

Considering the implications of climate-induced species range shifts in marine protected areas planning

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Abstract

Climate change is affecting the ocean, altering the biogeography of marine species. Yet marine protected area (MPA) planning still rarely incorporates projected species range shifts. We used the outputs of species distribution models fitted with biological and climate data as inputs to identify trends in occurrence for marine species in British Columbia (BC), Canada. We assessed and compared two ways of incorporating climate change projections into MPA planning. First, we overlaid 98 species with modelled distributions now and by the mid-21st century under two contrasting ("no mitigation") and "strong mitigation") climate change scenarios with existing Provincial marine parks in BC, to ask which species could overlap with protected areas in the future. Second, we completed a spatial prioritization analysis using Marxan with the projected future species ranges as inputs, to ask where priority regions exist for the 98 marine species. We found that many BC marine parks will lose species in both climate scenarios that we analyzed, and that protecting 30% of important marine species will be challenging under the "no mitigation" climate change scenario. Challenges included the coarse resolution of the data and uncertainty in projecting species range shifts.

Key words: marine protected areas, MPA networks, conservation planning, climate change, range shifts, Marxan

Introduction

Marine ecosystems are at risk from the effects of climate change on marine species physiology, population and species diversity, and ecological interactions (Hoegh-Guldberg and Bruno 2010; Doney et al. 2012). As ectotherms, fish and invertebrate species are especially vulnerable to ocean warming, as their body temperature is largely determined by the surrounding environment (Sunday et al. 2011; Pinsky et al. 2019). Species ranges, an outcome of a species' potential and realized habitat niche, are driven by environmental conditions and moderated by biological interactions such as competition, predation, and long-term interactions among species (such as mutualism, commensalism, parasitism, and others) (Ackerly et al. 2010). The distribution of many species and populations has already changed as species move in space, such as poleward or to deeper waters (marine species), higher altitudes (terrestrial species), and/or in time as the seasonality of species lifecycles shifts to earlier or later times of the year (Parmesan and Yohe 2003; Tingley and Beissinger 2009; Brown et al. 2015). Marine species range shifts are expected to continue under projected warming and other changes in ocean conditions, with consequences for ecosystems, economies, societies, and management (Cheung et al. 2015; Patrizzi and Dobrovolski 2018).

Climate change impacts on species ranges can change where marine protected areas (MPAs) should be situated

(McLeod et al. 2009; Gerber et al. 2014) and can also disrupt connectivity between protected areas by changing dispersal pathways and species physiology (Álvarez-Romero et al. 2017) and affecting adult movement (Friesen et al. 2021). Wellestablished conservation planning tools have been applied in response to climate change predictions, such as emphasizing MPA networks, increasing spatial connectivity, habitat heterogeneity, and improving management of the core and edges of reserves (Hannah et al. 2002). Designating new MPAs could augment the existing global network of MPAs and provide potential benefits of connectivity and redundancy for existing species ranges (Hannah 2008; Araújo 2009). However, adding more MPAs today might not provide future benefits to the specific species or habitats they were intended to protect because of climate change.

To date, others have proposed a range of methods to incorporate climate change into conservation planning (see reviews by Magris et al. 2014; Jones et al. 2016). Previous research has aimed to identify thermal refugia, or areas that may warm less rapidly and thus offer some protection from increasing temperatures (Ban et al. 2016; Lima et al. 2016). However, data limitations—especially in terms of understanding how protecting future habitat might increase species adaptive capacity to climate change-make these methods challenging and uncertain (Groves et al. 2012; Magris et al. 2014). Others make a case for "conserving the



geophysical stage", whereby conversation plans are defined by geophysical indicators such as topography as surrogates for biodiversity features (Groves et al. 2012), an appropriate approach for some but not all species. Others still promote incorporating ecological processes into systematic conservation planning, such as river flows, flood patterns, or animal migration patterns (McCook et al. 2009; Groves et al. 2012; D'Aloia et al. 2017). Typically, conservation planning methods and data have remained temporally static based on the current state of biodiversity; with climate change, much more adaptive and proactive adaptation strategies are necessary (Groves et al. 2012). Another technique is to ensure the protection of habitat distributions over time (temporal connectivity), which would allow species to track their climatic niche as habitats change with climate change (Hodgson et al. 2009). Ecological niche theory-the environmental conditions that an organism is dependent upon to survive and reproduce (Wiens et al. 2009)-can be applied to models to describe how species may respond to future environmental change by identifying habitats that are likely to be used in the future. These forecasts are called species distribution models (SDMs) or bioclimatic niche models (e.g., Cheung et al. 2015). These SDMs can then be applied to a spatial decision support tool such as Marxan or zonation to prioritize actions to protect those future habitat needs and species of interest (Magris et al. 2014; e.g., Alagador et al. 2014).

In this paper, we explored two ways that marine conservation planning could incorporate projected changes in species distributions using global climate projections available globally. We used the outputs of an existing dynamic bioclimate envelope model of shifting species distributions (Weatherdon et al. 2016b) to (1) determine where species ranges overlap within MPAs in the Northern Shelf Bioregion (see below) in the present and future (2060) and (2) use them as inputs into spatial prioritization software (Marxan) to identify priorities for MPAs to represent biodiversity now and into the future across the entire coast of BC (within the Canadian Pacific Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and including the transboundary region of southeastern Alaska and Washington States). We also tracked challenges encountered and reflected on the usefulness of the results for MPA network planning.

We focused on two scales: (1) the Northern Shelf Bioregion, and (2) all of Canada's Pacific EEZ and northern neighbouring regions in Alaska and northern Washington State. The smaller focal region, the Northern Shelf Bioregion, is relevant because this is the part of Canada's Pacific EEZ where a network of MPAs is currently actively being pursued jointly by Federal, Provincial, and First Nations government representatives (Gale et al. 2019) (Fig. 1). The bioregion, approximately 100,000 square kilometres in size, is one of 13 ecologically defined bioregions in Canada's EEZ (Government of Canada 2011). It is the only bioregion (out of 4) in Pacific Canada that has an active MPA network planning process underway and one that involves multiple governments (McGee et al. 2022; Reid et al. 2022). There are 118 conservancies, ecological reserves, and parks with a marine component that are under the jurisdiction of the Provincial BC government through BC Parks (hereafter referred to as BC MPAs) and 6 Federal MPAs within the bioregion included in this analysis. We focused

on Provincial MPAs as part of this project, which was funded by BC Parks. We worked closely with members of the technical team planning the Northern Shelf Bioregion MPA network, including sharing our approaches, results, and associated data. Understanding how well existing MPAs in the region might fare under climate change is important for the development of the planning process, which includes a climate change sub-committee. The broader focus, on Canada's Pacific EEZ and beyond, is important for understanding how future range shifts might affect Canada's ability to protect marine species in its Pacific EEZ.

Methods

Application of climate change projections: species presence in current MPAs

We used modelled projections of species range shifts based on an Earth system model (ESM) (Weatherdon et al. 2016b) that models the effects of warming and other changes in ocean conditions to project changing species presence/absence in MPAs under Provincial jurisdiction both now (2016) and in the future (2060). Species distributions were projected using a dynamic bioclimate envelope model (DBEM) (Cheung et al. 2009) that projects the effects of largescale climate change for 98 species of commercial interest and cultural value to coastal First Nations communities in BC (Weatherdon et al. 2016b), resulting in outputs of projected species distributions. These 98 species are a subset of the 140 priority species that are the focus of MPA network planning in the Northern Shelf Bioregion (Gale et al. 2019). Projections of ocean conditions, including temperature, oxygen, salinity, and net primary production, were from the Geophysical Fluid Dynamic Laboratory ESM-2 M (GFDL ESM2M). The models determine distributions and abundance based on a set of filters that are specific to the species and constrain movement. Abundance is expressed as an index relative to the unexploited level estimated from historical catches and the intrinsic population growth rate. The filters include latitudinal range, range-limiting polygons, depth range, and habitat preferences (Weatherdon et al. 2016a). The spatial resolution of the model and the input data were harmonized at 0.5° latitude $\times 0.5^{\circ}$ longitude (see Cheung et al. 2016 for details). These projections have been calculated under two climate change scenarios: a low emissions "strong mitigation" scenario (Representative Conservation Pathway, RCP 2.6) and a high emissions "no mitigation" RCP 8.5 scenario (IPCC 2014). Previous studies have shown that the model can reproduce spatial patterns of abundance and catch with uncertainties in temporal projections associated with projections driven by outputs from different Earth system models and algorithms to calculate the environmental suitability of the species (Fernandes et al. 2013; Cheung et al. 2016).

Because we aim to explore the extent to which the current MPA planning in the Northern Shelf Bioregion may need to be adjusted under climate change, we focused on the extreme end of the emissions scenario (Raftery et al. 2017) for this part of the analysis. As such, we used only the "no mitigation" RCP 8.5 data for the analysis of future changes to ma**Fig. 1.** Geographical extent of the study area for the first analysis (MPAs under Provincial jurisdiction, in red), the Northern Shelf Bioregion of coastal British Columbia, Canada, also showing 6 Federal MPAs and 59 Provincial parks and protected areas with a marine component (MPAs) included in analysis. Fifty-nine Provincial MPAs were excluded during the development of this project due to data limitations and the very small size of many BC MPAs. Data source: The Canadian Council on Ecological Areas. Map CRS: NAD83 BC Albers.



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rine species in BC MPAs in 2060. We then calculated the difference in species presence or absence (i.e., when projected relative abundance = 0) and reported the number and specific species whose projected range changes in relation to BC MPAs. We also calculated modelled species presence/absence for current and future conditions within each of the 59 MPAs included in the analysis (see Supplementary Material for details). These MPAs were selected as they were (a) of interest to BC Parks and (b) within the Northern Shelf Bioregion.

Spatial priority areas for future range distributions

To identify priority areas for marine species—areas that, if protected, would meet the targets for species included in

the analysis—we used the conservation planning software Marxan (Ball et al. 2009). Marxan produces a "best case" solution for an MPA network by comparing the conservation goals and costs for planning units (cells) across a given area of management, and suggests a network of areas that meet the given conservation objectives at the lowest costs over many iterative configurations (Ardron et al. 2010). Input features can be species distributions, subspecies, habitats, physical features, or anything that the user wishes to use as a target or surrogate target. The number of times that a planning unit is selected, termed the selection frequency, can be interpreted as a measure of its conservation value (Carwardine et al. 2009). Where planning units contain features that need to be included, planning units with lower costs are more likely to be included in the network solution.



Due to the coarse grain size of the available species distribution projections relative to the Canadian EEZ in British Columbia and knowing that species are shifting poleward rapidly with transboundary management consequences, we applied these projections across a large planning area, including the southern coast of Alaska (139°–114°W, 45°–60°N). We used projections of species ranges and relative abundance data at both the low (RCP 2.6) and high (RCP 8.5) emissions scenarios to illustrate the differential implications for marine conservation planning and the likelihood of persistence of present-day species distributions and abundances. Here, we used area as a cost because other costs (future fishing areas, for example) will change and those data were not available. We set a $10 \times$ higher cost for planning units that fell outside of the BC EEZ than planning units within the BC EEZ to reflect the goal of protecting species within BC and the likely challenge of transboundary MPAs (Gissi et al. 2018). We ran two sets of scenarios: (1) resistance: we set the species abundance targets for all scenarios at 30% of the baseline-modelled relative abundance within the BC EEZ (at 2016, RCP 2.6) to reflect the intent to maintain species of importance at that abundance within BC; and (2) resilience: we set the species abundance targets to 30% at each time step, allowing the target abundance values to shift with the changing relative abundance projections across the planning unit grid. We used a target of 30% because this is one of the scenarios used in the Northern Shelf Bioregion MPA planning process. We considered the following scenarios for all 98 species included in the dataset:

- 1) Baseline case: MPA priorities using modelled species distributions in 2016 (RCP 2.6);
- MPA priorities in potential future climates: modelled future distributions in 2030, 2040, 2050, and 2060 at both "strong mitigation" (RCP 2.6) and "no mitigation" (RCP 8.5) scenarios; and
- MPA priorities including 2016 and into the future to attempt to maintain protection of species through time (overlaying modelled distributions, including 2016–2030, 2040, and 2050 at RCP 2.6).

Results

Provincial MPA analysis

We examined how shifting species ranges may affect how well BC MPAs are meeting coverage targets for marine species within the next half-century. Model projections showed that marine species generally shift northward along the coast of BC. As species shift northward, some species will "leave" some MPAs while others "enter" (Table 1) (see Supplementary Material for full results). The MPAs that lost the most species were largely at the southern extent of the region in the Broughton Archipelago (e.g., Octopus Islands Marine Park, nine species lost), whereas some MPAs in the Central Coast (e.g., Kilbella Estuary Conservancy) may experience a turnover (sum of species gain and loss) in species with a slight overall gain (n = 1; Table 1). Most MPAs are likely to experience some species turnover as oceans warm and species ranges shift north following their thermal optima.

Ten species "left" BC MPAs most often (3 MPAs), including fish (Starry flounder (*Platichthys stellatus*), longspine thornyhead (*Sebastolobus altivelis*), China rockfish (*Sebastes nebulosus*), longnose skate (*Raja rhina*)), bivalves (butter clam (*Saxidomus giganteus*), Olympia oyster (*Ostrea lurida*), Pacific geoduck (*Panopea abrupta*), Pacific littleneck clam (*Protothaca staminea*), and northern horse mussel (*Modiolus modiolus*)), and invertebrates (red sea cucumber (*Parastichopus californicus*)). The species that may "enter" BC MPAs most often included Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*) (10 MPAs), sidestriped shrimp (*Pandalopsis dispar*) (6 MPAs), and Manila clam (*Venerupis philippinarum*) (1 MPA).

By 2060, 19 species are unable to meet their targets (RCP 2.6) as their relative abundance within the core spatial planning area is projected to decline; these species included rockfishes (yellowtail, yelloweye, yellowmouth, and copper), lingcod, and bivalves (butter clam and Olympia oyster) (Table 2).

Spatial prioritization analysis

Under climate change modelling further into the 21st century, more planning units are required for species to meet their target abundance for protection (set at 30% of 2016 relative abundance within the BC EEZ). To reach conservation targets in the mid-21st century and under the high emissions scenario (RCP 8.5), almost the entire coastline of BC and much of SE Alaska and Washington State are required to conserve 30% of the current relative abundance of these marine species in BC (a $3.5 \times$ increase in priority planning units by 2050; Table 3). The distribution of priority planning units shifting north tracks the distributional shift of marine priority species (Fig. 2). Between 2040 and 2050, a shift occurs whereby many more planning units $(2.8 \times)$ may be needed in 2050 than in 2040 (at RCP 8.5). In the high emissions scenario (RCP 8.5), the modelled species ranges shifted outside of the core planning area zone by such a degree that fewer planning units are required within this spatial area, highlighting the challenges of spatial planning over periods of rapid change and the need for international cooperation, as well as adjusting our assumptions around conservation objectives over time (Parks et al. 2023).

By allowing the target abundance file to shift along with the projected species ranges and relative abundance values across the entire planning unit grid (which included SE Alaska and northern Washington States), the results were quite different (Table 4). In particular, the selected areas were not forced outside of the BC EEZ, and additional area was selected within Provincial waters (see maps in Supplementary Material). This highlights the necessity of transboundary conservation planning; to conserve a portion of the baseline relative abundance (as in Table 3), it will likely become necessary to develop protected areas management beyond the current Canadian jurisdiction.

Discussion

Considering climate change impacts is important for marine conservation planning, as climate changes will affect

Table 1. Top five BC MPAs that lose and gain the most marine species of interest by 2060 under RCP 8.5 relative to 2016.

Park name	Baseline presence of modelled species of interest within MPA (2016, RCP 2.6)	Species lost by 2060 within MPA (RCP 8.5)	Species gained by 2060 within MPA (RCP 8.5)	Difference
Octopus Islands Marine Park	67	26	17	-9
Rock Bay Marine Park	67	26	17	-9
Small Inlet Marine Park	67	26	17	-9
Kilbella Estuary Conservancy	62	22	23	+1
Dzawadi/Klinaklini Estuary Conservancy	21	19	19	0

Table 2. Species that did not meet targets, 2060, RCP 2.6.

Species ID	Common name	Occurrences held (PUs)	Target met
11	Yellowtail rockfish	133	no
12	Lingcod	166	no
26	Cabezon	219	no
34	Butter clam	258	no
37	Olympia oyster	172	no
42	Red rock crab	231	no
45	Sidestriped shrimp	17	no
49	Pacific gaper	207	no
53	Yelloweye rockfish	71	no
56	Yellowmouth rockfish	211	no
60	Copper rockfish	174	no
69	Rock scallop	210	no
73	Cutthroat trout	181	no
77	Pile perch	226	no
78	Kelp perch	230	no
84	Thornback sculpin	211	no
87	Black chiton	184	no
92	Acorn barnacle	0	no
98	Spiny dogfish	0	no

Note: PU, planning unit.

Table 3. Summary of time steps by decade at the low and high emissions scenarios (RCP 2.6 and 8.5, respectively), showing
key results of the best solution at each time step, the number of planning units selected, the cost, and the number of planning
units that fall outside of the BC Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

		Best solution			
Year	RCP scenario	# Species did not meet targets	# Planning units selected	Cost*	# Planning units outside BC EEZ
2016	2.6	0	43	43	0
2030	2.6	0	50	50	0
2030	8.5	0	56	56	0
2040	2.6	0	47	56	1
2040	8.5	0	52	52	0
2050	2.6	2	65	65	0
2050	8.5	0	142	574	51
2060	2.6	19	278	1403	142
2060**	8.5	0	102	291	33
2016–2050 (inclusive, with years 2016, 2030, 2040, and 2050)	2.6	0	65	74	1

Note: All scenarios were run with a species penalty factor of 4. Targets were set at 30% of the relative abundance of each species within the BC EEZ at the 2016 RCP 2.6 scenario (the resistance scenario).

*Cost was set as the area of each cell inside the Canadian Pacific EEZ, and 10× the area in cells outside of the Canadian EEZ.

**Targets could not be met in this scenario.



Fig. 2. Increasing and poleward shifting selection of priority planning units in the best solution (blue) over decades from 2016 (*a*, the baseline), 2030 (*b*), 2040 (*b*, *d*), and 2060 (*c*, *e*) at RCP 2.6 and 8.5. Grey planning unit grid represents the Canadian Pacific Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Targets were set 30% of the 2016 relative abundance of each species within the BC EEZ. Planning units outside of the Canadian EEZ had a $10 \times$ higher cost to reflect a resistance analysis. Data source: Weatherdon et al. (2016*a*, 2016*b*). Map CRS: NAD83 BC Albers.



Table 4. Summary of time steps by decade at the high and low emissions scenarios (RCP 2.6 and 8.5), showing key results of the best solution at each time step, the number of planning units selected, the cost, and the number of planning units that fall outside of the BC Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

		Best solution			
Year	RCP scenario	# Species did not meet targets	# Planning units selected	Cost	# Planning units outside BC EEZ
2016	2.6	0	55	55	0
2030	2.6	0	54	72	2
2030	8.5	0	176	176	0
2040	2.6	0	57	75	1
2040	8.5	0	175	184	1
2050	2.6	0	54	63	1
2050	8.5	0	185	185	0
2060	2.6	0	52	61	1
2060	8.5	0	54	63	1

Note: All scenarios were run with a species penalty factor of 4. Targets were set at 30% of the relative abundance of each species at each time and emissions scenario (the resilience scenario).

species' ranges, larval dispersal, and population connectivity, and thus compromise the performance of MPAs and MPA networks (Álvarez-Romero et al. 2017). MPAs and networks have largely lacked consideration for climate change (Bruno et al. 2018; Sala and Giakoumi 2018). Rapidly accelerating climate impacts make the Pacific region especially vulnerable to current and future impacts of global change (Okey et al. 2014; Asch et al. 2018). We used two approaches to incorporate existing climate change projections for species of cultural and economic importance within a coastal region. In the first of such analyses in this region, we showed that BC MPAs are likely to protect fewer species by 2060 than they do currently, as species ranges are projected to shift poleward and "leave" current MPAs. Similarly, spatial priority areas as selected by Marxan shifted north as species ranges shifted north, and more spatial priority areas were required for species to reach conservation targets. Knowing this, strategically adding new MPAs farther north as species ranges shift north would help to support conservation goals and objectives, although our analysis did not consider new species moving into the region or species interactions. It is important to note that species abundance is also projected to decline during this time period (Weatherdon et al. 2016b), and as such, it could become harder for the same number of MPAs to protect the same abundance of species. Weighting MPA zones that are projected to protect the highest number of species from analyses such as these could help to meet conservation objectives. More broadly, strategically working with fisheries management and other adaptation policies, and across jurisdictional borders, could help to improve the conservation effectiveness of MPAs considering climate-change related changes in species-specific thermal niches.

Our efforts to use global data to analyze and inform MPA planning and management in BC highlighted two key challenges. First, there are many uncertainties embedded in our analyses and associated data. By necessity, bioclimatic models incorporate a great deal of complexity and species data, but this adds uncertainty to the predictions of future species distributions (Ackerly et al. 2010). The projected species ranges model outputs that we used as inputs into both analyses have high uncertainties around emissions, projected changes in ocean conditions, and also around species responses to climate change. The projections also did not consider other socioeconomic or human drivers such as fishing and habitat changes that may affect species' abundance (Heikkinen et al. 2006; Wiens et al. 2009; Cheung et al. 2016; IPCC 2018). More specifically, in the Marxan analyses, we used modelled relative abundance data available through SDMs (Weatherdon et al. 2016b). Applying SDM abundance data to systematic conservation planning has several assumptions and potential associated errors (Tulloch et al. 2016). These include the assumption that occurrence data that are used as inputs into SDMs reflect the preferred habitat conditions of the species that we explicitly included in our SDMs; some abiotic (e.g., fishing) and/or biotic (e.g., food availability and predation) factors not represented in the models may be driving the past and projected future distributions. As well, these projections assume that species detectability is constant across species, whereas there are known irregularities in speciesspecific data availability for model inputs (Weatherdon et al. 2016b).

Future research should take species-specific responses to changing habitat conditions beyond the thermal niche into account, including species interactions and motility (Montoya and Raffaelli 2010; Parks et al. 2023). As well, there is uncertainty in real-world future emissions that will affect biological outcomes and adaptation strategies that could be developed at local, regional, or national scales to mitigate these impacts (Gattuso et al. 2015; IPCC 2018). Using climate velocity, or the localized speed and direction of climate contours as they are predicted to shift, as a proxy for how species' distributions will shift to track those thermal niches, could be a simpler method of incorporating climate effects on species movement than modelling species ranges (Loarie et al. 2009; García Molinos et al. 2015), although these data are not yet available for this region. Climate velocities can also be combined with species traits where those data are available to build more robust predictions of species range shifts (Sunday et al. 2015). In addition, future research could incorporate the effects of MPAs on species population dynamics and how conservation targets could be met through spatial planning (e.g., increasing species' abundance). For example, MPAs could buffer or offset the impacts of climate change on declining species abundance (Fox et al. 2012).

The second challenge was the coarse resolution of the outputs of the bioclimate modelling used, and hence also our Marxan analysis. The global data we used for the analysis were at a relatively coarse resolution relative to the area of BC MPAs and current MPA network planning efforts in the region. Such a mismatch in spatial resolution increases the projection uncertainties at the grid cell level that are used by the existing management and planning efforts. While our results could not directly inform the design of BC MPA networks, they might be suitable for other broader planning efforts in the region. Downscaled projections are being developed and refined for Canada's Pacific waters, but at present these are unable to resolve the complex nearshore waters and thus exclude most waters where BC MPAs are located (Masson and Fine 2012; Holdsworth et al. 2021). In the future, downscaled climate projections will be available to model species range shifts and/or climate velocities relevant for the scale of MPA planning, but this will come too late for the development of the current MPA network. Once available, these should be considered in the adaptive management of the MPA network. Species-specific analyses will also be helpful to understand whether they are being protected by MPAs in a changing climate.

Despite these challenges, the conclusions from our results are still useful for planners and managers within BC to understand the conservation potential of coastal MPA networks now and in the future and to advocate for increased protection measures that can support the resilience of marine ecosystems in an increasingly uncertain climate. In particular, our results highlight that climate change confronts the assumptions of conventional spatial approaches to conservation (Lawler et al. 2015). To maintain 30% of the baseline (2016) relative abundance of species within BC waters, large portions of the NE Pacific coast may require some type of spatial protection. Given the uncertainty inherent in projecting species range shifts and the effects of ocean warming on the dispersal capacity of many marine species, larger MPAs or a well-connected network of MPAs reduce the reliance on accurate predictions of biodiversity now and in the future and will also be necessary to maintain population recruitment and recolonization after discrete disturbances (Álvarez-Romero et al. 2017). However, given the rapid pace of change and the numerous biological outcomes that are not accounted for in these range shift projections (e.g., changing species interactions), static area-based conservation efforts are unlikely to be sufficient on their own to support species persistence in the long term (Tittensor et al. 2019), and managers will also have social implications to consider. For example, while large MPAs may have high ecological value (Edgar et al. 2014), smaller MPAs may support human wellbeing, which is important in the coastal context (Ban et al. 2019). Unconventional approaches, such as temporally dynamic MPAs (Alagador et al. 2014) and assisted migration (Swan et al. 2015), might be worth considering in addition to static MPAs (D'Aloia et al. 2019). Overall, adaptation strategies and unconventional conservation approaches will be necessary as part of a portfolio response to support resilience to climate change (Millar et al. 2007; Galatowitsch et al. 2009).

Maintaining biological diversity for resilience to environmental change is a key policy issue for local and national governance in this era of accelerating climate change. Given our finding that it will be difficult to maintain species abundances within MPAs in the future, a key challenge is to understand and develop management approaches across jurisdictions (Canadian and American; Federal, Provincial, and First Nations in Canada's Pacific waters) that can support adaptation and response to global environmental change. While conservation planning cannot prevent the impacts of climate change, the general effects can be predicted and integrated into conservation planning decisions. Depending on the adaptive capacity of species and populations, based on thermal tolerance estimates, some species will be adaptable to changing climates over time, while others will disperse rapidly, if possible, in response to changing habitats and environmental conditions (Sunday et al. 2012). Managing for resilience through precautionary conservation planning would suggest that incorporating what we do know about climate change impacts, rather than focusing on what we do not, is a more appropriate management choice.

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Data availability

The primary data used in this article are published in previous papers and cited as references. Data generated during this study are available on Github at: https://github.com/cha rwhitney/mpaclimate.

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Competing interests

The co-authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

Supplementary material

Supplementary data are available with the article at https://doi.org/10.1139/facets-2022-0041.

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