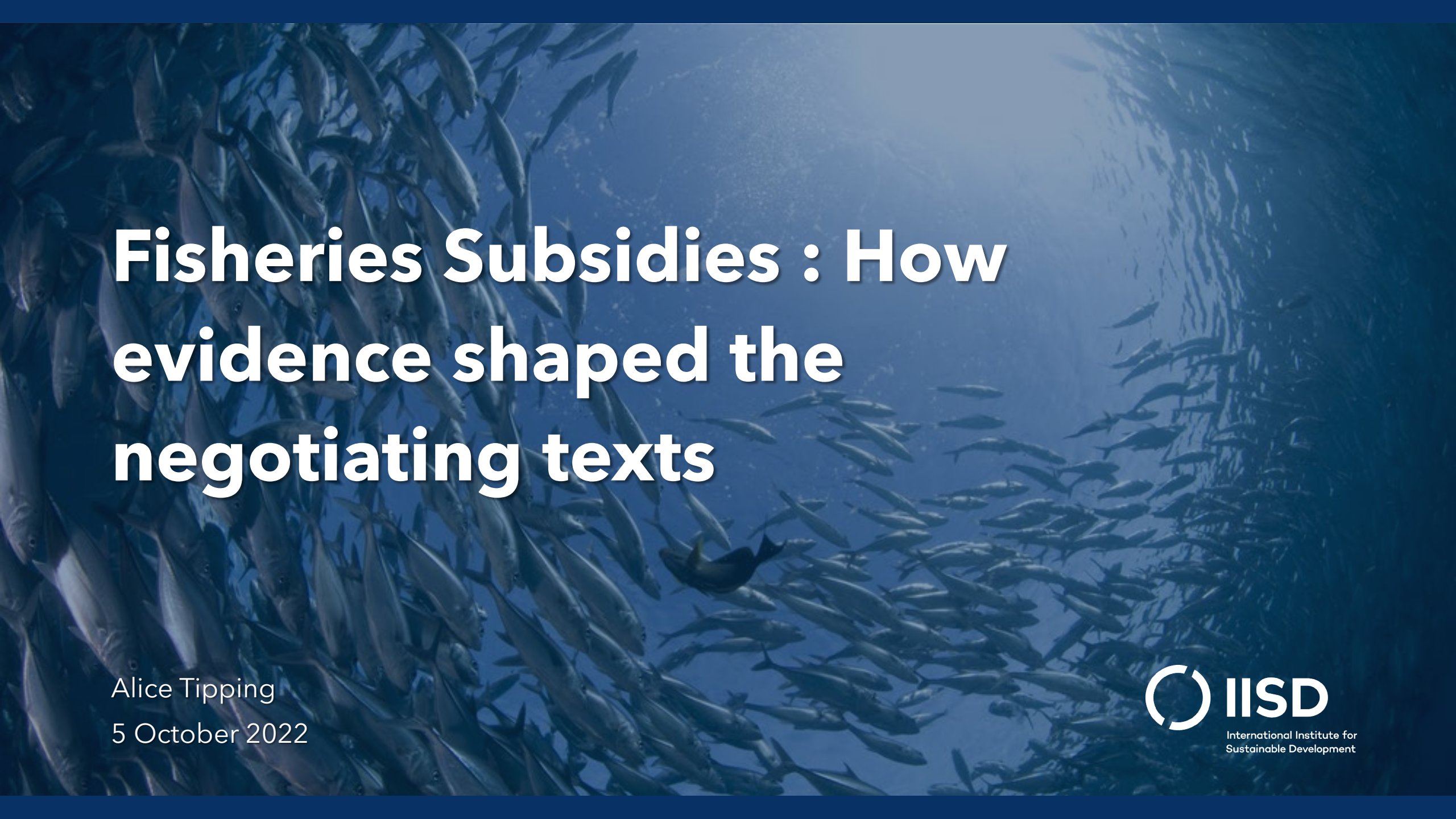




Fisheries Subsidies : How evidence shaped the negotiating texts

Alice Tipping
5 October 2022

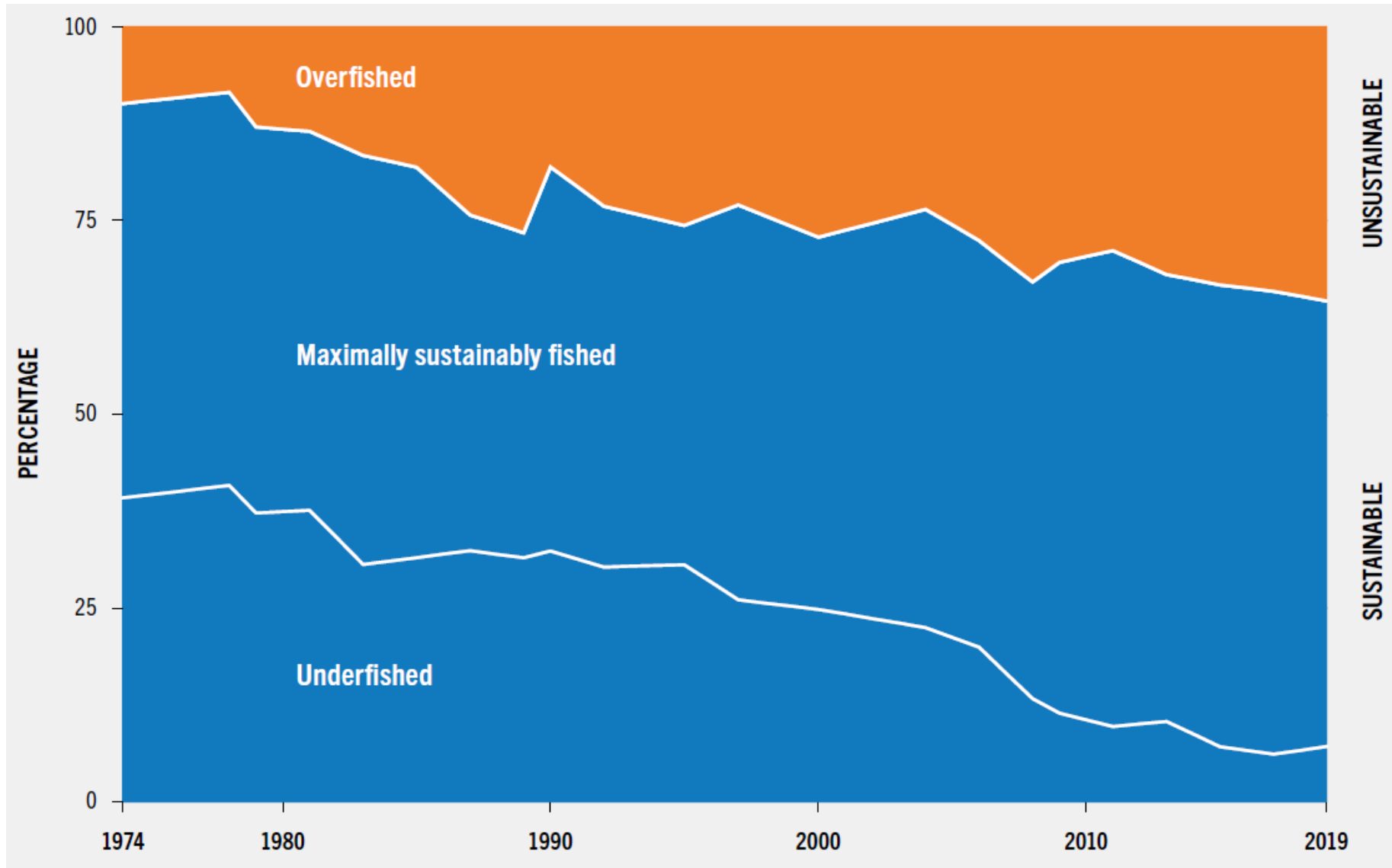
Fisheries Subsidies : Evidence and the negotiating texts

- Background evidence: the problem of fish stock depletion
- Evidence about subsidies' impacts
- The negotiating texts



Background evidence

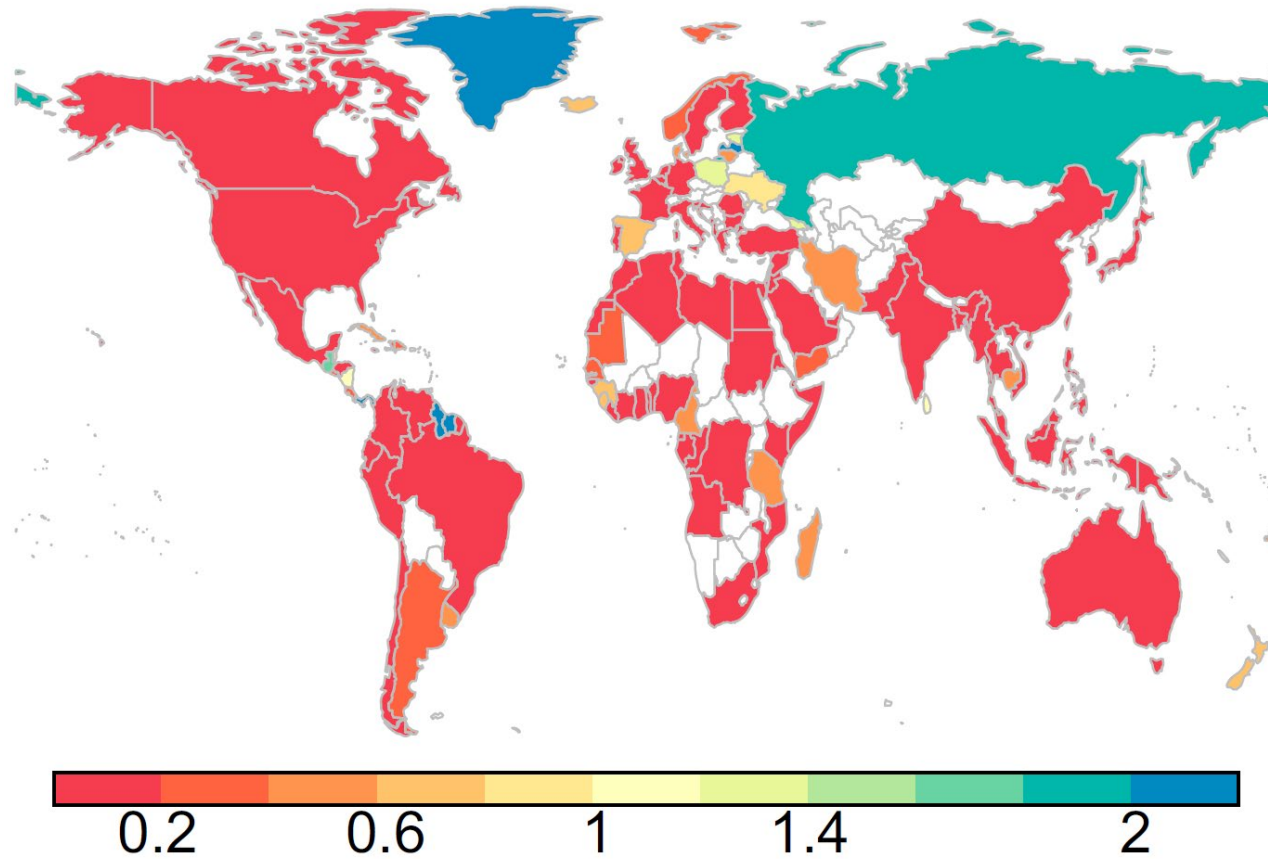
Status of global marine fish stocks



35%

The productivity of fisheries is declining

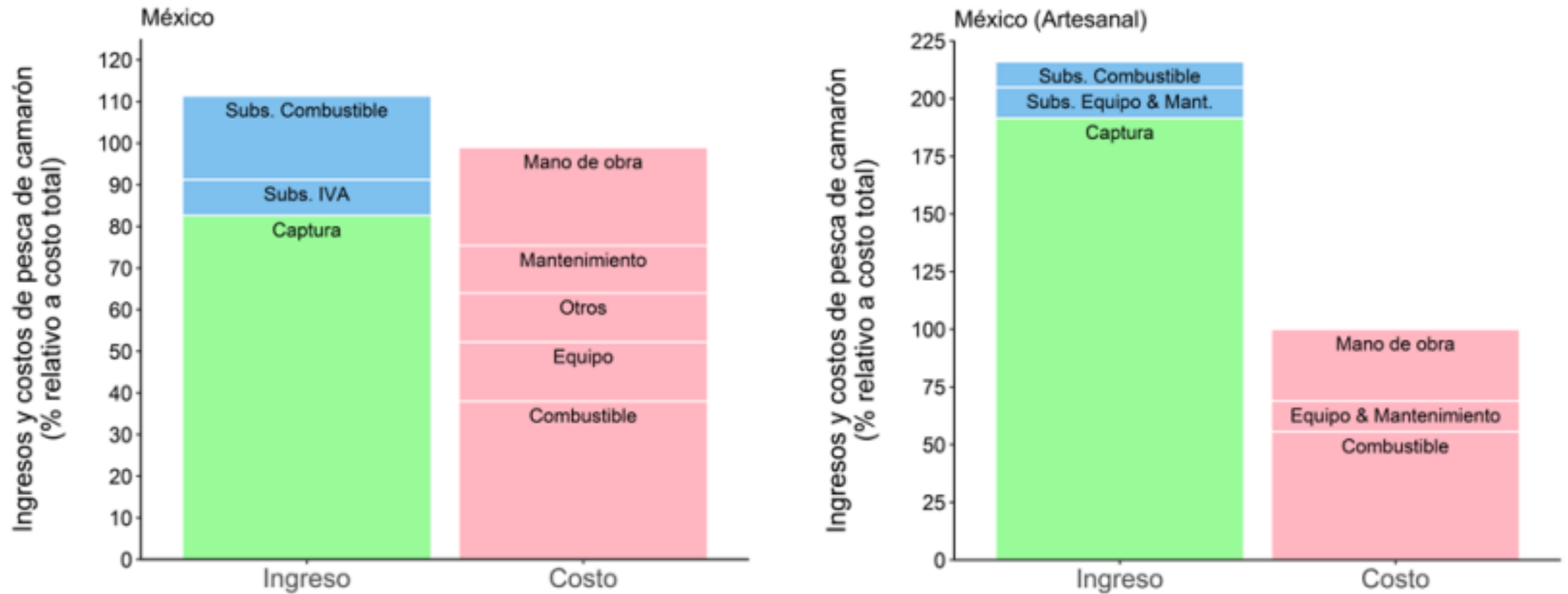
Catch per unit of effective effort in 2015, compared to 1950



Source: Rousseau et al., 2019

Evidence about subsidies' impacts

Evidence of subsidies' impacts: IISD case studies



Fuentes: EEUNACR, 2016 (Costa Rica, semiindustrial); Almendarez-Hernández & Hernández-Trejo, 2012 (México, industrial); Beltrán Turriago, 2008 (Nicaragua, industrial); Hernández-Padilla, 2017 (México, artesanal).

Modelling of subsidies' impacts

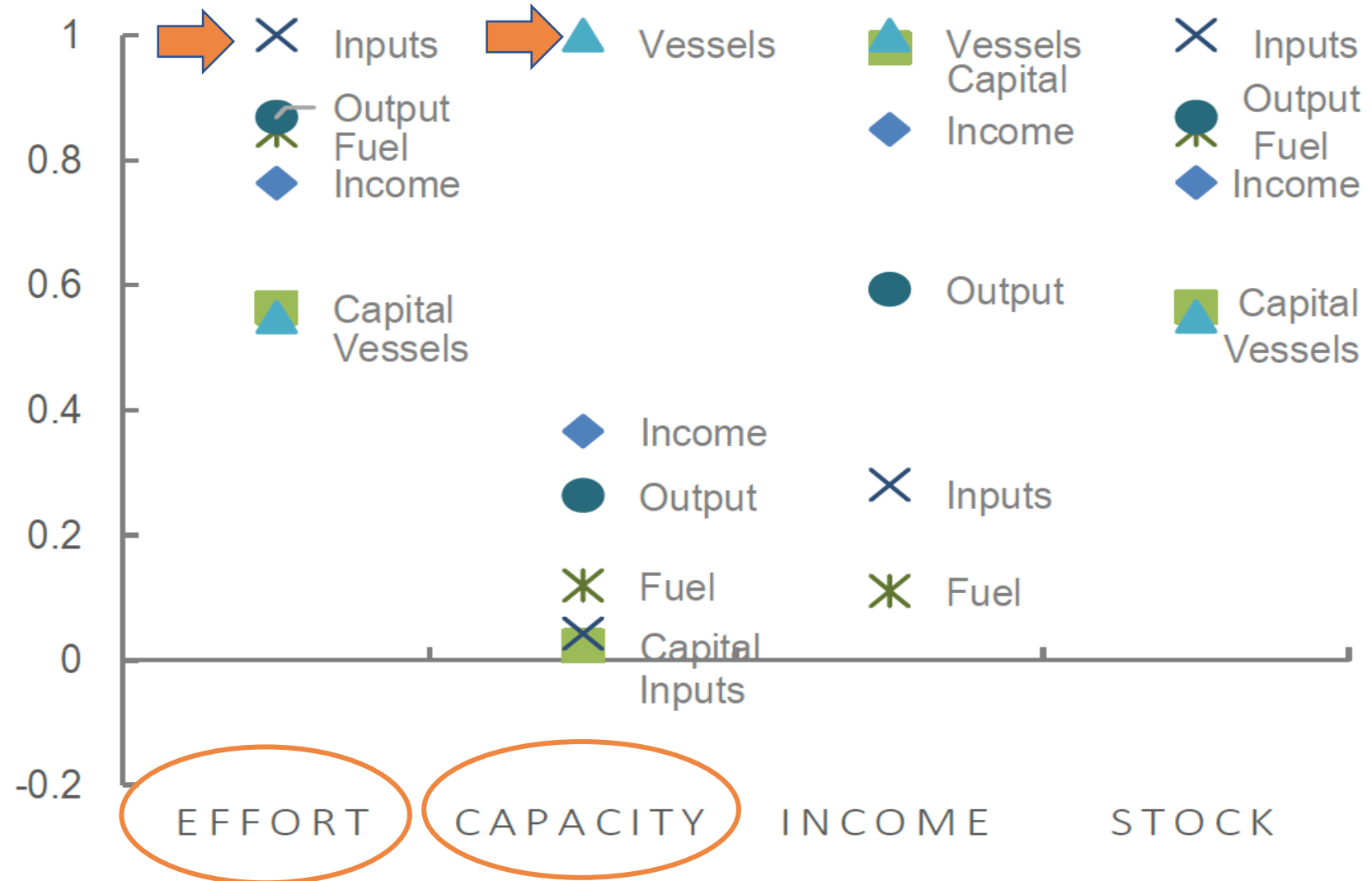
Estimated the impacts of various types of support to fishing, i.e. payments based on:

- fishers' income
- fishers' own capital
- vessels (capital costs)
- variable input use (operating costs)
- fuel use
- output

Support to fuel and other variable inputs (like bait or gear) are the most likely to increase fishing effort.

Support to vessels are the most likely to increase fishing capacity...

When no management is in place



Reflection in the fisheries subsidies negotiations

Text during the negotiations....

Identification of potentially harmful subsidies

5.1 No Member shall grant or maintain subsidies to fishing or fishing related activities that contribute to overcapacity or overfishing. For the purpose of this paragraph, subsidies that contribute to overcapacity or overfishing include:

- (a) subsidies to construction, acquisition, modernisation, renovation or upgrading of vessels;
- (b) subsidies to the purchase of machines and equipment for vessels (including fishing gear and engine, fish-processing machinery, fish-finding technology, refrigerators, or machinery for sorting or cleaning fish);
- (c) subsidies to the purchase/costs of fuel, ice, or bait;
- (d) subsidies to costs of personnel, social charges, or insurance;

Text during the negotiations....

The role of management

5.1 No Member shall grant or maintain subsidies to fishing or fishing related activities that contribute to overcapacity or overfishing.

5.1.1 A subsidy is not inconsistent with Article 5.1 if the subsidizing Member demonstrates that measures are implemented to maintain the stock or stocks in the relevant fishery or fisheries at a biologically sustainable level.

Thank you!

atipping@iisd.org
tirschlinger@iisd.org