

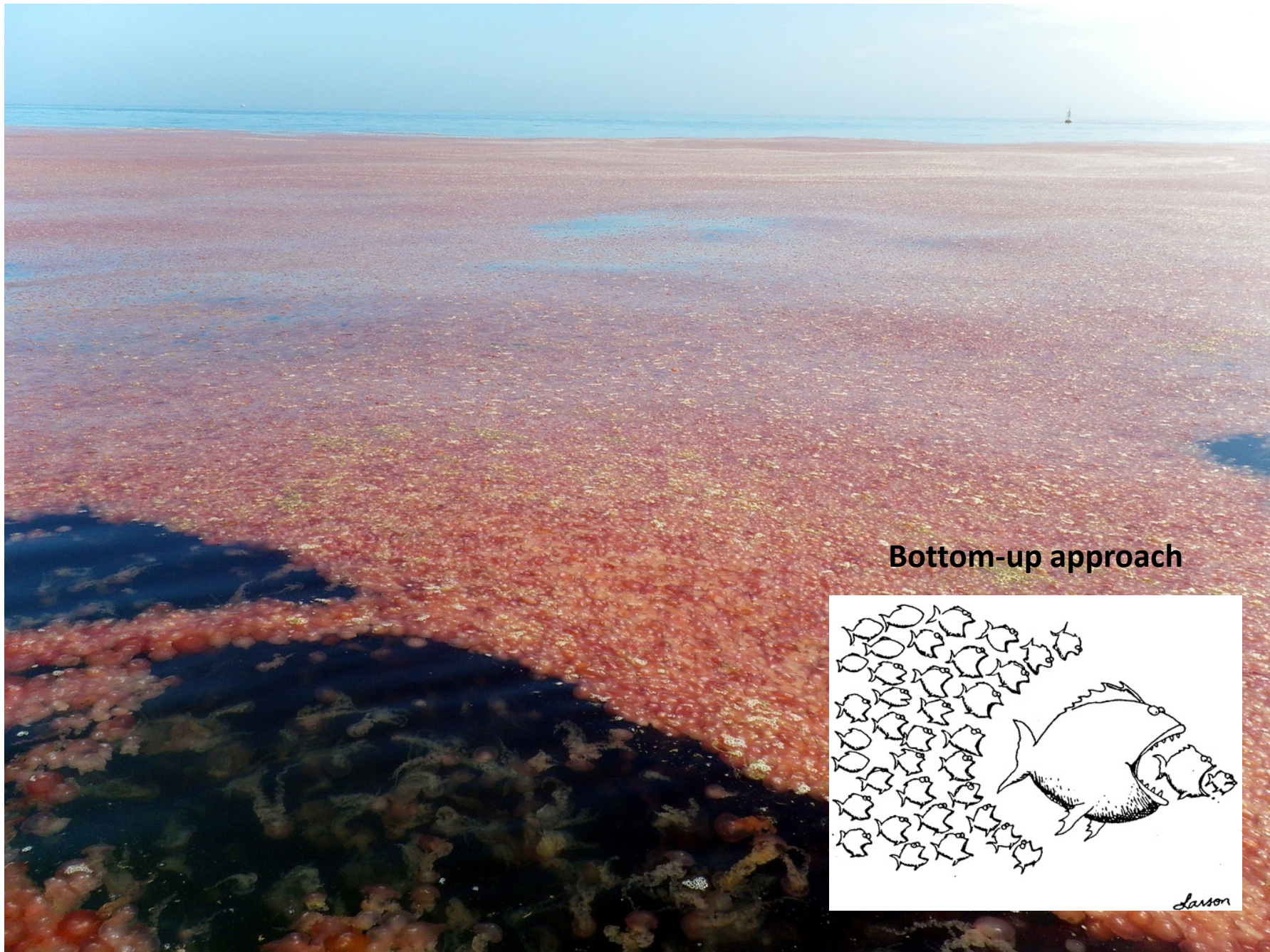
Beyond SEACchange:

Towards developing a new marine research programme

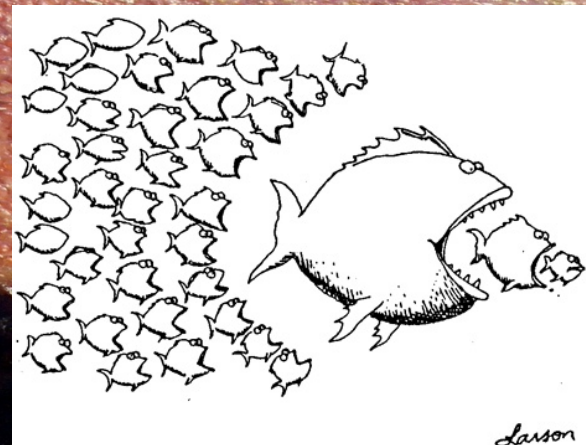
Mark J Gibbons



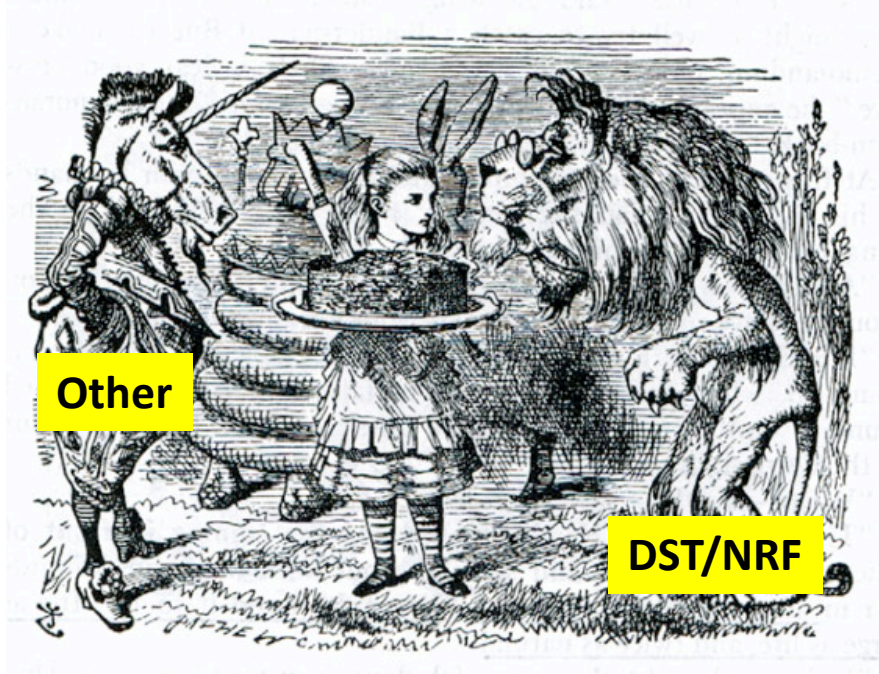
UNIVERSITY *of the*
WESTERN CAPE



Bottom-up approach



Where does our money for scientific research in RSA come from?



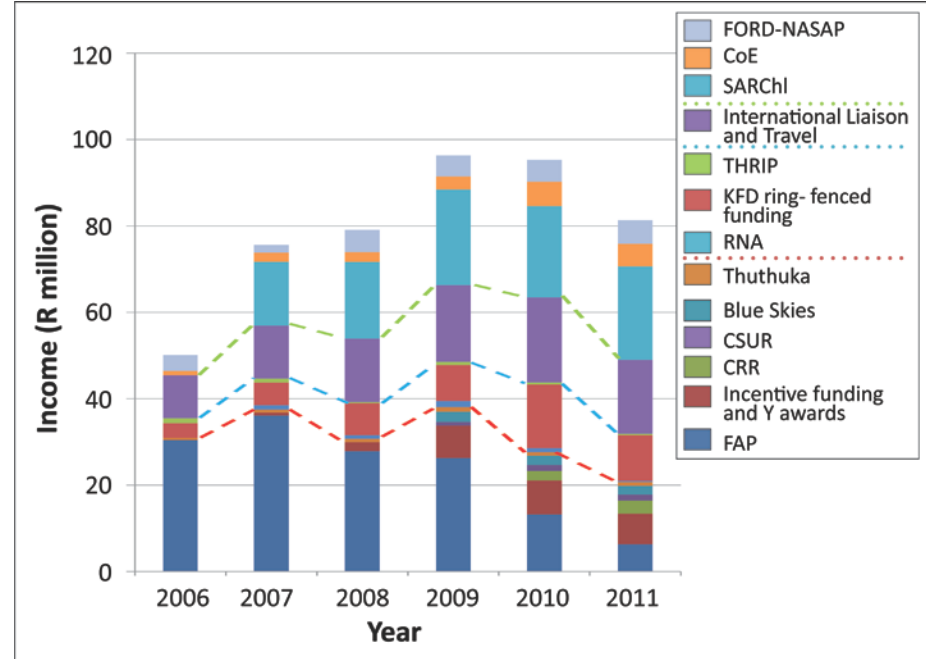
Other

DST/NRF

A lot with a little.... A little with a lot....

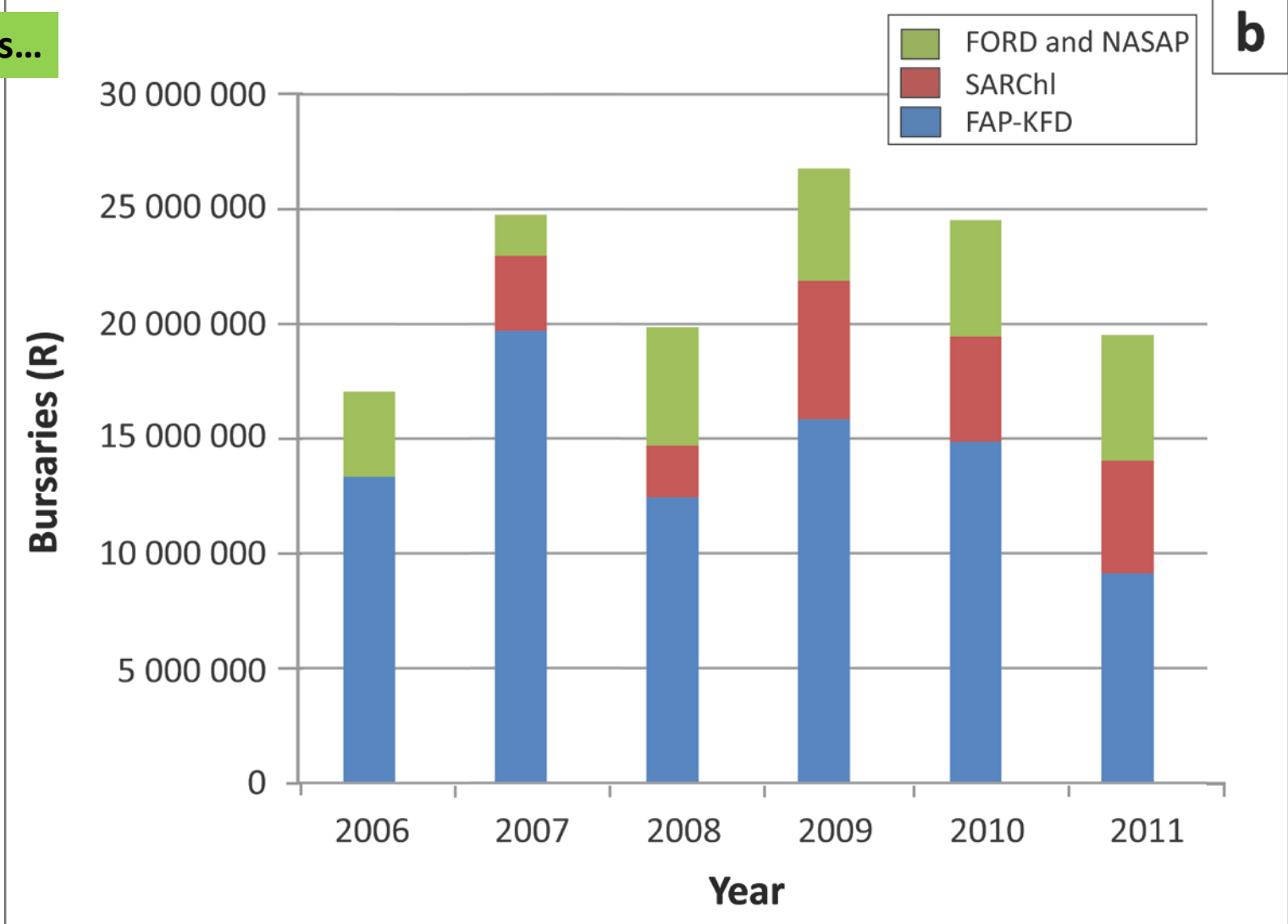
CRR (NRF) - 12% success rate

Less available to us now than previously?

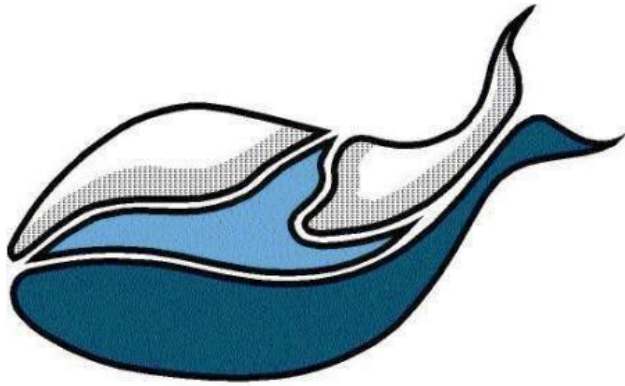


A breakdown of the income for student support and research running expenses of NRF research grants in the Faculty of Science at the University of Cape Town for the period 2006-2011. The area below the red dotted line includes research grants for graduate student support and running expenses, accessible to all academic staff independent of research area (i.e. Focus Area Programme (FAP), Incentive funding, Competitive Programme for Rated Researchers (CRR), Competitive Support for Unrated Researchers (CSUR), Blue Skies Research and Thuthuka). The drop in overall funding from R96 million in 2009 to R81 million in 2011 is largely as a result of a drop of R15 million in FAP funding. **Figures have not been corrected for inflation.**

Bursaries...



A breakdown of grant-holder linked student bursaries granted by the National Research Foundation to the University of Cape Town's Faculty of Science for 2006–2011 (a) according to the specific funding programme in the FAP-KFD sector and (b) including Ford Foundation and National Astrophysics and Space Programme (FORD-NASAP) grants to the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics, South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI). **In 2006, 170 grants supported grant-holder linked bursaries via programmes in the FAP-KFD sector, compared with 80 in 2011.** In 2011, an additional two grants were offered by the FORD-NASAP programme and seven were linked to SARChIs.



**SEACChange builds on previous plans:
Constructed by a pragmatic and
diverse marine Science Community:**

COMPROMISE

SEACChange Vision:

“[t]o provide *cutting edge research* to generate the necessary knowledge that will *support management* in achieving a healthy and productive marine and coastal environment for the benefit of all current and future South Africans”

Will new plans represent compromises?

Is the management agenda reasonable?

INSTITUTION	No Staff	N	Annual Mean
BAYWORLD	2	37	3.1
CSIR	9	30	0.6
E-KZNW	2	10	0.8
IZIKO	2	33	2.8
MCM	55	299	0.9
NATAL MUS	1	8	1.3
NMMU BOT	3	18	1.0
NMMU ZOO	3	50	2.8
NSB	3	21	1.2
ORI	9	58	1.1
RU CHEM	1	22	3.7
RU DIFS	3.5	71	3.4
RU ZOO	3.5	89	4.2
SAIAB	8	108	2.3
UCT APP MATHS	2	33	2.8
UCT BOT	1	38	6.3
UCT ENV	1	20	3.3
UCT GEOLOGY	2	23	1.9
UCT MCB	1	6	1.0
UCT OCEAN	6	146	4.1
UCT STATS	2	72	6.0
UCT ZOO	9	179	3.3
UFS ZOO	2	16	1.3
UJ ZOO	1.5	21	2.3
UKZN BOT	1	6	1.0
UKZN ZOO	3	40	2.2
UL ZOO	1	10	1.7
UP ZOO	2	74	6.2
US ZOO	0.5	10	3.3
UWC BOT	1	9	1.5
UWC PLAAS	1	8	1.3
UWC ZOO	1	42	7.0
UZULU ENV	1	12	2.0
UZULU ZOO	2	14	1.2

If we won't stand up for Science, who will?

**Whilst society may fund the science,
our obligation to society is to do the
best science**

Institutional summary of unique outputs (N) (2001-2006): the number of permanent, or full-time affiliated, staff also shown

Where to from here?

Two approaches

1) Multi- / trans- / inter- disciplinary route

Cross pollination, integration and big questions



Problems – exclusivity: consolidation of large amounts of resources in the hands of a few

Solutions – network of expert PIs working as a team to address key questions

Pre-proposals?



NO SOCIAL SCIENTISTS!

2) Support the little-guy: entry for all*

* - proven accountability

A bit of both – if budget big enough...

Too focussed – promotes exclusivity and resource consolidation

Too broad – dilutes resources

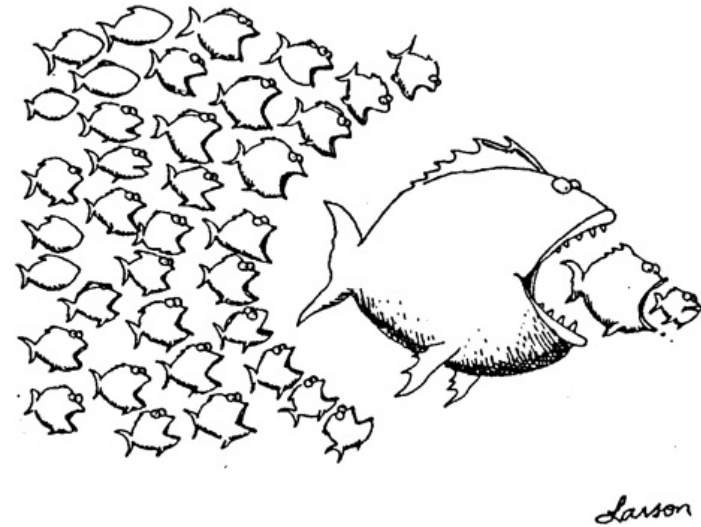
SEACChange Vision:

“[t]o provide *cutting edge research* to generate the necessary knowledge that will *support management* in achieving a healthy and productive marine and coastal environment for the benefit of all current and future South Africans”

New Vision:

“To provide cutting-edge research that will promote the development of strong science and a healthy knowledge-based society”

It is our research programme – get involved.....



Other issues:

Bursary value needs to increase

Professionalism and transparency of review process