

Marine and freshwater conservation in BC: progress and challenges

BC's Marine Fisheries

Scott Wallace

*Sustainable Fisheries Analyst
David Suzuki Foundation*

swallace@davidsuzuki.org

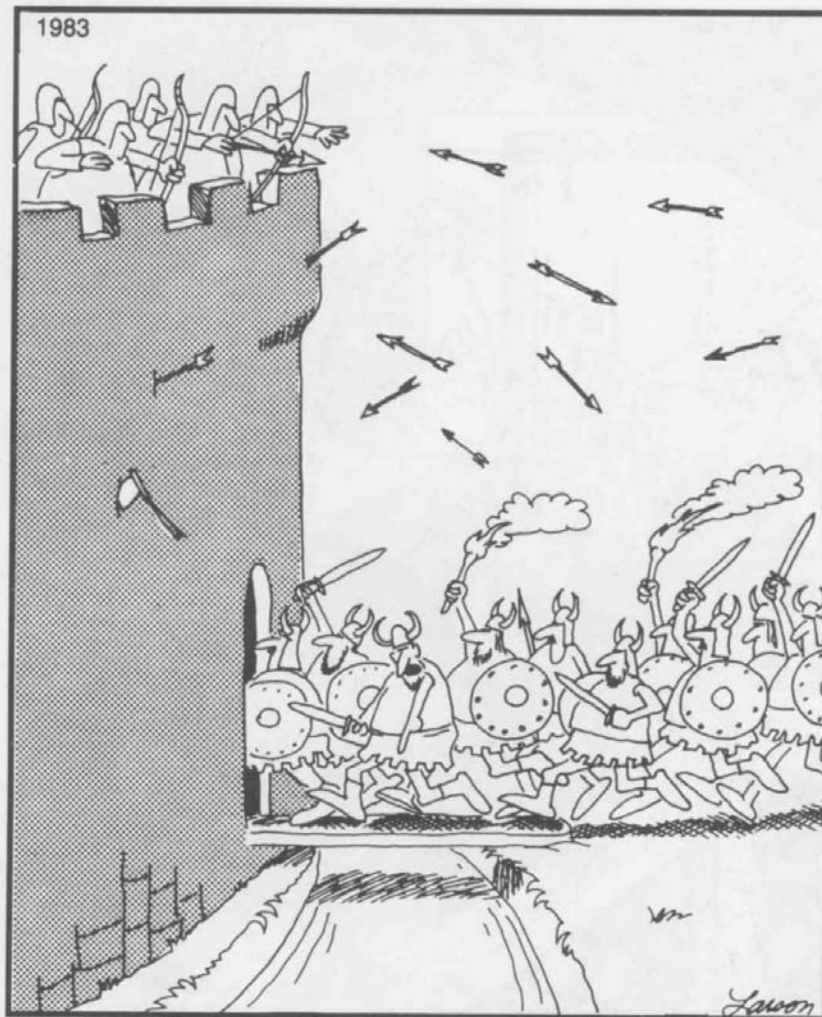
November 21, 2008



David
Suzuki
Foundation

SOLUTIONS ARE IN OUR NATURE

ABS IHHPC CAIA BCSFA LOS CWS
PMO CFIA CPAWS
EBSA WCVIAMB
HMP OHEB MCC FBC UBCM WWSS
UNFAO DFO EBM DSF PHMA
MPA MSC COA WWF
PSC CEAA MSY LRP SCBC
IUCN CIC TAC IPHC CAAR
ITQ BCAFC
SAD PST PNCIMA BCMCA PFRCC
RCA MWA COSEWIC
EPMP PSARC GTAC BCSA
WSP IFMP MUP
SEHAB COS SARA
FRP HAB CSAB
GHLAC OAP
CSAS NMCA HADD FRSSI PacMARA

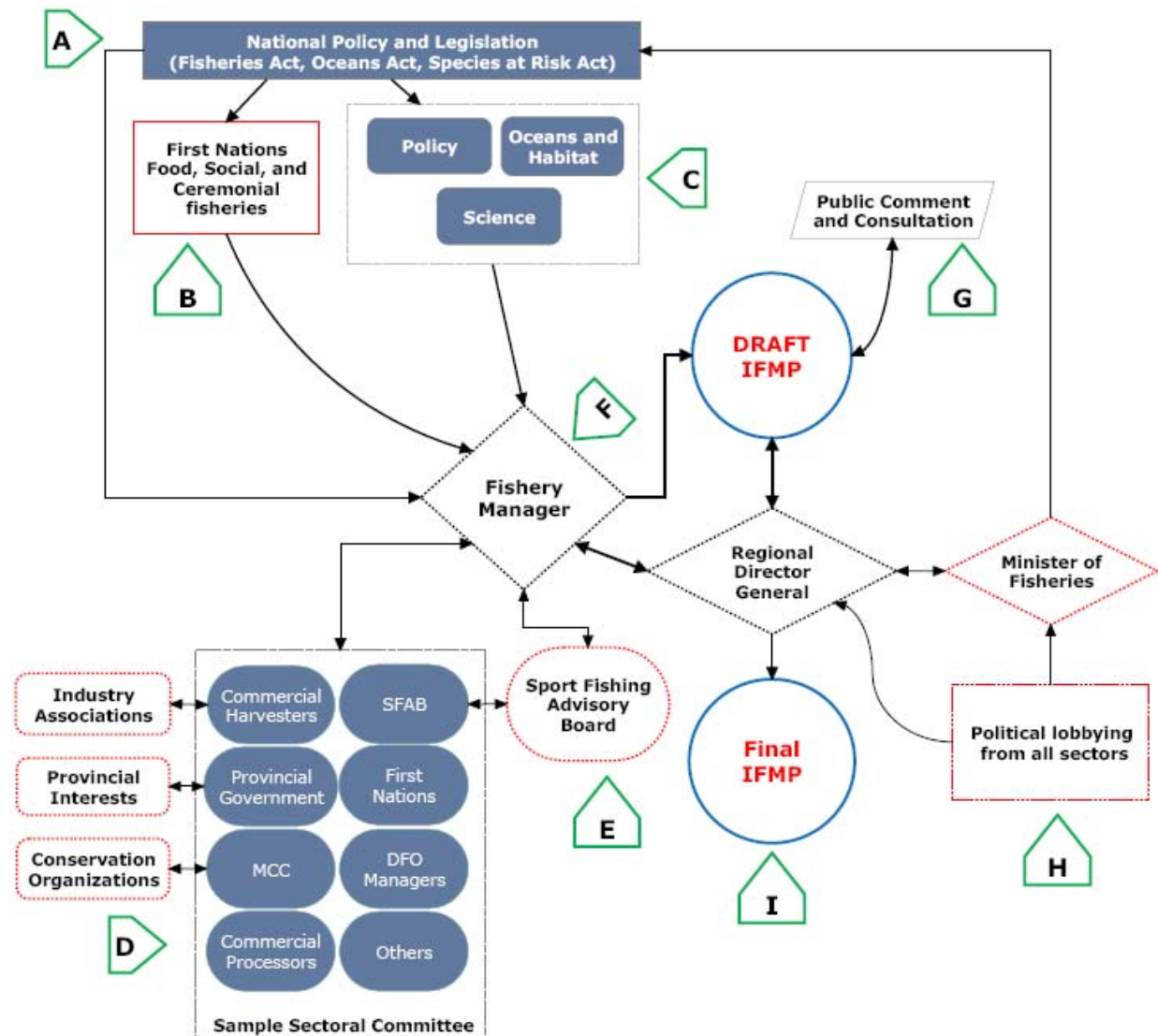
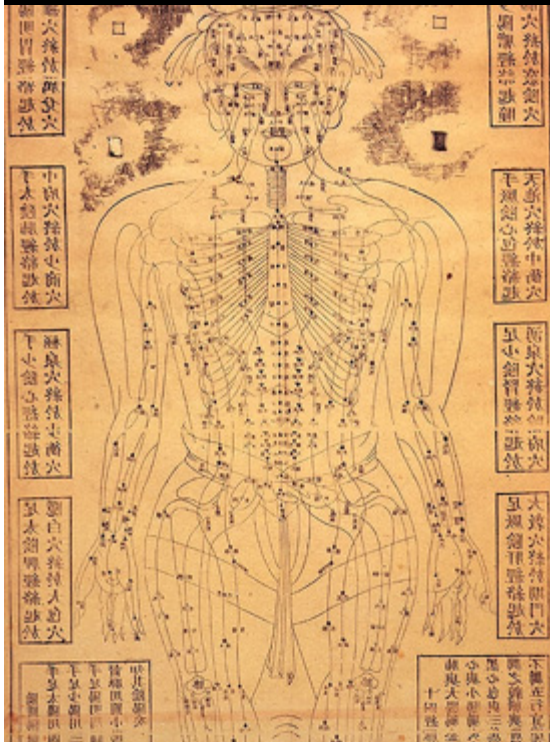


"Oo! Goldfish, everyone! Goldfish!"

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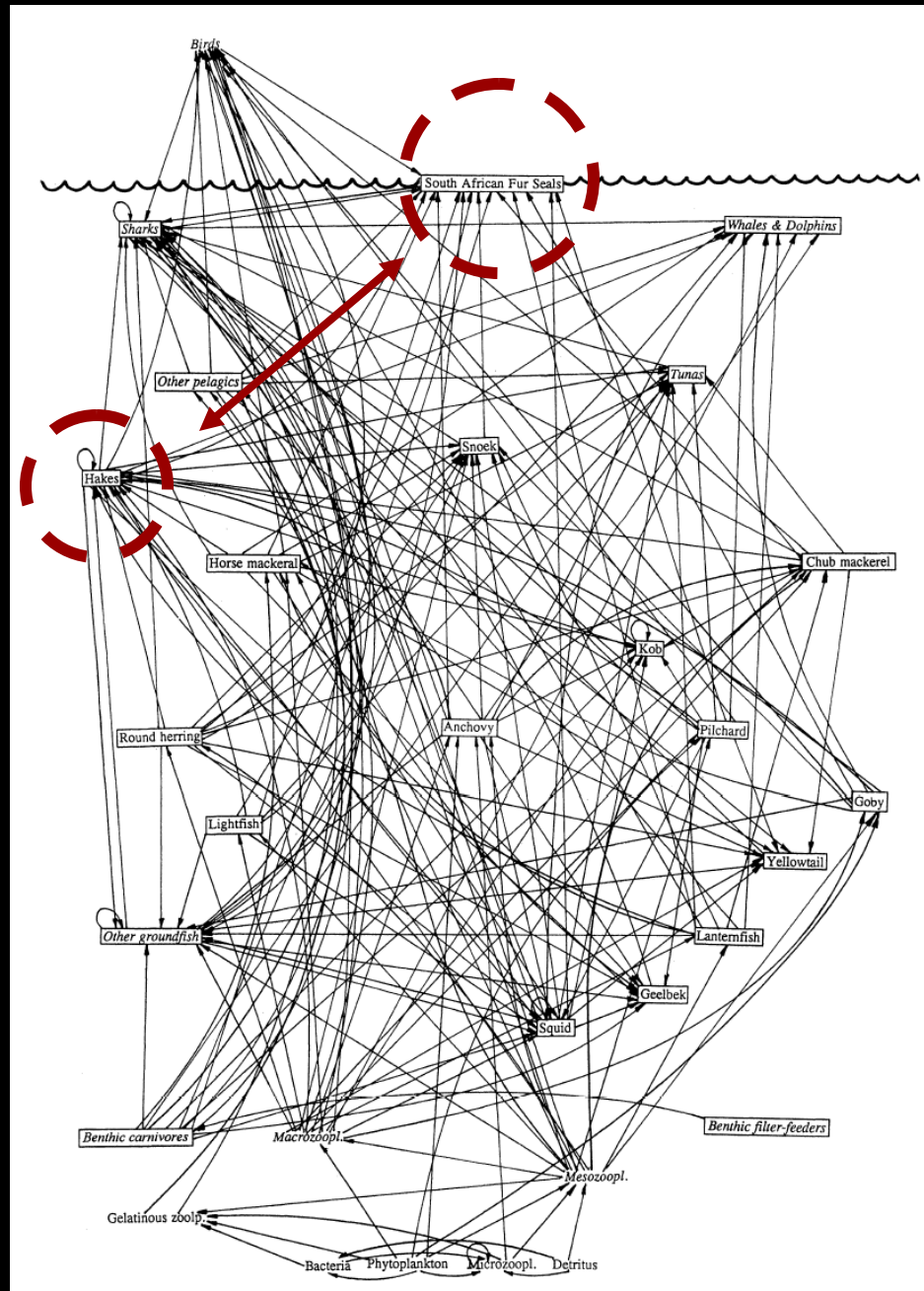
?





Wallace 2008

Marine Conservation Acupuncture: MCA



~29 million
trophic
pathways
between fur
seals and
hake

Yodzis, *Ecology*, 2000

Marine Fisheries in BC

Progress and Challenges

- Groundfish
- Herring
- Shellfish fisheries
- Recreational fisheries
- Protected Areas
- Habitat protection
- Species at Risk
- Marine Stewardship Council

Groundfish

Progress

- Integrated groundfish
- Catch accounting
- 164 RCAs
- Reduced TACs (not all)
- Reduced catch
- Reduced area fished
- Research surveys
- Agreement for integrated advisory board.

Challenges

- Are TACs appropriate?
- SARA species
- Deep sea trawl fishery
- Continuation of pilot program
- Data sharing
- Socio-economic concerns
- Habitat protection
- Restoration (Strait of Georgia)



Longspine thornyhead, aka "idiotfish"
-habitat concerns, *special concern*
-no change in management

The Conservation of Marine Biological Diversity
and Species Abundance on Canada's West Coast:
Institutional Impediments

Groundfish: A Case Study



A Report by Terry Glavin
for the Sierra Club of British Columbia

Why did groundfish integration work?

- Scientific information
- Pressure from ENGOs, public, and industry
- DFO leadership
- Industry designed the system to get to a conservation outcome.

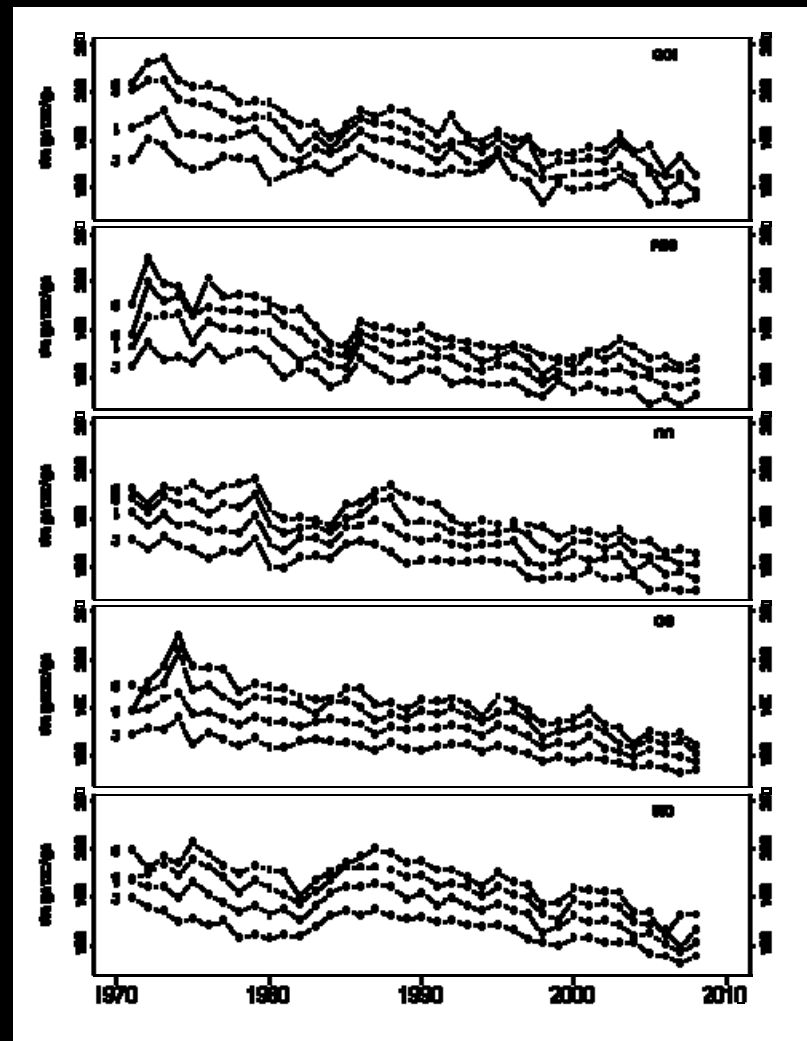
Herring Fishery

Progress

- Functioning advisory process.
- Controlled effort
- Catch accountability

Challenges

- Low abundance, why?
- Declining size at age
- Inseason management
- Ecosystem considerations
- TEK vs. scientific knowledge



Schweigert et al. 2008

Shellfish Fisheries

Progress

- Functioning advisory processes.
- Generally well managed



Challenges

- Little involvement by conservation community
- Sea otter interactions



Recreational Fisheries

Progress

- Slowly being recognized by DFO as being a conservation concern

Challenges

- Powerful lobby group (SFAB)
- Poor catch accounting and enforcement
- Little involvement by ENGOs
- Widespread fishery 300,000+ licenses
- Commercial guides and lodges vs. individuals



“450 pounds of cod, two rods, two hours.”

Habitat Protection

Progress

- Coral and Sponge Conservation Strategy
- Sensitive Benthic Areas Policy



Challenges

- Ensuring a robust policy
- Implementation into IFMPs
- Managing the unknowns



Species at Risk

(impacted by non-salmonid marine fisheries)

Progress

- We have legislation

Challenges

- Implementation
- Bias against listing of marine fish
- Protection of critical habitat
- Socio-economic impact analysis
- Too many off ramps

Who

- Boccacio
- Canary rockfish
- Roughey rockfish
- Longspine thornyhead
- Basking shark
- Tope (soupfin shark)
- Bluntnose sixgill shark
- Killer whale (3 populations)
- Black-footed albatross
- Sea otter

Marine Stewardship Council

Progress

- Developed a market for eco-certified seafood



Challenges

- High standard needs to be maintained

Nearly every large BC fishery is considering or is undergoing MSC pre-assessment

- Halibut (almost complete)
- Pacific hake (in process)
- Pacific salmon: sockeye, pink, chum (in process)
- Sablefish (beginning process)
- Spiny dogfish (pre-assessment complete)
- Groundfish bottom trawl (pre-assessment complete)
- Several others in confidential pre-assessment process

Summary

- Conservation community has been successful at getting things on the agenda:
 - SARA, Oceans Act, MPAs, Marine Use Planning, Wild Salmon Policy, Sensitive Benthic Areas policy, advisory processes, sustainable seafood markets.
- Less successful in achieving implementation of these initiatives with a strong conservation standard.
- Sufficient legislative and policy tools in place
- Groundfish reforms appear to be a conservation success

Protected Areas

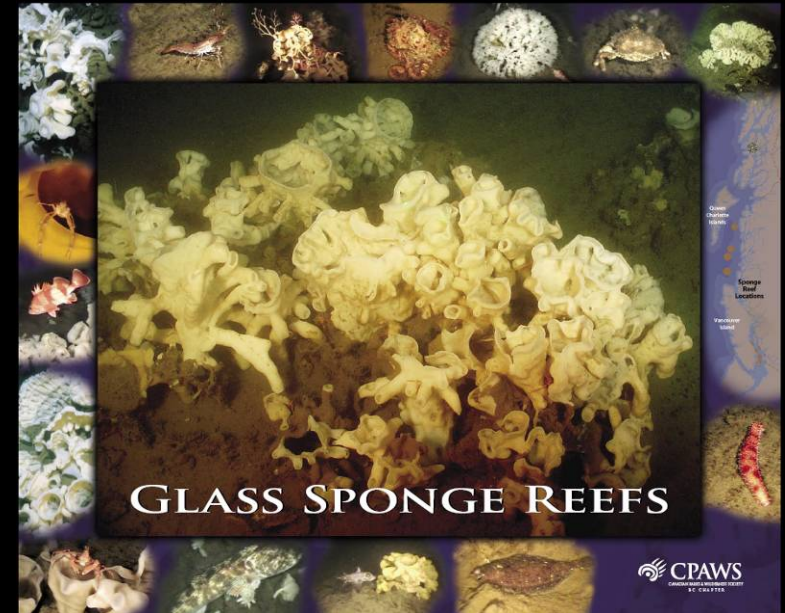
NMCAs, MPAs, Fisheries Closures

Progress

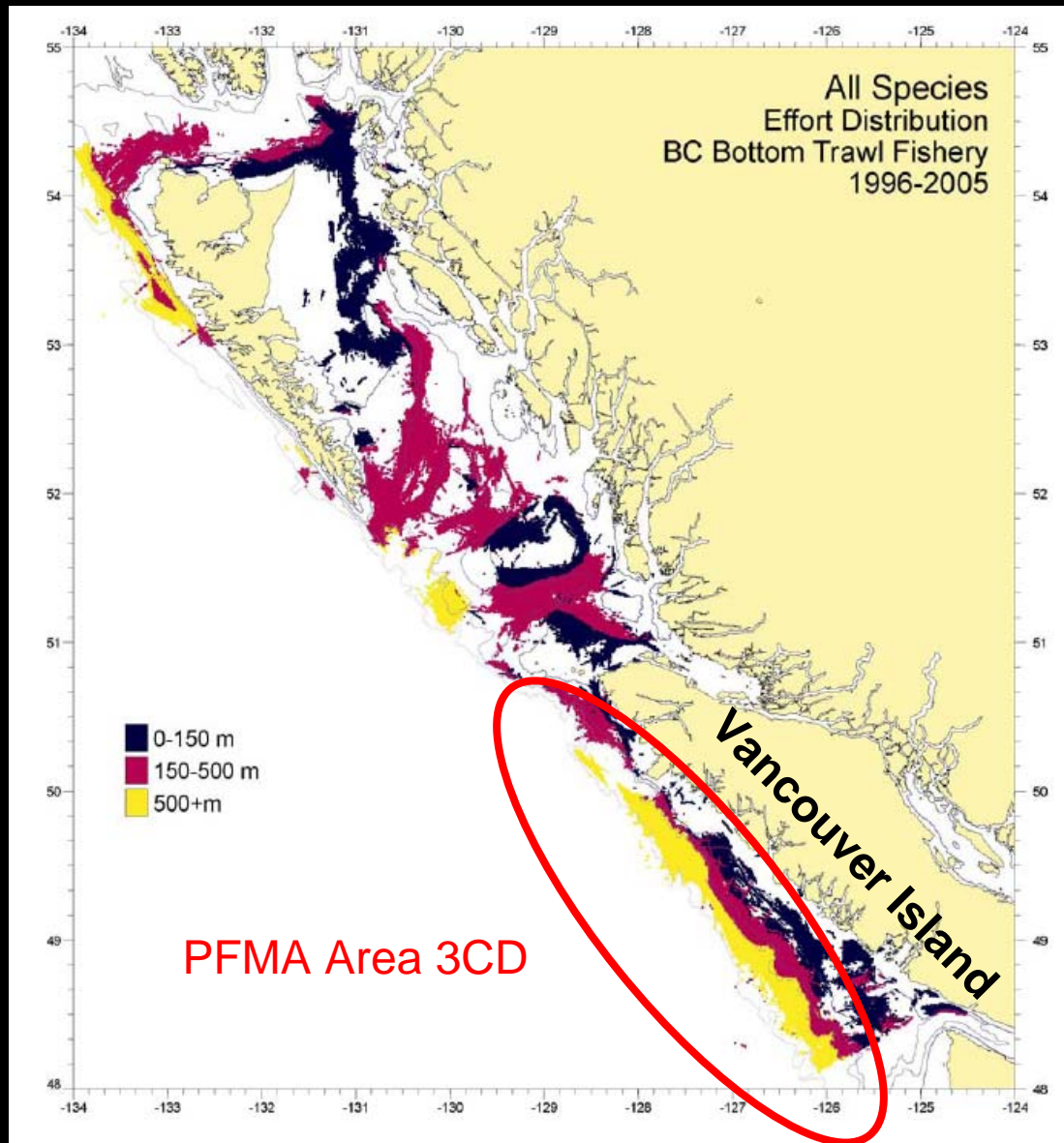
- Several RCAs (fisheries closures)
- Bowie Seamount
- Endeavour hot vents
- Sponge Reefs
- Gwaii Haanas
- Southern Gulf Islands

Challenges

- Slow to establish MPAs and NMCAs
- Conservation gains are questionable
- Networks with high conservation value
- Integrating changes in fisheries management
- A tool for uncertainty



Extent of groundfish bottom trawling



Do we really understand
what's going on?

100% of 150-500m strata trawled
94% of 500-1200 m strata trawled

Source: Sinclair 2007