



National Environmental
Research Program

TROPICAL ECOSYSTEMS *hub*

Managing natural resources for future generations

Convenor: Mark Read
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority







NATURAL RESOURCES VALUED FOR DIFFERENT REASONS BY DIFFERENT PEOPLE



MON REPOS CONSERVATION PARK

PRIMARY FOCUS FOR MARINE TURTLE ECOTOURISM IN QUEENSLAND



MANAGED BY QPWS FOR SUSTAINABLE USE AND CONSERVATION

VALUE:

>\$5,000,000 ANNUALLY TO DISTRICT ECONOMY

- NOT VALUING COST OF TRANSPORT TO & FROM BUNDABERG
- NOT VALUING VALUE OF OTHER FLOW-ON TOURISM





BUT WE FACE SOME CHALLENGES



National Environmental
Research Program

TROPICAL ECOSYSTEMS *hub*

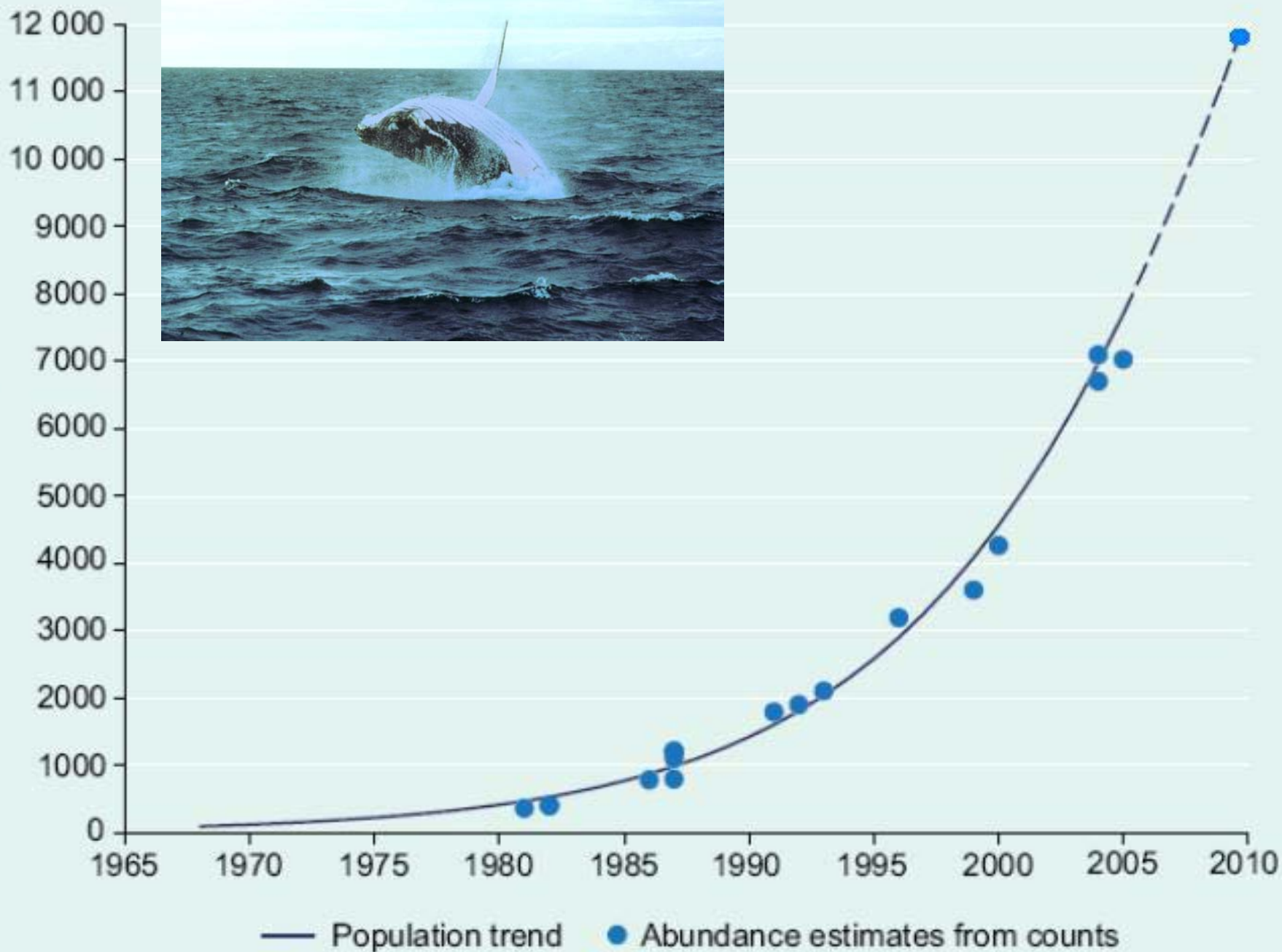
LEGACY ISSUES





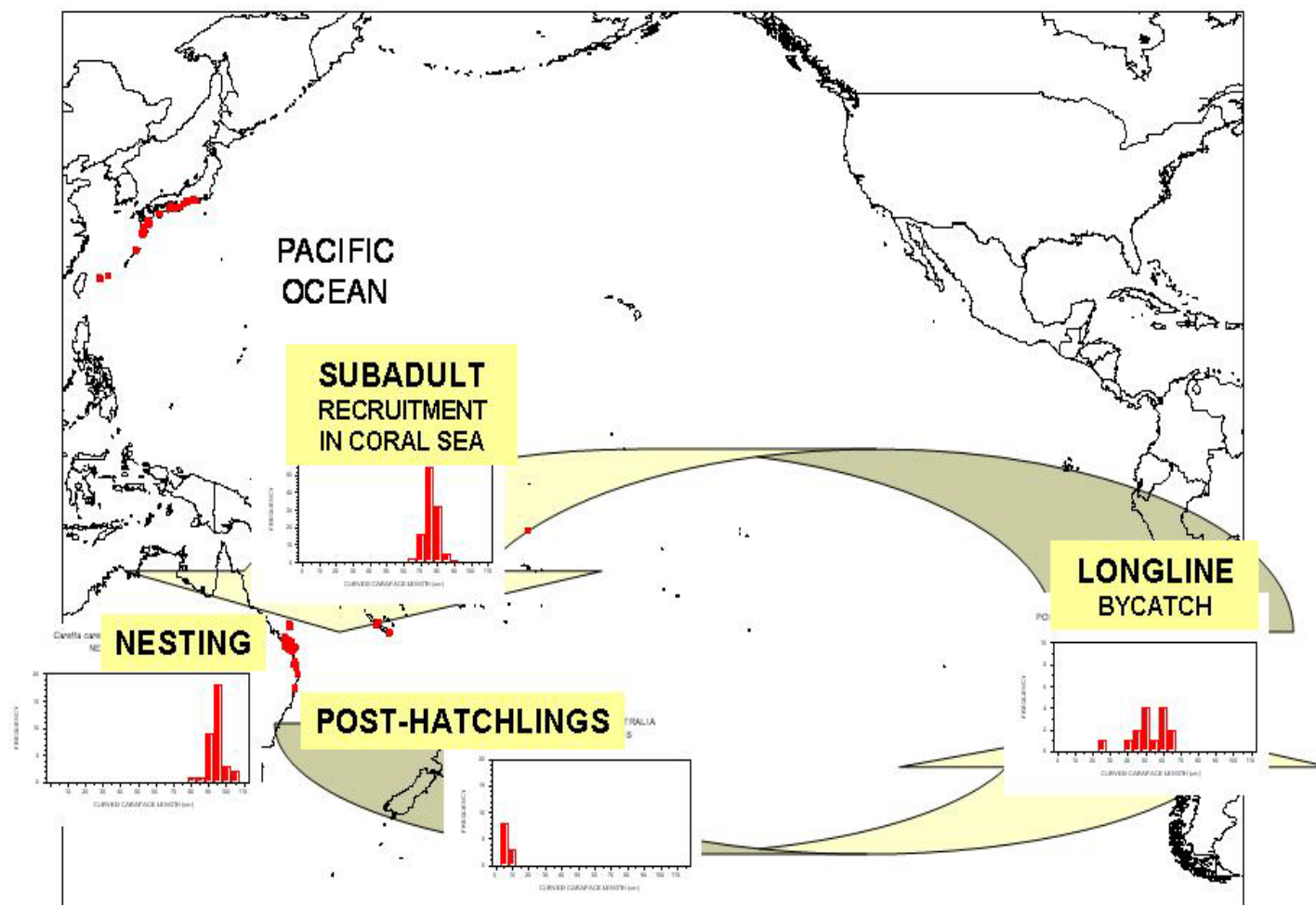
Marine turtles were extensively harvested in the Great Barrier Reef in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, just as they were at Heron Island, southern Great Barrier Reef. (Photo courtesy of the State Library of Queensland)

Number of whales





***Caretta caretta*: OCEANIC POST-HATCHLING DISPERSAL
SOUTH PACIFIC**





**WE CAN NO LONGER JUST RELY
ON THE 'TRIED AND PROVEN'**





reef
guardian
farmer



Australian Government
Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority

www.gbrmpa.gov.au



INTERVENTION IS NOT NEW, BUT JUST HOW FAR DO WE GO?







COTS control program

- Partnership between managers, researchers and tourism operators
- 72,000 COTS killed since August 2012





SPEAKERS FOR THIS SESSION

Dr Andrew Tobin - life history parameters and distribution, abundance and movements of coastal shark populations.

Dr Cathy Dichmont - a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) framework to build understanding of the key human uses and drivers of change in the inshore Great Barrier Reef (GBR).

Dr Brad Congdon - foraging behaviour of seabirds that nest on offshore islands.



FOCUS QUESTIONS

- Our best outcome for managing natural resources for future generations is for all users to work together and harness the collective resources available to continue and enhance current conservation and management and to ensure ecologically sustainable use. However, many of our processes do not facilitate this collaborative approach, such as the approval-by-approval consideration of biodiversity offsets, all operating at different spatial and temporal scales. Should we and can we do this better to improve the long-term outlook for the Reef?
- Despite our best efforts, there still seems to be a disconnect between our current understanding of the threats facing the Reef and its biodiversity and communicating this to some of our key stakeholders. How can we do this better and what other communication methods do we need to consider to improve information uptake and acceptance?
- Often the ideas for how we can reduce our impacts on habitats and species come from people who have spent their lives working on the Reef or Traditional Owners who have the multi-generation connection to country. However, we haven't been particularly good at recognising or respecting these ideas or incorporating these into the decision-making framework. How do we get better at including these ideas as a standard/mandatory component of decision making?
- For some populations that are really under pressure, just how far do we intervene to maximise their resilience into the future?



National Environmental
Research Program

TROPICAL ECOSYSTEMS *hub*

THANK YOU