# Socioeconomic factors influencing swordfish fisheries and fishing communities

## Considerations for West Coast Communities

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California Sea Grant

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Working Toward Sustainability
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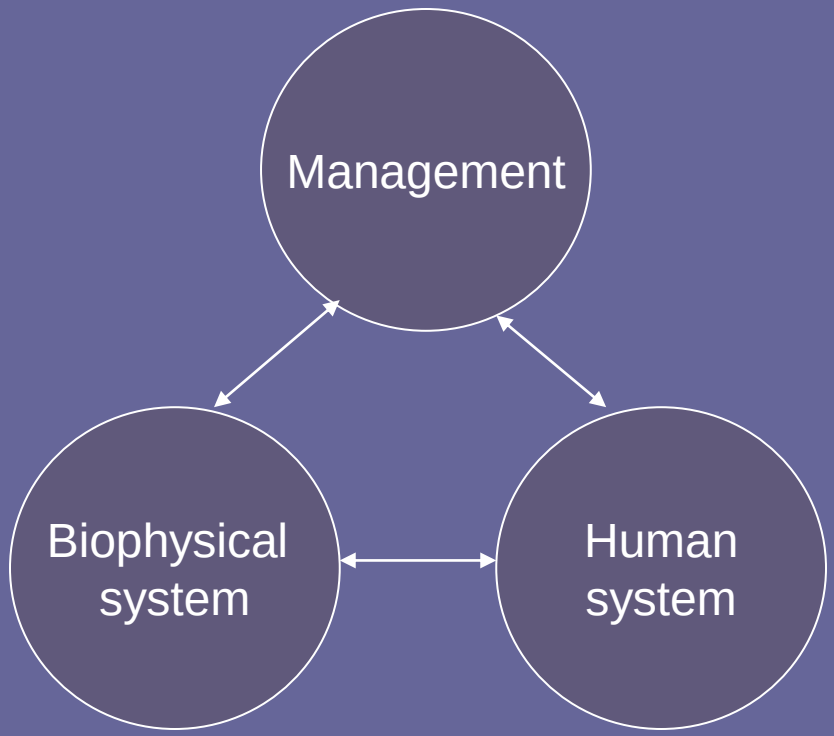
San Diego, CA

# Overview

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

# Fisheries Systems



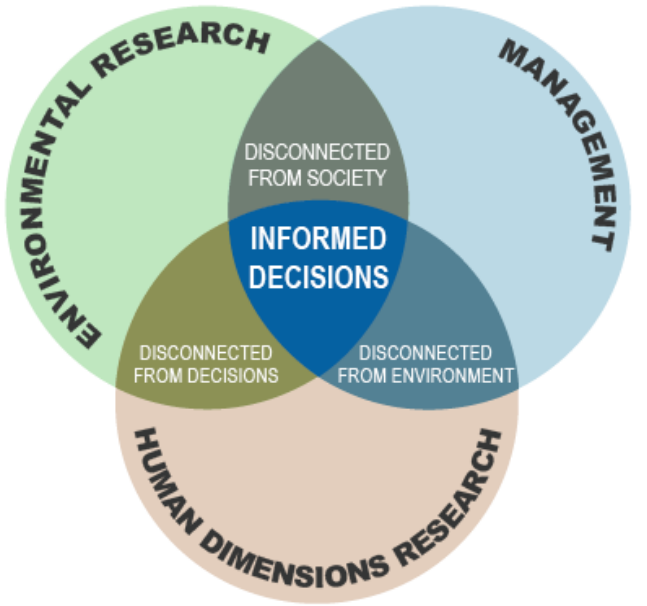




*Figure 5. Schematic reflecting synthesis of information in integrated assessments (Adapted from Michigan Sea Grant, 2005).*

# The Human Dimensions

- People & practices
- Social & economic activity & relationships
- Community structure and organization
- Perceptions, values, attitudes & beliefs
- Heritage & culture
- Governance, institutions & processes

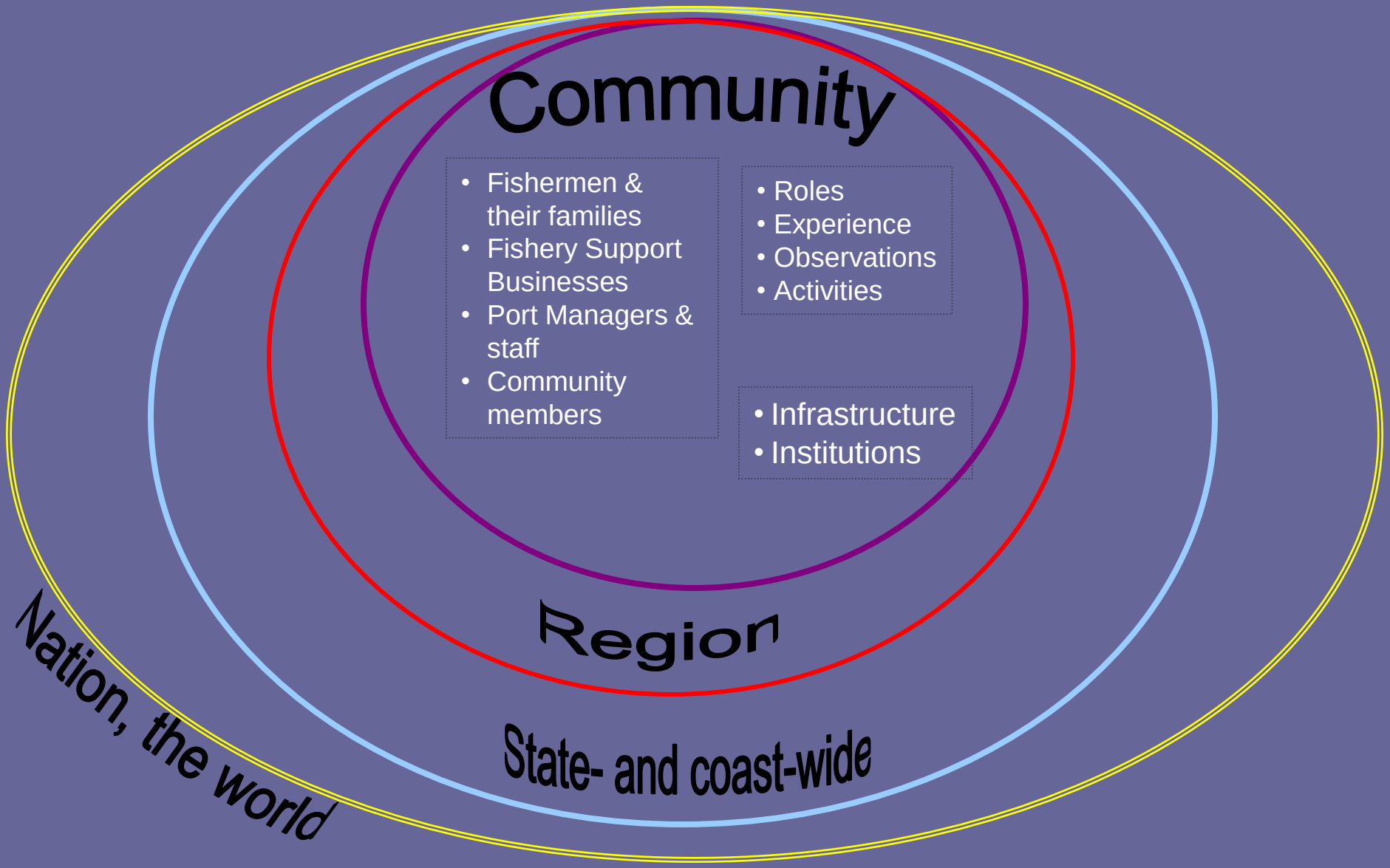
# Fishing Communities

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

Ports of study:
Ft Bragg – Noyo Harbor
Eureka/Fields Landing
Trinidad
Crescent City

Project Team:
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Fisheries Economist
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*Melissa Stevens*
Research Specialist
California Sea Grant Extension

*Rebecca Rizzo*
Programmer/Analyst
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Project Participants
Commercial fishermen
Recreational fishermen
Fish buyers and processors
Fishery support businesses
Port District employees
Other community members

Funding Provided by:

Coastal Conservancy
Sea Grant California

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:
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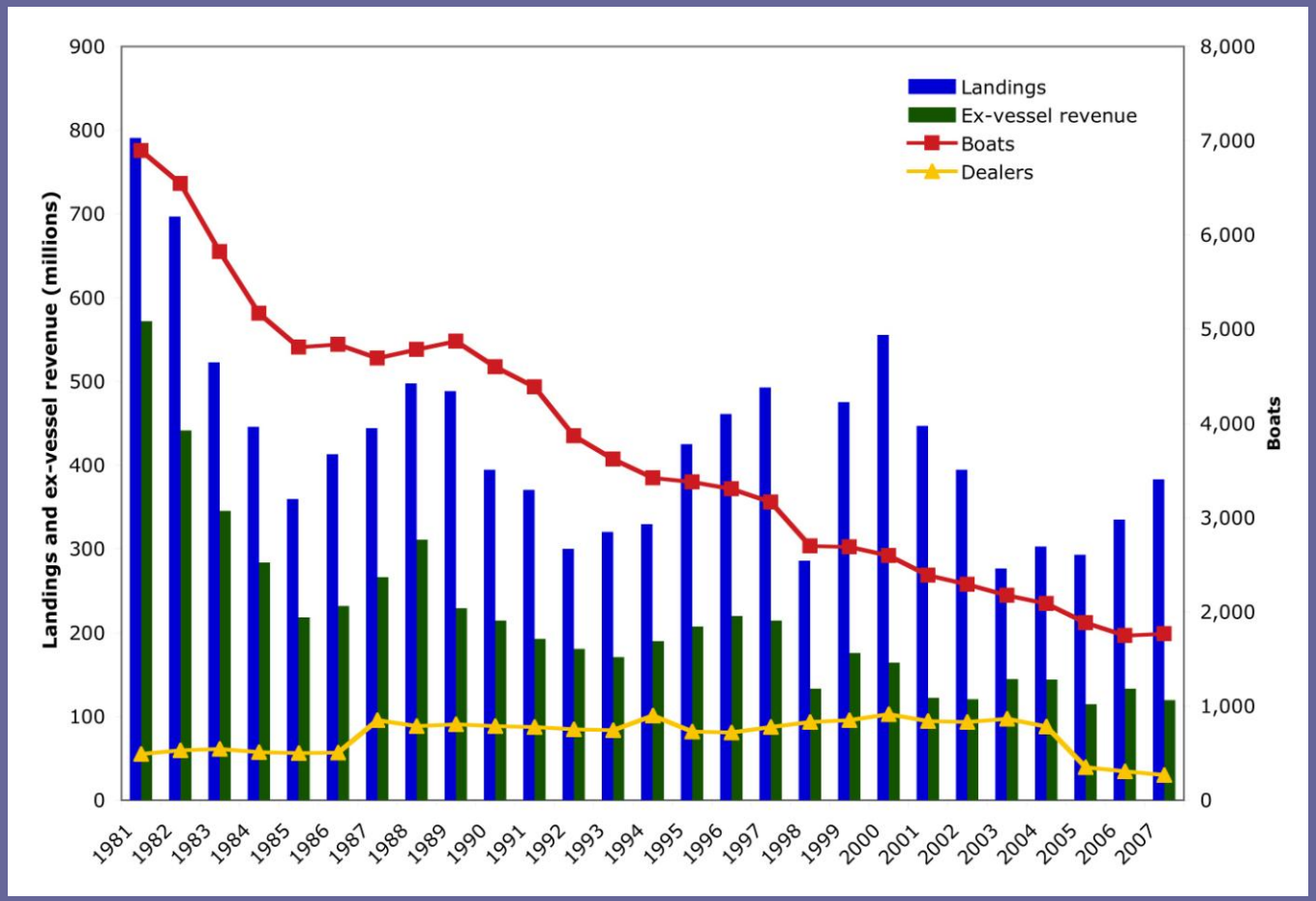
# California Commercial Fisheries, 1981-2007

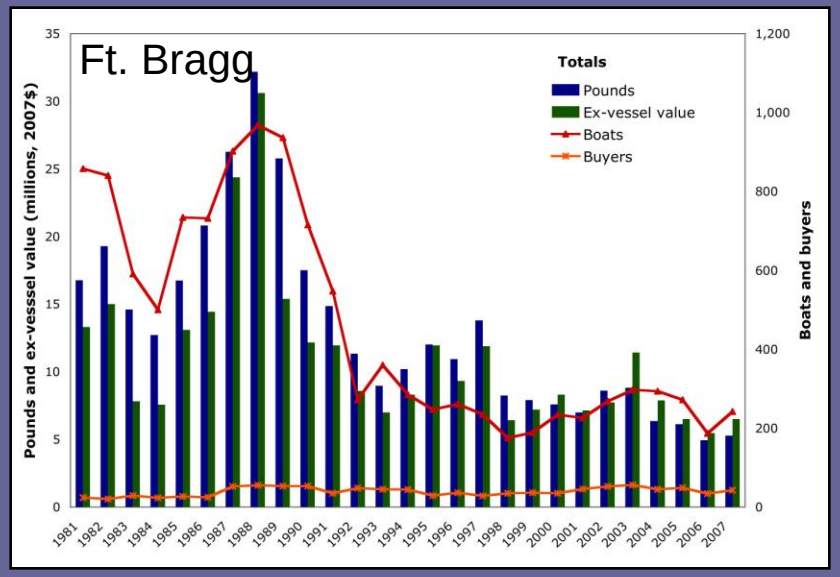


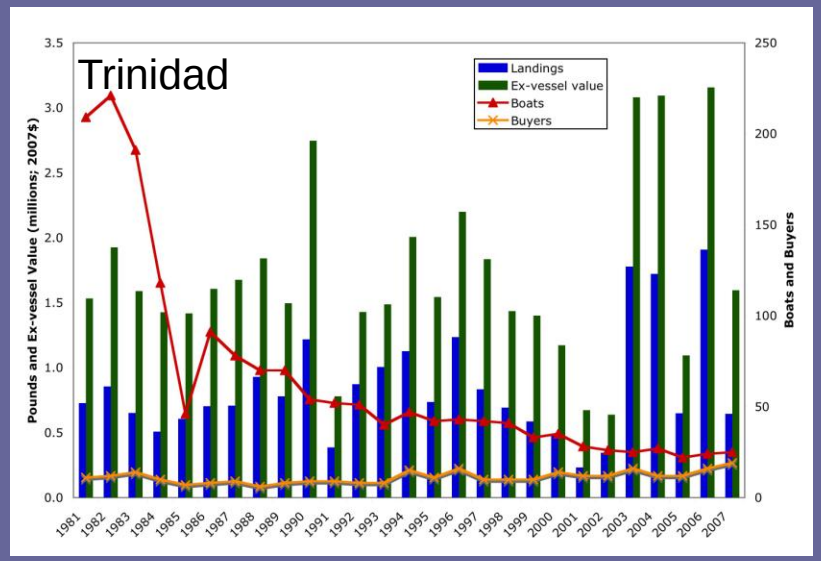

C. Thomson, PacFIN data, 2009

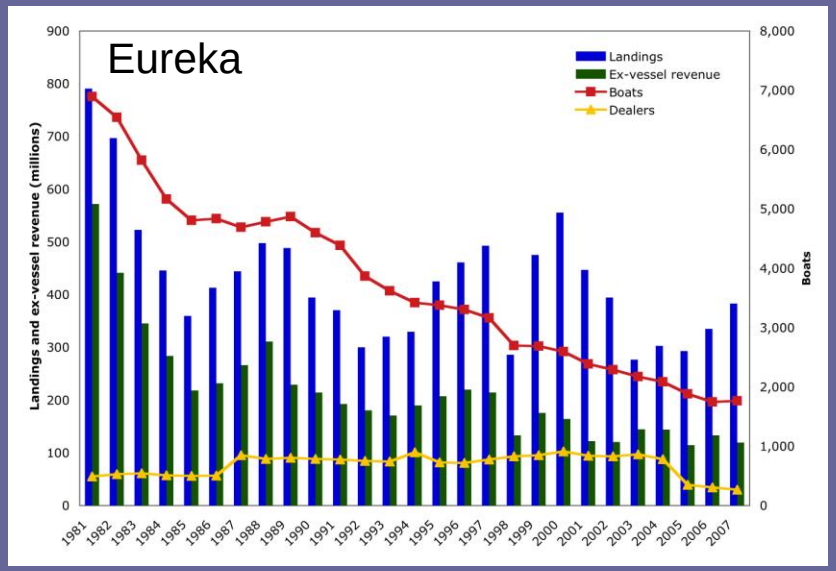
## Factors

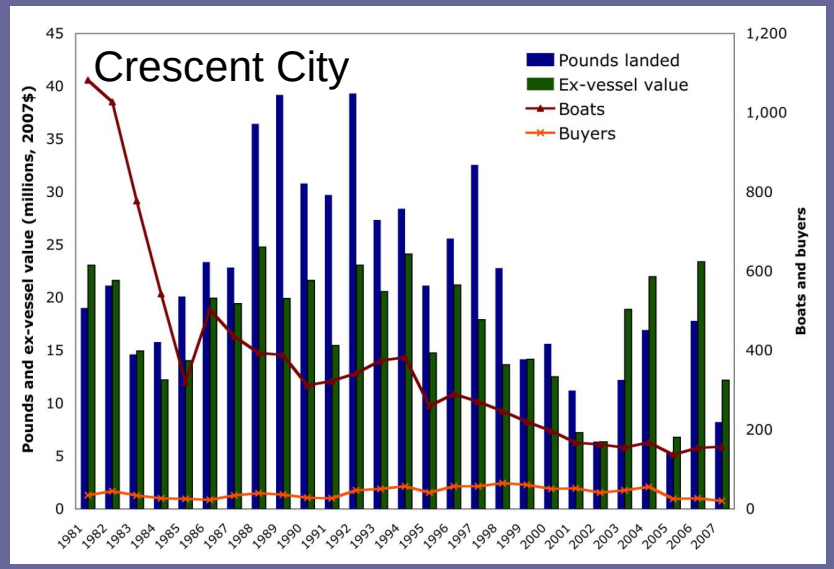
- Environmental
- Regulatory
- Economic
- Social

# Fishing Activity at Four North Coast Ports



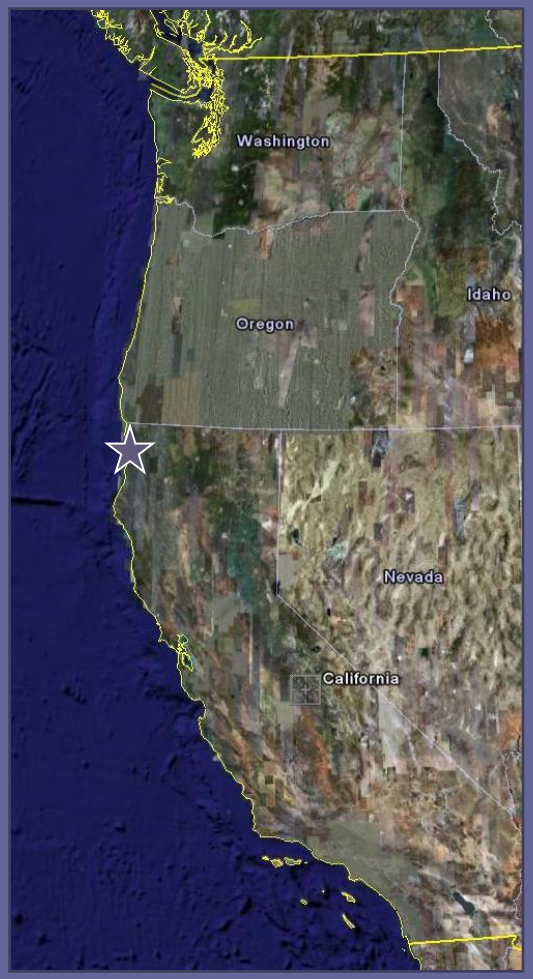



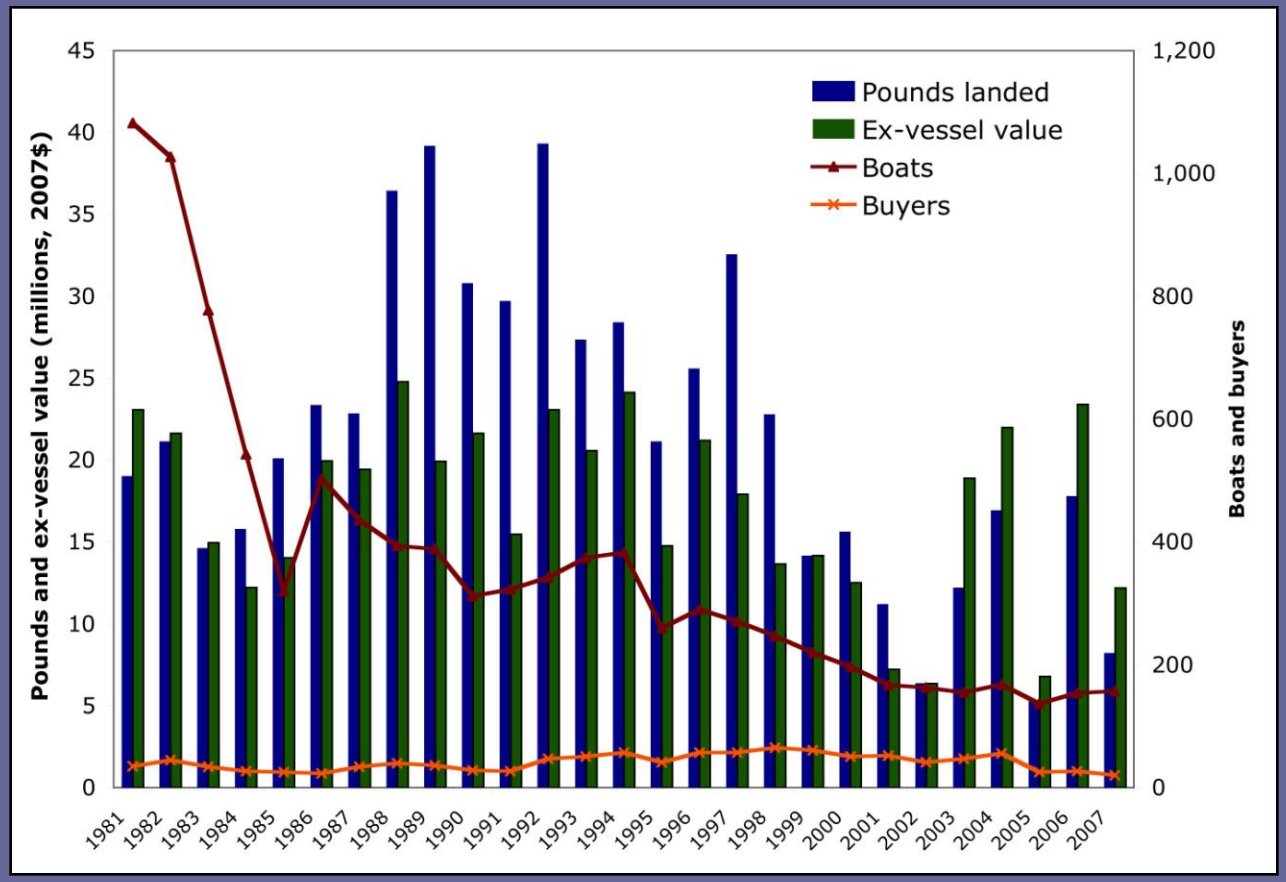




Pomeroy et al. 2010, PacFIN data

# Crescent City, California



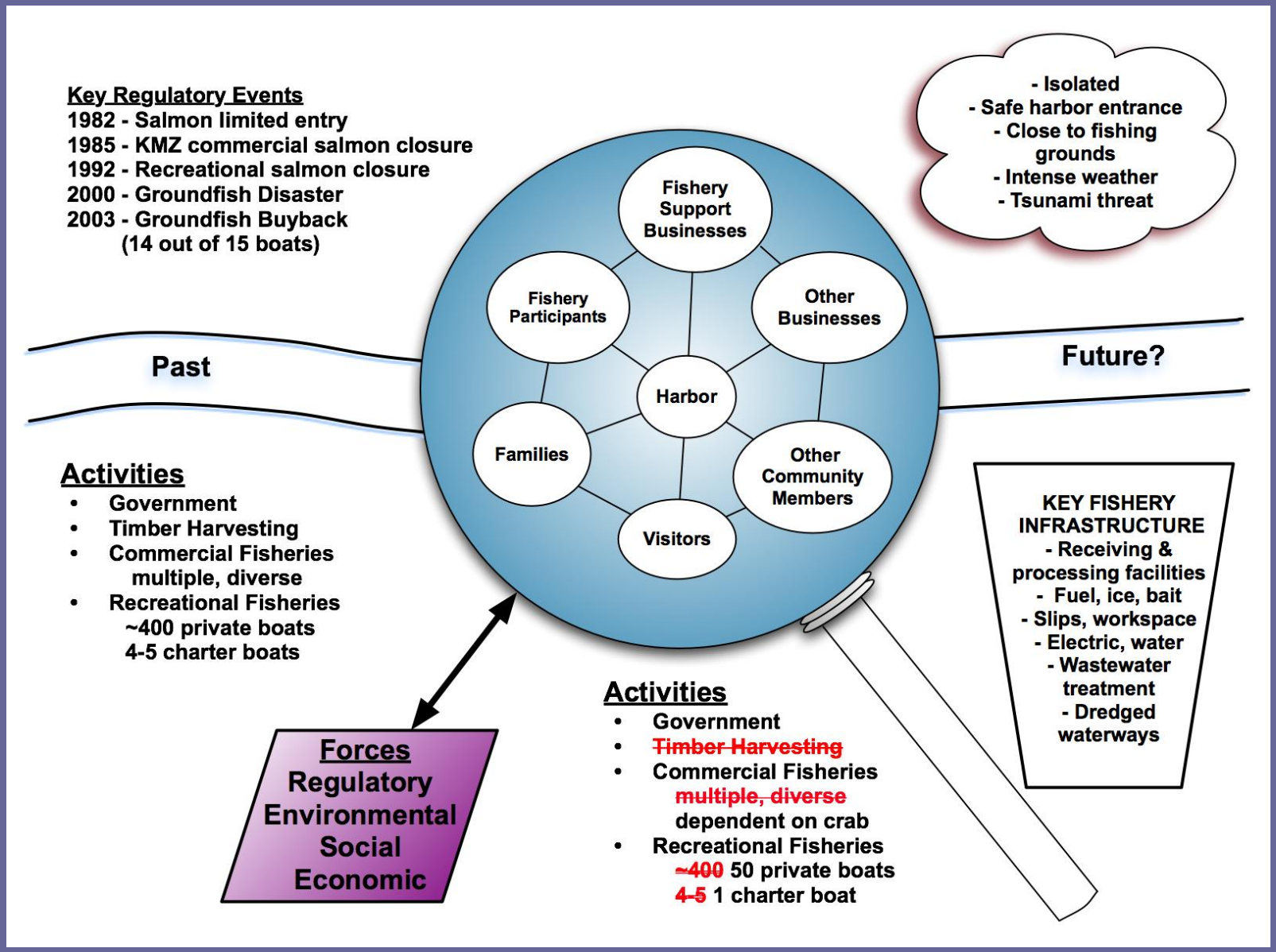

Commercial fishery activity, 1981-2007.



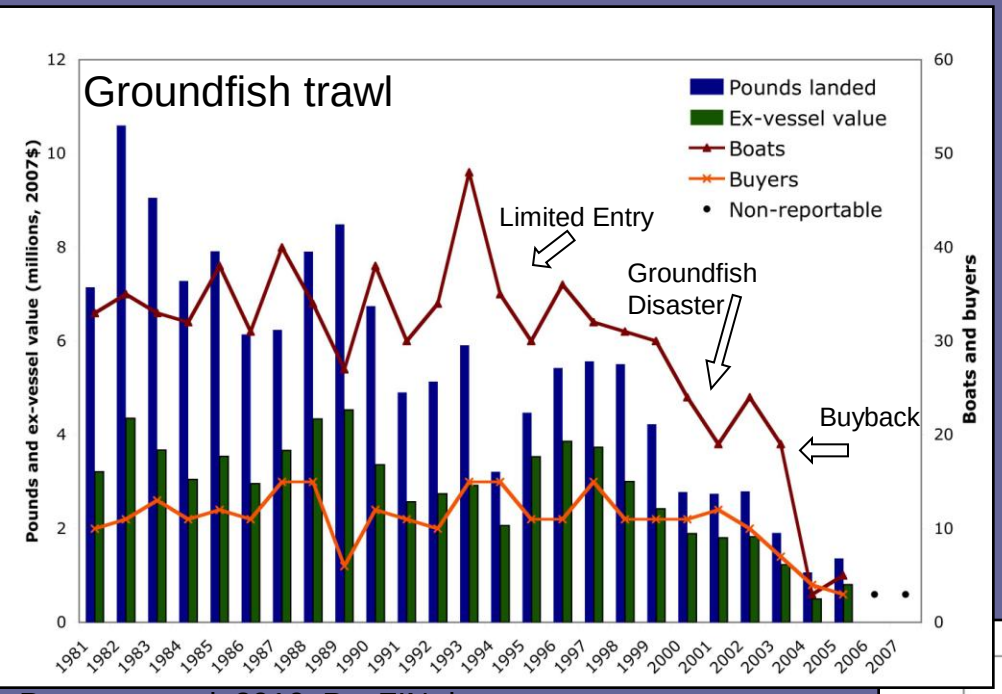

Pomeroy et al. 2010, PacFIN data

# The Local Fishery System

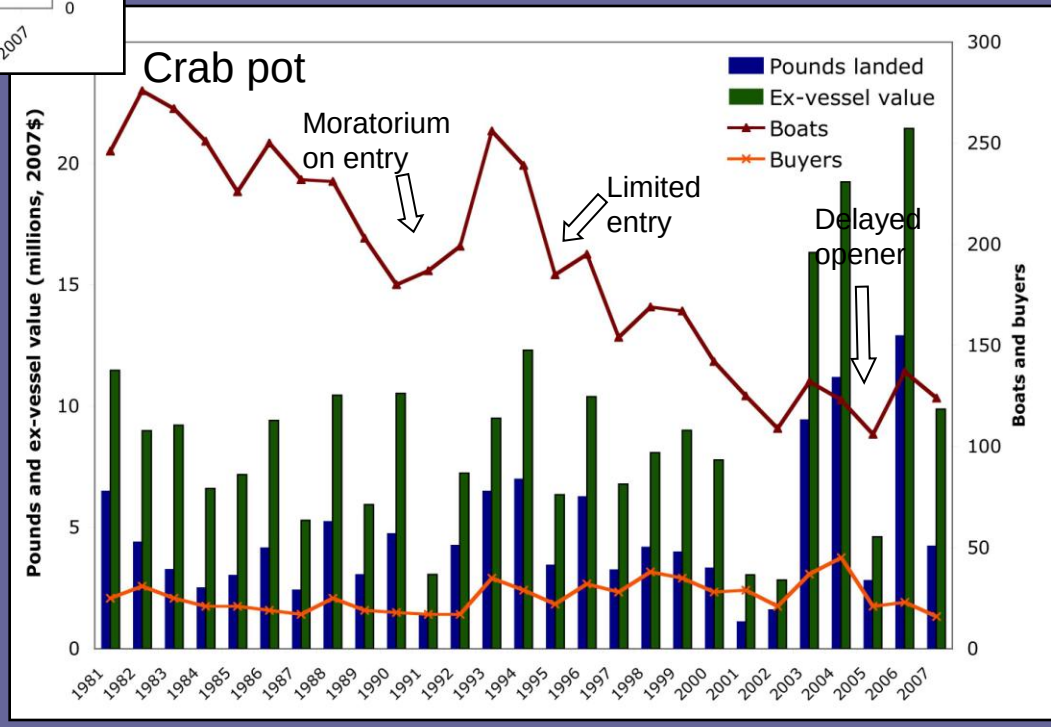
# Crescent City, CA: The Human Dimension

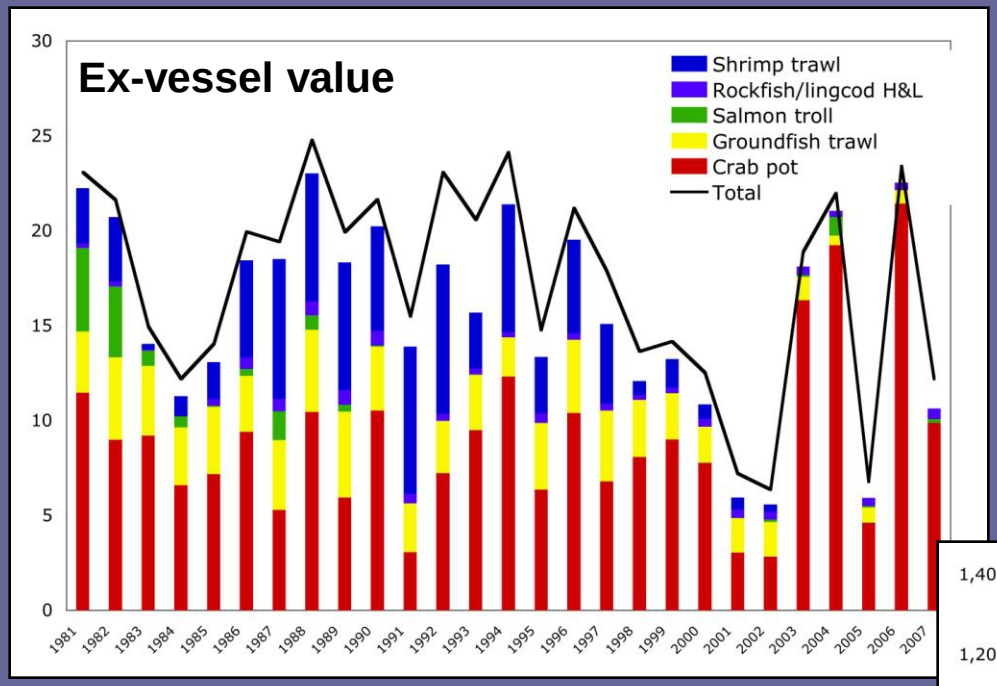


# Exploring trends within fisheries



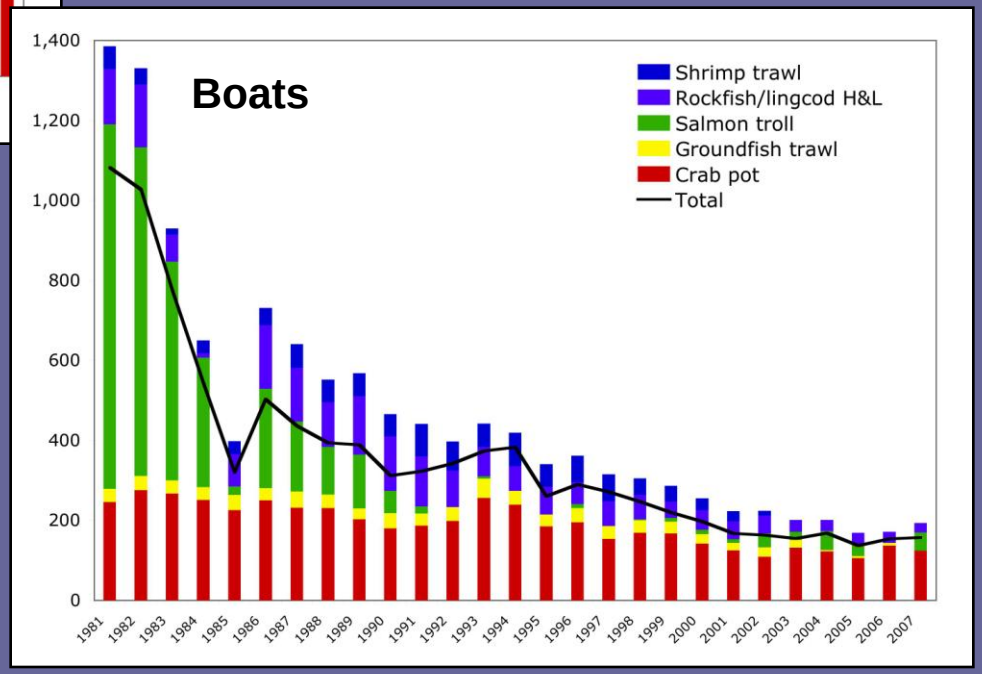

Pomeroy et al. 2010, PacFIN data






Pomeroy et al. 2010, PacFIN data

# Exploring trends across fisheries



# 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

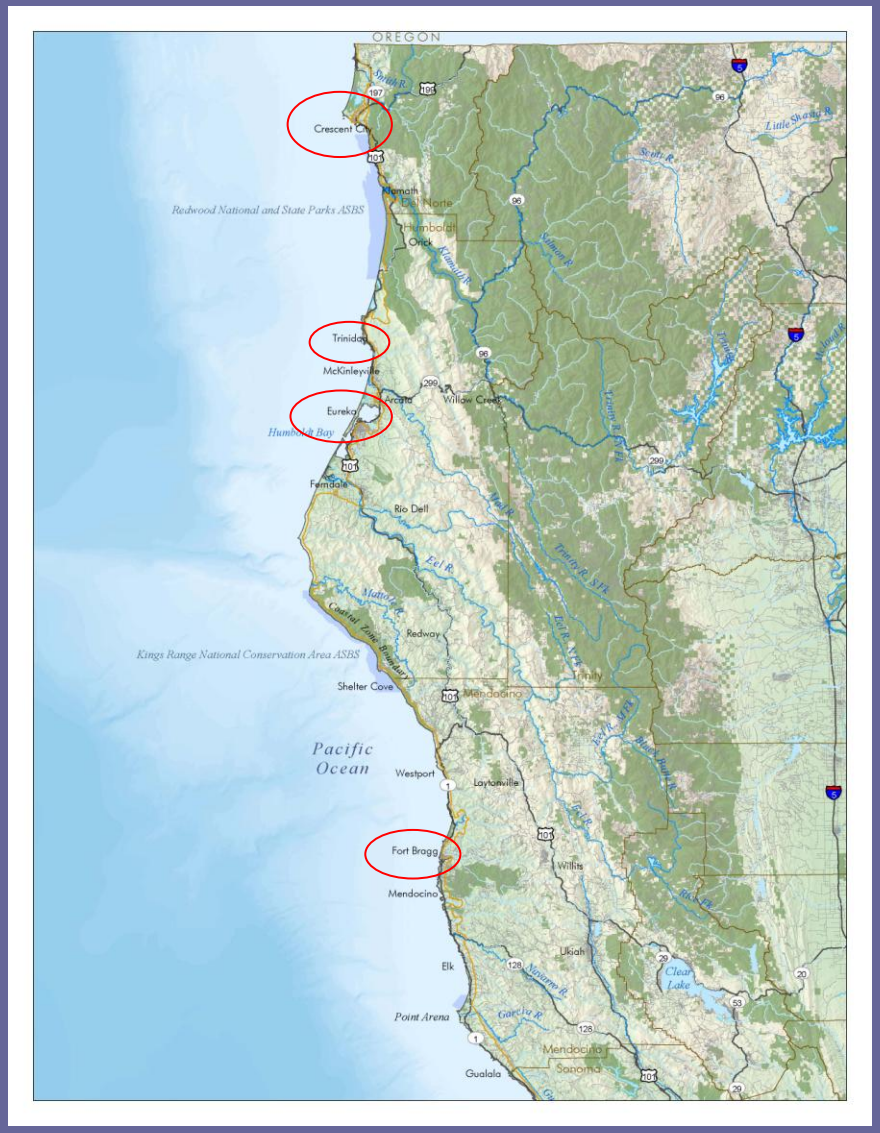
## Concerns

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

## Recreational fisheries

- Shift from primary focus on salmon to groundfish & crab

# And Other Things Happen



Photos courtesy of F.L. Hiser

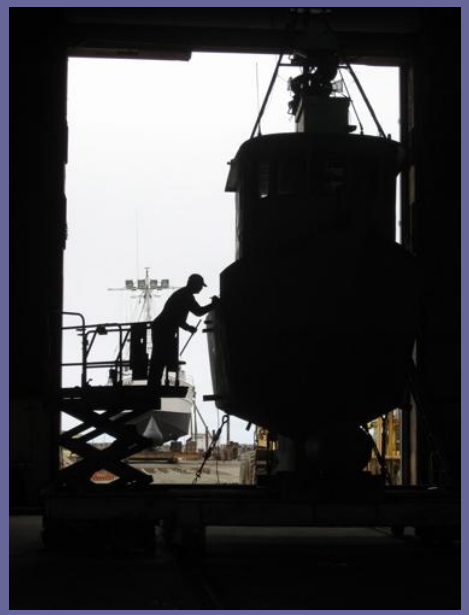
# What does a viable fishing community look like?

- 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

North Coast project: C. Thomson (Co-PI), NMFS, M. Stevens, UCSC/CA Sea Grant; H. Davis & R. Rizzo, NOAA Fisheries; North Coast fishing community members; S. Schlosser, J. Waldvogel & D. Marshall, CA Sea Grant; Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, and many others…including Amber.

Project funding support



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