## **Dynamics of Populations**

Outline of Lecture 3 A. Density **B.** Dispersion 1. Random 2. Uniform 3. Clumped, contagious, and aggregated C. Sampling effort to estimate population size D. Density, dispersion, and statistical precision \* Three principles used in sampling effort E. Demography A. Density: the number of individuals per unit area or volume; densities are determined using direct counts, quadrats, or indirect methods (e.g. mark-recapture) N = Number marked initially X total catch on second trapping Number recaptured in second trapping

B. Dispersion (degree of aggregation; spatial distribution, etc.): the pattern of spacing of individuals within the boundaries of a population (*see Fig. 53.4 on p. 1176, 8<sup>th</sup> Edit. or Fig. 52.3 on p. 1138, 7<sup>th</sup> Edit.*).





## **Dynamics of Populations**

- 1. **Random**: spacing varies in an unpredictable way; the distribution of one individual doesn't affect the distribution of others; absence of repulsion and attractions.
- 2. **Uniform**: spacing is even; antagonistic behavior
- 3. **Clumped, contagious, aggregated**: individuals are aggregated in patches; habitat heterogeneity

Which type occurs most often?

- C. Sampling effort (sample size requirements, number of required samples) needed to estimate population size is a function of the
  - (1) Size of density mean
  - (2) Dispersion pattern (spacing of individuals)
  - (3) Desired precision (allowable error)
- D. Density, dispersion, and statistical precision are related and can each be manipulated to solve for any of these population characteristics.

$$\mathbf{N} = \frac{\mathbf{s}^2 \mathbf{t}^2}{\mathbf{\bar{x}}^2 \mathbf{D}^2}$$

 $\overline{\mathbf{x}} = \text{mean}$  $\mathbf{s}^2 = \text{variance}$ 

- D = precision (expressed as a decimal)

t = constant

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1. As density increases, sampling effort decreases (assuming dispersion and precision are unchanged). *See formula above*.

- 2. As dispersion becomes more clumped (i.e. departs from random), the value of  $s^2/x^2$  in the above formula increases; assuming density and precision are unchanged, sampling effort increases as clumping increases. *See formula above*.
- 3. As the desired precision [say, expressed as a percentage (20% error) but used as a decimal (0.2)] increases (which would be a 20% allowable error compared to 40% error) sampling effort increases. *See formula above*.

Why is it important to understand sampling effort and statistics?



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- B. Demography
  - 1. Population size increases from reproduction and immigration, and decreases from death and emigration.
  - 2. Overlapping generations result when the average life span of an individual in a population is greater than the time it takes for that individual to mature and reproduce.
    - i. Co-existence of generations results in a specific age structure (e.g. Sweden, Mexico, and US differ in age structure; Japan's has changed over time).
    - ii. **Generation time**: average span between the birth of an individual and the birth of its offspring; shorter generation time, faster population growth because of compounding.
    - iii. Sex ratios
    - iv. Mortality and survivorship