# A climate risk index for marine life across the Canadian exclusive economic zone

Daniel G. Boyce, Nancy Shackell, Blair Greenan

Fisheries and Oceans Canada Science Branch, Maritimes Region Bedford Institute of Oceanography PO Box 1006 1 Challenger Drive Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B2Y 4A2

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### ABSTRACT

Boyce, D.G., Shackell, N., Greenan, B. 2024. A climate risk index for marine life across the Canadian exclusive economic zone. Can. Tech. Rep. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 3568: iv + 40 p.

In Canada, DFO assessments have reported a high probability of significant climate change impacts in all marine and freshwater basins, with effects increasing over time (DFO 2012a, 2012b), while climate projections indicate that ecosystems and fisheries will be disrupted into the foreseeable future (Lotze et al. 2019b; Bryndum-Buchholz et al. 2020; Tittensor et al. 2021; Boyce et al. 2022c). Despite its imminence, climate change is infrequently factored into Canada's primary marine conservation strategies, such as spatial planning (O'Regan et al. 2021) or fisheries management (Boyce et al. 2021a; Pepin et al. 2022). The Climate Risk Index for Biodiversity was developed to assess climate risk for marine species in a quantitative, spatially explicit, and scalable way to better support climate-informed decision-making. It has been used to evaluate climate risks for marine life globally (Boyce et al. 2022a), regionally (Lewis et al. 2023), and for fisheries (Boyce et al. 2022c). Here, we describe how the CRIB framework was used to estimate climate risks for 2,959 species and ecosystems across the Canadian marine territory under contrasting emission scenarios. Using Atlantic cod (Gadus morhua) as an example, we describe the approach's data, methods, and outputs to transparently and tangibly show how it quantifies risk and can inform and support climateinformed decision-making in Canada. Climate risk estimates for species and ecosystems accompany the report.

## RÉSUMÉ

Boyce, D.G., Shackell, N., Greenan, B. 2024. A climate risk index for marine life across the Canadian exclusive economic zone. Can. Tech. Rep. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 3568: iv + 40 p.

Au Canada, les évaluations du MPO ont signalé une forte probabilité d'impacts importants des changements climatiques dans tous les bassins marins et d'eau douce, les effets augmentant avec le temps (DFO 2012a, 2012b), tandis que les projections climatiques indiquent que les écosystèmes et les pêches seront perturbés dans un avenir prévisible (Lotze et al. 2019b; Bryndum-Buchholz et al. 2020; Tittensor et al. 2021; Boyce et al. 2022c). Malgré son imminence, le changement climatique est rarement pris en compte dans les principales stratégies de conservation marine du Canada, comme la planification spatiale (O'Regan et al. 2021) ou la gestion des pêches (Boyce et al. 2021a; Pepin et al. 2022). L'indice de risque climatique pour la biodiversité a été développé pour évaluer le risque climatique pour les espèces marines de manière quantitative, spatialement explicite et évolutive afin de mieux soutenir la prise de décision éclairée par le climat. Il a été utilisé pour évaluer les risques climatiques pour la vie marine à l'échelle mondiale (Boyce et al. 2022a), régionale (Lewis et al. 2023) et pour la pêche (Boyce et al. 2022c). Nous décrivons ici comment le cadre du CRIB a été utilisé pour estimer les risques climatiques pour 2 959 espèces et écosystèmes sur l'ensemble du territoire marin canadien selon des scénarios d'émissions contrastés. En utilisant la morue franche (Gadus morhua) comme exemple, nous décrivons les données, les méthodes et les résultats de l'approche pour montrer de manière transparente et tangible comment elle quantifie le risque et peut éclairer et soutenir la prise de décision éclairée sur le climat au Canada. Des estimations des risques climatiques pour les espèces et les écosystèmes accompagnent le rapport.

### **Introduction**

Climate change vulnerability and risk assessments (CCVAs and CCRAs) are widely viewed as a critical component of climate-aware management of species and ecosystems and quantifying climate change impacts (Busch et al. 2016; Hare et al. 2016; FAO 2018). CCVAs help address several critical questions related to the effects of climate on species and ecosystems, namely, which are most vulnerable, where they are most vulnerable, when they become vulnerable, and why they are vulnerable. They can also identify gaps in data and information needed to understand climate change impacts on species and ecosystems. As of 2015, over 800 peerreviewed CCVAs have been developed to evaluate the vulnerability of species, communities and ecosystems across different scales and systems using various approaches (e.g. trait-based, correlative, mechanistic modelled, theoretical); (Pacifici et al. 2015; de los Ríos et al. 2018; e.g. Foden et al. 2019). This interest has led to a broad acceptance of what features define vulnerability. Following an early IPCC definition (IPCC 2014) and subsequent broad adoption (Foden et al. 2013, 2019; Pacifici et al. 2015; Comte and Olden 2017; de los Ríos et al. 2018; Albouy et al. 2020), species' climate vulnerability has been defined by three dimensions: their sensitivity, exposure, and adaptive capacity (adaptivity) to climate change. Sensitivity refers to the propensity for a species to be adversely affected by its exposure to climate change. Exposure refers to the extent to which species will be subjected to hazardous climate changes, including the magnitude of the effects. Adaptivity refers to the potential of species to adapt to any adverse exposure to climate change. These dimensions have close analogies in other disciplines, including community ecology and dynamic complex systems theory (Scheffer and Carpenter 2003; Scheffer et al. 2009, 2012). For example, sensitivity is analogous to the ecological concept of resistance, exposure to reactivity, and adaptivity to resilience (May 1973; Holling 1973; Britten et al. 2014). Thus, the dimensions that define climate vulnerability are firmly rooted in ecological theory.

Despite the advancement in developing CCVAs (de los Ríos et al. 2018; Foden et al. 2019) and their potential to support climate adaptation (Stortini et al. 2015; Hare et al. 2016; FAO 2018; Tittensor et al. 2019; Greenan et al. 2019; Bryndum-Buchholz et al. 2022), existing frameworks have limitations that could help to explain their low incorporation into management settings such as fisheries, species at risk, or spatial planning (*e.g.* Boyce et al. 2021b, 2021a; Pepin et al. 2022):

 With some exceptions (Foden et al. 2013; Comte and Olden 2017; Albouy et al. 2020), CCVAs often yield a single vulnerability value across species ranges, even though geographic variation in vulnerability is often significant (Sunday et al. 2012; Foden et al. 2013; Munday et al. 2013; Pacifici et al. 2015; Stuart-Smith et al. 2015b; Stanley et al. 2018; Pinsky et al. 2019; Albouy et al. 2020; Layton et al. 2021) and critical to

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developing climate-considered conservation strategies (Tittensor et al. 2019; Bryndum-Buchholz et al. 2022).

- They often rely on semi-quantitative expert opinions rather than being quantitatively derived from empirical data (Hare et al. 2016; Foden et al. 2019; Albouy et al. 2020), which is a barrier to consistently tracking changing vulnerability through time and limits their reproducibility.
- 3. They rarely evaluate all three component dimensions of vulnerability: exposure, sensitivity, and adaptivity (de los Ríos et al. 2018).
- 4. They are rarely spatially or taxonomically comprehensive (Pacifici et al. 2015). Instead, they are often undertaken regionally (Stortini et al. 2015; Hare et al. 2016) on taxonomic subgroups (Comte and Olden 2017; Albouy et al. 2020) rather than the global species pool. This limits the capacity to understand how risk for some species or locations compares against others and prohibits comparability of risks across studies.
- 5. They almost exclusively rank and compare species vulnerabilities in dimensionless units (Foden et al. 2013, 2019; Pacifici et al. 2015; Hare et al. 2016; Comte and Olden 2017; de los Ríos et al. 2018; Albouy et al. 2020). This can be problematic, as stakeholders and associated structured decision-making frameworks often require explicit risk assessments on absolute rather than relative scales.

The Climate Risk Index for Biodiversity (CRIB) was recently developed as a unified framework for assessing relative and absolute climate vulnerability that fills several of these gaps (Boyce et al. 2022a). It incorporates climate risk information that is often required in applied settings, including 1) it is spatially explicit, evaluating risk at all 0.25-degree grid cells across species' geographic distributions, 2) it uses quantitative, well-validated, and publicly available data, ensuring reproducibility, 3) it is flexible, can be applied at scales from local to global, can incorporate new information as it becomes available, 4) it is comprehensive, evaluating all three dimensions that define vulnerability and risk (IPCC 2014) using multiple assessment types (*e.g.*, trait-based, mechanistic, correlative); (Foden et al. 2019), 5) it assesses the statistical uncertainty (variability) of the vulnerability and risk scores, 6) it assesses the impacts of anticipated future climate conditions on species to facilitate decisions regarding emission mitigation, and 7) the framework provides a robust method for translating relative vulnerability scores and rankings into absolute risk categories for species and ecosystems to aid the management and conservation of marine ecosystems under climate change. It is designed hierarchically, thus maximizing its flexibility and information content.

This report describes the steps taken to estimate climate vulnerability and risk for marine ecosystems across Canada's marine territory using the CRIB framework (Boyce et al. 2022a). To illustrate the workflow and methods, the climate vulnerability and risk for Atlantic cod (*Gadus*)

*morhua*) is estimated as an illustrative example. The relevance and potential applications to management decisions in Fisheries and Oceans Canada is also discussed, along with opportunities for further development.

#### Materials and methods

#### Analyses

Boyce et al. (2022b) fully describe the CRIB framework. The 12 climate indices that define it capture climate change impacts generalized across species with varying life histories grounded in ecological theory, widely accepted and validated through peer review. The indices maximize parsimony and minimize redundancy and pseudoreplication; those that were easy to interpret and calculate were prioritized. The indices collectively include trait-based, correlative, and mechanistic information and incorporate abiotic, biotic, and human pressures acting across multiple biological organization levels from species to ecosystems. The indices integrate historical, present-day, and projected future information about species' climate vulnerability and are calculated or obtained in their native units. The 12 climate indices are described in Table 1.

Each index was calculated from environmental or ecological data and/or a mix of the two on a geographic grid across the native geographic distribution of the focal species, defined by the focal species' traits. This produces indices that are taxonomically (*e.g.*, each species) and geographically (*e.g.*, each grid cell) explicit. The indices are transformed to ensure they are on a standardized scale (0-1) across all species and locations. This step ensures that indices with different native units can be compared, normalized, and combined while simultaneously ensuring that vulnerability can be calculated at different spatial resolutions or points in time without losing information. Reference values and scaling functions were used to meet these criteria and are described in Boyce *et al.* (2022b). The 12 standardized climate indices are used to calculate three climate dimensions (sensitivity, exposure, and adaptivity), which ultimately define climate vulnerability and risk.

Species that do not live in the upper 100 m of the ocean are excluded from the analysis, and species with a maximum depth tolerance of more than 1000 m and a preference of more than 600 m are also excluded, as surface temperature may not well define the climate risk of these species. To verify this threshold, a validation analysis was carried out in advance (Boyce et al. 2022b); (Fig S42 in ref. (Boyce et al. 2022b)). Seabirds were also excluded from the analysis because only a small part of their time is spent in surface water. However, mammals and endothermic fishes (*e.g.* tunas, billfishes) that can sometimes inhabit depths over 1000 m were not excluded; despite their ability to range into deeper waters, their distribution is often well-explained by surface temperatures (Boyce et al. 2008; Tittensor et al. 2010). We excluded species with large

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freshwater distributions or spending most of their time in freshwater habitats (*e.g.,* sturgeons, salmons, shads, eels). Finally, guided by validation analyses (Supplementary Fig 43 in Boyce *et al.* (2022b)), we restricted our analysis to species and cells containing all 12 indices and species that lacked at least one climate index in more than 10% of their native range were removed from the analysis.

#### Data

The 12 indices to calculate the CRIB are listed in Table 1, and the data used to calculate them are in Table 2; both are described in Boyce et al. (Boyce et al. 2022c, 2022b). As per most CCVAs (*e.g.* Foden et al. 2013, 2019; Pacifici et al. 2015; Stortini et al. 2015; Comte and Olden 2017; de los Ríos et al. 2018; Greenan et al. 2019; Albouy et al. 2020), the CRIB uses sea surface temperature (SST) as the primary indicator of climate change, even though it may not capture all aspects of risk (McHenry et al. 2019). Species thermal niches were also derived from SST co-occurrence records. SST is widely available over historical and future eras at high spatial and temporal resolutions, and there is a more complete understanding of SST's effects on species relative to other climate change variables (Scheffers et al. 2016; Boyce et al. 2021b).

Index	ndex Description Data Rationale		Rationale	References					
Sensitivity (	Sensitivity (S)								
Thermal safety margin	Difference between maximum environmental temperature and species upper temperature tolerance.	AquaMaps Reynolds daily SST	Species inhabiting waters at their upper thermal limits are more vulnerable to further warming. The thermal safety margin has been extensively used in climate vulnerability assessments to measure species sensitivity and tolerance to further warming.	(Sunday et al. 2012; Pearson et al. 2014; Stuart-Smith et al. 2015b; Comte and Olden 2017; Pinsky et al. 2019; Gallagher et al. 2019)					
Conservation status	ation Assessed species extinction risk (categorical). IUCN red list status IUCN red list on and species can be more severe when species are or have been impacted by additional stressors ( <i>e.g.</i> fishing, pollution, and nutrient loading) and are at low conservation status.		(IUCN 2012; Pearson et al. 2014)						
Cumulative impacts	Multivariate index of human impacts.	Human impact index	Species exposed to multiple impacts are more sensitive to additional stressors, tipping points, synergistic impacts.	(Worm et al. 2002, 2006; Worm and Duffy 2003; Ottersen et al. 2006; Halpern et al. 2008, 2012, 2015; Le Bris et al. 2018; Butt et al. 2022)					
Vertical habitat variability and use	A bivariate function of maximum depth of occupancy and vertical range of species.	AquaMaps FishBase SeaLifeBase	Habitat generalist species are more adapted to climate variability and change than are specialist species due to their ability to occupy a greater variety of habitats. Species inhabiting the upper ocean and with narrow vertical habitat, ranges are more sensitive to upper ocean warming.	(Peters 1985; Laidre et al. 2008; Rosset and Oertli 2011; Guest et al. 2012; Garcia et al. 2014)					
Adaptivity (AC)	Adaptivity (AC)								
Geographic range extent	A bivariate function of the global present-day geographic habitat area and latitude span occupied by the species.	AquaMaps	Broadly distributed species are less susceptible to adverse climate change events over parts of their geographic distributions. Greater opportunity for favourable habitat (e.g. climate refugia) within larger distributions.	(Cheung et al. 2007; Laidre et al. 2008; Burek et al. 2008; Ficetola and Denoel 2009; Davidson et al. 2012; Gonzalez-Suarez et al. 2013; Garcia et al. 2014; Pearson et al. 2014; Albouy et al. 2020; Staude et al. 2020; Chase et al. 2020)					
Geographic habitat fragmentation	The proportion of species native geographic distribution that is fragmented.	AquaMaps	Species with less fragmented habitat ranges have greater access to potentially favourable habitats ( <i>e.g.</i> climate refugia), migration corridors, and larval dispersal. Consequently, studies in terrestrial and marine systems have reported that species with fragmented	(Brown and Kodric-Brown 1977; Lehtinen et al. 1999; Warren et al. 2001; Fahrig 2002; Kaschner et al. 2006; Moore and Huntington 2008; Rueda et al. 2013; Gonzalez-Suarez et al. 2013; Pearson et al. 2014;					

Table 1 | Indices used in this study.

			geographic ranges are more sensitive to and less resilient to climate change impacts	Crooks et al. 2017; Rogan and Lacher 2018; Albouy et al. 2020; Palmeirim et al. 2020; Chase et al. 2020)
Maximum body length	The maximum body length reached globally.	FishBase SeaLifeBase	The maximum size is a predictor of several life- history traits ( <i>e.g.</i> generation length, time to maturity, intrinsic rate of population increase) that cumulatively define species potential reproductive capacity and population growth rate. The maximum size (length or mass) reached by species has been commonly used as a proxy of extinction risks and vulnerability of species to climate change. Smaller species that tend to be r-selected are viewed as more resilient than larger, k-selected ones.	(Fenchel 1974; Blueweiss et al. 1978; Cheung et al. 2007, 2013; Davidson et al. 2012; Gonzalez- Suarez et al. 2013; Chessman 2013; Pearson et al. 2014; Healy et al. 2014; Ripple et al. 2017; Cheung and Oyinlola 2018; Foden et al. 2019; Donner and Carilli 2019; Albouy et al. 2020)
Thermal habitat variability and use	A bivariate function of the fraction of total historical temperature habitat within the species recorded thermal preference and the total temperature range experienced by the species across its global present-day geographic range.	Reynolds daily OISST	Species inhabiting more variable thermal environments such as at the range-edges of their geographic distributions are thought to have a greater capacity to adapt to climate change and are believed to be less sensitive to it	(Guest et al. 2012; Carilli et al. 2012; Mora et al. 2014; Cole et al. 2014; Rehm et al. 2015; Xu et al. 2016; Nadeau et al. 2017; Donner and Carilli 2019; Albouy et al. 2020)
Exposure (E	i)			
Projected climate velocity	The ratio of projected temporal and spatial change in thermal isotherms within the species geographic	CMIP6 monthly SST	The velocity of climate change (VoCC) represents climatic isotherms' geographic movement over time and is a widely used measure of climate exposure	(Loarie et al. 2009; Burrows et al. 2011; IPCC 2014; Li et al. 2018)
	distribution.			
Projected ecosystem disruption	distribution. For each grid cell across the focal species native geographic distribution, the proportion of all species projected to exceed their thermal tolerances.	CMIP6 monthly SST	Individual species will be impacted by climate- driven ecosystem restructuring via altered predation, prey availability, competition.	(Frank et al. 2006, 2007; Boyce et al. 2015b, 2015a; Martin and Watson 2016; Trisos et al. 2020)
Projected ecosystem disruption Projected time of climate emergence from species' thermal niche	distribution. For each grid cell across the focal species native geographic distribution, the proportion of all species projected to exceed their thermal tolerances. The year when the projected temperature first exceeds the thermal tolerance of focal species for at least three years in a row.	CMIP6 monthly SST AquaMaps CMIP6 monthly SST	Individual species will be impacted by climate- driven ecosystem restructuring via altered predation, prey availability, competition. The time of climate emergence from pre- industrial temperature variability has been widely used as a proxy for climate change timing. The time of climate emergence from a species thermal tolerance range has recently been developed as an index of the timing of species exposure to dangerous climate conditions.	(Frank et al. 2006, 2007; Boyce et al. 2015b, 2015a; Martin and Watson 2016; Trisos et al. 2020) (Mora et al. 2013a; Henson et al. 2017; Bruno et al. 2018; Trisos et al. 2020; Xu et al. 2020)

#### Table 2 | Data sources used in this study.

Туре	Variable	Source	Temporal	Spatial	References
Taxonomic, spatial	Species native geographic distribution	AquaMaps	2000-2014	0.5°	(Kaschner et al. 2019)
Taxonomic	Conservation status	IUCN Red List	-	-	(IUCN 2021)
Taxonomic	Vertical habitat variability and use	FishBase, SeaLifeBase, AquaMaps	-	-	(Froese and Pauly 2000; Kaschner et al. 2019; Palomares and Pauly 2022)
Taxonomic	Maximum body length	FishBase, SeaLifeBase	-	-	(Froese and Pauly 2000; Palomares and Pauly 2022)
Taxonomic	Thermal niche	AquaMaps	2000-2014	-	(Kaschner et al. 2019)
Taxonomic	Species taxonomy	World Register of Marine Species	-	-	(Horton et al. 2020)
Spatial	Cumulative impacts	Cumulative human impact index	-	1km <sup>2</sup>	(Halpern et al. 2008, 2012, 2015)
Spatial	Bathymetry	General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO)	-	4km <sup>2</sup>	(Gebco gridded global bathymetry data 2009)
Spatiotemporal	Sea surface temperature	NOAA daily Optimum Interpolation Sea Surface Temperature dataset	1981-2020	0.25°	(Reynolds et al. 2007)
Spatiotemporal	Projected sea surface temperature	Coupled model intercomparison project phase 6 (CMIP6)	1850-2100	1°	(Eyring et al. 2016)

#### Species' native geographic distribution

The native geographic distributions of each marine species were obtained from the AquaMaps website (Kaschner et al. 2019) and are described in Boyce et al. (Boyce et al. 2022c, 2022b). The native geographic distributions for each species were statistically rescaled to a 0.25° grid using nearest neighbour interpolation to ensure that they were compatible with the spatial resolution of the analysis. We verified that the interpolation was suitable through validation analyses by comparing the interpolated probabilities of occurrence from bilinear, nearest neighbour, and spatially averaged approaches and the native 0.5° resolution data. We took the conservative approach of specifying that AquaMaps species occurrence greater than 0 was a presence.

#### Thermal niches

The realized thermal niches of marine species were obtained from AguaMaps (Kaschner et al. 2019) and described in Boyce et al. (Boyce et al. 2022c, 2022b) and defined using the relationships between species occurrences and surface temperature records. The upper temperature tolerance values were used to calculate several of the climate indices, representing the species realized upper thermal tolerances. Boyce et al. 2022 evaluated the veracity of the species' upper thermal tolerances in AguaMaps, by comparing them against the fundamental critical thermal maximum for those species that have been determined through experimentation, compiled, and published (Comte and Olden 2017; Bennett et al. 2018; Pinsky et al. 2019). The upper realized thermal tolerances reported in AguaMaps were compared against the fundamental thermal tolerances for 60 matching species in the GlobTherm database (Bennett et al. 2018), 76 species reported in Pinsky et al. (2019), 58 species reported in Comte et al. (2017), and 767 species that were imputed in Comte et al. (2017). The AquaMaps realized upper thermal tolerances were positively correlated to the fundamental upper thermal tolerances in the published databases (r=0.8-0.88). However, as expected, the fundamental tolerances were generally higher than the AquaMaps realized tolerances. This discrepancy may be driven by the difference in the duration of thermal exposure. Whereas realized tolerances were evaluated using time-averaged SST, fundamental tolerances are derived from experiments that capture more acute heat exposure (*e.g.*, responses over minutes, hours, and days). If we use the hottest hourly or daily temperature in a year, we expect the realized and fundamental tolerances to be equivalent.

#### Species conservation status

The conservation statuses of marine species in different Canadian regions were obtained from the Wild Species General Status of Species in Canada reports (Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council 2016). The Wild Species reports are produced by a National General Status Working Group composed of representatives from each Canadian province and territory and of the three federal agencies (Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment and Climate Change Canada,

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Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Parks Canada). The assessments are completed using museum collections, scientific literature, scientists and specialists, Aboriginal traditional and community knowledge, and conservation and government data centres. The Working Group assesses the status of species in Canada using strategies contingent on the amount of information available. Information-rich species are usually evaluated by the working group, while those for information-poor species are conducted by experts hired to support the working group. The government with the final signoff on the ranks varies depending on the type of species. For aquatic species, DFO has the final signoff on the ranks. The information is then used to produce the *Wild Species* reports and is updated every five years. Species within the Wild Species reports are assessed regionally and/or nationally. We selected species' conservation statuses contingent on their availability: we prioritized Wild Species, their global conservation status, as extracted from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN 2021) in Boyce *et al.* (2022b) were used. The methodology used to obtain species' global extinction risk is described in Boyce *et al.* (2022b).

#### Maximum body lengths

The maximum body sizes of species were estimated (Boyce et al. 2022b) from the FishBase<sup>1</sup> and SeaLifeBase<sup>2</sup> databases using methods described in Boyce et al. (2022b).

#### Temperature

Temperature conditions were evaluated using daily SST estimates from the NOAA 0.25° daily Optimum Interpolation Sea Surface Temperature dataset (OISST) (Reynolds et al. 2007). The temperature dataset combines observations from different observation platforms (satellites, ships, buoys, and Argo floats). It has been available globally since 1981 at a spatial resolution of 0.25°.

### **Cumulative impacts**

A multivariate index of cumulative human impacts (HI) on ocean ecosystems index integrates 17 global anthropogenic drivers of ecological change, including fishing pressure, pollution, invasive species, eutrophication, climate change, and others (Halpern et al. 2008, 2015)(2008, 2015). The HI estimates were available at a global 1km<sup>2</sup> native resolution. These values were rescaled to a global 0.25° grid using bilinear interpolation.

### **Climate projections**

The projected monthly SST time series were obtained from the coupled model intercomparison project phase 6 (CMIP6) between 1850 and 2100. All SST projections were interpolated to a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> http://www.fishbase.org

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.sealifebase.ca/

regular 0.25 x 0.25° grid. An ensemble of SST projections was obtained from three published Global Climate (GCM) or Earth System Models (ESMs) within the CMIP6 archive (Table 3). These models span a broad range of the projections of SST within the CMIP6 model set. SST projections (°C) were made under the IPCC's shared socioeconomic pathway (SSP) scenarios SSP5-8.5, representing continued fossil fuel development, and SSP1-2.6, representing an increase in sustainable development (Riahi et al. 2017; Meinshausen et al. 2020).

Ν	Model	References	
1	GFDL-CM4	Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory	(Dunne et al. 2012, 2013)
2	HadGEM3	Met Office Hadley Centre	(Hewitt et al. 2011)
3	AWI-CM-1-1-MR	Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research	(Sein et al. 2018)

Table 3   List of models from the C	CMIP6 multi-model ensemble	archive used in this study.
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#### **Results**

In this section, we expand on the development of the Climate Risk Index for Biodiversity (CRIB) using the holistic principle that climate change impacts on species are complex and synergistic (Scheffers et al. 2016); species vulnerabilities can't be adequately defined by a single index. Building on this idea, the CRIB represents vulnerability hierarchically: vulnerability is calculated from its three dimensions (sensitivity, exposure, adaptivity) (IPCC 2014), each of which is derived from four climate indices (12 indices total), which in turn are calculated using data and ecological theory (Table 1). These climate indices were selected based on pre-defined criteria, as follows: The CRIB prioritizes indices that are grounded in ecological theory, widely accepted, and validated, preferably through peer review and publication. Indices were restricted to those where the mechanism of climate change effects was widely accepted and well documented in existing climate change vulnerability studies (e.g. Loarie et al. 2009; Mora et al. 2013a; Halpern et al. 2015; Stuart-Smith et al. 2015a; Henson et al. 2017; Pinsky et al. 2019; Trisos et al. 2020; IUCN 2021). Indices were also chosen to maximize their unique information content and minimize redundancies; their uniqueness was evaluated by testing their collinearity and through validation analyses described in Boyce et al. (2022b). Indices that are easy to interpret and calculate were given priority. The CRIB constitutes a 'combined approach' (Pacifici et al. 2015; de los Ríos et al. 2018; Foden et al. 2019); it integrates trait-based, correlative, and mechanistic information and incorporates abiotic, biotic, and human pressures across multiple biological organization levels (species to ecosystems). The indices were transformed to ensure they were mapped onto a standardized scale (range: 0-1), using hyperbolic functions described in Boyce et al. (2022b). This critical step ensured that indices with different units could be compared, normalized, and combined. It also ensured that vulnerability could be re-estimated at different spatial resolutions or at different points in time without a loss of information. The following section describes the

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interpretation, calculation, and standardization for each index, and subsequent calculation of climate sensitivity, adaptivity, exposure, vulnerability and risk, for Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*).

#### **Climate sensitivity**

Sensitivity quantifies species' responsiveness to climate change and is comparable to "reactivity" in community ecology (Ves et al. 2003; Britten et al. 2014).

#### Thermal safety margins

The thermal safety margin (TSM) has been widely used in climate vulnerability assessments to measure species sensitivity and tolerance to further warming (Stuart-Smith et al. 2015b; Comte and Olden 2017; Pinsky et al. 2019). Species inhabiting thermal environments close to their upper temperature limit (narrow thermal safety margin) are more vulnerable to climate warming than those further away. For each species within each grid cell across its geographic distribution, a thermal safety margin was calculated as the difference between the estimated upper thermal tolerance of the species and the maximum daily SST observed over the previous decade (*e.g.*, here, between 2010 and 2020) (Figure 1). This metric was standardized to a scale of 0-1 such that climate risk rapidly declines with thermal distance from the species' upper thermal tolerance. Generally, thermal performance is strongly warm-skewed, with fitness expected to increase gradually until the thermal optima and rapidly decline to zero as the species' upper thermal tolerance limit approaches. Our assumption that risk increases continuously with temperature thus captures the risk of the species' upper thermal tolerance being exceeded rather than representing variation fitness within the thermal niche. Refer to Boyce *et al.* (2022b) for details and validation analyses.



Figure 1 | Thermal safety margins for Atlantic cod. Raw (left) and standardized (right) thermal safety margins across cods' native geographic distribution.

#### **Conservation status**

Species' conservation status makes them susceptible to additional perturbations such as climate change. Species conservation statuses, reported by Wild Species or the IUCN Red List, were transformed to numeric values as follows: Critically endangered=0.5, endangered=0.05, vulnerable=0.005, near threatened/lower risk/near threatened=0.0005, least concern/lower risk/least concern=0; they were then standardized between 0-1. The conservation status for cod in Canada is 0.5 (critically endangered).

### Cumulative impacts

Climate effects on ecosystems and species can be more severe when overlaid by additional stressors, such as fishing, pollution, and nutrient loading. The multivariate index of cumulative human impacts (HI) on ocean ecosystems developed by Halpern *et al.* (2008, 2015) was used as an index of the cumulative effects on marine ecosystems (Figure 2). The 1km<sup>2</sup> HI values were re-interpolated using bilinear methods to a 0.25° grid and then standardized between 0-1. Refer to Boyce et al. (2022b) for full details and validation analyses.



Figure 2 | Cumulative human impacts across the native geographic distribution of Atlantic cod. Raw (left) and standardized (right) HI across cods' native geographic distribution.

#### Vertical habitat variability and use

Habitat generalist species are more adapted to climate variability and change than specialist species due to their ability to occupy a greater variety of habitats (Peters 1985; Laidre et al. 2008; Rosset and Oertli 2011; Garcia et al. 2014). Vertical habitat specialization, the depth of species occupancy, and the ability to inhabit different vertical habitats, and thus thermal regimes, play a significant role in determining the adaptivity of species to climate change. Species restricted to the uppermost epipelagic layers of the ocean are expected to have a lower capacity to adapt to climate change, as the upper oceans are generally more exposed to warming (e.g. Albouy et al. 2020). Similarly, species occupying a narrow range of vertical habitats are less adaptable. Each species' vertical habitat index was calculated according to its maximum occupancy and range depth (Figure 3). Climate sensitivity scales between 0 and 1, with most of the change occurring between the surface and 500 m depth or range, with sensitivity being very similar below 500 m. Maximum sensitivity occurs for surface-dwelling species with narrow vertical ranges. In contrast, the lowest sensitivity occurs for species below 500 m with wider vertical ranges. The maximum depth of occupancy and vertical habitat range was truncated by the maximum bathymetry in each grid cell across its native geographic distribution for each species. Refer to Boyce et al. (2022a) for full details and validation analyses.



Figure 3 | Vertical habitat use of Atlantic cod. The maximum depth of occupancy (left) and vertical habitat range (middle) and the standardized index of vertical habitat use (right panel) for cod across its native geographic distribution.

#### **Climate exposure**

The exposure of species to future climate changes was evaluated using monthly projections of sea surface temperature (SST) between 2015-2100 from Global Earth System Models (ESMs) in the coupled model intercomparison project phase 6 (CMIP6). All SST projections were gridded onto a regular 0.25 x 0.25° grid. Each exposure index (see below) was first calculated separately for each ESM projection; then, the multi-model ensemble average for each separate exposure index was calculated. Each exposure index was standardized by a constant value, described below, to facilitate comparability when using alternative data sources or spatial resolutions. The cumulative climate exposure was then estimated as the average across all standardized exposure indices.

#### Projected time of climate emergence

The time of climate emergence from a species' thermal tolerance range was used to index the timing of species exposure to dangerous climate conditions (Trisos et al. 2020; Xu et al. 2020). This index assesses whether exposure to hazardous climate change is an imminent or distant threat. The initial climate emergence (ToE) time for each species was estimated as the year in which the projected maximum annual monthly SST emerges from the species' thermal tolerance niche for two consecutive years (Figure 4). ToE calculations were made using the methods described in Boyce et al. (2022b) for each species within each grid cell across its native geographic distribution. The ToE index quantifies the onset of thermal stress in species rather than absolute mortality to inform climate risk. We used climate projections between 2015 and 2100. The ToE for each species and grid cell was estimated individually for each ESM and then averaged across all ensemble models. Maximal exposure occurs for species inhabiting waters that are already thermally hazardous (*e.g.* ToE=0). Refer to Boyce *et al.* (2022b) for full details and validation analyses.



**Figure 4 | Projected time of climate exposure for Atlantic cod.** The multi-model projected time of climate exposure (left) was calculated across the native geographic distribution of Atlantic cod and standardized (right).

#### Projected ecosystem disruption

Healthy, intact ecosystems are generally more resilient and resistant to stressors, including climate change (Martin and Watson 2016). Stressors such as climate change can erode the structure and function of an ecosystem through several pathways. Temperature changes can directly affect species via their physiological tolerances. Still, they can also indirectly affect them by altering their predators, prey, and competitors (Frank et al. 2006, 2007; Boyce et al. 2015b, 2015a). Changes in the abundance or distribution of species can trigger cascading ecosystem effects, ecological regime shifts, and alternative stable states, causing modified ecosystem structure and function (Estes et al. 1998; Frank et al. 2005, 2011). These ecological effects tend to be more significant when the abundance or distribution of several species changes in concert rather than isolation, and that risk to ecosystem function accelerates as more species are removed from it (Worm et al. 2006). The magnitude of ecological disruption resulting from an ecosystem's exposure to climate change was calculated as the fraction of all species in our analysis in each grid cell that is thermally exposed before the maximum year in the projection window (the year 2100); (Figure 5). This index quantifies the risk of secondary ecological effects (e.g., changes in predation, prey availability, competition) due to climate change that species may be exposed to; it does not assume all species interact but instead captures the risk that a species will be impacted by the loss of other species in the system, which will increase with the number of species that are exposed. Refer to Boyce et al. (2022b) for full details and validation analyses.



**Figure 5 | Magnitude of ecological change across the native geographic distribution of Atlantic cod.** Raw (left) and the standardized (right) fraction of species projected to be lost in each grid cell across cods' native geographic distribution.

#### Projected loss of suitable thermal habitat

Climate exposure was evaluated as the extent of each species' estimated native geographic distribution that would be lost due to projected ocean warming. Projected changes in species' geographic distributions attributable to temperature were calculated from the time of climate emergence from the thermal niche calculations described above. The number of grid cells in each species' native geographic distribution is projected to emerge from their thermal niche before the end of the climate projection window (the year 2100) was standardized by the total number of grid cells in their native geographic distribution (Figure 6). This index quantifies the geographic extent of adverse climate change impacts to which species may be exposed. Species' exposure increases asymptotically with the fraction of thermal habitat loss, with the most significant exposure occurring for species losing all of their present-day suitable thermal habitats. Refer to Boyce et al. (2022b) for full details and validation analyses.



Figure 6 | Thermal habitat loss for Atlantic cod. Proportion of the entire native geographic distribution of Atlantic cod (left) was used to evaluate the projected thermal habitat lost due to climate change (right).

### Projected climate velocity

The velocity of climate change represents climatic isotherms' geographic movement over time. It is a commonly used measure of climate exposure(Loarie et al. 2009; Burrows et al. 2011; IPCC 2014; Brito-Morales et al. 2018; Li et al. 2018). Species inhabiting waters with greater velocities of climate change are more exposed. Velocity was calculated on a 3 × 3 cell neighbourhood and averaged across all available GCM models to obtain an ensemble average and standard error (Figure 7). A species' exposure increases asymptotically with the speed at which temperature isotherms are projected to move across the ocean. The most significant exposure occurs in areas with rapid isotherm movement. These calculations were made in the R statistical computing platform using the *VoCC* package (Burrows et al. 2011; García Molinos et al. 2019). Refer to Boyce et al. (2022b) for full details and validation analyses.



Figure 7 | Velocity of climate change for Atlantic cod. Raw (left) and standardized (right) velocity of climate change across cods' native geographic distribution

### **Climate adaptivity**

Adaptivity describes the extent to which species can recover from perturbations and is analogous to the concept of resilience from ecological stability theory (Holling 1973). It is predominantly defined by the life-history traits of species, their native geographic distribution characteristics, and the habitat to which they have been historically exposed (*e.g.* Cheung et al. 2007).

### Geographic range extent

Species distributed broadly are thought to have a greater adaptivity to climate changes; there is a greater breadth of suitable climatic and habitat conditions (*e.g.* climate refugia) within their geographic distributions, buffering them against adverse climate changes (Laidre et al. 2008; Burek et al. 2008; Ficetola and Denoel 2009; Pearson et al. 2014; Staude et al. 2020). Range-restricted species are more likely to depend on specific habitat types and thus vulnerable to climate-driven habitat alteration. The latitude spanned by species is significant to their climate vulnerability, as temperature and climate change impacts have consistently varied by latitude (Loarie et al. 2009; Boyce et al. 2010, 2020; Mora et al. 2013; Poloczanska et al. 2016). The total geographic range area (km) (Cheung et al. 2007; Davidson et al. 2012; Garcia et al. 2014; Albouy et al. 2020) and the latitude range of species (Cheung et al. 2007; Gonzalez-Suarez et al. 2013; Albouy et al. 2020) are frequently used in climate vulnerability analyses to index their adaptability or sensitivity to climate change. An index of the adaptivity of each species was calculated as a bivariate function of the geographic range area (km<sup>2</sup>) and latitude spanned by their native geographic distributions relative to the maximum possibly globally (361,900,000 km<sup>2</sup>). Adaptivity increases asymptotically with geographic range area, with the greatest adaptivity occurring for

species with the largest geographic range areas. Refer to Boyce *et al.* (2022b) for full details and validation analyses. The range area for cod is 0.005, and the latitude range is 36.5°.

#### Geographic habitat fragmentation

Species with more contiguous (less fragmented) habitat ranges have greater access to potentially favourable habitats (e.g., climate refugia), migration corridors, and larval dispersal. Alternatively, habitat fragmentation increases the isolation of habitat patches reducing the probability that they can be recolonized following local extinctions (*e.g.* the 'rescue effect' (Brown and Kodric-Brown 1977)) and increasing the amount of edge habitat in those patches. As such, studies in terrestrial and marine systems suggest that species with fragmented geographic ranges are more sensitive to and less resilient to climate change impacts (Kaschner et al. 2006; Moore and Huntington 2008; Gonzalez-Suarez et al. 2013; Pearson et al. 2014; Crooks et al. 2017; Rogan and Lacher 2018; Albouy et al. 2020) by affecting their extinction and colonization (e.g. Warren et al. 2001). Habitat fragmentation was calculated from the number of patches in a species' native distribution standardized by its total geographic distribution area. Analyses were undertaken using landscape analysis methods (McGarigal and Cushman 2012; Hesselbarth et al. 2019), where patches must be connected in eight directions (queen's case=8 cells surrounding). Adaptivity due to habitat fragmentation declines asymptotically with geographic range fragmentation, with the lowest adaptivity occurring for species with highly fragmented habitats. Habitat fragmentation calculations were made in the R statistical computing platform using the landscapemetrics package (Hesselbarth et al. 2019). Refer to Boyce et al. (2022b) for full details and validation analyses. The habitat fragmentation for cod across the study area is 0.001%.

#### Thermal habitat variability and use

Ecological disturbance theory and empirical analyses suggest that species and ecosystems that experience high natural variability are better adapted to climate change (Cole et al. 2014; Mora et al. 2015; Nadeau et al. 2017). Similarly, species inhabiting more variable thermal environments, such as at the range edges of their geographic distributions, have a greater capacity to adapt to climate change (Guest et al. 2012; Carilli et al. 2012; Donner and Carilli 2019) and to be less sensitive to it (Albouy et al. 2020). Continued exposure to temperatures close to the species' thermal preferences is thought to pre-adapt them to temperatures outside their thermal preferences. Through this mechanism, species can exhibit different levels of plasticity in their thermal sensitivity depending on the variability in their thermal environment (Rehm et al. 2015). The adaptivity index was calculated as a bivariate function of (1) the total environmental thermal variability and (2) the proportion of the total available thermal habitat each species has inhabited over the past 40 years (1981-2021) in relation to its thermal preference range (Figure 8).

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Adaptivity due to thermal habitat pre-adaptation increases exponentially with the proportion of the thermal habitat occupied. The index characterizes the proportion of time that a species inhabits temperatures close to its thermal preference range. Species that inhabit a greater proportion of their total potential thermal habitat are, theoretically, more pre-adapted to climate change than those that inhabit less. Refer to Boyce *et al.* (2022b) for full details and validation analyses.



**Figure 8 | Thermal habitat variability and use for Atlantic cod.** The total SST habitat variability across its geographic distribution and fraction of the time the SST habitat is within the species' (left & middle) defines cods' thermal habitat variability index (right).

### Maximum body length

The maximum size (length or mass) reached by species has been commonly used as a proxy for extinction risks, exploitation susceptibility, and species vulnerability to climate change (Cheung et al. 2007, 2013; Davidson et al. 2012; Gonzalez-Suarez et al. 2013; Chessman 2013; Cheung and OvinIola 2018; Foden et al. 2019; Albouy et al. 2020). The maximum size is a predictor of several life-history traits (e.g., generation length, time to maturity, intrinsic rate of population increase) that cumulatively define species' potential reproductive capacity and population growth rate (Fenchel 1974; Blueweiss et al. 1978; Cheung et al. 2007; Healy et al. 2014; Cheung and Oyinlola 2018). Ecologically, body size has been used to classify species as *r*- (produce many offspring, high growth rates and mortality) or K-selected (produce fewer offspring, low growth rates and mortality). For these reasons, the maximum body length was used to indicate species' resilience or adaptivity to climate change, where smaller species that grow and reproduce faster have a higher adaptivity (Cheung et al. 2007, 2013; Davidson et al. 2012; Gonzalez-Suarez et al. 2013; Chessman 2013; Pearson et al. 2014; Cheung and OvinIola 2018; Foden et al. 2019; Albouy et al. 2020). The maximum body length of species (cm) was estimated from the FishBase<sup>3</sup> and SeaLifeBase<sup>4</sup> databases, and a standardized adaptivity index was calculated. Much change in adaptivity occurred for changes in maximum body length between 0 and 100 cm (0-1m). Given the dramatic

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> http://www.fishbase.org

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> https://www.sealifebase.ca/

differences in population doubling time between the smallest plankton (days) to fish that can reach 100 cm (*e.g.*, Atlantic cod; ~2-4 years), this pattern seems biologically plausible. A species' adaptivity declines asymptotically with its maximum possible length. The lowest adaptivity occurs for species with larger body sizes with slower growth rates, population doubling times, and lower mortality rates. The most rapid changes in adaptivity occur for small-bodied species, such as those with body lengths between 0 and 5 m and decline more moderately after that. For full details and validation analyses, refer to Boyce et al. (2022b). The maximum recorded body size for cod is 200 cm, yielding a scaled adaptivity value of 0.34.

#### **Climate dimensions**

For each species within each grid cell across its native geographic distribution, the sensitivity, exposure, and adaptivity were calculated as the average of the four indices that define them (Figure 9). The standard deviation of the vulnerability dimensions provided an estimate of their statistical uncertainty. It was propagated forward through all subsequent vulnerability calculations using variance weighting. Validation analyses suggested that the vulnerability calculations for species were affected by missing indices but relatively unaffected by missing observations across species geographic distributions. Omitting any of the 12 climate indices in any grid cell affected the vulnerability scores, so the analysis was restricted to cells containing all 12 indices. Alternatively, the validation analyses suggested that species could have upwards of 10% of grid cells across their native geographic distribution missing with minimal effect on the resulting vulnerability scores. Accordingly, vulnerability was only calculated in cells containing all 12 indices and for species with vulnerability scores in at least 90% of their geographic ranges.



**Figure 9 | Dimensions of vulnerability for Atlantic cod.** The sensitivity (left), exposure (middle) and adaptivity (right) of Atlantic cod are calculated from the 12 indices across its native geographic distribution.

#### **Climate vulnerability**

Species' climate vulnerability was calculated in each grid cell across its native range from sensitivity, exposure, and adaptivity while statistically accounting for their variability and the statistical uncertainty associated with the indices of climate exposure calculated from ensemble climate projections (Figure 10). The greater uncertainty associated with unknown future states (e.g., climate exposure) was statistically accounted for through discounting (Halpern et al. 2012). With all else being equal, exposure indices derived from single ESMs that make longer-term climate projections are less reliable because the model error tends to compound over time (Mora et al. 2013b; Eyring et al. 2019; Lotze et al. 2019a; Boyce et al. 2020) and are thus more heavily discounted. Those derived from a larger ensemble of ESMs that make shorter-term projections are perceived as more reliable and are discounted less. Through this process, a maximum discount rate of 5% when projections are made for >=100 years from a single projection and 0% when projections are made for <5 years from >19 projections. The vulnerability for cod was calculated as a weighted average of adaptivity and discounted sensitivity and exposure (Figure 10). Our study evaluated climate projections from four models over 80 years, yielding a discount rate of 4%. Details of the discount rate calculation are described in Boyce *et al.* (2022b)



Figure 10 | Geographic patterns of climate vulnerability for Atlantic cod. The vulnerability of Atlantic cod across its native geographic distribution was calculated from the 12 indices.

The vulnerability for each species was calculated as a variance-weighted mean of the vulnerabilities in each grid cell across its geographic distribution (Figure 11). In this manner, a greater statistical weighting is given to vulnerability estimates in grid cells where their variance (*e.g.*, variance across the indices used to calculate them) is lower and vice-versa. Species vulnerability estimates will be more variable when the vulnerability is more dissimilar in the grid cells that comprise its geographic distribution and vice-versa.

#### **Climate risk**

The CRIB uses climate risk thresholds for each of the 12 climate indices that enable climate vulnerability to be translated into risk categories according to their ecological interpretation. Reliably defining such risk thresholds is notoriously challenging (Hillebrand et al. 2020) due to a lack of knowledge needed to define them, uncertainties in climate model projections, and differences in value judgments regarding what constitutes dangerous risk (Fischlin 2009; Garner et al. 2016; Leemans and Vellinga 2017; Zommers et al. 2020; Hillebrand et al. 2020). Notwithstanding these challenges, thresholds are increasingly being used to help guide conservation strategies and actions (Ficetola and Denoel 2009; van der Hoek et al. 2015; Arroyo-Rodríguez et al. 2020; Shennan-Farpón et al. 2021). When successful, threshold-defined risk assessments have proven immeasurably valuable in helping to communicate risks to a broad audience while supporting public engagement, management, and policy decisions.

The CRIB defines climate risk thresholds using transparent and, where possible, empirically supported approaches (Swart et al. 2009; Budescu et al. 2012; Oppenheimer et al. 2016). The thresholds were developed for each of the 12 climate indices that defined risk in their native units and carried through the analysis, preserving their meaning and interpretation yet informing the understanding of risk. Table 4 lists the risk thresholds and their rationale, while details and descriptions are in Boyce et al. (2022b). These thresholds represent waypoints to guide the definition and communication of climate risk, and it is anticipated that some may be refined as our understanding of ecological thresholds continues to evolve.

 Table 4 | Thresholds used to define climate risk categories.
 Notes: For Conservation statuses, LC='least concern'; V='vulnerable';

 E='endangered'; CR='critically endangered'.

	Index	Tlow	Tmed	Thigh	Rationale	References	
S	Sensitivity						
	Thermal safety margin	5°C	2°C	1°C	Guided by warming rates. 1°C and 2°C compare to the rates of Warming over the past 50, 100 years, respectively(Boyce et al. 2010). 5° to projected warming (Gattuso et al. 2015a).	(Boyce et al. 2010; Gattuso et al. 2015b; Stuart-Smith et al. 2015b; Pinsky et al. 2019; Gallagher et al. 2019)	
	Conservation status	LC	LC	V, E, CR	Defined by the IUCN RedList categories and criteria(IUCN 2021): any category at or above 'vulnerable' is considered at high risk.	(IUCN 2021)	
	Cumulative impacts	0.6	1.4	2	Guided by (Halpern et al. 2008).	(Halpern et al. 2008; Butt et al. 2022)	
	Vertical habitat variability	and use					
	Maximum depth	200m	50m	20m	Standard pelagic biogeochemical divisions within the euphotic zone to categorize variation in <i>e.g.</i> mixing, nutrients, photosynthetically active radiation, primary production.		
	Vertical range	200m	50m	20m	Standard biogeochemical divisions within the euphotic zone to categorize variation in <i>e.g.</i> mixing, nutrients, photosynthetically active radiation, primary production.		
Ε	xposure						
	Projected climate velocity	6km yr⁻¹	15km yr <sup>-1</sup>	30km yr <sup>-1</sup>	Guided by the quantiles of the statistical distribution.		
	Projected time of climate emergence from the thermal niche	75yrs	50yrs	25yrs	Guided by the IUCN RedList assessment criteria(IUCN 2021).	(Trisos et al. 2020; IUCN 2021)	
	Projected loss of suitable thermal habitat	5%	10%	20%	Guided by (Homan et al. 2004; Swift and Hannon 2010; Lange et al. 2010; Yin et al. 2017; Arroyo-Rodríguez et al. 2020).	(Parker and Mac Nally 2002; Homan et al. 2004; Rompre et al. 2010; Swift and Hannon 2010; Lange et al. 2010; Liao et al. 2013; Ochoa-Quintero et al. 2015; Yin et al. 2017; Arroyo-Rodríguez et al. 2020; Shennan-Farpón et al. 2021).	
	Projected ecosystem disruption	5%	10%	20%	Guided by thresholds in (Hooper et al. 2012; Newbold et al. 2016; Trisos et al. 2020).	(Scholes and Biggs 2005; Hooper et al. 2012; Newbold et al. 2016; Oliver 2016; Trisos et al. 2020; Chase et al. 2020; Shennan- Farpón et al. 2021)	
Α	daptivity						
	Geographic range extent						
	Latitude span	20°	45°	60°	Based on oceanographic and ecological domains that vary by latitude and are defined by biogeographic patterns in <i>e.g.</i> seasonality, ocean circulation, climate (Mann and Lazier 1991; Longhurst 2007; Boyce et al. 2017)	(Mann and Lazier 1991; Longhurst 2007; Rompre et al. 2010; Boyce et al. 2017)	
	Total geographic area	0.04%	1%	4%	Referenced to the size spectrum of large marine ecosystems (Frye 1986).	(Frye 1986; Parker and Mac Nally 2002; Homan et al. 2004; Rompre et al. 2010; Swift and Hannon 2010; Liao et al. 2013; Yin et al. 2017; Staude et al. 2020; Chase et al. 2020; Arroyo-Rodríguez et al. 2020)	
	Geographic habitat fragmentation	20%	10%	1%	Guided by and comparable to those defined in (Albouy et al. 2020) for the vulnerability of cetaceans.	(Andren 1994; Hill and Caswell 1999; Fahrig 2002; Parker and Mac Nally 2002; Rompre et al. 2010; Lange et al. 2010; Rueda et al. 2013; Albouy et al. 2020; Chase et al. 2020; Arroyo- Rodríguez et al. 2020)	
	Maximum body length	100cm	30cm	10cm	Empirically guided by the relationship with the intrinsic rate of population increase.	(Fenchel 1974; Blueweiss et al. 1978; Ripple et al. 2017)	
	Thermal habitat variability	and use					
	Thermal habitat occupancy	8%	95%	99%	Guided by the quantiles of the statistical distributions	(Carilli et al. 2012; Donner and Carilli 2019)	
	Thermal habitat variability	5°C	10°C	15°C	Comparable to those defined in (Albouy et al. 2020) for the vulnerability of cetaceans.	(Guest et al. 2012; Carilli et al. 2012; Xu et al. 2016; Nadeau et al. 2017; Donner and Carilli 2019; Albouy et al. 2020)	

#### Sensitivity risk thresholds

TH<sub>M</sub> of thermal safety margins was set at 2°C, TH<sub>L</sub> at 1°C and TH<sub>U</sub> at 5°C. Their establishment was guided by observed and projected surface warming rates. For example, TH<sub>M</sub> of 2°C is comparable to the warmest surface warming rates globally over the past century (Boyce et al. 2010), whereas 5°C compares to projected warming to 2100 (Gattuso et al. 2015a).

Since most species conservation statuses were classified as 'least concern, this category was adopted as a natural threshold for both  $TH_M$  and  $TH_L$ .  $TH_U$  was set at 'vulnerable,' with all species classified within or above this classification defined as very high sensitivity.

Thresholds for sensitivity by cumulative impacts were guided by the categories in Halpern *et al.* (Halpern et al. 2008) and the upper and lower 10% quantiles of its distribution.  $TH_M$  was set at 1.4, the level Halpern et al. (Halpern et al. 2008) defined as their low/very low impact threshold. TH<sub>U</sub> was set at 2 (90<sup>th</sup> percentile), while  $TH_L$  was set at 0.6 (10<sup>th</sup> percentile).

Thresholds for vertical habitat use were set individually for the maximum depth of occupancy and vertical habitat range.  $TH_M$ ,  $TH_U$  and  $TH_L$  by maximum depth were set at 100, 50, and 200m, respectively. By these thresholds, sensitivity is high within the upper 100m, where warming is greatest. It only becomes very low at depths exceeding the epipelagic zone (200m).

#### Exposure risk thresholds

The projected time of climate emergence is newly developed (Trisos et al. 2020), and there are not yet objective guidelines to define risk. We set  $TH_M$ ,  $TH_L$  and  $TH_U$  by projected ensemble time of thermal niche emergence at 50, 75, and 25 years, respectively. These thresholds were, to an extent, guided by the IUCN RedList categories and criteria for listing. Under the RedList criteria for a listing of vulnerable under Criterion E, species must have a 10% chance of extinction within 100 years (IUCN 2021). Assuming that the instantaneous probability of local species extinction is a function of the death rate (*d*), our  $TH_U$  of 25 years would yield a *d* of  $138 \times 10^{-5}$ ; following this, our  $TH_M$  and  $TH_L$  values (50 and 75 years) would then yield extinction probabilities of 7% and 3% respectively by 2116 (100 years). Therefore, exposure to hazardous climate by 2040 ( $TH_U$  of 25 years) is very likely to lead to at least a 10% chance of extinction under a RedList assessment criterion of vulnerable.

While the loss in thermally suitable habitat has been used in climate vulnerability studies (Stortini et al. 2015), there were few objective thresholds to define risk from it in marine systems. However, modelling studies and reviews suggest that the maximum permissible habitat loss threshold for species is 10-50% (Swift and Hannon 2010; Yin et al. 2017), comparable to estimates of minimum habitat required for species persistence estimated in freshwater (Homan et al. 2004) or terrestrial (Lange et al. 2010; Arroyo-Rodríguez et al. 2020) systems. Following this,

TH<sub>M</sub>, TH<sub>L</sub> and TH<sub>U</sub> by projected ensemble change in suitable thermal habitat of species were set at 10, 5, and 20%, respectively.

TH<sub>M</sub>, TH<sub>L</sub> and TH<sub>U</sub> by the projected fraction of species lost due to warming were set at 10%, 5%, and 20%, respectively. There is considerable uncertainty regarding the safe operating space for ecosystems and species loss (Scholes and Biggs 2005; Brose and Hillebrand 2016; Newbold et al. 2016; Oliver 2016). However, our thresholds were guided by meta-analytic studies that have suggested a 20% loss of species as one possible threshold (Hooper et al. 2012; Newbold et al. 2016; Trisos et al. 2020).

TH<sub>M</sub>, TH<sub>L</sub> and TH<sub>U</sub> by projected climate velocity were set at 15, 6, and 30 km yr<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. Lacking a clear basis for their ecological interpretation, these thresholds were set by the 50<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 90<sup>th</sup> quantiles of the distribution of global velocity values.

#### Adaptivity risk thresholds

Thresholds of adaptivity defined by maximum species body size were referenced by the relationship between maximum body size and the intrinsic rate of population increase, which is linear on a log-log scale. TH<sub>L</sub> adaptivity was set when the change in intrinsic population increase became negligible (100cm), and TH<sub>U</sub> was set where its change became rapid (10cm). TH<sub>M</sub>, denoting the high/low adaptivity threshold, was set at 30cm, the point at which the intrinsic rate of population increase was moderate; this threshold was also the median of all body lengths in our database.

Thresholds of adaptivity defined by geographic range extent were referenced to the size of large marine ecosystems (LMEs) (Frye 1986). TH<sub>U</sub> of range extent vulnerability was defined by the size of the largest large marine ecosystems (LME; Arabian Sea=3.84M km<sup>2</sup>=1% of the global area), TH<sub>M</sub> by the median area of all LMEs (1.2M km<sup>2</sup>=~0.4% of the global area) and TH<sub>L</sub> by the size of the smallest LME (Faroe Plateau=151,005km<sup>2</sup>=0.04% of the global ocean).

TH<sub>M</sub>, TH<sub>U</sub> and TH<sub>L</sub> by latitude spanned were set at 45°, 60°, and 20°, respectively. These values approximate the latitude span of marine biogeographic provinces (*e.g.* tropical, temperate, polar) that have been identified from analyses of large-scale climatological (*e.g.* winds), oceanographic (*e.g.* mixing, currents, nutrient availability), and ecological (*e.g.* primary production) features(Mann and Lazier 1991; *e.g.* Longhurst 2007; Boyce et al. 2017).

TH<sub>M</sub> of adaptivity as defined by habitat fragmentation was set at 10%, TH<sub>U</sub> at 20%, and TH<sub>L</sub> at 1%. These values are comparable to those described for the vulnerability of marine mammals, except our midpoint threshold is slightly higher (10%) than that defined by Albouy *et al.* (2020); (2-4%).

Thresholds for thermal habitat variability were set individually for the entire temperature range and proportion of available thermal habitat occupied by the species across its geographic

range. TH<sub>M</sub>, TH<sub>U</sub> and TH<sub>L</sub> sensitivity by temperature range were set at 15°, 5°, and 10°C, respectively. TH<sub>M</sub> of temperature range is identical to that used to define the vulnerability of marine mammals according to thermal habitat range (Albouy et al. 2020). TH<sub>M</sub>, TH<sub>U</sub> and TH<sub>L</sub> adaptivity by thermal habitat occupancy was set at 95%, 99%, and 80%, respectively.

These climate adaptivity risk thresholds were propagated through the standardization analyses described previously, enabling the relative adaptivity scores to be translated into absolute adaptivity risk categories (Figure 11).



**Figure 11 | Climate vulnerability and risk for 2,959 marine species across the Canadian EEZ.** Vulnerability and risk scores for species averaged across their geographic ranges within the Canadian EEZ under high (purple) and low (green) emission scenarios. Vertical lines depict the corresponding climate risk categories.

### Ecosystem climate risk

Since the CRIB is spatially explicit, species climate risk maps can be superimposed to evaluate risk for marine ecosystems across the ocean. While climate risk was evaluated for species across various taxonomies, including plants, algae, bacteria, fungi, vertebrates and invertebrates, it should be noted that the number of assessed species and length of the food web varies across the Canadian EEZ (Figure 12).



Figure 12 | Geographic patterns of ecosystem biodiversity and structure. The number of species evaluated at each location (left) and across the food web (right) across the Canadian marine territory.

In each grid cell under each emission scenario, the proportion of species at low, moderate, high, and critical risk was calculated to obtain a risk measure for the aggregate ecosystem across the Canadian marine territory (Figure 13); this procedure was also undertaken to evaluate the proportion of species that are at low, moderate, high, and critical risk in climate sensitivity, exposure, and adaptive capacity. The mean climate vulnerability of all species in each grid cell was also calculated under both emission scenarios to obtain a relative measure of ecosystem climate vulnerability.



Figure 13 | Geographic patterns of ecosystem climate risk. The percent of species at high or critical climate risk across the Canadian marine territory under the SSP5-8.5 emission scenario.

### Applications and next steps

The CRIB framework was designed to provide a freely available, transparent, and flexible framework for climate risk estimation in marine systems; it is not intended to be an endpoint but

rather an initial platform to build and improve as information and knowledge of climate risks evolve. Moving forward, several pathways are being explored as pathways to improving the CRIB. Increasing the spatial resolution of the estimates could enhance their usefulness in spatial conservation, especially in nearshore locations; the ability to employ higher-resolution regional climate and species distribution models to achieve this is ongoing. To reduce or better quantify the uncertainty in the risk estimates associated with the data sources, we are also exploring ensemble approaches and multimodel inference, which could allow a broader range of input data sources to be used. The CRIB uses surface temperature to assess climate risk because it is widely available, and its impacts on species have been broadly evaluated; they are best understood relative to other climate variables. However, moving forward, incorporating additional variables, such as dissolved oxygen or bottom temperature, into the risk assessment could provide greater confidence in them.

At the same time, it's critical to move beyond knowledge generation and explore if and how the CRIB could inform and support climate-informed marine conservation and management. To date, the operationalization of CRIB for conservation has primarily been investigated in fisheries (Boyce et al. 2022c), and spatial planning (Bryndum-Buchholz et al. 2022), yet other application areas are also being explored. Lewis *et al.* (2023) used the CRIB to identify high-risk conservation priorities and species of interest across the Canadian marine conservation network. Keen *et al.* (2023) assessed the climate resilience of the Canadian marine conservation network in terms of its ability to capture the complete spectrum of ecosystem climate risk across Canada's marine territory. The Climate Adaptation Framework for Fisheries (CAFF) brings the CRIB outputs together with information about the climate risks to coastal small craft infrastructure (Cogswell et al. 2018; Greenan et al. 2018, 2019) and fisheries management approaches to better understand and support climate adaptation in Canada's fisheries (Boyce et al. 2023). The CRIB is currently being adapted to explore the climate risk for freshwater and diadromous fish species in Atlantic Canada (Stortini *et al.* in prep) to inform habitat restoration efforts and species-at-risk recovery planning.

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