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2018 - Overfishing - Poster Presentation

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OVERFISHING

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ABSTRACT:

Many species are on a continuing trajectory decline and current global fisheries jeopardize not only individual species but also the overall integrity of marine ecosystems. Overexploitation of the ocean includes ghost fishing, management/regulation issues, a change in culture, and hugely the need to educate/notify the public(1,2). Emerging research is causing more precautionary approaches to management, restrictions and data intake on jeopardizing marine ecosystems(3). The seafood industry especially, is a large influencer and it is unclear whether current harvests can be sustained.

METHODS:

We have researched in depth experiments and documentation on overfishing and over exploitation of the ocean.



<http://www.theoptimusprimeexperiment.com/2010/07/what-do-jelly-fish-eat-and-who-eats.html>

BACKGROUND:

- Overfishing is the unsustainable practice of fishing that results in more fish being caught than the population can reproduce(1)
- Entire ecosystems are out of balance; ex) populations of jellyfish are growing at alarming rates, leading to competition with fish populations for food
- Commerical fleets are going further down the food chain thus disrupting the ocean's delicate biological system
- Ghost nets are entangling animals and destroying fragile habitats and ecosystems such as coral reefs(2)
- By 2050, biologists predict world fisheries will experience a collapse



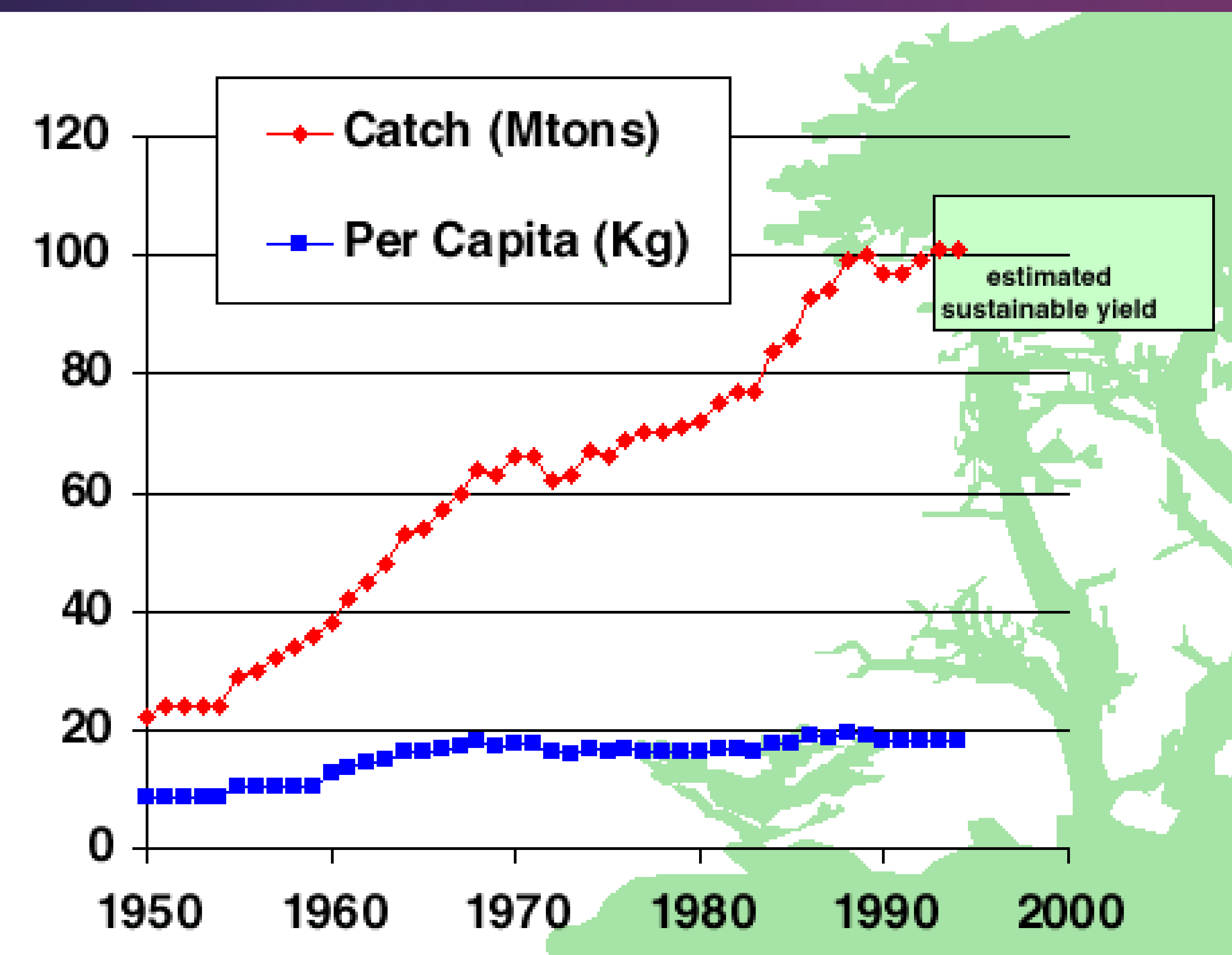
<https://www.deeptrekker.com/ghost-fishing/>

WHAT WE CAN DO:

- Be sure to purchase only sustainable seafood items;
- There needs to be a shift in management regulations within the fishing industry requiring demonstration of no serious environmental impact(3)
- Spark conversations to raise awareness about healthy marine ecosystems and their importance;
- Pay attention to laws and bills being drafted and vote!

REFERENCES:

- 1)Driscoll, S., & Warhol, T. (2013). Overfishing. *Salem Press Encyclopedia*,
- 2)Queirolo, D., & Gaete, E. (2014). Experimental study of ghost fishing by gillnets in Laguna Verde Valparaíso, Chile. *Latin American Journal Of Aquatic Research*, 42(5), 1189-1193. doi:10.3856/vol42-issue5-fulltext-22
- 3)Sweeney, R., Tollison, R., & Willett, T. (1974). Market Failure, the Common-Pool Problem, and Ocean Resource Exploitation. *The Journal of Law & Economics*, 17(1), 179-192



<http://web.mit.edu/12000/www/m2015/2015/fisheries.html>