

# STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF HUMAN AND NATURAL SCIENCES IN FISHERIES POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

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# OUTLINE

**I. The MLRA**

**II. Socio-economic research**

**III. Small-scale fisheries**

**IV. DAFF's Fisheries Research Group**

# I. THE MARINE LIVING RESOURCES ACT (MLRA)

- WE ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF A (STALLED) MLRA REVISION PROCESS
- ARE MLRA DECISION STRUCTURES THE BEST TO SAFEGUARD RESOURCES IN THE LONGER TERM?
- THE LAST US MAGNUSON-STEVENSONS ACT REVISION EMPOWERED REGIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEES (which include also economists and social scientists) TO DECIDE TACs WHICH MANAGEMENT BODIES **MAY NOT EXCEED**
- **WHY?**
- IF IN THE USA, WHY NOT IN SOUTH AFRICA?
- AN APPROPRIATE PROPOSAL BY SANCOR WHEN DISCUSSIONS RE-OPEN ON THE MLRA REVISION?

# THE MLRA: BASIS FOR RIGHTS

- RIGHTS SYSTEMS SHOULD PROVIDE INCENTIVES TO CONSERVE
- THE MLRA'S FIXED PERIOD RIGHTS AND OPTIONS FOR UNRESTRICTED INTER-SECTOR TRANSFER BY THE MINISTER DO JUST THE OPPOSITE
- WHY IS THERE SILENCE FROM LOCAL ENGOs ON THIS ISSUE, WHICH IS SO CRITICAL FOR MARINE RESOURCE CONSERVATION?
- ISN'T IT PAST TIME FOR **SCIENTIFICALLY-LED** LONGER-TERM ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT OF A REVISED SYSTEM?
- THIS WOULD BE TO REPLACE THE DISAPPOINTINGLY LOW LEVEL "MORE FOR ME" SHORT-TERM FOCUS THAT HAS DOMINATED DISCUSSIONS OF THIS ISSUE IN SOUTH AFRICA FOR THE LAST 20 YEARS
- **STOP SPENDING MORE TIME AND MONEY ON THE QUESTIONABLE FRAP PROCESS PENDING SORTING THIS ISSUE OUT AS A MATTER OF URGENCY**

## II. SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESEARCH

- STRATEGIC ROLE

Informing broad policy

- **NOT** A TACTICAL ROLE

Impacting the detail of decisions for, e.g., TACs

- LETS HAVE SCIENTIFIC STUDIES

Let's avoid “we can't decrease the TAC for socio-economic reasons” statements when without **ANY** supporting analyses

# III. SMALL SCALE FISHERIES

## ➤ USE OF LOCAL KNOWLEDGE TOWARDS SCIENTIFIC MANAGEMENT ADVICE

Mainly useful for species where VERY little is known

Limited potential for data-rich cases, e.g. for west coast lobster likely useful only for improved CPUE interpretation

## ➤ PRESENT POLICY IS CART BEFORE HORSE

First needed adequate: Catch reporting systems  
Compliance systems  
Conservation incentives

## ➤ SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESEARCH MUST

Assist urgently in filling these holes

Address questions such as the ratio of jobs created per ton of rock lobster allocation to small scale fishers vs recreationals, taking account of each's associated support industry

# IV. DAFF'S FISHERIES RESEARCH GROUP

- COPY THE NEW ZEALAND SYSTEM
- MOVE TO OPERATE UNDER SANBI (OR A SANBI-LIKE SYSTEM)

*More operational flexibility freer from civil service bureaucracy, to strengthen its scientific input and role*

*Part of fishing industry levies to be used for funding, with the industry to play a role on control board*

*Focus on fisheries science, not biological oceanography*

# IN CONCLUSION

- I AWAIT YOUR REACTIONS WITH INTEREST
- THOUGH KIM CAN PLEAD THE 5<sup>TH</sup> ON THOSE
- FOLLOWING WHICH I'LL TELL YOU WITH HOW MUCH OF WHAT I'VE SAID I HAPPEN TO AGREE

**Thank you for your attention**