



Fisheries in the Blue Economy: Challenges for Small Island Developing States

Rod Cappell, Poseidon

Graeme Macfadyen, Poseidon

Clive Fox, SRSL

IIFET, Aberdeen

12th July 2016



The Commonwealth



The Blue Economy

“**Blue Economy**” is marine-based economic development that leads to improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities.

Recognises that seas, oceans and coastal areas are drivers for economies with great potential for innovation and growth.

AND that healthy ocean systems are more productive and a must for sustainable ocean-based economies.

‘Using better what we already use’

‘Using well what we don’t use yet’

Good fit for SIDS with a great dependency on ocean systems and heavily impacted by climate change.

Background, objectives & approach



The Commonwealth

Background

- Part of a Commonwealth Secretariat initiative
- Develop a Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Blue Economy roadmap
- Other sectors include aquaculture, renewable energy, blue biotechnology.

Objective

- To support (SIDS) in protecting and developing the **capture fisheries sector** within a Blue Economy model of development and management.

Approach

- Define current challenges in conventional capture fisheries management;
- Explored how Blue Economy approach provides solutions/improvements;
- Presented case studies show-casing positive outcomes and lessons.
- Recommend policies that could be implemented by SIDS.

Fisheries Development Challenges

GLOBAL

Fisheries Management: IUU fishing, lack of controls for shared stocks e.g. by RFMOs

Climate change: ocean acidity, sea temperatures, storm frequency and intensity

Pollution: Carbon emissions, marine plastics, litter, oil spills

LOCAL & REGIONAL

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Lack of fishing controls

Illegal, Unregulated and Unrecorded fishing (IUU)

Poor understanding of stock status

ACHIEVING INTEGRATION

Fisheries part of the Blue Economy

Marine Planning

Local & Regional management

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Habitat damage

Waste

Pollution

ECONOMIC & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Fishing rights not protected

Limited domestic fleet, processing capacity and markets

Waste and inefficiency

Challenges for SIDS

SIDS characteristics heighten some challenges & are important for potential solutions:

- **High dependence on fisheries (contribution to GDP)**
(Contribution to GDP: Maldives 6%, Seychelles 8% and Kiribati 10%)
- **Few alternative economic opportunities developed**
(with the notable exception of tourism, which is key for many SIDS)
- **Very large Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs)**
(great economic potential, but also management costs e.g. for sea/air surveillance)
- **Small population**
(limited labour sector, public sector capacity and research capability)
- **Large distances to market**
(small inputs and outputs prevent economies of scale)
- **Third country access agreements**
(lack of transparency, potential revenue not maximised or used well)

Fisheries Strategies

CAPTURE FISHERIES BLUE ECONOMY GOALS

1. Sustainable growth
2. Minimised environmental degradation
3. Enhanced economic and social benefits

INTEGRATED STRATEGIES

Fisheries management

Environmental impacts

Value addition

POTENTIAL

OUTPUTS

- Co-management
- Fisheries Management Plans
- Marine plans
- Rights-based management
- Improved MCS
- Ecosystem Approach
- Effective research

- Engine and vessel improvements
- Improved gear selectivity, less habitat damage
- Reduced gear losses
- Harmful subsidies removed
- Sustainability incentivized
- Pollution reduced

- Value chain analyses
- Beneficial access agreements
- Technology innovation
- New markets

Case study 1: Seychelles

Fisheries Management:

Active member of IOTC, including Compliance committee.

MCS personnel are trained through national and regional training programmes.

VMS data are used for both compliance and scientific purposes

Environmental Impact

Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT)

Government seeking a debt swap in exchange for a commitment to invest in climate adaptation and marine conservation,

Improved Marine Planning and Marine Protected Areas (30% of EEZ);

Value addition

Domestic fleet development with incentives for domestic-flagged boats.

Tuna processing by-product to pharma sector and fishmeal.



Case study 2: Fiji

Fisheries Management

National 5-year tuna plan in support of regional management initiatives.
Regional conventions for co-operation in surveillance and law enforcement.

Environmental impact

Replanting mangroves
for flood protection and improved
nursery habitat for juvenile fish.



Value addition

National & regional management efforts & choice of low-impact gear led to
Fiji Albacore Tuna Longline fishery to be MSC certified in 2012.
Products from this certified fishery are sold into Japan, the US and Europe.

© FAO Prakesh Singh

Recommendations:

Develop linked Capture Fisheries strategies to:

1. Integrate fisheries management.
2. Minimise negative environmental impacts and carbon footprint.
3. Increase value addition.

To develop these strategies:

- **Fisheries sector profile and needs assessment**
- **Blue Economy Fisheries Development Strategy**
- **Institutional Capacity Assessment**



Thank you



www.consult-poseidon.com