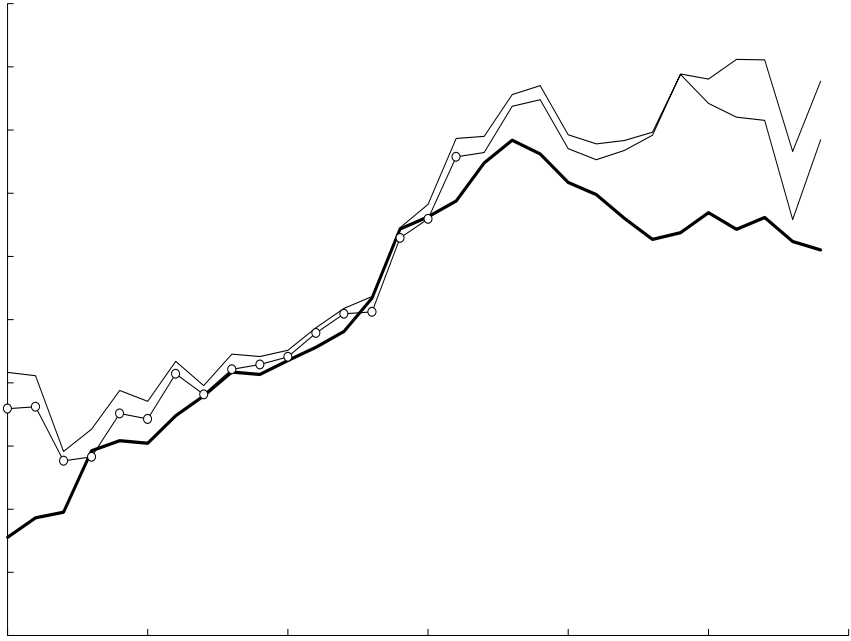
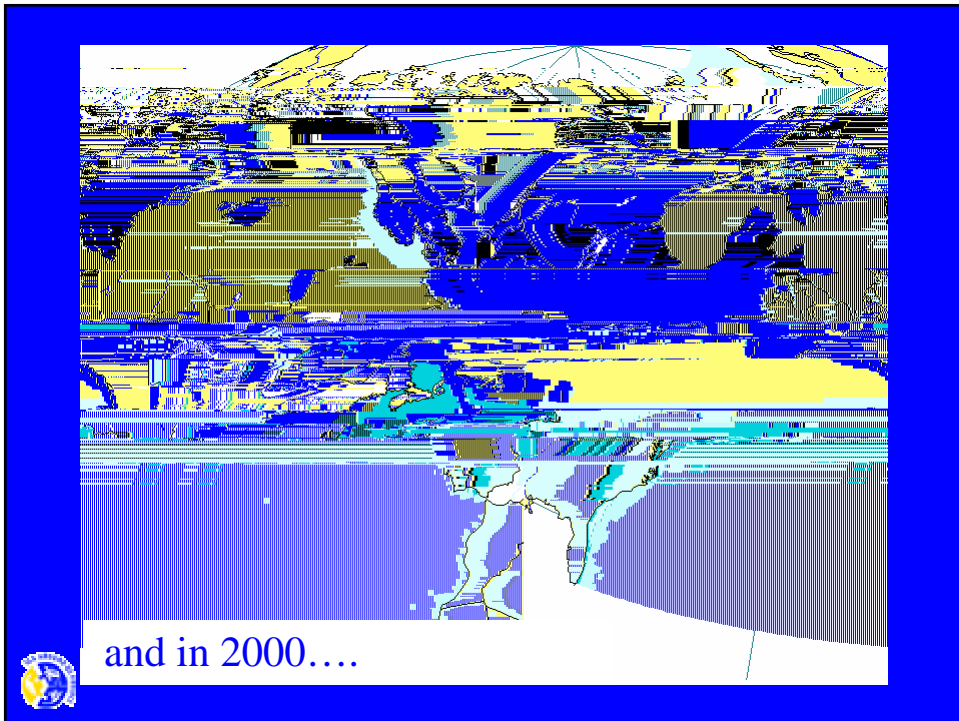
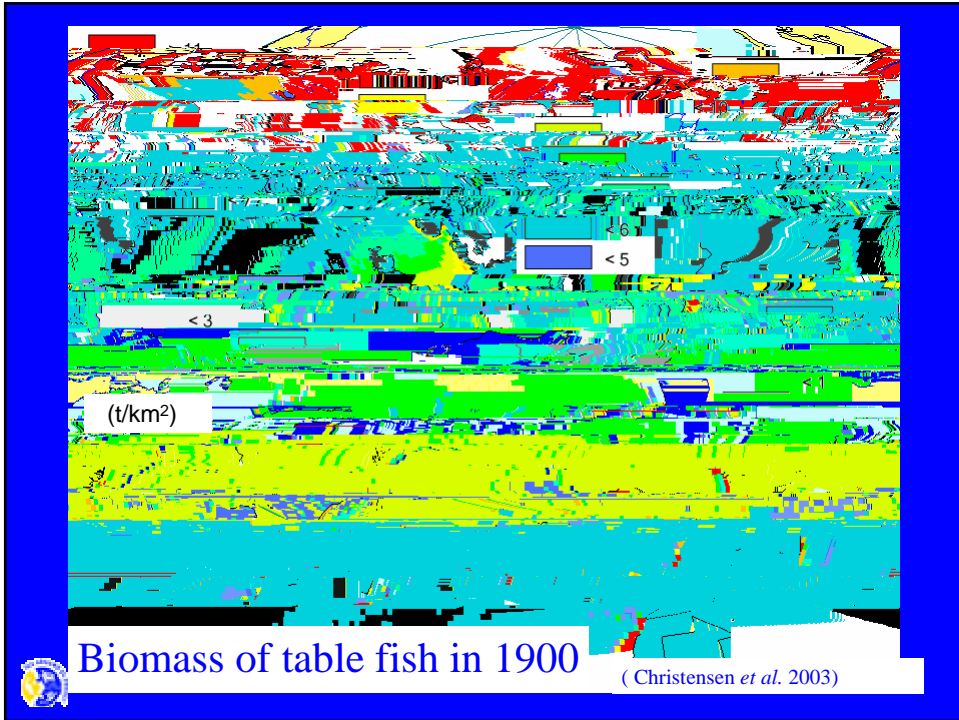


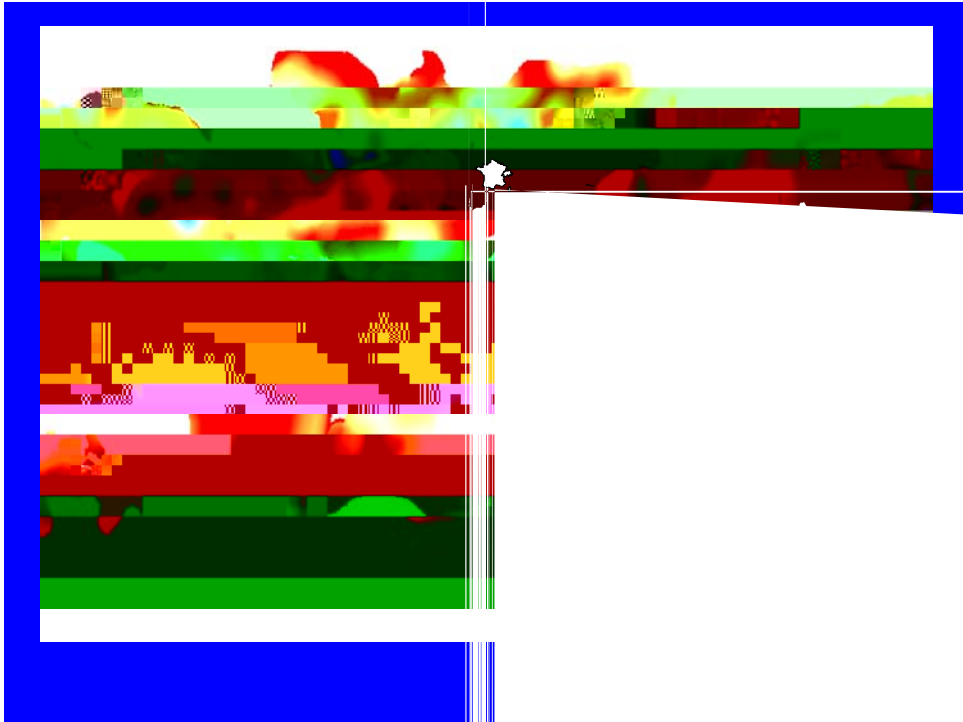
*Lisa Speer*  
*Senior Policy Analyst*  
*Natural Resources Defense Council*

Deep Sea  
Conservation Coalition

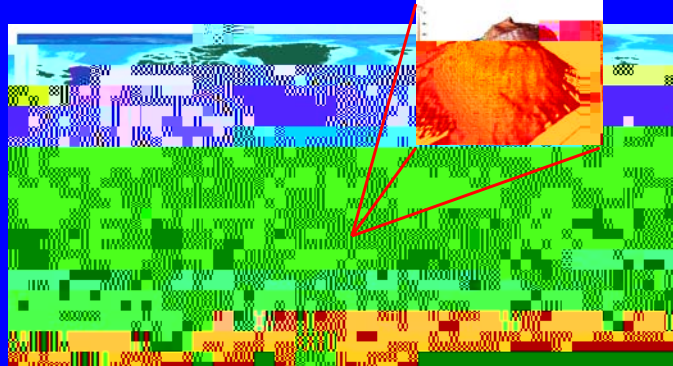






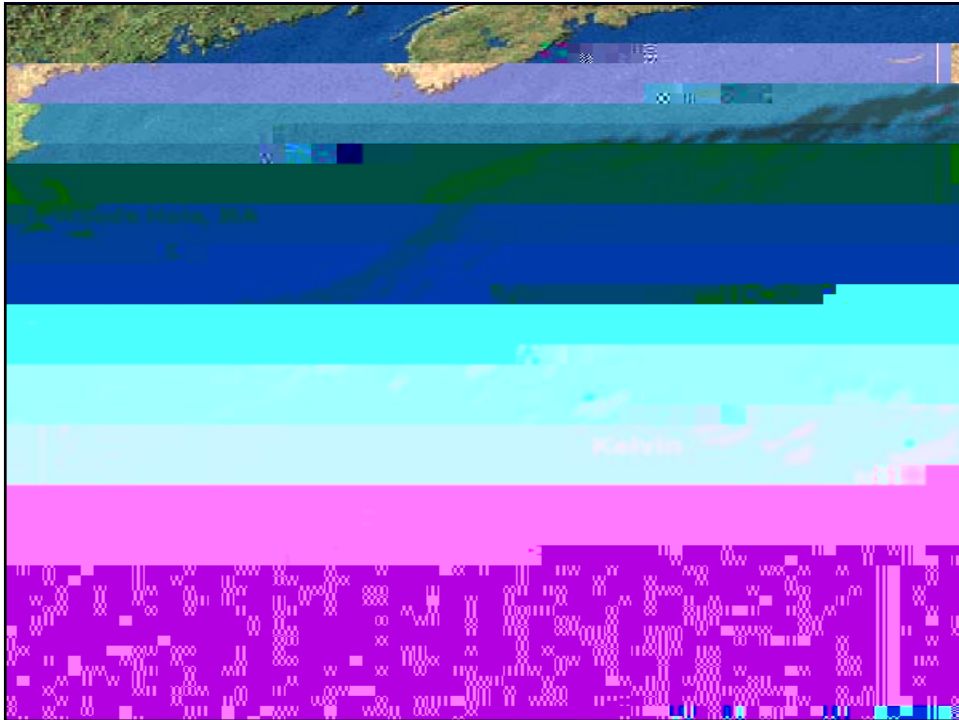


- ~50,000 – 100,000 seamounts, half on the high seas
- < 1% biologically sampled



## Seamounts and cold water corals

- Important nursery and feeding grounds
  - Host high levels of endemism
  - Stepping stones for spreading of species across ocean basins
  - Refugia for relict species
- Host vast numbers of benthic animals
  - Hard, soft, horny corals, sponges, sea lilies, sea squirts
  - Habitat and food for other animals



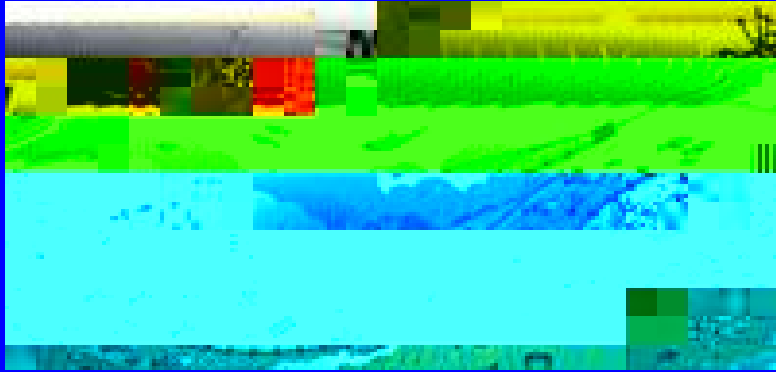
## Bottom Trawling



Trawling gear is extremely robust – doors can be up to 5 tons each

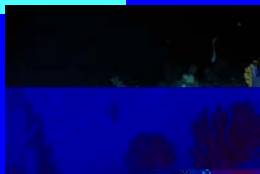
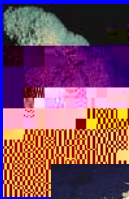


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## Bottom trawling on Seamounts

Untrawle



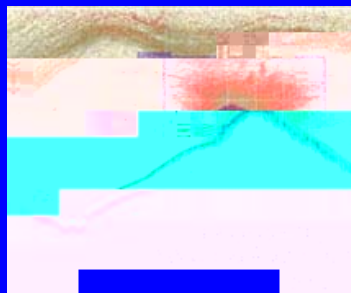
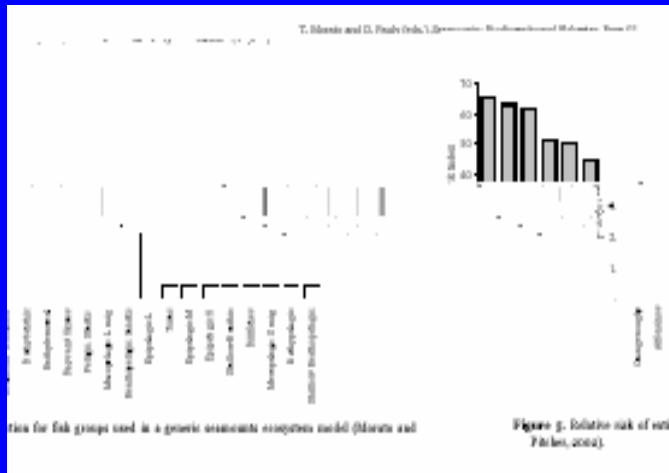
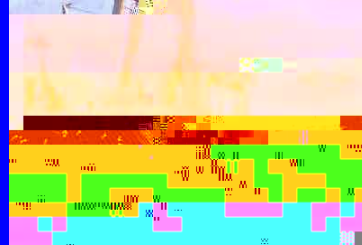


Image from NIWA

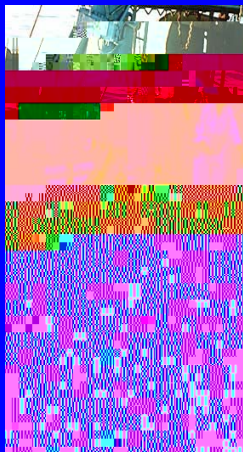


## Scientists Statement on Protecting World's Deep-sea Coral and Sponge Ecosystems, February 2004

- *" the UN General Assembly should adopt a moratorium on deep-sea bottom trawl fishing on the High Seas effective immediately"*



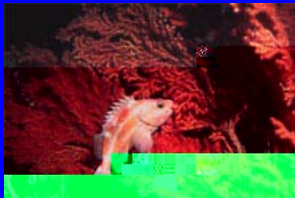
### Current status of High Seas bottom trawl fishery: (IUCN, NRDC, WWF, CI)



- 170,000 – 215,000 mt  
≅ 0.2% of world capture fisheries [UN FAO 2001]
- Value = US\$300- US\$400 m in 2001  
<0.5% of total value of world capture fisheries production [UN FAO 2001]
- Negligible contribution to global food security

## Current status of High Seas bottom trawl fishery: (IUCN, NRDC, WWF, CI)

- 11 countries responsible for over 95% of reported catch (2001)  
Spain; Portugal; Russia; Lithuania; Latvia; Estonia;  
Iceland; Norway; Faroe Is (Denmark); New Zealand; Japan  
(most OECD and/or Parties to UNFSA)
- 100-200 vessels - full-time, year round  
3.1 million vessels worldwide [UN FAO 2001]



## Gaps in Governance

- Bottom trawling in most areas of the high seas is completely unregulated
- In those high seas areas with RFMOs, few if any have restricted bottom trawling to protect vulnerable habitats

\* (I 'CZK cfX g'CWUbg'@Y'  
6YmcbX'BUh]cbU`>i f]gX]W]cb'

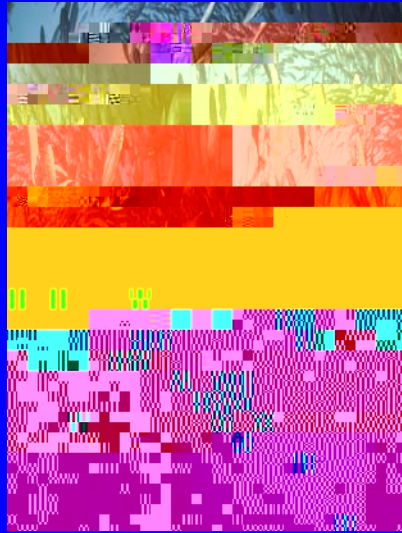
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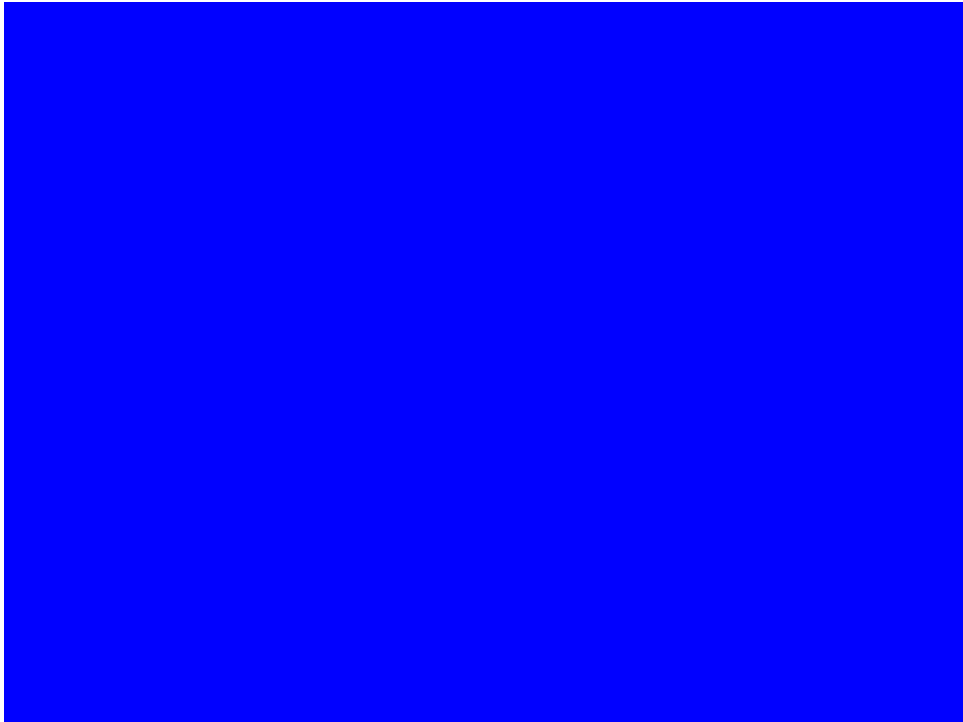
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## 1995 UN FISH STOCKS AGREEMENT

- Assess and minimize the impact of fishing on non-target and associated or dependent species and their environment [5(d),(f)]
- Protect biodiversity in the marine environment [5(g)]
- Protect habitats of special concern [6.3]





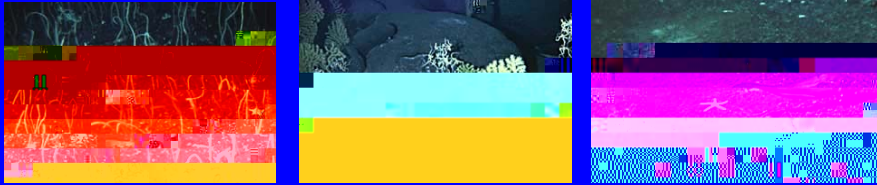
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30. Agrees that there is an urgent need for international cooperation and action to improve conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in marine areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, ...



## Moving from CALLS for urgent action ... to ACTION ...



## Immediate Moratorium on High Seas Bottom Trawling

- a 'time out' for high seas bottom trawl fishing to initiate a UN Coordinated approach to:
  - assess deep sea biodiversity & ecosystems + vulnerability to fishing;



