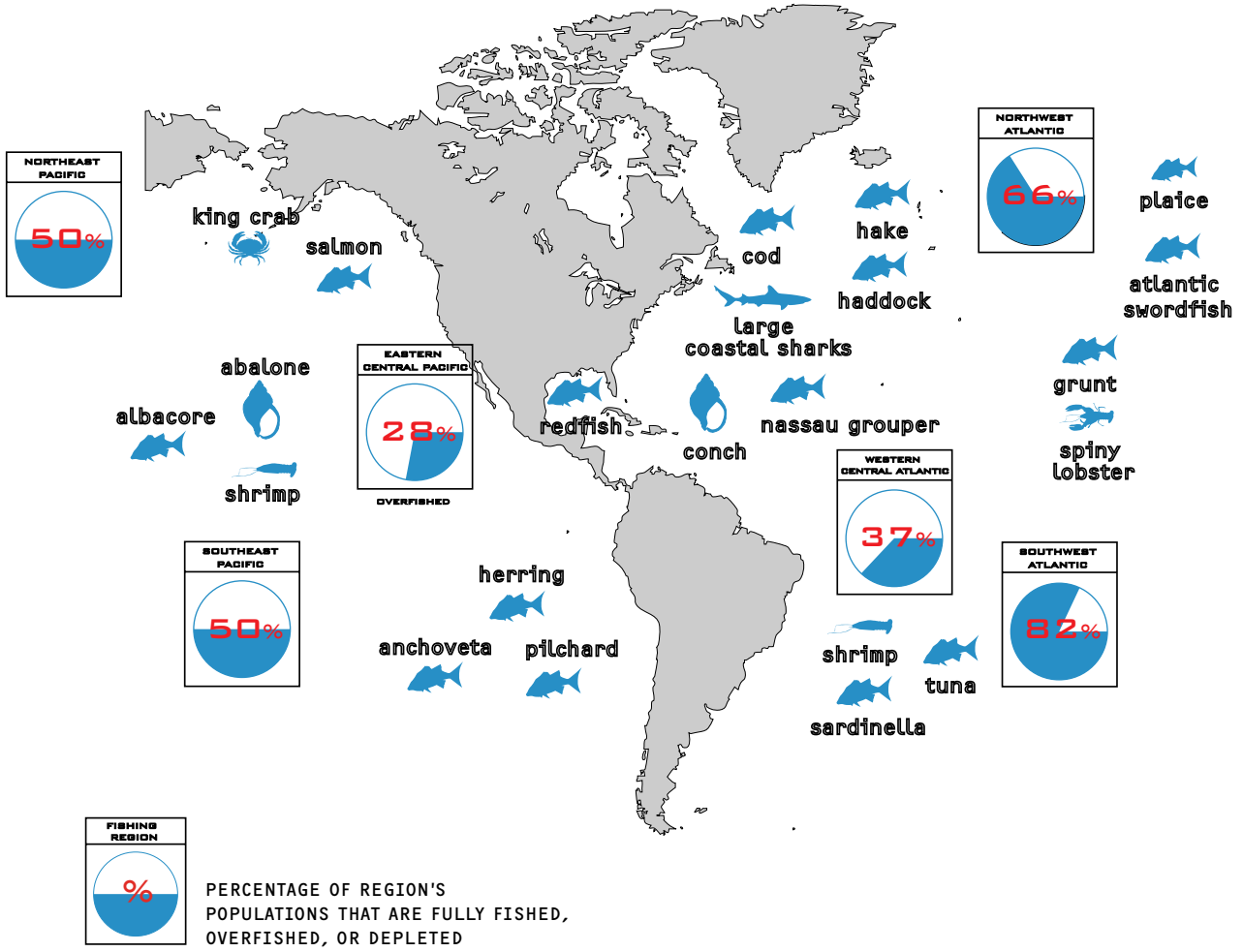
Vacuuming

The World's Oceans

Humans presently catch and use about 85 million tons of fish and marine invertebrates each year. Advances in fishing technology have increased the world catch to keep pace with rising population and increased demands for seafood. Today, international commercial fishing operations include about 1 million industrialized fishers, many on huge, high-tech ships capable of processing over a ton of fish an hour, in addition to 20 million smaller-scale fishermen.

Fishing has become so intensive and efficient that populations of many species have been depleted and cannot recover quickly enough to sustain continued exploitation. Furthermore, the use of trawlers, drift nets, gill nets, and lines of baited hooks up to 80 miles long, plus mechanical dredges and suction devices, removes and kills far more species than just those that are commercially valuable.



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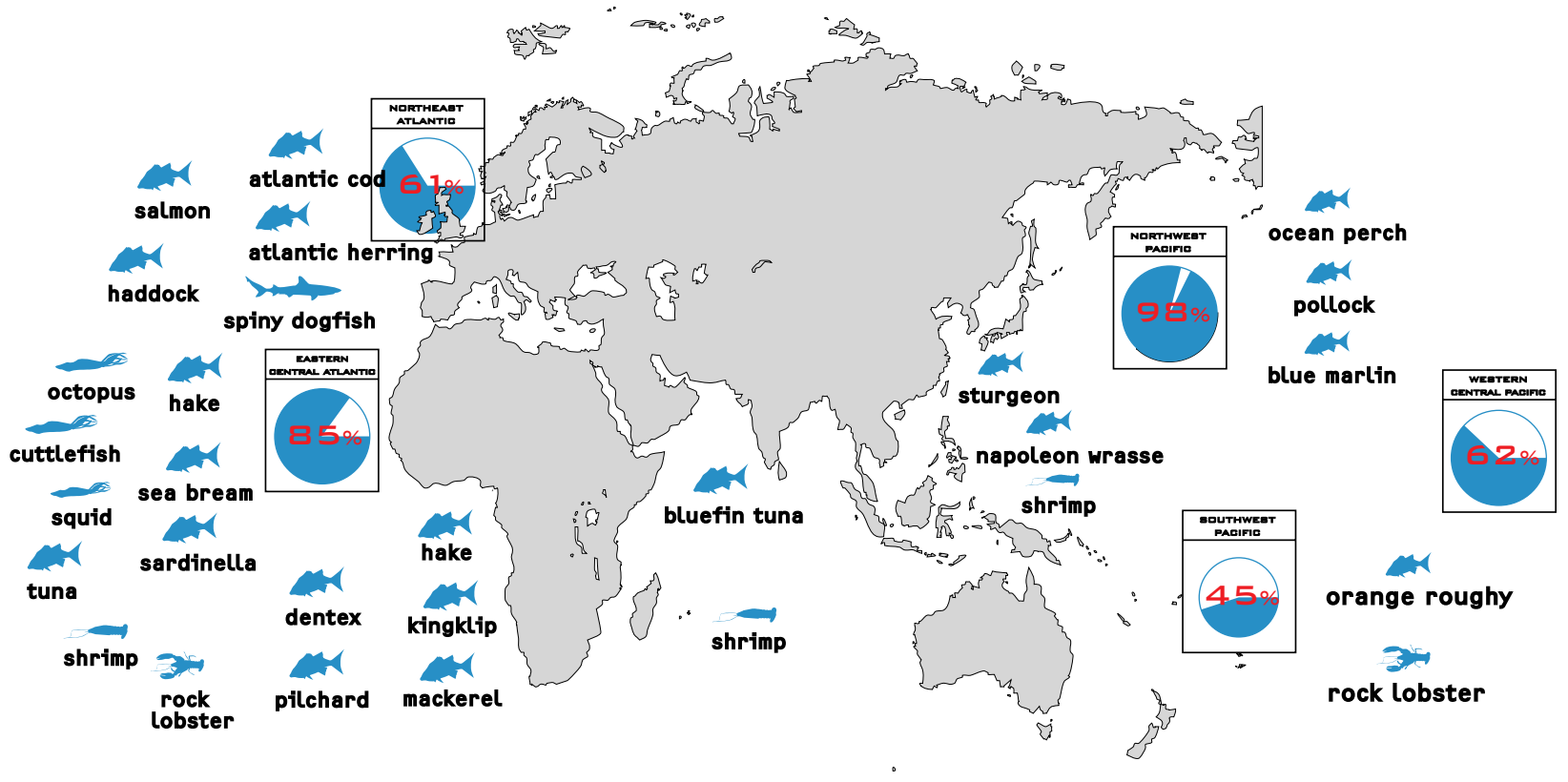
SOME OVEREXPLOITED FISH AND INVERTEBRATE POPULATIONS



1990s

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