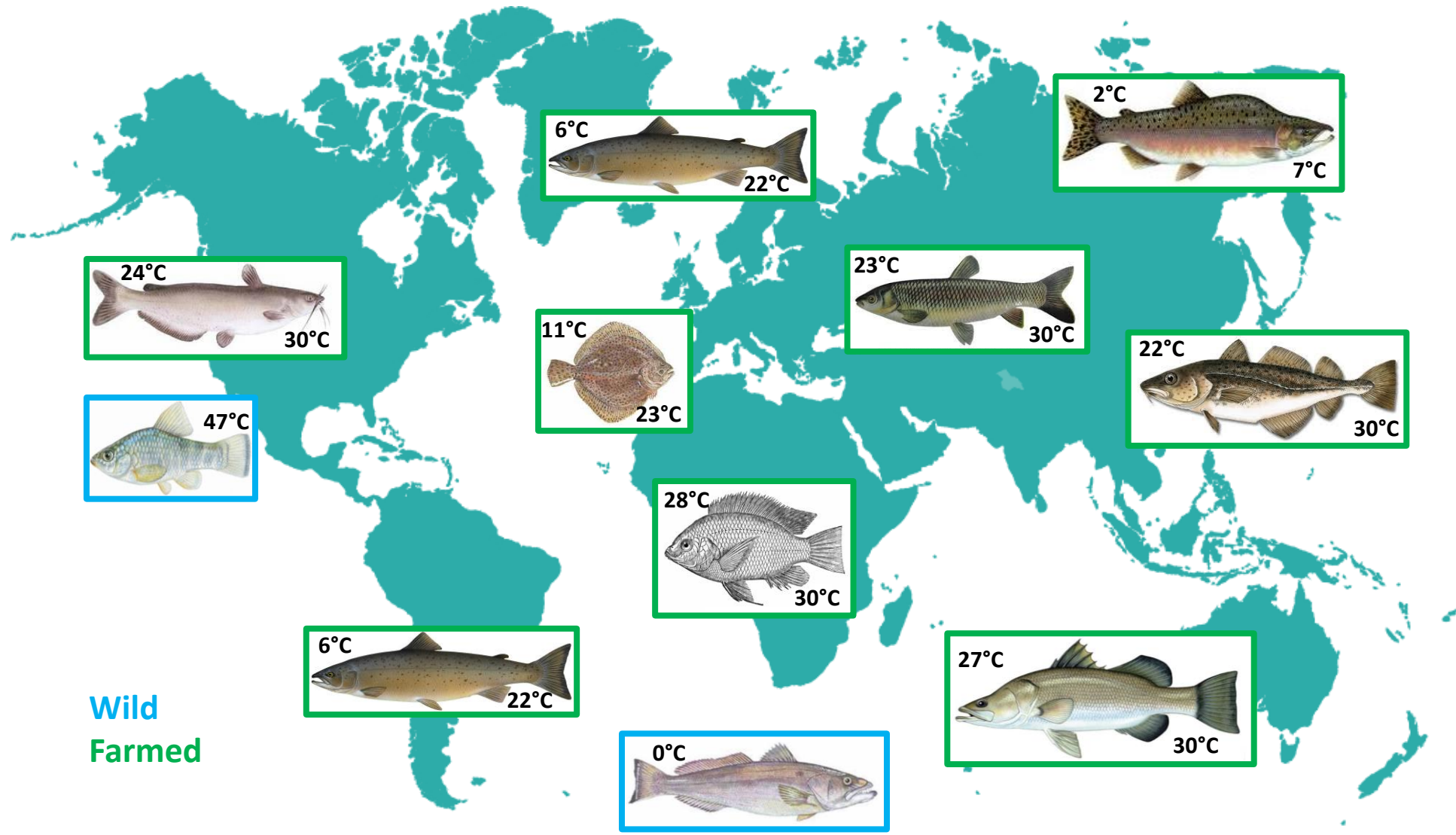




## Impact of climate change on fish defences against infectious diseases



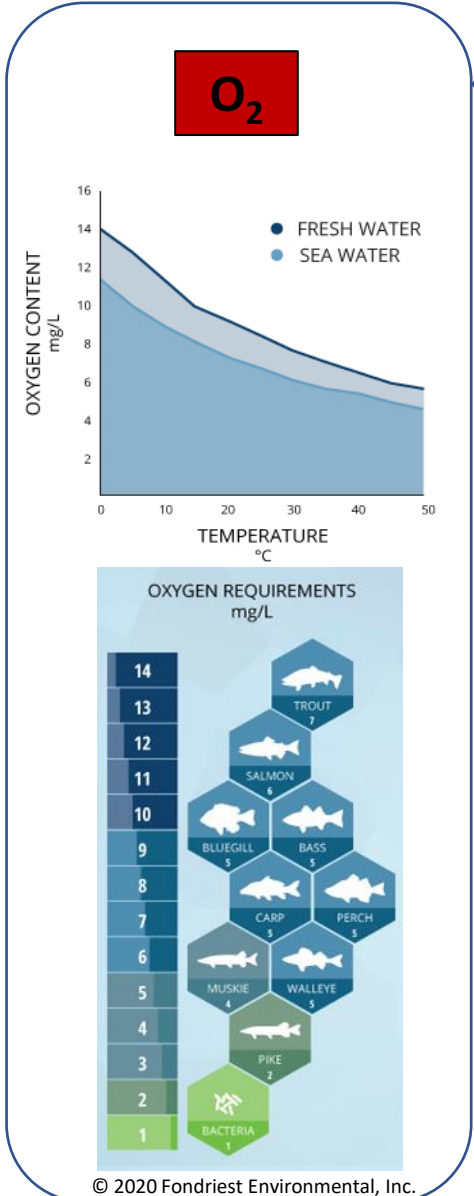
- 34, 300 fish species, > combined number of all other vertebrate species
- Marine, brackish and freshwater, anadromous, catadromous



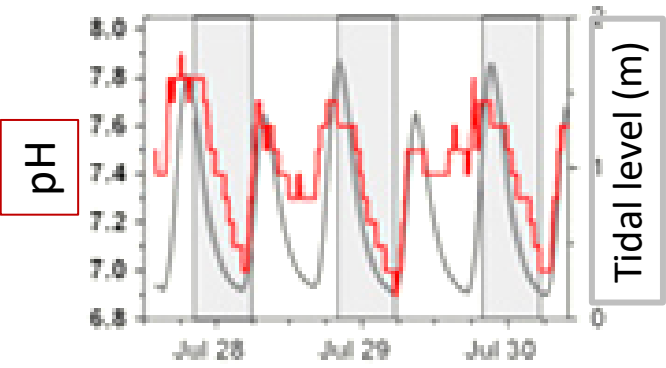
Wild  
Farmed

# AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT

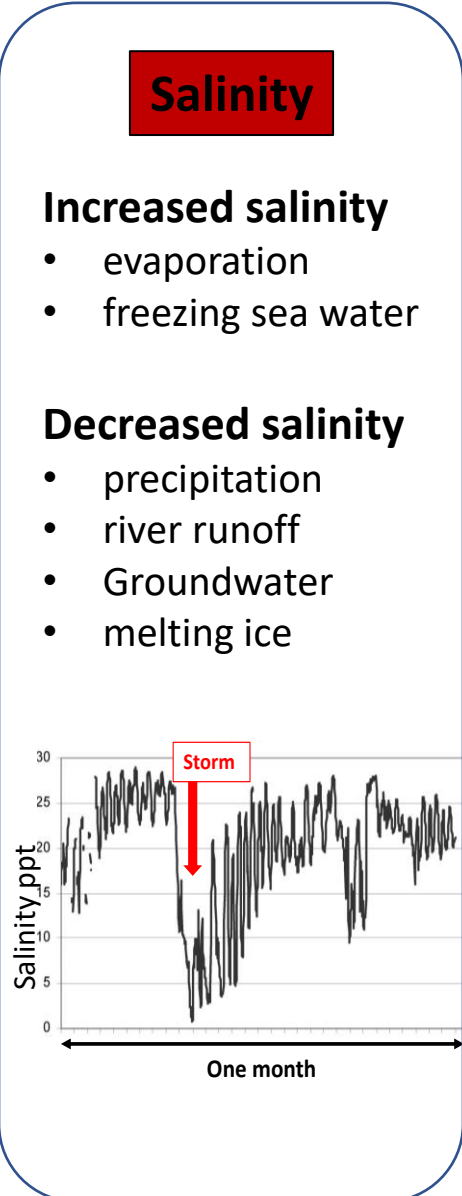
greater instability in abiotic factors affecting physiology



TEMPERATURE



Baumann et al. (2015)



# Importance of fish and fisheries

## Controlling food webs

- Grazing on primary producers
- Predation on animals
- Food for top predators

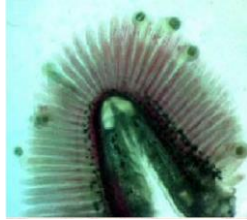
## Ecosystem engineering

- Bioturbation of sediment
- Bioerosion of substrate

## Participating to nutrient cycles

- Nutrient excretion and egestion
- Nutrient transport
- Decomposition of carcasses

Villéger et al. (2017)

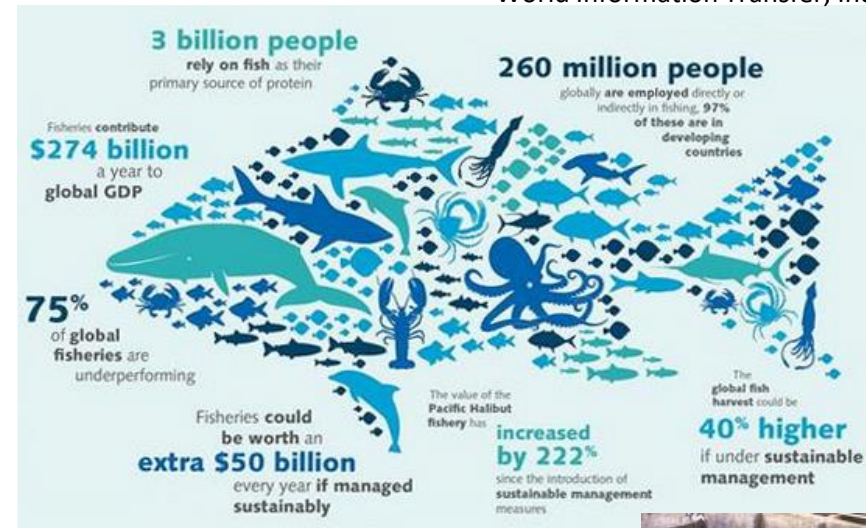


Example of *Anodonta* (river mussel) : dependent on fish to complete life cycle (parasitic larvae)

Ieshko et al. (2016)

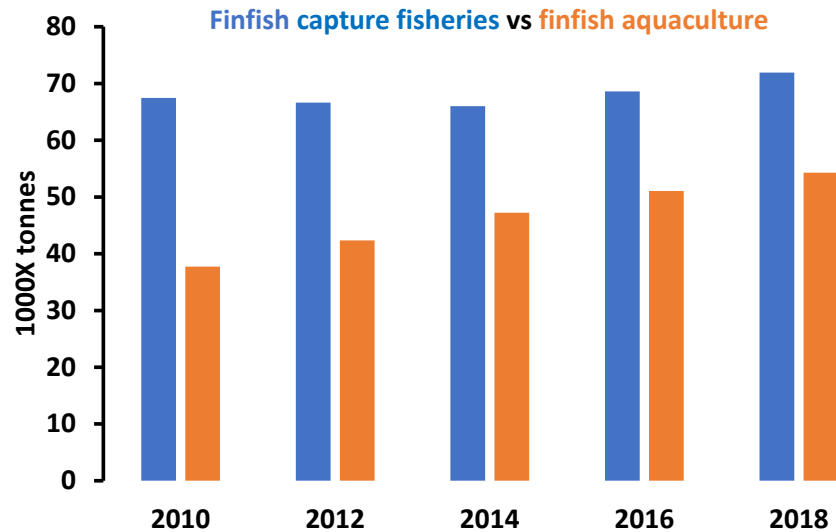
## Ecosystem

World Information Transfer, Inc.



FAO.org

## Food-producing sectors



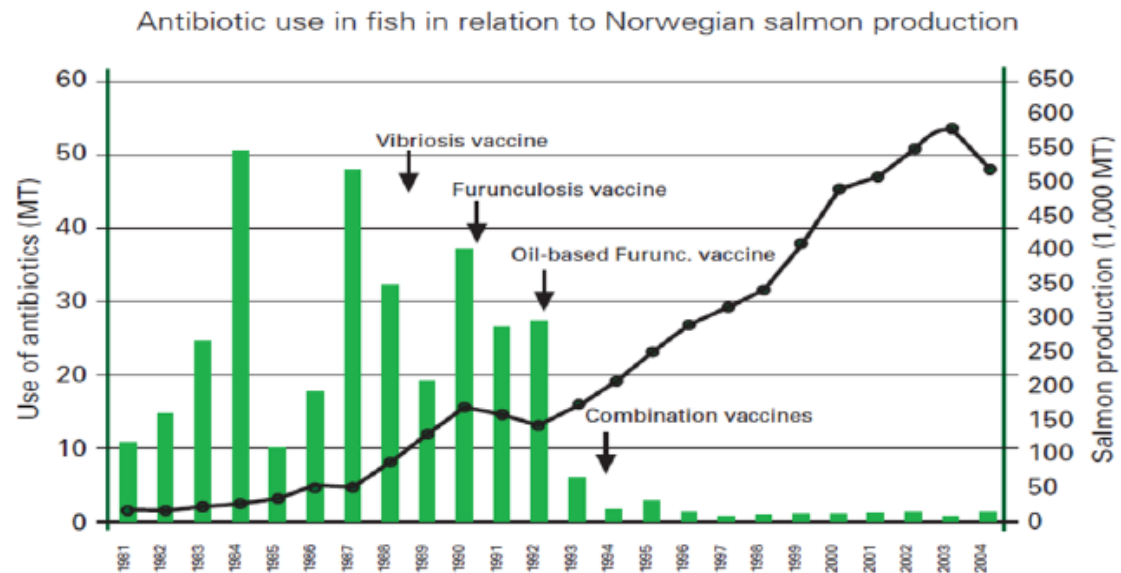
Data from FAO (2020)



# Antimicrobial Resistance

- High level of AMR in aquaculture sector in many countries and correlated with warmer waters
- Metadata analysis shows that MAR (Multi-Antibiotic Resistance) indices correlate with MAR indices from human clinical bacteria, temperature and countries' climate vulnerability
- Majority of antimicrobials administered to aquatic farmed animals disseminate to nearby environments favouring AMR development

Reverter et al. (2020); Alves Resende et al. (2020)



Furunculosis affected fish



Fredrick Witte; MSD (figure); Sommerset et al. (2005)

# Zoonoses

*Mycobacterium* spp.\*  
*Streptococcus iniae*  
*Clostridium botulinum*  
*Vibrio vulnificus*  
*Lactococcus garvieae*

Gauthier (2015); Meyburgh et al. (2017)

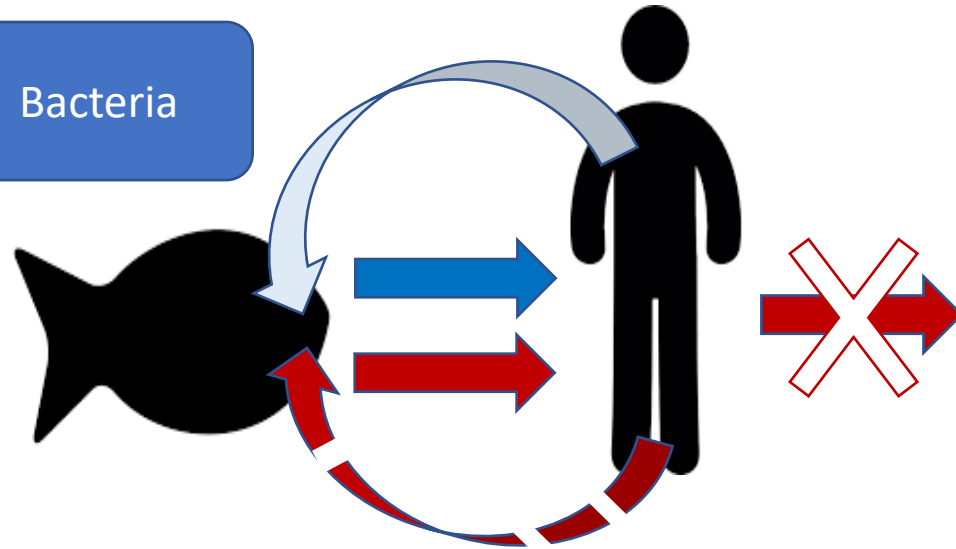
- diarrhoea, vomiting, dehydration
- endocarditis, peritonitis meningitis in human

\* few studies with strong epidemiological links between fish and human

~~Virus~~

~~Fungi~~

Bacteria



Trematode

Cestode

Nematode

- intestinal, pancreatic, bronchial disease, allergic reaction
- cancerous or precancerous growths

Diphyllobothriosis; liver/intestinal flukes; Anisakiosis



Bao et al. (2017); Shamsi (2019)

# Fish immune response and climate change effects

## Main components of immune system similar to mammals

- Innate responses: leukocytes, proinflammatory, anti-viral, respiratory burst, lysozyme
- Adaptive response: B-cells, antibody generation, cytotoxic T-cells
- Specialised mucosal tissues, mucosal antibody IgT

## Mucosal surfaces (skin, gills, gut): first line of defence

- Mucins; antimicrobials; humoral and cellular immune factors (specialised)

Climate change impacts



### Available diet

- modified mucins
- bacterial attachment

### Modified microbiome

- good/bad
- reduced bacterial diversity
- predominance of pathogenic species

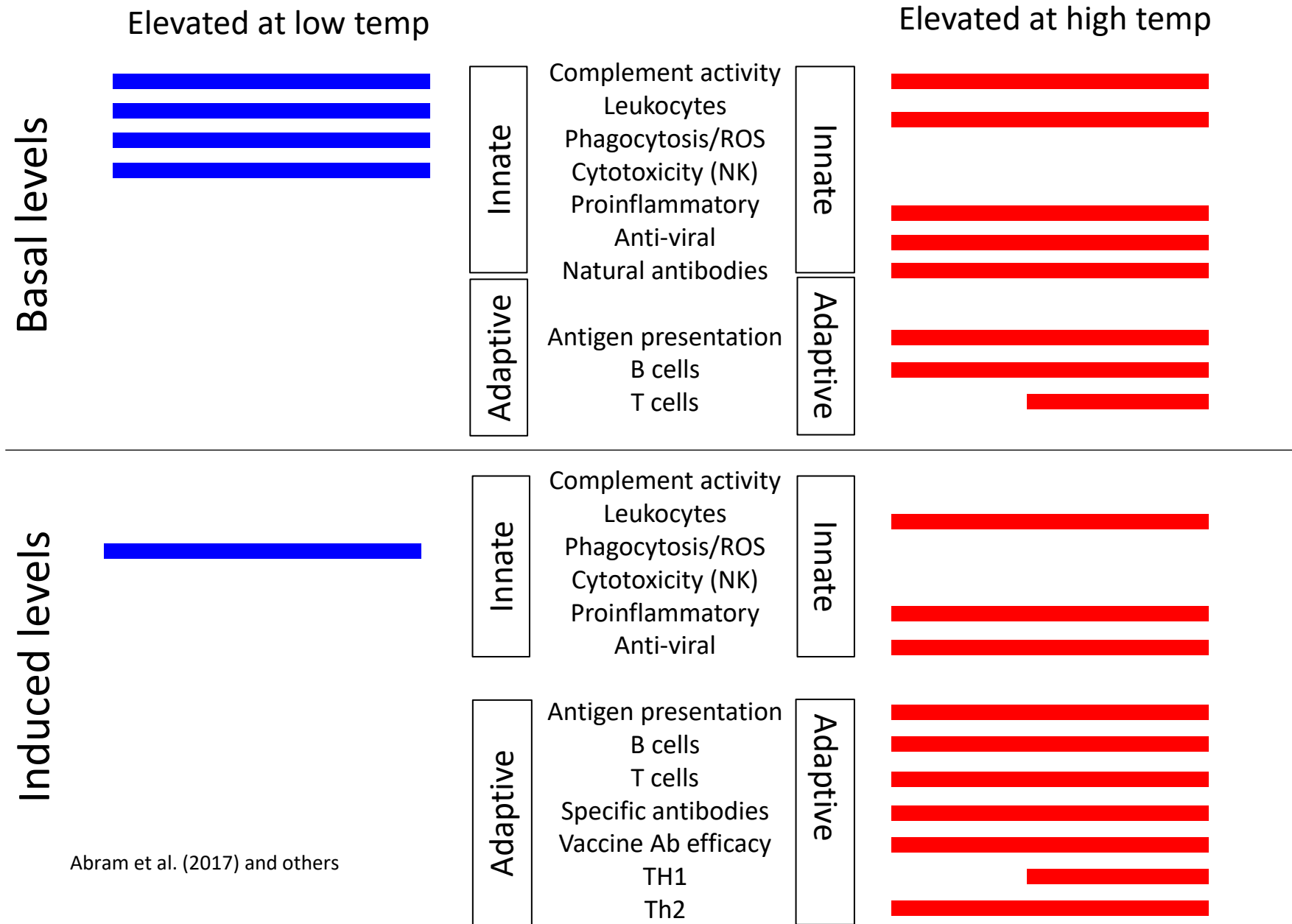
### UV

- good/bad
- sterilising
- lesion & pathogen entry

### Harmful algal blooms

- stress
- lesions
- hypoxia

# Temperature effect on fish immune parameters

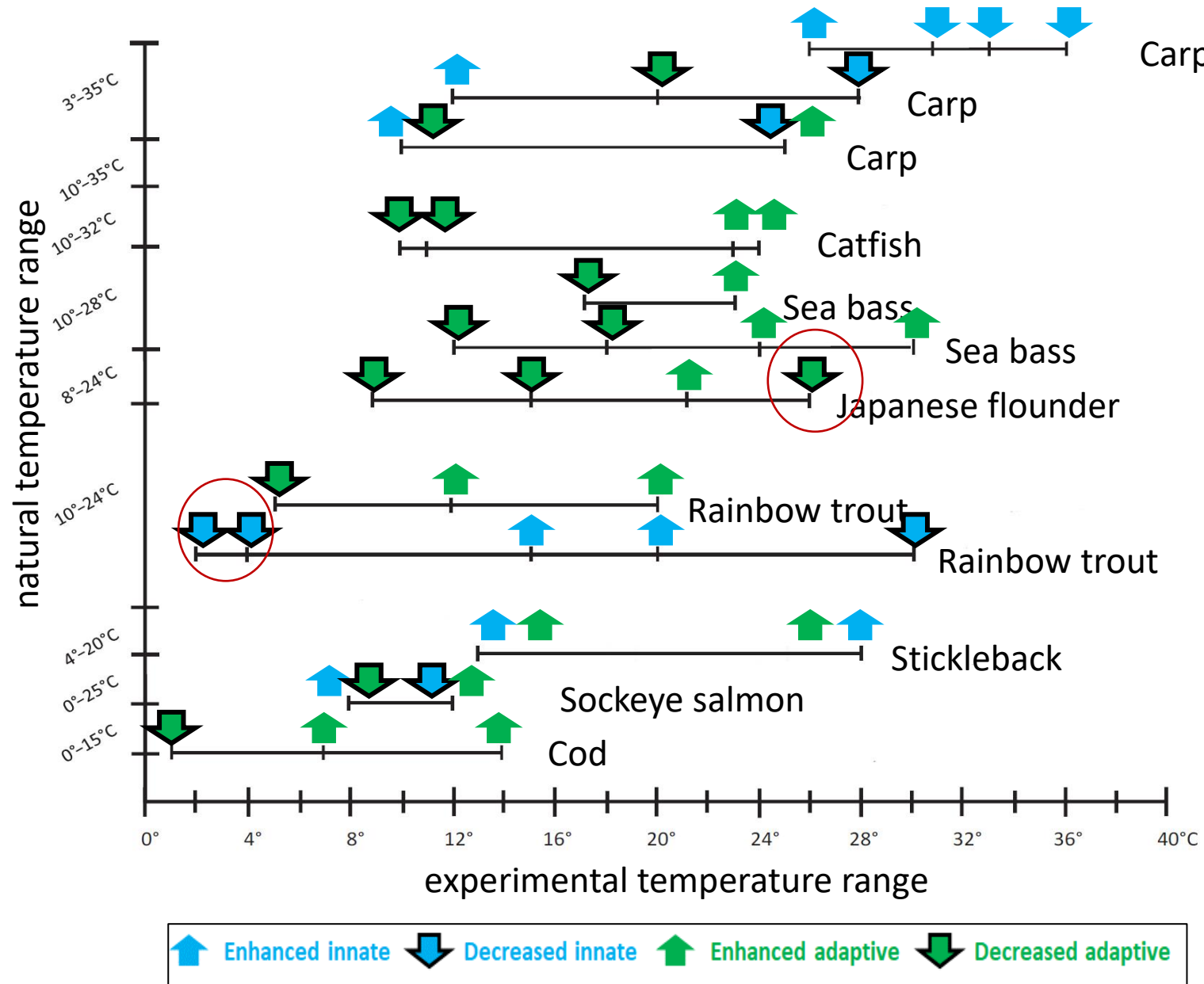


Abram et al. (2017) and others



# Optimal temperature for immune responses varies with species

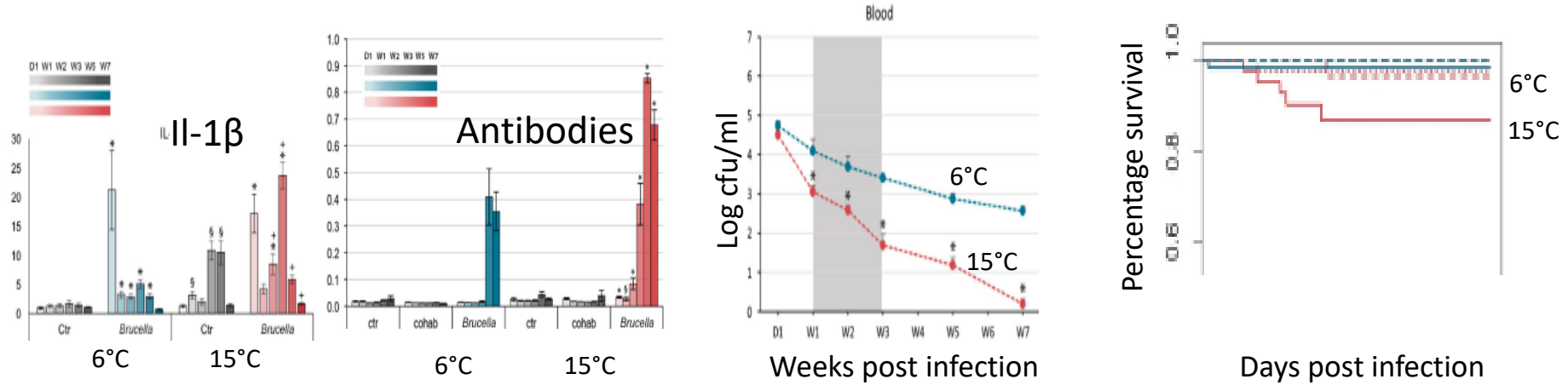
Dittmar et al. (2014)



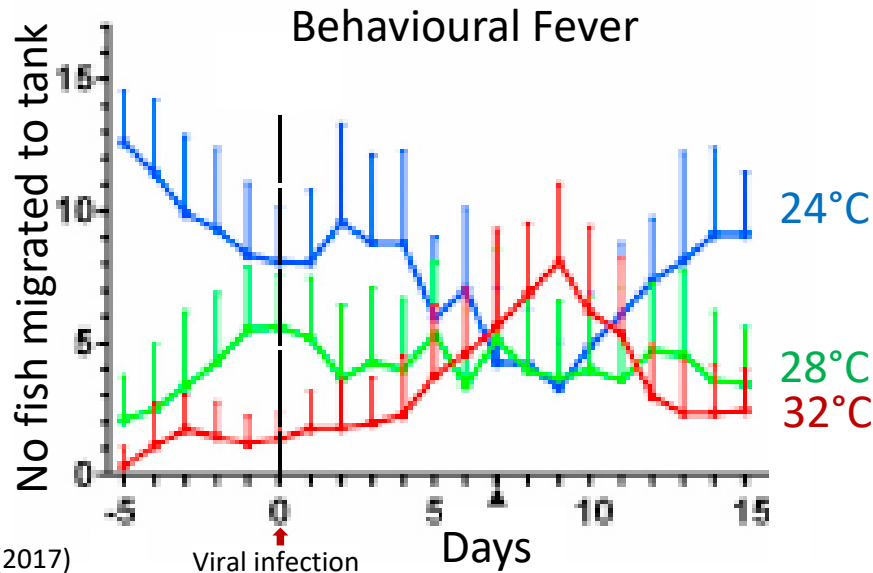
# Hyperthermia – resulting in detrimental immune response?

Brucella infection of Atlantic cod held at 6°C and 15°C (hyperthermic)

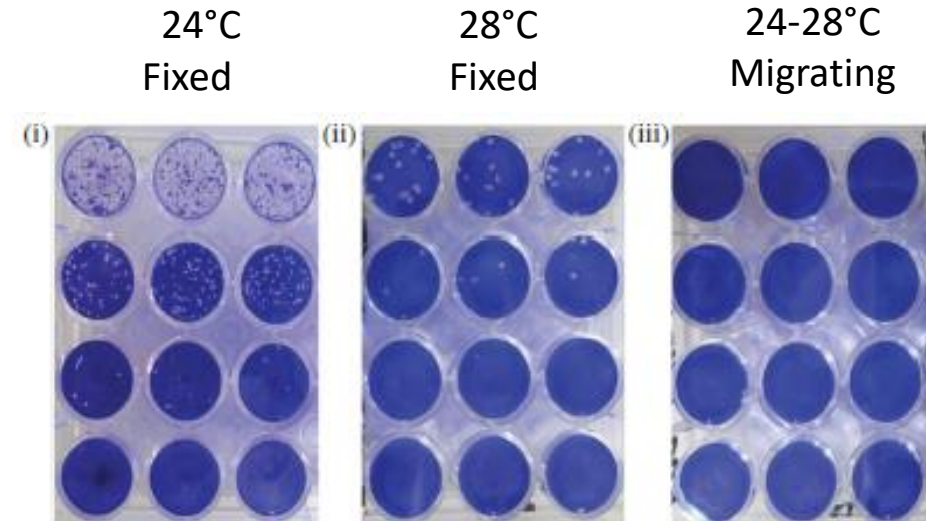
Larsen et al. (2018)



Higher proinflammatory and antibody levels over 5 weeks of infection at 15 ° C (red); higher clearance rate of *Brucella*, yet lower survival.



Rakus et al. (2017)



Cytopathic effect

Boltana et al. (2013)

## Concluding remarks

- climate changes affect fish immune responses
- higher temperatures, within host range, should increase magnitude of immune response
- changes in immune response may be more effective for viral infection than for bacterial (trend as seen in experimental viral and bacterial fish challenges)
- changes in immune response may improve control of low level environmental pathogens, but not likely to counteract increased pathogen pressure overall
- temperatures exceeding thermal range may clear pathogen but damage fish in process
- many aquacultured fish species already grown at high temperatures to favour growth
  - therefore margin for additional increase in temperature without detrimental effect is small

Pathogen	type	Disease
Salmonid alphavirus	V	<11°C
Spring viraemia of carp virus	V	10–17°C
Koi herpesvirus	V	16–28°C
<i>Flavobacterium psychrophilum</i>	B	<10°C
<i>Yersinia ruckeri</i>	B	>8°C
<i>Renibacterium salmoninarium</i>	B	>13
<i>Lactococcus garvieae</i>	B	>16°C
PKD parasite	P	>15°C
<i>V virus; B bacteria; P parasite</i>		

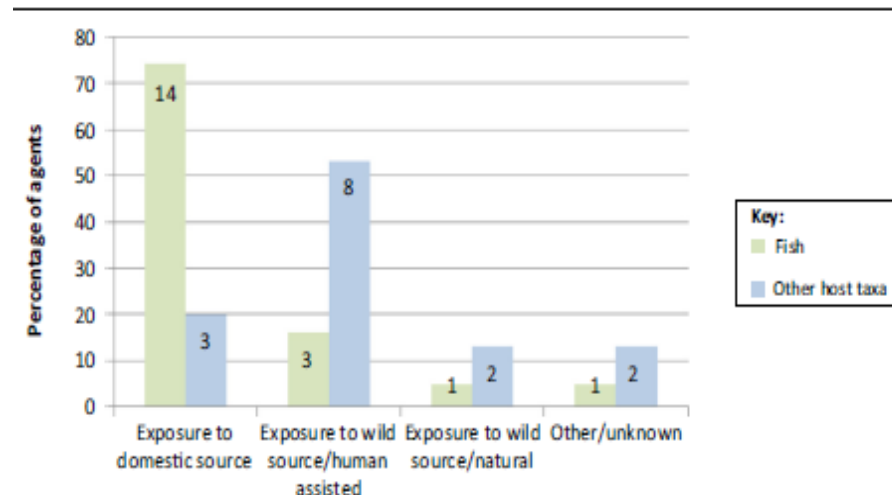
# Concluding remarks

- diseases are emerging, but little consensus that these linked to climate change/changes to host response
- some capacity for artificial genetic selection to thermal tolerance in aquacultured fish
  - thermal tolerance enhanced over 3 and 15 generations for sticklebacks and rainbow trout
- improved farmed fish health will benefit wild fish health

Teixeira & Taylor (2020); Tompkins et al. (2015)

- additional studies required on multifactorial effects on immune response
- robust metadata analysis complicated by small size of research community and multiple fish models

Disease in freshwater wild fish populations



TRENDS in Parasitology

Primary drivers of disease emergence from 2000 onwards  
(few publications met selection criteria for inclusion in analysis)

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