

# An MLMA for Tight Budgets:

The challenge of managing  
data-poor and  
dollar-poor fisheries

Burr Heneman, 25 May 2010

## Worth emphasizing:

“It is beyond dispute that fishery management is changing within and outside California, and this should be acknowledged and celebrated. While difficult to measure, interviews for this project suggest these changes are clearly linked to passage and implementation of the MLMA. Both the Department and Commission deserve credit for this change.”

# Accomplishments related to MLMA:

- FGC restricted access policies (1999)
  - Pink shrimp RA program
  - Nearshore RA program
- *California's Living Marine Resources* (2001)
- FMP Master Plan (2001)
- Nearshore FMP (2002)
- Stock assessments of 7 nearshore species
- Marine Resources Committee

# Near-term Strategy

- Modest expectations
- Prepare for funding pulses
- Be prepared to move on a short priority list

Primary fishery management goal:  
sustainability (7056)

Definition of “Sustainability” includes maintaining ecosystem health (99.5).

# Three Objectives

- Prevent fishery crashes
- Rebuild stocks
- Make the most of limited funding

# Prevent fishery crashes and Rebuild stocks

1. Focus on data-poor species and stocks known to be depressed.

# Prevent fishery crashes and Rebuild stocks

2. Use alternative assessment methods for data-poor species.



# Prevent fishery crashes and Rebuild stocks

3. Match TACs to levels of uncertainty (including uncertainty about ecosystem effects of the fishery).

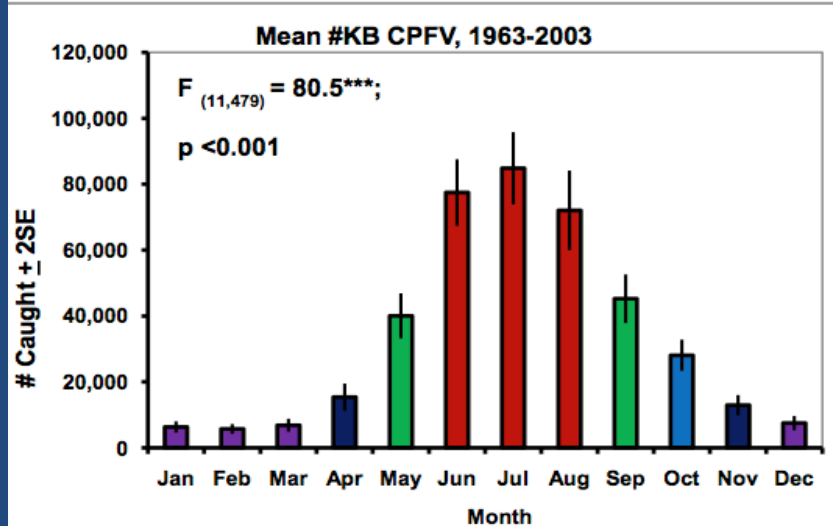
# Prevent fishery crashes and Rebuild stocks

4. Apply existing precautionary rules of thumb.

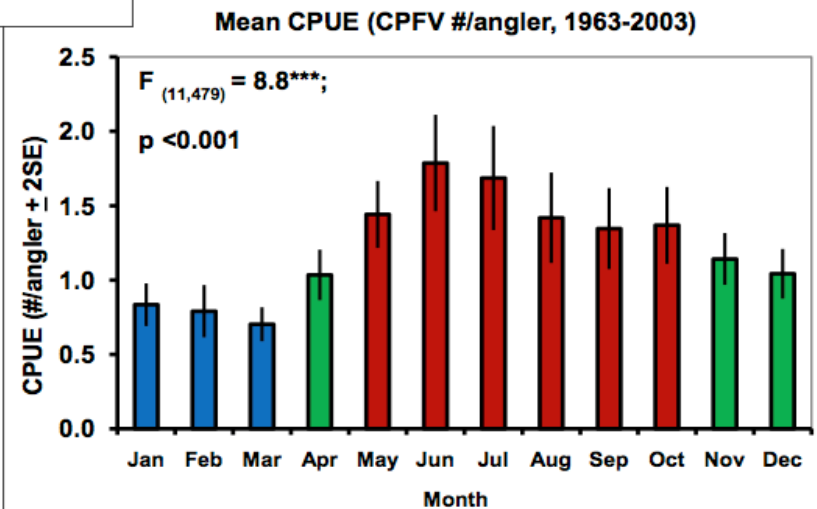
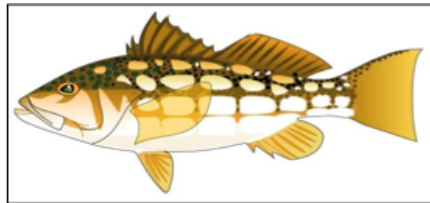
Example: Restrepo et al.

Example: Precautionary control rule for data-moderate stocks in the Nearshore FMP.

## Los Angeles Times CPFV Data (1963-2003)



## Kelp Bass

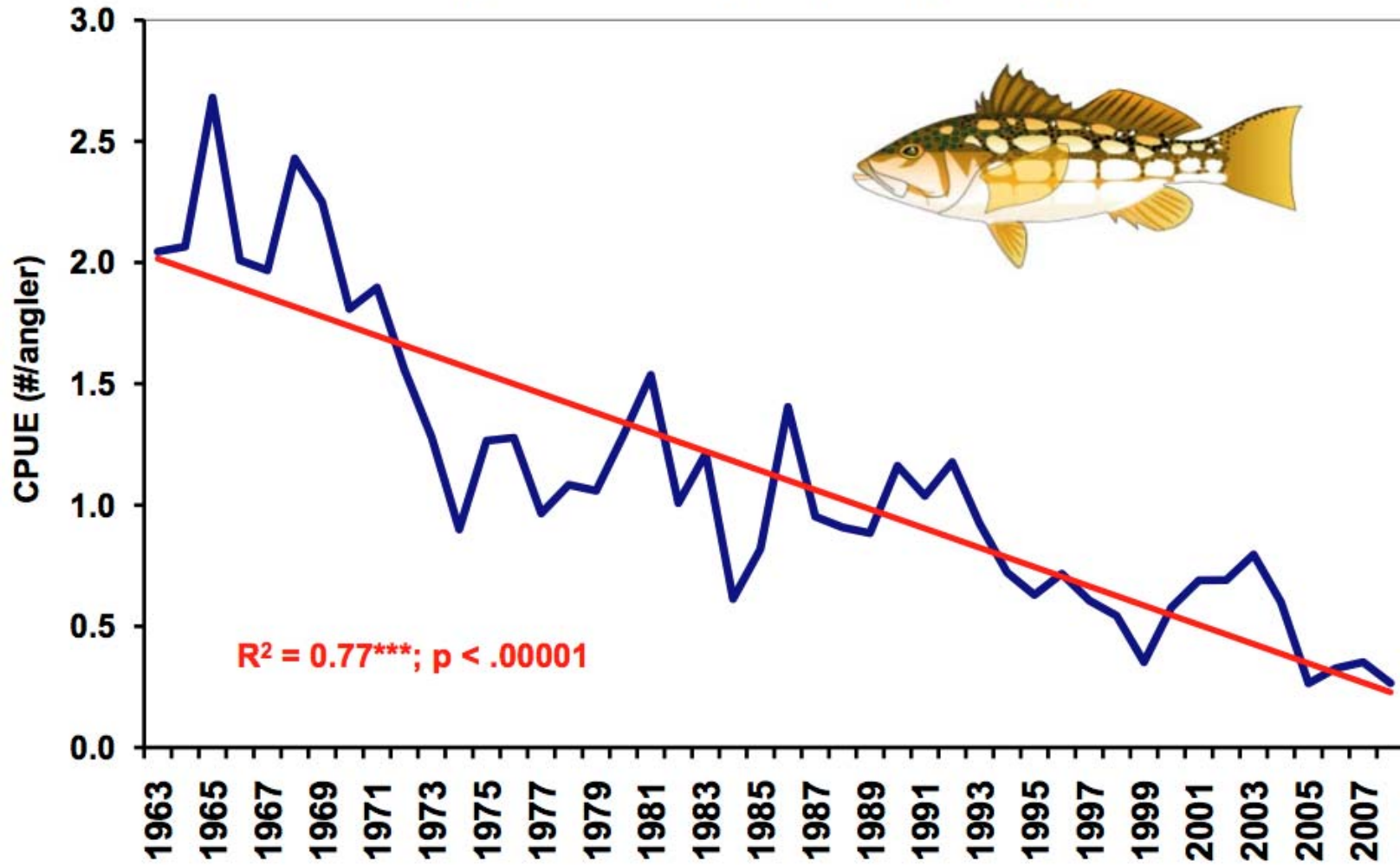


From: An analysis of the fisheries for barred sand bass and kelp bass off Southern California, 1963 – 2008

Larry G. Allen, CSU Northridge & Brad E. Erisman, Scripps Institution of Oceanography

# Los Angeles Times + CRFS CPFV; 1963-2008

Kelp Bass CPUE (CPFV; #/Angler trip)



# Swiss Cheese FMPs for Data-poor Species?

- Status quo management
- Single-species regulation to solve one problem  
– minimal short-term cost.
- Framework FMP with big information gaps for  
several species – minimal long-term cost?

# Make the most of limited funding

1. Match management costs to funding generated by users through licenses, fees, or contributions to management processes.  
(700s in the F&G Code)

# Make the most of limited funding

2. Take advantage of funding pulses by relying more on independent contractors rather than just adding staff.

# Make the most of limited funding

3. Collaborative pilot projects that include substantial user funding.



# Make the most of limited funding

## 4. Multi-purpose programs.

Example: Maximize the benefits of MPA monitoring for fisheries management

7072. . . . . (b) Fishery management plans shall be based on the best scientific information that is available, on other relevant information that the department possesses, or on the scientific information or other relevant information that can be obtained without substantially delaying the preparation of the plan.

# The MLMA: not just about FMPs

- 7072. (a) Fishery management plans shall form the primary basis for managing California's sport and commercial marine fisheries.
- 7058. Any fishery management regulation adopted by the commission shall, to the extent practicable, conform to the policies of Sections 7055 and 7056.