



Practical challenges of fisheries co-management on large water bodies: Lessons from southern Lake Malawi

Friday Njaya

Fisheries Department

MALAWI

Lake Malawi



Background

- Why co-management in Malawi?
 - Fish resource decline
 - Budgetary constraints
 - Popular participation
 - Address conflicts
 - Exclusion
 - Alternative view to *tragedy of the commons*
- PFM started early 1990s



Co-management on Lake Malawi

- Started by mobilising fishers into Beach Management Groups (BMGs)
- Transformed BMGs into Beach Village Committees
- Funding for co-management activities has been largely from donors
- Sustainability is not considered when initiating co-management



Key challenges and way forward

- Fisher migration and mobility due to nature of fishery and fish decline
- Boundary and scale (physical boundary, ethnic diversity, local vs village or district)
- Challenges for BVCs to regulate fishing operations of trawlers
- Minimum sectoral interaction
- Scientist not appreciating traditional knowledge
- Emphasis on Chambo research
- Limited funding:
 - no cost sharing schemes
 - commercial licence fees still collected by central government
- Way forward: By-law formulation at district level