

Fisheries and Global Warming: Impacts on Marine Ecosystems

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CEBios
Biodiversity and Development:
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What are the major problems for marine biodiversity at the dawn of the 21st century?

I would argue that they are, in decreasing order of importance:

- 1) Ever-expanding marine fisheries, whose impacts on marine life are still widely underestimated;
- 2) Global warming, whose effects on fisheries have already kicked in;
- 3) Pollution, whose impacts on marine life were long overestimated, and which only now begins to live to its reputation.



we won't deal with ocean acidification (too discouraging)

Official fisheries catches, as submitted by member countries to FAO are incomplete.

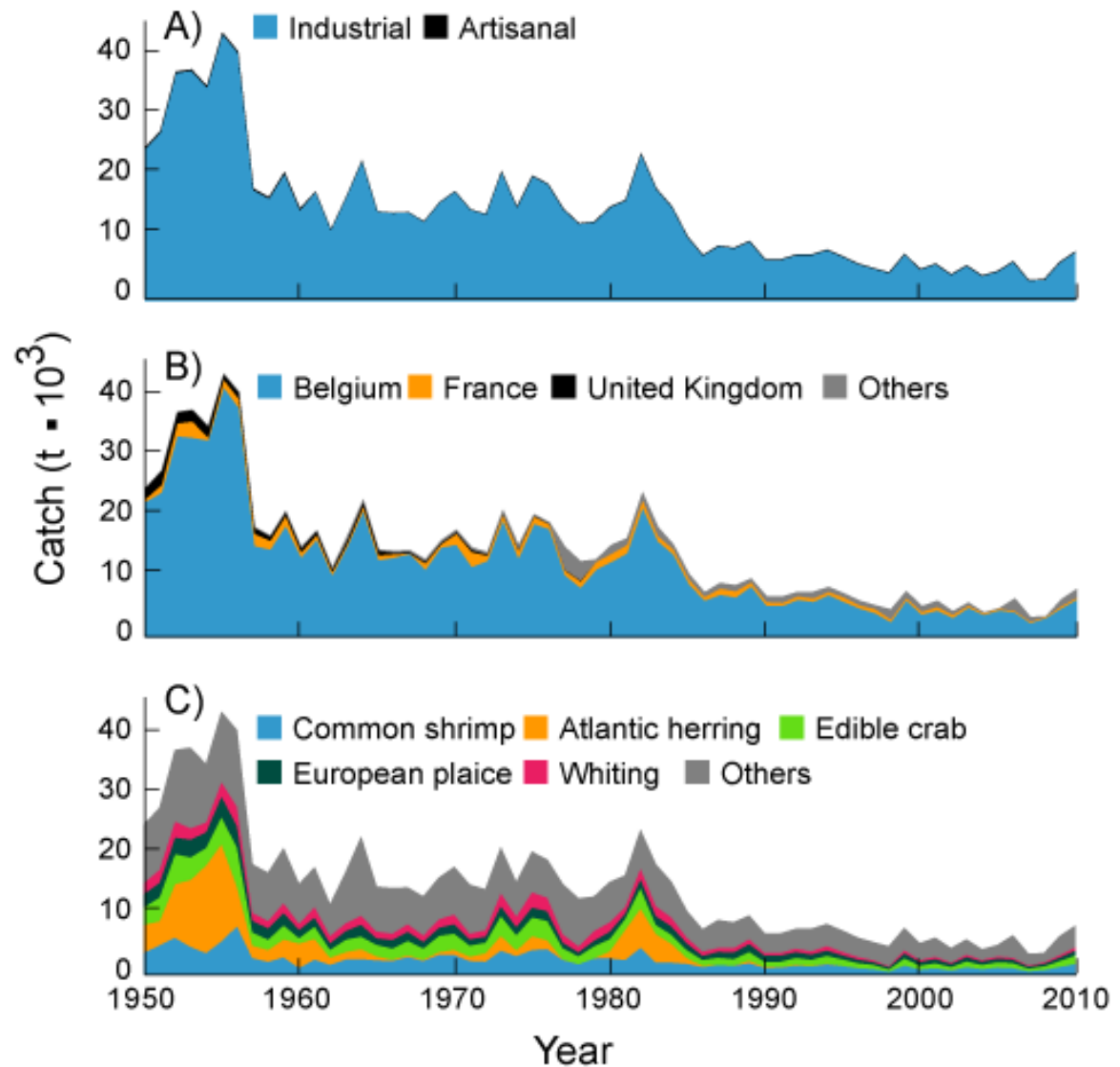
We addressed this by doing 'catch reconstructions', i.e., bottom-up re-estimation of total catches for all countries of the world, based on the principles that:

- (i) every fishery casts a "shadow" on the society in which it occurs, and
- (ii) zero is never a good estimate for a positive number that is not precisely known.

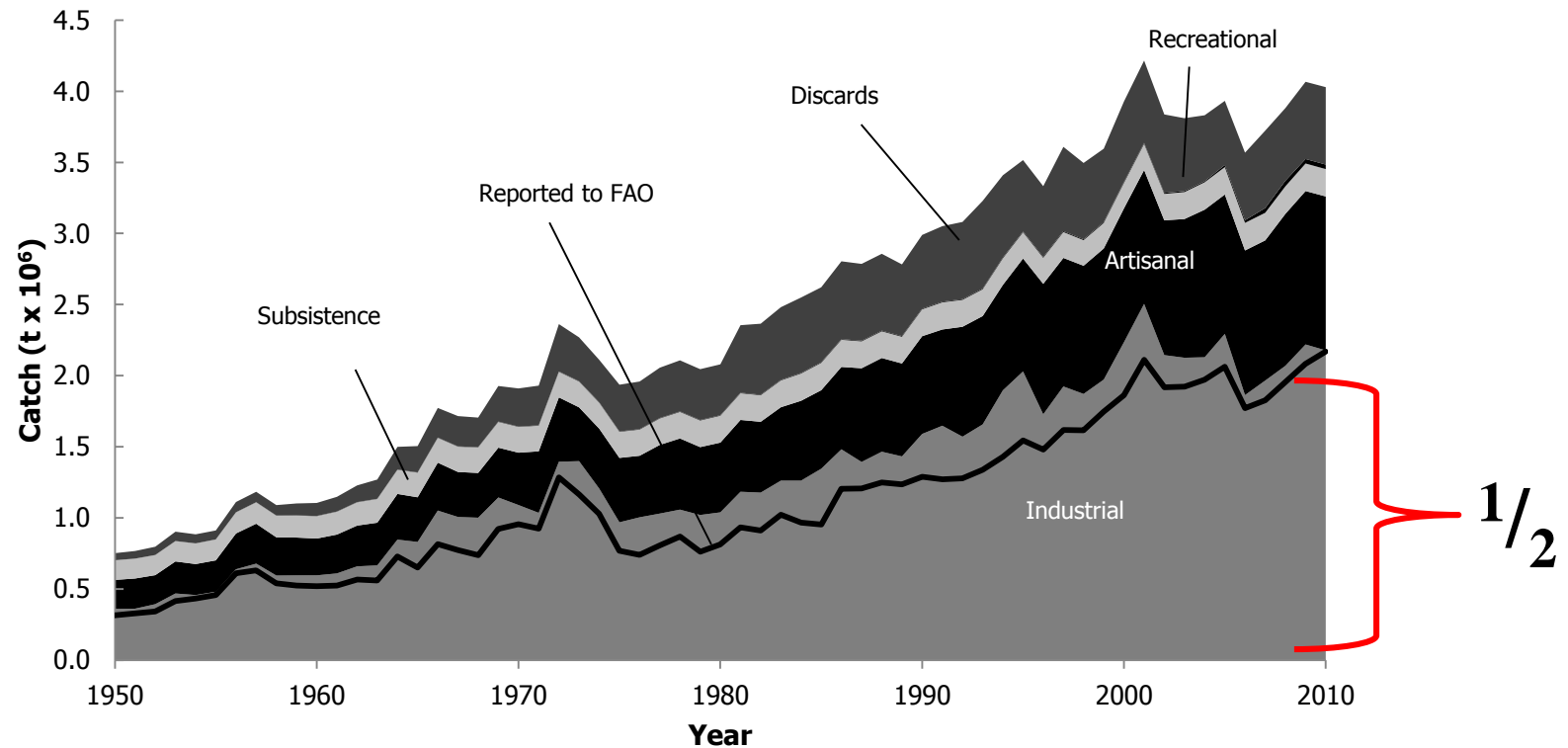


see www.seaaroundus.org

The example of Belgium

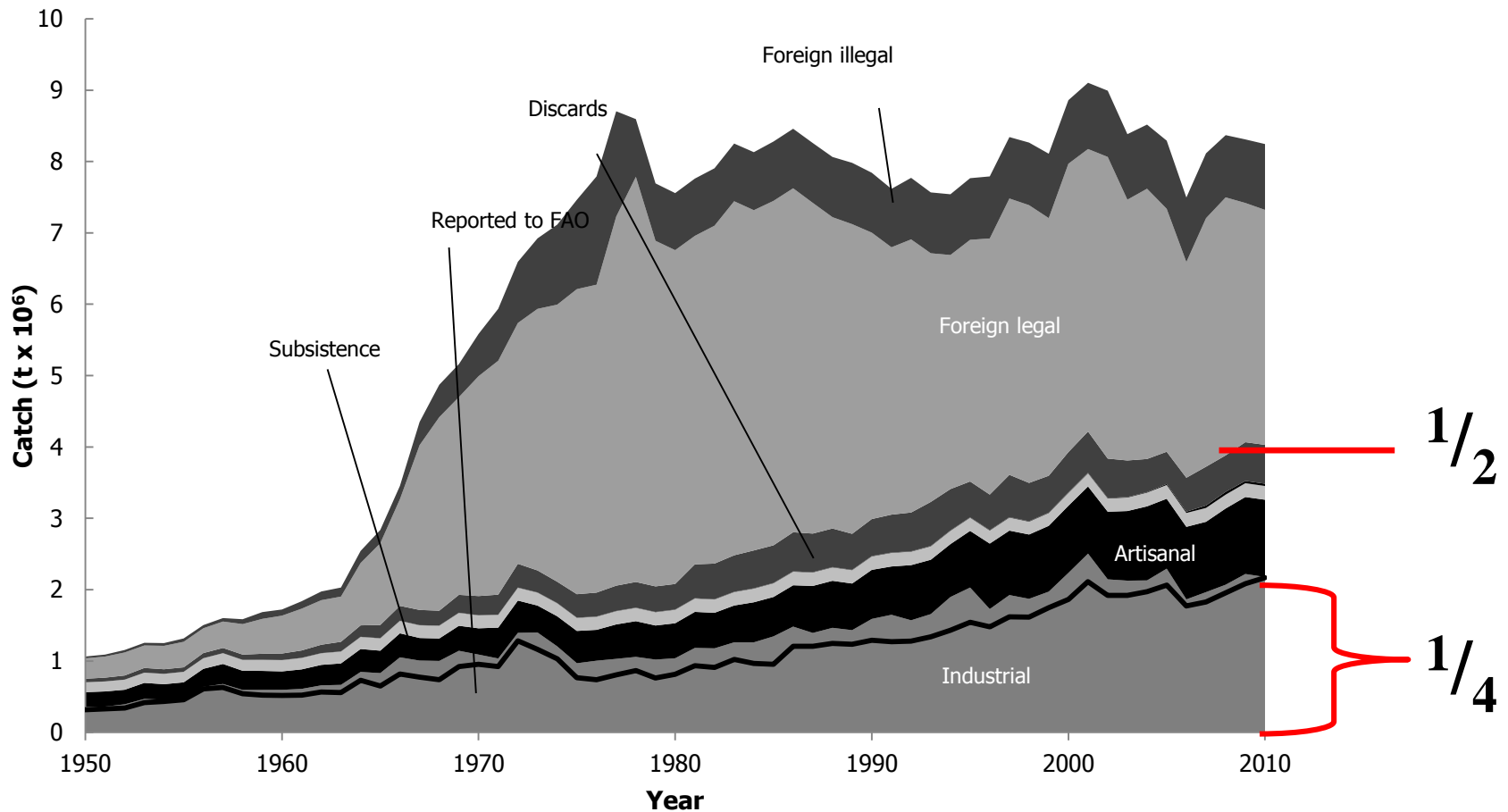


Total reconstructed catches for West Africa: domestic



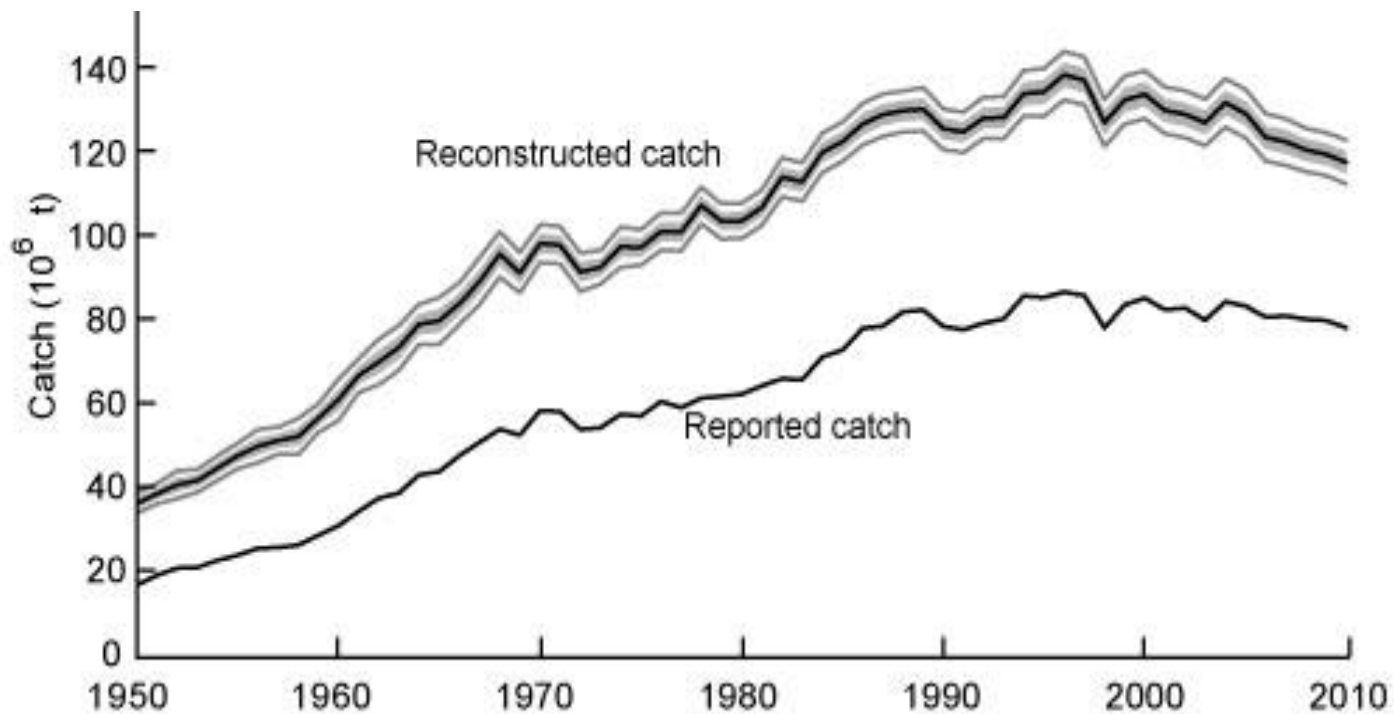
Belhabib *et al.* (*Environmental Development*, in press)

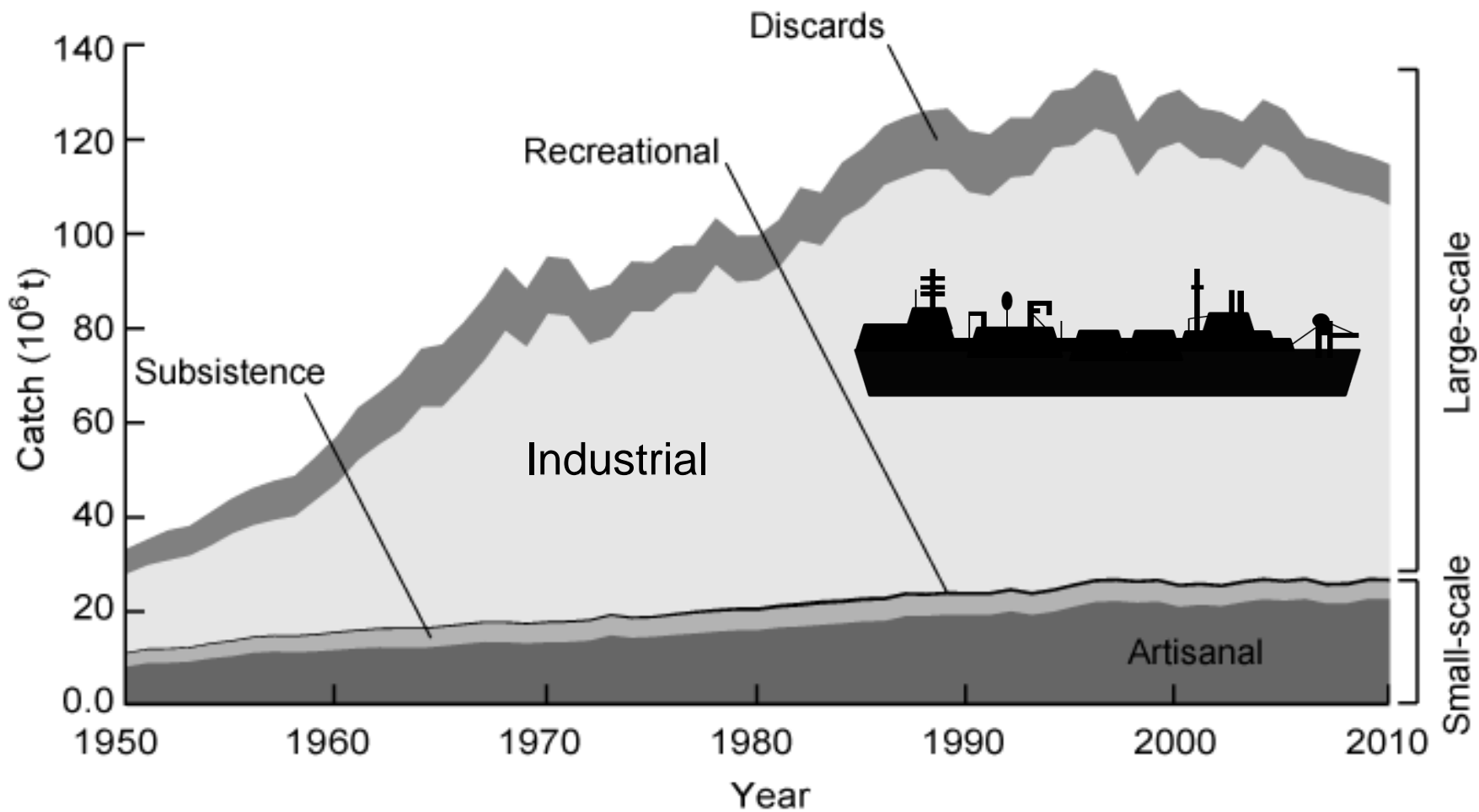
Total reconstructed catches for West Africa: domestic & foreign



Belhabib *et al.* (*Environmental Development*, in press)

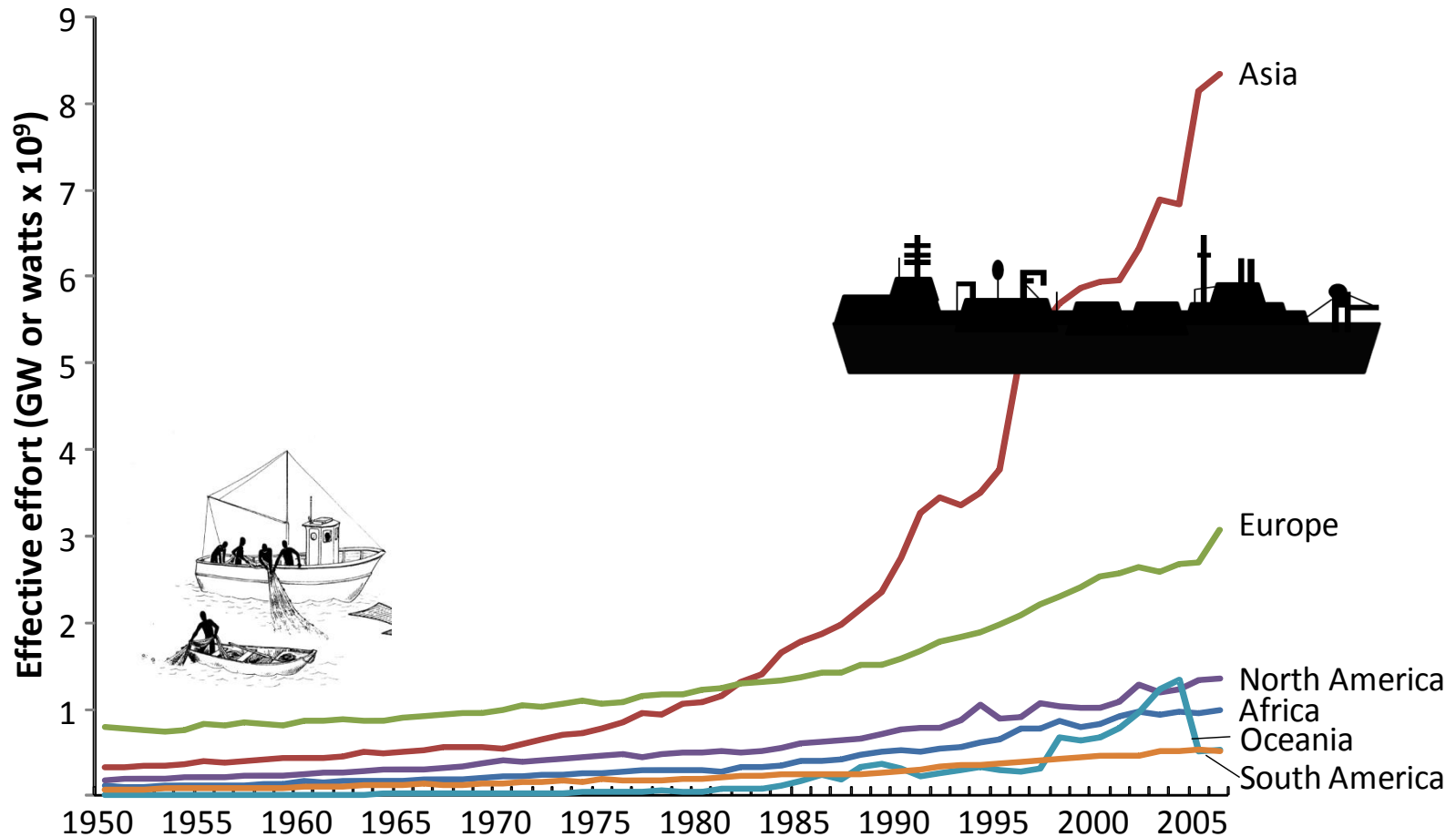
The reconstructions confirm that the world catch is declining; this trend is more marked than in the officially reported catch...





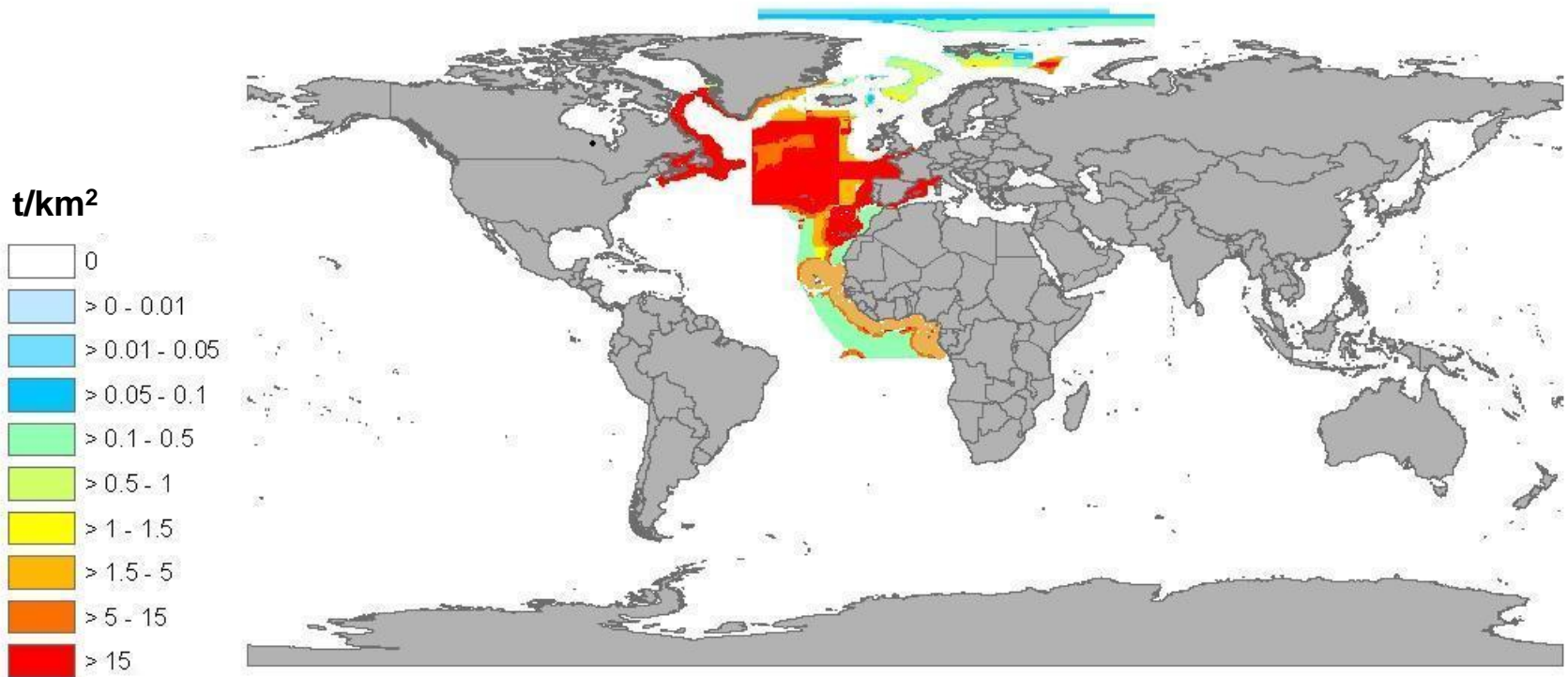
Pauly & Zeller (*in review*; do not disseminate)

The decline of industrial catches is not surprising, given the growth of 'effective' fishing effort ...



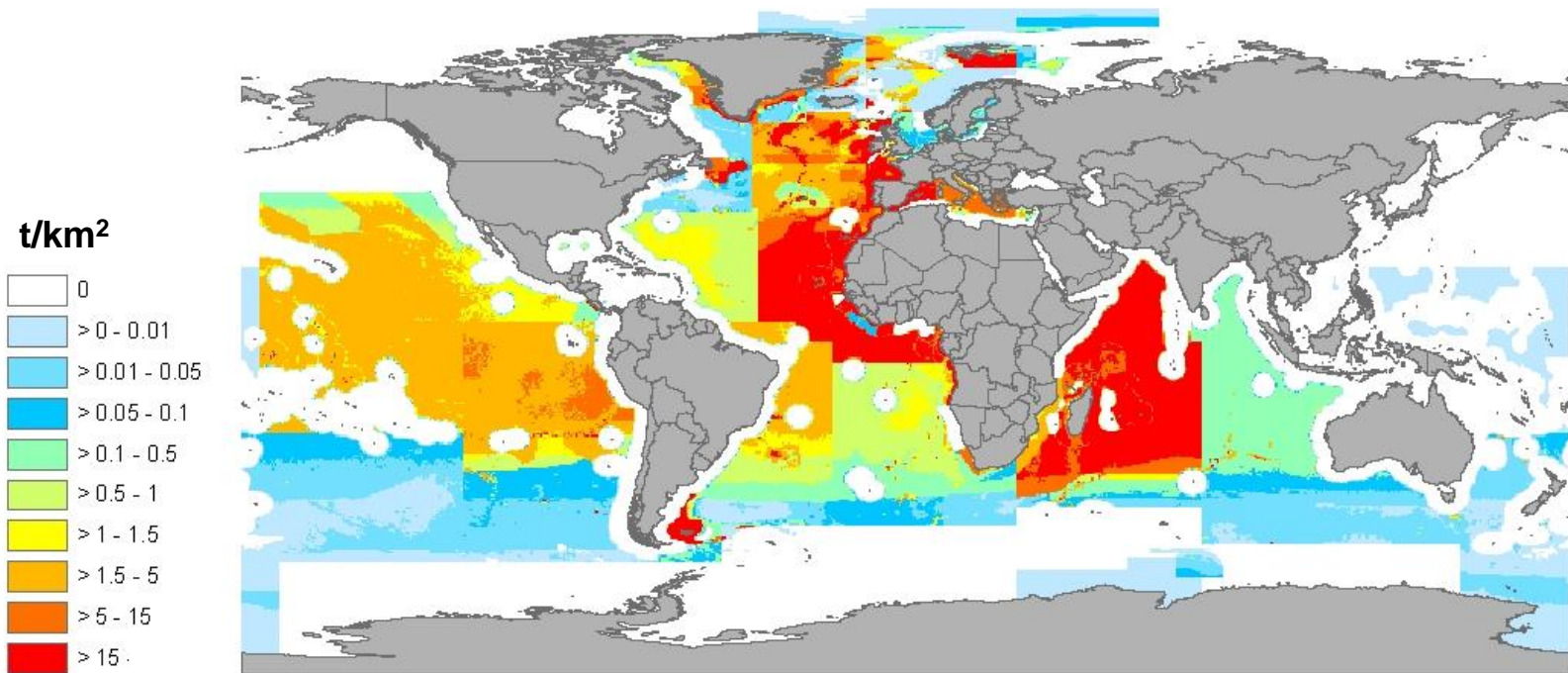
Anticamara *et al.* (*Fisheries Research*, 2011)

This issue was long masked by fisheries expansion, here illustrated by mapping the catch of Spain in the 1950s...



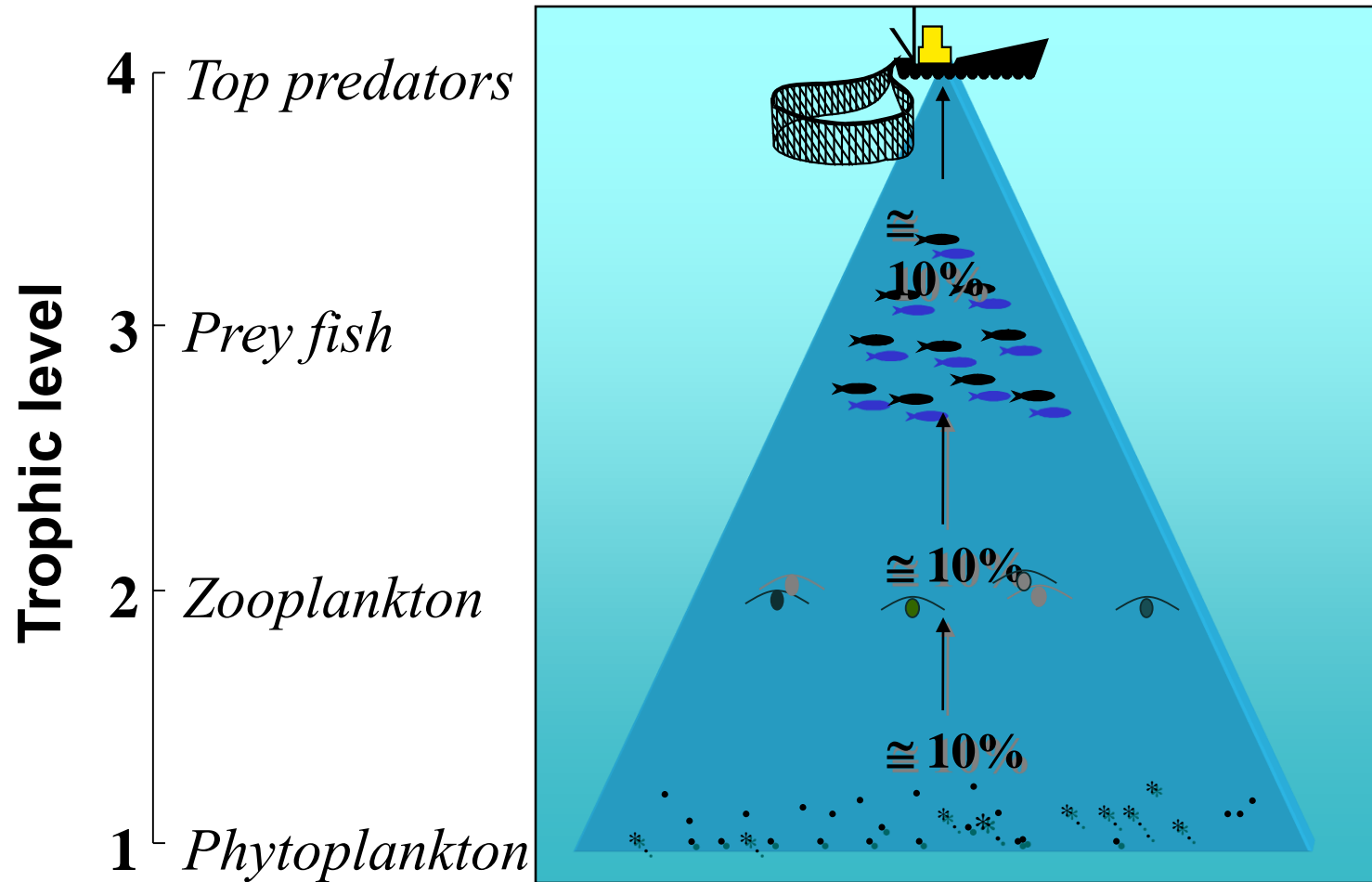
see www.searoundus.org

...and from 2000-2004 (remember: Spain!)



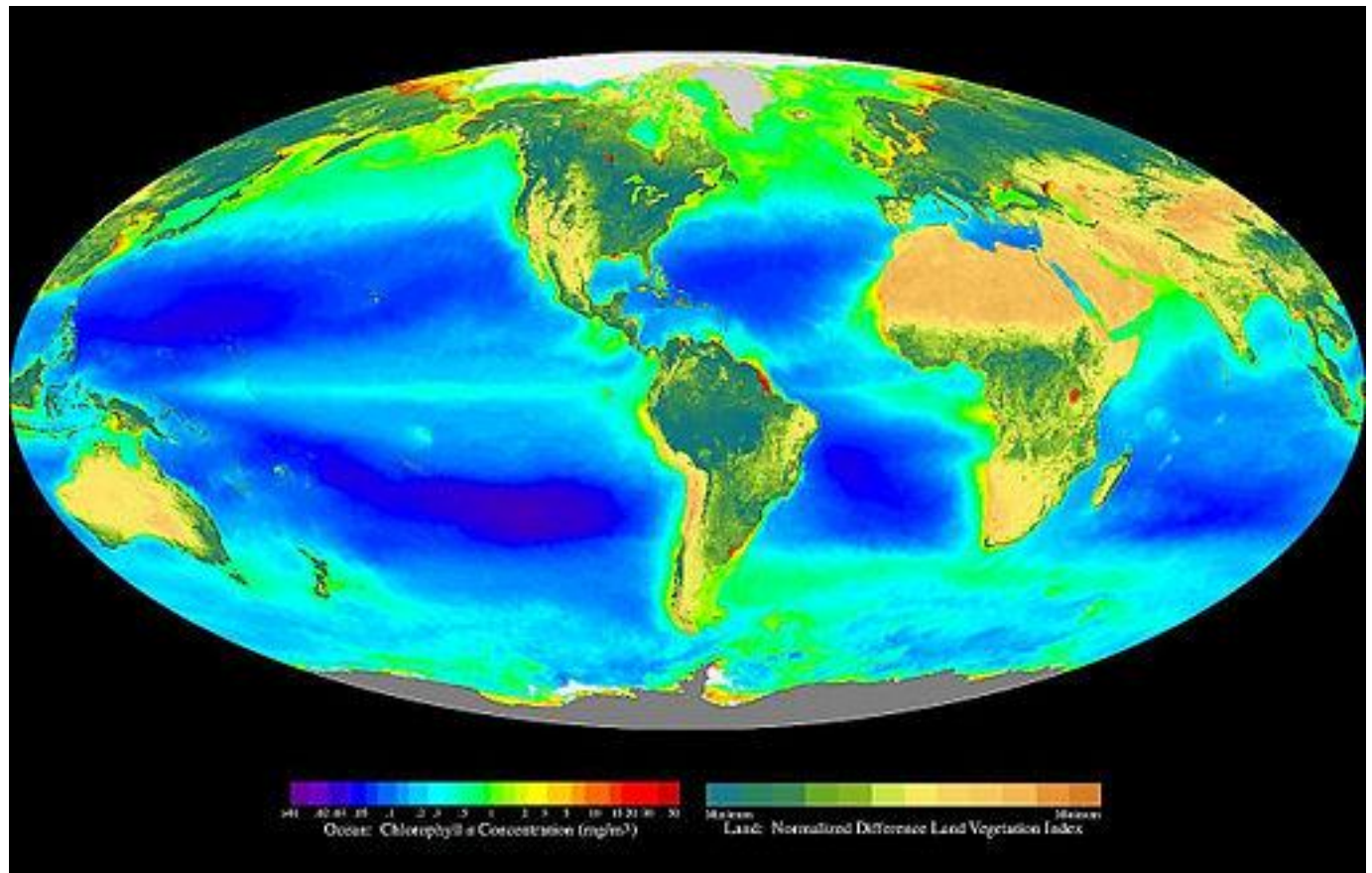
see www.searoundus.org

Now recall that ecosystem fluxes move up 'trophic pyramids,' and each species tends to have its own trophic level...



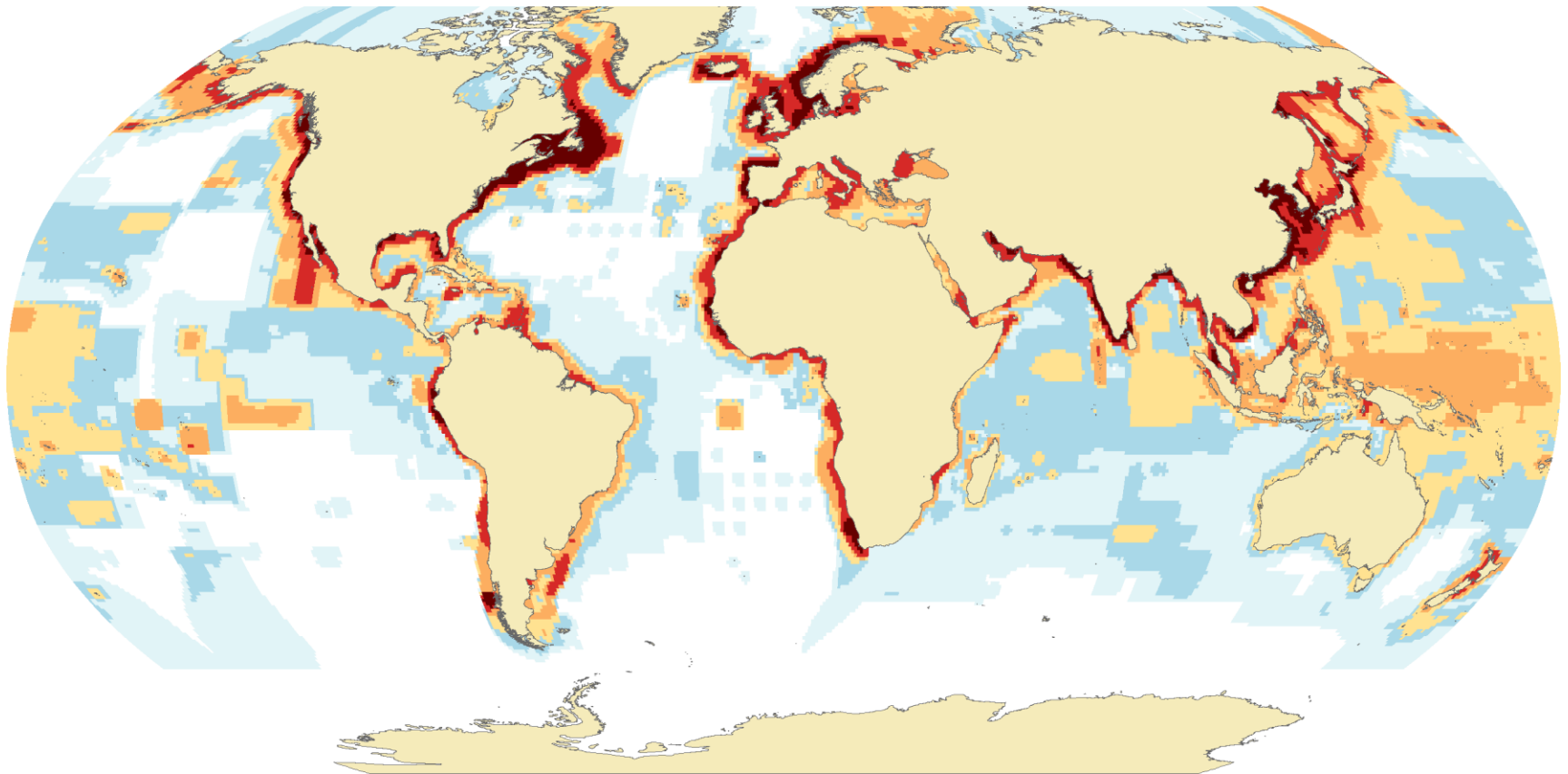
Pauly and Christensen (*Nature*, 1995)

We know (from satellite data) the primary production of the ocean, which is usually high in coastal waters, and very low in the 5 central gyre of the oceans...



SeaWiFS
data, NOAA

We can thus map the footprint (or 'seafoodprint') of fisheries onto the world ocean, here in the 1950s...



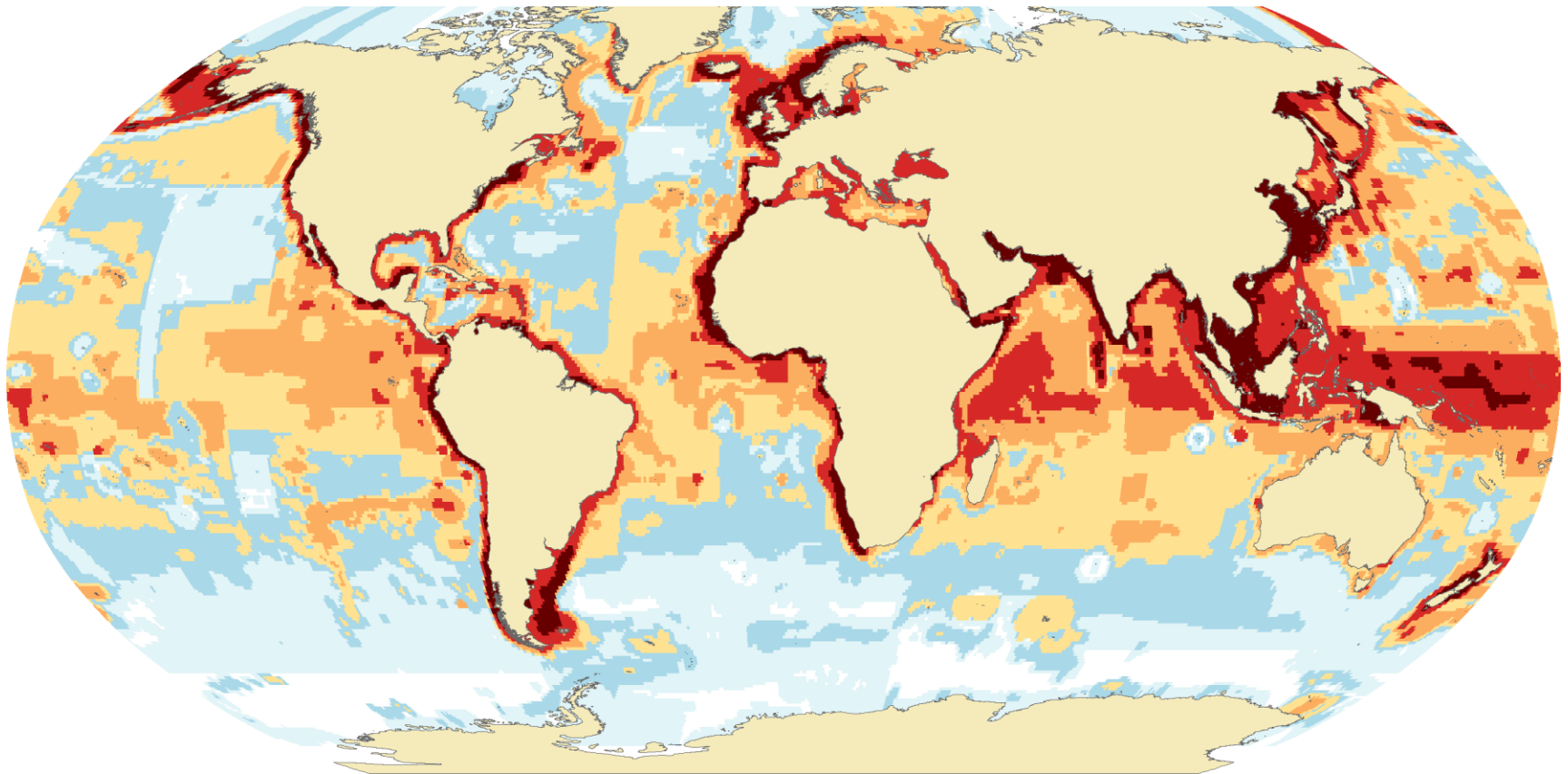
Primary production required (1950s; %)

0 - 0.04 0.05 - 0.24 0.25 - 0.99 1 - 4.9 5 - 29 30+



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...and in the 2000s...



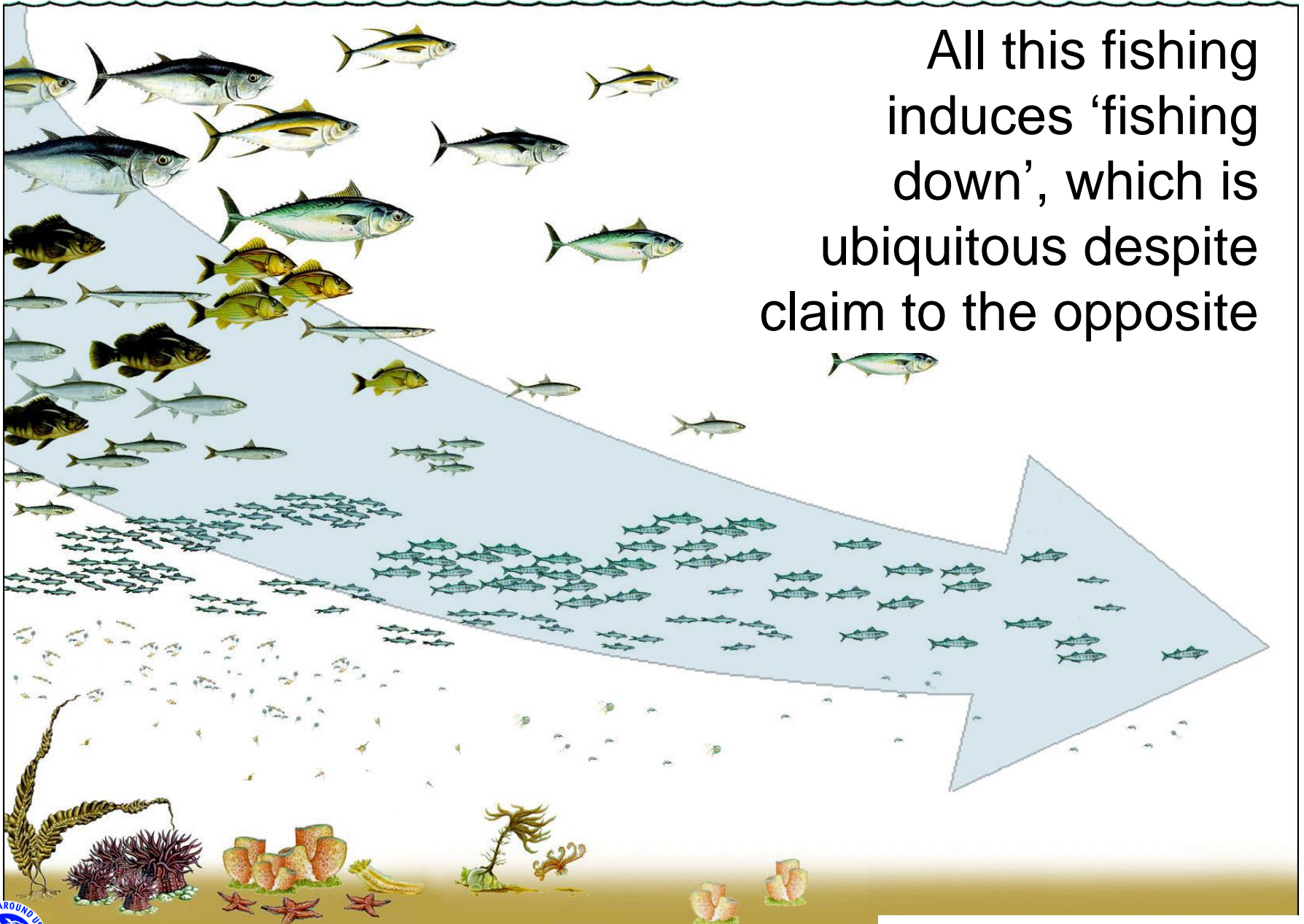
Primary production required (2000s; %)

0 - 0.04 0.05 - 0.24 0.25 - 0.99 1 - 4.9 5 - 29 30+



see www.searoundus.org

All this fishing
induces 'fishing
down', which is
ubiquitous despite
claim to the opposite



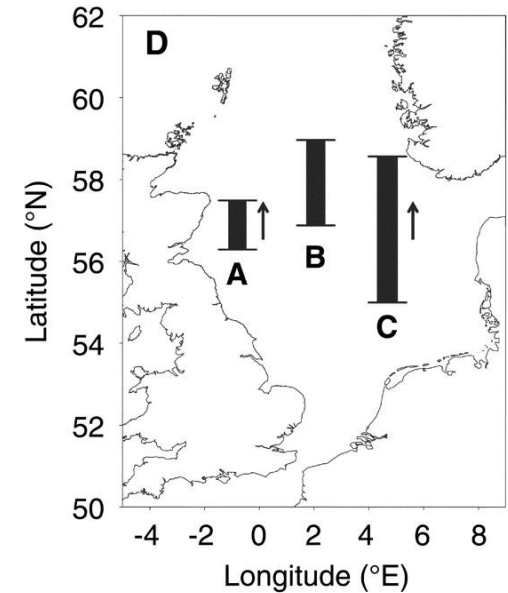
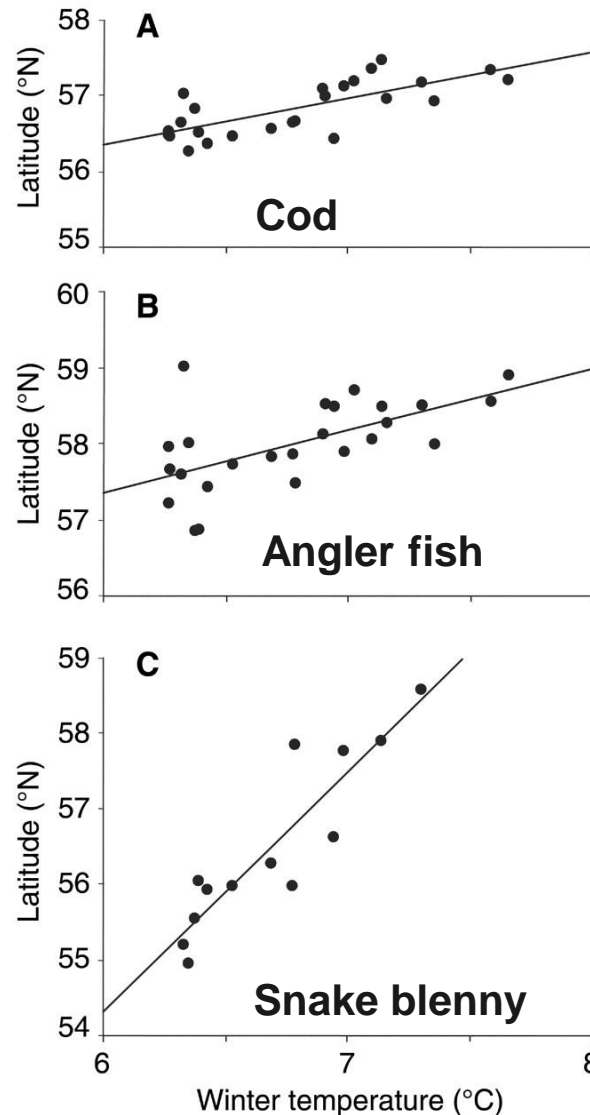


If you don't watch out, this can be where 'fishing down' ends (as here in China)



Observed climate-induced shifts in distribution ranges

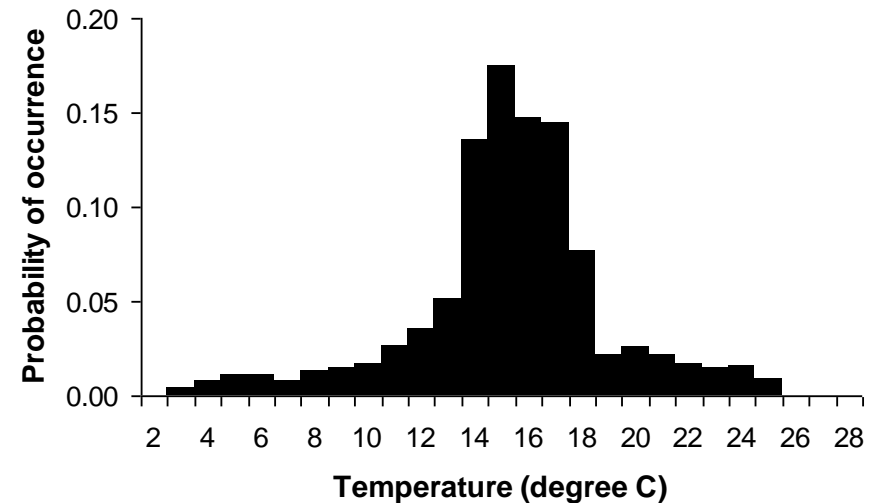
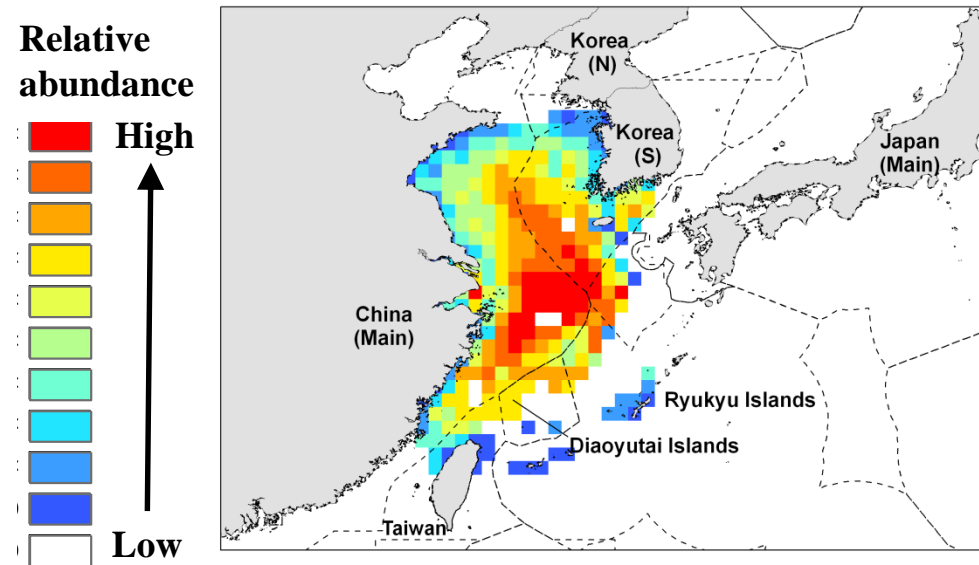
Poleward shifts in distribution ranges of marine species, e.g., in the North Sea (Perry *et al. Science*, 2005).



Simulating poleward shifts using temperature-abundance profiles...

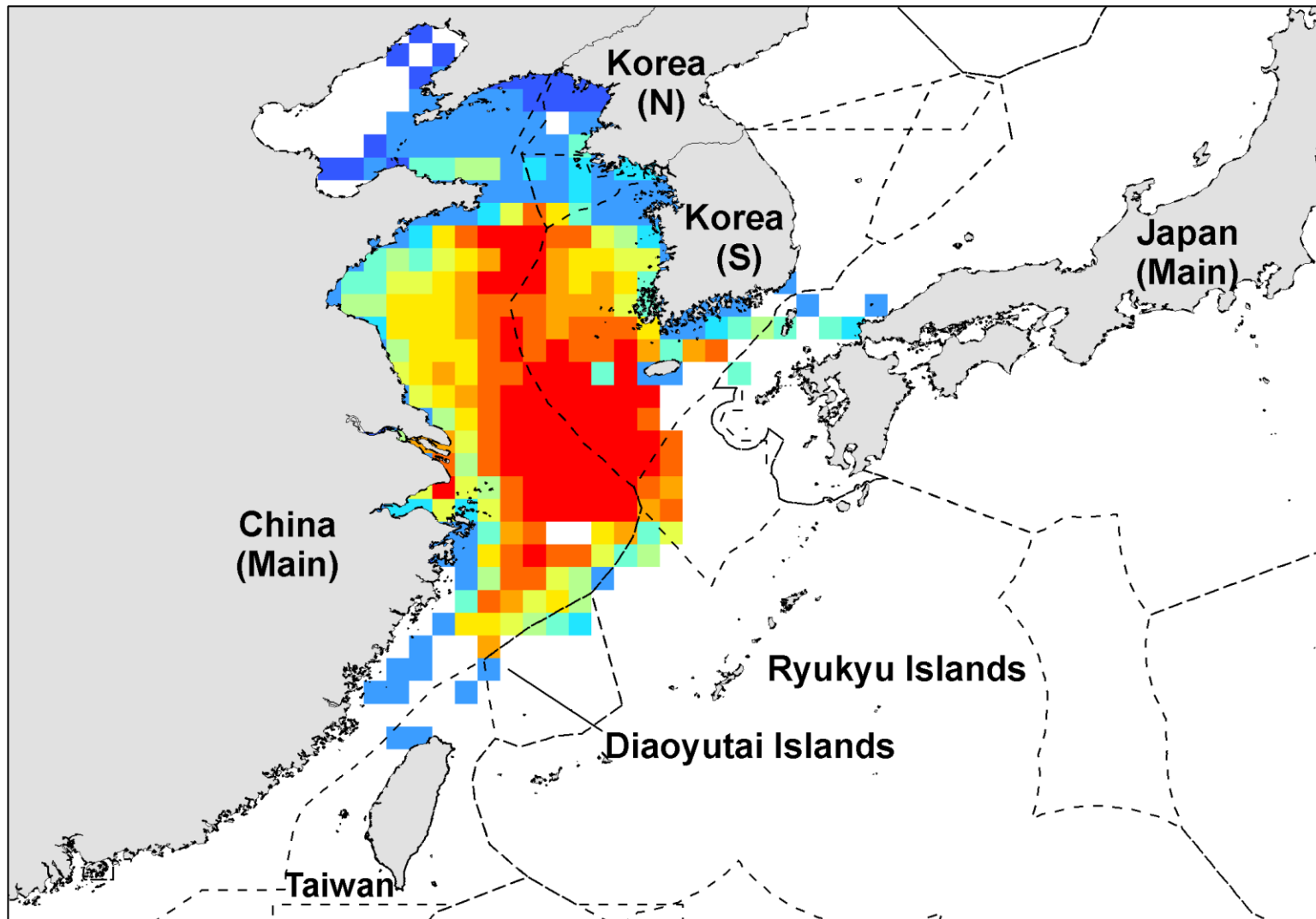
Small yellow croaker
(*Larimichthys polyactis*)

Probability of occurrence by
water temperature

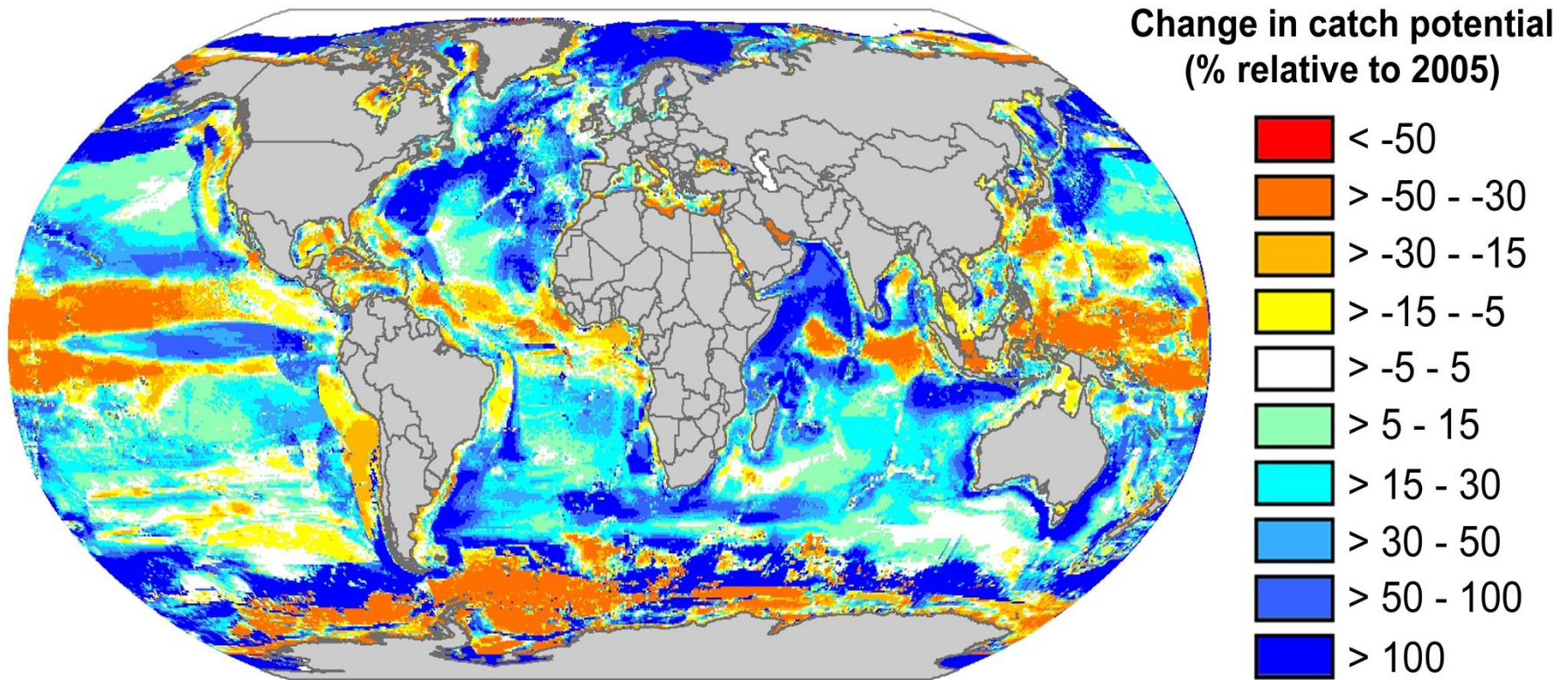


Small yellow croaker

Year 30



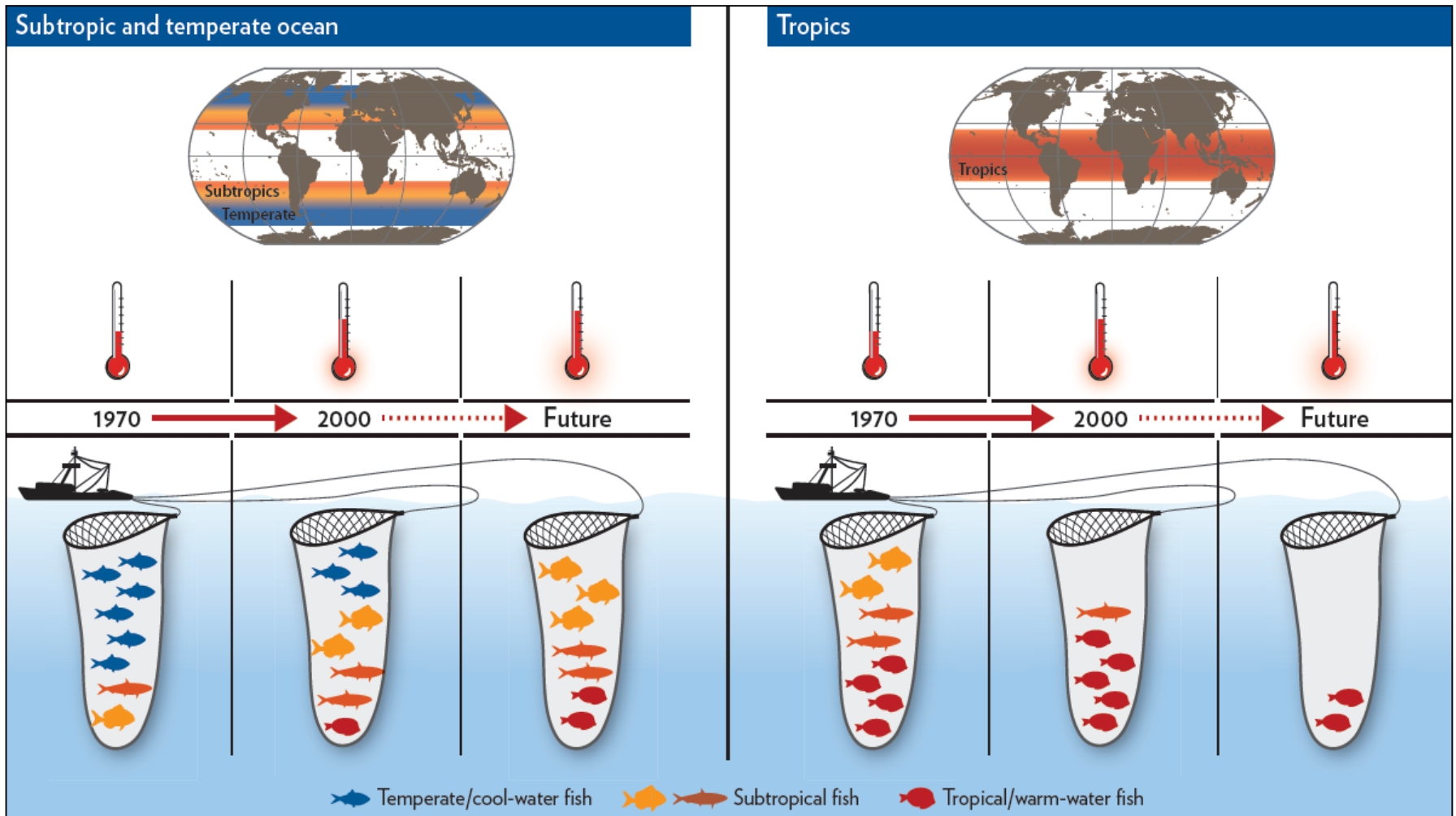
Projected change in catch potential in 50 years



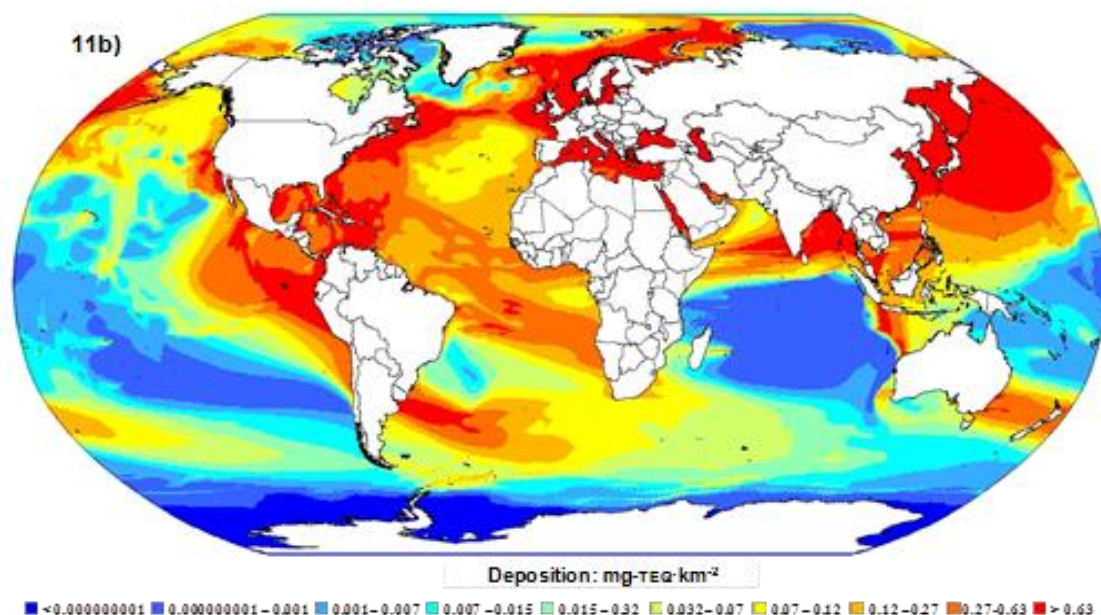
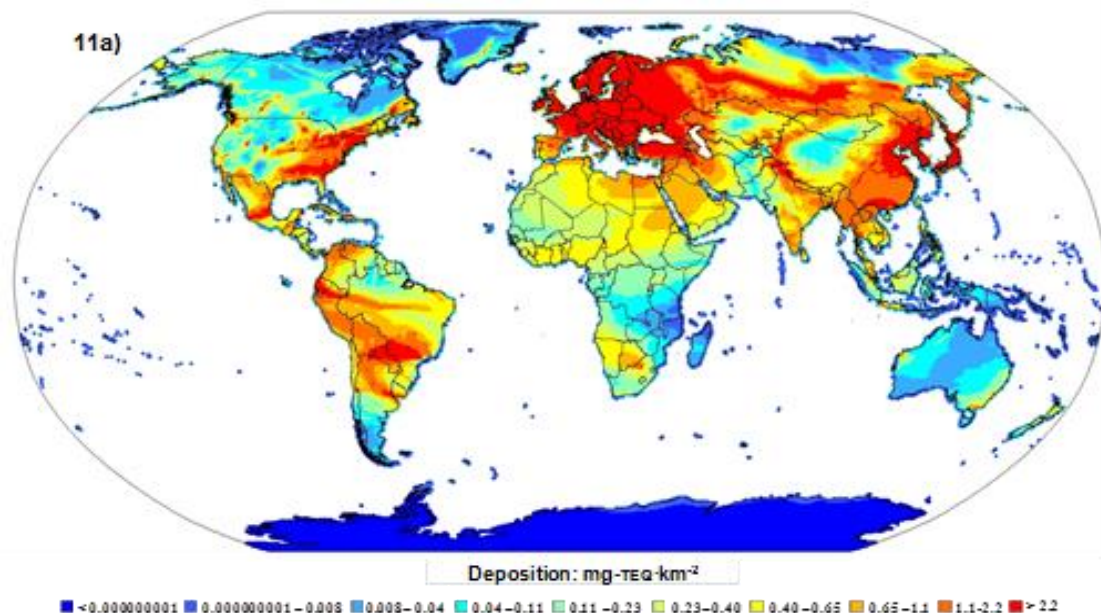
Cheung, Lam, Kearney, Sarmiento, Watson, Zeller and Pauly (*Global Change Biology*, 2009); see also IPCC, 5th Assessment, Summary for Policy Makers



In summary:



Marine pollutants take several forms; one of them are persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), such as dioxin, whose land and ocean deposition we modeled as an input to food-web based models...

















Plastic pollution is an emerging issue, caused in part by fisheries, strongly affecting seabirds and marine mammals



A final comparison...

This graph highlights the crucial role of small-scale fisheries, so far neglected. Indeed, we would achieve most stated aims of fisheries management plans (particularly their social aims) by dedicated access arrangement for small-scale fisheries.

| Fisheries benefits |  Large-scale |  Small-scale |
|---|--|--|
| Annual landings for human consumption |  about 60 million tonnes |  about 27 million tonnes |
| Annual catch discarded at sea |  10 million tonnes |  Almost none |
| Annual catch for industrial reduction to fishmeal and oil, etc. |  26 million tonnes |  Almost none |
| Fuel used per tonne of fish for human consumption |  5-20 tonnes |  2-5 tonnes |
| Number of fishers employed |  about 1/2 million |  about 12 million |
| Government subsidies (billions of USD) |  25-30 billion USD |  5-7 billion USD |

Acknowledgements...

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THE PAUL G. ALLEN
FAMILY FOUNDATION

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- Thanks to all members of the *Sea Around Us*, past and present...



... sorry, I ran out of
pictures....

and thanks to many other colleagues

visit us at www.seaaroundus.org

