



Working Group Summaries

April 23, 2005

Topics Discussed

- How to define a community
- Identification of Problem
- Tools
 - Communication
 - Regulatory
- Recipes for Success

Identify Problems before Solutions

- Have you systematically identified the problem(s) of the communities at issue?
- Need a clear 'diagnosis' in order to get the right 'prescription' (to avoid one size fits all approach)
- Can we come to consensus as a community on the primary problems?

Identification of Problems

- Property rights are not well-defined in fisheries (Federal, State or private; subsistence vs commercial)
- Lack of local control
- Lack of enforcement
- Overcapacity
- Over-regulation breeds confusion

Problems continued...

- Lack of capacity to get involved in decision-making process (e.g., costs to attend/travel, time, lack of understanding of process, intimidation factor)
- Difficult to determine adequate representation for a community (sub-communities; everyone wears many hats)

Problems continued...

- Inadequate recognition of smaller user groups by regulators (e.g. on committee formation, few alternative opportunities to be heard)
- Ineffective communication
- Inadequate information dissemination (and information changes quickly, hard to stay informed)

Communication Tools

- The 'study tour'

 - BOF visit the Alaska Native regions on a regular basis

 - Council visit more coastal communities, hold informational meetings

- Consider developing advisory committees in more remote locations

Communication Tools

- Process starts with community developing a written, well-articulated problem
- Concept of a course – ‘bureaucrats do work if you know how to use them’
- Communication has to be two-way

Regulatory Tools

- Local Area Management Plans

Can be used as more than a 'crisis tool'

Process initiated through the BOF

- Buy backs
- Resource control (community allocations, quotas, etc.)
- Co-management systems
- Control of the local geography (local fishing areas)

Potential Tool: Creation of a Code on Community Resource Access

- Communication guidelines
- Assistance/impacts distribution
- Fairness principles



Recipes for Success

- Establish short and long-term priorities (e.g., subsistence area, economic base, development of infrastructure)

Resources are limited

Sometimes you go for the 'low-hanging fruit' to gain community consensus, experience, and trust

You can't get everything you want

Be optimistic but reasonable

Recipes for Success

- Document the problem ('the paper trail wins')
- Be persistent (squeaky wheel)
- Request the data to make your case
- Know the regulatory bodies
- Use the local advisory committees available to you

Recipes for Success

- Communicate with individuals you know have been successful in the process
- Collaborate within and amongst communities when possible
- Be patient: success happens slowly and incrementally