

Sharing knowledge – enabling sustainable living and being

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Perspective of an early FB supporter

- Initial grants for FishBase from EC Budget “Ecology in DCs” 1989 and 1990 – proof of principle
- Resisting the lure of cash now in favour of expected bigger & wider-spread benefits
- Trust and a leap of faith
- A shared commitment towards building up access and active participation of DCs in aquatic sciences to enable development through better resource management

A collective effort

Alignment of different people and interests

- Daniel Pauly and Rainer Froese's vision and judicious approach in the creative context of young ICLARM
- Early funding from EU and extension
- The FishBase Team in the Philippines
- Acceptance of criticism and follow-up
- Collaboration and recognition of others
- Developments in IT



Standing on the shoulders of FishBase

Overreach of initial objectives

- Original intended beneficiaries in DCs

Diversifying other users around the world

- Public authorities, incl. customs
- Universities and research centres
- Museums
- NGOs and civil society organisations
- Private sector
- Individuals

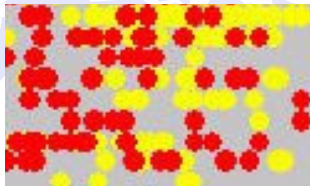
Meeting new challenges

The combined effects of overfishing, pollution and climate change spell new demands

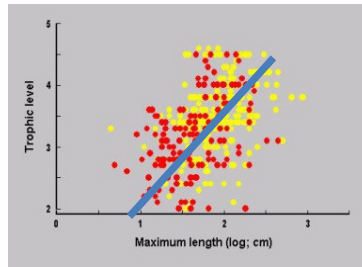
Social inequalities have become major drivers of wastage of natural renewable resources and unsustainable production and consumption patterns

Biodiversity and ecological knowledge in FishBase needs to connect in new ways to and learn from advances in other fields of knowledge, e.g. education, (behavioural) economics and other social sciences

Making sense of scattered information, strengthening education, policies & action



Information



sense



education



knowledge, policy



rules, enforcement



Shifting baseline and anchors

- Shifting baseline (Pauly, 1995 – see also TED talk)

Conversely

- Anchoring perceptions by (random) numbers (Kahneman, 2011. *Thinking fast and slow*. Penguin)

Use the findings more prominently?

- FishBase, e.g. Introductions Table as one means of anchoring positively and counter shifting baseline.

Can you think of more?

**I'm still a baby,
let me live and grow**



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**Looking forward
to the next 25
years of
FishBase**

Thanks!

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