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qihua huang* (qihua@ualberta.ca), Department of Mathematical & Statistical, Sciences, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2G1, Canada, and **mark a lewis** (mark.lewis@ualberta.ca), Department of Mathematical & Statistical, Sciences, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2G1, Canada. *Homing Fidelity and Reproductive Rate for Migratory Populations.*

Short-term and long-term population growth rates can differ considerably. While changes in growth rates can be driven by external factors, we consider another source for changes in growth rate. That is, changes are generated internally by gradual modification of population structure. Such a modification of population structure may take many generations, particularly when the populations are distributed spatially in heterogeneous environments. Here the net reproductive rate R_0 is not sufficient to characterize short-term growth. Indeed, a population with net reproductive rate greater than one could initially decline precipitously, or a population with net reproductive rate less than one could initially grow substantially. Thus we augment the net reproductive rate with lower and upper bounds for the transient reproductive rate, R_l and R_u . We apply these measures to the study of spatially structured salmon populations and show the effect of variable homing fidelity on short-term and long-term generational growth rates. (Received August 18, 2014)