

Case studies in fisheries self-governance



Cover photo:

Sambro, Halifax County, Nova Scotia: A settlement typical of those involved in the Community Quota Management Programme, Scotia-Fundy Region, Canada. Courtesy of R. Shotton.

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Edited by

R. Townsend

Ministry of Fisheries

Wellington, New Zealand

Ross Shotton

Senior Fishery Resources Officer

Aquaculture Management and Conservation Service

Fisheries and Aquaculture Management Division

FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department

Rome, Italy

and

H. Uchida

University of Rhode Island

Kingston, United States of America

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Preparation of this document

The origin of this Fisheries Technical Paper lies in the presentations to a conference on fisheries self-governance held in Anchorage, Alaska, United States of America, in 2003. The papers selected from that conference have been expanded to provide a greater geographical coverage and updated report on the successes of industry involvement in management. Funding for authors' contracts and publication of this paper has been provided by the FAO FishCode Programme, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Rome. Support in kind through the editing services for Ralph Townsend was provided by the University of Maine and the Ministry of Fisheries, New Zealand and by the Fisheries Management and Conservation Service, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, FAO, Rome for the services of Ross Shotton. This is the fourth set of case studies in this series.¹

¹ The preceding volumes are:

1999. Case Studies on the Management of Elasmobranch Fisheries. *FAO Fisheries Technical Paper*. No. 378. 920p.

2001. Case studies on the allocation of transferable quota rights in fisheries. *FAO Fisheries Technical Paper*. No. 411. Rome, FAO. 373p.

2001. Case studies on the effects of transferable fishing rights on fleet capacity and concentration of quota ownership. *FAO Fisheries Technical Paper*. No. 412. Rome, FAO. 238p.

Abstract

This FAO Fisheries Technical Paper documents 32 case studies and four syntheses (Canada, Japan, New Zealand and the United States of America) on the role of industry in the governance and management of fisheries. The studies are drawn from ongoing practice in Europe, North America, Japan and Australasia. The types of fisheries cover those for crustaceans, fish, molluscs and echinoderms. In general the scale of the fisheries tends to be small, which has been one of the reasons attributed to their success. In all but one case it is clear that well-defined fishery rights have contributed to the success of the programmes though the initiative for development and adoption of the programmes covers a range of institutional causes. The case studies are intended to inform and provide potential models that may be used in other fisheries.

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Contents

Preparation of this document	iii
Abstract	iv
Foreword	ix
Fisheries self-governance: new directions in fisheries management	1
R. TOWNSEND AND R. SHOTTON	
Tenure rights and stewardship of marine resources – A co-managed Swedish shrimp fishery in a marine reserve	21
H. EGGERT AND M. ULMESTRAND	
Self-regulation of the Danish matjes herring fishery from success to collapse	31
J. RAAKJÆR NIELSEN AND C. OLESEN	
Sea-ranching in the Bay of Brest (France): technical change and institutional adaptation of a scallop fishery	41
F. ALBAN AND J. BONCOEUR	
Rights based management in the United Kingdom – the Shetland experience	53
J. ANDERSON	
The self-governance in the Celtic Sea Spanish fishery	67
M. DOLORES GARZA-GIL AND M.M. VARELA-LAFUENTE	
A sea urchin dive fishery managed by exclusive fishing areas	77
R.J. MILLER	
Community inshore company development as a means of support for fishing community governance	89
F.G. PEACOCK AND M. EAGLES	
Community management in the inshore groundfish fishery on the Canadian Scotian Shelf	101
F.G. PEACOCK AND CHRISTINA ANNAND	
The evolution of management in Canada’s offshore scallop fishery	111
G. STEVENS, G. ROBERT, L. BURKE, E. POUILLIOUX, D. ROUSSEL AND J.R. WILSON	
The joint planning agreement experience in Canada	125
J. R. WILSON	
Complexities of collaboration in fisheries management: the northeast United States tilefish fishery	135
B. ROUNTREE, A. KITTS AND PATRICIA PINTO DA SILVA	
The Punta Allen lobster fishery: current status and recent trends	149
E. SOSA-CORDERO, M.L.A. LICEAGA-CORREA AND J.C. SEIJO	
Walleye pollack (<i>Suketoudara</i>) fishery management in the Hiyama region of Hokkaido, Japan	163
H. UCHIDA AND M. WATANOBE	

Fishery management and the pooling arrangement in the Sakuraebi fishery in Japan	175
H. UCHIDA AND O. BABA	
Sandfish resource co-management in Akita Prefecture, Japan	191
S. SUENAGA	
Sandeel fisheries governance in Ise Bay, Japan	201
M. TOMIYAMA, T. KOMATSU AND M. MAKINO	
Marine protected areas for the snow crab bottom fishery off Kyoto Prefecture, Japan	211
M. MAKINO	
Japanese coastal fishery co-management: an overview	221
H. UCHIDA AND M. MAKINO	
Co-management in the Exmouth Gulf Prawn Fishery with comparison to the Shark Bay Prawn Fishery	231
M. KANGAS, E. SPORER, S. O'DONOGHUE AND S. HOOD	
Towards self-management for the Western King Prawn Fishery in Spencer Gulf, South Australia	245
W. ZACHARIN, C. DIXON AND M. SMALLRIDGE	
Cooperative management in the Queensland Finfish (Stout Whiting) Trawl Fishery	259
A. THWAITES AND CLAIRE ANDERSEN	
Self governance in New Zealand's developmental fisheries: deep-sea crabs	269
M. L. SOBOIL AND A. CRAIG	
Industry management within the New Zealand quota management system: the Orange Roughy Management Company	277
G. CLEMENT, R. WELLS AND CHARMAINE MARIE GALLAGHER	
Rock lobster management in New Zealand: the development of devolved governance	291
TRACY YANDLE	
New Zealand's Challenger Scallop Enhancement Company: from reseeded to self-governance	307
R. MINCHER	
Assessing the road towards self-governance in New Zealand's commercial fisheries	323
M. HARTE	
The Chignik Salmon Cooperative	335
G. KNAPP	
The Alaskan weathervane scallop cooperative	349
T. BRAWN AND K. SCHEIRER	
Rent generation in the Alaskan pollock conservation cooperative	361
J. E. WILEN AND E. J. RICHARDSON	
The legal context of United States fisheries management and the evolution of rights-based management in Alaska	369
K.R. CRIDDLE	

The evolution of co-management in the British Columbia red sea urchin fishery	383
M. FEATHERSTONE AND JUANITA ROGERS	
Co-operative management of the geoduck and horse-clam fishery in British Columbia	397
MICHELLE JAMES	
Co-management of Canada's Pacific sablefish fishery	407
C. SPORER	
A fishermen's agreement and co-op in Yaquina Bay roe herring	415
D.R. LEAL	
Achievements of the Pacific whiting conservation cooperative: rational collaboration in a sea of irrational competition	425
G. SYLVIA, H. MUNRO MANN AND C. PUGMIRE	
Management of the loco (<i>Concholepas concholepas</i>) as a driver for self-governance of small-scale benthic fisheries in Chile	441
J. CARLOS CASTILLA AND S. GELCICH	

Foreword

Fisheries, in recent decades, have seen several developments acting in parallel, if not always in phase. Rising demand for fish products, especially since the mid-1980s, a consequence of the new found market popularity of fish as a menu item and the rising ability of consumers to pay for fish in premium conditions have stressed the ability of traditional management approaches to ensure the sustained productivity of many fisheries. Attempts to address these problems through subsidizing the costs of production and refined forms of traditional management approaches have been commonly unsuccessful, indeed, where attempts failed to create effective fisheries management, fisheries became progressively overfished creating less and less wealth, if any at all. Indeed, there exists a cadre of workers in the field of fisheries management, well funded by their sponsors, who predict the future extirpation of major fisheries but have been less helpful in identifying effective proposals for the solution to these problems.

I expect and hope that readers of this volume will be well informed about this sad though well known story. The objective of this volume is to document a number of fisheries management situations from a wide range of geographical situations and types of fisheries where, through the involvement of the industry members themselves, under-performing fishery and management failures have been transformed into sustainable wealth-creating social and economic activities. The reader must refer to the respective chapters themselves to gain insight into how this has been done and make their own assessment of the merit of the different situations. However, Townsend and Shotton (Chapter 1) have provided at least a first-order analysis of the characteristics that mark these success stories and the lessons that the enquiring and progressive fisheries administrator might profitably use.

This is not the first volume to document recent successes to be found in fisheries management – see e.g., Cunningham and Bostock (2007) and McClanahan and Castilla (2007)¹. Both publications provide descriptions of recent successful stories of fisheries management. However, this is a story that still requires repeating and the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department of FAO, with funding provided by the Norwegian Government through the FishCode programme, is happy and proud to be able to provide descriptions of these interesting management situations.

No doubt different readers will have their own choices as to which particular fisheries study best illustrates the success of its managers – I myself have my own, though I believe it would be unfair to the reader to pre-empt the pleasure and challenge that will be provided by a careful reading of the respective studies.

To the authors, FAO offers its congratulations. If the lessons that are provided in the volume are even partially adopted, then the goal of improved governance of fisheries, our objectives, will have been achieved. Thanks are also given to Ms Marie-Thérèse Magnan, Fisheries Management and Conservation Service, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, FAO for her persistence and diligence in editing papers and proofs once again.

Ross Shotton²

Co-editor and FAO project coordinator
Fisheries Management and Conservation Service
FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department

¹ Cunningham, S. & T. Bostock (eds) 2007. *Successful fisheries management: issues, case studies, perspectives*. Eburon. 240pp.
McClanahan, T. & J.C. Castilla (eds) 2007. *Fisheries management. Progress toward sustainability*. Blackwell Publishers. 344pp.

² Current address: Ministry of Fishwealth, Box 19007, Sana'a, Yemen. E-mail: r_shotton@hotmail.com.

