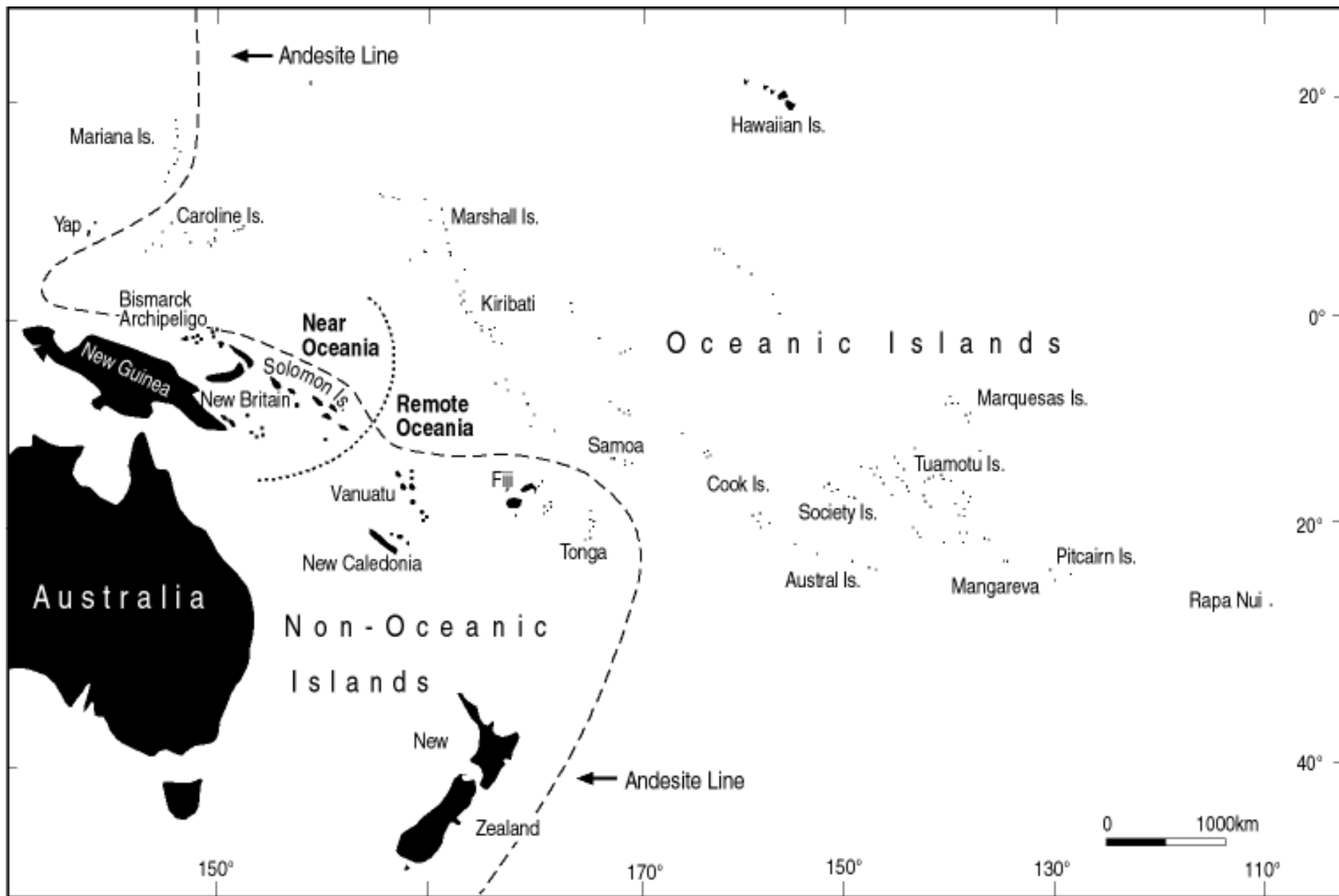


# The role of local knowledge in fisheries management



Richard Hamilton



# Information gaps on:

- Locations of critical habitats
- Status of exploited species
- Main threats



# Local knowledge often detailed for spectacular predictable events



**Photo credits: Tony Wu**

# Manta ray cleaning stations



# Turtle nesting seasons



# Documenting local knowledge

- Typically use ethnographic methods such as interviewing and participant observation .
- Documentation of local knowledge requires both anthropological and biological skills



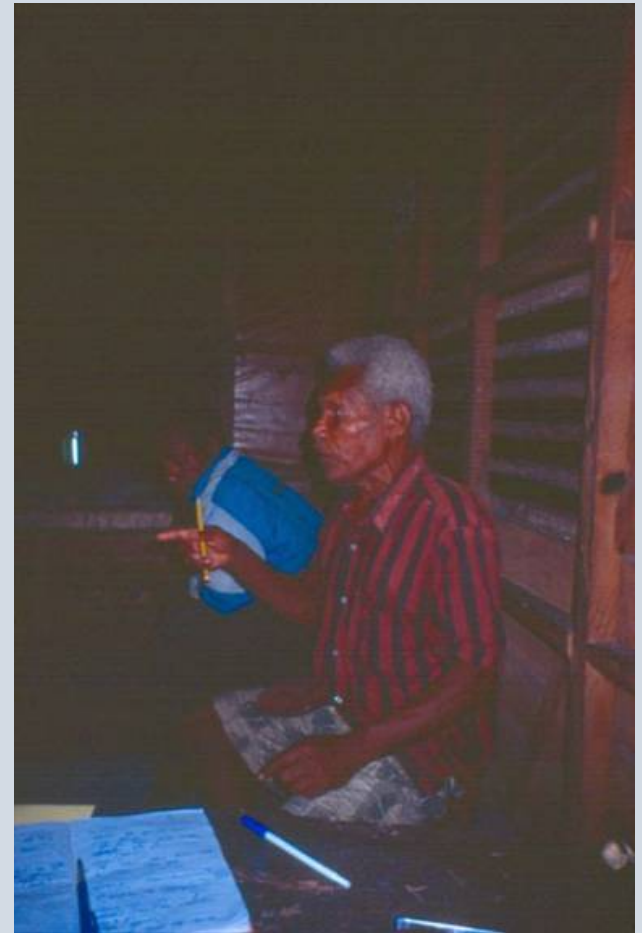
# Perquisites

- Knowledge of local language, fishing practices, interviewing techniques
- Learn folk taxonomy of target species, indigenous lunar calendar, important seasons etc.





- Identifying who to interview is critical
- Gender, degree of involvement in a fishery and the type of fishing gear may substantially influence the distribution of local knowledge in a community
- “Snowballing” often used





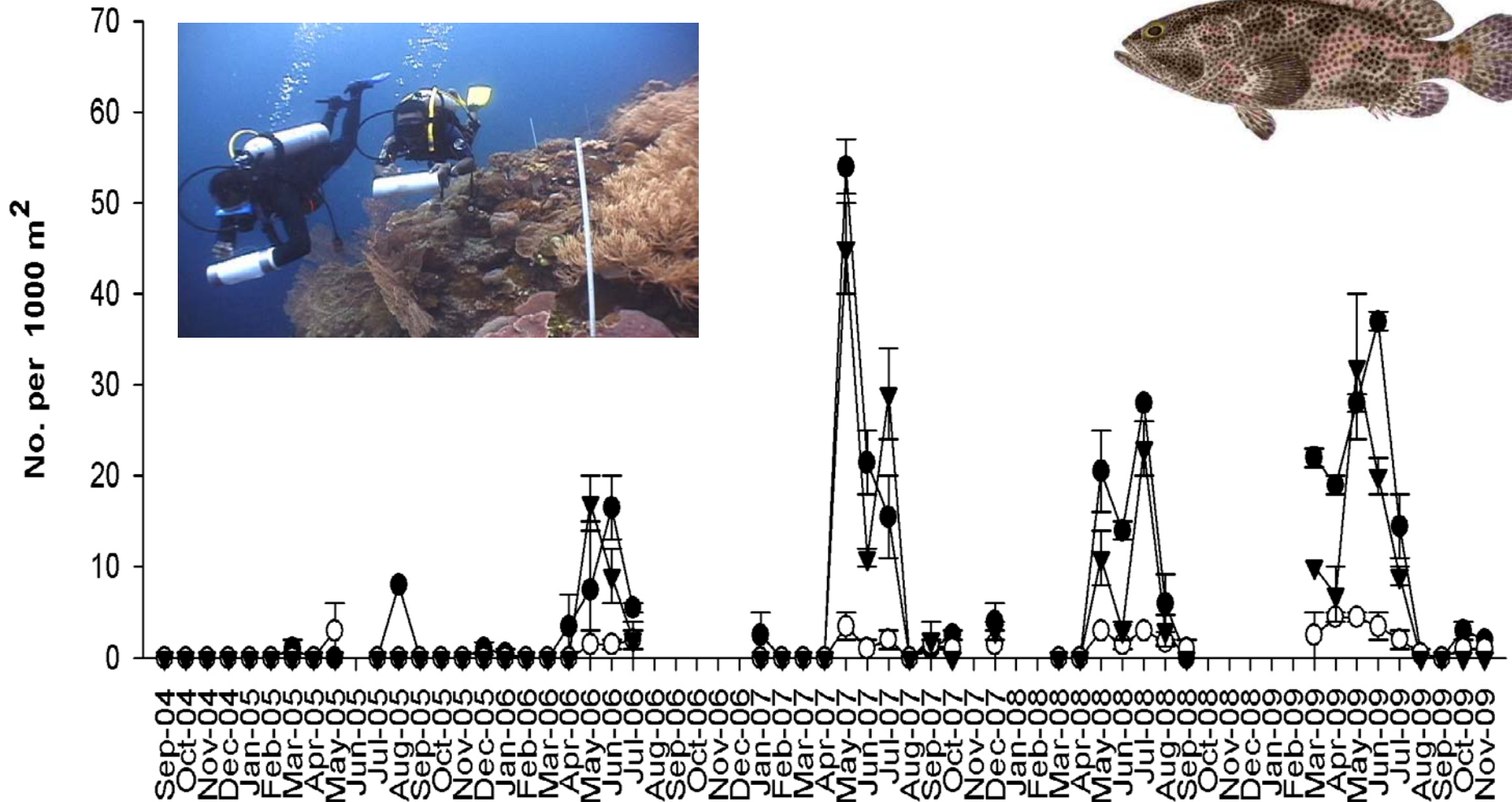
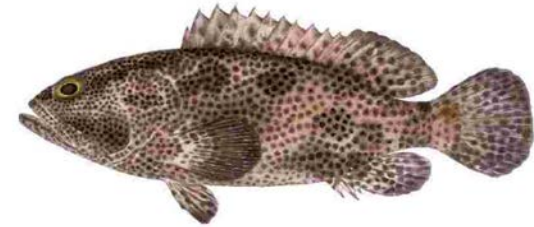
Use aids: Fish ID books, maps of area etc.



# Assessing change: Use maximum catch: Positive memory



# Local knowledge surveys often starting point towards better management



# Final points to keep in mind

1. Observation versus Interpretation - distinct activities
2. Local knowledge only part of the picture
3. Local knowledge can be wrong
4. Independent validation ideal
5. Ethics

