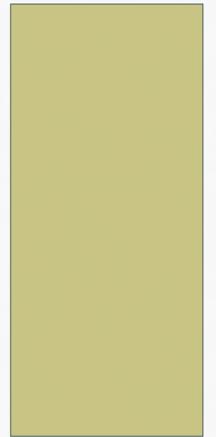


FISHERIES IN THE OCEAN ECONOMY

ALASTAIR MACFARLANE
INTERNATIONAL COALITION OF FISHERIES ASSOCIATIONS



AN ESSENTIAL FOOD SUPPLY

- Oceans are a consistent supply source for 30% of animal protein consumed globally
- Harvest levels grew X3 from 1950s – 80s
- Supplies from wild fisheries stable for 30 years – with demand growth met from aquaculture growth
- Current landings of 91 to 93 million tonnes
- FAO/OECD/World Bank project stable supply to modest growth to 2030
- Growth potential of 10 to 20 million tonnes, dependent on management success

STATE OF WORLD FISHERIES

- 71% of global fish stocks are fished within sustainable levels. Of these, 10% are “underfished”
- 29% of fish stocks are over fished (Source: FAO)
- About 8% of world population rely on fisheries for livelihoods – 84% are in Asia, 10% in Africa and 4% in Latin America
- About 40% of production traded internationally: 54% of trade is from developing countries (\$70 bill)
- Fish trade contributes more \$ to developing countries than all tropical commodities combined

DSG GOALS

- **Regulate harvesting, end overfishing and IUU and implement science-based management by 2020:**
 - We have the tools now – including a binding convention on illegal fishing
 - Measurable improvements in fisheries management
 - Goals are a huge challenge for many developing countries
 - Requires commitment to rule of law, effective compliance and commitment from stakeholders
 - Requires fewer vessels and less catch in fisheries subject to overfishing – therefore fewer people getting livelihoods from fishing

SDG GOALS

- **Prohibit certain fisheries subsidies and refrain from new subsidies – by 2020:**
 - Part of WTO Doha Round objectives for at least 10 years – but negotiations stalled for last 8
 - Only achievable through WTO
 - Partly on the Agenda for 2015 WTO Ministerial – addressing subsidies supporting illegal fishing
 - Among the trade and environment measures in new TPP trade agreement

SDG GOALS

- **By 2030, increase economic benefits to SIDs and LDCs. Provide marine resource and market access for small scale fishers**
 - Contingent on success in earlier goals – especially in terms of capacity and institutional development
 - The primary focus of the FAO led Blue Growth Initiative

BLUE GROWTH INITIATIVE

- Targeted at improving fisheries management and productivity
- FAO is technical and policy lead leveraging funding from World Bank, UNDP and UNEP, EU and Norway
- Seeks to recover \$50 billion locked up in excess fishing capacity and over exploitation.
- Additional gains of \$50 billion and up to 20 million tonnes from management improvements, stock enhancements and improved productivity
- Reductions in waste, direct consumption of fish now used in fish meal, use of bycatch and reductions in post-harvest spoilage

CHALLENGES: CLIMATE CHANGE

- Evidence of stock movement towards cooler waters – north and south. A geo-political challenge
- Overall productivity may not be significantly affected, but location and productivity of fisheries may have significant economic impacts
- Stock movements confound existing management arrangements and allocation agreements – example of north-east Atlantic mackerel
- Threat of ocean “acidification” to oceanic food chain

INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT

- Law of Sea and Fish Stocks Agreement provide legal basis for regional fisheries management
- Significant reform and improvement of some RFMOs in last decade and creation of new RFMOs
- Agreement in UN to complete process and develop a new agreement for other high seas marine biodiversity – negotiations about to start
- Potential for conflict and overlap with RFMOs
- Proposition that new instrument will enable large scale high seas MPAs likely to be problematic

CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION

- Rivalry between sectors seeking to use ocean ecosystem services
- Impact of terrestrial activities on ocean ecosystems – e.g. waste dumping, plastic pollution
- Mechanisms within national jurisdictions require elaboration – negotiation rather than regulation?
- Potential for conflict in areas beyond national jurisdiction.
- Reality is that “freedom of the high seas” is over
- Need to collaborate to enable “optimal utilisation” (UNCLOS requirement for fisheries)

FISHERIES IN 50 YEARS

- We won't run out of fish but aquaculture and enhancement will provide the majority of supply
- A global population a nearly 50% larger than today will need to be fed
- There are going to be new oceanic opportunities – e.g. direct synthesis of omega 3s from plankton and greater use of marine algae
- We will need to be able to resolve competing interests in utilising ecosystem services before they become conflicts
- We need to see the oceans as a source of wealth rather than a last resort for the poverty stricken