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Revisiting conservation limits for Atlantic salmon: a new risk based definition

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Current situation

NASCO Precautionary Approach



Priority to conservation over harvest



Conservation Limits (CL)



Spawning escapement maximizing harvestable surplus (S_{MSY})

Why revisit current CL definition?

CL or Management Target?

- Conservation \neq Catch maximisation

↓ renewal rate of generations → ↓ CL

- When times become harder for salmon, ambition for conservation should not be lowered

Catch under-report → CL under-estim.

- CLs should not depend on the accuracy of catch knowledge

New risk based definition

A clear and simple definition of conservation: avoid low freshwater juvenile recruitment

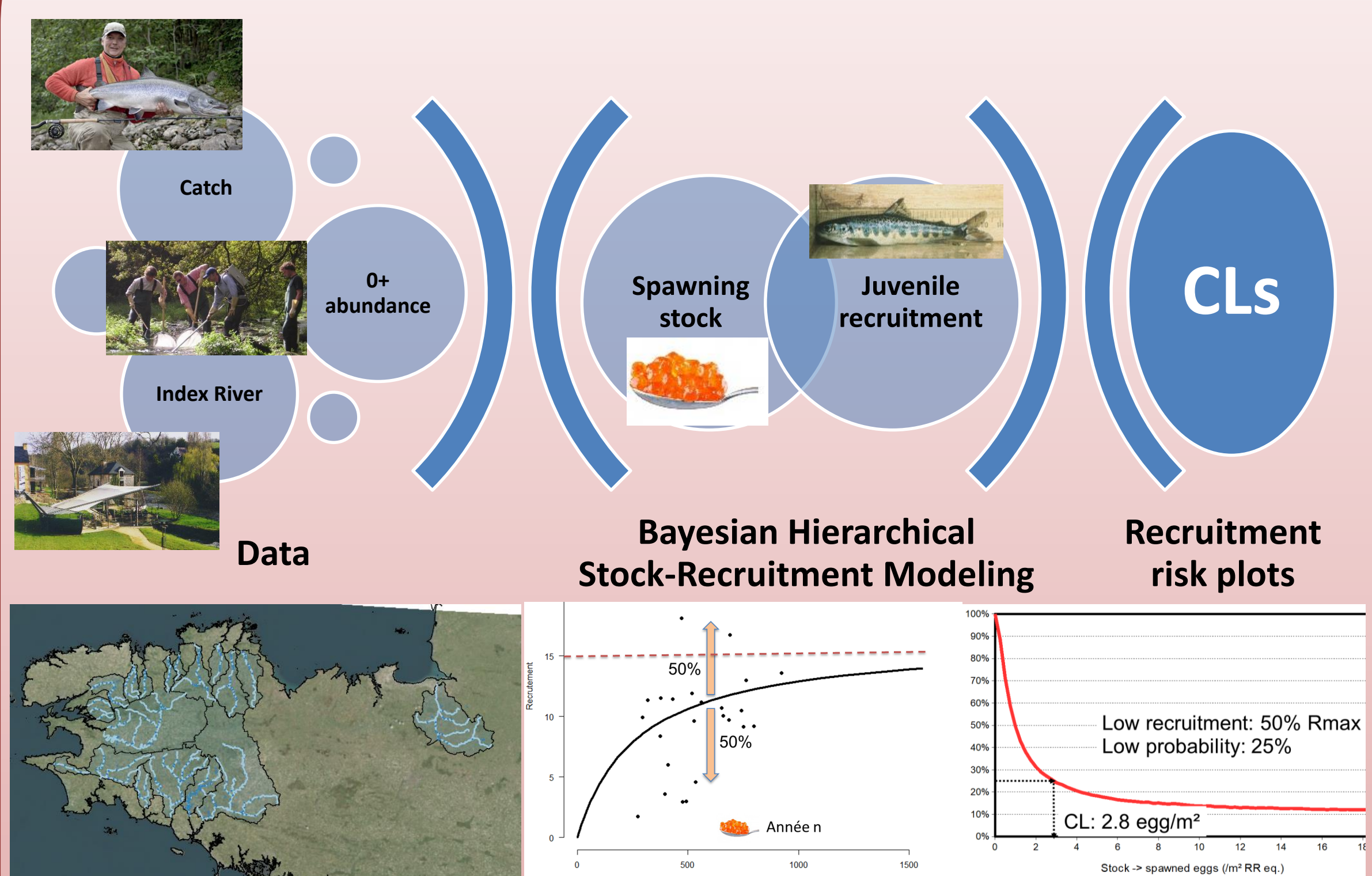
New CL:
Nb of spawners ensuring a low probability of low recruitment

Low probability?

Low recruitment?

To be agreed by managers & stakeholders

Application to Brittany



Managers and stakeholders have agreed on new CLs for the 18 main Salmon rivers of Brittany

- Better accounting of various sources of uncertainty
- Fuller assimilation of the diverse sets of data available