



# *IMPORTANCE OF FISHERIES AND THE CONSERVATION OF SPECIES AND THE SAFEGUARD OF LIVELIHOODS*

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## What is at stake?

- Over **500 million** people depend – directly or indirectly – on fisheries and aquaculture for their livelihoods
- Aquatic foods provide essential nutrition for **3 billion people** and at least 50% of animal protein and minerals to 400 million people in the poorest countries.
- Fish products are among the most **widely-traded foods**, with more than 37% by volume of world production traded internationally.





# Drivers of change

## Affecting biological processes

Pollution/Water quality

Climate

Acidification

Overfishing

Altered habitats

Etc...

## Affecting human choices

Governance and politics

Legal systems

Technological change

Markets

Capital/labor flows

Demographics

Culture

Etc...

Fisheries and  
Aquaculture systems

A diagram illustrating the drivers of change in fisheries and aquaculture systems. The central focus is 'Fisheries and Aquaculture systems'. Two large, curved orange arrows point towards this central point from two groups of factors. The left group, under the heading 'Affecting biological processes', includes 'Pollution/Water quality', 'Climate', 'Acidification', 'Overfishing' (highlighted with a brown grid), 'Altered habitats', and 'Etc...'. The right group, under the heading 'Affecting human choices', includes 'Governance and politics', 'Legal systems', 'Technological change', 'Markets', 'Capital/labor flows', 'Demographics', 'Culture', and 'Etc...'. The background of the slide features a faint image of several fish swimming underwater.

# State of World Fisheries & Aquaculture FAO 2010



## Fish trade

- Global trade worth US\$ 102 billion
- 39% exported
- Developing countries account for 55% world fish exports
- China biggest exporter valued over US\$ 10 billion

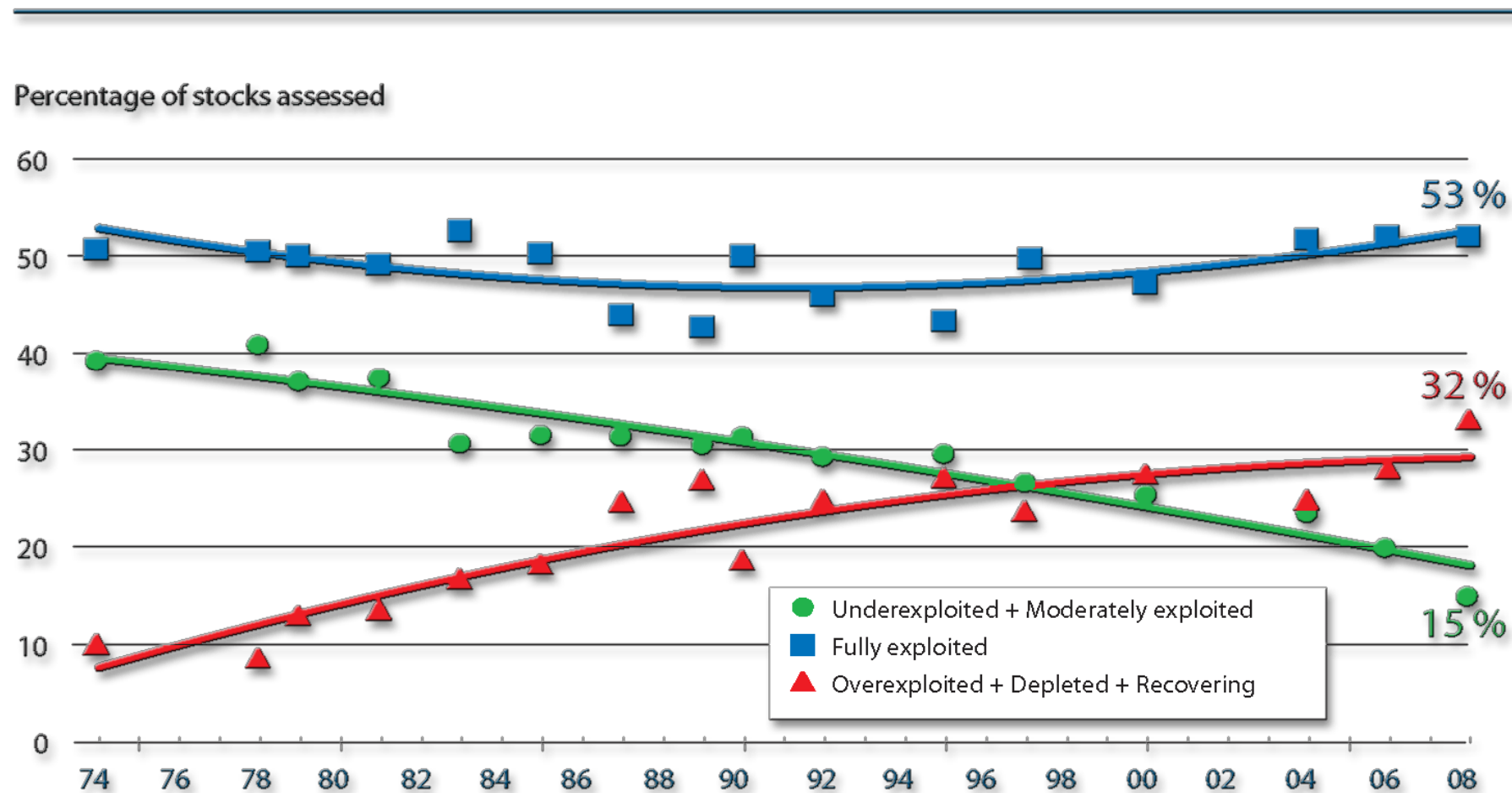




# State of World Fisheries & Aquaculture FAO 2010



Global trends in the state of world marine stocks since 1974



# How Can CITES Help?




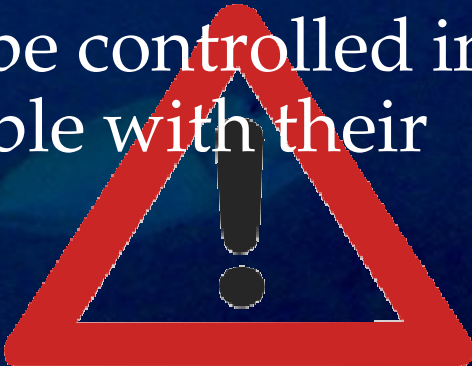
“CITES works by subjecting international trade in specimens of selected species to certain controls. All import, export, re-export and introduction from the sea of species covered by the Convention has to be authorized through a licensing system. Each Party to the Convention must designate one or more Management Authorities in charge of administering that licensing system and one or more Scientific Authorities to advise them on the effects of trade on the status of the species.”

(From <http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/how.php>)



# The Appendices: CITES Tools



- Appendix I: species threatened with extinction. Trade permitted only in exceptional circumstances. 
- Appendix II: species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but in which trade must be controlled in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival. 
- Appendix III: at request of individual countries in order to gain assistance from other CITES Parties in controlling the trade.



# Trade criteria

1. Appendix I shall include all species threatened with extinction which are or may be affected by trade.
2. Appendix II shall include:
  - (a) all species which although not necessarily now threatened with extinction may become so unless trade in specimens of such species is subject to strict regulation...; and
  - (b) [Look-alike clause].
3. Appendix III shall include all species which any Party identifies as ....needing the co-operation of other Parties in the control of trade.





# Trade criteria (cont.)

## *Affected by trade*

A species "is or may be affected by trade" if:

- i) it is known to be in [international] trade ..., and that trade has or may have a detrimental impact on the status of the species; or
- ii) it is suspected to be in trade, or there is demonstrable potential international demand for the species, that may be detrimental to its survival in the wild.



## In summary:

“CITES works by subjecting international trade in specimens of selected species to certain controls.”

*(From the CITES website)*

When will CITES be useful? In cases where:

- There is concern about the status or future status of the species;
- International trade is, or potentially could, be a significant contributing threat to the status; and
- A CITES listing would assist the range states to regulate exploitation of the species.



# FAO-CITES MoU (2006)



- ... communicate and exchange information ...
- cooperate ... to facilitate capacity building in developing countries ...
- FAO ... provide advice to CITES on ... the CITES listing criteria
- ensure adequate consultations in the scientific and technical evaluation of proposals ... based on the criteria agreed by the Parties to CITES

# FAO Expert Advisory Panel



for the Assessment of Proposals to Amend Appendices I and II of CITES  
Concerning Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species).

3. The Panel members shall participate ... in their personal capacity as experts,  
and not as representatives of governments or organizations.

...

5. The Panel shall:

- assess each proposal from a scientific perspective in accordance with the CITES biological listing criteria, taking account of the recommendations on the criteria made to CITES by FAO;
- comment, as appropriate, on technical aspects of the proposal in relation to biology, ecology, trade and management issues, as well as, to the extent possible, the likely effectiveness for conservation.

...

7. The Advisory Panel shall make a report based on its assessment and review,  
providing information and advice as appropriate on each listing proposal.



# Some Concerns Expressed by FAO Members



- Need to refine the criteria and guidelines to reflect the specific characteristics of aquatic resources.
- Differences of opinion about the intention of Appendix II (reduce the risk of extinction and/or promote sustainable use?).
- Implications of the 'look-alike' clause.
- Need to minimize unnecessary negative impact on fishing industry and communities.
- Need for greater input from national fisheries agencies in elaboration of proposals and from FAO in evaluation of proposals.
- De-listing procedures need to be objective, responsive and flexible to cope with the resource variability.



Nevertheless,

“Some delegations expressed the view that CITES could provide a useful instrument, complementary to traditional fisheries management, in protecting fishery resources from extinction and in promoting their sustainable use.”

e.g. queen conch and sturgeons

*(From: FAO. Report of the Technical Consultation on the Suitability of the CITES Criteria for Listing Commercially-Exploited Aquatic Species. Rome, Italy, 28-30 June 2000)*



# Some 'commercially-exploited aquatic species' listed on CITES\*



- Giant clams 1983
- Queen conch 1994
- Sturgeons and paddlefish 1997
- Sea horses 2002
- Whale shark 2002
- Basking shark 2002
- Great white shark 2004
- Humphead wrasse 2004
- Mediterranean date mussel 2004
- European eel 2007
- All species of sawfishes (Pristidae) 2007

\* All on Appendix II apart from sawfishes and 2 species sturgeons/paddlefish on App I

# Some species proposed but not accepted by CoP



- Spiny dogfish 2007+2010
- Porbeagle shark 2007+2010
- Banggai cardinalfish 2007
- Corallium/Corallidae 2007/2010
- Atlantic bluefin tuna 2010
- Scalloped hammerhead shark 2010
- Oceanic whitetip shark 2010

\* All proposed for Appendix II apart from Atlantic bluefin tuna



# Votes at CoP 15, March 2010, on commercially exploited aquatic species



Species	Yes	No
Atlantic bluefin tuna	20 (23%)	68
Scalloped hammerhead shark	76 (59%)	53
Oceanic whitetip shark	75 (60%)	51
Porbeagle shark	84 (65%)	46
Spiny dogfish	60 (47%)	67
Coralliidae	64 (52%)	59



**Are countries missing opportunities to use a potentially useful tool for fisheries management because of differences of opinion and polarization?**



# Way forward for effective application of CITES for fisheries



Parties need to:

Focus on evaluating the practical costs and benefits of using CITES in each case;

# Way forward for effective application of CITES for fisheries



Parties need to:

Try to agree on range of conditions under which CITES listing would and would not be a useful tool, including:

- scientifically-based biological criteria;
- importance of international trade;
- effectiveness of existing management systems;
- socio-economic factors etc.



# Way forward for effective application of CITES for fisheries



Parties need to:

Explore practical and cost-effective solutions to costs and other challenges to implementation of listing regulations.

# Way forward for effective application of CITES for fisheries



It is essential for national and regional fisheries agencies and CITES authorities to work more closely together, capacity-building in both groups will often be required.





# The COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, 2011



“The Sub-Committee ... recognized the role of CITES as a global instrument for the regulation of international trade of species listed in its appendices. Some Members noted that CITES could be an additional trade-related measure to support the conservation of fishery species. Some Members noted that this was particularly the case where fisheries management based on best practices was lacking.”