FISHERIES POLICY-MAKER'S PERSPECTIVE- CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN ADAPTING FISHERIES TO CLIMATE CHANGE

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Why Fisheries Adaptation and Rebuilding is Critical-Need to take Action

- Last 50 yrs.- 366 Fisheries Collapses- ¼ of FAO world databases;
- Rate of collapse has not slowed- no overall improvement over 50 yrs;
- 6.3 billion humans, increasing to 8.9 by 2050;
- Global climate change will exacerbate global food crisis and pressure on fish stocks.

Managing, Rebuilding Fisheries

- B) MANAGEMENT TOOLS:
- Good Science Needed for Decision-Making; Precautionary Approach in absence of information; risk assessment
- In Managing Fisheries, we Actually Manage People:
  - access, time and area closures, allocation, quotas, TAC's, vessel and gear restrictions, capacity reduction, consultation, legislation, regulations, enforcement;
- Natural, Man-made Environmental Changes add Complexity- Climate Change Impacts add to these pressures and add major uncertainty

Managing, Rebuilding Fisheries

- C) GOVERNACE AND POLITICAL CONTEXT:

- Annual fishing plans, catch limits, quotas, conditions, administered by management authority or body authorize /deny access;
- Competing interests challenge the process, its' basis in Science, may influence decisions;
- Tendency to trade off short term interests, protection of status quo against long term benefits of rebuilding, conservation, economic benefits of longer-term approach.

International Considerations

- Challenges are similar to domestic situation- national self-interest and fisheries agenda of nations;
- Sovereignty-based competition;
- “Distant-water Fishing Nations” vs. developing economies;
- Challenge of effective international rules, regulations, enforcement, governance mechanisms in international waters;
- Lack of a global vision and commitment to protect and rebuild world fish stocks

What works? What does not?

- Spectacular fisheries collapses have been linked to science, overcapacity, overfishing, data limitations, environmental change, - e.g.- Northern Cod in Canada
- Successes:
- Pacific Halibut Commission-originated in 1920's due to declines, fishers concerns; excellent process with meaningful involvement of key players

- Northern coho salmon rebuilding- British Columbia- example of long-term decision-making and political support for rebuilding.

What tools, approaches help?

- Real involvement of people in decision-making, future direction; open, transparent processes;
- Perception of fairness and equity;
- Habitat protection and restoration to preserve ecosystems; Sustainable aquaculture;
- Shift from single species to multi-species/ecosystem approach (challenging); climate change impacts;
- Marine protected areas and refuges; Certification;
- Broad public support for rebuilding, conservation, sustainability; global vision and objectives.

Where to From Here?

- RESISTANCE TO CHANGE:
- People oppose change because:
  - change risk seen as greater than risk of status quo
  - fear of loss of self-interest, status, role, influence
  - they believe proposed change is a bad idea
  - people identify with those that embrace “old way”
  - fear of hidden agendas
  - skepticism of new ideas; lack of role models or examples of new activity.

Agents of Change- Participants!

- FISHERIES MANAGERS, ECONOMIST'S ROLES:
- Economists need to make a convincing case of the longer term benefits of re-building and adapting in the face of global food supply challenges;
- Climate change, food supply problems may be a catalyst, "tipping point" for societal awareness;
- Processes that work stress involvement, inclusivity, wider long-term vision, "Aquatic Stewardship";
- Challenge is all about people and a new vision for fisheries rebuilding; Think global- act local!