Resource Sharing in Australia’s Tuna and Billfish Fisheries

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Outline

- Australian Government’s Resource Sharing Process
- Experience in Commonwealth Tuna and Billfish Fisheries
- Complexities of the Process
- The ideal process – the ideal data
Australian Government’s Resource Sharing Framework

- Resource sharing principles;
- Consultative process; and
- Resource Sharing Memorandum of Understanding between the Australian Government and the states/Northern Territory.
Experience in Commonwealth Tuna and Billfish Fisheries

- Announcement on **Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery** resource sharing arrangements on 13 October 2005.
- Independently facilitated process commenced in June 2005 in the **Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery**.
- Independently facilitated process likely to start in near future for **Northern tuna fisheries**.
Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Current management arrangements

- **Commercial sector** – managed by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority through input controls
- **Recreational sector** – managed by four different jurisdictions with four different management regimes

Bureau of Rural Sciences, 2006
The Ideal Resource Sharing Process

- Total extraction of fisheries resources would be measurable and manageable
- Stakeholders would be clearly identifiable
- Allocations would be transferable between sectors
- Comprehensive data would be readily available
# The Ideal Data

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<th>Importance</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<td>* Stock assessment</td>
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<td>* Recreational catch data</td>
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<td></td>
<td>* Fine-scale movement of fish</td>
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<td>* Species biology</td>
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<td>* Broad-scale mixing and interactions with other fisheries</td>
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<td>* Fine-scale location of recreational activities</td>
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<td>* Survival of released fish</td>
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<td>* Stock boundaries</td>
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Triple Bottom Line

Biological considerations

- Catch data = level of interaction
- Biology of species + status of stocks = how much and where catch can be taken

Economic considerations

- Net value of catch to society is maximised

Social considerations

- New field – socio-economic assessments yet to be done for whole fisheries
Future of Resource Sharing in Commonwealth Fisheries

In theory:
- It’s as easy as carving up the pie!

In practice:
- Unknown size of the pie
- Unknown size of the pieces of the pie
- Many managers of the same pie
- Importance of managing perceptions