

Integrating social objectives and indicators for Australian fisheries management

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Abstract

Sustainability and economic efficiency are well established and defined objectives in Australian fisheries management. Many Australian States and Territories include some reference to social considerations in their fisheries legislation, but this is poorly defined and has little direct influence on policy formulation. From the literature, many fisheries social objectives are difficult to quantify, and performance measures against these objectives have either not been clarified or are difficult to assess at broad level scales. In 2010, a project was initiated to determine a nationally applicable set of social objectives and associated indicators for Australian fisheries management. Quantitative indicators were developed, and an overall performance measure was developed using a Bayesian belief network approach. In this paper, the approach undertaken to develop, quantify and assess social objectives and the performance of management against these objectives is presented. This method allows clear social objectives to be utilized and an integrated assessment of them undertaken in line with economic and biological sustainability objectives. (Suggest for Special session on SOCIOEC)