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FAO
FISHERIES AND
AQUACULTURE
TECHNICAL
PAPER

633

A third assessment of global
marine fisheries discards



A Third Assessment of Global Marine Fisheries Discards

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Background

➤ Why does FAO assess fisheries discards?

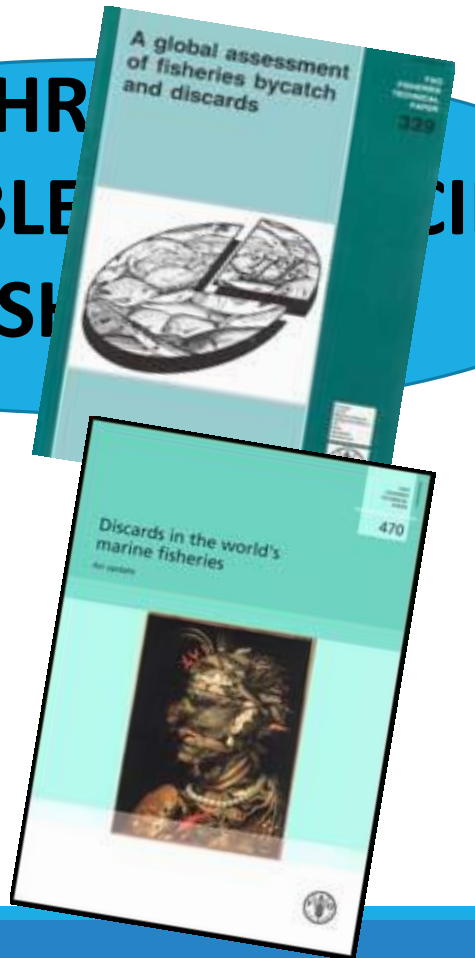
- Waste of fisheries resources
- Ecological impacts
- Socioeconomic impacts



A THREAT TO
SUSTAINABLE
FISHERIES

➤ Previous FAO discard assessments:

- Alverson et al., 1994
- Kelleher, 2005



Introduction



PART I – ESTIMATE OF GLOBAL MARINE FISHERIES DISCARDS

PART II – RELATED ISSUES

- Bycatch and discard of endangered, threatened and protected species
- Managing bycatch to reduce discards
- Pre-catch, discards and ghost fishing mortalities

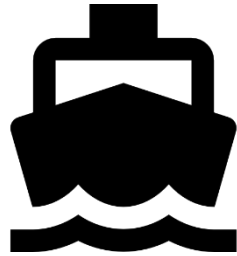
PART III - CONCLUSIONS

Approach



Landing data

- Country
- Species
- FAO Statistical Area
- Average 2010 - 2014



Fisheries data



Discard Rates

- Country
- FAO Statistical Area
- Gear type
- Target Species

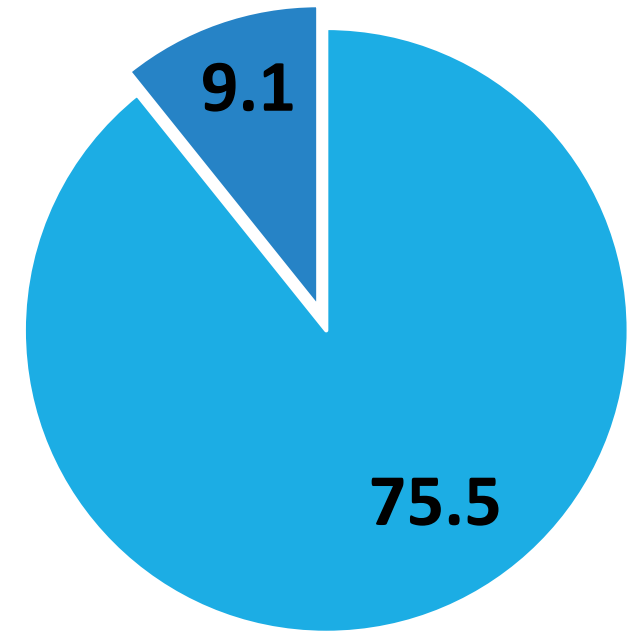
Fisheries-based Discard Dataset:

- Landings by fishery (tonnes)
- Discards by fishery (tonnes)
- Total catch by fishery (tonnes)

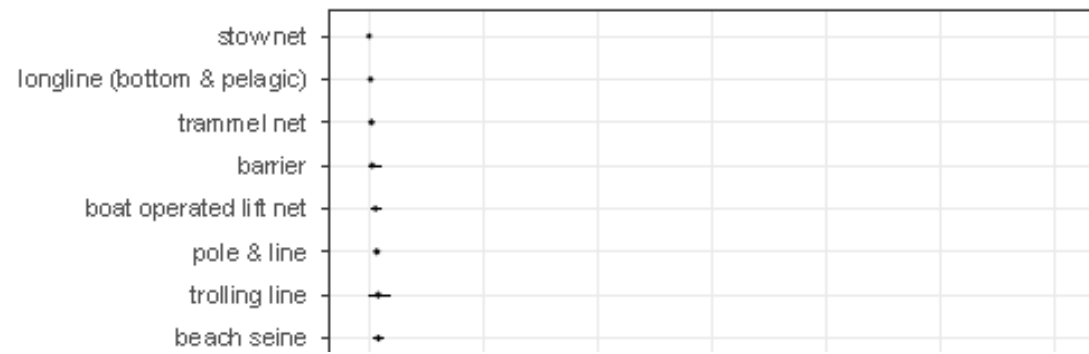
Results

Average annual catch of **84.6 million t** from 2010-2014

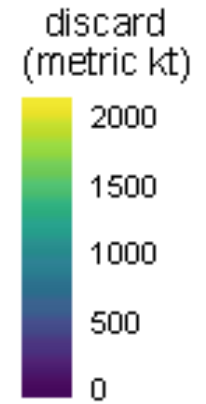
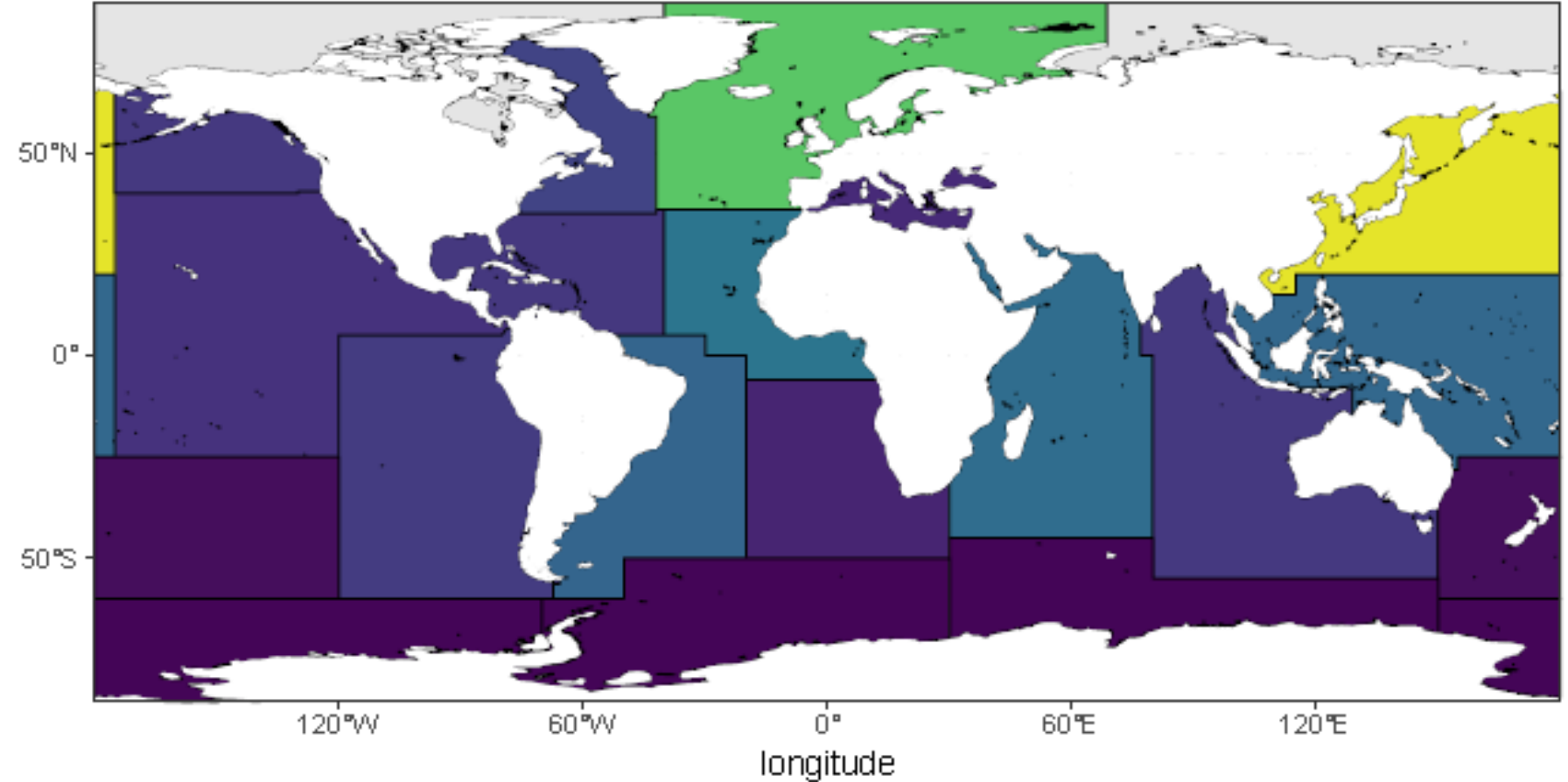
- landed (retained) catch of **75.5 million t**
- discarded catch of **9.1 million t** (6.7 – 16.1)
- discard rate: **10.8%**



Results



- Target category**
- mollus
 - except cepha
 - tunas
 - cepha
 - mixed
 - crusta
 - pelagi
 - demer fishes
 - * Mixed c



Challenges

- Identification of **key fisheries** at a **national level**
- **Allocation of species** to the **fisheries** identified
- Major fishing countries with **no discard estimates** at a fishery level involve more than **45% of landings**
- **Empirical discard rates** covered less than **20% of total landings**
- **Species composition** of discards **not addressed** in this study



Related issues



1. Bycatch and discard of endangered, threatened and protected species estimated at **20 million individuals**
2. Managing bycatch to reduce discards
3. Pre-catch, discards and ghost fishing mortalities



Conclusions

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

- **Annual discard quantity of around 9.1 million t (10.8%)**
 - **Difficult to quantify the progress** in reducing discards but
 - In the **last 10 years** there is a **greater scrutiny of such issues via the public reporting** of discards
- **At least 20 million individuals of endangered, threatened and/or protected species** interacted with capture fisheries annually.
 - **Some led to mortality** of the animals
 - **Lack of solid data** for many fisheries and for many parts of the world

Conclusions

NEXT STEPS?

- **Standardized data collection** techniques
- **Sharing of data** across agencies and regions
- Building **effective working relationships** between relevant stakeholders



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Many thanks for your attention!

<http://www.fao.org/3/CA2905EN/ca2905en.pdf>

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