The Center for SeaChange
www.seachangecenter.org

SeaChange
Leadership for Ocean Policy Reform

Christophe A. G. Tulou President
RNRF Congress on Building Capacity for Coastal Solutions
Washington, D.C.
December 6-7, 2004

Sea Change
Leadership for Ocean Policy Reform
Gone Fishin’

90% Gone

SeaChange
What We Don’t Know…

Status of Marine Fish Stocks

The U.S. Department of Commerce listed 959 stocks in its 2001 Annual Report to Congress on the Status of U.S. Fisheries. The data in the pie charts below are drawn from information in the annual report.

A. Status for 959 Stocks in 2001

- 68.3% Status: Unknown
- 31.7% Known Stocks in Trouble
  - Of the 304 stocks whose status is known, 53 stocks or 17% are either experiencing overfishing, overfished, or both.

B. Status for 295 Major Stocks* in 2001

- 40.7% Status: Unknown
- 59.3% Known
  - Total Landings: 4.72 Billion Lbs.

C. Status for 664 Minor Stocks in 2001

- 80.6% Status: Unknown
- 19.4% Known
  - Total Landings: 1.71 Million Lbs.

*Major stocks are those with landings of at least 300,000 pounds. In 2001, 295 major stocks produced the majority of landings, totaling more than 6 billion pounds, compared with 5 million pounds from 664 minor stocks.
Waste Not, Want Not
Expansion of Metropolitan Coastal Areas

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology has recently made it possible to graphically depict the expansion of metropolitan areas. The developed "urbanized" (urbanized) coastal regions are expanding faster than the national average. The metropolitan region of New York City (below left) and San Francisco (at right) have experienced high physical growth rates far in excess of population growth.

Sources: NOAA, 2002; Map images for New York created by Craig Campbell, using data provided by a partnership of Regional Plan Association, the United States Geological Survey, and Cornell University. Source for San Francisco map images, United States Geological Survey. Artwork: John Vason. Maps: Jonelle Ekelson
Nutrient Overload
Dead Zone Proliferation
Why is the System Not Working?

- Take more out... put more in
- Crisis-driven policy-making... ad hoc law
Statutes, Statutes Everywhere...

- Submerged Lands Act
- Coastal Zone Management Act
- Oceans Act of 2000
- National Marine Sanctuaries Act
- Clean Water Act
- Ocean Dumping Act
- Oil Pollution Act of 1990
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
- Endangered Species Act
- Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
- National Sea Grant College Program Act of 1966
- AND about 130 others
Call to Arms

America's Living Oceans
Drafting a Course for Sea Change

Preliminary Report
of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy
Charting a Course for Sea Change

Establish a National Ocean Policy

- Realign Ocean Institutions
- Manage on an ecosystem basis
- Address the Land-Sea Connection
- Restore America’s Fisheries
- Increase Funding for Research and Education

SeaChange
National Ocean Policy

Enact federal legislation establishing a national policy to protect, maintain and restore the health of marine ecosystems.

Could function like NEPA but require the course of action that fulfills the national policy

Federal agencies required to consult with National Oceans Agency regarding compliance with the national policy

Implemented primarily through comprehensive regional plans
Realign Institutions

Institutional restructuring to carry out national ocean policy
Make NOAA an independent agency
Consolidate ocean programs within NOAA
Establish a National Oceans Council in the EOP
Ecosystem-based Management

Implementation requires:

A mandate to identify threats and set goals for ecosystem restoration
A forum to bring relevant authorities to the table (feds, states, tribes)
A process to develop and agree to comprehensive plans
A mechanism for ensuring compliance
The Land-Sea Connection

Our activities on land strongly affect the health of marine ecosystems
Reduce land-based sources of pollution, particularly non-point sources
Protect important habitat and manage growth to maintain open space
Integrate pollution control and land-use planning to protect watersheds