ALLOCATING FISH RESOURCES TO INDIGENOUS WESTERN AUSTRALIANS

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OUTLINE

1. Context

2. Customary Fishing Allocations
   - Policy Framework
   - Initial Allocation Experience
   - Issues for Future Allocations

3. Commercial Allocations to Indigenous people
CONTEXT

- No legal imperative to allocate fish resources to Indigenous people
- States / NT undertaking projects
- National Principles
  - Recognition of customary fishing
  - Customary Allocation
  - Commercial opportunities
- Approach in Western Australia
INTEGRATED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

- Managing aggregate effects of fishing instead of sector based management
- Process for setting allocations between sectors
ABORIGINAL FISHING STRATEGY

- Customary Fishing
- Involvement in Fisheries Management
- Economic Development
- Aboriginal Fishing Strategy addressed allocation issues
CUSTOMARY FISHING ALLOCATIONS
Aboriginal Fishing Strategy recommends:

- definition of customary fishing
- legislative recognition as distinct fishing activity
- separate management framework to meet customary needs
- priority for customary fishing in allocations
INITIAL ALLOCATION EXPERIENCE

- Rock Lobster and Abalone
- Customary fishing recognised as separate sector with priority allocation
- No information to set initial allocation
- Strategic approach to initial customary fishing allocations
INITIAL ALLOCATION EXPERIENCE

- Estimate catch by Indigenous people
- Estimate customary vs recreational catch by Indigenous people
- Adjust allocation when information becomes available
- Importantly, the initial allocation should be an over-allocation
FUTURE ALLOCATIONS

- Data
- Customary vs recreational
- Priority
- Spatial and temporal
- Engagement process /capacity
COMMERCIAL ALLOCATIONS
INDIGENOUS FISHING FUND

- Customary and commercial fishing separate
- Use market processes to allocate
- Establish fund to purchase existing transferable licences on open market
- Joint funding initiative with Commonwealth
CONCLUSIONS

- Customary fishing policy framework is required to enable allocations
- Initially over-allocate
- Significant challenges in future allocations
- Commercial allocations - market processes
- National Principles highlight increasing awareness and recognition