Empowering Fishing Communities

A view from an IGO bureaucrat

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To function as a global statistics department collecting, collating and publishing “fish stats” for the world.
To provide a means of developing global protocols related to fisheries management standards and acting as the technical advisor to the UNGA on fisheries matters.
To produce and disseminate publications and information related to the management and governance of fisheries acting as a forum for appropriate discussion.
To act as the global forum for discussion of fisheries-related issues through COFI and related consultations
Conference objectives include looking for ways for Participants to “gain a voice in local fisheries management”.

These were further framed within the context of:

- avoiding foreclosure of opportunities for coastal communities
- what is it about communities that is to be protected?
- how to assess impacts? And,
- better ways for communities to participate in the development of management plans.
Things I hope to see

- Know what you want as best as is possible
  (MS - Articulate objectives)
- Recognize you probably can’t have everything - 'Wolde you bothe eate your cake, and haue your cake?' (John Heywood, 1546). In MS - if you have conflicting objectives you must compromise one to reach or increase another.
Commercial fisheries or pristine untouched marine ecosystems?

Economic efficiency or “jobs all round”

Well paid and secure, but limited, jobs or “jobs for the boys”

The benefits of secure rights to fishing entitlements and easy entry for all in the community to share in harvesting the catch - while it lasts
Empower yourselves!
(I know - easy said than done - maybe)

- setting objectives
- which are the most important – ranking
- reconciling conflicting objectives
- reconciling differing views (more on this)
- dealing with ‘presenters’

And I tell you its my way or the doorway!!
Do the easy things first!

- **Own your problems** - Don’t transfer to bureaucrats internal community problems that you have been unable to solve and expect them to *get it right*.

- **Conversely (Mr Bureaucrat)** -
  Don’t be afraid to cede power to those who have created the problem.

- **Being proactive about accepting responsibilities**
  Those at the community level will see opportunities to support management before bureaucrats in headquarters or even regional offices will.
Some examples from elsewhere....

- Weighmasters – Maritime Canada

- Groupement des Armateurs a la Pêche Crevettière de Madagascar
Fisheries co-management at work in the Great Australian Bight Trawl Fishery

At a time when many fisheries are struggling under the weight of environmental assessments, marine protected areas, bycatch reductions, quota cuts and poor role in meeting these challenges head on.

Below we hear from GABIA about what they have been doing.

The Great Australian Bight Industry Association (GABIA) is pleased to announce that the industry has taken another big leap forward by agreeing to conduct its own fishery independent survey. Following on from a project on the feasibility of industry-based fishery independent surveys funded by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, GABIA has recently completed a stratified random survey of its shelf-break resources.

Principal Investigator of the project, Dr Ian Knuckey, is impressed. "These guys spent a year working through the design and feasibility of a fishery independent survey with me, and then just up and did it! They put their hands deep in their pockets, used their own vessels, built a dedicated survey net, and stuck exactly to the rigorous scientific design of the survey. They should be very proud of their efforts."

GABIA members agreed to equal allocation of the resources and set upper catch limits that allowed them to develop the resources in a controlled manner so that an appropriate TAC could be implemented in 2006. Not only were industry involved in setting the catch limits, but also in setting the catch limits when catches of redfish ‘came on big’ early in 2004, causing AFMA to amend and flooding the markets, changing and informal allocation system of monthly reporting to the AFMA with responsibility to manage its own integrity of the catch limits, allowing the true meaning of
“Fishermen managing their own fishery! You’ve got to be joking!
No ones ever done this before!
What would they know about managing anything, let alone a fishery!
You can’t trust them!
They’re bound to stuff it up, just wait and see!”
Challenger Scallop Enhancement Company

Company Structure
- exclusive to scallop quota owners
- Unlisted limited liability public company
- Voting proportional to amount of quota owned

Governance
- 10 member board
- Business plan & budget set at AGM

Funding
- Commodity Levies
- Levy set at General Meeting - up to 25% of landed value of scallops
The CRA2 Rock Lobster Company represents rock lobster quota owners on the east coast from Waipu Cove south to Te Araroa (including the Hauraki Gulf, Bay of Plenty and outlying islands) in Quota Management Area 2.

It has a strong history of involvement in issues affecting property rights of fishers and established the successful CRA2 Multi-sector Fisheries Management Group, comprising commercial, recreational, tangata whenua, conservation/ environmental and charterboat representatives to ensure harvesters share responsibility for managing the CRA2 fishery.
NEW ZEALAND ROCK LOBSTER

Sustainable Fisheries are good business

CRAMAC 1
CRAMAC 2
CRAMAC 3
CRAMAC 4
CRAMAC 5
CRAMAC 6
CRAMAC 7
CRAMAC 8
CRAMAC 9

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NZ Mussel Industry Council

The NZ Greenshell™ mussel is a sought after seafood delicacy and the structure of the New Zealand mussel industry is a major reason for its market success.

The industry's success is based on a 'cooperating to compete' model where key strategic generic issues (e.g. production techniques, environmental management systems, generic market research and market development) are funded by otherwise competing New Zealand processing companies and producers. The processors and producers collectively own and manage the company.
Bureaucrats (should) welcome

- Proactive stakeholders
- that take increased responsibility
- contribute to the management process and
- to bring solutions, not problems.

For their part, bureaucrats should

- devolve more autonomy
- leave stakeholders alone to sort things out on their own
- and help them be able to make decisions