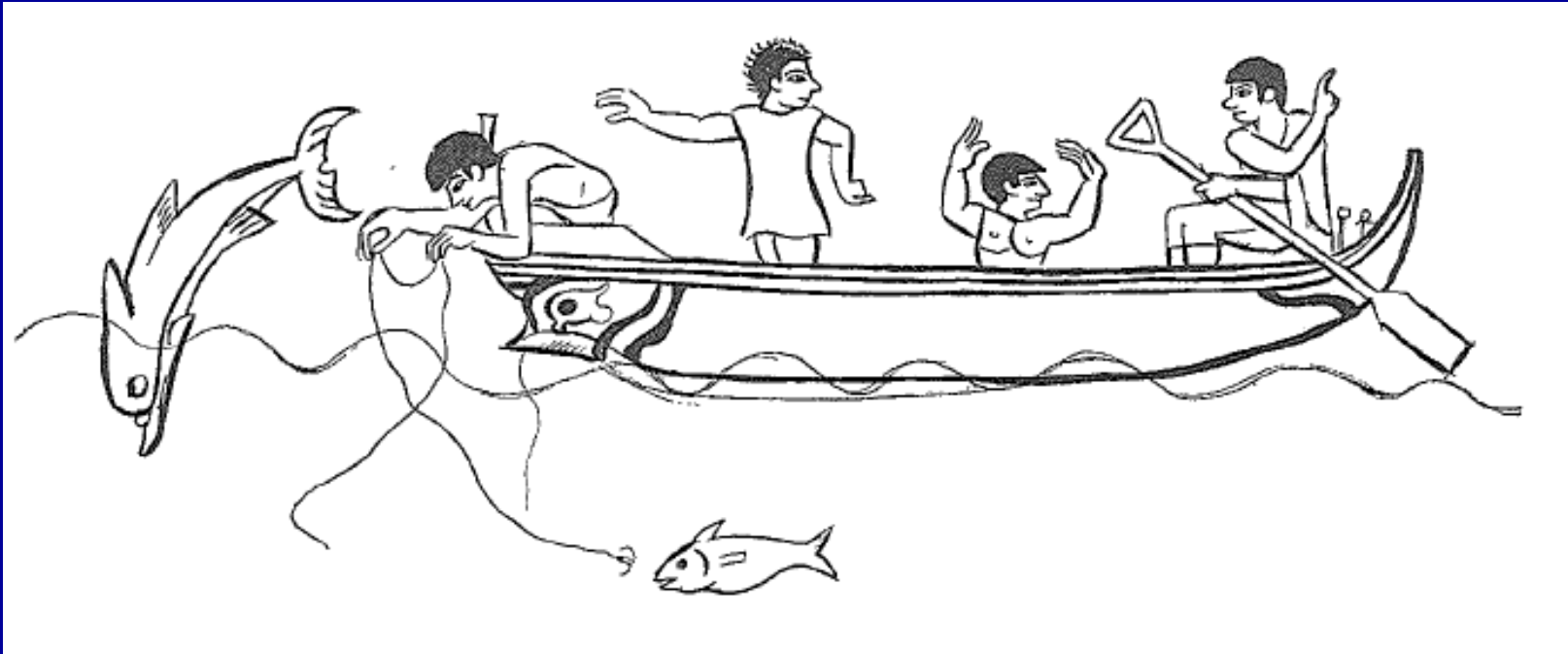


Rights-based fisheries management: opportunities and challenges for addressing IUU fishing

Grimur Valdimarsson
Consultant

6th International Forum on IUU Fishing: Chatham House,
London 13-14 January 2011

Sophisticated fishing 510 BC...



Etruscan fishermen on the sea, detail from Tomba della Caccia e Pesca in Tarquinia, Italy, assumed to have been painted around 510 BC (R. Kreuzer, *Fish and its Place in Culture*, 1973)

Freedom !
Freedom!
Freedom!

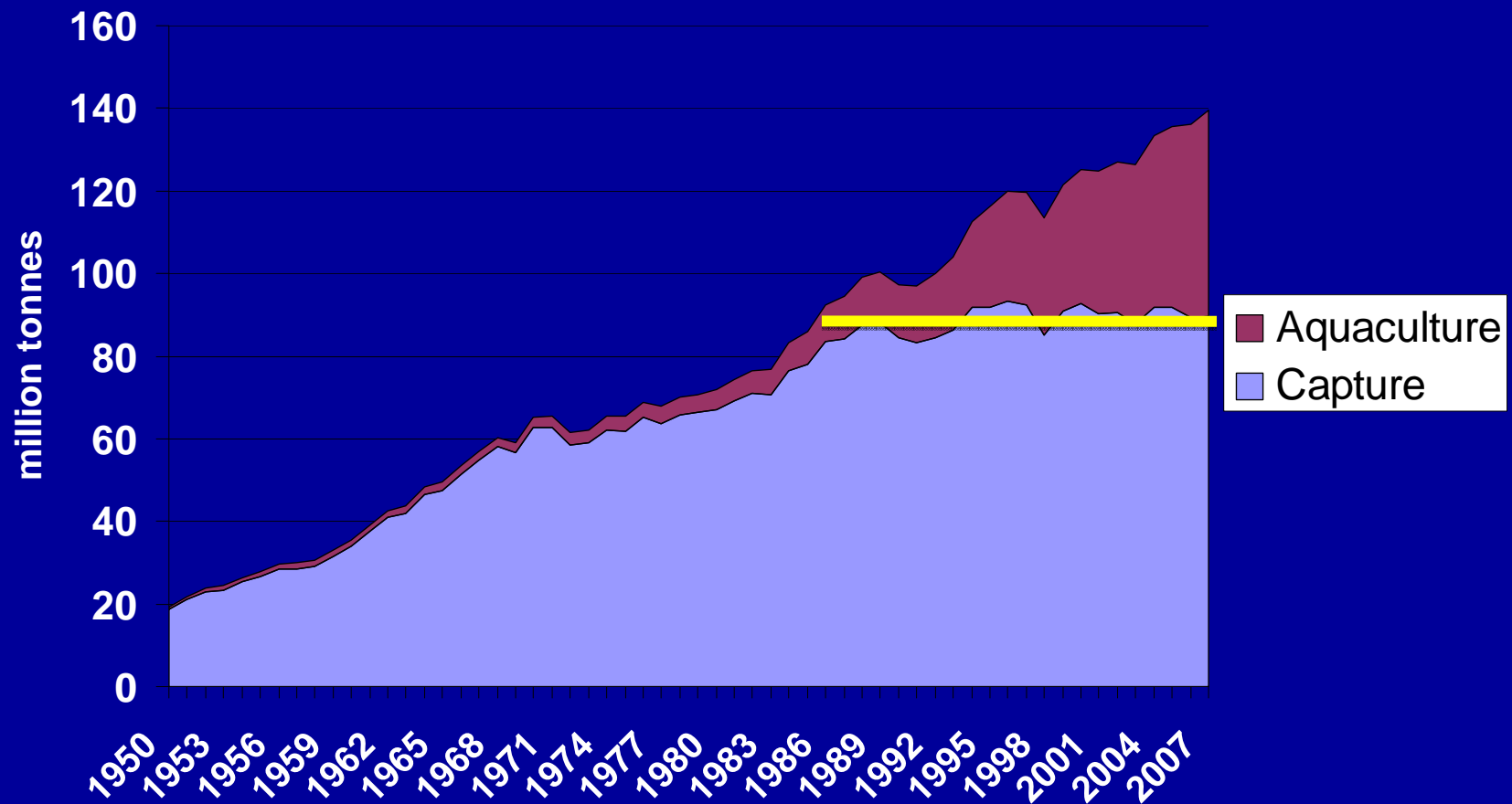
“Mare liberum”
“Open access”

...and a wonderful idea:
inexhaustability of the oceans...

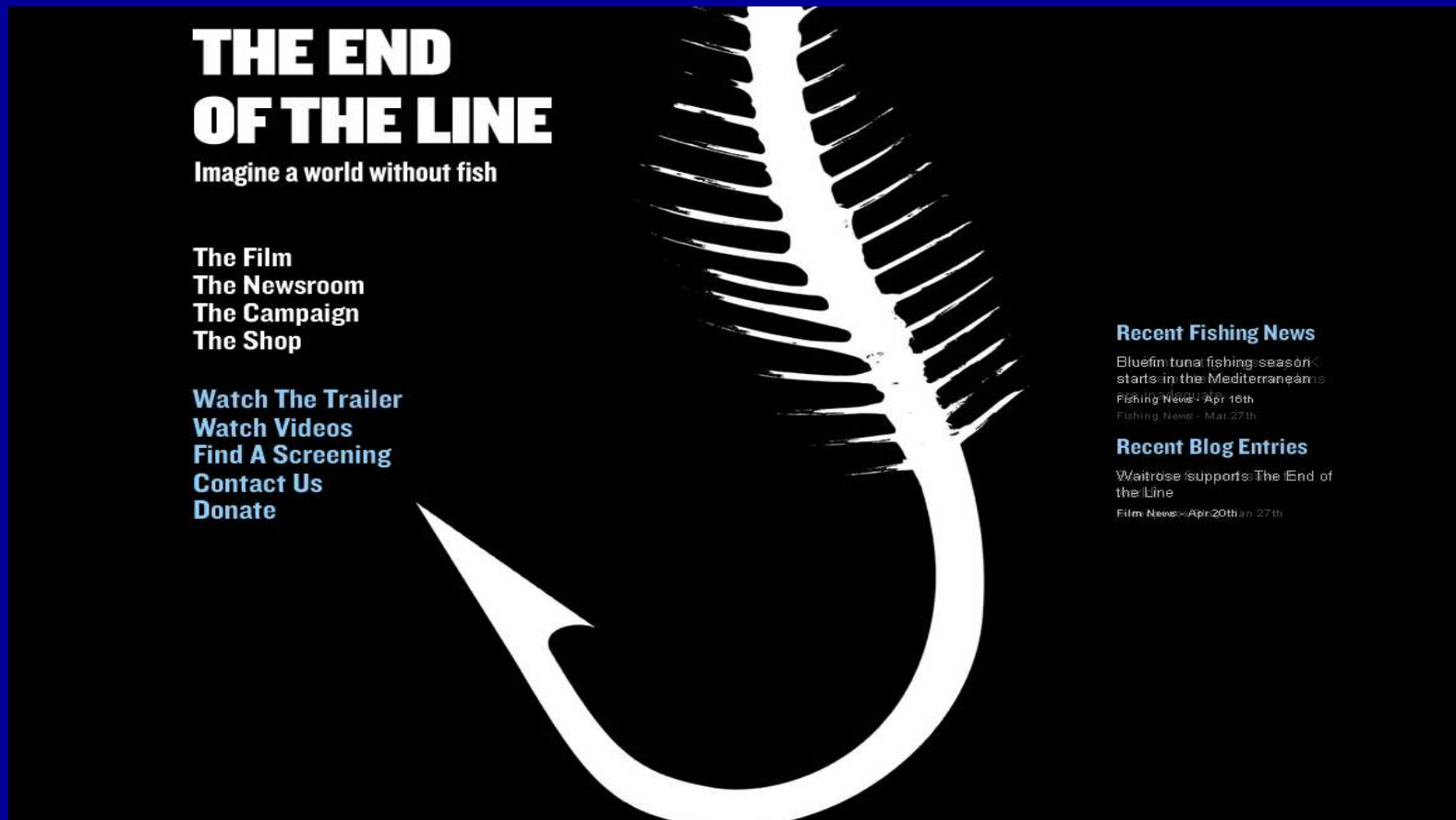
Thomas Huxley viewed these fisheries as one of unending surplus. "... that the cod fishery, the herring fishery, the pilchard fishery, the mackerel fishery, and probably all the great sea fisheries, are inexhaustible; that is to say that nothing we do seriously affects the number of fish. **And any attempt to regulate these fisheries seems consequently... to be useless**" (Huxley 1884).

And exercise our freedom we
sure did...

World capture and aquaculture production

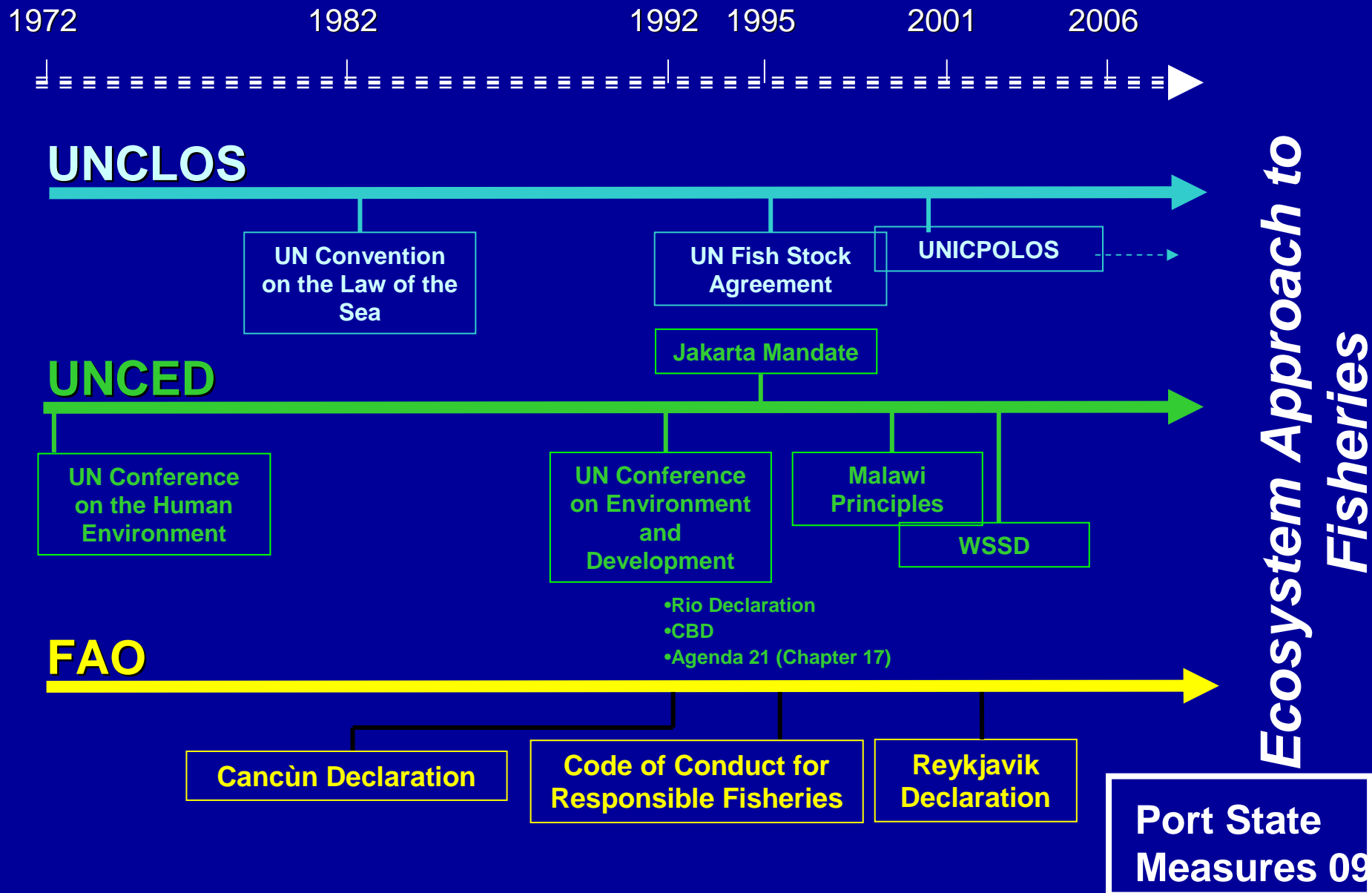


Overfishing et al. NOT only an image problem but a real one...

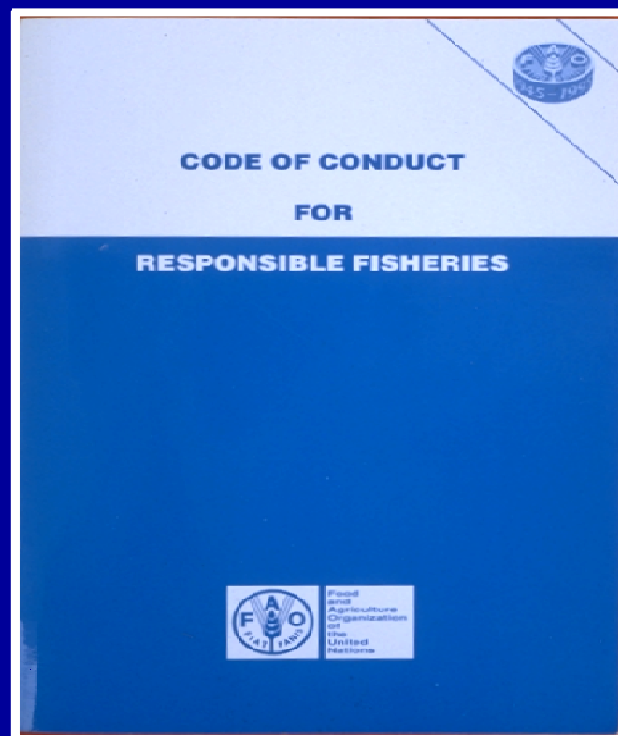


Did we not understand what
was going on ?

Hard and soft instruments: lots of them...



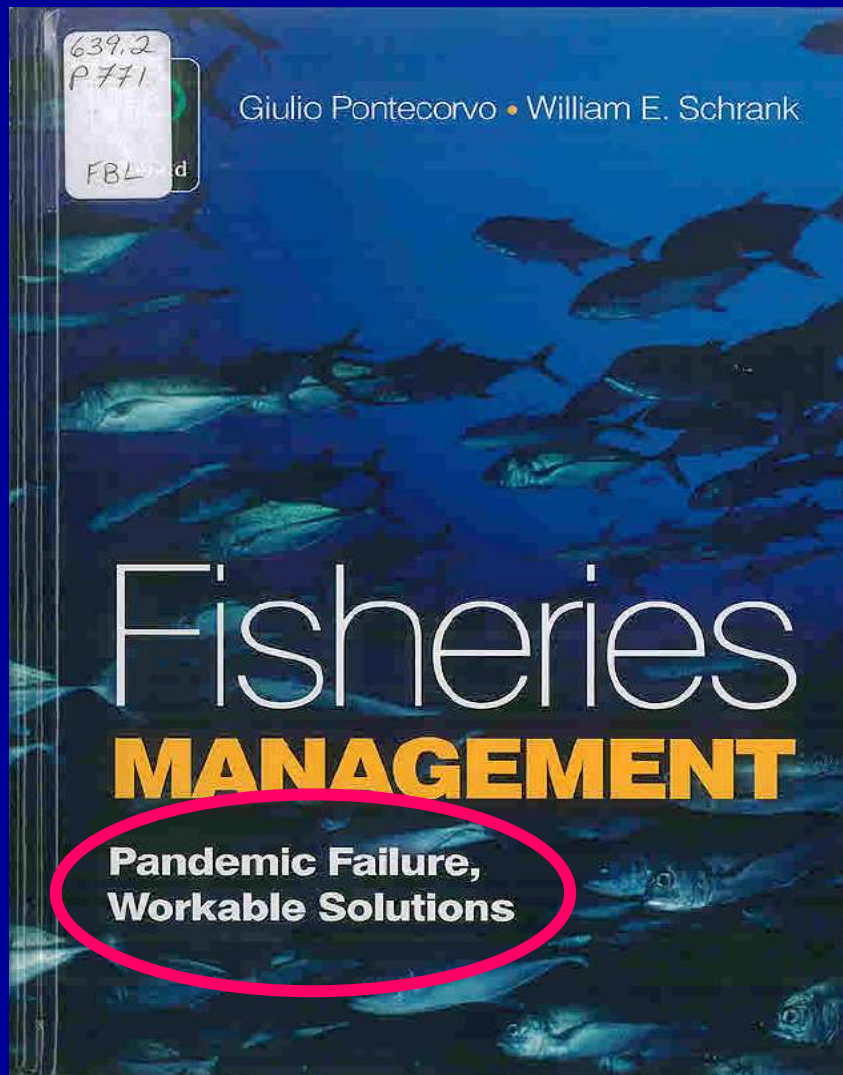
The FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible



The “Promised Land” ...

- No overfishing –precautionary
- Ecologically not too destructive
- Economically sound
- Supportive of communities

But how to get there is where
we got it wrong...



“By the mid-80s it was clear that fishery management was largely ineffective.”

...by relying on top-down
paternalistic Command and
Control methods...

...and ignoring the fact that...

Fishing is largely a business !



Fishing rights: a key issue in
getting there...

The background of the cover is a blue gradient with a faint, stylized image of fish swimming underwater at the top.

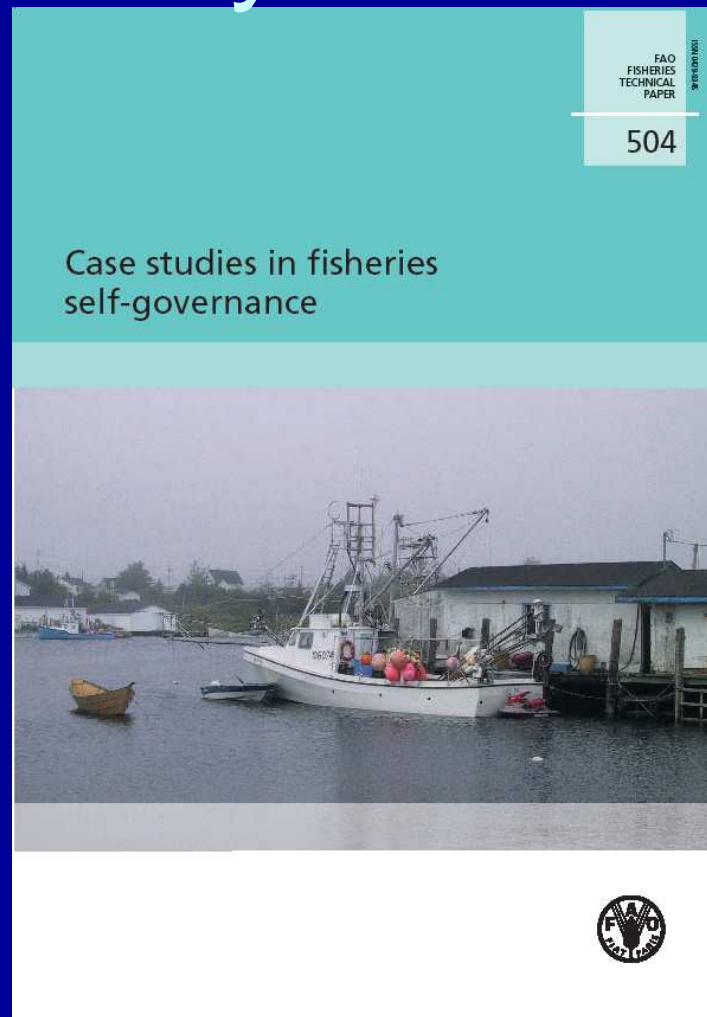
Connecting Rights and Responsibilities

**Allocation and Conservation
of Ocean Fisheries Resources**

**Serge Garcia
Jean Boncoeur**



Industry involvement: Studies by FAO



FTP 504: WHAT INDUSTRY DOES...

The case studies documented here describe situations where the industry: determines seasons; manages closed areas and marine reserves; manages catch monitoring programmes; fixes daily and seasonal catch limits; rotates fleets; manages research; imposes penalties for violation of rules; implements individual quotas; rationalizes fleets; manages product quality; and manages competing demands for the resource between commercial and non-commercial users – an astonishing range of activities reflecting laudable stewardship.

Determines seasons...

Manages research...

Imposes penalties...

Many types of rights-based systems...

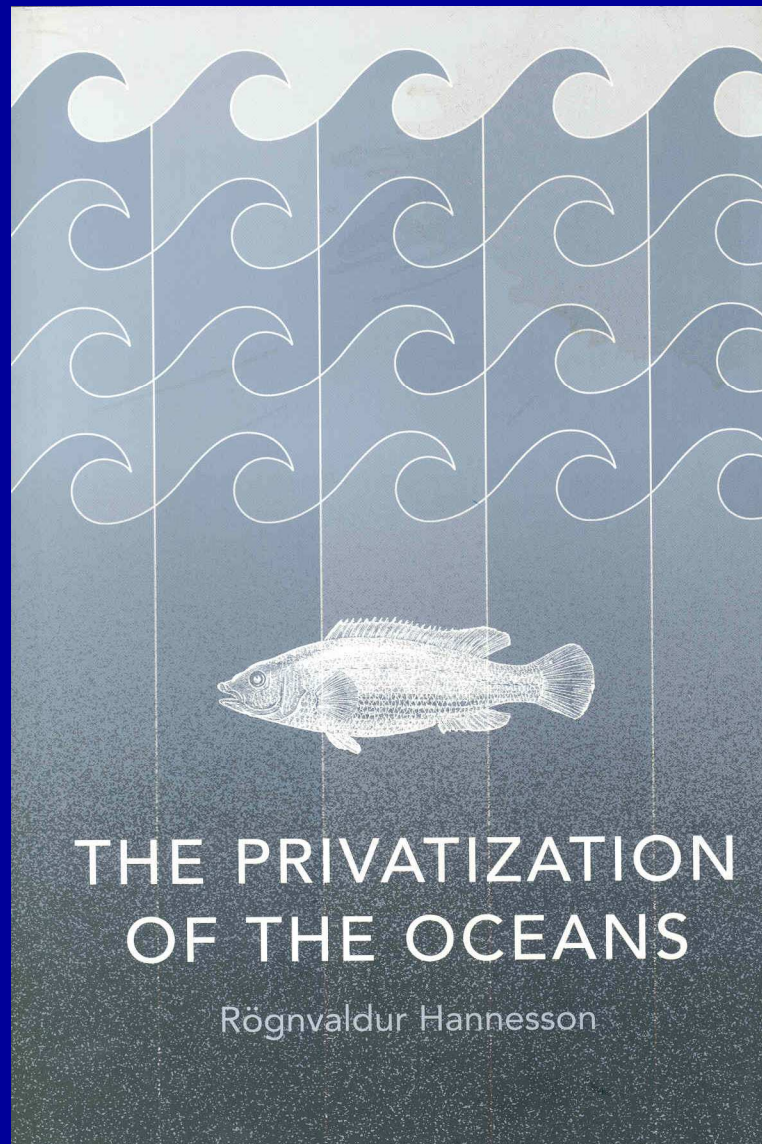
- Not a question of rights or no rights
- Question of nature and strength of right
 - groups or individuals
 - Balance between economically efficient and socially acceptable

Individual Transferable Quotas worldwide adoption (2010)*

Decade	Adoption of ITQs: (no. of countries)	Approximate volume of harvest (m. metric tonnes)
1970-79	2	0.2
1980-89	5	2.0
1990-99	7	4.0
2000-09	8	14.0
Total	22	20.2

*Ragnar Árnason, personal communication

Why has the adoption of fishing rights been so slow?



THE PRIVATIZATION OF THE OCEANS

Rögnvaldur Hannesson

Privatization is NOT necessary

- Myriad of rights-based systems
 - each with pros and cons
- Many different forms of rights
 - catch shares / limited access privilege programs/designated access programs
 - customary tenure systems
 - territorial user rights
 - group user rights,
not just
 - individual transferable quotas (ITQs)
- Initial allocations politically sensitive

Contemporary thinking on rights-based systems...

- The State gives long-term tenure
 - constraining efficiency for social acceptability
- Presumption of renewal – *but no guarantee*
 - links to performance criteria
- State retains clear rights to the resources

A brand new study published in
Nature (January 2011)...

Catch shares...

“ Catch shares, both by individual or community quotas and by TURFs, were a key management condition towards co-management success.”

Quoted by: Gutierrez, Hilborn & Defeo, 2011

Sense of ownership...

- Enhanced sense of ownership encouraging responsible fishing...

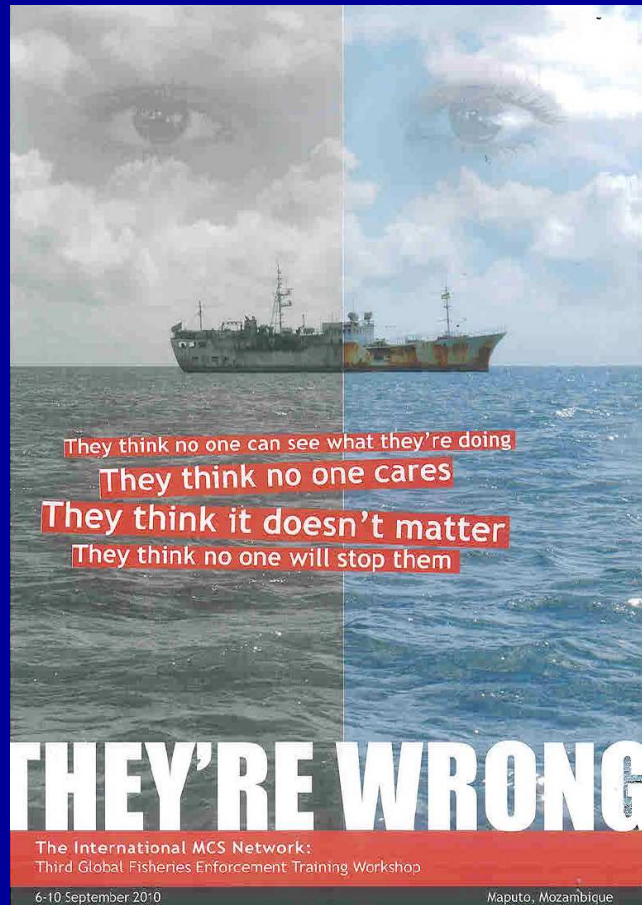
Quoted by: Gutierrez, Hilborn & Defeo, 2011

Self enforcement...

“ Self-enforcing mechanisms contributed significantly to co-management success when guided by self-interests”

Quoted by: Gutierrez, Hilborn & Defeo, 2011

So, right based fishery
management systems are the
way forward



Rights based
systems are
important in
the fight
against IUU



IUU activity in the Irminger Sea: The Polestar Case



By courtesy of the Icelandic Coastguard

Over the years the **FAO secretariat** has produced a number of publications on rights based fisheries...



It is high time that FAO takes up
the important issue of fishing
rights on its formal agenda

Thank you

Further information:

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