

Towards a new sustainable fishing adventure? – the snow crab in the Barents Sea

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Credit to: Jan Sundet, Ann Merete Hjelset, Cecilie Hansen and Trude Thangstad

New species in the Barents Sea Ecosystem

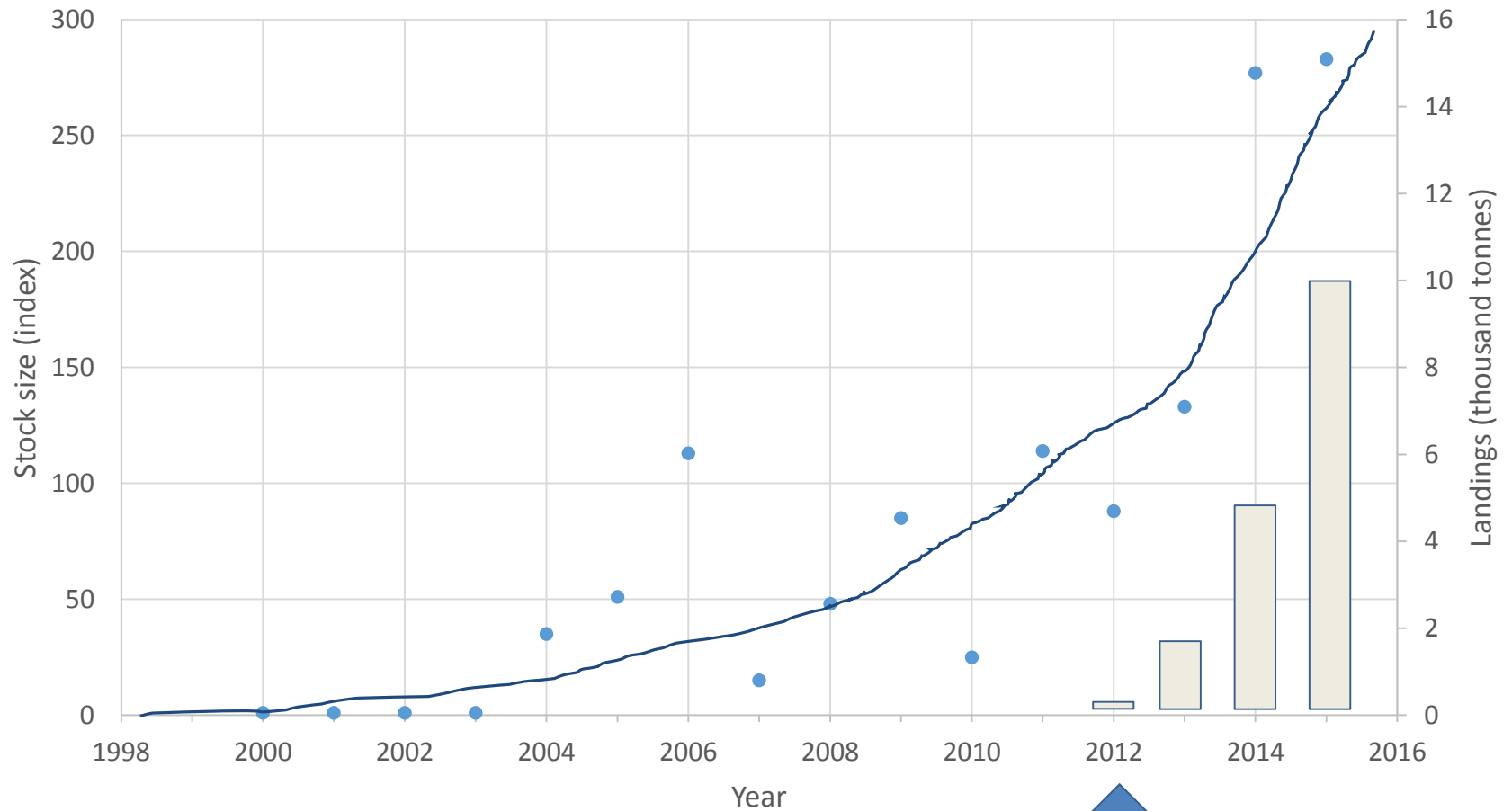
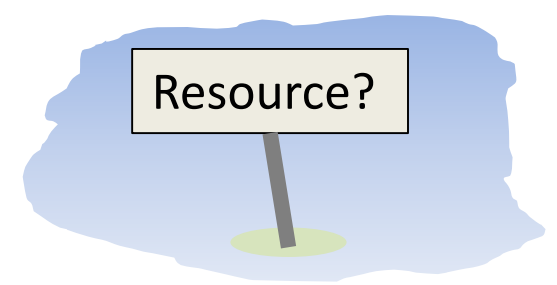


The Snow crab

The questions:

- Resource?
- Pest?
- Management?

Stock is increasing



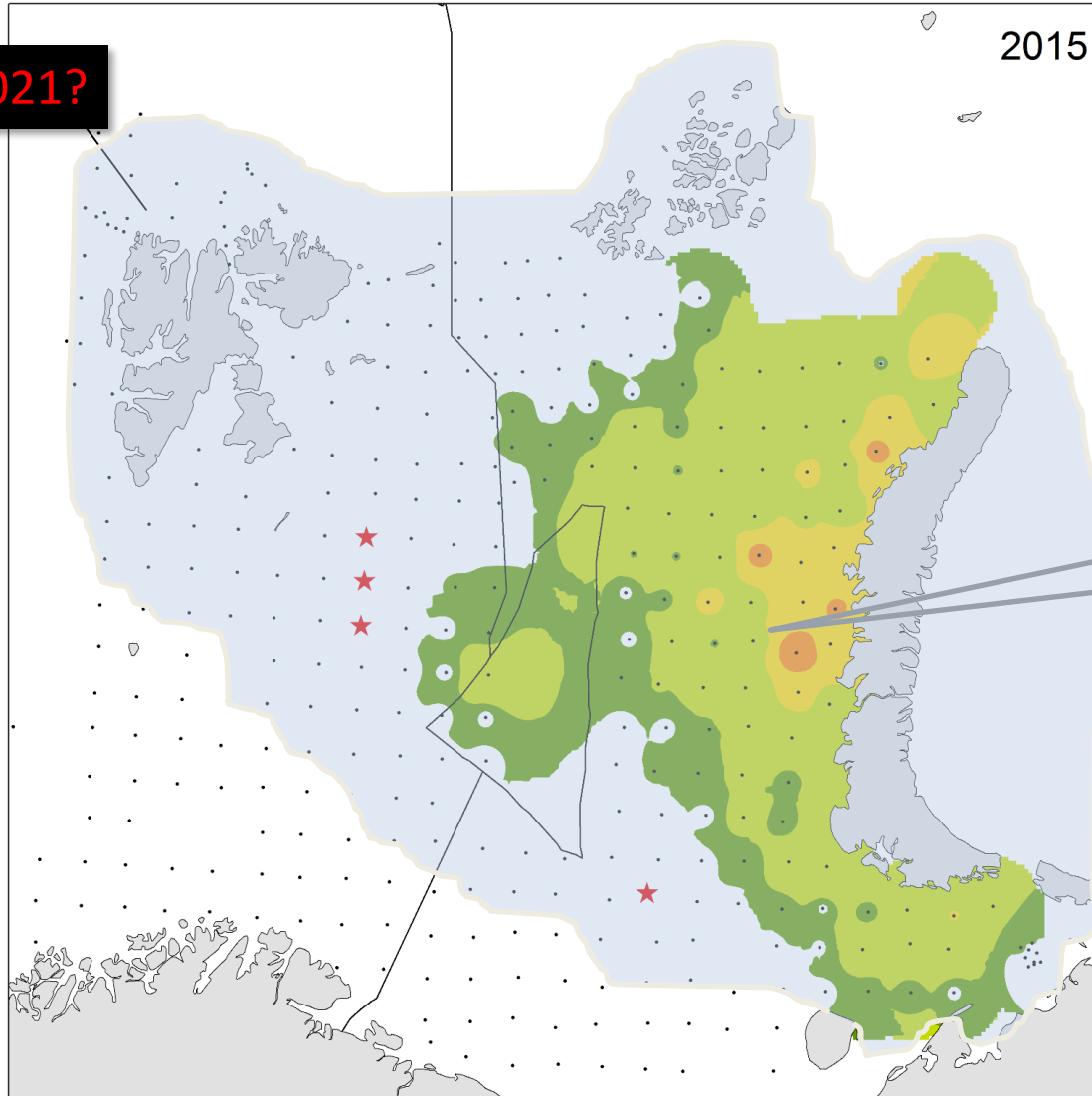
Fishery starts

...and continues to spread

Resource?

2021?

2015



Ecosurvey distribution

Numbers per nm

≤ 1

2 - 5

6 - 50

51 - 100

101 - 1 000

1 001 - 6 124

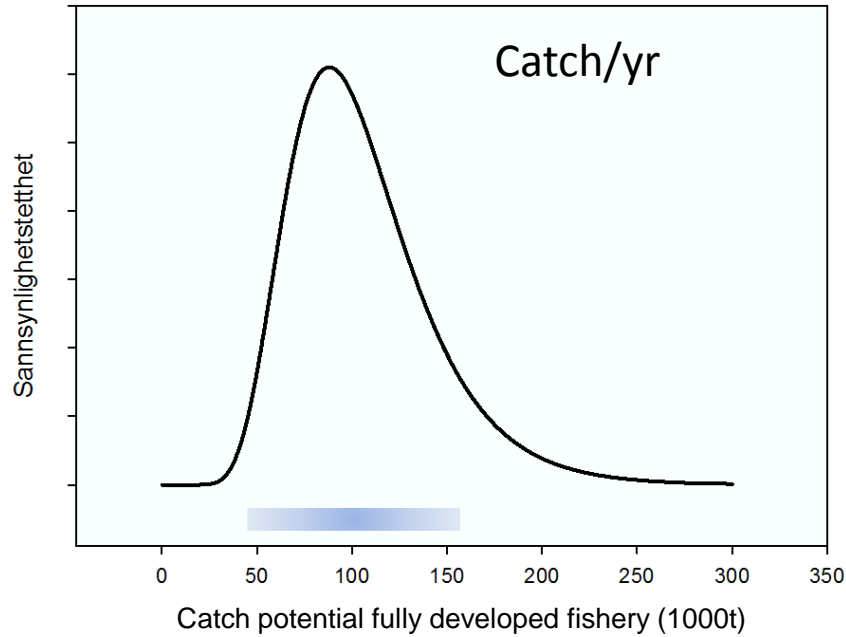
★ Single observation/bycatch

• Ecosurvey trawl station

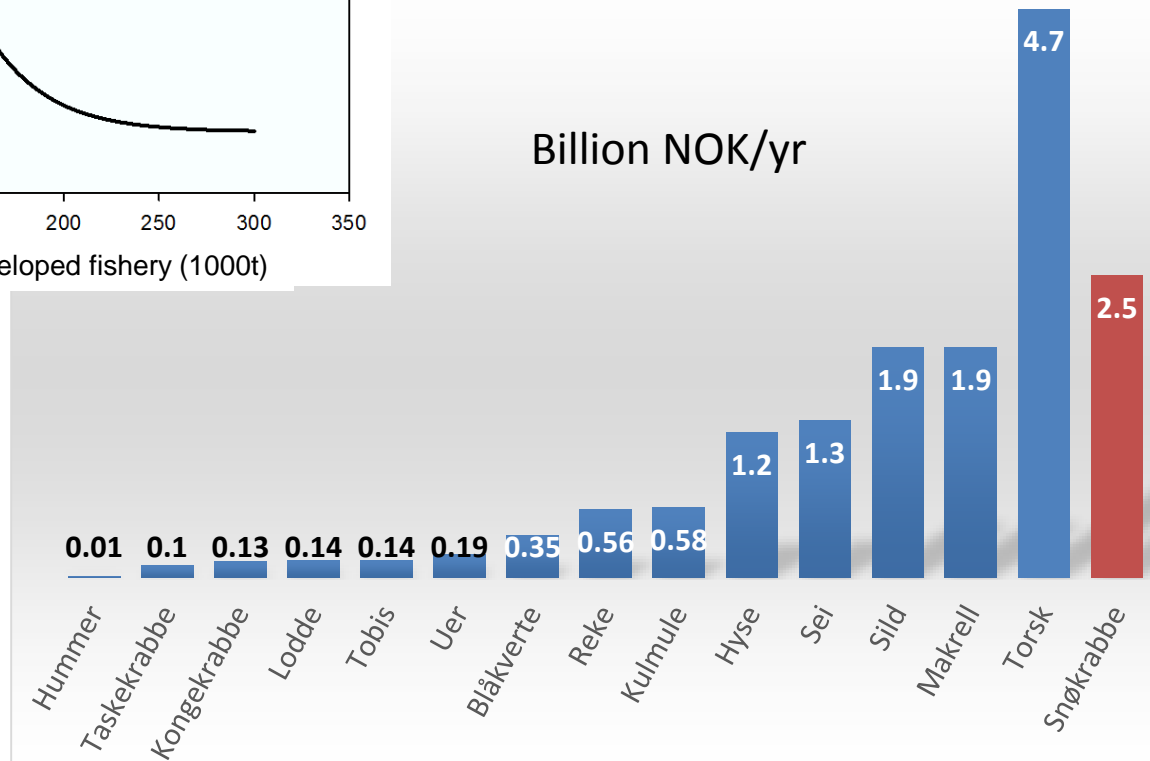
First recording
in 1996

The prognosis:

Resource



Billion NOK/yr



Unknown ecosystem impact



- Creation of ecosystem «imbalance»
 - New parasites, deceases
 - Displacement of other species
 - Trophic interactions



Modelled effects

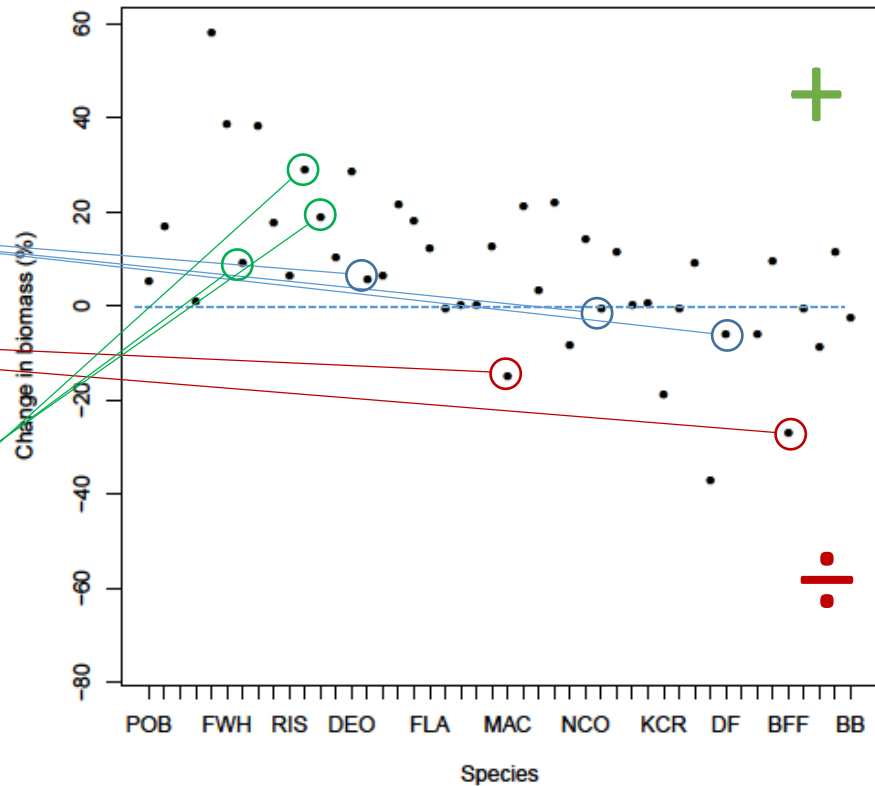
Pest?



Plankton: ↔

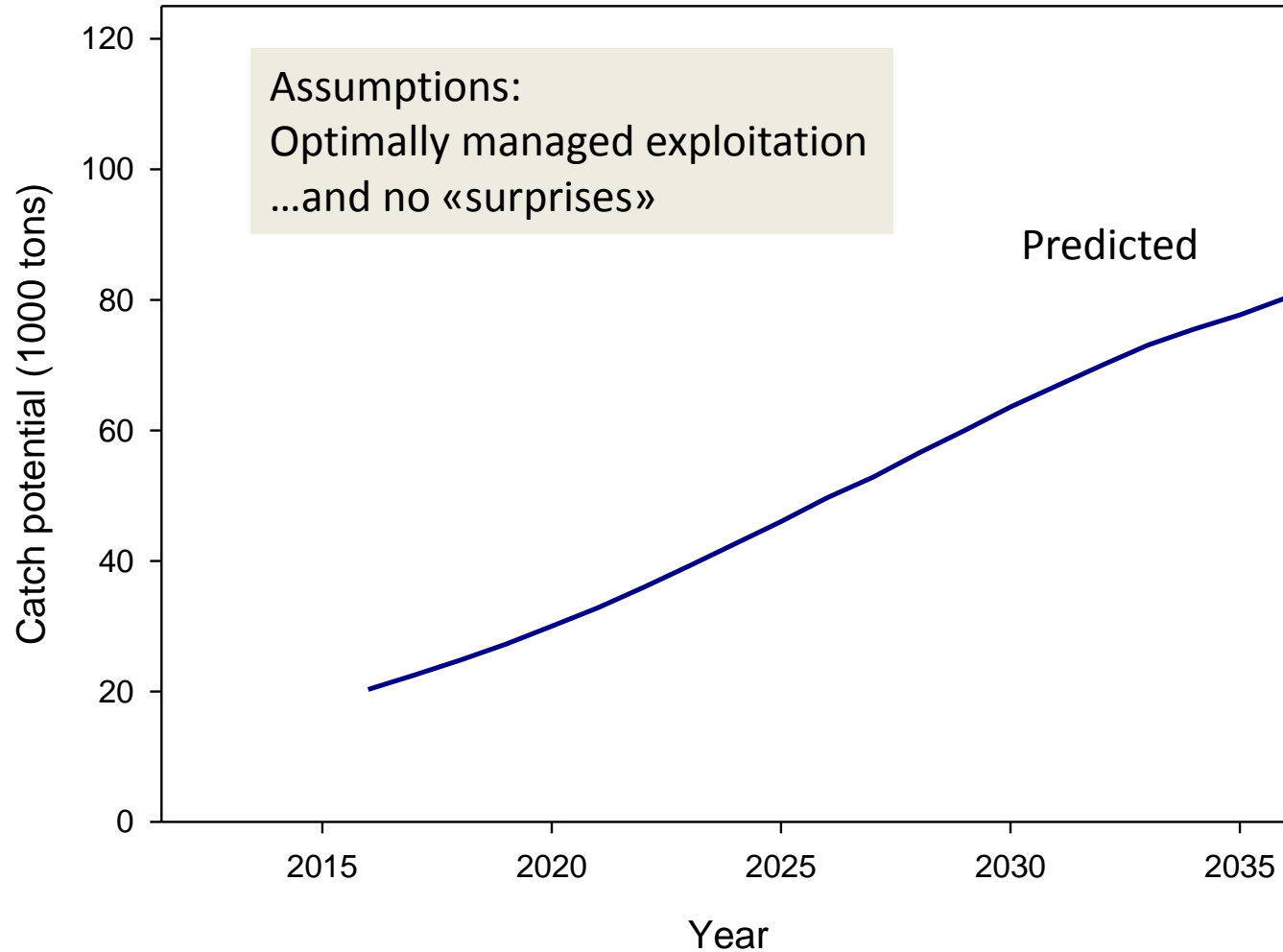
Bunndyr: ↓ 7-27%

Torsk, hyse, lodde: ↑ 10-30%



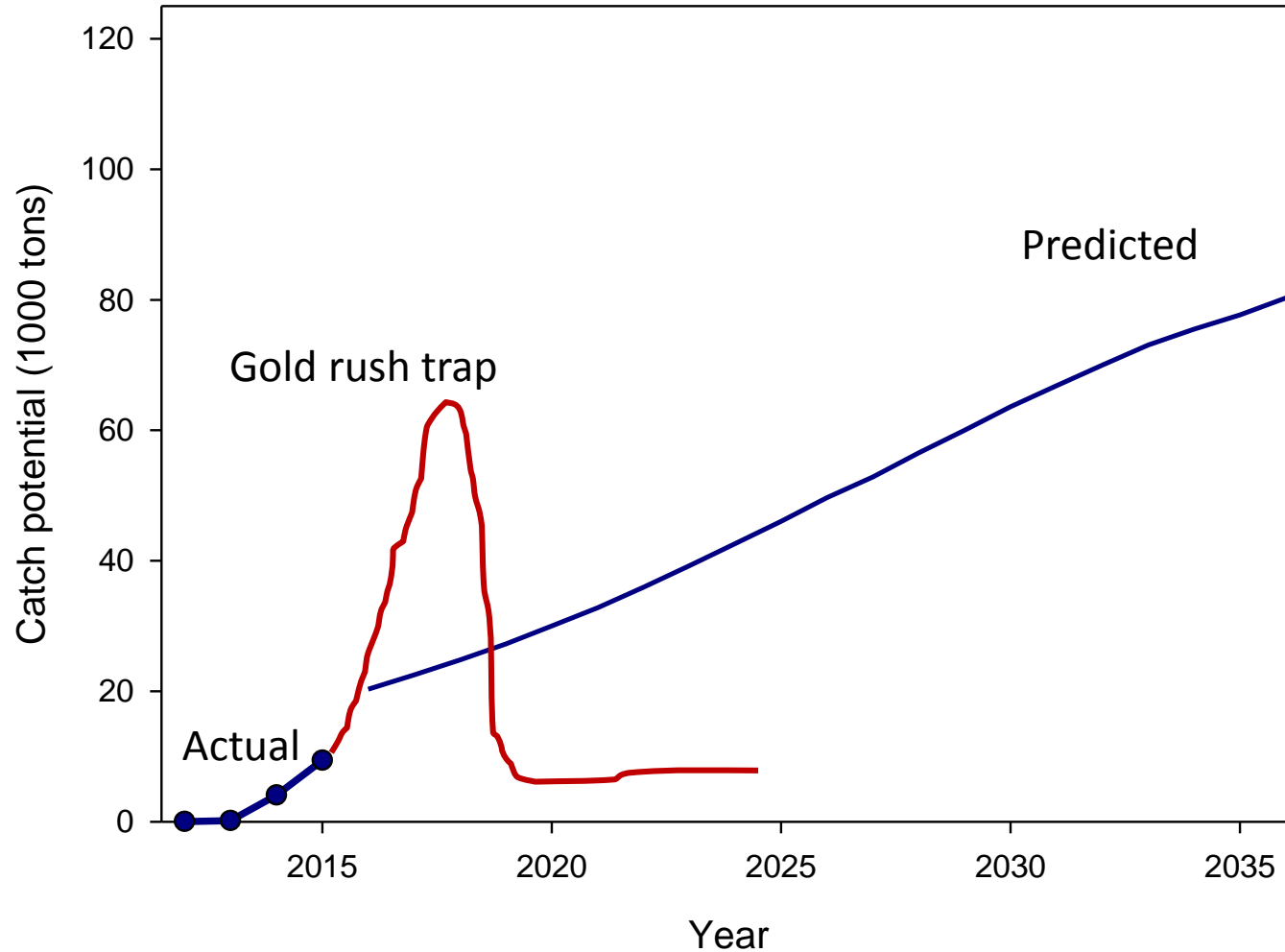
Resource management

Adequate?



Resource management

Adequate?



Status: The short version...

- **Known:**
 - Large economic potential
- **Risk:**
 - Ecosystem response on
 - Other species
 - The snow crab himself
 - The gold rush trap
- **Action**
 - Exploitation control (management plan)
 - Research related to resource dynamics

Thanks for your
attention!



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The distribution of the fishery

Bonus material

