

Prepared for the Marine Protected Area Federal Advisory Committee

Presented by Mike Nussman

June 14, 2012

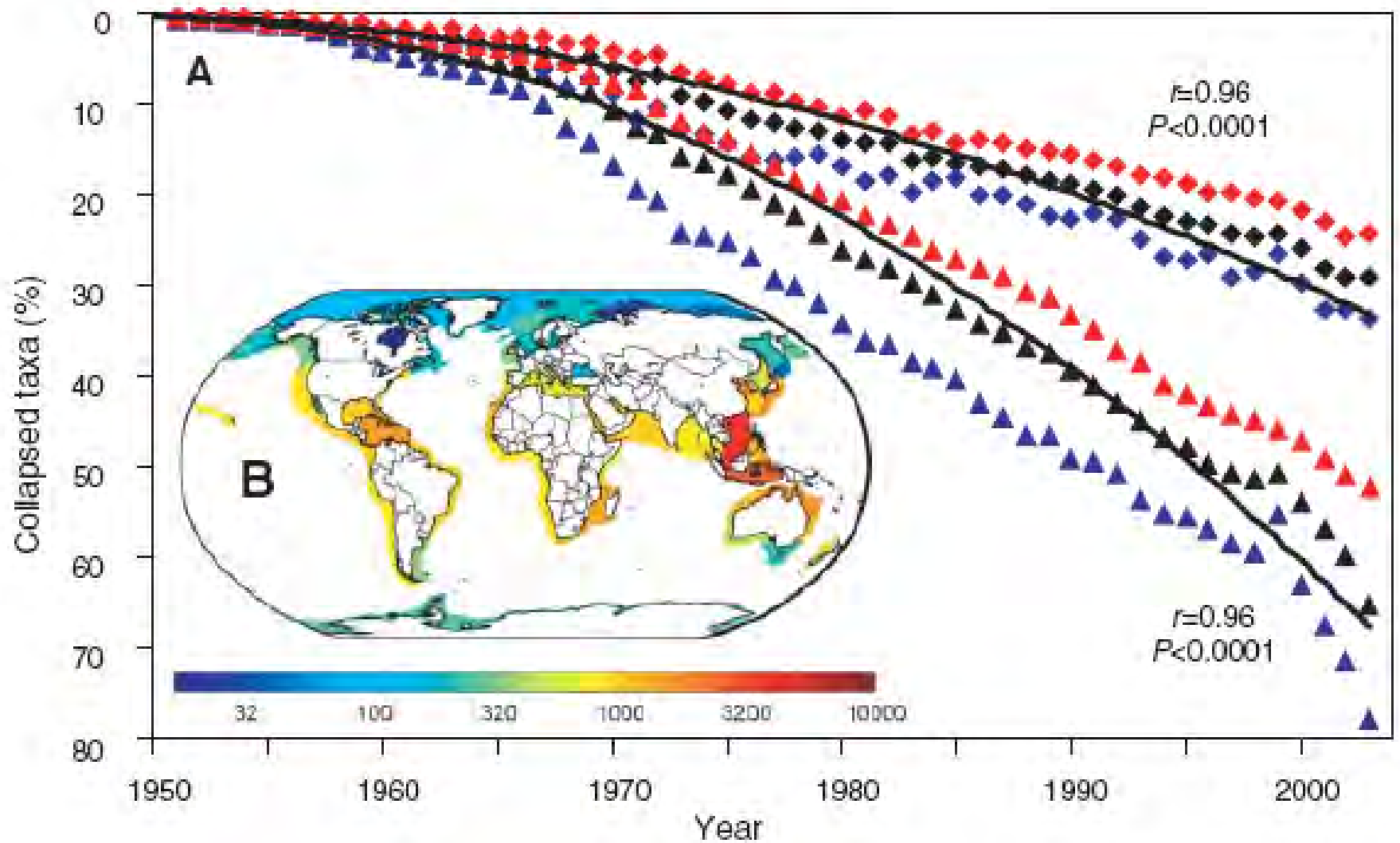


Recreational Fishing Economics

- 24.7 million saltwater anglers¹
- \$82.3 billion in total sales¹
- 534,000 jobs supported¹
- \$6 billion in federal taxes¹
- \$4 billion in state taxes¹
- \$634 million in sportfishing license and permit sales²
- \$404 million in excise tax dollars distributed to state fisheries agencies²

¹ Gentner and Steinback, *The Economic Contribution of Marine Angler Expenditures in the United States, 2006*

² U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2009



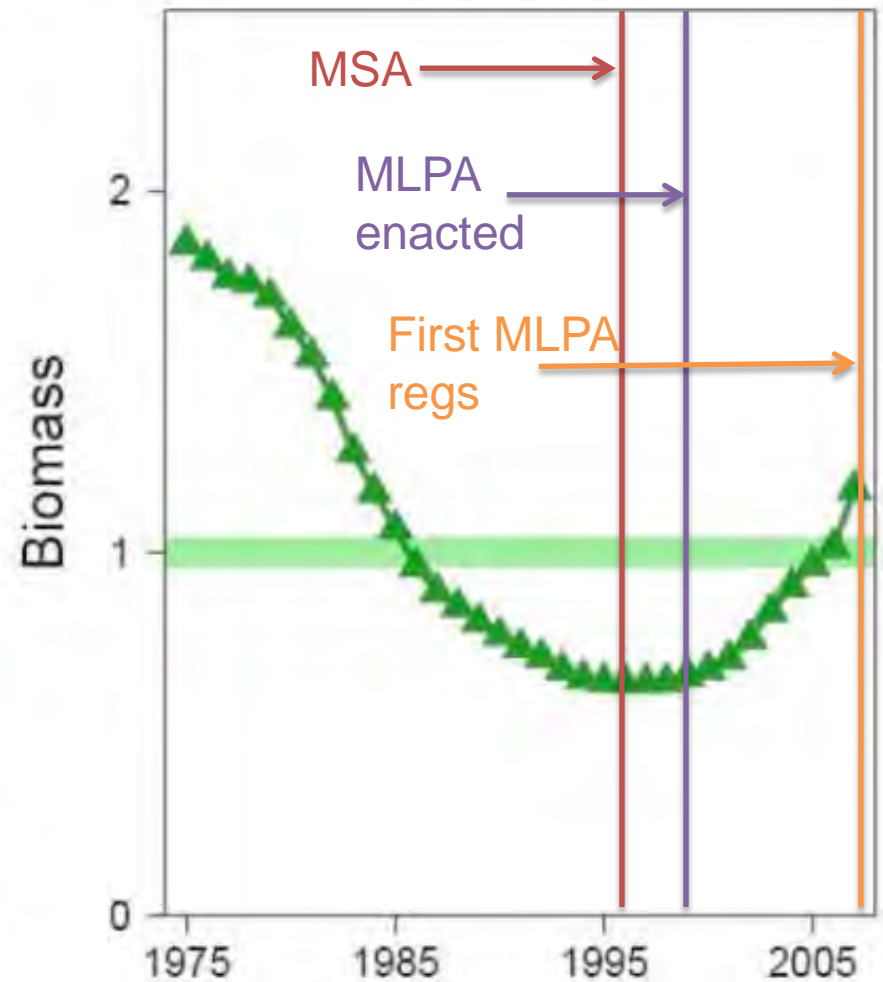
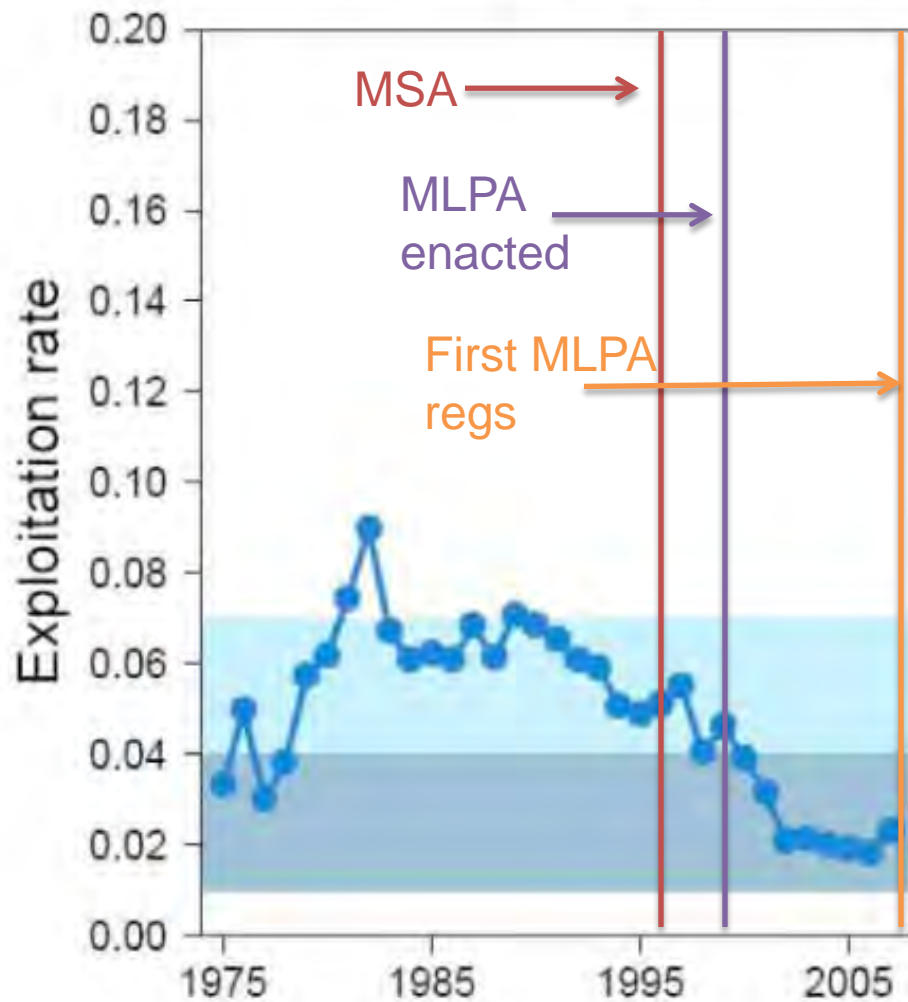
Worm et al. 2006. Impacts of Biodiversity Loss on Ocean Ecosystem Services. *Science*

Upon Further Review...

Worm et al. 2009. Rebuilding Global Fisheries. *Science*

- Exploitation rates reduced to sustainable levels in most areas
- In those areas, rebuilding is happening
- There is no “silver bullet”
- Success was derived from a broad range of tools including catch and effort limitation, temporary or seasonal closed areas, and effort restrictions

Rapid rebuilding in California



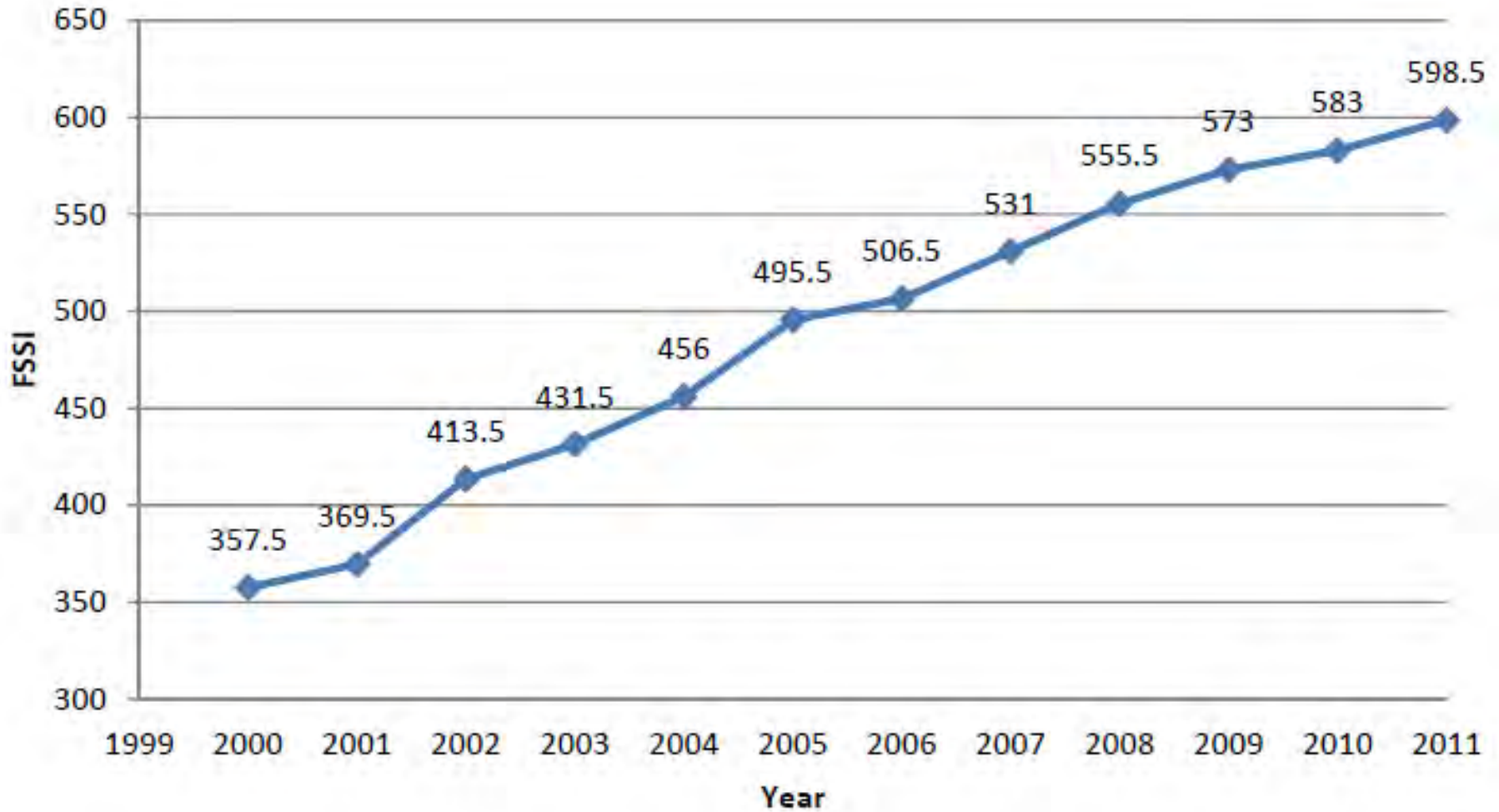
The Economist

“Plenty more fish in the sea”

May 26, 2012

“For American fish, this is a good time to be alive. On May 14th the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reported that a record six federal fisheries returned to health last year. After a decade of similar progress, 86% of America’s roughly 250 federally monitored commercial fish stocks were not subject to overfishing; 79% were considered healthy.”

NOAA's Fish Stock Sustainability Index



- 2010 Report on the Status of U.S. Fisheries, NOAA Fisheries

Analysis of United States MPAs



- About 41% of all U.S. waters are in some form of MPA
- About 8% of all U.S. waters are in an MPA focused on conserving natural or cultural resources (excludes fishery MPAs which often have specific gear restrictions over large ocean areas)

Analysis of United States MPAs, March 2012, NOAA's MPA Center

- *“It’s not a radical idea to consider more special protection for certain marine areas. It should not be surprising, however, that approaches that are vague on criteria, scope and benefit, yet definitive on denying all access, are going to cause concern among such a large and active constituency, especially one that shares the same conservation goal.”*

-Mike Nussman, Sanctuary Watch, Vol. 4 Num. 4, 2003/2004

Perspective on CA MLPA

- Something needed to be done at the time it was enacted
- At the time, it offered potential benefits
- Non-consumptive users will benefit from the MPAs, but pay nothing into the fisheries management system.
- Changes to fishery management off the Pacific coast took place before the MLPA could be implemented
- Those changes have obviated the need for the networking features of the MLPA – i.e., we don't need to design them around the size and spacing requirements
- Those size and spacing requirements have created too many MPAs in the wrong locations, which are driving up expenses, and hurting fishermen and the businesses they rely on and support
- The costs are enormous, and the benefits to the marine resource are marginal

-Dan Wolford, Chairman of the Pacific Fishery Management Council and Science Director with Coastside Fishing Club

- *“Conservation cannot promise a return to pristine, prehuman landscapes. Humankind has already profoundly transformed the planet and will continue to do so. What conservation could promise instead is a new vision of a planet in which nature -- forests, wetlands, diverse species, and other ancient ecosystems -- exists amid a wide variety of modern, human landscapes. For this to happen, conservationists will have to jettison their idealized notions of nature, parks, and wilderness -- ideas that have never been supported by good conservation science -- and forge a more optimistic, human-friendly vision.”*

**Kareiva et al. 2012. Conservation in the Anthropocene.
Breakthrough Journal**

**“There's no education
in the second kick of a
mule.”**

**-Ernest “Fritz” Hollings, U.S. Senator from
South Carolina from 1966 to 2005**