

Socioeconomic factors influencing swordfish fisheries and fishing communities

Considerations for West Coast Communities

Carrie Pomeroy, PhD

California Sea Grant

US West Coast Swordfish Workshop

Working Toward Sustainability

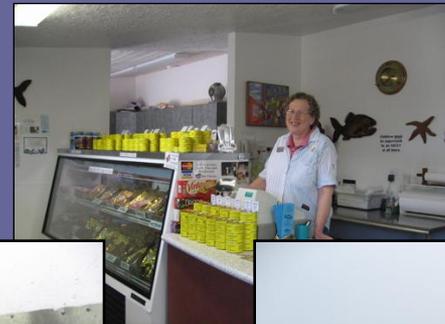
May 10-11, 2011

San Diego, CA

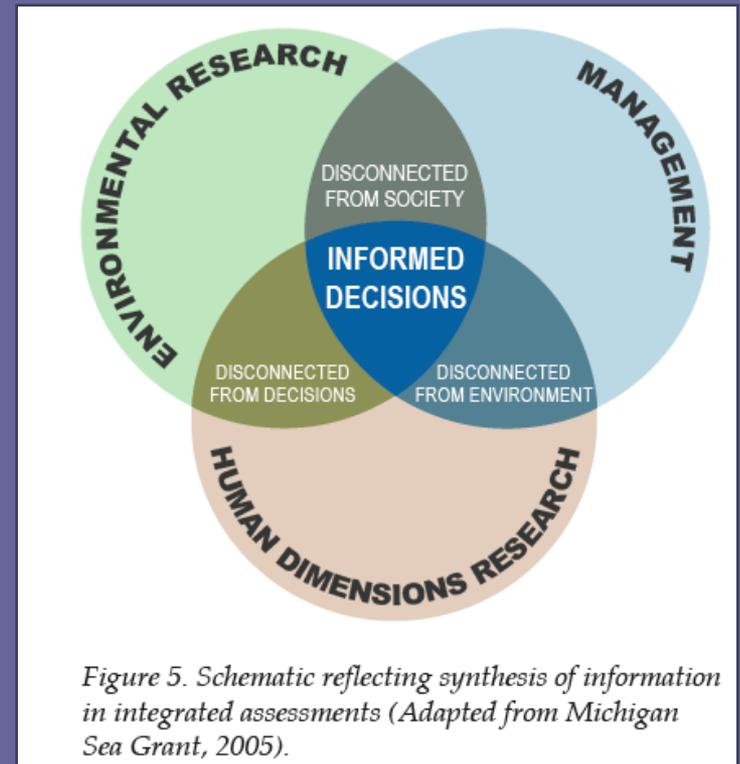
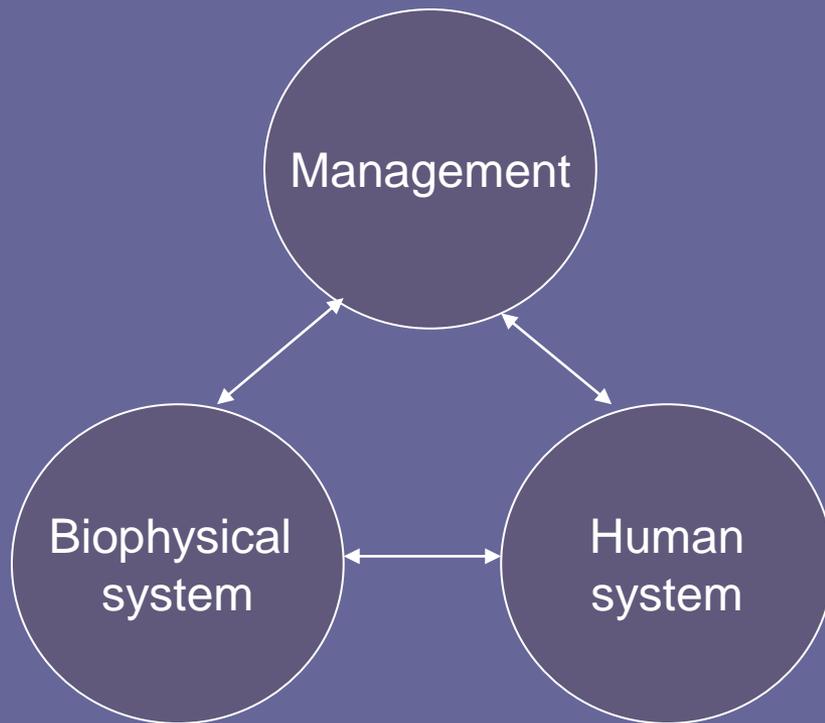


Overview

- Fisheries systems: The human dimension
- Factors affecting fisheries and fishing communities
- Opportunities and challenges for viable fishing communities



Fisheries Systems



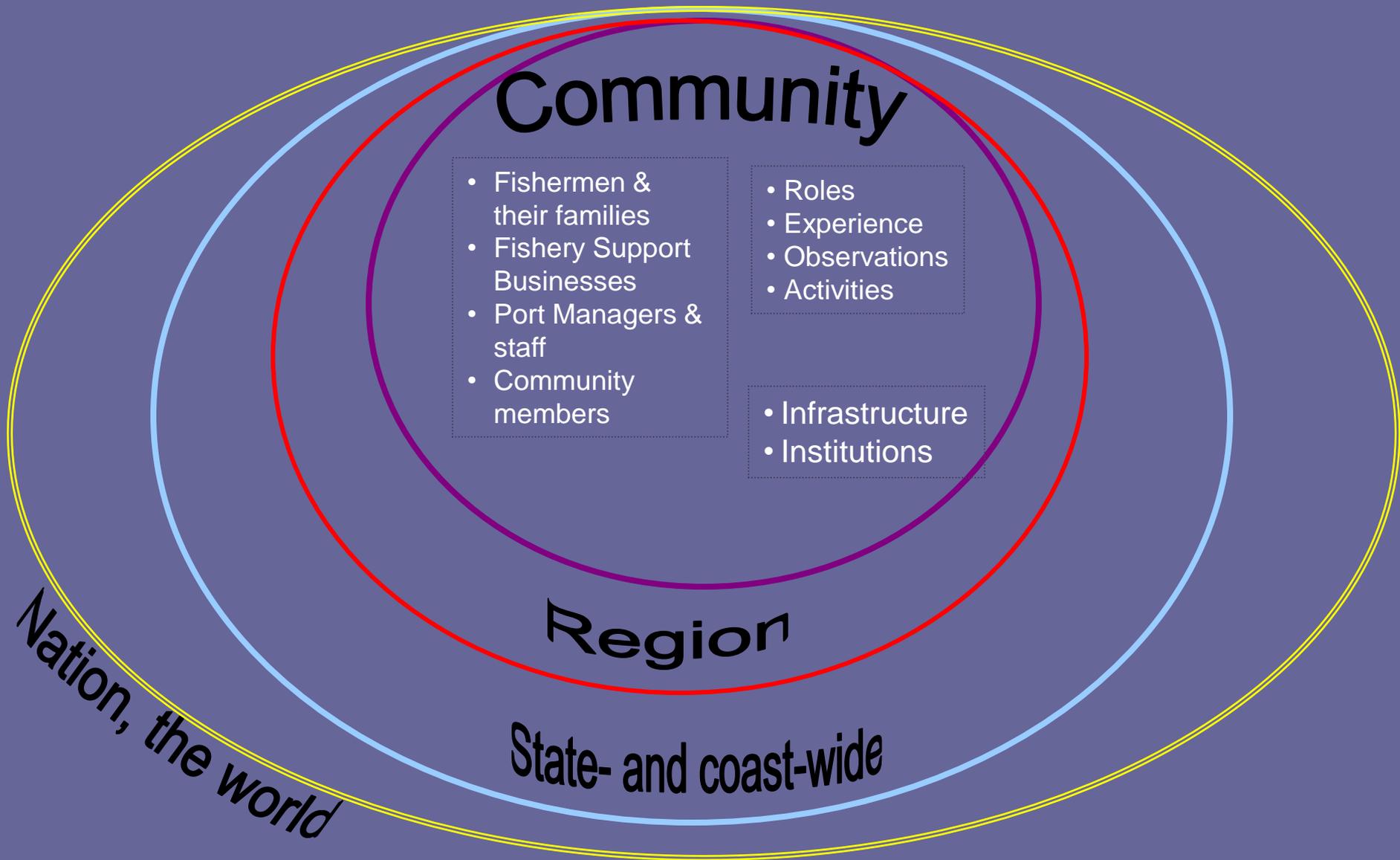
Fishing Communities

MSFCMA National Standard 8

*Conservation and management measures shall, consistent with the conservation requirements of this Act , take into account the importance of fishery resources to **fishing communities** in order to (A) provide for the **sustained participation** of such communities, and (B) to the extent practicable, **minimize adverse economic impacts** on such communities.*

A fishing community is a community that is **substantially dependent** on, or **substantially engaged** in, the harvest or processing of fishery resources to meet social and economic needs; the fishing vessel owners, operators, crew and fish processors that are based in such a community.

Communities in Context



The North Coast Fishing Communities Project

To build historically grounded profiles of port communities and their fisheries to support management and to better position them to proactively and effectively address challenges and opportunities



North Coast Fishing Communities Project

Parts of study:
Fort Bragg - Noyo Harbor
Eureka/Fields Landing
Trinidad
Crescent City

Project Team:
Carrie Pomeroy
Marine Advisor
California Sea Grant Extension

Cindy Thomson
Fisheries Economist
NOAA Fisheries/SWFSC
Melissa Stevens
Research Specialist
California Sea Grant Extension

Rebecca Rizzo
Programmer/Analyst
NOAA Fisheries/SWFSC

Project Participants
Commercial fishermen
Recreational fishermen
Fish buyers and processors
Fishery support businesses
Port District employees
Other community members

Funding Provided by:



What is this project about?

A collaborative effort among social scientists, fishermen and other community members to accurately describe North Coast fishing communities (people, activities and infrastructure) and understand how they are affected by regulatory, economic, environmental, and other factors.

Why is socioeconomic information important?

Our state's fisheries and fishing communities have seen dramatic change over the last 25 years. Federal and state managers must consider the impacts of fishery regulations on communities, but information is limited. Historically grounded socioeconomic profiles of port communities are needed to better inform future management decisions and sustain working harbors.

How will the information be collected?

The research plan includes analysis of existing commercial and recreational fishery data and visits to port communities to document infrastructure, interact with fishery participants and operators of fishery support businesses (FSBs), and survey fish buyers and FSB operators. Individuals' information will remain confidential.

Why should community members participate?

The opportunity to
> provide first-hand knowledge and perspective on your port community, fisheries, and key issues, both past and present.
> improve managers' and the public's understanding of fisheries and fishing communities and the implications of management alternatives.

What is the end product?

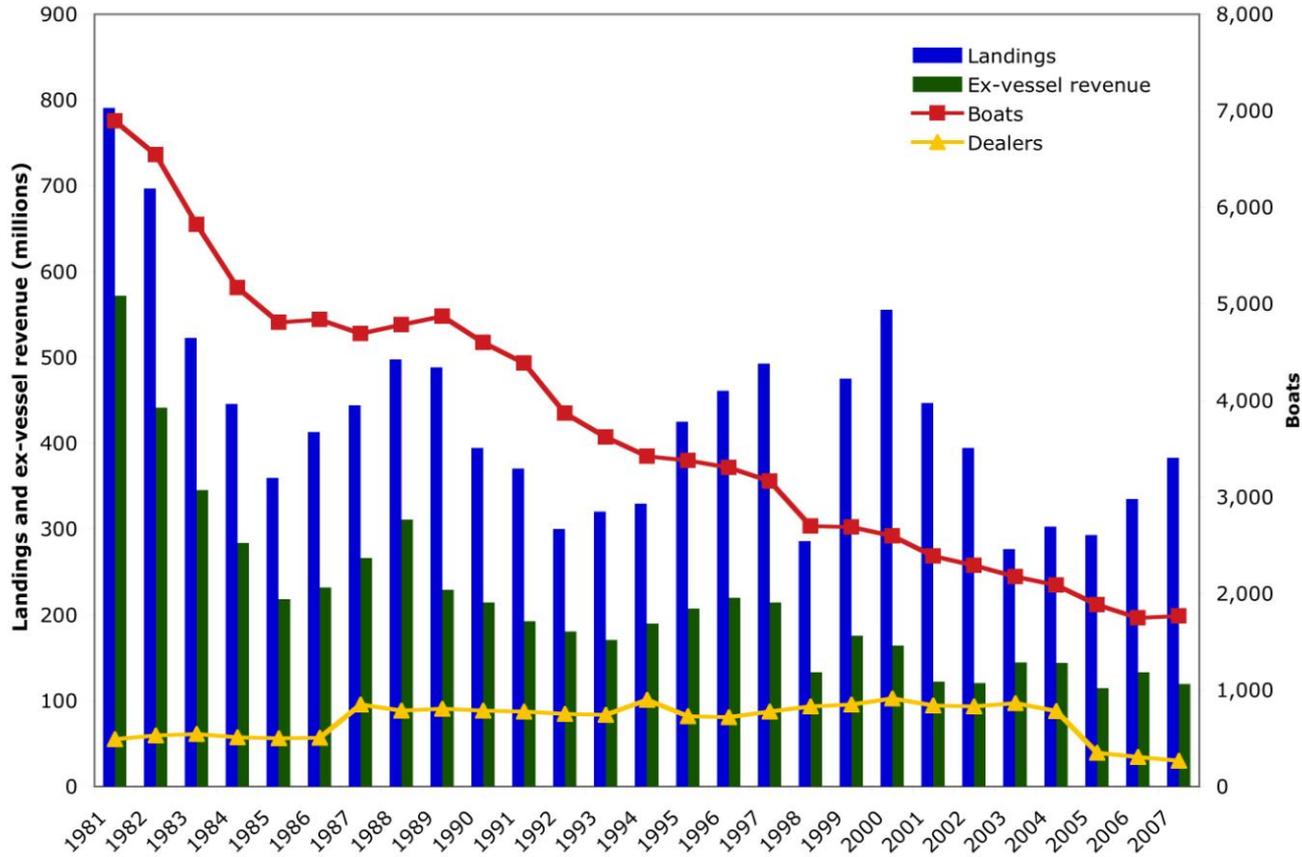
The project results will be summarized in a publicly available report. It is our hope that this information will enable resource managers and communities to more meaningfully assess the potential socioeconomic impacts of management actions on local fisheries and fishing ports, and enable fishing communities to better meet future challenges and opportunities.

For more information, please contact:

Carrie Pomeroy, Project Co-Director and Field Team Leader
831-763-8002 | cpomeroy@ucdavis.edu

Melissa Stevens, Field Research Assistant
831-420-3964 | mmstevens@ucsc.edu

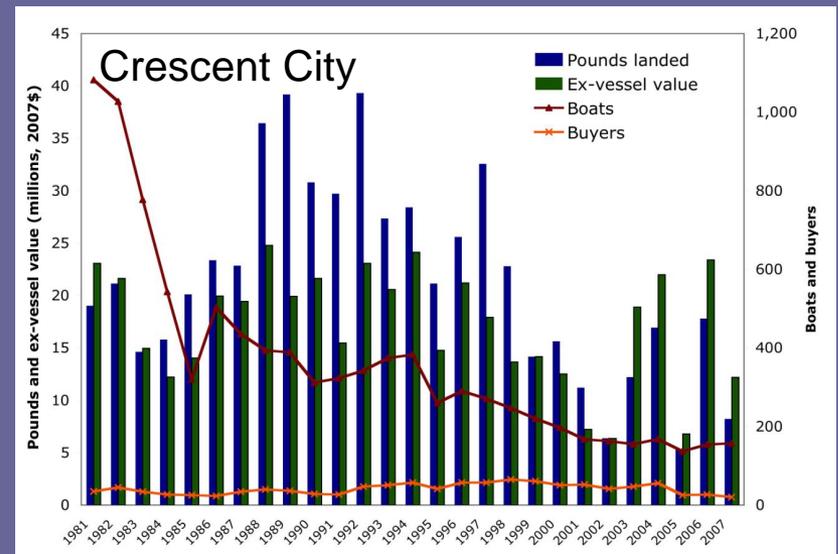
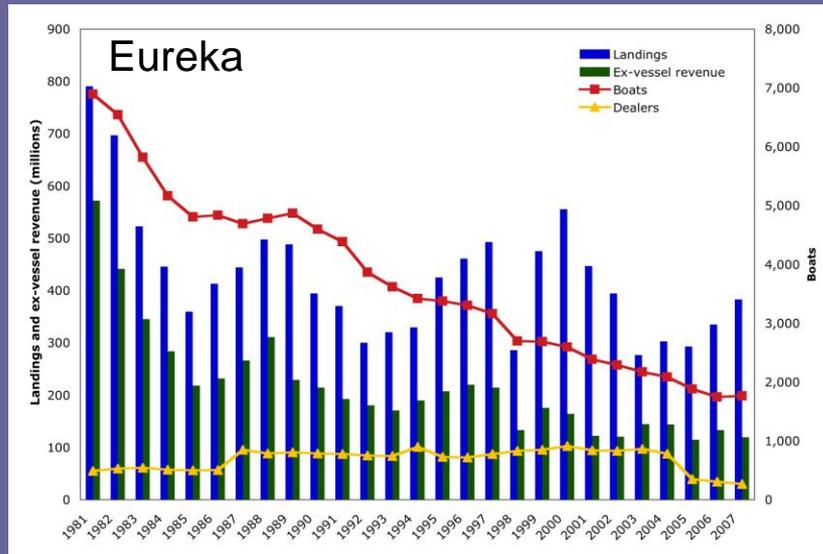
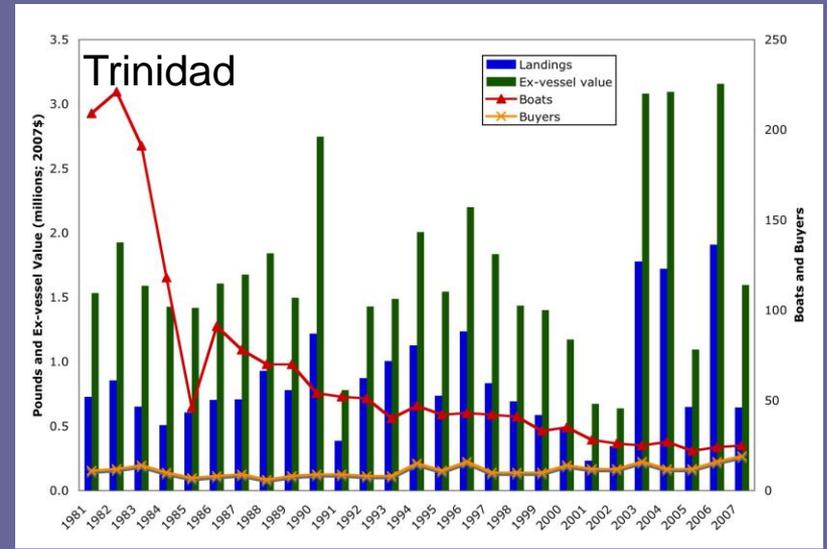
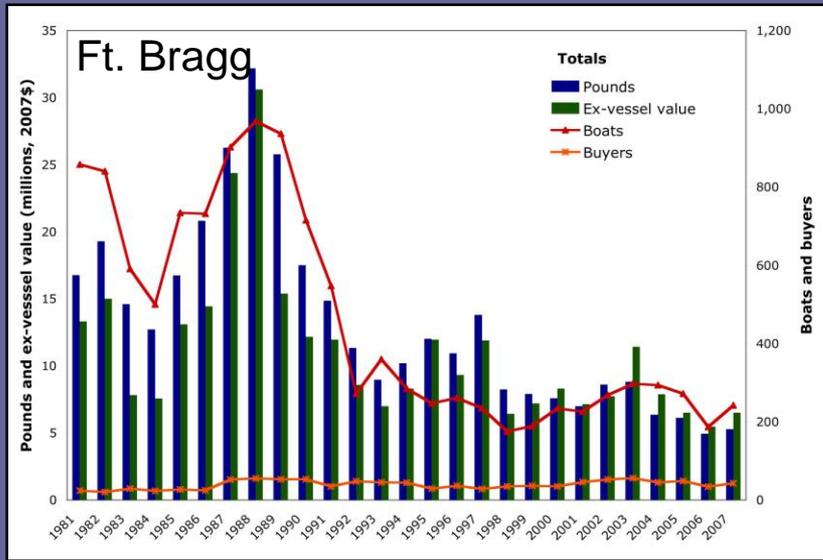
California Commercial Fisheries, 1981-2007



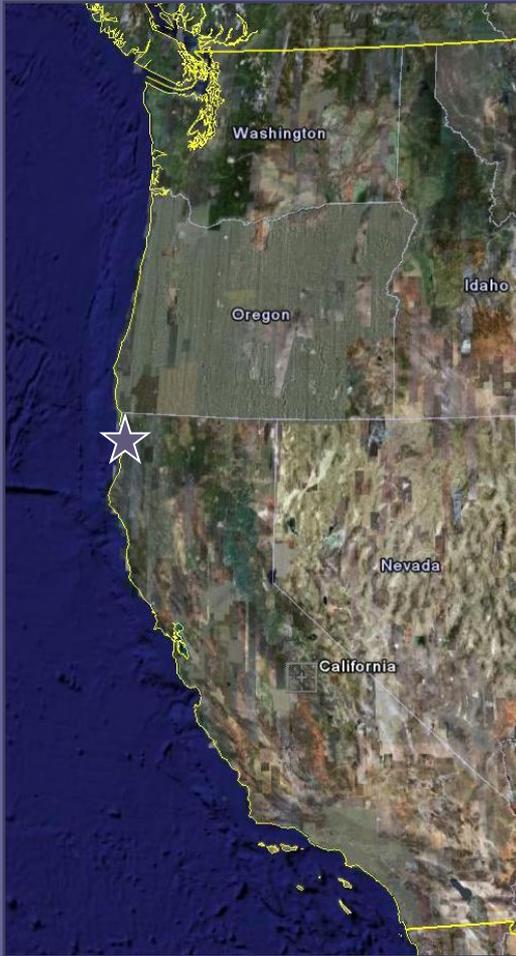
Factors

- Environmental
- Regulatory
- Economic
- Social

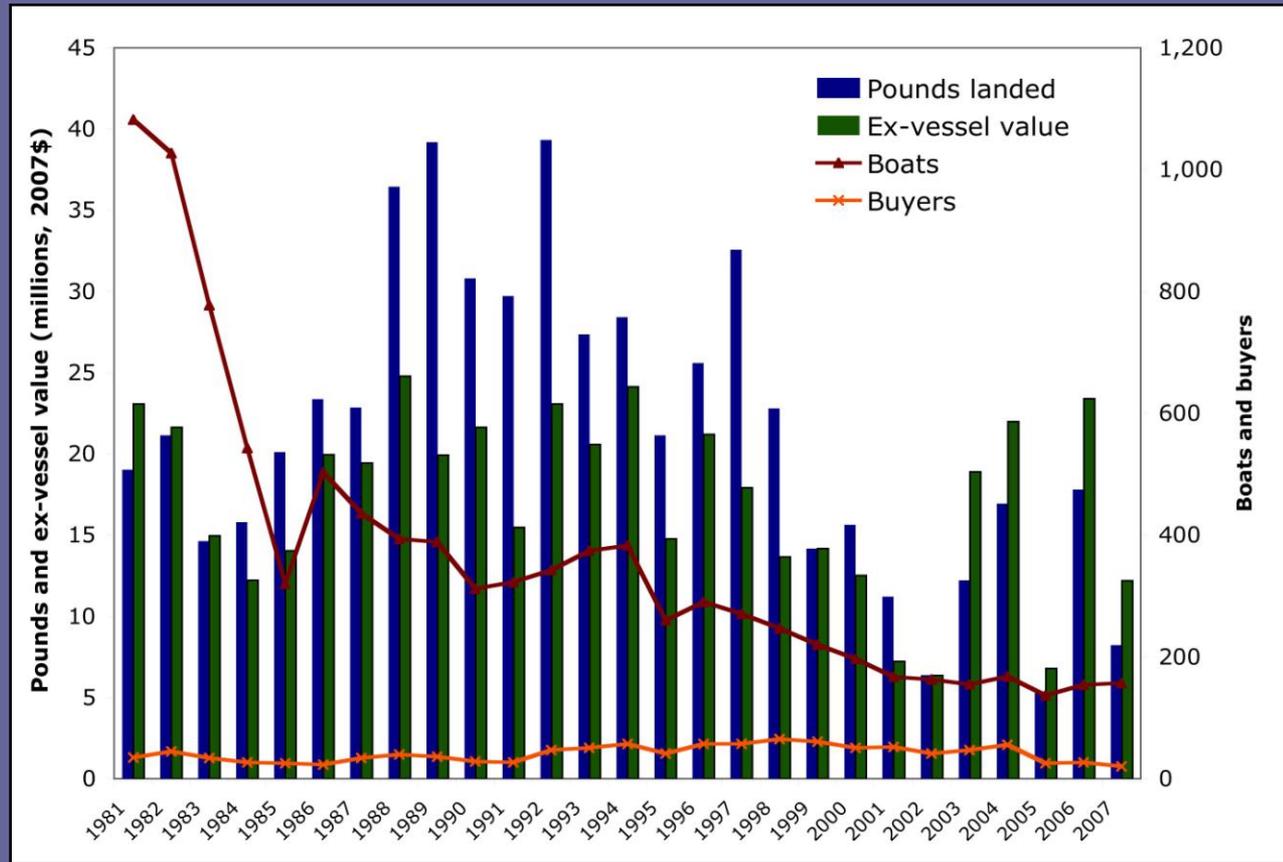
Fishing Activity at Four North Coast Ports



Crescent City, California



Commercial fishery activity, 1981-2007.



Pomeroy et al. 2010, PacFIN data

The Local Fishery System



Crescent City HARBOR

- SPOTTY'S CAR WASH
- ENGLUND MARINE SUPPLY
- HARBOR RV ANCHORAGE
- PICNIC AREA
- Kona* HAIR SALON
- US COAST GUARD
- CHART ROOM MARINA
- SOUTH BEACH OUTFITTERS
- BISTRO GARDENS
- DEL NORTE YACHT & ROWING CLUB
- COAST REDWOOD ART GALLERY
- SEAFARERS HALL
- DEL NORTE COUNTY SHERIFF DEPT. BOATING / SAFETY UNIT
- TALLY HO B CHARTER FISHING
- FASHION BLACKSMITH
- BAYSIDE RV PARK
- BEACON BURGER
- Caito Fisheries, Inc
- Nor-Cal Seafoods
- J & S Live Seafood & Hoisting
- Pacific Choice Seafood
- L.C.Z. Unloaders



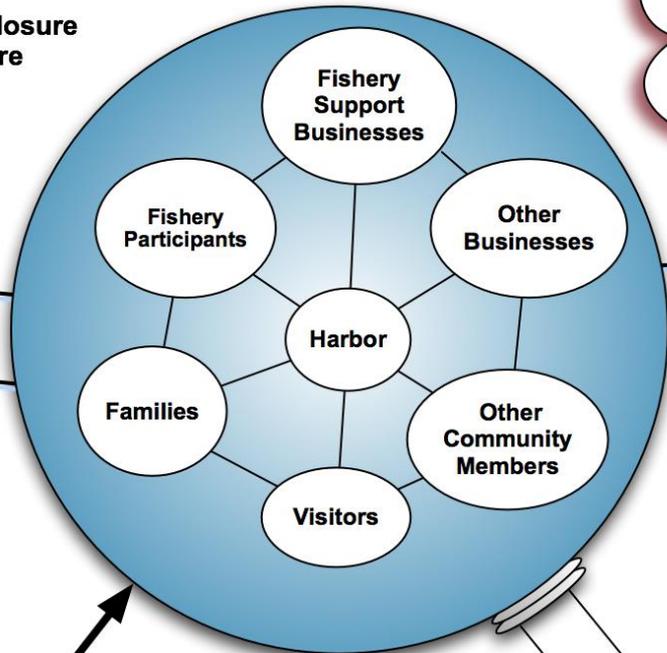
Crescent City, CA: The Human Dimension

Key Regulatory Events

- 1982 - Salmon limited entry
- 1985 - KMZ commercial salmon closure
- 1992 - Recreational salmon closure
- 2000 - Groundfish Disaster
- 2003 - Groundfish Buyback
(14 out of 15 boats)

Past

- Isolated
- Safe harbor entrance
- Close to fishing grounds
- Intense weather
- Tsunami threat



Future?

Activities

- Government
- Timber Harvesting
- Commercial Fisheries
multiple, diverse
- Recreational Fisheries
~400 private boats
4-5 charter boats

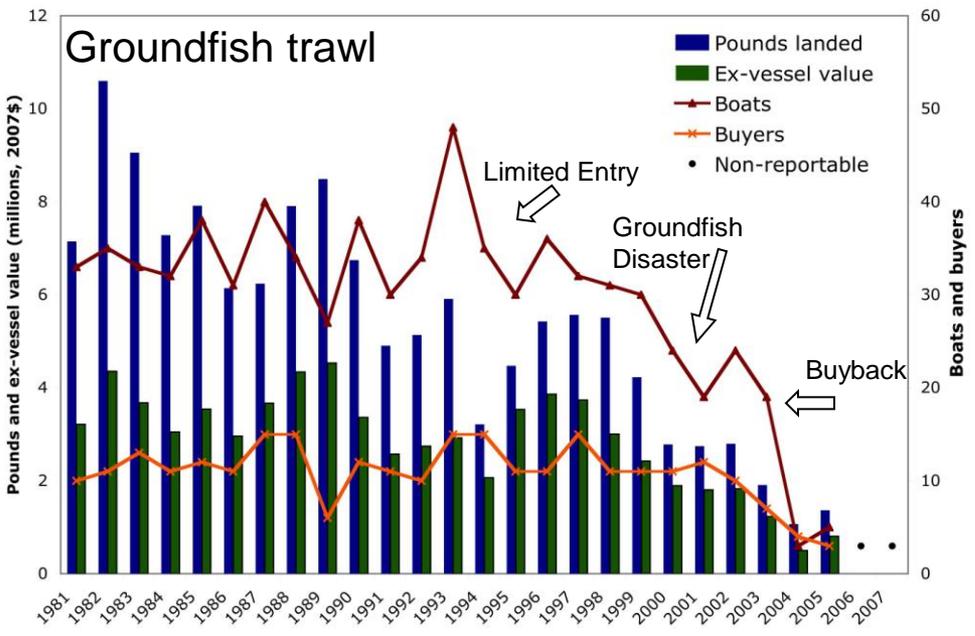
Forces
Regulatory
Environmental
Social
Economic

Activities

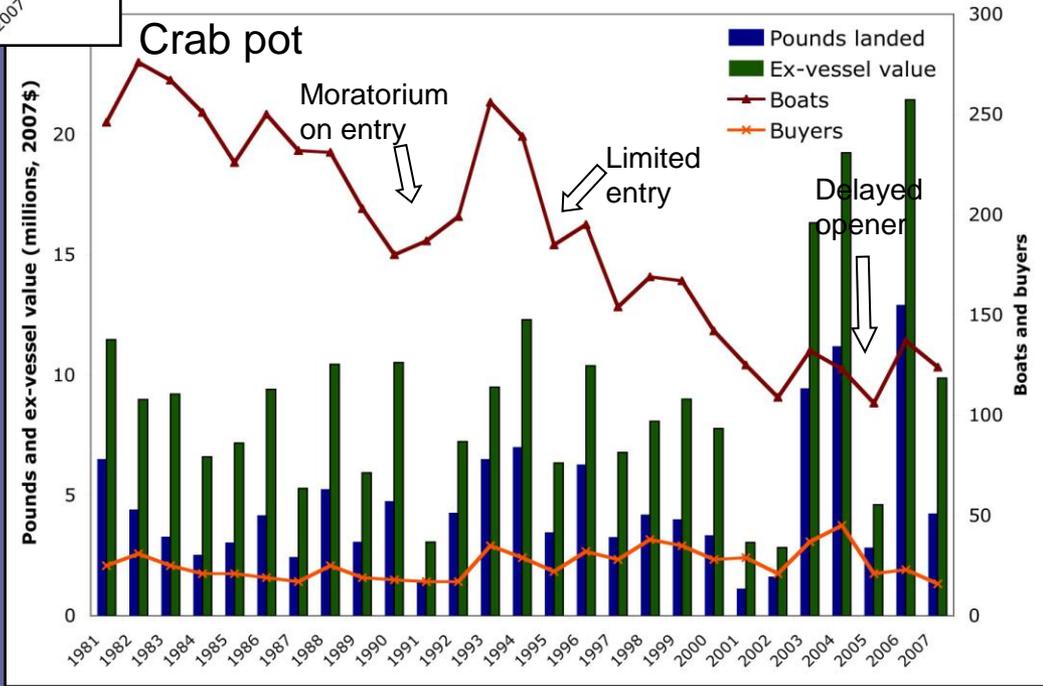
- Government
- **Timber Harvesting**
- Commercial Fisheries
multiple, diverse
dependent on crab
- Recreational Fisheries
~400 50 private boats
4-5 1 charter boat

- KEY FISHERY INFRASTRUCTURE**
- Receiving & processing facilities
 - Fuel, ice, bait
 - Slips, workspace
 - Electric, water
 - Wastewater treatment
 - Dredged waterways

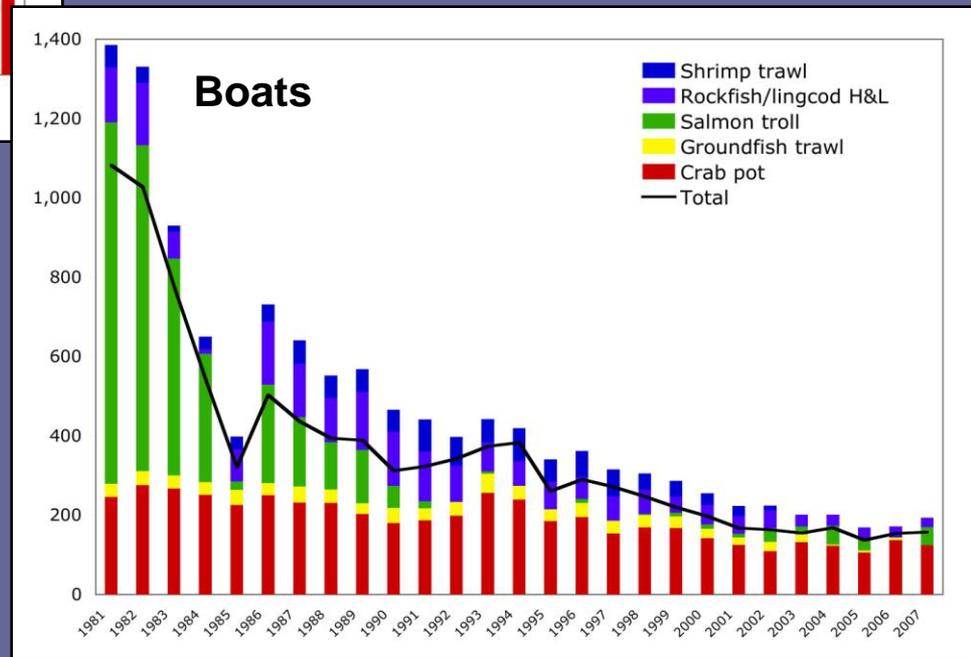
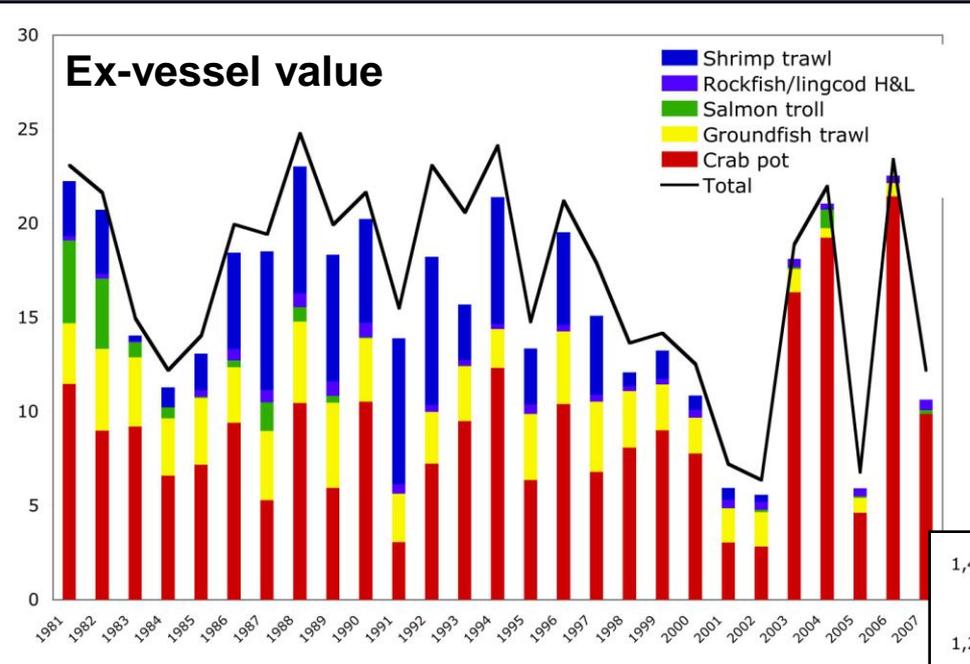
Exploring trends within fisheries



Pomeroy et al. 2010, PacFIN data



Exploring trends across fisheries



Pomeroy et al. 2010, PacFIN data

Crescent City's Current Situation and Outlook

Commercial fisheries

- Increased dependence on crab
- Loss & consolidation of receiving & processing capacity
- Loss of goods and service providers

Recreational fisheries

- Shift from primary focus on salmon to groundfish & crab

Concerns

- Maintaining/expanding
 - working waterfront
 - market opportunities
- MLPA process
- West Coast groundfish trawl IQ program



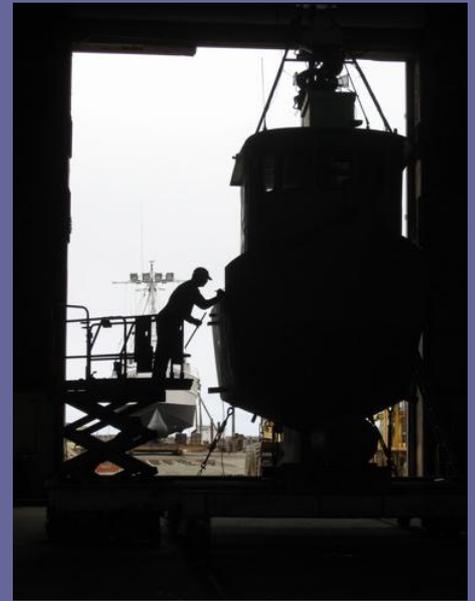
What does a viable fishing community look like?

- What does a viable swordfish fishery look like?
- What does a viable swordfish fishing community (or communities) look like?
- How do you get there?
- Who decides?



Acknowledgements

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Contact information

Carrie Pomeroy
California Sea Grant Extension
Program
cpomeroy@ucsd.edu