

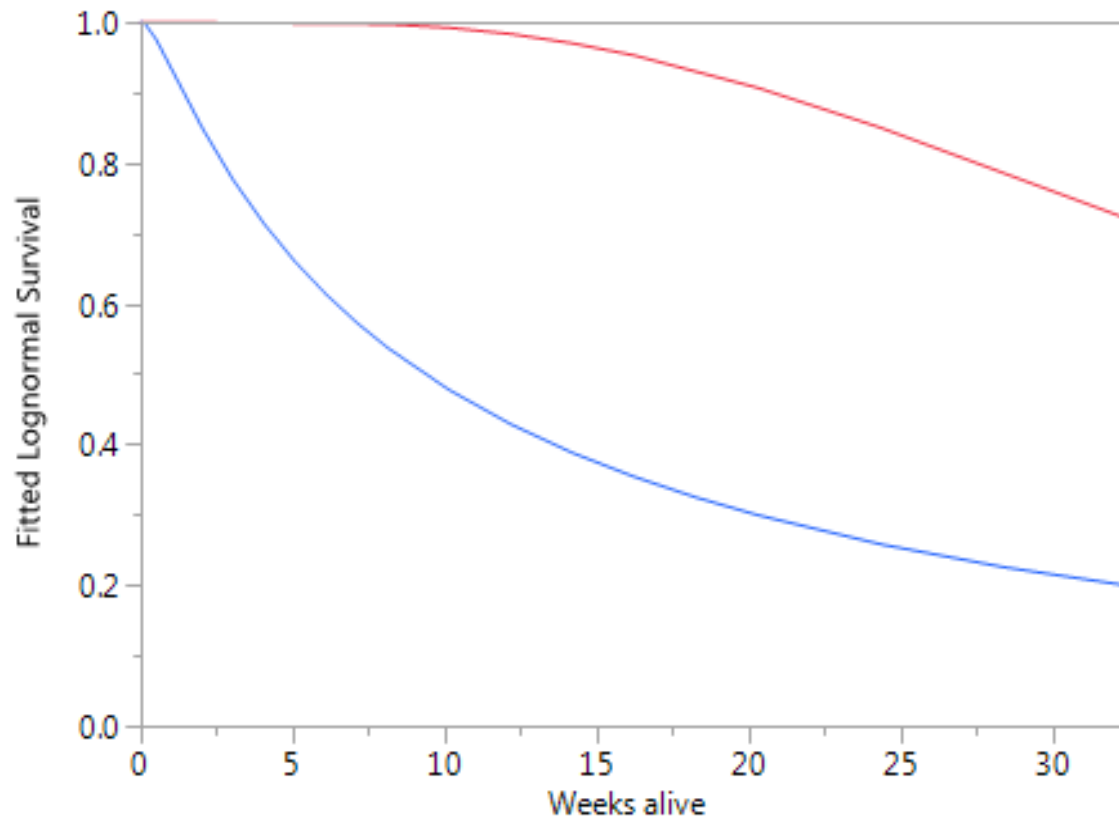
Bitter crab disease

- Parasitic dinoflagellate (*Hematodinium* sp.)
- Recent work in Australia (maybe different species?)
 - Can exist in asymptomatic levels
 - Becomes “diseased” when stressed
- Unknown life cycle, mechanism and timing of transmission
- High prevalence in SE Alaska

Bitter crab survival study (Siddon et al.)

- Pre-recruit males
- Collected in Stephens Passage
- Collected as “visually bitter” or “visually clean”
- Held at the NOAA lab in Juneau (TSMRI)
- Goal was to determine survival for each group

Survival study (Siddon et al.)



- Blue – visually bitter (n=27)
- Red – visually clean (n=46)

Preliminary results

- Probability of survival over 52 weeks (1 year):
 - Visually bitter: 12.3%
 - Visually clean: 43.9 %
- In the lab visually positive bitter crab are 3 times more likely to die within a year
- Some crab maybe able to live with low levels of the disease
- Stress may induce mortality in bitter crab