



THE STATE UNIVERSITY  
OF NEW JERSEY

# RU Life Science 2U: Fish Data and NGSS Science Practices in Your Classroom

Chris Free

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New Jersey Science Convention

October 15, 2014

# Mongolia: Confronting change in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

- Christopher Free
- PhD Student, Rutgers University





























# Democratization





# Development





# Mining





Globalization



# Access to technology

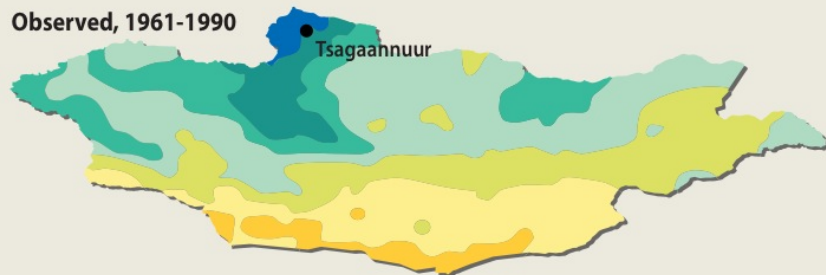




# Climate change in Mongolia

Annual mean temperature

Observed, 1961-1990



Projected, 2070-2100



Temperature, °C



Frequency of *dzud* events

Modelled, 1961-1990



Projected, 2070-2100



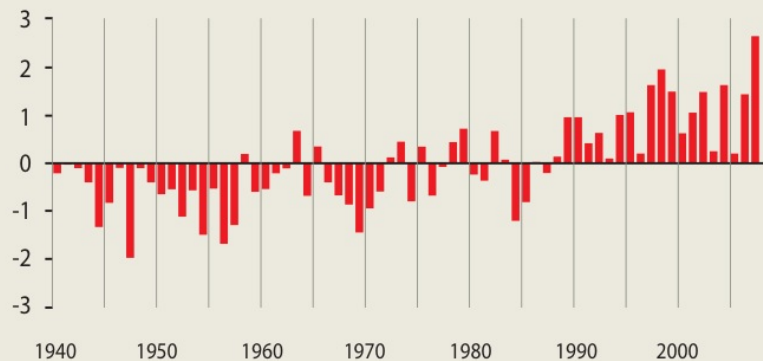
Frequency



*Dzud* is a Mongolian term that refers to a multiple natural disaster consisting of a summer drought resulting in inadequate pasture and production of hay, followed by very heavy winter snow, winds and lower-than-normal temperatures.

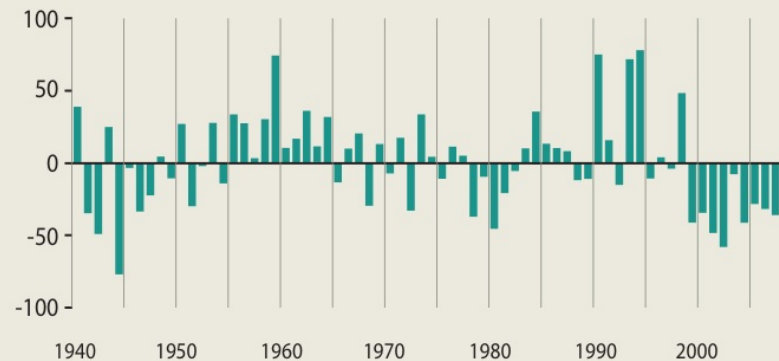
Annual mean temperature anomaly

°C



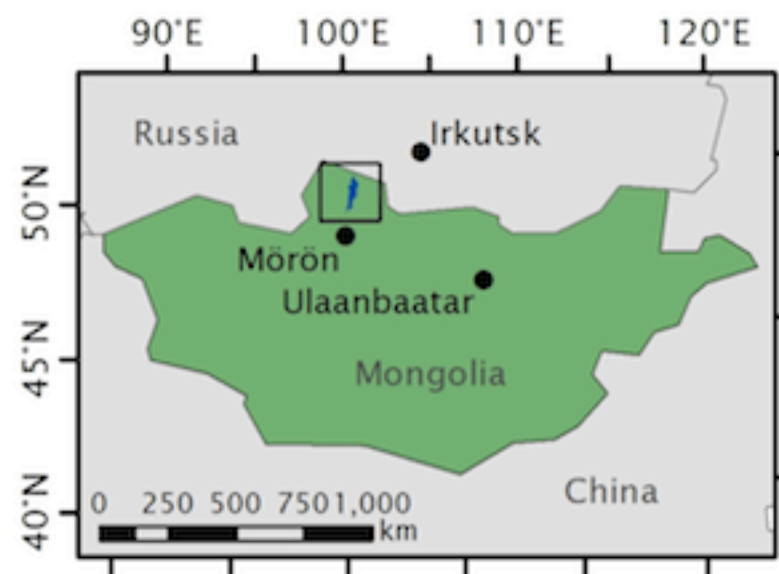
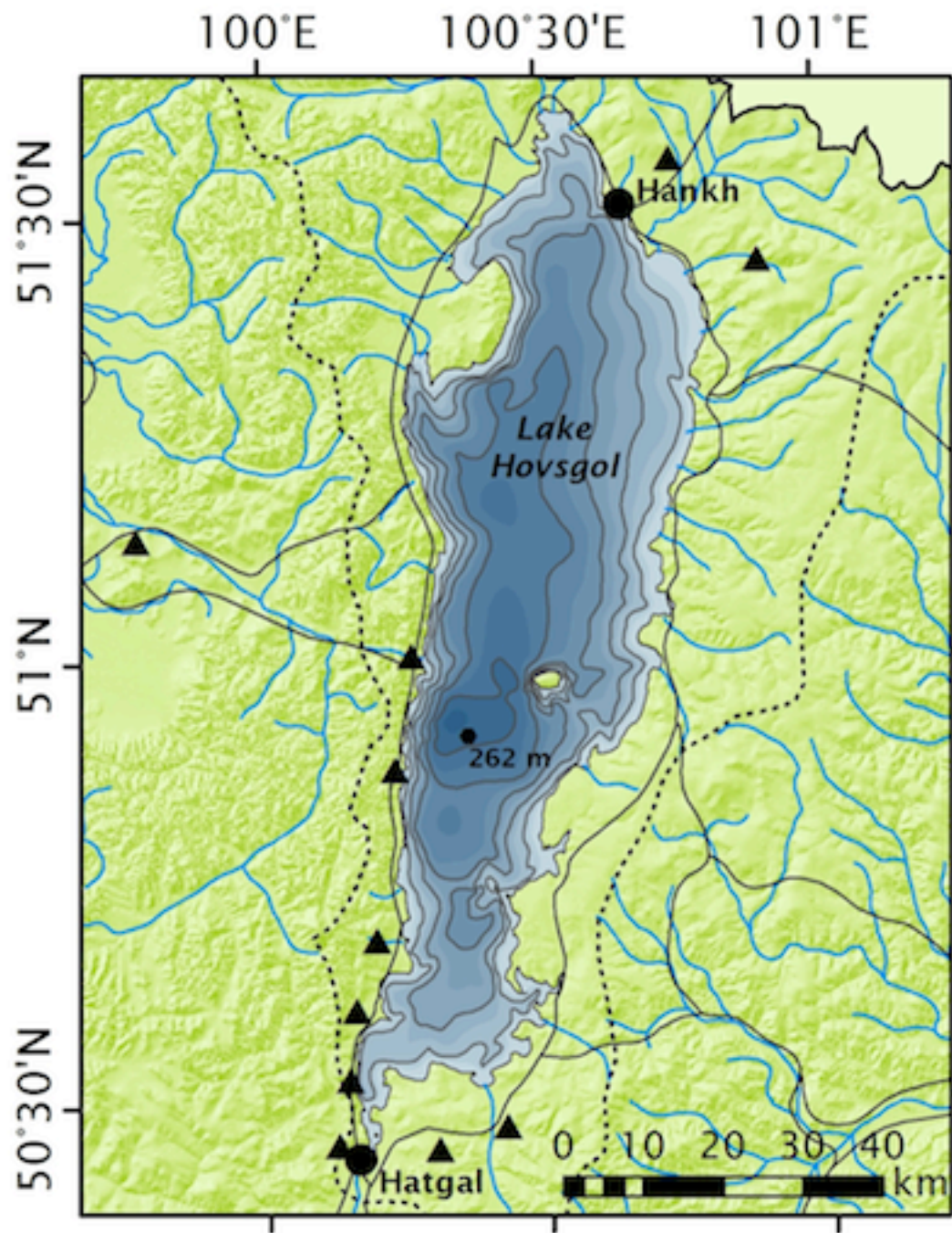
Annual total rainfall anomaly

Millimetres











What variables or relationships could we investigate to learn about illegal fishing on Lake Hovsgol? Develop a question to investigate the problem further.

*SEP 1: Asking Questions and Defining Problems* - Scientific questions are distinguished from other types of questions in that the answers lie in explanations supported by empirical evidence, including evidence gathered by others or through investigation.

Asking questions also involves asking questions about data, claims that are made, and proposed designs.



# Illegal fishing for the endangered endemic Hovsgol grayling

Christopher Free, Olaf Jensen, Bud Mendsaikhan



In prep for  
*Conservation Biology*





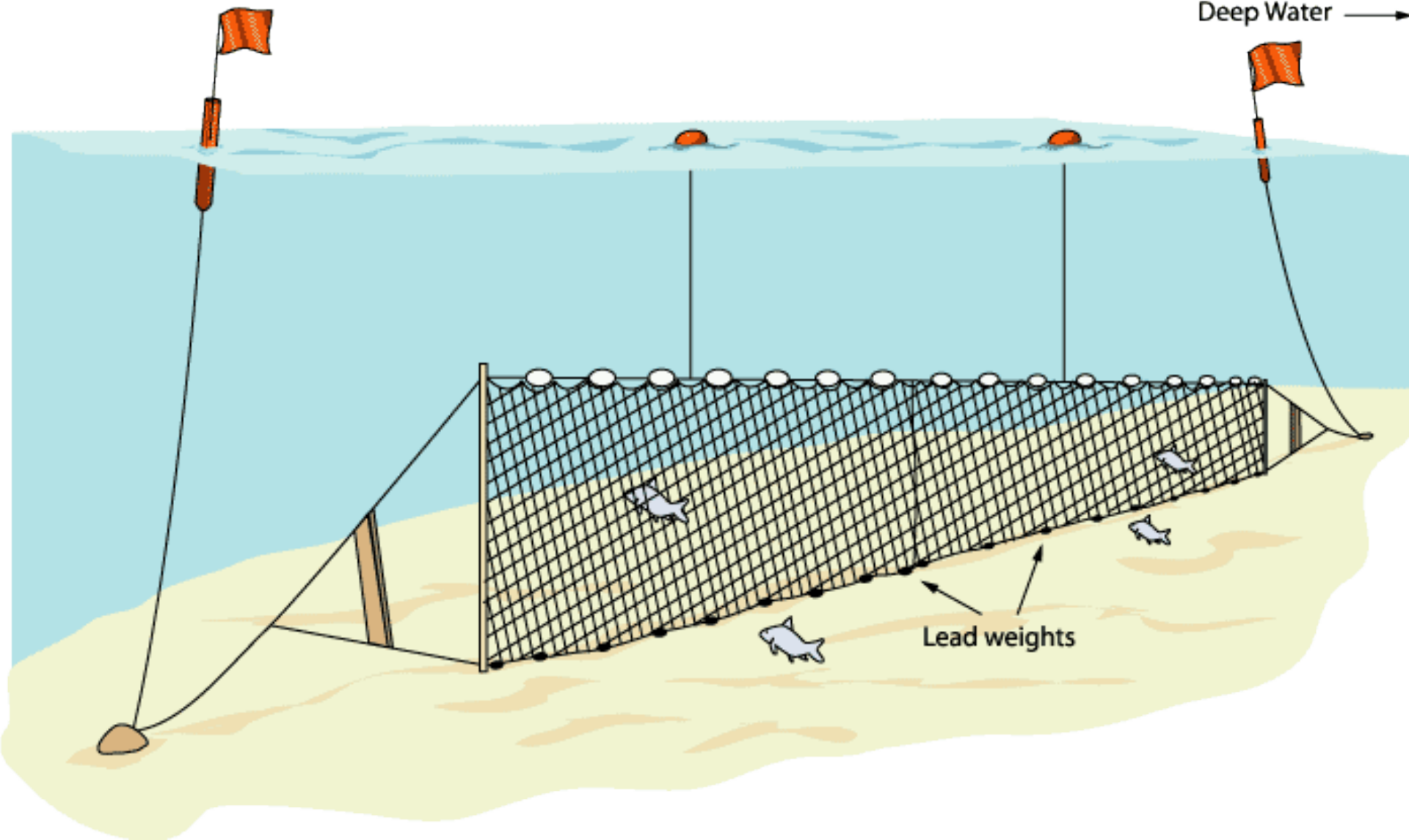






← Shore

Deep Water →





## **Interviews**

10 herding families

7 national park rangers

Personal and observed  
fishing habits



## **Derelict gillnet surveys**

2013: 10 sites, 53.6 km

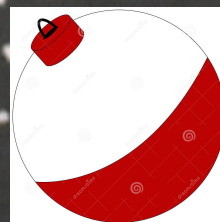
2014: 7 sites, 31.9 km  
resurveyed

Location, mesh size,  
weight, etc.



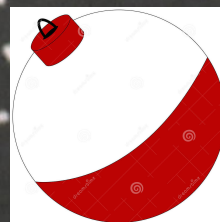


11/10/10



11/10/10







## Lake Hovsgol National Park

Derelict fishing gear surveys

— 2013

— 2013 & 2014

● Cities

▲ Tourist camps

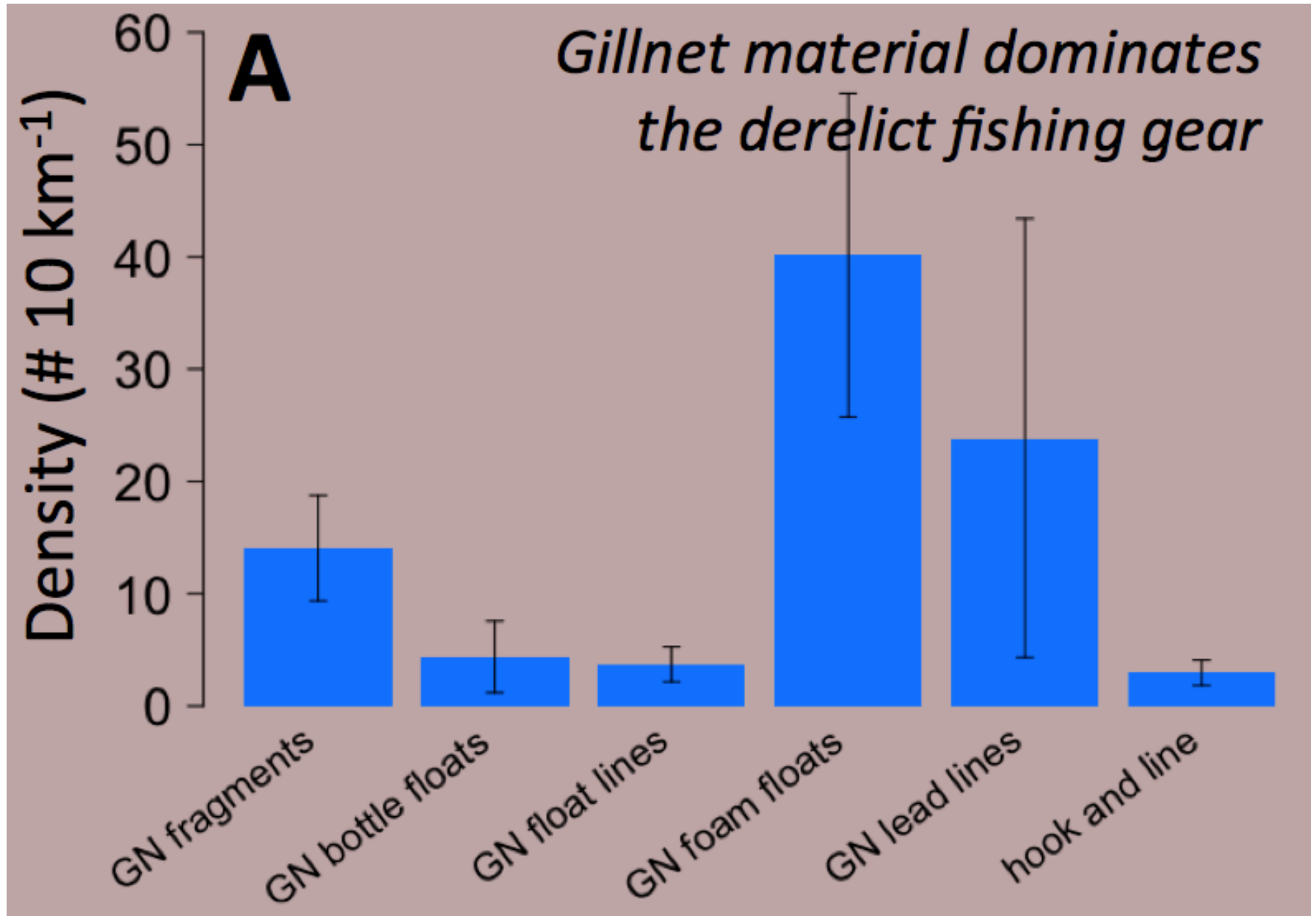
— Roads

□ Park boundary



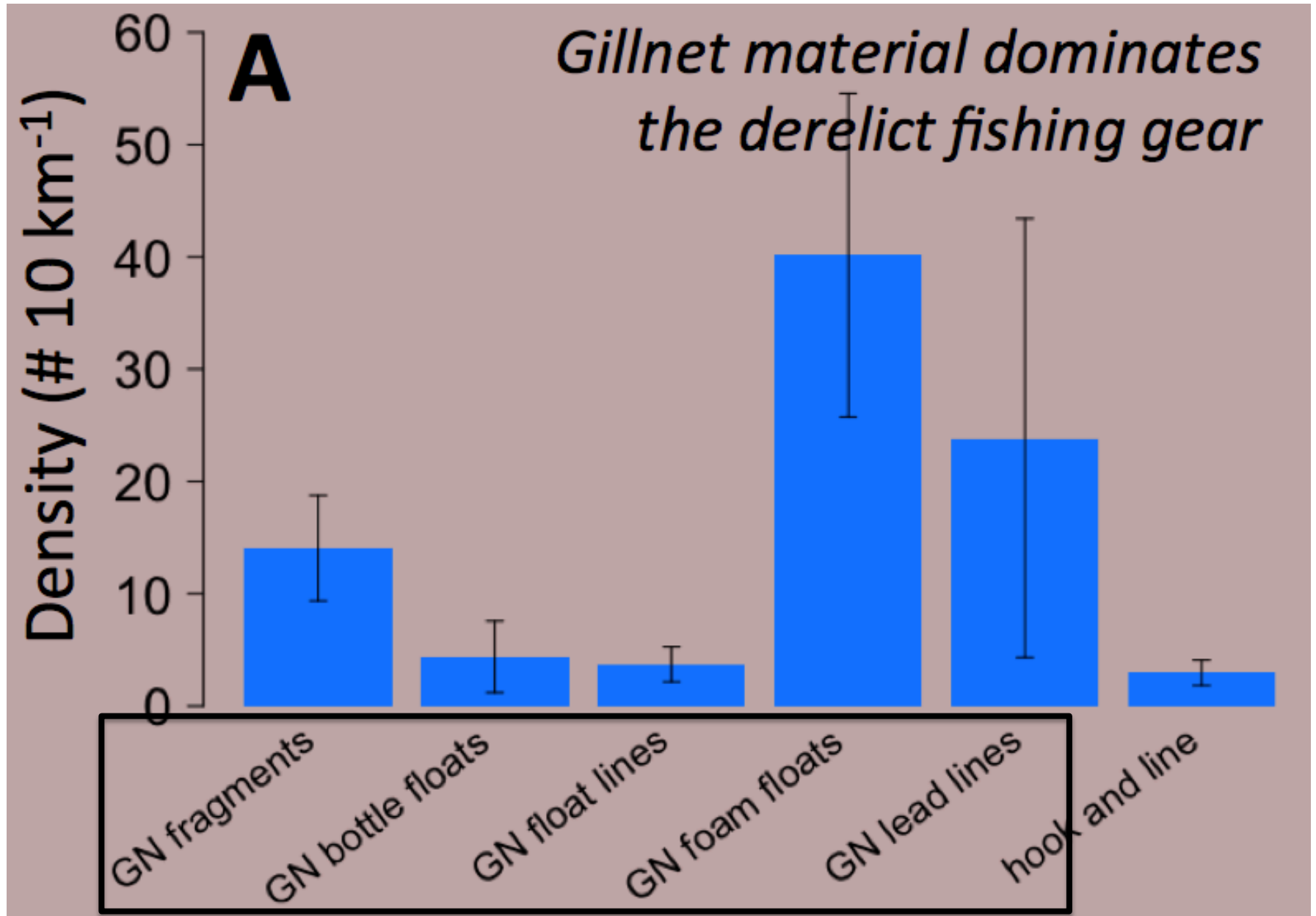


# How do people fish?

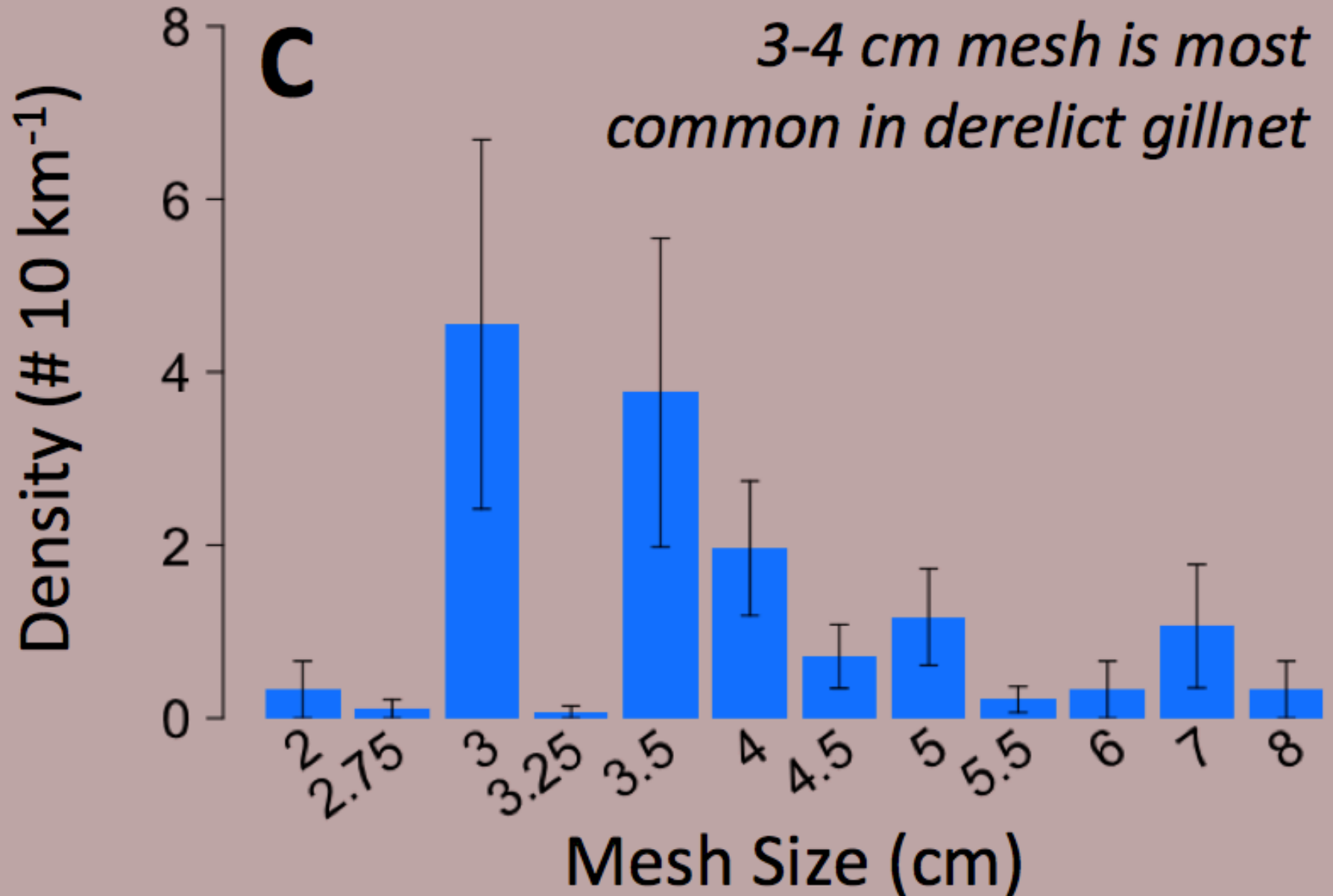




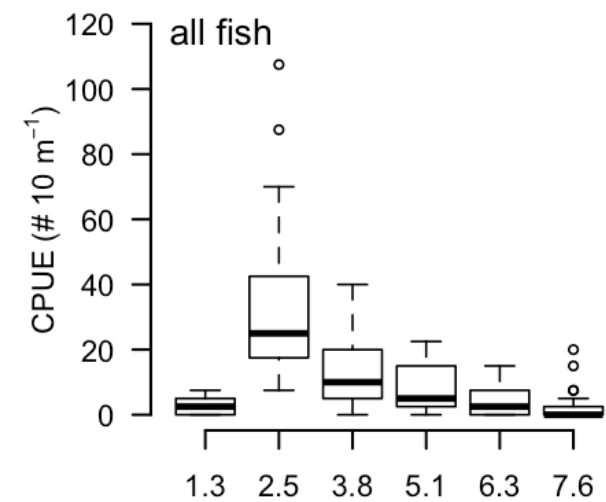
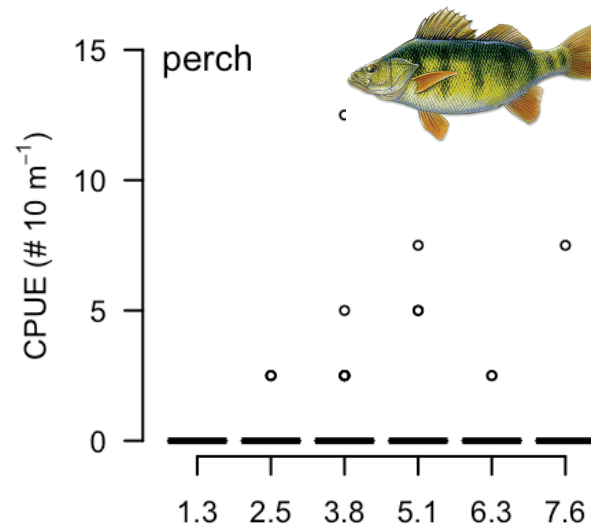
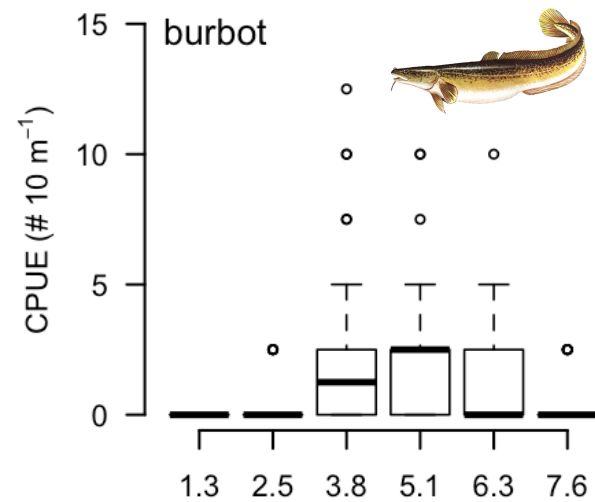
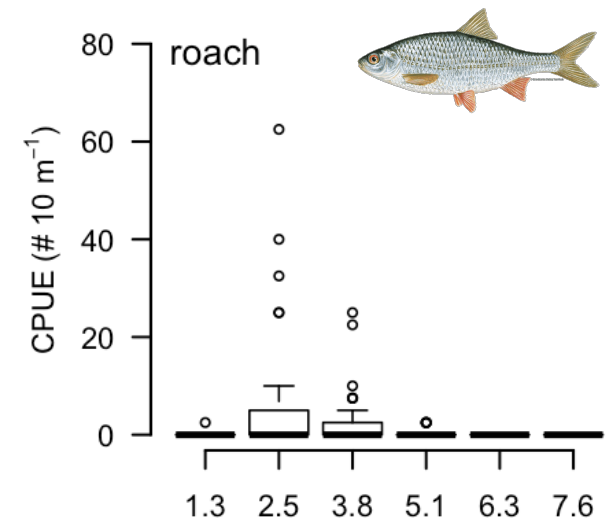
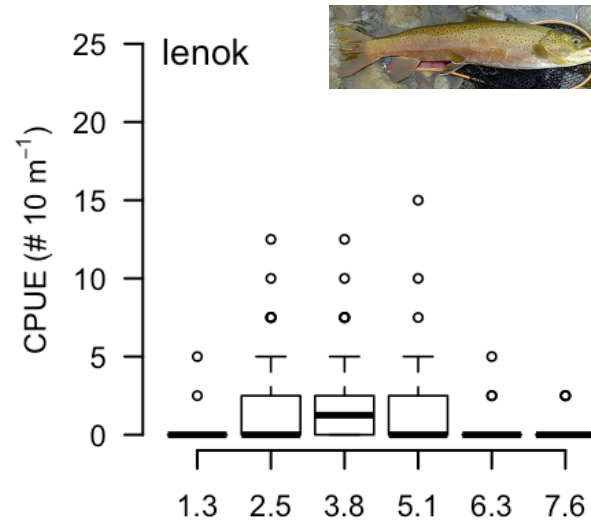
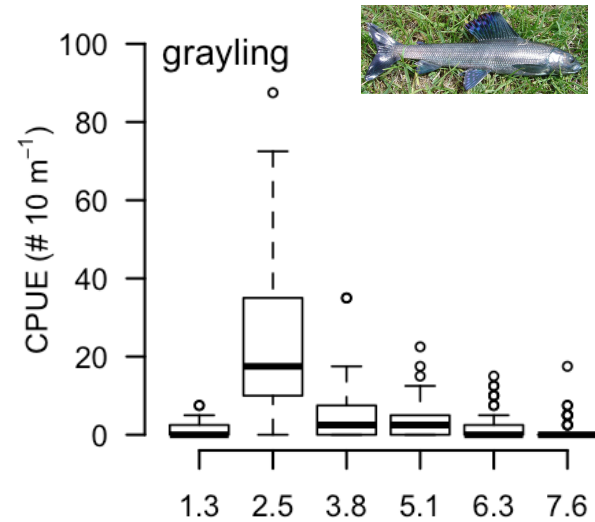
# How do people fish?



# How do people fish?





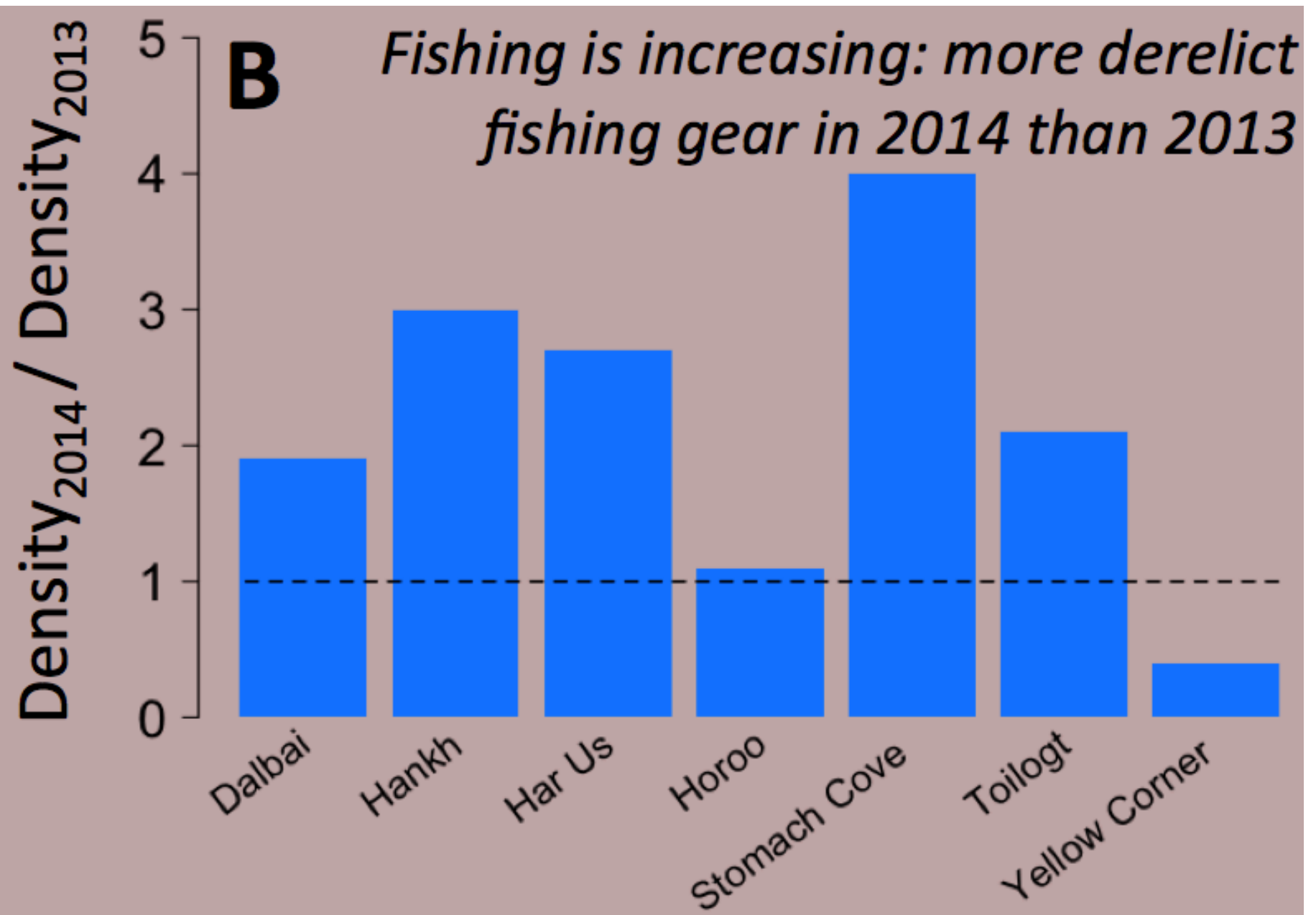


# Where/when do people fish?





# How much fishing is there?



# Who fishes and why?





# Conclusions

- Gillnet fishing is widespread, efficiently targets grayling when they are most vulnerable, and is a likely threat to the Hovsgol grayling population
- Park management denies the occurrence and threat of illegal fishing and rangers are powerless to enforce the law
- Education and outreach are necessary to promote grayling conservation. If local people have pride in their endemic species, they will reduce fishing during spawning and empower rangers in enforcement against non-locals.

# High levels of microplastic pollution in a large, remote, mountain lake

Christopher Free, Olaf Jensen, Sherri Mason, Marcus Eriksen, Nicholas Williamson, Bazartseren Boldgiv



*Marine Pollution Bulletin* 85(1): 156-163.

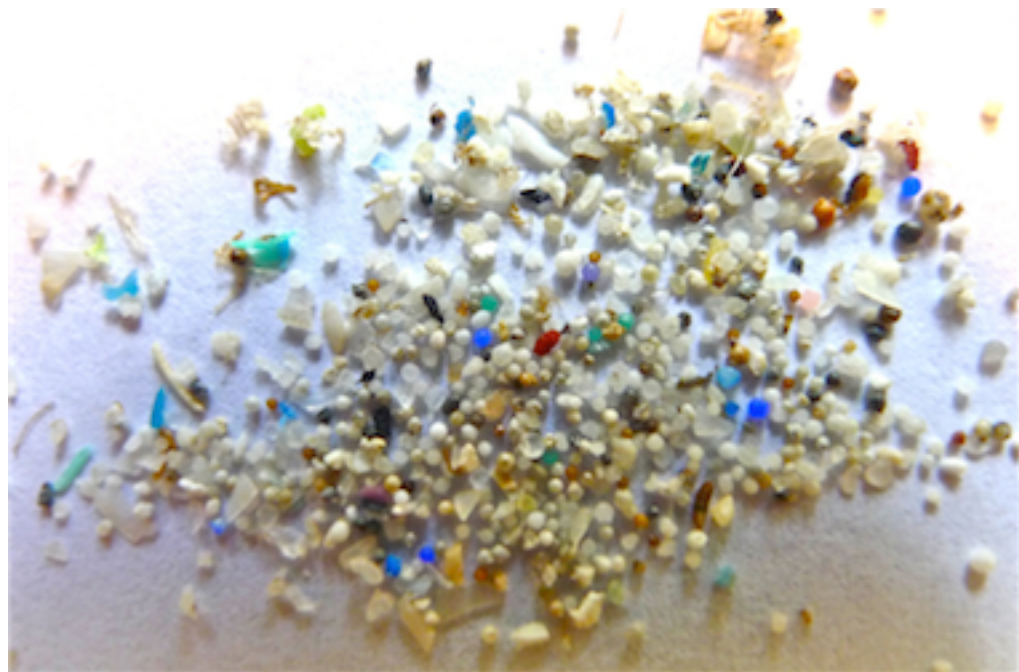


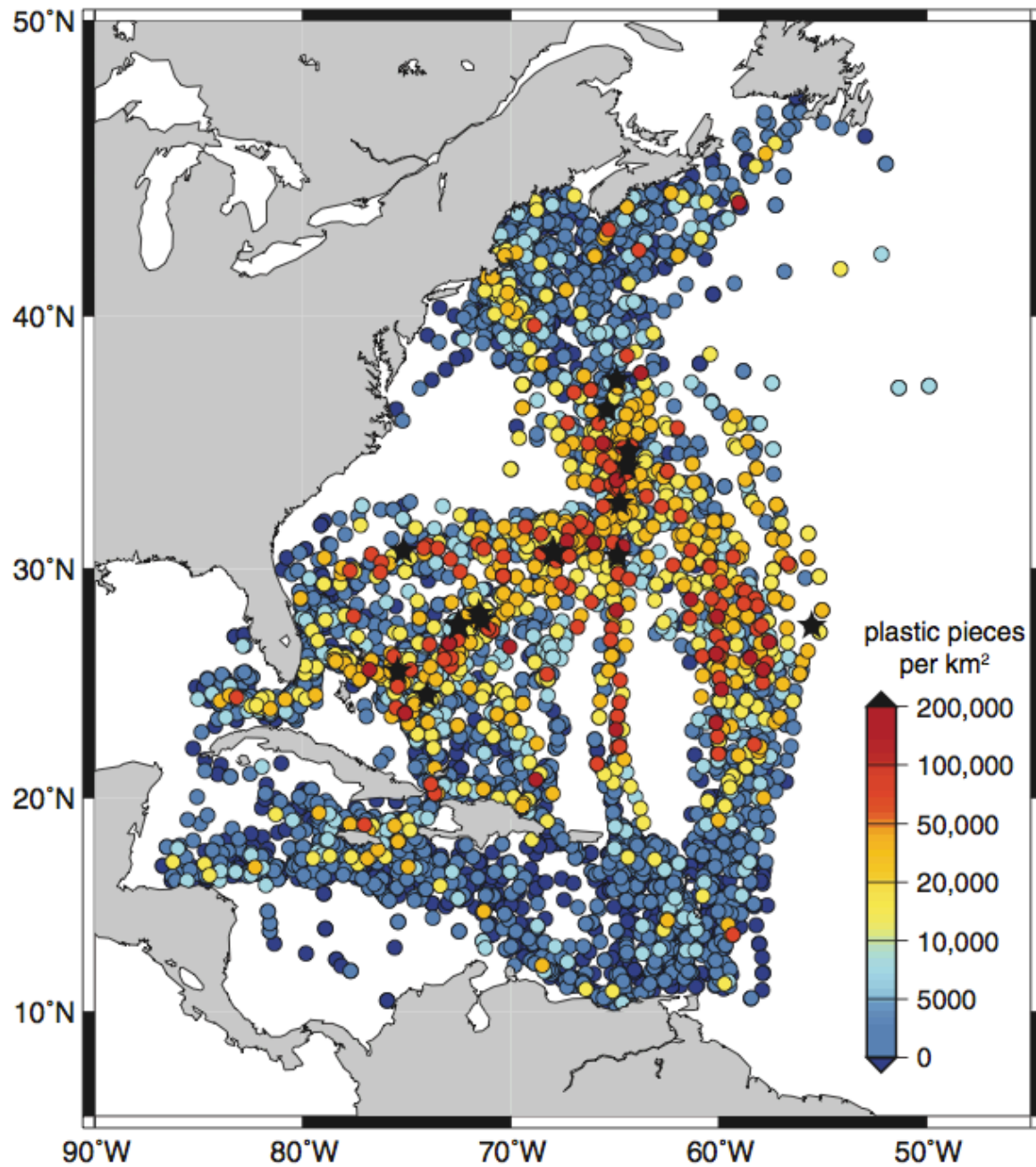






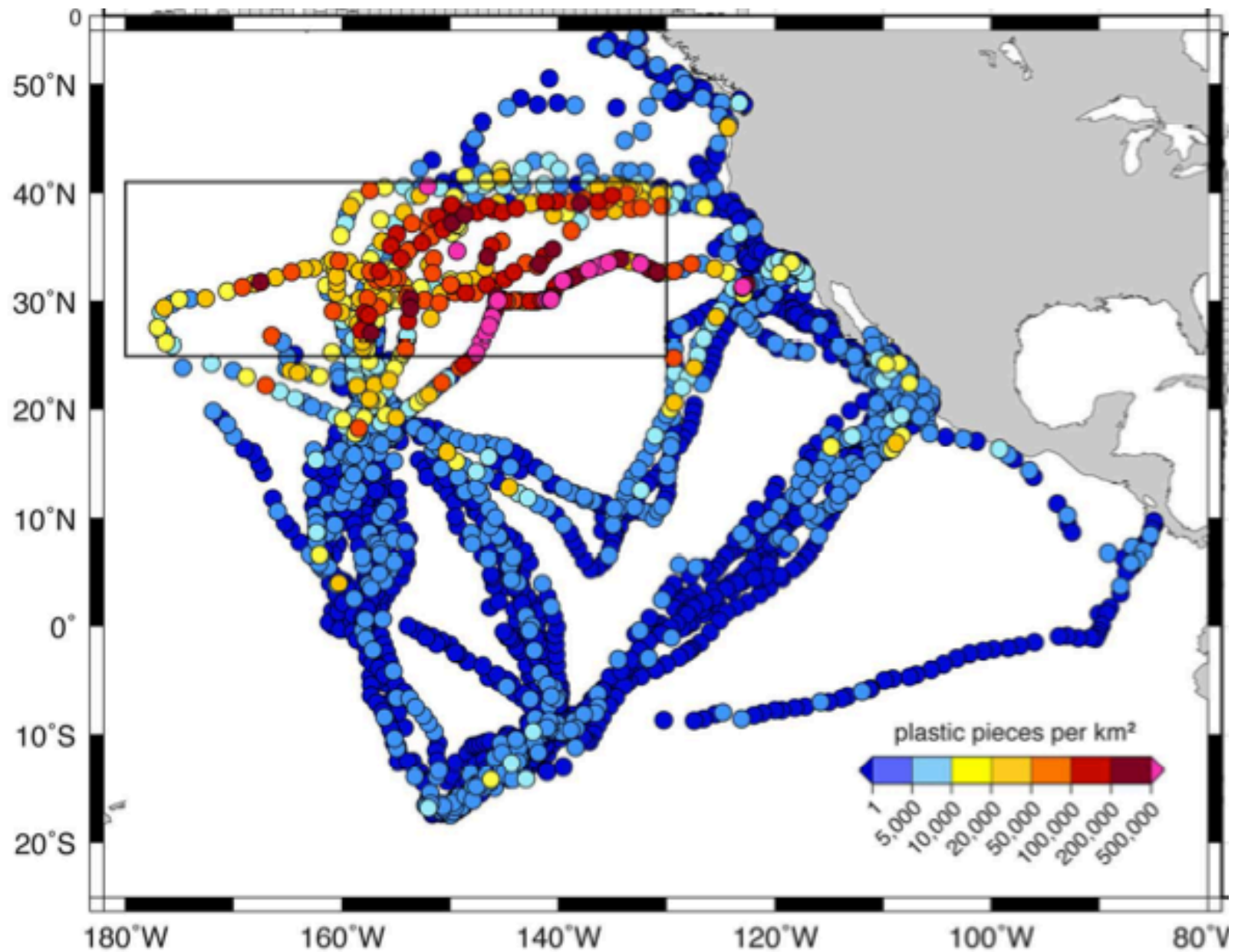






Law et al. 2010 *Science*





Law et al. 2014 *ES&T*

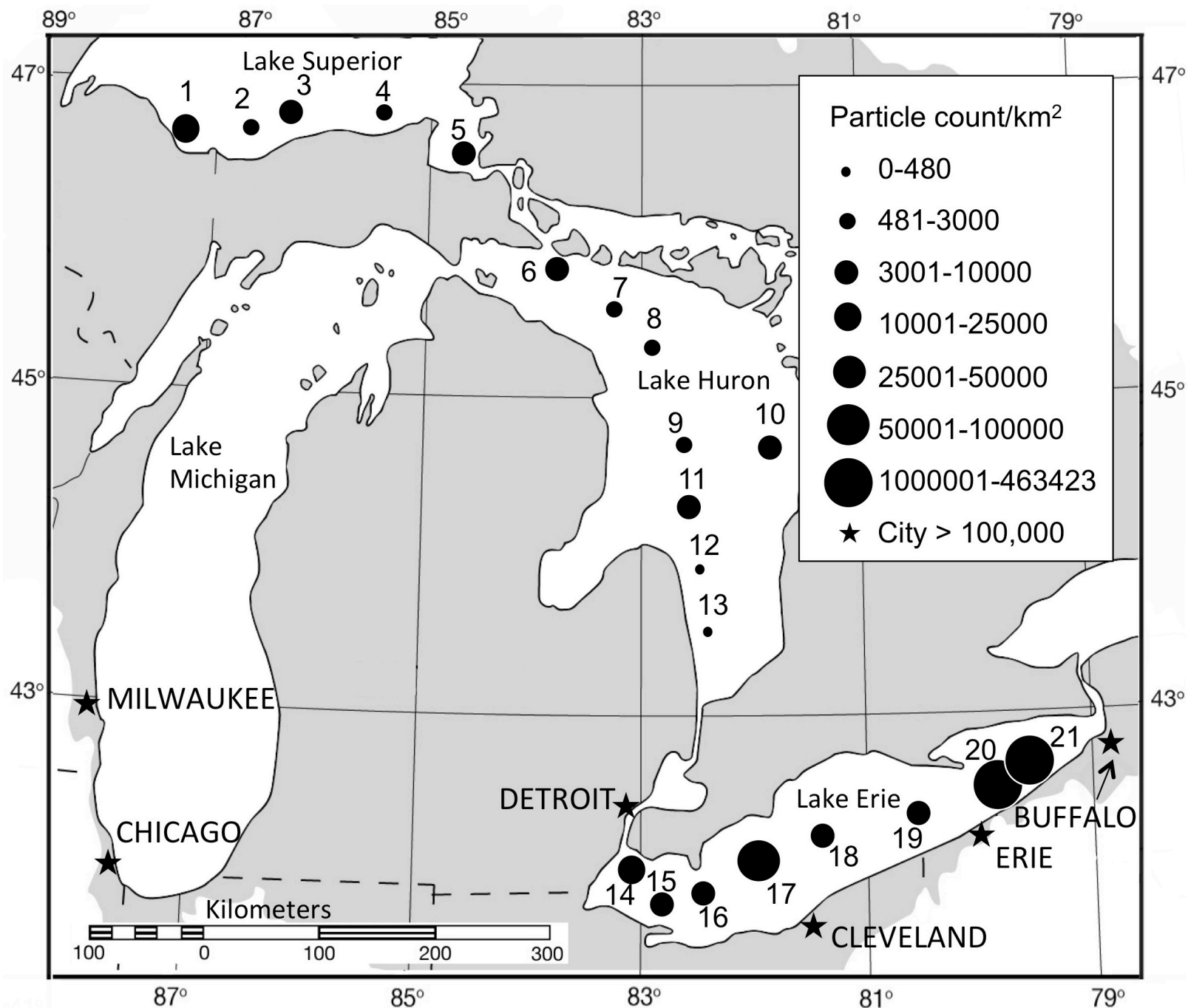




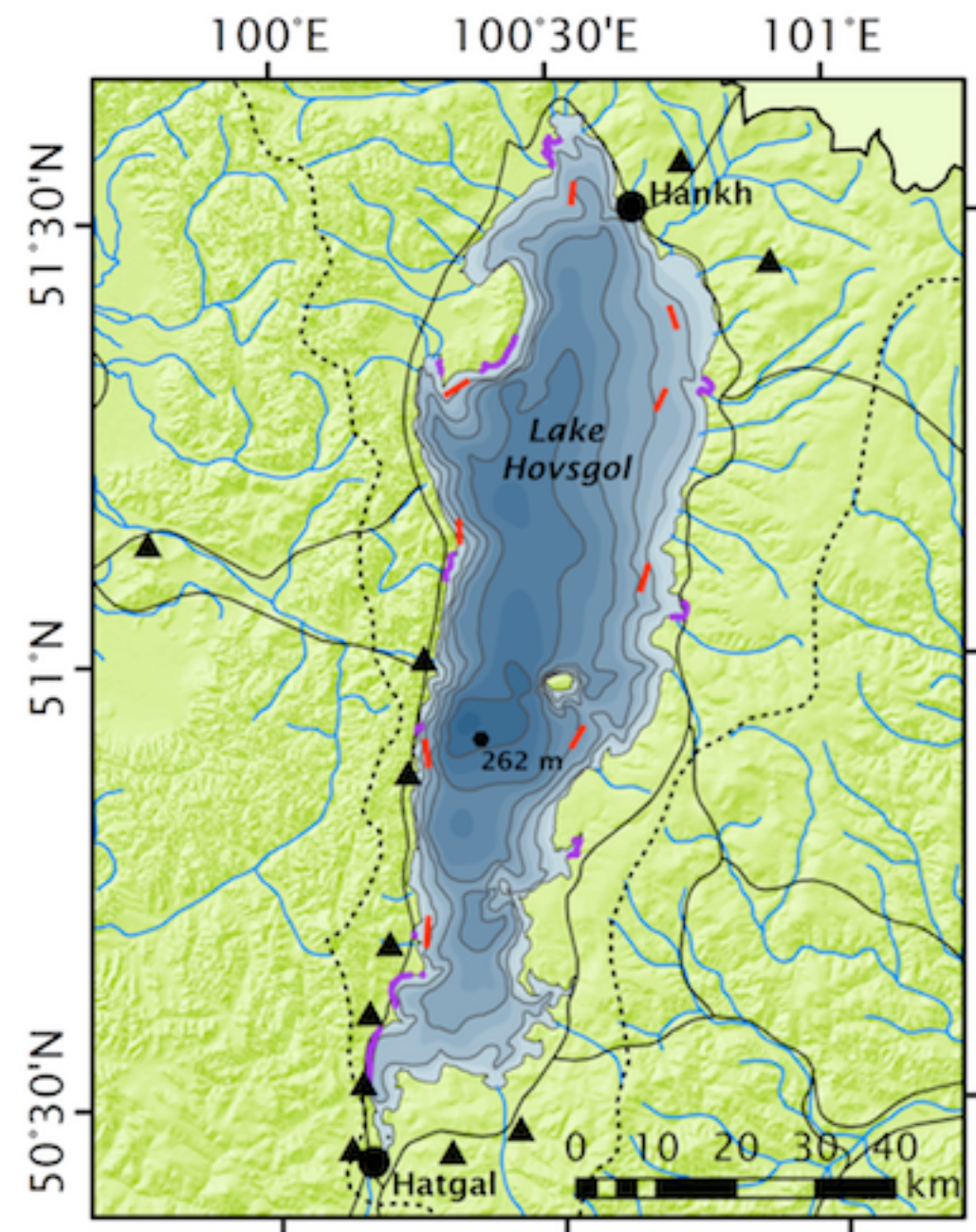
Photo: M. Eriksen













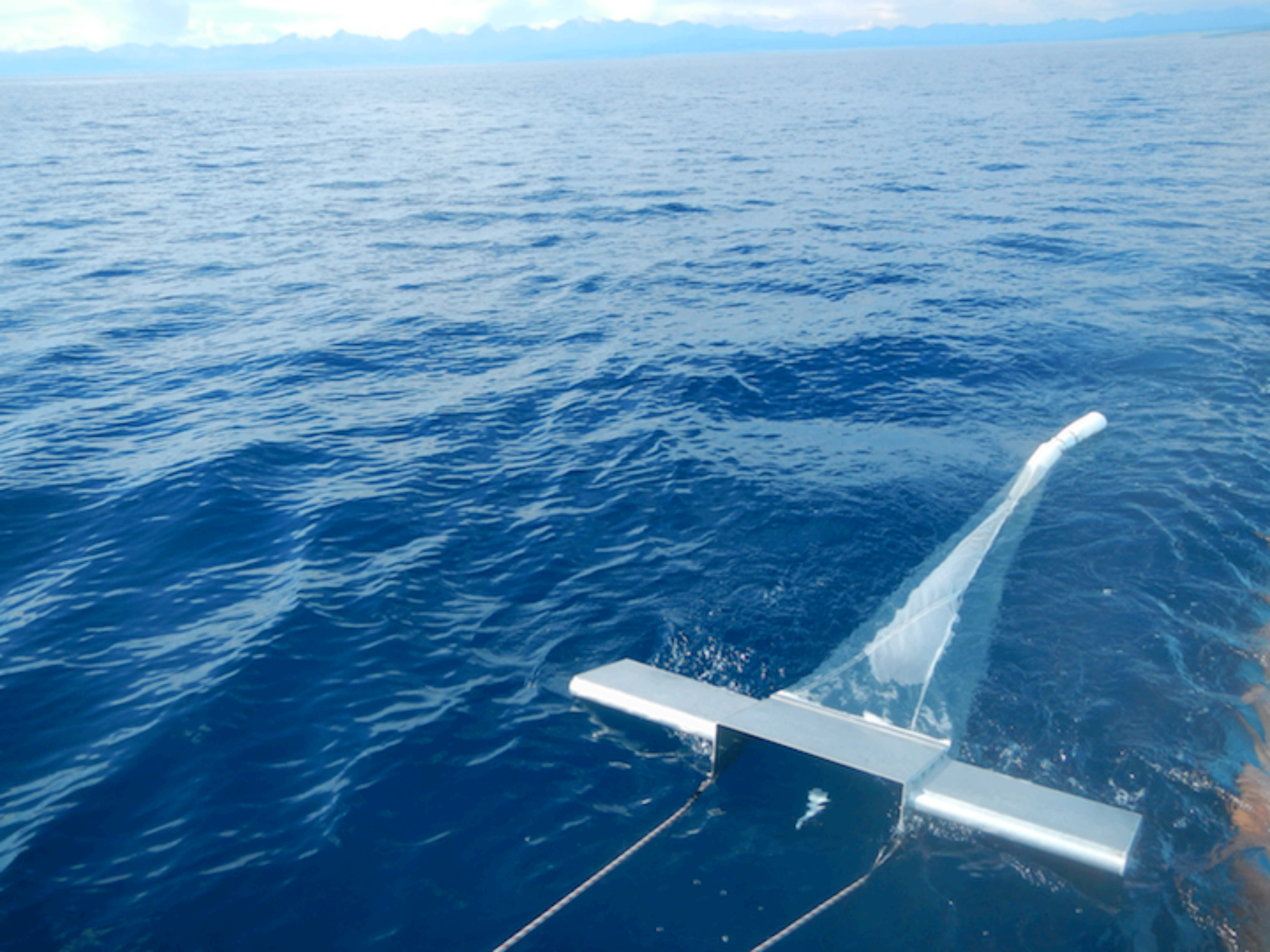


**Photo:** Mongol Ecology Cent

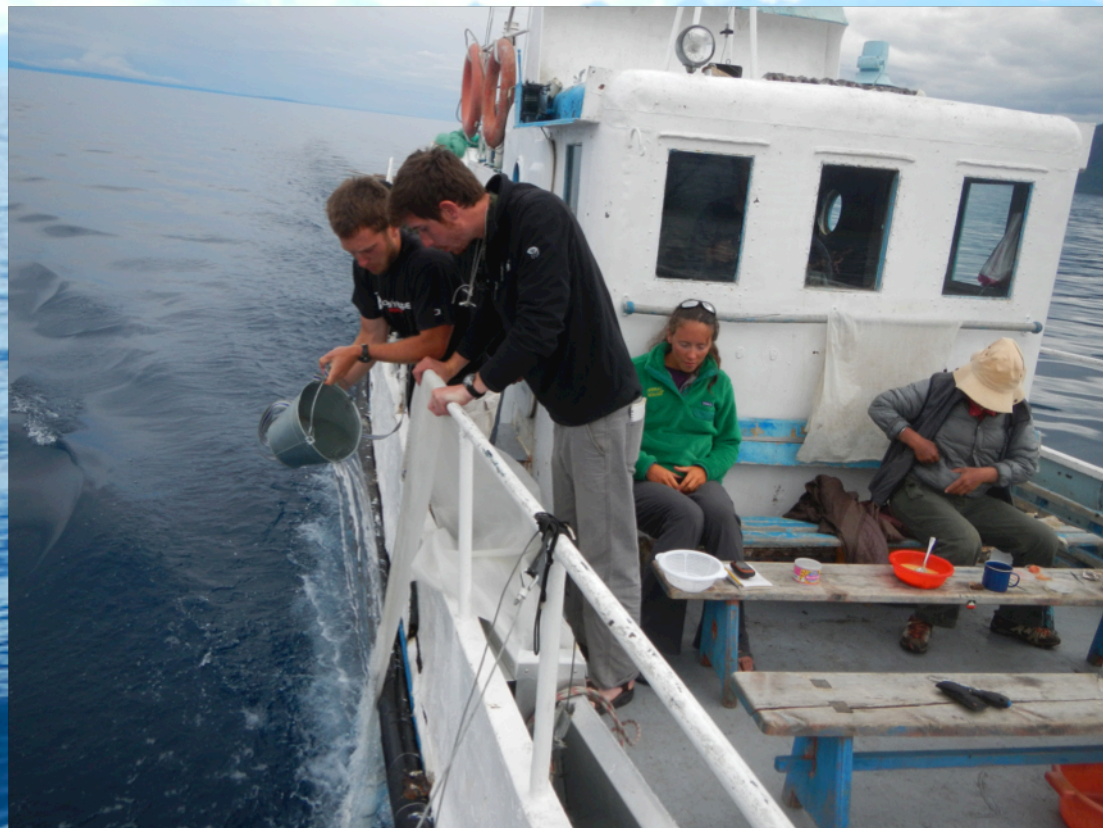








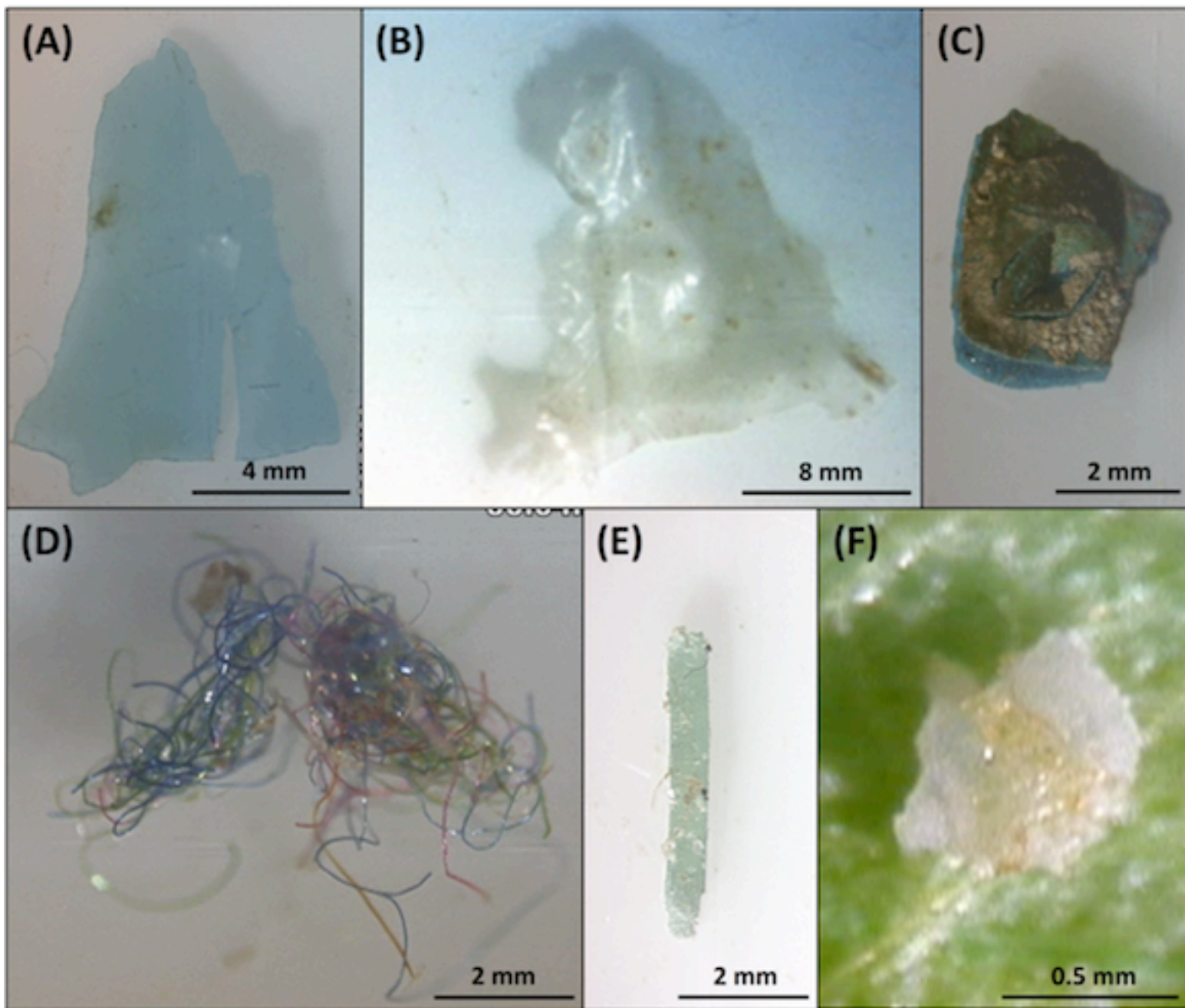








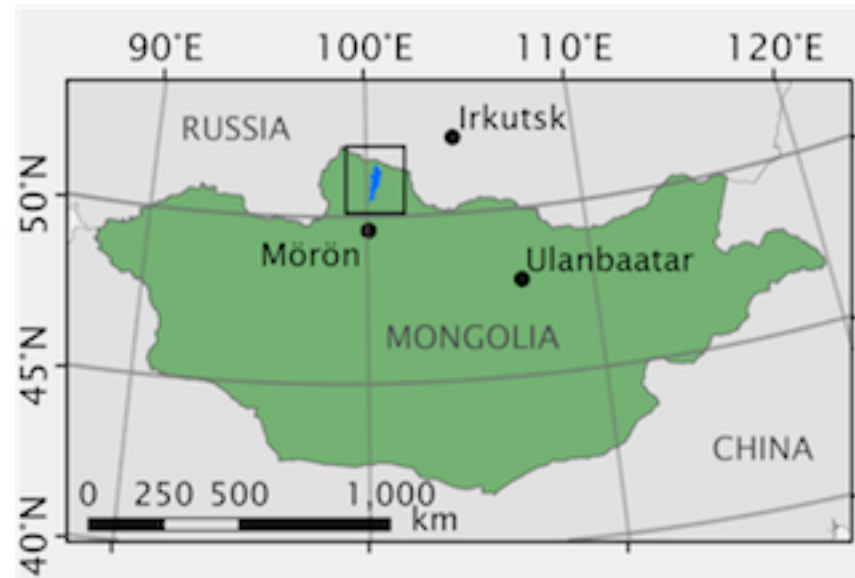
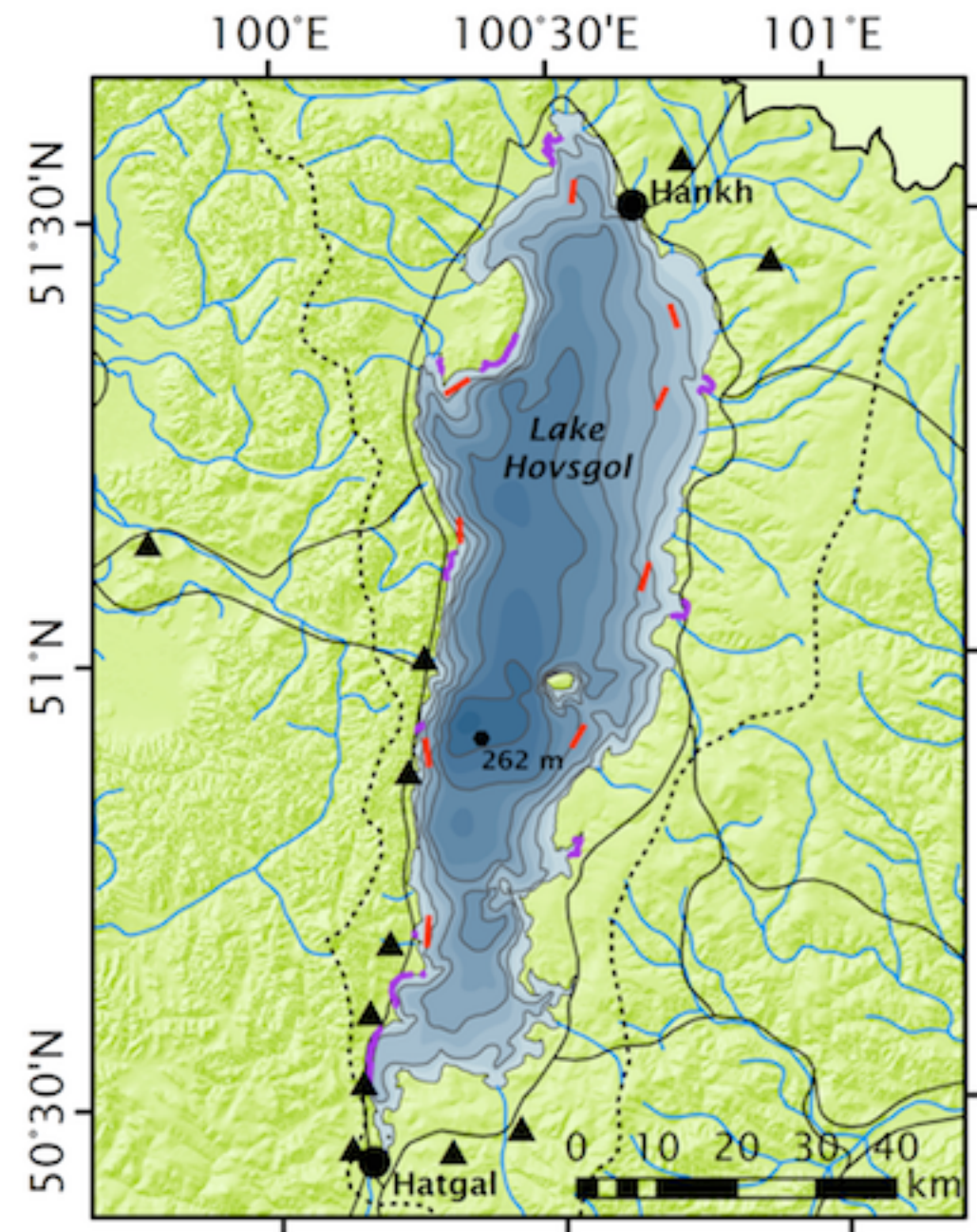




Construct an explanation that predicts the spatial distribution of macroplastic density in Lake Hovsgol.

*SEP 6: Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions* - The goal of science is to construct explanations for the causes of phenomena. Students are expected to construct their own explanations.

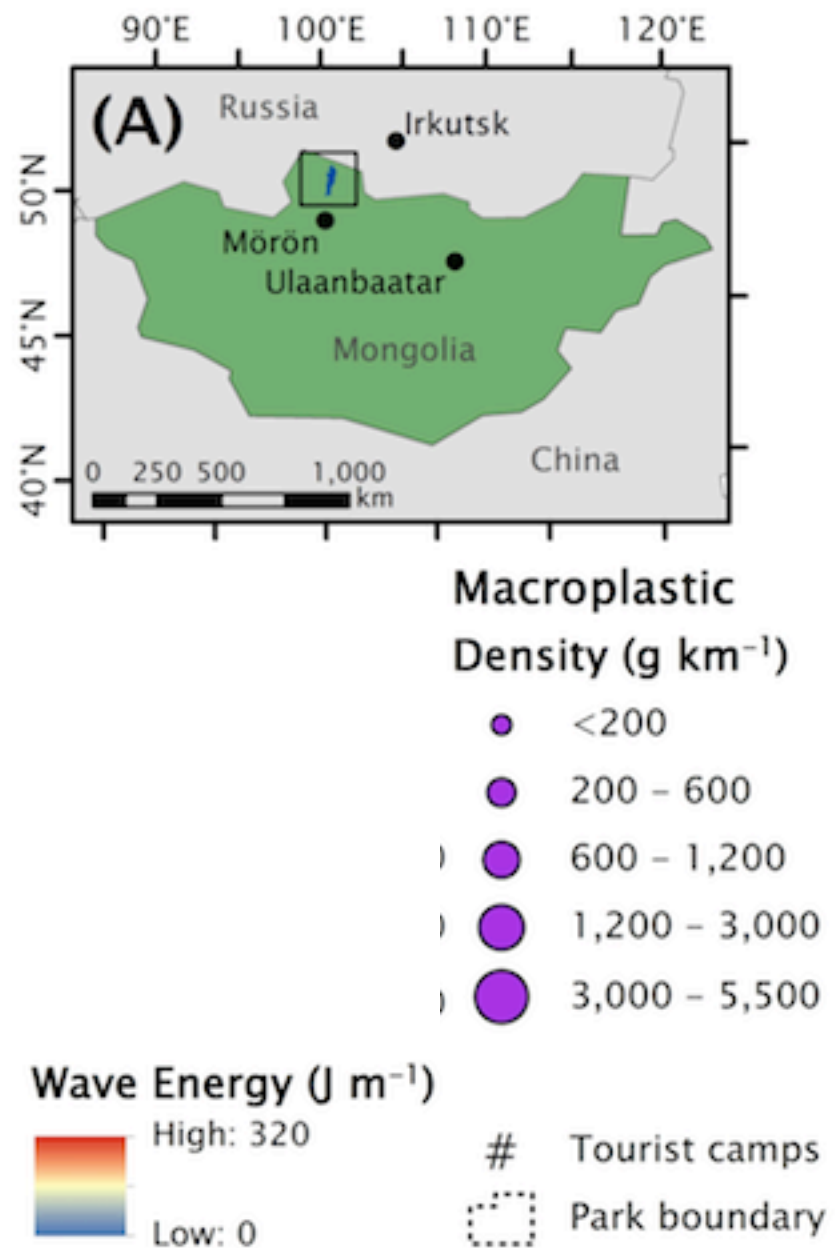
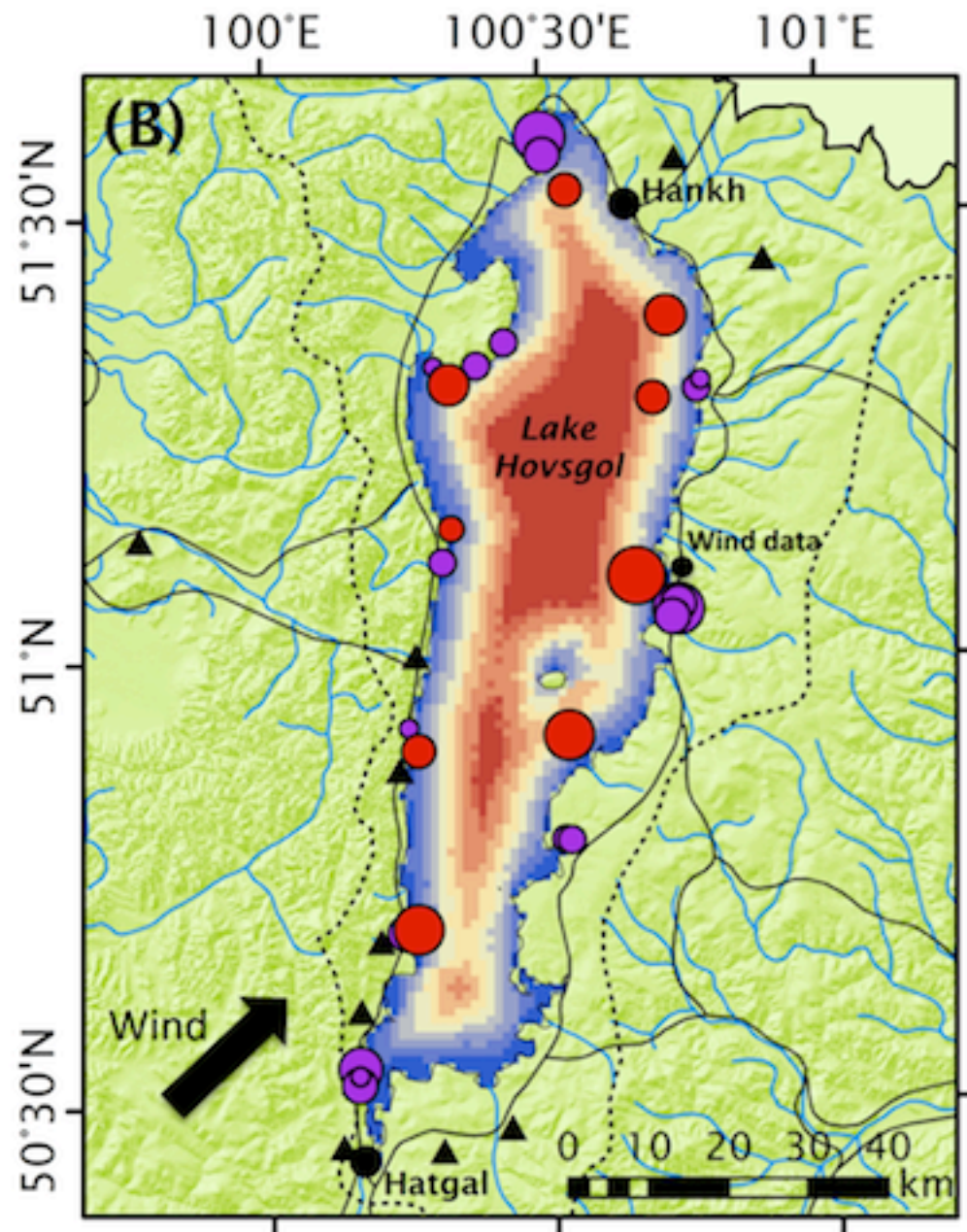




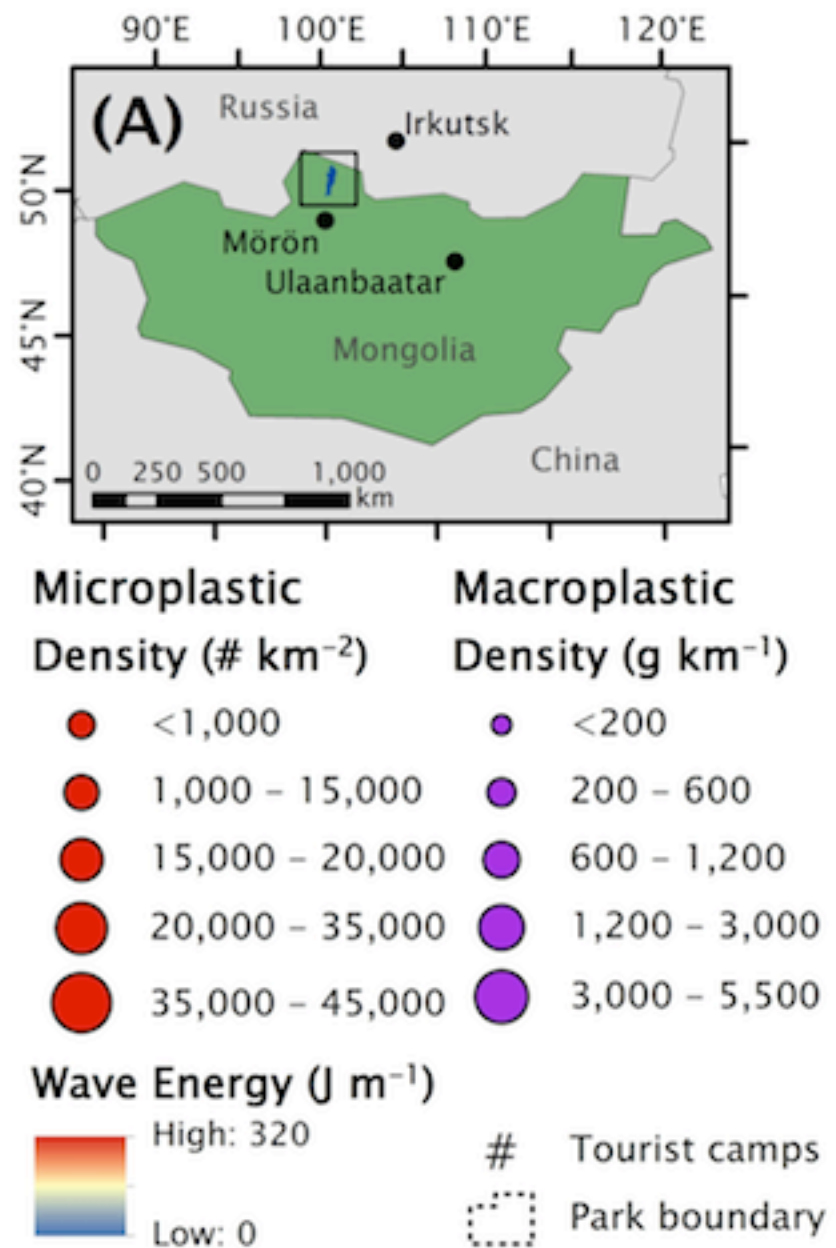
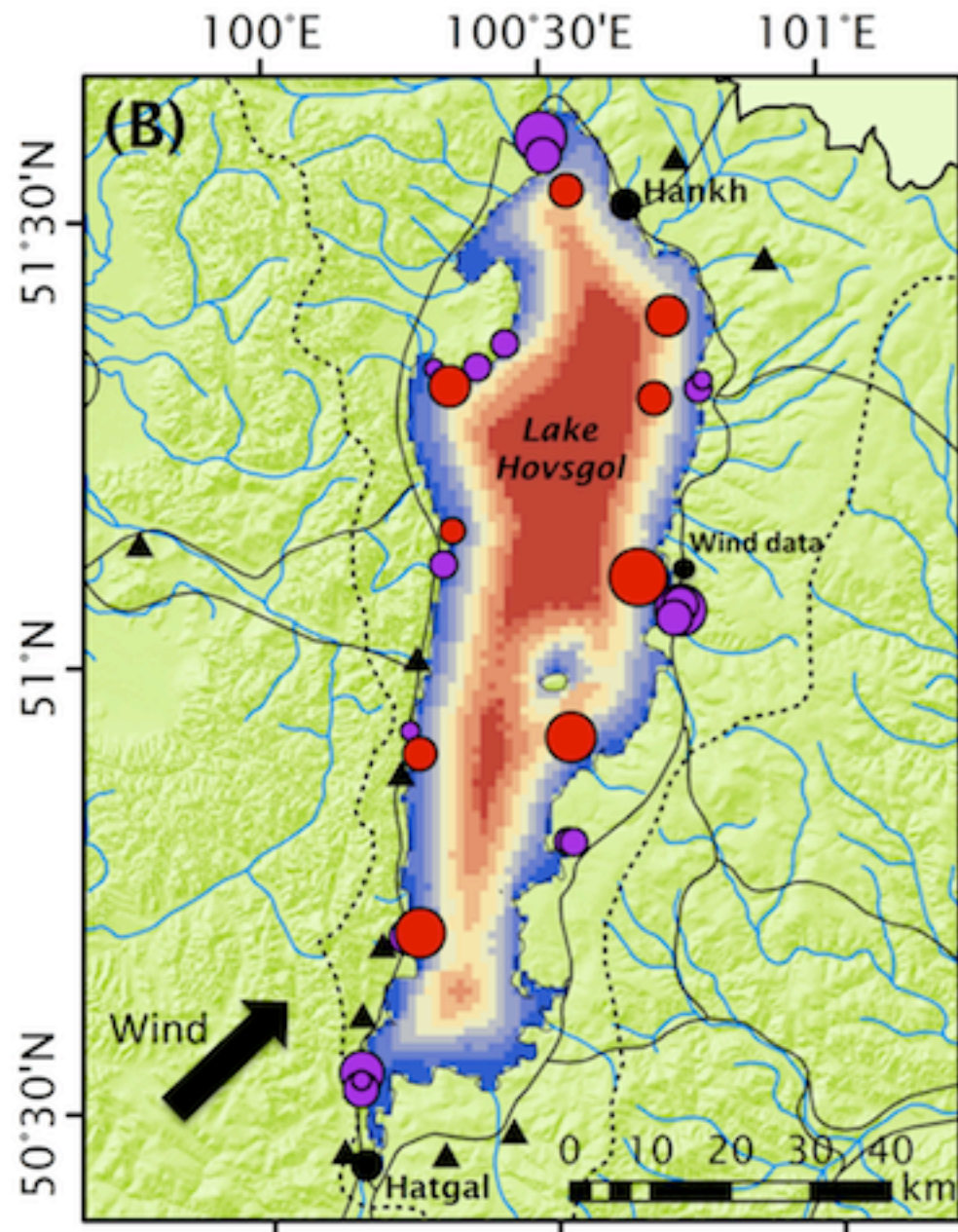
Construct an explanation that describes the relationship between macroplastic density and wave direction in Lake Hovsgol.

*SEP 6: Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions* - The goal of science is to construct explanations for the causes of phenomena. An explanation includes a claim that relates how a variable or variables relate to another variable or a set of variables. A claim is often made in response to a question and in the process of answering the question, scientists often design investigations to generate data.



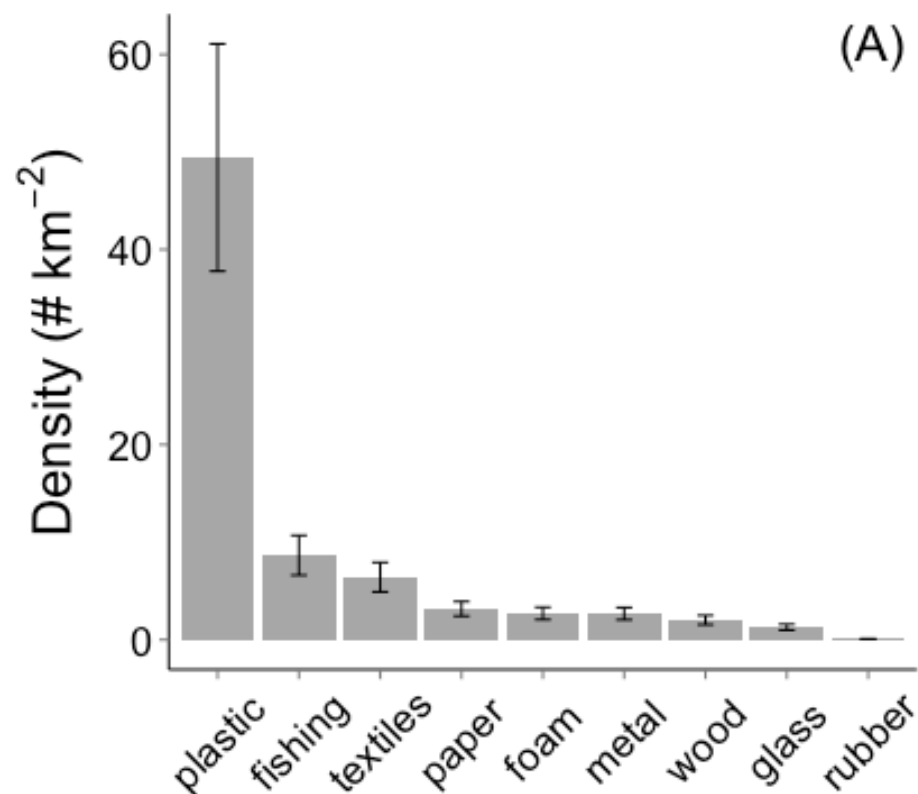


Free et al. 2014



Free et al. 2014





37%

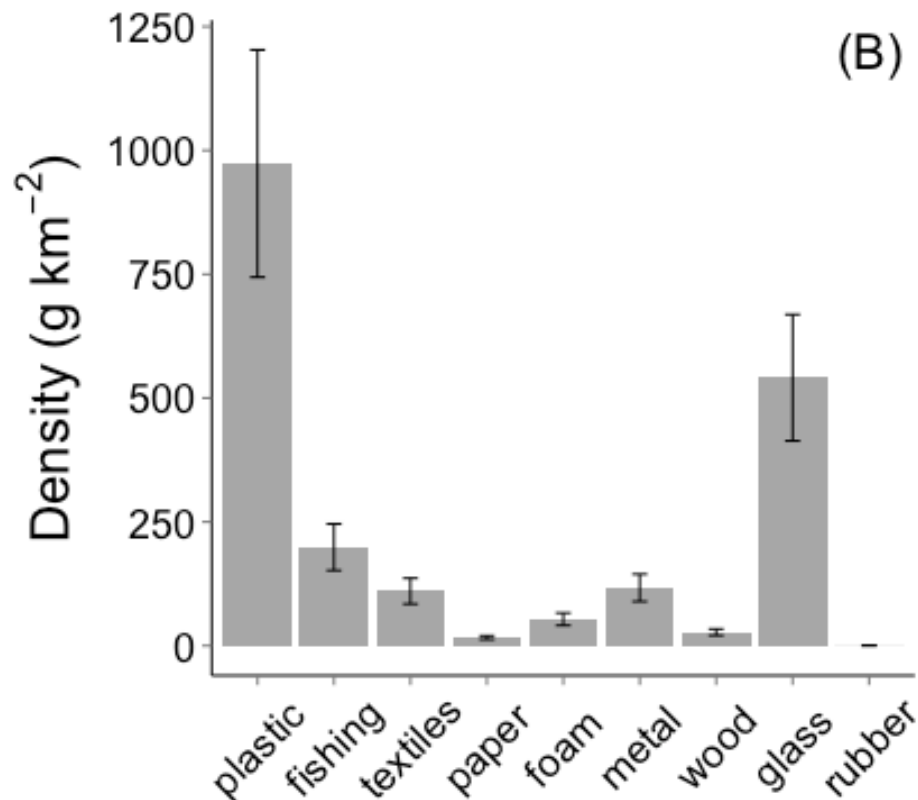


bottles

25%



fishing gear



16%



bags

22%



miscellaneous

**Average Microplastic Density (particles/km<sup>2</sup>)**

<b>Plastic Type</b>	<b>0.333-0.999 mm</b>	<b>1.000-4.749 mm</b>	<b>&gt;4.75 mm</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Fragment	5,950	1,876	335	8,160	40%
Film	881	4,164	2,740	7,786	38%
Line/fiber	1,237	2,044	702	3,984	20%
Foam	219	0	0	219	1%
Pellet	0	58	57	115	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,287</b>	<b>8,142</b>	<b>3,834</b>	<b>20,264</b>	
<b>Percent</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>19%</b>		



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## Potential sources of microplastics...



fragments



films



fibers



lines

Lake, Country <sup>1</sup>	Lake Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Watershed Population	Residence Time (yr)	# Tows	Plastic Density (particles/km <sup>2</sup> )		
					Average	Maximum	Dominant Type
Lake Geneva, Switzerland <sup>[41]</sup>	584	950,000	11.8	3	51,556	82,713	fragments/films
Lake Superior, USA <sup>[43]</sup>	82,097	673,000	173.0	5	5,391	12,645	pellets/fragments
Lake Huron, USA <sup>[43]</sup>	59,565	3,000,000	21.0	8	2,779	6,541	pellets/fragments
Lake Erie, USA <sup>[43]</sup>	25,655	12,400,000	2.7	8	105,503	466,305	pellets/fragments
Lake Hovsgol, Mongolia	2,760	6,000	300-600	9	20,264	44,435	fragments/films

<sup>1</sup> Lake characteristics for the US Great Lakes are from the NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory [96] and lake characteristics of Lakes Geneva and Hovsgol are from the ILEC World Lakes Database [97].







Scientist Resources ▾

Education Resources ▾

NOW Legacy ▾

Online Community ▾

NOW Research ▾

Contact Us

## K-12 Lesson Plans:

**Sea Level Trends** – This activity explores one facet of climate change — sea level change. Investigate and compare long-term changes in sea level from different coastal locations around the United States.

**Heat Capacity** – Students use ocean observing system data to investigate the concept of heat capacity and find out why water acts as a thermal buffer and the practical applications this has.

To see other Lesson Plans visit the [Lesson Plans & Activities page](#).



# http://coseenow.net/

# Teacher Appreciation Event

- Come share your thoughts, suggestions, and opinions!
- Tuesday October 28<sup>th</sup> 5-7pm
- Marine Science Building (71DudleyRd., New Brunswick, NJ)
- We will provide appetizers, capture your feedback, and give tours of the Rutgers Glider Lab
- [https://rutgers.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_4JASiwaDodvIcl](https://rutgers.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_4JASiwaDodvIcl)



Questions?

