

Environmental benefits and impacts from ecolabeling

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CONSERVATION

Smooth Handfish Extinction Marks a Sad Milestone

For the first time the IUCN Red List has officially declared a marine fish alive in modern times to be extinct

By David Shiffman | Scientific American July 2020 Issue



USA TODAY



The Guardian

Role of ecolabels

What elements should fisheries ecolabels possess for:

- i. maximising benefits***
 - ii. minimising impacts***
- } **Marine environment**

- Review of current schemes – Strengths and limitations
- How can these be improved?
- The role of policy and the market

Approach

Principles of sustainable fisheries

Status of target
fish stocks

Environmental
impacts of fishing

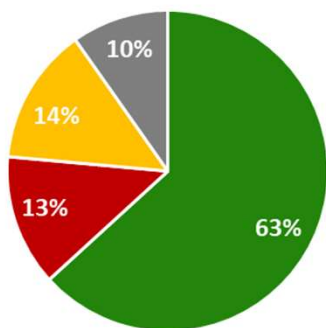
Effectiveness of
management
framework

Status of target stocks

n=174

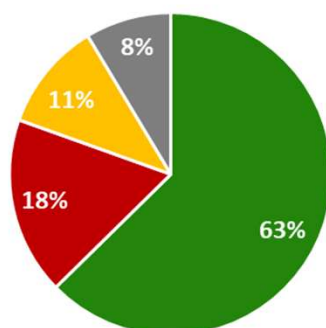
FCUR/FMSY

- below
- above
- uncertain/around
- no info/unknown

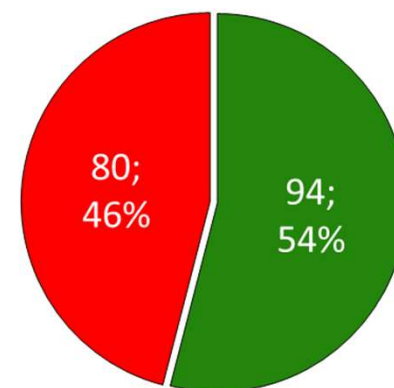


BCUR/BMSY

- above
- below
- uncertain/around
- no info/unknown

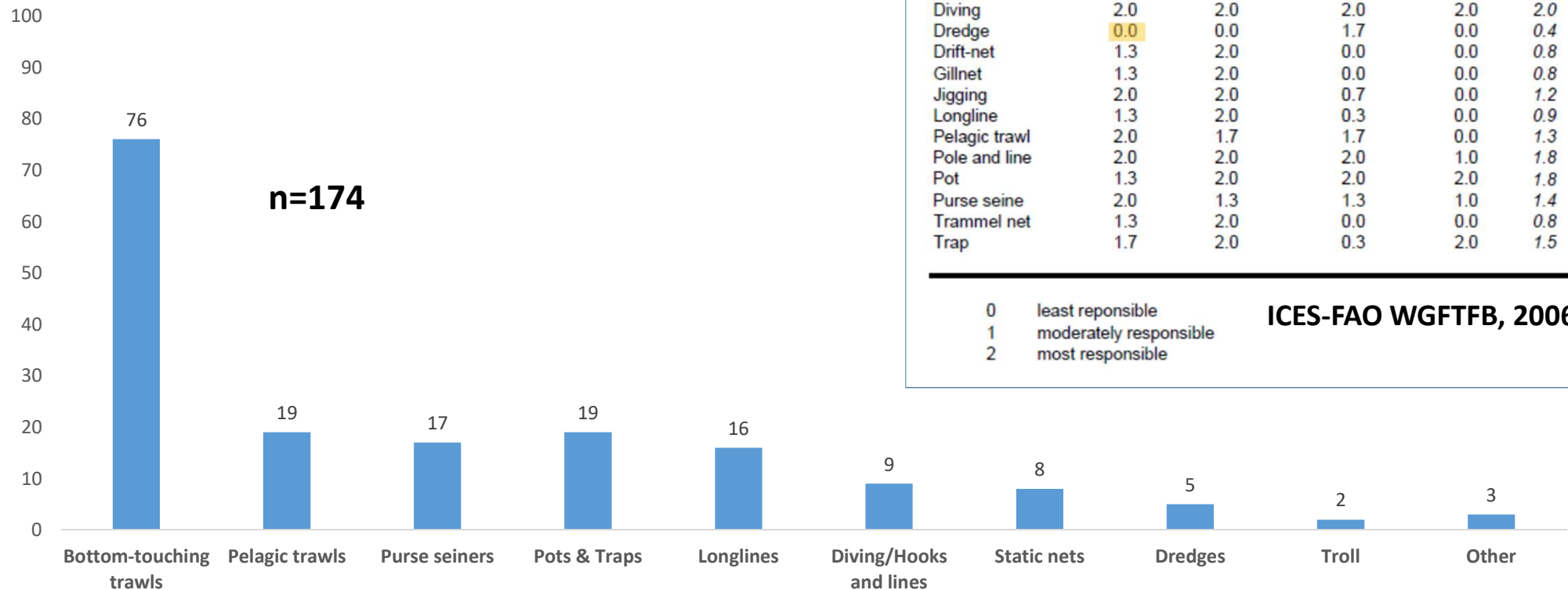


$F < F_{MSY}$ AND $B > B_{MSY}$



MSC certified fisheries (2019)

Environmental impacts - Habitats



Environmental Sustainability					
	Habitat Impact	Energy cost per kg fish	Non commercial Bycatch	Welfare	<i>index</i>
Beam trawl	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.4
Bottom trawl	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.4
Danish seine	1.0	1.0	1.7	1.0	1.2
Diving	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Dredge	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.4
Drift-net	1.3	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.8
Gillnet	1.3	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.8
Jigging	2.0	2.0	0.7	0.0	1.2
Longline	1.3	2.0	0.3	0.0	0.9
Pelagic trawl	2.0	1.7	1.7	0.0	1.3
Pole and line	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.8
Pot	1.3	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.8
Purse seine	2.0	1.3	1.3	1.0	1.4
Trammel net	1.3	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.8
Trap	1.7	2.0	0.3	2.0	1.5

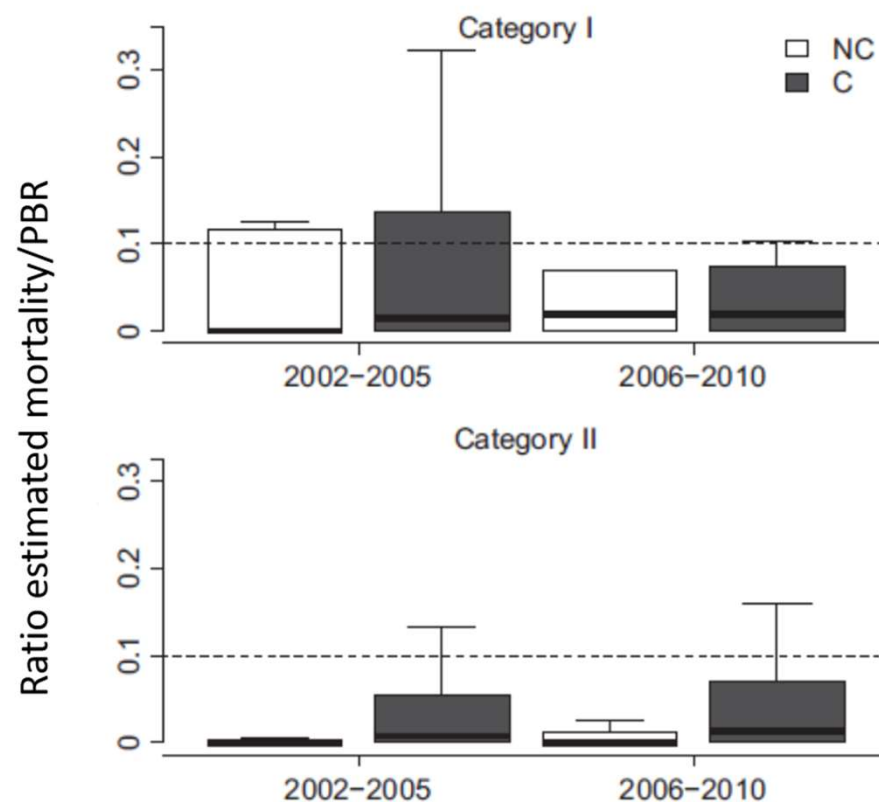
0 least responsible
1 moderately responsible
2 most responsible

ICES-FAO WGFTFB, 2006

- Emerging policy: **strict protection** - EU Biodiversity strategy, Benyon Review (UK)

Environmental impacts – Endangered, threatened and protected (ETPs) species

- Bycatch of ETPs (marine mammals, turtles, birds).
- **Cumulative impacts, climate change**
- Ongoing Fisheries Standard review – streamline ETPs definition: need to account for regional specificities.



Selden et al., 2016, Marine Policy

Conclusions

Stock sustainability:

- Suspend/withdraw certification if stocks overfished or too small to produce MSY and function properly
- For overfished/depleted stocks: certification **after** demonstrating clear signs of recovery (as opposed to certifying and placing conditions)

Environmental impacts:

- Suspend/withdraw certification if fishery uses **destructive gears** and/or takes place **within MPAs**
- Definition of ETPs **location-specific**
- Consider **cumulative impacts** and **climate change** (EU Biodiversity Strategy)



Conclusions

- Fisheries may carry the same certification but have different impacts i.e. sustainability degrees – role of truly sustainable fisheries compromised
- Limitations of certification schemes should be clearly communicated to the consumer → Loss of trust → Direct impacts on retailers/shops.

Role of policy:

- Policy **provisions more strict** than ecolabel criteria: ecolabel role not fully realised
- EU Ministers changes in quota: implications for fisheries
 - Lower quota
 - Higher quota – certified fishery loss of premium and if overfishing is happening: withdraw

Role of the market:

- Orient purchases at above simple rules and only accept eco-labels that **exclude overfishing** and **destructive gear**
- Diversification - Promote markets for **secondary spp.**

If resource sustainability is the DJ....



.... the marine environment is the venue

Thank you for your attention

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