



Regional Seas: Bangkok, October 5/7, 2009
Caspian Sea





Caspian Sea

News –good- since we met in Ecuador

1. New GEF funded Project approved /operational

- *\$ 6 millions through UNDP/UNOPS*
- *Focus on a) ecosystem based approach bio-resources management and b) on consolidation of Tehran Convection process*
- *Project Coordination Unit moved to Astana , Kazakhstan , fully equipped, staffed and functional*
- *Inter Agency Agreement (IAA) signed with UNE/ROA to assist*

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2- Have re-started activities

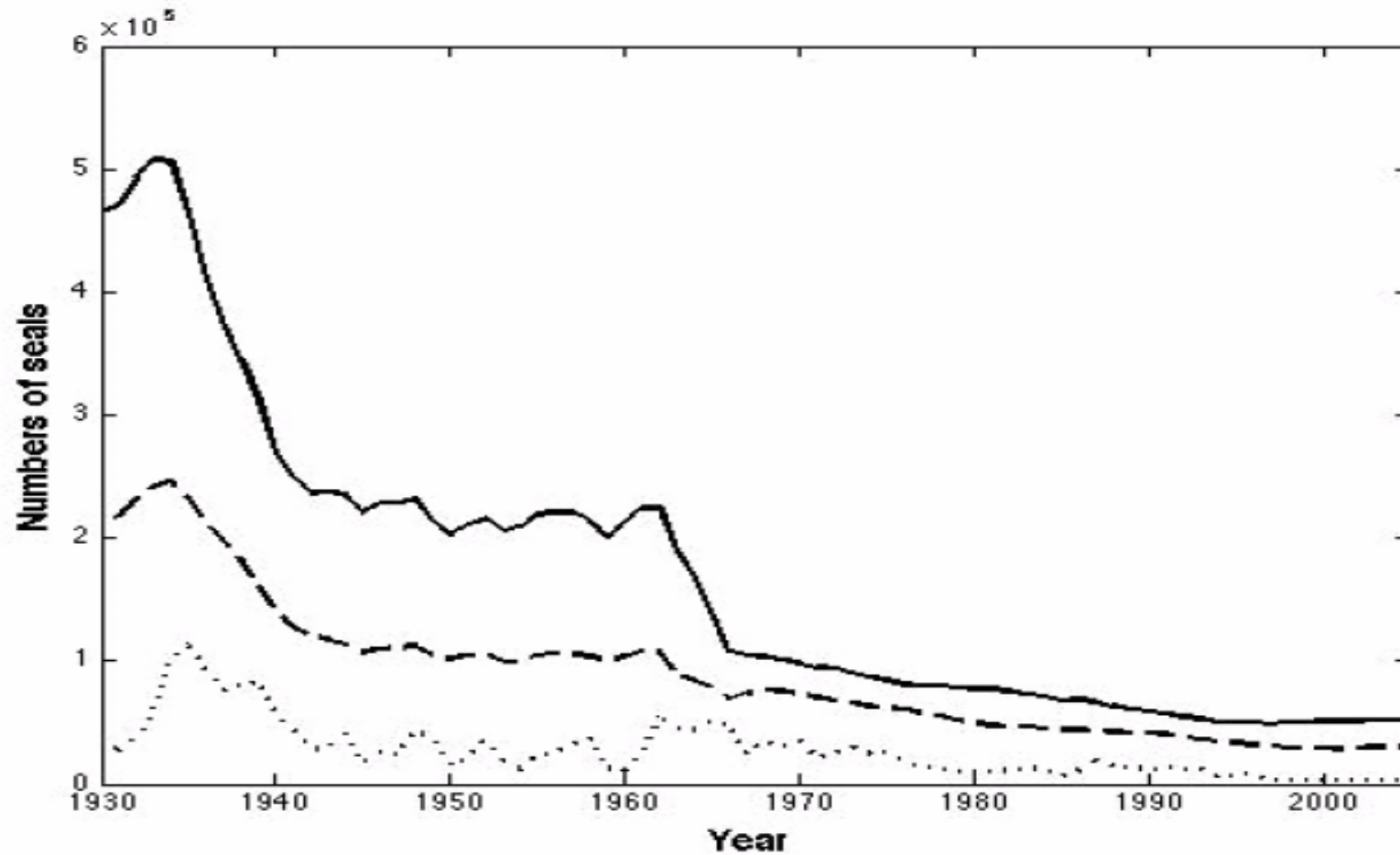
- *Inception Meeting held & work Plan approved; interest shown in climate change ; Thematic Regional Work Groups being formed*
- *LBS protocol Meeting and Shared Information on State of Environment meetings held ;Biodiversity protocol meeting is being held now ; two more protocol meetings till end year ; COPIII planned for 2010 in Asana*
- *Started work on Sturgeon Gene Bank; Caspian Trout Centre;, Eco-system Based Bioresource Management Too; Fish Passage /ladder Review , Inventory of Spawning Grounds; Seals Protected Area Plan etc etc*

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- News –not so good- since we met in Ecuador
 - *Tehran COP II not a full success*
 - *Slow and mixed progress on protocols*
 - *Still no progress on Fisheries protocol , or on Data and Information Exchange*
 - *Continued pressure on Sturgeon and Kilka*
 - *Seals moving to the threatened category- see the slide*
 - *Unhelpful financial climate ; less funds for environment*
 - *Nothing for climate change !*

Caspian seal demography 1930- Present

(Courtesy of Leeds University/Seals Int)



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What are the real issues then ?

- *Politics taking a toll in Caspian*
- *Environment still at the bottom of the priority list for governments; environmental agencies not politically strong ; poor inter –sectoral coordination*
- *Fisheries –environment divide still there*
- *International environmental bodies are weak, have little money at their disposal - for which they all go- yet appear to ask for too much from countries in terms of plans etc*
- *Climate change not yet taken fully seriously*



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Way ahead ?

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- **Re-think international environmental agencies institution**
 - **International agencies need to engage economic , financial and planning ministries in addition to environmental ministries in a package approach**
 - **Climate change stimulus package required**
 - **We all have to stay optimistic !!!!**

