



*Mundus
maris*

Master fears and innovate! Artisanal fishers as guardians of the coastal environment in Tuscany, Italy

Cornelia E Nauen, Mundus maris asbl, Belgium

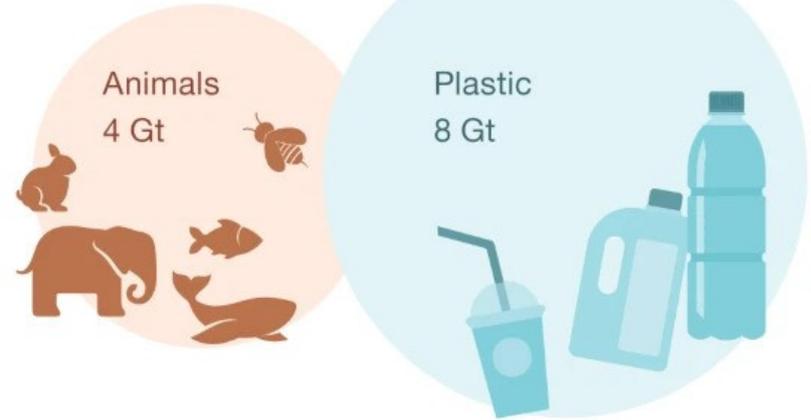
MARE Conference, Amsterdam, 27-30 June 2023 - Session 60



Artefacts vs Nature

Contrasting key components of global biomass and anthropogenic mass in the year 2020 (dry-weight basis).

Source: Elhacham, E., Ben-Uri, L., Grozovski, J. et al. Global human-made mass exceeds all living biomass. *Nature* 588, 442–444 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-020-3010-5>



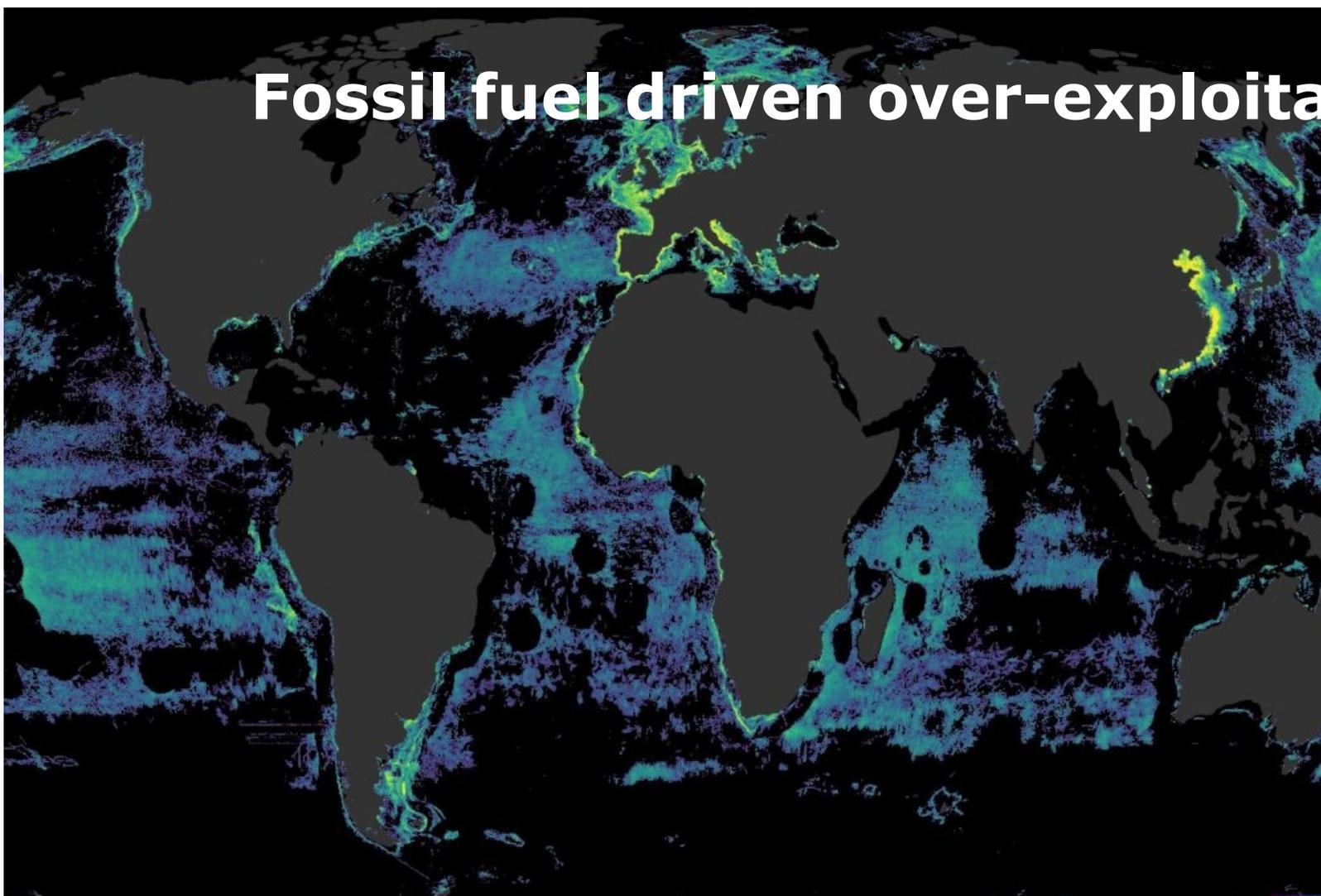
Living biomass

Human-made mass





Fossil fuel driven over-exploitation



Source: Global Fishing Watch, 2016 data, combining long-lining and near-coastal bottom trawling in hours fishing per square kilometer

0.001 .01
Hours



Scientific evidence \neq societal change

Major studies / events

- The limits to growth, Club of Rome, 1972
- IPCC reports since 2013 humans dominant
- IPBES 2021
- UN Water Conference 2023
- UN Ocean Conferences 2017/22





Changing norms or desires?



- ❑ We often resist change based on cognitive, behavioural and emotional factors. Social norms have also been cited. But when it becomes unavoidable, many of us settle quickly into the new normal.



Sparkman, G., Howe, L., Walton, G. How social norms are often a barrier to addressing climate change but can be part of the solution. *Behavioural Public Policy* 5(4):528-555 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1017/bpp.2020.42>



Participatory leadership for change journeys

Different voices from the sciences, arts, and practice meeting at UBC, Vancouver, 2013.

Bringing a range of perspectives to address unsustainable practices in marine fisheries.

What do we already know, what else do we need to learn?

How to deal with the unexpected?

Minimising negative Impact ?

Harnessing different cultures





Finding solutions together in 2019

Bringing expertise not available in the community in Yoff, SN, to address impacts from e.g. climate change, in combination with visual recording



See the mayor then for more action



How to restore coastal fisheries in Tuscany?

Paolo Fanciulli confronts the legal provision for a no-trawling zone 3 miles from the coast with reality.

1. Reaction: fight trawlers with a variety of means, because the coast guard does not intervene.

Escalating conflict, limits of 'self justice'.





Diversifying economics

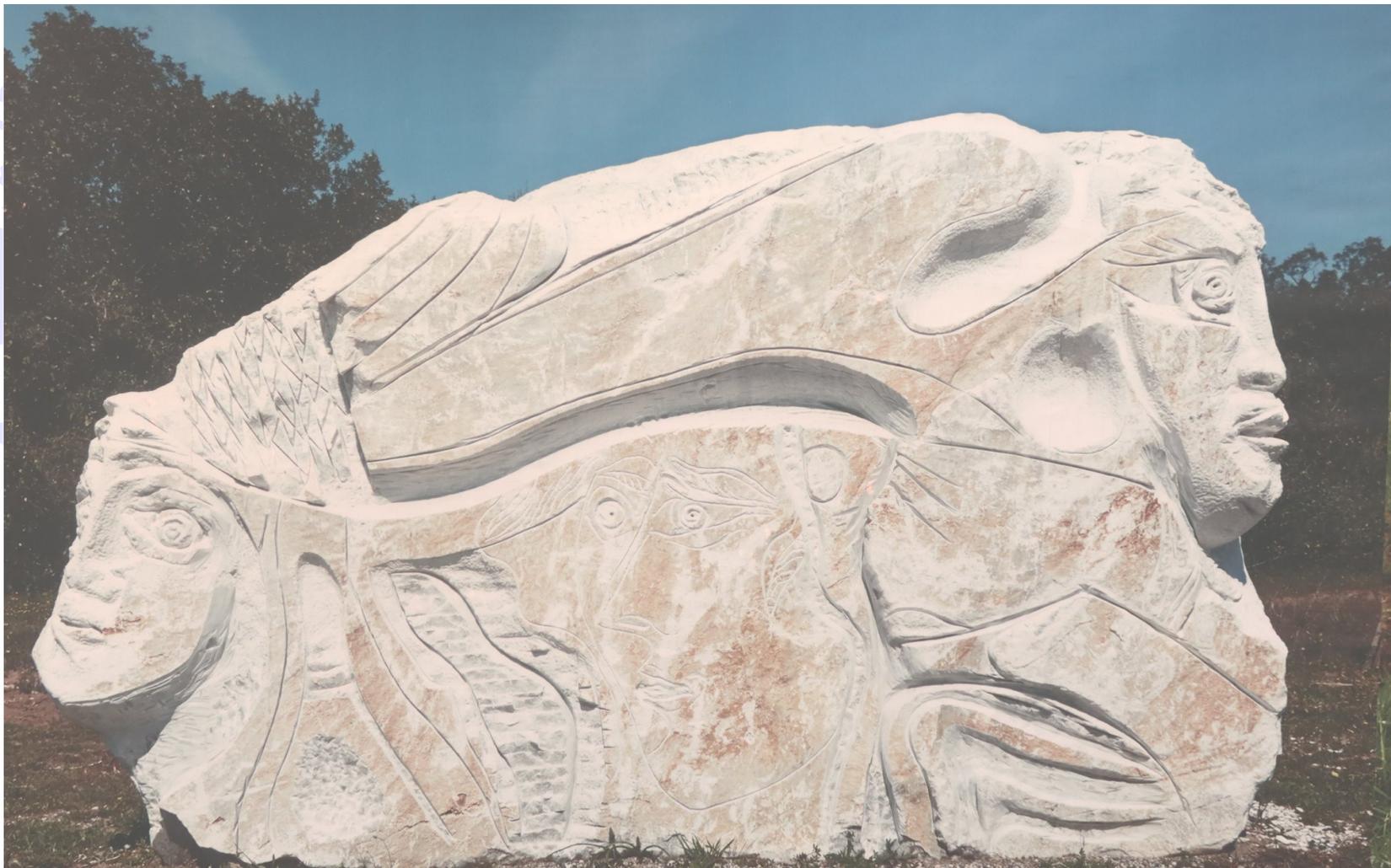
- ❑ Blocking market access – response: teaming up with solidarity market network
- ❑ Shrinking catches – response: obtain new regulations authorising fishing tourism similar to agro-tourism
- ❑ Lack of knowledge – response: explaining the species and their importance in the ecosystem





Building alliances of trust

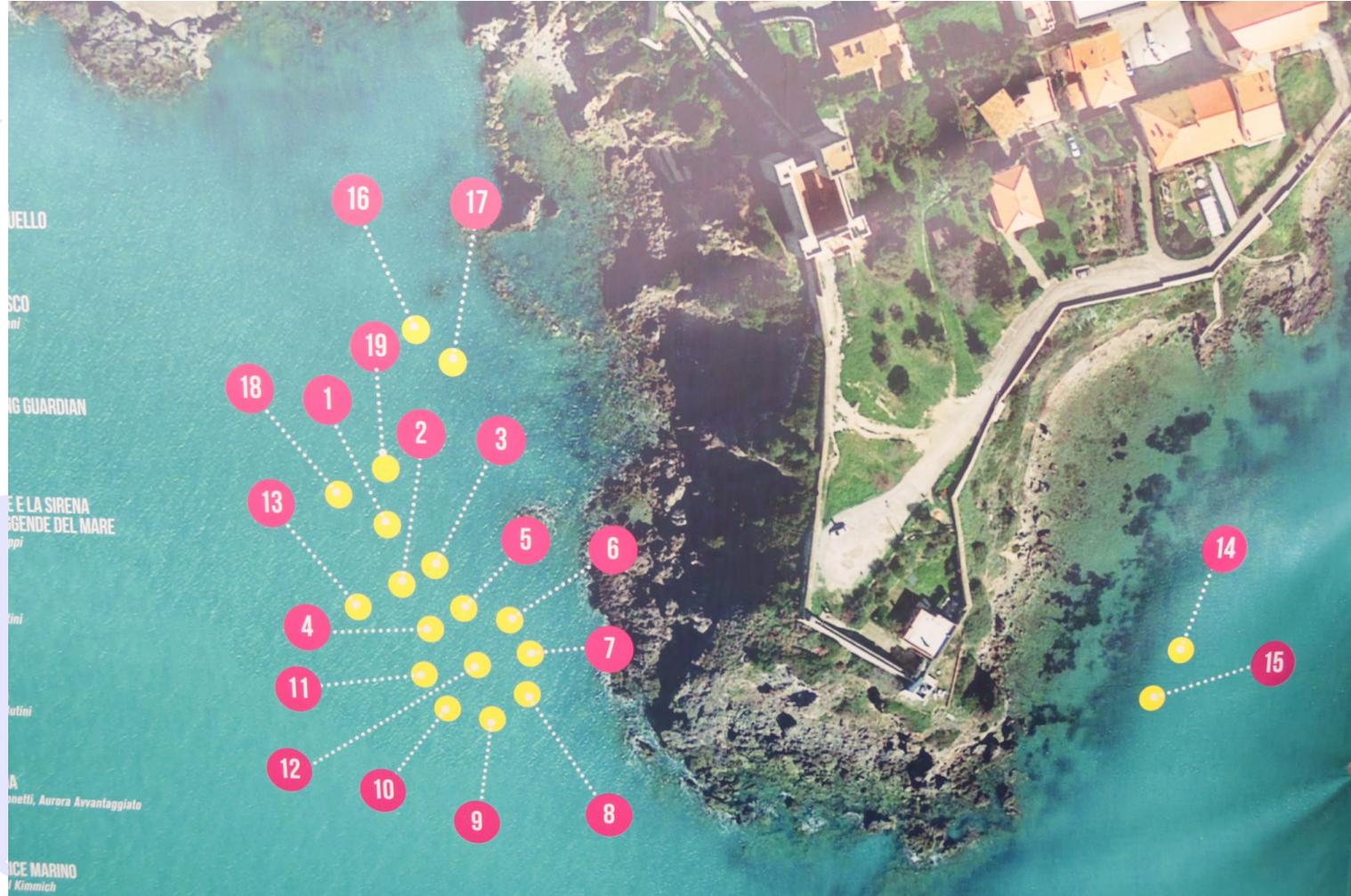
- ❑ Meeting new people through fishing tourism and attracting support, e.g. owner of Carrara Quarry offering marble blocks
- ❑ Renowned sculptors craft monuments for underwater museum
- ❑ Media people writing articles, book about 'Casa dei Pesci', tv transmissions, local authorities





Restoring coastal resources

- ❑ Concept of ‘Casa dei Pesci’ – Underwater museum of marble sculptures in Talamone
- ❑ Bringing out concrete boulders along the coast to dissuade trawling
- ❑ Collaborate with researchers to keep turtles and dolphins out of nets
- ❑ Use shorter gill nets, bigger mesh sizes





What to do against fear?

- ❑ Fellow fishers refuse being interviewed out of fear of repression
- ❑ Maintain public attention through media as protection
- ❑ Seek neutral respected convener of dialogue, able to invite people with starkly contrasting views
- ❑ Convene a respectful dialogue to listen, get broader expertise and seek solutions





How to rebuild futures?

- ❑ Big projects supported by research, regional programmes and other funding instruments
- ❑ Actively seek institutional support e.g. from islands, mayors of coastal cities, fisher and tourism organisations in the Mediterranean
- ❑ Still sense of rent seeking and opposition to real change
- ❑ Room for SSF?



Umissions #Horizon



How to combine scales, build trust?

- ❑ Challenge to introduce ocean literacy and culture into curricula
- ❑ Rethink professional profiles and associated training under conditions of restoration – together with those directly concerned
- ❑ Blue justice and local initiatives





**Thanks for your attention
and let's team up to practice together**

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