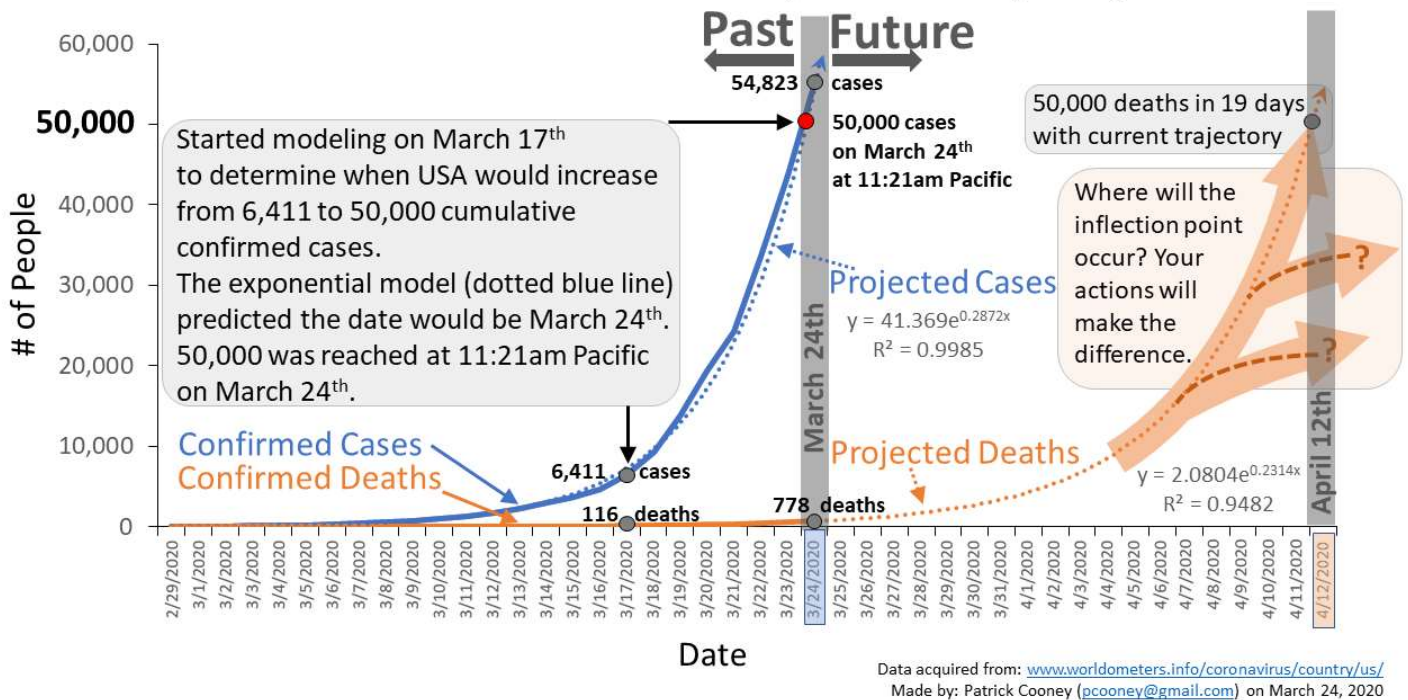


Hey NCD, Welcome to March Madness, 2020 style!

I don't know about you, but this has been quite a month so far. I've tried to stop and write my monthly blog on numerous occasions. Every time I do, it seems like I feel the need to wait, because some monumental next thing has popped up. I've got to admit, this type of craziness is wearing on me a bit. I imagine many of you feel the same way.

In the midst of all this uncertainty, one of our fisheries friends unearthed some impressive predictability. Patrick Cooney, co-founder of The Fisheries Blog, started looking at coronavirus data and put his fisheries mind to work. News stories always tell a story, but talking does not always bring home the point of what this virus outbreak means in terms of real people and exponential growth. Here are today's results, which started with a model on March 17.

United States Coronavirus (COVID-19) Projection



I have reposted this on my Facebook page, trying to share the story of why it is important to take heed and do what we can to “flatten the curve”. As you can see, as of today, there is little to suggest that is being accomplished (however, we know that the lag between inoculation and symptoms is long, so there is hope).

What does this have to do with fisheries, you may be wondering. Well, I think it is bigger than that. I think we have known for a while that there is a dearth of scientific understanding in society at large. The uneasy feeling I get knowing there are still large swaths of society that consider this whole thing a political hoax only adds to that. We as scientists have a societal responsibility to attempt to enhance scientific understanding, when and where we can. The Science Communication Section of AFS has made that the point of their existence, and I think Patrick really embodied that with his efforts in this regard. I hope we can all take note, and follow suite in our own way.

Thanks,

Jeff

Here are a few more interesting things his observations uncovered.

