

Dr. Daphne Munroe – Shellfish Biology, Fisheries, & Modelling Glossary

TERM	DEFINITION
Abundance	The relative representation of a species in a particular ecosystem, usually measured as the number of individuals found per sample.
Biomass	The total weight of a species in a given area.
Bushel	A U.S. customary unit of dry volume, equivalent 8 gallons, used in agriculture/fisheries that for oysters is usually anywhere between 45-60 pounds.
Connectivity	The exchange of individuals among geographically separated subpopulations. It can be the larval dispersal from one population to another.
Density Dependence	Processes that occur when population growth rates are regulated by the density of a population.
Dredge	A device for scraping or sucking the seabed, used for dredging (an excavation activity or operation usually carried out at least partly underwater).
Ecosystem Services	The benefits people obtain from ecosystems. The include provisioning services, such as food and water; regulating services, such as flood and disease control; cultural services, such as spiritual and cultural benefits; and supporting services, such as nutrient cycling, that maintain the conditions for life on Earth.
Fishery	The people involved, species or type of fish, area of water, method of fishing, class of boats, purpose of the activities, or a combination of all of the above, engaged in raising or harvesting seafood.
Forecast	The process of making statements about events whose actual outcomes (typically) have not yet been observed, e.g. making an estimation of a variable of interest at a specified future time.
Hindcast	The process of testing a mathematical model. Known or closely estimated inputs for past events are entered into the model to see how well the output matches the known results.

Larval dispersal	The spread of larvae from a spawning source to a settlement site.
Population Genetics	The study of allele frequency distribution and change under the influence of the four main evolutionary processes: natural selection, genetic drift, mutation and gene flow.
Quota	A portion of a Total Allowable Catch that is allocated to a particular boat, fishery, region, or nation for a fishing season.
Shellfish	General term for crustaceans and mollusks.
Stock Assessment	The scientific assessment of the status and well being of a fish population (stock) using the best-available science.
Sustainability	A state that can be maintained at a certain level indefinitely. The potential longevity of ecological systems, such as planet's climatic system, systems of agriculture, industry, forestry, fisheries, and the ecological infrastructure on which they depend.