



CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD



Marine Stewardship Council

Addressing bycatch in MSC-certified fisheries

Wakefield Symposium, May 2014

The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of several fish, likely salmon, piled together. The fish are fresh and their scales are glistening. The image is split vertically, with the left side being a lighter, semi-transparent version of the same image, serving as a backdrop for the text.

Contents

- **Intro to MSC certification**
- **Objective of review**
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- **Take away messages**



Intro to MSC



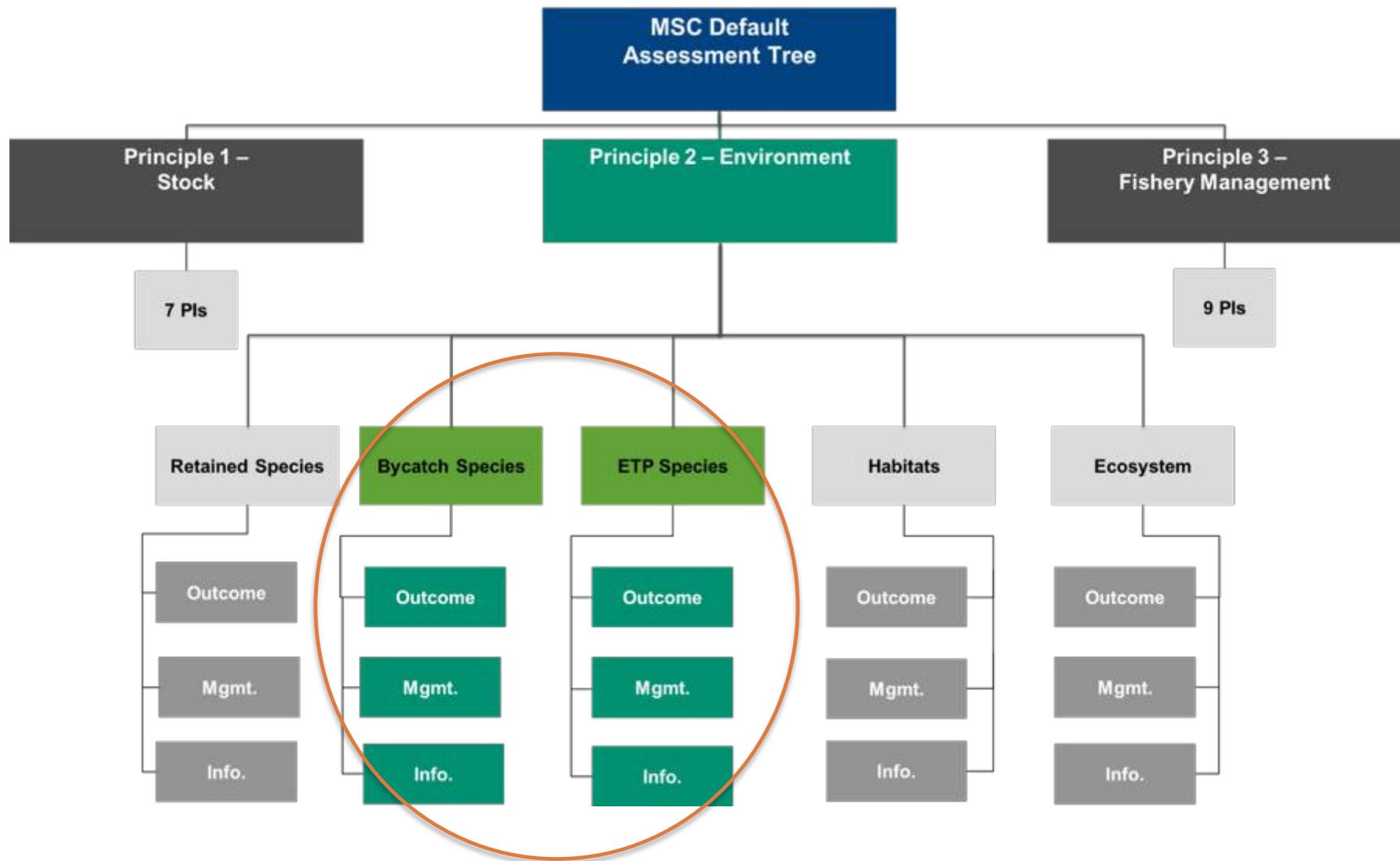
- **Marine Stewardship Council**
– founded in 1997
- **Standard setter (3rd party certification)**

Mission

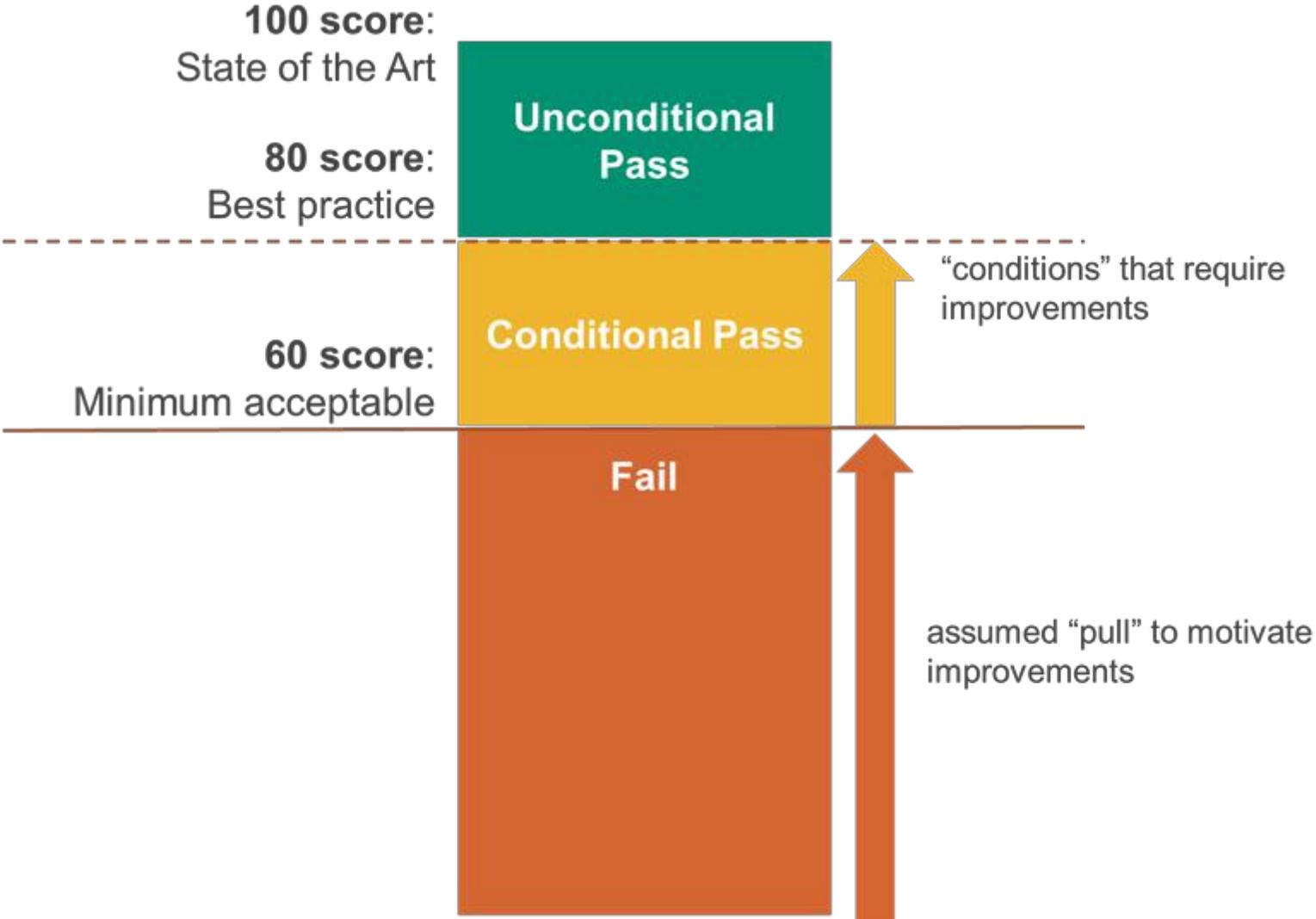
Our mission is to use our ecolabel and fishery certification program to contribute to the health of the world's oceans by recognising and rewarding sustainable fishing practices, influencing the choices people make when buying seafood, and working with our partners to transform the seafood market to a sustainable basis.



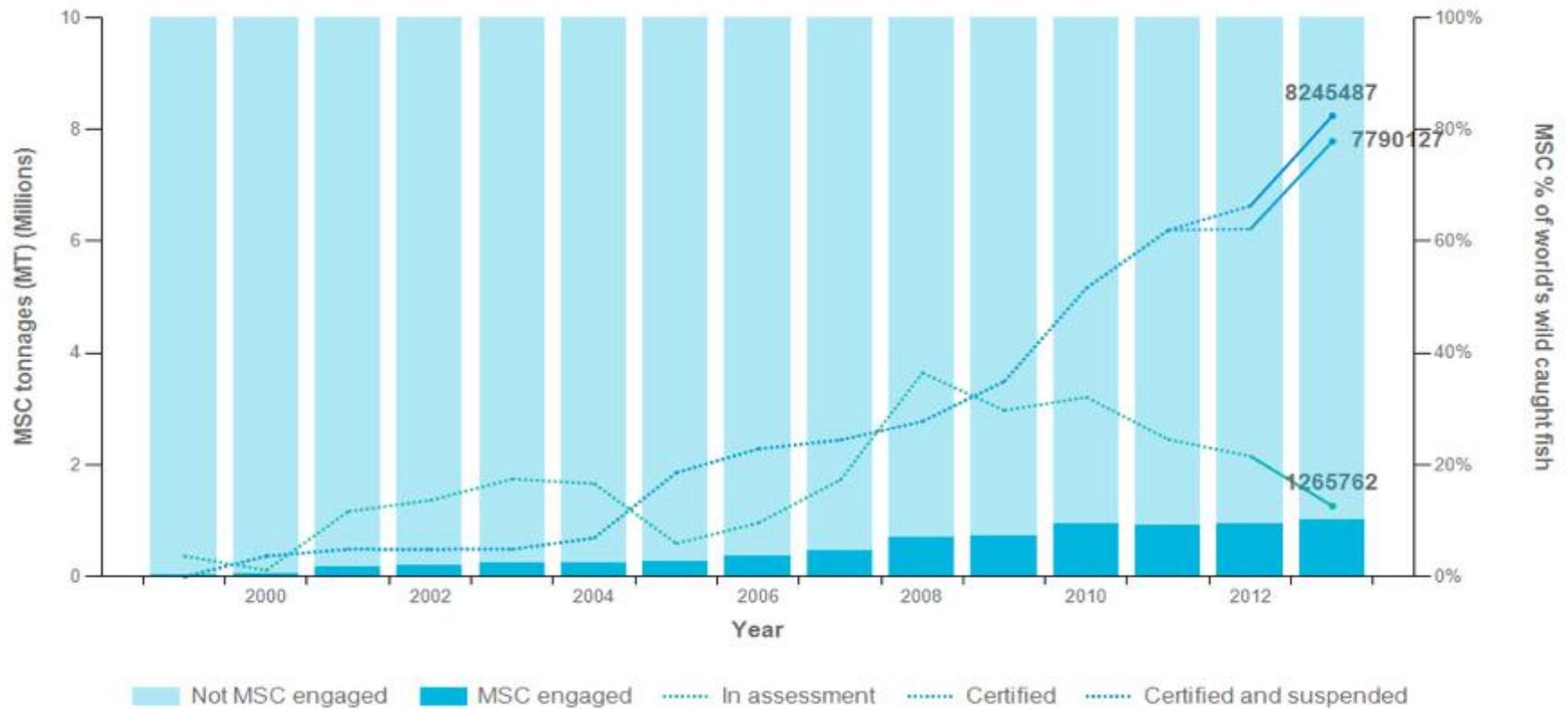
MSC 'Default Assessment Tree' (2010-2014)



MSC 'Theory of Change'



Trends in MSC tonnages





Objective of review

What have fisheries done to improve their performance with respect to bycatch?

- **PIs where conditions applied**
- **Specific actions undertaken**

Analysis undertaken as background to MSC Fisheries Standard Review (2013-14)

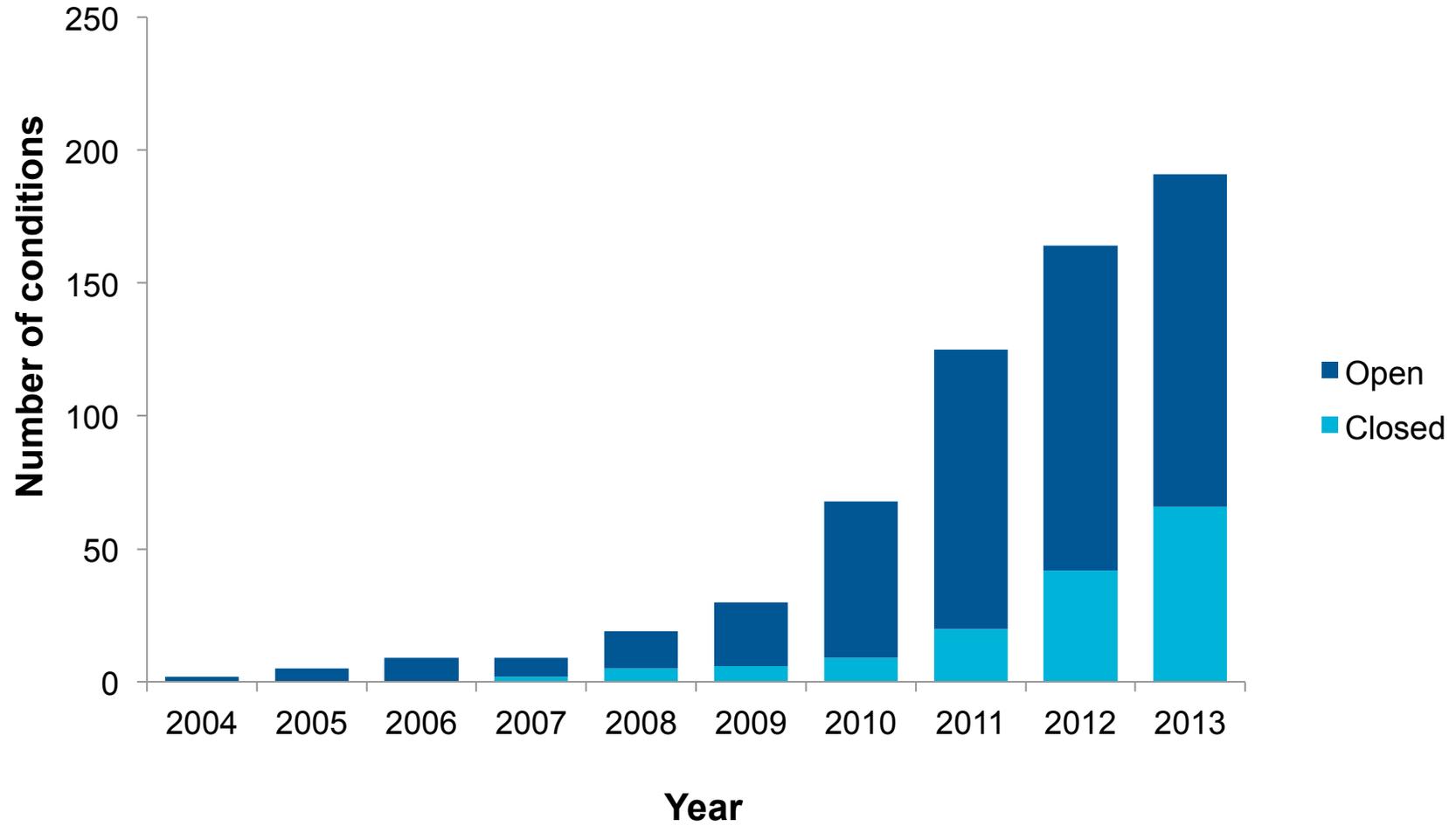
Methods



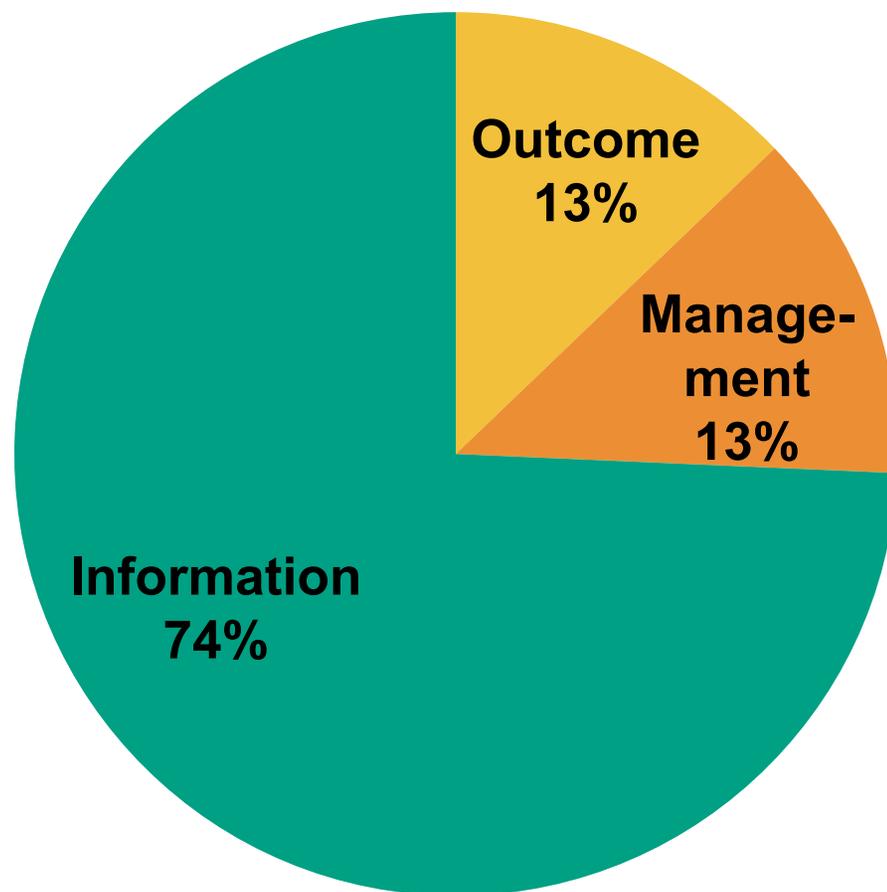
- **Used internal MSC scoring database to track number of conditions closed on Bycatch & ETP PIs**
 - Mapping of pre-default tree PIs
- **Reviewed assessment reports for these PIs to determine if they related specifically to bycatch**
- **Recorded actions undertaken by clients in closing bycatch conditions**
- **Categorised actions undertaken**



Progress of bycatch related conditions

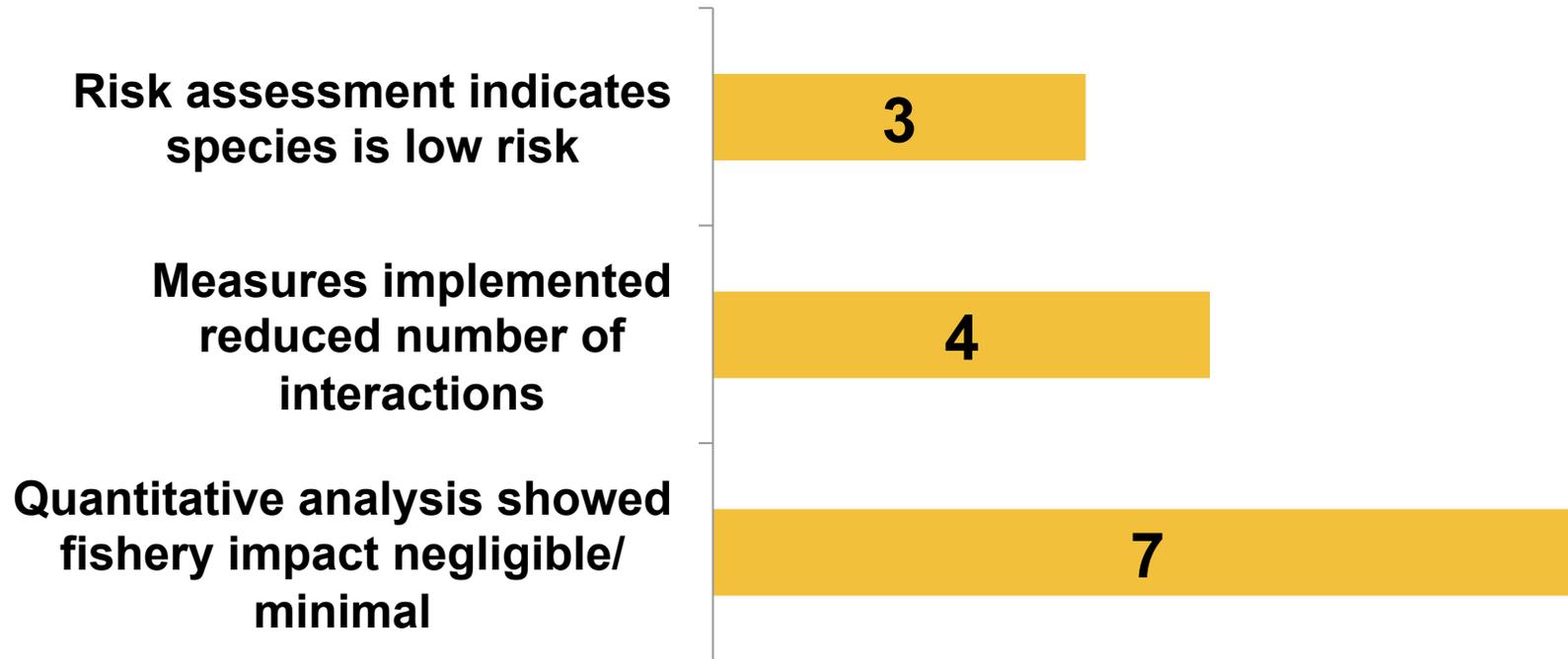


Actions undertaken by fisheries



n=109

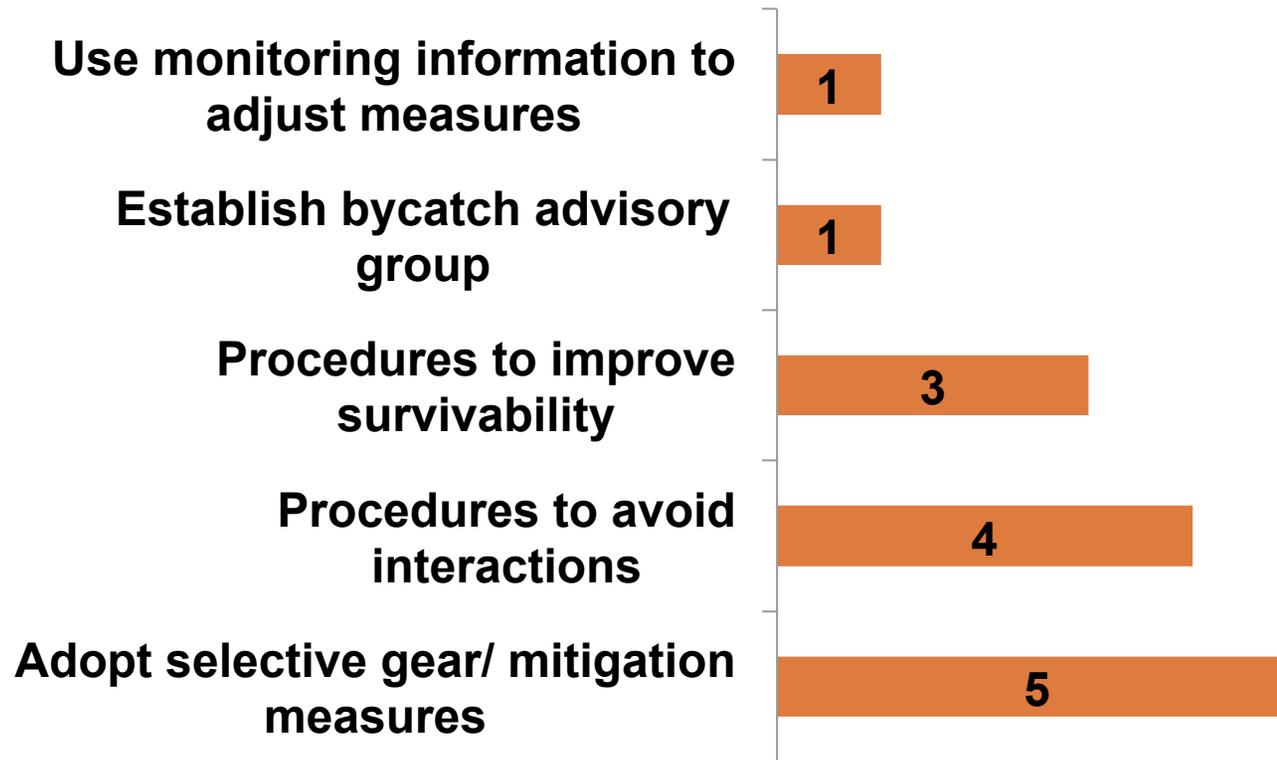
Outcome actions completed



Example: DFPO Denmark North Sea plaice (Danish seine, trawl):

- Worked with DK government to implement EU fishing rules outside EU waters - prohibiting skate and no directed fishery for spurdog
 - Landings of common skate reduced to near 0 and spurdog reduced by 50% and are well within bycatch quota (2.6tonnes)
-

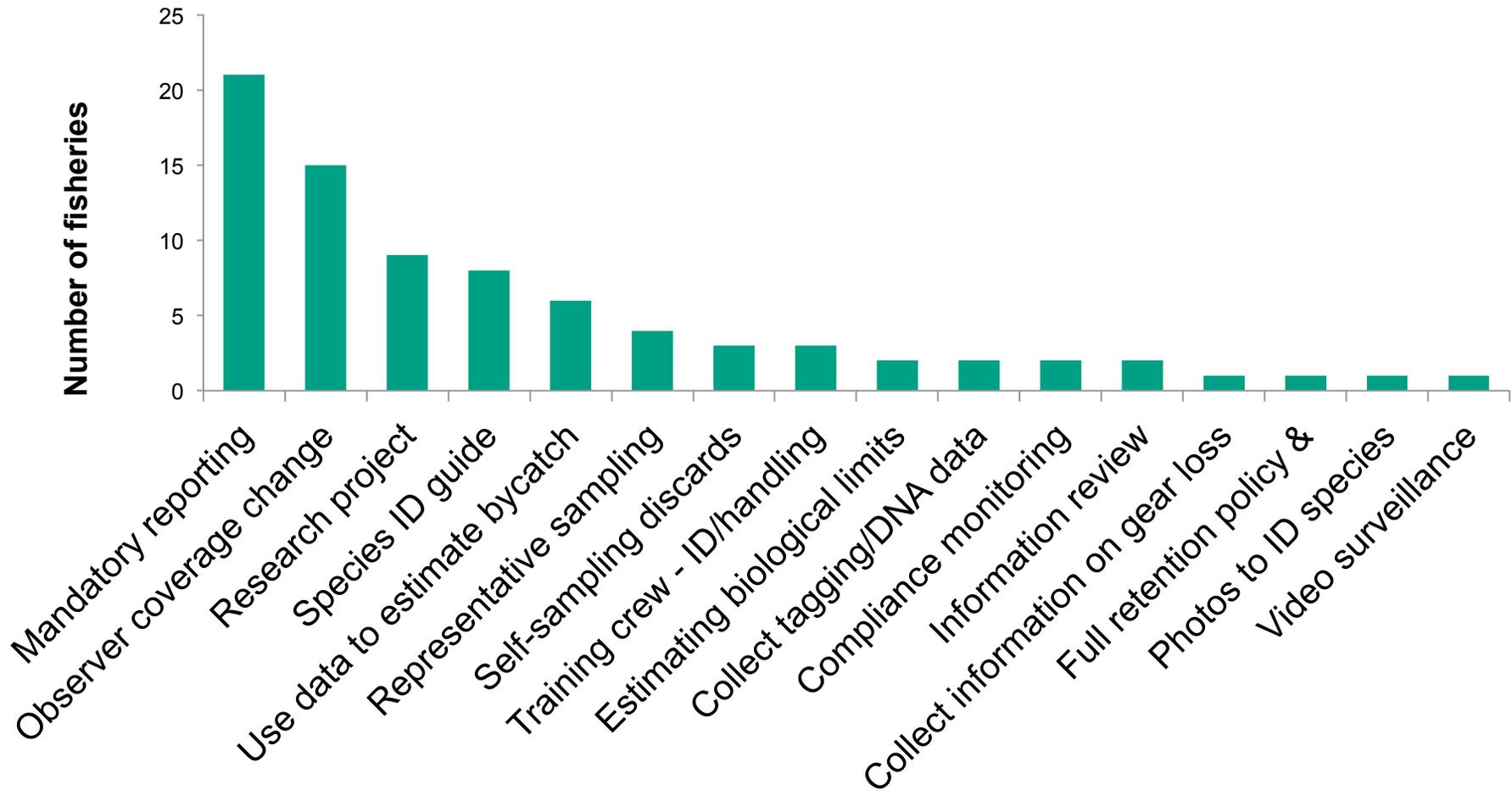
Management actions completed



Example: Western Australia rock lobster (pots/traps):

- Implemented Sea Lion Excluder Device & monitoring near sea lion breeding sites
 - During certification period, video monitoring identified another important sea lion area, so new condition added to use SLEDs in this zone as well
-

Information actions completed



Example: South Africa hake trawl

- Contracted research institute to undertake investigation into magnitude of seabird interactions, estimated ~10,000 birds/year
- Worked with BirdLife to implement mitigation measure: tori lines

Take away messages



- Since 2004, 48 fisheries globally have made improvements & closed conditions on bycatch – this number is increasing
 - In closing conditions on bycatch most actions undertaken were to improve information but actions undertaken in one PI also impacted others, e.g. SA hake
 - Results show the ‘theory of change’ at work!
 - **Fisheries Standard Review** used this information to revise Management & Information PIs:
 - Require review of alternative mitigation measures for bycatch species and implement as appropriate
 - Make requirements for adequacy of information to score fishery more explicit to ensure consistency in scoring
-

Further reading



For recent studies on the environmental impacts of MSC and the standard-setting procedure, see:

Agnew, D.J. et al. (2013). The MSC experience: developing an operational certification standard and a market incentive to improve fishery sustainability. ICES Journal of Marine Science, doi:10.1093/icesjms/fst091.

Martin, S.M. et al. (2012). An evaluation of environmental changes within fisheries involved in the Marine Stewardship Council certification scheme. Reviews in Fishery Science, 20: 61-69.

Wiedenfeld, D. A. (2012). Analysis of the effects of Marine Stewardship Council fishery certification on the conservation of seabirds. American Bird Conservancy, The Plains, VA, USA. 40 pp.



Thank you

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**Thank you to colleagues Alice Daish, Sarah Martin,
Robert Lefebure, Nicolas Gutierrez & David Agnew**

Photo credits: Sealord Group Ltd, MSC, Matt Watson, Claire Pescod, Colin Charman, Canadian Sablefish Association Megan Atcheson

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