The implementation of Integrated Fisheries Management in Western Australia

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Outline of Presentation

1. WA fisheries management environment
2. Government Policy
3. Government’s guiding principles
4. Responsibilities - Minister IFAAC Dept
5. The role of the advisory committee IFAAC
6. The 4 stages of IFM
7. Informal IFM?
8. Western Rock Lobster – a case example.
9. Summary
Our Fisheries Management Environment

- In most fisheries no opportunity to increase catch.

- Increasing pressure on stocks
  - population growth, coastal development
  - improved access and fishing technology
  - competing user groups
  - increasing recreational fishing and eco-tourism

- Few recreational fisheries with licences and no control on numbers issued.

- MUST CONTROL TOTAL TAKE OF ALL SECTORS TO ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY
IFM Government Policy

- “Holistic” approach to management involving all stakeholders.
- Explicit allocations to each sector.
- Monitoring of catches, and managing sectors within their share.
- Proposed reallocation mechanisms.
IFM: Guiding Principles 1

- Fish resources are common property resources.

- Sustainability is paramount.

- Decisions to be made on best available information – a precautionary approach is to be taken.

- Allocations to each user group to be explicit and generally proportional and to include total fish mortalities from bycatch and release of fish.
IFM: Guiding Principles 2

- Each user group to be managed to maintain take within their allocation.
- Allocation decisions to take into account optimal benefit to WA community.
- Management arrangements must provide users with the ability to access their allocation.
## Roles and Responsibilities

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<th>Roles</th>
<th>Responsibilities</th>
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<td>Setting sustainable harvest level</td>
<td>Executive Director, Fisheries</td>
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<td>Driving the process and recommending allocations</td>
<td>IFAAC</td>
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<td>Determining the allocation for commercial, customary and recreational</td>
<td>Minister for Fisheries</td>
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<td>Monitoring catches of sector groups</td>
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<td>Managing the sectors within their allocation</td>
<td>Department of Fisheries</td>
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<td>Mechanisms for future shifts in shares between sectors</td>
<td>IFAAC advises – Minister for Fisheries determines</td>
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What is IFAAC?

The Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee is a three member Ministerial Advisory Committee established under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994.*
IFAAC Role and Terms of Reference

Provide advice to Minister on:

- Allocations between and within sectors.
- Strategies to overcome allocation issues arising from temporal or spatial competition at a local/regional scale.
- Fishery specific principles around allocation decisions.
- Other IFM matters referred by Minister.
The 4 stages of IFM

Stage A - Determine the need for a formal allocation process for fishery.
Stage B - IFM resource report published includes SHL.
Stage C - The IFAAC process – 4 steps.
Stage D - Mechanism for future allocations between sectors.
Stage C - Process – 4 steps

Step 1 - IFAAC investigates the allocation issue.

Step 2 - IFAAC settles draft allocation report and releases for public comment

Step 3 - IFAAC recommends an allocation to the Minister

Step 4 - Determination by the Minister
After the allocation is made

- Monitor catches of each user group
- Manage the sectors within their allocation
- Manage mechanisms to allow shifts in shares over time
Informal IFM

- Acknowledges ongoing resource sharing issues in the near shore and estuarine environment.

- Resource sharing will be resolved by using tools such as:
  - accords and mediation
  - spatial and temporal separation
  - Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme
Rock Lobster - a formal IFM process

- Sustainable harvest level determined
- IFAAC met with stakeholder groups to discuss allocation issue
- Stakeholders prepared submissions and made presentations to IFAAC.
- IFAAC settled draft allocation report which has been released for public consultation.
Draft Allocation Report
Principal Recommendations

- Proportional Allocations by traditional zones
- Recreational and commercial split
- Re-allocation mechanism to be developed by 2009, preferably by sector agreement.

Fish for the future
Process from now until a formal determination of shares

- IFAAC considers submissions and presentations.
- Recommends final allocation to the Minister for Fisheries.
- Minister determines the allocation.
Challenges

- Data particularly on recreational, customary.
- Engagement with 45,000 ‘rec’ licensees.
- Sectors need for detail on post allocation management to assist them to interpret draft recommended allocations.
- Proportional allocations now with spatial and temporal separation of sectors at a later date.

Fish for the Future
Conclusion

- IFM is about setting a SHL, allocation, monitoring, managing and reallocation.
- IFM process for Western Rock Lobster is well advanced.
- Departmental structure to reflect IFM.
Thank you

more detail? See www.fish.wa.gov.au
or email gpaust@fish.wa.gov.au