Models For Allocation Of Fisheries Resources Between Sectors

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Sharing the Fish
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Overview

- Fishery background
- Legislative context
- Allocation models
- Key issues
- Conclusions
New Zealand fisheries

• Majority of catch comes from deep/midwater commercial only fisheries
• Difficult allocation decisions are in shared fisheries where commercial and non-commercial fishers have an interest
• Most important shared fisheries are:
  – Sea salmon (Kahawai), kingfish, bluecod, snapper, rocklobster and abalone (paua).
Fisheries cont’d

- Non-commercial sector contains both recreational and customary fishers
Legislative/Policy context

- Allocation decisions are the responsibility of the Minister of Fisheries
- The Act provides wide discretion for the Minister
- Required to allocate catch to commercial, customary fishers and recreational fishers
Allocation of the TAC

- Recreational
- Customary
- Commercial
- Other sources
Legislative/Policy con’t

• Case law has confirmed the wide discretion available to the Minister
• Ministry desired outcome is that “the value New Zealanders obtain through sustainable use of fisheries resources is maximised”.
Allocation models

Two broad analytical frameworks have been developed to aid decision making:

» Claims-based approach

» Utility-based approach
Claims based

- Allocation made on the basis legitimacy of claims to the resource
- Generally based on historical or present association giving rise to expectations of future use
Key issues

- Key requirement is good information on catch
- Less disruption to existing fishers
- Provides some certainty
Key issues cont’d

• catch estimates are poor
• determining the period to base allocation decisions can be contentious
• The claims based approach does not necessarily focus on optimum allocation to maximise value
Utility based

- Crown assesses value of the resource to each sector
- Allocations are based on the utility that would flow from a particular allocation
- Allocation decisions are based on comparative values
Utility-based

Utility
Marginal benefit to Recreational Fishers
Marginal benefit to Commercial Fishers

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Allocation to Recreational Fishers
Allocation to Commercial Fishers

Utility

0 100

0 100
Key issues

• Key requirement is good information

• Provides good basis for meeting desired outcome

• Allows incorporation of wide range of factors
Key issues cont.

- Information on relative value is uncertain
- Uncertainty over outcome with no criteria for Government
- Potential for considerable disruption to existing fishers and transition costs
Decisions

- Consultation as part of fishery specific allocation decisions
- Stakeholders rejected the utility based approach.
- Concerned primarily about uncertainty in information and outcomes.
- Minister decided on historical claims based approach
Future approaches

• Current situation does not provide certainty nor maximise value
• Ministry is looking to revise the Act to provide more guidance
• Must also look to improve information even with existing legislation