

LOS: IMPACTS ON THE CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES RESOURCES OF DEVELOPING COASTAL STATES: THE GHANA CASE STUDY

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Republic of Ghana

MINISTRY OF FISHERIES



Oceans and Law of the Sea
Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea



The Nippon Foundation

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- BACKGROUND

- Coastal Morphology and Inland Fishery Waters
- Brief History and Current Status of The Ghanaian Fishing Industry

- THE GHANA FISHERIES POLICY

- Legislative Framework
- Objectives
- Focus of Study

- CONCLUSIONS

- RECOMMENDATIONS



GHANA



Coastal Morphology & Inland Fishery Waters of Ghana

Marine

- Coastline of 539km
- Narrow Continental Shelf
- Territorial Sea of 12nm
- Contiguous Zone of 24nm
- EEZ of 200nm

INLAND

Major inland water bodies are:

Volta Lake – 8442 square km

Keta Lagoon – 330 square km

Lake Bosomtwi – 49 square km

Volta River – Black, White and Red
Densu, Oti and Pra Rivers

Plus more than 50 brackish water
bodies dotting the coastline, most of
which are RAMSAR designated sites.



BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FISHERIES INDUSTRY

Fisheries started out as artisanal and was mainly for subsistence purposes.

History Timeline

- ❑ 1800s: Ghanaian fishermen in foreign waters
- ❑ 1944: Outboard motors introduced into Ghana for canoes
- ❑ 1946: Two 30-footer motorized fishing boats imported into the country for experimental fishing
- ❑ 1952: Boatyard Corporation set up to build similar boats
- ❑ 1962: Tema Boatyard set up to build larger wooden vessels with in-board engines. State Fishing Corporation (SFC) also set up to help entrepreneurs
- ❑ 1964: First Ministry of Fisheries set up
- ❑ Late 1970s and 1980s: Industry slumped

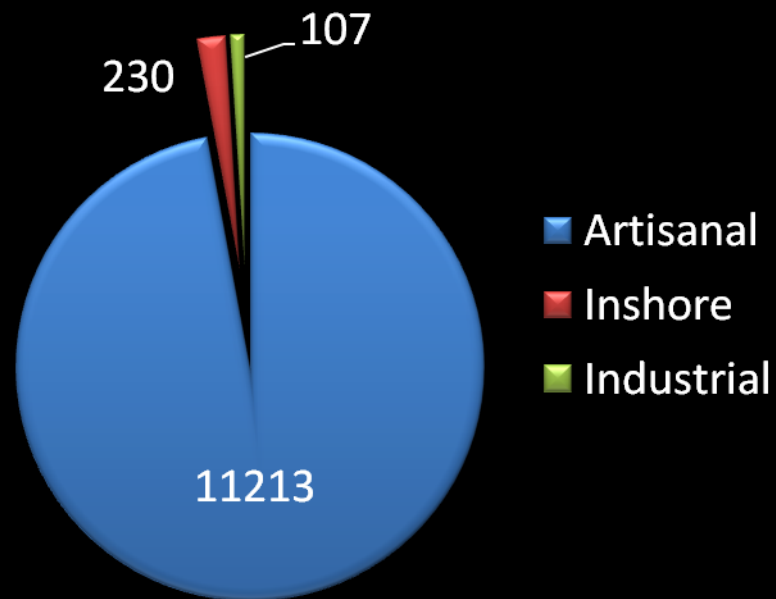
Growth of Industrial and Inshore Fleet

Year	Total
1954	12
1955	20
1956	47
1957	84
1958	114
1959	154
1960	198
1961	227
1962	230
1963	257
1964	240
1966	400
1967	418
1968	311
1973	383
1974	315

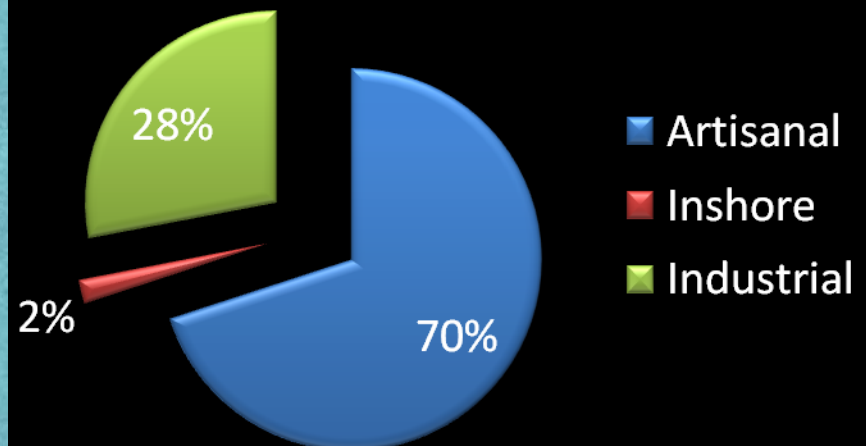
CURRENT STATE OF THE INDUSTRY

Marine

Sizes of Fishing Fleets



Contribution to Total Marine Production



Total marine production as of 2007 stood at 325,000 metric tonnes

Inland

Lakes, Rivers and Lagoons

- Comprised of 24,000 planked canoes from 1,232 fishing villages
- Lands about 150,000 tons annually, 80% coming from the Volta Lake

Aquaculture and Culture-based Fisheries

- Still in developmental stages
- Composed largely of non-commercial systems
- Contributed 3,257 tons in 2007

Summary

- Sector accounts for 4.5% of Ghana's GDP
- Sector employs an estimated 2million people
- Sector produces a total of 420,000 tons of the 880,000 tons needed annually. Deficit of 460,000 tons is made up through fish imports.

THE GHANA NATIONAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE POLICY

Ghana Fisheries Act 625 of 2002

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

Part I Section 1

“There is established by this Act a Fisheries Commission”

Section 2

(1) The object of the Commission is to regulate and manage the utilization of the fishery resources of Ghana and co-ordinate the **POLICIES** in relation to them”

(2) Without prejudice to the subsection (1), the Commission shall in relation to fisheries perform the following functions:

a. Prepare and keep under continual review **PLANS** for the management and development of fisheries in waters under the jurisdiction of Ghana.

POLICY OBJECTIVES

Structured around four major policy areas:

- ☐ management of fisheries, conservation of aquatic resources and protection of their natural environment;
- ☐ promotion of value addition and improving the livelihood of fisheries communities;
- ☐ development of aquaculture; and
- ☐ improvement of services provided to the sector by the Ministry and other institutions.

Focus of Study

Policy Objective 1 tries to address the following:

- ☐ Over-exploitation of fisheries resources and environmental degradation;
- ☐ Lack of measures to strengthen regulatory frameworks and effective implementation;
- ☐ Decreased production and loss of value in production due to unsustainable fisheries; and
- ☐ The negative impacts of unsustainable fisheries on the contribution of the fisheries sector to food security and the livelihood of small-scale communities

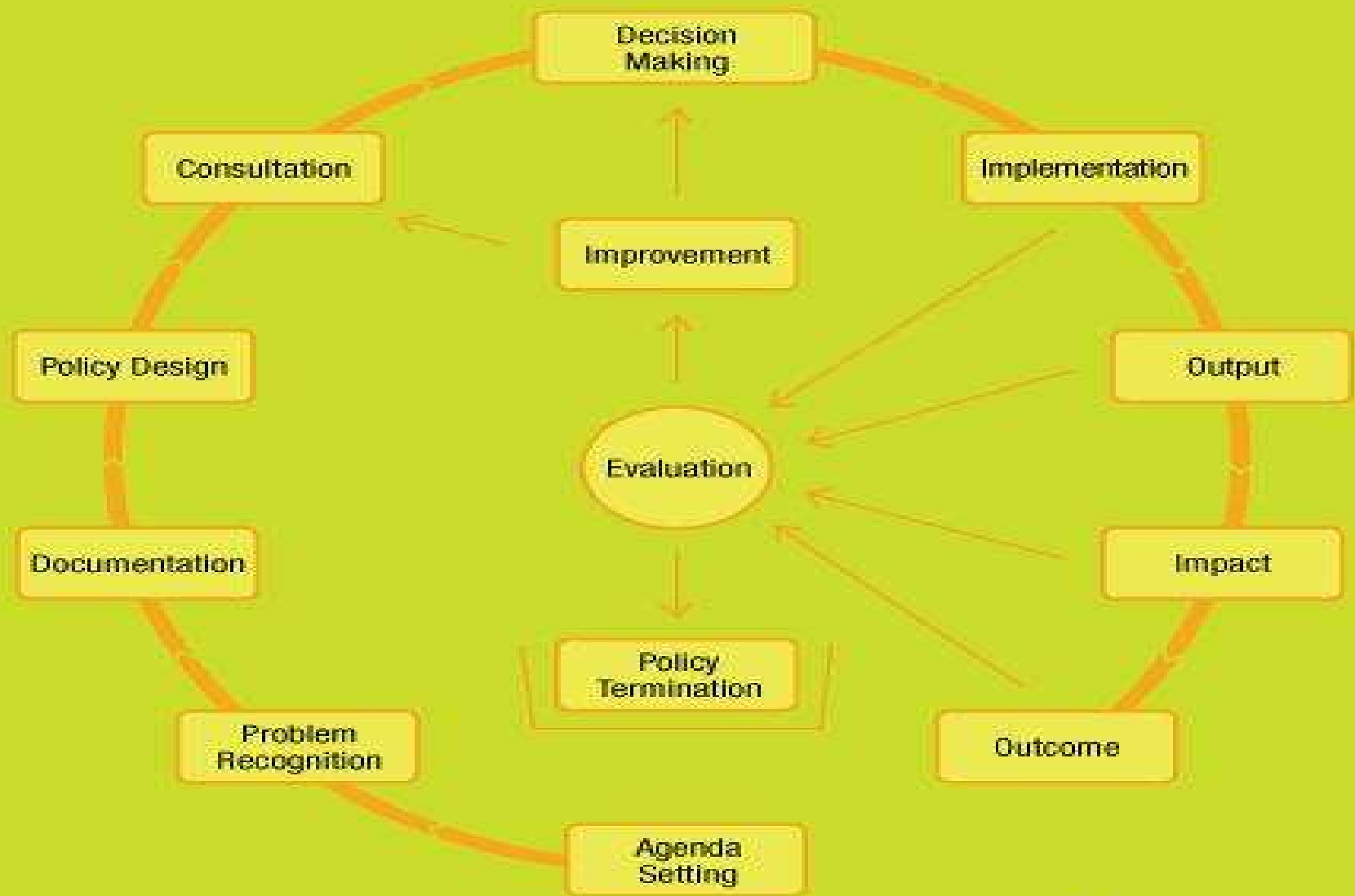
CONCLUSIONS

1. There has been no comprehensive fisheries policy governing the sector to date;
2. The contents of the draft policy reflect an in-depth examination of the current state of the resources and a widespread consultation process.
3. The draft policy provides a commendable framework for fisheries management in Ghana; and
4. There is no clear timeframe for achieving the objectives set out in the policy;

RECOMMENDATIONS

Keyword: Priority

1. Strengthen Monitoring Control and Surveillance to ensure compliance with existing regulations;
2. Tackle the issue of poor governance as a matter of top priority;
3. Modernization of fishing Ghanaian fishing fleet is an opportunity in itself that can be explored to reduce over-capacity in the industry;
4. Consider the issue of developing inter-Ministry relations and collaborations one of top priority; and
5. Develop relationships with relevant RFMOs and in doing so position the country to play a leading role in regional maritime affairs.



Policy Cycle



FISHERY PATROL







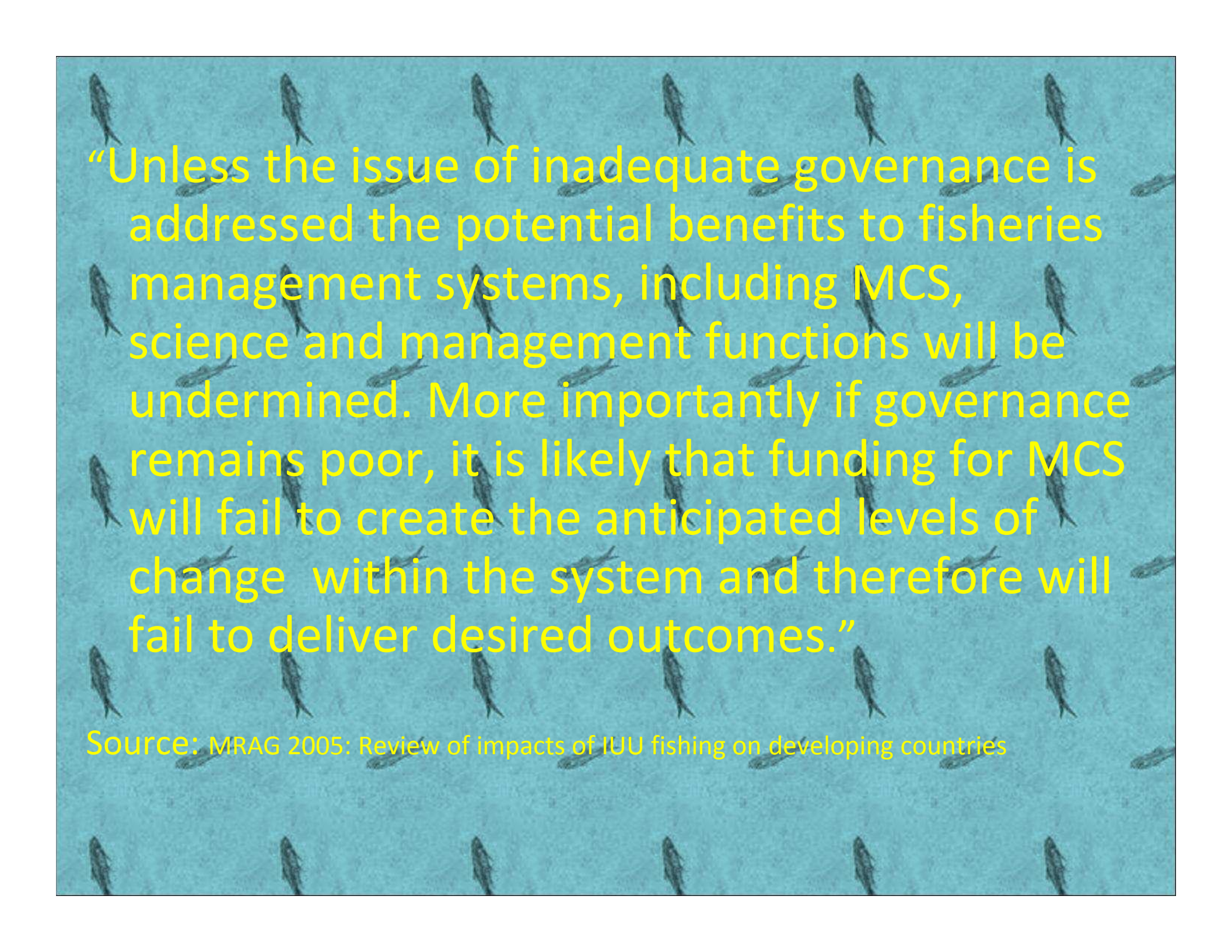












“Unless the issue of inadequate governance is addressed the potential benefits to fisheries management systems, including MCS, science and management functions will be undermined. More importantly if governance remains poor, it is likely that funding for MCS will fail to create the anticipated levels of change within the system and therefore will fail to deliver desired outcomes.”

Source: MRAG 2005: Review of impacts of IUU fishing on developing countries



**Thank
You**