



Conservation Council
of South Australia Inc



Co-management of the Spencer Gulf Prawn Fishery: a conservation perspective

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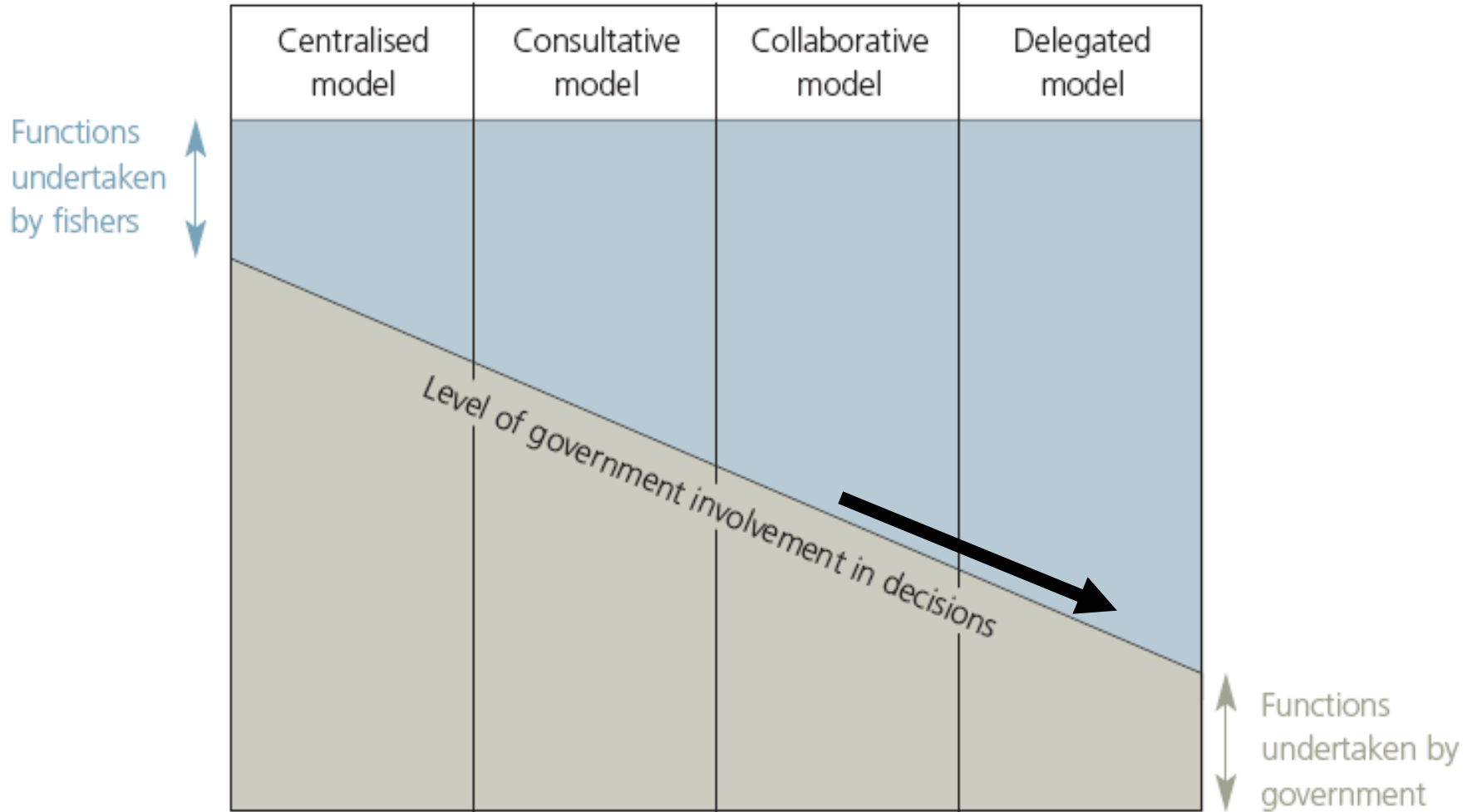
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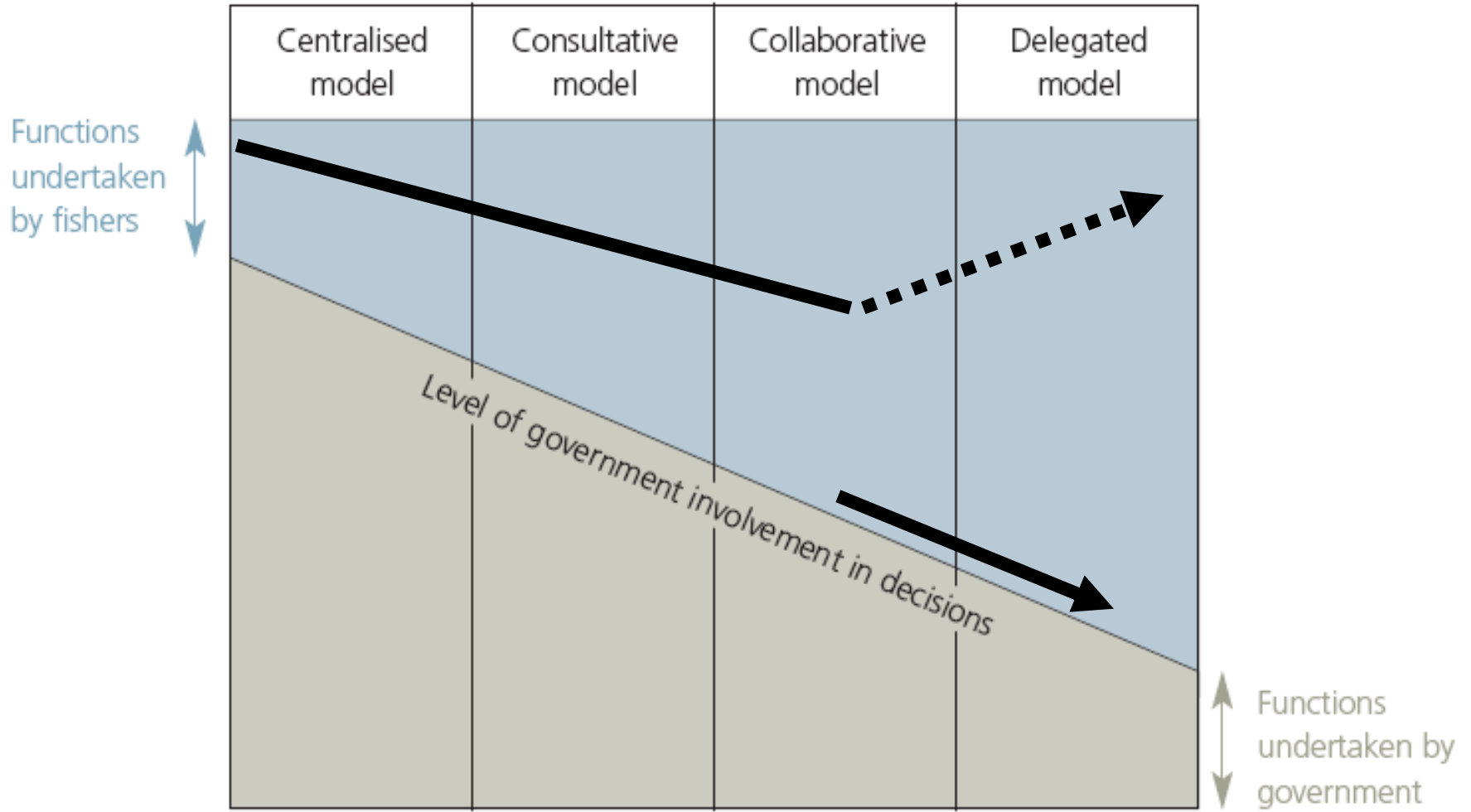


According to the Neville (2008) definition of co-management, progress involves:

a change in the sharing amongst stakeholders of responsibility for fisheries management.

There are two distinct (but linked?) components of such change







Incentives for CCSA involvement

- Enhanced culture involving a genuine partnership, shared responsibility and improved stewardship
- Reduced conflict, improved trust and better working relationships
- Reduced necessity for political decision-making
- Greater scrutiny of the existing regulatory approach
- Improved acceptance of and compliance with management decisions
- More inclusive and transparent decision-making
- More flexible and adaptive management in real time
- Increased opportunity for capacity building and skills development in organisations
- Chance for implementation of environmental management systems and codes of practice
- Expanded extension and education opportunities across the community
- Opportunity for finer-scale regional (or spatial) management



Opportunities

The prawn co-management project offers potential opportunities for:

- inclusion on the research sub-committee (and other levels?) of the Association
- inclusion on the conflict resolution/ implementation steering committee
- participation in fishery audits
- involvement in development and presentation of TEPS section to observer training



Requirements for involvement

- Genuine willingness of other stakeholders
- Confidence in proposed co-management arrangements
- Adequate resourcing



Aspirations

In an ideal world, the conservation sector would:

- provide conservation expertise to the FC and AAC
- participate in all ecological risk assessments
- be involved in the management planning process at the drafting stage
- provide feedback at appropriate stages of development for other policy documents (e.g. TEPS, ecosystem benchmarks)
- provide feedback on EPBC Act assessments
- influence research funding through involvement in the SA FRAB
- provide representation and expertise to management committees for each committee (at strategic and operational levels)
- participate in important research projects (e.g. this FRDC co-management project)
- assist in a shared approach to habitat protection/ecosystem-based management (e.g. with regard to threats to the Spencer Gulf ecosystem more generally)
- participate in observer programs



Expectations

- An ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management
 - addressing the impact of fishing on all aspects of the marine ecosystem, not just the target species.
 - the cumulative impact of multiple fisheries must also be addressed.
- Within this context, there is a need, across all fisheries, to:
 - conduct research into non-target species, habitats and ecosystems
 - develop ecosystem-based performance indicators suitable for inclusion in statutory management plans
 - improve reporting and verification of TEPS interactions



Conservation sector pre-conditions (1)

- Sector must be adequately resourced
- Terms of reference for Research subcommittee and establishment of a satisfactory conflict resolution process
- Early involvement in management planning
- Processes relevant to cumulative impacts should remain managed by Government



Conservation sector pre-conditions (2)

- Appropriate reporting and verification of TEPS data (by Government)
- Research data must retain (at least) current accessibility
- An adequate level of truly independent observers required unless data collection (as well as analysis) can be fully auditable
- Compliance/enforcement to remain with Government
- Government to maintain adequate capacity for audit functions



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Let the
discussion
begin!

