

# IUU Fishing, Harvest Regulation and Destructive Fishing Practices – Global Efforts, the Road Ahead in implementing SDG 14

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# SDG Target 14.4

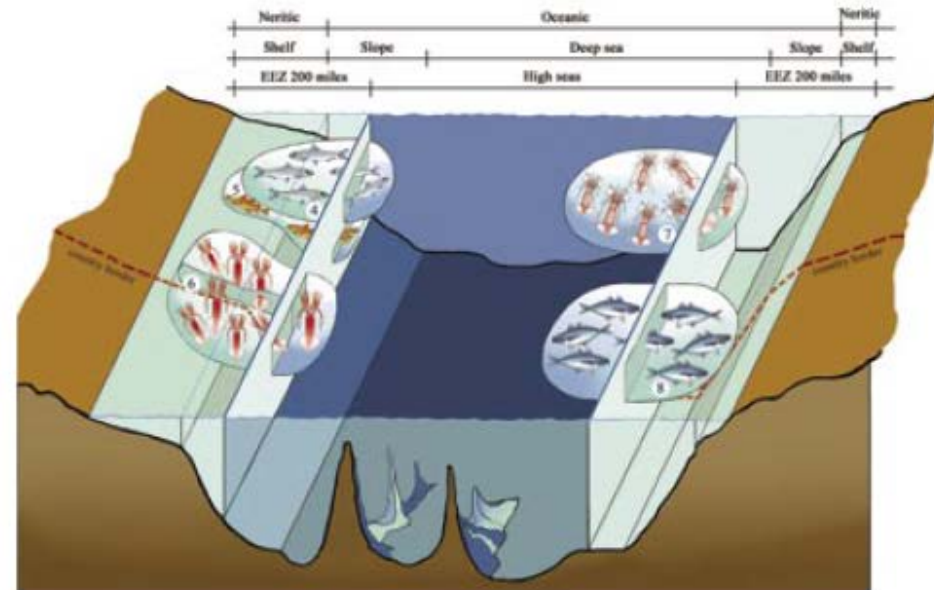
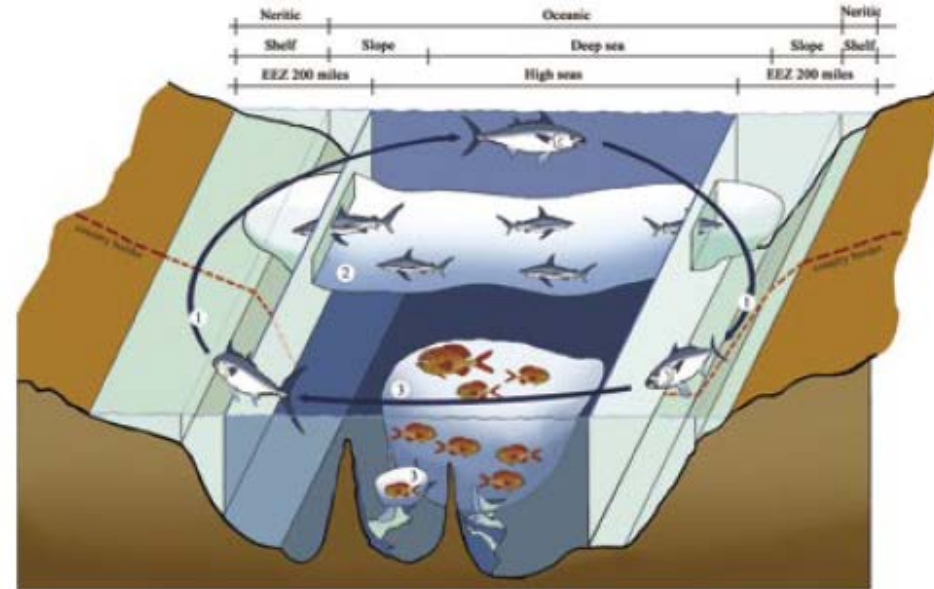
By 2020,

- effectively regulate harvesting
- end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and destructive fishing practices
- implement science-based management plans

in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yields...

# Fish stocks

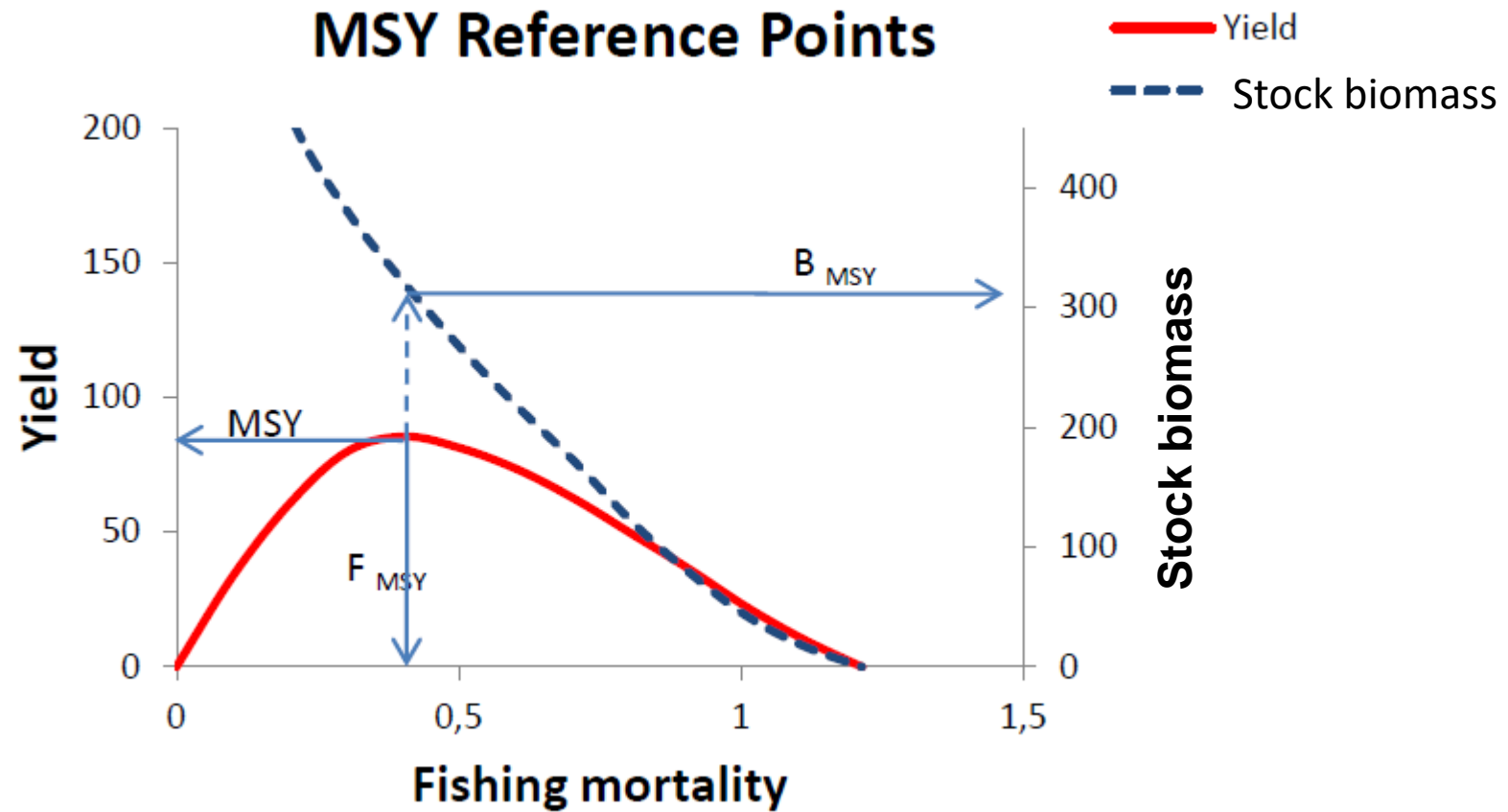
- A stock comprises all the individuals of fish in an area, which are part of the same reproductive process.
- Some species have one stock (e.g. southern bluefin tuna) others various stocks (e.g. herring)
- Stocks can cross different jurisdictions
- Stocks can be managed at local, national and regional level



# Sustainability of fish stocks

- The meaning of sustainability varies with fishery management objectives
  - Objectives varies with users/countries
  - Normally
    - Maintain stocks within “safe” biological levels
    - Maximize social and economic benefits
- Maintain stocks at the level capable of producing the ***Maximum Sustainable Yield*** (UNCLOS 1982, FAO Code of Conduct 1995, UN Fish Stock Agreement 1995, etc.)





**MSY:** The largest average catch or yield that can be taken from a stock under existing environmental conditions

# Global state of world's fish stocks

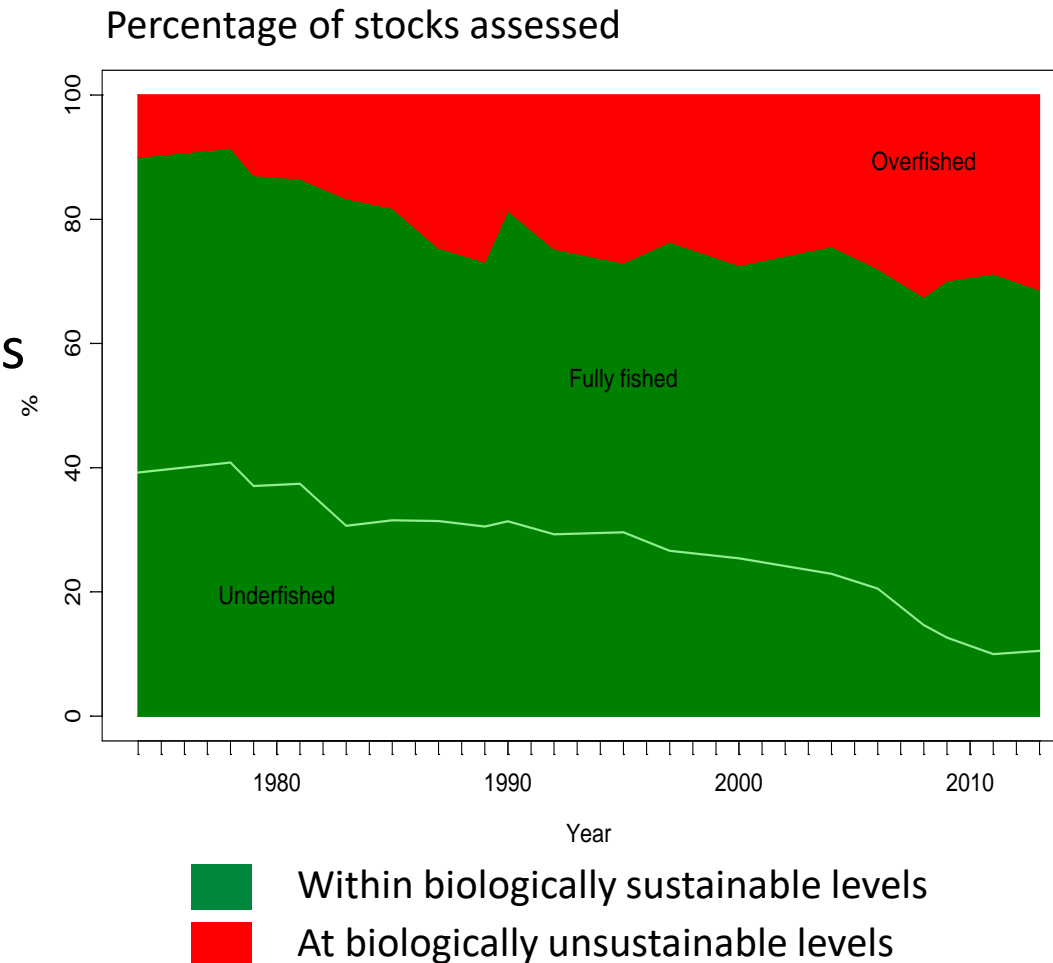
FAO regularly review the state of world's fish stocks, based on the best available information. Stocks are group into two major categories:

- **Stocks within biologically sustainable levels:** include stocks exploited at or close to an optimal level (*fully fished*) and stocks with potential for expansion in total production (*underfished*)
- **Stocks at biologically unsustainable levels:** include stocks that are being exploited above the optimal yield/effort level which is believed to be sustainable in the long term (*overfished*), stocks that are depleted or are recovering from a depletion or collapse.

System accommodates differences in data availability, and is being used to describe the status of major fish stocks (584 “stock” items, representing about 70 percent of global catch).

# Global trends in the state of marine fish stocks

- 30% of fish stocks overfished: producing catches lower than their biological potential
- 60% fully exploited: catches at maximum sustainable production
- 10% underfished: some limited potential for increase in catches



# Causes of overfishing

## Proximate causes

- Limited or ineffective harvest regulations – measures put in place to manage both the number of fish that can be caught as well as limits on fishing effort are not enough to prevent overfishing.
- Overcapacity of the fleets
- Destructive fishing practices unregulated (contribute to overfishing and can have collateral impacts on ecosystems)
- Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing

## Ultimate causes

- Institutional constraints: policies and incentives that are not conducive to sustainable use of resources
- Limited capacity to manage fisheries, including limited information and capacity to control illegal activities.



# Global efforts to revert the trend

Several international instruments concerning the sustainable use of fisheries resources

UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982

UN Fish Stocks Agreement, 1995

Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, 1973

FAO Port State Measures Agreement, 2009

FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, 1995

FAO IPOAs on Fishing Capacity (1999) and IUU (2001)

FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea fisheries in the High Seas

# Meeting the target

Actions to revert the trend and move towards SDG Target 14.4

- Participation and full commitment to existing instruments
- Provide for capacity-building for sustainable fisheries
- Development of feasible and realistic targets and strategies at national and regional level
- Advance in the implementation of other relevant SDG Targets on subsidies and small-scale fisheries

Thank you