

# HARNESSING DRIVERS OF PHENOTYPIC VARIATION: THE MAKING OF WILD FISH SURROGATES WITH SPECIFIC MIGRATORY PHENOTYPES

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# WILD FISH SURROGATE PROJECT

Produce juvenile salmonids that emulate specific wild fish movement phenotypes

Steelhead



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Chinook Salmon



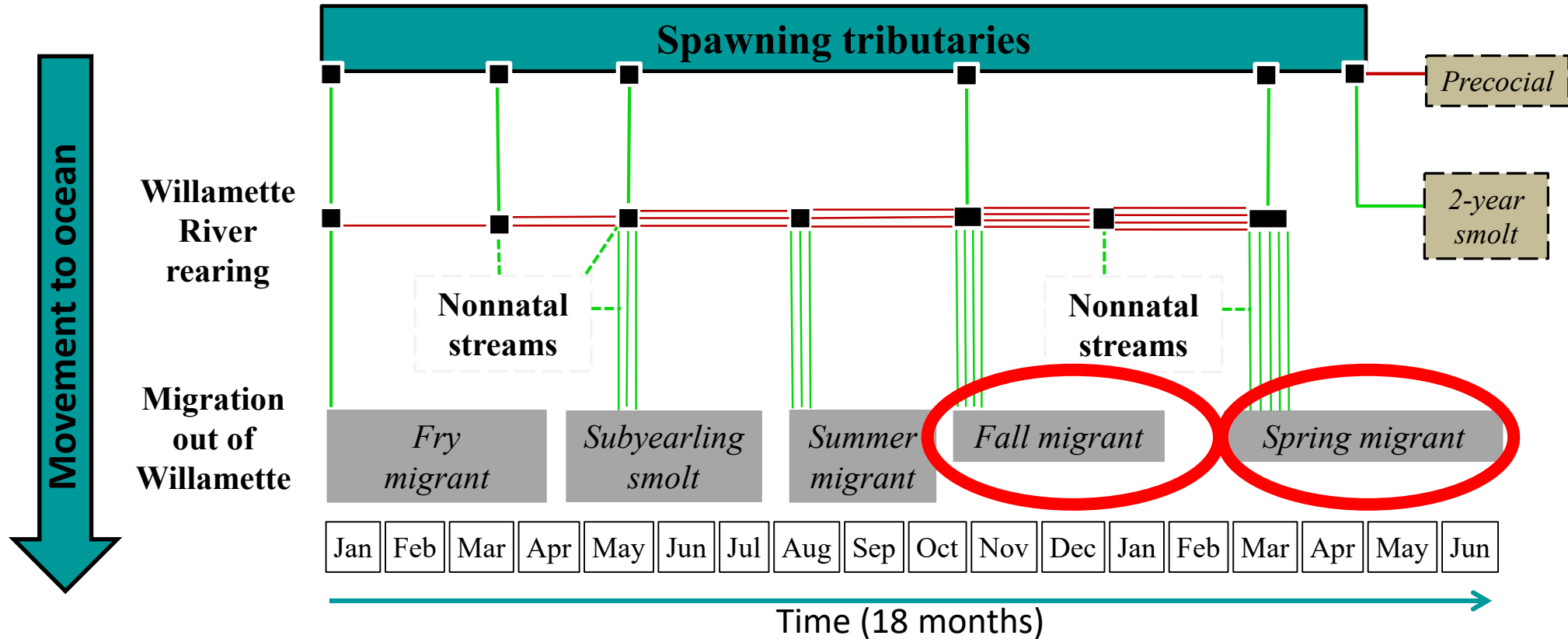
Photo by Roger Tabor



# FISH PROVIDED IN 2018

Brood year	Project location	Developmental stage	Fish #	Tag – Purpose
<b>Chinook salmon</b>				
2016	Lookout Point	Yearlings	1,625	JASTS/PIT – passage rates and distribution (PNNL)
2017	Lookout Point	Fry-parr	165,000	Genetic - fry survival study (USGS)
2016	Foster	Yearlings	1,500	RT/PIT – passage rates and distribution (PNNL)
2016	Foster	Yearlings (hatchery)	2,000	Balloon – injury and survival (Normandeau)
2017	Foster	Sub-yearlings	1,500	RT/PIT – passage rates and distribution (PNNL)
2017	OSU	Sub-yearlings	2,000	Copepod project
<b>Steelhead</b>				
2016	Foster	2-year smolts	1,300	RT/PIT – passage rates and distribution (PNNL)
2017	Foster	1-year smolts (hatchery)	800	RT/PIT – passage rates and distribution (PNNL)
2017	Foster	1-year smolts (hatchery)	320	Balloon – injury and survival (Normandeau)

# JUVENILE MIGRATION IN WILLAMETTE RIVER BASIN



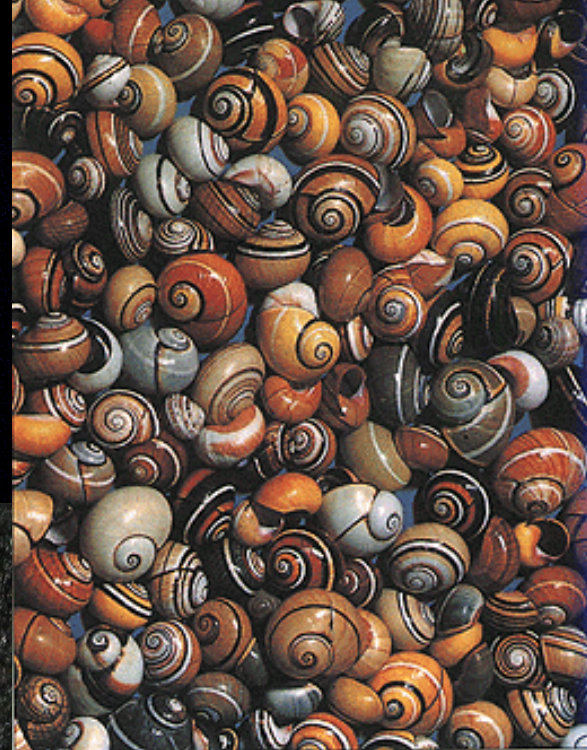
- Threshold or decision points
- Migration downstream
- Rearing



Donnell Gasbarinni



Hill



Grant and Grant



Natural Environment Research Council



Shuster and Wade



Lee et al. 2015

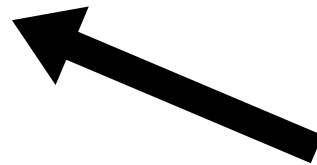
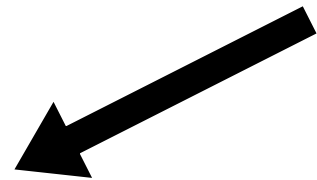
# GENETIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFLUENCES



PHENOTYPIC TRAITS

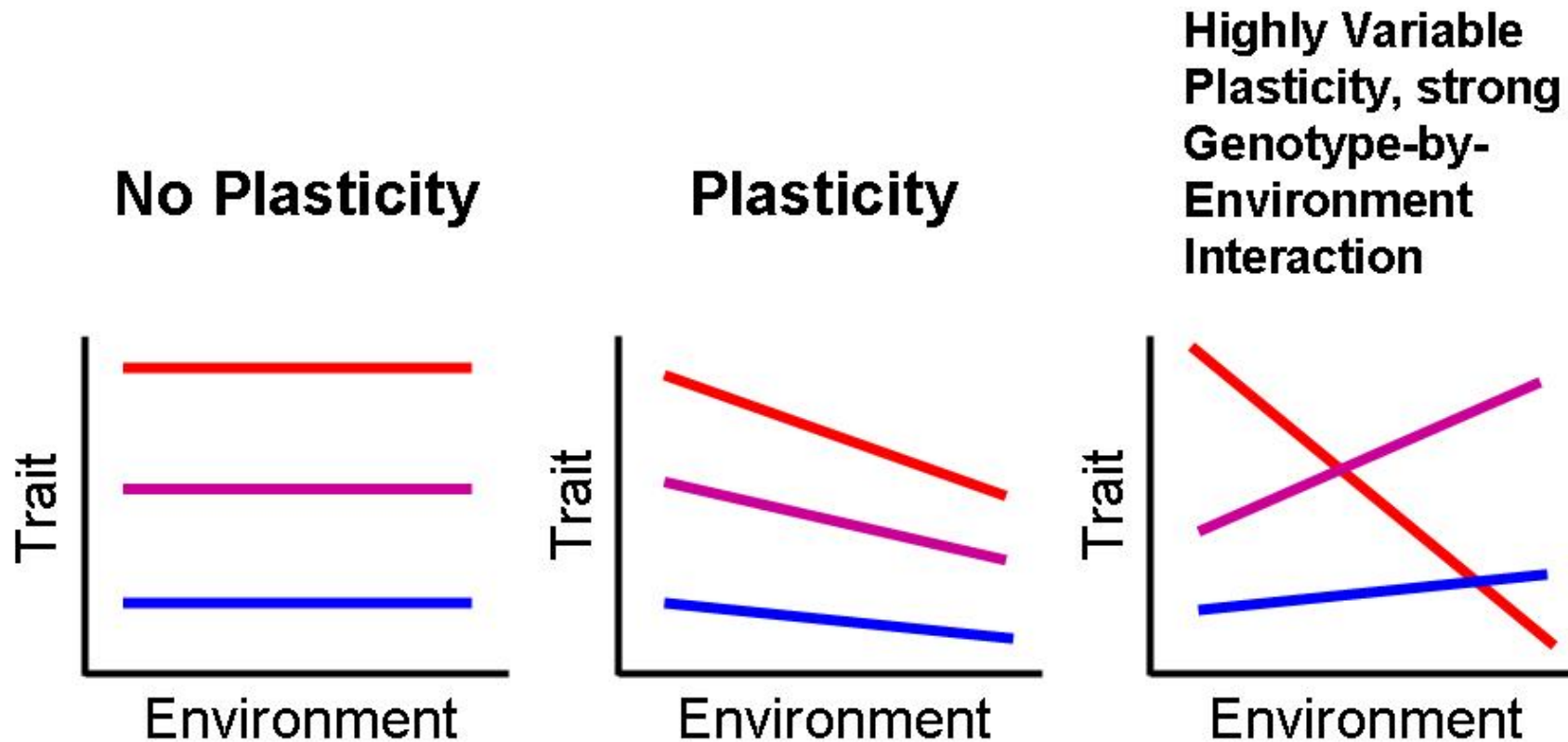


$\times V_{GE}$



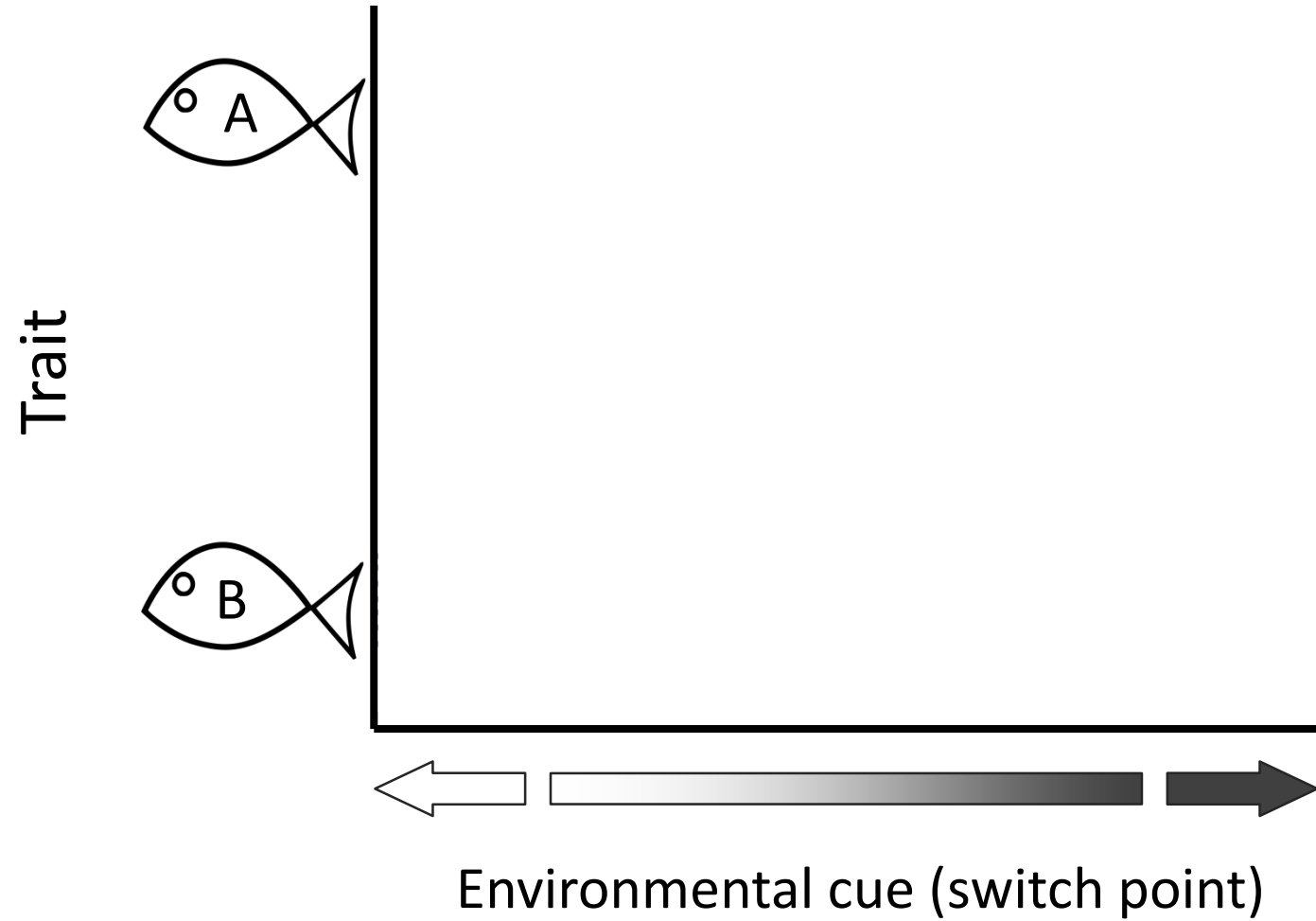
# $G \times E = \text{PHENOTYPIC PLASTICITY}$

The ability of one genotype to produce more than one phenotype when exposed to different environments



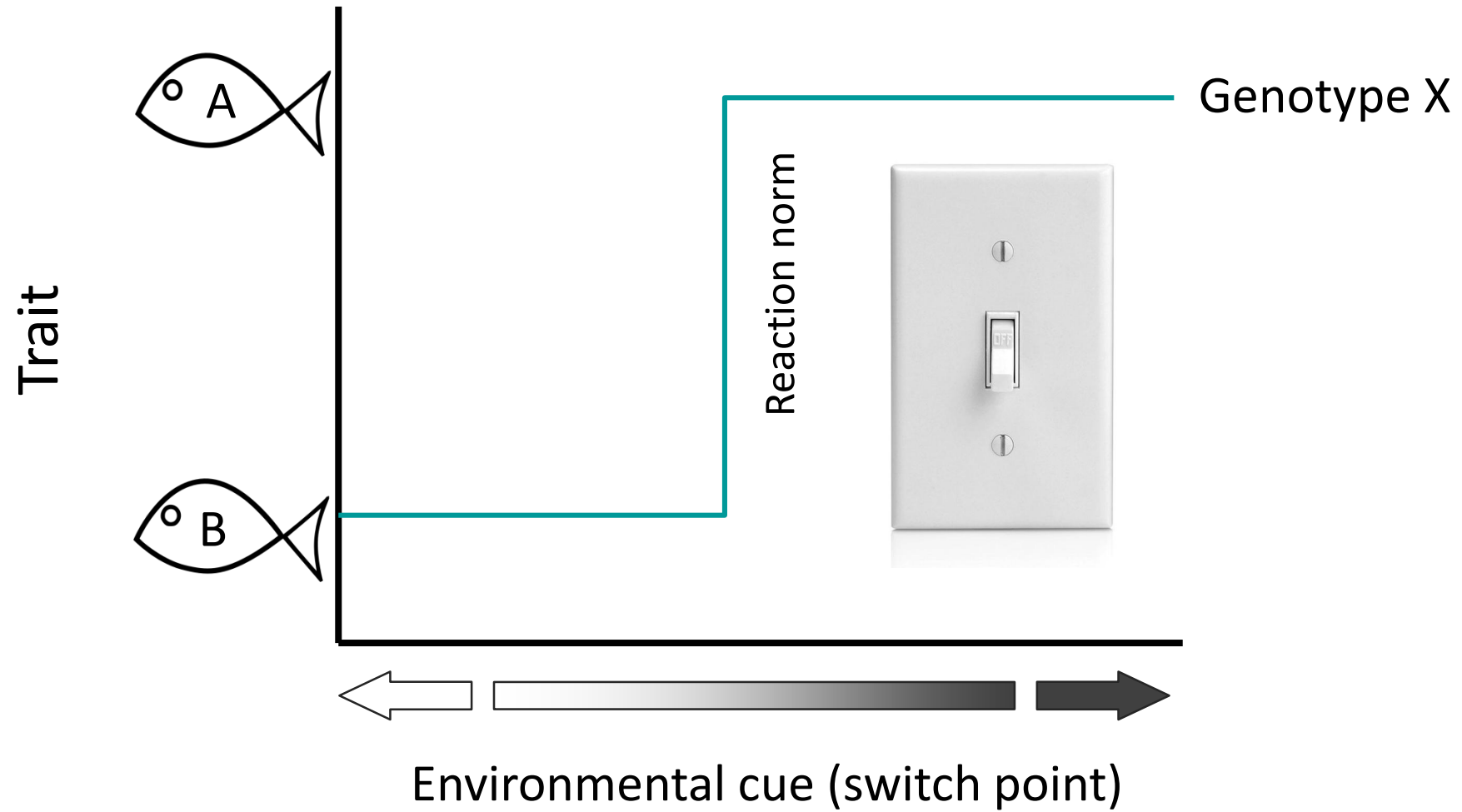
Each of these lines represent reaction norms

# VARIATION AND REACTION NORMS

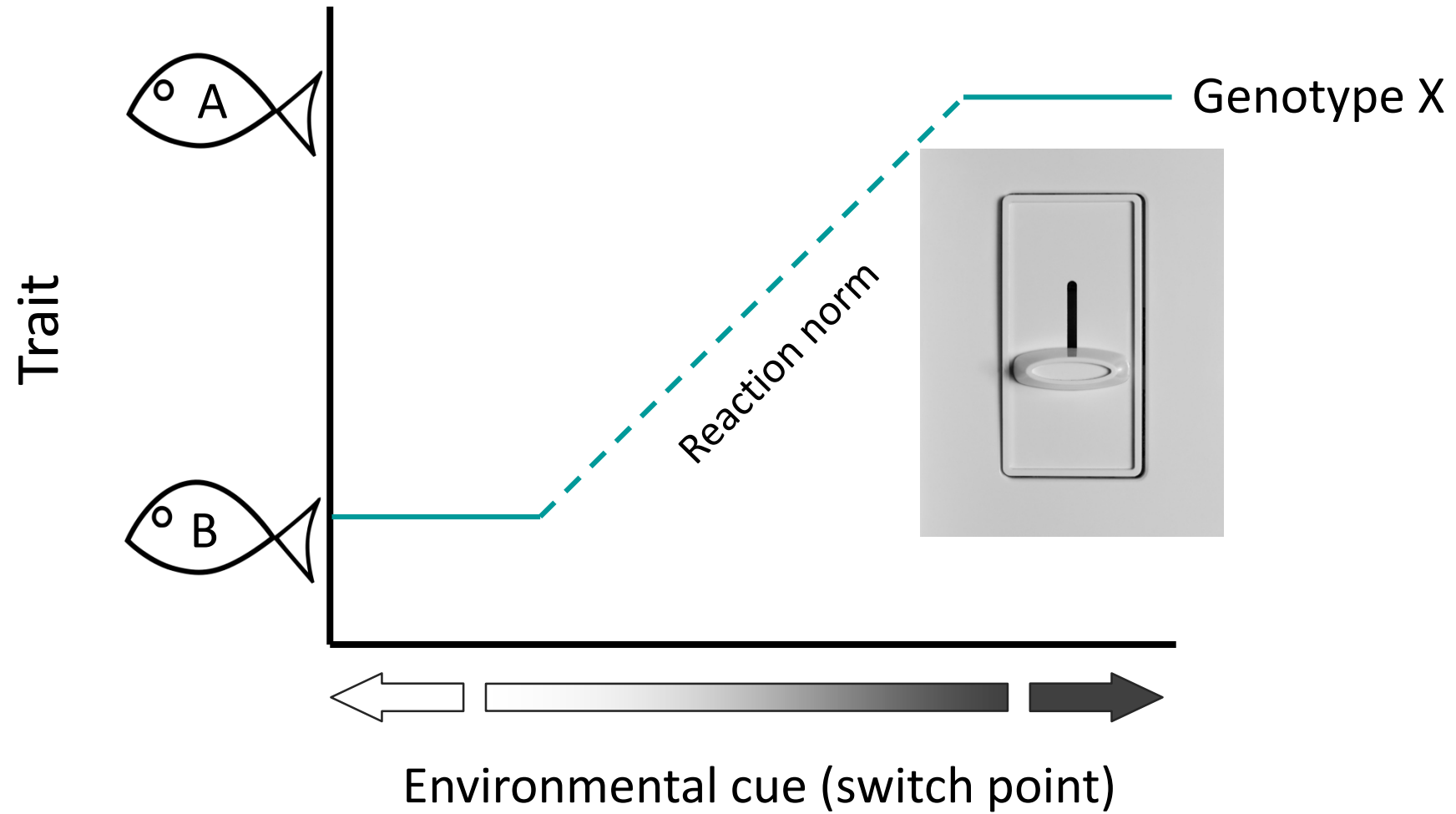




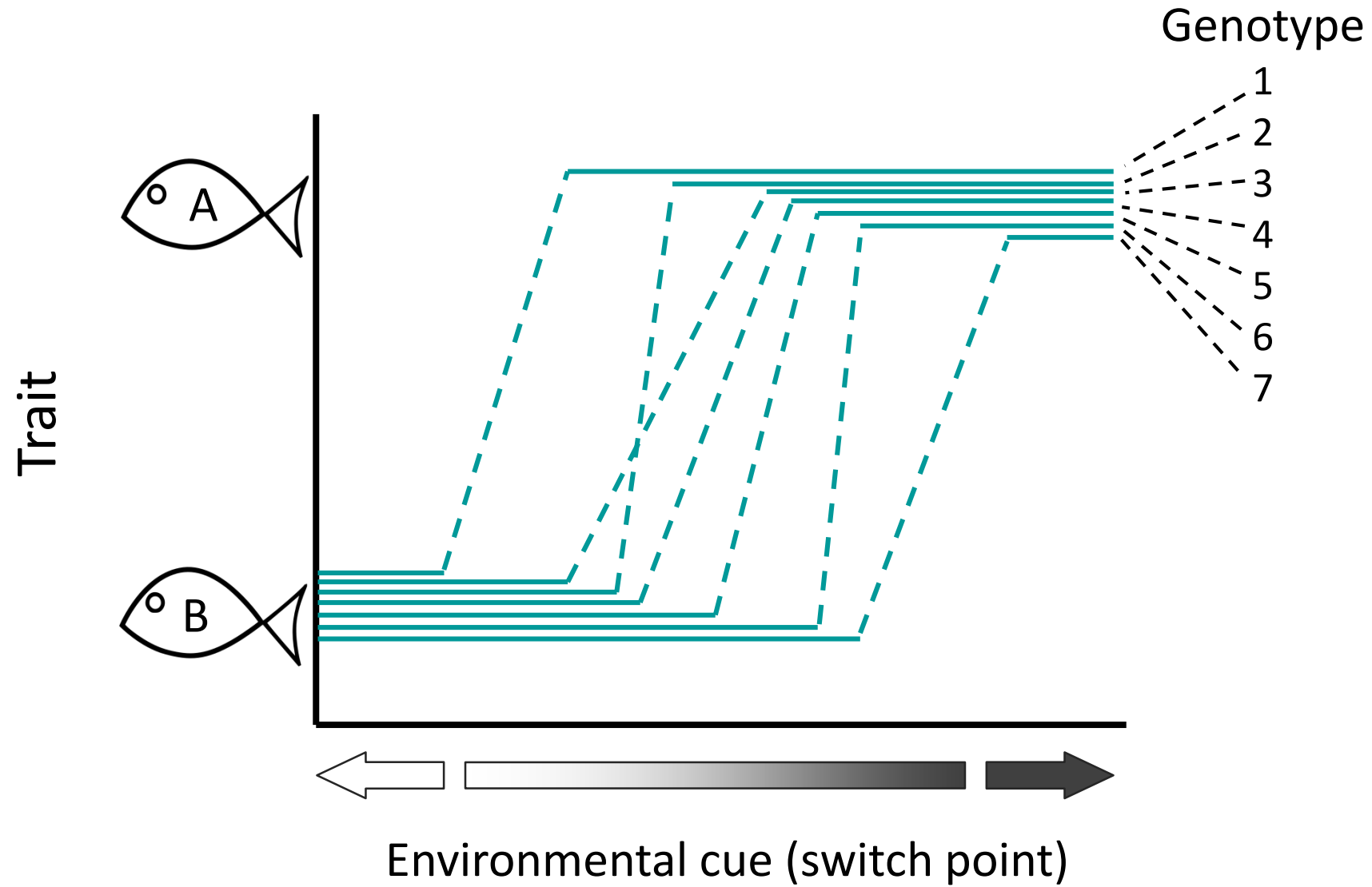
# VARIATION AND REACTION NORMS



# VARIATION AND REACTION NORMS

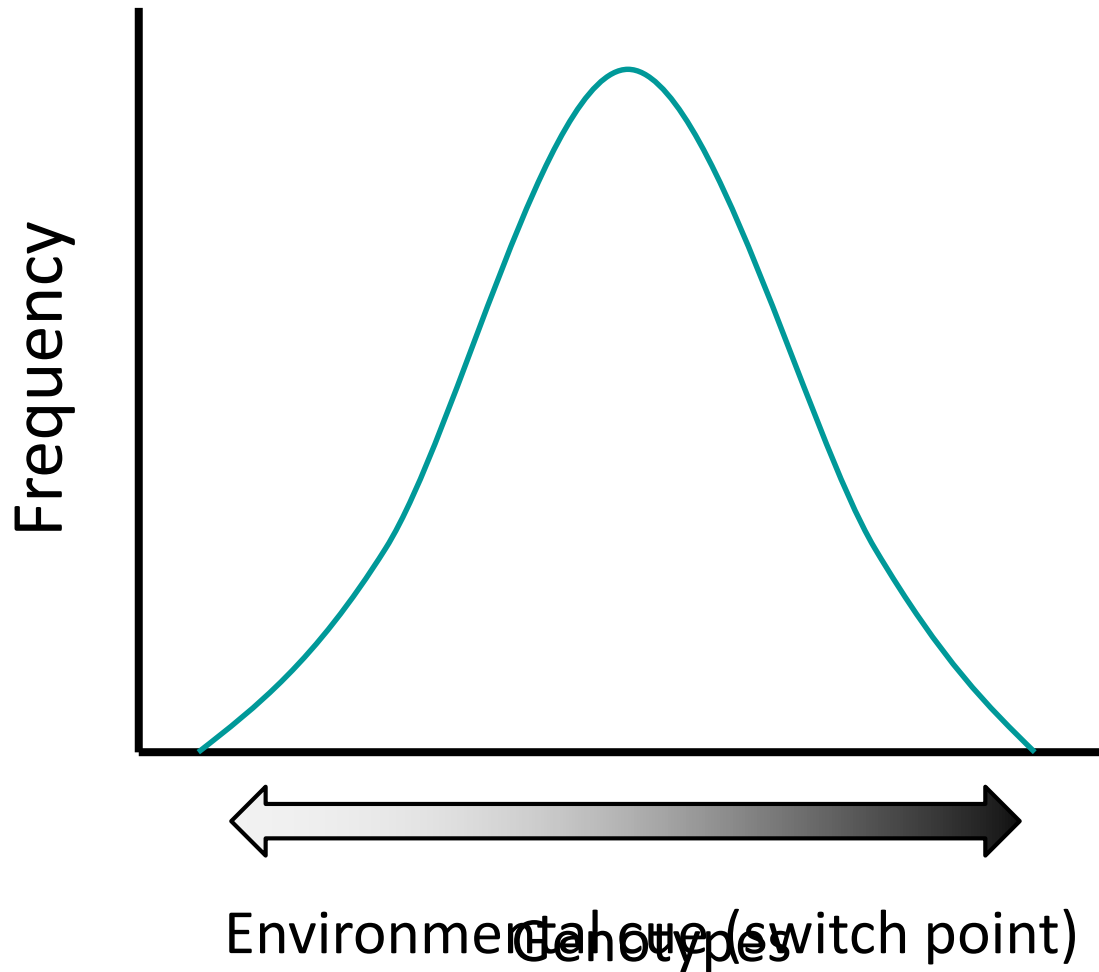


# VARIATION AND REACTION NORMS

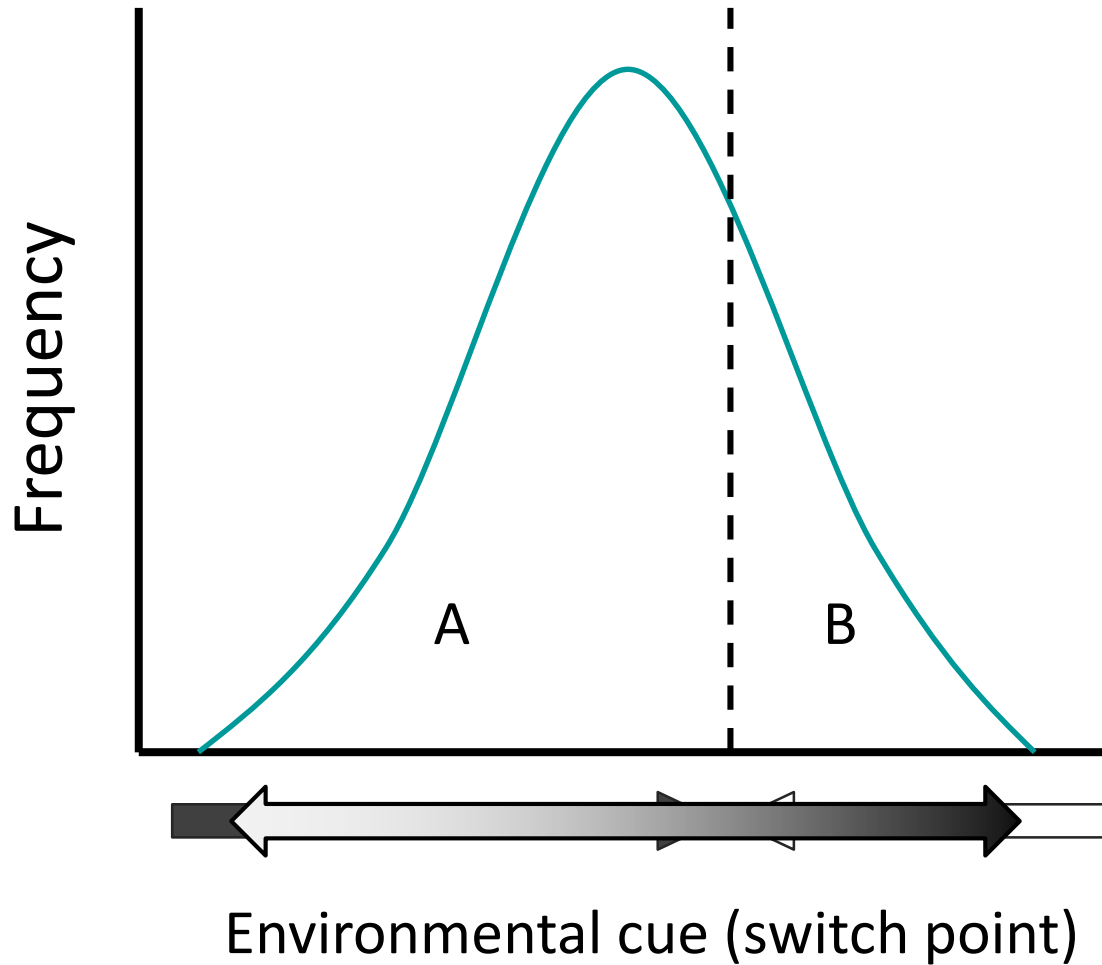


# FREQUENCY OF LIFE HISTORY TRAITS

Distribution of genotypes  
in population



# FREQUENCY OF LIFE HISTORY TRAITS

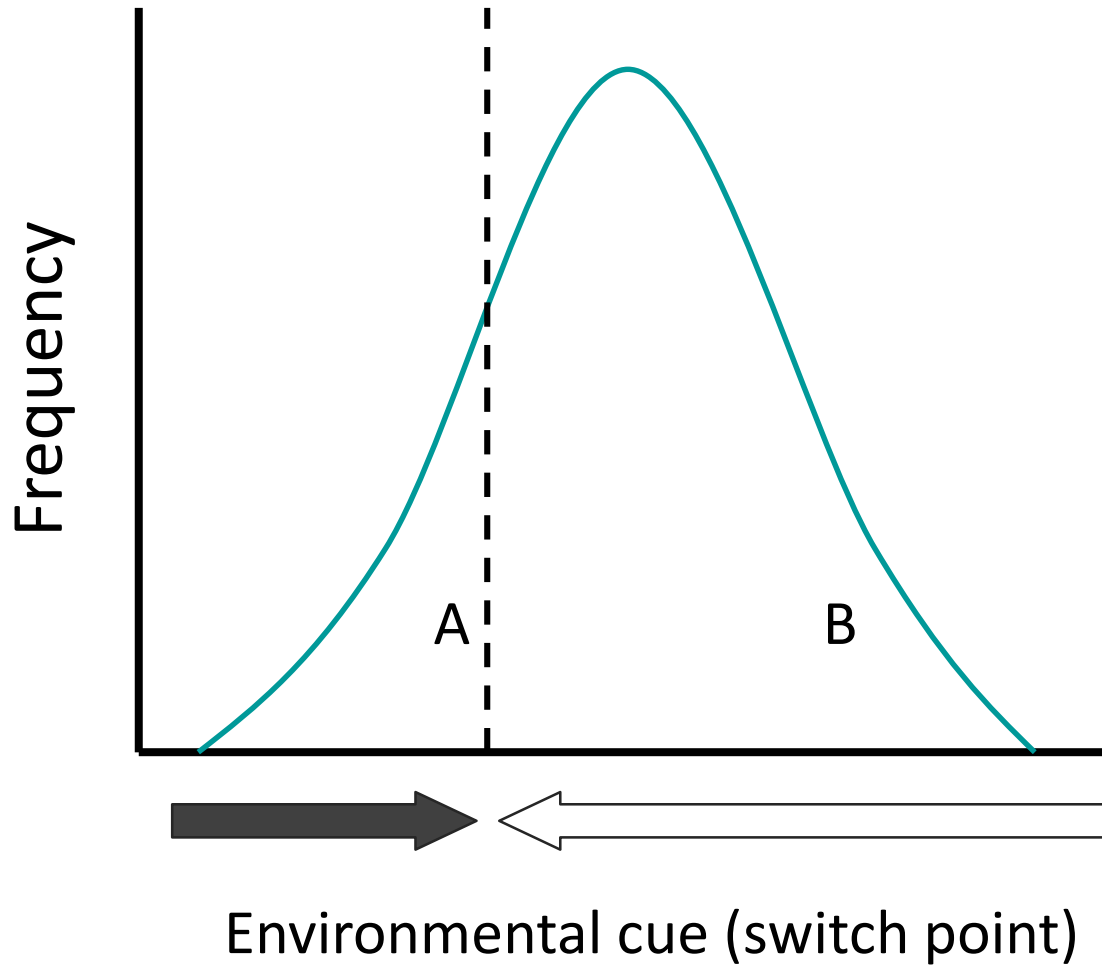


Distribution of genotypes  
in population



Can produce different  
phenotypes (e.g. A and B)

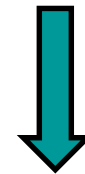
# FREQUENCY OF LIFE HISTORY TRAITS



Distribution of genotypes  
in population

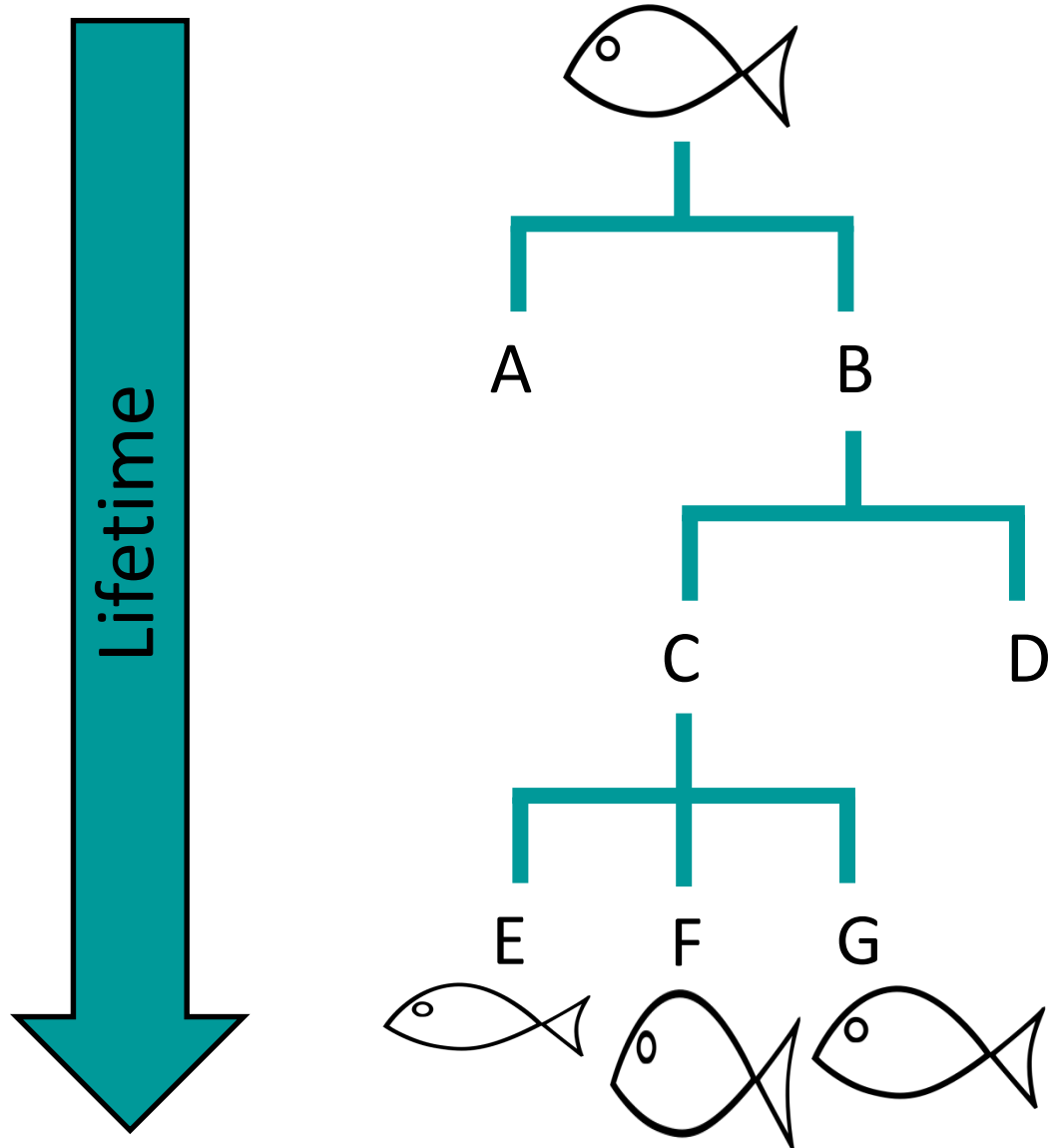


Can produce different  
phenotypes (e.g. A and B)



Changes depending on  
environmental cue

# LIFE HISTORY PATHWAYS



Switch point 1

Switch point 2

Switch point 3



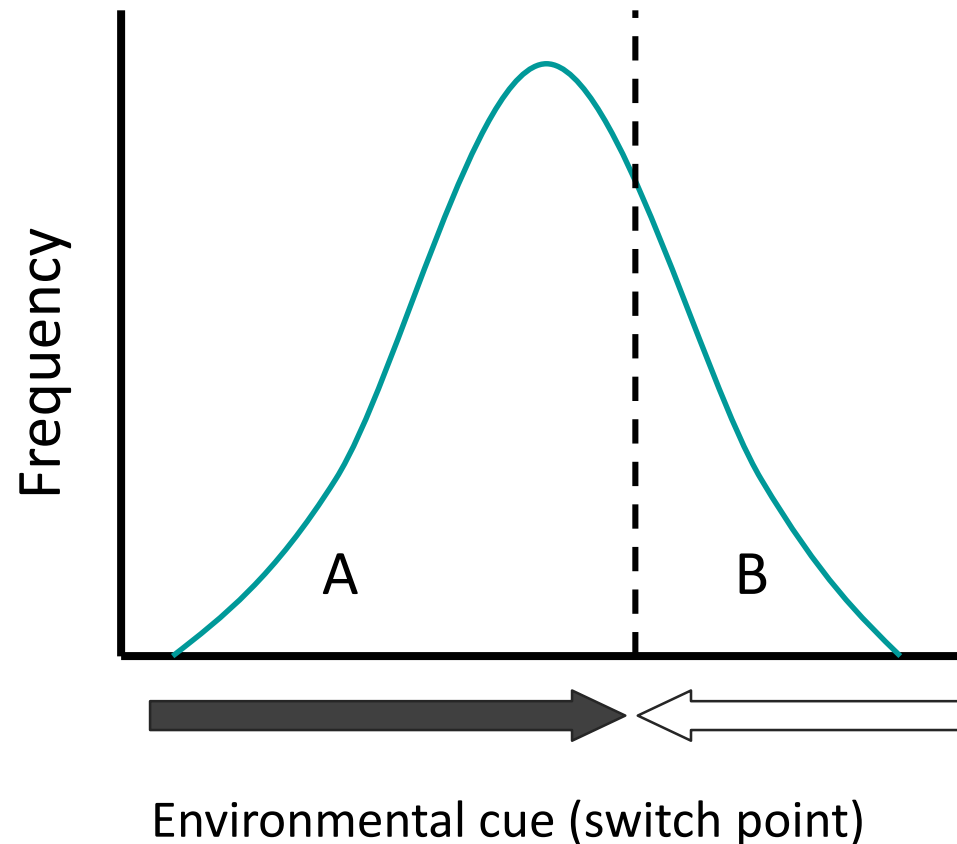
# Phenotypic plasticity and the Wild Fish Surrogate Project





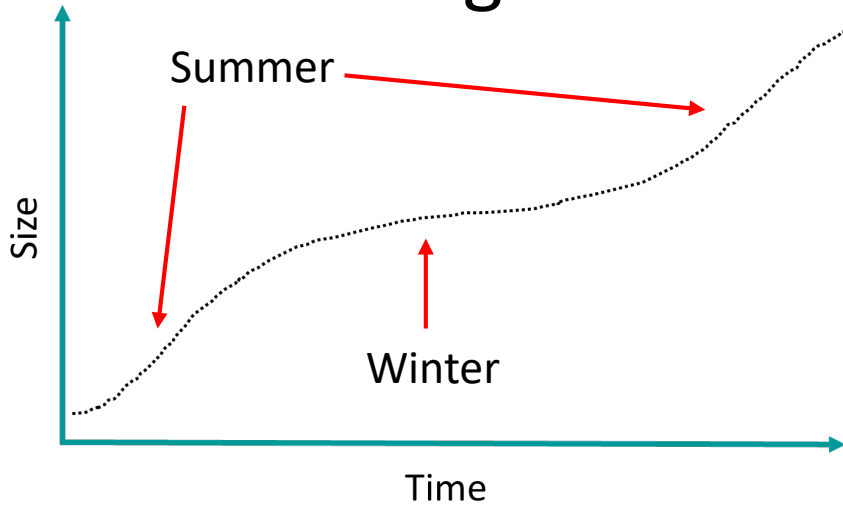
# PART 1: ENVIRONMENT

Evaluate how aspects of the early rearing environment influences the expression of juvenile downstream movement phenotypes

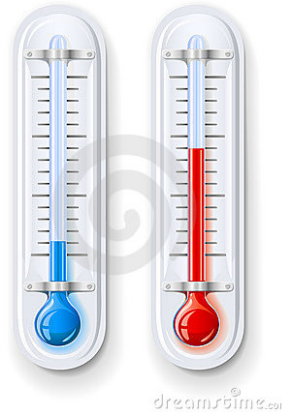


# ALTERED REARING ENVIRONMENT

## Wild-like growth



## Temperature



## Diet quality and pattern of delivery



## Density



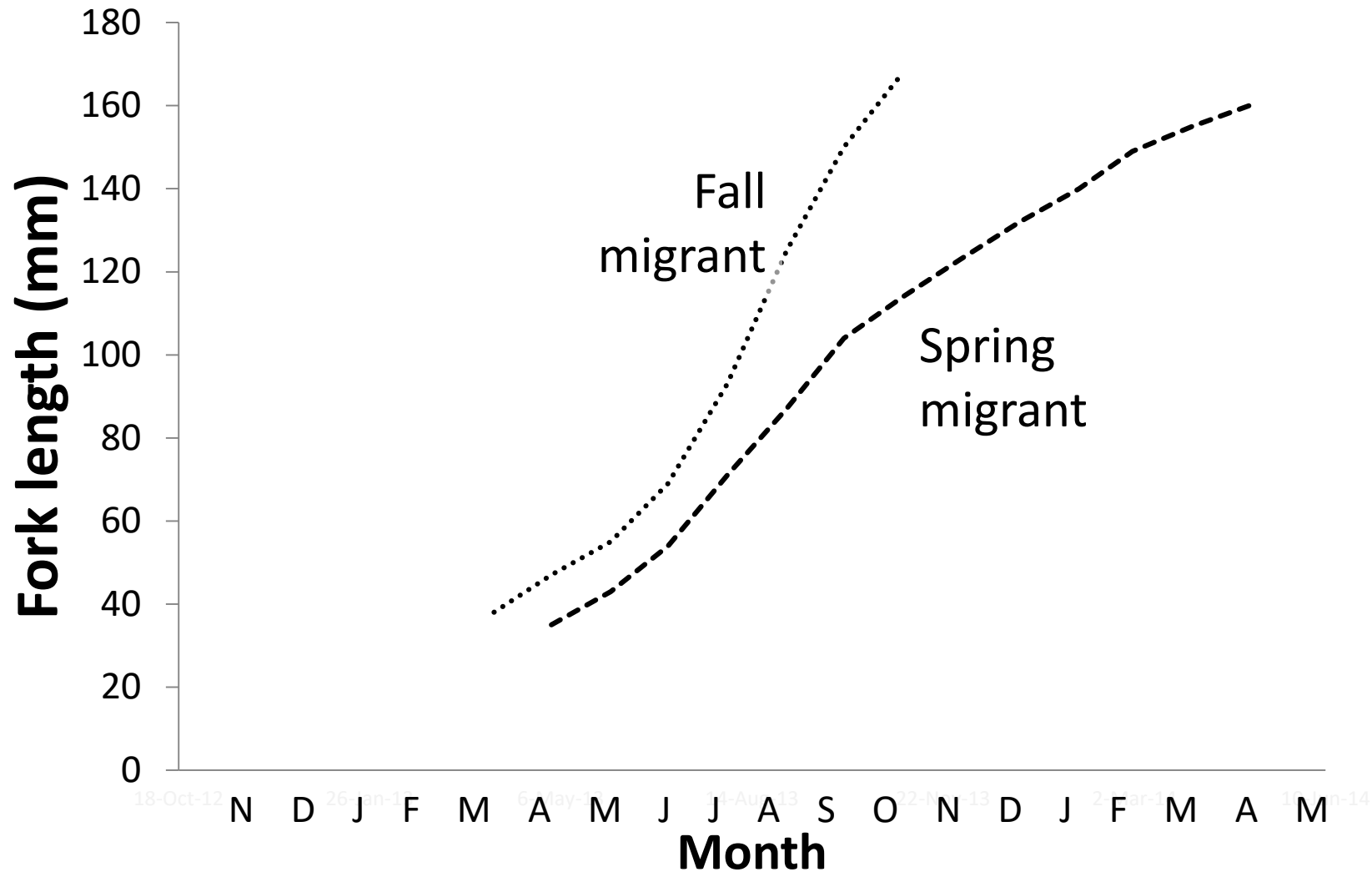
©Richard Grost

## Tank environment



# WILD FISH GROWTH TRAJECTORIES

Estimated growth for Spring Chinook salmon



# PROVIDE DIFFERENT CUES DURING REARING

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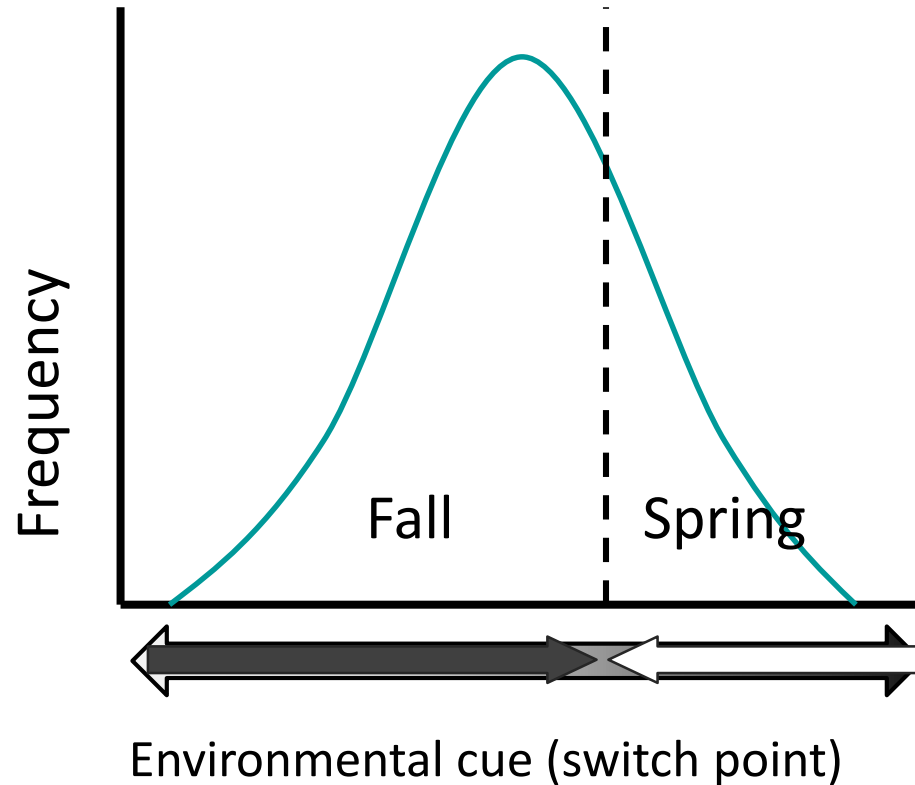
Growth rate



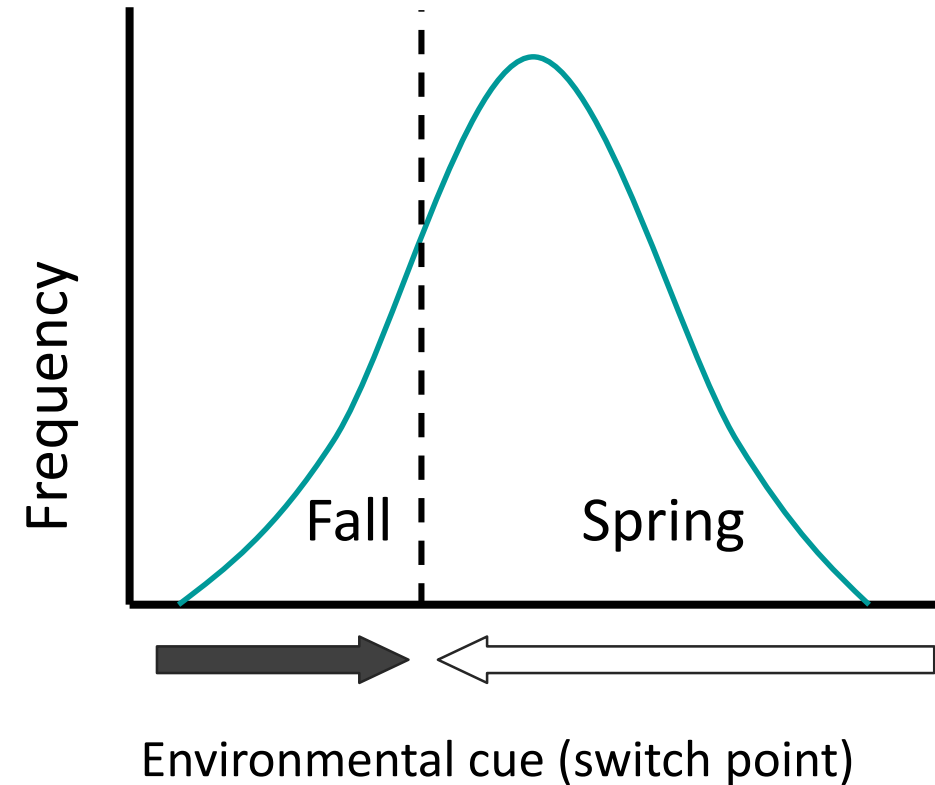
Slower  
growth

Faster  
growth

# PROVIDE DIFFERENT CUES DURING REARING

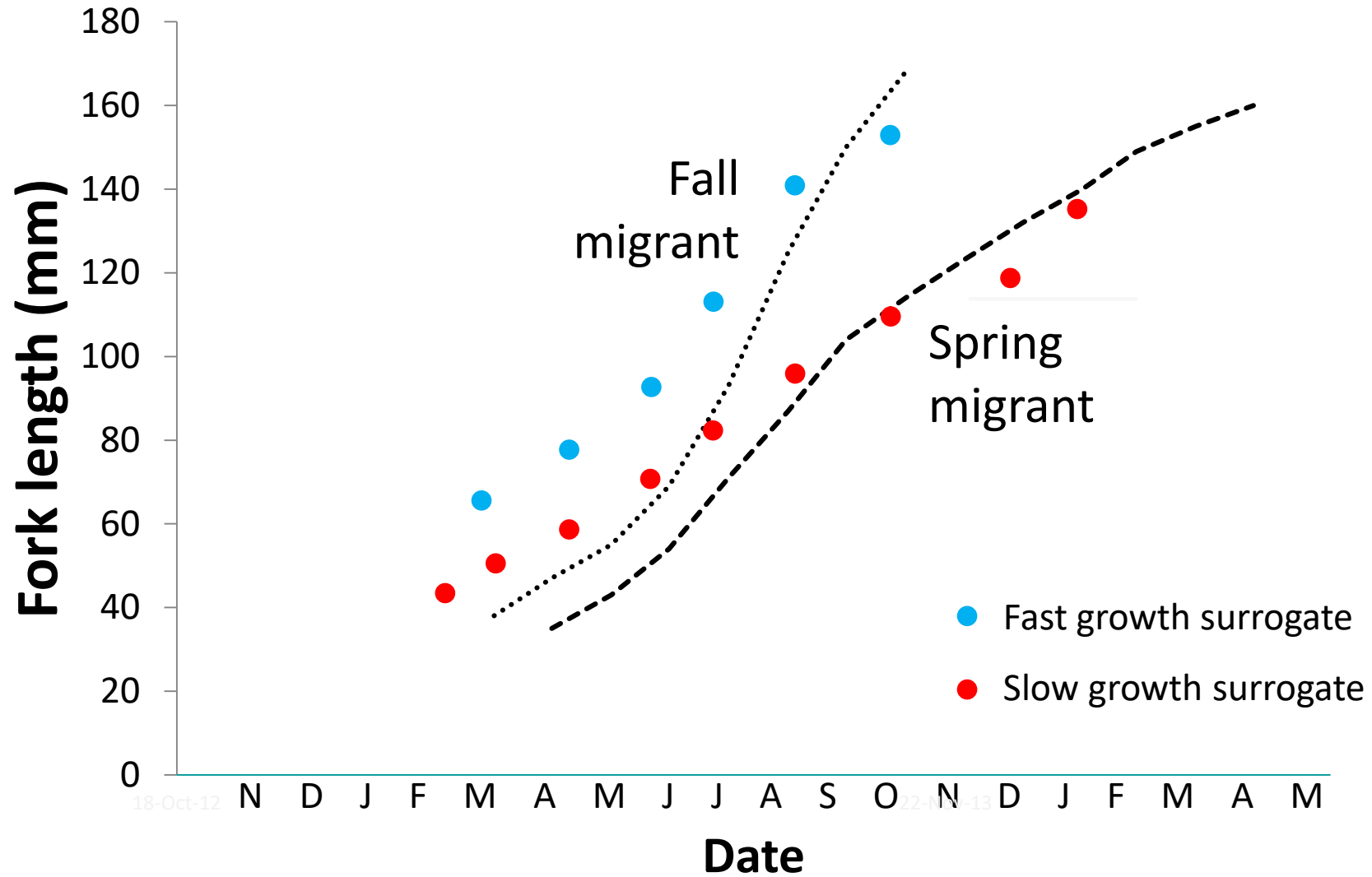


Fast growth



Slow growth

# GROWTH TRAJECTORIES



Depending on dam operations, as high as 92% of fish released above dams migrated as expected

**Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)**

**Wild Fish Surrogate**

Fish Performance and Genetics Lab  
Oregon State  
University

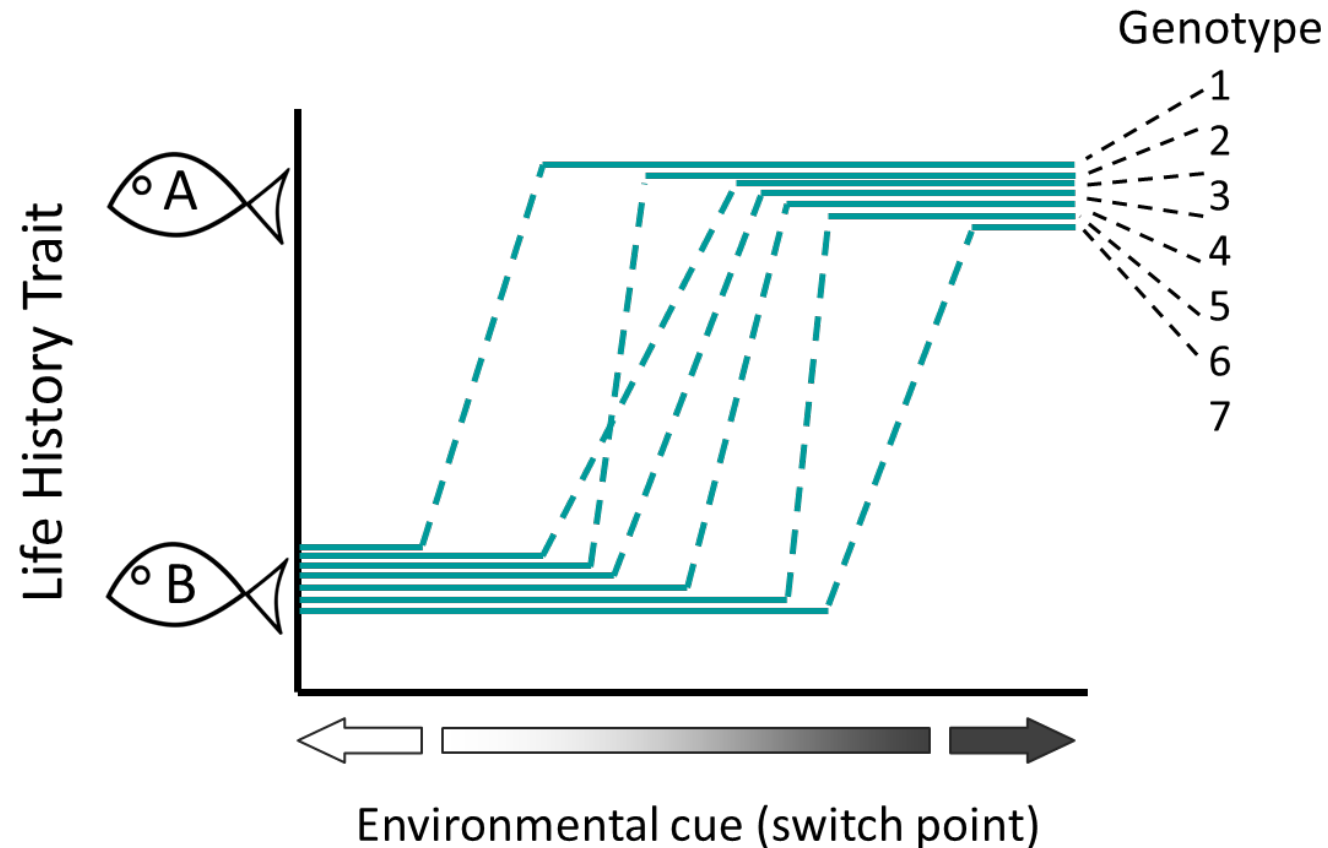
Life Stage: Smolt  
Length: 159mm



Illustration and copyright: Paul Vecsei  
Source material: Dr. David Noakes

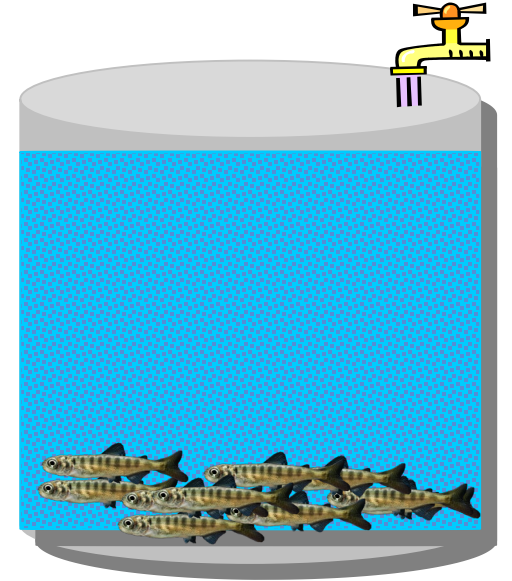
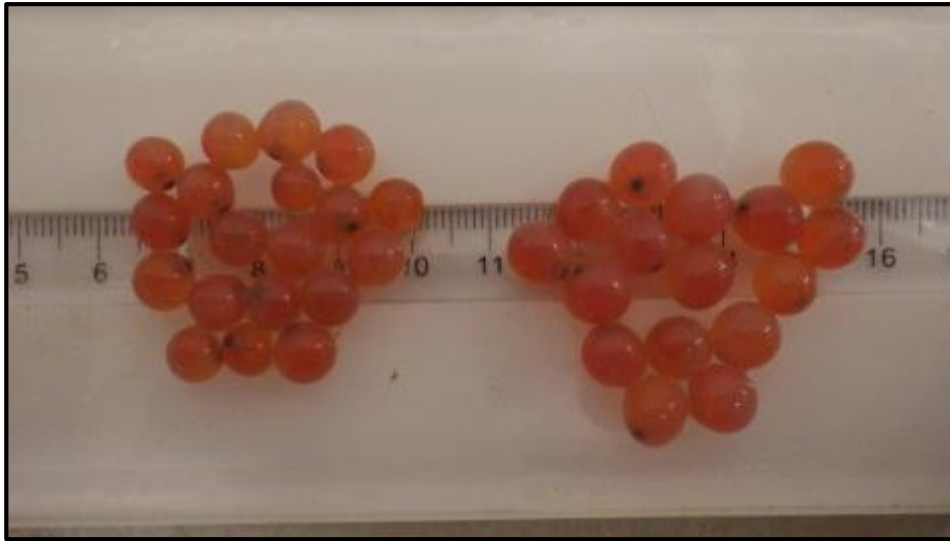
# PART 2: NATURAL LIFE HISTORY

Evaluate how natural early phenotypic differences influence the expression of juvenile downstream migration phenotypes





# NATURAL LIFE HISTORY VARIATION

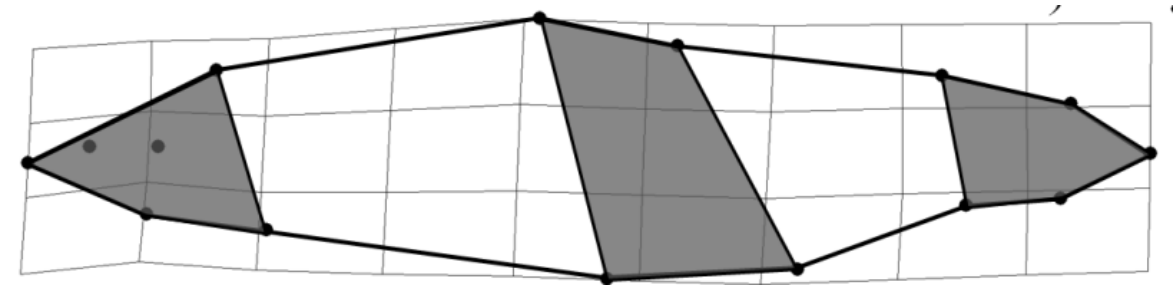


Phenotypic differences expressed early in life lead to different phenotypes expressed later



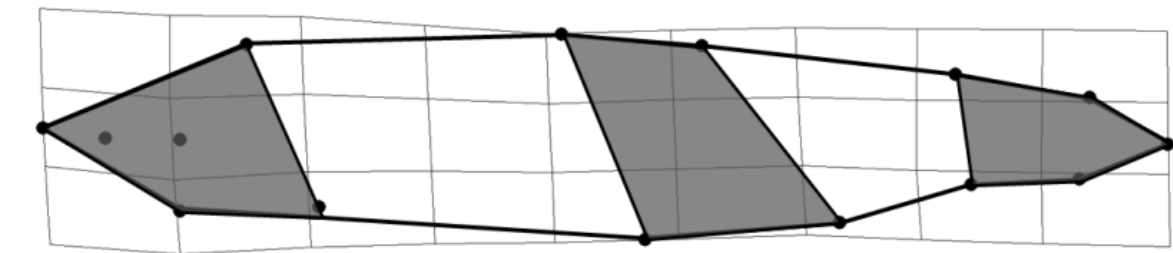
# VARIATION IN JUVENILE BODY MORPHOLOGY

- Actively migrating juvenile Chinook salmon
  - Fall (subyearlings)
  - Spring (yearlings)



Fall migrant

- Deeper bodies and caudal peduncles
- Shorter heads



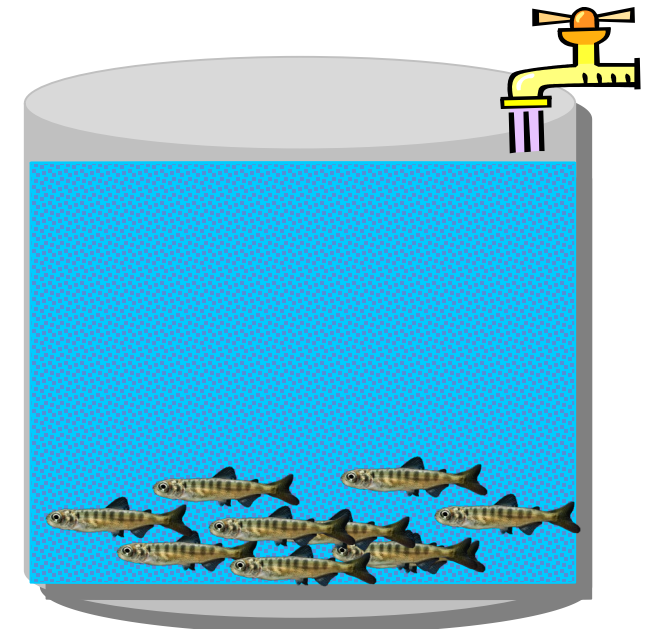
Spring migrant

# RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Does variation in egg size, emergence timing, and vertical self-sorting affect future body shape?
2. Can early traits be used as predictors of migration?



Jeffrey Rich



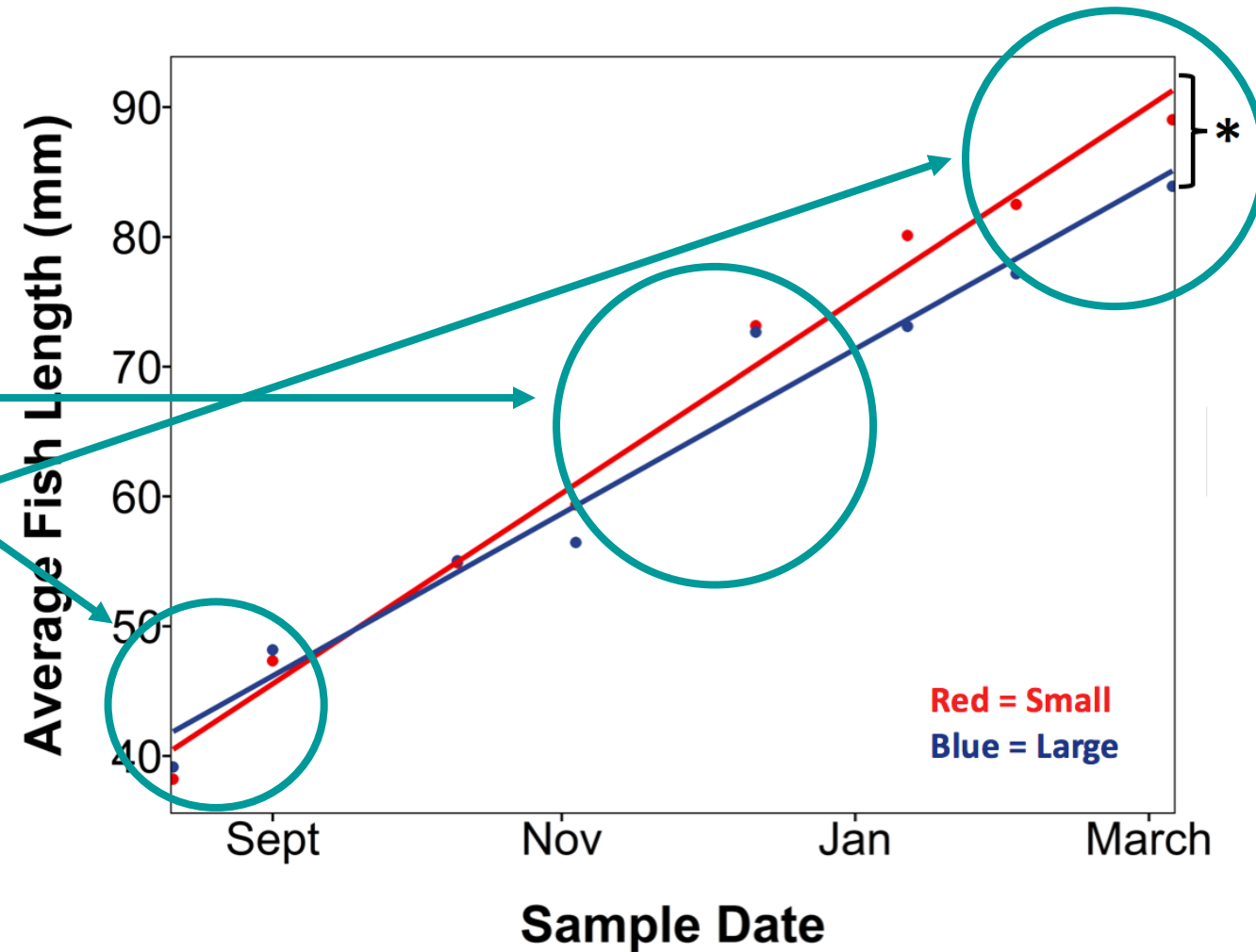
# EGG SIZE VARIATION IN FISHES

- Egg size can vary within and across females
- Offspring from small eggs often grow faster than from large eggs  
(Eldridge et al. 1982; Heath et al. 1999; Valdimarsson et al. 2002; Leblanc 2011)
- Growth rate can affect future phenotypes
  - Spawn timing
  - Precocial maturation
  - Migration timing

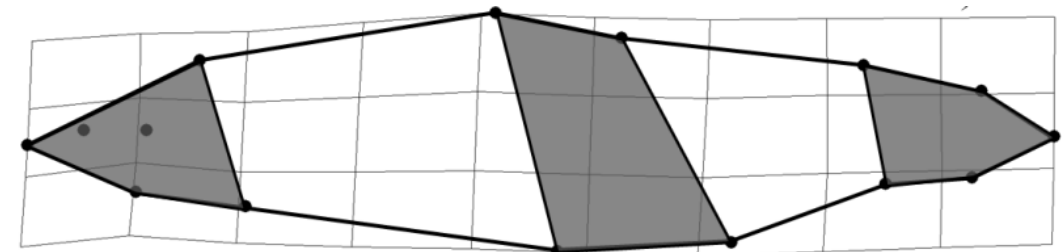
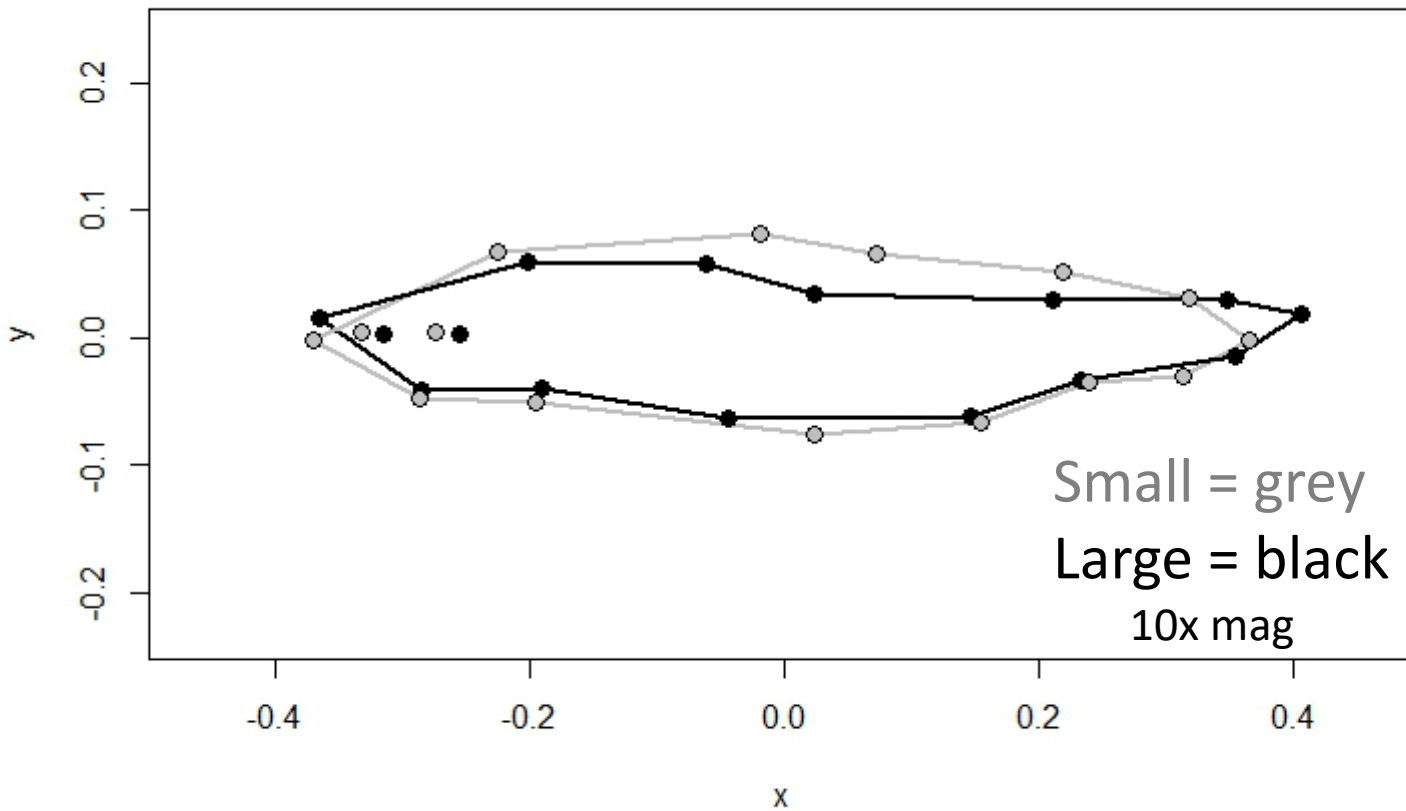


# CHINOOK SALMON AND STEELHEAD GROWTH RATE

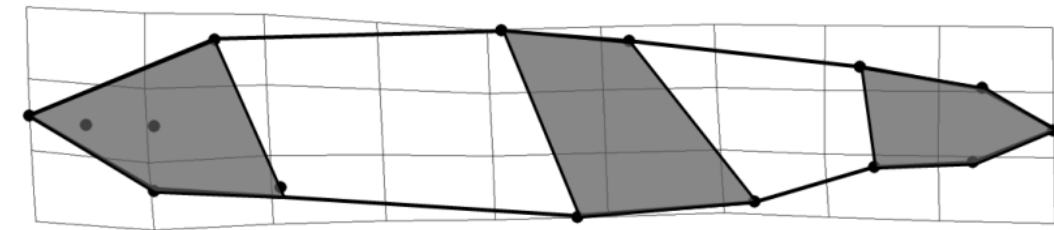
- Fish from small eggs have **FASTER** growth rate
  - Fish smaller initially
  - Outgrow fish from large eggs within a few months
  - Maintain size advantage



# FISH FROM SMALL EGGS MORE SIMILAR TO FALL MIGRANTS



Fall migrant

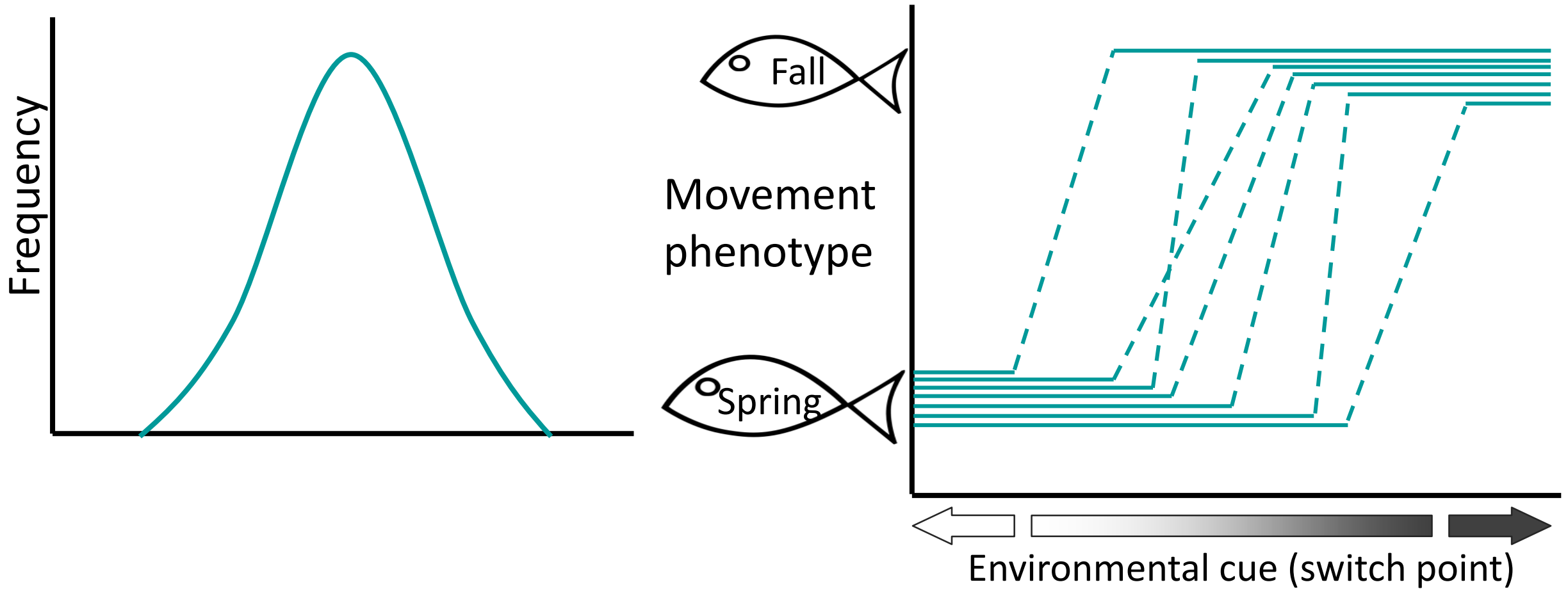


Spring migrant



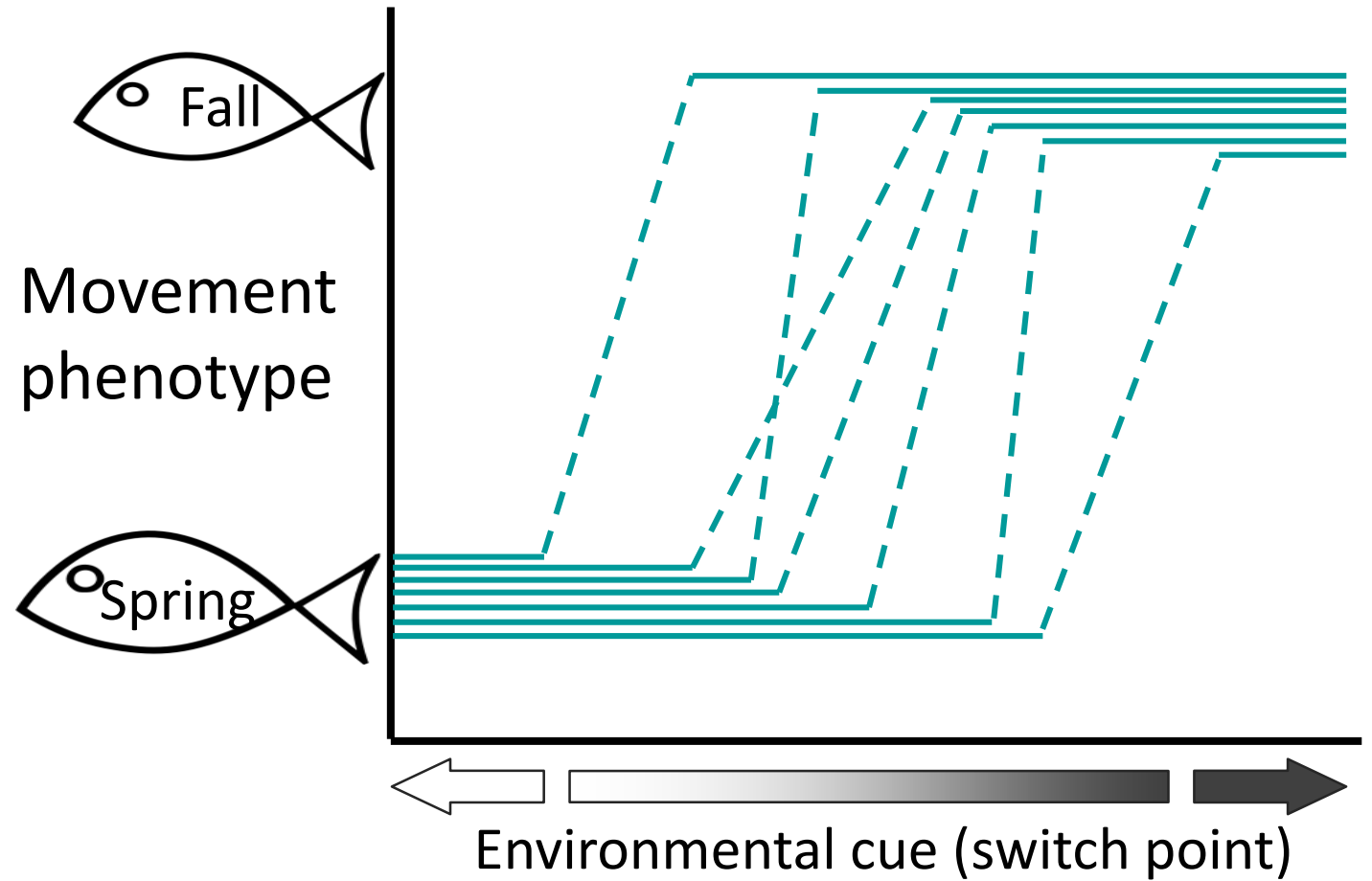
- Growth rate, body shape, and migration timing all related to traits happening early in development
- Can we harness this variation to produce more accurate movement phenotypes?

# HARNESS EARLY TRAIT DIFFERENCES

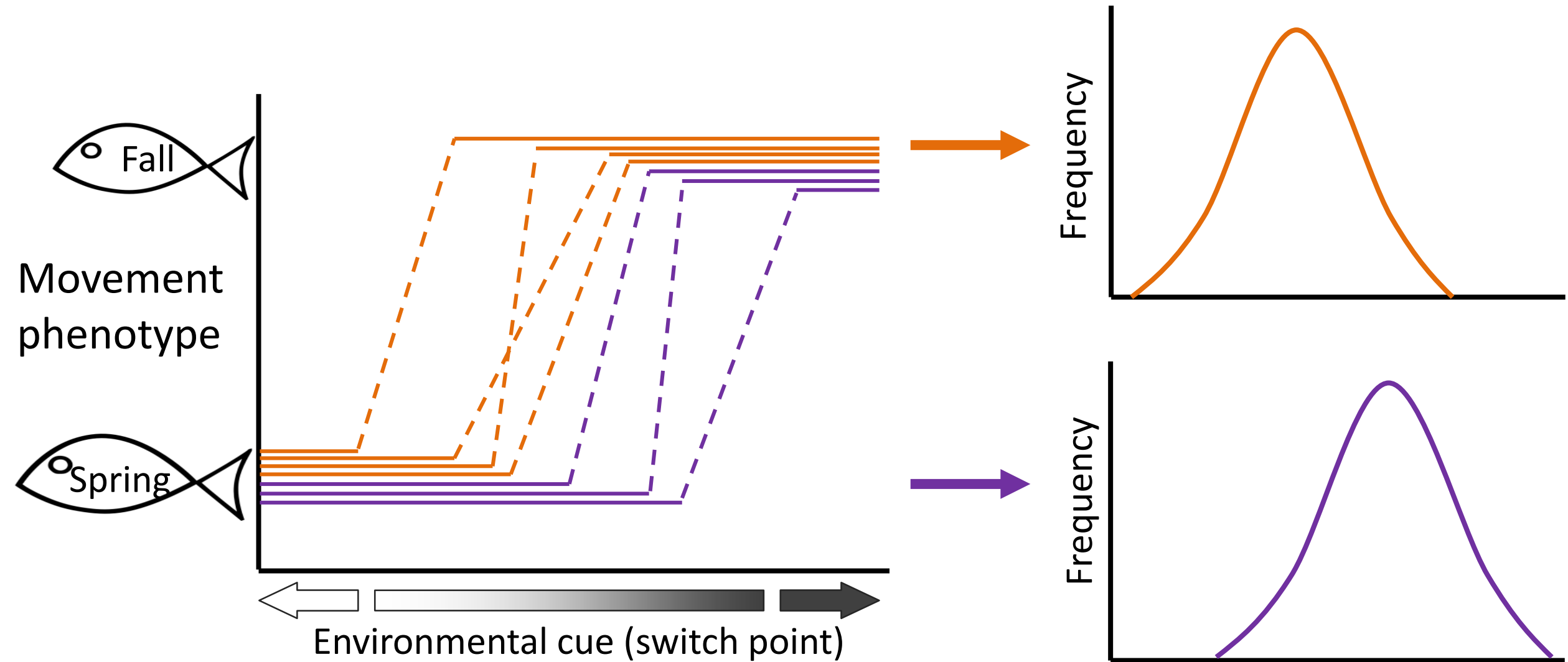




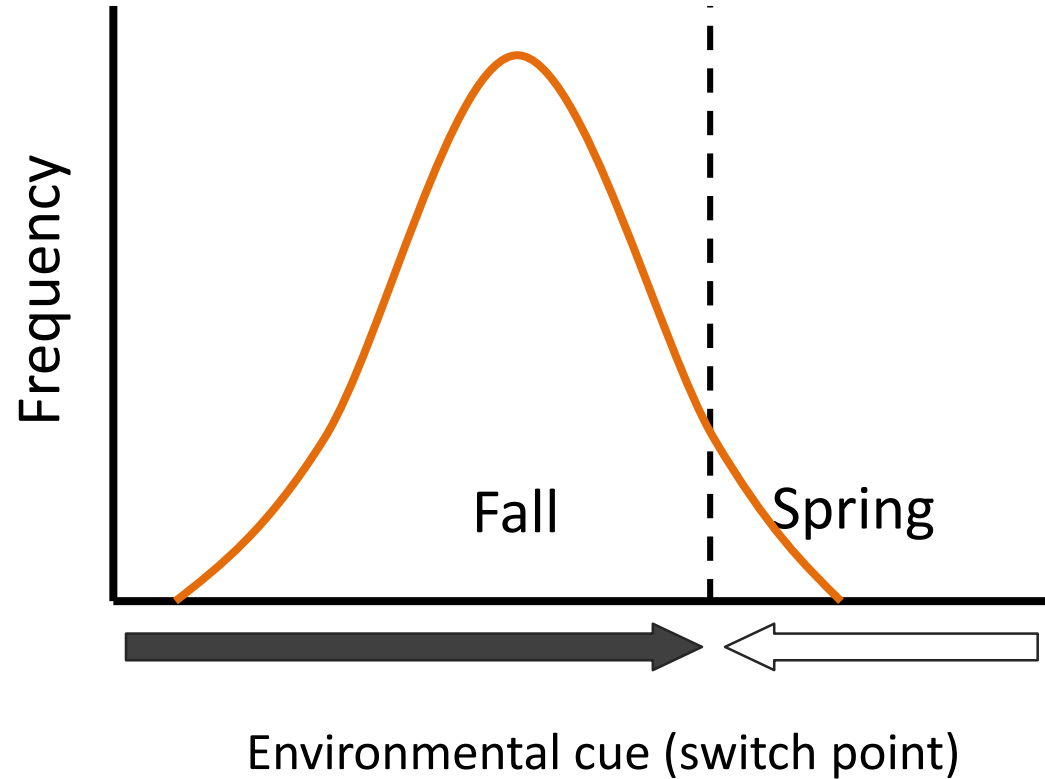
# HARNESS EARLY TRAIT DIFFERENCES



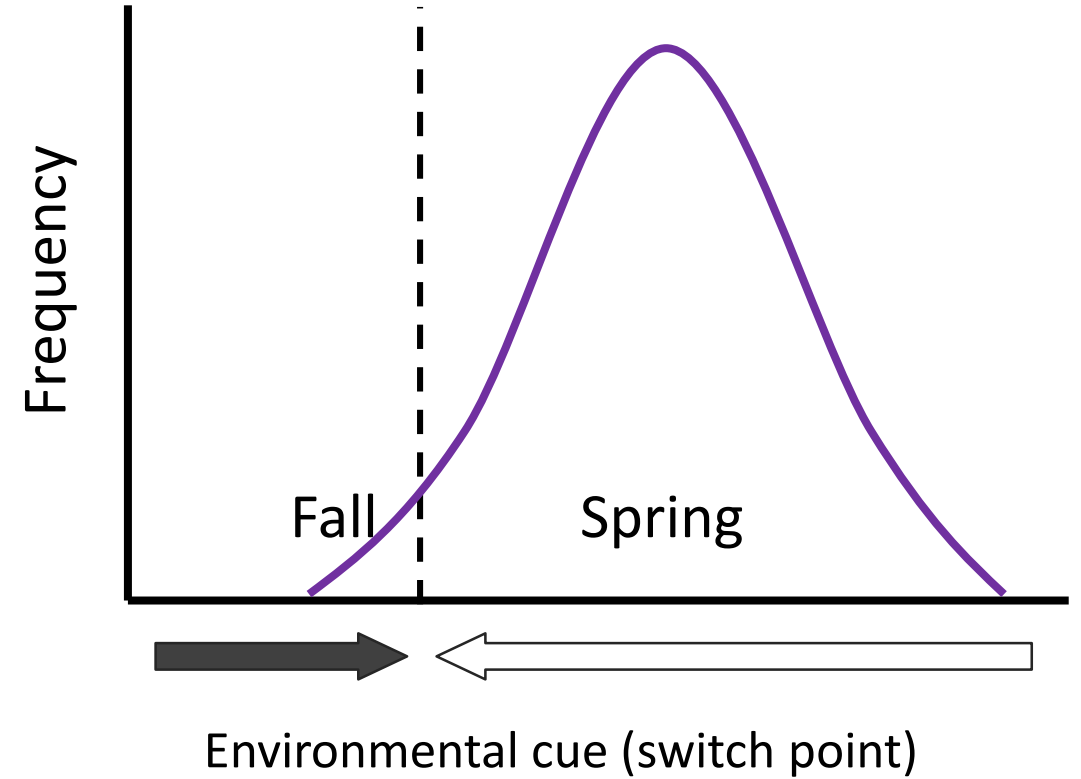
# HARNESS EARLY TRAIT DIFFERENCES



# PROVIDE DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENTAL CUES



Fast growth



Slow growth

# HIGH QUALITY SURROGATES

Natural life history  
differences

+

Altered rearing  
environment

=

More wild-like fish with  
appropriate movement  
phenotype?



**Wild Chinook salmon migrant**

**Surrogate wild Chinook salmon migrant**

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## The Surrogate Project Team:



Ryan Koch  
Olivia Hakanson  
Michelle Scanlan  
Crystal Herron  
Amanda Pollock  
Kate Self\*  
Rob Chitwood\*  
Courtney Danley\*  
Julia Unrein\*  
Heather Stewart\*  
Eric Billman\*  
Volunteers & students



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Jen Krajcik  
Ryan Couture  
Joseph O'Neil\*  
Joyce Mahr\*  
Alex Powell\*

ODFW staff & hatchery managers

ODFW Researchers

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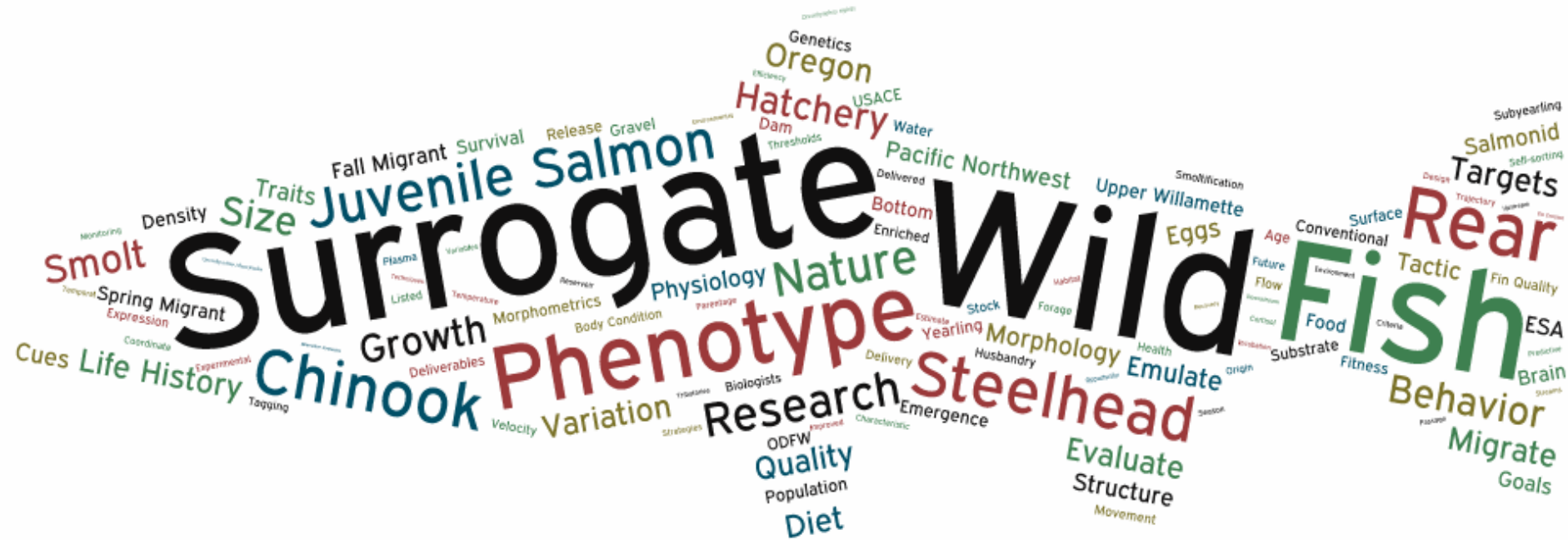
\* past members



**US Army Corps of Engineers.**



# THANK YOU



## QUESTIONS?