

FISHERIES



Consultation on Fishing Opportunities



**European
Commission**
Maritime Affairs
and Fisheries

27 June 2011

Setting fish quotas and effort levels

- **The Commission is consulting the sector, the public, and Member States on methods for setting TACs**
- **This is the sixth consultation of its kind**
- **It shows the Commission's commitment to openness about working methods and objectives**
- **It shows the Commission's fairness in applying the same methods to all fishing sectors and all Member States.**

What's new this year ?

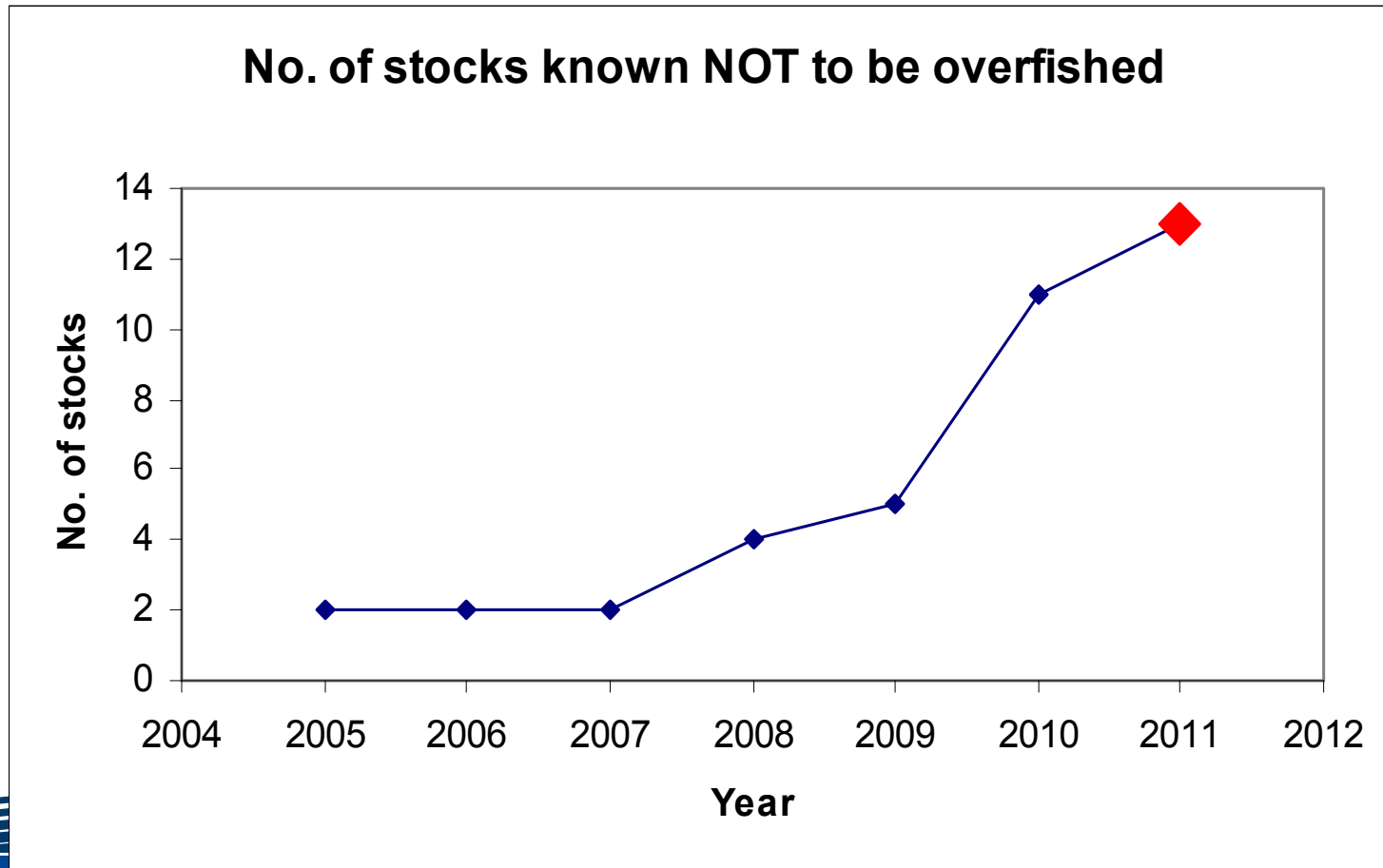
- Urgent need to move to MSY and to solve the problem of poor data.
- Working methods should be simplified
- Follow scientific advice to achieve maximum sustainable yield.
- This will help reduce discards. Other measures are to be brought in later.
- The reduction in fishing intensity will reduce impacts on the marine environment, lower fuel costs and CO2 emissions by the fleets, and allow stocks to rebuild so that yields can increase.
- Fisheries will become more profitable – many fleets are now fishing at a loss
- Where data submitted by Member States are inadequate, this needs to be urgently redressed. In the meantime, quotas need to be reduced until sustainable fishing levels are known.
- Links to « traffic lights » for stock status are provided.
- Earlier presentation of proposal for exclusive EU stocks.



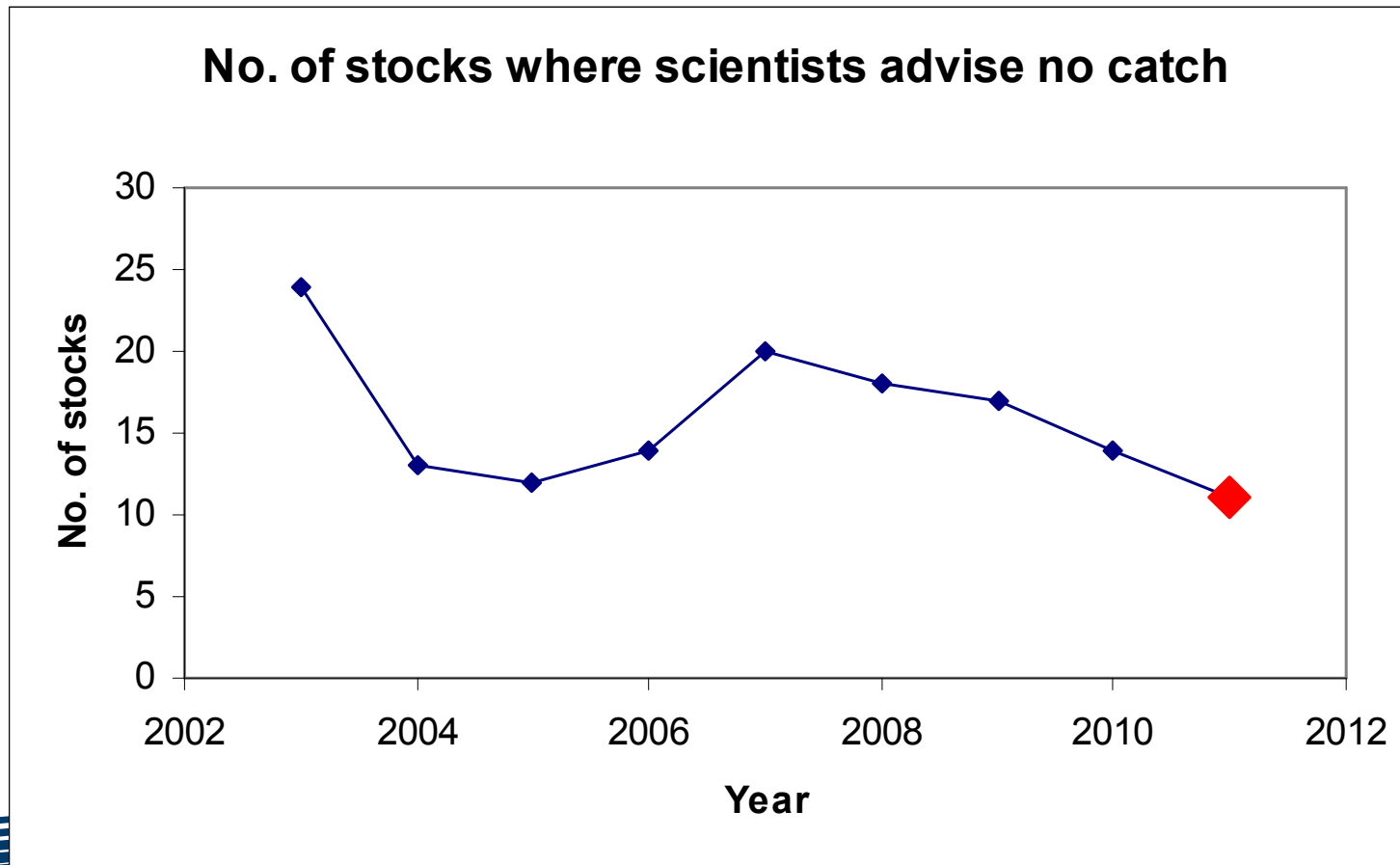
Where are we coming from and where
are we going ?



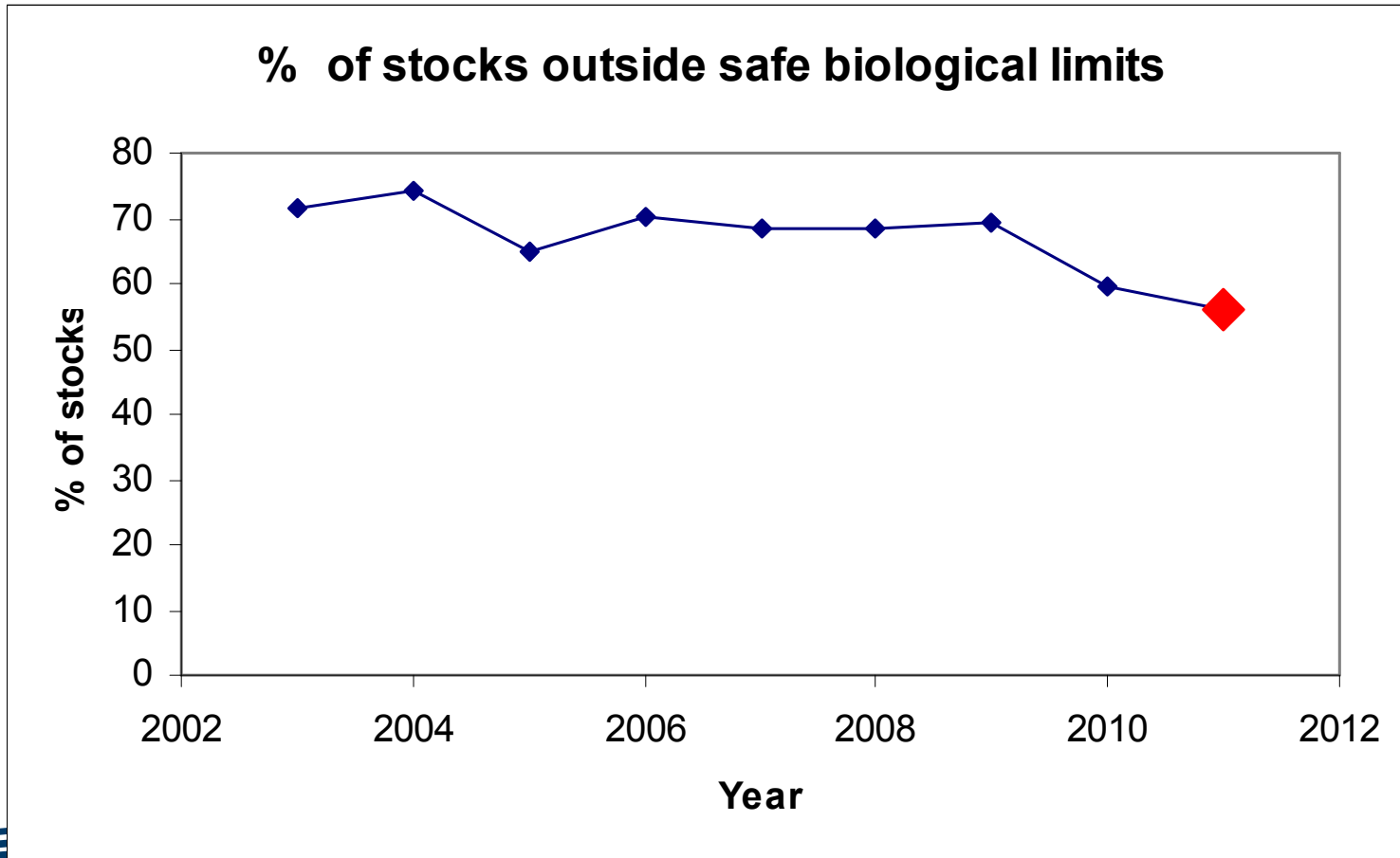
More stocks are being fished with sustainable yields...



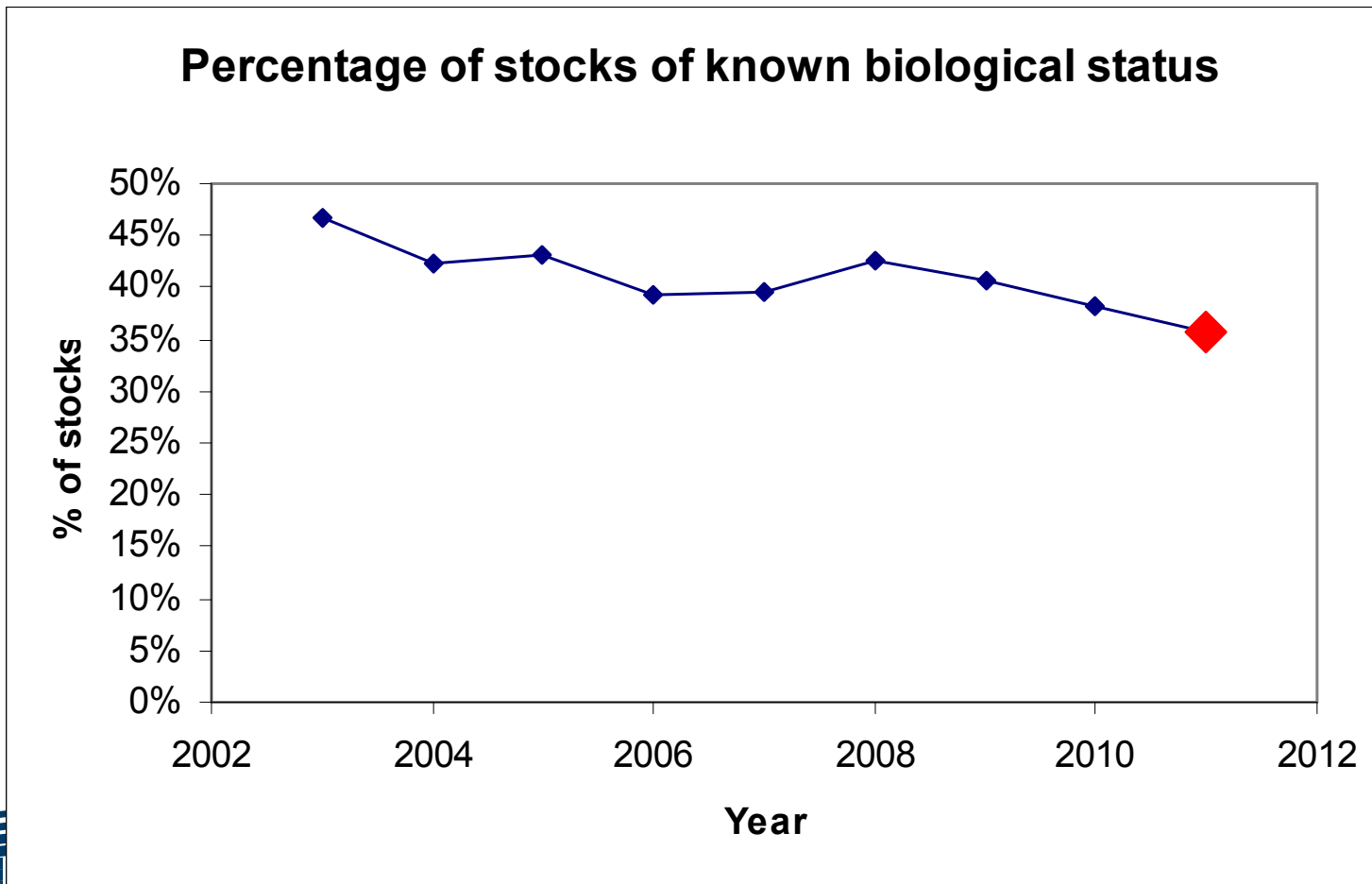
Fewer stocks are under « closure » advice ...



... but there is still much to be done ...



Unfortunately, monitoring of stocks by Member States is not good and is not improving.



We are obtaining more scientific advice for the Mediterranean and developing that policy too...



Economic analysis:

- **30% to 40% of the EU fishing fleet have negative long-term profitability : their income is not enough to cover all their expenses.**
- **10% to 20% of the EU fishing fleet have negative cash-flow: their income is not enough to cover short-term operational costs such as fuel and labour.**



More needs to be done on meeting international commitments

- **At the UN World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, 2002 Member States agreed to rebuild stocks to « maximum sustainable yield » levels by 2015.**
- **We need urgent action to reach that target from 2011.**
- **The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries are advising the Commission how to do reach MSY fishing conditions (ICES MSY Framework).**
- **We should follow their advice where supported by data.**

Commission's working method

- **Implement all long-term and specific international agreements as based on scientific advice.**
- **Use ICES and STECF advice when proposing TAC levels where data are adequate.**
- **Where data are not adequate:**
 - Member States should improve the information available;
 - TACs should be reduced by 25% while information is being obtained on sustainable levels of fishing;
 - Scientific agencies should work on estimating sustainable exploitation
 - New working methods for data-poor situations must be developed.



Next Steps

- The Commission has opened a public consultation procedure on the internet (mailbox MARE-FISHING-OPPORTUNITIES2012@ec.europa.eu) until 20 July.
- The stakeholders are being consulted in Regional Advisory Committees and the Advisory Committee for Fisheries and Aquaculture.
- Member States will be consulted at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 28th June.
- The Commission will receive scientific advice beginning in June and will prepare TAC proposals beginning in September.



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Thank you



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