



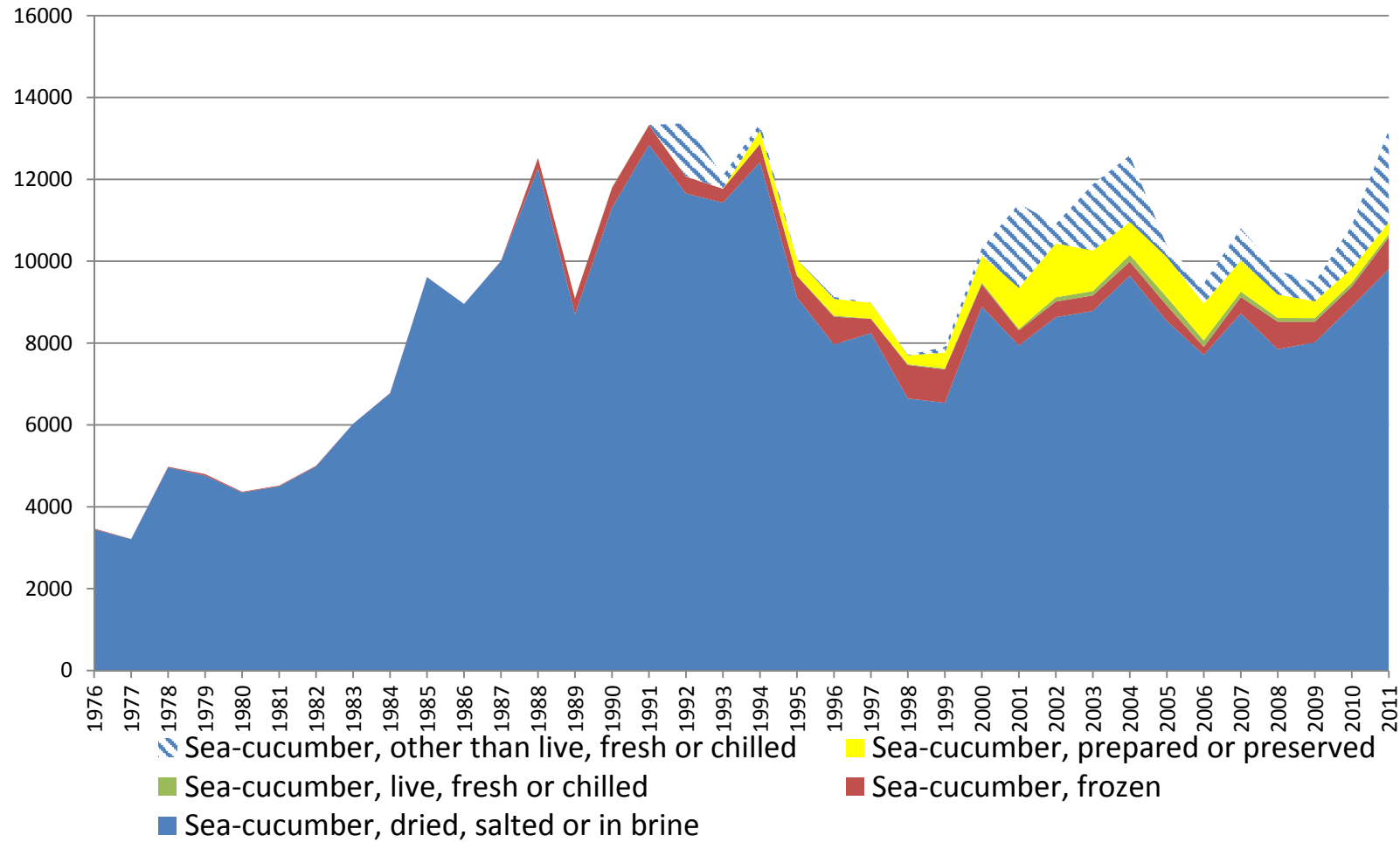
Sea cucumber trade

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FAO

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Sea cucumber imports (in tonnes)

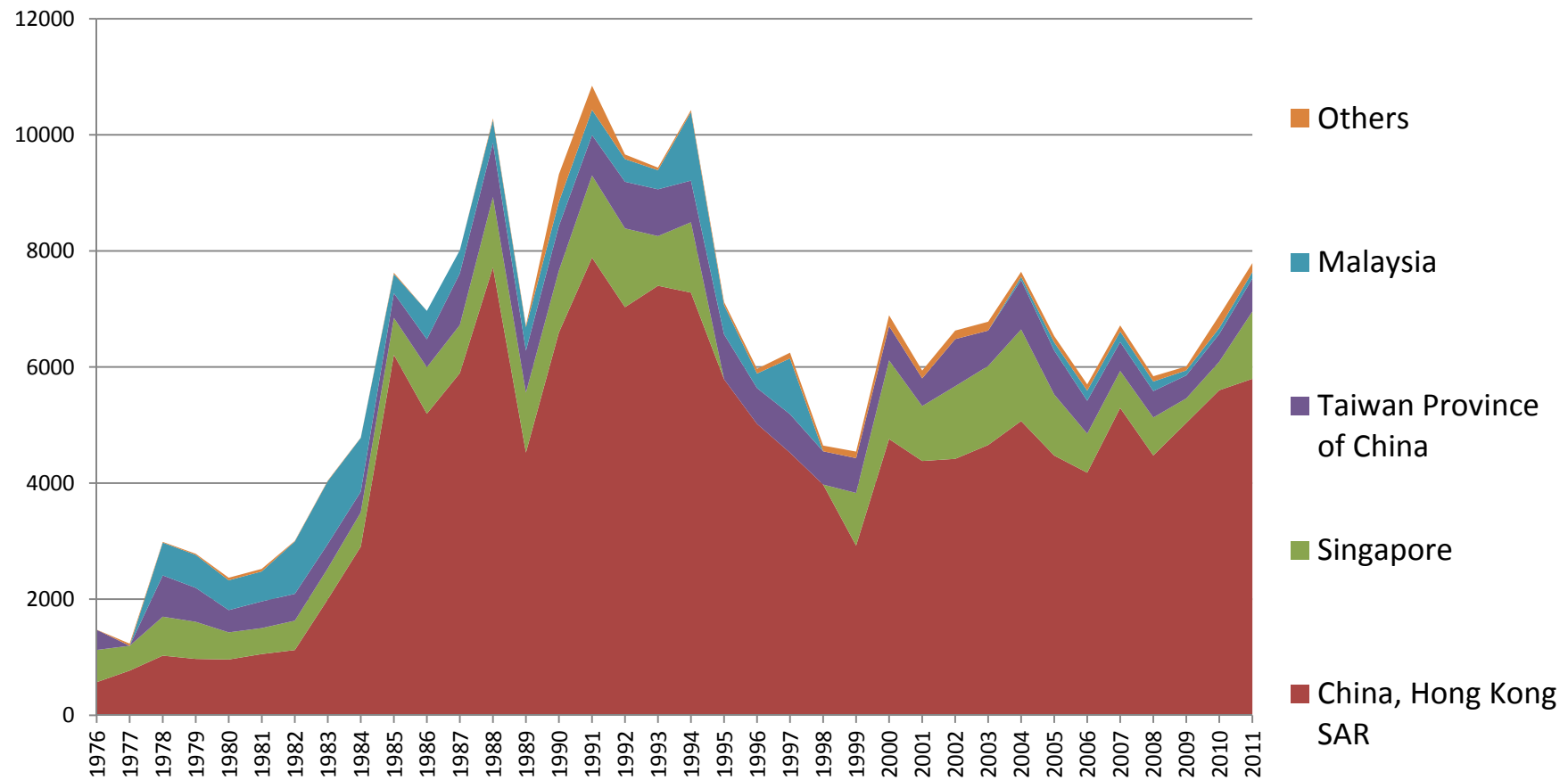


Conversion factors for seacucumber

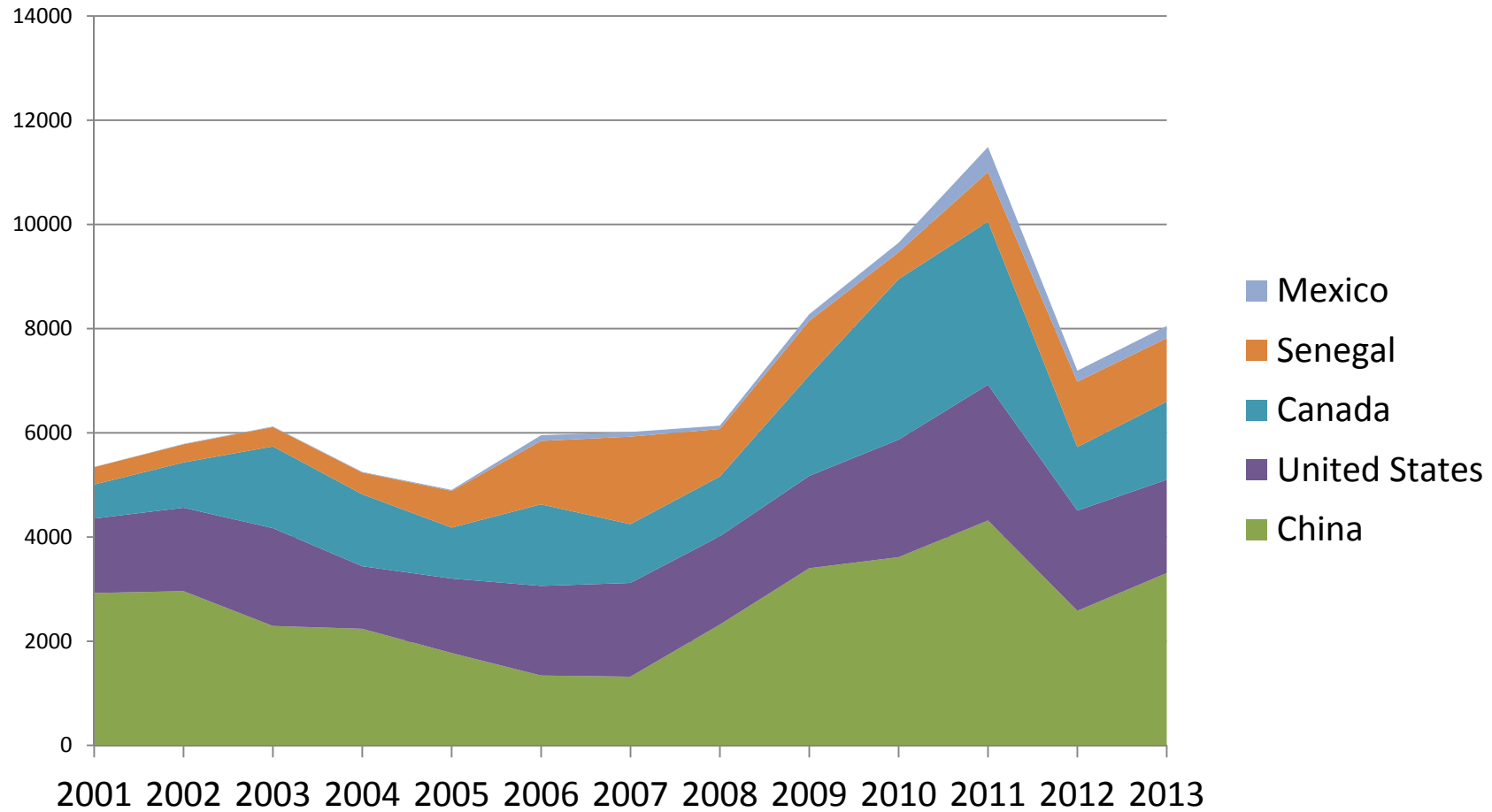
1.45	Sea-cucumber and other invertebrates, canned, nei
4	Sea-cucumber and other invertebrates, dried, salted, etc.
1	Sea-cucumber and other invertebrates, fresh or chilled
1	Sea-cucumber and other invertebrates, frozen
1.45	Sea-cucumber and other invertebrates, preparations, nei
4	Sea-cucumber, dried, salted or in brine
1	Sea-cucumber, fresh or chilled
1	Sea-cucumber, frozen

Using these conversion factors, it means that about 50 000 tonnes of sea cucumber are needed for international trade demand

Dried Sea cucumber imports – by country (in tonnes)



Hong Kong dried sea cucumber imports (in tonnes)



Consumption

- The international trade in dried sea cucumber is almost exclusively limited to China
- Trading with the western world is reasonably low. However, with increasing settlement of Chinese population in the USA and Canada, imports are stable for example from Hong Kong.
- Unfortunately the export statistics are very unreliable

Economic interest of sea cucumbers

- Extremely expensive fishery product
- Can reach a price of USD 100/kg
- Average import price is USD 40/kg
- Total export value is USD 412 million

WECAFC region exports

- USA main exporter with about 800 tonnes per year
- Mexico also important exporter with an estimated 650 tonnes in 2013, which is double the 2012 amount. The 2014 Mexican sea cucumber season seems to be difficult, less sea cucumbers and at a deeper level, which creates problems for the divers.
- Other countries reporting minor exports are Panama, Belize, Trinidad & Tobago and Venezuela

Problem in WECAFC region

- Fisheries unknown
- 6300 tonnes of sea cucumber catch were reported in 2012, double the amount of the previous year
- Honduras accounted for all of the increase
- Practically countries move from no production to over fishing within one or two years
- Aquaculture and ranching might be a solution

Thank you for your attention

