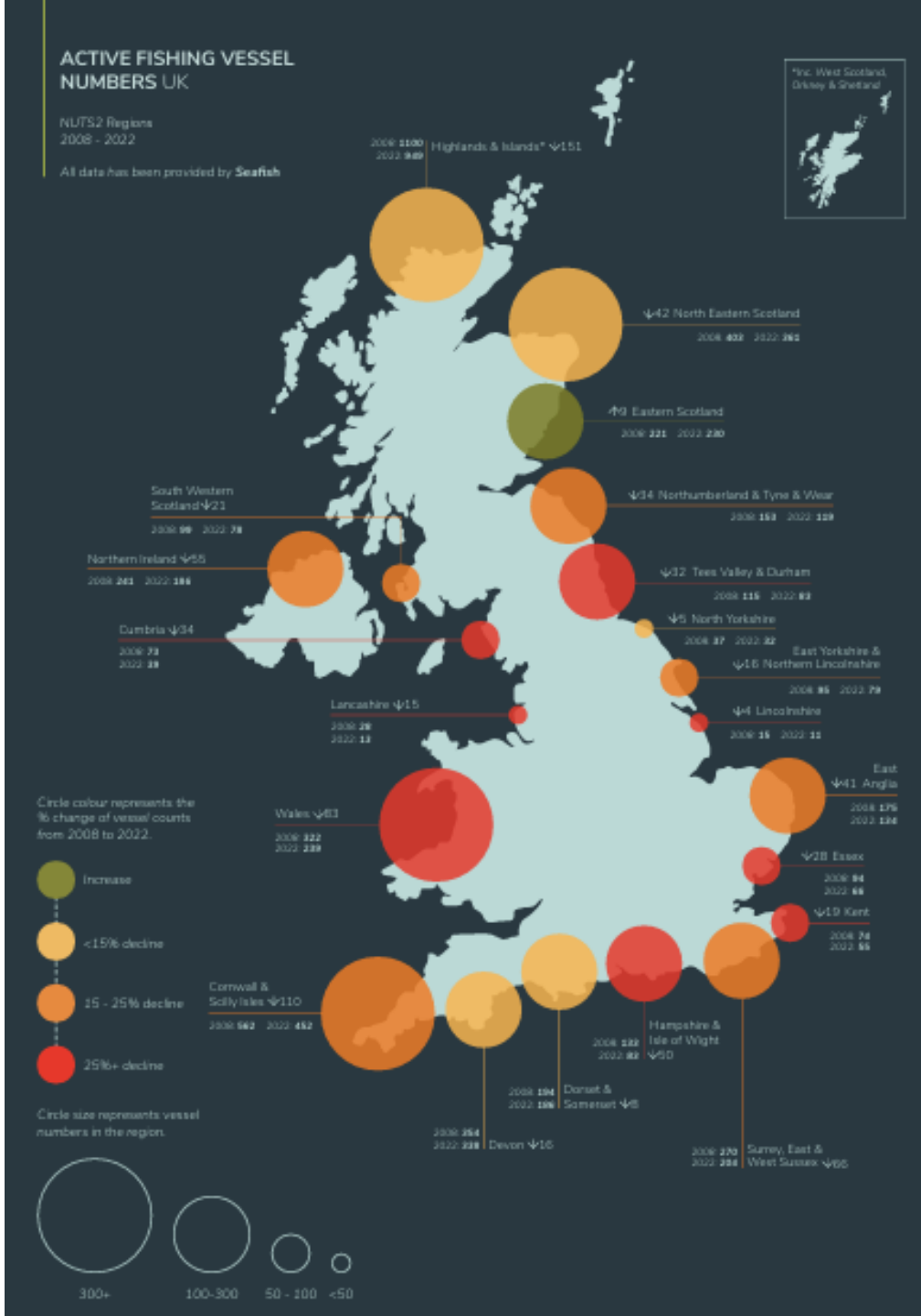
Inshore Fisheries and Local Governance in a Changing Climate

Dorset Coast Forum

Emily Bulled
Communication & Engagement Manager
Association of IFCAs
10 November 2026

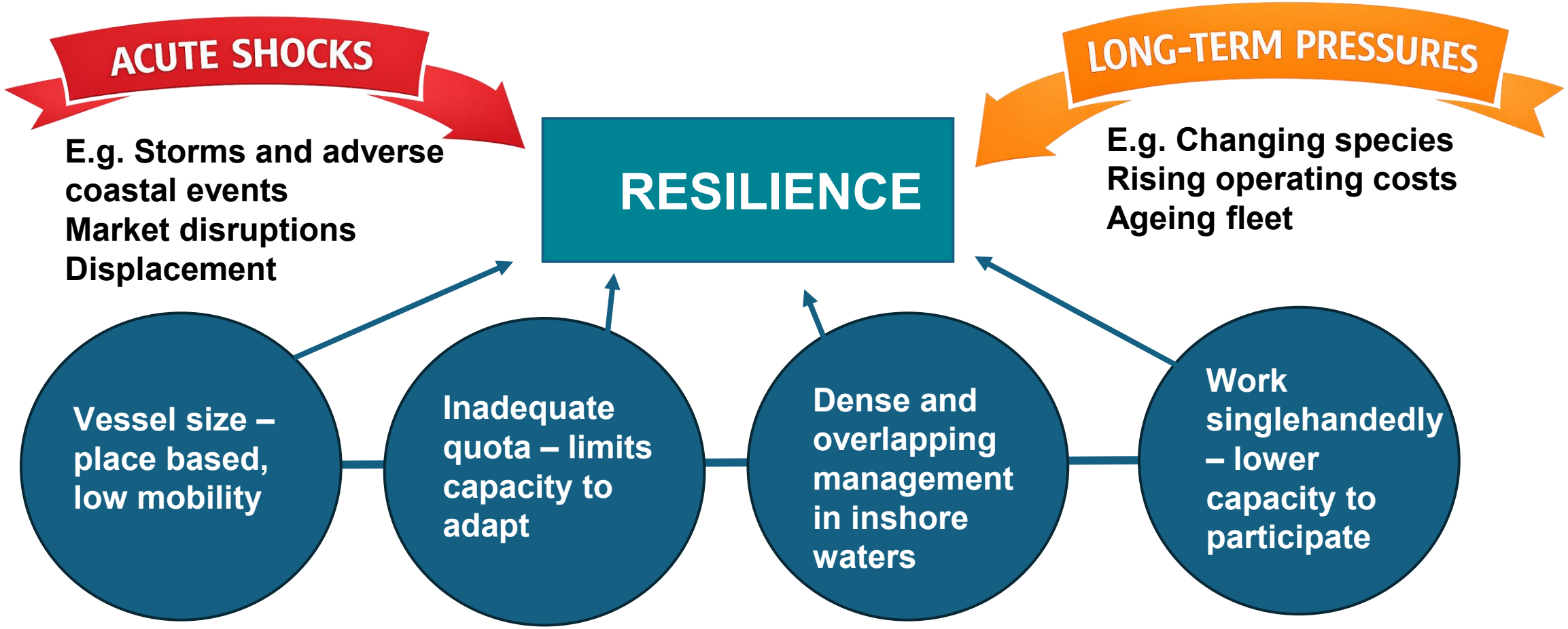

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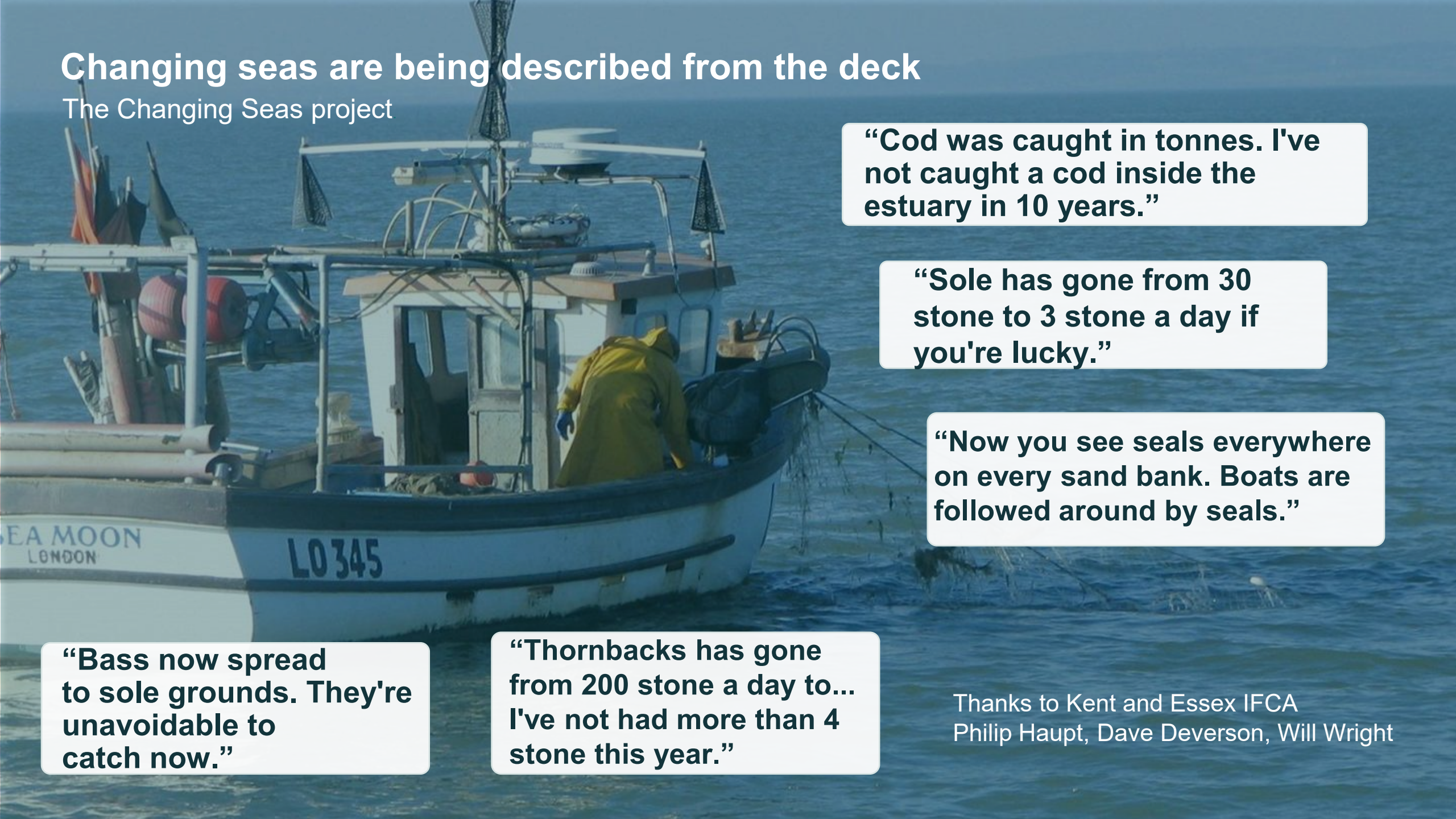
Coulthard *et al.* 2025. Recognising and Protecting the National Benefit of Sustainable Fisheries in the UK, Fish and Fisheries

Small-scale inshore fleets feel it first



Changing seas are being described from the deck

The Changing Seas project



"Cod was caught in tonnes. I've not caught a cod inside the estuary in 10 years."

"Sole has gone from 30 stone to 3 stone a day if you're lucky."

"Now you see seals everywhere on every sand bank. Boats are followed around by seals."

"Bass now spread to sole grounds. They're unavoidable to catch now."

"Thornbacks has gone from 200 stone a day to... I've not had more than 4 stone this year."

Thanks to Kent and Essex IFCA
Philip Haupt, Dave Deverson, Will Wright







Coastal & Marine Health Programme



Supporting preparedness and response to environmental change/adverse events of unknown cause

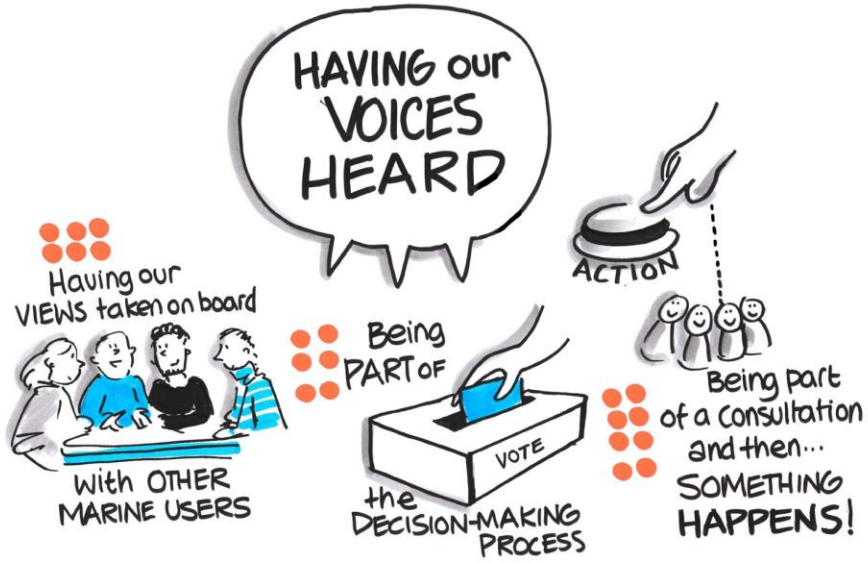
https://www.cefas.co.uk/impact/programm...

Find out more about the Coastal Health programme with Cefas and AIFCA here.

‘The priorities to secure sustainable inshore and small-scale fisheries in England’

Coastal fisheries cluster - NICRE

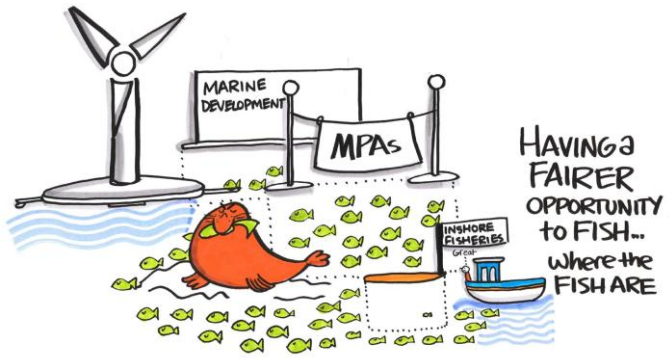
Illustrations | The Working Sea

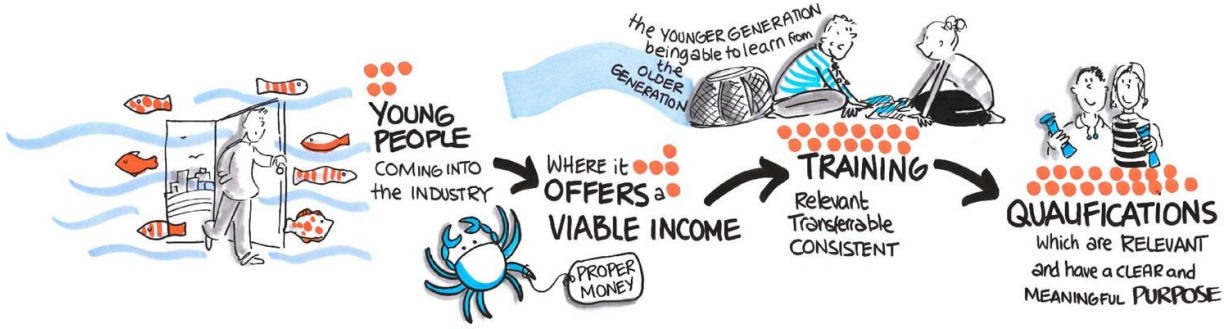


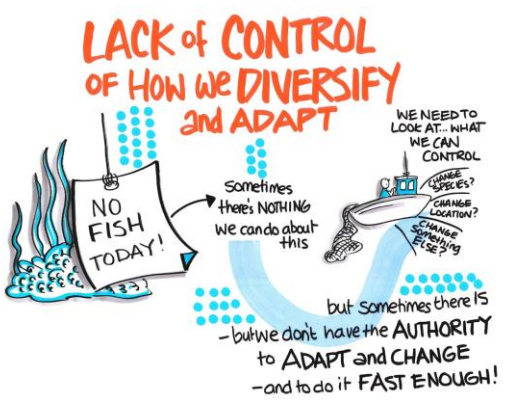








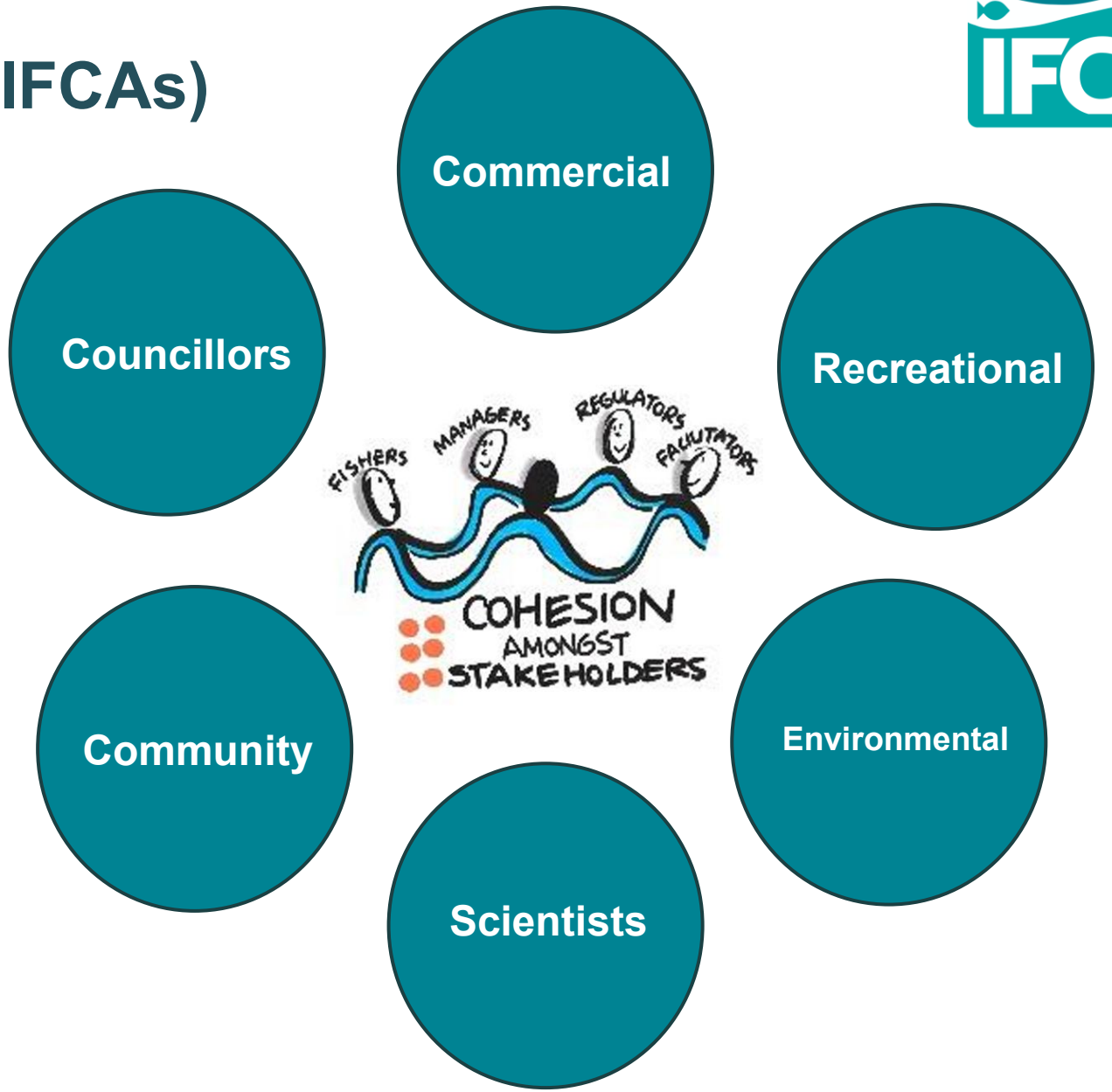




Illustrations: Caroline Chappel Cartoons

Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs)

- IFCAs balance the needs of the marine environment, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry
- Manage fisheries and deliver conservation objectives through IFCA byelaws and enforcement powers
- Decisions are made by IFCA committees made up of elected members

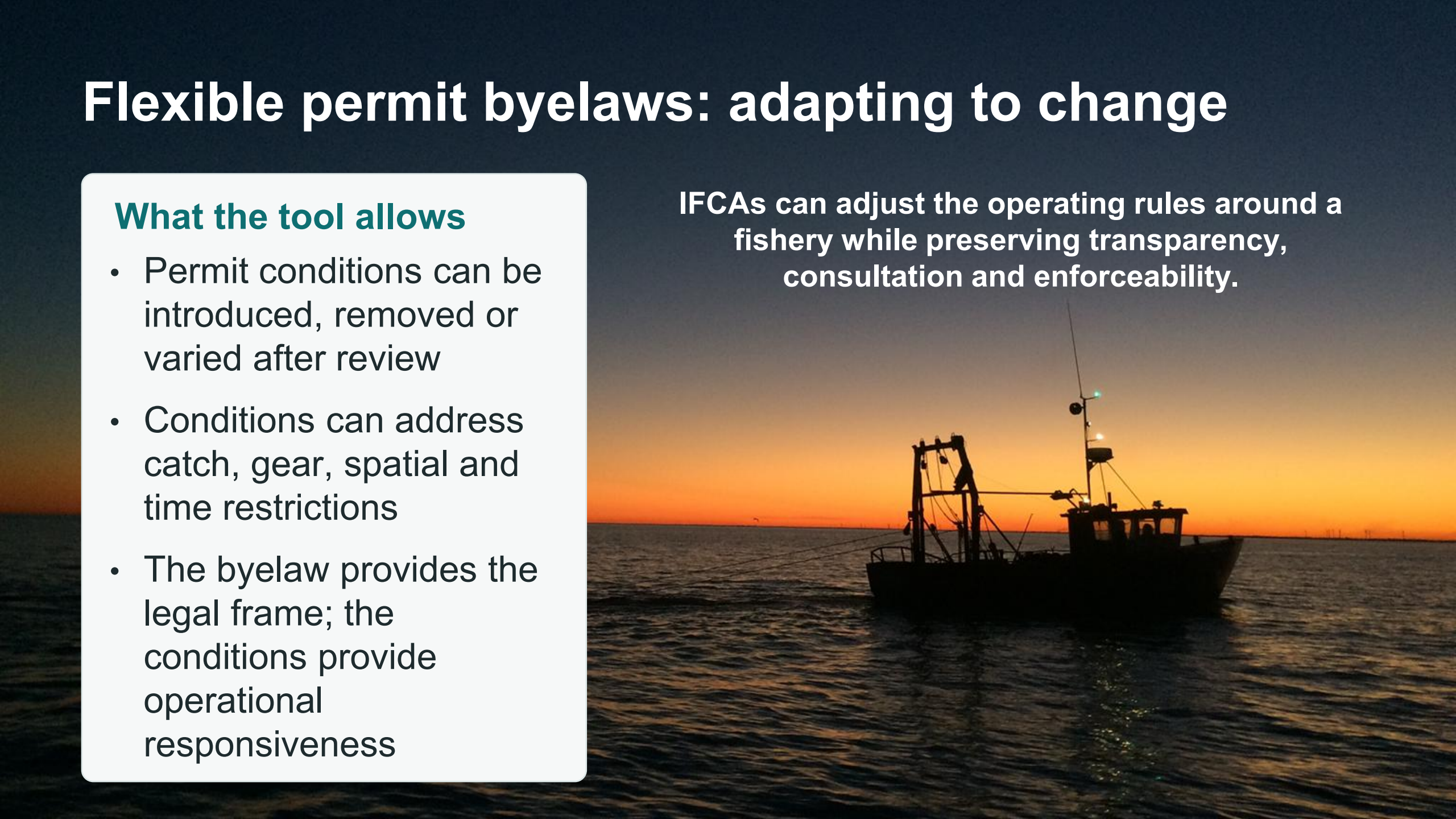


Flexible permit byelaws: adapting to change

What the tool allows

- Permit conditions can be introduced, removed or varied after review
- Conditions can address catch, gear, spatial and time restrictions
- The byelaw provides the legal frame; the conditions provide operational responsiveness

IFCAs can adjust the operating rules around a fishery while preserving transparency, consultation and enforceability.

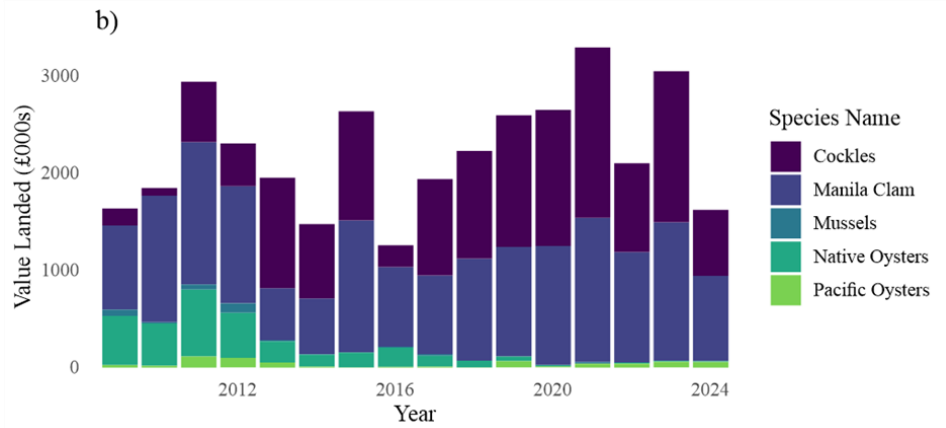


Case study: the Manila clam fishery

Change can create risks - but also new local opportunities







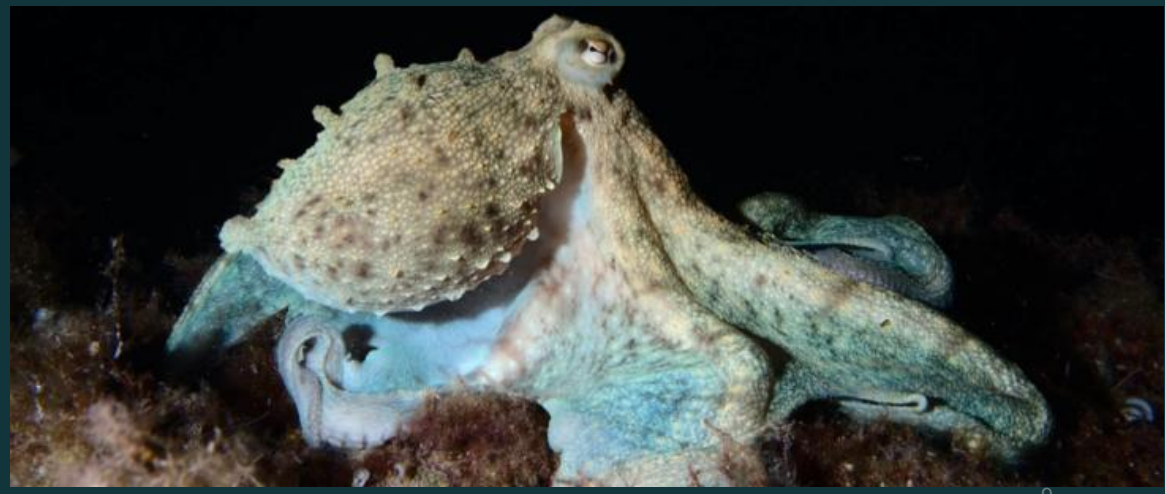
- Non-native Manila clams naturalised and became a wild capture fishery
- A near-shore resource accessible to under-10m day boats
- Value became important to small-scale inshore fishing communities

Humphreys, J., Hatt, A., Lewis, P. Clark., R.W.E. (in press) The rise of a non-native fishery: wild Manila clams in England. Submitted to Aquatic Living Resources.

Key Messages

1. Treat local knowledge as an early-warning system
2. Flexibility and adaptation is important for sustainable fisheries & can provide opportunities
3. Invest in stable local institutions so the system can learn and respond
4. Work together to monitor, predict and respond to change







Any questions, please contact:

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