

The Value of Global Overview Reports: A Case Study of the Use of *The State of World Fisheries And Aquaculture* Published by the Food and Agriculture Organization



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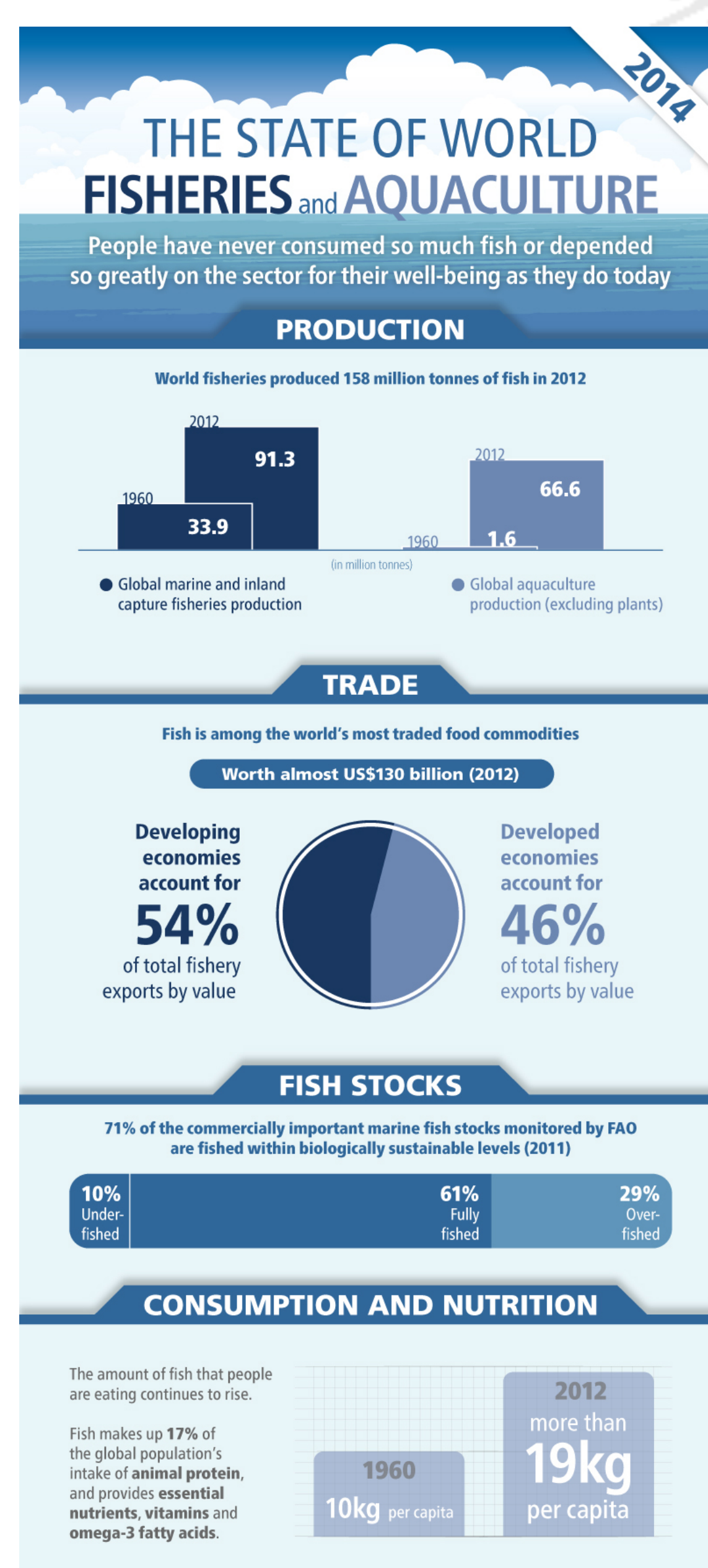
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INTRODUCTION

Global overview reports are an important source of information for policy-makers.

Effectively addressing environmental issues through policy changes requires informed decision-making. Global overview reports have been the primary method for gathering, analyzing, and disseminating information needed for sustainable environmental management (Wells, 2003). Issues in fisheries can be addressed with key information in the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA).

The FAO's State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture report is an authoritative source of data concerning fisheries and aquaculture.



FAO's flagship report, SOFIA, is a "premier advocacy document ... published every two years to provide policy-makers, civil society and those whose livelihoods depend on the sector [with] a comprehensive, objective and global view of capture fisheries and aquaculture, including associated policy issues" (FAO, 2013). It provides a summary and analysis of fisheries and aquaculture data collected globally (Fig. 1) in four sections:

1. World review of fisheries and aquaculture
2. Selected issues in fisheries and aquaculture
3. Highlights of special studies
4. Outlook

Fig. 1: Sample of information provided by SOFIA 2014. Infographic prepared by FAO and can be retrieved from <http://www.fao.org/resources/infographics/en/>.

AIMS

Assess use of SOFIA to better communication and dissemination of SOFIA information.

Currently a disconnect exists between available scientific information and its use in developing policy and best practices. Despite the importance of global overview reports, such as SOFIA, few have been assessed to understand how they are used. This project investigated use of SOFIA through citation-analysis in order to make recommendations to improve its utility.

METHODS

- Citation searches were conducted in Scopus, Web of Science, Google Scholar, and Google
- Search strategies were tailored to the options available by the database or search engine
- All searches were conducted using the report title or permutations thereof as an exact phrase
- All citations were manually verified and coded for analysis

RESULTS

1. Citation analysis of SOFIA reveals that the reports are highly cited

Table 1: Total and unique sources and citations for all SOFIA editions.

| | Sources | Citations |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Google Scholar | 5062 | 5651 |
| Google | 964 | 990 |
| Web of Science | 2274 | 2446 |
| Scopus | 2154 | 2304 |
| Total | 10465 | 11391 |
| Unique | 6454* | 6987** |

*Total number of unique sources accounts for items found by two or more databases or search engines
 **Total number of unique citations exceeds the total number of unique sources since a citing document can cite more than one edition of SOFIA.

2. A variety of citations were found using multiple databases

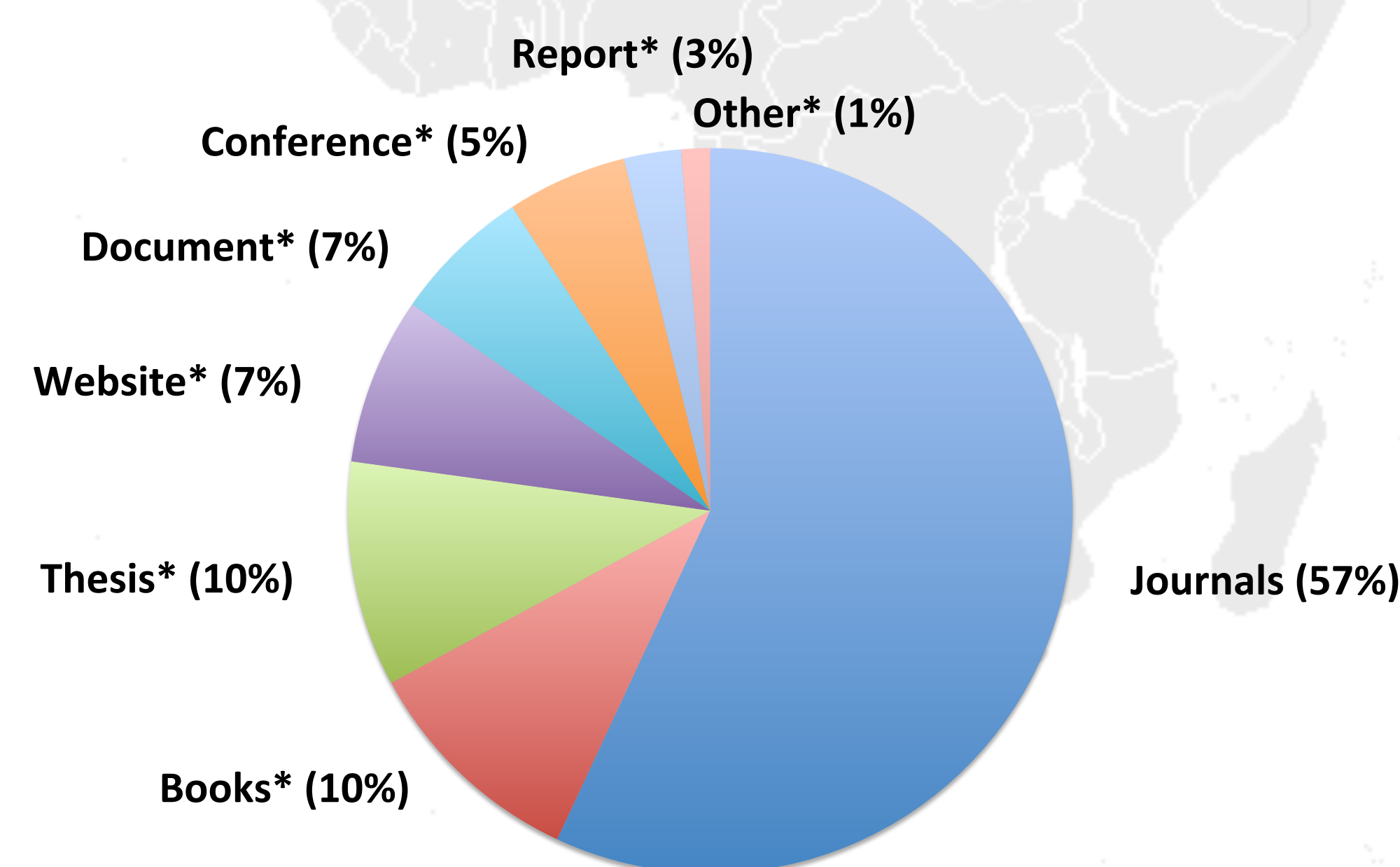


Fig. 3: Types of sources citing SOFIA
 Starred items were either primarily or entirely found by Google Scholar and Google. Note that most non-journal sources were found by Google Scholar and Google.

3. Use of SOFIA has increased over time

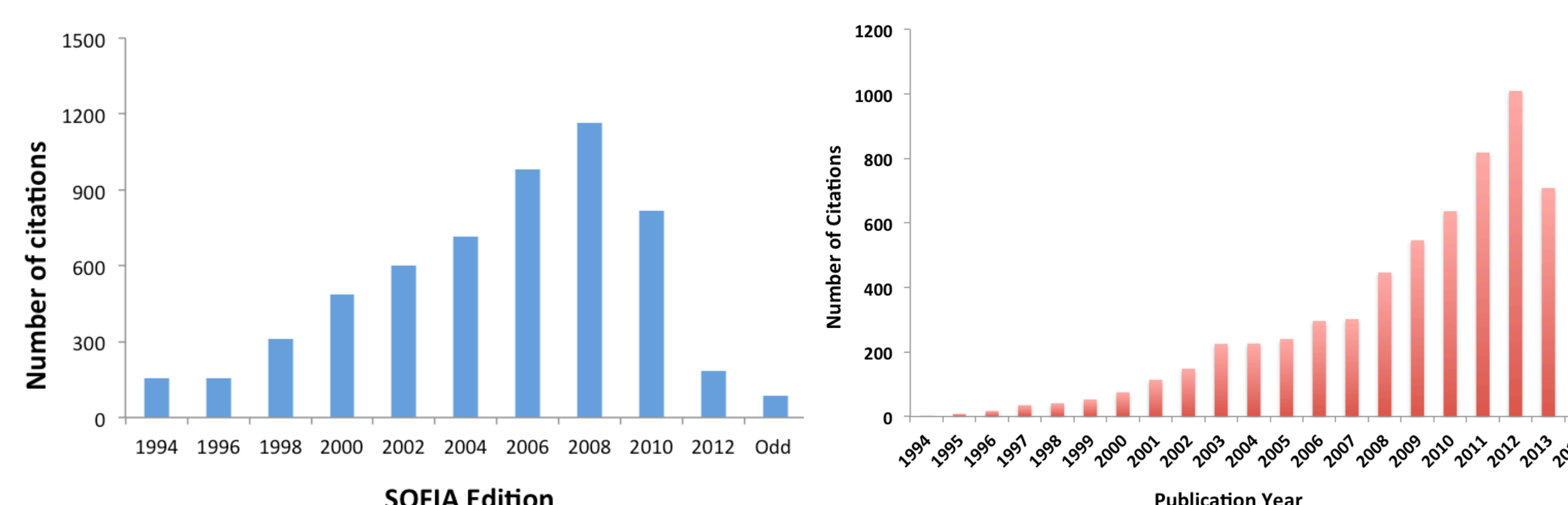


Fig. 4: Change in SOFIA citations a) per SOFIA edition for items found by Google Scholar and b) per publication year of citing document of all sources.

CITATION-CONTENT ANALYSIS

Analyzing the context of SOFIA citations provides a more comprehensive understanding of use.

The context of citations from the 2010 and 2012 editions are being analysed using the framework shown in Table 2. This analysis allows determination of how information in SOFIA is understood.

Table 2: Contextual analysis of SOFIA citations

| Category | Example | Category | Example | | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|--|---|---------------|---|
| Location | a) Introduction b) Conclusion | Function of Citation | a) Context b) Support c) Background information | | |
| | Topic | | a) State of resources b) Aquaculture c) Economics | SOFIA Section | a) Statistic from world review b) Selected issues, c) Highlights of studies d) Outlook |
| | | | Author Affiliation | | a) Academic, b) NGO c) Government |
| Goal of document | | a) Present research b) Guidelines c) Provide information | | | Intended Audience |

Table adapted from Zhang, Ding, and Milojevic, 2012.

Example

From USAID's 2013 *Sector Environmental Guidelines: Fisheries*:

Fisheries are an important source of food and revenue worldwide, and employ over 155 million people, 98% of whom are in developing countries. Capture fisheries and aquaculture supplied the world with about 148 million tonnes of fish in 2010 (with a total value of US\$217.5 billion), of which about 128 million tonnes was utilized as food for people. (USAID, 2013a, p. 1)

CONCLUSION

Citation analysis reveals that SOFIA is highly cited and its use is increasing. Content analysis will allow for more insightful understanding of use to in order to better structure future editions.

Information use occurs across a spectrum from conceptual to instrumental (Fig. 4). This study provided key insights into conceptual uses of SOFIA and evidence for instrumental use. To determine instrumental use, future studies can use qualitative methods to link SOFIA information to policy or practice changes.



Fig. 4: Continuum of research use
 Adapted from Nutley, Walter, and Davies, 2007.

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