

### 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  $M_0$  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.