Regional Fisheries Governance and Management in the Caribbean



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Industrial

(commercial)



Artisanal

(commercial or subsistence)



Recreational

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Typical gear is hook and line, traps (fish pots), gill nets, trawls and spearfishing









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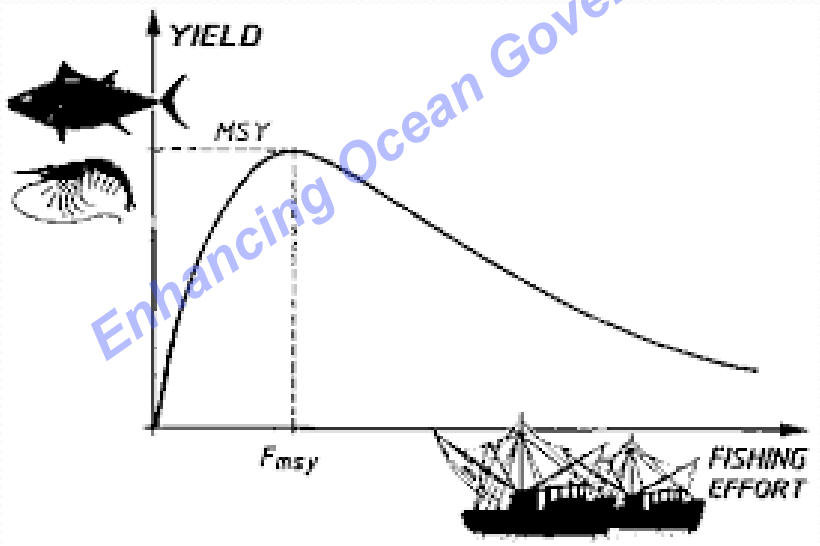
Caribbean Fisheries

- Within CARICOM states, most fisheries are artisanal (small-scale)
- Fisheries contributes relatively little to the GDP of member states
- Fisheries are important to food security and poverty alleviation
- Fisheries are complex – multi-gear and multi-species
- Most fisheries are open access
- Fishing is often considered a “last resort” job for the poor

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Fisheries Management

- Mainly focused on target species and stock assessment.
- Single sector specific (fisheries)
- Mainly controls fishing effort (gear restrictions, licensing, closed areas/seasons
- Based on biological objectives (F, MSY)

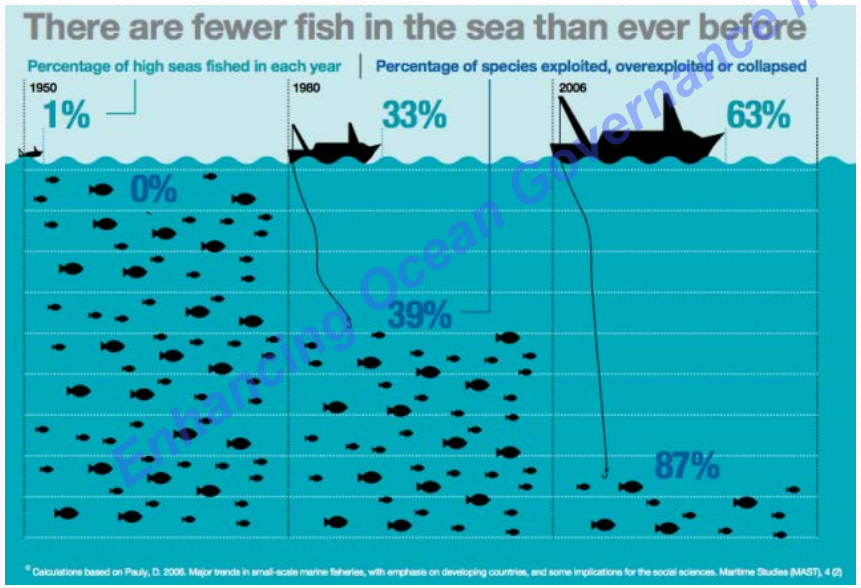


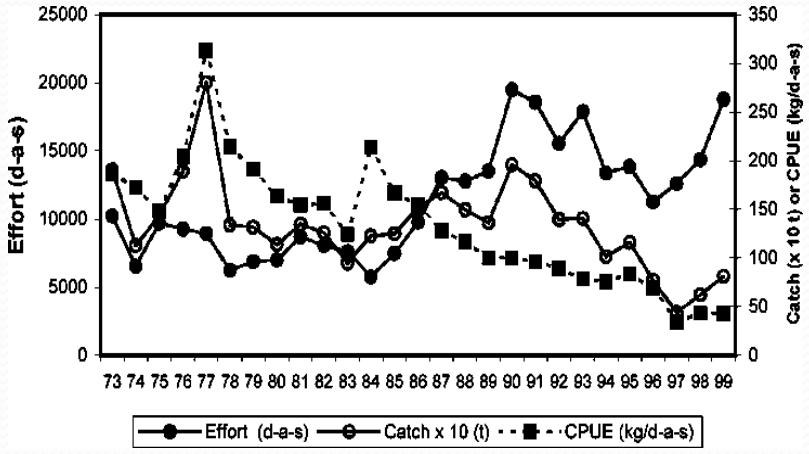
Requires LOTS of data – long time series of catch and effort

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Management Results

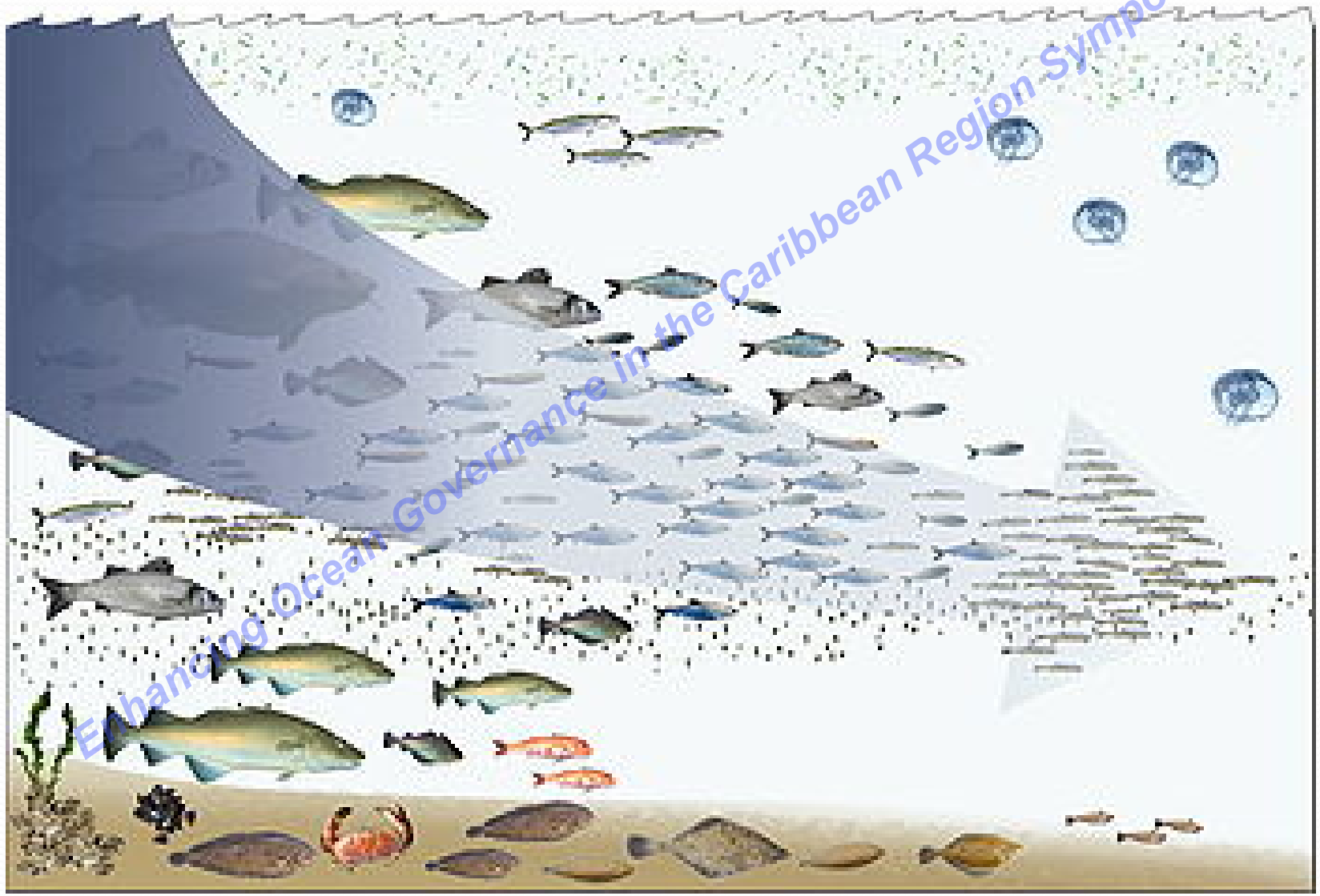
- Fisheries have become seriously depleted on a global scale
- Existing management does not address all threats





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Overfishing – “fishing down the food web”



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Regional Issues in Caribbean Fisheries Management

1. IUU Fishing
2. Outdated and ineffective legislation
3. Overcapacity
4. Habitat destruction and pollution
5. Lack of biological data
6. Climate change

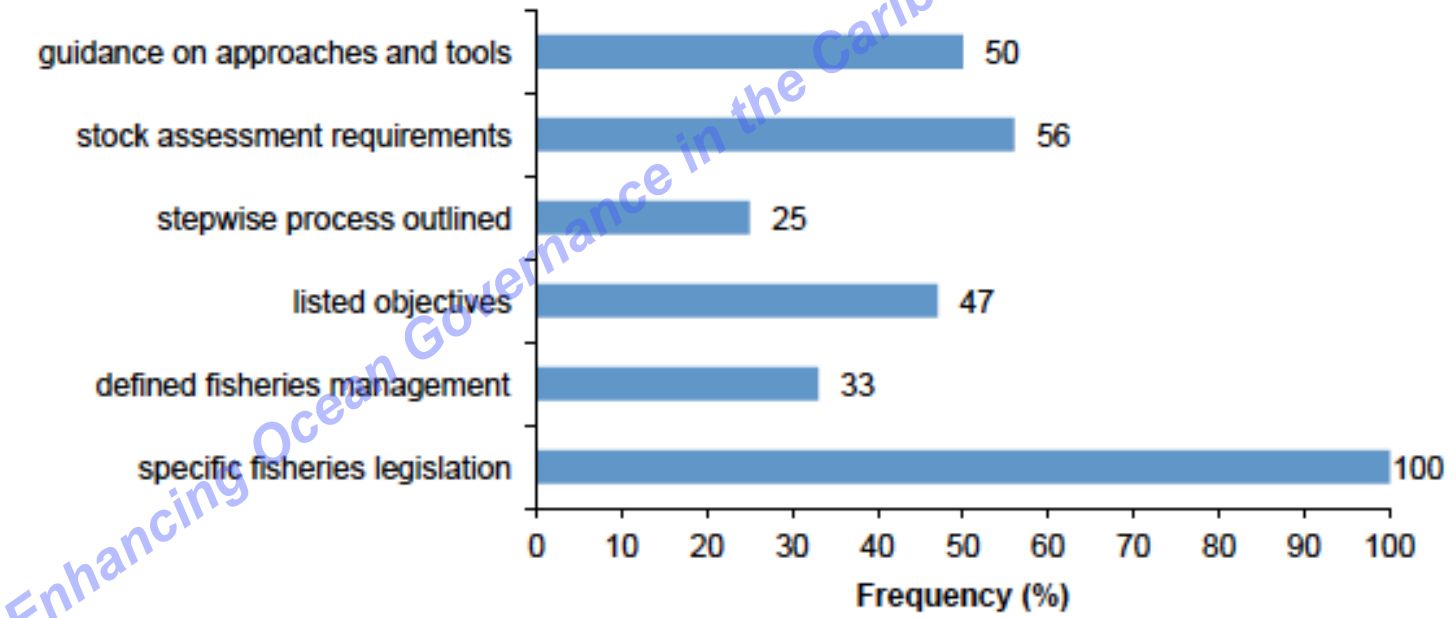
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Caribbean Fisheries Legislation

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FIGURE 1

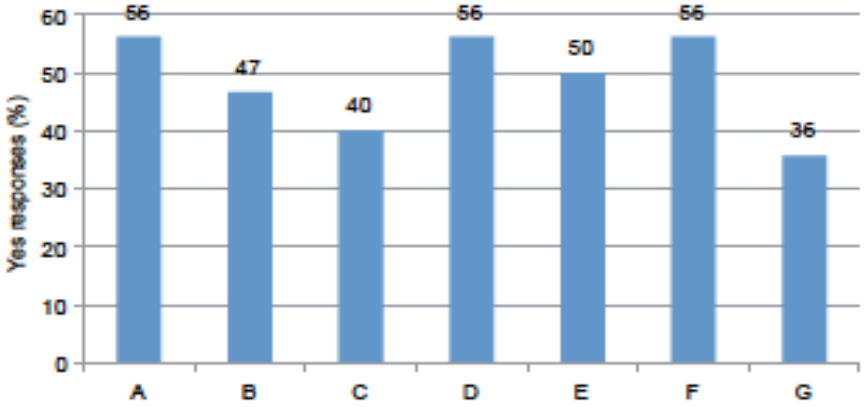
General characteristics of the fisheries legislation in responding countries



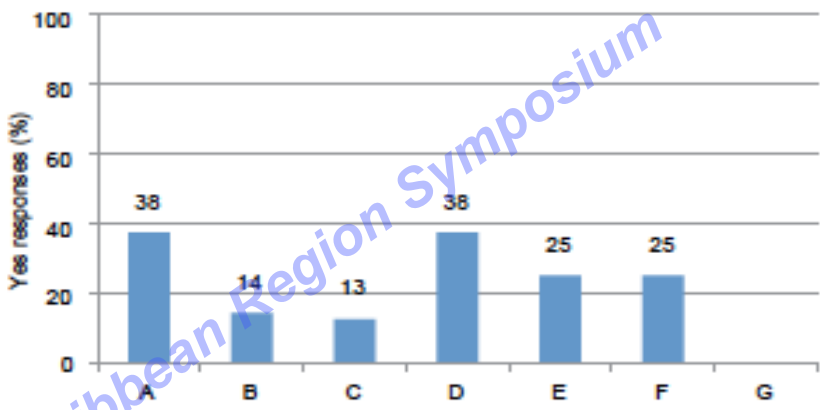
Note: For each category, the data label provides the percentage of the responding countries (which vary between 13 and 16, as explained in the text).

FIGURE 2

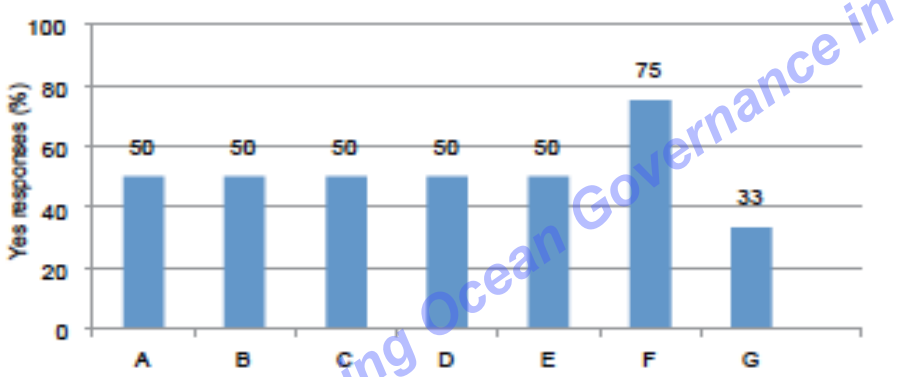
Frequency of countries that legally require information for management decisions



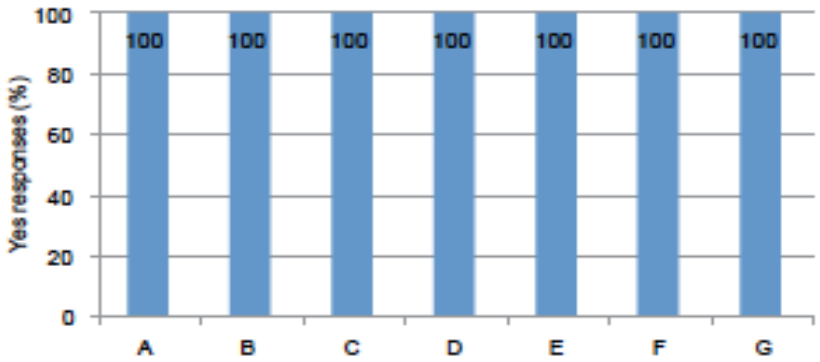
(a) All subregions combined



(b) Central and Northeast Insular Subregion



(c) Southern Subregion



(d) Western Subregion

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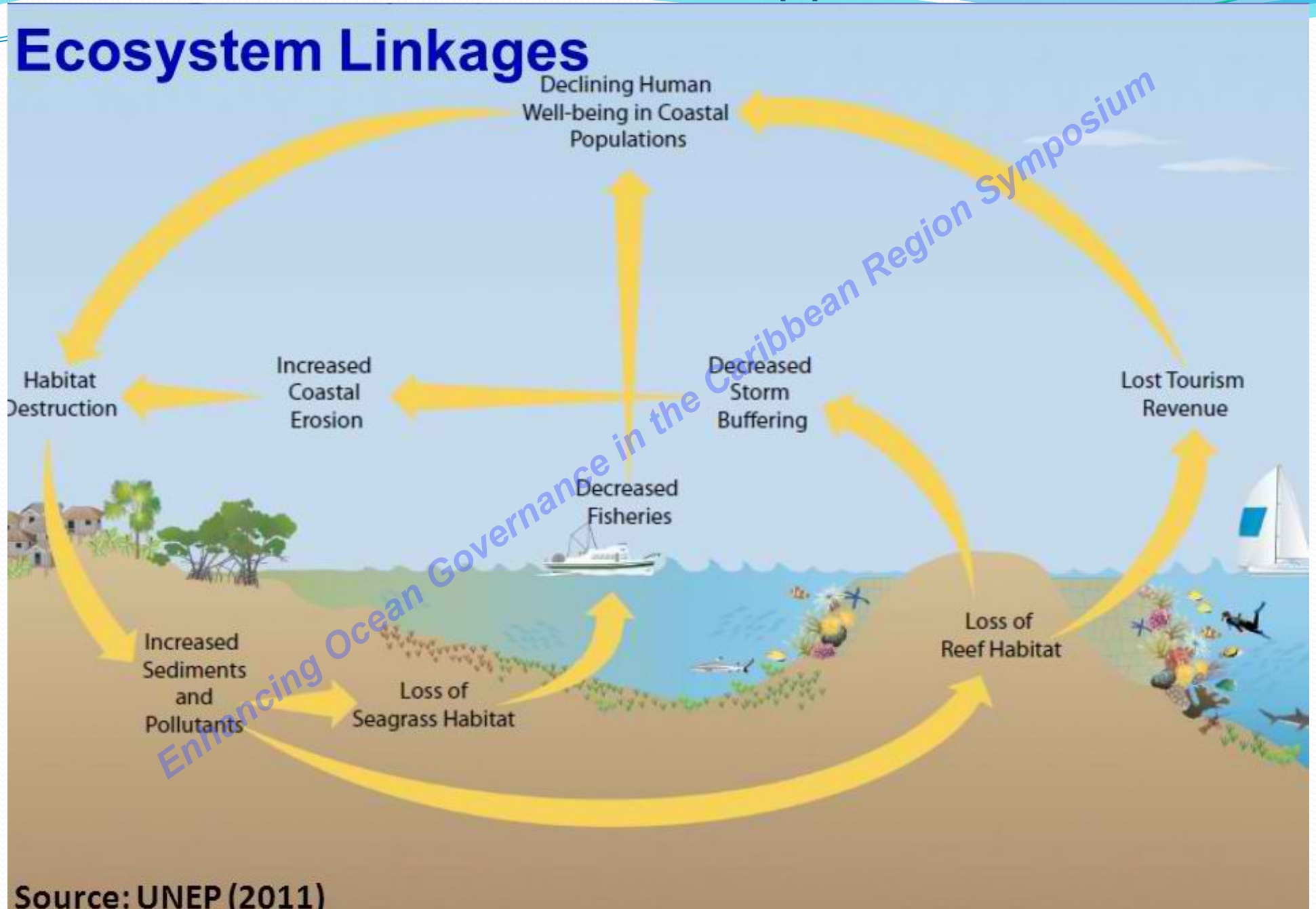
Notes: The figures show the frequency of countries (given as a percentage of responding countries, i.e. countries providing non-blank responses) that legally require the following information for management decisions: A – biological analyses/stock assessments; B – economic analysis; C – social impact analyses; D – environmental analysis; E – ecosystem analysis; F – monitoring and enforcement options; G – analysis by regional fisheries bodies. The information is illustrated for: (a) all subregions combined; (b) surveyed countries comprising the Central and Northeast Insular Subregion; (c) surveyed countries comprising the Southern Subregion; (d) surveyed countries comprising the Western Subregion. Refer also to Table 2 for the list of countries by subregion.

Overcapacity – Fishing Capacity Management Indicators

- Is the fishery open access?
- Is fleet capacity measured?
- Does overcapacity exist in the fishing fleet?
- Are capacity reduction programs in use?
- Is catch per unit area or per unit effort decreasing?
- Does overfishing exist?
- Do current regulations focus on reducing effort or harvest?

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A broader and more inclusive approach is needed.



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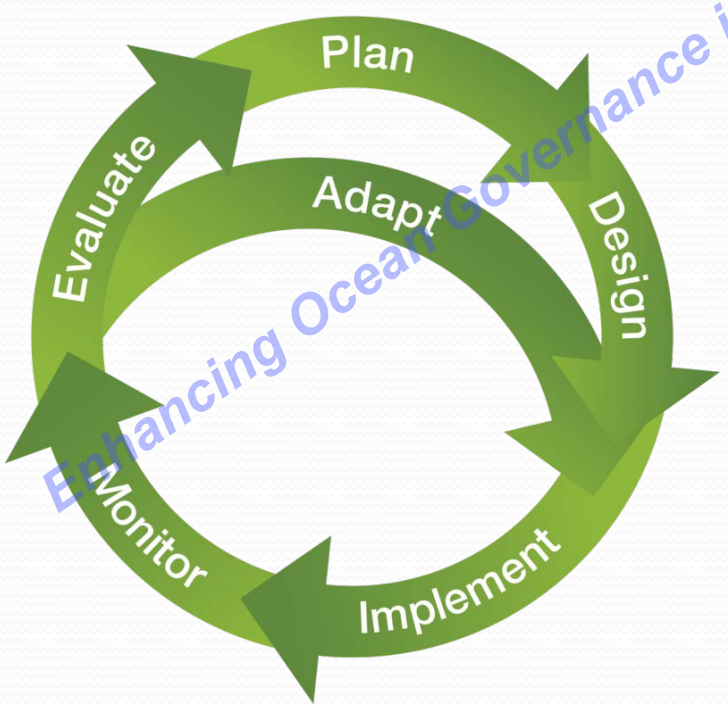
Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF)

1. What are the services and benefits provided by the ecosystem?
2. What impact does fishing have on target and associated species plus the broader ecosystem?
3. What impacts are these fishing activities having on the resources or human activities managed by other sectors?
4. What are the economic/social benefits and costs of fishing and related activities to the sector and society as a whole?
5. What other influences are affecting the fishery's capacity to reach its management objectives?

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Four Steps in EAF Management

1. Initiation and Scope – gather baseline information
2. Identification of Assets, Issues, and Priorities – based on consultation with stakeholders
3. Development of a Management System – deal with the high priority issues directly
4. Implementation, Monitoring and Performance Review – evaluate the performance of the management plan



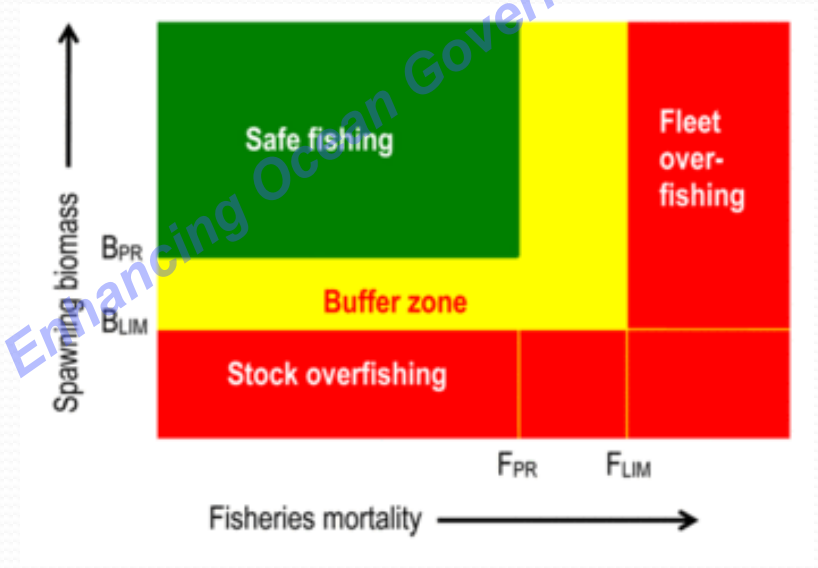
Adaptive Management

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Precautionary Approach

- If we are not 100% sure of our data, we use conservative estimates to leave some room for error
- It is better to start managing now with incomplete information, than to do nothing until all the research is complete
- Management can be improved as information improves (adaptive management)

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Short-term goals

Medium-term goals

Long-term goals

Biological Data: Avoid Re-inventing the Wheel

- Fisheries ecology is fairly similar between most Caribbean locations
- Current regional-level planning is focused on highly migratory species such as tuna and flyingfish
- Caribbean nations manage similar fisheries and ecosystems differently
- Some don’t manage at all due to lack of resources

- **Recommendation: share data and manage all marine fisheries at regional or subregional level**

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Data sharing and extrapolation



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Summary

- Regional fisheries management and governance mechanisms are encouraging collaboration between Caribbean nations
- However, the focus for regional and sub-regional management is highly migratory species (shared stocks)
- More regional cooperation is needed on:
  - Assessment and monitoring of demersal and coastal pelagic species
  - Reduction of overcapacity
  - Reduction of overfishing
  - Protection of essential fish habitat
  - Protection of ecosystem services

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Thank you
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