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Bioenergetic modelling of the marine phase of Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar* L.)

I. Philip Smith^{1,*}, Douglas J. Booker^{2,4}, Neil C. Wells³

1. University Marine Biological Station, Millport, Isle of Cumbrae, KA28 0EG, United Kingdom

2. Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Maclean Building, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 8BB, United Kingdom

3. School of Ocean and Earth Science, University of Southampton, National Oceanography Centre, European Way, Southampton, SO14 3ZH, United Kingdom

4. Present address: D. J. Booker, National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, PO Box 8602, Riccarton, Christchurch 8011, New Zealand

Abstract

A bioenergetic model of marine-phase, wild Atlantic salmon was constructed to investigate the potential effects on post-smolt growth of predicted changes in oceanic conditions. Short-term estimates of growth in weight were similar to measurements in captivity and simulated growth varied with water temperature and swimming speed as expected. Longer-term estimates of growth in length were less than that achieved by wild salmon, particularly with constant swimming assumed. The model was sensitive to parameters relating to maximum daily food consumption, respiration and the relationships between body energy content, length and weight. Some of the sensitive parameters were based on substantive information on Atlantic salmon and their realistic ranges are likely to be much narrower than those tested. However, other parameter values were based on scant data, farmed Atlantic salmon or other salmonid species, and are therefore less certain and indicate where future empirical research should be focussed.

Keywords: Atlantic salmon, post-smolt, marine phase, growth, temperature, climate change, marine ecology, mathematical models

1. Introduction

Populations of Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar* L.) have declined considerably across the species' range on both sides of the North Atlantic Ocean since the 1970s (Jonsson and Jonsson, 2004). While in some populations, there may be causal factors during the freshwater phase of the life

cycle, there are indications of a widespread increase in mortality during the marine phase not attributable to directed fishing (Hawkins, 2000). In most of the well-studied stocks, there has been a 30-year trend of increasing marine mortality in salmon that mature after two or more winters in the sea. Among salmon that mature after only one winter at sea ('grilse'), there appears to have been a sudden increase in marine mortality in the late 1980s, which has persisted subsequently (Potter and Crozier, 2000). Assuming that marine predation on salmon is highest when post-smolts are small (Peterson and Wroblewski, 1984; Griffiths and Harrod, 2007), it seems likely that such significant variation in survival is linked to changes in the nature or intensity of processes operating in the first few weeks after emigration from rivers to the sea. There is mounting evidence that marine mortality of salmon is inversely related to growth rate during the early marine phase and that growth is strongly related to sea temperatures experienced by the fish in that period (Friedland et al., 2005; Peyronnet et al., 2007; McCarthy et al., 2008; Todd et al., 2008).

It is not clear whether the influence of temperature on historical variation in post-smolt growth rate is predominantly a direct effect on salmon physiology or an indirect effect related to ocean currents or prey availability (Hawkins, 2000). Temperature certainly has a direct effect on metabolic processes (Brett and Groves, 1979), but Beaugrand and Reid (2003) have detected significant correlations among indices of climate variability, zooplankton abundance and an index of salmon abundance.

An understanding of how salmon survival may be affected by future changes in oceanic conditions is required to inform management decisions on how best to conserve Atlantic salmon stocks (Solomon et al., 2003). One approach to this is bioenergetic modelling, in which the energy available for somatic growth is estimated from the balance of energy gained from feeding against that lost through egestion, excretion, standard and active metabolism, and reproduction (Brett and Groves, 1979). Combined with a model of how the oceanic ecosystem may respond to climatic changes, this provides a tool for investigating the consequences of future climate scenarios for salmon stocks, as has been done for sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) in the north Pacific Ocean (Rand et al., 1997). There have been numerous published bioenergetic models of salmonids, including wild juvenile Atlantic salmon in fresh water (Broekhusien et al., 1994; Elliott and Hurley, 1997; Forseth et al., 2001; Jones et al., 2002; Gurney et al., 2003). Empirical models of growth in relation to temperature, ration and body size have been constructed for marine-phase Atlantic salmon in aquaculture (Austreng et al., 1987; Cho and

Bureau, 1998), but there are no published bioenergetic models of the marine phase of wild *S. salar*.

The aim of the present study was to construct and test an individual-based model (Grimm et al., 1999) of growth in marine-phase Atlantic salmon, using existing information on temperature and body size dependencies of consumption and energy losses. Owing to the limited information on some aspects of the energy metabolism of marine-phase Atlantic salmon, it has been necessary to use parameters estimated for closely-related species or freshwater stages of *S. salar* for some functions. The sensitivity of the model to variation in uncertain parameters has therefore been investigated to indicate where future empirical research effort should be directed. The present model is not spatially explicit (i.e. does not include a representation of varying geographical location), but we have previously reported a model for simulating trajectories of migrating Atlantic salmon (Booker et al., 2008). Coupling these approaches with a climate-driven ecosystem model of the North Atlantic Ocean (e.g. Palmer and Totterdell, 2001) will allow spatially explicit modelling of marine-phase growth.

2. Methods

2.1. Model description

The model consisted of a system of equations, described below, for calculating daily energy gain and loss from food consumption, egestion, excretion and respiratory losses under different conditions of body size, water temperature, day length, swimming speed and prey availability. Growth was then calculated from the net energy gain. Since the model was not spatially explicit, spatial aspects, such as water temperature, day length and prey density were held constant for each run of the model. The initial salmon body length was taken as 0.125 m as a typical value for wild smolts (Shearer, 1992; although variation in this value was investigated) and initial weight was calculated from a weight-length relationship derived from unpublished data on smolts from British rivers (I. Russell, G. W. Smith, pers. comm.).

2.1.1. Prey encounter and capture

Analysis of stomach contents indicates that salmon prey on a wide variety of invertebrates and fish during their marine phase (Jacobsen and Hansen, 2000). In estuarine and nearshore waters, post-smolts take terrestrial insects and other arthropods, such as intertidal amphipods (Hansen

and Quinn, 1998; Sturlaugsson, 2000). As post-smolts move further offshore, marine prey species become more prevalent and mainly comprise planktonic crustaceans, such as decapod larvae, copepods, amphipods and euphausiids, and larval fish (Sturlaugsson, 2000; Andreassen et al., 2001; Haugland et al., 2006). At oceanic feeding grounds and during the spawning migration, small pelagic fish, such as capelin, sandeels, myctophids and clupeoids, dominate the diet by weight, although in the north-east Atlantic, planktonic crustaceans also constitute a considerable proportion of the diet (Hislop and Shelton, 1993; Holst et al., 1993; Jacobsen and Hansen, 2000, 2001). Prey items span a wide range of sizes and energy densities. It has been suggested that salmon are opportunistic feeders, implying a lack of selectivity, although there is some evidence of preference with respect to prey species (Andreassen et al., 2001; Jacobsen and Hansen, 2001) and prey size (Holst et al., 1996; Jacobsen and Hansen, 2001).

Available prey was modelled as a uniformly distributed constant total biomass per unit volume of sea water, divided proportionally into seven categories for simplicity (Table 1). Average individual mass of prey obtained from published weight-length relationships were used to calculate numerical abundance of each prey category from its biomass. Published values of energy density were used to calculate the energy content of prey items in each category (Table 1).

Salmon were assumed to encounter each category of prey, i , within a cylindrical volume of water, V_i (m^3), defined by swimming speed, u (m s^{-1}), the duration of the model time step (1 d) and the salmon's reaction distance – the distance within which they may attack encountered prey items, which can vary by prey category:

$$V_i = 8.64 \times 10^4 u \pi d_i^2$$

The reaction distance, d_i (m), of salmon of length L_s (m) to prey of length L_i (m, Table 1) was calculated using a function given by Hughes and Dill (1990):

$$d_i = 120 L_i (1 - e^{(-20 L_s)})$$

This function indicates that for a given prey length, salmon length has little influence on detection distance when salmon length is >0.1 m, as is the case for most post-smolts (Shearer, 1992).

Following Keeley and Grant (2001), after Wankowski (1979), the range of prey sizes that could be taken was set to $0.012 L_s$ to $0.105 L_s$. It was assumed that prey width was the limiting dimension and width-length ratios were set for each prey category. The range of prey sizes acceptable to salmon of particular sizes was used to calculate the proportion of each prey category available.

To calculate the number of prey items potentially eaten within a model time step, a form of the Holling type 2 disc equation (Holling, 1959) was applied, assuming that no more than one prey item can be consumed at a time, salmon can not search for prey while capturing and ingesting ('handling') a prey item and the salmon may not consume every prey item that it encounters. The time spent searching for prey, t_s (s), was given by:

$$t_s = \frac{t_f}{1 + \left(\sum_{i=1}^{i_{\max}} \rho_i V_i a_i h_i \right)}$$

where t_f is the time available for feeding (set to 12 h per day in seconds), $i_{\max}$ is the number of prey classes, ρ_i is the density of prey class i (m^{-3}), a_i is the attack rate on prey class i (proportion of encountered prey items taken) and h_i is the handling time for prey class i (s). The potential number of prey items of class i eaten per time step, n_i , was given by:

$$n_i = t_s a_i \rho_i V_i$$

and the total weight of prey class i potentially consumed per time step, W_i (g), given unlimited stomach size was:

$$W_i = n_i \bar{w}_i$$

where $\bar{w}_i$ is the average individual weight in prey class i (g). The mean energy density of prey consumed, $\bar{E}$ (J g^{-1}), was given by:

$$\bar{E} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{i_{\max}} (W_i E_i)}{\sum_{i=1}^{i_{\max}} W_i}$$

where E_i is the energy density of prey class i (J g^{-1}).

2.1.2. Maximum daily consumption

Maximum daily consumption, $C_{\max}$ ($\text{g g}^{-1} \text{d}^{-1}$), was calculated as dry mass of prey per unit dry mass of salmon by a Thornton-Lessem function (Thornton and Lessem, 1978), using the weight exponent of Beauchamp et al. (1989) and fitted to $C_{\max}$ estimates for post-smolt *S. salar* at different temperatures (Handeland et al., 2003; Jørgensen and Jobling, 1994; Damsgård. and Arnesen, 1998; Toften et al., 2003; Stead et al., 1996; Koskela et al., 1997). Iterative non-linear fitting procedures (Wilkinson et al., 1992) failed to converge, so the function was fitted by eye (Table 2).

$C_{\max}$ was converted to maximum wet weight of prey that could be consumed daily, $W_{\max}$, using published values of prey species water content (Table 1), water content of salmon from the formula of Johansen et al. (2001), and the body weight of the salmon. Achieved daily consumption, W_c (g), was taken as the lesser of $W_{\max}$ and $\sum_{i=1}^{i_{\max}} W_i$. Daily ingested energy, I (J), was the product of W_c and $\bar{E}$. Where W_c was constrained to be $W_{\max}$, the number of prey items eaten was recalculated.

2.1.3. Egestion, excretion and specific dynamic action

The proportion of ingested energy lost in the faeces, P_f , was calculated in relation to water temperature, T ($^{\circ}\text{C}$), and consumption as a proportion of maximum consumption from:

$$P_f = F_a T^{F_{b1}} e^{\frac{F_{b2} W_c}{W_{\max}}}$$

where F_a , F_{b1} and F_{b2} are the constant, temperature coefficient and consumption coefficient, respectively, derived for brown trout, *Salmo trutta* (Elliott, 1976b; Table 3). The proportion of energy lost by excretion was calculated with the same form of relationship using the parameters U_a , U_{b1} and U_{b2} , respectively (Table 3).

Specific dynamic action, the additional heat liberated after feeding, can be represented as a constant proportion (P_{SDA}) of metabolizable energy (i.e. energy ingested minus energy lost through egestion and excretion) independent of temperature or ration size (Brett and Groves, 1979). A value of 17% of metabolizable energy was adopted (Nimi and Beamish, 1974).

2.1.4. Respiration

A function relating rate of oxygen consumption (M_{O_2}) to body weight, swimming speed and temperature derived from measurements of farmed adult Atlantic salmon by Grøttum and Sigholt (1998) was found to produce unrealistic values for small fish and higher swimming speeds. Another function was derived from relationships given by Brett and Glass (1973) for standard and active rates of oxygen consumption in sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) as functions of body weight at different temperatures. ‘Active’ measurements were made at the maximum swimming speed sustained for 1 h (termed the ‘critical’ swimming speed, U_{crit}). Brett and Glass (1973) also gave temperature-specific relationships between U_{crit} and body length. Values of M_{O_2} at intermediate swimming speeds were obtained by interpolating between the standard and active values for the appropriate body weight, temperature and U_{crit} (Brett and Glass, 1973). In this way, an array of predicted oxygen consumption rates was generated for a range of weights (10, 50, 100, 700 and 2000 g), temperatures (5, 15, 20 °C) and swimming speeds (body lengths per second, $bl\ s^{-1}$) as a proportion (0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8, 1.0) of U_{crit} . The weight and temperature increments chosen reflected the conditions under which the relationships of Brett and Glass (1973) had been obtained. Length was calculated from the weight-length relationship given by Brett and Glass (1973). A relationship between rate of oxygen consumption and the independent variables was estimated by multiple regression and found to be of the form:

$$M_{O_2} = 3.021 \times 10^{-2} W^{(-0.0068T + 0.0902U)} 1.1017^T 1.6803^U 0.9778^{TU}$$

where, M_{O_2} is rate of oxygen consumption ($mg\ O_2\ g^{-1}\ h^{-1}$), W is weight (g), T is temperature (°C), and U is swimming speed ($bl\ s^{-1}$). The multiple regression was highly significant ($F_{5,69}=429.89$, $p<0.0001$, $r^2=0.967$), with significant interactions between the effects of weight and temperature, weight and swimming speed, and temperature and swimming speed. The Grøttum and Sigholt (1998) model assumed the effects of these variables were independent.

Comparison of oxygen consumption rates predicted by this function with literature values is not straightforward, owing to the considerable variation in methodology and conditions in published studies and, in some cases, a lack of information on swimming speed. Nevertheless, oxygen consumption rates predicted by this function were strongly correlated with values reported for *S. salar* at a range of life stages, body sizes, water temperatures and swimming speeds (Withey and Saunders, 1973; Higgins, 1985; Lucas et al., 1993; Lucas, 1994; Maxime, 2002).

The mass of oxygen consumed (mg) was converted to an energy equivalent (J) with an oxycalorific coefficient of 13.563 J mg^{-1} (Elliott and Davison, 1975).

Modelled salmon were assumed to swim at a constant relative speed while migrating ('cruising'), but swam at maximum speed to capture specified prey items ('burst' swimming). Respiration was calculated separately for the proportion of the time that salmon were burst swimming and cruising. Each time a mobile prey item of type i was attacked (determined by prey encounter and attack rates), the salmon was assumed to travel at burst speed for a distance equating to the radius of half of the capture area, $(0.5 d_i^2)^{1/2}$. It was assumed that burst swimming was required to capture prey in the 'small fish', 'large fish' and 'squid' categories.

Burst swimming speed (u_{burst} , m s^{-1}) of salmon was calculated in relation to temperature (T , $^{\circ}\text{C}$) and body length (L_s , m) from:

$$u_{\text{burst}} = (0.121 T + 5.4525) L_s^{(-0.0074T + 0.7009)}$$

which was derived from equations fitted by Turnpenny et al. (2001) to values reported by Wardle (1975).

2.1.5. Growth

Assimilated energy (A , J) that was not lost in respiration was assumed to be partitioned into reserves (Y), such as lipids, which may be mobilized to meet metabolic requirements during starvation, and structure (S), which determines body length and can not be mobilized. Following Broekhusien et al. (1994) and Jones et al. (2002), the rate of change in reserves was equal to net assimilation rate (A) minus losses in respiration (R) and the rate of energy commitment to structural tissues:

$$\frac{dY}{dt} = A - R - \frac{dS}{dt}$$

The rate of commitment to structure was a variable proportion (κ) of the rate of assimilation:

$$\frac{dS}{dt} = \kappa A$$

κ was scaled to ensure that (so far as was possible) the ratio (λ) of reserves to structure did not fall below a 'defended level' (λ_{def}) (Jones et al., 2002). κ was interpolated between zero (since

structural energy should not be lost) and a specified maximum value ($\kappa_{\max}$) when the reserve/structure ratio lay within a specified range (λ_{switch}) above the defended level:

$$\kappa = \frac{\kappa_{\max} (\lambda - \lambda_{\text{def}})}{\lambda_{\text{switch}}}, \quad \lambda_{\text{def}} \leq \lambda < (\lambda_{\text{def}} + \lambda_{\text{switch}})$$

When λ was below λ_{def} , all assimilated energy was allocated to reserves ($\kappa = 1$). When λ was above $\lambda_{\text{def}} + \lambda_{\text{switch}}$, the proportion $1 - \kappa_{\max}$ of assimilated energy was allocated to reserves. Parameter values for the calculation of κ are given in Table 4.

Structural and reserve energy content at the start of the next time step were calculated from:

$$S_{(t+1)} = S_t + \frac{dS}{dt}$$

$$Y_{(t+1)} = Y_t + \frac{dY}{dt}$$

Salmon length in the next time step, $L_{s(t+1)}$, was given by:

$$L_{s(t+1)} = L_0 S^\alpha$$

where L_0 and α are parameters derived from a re-arrangement of a function relating body energy content to length and weight (Elliott, 1976a; Table 4), applying an estimate of the proportion of body energy content that can not be mobilized during starvation (28.8%, Jonsson et al., 1997) and substituting for weight with a rearranged weight-length relationship (Broekhuizen et al., 1994).

Body weight in the next time step, $W_{s(t+1)}$, was given by:

$$W_{s(t+1)} = W_0 L_{s(t+1)}^\beta (Y_{(t+1)} + S_{(t+1)})^\gamma$$

where W_0 , β and γ are parameters derived from a rearrangement of Elliott's (1976a) empirical relationship for total energy as a function of length and wet weight of brown trout, *S. trutta* (Table 4). Thus, body length depended only on structural energy content, whereas body weight depended on length and total energy content (Jones et al., 2002). Body weight could reduce, but length could not.

2.2. Simulations

To test the sensitivity of the bioenergetic algorithms to variation in their parameters, the model was run with each parameter varied individually between -50% and $+50\%$ of the default values (in 25% increments), with combinations of a range of constant sea surface temperatures ($2-18^{\circ}\text{C}$, by 2°C) and constant swimming speeds ($0.5-2.5 \text{ bl s}^{-1}$, by 0.25 bl s^{-1}). Cotterell and Wardle (2004) measured a maximum sustainable swimming speed of 2.99 bl s^{-1} for 0.3-m post-smolt Atlantic salmon at 10°C . Within simulations, available prey density and feeding time were held constant, but variation in these parameters was also investigated between simulations. Other spatial aspects of the model, such as directionality of migration, ocean currents and migratory responses to ocean currents were disregarded. The effects of simple behavioural options in the model were also tested: ‘burst’ swimming to capture prey, optimising cruising speed (using a constant swimming speed that maximised daily energy gain) and optimising daily cruising duration (salmon swam at a defined speed until maximum daily consumption had been achieved and at a defined minimum speed, 0.05 m s^{-1} , for the rest of that day).

Simulated growth under these constant conditions was represented by the length attained after 15.5 months: the average duration of the marine phase for a one-sea-winter salmon emigrating from its home river in early May and returning in mid-August typical of British rivers (unpublished data: FRS, CEFAS). The effect of changes in parameter values has been summarised by the difference in final salmon length between that obtained with a 25% increase in the default parameter value and that obtained with a 25% decrease, expressed as a percentage of the final length obtained with the default parameter value.

To compare growth in weight indicated by the model with published measurements of post-smolt growth rate in captivity (progeny of wild parents), simulations were run with fish of the same size and at the same temperature as the empirical studies, with prey attributes set to resemble an excess of the commercially available feed pellets used (moisture content 5% , energy density 24 MJ kg^{-1} , density $1.59 \times 10^3 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$). The conditions in two empirical studies were modelled: fish length 0.18 m and weight 61 g simulated over a period of 30 d at 4.3°C , 9.4°C or 14.3°C (Handeland et al., 1999); and fish length 0.37 m and weight 528 g simulated over a period of 84 d at 9°C (Thodesen et al., 1999). Swimming speeds in the published studies were not reported, so simulations were run with speeds of 0.5 bl s^{-1} and 1.0 bl s^{-1} , which were thought likely to encompass the average values. Specific growth rate (SGR) was calculated as $(\ln W_2 -$

In $W_1)/\Delta t$, where W_1 and W_2 are the simulated body weights (g) at the start and end of a period of Δt days (Handeland et al., 1999). Thermal-unit growth coefficient (TGC) was calculated as $(W_2^{1/3} - W_1^{1/3})/T\Delta t$ (Thodesen et al., 1999), where T is the temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$).

3. Results

With the default bioenergetic parameter values, growth varied with sea surface temperature and swimming speed (Fig. 1). At any given temperature, final length was greater at lower swimming speeds, but the effect of swimming speed was less at lower temperatures. At any given swimming speed, final length increased with temperature to a maximum at 14–16 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ and declined slightly at 18 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. The effect of temperature on growth was less at higher swimming speeds. The maximum final length with default parameter values was 0.44 m (at a temperature of 14 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ and a swimming speed of 0.5 bl s^{-1}).

Simulated growth was most sensitive to certain of the parameters directly affecting energy intake (parameters of the function for maximum daily consumption, prey energy density, relative dry weight proportions of salmon and prey), energy expenditure (some of the respiration parameters, burst speed parameters) and the parameters of the length-structure relationship (Table 5, 6). Certain parameters, mostly powers, led to zero energy reserves ('bioenergetic death') with a 25% change from the default value: these were the initial weight-length power, maximum consumption parameter C_{TL} , respiration-temperature coefficient, respiration-temperature-speed coefficient, length-structure power and weight-energy power.

Changes in certain other parameters had a marked effect (>10%) on final length without causing simulated energy reserves to fall to zero (Table 5, 6). In relation to energy intake, for example, growth was positively related to the maximum consumption scale, C_A (Fig. 2a), consumption-weight power, C_B (Fig. 2b), the prey energy density (Fig. 2c) and the salmon dry weight constant, DW_a (Fig. 2d), and was negatively related to the prey dry weight ratio (Fig. 2e). These effects increased with temperature and decreased with swimming speed. Sensitivity to some other parameters was negatively correlated with temperature and swimming speed (e.g. consumption parameter C_Q , Fig. 2f). Parameters associated with prey encounter rate and ingestion, such as minimum edible prey size, prey density and reaction distance had less influence on growth (Table 5, 6). At higher temperatures (Table 5) and slower swimming speeds

(Table 6), simulated growth was greater with larger maximum edible prey sizes. Available feeding time and prey item handling time had no effect within the range of values tested.

In relation to energy loss, growth was sensitive to parameters of the respiration function (Fig. 3a), with the effects being greater at higher temperatures and swimming speeds. Growth was also sensitive to the burst speed constant (negatively, Fig. 3b) and the burst speed-length-temperature constant (positively, Fig. 3c). Growth was moderately sensitive to parameters of the egestion (Fig. 3d) and excretion functions (Table 5, 6).

In relation to the functions for determining length and weight from assimilated energy, in addition to the high sensitivity to changes in the length-structure power and the weight-energy power mentioned above, growth was sensitive to the length-structure scale (Fig. 4a) and, to a lesser extent, to the maximum proportion of assimilated energy committed to structure ($\kappa_{\max}$, Fig. 4b), these effects being positively related to temperature and negatively related to swimming speed. Growth was comparatively insensitive to the defended reserve ratio (λ_{def}) and, at a swimming speed of 1 bl s^{-1} , the weight-length-energy scale (W_0) and the weight-length power (β , except at low temperatures). At 10°C , the influence of the last two parameters varied negatively and positively, respectively, with swimming speed (Table 6). The allocation switch width (λ_{switch}) had no effect within the range of values tested.

For most parameters to which growth showed marked sensitivity, the differences in final length varied monotonically with temperature and swimming speed over the range of values tested. However, with certain parameters, there was an inflection in sensitivity within the tested range of temperatures, including the maximum consumption parameter C_{TO} , (Fig. 5), the burst speed-length-temperature constant, $\kappa_{\max}$ and the length-structure scale.

The implementation of burst swimming to catch nektonic prey items caused a slight reduction in growth, particularly at combinations of high temperatures and low cruising speed (i.e. conditions of maximum growth; Fig. 6). Optimising daily cruising duration resulted in growth being higher and largely independent of cruising speed, particularly when compared with higher continuous cruising speeds (Fig. 7). The percentage improvement in growth over that at given continuous cruising speeds was almost constant across the temperature range, except at higher speeds, when the improvement in growth increased over the lowest temperatures (Fig. 8). Optimising cruising

speed produced almost identical results, since salmon encountered sufficient prey items to achieve their maximum daily consumption even at the minimum speed.

With prey attributes set to resemble commercial pelleted feed and initial body weight of 61 g (Handeland et al., 2003), modelled values of SGR at swimming speeds of 0.5 bl s^{-1} and 1.0 bl s^{-1} bracketed the published empirical value for 4.3°C , but was slightly less than the published values at higher temperatures (Table 7). The modelled TGC for a fish of 528 g at 9.0°C swimming at 0.5 bl s^{-1} was close to the published value (Table 7).

4. Discussion

The maximum salmon length attained over a simulated 15.5-month period with the default parameters (0.44 m) was somewhat smaller than the typical size of one-sea-winter salmon in UK rivers (e.g. mean length of 0.66 m in the Chester Dee, CEFAS, unpublished data). The constancy of temperature, prey density, swimming speed and available feeding time in the non-spatial simulation was not intended to represent the seasonally varying conditions experienced by real salmon (although some of the simulated values may reflect annual averages in the ocean), so the absolute values of the final lengths attained can not be expected to be realistic. In particular, salmon are unlikely to swim continuously at a constant speed for 24 hours per day over prolonged periods, but there is, as yet, little information on swimming speeds during marine migration and at oceanic feeding grounds. Ultrasonic tracking of post-smolts in the early stages of marine migration has indicated rapid movement during both day and night, with speeds over the ground of 0.1 to $>0.5 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ and a strong tidal component to speed and direction (Holm et al., 2003). However, tagged post-smolts recaptured in the Faroe-Shetland Channel 38–56 days after release from their home rivers in Ireland had been displaced at speeds of 0.2 – 0.3 m s^{-1} – slower than the Slope Current in which they were found (Holst et al., 2000). Observations of farmed salmon in sea cages have shown a variety of sustained swimming speeds and diel patterns of speed, ranging from minimum speeds of $<0.5 \text{ bl s}^{-1}$ to maximum daily values of 1.0 – 1.5 bl s^{-1} (Sutterlin et al., 1979; Kadri et al., 1991; Juell and Westerberg, 1993; Smith et al., 1993; Andrew et al., 2002). In the present model, modifying the behaviour of simulated salmon to optimise swimming speed, or to swim at minimum speed after the maximum daily consumption had been achieved, led to more realistic growth rates, particularly when higher swimming speeds would otherwise have applied. Comparison of modelled rates of growth in weight over shorter periods with available published values for progeny of wild parents indicated good agreement under

some conditions and underestimates in others (Thodesen et al., 1999; Handeland et al., 2003). Without knowing the swimming speeds in the empirical studies it is not possible to account for the differences.

Under the default bioenergetic parameters, the optimal temperature for growth was 14–16 °C. This optimum arises from the different temperature dependencies of maximum daily consumption, which peaks at 17–18 °C, and respiration, which increases exponentially with temperature. From rather sparse data on Norwegian farmed strains of Atlantic salmon post-smolts, Handeland et al. (2003) estimated that the optimum temperature for growth was 13 °C. A wild strain grew faster at 14 °C (the maximum temperature tested) than at 9 °C or 4 °C (Handeland et al., 2003). Koskela et al. (1997) estimated an optimum temperature for growth in large juvenile Baltic salmon (*Salmo salar*, 16–29 cm total length) of 16 °C.

Simulated growth declined with increasing swimming speed, due to the additional energy used in active metabolism. Empirical studies have produced mixed results about the effects of exercise on growth rate in Atlantic salmon (Davison, 1997). In some studies, growth rate was higher under moderate exercise regimes (Totland et al., 1987; Jørgensen and Jobling, 1993), owing to greater appetite, utilisation of feed (Jørgensen and Jobling, 1993) and perhaps release of growth hormones (Barrett and McKeown, 1988). However, these results are difficult to interpret in the present context, because the low swimming speeds in these studies involved holding salmon together in still or slow-flowing water, leading to greater stress from agonistic activity, which may have depressed appetite and increased the metabolic rate.

Output from the model was very sensitive to the values of certain parameters, so it is important to consider their likely range of values. For some of these parameters, a 25% change may have resulted in unrealistic values. For example, the initial weight-length power was varied to extremes of 2.3 and 3.8, whereas the 95% confidence limit of this parameter derived from over 6500 measurements of Atlantic salmon from the British Isles (CEFAS and FRS, unpublished data) was 3.02 to 3.03 (analysis in present study). Over a range of 2.8 to 3.2 (i.e. -7% to +7%), there was little effect on final length.

The length-structure power, weight-energy power and weight-length power were derived from a combination of information from Atlantic salmon (weight-length relationship and maximum energy loss during starvation) and brown trout (*Salmo trutta*; a function relating body energy

density to length and weight). There may therefore be greater uncertainty about the value of these parameters and, given their importance to the model, an energy-length-weight relationship derived for post-smolt Atlantic salmon would be helpful, but difficult to obtain for wild fish.

Output from the present model was also very sensitive to maximum consumption parameter C_{TL} , which contributes to defining the temperature dependence of daily food consumption at higher temperatures. In the Thonton-Lessem function for maximum daily consumption, four of the parameters define temperatures at which consumption is certain proportions of the maximum (Table 2). Paradoxical results may be obtained if these temperatures are out of sequence, as may have occurred by varying one of them independently of the others. Other parameters of the maximum daily consumption function also had a strong influence on the output. The parameters were fit to data on Atlantic salmon fed on fish meal pellets under controlled conditions, but there are few data for post-smolts below 8 °C and above 14 °C. There is therefore scope for studying food consumption of wild post-smolts fed on natural prey over a range of temperatures, although it is not easy to keep wild fish healthy in captivity or to supply natural prey.

Not surprisingly, simulated growth was sensitive to certain other parameters directly affecting energy intake: prey energy density and the relative dry weight proportions of salmon and prey. The relative dry matter contents of salmon and prey are important because maximum consumption is calculated first on the basis of dry weight of prey per unit dry weight of salmon. The wet weight of prey is then calculated from the ratio of the proportions of dry weight in prey and salmon. Water content of salmon and prey species is variable, but the values chosen are thought to represent average conditions. Prey energy density varies seasonally and spatially among and within species, but again, the values chosen were considered to be representative.

Parameters associated with prey encounter rate and ingestion, such as minimum edible prey size, prey density, reaction distance, available feeding time and prey item handling time had little influence on growth within the range of values tested. Under most conditions tested, simulated salmon were able to achieve their maximum daily consumption. However, in the North Atlantic Ocean, prey density and available feeding time will vary by more than the plus or minus 50% differences tested here. The influence of prey abundance and distribution can be investigated by coupling bioenergetic, migration and ecosystem models.

Values of the parameters in the respiration function had a strong negative influence on simulated growth, particularly the respiration-temperature coefficient and the respiration-temperature-speed coefficient, which both led to bioenergetic death when increased by 25%. However, all of the respiration parameters had important effects on simulated growth, which is not surprising, given that respiration is the major energy loss. The respiration function was derived from relationships given by Brett and Glass (1973) for standard and active rates of oxygen consumption in sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*). Although the predictions from this function compared reasonably well with the limited available measurements of Atlantic salmon, it would be worthwhile to conduct a detailed study of metabolic rate in marine-phase Atlantic salmon in relation to body size, temperature and swimming speed, so that respiratory losses can be modelled more reliably.

Level of activity is one of the most uncertain aspects of bioenergetic modelling of salmon during the marine phase. There is a pressing need to extend empirical studies of swimming activity from estuarine and coastal waters to offshore areas during both migration and non-migratory periods in oceanic feeding grounds. In the meantime, spatially explicit modelling provides insights into the consequences of different migratory behaviours (Booker et al., 2008).

5. Conclusions

An individual-based bioenergetic model has been developed to estimate variation in marine growth, and indirectly survival, of Atlantic salmon in relation to smolt body size, sea water temperature, prey availability and swimming activity. Short-term estimates of growth in weight were similar to empirical measurements made in captivity; longer-term estimates of growth in length were more difficult to assess, owing to uncertainty about the oceanic conditions experienced by wild salmon and their patterns of swimming activity. The non-spatial model is sensitive to certain physiological parameters for which there is limited information available for wild, marine-phase *Salmo salar* and this highlights areas for future empirical research. When coupled with an ecosystem model of the North Atlantic Ocean, the present bioenergetic model will allow the effects of future changes in oceanic conditions on the growth and survival of Atlantic salmon to be investigated.

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Figure legends

Figure 1 Contours of final salmon length (m) as a function of sea surface temperature and swimming speed with default bioenergetic parameter values.

Figure 2 Contours of final salmon length (m) as a function of sea surface temperature and the value of certain parameters of the growth model: (a) maximum consumption scale (constant), C_A ; (b) maximum consumption-weight exponent, C_B ; (c) prey energy density; (d) salmon dry weight proportion scale, DW_a ; (e) proportional dry matter content of prey; (f) maximum consumption parameter C_Q – the low temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) at which maximum daily consumption is a defined proportion (default 0.25) of the value at the optimum temperature (Hewett and Johnson, 1987). Swimming speed 1 bl s^{-1} in all cases.

Figure 3 Contours of final salmon length (m) as a function of sea surface temperature and the value of certain parameters of the growth model: (a) respiration scale; (b) burst speed constant; (c) burst speed-length-temperature constant; (d) egestion scale (a proportion). Swimming speed 1 bl s^{-1} in all cases. Crosses indicate combinations of parameters under which energy reserves reached zero during the simulation.

Figure 4 Contours of final salmon length (m) as a function of sea surface temperature and the value of certain parameters of the growth model: (a) length-structure scale; (b) maximum proportion of assimilated energy committed to structure, κ_{max} . Swimming speed 1 bl s^{-1} in all cases. Crosses indicate combinations of parameters under which energy reserves reached zero during the simulation.

Figure 5 Contours of final salmon length (m) as a function of sea surface temperature and value of the maximum consumption parameter C_{TO} , at a swimming speed of 1 bl s^{-1} . C_{TO} is the temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) below the optimum temperature at which maximum daily consumption is 0.98 of the value at the optimum (Hewett and Johnson, 1987).

Figure 6 Final salmon length (m) as a function of sea surface temperature and swimming speed with (black contours) or without (grey contours) burst swimming to capture nektonic prey items.

Figure 7 Final salmon length (m) as a function of sea surface temperature and swimming speed with (black contours) or without (grey contours) optimising the duration of cruise swimming by swimming at a specified minimum speed after maximum daily consumption had been achieved.

Figure 8 Contours of the percentage increase in final length achieved by optimising the duration of cruise swimming, as a function of sea surface temperature and the swimming speed.

Table legends

Table 1. Attributes of prey categories.

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Table 6. Sensitivity of simulation results to variation in the model parameters at different swimming speeds and a sea surface temperature of 10°C . Difference in final salmon length between that obtained with a 25% increase in the default parameter value and that obtained with a 25% decrease, expressed as a percentage of the final length obtained with the default parameter value. Asterisks indicate cases in which the simulated salmon reached zero energy reserves (bioenergetic 'death') during simulations with altered parameter values.

Table 7. Comparison of simulated and published values of specific growth rate (SGR) and thermal-unit growth coefficient (TGC) under different conditions of initial body weight, temperature and swimming speed.

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806 Fig 1

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810 Fig 2

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833 Fig 8

Table 1. Attributes of prey categories.

Prey category	1 'nauplii'	2 'small copepods'	3 'large copepods'	4 'euphausiids'	5 'small fish'	6 'larger fish'	7 'squid'
Energy density (J g^{-1})	4000 ^a	5000 ^b	5000 ^b	3800 ^c	5000 ^d	6000 ^d	3900 ^d
Minimum size (m)	2×10^{-4} ^a	5×10^{-4} ^b	1×10^{-3} ^b	2×10^{-3} ^c	2×10^{-2} ^e	6×10^{-2} ^e	2×10^{-2} ^f
Maximum size (m)	5×10^{-4} ^a	1×10^{-3}	3.5×10^{-3}	4×10^{-2} ^c	6×10^{-2} ^e	3×10^{-1} ^e	2×10^{-1} ^f
Shape (L:W)	1.75 ^g	3.24 ^h	3.24 ^h	5.88 ^c	6.00 ^e	6.00 ^e	2.63 ^{f,i}
Weight-length constant (g m^{-b})	2.565 $\times 10^4$ ^j	2.565 $\times 10^4$ ^j	2.565 $\times 10^4$ ^j	1.663 $\times 10^3$ ^c	8.103 $\times 10^3$ ^d	8.103 $\times 10^3$ ^d	2.805 $\times 10^3$ ^k
Weight-length power, <i>b</i>	2.919 ^j	2.919 ^j	2.919 ^j	2.70 ^c	2.98 ^d	2.98 ^d	2.4589 ^k
Water content (%)	80 ^a	80 ^j	80 ^j	80 ^c	78 ^{d,l,m}	74 ^{d,l,m}	80 ^{d,m}
Prey fractions ⁿ	0.58	0.27	0.15	0.3	0.25	0.1	0.15

Sources: a. Holland (1978); b. Båmstedt (1986); c. Mauchline (1980); d. Van Pelt et al. (1997); e. Wheeler (1978); f. Clarke (1966); g. Newell and Newell (1977); h. Marshall and Orr (1955); i. Hayward and Ryland (1995); j. Mauchline (1998); k. Arkhipkin and Bjørke (1999); l. Payne et al. (1999); m. Logerwell and Schaufler (2005); n. Head et al. (1999)

Table 2. Parameter values for the Thornton-Lessem function fitted to maximum daily consumption estimates for post-smolt *Salmo salar* (symbols after Hewett and Johnson, 1987).

Parameter	Value
Scale, C_A ($\text{g g}^{-1} \text{d}^{-1}$)	0.12
Weight exponent, C_B	-0.275
Ascending limb lower temperature dependence, C_{K1}	0.25
Descending limb lower temperature dependence, C_{K4}	0.75
Ascending limb lower temperature, C_Q , ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	4
Ascending limb upper temperature, C_{TO} , ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	17
Descending limb lower temperature, C_{TM} , ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	18
Descending limb upper temperature, C_{TL} , ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	24

Table 3. Parameter values for the function relating the proportion of ingested energy lost through egestion or nitrogenous excretion as a function of water temperature and consumption as a proportion of the maximum daily consumption.

Parameter	Egestion		Excretion	
Constant	F_a	0.212	U_a	0.026
Temperature	F_{b1}	-0.222	U_{b1}	0.580
Proportion of max. consumption	F_{b2}	0.631	U_{b2}	-0.299

Table 4. Parameter values of functions for allocation of assimilated energy to reserves or structure, calculation of length from structure and calculation of weight from length and reserves.

Parameter	Value
Defended reserve ratio, λ_{def}	2.44
Allocation switch width, λ_{switch}	0.362
Maximum proportion to structure, κ_{max}	0.232
Length-structure scale, L_0 (m)	3.621×10^{-3}
Length-structure power, α	0.341
Weight-length-energy scale, W_0 (g)	2.0072×10^{-2}
Weight-length power, β	0.692
Weight-energy power, γ	0.719

Table 5. Sensitivity of simulation results to variation in the model parameters at different sea surface temperatures and a swimming speed of 1 bl s^{-1} . Difference in final salmon length between that obtained with a 25% increase in the default parameter value and that obtained with a 25% decrease, expressed as a percentage of the final length obtained with the default parameter value. Asterisks indicate cases in which the simulated salmon reached zero energy reserves (bioenergetic ‘death’) during simulations with altered parameter values.

Parameter	Sea surface temperature (°C)								
	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18
Initial fish length	28.5	15.6	10.9	8.4	7.3	6.8	6.5	6.4	6.3
Initial weight-length scale	-1.7	1.5	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6
Initial weight-length power	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Minimum swimming speed	-3.1	-2.4	-1.9	-1.6	-1.4	-1.4	-1.4	-1.5	-1.6
Maximum swimming speed	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Minimum edible prey size	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	-0.3
Maximum edible prey size	0.1	0.2	1.1	3.3	5.9	7.4	8.0	8.0	7.4
Zooplankton density	-0.7	-1.2	-1.5	-1.4	-1.0	-0.9	-0.9	-0.9	-0.9
Zooplankton ‘lost’ to higher predators	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
Reaction distance scale, D_a	-0.3	-0.7	-1.5	-2.5	-3.3	-3.6	-3.8	-3.7	-3.4
Reaction distance power, D_b	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Prey handling time	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Maximum consumption scale, C_A	15.4	27.1	32.6	37.1	40.9	43.5	45.2	46.5	47.5
Maximum consumption parameter, C_B	15.6	28.3	40.4	53.0	63.9	70.5	74.1	76.4	77.8
Maximum consumption parameter, C_Q	-21.7	-30.9	-24.5	-15.5	-7.9	-3.2	-1.0	-0.2	0.1
Maximum consumption parameter, C_{K1}	19.4	27.1	21.5	13.6	6.9	2.8	0.9	0.1	-0.1
Maximum consumption parameter, C_{TO}	12.6	0.0	-21.4	-30.7	-27.3	-19.6	-12.8	-7.8	-4.7
Maximum consumption parameter, C_{TM}	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.6	1.2	2.0	3.5	6.0
Maximum consumption parameter, C_{TL}	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	66.7	0.0
Maximum consumption parameter, C_{K4}	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-0.5	-0.7	-0.7	0.0
Prey length:width ratio	0.0	0.2	1.0	2.8	4.1	4.8	5.0	4.9	4.5
Prey dry weight ratio	-14.5	-27.7	-34.0	-39.1	-42.0	-43.9	-45.3	-46.7	-48.0
Prey energy density	11.6	26.8	33.3	38.6	41.9	43.9	45.4	46.5	47.4
Salmon dry weight constant, DW_a	14.7	25.6	31.4	36.2	40.1	42.8	44.5	45.7	46.7
Salmon dry weight coefficient, DW_b	1.8	1.5	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7

Egestion scale, F_a	-10.9	-12.3	-13.4	-14.4	-15.3	-15.7	-15.8	-15.7	-15.5
Egestion-temperature coefficient, F_{b1}	-1.7	-3.8	-5.4	-6.7	-7.8	-8.7	-9.3	-9.7	-10.0
Egestion-consumption coefficient, F_{b2}	-6.9	-7.8	-8.5	-9.1	-9.7	-9.9	-10.0	-9.9	-9.8
Excretion scale, U_a	-0.9	-1.8	-2.7	-3.7	-4.7	-5.6	-6.3	-7.0	-7.6
Excretion-temperature coefficient, U_{b1}	-0.4	-1.5	-2.9	-4.5	-6.4	-8.2	-9.9	-11.5	-13.1
Excretion-consumption coefficient, U_{b2}	-0.3	-0.5	-0.8	-1.1	-1.4	-1.7	-1.9	-2.1	-2.3
Specific Dynamic Action proportion	-4.1	-5.7	-7.0	-8.1	-9.0	-9.7	-10.1	-10.3	-10.4
Burst speed constant	-2.7	-6.6	-13.3	-20.8	-25.9	-27.8	-27.1	-24.6	-20.9
Burst speed-temperature coefficient	-0.1	-0.4	-1.3	-2.8	-4.5	-5.8	-6.7	-7.1	-7.0
Burst speed-length-temperature constant	6.1	20.8	32.4	42.8	49.3	51.7	50.4	46.2	39.7
Burst speed-length-temperature coefficient	0.1	0.3	0.8	1.6	2.3	3.0	3.5	3.8	4.0
Respiration scale, R_a	-15.3	-18.3	-19.1	-20.7	-22.6	-24.3	-25.8	-27.3	-28.7
Resp.-temperature coefficient, R_{b1}	-23.5	-58.9	-86.1	-105.5	*	*	*	*	*
Resp.-speed coefficient, R_{b2}	-15.8	-29.5	-41.8	-56.4	-68.6	-76.7	-81.3	-83.6	-84.1
Resp.-weight-temperature power, R_{b3}	-0.8	-1.8	-3.4	-5.5	-8.2	-10.9	-13.7	-16.5	-19.3
Resp.-weight-speed power, R_{b4}	-5.8	-8.5	-13.8	-21.4	-28.6	-33.9	-37.4	-39.0	-38.9
Resp.-temperature-speed coefficient, R_{b5}	-23.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Defended reserve ratio, λ_{def}	-0.5	-0.7	-0.7	-0.8	-0.9	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0
Allocation switch width, λ_{switch}	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Maximum proportion to structure, κ_{max}	2.5	9.8	12.8	15.1	16.9	18.0	18.4	18.3	17.8
Length-structure scale, L_0	10.5	41.0	51.9	60.5	66.7	70.1	71.2	70.9	69.3
Length-structure power, α	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Weight-length-energy scale, W_0	-4.0	-2.7	-0.5	0.6	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.1	0.8
Weight-length power, β	6.1	4.5	1.4	0.0	-0.7	-0.9	-0.8	-0.6	-0.3
Weight-energy power, γ	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

Table 6. Sensitivity of simulation results to variation in the model parameters at different swimming speeds and a sea surface temperature of 10°C. Difference in final salmon length between that obtained with a 25% increase in the default parameter value and that obtained with a 25% decrease, expressed as a percentage of the final length obtained with the default parameter value. Asterisks indicate cases in which the simulated salmon reached zero energy reserves (bioenergetic ‘death’) during simulations with altered parameter values.

Parameter	Swimming speed (body lengths s ⁻¹)								
	0.50	0.75	1.00	1.25	1.50	1.75	2.00	2.25	2.50
Initial fish length	8.8	8.2	7.3	6.3	5.2	4.0	3.0	2.1	1.3
Initial weight-length scale	2.5	2.2	1.8	1.3	0.7	0.0	-0.8	-1.7	-2.9
Initial weight-length power	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Minimum swimming speed	-1.4	-1.4	-1.4	-1.4	-1.4	-1.5	-1.5	-1.5	-1.5
Maximum swimming speed	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Minimum edible prey size	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1
Maximum edible prey size	6.7	6.4	5.9	5.1	4.1	3.1	2.1	1.4	0.8
Feeding time	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Zooplankton density	-0.9	-1.0	-1.0	-1.1	-1.4	-1.7	-1.8	-1.8	-1.7
Zooplankton ‘lost’ to higher predators	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
Reaction distance scale, D_a	-3.3	-3.3	-3.3	-3.2	-3.0	-2.7	-2.4	-2.0	-1.6
Reaction distance power, D_b	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Prey handling time	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Maximum consumption scale, C_A	41.5	41.3	40.9	40.1	38.9	37.4	35.9	34.3	32.8
Maximum consumption parameter, C_B	65.9	65.3	63.9	61.5	58.0	53.8	49.1	44.4	39.9
Maximum consumption parameter, C_Q	-8.0	-8.0	-7.9	-7.7	-7.5	-7.2	-6.9	-6.6	-6.3
Maximum consumption parameter, C_{K1}	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.5	6.3	6.1	5.8	5.5
Maximum consumption parameter, C_{TO}	-27.8	-27.7	-27.3	-26.7	-25.9	-24.9	-23.8	-22.8	-21.7
Maximum consumption parameter, C_{TM}	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5
Maximum consumption parameter, C_{TL}	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Maximum consumption parameter, C_{K4}	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3
Prey length:width ratio	4.3	4.2	4.1	3.9	3.5	2.9	2.1	1.3	0.8
Prey dry weight ratio	-41.7	-41.9	-42.0	-41.9	-41.3	-40.0	-38.1	-36.1	-34.1
Prey energy density	41.7	41.9	41.9	41.7	41.0	39.6	37.8	35.8	33.8
Salmon dry weight constant, DW_a	40.7	40.6	40.1	39.3	38.0	36.5	34.9	33.2	31.5
Salmon dry weight coefficient, DW_b	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.1
Egestion scale, F_a	-15.5	-15.5	-15.3	-14.9	-14.4	-13.8	-13.2	-12.5	-11.9

Egestion-temperature coefficient, F_{b1}	-8.0	-7.9	-7.8	-7.7	-7.4	-7.1	-6.8	-6.4	-6.1
Egestion-consumption coefficient, F_{b2}	-9.9	-9.8	-9.7	-9.5	-9.1	-8.8	-8.4	-7.9	-7.5
Excretion scale, U_a	-4.8	-4.7	-4.7	-4.6	-4.4	-4.2	-4.0	-3.8	-3.6
Excretion-temperature coefficient, U_{b1}	-6.5	-6.4	-6.4	-6.2	-6.0	-5.7	-5.5	-5.2	-4.9
Excretion-consumption coefficient, U_{b2}	-1.4	-1.4	-1.4	-1.4	-1.3	-1.3	-1.2	-1.1	-1.1
Specific Dynamic Action proportion	-9.2	-9.1	-9.0	-8.8	-8.5	-8.2	-7.8	-7.4	-7.0
Burst speed constant	-27.3	-26.8	-25.9	-24.6	-22.7	-20.4	-17.7	-14.8	-12.0
Burst speed-temperature coefficient	-4.5	-4.5	-4.5	-4.3	-4.1	-3.7	-3.2	-2.7	-2.2
Burst speed-length-temperature constant	50.6	50.2	49.3	48.0	46.0	43.3	40.1	36.4	32.4
Burst speed-length-temperature coefficient	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.0	1.7	1.5
Respiration scale, R_a	-17.1	-19.8	-22.6	-25.3	-27.9	-30.0	-31.6	-32.5	-32.7
Resp.-temperature coefficient, R_{b1}	-104.5	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Resp.-speed coefficient, R_{b2}	-63.2	-65.6	-68.6	-72.3	-76.7	-81.5	-86.8	-89.7	-90.6
Resp.-weight-temperature power, R_{b3}	-6.4	-7.3	-8.2	-8.9	-9.5	-9.8	-9.9	-9.6	-9.1
Resp.-weight-speed power, R_{b4}	-24.6	-26.5	-28.6	-30.6	-32.6	-34.2	-35.5	-36.1	-36.1
Resp.-temperature-speed coefficient, R_{b5}	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Defended reserve ratio, λ_{def}	-1.0	-1.0	-0.9	-0.9	-0.8	-0.8	-0.7	-0.6	-0.6
Allocation switch width, λ_{switch}	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Maximum proportion to structure, κ_{max}	18.4	17.7	16.9	15.9	14.7	13.4	12.1	10.9	9.7
Length-structure scale, L_0	71.9	69.7	66.7	63.0	58.7	53.9	49.0	44.3	39.7
Length-structure power, α	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Weight-length-energy scale, W_0	7.2	4.4	1.2	-2.0	-5.2	-8.0	-10.2	-11.7	-12.3
Weight-length power, β	-5.7	-3.4	-0.7	2.4	5.5	8.4	11.0	12.9	14.1
Weight-energy power, γ	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

Table 7. Comparison of simulated and published values of specific growth rate (SGR) and thermal-unit growth coefficient (TGC) under different conditions of initial body weight, temperature and swimming speed.

Initial weight (g)	Temperature (°C)	SGR at speed		Published value	Reference
		0.5 bl s ⁻¹	1.0 bl s ⁻¹		
61	4.3	0.342	0.225	0.274	Handeland et al. (2003)
	9.4	1.196	1.072	0.723	
	14.3	1.515	1.384	0.989	
TGC at speed					
		0.5 bl s ⁻¹	1.0 bl s ⁻¹		
528	9.0	1.41 × 10 ⁻³	9.57 × 10 ⁻⁴	1.39 × 10 ⁻³	Thodesen et al. (1999)