# SeaBOS – Consolidating and accelerating change

Henrik Österblom, Stockholm Resilience Centre Martin Exel, SeaBOS Hiroyuki Sato, Maruha Nichiro Corporation Toshiya Yabuki, Nippon Suisan Kaisha











## Outline

- The scientific background
- Current status and operations of SeaBOS
- Current activities among SeaBOS members
  - Maruha Nichiro Corporation
  - Nippon Suisan Kaisha



## The Keystone Actor idea

The scientific background

Henrik Österblom, Professor in Environmental Science Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University

Stockholm Resilience Centre Sustainability Science for Biosphere Stewardship

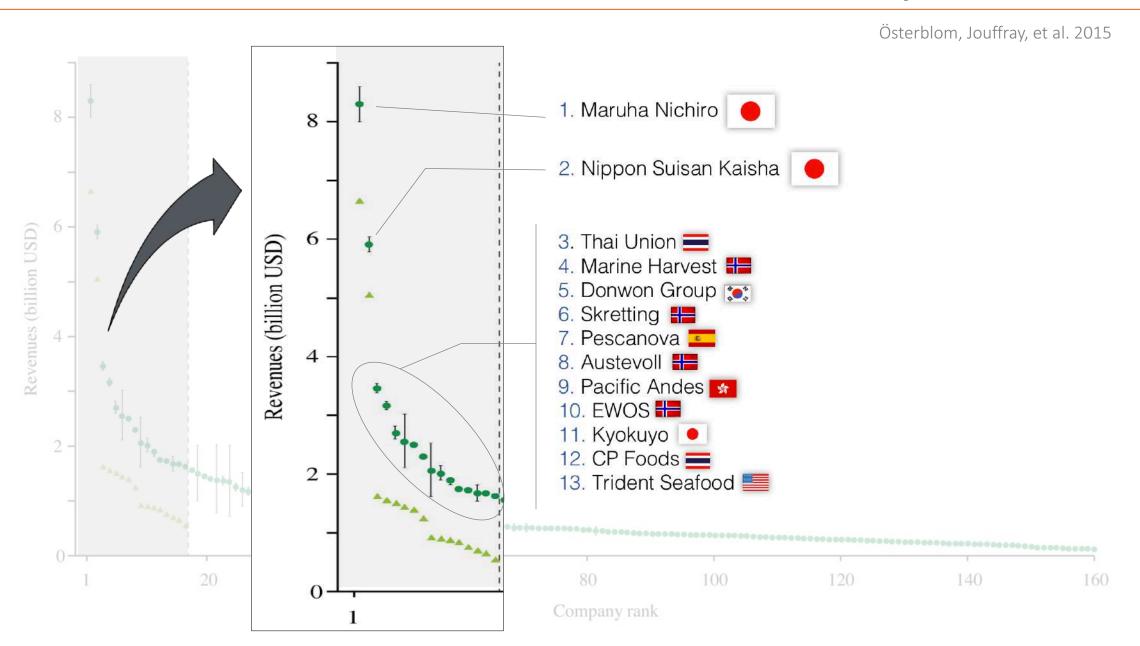


GLOBAL ECONOMIC DYNAMICS AND THE BIOSPHERE THE ROYAL SWEDISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

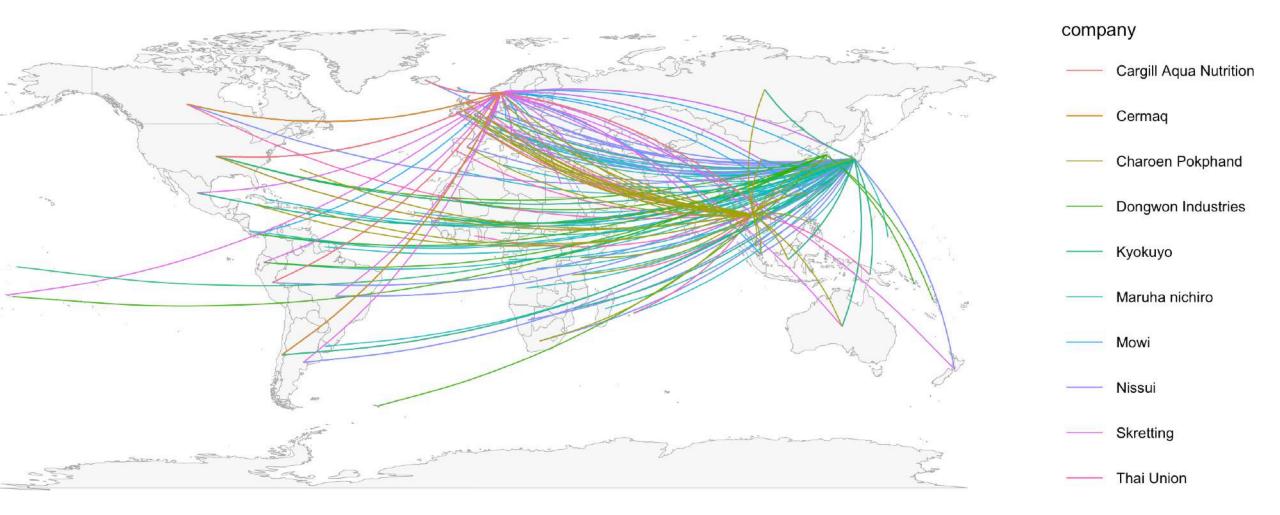




## Concentration in the seafood industry



## Global connectivity of Keystone Actors



## These keystone actors...

... dominate global production revenues and volumes

... control globally relevant segments of seafood production

... connect ecosystems globally through subsidiaries

... influence global governance processes and institutions

#### Starting in 2012: Transnational Corporations as 'Keystone Actors' in Marine Ecosystems Österblom, Jouffray, et al. 2015, PLOS ONE



2015: "... Sustainable leadership by keystone actors could result in cascading effects throughout the entire seafood industry and enable a critical transition towards improved management of marine living resources and ecosystems ..." [scientific paper]



2016: "... Together, we represent a global force, with a unique ability to inspire business actors along the entire seafood value chain and support governments in achieving the SDGs. We are committed to use our combined power to lead by example, and to use our united voice to argue for change...." [Soneva statement]







the David FOUNDATION



## Seafood Business For Ocean Stewardship (SeaBOS)

Ten of the world's largest seafood companies working towards leadership in ocean sustainability

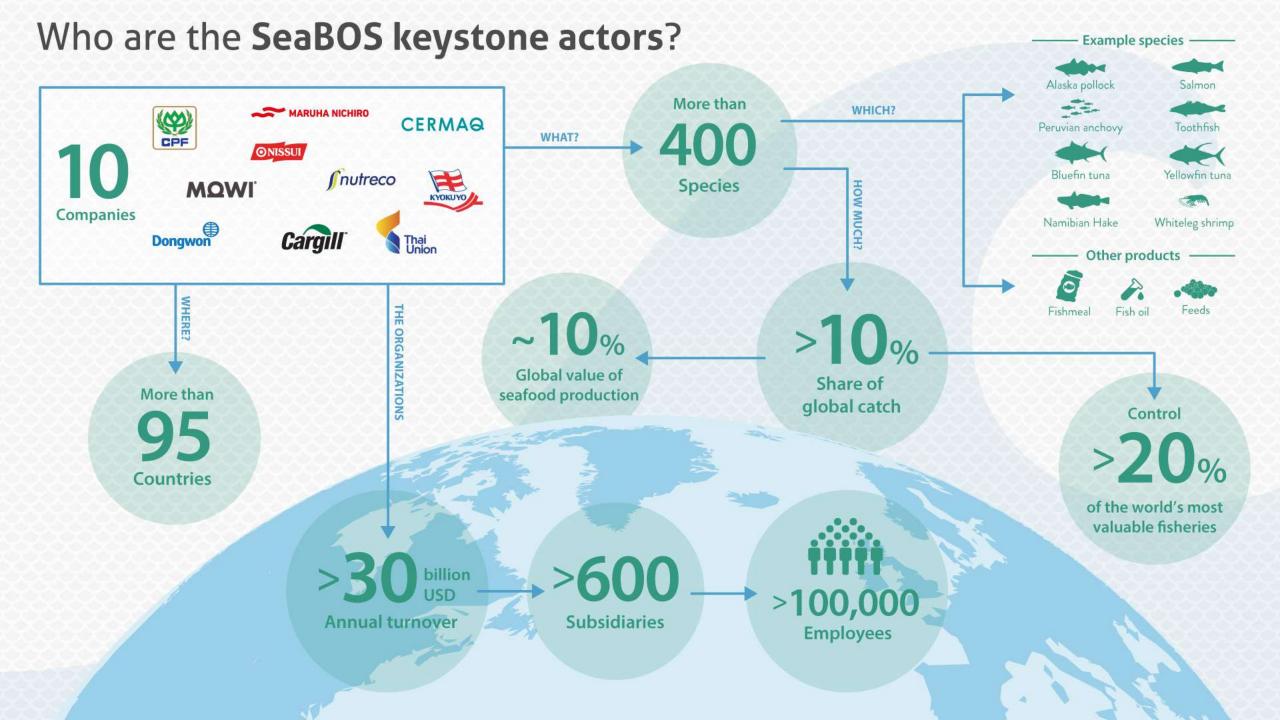


Vision: Stimulate transformative change towards ocean stewardship.

How: By the industry taking on global responsibility for the ocean and actively engaging in stewardship, including working with governments and other sustainability initiatives.









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Seafood Business for Ocean Stewardship: a brief historySeaBOS commitments and current alignment with material issues across members			Ocean Plastic Pollution		Antibiotics in Aquaculture	
This Background Brief summarizes the history of the Seafood Business for Ocean Stewardship (SeaBOS) initiative from its inception in November 2016 at the Soneva Dialogue to the latest Dialogue in Phuket in September 2019. During these three years, SeaBOS has developed a series of high-level commitments and, underpinned by science, has started on the journey of delivering One basis for reporting, which comprehensively addresses ocean stewardship (Box 1).			Ocean plastic pollution has recently become a key focus of public attention and concern. Large ocean plastics such as abandoned fishing nets entangle and kill marine life and can create navigational hazards, while microplastics enter marine food webs and have been identified in seafood for human consumption from both aquaculture and wild capture fisheries. Many		The complexity and gravity of current trajectories of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) due antibiotic use in food producing species, including aquaculture, call for the immediate mobilization of society. The problem involves a complex and interconnected system of	

#### PERSPECTIVE https://doi.org/10.1038/s41559-019-0978-z

## Transnational corporations and the challenge of biosphere stewardship

Carl Folke <sup>1,2,3\*</sup>, Henrik Österblom <sup>2,</sup>, Jean-Baptiste Jouffray <sup>2,3</sup>, Eric F. Lambin<sup>4,5,6</sup>, W. Neil Adger <sup>5,7</sup>, Marten Scheffer<sup>8</sup>, Beatrice I. Crona<sup>2,3</sup>, Magnus Nyström<sup>2</sup>, Simon A. Levin<sup>9</sup>, Stephen R. Carpenter<sup>10</sup>, John M. Anderies<sup>1,11</sup>, Stuart Chapin III<sup>12</sup>, Anne-Sophie Crépin <sup>1,2</sup>, Alice Dauriach<sup>3</sup>, Victor Galaz <sup>1,2,3</sup>, Line J. Gordon<sup>2</sup>, Nils Kautsky<sup>13</sup>, Brian H. Walker<sup>14</sup>, James R. Watson<sup>3,15</sup>, James Wilen<sup>16</sup> and Aart de Zeeuw<sup>17</sup>

Sustainability within planetary boundaries requires concerted action by individuals, governments, civil society and private actors. For the private sector, there is concern that the power exercised by transnational corporations generates, and is even central to, global environmental change. Here, we ask under which conditions transnational corporations could either hinder or promote a global shift towards sustainability. We show that a handful of transnational corporations nucle either a major force shaping the global intertwined system of people and planet. Transnational corporations in agriculture, forestry, seafoad, cement, minerals and fossil energy cause environmental impacts and possess the ability to influence critical functions of the biosphere. We review evidence of current practices and identify six observed features of change towards 'corporate biosphere stewardship', with significant potential for upscaling. Actions by transnational corporations, if combined with effective public policies and improved governmental regulations, could substantially accelerate sustainability efforts.

onsolidation among corporations, whereby a small number of companies control a large market share of the overall output or sales for a particular product or product type (that is, oligopoly or, at the extreme, monopoly), is a well-known<sup>1,2</sup> and predictable<sup>3,4</sup> feature of economic development<sup>5</sup>. Some 10% of the world's corporations generate 80% of all profits globally6. A handful of transnational companies (TNCs) in the information technology sector control 90% or more of the global market share of search engines, operating systems and social media7. Three investor firms manage over 90% of all assets under management in passive equity funds8, and retailers, which form the interface between consumers and global supply chains, also show high levels of concentration<sup>9,10</sup>. Such dominance is variously explained by increasing share of returns from growth going to capital rather than labour, the ability of TNCs to navigate regulatory systems opportunistically across multiple jurisdictions, and their capacity to create barriers to entry for smaller firms11

In fact, the scale at which TNCs operate, and the speed and connectivity they galvanize across the world is unprecedented in history<sup>12</sup>. TNCs have become a defining feature of the interconnected planet of people and nature<sup>13</sup>, with humans as a hyper-dominant species in the biosphere affecting global patterns of ecological

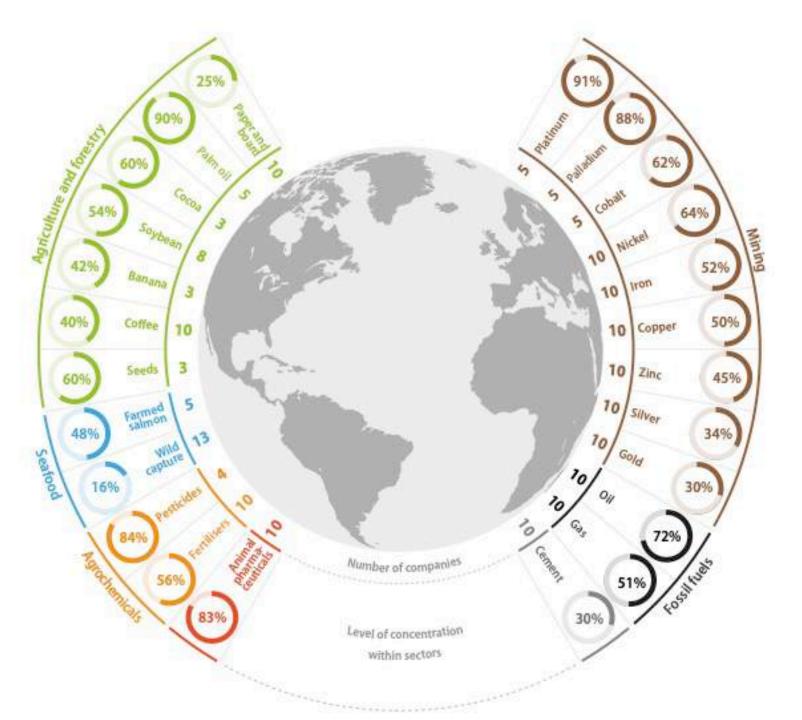
change<sup>14,15</sup>. While concerns have been raised about industry dominance in relation to the environment<sup>16,17</sup>, others argue that inclusion of corporations in international agreements, like the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, could be beneficial for all<sup>18</sup>.

Voluntary TNC sustainability commitments are essential and can translate into improvements<sup>10</sup>, but so far, many private-sector supply chain initiatives for sustainability fall short on several fronts<sup>30–21</sup>. Overall, the past two decades of efforts to leverage supply chain power of major TNCs have failed to meet the expectations for improved sustainability<sup>12,28</sup>. Conversely, government regulations and international agreements have not been able to meet the growing need to regulate the complex dynamics of an intertwined planet<sup>16</sup> with human dominance as a major force shaping it<sup>27,30</sup>. Understanding and acting upon the new dynamics of the Anthropocene is fundamental for human well-being, and TNCs clearly are part of it.

Here, we focus on the link between dominant TNCs and the biosphere and explore whether such dominance can be acted upon to serve as a leverage towards sustainability. We recognize that small and medium-sized enterprises also play a key role, but many such enterprises are either part of TNCs' global supply chains or serve a domestic market only<sup>20</sup>. Drawing on empirical observations from

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# SeaBOS: current status and operations

Martin Exel Managing Director

## The mission of SeaBOS

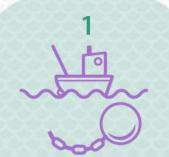
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**Traceability and** 

transparency

To lead a global transformation towards sustainable seafood production and a healthy ocean

### Our Goals include providing leadership in:



Addressing IUU and forced labour



Working with governments to improve regulations



Addressing the issue of plastics

-`@`-

...and to be a source of inspiration for the industry

## The task forces of SeaBOS

#### Addressing IUU and forced labour

To focus on ensuring that there are no IUU products or raw materials associated to forced labour in SeaBOS members' supply chains.



#### 2 Improving traceability in global seafood

To promote and illustrate leadership and best practices in terms of seafood traceability, and piloting novel technologies to advance traceability.

#### 3 Working with governments to improve regulations

To develop the ability of SeaBOS members to engage in fisheries, aquaculture, and related policy processes, to ensure they actively contribute to ocean stewardship.







#### To develop clear governance, staffing and funding mechanisms, as well as monitoring and tracking of progress, transparency of reporting by SeaBOS members, and communications.



#### 5 Reducing ocean plastics

To ensure that SeaBOS members map the sources, presence, and types of plastic in their seafood production, as well as identify ways to improve ocean health by removing plastics from the ocean environment.

#### 6 Climate resilience



To focus on global solutions to the impacts of climate change on sustainable seafood production, as well as the ability of sustainable seafood production to play a role in the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change impacts.

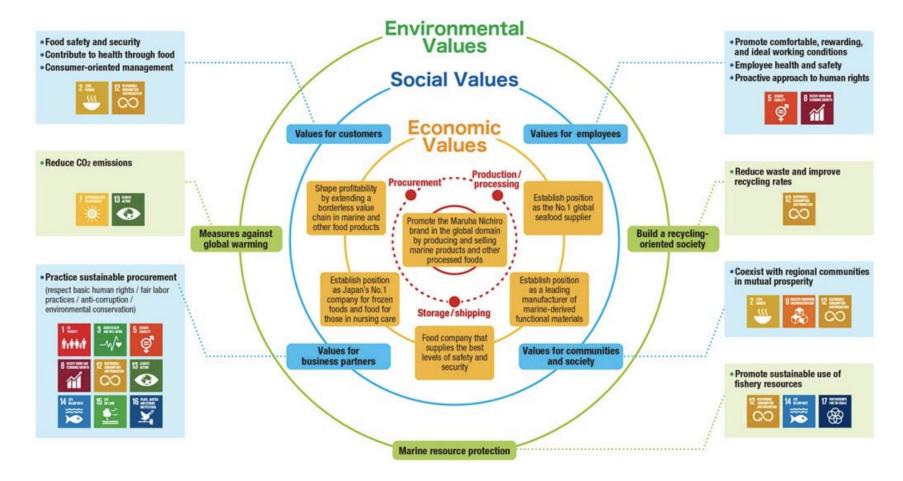
## Maruha Nichiro Group



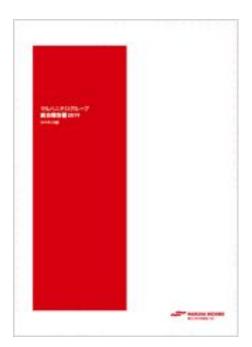
Thursday, November 7th, 2019 Maruha Nichiro Corporation Corporate Planning Department, Sustainability Promotion Group Hiroyuki SATO

#### "Three Core Values" Produced by Maruha Nichiro Group and Its Priority Subjects

#### Contribute to achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs) through business



## Maruha Nichiro Group Example of Our Initiatives—1



Integral report

\* Used IIRC guidelines as a reference

Sustainability report (Website)
\* In compliance with GRI core information disclosure



### Maruha Nichiro Group Example of Our Initiatives—2

Fishing gear (plastics) management

Managing usage conditions at businesses of aqua culture

•Fishing nets, ropes, buoys, etc.



Coastal cleaning

Had a part in the International Coastal Cleanup advocated by the U.S. Environmental NGO "Ocean Conservancy" (October 2019)

## Maruha Nichiro Group Example of Our Initiatives—3

Participated in intitiatives to improve traceability of the supply chain utilizing block chains.



## Open SC



# Example of Our

CARBO

LIONA

PRON NEUTRAL ORGANIST

#### <u>"carbon neutral"Initiative</u>

Austral Fisheries (Australia) obatained the world's first "carbon neutral" authentication as a fishery company in 2016 by promoting a tree-planting program at wheat belts in Western Australia. They offset the total carbon dioxide emission of the company's operations by planting trees.



## Thank You for Your Kind Attention



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