NEGOTIATING INDIGENOUS FISHING AGREEMENTS

ALLOCATION OF ACCESS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Sean Sloan and Kelly Crosthwaite
THREE PROCESSES

• Negotiation of ILUAs
  – 10 claims
  – Narungga first (Yorke Peninsula)

• Review of fisheries legislation

• National principles
THREE LESSONS

1. ESTABLISH BROAD PRINCIPLES FIRST

2. LET LOCAL ISSUES DRIVE LOCAL NEGOTIATIONS & ARRANGEMENTS

3. ALLOCATION AND MANAGEMENT ARE CLOSELY LINKED - can’t solve one without the other
LESSON 1 - BROAD PRINCIPLES

ALLOCATION:

Customary fishing must be defined - commercial v. non-commercial

Biological sustainability of fish stocks is the primary concern in all fisheries management arrangements.

Any issues associated with allocation of access to fisheries resources must be dealt with explicitly.
FOCUS ON LOCAL ISSUES

1. The traditional fishing activities of the relevant Aboriginal community:
   eg. Species, Area, Gear, Methods, Seasons

2. The ways in which fish and fishing activities are used and undertaken by the community - food, education, camps, ceremonies, other cultural purposes.

3. The size of the community and the number of people that undertake fishing activities within that community - individual, family and community.

4. The quantities of fish likely to be taken by various fishing activities.

5. Whether any proposed access arrangements will result in more fish being taken, or able to be taken, compared to current access arrangements ie. Re-allocation?

6. Any sustainability constraints that exist in relation to relevant species or fisheries and restrictions that may need to be made to other sectors to accommodate new access arrangements for the Aboriginal community.
LESSON 3 - LINK MANAGEMENT AND ALLOCATION

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Regulatory arrangements for cultural fishing activities should be as practical as possible. Avoid excessive red tape.

Catch over and above recreational fishing limits needs to be monitored and regulated.

Regulatory arrangements should be designed so that identification issues don’t need to be dealt with by indigenous fishermen or Fisheries Officers in the field.
Data collection / research strategy

Limit scope for latent effort / future expansion

Possession limits to restrict movement of commercial quantities

Individual v community catch

Community regulated
BENEFITS OF APPROACH

- Negotiating within agreed boundaries = problem solving rather than fighting

- Small scale and local = issues are at a scale that are solvable and manageable; ownership by parties involved in process

- Linking allocation and management = one can inform the other; doesn’t leave the fisheries management agency to sort out allocation issues by proxy