



Economics Capacity Building for Enhanced Fisheries Management: Corrupting the Grassroots

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Co-management – a context for grassroots capacity building

- “Fisheries co-management is an arrangement in which responsibilities and obligations for sustainable fisheries management are negotiated, shared and delegated between government , fishers and other interest groups and stakeholders.” (FRDC, 2008)
- Range from participatory/consultative management
.....devolution of substantial responsibility/authority to local community



Co-management and climate change adaptation

- Arguments that co-management provides foundation for strong biological and economic outcomes; encourages adaptation by fishers and their communities; is associated with greater ability to cope with everyday shocks (inherent resilience) and deliver transformational change (adaptive resilience)




Conditions for success

- Literature cites large number of conditions across various scales and contexts:
 - Enabling policies and legislation
 - External agent of change
 - Appropriate scale and boundaries
 - Clearly defined membership
 - Leadership
 - Homogeneity of group/ social cohesion
 - Self enforcement
- + Empowerment**



Empowerment

- Both a driver for and result of co-management
- Requires us to authorize and enable people
- **Authorizing** occurs through building institutions and securing property rights
- **Enabling** occurs through **capacity building**
 - Education/training enables people by giving them competence and confidence



Capacity building for successful co-management

- Soft skills:
 - Communication (negotiation, compromise, consensus)
- Hard skills:
 - Fisheries science, stock assessment
 - Marketing
 - Government
 - **Economics**



Grass roots perception #1: No role for economics in fisheries management

“The real problems in many fisheries are:

- high price of quota,*
- separation of quota ownership from fishing, and*
- lack of succession planning.*

These are not problems that economics can usefully contribute to solving.”

“The economic problems in our fishery are obvious – the price of fish is too low and fuel costs are too high.

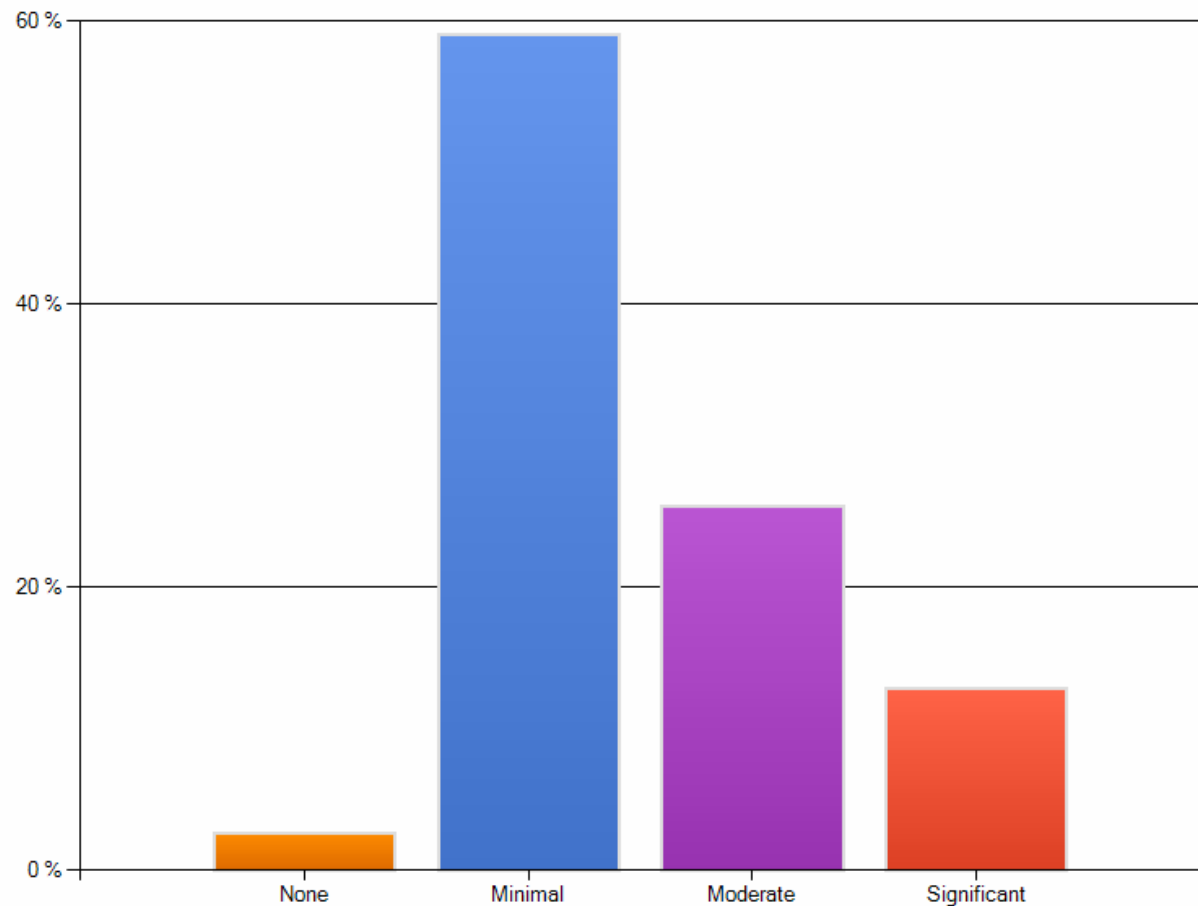
You can solve the first problem with marketing and the second with research on better engines and hulls. **There is no role for economists in this”**

Interrogating GRP #1

- To investigate this, a survey was conducted as part of the FRDC Building Economic Capability in Fisheries Project, to determine professional training needs in fisheries economics.

- The results from survey indicate that economics is **currently** of minimal significance to fisheries management.

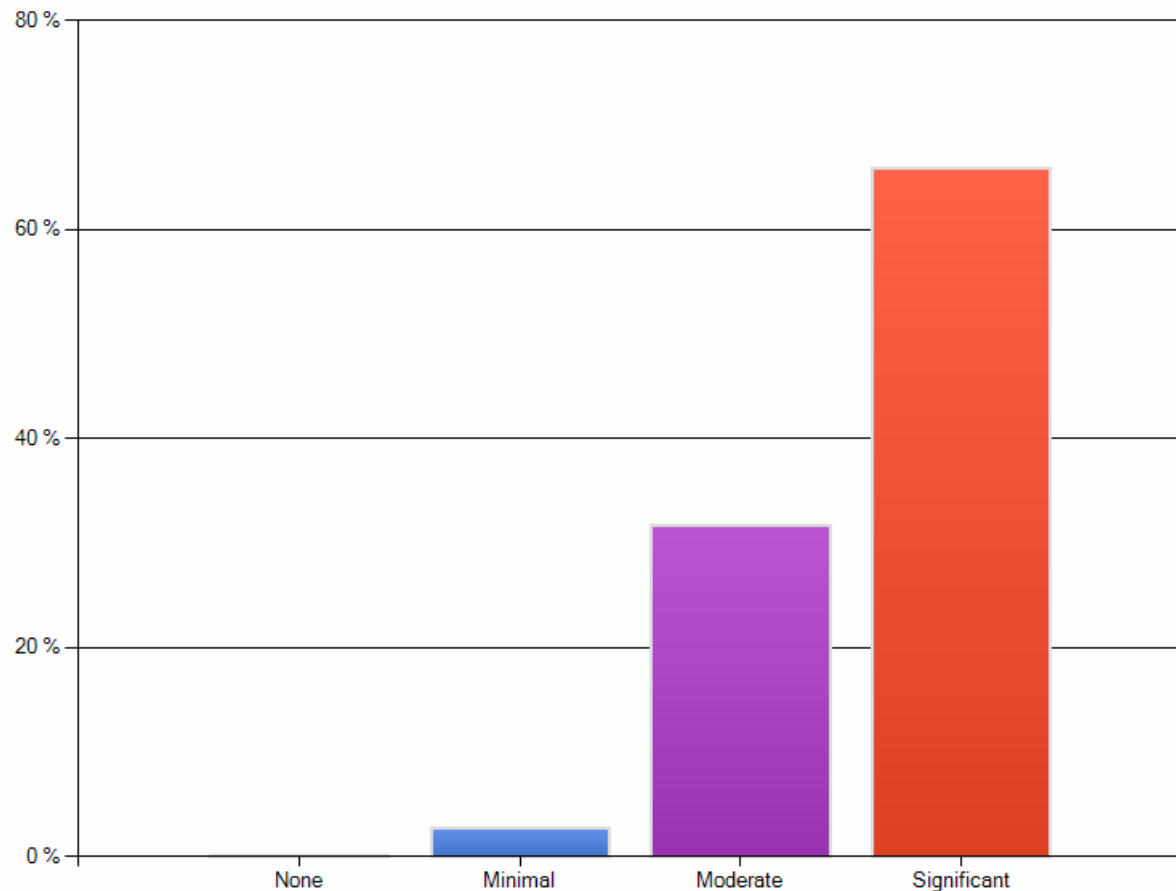
Current contribution of Economics to Fisheries Management



Interrogating GRP #1

Results from survey indicate that, contrary to anecdotal evidence, there is a strong belief that **economics has a potentially significant role** to play in contributing to fisheries management

Potential contribution of Economics to Fisheries Management





Grass roots perception #2: Outcome of applying economics

“Applying the principles of fisheries economics to a real world fishery would be disastrous.

Managing a fishery with a goal of MEY and having an ITQ system is all about getting rid of boats and jobs, and destroying regional towns. It’s a disaster for the individual fishers and the community.”

“With all their talk of non-use values, marine parks and recreational fishing allocations **economists are clearly against commercial fishing**. Don’t economists realize just how much commercial fisheries contribute to the economy and the community?”



Interrogating GRP #2: Current economic capability

The survey to determine professional training needs in fisheries economics found that:

- 65% of respondents had either **no existing knowledge** or a **limited working knowledge of the basic concepts** of fisheries economics.
- 63% of respondents felt that **fisheries economics is poorly understood** and that this was **the major barrier** to use of economics in fisheries management



Seafood CRC/FRDC Masterclass in Fisheries Economics

A collaboration between the Seafood CRC's Future Harvest Research Program, UTAS and the FRDC Building Economic Capability in Fisheries Project

- Targeted those seafood industry members in representative roles (fishers, post-harvest, managers, research, NGOs)
- Objectives of the 1-day Masterclass:
 - Challenge your thinking about the role of fisheries management and the use of economics
 - Learn how economics contributes to decisions on the sustainable management of the fishery
 - Gain experience in using economic tools to explore how to achieve optimal future harvests
 - Understand how economics can help inform debates about resource allocation in fisheries



Seafood CRC Masterclass in Fisheries Economics...

- Over 100 participants in 7 cities nationally in 2010
- Results of the Class Participant Evaluation survey:
 - Main reason for attending the class was to gain understanding of the role of fisheries economics in contributing to fisheries management
 - 85% felt that the Masterclass had improved their understanding of the role of fisheries economics in future harvest decisions



Further training needs identified

The survey identified popular topics for further training:

- Bioeconomic modelling
- Cost-Benefit analysis
- Property rights, fisheries governance and co-management
- Impact analysis
- Non-market valuation
- Risk and uncertainty in fisheries
- **Economics of climate change**
- Technical efficiency in fisheries
- Game theory analysis of fisheries

The survey also established that preferred delivery modes included:

- Web-based with face-to-face workshops
- 1-2 day Basic Courses plus 1 week Advanced Courses