

Optimal Size and Number of Propagules: Allowance for Discrete Stages and Effects of Maternal Size on Reproductive Output and Offspring Fitness

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ABSTRACT: Existing optimality models of propagule size and number are not appropriate for many organisms. First, existing models assume a monotonically increasing offspring fitness/propagule size relationship. However, offspring survival during certain stages may decrease with increasing propagule size, generating a peaked offspring fitness/propagule size function (e.g., egg size in oxygen-limited aquatic environments). Second, existing models typically do not consider maternal effects on total reproductive output and the expression of offspring survival/propagule size relationships. However, larger females often have greater total egg production and may provide better habitats for their offspring. We develop a specific optimality model that incorporates these effects and test its predictions using data from salmonid fishes. We then outline a general model without assuming specific functional forms and test its predictions using data from freshwater fishes. Our theoretical and empirical results illustrate that, when offspring survival is negatively correlated with propagule size, optimal propagule size is larger in better habitats. When larger females provide better habitats, their optimal propagule size is larger. Nevertheless, propagule number should increase more rapidly than propagule size for a given increase in maternal size. In the absence of density dependence, females with greater relative reproductive output (i.e., for a given body size) should produce more but not larger propagules.

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Optimality models of propagule size and number have a long tradition in evolutionary biology (e.g., Lack 1947; Smith and Fretwell 1974; Parker and Begon 1986; Lloyd 1987; McGinley et al. 1987; reviewed by Clutton-Brock 1991), and these models are an important foundation of life-history theory (Roff 1992; Stearns 1992). Common elements of propagule size/number optimality models are a trade-off between propagule size and number for a given level of overall investment, a monotonically increasing relationship between survival (fitness) and propagule size, and maternal fitness as the product of average offspring fitness and propagule number. Optimal propagule size and number are found by maximizing maternal fitness.

Certain aspects of existing propagule size/number models are not appropriate for many natural systems. First, the sign of the first derivative (positive or negative) of the relationship between offspring survival and propagule size may vary between different stages of development. As a particularly clear example, survival in oxygen-limited aquatic environments is expected to decrease with increasing egg size before hatching (Krogh 1959) but to increase with increasing egg size after hatching (Heath and Blouw 1998). Other natural systems where large propagules would be at a disadvantage during certain stages include animals with limited pelvic canal sizes and plants in environments where seed predators are size selective. The result of opposing offspring survival/propagule size relationships during two discrete stages will be a peaked offspring fitness/propagule size function. To our knowledge, no optimality model has considered this possibility. Second, attributes or behavioral choices of the parent may influence optimal propagule size and number (Parker and Begon 1986; Bernardo 1996; Kaplan 1998; Morris 1998). These influences may be manifested as positive correlations between female size and total reproductive output and between female size and the quality of the incubation

or juvenile habitat. In fish, for example, larger females typically have greater total egg production and, in some species, may obtain (or prepare) better incubation environments for their eggs (i.e., more oxygen).

We develop optimality models that incorporate two discrete stages of development (allowing for differences in the shape of offspring survival/propagule size relationships) and effects of maternal phenotype on total reproductive output and the expression of offspring survival/propagule size relationships (e.g., through effects on habitat quality). Our first model assumes specific functional forms for relationships between egg size and fitness components, based on sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) as a model system ("Specific Model"). We provide an empirical test of this model's predictions using data from 84 discrete sockeye salmon populations and from four other salmonid species (56 additional populations). Our second model uses a general formulation that does not assume specific functional forms ("General Model"). This model is used to consider how optimal propagule size and number are influenced by maternal phenotype (size). These influences take the form of effects of female size on total reproductive output, which can lead to negative density dependence (as egg number increases, average offspring survival decreases), and on habitat quality. We apply this general model to the consideration of relationships between maternal size and egg size and between maternal size and egg number, in Canadian freshwater fishes and their congeners. Strong empirical support for both models suggests that our approach provides a useful modification to previous formulations.

Specific Model

A Model Organism

We develop our specific optimality model in the context of salmonid fishes, particularly sockeye salmon, because doing so provides clear justifications for our assumptions and because exemplary data are available for empirical tests. During breeding in the fall, females prepare a nest in the gravel, deposit their eggs in the nest, cover the eggs with gravel, and then defend the nest against encroachment by other females (Foote 1990). The intensity of competition for nest sites can be very high within populations, with up to 0.74 females m^{-2} (Hendry et al. 1995). Competitive ability in breeding females is determined by their body size and prior residence (Foote 1990; Fleming and Gross 1994). Males compete for access to breeding females but do not provide parental care (Foote 1990; Quinn et al. 1996). All adults die days to weeks after they start breeding (Hendry et al. 1999), which negates investment in future reproduction and exerts intense selection to maximize reproductive success during

a single breeding season (Fleming and Gross 1994; Quinn and Foote 1994).

The eggs of sockeye salmon typically incubate in the gravel for 2–4 mo before hatching and then remain in the gravel for another 1–2 mo before emerging (Hendry et al. 1998). Oxygen levels can be quite low within the gravel, and many eggs die of suffocation (reviewed by Chapman 1988). After hatching but before emerging, salmonid embryos can respire through their gills and skin (Rombough and Moroz 1990) and can move through the gravel (Dill and Northcote 1970) to seek areas of higher oxygen content (Fast 1987). After emerging in the spring, larvae move immediately to adjacent lakes (where they grow for 1 or 2 yr) and then to the ocean (where they spend another 2 or 3 yr), before finally returning to their natal breeding sites as mature adults (Burgner 1991).

Salmonids have large egg sizes relative to most other teleost fishes, particularly those breeding in freshwater (Elgar 1990; Winemiller and Rose 1992), and sockeye salmon have intermediate egg sizes relative to other salmonids (Scott and Crossman 1973; Beacham and Murray 1993). Egg size and number vary considerably within salmonid populations, owing primarily to female size (larger females have larger eggs and more of them) but also to a constraint imposed by the trade-off between egg size and number for a given body size (Quinn et al. 1995; Heath et al. 1999; Jonsson and Jonsson 1999; McGurk 2000). Variation in egg number among populations is typically related to average female size and migration distance (long migration = fewer eggs; Beacham and Murray 1993). Variation in egg size among populations is not correlated with female size (Quinn et al. 1995) but is correlated with adult migration distance (long migration = small eggs; Beacham and Murray 1993), latitude (higher latitude = larger eggs; Fleming and Gross 1990), and the size of the gravel in which eggs incubate (Quinn et al. 1995). In general, populations that spawn in sites with large gravel sizes have large eggs, presumably because oxygen is more available and eggs are less limited by surface-to-volume ratio constraints (Quinn et al. 1995).

Model Development

We assumed that each female has a single optimum egg size, as opposed to an optimal range of egg sizes (see discussion in McGinley et al. 1987); that egg size does not influence hatching or emergence times within populations (contrary to Shine 1978; Sargent et al. 1987); that individual offspring do not act cooperatively so as to maximize their inclusive fitness; that egg survival is density independent (this assumption is relaxed in our general model); and that maternal fitness is frequency independent. The biology of salmon indicates that the first three assumptions are valid

(e.g., Burgner 1991; Hutchings 1991; Quinn et al. 1995; Hendry et al. 1998) but that the last two may sometimes be violated (Holtby and Healey 1986; Chapman 1988).

The first step was to define the relationship between egg size and offspring fitness. Salmon, and many other organisms, have at least two discrete stages during which egg size can influence offspring fitness: before hatching (pre-hatching) and after hatching (posthatching). For salmon, the effects of egg size during these two stages oppose each other, requiring different offspring survival/egg size functions. For the posthatching period, we assumed larger eggs have higher survival (along with other positive contributions to fitness), as is typical for most organisms (Roff 1992, pp. 348–352), including salmonids (Bagenal 1969; Hutchings 1991; Einum and Fleming 1999, 2000a, 2000b; Heath et al. 1999; reviewed by Heath and Blouw 1998). We therefore modeled the posthatching survival/egg size function ($F_{\text{post}}(s)$) in the standard manner (after McGinley et al. 1987; fig. 1A), where

$$F_{\text{post}}(s) = 1 - (s_{\text{min}}/s)^a, \quad (1)$$

provided that $s > s_{\text{min}}$; otherwise,

$$F_{\text{post}}(s) = 0, \quad (2)$$

where s is egg size, s_{min} is minimum viable egg size, and a is a constant determining the rate at which the function approaches the asymptote. For our baseline scenario, $s_{\text{min}} = 0.070$ g (wet mass of a fresh unfertilized egg) because this was near the minimum egg size observed in sockeye salmon.

For the prehatching period, we assumed larger eggs have lower survival. This relationship arises because, as the size of aquatic eggs increases, oxygen acquisition cannot keep pace with oxygen demand (oxygen uptake is proportional to egg surface area whereas oxygen demand is proportional to egg volume; Krogh 1959). Oxygen-limited environments are common at salmon incubation sites (reviewed by Chapman 1988), and large eggs appear to be at a disadvantage in lower-quality sites (van den Berghe and Gross 1989). To represent this effect, we modeled the prehatching survival/egg size function ($F_{\text{pre}}(s)$; fig. 1A) as

$$F_{\text{pre}}(s) = k[1 - (s/ks_{\text{max}})^b], \quad (3)$$

provided that $s < ks_{\text{max}}$; otherwise,

$$F_{\text{pre}}(s) = 0, \quad (4)$$

where s is egg size, s_{max} is maximum viable egg size, b is a constant determining the rate at which the function approaches the asymptote (when $b > 1$), and k is a constant

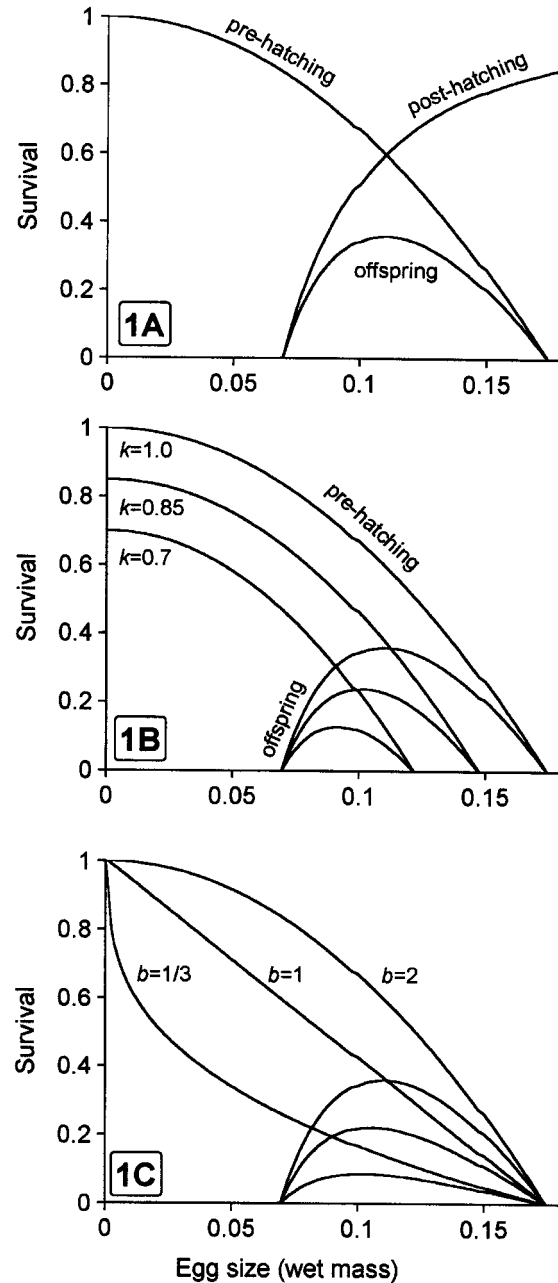


Figure 1: Properties of the specific optimality model. Posthatching survival functions intersect the X-axis at the minimum viable egg size (s_{min}), prehatching survival functions intersect the X-axis at the maximum viable egg size (s_{max}), and offspring fitness functions are bounded by s_{min} and s_{max} . A, Prehatching and posthatching survival functions and the corresponding offspring fitness function. B, Prehatching survival functions in habitats of three different qualities (large k = high quality) and the corresponding offspring fitness functions. C, Prehatching survival functions of different shapes and the corresponding offspring fitness functions. Optimal egg size occurs where offspring fitness peaks.

related to the quality of the incubation habitat. Note that k influences both maximum viable egg size (k inside the brackets affects the X -axis intercept) and maximum survival (k outside the brackets affects the Y -axis intercept). For our baseline scenario, we assumed incubation habitats of three different qualities (good, $k = 1$; intermediate, $k = 0.85$; poor, $k = 0.70$; fig. 1B) and $s_{\max} = 0.175$ g, which is slightly larger than the maximum observed in sockeye salmon. The actual shape of the prehatching survival/egg size function is not known because a definitive experiment has yet to be performed. We therefore considered several different shapes (convex: $b > 1$; linear: $b = 1$; concave: $b < 1$; fig. 1C).

For offspring fitness, we assumed posthatching habitat quality was independent of prehatching habitat quality. This assumption is tenable because salmonid embryos move extensively in the gravel after hatching (Dill and Northcote 1970; Fast 1987) and because juvenile sockeye salmon typically move to lakes immediately after they emerge (Burgner 1991). Offspring fitness ($F(s)$) thus becomes the product of prehatching and posthatching survival:

$$F(s) = F_{\text{pre}}(s)F_{\text{post}}(s). \quad (5)$$

If $a = b$, optimal egg size with respect to offspring fitness (s_o) can be determined analytically by setting $dF(s)/ds = 0$, yielding

$$s_o = \sqrt{k} \sqrt{s_{\min}} \sqrt{s_{\max}}. \quad (6)$$

If $a \neq b$, a closed-form solution could not be found, and s_o was determined numerically.

Maternal fitness is the product of offspring fitness and egg number (Smith and Fretwell 1974; McGinley et al. 1987; Einum and Fleming 2000a), and egg number is the total mass of egg produced (E) divided by the average mass of individual eggs (s). Thus, maternal fitness ($W(s)$) is

$$W(s) = F(s)(E/s). \quad (7)$$

It is important to recognize that our specific model assumes offspring fitness is not influenced by egg number (i.e., density dependence is ignored). As a result, the contribution of egg number to maternal fitness is a linear function (a female with 20 offspring of a given size will have twice the fitness of a female with 10 offspring of that size). We relax this assumption in our general model (see below). If $a = b = 2$ (baseline scenario), optimal egg size with respect to maternal fitness (s_w) can be determined analytically by setting $dW(s)/ds = 0$, yielding

$$s_w = \frac{\sqrt{-k^2 s_{\max}^2 - s_{\min}^2 + \sqrt{k^4 s_{\max}^4 + 14k^2 s_{\max}^2 s_{\min}^2 + s_{\min}^4}}}{\sqrt{2}}. \quad (8)$$

Other closed-form solutions can be found for $a = b \neq 2$ but, if $a \neq b$, s_w was determined numerically. Optimal egg number (n_w) is total egg production divided by optimal egg size (i.e., E/s_w).

We explored the effect of maternal phenotype (body size) on optimal egg size and number by considering females of three different sizes, approximating the range commonly observed in sockeye salmon populations (large = 525 mm, medium = 475 mm, small = 425 mm; middle of eye to end of hypural plate [MEH]). Female size could influence two parameters in the model: total egg production (E) and incubation habitat quality (k). Total egg production for females of each size was estimated empirically using the relationship for female sockeye salmon in the Cedar River, Washington: $E = l^{2.914} 10^{-5.2}$, where l is female MEH length (see Hendry 1998, p. 69, for details). Large, medium, and small females were thus estimated to have an average total egg production of 533, 398, and 288 g, respectively. If the body length/egg production relationship for some other population or species was used, none of our important conclusions changed (only total egg number and absolute maternal fitness varied).

Female size could also influence incubation habitat quality. Large female salmon are better competitors (Fleming and Gross 1994) and typically obtain preferred nesting sites (Foote 1990), which are of higher quality (van den Berghe and Gross 1989). We refer to this situation as “phenotype/habitat matching” or “habitat matching.” For our baseline scenario, we assumed that 525-mm females would occupy habitats of quality $k = 1.0$, 475-mm females in habitats of quality $k = 0.85$, and 425-mm females in habitats of quality $k = 0.70$. The effects of phenotype/habitat matching on optimal egg size and number were evaluated by calculating the proportional difference in s_w and n_w between a 425-mm female and a 525-mm female (i.e., \log_e of optimal egg size or number for a 525-mm female minus \log_e of optimal egg size or number for a 425-mm female). The greater the proportional difference in egg size or number, the greater the change in that trait per unit of fish length. Proportional differences were useful because the sum of the proportional difference in egg size and the proportional difference in egg number equals the proportional difference in total egg production, $\log_e 533 - \log_e 288 = 0.616$.

Finally, we considered the effect that variation in relative egg production (i.e., for a given body size) has on optimal egg size and number (also for a given body size). We did so by considering three females that had total egg productions of 533, 398, and 288 g but that did not vary in length. As a result, females with these levels of egg pro-

duction would occupy similar average habitats (because habitat quality is related to female size, not relative egg production). This range in egg production is more than would typically be observed for females of a common size but was chosen to allow direct comparison to the habitat matching situation.

Predictions and Empirical Tests

Our specific model generated several predictions. First, when incubation habitat varies, optimal egg size is larger in better habitats (fig. 2A–2B). This was because we considered a stage where large eggs had lower survival than small eggs. Second, when larger females obtain (or provide) better incubation habitats, their optimal egg size is larger (fig. 2C). Third, optimal egg number increases more rapidly than optimal egg size for a given increase in female size (fig. 3). This was because maternal fitness gains associated with increasing egg number are stronger than those associated with increasing egg size. Fourth, optimal egg number but not optimal egg size increases with increasing relative egg production (fig. 4). This was because females with greater egg production for their body size are not expected to obtain (or to prepare) better incubation habitats. These predictions were robust to realistic ranges of parameter values. (We tested $a = 0.3$ – 3.5 ; $b = 0.3$ – 3.5 ; $s_{\min} = 0.060$ – 0.080 ; $s_{\max} = 0.165$ – 0.185 ; and $k = 1.0, 0.95, 0.90$ – $1.0, 0.70, 0.40$.)

Empirical support for the first prediction is implied by van den Berghe and Gross (1989), wherein the survival of small eggs was greater than that of large eggs in a given incubation site. A direct test of this prediction, however, has yet to be attempted. Empirical support for the second and third predictions was obtained using published and unpublished data for variation in egg size (mass) and body length for sockeye salmon (32 populations, 2,543 fish), coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*: 22 populations, 495 fish), and masu salmon (*Oncorhynchus masou*: 7 populations, 153 fish) and variation in egg number and body length for sockeye salmon (74 populations, 9,335 fish), coho salmon (17 populations, 330 fish), masu salmon (7 populations, 149 fish), chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*: 18 populations, 1,902 fish), and brown trout (*Salmo trutta*: 9 populations, 135 fish). For each population, we determined slopes for log-log relationships (base e or base 10) between egg mass and female length and between egg number and female length, by reference to published slope coefficients or by calculation from original raw data. This analysis revealed that egg number and egg size almost universally increase with body length and that the egg number/body length slopes are almost always steeper than the egg size/body length slopes (table 1). Paired t -tests, comparing the two types of slopes for pop-

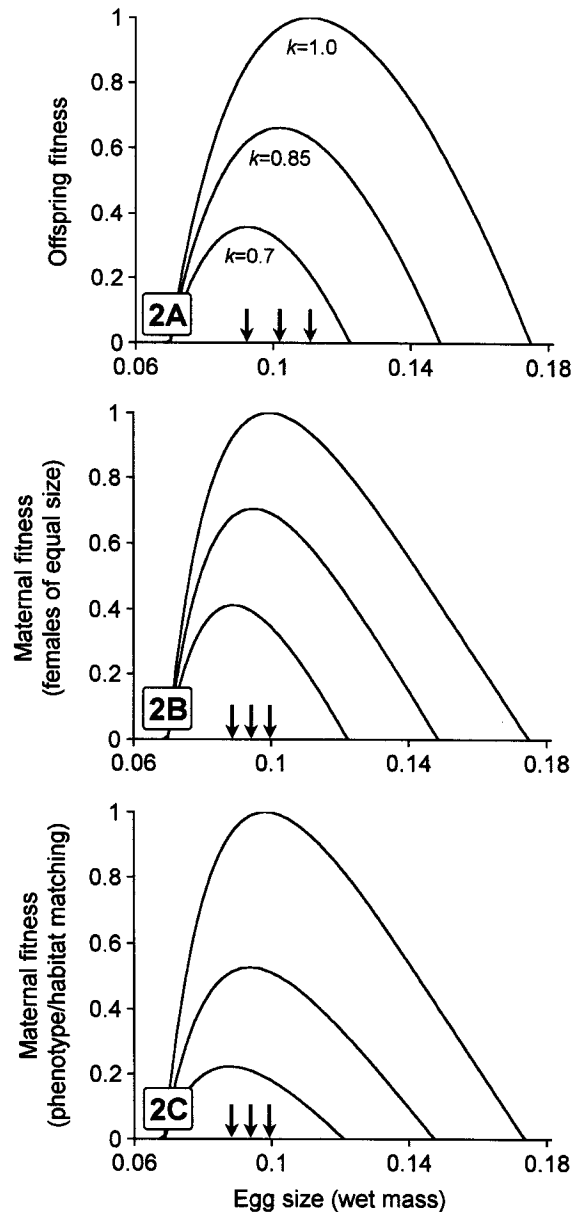


Figure 2: Optimal egg sizes with respect to prehatching habitat quality. A, Offspring fitness (rescaled to max = 1) in three different quality habitats. Arrows indicate the optima in each habitat. B, Maternal fitness (rescaled to max = 1) for a 525-mm female in these three habitats. C, Maternal fitness (rescaled to max = 1) for females of three different sizes under phenotype/habitat matching (larger females provide better prehatching habitats). Top line, 525-mm females, $k = 1$; middle line, 475-mm females, $k = 0.85$; bottom line, 425-mm females, $k = 0.70$.

ulations with both types of data, confirmed that, for an increase in body length, the proportional increase in egg number is greater than the proportional increase in egg size (table 1).

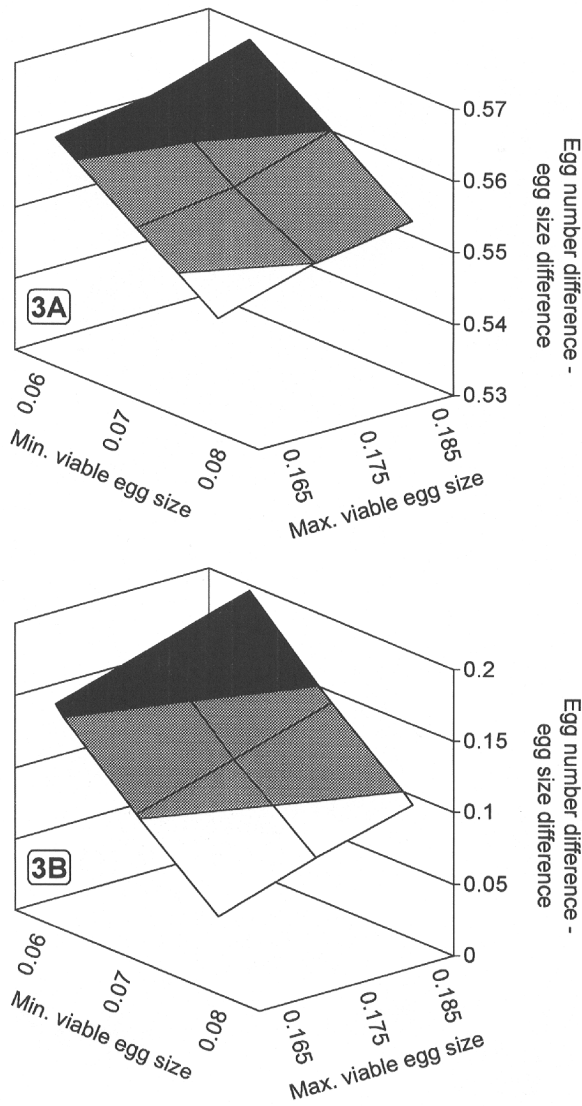


Figure 3: Demonstration that optimal egg number increases more rapidly than optimal egg size for a given increase in female size. Surfaces show the proportional difference in egg number minus the proportional difference in egg size between 525-mm and 425-mm females under phenotype/habitat matching. *A*, Weak habitat matching (525-mm females, $k = 1.0$; 425-mm females, $k = 0.90$). *B*, Very strong habitat matching (525-mm females, $k = 1.0$; 425-mm females, $k = 0.50$). Note that, when habitat matching is stronger, the difference between egg number and egg size slopes decreases.

Empirical results appropriate for testing the fourth prediction were available only from our own unpublished data. Briefly, we measured egg size (fresh wet mass of unfertilized eggs), egg number, and total egg production (total mass of all eggs produced) in two populations of sockeye salmon: Cedar River, Washington (81 females in

1994), and Pick Creek, Alaska (24 females in 1995, 105 females in 1996). The Cedar River population is described in detail in Hendry and Quinn (1997) and Hendry et al. (1998), and the Pick Creek population is described in detail in Hendry et al. (1999) and Hendry and Berg (1999). Detailed methods for measuring egg size, egg number, and total egg production appear in Hendry (1998, pp. 67–70). Residuals from the relationships between each trait and body size (\log_{10} transformed) were calculated for each fish

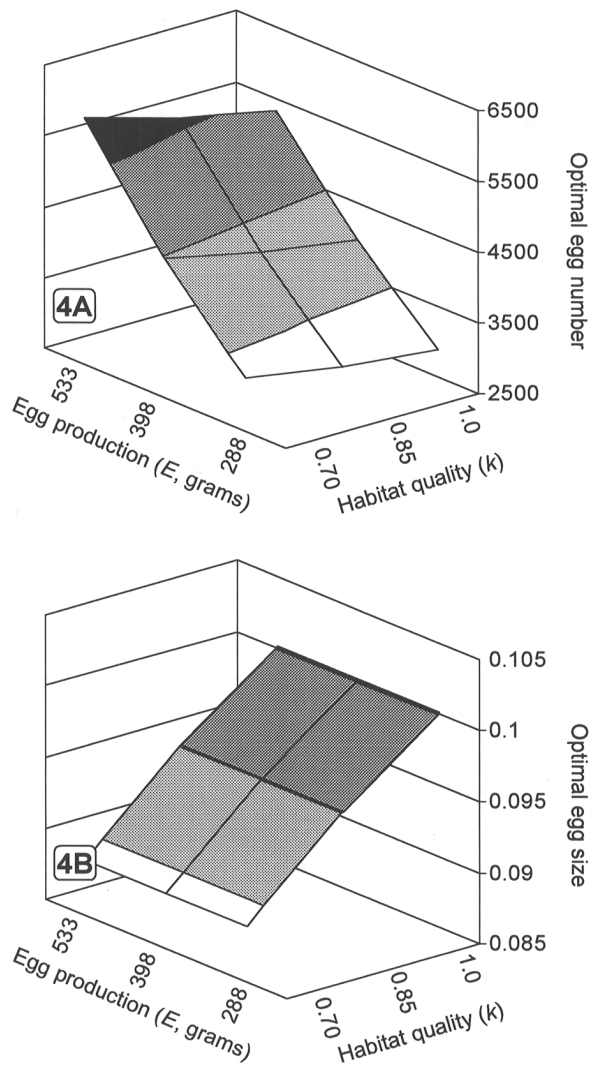


Figure 4: Effects of habitat quality and relative egg production (i.e., for a given body size) on optimal egg size and number. *A*, As the quality of the incubation environment increases, optimal egg number decreases, and as relative egg production increases, optimal egg number increases. *B*, As the quality of the incubation environment increases, optimal egg size increases, but as relative egg production increases, optimal egg size remains constant.

Table 1: Relationships between egg size (mass) and female length and between egg number and female length for studies of salmonid fishes with at least five populations

Species	Egg size vs. body length			Egg number vs. body length				Paired <i>t</i>		
	Pops. (fish)	Slope (SD)	r^2 (SD)	Pops. sig.	Pops. (fish)	Slope (SD)	r^2 (SD)	Pops. sig.	Paired <i>N</i> (<i>S</i> > <i>N</i>)	<i>t</i> (<i>P</i>)
Sockeye salmon ^a	14 (1,755)	1.25 (.18)	.19 (.15)	14	14 (4,731)	1.86 (.31)	.31 (.14)	14	14 (11)	2.64 (.01)
Sockeye salmon ^b	8 (202)	1.05 (.31)	.39 (.16)	8	10 (160)	2.03 (.30)	.61 (.16)	10	8 (8)	7.63 (<.001)
Coho salmon ^c	22 (495)	1.15 (.66)	.32 (.20)	12	17 (330)	2.28 (.51)	.68 (.18)	16	14 (13)	5.75 (<.001)
Masu salmon ^d	7 (153)	1.01 (.93)	.27 (.30)	3	7 (149)	1.94 (.90)	.35 (.23)	5	7 (5)	1.78 (.04)
Sockeye salmon ^e	10 (586)	1.30 (.21)	.49 (.06)	10	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sockeye salmon ^f	...	...	...	...	6 (488)	1.58 (.26)	.33 (.06)	6	...	...
Sockeye salmon ^g	...	...	...	...	14 (863)	1.07 (1.36)	.34 (.23)	8	...	...
Sockeye salmon ^h	...	...	...	...	19 (1,581)	1.87 (.54)	.45 (.16)	19	...	...
Sockeye salmon ⁱ	...	...	...	...	11 (1,512)	2.50 (.33)	.63 (.13)	11	...	...
Chinook salmon ^j	...	...	...	...	18 (1,902)	1.49 (.45)	.40 (.19)	15	...	...
Brown trout ^k	...	...	...	...	9 (135)	2.42 (.24)	.92 (.05)	9	...	...

Note: Columns indicate the number of discrete populations (Pops.) with the number of fish in parentheses; the slope coefficient averaged across populations, r^2 averaged across populations, and the number of populations with significant slopes (Pops. sig.). The second column in from the right gives the number of populations for which both egg size and egg number slopes were available (Paired *N*) with the number of populations in which the egg number slope was greater in parentheses. The last column provides the *t* statistic (one-tailed *P* in parentheses) for paired *t*-tests of the difference in slope between egg size and egg number, both with respect to body length. All data were log transformed (\log_e or \log_{10}) to allow a direct comparison.

^a Slopes are those reported in Linley (1993). Egg data were for dry mass, which gives the same log-log slope coefficients as wet mass.

^b Wetzel (1993); slopes were calculated from raw data provided by L. Wetzel.

^c Egg number slopes are those reported in Fleming and Gross (1990). Log-log egg-size slopes were calculated directly from raw data by I. Fleming (personal communication).

^d Slopes are those reported in Tamate and Maekawa (2000).

^e Quinn et al. (1995); log-log slopes were calculated from raw data provided by T. P. Quinn. We exclude all populations originally analyzed by Wetzel (1993).

^f Mathisen and Gunnerød (1969); years were pooled and slopes were calculated using raw data provided by T. Quinn.

^g Slopes are for all ages and years pooled for each population, as reported in Manzer and Miki (1986).

^h Slopes are those for anadromous sockeye salmon reported in McGurk (2000). For populations with more than one slope reported, we considered only the slope with the larger sample size. We exclude all populations originally analyzed in Linley (1993), Wetzel (1993), Mathisen and Gunnerød (1969), and Manzer and Miki (1986).

ⁱ Slopes are those for nonanadromous sockeye salmon (kokanee) reported in McGurk (2000).

^j Slopes are those reported in Healey and Heard (1984).

^k Slopes are those reported in L'Abée-Lund and Hindar (1990). Egg diameter/female length slopes (not shown) were positive for all nine populations (six of the slopes were significant).

within each of the three collections. In each case, residual egg production was positively correlated with residual egg number (Pearson's $r = 0.77$ – 0.80 , $P < .01$ for each) but was not correlated with residual egg size (Pearson's $r = 0.07$ – 0.27 , $P > .25$ for each). These results confirmed that females with greater egg production for their body size have relatively more, but not larger, eggs.

Numerous other studies of salmonids lacked data necessary for our standardized analysis (i.e., they measured egg diameter or female weight rather than egg mass and female length) but nevertheless provided additional, qualitative support for the second and third predictions. Specifically, egg number increases strongly and egg size moderately with increasing female size (e.g., Jonsson and

Jonsson 1999). In short, the specific model's predictions were unequivocally supported by empirical data.

General Model

The essence of our overall approach is the consideration of discrete stages of development during which the direction of the offspring survival/propagule size relationship may vary and the consideration of the potential effects of maternal size on total reproductive output and on offspring survival/propagule size relationships. This conceptual framework can be applied to many questions regarding variation in propagule size and number within and among populations and species. Here, we illustrate a general application of our approach by developing a general model that predicts the direction of propagule size/female size relationships.

The following analysis provides a general solution for how maternal size influences optimal propagule size when offspring survival during one stage (stage 1) is a decreasing function of propagule size, when offspring survival during another stage (stage 2) is an increasing function of propagule size, when larger females have greater total reproductive output, when female size can positively influence offspring survival during stage 1, and when greater total reproductive output by females can decrease the survival of individual offspring (i.e., negative density dependence). We first outline the analytical framework for this model ("Analytical Framework") and then examine effects of female size on optimal propagule size under negative density dependence (i.e., more eggs reduce individual offspring survival; "Effects of Female Size Acting through Total Reproductive Output"), when large females provide better environments for their offspring during stage 1 ("Effects of Female Size Acting through Phenotype/Habitat Matching"), and when both density-dependent effects and habitat matching are present ("Effects of Female Size through Reproductive Output and Habitat Matching"). We also provide a general solution for how maternal size influences optimal propagule number under these conditions ("Effects of Female Size on Optimal Egg Number").

Analytical Framework

Maternal fitness (W) is the product of the number of propagules produced (N), offspring survival during the first stage (F_1), and offspring survival during a second stage (F_2). Offspring survival during the first stage can be influenced by propagule size (s), habitat quality (k), and the total reproductive output of a female (total biomass of propagules produced, E). This latter effect represents density dependence and was not part of our specific model. Here, we assume that F_2 is only a function of propagule

size, but the model could be modified to consider variation in habitat quality and density dependence during stage 2. The number of propagules produced is a function of total reproductive output (E) and the size of propagules (s). Both k and E can be influenced by maternal size (l). Thus, W can be written as

$$W(s, k(l), E(l)) = F_1(s, k(l), E(l))F_2(s)N(s, E(l)). \quad (9)$$

The optimal propagule size (s_w) must satisfy the following criteria:

$$\left. \frac{\partial W(s, k(l), E(l))}{\partial s} \right|_{s=s_w} = 0, \quad (10)$$

$$\left. \frac{\partial^2 W(s, k(l), E(l))}{\partial s^2} \right|_{s=s_w} < 0. \quad (11)$$

To evaluate the effect of female size on optimal propagule size, we implicitly differentiate equation (10) with respect to l :

$$\left(\frac{\partial^2 W}{\partial s^2} \frac{ds}{dl} \right) + \left(\frac{\partial^2 W}{\partial s \partial k} \frac{dk}{dl} \right) + \left(\frac{\partial^2 W}{\partial s \partial E} \frac{dE}{dl} \right) = 0. \quad (12)$$

This is the fundamental equation for evaluating effects of female size on optimal propagule size. We are interested in the sign (positive or negative) of ds/dl , when female size influences habitat quality (terms in the second set of brackets) and total reproductive output (terms in the third set of brackets). When ds/dl is positive, optimal propagule size is larger for larger females. When ds/dl is negative, optimal propagule size is smaller for larger females.

Effects of Female Size Acting through Total Reproductive Output

When larger females have greater total reproductive output, how should female size influence optimal propagule size? Assuming for this part that female size does not influence habitat quality (i.e., no habitat matching, $dk/dl = 0$), equation (12) can be simplified and rearranged to yield

$$\frac{ds}{dl} = - \left(\frac{\partial^2 W}{\partial s \partial E} \frac{dE}{dl} \right) \bigg/ \frac{\partial^2 W}{\partial s^2}. \quad (13)$$

We know that $\partial^2 W / \partial s^2 < 0$ (we are looking for a maximum) and $dE/dl > 0$ (larger females have greater total reproductive output). Therefore, ds/dl will be negative if $\partial^2 W / \partial s \partial E < 0$ but will be positive if $\partial^2 W / \partial s \partial E > 0$. Thus, evaluating the sign of $\partial^2 W / \partial s \partial E$ will tell us whether in-

creasing female size increases or decreases optimal propagule size. To find the sign of $\partial^2 W/\partial s \partial E$, we first differentiate equation (9) with respect to s :

$$\frac{\partial W}{\partial s} = \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial s} F_2 N + F_1 \frac{dF_2}{ds} N + F_1 F_2 \frac{\partial N}{\partial s} \quad (14)$$

and then differentiate equation (14) with respect to E , grouping terms that include effects of E on F_1 (i.e., density dependence) separately from those that do not:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^2 W}{\partial s \partial E} = & \left(\frac{\partial^2 F_1}{\partial s \partial E} F_2 N + \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial E} \frac{dF_2}{ds} N + \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial E} F_2 \frac{\partial N}{\partial s} \right) \\ & + \left(\frac{\partial F_1}{\partial s} F_2 \frac{\partial N}{\partial E} + F_1 \frac{dF_2}{ds} \frac{\partial N}{\partial E} + F_1 F_2 \frac{\partial^2 N}{\partial s \partial E} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

Terms in the first set of brackets include any density-dependent effects of total reproductive output on propagule survival, whereas terms in the second set of brackets include any density-independent effects. Fortunately, terms in the second set of brackets sum to 0. This can be shown by noting that these terms are proportional to $\partial W/\partial s$, which from equation (10) equals 0. In particular, by assuming total propagule number (N) equals total reproductive output (E) divided by propagule size (s), we have $N = E/s$ and $\partial N/\partial s = (-E/s^2)$, and therefore

$$\frac{\partial W}{\partial s} = E \left(\frac{\partial F_1}{\partial s} F_2 \frac{1}{s} + F_1 \frac{dF_2}{ds} \frac{1}{s} + F_1 F_2 \frac{-1}{s^2} \right). \quad (16)$$

Because $E > 0$, the bracketed terms of equation (16) sum to 0, and because $\partial N/\partial E = 1/s$ and $\partial^2 N/\partial E \partial s = (-1/s^2)$, the terms in the second set of brackets of equation (15) sum to 0. We can thus rewrite equation (15) as

$$\frac{\partial^2 W}{\partial s \partial E} = \left(\frac{\partial^2 F_1}{\partial s \partial E} F_2 \frac{E}{s} \right) + \left(\frac{\partial F_1}{\partial E} \frac{dF_2}{ds} \frac{E}{s} + \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial E} F_2 \frac{-E}{s^2} \right). \quad (17)$$

The second bracketed portion of this equation can be simplified further by recognizing from equation (16) that

$$\frac{dF_2}{ds} \frac{1}{s} + F_2 \frac{-1}{s^2} = \frac{-\partial F_1}{\partial s} F_2 \frac{1}{s}. \quad (18)$$

The resulting equation is

$$\frac{\partial^2 W}{\partial s \partial E} = \left(\frac{\partial^2 F_1}{\partial s \partial E} F_2 \frac{E}{s} \right) - \left(\frac{\partial F_1}{\partial E} E \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial s} F_2 \frac{1}{s} \right). \quad (19)$$

In this equation, $F_1 > 0$ and $F_2 > 0$ (because they are prob-

abilities), $E > 0$, $s > 0$, and $\partial F_1/\partial s < 0$ (because larger propagules are assumed to have lower stage 1 survival). We further assume that $\partial F_1/\partial E < 0$ because a larger total biomass of propagules will decrease stage 1 survival (negative density dependence). Finally, we assume that $\partial^2 F_1/\partial s \partial E < 0$ because, as the total biomass of propagules increases, the disadvantage to large propagules, relative to small propagules, becomes progressively worse. Considering the signs of all these terms, it is apparent that $\partial^2 W/\partial s \partial E < 0$, and from equation (13), $ds/dl < 0$. Thus, without phenotype/habitat matching, increasing female size should decrease optimal propagule size when offspring survival decreases with increasing propagule density. We can also see from equation (13) that, if no density dependence occurs (i.e., $[\partial^2 W/\partial s \partial E][dE/dl] = 0$), then $ds/dl = 0$. This result, that without density dependence and without habitat matching increasing female size should have no effect on optimal propagule size, can also be inferred from our specific model (see fig. 4B) and has long been recognized as a part of the Smith and Fretwell (1974) optimality framework.

Effects of Female Size Acting through Phenotype/Habitat Matching

When larger females provide better stage 1 habitats for their offspring (i.e., habitat matching), how should female size influence optimal propagule size? Assuming for this part that density dependence does not occur ($\partial^2 W/\partial s \partial E = 0$), equation (12) becomes

$$\frac{ds}{dl} = - \left(\frac{\partial^2 W}{\partial s \partial k} \frac{dk}{dl} \right) \frac{\partial^2 W}{\partial s^2}. \quad (20)$$

Following the procedures outlined in “Effects of Female Size Acting through Total Reproductive Output,” evaluating the sign of $\partial^2 W/\partial s \partial k$ reveals whether increasing female size increases or decreases optimal propagule size. To find $\partial^2 W/\partial s \partial k$, we differentiate equation (14) with respect to k :

$$\frac{\partial^2 W}{\partial s \partial k} = \frac{\partial^2 F_1}{\partial s \partial k} F_2 N + \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial k} \frac{dF_2}{ds} N + \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial k} F_2 \frac{\partial N}{\partial s} = 0. \quad (21)$$

Factoring, substituting, and simplifying in a manner analogous to that in “Effects of Female Size Acting through Total Reproductive Output” yields

$$\frac{\partial^2 W}{\partial s \partial k} = \left(\frac{\partial^2 F_1}{\partial s \partial k} F_2 \frac{E}{s} \right) - \left(\frac{\partial F_1}{\partial k} E \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial s} F_2 \frac{1}{s} \right). \quad (22)$$

As before, $F_1 > 0$, $F_2 > 0$, $E > 0$, $s > 0$, and $\partial F_1/\partial s < 0$. We

assume that $\partial F_1/\partial k > 0$ because better habitats increase stage 1 survival and that $\partial^2 F_1/\partial s \partial k > 0$ because, as habitat quality increases, the disadvantage to large propagules (relative to small propagules) becomes progressively less. Thus, $\partial^2 W/\partial s \partial k > 0$, and because $dk/dl > 0$ (larger females provide better habitats), equation (20) reveals that $ds/dl > 0$. Thus, without density dependence, increasing female size should increase optimal propagule size when larger females provide better stage 1 habitats. This is the same result as that obtained in our specific model (fig. 2).

Effects of Female Size through Reproductive Output and Habitat Matching

When larger females have greater total reproductive output (with associated density dependence) and provide better stage 1 environments for their offspring (habitat matching), how should female size influence optimal propagule size? To address this question, equation (12) becomes

$$\frac{ds}{dl} = -\left[\frac{\partial^2 W}{\partial s \partial k} \frac{dk}{dl}\right] + \left[\frac{\partial^2 W}{\partial s \partial E} \frac{dE}{dl}\right] \bigg/ \frac{\partial^2 W}{\partial s^2}. \quad (23)$$

We have shown that $\partial^2 W/\partial s^2 > 0$, $(\partial^2 W/\partial s \partial k)(dk/dl) > 0$, and $(\partial^2 W/\partial s \partial E)(dE/dl) < 0$. Thus, the sign of ds/dl in equation (23) will depend on the relative strength of density dependence versus habitat matching. If the influence of female size on habitat quality has a stronger effect on propagule size than does the influence of female size on density dependence, larger females should have larger propagules. If the converse is true, larger females should have smaller propagules.

Effects of Female Size on Optimal Egg Number

How should egg number vary with female size? As defined above, optimal propagule number is a function of propagule size and total reproductive output, which are functions of female length (i.e., $N[s(l), E(l)]$). Differentiating this relationship with respect to l yields

$$\frac{dN}{dl} = \frac{\partial N}{\partial E} \frac{dE}{dl} + \frac{\partial N}{\partial s} \frac{ds}{dl}. \quad (24)$$

If dN/dl is positive, larger females produce more propagules. If dN/dl is negative, larger females produce fewer propagules. Equation (24) can be specified more explicitly by substituting $1/s$ for $\partial N/\partial E$ and $-E/s^2$ for $\partial N/\partial s$ (as above), yielding

$$\frac{\partial N}{\partial l} = \frac{1}{s} \left(\frac{dE}{dl} - N \frac{ds}{dl} \right). \quad (25)$$

Because $1/s > 0$, $N > 0$, and $dE/dl > 0$, we can consider how propagule number should vary with female size in each of the above three scenarios by considering the sign of ds/dl in each.

When greater total reproductive output of larger females has negative density-dependent effects on propagule survival, and larger females do not provide better stage 1 habitats, $ds/dl < 0$ ("Effects of Female Size Acting through Total Reproductive Output"), and increasing female size should result in increased propagule number ($dN/dl > 0$). When density-dependent effects are absent but larger females provide better habitats, $ds/dl > 0$ ("Effects of Female Size Acting through Phenotype/Habitat Matching"), and the effect of female size on propagule number will depend on whether the effects of female size on propagule size acting through habitat quality are greater or less than the effects of female size on total reproductive output. If $dE/dl > N(ds/dl)$, larger females should have more propagules, but if $dE/dl < N(ds/dl)$, larger females should have fewer propagules. Based on empirical data, we suspect the former inequality is more likely but that $N(ds/dl) > 0$. If so, both propagule size and number should increase with increasing female size, but the increase should be less for propagule size than for propagule number. This situation would echo the third prediction of our specific model (fig. 3). When both density dependence and habitat matching occur, the sign of dN/dl will depend in complex ways on the strength of the various effects.

A General Application

Our general model can serve several purposes. First, it illustrates a conceptual framework useful for developing quantitative models that adopt specific functional relationships. Specific models can then be used to examine variation in propagule size and number for the organism in question. Our model for salmon provides an example. Second, the general model can be used to make broader predictions about patterns that might be expected for species with different types of life history or reproductive behavior. A fundamental prediction of our model that deviates from previous analyses is that positive correlations between propagule size and female size should evolve when larger females provide better habitats during a stage when large eggs would otherwise negatively influence offspring fitness (e.g., incubation of aquatic eggs). Conversely, a correlation should not arise in species where female size does not influence incubation habitat quality. We tested this prediction using data from freshwater fishes.

Freshwater fishes exhibit a remarkable diversity in life history and reproductive behavior (Balon 1975). We restricted our analysis to a tractable subset of these species: freshwater fishes that occur in Canada (24 taxonomic families with 181 species; Scott and Crossman 1973). This particular subset was chosen because they are relatively well understood taxonomically and ecologically. Our first step was to group species into general reproductive behavior categories delineating a decreasing likelihood that female size could influence the quality of the egg incubation environment. Category 1 included fish where females construct nests, a situation where female size may positively influence the ability to acquire a high-quality nesting site, the quality of nest construction, or the success of nest defense (i.e., $dk/dl > 0$). Category 2 included fish where males construct nests and females choose males or their nests. In this category, a positive correlation between egg size and female size might be expected when larger females mate with males that provide more oxygen to their eggs. This could occur when males compete for nest sites that vary in water flow or oxygen, or when males “fan” eggs (use their pectoral fins to create a flow of water). Category 3 included fish where males are territorial but do not generally construct nests or fan eggs, a situation where positive egg size/female size correlations should evolve only if larger females mate with males occupying better territories. Category 4 included fish where neither males nor females are overtly territorial and where eggs are broadcast (spread seemingly at random over the substrate or in the water column). Correlations between female size and egg size should be least common in this category because parental care (other than egg provisioning) is absent.

Within each general category of reproductive behavior, we grouped species by taxonomic family because members of a given family often have similar reproductive behaviors. When reproductive behavior varied within a family, that family was accorded representation (with the relevant species) in each appropriate category. We next recorded, for each family, aspects of reproductive behavior, life history, and development that might influence the likelihood of adaptive correlations between egg size and female size. First, overall egg size may influence whether oxygen constraints during incubation have any relevance (egg size should have stronger effects on the probability of suffocation when eggs tend to be large). Second, the duration of the egg incubation period may influence the importance of oxygen limitation (shorter incubation periods should be less likely to cause problems). Third, the importance of oxygen limitation may be influenced by variation in spawning substrate type (sediment or vegetation), the nature of egg deposition (burial, attachment, demersal), and forms of paternal and maternal care.

Having established the above criteria for as many species as possible (starting with Scott and Crossman 1973, and then using other sources; see table 2 and list of references available from the author on request), we searched for published information on egg size/female size and egg number/female size correlations within populations. Information was lacking for a number of the families when only Canadian species were considered, so the analysis was expanded to include congeners found elsewhere. To facilitate unbiased data collection, we searched the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts database (ASFA 1980–1999), using as keywords each genus name of Canadian freshwater fishes and “egg” or “ova” or “oocyte” or “fecundity” or “clutch” or “spawning.” We printed out all relevant abstracts and obtained all papers that could be found in the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, library system. Additional papers published earlier were obtained by scanning collected papers for appropriate references. We then searched all papers (or abstracts when the papers could not be obtained) for evidence of the correlations in question.

Ideally, we would have reported log-log slopes for egg mass/female length and egg number/female length relationships, which would allow direct comparisons between traits and among species (as in table 1). Unfortunately, egg diameter is the most commonly used measure of egg size for nonsalmonid fishes, and log-log slopes based on egg diameter are not directly comparable to log-log slopes for egg number. Thus, we instead tallied for each species and population, egg size (diameter, circumference, volume, dry mass, wet mass) versus female size (length, mass) slopes as either significantly positive (POS), significantly negative (NEG), or nonsignificant (NS). In some cases, results varied among species, populations, studies, or years (see table 2). Nearly all egg number/female size slopes were significantly positive (see also Wootton 1979), so we only recorded quantitative egg number/female length (log-log) slope coefficients. We then calculated average egg number/female length slopes, by averaging all reported slopes within species and then within families. Egg number/female mass slopes are excluded because they are not directly comparable to slopes based on female length.

Positive egg size/female size slopes should be most common for species with large eggs and long egg incubation periods, particularly salmonids (category 1, largest eggs, longest egg incubation period). Indeed, salmonids had the most common and strongest positive egg size/female size slopes (table 2). Based on our incomplete but unbiased survey of the vast literature for salmonids, we recorded positive egg size/female size slopes in 72 populations of 11 species (11_{72}) and nonsignificant slopes in only 19 populations of five species (5_{19}). All but one of the 19 nonsignificant slopes were positive in direction, and all of these had small sample sizes. Also, average egg number/female

Table 2: Relationships between egg size (diameter, circumference, volume, mass) and female size (length, mass) and between egg number and female size for Canadian freshwater fishes and their congeners

Taxonomic family	Spawning		Types of parental care		Egg traits		ES/FS slope			EN/FL slope
	Substrate	Strategy	Male	Female	Duration	mm	POS	NS	NEG	
Category 1:										
Salmonidae ^a	GR	BR	NO	CN, DF	mo	3.0–7.0	11 ₂₂	5 ₁₉	0	1.81 (5 ₁₂₅)
Ictaluridae (1) ^b	VG	DM	DF, FN, GR	CN, DF, FN, GR	d	3.0–4.0	1 ₃	0	0	+
Petromyzontidae ^c	GR	BR	CN	CN	wk	.6–1.3	2 ₄	2 ₂₃	0	3.46 (1 ₁₉)
Category 2:										
Amiidae ^d	VG, GR	DM	CN, DE, FN, GR	NO	wk	2.2–3.0	?	?	?	?
Ictaluridae (2) ^e	VG, CV	DM	CN, DE, FN	NO	d	3.5–4.0	2 ₂	0	1 ₂	+
Percidae (1) ^f	CV	AT	CN, DE, FN	NO	d–wk	1.5–2.8	1 ₁	1 ₁	0	+
Gasterosteidae ^g	VG	DM	CN, DE, FN, GR	NO	d–wk	1.2–1.7	4 ₉	2 ₉	0	+
Cottidae ^b	CV	AT	CN, DE, FN	NO	wk	1.0–1.5	1 ₁	0	0	2.38 (2 ₃)
Cyprinidae (1) ^h	CV, GR	AT, BR	CN, DE, FN	NO	d–wk	1.0–2.0	1 ₁	0	0	+
Centrarchidae ⁱ	VG, GR	DM	CN, DE, FN, GR	NO	d	1.0–1.7	0	1 ₂	0	3.04 (1 ₂)
Category 3:										
Coregonidae ^h	GR	BR, DS	NO	NO	wk	2.5	1 ₁	0	0	+
Catostomidae (1) ^l	GR	DM, DS	NO	NO	d	1.2–4.0	?	?	?	+
Cyprinodontidae ^m	VG	CL, DM	NO	NO	wk	1.5–2.0	2 ₂	0	0	+
Percidae (2) ⁿ	VG, GR	AT, BR	NO	NO	d–wk	1.1–1.8	3 ₄	9 ₁₄	0	+
Cyprinidae (2) ^o	CV	DM	NO	NO	d	.9–1.2	0	1 ₁₆	0	+
Category 4:										
Coregonidae ^p	GR	DM	NO	NO	mo	1.8–3.7	1 ₁	3 ₃	0	3.32 (4 ₉)
Hiodontidae ^q	N/A	PL	NO	NO	wk	4.0	?	?	?	?
Acipenseridae ^r	GR	DM	NO	NO	d	2.5–3.5	1 ₁	1 ₂	0	+
Lepisosteidae ^s	VG	DM	NO	NO	d	2.1–3.2	0	1 ₂	0	3.82 (1 ₁)
Esocidae ^t	VG	DM	NO	NO	wk	1.4–3.5	0	1 ₁	0	3.43 (1 ₄)
Percidae (3) ^u	VG, GR	DM, BR	NO	NO	d–wk	1.3–3.5	2 ₃	1 ₂	0	2.83 (1 ₁)
Catostomidae (2) ^v	GR	DM	NO	NO	wk	1.2–3.0	1 ₂	1 ₁	0	+
Clupeidae ^w	GR	DM	NO	NO	d	.7–3.5	2 ₅	3 ₅	1 ₁	2.87 (2 ₉)
Umbridae ^x	VG	DM	NO	NO	d	1.5–2.0	0	1 ₁	0	+
Percopsidae ^y	GR	DM	NO	NO	wk	1.3–1.9	0	1 ₁	0	3.03 (1 ₁)
Sciaenidae ^z	N/A	PL	NO	NO	d	1.0–1.7	?	?	?	+
Cyprinidae (3) ^{aa}	GR	DM	NO	NO	d	.8–1.5	6 ₈	6 ₁₄	2 ₂	2.34 (8 ₁₄)
Percichthyidae ^{bb}	VG, GR	DM	NO	NO	d	.8–1.4	0	1 ₂	0	+
Gadidae ^{cc}	GR	DM?	NO	NO	wk	.5–1.8	?	?	?	+
Osmeridae ^{dd}	VG, GR	DM	NO	NO	wk	.7–1.1	1 ₁	2 ₂	0	+
Atherinidae ^{ee}	VG, GR	DM	NO	NO	wk	.6–1.2	?	?	?	?

Note: Category 1 = females construct nests, category 2 = males construct nests, category 3 = males are territorial but do not construct nests, category 4 = territoriality is minimal or absent and eggs are broadcast. “Spawning-substrate” types include rocks, gravel, sand, or silt (GR); vegetation (VG); cavity (CV); and not applicable (N/A). “Spawning-strategy” types include burial (BR), attachment (AT), demersal (DM), and pelagic (PL). “Types of parental care” include none (NO), nest construction (CN), nest defense (DF), fanning or cleaning of eggs (FN), and guarding of brood (GR). “Egg traits–duration” refers to the length of time embryos remain as eggs, grouped as 1–9 d (d), 9–35 d (wk), and 35 or more days (mo). “Egg traits–mm” refers to the range of egg diameters reported in the literature. “ES/FS slope” indicates instances of significantly positive (POS), significantly negative (NEG), or nonsignificant (NS) slopes between egg size and female size. Numbers in these columns indicate the number of species showing each type of slope, with the number of populations as a subscript. “EN/FL slope” provides average slopes of log-log relationships between egg number and female length as well as the number of species and populations (subscript) on which that average was based. In the absence of slope coefficients, the direction of the slope is indicated as positive (+) when data are available. In all columns a lack of appropriate data is indicated by “?”. Reproductive categories, spawning substrates and strategies, parental care, duration of the egg stage, and the range of egg size were determined for species in each taxonomic family using Breder and Rosen (1966), Scott and Crossman (1973), Balon (1975), Becker (1983), Potts and Wootton (1984), Bart and Page (1992), Johnston and Page (1992), and references specific to each species. The following notes provide information on egg size/female size (ES/FS) slopes reported in the literature as significantly positive (POS), significantly negative (NEG), or nonsignificant (NS). Each citation is for a single population unless otherwise noted. Egg number/female size slopes were almost invariably significant. Here we report only quantitative log egg number/log female length (EN/FL) slopes.

^a Positive ES/FS relationships are nearly ubiquitous in salmon, trout, and charr. Heath and Blouw (1998) reviewed ES/FS relationships for an additional 20 populations (eight species, 17 studies), 18 of which were significantly positive. Other studies providing information on ES/FS and egg number/female size relationships include Quinn and Bloomberg (1992), Beacham and Murray (1993), Trippel (1993), Fleming (1996), Lobon-Cervia et al. (1997), Heath et al. (1999), Jonsson and Jonsson (1999), and Morita et al. (1999).

- ^b ES/FS slopes, *Ictalurus nebulosus*: POS within each of three Lake Erie tributaries (Lesko et al. 1996).
- ^c ES/FS slopes, *Ichthyomyzon gagei*: NS within 19 populations (Beamish et al. 1994); *Lampetra aepyptera*: POS in three populations and NS in four populations (Docker and Beamish 1991); *Petromyzon marinus*: POS (Barker et al. 1998). EN/FL slopes, *I. gagei*: 3.46 (19 populations pooled; Beamish et al. 1994).
- ^d No relevant data.
- ^e ES/FS slopes, *Ictalurus punctatus*: NEG in two populations (Broussard and Stickney 1981); *Noturus gyrinus*: POS (Mahon 1977); *Noturus hildebrandi*: POS (Baker and Heins 1994).
- ^f ES/FS slopes, *Etheostoma nigrum*: POS for one type of egg and NS for another type (Parrish et al. 1991).
- ^g ES/FS slopes, *Gasterosteus aculeatus*: POS (Fletcher and Wootton 1995), POS (Ali and Wootton 1999), POS in four populations and NS in eight populations (Baker et al. 1998). Craig and Fitzgerald (1982) found POS slopes for *G. aculeatus*, *Gasterosteus wheatlandi*, and *Pungitius pungitius* and a NS ES/FS slope in *Apeltes quadracus*. Many other studies not reported here have also examined egg size, egg number, and female size in these species, particularly *G. aculeatus*.
- ^h ES/FS slopes, *Cottus gobio*: POS (Marconato and Bisazza 1988). Interestingly, Marconato and Bisazza (1988) also found that larger males tend to have larger eggs in their nests ($r = 0.78$), suggesting that larger females selected larger males. EN/FL slopes, *Cottus cognatus*: 2.36 (Foltz 1976); *C. gobio*: 2.57 and 2.24 (same population before and after impoundment; Crisp and Mann 1991).
- ⁱ ES/FS slopes, *Pimephales promelas*: POS (Smith et al. 1978).
- ^j ES/FS slopes, *Lepomis gibbosus*: NS in two populations (Deacon and Keast 1987). EN/FL slopes, *Pomoxis nigromaculatus*: 3.23 (Barwick 1981); *Lepomis macrochirus*: 2.84 (Panek and Cofield 1978).
- ^k ES/FS slopes, *Thymallus arcticus*: POS (Skopets 1993).
- ^l No relevant data.
- ^m ES/FS slopes, *Fundulus olivaceus* and *Fundulus euryzonus*: POS (Blanchard 1996).
- ⁿ ES/FS slopes, *Etheostoma caeruleum*: NS in seven samples from one river (Heins et al. 1996), POS (Fuller 1998); *Etheostoma zonale*: POS in one population and NS in two populations (Guill and Heins 1996), POS in one population and NS in two populations (Guill and Heins 2000); *Etheostoma fonticola*: NS (Schenck and Whiteside 1977); *Etheostoma bellum*: NS (Fisher 1990); *Etheostoma spectabile*: NS (Marsh 1984), NS (Hubbs et al. 1968); *Etheostoma whipplei*: POS in one population and NS in two populations (Heins and Machado 1993); *Etheostoma lepidum*: NS (Hubbs et al. 1968); *Percina vigil*: NS in four samples from one river (Heins and Baker 1989); *Ammocrypta bifascia*: NS (Heins 1985).
- ^o ES/FS slopes, *Notropis venustus* (*Cyprinella venusta*): NS in 16 populations (Heins and Baker 1987).
- ^p ES/FS slopes, *Coregonus lavaretus*: POS in one lake and NS in one lake (Sinis and Petridis 1993); *Coregonus sardinella*: NS (Moulton et al. 1997); *Coregonus pidschian*: NS (Moulton et al. 1997). EN/FL slopes, *Coregonus clupeaformis*: 3.05, 3.67, 4.53, 4.56, 3.99, and 3.39 (6 yr in Lesser Slave Lake, pooled slope = 3.18; Healey 1984), 2.29 (Healey 1984), and 2.34, 3.81, 3.60, and 5.15 (4 populations; Ihssen et al. 1981); *C. sardinella*: 5.47 (Moulton et al. 1997); *C. pidschian*: 1.25 (Moulton et al. 1997); *Coregonus albula*: 3.13 (Zawisza and Backiel 1970).
- ^q No relevant data.
- ^r ES/FS slopes, *Acipenser oxyrinchus*: POS (Van Eenennaam and Doroshov 1998); *Acipenser transmontanus*: NS (Chapman et al. 1996), NS (Lutes et al. 1987).
- ^s ES/FS slopes, *Lepisosteus osseus*: NS in two populations (Johnson and Noltie 1997). EN/FL slopes, *L. osseus*: 3.82 (Netsch and Witt 1962).
- ^t ES/FS slopes, *Esox lucius*: NS (Wright and Shoemith 1988). EN/FL slopes, *E. lucius*: 3.33 (two lakes pooled; Treasurer 1990), and 3.17-3.93, 3.49, 3.56, and 3.13-3.56 (other studies reviewed by Treasurer 1990).
- ^u ES/FS slopes, *Perca flavescens*: POS (Clugston et al. 1978); *Stizostedion vitreum*: POS in one population and NS in two populations (Craig et al. 1995), POS (Johnston 1997). EN/FL slopes, *Perca fluviatilis*: 2.83 (Treasurer 1981).
- ^v ES/FS slopes, *Catostomus commersoni*: POS (Fuiman and Trojnar 1980), POS in one year and NS in another year (Johnston 1997).
- ^w ES/FS slopes, *Dorosoma cepedianum*: NS in two reservoirs (Michaletz 1998); *Alosa pseudoharengus* and *Alosa aestivalis*: POS in five populations, NEG in one population, NS in three populations (Jessop 1993). EN/FL slopes, *A. pseudoharengus*: 3.48, 2.45, 2.54, 3.25, and 2.80 (pooled slope = 2.89; Jessop 1993); *A. aestivalis*: 3.52, 2.33, 2.28, and 3.84 (pooled slopes = 1.89 and 3.80; Jessop 1993).
- ^x ES/FS slopes, *Dallia pectoralis*: NS (based on our interpretation of table 2 in Blackett 1962). Scott and Crossman (1973) indicate that this species does not build nests or provide parental care, but males build nests and guard young in other members of the family (Becker 1983).
- ^y ES/FS slopes, *Percopsis omiscomaycus*: NS (based on our interpretation of table 2 in Lawler 1954). EN/FL slopes, *P. omiscomaycus*: 3.03 (Magnuson and Smith 1963).
- ^z No relevant data.
- ^{aa} ES/FS slopes, *Notropis longirostris*: NS (Heins and Clemmer 1976), POS in one population and NS in six populations (Heins 1991); *Notropis* sp.: POS (Heins et al. 1980); *Notropis umbratilis*: NS (Matthews and Heins 1984); *Notropis texanus*: POS in one river and NS in another river (Heins and Rabito 1988); *Notropis roseipinnis*: NS (Heins and Bresnick 1975); *Hybopsis sabinae*: POS (Heins 1981), POS in two populations (Heins and Baker 1992); *Hybopsis ammophilus*: POS in one population and NEG in one population (Heins and Baker 1992); *Hybopsis longirostris*: POS in one population, NS in three populations (Heins and Baker 1992); *Chrosomus* (*Phoxinus*) *erythrogaster*: NEG (Settles and Hoyt 1978). EN/FL slopes, *N. longirostris*: 4.36 (Heins and Clemmer 1976) and 2.19, 2.66, 3.40, and 3.32 (four populations; Heins and Baker 1992); *Notropis septicus*: 2.37 (Harrell and Cloutman 1978); *N. umbratilis*: 2.75 (Matthews and Heins 1984); *H. sabinae*: 3.37 and 3.18 (two populations; Heins and Baker 1992); *H. ammophilus*: 3.93 and 2.14 (two populations; Heins and Baker 1992); *Rhinichthys cataractae*: 2.83 (Brazo et al. 1978); *Phoxinus phoxinus*: 2.73 and 2.45 (same population before and after impoundment; Crisp and Mann 1991); *Phoxinus eos*: 1.91 (Das and Nelson 1990); *Phoxinus neogaeus*: 0.07 (Das and Nelson 1990).
- ^{bb} ES/FS slopes, *Morone saxatilis*: NS in two rivers (Secor et al. 1992).
- ^{cc} No relevant data.
- ^{dd} ES/FS slopes, *Spirinchus thaleichthys*: POS in one year and NS in one year (Chigbu and Sibley 1994); *Osmerus mordax*: NS (Bailey 1964).
- ^{ee} No relevant data.

length slopes were shallower in salmonids (1.81) than in all other taxonomic families (2.38–3.82; table 2). This result implies that egg size/female length slopes must be steepest in salmonids, assuming that their total reproductive effort/female length slopes are not appreciably lower.

Largely because category 1 included salmonids, it also had the most frequent positive egg size/female size slopes (POS = 14₇₉, NS = 7₄₂, NEG = 0). Positive correlations were next most common in category 2 species (POS = 9₁₄, NS = 4₁₂, NEG = 1₂) and least common in category 3 species (POS = 6₇, NS = 10₃₀, NEG = 0) and category 4 species (POS = 14₂₁, NS = 22₃₆, NEG = 3₃). These comparisons are qualitative and should be subjected to more rigorous analysis when additional data become available (i.e., more log-log slopes for egg mass vs. female length and egg number vs. female length). Although the prediction of our general model was qualitatively supported, numerous exceptions call for explanation. Why, for instance, are some positive egg size/female size slopes found in species where eggs are broadcast? One possibility is that positive correlations are selectively reported. Many studies reported positive egg number/female size correlations and average egg sizes but did not mention whether egg size and female size were correlated. In many instances, the relationship was probably not reported owing to a lack of statistical significance. Thus, the positive correlations in category 4 species may reflect, in part, multiple hypothesis testing (i.e., across studies), where significant correlations are selectively reported. Another possibility is that aspects of reproductive behavior, life history, or development in certain species can generate significant slopes for reasons other than those examined by our model. These exceptions should be examined using species-specific models.

Discussion

We developed theoretical models of propagule size and number that allowed offspring survival/propagule size relationships to differ between discrete stages and that incorporated effects of maternal size on total reproductive output and offspring survival/propagule size relationships. A model specific to sockeye salmon predicted that optimal egg sizes should be larger in better incubation habitats, that larger females should produce more and larger eggs, that increasing female size should result in greater proportional increases in egg number than in egg size, and that females with greater relative egg production (i.e., for a given body size) should produce more but not larger eggs. A general model predicted that, when offspring fitness is negatively density dependent, larger females should produce smaller propagules; that, when larger females provide better habitats during a stage when large propagules would otherwise do poorly, larger females should produce

larger propagules; and that, when offspring fitness is density dependent and when larger females provide better habitats, the direction of the propagule size/female size relationship will depend on the relative strength of the two effects. Data from salmon populations confirmed the specific model's predictions, and data from freshwater fishes confirmed the general model's predictions.

Optimal Egg Size and Number in Fish

Our models emphasized organisms for which the implications and assumptions were particularly clear and justified: organisms that lay eggs in water, particularly fish. In aquatic environments, where egg survival is influenced by oxygen availability (Krogh 1959; Chapman 1988; Seymour and Bradford 1995; Lee and Strathmann 1998), offspring survival before hatching is expected to decrease with increasing egg size, whereas offspring survival after hatching is expected to increase with increasing egg size (fig. 1A). Offspring fitness will therefore be maximized at an intermediate egg size (i.e., a peaked offspring fitness/egg size function). In heterogeneous incubation environments, spatial variation in incubation habitat quality (e.g., oxygen availability) leads to variation in prehatching offspring survival for a given egg size (fig. 1B). As a result, optimal egg size from the offspring's perspective (based on offspring fitness) varies among incubation habitats, with larger eggs favored in better habitats (fig. 2A). This result is the opposite of that found by other authors, whose models predict that optimal egg size should increase with decreasing habitat quality (e.g., McGinley et al. 1987; Morris 1987; Winkler and Wallin 1987; Hutchings 1991; Winemiller and Rose 1993). The reason for this difference is that our model included a stage during which large eggs are at a disadvantage in poor habitats. By incorporating this effect, our model may prove useful in explaining variation in egg size among populations that vary in incubation habitat quality (e.g., Quinn et al. 1995).

Maternal fitness is the product of average offspring fitness and the number of propagules. Hence, optimal egg size from the mother's perspective increases with increasing habitat quality (fig. 2B). However, the difference in optimal egg sizes among different habitats is less with respect to maternal fitness than with respect to offspring fitness (cf. fig. 2A, 2B). This difference arises because parents and offspring are in conflict as to the optimal investment strategy (Trivers 1974; reviewed by Clutton-Brock 1991). From an offspring's perspective, egg size should be optimized, but from a mother's perspective, the trade-off between egg size and number should be optimized. The relative benefits of increasing egg size with increasing habitat quality are less for mothers than for offspring because an increase in egg size decreases egg

number. Recent empirical evidence in salmon confirms that egg sizes are optimized with respect to maternal fitness (Einum and Fleming 2000a).

When large females obtain or prepare better incubation environments for their eggs ("phenotype/habitat matching"), optimal egg sizes are larger for larger females (fig. 2C). This provides a mathematical formulation of suggestions by previous authors that larger salmonid females should have larger eggs because they provide better incubation environments (e.g., van den Berghe and Gross 1989; Fleming and Gross 1990; Quinn et al. 1995; Jonsson and Jonsson 1999). In exploring our specific model, we also found support for the argument of Holtby and Healey (1986) that, when habitat conditions are generally poor, large females can have lower fitness than small females (because large females have egg sizes farther from the optimum). Our results are also consistent with those of Sargent et al. (1987) in predicting that females providing better conditions for their incubating offspring (i.e., better parental care) should produce larger eggs.

Owing to the stronger relationship between egg number and maternal fitness than between egg size and maternal fitness, our specific model predicted that egg number would increase more rapidly than egg size for a given increase in female size (fig. 3). Our general model showed the conditions under which a positive egg size/female size relationship should hold: weak or no density-dependent egg survival. Parker and Begon (1986) also presented models that provide predictions for optimal egg size and number in relation to maternal size. The combination of conditions in their models that were most likely to generate predictions similar to ours occurred "if sib competition and egg size are both important components of larval success" (Parker and Begon 1986, p. 579). In their model, egg number would increase more rapidly than egg size (with increasing female size) if intrinsic effects of egg size were less important than effects of competition (acting through negative density dependence).

Females of a given size can vary in their relative egg production but this variation might not correlate with incubation habitat quality. Optimal egg size should therefore not vary among females with respect to their relative egg production (assuming no density dependence), and egg number should increase in direct proportion to relative egg production. It is at this juncture that our model departs in its predictions from Parker and Begon (1986, p. 578), wherein optimal egg size increases with increasing relative egg production (under sib competition). Empirical data indicated that our model's predictions were more accurate than those of Parker and Begon (1986), at least for salmon. Winkler and Wallin (1987) addressed a similar question but from a different perspective, by asking how total reproductive effort should vary with effort per offspring. It

can be inferred from their model that variation in total reproductive effort should have no effect on optimal effort per offspring, as long as total effort does not influence minimal viable effort per offspring (s_{\min} in our specific model) or the rate at which juvenile survival increases with increasing effort per offspring (a in our model). Under these conditions, our model is consistent with Winkler and Wallin (1987).

The predictions we generated and tested were based mainly on variation within populations and species. However, many of the empirical trends found within species are similar to those found among species. For example, larger fishes have greater total egg production, more eggs (strongly so), larger eggs (weakly so), and a very strong trade-off between egg size and number (Duarte and Alcaraz 1989; Elgar 1990; Winemiller and Rose 1992; Visman et al. 1996). The utility of our model in explaining these patterns within species suggests that a similar analytical framework may be useful for addressing interspecific variation. At even higher levels, the surface-to-volume constraint placed on aquatic eggs may explain why fishes tend to have small but numerous eggs relative to other vertebrates.

Further Applications and Extensions

The partitioning of fitness into discrete stages is obviously appropriate for the group of organisms on which we focused: fish that lay eggs. Oxygen limitation has also been implicated in the evolution of egg size and number in amphibians (Seymour and Bradford 1995) and aquatic invertebrates (Lee and Strathmann 1998). Partitioning fitness effects of propagule size into discrete stages is also appropriate for many terrestrial organisms. For example, offspring size may be constrained by the amount of nourishment parents can provide (a larger growing embryo requires more energy) or by the size of the pelvic canal through which the egg or neonate must pass (Roff 1992, pp. 352–356; Strathmann 1995; Bernado 1996). For example, large size at birth is often adaptive for juvenile lizards but egg size is constrained by the size of the pelvic girdle (Sinervo and Licht 1991; Sinervo and Doughty 1996). Another possible situation where discrete stages may be particularly relevant is in annual desert plants, where survival during the long pregermination period may be negatively correlated with seed size (large seeds may be more attractive to predators), whereas postgermination success may be positively influenced by seed size (Donohue and Schmitt 1998). Other examples where offspring survival is negatively correlated with propagule size are discussed by Kaplan (1998).

We emphasized the novel predictions of our models by focusing on variation in the quality of the prehatching (stage 1) habitat, where better conditions select for larger prop-

agules. In many cases, however, habitat quality will also vary during posthatching (stage 2) phases, where better conditions select for smaller propagules. For example, variation in posthatching conditions has been invoked to explain differences in egg size among salmon populations (Tamate and Maekawa 2000) and between pelagic and demersal fishes (Duarte and Alcaraz 1989). Our model could be extended to consider the effects of variation in habitat quality and maternal condition during two or more stages. When predicting absolute variation in propagule size at some levels (e.g., between species), it will also be important to consider the length of time in each stage (e.g., Shine 1978; Sargent et al. 1987). This is because selection during longer stages will often have stronger effects on offspring fitness, and therefore on the evolution of propagule size.

Allowance for maternal effects influencing both total reproductive output (e.g., total mass of propagules released) and offspring survival/propagule size relationships should also be widely applicable. Certainly, correlations between reproductive output and body size are common within and among many taxa (e.g., Visman et al. 1996). The size of females has the potential to influence characteristics of the offspring's environment in many ways. In the propagule size/pelvic canal size constraint scenario, larger females have larger pelvic canals and so their optimal egg or neonate size may be larger. As other examples, maternal traits may correlate with characteristics of the nesting or oviposition environment (e.g., Roosenburg 1996) or with the traits of mates (e.g., size-assortative mating; Crespi 1989). Another maternal effect that may influence both reproductive output and the quality of the offspring's environment is breeding date. For example, clutch size in birds decreases during the breeding season, and chicks hatching late experience poorer conditions (Price 1998). Consideration of maternal effects (e.g., size or timing) may help provide a general explanation for variation in the direction and strength of propagule size/female size relationships among species and perhaps even higher taxa.

Optimality models of propagule size and number have been criticized because some feel they cannot "explain widespread, multivariate correlations between maternal characteristics and clutch parameters, namely the positive phenotypic covariances of maternal age, size, fecundity, and per-propagule investment found in many organisms" (Bernardo 1996, p. 216). In contrast to this assertion, our specific optimality model performed admirably in explaining covariation among maternal size, egg production, egg size, and egg number. A key to our success was incorporating realistic effects of maternal size on the quality of the incubation environment for eggs. Although optimality models should be considered tentative hypotheses that must withstand empirical testing, a combination of theoretical and empirical approaches forces us to be explicit about our as-

sumptions, and allows us to make specific predictions that can be tested directly.

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