

Dynamics and research trends in seafood consumption by coastal Indigenous Peoples

The Nippon Foundation - University of British Columbia
NEREUS PROGRAM
Predicting Future Oceans



W UNIVERSITY of
WASHINGTON

Andrés Cisneros-Montemayor

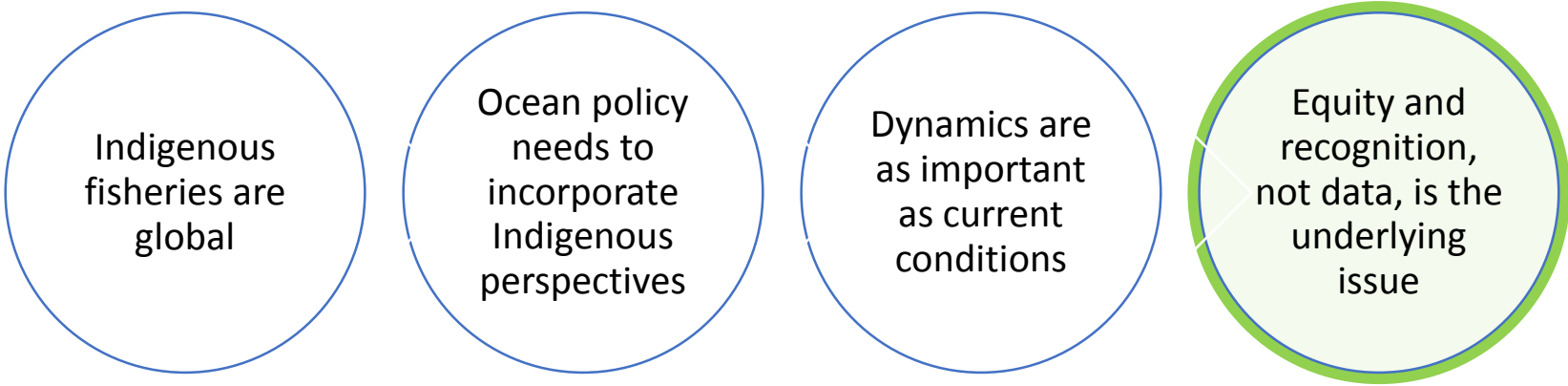
Tiff-Annie Kenny

Yoshitaka Ota

Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries, UBC

Place-Based Food Systems Conference

Vancouver, August 9 2018



Indigenous
fisheries are
global

Ocean policy
needs to
incorporate
Indigenous
perspectives

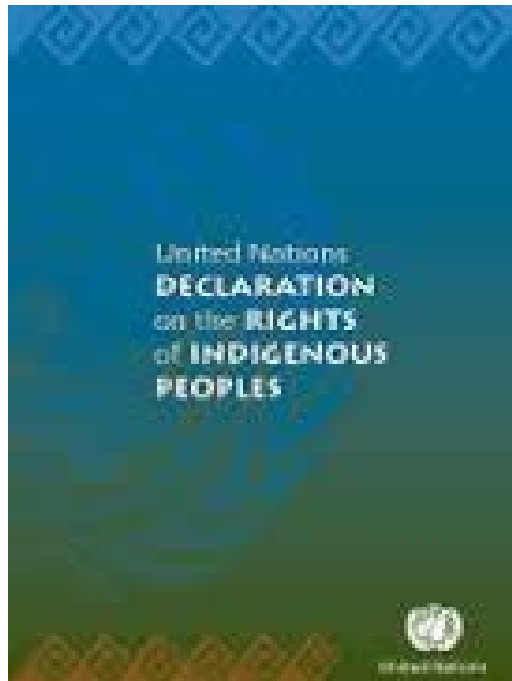
Dynamics are
as important
as current
conditions

Equity and
recognition,
not data, is the
underlying
issue

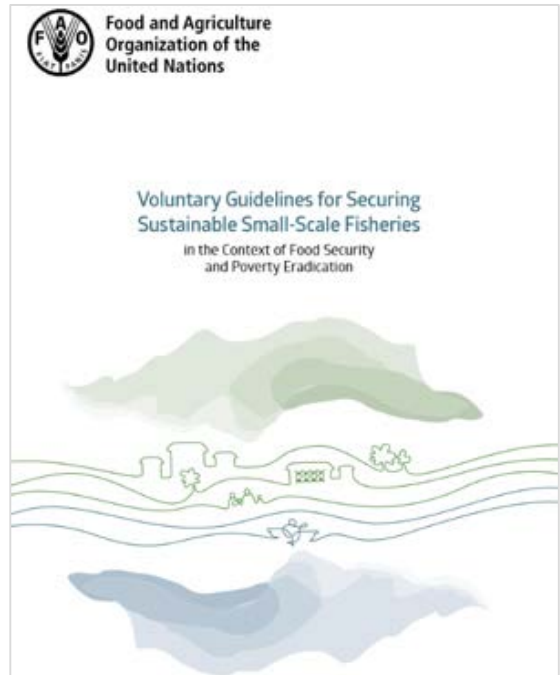
Ocean governance is global



Convention on
Biological Diversity

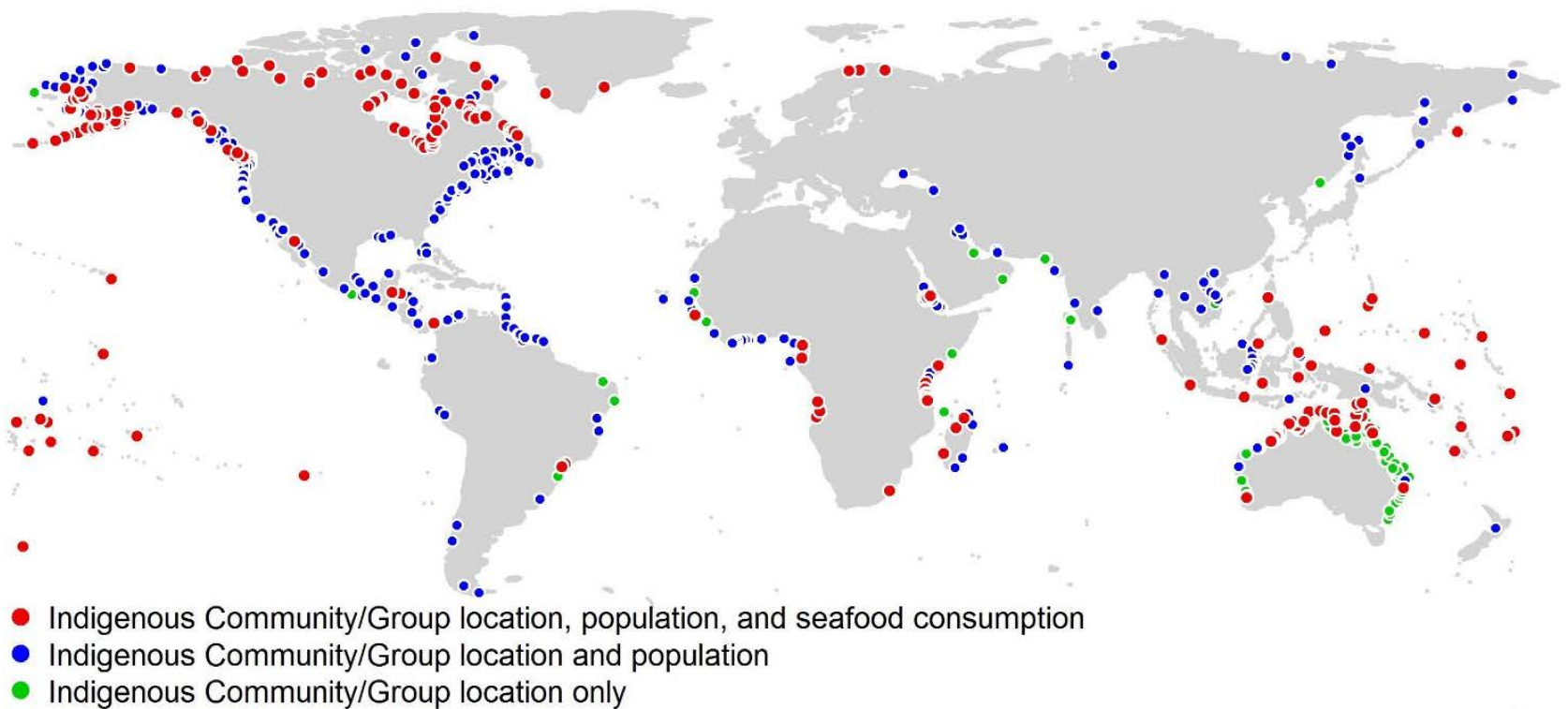


THE
**OCEAN
CONFERENCE**
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK, 5-9 JUNE 2017



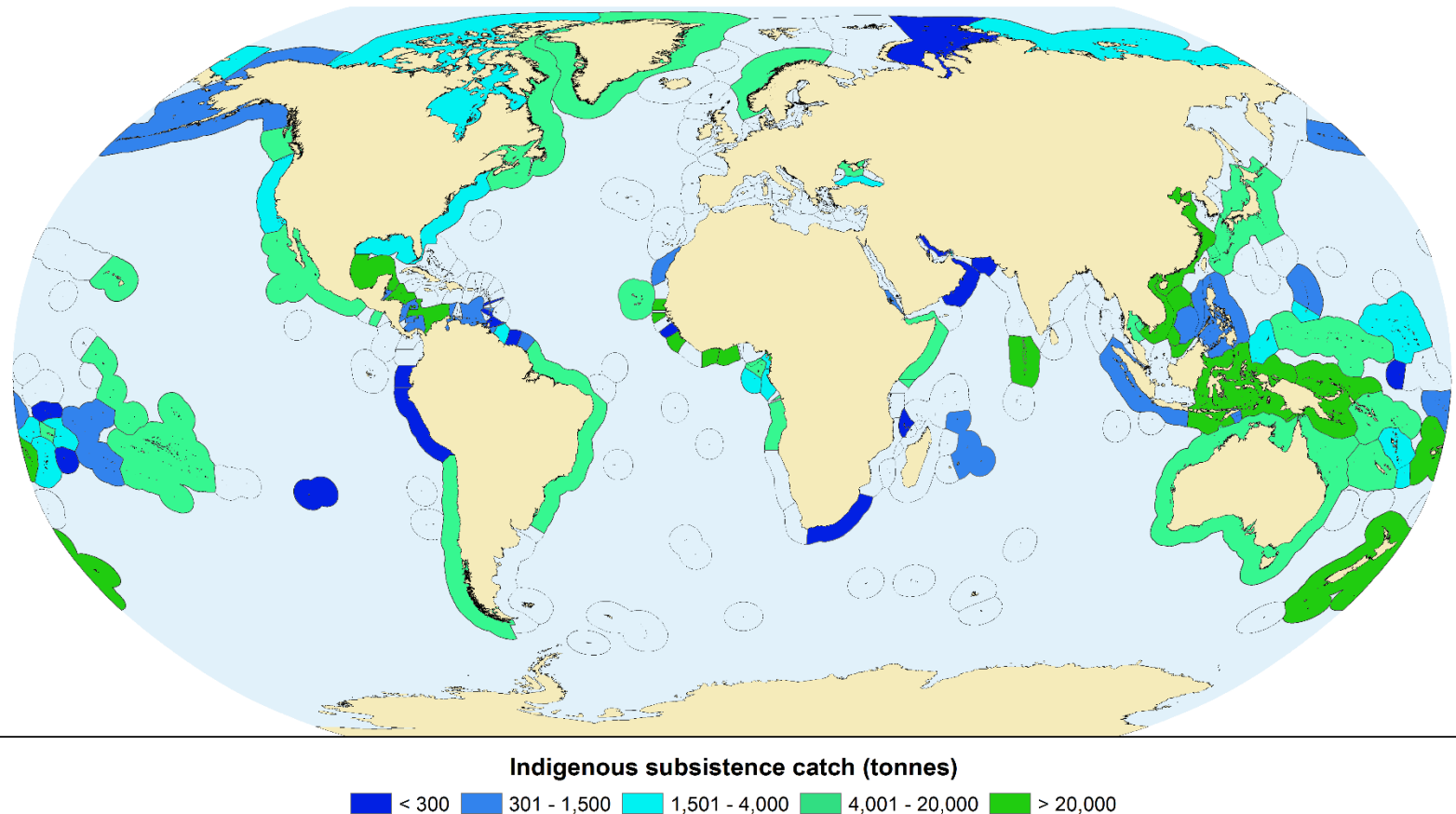
Indigenous seafood consumption

- A total of 1,900 individual communities and 600 groups represent 27 million people;
- These span all 5 global regions, 20 subregions, and 87 maritime states.



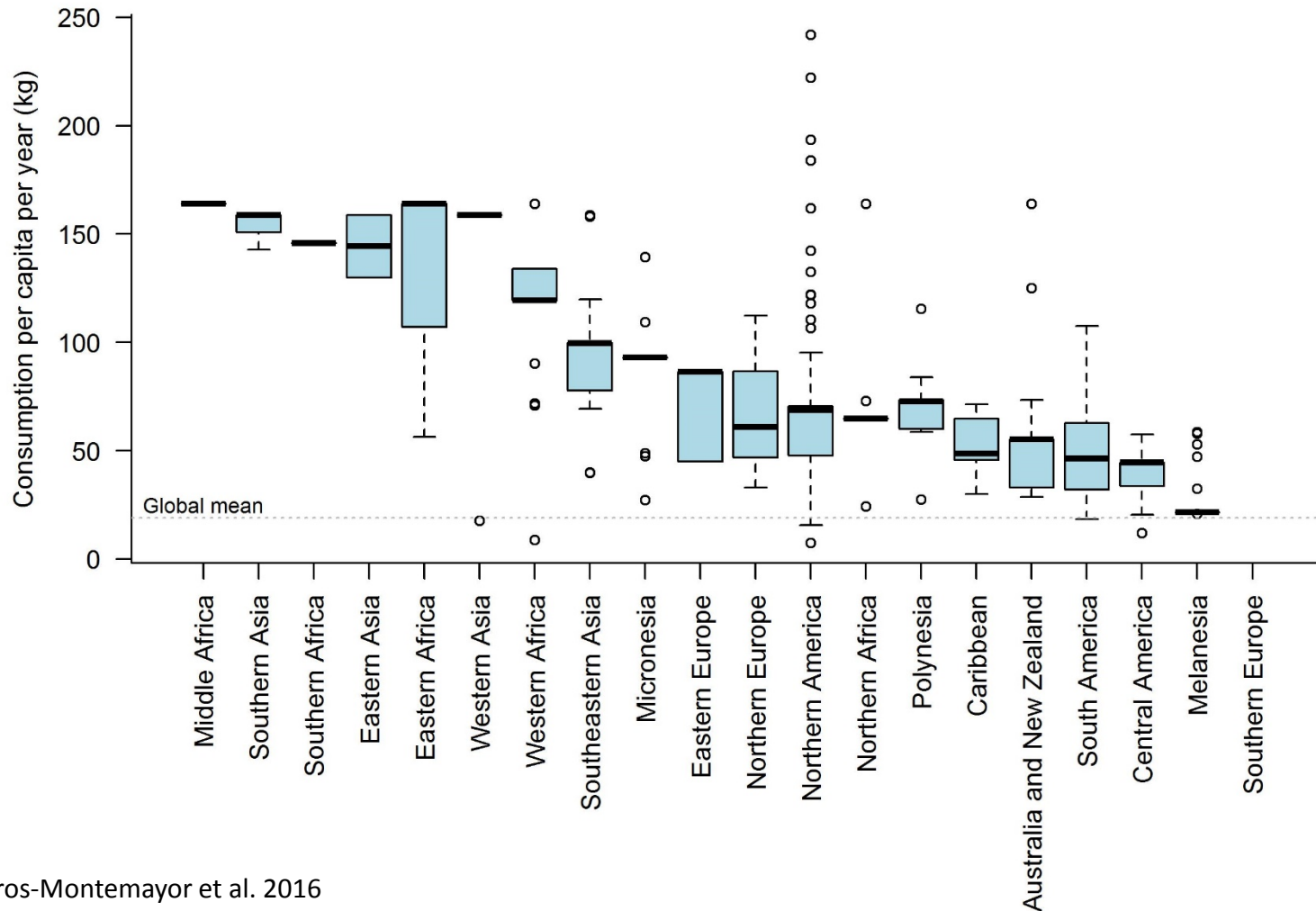
Indigenous seafood consumption

- An estimated total of ~2 million metric tonnes of seafood are consumed annually by coastal Indigenous groups;
- This is equal to 2-3% of global fisheries catch.



Indigenous seafood consumption

- Per capita consumption of seafood is an average of 15 times higher than corresponding countries.

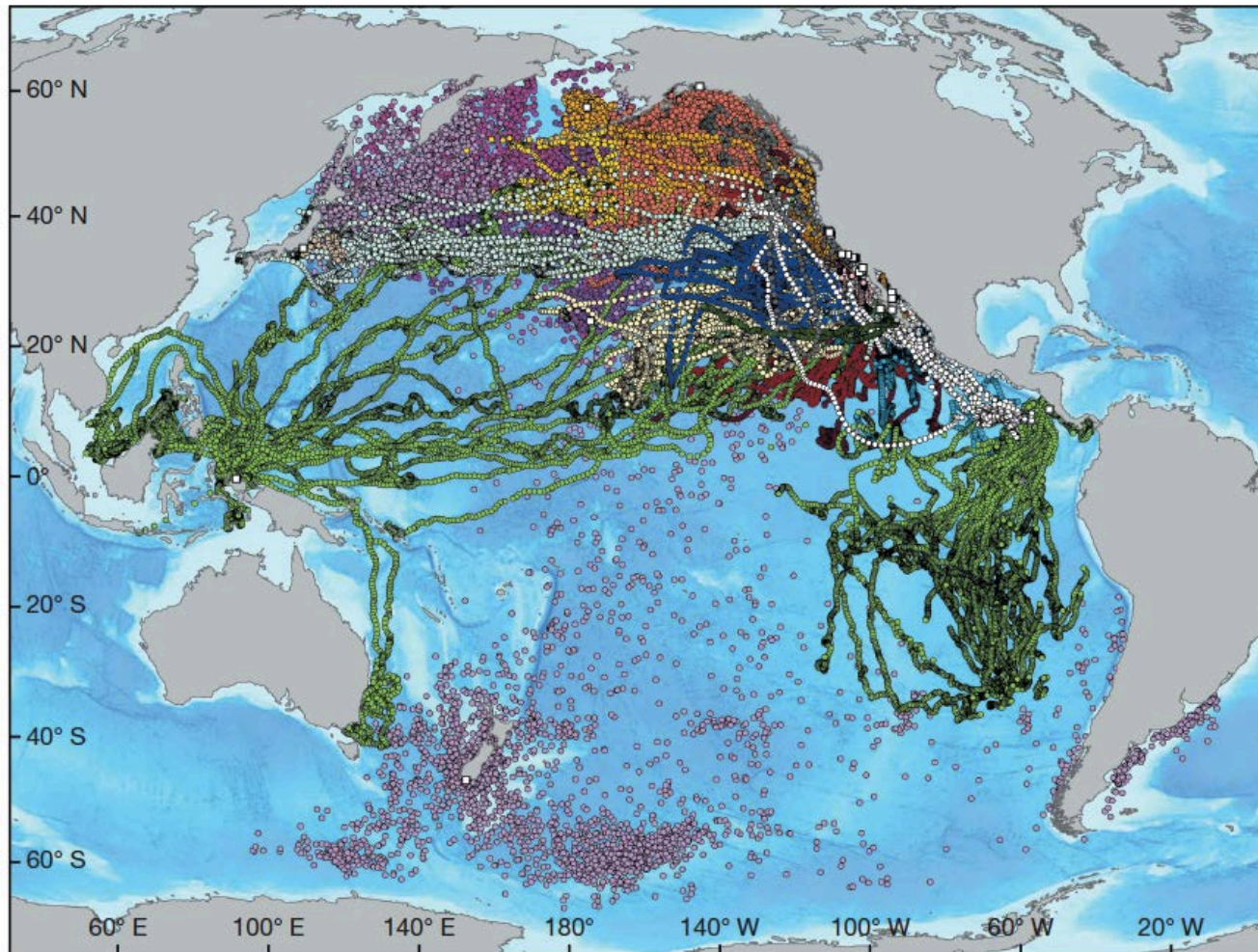


A world of communities



A world of connections

- Many species that are culturally, socially or economically important to communities migrate offshore for large parts of their life cycles



Culturally significant migratory species



Humpback whale (e.g. Pacific Islands, Hawaii, New Zealand, Pacific Northwest, Arctic)

Sperm whale (e.g. Pacific islands, Hawaii, Pacific Northwest)

Loggerhead turtle (e.g. Gulf of California, Mexico, Northern Australia)

Leatherback turtle (e.g. Pacific Islands, Gulf of California, Central and South America)

Salmon (e.g. Pacific Northwest, Arctic)

Yellowfin tuna (e.g. Pacific Islands, Asia, Caribbean)

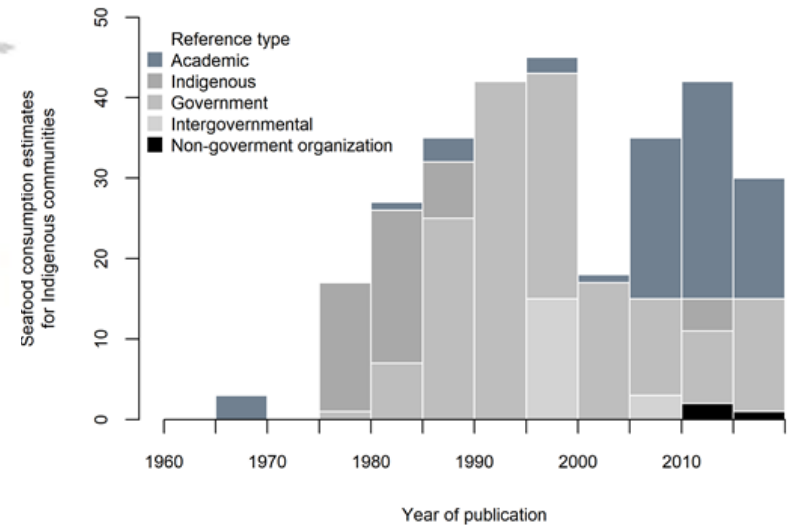
Great white shark (e.g. Hawaii, Northern Australia)

Whale shark (Central America, Asia)



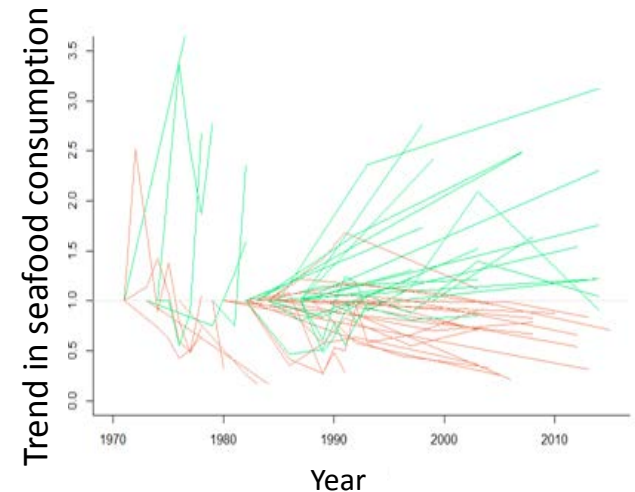
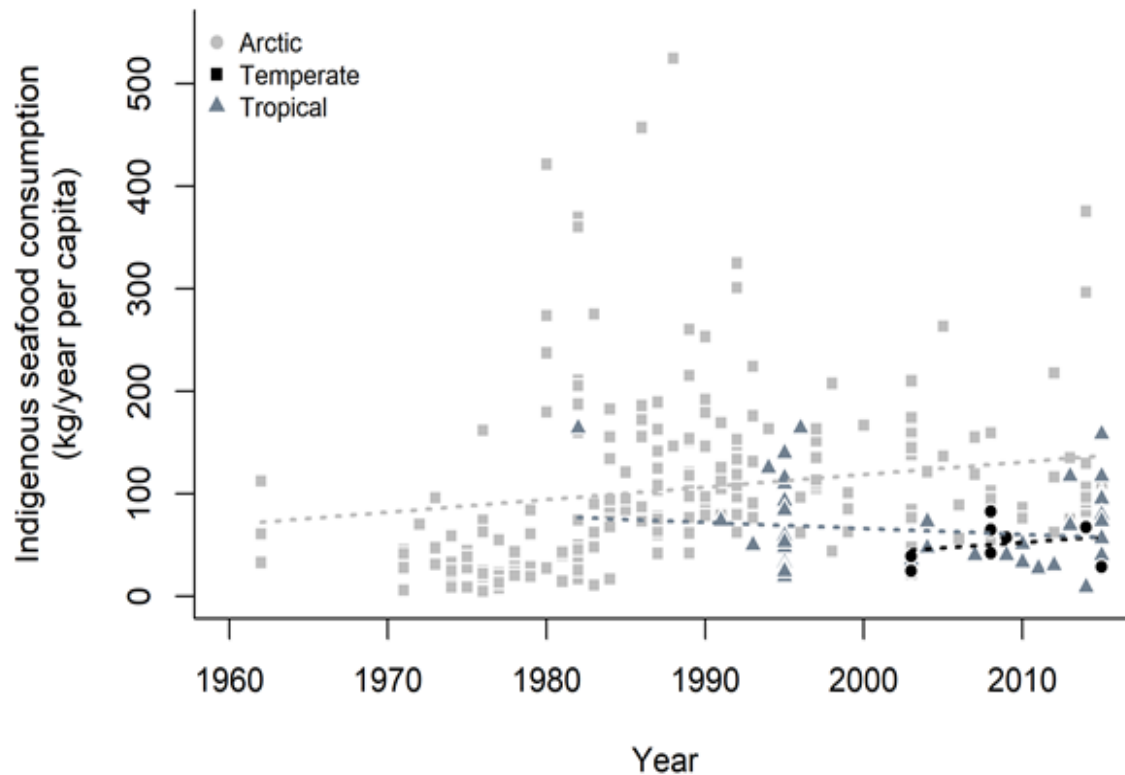
Dynamics of Indigenous seafood consumption

- Cultures and uses are not static;
- Incorporating Indigenous and traditional perspectives and knowledge means recognizing change and adaptation;
- Academic research is growing, but still not much attention from NGO and intergovernmental, which are the ones pushing hardest for ocean governance



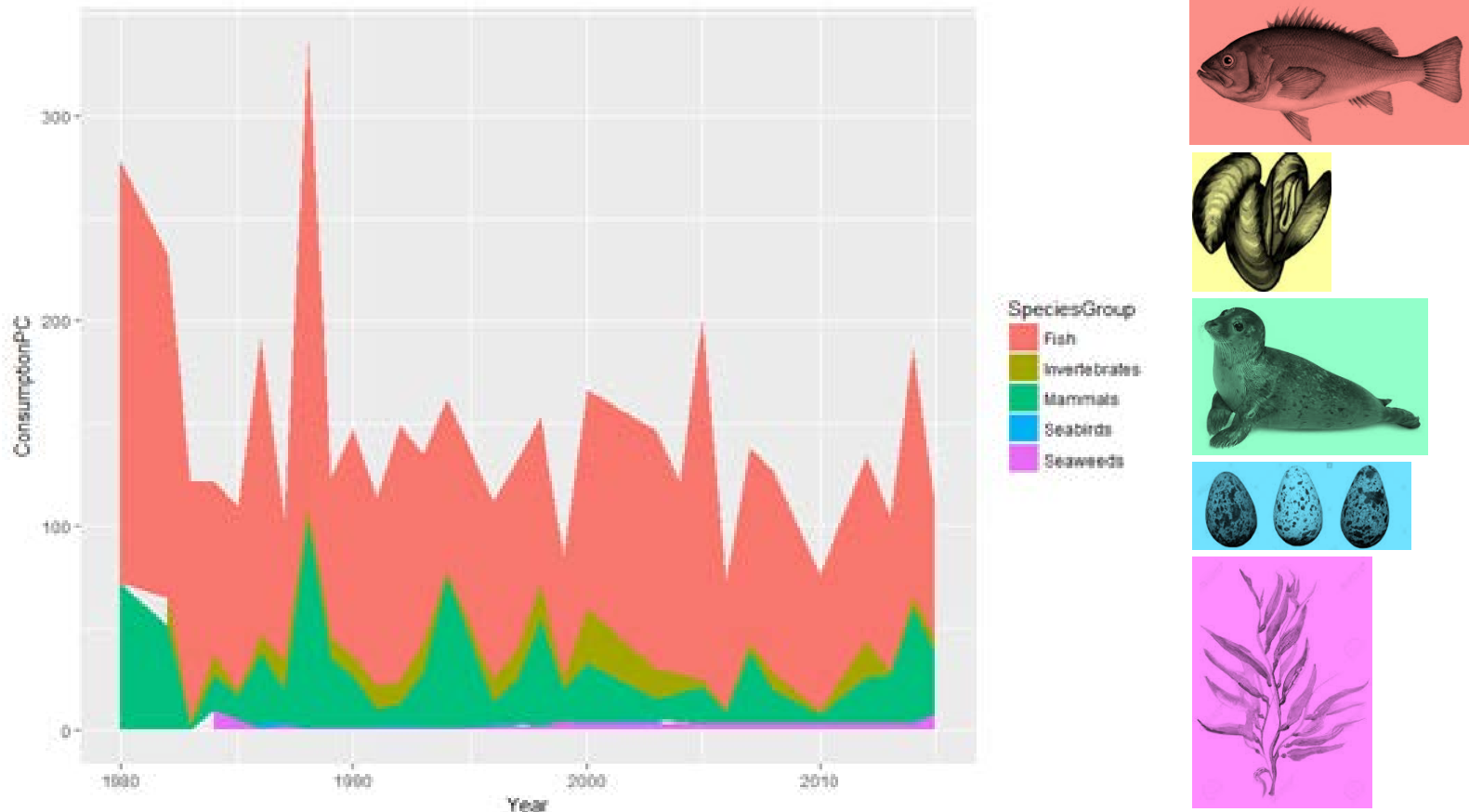
Dynamics of Indigenous seafood consumption

- Available data showed no trends in seafood consumption, though the time span is relatively short and there are few longitudinal studies available.



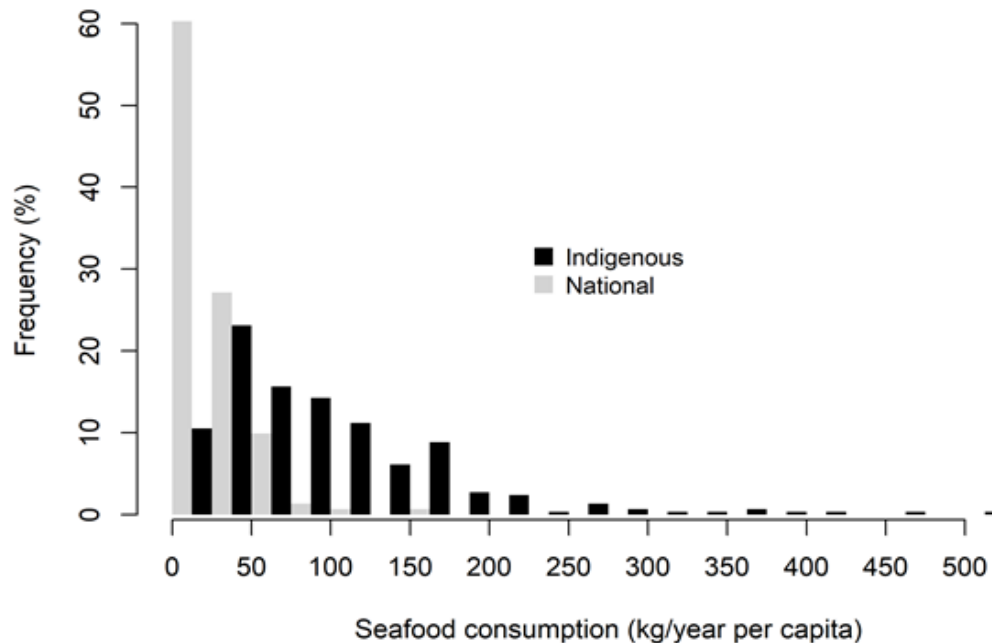
Dynamics of Indigenous seafood consumption

- There are no significant trends in consumption of particular species groups (Alaska data only).

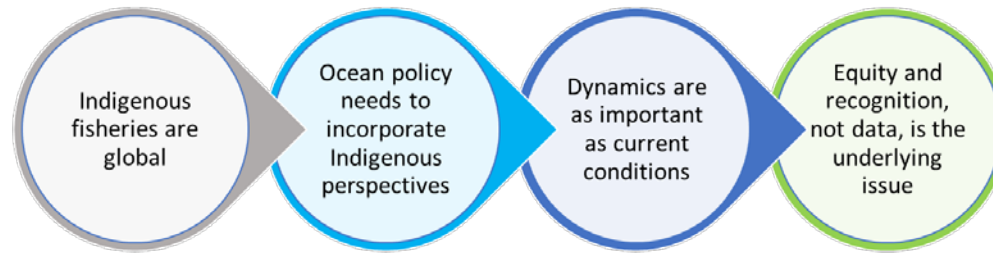


Dynamics of Indigenous seafood consumption

- And yet, coastal Indigenous seafood consumption is much higher than in non-Indigenous populations;
- Lack of data isn't the issue:
 - Historical marginalization;
 - Disciplinary priorities (e.g. fisheries, anthropology, medicine, public health, etc.);
 - Ethical considerations;
 - Data sovereignty.



Concluding remarks



- The scale and scope of ongoing challenges to human well-being require collaborative efforts;
- The strong historical and continuing links between coastal Indigenous communities and oceans are reflected in their seafood consumption;
- These traditions and cultures are not static, however, and recognizing this change (and the underlying reasons for it) is essential to properly integrate their perspectives in adaptive (co-developed) policy;
- The pertinent question is not what data are “missing,” but *why*;
- Achieving environmental and economic goals requires that equity issues be addressed first, at local and global scales.

Thank you!

Andrés Cisneros-Montemayor
a.cisneros@oceans.ubc.ca

Tiff-Annie Kenny
Yoshitaka Ota
nereusprogram.org

