

Spaceship Earth - Summary of an Unusual International Roundtable

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Unexpected Consequences

Public EU funding for FishBase (FB) was justified in the 1990s as support to fisheries sector administrations in developing countries. Through the FB guest book we found users and uses in:

- Fisheries Departments
- Students in school and higher education
- Recreational fishers and angling trip organisers
- Artists
- Customs Services...

Source: Nauen, C.E., 2006. Implementing the WSSD decision of restoring marine ecosystems by 2015 – Scientific information support in the public domain. *Marine Policy*, 30:455-461.

The Challenges are becoming bigger and more interconnected

Need to question eternal growth: reality check

- The resources on Earth are finite, even though we are very ingenious in finding new technical fixes - right now by borrowing from the future
- Our Earth is quite unique within the accessible parts of the universe, we better make it work
- We produce enough food to feed everybody, but 1 billion is obese and 1 billion is hungry
- Three major “environmental” challenges: Overfishing, climate change with acidification and pollution – how to act more decisively?

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The tyranny of small decisions is at least partially to blame for the sorry state of affairs of the ocean and its inhabitants:

- sector and disciplinary perspectives prevail;
- most individuals and companies optimise their decision for local conditions only.

Yet the ocean is a global system and interconnected not only hydrologically, biologically, but economically, socially and in so many other dimensions.

But, many are not engaged or even aware...

New understanding, fresh narratives

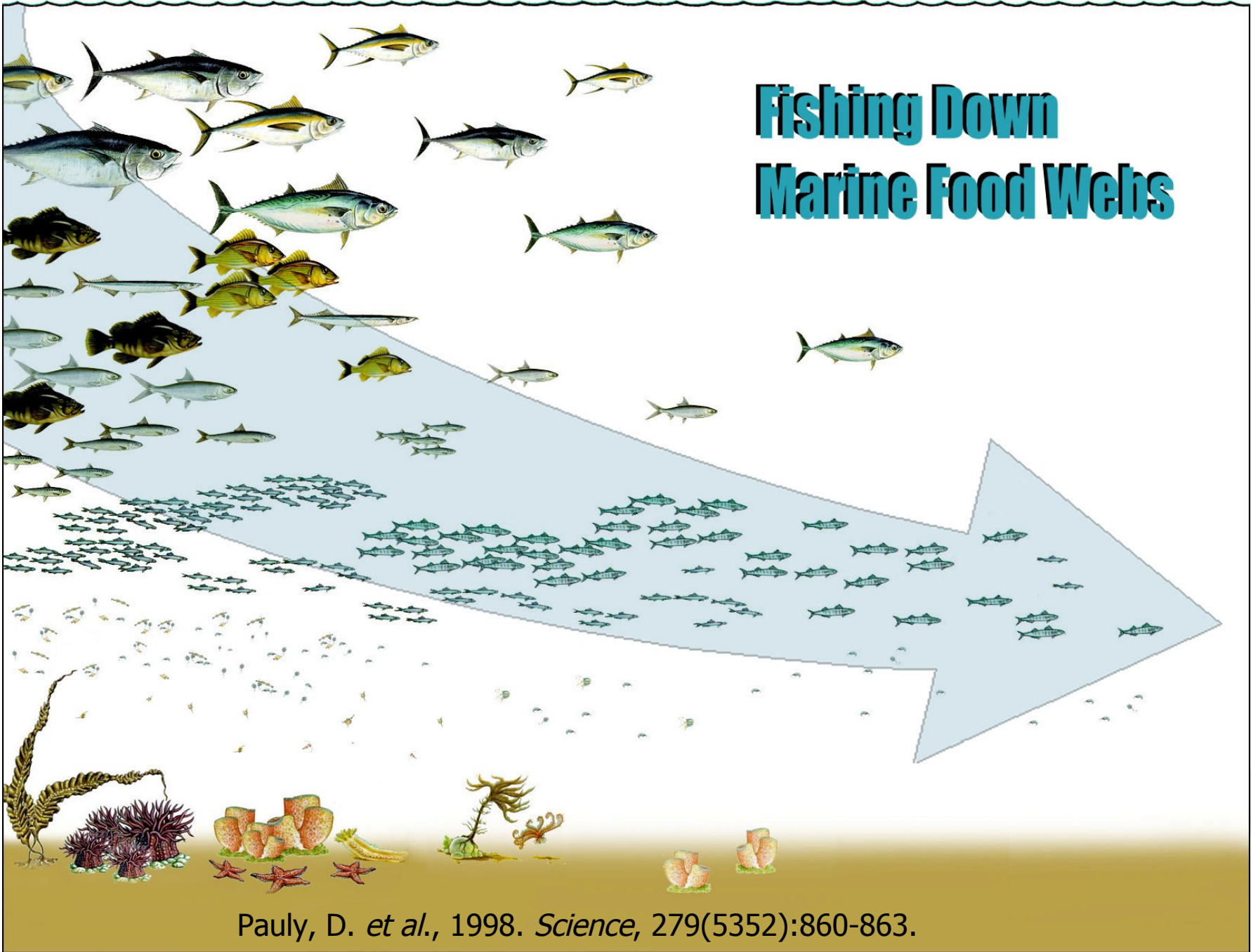
So, we are looking for new perspectives on 'old problems' that should be:

- Cross-fertilised from a variety of fields of experience and enquiry to ensure robustness;
- Grounded locally, where operational capabilities are;
- but conscious of global connections.

These should be understandable to and understood by the many:

Thus: How do we tell stories about the ocean that engage? One well-known visual example.

Fishing Down Marine Food Webs



Pauly, D. *et al.*, 1998. *Science*, 279(5352):860-863.

Spaceship Earth – International Roundtable at PWIAS



Scientists, practitioners, artists from different places and cultures were invited to 5 days of intense exchange using participatory research methods.

The aim was to generate new insights through crossfertilization and unconventional ways of learning in order to initiate new projects and other actions for ocean health.

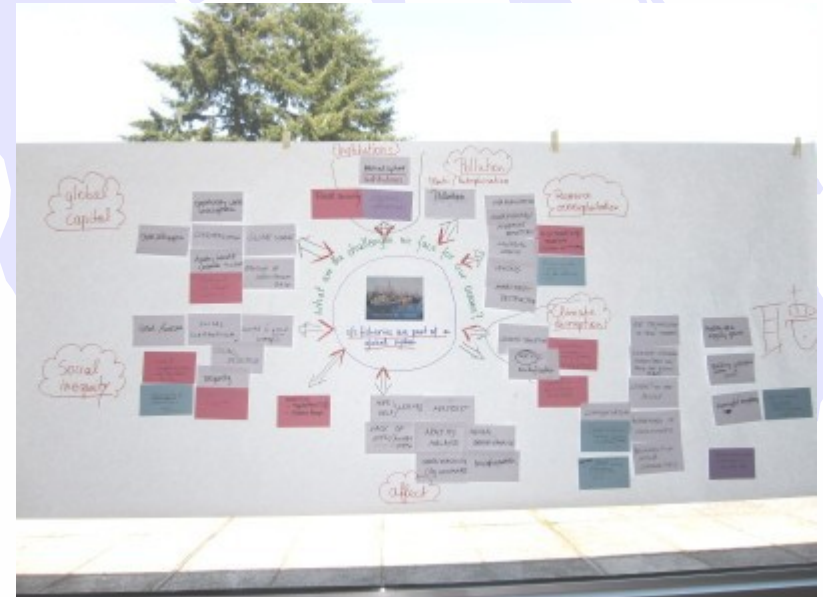


Listening to and telling stories that matter



Sharing examples of good experiences in different fields allowed us to harvest a fair number of principles that contribute to “success” and can be used in future action.

Another method used to blend what we already know in different disciplines and cultures was “mind mapping”. We clustered ideas around big concepts.



Levers and Learning Journeys

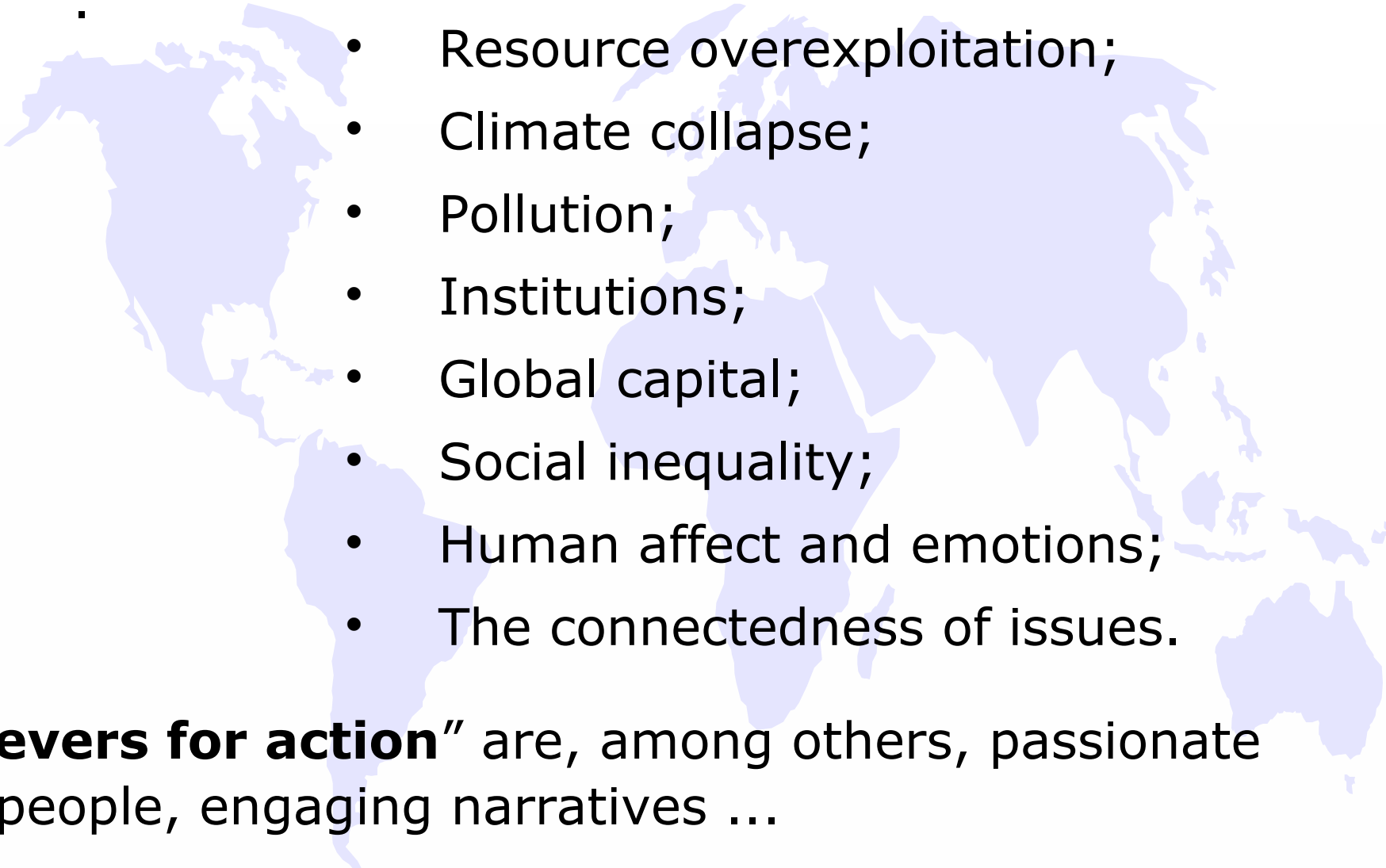


Analysing our mindmap and the big challenges to the ocean, we extracted what we considered “levers” enabling action for positive change.

Instead of “broadcasting” individual work results, with often little impact, we went on learning journeys the following day to find innovative ways for acting on the levers identified.



The “big issues” we identified

- 
- Resource overexploitation;
 - Climate collapse;
 - Pollution;
 - Institutions;
 - Global capital;
 - Social inequality;
 - Human affect and emotions;
 - The connectedness of issues.

“**Levers for action**” are, among others, passionate people, engaging narratives ...

Learning journeys spawning projects



Groups and individuals focused on different levers reporting back from their learning journeys, through recitals, film, scientific papers, exhibition planning thus opening minds for new opportunities.

The scene was set for project planning using the Pro-Action Café format in smaller groups and reporting the results back to the whole group again.



Working on project proposals arising

- How to model Spaceship Earth? - Alan Mackworth
- Can we capture our experience in an open access book? - Cornelia Nauen
- What other written output can we produce? - Rashid Sumaila
- What does it take to bring "Fish-Credits" currency on its way? - Paolo Dini
- Can we expand the conversation to include eco-theology and build on the aboriginal spirituality? - Nigel Haggan
- What do we need to do to produce a contrasted global video interview about the ocean? - Dyhia Belhabib

Robi Smith's art inspired by FishBase



For more ...

<http://www.spaceshipearth.pwias.ubc.ca>

<http://www.mundusmaris.org>

We encourage and welcome cooperation

to use FishBase for developing ever more engaging stories that shift perceptions about what is necessary and possible and enable positive change.

**I'm still a baby,
let me live and grow**



www.mundusmaris.org www.facebook.com/MundusMaris

Thanks!

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