

### S3. Definition of the shapes of density-dependence used in the paper

In the main text we show how the strength of density-dependence changes with age (Fig 5AEIMQ). The shape of the function describing this relationship is modeled by modifying the Beverton-Holt function (Eq 11) with the power  $B(x)$ .  $B(x)$  is defined as a vector of age-specific weights with values between 0 and 1. This approach is reasonable because it combines the scale and the shape of density-dependence into one inseparable proportional factor  $Q$ . If  $B$  acted proportionally to  $Q$  its effect on  $Q$  could not be separated from the effect on the target of density-dependence (e.g. fertility). The general formula for  $B(x)$  is :

$$(1) \quad B(x) = h_1 V^{h_2} - V^{h_3} + 1$$

where

$$(2) \quad V(x) = \begin{cases} (x+1)/\omega : h_4 = 0 \\ (\omega-x)/\omega : h_4 = 1 \end{cases}$$

Where  $\omega=120$  is the number of age classes in the model, and  $h_1$ ,  $h_2$ ,  $h_3$ , and  $h_4$  are shape parameters. For the cases represented in Figs 2, 3, and 4 in the manuscript the shape function is 1 for every  $x$  ( $h_1=1$ ,  $h_2=0$ ,  $h_3=0$ , and  $h_4=1$ ). For case (I) the parameters are set to:  $h_1=1$ ,  $h_2=0$ ,  $h_3=50$ , and  $h_4=1$ ; for the case (II) to:  $h_1=1$ ,  $h_2=0$ ,  $h_3=0.5$ , and  $h_4=0$ ; and for the case (III) to  $h_1=2$ ,  $h_2=0$ ,  $h_3=2$ , and  $h_4=1$ .