



OCEAN TRUST

SUSTAINING THE OCEANS & COMMUNITIES THAT DEPEND ON THE SEA

THE SUSTAINABILITY OF SEAFOOD

A few observations

Claims on the demise of fisheries based on catch trends and misuse of terminology have created confusion on the status of fisheries (Science Sustainability Forum 2012).

Catch trends are a poor indicator of stock abundance (Jensen 2012).

Abundance levels of global fisheries for which we have data have remained stable since 1980. (Worm et al. 2009, NCEAS Working Group, Hilborn 2012).

Individual populations and catch composition vary by region, but globally catch has remained stable since 1985 (FAO SOFIA 2010).

Ecosystem shifts like the 1977 Bering Sea regime shift impact abundance and are likely to occur in the future that will change individual populations (Beamish 2012).

Fisheries can be sustainable even if stocks are not at levels producing maximum sustainable yields, MSY (Rothschild 2012).

Ocean Trust's perspective

“Since the mid-1990s and through the 2000’s several studies have predicted the rapid decline of marine fisheries worldwide...paradoxically...the total global capture statistics... prompts a word that has very rarely been used to describe catch trends: stability.” (FAO SOFIA 2010)

In most places where we have assessment data stocks are not declining, but increasing and overfishing is declining (Worm et al 2009). The challenge is not with fisheries from well-developed regions, it is in the limited funding for assessments and management capacity.

Even here, there are things that seafood companies can do to promote sustainability.

Ocean Trust provides a refreshing look at the status of fisheries from a science perspective in terms that the public can understand, and a summary of findings from leading scientists like Ray Hilborn, Brian Rothschild, Dick Beamish and national and international science organizations.

Ocean Trust also has a 20 year award-winning record of providing fishery, wildlife and coastal sustainability solutions for the seafood community; and its partnership with the American Institute of Fisheries Research Biologists provides a sound basis for its science.

More importantly, it offers unique options for foodservice, retail and food distribution companies to ensure the sustainability of their seafood and instill confidence with their customers.

“Thank you for a fantastic and insightful meeting. The collaboration and information helped give me confidence in our position as a premier seafood restaurant.” John Cooper, Bonefish Grill.

