Generating evidence and advice to sustain seafood supplies



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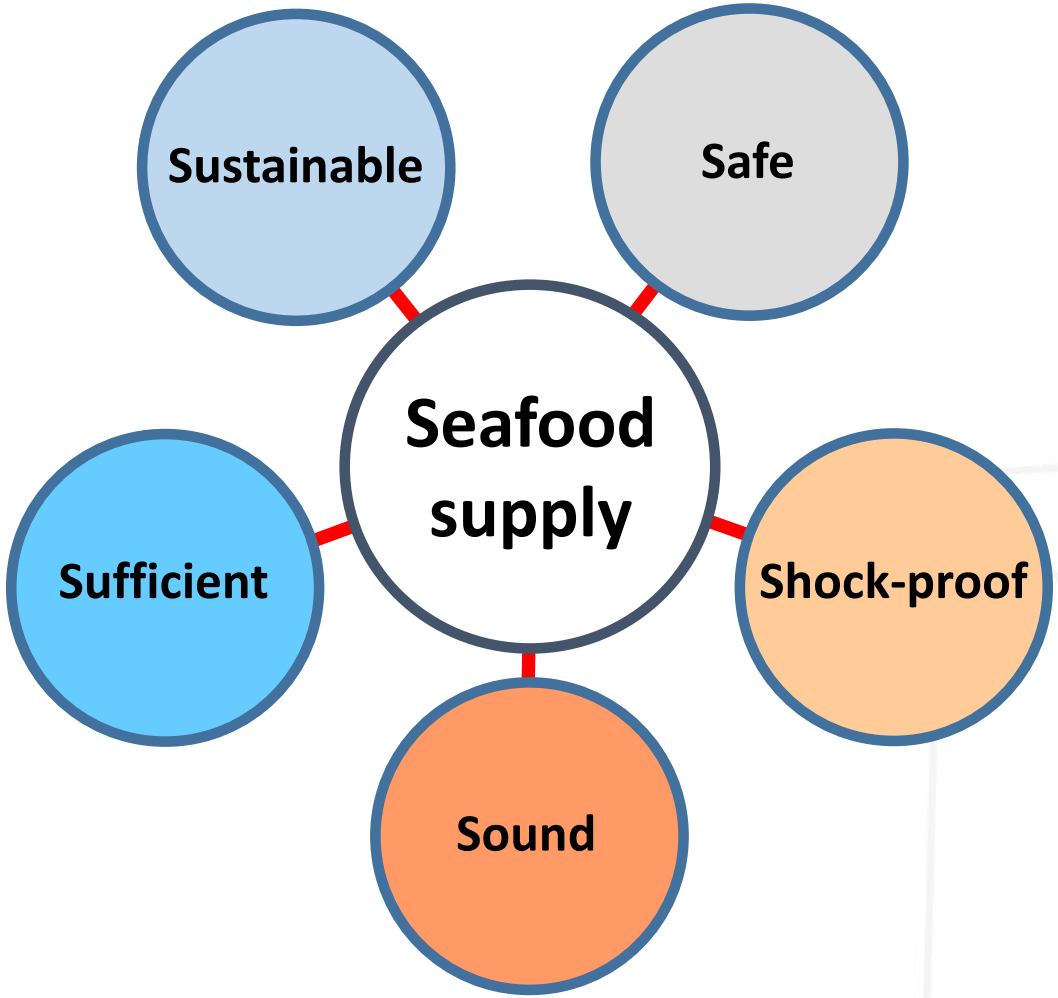
Seafood: societal “needs” and “wants”



Sufficient: to feed people, provide livelihoods and meet needs and wants of consumers

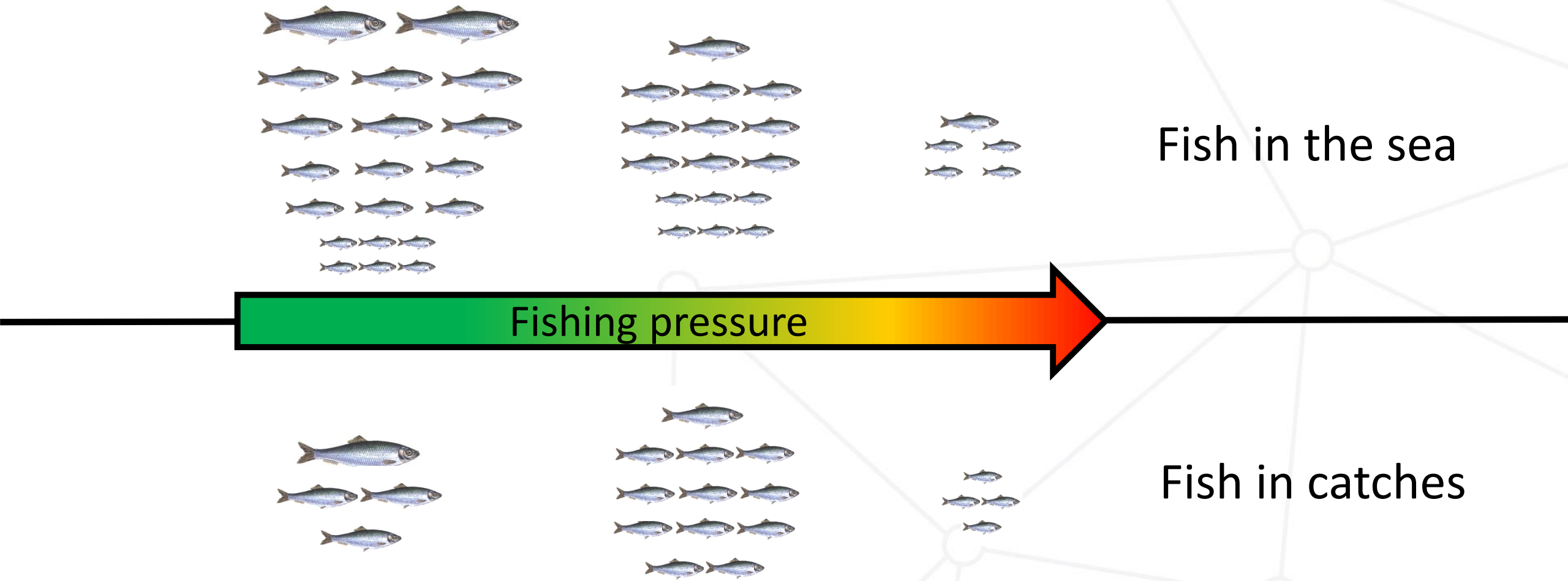
Sustainable: to ensure seafood is available now and for future generations

Safe: to provide nutritional benefits while posing minimal risks to human health

Shock-proof: to be resilient to shocks in production systems and supply chains

Sound: to meet legal and ethical standards for people and animals, to be authentic

If only it were so simple…..



…but the debate is complex and nuanced

Awareness of environmental and social interactions of fisheries

Prevalence of conflicting sources of information

Societal polarisation about expectations for fisheries

More organisations with a stake in the seas and oceans

… and it can be challenging to see a role for science in this new era of engagement … especially in guiding allocation of resources

Advocate standards for scientists and the discipline: the role of science must be advanced and not assumed

Emphasise capacity to separate hearsay, ideology or beliefs from different but accurate interpretations of the same evidence

Focus on questions and evidence: an unnecessarily polarised community will be weakened and less impactful

… conflicting narratives

Performance of fisheries certification

Catch trends as an indicator of fisheries and stock status

Proportion of ocean fished and the consequences

Future production potential

…driven by beliefs and by alternate interpretations of the same evidence

How:

Challenge polarisation of science community:
what is correct and not who is correct

Increase representation

Increase opportunities for co-creation of knowledge

What:

Defined in a recent prioritisation process for our region

1. Interactions of food systems spanning land and sea

2. Advance ecosystem-based management

Debate about seafood production is increasingly polarised—this is limiting rather than enhancing the value of science

The role of science must be advanced and not assumed- passive acknowledgement of a role is not enough in a changing world

Strive to put as much emphasis on how our seafood science is done as we put into what is done; and avoid tokenistic engagement

If we get the ‘how’ right, then priorities for ‘what’ are interactions of seafood and other food systems and the ecosystem approach