

3.15 Compensatory natural mortality

Compensatory changes in natural mortality rate (M) can be simulated by combining two effects: nonzero 'Feeding time adjustment rate' (set on the [Group info](#) form), and either high EE from Ecopath or high proportion of M_o due to predation (unexplained predation > 0). With these settings, especially when [Vulnerabilities](#) of prey to a group are low, decreases in biomass lead to reduced feeding time, which leads to proportional reduction in natural mortality rate.