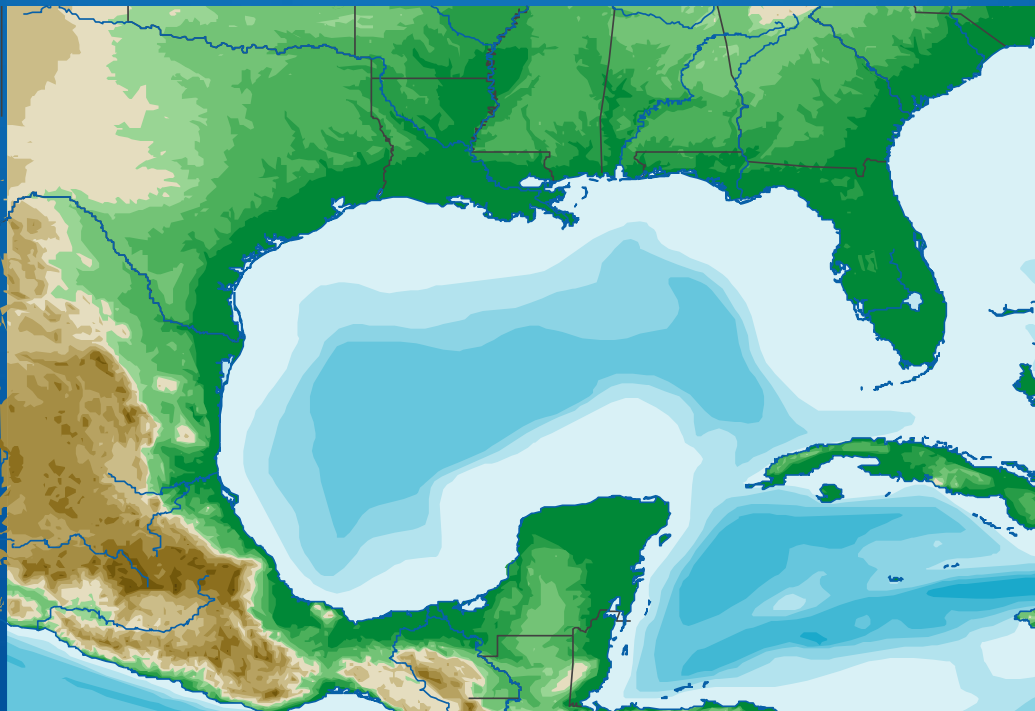


# U.S. Gulf of Mexico Fisheries:

# Progress & Promise



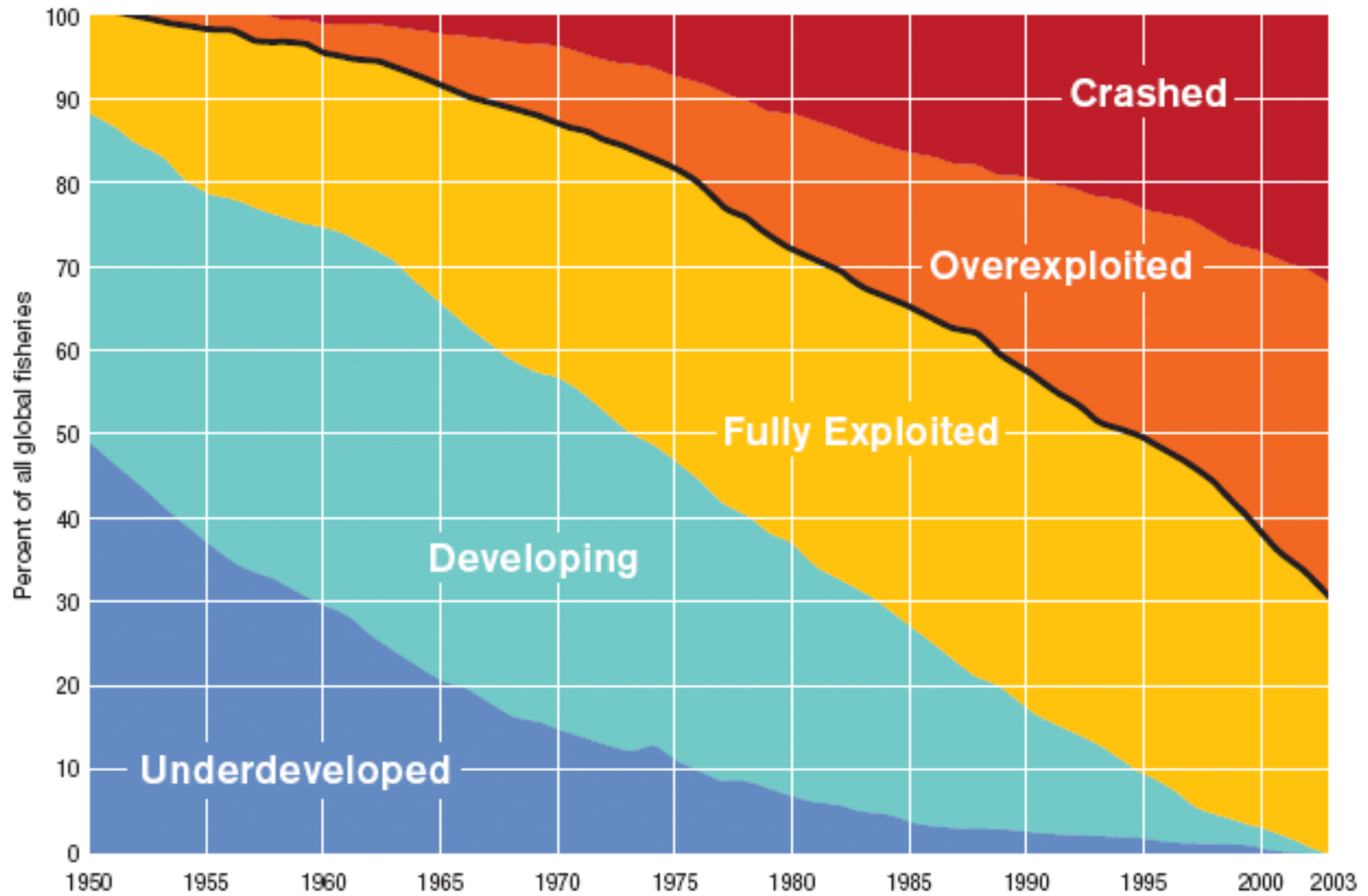
Pam Baker

Director of Strategic Conservation Initiatives  
Gulf of Mexico and Southeast Oceans Program  
**Environmental Defense Fund**

Campeche, Mexico  
March 21-25, 2011

**EDF**   
ENVIRONMENTAL  
DEFENSE FUND™  
Finding the ways that work

## Overfishing drives declining fisheries; 70% are crashed or overexploited



Source: United Nations Environment Programme (2006) from the Sea Around Us Project

## Comparison of Conventional vs Catch Shares Management

Management		Limited open access / "Conventional"	Fishing rights / "Catch shares"	Limited open access / "Conventional"
		red snapper		large coastal sharks
		1990-2006	2007 - today	
Regulations	Limited access permit	√	√	√
	Data collection / monitoring	√	√	√
	Total catch limit	√	√	√
	Fleet fishing quotas	√		√
	Individual fishing quotas		√	
	Rules control catch (closures, trip-size- gear limit)	√		√
	Monitoring / individual accountability		√	
	Monitoring / fleet-wide accountability	√		√
Incentives	Align economics & conservation	Racing: Increase capacity & volume	Efficient operation, high quality, conservation	Racing: Increase capacity & volume
Goal 1	Conservation: Rebuild / maintain stock			
Goal 2	Economic: Viable fishing businesses			
Goal 3	Governance: Efficient process & monitoring			

## Goal 1 -- Conservation: Rebuild/maintain population

		red snapper		large coastal sharks
		1990-2006	2007 - today	
Objectives	stop overfishing	30+ years overfishing	rebuilding / range expanding	1 overfishing, 1 healthy, 9 unknown
	comply with quotas	ave. 2% over	ave. 3% under	10% over in 2010
	maintain / increase total catch limit & quotas	decline 60%*	increase 40%	some stable/ some decline
	minimize target species discarding	ratio 1:1 discards:landings	reduced by 70%	dozens of tons
	value fish in the water / conservation incentive	"Get it while you can!"	value of shares increases with stock health	"Get it while you can!"

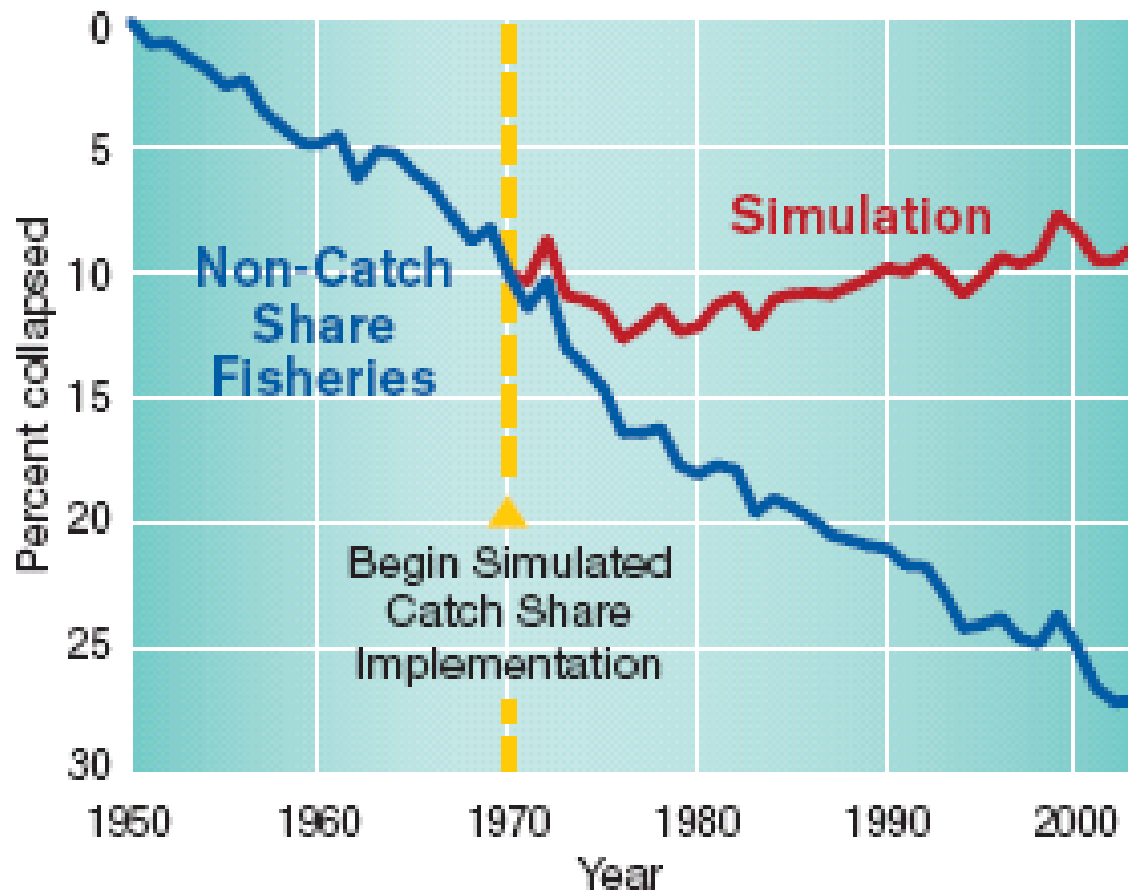
## Goal 2 -- Economic: Viable fishing/seafood businesses

		red snapper		large coastal sharks
		1990-2006	2007 - today	
Objectives	long fishing season	ave. 80 days/year	year-round	50 days/year 2010
	high quality seafood	poor quality from racing & trip limits	new GulfWild specialty branding	poor quality from racing & trip limits
	stable market	glut / scarcity - markets declined	accessing new markets	glut / scarcity – markets declining
	strong dockside price	1980's price = early 2000's price	up 40%	falling from racing & trip limits
	minimize trip costs (fuel, vessel, etc.)	excess 75% from trip limits, racing, vessels	down 60%	increasing from trip limits and racing
	fishery value	declined	triple from 2007-2009*	declining

### Goal 3 – Governance: Efficient process / monitoring / enforcement

		red snapper		large coastal sharks
		1990-2006	2007 - today	
Objectives	cooperative co-management	on-going conflict	focus on cooperative planning and research	on-going conflict
	affordable	difficult to monitor effectively	improving / scale-up savings, cost recovery	difficult to monitor effectively, VMS helps
	regulatory compliance	Violations were "cost of doing business" / black market	compliance high / penalties are deterrence	?
	adequate data collection / ecological & economic	landings, effort, location / little on discards	improving – need improvements on discards at-sea	landings, effort, location / little on discards / few stock assessments

## Catch shares prevent, and even reverse, the collapse of the world's fisheries



Source: Costello et al., 2008





# What's next:

- Research & analysis
- Partnerships & coalition-building
- Understanding challenges & payoffs



Cuba

