

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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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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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.

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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.

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