

[mico.eco/system](https://mico.eco/system)



@ExploreMiCO

**MiCO**  
Migratory Connectivity  
in the Ocean

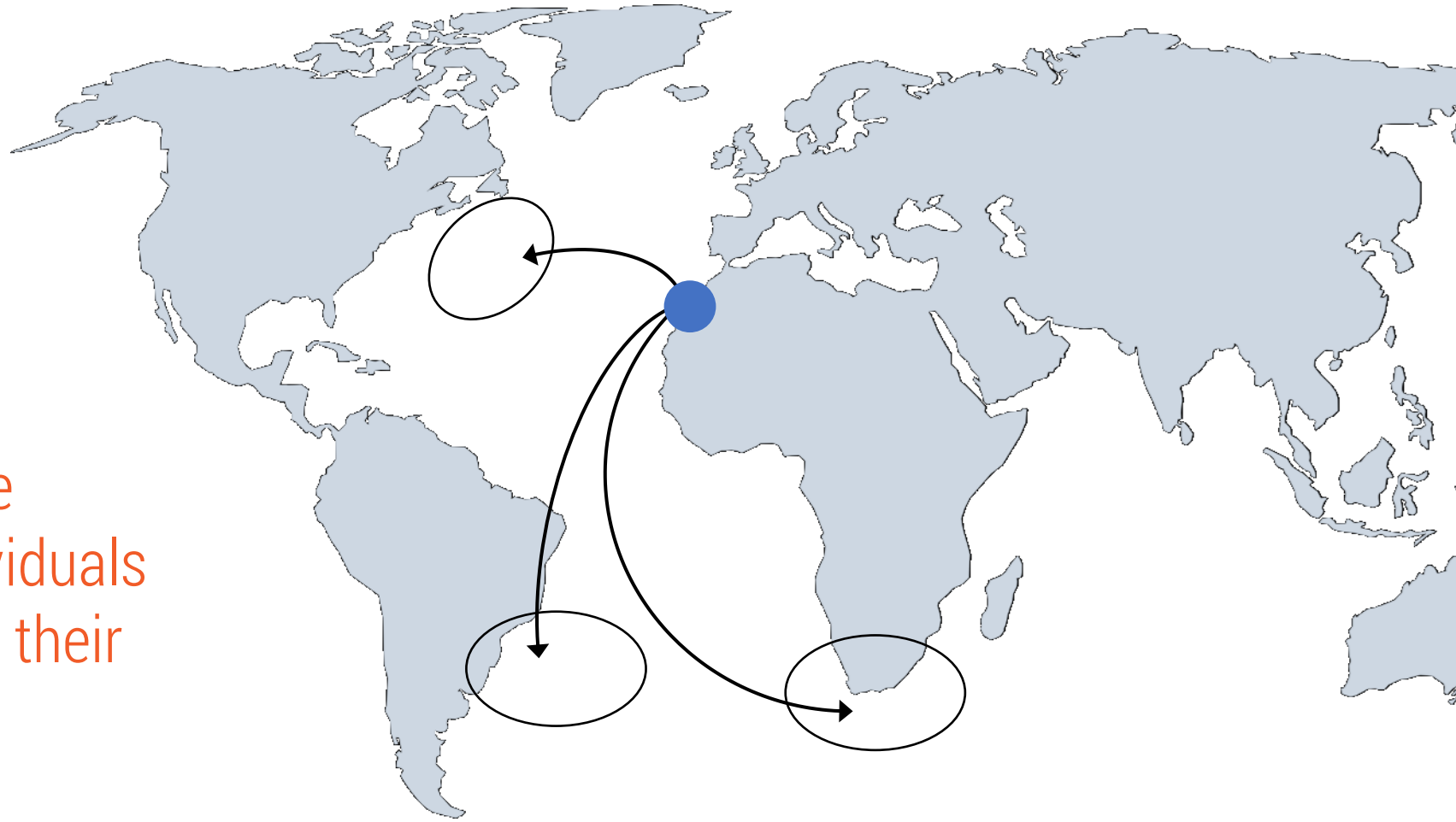




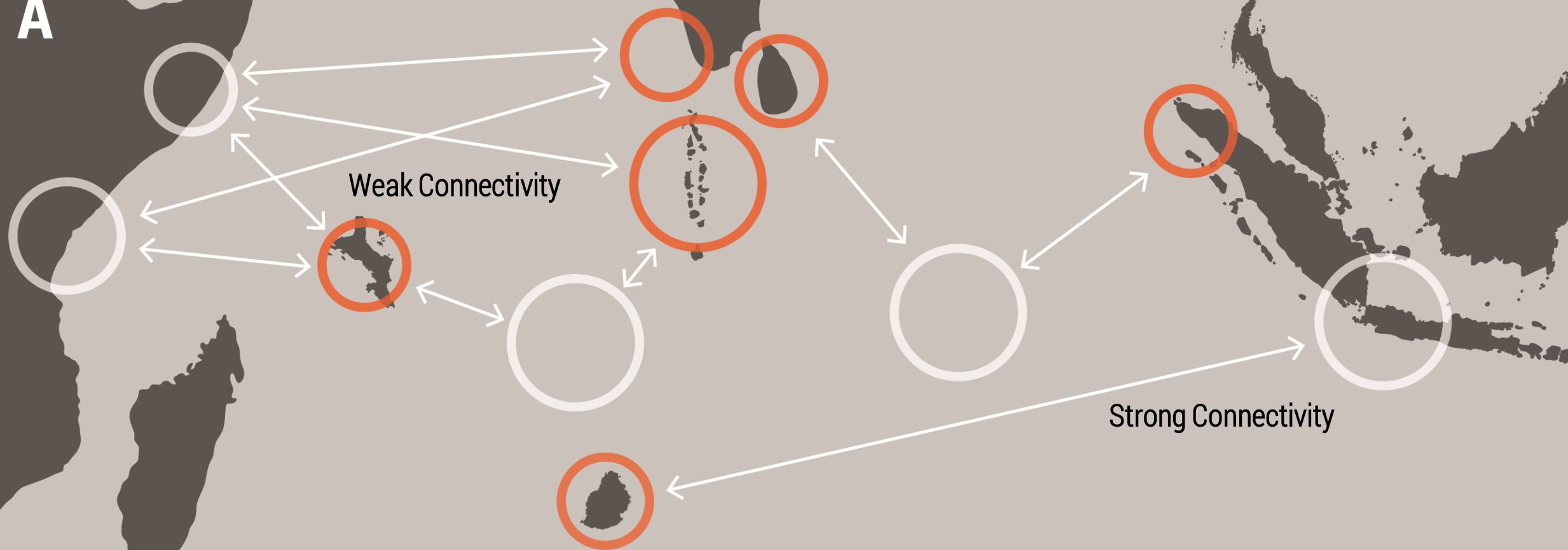
# What is Migratory Connectivity?

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Migratory connectivity is the geographical linking of individuals and populations throughout their migratory cycles



A



Breeding Site



Foraging Site



Migration Route

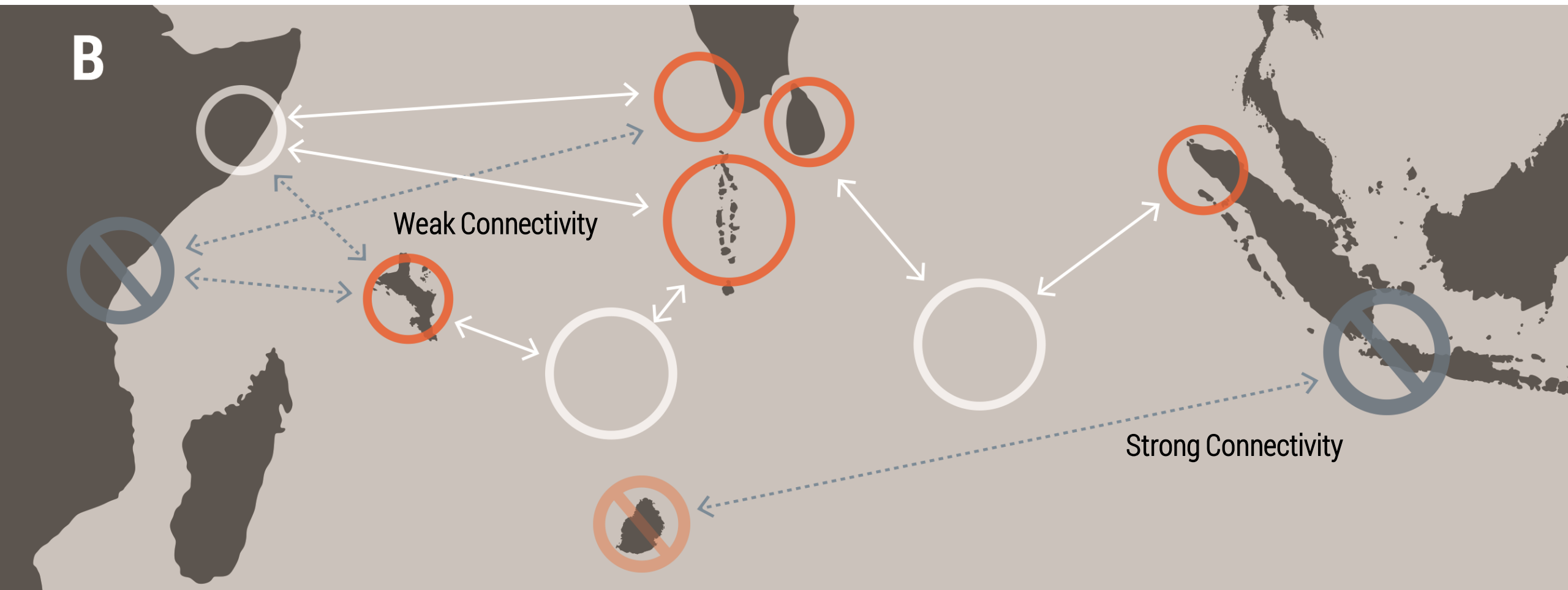


Lost Site



Lost Migration Route

**B**



**Breeding Site**



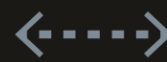
**Foraging Site**



**Migration Route**



**Lost Site**



**Lost Migration Route**

# Migratory Marine Megavertebrates

A large whale is breaching the ocean surface, with its massive tail fluke raised high and wide, creating a large splash of water. The whale's body is dark, and the water is a deep blue. The background shows a hazy horizon with distant landmasses under a dark sky.

Many of these species are listed as Near Threatened or Threatened by the IUCN, including:

- 95% of albatross
- 87% of assessed migratory sharks
- 63% of sea turtle subpopulations

# Who cares?

## PROCEEDINGS B

royalsocietypublishing.org/journal/rspb

Evidence  
synthesis



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<http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2019.1472>

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**Subject Areas:**  
ecology

**Keywords:**  
areas beyond national jurisdiction,  
migratory species, marine spatial planning,  
area-based management

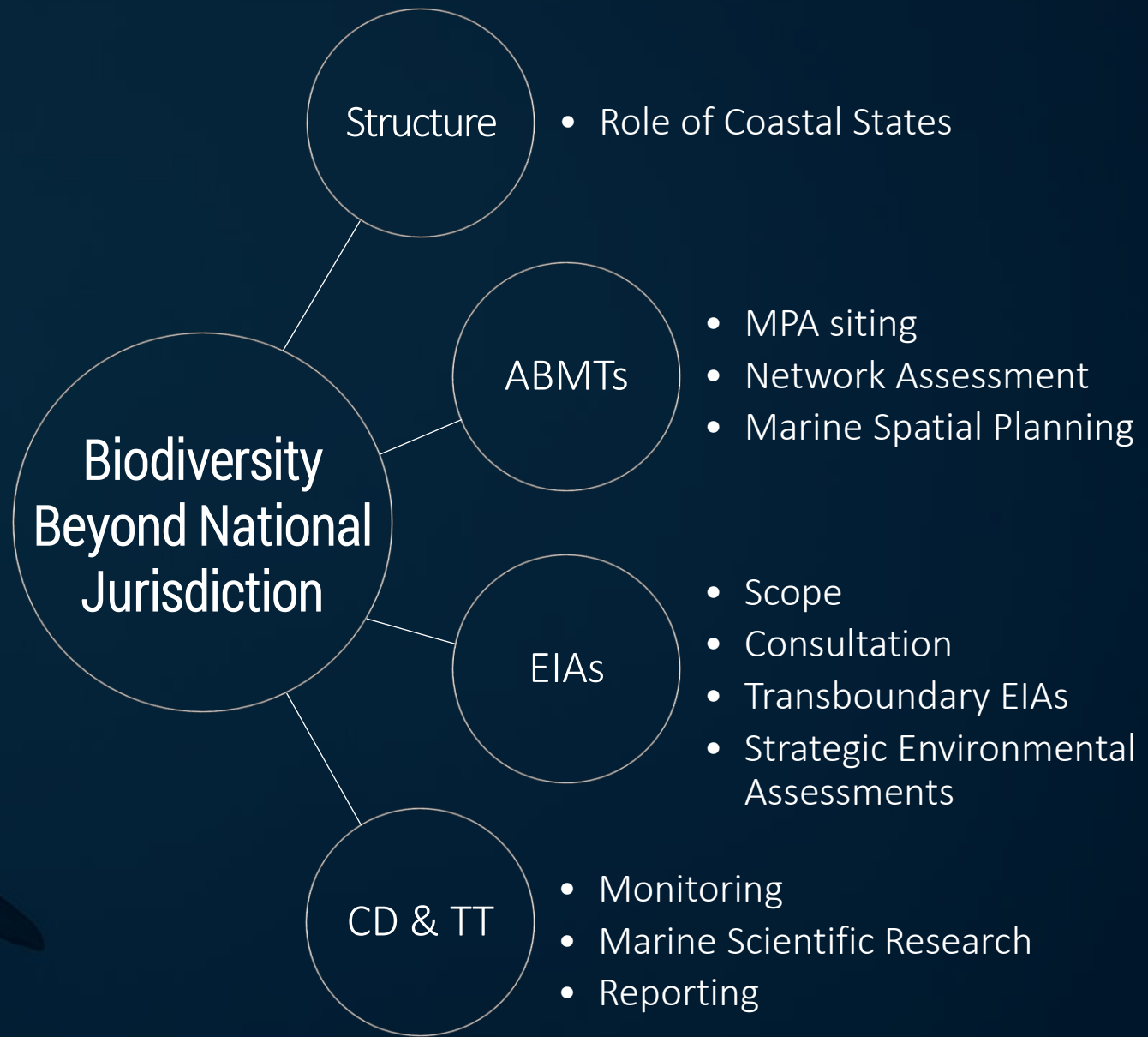
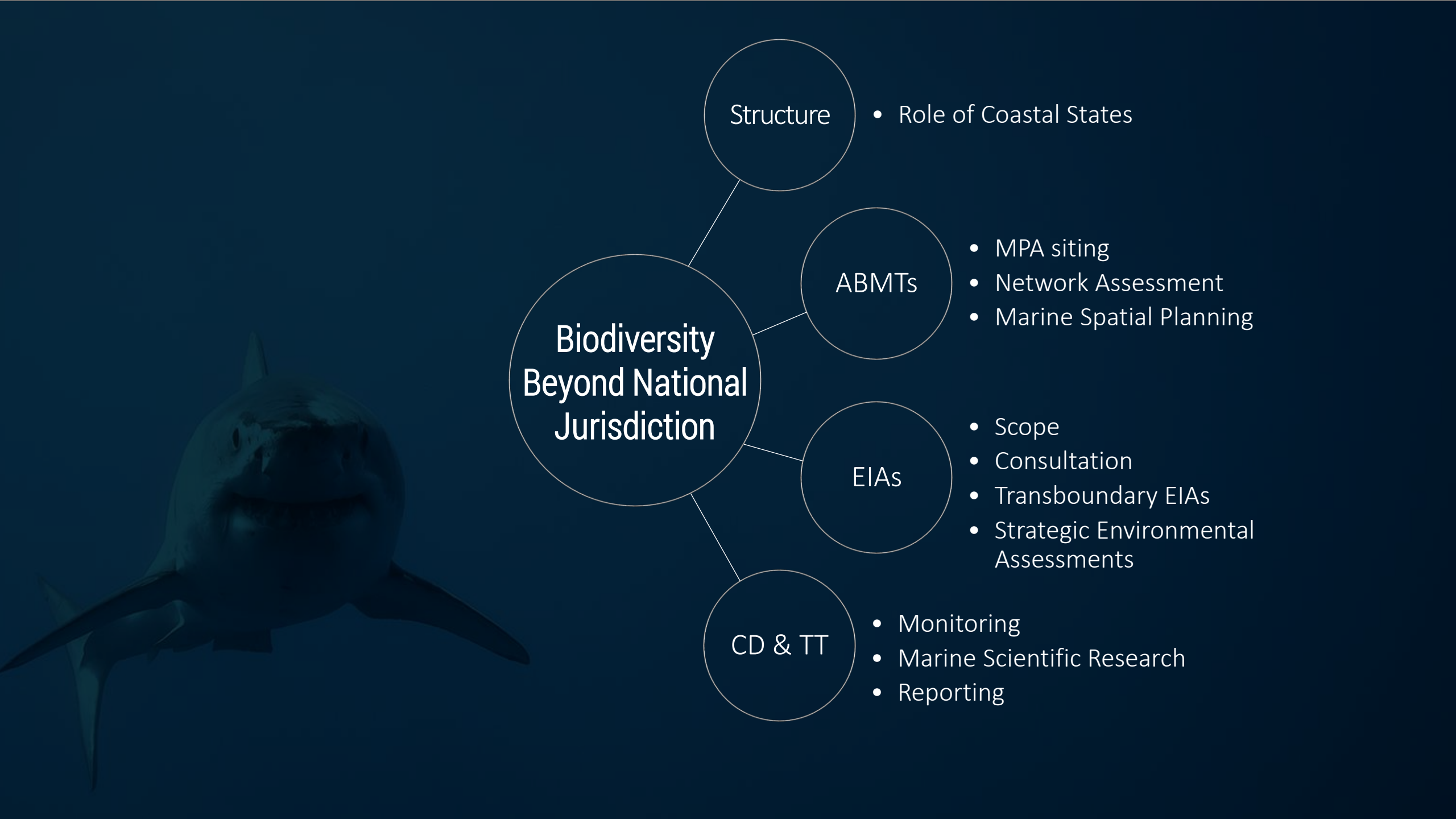
## The importance of migratory connectivity for global ocean policy

Daniel C. Dunn<sup>1,2,†</sup>, Autumn-Lynn Harrison<sup>3,†</sup>, Corrie Curtice<sup>1</sup>, Sarah DeLand<sup>1</sup>, Ben Donnelly<sup>1</sup>, Ei Fujioka<sup>1</sup>, Eleanor Heywood<sup>1</sup>, Connie Y. Kot<sup>1</sup>, Sarah Poulin<sup>1</sup>, Meredith Whitten<sup>1</sup>, Susanne Åkesson<sup>4</sup>, Amalia Alberini<sup>1</sup>, Ward Appeltans<sup>5</sup>, José Manuel Arcos<sup>6</sup>, Helen Bailey<sup>7</sup>, Lisa T. Ballance<sup>8,9,35</sup>, Barbara Block<sup>10</sup>, Hannah Blondin<sup>1,10</sup>, Andre M. Boustany<sup>11</sup>, Jorge Brenner<sup>12</sup>, Paulo Catry<sup>13</sup>, Daniel Cejudo<sup>14</sup>, Jesse Cleary<sup>1</sup>, Peter Corkeron<sup>15</sup>, Daniel P. Costa<sup>16</sup>, Michael Coyne<sup>17</sup>, Guillermo Ortuño Crespo<sup>1</sup>, Tammy E. Davies<sup>18</sup>, Maria P. Dias<sup>18</sup>, Fanny Douvere<sup>19</sup>, Francesco Ferretti<sup>10,20</sup>, Angela Formia<sup>21</sup>, David Freestone<sup>22</sup>, Ari S. Friedlaender<sup>16</sup>, Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma<sup>23</sup>, Christopher Barrio Froján<sup>24</sup>, Kristina M. Gjerde<sup>25</sup>, Lyle Glowka<sup>23</sup>, Brendan J. Godley<sup>26</sup>, Jacob Gonzalez-Solis<sup>27</sup>, José Pedro Granadeiro<sup>28</sup>, Vikki Gunn<sup>24</sup>, Yuriko Hashimoto<sup>29</sup>, Lucy M. Hawkes<sup>26</sup>, Graeme C. Hays<sup>30</sup>, Carolina Hazin<sup>18</sup>, Jorge Jimenez<sup>31</sup>, David E. Johnson<sup>24</sup>, Paolo Luschi<sup>32</sup>, Sara M. Maxwell<sup>33</sup>, Catherine McClellan<sup>1</sup>, Michelle Modest<sup>16</sup>, Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciarra<sup>34</sup>, Alejandro Herrero Palacio<sup>1</sup>, Daniel M. Palacios<sup>35</sup>, Andrea Pauly<sup>23</sup>, Matt Rayner<sup>36</sup>, Alan F. Rees<sup>26</sup>, Erick Ross Salazar<sup>21</sup>, David Secor<sup>7</sup>, Ana M. M. Sequeira<sup>37</sup>, Mark Spalding<sup>38</sup>, Fernando Spina<sup>39</sup>, Sofie Van Parijs<sup>15</sup>, Bryan Wallace<sup>1,40</sup>, Nuria Varo-Cruz<sup>14</sup>, Melanie Virtue<sup>23</sup>, Henri Weimerskirch<sup>41</sup>, Laurie Wilson<sup>29</sup>, Bill Woodward<sup>42</sup> and Patrick N. Halpin<sup>1</sup>

# International policy arenas that require information describing Migratory Connectivity in the Ocean



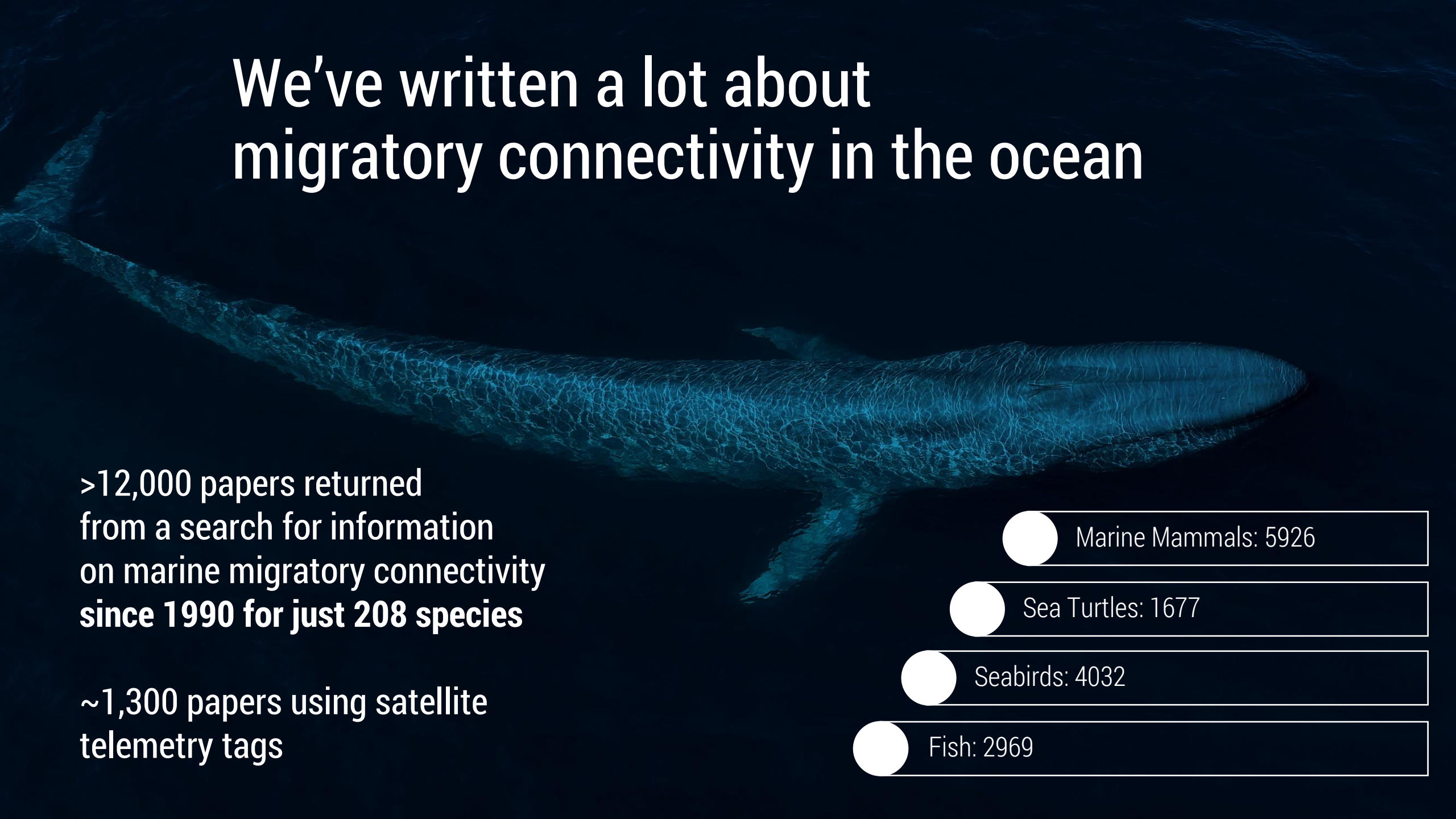




# We've written a lot about migratory connectivity in the ocean

>12,000 papers returned from a search for information on marine migratory connectivity since 1990 for just 208 species

~1,300 papers using satellite telemetry tags

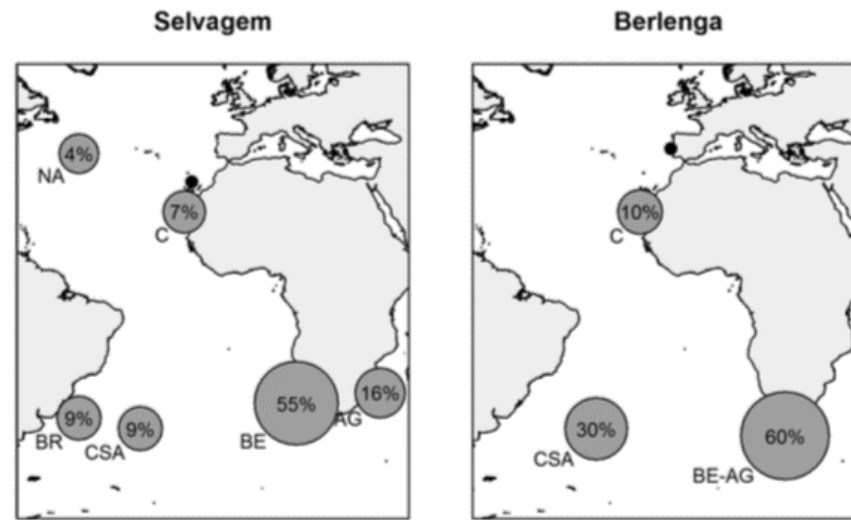


● Marine Mammals: 5926

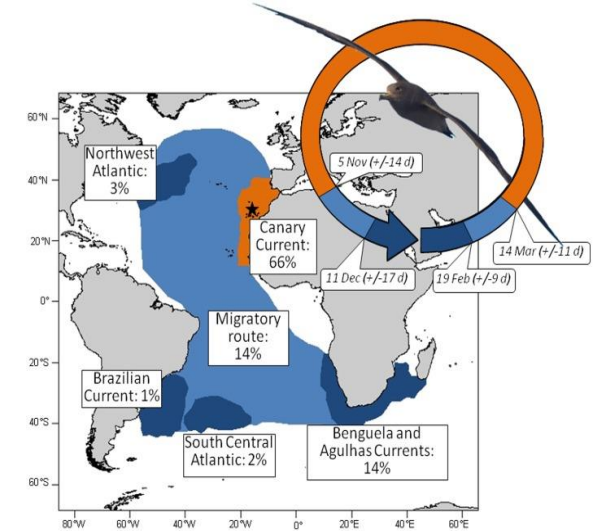
● Sea Turtles: 1677

● Seabirds: 4032

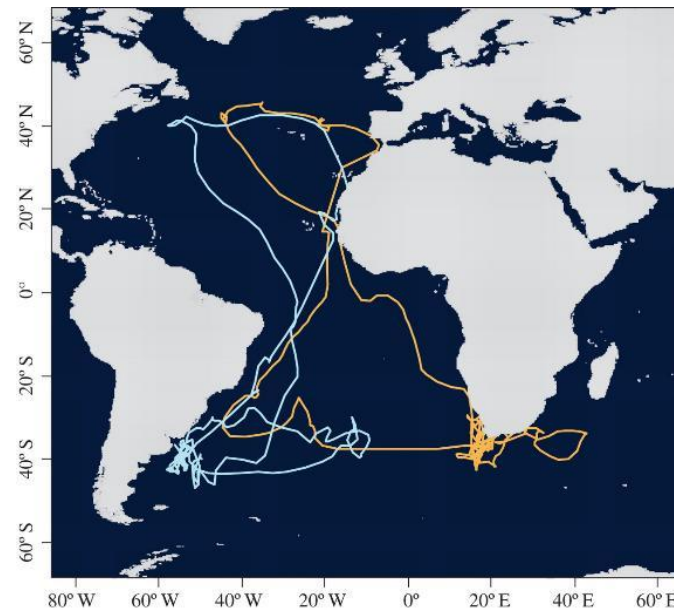
● Fish: 2969



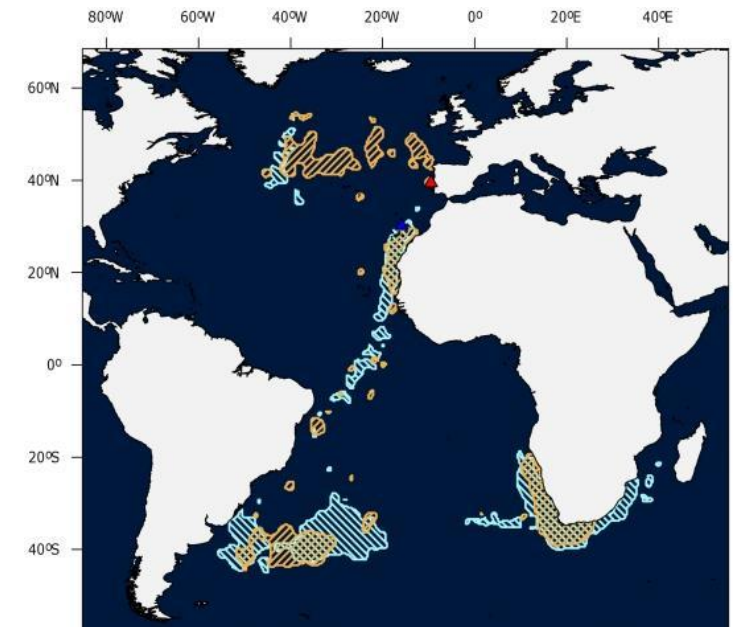
Ramos R, Granadeiro JP, Nevoux M et al. 2012



Ramos et al. 2012



Gonzalez-Solis, Croxall, Oro, Ruis. 2007



Catry P, Dias MP, Phillips RA, Granadeiro JP (2011)



## Academic Research

We have a  
knowledge  
transfer  
problem

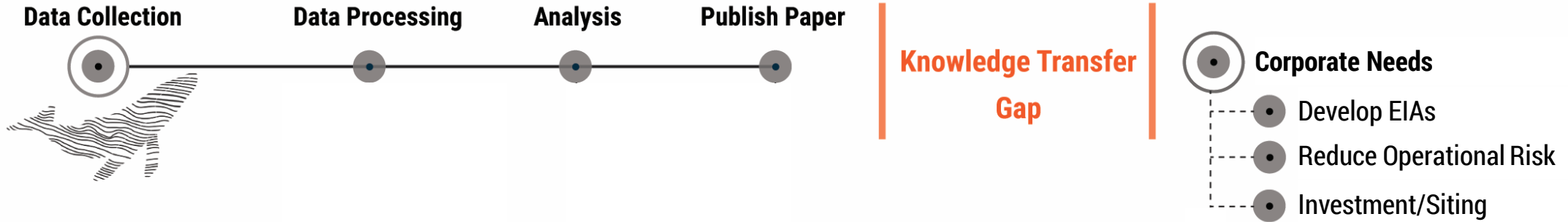
12,000 papers with  
information on migratory  
connectivity from 1990-2016





# We know what the problem is...

## Limited research to policy track



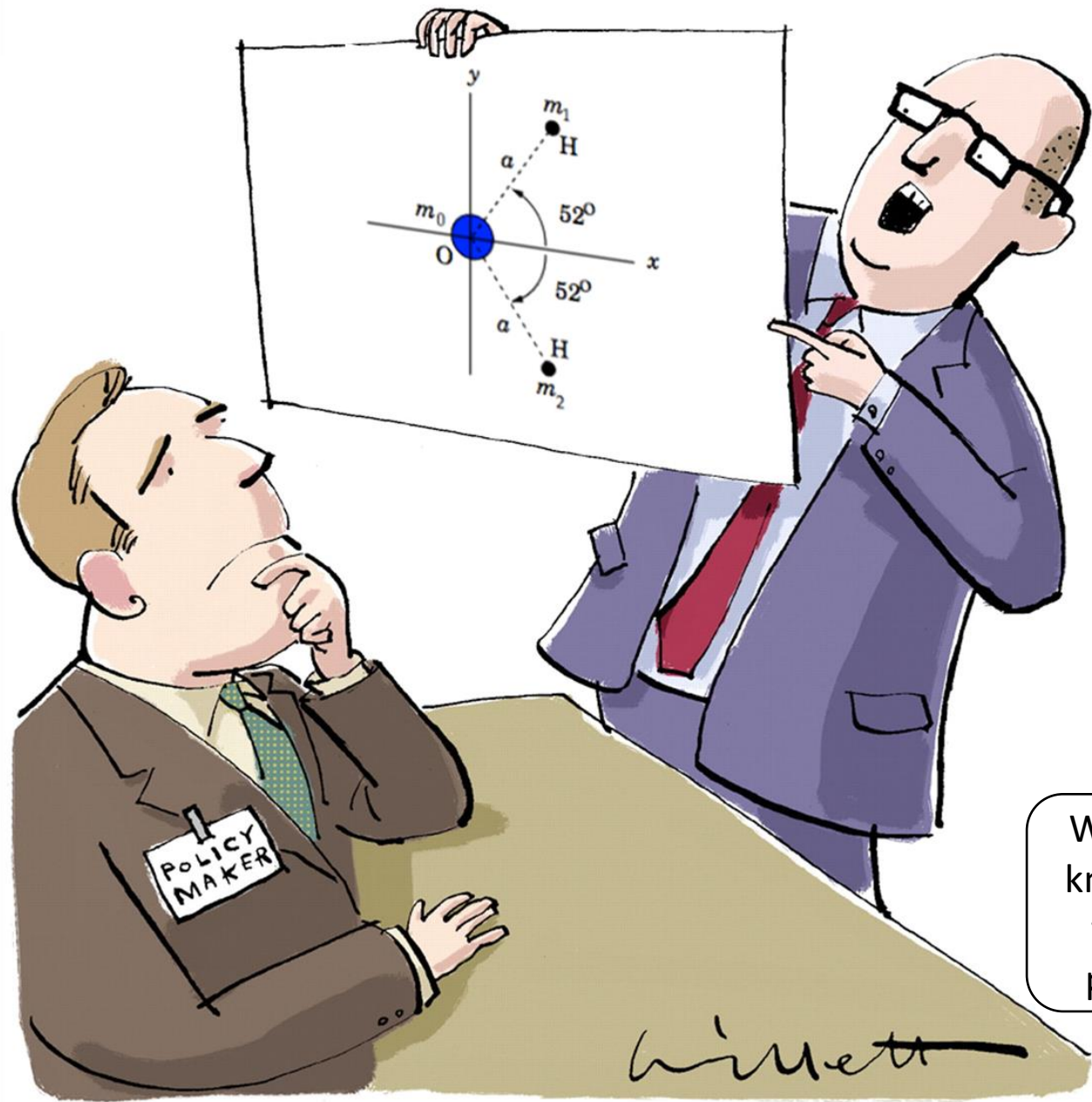
# And it is not just our words that are getting lost...

The image displays a collage of five overlapping web browser windows, each showing a different interface for tracking and data management:

- OBIS SEAMAP**: A web application for marine biodiversity data. It features a sidebar with sections for 'Contributors', 'Species selection' (with a search bar and 'Conservation status' filter), 'Dataset selection' (with a search bar and 'Data type' filter), 'Layer selection' (with radio buttons for 'Summary', 'Points', 'Survey tracks', 'Animal tracks', and 'Species range map'), and 'Zoning'. The main content area shows a 'User login' form with fields for 'Username' and 'Password', and buttons for 'Log in', 'Create new account', and 'Request new password'.
- Movebank**: A web application for animal movement data. It shows a 'User login' form with fields for 'Username' and 'Password', and buttons for 'Log in', 'Create new account', and 'Request new password'.
- Seabird Tracking Database**: A web application for seabird tracking data. It shows a 'Search results' section with a table of results (Columns: Datasets, Tracks, Contributors, Species, Points) and a 'Step 2: Create a Subset' form with fields for 'Spatial' (Bounding Box, W, E, S, N), 'Temporal' (Release Date, From, To, Time), and 'Others' (Animal ID, Release Site).
- AODN Open Access to Ocean Data**: A web application for ocean data. It shows a 'Search results' section with a table of results (Columns: Title, Species, Spatial Coverage, Updated Date, Access Type, Data Files) and a 'Step 2: Create a Subset' form with fields for 'Spatial' (Bounding Box, W, E, S, N), 'Temporal' (Release Date, From, To, Time), and 'Others' (Animal ID, Release Site).
- ZooTrack**: A web application for animal tracking data. It shows a map of Australia with green circular markers indicating tracking locations. Below the map is a table of results (Columns: Title, Species, Spatial Coverage, Updated Date, Access Type, Data Files) and a 'Search' bar.

Title	Species	Spatial Coverage	Updated Date	Access Type	Data Files
Tracking estuarine crocodiles on Cape York Peninsula using GPS-based telemetry DOI: 10.4226/68/5701F95C664E1	<i>Crocodylus porosus</i> estuarine crocodile	Cape York	14/08/2018	Open Access Tracks	
Tracking cassowaries in Moresby Range National Park using GPS-based telemetry DOI: 10.4226/68/5701F948ED1C8	<i>Casuarus casuarus johnsonii</i> southern cassowary	Etty Bay	04/04/2016	Open Access Tracks	
Arboreal marsupial ecology	<i>Petaurus ariel</i> Northern savanna glider	Northern Territory	03/02/2020	Open Access Tracks	
Adams Island white-headed petrel tracking	<i>Pterodroma leasoni</i> White-headed petrel	Adams Island, Auckland Island group	03/02/2020	Open Access Tracks	
VHF	N N	TN	03/12/2019	Open Access Tracks	

Showing 1 to 5 of 684 entries

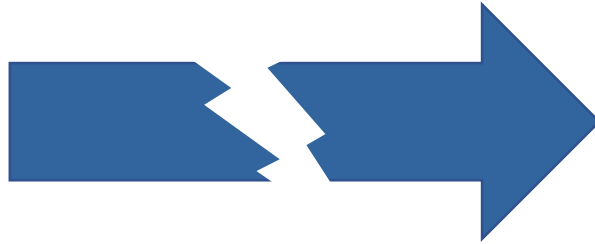


We have a  
knowledge  
transfer  
problem



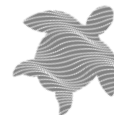


DATA



Obstacles:

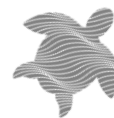
- Budget
- Capacity
- Time







DATA



# The sea-change happening *now* is aggregation of...



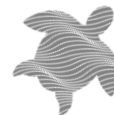
DATA



KNOWLEDGE

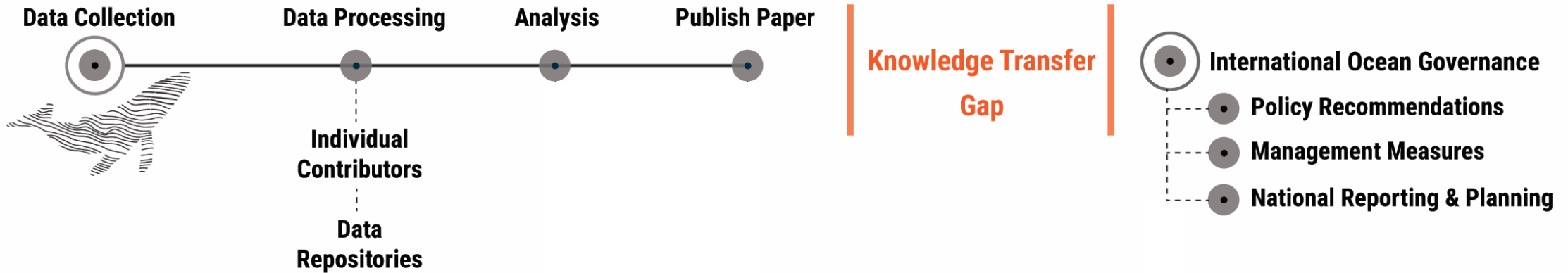


ACTION



# We also know what the solution is...

## Limited research to policy track





# New Study on Connectivity

MiCO researchers release a new study on connectivity, with 71 authors led by Daniel Dunn (MGEL/UQ) and Autumn-Lynn Harrison (Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center).

[Learn More](#) 

[mico.eco](https://mico.eco)

New Study  
on  
Connectivity

What is  
migratory  
connectivity?

The MiCO  
System

Management  
implications

Case  
Studies





# Three Pathways to Knowledge Integration

A comprehensive  
literature review

Development of  
new integrated and  
synthetic products

Aggregation of  
existing derived  
products



# Sampling methods to inform connectivity



Satellite telemetry  
or geolocator



Mark-recapture



Stable isotope



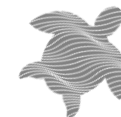
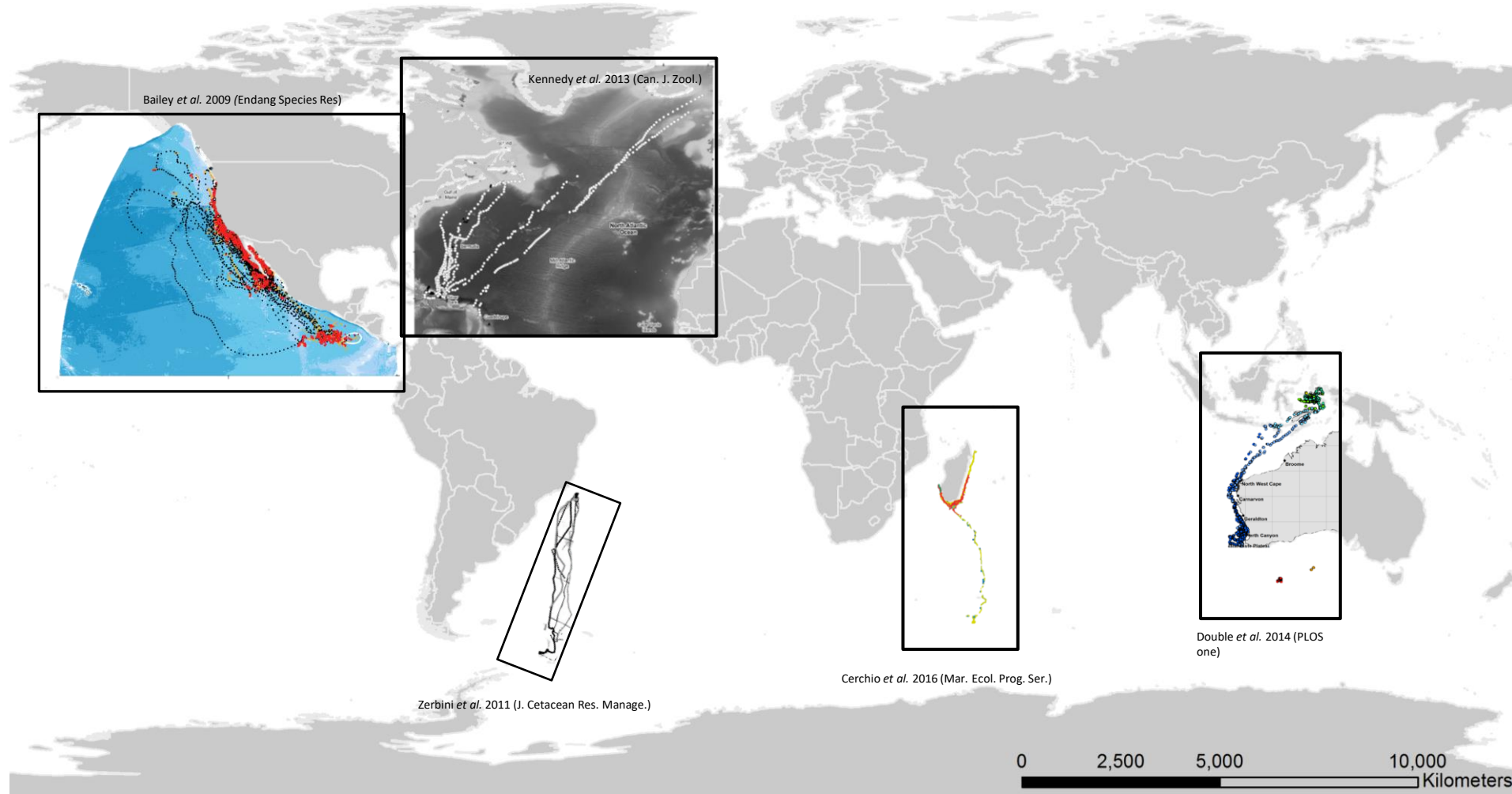
Passive acoustic  
monitoring



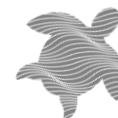
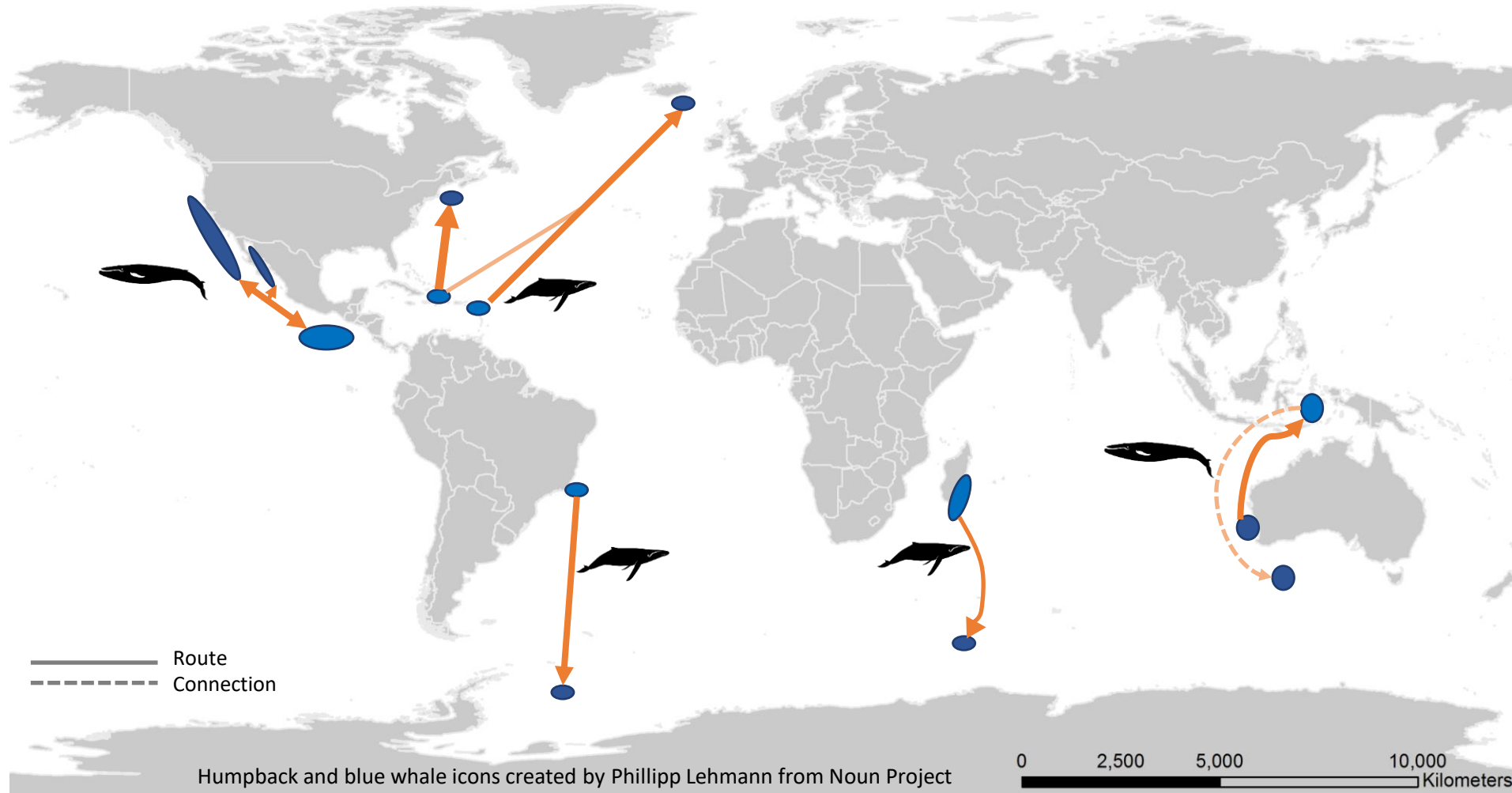
Genetic sampling

**Lit review**

# Literature Review of telemetry studies



# Literature Review of telemetry studies





# Network models from telemetry literature

## Leatherback Sea Turtles



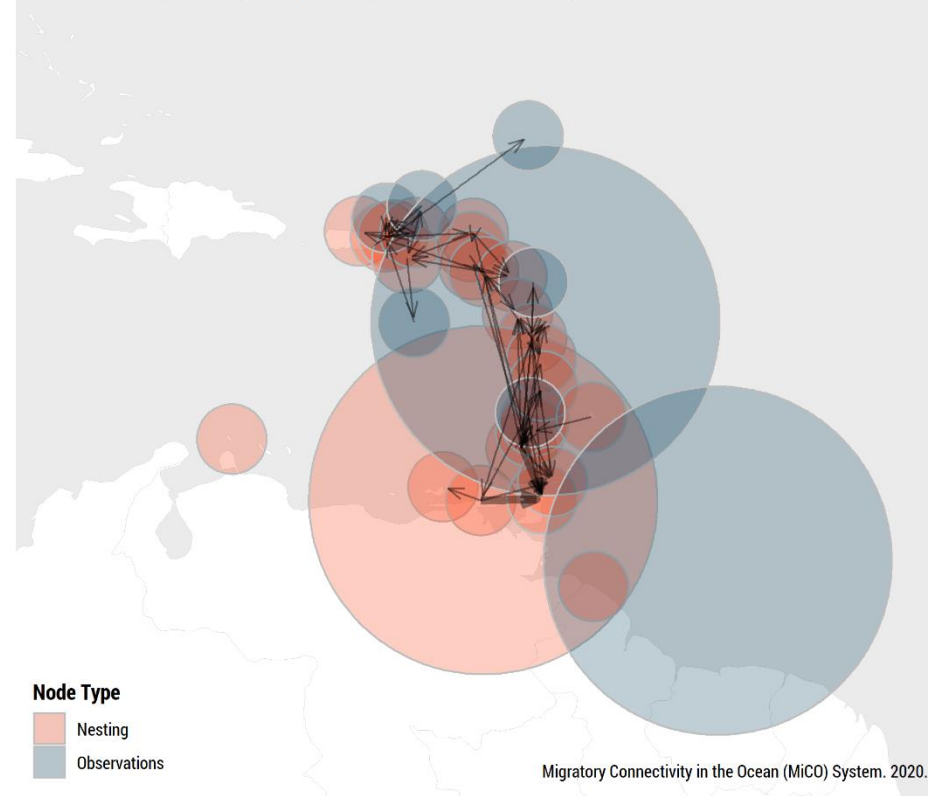
### Raw data

- 96 papers
- 397 sites
- 321 connections

### Synthesized network

- 133 meta-sites
- 205 meta-connections

Connectivity with the Eastern Caribbean for Leatherback Sea Turtles  
Derived from publications utilising telemetry data between 1990 & 2015



# Network models from telemetry literature

## Leatherback Sea Turtles



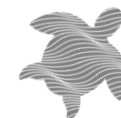
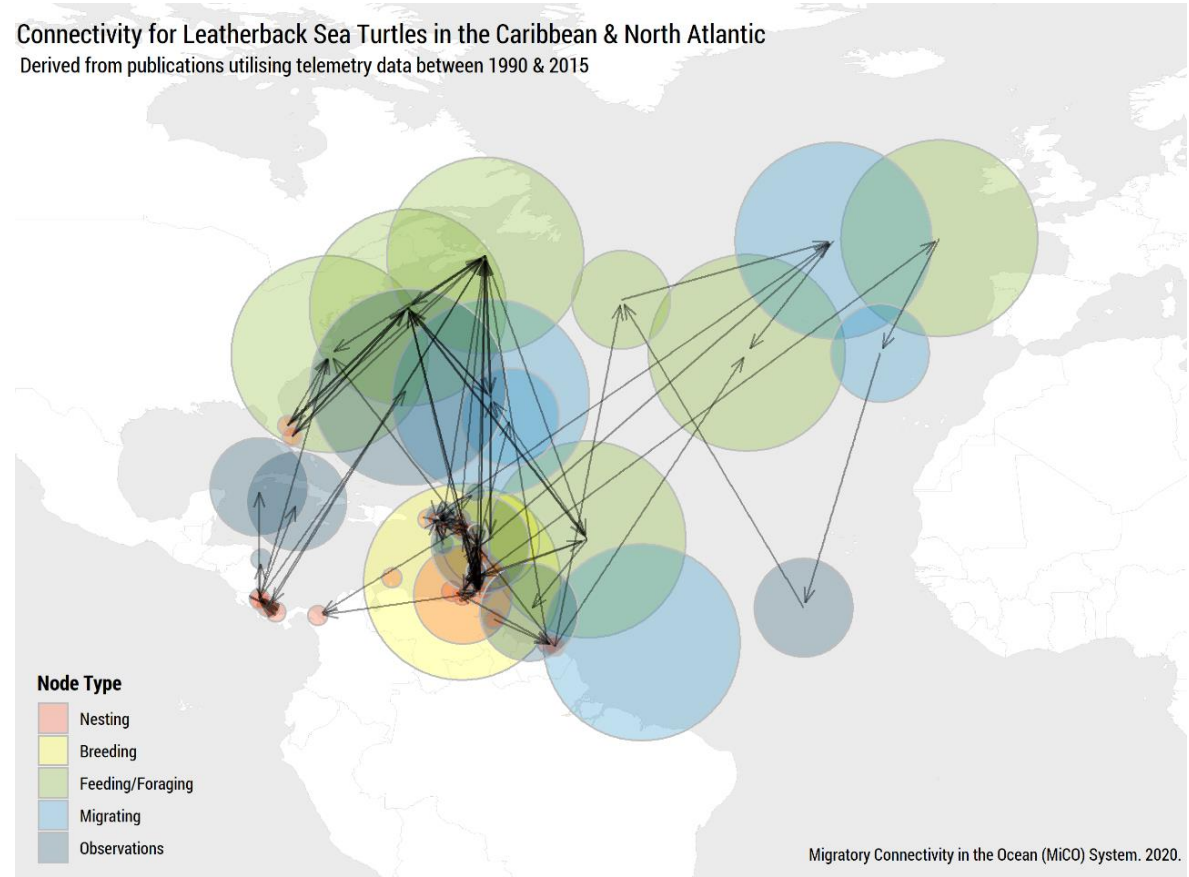
### Raw data

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### Synthesized network

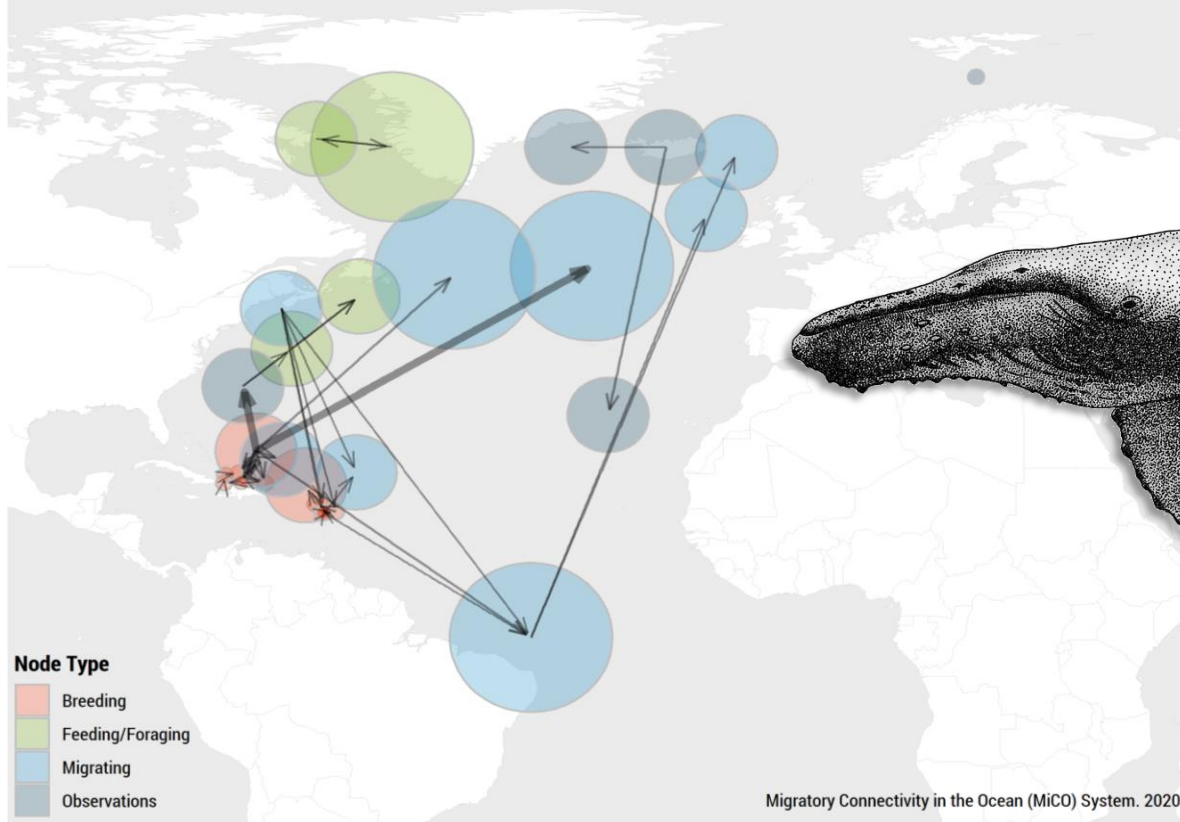
- 133 meta-sites
- 205 meta-connections

Connectivity for Leatherback Sea Turtles in the Caribbean & North Atlantic  
Derived from publications utilising telemetry data between 1990 & 2015

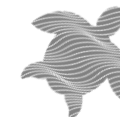
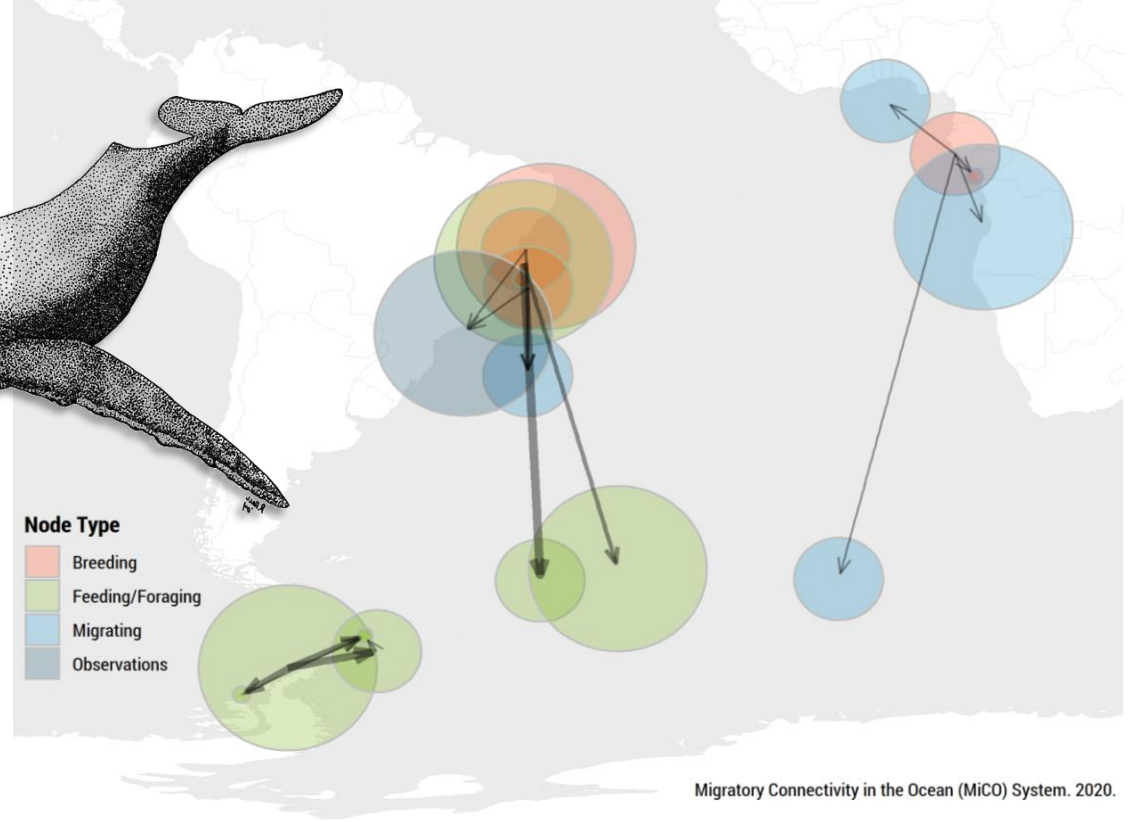


# Usable Knowledge for Industry

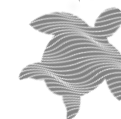
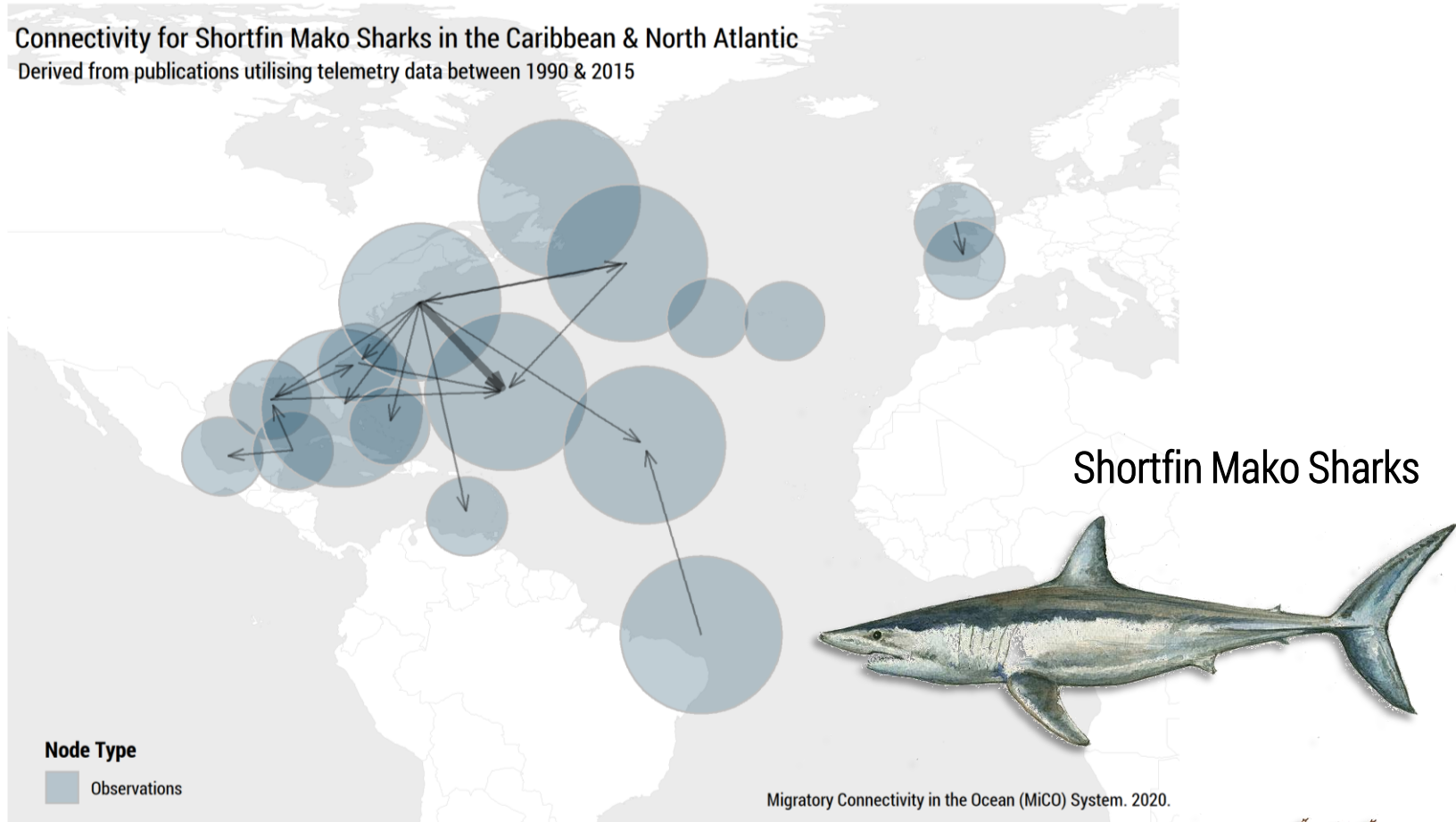
Connectivity for Humpback Whales in the Caribbean & North Atlantic  
Derived from publications utilising telemetry data between 1990 & 2015



Connectivity for Humpback Whales in the South Atlantic  
Derived from publications utilising telemetry data between 1990 & 2015



# Network models from telemetry literature





# A lot of information and a lot more to incorporate

Currently:

- synthesized >30 species \* region networks
- Should have 80+ species by May
- Only looking at telemetry papers, more info in papers using mark/recapture, stable isotope, genetic and acoustic sampling methods
- Hundreds more species to be addressed

## Fish (35)

Albacore Tuna  
Atlantic Bluefin Tuna  
Basking Shark  
Bigeye Thresher Shark  
Bigeye Tuna  
Black Marlin  
Blackfin Tuna  
Blue Marlin  
Chilean Devil Ray  
Common Dolphin  
Common Thresher Shark  
Dugong  
European Eel  
Giant Manta Ray  
Great Hammerhead  
Great White Shark  
Killer Whale  
Longbill Spearfish  
Longfin Mako  
Pacific Bluefin Tuna  
Porbeagle  
Reef Manta Ray  
Sailfish  
Scalloped Hammerhead  
Shortfin Mako  
Silky Shark  
Skipjack Tuna  
Southern Bluefin Tuna  
Spinetail Devil Ray  
Striped Marlin  
Swordfish  
Wahoo  
Whale Shark  
White Marlin  
Yellowfin Tuna

## Seabirds (16)

Amsterdam Albatross  
Arctic Tern  
Black-browed Albatross  
Black-footed Albatross  
Grey-headed Albatross  
Hawaiian Petrel  
Laysan Albatross  
Light-mantled Albatross  
Northern Giant Petrel  
Short-tailed Albatross  
Sooty Albatross  
Southern Giant Petrel  
Southern Royal Albatross  
Wandering Albatross  
White-chinned Petrel  
Yellow-billed Loon

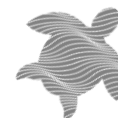
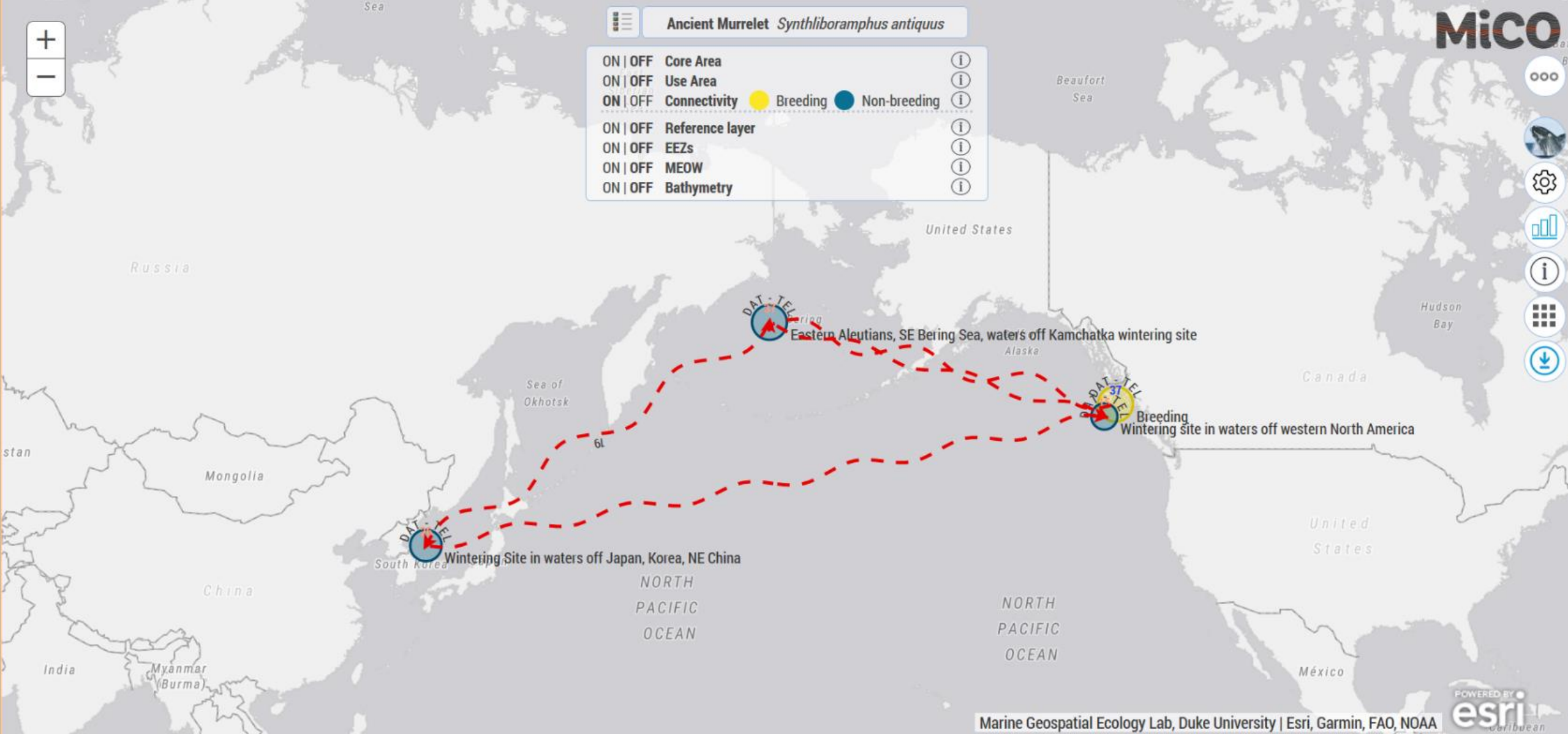
## MarineMammals (26)

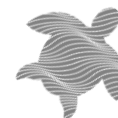
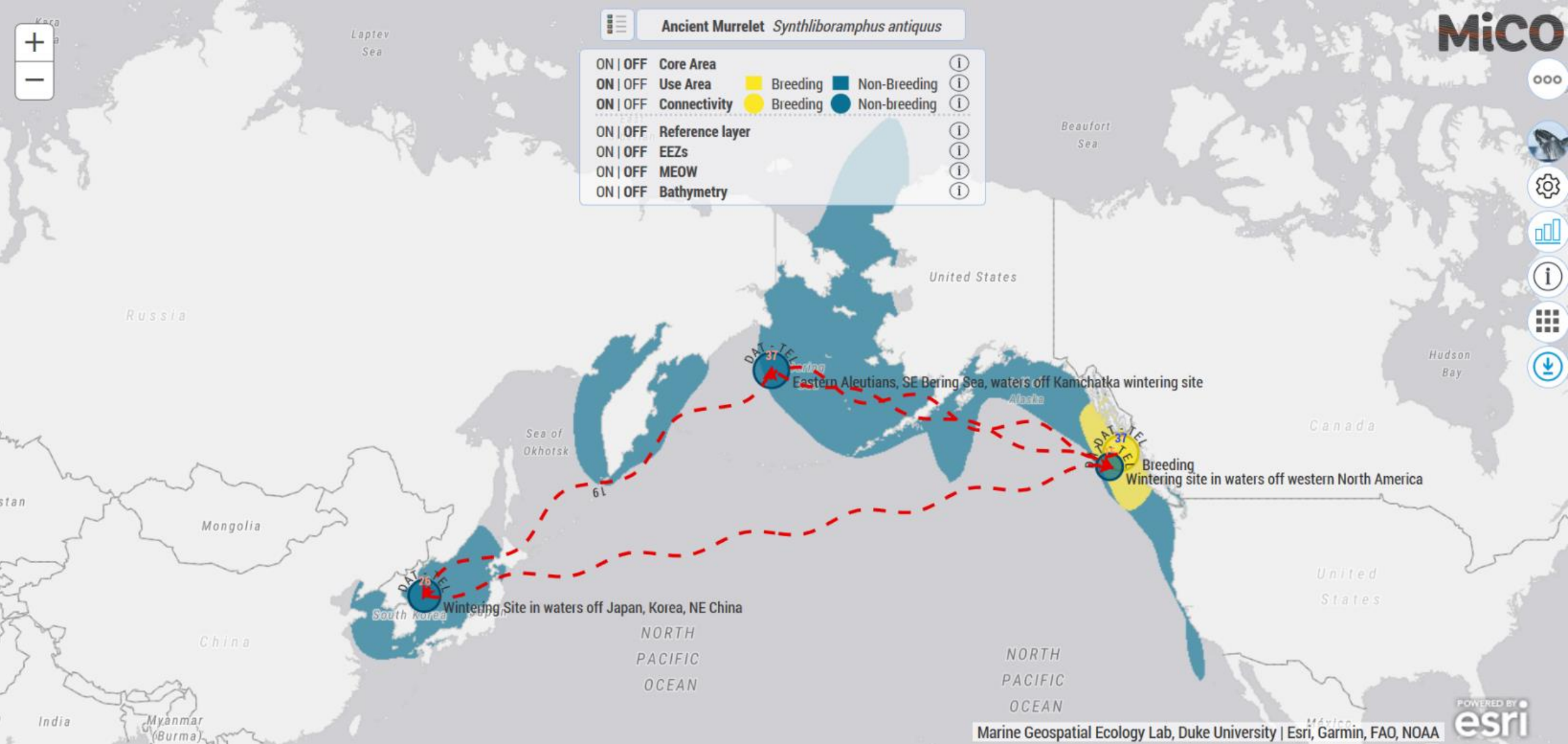
American Manatee  
Atlantic White-sided Dolphin  
Beluga  
Blue Whale  
Bowhead Whale  
Bryde's Whale  
Cuvier's Beaked Whale  
Fin Whale  
Grey Seal  
Heaviside's Dolphin  
Humpback Whale  
Long-finned Pilot Whale  
Narwhal  
North Atlantic Bottlenose Whale  
North Atlantic Right Whale  
North Pacific Right Whale  
Pantropical Spotted Dolphin  
Polar Bear  
Risso's Dolphin  
Sei Whale  
Short-beaked Common Dolphin  
South American Fur Seal  
South American Manatee  
Southern Right Whale  
Sperm Whale  
White-beaked Dolphin

## SeaTurtles (all 7)

Flatback  
Green  
Hawksbill  
Kemp's Ridley  
Leatherback  
Loggerhead  
Olive Ridley









# Area-use models

Current methods described  
at [mico.eco/methods](https://mico.eco/methods)



Taxa

Tag type

Filtering method

Interpolation method

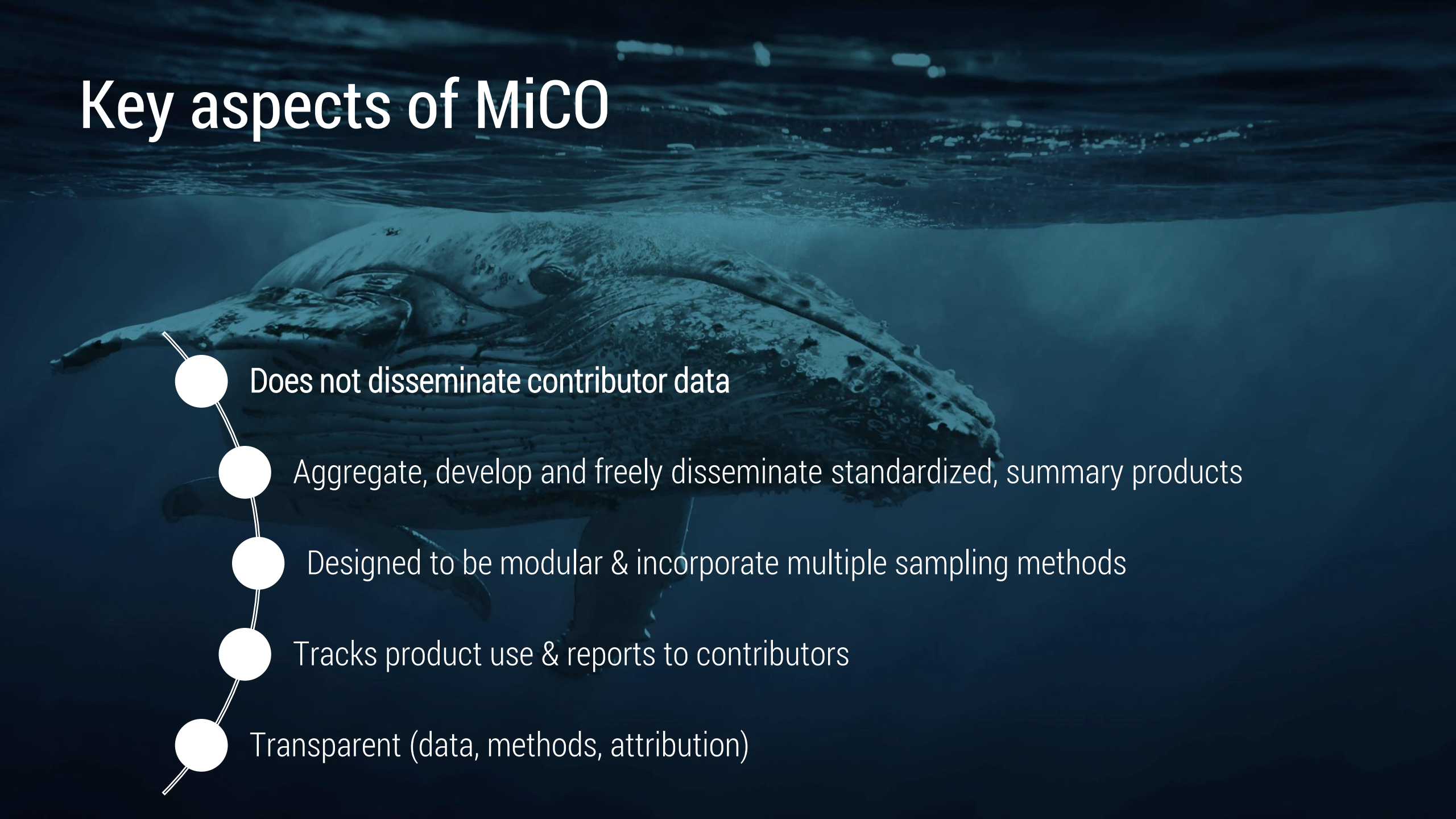
Segmentation method

Behavioral state

Area-use model



# Key aspects of MiCO

- 
- Does not disseminate contributor data
  - Aggregate, develop and freely disseminate standardized, summary products
  - Designed to be modular & incorporate multiple sampling methods
  - Tracks product use & reports to contributors
  - Transparent (data, methods, attribution)



# The MiCO System

On April 1st, 2019 the MiCO System launches at the 2nd Intergovernmental Conference on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ).

[Learn more and explore the system](#) 

Leatherback

Long, Lat: 3.58178, -7.94489

Node / Corridor						
Common name	Activity	Desc	Sex	Age	Tag	Type
Leatherback	Migrating	Post-nesting Migration	F	A	PTT	Dist.
Leatherback	Migrating	Post-nesting Migration	F	A	PTT	Dist.

New Study  
on  
Connectivity

What is  
migratory  
connectivity?

**The MiCO  
System**

Management  
implications

Case  
Studies



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# Next Steps



## System:

- *Incorporate network models from the literature review*
- Download feature for network models
- Add more area-use models
- Multi-method network models
- Better describe uncertainty

## Research Partners:

- Collaborate on proposals to integrate datasets
- Collaborate on analyses of this new dataset

## Industry and Policy Partners:

- Identify preferred product formats
- Pilot projects to integrate MiCO output into existing processes (e.g., EIAs or MSP)
- Co-develop proposals for industry-academia collaborations





# How, can I join the fun?

MiCO development has or is being undertaken by:

- 1 Undergrad Honours student
- 8 HDR (7 Masters + 1 PhD)
- 9 Research Staff
- 50+ MiCO partners

Ongoing opportunities:

- Hiring a 2-year Post-Doc at UQ in next 3-6 months
- PhD research scholarships at UQ, or TA scholarships at Duke
- Masters projects
  - generating models and case studies of the implications of connectivity for governance of migratory species



# Thanks!

**Daniel Dunn**

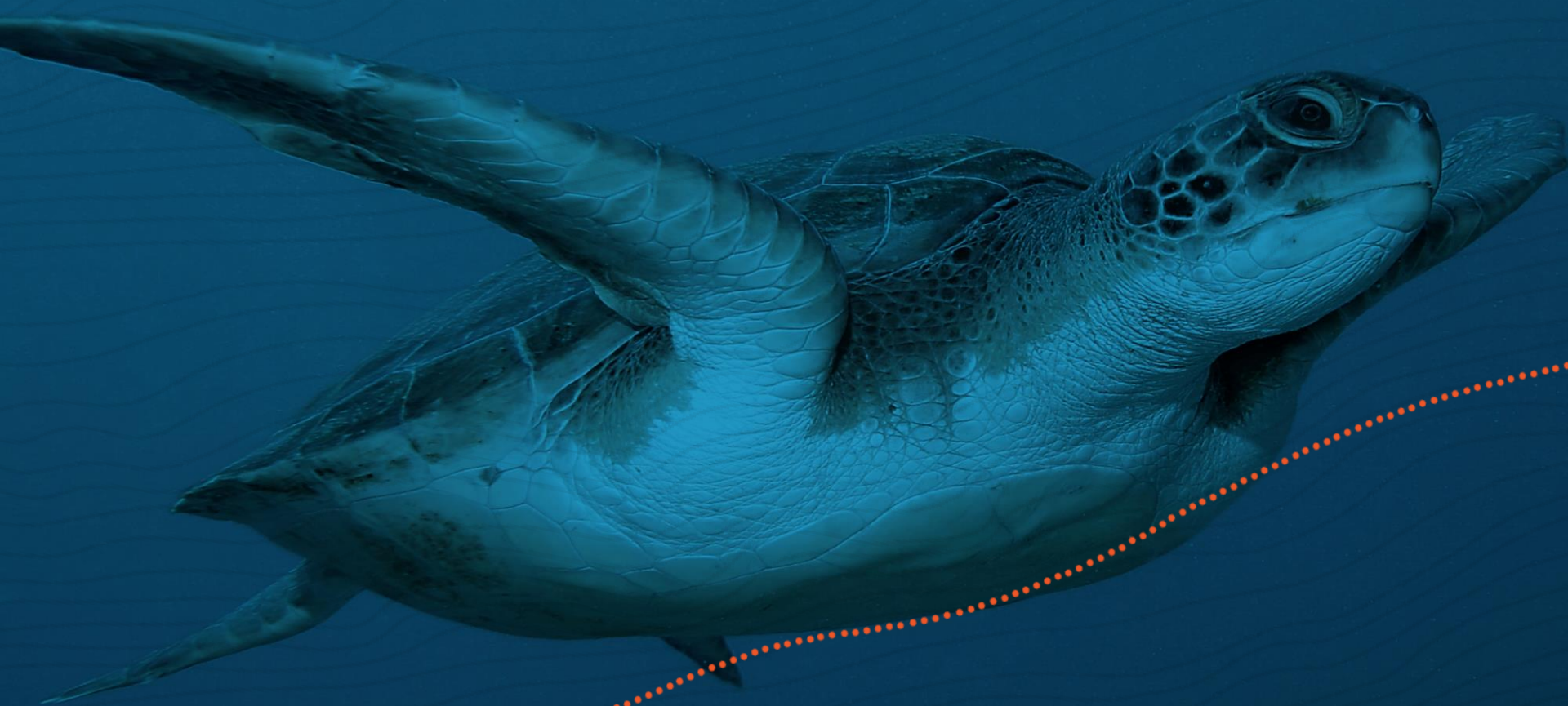
Director, Applied Marine Biogeography Lab  
School of Earth and Environmental Sciences  
University of Queensland

**Contact Info**

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*w* marinebiogeo.org

*t* @danielcdunn



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**MiCO** Migratory  
Connectivity  
in the Ocean