

## Marine Productivity and the Fishery Crisis-II Causes, Consequences and Solutions



MES-ESS Winter 2011  
January 20



## Part-I Summary

- Rate of primary production (PPR) as limit
- Marine PPR is limited by light and nutrients (N and P, Liebig's Law)
- Highest PPR is in shelf (5% of ocean), upwelling regions (.1% of ocean) and estuaries
- Shelf and upwelling regions account for nearly all the fish production (PPR, food chain length and efficiency of C-transfer)
- Fisheries in shelf and upwelling regions use 24-35% of PPR
- Peru anchoveta crash as case study for mismanagement and role of externalities

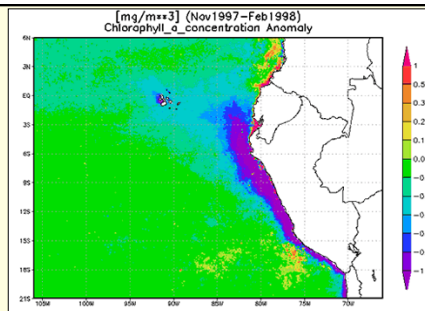


- Peruvian Anchoveta (*Engraulis ringens*)
- Filter feeder mostly on phytoplankton
- Fast growing (Up to 20 cm in 3y), spawn August
- Used primarily to produce oil and fish meal to supplement animal feed

<http://www.fishbase.org/Summary/SpeciesSummary.php?id=4> and [http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/resources/0r2imek\\_fish/Clupeiformes/Engraulis\\_ringens.jpg/badge.jpg](http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/resources/0r2imek_fish/Clupeiformes/Engraulis_ringens.jpg/badge.jpg)

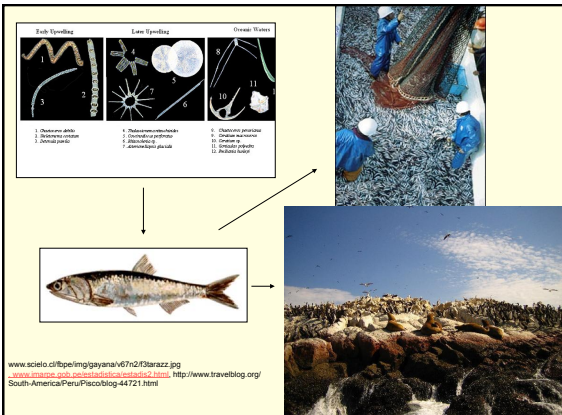


Surface circulation pattern in eastern equatorial Pacific. Cool water flowing from the south and upwelling keep the climate in this region cool. The Andes intercept the humidity traveling from the west resulting in dry conditions. From: <http://www.geol.umd.edu/~jmerck/galate/research/projects/fic/currents.gif>



Upwelling results in high concentrations of inorganic nutrients and phytoplankton productivity.

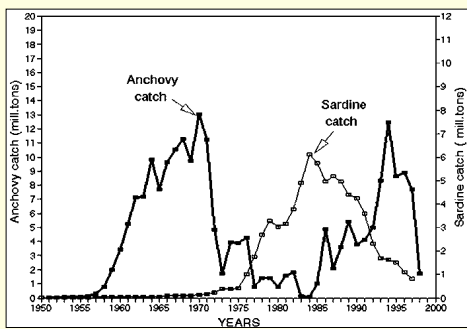
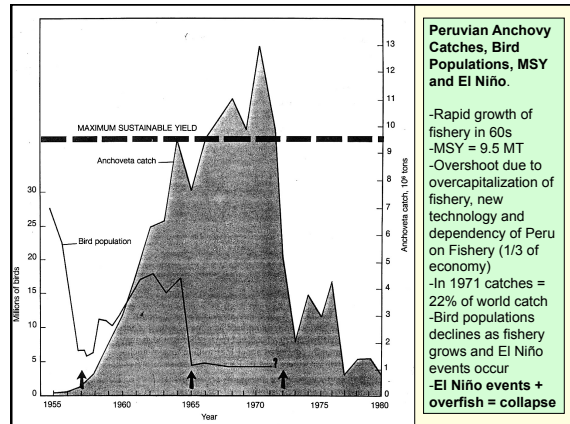
From [http://daac.gsfc.nasa.gov/oceancolor/locus/images/el\\_nino\\_anomaly\\_Nov97Feb98.gif](http://daac.gsfc.nasa.gov/oceancolor/locus/images/el_nino_anomaly_Nov97Feb98.gif)



**Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY):** The largest average catch or yield that can continuously be taken from a stock under existing environmental conditions.

For species with fluctuating recruitment, the maximum might be obtained by taking fewer fish in some years than in others.

Also called: maximum equilibrium catch or sustainable catch  
([www.nefsc.noaa.gov](http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov))

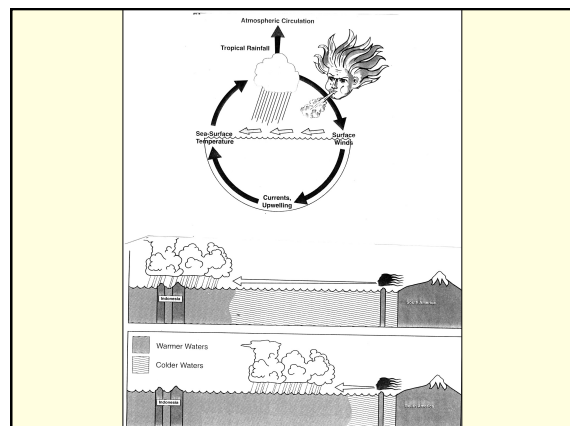
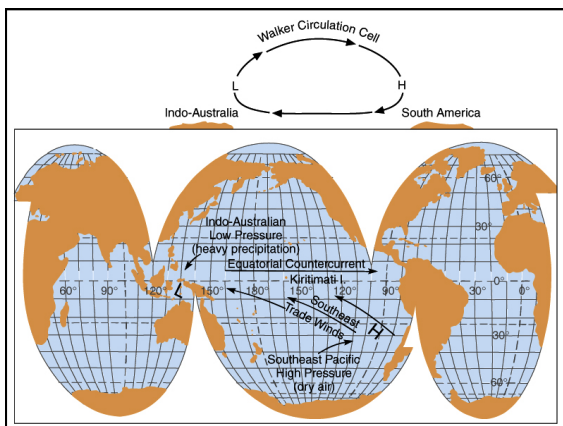


**Collapse and recovery of Peruvian anchoveta. Why do sardine catches increase when anchovy catches are low?**

From : <http://www.fao.org/docrep/005/y2787e/y2787e3b.gif>

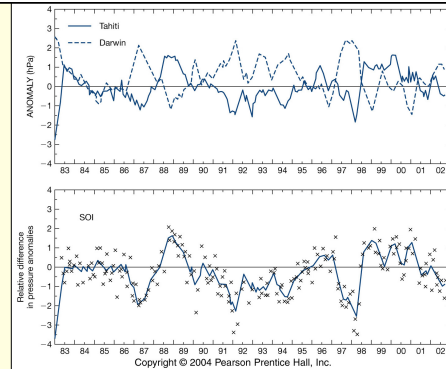
## El Niño off the coast of Peru

- Annual occurrence starting in Dec and lasting ~ 3 months. Frequency of severe events is ~ 5-7 y and events may last 2 y.
- Weakening of coastal winds and upwelling
- Low concentrations of inorganic nutrients
- Low primary production
- Warming of sea surface
- Decline of native fishes and birds and appearance of tropical species
- Torrential rains

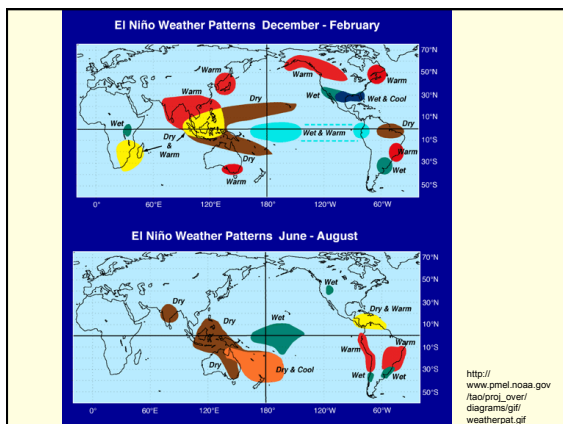
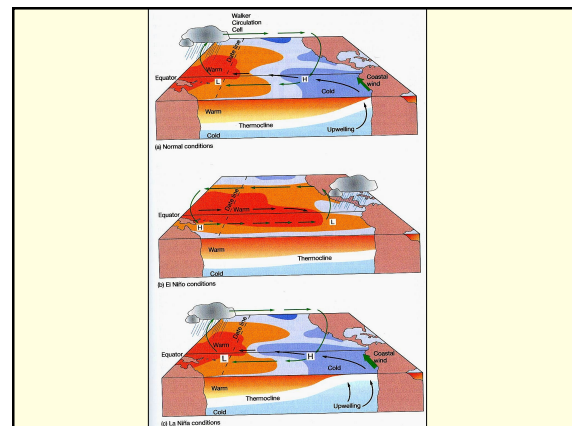
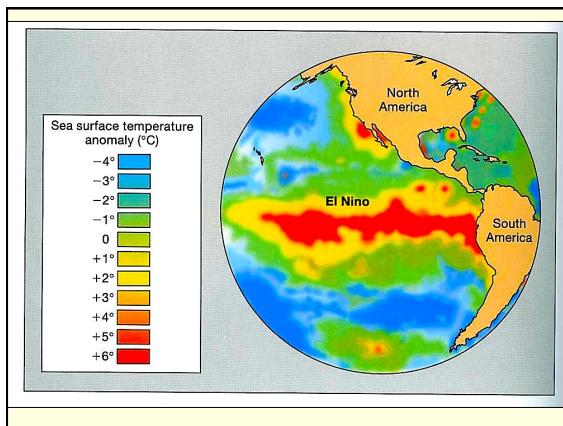




**Southern Oscillation Index (SOI)**



The Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) compares the atmospheric pressure anomalies (deviations from an average value) between Tahiti (150°W) and Darwin, Australia (130°E)



### El Niño / Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

-Interannual climate disturbance characterized by warming of the equatorial Pacific. This is caused by oscillations in the atmospheric pressure systems in the Southern Hemisphere which results in:

-Weakening of southwest trades wind leading to weak upwelling off the coast of Peru. This leads to warmer seawater, reversal of local climate, low primary production and low production of anchovies/seabirds

-Warming of the Equatorial Pacific and disruption of global weather

-ENSO illustrates the feedback loops between the ocean and the atmosphere. Because ocean and atmosphere respond to each other, it difficult to determine what triggers an ENSO event.

-Due to the short food chains in upwelling zones. The biological impacts of ENSO event are experienced rapidly by all levels of the ecosystem. These climate events need to be considered in fisheries management.

"A marine biologist with no understanding of meteorology or currents is just whistling in the dark"

-R.T. Barber

## FACTORS TO CONSIDER IN THE MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES

**Biological:** life history, age structure, survival of larvae, recruitment, migratory paths, predation

**Ecological:** Primary production, food web efficiency, nutrient availability

**Oceanographic/Climate:** upwelling, local and global wind and current patterns, coastline shape, bathymetry, inter-annual variation in climate

**Technological:** Efficiency of detection and capture devices

**Socio-politico-economic:** Ownership of resources, international boundaries, local and world markets













## Fisheries-II

- Food from the Sea
  - Current Fisheries Trends
- Fisheries Crisis
  - Causes
  - Consequences
- Solutions
- Lessons

## Major Commercial Species

- **Fishes** (Bony+cartilageneous fishes)
  - Clupeoid. Herrings, sardines, anchovies. Small, pelagic, feed on low trophic levels.
  - Gadoids. Cod, haddock, pollock, hake. Bottom dwelling (demersal)
  - Scombroid. Mackerel, and tunas. Temperate and tropical waters.
  - Redfishes. Rockfishes, sea basses. Demersal.
  - Flatfishes. (halibut, sole, plaice, flounder)
  - Sharks
  - Salmonids.
- **Crustaceans:** shrimp, crabs, lobsters.
- **Mollusks:** squid, oysters, clams.
- **Mammals:** whales, seals, sea lions.
- **Algae**

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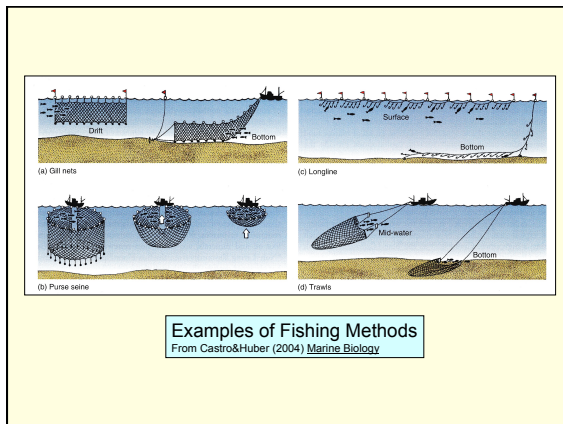
Species	Distribution and Habits	Species	Distribution and Habits
 Herring (Clupea)	North Atlantic and Pacific; schooling, plankton feeders; 38 cm (15 in)	 Hake and whiting (Merluccius)	Temperate worldwide; demersal; feed on bottom invertebrates and fishes; 1 m (3 ft)
 Sardines, or pilchards (Sardinops, Sardina, Sardine)	Mostly temperate worldwide; schooling, plankton feeders; 30 cm (12 in)	 Flatfishes: flounders, halibuts, soles, and others (Platichthys, Hippoglossus, etc.)	Mostly temperate worldwide; demersal; feed on bottom invertebrates and fishes; 2 m (6.5 ft) in some halibuts
 Anchovies (Engraulis)	Worldwide; schooling, plankton feeders; 20 cm (8 in)	 Tunas (Thunnus, Katsuwonus, etc.)	Tropical and temperate; schooling, carnivores; 4.3 m (14 ft) in the bluefin tuna
 Merluccius (Brancoforte)	Temperate and subtropical Atlantic; schooling, plankton feeders; 38 cm (15 in)	 Mackerels (Scomber, Scomberomorus)	Tropical and temperate worldwide; schooling, carnivores; 2.4 m (8 ft)
 Cod (Gadus)	North Atlantic and Pacific; demersal; feed on bottom invertebrates and fishes; 1.5 m (5 ft) in the Atlantic cod (no longer this large)	 Salmon (Oncorhynchus, Salmo)	North Pacific and Atlantic; open ocean and rivers, carnivores; 1 m (3 ft)
 Alaska, or western, pollock (Theragra chalcogramma)	Temperate North and Central Pacific; demersal; feeds mostly on bottom invertebrates and fishes; 90 cm (35 in)		
 Haddock (Melanogrammus aeglefinus)	North Atlantic; demersal; feeds mostly on bottom invertebrates; 90 cm (35 in)		

Note: Fishes are not drawn to scale. The measurements given are the approximate maximum length.

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Catch	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2003
Herrings, sardines, etc.	13.43	16.14	21.10	22.32	22.01	24.90	18.94
Miscellaneous pelagic fishes	not listed	not listed	not listed	not listed	13.93	10.64	11.50
Cods, haddocks, hakes, pollocks	11.85	10.75	12.46	11.58	10.74	8.68	9.31
Tunas, bonitos, billfishes	2.06	2.55	3.18	4.43	4.89	5.82	6.31
Salmon, smelts	0.55	0.80	1.17	1.51	1.15	0.80	0.96
Flounders and other flatfishes	1.16	1.08	1.35	1.23	0.92	1.01	0.92
Sharks, rays	0.59	0.60	0.62	0.69	0.76	0.87	0.96
<b>Total marine fishes</b>	<b>51.93</b>	<b>55.73</b>	<b>64.40</b>	<b>69.36</b>	<b>72.00</b>	<b>71.84</b>	<b>67.25</b>
Freshwater fishes	5.96	6.17	8.74	12.23	5.80	6.80	7.60
Anadromous and catadromous fishes (other than salmon)	1.53	1.82	2.57	3.24	1.63	1.77	1.57
Squids, octopuses	1.18	1.53	1.79	2.36	2.94	3.66	3.51
Clams, cockles	0.94	1.20	1.51	1.53	0.96	0.80	0.94
Scallops	0.29	0.37	0.60	0.87	0.54	0.66	0.80
Oysters	0.85	0.97	1.09	1.00	0.19	0.25	0.20
Mussels	0.53	0.62	0.97	1.34	0.24	0.26	0.19
<b>Total marine molluscs</b>	<b>4.03</b>	<b>4.91</b>	<b>6.18</b>	<b>7.73</b>	<b>6.38</b>	<b>7.25</b>	<b>6.70</b>
Shrimps	1.33	1.70	2.12	2.63	2.44	3.08	3.52
Crabs	0.75	0.82	0.89	0.89	0.95	1.09	1.32
Lobsters	0.10	0.10	0.20	0.21	0.22	0.23	0.22
Kill	0.04	0.48	0.19	0.37	0.12	0.11	0.12
<b>Total marine crustaceans</b>	<b>2.35</b>	<b>3.20</b>	<b>3.42</b>	<b>4.50</b>	<b>4.77</b>	<b>5.91</b>	<b>5.57</b>
<b>World total (all groups, marine and freshwater)</b>	<b>66.13</b>	<b>72.38</b>	<b>86.26</b>	<b>97.97</b>	<b>91.37</b>	<b>95.47</b>	<b>90.22</b>

Note: Catches tabulated in groups defined by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; only selected groups are listed, and, when added, may not equal totals.



## Fisheries Contribution to Global Food Supply

Fisheries account for 6% total food production, but 17% of protein production. In some developing countries fish protein = 45 % of animal protein intake (Source = FAO).

### UTILIZATION OF FISHERY HARVEST (2002) in MT

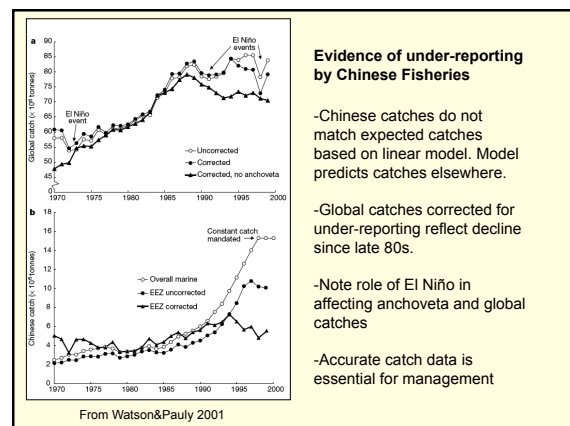
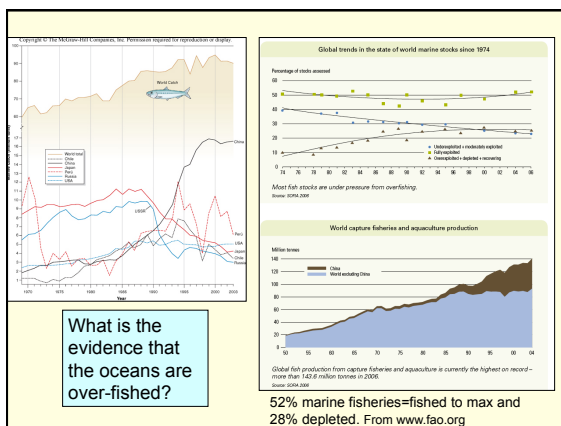
**TOTAL** = 95 (122 – discarded bycatch (27))

**Fish eaten whole**= 65 (2 of scraps used for feed)

**Fish for aquaculture**=10 (Gross yield\*=29, net=19)

**Fish for animal feed** = 20+2 (25% efficiency 22->5.5)

\*Latest FAO report (09) states that aquaculture now provides nearly half of all fish consumed



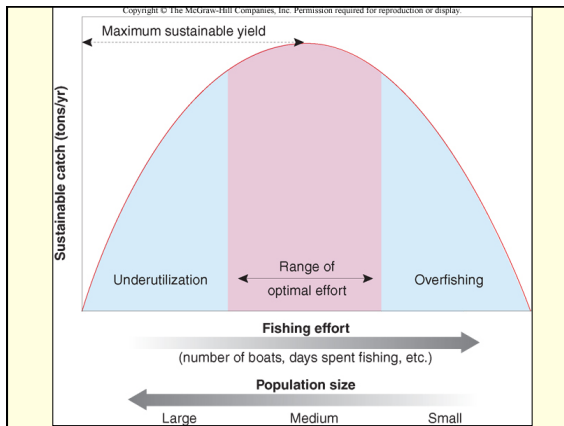
## Over Fishing Causes

- **Tragedy of the Commons:** Open access to wild resource
- **Technological advances:** find, catch and preserve
- **Fishing models inadequate to develop sustainable policies**
  - Scientific uncertainty: biology, ecology, climate for MSY
  - Baseline may be based on already diminished stocks
- **Market failures:**
  - Humans cannot control production of wild habitat
  - Low catches = low supply=high price=more pressure
  - Not consider true cost of fishery (habitat degradation, ecological consequences, etc.)
  - Subsidies to support fishing fleet
  - Over-capitalized industry: More people and boats employed than the fishery can support
- **Political factors:** lack of consensus over management of resource

**Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY).** Maximum tonnage of organisms that can be taken from a harvested population each year without eventually destroying the population.

- **Biological Data:** population dynamics, reproductive age, efficiency of trophic transfers and natural predation. Ecological interactions.
- **Chemical Data:** nutrient concentrations fueling primary production
- **Physical Data:** ocean circulation and its impacts on migration, feeding and recruitment
- **Fishery Data:** Models of equilibrium levels between biological productivity, fishing effort and mortality
- **Meteorological Data:** interannual variations in climate (ENSO)



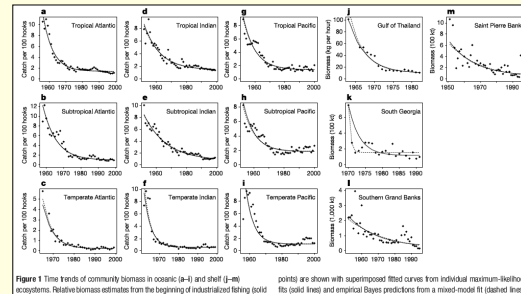


## Over Fishing Consequences

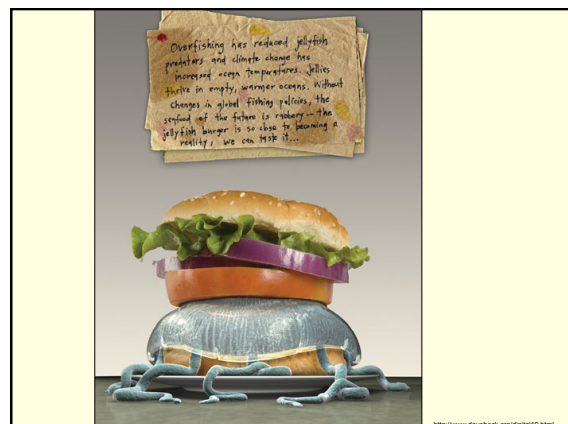
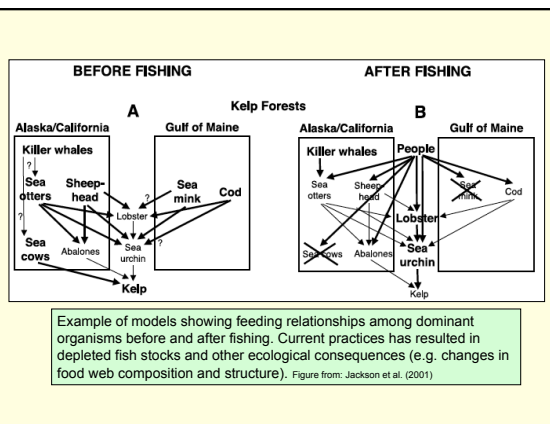
- As fishing effort increases, large fishes are removed
- Large numbers of smaller fish are then caught to compensate for the loss of large fish
- Fish are caught before reaching reproductive age
- Reduced harvest of individual species
  - Masked by substitutions and technological improvement in gear
- Switch to fishery to lesser value fish (e.g. 80s, 30% catch = 6% value)
  - Lesser value fish used for aquaculture and poultry/pig feeds
- Fishing down the food chain. Fishing targets smaller fishes down the food chain

## Over Fishing Consequences-continued

- Shifts in species composition. Top predators decrease, prey of target species increase. Results are simplified food webs and other ecosystem wide impacts
  - "Fishing Down the Food Chain" removes large predators. Fisheries then catch prey fish in lower trophic levels. Result is short food chains dominated by invertebrates
  - increased vulnerability to climate change, pollution, invasive species, eutrophication, habitat destruction
  - Incidental catches (by-catch) and ghost fishing (lost gear)
- Inefficient fishing effort - less fishing would improve yields
- More people employed than the fishery can support
- More boats than needed to harvest the available fish (Over-capitalized industry)



Evidence for rapid disappearance of large predatory fishes  
(From Myers & Worm (2003))



## Over Fishing Solutions (?)

- "Precautionary Principle": Err on side of resource in spite of economic loss.
- Ownership of resource (e.g. Keen)
- Remove subsidies
- Sustainable aquaculture
  - low trophic level fish (tilapia, milk-cat-fish Vs salmon/shrimp)
  - Reduce fish meal/oil in feeds
  - Integrated systems (polyculture)
  - Environmentally sound design
- Reduce fishing (e.g. control technology, taxes, etc.)
- Protective areas (Marine Reserves)
- Ecosystem-based management Vs single-species
- Consumer education
  - Purchase from responsibly produced herbivorous fish
  - Purchase from well-managed fisheries
- Understand role of history and culture (e.g. **COD**)

[illegible]

## General Lessons from Natural Resource Exploitation History

- Tragedy of the Commons
- Inadequate knowledge of the system
  - Exogeneous factors
- Market failures
- Resistance to change (policy, history, culture, etc.).