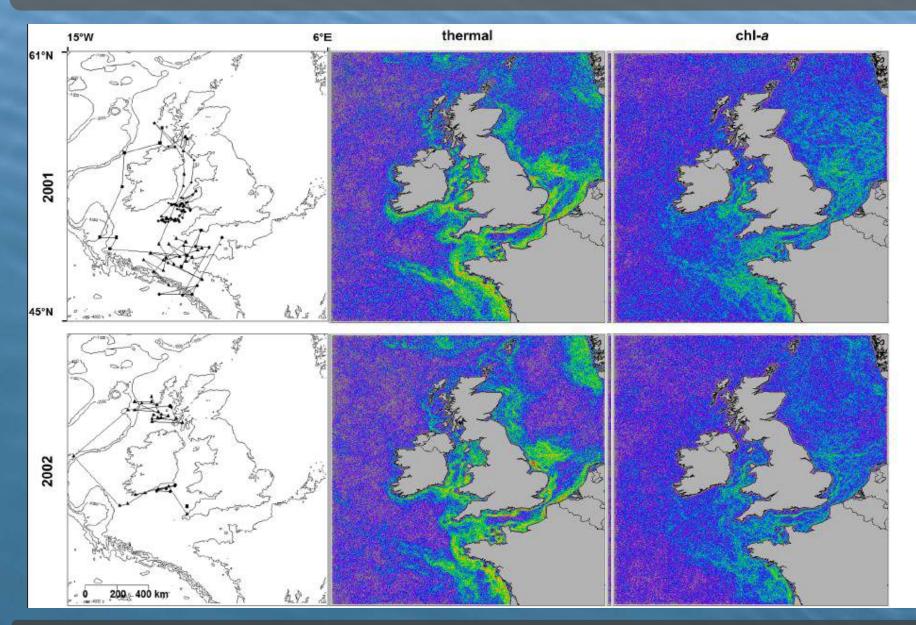
Resampling real shark presence



#### 10 random shark tracks

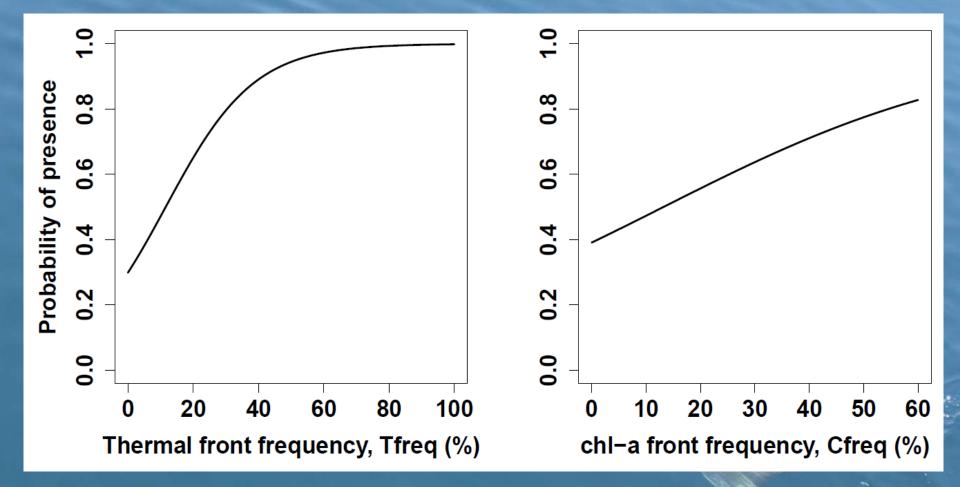
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### Basking sharks vs. seasonal front frequency



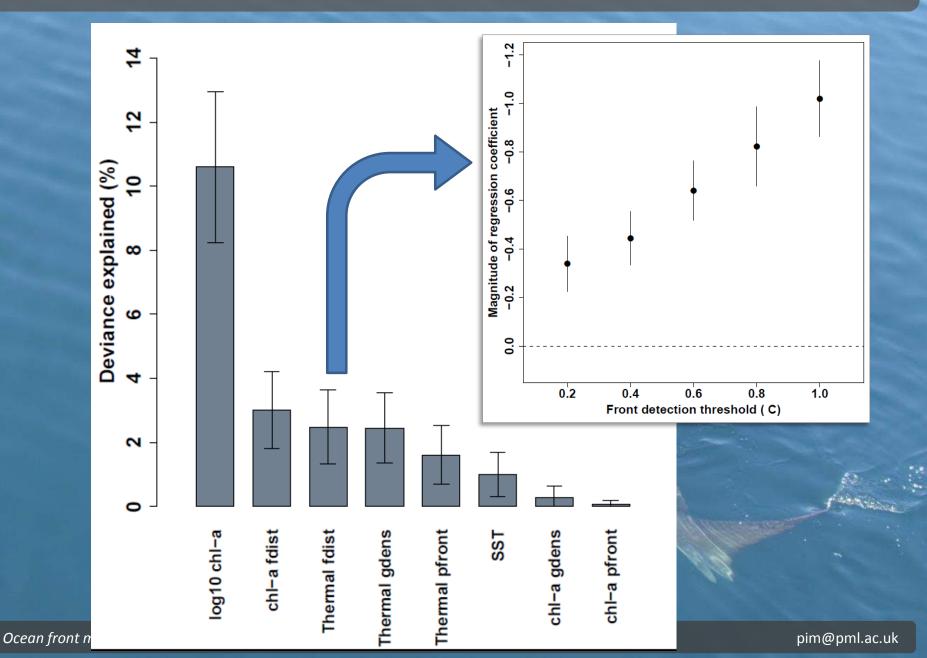
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# Basking sharks vs. seasonal front frequency



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#### **Basking sharks vs. real time factors**

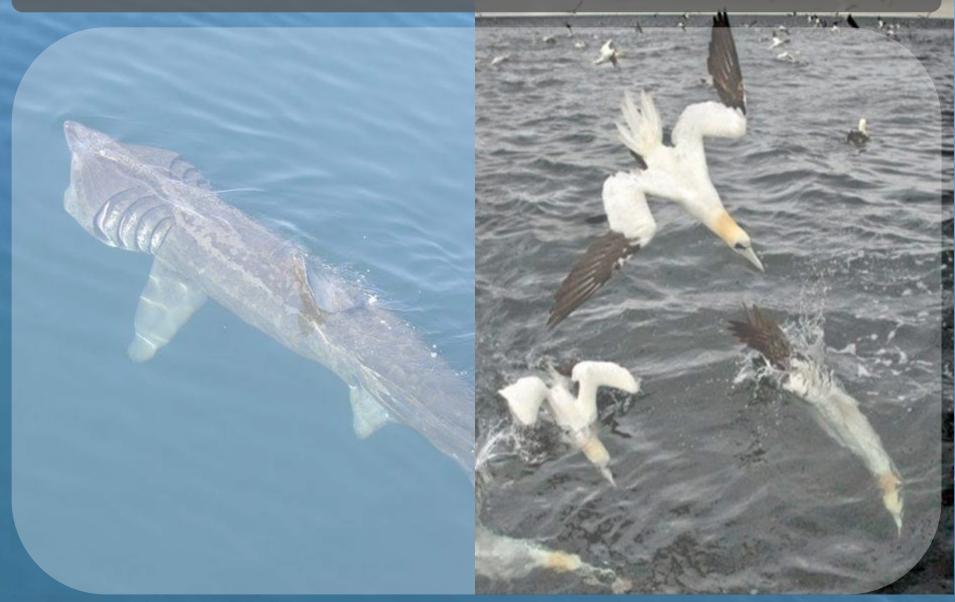


#### Summary

- Composite front mapping is useful for investigating mesoscale oceanographic drivers of habitat selection by marine predators
- Basking sharks and northern gannets associate with mesoscale thermal fronts in UK waters
- Regional oceanography important frontal persistence, spatial scale, gradient – influence use by foraging animals

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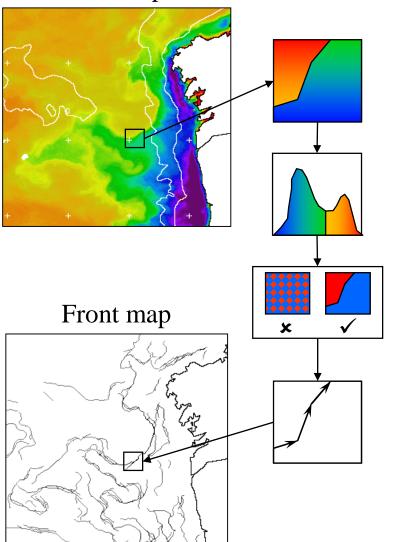
# Extra slides



#### Front detection method

SST map

PML | Plymouth Marine Laboratory

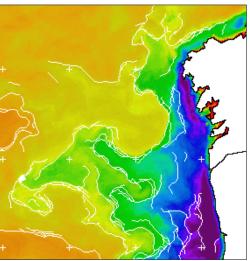


Local window

Histogram bimodality test and threshold

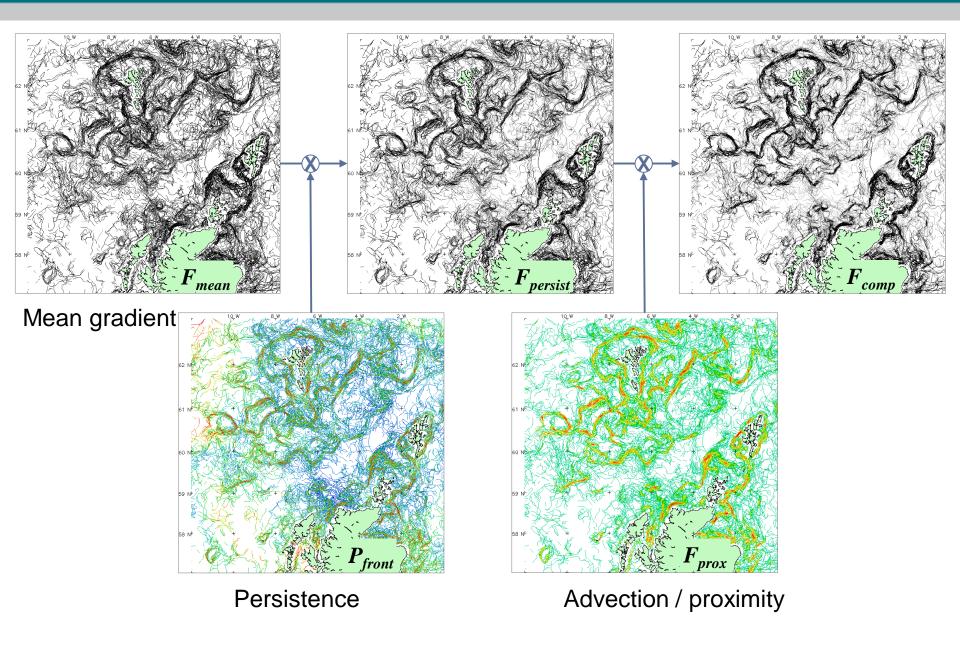
Cohesion test

Contour following



Cayula, J.-F., and Cornillon, P., (1992), Edge detection algorithm for SST images. *Journal of Atmospheric and Oceanic Technology*, 9, 67-80.

#### **Composite front maps: revealing strong fronts**



PML Plymouth Marine Laboratory

Miller, P.I., (2009) Composite front maps for improved visibility of dynamic oceanic fronts on cloudy AVHRR and SeaWiFS data, Journal of Marine Systems.

#### Marine predators associate with fronts



Polovina, JJ, et al. (2000) Fisheries Oceanography 9:71-82 Graham, RT, et al. (2012) PloS ONE 7(5), e363834 Biuw, M, et al. (2007) PNAS 104:34,13705-13710 Bost, CA, et al. (2009) Journal of Marine Systems 78:3,363-376 Sims, DW, et al. (2000) Proceedings of the Royal Society B 267:1455,1897-1904 Sims, DW and Southall, EJ (2002) JMBA 82:927-928 Teo, SLH and Block, BA (2010) PLoS ONE 5:5,e10756 Weimerskirch, H (2007) Deep Sea Research II 54:3-4,211-223

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Oikos 000: 001–008, 2013 doi: 10.1111/j.1600-0706.2013.00406.x © 2013 The Authors. Oikos © 2013 Nordic Society Oikos Subject Editor: Ben Chapman. Accepted 8 May 2013

Individual differences in searching behaviour and spatial foraging consistency in a central place marine predator

Samantha C. Patrick, Stuart Bearhop, David Grémillet, Amélie Lescroël, W. James Grecian, Thomas W. Bodey, Keith C. Hamer, Ewan Wakefield , Mélanie Le Nuz and Stephen C. Votier

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#### A Bird's Eye View of Discard Reforms: Bird-Borne Cameras Reveal Seabird/Fishery Interactions

Stephen C. Votier<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Anthony Bicknell<sup>2</sup>, Samantha L. Cox<sup>2</sup>, Kylie L. Scales<sup>3</sup>, Samantha C. Patrick<sup>2,4</sup>

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Yann Tremblay<sup>1</sup>\*<sup>#</sup>, Andréa Thiebault<sup>1</sup>, Ralf Mullers<sup>2</sup>, Pierre Pistorius<sup>3</sup>

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Fine-scale recognition and use of mesoscale fronts by foraging Cape gannets in the Benguela upwelling region

Philippe S. Sabarros <sup>a,b,\*</sup>, David Grémillet <sup>c,d</sup>, Hervé Demarcq <sup>b</sup>, Christina Moseley <sup>d</sup>, Lorien Pichegru <sup>d</sup>, Ralf H.E. Mullers <sup>c</sup>, Nils C. Stenseth <sup>a,e</sup>, Eric Machu <sup>a,f</sup>

Ocean front metrics for understanding foraging locations of gannets and basking sharks

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#### Are seabirds foraging for unpredictable resources?

Henri Weimerskirch\*

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#### Northern gannets anticipate the spatio-temporal occurrence of their prey

E. Pettex<sup>1,2,\*</sup>, F. Bonadonna<sup>1</sup>, M. R. Enstipp<sup>3</sup>, F. Siorat<sup>4</sup> and D. Grémillet<sup>1</sup>





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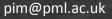
Northern gannets anticipate the spatio-temporal occurrence of their prey

Limnol. Oceanogr., 56(3), 2011, 802–812 © 2011, by the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography, Inc. doi:10.4319/lo.2011.56.3.0802

Inter-annual changes in prey fields trigger different foraging tactics in a large marine predator

Stefan Garthe,<sup>a,\*</sup> William A. Montevecchi,<sup>b</sup> and Gail K. Davoren<sup>c</sup>

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). Grémillet<sup>1</sup>



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Mar Biol (2007) 151:687-694 DOI 10.1007/s00227-006-0523-x

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Contrasting foraging tactics by northern gannets (*Sula bassana*) breeding in different oceanographic domains with different prey fields

Stefan Garthe - William A. Montevecchi -Gilles Chapdelaine - Jean-Francois Rail - April Hedd